

POOL COVER COMPARISON

Covering your pool when it is not in use is the most effective means of reducing water loss due to evaporation. Each type of cover brings its own advantages and disadvantages to the table. Here are the four most popular types of pool covers used in the Bay Area and some info on features you can expect from each.

SOLAR COVER (“BUBBLE COVER”)

A solar cover is one of the least expensive and most effective ways to dramatically reduce evaporation. It will soak up heat from the sun and warm your pool, and keep debris out. These covers can be a hassle to take off and put back on every time you want to use the pool. Cleaning debris from it without dumping it into the pool is challenging. Lifespan is fairly low (~1-2 years)

PROS	CONS
Relatively low cost	Can be difficult to handle
Huge reduction in water loss due to evaporation	Can be tricky to install
Cuts down on energy costs by saving heat	Blocks UV rays that kill algae
Use on any pool, including oddly-shaped & infinity	Not aesthetically pleasing
COST: \$100—\$250, [Optional Reel] \$300—\$600	

AUTOMATIC COVER

Automatic pool covers are the most convenient of all types of covers as they open and close with the push of a button. They are also safe and offer the most protection from debris getting in and water going out.

PROS	CONS
Easy, convenient and safe	Very high initial cost
Huge reduction in water loss due to evaporation	Potential to break, expensive repairs
Cuts down on energy costs by saving heat	Not compatible with all pool shapes
Keeps debris out	High maintenance, rainwater must be pumped off
COST: \$6,000 — \$15,000	

VINYL SAFETY COVER

Safety covers can support concentrated weight and keep children and pets safe around the pool area. They also can be customized to any pool shape. Installation can be a little complicated and challenging, however the long lifespan and low maintenance for this cover makes it a good option to consider.

PROS	CONS
Reduces water loss due to evaporation	Complicated installation
Keeps out light, reduces algae growth	Higher initial cost
Fairly low maintenance	Some materials let water and sun in
Long lifespan ~6-15 years	Requires pump to remove rainwater
COST: \$1,000 – \$3,500	

LIQUID POOL COVER

Liquid pool cover works by forming a very thin, invisible barrier on the water's surface to reduce evaporation and retain heat. Materials are non-toxic and biodegradable. It completely dissipates after one month so needs to be replenished on a regular basis. While not as effective as traditional pool covers, it is a worthwhile product to try if other types pool covers are not viable for your situation.

PROS	CONS
Works for any type of pool, including infinity-edge	Not as effective as physical cover for evaporation
Reduces heat/water loss due to evaporation	Needs to be replenished regularly
Great option for people with physical limitations	Less effective on high-use pools or in windy areas
No need to remove and replace bulky cover	Some formulas not compatible with chlorine
COST: \$10 – \$20 / MONTH	

Links to more information on pool covers:

www.liquidpoolcovers.com

www.poolcoversinc.com

www.aquatechpoolsystems.com

energy.gov/energysaver/articles/swimming-pool-covers

www.swimuniversity.com/how-to-use-solar-pool-covers