

# BUDGETING GUIDE

*High Prairie Landscape Group*



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# A Guide to Planning and Budgeting for Your Outdoor Project

How do you budget when you're not sure what things cost? Why does a budget matter?

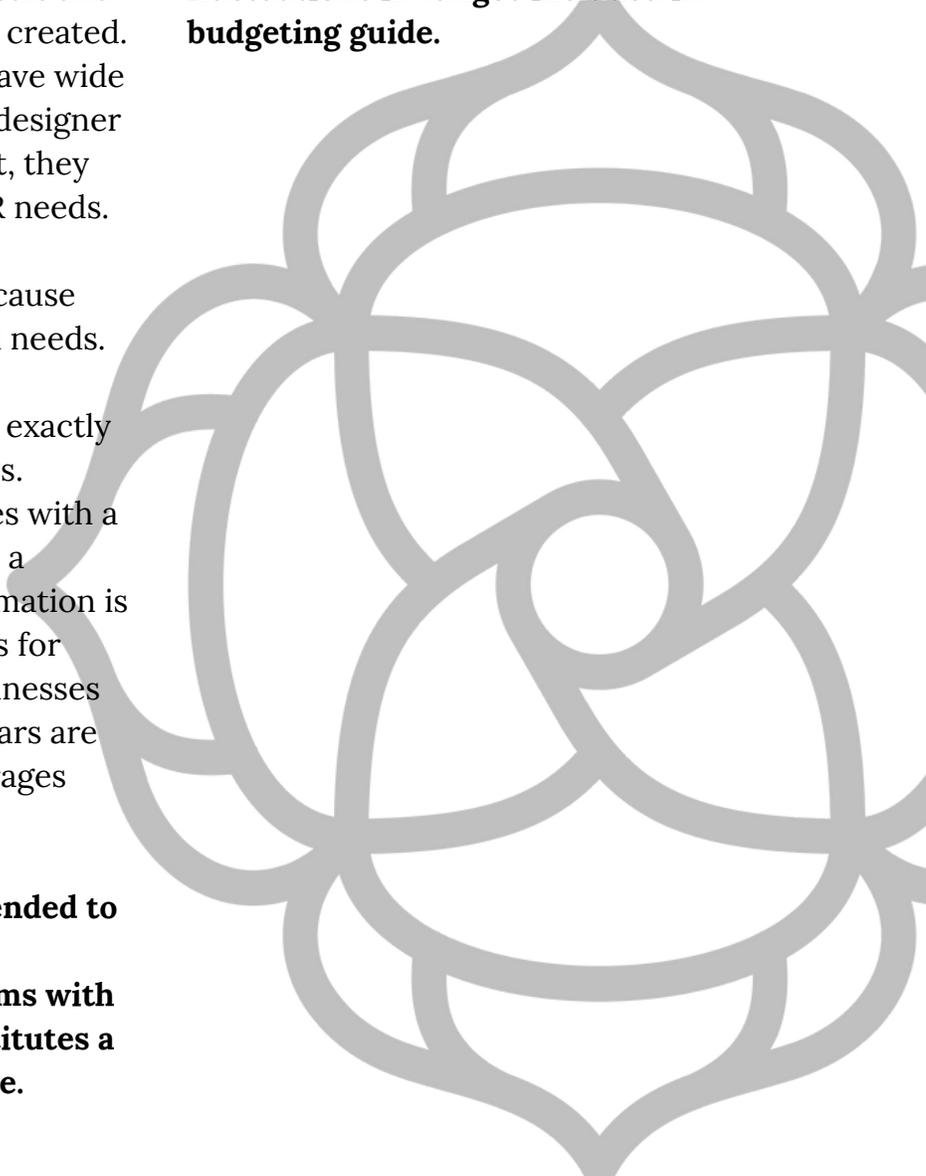
At High Prairie Landscape Group, we work diligently to bring valuable information to our clients because we feel that an educated client can make sound decisions. With any project, it's important to establish goals and parameters before a design or bid is created. Why? As you'll see below, projects have wide ranges of investment levels and if a designer has no idea of your goals and budget, they can't customize a design to fit YOUR needs. It wastes your valuable time and the designer's time making revisions because their plans don't meet your financial needs.

The best way to ensure a client gets exactly what they need is to set budget goals. Nobody wins when a designer arrives with a \$50,000 proposal and the client had a \$10,000 budget. The following information is provided based on industry averages for high-quality work. The low-ball businesses that go out of business every few years are not considered in these pricing averages (For good reason!)

**Please note this information is intended to be an educational tool to help you understand how to align your dreams with realistic goals. This is no way constitutes a formal bid since every site is unique.**

This useful guide will allow you to plan phases if needed as well as understand that contractors and clients work better together when we can help you maximize your budget.

**Revisions for 2021: Please note material and labor volatility may cause abnormal fluctuations in ranges included in budgeting guide.**

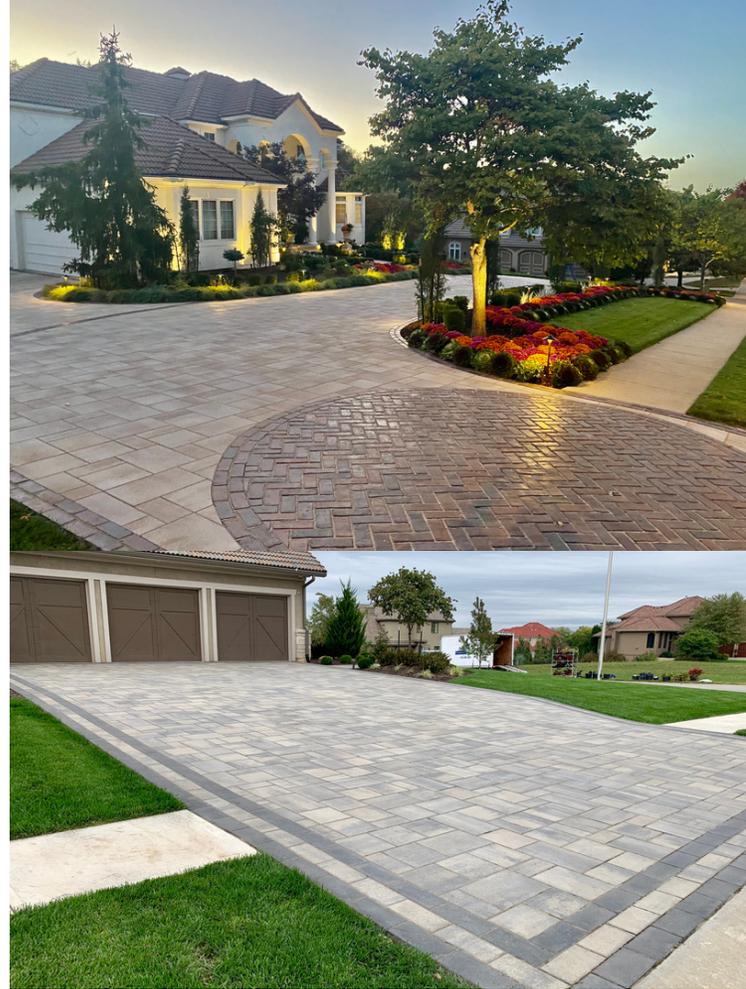


# Driveways

What you won't see in the pricing guide for driveways:

- Paver drives on an aggregate/gravel base: These driveways do NOT last with vehicular traffic and are not considered a wise investment if not installed on concrete.
- Driveways with natural stone such as flagstone: The natural stone is not engineered, so isn't as likely to handle traffic. It also doesn't tolerate salt on tires like a high-grade paver would.

Things that will increase your investment beyond the averages price per foot are: demolition of existing elements, building up a sloped area, walls to level area, and extra excavation.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Gravel Driveway	\$0.70 - 2 per square foot	Keep the design simple and straight.	Add a border or apron with a brick or paver.
Concrete Driveway	\$8 - 16 per square foot	Don't add color to the concrete, keep it grey and simple.	Consider decorative concrete.
Decorative Concrete Driveway	\$15 - 25 per square foot	Opt for one color and a simple pattern or texture.	Add multiple colors and antique top coats. Consider borders or other embellishments (\$2-7 per SF).
Paver Driveway (On Concrete)	\$55 - 65 per square foot	Choose straight lines in the design and use one simple paver.	Add a different paver for the border, and curves, or designer details.

# Patios and Walkways

Things that will increase your investment beyond the average price per foot are: demolition of existing elements, building up a sloped area, walls to level area, drainage work, poor access to use machinery.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Concrete Patio	\$6 - 16 per square foot	Keep the design simple with straight edge and don't add color.	Add a border or apron with a brick or paver.
Colored or Stamped Concrete Patio	\$15 - 25 per square foot	Avoid complex shapes and use one color.	Add additional colors, top coats, and contrasting details.
Paver Patio on Aggregate	\$40 - 45 per square foot	Save money by using a more affordable paver for the body and use a higher end paver for the borders.	Add designer details, unique patterns, and multi-sized stone options.
Premium Paver Patio	\$45 - 58 per square foot	Use a simple design in a simple, classic pattern.	Add designer details, unique patterns, and multi-stone options. Consider using large slabs.
Natural Stone Patio	\$50 - 60 per square foot	Allow for larger joints for mortar instead of cutting every single edge for labor saving. (not more than 2" joints.)	Use square cut stone or have random flagstone cut on every edge for tiny joints.

# Retaining Walls

If demolition of existing elements or rough grading are needed, additional investments should be planned depending upon the scope. This would be in addition to the average construction price listed above. This level of investment is unique to each property.

Walls over 3' or terraced walls require reverse engineering with a geo-textile product that reinforces the walls to prevent future failing. This additional investment can be \$2-5 more per square foot.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Split-Face Block Retaining Wall	\$115 - 140 per square foot	Opt for simple designs and keep walls below 3' tall.	add interesting cap or curves.
Premium Block Retaining Wall	\$150 - 180 per square foot	Opt for simple designs and keep walls below 3' tall.	Use contrasting block as a designer ribbon in the wall or use interesting cap.
Retaining Wall with Veneer	\$85 - 110 per square foot	Use stucco instead of veneer, or use simple designs.	Choose natural stone veneer, an interesting cap, or use colored mortar.
Stone Retaining Wall	\$130 - 180 per square foot	Use larger ledgerstone to save on labor.	Use exotic stone or frost-resistant stone.
Poured Concrete Retaining Wall	\$30 - 50 per square foot	Opt for simple designs and keep walls below 3' tall.	Add coloring, textures, or caps.
Stone Veneer on Existing Surface	\$20 - 35 per square foot	Use manmade product.	Use natural stone.

# Fire Features

Some cities require permits for fire features and also have design standards about proximity to lot lines and structures. Ensure you know your codes before investing. Permits can be expensive.

Ensure the fire feature is installed where prevailing winds won't blow out the fire or blow smoke towards your usable space.

For gas features, plan on budgeting an additional \$2000-7000 for plumbing.



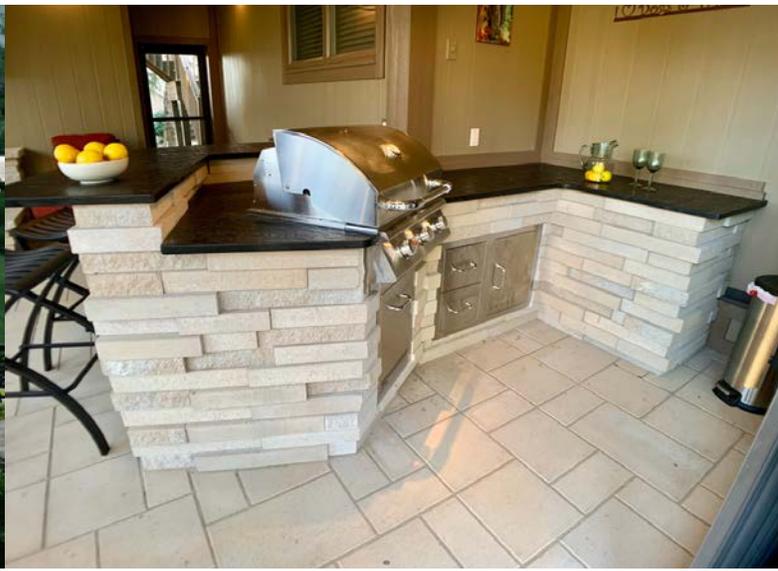
Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Portable Outdoor Fire Pit	\$200 - 1500	Choose a small, wood burning model.	Choose an antique sugar kettle, or a pre-fabricated option.
Built in Block Fire Pit Kit	\$3000 - 8000	Choose wood burning, simple cap, and simple block.	Add natural gas, accent fire glass or a cooking grate. Consider unique cap.
Custom Fire Pit	\$8000 - 13000	Choose common sizes and shapes. If using gas locate close to lines.	Customize with seating, walls, water features or unique materials.
Pre-Fabricated Fireplace	\$10,000- 20,000	Select a basic model with minimal sections to install and choose wood burning.	Choose unique material/details. Gas is an additional investment of \$2000-\$7000.



## *Fire Features Cont.*

Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Pre-Fabricated Structure with Custom Veneer	\$10,000 - 40,000	Choose simple Veneer and add embellishment with a different stone.	Add fire box, a mantle, a stone hearth, or custom details that match your architecture. For gas features, plan on budgeting an additional \$2000-7000.
Custom Fireplace	\$20,000+	Choose standard shapes and sizes.	Choose high-end materials, add water features, planters, wood boxes, and custom details. If gas is desired, the additional investment is between \$2,000 - \$7,000.

# Outdoor Kitchens



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Prefabricated Outdoor Kitchen	\$10,000 - 25,000	Choose simple appliances in a linear shaped bar. Choose a stucco model to save.	Upgrade to stone veneer, more/better appliances, and lighting.
Simple Outdoor Kitchen - Veneered	\$10,000 - 20,000	Buy a smaller grill and include only our must-have accessories.	Upgrade counters, finishes, change to an L-shape, or add a tiered bar.
Large Outdoor Kitchen	\$25,000 - 65,000	Choose simple finishing materials in an easy to build shape. (square is easier than curved) Keep accessories simple.	Up grade counter, finishes, change to an L-shape, or add a tiered bar. Consider a beer or rootbeer tap.
Luxury Outdoor Kitchen	\$55,000+	Choose simple finishing materials in an easy to build shape. (square is easier than curved) Keep accessories simple.	Add a TV, sound system, multi-bar, heaters, and any other luxury items you can add to your kitchen.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Prefabricated Pizza Oven	\$4000 - 13,000	Choose a countertop version to save.	Choose a stone veneered, independent piece to add to you kitchen.
Mugnaini Italian Pizza Oven with Stone Veneer	\$15,000 - 25,000	Choose a base price granite with a Zero degree edge and simple veneer.	Upgrade to a larger model, add designer details in the veneer, add an upgraded mantle.

# High Prairie Custom Outdoor Kitchens



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
The Sous Chef - 6'	\$14,000 - 17,000	Choose base price granite with a 90 degree edge and simple veneer.	Upgrade to a limestone counter choosing between a 90 degree edge and hand chiseled edges. Choose a high end veneer, upgrade your appliances, or add more lights.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
The Chef - 9'	\$18,000 - 22,000	Choose base price granite with a 90 degree edge and simple veneer.	Upgrade to a limestone counter choosing between a 90 degree edge and hand chiseled edges. Choose a high end veneer, upgrade your appliances, or add more lights.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
The Entertainer - 8.5' x 8.5'	\$20,000 - 26,000	Choose base price granite with a 90 degree edge and simple veneer.	Upgrade to a limestone counter choosing between a 90 degree edge and hand chiseled edges. Choose a high end veneer, upgrade your appliances, or add more lights.

# Pools

Pools almost always require a permit and must meet zoning rules. Check with your city before investing



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Vinyl	\$30,000 - 65,000	Choose a smaller shape in rectangle or square.	Upgrade vinyl, add custom coping, or a nice pool deck.
Fiberglass Pool	\$45,000 - 85,000 +	Smaller is always a saving. Forgo the heater and water features to save more.	Add custom coping, a permeable paver pool deck for no visible drains, add water features.
Gunite	\$70,000 - 150,000	Choose one custom color and limit the extra features like spas and waterfalls.	Add sun-ledge, infinity edge, boulders, glass tiles, and custom coping. Include a permeable paver pool deck for no visible drains.

# Lighting and Accessories

Ensure your electrical system will support your lighting system.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Per Fixture - transformer already onsite	\$200.00-600.00	Choose a pro-grade Unique light.	Upgrade to Coastal Source for a lifetime warranty on the fixture.
Simple Lighting System	\$4000 - 6000	Choose a pro-grade Unique lights.	Upgrade to Coastal Source for a lifetime warranty on the fixtures.
Intricate Lighting System - More Fixture and More Effective	\$10,000 - 40,000	Choose a pro-grade Unique light.	Upgrade to Coastal Source for a lifetime warranty on the fixture.
Holiday Lighting - Professional Grade LED	\$1500 - 30,000	Start with the roofline and build to your collection over time.	Wrap trees- the most expensive investment in both materials and labor in holiday lighting, but they're amazing!

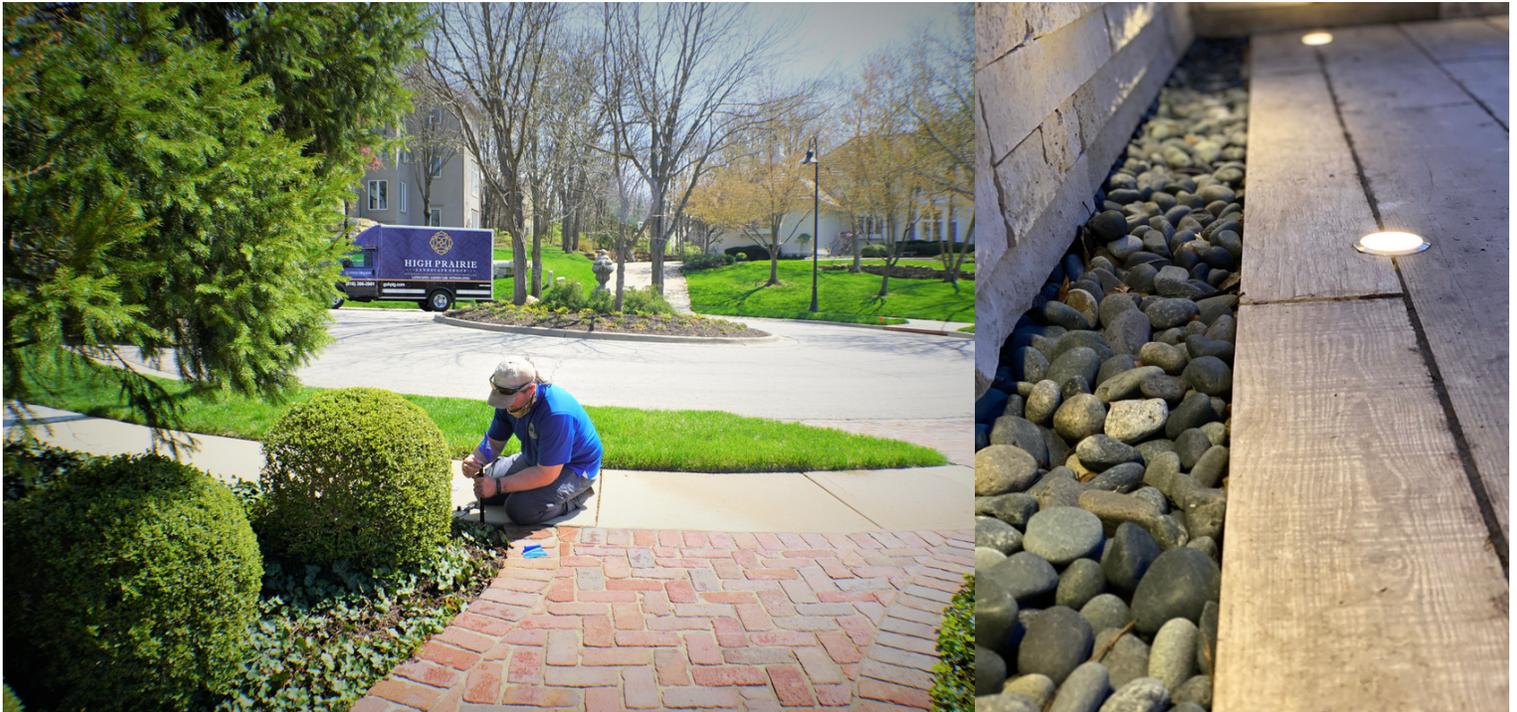


Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Tiered Concrete Fountain	\$2000 - 7000	Choose two tiered option close to electrical source.	Select a larger fountain and add an auto-fill so that you never have to hand fill.
Wall Fountain	\$750 - 4500	Choose a smaller design.	Select a larger fountain and add an auto-fill so that you never have to hand fill.
Large Fountain	\$4500 - 8000	Size is the price dictator. Always ensure a proper base for a large fountain.	Add lighting, timers, and auto-fill.
Custom Mailbox	\$3000 - 5000	Keep the design simple.	Add custom details, natural stone veneer, and lights.

# Irrigation and Drainage



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Surface Swale	\$0.75-1.00 per Square Foot		
Dry Stream Bed	\$4000 - 8000	Use less boulders and a more uniform gravel bed.	Add boulders to edges and through-out to make the stream appear natural. Always use 3 sizes of rock to prevent it looking like a gravel pad, make natural curves and islands.
Engineered French Drain - EZ Fow	\$40 - 55 per Linear Foot	Use a single-wide drain and seed the disturbed areas.	Add a double-wide drain and sod to disturbed areas.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Trench Drains in Hardscapes	\$70 - 80 per linear foot	Choose a simple grate.	Add a custom metal grate with decorative details, or permeable pavement.
Irrigation - Sprays and Rotors	\$1000 - 2200 per zone		
Irrigation - Drip System	\$700-1100 per zone		
Full System - Average Site	\$6000 - 10,000+	Keep the system and clock simple.	Upgrade to a smart clock that can be operated from your phone, add a rain sensor, and consider moisture meter.

# Lawns



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Seeded Lawn	\$0.80-1.20 per Square Foot		
Sodded Lawn	\$3.50-4.00	Sod priority areas, and seed low priority areas,	

# Planting

The following pricing includes the selection of plan, soil amending, fertilizing, edging, and mulching.

Removal of existing elements, stripping of sod, bury downspouts, and irrigation adjustments are extra investment that must be considered when planning your project.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Front Landscape - Small	\$4500 - 8500	Choose smaller plants, space further apart, and consider doing any removals yourself.	Upgrade the accent plants to a larger size, add seasonal color or pots.
Front Landscape - Average Size	\$9000 - 20,000	Choose smaller plants, space further apart, and consider doing any removals yourself.	Upgrade the accent plants to a larger size, add seasonal color or pots. Consider styles such as English Garden, Italian, or French.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Front Landscape - Large	\$20,000 - 45,000	Focus on the priority areas for upgrading plant sizes.	Bring in specimen features, upgrade size, for immediate impact, introduce English or French pottery, custom art, and seasonal color displays.
Back Landscape - Small	\$5000 - 9000	Choose smaller plants, space further apart, and consider doing any removals yourself.	Upgrade the accent plants to a larger size, add seasonal color or pots.
Back Landscape - Average Size	\$10,000 - 25,000	Choose smaller plants, space further apart, and consider doing any removals yourself.	Upgrade the accent plants to a larger size, add seasonal color or pots. Consider styles such as English Garden, Italian, or French.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Back Landscape - Large	\$26,000 - 45,000	Focus on the priority areas for upgrading plant sizes.	Bring in specimen features, upgrade size, for immediate impact, introduce English or French pottery, custom art, and seasonal color displays.
2.5 - 3" Tree	\$900 - 1300	Choose common cultivars. Quick growers are also more affordable.	Order a specimen quality plant and upgrade to an in-ground watering system.
6' Evergreen - Includes compost fertilizer, mulch, and tree stake system.	\$550 - 800	Select a readily available cultivar.	
9' Evergreen - Includes compost fertilizer, mulch, and tree stake system.	\$700 - 1000	Select a readily available cultivar.	

# Edging

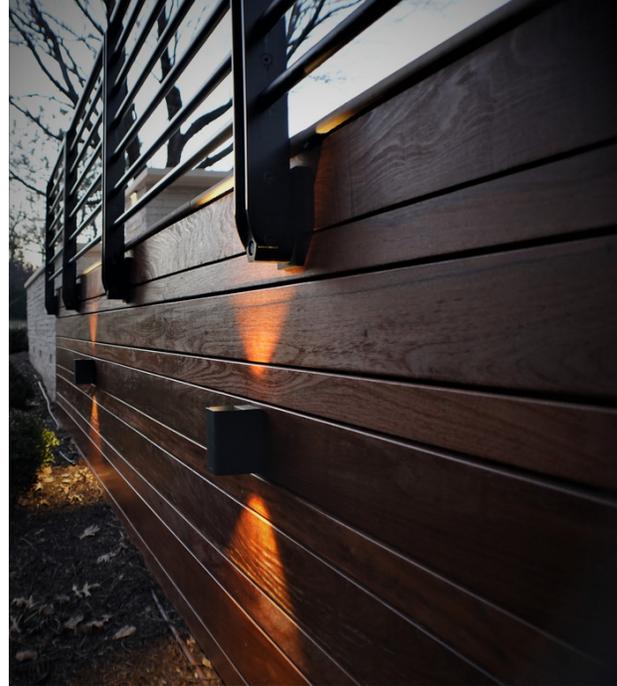


Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Natural Cut Edge	\$5.50 per linear foot		
Steel Edge	\$17.50 per linear foot		
Stone Edge - Set in Concrete	\$28 - 33 per linear foot		
Paver Edge with Mow Strip - Set in Concrete	\$18 - 22 per linear foot		

# Fencing

Some cities require permits for fences and don't allow certain heights on certain lots. Check with your local codes before investing.

Alternately, fences are often required arounds pools.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Chain Link Fence	\$10 - 20 per linear foot	Choose a smaller gauge of wire.	
Wood Fence	\$80 - 85 per linear foot	Use a simple design and affordable treated lumber.	Upgrade the design, add a different topper, and consider cedar or staining.
Vinyl Fence	\$55 - 75 per linear foot	Use affordable white vinyl, but keep away from "discount quality" vinyl as it will crack in our weather extremes.	Choose a custom color, wood-look, and pro-grade vinyl with designer details.
Steel Fence	\$45 - 55 per linear foot	The shorter the fence, the more affordable. Choose a simple design.	Add custom details, locks, etc.
Wrought Iron Fence	\$20 - 30 per linear foot	The shorter the fence, the more affordable. Choose a simple design.	Add custom details, locks, etc.
Ipe or Tempered Glass Panels	\$30 - 50 per linear foot		Customize design in any matter of styles.

# Decks, Pergolas, and Arbors

Please note that second and third story decks and steps are typically more of an investment per square foot. This is a dependent upon size, access, and scale.

Also note, that every municipality is unique in relation to permits and zoning. Ensure your project is legal before investing.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Prefabricated Vinyl Arbor	\$750 - 2000	Choose a basic design.	Upgrade to pro-grade vinyl.
Prefabricated Iron Arbor	\$600 - 1000	Choose a basic design.	Upgrade to a custom design.
Basic Custom Wood Arbor	\$3000 - 8000	Choose a basic design.	Upgrade to teak, ipe, and add special columns.
Custom Arbor	\$5000 - 15,000	Choose a common wood and simple design.	Add any detail you can imagine: benches, swings, planters, tropical wood.
Pressure Treated Deck	\$16 - 19 per square foot	Use a square shape, simple rail, and seal the wood. Maintenance costs are high.	Upgrade wood and railing.
Cedar or Redwood Deck	\$80 - 100 per square foot	Use a square shape, simple rail, and seal the wood.	Upgrade wood and railing.



Type	Average Price	Tip to Save	Tip to Customize
Ipe Deck	\$149 - 155 per square foot	Use only one where prominent. Use simple designs.	Add designer details like benches, tree boxes, planters, and cut-outs.
Open-Roof Wood Pergola	\$5500 - 12,000 for a 10 x 10'	Space the beams further apart and keep it as small as needed.	Add columns, rain-proofing canvases, lighting, fans, and decorative beams.
Aluminum Pergola	\$50 - 55 per square foot	Use basic posts, attach to house to limit posts, and choose a simple design	Add columns, rain-proofing canvases, lighting, fans, and decorative beams.
Solid Roof Pavilion	\$20,000 - 35,000 for a 12 x 12'	Choose simple materials and build only as big as you need. Choose a level spot if possible.	Upgrade to stone column bases, lighting, fans, heaters, outdoor TV's, and fire features.