

HOMEOWNER DECISION SHEET

Which Pool Type Fits Your Yard?

Concrete (gunitite and shotcrete), fiberglass, and vinyl compared on the questions that actually decide it.

Inside: the comparison table, the year-15 test, and the questions to ask any builder

The three types, side by side

Every pool type is somebody’s right answer. These are the tradeoffs that decide which one is yours, written by a contractor who builds one of the three and renovates all of them.

Question	Concrete	Fiberglass	Vinyl liner
Shape freedom	Any shape, any depth, built in place	Factory molds only; must fit a truck	Rectangles and common shapes
Structural life	50+ years with maintenance	Decades; gelcoat is the wear layer	Structure decades, liner 7 to 12 years
Install time	Longest; phased over weeks to months	Fastest; shell craned in	Fast
Surface feel	Firm; texture varies by finish	Smooth gelcoat	Soft vinyl
Repairability	Every layer renewable	Specialized; narrows with age	Liner replacement on a cycle
Upfront cost	Highest	Middle	Lowest

The year-15 test

Do not compare pools on install day. Picture year 15: concrete needs a finish renewal and looks current; fiberglass swims well but its first surface problem is a specialist job; vinyl is on liner two and quoting liner three.

Questions to ask any pool builder

- ☐ What exactly is included, line by line, and what is an allowance?
- ☐ For concrete: what shell thickness and mix psi, and how is the rebar scheduled at steps and skimmer?
- ☐ Who runs the crew, and how long have they been doing this work together?
- ☐ What happens if you hit ledge rock or groundwater, and at what unit price?
- ☐ What is the deck scope, and is the expansion joint built new?
- ☐ What equipment is quoted, and is it variable speed?
- ☐ What is the payment schedule tied to, phases or dates?
- ☐ What does the warranty cover, and what voids it?

Connecticut reality

Freeze-thaw is the local tax on every pool type. What protects any of them is the same short list: sound joints, managed water, and problems repaired in fall instead of wintered over.

Talking through pool types? Call 860-256-9219.

GS Rose Construction builds gunite pools and renovates gunite and shotcrete shells across Connecticut. We will tell you when the answer is not us. Estimates are free.