

R&R Pools

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ESRT



MYTH BUSTERS

Commonly asked Pool Cover
questions **DEBUNKED!!**





INTRODUCTION

There are a lot of choices out there in the swimming pool supply world when it comes to the different types of covers you can use on your swimming pool. Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation out there too. We here at Latham believe that the best decisions you make as far as which covers you purchase happen when they are informed decisions. That is exactly why we created this handy eBook that is an accumulation of some of the most frequently asked cover questions that we and our dealers get asked.

QUESTION



Does any cover I put on my pool act as a safety cover?

ANSWER: The answer to this question is definitely no; as a matter of fact, some covers will actually increase the risk of drowning because the person who falls onto them risks becoming entangled or entrapped in them. This is true of such covers as solar bubble covers and inexpensive plastic covers that are used to cover a pool during the winter months when it's not being used.

True safety covers will have a stamp on them that says they are ASTM safety-certified. At this time, the only true types of safety covers are what are called mesh or solid safety covers and automatic pool safety covers. The reason these qualify as safety covers is that they are anchored very solidly and there is no path of entry into the pool water when they are covering it.

QUESTION



If I have an automatic pool safety cover and I am not planning on using the pool for a while, is it ok to not drain the water that accumulates on top of it?

ANSWER: This is a definite no. Automatic pool safety covers are solid type covers that can accumulate large amounts of standing water on them when not being taken on and off the pool on a regular basis. This water then becomes a safety hazard if it gets deep enough, so it is recommended to drain the excess water of an automatic pool cover whenever it accumulates. This can easily be done by purchasing and using a small submersible pump, or this task is made even easier by taking advantage of Latham's exclusive Auto Drain pump that is specifically designed to automatically take care of any excess water that accumulates on your automatic pool safety cover.

QUESTION



Is it true that bubble covers (sometimes known as solar blankets) do a good job of heating the swimming pool when they are on during the day?

ANSWER: This is actually a myth. Although a bubble cover may warm the top few inches of water near the pool surface on a very hot day, they should not be considered as a cheap alternative to a swimming pool heater. Their best function as a blanket that cuts down on the exposed surface area cutting down on heat loss from the pool water when it is not being used. This is especially true for heated pools during the cooler months.

QUESTION



I have a solar cover and an automatic pool cover; is it ok to swim under them when they are on the pool.



ANSWER: The answer here is a quite emphatic NO!! These covers can be deceptively heavy, especially if a little water gets on top of them; this can prevent you from surfacing for air and lead to a potentially life-threatening situation. We here at Latham highly recommend that you or anyone else NEVER use your swimming pool when ANY type of pool cover is in place over it.

QUESTION



Does an automatic cover do anything besides act as a safety barrier?

ANSWER: Automatic pool covers do a lot of things besides just being an ASTM certified safety cover for your swimming pool. When covering the pool they will keep a large amount of dust, dirt, debris and leaves from blowing into the pool. They will also act as a vapor barrier that actually prevents the natural evaporation process in your pool, saving you a lot of water loss during a typical swimming pool season.

An automatic pool cover will also save you money on chemicals by keeping the sun from eating up the chlorine and by blocking the sun's rays from creating algae and other bio matter growth. If you heat your pool to extend the swimming season, then your automatic pool cover will also save you money on energy bills by keeping the heat from dissipating as quickly as it does from an uncovered pool.

QUESTION



I am considering building an irregular shaped pool; is it true for that type of swimming pool I cannot put an automatic pool safety cover on it?

ANSWER: That is another myth. Automatic pool safety cover technology has progressed to the point where it can be installed on just about any shape or size of swimming pool; the supplier of the automatic pool cover just needs to coordinate the installation with the company doing the new construction. Automatic pool safety covers can also be installed on existing irregular shaped swimming pools, but it may be necessary to redo some of the decking and surrounding pool area. A simple phone call to your local Latham dealer will help answer all your automatic pool safety cover questions.

QUESTION



I have a safety cover and want to drain my pool about halfway for winter; is this OK to do?

ANSWER: It is really not recommended that you ever drain your swimming pool more than a few inches below the skimmer opening for several reasons that have to do with both the type of swimming pool you have and the type of safety cover you have.

Draining certain pool types

If you have a vinyl liner pool you never want to drain it that far down because it can lead to problems when large sections of vinyl are exposed to the air for long periods of time. If you have a fiberglass pool and live in a wet area that is close to something like a beach or lake, you will need the water weight in the pool to help prevent it from floating and then cracking. Even concrete pools can have problems when drained if their anti-static valve in the bottom drain is not working properly and the outside groundwater pressure becomes greater than the pool structure can handle. It is a good idea to consult with the company that built your pool before doing any draining that will take it more than a few inches below the skimmer.

Draining and safety covers

For mesh safety covers, draining the pool a few inches more than usual is really not a problem. But the cover will need supporting help from the pool water when such events as a heavy snow load occur, so you should never drain it as far as halfway. When a solid cover or automatic safety cover are on your pool, the water should never go more than a few inches below the skimmer because the water in your swimming pool helps provide the additional support that your cover needs to withstand excess water and extreme weight on top of it..

Did you know?

'Piscine' the French word for swimming pool, comes from the Latin Piscine which means fishpond.

QUESTION



I always close my swimming pool for the winter but I have never covered it before. I saw that the options for covering it that were in my budget range were a mesh/solid safety cover or an inexpensive plastic type cover. What reason would I not want to choose the cheaper option?

ANSWER: That is a very good question and one we get a lot. Perhaps the best way to answer it is to describe what each cover really does.

First of all, the inexpensive plastic cover is loosely considered to be a cover because it holds very little weight and it's not solidly anchored down; its basic function is to separate the good water in the pool from the bad water that gets on top of it over the winter. It will keep leaves and other debris out. The biggest problem with these is since they are not secured, once they get heavy they often get pulled right into the pool along with everything on top of them; so in essence when that happens it ends up being the same as an uncovered pool. If you are going to use one of these, periodic draining of the water that gets on top of it is an absolute must.



Cheap & Inexpensive

Mesh/Solid Safety covers are anchored firmly and can hold an extreme amount of weight; very seldom if ever do you see one of these end up in the swimming pool if it was installed properly. They also double as ASTM approved safety covers that will prevent someone from falling into the pool and keep the family pet and other animals out of it too; that fact alone often persuades pool owners to spend the extra money on these covers. If the swimming pool they were on for the winter was chemicalized properly before closing; often times these pools are very clear when the cover is taken off at the start of the next swimming season.



Mesh/Solid

QUESTION



I don't have children so I don't need to have a safety cover on my pool right?

ANSWER: This is a total myth. An approved safety cover does a lot more than just protect your own family. Many accidental deaths in swimming pools each year occur because someone who was not authorized to use a swimming pool found a way around or over a fence to gain access to the pool. Safety covers will also protect beloved family pets and will prevent other animals from getting into the pool and doing such things as clawing and ruining a vinyl liner while trying to get out.

QUESTION



Will an automatic pool cover look ugly and hurt the look of my backyard poolscape?

ANSWER: The answer here is absolutely not. Automatic pool cover technology has progressed to the point where on many pools you will not even notice they have an automatic pool safety cover when the cover is open. Not only that, but automatic pool covers like Latham's covers come in a variety of different colors to help them blend into any style poolscape. Very seldom if ever does the look of an automatic cover significantly take away from the overall looks of your poolscape.

Did you know?

In Egypt, there have been ancient drawings and paintings found that go back to 2500AD so humans have been swimming for at least 10,000 years.

QUESTION



I am safety conscious when it comes to my swimming pool but I also am thinking about saving some money. I don't mind the extra work it takes putting a mesh or solid safety cover on the pool or taking it off. This will definitely be a cheaper option than an automatic safety cover. You're the professionals; what do you think?

ANSWER: Well first of all we fully understand your train of thought here but we are not sure it is practical long term. It takes approximately 15 minutes for two people to take a solid or mesh safety cover on or off a normal size swimming pool; if you use the pool just once a day that is at least 30 minutes of extra work a day on your pool in addition to chemical balancing and routine maintenance. Your pool will become more of a chore than a source of relaxation and enjoyment.

Second of all, the expense of automatic pool safety covers is not as black and white as it may seem. We here at Latham believe that if you look at all their cost saving benefits they tend to pay for themselves over time and you can't beat the convenience of pressing a switch and having your pool covered and safe in less than a minute. Here are the ways an automatic cover saves you money:

- It will cut down significantly on Chemical usage because it blocks the sun's rays when covering the pool and it will keep leaves, pollen and other organic matter from blowing into the pool.
- It will virtually stop the process of evaporation because it acts as a 'vapor barrier'. This will result in a much smaller water bill over a swimming season.
- If you heat your swimming pool to extend your swimming season it will keep a majority of that heat in the pool when you are not using it; this will result in you not having to reheat the pool water as often. The energy savings here will be significant to say the least.

An automatic pool safety cover is a little bit of an investment but it is one that pays off with money saving benefits, increased convenience and the peace of mind that comes with knowing your swimming pool is safe and secure when covered by it.

Did you know?

In the 1300's the first swimming goggles were made from tortoise shells, the first rubber goggles were made in the 1930's.

CONCLUSION

We at Latham hope this cover FAQ section answered at least some of your questions about the many different types of covers that are available for your swimming pool. For those of you that still have cover questions please feel free to contact us directly or speak to one of our many knowledgeable dealers about any cover questions or concerns you may have.

Latham Pool Products is the leading manufacturer of in-ground residential fiberglass swimming pools, pool covers, and vinyl pool liners in North America.

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Behind Every Pool.

