

## Where do I start when adding a pool to my home?



**T**alk with family members about the pool, determine who is going to use it and how they wish to use it. How you plan on using a pool will play a major role in determining the shape, features, costs and to some extent may affect placement in the yard.

Will the pool be used for exercise? If so, the pool may be built with a resistance system while keeping the overall size more reasonable. Do family members wish to dive in the pool? This will require a pool with not only a deep end but an overall longer length. Will young children or grandchildren be using the pool? If so, you may want to consider a tanning/wading area and consider adding a foam jet(s) to that area for additional effect. Do you want a spa, and if so, do you want to elevate it to add a water feature element? Do you want to use the spa when the pool is shut down for winter?

With today's automated systems (pool to spa), it takes just a touch of a button to operate these various components. In-house status panels let you see what is operating at a glance.

Perhaps the most important question to start with is whether or not you want/need a pool with an automatic cover. While "free-form" pools can sometimes be covered, it is generally best to build a rectangular pool if you desire an automatic pool cover. Pool covers allow you to reasonably heat the pool early in the season and late in the season.

Keeping the pool rectangular affords the least costly cover installation, as well as least expensive to maintain.

Once you have discussed these issues, make sure you have a current

copy of your plat of survey. If all you have is a small copy that has been faxed to you, call the survey company and request a new full-size copy. The pool builder(s) you call, as well as the fence companies and landscapers, are going to need it. It will save time for everyone if you already have copies.

If you have friends or neighbors with pools, go take a look and ask them what they like or don't like about their pools. Pay attention to the pool deck materials and the coping (the edging). Call at least one pool builder before you start with landscapers. A good pool builder will be happy to design a pool to scale which you can then incorporate into a landscape plan. Pool builders have more experience in guiding you in selection of size and shape of the pool to be built. Landscape designers can then help with placement and materials.

### Downes Swimming Pool Company

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