A driveway is a great way to welcome guests and direct people’s focus to your home, putting it on display. In terms of square feet and its high visibility, a driveway can be the major component of a front yard which makes it a good idea to landscape. The design can range from simple and functional to one that incorporates sweeping curves that add interest to the overall look of your home and front yard.

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If your driveway curves around your property or is very long, a focal point, like a flower bed, fountain, pond or accent garden will draw your gaze to the beautiful landscapes.

Add lighting, sign plaques, vibrant flowers or lush foliage to further enhance the entrance.

Using Allan Block’s retaining wall products or the two-sided AB Courtyard Collection are perfect options for creating an impressive entrance to your home. To learn more about how to build with Allan Block, check out our website at allanblock.com for ideas, installation rates and helpful videos. With a little elbow grease and a lot of vision, you can make your entrance to your home one that your neighbors will be envious of.

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The challenge for the contractor was to design and build a tiered retaining wall that had easy access for the lawn mower and placing children, all while creating an attractive and inviting front yard landscape to tackle the slope. By using one style and one color of block, the contractor was able to keep the retaining walls from visually overpowering the space.

With a plan in place the contractor got down to work and in just a short time had three curved retaining walls up and ready for landscaping. The sweeping terraces give the front yard of the home an open and welcoming feel and provide some fun and usable space for the family to play outside.

Now, just a short two years later, the retaining wall and landscape design has made the front yard the apple of this homeowner’s eye.

When a retired apple orchard with sloping clay soil banks was rezoned into a brand new housing subdivision, the opportunity for beautiful landscapes, curb appeal and outdoor living were there for the taking. The owners of this Salt Spring home, British Columbia property built a home to house their large family of 6 children. With the house constructed at the top of the slope, the homeowners needed a retaining wall to hold up the soil, soften the landscape and create the curb appeal that they were looking for.

All Canadian Contractors, Kamloops Rockworks Ltd, provided a design and sample of retaining wall blocks from the AB Certified Contractors, Rampart Rockworks Ltd, for the Apple Collection and just like that - the decision was made. When a plan in place the contractor got down to work and in just a short time had three curved retaining walls up and ready for landscaping. By using one style and one color of block, the contractor was able to keep the retaining walls from visually overpowering the space.

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**Top 5 Curb Appeal Tips for a Beautiful Front Yard**

1. **Texture and Color**
   - Use a variety of textures and colors to create eye-catching beauty and interest for the passer-by. Choose hardscapes with complimentary colors or interesting textures to enhance the beauty of your front door space.
   - Patterned retaining walls, like an AB AUB or AB Abbey Blend can be a simple way to bring both color and texture to the top.
   - Don’t forget the foliage. Finish the space with native flowers and plants to add contrast, continuity or accents.

2. **Focal Points**
   - Good landscape designs are anchored by local focal points. A focal point captures the viewer’s attention, directing their gaze to the downslope. This allows you to add eye-catching accents to your landscapes by incorporating decorative plants, a tree, or water feature.
   - One of the hottest trends with “sound” reasoning is water features not your style? Try some decorative posts or a planter/flower bed and make the plants and flowers the focal point of your entry.

3. **Year Round Beauty**
   - Does your yard have enough curb appeal to turn heads during all four seasons of the year? Hardscapes like terraced walls, stairs or entry posts are essential to attaining this goal. However, hardscapes will not be enough. Think about your climate, the type of soil and the amount of space you will need for the plants you want to incorporate. Try to have flowering trees and shrubs during spring and summer and fall color in autumn. Next pick the right evergreens to carry the load in winter.

4. **Functionality**
   - There are many ways to enhance the look of your landscaping with functional elements and structures. These elements can solve landscaping issues such as erosion, steep slopes and water flow. Some of the most common ideas to add functionality are retaining walls, stairways, paved flower beds, and columns or posts with lighting. When choosing your own curb appeal elements, select items that add beauty as well as enhance the overall function of the space.

5. **Low Maintenance**
   - Do you have Questions? We have Answers. We have been in business for over 25 years and have a wealth of knowledge and information and are setting out to help with your projects.
   - Besides allanblock.com we also have our blog/forum site where you can go to ask questions and get answers direct from us.
   - Check it out, and let us know how we can help!
Top 5 Curb Appeal Tips for a Beautiful Front Yard

What exactly is curb appeal?

While you may be able to precisely define it, we all know it when we see it. The trick for a DIYer or is turning what you see into something you can apply to your own space. For a contractor, it’s turning what appeals to your customer into a vision you can apply to those spaces.

Most of us would point to a more visual interest in our front yards, right? And the more exposed our front yards are to public scrutiny, the more pressing the need for effective curb appeal ideas. Whether your yard is large or small, flat or hilly, there are many design ideas you can implement to enhance your curb appeal. Here are 5 tips close to add beauty and functionality to your front yard space.

1. Texture and Color

Use a variety of textures and colors to create eye-catching beauty and interest for the passer-by. Choose hardscapes with complementary colors or interesting textures to enhance the beauty of your front door space. Traditional retaining walls, like an AB A Ashlar or AB Abbey Blend can be a simple way to bring both color and texture to the top.

2. Focal Points

Good landscape designs are anchored by focal points. A focal point captures the viewer’s attention, directing their gaze to the desired spot in the design. Choose focal points that add eye-catching accents to your landscapes by incorporating decorative plants, a mulch, or water feature, one of the hottest trends with “sound” reasoning behind it. Water features not your style? Try some decorative posts or a simple waterfall. Whatever your style, choose a focal point that enhances your landscaping to make your home the center of attention.

3. Year Round Beauty

Does your yard have enough curb appeal to turn heads during all four seasons of the year? Hardscapes like terraced walls, stairs or entry points are essential to attaining this goal. But hardscapes will not be enough. Think about your climate, the type of soil and the amount of water necessary for the plants you want to incorporate. Strobe to have flowering trees and shrubs during every season and fall color in autumns. Then pick the right evergreens to carry the load in winter.

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5. Low Maintenance

You can follow every landscaping tip in the book and still not be happy with your yard if you have not taken the time to think about how to maintain the look you’ve created. Beautiful or not, you will not be able to sit back, relax and watch all the neighbors ooh and ahh over your new front yard. Like your local hardware dealer or landscape contractor for suggestions, planting ideas and project estimates. When it’s done, you will be able to sit back, relax and watch all the neighbors ooh and ahh over your new front yard.

Want to see some more ideas for curb appeal? Check out the photo gallery at allanblock.com, where you can find a wide variety of landscaping ideas, installation instructions, videos, technical support and more!

Have a great curb appeal project? We would love to see it! Send your project photos to us at info@allanblock.com or share them on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/allanblock.

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When a retired apple orchard with sloping clay soil banks was released into a brand new housing subdivision, the opportunity for beautiful landscapes, curb appeal and outdoor living were there for the taking. The owners of this Salmon Arm, British Columbia property built a home to house their large family of 6 children. When the house constructed at the crane, the owners needed a retaining wall to hold up the soil, soften the landscape and create the curb appeal that they were looking for.

Curb Appeal - The Apple of My Eye

A BCertified Contractors, Ramp Rokworks Ltd, provided a design and sample of retaining wall block from the AB Europa Collection and just like that the house was built. The homeowners chose to go with a tiered retaining wall made with the AB Door to add softness to the front of the house with its time-worn feel.

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2. Focal Points

Good landscape designs are anchored by focal points. A focal point captures the viewer’s attention, directing their gaze to the desired spot in the design. Whether it’s a charming bench in a flower bed or a water feature; add eye-catching accents to your landscape by incorporating decorative plants, a mural, or water feature; one of the hottest trends with “sound” reasoning, but emit soothing sounds. Once you’ve experimented with pond, you may even decide to advance their gaze to the desired spot in the design. You can make the plants and flowers the focal point of your landscaping, but unless you enjoy the house on upkeep, plan your design for low maintenance.

3. Year Round Beauty

Does your yard have enough curb appeal to turn heads during all four seasons of the year? Many homeowners have to settle for basic landscaping like terraced walls, stairways or entry columns or posts with lighting. When choosing your curb appeal elements, select items that add beauty as well as enhance the overall function of the space.

4. Functionality

There are many ways to enhance the look of your landscaping with functional elements and structures. These elements can solve landscaping issues such as erosion, steep slopes, and water flow. Some of the most common ideas to add functionality are retaining walls, stairways, paved flower beds, and columns or posts with lighting. When choosing your curb appeal elements, select items that add beauty as well as enhance the overall function of the space.

5. Low Maintenance

You can follow every landscaping tip in the book and still not be happy with your yard if you have not taken the time to think about how to maintain the look you have created. Beautiful or not, you want your yard to last as long as your house. Below are a few ideas for low-maintenance landscaping that add beauty as well as enhance the overall function of the space.

- Patterned retaining walls, like an AB A shlar or AB A Abbey Blend can be a simple way to bring both color and texture to the front.
- Don’t forget the foliage! Finish the space with vibrant flowers and plants to add contrast, continuity or accents.
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With a plan in place the contractor got down to work and in just a short time had three curved retaining walls up and ready for landscaping. The sweeping trenches give the front yard of their house an open and welcoming look and provide some fun and usable space for the family to play outside.

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www.allanblock.com/blog
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Passing up the opportunity to accent your driveway could leave it looking like a long scar running up and down your yard, something you would just like to forget about. Fortunately there are many ways Allan Block can make this space beautiful, functional and unforgettable.

Making an entrance with walls can greatly enhance the look of your driveway. Stone walls (like AB Courtyard Walls) can be either parallel to the driveway along its whole length, or meet it perpendicularly, at the entrance. Posts or columns can be added to attach driveway gates, arbors, light poles and more.

If your driveway curves around your property or is very long, a focal point, like a flower bed, fountain, pond, or accent garden will draw your gaze to the beautiful landscapes.

Add lighting, sign plaques, vibrant flowers or lush foliage to further enhance the entrance.

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