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Spring 2020



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Landscape redesign: 5 factors to consider

Upgrading your yard can be a major undertaking, and it's easy to miss a key detail if you're not careful. Here are five things to consider before you begin.

1. ACCESS

If your upgrade involves moving large objects into your yard, there needs to be a safe access route. Fences, walls and trees can make it difficult or impossible for trucks to deliver supplies. Create a plan before the work starts to avoid delays.

2. SPACE

If you want to install a pool or build a large deck, make sure there's enough room in your yard for both the structure and the installation crew. Also, verify where property lines are located before placing fences, hedges and trees.

3. REGULATIONS

If your project involves a significant structural change, you may need to obtain a permit from the city. Your landscaping might also have to meet certain requirements

such as respecting the maximum height for fences and hedges. Contact your municipality before starting any work.

4. SOIL

The consistency of the soil on your property can directly impact the stability of new installations. Heavy rainfall and rapid freeze-thaw cycles can make the ground unstable. Hire a professional to inspect the yard before you begin construction.

5. UPKEEP

Gardens may require frequent care to ensure they don't become overgrown. Also, keep in mind that maintaining trees involves clearing seeds, leaves and branches. Additionally, many building materials need to be regularly cleaned, painted or stained.

Landscaping projects can revitalize your yard but for best results, they should be planned in advance.

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3 Springtime Home Improvement Projects



Are you thinking about updating your home this spring? If so, these three projects are perfectly suited to the season.

- 1. Upgrade the landscaping.** Spring is the perfect time to upgrade flower beds and walkways or even install a pool or hot tub. Your garden will have time to grow in and you'll be able to enjoy your new outdoor space all summer long.
- 2. Rebuild or refinish the deck.** If your deck has seen better days, this is the ideal time to repair or rebuild it. Consider expanding it to create zones for eating, cooking and relaxing.
- 3. Replace the siding.** If your siding took a beating over the winter, now's the right time to replace it. Choose a quality product and consider using a more modern colour. Cool tones like grey, blue and green have been popular in recent years.



Spring is the best time of year to tackle most outdoor projects. Just be sure to get to them before the hotter weather arrives.

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Types of wall trim and mouldings

There are a variety of wall trims and mouldings you can use to decorate your home. Here are the main ones you should know about.

- **Pediment.** This decorative moulding is often found above windows and doors. It's typically round or triangular and can range from simple to very ornate.
- **Crown.** Also known as a cornice, this type of moulding gets placed at the

juncture between a wall and ceiling.

- **Wainscotting.** Common in older, more formal homes, this is a panel that covers the bottom half or third of a wall. It's often painted a different colour from the rest of the room to provide contrast.
- **Chair rail.** This thin, horizontal moulding is usually placed about a third of the way up the wall. Chair rails were once routinely installed to protect

walls from the backs of chairs. These days, they typically serve as decoration. They can be used on their own or in combination with wainscotting.

- **Picture rail.** Similar to a chair rail but usually placed higher on the wall, this type of moulding is used to hang paintings and pictures without nails. It's ideal for renters and homeowners who don't want to put holes in the walls.

- **Mantel.** A mantel or mantelpiece goes above and around a fireplace. It usually includes a wide shelf for displaying art and other objects.

Wall trim can be decorated in a variety of ways, but many people paint it white or a colour that contrasts with the surrounding walls. Alternatively, the colour of the mouldings can be matched to the walls for a more streamlined effect.



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Pests that can be repelled with plants

Did you know there are a variety of plants that naturally repel insects? Here's how to ward off a few common backyard pests using flowers and herbs.

ANTS

In addition to feeding on sugary fruits and vegetables, ants farm tiny leaf-eating insects called aphids. To repel ants, plant tansy, lemon balm, mint, mug wort or chrysanthemums. Catnip also works well but may attract feline visitors.

MOSQUITOES

To keep these bugs at bay, grow scented plants like lavender, lemon balm, lemon verbena or basil. Mosquitoes also dislike the smell of citronella geraniums, which can brighten your garden with splashes of pink, red or purple.

JAPANESE BEETLES

These metallic-looking bugs aren't picky about what they eat, but they're especially fond

of roses, string beans and raspberries. To ward off Japanese beetles, plant tansy, catnip, chives or marigolds. The smell and taste of the leaves on these plants will repel them.

Finally, while flies are relatively harmless, they can be a nuisance. You can ward them off with herbs such as basil, lavender and rosemary.



Marigold

How to update French doors

French doors are a great way to separate two interior spaces that are visually connected. They're also ideal for enhancing your view of the outdoors and letting natural light shine into a room. However, they can sometimes look dated. Here are a few ways to give them an upgrade.

CHANGE THE LOOK

French doors are typically made of wood. If you're not a fan of yours, why not paint them? White is a timeless choice, but you can also turn your doors into a focal point by painting them a colour that contrasts with the rest of the room. Alternatively, replace the whole setup with doors that each feature one large pane of glass or have a modern steel frame.

ADOPT A NEW STYLE

While most French doors consist of two doors that swing outwards or inwards, there are different options available. Three- or four-panel French doors, which include two working doors flanked by large windows, are perfect for letting in more light.



Finally, if you love the look of French doors but lack the space for them to swing open, consider sliding or folding options.



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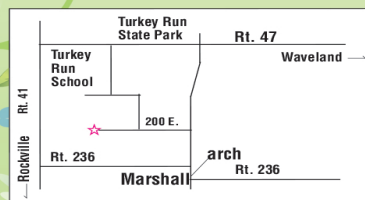
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This season's hottest interior design trends

Are you thinking about redecorating? Then take inspiration from this season's hottest design trends. Here's what to look out for this spring.

COOL COLOURS

Coastal hues will rule this season. Breezy blues, muted greens and pale pinks go perfectly with bold saffron accents. If you prefer neutral hues, opt for cool-toned greys over the warmer beige or greige tones that have been popular in recent years.

WOOD ACCENTS

Natural wood is everywhere, from furniture to accessories. This season, the look is natural, not painted. Structural elements like exposed beams are also big. Opt for darker

woods like walnut or teak over pale pine or maple.

BOTANICAL PRINTS

While florals are ubiquitous most spring seasons, this year, leafy, tropical prints dominate. Wallpapered accent walls look fresh with a cheery palm motif and traditional sofa shapes are given a modern update with feathery fern upholstery. If you're not ready for new furniture or wallpaper, consider framing some vintage botanical prints.

This season's most popular colours and patterns may be trendy but they're also timeless. When you incorporate them into your home decor, you can be sure they'll look great for years to come.



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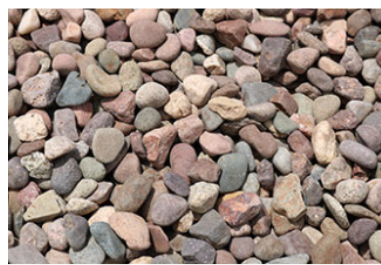
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