

# Swimming Pool Ideas

The supreme home health apparatus!

Owen Jones



# Contents

[Swimming Pool Ideas](#)

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[Table of Contents](#)

[Pool Safety Fences - A Buying Guide](#)

[Landscaping For a Pool](#)

[Popular Water Activities for the Backyard](#)

[Pros and Cons of Chlorine](#)

[Swimming Pool Bars](#)

[The Swimming Pool](#)

[Swimming Pool Accessories for Aboveground Pools](#)

[Swimming Pool Heaters](#)

[Diving in its Different Forms](#)

[Swimming Pool Covers](#)

[Swimming Pool Safety](#)

[Underwater Digital Cameras](#)

[The Science of Swimming](#)

[Styles Of Garden Furniture](#)

[Why You Ought to Install a Pool Alarm](#)

[Swimming Laps at Home in The Pool](#)

[Swimming Accessories](#)

[Pool-related Deaths](#)

# **Swimming Pool Ideas**

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by

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Published by Megan Publishing Services

<http://meganthemisconception.com>

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## ***Pool Safety Fences - A Buying Guide***

If you have had a swimming pool for some time or if you are thinking of getting one - either an above-ground or an in-ground swimming pool - you should check to see whether your district requires you to take any safety precautions. For example, some states in America call for the erection of a swimming pool safety fence by law, others are about to introduce such a law and others are thinking of requiring a pool alarm as well.

However, it is not all one-sided. There are also advantages to the owner of the pool of installing a pool safety fence. The main benefit of such a fence is safety. If you have young children or grand-children, you do not always have the time to supervise them playing in the pool, so a fence is a way of allowing the kids to play in the garden while excluding them from the dangerous pool.

Kids can be scallywags, all adults know that even if some parents think that their own children are not, you can bet your bottom dollar that someone else thinks they are. Our children know that they have to behave in front of us, but what happens when they know that we are not watching? You know, you were a kid yourself once. I climbed the fence into the municipal outdoor pool more than once when I was a teenager and usually after a few beers.

The fact is that if you have an unprotected pool, there is a good chance that the local kids will use it whilst you are away and these days that means negligence on behalf of the pool owner. Whether that is right or wrong, it is like that and if someone were to drown in your pool, you would be in big trouble, unless you could establish that you took reasonable measures to prevent unauthorized access to your pool.

A security pool fence is just about the cheapest way of doing that, although fences can be easily scaled as I full-well know. However, having a fence shows that you have considered the issue and that you have tried to deter intruders.

There are quite a few acceptable styles of pool fencing but it might vary from district to district, so it is first worth checking whether there are any

local minimum standards in force in your region. Other than that, there are choices of wire, wood and metal. Wire can include mesh fences as well.

Timber probably looks the best and gives the most options. If you want total privacy, you can have a full fence or if you would like to be able to see out, you could go for hit-and-miss vertical boarding. I do not like mesh, personally. I have painted tens of miles of fencing in my time and there always seems to be litter caught in the mesh. Iron railings are nice too, but pretty expensive.

Whichever type of fence you go for, grow a continuous wall of the prickliest, thorniest bushes you can find around the base of it. Pyracanthas are good and the berries attract birds - wild birds, that is. Let them grow to three or four feet high and they will deter drunks and give the ladies some privacy when lying around the pool.

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