



State of the Florida Pool Industry

September 2021

The Florida Swimming Pool Association (FSPA) is a trade association for swimming pool contractors and allied organizations such as manufacturers, distributors, related industry professionals, and service providers.

Throughout 2020 the pool industry stepped up to serve Floridians who were staying home and utilizing their backyards more than ever. Interest in owning a swimming pool soared with a 23% increase in new pool permits over the prior year, the largest single-year increase in more than a decade.

Simultaneously, the manufacturing of equipment began seeing delays due to limits on personnel in manufacturing facilities for compliance with social distancing protocols as well as longer delivery times for overseas shipments.

In addition, the workforce of individuals who work in the swimming pool field is facing the same challenges as other trades. Swimming pools are a product built by hand by many people and there is a limited labor pool of qualified individuals. Quarantine procedures for everyone's safety can also cause delays across all phases of a project.

The result of unforeseen demand, manufacturing delays, and limited labor has resulted in a much longer process for Florida homeowners wishing to build or renovate a swimming pool. It is common for a pool builder to be scheduling new pool sales appointments several weeks or months in advance. Furthermore, it could be six months or more before construction or remodeling work begins.

These influencing circumstances have continued through 2021, and there are no anticipated changes on the horizon.

The FSPA encourages homeowners to do research when selecting a swimming pool contractor. The first step should be to confirm the contractor is properly licensed by the state of Florida (www.myfloridalicense.com). Secondly, consider reviewing our Swimming Pool Buyer's Guide, which can be found at: www.floridapoolpro.com/construction. Finally, please be respectful of the external factors, which will affect the timeline of your swimming pool project.

The FSPA is thankful for a strong marketplace and optimistic that our members will meet the expectations of their customers as we all continue to navigate these unusual times.