



Solar blankets prevent heat from evaporating, when used with an

Aquatight
HEAT PUMP

YOU'LL SWIM ALL YEAR ROUND!



Let us help you select the right Aquatight Titanium heat pump for your pool

“SWIM ALL YEAR ROUND? “YOU BET YOU CAN...”



Given the choice, it would be hard to imagine anyone wanting to swim in cold water if they had a warm water alternative. With winter now upon us, temperatures will be low enough to freeze the proverbial... off a brass monkey... if you know what I mean!

Let's face it, most of us aren't tough enough to brave the cold (at least I'm not) so heating the pool to make it a pleasure, rather than a pain, to jump into has to be a consideration.

Keeping it simple and cost effective, though with limited heating benefit, makes the humble solar blanket the first port of call. It allows the sun to pass heat into the water, where some of it will be prevented from escaping back into the atmosphere. This will increase water temperatures to around 8 degrees provided there is optimum daily sun exposure. Whilst this sounds like a lot, it is generally not enough to allow comfortable swimming during winter. It does none-the-less provide an excellent barrier to cold night air and is a very necessary accessory for pool heating generally.

Next on the list would be solar heating, where a collector is mounted on the roof with water passing through it to gather solar energy which is then absorbed into the water and returned to the pool. For optimum efficiency, the heat gathering process should be thermostatically controlled to avoid cooling the water when the sun comes off the collector. Preferably the collector should be placed on a north facing roof with short plumbing runs to and from the filter to avoid unnecessary heat loss.

The most beneficial heating option available today is without doubt the reverse cycle heat pump. This process uses a heat exchanger where air is compressed, generating heat that is then passed into the pool water. Provided the ambient temperature is not less than 6 degrees, it will generate enough heat to maintain warm water all year round. For this reason alone, it is obviously the most accommodating heating choice.

So let's look at these choices in simple layman terms...

No.1 is more about extending the swimming season marginally at both ends without any

expectation of benefiting during the cold winter months. In that case it will become a useful tool in reducing winter maintenance.

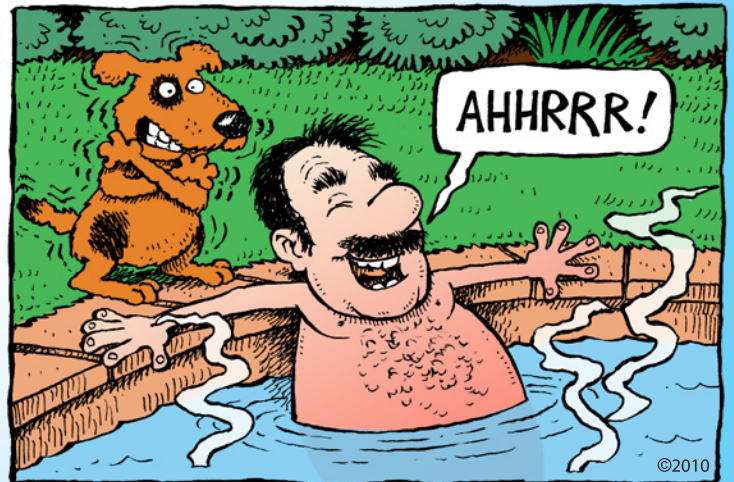
No.2 is really about extending the swimming season as well, but will still not allow comfortable swimming in the middle of winter. This is because winter solar energy is greatly reduced making it difficult to raise the temperature sufficiently. It also requires a solar or thermal blanket to retain the heat it gathers. The larger the collector, the more efficient the solar heating will become.

No.3 Last but not least is the heat pump. It really doesn't matter what the weather, heat is available at any time provided the system is run enough hours to cater to the heating demands of the pool. As with the others heating choices, it is necessary to fit a solar or thermal blanket to obtain the most efficient and cost effective heating benefit.

For most people, heating is about maintaining the pleasure of exercising and gaining health benefits all year round. Some want to do laps, some just want to soak, and some really need the heat for the therapeutic benefit it gives. In that case the best choice might well be a heated spa pool where higher temperature can be maintained cost effectively, with the added benefit of massage therapy.

Want to know more? You only have to ask...

Damon



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