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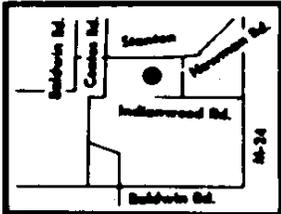
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Reduce energy use

The home pool owner can reduce the energy consumption of his pool by as much as 50 per cent by adhering to a few simple guidelines formulated by a special committee of the National Swimming Pool Institute.

"Although a home pool doesn't use very much energy in its operation, the industry recognizes that 'every little bit helps,'" says Joseph Rocchio, a Florida builder serving this year as NSPI's president.

"Besides contributing to the nation's pressing need to reduce energy consumption," he says, "an energy-conscious pool owner will also reduce his utility bills."

"A pool heater offers tremendous advantages to a pool owner," Rocchio claims.

About half the 100,000 pools built each year include a heater as an option.

"In keeping with the American way of doing everything in a big way, we tend to keep our pools at around 82 degrees. The American Red Cross, however, says that the most healthful water

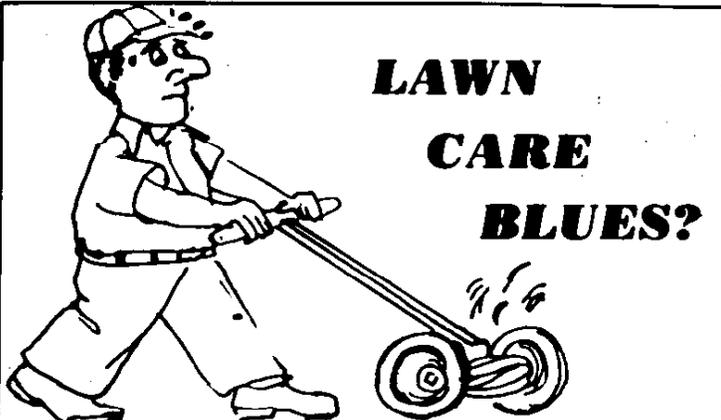
temperature for swimming is about 78 degrees." Rocchio says that lowering the thermostat from 82 to 78 degrees can reduce fuel consumption by about 40 per cent.

Other ways to save heater energy are to avoid frequent adjusting of the thermostat, to turn off the heater and heater pilot light if the pool will be out of use for a week or longer, to shelter the pool by well-placed hedges or cabanas, and to use a pool cover.

Both of the last two suggestions reduce heat loss due to evaporation:

For pools with only weekend use, the thermostat may be reduced by 10 degrees during the week. You may also consider reduction of the number of months in which you use the heater.

The pool's filtration system is a must item, but here again we overdo it, according to Rocchio. Most owners operate filters 10 to 12 hours a day when six or seven will do during the peak swimming season and fewer thereafter.



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