

Diving Boards vs. Diving Rocks

If you're in the market for a new pool, you're probably considering adding a diving board, but have you heard of diving rocks? They're a popular alternative and rapidly trend right now in pool design.

Today we'll take a look at the difference between a diving board and a diving rock and break down the pros and cons of each one. We'll also review the various pricing options between the two.

Things to Consider

Being able to dive into your pool on a hot summer's day is a lot of fun and appealing to pretty much everyone. Some basic things are true for both diving boards and diving rocks.

- **Safety is a must!**

Diving can be dangerous, especially if you don't obey proper safety protocols. Most accidents are from improper use or improper installation of diving equipment.

- **Deep water is mandatory.**

Most [recommendations](#) are at least 8 ft of depth for a diving board (although some recommend 12 ft). Also, realize that there can not be a dramatic fall off to the deep end that would create a "shelf" that might be dangerous for divers. This means you need a reasonably large pool to accommodate them.

- **You must have an underground pool.**

A diving apparatus can not be installed on an above ground pool. They should only be installed in an inground pool to meet depth regulations and allow proper installation of the diving board or rock.

- **Installation is easier with a new pool.**

Pools can be modified to accommodate diving, and both diving boards and diving rocks can be installed to existing pools. However, it is significantly easier and cheaper to install a pool that accommodates the type of diving apparatus that you want and install it all simultaneously.

- **Get a non-skid surface.**

There are arguments about which is more slippery, a diving board or a diving rock, but ultimately the answer is that they are both slick and only become more so with use. The only way to prevent this and to have a safe diving surface is to ensure that your diving surface has some sort of non-skid covering or coating. Any pool dealer can advise you on the best options for your particular situation.

Diving Boards

Diving boards are a classic addition to any swimming pool. They come in two basic styles, springboard and platform, with the main difference being that springboard diving boards allow

you more height when jumping into the water. While this may sound like a fun thing to add to your pool, it's also a bigger liability and has fallen out of fashion in recent years because [springboards](#) have been the root of many injuries.

Cost Considerations

Diving boards, not including installation, start at around \$300USD and go up to about \$1,000USD depending on the specific board you choose. This addition will cause an increase in your homeowners insurance.

Installation

Installing a diving board is not a lengthy project but will require a professional. The jig, or metal base to which the board is anchored, must be installed beneath the pool's concrete slab surround or deck. After that, the board is bolted into place.

Pros

- Traditional choice
- Board juts out over the water
- More inexpensive option than a diving rock

Cons

- Springboards can be more dangerous
- Takes away from water surface area
- Hurts the aesthetics of a natural landscape

Diving Rocks

Diving rocks have a different type of aesthetic appeal. They provide a great surface to dive from but are more likely to be found in pools with other natural elements like plants or other types of rocks.

Although natural rock pools are not as common because they are relatively expensive than other swimming pools, a diving rock is an excellent addition to one.

Cost Considerations

Diving rocks, not including installation, start at around \$300USD and go up from there well into the thousands of dollars. They can become incredibly expensive, depending on which particular rock you choose. Diving rocks will increase your insurance rates like a diving board will, but the difference here is that a diving rock may add value to your home depending on the aesthetics and what you choose.

Installation

Some diving rocks are so small and simple that they are considered rock diving boards; some are intricate parts of the landscape. Larger rocks will have considerations such as the amount of room they will need and how to transport them to be put in place at your pool. As with diving boards, this will take professional expertise. The diving rock will need to be secured; how this is done will depend on your exact diving rock and swimming pool choices.

Pros

- Beautiful diving rocks can add value to your home
- Great with natural landscapes
- Fun and trendy
- Provide a diving function without taking up water surface area

Cons

- Can be expensive
- Size can cause difficulties in transportation and placement
- Not suitable for all landscape types

Final Thoughts

Diving boards and diving rocks both add a lot of fun to your pool area. Either can be a good choice.

Make sure you choose the diving apparatus that is right for your pool and landscape style as well as your budget, and have fun!