

YOUR GARDEN

Add A Pool In An Afternoon

(NAPSA)—*The National Association of Realtors* reports a record 6.6 million homes were sold in 2004 and homeowners, now more than ever, are looking for ways to make their homes stand out. According to *The Gallup Organization*, creative landscaping can add between 7 percent and 15 percent to a home's value. With the majority of people adding plants and shrubs, one way to make your home more marketable is by creating your own garden pool. Homeowners can complete this project in one afternoon and be ready to fill the pool the next day.

The materials and tools needed to construct a garden pool include QUIKRETE® Fiber-Reinforced Concrete Mix, sand, chicken wire reinforcement, shovel, hammer, trowel, and 11" wooden stakes.

Once you have all of your materials and your area chosen, follow these step-by-step instructions:

- Dig a saucer-shaped excavation for the pool with the center 24" deep.

- Mark each of the 11" stakes at 2", 5" and 8" from the top of the stake. Drive them into the bed at square-foot intervals up to the 8" mark.

- Fill the pool with 3" of sand or gravel, as a sub base, up to the 5" marks.

- Lay the chicken wire into the pool, supporting it about 2" above the sub base with small stones or brick bits.



You can make a splash by building a garden pool. It's easier to do than you may have thought.

- Pack the prepared Fiber-Reinforced Concrete Mix firmly around the chicken wire with a shovel up to the 2" stake marks. This should create a 3" concrete basin.

- After the concrete loses its sheen, finish it with a trowel. Keep it damp for 24 hours and then fill it with water.

- The perimeter of the pool can be built up with brick. The addition of plants and shrubs will create a cool, shaded effect. Painting the bottom green or dark blue will make the pool appear deeper. A pump, creating running water, can also be aesthetically pleasing.

- Thoroughly clean and flush the surface of the pool before stocking it with fish and/or plants.

To learn more about other do-it-yourself and home improvement projects, visit www.quikrete.com or call 1-800-282-5828.