

Design/Shapes

This is one of the most important decisions to make and it is also the beginning of the process. There are a number of factors that play a role in deciding which shape works best for you: available space, personal taste, features of a particular design, what a home owner wants to get from the pool (exercise, entertainment, etc.) Often, homeowners already have a idea of what size pool they want based on past experiences, friends or neighbors pools, the number people expected to use the pool and home location, comparing a rural setting to say a subdivision setting for example. It is a great idea to have these questions answered as early on in the process as possible.



Rectangle



Custom



Classic



Kidney



Freeform

Available Space: This is obviously one of the most important factors as we cannot fit a 40' pool in a 30' space! Many homeowners, having looked at or thought about shapes and sizes of pools, layout their new pool in the backyard to try to visualize the overall dimension of their new pool and the pool deck. This is a great tool in helping decide not only the size and shape of the pool and deck but also WHERE the pool might be located in the space available; it also helps in learning how the pool will interact with other features (decks, outbuildings, etc.) at the desired location. Your pool professional will often, if not always, come to the site to conduct what we call a site survey. During this survey, the pool pro will ask the question of design and placement, each type of pool will present a different set of questions but the basic premise is the same: what shape works best for you: rectangle, freeform, classic, custom, kidney, etc.

Personal Taste: Personal taste is what you want to see in your back yard. Do you think the timeless, classic lines of a rectangular or roman shaped pool fit your style? Or, is a freeform, with curves and no straight lines work best for you? Your pool pro will present options available from liner and fiberglass manufacturers to aid in design/shape selection and of course, gunite or concrete pool shapes are based on what your pool pro is able to develop (with your input).

Features: In all types of pools, there are elements that are almost always associated with a pool – stairs, benches, tanning ledges, safety ledges, swim up bars, fountains, waterfalls, slides, diving boards, swim lanes and play areas or sport pool options. Fiberglass pools always have built in steps and very often benches and a safety ledge, I would dare call these features standard. In liner and gunite projects, all these items could be optional. Almost always a stair is introduced to a project of this type, I too would call these items standard on the respective type pools but are still optional. Fiberglass pools, they are standard and the placement inside the pool is static meaning they cannot be moved. Taking this into account, one needs to think about the placement of the pool in relationship to the point of entry/exit with the stairs in mind. Often, in the final layout, the stair is located closest to the point of entry/exit of the home.

What do you want from your pool? This may seem like a silly question but it is a valid one. Entertaining? Exercise? Diving? All the Above? Many homeowners want to have a sport pool where they have a place to cool off and as importantly, they have a place where all the kids and grownups can play games like volleyball and basketball for example. Others might think that a pool for entertaining family and friends, a pool with a large step area (that might serve as a bench), several benches, a maybe a shallower depth would work best. Others might be in need of a diving pool, this requires a certain depth, length and width of pool. Of course there is the fact that almost all pools serve dual purposes. One can have a pool for entertaining as a primary feature (lots of places to sit and a shallower pool) but have a swim lane to swim laps for example. With all types of pool, a quality builder should evaluate your needs and desires, your space available and site conditions with budget and present to you the best option.

On to the Next Step.....