



SELECTING THE RIGHT MATERIAL

HOW TO SELECT THE RIGHT COVER FOR YOUR POOL



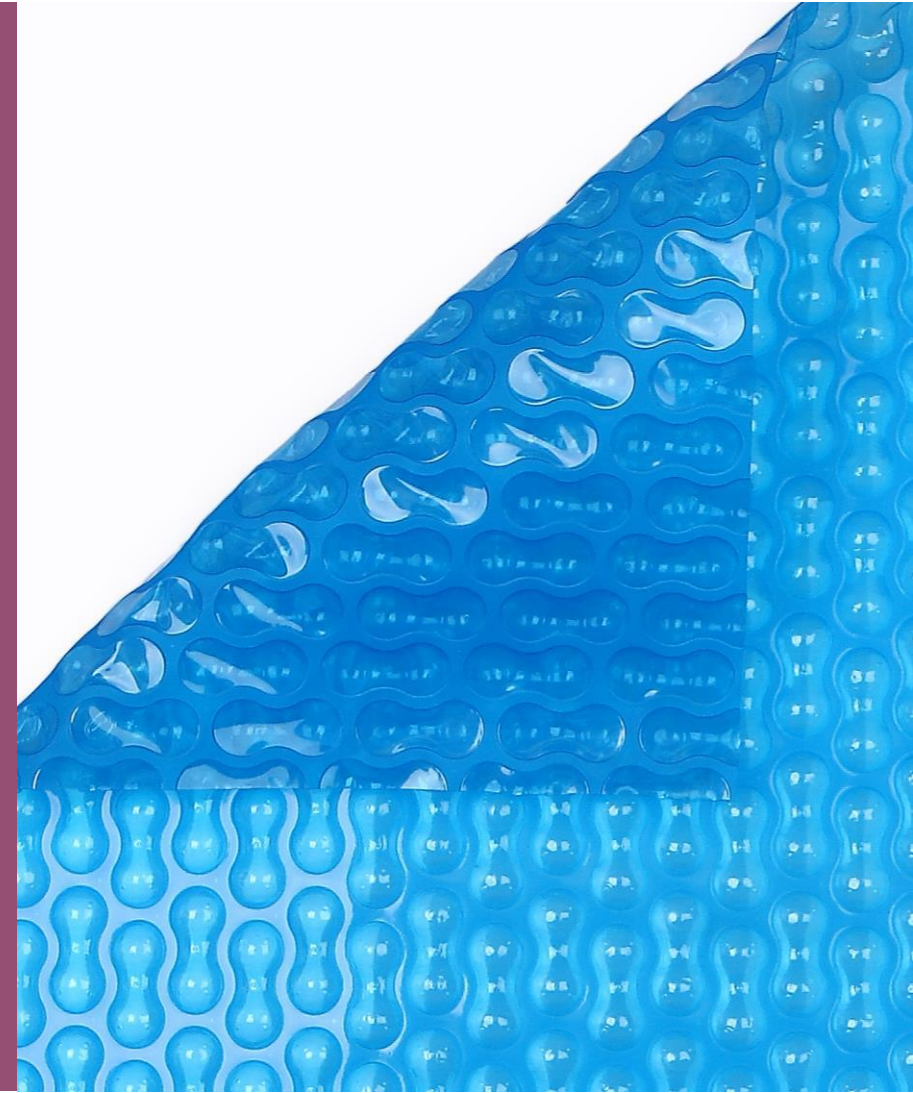
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Selecting the right material

Plastipack often hear from end users (pool owners) who are concerned about how to select the right cover material for their pool.

With the differences in thickness, colour, bubble design and lifespan the options can make a selection difficult.

This document aims to take you through the options and hopefully guide you to your ideal cover.



This document aims to help by outlining:

[General benefits all covers provide](#)

[What difference does the material grade make?](#)

[Differences due to Bubble design \(GeoBubble™\)](#)

[What difference does colour have on performance?](#)

[A guide to Plastipack products lifespans](#)

[High Performance Guard materials](#)

[Why do I need a Reflective Storage sheet?](#)

[Product Comparison Graph](#)



Don't worry as long as it's covered!

By covering the pool you are preventing evaporation by 98%+.

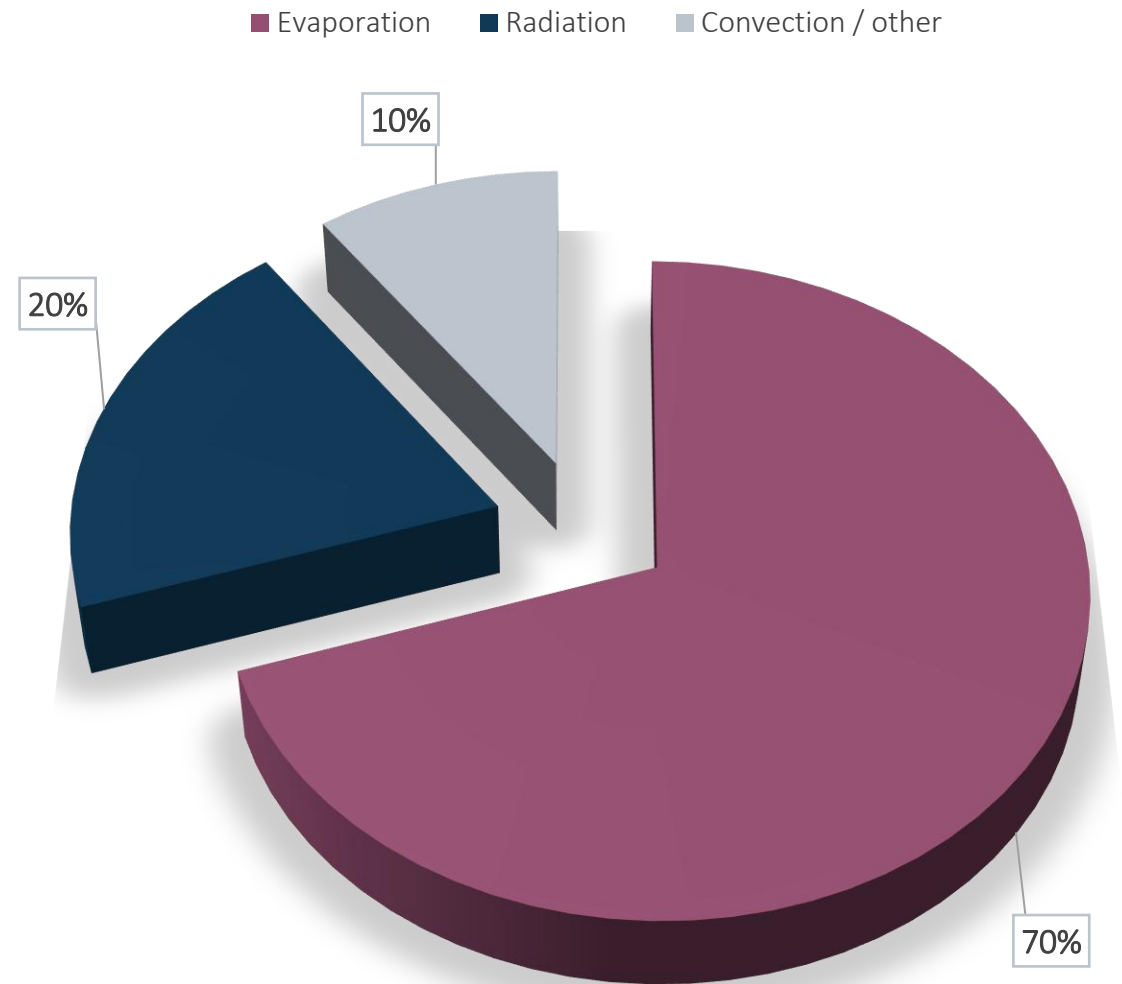
Controlling evaporation by covering your pool will provide savings to your running costs and increased temperatures.

This is because evaporation results in a loss of both water and heat.

Once the important decision to cover the pool is made the next step is to determine the type of performance you want your cover to provide.

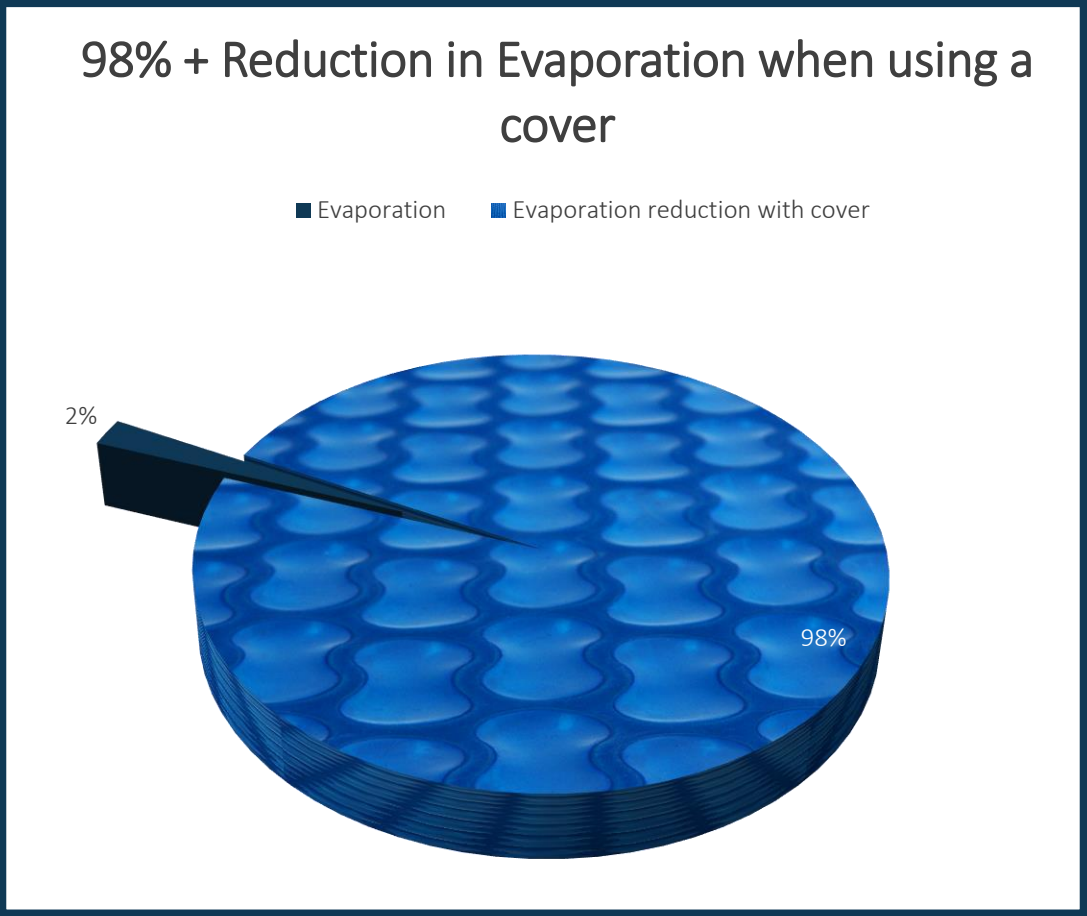
This is determined by the material's optical properties.

Factors responsible for heat loss for outdoor Swimming pools

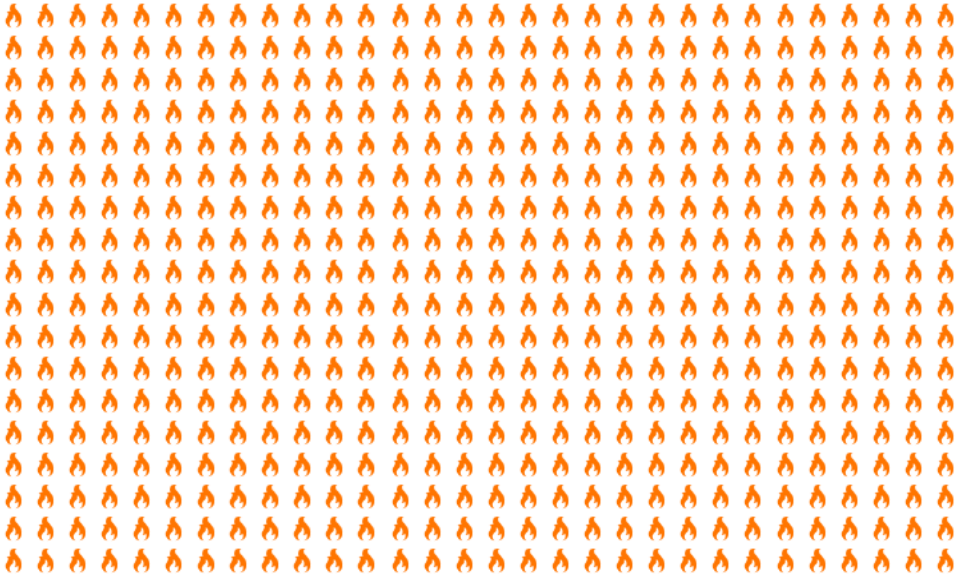


Evaporation is an energy consumptive process resulting in a reduction in temperature within the pool. This is know as evaporative cooling.

As such as long as the pool is covered you will see a saving in energy cost.



 = 1 calorie = Energy Required to heat 1g of water 1°C

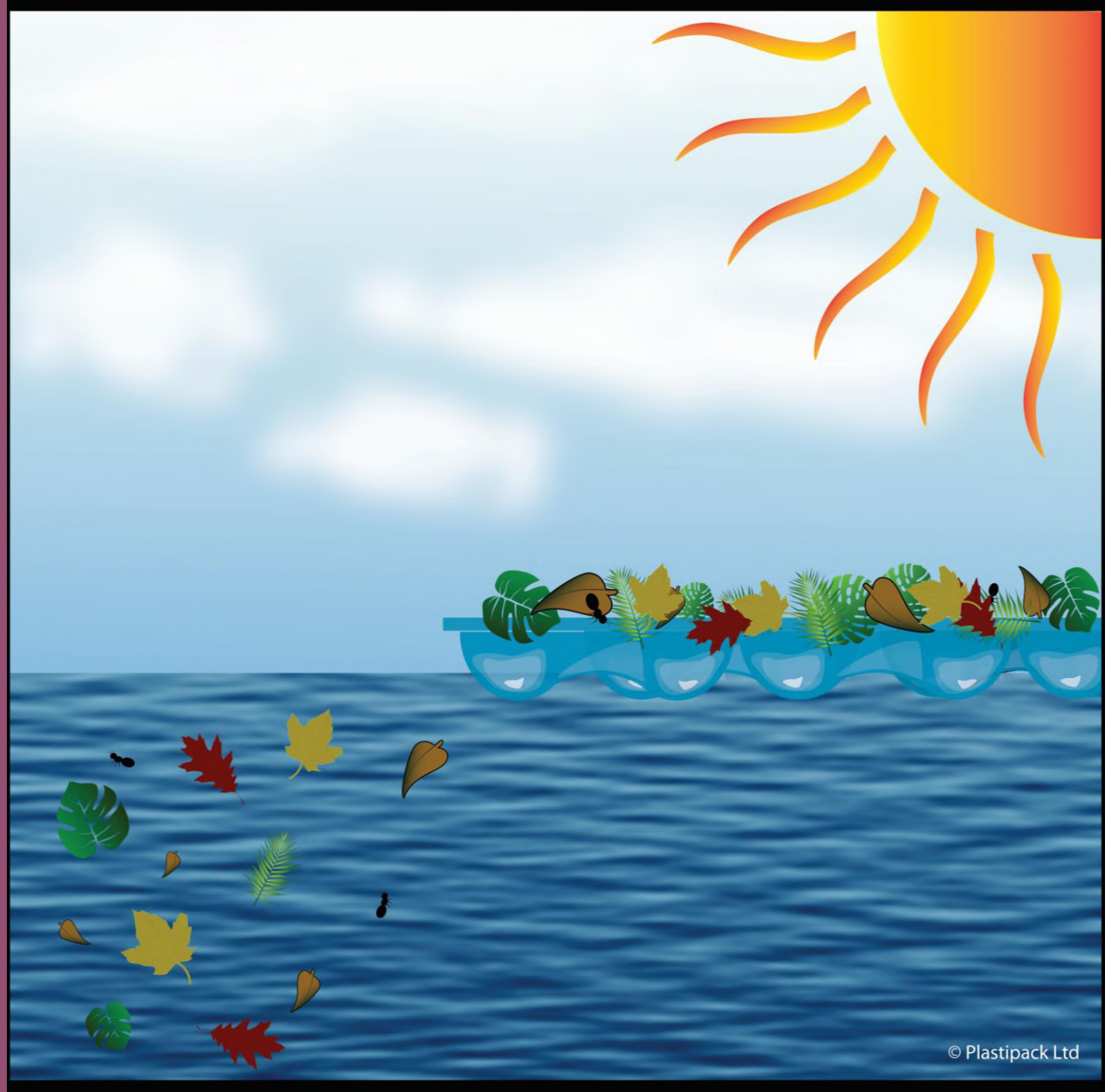


= 540Cal = Energy consumed through evaporating 1g of water

All pool covers will prevent debris entering the pool.

This does not only help to keep the pool looking cleaner but reduces the chemical and filtration demand by reducing foreign debris entering the pool.

The cover also helps to reduce photolysis, the process of free chlorine being deactivated by sunlight.



These points represent the generic benefits of any cover.

At this point we can look at some more specific traits:

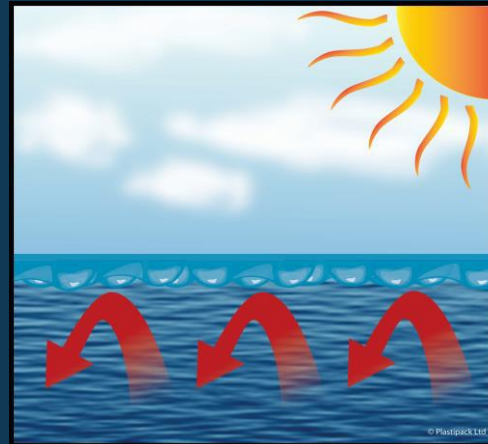
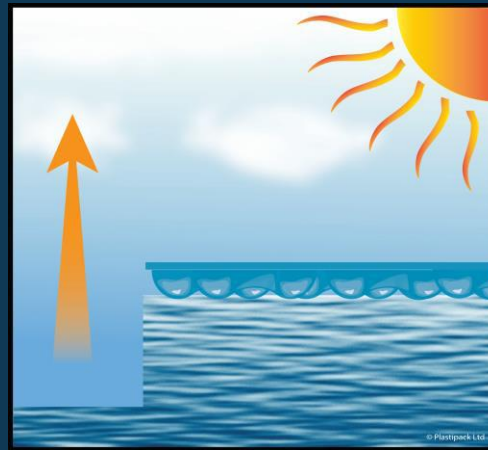
Thickness (grade)

Colour

Bubble design

Expected lifespan

High performance materials

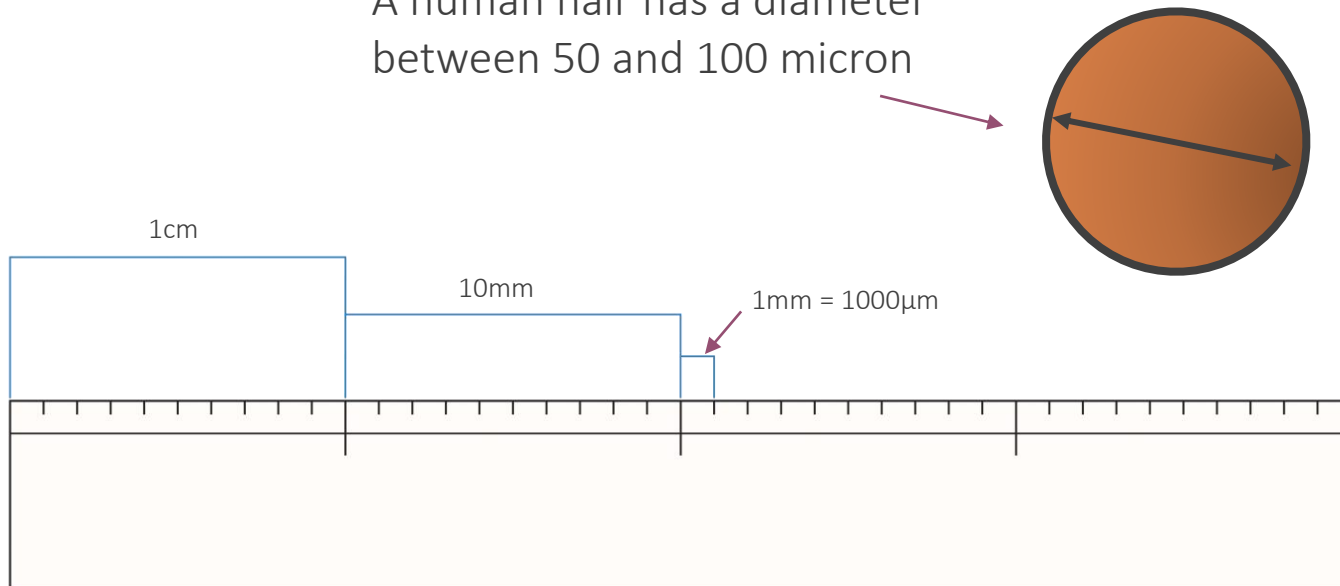


General benefits:

- Eliminates water evaporation by 98% +.
- Retain heat.
- Reduces chemical consumption.
- Reduces energy consumption.
- Reduces debris contamination.
- Reduce the pool's carbon footprint.
- Saves money.

What does material Grade mean?

A human hair has a diameter between 50 and 100 micron



- Pool cover materials are often classified by their grades, such as 400grade.
- The “grade” refers to the materials thickness in Microns (μ) or Micrometres (μm).
- A 400grade material has a thickness of $400\mu\text{m}$.

What difference does thickness make?

The thickness of a material is a good indicator of its quality and durability.

Greater thickness provides resistance to the oxidising effects of the sanitizers within a pool. This is simply because there is more polymer to be oxidised over time.

To ensure this, Plastipack distribute the thickness of the material to make the bubble two thirds of the thickness of the material. This has been further improved through the creation of the GeoBubble™ material design.

A good pool cover material should be no less than 400µm (400grade).

If you are not using a reel system and fan folding the cover off the pool, you may wish to go no thicker than 500µm to keep the cover a manageable weight.

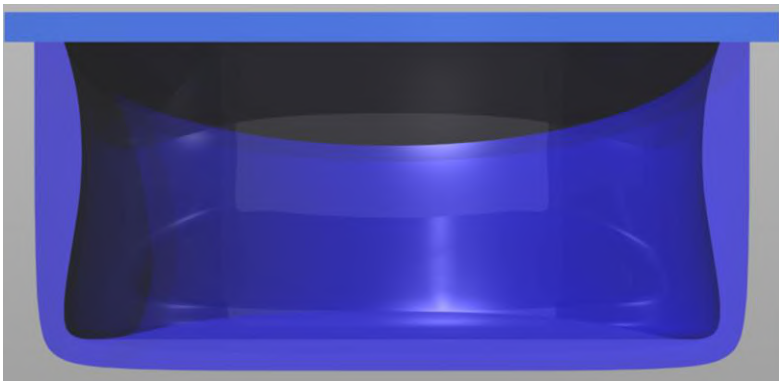
Though it does have an effect, thickness is not an indication of expected lifespan.

For information on this see: [A guide to Plastipack products lifespans](#)

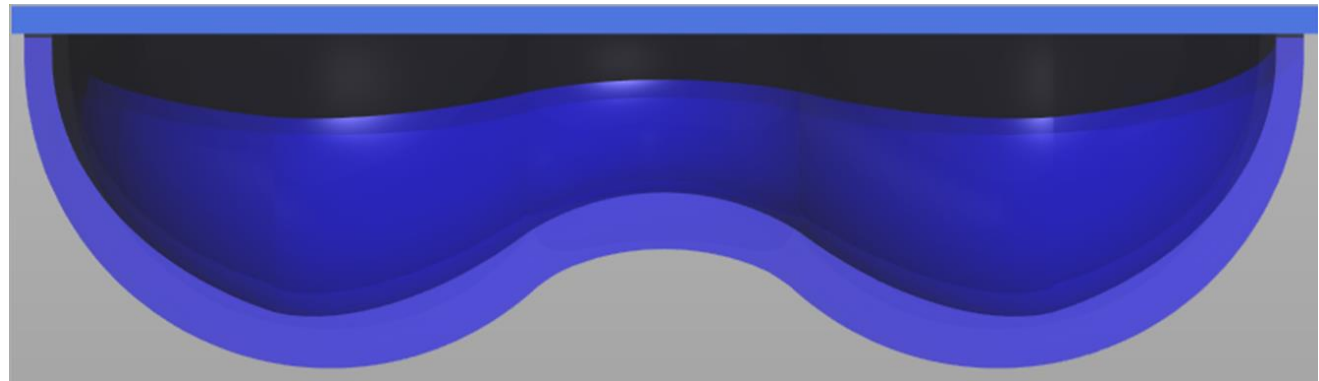
Which Bubble Design?

SELECT A BUBBLE TYPE TO SEE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ITS DESIGN.

12mm standard bubble design



GeoBubble™ Technology Design



Standard Bubble Design

The traditional bubble design was created for the packaging industry and has some inherent weaknesses.

These weaknesses limit the materials ultimate longevity.

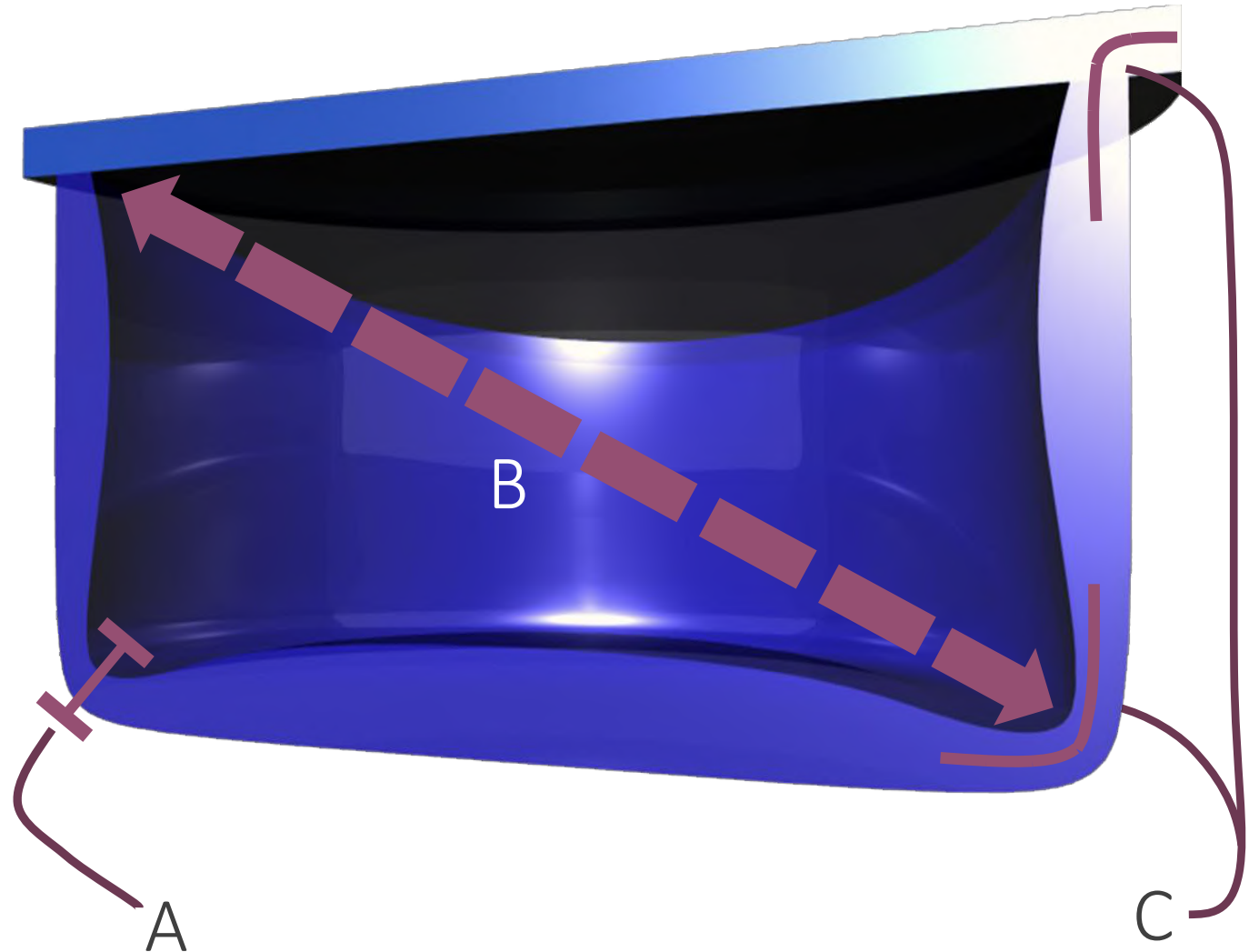
Due to this, Plastipack in Partnership with two UK Universities designed the GeoBubble™ material specifically designed for your pool.

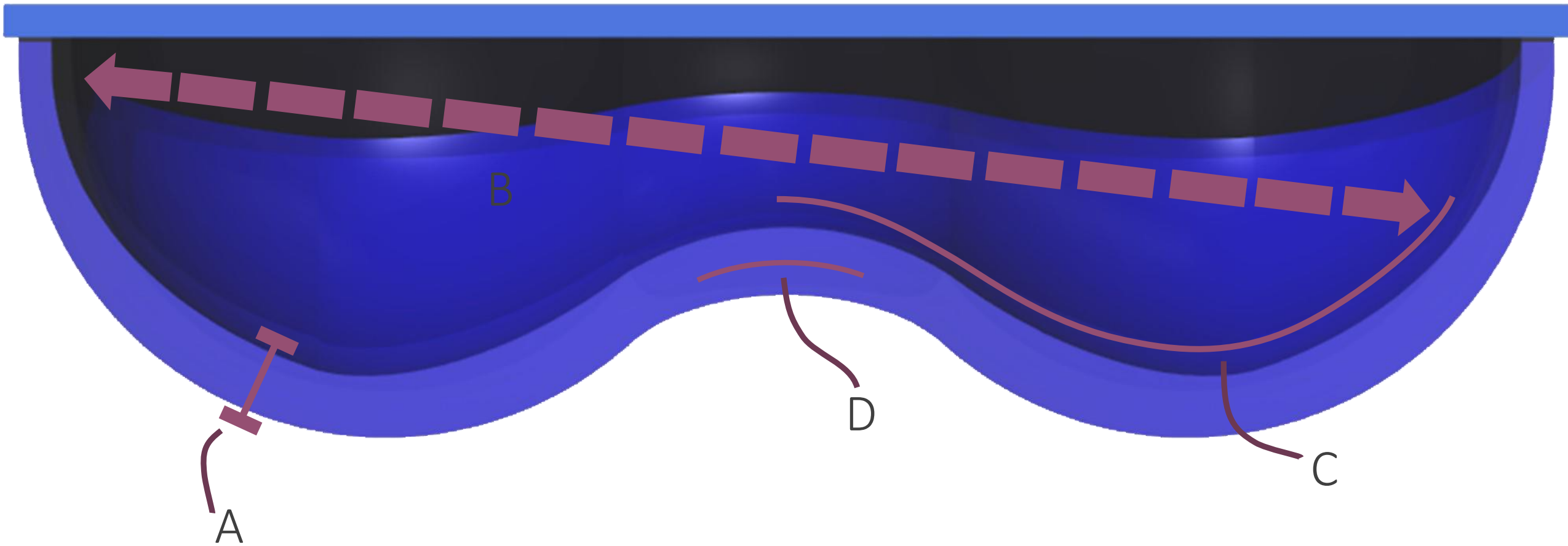
[See GeoBubble™ benefits](#)

A – Areas of thinning sensitive less robust to chemical degradation.

B – Small bubble profile limits room for expansion.

C – Sharp corners create areas of high stress less resistant to degradation.



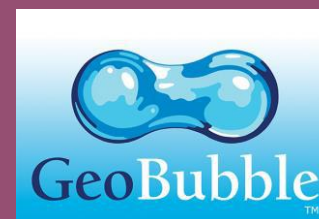


A – 50% thicker at its thinnest point to resist chemical attack.

B – Larger bubble profile provides increased room for expansion.

C – Smooth curved structure reduces stresses within the material.

D – Structural arch resists bubble collapse.



[Click here for more information](#)

What effect does colour have on performance?

Basic standard cover types:

Most standard pool cover materials fall under these two categories in relation to how they heat the pool.

Absorption covers: Use dark pigments to absorb the sun's energy and pass this to the top surface of the pool. (conduction)

Pro: Algae inhibition

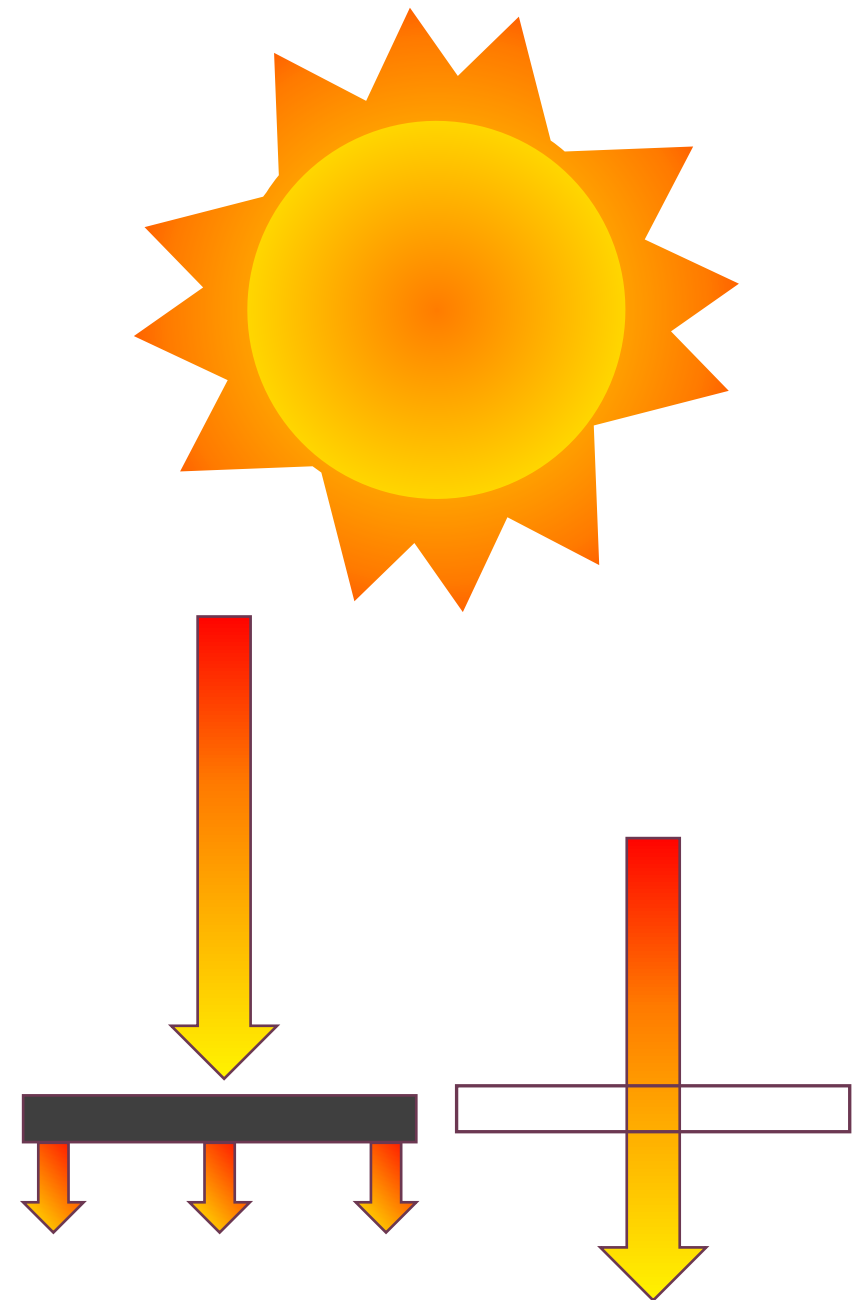
Con: Limited heating efficiency

Transmission covers: Consist of transparent materials that allow the sun's energy to pass through the covers to heat the pool directly. (transmission)

Pro: Good heating efficiency

Con: Poor algae inhibition

As you can see the cover's optical properties determine the cover's potential performance. This is most clearly demonstrated by the High Performance Guard products.



Product Expected Lifespans

All lifespans are set based on a pool within [industry recognised balance](#). A pool cover should always be removed when shock dosing a pool and only recovered once the pool has returned to balance.

The lifespan of a material is determined by its [UV stabilization package](#), this is tailored to the geographic requirements of the environment.

	12mm	GeoBubble™
Standard materials		
400 micron	2 years	3 years
400 micron + weave	2 years	3 years
500 micron	3 years	4 years
600 micron	3 years	4 years
High Performance Guard Products		
CoolGuard™ Ultra		6 years +
EnergyGuard™ Selective Transmission		6 years +
Sol+Guard™		6 years +
RaeGuard™		6 years +

High Performance Guard Materials

Each of our high performance materials is designed to provide the highest performance for their specific function as well as the generic benefits all pool covers provide.

CoolGuard™ Ultra - Maintains a comfortable cool swimming environment.

EnergyGuard™ Selective Transmission – Provides algae inhibition and very good temperature gains.

Sol+Guard™ - Provides the highest temperature gains to the pool.

RaeGuard™ - Retains heat in pools where solar gains are not an option

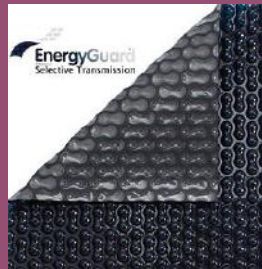
They were designed with the aim of returning the initial investment of their purchase by providing savings to the pool within the first year of use.

Each of the High performance Guard materials has an expected lifespan of 6 years plus and is offered to fabricators with a 6 year manufacturer's pro rata warranty.



CoolGuard™ Ultra Specific benefits:

- Minimise daily solar gains by 55%.
- Maintain a 10% cooler pool.
- Reduce water temperature by up to 15%
- Reduce energy consumption over to 50%
- Reduce chemical consumption by up to 50%
- Reduce energy consumption by over 50%
- Save money
- 6 year + expected lifespan



EnergyGuard™ ST specific benefits:

- Increase water temperature by up to 7°C
- Inhibits algae growth
- Reduce filtration times by up to 50%
- Reduce chemical consumption by up to 60%
- Reduce energy consumption by up to 60%
- Reduce time spent on maintenance
- 6 year + expected lifespan
- Can be used as a winter pool cover



Sol+Guard™ Specific benefits:

- Increase pool temperatures by up to 8°C
- Reduce chemical consumption by up to 40%
- Reduce energy consumption by over 70%
- Save money
- 6 year + expected lifespan



RaeGuard™ specific benefits:

- Retain heat and maintain pool temperature
- Reduce heating cost by up to 57%
- Works on both indoor and outdoor pools
- 6+ years expected lifespan
- With GeoBubble™ Technology
- Available with reinforcing weave

Reflective storage sheet

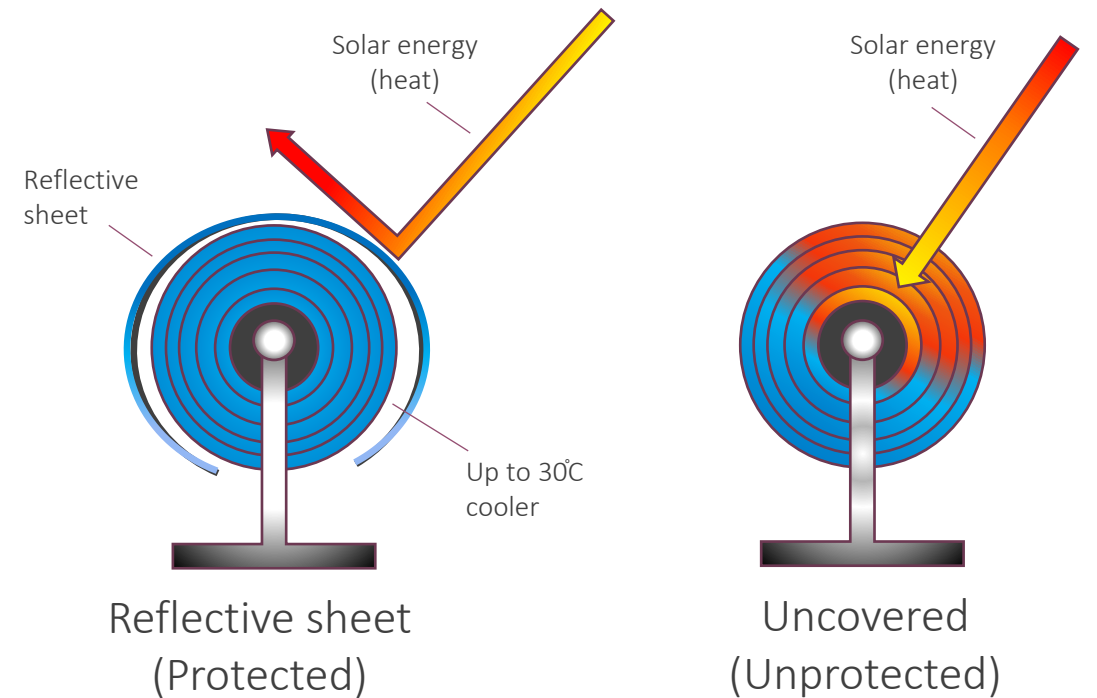
Swimming pool material is an insulator.

When left layered either on the reel system or folded in direct sunlight the temperature between the layers quickly builds and can elevate past the vicat softening point of the plastic, making the polymers malleable .

As the material cools it can set to the shape of the reel system.

The increased temperatures result in damage to the material and impacts on the cover's flatness when deployed on the pool – known as “lay flat”. In extreme cases it can also stick the layers together or degrade the material.

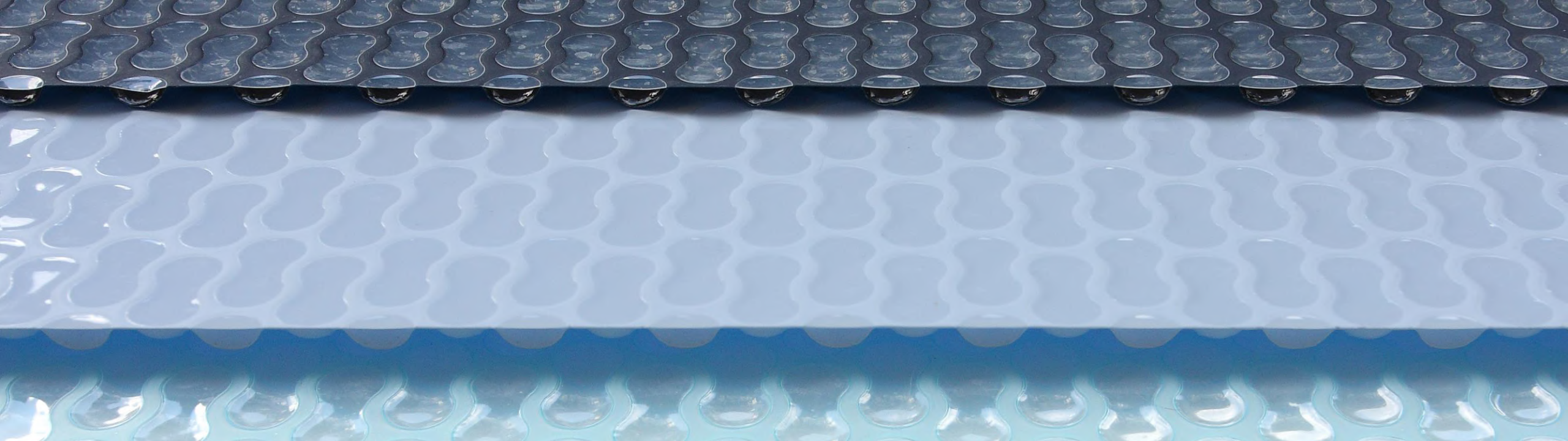
For more information visit the [Reflective storage sheet](#) page.



Protected covers lay flat on the pool



Unprotected covers lay flat on the pool



Which cover type to select?

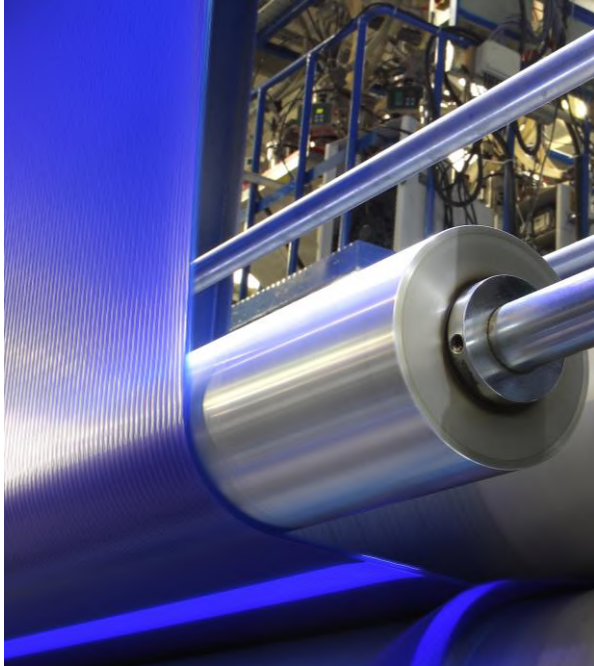
The best method of discerning the cover you require is to decide the key issue you wish to address:

Chemical savings, temperature increase, algae inhibition, durability or life span and select a material that best suits your needs!

Most standard materials are designed to be a good all-round cover and will provide up to a 2-3°C temperature increase dependent on their optical properties, as well as the standard benefits mentioned previously.

However, the High-performance material can provide specific benefits to meet your needs.

See Performance Guidance chart.



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