

# Crystal clear

Selecting the right filter is essential to ensure your pool water remains as crystal clear and as healthy as possible. And with a range of traditional and emerging new pool filtration technologies now available, pool owners are spoilt for choice.

BY HEDGIE GUNDRY

## FILTERING YOUR POOL EFFECTIVELY

and efficiently is essential to remove fine particles of dirt, debris, algae and organisms from your pool water and to ensure the pool environment remains as healthy as possible. And how effective your pool filtration is depends largely on the type of pool filter media you choose.

Traditionally, sand filters dominated the Australian pool market, along with DE (Diatomaceous Earth) filters, but now there are a whole host of new alternative granular options such as glass, zeolite and minerals – all offering extremely fine filtration.

“Granular filters were always the most popular pool filters, largely due to how convenient they are to clean,” says Bryan Goh, group marketing director, Waterco. “All you need to do is regularly backwash the pool water through the filter media to remove all the trapped dirt and you’re done.”

In recent times, however, cartridge filters have become the more popular choice, not least due to their more compact size and the water saving advantages they offer.

Although backwashing granular filters is quick and easy – and some of the new granular mediums such as glass require less water to backwash – this cleaning process also wastes, on average, over 8,000 litres of precious pool water a year. And with water a precious commodity, not to mention costly, conservation has become a key issue.

“Cartridge filters such as the Viron filter are definitely our most popular at the moment,” says Callum Ross, southern regional sales manager, AstralPool. “Not only do they save water, they

have a large capacity, deliver very fine filtration and require less cleaning than a granular filter – in fact you only need to clean them once or twice a year.” The move towards more environmentally friendly cartridge filters is also having an impact on the latest pool pump technology. According to Waterco’s Bryan Goh, cartridge filters are spearheading the move towards more energy efficient filter and pump combinations.

“Unlike granular filters which require a high pressure pump to be able to backwash properly, cartridge filters operate effectively at consistently lower pressures. Lower, more energy efficient pump speeds therefore only work with cartridge filters, offering great savings not only in water consumption, but also energy consumption,” Bryan says.

Pumps that run on lower speeds in combination with a cartridge filter also emit less noise which means they can operate overnight to make the most of lower electricity tariffs – saving energy and money without disturbing the neighbours.

## Filtration with a twist

Another recent trend in pool filtration technology is the emergence of pre-filters, which are rapidly becoming a valuable addition to a pool’s filtration setup. Pre-filtration systems essentially remove as much dirt and debris as possible from the pool water, before it enters the pool filter, to improve the cleanliness of the water, reduce maintenance and prolong the life of the filter.

Since its launch in 2007, Waterco’s MultiCyclone is one such solution that has won a whole host of industry and



Main pic: There’s a wide range of filtration solutions available to keep your pool healthy. (Pool by Sunrise Pools).

Top: Waterco’s MultiCyclone Plus combines the features of the award-winning MultiCyclone pre-filter with an inbuilt cartridge filter.

Above: With water a precious commodity, conservation has become a major issue. (Pool by Polar Pools)

environmental awards. The patented technology within the MultiCyclone works on the basis of centrifugal water filtration. It has no moving parts to wear and no filter components to clean or replace – to clean, you simply open its purge valve.

Waterco has since taken this technology one step further and launched the MultiCyclone Plus, which now combines the features of the MultiCyclone pre-filter with an inbuilt cartridge filter – and the streamlined design means the entire pool filtration system can be installed vertically, atop a standard pool pump.

“We have created an ultra-compact,

complete pool filtration system which occupies virtually half the footprint of a 24-inch sand filter,” says Bryan. “By placing the MultiCyclone on the top of the filter, it takes up the footprint of the pump, which means it’s more hydraulically efficient.

“The reduced workload of the filter cartridge greatly improves pool water circulation and allows vacuuming of the pool without overburdening the filter cartridge. And it means the MultiCyclone Plus is a safe and cost effective way to save between 7,000 and 20,000 litres of pool water per year, compared with sand filtration systems.” ~

## SAND VS CARTRIDGE FILTERS

### SAND

- Robust and durable
- Easy to use
- Convenient to clean
- Alternative granular filter media option



AstralPool’s Viron Cartridge Filter



### CARTRIDGE

- Use less water
- Require less water flow and less energy
- Offer very fine filtration
- Compact