

The Real Cost of a Patio (and how to budget for your next hardscapes project) *A Retail Budget Planner Tool for Smarter Hardscape Decisions*

Guide to using this tool:

1. Start with square footage.
2. Walk through the known and visible costs.
3. Reveal the invisible but essential costs.
4. Land on a realistic investment range—no surprises.

Step 1: Patio Size & Intent

Patio Size (sq ft): _____

Primary Use (check all that apply):

- ☐ **Dining Areas (stable, furniture-friendly surfaces)**
 - **Large-Format Patio Stones (16x16, 16x24, 24x24)** — smooth, level surfaces that prevent wobbling tables and chairs
 - **Modular Multi-Piece Systems (Venetian, Valenda, etc.)** — elevated, designed look with flexible patterns for defined dining zones
 - **Linear Pavers (Holland, Clayton, etc.)** — tight joint patterns for durability and long-term stability under frequent use
- ☐ **Lounge Areas (comfort-driven, relaxed living spaces)**
 - **Large-Format Step Stones with thin joints (16x16, 16x24, 24x24)** — creates a clean, open “outdoor living room” feel with fewer visual breaks
 - **Modular Multi-Piece Systems (Plaza, etc.)** — layered, curated aesthetic ideal for high-end lounge environments
 - **Traditional Pavers (Holland)** — smaller scale patterns that create warmth and intimacy around seating areas
 - **Step Stones + Gravel** — casual, resort-style layouts that define zones without feeling overly structured
- ☐ **Fire Feature Areas (heat-resistant, gathering-focused layouts)**
 - **Modern Square Fire Pit Kits (Ladera, Nova Wall)** — clean lines and contemporary styling for structured gathering spaces
 - **Traditional Fire Pit Kits (RumbleStone)** — classic round or square designs with a more rustic, approachable feel
 - **Large-Scale Fire Place Systems (RomanStone)** — built for expansive, statement fire features and seating integration
- ☐ **Outdoor Kitchen / Grill Areas (durable, build-ready systems)**
 - **Modern Wall Systems (Ladera Wall Block, Nova Wall)** — sleek, modular builds for contemporary outdoor kitchens
 - **Traditional Wall Systems (RumbleStone)** — versatile, easy-to-build components with a timeless look
- ☐ **High-Traffic & Pet Areas (durability, grip, and long-term performance)**
 - **Interlocking Pavers (Holland 60mm, Clayton)** — maximum durability and stability for constant foot traffic and pet activity
 - **Large Rectangular Patio Stones (16x24)** — fewer joints for easier cleaning and low-maintenance open areas
 - **Linear / Textured Pavers (Plank, Venetian)** — added traction and grip for active use and pets



Step 2: Visible Costs (What Shoppers Expect)

Category	Typical % of Budget	Your Estimate
Pavers / Step Stones / Wall Block	20–30%	\$ _____
Pattern / Border Upgrades	3–8%	\$ _____
Steps / Walls / Caps	8–15%	\$ _____
Fire Feature / Kits	5–15%	\$ _____
Visible Subtotal		\$ _____

Step 3: Invisible Costs (What Most People Forget)

Category	Typical % of Budget	Your Estimate
Excavation & Site Prep	10–20%	\$ _____
Base Material & Compaction	10–15%	\$ _____
Drainage & Slope Management	5–10%	\$ _____
Edge Restraint & Finishing	3–5%	\$ _____
Access Challenges / Labor Adjustments	3–10%	\$ _____
Invisible Subtotal		\$ _____

This is what keeps your patio from shifting, sinking, or failing.

Step 4: Comfort, Function & Longevity Adders

Category	Typical Range	Your Estimate
Lighting (low-voltage)	\$300–\$2,000	\$ _____
<i>*This cost can be reduced if electrical is not being run, and you are instead opting for solar</i>		
Seating Clearance Allowance	Included	—
Sealing & Joint Sand	\$200–\$800	\$ _____
Landscaping / Restoration	\$300–\$2,500	\$ _____
Permits / HOA	\$100–\$500	\$ _____
Comfort & Longevity Subtotal		\$ _____

Step 2: Visible Costs (What Shoppers Expect)

Visible Costs	\$ _____
Invisible Costs	\$ _____
Comfort & Longevity	\$ _____
Estimated Total Investment	\$ _____

Expectation setting: Most finished patios land **15–30% higher** than the paver-only number.

