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# Pool Talk

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Acqua Nita Services, Inc.

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### Choosing an Energy Efficient Pump

You can save energy and maintain a comfortable swimming pool temperature by using a smaller, higher efficiency pump and by operating it less. In a study of 120 pools by the Center for Energy Conservation at Florida Atlantic University, some pool owners saved as much as 75% of their original pumping bill when they used these energy conservation measures (see table below).

**Table 1. Savings from Pump Conservation Measures**

Condition	Energy Use (kWh/year)	Cost of Energy (\$/year)	Energy Savings
Original	3000	240	----
Pump replacement (downsizing)	1800	140	40%
Reduced time (60%)	1200	100	60%
Combination of above	720	60	75%

Table courtesy of Home Energy magazine. These savings represent a typical pool in Florida. The average pool pump energy bill is probably higher in Florida than in many other areas of the country because of the long swimming season. While the absolute savings here will be greater there than elsewhere, the percentage savings should apply nationwide. Note that the savings for the combination of measures are not simply the sum of savings for the individual measures. When both are implemented, the energy use is 60% of 40% of the original use-percent savings.

#### Sizing the Pump

The larger the pump, the greater your pumping and maintenance costs. Therefore, you want to use the smallest size pump possible for your swimming pool. Reducing the size of your next swimming pool pump by even .25 horsepower will have a significant impact on your electric use. A Florida study shows that generally smaller pumps are sufficient for residential pools. But you say you need a large pump to circulate and filter the water frequently. Generally if your swimming pool water recycles once every 24 hours and it does

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### Pool Cleaners

An automatic swimming pool cleaner is absolutely the best piece of swimming pool equipment any pool owner can invest in, but it is important to match the right pool cleaner to your pool. Pool cleaners are great tools in maintaining the brilliance of your pools diamond brite color. They also help in the further circulation of the chemicals in the water. Contact Acqua Nita Services for the best prices on name brand swimming pool cleaners. There are three different types of automatic pool cleaners for In Ground pools, and they are classified by the way they collect debris and move around the pool.

- "Suction Side" automatic pool cleaners use the suction power created by your filtration system to propel the cleaner around your swimming pool, and pick up debris from the pool floor. Suction side automatic pool cleaners deposit the dirt and debris removed from the swimming pool into your filtration system. Examples of popular suction side automatic pool cleaners for In-Ground swimming pools are the Hayward Pool Vac, the Kreepy Krauly and the Baracuda G3 or Baracuda G4 model. Suction side pool cleaners are very easy to connect and use, and require little or no adjustments or additional parts to adapt to your swimming pool. Suction side pool cleaners are connected with a 1 1/2 inch hose, directly to the skimmer at the top of your pool deck or to a dedicated line on your pool wall.



- "Pressure Side" automatic pool cleaners connect to the return line fitting in the wall of your swimming pool, where clean water is being returned from the filtration system. Pressure side cleaners use a powerful jet of water to move around your swimming pool, and a jet of water is used to draw debris from the pool floor and walls into a special filter bag connected to the pool cleaner. Pressure side cleaners can be an advantage



over suction side cleaners because they are more powerful and can climb the walls of a swimming pool. Because pressure side automatic pool cleaners are connected to the return line of the swimming pool, the skimmer is left open to draw dirty water and debris from the surface of the pool. These In-Ground pool cleaners do not deposit debris into your filtration system, which saves you the time spent cleaning the filter system after the use of other types of pool cleaners. Some pressure side cleaners feature their own "booster pump", which works independently from your main pool filtration system to create the extra water pressure needed to power the cleaner. Pressure side automatic pool cleaners are more powerful, however they can be harder to connect & use than other types of In Ground pool cleaners. Examples of pressure side

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### Pump / Motors (Continued from Page 1)

not have extras i.e. sheer descents, water falls or a solar pool heating system, it should be adequate.

Smaller pumps, which cost less, can be used if you decrease the pool circulation system's hydraulic resistance by doing the following:

- Substituting a large filter (rated to at least 50% higher than the pool's design flow rate)
- Increasing the diameter or decreasing the length of the pipes, or replacing abrupt 90 degree elbow pipes with 45 degree ones.

By decreasing the pool circulation system's hydraulic resistance, you can reduce the pump's electricity use by up to 40%.

Many pool owners run the pump much longer than necessary. Four to six hours a day is usually sufficient in the winter and 8 hours in the summer. Remember you don't have to run the pump constantly for this 4-6 hour period. If you are going to have a big get together run the pump before the gathering and during.

If your current swimming pool pump is nearing replacement, consider a high efficiency, two speed pump at the correct horsepower rating. With a two speed pump you normally run the pump on low except for vacuuming. The low speed is much quieter and consumes much less electricity. Contact Acqua Nita Services for a sizing analysis for your pool pump.

### Pool Cleaners (Continued from Page 1)

swimming pool cleaners are Polaris pool cleaners and the Letro Legend pool cleaners, or the Hayward Phantom & Hayward Viper models.

- "Robotic" pool cleaners feature a built in filtration system, and operate independently from your main pool filter system. No cumbersome hoses or tedious adjustments are required. These self-contained automatic pool cleaners use on board electric motors to move around your pool and create the suction necessary to pick up debris. This is a great advantage over suction side pool cleaners, which deposit all of the debris from the pool directly into your pool filter system. As these pool cleaners move about the pool cleaning the pool surface,



they are also constantly filtering your swimming pool water. This helps to eliminate "dead spots" in the swimming pool where there is little or no water movement from the circulation of the main filter system. Not only will a robotic pool cleaner pick up debris from the pool floor, these cleaners will also climb the pool walls and steps, and scrub the water line of the swimming pool. Regular use of a robotic swimming pool cleaner can eliminate the stubborn stain commonly found at the water line of a swimming pool. Robotic pool cleaners can save a great deal of money in operating costs, because a robotic cleaner does not require your filtration system to be running for the cleaner to work. This also means you do not have to clean your filtration system after each use, using more electricity and losing chemically treated water through the filter backwash cycle. Robotic pool cleaners perform best in large residential and commercial swimming pools, which have very big filtration systems that are costly to run. Most models of robotic pool cleaners feature a hand held remote control that gives you complete control over the pool cleaner for quick and easy spot cleaning.