

## START YOUR PROJECT TODAY

Allow the experts at Hardscape.com, to guide you through your project planning process.

As a homeowner, starting your outdoor living project, including renovating your driveway, adding a patio or pool deck can be a daunting task. Allow the experts at Hardscape.com, to guide you through your project planning process. When starting an outdoor living project there are many decisions you must consider such as your budget, timeline, design, materials, and choosing the right professional to complete your project.

With over 25 years' of installing know-how of both porcelain pavers and natural stone pavers and as an industry leader in manufacturing, we will guide you through the toughest decisions on design and the choices that will make your project a success.

Before and after a Hardscape project



## SOME IMPORTANT PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

If you are a new homeowner, renovating, or building a new house, there are many aspects of any outdoor living project to consider when starting a new project. Whether you love looking at home design magazines or watching home renovation shows, it can get you thinking about what you want in your home's curb appeal or backyard oasis.

At Hardscape.com, we want to offer our customers not only high-quality and beautifully designed porcelain pavers, but we also want to educate you on what important things to consider when starting a driveway renovation, patio, outdoor kitchen or pool deck.

### Here are some homeowner planning tips for your Outdoor Design Project:

- **1. Do your research.** Choosing the right material can be difficult with all the different choices available. Always remember to think about all the seasons your area experiences. If you live in the northeast, you have to think about frost-resistance, slippage, mold, and mildew. For Florida homeowners, anti-slip, extreme temperatures, mold and mildew will be important factors when choosing a material. Manufactured with perfection, Hardscape.com's porcelain pavers are built to last in any season. Our porcelain pavers are frost-resistant, 10 degrees cooler than concrete, anti-slip, made to withstand heavy loads, durable and resistant to mold, mildew, and moss.

When choosing materials like stone pavers, travertine, granite, or marble you must also think about the cost of sealant and general maintenance over the life of the material. With our maintenance-free porcelain pavers, there is no need to lay sealant to keep your patio or driveway looking like new. Your initial investment in our superior product will save you money and time in the long term.

- **2. Choose the right professional.** Get at least three quotes from different contractors to ensure you understand what you want and the cost. When speaking to the contractors, try to understand industry terms and ask questions. Take notes while speaking with them to ensure there is no miscommunication in project expectations. Once you have narrowed it down to your top choices, make sure to ask for customer referrals.
- **3. Plan your design and include the "Extras."** When planning a driveway renovation or new build, most homeowners regret not going wider when redesigning or designing their driveway. Having extra space between parked cars, or enough room for a golf cart can make all the difference in the curb appeal. Adding extra space to your current driveway design will be a decision you do not regret.

Think about your future plans when building your outdoor patio. As your family grows, the space you need will grow too. Plan for the expansion by already including extra square footage around your pool or outdoor living area for a later added kitchen or gazebo.

## BUDGET

Budgeting properly will set you up for success from the start of your project. See below the list of items that should be considered when building a budget for your driveway, patio, or outdoor living project:

### *Surprises*

Always budget an additional 5-8% for surprises or issues that you may run into during your project. This may include broken sprinkler lines, extensions of contracts due to delays, or destruction of current landscaping. If your project ends well and you don't spend the overage on the project, splurge a little and buy something you've always wanted for your outdoor living area.

### *Materials*

Make sure that a contractor measures your new outdoor living space or driveway properly and includes an overage of 10% on materials to ensure that you will not have to have unexpected expenditures.

### *Permits*

Renovating your driveway, patio, or pool deck will most likely require a permit. Ensure you speak to your contractor to see if the permit cost is included in your contract. Alternatively, contact your local municipality to see how much the permit charge is and include it in your planning.

### *Furniture*

If you're planning an outdoor patio, make sure to include the cost of new furniture in your budget. Umbrellas, patio sets, and outdoor furniture can get expensive. Once you have your new outdoor living area designed with beautiful hardscapes, you will want it furnished to fully enjoy it.

### *Landscape Lighting*

Landscape lighting will make your design pop. Make sure to include this into your project budget so you can make your design shine.

### *Prepare for your Budget to Change*

No project ever stays exactly on budget. Homeowners that expect that a budget will change always feel better about the final result of their completed project.

## TAKE A LOOK BELOW AT OUR GENERAL PROJECT OUTLINE TO KEEP YOUR PROJECT MOVING ALONG.

Understanding the timeline of an outdoor hardscape project can help alleviate any misunderstandings on the expectations of your project.

### Creating your budget & finding a professional

Knowing what you want to spend on your project is important. Start to do some research on how much a renovation or new build of an outdoor area or driveway costs. After you have your **budget**, find a professional that is right for your project.



### Choosing your materials

Research different types of hardscapes including porcelain pavers, travertine, natural stone, granite, and marble before deciding on what material you will use. At Hardscape.com, we offer 2cm, 3cm, and 4cm Porcelain Pavers that are superior to most natural stone products.



### Design your project

Designing your outdoor space will be the most exciting part of your project. Plan for the future and download our **Project Planning Guide** before getting started. Talk to your contractor about city rules, limits and proper drainage before starting the project.



### Contract negotiation & apply for financing

Once you have chosen a professional, make sure to read and understand your contract. Ask questions about payment terms, insurance coverage, and what happens if there are delays in the project. If you need financing, some contractor companies offer in-house financing so ask before heading to a bank.



### Permit submission & approval

Most municipalities and towns require permits for projects like driveway renovation, outdoor patio, and pool decks. Make sure to ask your contractor or look at your local municipality's website. Typically, your contractor will submit the permit with drawings on your behalf and have them approved before starting the project.



# PLANNING GUIDE



## Delivery of Materials

When your materials are delivered check to see there is no damage to any of the products. If there is, make note of it and talk to your contractor about it.



## The contractor starts the project base and prepares the area

This is the most exciting part of your project! You will begin to see the shape of the installation area. If you are not satisfied with the size or shape, this is the time to talk with your contractor.



## Inspection of the base layer



## Contractor lays driveway, patio or deck porcelain pavers after inspection approval

After the base layer is approved, your contractor will begin to lay the porcelain pavers. This will be the most labor-intensive and timely part of your project.



## Final inspection

During the final inspection, the inspector will ensure that the project is done to the scope of the submitted drawings.



## Permit close upon approval

After the final inspection of your outdoor hardscaping project, your municipality will close out the permit and ensure there are no liens against the permit.

## OUTDOOR DESIGN BASICS

### *HOW TO CHOOSE PAVER COLORS*

#### **1. Do your research.**

Cut pictures from interior design magazines or search the internet for matching color palettes and designs that you love.

#### **2. Choosing a color palette for your design will be the key to keeping your design cohesive.**

Choose one main color and up to 2 accent colors for your design. The main color should be a neutral color like beige, white, silver, black, or grey. Great and timeless accent colors are gold, turquoise, red, blue, or oranges. Keep in mind your pool tile should be a complimenting color to your porcelain paver color.

#### **3. Matching your porcelain paver to the main color palette will make your design pop.**

If you are going with beige as your main color, take a look at our 2cm Shellstone or 2cm Sandstone. For grey tones check our Quartz Griss, Sandstone Grey, or Silver Travertine. If you want your paver design to pop, try the DaVinci design in 2cm or 3cm.

### *HOW TO CHOOSE SHAPES AND PATTERNS*

#### **1. There are many patterns to choose when laying porcelain pavers.**

The most common is the straight lay pattern, which will create an overall grid pattern. The running brick pattern is a pattern consistently used on walkways that creates an offset design for each row. The herringbone pattern is booming back into popularity and mostly seen on home design shows. This beautiful design features 45-degree angles with a "v" shape.

#### **2. Make a unique design.**

Some of our porcelain pavers come in multiple sizes allowing for unique design opportunities. With some Porcelain Pavers available in both 24"x24" and 16"x32", If you have a talented install team, you may be able to create a unique look.

#### **3. Plank vs. Square Porcelain Pavers.**

We offer plank porcelain pavers that are a favorite among commercial contractors and builders. Our Cadore Rovere and Cadore Frassino plank porcelain pavers come in 8"x32" size, resembling wood planks. These are great for a rustic or Italian villa design. Square porcelain pavers are more traditional and transcend time in 24"x24" and 12"x12" sizes.

#### **4. Think about your outdoor space.**

When choosing a shape and pattern, think about the space you are designing. If you need to elongate your surface area it could be good to go with a longer rectangle or plank shaped porcelain paver then a traditional square shape.



# PLANNING GUIDE

## *CONSIDER A PROJECT WITH US*

### **1. Quality craftsmanship is what we do at Hardscape.com.**

With over 25 years of hardscape experience, we offer the best design and manufacturing process for our customers.

### **2. Expert quality control.**

Our designs and durability are what our customers count on. That's why we have expert quality control with over 25 years' experience in the outdoor hardscapes.

### **3. We specialize in outdoor hardscaping.**

We don't just sell porcelain pavers, we manufacturer them. Unlike our competitors, we do not just distribute another manufacturer's product or order from distributors. Our product is in stock and ready to ship from one of our many warehouses, dealers or distributors.