

FACT SHEET 7

WATER FEATURES

Today's pools are created with more than just swimming in mind. With a little imagination and some professional guidance, you too can create your own oasis.

The soothing sight and sounds of running water have tantalised people for generations. Even before Roman times, people invented ways to move water to create an effect.

Today there are predominantly two types of water feature: the waterfall and the fountain. And the number of 'off the shelf' devices available gives the domestic swimming pool owner a vast range of options.

WATERFALLS

Probably the most popular water feature today is still the waterfall. These can be installed in raised walls or rock mounds, and are an ideal way of drawing attention away from less attractive features of the backyard, such as the boundary fence, service area or clothes line.

Many of the smaller waterfalls will run off the filter pump, so there are no additional running costs. Larger features may require separate pumps.

Manufacturers of 'off the shelf' units can provide the flow rates required so you can design the perfect system for your requirements.

Waterfalls can be divided into two categories: formal and informal. The more formal or structured systems involve a sheet or fingers of water that cascade in a controlled and stylised manner. Most commonly, the water falls into the pool from a long prefabricated slot or from holes in a wall.

The less formal type or natural waterfalls are constructed in situ and involve water tumbling over rocks into the pool.

FOUNTAINS

There are numerous forms and styles of fountains. Some of the more formal, cascading systems may require a separate section to be added on to the pool.

However, there are many single or multiple stream water jets that can be mounted in the pool wall, or even in the pool coping.

These styles can be made to arch up, over and into the pool, creating both a stunning visual effect and the relaxing sounds of tumbling water.