

FACT SHEET 16: WATER FEATURES

A POOL NEED NOT BE JUST ABOUT SWIMMING. YOU CAN CREATE A WHOLE NEW ENVIRONMENT AND LIFESTYLE WITH A LITTLE IMAGINATION, AND SOME HELP FROM PROFESSIONAL DESIGNERS.

The soothing sights and sounds of running water have been intriguing people for generations.

Even before Roman times, man has been inventing ways to move water to create beautiful effects.

Today, these effects are created by two types of water feature – the waterfall and the fountain – and with modern technology, the only limitation today is your imagination.

The number of "off the shelf" devices now available gives the domestic swimming pool owner a vast range of options.

WATERFALLS.

Probably the most popular water feature today is still the waterfall.

These can be installed in raised walls or rock mounds, and are the ideal way to draw attention away from those less attractive features of the back yard, - the boundary fence, the service area, the clothes line etc.

Many of the smaller waterfalls will run off the filter pump. So there are no additional running costs. Larger features may require separate pumps to operate.

Manufacturers of the "off the shelf" units can provide the flow rates required so you can design the perfect system for your requirements.

Waterfalls can be divided into two categories.

The more formal or structured systems involve a sheet or fingers of water that cascade in a very controlled and stylized manner. Most commonly, the water falls from a long pre-fabricated slot, or from holes in a wall, down into the pool.

The less formal type or natural waterfalls are constructed in-situ and involve water tumbling over rocks into the pool.

FOUNTAINS.

There are numerous forms and styles of fountain today. Some of the more formal, cascading systems may require a separate section to be added on to the pool.

However there are many single or multiple stream water jets that can be mounted in the pool wall, or even in the pool coping. These styles can be made to arch up, over and into the pool, creating both a stunning visual effect and the relaxing sound of tumbling water.

FEATURE LIGHTING.

Many of the water features available today can be illuminated at night with amazing results.

The types of lighting available will vary, depending on the waterfall or fountain

used. The most commonly used lighting is the standard low voltage underwater spot-lights. However, a more dramatic effect can be created using fibre optic lighting. Continuous colour changes are possible and, in some cases, light can be projected into the water flow, giving the effect of a stream of brilliantly coloured and luminous water.

