

# TECHO—BLOC

INSPIRING ARTSCAPES



The backyard  
planning guide





# Follow the path --- to your yard-come-true



1. KNOW YOUR PURPOSE



2. MAKE YOUR WISHLIST



3. ESTIMATE YOUR BUDGET



4. FIND THE RIGHT PRO



5. IDENTIFY YOUR CHALLENGES



6. PICK YOUR BUDGET BATTLES



7. CHOOSE YOUR PRODUCTS



8. STARTING AND OVERSEEING YOUR PROJECT



9. CARE AND MAINTENANCE



# Know your purpose

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## Relax and unwind

Looking for a quiet spot to de-stress?

Comfy seating, a fire pit or a water feature are enough to enjoy your morning coffee or curl up with a book.



## Family

Need an outdoor place for your active family?

A playground, a dining room, a pool, a fire pit will have your patio door swinging open and closed all summer long.

## Green living

I love greenery and gardening...

Vegetable gardens, florals & other plants require plenty of sun. Plan for approximately 6 hours of continuous sunlight to get the best out of your garden.





## Street smart

Looking to make a good first impression?

Hang a welcome sign of a different kind with a standout paving stone treatment that adds value to your home.

## Home entertaining

Living to host and entertain?

Outdoor furniture, a fire pit and cooking features are the basics for outdoor living.

### Discover top trends

We've curated the best design ideas for your next landscaping project that will be sure to wow even the toughest of critics!

**Get inspired at [techo-bloc.com/lookbook](https://techo-bloc.com/lookbook)**



# Make your wishlist

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Dare to dream!

Select all the features you wish to have  
in your space. Later, we'll figure out  
which ones match your budget.





## Outdoor Features

- FIRE PIT/ FIREPLACE
- PATIO/DINING AREA
- SEATING/LOUNGING AREA
- OUTDOOR STORAGE AREA
- OUTDOOR KITCHEN
- OUTDOOR BAR
- BBQ AREA
- PIZZA OVEN
- SHADE LOUNGE
- SUN-PROOF DECK
- WATER FEATURE
- WALKWAY
- LIGHTING
- SOUND SYSTEM
- PRIVACY FENCE

## Greenery

- GARDEN
- PLANTERS
- TREES
- GRASS AREA

## Play area

- PLAYGROUND AREA
- MINI-PUTT
- POOL
- HOT TUB

### Quick tip

Be sure that your choices include both your family's needs and the possibility of selling your home in the future, for this project has the potential to increase the value of your home.

# Estimate your budget

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Understand what things cost.

|   | Starting prices*    |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Side Walkway</b><br>Paving stones without steps  | \$2,500 — \$6,000   |
| <b>Patio – Sitting/Dining Area</b><br>Paver patio with space for dining                           | \$8,000 — \$20,000  |
| <b>Patio - Pool Area</b><br>Medium paver patio with larger spaces for entertaining                | \$10,000 — \$30,000 |
| <b>Built-in BBQ/Kitchen/Bar - concrete</b><br>Mid-size outdoor kitchen with room for built-in BBQ | \$8,000 — \$20,000  |
| <b>Outdoor Kitchens - Urban Bonfire</b><br>Ready-to-install                                       | \$12 000 — \$19 000 |
| <b>Fireplace</b><br>Free-standing gas or wood-burning fireplace                                   | \$14 000 — \$18 000 |
| <b>Fire Feature</b><br>Ready-made fire pit, wood-burning or natural gas/propane                   | \$2,500 — \$7,500   |
| <b>Seat Wall or Bench</b><br>Custom feature   | \$2,000 — \$6,500   |
| <b>In-ground Swimming Pool</b><br>Mid-sized vinyl pool  | \$35,000            |
| <b>Pool Coping</b><br>Precast coping for an average-sized pool                                    | \$4,000 — \$7,000   |
| <b>Pool Waterfall</b><br>Mid-sized stone wall   | \$4,000 — \$7,000   |
| <b>Water Feature</b><br>Basalt columns or small pond  | \$4,000 — \$7,000   |
| <b>Backyard Lighting</b><br>Lighting package with 15-20 LED fixtures                              | \$3,000 — \$8,000   |
| <b>Backyard Gardens</b><br>Small backyard with simple gardens, trees, etc.                        | \$5,000             |

\* Based on median market pricing (\$). These prices depend on size of surface and grading. Pricing for labor also varies with local market rates.





## Landscaping project --- estimation tool

Dreaming of a new outdoor space?  
Don't know how much a backyard  
renovation costs?

Start your journey by using our landscaping project estimation tool and get a better idea of the price range for your upcoming outdoor project.

Visit [techo-bloc.com/landscaping-project-estimation-tool](https://techo-bloc.com/landscaping-project-estimation-tool)

### Quick fact

70-80% of your project's  
cost will be labor.



# Find your --- contractor match

The homeowner-contractor relationship will be a determining factor in your project's success. Choosing a Techo-Pro means working with an elite team of pre-screened installers that are certified by Techo-Bloc. With over 600 Techo-Pros across North America, we can help connect you with the perfect match.







## Where to find a professional installer

- > **Contractor locator:** see photos of their work and find pre-screened and certified Techo-Pros at [techo-bloc.com/find-an-installer](https://techo-bloc.com/find-an-installer)
- > **Referrals:** friends, family, previous clients
- > **Search engines:** these may not be the most trusted sources so make sure to verify their references

### Quick tip

Allow our concierge team to connect you with a pre-screened, certified installer that would be the right fit for you and your project.

Visit [techo-bloc.com/concierge](https://techo-bloc.com/concierge)



# The right \_\_\_\_\_ questions to ask

## Checklist

- Does the contractor's previous work match your taste?
- How many years have they been in business?
- Does the contractor have an insurance policy?
- Can you get pictures or addresses of his previous work so you can visit?
- Can the contractor show his certificates?  
(Look for accreditations from the Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute (ICPI) and the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA))
- When will be the start and the end date?
- Does he offer the design service and is it included in his price?
- What are the payment terms?
- Does the contractor offer financing?
- Is he aware of the bylaws? (Tip: search online also and compare what he says.)
- What makes a good contractor?
- What should you look out for in his quote when comparing it for others  
(certain materials included in the price, bigger crew for faster completion, guarantee)
- What is your expected involvement as the client?
- Who will be foreman and what is his experience/background?
- Who will be your contact person? Ask for his number.



## Compare key points between contractors

- > Previous work
- > Begin and end date
- > Payment terms (if attached to deliverables)
- > Deposit: the initial deposit should cover the cost of materials plus a small retainer (typically does not exceed 50% of total price)
- > Overall craftsmanship
- > Communication
- > Responsiveness/reliability
- > Education (certificates)



## How to protect yourself

- > Impose a balance to be held until the project is completed to your satisfaction
- > Due diligence: verify the contractor's craftsmanship. Visit a project that's:
  - 5 years old to see how the project ages. This will show any engineering/structural problems (parted surface becoming wavy due to faulty foundation, walls tipping, etc.)
  - 3 years old to see how the project wears
  - 1 year old to see if they follows the trends
- > Ask for invoices of purchases and materials as records so you can keep proof of purchases for warranty.



# Identify --- your challenges

Consider everything! Space. Trees & roots.  
Utilities. Fence height.

Do a walk-around and consider things that might threaten the installation of your chosen features. Here are some ideas to overcome your design challenges:



## Want a pool but have no space?

Consider a dipping pool instead. Also, try playing with levels and bandings to separate areas in a smaller setting.

## What kind of fire pit should I choose?

All Techo-Bloc fire pits are built in stone so they last and don't rust. They are also designed to be converted for gas or fire wood to respect your city's by-laws.

## Where do I put the outdoor kitchen?

Make sure it is located near your patio door, making the back and forth from the indoor kitchen to the outdoor kitchen much easier.

## Drainage issues?

Permeable pavers were designed to allow for proper percolation of surface water into the ground; reducing the risk and severity of flooding, eliminating puddles, speeding up the melting process of snow, reducing winter hazards and cost-savings on de-icing salt and snow removal.

## Need some privacy?

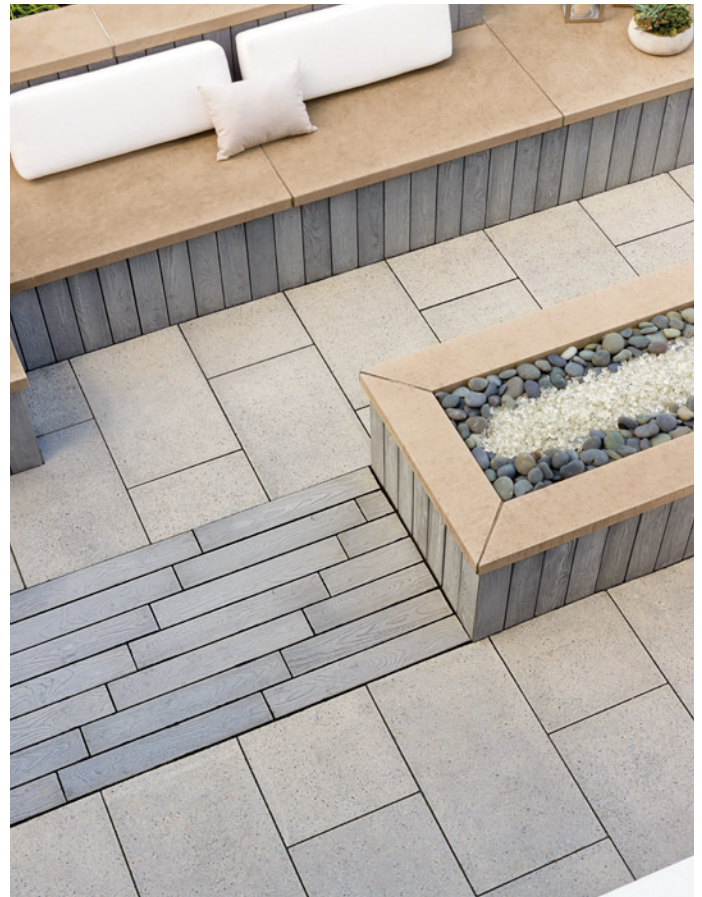
Consider trellis or build down from your fence height into a sunken fire pit.



## What can affect the price of my landscape project?

Every project is unique, and so is the investment. Here's some factors that can vary and change the price of your final project.

- > Material selection
- > Features selection
- > Project difficulty
- > Labor fee
- > Climate
- > Time of the year
- > Ease of access
- > Soil type



# Pick your budget battles

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## Choose a fire pit instead of a fireplace

Fireplaces are significantly more expensive due to construction time and engineering requirements to comply with code whereas. Fire pits are a great alternative to save space and construction time.

## Serpentine designs are costly

Circular or Serpentine patterns are more expensive because they take longer to cut and build. Stick with rectangular or square designs if your budget is tight.

## Do it in phases

Talk to your contractor about prepping the site for future add-ons; plumbing, gas and electrical utilities before the paving work is done can save you time and money in the long run.

## The slippery slope of leveling the land

Is the slope of your land cutting away potential outdoor living space? Instead of leveling the land, consider building down into the slope (imagine steps down to an intimate fire pit or pool). This way, you can gain privacy and save your wallet.

## A raised patio raises the price

If your patio door is elevated from the ground, building a set of steps from the door to your backyard retreat will reduce construction costs and increase privacy.



## Choose a Pro that offers financing

It will allow you to pay for your project over time, and help you manage your budget.

Visit [techo-bloc.com/financing](https://techo-bloc.com/financing)



**PAVE NOW**  
**PAY LATER**









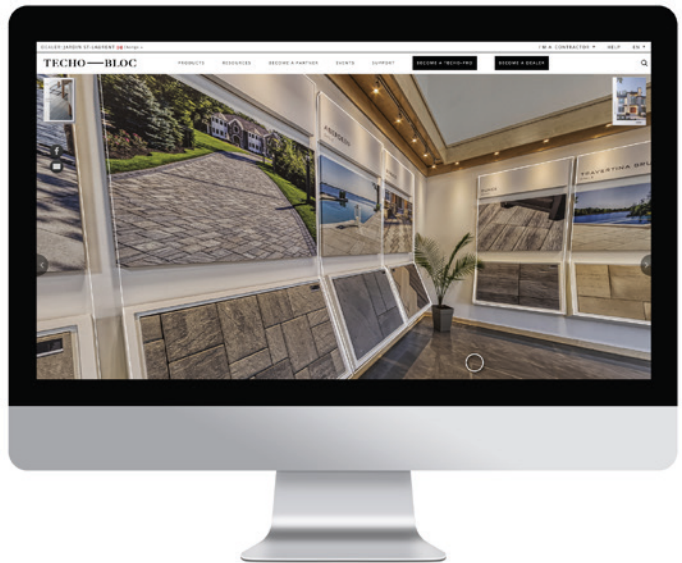


## From brick & mortar to virtual boutique

Fallen in love with a Techo-Bloc product? Find a Techo-Bloc dealer in your area through our website to see and touch the products that caught your attention. Their expertise will guide you to find the perfect products for your landscaping project!

Discover the next best thing to an in-store experience with our virtual online boutique. Merging the physical with the digital world will transform your shopping experience, and all from the comfort of your home.

Visit [techo-bloc.com/360-view](https://techo-bloc.com/360-view)



# Benefits of choosing Techo-Bloc

We've worked hard to maintain our reputation as one of the leading hardscape manufacturers in the world so you can have peace of mind.

Visit [techo-bloc.com/benefits-of-choosing-techo-bloc](https://techo-bloc.com/benefits-of-choosing-techo-bloc)

## ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

Our HD<sup>2</sup> and HD<sup>2+</sup> technologies are changing the game for landscape products. Creating pavers that are 1.5 times stronger than the industry standard, its fusion technology ensures the smoothest smooth and the most eye-catching of textures.

## DESIGN TRENDS FOR YOUR DREAM PROJECT

Looking for a little inspiration on how to make your landscape renovation stand-out from the crowd? Our look book is sure to keep you ahead of the design curve.



## Environmentally friendly

Give new meaning to the term “environmentally conscious” with permeable pavers that are as eye-catching as they are eco-friendly. These rock-solid products are an easy way to treat your home to an elegant upgrade while keeping the grander environment in mind.

Visit [techo-bloc.com/permeable-pavement](https://techo-bloc.com/permeable-pavement)





### **INFINITE DESIGN POSSIBILITIES WITH OUR VARIETY OF PRODUCTS**

Our products are designed to enable you to express your style conceived with three key pillars in mind. Mix and match color, scale and texture to create clearly unique looks for your outdoor spaces.

### **WE HELP YOU AT EVERY STEP OF THE PROCESS**

Planning a landscape renovation but don't know where to start? Let us guide you through the process with tips from how to choose the right professional all the way to breaking down your budget.

### **CONTRACTORS YOU CAN TRUST**

We wouldn't choose just anyone to install our products. Why should you? With over 600 Techo-Pros across the United-States and Canada, we can help connect you with the perfect match.

### **DESIGNED FOR COMMERCIAL APPLICATION**

Where design needs durability. Over 35 international patents, we offer the widest selection of commercial grade products, permeable pavement and retaining walls.

### **WE OFFER LIFETIME WARRANTY**

Our products are our pride and we go to great lengths to ensure that the purchase of our materials is a long-term sound investment providing enjoyment for years to come.

# Start your project

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During the project, follow these tips to avoid surprises.

## Check your materials

Check with your contractor every day or two to see if the materials are what you ordered. Catching mistakes before installation avoids headaches, disagreements and ensures your satisfaction.

## Verify the installation

Make sure the color distribution is not patchy and the lines/seams between the stones run straight.

## Ask questions

If something doesn't feel right don't hesitate to verify all details with your contractor.



Pay attention to details

you are your best quality control.



## Help your contractor

Respect the determined timeline by providing answers on time and making quick, informed decisions.

## Touch base with your contractor

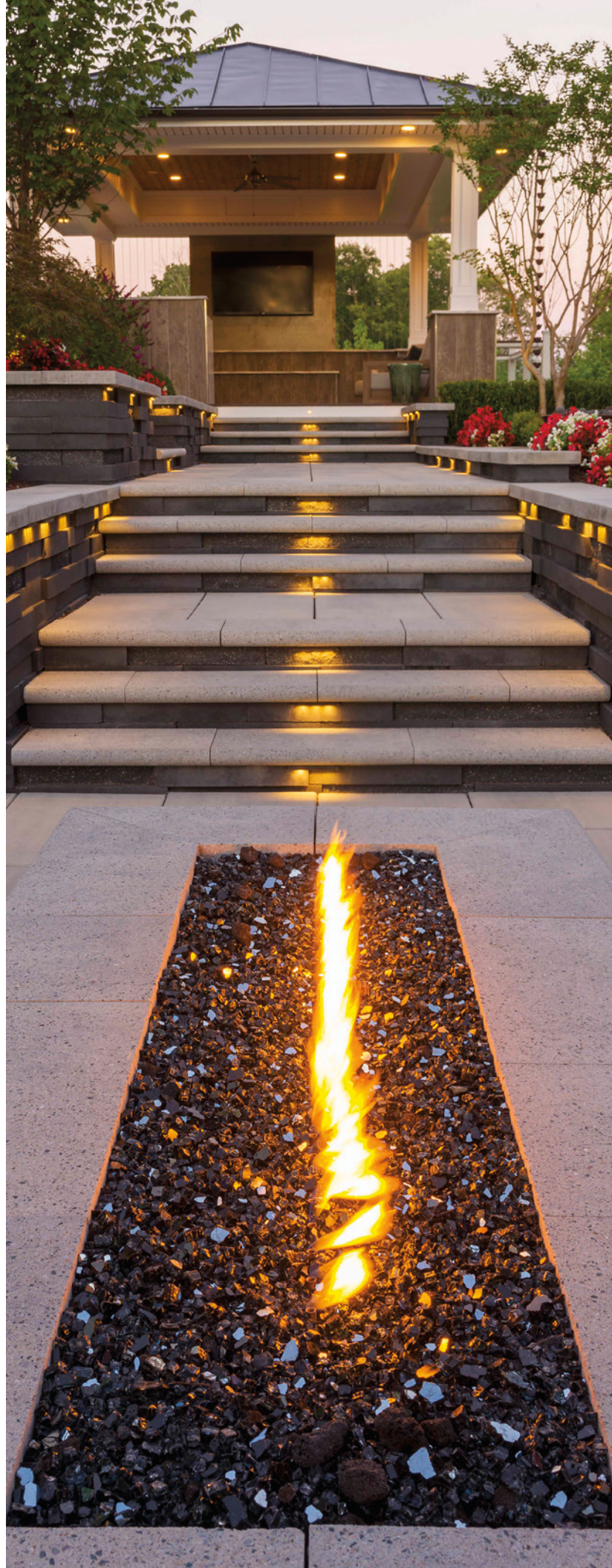
Schedule a meeting once a week to see the project's progress.

## Cleaning

Make sure your contractor wraps and secures the material before leaving for the evening to avoid damages due to bad weather conditions.

## The Golden Rule

Never compromise on the quality of your materials. Concrete Hardscape products often represent as little as 20% of the overall project costs.





# Care and maintenance

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How to keep your pavers looking new throughout the seasons.

The care of high-quality concrete products is like the care of any product left exposed to the elements 365 days and nights per year. Just the way you get your home and yards ready for winter and summer, the same applies to your paving stones.

Here are some tips on how to care for and maintain your investment so that you can fully enjoy the benefits of Techo-Bloc concrete products for years to come.

Visit [techo-bloc.com/care-and-maintenance](https://techo-bloc.com/care-and-maintenance)







## General Maintenance

The general maintenance of your hardscape products is minimal, but significant. Certain environmental circumstances may involve some additional care and maintenance but being consistent with the little up-keeps avoids more elaborate maintenance in the future. Remember that concrete is porous. When the leaves begin to fall, sweep them off your pavers to avoid organic stains. When you see dirt on your patio, take a few minutes to hose it off and keep it clean.

## Cleaning Basics

Clean your paved area when you see that it is necessary. Again, sweep leaves off your pavement regularly to avoid staining. Lightly pressure wash or hose down your pavers to remove any dirt or debris that have stuck on. When the snow melts, a thorough, overall spring-cleaning using a pressure washer and a light product shampoo or dishwashing soap works best to get your pavers ready to enjoy all summer long.

## Don't forget about the joints

The joints between paving stones are the most vulnerable areas, especially after a new installation. Damp, shaded areas between stones, are prone to moss and weed growth. We highly recommend that paving stone joints be filled with polymeric sand (or aggregates for permeable installations) to avoid this scenario from happening.



Need  
inspiration  
for your  
backyard  
project?

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Discover the design trends  
and the best landscaping  
products at  
**[techo-bloc.com/  
collection/catalogs](https://techo-bloc.com/collection/catalogs)**

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