

# Take it outside!



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CONFIDENTIAL**

**A**s we enjoy a wonderful summer with sun and heat it's clear everyone wants to spend as much time outside as possible.

Obviously it's key for Canadians to lap up this time of year before those bleak winter days return all too soon. So let's focus on the great outdoors.

Currently outdoor living is one of the fastest growing categories in home design and improvement. It's easy to understand why — an outdoor living area extends your home's actual living space, thereby increasing property values.

Here are some cool options for hot summer furniture and accessories to enhance your patio, terrace or yard for the rest of the summer season!

## Wicker Look

For comfort and durability look for the resin wicker that is weather resistant and can be left out year round. There are variations on the types of weaves available today and as technology in the category improves, we'll see that reflected in the newer selections. You can get sets to suit your style and budget from modern and sleek, to cosy and casual.

Available in dark brown, light

gray and sandy tones, sets are offered in multiple configurations such as sectionals, chairs, ottomans, love seats, sofas etc. Choices of pillow fabrics are endless and provide the opportunity to mix and match your own colour combo to express your taste.

## Teak and metal furniture

In Canada, wood furniture has limited performance for the long term with our constant change in temperatures and the range of harsh weather. It certainly takes its toll. If you are willing to take wood furniture in for the winter season and give it some TLC, keeping it clean and (if it's teak) well-oiled it will last and wear much better.

Aluminum performs fairly well in our climate as do metal pieces. There are great modern and traditional pieces available in the category so any look is possible for dining or seating sets.

## Resin wood

A new category is "faux wood" tables that have the look of a traditional harvest table or one with a turned

pedestal base often seen in grand kitchens and dining rooms. This looks like a weathered wood but it is actually fiberglass resin and very good for outdoor wear. This new category really pushes the boundaries of design as outdoor spaces can now look like indoor rooms.

## A word about fabric

Technology has continued to improve and there are water resistant fabrics from popular brands like Sunbrella. However the interior of pillows may not be waterproof so they will need to be brought indoors during inclement weather. There are new, truly waterproof interior wraps and fill slowly coming on the market but they're less widely available than the current fabrics.

And although a fabric may be waterproof it still will require cleaning if it gets dirty so you may want to invest in vinyl covers for furniture for daily use to cover sets when they aren't in use. These covers are much like large, shower caps that wrap over



Protective Furniture Covers

Windergarten furniture protectors.

top and completely cover the pieces.

## Balconies

Small sets now exist for balconies so at the very least you can have a range of options for bistro tables. For really tight balconies, a table with large hooks that hang over the railing to create the look of a "wall mounted" table is available. Select materials that can withstand Canadian winters so they can be left out year round and maintain their look for years to come.

## Accessories

If you don't need or want to purchase new furniture splurge on accessories as this will change the entire feel of a lounge or dining area. Select new toss pillows, table and yard lanterns, outdoor rugs and place mats. Even great patio lights in multiple styles and colours are available at many major retailers; adding a wonderful glow on summer evenings. Today there is a ton of items that work well outside and look wonderful!

For a few retailers that carry a range of items check out Hauserstores.com, Winder-

garden.com, Unionlightandfurnishings.com and insideoutpatio.ca.

Enjoy the summer in your lush outdoor space and take in the sunshine while we have it!



Hauser outdoor cushions.



Hauser Stores cast aluminum.



Outdoor French country.



Insideoutpatio.ca wicker dining.

Hauser glider club chair

