

FACT SHEET 10

GAS POOL HEATING

Make your swimming season longer and the value of your investment greater.

The ideal pool temperature is around 25–28 degrees Celsius, but this is very rarely achieved naturally.

The average unheated water temperature in South Australia is around 13 degrees, reaching 18–20 degrees for short periods during the swimming season. Gas heating can quickly and efficiently heat your pool to a comfortable temperature at any time.

This makes your swimming season as long as you want it to be, and the value gained from this substantial investment in your pool will be much greater. Increased availability of natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) has made it a popular form of swimming pool heating. It's always available and can be closely regulated, making it ideal for pools and spas.

HEATER RATING (SIZING)

The gas energy consumed by a gas heater is measured in megajoules (MJ), and the energy output rating is in kilowatts (kW). Smaller heaters are in the range of 60–100 MJ and range through 250 up to 500 MJ. The output ranges from 15–110 kW.

WHAT SIZE HEATER SHOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Selecting the right heater depends on a number of factors. You need to consider the size of the pool and/or spa, the maximum temperature you want and how long you are willing to wait for it to heat up.

If you have a pool and spa combination remember to consider both when sizing. Spas usually need to be heated more quickly and to a much higher temperature than pools, so select a heater with this in mind. If you're only looking to heat you could possibly consider a smaller heater.

CONTROLS

All gas heaters are fitted with thermostatic controls. These range from simple mechanical thermostats to sophisticated digital controls with temperature and status read outs. Heaters connected to pools and spas must have a safety high-limit thermostatic control with a maximum set temperature of 42 degrees. Controls range from the basic to the very sophisticated. Seek expert advice and consider your budget, lifestyle and, most importantly, what will best match the way you want to use your pool and/or spa.

INDOOR OR OUTDOOR INSTALLATION

Heaters can be installed indoors; however, this requires special fluing and may require additional ventilation specifically designed to suit the size and type of heater to be used. Never install a heater inside that has been designed for outdoors, unless the appropriate flue is fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Heaters should always be installed on a stable non-combustible base, preferably a minimum of 50 mm above ground level. Spa blowers must be located a minimum of 1.5 metres from outdoor gas heaters, and never in the same plant room as indoor gas heaters unless separate ventilation is provided.

COST EFFECTIVE AND CONVENIENT

Gas pool and spa heaters are extremely cost efficient, with running costs relatively inexpensive. And costs can be reduced even further by incorporating a solar heating system (in summer), and by using a pool blanket to stop overnight heat loss (all year round).

See Fact Sheet 11: Covers & Blankets.