Why Allan Block? Check Us Out!

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Available for Apple and Android.
What exactly is a hardscape and why do we need or want them?

Hardscapes are solid elements or non-living features of your landscape. They can be formal or informal depending on the style of your surrounding landscape and when planned out carefully, they improve the overall outdoor space. Hardscapes can add depth and texture to your yard. Some are for artistic purposes and some are more practical in nature.

When choosing hardscape features, consider their overall purpose in addition to your current style or theme. Different areas of your yard may require a variety of elements based on their purpose. Use them as accents or backdrops, like a garden bench or a pond. Or use them as a main focal point, like an outdoor kitchen or entertainment area.

Incorporating hardscapes into your landscape can be easy and fun, if the proper planning and design for your space is considered. Here are a few tips to think about when adding hardscapes to your yard:

- Think about the Landscape - Even though you may only be starting with a small area, be sure to take the time to think about the overall picture. Induce you wouldn’t put a wall without taking into consideration the terrain or lawns that go along with it.

- Don’t ignore the Water - More hardscapes have encountered disaster by people ignoring the drainage plans for a project than all other errors combined. Planning the placement of your structures and how water will flow on and around them can save you a lot of time, money and frustrations in the long run. Rainfalls or bubbling ponds can add wonderful visuals and sound effects to your outdoor space. There are traditional pond options or pond-less options for water features. Consider both when planning your space but also consider the periodic maintenance. Make cleaning options and pump access easy to work with.

- Preserve the Plants - In the warmer, drier climates a concrete or stone garden may be the style of choice out of necessity rather than design, but overall it would not be the ideal trend to follow. Having an even balance to hardscapes and landscapes creates the best of both worlds. Create a beautiful hardscape with hardscapes framed by flowers and shrubs to soften the area, while a small patch of brick can provide a safer surface for children to play on as well as keep the area cooler on those hot summer afternoons.

Choosing the Right Materials - Think of a few or three word/phrase that describes your vision and style and stick with it. Texture is very important as well when choosing your materials. If you have too many, your space can become too busy or look messy. Keep your materials limited to a few coordinating styles to add continuity to your landscape.

Hardscapes are a vital part of a functional and beautiful landscape. With careful planning and consideration you can have the backyard you have been dreaming of.

Outdoor Entertaining - Enjoying Friends

The Smith’s had a problem – lots of outdoor real estate, but nowhere to really spend their time relaxing or entertaining. They had dreamt for years about adding an outdoor living room with all the lights and whistles. They wanted hardscape features that felt like theirs while adding beauty and function to their hardscape yard. Deciding to finally “pull the trigger” and get the outdoor space they dreamed of, the Smith’s contacted Allan Block Certified Contractor – Spectrum Landscape Services of Greenfield, IN to help them with their design.

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With a space about 1108 ft² (110m²) in size the Smith’s wanted an area big enough to have large gatherings, an outdoor kitchen area for the grill and bar area to further create a warm and inviting area for entertaining at night.

Now that the work is done, the Smith’s couldn’t be happier and have large gatherings, an outdoor kitchen area for the grill and bar area to further create a warm and inviting area for entertaining at night.

Working with Hardscapes in the Yard

Outro

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What do you need when planning and construction you can have the backyard you have been dreaming of.
The Smith’s had a problem – lots of outdoor real estate, but couldn’t be happier and couldn’t be more practical in nature.

When choosing hardscape features, consider their overall purpose in addition to your current style or theme. Different areas of your landscape may require a variety of elements based on their purpose. Use them as accents or backdrops, like a garden bench or a pond. Or use them as a main focal point, like an outdoor kitchen or entertainment area.

Incorporating hardscapes into your landscape can be easy and fun, if the proper planning and design for your space is considered. Here are a few tips to think about when adding hardscapes to your yard:

1. Think About the Landscape - Even though you may only be starting with a small area, be sure to take the time to think about the overall picture. Indoors you wouldn’t just paint a wall without taking into consideration the furniture or linens that go along with it.

2. Don’t Ignore the Water - Water features can enhance the beauty of your outdoor space. In addition to your current style or theme, different areas of your landscape may require a water element. A backyard waterscape can add shade from the sun and cover from the elements, creating a more intimate and cozy feel to this outdoor area. Lights were added through the retaining walls and seat areas of the yard to further create a warm and inviting area for entertaining at night.

3. Preserve the Plants - It never hurts to preserve the plants in your outdoor space. Waterfalls or bubbling ponds can add wonderful visuals and sound effects to your outdoor space. There are traditional pond options or pond-less options for water features. Consider both when planning your space. Make sure the water features are installed in areas that are out of the way, yet close enough to give them a calming effect but also consider the periodic maintenance. Make cleaning options and pump accesses easy to work with.

4. Use Them as Accents - Use them as a main focal point, like an outdoor kitchen or entertainment area.

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With a space about 1,100 ft² (100 m²) in size, the Smith’s wanted an area big enough to have large gatherings, an outdoor kitchen, an outdoor living area, a bar area to add shade from the sun and cover from the elements, creating a more intimate and cozy feel to this outdoor area. Lights were added through the retaining walls and seat areas of the yard to further create a warm and inviting area for entertaining at night.

Now that the work is done, the Smith’s couldn’t be happier and an outdoor entertainment area, pool and space to enjoy on cool nights. After meeting with the contractor, a plan was created to make their outdoor living space a reality.

The project was not without some challenges. The land behind the house while large, had a slope that needed to be addressed in order for a patio of this size to be realized. The contractors laid out a plan to build a retaining wall using the landscape. The AB Old Country Courtyard Collection was added along the edge of the patio to add built-in seating around the grill and open patio area. A stone garden wall was added above the walls to add height to the entrance.

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With a space about 1,100 sq. ft. (100 m²) in size, the Smith’s wanted an area large enough to have large gatherings, an outdoor kitchen area for the grill, a bar (for entertainment) and a fire pit to enjoy on cool nights. After meeting with the contractor, a design and plan was created to make their outdoor living space a reality.

The project was not without some challenges. The land behind the house while large, had a slope that needed to be addressed in order for a patio of this size to be realized. The contractors laid out a plan to build a retaining wall using the A.B. Europa Collection on the low side of the property to create a beautiful and level patio area. The wall was extended allowing access to the lower areas of the yard, while placing access above the walls to add softness to the landscape.

A rooftop structure was added on top of the retaining wall and bar area to add shade from the sun and cover from the elements, creating a more intimate and cozy feel to the outdoor space. Lights were added through the retaining walls and steps to further create a warm and inviting area for entertainment at night.

Now that the work is done, the Smith’s couldn’t be happier and enjoy their new outdoor area cooler on those hot sunny summer days.

Choose the Right Materials

Don’t Ignore the Water - Water features can enhance the beauty of your backyard and provide a safer surface for children to play on as well as keep the outdoor space cooler. Working with pond-less options for water features can provide a safer surface for children to play on as well as keep the outdoor space cooler. Waterfalls or bubbling ponds can add wonderful visual and sound effects to your outdoor space. These are traditional pond options or pond-less options for water features. Consider both when planning your space but also consider the periodic maintenance. Make cleaning options and pump access easy to work with.

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Pros and Cons of Outdoor Living

Garden design and plan was created to make their outdoor living space a reality.

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• AB Residential Retaining Walls Guide
• AB Courtyard Installation Guide

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