



7 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU BUY A POOL

1.

What is the primary purpose of the pool?

**Is aesthetics the driving factor?
Or is it more about functionality?**

**Do you plan on entertaining large groups
of people or just the family?**

Do you want to utilize the pool year round?

"You need to think not only of how you want it to look, but also how you want it to work."

You need to think not only of how you want it to look, but also how you want it to work. Answering these questions will help dictate such specifications as size, depth, placement, and amenities.



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2. What type of pool is right for me?

Not all pools are created equal, but there is a time and a place for each material based on your needs and goals. Your consultant can give you the pros and cons of each type of installation. Timing, durability, longevity and certainly cost can make a difference in how you approach your goal.

“With the proper care, a concrete pool can last a lifetime...”

For example, a vinyl lined or fiberglass pool can be installed in a shorter time frame, yet these types of pools do not allow for custom shapes or sizes. With the proper care, a concrete pool can last a lifetime, although vinyl (and to some extent, fiberglass) can be more economical in their up front cost.



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3.

Where should it go?

Are there impediments to construction, such as utility lines, easements, setbacks, tree canopies or future structures?

Consider the trajectory of the sun, the shady and sunny areas of your yard.

Do you need room for sunbathing, or a shady area for small children?

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Is drainage an issue?

What elevation changes are there to consider?

Should the pool be completely recessed in the ground, slightly elevated, or integrated into the footprint of the house?



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4. What materials should I consider as part of the pool project?

"Are there existing elements in the backyard or part of the house that you can integrate or improve upon?"

What types of materials appeal to you? Are you trying to achieve a natural look or something more contemporary? Do you envision a brilliant glass tile waterline or a more subtle stone treatment? What deck material makes sense? Some of the materials you might consider are wood, stone or simulated stone decking, stamped concrete or pavers. For example, a bluestone deck makes a beautiful pool patio, but it can be hot on your feet. A poured concrete deck can be made to match an existing slab and can be poured to make curves with ease, but can suffer from hairline cracks over time. Consider the high traffic areas and weigh the benefits of aesthetics and functionality. Are there existing elements in the backyard or part of the house that you can integrate or improve upon? Having a palette to work from will aid your consultant in the overall aesthetic and help you work within a budget.



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5. **Now I have a pretty picture, but what about the frame?**

*"A simple
design can be
turned into a
backyard
paradise"*

The footprint of the pool and patio is critical to the success of your project, but don't forget to think about the accessory elements, such as landscaping and fencing. A simple design can be turned into a backyard paradise with the proper landscaping plan.

**Are you going for a tropical look,
or a more traditional feel?**

**What type of plant material and
groundcover appeals to you?**

**Will the yard require any trimming or
pruning during construction?**

**Have a plan as to where your fence
should go and where to place your
gates and access points.**



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6.

When should I build?

“A well-planned project is a successful one.”



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Always ask yourself.

“When do I want to be swimming?”

Depending on your location, governing municipality or homeowners association, the design and approval process can take longer than you might expect. A consultant should be familiar with all local code and restrictions can guide you through the process.

Start your planning process early, don't wait until it gets hot to start.

A well-planned project is a successful one.

Typically, you should allow a few weeks for design, planning and permitting procedures. Depending on the scope of work, a two month time frame is an average time span for construction. This would include the excavation, installation of the concrete shell, tile and decking, and electrical work.

7.

How do I select the right contractor?

It's important to know what criteria are important to you when deciding on a contractor for any large project.

Is working with a local business important to you?

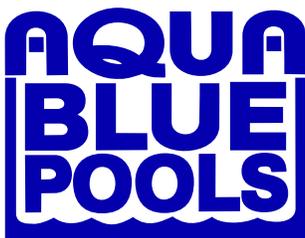
Is it important for you to work with a full-service company?

What kind of support can you expect if there are issues during the project?

Do you feel your consultant has a good understanding of what your expectations are and can deliver?

Be up front and let it be known what is most important to you. A smooth project is a result of a clear understanding of what is going to take place from start to finish.

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If you are thinking about building a swimming pool, you are making a long term decision you need to be very careful with.

You should have the confidence in choosing a pool builder with the credentials and happy customers that give you the feeling of trust you need.

As the low country's only Master Pool Builder, Aqua Blue Pools has been constructing custom, high quality, concrete swimming pools for over 20 years with thousands of completed installations and satisfied customers. Whether your new swimming pool is for family recreation, fitness training, or backyard recreation, we, at Aqua Blue Pools stand ready to assist you with all your pool needs. Beginning with a custom design that is perfect for your yard, our creative award winning design staff will work with you, your architect, builder, and homeowners' association to work in harmony with your needs and desires.

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