



Canada's Building Centre

**Project Of The Month**

# OUTDOOR PROJECTS



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## PROJECT OF THE MONTH: OUTDOOR PROJECTS



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# Landscaping

## Planning & Phases

If there is one thing the pandemic has taught us, it's the importance of outdoor spaces with people spending more time outside for socializing and everyday living. Make the most of your property with DIY projects that will improve your outdoor living space and add value to your home. Start by thinking of how you and your family want to use your outdoors and create a master plan. Include lighting in your design so you can use your outdoor space when the sun goes down. To make the process more budget-friendly, plan your projects so they can be done in phases over time. Whether you build a composite deck or a stone patio, adding a dining area will be the focal point for outdoor living. Other popular backyard features include a place for lounging, fireplace or fire pit area, outdoor kitchen and a shade structure. It's important to make an overall plan before you start phase one so that electrical, gas and water can be roughed-in for each additional phase at the beginning of your build. You want to avoid trying to retrofit any of these after-the-fact and possibly having to rebuild. Whatever the needs of your family, creating an outdoor living space can be a fun and creative process. Do your research and figure out a budget. Taking on most of your projects yourself will help you save big. The Experts at TIMBER MART can help you with your project details as well as provide high-quality building materials and the right tools. They'll explain your options and help you select the right materials for your budget.

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# DIY paver patio

A paver patio will add outdoor living space to your home and will be virtually maintenance-free except for the occasional power wash. Paving stones are available in dozens of shapes and colours so you can be as creative as you want with your patio design. The overall size will depend on the size of your yard and should be big enough to fit your outdoor furniture with plenty of room to walk around. Installation is an easy DIY project and can be done in a weekend depending on the size of your patio. It's crucial to carefully prepare the patio base that the pavers will sit on to ensure a solid surface with minimal heaving in the winter. Follow these steps to build a good base for a typical patio installation:

**1. Prepare the area** The patio area needs to be dug out and free of roots and rocks. Start by measuring and staking the outside perimeter of your patio and make sure the area is square. Use string and a line level to measure the depth you need for your base. The finished paver patio should sit level with the ground or slightly above so you will need to dig 7 inches plus the depth of your paver (you will be laying 6 inches of gravel paver base, 1 inch of paver leveling sand and the pavers on top). Note that pavers come in different heights. If you will be using your patio for heavy things, like a hot tub, you will need a thicker paver. Your patio should slope away from the house at least 1 inch every 8 feet for drainage. The most time you will spend on this project is preparing the area to get it right. Once you have this step done, this is the time to bury electrical cables if needed.

**2. Tamp & layer** Tamp the dirt base with a rented plate compactor. A hand tamper can be used for small projects but a plate compactor will do a better job in a big area. Add the gravel paver base 2 or 3 inches at a time and wet it between layers. Remember to maintain the slope away from the house. Once you have 6 inches laid, tamp the surface. Wetting the gravel will keep dust to a minimum when tamping. Next lay 1 inch of paver leveling sand, maintain the slope in the grade and tamp again.

**3. Lay the pavers** It's a good idea to install paver edging around the perimeter of your patio. This is a hard plastic edging, the same height as your pavers, that secures the pavers and maintains the shape of your patio. Stake it in the ground to secure. Start laying the pavers in a corner and on a hard edge such as a wall if possible. Use wood stakes and string to act as a guide to keep your rows straight and square. Place stones straight down into the sand and fit them together snugly. Tap the tops of the stones with a rubber mallet to make sure they sit even. Depending on the laying pattern, finish off rows with half-sized blocks. Some cutting of stones may be necessary to fit odd size spaces, check the manufacturer guidelines for cutting instructions.

**4. Top with polymeric sand** Using a push broom, sweep polymeric sand across the surface of the pavers to completely fill the gaps in between. Use the plate tamper on the surface of the pavers, sweep again with polymeric sand then tamp one final time. Use the broom to remove all excess polymeric sand from the surface. The sand should be in the gaps only. Once the surface is clean, wet the pavers with water. The water will react with the polymeric sand to form a tight, mortar-like joint.





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# Build a fire pit (from a kit)

A wood-burning fire pit is a great addition to your outdoor entertaining area and one that can be relished year-round. Building a fire pit from a kit is an easy DIY weekend project. Kits can be square or circular and include enough heat-resistant concrete stones to build a pit usually three rows high with no need for cutting. Each fire kit brand has its own set of instructions but generally they all start with a level and compacted gravel base. You can have the first row beneath ground level or have it sit on ground level. If your kit includes a steel liner, use that as your template when you lay the first row of stones. Make sure your stones are level and lay a bead of landscape block adhesive between rows for stability. Adding a layer of lava rock to the base of your firepit will increase the heat generated by the burning wood.

### Fire pit safety tips

- Always check with your municipality for local fire codes before you start your project. There may be limits on the size of the fire pit you can build, how far it can be from your home or other structures as well as limits on which days you can burn
- Build on level ground
- Don't place a fire pit beneath a tree or overhang
- Don't build on a wood deck
- Teach your kids about fire safety and always have an adult supervise
- Keep a hose or fire extinguisher close by



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# Outdoor kitchen

Build the ultimate in backyard living! An outdoor kitchen provides all your cooking and entertaining needs where everyone gathers. Just like interior kitchens, the outdoor version comes in many styles and finishes. They can be as basic as a counter on either side of a propane grill or as custom as your budget will allow with multiple built-in cookers, running water and a drinks fridge. Things to consider when planning your outdoor kitchen are how you intend to cook, available space, surface finishes and budget. If you decide to start small, plan for future expansion in your design. Use pressure treated lumber to build the kitchen frame and include framing for any built-in fixtures. How you clad your framing will depend on what exterior finishes you have chosen for the body of the kitchen as well as the countertops. All surfaces should be durable enough to withstand our Canadian climate. The most common kitchen finishes are wood, stone veneer and brick, while countertops are most often made from natural stone or concrete. Factor in lighting and shelter at the planning stage for cooking at night and during inclement weather. Nearby seating will allow you to socialize with guests while you cook.





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# Build dreams, get rewarded



X



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### Product profile



# Add a stone veneer detail

Adding the natural look of Fusion Stone to your outdoor structure gives an instant high end look for not necessarily a high end cost. It is easily installed by the average DIY-er and delivers a lifetime of maintenance free performance. Traditional Fusion Stone incorporates the use of mortar, while Dry-Stack Fusion Stone utilizes a mortar-free technology. This versatile stone veneer offers endless budget-friendly design possibilities. Choose from three stone veneer textures with each veneer available in assorted colours.

Peninsula LedgeStone

Great Lakes

Dry-Stack





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## Light up your exterior

There are three major functions of outdoor lighting: safety, security and ambiance. A well-lit outdoors makes navigating around your property easier and safer while deterring intruders. Typical areas to light up are your front porch, exterior doors, house numbers, entertainment and cooking areas, steps, garage, walkways and landscaping. Light up the front of your house with decorative wall and pendant lighting, soffit lights as well as flood lights pointed up into trees or directed at the house. Light up walkways with path lights, placed 10 to 15 feet apart, to softly illuminate the way. All these types of lighting can be incorporated into your backyard along with additional lighting to make an inviting outdoor space for entertaining. These can include postcap lights, deck lights, fence lights, overhead strings of lights and decorative lanterns. Well placed motion activated security lights are a good idea for both the front and back of your property. It's recommended to use LED outdoor lights wherever possible. LEDs give you brighter light with a longer life and use significantly less energy. Solar-powered lights are great for areas where there is plenty of sunshine and electricity is not easily accessible.



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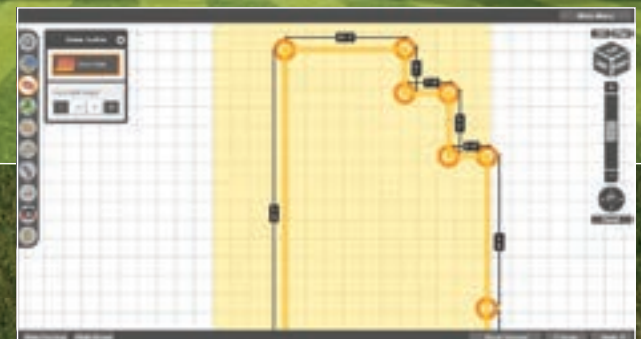


# Build a strong fence with smart software

Design a beautiful custom fence in minutes with new Fence Planner Software from Simpson Strong-Tie. It's a free and easy in-app tutorial that allows you to design a fence that conforms to your property dimensions and local building codes. Fence Planner Software highlights the critical connections and recommends appropriate hardware based on your customized design. Choose your materials from the library of Simpson Strong-Tie connectors and fasteners as well as different wood species for your framing lumber. To complete your design, you can add patios, sheds, landscaping or other design features, then view the entire yard in a realistic, 2D or 3D environment. When your design is complete, Fence Planner provides a full output report including a material list so you can start building right away. Bring your material list to your local TIMBER MART and we will quote your project costs, help meet your budget needs and offer expert advice.



**Click here for more information  
and to launch Fence Planner**





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# 4 ways to spring clean up



**Lawn & garden** Cleaning up your front and back yards is a good place to start getting your outdoors ready for spring and summer. Choose a sunny day and enjoy spending time outside. Remove leaves and dead plants from garden beds as well as broken branches from greenery. Early spring is a great time to prune plants and trees and give shrubbery a haircut. De-thatch your lawn with a good raking and apply spring fertilizer. When temperatures are warm enough, seed your lawn if needed.



**Power wash** In short, power wash everything. Hard surfaces can become muddy and grimy over the winter, especially near ground level. Surfaces in shady areas can also have a layer of algae, mould or even moss from last summer. Use a power washer to blast away all this grime and make your surfaces look new again. Don't forget to power wash sidewalks, fences, decking, outdoor furniture, siding, brickwork and your front steps. Annual power washing is a great way to maintain the outdoor areas of your house.



**Windows** Clean windows not only make the outside of your house sparkle, they make an incredible difference when looking out from the inside of your home. Many modern window designs allow you to clean the outside of windows from inside your house. If you don't have this feature, use a ladder to get to second story windows. For extremely high windows, use a sponge mop on an extension pole. Direct sunshine will dry soap too quickly so clean windows on a cloudy day and use a squeegee to prevent streaks.



**Gutters** Winter storms blow leaves and debris into rain gutters which makes clogging a real possibility.. When spring rain begins, you want your gutters to be clear and ready to handle large amounts of water. Wear gloves and scrape out as much debris and gunk as possible. Also make sure your downspouts are unclogged. Use a hose with a spray nozzle to rinse out any remaining debris in the gutters and downspout. Check to make sure your downspouts are directing water away from the foundation.



# Garden tools every homeowner should own

Owning a house comes with yard work and outdoor maintenance and that means you're going to need garden tools. There are hundreds of garden tools that perform different functions but there are certain basic tools that every homeowner should own. Below is a list of basic tools that will cover most of your outdoor tasks and each item comes with many options. For instance, garden hoses are available in a assorted lengths and sizes so you will have to determine what is best for you and your property. Working with the right tools can make any job easier and faster so you may find yourself adding to your garden tool collection as you need more specialized tools.

- Trowel
- Shovel
- Garden shears
- Pruning shears
- Garden hose
- Sprinkler
- Hose nozzle
- Watering can
- Leaf rake
- Garden rake
- Loppers
- Garden gloves
- Wheelbarrow
- Edger
- String trimmer
- Leaf blower
- Hedge trimmer
- Lawn mower



**Pressure washer** This is an invaluable tool for cleaning and maintaining hard surfaces. Pictured here is the Karcher 1800 PSI K3 Follow Me Pressure Washer which is designed to "follow you" while you work.





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# Build a shed

Building a shed will not only give you an ideal storage solution for all your garden tools and outdoor belongings, it will become a feature of your backyard and can also add to your property value. Building your own shed enables you to fully customize the design for your needs, location and personal style. While most homeowners will use a shed for storage, it can also serve as a place for hobbies, a children's playhouse, a home gym or a remote home office. These freestanding structures are fairly easy to build for an experienced DIY-er and often don't require building permits. If you are planning the perfect shed for your yard, here are a few things to consider.

**What can you afford?** Budget is the starting point with just about any construction project. Start by deciding how much you want to spend.

**What are your needs?** Will you use your shed for storage, living space or an alternate use? Does it need electrical hook-up? Or plumbing? How you plan to use the shed will influence your decisions.

**Determine the size** An unnecessarily large shed will cut the amount of usable space on your property, while one that is too small will limit its uses. When it comes to size, build as large as possible while still being practical and affordable. This will allow maximum flexibility for the future even if all the space is not used right away. Note that a building permit may be necessary for sheds over a certain size so check your local bylaws.

**Where to build?** When planning your shed, you should know if you have an easement on your property where you cannot build and you should know how close you can build to your property line. Be sure to check with your local Municipal Office for restrictions and bylaws for your area before you build.



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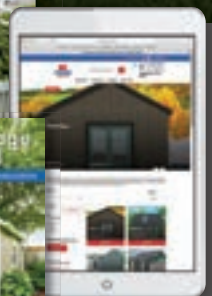


Plan TBM192A

**We  
can  
help!**

## We have shed plans

TIMBER MART shed plans offer effective and attractive ways to store anything from garden tools to lawn tractors. Plans are available in a variety of sizes and designs to fit any location and can be customized to suit your particular needs. Our do-it-yourself plans make building a storage shed an easy and enjoyable DIY project.



## In-store or online

Pick up in-store, our exclusive Garage & Shed Plans book and our step-by-step Storage Shed Installation Instructions for building a basic shed. Garage & shed plans can also be browsed online at

[timbermart.ca](http://timbermart.ca)



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### How to refresh your outdoor furniture

Let your outdoor furniture look brand new again with a fresh coat of paint. Before you start, fill holes, repair wobbles and sand down any rough areas. You can repaint the original colour or take this opportunity to go with something completely different. Bright and bold colours lend themselves to outdoor settings so don't be afraid to be daring. Click this link from the paint experts at PPG to follow how one DIY blogger revamps an outdoor bench using PPG Timeless Exterior Paint.

# Refresh with paint



### Front door colour: Painting advice for your entryway

Changing the colour of your front door is an easy DIY weekend project that'll score you major curb appeal points. Almost any colour can be used on any house depending on the shade of that colour. And that can make choosing the right colour tricky. The existing colours of your home's exterior will be the biggest influence on your choice. Find a colour that will compliment your home's permanent features that cannot be easily changed like brickwork, siding and stone. Tape colour swatches to your door and check the colour throughout the day. Colours can look very different depending on the time of day. Click this link for popular front door paint colours from the paint experts at PPG.



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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.

