

8 Tips to Hiring the Right Landscape Company to Build Your Outdoor Kitchen

You've dreamed about your perfect outdoor kitchen oasis, and now's the time to bring that dream into fruition. In order to bring that ideal outdoor kitchen into reality, you need to hire the right landscape design firm to work with you every step of the way.



HERE ARE 8 TIPS FOR HIRING THE *RIGHT LANDSCAPE COMPANY* TO BUILD YOUR OUTDOOR KITCHEN

1

Write down your ideas

Think about what you want in your outdoor kitchen. **Look through design and outdoor living magazines, books and websites to get ideas.** Do you want a cover over your outdoor kitchen? Do you need a complete kitchen with plenty of counter space, refrigeration, a pizza oven, BBQ and grill? Do you want your guests to sit around the kitchen area to chat while you prepare the meal? Do you need storage space? Do you want outdoor lights so you can cook and entertain late into the evening?



2

Research online for potential landscape design/build companies in your locale

Since you're not home during the day, you are looking for someone who can draw up your design plan as well as manage the entire project from start to finish. In other words, you're looking for a landscape design/build company that can handle the entire project.

3

Study their websites, Houzz and other online sites

Check out sites like Houzz to get a sense about your top companies' work. Check out their website's photo

galleries or portfolios to see if they've built outdoor kitchens in the past. Do you like their design style? How elaborate are their outdoor kitchens? Can they incorporate an entire kitchen or only a grill and BBQ area?

4

Pick 3 to 4 different companies

Don't settle for the first company that pops up on Google. Ask your friends, neighbors, and colleagues who they recommend to design and build outdoor kitchens. After you've researched potential companies online and checked out your friends and family's recommendations, settle on the top three to four contractors who you think you'd like to work with.



5

Meet with your potential companies

Most reputable companies will want to visit your property to get measurements, to meet you and to evaluate the area where you plan on building your outdoor kitchen. Carve out some evening hours to meet with potential builders.

6

Get three to four bids

Don't settle for the first landscape design/company that you meet. Instead, be prepared to get three to four bids so you can evaluate who'll be the best fit for you, both in budget and project scope. Also, don't settle for the cheapest bid. Ask questions how each bidder got to his price—did the highest bidder go into more detail about possible hidden costs? Does the lowest bidder use cheap products or doesn't have a lot of kitchen design/build experience? Many times, the bid in the middle is the best—just make sure that they included all potential costs. Additional costs range from excavation, to staging (setting

up) equipment, to electrical, gas and plumbing lines. Make sure your bidders explain the entire project to you and what additional costs could creep up as construction moves along.

7

Make sure that the landscape contractor is the right fit for you

How well does your potential contractor mesh with you? Does he or she understand that you're a busy professional and relying on his/her company to completely oversee the project from design, to construction, to subcontractors?

Do they listen to your ideas and desires for the project?

Are they upfront with you if a certain design element won't work on your property?



8

Get everything in writing

A gentleman's handshake doesn't work when it comes to landscape design/build projects. Make sure that you get a copy of the company's certificate of insurance and licensure, as well as **all proposals should be in writing.**

It's important to hire the right landscape design/build firm for your outdoor dream kitchen. Make sure you take the time to interview, check references and gather the information you need to make an informed choice on a landscape contractor.

At Visionscapes, we're experienced in designing and building outdoor kitchens. If you're looking for a reliable landscape design/build firm in the Chesapeake, Virginia Beach or Hampton Roads metro region for your outdoor kitchen project, give us a call at (757) 673-7350 or visit www.visionscapeslanddesign.com.