

FACT SHEET 21

POOL LIGHTING

Enjoying your pool shouldn't be limited to daylight hours. Maximise on your investment by installing pool lights.

Today, many people are time poor and do not have the time to swim only in daylight hours. By installing underwater pool lights you can swim safely and enjoy your recreation time in the pool at night.

Your pool and spa are features of your garden. Without lights, at night this feature becomes a black hole. With well-designed lighting you can transform your pool from a swimming centre during the day to a tranquil, relaxing entertaining area at night.

WHAT LIGHTS ARE AVAILABLE?

Underwater lights are available in two types: surface mounted or flush mounted (commonly known as niche).

The surface mounted light is installed on the side of the pool wall, and the brand you choose determines how far the light protrudes from the pool wall.

The flush-mounted light is installed inside the pool wall and exposes only the faceplate of the light; therefore, it sits flush against the pool wall protruding only minimally.

It is always advisable to discuss the style of light best suited for your pool with your SPASA SA member pool builder.

HALOGEN VS LED?

Once you have chosen the exterior you prefer, you then need to decide whether the pool light internals should be a halogen globe or an LED. Light output for either varies according to the brand of light and should be discussed with the light manufacturer or your SPASA SA member pool builder.

As a LED doesn't require the globe to be changed it will generally last for many years. The LED draws very little power, which is advantageous; however, at the end of its life you will need to buy a whole new light. It is recommended you check how many hours of burn time you should expect.

The globes need to be changed on halogen lights, and the globe's life is significantly shorter than an LED. How often you need to change the globe will depend on the brand of light and the recommended burn time of the globe. The advantage is you will only need to change the globe, not the entire light. The disadvantage is that a 100-watt halogen light will draw 75% more power than an LED light.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All underwater lights require a waterproof rating of IPX8, and new installations must not exceed 12 V AC or 30 V DC.

Your light must be water cooled at all times. It must never be turned on unless it is completely submerged in water, otherwise damage will occur. The cable size and length have an effect on voltage. Extending or reducing the supplied cable lengths can alter the performance of the light. If you are unsure contact the light manufacturer.

Always ensure your lights are positioned, installed and accessible, leaving enough cable length behind the light for ease of servicing. The depth of the light should be between 300 mm to 400 mm from the top of the coping, any deeper will make the light difficult to service.

Use your pool light at least 15 minutes per week. This will help to remove any excess moisture within the light cavity and increase the longevity of the globe.

The positioning and quantity of lights are important, and safety for swimmers at night should be taken into consideration.

To maximise the effect of your lighting get advice from the underwater light manufacturer or your SPASA SA member builder.