

Newer greener pool technologies won't pound electricity, and require fewer to no toxic chemicals and far less algae cleanup. Reform your pool with one or all of these swimming 5 eco upgrades and retrofits.

● SUN YOUR SWIM



For those that need heated pools; solar panels and low-tech solar water heating tube systems are the way to go. There is also a cool soda can solar DIY jimmy rig, too. Aw, why not beer? Whatever works, not pollutes. Click over to findsolar.com, to hook up with U.S. Dept. of Energy approved solar installers near you, and check out these tax incentives.

● PUT A LID ON IT



Using a thermal pool cover to keep the heat in and the dirt and bugs out. Your energy usage/heating bill will shrink and you'll spend less time cleaning.

● STOP LEAKING

Leaks run pools dry of 102,000 gallons—plus of water every year, according to Earth 911. They suggest you "mark the water line with a grease pencil and check it 24 hours later. If you suspect a leak, have it fixed as soon as possible. Refilling a pool with captured rainwater is also an excellent way to cut down on wasted water. It doesn't hurt to give that new border of irises and cattails a drink while you're at it."



● PUMP LIGHT



Upgrade to an energy saving water pump and filtration system. They're expensive (\$400 to \$1,000), but the energy cost savings can really add up. Don't forget to set the timer.

● GO CHEM FREE



Pool ionizer systems use copper electrodes and a low voltage DC current to slip copper ions into your pool water. **Snazzy Bonus:** It's "completely safe for humans, but lethal to algae and bacteria." Don't sweat the copper. The amount left in the water is less than the EPA's safe drinking standards and equivalent to that of a Flintstone's vitamin.