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How to Create a Cozy Backyard Retreat

by homewarranty.com

Creating a cozy outdoor summer retreat can be a wonderful way to get out of your house on summer nights and enjoy food, friends, and family outdoors. Here are a few ideas to help you create that cozy outdoor retreat you always wanted:

1. Choose the Best Location: Select a spot in your outdoor space that feels secluded and peaceful, such as a corner of your backyard or a quiet area of your patio or deck. It's not necessary that the space be expansive.

2. Create Comfortable Seating: The purpose of your cozy retreat is to create an inviting space that invites a person to linger, not fidget in an uncomfortable chair. Invest in comfortable outdoor furniture, such as a sofa, chairs, or a hammock, with cushions and pillows in soft, weather-resistant fabrics. Get creative, and don't be afraid of adding lots of color.

3. Add Ambient Lighting: The right lighting can have a profound effect on any space by creating instant ambiance. Use string lights, outdoor bulbs, or lanterns to create a warm and inviting atmosphere in the evening. Solar-powered lights are a great option for eco-friendly lighting.

4. Incorporate Natural Elements: Yes, we know you're already outdoors, but adding plants, flowers, and trees to your retreat helps create a natural, relaxing environment. Use natural materials like wood and stone in your decor.

5. Provide Shade: A shady spot is always a treat on a hot summer day. If trees are not readily available to surround your retreat, set up a canopy, pergola, or umbrella to provide plenty of shade during the day, making your outdoor space more comfortable in the heat.

6. Include Cozy Accessories: Add rugs and throw pillows to make your outdoor space feel cozy and inviting. Choose fabrics that are durable and weather-resistant. Top it all off with soft lap blankets if you live in a climate where the nights bring in cooler weather.

7. Create a Focal Point: People have long gathered over a fire for conversation and warmth. Enhance your outdoor retreat with the addition of a fire pit. If fire's not your thing, consider a water feature or an outdoor art piece as a focal point for your retreat.

8. Consider Privacy: Nothing is less cozy than having no privacy in your private retreat. Create a sense of seclusion for your outdoor retreat. Think plants, fences, shade sails, patio umbrellas, or privacy screens to transport your guests from your backyard to a private oasis.

June Calendar

June 14 - Flag Day

June 16 - Father's Day

June 21 - Summer Begins

June is National Safety Month

Homeowner Tips



Clean Your Hood Filters

Hood filters are overlooked, so remember they need cleaning as well. Experts recommend cleaning the filters every 3 months. Most hood filters can be washed in your sink using hot water, a de-greasing dish soap (such as Dawn), and a non-abrasive scrub brush. Clean filters will keep your hood running efficiently and reduce energy costs.

Father's Day Projects for the DIY Dad

Plenty of dads love hanging out doing nothing on Father's Day, but some dads can't sit still. If your dad always has a project at hand, here are some Father's Day projects perfect for the DIY dad.

Build a fire pit: Create a place for cozy evenings spent outdoors. Use bricks, stones, or metal to create a functional and safe fire pit. Later, gather 'round the fire for some of your dad's tall tales.

Create a grilling station: Help your dad build a grilling station. Use wood or metal to make sturdy storage for cooking

utensils, all his crazy spices, smoker chips, and his other grilling "go-tos."

Build a bench: You'll find plenty of easy-to-follow plans online to help you and your dad build a simple outdoor bench, table, or chair. Use available wood your dad might already have or other reclaimed wood. You'll have a great piece of furniture and a new memory.

Make a tool organizer: Is your dad's workshop a disaster area? Get that man organized! Use pegboard, hooks, and shelves to help your dad create a custom tool organizer for his workshop or garage.



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Ribeye Steak with Garlic Butter

INGREDIENTS

- 4 rib eye steaks 10-12 ounces each, can be boneless or bone in
- 1 1/2 tablespoons neutral flavored oil such as canola oil, grape seed oil or peanut oil
- kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 4 garlic cloves smashed
- 4 sprigs fresh rosemary

INSTRUCTIONS

Let the steaks sit at room temperature for 20 minutes.

Season the steaks on both sides with salt and pepper to taste.

Heat a heavy pan such as a cast iron skillet over high heat.

Add the oil to the pan. Place the steaks in the pan in a single layer.

Cook for 4-5 minutes per side or until deep golden brown.

Add the butter to the pan. After the butter has melted, add the garlic cloves and rosemary to the pan. Stir to combine.

Spoon the butter mixture over the steaks. Insert a probe thermometer into the thickest part of one of the steaks.

Cook the steak for 2-3 minutes or until the thermometer registers between 130-135 degrees F for a medium steak.

Remove the meat from the pan. Let the steak rest for 5 minutes. Spoon the pan drippings over the steak, then slice and serve immediately.



*Recipe courtesy of: Dinner at the Zoo
Dinneratthezoo.com*