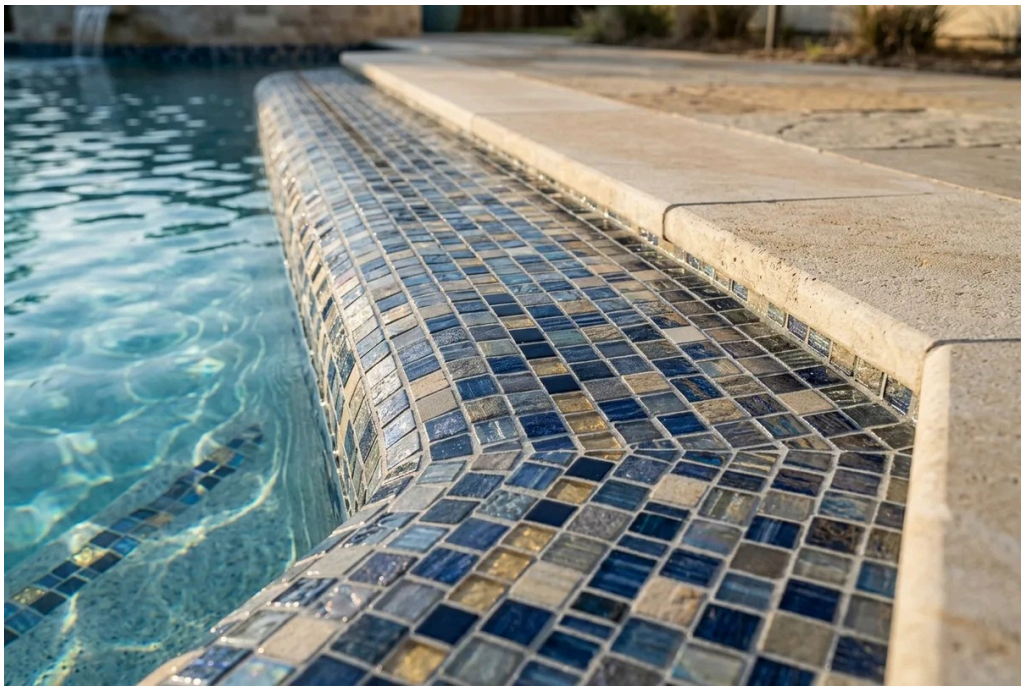
SWIMMING POOLS

Pool Finishes Compared: Porcelain, Glass Mosaic or Pebble?

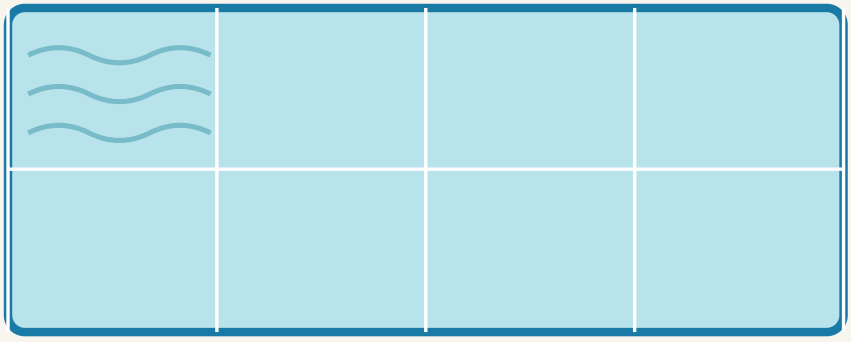
By DirectHome Team Updated 16 September 2026 5 min read Explore our swimming pools service ↗

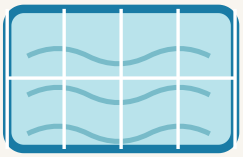
Porcelain, glass mosaic and pebble finishes create different appearances and cleaning demands in a pool. Compare samples alongside the proposed edges, steps and installation details, where the finished surface affects everyday use. The colour you like is one decision; the suitability of the complete finish for that part of the pool is another.

Need advice for your home? WhatsApp our team ↗



Different pool surfaces do different jobs





Underwater finish

Review the surface, colour and joints.

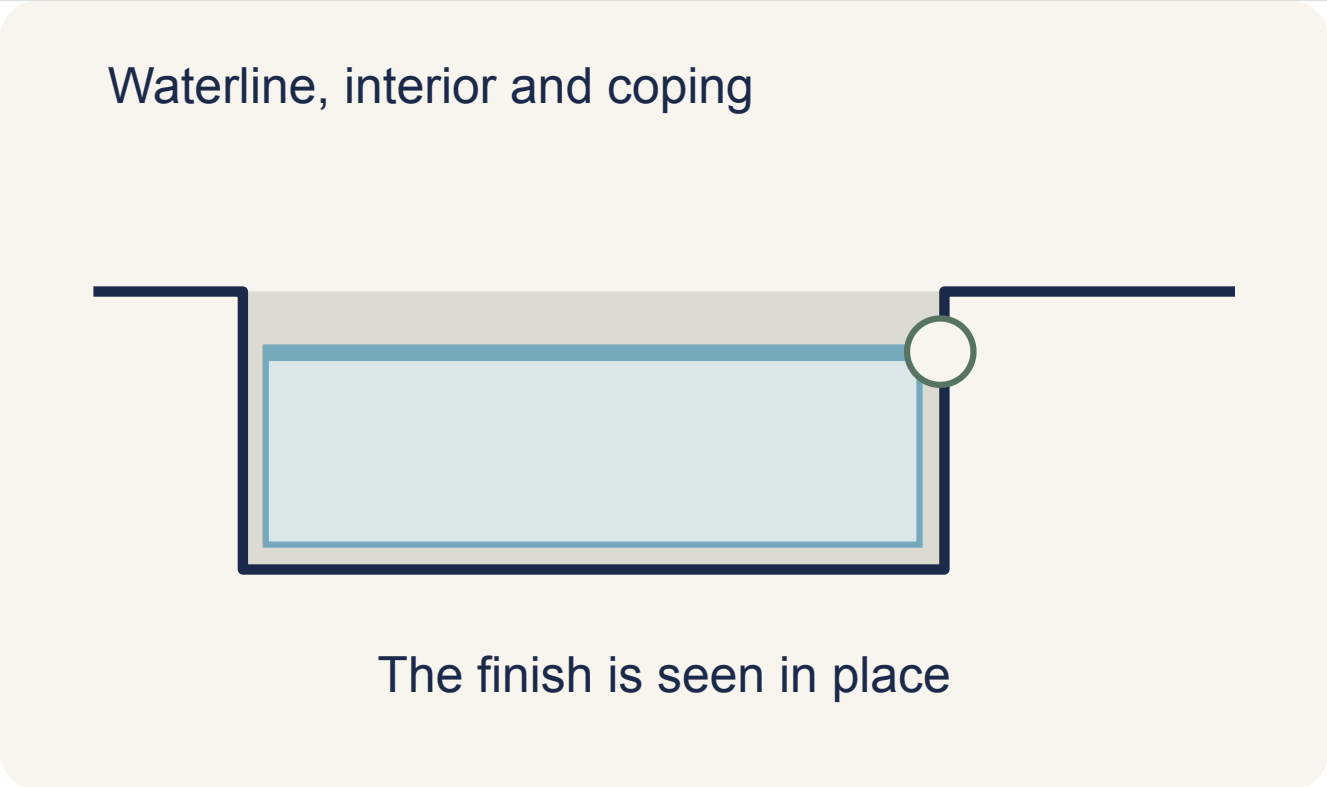


Coping and deck

Review the edge and the surfaces underfoot.

Underwater finish: Review the surface, colour and joints. Coping and deck: Review the edge and the surfaces underfoot.

Tile Is the Visual Decision That Lasts

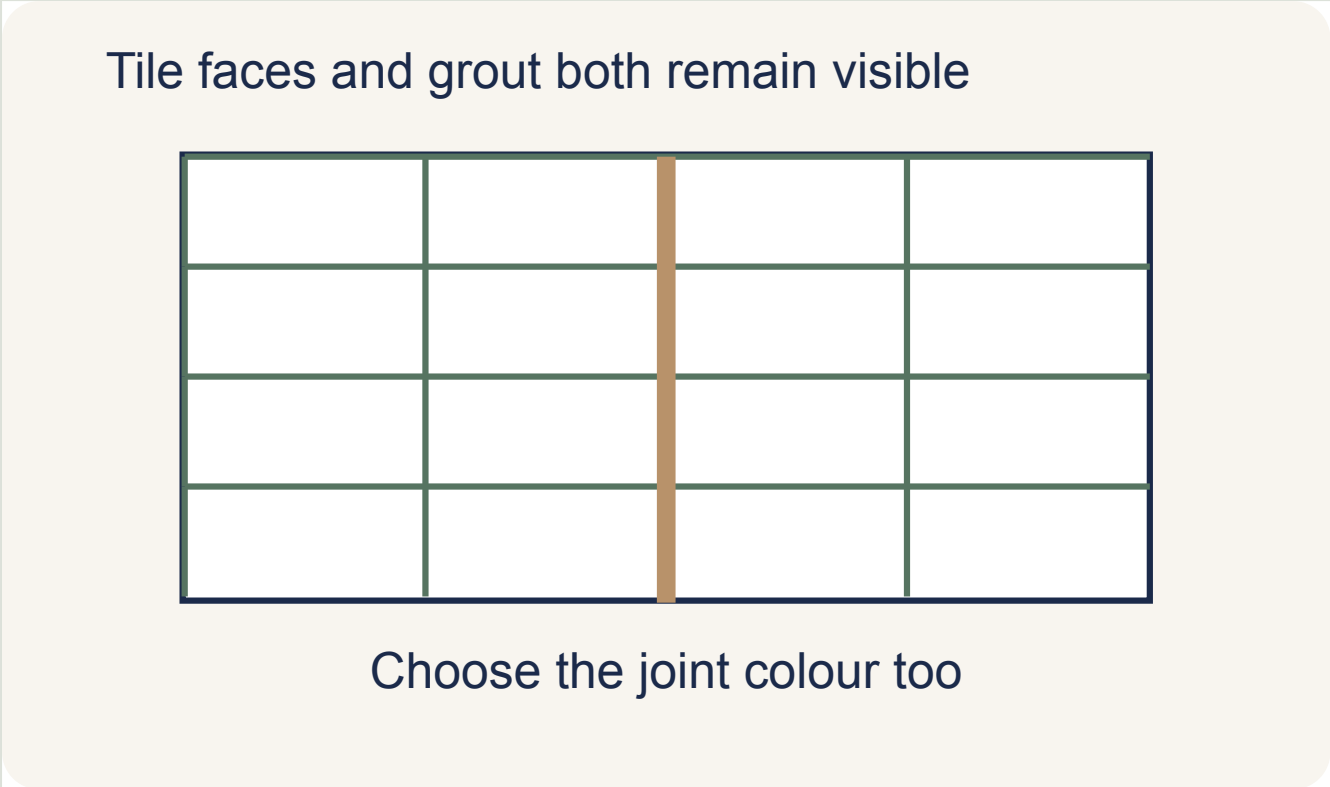


The interior, waterline and coping form different visible finish zones.

The pool's interior finish and coping shape how the water looks and how the edges feel underfoot. They also need to suit immersion, cleaning and the actual water treatment. Compare appearance with the complete finish system's suitability before selecting a colour.

The good news is there's a huge range of options at every price point. The harder part is matching the choice to your climate, your usage, and how the pool relates to the rest of the house. A finish that looks stunning in a showroom can look wrong in your specific backyard, and vice versa.

Porcelain Tile



The grout is part of the repeated tile pattern and its future appearance.

Porcelain products rated for swimming-pool use can offer low absorption and varied colours or stone-like finishes. Confirm suitability for the exact location: a pool wall, floor, step and surrounding deck do not have identical slip or exposure requirements.

The adhesive, grout and movement joints need to be compatible with the pool and tile. Grout colour can affect the appearance of staining, but does not remove maintenance. Ask for the complete specification and cleaning guidance, not a fixed promise of years before refurbishment.

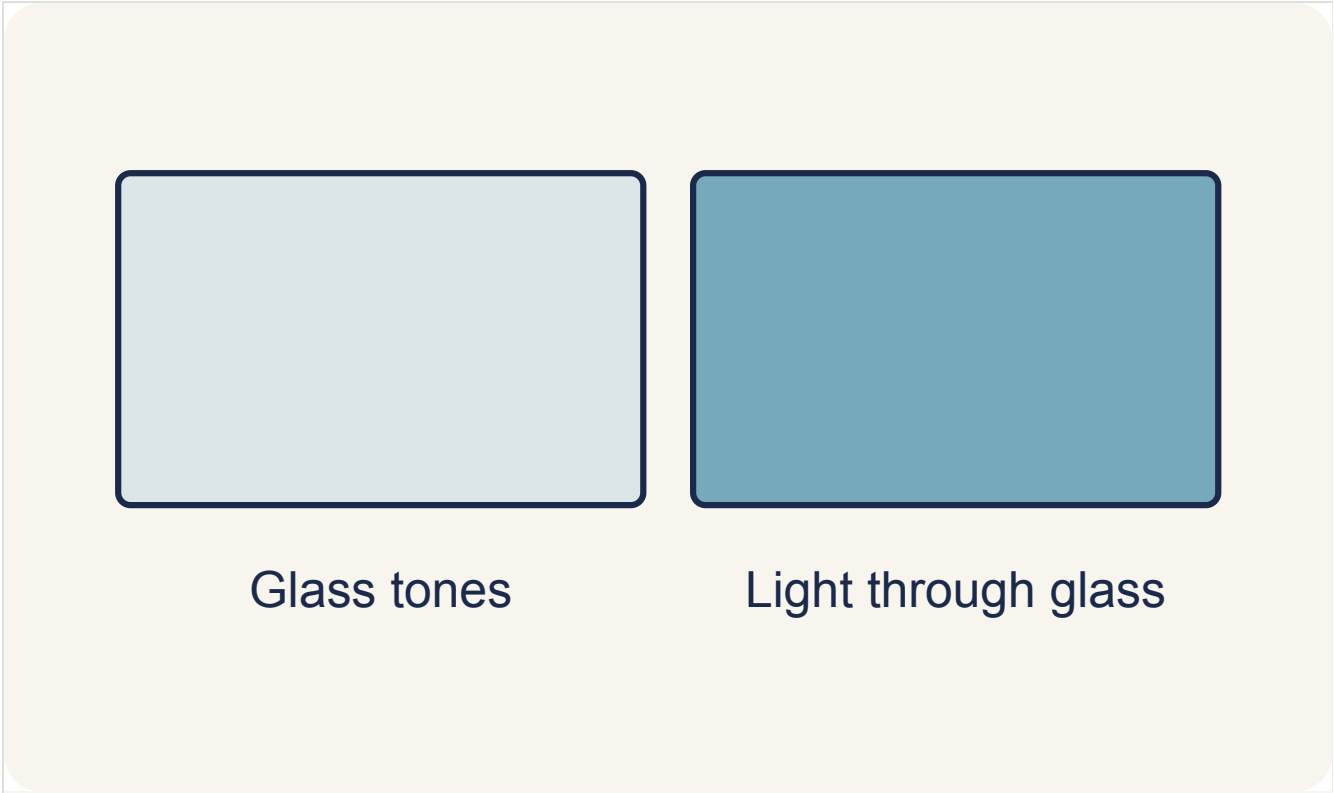
The tile is the visible surface, but the bond behind it and movement joints around it are essential to keeping the finish intact. Different materials expand and respond to temperature or moisture differently. If the installation restrains movement in the wrong place or uses unsuitable backing, a durable tile can still detach. Evaluate the complete immersion-rated system and its detailing, with slip performance assessed for the parts people stand on.

Need advice for your home?

Tell us what you need on WhatsApp and send a few photos. We'll arrange a free site assessment, then give you a fixed-price quote within 3 to 5 working days.

WhatsApp us Try the free cost estimator

Glass Mosaic

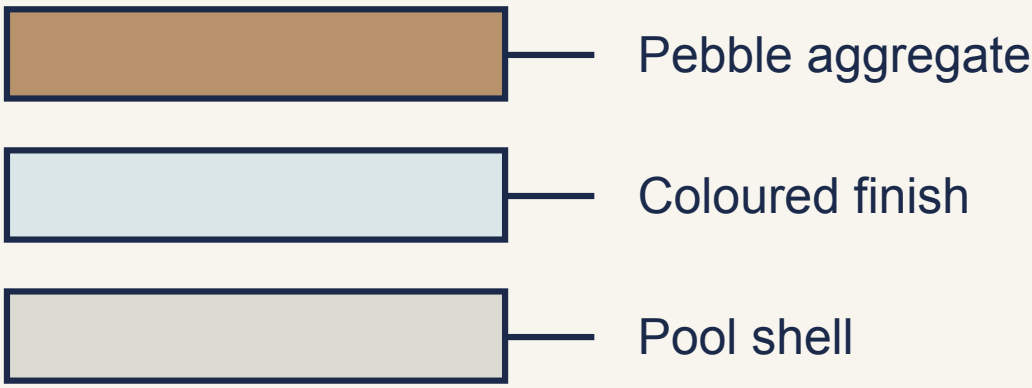


Review glass colour and light together when choosing the mosaic finish.

Glass mosaic can give the pool a changing appearance as light moves through the water. Select a product and backing intended for permanent immersion, with compatible adhesive and grout. The properties of glass alone do not establish the durability of the installed mosaic.

Small pieces and many joints make setting-out and application important. Ask for relevant completed-work references and the proposed installation method. Compare complete installed quotes instead of assuming a universal multiple of porcelain cost.

Ceramic and Pebble Finishes



A pebble finish contains aggregate within a surface layer over the shell.

How four pool finishes differ in feel, appearance and cleaning.

Surface choice	Feel and appearance	Cleaning tradeoff
Larger pool-rated porcelain tiles	Flatter individual faces; choose the actual surface texture	Fewer joints than small mosaics for the same area, but grout and movement joints still need care
Small glass mosaic	Reflective or translucent appearance; many small pieces	More grout lines and edges to keep clean; backing and bond must suit immersion
Pool-rated ceramic	Glaze, texture and suitability vary by product	Judge the actual tile and grout rather than the ceramic label
Exposed pebble finish	Aggregate texture across a continuous applied finish	No repeated tile-grout grid; brushing and balanced water remain necessary

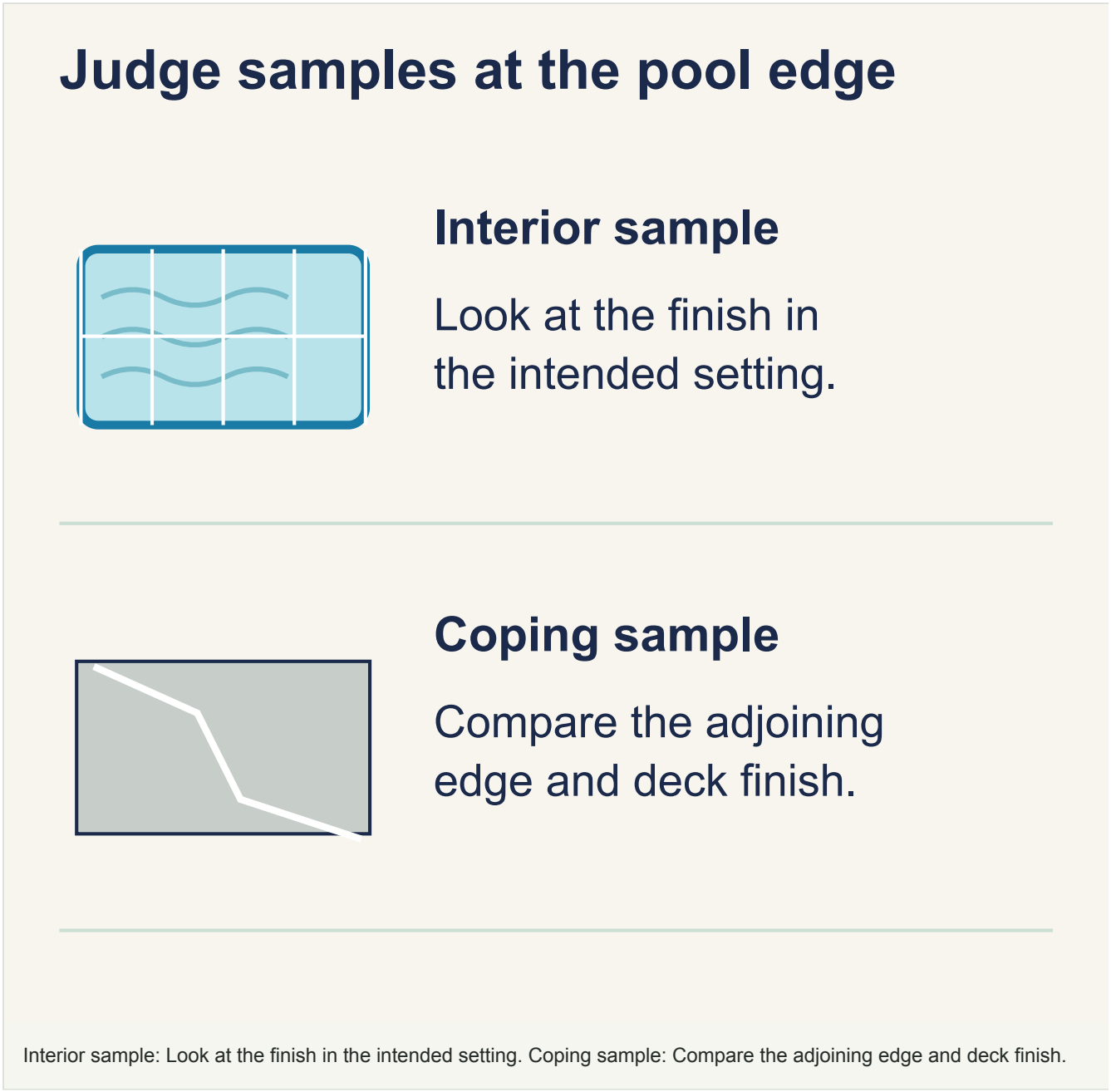
Pebble finishes expose small stones within the applied interior finish, so feet meet a textured surface rather than one broad tile face. Texture varies: PebbleSheen uses smaller pebbles than the original PebbleTec finish for a finer feel. That product distinction does not make every pebble finish equally smooth. Compare a wet sample and, where possible, a completed comparable surface before using it on seats or steps.

Removing the tiled grout grid does not remove cleaning. The finish care instructions include brushing with a suitable tool and maintaining water balance; startup care differs from routine care. Scale can trap dirt on the surface, so repeated marks may need a water-balance assessment rather than harder scrubbing. Have stubborn staining assessed before trying aggressive cleaners.

Ceramic tile covers a range of products; the label alone does not establish porosity, price or suitability. Specify pool-rated material and verify its intended use, backing and installation system. A cheaper suitable tile can be preferable to an unsuitable decorative product.

Pebble or aggregate finishes form a different kind of interior surface. Review a sample for texture and the manufacturer's application and water-care requirements. The finish does not repair structural defects, so the shell still needs appropriate preparation and assessment.

Coping and Surround

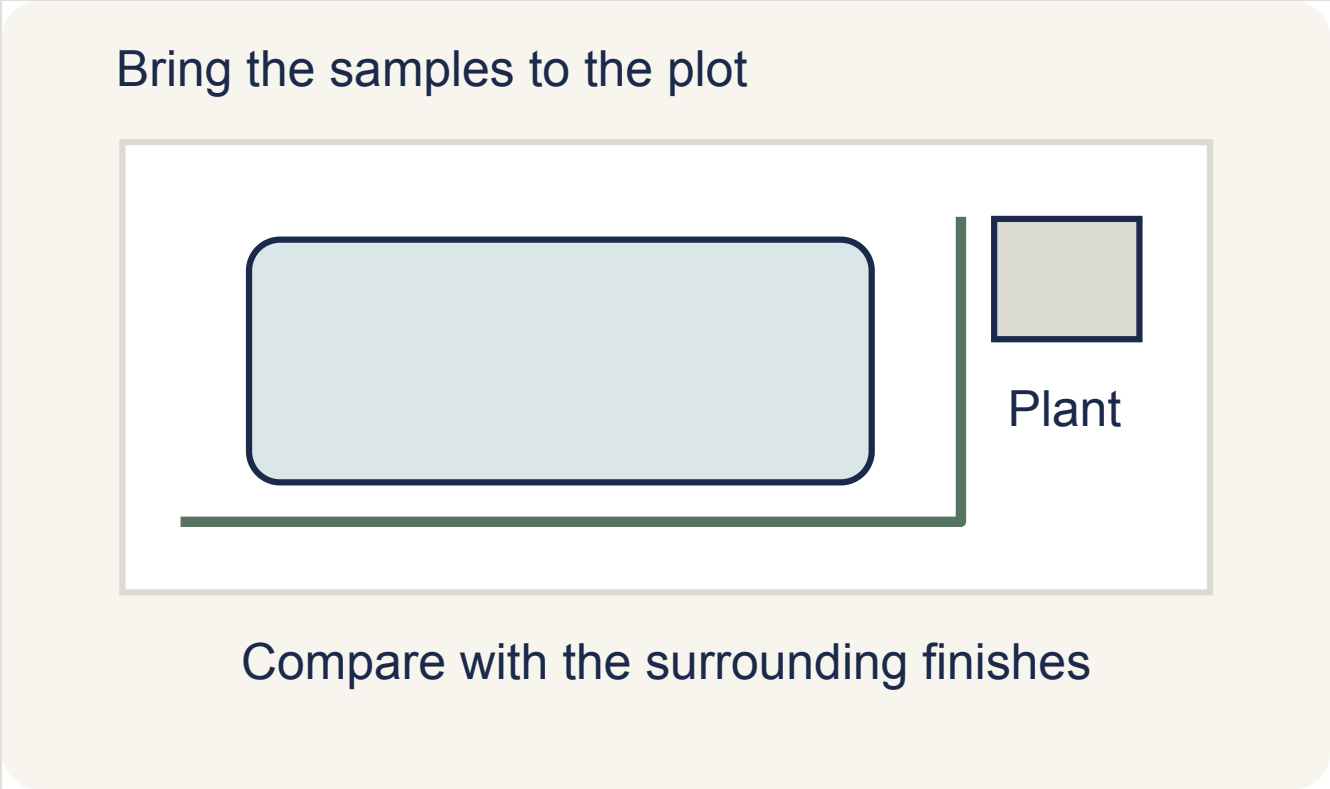


Interior sample: Look at the finish in the intended setting. Coping sample: Compare the adjoining edge and deck finish.

Coping is the edge you sit on, walk beside and hold when entering the pool. Natural stone and stone-look porcelain can both be considered, but their suitability depends on the exact product, finish and exposure. Ask whether that product tolerates the planned pool water and approved cleaning chemicals, and whether sealing or other care is required. A material name alone cannot establish which will need less maintenance.

Assess coping for wet use, edge shape and comfort as well as appearance. Ask for relevant slip-performance information and inspect a wet sample where possible. Price or a premium material label cannot establish a safe walking surface.

How DirectHome Helps You Choose



View the shortlisted finishes beside the pool's actual landscape and surroundings.

Compare physical samples in the intended light, including their wet appearance. Ask the builder how the tile, coping, grout and joints form one suitable system. A showroom colour alone cannot establish the finished effect under water.

If the household wants broad, flatter surfaces with fewer grout lines, compare suitable larger porcelain tiles first. If colour and reflected light are the priority, glass mosaic may justify its additional joints and more demanding setting-out. If a continuous natural aggregate appearance appeals, compare pebble textures in person and accept its brushing and water-care needs. At steps, seats and coping, wet comfort and documented slip suitability should settle the shortlist before colour does.

Send DirectHome your intended finish and existing pool details to discuss the work. Confirm sample availability and assessment arrangements before booking. Bring the shortlisted samples so we can discuss the finish, edges and installation work together.

More on swimming pools

Article Pool Handover Checklist: Before You Take Your First Swim

Article Pool Equipment Layout: Make Future Servicing Easier

Article Swimming Pool Construction Timeline in Singapore from Design to Handover

Need help with your project?

Tell us what you need on WhatsApp and send a few photos. We'll arrange a free site assessment, then give you a fixed-price quote within 3 to 5 working days.

WhatsApp us Get a quote

Our service

Swimming Pools for your home

Explore the service, then discuss what your home needs with our team.

View service details ↗

Still weighing your options?

Plan with the buying guide

Bring the choices, costs and questions together before deciding what to do next.

Read the swimming pools buying guide →

More swimming pools articles →