

Tips for an **ECO-FRIENDLY** Outdoor Space

As you get ready to enjoy the summer months, here are some ways to create a comfortable, sustainable outdoor space you can appreciate all season long.



Use organic mulch to reduce weeds and promote healthy soil. It may also save 25%-50% in water usage.¹



Depending on the amount of rain that falls where you live, you may save up to 1,300 gallons of water by using a rain barrel during the peak summer months.²



Replace grass with artificial turf, stones, crushed gravel, ornamental grasses or perennial groundcovers.



Select pollinator-friendly plants and bushes to attract butterflies and bees. Use organic weed prevention methods when possible.



Install a “smart” irrigation system and check parts often. A broken water head could lose up to 25,000 gallons of water in six months.³



Trees offer shade, reduce stormwater runoff and serve as a natural habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Decor Ideas

- 1** Hang small plants onto an old shutter or pallet and lean it against your house or deck.
- 2** Display plants on the steps of an old ladder.
- 3** Install a shelf onto a wall or windowsill to serve as a makeshift bar.
- 4** Consider terra-cotta pots and outdoor floor tiles. The fired clay material is budget-friendly and highly durable.

SOURCES:

1. espoma.com/landscaping/apply-mulch-now-for-benefits-all-season
2. epa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/what-is-rainbarrel.pdf
3. epa.gov/watersense/watersense-current-summer-2020