



Pool planning mistakes to avoid

DeVries

Design + Landscape



A pool is an awesome addition to any backyard. But it's also a big investment.

You've spent a lot of time imagining how nice it would be to walk out your back door and step into that clear, blue water for early morning laps, how relaxing it would be to take a late-night swim or how great it would feel to host a pool party on a hot summer day.

A swimming pool in your own backyard is like having your own stay-cation resort just steps away. It automatically grants you "cool house on the block" status, and it's a guaranteed way to beat the heat.

But as wonderful as pools are; they are a substantial investment. Pool projects can quickly reach 6 figures in cost. Naturally, with that much on the line, you want the best bang for your buck.



There is a lot to consider when it comes to installing a pool.

For example, “Will it fit in my yard”, “what size should it be”, “what shape do I want”, and “what will it cost?” We created this checklist to help you think through some of the important details and avoid common mistakes.

We want to help you design the perfect pool and patio area for your space. Here are a few things we always remind clients about when they’re considering a pool. project.

Protect and maximize your investment by avoiding some of the most common mistakes we’ve seen over the years.

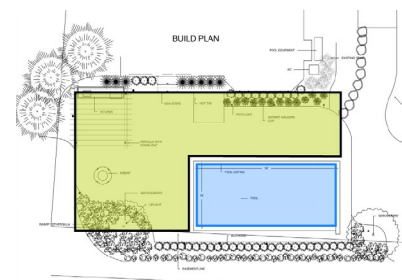
Four Quick Tips

1. The space around the pool is just as important as the pool itself.

Too often, no thought is given to the space around the pool, making the pool difficult to access and difficult to enjoy. Properly designing the space around the pool will increase the value of the pool—boosting your enjoyment and your home’s resale value. Here are a few quick tips when it comes to space around the pool.

Two sides of the pool deck are often most heavily used.

We like to see those 2 sides as the sides closest to the house. A sun deck on the ‘backside’ of the pool looks great on a plan but in reality it is a long walk all the way around a pool and rarely used. Ideally, we like to see the shallow end easily accessible as well; this is often the main hang out area where tables and chairs are used near the pool.



12' is the ideal dimension for lounge chairs; 8' for the chair and 4' for the walkway.

This can't always happen in small yards but it's worth sacrificing a 1' or 2' of pool size to be able to truly use the space around the pool. Ironically, we find if you can't use the space around the pool, you also don't use the pool at all.

You won't use your pool during colder months, but you will use your patio.

Design your space so it's usable during all four seasons. This could mean adding a firepit, landscape lighting, or a cozy seating area. You'll also want to think about the visual impact of your space when your pool isn't in use. You want to be as proud of your space when you invite friends over in September as you do in June; and the aesthetic from your window makes a big difference all year round.

2. In our Indiana climate, you will want an automatic cover.

Irregularly-shaped pools look really cool; we get it. But a unique shape is rarely worth it if you have to sacrifice an autocover. Rectangular pools easily accommodate an autocover and can be just as visually appealing when designed well. A rectangular pool with a cover reduces your maintenance, reduces debris in the pool and most importantly keeps kids and dogs safe from accidentally falling in the pool. A touch of a button rolls the cover in and out in 30 seconds. We strongly recommend an autocover to all of our clients.



3. Too much deep end can cramp your style.

We work with pool contractors all over the greater Indianapolis area, and over the years we've noticed a common theme. Most clients never use as much "deep end" as they think they will. By no means do we want to take away the fun of a slide, diving board or jumping rock—but it's helpful when mapping out your space to consider the long-term use of the pool. A larger deep end of the pool typically means less space around the pool and less shallow end in the pool, which we have found seems to be the most popular. Every project is different, and a deep end isn't a bad thing—but too much of it can be.

4. Don't forget about the pool equipment.

Pools need pumps and heaters to clean the water and function optimally. The pool equipment pad is never very pretty, so you won't want it in plain sight. That said, "out of sight and out of mind" is a bad idea for your pool equipment. You will need to regularly check your pool equipment to ensure the pool is functioning properly. In our experience, it's important to think through the location of the pool equipment in the initial design. If finding a place for all of the pool equipment becomes an afterthought, adjusting the design 'on the fly' will cost a lot of money later.

These are the most common mistakes we see when it comes to designing the perfect pool space.

This guide outlines our top-level recommendations, but every client has different priorities, and we don't believe in a one-size-fits-all approach. If you have more specific questions, we would love to hear from you.

Talk through
your ideas and
get a rough quote.

Start a Design

