

7 UPGRADES THAT TURN a *Pool into a Resort*

A nighttime photograph of a resort pool. The pool is illuminated with a bright blue light, and the surrounding area is lit with warm, ambient lighting. Several palm trees are visible in the background, and a large patio umbrella and lounge chairs are in the foreground. The overall atmosphere is luxurious and relaxing.

FREE GUIDE

Planning a Pool or Updating the One You Have?

This Guide Shows You What Makes It Feel Like a Resort.

Some pools are made just to swim.

Resort pools are made to enjoy.

This guide is for homeowners who:

- want to build a pool the right way from the start.
- have a pool that looks old or plain.
- or have a pool they don't use as much as they thought they would.

The good news?

You don't need a bigger pool.

You don't need to start over.



Designed to be enjoyed

Upgrade #1: Lighting That Changes Everything

Lighting is one of the easiest ways to make a pool feel like a resort.

Without good lighting, your pool can feel dark or plain at night.

With the right lighting, the whole backyard feels calm, warm and inviting.

Lighting helps:

- ✓ your pool look better after sunset.
- ✓ your yard feel safe and welcoming.
- ✓ your space get used more often.

This upgrade works for:

- ✓ new pools
- ✓ older pools
- ✓ simple remodels

Good lighting makes your pool
feel finished.

Resort-style pools are not bright.

They are softly lit.

You don't light everything.

You light what matters.

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Upgrade #2: The Baja Shelf

(The Resort Way to Relax)

A Baja shelf is a shallow area at the front of a pool.

It's one of the most loved features in resort pools.

- ✓ you sit and relax
- ✓ kids can play safely
- ✓ lounge chairs go in the water
- ✓ you cool off without swimming

If you are building a new pool, a Baja shelf can be added from the start.

If you already have a pool, it can sometimes be added during a remodel.

This upgrade gives you a place to sit, relax, and enjoy your pool longer.

Resorts don't rush you into deep water.

They ease you in.

A Baja shelf makes your pool feel calm, fun, and welcoming.

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Upgrade #3: Water Features

(The Sound of a Resort)

Resort pools don't feel quiet. They feel calm.

That calm feeling often comes from moving water.

Water features add:

- ✓ gentle sound
- ✓ motion
- ✓ relaxing mood

Common water features include:

- ✓ small waterfalls
- ✓ sheer descents
- ✓ wall scuppers

You don't need a big waterfall.

Even a small flow of water can make a big difference.

Water features make your pool feel alive.

They turn your backyard into a place to relax.

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Upgrade #4: Materials

(What You See and Feel)

Materials are what people notice first.

Tile, stone, and finishes change how your pool looks and feels.
They can make a pool feel plain — or high-end.

Resort pools use materials that:

- ★ feel smooth under your feet
- ★ catch the light
- ★ look clean and timeless

Common upgrades include:

- ✓ waterline tile
- ✓ stone or concrete coping
- ✓ interior finishes with color and texture.

You don't need fancy patterns.

Simple, well-chosen materials make the biggest impact.

Good materials make your pool feel intentional.

They turn it from basic into beautiful.

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Upgrade #5: Built-In Seating

(Stay and Talk)

Resort pools are made for people, not just swimming.

Built-in seating gives you places to sit, talk, and relax together. It keeps everyone close and comfortable.

- ★ Benches inside the pool
- ★ Seats along the edges
- ★ Spots to rest without leaving the water

Built-in seating helps:

- ✓ families stay together
- ✓ guests feel welcome
- ✓ conversations last longer



In place of standing or floating, you have a place to sit and enjoy the moment.

You don't need extra furniture.

Your pool becomes the gathering place.

Built-in seating turns your pool into a social space, not just a place to cool off.

Designed to be enjoyed



Upgrade #6: Fire + Water

(Warmth Meets Calm)

Fire and water are a powerful mix.

Resort pools often use both to create balance.

The water feels calm.

The fire adds warmth and glow.

This upgrade can include:

- ★ fire bowls near the pool
- ★ fire features built into walls
- ★ fire placed next to waterfalls or water features

Fire features help:

- ✓ your pool feel cozy at night
- ✓ extend how long you stay outside
- ✓ make your backyard feel special

Fire and water together make your pool feel dramatic, warm, and relaxing.

It's one of the clearest signs of a resort-style space.

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Upgrade #7; Outdoor Living

(More Than a Pool)

They are not built alone.

Outdoor living upgrades connect your pool to how you live outside.

This upgrade can include:

- ★ BBQ or outdoor kitchen areas
- ★ decks or paved lounge spaces
- ★ grass or turf play areas
- ★ retaining walls or raised planters

Now add automation.

- ★ lights that turn on by themselves
- ★ water features on a schedule.
- ★ pool settings controlled from your phone.



Meals, playtime, and relaxing all feel easier when everything is set up ahead of time.

Outdoor living with automation turns your backyard into a true retreat, not just a pool with space around it.



It's Not Just About a Pool.

It's about how your backyard works for your life.

A resort-style space feels: ★ calm ★ comfortable ★ easy to enjoy

It's a place where:

- ★ mornings feel slower
- ★ evenings last longer
- ★ family and friends want to stay

Most resort-style backyards are not built all at once.

They are created by making smart choices over time.

The upgrades in this guide are not trends.

They are the features people use the most.



*Create a space you enjoy every day,
not just a pool you look at.*

When design is done right, your backyard becomes your favorite place to be.



Ready to Turn Your Backyard Into a Resort?

Every great backyard starts with a smart plan.

- ✓ Whether you're:
- ✓ building a new pool, or
- ✓ upgrading the one you already have

The right upgrades make all the difference.

At **Custom Built Pools & Spas**, we've been helping families create outdoor spaces they love for generations.



We don't believe in one-size-fits-all pools. We design spaces that fit your home, your family, and your life.

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