



## State of the Florida Pool Industry

March 2023

The Florida Swimming Pool Association (FSPA) is a trade association for swimming pool contractors and allied organizations such as manufacturers, distributors, related industry professionals, and service providers.

Throughout 2020 the pool industry stepped up to serve Floridians who were staying home and utilizing their backyards more than ever. Interest in owning a swimming pool soared with a 23% increase in new pool permits over the prior year, the largest single-year increase in more than a decade. In 2021, similar increases were seen, with again 27% increase in permits pulled over the previous year.

Simultaneously, the manufacturing of equipment began seeing delays due to limits on personnel in manufacturing facilities for compliance with social distancing protocols as well as longer delivery times for overseas shipments.

In addition, while most industries are perceived as being staffed back to pre-Covid levels, this has not necessarily been the case for the pool and spa industry. Swimming pools are a product built by hand by many people and there is a limited labor pool of qualified individuals.

In 2022, the state of Florida was hit by two hurricanes, Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole. Both had severe impacts to the state which continue to influence the availability of labor for the construction trades, as well as the availability of construction materials and equipment.

The result of this unforeseen demand, manufacturing delays, and limited labor has resulted in a much longer process for Florida homeowners wishing to build or renovate a swimming pool. It is common for a pool builder to be scheduling new pool sales appointments several weeks or months in advance. Furthermore, it could be four months or more before construction or remodeling work begins.

These influencing circumstances continued through 2022 and into the first quarter of 2023. As changes in the local and national economy continue, there may be some relief, but for the foreseeable future customers should anticipate long lead times and exhibit patience with the pool construction process.

The FSPA encourages homeowners to do research when selecting a swimming pool contractor. The first step should be to confirm the contractor is properly licensed by the state of Florida ([www.myfloridalicense.com](http://www.myfloridalicense.com)). Secondly, consider reviewing our Swimming Pool Buyer's Guide, which can be found at: [www.floridapoolpro.com/construction](http://www.floridapoolpro.com/construction). Finally, please be respectful of the external factors, which will affect the timeline of your swimming pool project.

The FSPA is thankful for a strong marketplace and optimistic that our members will meet the expectations of their customers as we all continue to navigate these unusual times.