



Discussion Forum

The comments and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Retirement Village Residents Association (RVRA) or its Members.

Use of Pool Covers for Indoor Pools

Comment: **The Good News.**

Subsequent to my earlier post investigations were made on the savings in heating costs that could eventuate if our indoor pool was kept covered when not in use. Computer modeling indicated that there could be a 51% reduction in energy costs if the pool was covered for 14 hours per day.

Previously the cost of heating our indoor pool by element heaters was about \$10,000 per year and a case was put to residents to expend considerable 'resident funds' on an AUTOMATIC pool covering system that could easily be operated by residents. Modeling indicated that expenditure would be recovered in about 3.6 years and thereafter there would be savings in the order of \$5000 pa at today's prices. With the prospect of future major increases in electricity prices residents approved the expenditure of the required funds and the project proceeded.

Further, the energy savings would be the equivalent of a reduction of 47.9 tonnes of CO₂ annually.

By 01 October 2010 the cover was fully operational and direct comparison of month by month costs could be made with those of the previous year. We now have data for the last three months showing a saving of 53.75% (\$1107); greater cost benefits are expected in the colder months.

Although the cover system chosen is a "Rolls Royce" system this type was essential as village management was not prepared to undertake the duties of covering and uncovering the pool and it is not advisable for elderly residents to pull plastic covers on and off. A real advantage of the system is that the pool can be covered whenever it is vacated at any time of the day thus increasing the daily covered period above the projected 14 hours per day.

Village Operators should be aware that the cost of this system was increased because of the shape of the pool. Free-form pools may look good but they create problems in engineering pool covers. It is considerably cheaper and easier to cover a regular rectangular pool.

Readers may wish to watch a 1m 30s video of the pool cover in operation that is posted on YouTube at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ComGG_qRwy0

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