

Before you dive into
swimming pool construction . . .

A Consumer Guide from B&B Pool and Spa Center





*“Careful planning will
prevent unwanted
headaches later!”*

You’ve made the decision to install an inground backyard swimming pool. **That’s great!** A pool is a terrific place to enjoy quality family time and stay fit! But now you’re not sure about the ins-and-outs of dealing with contractors and construction.

Unless you’re a contractor yourself, there are probably a number of questions and concerns you have. This guide provides you information you should know and presents some questions you should ask each and every contractor who gives you an estimate on your pool . . .

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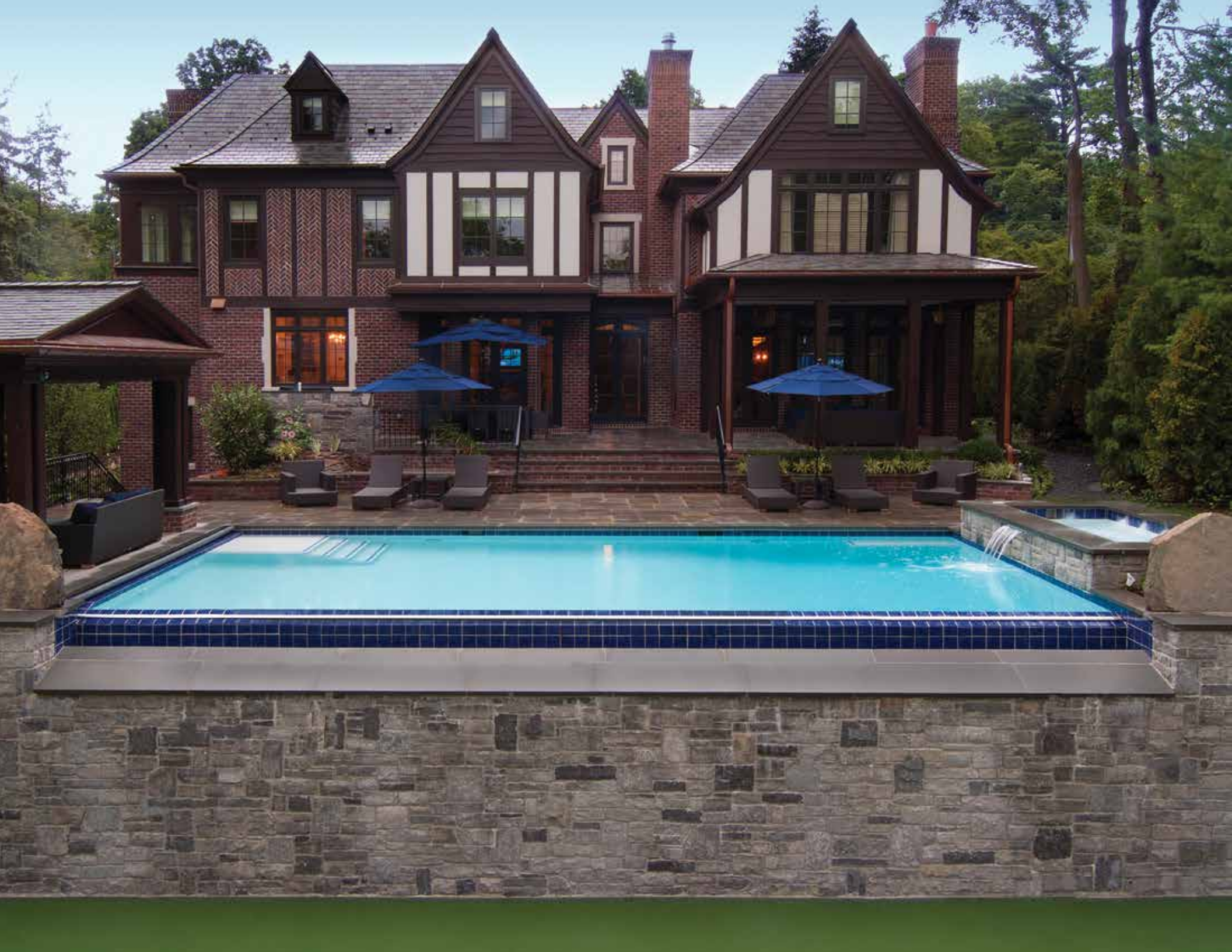
*“Before you sign
a contract to build
your dream pool,
arm yourself with
knowledge”*

You are about to make a **large investment**—probably one of the largest you’ll make on your property. Make sure the folks you hire to build your pool are experienced professionals who can demonstrate their expertise with work examples and references.

Know your **rights and responsibilities**. Asking certain key questions can protect you from unscrupulous contractors who talk a “good game” but can end up wasting your time and money. Laws vary from state to state so research what laws apply to you.

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*“Keep in mind that
the lowest bid may
not always give you
the lowest cost”*

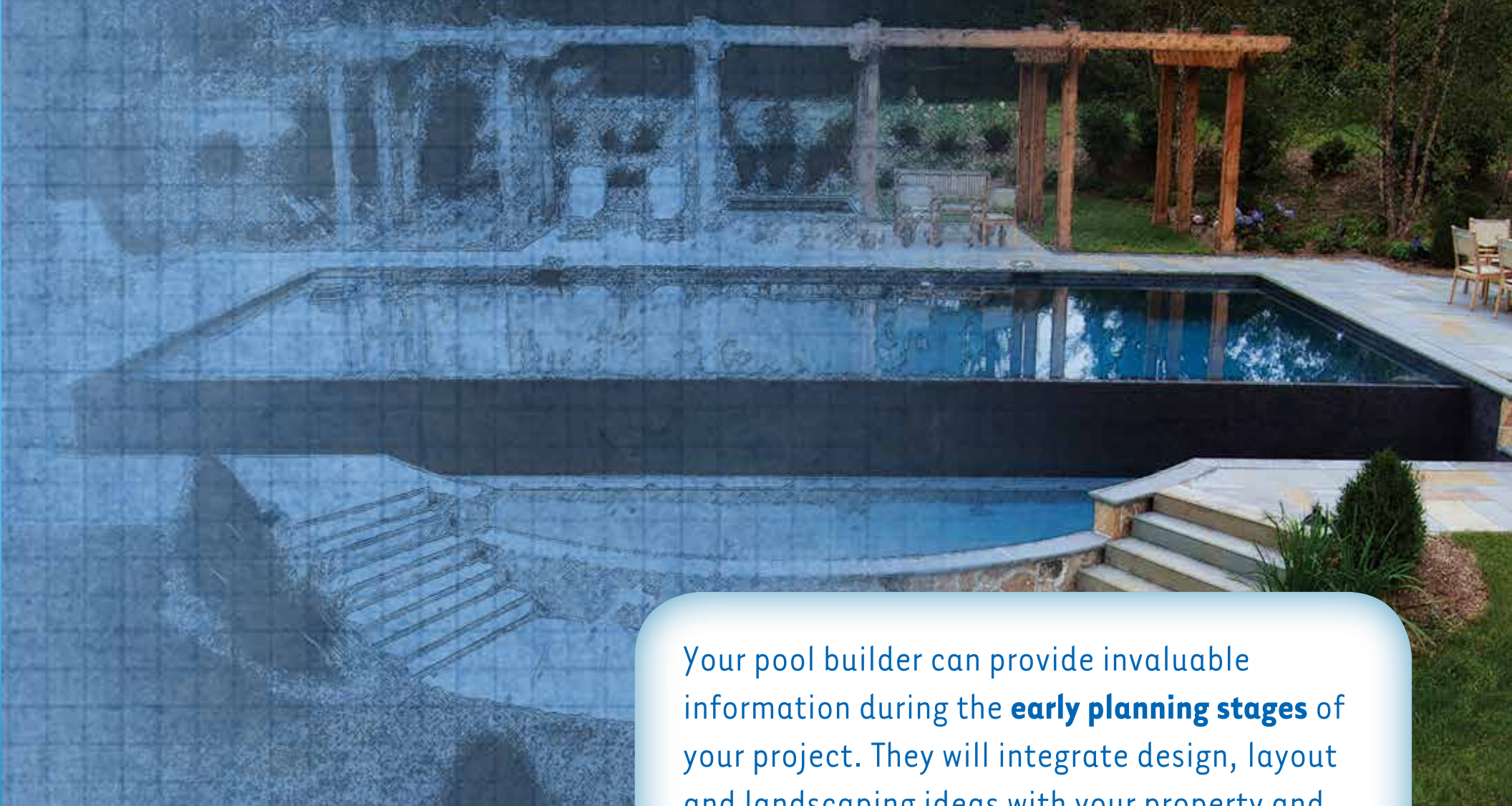
Unscrupulous contractors may conceal some costs in order to keep their bids low. Those hidden costs can bust your budget. While not every potential problem can be predicted, experienced pool builders will do their best to inform you about what to expect.

Check every contractor you’re considering with the **consumer protection resources available** such as the Better Business Bureau and the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP.org) and your local consumer protection agency.

You’re building a pool so you can begin a lifetime of good memories. Taking care with these first steps will help insure that the good memories start now.

Don’t get soaked before you hire a contractor . . .
do your home improvement homework!





Your pool builder can provide invaluable information during the **early planning stages** of your project. They will integrate design, layout and landscaping ideas with your property and according to your wishes.

Be sure to speak with a seasoned, experienced pool professional to avoid expensive design changes later on.



When you're planning any major construction or remodeling work on your home or property, you owe it to yourself to investigate any potential contractor to ensure they are properly **licensed and insured** for the type of work you need done. Requesting a copy of their certificate of insurance with you listed as an "additional insured" further ensures you are working with a quality company. Also ask for a copy of their license and the permit when it has been secured from your local building department.

In many states, any contracting job—including swimming pool construction or repair—over a certain value are required to hold a current, **valid contractors license** from the state or county in which the work is being done. The license must cover the specific type of work being performed.

"Be sure your pool builder has all the necessary licenses, permits, certifications and insurance"

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“Quality of materials for the infrastructure of your pool is an often overlooked detail in the bidding process”

Swimming pool construction is a **specialized field** that requires specific training. Pool builders need to be knowledgeable on subjects ranging from hydrology (the study of water and its flow), plumbing, waterproofing, engineering, design, masonry, soil conditions, permitting, safety, government regulations and much more.

Qualified swimming pool contractors can demonstrate their knowledge through certification tests. Professional organizations such as The Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) and The Northeast Spa and Pool Association (NESPA) have **strict certification programs**. Certifications such as CBP (Certified Building Professional) and CSP (Certified Service Professional) assure you that your builder has been certified by a professional trade organization that adheres to the highest standards. The certifications are renewed every five years by attending continuing education courses. Qualified pool builders must be able to show proof of all required licenses and carry adequate insurance — including both liability and Workmen’s Compensation.



Use this checklist to help qualify your pool builder

- Use only licensed contractors. Check contractor's license number
- Check contractor's rating on the Better Business Bureau
- Check contractor's membership in the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) – www.apsp.org
- Ask how long the contractor has been in operation and whether the company has operated under a different business name
- Get three references and review past work
- Get at least three bids from licensed, qualified contractors
- Ask what they do if something unexpected is discovered on your property such as buried debris or boulders
- Get a written contract and sign only after you fully understand the terms and conditions – Be sure a payment schedule is stipulated
- Schedule the payments to be released according to the phases of the work completed – never pay in advance
- Hold the final payment until the work described in the contract is fully completed

We wish you well in realizing your dreams of pool ownership
and we welcome inquiries in our service area of NY and NJ

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