

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape design and construction in Mount Prospect. Use these planning questions to prepare a project conversation.

Know Your Stone and Setting

"Stone" covers everything from dense granite and basalt to softer limestone and sandstone. Pavers made from concrete mimic stone and bring their own chemistry. Porous stone absorbs water faster, can take on stains more easily, and often benefits more from sealing. Dense stone resists staining but can be slippery when wet. In freeze-thaw climates, water moving in and out of the stone and bedding layers matters as much as the surface finish. A shaded backyard landscaping layout with overhanging trees will introduce leaf tannins and moss pressure, while a pool patio sees chlorine or salt, sunscreen, and bare feet.

Clean Gently, Clean Regularly

You can tell when a patio is cleaned once a spring with a pressure washer and ignored the rest of the year. The surface looks blotchy by midsummer, joints stay wet, and algae returns fast. Light monthly maintenance beats heavy annual scrubbing. Sweep debris before it composts in the joints. Rinse with a garden hose and a wide fan nozzle that won't gouge sand or mortar. Spot clean spills within a day or two, before a stain fully binds.

Respect the Joints

Joints do more than fill space. They manage water, accommodate movement, and lock the system together. On flagstone patios with wide joints, polymeric sand or a stabilized aggregate provides weed resistance and helps shed water. Over time, organic debris blows in, the binder weathers, and voids form. Topping up joints every few years prevents wobble and protects the bedding layer from washout. For mortared or tight-jointed stone, hairline cracks can invite water. Address them before a freeze cycle opens them wider.

For mortared patios, match the mortar type. Using a hard, high-Portland mix on soft stone can cause spalling. Masonry walls and patios both follow this rule. A landscape contractor versed in types of masonry mortar will help you choose a lime-rich blend for historical stone or a polymer-modified mortar for a modern concrete patio with stone veneer.

Weed, Moss, and Algae Management Without Harming the Patio

A little green around a stone patio can look charming. Full-on moss across the walking surface is a slip hazard. Most weed pressure comes from windblown seeds rooting in organic debris sitting in joints, not from below. That means prevention works. Sweep. Keep nearby beds mulched and edged so soil does not wash onto the patio during storms. In shady yards with drip edges, drip irrigation or smart irrigation should be tuned so spray does not repeatedly wet the stone.

When growth appears, start gentle. A stiff deck brush and warm water dislodge most algae. For moss, a dilute potassium salt of fatty acids is less harsh than bleach and safer near garden design plantings. Avoid metal scrapers that scar the stone. If you use a targeted herbicide on broadleaf weeds, shield nearby vegetation and do not overspray. Mechanical edging around the patio perimeter keeps runners like creeping Charlie from creeping in. In severe [Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design](#) shade, consider trimming back tree limbs or introducing landscape lighting that adds heat and air movement; sunnier, drier patios grow less algae.

Winter Care That Doesn't Destroy Your Hardscape

Snow and ice management lives in the gray area between safety and preservation. On stone and paver patios, avoid metal shovels that catch edges. A plastic shovel or a snow blower with skids adjusted to hover slightly above the surface protects the joints. Calcium magnesium acetate is among the gentler deicers for hardscaping and nearby plants. Rock salt works but can pit concrete pavers and burn lawns. Apply sparingly, and sweep leftover pellets once the thaw begins.

Heaving in late winter often signals trapped water, poor base compaction, or both. If a section lifts, resist the urge to beat it down with a mallet in freezing weather. Wait for a full thaw, then address the cause. Proper compaction before paver installation and consistent bedding thickness under natural stone matter more than any after-the-fact patch. If you see the same spots heave each year, bring in a landscape design services team to open and rebuild that area with correct base depth and geotextile.

Furniture, Grills, and Fire: Practical Choices

Furniture feet act like chisels on soft stone and pavers. Add rubber or nylon glides. Rollers on grills and heaters can dent or scratch, especially across joints. Use protective mats under grills to catch grease, and choose mats rated for stone so plasticizers do not etch the surface. If you install a built in fire pit or outdoor fireplace, plan the hearth extension and spark protection as part of the patio design. Wind-borne embers burn polymeric sand and stain porous stone. A simple spark screen saves a lot of scrubbing. Ash is alkaline and can lighten the stone over time. Clean it once cool. For gas fire features, keep vent clearances so heat does not concentrate under a low table or near a wall.

Pool Patios and Water Features

Pool patios demand different habits. Chlorine, salt, and sunscreen leave residues. Rinse after heavy pool use. For saltwater pools, some stones and concrete finishes develop efflorescence more frequently as salts migrate. A breathable penetrating sealer helps. Where water features like a garden fountain splash onto a patio, hard water deposits collect. A diluted white vinegar solution can dissolve mild mineral buildup, but test in a corner and avoid acid on calciferous stone. Adjusting fountain splash and adding baffles reduces the problem more than any cleaner.

The Annual Deep Service

Inspect: walk the surface, check drainage, look for raised corners, settled edges, failing joints, or spalled stone. Note rust from furniture, grill grease, and organic stains. Clean: sweep, loosen debris from joints, pre-wet, apply a mild cleaner, agitate, and rinse thoroughly. Use low-pressure washing only where needed. Repair: top up joints with polymeric sand or re-point mortar where appropriate. Reset any rocking stones. Replace cracked pieces before they telegraph into neighboring units. Seal: if the water bead test suggests it, apply a compatible penetrating sealer in thin coats on a dry day. Block traffic for the cure time. Edge and manage vegetation: redefine borders, refresh mulch in adjacent beds so soil does not wash in, and prune overhanging limbs to improve airflow and light.

Two hours on a small patio, a half day on a large terrace, and you're set. A full service landscaping team often pairs this with walkway installation checks, retaining wall inspection, and outdoor lighting adjustments, since all of these systems interact.

Stain Scenarios and Real Fixes

Grease and oil from grills migrate fast into porous stone. Blot, do not wipe, then cover with an absorbing poultice like baking soda or a commercial oil absorbent. After several hours, sweep and wash with a degreasing cleaner rated for stone. Persistent shadows often fade after a few weeks of UV and rain, especially on sealed surfaces.

Leaf and acorn tannins leave brown outlines in autumn. Oxygenated cleaners and a soft brush pull most of this out without harsh chemistry. If stains remain, a second application a week later usually does it. Avoid bleach on natural stone near lawns or beds, since runoff harms plants and soil biology.

Efflorescence, the white bloom on concrete pavers or mortar lines, is salt migrating as moisture evaporates. It often appears in the first year after a landscape project, then diminishes. Dry brushing removes mild deposits. For heavier cases, a dedicated efflorescence cleaner works, followed by ample rinsing and time before any sealing. Do not trap efflorescence under a film-forming sealer.

Red wine, coffee, and sauces respond to quick action. Blot, flush with water, and apply a pH-neutral cleaner. A poultice on porous stone lifts remaining pigment. The sooner you treat, the better the outcome.

When to Call a Pro

There is pride in handling your own yard design care, but some problems benefit from experience and tools. If a patio sinks along the foundation, you may have a drainage system failure, a gutter issue, or compromised base. If multiple stones wobble, the bedding layer likely needs rebuilding. If patio edges creep, an edge restraint may be missing or failed. These are structural problems, not cosmetic. A design-build landscape company can diagnose and correct them before they spread.

Rebuilding settled sections that collect water or pose tripping hazards. Removing and re-setting large-format natural stone that requires equipment. Repointing extensive mortar joints with proper mix and technique. Milling and installing channel drains tied into yard drainage without undermining the base. Coordinating maintenance around other upgrades like pergola design, outdoor kitchen installation, or retaining wall repair so the systems work together.

In the same visit, a crew can handle landscape lighting maintenance, irrigation system adjustments to reduce overspray on stone, and seasonal planting that keeps organic debris away from joints. Coordinated care is often less expensive than piecemeal fixes and produces better results.

Design Choices That Make Patios Easier to Maintain

Borders and edge restraints matter. A soldier course of interlocking pavers or a cut-stone edge keeps the field in place and gives mowers a defined boundary, reducing string trimmer damage. Proper transitions to steps, garden paths, and paver walkways eliminate trip points where cleaning equipment catches. If you are planning a landscape upgrade, ask your designer about pitch breaks, expansion joints in patios adjacent to concrete slabs, and how runoff will be handled in cloudbursts. These details affect maintenance for years.

Building a Maintenance Rhythm

Patio care is not complicated once you set a rhythm. Tie tasks to the seasons and to how you use the space. Sweep before dinners, rinse after a party, and spot clean as needed. In spring, do the deeper service, check irrigation coverage, and observe where water sits. In summer, manage shade and organic debris. In fall, clear

leaves quickly and check for tannin stains before winter sets them. In winter, shovel carefully and go easy on deicers.

If you ever plan a larger landscape remodeling, tell your designer how you actually live outdoors. Do you host parties monthly, or retreat quietly with a book? Do pets run the same track along the edge? Are you envisioning an outdoor kitchen, a pergola cover, or a fire pit area later? Phased landscape project planning can accommodate those additions without tearing up what you already love. The result is a patio that not only looks good but does so without demanding more time than you want to give.

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Business hours: Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM; Saturday and Sunday closed

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Landscape design and construction

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design is located at 600 S Emerson St, Mt Prospect, IL 60056.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design uses the phone number (312) 772-2300.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design has the website <https://waveoutdoors.com/>.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design has a Google Maps listing for its Mount Prospect business.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape design.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape construction.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design offers 2D landscape design.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design offers custom 3D design as a paid add-on.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design designs outdoor living spaces.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design builds patios.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides hardscaping.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design installs plantings and flower beds.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides yard grading.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design installs stormwater and drainage systems.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape lighting.

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design handles consultation requests through its current office team.

Project planning questions

Where is the business based?

At 600 S Emerson St, Mt Prospect, IL 60056.

How can I discuss a landscape project?

Call (312) 772-2300 or request a consultation through the website.

Is landscape design offered?

Yes, Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design provides landscape design and construction.

Are 2D plans offered?

The company offers 2D landscape design.

Can I request a 3D design?

Custom 3D design is available as a paid add-on.

Can patios be part of a project?

Wave Outdoors Landscape + Design builds patios and hardscapes.

Can a project include planting?

Planting and flower-bed installation are offered.

Are drainage and grading offered?

The company provides yard grading and installs drainage and stormwater systems.

What should I bring to a design conversation?

Bring site photos, priorities, desired uses and questions about the proposed scope.

How can I compare design proposals?

Compare the stated drawings, materials, installation scope, exclusions and revision process.

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