

PUTTING IN POOLS

PROCESS TAKES LOTS OF TIME, ENERGY

CONSTRUCTION

1. Excavation: The shape of the pool is pegged out before being excavated

2. Plumbing and stormwater: Diverting sewer and stormwater pipes is common

3. Form work and steel: It is important to maximise the internal dimensions of the pool. The steel helps to hold concrete in place

4. Concrete spraying: Concrete is sprayed and is left to cure for four weeks

5. Coping and waterline tiling: finishes are applied and the coping, waterline and step-edge tiling is completed

6. Fencing and interior lining: Fencing must be completed before applying the interior lining

7. Acid wash: The lining is cleaned with an acid solution

8. Pool finish: it takes about a couple of days to fill the pool

9. Finished: Once the water level reaches the skimmer boxes, filtration is turned on

Laura Trieste

THERE is much more to think about when installing a pool in your backyard then deciding where to put the hole with water in it.

The extra time and costs of fencing and paving can catch homeowners out if they are not well prepared.

Crystal Pools sales and marketing manager Andrew Rothery said a good pool business can take care of every aspect.

"We basically help them with all the approvals, we can introduce them to landscapers and fencers and help them with the whole process," he said.

If you are looking to have a pool to cool down in by summer time, be sure to allow enough time to have it all finished.

Mr Rothery said that while the construction takes an average of about 12 weeks, getting council and water board approval slows the process down.

DOS AND DON'TS

Do

■ Keep in mind the constant maintenance of owning a pool

Don't

■ Forget to calculate fencing and paving in your overall costs before any construction starts

"You need to allow about three or four months," he said.

Consider your needs over trends when choosing the type of pool, but access and sewers need to be taken into account as well.

"Most backyards surprisingly can take a pool," Mr Rothery said.

"The backyards now are getting smaller, so plunge pools are more popular.

"We do some pools that are out of the ground."

Solar heating is also a popular option.

Details: crystalpools.com.au



Some of Crystal Pools' work installing residential pools.

TYPES

■ **Concrete:** A popular and common option that has much flexibility in design shapes, depths and features but the installation process is often longer

■ **Fibreglass:** Durable and tend to require less maintenance as the nonporous surface is algae resistant, but have more limitations in sizes and shapes

■ **Vinyl:** The cheapest option, but often need to be replaced every 10 years. They are also susceptible to punctures from pool toys and sharp objects

■ **Mineral water pool:** The mineral-based water is an alternative to harsh pool chemicals that is therapeutic for the body

WHAT TO ASK THE TRADIE

- Do you have a licence?
- Do you have insurance?
- Can I see your references?
- What approvals need to be gained?
- Are there sewer issues?
- What are the fencing options?