



## **SELECTING A POOL BUILDER**

Instead of going through the laborious and time-consuming evaluation process of interviewing customers from each pool building company to find a pool builder who meets your high standards, let Aquatech select one for you. Aquatech is a nationwide Society of Pool-Building Professionals, and every member must meet high Aquatech standards. Pool builders do not join Aquatech; they apply for membership, and the screening process assures that each Aquatech pool builder meets demanding standards, no matter where the pool builder is located. When dealing with an Aquatech professional, you don't have to worry about the experience factor—that's a key selection criterion used by Aquatech.

In addition, Aquatech has ongoing professional educational programs to develop each pool builder's capability in the overall planning process and to emphasize each member's leadership role in customer service. Aquatech is neither a franchise nor a corporate chain. It is the nation's #1 Society of Pool-Building Professionals.

The picture is as clear as an inviting pool. When thinking about any two builders, you already know the qualities that you seek, and you recognize the impact of selecting the better one. By selecting a member of Aquatech, you will be able to place your trust in a bonafide pool-building professional.

The more you know about pools, the more comfortable you will be with your Aquatech builder. The Aquatech Corporation is a society of award winning builders which maintain the highest standards in the industry. Our network shares in the tradition of excellence with more than 100,000 pools and spas, and hundreds of prestigious awards to our credit. You'll soon be one of the many who understand why 80% of Aquatech's new business is from customer referrals.



## POOL TYPES

Your family may want to use their new pool for water aerobics or sports, such as volleyball or basketball. Maybe, you desire imaginative elements, such as a bubbling spa, a rock waterfall, a cool beach entry, or a vanishing edge to showcase an attractive view. Or if you want to get your adrenalin pumping, you might desire water-park type features like a curving water-slide. Also, be sure to think about your pool as an extension of your home's interior when planning decking and other design elements.

The majority of swimming pools come in two basic varieties: concrete and vinyl-liner. However, several Aquatech members also install stainless steel and fiberglass pools. All these type pools vary in materials and the process of creation.

### Concrete

Concrete is the oldest method, and the most labor-intensive on the site. These pools are completely built on the site with steel-reinforced concrete. Concrete pools offer design consultants a seemingly limitless shape and infinite design flexibility.

After laying out your pool's shape, crews dig the hole, install steel-reinforcing rods, and use one of three methods to create a concrete shell:

- guniting
- shotcreting
- pouring concrete

The most common—gunite and shotcrete—are pneumatically applied, that is, they are applied with air pressure. The concrete is shot out of a nozzle and piled onto the earthen walls of the excavation and over the steel rebar reinforcement. Like all concrete structures, these pools can last decades when properly maintained.

Concrete pools require a finish surface. Choices include plaster and marble mixtures, a pebbled surface or exposed aggregate, which is a blend of concrete and colorful quartz. Due to its durability, exposed aggregate has become a very popular choice, however, it is more expensive than traditional white plaster finishes, but offers ease of maintenance and are very attractive.

Tile is used above the pool finish material at the waterline. Choice of tile is limited to your imagination; those seeking a natural appearing pool would select stone type tiles with earth tones. While others seeking a traditional look might select a bright colored tile or mosaic glass tile. Be cautious... the choices of tile are numerous and often leave you undecided. It's best to ask your design consultant what they recommend if you are unsure.

Material used to finish the top edge of your pool is often called coping and runs around the top perimeter of a pool. Coping varies by region, with most builders using a cantilever effect, pre-cast concrete piece, brick, or stone.

### Vinyl-Liner or Package Pools

Vinyl-liner or package pools are less labor-intensive than concrete pools and, in some regions, a less expensive method of construction. Installation of these pools requires assembling pre-manufactured wall panels and supports, then covering the walls and bottom with a vinyl liner. The components are pre-manufactured, which creates design limitations. Wall systems generally are made of steel, polymer and aluminum. The most common and widely used is steel.



## **DESIGN THE POSSIBILITIES**

Think possibilities when it comes to building your pool. Explore the newest technology and the hottest designs. Consider techniques that add unique architectural elements and flare. The following are just a few of the many options you can add to your pool design.

### **VANISHING OR NEGATIVE EDGE**

When you're on the opposite side and you look at the vanishing edge, it looks like there's no side there. It's as if the water's going on forever. With a vanishing edge treatment, the water appears to be flowing out of the pool. In actuality, it's flowing into a trough or a structural wall where it is re-circulated.

### **BEACH ENTRY OR ZERO-DEPTH**

A beach entry not only looks good, it provides a shallow splash and play area for children or a cool retreat for sunbathers. With a zero-depth area, the entry point at the pool's shallow end is nearly even with the deck. Your bare foot enters, say, a half inch of water, and like on a natural beach, the water gradually gets deeper with each step.

### **WATER FEATURES**

Water features can take the form of fountains, waterfalls, raised spillways, stream beds and sheer descents. All of which are designed to add beauty and a soothing sound to your pool/spa backyard.



## ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

- How long have you been in business?
- Do you sub-contract any building phases?
- To what professional organizations do you belong?
- Have you been in business under any other names?
- Have you won any awards for your pool designs?
- How long has your staff been with you?
- Are you a licensed and bonded contractor?—(Some states do not require licensing)
- Do you have any open or pending legal disputes?
- How much and what types of insurance do you have in place?
- Are your warranties spelled out in writing?
- What exclusions do you have in your warranty?
- Do you have pools under construction in my area?
- Do you provide service after completion?
- Will I be instructed on the operation of my pool?
- Do you guarantee that all mechanics liens will be satisfied?
- Will your crews clean up their messes?
- Do you remove tire tracks from the access?
- What time do your crews start work in the morning?
- Who is responsible for any damage to the neighbor's property?
- Who will repair any broken irrigation or sprinkler pipes during construction?
- Will my sewer or septic lines be affected?
- How long will the project take?
- What incidental costs will I incur?
- Will my driveway or sidewalk be broken by heavy equipment?
- Is my electrical service adequate?
- What happens if the excavator hits rock or hard conditions?
- Will my existing landscape work with the pool plans?
- Does my water quality present potential problems for the plaster?
- Will a superintendent oversee the project?
- Who applies for and obtains permits?
- With what other legal requirements will we need to comply?
- Will my design comply with requirements of the NSPI?
- Are my start-up chemicals included in the price of the pool?
- How much will this pool add to my utility bills?
- Are you a member of the Aquatech Society of Pool Building Professional?