

mattress and spring measurements include: twin, 38" x 75"; twin extra long, 38" x 80"; full or double, 53" x 75"; full (double) extra long, 53" x 80"; queen, 60" x 80"; king, 76" x 80"; king extra long, 76" x 84". Standard full (double) bed frames can be enlarged with new side rails and width extenders to accommodate long or queen-size mattresses and springs.

If you are shopping on an extremely limited budget, you may wish to complete your bedding by purchasing a sturdy metal bed frame with casters or rollers. At a later date, you can purchase the headboard.

TO SUM UP: Learn to be a discriminating shopper. Become familiar with what is available. Be inquisitive and shop all available sources. Look at model rooms and magazines to determine styles and arrangements you like. The simple, well-made piece of furniture can be a better buy for your money than a more elaborate product, because you are buying better construction features rather than fancy finishes and showy hardware.

Take your time—don't rush when you are shopping for furniture. If you really like a piece, wait a week and then decide. You may live with it longer than you plan!

Furnishings Tips for Your Outdoor Living Areas

IT TAKES sharp planning and the right furnishings to make outdoor living areas functional and enjoyable for the entire family. These areas may include patios, terraces, balconies, gardens, decks, lanais or atriums, and they actually extend or enlarge living space.

Composition and age of family members, interests in outdoor activities, size of space, and geographic location should

be considered when you select furnishings. A functional outdoor living area not only accommodates comfortable living, but also is furnished to meet the needs of everyone who will use it. Furnishings for outdoor living areas generally include tables, chairs, accessories, cooking equipment, lighting, and perhaps carpeting.

Choose furnishings that are made of durable weather-resistant materials. Heat, sunlight, moisture, and soil cause deterioration. Pick furnishings that are of quality construction. People who make maximum use of outdoor living areas can justify the purchase of better quality furnishings.

If furnishings will be moved frequently to storage or used in other areas, they should be lightweight. However, they ought not to be so lightweight that they have to be retrieved after every gust of wind. Furnishings that fold or collapse into compact shapes are most easily stored.

When furnishings are to be used outside during the summer and brought inside for winter use, it is important they be chosen for that dual role. For example, comfortable, well designed occasional chairs offer serviceability in family rooms, or as additional seating when entertaining. Picnic tables and chairs or benches are also suitable for everyday dining and entertaining.

Outdoor furniture can generally be classified as pieces made of metal, wood, fiberglass, plastic or a combination of those materials.

The metals used include aluminum, wrought iron, molded cast iron, and steel.

Aluminum is lightweight and rust-proof. Good quality pieces have an anodized finish to prevent corrosion. Vinyl and various other fabrics and redwood are teamed with aluminum furniture. Look for sturdy locking devices, non-tipping designs, and quality webbing or tubing that is firmly attached and easily replaced. Look also for strong and smooth joints and seams.

Wrought iron furniture is usually quite heavy, making it more suitable for locations where permanence rather

than portability is important. It will rust unless a finish such as enamel is used and kept up.

Molded cast iron furniture is brittle, quite heavy and can be broken or cracked. It will rust if the paint is cracked or chipped. It is much heavier than wrought iron, and it generally is uncomfortable due to raised metal designs.

Steel used in outdoor furniture may resemble aluminum or wrought iron. It is available in styles utilizing sheet and wire mesh and may be combined with wood, vinyl, fabric or other materials. Steel furniture is strong, durable and weather resistant. It is unaffected by chemicals and temperature changes. Baked-on enamel finishes provide good service. Pre-enameling treatments such as bonderizing help resist chipping and rusting. Look for strong welds and smooth edges and seams.

Wood furniture is most often made of cedar, cypress and redwood for use outdoors. The wood may be used alone or combined with metal framing for added comfort, increased strength and lighter weight. Wood furniture should be protected with lacquer, varnish, enamel, or a good coat of paste wax. A brush-on wood preservative and water repellent finish can be applied seasonally to wood furniture that receives no protection.

Rattan, wicker and bamboo, often mistaken for wood furniture, are designed only for sun porches and indoor use. They cannot be finished to withstand outdoor conditions for any great period of time.

Fiberglass is among the newer materials used for outdoor furniture. Generally designed to fit the contour of the body, it is lightweight, strong, durable and impervious to weather extremes. Color is added while the

material is in a liquid form, eliminating the problems of sun fading, chipping and peeling.

Molded furniture made of plastic, including urethane, is becoming more popular. Polyester and acrylic tops are often combined with plastic bases. Plastic furniture requires minimal maintenance but offers durability. Look for impact resistance, structural strength and smooth surfaces and edges.

For increased comfort, chair and lounge pads are available with covers in various colors, textures and decorative patterns. Unfortunately, mold, mildew and deterioration are major problems.

Pads made of woven or knitted synthetic fibers and filled with weather resistant padding can withstand moisture to a certain extent. However, even these should be protected as much as possible or arranged for maximum water drainage and air circulation when not in use.

Pads made of natural fiber upholstery fabric and filling should not be left outdoors unprotected against rain since they have low resistance to the elements.

Glass, a common material for table tops, should be high quality, impact resistant, and sized to fit securely within the frame or mounting devices.

Additional furnishings such as decorative and functional accessories, cooking equipment, lighting and plants complement an outdoor living area. They add the finishing touch and often set the mood of the living area.

Accessories are divided into two general classifications:

- **Decorative**—For example, wind chimes, driftwood, sculpture, urns, garden pools, fountains and waterfalls, lighting, etc.
- **Utilitarian**—For example, cooking equipment, ashtrays, pillows and pads for lounging, mobile carts, lighting, etc. They should be chosen for their beauty as well as their use.

Coordinate the color, pattern and style of the outdoor accessories—from ashtrays to art objects. Considering

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what is needed, where and how it will be used, and establishing a theme will help you choose appropriate outdoor accessories.

Besides furnishing an area for physical and visual pleasure, you need to consider sound effects. Moving, splashing water creates a very pleasing sound and lends interest. Pools, fountains and waterfalls that will fit into the area can be purchased or constructed. Materials selected should relate to other furnishings and the existing space.

Few outdoor areas are considered complete without cooking equipment. Place a portable unit so it does not interfere with the landscape, or store it when not in use. During use locate it to avoid wind and sun, and so the smoke won't run you off.

Installed units may range from simple ones which blend with garden and house, to elaborate free standing structures which serve as the focal point for activities and design of the area. Whether large or small, a well-planned unit can add a touch of luxury. Take care to avoid selecting one that will overwhelm the area. Unless located in precisely the right spot, the installed unit may go unused and prove an expensive eyesore.

Good lighting is both functional and esthetic. It invites you out of doors at night and enhances the view from the house.

Consider your need for the following when planning lighting:

- Functional light for areas requiring light for specific purposes such as badminton, pathways, or eating areas
- Decorative light for special effects such as highlighting a piece of garden sculpture, a prize plant, or sand casting on a concrete wall

Spotlights or floodlights will do the job where more illumination is needed. Fixtures are best situated when not visible. Conceal lights, at or near ground level, behind plants or masonry, on top of the house or under its eaves.

Potted plants, hanging baskets and boxes, or border plantings visually soften outdoor areas. They add color,

texture, pattern, fragrance, and sometimes shade. In addition, plants can serve as protection from sun and wind as well as provide privacy. Consider placing plants on steps, in a corner, around porch posts or tree trunks, or against a house.

Choose containers of a suitable size, shape, and material for your plants. Consider also the overall decorative effect of plant containers. For example, natural clay pots offer a pleasing visual effect and relate well to natural surroundings.

A current trend is to furnish outdoor living areas in carpet that is tough, weatherproof, fade resistant, colorful, patterned and textured.

Outdoor carpet must withstand heat, sunlight, moisture, abrasion, insects, soil, and mildew. A good choice is carpeting made from 100 percent synthetic fiber, such as solution-dyed polypropylene olefin, acrylic and nylon fibers.

Construction is as important as fiber content. Several methods may be employed. Needle-punched carpet is made by staple fibers being laid on a backing. The fibers are then forced into the backing with needles. This process results in a felt-like sheet having the appearance of a mat. To secure the fibers, needle-punched carpet may be either heat bonded or have weather-resistant latex or similar material applied to the back.

Tufting is another type of construction used to make outdoor carpeting. In this method yarns are alternately looped above and below the backing and anchored in place with a latex coating. The loops may be cut to create a variety of surfaces. Tufted outdoor carpets look more like traditional pile carpeting than those that are needle-punched.

Non-weather resistant foam or sponge backing which will deteriorate from heat and moisture and are fragile when used on rough surfaces are not acceptable for outdoor use. Outdoor carpet should not have a foam type backing since it would eliminate the possibility of drainage.

Remember, consider the following when selecting outdoor furnishings:

- _____ Comfort
- _____ Convenience
- _____ Durability
- _____ Portability
- _____ Storability
- _____ Quality construction
- _____ Design
- _____ Care requirements

Buy furnishings made by reputable manufacturers and sold by reputable dealers. Read hang tags and labels on the furnishings and ask questions about guarantees.

Because of increased standardization, the home has become a refuge. In the home family members can express themselves as individuals. However, the current economic situation has caused consumers to accept less interior space. This has increased the importance of utilizing surrounding exterior space. Increased leisure time has also increased the use of outdoor living spaces. Therefore, a functional, well furnished outdoor living area will complement today's living.

The A, B, C's of Cleaning Materials

CLEANING a modern home is simple with efficient materials and techniques. What is needed is greater knowledge about the composition, finish of the surface to be cleaned, soil, and supplies and equipment that operate most effectively.

Selecting effective cleaning materials for the home can be difficult. Advertising claims of superior cleaning ability, ease, and carefree use of products and equipment for a sparkling clean house often are confusing. How does the consumer know the product best suited for the job from the myriad offerings in the marketplace?

Many cleaning products on the market today are basic ingredients that are premixed, perfumed and packaged in attractive boxes, cans, bottles or jars.

Common basic ingredients are water, alkalies, soaps or detergents, acids, abrasives, bleaches, sanitizers and solvents. Understanding the performance of these ingredients can aid in your selection.

Water is one of the most effective cleaning aids known to man. Soft water, warm or hot with mild soap or detergent, cleans porcelain, painted woodwork and other washable surfaces well. Hard water does not work well with soap because the hardness minerals form curds. Using a water softener can break down these minerals.

Mild detergent is especially effective in cleaning where grease and cooking fumes have collected on walls, woodwork and floors. It can also be used to make an inexpensive shampoo for rugs or upholstery. Whip $\frac{1}{4}$ cup mild detergent with 1 pint warm water until it makes a stiff foam.

Heavy duty detergent is very alkaline. It is not suitable for cleaning linoleum or painted surfaces, but it is excellent for cleaning the toilet bowl and soaking burner parts of the gas range, and for broiler pans and other greasy or oily surfaces.

Most liquid all-purpose cleaners have soap and/or detergent with water as the main ingredient. Some have ammonia, pine oil, lysol or other cleaning agents. If you study the label carefully, you will find many of the same ingredients as those listed on detergent labels.

Liquid cleaners often come in spray or aerosol containers. In aerosol cans, the product is mixed with a propellant making it foam and bubble.

Most all-purpose cleaners are alkaline and cut grease and dirt easily. They are safe for cleaning porcelain, painted surfaces, ceramic tile and some resilient floors.

Some liquid cleaners may have an acid ingredient to cut hard water spots, soap buildup and rust.

Granular or powdered all-purpose cleaners may list ingredients, such as