

SPARTAN

POOL & PATIO

TOP 10 THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN BUILDING A POOL



Building and subsequently owning a pool is an extremely exciting step to take, but, like building your own custom home, there is a ton to make sure you know before getting started. From cost to design to the pool needs of you and your family, it's important you know exactly what questions to ask and the answers to those questions before you sign a contract. Here are our top 10 things to make sure you think about before starting your pool building project.

YOUR BUDGET

One of the biggest mistakes you can make when beginning your backyard pool project is not knowing your budget. A pool is an investment that likely will not return to you, at least not until you sell your home, and even then it won't equal the amount you paid. It's not that pools aren't worth it; they definitely are, but they don't yield monetary profit.

Therefore, it's important to have a hard ceiling on your budget before starting the project. When discussing your pool with your contractor, communicate this with them to make sure you both know your limits. This will make things much smoother.



YOUR MATERIAL

There are several types of pool materials to choose from, each with its own pros and cons. It's good to know at least a little bit about each of them before getting started with your project. Here are the most common.

Concrete: By far the most versatile, concrete offers customers complete customization. Almost any shape you can draw can be made into a concrete pool, and other features like ledges and fountains are easily incorporated into concrete. Concrete pools are like works of art, as big or small as you want them, however you want them.

Fiberglass: Thinner than a concrete pool's bowl, fiberglass is a lower cost option that offers less customization features. A fiberglass pool is usually constructed in a factory then placed into your backyard, meaning it comes in a set shape.

Vinyl Liner: Usually with the lowest initial cost, a pool made from vinyl liner is still customizable (though not as much as concrete) and efficient. Some custom features such as sun ledges, bench/swimouts, stone coping, can add significant cost to vinyl pools where they may add little to no cost on a custom concrete pool. Lastly, vinyl liner pools typically have the shortest lifespan.

It's important to know which material best fits your needs before starting your pool project.

YOUR LANDSCAPE

Maybe right now all you're working with in your backyard is a dusty patch of flat earth, but before breaking ground on your pool, you should try to plan ahead. For example, you don't want to fill up the whole space with a pool if someday you want an outdoor patio or grill area. A pool is a long-term investment not just for your wallet but also for your space.

This also means getting creative with any existing features of your backyard. If you've got a relatively small space but a decent budget, you can brainstorm what features might be best for you. It's the same if you have a low budget but plenty of space. Make sure you really plan out your backyard before starting your project.

TIMEFRAME

When we say know your budget, we don't just mean financially. Time is also a factor in your budget, and you should try to establish before getting started how much time it will take to accomplish your goals.

This is especially key if part of your dream pool includes custom features such as tanning ledges or waterfalls, which will often take more time. Talk to your contractor before you get started to find out how much time everything can be expected to take so you can be prepared.

YOUR POOL'S DESIGN

What shape should your pool be? How large do you want it? What kind of crazy features would you like? All these questions and more come into play when imagining your dream pool. There are so many options to choose from and it's a great idea to look into them. Things we've already mentioned and others can be added to your pool, including:

- **Tanning Ledges**
- **Beach Entrance**
- **Fountains**
- **Waterfalls**
- **Hot Tubs**
- **Water Slides**

Talk with your contractor before starting your project to discuss not only your needs but your desires, the things that will take your pool to the next level.



YOUR POOL'S SIZE

We've already gone over the landscape; now it's time to talk about actual size. This doesn't just mean the width and length of the pool, but also the depth. Do you want a diving board or diving area? Does your pool need a very shallow area for young kids?

The size of your pool determines not just if it can fit in your backyard, but also who can use it. It's important to consider your audience. If you have a lot of kids or grandkids, it's probably good to make sure they can enjoy the fun. It's a good idea to find out what limitations you may be dealing with due to utility easements, setback and coverage requirements and utilities. A pool contractor can help with all of this.

PRACTICAL NEEDS

While not the most riveting part of pool design, considering your practical needs – such as railings, steps, and more – is a vital part of the process. Just like the depth of the pool can impact who can use it, so can the practical needs. If you have elderly family members who will want to take a dip, it's key for them to be able to get in and out safely.

Furthermore, you need to decide what kind of water you want when it comes to keeping your pool clean, as there are pros and cons to each. For example, salt water pools typically have a softer, more buoyant feel. Salt water pools are still chlorine pools, though you are providing your own by breaking down the salt. It is typically softer and a bit easier to maintain. It's all up to you and your needs.

YOUR DREAM WISHLIST

Depending on your budget, you may not think you can get every single thing you want out of your pool, but that doesn't mean you need to give up on your dreams. Your backyard is a sanctuary, and if you're thinking of adding a pool, you can and should mention everything on your wishlist to your contractor.

Things like built-in recliners and the aforementioned tanning ledge can add a lot to a pool and before you decide you don't need them or they'll add too much to the final cost, talk to your contractor. Your pool design company should be a partner in the process, and may help you find creative solutions.

YOUR POOL'S PURPOSE

Along with who will be using it and how, you should consider the purpose of your pool, as there are many varieties of swimming pools. Some pools are larger with plenty of areas for kids to play, while others are smaller, more suited for relaxing.

Ask yourself why you want a pool and not only who will use it, but what will they use it for? A swimming pool is an exciting decision and a big one. It's vital that you truly consider every aspect of it before you get started, from the mundane to the extreme.

YOUR CONTRACTOR

Before beginning your project, you may imagine most contractors to be the same, but this is far from the truth. Your pool contractor isn't like someone who comes over to hang a TV on the wall or install a toilet; your pool design team will work alongside you in a long-term process, so it's very important to choose one you can trust.

Not only should you be able to trust them, but they should also be excited to work with you and want to turn your dreams into reality as much as they possibly can. We've mentioned every aspect of pools, from luxury modifications to utilitarian needs, and your contractor should work with you and for you to help you achieve your goals.

If you're ready to begin your custom pool project, look no further than Spartan Pool & Patio, where we aim to give our clients the backyard of their simplest and wildest dreams. You can visit our website at spartanpoolandpatio.com to learn more or view our gallery, or simply give us a call at **405.364.1912** today.

