



NORTH SHORE
Pool & Spa

The Pool & Spa Experts for over 40 years

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Solar Covers: Pro and Con

A solar cover is a blue plastic sheet covered on one side with air bubbles. Despite its remarkable resemblance to packing material, solar cover sheeting is specially formulated to withstand exposure to chemicals and ultra violet rays of sun. First introduced by the Sealed Air Corporation in 1977, solar covers proved so effective in the swimming pool market that other manufactures jumped in with comparable products. The resulting competition has brought the cost of a solar cover down considerably over the last few years. Today, no pool owner should pass up the opportunity to weigh the Pros and Cons of a solar cover.

PRACTICALITY

Pro: A solar cover needs no installation. It's an easy solution to high pool heating costs or a too-cool pool. It aids maintenance by keeping dirt and debris out of the pool and by retarding algae growth. Although when outside temperatures stay in the 80s or the 90s for a long period of time, a covered pool can get warm enough to use up all the chemicals in it. Your solar cover then turns the pool into a greenhouse for algae. *To prevent this, always remove your solar cover during the day when it is extremely hot.*

Con: A cover can't do you any good if you don't use it. A solar cover must continually be removed *completely* for swimming and replaced afterwards to be beneficial (a solar reel is helpful). *Never swim beneath a solar cover.*

CONSERVATION

Pro: A solar cover not only conserves heat and chemicals by preventing dissipation, but it actually draws heat from the sun and transfers it to your pool water, raising the water temperature by 10 degrees or more, even if you don't have a heater.

Con: None

COMETICS

Pro: The economical advantage of a solar cover outweighs any loss of aesthetic value, we think. After all, the pool will only be covered when it isn't in use – and we consider merely looking at it as being “in use.”

Con: Still turned off by the idea of covering your beautiful sun light pool? Consider using a solar cover at night, when heat loss is most significant.

COST

Pro: Cost recouped through energy savings during the first season. While industry statistics cite savings up to 70%, North Shore Pool & Spa finds that energy savings of 40 to 50% can be reasonably expected through normal use of a solar cover (which includes forgetting to use it on occasion).

Con: Depending on the size of your pool, you will probably find that a reel is essential for ease of cover handling. The reel, unfortunately, costs more than the cover, although this cost too will be recouped over time.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The cost of a solar cover is a small price to pay for a product that can cut your pool heating bills in half while keeping your pool water comfortably warm all season. The sooner you get a solar cover, the sooner you'll start saving. Call North Shore Pool & Spa for an estimate today.