

Determining The Size, Depth And Location Of A Swimming Pool

Most any yard, regardless of its size, shape, or slope, can be fitted with a beautiful swimming pool. There are many factors concerning size, shape, and depth of pool that you need to consider before installing a pool. Following are some considerations to look at, all of which a pool designer will be glad to help with.

What size does the pool need to be?

One of the most common complaints we get from pool owners years after the pool has been built is that the pool is too big for them and that the deck surrounding the pool is not big enough. Very seldom do we hear that they wish they had built a bigger pool. The average residential pool being built today is approximately 15' to 16' wide and approximately 30' to 32' long. Diving pools are typically slightly larger than this and non-diving (or sport) pools are typically this size and smaller. In addition, lap swimmers tend to like longer, narrower pools. We typically recommend a maximum swimmer load of approximately 25 sq. ft. of pool surface area per person (For a 500 sq. ft. pool, that would be a maximum of 20 people using the pool at one time).

How deep does the pool need to be?

Diving pools are typically at least 8' deep and most non-diving pools are no deeper

than 6'. Over 50% of the pools that are currently being built are non-diving (or sport) pools. Non-diving pools have increased in popularity because of the desire to play water sports such as volleyball and basketball. Non-diving pools are slightly less expensive to build and the costs associated with filtering, heating, and chemically treating the water increases in proportion to the depth of the pool.

What are the legal restrictions?

The local building codes can determine placement of a pool due to setback restrictions, which determine how close the pool can be to the property line. In addition, utility or drainage easements must also be considered. Your survey plot plan contains property line and easement information, which is helpful and needed when planning your pool.

Are there obstructions that I need to consider?

Underground obstructions such as utility lines and septic tanks must be considered as well as overhead obstructions including utility lines and trees. Typically utility lines can be relocated in order to place the pool in the desired location in the yard.

Is my yard sloped?

The elevation, or slope, of the yard is a factor to consider to avoid future drainage problems. Considerably sloped yards are usually slightly more expensive to build a pool than flat yards.

Should it be close to the house?

A pool should be easily accessible from the house. Otherwise, the nuisance of getting to and from it will overshadow much of the pleasure derived from using the pool. Pool builders are restricted against installing a pool too close to a foundation. Also related to size and depth is the location of the entry and exit points. Whenever possible, steps and benches should be placed in strategic locations to access the house, pool house, diving board, or spa.

Can I see the pool from the house?

Generally speaking, the pool should be in complete view of the house, yet laid out in harmony with it. In addition, if children are to be using the pool, a view from the house to the pool becomes even more important as a safety issue.

Determining what your needs are and matching them to your budget and space limitations might take some time, but they are critical in assuring that you have no regrets as it relates to size, depth, and location of your swimming pool .

Note:

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