



2020

Splash Into Latham's Guide to Inground Pool Shapes

latham
The Pool Company





Latham's 2020 Guide to Inground Pool Shapes

Contents

9	Fiberglass Versus Vinyl Liner Pools
11	Fiberglass Pools
15	Vinyl Liner Pools

21	Different Pool Shapes Available
25	Geometric
33	Freeform

39	Considerations When Choosing a Pool Shape
----	----------------------------------------------

When you're shopping for a swimming pool and pool builder, you likely have as many design questions as you have questions about maintenance and other factors. What shape pool suits the size of your backyard? Which looks the best with your house or fits ideally within your landscape design? If I get features like a slide, how does that affect the shape of the pool I get?



According to Jim Eiler, owner of Aqua Pools near Chicago, there really aren't any benefits to a certain shape pool apart from the homeowner's preference.

“That’s why we offer so many pools,” Eiler said. “Everybody has a different idea of what they want. The sky’s the limit!”

Savvy consumers quickly realize the many options that exist in searching for the right pool. That's exactly why we wrote this ebook! We'll walk you through the steps of finding the absolute perfect pool for your family, your lifestyle—and yes!—the size, shape, and layout of your backyard.

Your local pool dealer can help walk you through the pool buying process...including which shape you want. Jon Foshee, owner of Concord Pools & Spas says his pool shape recommendations are inspired by his clients. **“I ask the customer how they plan on using the pool,”** he says. **“Are you doing cannonballs in this thing? Are you playing volleyball? Is it more sports or relaxing? From that information, I start to put together an idea of what kind of design they’re looking for.”**



How you use the pool is one consideration, but you also need to think about the aesthetics of the swimming pool. **“One of the ways that people don’t necessarily account for is the time you spend looking at it from your house,”** says Rick Black, Fiberglass Product Director for Latham Pool Products. **“It’s vital that you like what the pool looks like since you will, technically, from a time standpoint, be looking at your pool more hours than you will be in your pool.”**

Before we discuss particular shapes, there are some things you should understand to make a fully-informed decision. Buying a pool is like any major renovation: there are many options to consider. With an excellent selection on the market, it’s almost always possible to find something that’s an ideal match for your family, backyard, and how you’ll use your pool. Let’s talk about the types of pools available and how these options will steer the size and shape of your pool.



Fiberglass
Aruba Model



Vinyl Liner
Freeform



2020 Pool Shapes Guide

Fiberglass Versus Vinyl Liner Pools





Fiberglass
Synergy Model

Fiberglass Pools

Fiberglass pools are manufactured as single units and delivered to homes via semi truck. Fiberglass pool manufacturers like Latham Pools offer a wide variety of fiberglass shell colors, shapes, and sizes that accommodate both small and generously-sized backyards. Fiberglass has **other advantages** that fall outside the scope of this ebook, including the fact that they're incredibly easy to maintain.

Fiberglass pools come in all of the **classic and currently popular colors and styles**, including freeform, rectangle, kidney shaped, and more. You can also get all of the latest pool features, including tanning ledges, waterfalls, LED lighting, etc. in a fiberglass pool. Dreaming about a fire bowl or want one of those pool-hot tub combo units like you see at high-end resorts? All of these and more are possible with a fiberglass pool.



Fiberglass
Gemini Model



Fiberglass
Fiji Model



Fiberglass
Olympia Model

“That’s why fiberglass works so well,” Eiler said. “There are so many different models to choose from.”

Although fiberglass pools aren’t “customizable” in the strictest sense, it’s rare that a pool buyer can’t find the size and shape they want **in a fiberglass pool**. The styles range from elegant and formal Roman and Grecian to dreamy, informal lagoon and “mountain lake” models.

You can download and use **this free iOS app** to see how each color, shape, and size Latham fiberglass pool fits and looks in your very own backyard. We’ll dive deeper into specific shapes in this ebook.





Vinyl Liner
Taormina

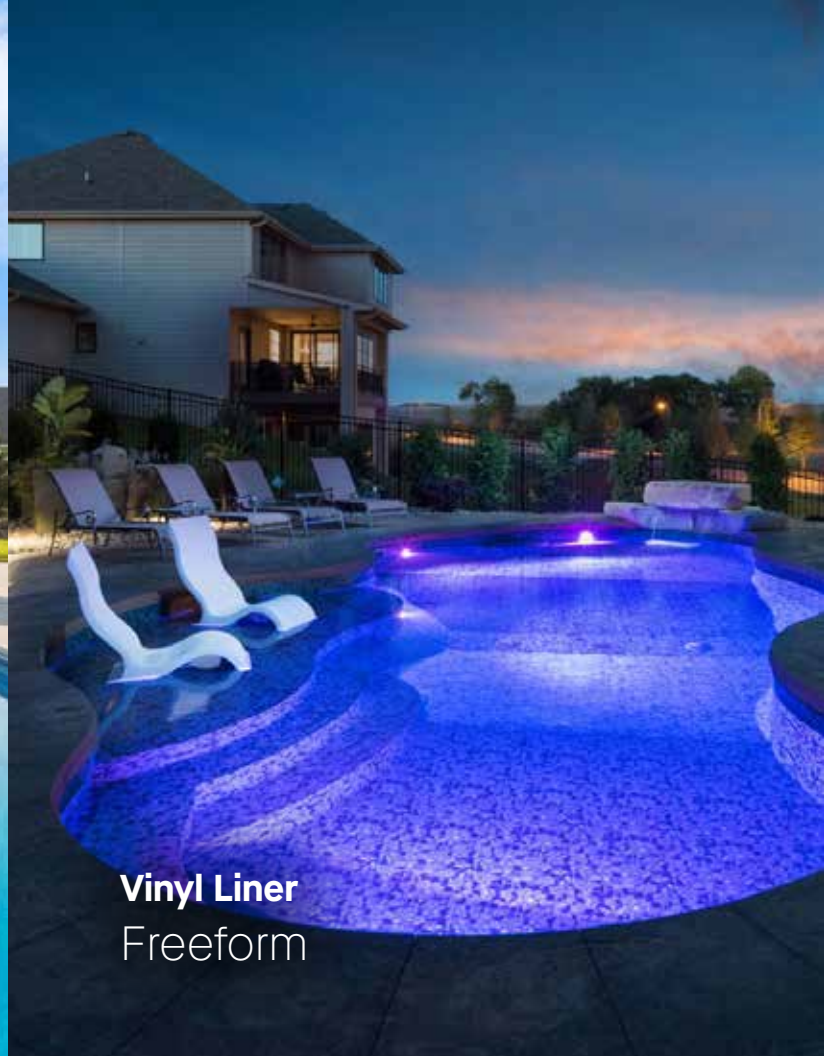
Vinyl Liner Pools

Vinyl liner pools are some of the most popular options on the market when it comes to inground pools. Unlike the single fiberglass units, which are manufactured whole and delivered to the build site, vinyl liner pools are constructed from manufactured, pre-engineered components, much like a modular building. The parts of the pool arrive at your home and are assembled by professionals to create a unique, one-of-a-kind pool that's ideally suited for your backyard and how you plan to use the pool.

Vinyl liner pools are completely customizable. You can get a stunningly wide selection of wall styles, stair designs, and pool curvatures. Pick from one of the classic or trendy shapes, like rectangle or kidney-shaped, or create your own custom shape for a completely unique pool. Specific shapes and styles are discussed more thoroughly later in this ebook.



Vinyl Liner
Rectangle



Vinyl Liner
Freeform



Vinyl Liner
Rectangle

Vinyl pools are a great choice when the customer can't find a fiberglass pool that's large enough or has the right design for their purposes. For instance, if you want a grandiose pool slide or a high diving board, smaller pools won't accommodate these features. But a vinyl pool can be built wide enough and deep enough for slides and diving boards, while still offering a shallow end and features like tanning ledges that are so essential for small children and more mature adults.

Latham offers 30 different elegant and exciting liner patterns, so whether you want a traditional light blue pool, a lagoon-style green, or a sleek and contemporary almost-black liner, you can get precisely what you're dreaming of. One advantage to vinyl liner pools is that they're always in style, since homeowners replace their liners with the newest styles about every 10 years.



Vinyl Liner
Full-L



Vinyl Liner
Gemini

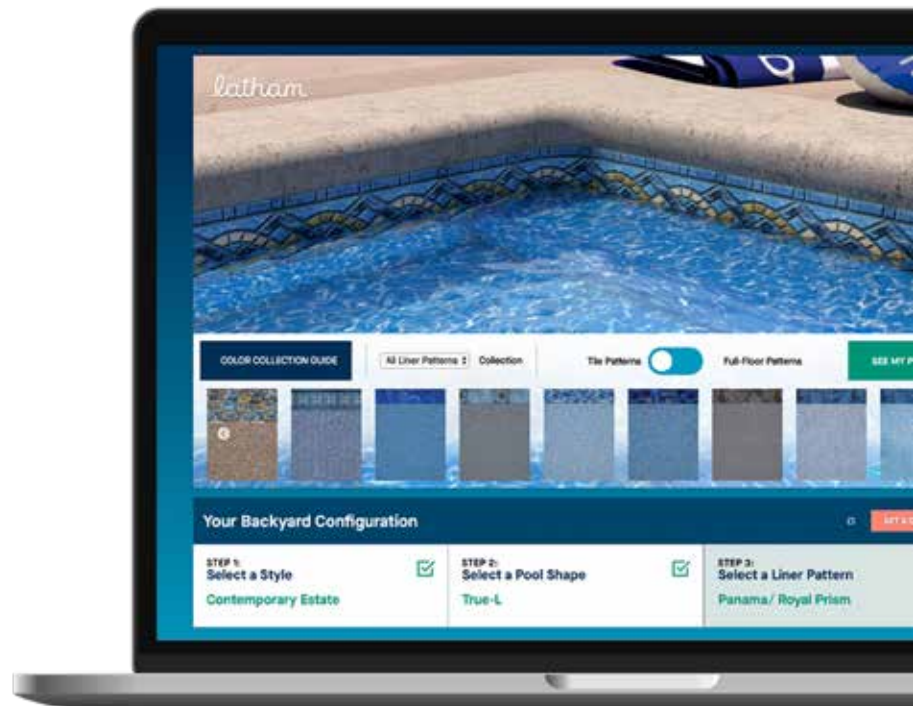


Vinyl Liner
Roman

A custom-shaped vinyl liner pool is the ideal alternative in a backyard that is oddly shaped or has features that stand in the way of other pool installations. For example, a steep dropoff, rocky terrain, and immovable structures can often fit the design of a custom vinyl liner pool.

With vinyl, the sky really is the limit. You can design anything you want in a vinyl liner pool. Vinyl comes in unlimited shapes.

See how a new Latham vinyl liner pool looks in your backyard with **this handy Liner Visualizer**.





Vinyl Liner
Full-L



2020 Pool Shapes Guide

Different Pool Shapes Available

Backyard pool shapes fall into one of two basic categories: geometric and freeform. Within these categories, you'll find a considerable variance in size and somewhat of a variance in specific designs, but these basic styles represent the majority of backyard pool shapes today. So rest assured that whether you have a grandiose landscape with ample room for a big pool, or a compact yard with structural restrictions, there is almost certainly a Latham swimming pool that will work for your yard and for your design goals.



Skylar Davies, co-owner of Mastercraft Pool and Spa in Pocatello, Idaho, said, “When selecting a pool shape, I would ask [the customer] what do they plan on using it for?”

The shape significantly impacts the usability of the pool. For example, geometric shapes tend to maximize the swim space, so if you have to choose a smaller pool, you’ll get the most room in a rectangle, Grecian, or Roman style. But if you want an organic shape that suits a meandering garden pathway or other landscaping elements, a freeform pool like the kidney shape or lagoon style are ideal. According to Davies, **“If they plan to put [the pool] indoors, then any shape pool typically works.”**

Features play a huge role in choosing a swimming pool. Davies sees a lot of his customers choose options like swim jets for exercise, deck jets, waterfalls, slides, diving boards, bench seating, and the addition of a hot tub to the pool. A rectangular pool is suited for automatic pool covers, since both serve customers in cold, northern climates where closing up the pool for winter is essential.



Vinyl Liner
Rectangle

Geometric

Geometric pools feature classic geometric shapes, such as rectangles, squares, and even circles, alone or combined to create a beautifully symmetrical look. Geometric pools range from the basic rectangle to more complex designs, featuring multiple geometric shapes put together to create a wholly new shape that features a symmetry very pleasing to the eye. Will Cappiello, Vinyl Liner Product Director for Latham Pool Products, says geometric pools function a lot like open concept homes. **“It’s open space. You’re getting a lot for the money because there’s so much space.”**

Let’s talk about specific geometric-shaped pools.

Popular Geometric Pools

Rectangular

Rectangular pools are a classic look, popularized by lap swimmers. Rectangles are also very practical in many yards, allowing for the maximum amount of swim space in a minimal backyard area. You can add a contemporary twist to a traditional rectangular pool by choosing one of the more modern fiberglass or vinyl liner colors. Rectangular pools also make it possible to install an automatic cover with tracks that are encapsulated into the coping, making for a clean, neat installation that isn't possible with some other pool shapes. Automatic covers serve three essential purposes: 1. Making the pool safer, 2. Protecting your valuable investment by shielding the pool's surface from the sun and other elements, and 3. Simplifying maintenance considerably by keeping out the majority of dust and debris.



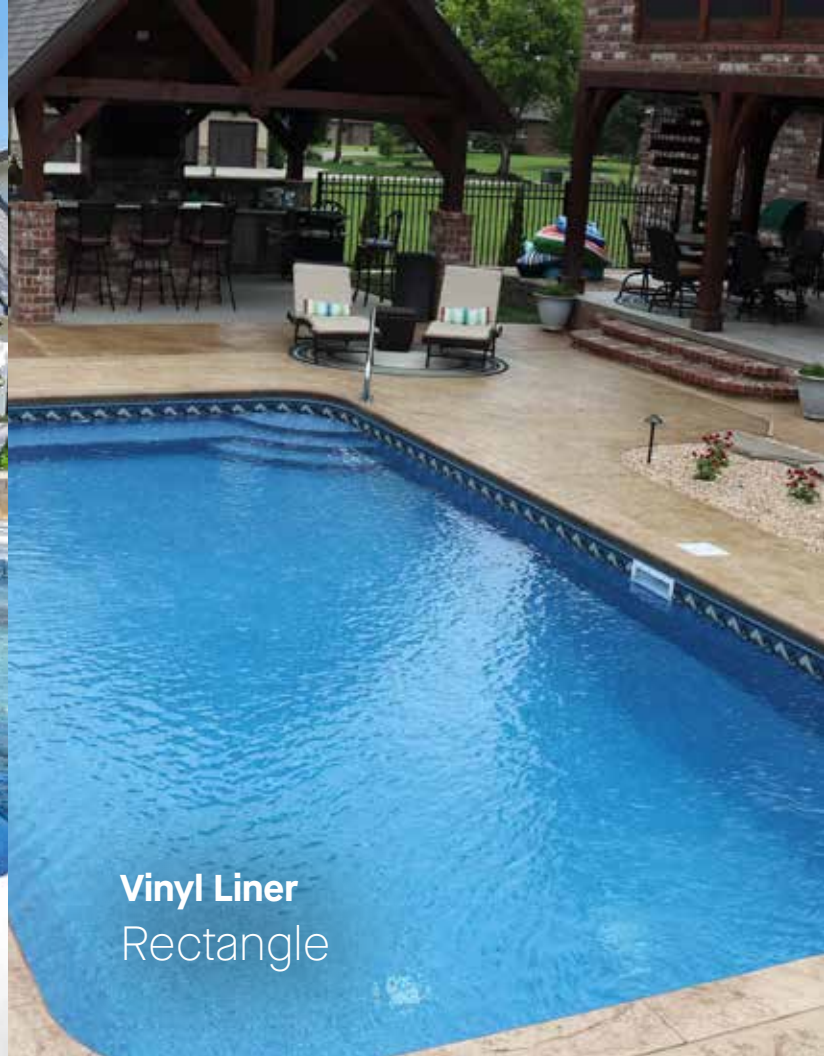
Fiberglass
Olympia Model



Fiberglass
Majesty Model



Vinyl Liner
Rectangle



Vinyl Liner
Rectangle

L-Shaped

Some L-shaped pools are geometric, with hard lines and defined angles. Others are called “lazy Ls” because they’re more organic in shape with curved lines and less-defined angles. L-shaped pools are perfect for many situations, particularly if there’s an immovable feature that needs to be designed around. It’s also a great option for families with small children, because you can easily separate the shallow end from a deeper end. L-shaped pools with a shallow end and tanning ledge are also popular with senior adults, because it’s very easy to get in and out of the pool.



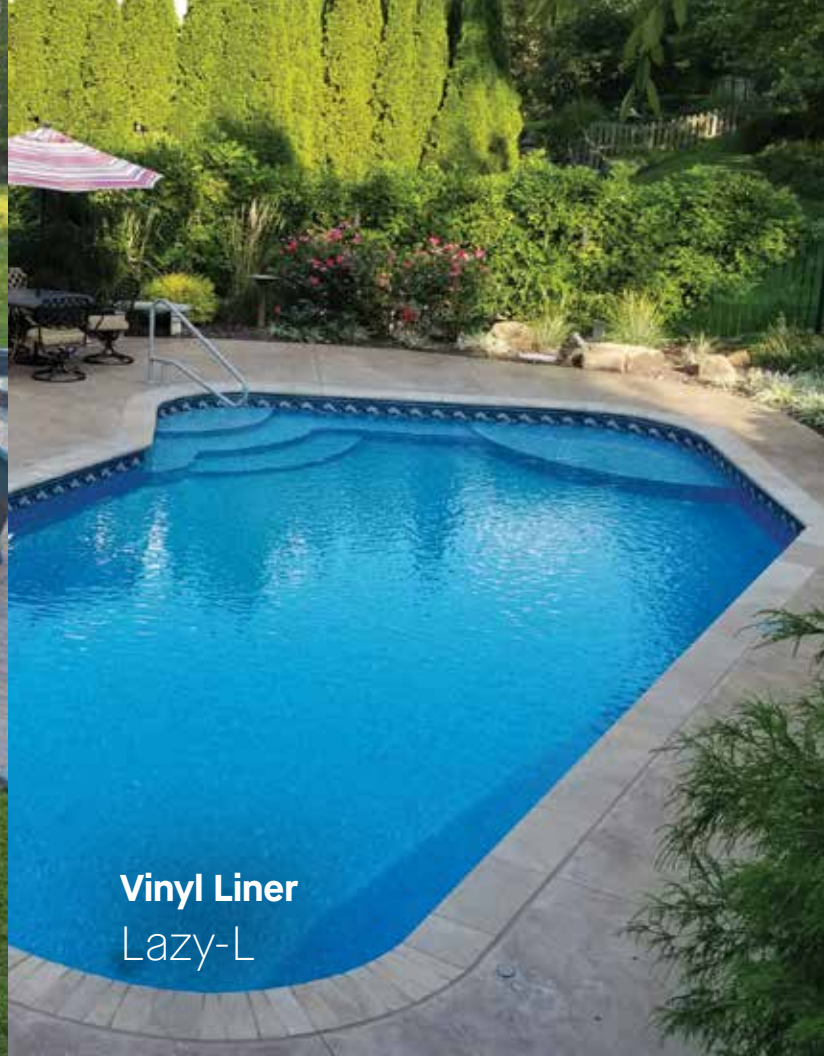
Vinyl Liner
Full-L



Vinyl Liner
Lazy-L



Vinyl Liner
Full-L



Vinyl Liner
Lazy-L

Oval

Oval pools are a bit out of the ordinary, which is one of the major draws for those who want more than the stereotypical “backyard pool”. Oval pools do require a bit of room, so they aren’t a good option for small backyards. These pools are most notably observed in Victorian era homes and make excellent choices for homeowners with older or older-styled homes.

Round

Round pools are unique, indeed, becoming popularized in Hollywood homes back in the 1930s. Round pools take up a bit of space, though, making them best suited for bigger backyards. But if you have the room and want a pool that naturally encourages socialization, round is a great choice. If it’s large enough, a round pool also allows for a swim workout that doesn’t require the swimmer to turn around like they do at the end of a rectangular pool.



Vinyl Liner
Round



Fiberglass
Cancun Deluxe Model

Freeform

Freeform swimming pools are much more organic in shape, as opposed to geometric styles, like rectangular pools. Freeform pools can be made to look like a backyard pond or to resemble a round or oval shape.

“When I go out and design a yard, I’m not one to keep everything parallel or perpendicular with the angles of the home,” says Mike Giovanone, Chairman of Concord Pools & Spas. **“A freeform pool can be put in at a slight angle, creating an outdoor kitchen area, outdoor fireplace or patio area, a little bit easier than you can with a traditional rectangular or geometric-shaped pool.”**

There are a variety of custom vinyl liner pools and fiberglass pools available in freeform styles.

Popular Freeform Pools

Kidney

Kidney-shaped pools are another classic pool shape that remains tremendously popular today. This style features the general shape of a kidney bean, rounded on each end, curving inward along one side. Like the rectangular pool, you can create countless styles simply by choosing different colors and patterns in your fiberglass pool or vinyl liner.



Vinyl Liner
Mountain Lake II



Fiberglass
St. Augustine Model



Vinyl Liner
Celebrity



Fiberglass
Valencia Model

Roman

Roman-shaped pools are basic rectangular pools with bubble-like, dome-shaped circles at each end. Usually, the pool steps are situated in the dome at the shallower end of the pool. The style is borrowed from architectural artifacts that were commonly found in ancient Roman architecture.

Grecian

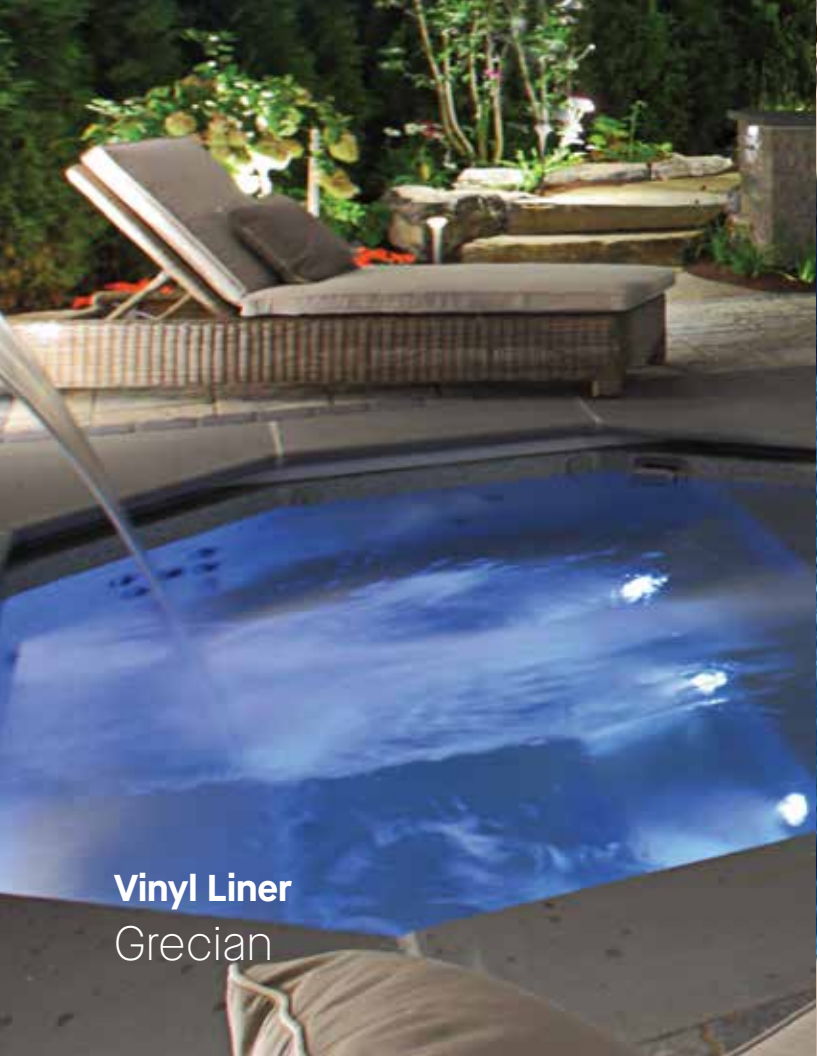
Like the Roman pool style, Grecian pools borrow from ancient architectural styles. Grecian-style pools are basic rectangular pools with the right-angles of each corner “cut off”. Corners are then 45-degree angles, similar to the shape of a kite. Some Grecian-style pools feature rounded, organic shapes, while others maintain geometric hard-angles.



Vinyl Liner
Patrician



Fiberglass
Montego Model



Vinyl Liner
Grecian



Fiberglass
Carmel Model





2020 Pool Shapes Guide

Considerations When Choosing a Pool Shape



Choosing the Perfect Pool Shape

The best way to select your pool shape and style is to get your eyes on as many pools as possible. Look at photographs and online galleries and you'll quickly find what you like and don't like." The Latham Pool website features photos of **vinyl liner pools** and **fiberglass pools** you can browse. Nothing inspires you like real visuals of real pools. Use our augmented reality apps to put the pool you like in your own backyard. How does it look? How does it fit?

Here are a few other considerations for choosing the perfect shape for your pool.



Fiberglass
Fiji Model



Fiberglass
Genesis Model



Fiberglass
Majesty Model

Yard Size

Some shapes are best suited to larger backyards, such as round and oval. Fiberglass pools can come as large as the flatbed of a semi-truck, because that's how they're delivered. If you want something larger than that, there are lots of options with vinyl liner pools. When sizing your pool, remember the importance of decking. You want to leave ample room for sitting, lounging, sunning, guests to mingle at pool parties, and hungry people to gather around the grill. If your pool is too big, it will inhibit your ability to add the furniture, umbrellas, landscaping, outdoor kitchen, and entertaining space you want to enjoy by your pool.

Home Style

Just as when choosing furniture, drapery, and cabinet fixtures, you want the overall look of your pool to match your home. Most local pool builders are familiar with the styles of homes in your neighborhood, as well as the best pool shapes to match. In fact, an experienced pool designer will look at your yard and show you how a swimming pool can increase the value of your home by producing an outdoor living space that is in harmony with the house itself.

Landscaping & Hardscaping Style

If a customer's backyard is designed with a theme, that can influence the pool shape the customer chooses. If the design is very linear, people have a tendency to stick with a rectangular based pool. If the design is curvy, pool designers try to incorporate those curves into the pool as well.



Not only will you get a new pool, but you'll get to completely rethink and redesign your landscaping and your entire backyard! After all, you aren't just getting a "pool," you're getting an entire outdoor living space!

Like matching your home and pool styles, you want to select landscaping and hardscaping that coordinates rather than fight in style. For example, if you're aiming for the resort spa vibe, palm trees look perfect, but they don't fit nearly as well in a more formal setting. Consider everything from the fence style to the plants to the decking.

Additionally, many plants are well-suited for planting by pools, while others are not. Select plants that are heat tolerant, as they'll be subjected to bright sunlight all day. Look for low-maintenance plants that won't add to what you have to do to keep things looking nice. Steer clear of trees and shrubs that drop leaves, as those end up in your pool and clog filters. Avoid lots of blooms that might end up in your pool, as well as any plant that tends to attract birds or wildlife that you don't want dirtying your pool.

Automatic Covers

According to Eiler of Aqua Pools, people who choose automatic covers most often go with rectangular pools. Even though an auto cover can go on any size or shape pool, it's easier and less expensive to install on a rectangular pool, and it's less invasive to the pool's structure and design. Customers can change up that basic rectangle by adding steps or other elements that are unique and give that custom look and feel.

Skyler Davies of Mastercraft Pool & Spa agrees, “Rectangle shapes work better with auto covers in the winter, and we sell almost every pool with an autocover.”



Coverstar
Tan



Coverstar
Gray



Coverstar
Gray

Personal Lifestyle

When picking out your new pool, also consider how you'll use it. Do you plan to have big pool parties? Would you rather leave more room for gathering around the poolside? Perhaps you're looking forward to using your pool for fitness? Rectangular pools are utilized worldwide by professional swimmers to improve their fitness, form, and technique.



Do you have a family with small kids? You'll need ample shallow water in your pool. Are you more of a lounge than a swimmer? Opt for generous tanning ledge space and a pool small enough to allow for lots of lounging area around your pool. It helps to browse our gallery, use our app, and spend some time pondering how you'll actually be incorporating the pool into your lifestyle.



Your Budget

The cost of a pool varies considerably, depending on a number of factors, which we'll discuss below. Broadly speaking, inground pools prices start around \$25,000 to \$35,000. Here are a few of the factors that contribute to pool cost:

- **Size** (larger pools cost more)
- **Customization** (the more custom features you get, the more the pool costs)
- **Where you live** (areas with higher costs of living typically also have higher pool costs)
- **Whether you select a vinyl liner pool or fiberglass pool** (custom features often drive up the costs of vinyl liners, while fiberglass pools come as-is, although more features does mean a more expensive pool)
- **Special features**, such as custom lighting, fire bowls, waterfalls, grottoes, etc.
- **Additional installation costs**, such as fencing, locking mechanisms, automation, surround or decking, furniture, hardscaping and landscaping, etc.

Your local pool dealer is in the best position to advise you of how to select the best pool for your backyard, your budget, and your lifestyle. Latham dealers in your area have tried-and-true ways to keep you on budget, while putting your family in the best pool for how you'll inevitably use it.

Happy Swimming!





latham
The Pool Company