

Outdoor Relaxation Guide

How to Prepare Your Outdoors for Warmer Weather



**MOSQUITO
SQUAD**



**Mister
Sparky**
America's On-Time Electrician



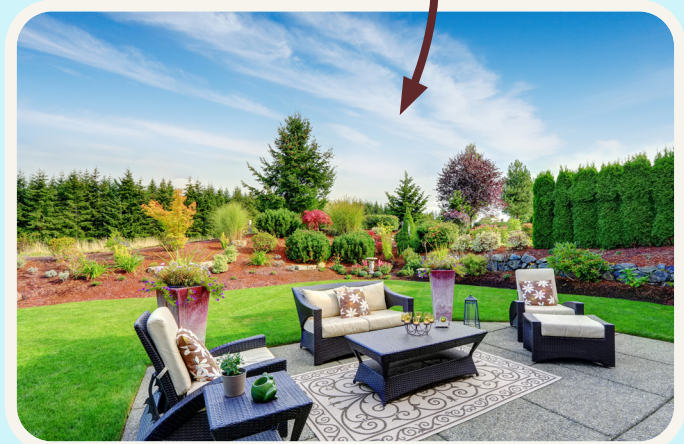
MONSTER
Tree Service

Introduction

After the long winter, the warmer months offer a welcome reprieve from being cooped up indoors. The spring and summer seasons are the perfect time to spend more time outdoors. But there are some things you should remember when preparing your backyard, porch, or deck to be a haven for relaxation.

We're here to help!

Find out what our home service experts at Authority Brands – **Monster Tree, Mister Sparky, and Mosquito Squad** – have to say about making the most of your yard.



This guide will walk you through some helpful tips on how to make your backyard the ideal spot for serenity. Find out the best ways to trim your trees and prevent mosquitoes and ticks. Plus, you'll learn what ceiling fans and lighting are the best for outdoor use!

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Dinner with the Family!



Summer Barbecue



Best Way to Relax

Preparing Your Yard for Less Pests, More Fun

If you're hosting an outdoor event, you want to send your guests home with fond memories, not bug bites. When planning an outdoor celebration, be sure to follow Mosquito Squad's 7 Ts and 6 Cs to avoid having mosquitoes and ticks crash the party.

The 7 Ts of Mosquito Control

Tip Over!



Tip items holding standing water in your outdoor spaces. Standing water may be in your child's plastic toys, areas underneath downspouts, plant saucers, or dog bowls. Other areas may include traps, gutters, and flat roofs.

Throw away!



Toss excess grass, leaves, firewood, and grass-clippings from your yard.



Turn over larger yard items that could hold water, like children's portable sandboxes, plastic toys, or birdbaths.

Clean out!



Tighten tarps stretched over firewood piles, boats, or sports equipment. If they aren't taut, they may be holding water that you should remove.



Take care of home maintenance needs that can lead to standing water. This includes cleaning out gutters, making sure downspouts are adequately attached, keeping your grass cut low, and checking irrigation systems for leaks.



Team up with your neighbors. Homes with little space between lots can mean that mosquitoes breed at a neighbor's house and affect your property.



Treat your yard with a mosquito elimination barrier treatment.



of Tick Control



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Clear out spaces where lawn and tree debris have gathered. Ticks thrive in moist, shady areas and tend to die in sunny, dry areas. Don't position playground equipment, decks, or patios near treed areas.



Clean up leaf litter around the house and lawn edges. We also recommend mowing tall grass to keep your lawn short.



Choose plants wisely. Since deer can bring ticks to your yard, select plants and shrubs that don't attract deer. Check with your local nursery to determine the best choices for your area.



Check for ticks in popular hiding places like fences, brick walls, and patio retaining walls.



Care for family pets, who can suffer from tick-borne disease and can also carry infected ticks into your home. Talk to your veterinarian about using tick collars and sprays.



And, most importantly: Call the Pros!



Professional mosquito and tick control offers a higher level of protection from unwanted visitors. Mosquito Squad's signature Protective Barrier Treatment can eliminate 85-90% of the mosquito populations on your property.

Let us help you make the most of your yard all summer long.

Contact your local Mosquito Squad today!
MosquitoSquad.com | 844-334-4671

A Little Tree TLC Goes a Long Way

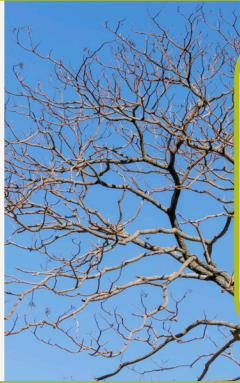
With warmer days ahead, we're excited to create memories with loved ones outdoors. However, before you hit the great outdoors, you'll have to tackle that dreaded annual spring-cleaning to-do list. Trees play a vital role in our outdoor experiences and offer countless benefits to us. They provide shade, shelter, beauty, clean air to the environment, and they can even increase the value of your property!

While it's essential to care for your trees year-round, spring is one of the most important times to give your trees some extra TLC. Follow our expert tips to keep your yard healthy this spring below!

- **Spring cleaning.** Pick up leaves, twigs, and branches that have fallen around your trees during winter to help prevent the spread of diseases. Like us, trees perform best when they start the spring season with a clean slate!



- **Inspect branches.** Note broken or rubbing branches, branches without leaves, or missing bark. Broken branches may require some pruning to heal correctly, especially if the break is uneven or has a torn look. Rubbing branches can create wounds on the bark that are harmful to the tree. Branches without leaves or missing bark are always an indicator of compromised tree health.



- **Inspect trunks.** Look for oozing, missing bark, exposed roots, decaying, and cracks. All previously listed items are cause for further inspection and most likely were caused by a stressor.



- **Leaf watch.** Yellowing leaves outside of the fall season are often indicators of excess moisture, poor drainage, or other stressors that may affect tree stability and overall health. This can usually be identified when the leaves begin to yellow, but the leaves' veins remain green.



Whenever a project seems a bit daunting to take on alone, and you need an extra set of hands from a professional arborist, Monster Tree Service is here to help. That's why we offer professional, comprehensive tree services executed by teams of extensively trained arborists committed to providing the highest quality services at affordable prices. Contact Monster Tree Service today for your free estimate from one of our professional arborists!



MonsterTreeService.com

Beat the Heat with Outdoor Ceiling Fans

After hibernating during the winter months, nothing is much better than basking in the sun on a beautiful summer day...unless it's 95 degrees and humid!

Outdoor ceiling fans allow you to enjoy the best of both worlds: the great outdoors at a cool, comfortable temperature.

Installing an outdoor fan may seem like a simple job, but doing it yourself could lead to unforeseen hazards if done improperly.

Keep In Mind:

- ⚡ Wiring a fan for outdoor use presents its own set of challenges, like installing it at the wrong height or incorrectly wiring the motor of the pull chain.
- ⚡ Make sure you select a ceiling fan that is rated for outdoor use. Indoor ceiling fans shouldn't be installed outdoors. (On the other hand, outdoor fans can be installed for indoor use.)
- ⚡ Indoor fans are not rated for outdoor exposure, which could cause harm to individuals or the electrical system.

Wet-Rated ceiling fans are approved to hold up in rain, wind, and snow with wiring designed not to short out in wet weather.

Damp-Rated ceiling fans are approved for humidity but not direct contact with snow or rain. These fans are best used in covered outdoor spaces, like enclosed patios or garages.

Fans appropriate for outdoor use are specifically designed to withstand moisture. Most fans feature plastic blades designed to respond to the temperature and are less likely to get damaged or warped in inclement weather.

Because an outdoor ceiling fan's wiring is, to some extent, exposed to the elements, it's extremely important to note the ratings and follow the proper precautions during installation. A shortage might cause an electrical fire, which could account for unforeseen damage to your home or injury to your family.

So – get it done right and get it done safely! Contact Mister Sparky for your estimate today!

MisterSparky.com
888-8-Sparky



BONUS!

Light Up Your Yard with LED Lights

Even as we get more hours of daylight, it's hard to want to go back inside when the weather is warm. With the proper outdoor lighting, you won't have to. Outdoor lighting can enhance any property at night, create ambiance, and provide peace of mind knowing your home is well-lit and secure.

Installing new LED landscape lighting or converting your system to LED lighting are ideal options for illuminating your backyard.

LED lights are:



LED lights are non-toxic and the manufacture of LED bulbs cause less damage to the environment.



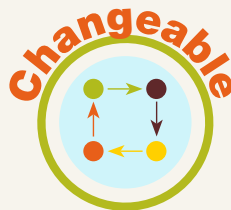
It also takes fewer lights to produce the glow to fit your outdoor needs. This means you get more bang for your buck!



You can work LED lights by remote control or even connect them to smart home technology.



LED lights use **75% less energy** than incandescent bulbs, so you can stay outside longer without worrying about your utility bill.



LED string lights and spotlights are popular options and are available in a myriad of colors. You can create the ambiance you want, whatever the holiday.



Contact our experts at Mister Sparky to install your LED lights today. We'll make sure your summer prospects are bright!

MisterSparky.com
888-8-Sparky



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