

Indoor In-ground Swimming Pool Planning and Building Check List

A well planned and installed swimming pool can bring you much enjoyment, increase your health and add value to your home. A stunning pool provides you with a private leisure and fitness area for your family and friends. There are now more than 200,000 pools in the UK compared with 10,000 in 1970. To guarantee that your dream pool becomes reality and meets with the highest standards and your precise requirements, follow the advice below.

Choosing a Designer/Contractor

- Employ a professional pool designer or an architect with specialist pool experience to ensure that you will be given the whole range of style and materials choices and that the finished pool will meet with your exact expectations.
- Make sure you hire an established contractor which has been awarded with a SPATASHIELD accreditation with the Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association which maintain standards in the industry by requiring that members adhere to the Association's codes of practice and conduct. The contractor should offer SPATA defined warranties for their work.
- Choose a company which can supply architects' and client references.
- Since the design, build and air treatment plant are interdependent and crucial for a quality end result – your pool, it is undoubtedly best if one firm accepts responsibility for the whole project, ensuring the three main areas of the pool integrate properly. Also, curing problems after completion is difficult, disruptive and expensive.

Suitability

Once you have located a pool company which fulfil the above criteria, ask that they survey your property to assess the suitability for building a pool there and ask them advice on your options. Do plan for the future and build the largest pool that is practically possible since small children grow up remarkably quickly, the circle of friends increases and so does the use of the pool.

Purpose

Ask yourself how you will be indulging your passion for water. Will it be mainly for exercise, entertaining or both? An added benefit of an indoor pool is being able to use it all year round. If exercise is the priority then a large/long pool will accommodate lap swimming and a pool no bigger than 14ft by 6ft can be fitted with a counter current swimming unit to offer the same effect as swimming against the flow in a mountain stream.

Construction

You “get what you pay for” and a low cost pool is not likely to meet your expectations with heady repair bills presenting sooner rather than later.

Building Regulations Consent will be required for any kind of indoor pool. Your local authority will be able to give you all the information you need and it is always best to check with them first. You or your contractor should inform your local water authority that you are building a pool.

Site access for excavation machinery is important and should be planned in conjunction with landscaping if required. Soil conditions may need specific treatment and changes of ground level and the presence of existing structures will all need to be taken into consideration. An established swimming pool specialist will be able to advise you.

Once your pool has been installed, the local Water Authority needs to be notified in advance of filling the pool.

Safety

If young children will be using the pool then it should be designed with a sloping depth, or an adjustable moving floor which effectively “grows” with the children could be well worth considering. A raised moving pool floor will also allow for the space to be used for other activities like home cinema, dance area etc. A cover and non-slip pool surround are essential security features.

Location

Bear in mind that a plantroom needs to be located fairly close to the pool when you are planning where it should be installed.

Design

A pool contractor experienced in building bespoke pools will be able to advise on layout and styles to suit your requirements and also give you design ideas such as water curtains, massage jets, under water windows, infinity edges, adjustable moving pool floor, different levels of pool surround, bathing platforms extending into the pool etc. Alongside stunning materials now available for pool interior and exterior finishes such as Venetian iridescent glass marble mosaic, exciting developments are taking place in pool technology like underwater sound systems, LED lighting and ultra violet water purification treatment. To ensure that your pool is built to the very latest trends, select a pool company at the cutting edge of new design in all areas.

Heating and Maintenance

A reputable swimming pool contractor will advise you on the best heating method and other technology to suit your planned pool and situation. Often the best solution is a bespoke system using the latest innovations.

A well built pool will last for many years and need not be emptied if it is maintained properly. The key to looking after a pool is “little and often”, so depending on usage, a weekly or fortnightly servicing by an experienced pool maintenance provider with in-depth knowledge of water treatment will ensure regular and correct care for your investment.

Accessories

There is now an amazing selection of products on the market to make your pool even more enjoyable and easy to look after from counter current swimming units to automatic water top-up devices and automatic chemical dosing systems.

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