

This template is part of Your Home Renovator's Guide. For copies of the guide or a Word.doc of this template, visit www.yourhome.gov.au.

Go through this checklist to help you decide what you want from your outdoor areas. Fill in what you can, and discuss the rest with your landscape designer or outdoor contractor if you are using one.

If you live in a warm or mild climate, building a shaded deck can be just as good – and much cheaper – than extending your living room.

For example paving, plants etc.

Think about the best layout to suit all your needs.

Water tanks can go under the house or even be used as a fence. Keep plastic tanks out of direct sun where possible, to prevent algae growth.

Renovator's Guide: Brief for Garden/Outdoor contractor

Contractor's company name: _____

Contact name: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Address of home being renovated: _____

Contact name: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Wish list and priorities

Our main reason for renovating outdoors: *(tick all that apply)*

- Better indoor-outdoor connection
- More useable outdoor living space
- Play areas for kids

Other: _____

Priorities for this renovation: *(tick all that apply)*

- Comfortable, practical outdoor space
- Better shade for the house
- Water savings in the garden
- Low maintenance
- Safe and easy access for all ages and abilities

Other priorities: _____

Design

Items we want to keep or reuse elsewhere:

What goes where – our preferred locations:

Entertaining areas: _____

Kids' play areas: _____

Water tanks: _____

Vegetable patch: _____

Rubbish bins and recycling bins: _____

Compost bin and worm farm: _____

Outdoor clothes drying area: _____

Other: _____

Good landscape design can improve comfort in your home and reduce your water use. Find out the directions of prevailing winds and use landscape for protection or to channel breezes. Pergolas, shade cloth and deciduous plants can shade windows.

Sustainable gardening:
<http://sgaonline.org.au/>

Sustainable landscape:
www.yourhome.gov.au

Make sure any trees you plant won't overshadow roof areas used for solar panels when they grow.

Native plants use less water and attract birds to your garden to help control insect pests.

Garden products:
www.smartwatermark.info

Check with your council on regulations and rebates for using rainwater and greywater.

Rainwater,
Wastewater re-use:
www.yourhome.gov.au

Permeable paving also reduces pressure on the stormwater system.

Outdoor water use,
Stormwater:
www.yourhome.gov.au

Look for timber treated with LOSP (light organic solvent preservative) and use physical termite barriers. Natural products such as pyrethrum can control most pests. Reuse timber from demolition for pergolas etc.

Pools can waste water due to evaporation. A cover will help prevent this. If you're installing a new pool, make sure it's no bigger than you really need. You'll save money and water!

A tidy work site is also a safe work site. You should be able to inspect the work site at any time, in keeping with safe working practice.

Please note: The Renovator's Guide has been prepared as a guide only and is unlikely to contain all the information that renovators may expect or require in order to make informed decisions on their home improvement. The data is to the best of the author's knowledge and is accurate at the date of publication but may vary from time to time with location. Renovators should therefore rely on their own enquiries and obtain appropriate expert advice as part of their decision-making process. The information contain within is provided for information purposes only, this guide should not be relied upon as authoritative advice, where necessary please seek independent legal or expert advice in all matters relating to information contained within this guide.

Our specific landscape design requirements:

- Minimise grass and use species with low water needs
- Use local native ground-covers, shrubs and plants
- Group plants with similar water needs
- Living areas overlook outdoor play areas
- Avoid steps, or design alternative ramp access
- Mosquito-proof the outdoor living area
- Use landscape to
 - Shade windows in summer
 - Shelter from harsh winds
 - Channel cooling breezes indoors

Other: _____

Products

Planting schedule:

Plant type	Location	Number

- We'll use: Moisture-retaining crystals Mulch
 Low toxicity pest control products

Irrigation and plumbing:

- We'll use: Rainwater or greywater to water the garden If installing irrigation, we'll use drip-irrigation with moisture sensors.
 Trigger nozzles on hoses Polyethylene pipes in preference to PVC

Further details: _____

Paving:

- We'll use: Slip-resistant paving Permeable paving allowing water to soak through

Further details: _____

Decks and pergolas:

- We'll use: Recycled, certified sustainably managed or plantation timber Low toxicity timber treatment
 Physical (non-chemical) termite barriers

Further details: _____

Pools:

- We'll install an easy-to-use pool cover. Pool fencing will exceed minimum safety standards.

Further details: _____

Site management

We want our contractor to manage the site professionally at all times:

- Site will be kept tidy
- Site will be accessible for inspection
- Site will be kept secure
- Safe work practices will be used