YOU’RE IN CONTROL OF YOUR POOL BUILDING PROJECT!

Build Your Own Pool®
SAVE THOUSANDS

Get Your FREE GUIDE
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PLANNING & DESIGNING YOUR OWN SWIMMING POOL.

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Just so you know...

There is no way to cover every aspect of designing a swimming pool for every particular set of circumstances.

This guide is just that, a guide.

It’s designed to help you understand those terms and elements that swimming pool designers and pool construction specialists use everyday. It’s designed to assist you during your planning process.

It features some design elements and details that you should consider and include on your completed swimming pool plan.

To get more information or to get started with your new pool: www.BYOP.net or Call our offices at 866-586-7077 and talk with a pool design specialist.
Designing your perfect swimming pool is just a matter of finding something you like and transferring it onto paper. There’s no mystery or college level classes required. It all begins with your imagination, wants and needs for your pool project.

But there are a few elements that every swimming pool design should include and a few others that you might want to consider when you begin to create a plan for your new swimming pool.

Planning Considerations....

1. The Big Picture
2. Design Features
3. Design Details
4. Budgeting Tips
5. Your Pool Construction Plan
6. Your Pool Permit and the HOA
7. Pool Equipment Spec Sheet
8. Planning for Care and Maintenance
9. Final Thoughts

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A swimming pool is just an element of your backyard living space. Much like the interior of your home, planning for the backyard and its use depends largely on your personal needs and preferences.

Ask Yourself some questions....

How much time do you plan on spending in your yard?
What other elements must share the space?
What other uses do you want to get from your yard?
Do you plan to use the pool for exercise or just is it Just a place family and fun?

Do have young children?

If so, your plan may need to include some type of pool barrier between the house and the pool area. Consider where a fence will connect to the house, access to the pool and seating inside the pool area.

Do you want to leave room for games and activities activities around the pool area? Do you have plans for an outside kitchen or BBQ area? Do you want to keep the grilling area close to the patio for easy access or would you prefer it as a separate feature? If so, make sure you design space for a table and chairs or a raised counter top feature.

What are your plans for lawn areas, plantings and trees? Do have existing landscape that will confine the pool to a certain area of the yard.

How about gardening or a fire pit seating area?

These are just a few of the considerations each new pool design should take into Account as you design your pool area and how it will work with your backyard.

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If you’re looking for design ideas, check out your local bookstore. You’ll find a number of publications that are dedicated to swimming pool designs. Most of them are a bit over the top, but they do showcase a wide variety unique ideas and features.

Some of the most common features include:

- Negative edge or infinity pools
- Zero deck entry pools
- Water feature of all shapes and sizes
- Raised spas and swim up bars
- Out of grade or Raised bond beams
- Floating decks and In-Pool Islands
- Attached ramadas or Sunken Gazebos

These items may or may not be part of your swimming pool planning, but again they provide you with some ideas that you can include with your pool design.

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Once you have your wish list completed and you have some ideas for swimming pool features, it’s time to specify the details of your pool.

The details are the actual measurements that describe your pool. These are the specifications that the subcontractors will use to bid and build your swimming pool.

**Specifications such as:**

- Pool Perimeter
- Pool Surface Area
- Depths
- Dimensions
- Internal Surface Area
- Decking Type
- Water Features
- Tile or Veneering stone
- Pool Plumbing
- Electrical Requirements
- Turnover Rates

Understanding each design detail will allow you to complete the rest of your swimming pool construction plan.

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The costs building a new pool can add up quickly.

It is similar to going on the weekly grocery store trip. It’s not one item or two that adds up, it’s the entire shopping cart full of groceries that makes your jaw drop at the register.

Your pool budget is no different. You need the basics such as:
A city/county permit, excavation, plumbing, steel, electric, shotcrete, deck or coping, tile, pool equipment and some type of interior finish.

After that, you can add the features such as:

Water features, extra decking, upgraded stone decking LED lighting, raised spas, and maybe a negative edge just to name a few.

Remember - your subcontractor bids are based on the design and construction details such as: perimeter, surface area, and the internal area of your pool.

A larger pool requires more material and time on the part of each sub which in turn adds to the cost of your pool. The best planning advise is to start off with the basics. Draw your pool to the size and shape you want.

Start with a design based on your main purpose:

A lap pool, or diving or just plain fun and then add the features on the back end. You can always deduct features if your project goes beyond your budget.

Some features like, waterfalls, salt systems, automation, extra decking can be added in the future. If you drop the waterfall, include the plumbing lines for the future. If you drop a heat pump or gas heater, include a plumbing by-pass line and and/or upgraded electrical conduit and room in the panel for future expansion.

Either way your project budget should be part of the planning process and not a surprise at checkout.

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You’re pool plan will incorporate everything you’ve done so far:

Your Wish List
Your Design Features
Your Design Details

All in one pictorial representation of your backyard – all drawn to the Industry 1/8” scale.

This becomes the plan that you will provide each sub-contractor with in order to receive your bids and it will follow right through into your pool’s construction.

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Your Pool Permit and HOA Submittal

Every swimming pool requires the submission of paperwork for a pool construction permit.

Your local city or county building department will want to know your pool specifications, your proposed pool location and whether it meets certain requirements.

In addition, each city or county will have procedures and policies for each permit submission. Along with the pool application, you’ll need to complete a pool site plan. At a minimum most cities/counties require the following details:

**Swimming Pool Site Plan**

- The property dimension on all sides
- A vicinity map
- A North arrow with scale details i.e. 1” = 10’ or 1” 20’ (see city requirements)
- Building dimensions – where your house sits on the lot or property.
- Street access including the name.
- Fences, culverts, septic tanks, setbacks, driveways and whole host of other details.
- Public Utility Easements (if applicable)

You can check with your County Recorder’s office for a copy of your subdivision plot map for some of this information. This plan must be reviewed and approved prior to your pool construction.

Another important step during this process is to call your local utilities and Request a marking of all utility lines running into and along your property. You may find that your pool design will need to change in order to work Around existing electrical, water or gas lines.

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Your Pool Permit and HOA Submittal

Each city is different. Sometimes the process is easy and you can get your pool permit right over the counter. Other times the plan review will takes days or weeks to complete.

Additionally, your plan can be returned to You for corrections which can delay Your permit. Review the guideline for The permit submittal carefully to Ensure your plan is complete.

Permit fees vary from a couple of hundred dollars to well over a thousand dollars depending on the size and cost of the project. Once you have your pool details completed you can usually call the planning and building department and get an estimate of the fee amount over the phone.

The final requirement of the permitting process is only applicable to those home owners who are part of a community managed by an association.

Community HOA Guidelines

Most planned and newer neighborhoods have a Homeowners Association (HOA) that will enforce and require a review of all property additional or alterations – including a pool.

Your neighborhood covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) may limit your pool placement and features.

The last thing you want is to have the community code enforcer come around and shut your project down or lien your home for lack of a plan review and approval by the HOA.

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During your planning phase you developed a list of features and details that you included with your swimming pool construction plan.

One of those items was your pool equipment.

The development of a pool equipment spec sheet details those items that need to be ordered, delivered and available onsite prior to scheduling the plumbing phase.

It’s important to review the manufacturers specifications and have an understanding of the water flow through the system when designing your pool equipment list.

Certain components may need additional planning in order to properly plumb your pool or in order for the components to work together. If you plan to include automation systems and water chemistry units you may want to get some help with this step.

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Planning for Care and Maintenance

Owning a pool is a like adopting a new family pet. They're a lot of fun, but they do require some maintenance.

You can’t buy one and leave it alone in the backyard to fend for itself. Part of your planning strategy should contain a plan for future care and maintenance.

Your pool cleaner and filter will remove most of the heavy and floating debris. That leaves you to contend with the water chemistry. How you handle your pool maintenance can vary from a complete hands off approach to a mix of owner involvement and a professional swimming pool service company.

If you want to find out more about your pool’s water chemistry and frequently ask questions try this online resource

**The Pool Calculator**

Provides some great definitions and a calculator to help make sense of your Pool’s chemical readings. Once you get to know your pool’s reading it will be much easier to take care of the family splash zone.

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Final Thoughts.....

It doesn’t matter whether you want to design your pool to rival the look and feel of a local golf resort or you just want something to cool off in and escape the dog days of summer.

Take some time to decide what’s important to you, your family and your friends.

Incorporating all of your ideas, planning guidelines and your budget into one Condensed pool plan will not only save you money by avoiding costly mistakes but it will result in a pool that you and your family, friends, and neighbors will all enjoy throughout the year.

Need help with your pool design, details, permit application? Request one of our pool design specialists.

If you have more questions about planning for your next swimming pool or need more information about pool equipment or permitting and engineering contact us.

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