

# Landscaping is Expensive:

## The truth about landscaping costs

By Austin Woodworth



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There are many factors that cause increased landscaping costs:

- Materials
- Plants and/or Trees
- Outdoor Living Features
  - Accessories
  - Labor
- Unforeseen circumstances
- Time of the year
  - Location
- Choice of materials
- Size of the land
- Special orders and/or delivery delays
- Design change requests

For a standard 8,000-12,000 sqft lot with basic designs for new soil, grading, sod installations, plants, patio, and walkway installations our cost is ranging from \$30,000 - \$60,000 .  
Ongoing maintenance services ranging from \$400-\$5,000.

**Why is  
Landscaping  
so  
expensive?**



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## Why should I hire a bonded and licensed contractor?

- Unlicensed contractors are usually breaking the law by working without professional licenses
- Most likely also not complying with other laws including permit requirements and inspection requirements
- Project not being up to code, will result in additional repairs or removal
- Harder to determine quality workmanship since the worker has not submitted to any examination or review of his knowledge by a licensing board.
- Even if licensed and bonded, ask for references and to see their work on completed projects

<https://www.freeadvice.com/legal/licensed-and-bonded-contractors-what-it-means-and-why-hire/>

## Can I get in trouble for hiring an unlicensed contractor?

- You take all the financial risks in the contract
- If that worker walks away from the job, get sick, go bankrupt, etc., you could lose a lot of money
- Increased possibility of receiving poor workmanship or even property damage when you hire an unlicensed contractor, you may also be giving up your right to make warranty claims
- Most states impose implied warranties on contractors for bad workmanship, but your state contractor board will not typically help you to make a warranty claim against an unlicensed contractor
- Should you go through a civil case and win, it is also unlikely the unlicensed contractor will pay.

# The Importance of Licensed and Bonded Landscape Contractors



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The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) suggests investing 10 to 20 percent of your home's value. Landscape improvements return 100 to 200 percent of their cost when a house is sold.

(<https://www.asla.org/residentialinfo/1pager.html>)

## Benefits of Landscaping

### >> HEALTH AND SAFETY BENEFITS

Healthy, managed landscapes make people and their communities healthier.



#### REDUCE STRESS

Source:  
Housley and Wolf



#### IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

Source:  
Housley and Wolf



#### REDUCE CRIME

Source:  
U.S. Forest Service



#### IMPROVE ATTENTION AND MEMORY

Source: Mark Berman,  
University of Michigan

### >> ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

The value of managed lawns and landscapes extends beyond the backyard and into the community at large.



CLEAN & PURIFY AIR



PROVIDE OXYGEN



MINIMIZE NOISE



PROTECT WATER SOURCES  
FROM UNHEALTHY RUNOFF

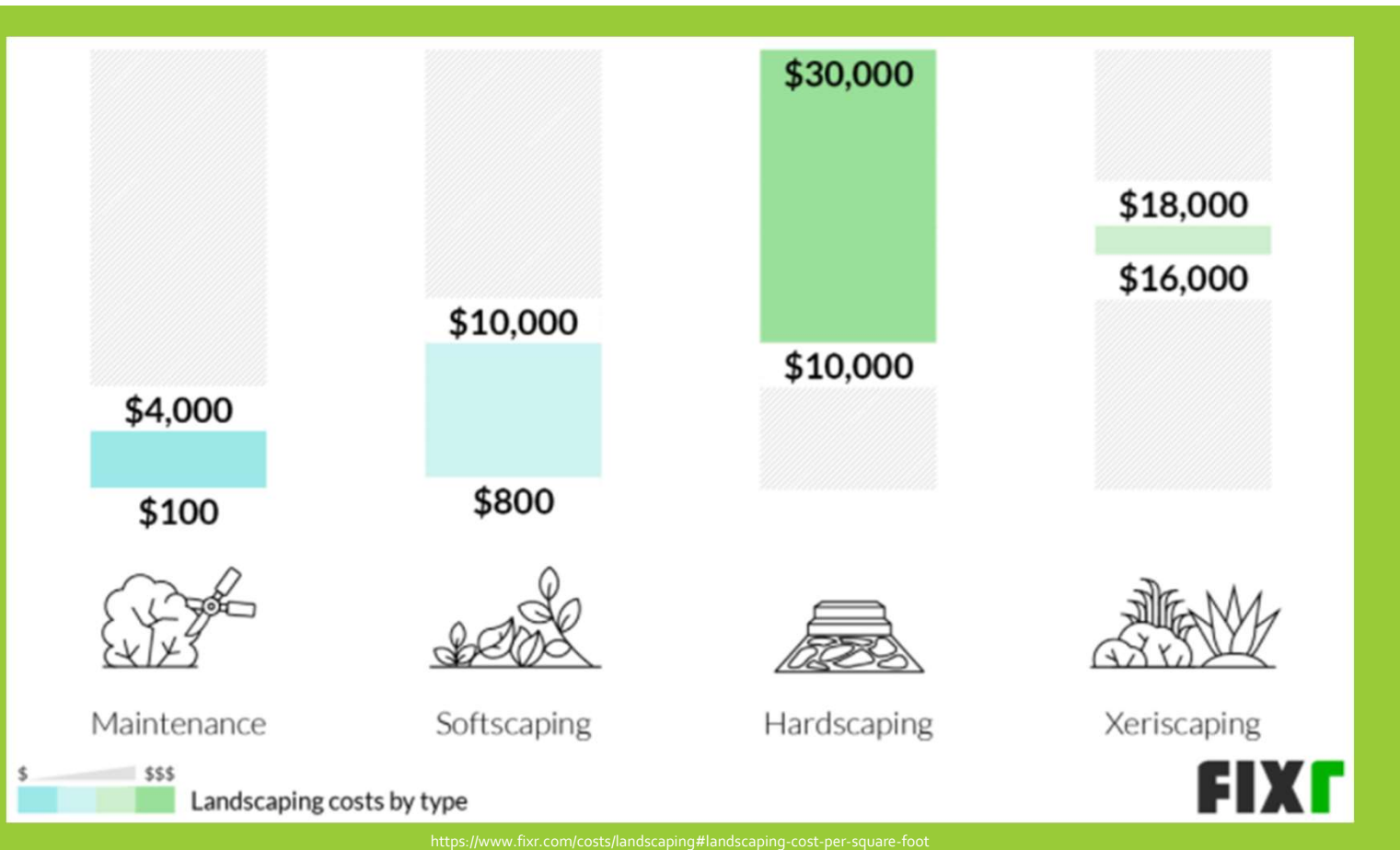


ACT AS NATURAL COOLANTS

<https://www.loveyourlandscape.org/media/20351/benefits-landscaping-infographic-resized.pdf>



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# Landscaping Cost National Averages

**\*Please Note: CA can sometimes be 50% more than national average\***

homeadvisor.com



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**Step 1: Design Process**

**Step 2: Demolition and/or landscape clean-up**

**Step 3: Grading and Hardscapes**

**Step 4: Irrigation, Lighting and/or Drains**

**Step 5: Trees, Plants, shrubs, sod, mulch, gravel...etc**

**Step 6: Post Maintenance Enhancements**

# **Typical Landscape Design and Installation Process**



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## Landscape Designer Cost in

### LA

Los Angeles, CA Average \$8,258

Typical Range \$3,593-\$12,922

Low End – High End \$500-\$12,001

### VS. National Average

National Average \$4,467

Typical Range \$1,959-\$6,991

Low End – High End \$500-\$13,001

<https://www.homeadvisor.com/cost/landscape/hire-a-landscape-designer>

## Landscape Design Cost Average



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Demolition of Structures & Hardscape: \$2,000 to \$12,000. Basic removal of patio covers, plants, and hardscaping can be straightforward but it's still a cost to factor in. On the other end of the spectrum if you have a driveway, large concrete patio, deck, or pool that needs to be removed, the cost can increase to well over \$10,000.

<https://yardzen.com/yzblog/understanding-landscaping-costs>

## Landscape Demolition Average Cost



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Hardscaping is anything you do that does not involve plant life. This includes patios, walkways, decks, pergolas, gazebos, lighting, and other structures. Because hardscaping often involves costly materials and construction, it is usually expensive, with starting costs of about **\$10,000 to \$30,000**. Hardscaping helps you interact with your landscaping and improve your enjoyment.



Backyard hardscape costs by project

**FIXR**

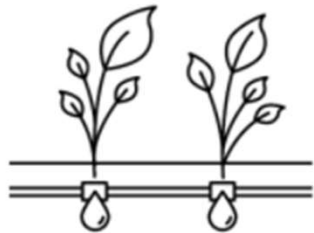
<https://www.fixr.com/costs/landscaping#landscaping-cost-per-square-foot>

# Hardscaping Cost National Averages



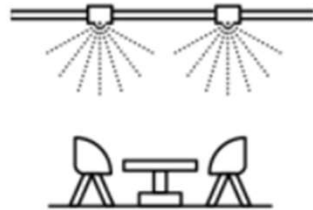
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If you have plants or grass in your yard, you may want to add a water system. Irrigation, misting, and sprinkler systems can keep your plants healthy and cut down on daily maintenance. Each system ranges in cost and consumption. The system size and installation style impact your total costs.



Drip irrigation

**\$500 - \$1,200**



Outdoor misting system

**\$1,500 - \$3,500**



Sprinkler system

**\$4,000 - \$7,000**

\$ ————— \$\$\$

Cost of backyard irrigation systems

**FIXR**

<https://www.fixr.com/costs/landscaping#landscaping-cost-per-square-foot>

# Irrigation System Cost National Averages



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# Average Outdoor Light Installation Cost

Average Cost	\$3,500 - \$4,500
High Cost	\$5,000 - \$6,000
Low Cost	\$2,000 - \$3,000

<https://www.homeadvisor.com/cost/electrical/install-outdoor-lighting/>

**Light  
Installation  
Cost  
National  
Average**



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Softscaping is planting trees, grass, shrubs, flowers, and other plants. It has a wide range of costs because each plant has a different price, and the number of plants varies. Expect small projects to start at around **\$800** and large softscaping projects to cost up to **\$10,000**.



<https://www.fixr.com/costs/landscaping#landscaping-cost-per-square-foot>

# Softscaping Cost National Averages



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**Xeriscaping** improves water usage and conservation in hot and arid climates. This process uses a mix of materials to enhance your area and conserve water. It also has a wide range of materials and costs. Expect most projects to start at around **\$16,000 to \$18,000**.



<https://www.fixr.com/costs/landscaping#landscaping-cost-per-square-foot>

# Xeriscaping Cost National Averages



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Any landscaping you do likely has ongoing maintenance costs. Some may only need to be done once or occasionally. Others need to be done regularly to keep your lawn, trees, and property healthy. Expect to pay between **\$100** and **\$4,000** in maintenance costs.



\$ \$\$\$  
Landscaping maintenance costs

**FIXR**

<https://www.fixr.com/costs/landscaping#landscaping-cost-per-square-foot>

# Landscaping Maintenance Cost National Averages



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Modified Landscape Design is a small boutique landscape design and install firm that will transform your home or business with our landscape design and construction services or protect its long-term health with ongoing care enhancements offered.



# Services Modified Landscape Design Offers



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## Design Plan Package Options

### Platinum Package: \$3,500.00

3D Design with up to 3 design review meetings and 3 design revisions  
Irrigation and Plant Design  
Landscape Lighting Design  
Hardscape Design (walkways, patios, driveways, retaining walls up to 3ft)  
Outdoor living design ( Fire pit, bbq, kitchen, pergola/gazebo)

### Gold Package \$2,500.00

3D design with up to 2 design review meetings and 2 design revisions  
Irrigation and Plant Design  
Landscape Lighting Design  
Hardscape Design (walkways, patios, driveways, retaining walls up to 3ft)

### Silver Package: \$1,500.00

3D Design with up to 1 design review meeting and 1 design revision  
Irrigation and Plant Design  
Landscape Lighting Design

\* \$375 per additional revision.

## Modified Landscape Design Packages



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## Landscape Installation Example Of Project Estimated at \$100,000+

Included new Irrigation and Plant installation. New synthetic turf, mulch and gravel installation. New Landscape Lighting installation. New paver walkway, patio, steps and driveway. Outdoor living custom BBQ and pergola installation. Custom pots and additional custom add-ons.



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Every installation will require a different budget per scope of work and materials needed. View examples of our work on Instagram, Facebook or our website [modifiedlandscapedesign.com](http://modifiedlandscapedesign.com) as a guide for your landscape installation process.

## **Landscape Installation Pricing**



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## Lawn Care and Maintenance Enhancements

We offer enhancement options to assist you in preserving your landscape's long-term health. This includes non-emergency repairs, lighting and irrigation services.

### Enhancements Services Starting at \$1,500:

- mow (as needed)
- edging (as needed)
- blowing
- trimming
- bed maintenance
- fertilization and weed control
- touch up mulching (weather permitting)
- fall clean up and mulching
- spring clean up and mulching

Monthly maintenance services are no longer available at this time, but this may change in the future. Please keep checking in with us.

### Service Repair Consultation starting at \$250:

- Includes 1hr onsite visit to review and diagnose issue
- \* additional time and material will be charged accordingly

### Irrigation Audit: PRICE TBD

- Written report of irrigation system with recommendations and repairs needed to increase efficiency and decrease water wasted.
- Any irrigation repairs to be repaired via separate work order or charged time and material per agreement at time of booking.

### Lighting Audit: PRICE TBD

- Review of outdoor lighting and minor onsite modifications completed.
- \* Any major repairs to be repaired via separate work order or charged time and material per agreement at time of booking.

## Lawn Care and Maintenance Enhancements Offered



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### INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE :

- 2000 - 2002 Crew Member for Sprinkler Works
- 2002 – 2003 Foreman for Sprinkler Works
- 2003 – 2007 Project Manager for Sprinkler Works
- 2007 C-27 Landscape Contractors License
- 2007 – 2008 Owner of Custom Landscape Creations
- 2008 – 2010 Branch Manager of Ewing Irrigation
- 2010 – 2015 Account Manager at Stay Green Inc
- 2015 – Current Owner of Modified Landscape Design
- \*Formerly known as Modified Landscapes
- 2022 – Certified Irrigation Auditor

**Meet your  
Licensed,  
Bonded &  
Insured  
Landscape  
Designer &  
Contractor**



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Construction Crew



Office Team

# Meet The Modified Landscape Design Team



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# Thank you for your attendance.

For more information, please visit us at:

**[Modifiedlandscapedesign.com](http://Modifiedlandscapedesign.com)**

# THE END



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