

Expand Your Pool Vocabulary...

The jargon of any specialized field can leave you feeling out of the loop. But, if you are in the market to build a pool, misinterpreting terminology could have you missing out on some great design elements. Learning a little lingo will clarify your options and help you communicate what you want to in a pool or spa to your builder. Here are some essential terms from one pool / spa designer, Ken Whitlow, of WaterColors in Atlanta.

1. **Black bottom pool** – synonym: reflecting pool. These pools use a dark gray or black-colored surface material to create a reflective surface and mirror the surrounding landscape and architecture. The material may be tile, fiberglass, vinyl or aggregate, but when filled with water, it creates a natural looking pool with a pond-like surface. The dark color may also warm the pool by a few degrees in warmer climate areas.
2. **Negative edge** – synonyms: infinity edge, vanishing edge. This design element creates the illusion that there is no wall on one side of the pool to hold water in. One side of the pool is lower than the water level, allowing water to spill over the edge into a catch basin and be re-circulated back into the pool. Typically, these edges are positioned toward adjacent scenery so the edge creates the illusion that the water is flowing into the backdrop.
3. **Perimeter overflow** – synonyms: waveless pool, flooded deck. Resembling a negative edge pool, pools with a perimeter overflow have water overflowing on all sides. A collection gutter collects the water and gravity drains it into a holding tank. The water is then drained, filtered, reheated, and re-circulated back into the pool by a pump.
4. **Sheeting waterfall** – Unlike a natural waterfall, a sheeting waterfall creates an unbroken sheet of water as it cascades into the pool. As the distance between the waterfall and the pool increases, the consistent sheeting effect diminishes. However, there is usually a manufactured weir to produce the even flow of the waterfall.
5. **Mister** – synonyms: fogger. Often used to cool off the poolscape and deck area in hot climates, this water feature produces a fine water mist and gives the pool area a fog-like atmosphere. This component can be incorporated into most designs, but works well when added to a natural-looking pool with rock and boulder formations.

READERS' RESOURCE

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Media Contact:

A complete pool and spa term guide and other resourceful information with supportive photos are available by contacting Don Eberly of Eberly Public Relations at 678-641-3302 or doneberly@eberlypr.com.

Thank you!