

WISCONSIN POOL PLANNING CHECKLIST

How you picture using it · what your yard is telling you · the code basics · the WI build season. No prices, no pressure.

Print this and bring it to your consult. Check the boxes as you settle each decision. When you have worked through it, a free design consultation turns it into a real plan for your actual backyard.

1. PICTURE HOW YOU'LL ACTUALLY USE THE POOL

Before shapes or features, get clear on the summers you want.

- ☐ **Name the main way you will use it**
kids and family, entertaining, exercise and lap swimming, or a backyard centerpiece
- ☐ **Decide the depth you want**
a shallow family pool swims very differently from a deep end
- ☐ **List the features that matter**
steps, a tanning ledge, lighting, a heater, an auto cover
- ☐ **Decide how much of the year you want to swim**
a heater stretches the short Wisconsin season on both ends

2. READ YOUR YARD HONESTLY

Your backyard shapes the plan more than any brochure does.

Check	Why it matters
Usable length & width	Sets which pool footprints can fit with deck and setbacks.
Equipment access	A narrow gate or tight side yard adds labor and time.
Slope & grading	A sloped lot needs more earthwork and retaining.
Soil & water table	Fill, clay, or a high water table changes the base work.
Overhead & buried lines	Utilities and trees can rule out parts of the yard.

- ☐ **Measure your usable yard and picture the pool with deck and setbacks around it**
- ☐ **Note anything that could complicate the dig**
a narrow gate, a slope, soft soil, or utilities and trees

3. KNOW THE COST FACTORS (SO QUOTES MAKE SENSE)

No one can build a pool without seeing the yard - but these are the levers.

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- ☐ **Size and shape**
the biggest single factor in any pool
- ☐ **Pool type**
vinyl-liner, fiberglass, or gunite
- ☐ **Deck material and how much of it**
- ☐ **Required fencing and any code upgrades**
- ☐ **Add-ons**
heater, cover, lighting, and water features
- ☐ **Match scope line by line when you compare quotes**
two "pool" quotes often include very different work

4. KENOSHA COUNTY CODE BASICS

The rules keep a backyard pool safe and shape the timeline - plan for them.

- ☐ **Plan for a code-compliant barrier**
a fence generally at least four feet high
- ☐ **Use self-closing, self-latching gates**
with the latch placed out of a child's reach
- ☐ **Confirm setbacks from property lines and structures**
check them with the building department
- ☐ **Build permits and inspections into the timeline**

5. TIME IT TO THE WISCONSIN BUILD SEASON

The build window here runs roughly April through November.

If you sign...	You're likely...
Winter (Dec-Feb)	Digging in spring, swimming early-to-mid summer.
Spring (Mar-May)	Digging within weeks, swimming mid-to-late summer.
Summer (Jun-Jul)	Swimming late summer or early fall.
Late summer/fall	Planning now to dig first thing next spring.

- ☐ **Pick the summer you want to be swimming and work backward from it**
- ☐ **Sign early to claim a spring dig**
the best early-season slots book fast

6. QUESTIONS TO ASK ANY BUILDER

Bring these to every consult vinyl-liner pools

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- ☐ Are you licensed and insured, and can I see proof?
- ☐ What exactly does the quote include - and what is excluded?
- ☐ Who handles permits, setbacks, and the fence?
- ☐ How do you build for freeze-thaw here?
- ☐ What does the liner warranty and workmanship guarantee cover?