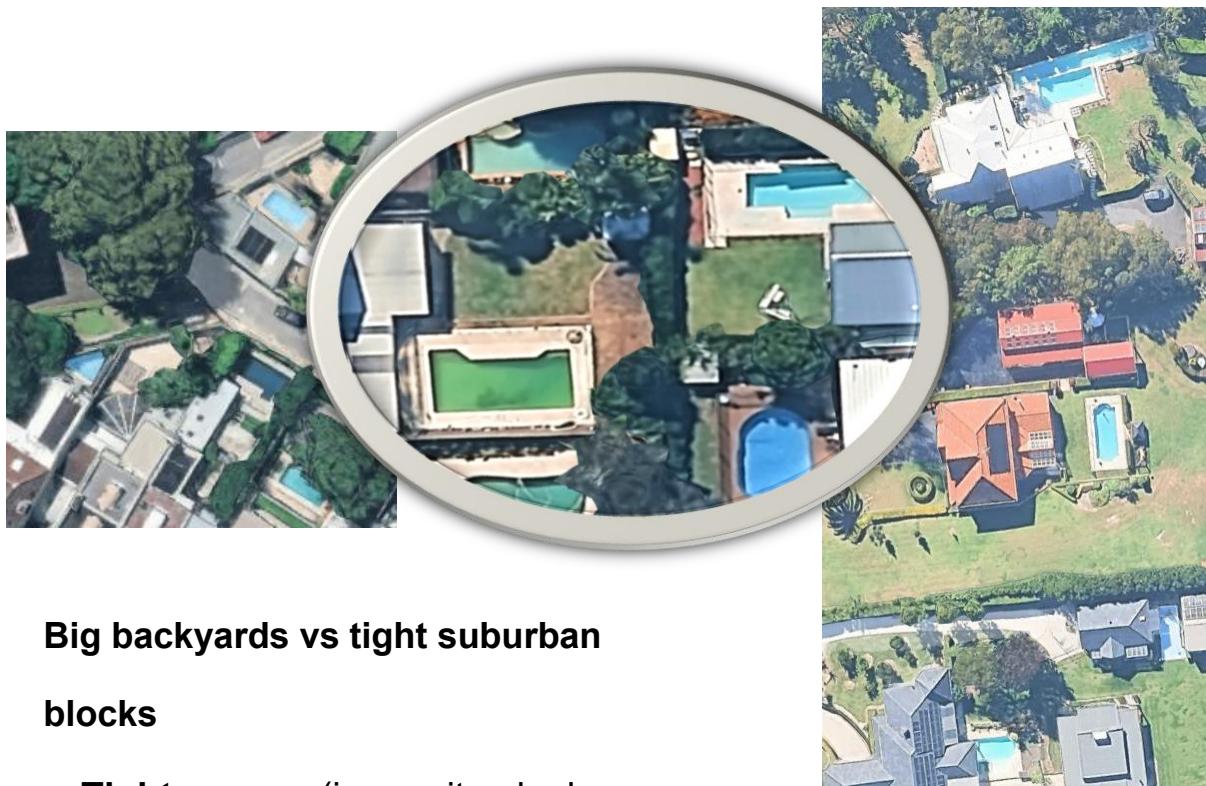




Ideas about pool shape, size and space available.

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)

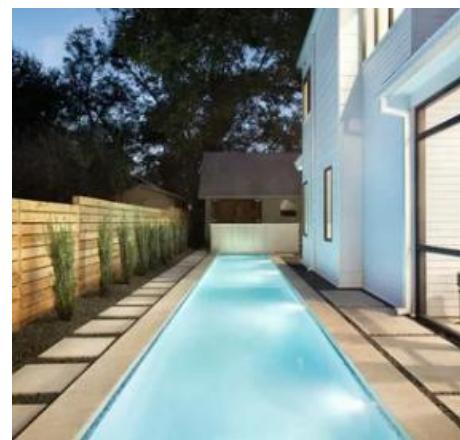
Why rectangles are still king

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.
-

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