



15 Great Outdoor Decorating Ideas



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- 1. IF YOU WANT THE NATURAL SURROUNDINGS** to be the focal point, whether it is the sea or a beautiful garden, decorate your outdoor room in shades of bone, gray, white, and pale chalk for the fabrics. Use light-colored oak or ash with a sand blasted finish for the furniture. Texture is as important as color. When everything is of the same hue textural contrasts help keep the composition from looking jumbled.
- 2. IF YOU WANT (OR NEED) COLOR** in your outdoor room, just pick a single color, but use several shades of the same tone. Don't try to match the colors in your flower garden, nothing manmade can compete with Mother Nature.
- 3. FLOORING FOR AN OUTDOOR ROOM** is very important. Whenever possible, use something natural like slate, coral, stone, wood, or even sand. Make sure it is installed as level as possible so the furniture doesn't wobble.
- 4. IF YOU ARE NOT INTO MAINTENANCE**, don't use iron, wicker, rattan, or even teak—unless you like the weathered look. There are many cast aluminum, synthetic wicker and stainless steel options that require little or no maintenance. Yes, high quality stainless steel can be used outdoors successfully in contemporary design.
- 5. IF YOU ENTERTAIN AT NIGHT**, lighting is the single most important element. Candles, candles, candles—in every shape and size. Put them in assorted hurricane globes and shades for added interest.