



# YOUR GUIDE TO OUTDOOR LIVING

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# INTRO

There are plenty of possibilities when it comes to adding a patio area to your home. For some, the idea of spending time outdoors with their friends and family on a warm summer day is one of their favorite activities all year. For others, an outdoor kitchen or fireplace is a must-have for entertaining. Others may prefer a tranquil space to relax and soak up the sun or tend to a garden. No matter what you plan to do with your outdoor space, adding a patio provides an endless array of activities for you to enjoy.



# GETTING STARTED

Before you get started, there are a few things to consider. The size of your yard and its features will undoubtedly affect what size and type of patio you can place in your yard. We encourage you to get out a notepad and jot a few things down. First, is your space small or large? Can it fit a considerable deck or an outdoor kitchen? Or is it more likely that you could add a beautiful sitting area with a firepit? You should also consider the natural features of your backyard. Do you have large valleys or steep hills? Is your back door elevated from the ground?

It's worth it to jot down any variables that may impact your patio design before you get started.

# HOW WILL YOU USE YOUR SPACE?

Some people have a specific use in mind for their outdoor living space. Some are open to endless possibilities. It's essential to think about how the space can give you and your family the most enjoyment. Perhaps you want your space to be tranquil and quiet. A peaceful space lends itself to lush gardens, small sitting areas, or maybe even a small pergola wrapped in vine plants, such as grapevines.

If you are a host and love to throw parties, then consider a larger area. A patio with a nice grill or even a rustic brick fire oven would be perfect for outdoor entertaining. You may also consider a larger covered area with plenty of seating to go around.

A third option is a fun play area for kids and dogs. There is a wide selection of children's playsets that are designed to look a bit more elegant than the bright yellow slides you may remember from your childhood. Like we said earlier- the possibilities are endless!



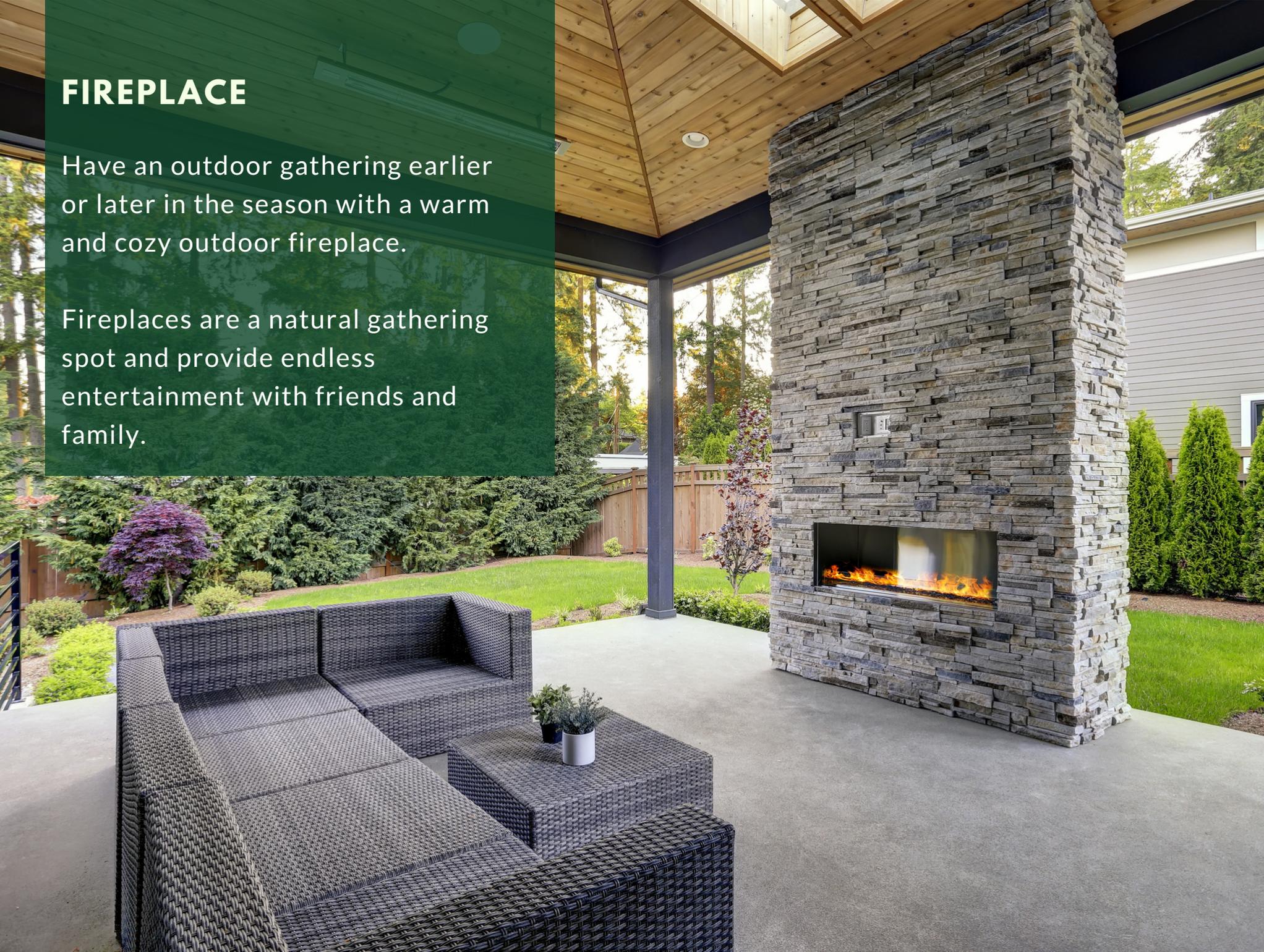
# PATIO FEATURES



## FIREPLACE

Have an outdoor gathering earlier or later in the season with a warm and cozy outdoor fireplace.

Fireplaces are a natural gathering spot and provide endless entertainment with friends and family.





## **OUTDOOR KITCHEN**

An outdoor kitchen is a stately feature for backyard entertaining. Whether you're envisioning a wet bar or an outdoor pizza oven, there is no denying the charm of bringing the indoors outside.

## RETAINING WALL

Retaining walls are both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

A retaining wall is built to create level areas- while holding back soil and preventing erosion. Retaining walls can be made from many different materials, like stone, wood, or concrete.





## **PERGOLA**

A pergola is an outdoor feature that provides an open structure and shade for your space. The "roof" of the pergola can be left open or covered to create an area sheltered from the elements.



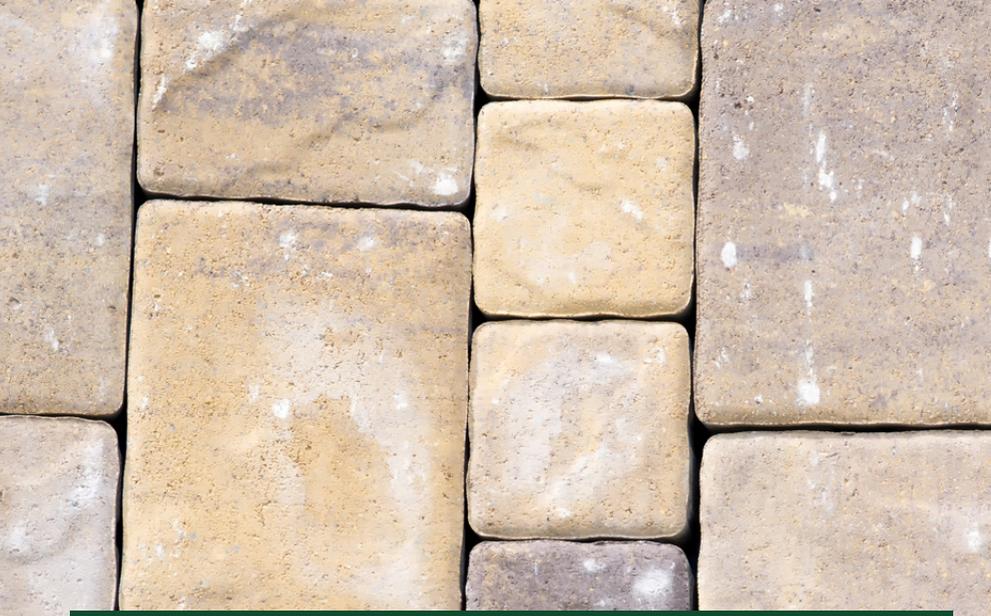
## FIRE PIT

Warm-up by the fire after the sun goes down with this stylish addition. Fire pits come in a variety of sizes and styles. Wood burning fireplaces or gas-burning fireplaces are great outdoor additions.

# PATIO MATERIALS TO CONSIDER

The material you choose to build your patio is likely to be determined by your personal preference, budget, the size of your space, and local availability. We've put together a list of the most popular patio materials to choose from:





## PAVERS

Pavers- also known as patio stones- are great when it comes to building patios and walkways. Pavers come in many different styles- including the appearance of brick, the look of natural stones, concrete, or even river rocks. Pavers are usually made with cement mixed with sand and can be installed on top of an existing surface or yard space.



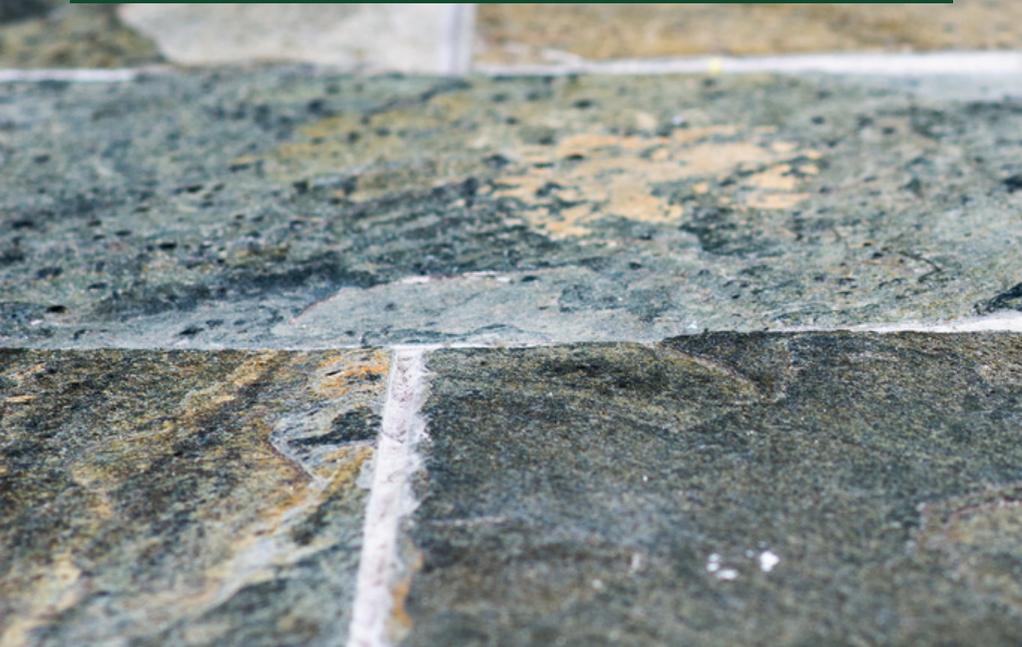
## BRICK

A classic option, brick is sturdy and lasts for quite a long time. Brick is a classic look that goes with many different landscaping and architectural styles. Popular brick patterns include running bond, jack-on-jack, and herringbone.

# FLAGSTONE

Flagstone is created from a natural accumulation of sand, clay, and organic sediments.

It's a popular material for its timeless appearance. Flagstones aren't uniformly shaped or sized. While they are quite heavy, they are a favorite among homeowners.



# CONCRETE

Concrete patios are wonderful for those who are looking to build their patio on a smaller budget. One of the most durable materials to work with, concrete can also be used as a foundation for future additions (like adding tile, for example).

# RIVER ROCK & STONE

Using river rock along with stone is a beautiful addition to your outdoor space. Rocks and stones will last for decades, and often keep weeds at bay.

If you're looking for a low-maintenance, yet beautiful material, river rocks may be the way to go.



An outdoor patio scene featuring a wooden deck, a wicker sofa with grey cushions and patterned pillows, a patterned ottoman, and a hanging chair. A green semi-transparent overlay covers the left side of the image, containing the text 'THE FINISHING TOUCHES'.

# THE FINISHING TOUCHES

Your outdoor area is complete, and you're ready to get outside. Now it's time for the finishing touches. One of the most satisfying elements of an outdoor living area is bringing it to life with ambiance and mood.

## **LIGHTING**

Add a few strands of string lights to your outdoor area and presto- your backyard looks like your favorite outdoor restaurant! Wrap posts with string lights, hang them from the roof of your pergola or install solar stake lights along footpaths.

## **WATER FEATURES**

Water features can be a great way to add the relaxing sounds of the outdoors. Water features can be big or small- adding a little something extra to your backyard.

## **SPEAKERS**

Outdoor surround sound speakers are great for listening to music, but also another way of injecting the sounds of nature into your outdoor living space.



# ABOUT

First Class Lawn Care is committed to excellence. Our reputation is built on our commitment to deliver professional quality work to our customers, whatever their needs. First Class Lawn Care has always focused on one thing: customer satisfaction. We deliver that satisfaction through our comprehensive range of expert lawn care and landscaping services, including both residential and commercial lawn care.

## SERVICE AREAS

- Wilmington
- Hockessin
- Delaware City
- Kennett Square
- Montchanin
- Rockland
- Bear
- Avondale
- Winterthur
- Yorklyn
- Chadds Ford
- West Grove
- Middletown
- Townsend
- Landenberg
- And More!

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