



Best Pools

What to Expect When Building a Pool



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Introduction

Witnessing the aquatic backyard escape of your dreams come to life right before your very eyes is not only exciting – it's pretty interesting, too. A lot of planning, preparation and time goes into building a pool, and keen pool lovers are often surprised by the sheer scope of their outdoor living project.

One of the most important facets of pool ownership is to be prepared and to know what to expect before diving into the pool building process. While the possibility always exists that things can change throughout any stage of the pool building process, it's vital to have a solid understanding of what your life will look like during the many stages of pool construction.

In our eBook, we will cover everything you can expect when building your new pool, including the discovery phase of gathering ideas for your new backyard, what to expect during your at-home consultation, how the design process works, what to expect during the construction process, as well as how your at-home pool school will help kick off official pool ownership.

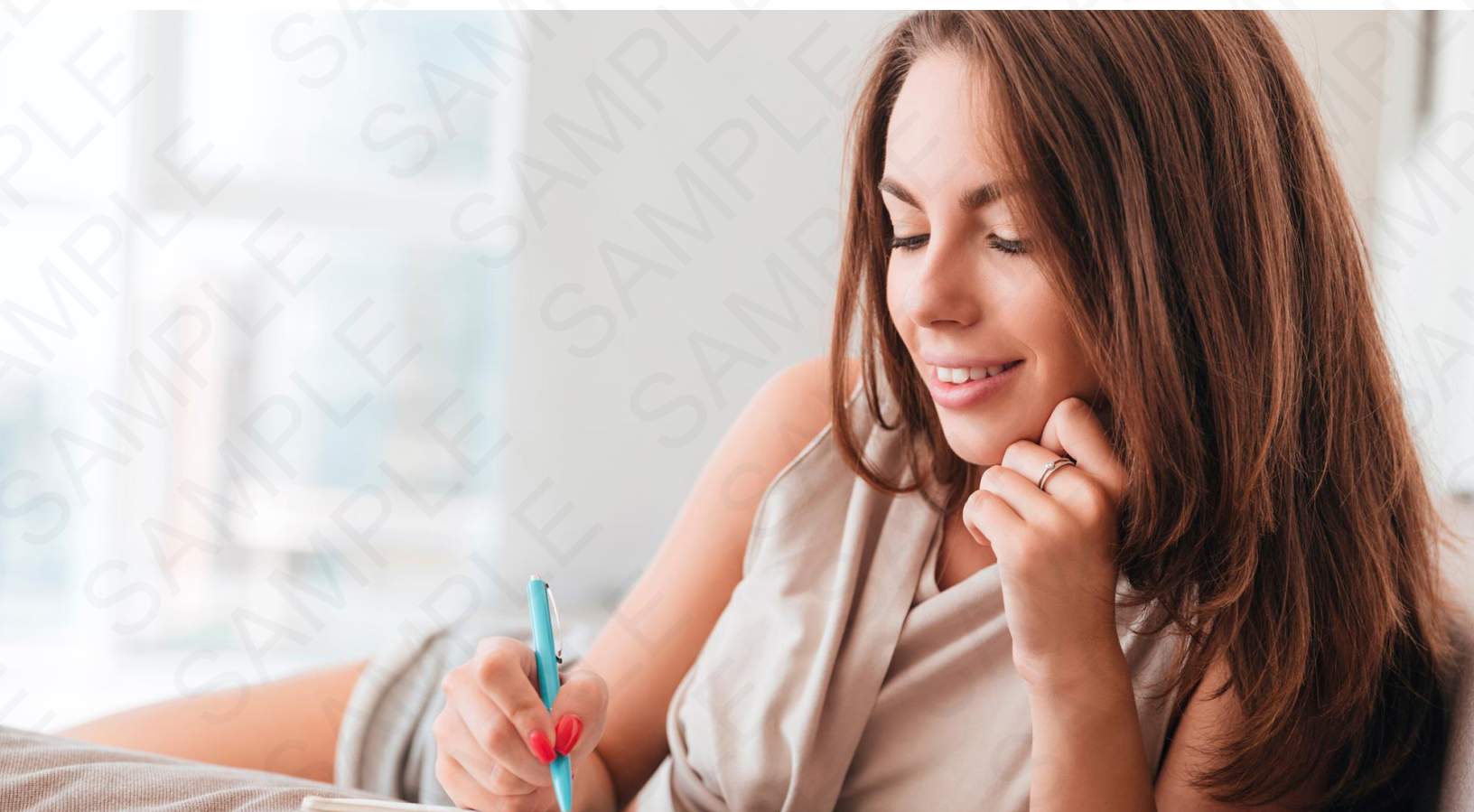


The Discovery Phase

The discovery phase is all about thinking about what you want from your pool and what the current and future needs of your family may be. Think of this phase as your brainstorming session. This is when you'll consider the size, the shape, and the additional features you want your pool to have.

During this time, we encourage you find poolscapes that inspire you. What features really stand out to you? What do you see your backyard looking like? What is it about those pool projects that you want to include in your own?

It's a good idea to have these items written down in two separate lists or columns prior to our at-home consultation. Create a list of needs and wants. This will allow us to determine which features must be incorporated into your poolscape, give you a better idea of the costs involved in building a pool and provide you with a realistic assessment of the outcome of your pool.



Your At-Home Consultation

Once we've established an idea of what it is you're looking for, we'll schedule your at-home consultation before finalizing any design decisions. There are a number of reasons why an at-home consultation is valuable throughout the pool design and construction process.

- Being on your property gives us a chance to get a feel for your home, architecture, landscape and aesthetic appeal.
- Spending time on the property gives us an idea of the size, shape and features you will be able to incorporate into your outdoor living plans.
- Actually being in the space where you plan on building your pool provides us the opportunity to survey the land, troubleshoot any potential issues (drainage, slopes, etc.), and start coming up with the best poolscape designs based on your property, needs and lifestyle.

The at-home consultation allows us as the pool builder and you as the homeowner to have open and frank conversations about expectations and reality. We can talk freely about your lifestyle, describe your wants and share your needs in terms how the pool will contribute to your health and wellness, entertainment and relaxation.

At the end of the consultation, we'll be able to provide you with a fair assessment of how long the project will take, estimated costs, and provide you with the best and most cost-effective options for your poolscape.

The Design Process

Once we have a good understanding of what you want from your poolscape, including any special water, fire or landscaping features, we'll be able to begin the design process, piecing together the perfect pool and outdoor living space for you and your family to enjoy for years to come.

Traditionally pool designers and builders would use graph paper and a pencil to sketch out your dream pool. However, today's pool design software allows us to create 3D "drag and drop" designs that can be built from scratch and adjusted in order to meet your needs and budget. Once we've finalized the design, we'll create an official CAD drawing that will serve as a road map throughout the pool construction process.

When you have approved of the design and signed your contract, it's time to get the necessary permits in order to begin the construction process. With the building permit in hand, we can begin the busy and exciting pool construction process.

IMPORTANT: While the pool construction process may start with your finalized pool design, the designing of your pool and outdoor living space doesn't necessarily stop there. Until your pool is complete and you are 100 percent satisfied, you can expect an open line of communication throughout the entire process to ensure your complete satisfaction.



The Construction Process

Here's where things get fun (and messy)!

Your pool build will kick off by double checking the layout and then performing what is known as a "pregrade." This is where the pool site and the grading area will be cleared out so that an outline of your future pool can be painted and the perimeter staked.

Excavation

The time it takes to dig the area for your pool will depend on a lot of factors, including:

- The size and depth of the pool
- Access to the site
- Soil conditions

The average excavation takes anywhere from 1 to 2 days to be completed. If it rains or if there is rain in the forecast, this can also set back your pool build considerably. For instance, one day of rain doesn't mean that the construction process will only be a day behind. It can cause everything to come to a grinding halt for a few days or even a week, depending on the severity of the storm. But don't be discouraged. In order for things to be done correctly, the ground needs to be in tip-top shape, so any delay would be for your best interest in the long run.



Plumbing and Electrical

Next up: the first steps to installing plumbing and electrical into the site. Trenches will be dug for pipes and conduits, suction and return lines, vacuum cleaner lines, gas lines, water-feature lines, and more (depending on the features you want for your pool) will be put into place, and the electrical service line will be set down. This process typically takes 2 to 3 days to complete, and it may occur before, during or after the steel frame is added.

Steel Frame

The steel frame is where things often become really exciting for pool owners as you can actually see the rebar forming the ultimate shape of your pool. A specialized rebar contractor will follow the grid pattern that was laid out by the structural engineer and "tie" the steel together using a bailing wire. This process usually takes less than a day to finish up.



Concrete

With the steel in place, it's time to bring in the concrete! Your pool builder will use shotcrete, gunite or a blend of the two depending on various factors, and apply the concrete around the steel to give your pool its strength and shape.

During this step, homeowners are usually given a bit of homework to do. It's important to keep that shell damp for the next week or so. Watering the cement twice a day for up to 7 days will help cure the cement. Several holes will also be drilled into the cement to relieve any pressure beneath the shell which may otherwise warp its shape or cause it to crack.

Tile and Coping

The next phase is the tile and coping phase, a process that will largely be responsible for setting the overall aesthetics of your poolscape. Before any tiling or coping is applied, the top of your gunite shell will be leveled, smoothed and sealed and then 6 inches of waterline tile will be applied. Your coping (usually consisting of brick, stone or another precast material) is then placed along the beam of the pool. When this stage is complete, you'll be left with a beautiful and seemingly finished pool.



Clean Up

But while your pool may look swim-ready, there's a good chance your backyard will still look a bit disastrous. The clean-up crew will come to take care of any garbage and excess debris, especially if there is any in the way of where your decking will be poured.

Decking and Surround

With that unnecessary clutter out of the way, our qualified deck builders will get hard to work piecing together the right deck for your outdoor living area. There are quite a few steps in this process, starting with the drainage:

- A PVC pipe will be installed to drain water away from the gutters and the deck to a lower lying area of your property.
- A layer of sand will be spread and formed on top of the ground (this will serve as a base for your deck).
- Reinforced steel will be put into place (at this point a local inspector may be required to inspect and approve the deck).
- Your deck will then be poured and expansion joints will be placed throughout to counteract ground movement and minimize cracking.

There are a lot of decking options out there, like pavers, concrete, tile, stone, Trex and so on. The amount of time it takes to complete the deck will depend on the surface material you choose, so expect it to take anywhere from a couple of days for basic concrete to several days or even weeks for more intricate patterns and materials.

Pool Equipment Install

As if seeing your deck come to life isn't thrilling enough, just wait for the next step: the installation of your pool equipment. Depending on a few factors, either ourselves or the plumbing and electrical will come back to hook up control panels, install lights, and get your pumps, heater and filter mounted and plumbed. Rocks, boulders, diving boards and other equipment will also be put into place at this time. This should take no longer than two days.

That pool may look ready for filling, but it's not quite ready for that first dive or cannonball. The final step to the actual pool build is the plastering of your pool.

Pool Plaster

Your pool's plaster is important since it provides a much needed waterproof surface, protecting the structure of your pool. You'll be faced with a lot of choices, from plain plaster to tiled, polished and pebble surfaces. What you choose will really depend on your budget, your taste, and how you want your pool to "feel" on your feet (when in doubt, give the plaster you choose a "step test" before installing it in your pool!).

With all of the elements set and the plaster ready to go, you can finally go ahead and fill up that pool!



The Pool School Learning Process

As veteran pool owners will tell you, it takes some work to properly maintain a swimming pool. The learning curve, while it may seem steep, can be eased substantially by attending what is known in the industry as “pool school.”

No courses or classrooms are needed for this school – unless you consider your backyard to be one, that is. During pool school, we will pop by and teach you all about how to operate every aspect of your swimming pool (the pumps, the filter, the heater, the lighting, and so on), how to care for your pool water, and how to keep its components clean. We will likely provide some tips beyond basic care and maintenance, though be sure to have a list of your own questions on hand. We are always happy to help.



Learning how to best care for and maintain a swimming pool is something that comes with time, experience and innovation. When in doubt, be sure to reach out to us for helpful tips on how to keep your pool water sparkling clean and advice on how to maintain both the beauty and longevity of your pool.

Contact Us Today

Best Pools

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Customer Service

sfsdfsdfsdf

Design Staff

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Website

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