

How to Select the Right Pool Heater

Choosing the right **swimming pool heater** for your pool will vary depending on several factors, firstly will the pool be used regularly i.e. 7-days a week or will you only use it during weekends or at prearranged times. This is important because some pool heaters, namely Heat Pumps cost considerably less to run constantly than say gas or oil heaters. However if you are only going to use the pool at weekends then you may benefit from the added flexibility that gas & oil heaters give you.

The ability to turn your heater on say Friday night and have a warm pool by the morning is the flexibility that Gas, Electric and Oil heaters give you not to mention the ability to run the pool later in the season, say Christmas Day.

Heat Pumps take time to build up heat and for this reason they are generally switched on in May and turned off in September. The cost to heat a pool per day is far less with a Heat Pump, however you have to decide if you are going to want or be able to swim that often.

There are other considerations too like noise and emissions, electric element heaters make no noise and have no emissions. Heat Pumps have no emissions but do make a noise, its rarely enough noise to be a problem but it should be considered. Gas & Oil heaters are relatively quiet but do create emissions, again this is rarely a problem but should be considered.

Here is an example of a typical seasons running costs using different heaters, see notes below.

Pool Size		Electric Heat Pump	Propane / LPG Gas	Natural Gas	Oil Heater	Economy Seven	Electricity Element
Size	Surface Area	8p/kwh	27p/litre	49p/Therm	35p/litre	4p/kwh	8p/kwh
20' x 10'	200 ²	£180	£395	£225	£325	£350	£725
24' x 12'	288 ²	£225	£550	£315	£430	£470	£925
28' x 14'	392 ²	£310	£725	£420	£570	£635	£1250
30' x 15'	450 ²	£355	£820	£465	£635	£715	£1425
32' x 16'	512 ²	£385	£915	£515	£725	£815	£1580
36' x 18'	648 ²	£475	£1110	£645	£875	£975	£2100
40' x 20'	800 ²	£550	£1350	£785	£1050	£1250	£2285

1. The above figures assume that the pool is run & heated to 27 Deg C. (80 Deg F.) from May – September.
2. The pool is not surrounding by high Ground water.
3. The average depth is 4' 6" or 1.4mtrs deep.
4. The pool is covered during the evenings with a Solar Cover.
5. The cost per unit of energy varies in different areas of the country, check your unit costs and adjust accordingly.