

MAKING A SPLASH

Up your backyard game with an in-ground pool that's just right for you



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HIT THE SLOPES

Give your urban backyard an oceanside vibe with a **beach entry**, which starts at ground level and gradually slopes down into deeper waters. It's a nice alternative to a ladder, especially for children, seniors and those with limited mobility, plus it provides a shallower play or lounge area where the water is just a little bit warmer. These entries do take up more space, though, so they aren't the best choice for smaller backyards.



EVEN PLAYING FIELD

If lap swimming is your thing, consider a **single-depth pool**. A consistent depth around 1.2 to 1.5 metres will give you enough space for both laps and casual swimming, but won't be so deep that you can't stand up. The even depth means these pools require roughly less than half the water of traditional ones, and are less expensive to heat and filter. This style can also be kept fairly compact—about 1.8 to 2.4 metres wide by nine metres long will give you room for a decent workout—but no diving, please.

SHELF IT

Swimming is great exercise, but there's something to be said for lounging about. That's where a **sun shelf** comes in. A flat, shallow surface at the pool's edge, these shelves—also known as tanning ledges or Baja shelves—offer a spot to set up a lounge (or two) and read, keep an eye on little ones or soak your feet. Just remember your SPF!



JUST ADD SALT

Anyone who loves to splash around has felt the burning eyes and dry, itchy skin that over-chlorination can cause.

Enter **saltwater systems**, which, while not completely chlorine-free, are gentler on the eyes and skin. Switching from a chlorine system to a salt one comes with a price tag, but once it's in place, you'll cut down on both chemical costs and maintenance, leaving you more time to actually enjoy your pool.



SMARTEN UP

Everything from your doorbell to your refrigerator can be synced to your smartphone, so why not your pool? Use a **smart system** to monitor the pump and security cameras, remotely operate the vacuum, and adjust things like heating, lighting and sound systems. Having your pool in your pocket, so to speak, also offers peace of mind when you're out of town, since the system can tip you off to chemical imbalances or pump malfunctions. **CAA**



SMALL PLEASURES

Even if your backyard is pint-sized, you can still enjoy the luxury of a pool with these space-savvy ideas



Take the Plunge

Like a grown-up kiddie pool, a **plunge pool** brings tons of enjoyment, but takes up a fraction of the space. There are plenty of options, from concrete ones to pre-formed fibreglass models. (There are even some sleek-looking above-ground versions.) Smaller pools are also more affordable, since they use less energy to heat—something to consider even if you do have the space for a larger pool.



Spa Days

Larger than a hot tub but smaller than a typical in-ground pool, **swim spas** offer the best of both worlds. Perfect for a relaxing soak in limited space, these prefab options are also available with water-current technology for an effective swim-in-place workout and aqua massage jets to soothe the muscles when you're finished.