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Just as we were coming out of a long winter and looking forward to warmer days by the pool and braais, South Africans were dealt a few blows, taking some of the sparkle off Spring.

As a nation of sports lovers, we were once again unified by our national team at a World Cup, this time the Boks. The nation went into an almost tangible decline after the Boks' defeat and, as Springbok captain John Smit said, "It's just sad the way it ended. It really was a **ding-dong battle** between two good teams."

Which brings me to another 'ding-dong battle' that recently caused a mood decline... **the latest electricity tariff hikes** that keep adding to daily pressures for the average household. Today I received my electricity bill, now at R1770 when exactly this time last year it was R840 (and that's with no changes in consumption habits). According to the National Consumer Council, we have entered **"a dangerous era for consumers** - where the economy is weak but prices of food, transport, electricity and other basics are being driven up."

So, we all need to consider, more than ever, ways to make **daily savings** because while prices are going up, for most of us our pay cheques are not enjoying the same steroids! Today, the man on the street has increasingly less buying power, his income stretched more than ever, with little wriggle room and fewer luxuries. It all feels a bit bleak with the holiday season looming!

That said, it's not all doom and gloom - we still have a lot to celebrate! There is growing excitement as South Africa prepares to host the **COP17 Climate Change Conference** this month and with such enthusiasm and awareness in the 'greenie' sector, it is a chance to show off our abilities to lighten our footprints using superior eco products and services. But, many people still look to government to 'make' us green whereas it must become a collaborative mindshift, and that starts with making better choices in our daily lives. Start here, now! And read on for useful tips **to conserve power, save money and make your pool a greener one**—in the environmental sense of course! Here's to a great, green summer, lazy days by the pool and no more ding dong battles, just an easy glide into the holiday season!

Carolyn Idas, Operations Manager

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Sustainable summer pools—heating the natural way

Temperatures may be rising but everyone knows it takes a while for the average outdoor pool to warm up and reach comfortable swimming temperatures. The good news is that our range of thermal covers will rapidly close the gap between summer arriving and your first dip in the pool! In fact, you'll be hauling out your pool towels a good six weeks earlier and still enjoying your pool for six weeks longer on the other side of summer. Better still, your pool will become a lot less expensive to upkeep with our thermal pool covers.

This summer, choose from three superior thermal pool covers, each with unique heat retention and heat generation properties but all with short payback periods given the extent of the household savings achievable.

ENERGYGUARD

The average domestic pool pump's capacity to consume considerably large amounts of electricity was the fundamental reason for development of the innovative cover.

- Increases water temperature by up to 3-6°C
- Reduce your filtration times by 50% and save power
- Evaporation reduced by 98%, saving water
- Chemical consumption reduced by up to 60%, an effective way to shrink your pool's carbon footprint
- Inhibits light entry therefore curbs algae growth, greatly improving water hygiene and aesthetics.
- Excellent way to hibernate a pool if going away—pool is clear and swim ready upon removing the cover.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



SOL+GUARD

The best cover choice when it comes to raising water temperatures and improving heat retention, using only the sun's energy.

- Increase water temperature by up to 6-10°C
- Aesthetically pleasing, especially with the pool lights on at night.
- Reduce filtration: water kept clean and debris-free
- Reduce chemical input without affecting water hygiene or clarity.
- Reduced evaporation allows for significant water savings

Click [here](#) to learn more.



THERMAL IMPORTED

Heat your pool naturally, no electric heat pumps or solar panels required!

- Avoid overnight dips in water temperatures
- Increases water temperatures for a longer, more enjoyable swimming season
- With less debris collecting in the pool, filtration times can be halved
- Chemicals no longer evaporate in sunlight, working more efficiently and allowing input to be halved

Click [here](#) to learn more.

THERMAL IMPORTED



Have you read our Eco-wise Pools Case Study?
Click [here](#) to read it online and see for yourself just how much heat was generated and how much water, power and chemicals were saved when we put our thermal covers to the test!

Energy & water saving tips for summer pools

- Install one of our technically superior thermal covers to keep water cleaner and clear of leaves and debris. This will significantly reduce the amount of filtration required. Consider that, with the savings achievable, the pool cover pays for itself within a matter of months. The best covers to keep water cleaner are the EnergyGuard and PowerPlastics Solid Safety Cover.
- In the absence of a pool cover, you can move your filtration times to off peak hours and also reduce filtration times slightly to save power however, don't let your pool go green as this will require extra chemicals and even more filtration in the long run.
- If you have features such as fountains or jets in your pool, turn them off. Not only do they increase power consumption, the aeration will increase water evaporation and significantly lower the water temperature.
- The first step to heating a pool is a thermal pool cover. Select from our range of imported thermal covers, Sol+Guard or EnergyGuard. If you wish to heat your pool more than a cover is able to, opt for a solar system or lastly, an electrical system. One should always use these in combination with a pool cover to maximise benefits.
- Don't be lazy about removing leaves — it reduces the load on your pool pump and shortens filtration times. Otherwise, save time by using our LeafNet cover or the PowerPlastics Solid Safety Cover. It reduces the amount of water required, too given that evaporation losses are curbed.
- Help your pool pump and its water circulation by regularly removing the "gunk" and debris from the strainer baskets and skimmer.
- If you use a thermal cover, look into adding one of our Rollup Stations (see below). This will reduce the amount of water that runs off when removing the cover.
- If you have an old or dated pool pump, looking into the newer more eco-friendly and power-efficient pool pumps now available locally.
- Pool lights—turn them off! They may look pretty but they are a power waster!
- You can reduce your salt chlorination if you have a pool cover as you will not need as much chlorine.



PowerPlastics Pool Covers' Rollup Stations

While a thermal cover is relatively light and easy to use on smaller pools, it is recommended that our Rollup Station be added for pools exceeding 7m in length. A Rollup Station will:

- Make the use of the thermal cover effortless, allowing one person to operate it on their own
- Prevent dragging of the cover over the coping / paving around the pool, causing abrasive wear and tear. The Rollup Station will significantly extend the cover's lifespan.
- Serve as a neat and safe storage solution, protecting the cover from harsh sunlight and weathering by the natural elements when not on the pool.
- Reduce the amount of water lost when taking the cover off the pool.

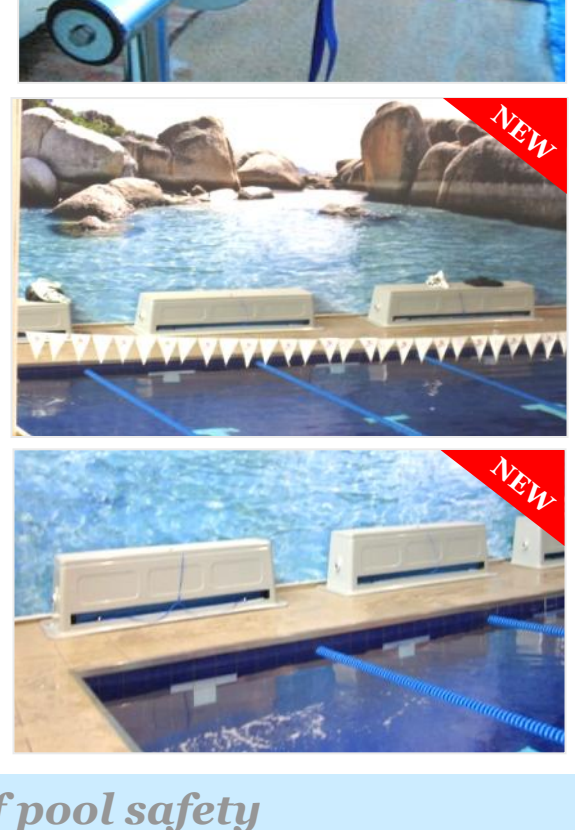
Ease of use for commercial and school pools

Our Rollup Stations are extremely popular with managers of large commercial and school pools. We've recently added a new design to the range, which has been likened to the concept of a letterbox, making this our most compact and innovative manual Rollup Station.

Using a durable, sturdy fibreglass frame, the Rollup Station and its mechanisms are completely concealed, with the casing serving as a handy poolside bench seat. The cover is fed / rolled in and out through a narrow opening running along the length of the unit.

We've just completed a new order for Virgin Active, some of the new units at Constantia Virgin Active in Cape Town are pictured right.

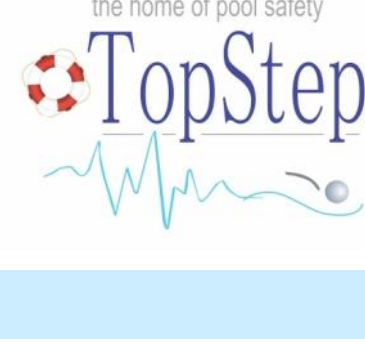
Click [here](#) to learn more about our Rollup Stations and how to make the use of our larger thermal covers truly effortless.



TopStep: the home of pool safety

In our last newsletter, we gave you the news about TopStep, the home of pool safety - a new industry body dedicated to child safety around the pool and an online information portal on the new pool safety legislation, soon to be passed in South Africa.

Since our launch we've seen fantastic traffic to the website and some excellent feedback. If you've not seen TopStep yet, head on over to www.topstep.co.za and start learning more about the pending pool safety legislation and child drowning prevention. Be sure to visit and 'Like' TopStep on Facebook too. You are also welcome to get involved or write a blog for the website!



Summer win!

To stand a chance to win a thermal cover of your choice to up to a value of R3000, simply answer these questions. Then, in order to qualify your entry, visit the TopStep page on Facebook and click "Like"!

- **Name one thermal cover that allows you to use less chemicals yet still have a clean, clear pool?**
 - **What is the name of our fully automatic pool cover?**
- Answers can be found on our [website](#).

Click [here](#) to email your answers to Carolyn, before 28 November 2011. The winner will be notified directly.

Meet our Gauteng sales team

Small but dynamic and always energetic, our JHB sales team looks after sales in Gauteng and outlying areas, from Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, Northern Province and Gauteng.

- **Taryn**, as branch manager, oversees all day to day activities and is responsible for the growth of our branch and widening our inland footprint.
- **Brad** has a varied role, handling incoming orders, liaison with trade and our dealer network in outlying areas as well as handling their product training and familiarisation requirements. He also oversees and trains our Gauteng installation teams.
- **Elmarie** joined us earlier this year and is the first point of contact for the pool shops in and around Gauteng, responsible for forging strong relationships with pool shops, pool builders and other industry players.



Feel free to drop them a line on jhb@powerplastics.co.za or give them a call on 011 462 7897.

Our national dealer network

In order to service all the major cities in South Africa, PowerPlastics Pool Covers has over the years developed excellent relationships within the pool industry and pool shop retail trade. We continue to invest in our networks by offering product training and refresher courses to pool shop sales staff, and support them with merchandising, demo products and manuals. Any pool owners wanting to 'see and touch' before ordering can ask in-store to see our swatches and colour samples.

Herewith some of the pool shops around the country who currently represent PowerPlastics Pool Covers and are all able to advise you on the best pool shops for your particular requirements and budget. For your particular area is not listed, drop Carolyn a [line](#) and she'll point you towards your nearest dealer or pool shop.

Western Cape and Garden Route

- Pool Worx, Welgelegen
- Monte Vista Pool Shop, Monte Vista
- Pool Doctor, Tableview
- Fix A Pool, Fish Hoek
- Pool Safety Systems, Hermanus

- Linmar, Somerset West
- Waterite, Parklands
- Pool Topia, Bakenlands
- Pool City, Retreat
- Effective Water Solutions, P.E.

- Prime Pools, Durbanville
- Paarl Pool Service, Paarl
- The Pool Place, Hout Bay
- Dynamic Pools, Boland
- Garden Route Spa & Pool Care, George

Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Northern Province

- Eldoraing Pool Lab, Centurion
- Poofab, Randpark Ridge
- Pool & Pond Specialists, Parkwood
- OFS Canvas, Bloemfontein
- Clearwater Pools, Mokokpene

- Poolware Whole Sale, Waltho
- Poolcraft Blackheath, Blackheath
- The Pool Team, Xavier
- Dry Pool Tech, Springs
- Paint It Specialists, Polokwane

- Chrystle Pools, Ruimsig
- Pool & Pond Specialists, Linden
- Mozar Solar, Nelspruit
- Clearwater Pools, Witbank
- Alzu Pools & Paving, Hoedspruit

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Shop 2 Wetherleys Decor Park, 7 Precision Street, Kya Sand, JHB

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We've got you covered!

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