

DIY Fiberglass Pools!

Guide to Using the Dig Sheet

Step One: Determine Finished Grade

As we learned in the resource "Pool Elevation Definitions" in this session, the finished grade is the fixed point around the pool that all other elevations are based on. This is also explained in the video "Pool Layoff".

Example:

For the purpose of understanding the dig sheet, let's run some hypothetical numbers. Let's say that our finished grade is 3' 6".

Step Two: Determine Top of Coping

Now we need to determine the elevation of the top of the coping at the pool. In order to do this we need to know how much slope we want from the top of the coping to the finished grade. The average amount of slope for hardscape patios is $\frac{1}{4}$ " of fall per foot of decking.

Example:

If the patio were 10' wide, we would multiply $10 \times .25$ " for a slope of 2.5". Our finished grade is 3' 6" so we would subtract 2.5" from 3' 6" for a top of coping elevation of 3' 3.5".

Step Three: Determine Top of Pool

To determine the elevation of the top of the pool we need to know two things: the elevation of the top of the coping and the thickness of the coping. To calculate the top of pool elevation, add the coping thickness to the top of coping elevation and this will give you the elevation of the top of the fiberglass pool.

Example:

From Step Two we know that our top of coping is 3' 3.5" and let's say for this example our coping is 3.5" thick. We need to add $3' 3.5" + 3.5"$ for a top of pool elevation of 3' 7".

Step Four: Calculate Top of Gravel in Shallow and Deep Ends

Now that we know our top of pool elevation we can determine the elevation of our gravel pool base in both the shallow and deep ends. To calculate this we look at the fiberglass pool manufacturers dig sheet to find the depth of the pool in both ends and add those numbers to the top of pool elevation.

Example:

Our top of pool is 3' 7". Let's say our shallow end depth is 3' 6" and the deep end is 6' 0".

Shallow end top of gravel: $3' 7" + 3' 6" = 7' 1"$

Deep end top of gravel: $3' 7" + 6' 0" = 9' 7"$

Step Five: Calculate Top of Dig in Shallow and Deep Ends

Where the top of gravel numbers give us the actual elevation of the pool floor, the top of dig numbers tell us how deep we need to dig the hole to allow for the gravel pool base. To determine the top of dig elevations in the shallow and deep ends we need to add the thickness of our base material to our top of gravel elevation. We use a two inch pool base.

Example:

Top of Gravel Shallow End is 7' 1" + 2" Pool Base Thickness = Top of Dig Shallow End of 7' 3"
Top of Gravel Deep End is 9' 7" + 2" Pool Base Thickness = Top of Dig Deep End of 9' 9"

Step Six: Calculate Remaining Dig Depths

Now that we know our dig depths in the shallow and deep ends we can calculate the remaining dig depths by simply adding or subtracting the difference of the depths on the dig sheet from our top of dig numbers.

Example:

If we start in the shallow end, we look at our shallow end dig depth which is 7' 3". Then we look at the manufacturers dig sheet to find the difference in depth between the shallow end and the next depth. If the difference is 3", we add 3" to 7' 3", and get the next dig depth. Then simply repeat the process for each depth on the dig sheet until all are calculated.