

How to protect outdoor spaces from harsh weather

Rain, and even harsh sunlight, can damage outdoor decor and infrastructure, so add weatherproofing to your outdoor living plans.

Investing time in outdoor spaces can provide fresh air and inviting views as you lounge by the pool or sip iced tea on a covered patio . **However, rain, and even harsh sunlight, can damage outdoor decor and infrastructure, so consider adding weatherproofing to your outdoor living plans.**



Umbrella

If you have an uncovered patio dining table or conversation area, use an umbrella to provide shade and protection from drizzle. The umbrella also protects furniture surfaces from sun and rain damage. Be sure to leave the umbrella down if it is windy and clean it regularly to prevent stains & mold growth.

Eaves

An open porch or deck is a great way to soak up the summer heat, unless you have a west-facing backyard that gets extremely hot in the afternoon, or live in an extremely sunny location. If the sun is too strong in your area, an awning can provide great shade while still allowing breezes and scents to pass through. An awning can be anything from a full canopy to a simple sheet draped over a pergola.

You can also install a fabric cover that extends beyond the house, or even place a canvas canopy over the deck. Regardless of the design, when using a canopy to weatherproof your patio, be sure to keep it free of leaves and

other debris, anchor portable options like awnings and umbrellas, and tighten screws annually to ensure everything is secure.

Griller

Outdoor grills can be damaged if they are not covered or stored properly. When not in use, cover the grill to protect it from debris, rain, and sunlight. Also, make sure the grill is clean and dry before covering it to prevent moisture or dirt from getting in.



Furniture covers

You can make your own patio furniture covers or buy them custom-made. Either way, use furniture covers in areas prone to inclement weather so your furniture is protected and ready to use when you need it.

Enclosed wooden floors, fences, furniture

Some woods withstand rain and moisture well, such as teak and cedar. Other woods are susceptible to mold or rot. Whether the wood is used to build a fence, table, play structure, or deck, protect it with a good sealant, such as a thorough cleaning, stain application, and protective coating when necessary.

Purdah

Another way to protect your space from the elements is to use a screen around the sides of your gazebo or porch. Screens are easy to install and allow you to create shade when needed rather than being a permanent solution. Wash your screen or roller shade a few times a season and take it down in the winter if you live in a harsh climate.



Waterproof fabric

Choose your furniture fabric carefully. Waterproof fabrics are more expensive than other materials, but you will see a return on your investment with a longer lifespan. There are also waterproof sprays that you can spray on the fabric to increase its water resistance, thus preventing mold and mildew. Another great feature of a quality waterproof fabric is that it dries quickly so you can continue to enjoy your outdoor space after a rain shower.

Carpet

Using rugs will protect your wood floors and add comfort to your concrete floors. They protect your feet from hot or cold surfaces and reduce the risk of slipping. However, dirt and moisture can accumulate under rugs, so be sure to move them and wash them every few weeks. If they are small enough, you can throw them in the washing machine for a quick wash.

Storage bench

Wooden, plastic or metal storage benches provide a designated place to store cushions, portable garden tools and children's toys. Just make sure they are covered with a protective cover each summer and covered when not in use.

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