

Outdoor Furniture Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- Selecting your Outdoor Furniture
 - Figure out your budget.
 - Look at the landscape of your yard - consider the size.
 - Decide whether you want stackable or foldaway furniture that will be put away in the shed.
 - Determine your luxury level, and how the outdoor patio furniture will be used.
 - Decide on the type of material - it determines maintenance requirements.
 - Decide on a color theme.
 - Determine how many people will sit at the table.
 - Determine if you want cushions on the chairs.
- Buying your Outdoor Furniture
 - Sit in the chairs to get a feel for fit and comfort.
 - Make sure the seat height seem right for the table height.
 - Ensure the table is designed to give everyone's legs plenty of clearance.
 - Check if armrests are matched to the table height.
 - Make sure the armrests are designed for comfort.
 - Ensure chair seats are roomy side to side and front to back.
 - Be sure the cushions fit the seats well and have ample padding.
 - Make sure wood furniture have closely fitted joints.
 - Be sure welded joints on metal furniture are neatly done and unobtrusive.
 - Painted surfaces should be uniform, with no drips, ripples, or missed spots.
 - There should be no sharp, unfinished edges on metal furniture.
 - Make sure the furniture is designed so that nuts and bolts holding pieces together are hidden or capped.
- Maintenance Tips
 - Hose down plastic outdoor wicker to remove airborne dust and dirt.
 - Keep water away from genuine wicker.
 - Unfinished teak will weather to a silvery gray.

- If you want to preserve teak's rich, golden-brown color, sand the furniture and apply teak oil annually.
- Steel and wrought iron need to be painted to prevent rust.
- Cover the furniture to keep rain away.