

The Hard Stuff

Arbor	\$100-\$400; \$200 is typical for the classic red cedar arch. Paint or stain adds to the cost.	Tubular steel coated with black nylon weathers well and may be cheaper than wood; plastic and vinyl are low-maintenance options; building a wood arbor from a kit can save money.
Containers	\$20 for a half whiskey barrel. \$20-\$30 for 20- to 24-inch-diameter terra-cotta. \$50-\$90 for decorative terra-cotta. \$20-\$25 for plastic with a terra-cotta look. \$20 for aluminum or glazed clay.	Plastic and plain terra-cotta are fine if you don't need anything fancy; home improvement centers have good prices. The latest faux-stone pots are realistic-looking and lighter than the real thing.
Deck with Railings (includes hardware)	\$5-\$8 per square foot for pressure-treated pine. Redwood far higher in the East than the West. \$12-\$14 per square foot for a low-maintenance wood-fiber composite, such as Trex or Fiberon.	For wood-fiber composites, a deck alone is about \$6.50 per square foot; railing greatly adds to the cost; consider separate materials for deck and railing to save money.
Fence	\$27-\$33 per 6x8-foot panel for privacy fence and posts; \$2.50-\$3 per posthole for concrete. \$17-\$38 per 42x96-inch picket fence section.	Prices vary with wood type and thickness; chain link isn't pretty, but it's sturdy and economical; vinyl is a pricey but low-maintenance option.
Gazebo	\$1,000-\$3,000 for 6- to 8-foot diameter. \$2,500-\$5,000 for 10- to 12-foot diameter. \$4,500-\$7,500 for 14- 16-foot diameter.	Wood grade, roof style, and trim details affect price. Kits include preassembled sections and hardware. Buy a plan and cut your own lumber to save money.
Lighting System	\$225-\$375 for transformer. \$145-\$160 per high-quality fixture. \$40-\$130 per fixture for less durable quality. \$25 per 100 feet of cable.	For small spaces, low-voltage do-it-yourself kits are inexpensive and easy to install; for bigger jobs, professional design and installation are worth the cost.
Patio	\$3-\$5 per square foot for a plain concrete slab; \$13-\$16 per square foot for decorative stone aggregate (these prices include installation). \$1 per square foot for brick. \$1-\$3 per square foot for pavers. \$3-\$6 per square foot for cut stone.	Unless you're experienced, pay a professional to pour concrete. With bricks, stone, and pavers, rarity and geography affect price; because delivery costs may exceed the price of the material, you can save money by loading up your own vehicle.
Pond	\$1-\$1.50 per gallon capacity for rigid shell. \$1 per square foot for flexible liner. \$11-\$160 for pump, depending on capacity. \$100-\$300 for filter, depending on capacity.	Molded plastic is less likely to leak; flexible liner can be shaped. Pump size increases with pond size; use a filter for ponds of more than 100 gallons.
Retaining Wall (4x8-foot section)	\$65-\$90 for railroad ties, depending on grade. \$50-\$55 for landscape timbers. \$40-\$50 for flagstones.	Timbers are easier to work with than stone, but stone lasts longer. Uniform precast stone blocks blend authentic rough-look texture with installation ease.
Sand	\$20 per cubic yard of masonry sand. \$30 per cubic yard for play-grade sand.	Use play sand, finer textured than masonry sand, as a base for brick or stone patios and walkways.
Stone	\$75 per cubic yard for river rock. \$20 per cubic yard for crushed granite. \$15 per cubic yard for gravel.	Many regions have their own kinds of stone that are less expensive than an "import."