



One of the best steps you can make prior to improving your landscape is to correct any drainage, soil or water problems that may exist

Make a grand entrance. Curb appeal not only enhances the enjoyment of your property but its value as well. The best way to get the look you want is thru a well planned design.

While beauty is important to landscape design, it should be integrated in such a way that is comfortable, convenient and easy to care for. Functional, well planned landscapes can be interesting without being elaborate.

It is important to have a coherent plan to start with. The more contemplation done at the beginning, the less problematic the experience will be. Making sure you plant the right plants in the right place will insure success and reduce maintenance time. It's best to pick only plants, trees and shrubs that are appropriate for your region and climate.

Develop a Plan

It's a good idea to live with your new property for a while, especially if you plan on staying several years, learning its features and your own special needs. The more you learn and plan, you'll probably discover many ways to enhance your landscape from an investment, aesthetic and practical point of view.

The clearer you are on your long range objectives, such as a deck or pool, the easier it is to focus your shorter range plans and avoid costly demolition later. In short, buying time allows you to understand the full potential of your property. Then, when you're ready, you can incorporate a custom made, professional design that should delight the eye for many years.

Just like decorating a room, you will want to vary the size, texture and color of your plants and shrubs. Plants are living things however, and most of them have specific needs as to sun and shade, acidic or alkaline soil, etc.

You can't just plant them wherever you think they look good. You have to know and understand where they will do well or you're likely looking at a "do-over". It's important to have a landscaper, garden center or nursery give you advice if you're not sure.

When evaluating your landscape, it's a good idea to consider whether some area of your lawn could be replaced with evergreen ground covers or other fillers. Foundation plantings and flower or planting beds can effectively reduce mowing time. Smooth out your mowing lines and cut out awkward spaces to save time as well.

Balance and Proportion

Landscapes should have balance and proportion. Unless it has a formal design, it's best to have more curved lines than straight lines. Curved lines that integrate

with the lawn makes mowing easier. You should incorporate plants that offer color and ornamental interest year round by striking a good balance between deciduous and evergreen varieties.

Planning a landscape that appeals to you is important, but to enhance the value of your property make sure it appeals to others as well. The safest design is a polished, professional quality design that reflects good taste. There should be enough interest and balance among eye-catching details – without having too many focal points.

Landscapes that are well-maintained appreciate in value as they grow. One way to insure a well-tended appearance is to install a low maintenance landscape. Because it's easier to keep attractive it's also more in demand.

