

**DEBUNKED**  
**TOP 7**  
**MYTHS**  
**— ABOUT —**  
**FIBERGLASS**  
**SWIMMING POOLS**



# WHAT IS FIBERGLASS?

Fiberglass is made from lightweight glass fibers that are as flexible as silk, can look like cotton candy, yet are extremely strong and durable. Despite these amazing properties, myths about fiberglass being a suitable material for swimming pools are everywhere.

We at Latham know that purchasing a swimming pool for your home is an expensive proposition, so in an effort to help you make an informed decision, we have created this e-book to debunk the most common Fiberglass Pool myths.

*LET'S LOOK AT THE TOP SEVEN.*

*FUN FACT:* Fiberglass was the result of a lucky accident at the Owens-Illinois bottle plant in 1932.



# MYTH #1: *FIBERGLASS SWIMMING POOLS POP OUT OF THE GROUND.*

**THIS IS THE #1 MYTH AIMED AT FIBERGLASS POOLS  
AND IT IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE.**

For the record, any pool can pop out of the ground, even concrete, if not properly installed or maintained. Without going into a physics lesson or a long discourse on proper installation methods, the chief culprit of this rare phenomenon is the buildup of drainage water or seasonal high water around a pool that's improperly installed. To combat such installation mishaps, we provide detailed guidelines to our builders like an excavation template, a material list for the base and backfill, as well as information on how to insure that your fiberglass pool is properly set, to name a few. In addition, most fiberglass pools have a cantilever concrete deck installed around the pool's lip, further securing your pool from ground shifts. And since you never need to drain a fiberglass pool (remember improper maintenance is the second part of this equation), you can see how ridiculous this myth is.



# MYTH #2: *FIBERGLASS POOLS ARE HARD TO MAINTAIN.*

**WRONG.**

If anything, the exact opposite is true. Did you know that on average, fiberglass pool owners spend less time and money maintaining their pools? And did you know that a fiberglass pool is more durable and eco-friendly than its counterparts? The reason for this is because fiberglass is non-porous and smooth, unlike concrete, so algae cannot grow on its surface. This translates into less time scrubbing and messing with dangerous chemicals and more time swimming and relaxing. And with fewer chemicals to purchase, your fiberglass pool is less expensive to maintain than its counterparts. Aside from maintaining your pool's PH balance, which will still be less often than if you owned a concrete or vinyl pool, you will need to skim your fiberglass pool. But if this still sounds like too much work, then check out our Extreme Clean Systems that make pool maintenance easy.



***FUN FACT:*** Owens-Corning is given credit for the discovery of fiberglass.

# MYTH #3: FIBERGLASS POOLS CAN'T BE CUSTOMIZED.

FALSE.

Now it is true that fiberglass pools must come from a pre-existing mold, but gone are the days when they look like cheap bathtubs. Nowadays, with over 100 shapes and designs to choose from, you have the ability to create a beautiful pool that is uniquely yours. Toss in customizable options such as color, tile, cascades, bubblers, tanning ledges, and LED lighting, and your pool will not only be aesthetically pleasing but will also have a unique, custom-crafted look.

**FUN FACT:** Aside from swimming pools, fiberglass is used in manufacturing cars, golfclubs, playground equipment, fiber optic cable, boats and planes, to name just a few.



# MYTH #4: FIBERGLASS POOLS ARE MORE EXPENSIVE.

## THIS IS A TRICK QUESTION.

If you compare the initial purchase of a fiberglass pool to that of a vinyl pool, then yes, a fiberglass pool is more expensive. Compared to concrete? They are about the same cost. But over time a fiberglass pool is less expensive than its counterparts. How is this possible? One word: maintenance. A concrete pool needs more chemicals, requires regular cleaning, and needs to be resealed every 5 years. Vinyl pools also require more chemicals and the liner will need to be replaced every 7-10 years. In the long run, a fiberglass pool is not only less-expensive, it is easier to maintain and is more durable. But if that is not enough to convince you, then contact us with your questions. Let us draw upon our 60 years of experience in the pool industry to help you find a durable, beautiful pool that is perfect for your home and family.



*FUN FACT:* Fiberglass spacesuits were worn by the first men on the moon.

# MYTH #5:

## *FIBERGLASS POOLS CAN'T BE USED WITH SALTWATER SYSTEMS.*

**FALSE.**

False. In fact, the exact opposite is true: fiberglass pools are perfect for a salt water system. Why? As mentioned previously, fiberglass is smooth, nonporous and durable so salt water will not harm the shell. And since a fiberglass pool already has low maintenance and uses less chemicals—which is eco-friendlier than other systems—you can see why fiberglass pools are ideal for saltwater.



# MYTH #6:

## FIBERGLASS POOLS ARE EXPENSIVE TO INSTALL AND ARE NOT DURABLE.

**FALSE.**

Fiberglass pools on average cost the same to install as a concrete pool. However, a concrete pool can take months to complete. A fiberglass pool can be installed in merely a few weeks. What does that mean to you, the homeowner? Simply put, quicker installation time amounts to decreased labor costs. Not to mention you and your family will be enjoying your pool a lot sooner. The real financial savings, however, lies in the long term maintenance and savings on chemicals. Because Algae doesn't cling to a fiberglass pool's smooth finish, you will find yourself using less chemicals than a concrete pool owner. In addition concrete pools will crack and chip over time requiring occasional re-surfacing and repair. Your fiberglass pool will have no such issues.



**FUN FACT:** The first residential pool was constructed in 1895 at the Vanderbilt residence in Asheville, NC.



# **MYTH #7:** *FIBERGLASS POOLS ARE NOT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY.*

## **ONCE MORE, THIS IS FALSE.**

Remember, fiberglass pools have a smooth gel coat finish, which makes them immune to algae, so you will use less chemicals than you would with a concrete pool. Factor in that fiberglass is a natural insulator— unlike concrete —and you will be saving on heating. In short, your new fiberglass pool is not only eco-green, but will save you some of that hard earned green as well.



# CONCLUSION

We hope this e-book has been informative and has demystified these 7 myths about fiberglass pools. Should you need any further assistance, or have questions pertaining to myths not addressed in this e-book, please get in touch with us. We would love to help!



*FUN FACT:* In the late 50's, the one-piece fiberglass pool was introduced.

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