

Many thanks for down-loading this sheet.

The first thing I want to emphasise is - *please give me a call to discuss any aspect of the baptistry design or installation.* It is much easier to get an understanding of what is required by means of a phone conversation. Afterwards, I can send you information more tailored to your needs. I can also send drawings of different pools to give you or the church some ideas. These can also be sent in AutoCAD format. My number is 0345 230 1381.

In effect, all our pools are custom built: steps, the size and positions of drains, inflow and overflows, etc. can be made to suit. The following are a few salient points when designing and building a baptistry that are useful to know.

What sizes and weights am I dealing with? For baptismal tanks, there are few limits on size, so let us know what you'd like to see. A shape larger than 1.75m across internally generally increases the thickness and cost of the fibreglass lids. And do please check that the baptistry will fit through the doors! We can make baptistries in two pieces that bolt and glue together on site. As a guide, pools tend to be 1500mm wide and 1200mm deep and, excluding the steps, there needs to be a length of about 2100mm in which to baptise someone. I'll explain about steps and overall length below, but this would give a tank over 3m long and at least 350kg in weight.

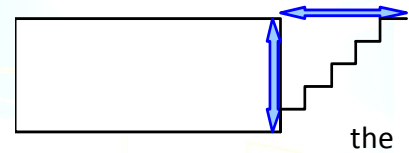
What other things to be in place? We try to make the pool as much a 'finished item' so that, plumbing aside, all you need do is get it in place and close the floor up around it. All the tank needs is a firm, level base such as a concrete pad. The pool needs little or no surrounding support other than to stop any lateral movement. Where the steps protrude from the side of the tank, we recommend they be propped by timber or a blockwork wall. Once in place, the gap between the pool and the surrounding flooring should be closed up. Also, our pools comprise 50mm Kingspan insulation within their walls.

What is the construction of the baptistry? This is not a thin fibreglass skin or liner. The walls are not less than 60mm thick because of the incorporated insulation. As we prefer to make our tanks with 100mm flange around the top edge, it might be safest to work with the figure of 100mm for the thickness of the walls for the baptistry tank.

What shapes are possible? We are happy to explore any design including crosses and T-shapes. Circular pools (or any curved face) tends to be slightly more expensive, not so much because it takes more time at the pattern-making stage, but because the lids are not uniform. Our most popular options are rectangular tanks with steps at one which are either integral (Elim) or separate and fixed in place at installation (Jordan). Rectangles are the most common simply because they are easier to transport, to fit through a door and the cheapest shape to make.

Lids. These have been mentioned several times now and the main question we get asked is 'Can they be walked on?' Our lids are reinforced and will take foot traffic or the choir standing on top. A set of our lids sit across the width of the baptistry. And as the width to be spanned passes 1500mm, so then the reinforcement needs to increase, once above 1800mm the lids may need to be thicker.

Steps. As a guide, the *vertical* depth of the pool becomes the *horizontal* depth of the steps. So, as the depth increases, the length of the pool may have to increase to accommodate steps. We recommend that each tread is 300mm deep and risers no more than 250mm high. Steps can go on the end(s) or side(s). They can protrude out from the pool or they may sit within, they can be in a corner, straight or diagonal. Part-width steps protruding from the end of the baptistry can be a useful way of creating an 'empty corner' that may be useful as a service hatch for installation and maintenance.



How do churches usually empty the baptistry? This doesn't have a major impact on design (and none on cost) but it does need to be considered early on. The most popular option is a sump with pump and pipe, as there is no pipework to leak, and pumps and pipe can be easily and cheaply replaced. We can put a stainless steel grate over the sump if you wish.

Where a gravity drain is preferred, we can mould in the appropriate recess for the plughole in an agreed place. Don't forget to allow space beneath the tank for any plumbing. More importantly, *make sure the installing plumber can physically reach the underside of the baptistry* to connect the waste to the pipework! If a concrete pit is to be formed, consider making it over-long so that there is easy access to the one end of the outside of the tank for the benefit of plumbers during installation and maintenance. The floor could be closed over afterward or even a hatchway made.

Whichever option is chosen, the recesses, sumps, etc. can be positioned to suit you.

A related topic is that of **drainage fall**. To mould in an 'internal' fall (i.e. the *outer* base is horizontal but there is a slight fall inside the pool) adds significantly to the cost of the pool. If you would like a pool with internal fall, please let us know and we will give you a price, though as a guide, it would add approximately 10% to the cost of the baptistry itself.

The default is, therefore, a pool with *no* fall. In such cases where there is no fall, a sump provides a low-point and tends to avoid ponding. Where there *is* to be a gravity drain (plug hole etc.), to minimize ponding when the pool is being emptied, we can situate the plug hole *within* a recess approximately 250mm x 250mm x 10mm. This way, it is not a tripping hazard but acts as a low point.

Alternatively, we can make the pool with an 'external' fall. In effect, the pool is 25mm shallower at one end and will need propping with 25mm packing at the end furthest from the waste so as to bring the top back into horizontal. This has (usually) no impact on price.

Please let us know if you would prefer this. For this to work, the sump or waste will need to be near an edge or corner.

How do we fill the pool? Different churches have different preferences and budgets. Some fill with a hose pipe, some have a fixed inflow but cold water only (we do make a portable water heater, by the way). If an inflow is requested, we would mould in recesses in the appropriate place on the side of the tank to accept standard plumbing parts. Taps are best avoided as they get in the way of lids and users. We have found that a grated waste in the side of the pool, with a 22mm (or wider) copper feed and a valve outside the tank is the simplest and most cost-effective way of having a supply into the pool.

We also have to leave a gap in the external insulation to match any internal recess. If we do not leave this gap in the insulation, it gets messy when the plumber tries drilling out for the fittings.

What about overflows? These are easy to incorporate in a manner similar to the inflow – a recess to accept a grated waste – and add nothing to the price of the pool. However, these are almost never asked for. It may be for the same reason that ‘sump and pump’ is more popular than gravity drainage – churches want to keep any plumbing (and possible future leaks) to a minimum.

Finishes, Colour and Lights. The most popular (and the default) colour is pale blue but you can have any colour (see the www.ralcolor.com website). Whilst colour has little or no effect on price, it can lengthen lead-times if a less common colour is chosen because the colour is something that has to be laid down first.

We apply a light texturing to the step treads, floor and the inner faces of the pool to create a low-slip surface. This is the default, so please tell us if you would just like the steps or floor doing.

Tiling effects are also available, please discuss this with us if you are interested. As we make architectural fibreglass sheets of tiling, these can be applied to out pools too. This is easiest in the ‘Jordan-style’ baptistries as the tank itself has no integral steps and the sheets of tiling can be added at a little extra cost. The step unit is either moveable or fits into place at installation.

Underwater LED lights can be fitted. This is more appropriate in staging as there needs to be easy access to the outside of the pool for installation and maintenance.

As a final point and just to be clear, we do not *install* baptistry tanks. Nevertheless, site visits and support are possible!