



National Spa & Pool Institute of Southern Africa

NSPI – “Water Neutral Pool” Specifications – (Last edited 25 Aug. 2017)

Objective:

To remove pools from dependence upon the municipal potable water supply and promote the program to pool owners in the interest of saving our water resources.

In order to comply with the NSPI “Water neutral Pool” program and receive certification for a pool; the pool owner must be committed to:

1. The principal that a “Water Neutral Pool” is an “off the grid pool” and not allow the use of municipal potable water for filling or topping up their pool.
2. Ensure that the resource and potential “emergency supply” of water in their pool is properly filtered, maintained, chemically balanced and adequately sanitised at all times.
3. That the filtration plant and all other requirements as per the following specifications are installed and maintained.

Specifications

In order for the NSPI to issue a certificate for a “Water Neutral Pool”, a member in good standing of the NSPI shall inspect and confirm in writing that the following aspects are installed and working effectively at the pool question:

1. The pool owner must have on the same property
 - a. a rain water collection tank of the following size in relation to the pool in question:
 - i. >25,000L pool and or >0.6kW pump = 2,500 litre rainwater tank
 - ii. >30,000L pool and or >0.75kW pump = 3,000 litre rainwater tank
 - iii. > 40,000L pool and or >0.75kW pump pool = 4,000 litre rainwater tank
 - iv. > 60,000L pool and or >1.1kW pump pool = 5,000 litre rainwater tank
 - v. >60,000L pool the tank must be of a suitable comparable size relative to the above.
 - b. The tank should be plumbed for easily filling the pool from the tank but must also allow for the tank water to be used in alternate applications.
 - c. The water in the tank must be maintained to the same condition as that for the pool.
2. The pool must be fitted with a physical cover.
 - a. Such cover can be any of:
 - i. solid cover
 - ii. bubble cover
 - iii. automatic cover
 - b. And must cover 98% of the surface area of the pool.
3. The pool filtration plant must have “water saving” mechanisms in place.

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In the event that the pool is fitted with:

- a. Cartridge filter: A cleaning container suitably sized to the cleaning of the relevant cartridge that will allow for the cleaning water to be recovered for the pool or applied to an alternate use.
 - b. Sand Filter:
 - i. A pressure gauge to indicate the need for backwashing
 - ii. a backwash recovery tank of the following size in relation to the pool in question:
 1. >25,000L pool and or >0.6kW pump = >400 litre backwash tank
 2. >30,000L pool and or >0.75kW pump = >700 litre backwash tank
 3. > 40,000L pool and or >0.75kW pump = >700 litre backwash tank
 4. > 60,000L pool and or >1.1kW pump = >950 litre backwash tank
 5. >60,000L pool the tank must be of a suitable comparable size relative to the above.
 - iii. Other strongly advised water saving mechanisms for sand filters include:
 1. A cyclonic pre-filter
 2. Water saving filter media:
 - a. Recycled glass filtration media
 - b. OC-1 media
 - c. Water features:
 - i. All water features especially those attached to the pool reticulation system must have shutoff valves in the line to control the use of the water feature.
 - ii. Note: rim flow pools (infinity pools) increase the evaporation potential substantially and should thus have an alternate reticulation system so that evaporation during times of non-use of the pool can be controlled.
 - d. Heating arrangements:
 - i. All pool heater systems must have control mechanisms in place to exclude their operation during periods when the use of the pool is unlikely to prevent further unnecessary evaporation.
4. The pool owner is also strongly advised to consider further water saving mechanisms. Such mechanism may be any or multiples of the following options:
- a. Robotic pool cleaner - with internal filtration and entrapment of debris
 - b. Wind barriers to reduce evaporation
 - c. Semi commercial or common use pools should have signage to discourage splash out.
 - d. Borehole / well point on the property that has been checked for water quality and it's suitability for filling the pool if necessary.
 - e. Alternate sources of water for filling the pool such as a recycled water delivery service.

These specifications should be considered as a minimum for water wise pool owners and may be updated as necessary to allow for advancements in technology or enhanced water saving systems becoming available.