



THE REAL DEAL GUIDE TO BUYING AN ABOVE-GROUND POOL

Energy Center
Manhattan Pool

TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

Introduction

04

Chapter One:

Differences in Price Points

05

Chapter Two:

Right-Sizing Your Above-Ground Pool

06

Chapter Three:

Picking a Pool Shape

Chapter Four:

Preparing for Installation

07

Chapter Five:

Sanitation & Filtering Systems

08

Chapter Six:

Accessories





INTRODUCTION

Did you know ... above-ground pools were mainstream before inground pools? Above-ground pools offer a number of attractive selling points, including affordability, portability, and installation where an inground pool isn't possible, such as in areas with bedrock or underground infrastructure. Additionally, many of the above-ground pools we sell here at Energy Center-Manhattan Pool can be installed inground, or partially inground, to accommodate a number of installation situations. If you have a steep grade in your backyard, semi-inground installation is a fantastic solution for owning a pool.

Above-ground pools are also not as basic as they used to be. Now, you can get one that offers varying depths, various shapes, and options that only used to be available with inground pools, such as heaters and "sunken" pools that are flush with the surround. Many automatic pool cleaners can also be used in above-ground pools, so care and maintenance is easier than ever. Being portable means that renters, military families, and others who move from home to home can invest in a pool that can go along with them.

Here are some other things you'll want to know before investing in an above-ground pool ...



What's With the Wide Range in Pricing?

One of the reasons above-ground pools are so popular is that they are very affordable. The introductory price for a quality above-ground pool can start around \$4,000 with higher quality pools costing closer to \$10,000 or more, depending on the installation. So, why do you see pools in the big box stores for just a few hundred bucks? What are the differences?

Quality

The cheap above-ground pools at big box stores might last only a year or two, and the lower-quality pump, filters, etc. will make maintenance more difficult. The higher-quality pools you find at reputable, local pool dealers like Energy Center-Manhattan Pool last for decades, if well maintained, and the higher-performance pumps and other equipment do a better job of maintaining water quality as well as pool longevity.

Size

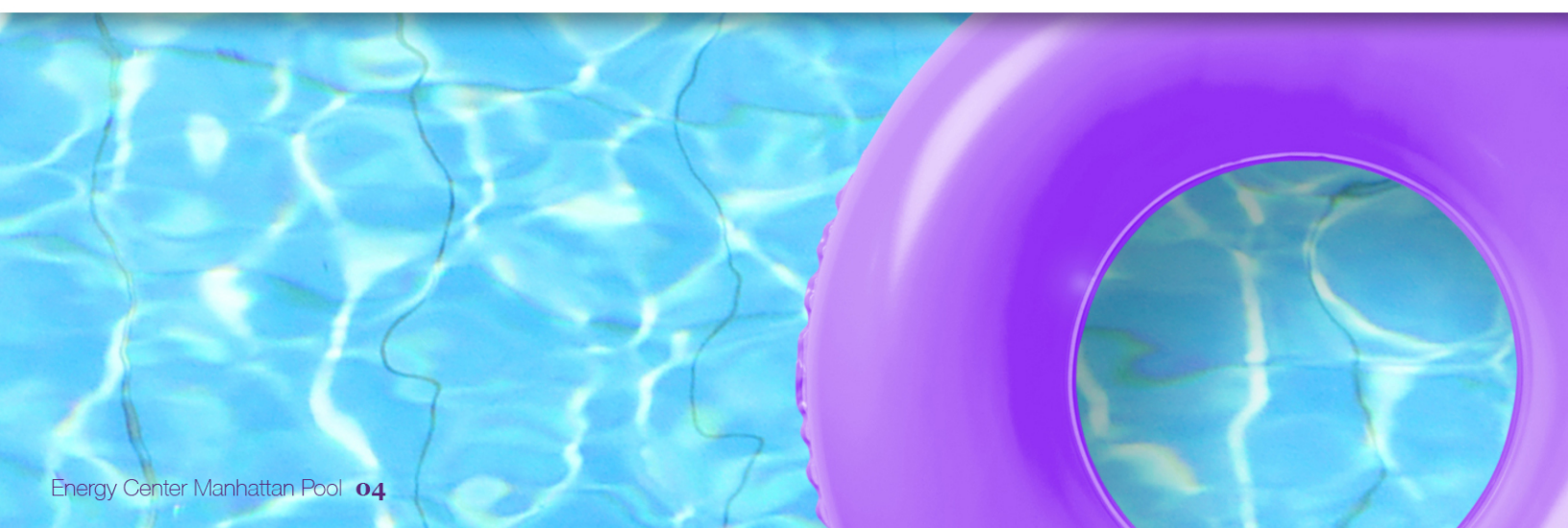
While many less-expensive pools you see in big box stores may picture 4 to 6 people in the pool, look closer. There's really no room for "swimming". Larger above-ground pools actually do accommodate several adults, comfortably, with room to spare. The pools we carry at Energy Center-Manhattan Pool are similar to inground pools in terms of size and swimmability. You can get the affordability and portability of an above-ground pool without sacrificing the swimability of an inground pool.

Features

Higher-quality above-ground pools usually come standard with many things that are "extra" on cheaper pools. Also, our higher-quality pools have many optional accessories available that are not even offered with the cheaper brands. Here, you'll find a tremendous variety of optional features, including a variety of step options, automatic cleaners designed for above-ground pools, pool heaters, and more.

Insulation

Radiant Pools from Energy Center-Manhattan Pool are insulated. A well-insulated pool means you can swim earlier in the spring and later in the fall. Uninsulated pools don't hold heat, significantly shortening your swimming season. Combined with a heater, Kansas pool owners can enjoy weeks of additional swim time each year with a Radiant pool.



What to Consider When Choosing a Pool Size

Above-ground pools come in a wide selection of sizes. Many people are tempted to buy the biggest and best, while others try to keep it on the more affordable side with the smallest option available. But there are a few things to keep in mind before grabbing that Supersize Whopper or the Itty-Bitty-Tiny pool:

Measure

Actually use a measuring tape and measure the area you have in your yard. In addition to the horizontal measurements, be sure to check the clearance under and around power lines, as this can sometimes affect delivery. You're going to be mad if that 30-foot pool doesn't fit between the fence and the tree, or if you could have gotten a pool 5-feet larger. Many areas have restrictions governing how close a pool can be to nearby structures. Check the local requirements and get accurate measurements of your backyard. The pool experts at Energy Center-Manhattan Pool can help you determine the best size and shape pool for your yard, especially if you have to contend with a slope or other immovable structures.



CHAPTER 3



Above-Ground Pool Shapes

Once upon a time, above-ground pool buyers had to choose between round and round. Then there was round and oval. Now, above-ground pools come in a surprising variety of shapes!

Round pools are still popular, especially for families with kids. Oval pools are strong choices for lap swimmers or those who want a pool for exercise as well as entertainment. You might also find that an oval pool is the best option to get the size you want within the local restrictions for how close the pool can be to existing structures. But our selections don't stop at round and oval -- we also have gorgeous, modern freeform pools to choose from!

The pros at Energy Center-Manhattan Pool can help you determine the best shape for your above-ground pool, depending on the size of your yard, your budget, and the design scheme you're after.

CHAPTER 4

Preparing for Installation

One of the many advantages of getting a higher-quality above-ground pool from Energy Center-Manhattan Pool is that we will install it (if you choose) or offer tons of helpful advice for the DIY-er. While every pool, backyard, builder, and homeowner varies, the general installation process goes something like this:

- You acquire your building permit and purchase your pool.
- The area is cleared of grass, landscaping, rocks, debris, etc.
- The area is leveled, using either excavation or filling, depending on the situation.
- Your pool is delivered or you pick it up.
- Install your Happy Bottom Pool Pad or pour sand as a base for the pool.
- The pool frame is assembled.
- The liner is installed.
- The pool is filled with water.
- The pump, filters, etc. are turned on.
- The water is tested and chemicals added as needed.

The first step in buying your above-ground pool is planning where you are going to put it. Finding the ideal spot in your backyard is a great way to determine what size will fit best there. There are a few things that you will want to avoid. For instance, having your pool in close proximity to your house and away from trees will make it easier to maintain.

Always check local regulations, such as required building permits, fencing or cover requirements, and any HOA regulations you're subject to. Knowing what is required of you is a necessary step to help determine what you will need to set up your pool. Choose a spot that's easy to access from the water and electrical outlets, so filling your pool and running the pump will be convenient.

CHAPTER 5

Sanitation and Filtering Systems

Pool sanitation and filtration refers to the chemicals and equipment used to keep your pool water clean. Sanitizers kill bacteria and other contaminants, while filters remove the physical contaminants.

If you're worried about maintaining your pool, rest assured that modern systems make pool maintenance safer, easier, faster, and more intuitive. Maintenance involves two parts: keeping your pool water clear and healthy, and keeping the working parts (pump, filter, etc.) running smoothly. But rest assured that pool water maintenance is easier, faster, and less complicated than ever before!

Sanitation Options

You may have heard of "chlorine alternatives," such as Biguanide (PHMB) and saltwater sanitation systems. The chlorine smell is less pronounced in a saltwater or Biguanide (PHMB) pool, and many pool owners love saltwater for its better feel on the skin, hair, nose, eyes, and even swimwear. Talk to the experts at Energy Center-Manhattan Pool about all of your options: Chlorine, Biguanide, and Saltwater sanitation systems.



Filter Options

There are three filter options that are commonly used with above-ground pool systems ...sand, cartridge, and diatomaceous earth.

- Sand is one of the oldest and still the most common forms of filtering systems. It's by far the most popular option here in Kansas, due to the ease of backwashing to clean the sand filter, and with all the pollen we contend with. Maintenance involves backwashing, or running the water backwards through the filter to clean it, and periodically changing the sand. Sand doesn't get the very finest particles, though, filtering down to about 20-40 microns.
- Diatomaceous Earth (DE) filters are known to work the best in keeping your pool waters clean, but are also notorious for being the most expensive and requiring the most maintenance. However, DE filters catch even the tiniest of particles, filtering to about 2-3 microns.
- Cartridge Filters are a good middle-ground. Less expensive than DE, it filters to about the same size particles. Cartridges also require less maintenance. The cartridge must be cleaned once each swim season (an average of 6 months in our area). Some of our customers keep a secondary filter on hand so they can swap it out and still use the pool while cleaning the filter.

CHAPTER 6

Essential Accessories

Our pools come with the basic essentials you need to set up and operate your pool. But most of our customers also opt for some additional accessories that improve the pool in terms of safety, efficiency, maintenance, and aesthetics.



Covers & Ladder Locks

Swimming pools are made for family fun. We want every memory associated with your pool to be happy. With the right safety features, this dream becomes reality. Toddlers, pets, neighbor kids -- these are just a few examples of why covers, ladder locks, and other safety features are strongly encouraged when buying a pool. Many jurisdictions require fences, and we strongly recommend them either way, to protect innocent lives and make sure your pool is always a place of safety and good, clean fun.

Pool covers greatly reduce the maintenance involved in owning a pool, and can also help to heat the pool, extending your swim season by weeks each year. Covers keep out leaves and debris that make pool cleaning difficult, and can be used to heat the pool water without the use of an electric pool heater, extending your comfortable swim season earlier in spring and later in fall. It's also highly recommended to use a cover on your above-ground pool in the wintertime to make your spring opening much easier.

Automatic Pool Cleaners

There are two kinds of pool owners: those who think pool upkeep is hard and those who own an automatic pool cleaner. Automatic cleaners are the Roombas of the pool universe. These nifty little creatures crawl around the bottom of your pool sucking the yucky out, leaving little physical labor for you outside cleaning filters, adding chemicals, and jumping in for a swim! Be aware that not all automatic cleaners are for use in above-ground pools. We can recommend the ideal model for your above-ground pool.

Skimmers

Skimmers do for the top surface of your pool what automatic pool cleaners do for the floor. These nifty little wonders catch leaves and other debris that rudely make their way onto the water surface. Skimmers mean less chasing leaves around with a net and more playing Marco Polo with the kiddos.

The logo for Energy Center Manhattan Pool features the words "Energy Center" in a stylized, bold font with a sunburst graphic behind the word "Energy". Below it, "Manhattan Pool" is written in a cursive script font. The background of the logo is a bright blue sky with a sunburst effect.

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Conclusion

We hope you've found this guide helpful in your search for the ideal above-ground pool for your budget, backyard, family, and style. Now that you know what you're looking for, head to [our website](#) to see our selection, or better yet, head down to Energy Center-Manhattan Pool to pick yours out today!



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