TEXAN LANDSCAPE GROUP

COST GUIDE

What Decides the Price of a Houston Backyard

Nobody can quote a yard they have not stood in, and a figure given before that is a guess dressed up as a number. What can be published honestly is the range each kind of work falls in, what sits at each end of it, and what decides where a particular property lands. That is all this guide is — the same figures printed on our service pages, gathered in one place.

Ranges as published on landscapedesignhouston.com. Typical ranges for Houston projects, not quotes.

Section 01

The four things that move the number

Two yards with identical wish lists can be priced very differently, and it is almost always one of these four rather than the finishes.

01

Square footage, and the shape of it

Area sets the material and labour, but shape sets the cutting. A simple rectangle and a cut-up plan threaded around beds, trees, and paving can be the same square footage and not the same job.

02

Materials

Natural stone, travertine, and large-format pavers price differently from concrete, and turf ranges by pile height, density, and backing. Specification is where a range is genuinely a choice.

03

How much grading and drainage the site needs

Houston sits on clay that holds water, and the work that fixes grade happens before anything visible is built. On a flat, well-drained lot this is a small line; on a lot that pools, it is a large one.

04

Access for equipment

What can be driven to the back of the property decides whether spoil, base, and material move by machine or by hand. A narrow side gate is one of the most expensive features a yard can have.

Section 02

Published ranges, service by service

The same figures printed on each service page. A range is what this kind of work typically costs in Houston — the proposal comes from a finished design, where the quantities are real.

Service	Typical range	Measured rate
Houston Paver Contractor Building Patios on a Proper Base	$12,000 – $45,000	$20 – $40 per sq ft installed
Travertine Patio Installation for Houston Backyards	$16,000 – $50,000	$28 – $45 per sq ft installed
Flagstone Patio Installation Built for Houston Clay	$9,000 – $35,000	$25 – $45 per sq ft installed
Tile Patio Installation Over Concrete in Houston	$12,000 – $45,000	$30 – $55 per sq ft installed
Houston Concrete Patio Contractors, Poured for Clay Soil	$6,000 – $30,000	$10 – $20 per sq ft poured
Paver Walkway and Gravel Path Installation in Houston	$2,500 – $9,000	$12 – $22 per sq ft installed
Turf and Paver Grid Installation for Houston Drives and Paths	$8,000 – $28,000	$22 – $38 per sq ft installed
Houston Retaining Walls Engineered for Clay and Drainage	$6,000 – $40,000	$45 – $90 per sq ft of wall face

Service	Typical range	Measured rate
Houston Pergola Design and Build, Cedar and Custom	$15,000 – $60,000	$80 – $150 per sq ft of covered area
Houston Patio Cover Installation, Engineered and Permitted	$18,000 – $65,000	$90 – $160 per sq ft of covered area
IRP Insulated Patio Covers Installed Across Houston	$15,000 – $45,000	$85 – $140 per sq ft of covered area
Louvered and Aluminum Pergolas for Houston Backyards	$14,000 – $55,000	$85 – $175 per sq ft of covered area
Houston Deck Builders, Framed for Humidity and Movement	$8,000 – $35,000	$35 – $65 per sq ft installed
Houston Composite Deck Builders, Trex and Capped Board	$12,000 – $45,000	$45 – $85 per sq ft installed
Cedar Arbors and Diamond Privacy Screens in Houston	$2,500 – $12,000	$120 – $260 per linear foot installed
Houston Fence Installation, Posts Set for Clay Soil	$4,000 – $20,000	$35 – $75 per linear foot installed
Houston Gate Installation, Driveway, Electric and Walk Through	$4,500 – $25,000	$6,000 – $18,000 per automated driveway gate
Houston Outdoor Kitchen Design and Build, Start to Finish	$15,000 – $60,000	$1,200 – $2,500 per linear foot of counter run
Houston Fire Pit and Outdoor Fireplace Design and Build	$8,000 – $35,000	$4,000 – $9,000 for a built-in fire pit or fire table
Outdoor Shower Installation With Hot Water and Drainage	$3,500 – $14,000	—
Houston Swimming Pool Contractors, Design Through Build	$85,000 – $175,000	—
Cool Decking and Pool Remodeling Across Houston	$18,000 – $85,000	$8,000 – $18,000 for an interior resurface alone

Service	Typical range	Measured rate
Artificial Turf Installation Built on a Drainage Base	$8,000 – $25,000	$9 – $16 per sq ft installed
Houston Sod Installation, Graded, Amended and Watered In	$3,500 – $12,000	$1.50 – $2.75 per sq ft installed
Xeriscape Landscape Design for Low Water Houston Yards	$8,000 – $30,000	$12 – $25 per sq ft of planted area
Houston Drainage Solutions for Clay Soil and Flat Lots	$4,500 – $25,000	$35 – $70 per linear foot of drain line
Houston Sprinkler System Installation and Repair	$3,500 – $15,000	$700 – $1,200 per zone installed
Houston Landscape Lighting, Low Voltage and Built to Last	$4,500 – $15,000	$250 – $450 per fixture installed
Houston Putting Green Installation With a True Roll	$12,000 – $30,000	$22 – $35 per sq ft installed
Backyard Basketball Court Design and Build in Houston	$45,000 – $120,000	$40 – $85 per sq ft of court

Section 03

What each end of the scale buys

A range is only useful with its scope attached. Open a service for the bottom and the top of its published range, and what tends to decide which end a project lands nearer. The table above links straight to whichever one you came for.

Houston Paver Contractor Building Patios on a Proper Base — $12,000 – $45,000

Lower end: A rear terrace in concrete pavers on a properly built base, with no significant change in level.

Upper end: A large travertine or natural stone terrace with seat walls, steps, drains, and borders detailed into the house and the pool.

What moves it: square footage and the paving material; base depth, and how much excavation the clay on your lot requires; drainage — channel drains, french drains, and where the water is taken; seat walls, retaining walls, and steps across grade changes; equipment access to the back of the lot.

Travertine Patio Installation for Houston Backyards — $16,000 – $50,000

Lower end: A rear terrace in a single travertine format over a new compacted base, set with swept joints.

Upper end: A full pool surround in French pattern, mortared and sealed, with coping, step treads, and bullnose edges cut from the same stone.

What moves it: square footage, and the pattern the stone is laid in; stone grade, thickness, and format, and how much of it has to be cut; whether an existing patio or deck has to come out first; base depth, and how much excavation the clay on your lot requires; coping, step treads, and bullnose edges taken from the same stone.

Flagstone Patio Installation Built for Houston Clay — $9,000 – $35,000

Lower end: A courtyard or garden terrace dry-laid on a compacted base, with sand or decomposed granite joints.

Upper end: A large mortared terrace over a slab with cut borders, boulder steps, and planted joints, every piece fitted individually.

What moves it: square footage, and whether the stone is dry-laid or set in mortar; stone selection — thickness, colour, and the size range chosen; how much cutting and shuffling the fitting takes to keep joints tight; jointing — sand, decomposed granite, mortar, or planted ground cover; steps, boulders, and borders across changes in level.

Tile Patio Installation Over Concrete in Houston — $12,000 – $45,000

Lower end: Porcelain tile set on a sound existing slab that needs levelling and preparation rather than replacing.

Upper end: A new slab poured to tolerance with uncoupling and waterproof membranes, large-format stone tile, and a threshold run level with the interior floor.

What moves it: whether a new slab is poured, or the existing one is prepared; tile material, format, and slip rating; membranes, and where the movement joints have to land; square footage, and how much of the layout has to be cut; thresholds and transitions where an interior floor runs out.

Houston Concrete Patio Contractors, Poured for Clay Soil — $6,000 – $30,000

Lower end: A broom-finished walkway or a small slab on prepared ground, formed and poured in a single visit.

Upper end: A full driveway replacement with demolition and haul-off, thickened edges, rebar, an apron, and a decorative finish.

What moves it: square footage, and the slab thickness the load calls for; demolition and haul-off of the slab or drive already there; reinforcement, thickened edges, and footings under walls or structures; finish — broom, sand, exposed aggregate, or trowelled smooth under tile; truck and pump access to where the concrete has to go.

Paver Walkway and Gravel Path Installation in Houston — $2,500 – $9,000

Lower end: A short side-yard run in decomposed granite with steel edging and stepping pavers at a single width.

Upper end: A network of garden paths with concrete or stone edging, wide paver steppers, and drainage crossings under each route.

What moves it: path length and width, including gate and bin routes; edging material — steel, concrete, or stone; aggregate depth, and how much excavation the route needs; paver size, count, and the stride spacing they are set at; drainage crossings, thresholds, and steps along the way.

Turf and Paver Grid Installation for Houston Drives and Paths — $8,000 – $28,000

Lower end: A short entry or side-yard grid on an even grade, set out square with a standard turf product between the pavers.

Upper end: A full rear-yard grid with wide joints, cut curves or angles, drain lines under the base, and premium turf seamed tight to every edge.

What moves it: area, paver size, and the joint width the grid is set to; how much cutting and seaming the layout asks for; turf product — pile height, density, and backing; base depth, and the drainage built under the grid; edge restraint against beds, walls, and the paving already there.

Houston Retaining Walls Engineered for Clay and Drainage — $6,000 – $40,000

Lower end: A low seat-height garden wall in segmental block, holding a modest grade change with drainage behind it.

Upper end: A tall engineered wall, or terraced runs, with geogrid, poured footings, stone facing, caps, and steps built through them.

What moves it: retained height, and the total length of wall; wall type — segmental block, poured concrete, or natural stone; engineering, geogrid, and footing depth for the height being held; drainage — gravel, filter fabric, and pipe taken to daylight; caps, facing, steps, and machinery access to the work area.

Houston Pergola Design and Build, Cedar and Custom — $15,000 – $60,000

Lower end: An open timber pergola over an existing terrace, on footings sized for a straightforward span.

Upper end: A motorised louvered structure, or a finished-ceiling covered patio tied into the roofline, with fans, lighting, heaters, and screens run inside it.

What moves it: span, height, and how much area is covered; structure type — open rafters, solid roof, or adjustable louvers; material — timber, steel, or powder-coated aluminium; engineering and permitting, where the span or the attachment requires it; integrated fans, lighting, heaters, screens, and outlets.

Houston Patio Cover Installation, Engineered and Permitted — $18,000 – $65,000

Lower end: A straightforward attached cover over an existing terrace, decked, finished, and lit.

Upper end: A wide cover tied into the roofline with a stained tongue-and-groove ceiling, stone-wrapped columns, fans, recessed lighting, and motorised screens.

What moves it: covered area, span, and how far apart the posts can sit; how the roof ties into the house, and where the gutters discharge; ceiling and column finishes — timber, panelling, stone, or stucco; fans, recessed and pendant lighting, heaters, and outlets; engineering, permitting, and inspection where the structure requires it.

IRP Insulated Patio Covers Installed Across Houston — $15,000 – $45,000

Lower end: A wall-mounted panel roof over an existing patio, in a standard panel thickness and colour.

Upper end: A wide clear span in thicker panels, with powder-coated posts and beams, integrated gutters, recessed lighting, and fans.

What moves it: covered area, and the clear span the panels have to carry unaided; panel thickness, and the factory colour chosen; attachment into the house wall, or freestanding posts and footings; integrated gutters, and where the water is piped to; recessed lighting, fans, and switching set into the panels.

Louvered and Aluminum Pergolas for Houston Backyards — $14,000 – $55,000

Lower end: A fixed-slat powder-coated frame over an existing slab, anchored on concealed base plates.

Upper end: A large motorised louvered roof with rain sensing and integrated gutters, plus side screens, lighting, and heaters run inside the frame.

What moves it: footprint, span, and the number of posts the design carries; roof type — fixed slat, adjustable louvered, or solid; motorisation, rain sensing, and the controls specified; new footings, or anchoring to a slab already there; integrated lighting, fans, heaters, and privacy screens.

Houston Deck Builders, Framed for Humidity and Movement — $8,000 – $35,000

Lower end: A ground-level cedar or treated deck on straightforward footings, with a simple board layout.

Upper end: A raised hardwood deck with stair runs, railings, picture-frame borders, hidden fasteners, and skirted storage beneath it.

What moves it: deck area, and how far above grade it sits; decking material — pressure-treated pine, cedar, or hardwood; framing, footings, and the ledger flashing into the house; stairs, railings, and how many levels the deck steps through; skirting, under-deck access, and the stain or sealer on completion.

Houston Composite Deck Builders, Trex and Capped Board — $12,000 – $45,000

Lower end: A ground-level deck in an entry-level capped composite on a new frame, with matching fascia.

Upper end: A large raised deck in a premium board, with picture-frame borders, cable or aluminum railings, stairs, and under-deck drainage.

What moves it: deck area, and how far above grade it sits; composite line and board profile — capped, grained, or premium colours; whether a new frame is built, or an existing one re-spaced to suit; railings, stairs, fascia, and stair nosing; under-deck drainage and ventilation where the space below is used.

Cedar Arbors and Diamond Privacy Screens in Houston — $2,500 – $12,000

Lower end: A single framed panel screening an air conditioning unit or a pool equipment pad.

Upper end: A long run of framed lattice on set posts, or fence toppers along a boundary, stained with climbing wires trained behind it.

What moves it: run length, and the height each panel has to screen to; whether posts are set new, or panels mount to a fence or wall; timber grade, frame section, and the lattice spacing; hardware, and the finish — stained, painted, or left to weather; wires, ties, and the clearance kept behind for climbing planting.

Houston Fence Installation, Posts Set for Clay Soil — $4,000 – $20,000

Lower end: A cedar board-on-board replacement on a level line, with the old fence removed and hauled away.

Upper end: A tall horizontal or cap-and-trim run stepped across grade, in a premium grade of cedar or in steel, stained on completion.

What moves it: run length, fence height, and the style built; material — pressure-treated pine, the grade of cedar, or steel; demolition and haul-off of the fence, posts, and concrete already there; post depth and footings, and how much the line steps across grade; gates, hardware, and the stain or sealer on completion.

Houston Gate Installation, Driveway, Electric and Walk Through — $4,500 – $25,000

Lower end: A cedar-clad garden gate hung on new posts, with a latch and no automation.

Upper end: A wide steel driveway gate, fabricated and clad, on deep footings with a slide or swing operator, keypad, intercom, loops, and safety devices commissioned.

What moves it: gate width and weight, and whether it swings or slides; frame material and infill — steel, aluminum, or cedar cladding; hinge and receiver post footings sized for the leaf; the operator, and the controls chosen — keypad, remotes, intercom, loops; power run to the gate, photo eyes, edge sensors, and manual release.

Houston Outdoor Kitchen Design and Build, Start to Finish — $15,000 – $60,000

Lower end: A single counter run with a built-in grill, storage doors, and a clad surround, under a cover already there.

Upper end: An L or U-shaped kitchen with a bar overhang, sink, refrigeration, a smoker or pizza oven, stone counters, and task lighting.

What moves it: counter length and layout — a single run, an l, or a u with seating; appliances specified, and the ventilation each one needs; counter material, and the cladding on the carcass; how far gas, water, waste, and dedicated circuits have to be run; task and ambient lighting, and the cover built over the whole thing.

Houston Fire Pit and Outdoor Fireplace Design and Build — $8,000 – $35,000

Lower end: A gas fire pit or built-in fire table on a reinforced pad, faced to match the paving around it.

Upper end: A full masonry fireplace with a proportioned firebox and flue, stone facing, a cut hearth and mantel, and wood storage built in.

What moves it: a fire pit or bowl, against a full fireplace with a flue; height and mass of masonry, and the footing it has to sit on; facing material — stone, brick, tile, or stucco; fuel — a gas line and ignition, wood-burning, or both; hearth, mantel, cap, and any seating built around it.

Outdoor Shower Installation With Hot Water and Drainage — $3,500 – $14,000

Lower end: A wall-mounted hot and cold shower on an existing slab, draining to a gravel bed behind a simple screen.

Upper end: An enclosed shower with travertine or tiled floor and walls, a drained and piped floor, rain head and handheld, and benches and storage.

What moves it: how far hot and cold supply has to be run from the house; whether the floor drains to a plumbed connection or a gravel sump; floor and wall finish — travertine, tile, flagstone, or cedar slats; fixtures, mixing valves, and freeze protection; screening, benches, hooks, and towel hardware.

Houston Swimming Pool Contractors, Design Through Build — $85,000 – $175,000

Lower end: A rectangular gunite pool with standard decking, a straightforward equipment set, and little grade work.

Upper end: A pool and raised spa with water features, a large stone deck, heating and automation, and the surrounding landscape built with it.

What moves it: pool size, depth, and geometry; spa, spillways, scuppers, and raised walls; deck material, and how much deck the design carries; equipment — heating, automation, sanitation, and lighting; site access, grade, and how much of the yard is rebuilt around the water.

Cool Decking and Pool Remodeling Across Houston — $18,000 – $85,000

Lower end: A new interior finish and waterline tile on a sound shell, with the equipment left as it is.

Upper end: A full renovation — interior, tile, coping, replaced decking, corrected drainage, variable-speed equipment, automation, lighting, and added water features.

What moves it: pool size, and the interior finish — plaster, quartz, or pebble; how much waterline tile, bond beam, and coping is replaced; deck area replaced or extended, and the drainage corrected with it; equipment — pumps, filters, heating, automation, and lighting; features added while the pool is open: spillways, bubblers, a spa, a ledge.

Artificial Turf Installation Built on a Drainage Base — $8,000 – $25,000

Lower end: A side yard, dog run, or small play lawn on an even grade, with a standard base and one turf product.

Upper end: A large lawn or a paver-and-turf inlay deck, where the cutting, seaming, and drainage under the surface is most of the labour.

What moves it: square footage, and how cut-up the shape is around beds and paving; turf product — pile height, density, and pet-rated backing; how much excavation, base depth, and drainage the grade needs; paver inlay and edge detailing against hardscape and planting.

Houston Sod Installation, Graded, Amended and Watered In — $3,500 – $12,000

Lower end: A lawn replacement on ground that only needs clearing and grading before fresh sod goes down.

Upper end: A large lawn where compacted ground has to be broken up, amended, and regraded, with irrigation corrected first.

What moves it: square footage, and the variety — zoysia, st. augustine, or bermuda; how much old turf and debris has to come out; soil amendment and how much regrading the yard needs; irrigation adjustment, or new zones where coverage is short.

Xeriscape Landscape Design for Low Water Houston Yards — $8,000 – $30,000

Lower end: A front bed conversion — lawn removed, gravel and decomposed granite laid, and adapted planting at a starter size.

Upper end: A whole yard rebuilt as a designed scheme, with boulders, layered native planting at mature sizes, stone paths, and drip zoned through it.

What moves it: area converted, and how much lawn has to be removed first; plant sizes at delivery, and how densely the scheme is planted; boulders, gravel fields, and decomposed granite quantities; bed edging, mulch depth, and separation fabric where it helps; drip irrigation zones added, or an existing system reworked.

Houston Drainage Solutions for Clay Soil and Flat Lots — $4,500 – $25,000

Lower end: Downspouts tied underground and a short French drain run to daylight at one wet corner of the yard.

Upper end: A whole-property system — regrading and swales, catch basins at every low point piped into solid lines, and a dry well where there is no fall to daylight.

What moves it: how much of the yard drains, and how far the water has to be carried; drain line length, pipe size, and trench depth; catch basins, area drains, and downspout connections; whether there is a fall to daylight, or a sump and dry well are needed; regrading, and reinstating sod, turf, or planting over the trenches.

Houston Sprinkler System Installation and Repair — $3,500 – $15,000

Lower end: Repairs and a retune of an existing system, or a few new zones covering a front lawn.

Upper end: A whole-property system zoned by hydrozone, with drip through every bed, a smart controller, rain and freeze sensors, and backflow prevention to code.

What moves it: property size, and the number of zones the planting actually needs; spray and rotor heads against drip run through beds and to trees; a new system, a retrofit, or repairs to what is already there; the controller and sensors specified; supply tap, pressure and flow, and backflow prevention to code.

Houston Landscape Lighting, Low Voltage and Built to Last — $4,500 – $15,000

Lower end: A front elevation and entry walk — a handful of uplights and path lights on a single transformer.

Upper end: A whole property lit in zones — front, terrace, pool, specimen trees, and structures, on app-based control.

What moves it: fixture count, and how far the low-voltage runs have to reach; fixture quality — cast brass and copper against aluminium; how many zones are switched separately, and transformer sizing; whether conduit is set during a build or retrofitted through finished landscape.

Houston Putting Green Installation With a True Roll — $12,000 – $30,000

Lower end: A small two-cup green on an even grade, built to roll true without much contour shaped into it.

Upper end: A large multi-cup green with real break, a fringe collar, a chipping approach, and bunkers.

What moves it: green size and the number of cups; how much contour and break is shaped into the base; fringe collar, approach, and chipping areas; bunkers, sub-surface drainage, and lighting for evening practice.

Backyard Basketball Court Design and Build in Houston — $45,000 – $120,000

Lower end: A single pickleball court on an engineered slab, with acrylic surfacing and regulation lines.

Upper end: A multi-sport court with cushioned surfacing, perimeter fencing and windscreen, goals, and shielded lighting for play after dark.

What moves it: court size and the sport — pickleball, basketball, tennis, or multi-sport; slab engineering, and how much cut and fill the site needs; surfacing system — cushioned acrylic, modular tile, or synthetic turf; fencing, netting, and windscreen; goals, posts, and court lighting.

The questions that come with a number

What does landscaping cost in Houston?

Cost is driven by square footage, materials, how much grading and drainage the site needs, and access for equipment — so we do not quote a figure before seeing the property. The ranges published against each service are ballpark figures for a typical Houston project, useful for working out what is worth discussing and not a quote for yours. You get an investment range early in the design conversation and a detailed proposal before work begins.

Why does drainage keep coming up?

Houston sits on clay that holds water, and our rain arrives in volume. If grade and drainage are not designed first, turf stays soggy, pavers settle, and beds drown — so drainage is part of the design rather than a repair later.

How long does a landscape project take?

It depends entirely on scope. A sod or artificial turf installation is usually measured in days, a patio or pergola in weeks, and a full outdoor living build with hardscape, structures, planting, and lighting in months. You get a schedule with the proposal, before anything starts.

WHERE THIS COMES FROM

Every figure and stage in this cost guide is published on landscapedesignhouston.com — the process, the questions, and the design package pricing are the same ones you will be quoted from. This file is rebuilt each time the site is deployed, so it carries no revision date: the copy you are holding is the current one.

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