



## Outdoor Furniture Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

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With the right outdoor furniture in your space, whether it's a big backyard, deck, around a pool, on a porch, veranda, or apartment balcony, you can create a warm and inviting space to enjoy as part of your home.

### Why should you get outdoor furniture?

**1. Build out another room of the home** – You can make use of under-utilized square footage of your residence, even if it's only for certain months out of the year. You effectively gain a whole other "room" of the home.

**2. Comfort for yourself and guests** – Having comfortable furniture might entice you to spend more time outside, and encourages guests to visit.

**3. Get that Vitamin D** – Many people work from home and end up being cooped up inside all day. With the right furniture, you can work outside for at least an hour or two per day.

**4. Kids can have fun** – Kids have a place to sit to do various activities, like crafts, games, and more.

### Types of outdoor furniture

#### 1. Outdoor furniture for large spaces

**Conversational sets and sectionals** – These are basically couches for outside with seat cushions and seatbacks for comfort. Many are modular and come with tables.

**Dining sets** – This is a dining table with chairs for outdoors, best for having meals, playing games, or sitting around for drinks.

**Patio chairs** – You can easily move these around as needed and get extras for guests. This also includes daybeds, lounge chairs, and chaises which are great for by a pool.

**Hammocks and hanging chairs** – Perfect for relaxing for an afternoon siesta, reading a book, sunbathing, and other calming activities.

**Patio tables** – Small patio tables provide extra space for food, for guests to put down drinks, or even for decorative items.



**Patio umbrellas** – These are a must to provide shade over a conversational or dining set. There are offset ones as well as crank and base ones that can fit through the hole in a dining set table.

## **2. Outdoor furniture for small spaces**

**Small conversational sets** – There are smaller conversational sets that can seat only 2-3 people and can even fit on a balcony or veranda.

**Small dining sets** – You can find dining sets as small as ones designed to sit two people, often that can be stored compactly when not in use.

**Patio chairs** – Folding chairs are great for smaller spaces, while bistro sets are perfect for a small backyard, porch, or balcony. A rocking chair is perfect for the porch.

**Other furniture** – Even small spaces can benefit from other furniture like a patio umbrella and small side table.

## **Materials and what to know**

### **1. Wood materials**

**Cedar** – It's insect repellent and water resistant but not as durable as other types of wood.

**Acacia** – It's durable but requires some maintenance.

**Eucalyptus** – A good sustainable option but requires weather sealing.

**Teak** – More expensive and durable and doesn't require sealants.

**Pine** – Affordable but requires a sealant.

**Red or white oak** – Does not rot, repels insects, but requires a sealant.

**Cypress** – Resistant to both rot and water, not as durable as others, but affordable.

**Fir** – Commonly found, weather resistant and ideal if you live somewhere with drastic temperature fluctuations.

### **2. Other materials**

**Wicker** – Weather resistant, lightweight, easy to clean.

**Resin** – Durable, moisture resistant, resistant to damage from the sun, mold, and mildew. Usually comes with aluminum or steel frame that is sturdy and rust-proof. Requires minimal care.

**Metal or iron** – Usually found in furniture support systems, sturdy and stands up to weather, but needs to be properly coated to prevent rust and corrosion.

**Plastic** – Affordable, can hold up in inclement weather, not as elegant looking.



## Things to consider before getting outdoor furniture

**Size of your space and the furniture** – Determine where you want to put the furniture and take measurements, factoring in sufficient space to move around it. If the area gets a lot of sun and isn't shaded, make sure to invest in an umbrella.

**Material** – Choose based on price and which will hold up best based on where you live and how you can store it in the off-season.

**How will you use it?** – Determine if it's for entertaining large or small groups or mostly just for your family.

**Ages and comfort of guests** – Elderly people might have trouble getting in and out of lower conversational sets while standard tables are best for meals while high top tables are great for drinks and conversation.

### How to store and care for outdoor furniture

**Cover** – Get a protective cover to use whenever the furniture is not being used.

**Store away in the off season** – If you have a garage or shed with room, store the furniture away in the winter. Some can even be used in an unfinished basement to provide extra seating and maximize its use.

**Store cushions separately, packed in bins** – Place cushions in a deck box or plastic bins to store in the off season or when not in use.

**Seal or coat as needed** – Depending on the material, if sealant or coating is required, do this at the beginning of the season.

## What other items should you get along with outdoor furniture?

**Patio heaters and fireplaces** – These provide not only warmth but also light and ambiance.

**Patio storage** – You can use these for accessories like pillowcases, tablecloths, and other relevant items that need to remain outdoors.

**Table clothes** – Protect the dining table from dirt, debris, and scratches, especially if it's wood.

**Throw cushions** – Pick up a few to spruce up the look.

**Outdoor rugs** – This offers a comfortable space to stand while also protecting the deck, and creates a beautiful oasis.