

PROMOTION

ALL YEAR ROUND SWIM SPA!

UPGRADE YOUR ABOVE GROUND POOL TO AN ALL-YEAR-ROUND SWIM SPA FOR UNDER £10,000

A pool you can afford to heat!

- Swim all summer, and all winter too if you want !
- Exercise by swimming against a counter-current machine.
- Shelter the pool and swimmers by means of a pack-away enclosure.
- Relax and de-Stress in your pool the same way you would in a hot tub.

Chris Brindle of use-it-more.com upgraded his above ground pool and now he is helping others do the same. What Pool and Hot Tub found out more.

So you actually did this with your pool ?

Yes, over the past ten years I've progressively upgraded my 12 foot diameter Doughboy above-ground pool and last year our family swam in it all through the winter. It's like having your own leisure centre.



Above: Freezing outside but 32°C in an above ground pool in January

Big Pool or Small Pool ?

Start with a small pool, if you're going to get your exercise by swimming against a counter-current machine such as a BaduJet, your pool only needs to be 12 feet in diameter. Small pools fit into a garden landscape better, you can afford to heat them and enclose them. They are easier to clean, they are cheaper to buy, and the money saved can be spent on additional equipment. For example, a small pool with heat pump makes a lot more sense than a big unheated pool.

What type of pool is best ?

You have to be able to insulate the pool easily, so ideally it should have vertical sides. I would choose a metal sided pool with stanchions supporting a top deck rather than a plastic flexible side wall pool. It will be generally more stable and easier to insulate. Wood clad pools look nice but the money spent on the appearance could be spent instead on additional equipment. You need a sand filter rather than a cartridge filter and a sufficiently powerful pump to run all the equipment preferably 1 hp or so. It should be self-priming. My Speck pump (input .70kw .94hp, output .45kw .60hp) is very good and is enough to run all my equipment, but is not sufficient to run an automatic pool cleaner as well.

Why is insulation so important ?

Because you want to retain the day's heat from the sun in your pool, rather than lose it overnight, and your heater needs to be able to put heat into your pool faster than the pool can lose it to the atmosphere.

How does an above ground pool lose heat ?

By:

- Evaporation. This can be greatly reduced by using a solar cover.
- Convection. The wind takes the heat away from the surface cover and side walls. Placing insulation containing air close against the side walls is very



Swimming against the Badu-Jet



Inflatable transparent polyurethane insulation

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Front and back of a 5m Pleasure-Dome



effective in preventing this. An enclosure by its nature all wind from your pool.

- **Conduction.** Heat in the pool water is lost to the cover and sides of the pool by contact and thence by convection to the air. Dry earth is a fairly good insulator, but conduction through the base of the pool can be reduced by using multiple layers of builders pvc sheet beneath the pool bottom.

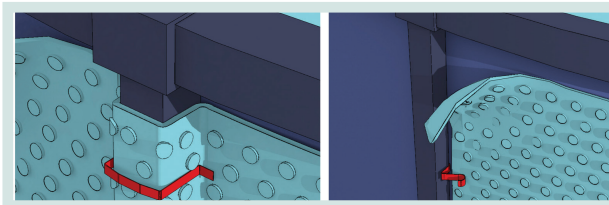
with square section legs such as those found on Doughboy Havenwood, Sand Dollar, and Whispers pools. The 'clip-behind' variety can be adapted to insulate any steel walled pools with support legs.

Provided a pool has vertical sides it can be insulated by wrapping insulation material around the tank and securing with U.V. protected tape.

What materials do you sell to insulate the side walls of an above-ground pool ?

We have transparent materials which allow the wave energy from the sun to heat the side wall, whilst greatly reducing losses from the pool from conduction and convection. A good and inexpensive solution at about £2.40 per metre is heavyweight u.v. protected pool grade polyethylene bubble material, which is not unattractive if held tightly against the pool wall. We've also recently developed inflatable polyurethane panels, which although more expensive at around £70 each, perform very well and look very attractive.

We also have non transparent material such as expanded polyethylene closed-cell foam. This can be used to insulate and help protect the side walls in sunken and partially inset pools.

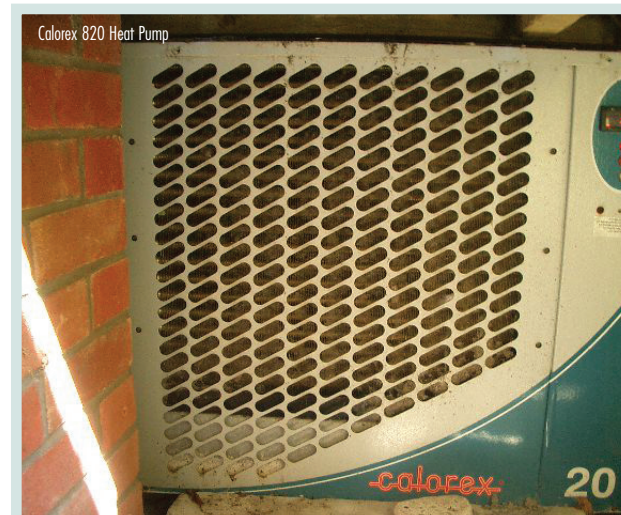


Clip-Over insulation clip

Clip-Behind insulation clip

How do you attach the insulation ?

We have invented clips that either clip-over or clip-behind the support legs of steel walled above ground pools. These hold the insulation in place. The clip-over clips work particularly well



What's the best way to heat your swim-spa ?

In my view it has to be a heat pump. I've got a Calorex 820, it's fitted under the deck and it works brilliantly. It gives up to 5 units of heat out, for every one unit of electricity put in during high summer, falling to about 2 units of heat out in winter. This model only works in temperatures down to 7°C and I plan to replace it with another model in the range that will work down to -1.5°C to make winter running easier. Running the pump 3 hours a day in summer maintains a temperature of about 30°C in the pool for a cost of about 30 pence. In winter with my present model you need to ensure that the heat pump won't freeze up by circulating

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Mother and son in the Relaxation In-Pool Hammocks

> warm pool water through it if the temperatures look like dropping around zero. A conventional heater was required to maintain temperatures in November and December



Pro-Pool u.v. lamps installed under deck

Does the heat pump have other advantages ?

Yes, if you have an enclosure over your pool you can set up the heat pump to draw part of its intake air from inside the enclosure. This helps control humidity and condensation and recycles heat from the enclosure back into the pool water.

What about water quality ?

I hate chlorine, so currently I'm trying out U.V. as a way of sterilising the pool water, and so far it seems to be working very well, although industry experts tell you should also use a residual disinfectant as well e.g. chlorine.

You make an enclosure for small above ground pools don't you?

Yes, we've invented a system called Pleasure-Dome[®] where a plastic membrane is kept over the pool by means of inflatable polyurethane tubes held in position by stainless steel stands. Last winter I just had polytunnel type polythene stretched over the tubes, but we've progressed and developed a tailored-fit transparent polyurethane cover, to create a dome which has a usable internal diameter of 15 feet and an outside diameter of 5 metres. This dome has a self-supporting glazed UPVC house door in an aluminium frame - very important if you want to swim in the winter — cold wet plastic is no fun when the outside

temperature is freezing. The polyurethane tubes are seamless, this is a world first, never before have tubes been continuously extruded in these diameters and wall thicknesses. The Dome and the Enclosure system launches at the big swimming pool exhibition at Lyon in November.

Do you have any other inventions ?

Yes, we make Relaxation In-Pool Hammocks. Unlike the floating hammocks, these actually keep you floating in the water, rather than on it. The bottom of the frame rests on the floor of the pool and the top of the frame is supported by an inflatable pillow. You lie on your front or back, or sit up, totally supported by the canvas sling.

The insulation clips, Pleasure-Dome and the In-Pool Hammock are all patent pending. To develop these products, use-it-more.com sell their own inventions to the public and can source a wide range of other upgrade products including those mentioned in this article.

More information can be found on the website www.use-it-more.com.

Guide Prices (includes vat and some discount)	From	To
Doughboy 12 foot Whispers Resin Rail Pool with really top-spec, sand filter, pump, ladder and solar cover	£ 2000	£2750
Inflatable side-wall insulation	£600	£600
Clip-Over Insulation Clips	£50	£50
Heat Pumps (Imports & Calorex)	£1300	£4000
BaduJet with Light	£1350	£2650
Pro-Pool u.v. water sterilisation lamp.	£325	£325
Pleasure-Dome ^o	£3995	£3995
Relaxation In-Pool Hammock	£295	£295
	£9915	£14665