

What is Hardscaping, Exactly?

Traditionally, hardscape has been defined as non-living outdoor decor made of stone and wood; however, these days that definition is expanding. Your home's hardscaping elements might also be concrete, tile, brick, or cobblestone. You can let your imagination run wild when it comes to the materials you select. (Just make sure that your choices blend harmoniously with the landscape, your house, and each other.) Keep your project in scale; don't overwhelm a tiny yard with an enormous statue, for example. Use soft curves as well as straight lines and angles, and vary heights. Using 2 or 3 coordinating colors and textures in your hardscape will be more appealing than one.

Deciding on your goals is an important step in any plan. What purpose do you have in mind? Perhaps you want to protect your grass from wear and tear or provide easy access to a vegetable garden. An attractive footpath, based on typical foot traffic patterns, is the obvious solution. If you'd like to cut down on lawn care and watering, a patio will be just what you need. Don't forget to plan for a safe play area if you have kids or grandkids. In almost any climate where you can enjoy your yard for a large part of the year, an outdoor living room may be a dream come true.

Before getting started on a hardscaping project, make sure you get the necessary approval. Some jobs will require a permit from the Town. Keeping all this information in mind, now you're ready to choose the features to include in your project. A decorative path is quite likely the first idea that springs to mind. How about using the same material to upgrade your driveway (especially if it is highly visible by visitors to your home)? Next, you'll probably need a place to sit. Build some benches, or incorporate them into a stone wall. While you're at it, you will want a table or two, plus a fire pit or fireplace for barbecues or warming up on chilly evenings. In fact, if you have the space, why not go for an entire outdoor kitchen.

No matter what avenue you decide to pursue, D&D Mulch and Landscape can help you along the way. Feel free to contact us for a free consultation, as we have dedicated landscape crews to tackle every job, no matter the size.

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