

Florida Swimming Pool Association
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For Immediate Release June 23, 2009

When getting ready to build a swimming pool, choosing a contractor is a very important decision. Here are some steps and tips to make the decision-making process easier.

Find a list of pool builders/ installers in your area. The Florida Swimming Pool Association's Web site, www.FloridaPoolPro.com, allows consumers to search for member companies in their area. Once you have a list, there are some basic things you will want to find out about the companies and the building process.

Check with your local Chamber of Commerce and Better Business Bureau to see if they have any additional information on the companies.

Contact the companies and ask them some questions. Find out their license number and verify it at www.MyFlorida.com/DBPR. Ask if they have liability insurance and workers' compensation coverage. See if their subcontractors are licensed and have insurance. Ask if they build in accordance with the ANSI/ APSP standards. Find out how long they have been in business and ask for references – call the references. If you have any specific wants, needs or concerns, ask if they have experience in those areas.

Narrow down your list and get a few written bids. Consider exactly what you are getting for the total cost, the quality of the work they will provide and the comments you heard from the references.

Choose a company and read and understand the contract before you sign it. Understand exactly what the cost of your pool includes, the schedule of payments, the dispute settlement arrangement, who pays for damage to things such as a sprinkler system or shrubbery, the average time of construction and the specifics about the size of the pool and the equipment that will be installed.

Be sure to get all agreements and change orders in writing and keep a copy for yourself. Also, take photos throughout the construction process.

The last thing to do is enjoy swimming in your new pool!

The Florida Swimming Pool Association is a trade association for the pool and spa industry in Florida. There are approximately 600 member businesses in 16 Chapters across the state. Members are required to abide by a code of ethics and to be properly licensed and insured. FSPA provides the industry with access to continuing education courses, information on current trends and issues, an arbitration program and government relations representation. FSPA is governed by a Board of Directors.

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