

# The Ultimate Above Ground Pool Buyer's Guide

By All-  
American  
Recreation





## **Foreword**

# **Summer is coming,**

and there's no better way to hang out and relax than by the side of a pool. However, cost is a barrier for most families looking to install a personal inground pool.

Luckily, above ground pools offer an affordable alternative. Unlike inflatable rubber pools, our above ground pools are sturdy enough to last through the winter. They are versatile, lending a home all the benefits of an inground pool, with none of the expensive or time-consuming drawbacks.

If you are just considering an above ground pool for the first time, it can be hard to know what to look for. This guide will serve to introduce you to the details of what makes a quality above ground pool, and how to care for your pool, so it can be a great investment for your family for many years to come.

-Jerry Schiltz  
All-American Recreation

# Choosing a High-Quality Pool



How do you tell a good pool from a great pool? It doesn't matter how beautiful a pool looks if it can't stand up to corrosion, heavy use, or weather.

A pool should last years, so you can spend more time enjoying it and less time paying for it. Look for construction elements that will ensure durability:

- More uprights per pool circumference
- Stainless steel and other corrosion-prevention
- Exact-fit components to seal in water



Buying from a reputable company will save you plenty of headaches. Look for:

- Retailers with long histories and good reviews
- Salespeople who are knowledgeable and up front about costs
- Merchants who can provide factory-direct savings



# Pool Care and Maintenance

## Pumps

A pool pump cleans the pool water of things like bacteria and algae. A pool pump should be properly sized so it can filter all of the water within an eight-hour period. There may also be cases, particularly during hot days where many people are using the pool, when the pump may need to run for 24 hours.





We at All-American Recreation generally oversize the pool pump and the filter size to ensure the purity of the pool water.

The oversized pool pump allows sufficient horsepower to increase the water flow for vacuuming and cleaning the swimming pool.

Running the pool pump can influence your electric bill. We recommend a two-speed pump to reduce the electrical cost.

# Filters



## **Sand Filter Systems**

Sand filters are easy to care for. A filter dial valve should be used to backwash and rinse the sand media when the pressure gauge indicates high pressure. Sand filters waste a small amount of water during the backwash process but the cost is minor.

Sand filters require the sand media to be changed within five years depending on the water chemistry and debris in the water.



## **Cartridge Filter Systems**

One benefit to cartridge filters is that they do not require as much space as sand filters. However, the filter elements need to be changed more frequently than filter sand, and regularly maintained to extend their life and usefulness.

Like sand filters, cartridge filter elements should be cleaned when the pressure gauge indicates high pressure. Dirty filter elements should be removed from the filter canister to be rinsed out and brushed clean.

Replacement filter elements will be required depending on the number of times a cartridge filter element is cleaned, the size of the filter system, and the water chemistry. Filter elements should be replaced every 1-2 years.

Filters with cracked shells, ripped or fraying fabric, or broken inner cartridges should be replaced.

All-American Recreation gives our customers the choice of a sand filter system or a cartridge filter system at the same sale price.





# Chemicals and Stabilizer

When we talk about pool care, we're often speaking of the water inside the pool.

Before we get to that though, there are a few things that should be looked at in the body of the pool. The main problem a pool may run into is water leakage. Leaking water can corrode pool parts and should be dealt with immediately.

If you notice rust on your pool or puddles forming outside it, check the vinyl liner of your pool immediately for tears or other signs of leaking.

As for the interior of the pool, use a vacuum and a brush to keep the vinyl liner and floor clean and free of bacteria.



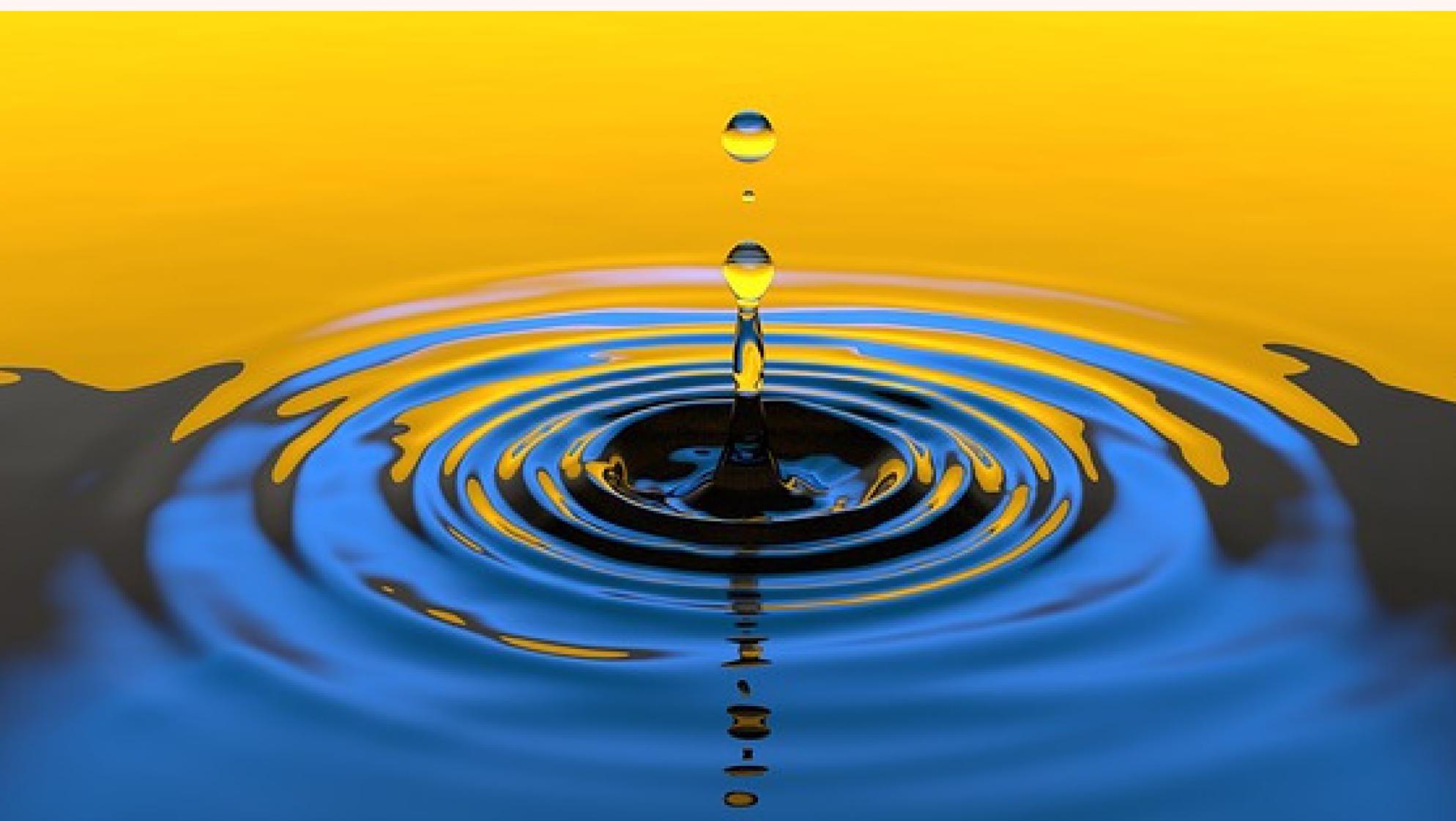
Now we can get to the water! A skimmer can keep debris out of the water and help the filter keep the water fresh. Pool water must be cleaned and balanced to prevent the buildup of algae and bacteria.

Chlorine is the main stabilizing chemical in pools. Alkalinity, pH, and calcium should also be tested and balanced to maintain a healthy pool. Water testing kits make this process easy. Regular chlorine shock treatments will also help kill resistant algae and break down any buildup.

**Saltwater chlorine generators are not recommended on pools with steel top rails.**

If your pool already has a water problem, you can go on the offensive to restore your pool health. First, take a fresh sample of pool water to All-American Recreation for a free water test.

Once the problem has been determined, a variety of solutions are available. If the chlorine count is low, shock treatment can be added to the water. Algaecide will kill off any algae blooms. To assist in cleaning, run the pool pump 24 hours a day.



# Shipping and Installation

The installation process will depend on the size and shape of your pool. Your yard may require excavation to ensure it is level.

An installation crew will provide excavation and preparation of the pool site.

You have the choice of hiring the All-American Recreation installation crew, a sub-contractor crew, or installing the pool on your own.

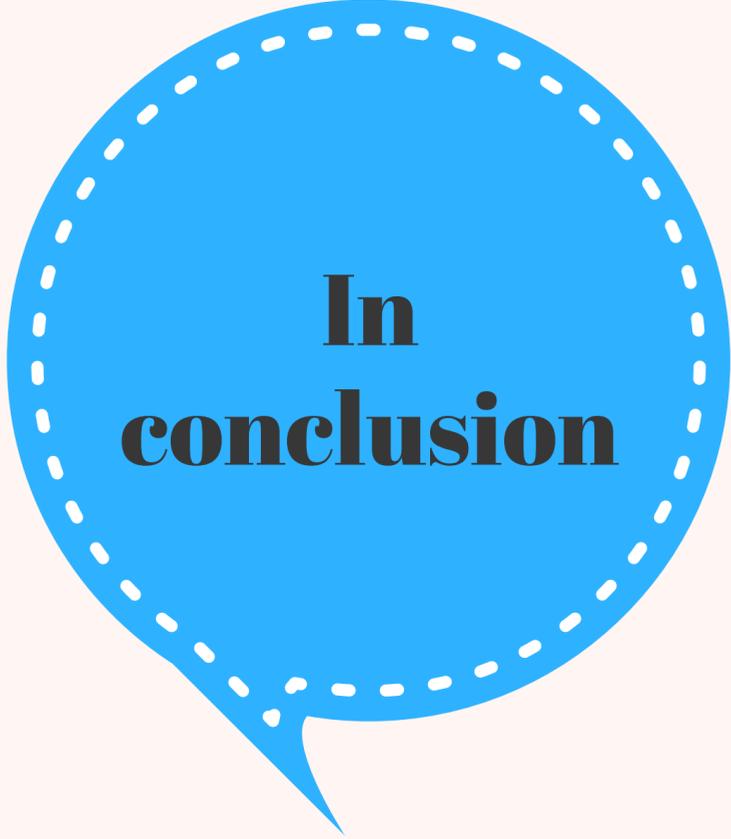




The All-American Recreation pool kit sale price includes the pool frame, pool wall, vinyl liner, pool filter system, solar blanket, pool ladder, maintenance accessories and pool chemicals.

Pool kits can be custom ordered to accommodate your requirements and will be delivered to your pool site prior to installation.

A wide selection of brushes, skimmers, nets, and other cleaning supplies will keep your pool care straight forward.



**In  
conclusion**

# **Having a pool is a big responsibility**

but you'll have plenty of support along the way. With the selection and supplies at All-American Recreation, you have choices that fit your budget, your needs, and your tastes.

All-American Recreation has sold and serviced swimming pools since 1972. With hundreds of satisfied customers over many years of selling pools, it's no surprise we have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

Come in to our St. Paul or Bloomington location today to see our selection for yourself. Or visit us at [AllAmericanRec.com](http://AllAmericanRec.com).

We look forward to seeing you!

