



A Homeowner's Guide to Create a
Private Outdoor Space

Southern California is best spent outside. What better place to enjoy the sunshine and blue skies than your own peaceful private outdoor space?

In this guide for homeowners, we share innovative ideas to create your own personal haven, right in your back yard.



Control your level of privacy with a FLEX-fence

FLEX-fence is an easy-to-install, modular fencing system that can be adjusted to match the amount of shade and privacy you desire. Its patented design is great for enclosing decks, pergolas, outdoor showers, jacuzzies or any other part of your garden that you would like to keep hidden from prying eyes. Because of its unique louvre system, you are able to modify your desired level of privacy (or sunlight or air flow) to conform to all occasions.

One of the best features of FLEX-fence is that you can buy it as a self-contained kit straight from the lumber yard. A straightforward rail-and-bracket assembly structure doesn't require complicated measurements or custom installation. You simply install the brackets, slide in the rails and screw them together. Made from recycled PVC, FLEX-fence materials are U.V. stabilized, so they stay strong over time, even under harsh treatment from the sun, rain and salt air.



Add artistry with creative Decorative Screen Panels

One of the most popular trends in today's outdoor design is adding visual interest with laser-cut modular decorative screen panels from Outdeco or Moxinex. Screen panels are lightweight, come in a variety of sizes (2'X4', 4'X6', and 3'X6'), and are made from sustainable Australian hardwood.

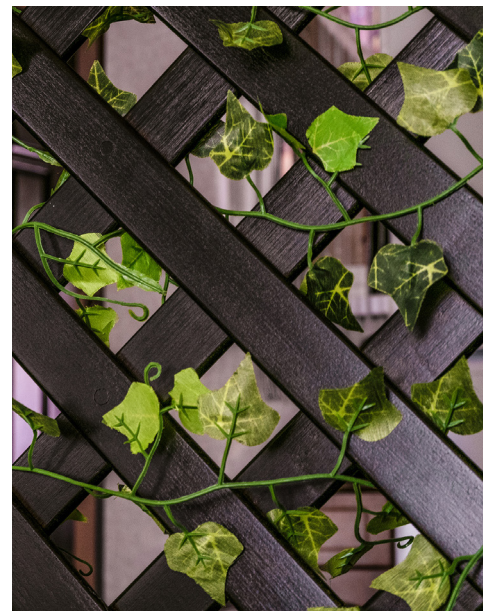
Each design features a different level of transparency, so you can select how much or how little of your outdoor space you would like to be visible. Patterns are categorized by the level of privacy they provide, so feel free to compare models before you commit. With multiple design styles to match any aesthetic, panels can be stained, sealed or painted to create a secluded – and stylish – outdoor space.



Take a second look at lattice

There's a reason traditional redwood crisscross lattice has been around forever. It's the perfect sturdy, light solution to enclose part of your yard or elevate the height of your fence, while still allowing sun and breeze. Redwood lattice looks great on its own or can be the support system for additional privacy-providing plants like climbing vines, hanging succulents or small ferns.

There's also a new head-turning lattice that is taking the lumber yard by storm. Cedar is a sturdy, outdoor-rated wood option for lattice and it's available in creative designs that look less granny-like than traditional lattice. Catalina Estate lattice from Woodway features an interesting plaid cross-hatching that fits into a range of styles. Its versatile design is equally at home in modern, Mission-style, Asian or contemporary gardens. Catalina Estate lattice looks great on its own or in alternating panels with open cedar railing. As with traditional lattice, Catalina Estate lattice can support climbing vine growth, or you may choose to highlight it as a decorative wood feature on its own.



Update your space using a horizontal fencing

Our customers love horizontal fences. Not only do they look modern and sleek, but you can customize your horizontal fence set-up to provide as much or as little privacy as you like. From wide open prairie rail fences to fully enclosed alternating stacks, a horizontal fence leaves lots of room for customization for whatever design or privacy purpose suits your taste and outdoor space. The type of lumber you use has a huge impact on the look and feel of your fence. Rough lumber creates a rustic charm while surfaced wood delivers a crisp aesthetic.

The width of your planks and their placement will determine the amount of privacy you can achieve. Because the design of your horizontal fence is “open ended” (so to speak), you might want to consult the specialists down at the lumber yard for ideas about plank width and spacing patterns. They’ve seen lots of creative horizontal fencing applications and can share plenty of tips and advice.



Add a covering for privacy and shade

Whether you are looking to shade your outdoor space from the elements or from nosy neighbors, patio and yard coverings are a great way to improve privacy. You can always go the more permanent road using wood or metal coverings, or you can invest in cloth or canopy coverings to add privacy.

Shade Cloth

If you have an existing open-lattice design, shade cloth is a great solution for semi-private spaces. Shade cloth is a sturdy outdoor-rated soft mesh cloth that provides instant shade while still permitting a breeze. Laying shade cloth on top of your lattice is a relatively inexpensive, easy-to-implement update that can make a huge difference to control heat and provide an additional layer of seclusion. Available in various colors like beige, green and black, you can choose the look that fits your space best and sets the environmental tone you are looking to achieve.



Infinity Canopy

A trendy new option for patio coverings is the Infinity canopy, which is installed between widely spaced lattice boards. This unique, billowy design lets you adjust the level of privacy, shade, and air flow by adjusting the coverage of the canopies themselves. Infinity canopies are installed on a simple stainless-steel rail system that allows you to manually slide the canopy open or closed, depending on your desired level of exposure. You can also install additional canopy vertically to create visual barriers.

Just because your yard is outside, doesn't mean that it has to be on display. With a little creativity, some elbow grease and a few helpful tips from the team at your local lumber yard, you can transform your outdoor space into your own awesome private paradise.





Want to add more privacy to your yard or make it feel more secluded? Head down to your local J&W Lumber and we'll help you get started.

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