San Antonio Water System

Residential
Commercial

Swimming Pool Filter Replacement Rebate

Water Conservation Program

The Challenge

Installing a swimming pool can be a large investment in aesthetics and money. The type of filters used to keep pools clean and running efficiently is more than just a necessity for pool owners; it can be a money-saving venture.

Many sand filters installed in the 1970s and 1980s were too small for a pool's size, and with deterioration of age some may barely be operational. Cartridge filters are fast becoming the equipment of choice because they not only reduce operating costs but also save thousands of gallons of carefully balanced pool water by eliminating backwashing.

The Solution

The SAWS Pool Filter Replacement Rebate helps you save money on pool maintenance while conserving water. Cartridge filters require less care and can operate for up to six months between cleanings.

Cartridge filters are easy to maintain. When the pressure gauge rises 8 to 10 pounds above its clean reading, simply shut off the pump, open the air bleeder and drain the tank. After opening the lid, remove the cartridge and hose it down thoroughly to remove dirt.

The cartridge filter element, an aquatic version of the pleated air filter in your car, traps dirt and other particles about 10 to 20 microns in size. Other advantages for cartridge filters include energy savings and less water waste.

Requirements

All participants in the SAWS Pool Filter Replacement Rebate program must:

- Be SAWS water customers for the requested installation property site.
- Own their pools and have either a sand filter or diatomaceous earth filter.

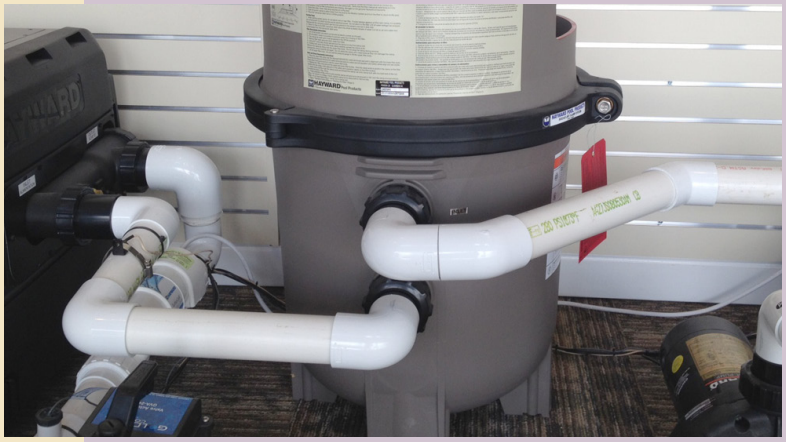
Participants shall not hold SAWS Conservation responsible for pool water quality or any costs associated with maintenance or repairs.

Case Study

Weekly backwashing of a pool filter wastes water. A more efficient option is to replace the sand or diatomaceous earth filter with a cartridge filter, which uses a pleated element to remove dirt and debris.

A cartridge filter was installed at a local neighborhood pool in place of one of the sand filters (approximately residential size). The sand filter required a weekly backwash of 80 gallons per minute for 5 minutes (400 gallons) to properly clean. The total annual water used for backwashing this filter is estimated at 20,800 gallons per year.

By comparison, cartridge filters are simply removed from the housing and rinsed off on the lawn or other planting area.



Project Summary

The sand filter replacement resulted in a savings of 1,708 gallons per month, requiring only 75 gallons per cleaning.

- Cartridge filter cost: $350
- Total labor/materials cost: $300
- Total project cost: $650
- Annual water savings: 20,500 gallons
- Water savings over 10 years: 205,000 gallons
- Cost per acre-foot of water saved: $251

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