



Project Planning Guide



Every landscape and hardscape project requires planning and oversight to ensure everyone is satisfied with the end result – especially you.

You may not be the one laying the pavers, but you are an essential part of the team.

This guide contains: six tips to planning a successful project, design considerations for different project types, what to look for when choosing hardscape materials, and concludes with suggestions for finding the right contractor with a helpful checklist of questions to ask when researching potential contractors for your landscaping project.

Six Tips to planning a Successful Project



1 BUDGET

Ask your contractor to provide **good/better/best versions** of the project, or perhaps a budget that phases your project into several stages. Some contractors can even offer payment plans so you don't have to pay for your project right away.



4 COMMUNICATION

Establish in advance **who to contact if you have concerns** and how often you'd like your contractor to provide you with updates. If you notice something that doesn't look right on your project, be sure to let your contractor know right away.



2 TIMELINE

Be sure to tell your contractor if there is a **deadline** by which the project absolutely must be completed. Rainy weather sometimes impacts the timing of projects, so be sure to understand what happens in the event of a delay.



5 CHANGES

Even the best managed projects occasionally run into unforeseen circumstances. Be sure to understand the contractor's procedure for handling changes.



3 GROUND RULES

Your contractor's crew will be on your property on a daily basis. Agree to **ground rules** before the project begins. What time will work begin and end each day? What is their daily clean-up routine? Where will products and equipment be stored on the site? Will they require access to your home or garage?



6 PROJECT WRAP UP

If you're happy with the completed project, be sure to recommend your contractor to friends and neighbors, and **don't forget to register for your Unilock product warranty at [Unilock.com](https://www.unilock.com)**.

Outdoor Living

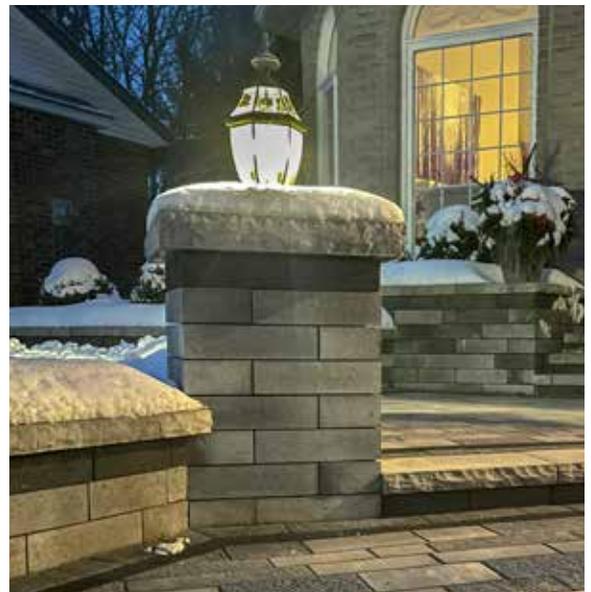
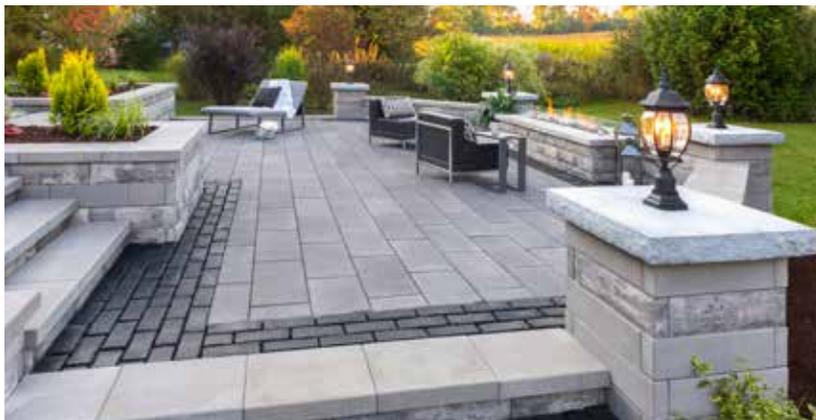
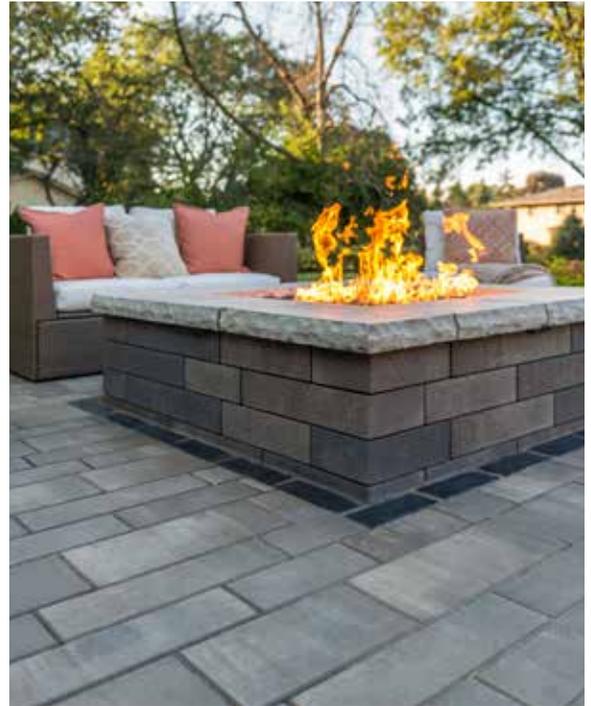
Design Considerations

EXPAND YOUR HOME

A new outdoor living space can add functional square footage to your existing home by providing a new space to relax and entertain. Consider first how you would like to use the space, and then design it as an extension of your interior decorating style. Even a small space can appear bigger by using different paver colors, paver borders, elevation changes and seat walls to define distinct areas for cooking, eating and relaxing.

OUTDOOR ROOMS

Fire features are growing in popularity because they add visual interest and warmth that makes the space more enjoyable to use in cooler weather. Lighting installed in gardens, low walls, steps and pillars will also help draw people outside in the evening and adds visual appeal that you can enjoy from inside your home. Snow-covered pillars and walls can make beautiful accents to your property in the winter months.



Pool Decks

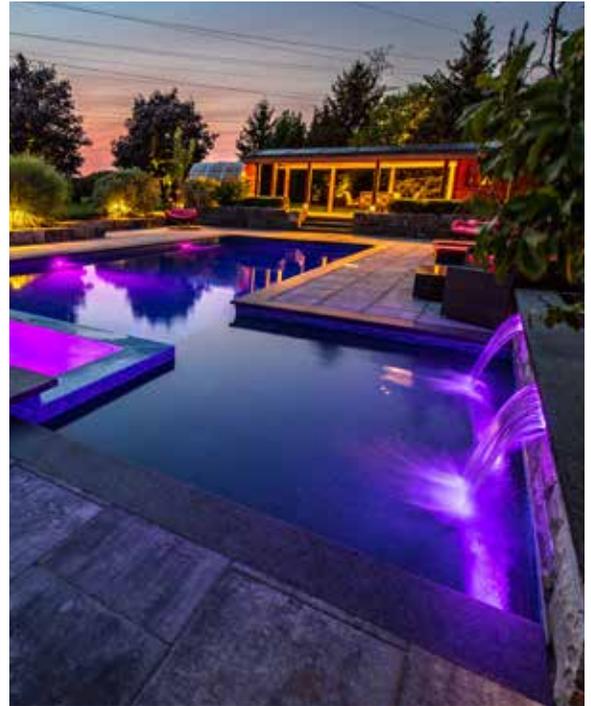
Design Considerations

SIZE MATTERS

When planning your pool deck, four feet is the minimum perimeter around the pool for basic access. However, if you intend to use the pool deck as a patio for entertaining or sunbathing, you'll need to increase this significantly. Be sure to keep in mind the size of your outdoor furniture; it's typically much bigger than indoor furniture!

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

The paver you choose for your pool deck deserves special consideration because you'll be walking on it in your bare feet! Be sure to choose a color that won't absorb too much heat from the summer sun. A smoother surface is pleasing to walk on, but make sure it's sufficiently non-slip. Umbriano® is our most popular choice for pool decks. For the coping around the edge of the pool, avoid products with abrasive edges. A contrasting coping color or inset border is also something to consider, as it helps define the pool edge.



Driveways

Design Considerations

CURB APPEAL

A paver driveway is an investment that adds instant curb appeal and value to your home. When choosing a paver product it's generally a good idea to complement the main color of your home rather than to try to match it. Then, consider borders and accents to draw out specific colors from your home and create continuity. Consider adding vertical features like pillars, planters and decorative walls to further enhance the beauty of your driveway.

THINK GREEN

Permeable pavers allow rainwater to flow between the joints, through special base materials and into the subsoil below. This reduces puddling on the driveway surface when it rains, and reduces ice build-up in winter. It also provides a dual "green" benefit; not only does it reduce the amount of water that flows into storm sewers but it also provides moisture to surrounding plant material.



Entrances

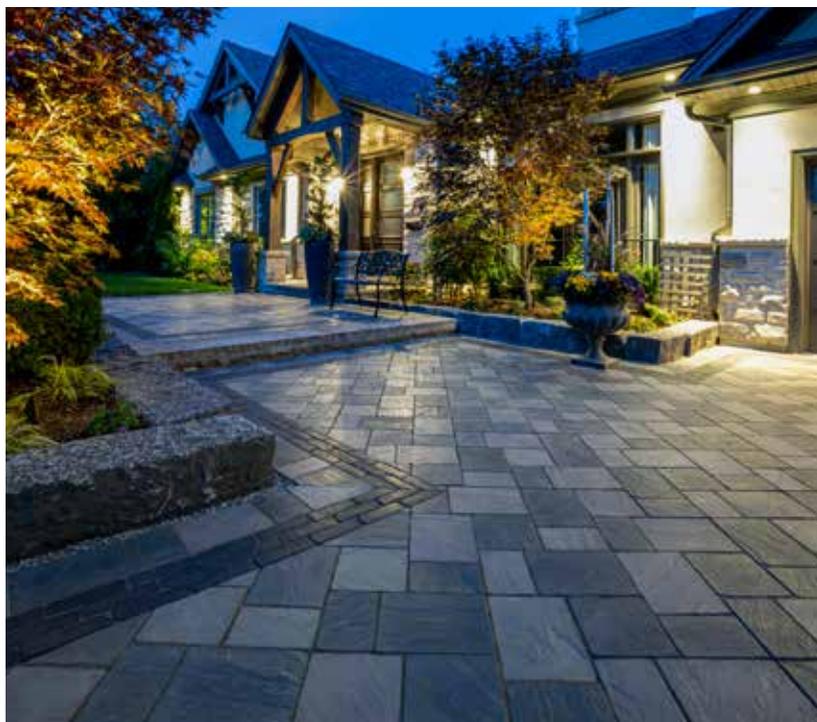
Design Considerations

WELCOME GUESTS

A great looking front entrance gives guests a warm welcome. Attractive steps that are wide enough to navigate easily, low garden walls and planter boxes, and smartly placed lighting all contribute to a cozy feeling that smooths the transition from the street to your home. As a general rule, the minimum width for any walkway is four feet.

A PLACE TO SIT

Even a modest front yard can usually accommodate a small courtyard seating space, where a morning coffee can be enjoyed or parents can observe their children playing with neighborhood friends.



Unilock Quality Products

Unilock makes your landscape dreams come true with the highest quality pavers and walls in the industry. We offer five categories of products that are designed to offer you beauty, longevity and low maintenance. **Whatever Unilock Product you choose, we stand by it 100%.***

Unilock Technologies

Reala™

Utilizing REALA technology, a multitude of natural stone surfaces, brick and historic cobblestones are cast to create a wide variety of authentic textures with consistent dimensions that are more cost efficient to install.

Ultima™

Only Unilock has the technology in North America to manufacture Ultima Concrete resulting in pavers up to four times stronger than poured concrete. With Ultima, the look you purchase is the look that will last.

ColorFusion™

The look of natural granite is achieved when color and granite particles are randomly dispersed using proprietary ColorFusion technology to achieve a unique mottled surface.



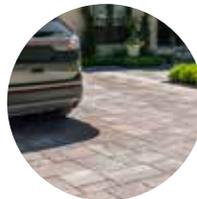
Nothing protects pavers from stains like EasyClean.

- ✓ Pavers are pre-sealed at the factory
- ✓ Enhanced resistance to weathering
- ✓ Reduced dirt absorption
- ✓ Stains from leaves, coffee, ketchup, mustard, wine and BBQ oils are easier to remove



'We were the first concrete paver manufacturer in North America to offer a Lifetime Guarantee, and since then we have continued to stand behind it to ensure customers are completely satisfied with our products.'

With almost 2 billion stones in the ground, that's quite the commitment! To learn more, or register your project, visit Unilock.com.



CLASSIC

- > Budget-friendly shapes and styles
- > Unaffected by frost, resistant to de-icing salts and slip resistant
- > Traditional product mix of large and small aggregates consistent from top to bottom



ENDURACOLOR™

- > Two-step manufacturing process: Coarser base aggregates combined with color and wear-resistant surface aggregates
- > Unaffected by frost, resistant to de-icing salts, slip resistant and chlorine pool water resistant



ELEGANCE™

- > Deep, rich colors unique Reala™ textures
- > Ultima™ Concrete provides up to 4x the strength of poured-in-place concrete
- > Unaffected by frost, resistant to de-icing salts, slip resistant and chlorine pool water resistant



PERMEABLE

- > Installed on an aggregate base with extra wide joints to reduce rainwater flow
- > Extensive collection to choose from, just look for the permeable symbol

Finding the right Contractor

The most important decision of all is choosing the right contractor for the job. We want to help you find a great contractor because even the best designs and materials can be compromised by poor installation and workmanship.

WHY CHOOSE A Unilock Authorized Contractor?

- ✓ They construct all projects in accordance with the Unilock Installation Standards
- ✓ They follow the Unilock Authorized Contractor Code of Ethics
- ✓ They keep their skills up-to-date by participating in continuing education courses
- ✓ **MINIMUM TWO-YEAR** workmanship guarantee backed by Unilock



WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEE

Unilock Authorized Contractors are required to offer a **MINIMUM TWO-YEAR GUARANTEE ON THEIR WORKMANSHIP.*** If an Authorized Contractor fails to deliver on this guarantee, Unilock will step in and back it up. We call it the **PEACE-OF-MIND WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEE** and we offer it on the work of all our Unilock Authorized Contractors.

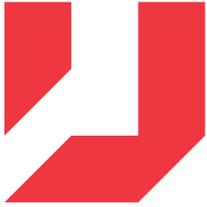
This motivates us to ensure that we have only the very best contractors in the program, and it gives those contractors a selling advantage when they can tell homeowners that **Unilock stands behind their workmanship. Other contractors can't say this!**



**Visit Unilock.com for guarantee details.*

NEED HELP FINDING A CONTRACTOR?

Contact us at **1-800-UNILOCK** or register online at Unilock.com to take advantage of our Unilock Authorized Contractor referral program. We'll match you with a local contractor who is **GUARANTEED TO DO THE JOB RIGHT.**



Contractor Checklist

Be sure to ask the right questions and keep in mind that the cheapest quote is rarely the best option. We created a summarized checklist to print off and have at-the-ready when researching potential contractors for your landscaping project.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- How long have you been in the landscaping business?
- What landscape training do you have?
- How are your employees trained?
- What landscape jobs have you done similar to my project? Have you built outdoor living features such as fireplaces and grill islands?

DESIGN

- Do you offer a design service? Is there a cost for this? Is the design hand-drawn or rendered in 3D?
- Do you have a website where I can see your designs?
-  **TIP:** Ask yourself if the contractor's designs are something you would like for your project?

WORKMANSHIP

- Do you have a portfolio of past project photos that I can see?
- Can I visit projects you've completed more than two years ago? This will allow you to see how their work holds up over time.
- Do you use edge restraints?
- Do you guarantee your work?
-  **TIP:** Pay attention to the details. Beware of awkward cuts and large gaps between pavers that are laid on a curve.

BASE PREPARATION

- What are your base preparation methods? What materials are used and why?
- Is there a standard procedure for base preparation or will you assess my site's unique needs?
- How do you plan to handle drainage?

SUB-CONTRACTING

-  **TIP:** Some contractors will hire other companies to perform parts of the work, like lighting and irrigation. Be sure to ask the contractor about these sub-contractors and how they will be managed.

DOCUMENTATION

- Are any permits required for my job and if so, who is responsible to secure them?
- Do you have the proper licensing for your work?
- Do you have liability insurance and are your employees covered by Workers' Compensation?
-  **TIP:** Make sure they provide a written contract. Get all the details in writing, no matter how big or small the job.

TIMING

- How far in advance are you booking projects?
- Do you have an estimate of how long my project might take?
- Do you require an upfront deposit to secure the timing of the project?
- What are the payment terms?

COMPATIBILITY

- Do you have a list of references I can call?
-  **TIP:** Do you like this contractor? Can you easily communicate and understand each other? Is this someone you can trust?
-  **TIP:** Ask if the person you're meeting will be on-site throughout the project or if someone else in the company will be your day-to-day contact person.