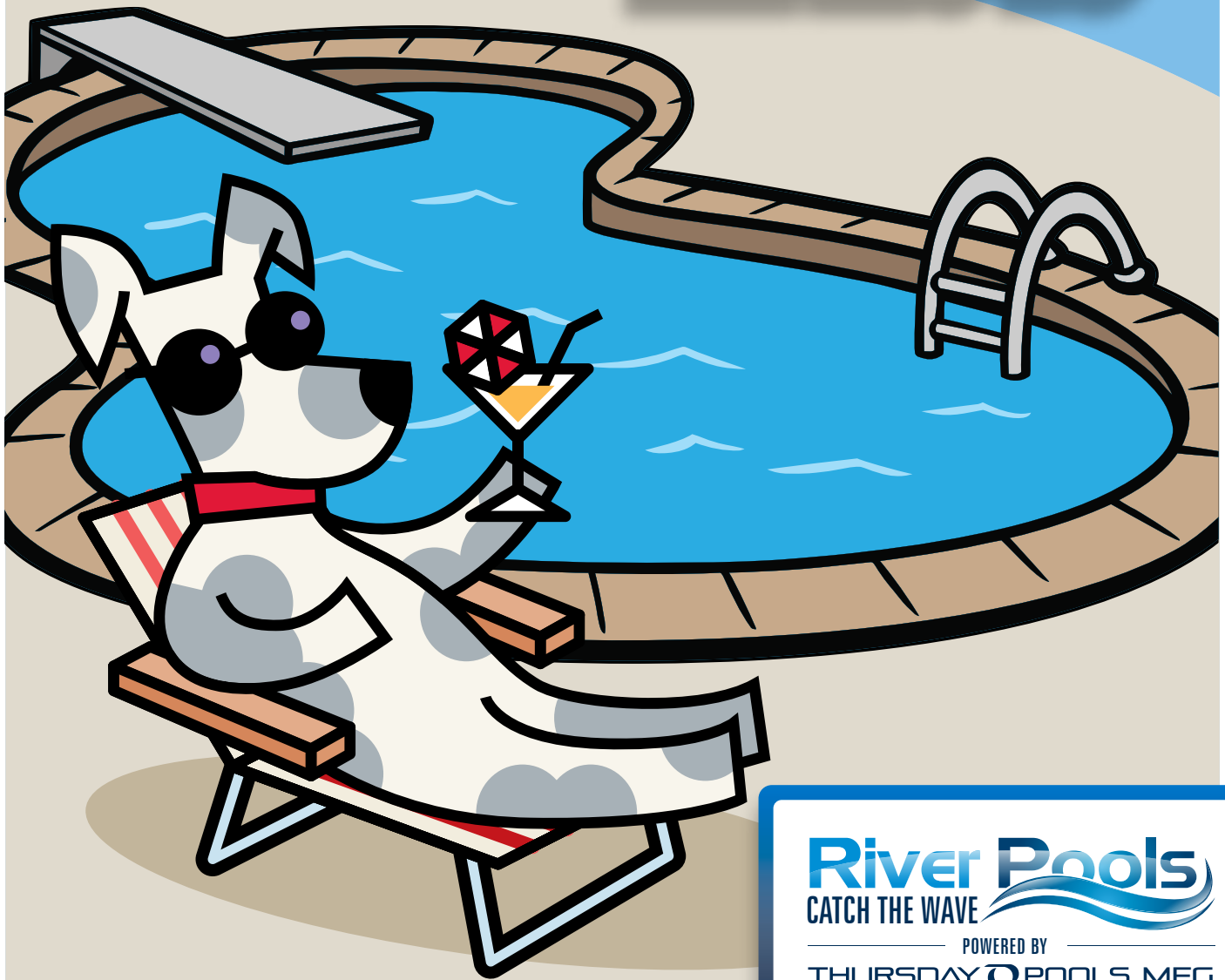


HOW TO BUY A FIBERGLASS POOL IN 2016



River Pools
CATCH THE WAVE
POWERED BY
THURSDAY POOLS, MFG.

riverpoolsandspas.com

Written by Jason Hughes

On behalf of all of us at River Pools Powered by Thursday Pools Manufacturing, we want to thank you for taking the time to visit our website and for taking the initiative to read and learn about swimming pools. Inground pools are a big investment, and we've found that folks who take time to educate themselves about pools typically end up much happier with their project in the end. This is why we make a genuine effort to provide as much reliable information as possible.

And wow, what an exciting time for you and your family! We want this to be a great experience for you, so we hope you find this guide helpful on your journey to finding the right pool for you.

In case you are new to our website and are wondering who we are, we specialize in manufacturing fiberglass pools for distribution through our authorized dealers across North America. We also install pools in Virginia and Maryland for our customers there. You can learn more about us and our partnership with Thursday Pools, the driving force behind our manufacturing here:

www.riverpoolsandspas.com/the-river-thursday-story.

You may be asking yourself how it's possible that a manufacturer/installer can present such information in an unbiased way. Well, we certainly understand where you're coming from. People have been asking us this for years. But this is exactly why the River Pools website has become the most trafficked swimming pool website in the world. We are known to be outrageously honest, transparent, and unbiased in everything we teach and preach online. Furthermore, we are the first to admit that we might not be the best fit for every pool shopper out there. But this doesn't mean we can't provide exceptional value and information.

Perhaps at this stage of the game, you are still unsure whether a Fiberglass, Vinyl Liner, or Concrete Pool is right for you. If you want to explore that topic a little further check out our Free Ebook Comparing Fiberglass, Concrete, and Fiberglass Pools In The Modern Age (www.riverpoolsandspas.com/free-ebook-comparing-fiberglass-concrete-vinyl-liner-inground-pools) for an unbiased and detailed explanation of the pros and cons of each type of pool. It simply provides information, then backs off and let's you draw your own conclusions.

But just in case you need a quick overview, here is a chart outlining the differences between Fiberglass, Concrete, and Vinyl Liner inground pools:

DESIRED QUALITIES OF INGROUND POOLS	FIBERGLASS	VINYL LINER	CONCRETE
Low Maintenance	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Speed of Installation	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Low Chemical Usage	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Smoothness of Finish	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Durability	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Low Lifetime Cost of Ownership	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Energy Efficiency	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Attractive and Elegant Look	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Beauty of Interior Finish	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Factory Controlled Quality	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Number of Available Features	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Resale Value	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Compatibility with Salt Systems	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Low Initial Cost	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Customizable Shape and Size	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ = EXCELLENT

“

In this comprehensive guide, we are going to tackle the most relevant questions pool consumers have about buying a fiberglass pool today.

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Okay, let's jump right in!

Chapter 1: How Much Does A Fiberglass Pool Cost in 2016?

In this section, we provide the tools needed to determine a ballpark price for your total project.

In the following video I discuss the topic of inground pool pricing and explain some of the factors that will help you plan your inground pool budget.



As I discussed in the video, determining your pool budget is probably the most pressing question you have. Let's get into some more detail and help you understand how to budget for your inground pool.

Let start by understanding that the question “how much does a pool cost?” is a lot like asking “how much does a house cost?”:

The generic answer is “it depends”.

House prices depend on a wide range of factors in including the size, location, and the materials used. Pools are no different, and the prices of a pool can vary just as much as that of a house.

Notwithstanding, here are a few things to consider:

- ➡ **The average cost of an inground pool in America in 2015 was around \$40,000.**
- ➡ **The average fiberglass pool customer in America spends somewhere between \$30k and \$90 on their entire project.**
- ➡ **In Virginia and Maryland where we install the pools we manufacture, our average customer spends about \$50k with the average range being \$40k to \$90k.**
- ➡ **The prices of pools from our authorized dealers located throughout the country will vary dramatically from region to region....sometimes as much as 50% based on climate and availability of resources.**

So How Do I Plan My Personal Pool Budget?

Assuming you are like most folks, and prefer to have an authorized fiberglass pool dealer install the pool instead of installing it yourself, you can break your budget down into the following three categories:

- ➡ **The Base Package**
- ➡ **The Patio**
- ➡ **Options and Accessories**

① How Much Does The Base Package Cost?

This is another tricky question because every contractor's base package is unique. Some pool builders will only include the pool shell, installation of the shell, and filter system. This is typically done in an attempt to make the initial price of the pool seem as low as possible...and it is a very common sales tactic that proves to be effective for them, at least in the short term. However, I haven't met a customer yet who enjoys being surprised with additional expenses during a project, so in the end, the builder is left with an unhappy client.

If you want to avoid surprise costs during your pool project we have two words of advice:

- 1. Be Specific**
- 2. Get Everything In Writing**


Here's a List of Potential Expenses For A Fiberglass Pool:

POTENTIAL EXPENSES FOR A FIBERGLASS POOL	
The Fiberglass Pool Shell	Building Permit
Delivery of Pool Shell	Crane Fee
Water to Fill Pool	Dirt Hauling Fee
Pump and Filter System	Stone or Sand for Installation
Pool Vacuuming/Cleaning Equipment	Pool Fence
Cost Of Retaining Wall	The Patio Cost
Final Grading/Landscaping of Yard	Yard Drainage
Electrical Hook-up Cost	Hitting Rock During Excavation

Be sure to check out Chapter some of the resources below to learn how to insure you're getting a fair price and won't be taken advantage of.

Does The Shape Of The Pool Affect The Price?

We are asked from time to time if the shape of the pool affects the price. Actually, it's the size, not the shape of the pool that makes the difference. Basically, the larger the pool the higher the price.

 **BUDGETING TIP:** To calculate a ballpark cost for a base package in most parts of the country, figure between \$1,000 and \$1,400 per foot of pool length. This certainly does not hold true in all cases but it's a start. For example, let's say you're looking at a 30' pool and figured \$1,200 per foot, you would have a \$36,000 base package. Again, prices in your area could be much higher or lower.

② How Do I Budget For My Patio?

The cost of your pool patio is based on two things:

- ➡ **The square footage of the patio**
- ➡ **And the material you chose**

So How much patio do I need?

The average pool patio is between 600 and 1000 square feet in size.


That is typically enough to accommodate some lounge chairs and a table and chair set, plus enough to walk around the entire pool.

It's typically best to consolidate your patio square footage into one or two areas. For example, instead of having eight feet of patio around the entire pool, try placing 10' or 12' on a side or an end of the pool and reducing the amount in another area. This will make the best use of your space.

So How Much Do Different Patio Materials Cost?

Here's a list of patio materials and typical price ranges (varies by region):

Broom finish concrete	\$6 - \$10 per square foot
Stamped concrete	\$12 - \$20 per square foot
Concrete Pavers	\$14 - \$22 per square foot
Natural Stone	\$25 - \$35 per square foot

 **BUDGETING TIP:** Our average customer usually spends somewhere between \$3,000 and \$12,000 on their pool patio. However, it's not uncommon to see folks spend a lot more, sometimes \$20,000 or \$30,000.

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