

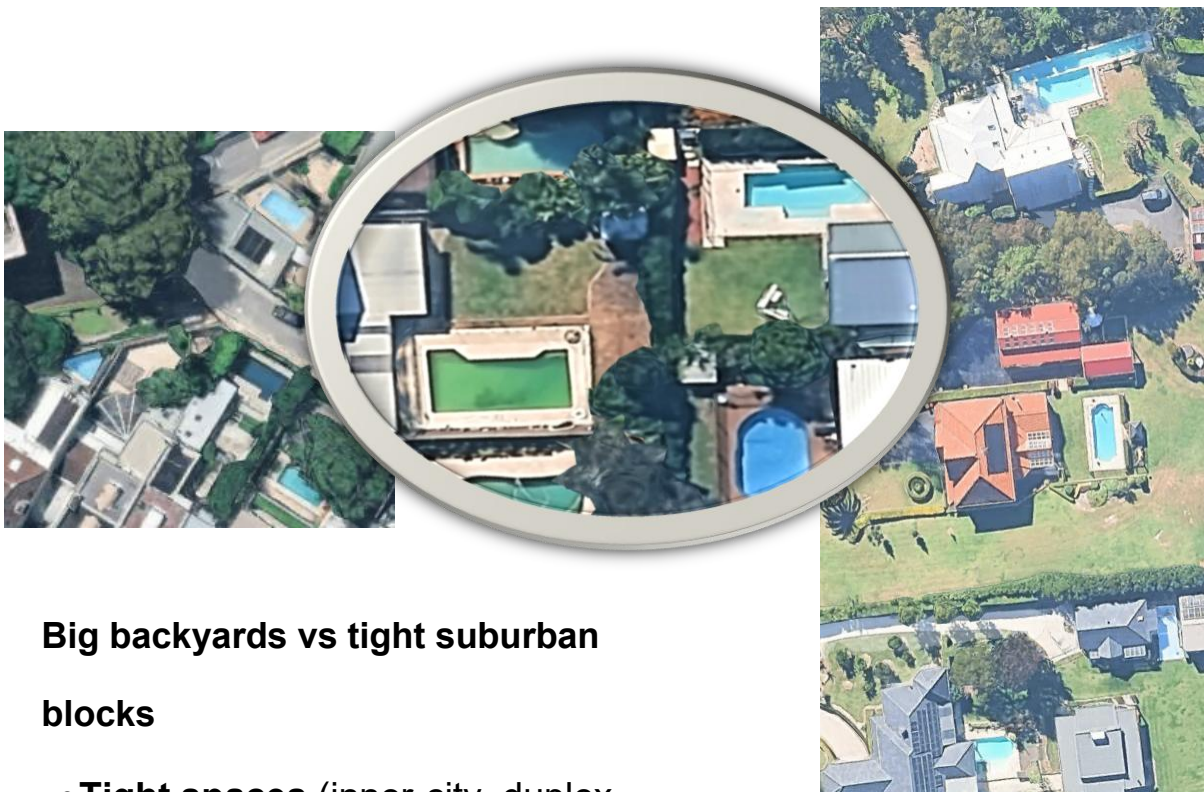


Helpful Information for You
and Your Pool

Date Issued	Sept 25
Replaces	

Ideas about pool shape, size and space available.

1. Start With Your Site, Not the Shape



Big backyards vs tight suburban blocks

- **Tight spaces** (inner-city, duplex, courtyards):

Think plunge pools, lap or slimline rectangles tucked along a boundary or house wall. You're chasing length for exercise and a clean line that doesn't chew up all your lawn. Fibreglass shells now come in plenty of "slim" sizes and plunge formats that suit this perfectly.

- **Decent suburban blocks:** you can play with family-sized rectangles, L-shapes or gentle freeform curves. Leave room for a bit of paving, a table and chairs, and the BBQ—people forget the "around the pool" space is what actually gets used most.

- **Acreage and country properties:** you've got options. Larger geometric pools, resort-style freeform layouts, or even a natural swimming pool with reed beds that blends into the landscape can all make sense.

Sun, wind and view



- Try to get your main swim area in **good winter sun** if you can; it makes a big difference to how long the water stays swimmable.
- In windy spots, long narrow pools aligned **across** the wind can feel choppy; a more sheltered nook or partially enclosed courtyard can be nicer to live with.
- If you've got a cracking view, a **simple lap or rectangle** oriented along that view will look more "infinity-pool chic" than a busy, wiggly outline.

2. The Classic Rectangle (and Lap Pools)

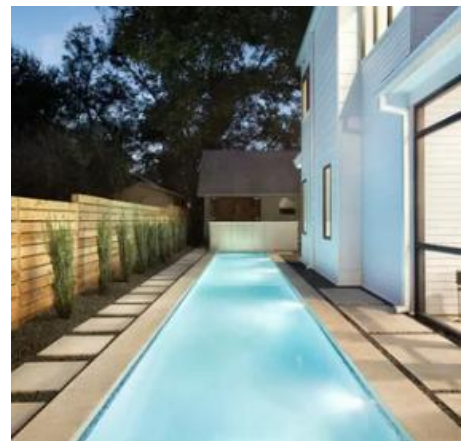
Why rectangles are still king

Rectangular pools are the all-round workhorse in Australia. They:

- Work brilliantly with **modern homes, straight lines and decks**.
- Are easy to **cover, fence and tile**.
- Give you a proper **swim lane** even in modest sizes.

Lap pools and slimline

If you're short on width but have a side setback or a run down the back fence, a **lap or slimline rectangle** is ideal. You can go as narrow as about 2–2.5 m and still have a useful pool, especially with a swim-jet system if you're keen on fitness.



3. Freeform and Kidney Shapes

Softer lines for relaxed spaces

Freeform or kidney-shaped pools use curves instead of straight sides. They suit:

- Older brick homes or **'70s/'80s renos** where a sharp modern box might look a bit out of place.
- **Tropical or coastal garden themes** with palms, rocks and waterfalls, where you're chasing that resort vibe rather than a lap lane.



The practical bits

Curved pools can tuck nicely around trees or existing features, but:

- Pool covers and automatic cleaners can be a bit trickier.
- You lose a little “swimmable” length compared with a rectangle of the same footprint, because of the rounded ends.

4. Plunge Pools and Courtyard Gems

When space is really tight

For townhouses, small terraces or inner-city blocks, a **plunge pool** gives you all the feel of a pool without needing a cricket oval. These are typically:

- Short and deep, or
- Short, bench-heavy and often raised, doubling as a feature wall or built-in seating.

You're not doing laps, but you **cool off, soak with a drink, or let the kids splash about**—which is what most people actually do anyway.

Above-ground and semi-in-ground options

On sloping or tricky sites, dropping in a **precast concrete or fibreglass plunge pool** partly above ground can save a motza on excavation and retaining walls.

5. Natural Pools and Reed-Bed Designs

What is a natural swimming pool?



Natural pools use **plants and biological filtration** instead of chlorine. You swim in one zone, and the water is cleaned by shallow planted “regeneration” areas or reed beds. Think **billabong-meets-swimming-hole**.

Where they make sense

- Larger country blocks or leafy suburban gardens where you want the pool to **blend into the landscape** rather than shout “resort”.
- Owners who are happy with **more earthy, pond-like water** and the odd frog, dragonfly and bird sharing the space.

They need good design and a bit more upfront planning, but day-to-day chemical use is minimal and the look is spectacular.

6. Concrete vs Fibreglass: How Shape and Construction Tie Together



Fibreglass pools

- **Factory-moulded shells** craned into the hole.
- Best for **rectangles, slimline, plunge pools and gentle free forms**—whatever the manufacturer has a mould for.
- Usually **quicker to install** and more predictable on cost.
- Good choice if you see a shape you like in the catalogue and your site suits it.

Concrete pools

- Built on-site with **steel and sprayed or poured concrete**.
- You can pretty much have **any shape, depth changes, beach entries, integrated spas, islands, raised walls**—if you can sketch it, a good builder can often build it.
- Great for awkward blocks, steep sites, very specific shapes (L-shapes, tight courtyards, or natural pools) and for integrating seamlessly with existing architecture.



For **simple rectangular family pools** on straightforward sites, fibreglass can be easier on the wallet. For **custom shapes or natural/reed-bed pools**, concrete (or earth-formed natural ponds) gives the designer more freedom.

7. Matching Shape to Lifestyle



Young families

- Favour **wide steps, benches and shallow play zones**.
- Rectangles with a long bench or **kidney shapes with a broad shallow end** work well.
- Make sure there's a decent **standing depth** where adults can chat with a drink without treading water.
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Entertainers

- Think about sightlines from the **alfresco, kitchen and BBQ**.
- A simple geometric pool with a straight edge along the entertaining area lets you run a clean glass fence and makes the water the hero at night.

Swimmers and fitness buffs

- Prioritise **unbroken length**: lap pools, long rectangles or a T-shape where one arm works as a lap lane.
- Avoid too many curves, steps and benches in the main swim path.

Country folk and nature lovers

- A **natural pool or swimming pond** with planted margins, rocks and timber decks can sit beautifully in a paddock or larger garden, and doubles as a wildlife magnet and dam-alternative.

8. Final Thoughts: Don't Design in Isolation

When you're sketching ideas, don't just look at pool catalogues—look at your **house, garden, climate and how you actually live**.

- In a modern brick-and-render estate, a **tidy rectangle or lap pool** is usually the easiest win.
- On a tight urban block, a **slimline or plunge** running along the boundary can transform the whole yard.
- On acreage or a bush block, a more **organic natural pool or big relaxed freeform** can feel like it's always been there.

If you keep those three things in mind—**site, construction type and lifestyle**—you'll land on a pool shape that not only looks the part, but actually works for the way you and the family use it, year in, year out