
So You're Considering a Swimming Pool....?

Before investing in an in-ground pool and/or outdoor living space there probably a lot of questions you want the answers to.

We hope this helps you decipher which pool is right for you!



BEAUTY • DURABILITY • UTILITY

Vue Custom Pools & Design
www.VueCustomPools.com

Most Common Questions When Considering a Swimming Pool

- What are the options when designing & choosing an inground pool?
- How much does an inground pool cost & what goes into pricing a pool?
- How long does it take to install a pool?
- Is Salt the best & how much work is maintaining a pool?
- Where do I start in finding a designer or pool builder?

There are three different types of inground pools to choose from: Concrete, Fiberglass, and Vinyl lined.

Throughout this PowerPoint you will see a nonbiased comparison of these pools.

At Vue Custom Pools & Design we specialize in custom concrete pools. Let's see what pool is best for you!

What are my options

When Designing & Choosing an Inground Pool?

- **Fiberglass-** Fiberglass pools attract people because of their low maintenance and quick installation.
 - These pools are formed from a mold, there are limitations on the shape and design, size, and depth.
 - The max width of a fiberglass pool is 16ft.
 - These pools come in a variety of shapes and sizes, but they are limited in customization.
 - Most external features such as slides/waterfalls & water features, are able to be added to a fiberglass pool.
 - Fiberglass pools must have a patio that surrounds the pool entirely.
 - Many fiberglass pools have a lifetime warranty on the shell

If you fall in love with a shape or design that is already available, then a fiberglass pool may be for you!

- **Vinyl Liner-** Shapes and sizes are standard in liner pools but limited custom options are also available (for additional cost).
 - The initial cost of a vinyl pool is budget-friendly, but the liner needs replacing about 5-9 years.
 - The quick construction time is another benefit of a vinyl lined pool.
 - Liner pools must have a patio that surrounds the pool entirely.
 - If there is a chance that the family dog may be enjoying the pool, a liner pool is probably not the best option.

- **Concrete** — More so than with other pool types, a concrete pool is 100% custom so a professionally designed concrete pool is essential.
 - Not only should it fit the needs of your family, it should compliment its surroundings and the architecture of home.
 - The shape, depths, size and features of a concrete pool are limitless.
 - Any type of external features (waterfalls/grottos/water features/diving board/slides) can be added to concrete pools
 - The patio does not necessarily need to surround the pool.
 - With proper water chemistry, the interior finish of a concrete pool should last 15-20years without needing resurfacing, or acid washing.

Challenging lot elevations are easier to work with when installing a concrete pool since the pool can act as retaining walls if needed.



How much does an inground pool cost?

For a pool to be priced accurately there should be a **professionally produced set of construction plans**. This is especially important for concrete pools as construction costs vary based on how its built. Many times, a designer/landscape designer who has designed a back yard will put a shape as a place holder with no understanding of how a pool is built or how much equipment is necessary for the features of that pool or access requirements for the equipment needed. Having a Pool Professional design your pool & outdoor living space can usually help with the cost since they will have to put a price on it. ****The figures below are what we have found from other quality industry professionals and what we see in our custom concrete projects. Prices are roughly the pool only (not add on features/decking or inclusive of other outdoor living amenities).***



← This custom pool was ~ 112K in 2019
Today's price is ~\$151,200



This custom pool was ~\$350+ in 2018
Today's price is ~\$427,500

↑ This custom pool was ~\$225K in 2018
Today's price is ~\$303,750

****All estimated prices are pool only.***

***It does not reflect the surrounding areas.
Such as; hardscape, landscaping, kitchens,
firepits, etc.***

- **Concrete** Custom concrete pools allow the customer to add-on multiple features. You have the ability to make the pool fit your specific needs. This means that each project has their own unique price tag, generally **our** custom pool projects start around \$150,000*.

****NOTE: Recent shortages in building materials such as wood (+34%) & sched40 PVC (+20%) have driven up costs higher than usual. Gunite is forecast to increase as well. All of these are building materials are involved with concrete pools. Increases went into effect Sept .1, 2020. Shortages on equipment components have also been seen across the board on all pool typies as we are just now seeing the delayed effects in manufacturing facilities having shutdown during the COVID mandate orders.***

- **Fiberglass** - On average fiberglass pools start out around \$60,000-\$77K*. The cost depends on which model you choose, ranging in size and depth.
- **Vinyl Lined**- Vinyl lined pools start out at \$40,000. Vinyl lined pools are customizable to some extend. When you make customizations the overall cost goes up as well. I have also seen \$90K Liner pools.

What other factors affect the price a pool?

- **Pool Depth**

- **Concrete** pools over 5'6" deep add some cost because it should have more steel & thicker concrete.
- Minimum depth for safe diving is 7'6" according to diving safety envelope recommendations.

- **HOW it's Built**

- Excavating into the ground (i.e using the earth as a form) costs much less than if the terrain is such that walls need to be formed acting as a retaining wall (or a raised wall, or start out pf the ground than get backfilled up to afterward). **Only custom concrete pools have the option of this type of construction.**
- Flat yards can have any type of pool installed.

- **Automation**

- The ability to use your smartphone to turn on a spa, water features, lights, heaters etc is available on all pools but is not always necessary.
- Automation can be simple timer \$500 or much more tech savvy ~\$15-\$25K.

- **Interior Finish & Tile**

- **Tile options are only available on custom concrete pools.** Tile (look) and interior finish options are not as broad in Liner or Fiberglass pools
- **Tile (concrete pools) must be a frost proof tile designed for submerged applications.** There are loads of tile options (with vastly different costs) for concrete pools
- **Interior finish for concrete pools have a lot of options:** plaster, quartz and aggregate are the most common. Vue Custom Pools uses Pebble Tec aggregate as their primary interior finish.

- **Water Features**

- Simple features like bubblers and deck jets & shear descents cost roughly \$250-\$500 each. Laminars (lighted) LED ~ \$2500 ea
- Waterfalls & grottos can be \$40K-\$80K+.
- Stand alone Slides and Diving boards can be \$5-\$10K. Slides built into a landscape vary in cost.

- **Decking and Coping**

- Coping is what goes around the perimeter of the pool.
- All pool types can utilize a paver type coping although liner and fiberglass are often seen with concrete unless designed specifically with a paver in mind.
- Patio can range from \$8/sqft (concrete) - \$55/sqft (stone). Decking needs among the different types of pool vary as well.
- A custom concrete does not need a full surround deck where a liner & fiberglass both need a certain amount (a skirt) to secure the pool into the ground.

- **Fencing**

- There are state codes that need to be met with respect to pool safety barrier fencing.
- We have found that installed fence costs roughly \$25-\$45 linear ft + ~ \$500/gate

How long does it take to install a pool?

- **Concrete**- When constructing a concrete pool the time frame ranges from 4-6+ months from start to finish. The reason this takes so long is because the pool is constructed ON the JOB site and concrete (as well as other cementitious based products) take time to cure and give strength to your pool. This timeline is also very dependent on surrounding efforts (pool features, outdoor living & patio type).
- **Fiberglass**- On average a fiberglass pool takes anywhere from 3-6 weeks from start to finish. Weather permitting.
- **Vinyl Lined**- The process for a vinyl lined pool generally can take anywhere from 6-12 weeks. Weather permitting.

Weather and wet jobsites are the # 1 delay in all pool construction. In NC, we are fortunate to be able to build year – round, summer and fall are usually the driest while winter and spring tend to be very wet/slowng the construction progress.



<https://fiberglasspoolguyz.com/2018/06/seaside/>

Is a salt pool the best? What about maintenance?

A [Salt Chlorine Generator](#) is simply a means of [generating chlorine on demand](#) by the means of using the ingredient salt. If your goal is to minimize exposure to chlorine, salt is not the answer. There are other options for low chlorine systems.

Salt Pools Are Great For:

- Smaller (volume) pools
- Pools where owners may not be there often (i.e. lake/mtn/beach house etc)
- Pools without water or rock features
- Pools without expensive stone coping (unless its sealed with salt resistant sealer)

Salt is NOT:

- A way to reduce chlorine (in fact it creates chlorine at a very high pH so you also now have to control pH) : this is especially important in concrete pools, not as critical in liner/fiberglass.
- Maintenance Free – it requires surrounding things (outside of water) ongoing maintenance/sealing etc.
- Ideal for pools with water features (deck jets/waterfalls etc)
- Less Expensive: There are other sanitation options that are simpler and less expensive than salt systems (Salt systems also deplete as they work, they must be replaced every several years).

Other Options for Sanitation:

- Chlorine (erosion feeder)
- UV
- Ozone
- Ionization
- AOP w/hydroxyls and hydrogen peroxide

All pools require routine cleaning to remove fallen objects such as leaves, grass, and environmental debris.

All pools need to have chemistry checked/balanced weekly for both bather comfort and to be sure the water is safe and clean.

Weekly maintenance for proper water chemistry is needed during the pool season.

Pool maintenance off season depends on the surrounding environment and whether the pool is covered and/or heated or not.

How do I Maintain my Pool? Cleaning and Chemicals

All pools require regular cleaning to remove fallen objects such as leaves, grass, and environmental debris. Regular care of your pool is a great way to avoid major costly fixes later! All pools need to have chemistry checked for both bather comfort and to be sure the water is safe and clean.

- **Concrete** - **Brushing** your concrete pool interior finish is always recommended to minimize algae from blooming, some robotic pool cleaners can also do this. Acid washing your pool is a last attempt remedy for dingy pool walls due to prolonged poor water chemistry. Taking care of a pool in the winter is not very difficult due to water temp being too low for algae growth.
- **Fiberglass**- Fiberglass pools generally require the least amount of maintenance out of the three pools because its walls are somewhat impervious to bad chemistry. It is still recommended that you brush your pool walls and test your water for safe swimming.
- **Vinyl Lined**- There are areas in vinyl lined pools where algae can build up, generally they are easy to maintain.



<https://cleanup.expert/info/how-to-clean-green-pool/>

Algae is one of the tougher things to correct. Different types of algae can be introduced by different means into all pools even if the chemistry is being maintained. There are products on the market that generally combat some typed of algae for an entire season.

How to I get help designing a pool in my backyard?

Hiring a pool designer (which could also include the whole backyard outdoor living space) should start with understanding the factors that determine if a pool can even be put into your backyard.

***A good pool designer should check on all these things
prior to even visiting the site:***

- Setbacks (corner lots and neighborhoods often have different property line setbacks).
- Planning/zoning easements (such as sewer & utility)
- Checking/understanding your septic area AND your repair area (if applicable) and your municipalities setbacks off those areas. A pool cannot get within 15' of either of those areas. Sometimes septic lines and repair areas can easily be moved.
- Understanding what the setbacks are off a well (if applicable)
- A Site visit is necessary to evaluate any elevations challenges as well as access means.
- A property survey (if the owner has one).
- A site evaluation that includes gas line, utilities location, and electrical breaker capabilities.
- A 811 Utility Locate may be done after initial visit if there is any concern about cables/power lines etc.

What should I look for in a Pool Design/Build Professional?

Ask if they are part of industry affiliations:

- PHTA (Pool & Hot Tub Alliance)
- Accreditations from GENESIS design education group
- Verifications from Watershape University education group
- Master Pool Guild
- CBP Certified Building Professional
- National Plasterers Council (concrete pools)
- American Shotcrete Association (concrete pools)
- American Shotcrete Institute (concrete pools)
- Licensed General Contractor
- Industry experts through publications
- Industry expert witnesses
- Award winning projects



**POOL &
HOT TUB**
ALLIANCE

WATERSHAPE
WU
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Maintenance Professionals Designations

- CPO (Certified Pool Operator)
- CSP Certified Service Professionals
- CMS Certified Maintenance Specialist
- CST Certified Pool Technician



Overview:

- Now that you have read over some brief information, which pool do you think fits your needs best? The pool that is best for you is one that brings you the most joy and fulfills your needs!
- Regardless of your choice, we hope that you were able to get a better understanding about inground swimming pools and the different options!

We wish you the best of luck!

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