



Outdoor Checklist

1. Design and Style:

- **Vision:** Clearly define your desired outdoor space aesthetic (e.g., modern, traditional, rustic).
- **Functionality:** Consider how you want to use the space (e.g., entertaining, relaxing, gardening).
- **Style Elements:** Choose materials, colors, and landscaping elements that align with your vision.
- Gather inspiration from magazines, websites, and Pinterest

2. Budget:

- **Overall Budget:** Determine your total budget for the project.
- **Allocation:** Allocate funds for different elements like landscaping, hardscaping, plants, furniture, and lighting.

3. Space Assessment:

- **Measurements:** Accurately measure the dimensions of your outdoor space.
- **Existing Features:** Evaluate existing features like trees, patios, or retaining walls.
- **Sun and Shade:** Consider the amount of sunlight and shade the space receives.

4. Hardscaping:

- **Patios and Decks:** Choose materials (e.g., concrete, pavers, wood) and design options.
- **Walkways:** Plan paths for easy navigation and access.
- **Retaining Walls:** Consider adding retaining walls for landscaping or to create different

levels.

5. Landscaping:

- **Plants and Trees:** Select plants that are suitable for your climate and match your design style.
- **Lawn:** Decide if you want to maintain a lawn or explore alternative ground covers.
- **Water Features:** Consider adding elements like fountains, ponds, or waterfalls.

6. Outdoor Living Areas:

- **Seating:** Choose comfortable and durable outdoor furniture.
- **Dining Area:** If you plan to dine outdoors, design a suitable space.
- **Fire Pit or Fireplace:** Create a cozy gathering area with a fire feature.

7. Privacy:

- **Screening:** Consider adding privacy elements like fences, hedges, or trellises.
- **Plantings:** Strategic placement of plants can provide natural privacy.

8. Lighting:

- **Ambient Lighting:** Illuminate the space with overall lighting (e.g., string lights, lanterns).
- **Task Lighting:** Provide focused light for specific areas (e.g., dining table, reading nook).
- **Accent Lighting:** Highlight features like plants, water features, or architectural elements.

9. Outdoor Kitchen or Bar:

- **Functionality:** Assess if an outdoor kitchen or bar aligns with your needs and budget.
- **Design:** Plan for appliances, countertops, and storage.

10. Maintenance:

- **Low-Maintenance Options:** Consider materials and plants that require minimal upkeep.
- **Regular Care:** Plan for ongoing maintenance tasks like watering, pruning, and cleaning.

11. Permits and Regulations:

- **Local Codes:** Check local regulations regarding landscaping, structures, and water features.

12. Professional Help:

- **Landscaper:** Hire a professional for design, installation, and maintenance.
- **Contractor:** If you're planning major structural changes, consult a contractor.

