

# **Attached Solar Blanket**

by **Releaf Pool Covers**

## **Installation Instructions**

Phone (02) 4951 6816  
david@releafpoolcovers.com.au  
www.releafpoolcovers.com.au

It is easy to install an **Attached Solar Blanket** with just a few tools. You need a pair of scissors, a tape measure, a marking pen, a Phillips screwdriver for attaching QuickClasps, a rubber mallet and small block of wood for punching holes and attaching eyelets, and a drill that is capable of drilling 5 mm holes in your pool's coping if you purchased CurlyCleats or 7 mm holes if you purchased QuickClasps.

- 1) Measure your pool accurately at the widest and longest points according to your solar blanket suppliers instructions, taking note of the size and orientation of any step you may have in either of the two long sides of your pool.
- 2) When you order a blanket, add 60 cm to the width and length of the cover, and add 60 cm to the length of any step. The width of a step and the distance of a step from the end of the pool remains unchanged. The diagram below is an example of a pool with a left end step and a right step, distance  $D$  from the end.

Note: Lengths of steps increase by 60 cm, while widths and off-sets of steps remain unchanged between floating and attached solar blankets.

$$A = a + 60 \text{ cm}$$

$$B = b + 60 \text{ cm}$$

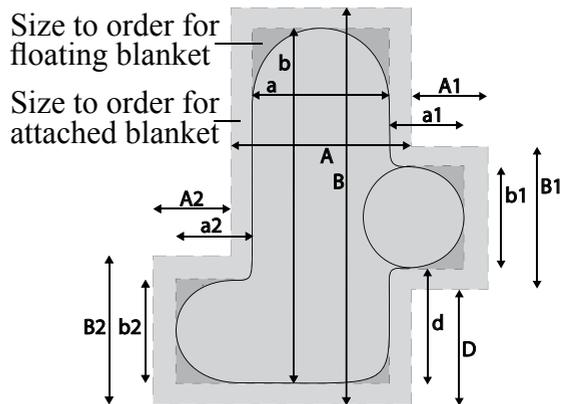
$$A1 = a1 \text{ (unchanged)}$$

$$B1 = b1 + 60 \text{ cm}$$

$$D = d \text{ (unchanged)}$$

$$A2 = a2 \text{ (unchanged)}$$

$$B2 = b2 + 60 \text{ cm}$$



- 3) Order a solar blanket from your preferred supplier. For economic and strength reasons, solar blankets developed to last eight years or longer are recommended if they are to be attached. Remember to order your roller 60 cm longer than for a floating solar blanket.
- 4) Calculate the number of fittings required to space them 1.2 metres apart. You will need extra fittings on low radius (less than 2 metre radius) outward facing curves. Take into account that fittings will be 40 cm outside the water's edge (i.e. add 80 cm to the length and width of the pool for the calculation). The website has a table for the number of fittings required on rectangular pools without steps, ladders or low radius curves.

- 5) Order sufficient attachment fittings and optionally a LeafCatcher from **Releaf Pool Covers**. Contact details are on the front cover.
- 6) Divide out and mark where the holes or fittings will be placed, 40 cm from the water's edge. For fibreglass pools maintain an even distance from the outer edge of the pool for a uniform appearance.
- 7) If you purchased QuickClasp (premium) fittings then drill 7 mm holes vertically into the coping and screw down the anchor plates using the 32 mm stainless screws and nylon anchors. If you purchased CurlyCleat fittings then drill 5 mm holes, angling them five to ten degrees inwards so that the tension on the cover draws the stems of the cleats into the holes.
- 8) Now lay the solar blanket bubble side down over your pool, aligning it so that all edges overlap the coping by at least 30 cm. It is advisable not to offset the cover in any direction as this risks leaving it short on one side.
- 9) Starting with the centremost fittings on each of the four main edges, cut a small section of the blanket in line with the drilled hole or fitting on the coping, parallel to the side of the pool, and 30 cm from the water's edge (10 cm from the fitting). Cut away the excess material if necessary.

QuickClasp: Loosen the two screws and open the QuickClasp, slide it over the newly cut edge of the bubble material and fasten the two screws while pressing the teeth of the clasp firmly through the material with your fingers. Be careful not to overtighten or cross thread the screws.

CurlyCleat with clamp: Slide the clamp over the edge of the material with the toothed half contacting the top surface of the cover. Slide the bottom half outwards as far as possible to fasten the clamp to the material. The clamp will tighten itself over time. Tie a cord to the clamp using a bowline knot, pass it through the CurlyCleat eye and tie a double overhand stopper knot near the end.

CurlyCleat with eyelet: Punch the bubble material with the supplied hollow punch, 75 mm from the cut edge, in line with the drilled hole in the coping. Push the spigot of the eyelet up from the bottom of the punched hole and gently tap the washer down over the spigot of the eyelet until the two halves snap together.

Double overhand  
stopper knot



Bowline



A block of wood under a clasp or eyelet will assist you and prevent damage to the fittings and your pool surround. At each step, hook or cleat the fitting and gently tension it, making sure the cover does not move. One cord supplied with your fittings has sample knots to copy.

- 10) Work outwards from the first four points, placing one fitting each side of an existing fitting sequentially on each of the four sides until all fittings have been attached.
- 11) Carefully cut the excess material from the cover using a straight edge between fittings. A flexible rod can be used to achieve a concave scallop of not more than 50 mm deep between fittings. Be careful not to leave gaps exposing the pool water or fibreglass coping, especially on tighter curves around the pool.
- 12) If you have purchased a LeafCatcher, decide where will be most convenient to place it for emptying. Choose a position at least 1 metre from the edge of the pool and at least 10 cm from a seam in the blanket. The LeafCatcher box has a template drawn on the inside of the base to enable the correct hole size to be cut in the material. Cut the circle from the box then use it to draw a circle on the cover with a marker pen. Start small rather than too big and increase the size of the hole gradually until the LeafCatcher fits snugly.
- 13) Place 400g to 700g of rounded pebbles in the ballast compartment of the LeafCatcher, draw the cord closed and tie it off.
- 14) Install the roller as per the suppliers instructions.

Note:

QuickClasps and plastic clamps can be loosened and repositioned if they are not in line with the attachment points on the coping. If absolutely necessary, eyelets can be prized open and repositioned in newly punched holes if they are too far out of alignment. During regular use, if a clasp or clamp is accidentally torn from the cover, simply trim the edge straight and reattach. Similarly, torn eyelets can be salvaged and repositioned, or new eyelets can be purchased.

Cleaning is necessary before removing the cover. Dry leaves and dirt can be swept from the middle of the blanket towards you and over the edge. Wet and stuck leaves and dirt can be hosed loose and then swept off the cover. Add sufficient water to keep the debris fluid for easier sweeping. Sweeping or hosing towards the LeafCatcher is much slower than sweeping off the edges. Once the cover is clean, remove the LeafCatcher, detach all fittings and roll it up. Always cover a rolled or folded blanket to prevent it from overheating.