

Your Yard

How To Create An Outdoor Oasis

(NAPSA)—Wow your friends and families at gatherings, pool parties or barbecues in your backyard by creating your own outdoor oasis. Build.com and Donny Osmond have teamed up to share 10 surprisingly easy and affordable ways to turn your backyard into a great space for both relaxing and entertaining.

•**Stay Cool:** Umbrellas are a great source of shade, whether in a backyard or front yard. They're easy to move to a favorite spot, come in different sizes, and let you create an enjoyable space to spend time in.

•**A Colorful Approach To Plants:** Planting in containers is an easy way to add variety and splashes of color to your outdoor space.

•**Light Up The Night:** Brighten up those dark, hard-to-navigate areas of your deck or patio with solar accent lighting. It's generally affordable, easy to install, and the end result looks terrific. It may also be a bright idea to put lights and lanterns up around exterior doorways.

•**Good Clean Fun:** If you live near a beach, river or lake, don't worry about tracking sand indoors. Simply install an outdoor shower.

•**Beauty Is In The Details:** Small accents, such as hurricane lanterns, lightweight throws and ceramic garden seats, show guests you know how to live the good life...outdoors.

•**Cool It:** If you have a covered porch or deck, a fan or fan-and-light combination can make staying comfortable during warm days easier. Just be sure to get an outdoor one with a DC motor or one that's Energy Star rated. They're 60 percent more efficient than con-



Relaxing in your own backyard can be even better when you improve the area with accessories such as attractive, comfortable chairs.

ventional fanlight units. An online how-to guide at Build.com can make installation a breeze.

•**Water-Saving Fountains:** Build.com's popular fountains all recycle water so you can keep your fountain going even during dry seasons or droughts.

•**Make Sure You Have Enough Seating:** Whether wicker or wood, canvas or chrome, grouping comfortable, easy-to-clean chairs and benches such as those in the Donny Osmond collection around a garden table is key for parties, brunches and barbecue fun.

•**This May Floor You:** An outdoor rug is a terrific way to define a space and give your lounge area a little warmth when the night air cools. Build.com offers a vibrant selection of rugs.

•**Look Online For Inspiration:** To start decorating your outdoor area, check out the entire Donny Osmond Home accessories line at www.build.com.