

What color do you want your pool to be?

Choosing the right color for your pool depends on a few things. We will try to guide you through the main focus points so that after reading this, you end up with the right color for your pool.



What about reflection?

Ever stood in front of a window looking at your own reflection before going to a meeting and making sure your hair is looking good. Everybody knows that when the space at your side of the glass is brighter than on the other side, you will have a mirror effect. When the other side is brighter, you will see through the window as if there was no glass.

Your swimming pool works in somewhat the same way. Certain surface colors will draw your eyes to the bottom of the swimming pool and others will focus your eyes on the water surface. A black pool will create an almost mirrored surface most of the time, where you can't visibly discern the bottom. In contrast, a classic "light blue" finish will have you looking at the bottom of the swimming pool.

Some like it hot. What about you?

When you are considering a color for your pool, you should also think of the effect a color has on the water temperature. Dark colors are attracting the sun and the heat. White surfaces will reflect most of the sunrays and will stay cooler.

When you are on holidays in a hot country, never noticed the amount of white cars? Well, there is a reason for this. If you have ever driven a dark car on a hot summer's day (which I am sure you have), you will have noticed how hot they can get.

A pool is like a car. Darker pools will attract the light and will absorb the heat during the daytime. Bright colored pools will reflect the sunrays, which makes them brighter and cooler. Different from the car, very often with a pool you can use the free heating. So think if you like it hot or not when you are deciding on the color of your pool.

It's a matter of perspective

You will view your swimming pool from different angle points: at a distance (for example, looking out from the kitchen window or from the outdoor dinner table), and up-close (sitting by the water's edge or inside the pool). Nearly every photo shown during the sales presentation will be an overview beauty shot. From this vantage point, you will see the big picture, the scattering of light from above, the additive color of the bottom, the wonderful water surface.

But you are not building a pool just to enjoy from a distance. Instead, we must take into consideration what the pool looks like on close inspection as well. This is where visual texture comes into play.

First, visual texture creates an inviting and lively surface. Just as important, a pattern tends to mask debris and other material. Take carpet for example: A solid white carpet seems to be a dirt magnet, while a darker, patterned carpet stays clean. Does white really attract more dirt? Of course not, it just makes it more visible.

A swimming pool is no different. It is this same visual texture that gives a Culture or Shimmer finish pool its distinctly different look from that of the traditional white fiberglass pool.

Selecting a quality pool finish

Let's view our color selection and see what effect the finishes will have on the swimming pool. HercoPools are available in 3 gel coat finishes: Natural Finish, Culture Finish and Shimmer Finish. Natural Finish Gelcoat is the same material used on boat hulls and bathtubs. It is a durable plastic surface that is both non porous and easy to clean. Gel coat is also quite easy to repair. Obviously white cannot be bleached out (it's already white), but it can slightly yellow over time. While this problem is mostly associated with early gel coat endeavors, there can still be a slight shift in color at the waterline. Aesthetics aside, this is one good reason to install your pool with a cantilever Itauba wooden deck. In this way, all of the exposed gel coat will be below the waterline and therefore exposed to identical conditions. Any slight color shift will typically be even and barely discernible.

White - However fashionable at the moment due to the success of Apple, we would tend to forget that historically this is the "look" of the fiberglass pool. White gel coat is quite easy to repair and pretty robust (it's the primary coating for boats and yachts). White reflects the most amount of light, which maximizes the scattering and results in crisp blue water. How deep blue the color is depends on how deep the water is from your vantage point. Deep Water = Deep Blue. Shallow Water = Light Blue. A white swimming pool will be blue, but not deep blue, especially because we choose not to make deep pools. Wooden decks and colored/natural stone decks can minimize or accentuate the sterile look. The downside of the clean white look: there will be no visual texture other than the very noticeable debris at the bottom, so keeping the pool clean will require more work.

Lagoon blue – This color owes its popularity to the quest for "blue pool shells". Because it is a light blue, the water approaches the color blue one might find in a white or plaster color pool, but the blue will be darker as if the pool would be deeper. Keep in mind the blue color of the water and add a blue background. If you are driven for this color you might also consider the blue colors of our Culture Finish line, as they cause a deeper color blue and the texture will be more

prominent in the deep end.

Culture Finish- We are excited about our Culture Finish Pool finishing. It will not only out-perform in quality, it will out-perform with style. Our Culture Finish Pool provides outstanding visual texture in a smooth, non porous, easy to clean surface. HercoPools offers 3 Culture Finish color choices.

Hawaiian Sand - This is our favorite color. Sand creates an interesting jade green. Much like the blue-green water seen up close at the beach, it is simply stunning. The color results from looking through the blue water, down to the yellow shade of the sand. As we all know, blue + yellow = green. Sand finishing compliments a natural setting with its rich earth tones and is a very nice addition to the surrounding landscape.

Pool Gray - One of our darkest colors. Pool Gray is an excellent choice for either a contemporary installation or a very natural looking aquascape. From a distance, pool gray produces a wonderful shade of blue water with light reflecting tendency. The swimming pool looks blue, but the eyes will definitely focus on the bottom when up close. Surprisingly, when you see this finish installed, it is not as dark as you may think by just looking at a color sample.

Mid Blue - This mid blue color is our response to the many requests for a "blue" pool shell. As we have discussed, the color of the pool is not the primary indicator of the water color. This darker blue shade (as compared to lagoon blue) has several different shades of blue ranging from light to dark. This gives the color a noticeably darker finish, without the blushing and fading traditionally associated with dark colors.

Shimmer Finish – The shimmer gelcoats provide a highly decorative and reflective surface to bring your pool alive. The ultimate in protective performance, they ensure that your pool retains its appearance over many years.

Tropical Shimmer: This darker blue shade has hints of blue and silver sparkles and produces a wonderful finish. The eyes will be drawn to the bottom upon close inspection. Tropical shimmer has a brighter appearance in the shallow areas than Pool Gray, owing most of the difference to the splash of reflexion provided by the silver accents.

We have chosen colors for HercoPools that will be enduring, not trendy, so your swimming pool will look just as good 20 years from now as it does today. Regardless of what color you select for your new HercoPool, you are going to have years of maintenance free enjoyment.

Let's remember

Dark colors attract the heat and create a mirror like effect
Light, Bright colors reflect the light and the heat and create the very transparent pool.
Culture and Shimmer Finish Gelcoats add that extra to the pool, especially from up-close.