

## How to Create an Attractive Hardscape / Landscape

Use this simple guide to help you and your Hardscape/Landscape professional create an attractive and comfortable landscape you will enjoy every day.

The real benefits of landscaping

Curb appeal — it's the best way to make a good first impression. Most homeowners agree, spending over \$45 billion on professional lawn and landscape services. Gardening has become America's #1 pastime, with over 80% of all households participating.

What does this mean to you?

A well designed landscape does more than bring increased value to your home, it brings energy savings as well. More importantly, quality landscaping brings you endless days of enjoyment.

So follow the number one trend in the country and bring the indoors out by adding a raised patio, fire pit or an outdoor kitchen. Regardless of what you do, the enjoyment of the outdoors will reduce your stress and add real value to your home.

Just follow these five simple planning steps:

- 1) Do your homework
- 2) Make a list
- 3) Make a budget
- 4) Sketch your design
- 5) Hire a qualified landscape contractor

### 1) Do your homework

Visit our web sites to see backyard patio plans, photos, ideas and MORE! Stop by your local book store or library for books and magazines on landscape designs. You can get ideas for hardscape materials, plants, accents, furniture — everything to help make your planning complete.

### 2) Make a list

Make a list of things you like and dislike. If mowing the lawn or weeding a flower garden isn't for you, make note of it. Do you prefer rocks vs. mulch? Do you love flowers, but dread replanting every year?

### 3) Make a budget

When budgeting for landscaping renovation, plan to invest about 10% of your home’s value, according to the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). A more elaborate backyard sanctuary may require 15 to 20%. Much of what you will spend depends on how long you plan to stay in your home. If you plan to stay for more than ten years, 15 to 20% will give you the enjoyment you desire for years to come.

Homes Value \$ \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_% = \_\_\_\_\_ (Your budget).

Highlight your interests below	Like	Dislike	Maybe	Highlight your interests below	Like	Dislike	Maybe
Modern	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Cobblestone	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Natural	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Countertop / Bar	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Old World Charm	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Fire pit / Fireplace	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Relaxation / Quite	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Flower Garden	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Maintenace-free	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Grilling Area / Inset Grill	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Entertaining / Active	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Natural Stone	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Matches Homes Architecture	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Water Feature / Pond	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Open and Spacious	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Paver Patio and Walkway	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Privacy and Shade	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Pergola / Arbor	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Romantic and Tranquil	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Fence / Gates	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Eco-frendly / Energy Saving	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Pillars / Columns	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Outdoor Kitchen / Living Room	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Sound System	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Accent Lighting	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	Seating Area	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Bricks and Pavers	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]				

### 4) Sketch your design

Take out a pencil and paper and start at the beginning. Sketching will help you discover your likes and dislikes and make your landscaping process much easier.

### 5) Hire a qualified Hardscape / Landscape contractor

If you’re not quite the weekend warrior to tackle your own landscape construction, start talking to the professionals. Landscape pros are invaluable assets for their design expertise, product knowledge and construction methods. [Call R Lacy Interlocking Pavers at 559-442-1999](tel:559-442-1999)

On go to our website [www.rlacyinterlockpavers.com](http://www.rlacyinterlockpavers.com) and use the contact form.