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Get your outdoors warm-weather ready

Part 1: Spring clean outside

Nothing jolts you into taking a fresh look at your outdoor living area faster than inviting guests over for your first patio party of the season. As usual, the get-together was my bright idea.

"We can sit outside and light the firepit," I blurt to several business colleagues that I was inviting over for dinner. Because they had come to Orlando for a conference from colder places, including Montana, Illinois, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, I thought I would treat them to a spring evening al fresco in Florida.

Me and my big fat mouth, I think as I survey my outdoor living area and notice all that I'd been conveniently ignoring: The furniture cushions wore a layer of dust and pollen. Cobwebs hung in the candle lanterns like vestiges of Halloween. Mold and algae blossomed on the wood trim. A deserted bird nest clung in the eaves.

And when did those outdoor area rugs get so tired? Weren't they new just yesterday? I lift a throw pillow and a lizard runs out.

911! My outdoor patio needed a warm-weather refresh — and fast!

"Mother Nature is hard on outdoor furniture," said interior designer Patricia Gaylor, who splits her time between sunny Las Vegas and snowy New Hampshire, so understands the havoc all types of weather can wreak. Sun, rain, snow, wind, dirt, mold, critters,



AT HOME WITH Marni Jameson

and insects conspire to decompose all things outdoors. It's our job to beat those elements back.

I start moving the patio furniture and pressure-washing the back of the house. Next, I take the cushions off the furniture, vacuum them, hose down the furniture, and wash the all-weather rattan with soap and water. I run the glass candle lanterns through the dishwasher, and replace the melted pillar candles with fresh, white (unscented) ones. I cart the deteriorated area rugs to the trashcan, then hop online and order fresh ones. (Here let's pause to give universal thanks for Amazon Prime.)

"I look at spring cleaning the outdoors as a sort of ritual," Gaylor said. "It feels like part of the cycle of life, an outward act full of inward meaning."

Well, that takes some of the sting out of it, I suppose.

Sarah Fishburne, director of trend and design for The Home Depot, said that in Atlanta, where she lives, "As soon as the weather turns nice, and all the leaves and pollen are done falling, I am itching to give my outdoor space a big power clean." Now is that time.

Here's how Fishburne and Gay- runs through the whole yarn,"



When outfitting your outdoors, be sure to choose furnishings in materials that will stand up to harsh weather, such as those featured on this design board. Image courtesy of Patricia Gaylor Interiors

lor recommend we get our outdoors warm-weather ready:

Size up the situation

Look around your outdoor space with an unjaded eye and take inventory. See what needs to be cleaned and refreshed or disposed of and replaced.

• Start with the right materials Make cleaning easier and replacing less frequent by choosing good-quality, weather-resistant materials to begin with. Performance fabrics, like acrylic and polypropylene, hold up well outside, while natural fibers disintegrate faster. Look for solution-dyed acrylic fabric, such as Sunbrella or Cushion Guard, which are UV stabilized to prevent fading.

"In these acrylics, the color runs through the whole yarn," Fishburne said. "When you cut thorough a piece of regular yarn, it resembles a radish; all the color is on the outside. When you cut through solution-dyed-acrylic yarn, it's like a carrot; the color runs all the way through."

You will pay more up front, but it's worth it, Gaylor added. Less expensive options, such as polyester, don't hold up as well, especially under intense sun. Other reliable weatherproof materials include marine-grade, stainless steel (for appliances and cabinet hardware), recycled plastic polymers (for chairs and decking), and acrylic-fortified cement (for coffee tables and planters).

• Get the rugs right

When choosing outdoor rugs, look for ones made of polypropylene, a woven plastic material that resists weather damage, and that sheds water and dirt.

To refresh outdoor rugs, shake, vacuum, suds down, and hose off. As with other outdoor fabrics, regular cleaning will help rugs last longer.

Pressure wash

Start your cleaning process by pressure washing the outside of the house, including doors, windows, eaves, screens, patios, and decking. Some professional pressure washers can wash down your exterior with solutions that have a built-in algaecide to discourage mold.

Clean the furniture

Remove furniture cushions and hose down chairs, sofas, and tables. Get the underside, too.

What to know about installing a pool at home

Pools definitely have a wow factor that's hard to replicate. Homeowners considering pool installation can take note of these factors as they try to decide if a pool is right for them.

The cost to install a pool depends on a host of factors, including which type of pool homeowners are considering and where they live. According to the online home improvement resource Angi (formerly Angie's list), the average cost to install an above ground pool in the United States in 2022 was \$3,322, while the average inground pool installation in the same year was \$55,000. That's quite a disparity in price, and homeowners should know that the average cost of each project is higher in certain regions and under certain circumstances. Potential anillary costs, such as excavation and plumbing relocation, will add to the final cost of the project. The erection of fencing around the pool if no fencing currently surrounds the area where the pool will be located also will add to the final cost.

As noted, above ground pools, on average, require a considerably smaller financial investment than inground pools. This is an important consideration, but which option may ultimately prove the better investment is worth researching. Homeowners can speak with a local real estate professional to determine if an inground pool or above ground might yield a significantly higher return at resale. If an inground pool is likely to increase property value by a substantial amount, it could be well worth the extra upfront costs.

Pools are undeniably fun, but they still require maintenance. The experts at Better Homes & Gardens note that vinyl liners in pools last approximately six to 10 years, while painted concrete may require a fresh coat of paint every five years. Plaster finishes may last as long as 15 years, while cement-coated products can last a lifetime. Pools also need periodic cleaning, and chemicals to keep the pool operating safely and cleanly will require an additional. if somewhat minimal. financial investment. Homeowners investing in a new pool should be aware of the maintenance required to keep the pool clean and be willing to do that maintenance. And though homeowners typically can open and close pools on their own, it's also possible to hire someone to do it for a relatively

small fee each season.

A survey of the land in a yard can reveal how smoothly a pool installation may or may not go. Though it's possible to install a pool in just about any yard, some spaces might require greater preparation and pre-installation effort than others. Sloped backyards, for example, may require the services of a landscape architect to prepare the space, which can extend the time it takes to complete the project and add the overall cost.

These are just some of the factors that merit consideration when mulling a pool installation.



MARNI FROM PAGE 2H

Vacuum up surface dirt from cushions, then wash them with a mild solution of soap and water. Don't put them in the washing machine. Choose a sunny day and set them on their sides to dry.

If you live in an area where you don't use your patio year round, store cushions during cold months. Give them a thorough cleaning before putting them away, then they will be fresh and ready for spring.

Go undercover

Any furnishings that take direct sun and weather will break down faster than those that stay on a covered patio. Gaylor likes to use furniture covers year round, so furniture stays clean and ready to use. Having a waterproof hamper or basket to store seat cushions, throw pillows, and throws when not in use can also help keep these items clean and dry.

• Refresh planter beds

After a couple seasons of snow, sun, and rain, the mulch in planter beds can start to look sad and washed out. A new layer of fresh mulch will not only make planter beds look better but will also help keep weeds under control. Then say, "Patio party at my place."

Join me next week to learn how to create a great outdoor living area in seven steps.

Marni Jameson is the author of six home and lifestyle books, including "What to Do With Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want," "Downsizing the Family Home – What to Save, What to Let Go," and "Downsizing the Blended Home – When Two Households Become One." She can be contacted at www.marnijameson.com.

The role of nature in home design

According to a survey conducted by the New Home Trends Institute in collaboration with Pro Builder, the outdoors and nature will be an important influence on their design choices in the years to come. In addition, 45 percent of respondents indicated increased attention will be afforded to outdoor entertaining spaces.

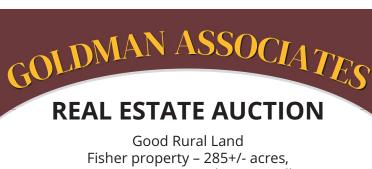
So what might the outdoor spaces of homes built in the notso-distant future look like? Respondents to the survey anticipated a growing demand for various built-in outdoor features, including:

- Firepits or fireplaces
- Outdoor kitchens
- Gazebos or pergolas
- in Pools
 - Spas or hot tubs

Though trends and consumer demands are ever-shifting, architects and designers are anticipating that future homeowners will want more developed outdoor living spaces and greater access to nature, which is something current homeowners can keep in mind when renovating.



Select outdoor furnishing materials that resist harsh weather conditions, such as those featured on this patio. Photo courtesy The Home Depot



Fisher property – 285+/- acres, 1946 Stringtown Road, Looneyville, Roane County, West Virginia Smithfield Tax District Map 15 / 27 & 28 Map 20 / 6, 7, 17 & 19

Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 Time: 1:35 p.m. Held at the front entrance of the Roane County Courthouse

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8H REAL ESTATE SUNDAY, SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

THE ABIGAIL

- FORMAL LIVING AREA
- SUNROOM
- LOFT ON THE UPPER-LEVEL
- COVERED WRAPAROUND PORCH
- 4 BEDROOMS
- 2.5 BATHROOMS
- 2178 SQ.FT.
- SINGLE FAMILY HOME





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THE ABIGAIL

2178 sg. ft.) features 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and 2-car garage. This beautiful craftsman style home holds 4 bedrooms with the primary suite on the first floor. As you enter the home, you are greeted with a spacious living room and a cozy fireplace. The kitchen and dining area is open area with easy access to the back porch or opt. for a sunroom for more lounging space. A wraparound front porch was thoughtfully designed to provide a welcoming face for this home. It creates a comfortable and shady place to enjoy your views to enjoy all year round. The primary suite holds a large walk-in closet and double vanities. The powder room, mudroom & utility room finish off the first floor. The second floor carries 3 additional, generous bedrooms, a loft, and a full bath.