



# Budgeting for your backyard

**DeVries**

Design + Landscape





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# There is so much confusion out there when it comes to budgeting for your backyard.

Projects can cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to \$500,000; and contractors are often hesitant to reveal pricing upfront.

When getting multiple quotes, clients often ask us what the difference is between two project estimates for seemingly the same thing. We have another guide that outlines what to look for in a quote, to help break the specifics down a little further—but for this guide we want to give you a bigger-picture idea.

The advice we offer in this guide is based on years of working with past clients and learning from previous projects. Our goal is to help you weigh the costs as you dream about your outdoor space, so you know what to expect. We want to give you clarity and confidence when it comes to budgeting for your backyard.



# Reference Guide

*Elements listed are suggestions. What we can do within a client's budget all depends on their priorities.*



0 - 10k

15 - 25k

45 - 60k

80 - 120k

120k +

Landscaping

A few nice elements like a patio, a fire pit and landscaping

Additional elements like landscape lighting, a pergola or retaining walls

A large pool deck patio and enhanced elements like an outdoor kitchen and privacy features (pool itself additional)

An even larger pool deck patio, pavilion, and quite a few extras

Upgrade / Enhancement

New Additions

Large-scale Renovation





# Frequently-Asked Questions

## How much do different elements cost?

**In the Indianapolis market, a paver patio is often fully installed for about \$30 per sq. ft.**

Factors that affect the price of a paver patio include site access, paver selection, jointing material, size, shape etc. Each project is unique and quoted that way. Sometimes it might be on the lower end and closer to 25\$ per sq ft. Sometimes it might be on the higher end and a little north of 35\$ per sq ft. This is a good ballpark for a fully finished paver patio—meaning it includes all material, all labor and site repair. Based on these numbers, most families could install a 500 sq ft patio for about 15k.

We've broken down the pros and cons of paver patios vs. concrete patios in a separate guide.

**A pool can be anywhere from 60-120k.**

Pools are one of the most fun elements to add to your backyard, and they vary significantly in cost. We work with a myriad of pool contractors. Our team will design the space around your pool, but the pool contractor will install and plumb it. Check out our pool planning guide for more info.

**Outdoor kitchens range from 8-15k.**

The price here depends on the number of appliances you plan to include, the materials you use in the construction, and the size. We've installed a wide variety of outdoor kitchen nooks, and they add a lot to an outdoor space. If you can dream it, we can build it.

*Other elements, like landscaping, are harder to estimate per square foot, since there are so many variables involved in the execution. If you have ideas about specific features you want to include in your yard, our landscape designers can talk you through different options that affect the cost.*

## Which features are going to give me the biggest bang for my buck?

**Fire pits offer one of the best returns on investment and are generally inexpensive relative to the patio around them.**

They range from \$1,500–\$5,000, depending on whether you want a gas or wood burning variety. In contrast, a fireplace can be \$15–25k. Gas lines to the firepit can add some expense but are usually worth it; they allow you to instantly turn the firepit on and off. A fire pit can be a gathering place for family and friends; it can create a cozy atmosphere for cuddling up with a book; and it's a fun way to grill out or enjoy s'mores. It's a versatile addition for a relatively low cost.

**Landscape lighting is another item that offers a great return on investment.**

Lighting is a great addition to any project. The lights come on every night independently and have 15-year manufacturer warranties. Once they are in you never have to mess with them. They add a wonderfully soft, ambient atmosphere and allow you to use your patio or pool past dark. Lighting is also the number one thing homeowners say they are glad they spent the money on; lighting done right can really transform your space.

**Shade umbrellas are a fraction of the cost of other shade alternatives.**

While a pergola can cost \$5–6k and pavillions range from \$15–30k, a large shade umbrella gets the job done just as well for \$2–4k. If you're looking for a way to escape the heat on sunny days without breaking the bank, this is definitely what we recommend. Shade umbrellas are affordable, visually appealing, and they help create your perfect space.

## Our advice

As you consider a cost/benefit analysis for your outdoor space, it's helpful to decide how you want to use the space and why. Think about what you value.

As we mentioned above, an outdoor kitchen can range from \$8–15k. That may sound crazy, but if it's fully-loaded (grill, fridge, sink, trash ...) and you use it every day all summer it can start to pay off quickly. The same can be said about a fire pit, pool or hot tub. Anything you value and use won't 'cost' a lot, because the benefits will outweigh your investment.

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## Commission a custom design for your outdoor space

We're happy to give you ballpark estimates in an initial consultation, but to understand exactly how much your yard will cost, we'll dig in to the specifics.

### When you commission a custom design, you're really buying:

- Peace of mind that your yard will turn out the way you imagined it. Every design includes a detailed 3D rendering of what your yard will look like when it's finished.
- Detailed information about project costs
- Professional input and creative direction from an experienced landscape designer
- A thorough consideration of all of the variables involved to ensure a smooth build

Design fees will range from \$250-\$2,500 depending on the project and are credited toward the building cost of the project. Revisions are an expected part of our process, and we'll work with you to tweak the design (and the budget) until you love it.



### When you see a final contract price, that's the price you'll pay. End of story.

Our work is all in house. And that means a challenge we encounter never becomes someone else's problem; it is always ours.

Start a Design

Talk with a landscape designer and get answers to your questions.