



Canada's **Building** Centre

Project Of The Month

OUTDOOR PROJECTS



PROJECT OF THE MONTH: OUTDOOR PROJECTS



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Spring clean-up

After a long winter and as the weather warms up into spring, Canadians start venturing outside. With this change of seasons, you can take advantage of the longer, warmer days by beginning your outdoor spring clean-up. Getting your property cleaned up now will make a big difference in how your property looks. A power washer is a tremendous tool to have when cleaning outdoor surfaces. Power washers are available with nozzles for cleaning large areas like the driveway, deck, fence, walkway and the walls of your home. Other nozzles can clean smaller jobs like gutters, outdoor furniture, barbecue grill, garbage cans and recycling bins. Some surfaces with stubborn grime may require a soap solution with your power washer. Sweep cobwebs from exterior doorways, windows, ceilings, walls and corners. To clean light mould off outdoor soft furnishings like cushions and umbrellas, use a solution of 3 parts water and 1 part white vinegar and use a soft bristled scrub brush. Brighten your exterior lighting by washing glass shades and replace burnt out bulbs if needed. Windows and screens accumulate grime over the winter and cleaning them will allow more light into your home. Make the glass in your windows sparkle by cleaning with a purchased window cleaner or use a home-made solution. Using a squeegee on a cloudy day will reduce streaks on the glass and will speed up the process.



10 popular outdoor projects

There are great DIY outdoor projects that are consistently on homeowner's to-do-lists. These ten projects will add value to your property and improve how you use your outdoor space.



1 Deck Building a deck is one of the more popular outdoor projects among homeowners. It's an easy build for the average DIYer and can be finished over the span of a weekend depending on the scale and design. Your budget will determine what decking materials you use. A pressure treated wood deck is more economical than a cedar or composite deck. Composite decking, however, has the big advantage of hassle-free maintenance.

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Fence A well-designed wood fence is both a practical and beautiful element that will increase the value of your property. It will not only provide you with privacy from your neighbours but it will also block unwanted views of the surrounding area. Choose a style that will complement and enhance your home's architecture and landscaping. Vertical fence boards are a more traditional look while horizontal boards lean more contemporary. There are also design options for the top of your fence, decorative post caps as well as the style of the gate to consider. When planning your fence, don't be afraid to get creative!



3

Fire pit A wood-burning fire pit is a great addition to your outdoor entertaining area and one that can be enjoyed year-round. Building a fire pit from a kit is an easy DIY weekend project. Kits can be square or circular and include enough heat resistant concrete stones to build a pit usually three rows high with no need for cutting.

barkman

Brown's SHAW barkman

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Paver patio A paver patio adds outdoor living space to your home and is a low maintenance choice. Paving stones are available in assorted shapes and colours so you can be as creative as you want with your patio design. Installation is an easy DIY project and can be done in a weekend depending on the size of your patio.



5

Outdoor kitchen

An outdoor kitchen provides all your cooking and entertaining needs where everyone gathers. It can be as basic as a counter on either side of a propane grill or as custom as your budget will allow with multiple built-in cookers, running water and a drinks fridge.



6

Garden wall A garden wall is no higher than 12 to 18 inches. Most often used for raised garden beds or to separate a sidewalk from the lawn. They provide structure to the garden and can be a beautiful landscaping feature.



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Pergola This structure is typically made from wood and does not have walls or a solid roof. They are an attractive design element to any backyard and are used to define a space while adding an element of privacy. They range in style from traditional to contemporary designs.



8

Fusion Stone Adding the natural look of stone to your outdoor space gives an instant high-end look. Fusion Stone is easy to install and delivers a lifetime of maintenance free performance. This versatile stone veneer offers endless budget-friendly design possibilities. Choose from three stone veneer textures in assorted colours.



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Shed Adding a shed will not only give you an ideal storage solution for all your garden tools and outdoor belongings, it can also be used as living space for a home office, yoga studio, playroom or a recreation area. Building it yourself enables you to fully customize the design for your needs and location. Sheds are fairly easy to build for an experienced DIY-er and often don't require building permits.

We have shed plans

Our contractor grade plans are available in a variety of sizes and designs and can be customized to suit your particular needs. Browse our shed plans at timbermart.ca Contact your local TIMBER MART for more information on sheds.



10

Pond Adding a pond to your property is a great way to observe wildlife that you wouldn't normally see. They also provide a focal point to your garden and the sound of falling water can hide unwanted street noise.



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vista
style &
simplicity

Vista Railings

Update your deck with a beautiful Vista Railing. Deck railings are not only a safety feature for your deck, they also add an element of style. Choose from assorted original designs and colour options.



Nuvo Iron products

Add functionality and improve the look of your outdoor space with Nuvo Iron's modern and innovative accessories. With so many versatile options, we are sure you will find a Nuvo Iron product to enhance your exterior style.



onward

Gate hardware

Onward gate hardware kits have everything you need to build and install a safe and sturdy outdoor gate. Styles range from traditional to contemporary.



Exterior Lighting

A well-lit outdoors makes your property easier and safer to navigate while deterring intruders. Adding lighting to your backyard makes an inviting outdoor space for entertaining.

Accessories

See in-store for selection



SIMPSON
Strong-Tie

Simpson Strong-Tie

Simpson Strong-Tie decorative wood connectors bring both design elegance and structural strength to your outdoor living areas. Hardware accommodates 4x and 6x lumber sizes.



LINX ALEXANDRIA
Moulding

LINX pergola system

Crafted from galvanized steel, the LINX pergola kit for 4x4 or 6x6 posts delivers a stunning backyard pergola with incredible structural strength. The kit includes all bracketry and hardware and is ready for immediate installation.



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R RELIABLE

THE screw for the strongest miters



PWR Drive FIT dual-action premium trim head screw

Power Drive is the new premium line of screw products from Reliable. The PWR Drive FIT is the trim head screw from that line, suitable for all trim applications but especially designed for assembling stronger miters. This screw has a very special drill tip to help with tricky angle starts and will outperform type 17 in preventing wood splitting. This feature allows the FIT to be used not only for face screwing but also on the side of regular 3/4" wood boards.

The biggest asset of the FIT is without a doubt its second thread: this thread is slower than the first one, producing a clamping effect that gives the FIT an assembly strength that no other trim head screw has. In essence, since all trim head screws have by nature small heads that cannot push, the second thread replaces the strength that the head of a regular flat head wood screw would produce. The FIT is the best of both worlds: assembly strength with a small head that almost disappears.

The FIT #9 x 6 with its very special thread design is particularly useful for assembling ultra strong miters and has to be one of the most innovative screws to hit the fastener market in the past 15 years. All PWR FIT screws come with the same corrosion-resistant coating that is used on our structural screws, certified compliant with the IBC and IRC building codes.



[Click here to watch the video showing the benefits the FIT brings to deck staircase assemblies.](#)



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Extend the outdoor season



Sunroom Solutions provides customized and affordable 3-season windows for any outdoor structure. This window system offers the flexibility to easily convert your space into an inviting outdoor enclosure, extending your enjoyment of the outdoor season. Vinyl pane windows protect you from environmental elements like wind, rain, snow, insects, and allergens! These durable windows are constructed with strong powder-coated aluminum frames and feature durable weather-resistant 10 mil vinyl panes. Sliding window panels are spring-loaded and can be easily removed to achieve a 100% screen opening. This product is designed for the DIY-er with an easy and inexpensive installation process. Enclosing an outdoor space adds value to your home or cottage by increasing the square footage and creating an ideal living space for you to enjoy. Come in and talk to a TIMBER MART Deck Specialist about the benefits of a Sunroom Solutions 3-season sunroom.



[Click here to see how this vinyl window system easily transforms any outdoor space into your favourite 3-season retreat!](#)





Refresh with paint & stain

Give your exterior surfaces a fresh new look with a coat of paint or stain. Not only will your outdoor space look great, you'll be adding protection from weather damage and insects. Exterior painting and staining is an easy DIY project and how long it will take depends on the scope of the job. For expert advice on how to fix a fading paint colour or how to stain a deck from the professionals at PPG and Sico, click the links below.

 [How to fix fading exterior paint colour](#)

 [How to stain your deck](#)



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TIMBER MART home plans **Build the dream**

Plan: TBM2169

Contemporary open concept bungalow

A covered front entry brings you into this gorgeous 2169 sq. ft. home featuring three bedrooms and a spacious main floor office. Enjoy the open concept living space at the rear of the house with access to the master bedroom with luxurious ensuite and walk-in closet. On the other side of the house are the two secondary bedrooms with jack-and-jill bath. The three-car garage has interior access to the mud room and main floor laundry.

All plans are fully customizable.

 [Click here to see the entire TIMBER MART home plan collection](#)
To find out more about a home plan, click the "INQUIRE NOW" button on that plan page and follow the prompts



April



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homeowner to-do checklist

Replace furnace filter

The beginning of April can be cold so your furnace will most likely still be in use, especially when the sun goes down. Check your furnace filter and replace if necessary. Not every filter will need to be changed. Generally, the more narrow the filter, the more often it will need to be changed.

Wash windows & exterior doors

Mild spring weather is ideal for cleaning windows and doors and if possible, choose a cloudy day. Direct sunshine makes cleaners evaporate too quickly and can leave streaks on glass. Clean both sides of windows and doors especially anywhere that is touched by hands on a regular basis like handles and locks.

Clean up the yard

After the snow melts, remove any debris on your property that has accumulated over winter. Give the lawn a rake to remove the buildup of thatch. Clean out dead leaves from gardens so that spring plants have room to grow. Prune dead branches from trees and shrubs. Inspect your driveway and walkways to see if repairs are necessary.

Clean garbage & recycling bins

An easy way to clean garbage and recycling bins is to combine a cup of white vinegar with a bucket of hot water and let it soak in the bin for an hour. Then empty and let air dry. For tough grime you may need to use a stiff bristled scrub brush. Baking soda left inside the bin overnight helps absorb odours.

Schedule A/C inspection

Your outside air conditioning unit should be inspected in the spring before the heat of summer. An HVAC professional will give the unit a deep clean to remove debris as well as perform a full inspection and any necessary maintenance or repairs. Be sure to book early so you are ready for the summer.

Boost curb appeal

Spring is a great time to boost your home's curb appeal. Small projects such as replacing outdoor light fixtures, updating your house numbers or installing a new mailbox can make a big difference. Planters with flowers on either side of the front door makes a welcoming entry and solar pathway lights add an element of style and safety.

Plant a tree

The best time to plant a tree is in early spring or in the fall when temperatures are cooler. In spring, planting after the ground has warmed and the weather remains cool allows a newly planted tree to focus its energy on growing roots instead of leaves. Young trees will also benefit from plentiful spring rain.

Clean your toaster

A build up of crumbs can become a fire hazard so it's a good idea to keep your toaster clean. Unplug the toaster then remove crumb trap at the bottom. Clean off crumbs and wash the trap. Turn toaster upside down and shake it over the sink to remove loose crumbs. Take a small clean, dry paintbrush and clean out any remaining crumbs inside.

Check safety devices

Test batteries on smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and replace if needed. Also check the expiry date of your alarms replace the entire unit if past. Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years, while carbon monoxide alarms have a lifetime of 5 to 7 years. Refer to your user manual for exact expiration details.

Inspect basement

April is typically a wet month and the temperature can fluctuate from thawing to freezing. This makes basements vulnerable to flooding. A rapid thaw can result in standing water close to your foundation and if the ground is still frozen, water can funnel to your foundation wall. If you see water in your basement, make any necessary repairs.

Check roof

Your roof takes a beating during the winter months so when the weather is clear enough, check your roof for damage. Look for missing, buckling, cracked or broken shingles and replace if necessary. Check all flashing to make sure it is intact and secure. Also clear out gutters and downspouts so they can run free with spring rain.

2024 DIY projects

Start pricing DIY projects you want to get done this summer. Think about all the materials and tools you will need and how much it will cost to hire professionals for the parts of your project that are beyond your DIY capabilities. Be sure to contact those professionals early in the season so you get your job scheduled.



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GE Supreme Silicone Window & Door Sealant

GE Supreme Silicone Window & Door Sealant is 100% waterproof and provides a reliable seal in exterior weather-prone areas such as windows, doors, basements, roofs, sidewalks, siding, tuckpointing, and attics. The 30-minute rain-ready formula resists stain-causing mould and mildew growth and resists UV degradation. It's made from 100% silicone and offers 40% more flexibility than Class 25 sealants. Plus, it offers 50% joint-movement capabilities without cracking, shrinking, breaking down or washing away. GE Supreme Silicone Window & Door Sealant has a low odour that makes it also ideal for interior applications, and it won't discolour most high-end metal finishes such as chrome, bronze, and nickel.

