



Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers

Backyard Lighting Ideas

The right lighting in your backyard can truly set the mood for some fun outdoor evenings. You may want to have a combination of lighting styles throughout your yard, and there's an assortment of options for you to choose from.



Security lighting

Security lighting will probably be the brightest source of light in your backyard. It's meant to illuminate the entire area, keeping your home safer at night. It is typically placed in raised areas, like on the top of a garage.



Landscape lighting

Landscape lighting beams a narrow light upward, varying from low to high intensity, and can be used to illuminate and showcase beautiful plants or lawn ornaments. If you're illuminating something tall like a tree, it's best to use bullet-shaped lights that have an adjustable head.



String lighting

Great for entertaining, string lights will provide warm, low-level accent lighting. You'll want to opt for a waterproof option that's rechargeable or battery-operated to avoid the need for unsightly extension cords. They can be hung from just about anywhere.

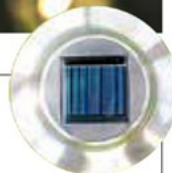


Lanterns

Lanterns offer soft, low-level lighting and can be a beautiful addition to the architecture and decor of your home. If you don't want to attach a lantern to your home's exterior, you can find battery-powered tabletop options.

Solar lights

Solar lights are great green solution for lighting your backyard space. They come in a wide array of sizes and varying lumen levels.



Path lighting

If you're looking for soft lighting that will safely illuminate the walkways in your backyard, path lighting is the way to go. You can install it along stepping stones, both sides of any walkway or even along the curves of flower beds and gardens.



Buying a Home With Children



When house hunting, you probably have an extensive list of things that you want to consider while you search. Your list gets even longer when children are involved. You'd like to satisfy your wants and needs, but also those of your children. The goal is to find a home that every member of the family can feel comfortable and flourish in. Here are three key considerations when buying a house with children in mind.

1 The size and layout — Some of the most important areas of a home are the kitchen, bedrooms and bathrooms. You'll want to find somewhere that has enough space for all the members of your household to be comfortable. Is this a home that you plan to raise your family in? You may want a home that has some extra space that allows room for your family to grow.

2 Nearby recreational amenities — Where is the nearest playground, baseball field, pool or basketball court? You may want to find a house that has backyard space that allows for you to facilitate these amenities at home if other options are too far away.

3 Local school system — Research schools and districts before you even begin your search. This may determine which areas you want to strongly consider and which areas are an immediate no-go.



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Living Room Lighting

Your living room is one area in your home where you spend a lot of time hosting and relaxing with your family and friends. You want this space to be welcoming and cozy. Lighting can help you create the right ambiance for you and your guests. You can incorporate one or a combination of these great lighting styles.

1. Colorful lights

Many people choose to put colored lights behind their mounted TV or around their entertainment centers.



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2. Candlelight

Make your living room a relaxing place where you can go to improve your mood by adding some candles. You can mix assorted styles and scents to add some warmth to the room.

3. Fireplace

A fireplace can be a living room's centerpiece, providing a gorgeous light source and warmth to the space.

4. Recessed lighting

With recessed lighting, you'll be able to illuminate every bit of the room, as this provides more coverage area. If you don't want to include it for the whole room, you could use recessed lighting just to brighten up a corner or to highlight artwork.

5. Sculptural lighting

Using a lamp that looks like a sculpture is an easy way to kill two birds with one stone. You'll get a beautiful statement piece that completes the room while providing great lighting for your space.

6. Wall lights

There are an endless amount of wall lights to

choose from for your home. They're durable, long-lasting and usually easy to install.

7. Oversized lamps

An oversized floor or table lamp can be a bold and exciting way to introduce more light into a space. You can play with different lamp shapes, sizes, colors and materials.



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