



Canada's **Building** Centre

**Project Of The Month**

# OUTDOOR PROJECTS



## PROJECT OF THE MONTH: OUTDOOR PROJECTS



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# Trends

Since the pandemic, outdoor living spaces have become an important element for socializing and everyday living. People are spending more time in the backyard than ever before and the front of the house is now seen as another area for socializing with the addition of a porch or a patio. Today's homeowners want the comfort and style of their indoor spaces extended outside and creating a large multi-functional outdoor living space for the whole family has become a growing trend. Areas for cooking, dining and entertaining are at the top of the wish list. Outdoor kitchens continue to grow in popularity and can include built-in grills, smokers and pizza ovens. Working from home is a new reality for numerous Canadians and many are setting up their workspace outside. Other than wifi, all that's required is a cool, shady place without too many noise distractions, a table and a comfortable chair. Adding a heat source like a fire pit, an outdoor fireplace or a patio heater will extend time spent outside during the cooler months. Having good lighting is key when the sun goes down and not just for safety. Layers of lighting will achieve an overall warm and inviting ambiance to dine and entertain by. Whatever the needs of your family, creating an outdoor living space can be a fun and creative process and add value to your home. Do your research and figure out a budget. Doing most of your projects yourself will save big. The Experts at TIMBER MART can help you with your project details. They'll explain your options and help you select the right materials for your budget.



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# Start with a plan

When you start to think about an outdoor project, consider how it will fit within your current space. Often, one outdoor project can start a chain reaction to other outdoor projects and without a lot of pre-planning. This can give your property a hodge-podge look of random DIY projects. Instead, think about what you want your yard to look like in the long term and make yourself a plan. An easy way to do this is to divide your property into zones and then you can plan outdoor projects in phases. This will not only give your property a cohesive designed look, it will also be easier on the wallet. You can start with an immediate need like a grill and dining zone and build yourself a wood deck. In the next phase, add a paver patio for a lounge and entertaining area. After that add a fire pit with bench seating, and on and on until you have the outdoor space that works for you and your family. Another consideration in your plan is using your entire property. Most homeowners tend to plan projects immediately adjacent to the house resulting in an outdoor living area that can become quite crowded. Why not create a zone well away from the house and have it as a destination? This could be a lounge area at the back of the yard that is surrounded by a garden with a view of the house. Or a fire pit to keep smoke away from windows and doors. Connect these outlying zones with walkways and gardens with stepping stones. Once you have a grand plan for your property and have prioritized the different phases, carefully plan out each project. Whether you're building a deck or installing a sidewalk, the Project Experts at TIMBER MART can help you determine what products and tools you'll need for the success of your project and keep you on budget.





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# Build a fire pit

If you want to add an extra element to your backyard that the whole family can enjoy, nothing beats an all-season fire pit. A fire pit is a great addition to your outdoor entertaining area, and one that can be relished year-round – especially when the weather cools down. It can be as low-key or fancy as you'd like with stump seating, lawn chairs or built-in benches. For safety reasons, fire pits should be installed on level ground in an open area away from other residences, property lines and flammable materials. Confirm with your municipality if your property meets regulations and obtain a permit if required. Fire pits can be built from scratch or, for your convenience, you can purchase a kit in a colour that suits your space. The size of your fire pit will be determined by your municipality regulations, but the recommended size is between 36-44" wide x 12-20" high, depending on your space.

The inner wall of the fire pit must be made from fireproof building materials, such as firebrick. For the outside wall, use heat-resistant materials such as brick or stone. Then, fill the flat surface inside with crushed stone. The fire pit shown on this page is a 42" pre-packaged Barkman StackStone Fire Pit kit available in western Canada. This three-layered fire pit includes a removable grill to prevent flying sparks. Similar kits are available at TIMBER MART stores throughout Canada. For more information on availability and DIY installation contact your local TIMBER MART.



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A pergola is typically a wood framed structure that does not have walls or a solid roof. They are an attractive design element to any backyard and are used to define a space while adding an element of privacy. They range in style from traditional to contemporary designs. Although pergolas do not provide one hundred percent shade, there are options you can add to give you that shade. A shade sail, fabric panels, lattice, Palruf PVC panels or climbing plants are a few choices. Adding a pergola to your yard is an affordable, intermediate DIY project that can add value to your home. They can be built as a stand-alone feature or attached to your home or other structures. Consider using exposed industrial-looking black connectors and fasteners by Simpson Strong-Tie to add a detail of industrial elegance while providing structural strength. The wood of your pergola can be left exposed to weather naturally or you can stain or paint it depending on the look you're going for. A pergola creates the perfect space for an outdoor dining and entertaining area or a place to simply relax. Put the finishing touches on your new backyard haven and surround your pergola with lush vegetation, potted or hanging plants and planter boxes.



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# A place to gather

As the weather warms up, homeowners will be spending more time outside and while COVID rules are still in place, the backyard will become an entertaining destination. This is the perfect time to create a stylish and comfortable outdoor space that can be enjoyed beyond COVID and for years to come. Budget will determine the design and scale of your project as well as the materials used. If you have a big family and a large circle of friends, create overflow seating areas off your main deck. Consider the people you'll be inviting and work their needs into your design. While multi-level decks look great, they may not work well for older people or small children. Both you and your neighbours will appreciate privacy panels or screening to help block noise, wind and unwanted attention. To get the most out of your space as a place to unwind, choose building materials that are easy to maintain. Keep in mind that the bigger your outdoor living space is, the more furnishings you will require. On sunny days, you'll want shade available so you and your guests can stay cool and remain outside.



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# The right garden tools

Whether you are tackling a new outdoor project or maintaining your property, you're going to need some tools to get the job done. Gardening and yard maintenance around your home will require its own set of tools and there are basics every homeowner should own. These include a standard fan rake, hose with adjustable nozzle, shovel, hand trowel, loppers, pruning shears, garden gloves and lawnmower. These basic tools will get you far but experienced homeowners look to more specialized tools to save time and frustration. There is a huge selection of garden tools that accomplish different tasks so it's a good idea to just buy for your needs. Keep in mind the size and weight of tools. While a larger tool may be more efficient, its weight may increase fatigue. Power tools for the garden will make yard maintenance easier so think of adding a string trimmer, a leaf blower and a hedge trimmer to your tool repertoire. Makita has a full line of cordless outdoor power equipment with instant starts, lower noise, reduced maintenance and zero emissions. Large properties will greatly benefit from the convenience of outdoor power tools and this is the same with a wheelbarrow. A small property may need a wheelbarrow occasionally but it will be a work horse on a large property. Wheelbarrow designs vary depending on the task so take time to select the best wheelbarrow for your needs. If you have questions about what garden tools you might need for your outdoor project, talk to the Project Experts at TIMBER MART. We have the tool you're looking for and can also give you tips on how to use it effectively.

The Makita logo, featuring the word "Makita" in white on a red background.



Work anytime, anywhere with Makita LXT Cordless Outdoor Power Equipment. The fast-charging LXT Lithium ION batteries power over 225 products to deliver unmatched performance.

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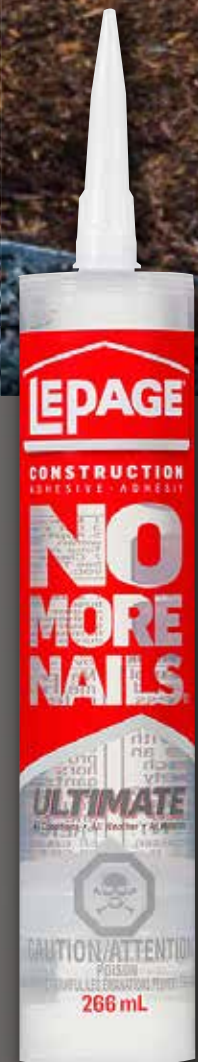
WORKS. PERIOD.™

# Choosing the right construction adhesive

Of all the adhesives, a construction adhesive is the strongest. They are used to bond larger pieces of material together and offer high initial tack that can fill joints & gaps in multiple materials. There are several important properties to consider when choosing the right one for your outdoor project, including final bond strength and flexibility, application conditions, adhesion to different substrates, durability, and weather resistance. In addition, there are several different technologies that exist as well, all with their advantages and disadvantages.

With all of that in mind, choosing the right adhesive can be challenging! Fortunately, LePage has a line of easy-to-use, versatile construction adhesives that can meet all your project needs, inside or outside. If you are working on a project in an area that is prone to varied weather conditions, then you want your exterior adhesive to hold up - like LePage No More Nails® Ultimate Crystal Clear. This glue is ideal for bonding common materials such as wood, concrete, brick, stone, and masonry, as it is designed to grab and hold instantly. This helps to reduce the need for bracing and nailing, with the adhesive essentially acting as a second set of hands, allowing you to get the job done quicker.

Additionally, No More Nails® Ultimate Crystal Clear is formulated to work in wet conditions and can even bond two non-porous surfaces together, which most construction adhesives cannot do. Lastly, this product is resistant against extreme temperatures from -18° C to 38° C, and is crystal clear during application and after cure, allowing you to achieve clean, professional results.



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## Paint & stain projects

It's easy to add stylish colour to your home with these outdoor paint and stain projects from PPG, Sico and Olympic. Giving outdoor elements a fresh new look with paint or stain is an easy DIY weekend project. You can choose a colour that is appropriate for your home's architecture or go bold and choose something unexpected.



### House Numbers That'll Get Noticed

An easy project to boost curb appeal instantly



### How To Paint A Door

Adding personality with ease



### Raise The Bar On Outdoor Entertaining

Stain-and-build DIY bar serves up midsummer fun



### Instant Curb Appeal:

Window boxes elevate outdoor style

**SICO**  
Outside  
First  
Impressions!



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# Extend your outdoor living with a 3-season sunroom

Sunroom Solutions provides customized and affordable 3-season windows for any outdoor structure. These windows offer the flexibility to easily convert your space into an outdoor enclosure, extending your enjoyment of the outdoor season.

Vinyl Pane Windows protect you from sun, wind, rain, snow, insects, dust and allergens! These windows are constructed with powder-coated aluminum frames that surround heavy duty, lightweight sliding window panels. Vinyl Pane Windows feature durable weather-resistant, 10 mil vinyl panes that can be raised or lowered with ease in the PVC track. If the vinyl is stretched or dented it will return to its original shape in seconds.

The window panels are spring loaded and can be easily removed to achieve a 100% screen opening. These windows are well designed to make the installation process easy and inexpensive. In most cases, an average 10x10 room with a roof structure would take 6-8 hours to install based on the window openings being framed ahead of time. Come in and talk to a TIMBER MART Deck Specialist about the benefits of a Sunroom Solutions 3-season sunroom.



See how this non-glass window system easily transforms any outdoor space into your favourite retreat!

