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Having a swimming pool at your home can bring fun and enjoyment. When you decide to build a pool it is important to carefully choose who will be doing the work. While other research into a company is necessary, verifying that they have a license is the first step.

When building or renovating a swimming pool it is important to use a licensed contractor. This provides some assurance that they have knowledge in the field; classes are required to get and maintain a license. It is illegal to hire an unlicensed contractor and a contract with one is not enforceable under law. Unlicensed individuals may not be insured either. One way to protect yourself is to make sure you use a licensed contractor.

Getting a license requires a background check experience and/or education and insurance. Certain core courses and a number of elective courses are required every two years to renew a license. Also, if you do happen to have problems, you can file a complaint against their license. A pool contractor's license number can be checked for validity at [www.myflorida.org/dbpr](http://www.myflorida.org/dbpr).

A combination of things lead to a great pool being built at your home and a licensed contractor is an important part of that.

Consumers can visit [www.FloridaPoolPro.com](http://www.FloridaPoolPro.com) to search for FSPA members in their area. 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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