

Pools offer a wonderful centre of entertainment for many Australian families and can increase the quality of your family life.

If you're considering building a pool, there are a few key issues you need to think about before you start.

- How much space can we devote to a swimming pool
- Easements and restrictions on your property
- How do you find a suitable pool builder
- How big is our family and what are their ages (how interested will they be in using the pool and what depth and shape will be the most practical)
- How much can we afford to spend on a pool
- Pool fencing and safety
- Solar heating and solar blankets
- Type of pool: - Spa, Lap, Wading, Wave, Diving
- Cost of pool maintenance and on going up keep
- Time involved in maintaining a pool
- Local Government regulations and requirements
- Pool safety
- Landscaping



Once you have decided you want a pool you will then need to consider the style of pool that would be best suitable for both your family needs and the space you have. A deep pool both ends may not be suitable for a young family.

**There are three main types of pools, in-ground, above-ground and spa pools.**

**In-ground** pools are very popular and are generally constructed of either concrete or fibreglass.

With an in-ground pool you'll also need to consider what type of finish you want to surround your pool. You may choose between either decking, stone, grass or paving blocks.

The most popular in-ground pool shapes are rectangular and kidney shaped, although these days many pool building companies are willing to build custom designs based on your desires and the location of the pool.

Once you've decided an in-ground pool is the way to go, you will need to find a pool builder.

Ask for recommendations from friends and family and get a full quote before you sign on the dotted line. Some companies will charge extra for things like removing soil and rock from your property, so make sure all additional charges are included in the quote.

The other style of pool is the **above-ground** pool and these are generally much more cost effective to install than in-ground pools.

Generally speaking above ground pools are round or oval in shape, although rectangular shapes are also available. Keep in mind the depth of an above-ground pool is generally less, so if you want to do a lot of diving, perhaps you would be better off with an in-ground pool.

Above-ground pools are becoming more sophisticated every year and some suppliers now provide additional features such as decking, lighting and walk in steps.

When you are completing the budget for your pool, don't forget to allow for landscaping and security fencing.