

# Inground vs Semi-Inground vs On-ground vs Above-Ground Pools

ORANGE COUNTY POOLS

Orange  
County  
**Pools  
& Spas**





# Introduction



**Ahhhh, swimming.** When summer temperatures peak, there's nothing like a long, relaxing soak or swim. There are nearly 10 1/2 million private swimming pools in the US, not including the 300,000 public pools, and Americans love them for so many reasons ...

■ It's a fun way to stay healthy! People who choose swimming over a gym are more likely to keep up their workout routines, because it's fun, cooling, and pretty easy to do. Sweat with free weights or kick it in the pool? Yeah, that's our choice, too.

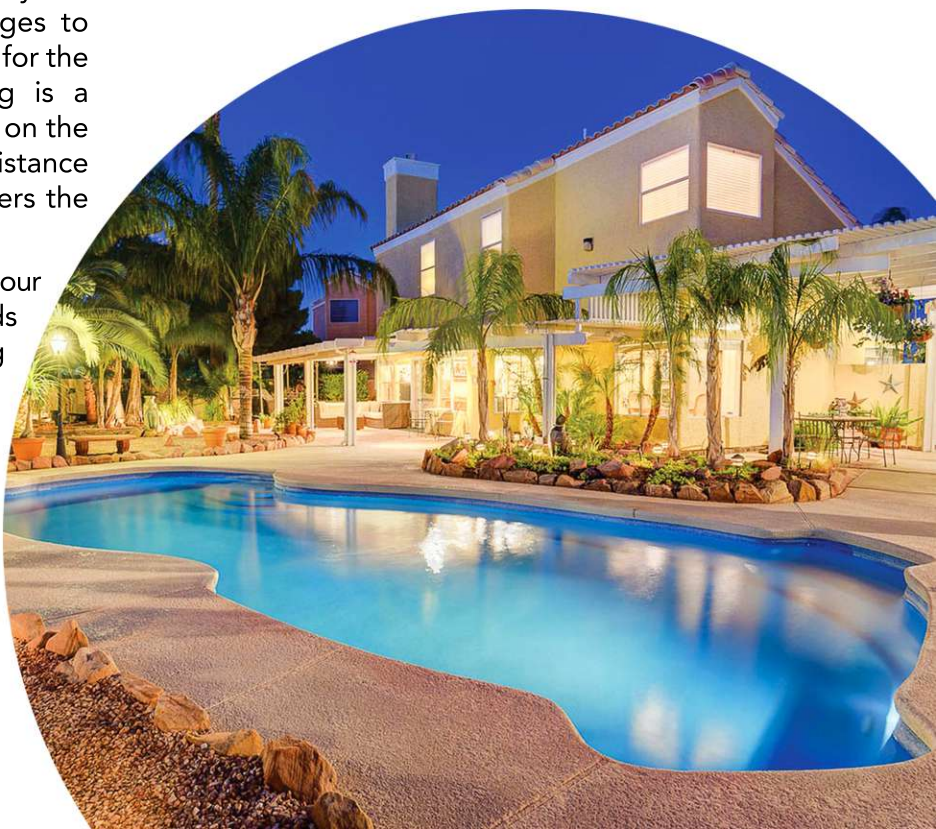
■ It's a fantastic way to pry those phones, video games, and other devices out of your kids' hands. As more data comes in about the dangers of too much screen time, parents can invest in a pool and reduce the wars they have to fight over this problem. If you are constantly yelling at your kids, "Get off that device!", a pool may be the answer.

■ It's for everyone! With tanning ledges, beach entries, and other modern design features, people of all ages can enjoy the pool. There are countless advantages to learning to swim at an early age, and for the mature family members, swimming is a safe, low-impact exercise that's easy on the joints. The water provides gentle resistance that ups the workout value and lowers the instances of injuries.

■ It's the perfect way to know where your kids are and who they're with. As kids reach middle school age, disappearing with buddies is one of the greatest challenges for parents. Who are they with? What are they doing? Are they really safe? Put in a pool, and they'll stick close by, along with their friends. You could keep someone out of serious trouble.

■ It beats any other party option you can name. People spend hundreds of dollars to rent venues for everything from family reunions to birthday parties to weddings and holiday celebrations. A pool serves as your go-to party option from the spring thaw until the first fall frost.

■ It's a disaster-proof staycation. Not long ago, the thought that travel, business, and society could literally STOP was unthinkable. We bought plane tickets, booked trips to Europe or Disney World, and put down payments on vacation rentals at the beach without a thought. Post-2020, we all realize that these things aren't as sure as we thought. You can invest in a pool and be sure of a fun, relaxing vacation, no matter what life or the universe throws at us. Wouldn't quarantine have been a lot more pleasant with a pool?





**There are tons of options** – more than you realize – when it comes to getting a pool. Before you take the plunge, understand your selection, price points, pros and cons, so you can make a fully-informed decision and make your investment sound and sensible. Here are your options:

# Inground Pools

Inground pools are what you probably think of when you hear “swimming pool”. These pools are built into the ground and in general last longer than above ground pools. Most last for decades if properly cared for, and require varying degrees of maintenance. Inground pools can also improve the resale value of your home, if you ever decide to sell. All inground pool installations exclude landscaping, electrical and water. However, we can provide estimates, referrals and work as a team to help you build your dream yard.

**Concrete** - Concrete pools come in several varieties, so you may hear terms like “shotcrete” or “gunite” but these just refer to different methods for installing concrete inground pools. These pools are totally customizable, meaning that you can literally get any shape or size you like. There are many different features and options - including amazing shapes, rock formations and more.

The installation process for a concrete pool is more extensive than with some other types of inground pools. This is due to the fact that concrete pools are labor-intensive, the installers must work around weather conditions (rain and freezing temperatures), and the concrete takes time to cure (dry) before the pool can be filled. Usually, concrete pools are the most expensive type of inground pool, but these pools can literally last a lifetime if properly cared for. Orange County Pools & Spas specializes in gunite pools starting around \$80,000.





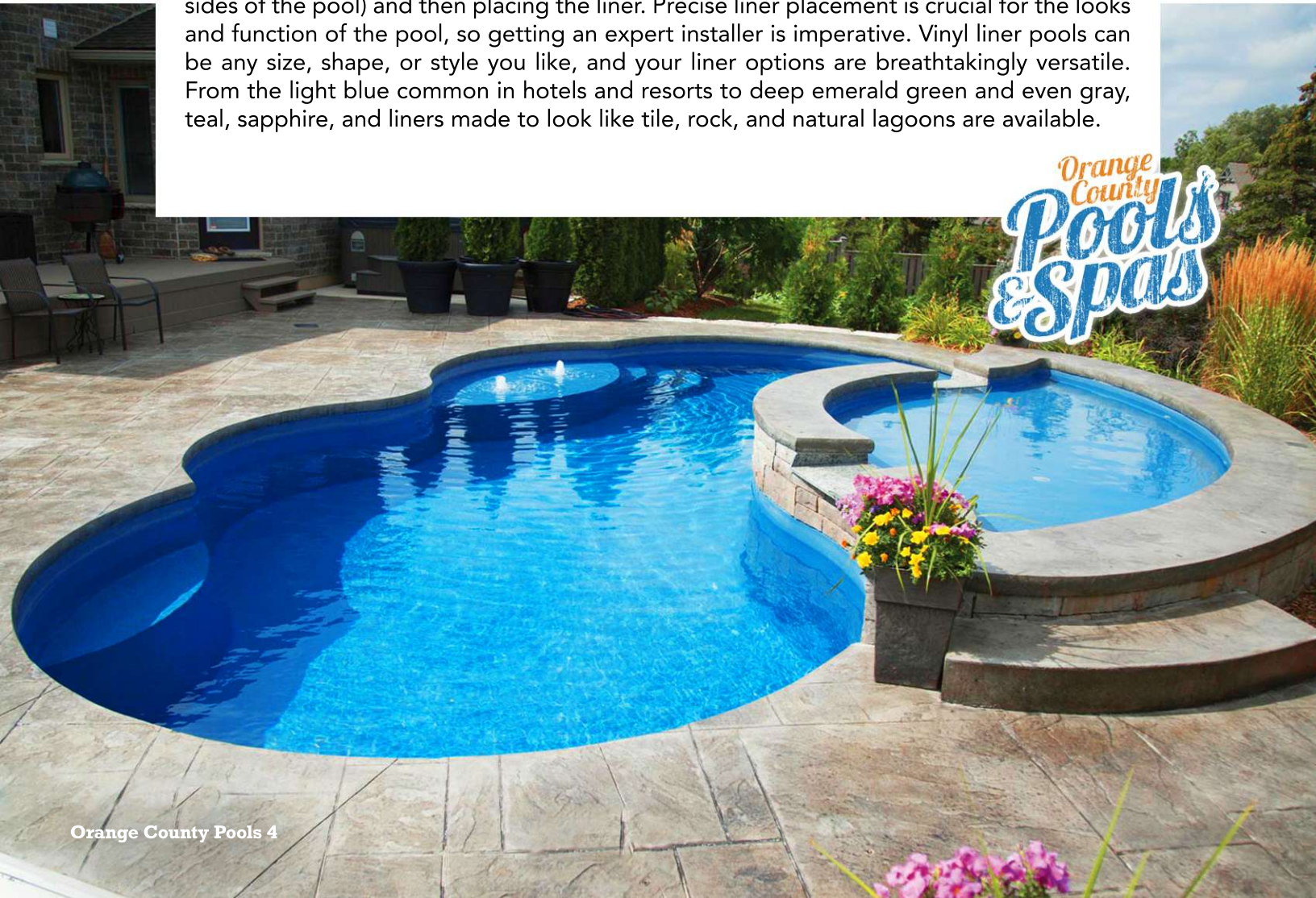
# Inground Pools Cont.

**Fiberglass** - Fiberglass pools are gaining in popularity for several reasons. They are relatively affordable, easy and fast to install, and low-maintenance. Fiberglass pools are manufactured offsite and brought in by truck to place into the excavated site. Though fiberglass pools are not at all customizable (the manufacturer makes only a certain number of designs and styles), few homeowners fail to find a fiberglass pool they love.

These pools come in all of the popular shapes and sizes, including rectangles, freeform, oval, kidney-shaped, lagoon style, Grecian, Roman, and more. You can also get all the popular features, including tanning ledges, waterfalls, lighting effects, and even custom steps, in many cases. The typical fiberglass pool, installed, runs around \$50,000 to \$65,000.

**Vinyl Liner** - Vinyl liner pools are the most affordable option, starting at \$38,000 installed, and running up to about \$47,000 with a basic installation. Vinyl liner pools are every bit as customizable as concrete. The only downside is that the liner does have to be replaced every decade or so. However, many homeowners like this aspect, because it means they can update the look of their pool as styles change over time.

Vinyl liner pool installation involves excavation, building the infrastructure (foundation and sides of the pool) and then placing the liner. Precise liner placement is crucial for the looks and function of the pool, so getting an expert installer is imperative. Vinyl liner pools can be any size, shape, or style you like, and your liner options are breathtakingly versatile. From the light blue common in hotels and resorts to deep emerald green and even gray, teal, sapphire, and liners made to look like tile, rock, and natural lagoons are available.



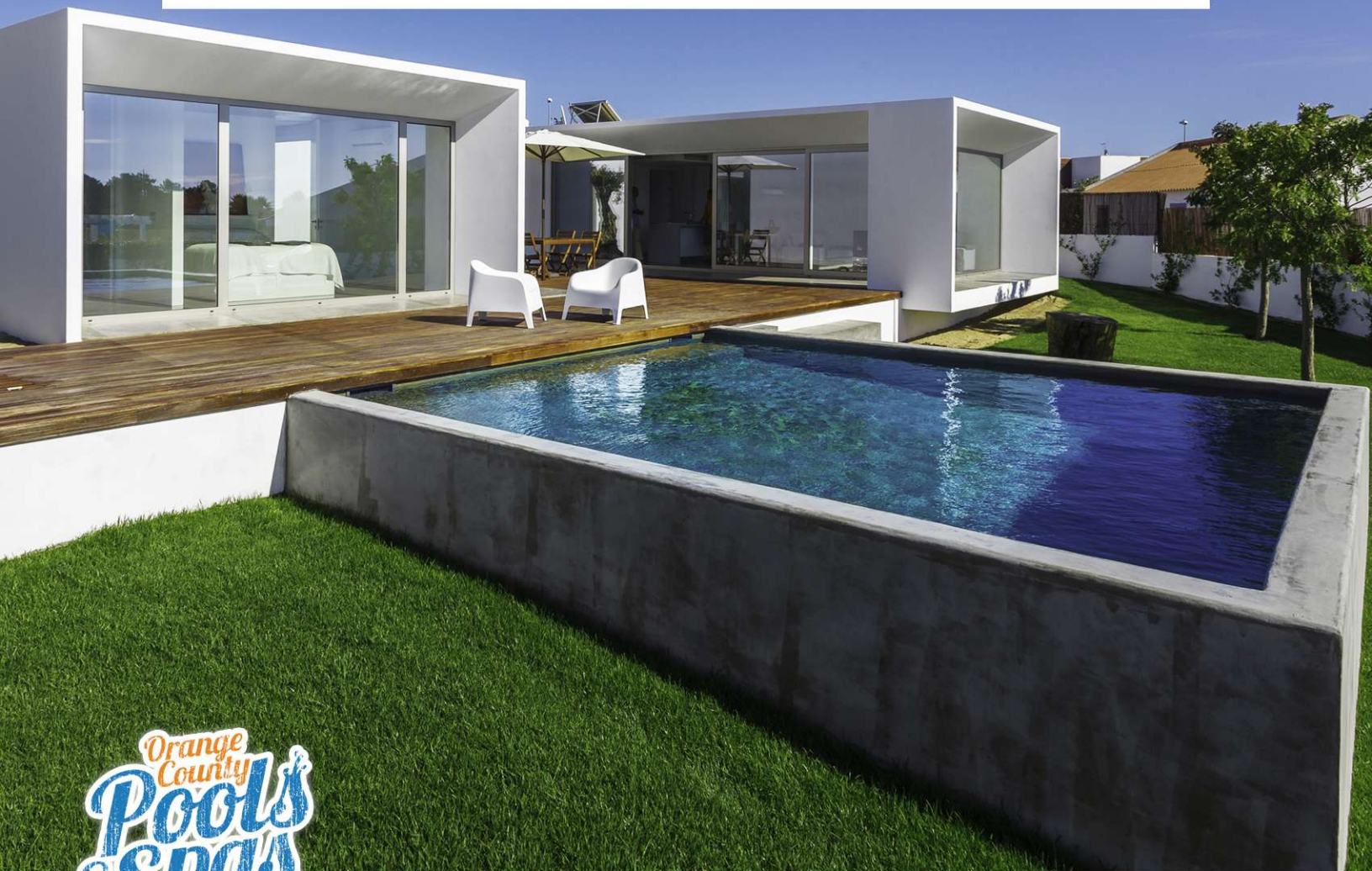


# Semi-Inground and On-ground Pools

**At first glance,** semi in-ground pools appear to be above-ground pools that are partially buried. While they are similar, semi-inground pools are actually constructed of a thicker material and are built to withstand below-ground pressure.

When we talk about on-ground pools, they are often installed in yards with slopes. You can partially bury one side of the pool, leaving the side down hill fully above the ground. This allows for a level pool in an uneven yard. Sometimes, an inground pool cannot be fully installed below ground because of ledge, buried infrastructure or other obstructions. This is when we would recommend a semi-inground pool.

Think a semi-inground or on-ground pool is the best option for your yard? Give us a call and we'll help you figure out what works best!



# Above-Ground Pools

**Above-ground pools** are often touted for being so affordable. While an inground pool installation starts around \$45,000 in most parts of the country, and goes up from there, you can get a very nice above-ground pool for a fraction of that cost. Above-ground pools usually start around \$3,500 to \$4,500 uninstalled, although larger pools and those with special features can cost \$5,000 to \$10,000.

But price isn't the only reason to consider an above-ground pool. Military families, renters, those in the ministry – anyone who moves frequently can enjoy the portability of an above-ground pool. The pool can usually be moved to a new location, fitted with a new liner, and continue to serve the family wherever they happen to go.

Above-ground pools are also great options for those who have underground utilities or other structures, bedrock, or just because they aren't sure if they want a pool "forever." Get an affordable above-ground pool, see how you like it, and then consider a more expensive, permanent inground pool.

## WRAPPING UP

We hope that you've learned a lot about the different kinds of pools in this guide. Orange County Pools & Spas has helped hundreds of families get the perfect pools for their yards, lifestyles, and budgets. Can we add you to the list? Our experts are here to help you, from selecting the perfect pool to determining the best installation for your needs.

***So, come on in! The water's fine.***

Visit our stores in New Windsor (845-565-5777) or  
Mohegan Lake (914-528-9000) or call for a free consultation.

