

Cool Summer Pool Savings

The pool pump seems like such a simple piece of equipment, but looks are deceiving. In fact, the pump is the most important single piece of equipment required for a pool. As an informed homeowner, it pays to understand the benefits of properly sized, energy efficient pool pumps. The pool pump is very important for water quality and hygiene. Having a properly sized pump and a properly designed pump system will improve water quality and efficiency by saving electricity. Once you have done the research and purchased your new pump, you will be on your way to enjoying outdoor time with family and friends, while saving energy.

Circulation of water is vital to your pool's health. As water circulates, it passes through the filter, removing unwanted particles to keep your pool water clear and safe. However, many pool owners do not realize how much energy the pool pump is wasting. Pool pump speeds vary depending on the pool's operation. Filtration, for example, only requires half the flow rate of running a pool's cleaner mode. Running a pool pump on filtration mode uses much less energy. However, a single speed pool pump wastes energy by running a higher flow rate than needed. Besides wasting

energy, running a pump too strong can damage your pool.

To select the size of pump needed for the job properly, you will first need to determine the pool volume and number of gallons it will hold. You also need to know the amount of loss due to piping, fittings, and equipment to understand turnover time. Once these variables are determined, you will be ready to select pump. Even if you are replacing an existing pump, it is best to go through these formulas to make sure you are installing the right pump for the job. There are many local pool-pump providers to help with these calculations.

An Energy Star certified pool pump can run at different speeds and be programmed to match the pool operation with its appropriate pump speed. This can save a lot of energy. For instance, reducing the pump speed by one-half allows the pump to use just one-eighth as much energy. These Energy Star pool pumps use more efficient motors and hydraulic design to maximize efficiency and capacity. Also, these pumps run quieter and more efficiently, which will prolong the life of the pool's filtering system. Typically, these pumps save enough energy to



Advise Guy Robby Talton

allow a two-year payback.

It is likely that your pool pump is the second largest user of electricity at your home behind the heating and cooling system. For instance, a standard 1.5 horse power pool pump will cost approximately \$125 per month to operate, depending on efficiency, while, an Energy Star two-speed or variable-speed pump can use significantly less. Also, a pool-pump timer is a great way to reduce this cost by reducing run time. South River EMC offers a \$50 rebate on a two speed or variable speed pool pump. If you are in the market for a new pool pump, consider an Energy Star certified two-speed or variable-speed pool pump and start saving. To see if your pump qualifies, go to www.energystar.gov and click on pool pumps.

South River EMC
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PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335
910.892.8071
800.338.5530
www.sremc.com