

Swimming Pools

Please ensure that the villa you book is suitable for your requirements regarding children and non-swimmers. The swimming pool is an essential part of holidaying for many people but remember that, misused, it can be dangerous. However, by applying a few simple common-sense rules you can be sure to thoroughly enjoy your time in the pool.

Always supervise children and non-swimmers in and around the pool area.

Make sure you know the depths of the pool and swim in the area that is appropriate for your skill level.

Do not run around the pool side, pool terrace areas and drains are slippery when wet.

Do not go out of your depth and know your own limits.

Do not swim if you have been drinking alcohol.

Do not swim within 1 hour of eating.

Do not take any glass ware / crockery plates, cups etc. or glass bottles in the pool area or within the pool.

Diving and jumping is not permitted in any pool.

You must provide your own buoyance aids and life jackets for children

We would advise that **before** you use the pool that you use the toilet (urine will affect the balances of the water) and **before and after you use the pool** you must always thoroughly wash off your body, face & eyes, as sunblock will adversely affect the water and your skin.

We recommend children and adults that have sensitive skin It is also imperative to wash off the pool water from your body and face after exiting the pool.

Certain colours of blonde hair may also develop a green tinge. This reaction is natural and does not mean the chemical balance of water is incorrect. Please ensure you rinse your hair thoroughly in fresh water after using the pool. Shampoos are available both in the UK and in most supermarkets or chemists in Portugal.

Pool water cloudiness can also be caused by excess suntan oil and sun block. Always use the poolside shower before swimming. Children and fair skinned people should wear a hat and T-shirt whilst in the pool as harmful ultra violet rays can penetrate water up to a depth of 1.5m and are reflected off the water surface.

In the event of an accident in or around the immediate area of the pool, you must report this straight away to SandyBlue. Any fault with the pool or its equipment will be inspected, and immediate action taken to correct the problem. If, in the opinion of the Guest Representative the pool must be closed for your safety until a repair is facilitated, you will be instructed to cease using the pool.

Chlorine is a natural bleaching agent. The more the pool is used and the warmer the weather, the more chemicals are required to keep swimming pool water safe to use. This can react with certain fabrics and dyes used on them, causing them to lighten or discolour. Many items of swimwear carry warnings to this effect and **SandyBlue** does not accept any responsibility for any damage caused to client's property, whilst complying with our contractual obligations to ensure your swimming pool remains safe to use.

Occasionally, due to extensive use of the pool, water in the ears can cause an ear infection, especially with children. A simple precautionary measure is to dry your ears well after you leave the pool to ensure you remove any trapped water that may become infected.

Some pools now have salt-water filtration systems as opposed to using chlorine. All pools are checked for pH and chlorine levels every time the pool company comes to clean the pool.

Swimming pools in the low & shoulder season may not be open at all and those that are open will be very low in water temperature.

The pool sizes in our descriptions are approximate and for guidance only. Some pools are irregular shaped and have been measured at the longest and widest points. Pools are maintained and cleaned on a regular basis. If a pool net is provided, and it is normal custom for clients to remove any debris such as leaves and twigs.

Heated Swimming Pools

Heated pools are only available when stated in the relevant accommodation description. Most heated pools are electrically heated and may take up to four days to heat, providing the pool with beneficial warming. The temperature of the pool will also depend on the weather conditions, especially if it is solar heated, however if a pool cover is available, please use, as this will assist maintaining the pool temperature at night. Please ensure that care and attention is taken when using this facility. There is generally a charge for pool heating which will be on your booking invoice.

Some of our villas (see individual villa details) have been fitted with pool heating, making the pool 3° C to 5° C warmer at 1 pm during the day than a non-heated pool under normal circumstances at the relevant time of year. This provides the pool with a beneficial warming but does not make it a 'hot' pool.

Between November and April, the pool heating equipment may not be adequate to heat the pool to a comfortable temperature and under these circumstances, no refund will apply. **SandyBlue** cannot be responsible for any non-operational time out of our control. In the case of any malfunction, we will endeavour to rectify it as soon as possible and our liability shall not exceed the value of the pool heating value. If there was only a short time that the pool heating malfunctioned, we will only reimburse you for the pro rata days of the value.

If the pool has a cover, please use it. It will significantly increase the temperature of the water, but care must be taken at all times when a pool cover is used to ensure the safety of users especially children. Two people will be required to roll and unroll the pool cover. Do not step on the cover or use it in any way other than the intended purpose.

Please note that if pool heating has been paid for in warmer months if the pool temperature exceeds 28° C the pool heating will be turned off. Always supervise children and non-swimmers in and around the pool area.

Where there are properties with pool heating available the cost will vary and will be advised at the time of your booking. The price will include VAT at the prevailing rate. Pool heating must be booked in advance a minimum of 4 days before arrival to ensure that the pool will reach an adequate temperature on your arrival day.

Please note: The temperature of the water when heated is dependent on the external temperature / weather. Cold overnight temperatures and rain will mean that the water may be cooler. We cannot guarantee a temperature of the water in any pool. The pool cover must always be returned when finished swimming to ensure that the water stays warm. If the cover is not returned when the pool is not in use the temperature of the water will be cooler.

Pool Fences

It is not law to provide pool fences in Portugal.

If you have rented a property with a pool safety fence in a villa, please note that pool fences have gates that are either lockable and/or fitted with a latch or some form of closing mechanism. Gates should never be left open or propped open at any time.

Where pool fences are installed, we will always endeavour to ensure that the installation has been performed with reasonable skill and care. This does not negate your responsibility to ensure that this facility is suitable and safe for use during your occupation of the villa. You will not be charged for any accidental damage caused to either the pool fence or gate, but it is a condition of booking that you must report any damage, failing or concern to **SandyBlue** immediately.

A pool fence is not a substitute for parental supervision and parents should supervise children around the pool area at all times.

Some of our villas feature an infinity or spill over pool, which means one side of the pool is a water fall with no barrier. When you are swimming the blue of the pool, meets the blue of the sky or sea, which aesthetically is very pleasing. These pools are safe, but care should be taken regarding children. If you have any doubts about the suitability of this type of pool, please enquire at the time of booking for details of your chosen villas pool.

Communal or Third Party Operated Pools

Important: SandyBlue cannot be held liable for any pool that is operated by a third-party operator or any communal pools as we have no control over the pool functions/systems/vigilance or administration.