

4/15/2011



BACKYARD BAR PLANNING GUIDE

Basic Principles for Designing an Outdoor Home Bar

www.glastenderhome.com

Phone: 800-748-0423

Backyard Bar Planning Guide



There is nothing better than feeling the sunshine and summer breeze while relaxing with a cold cocktail out on the patio. At night, the sound of the crackling logs on your deck fire pit and a view of sparkling stars is the perfect accompaniment to a beer and good conversation with a friend.

You don't have to miss out on a beautiful summer day being confined inside while preparing snacks or beverages for your guests. A backyard bar is a convenient way to entertain friends and family on great weather days or evenings when there is no good reason to be cooped up inside the house.

As an added benefit, the outdoor cocktail station can also be supplied with snacks and refreshments for children, and you'll have the advantage of placing yourself in a position to keep an eye out for their safety while they play in the backyard.

Backyard Bar Basics

An outdoor cocktail station can be a portable, stand-alone unit or incorporated into your outdoor kitchen as a drop-in unit.

Whether your outdoor cocktail station or backyard bar is part of the construction of your new home, or an addition to an existing patio or deck area, there

are several considerations that are crucial to address before you start any project of this type. Simply put, most of the considerations have to do with water supply and drainage, supply of electricity, and convenient functionality. Regardless of the scope of your project, the planning is similar in many ways to the things you think about in planning your kitchen in your house!



Small details can make or break the enjoyment and function of an addition or change to a back yard deck or patio design. Here are some basics to think about as you begin to plan your backyard bar:

- Decide whether the end product requires a water supply
- Decide whether the end product requires a fluid drainage system
- Decide whether the end product requires a gas supply
- Assume that every project will require access to electrical outlets
- Every project will require a plan for lighting (whoops - more electricity!)
- Every project will require a plan for protection from inclement weather:
 - Falling rain (or snow)
 - Off season cold
 - Side driven wind and rain
- Unplanned pooling of water from any cause

Backyard Bar Planning Checklist

There are as many designs for a back yard bar as there are people who want them. However, in order to get the most from your back yard bar and get its best fit into your deck design plan, consider these basic principles:

[Hint – You can print and use this guide as a planning check off sheet]

___ Decide whether your back yard bar needs a permanent roof or an optional roof (umbrella). The optional roof comes into play if you decide to place your outside bar at an open deck area to ease guest access and get the traffic flow you want. In this situation, don't forget to set up for the umbrella placement hole & a securing device!

___ Design your deck space to maximize flow of guests and host/hostess around your back yard bar

___ Decide on cabinet material – outside cabinets must be constructed of a moisture proof material: red wood or cedar, stone, brick, or weather resistant stainless steel.

___ Remember that the top surface must repel surface water, as well prevent water from entering any of the storage areas below. We recommend solid/no seams stone or a weather resistant stainless steel top.

___ Realize that no moisture protection system will always protect against all weather or other water threats; decide if outer and/or inner weep holes for drainage are appropriate for your outdoor bar or cocktail station.

____ Locate the source of your electrical service, and note its distance from your bar area.

____ Determine the minimum number of electrical outlets your back yard bar will need. Plan at least one, but consider more.

____ If your plan calls for an outdoor wet bar, locate access to water & drain systems, and note their distance from your unit

____ Decide if and how you want to cover your unit when not in use. Free standing portable cocktail stations can be rolled into a protected structure or covered with a custom canvas cover that can be ordered or purchased from most Tent & Awning type businesses.

____ Think about how your bar will be cleaned, and where you will store those supplies.

____ Think about how you will protect storage contents from intruders or children who are playing in the area. Doors with lock and key or padlock systems are two ways to do this.

Installing Outdoor Wet Bars

You can easily take a step up from a simple outdoor kitchen to an outdoor cocktail station with a [stainless steel cocktail station sink](#). A stainless steel cocktail station sink incorporates all of the same elements of a commercial under bar line up into your backyard bar.



Since a wet bar needs its own water supply and drainage system, the placement of your outdoor bar or cocktail station is a crucial consideration. The obvious choice for the easiest and least expensive route is to plan your design so the sink portion is situated on a wall that supports existing indoor plumbing. Make sure your plumber includes shut offs on both the hot and cold lines. If your home is anywhere other than the tropical zone, assure that your plumber also installs a drain feature with a removable cap to drain those same lines during cold weather. The drain system should also have a clean out feature with a removable cap. The drain can also be managed during winter months by pouring antifreeze down the drain so that it sits in the trap.

Double check placement of electrical outlets to be certain they conform to your local building codes as to distance from the water supply.

Backyard bars can be more than just great places to centralize outdoor food preparation. By using a few simple design principles, this functional asset can become a focal point that will enhance the look and feel of your outdoor landscaping. If designed correctly and carefully, you can easily have an outdoor cocktail station that will attract and welcome your guests into a space where you will be proud to have them congregate for socialization as they quench thirsts and appetites.

About Glastender

Glastender, Inc. is a family-owned company established in 1969. We manufacture a complete line of quality bar equipment for the bar and food service industry, and also offer a line of commercial quality cocktail station options for the home. Call 800-748-0423 or visit www.glastenderhome.com to learn more.