

# Pool Buying Tips

Buying a home swimming pool this year can be compared in many respects to buying a new car. Sizes and price ranges are about the same, each can be custom equipped with a variety of accessories, and the buyer has a number of places to shop for the best deal.

Unlike the car, however, the swimming pool will appreciate in value over the years and more favorable financing is generally available.

Prices for an above-ground pool large enough for family splashing and fun begin around several hundred dollars. Large pools of this type with decking attached along with the smaller in-ground pools are generally comparable to the price of an economy car. Larger, more elaborate in-ground pools can be considerably more expensive, matching more closely the price of a luxury automobile today.

But the National Swimming Pool Institute stresses that, like most autos, most pools built are in the mid-range price. The latest industry figures, for example, indicated that the average in-ground pool, depending upon equipment and deck, cost between \$12 and \$15 per square foot of water area. Such factors as excavation site difficulties and pool design will also affect cost.

The biggest cost saver, accord-

ing to the Institute, is adequate prior planning. NSPI advises that anticipated uses of the pool ranging from family frolicking to serious swimming should be first anticipated before pool size, design and location are considered.

Next in rank for cost savings is shopping to narrow the field of pool contractors to two or three which seem right for your project. Make sure each contractor offers a pool which meets or exceeds the suggested minimum design and construction standards for residential pools formulated by the National Swimming Pool Institute.

Most pools today are constructed of various forms of concrete, with vinyl liners or with fiberglass. Each type has certain advantages in particular applications and differs somewhat in costs. The pool contractors will be able to assist the family in making wise decisions about the pool size and design and guide homeowners as to the costs associated with each type of pool construction.

Additionally, if you have plans for a garden pool, spa, or waterfall in your backyard, check in the beginning with the pool contractor. It will be less expensive in the long run to get all the work done at one time and you can finance it along with the pool.



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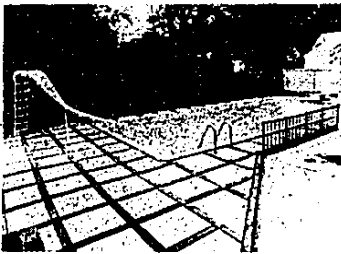


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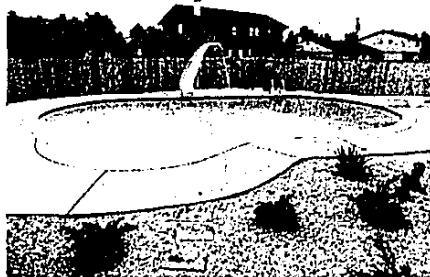
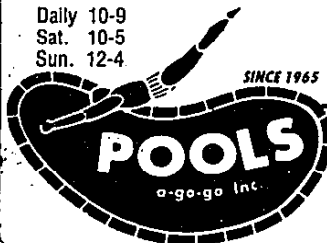


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