

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN RENOVATING OR BUILDING A POOL

If you are considering renovating or even building a new pool from scratch there are a few decisions you will need to make and also some important information you will need to know. Please consider the following information before you start making decisions.

CHOOSING WHICH TYPE OF POOL (BUILDING)

- **Above ground pools...** above ground pools are the cheapest option to have your kiddies swimming before summer but they can be harder to maintain, do not withstand the weather as well as a concrete pool and might not look as attractive in your back yard. Some of the problems you might come across if you are building your self are: construction issues, plumbing and pump problems and chemical balance issues.
- **Fiberglass pools...** a cheaper alternative to concrete, but this is still a better option than above ground because they can look quite nice if you choose the right pool and it is installed properly. Some of the issues you may come across with fiber glass pools are: Spider Cracks in Gel coat, Pool Walls bulging, Fading of Colored Fiberglass Pool Finishes, and Plumbing Settling causing Leaks.
- **Concrete pools...** if you are looking for visual beauty and longer lasting quality this is the choice for you. A bit more expensive than above ground or fiberglass pools but they will last well past your lifetime if maintained properly, the advantages of building a concrete pool are obvious.
 - **Strength:** concrete is obviously stronger than fiberglass, therefore it will be around for much longer.
 - **Finishing:** You can change the finishing on a concrete pool if needed or wanted to give a brand new look or colour.
 - **Valuation:** a beautiful concrete pool will increase the valuation of your house and is a great sales point too.
 - **Weather:** everyday weather will not affect the quality or structural integrity of a concrete pool.
 - **Beauty:** Fully tiled concrete pools are very popular for the above reasons but most popular for the visual beauty and longevity.

COUNCIL APPROVAL (BUILDING)

When constructing a pool you will need to get a Development Application (D/A), this can be done through your local council. This is obtained by submitting a plan through the development department of your local council chambers. Approval can take anywhere between 6 weeks and 8 weeks depending on your plans and what construction needs to be done. After you have the D/A, you will need a Construction Certificate (C/C), this can be obtained two ways, either through you council or through a private certifier. Once you have both the D/A and the C/C you can then start construction. This applies for both concrete and fiberglass pools.

CHOOSING A POOL BUILDER (BUILDING AND RENOVATIONS)

Choosing a good pool builder is as important as choosing quality tiles and equipment. Your job will only be as great as the builder's experience and skills. Make sure you choose a builder who is licensed and has a good reputation, you will find a list of good builders at S.P.A.S.A (swimming pool and spa association ph **toll free** 1800 802 482) you can also find good builders that are not listed with S.P.A.S.A. all around Australia. It is a strong recommendation to ask for three references from your chosen builder. The last thing you want is to have a half finished pool that no other builder wants to touch. A quality pool builder might charge you a fraction more, but they insist on using the best products and tradesmen for your project. Remember two things, you get what you pay for and there is no substitute for experience.

(‘The quality is long remembered after the price is forgotten’)



CHOOSING A FINISH (BUILDING AND RENOVATIONS)

The most common pool finish is also the most beautiful, of course we are talking about glass mosaic. When choosing your tiles consider the following.

1. **GUARANTEE...** Ensure that you choose a tile that is guaranteed for LIFE against colour fading and manufacturing default. If you have this guarantee you will not only have a beautiful pool or spa for life, but you will also have the confidence that you will be protected should there be any problems with the tiles.
2. **TILE BACKING...**The dot mounting system is one of only a few tile backing methods on the market that meets and exceeds the Australian standards (A/S 3958 12007) giving you over 93-95% glue adhesion on the back of the tile. Standards are set in place to protect the consumer from inferior products and manufacturing. Therefore it is imperative that the tile of your choice passes these strict Australian Standards. Should they not comply with these standards you must use glue and grout that the supplier recommends for a guarantee, which sometimes can get very expensive and also this might not work in well with the tilers preferred choice of products. Choosing a tile with over 90% adhesive backing allows you and your tiler to use the glue and grout of your choice, saving you time and money whilst still maintaining your guarantee.
3. **CORNERS...** Glass mosaic tiles usually have either rounded corners or square corners. Choosing a mosaic tile with well rounded corners and smooth edges has greater benefits when used in pools and spas and in fact any situation where close contact of human skin to the tiles will occur. If your tiler is inexperienced using square edge glass mosaics, it is possible for edges of tiles to protrude exposing a square edge. Tiles with smooth rounded edges & corners have the advantage of allowing for this occasional issue and still leave a smooth edge finish.
4. **THE LOOK YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE...**Make sure that when purchasing mosaic tiles for your project, you ask for a sample of the current batch in stock and also, if available, a photo of the tile in a finished pool or project. This will make sure that the colour you have selected will be suitable for your surroundings. An incorrect choice can become expensive with freight and restacking fees, so be sure of that you have covered these important factors. Remember, a fully tiled pool is the only finish that adds an incredible sparkle look to your water, especially if you tile your pool with EZARRI's new iris range.
5. **VALUE FOR MONEY...** Europeans have pioneered the mosaic industry and continue to lead the industry today in quality and design and innovation. Choosing a European made mosaic is the safest choice for your project. Of course budget is important to any project so choose wisely to suit your particular budget. You can purchase some glass mosaics in excess of \$400 per m2, and then the cost of laying. You can purchase EZARRI glass mosaics from around \$ 70 m2 to around \$180 m2 with the knowledge and comfort that you are paying for a quality guaranteed European mosaic tile. Ask your tile shop or builder about the quality of the beautiful EZARRI range for your next project, you will not be disappointed.
6. **ANTI SLIP...** EZARRI is one of only a few companies that produce an anti slip glass mosaic tile suitable for walk in areas, stairs, pool edging and any other wet area of concern, making your pool area safer for your family. EZARRI glass mosaic tiles are rated with a B rating with the C.S.I.R.O (Wet bare foot test and the Wet Pendulum test).



WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION

Fiberglass pools...

- Digging: You are building a pool, expect there to be tradesmen in your back yard with digging equipment and machinery at the early hours of the morning to dig the hole required.
- Cranes: depending on the size of your pool and house, you will most likely need a crane to lift the fiberglass shell into place and level it.
- Plumbing and equipment: Depending on the job, the plumbing will be done next to connect the pool to all equipment necessary. Once this has been done, most of the plumbing will be covered up or buried.
- Landscaping: depending on your contract and or builder you may have organized to have your yard landscaped to match your new pool.

Concrete pools...

- Digging: You are building a pool, expect there to be tradesmen in your back yard with digging equipment and machinery at the early hours of the morning to dig the hole required.
- Steel work: before concrete can be sprayed with concrete the structure will be reinforced with steel rods to support the weight of the concrete and water when filled, this can take a few days depending on the size of the pool.
- Plumbing: all the plumbing work will be assembled and set into place along with your pumps and equipment and hidden away.
- Concrete spraying: after the steel and plumbing has been set into place you will then have concrete sprayed and shaped to form you pool base. The concrete will have to cure for around 4 weeks depending on the time of year.
- Rendering and Tiling: the finishing touches are going to start once the pool has cured. The tiler will mark out lines, then, section at a time, will lay the tiles. Usually, the tiler will leave the corners until last, but this will depend on the shape of your pool. Once all the tiles have been glued into place, the tiler will then grout the pool and buff the tiles after the grout has dried.
- Up and running: the pool is now ready to be filled with water and all equipment tested, connected and setting will be adjusted.
- Ph levels: when the builder is happy with everything he has done, he will then add and check the chemical balance to ensure that you don't have problems.
- Hand over: the pool builder will hand over the pool along with instruction manual, information chart and all the warranty associated with your equipment. Call S.P.A.S.A (**toll free** 1800 802 482) to get a maintenance booklet, they are very helpful.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE (BUILDING AND RENOVATIONS)

Be sure to have a supply of the chemicals you need for you pool to ensure that you keep a good p/h balance in the water. Also, it is a good idea to get to know your local pool care store and have a very good understanding of what you need to add should the balance veer to either extreme. Alternatively, you could have your local pool care company have someone visit every two week to look after all this for you.

SOME USEFULL NUMBERS

S.P.A.S.A

(toll free 1800 802 482)

Swimming pool and spa association.

For advice on pool equipment, builders, and general enquiries.

RENAISSANCE TILES

(local call 1300-392-774)

For your local EZARRI glass mosaic stockiest, samples and general enquiries.

A.S.A.A

(03 9888 2246)

Australian stone advisory association.

For any advice needed if using natural stone for your project.

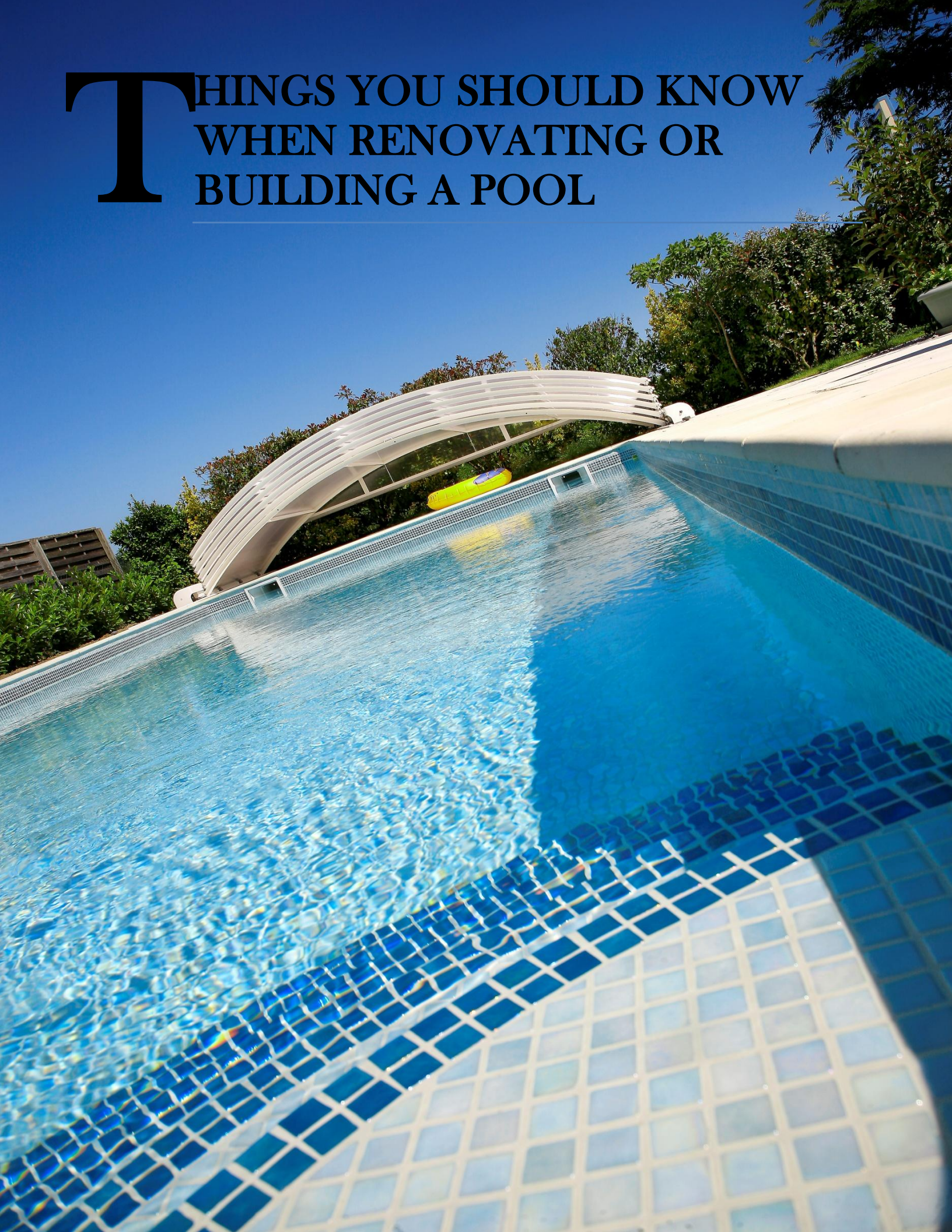
A.T.C

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Australian Tile Council



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