



**CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH**

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Newport Beach, California 92660

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[newportbeachca.gov/communitydevelopment](http://newportbeachca.gov/communitydevelopment)

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### **Dealing with Drought: Swimming Pools**

The Governor of California Executive Order B-29-15 requires the City of Newport Beach to reduce overall water consumption by 28%. Newport Beach Municipal Code Section 14.16 was amended to limit the amount of water that can be added to a pool on re-fills to 3 inches per week.

A pool that loses more than 2-3 inches of water per week typically indicates there may be a leak. If higher rates of evaporation are suspected, then pool covers are an excellent answer to saving water loss. If a filtering system is using too much water to flush, then a pre-backwash minimization filter system could be considered. When certain chemicals and hardness can only be reduced by replacing water, owners should consult a pool maintenance company to see if a partial draining is possible rather than a complete draining. Another option to save pool water could include rainwater harvest tanks which are connected to a pool. These and other options should be explored rather than completely draining your pool (into the sanitary sewer line) which wastes thousands of gallons of what was once potable water.

If you need to fill or refill your pool with more than 3 inches the City requirements are listed below:

- Submit a **Relief from Compliance** form online at [www.newportbeachca.gov/water](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/water). (Relief is not guaranteed. If accepted, your relief will likely be for one billing period.)
- Do not empty pool water into the street or storm drain system. The water should be placed into your sewer's p-trap/cleanout. Where possible, use some of the water for your landscaping.
- Provide an approved **Relief from Compliance** notification to obtain a "final" on a pool building permit.

Since the drought may be prolonged, pool owners may want to consider longer range plans to be water wise.

  
Seimone Jurjis  
Chief Building Official