

Pool HAVEN



Key Building Blocks for Your Outdoor Centerpiece



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As a centerpiece for outdoor living, an attractive pool area can provide a great getaway spot without ever having to get away. It can be a life-enhancing investment in family fun, in personal rejuvenation and in entertaining friends. In this article we want to talk a bit about the kinds of inground pools you can build and some of the amenities that can make a pool a great social and personal gathering space.

Three kinds of inground pools

1. Concrete pools

Concrete pools are the most time consuming and expensive to build, but they are also the most customizable and offer the greatest latitude for creating a distinctive shape that fits with the surrounding landscape and architecture. They can be any shape, size and depth and can include such things as vanishing edges, beach entries, and tanning ledges. The concrete is sprayed into a rebar grid and then covered in plaster that can be tinted almost any color. Tile can also be used to cover the concrete. This is a more costly option, but makes maintenance



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easier because the smooth surface doesn't allow algae to stick and grow.

Concrete pools can be built in most environments. A typical pool can usually be completed in six to 12 weeks and cost anywhere from \$30,000 to \$50,000. The extent of the size and custom details will, of course, increase costs and construction time. Such pools also often need to be renovated every 10 to 20 years.

2. Fiberglass pools

Fiberglass pools are delivered as a complete shell made in a factory and can come with a number of options, including infinity edges, perimeter overflows, ceramic tile, mosaics and custom jets, among other features. Fiberglass pools have a smooth, nonporous surface, which repels algae and other contaminants, reducing the need for chemicals and maintenance time. In fact, fiberglass pools have little or no lifetime maintenance costs, with no resurfacing or vinyl liner to replace. However, as it must be transported as a complete unit and then lowered in with a crane, there are size limitations.

Fiberglass pools can often be quickly



installed in a few days, or a few weeks at the most. They generally cost in the \$20,000 to \$40,000 range.

3. Vinyl pools

Vinyl pools usually offer the least expensive option with the greatest flexibility. Advanced vinyl material has made it easier to create pools of all shapes and styles. The number of patterns and colors is almost endless. It can provide features like waterfalls and many distinctive looks for almost any theme desired. The vinyl is also smooth enough to prevent algae growth and reduce maintenance in that regard.

Over time, sun and chemicals will deteriorate the vinyl and it will need to be replaced. It is also more susceptible to damage than the other kinds of pools. With proper care it can last 10 to 15 years. However, pool owners also like the idea of being able to change the vinyl from time to time for a completely new look.

The vinyl flexes with temperature changes and is good in any climate. Vinyl pools can usually be installed in a few weeks, with most costing in the \$30,000 to \$35,000 range.

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Surrounding amenities can help make your pool a real centerpiece

To really make the pool area a signature place in which to relax and entertain company, people should consider complementary structures like pool houses or pavilions or gazebos. These kinds of structures add immensely to the functionality and beauty of the space.

A pool house, for example, is a highly convenient structure that can serve for changing clothes and storing pool equipment as well as enjoying refreshments. It can also provide a handy bathroom/shower, or even a place for overnight guests to sleep — as simple or as multi-functional as you want it to be. For entertaining, it's helpful for giving people a place to gather around that's not inside the house.

Pavilion or adjacent patios and outdoor cooking areas are also good ways to connect home and pool. With these and other structures, features like Stoett automatic screens add an extra degree of comfort from sun, heat and bugs, making

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it more pleasant to use these spaces, whether for dining or relaxing or keeping tabs on the kids in the water. You can watch the splashing fun, dry off from a quick dip, and take a cold sip in the screened shade.

Screened poolside structures are one way of encouraging people to really engage and enjoy the watery haven they've created, day or night, even when the weather gets extra warm and the bugs come out. Such screens and other additions are sure to make your pool investment the place where everyone wants to be.

Sources:
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Riverpoolandspa.com





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