

Spring Into the Season with Easy Backyard Ideas

If your backyard looks like all the others in your neighborhood, here's how to solve the problem: expand your outdoor living areas and lose those backyard blahs with easy project ideas!

• Bloom where you are planted. Switch out those hardy winter plants for beautiful spring blooms. If spring comes early to your neck of the woods, try mixing purple, green and gold for a Mardi Gras feel. Bright red blooms welcome spring back after a cold winter, while bright yellow flowers, perhaps accented with matching floral bows, add life and color to any backyard. If you're more of the gardening type, consider adding a raised bed -- constructed of Southern Pine -- to your current landscape. Planter benches are easily built, as are decorative greenhouses.

• Uncover your potential. If your outdoor furniture seat covers are looking a little worse for wear, take a quick trip to your local fabric store. Beautiful weatherproof fabric is available in a rainbow of patterns and colors, so you're sure to find a perfect match. New covers -- and perhaps a coordinating table cloth -- will give a



Expanding your outdoor living area is a great way to turn a routine backyard into a haven for relaxation.

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brand new look to your backyard just in time for the outdoor entertaining season.

• Have a seat! Expand your outdoor living area with quick and easy projects. No plastic Adirondack chairs allowed! A gorgeous Southern Pine chair, whitewashed or painted a bright color, begs for you to kick back and enjoy the warming sun. Place a gazebo off to one side for some needed shade come summertime. A charming swing adds whimsy and character and offers the family pet a cool place to rest.

• Get decked out. To completely change the look and feel of your backyard, consider adding a wood deck. If you're feeling extra handy, plans are available to help you tackle the project yourself. If not, check your local phone book for a reputable deck builder. Decks are a wonderful extension of your style and can add value to your home.

• Lose the fake stuff! When fulfilling your weekend DIY fantasies or tackling the construction of a deck, why should you choose real wood? Unless your backyard includes plastic flowers and trees, why use plastic furniture and fake decking? Pressure-treated wood is the best option for any outdoor project. It's beautiful, strong and durable. It doesn't

conduct heat, meaning no burned feet in the heat of the summer. When treated properly, it becomes impervious to rot and pests, such as termites. Research shows that Southern Pine is the best species of wood for the job. Its unique cellular structure lets it accept preservative treatment better than any other species. And you can rest easy knowing that treated wood preservatives are proven to be people- and pet-safe. Choosing Southern Pine for any home improvement project is not just smart; it's a wise environmental decision. Thriving forests create a healthier environment for all of us. Choosing forest products encourages landowners to keep replanting trees, ensuring forests for generations to come. Chances are there's a nice Southern Pine forest near you. For do-it-yourself project ideas and plans, gorgeous photos to inspire you, a forum to share your DIY accomplishments and questions, where to buy Southern Pine and much more, please visit the website www.spanpine.com/ms

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