



The Complete Guide to Landscape Renovation

Don't let your garden go to waste. From creating an eco-friendly yard to creating extra living space, you'll find all the tips and hints you need to realize your landscaping ambitions in this guide.

Gardens have the potential to be a private outdoor utopia, so why is it that so many of us are guilty of letting our yards grow out of control and become unfit for human habitation? It's easy to close the curtains and ignore what's going on in the backyard when the winter comes around, but such neglect often leads to overgrown gardens that we can't enjoy in the summer. Fortunately, it's easy to give your yard the revamp it needs to become inviting once again, and you don't have to stop at spring cleaning.

Of course, you'll have to declutter and get the place neat before you can relish your personal outdoor space again, but getting rid of the junk doesn't take long if you know how to approach the task, and then you'll be left with a blank canvas to personalize however you like. From cleaning up to creating extra space and constructing an outdoor kitchen to growing plants the environmentally friendly way, this guide will explain all you need to know to turn the backyard into something special.

Top Tips for Garden Transformations

If you're already pleased with your home's interior, it's time to start giving the yard some attention. You can turn even the smallest of outdoor spaces into something you and guests can adore year-round, but first thing's first, you need to shape up the place.



The Easy Way to De-Clutter

It only takes a few months of neglect for a garden to become out of control, but rather than think cleaning up is a gargantuan task, think of it as an obstacle that's easy to overcome. Here's a step by step de-cluttering guide that will help you clean up your yard in no time:

1 Get rid of the Junk

If you have old kids' playground toys gathering dust, and moss and furniture rusting or rotting away in your yard, dump them in the trash or consider recycling everything. Be strict, and don't keep unusable possessions just because they hold sentimental value.

2 Spray down the furnishings

You should give everything you want to keep a thorough cleaning using appropriate commercial cleaners and a power hose. Don't forget to eliminate the barbecue grease, and consider bringing out the polish and varnish to add a sparkle to your garden.

The Easy Way to De-Clutter

3 Put your lawnmower to good use

It's easy to make the grass look trim again by giving it a once over with a lawnmower. Often, people assume the task of backyard spring cleaning is more daunting than it truly is when they witness a lawn that resembles a mini rainforest.



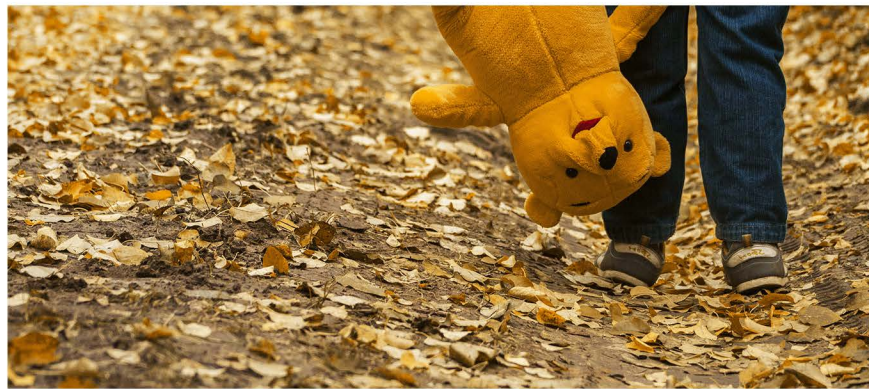
4 Kill the weeds

Weeds want to steal the precious water and nutrients that your plants need to survive, and unfortunately, they're often more efficient than flowers at absorbing them. Use a strong weed killer and remove everything in sight so that your plants can flourish.

The Easy Way to De-Clutter

5 Get rid of stumps and dead shrubbery

There's no reason to let a tree stump take up valuable garden space, especially when it serves as nothing more than a hazard. Also, don't let dead flowers just rot in the ground – get out the bin bags and fill them with yard waste.



6 Shape the trees

You can shape most trees, shrubs, and hedges using a trimmer that you can find in just about any garden store.

By following the six simple steps detailed above, you can transform your yard into something you can work with, but you don't have to stop there if using space as efficiently as possible is a priority.

Make the Most of Your Garden's Space

If you think that your yard is too small to bother with, think again because, with a few handy space-saving tips, you can do more with your backyard than you might expect. Every garden is different, but the following tips can help almost every homeowner utilize their outdoor area as efficiently as possible.

- ▶ Consider creating a new blueprint for your yard. Do you need the lawn to take up two-thirds of your space? Also, is it necessary to keep the deck if you plan to construct an outdoor kitchen?
- ▶ Instead of having rows of flower beds next to each other, employ a vertical gardening system. You can use old wooden crates and chests of drawers to create multi-layered flower beds.
- ▶ Remove any plants and trees that you never planted or no longer want. Tree stumps have very little use unless you hollow them out and use them to plant flowers, and overgrown bushes can be hazardous as well as an eyesore.

● Make the Most of Your Garden's Space

- ▶ Don't assume you can't have a bar in your yard. By attaching a foldaway table complete with shelves to the wall, you can have a functional bar when you want to invite guests over and easily fold it away to free up some room when the colder months return.
- ▶ You don't need pathways between every flower bed. Instead, create paths between every two or three beds to make better use of your garden's space.

The tips above will help you to use your yard more efficiently, giving you the opportunity to make the most of the outdoors while the summer heat is still here. However, if you're renovating your garden, you ought to think about how you can make it winter-friendly, too.



Create an All-Weather Yard

The world doesn't stop spinning when warm temperatures subside, and you don't necessarily need to avoid the outdoors when the peak season is over either. If you'd rather continue enjoying your yard when the winter returns, you should keep the following renovation ideas in mind.

► **Build a patio or deck that's suitable for any season**

There's no reason to limit your relaxation time on the deck to the spring and summer when a few additions can make it ideal for the winter too. With a retractable awning, you'll have shade during the summer and shelter during the colder months, and a few patio heaters should keep you toasty.





Create an All-Weather Yard

► Construct an alfresco kitchen

Do you miss enjoying barbecues with the family when the summer goes into hibernation? Instead of reflecting on past times, build an alfresco kitchen. By following the instructions in [this video](#), you can create an outdoor cooking area complete with running water that will remain fully functional regardless of the season.

► Make a log cabin

If that childhood desire to build a den never subsided, you might be interested in constructing a log cabin in your backyard. Log cabins are available in a broad range of styles, designs, and sizes, meaning you could have a room dedicated to being a bachelor's pad and another reserved for the kid's play area.



Create an All-Weather Yard

▶ **Consider a conservatory**

If you want to be close to the outdoors without giving up the luxury of heating, you can build a conservatory that offers near panoramic views of your garden. Plus, because conservatories are an extension of your home, you can use the room for any purpose you like.

▶ **Plant seasonal flowers**

Of course, the USA is subject to varying weather conditions depending on your location, but in most places, especially if you live towards the south, you can [grow vibrant plants all year-round](#).

If you intend to start using your garden 12 months a year instead of just over the spring and summer, it's worth thinking about how you can reduce your carbon footprint to contribute to a more sustainable future.

Landscaping the Eco-Friendly Way

Believe it or not, even gardening can hurt the environment. Water is the most precious resource in the world, and though you can't stop drinking a healthy amount to reduce your usage, you can ensure your plants get just as much as required without letting any go to waste. Here are a few methods you can employ to become a greener gardener.

▶ Drip Irrigation

By watering your plants using drip irrigation, you not only minimize your water consumption but also ensure flowers grow in optimal conditions. You can find [a comprehensive guide to drip irrigation here](#), but the installation basics are as follows:

1. Pierce a hose with small holes, spaced three or four inches apart, and connect to a water supply.
2. Loop the hose around your flower beds, trees, and edges, ensuring everything is within firing range of the water.



Landscaping the Eco-Friendly Way

3. Secure the hose in place with ground stakes.
4. Cover the end of the hose to ensure no water goes to waste.

► Organic Gardening

Organic gardening combines various techniques, but it primarily refers to the practice of growing vegetation without the use of chemicals and pesticides that cause ecosystems to degrade and can eventually ruin the quality of your soil.

► Vermicomposting

If you don't want leftover scraps of food and organic matter to go to waste, you can employ the method of *vermicomposting*, which refers to the process of feeding worms your unfinished food for them to digest and subsequently inject nutrients into the compost that will nurture future plants.

Landscaping the Eco-Friendly Way

► Water Harvesting

Believe it or not, you can collect a staggering amount of rainwater from your roof using a *water harvesting* system, and you can use the collected water to sustain your entire garden.

► Double Digging

Double digging can improve soil aeration and drainage, and though it takes some effort to employ, it doesn't require a financial investment.





Landscaping the Eco-Friendly Way

► Backyard Composting

Sometimes, we cook far too much food for everybody to finish, and the leftovers often end up in the bin. However, organic waste will eventually compost, which can give your plants the vital nutrients they need to thrive. Thanks to [*backyard composting*](#), your leftovers never need to end up in a landfill again.

If you've followed all the advice detailed in the previous sections, you should now have a clutter-free yard with ample space for new additions. Plus, you'll have a sustainable garden that allows you to be more self-sufficient. However, if you want to do your part to help the environment, there are other ways to go green in addition to sustainable gardening practices.

Repurpose Old Junk for Your Yard

Not everything we consume is recyclable, but a fair portion of it is. The EPA estimates that we only recycle about half of all recyclable materials, and we need to improve on this to create a brighter future. Fortunately, some of the stuff you assumed needed throwing out can be used to improve your garden's appearance.

- ▶ Repurpose any old and unwanted items of furniture or belongings into plant pots. Stuff like tires, shoes, and even paint cans can provide a home for an array of colorful plants.
- ▶ As mentioned in the previous sections, you can use drawers and old wooden crates to create vertical planters. Not only does this save space in your garden, but it also prevents old possessions from being thrown into a landfill.

Repurpose Old Junk for Your Yard

- ▶ On the subject of wooden crates; consider using your handyman skills to transform them into new pieces of garden furniture.



If you've perused each section of this guide so far, you can see that it's not always necessary to hire a professional (and potentially expensive) landscaper to transform your yard into something beautiful and practical. However, taking the DIY approach means being responsible for disposing of all the resulting waste.

Get Rid of Junk the Easy Way

We've already discussed how old household items can become new yard furnishings, and we've detailed how organic matter and food can be used to create a healthy and sustainable garden. However, after completing your landscaping project, you'll likely be left with enough waste to fill a small dumpster.

Unfortunately, dumpster permits aren't always easy or affordable to obtain, and you never know how much of its contents will end up in a landfill. Fortunately, there is an easy way to get rid of junk without having to lift a finger. More importantly, by calling a waste retrieval company, you can feel confident you're doing your part for the environment.

At Junk King, we're happy to collect garden and household garbage from almost anywhere in the USA, and we salvage up to 60 percent of what we retrieve because we care about keeping our carbon footprint to a minimum. Contact us today if you want to dispose of waste the easy and green way.



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A big believer in being a team player, Julian supports strong work ethics. Julian helps residential and commercial customers understand the importance of using Junk King's services, educates them on the differences of recycling, donating and disposing of certain debris. Julian provides valuable information for a good junk removal experience. Julian is no stranger to the junk removal business, having spent 3 years as a Junk King driver and 5 years as an operations manager, which taught him the importance of having good communication, customer service and valuable support advice. Julian Torres is a Director of Operations with Junk King Franchise Systems. In this role, Julian looks after franchisees operations, providing all aspects of the operations training, including efficiencies, logistics and customer support. To contact Julian Torres please e-mail JulianTorres@junk-king.com or go to www.junk-king.com



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