



Pool Types - One Piece and Above Ground

One piece swimming pools

The introduction of the prefabricated Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) swimming pool has enabled pool manufacturers to carry out 95% of the construction of this pool type in the factory. This has meant a huge saving both in time and money in construction and fitting out.

Using the same tried and tested technology employed by the builders of luxury motor cruisers, the one-piece, seam-free pool can be fitted with all the necessary equipment including skimmers, drain(s), inlets, pump, filter, underwater lights, etc., prior to delivery to the home.

Once on site, the pool is craned into position and lowered onto a pre-prepared excavation, with a crushed gravel base. The pool is then filled with water while the gap between the pool and the soil surround is back filled with gravel. Once all the pre-assembled pipework has been connected, a concrete surround collar is fitted around the top perimeter of the pool and coping or paving stones complete the installation; usually within just five days from start to finish!



One Piece, GRP pools have been popular in Australia for many years, where 60% of pools are built in this fashion and this type of installation is growing in popularity in the UK. The pre-moulded structure means the pool can have features such as built in steps and shallow, deep end and underwater ledges for less than it would cost to provide similar facilities in concrete pools. GRP is also hard wearing as well as being chemical and temperature resistant and offers a quick and economical entry into the world of pool ownership.

Recent developments have seen the one-piece concept produced in ceramic materials, with all the same benefits, but the added advantages of greater strength and durability.

There are, however, limitations on the size of one-piece pools, from both a construction and delivery viewpoint, and suitable access can be a problem. Large cranes and even helicopters have been used in some difficult locations!





Above ground pools

The idea of a purpose-built designer pool may not be a practical proposition for all homeowners. Limitations such as ground conditions, budget constraints or the fact that your job might entail moving to a new home every few years may all restrict the type of pool you want to buy. In these circumstances, the above ground pool may be the best option.

Round, oval or hexagonal above ground pools are modular in construction and, given a level site, are incredibly simple to build, lending themselves to self-assembly. All of the components come boxed and the whole construction can be erected within a day for some of the smaller models. When the time comes to move house, you can drain and dismantle your pool before transporting and re-erecting in its new location.

Above ground pools are particularly economical to buy, with the smallest costing around £1,400 rising to approximately £7,000 for a large, luxury package. Of course, as with all swimming pools, accessories such as filters, heaters and pool covers are very important, but the lower water capacity of above ground pools means maintenance costs are relatively low.

Pools can be 42" or 48" deep and round pools can range from 12' to 24' in diameter with oval models of 12' x 18' to 21' x 41'. Frames come in easily handled lightweight sections in a variety of finishes from a simple painted surface to attractive solid timber.



The pool is lined with a durable heavy gauge waterproof liner, in some cases a choice of liner colour and pattern will be available. Some pools are fitted with a top rail forming a safe and convenient edging to the pool walls. With a sturdy aluminium or plastic ladder, underwater lighting, sand filter, heater and skimmer unit, above ground pools are very easy to use and maintain.

For those owners that prefer a pool with deep end, rather than a uniform depth, you can find some models which can meet this demand. The pool can be landscaped with the addition of raised terraces or split level decking allowing you to sunbathe next to your pool.

If you live inland, away from the sea, or have limited (or no) access to a public swimming pool, above ground pools are an ideal way of teaching children to swim in a safe and friendly environment. Equally important, with the access ladder removed, unsupervised toddlers cannot be tempted to climb in. As with all pools, they are an excellent form of recreation and relaxation for all the family.

