

Your Top Above Ground Pool Questions Answered

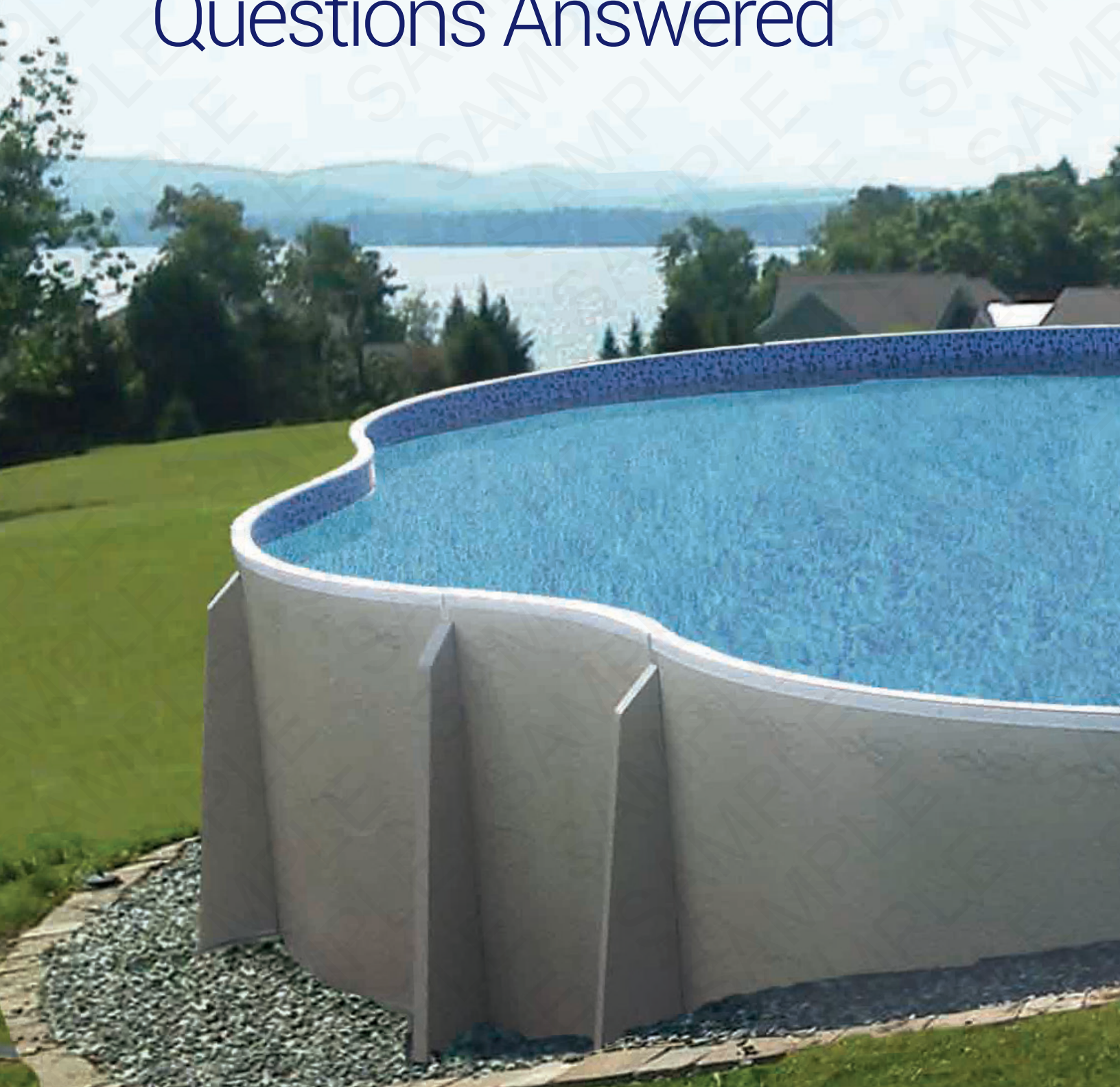




Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Before You Build.....	4
How Much Does an Above Ground Pool Cost?.....	5
Do They Come in Different Sizes & Shapes?.....	7
Where Should I Put My Pool?.....	8
Should I Install the Pool Myself?.....	9
Are Above Ground Pools Safer Than Inground Pools?.....	10
What Kind of Features Can an Above Ground Pool Have?....	11

Introduction

Above ground pool design has come a long way in recent years, saying goodbye to the days of uninspired above ground pool options. Once considered to be more of an add-on to the backyard than a permanent fixture, today's above ground pools can be transformed into gorgeous, yet affordable, poolscapes that create an aesthetically pleasing outdoor oasis.

If you're in the market for an above ground pool, there's a lot of information to consider as a potential above ground pool owner, including the true costs of these pools, installation, and how these poolscapes can be transformed into beautiful backyard spaces.



Before You Build

While you may be wanting an above ground pool, it doesn't mean that you are automatically permitted to have one. Before investing the time and money in an above ground pool and installation, be sure to check with local city, town or township regulations, as well as your Homeowners Association, if applicable, to find whether an above ground pool is allowed, what permits may be required and if there are any zoning regulations.



How Much Does an Above Ground Pool Cost?

There are a variety of factors to consider when calculating the actual cost of adding an above ground pool, but here's the good news – it is considerably less than an inground pool, making it a wonderful option for those looking for a more affordable, and less permanent, alternative.

Size is the biggest factor when determining your cost, as well as if you'll have it professionally installed or install it yourself. Depending on the model and the manufacturer of the above ground pool, you can plan on spending anywhere from \$3,000 to \$8,000, installation included. (A professional installation usually includes leveling the ground, laying down sand, and running electricity to your pump. A Do It Yourself installation will bring the overall cost down significantly.)



Savings to Consider

Apart from the initial purchase and installation expense, there are ongoing savings that come with an above ground pool.

- **Reduced heating expenses.** These pools require less energy to heat as they take less time to warm up.
- **Reduced maintenance costs.** Depending on the size of the pool, you will still need the same equipment to keep your water crystal clear. Despite having a pump, a filter and needing to use chemicals, the water usage is usually lower so less chemicals are needed.
- **No need for decking.** These pools can be set up and accessed by a ladder, meaning there is no need to make changes to your decking or landscape to have this type of pool. However, adding a deck is becoming increasingly popular. (Please see the *How Can I Increase the Beauty of My Above Ground Pool* section below to learn more.)

It's important to note that the above ground pool usually lasts anywhere from 10 to 20 years before the structure gives out. The liner typically lasts half that amount of time, so you can expect to replace the pool's liner at least once, if not more, throughout its use.



Do They Come in Different Sizes & Shapes?

During the initial decision process, you'll need to determine the shape and size of pool that works best in your backyard. Most of the smallest above ground pools are anywhere from 15 to 18 feet in diameter, while the largest can be a 30 foot round shape or an 18 foot by 36 foot oval. Sizes are dependent upon a manufacturer's models available.

Above ground pools come in one of two shapes:

- **Round:** These are easiest to install and offer more pool space for your money
- **Oval:** These pools maximize space and are better if you plan on using the pool for swimming laps, playing water sports, and other family activities.



Where Should I Put My Pool?

Pool placement is key when it comes to maximizing comfort and reducing maintenance. Here are some quick tips for plotting out where to install your above ground pool:

a) Install your pool in a sunny part of the yard. This will help keep your pool water warm and more enjoyable, if don't plan on purchasing a heater.

b) Keep your pool away from windy areas. If your backyard is usually more prone to wind, consider building structures near or around the pool which will help block out those blustering breezes.

c) Install the pool 8 to 10 feet away from trees. This will help keep leaves, branches and other debris out of your pool.



Should I Install the Pool Myself?

A lot of above ground pools have the option of being Do It Yourself, which can lead to substantial initial cost savings. Whether or not you install the pool yourself, however, will depend on your own skills and abilities.

There are a number of steps which may be involved with installing your pool that should be considered prior to making the leap and installing it yourself without the help of professionals.

- Leveling the ground
- Placing patio blocks beneath uprights
- Providing a sand bottom base
- Bonding the pool
- Installing filter systems
- Assembling the ladder

Above ground pools are usually constructed of steel wall panels, resin frame panels, vinyl lining and supports. Many above ground pool manufacturers boast that their pool can be up and ready in a day, or that it can be a weekend project, but this largely depends on the size of the pool, the tools you have available, and your experience in using those tools. If you invite a handful of friends over to help out, then it is possible to have the pool set up and put in place over the course of a weekend.

Contact us to learn more about your personal or professional installation options and time frame.

Are Above Ground Pools Safer Than Inground Pools?

This depends on the set up of your above ground pool. Your basic above ground pool can typically only be accessed by a ladder, which is removable. Because of this, it is incredibly difficult, if not impossible, for small children and pets to enter the water when the pool is not in use. However, you should never rely on that being your sole safety measure.

Above ground pool owners may choose to have a deck built around their swimming pool. In these situations, you should take the same precautions as an inground pool owner and have a 4- to 6-foot safety fence with a latched gate built around the pool.

Some other top products on the market to help keep your pool area safe include:

- A rigid pool safety cover
- Locks and alarms on all doors, gates, windows and other access points (many safety features can now be controlled by your smartphone or tablet)
- Streaming video surveillance systems
- Having emergency equipment nearby (including reaching assists, throw assists, a first aid kit, etc.)



What Kind of Features Can an Above Ground Pool Have?

One of the drawbacks to having an above ground pool is that you do not have the same extent of custom or add-on features available to you as an inground concrete, vinyl liner or fiberglass pool. However, there are some of the leading features and accessories which can be added to an above ground pool, making it more efficient, fun and appealing. These include, but aren't limited to, the following:

- Heaters
- Cleaning systems
- Salt water systems
- Lighting
- Covers
- Water falls
- Water fountains
- Diving boards (if the pool is deep enough)
- Slides

Don't forget that it is also possible to add a portable hot tub to your outdoor living space for maximum enjoyment of both swimming and warm water therapy.

How Can I Enhance the Beauty of My Above Ground Pool?

Traditionally speaking, above ground pools are not much to look at. But a growing number of homeowners continue to choose above ground pools for their backyards and are transforming them into gorgeous poolscapes, thanks to more models available on the market today.

Apart from having more options when it comes to wall patterns and liners, you can beautify your pool area by:

- **Adding a walkway.** Not only will this enhance the appearance of your backyard, but having a walkway will go a long way in keeping your home and pool clean.
- **Adding a border.** Creating a border that is at least one foot away from the track will add aesthetic appeal to your poolscape. You can choose from a variety of different borders, including decorative rock or mulch, stone, concrete and timber. As an added benefit, a border can also help promote drainage around the pool.
- **Adding a deck.** Decking is customizable and comes in all different shapes, sizes and materials. If you are adding a deck, strongly consider landscaping around it by adding features such as potted plants, boldly colored annuals, and non-shedding oriental grasses, or try planting taller bushes around the outer corners.

There are also semi inground pool models available now designed to create a more inground pool feel. Adding a deck and landscaping creates a more seamless and custom look in your backyard.

Not only can above ground pools be transformed into beautiful entertaining and lounging areas, they are also affordable, easy to maintain and portable. They can also be disassembled when the summer swimming season ends, leaving room for something different in your backyard during the off season, or they can be long-term fixtures which add visual interest and charm to your backyard.

As the demand for above ground pools grows, we look forward to helping you create a stunning budget-friendly poolscape for your backyard. Contact us today to explore your options and find the perfect above ground pool for your outdoor oasis.

Contact Us Today

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