



Above Ground Pool Pad Instructions

Things You'll Need

- Hammer
- Drill
- Drill Bit (1")
- Dumbbell Weight (Approx 10+lbs)
- 3ft Length of Rebar
- Inverted Marking Spray Paint
- Shovel
- Sod Cutter (optional)
- Wheelbarrow
- 1/4" Minus Crusher Dust (Full truckload for 24' / 27' – smaller sizes require less)
- 3/4" Minus Crushed Rock (special cases only – as needed to level existing ground)
- Plate Compactor (Rented from your local home improvement store)
- Laser Transit Level (Rented from your local home improvement store)
- 2 Small Pieces of Plywood (6" x 6" square, 1/2" thick)
 - *One of these pieces of plywood will need a 1" hole in the center*
- Screed Board (Some Customization Required)
 - Create a long wood screed board using a long, straight 2"x4".
 - Cut it to be 20 inches longer than the pool's radius.
 - Drill a hole 1" from the end of the 2" x 4" to be able to slide the 2"x4" on its edge around a piece of rebar.



Where to Drill Hole in Screed Board

- Custom Transit Rod (Some Customization Required)

Use of this custom rod will prevent you from digging the rod into the crusher dust pad (Making it much more accurate)

- o Using another straight 2"x4", cut it to be 5ft long
- o Screw the 6"x6" piece with no hole on to the end of the board



Custom Transit Rod

Mario's Tip

Take your time. Preparing the base for the pool is the most important step for successful construction of your pool.

Warning

Consult with your local utility company before excavating to be certain there are no buried utility lines running through your yard.

Getting Started

Step 1: Choosing the Best Area to Place Your Pool

An area that is already relatively level is ideal, but consider other factors, such as proximity to your home, power lines, water lines, septic systems and other hazards that may be buried in the yard. Also, check your local building codes, as many municipalities have ordinances that require pools to maintain specific distances from property lines and existing structures, such as houses, overhead and buried utility lines.

You will need an area that is 4ft larger than your pool. (See table below)

Pool Size	Pad Size
15'	19'
18'	22'

21'	25'
24'	28'
27'	31'

Step 2: Marking the Perimeter of the Pool Pad Area

- Place a metal stake in the desired spot for the center of the pool.
- Tie string to the stake, then measure out the distance to the pool's edge plus 24 inches.
- Tie the other end of the string around the can of spray paint, making sure that the can reaches the proper distance from the center of the pool.
- Invert the can and spray a line as you walk the perimeter of the pool, keeping the string tight as you go.

Step 3: Removing All Sod, Rocks and Other Vegetation from the Area

You can use shovels to dig up the sod. Alternatively, if the pool area is large, you can rent a sod cutter from your local home improvement store. Use a wheelbarrow to haul the sod and vegetation away from the pool area.

Any rocks larger than 2" should also be removed from the pad area.

Step 4: Rough Ground Levelling

- Next, you need to determine the lowest point of the pool pad area. To level the pool base, you need to bring the yard to the same level.
- Since the pool needs to sit on a firm base, it is not practical or advised to raise the low point.
- Instead, dig down the high points so they are level with the lowest point.
- *In special cases, where the lowest point is 8"+ below the highest point – the lowest point **needs** to be raised; use crushed rock (3/4" minus, compacted) to do so. Additionally, you will need to make the pool pad larger than the painted perimeter circle for the purpose of retaining the bank.*

Step 5: Marking the Center of the Pad

- Hammer the 3ft long rebar stake where the center of the pool is located



Step 6: Finding High and Low Spots on the Pad

- Rotate the 2x4 screed board around the perimeter of the pool area.
- Adjust the ground by removing high spots with a shovel and filling in low spots with 3/4" minus crushed rock as needed.

Step 7: Adding Crusher Dust (1/4" minus)

- Pour enough crusher dust (1/4" minus crushed rock) into the pool area to create a 2 3/4" un-compacted crusher dust base.

Step 8: Setting Up the Screed Board and Transit Rod

- Place the rebar through the hole in the 6" x 6" square of plywood.



- Next, place the screed board on the rebar, then place the vice grips around the rebar and lock it them. Then place the dumbbell weight on top of the vice grips.



- Now you will have to set the transit to the height of the plywood around the rebar at the center of the pool.



- Now you will go around the pool pad, in 1ft increments taking shots where the pool wall will sit (approx. 20 inches from the end of the 2x4).



- *The goal of this is to have the area where the pool wall sits and the center of the pad to be the same height. Any gaps along the screed board should be filled in at this time.*

Step 9: Compacting the Base

- Compact the ground with a small plate compactor.
- Repeat Step 8, going around the pad and taking shots until the pad is perfectly level.

Note, if any soft, squishy spots appear when tamping the pad, stop immediately and dig down about 1ft. Fill the hole with 3/4" minus crushed rock and add crusher dust to bring pad back to grade

**** Tamp the pad a maximum of 3 times. Any more **WILL** make the ground squishy and result in an unsuitable pad****

Step 10: Laying the Geotext

- Once the pad is levelled and tamped, paint the outline of the pool where the wall will sit.
- Carefully unfold the geotext ensuring you don't get any rocks on it.
- Center the geotext on the paint marking.
- Nail the geotext down every 4-5 feet around the perimeter, pulling it tight to remove any wrinkles.
 - It is important to have these at the edge as they will be removed after the pool is constructed.
- Paint the outline of the pool where the wall will sit onto the geotext.

Step 11: Building the Bottom Track

- Refer to your pool's instructions for direction on how to build the bottom track
- Place the track down on top of the geotext

- Ensure the track is circular and spike it into place using the painted circle from Step 10.
- Measuring from the slot where the wall will sit across the pool, measure exactly the diameter of the pool. Nail the track down at this position. Repeat every 4-5ft around the pool until track is secured.

Step 12: Adding the Styrofoam

- Using 1" Low Density Styrofoam sheets start in the center of the pool pad.
- Place as many full sheets as possible, taping them together with tuck tape.
- Trim the sheets to fit inside the track leaving a 3/4" gap around the perimeter.
 - This gap will give you some room to adjust the shape of the track if it is not perfectly circular. The coves will cover this gap.
 - The track can be used to assist you in cutting the curved pieces.

Step 13+: Follow Installation Instruction's Specific to Your Pool

Pro Tip: When installing the coves later in the install process, use tuck tape to attach to the wall. Additionally, use Duct-Tape to cover the bolts that connects the wall.