

Smart pools are here, just dive in!

Shilpa Phadnis & Anshul Dhamija | TNN

Bangalore: Here's a piece of good news for fitness freaks. You don't have to hit the gym or binge on diet biscuits to shed calories. Sweat it out in the shallow without stepping out of your home. From Italian marble to French bath fittings, developers are deep diving into the concept of smart pools, by offering them as standard value-add fixtures in their high-end apartments and villas.

Realtors are always on the lookout for differentiators. They are snapping up smart pools to woo the super rich.

"We are planning a high-end development in the city wherein each apartment would resemble a villa. For this project, we are offering smart pools as a standard feature. More than pool, people like the idea of having water bodies adorning their houses," says Ashish Puravankara, director, Puravankara Projects.

City-based realty firm Sobha Developers is believed to have already purchased some 160 smart pools for its luxury project, Sobha Petunia, coming up in Hebbal near the Manyata



Tech Park. Seeing a huge market opportunity in India, SmartPools, a Malaysian swim spa firm has launched a space-smart swimming pools -- Arena LX priced at Rs 9.63 lakh and PowerLap EZ at Rs 4.5 lakh -- in India. They come with jacuzzi jets and aquatic treadmill adding a new paradigm to

your mundane fitness regime. The whirling and swirling unit measuring 15 feet x 8 feet occupies 130 sft, almost the same space required to park a Maruti Swift.

The swimming pool is weatherproof and can be installed in the backyard, terrace or basement depending on the

space availability. "With growing affluence, owning a swimming pool is like making a statement. It's an aspirational product. Also, swimming is easy on the joints. You can do cardio workouts or muscle training without weight-bearing injuries," says Faizan Khan, executive director, SmartPools.

The company is betting big on the market and expect to sell 10,000 units in South India alone in the first year of the launch. "We expect Bangalore to contribute 40% of the expected sales," he adds.

These smart pools weighing 350 kilogram uses the proprietary laminar propulsion system that can move upto 30,000 litres of water per minute allowing you to adjust the water current flow through a digital control panel. A single unit consumes power similar to that of a 1.5 ton air conditioner. Smart pools designed on volumetric flow principle can hold 9,000 litres of water. The pools are built using non-corroding advanced marine grade composition materials like those used in premium yachts and eliminate the use of concrete completely.