



Choosing the Right In-ground Pool for You



- *Fiberglass*

Introduction to Fiberglass Pools



As you consider the various types of in-ground swimming pools available to purchase, one very good option is a fiberglass pool. What exactly is a fiberglass pool? Simply put, it's a factory-built, composite shell comprised of layers of gel coat, vinyl ester resins and fiberglass that are built on molds in the shapes you want. But, of course, with any major purchase, there is more to the product than just this, and you should be familiar with all the advantages of this option. Let's start with some common myths and then move on to the advantages and installation process.



Myths about Fiberglass Pools



Fiberglass pools are popular, as they are affordable, easy to install, and convenient to maintain. Also, unlike their conventional counterparts, fiberglass swimming pools offer economic and environmental benefits. Surprisingly, however, many still have second thoughts about buying a fiberglass pool, and their reluctance stems from some common misconceptions.

Here are some myths about fiberglass pools we hope to clear up to help you choose the right in-ground pool for your home:

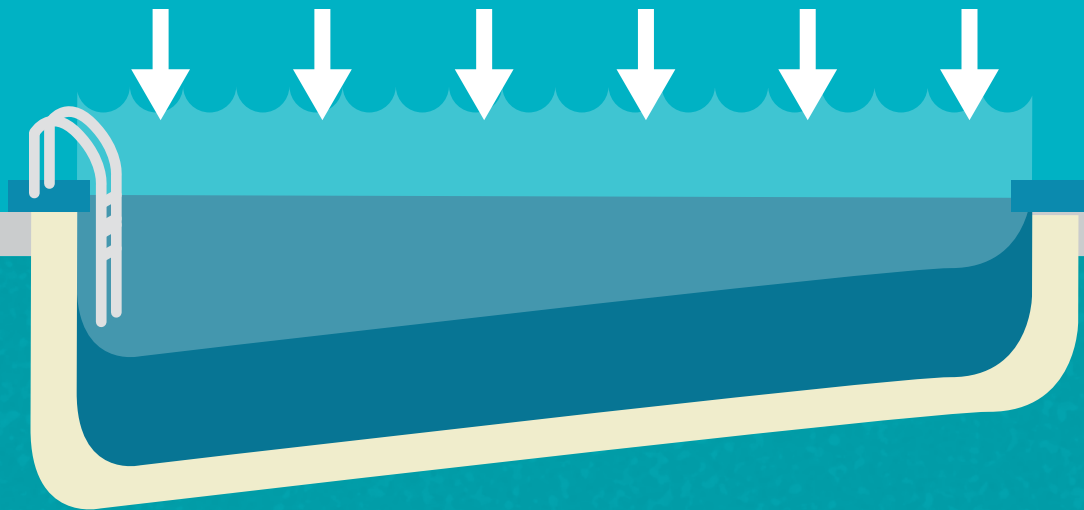


Myth 1: Fiberglass Pools Pop Out of the Ground



Any fiberglass pool manufacturer will have heard about this popular myth.

According to Archimedes' Rule of Displacement, if the weight of the water displaced is equivalent to the weight of the object, the object will float. This means any object will float, provided it is empty and has water under it. Let's face it, steel floats. Aircraft carriers are made of steel, and they float just fine—that is, unless you cut/poke a hole in them and fill them up with water. Then they are like the Titanic, which hasn't moved an inch in over 100 years. A fiberglass pool cannot float if it remains full of water. Similar to other pool types, fiberglass pools, when installed correctly, do not pop up after installation.



Myth 2: Fiberglass Pools are Pricier than Concrete and Vinyl Pools



The initial cost for fiberglass pools is typically similar to that of concrete or gunite pools. A fiberglass pool's advantage is that it offers more savings over time than concrete pools.

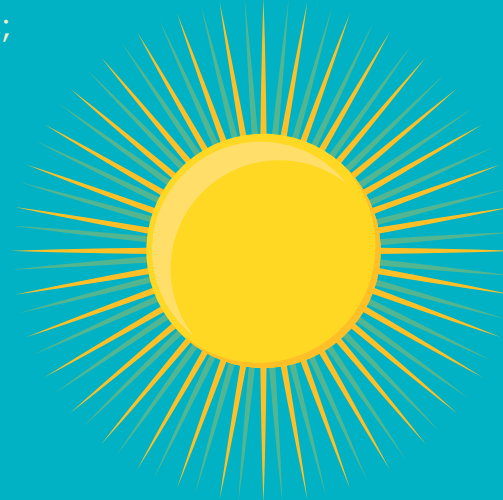
That is, the total cost of ownership of a fiberglass pool is typically lower than its conventional counterparts. With a concrete/gunite pool, there will eventually be the need for acid washes and replastering, neither of which is necessary with a fiberglass pool. Likewise, unlike a vinyl liners pool, there is no liner to replace in a fiberglass pool.



Myth 3: Fiberglass Pools Crack During Cold Seasons



Contrary to this belief, fiberglass pools are perfect for hot and cold climates. Fiberglass has high tensile strength and adapts to climate changes effectively. The beauty of fiberglass is its ability to bend without breaking. This is evidenced in many other manufactured composite products, such as the wings of stealth aircraft, golf clubs, and high-end decking. All of these products are not only well-suited for extreme temperature variance; they are the superior material to make these products from for a variety of reasons.



Myth 4: All Fiberglass Pools Are the Same



The quality of fiberglass pools varies from one manufacturer to another. Make the most of your pool by purchasing one from a trusted company that specializes in fiberglass pools. And, as always, check for warranties and customer reviews before buying any product.



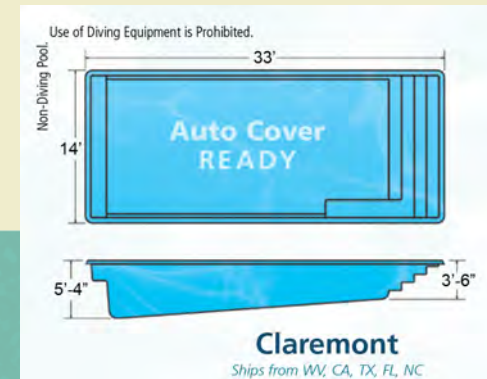
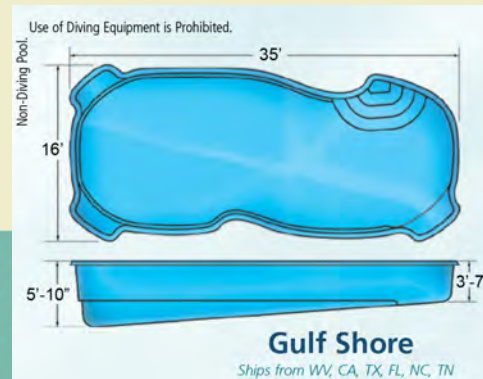
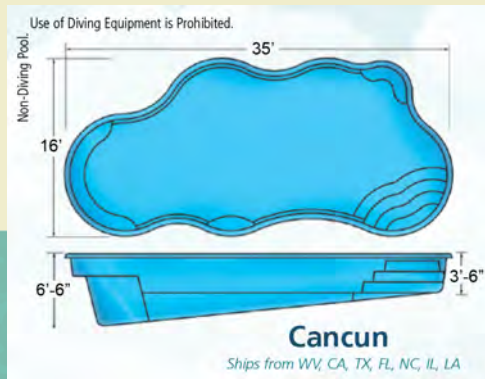
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Installing Fiberglass Pools



Swimming pools are an important home addition. Besides increasing the value of properties, they also provide fun and enjoyable outdoor recreation for you and your family. Swimming pools also promote good health, provide an opportunity for bonding and socializing with your family and friends, and make your home a more enjoyable place to live. There are different types of swimming pools that you can install in your backyard. These include above-ground pools and in-ground pools. In-ground pools are typically fiberglass, vinyl over steel wall, vinyl over polymer wall, or concrete/gunite.

Fiberglass swimming pools are an excellent option as they are manufactured in many popular shapes and sizes including: freeform, rectangular, kidney, custom, and classic.



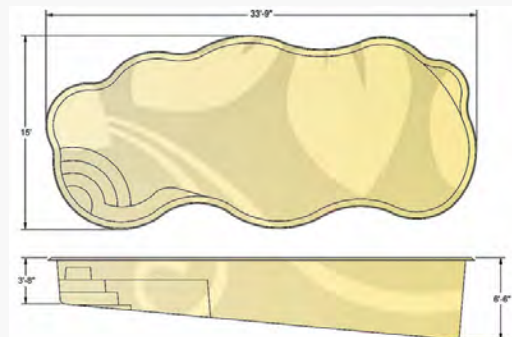
samples



Easy to Install



Fiberglass pools are generally easy to install. It is recommended that a qualified professional be used for any type of swimming pool installation. When installing a fiberglass swimming pool, a construction crew digs an appropriately sized hole, installs a sump drain, prepares the bottom of the hole with sand or gravel, and sets the pool shell into the hole. The pool shell is then leveled and plumbed. After plumbing water and backfill are added at the same time, the equipment is set in place. Once the pool shell is plumbed, filled, and backfilled, the project is ready for electrical hookups and decking (of which there are many options). The process of installing a fiberglass pool can take a few days to a couple of weeks, depending on the size and scope of the project.



Easy to Maintain and Repair



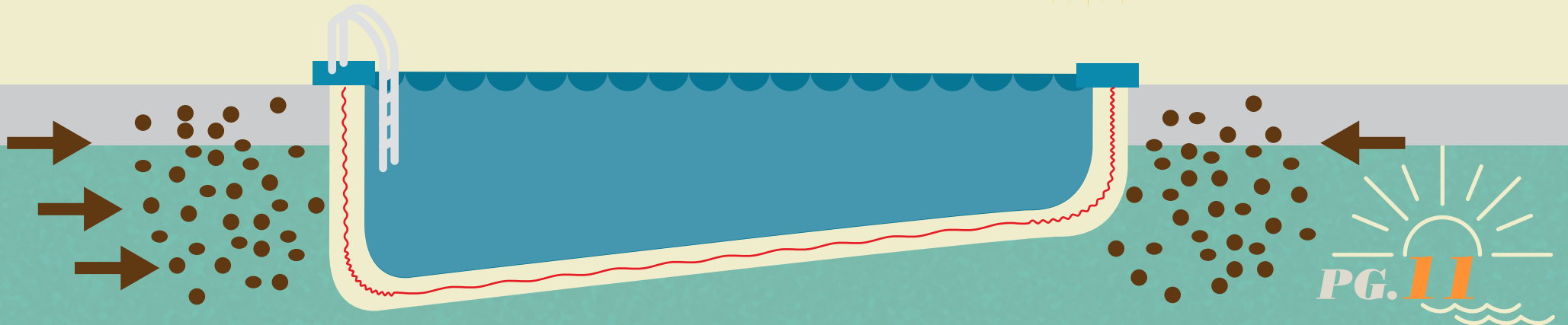
Innovative fiberglass pools have a smooth, non-porous, and durable finish. These deter the growth of algae and mold on the surface, prolonging the life of your pool. With a smooth surface, you can easily clean them via brushing. Top manufacturers also offer long term warranties for fiberglass pool surfaces and structure.



Strength



Fiberglass pools are designed to be strong. The high tensile strength of the material allows the pool to flex without breaking. This rugged construction lends itself to a lifetime of trouble-free ownership. Like a bulletproof vest (also made of composite construction), the pool shell can withstand significant loads without failing.



Custom Features



One of the great advantages of a fiberglass pool is the array of features available to customize the look of the pool or add to the convenience of maintaining a fiberglass pool. These features are typically installed at the factory prior to delivery, and depending on your tastes, they can really enhance both the aesthetics of the pool as well as the overall experience itself. Among the choices available are:

- **Perimeter Tile:** These make for a nice highlight feature, but they also can be a safety feature that make stairs and seats easier to see.
- **Mosaics:** These are a nice touch that add charm to your pool while reflecting personality and style.
- **Inlaid Tile:** Inlaid tile made of glass or ceramic can be added to floors, steps, seats, and skimmers, giving your pool a very sophisticated appearance.
- **Cascades:** For those who enjoy the soothing sound of waterfalls, cascades are a perfect feature for relaxing poolside.
- **Streams:** Like cascades, streams are a tranquil feature, but it's also adjustable in case you want to change the look and feel.

Custom Features *cont'*



- **In-floor cleaning:** This is a popular feature many fiberglass pool owners select because it makes maintenance easier. These systems help distribute the chemicals through your pool while helping to clean the floor, and some even have canisters to catch large debris in the water.
- **Umbrella stands:** Depending on where your pool is situated, you may need a little extra shade from the sun in which case an umbrella stand will be ideal.
- **Lighting:** If you want to enjoy your pool at night while also enhancing the dramatic effect of your pool's appearance, then you'll want to consider a lighting package. There is a great deal you can do with the right lighting combination, and with WiFi components available, they can be controlled through various mobile devices.
- **Tanning Ledges:** Tanning ledges are an exquisite feature perfect for lounge chairs, a children's play area, or shallow water sunbathing. Tanning ledges can also add a running water element that turns your pool into a water feature.
- **Spas:** Spas are an increasingly popular feature that can be creatively incorporated into your pool, giving it the added benefit of a dedicated cozy space to enjoy alone or with close friends and family.

Conclusion



Installing an in-ground fiberglass pool in your outdoor space is a worthy investment when you consider the benefits—in addition to the countless hours of enjoyment you will get out of it. A fiberglass pool is a great addition to your home. Give your backyard a makeover and welcome spring with a new pool for the family.



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