

## Choosing a Patio Furniture Set

A Patio furniture set can greatly enhance your outdoor relaxation. By choosing your patio furniture wisely you will not only create a great outdoor ambience but will also extend your inside décor to the patio or backyard beyond. Summer months are there just for enjoying nature. It is a about gathering the family around for fun and backyard BBQ's and a beautiful Patio Furniture Set will help create the stage for great parties or family time.

Choosing a patio furniture set should not be a hard decision. Do a little research and examine your inside lifestyle to get an idea of what you want your patio furniture to say about you and your outdoor space. Here a few pointers to help you create the ideal setting with your Outdoor Patio Furniture Set.

If you are purchasing patio furniture remember that quality is always more important than the cost of the furniture, if you look at it as a long term investment. See if you can find some quality sets that you can put together yourself to save a little money. Since outdoor entertaining is one of our favorite pastimes try to purchase the best quality you can afford for durability.

There is no patio furniture set that is without maintenance. Some outdoor furniture will require re-staining, steam-cleaning or covering during harsh weather periods. Be sure to know what maintenance your patio set will need as this will add to the cost of the patio furniture over the long run.

Before you begin to shop for your patio pieces make sure you know how much space is available on your deck or patio and how many people it will comfortably fit. Having large, oversized pieces in a small space will not make it conducive or comfortable for entertaining.

Your choices will include wrought iron, aluminum, wicker, wood and plastic. What you choose will depend on your space and budget. The style of your home will also be a factor to consider. If you live in a country setting you may wish to use wicker with country themed cushions. Or, if your home is in the Spanish style perhaps a wrought iron collection would be more suited for your backyard or patio.

Some say that wood patio furniture is your most expensive option and in most cases it is true. But, it depends on the type of wood you choose. Cedar will last for ever but lesser woods will need constant sealing and painting. It is best to research the manufacturer of the wood pieces you are interested in to see how much maintenance they will need. Wood, of course, will look best in the outdoors because it is natural for that setting. Another plus, it does not absorb heat or cold.

Wrought Iron Patio Furniture is the next on the tough to destruct and more expensive list. Wrought iron comes in several colors to easily match your décor. An additional benefit is that you can mix and match the cushions for seasonal changes. Wrought iron patio furniture is not without it's maintenance. If cracks or pits occur you must seal or paint them or the furniture will rust. This can be easily done in the early fall and spring seasons. Wrought iron also comes in a plethora of designs often using garden, floral, and mythical motifs. A plus for this type of patio furniture is that if you live in a windy area, these pieces are not easily blown around.

Wicker Patio Furniture, which is cozy and ~county-ish~ is lovely, bright and can lend an air of romance to your patio or deck. Rattan is a vine that grows in South-East Asia and then is tightly woven. It has a very distinctive appearance but is light weight and easy to move around, (a plus in secluded areas but be careful in windy spots). Be careful not to set in direct sun which will cause fading especially if brightly colored.

Aluminum patio furniture is by far is the biggest seller of outdoor furniture. Its appeal is that it looks like metal or wrought iron but is quite bit less expensive. It comes in a vast array of colors that do not rust and are easy to maintain. They will absorb heat and fade if placed in direct sunlight. Be careful about placing them in overly windy areas as they are lightweight and may take flight.

Plastic patio furniture is the choice if you are budget conscious or you don't mind replacing the patio furniture every now and then. Plastic has evolved into ~look-alikes~ of wood, wicker and wrought iron but it does have its downfalls. Plastic is not suited for windy areas as it is lightweight and will definitely fly around in a wind storm and it has no lasting value.

When purchasing your Patio Furniture Set try to buy all of the pieces at once or at least as many as are in your budget. Over the years manufacturers discontinue some models to make room for new ones, making your pieces hard to find.

With a little planning and this guide you should be able to pick out the perfect patio furniture for your backyard and be ready to throw a fantastic Barb-B-Que for your family and friends in a beautiful setting.

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Mary Hanna lives in Central Florida where she developed an appreciation of Outdoor Entertaining in a beautiful patio setting. Learn from her at [Natural Gas Grill](#) &nbsp; &nbsp;[Landscaping Ideas](#) &nbsp; and&nbsp;[Home and Garden Retailer](#).

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