

August



Top 7 Ways Homeowners Can Improve Their Outdoor Living Space

DID YOU KNOW...

That August 17th is International Geocaching Day? Invented back in 2000 this treasure-hunting activity uses GPS technology. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then try to find the container hidden at that location.



The summer months are the perfect time to enjoy your outdoor living spaces, but you may be seeing more potential in making it as awesome as it could be. Here are the top 7 most popular ideas on how you can improve your yard:

1. **Install a Patio or Deck:** A patio or deck is a great way to create an outdoor room. It provides a flat, stable surface for furniture and a grill and can be customized to fit your home's aesthetic.
2. **Add Outdoor Lighting:** Adding outdoor lighting can create a warm and inviting atmosphere in the evening. You can use string lights, solar-powered lights, or landscape lighting to enhance your outdoor space, making it cozy for evening use.
3. **Invest in Comfortable Outdoor Furniture:** Comfortable outdoor furniture is essential for creating a welcoming outdoor living space. From loungers to hammocks, consider investing in weather-resistant materials such as teak or aluminum.
4. **Create Shade:** The summer sun can be intense, so creating shade is important for staying cool and comfortable. Options for shade include umbrellas, pergolas, and retractable awnings, or even a tree for the long-term.
5. **Incorporate Greenery:** Adding plants and greenery can enhance the beauty of your outdoor living space. Consider adding potted plants or installing a vertical garden to create a living wall.
6. **Add Water Features:** Water features such as fountains, ponds, and waterfalls can create a calming atmosphere in your outdoor living space. These features can also help cool the air on hot summer days.
7. **Install Outdoor Cooking and Dining Area:** Installing an outdoor kitchen or grill and dining area to enjoy many family barbeques. Food always tastes better outside!



7 Lesser-Known Ways to Save Energy During the Summer Months

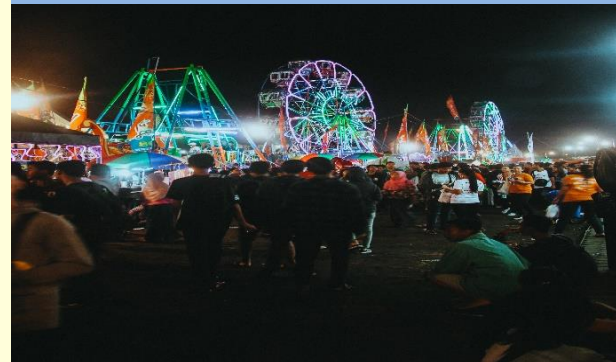
1. **Use Your Grill for Cooking meals:** Cooking on your stove or oven can generate a lot of heat, which can cause your air conditioning to work harder. Using your grill to cook food outside can reduce heat inside your home and save energy.
2. **Use a Clothesline to Dry Clothes:** Using a clothesline to dry clothes instead of a dryer can save a significant amount of energy. Plus, your clothes will smell fresh and clean from the natural air-drying process.
3. **Utilize Natural Ventilation:** Opening windows and doors on opposite sides of your home can create natural ventilation and cool your home without using air conditioning.
4. **Use a Solar-Powered Oven:** Using a solar-powered oven to cook food outside can save energy and keep your home cool.
5. **Optimize Your Swimming Pool:** If you have a swimming pool, there are several ways to optimize its use to save energy. For example, you can reduce the amount of water you use by using a cover when the pool is not in use, and you can reduce energy consumption by using a variable-speed pool pump.
6. **Use a Misting System:** Installing a misting system can cool outdoor spaces such as patios and decks without using air conditioning.
7. **Use a Whole House Fan:** A whole house fan can pull cool air into your home through open windows and circulate it throughout your home. This can be a cost-effective way to cool your home without using air conditioning.

WEIRD, BUT TRUE!

The world's largest treehouse was built by Horace Burgess and was over 100 feet tall, had over 80 rooms and 10 floors. It took over 14 years to build but burned down in a mysterious fire in 2019.



Don't forget to stop out and see us on **National Night Out**, Tuesday, 8/1 from 5:30-8:00pm at Allen Co Fairgrounds & at our fair booth in the Merchant Building during the annual Allen Co Fair 8/18-8/26. Enter to win a Lifetime Tandem Sit-On-Top Kayak! Leave us a review on our website during the fair & get an extra chance to win!



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