



Outdoor Room Fact Sheet Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association

Outdoor living areas are becoming a common 'must have' for homeowners as consumers today enjoy a more casual lifestyle. The convenience and fun of entertaining family and friends in the outdoors is on the up-and-up, and consumers are indulging and extending the home makeover process to the outdoors. Outdoor rooms today feature appliances and accessories beyond barbecue grills to include wood-fire pizza ovens, refrigerators and even sinks.

Ultimately, an outdoor living area is about creating a concept that meets a homeowner's idea of comfort, relaxation and budget. Follow these tips from the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association to pull together an outdoor room that meets your needs.

Step-by-Step Planning Tips

1. **Determine the ideal use of the outdoor space.** Ask yourself: is the room for entertaining, relaxing, etc.?
2. **Create a wish list of features.** Clip or print pictures of products, images and drawings of outdoor living spaces that capture your attention to help formulate a design for your own space.
3. **Review your home's style.** It's important to have consistent architectural style that stays within the same taste and style of your home.
4. **Visit a specialty retailer.** A specialty retailer is a key partner in creating an outdoor room to provide expertise, products and insight.
5. **Research the products*.** Search online for information on outdoor products before you purchase. Remember, the outdoor room isn't about quantity of product, but the quality and comfort you feel in your outdoor space.
6. **Draw a plan.** Don't worry about a picture-perfect design; simply sketch out the desired end result you would like to create.
 - A. Keep the foundation in mind: Stone patios, retaining walls, fences and decks are basic foundation elements.
 - B. Use landscaping as an accessory. Carefully placed trees and shrubs can add important texture and appeal to an outdoor room. Select plants that change with seasons.
7. **Consider fire and food.** When deciding design, position the fireplace as the focal point, blend in the cooking and eating areas and then consider additional features.
8. **Build the space.** With your design in mind, start to build and put the space together.
9. **Add the furnishing.** Select comfortable patio furniture that invites people to settle in for an extended period of time.
10. **Consider lighting.** To extend the amount of time spent outdoors, consider lighting for pathways, around pools or to accentuate landscaping.

Take Planning in Stages

Keep in mind that often outdoor rooms are created over a period of years. During the first year, install the hearth product and define the grilling and eating areas, then accessorize the next year

* Products to consider

- **Hearth:** Wood, gas or electric fireplaces, firepits, chimineas, fire and foundation combinations
- **Cooking:** Grills, smokers, wood-fire pizza ovens, refrigerators, dishwasher, sinks, cocktail bars, food preparation areas
- **Furniture:** Dining tables, couches, chairs, end tables, hammocks, chaise lounges, rugs
- **Accessories:** Flat screened televisions, sound system, art sculptures, fences
- **Lighting:** Landscape lanterns, pathway lighting, candles
- **Decks:** Natural woods, vinyls, fiberglass, recycled plastics
- **Heaters:** Freestanding or table-top patio heaters

For more information,
visit www.hpba.org