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Writing Sample

How to Decorate a Small Patio

Your back patio creates a sense of relaxation and tranquility. It is a place to find peace but also a place to entertain. When you have a small patio to work with, finding a way to create the most impact with the least amount of space is essential. This is accomplished with the right combination of accessories and colors to make the area feel both inviting and open without confined or stifling.

Plants

Adding foliage to your patio creates a feeling of tranquility and is the perfect opportunity to use color. The key is to utilize horizontal placement with tiered stands and plant hangers. The kind of plants you use will depend on the overall theme you’re trying to achieve. If you want a more functional garden, herbs such as thyme, rosemary, basil, sage and cilantro grow very well in small pots and partial shade. Starting a tiered salsa garden with dwarf and high yielding plants provide produce and color to any small patio.

Seating

Seating is essential for a small patio to feel comfortable and entertaining for you and your guests. Using small stools or benches are a great way to cut down on space, but still encourage conversation. The addition of a small plant stand as a table or even a repurposed night stand makes a great addition. Wrought iron bistro-style sets are fantastic for small patios because while they are durable, they do not overshadow your plants, making the space feel less crowed and wider as a result. Adding a few colorful cushions is a great way to keep your look fresh.

Accessories

The accessories you choose bring your entire area to life. Outdoor wall art is all the rage right now and range from canvas art to wrought iron designs. Hanging lanterns and strings of lights add ambiance without encroaching on space limitations. For a Tuscan theme, sheer curtains can be added to provide even more color, texture, and shade. Check outlet and department stores at the end of the spring and summer seasons for the best deals on patio accessories.

Functionality

When decorating a small patio, every detail counts. Chances are, the garden hose is not very attractive and great place to hide it is in a decorative garden box that may even double as extra seating. Garden supply and home improvement stores often have a wide variety of decorative hose cadies to choose from at the beginning of spring. Change the outlets to match the color of your wall to subtly hide them. If your patio allows for the space, adding a small coffee table with drawers affords further storage and functionality.

Resources:

Apartment Therapy: Gardening Without a Garden: 1- Ideas for Your Patio or Balcony

<http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/gardening-without-a-garden-10-ideas-for-your-patio-or-balcony-renters-solutions-167221>

Martha Stewart: Small-Space Garden Ideas

[http://www.marthastewart.com/337398/small-space-garden-ideas#](http://www.marthastewart.com/337398/small-space-garden-ideas)

Houzz: Small Patios

<http://www.houzz.com/small-patio>