



Best Pools

What to Expect From a Concrete Pool

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Introduction

When it comes to enhancing the beauty and functionality of your backyard, no other pool compares to an inground concrete pool. As the most customizable pool available, inground concrete pools is a popular choice in pool construction. These pools can be built in any shape or design and offer superior strength in foundation. Concrete pools truly have no limits on creativity.

There's much to understand when planning for a concrete pool, so it's important to know what you can expect before the design and build process begins. From knowing the different types of application methods and how a concrete pool is built, to getting a better understanding of the initial and ongoing costs associated with pool ownership, there's a lot that goes into creating these gorgeous pools.

We're here to provide you with everything you need to know regarding the basics of concrete pools and helping you build the perfect one for you and your family.



What Is a Concrete Pool?

A concrete pool shell is created in two ways, by spraying either gunite or shotcrete. While the two produce the same result, they are applied using different processes — one wet and one dry.

Both shoot a mix of cement, sand, aggregate and water from an applicator at a high speed. This mix is applied against the base of the pool excavation, around a grid of woven steel rebar, and against the earthen walls.

Gunite

Gunite is a dry-mix process in that the dry gunite is mixed with the water in the sprayer during the application process. It stays dry until it reaches the nozzle of the pneumatic applicator. During the application process, compressed air sends the dry mix to the nozzle, where it is mixed with water and is sprayed at a high velocity and compacts where applied.

Shotcrete

Shotcrete is a wet-mix process, and the cement-sand-aggregate blend is already mixed with water and delivered onsite in a cement truck. It is then applied by being sprayed onto rebar, creating the concrete shell. During the application process, builders put the wet mix into the equipment and compressed air sends to the nozzle where it is sprayed at a high velocity and compacts where applied.

Some pool pros argue that one type is better than the other, but both are long lasting and produce great results. The key difference is that dry shotcrete requires an expert nozzle handler at the helm so that the correct water-to-cement ratio is obtained and maintained throughout the entire application process.

Why Choose a Concrete Pool?

Strength and durability aside, the primary reason concrete pools are the most popular inground pool choice is because they can be any size and shape you want. Both smaller backyards and expansive plots of land can have a concrete pool thanks the creativity and skill of an expert pool builder.

An inground concrete pool also offers greater flexibility with design features, such as Baja ledges, built-in seating, beach entries and vanishing edges, just to name a few. Concrete pools make it easy for you to build a gorgeous pool that matches the architecture and aesthetics of your home and garden, giving you an outdoor oasis that creates a seamless transition from the indoors out. Concrete pools also provide a durability factor other pools don't. Because of their structural integrity, you don't have to worry about anything damaging the integrity of the surface.



How Is a Concrete Pool Built?

A concrete pool typically takes anywhere between three to six months to build, which includes the planning, structure, curing and finishing stages. There are a number of factors that can affect this time frame, such as the scope of the project, material order time and delivery, and landscaping.

Planning

During the planning stage, we will create renderings of your new pool, as well as obtain engineering plans and any building permits required by the city or town necessary to build.

Structure

During the structure stage, we will map out your backyard, marking it with pegs, strings and paint. Then, an excavator will come into your yard and dig an appropriately sized hole for the pool. Next, the form or shape of your pool is outlined using wood framing, and steel rebar is then used to shape and reinforce the pool. The plumbing will be completed, tested for leaks and left under pressure. Once all that has been perfected and approved, the concrete is sprayed depending on the gunite or shotcrete application process.



Curing

Curing takes about four weeks to be completed. This is a perfect opportunity to complete the surrounding landscaping, deck work, retaining walls and more.

Finishing

You're almost there during the finishing stage. During this time your pool's surface is completed, as well as the water line tile. Popular finish options include plaster, tile, and aggregate. Once the interior is completed, the pool is filled with water and then chemically adjusted making it ready for you and your to enjoy!



How Much Does a Concrete Pool Cost?

The price tag attached to your dream pool will depend on a variety of factors, particularly square footage, design features, water features, interior surface material, landscaping, and patio size and material. It's safe to say a concrete pool will run anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

This is a general breakdown of the costs look like for a typical concrete pool and suggested accessories:

- Pool (supplied and installed): Approximately \$72 per square foot
- Motorized vinyl cover: \$3,000-\$5,000
- Perimeter pavement at 2-inches thick and 3-feet wide: Approximately \$1.75 per foot
- Six-foot privacy fence (supplied and installed): Approximately \$35 per square foot



Other costs that should be considered during new pool construction include:

- **Retaining walls.** The grade of your yard will determine whether or not a retaining wall is necessary. While retaining walls may not be necessary on every project, they do enhance the visual aspect of your pool and its surrounding landscaping.
- **Landscaping.** Completing your landscaping during the new pool construction phase is a great time to get things done. The four-week curing process is great time to get those plants, trees and shrubs added to your backyard oasis.
- **Electrical costs.** Most concrete pool expenses include the electrical hook-up as part of their standard package, however that may not include your accent landscape lighting. Be sure to talk us to determine what kind of outdoor lighting you'd like included in your poolscape.



What Are the Ongoing Costs of a Concrete Pool?

The ongoing costs of a concrete pool will depend on how you design and equip your pool from the beginning. Monthly maintenance can run you anywhere between \$75 to \$300, which includes chemicals, electricity and service and/or maintenance.

There are a number of ways to reduce the monthly maintenance costs. By outfitting your pool from the onset with energy-efficient equipment you will save money long term. While it does require more of an investment upfront, you'll reap the benefits early on in ownership.

Some equipment to consider that will help offset the costs of pool ownership include, but are not limited to, variable-speed pumps, salt-water sanitization systems, water heater, in-floor cleaning systems, automated control systems, and automatic pool covers.



What Should I Look for in a Warranty?

Bottom line? A warranty matters. And knowing what is under warranty prior to building your poolscape is important. A concrete pool should be covered by two main warranties: a) equipment warranties; and b) a pool builder warranty.

All equipment installed in your pool – pumps, filters, lights, heaters, automatic vacuum cleaners and so on – should come with some warranty from the manufacturer. The industry standard for a warranty is one year, but sometimes pool builders may have agreements with their equipment suppliers and may be able to offer extended coverage.

The pool builder warranty is crucial for a concrete pool. This warranty is the guarantee a pool builder puts behind their work and shows how confident they are in the quality of their installation.

This warranty should cover a number of major issues, including:

- Leaks in the pool fittings
- Plumbing-related leaks
- Structural issues (i.e. movement of your pool and/or patio)

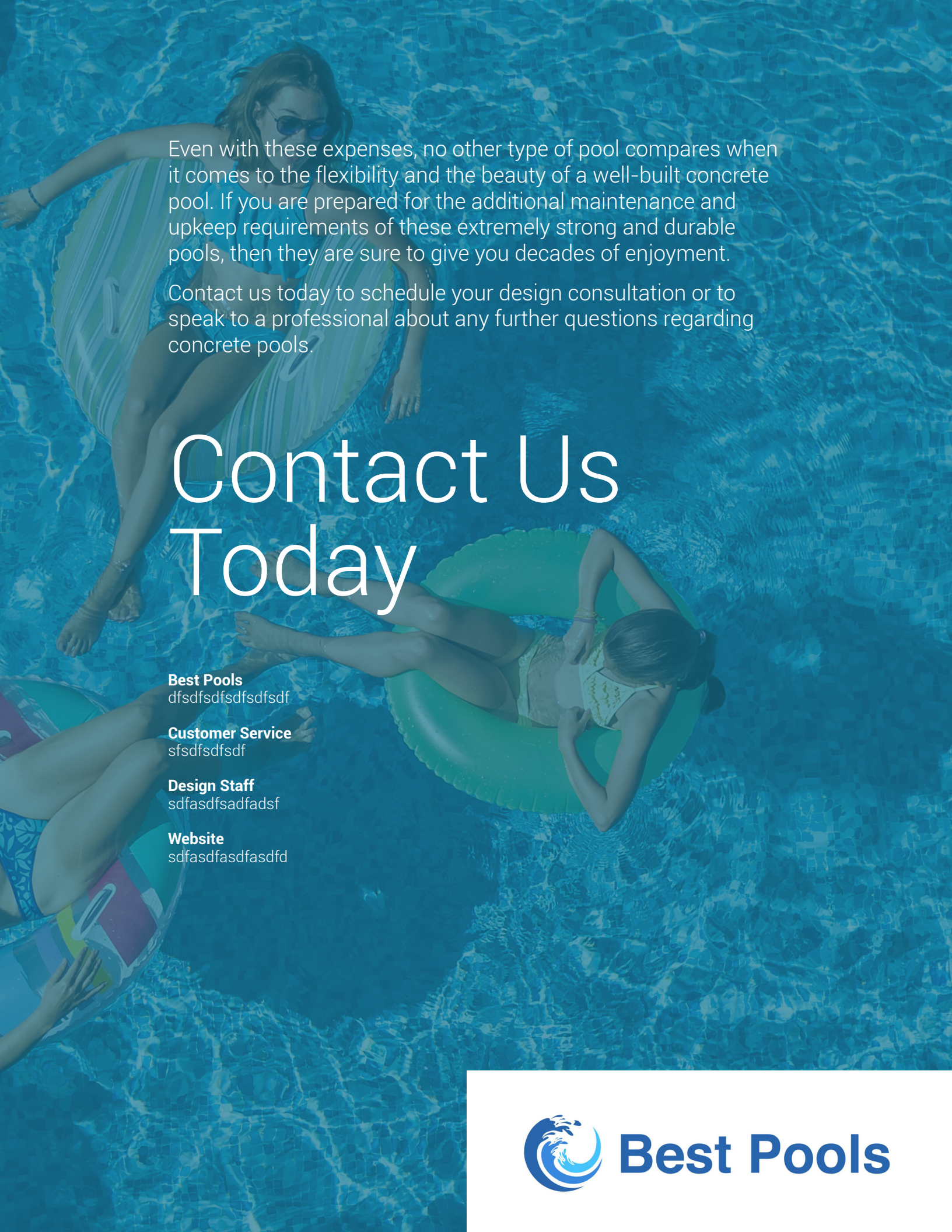
Some pool builders offer a one-year workmanship warranty while others may be as long as five years with the labor and refilling of the pool being covered.

Is a Concrete Pool the Right Choice for Me?

A concrete pool is not for everyone, and it's important to understand what is required as a concrete pool owner prior to making the investment. Apart from being initially more expensive to install, concrete pools tend to carry a higher lifetime cost in comparison to a fiberglass pool or a vinyl liner pool.

Concrete pools require more chemicals than a fiberglass or vinyl liner because concrete is naturally very porous, and the alkaline pH of the pool's shell will also force the pH of the water to rise more quickly than other pool types. Concrete pools also require more maintenance than other pools.



A high-angle, top-down view of three women floating on inflatable rings in a swimming pool. The water is a deep blue with visible ripples and reflections. The woman at the top left is on a striped ring, wearing sunglasses and a blue bikini. The woman at the bottom right is on a green ring, wearing a patterned bikini. The woman at the bottom left is on a multi-colored ring, wearing a blue and white patterned bikini. The overall scene is bright and summery.

Even with these expenses, no other type of pool compares when it comes to the flexibility and the beauty of a well-built concrete pool. If you are prepared for the additional maintenance and upkeep requirements of these extremely strong and durable pools, then they are sure to give you decades of enjoyment.

Contact us today to schedule your design consultation or to speak to a professional about any further questions regarding concrete pools.

Contact Us Today

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Customer Service
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