

POOL BUYERS CHECK LIST

- ___ Do you have a written agreement listing every thing that the contractor is to do along with an itemized list of the equipment and supplies that he is to furnish?
- ___ Do you have a complete listing of the terms and conditions of the agreement to be signed by the contractor and yourself?
- ___ Do you have a copy of the manufacturers and contractors warranty?
- ___ Do you have a copy of the contractor's liability and workman's compensation insurance?
- ___ Is concrete or wood deck work part of the agreement? If so, be sure that the total area or dimensions of the deck to be furnished are listed in the agreement.
- ___ Do you have a start of construction date and an estimated completion date included in your agreement? Pending weather delays and circumstances beyond the contractor's control, the average time to install a fiberglass pool including concrete decking should not exceed three weeks. Complex installations such as raised spas, water falls, raised deck areas, etc. will increase the working time.
- ___ Has the contractor furnished you with a scale drawing of the pool that shows its correct location on your property? Some Fiberglass pool manufacturers furnish the contractor with plastic pool templates that represent the shape and size of the pool you select. This template can be rolled out in your yard at the desired location. The contractor can then paint a line along the outer edge of the template to determine the excavation line. This option can be used in place of a scale drawing.
- ___ If access to your back yard requires using a portion of your neighbors or public property, be sure you or your contractor gets written permission for the right to use the property for access. Be very specific about who pays for the repairs if the property is damaged.
- ___ Are there any underground utilities in the pool area (septic tank, electric, phone, etc.)? If so they must be located and moved prior to beginning the pool installation
- ___ Make every effort to eliminate your drive way as an access to the work site. A loaded dump truck could weigh up to 80,000 pounds. Your drive way was probably not designed to carry that kind of load. If the drive must be used, determine who will pay for the damage (it could be extensive) and list that information in the agreement.
- ___ The contractor does not know what if any underground obstruction (rock, water, mushy soil, etc) he may encounter when excavating the pool. Because of that, he may have a clause in his agreement that requires you to pay for the increased amount to have the problem resolved. If this becomes an issue, you can have a geological survey done (very expensive) or ask the contractor to dig a test hole (not so expensive) to determine whether an obstruction exists and if it is cost effective to continue with the pool project.
- ___ Be sure to note in the agreement as to whether the soil from the excavation is to be removed or left on site. Up to 25,000 gallons of water will be required to fill your pool. Where will it come from? If you have a well, will it be able to supply that much water without running dry, and is it loaded with iron? If water becomes an issue, be sure to determine who supplies it, and who pays for it, and then include that information in the agreement.
- ___ A progressive pay schedule is normal when installing a fiberglass pool. A suggested pay schedule might be 10% at the signing of the agreement, 40% at the time the pool is delivered (the pool excavation should be complete), 40% at completion of the deck work (at this time the electrical work should be complete, and the pool equipment and plumbing work should be complete), 10% at the jobs completion. At this time the yard should be free of debris and graded well enough to replace grass. All excess dirt should be removed and the pool should be fully functional. This guide line may have exceptions depending on the complexities of the job and unusual circumstances. It is important however to always keep your payments even with the level of the works progress.

NOTES:

1. Contractors do not normally replace fence sections when removed for yard entry
2. Contractors do not normally replace damaged grass. They should however fill ruts and grade disturbed areas.
3. Large equipment and huge amounts of excavated soil create a bomb blast effect in your back yard. Be prepared for the devastation.
4. Permits for installing a fiberglass pool are usually required by the city or county that you live in. You can check with the city or county to see if one is required. If your contractor asks you to get the required permits, it may be because he is not licensed to install pools in that jurisdiction.??
5. **If your contractor does not pay his sub contractors or suppliers for work or material used on your job, in some states, you may become legally responsible for payment.** To protect yourself, check with your attorney or local building officials for the regulations regarding this matter.