

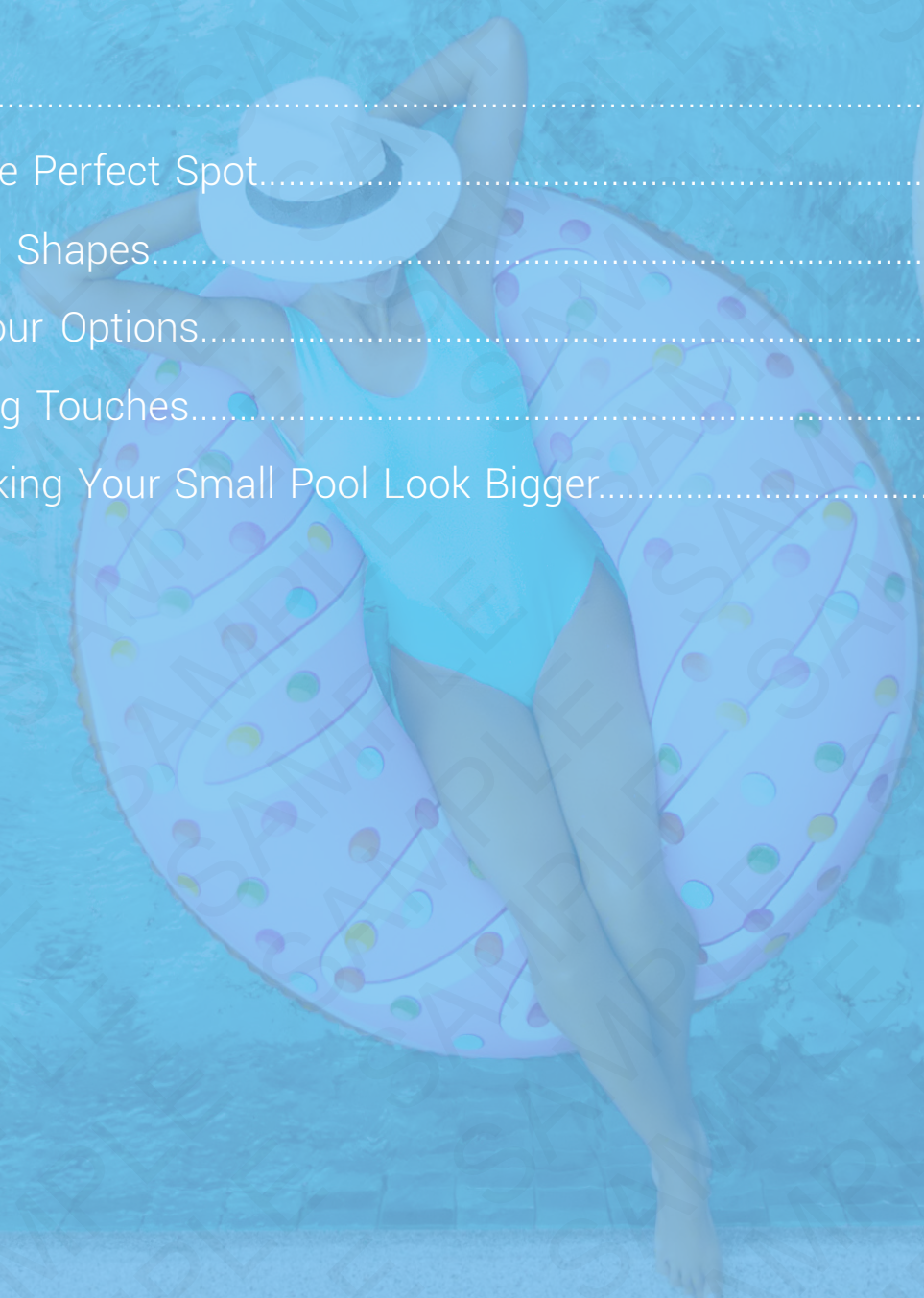


Best Pools

Great Pools for
Small Spaces

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Introduction

With real estate being at an all-time premium, the demand for smaller pools is on the rise. While the majority of homeowners who are interested in smaller pools choose them because of spatial limitations, others may prefer to have a smaller pool due to maintenance concerns or because they want to leave room for other backyard amenities. Whatever the reason, planning for a smaller pool presents its own set of benefits and challenges, and we want to make sure you consider everything you need to when planning for your pool.



Choosing the Perfect Spot

In a small backyard, the location of the pool may seem limited. But with a bit of creativity and professional engineering, the right pool is possible. So what are some placement possibilities when it comes to including a pool in a smaller space?

- **Placing the Pool Up Against the Home.** Many homeowners choose to build a small deck and place the pool flush to one of side of the home. This increases the accessibility of the pool and makes it easy to supervise.
- **Placing the Pool Against the Edge of the Property.** Another option is to set the pool as far away from the home as possible, turning it into its very own “destination zone.” If your backyard has any natural nooks, this may be the ideal place for a pool.
- **Placing the Pool in the Center of the Yard.** Having your pool in the middle of the yard may be ideal, particularly if you want your poolscape to be your backyard *pièce de résistance*.

Want to create more space? Digging into an existing slope and building a retaining wall will also allow you to optimize the square footage of your backyard.

It's important to also consider other environmental factors when plotting out where you will build your pool. A pool near tall trees means that you may have chilly swims engulfed in shade and will need to clean debris out more frequently, while a pool out in the open may mean that you should have a covered area available nearby.

Playing With Shapes

The shapes available to you depend on where you plan on building your pool. If you will be placing the pool near your home, for example, the pool should play to the dimensions of your home. This is one reason why rectangular, or lap pools, are so common in smaller backyards. Not only do they naturally complement the appearance of most homes, but they also provide a great solution for long and narrow backyards.

Another popular shape for smaller sized backyards is the L-shape pool. Offering extra space for lounging, the L-shape pool can neatly wrap around the sides of a home and provide homeowners with seating and swimming space.

Barrel-shaped cast concrete plunge pools are another leading trend which offer a great place to cool off on a hot day. These pools can be built above ground or inground, and they can be crafted to meet your specific dimensions.

Freeform pools offer great flexibility, but because of their curvy characteristics, you will lose some water space. This means, however, that you will have more potential decking space, giving you a great space to lounge around with family and friends with casual seating.

If you enjoy the clean lines of lap pool but want a more creative poolscape, consider a geometric design. Also commonly referred to as a classic or contemporary design pool, these sleek and modern pools allow small backyard owners to make the most of their space.



Exploring Your Options

Once you have a shape or two in mind, you can then start to consider what type of pool you want to build, whether it's a concrete pool, vinyl liner pool or fiberglass pool. While each comes with its own advantages and drawbacks, it's important to understand that the size of your space and your lot lines may determine which type of pool works best.

Concrete Pools

The real advantage to a concrete pool is that you can build virtually any size, depth and shape of pool you desire. This type of pool gives you the greatest flexibility when crafting your pool design and gives homeowners the opportunity to transform their poolscape into a work of art. Concrete pools do have a higher lifetime cost when compared to all other types of pools and they have a higher upkeep tendency. They also take longer to install.

Vinyl Liner Pools

Vinyl liner pools are a common choice for small backyards because they are also customizable and boast a lower initial cost than a concrete or fiberglass pool. The non-abrasive and nonporous surface make them a reliable choice because of their smooth surface and inability to harbor algae. Vinyl liners tend to need to be replaced anywhere between 7 to 15 years, which is the most expensive ownership cost of a vinyl liner pool.



Fiberglass Pools

Many homeowners enjoy fiberglass pools because they are low maintenance, and there is little to no lifetime cost and the installation is quick. Many of these pools come with built-in seating and they will have entryways incorporated into the non-porous shell of the pool.

However, depending on the square footage of your backyard, the limited shapes and sizes of the fiberglass pools available may make having one an impossibility. A common concern homeowners have is whether the shell of a fiberglass pool will be able to fit around the sides of their home. If there is limited space on the left or right side of your property, a pool builder will be able to hire a crane to lift the fiberglass shell over the home.

Swim Spa

Another solution to smaller backyard space is the swim spa. While swim spas are typically 8-by-14-feet and 40 inches deep, their rise in popularity has resulted in swim spa manufacturers creating a variety of different sizes. Swim spas can be built inground, partially inground or fully above ground.

The main perk of a swim spa is your ability to set a customizable current, which you can then continually swim against without ever hitting a wall. Many also come with additional features such as hydrotherapy jets and in-pool seating, making this a wonderful choice for those with limited space.



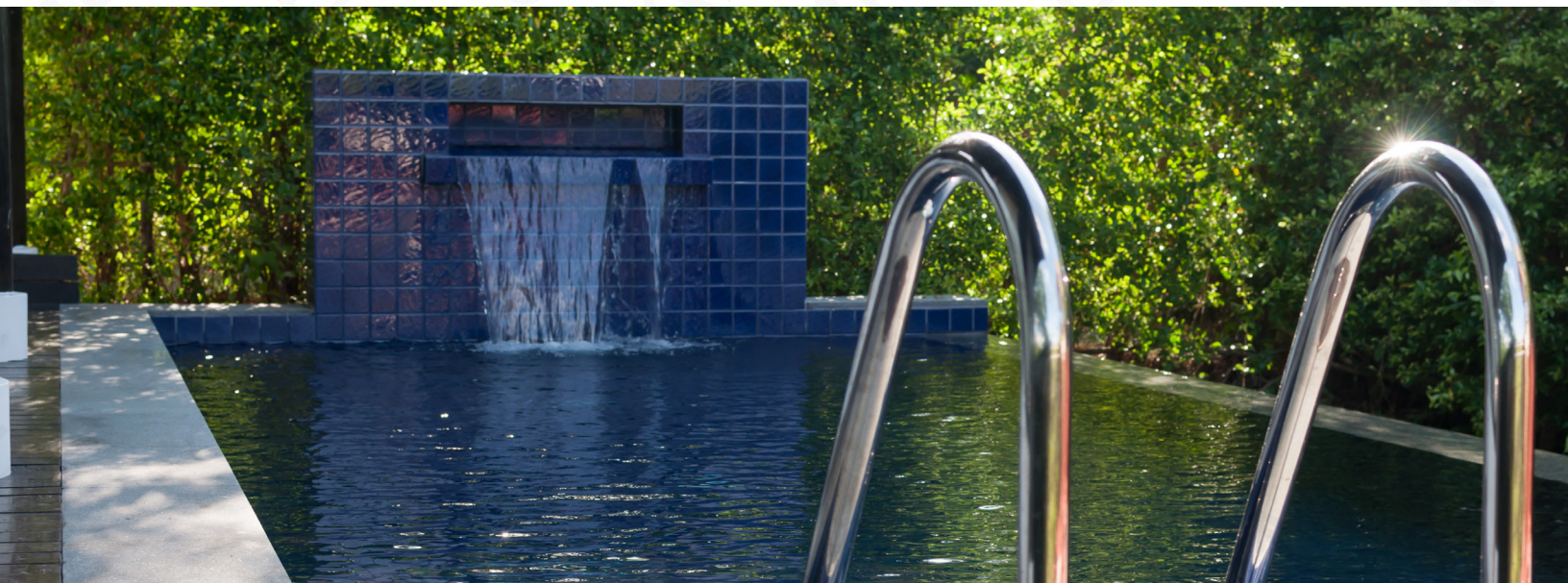
The Finishing Touches

The true beauty of your poolscape lies in the details, and these details can be purely aesthetic or they can add value to your pool and backyard living space. Below are just a few ideas for extra features that are sure to add personality and more functionality to your outdoor living space.

Attached Spa: If space allows, having an attached spa is the perfect addition to your poolscape. Building it so that it is elevated above the pool will create depth and add aesthetic appeal.

Built-In Features: While fiberglass pools come with built-in features, you can have any feature you desire built into a concrete and vinyl liner pool. Some of the top built-in features for smaller spaces include custom entries, sunken seating, grottos and tanning ledges.

Water Features: Water features will take your poolscape to the next level. Sheer and weeping water walls are a top choice for small spaces, and jets, bubblers and fountains can add elegant flair to your pool.



Fire Features: A fire feature in any outdoor living spaces adds warmth and excitement. Fire pits are a leading choice, and other features such as fire bowls and tiki torches are perfect for small backyards.

Lighting: Underwater lighting not only increases your safety at night time, it also creates a fun and colorful environment through the use of LED and fiber optic lights.

Decking: If you want to have somewhere to place your sun lounger, plan to have at least 7 feet of decking around your pool. The type of decking you choose will depend on both your budget and desired ambiance of your backyard.

Landscaping: How you choose to landscape your poolscape will have a dramatic effect on the atmosphere you create. Decide in advance whether you want to create an aquatic escape in the woodlands, a tropical oasis surrounded by lush foliage, or an avant garde contemporary space.



Tips for Making Your Small Pool Look Bigger

Your pool may need to be small, but it does not have to feel small. You can make your poolscape feel and look larger than it actually is in a number of ways.

- **Construct an Infinity- or Zero-Edge Pool.** These unique edges give the effect of your pool stretching far out into the horizon. They are also incredibly chic and elegant.
- **Design a Pool with Multiple Levels.** Building a pool with multiple levels creates a sense of depth.
- **Use a Variety of Textures and Materials.** The textures and materials you choose not only help set the tone of your backyard, but also trick the eye into thinking that your pool is larger than it actually is.
- **Build Decking and Lay Pavers Diagonally.** Create a diagonal deck or one which can wind around. The diagonal pattern will help elongate the space.
- **Think Vertically.** You may not have a lot of ground area, but you can add features such as vertical walls, a pergola or a trellis to add extra dimension to your backyard.



Whether for exercise, recreation or a blend of both, no backyard is too small for a pool. If you dream it, we can build it. Contact us today to schedule a design consultation and speak with our design and build professionals to learn more about how we create the perfect pool for smaller spaces.

Contact Us Today

Best Pools

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Customer Service

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