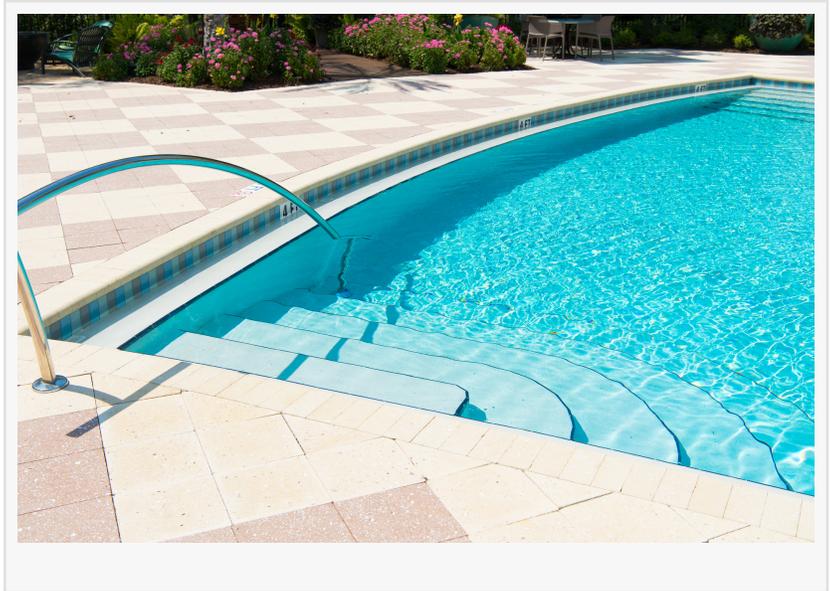


# Elevating Backyard Experiences: Integrating Tanning Ledges, Water Features & Slides into Pool Designs

METAIRIE, LA, UNITED STATES, June 26, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Backyard swimming pools are evolving beyond simple swims and dips. Modern pool designs now frequently integrate additions such as tanning ledges, water features, and slides to enhance both aesthetics and user experience. These enhancements not only increase enjoyment but also boost the functional, recreational, and visual value of residential pools.



[William Gunzburg](#), owner of [Kingfish Pools Inc.](#) in Metairie, Louisiana, highlights the growing trend of incorporating curated add-ons into new and renovated pools.

“

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*William Gunzburg*

“Adding a tanning ledge or water feature changes a pool from a basic swim space into a versatile backyard retreat,” said Gunzburg. “Slides and other play elements also cater to a broader group of users, making the pool more engaging and fun.”

Tanning Ledges: Comfort Meets Charm

Tanning ledges, also known as baja shelves or sun shelves, are shallow areas—about 4 to 8 inches deep—designed for

lounging in ankle- to knee-high water. These spaces offer several benefits:

**Comfort and Accessibility:** Ideal for children, adults who prefer lower water levels, or individuals seeking a place to relax without full submersion.

**Seamless Integration with Outdoor Furniture:** Perfect for placing lounge chairs, stools, or

umbrellas directly in the water.

**Stylish Design Element:** Can be crafted to flow organically with the pool's shape, often accentuated by decorative tiles or stone.



Tanning ledges require precise depth and slope control to ensure safety and proper water circulation. They also create opportunities for integrating light jets, bubblers, or accent lighting, enhancing ambiance and usability.

#### **Water Features: Movement, Sound, and Sophistication**

From sheer descent walls to bubblers and rain curtains, water features bring sensory appeal to pools. Key advantages include:

**Aesthetic Value:** Flowing water adds elegance and becomes a visual centerpiece.

**Soothing Sounds:** Cascading water helps mask external noise, creating a tranquil or meditative atmosphere.

**Functional Benefits:** Circulates water and aids in aeration, which assists in maintaining clearer water quality.

Implementation can range from standalone elements—like rock waterfall structures—to built-in features integrated into spa overflow systems, edge lighting, or landscape design. Placement and orientation are important, as water displacement and splash zones should align with seating areas rather than spill onto pathways or decking.

#### **Slides and Play Elements: Fun with Safety**

Slides and play structures cater to families and active households. Options include:

**Arcing or Curved Slides:** Mounted at pool edges, providing a safe curve into deeper water.

**Spiral or Tapered Slides:** Require sufficient depth at the exit point and adequate deck space for installation.

**Boulder Slides:** Built into rock formations to provide integrated play areas with a natural look.

Safety considerations include correct water depth at the exit zone, non-slip surfaces on steps and platforms, and adherence to building code requirements. Strategic placement—away from other pool occupants, preferably at deeper areas—minimizes collision risks and allows unimpeded swimmer flow.

## Cohesive Design & Engineering Considerations

Integrating multiple features demands careful planning across structural design, equipment sizing, plumbing, and electrical systems:

**Equipment & Flow Requirements:** Increased water movement necessitates pump sizing that accommodates higher horsepower and flow demand through additional jets, bubblers, or waterfalls.

**Structural Integrity:** Slides and substantial water elements may exert extra weight, requiring reinforced pool shells or concrete pads.

**Plumbing Layout:** Incorporating return lines, suction ports, and valves for multiple features ensures independent control and balanced circulation.

**Electrical Planning:** Lighting for ledges, underwater steps, or water streams demands safe low-voltage installation and GFCI protection.

**Safety and Compliance:** Fencing, alarms, and non-slip decking near slides or tanning areas may be required by local codes.

## Market Impact and Added Value

Adding these features increases both enjoyment and market appeal:

**Enhanced Usability:** Families gain versatile zones—shallow areas for lounging, recreational play, sensory relaxation, and deeper zones for exercise.

**Elevated Real Estate Appeal:** Properties with well-designed pools and multiple features often command higher resale value.

**Differentiation:** In a region where pool construction is common, distinctive add-ons help properties stand out.

## Installation Best Practices

Planning Stage:

Begin with envisioning how each element will be used by different age groups.

Prepare budget expectations—feature complexity impacts labor, materials, and operating costs.

Design Coordination:

Coordinate placement, depth, and orientation between pool shell, decking, and landscape.

Ensure alignment between features and pool-edge furniture or seating for visual and functional harmony.

Construction and Integration:

Maintain open communication between excavation crews, structural engineers, plumbing/electrical contractors, and equipment installers.

Follow manufacturer specifications for water flow, weight tables, and code compliance.

Final Commissioning:

Perform system testing and balance flows.

Provide user instruction—details like proper slide use, ledge depth identification, and nightly lighting checks enhance long-term safety and satisfaction.

Life Cycle and Maintenance

Feature-rich pools need ongoing monitoring:

**Water Chemistry Management:** Increased water surface area and movement—especially with waterfalls—requires slight adjustments in sanitizer levels.

**Filter Maintenance:** Additional debris from water features or ledges may require more frequent filter cleaning or replacement.

**Seasonal Care:** Some installations may require winter covers, plumbing blowouts, and structural checks to prevent freeze damage in colder climates.

**Safety Checks:** Inspect for loose tiles, cracked stone, or slippery surfaces annually. Equipment like slides may need platform tightening or anti-slip surface replacement.

Final Perspective

Tanning ledges, water features, and slides offer elevated options for customizable pool experiences that engage multiple senses and user groups. When thoughtfully designed and professionally executed, these additions enhance functionality and aesthetic harmony in backyard environments.

Kingfish Pools Inc. offers integrated design consultations to explore feature compatibility, structural guidance, and equipment sizing for homeowners seeking bespoke pool experiences in Metairie and across the Gulf South.

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