

Families jump into home pool market

The first thing a prospective swimming pool buyer should check is whether the builder is licensed by the state and belongs to the Michigan chapter of the National Swimming Pool Institute (NSPI).

Chuck Wagner, president of Wagner Pools of Redford Township, said the Michigan chapter of NSPI, was founded in the late 50s to help organize and police pool builders and suppliers. Membership in the NSPI is a sign to buyers that they are deal-

ing with an experienced, licensed, reputable builder.

"Builder turnover is high," Wagner said, "because they overextend themselves or use poor quality equipment and materials requiring expensive repairs."

"Of course, we are still plagued by the one-shot guy who will take the money and run. This is where the NSPI protects a customer."

Staying on top of new products and techniques is critical in

a young industry like the swimming pool business, Wagner said. Vinyl liners and the gunite process are used together, though liners started out being used with premanufactured steel walls and cement block walls.

This year Wagner has changed over to structural foam, a plastic that he says is noncorrosive, stronger than steel and competitively priced.

Other new products in use are

automatic pool cleaners, solar heat, spas and fountains.

Today's pool buyer, Wagner said, doesn't have the time or inclination to work on his pool. Chlorination, cleaning and even filtering can be completely automatic.

Wagner started building pools in 1954 after specializing in home modernization and garages since 1946. Originally located at Grand River and Telegraph, Wagner moved to Eight

Mile between Beech and Inkster in 1971.

Wagner said 90 per cent of his pool business was in Detroit until the mid-1960s, when it shifted to the suburbs. Since the mid-1970s, Detroit sales are climbing, Wagner said.

Wagner Pools carries a complete stock of chemicals, parts and accessories. Two inground pools are displayed in the indoor showroom.

Lawn-making gets easier

Never before has there been such a wealth of raw materials to choose from when constructing a lawn.

Loads of handsome new cultivars have been bred bluegrasses, perennial ryegrass, and fine

fescues galore. And garden centers sport a wide assortment of handy aids to make lawn plantings succeed tailored fertilizers, safe and selective pesticides, easy-to-use equipment, and much else.

Thatch can help lawn

A certain amount of thatch that accumulation of old tissue deep in the soil is normal, and actually can be beneficial to a lawn. Like the pad under a fine carpet, a thin thatch absorbs impact, making the carpet wear better. This has special importance for lawns or sports grounds which are regularly played upon. A bit of thatch improves their wearability.

Modern lawngrass varieties

may thatch slightly more than did the old-fashioned "common" grasses. This is because they have been bred to make a denser, more beautiful turf that's tight enough to resist weeds. Nature has ways of limiting excessive thatch, however. Earthworms, for example, consume it and spread castings atop it, encouraging decay. A scattering of weed-free topsoil over the lawn would do much the same.

Don't overlook safety

Don't overlook safety in construction of swimming pools. The Better Business Bureau suggests you look for these minimal features:

- Use nonslip materials on the deck surrounding the pool.
- Avoid sudden drops in depth. Clearly mark different water depths.
- Equip ladders with handrails.
- Make certain lighting is sufficient for swimming at night.
- Keep the pool properly maintained.

The dream has become a reality—stretching out in the sun by the side of your own pool, the hum of overheated automobile engines only a distant memory.



Warm Weather brings Bar-B-Q Grill Specials

EMBERMATIC™ GASGRILL BY ARKLA

 <p>FIREFLY GR-20-123</p> <p>includes grill, cart, LP tank</p> <p>Reg. 139.95</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$119⁹⁵</p>	 <p>FLAVORETTE</p> <p>Including in ground post</p> <p>Model GR-20</p> <p>REG. 105.95</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$75⁹⁵</p>	 <p>Charmglow® NATURAL GAS GRILL</p> <p>BARBECUE MODEL 143201</p> <p>TWIN BURNER</p> <p>Including in-ground post</p> <p>461 sq. in. of cooking single control dual burner w/porcelainized cast iron cooking grids.</p> <p>REG. \$254.95</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$195⁹⁵</p>	 <p>MODEL 144001</p> <p>Reg. \$391⁹⁵</p> <p>Including in ground post</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$324⁹⁵</p>
 <p>FLAVOR TWIN</p> <p>450 sq. in. cooking area Includes in ground post</p> <p>REG. \$228.95</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$189⁹⁵</p>	 <p>FLAVOR GIANT</p> <p>450 sq. in. cooking area includes in-ground post</p> <p>reg. \$195.95</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$159⁹⁵</p>	 <p>STEEL COVERED Cooker</p> <p>Model 7820</p> <p>Bittersweet and black</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 350 sq. in. cooking grid chrome plated • Textured baked enamel finish • Double lever smooth action hinges • Adj. and remov. fire pan and ash catcher • Adj. Upper and lower draft controls • 1" diam. alum. legs Whitewall wheels <p>REG. 39.95</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$34⁹⁵</p>	 <p>Charmglow</p> <p>Certified by American Gas Association</p> <p>MODEL 10000</p> <p>Total cooking surface 235" sq. in. approx. 250000 BTU's per hour. You will never know it to look at it... but our economy model. Same rugged condition as all the other Charmglow Barbeques, just a little smaller and with a nickel plated cooking grid. But it still grills, smokes, barbecues and on top of that, does practically everything a kitchen range can do. Some economy model.</p> <p>REG. 139.95</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$89⁹⁹</p> <p>POST OPTIONAL</p>

LIVONIA
37335 Six Mile at Newburg
464-6040

PONTIAC
2418 Elizabeth Lake North Oaks Plaza
681-1828

BLOOMFIELD
1974 Woodward at Sq. Lake Rd
335-3178



6074 Sheldon Rd. at Ford Rd.
CANTON TWP. 455-3240

Store hours
Daily 10-9 • Sat. 10-6
Sun. 12-5