



# POLYWOOD®

The Essential Guide  
to Planning Your  
Dream Outdoor Space

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*section one*

## **Deciding on Use**

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# Deciding on Use

## ADD AN AREA FOR ENTERTAINING

Turn your backyard living space into the ultimate spot to watch the latest blockbusters. Warmer temperatures in the spring and summer beckon you outside. Host your friends and family for outdoor movie screenings by planning a backyard space for a home theater. The most important decision you'll make is whether to install a flat-screen TV or a combination of a projector and a standing or inflatable screen. Projectors allow for a larger viewing surface, making it possible to seat 20 people in your outdoor area. Outdoor televisions are best for more intimate spaces designed for two to eight people.

Go for casual, spacious comfort with a deep seating set that features quick-drying, supportive cushions and durable materials that won't crack, split, or chip even when left outside after it's too cold for evening movie screenings.

## ADD A CONVERSATION AREA

Relaxing outside with friends and family is one of life's great pleasures, and creating an inviting conversation area on your deck or patio can elevate this experience. First, you need a focal point to build your conversation area around. A visually interesting coffee table is always a great choice. It's a great place to set your drinks down, share an appetizer, and play cards or a board game.

Make sure you have several connected seating options so people can sit in different areas but still see each other. It's also a good idea to have additional chairs or benches that are easy to move.

Incorporate a fire pit table into your outdoor space for warmth and a natural conversation area. Cozy up next to a roaring fire pit just steps away from your backyard to swap stories, enjoy your outdoor theater, or roast marshmallows late into the night without getting cold.

## ADD A DINING AREA

One of the most popular functions for large outdoor spaces is a dining area. Dining al fresco allows you to spend time with family and friends while enjoying the simple pleasures of your beautiful backyard.

Planning an outdoor dining space involves a delicate balance of function and form. To choose the appropriate outdoor dining furniture, evaluate your needs and measure your space to make important initial decisions.

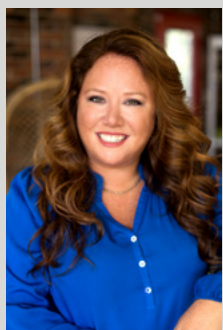
### Ask yourself:

How often will I be eating outside?

How many people do I anticipate hosting?



## ENTERTAINING AREA



"There's so much space [on our porch] that we could create an outdoor living room. I selected the EDGE Sectional because it's modular. All the different pieces can create different scenarios based on what family is up here using the space!"

- **Meg Caswell**, Interior Designer, TV Personality, and HGTV Host

"My Aunt Liz's dock is where we end up for almost every happy hour. I brought in the South Beach Casual Chair, and the reason why I selected these for Liz is that she doesn't like to lean back in Adirondacks, but she loves the look of them. We also selected a low cocktail table in the collection that we put all our appetizers on and it's easy to set drinks down along with some side tables for extra surface space."

## CONVERSATION AREA



## DINING AREA

"What I decided to do is transform [our empty space] into a dining/hangout space. I selected a Braxton Dining Set and the Nautical Bar Height Adirondack Chair. When you're looking out back at the woods the green just complements all the beautiful pine trees."





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*section two*

## **Preparing Your Space**

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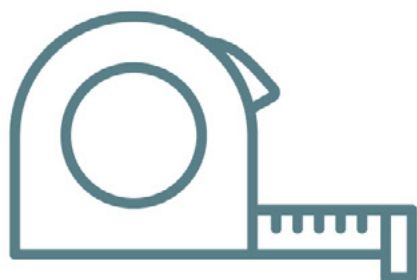
# Preparing Your Space

## THE TOOLS YOU NEED

Accounting for space is the most important step in planning your outdoor areas. You need to strike the perfect balance between cluttered and cavernous to allow maximum utility and comfort without overwhelming your outdoor areas. Luckily, there's an easy way to gain the upper hand when planning your outdoor living spaces — measure them!

## TOOLS

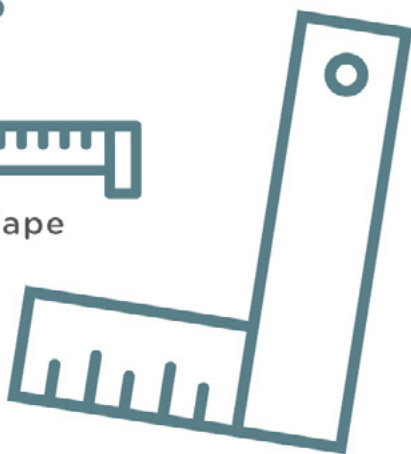
- Pencil
- Plain paper
- Graph paper
- Ruler
- Carpenter's square
- Compass
- Measuring tape



measuring tape



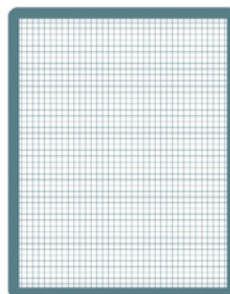
compass



carpenter's square



pencil



graph paper



paper



a friend



ruler

# How to Measure Your Outdoor Space

1. Use plain paper and a pencil to make an initial sketch of your entire property, leaving enough space between elements to record your measurements. Walk around your property to make your sketch as accurate as possible. Include:

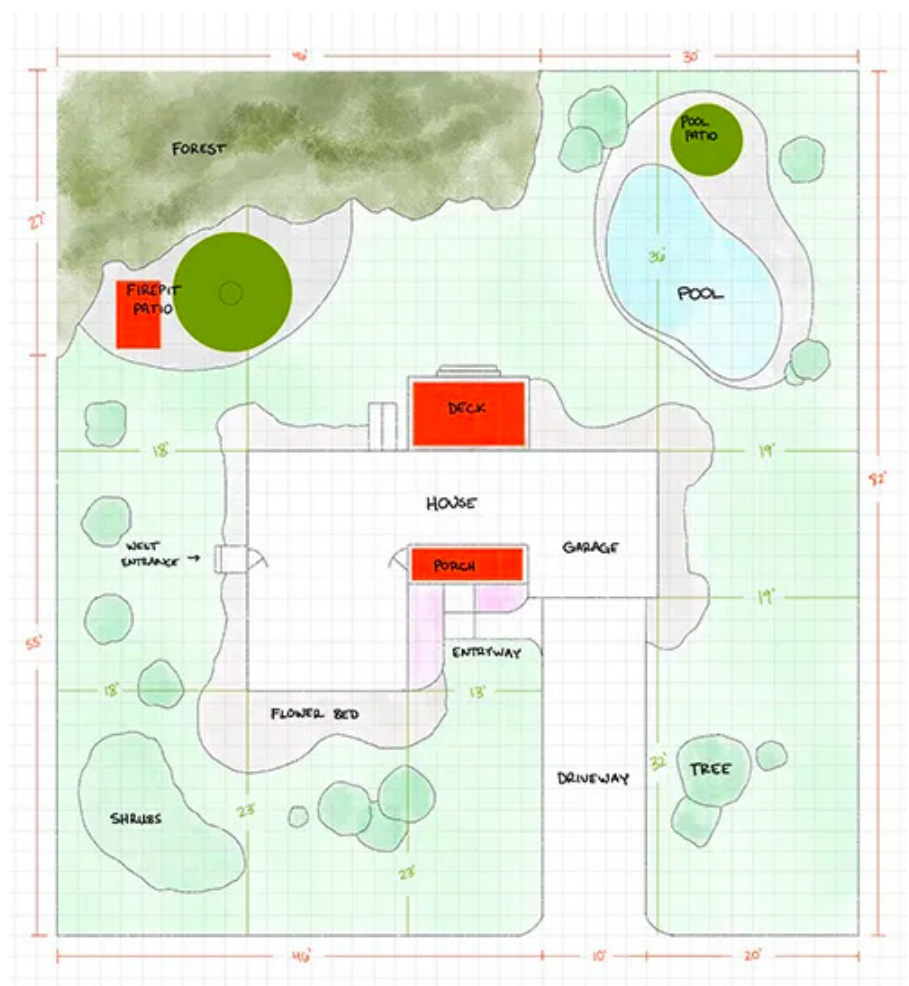
- Your house's location
- All fences or borders of your property, like sidewalks
- Existing and planned walking paths, driveways, and on-property sidewalks
- Constructed spaces like patios, porches, and decks
- Pools
- Trees and bushes
- Utility poles
- Permanent structures like sheds, pergolas, or canopies

2. Measure the property's boundaries, including fences, walls, or natural barriers. Measure the length and width of all property elements larger than a tree — driveways, permanent structures, etc.

3. Next, measure all sides of your home. Record measurements.

4. If your home is parallel to the property's boundaries, measure the distance from each corner of the house to the nearest boundary. If your home is not parallel to the boundaries and sits at an angle, measure the distance from the center of each side of the house to the nearest boundary.

5. Measure the distance from each property element to the nearest boundary in two directions, making the two measurements at a 90-degree angle. For example, for a tree in the northeast corner, measure the distance to the north boundary and east boundary so you can correctly place it on your final landscape plan.



# How to Measure Your Outdoor Space

7. Using a compass, determine which direction is north. Mark this on your sketch.
8. Orient your graph paper so north is pointed up. Before transferring your sketch, decide on an appropriate scale. Your entire property should comfortably fit on the paper. Use the measurements of your property boundaries to determine an appropriate scale.
9. Using your sketch as a reference, draw the property boundaries on your graph paper, keeping the measurements to scale. Place all yard elements onto your graph paper using the two measurements from each element's property boundaries. Once you have a corner, use the width and length measurements to draw them to scale. Use a carpenter's square to make 90-degree angles on your landscape plan.
10. Double-check measurements and compare your landscape plan to your yard. Make any corrections.
11. If you have an upstairs balcony or deck that overlaps a first-level outdoor space, draw two separate landscape plans to create clear views of all your outdoor areas.
12. Circle the distinct areas formed around your property. Filling every single space is not necessary. However, you'll see there are many possibilities to add different functional zones around your home.

## OUTDOOR FURNITURE PLANNER

Have an outdoor space, but not sure what to do with it? We can help!

Just tell us what your space looks like, how much area you have to work with, and an idea of what you might want to do with your space. We'll recommend POLYWOOD furniture sets that will turn your outdoor space into an outdoor room you'll love spending time in!

[Take the Quiz!](#)





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*section three*

**Your Style**

# Classic Style

Classic style cannot be touched by time. Furniture with a classic look exudes a quiet elegance, featuring gentle curves and subtle details that still catch the eye. Classicism originated in Europe around the 17th century with its inspiration lying in ancient Greek and Roman art and architecture and still remains a dominant style to this day — a fashion that never fades.

## KEY FEATURES

- Rich earth tones
- Subtle yet distinct design elements
- Balanced contours

## WHAT DOES CLASSIC FURNITURE GO WELL WITH?

- Casual, versatile spaces
- Floral arrangements
- Fabrics with understated texture or patterns
- Lush landscaping of flowering bushes and climbing English ivy
- Outdoor curtains and pendants lights



"I adore POLYWOOD's fresh take on classic outdoor design. As a classic designer myself, I am delighted with the way the brand's clean lines fit into my aesthetic. My clients feel comfortable purchasing POLYWOOD's sustainable yet stunning furniture. Design trends come and go, but classic style never fades."

- **Shayla Copas**, Interior Designer, Owner, Shayla Copas Interiors



# Transitional Style

Transitional style strikes the perfect balance between classic and modern styles. This type of furniture features sophisticated yet simple designs with thoughtful combinations of clean lines and soft curves. It's a fairly new style that gained popularity in the mid-to-late 20th century, appealing to those who wanted elements from both classic and modern design to create furniture that is "just right."

## KEY FEATURES

- Neutral colors such as cream, grey, and black
- Balance of straight lines and contours
- Curved backrests

## WHAT DOES TRANSITIONAL FURNITURE GO WELL WITH?

- Eclectic and cozy spaces
- Large potted plants like monstera and fiddle leaf figs
- Accent pillows with large-scale patterns
- A blend of different textures
- Decor pieces from the past and present



"I approach design in my home and my clients' homes with three specific goals in mind: create transitional spaces that include clean lines, storytelling, and comfort. By utilizing transitional style, I'm able to pull from not just one style but many styles that completes a home and gives it character and charm. POLYWOOD outdoor furniture features clean lines and effortlessly chic designs and colors that can work for any space."

- **Sara Raak**, Interior Designer and Owner, SKG Designs and Style



# Modern Style

Modernism began in Europe at the beginning of the 20th century and impacted all forms of art and design — furniture included. Modern style furniture leans toward minimalism and striking designs, featuring clean lines and sleek silhouettes. Individuals looking for pieces that make bold statements would like modern style furniture.

## KEY FEATURES

- Neutral or natural colors
- Sleek silhouettes
- Angular design elements

## WHAT DOES MODERN FURNITURE GO WELL WITH?

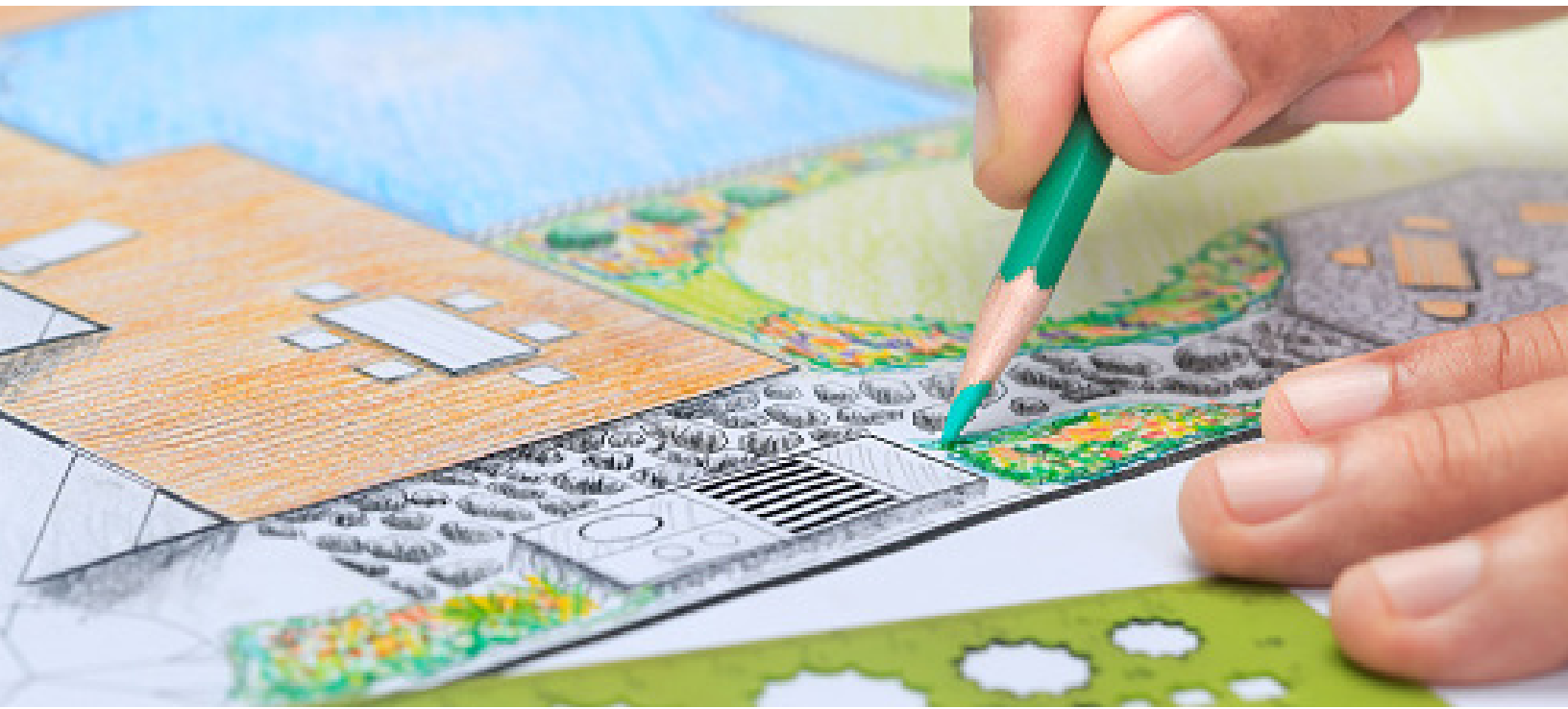
- Open space with minimalist landscaping
- Boxwood hedges, ornamental grasses, and succulents
- Bold accent colors
- Concrete pathways and patios
- Mirrored, metallic, or wood accents



"We have a mid-century modern house nestled in the woods. It's very hard to find modern outdoor furniture that is in a reasonable price range and that doesn't feel too metallic or plasticky. POLYWOOD had just what we wanted... the perfect blend of a classic style with a modern twist."

- **Jessica Davis**, Owner and Creative Director, Atelier Davis





## STYLE QUIZ

When you're building your dream outdoor space, you want the style you've curated inside to extend outside. Luckily, we've created this helpful quiz that will suggest the ideal POLYWOOD furniture that'll best bring your vision to life.

[Take the Quiz!](#)



# Why POLYWOOD



## SUSTAINABILITY

POLYWOOD furniture is constructed of genuine POLYWOOD lumber, a proprietary material which includes landfill-bound and ocean-bound plastics.



## LOW MAINTENANCE

Genuine POLYWOOD lumber cleans easily with soap and water and requires no painting, staining, or waterproofing.



## 20-YEAR WARRANTY

Backed by a 20-year warranty, our lumber is resistant to stains and corrosive substances, and isn't prone to splinter, crack, chip, peel, or rot.



## WEATHER RESISTANCE

Our all-weather material is built to withstand all four seasons and a range of climates including hot sun, snowy winters, salt spray, and heavy winds.

POLYWOOD®