
FACT SHEET

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY POOL WHEN IT RAINS?

Seasonal rain and winter rain in Perth frequently occurs, as a pool owner when this happens what care for your pool before, during and after a heavy downpour should you undertake?

BEFORE THE STORM

Always keep an eye on the weather forecast so you can plan and be prepared for the chance of a pool fill, but sometimes storms do come unseasonally or with little warning. If you are able to act before a storm arrives you can lower the pool level to still allow water through the skimmer without running the pump dry.

The most effective way of reducing the pool volume is to use the filter's multiport valve and select the waste position. This operation may require a backwash hose attachment or your setup may go to sewerage – you should have been made aware of how this is set-up when you purchased your pool or a home with a pool or spa.

Other options for reducing your pool's water level include:

- Backwash the pool
- Use a sump pump

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR A STORM?

There are several measures you can take before a storm arrives to protect your pool and home.

- Store equipment such as pool cleaning gear, toys and furniture in your pool enclosure as these may become projectiles in high winds
- Remove your pool blanket as the wind could cause it to get damaged
- Check your pool fence and gate to ensure its secure to prevent children from accessing the pool unsupervised.

AFTER THE STORM

It may seem like rain is pure water falling from the sky, but in reality it picks up pollutants including dust, pollen and even algae spores as it falls and can be quite acidic. If your pool has trees nearby any dust or debris on the leaves will be washed off by the rain straight into your pool water which can add phosphates and contaminants to your pool.

Rain can also destroy your pool's water balance by diluting stabiliser levels, softening the water, lowering calcium hardness, and also affecting pH and alkalinity levels. This can cause damage to your pool surface and filtration equipment.

After a storm has passed you should clean the pool of any debris that has blown into it, lower the water level and check the water chemistry again. If necessary you may need super-chlorinate the pool and run the filter overnight.

For the best advice contact a SPASA Member Pool Shop or Technician on the correct use and maintenance of your pool and assistance with water balance.