7 Landscape Design Mistakes Every Homeowner Should Avoid

These 7 landscape design mistakes are your project’s worst enemy.

But the good news is you can easily avoid them! The yard of your dreams doesn’t have to be a dream. Avoiding these 7 landscape design mistakes will save you time, money, and help your landscape project become reality quicker, and within your budget.

Mistake # 1 – Not knowing the regulations that pertain to your neighborhood

Where are your property lines? How close to your property lines are you allowed to landscape?

Not knowing the answers to those questions, and others relevant to your property can cause disastrous results like your contractor completing part of your project then having to re-do it because of an unintentional violation.

If you have a Homeowner’s Association, knowing the rules and regulations that govern your property can save you time... and a lot of money that can go towards your landscaping project instead of fixing mistakes.

Mistake # 2 – Not considering the view from indoors

Other people will occasionally see the results of your landscape project. Hopefully, they will be impressed. You and your family will see it every single day... from inside your home!

The conventional wisdom is that the view from inside the home is an afterthought. Believe it or not, some people get so absorbed in their landscape project that they forget to think about the view from indoors at all.

Your view of your dream project from in your home is something you should have a very clear picture of before you begin. It’s a critical element because it’s permanent, and again, you and your family will be seeing it every day. For some families, this alone makes it worth a consultation from a professional landscape designer.

You want a tranquil view that enhances the comfort level of you and your family. When you look out your window it should be as if you were looking at a wonderful painting in a frame.

Mistake # 3 – Not thinking comprehensively when it comes to your plants
• Pick the right plants

There are many plants that look wonderful... in a catalog. **This does not always translate to your yard.**

Different plants require different nutrients. Lack of variety can cause nutrients to be deficient because of higher demand for them.

You also want to select an array of plants, shapes, and sizes, which not only enhance the visual appeal but also attract the right types of insects.

**Don’t get this one wrong** because you may end up with plants that don’t live a full life. You could find yourself needing to water too frequently or having to get winter covers. You don’t want a maintenance nightmare on your hands because you selected the wrong plants.

• Plant your plants and/or trees in the right place

The placement or configuration of your plants is another issue that gets overlooked often. Planting in the wrong place produces a less than ideal, sometimes horrible result.

You need to consider how big trees will get and the space required for them. You also need to consider proper sunlight and exposure for your plants. You need to consider what effect trees and plants will have regarding erosion in your yard if any.

AND... you need to consider all of this while accounting for the view from inside your home (see mistake #2 above).

• Plant your trees to the correct depth

More soil around a tree does not a better tree make, contrary to popular belief. In fact, planting your trees too deep is one of the best ways to kill them. It’s hard to imagine your trees choking to death, but that’s actually what happens because of the root system not getting any access to air.

Root rot is another risk when planting your trees too deeply.

• Select the right (not too many) colors

Distraction is the enemy of harmony. If you put too many colors in too many different locations without regard to flow, you have created a distraction rather than a tranquil view.

When plotting out the colors you are going to use, your ideal palette, and the individual colors within. Consider the color of your house, and select one color to frame the entire vision. You should end up with a vision that approaches monochromatic, but maintains vibrancy.

• Make sure you take your area’s wildlife (critters) into consideration
Some landscape projects end up as more of an “all you can eat” restaurant for the wildlife in your area, and the pests associated with the plants you select. The only difference is that **they don’t pay the bill** after they eat... **you do!**

Deer, rabbits, etc. can be less of a problem if you mix in some plants and flowers that taste bitter to them. Installing an electric fence that borders any landscaping that you would like to protect is an option as well.

Insects can have less of a negative impact if you spray plants with repellent. Remember to spray again after a hard rain.

**Mistake # 4 – Not incorporating hardscape**

Hardscape can really cap off your vision, and tie everything together.

**Some landscaping features are not possible** to implement due to soil erosion without hardscape. High traffic areas that would normally take a big toll on bare earth or grass become fortified both in structure and visual appeal with hardscape.

Your patio area, garden and flower bed edges, and water features enhanced with hardscape can give you that “finer touch” perception in your neighborhood. Walkways and your driveway can really “blow them away” when you hardscape them with **natural stone pavers** or **travertine pavers**.

**Mistake # 5 – Not visualizing the look of your outdoor lighting**

Outdoor lighting is yet again one of those elements that so many people overlook before starting their project. If you are going to spend so much time and money on your dream project, you **don’t want it to become invisible when the sun sets**.

A simple lighting configuration will make your dream landscape and/or hardscape project a spectacular vision... 24 hours a day.

**Mistake # 6 – Not estimating the investment (your budget) correctly**

Possibly **the worst thing that can happen** with your landscaping project is reaching the end of your budget well before your contractor reaches the completion of the job.

**Mistake # 7 – Not using a professional Landscape Designer**

You can **save yourself a lot of time, and a lot of heartache** by getting help from a professional landscape designer. Even one of the previous mistakes by itself can derail or completely alter your project. Why not **avoid all of these mistakes if you can**, by using a professional landscape design expert. **At least get an onsite consultation.**

A Professional Landscape Designer can:

- Help you **see your completed project before you begin** which will give you ideas you
didn’t have.

- Help you with the layout so that your contractor does not have to start over because of a mistake.
- Help you with your budget so it aligns with the actual investment you’ll make in your dream project.
- Help you have **peace of mind during your project** that unforeseen pitfalls will be minimal.
- Help you communicate to your contractor in “contractor language” exactly what your vision is.

*Professional landscape design can add as much as 15 percent to the value of your home* compared to other properties in your neighborhood.

To wrap up, **1 or more of the mistakes discussed in this article have historically been responsible for turning dream landscape projects into nightmares.** Now you know what they are, and can address them before you start your project…and before you reach for your checkbook!

**How to use a Professional Landscape Designer Without Increasing Your Project Budget**

You can use a Professional Landscape Designer and not have to increase your budget AND help your contractor finish your project on time, without disastrous mistakes!

Call now 925-239-5645