



What to think about when designing your ideal backyard



Most people are completely overwhelmed when beginning a backyard project. They know they want to do *something* with their yard, but they don't always know what.

There are hundreds of things you could do with your space and thousands of building materials to choose from. We understand that it's complicated, and our designers are perfectly poised to help you navigate tough decisions.

Before you get bogged down trying to choose between colors or decide what should go where, there are a few questions you need to be asking yourself to make sure you're going to end up with a yard you'll love and use. We can handle the details and advise you on how to bring your vision to life; your job is to figure out what you need and want out of your outdoor space.

Then we make your vision a reality.

This guide is intended to help you think about the things that matter so we can design and build the right yard for your family.



1 | **How do you want to *USE* your backyard? Do you want to relax? Do you want to entertain? Do you want both?**

These are the big questions you need to definitively answer before you move further into the design process—to make sure you'll have no regrets about the finished product.

Let's focus on you and your family for a second. How do you envision yourselves spending time together in your perfect backyard?

Maybe you want a pool, you want to eat outside, you want to play games, or maybe you want to sit down and read a book. This is the part where you can have a lot of fun brainstorming together. Do you want to watch TV (yes, you can do that outside); do you want space to toss a football around or play catch? Do you want privacy? Do you want shade? Do you want a combo of these at times?

Have a brainstorming session together and come up with your top priorities.

Would you like to host friends outside in your space? What would that look like for you?

How many people do you want to be able to use your space? How often will “lots” of people use the space?

Let's say you do want to host friends in your backyard, and you want to do it frequently. This is where you can get into specifics: i.e. a fire pit, a dining space, lounge space, kitchen, lights, pergola, water feature etc. How you want your space to feel and what you want to do in it are entirely up to you.

Once you've nailed down the bigger-picture goals, the specifics are easier to envision and they can start falling together. When you work the other way in the process, different elements of your design can feel disjointed.

2 | **Are there any “must haves”? Any specific things to absolutely avoid? (like a plant you are allergic to or a color you can't stand)**

These are good things to articulate early in the process, especially if multiple people are involved in the design process.

3 | How would you describe your style? Modern, rustic, traditional, don't know, or don't really care but want the project to look appropriate with the house ...

However you want your yard to look and feel, specific materials will bring out that style. Once you've made a decision, we can head to design with materials in mind. It's helpful to see your design in 3D before you start in on the actual build or installation, so you can evaluate material costs and styles together. You should make sure you know what the finished product will look like, and get a chance to make any last-minute changes before construction.

These are the kinds of questions our designers will walk you through when you are considering your backyard project. We are more than happy to supply ideas and offer input, but we want your backyard to be designed specifically to fit *your* family's personality, priorities and lifestyle.

Thinking through these ideas will help give us (*and you*) a better idea of what you want.



If you have questions about what might be possible in your space or if you feel like you need inspiration, let us know. We can help.

This is meant to be a guide; so don't get caught up in specifics. Focus on the big picture, and let us help design the details.

We design and build beautiful backyards you'll love.

[Start a Design](#)

