

Create an outdoor oasis in six steps



South Africans love the irresistible attraction of the outdoors, and with summer now almost in full swing, we share some tips on transforming your back garden into an inviting retreat. No matter the size of your space, you can create somewhere to escape and unwind or entertain friends and family.

1. Clean the Clutter *



To start with a clean slate, you'll need to get rid of the clutter – and anything that doesn't belong. Prune overgrown trees and bushes, donate play equipment that your kids have outgrown, throw away broken furniture and invest in storage boxes for soft furnishings.

2. Comfy * Furniture

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3. The Power of Green



Plants can turn any outdoor space into an oasis. Choose plants that are easy to look after and have an inviting scent, especially if you don't have green thumbs. Hanging planters and trellises create the illusion of space and quick-growing hedges add privacy.



4. Shade Solutions *

On hot summer afternoons, you and your guests will appreciate some welcome shade. Depending on your space, style and budget, there are plenty of options to help you stay cool. From patio umbrellas to mature trees, retractable awnings, shade sails and pergolas or gazebos planted with vines.



5. Let there be Light

The right ambient lighting makes all the difference to how a space feels. Set the mood with whimsical fairy lights, add solar-powered lights to your garden pathways, focus a spotlight on a water feature or choose lanterns for a touch of romance.



6. Accessories and Decor

Add finishing touches that reflect your personality. Whether it's an outdoor rug, plush cushions, soft throws or wind chimes, include a pop of colour, interesting textures or fun design features. Don't forget to choose fabrics that are UV-resistant and easy to clean.

The boundary between indoor and outdoor living is blurring, so when you create your outdoor space, ensure that it's an extension of your home and that it reflects your taste and lifestyle. Make it a feast for the eyes but remember that, above all, it still needs to be functional.

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