

Whyalla **POOL BOYS**



Winter **Pool & Spa Guide** **2026**

Everything your pool needs before summer arrives. Written for Whyalla pool and spa owners.

WHYALLAPOOLBOYS.COM.AU

Welcome From The Pool Boys

Thanks for grabbing a copy of this. I'm Chris, and I run Whyalla Pool Boys. I put this guide together for one reason. The same problems keep coming up with local pools and spas, and most of them are avoidable.

Equipment failing in November, right when everyone wants their pool. Green water the week before Christmas. Pumps dying because something small was missed in winter that would have cost almost nothing to sort back in June.

And the thing is, most of it can be headed off early. So I wrote this down. Not to sell you anything. Not to push you toward a service call. Just to share what we know, so local pool owners can get ahead of the problems before they turn into expensive ones.

Whyalla is a unique place with unique conditions. From the Spencer Gulf coastline to our long summers and seasonal westerlies, local conditions play a big role in how pools and spas perform throughout the year. That's why this guide was written specifically for Whyalla pool and spa owners, using the same local knowledge we rely on every day.

Work through it at your own pace. Use the checklist. And if something raises a flag for your pool, you know where to find us. When you're ready for a hand, we've included a welcome credit for new customers.

Chris, Whyalla Pool Boys



LOCAL
FAMILY
BUSINESS



FULLY
INSURED



SPASA
MEMBER



MOBILE POOL
& SPA SERVICE



NATIONAL
POLICE CHECK

Common pool issues we see in Whyalla

- Most emergency pump replacements could have been caught months earlier
- Most equipment problems show warning signs long before they fail
- A lot of pools head into summer with an issue the owner doesn't know about yet

"The pools that are ready for summer are usually looked after in winter."

Whyalla Winter Pool Reality

Much of the pool advice online is written for larger metropolitan areas and doesn't always reflect Whyalla's conditions. Your pool lives in Whyalla, and Whyalla is different.

Our winters are mild enough that most pools stay in use all year, which means your equipment never really gets a break. At the same time, Whyalla's unique coastal conditions mean pool equipment benefits from a little extra attention throughout the year.

Salt air off Spencer Gulf, seasonal winds and long summers can all influence how pool equipment performs over time. Westerly winds can quickly fill skimmer baskets and introduce fine dust into filtration systems. Summer temperatures regularly reach the low 40s, making routine maintenance and winter inspections particularly worthwhile.

The good news is that **winter is the best time to deal with it**. Quieter. Easier to get a booking. Parts arrive faster. Problems found now are sorted at a fraction of the cost and hassle of a summer emergency.

i Most pool owners don't realise the expensive summer breakdown was visible six months earlier. Winter is when you go looking for it.

The Whyalla conditions your pool equipment deals with every year

Salt air corrosion off Spencer Gulf

Wind-blown and industrial dust loading up filters

Summer heat regularly in the low 40s

Hard water causing scale build-up in cells and filters

Bore and tank water top-ups bringing in extra calcium and metals

Intense UV ageing plastic components faster than most of the country

The 5 Most Common Winter Mistakes Pool Owners Make

Five mistakes we see every single winter. These aren't judgements. They're patterns. And once you know them, they're easy to avoid.

1 **Waiting until October to sort it out**

By the time the weather turns, it can be much harder to get equipment issues sorted quickly. Parts can be on back order from Adelaide. The pool that needed a week's work in July now needs it done in three days before Christmas. It often becomes a bigger job than it needed to be.

2 **Ignoring the chlorinator cell**

Salt cells have a working life of roughly five to seven years, and Whyalla's hard water and salt air can shorten that. A cell running at half capacity means poor sanitisation, more chemical use and more power drawn.

3 **Switching the pump off for winter**


We understand the logic. Save on power. But a pool that isn't circulating turns green faster than most people realise. For many Whyalla pools, four to six hours per day in winter is often enough to keep things healthy.

4 **Skipping water tests**

Chemistry matters in winter too. Water that's out of balance doesn't just look bad. It actively corrodes pump seals, eats through fittings and shortens cell life. A test every couple of weeks takes ten minutes.

5 **Assuming the pump is fine because it's still running**

A running pump and an efficient pump are two different things. Older single speed pumps can draw far more power than a modern variable speed unit doing the same job.

 When the warmer weather returns, small issues can quickly become bigger ones. A little attention during winter often means fewer surprises, lower costs and more time enjoying your pool when swimming season arrives.

Your Winter Pool & Spa Maintenance Checklist

Tick these off and your pool will be ready before summer starts. Most are straightforward DIY, a few are worth a professional eye. All of them prevent bigger problems later.

Water Chemistry

- Test pH, chlorine, alkalinity and calcium hardness every two to three weeks
- Keep pH in the recommended range to protect equipment from corrosion
- Consider a winter algaecide if your pool is prone to algae growth.
- Shock treat if the water looks dull or cloudy
- Check total dissolved solids every few months
- If you top up with bore or tank water, test for metals and watch for staining

Pump and Filter

- Run the pump a few hours a day minimum, even in winter
- Clean the pump basket weekly
- Backwash the sand filter or rinse the cartridge every six to eight weeks
- Listen for unusual sounds each month
- Check the pump lid O-ring for cracking or drying out

Chlorinator and Electrics

- Inspect the salt cell for scale every few months and clean if needed
- Check your salt level monthly and keep it within the recommended range
- Confirm the chlorinator is showing the correct output each week
- Inspect wiring connections for corrosion, especially close to the coast

Pool Surrounds

- Brush the walls and floor weekly
- Empty skimmer baskets a few times a week after windy days
- Check pool fencing every few months
- Inspect coping and surrounds for movement cracks

Spa Owners

- Test spa water weekly
- Rinse the filter cartridge every couple of weeks
- Check the cover for waterlogging and UV cracking monthly
- Do a full water change every few months
- Check the cabinet base for moisture and pest entry monthly

Whyalla tip: After a big westerly or a dusty day, check your baskets straight away and add a dose of clarifier. Fine dust off the ranges can overwhelm a filter in a matter of hours. Getting ahead of it saves days of cloudy water and extra chemical use.

Is Your Equipment Ready For Summer?

Every piece of pool equipment has a working life. Do you know where yours is at? Equipment doesn't usually fail suddenly. It fades. Performance drops. Efficiency falls. Power use creeps up. And then one hot day in December it stops, right when you need it most.

In Whyalla's conditions, pool equipment often reaches the **lower end** of its expected life range rather than the upper end. Salt air, UV, heat and hard water all take their toll. These are general guides, and local conditions can shorten them.

Equipment	Typical Life	Watch For
Pump Motor	8 to 12 years	Noisy operation, slow priming, tripping the circuit breaker
Pump Seals	3 to 5 years	Water leaking from the pump body, grinding noise
Salt Chlorinator Cell	5 to 7 years	Scale build-up, weak chlorine output, error codes on display
Chlorinator Control Box	8 to 12 years	Erratic readings, settings that won't hold, display faults
Sand Filter Media	5 to 7 years	Cloudy water after backwashing, higher than normal pressure
Cartridge Filter	2 to 3 years	Torn pleats, poor flow even when freshly cleaned
Robotic Cleaner	5 to 8 years	Erratic movement, poor pickup
Spa Cover	4 to 6 years	Waterlogging, cracked vinyl, worn hinge tape

i Not sure how old your equipment is? Look for a manufacture date stamped on the pump motor plate or on the back of the chlorinator. Can't find one? Give us a call with the model number and we can usually work it out. No charge for that conversation.

How Old Equipment Can Quietly Cost You

Your pump might still be running, but it could be costing you a fair bit more than it needs to.

The old way: single speed pumps

Older single speed pumps run at full power, full speed, every single time they turn on. It doesn't matter whether they're pushing water through a clean filter or a clogged one, or whether it's morning or night. Full power, all the time.

The modern way: variable speed pumps

Modern variable speed pumps work differently. They run at whatever speed the job actually needs. For routine daily circulation that's usually a low, quiet, efficient setting. The water still gets moved. The pool still stays clean. And the power bill looks very different.

Over a year, the difference can be significant. For a lot of pools, a quality variable speed pump pays for itself in power savings within a couple of years. After that, you're ahead every year, with less wear and quieter running on top.

And it's not just pumps. A chlorinator cell running at reduced capacity means you're using more chemicals to make up for what the cell should be doing. A clogged filter makes the pump work harder, which shortens its life and pushes up power use. **Everything connects.**

Four signs your equipment is costing more than it should



Rising power bill

Crept up over the last few years without an obvious reason



Hot pump motor

Noticeably hot to touch when it's running



More manual dosing

Adding chemicals manually more often than you used to



Longer run times

Running the pump much longer each day just to keep the water looking right



Not sure how your pump stacks up? Call us with the model number and rough age and we can talk you through it. No charge.

The Real Cost Of Waiting Until Summer

Same problem, sorted in winter or sorted in summer. The cost and the hassle are very different.

This isn't about creating urgency that isn't real. The urgency is already there. It just doesn't feel urgent until something stops working in the middle of December.

Nobody wants to spend the first warm weekend of the year waiting on parts, chasing repairs or looking at a green pool when it could have been avoided months earlier.

Sorted in Winter

- Planned job, no emergency premium
- Parts arrive in days, not weeks
- Easy booking, no competition
- A few days turnaround
- Noticeably smaller bill for the same work

Waiting Until Summer

- Emergency call-out premium
- Parts on back order from Adelaide
- Bookings are hard to get at short notice
- One to four weeks before you can swim
- Chemicals to clear the green water that follows

Why planning ahead matters in Whyalla



Regional parts delivery

Most pool parts come from Adelaide, so winter is often the easiest time to organise repairs before summer demand increases.



More flexible booking times

Winter generally offers the greatest flexibility for bookings and maintenance, helping pool owners get ahead of the spring rush.



Green pool recovery

Keeping equipment running through winter helps avoid water quality issues when warmer weather returns.

"The best time to fix a pool problem is before it becomes one."

Your Free Winter Pool & Spa Health Check

We'll inspect your pool and spa equipment and provide clear, honest advice about what's working well, what may need attention and what can safely wait.

One visit. One thorough inspection. An honest chat about what we find.

What's included

01

Pump inspection

Motor condition, seal integrity, priming and general efficiency

02

Chlorinator and salt cell check

Output, scale condition and electrical connections

03

Filter assessment

Pressure and media condition for sand filters, or cartridge inspection

04

Full water chemistry test

An on-site test with the results explained in plain language

05

Written summary

A simple findings sheet with anything worth addressing listed by priority

06

Honest advice

If nothing needs doing, we'll tell you.

Practical advice. No pressure.

If everything looks good, we'll tell you. If something needs attention, we'll explain what we've found, answer any questions and leave the decision entirely with you.

Available to residential pool and spa owners throughout Whyalla. A winter health check is a simple way to get ahead before the warmer weather returns.

Whyalla **POOL BOYS**

Reliable pool care,
honest advice and
crystal clear results.



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\$50

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New customers receive a \$50 credit
toward their first service or repair.

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One credit per household. Credit valid for 12 months.

SCAN TO REGISTER

