



Buyers' Guide

OUTDOOR PROJECTS

2022

INTRODUCTION

According to the latest Rated People Home Improvement Trends Report, 47% of homeowners are planning improvements to their gardens. Gardens are also becoming more important for homeowners with 64% of respondents to the same survey saying they wouldn't buy a home that didn't have any outdoor space.

In this guide we look at what professionals need to consider when taking on outdoor projects for customers, including the regulations customers need to be aware of and the products that can make a difference to the project.

THE REGULATIONS

PLANNING PERMISSION

For any significant garden improvements, it is important to check if planning permission is required. Permitted Development (PD) rights allow homeowners to make changes to their property without the need for planning permission. Class E of the Permitted Development rights can apply to a wide range of outdoor projects, including new sheds, garden offices, summerhouses, home gyms or hobby spaces. It also covers alterations and improvements to existing buildings. However, there are a number of different conditions attached to this, and a range of factors may affect whether the rights apply.

Firstly, how the building will be used will dictate if planning permission is required. The building must be used 'for a purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse'. In the simplest terms, this refers to a use that is not part of normal residential usage. For example, separate, self-contained accommodation or a building used as a bedroom, bathroom, or kitchen would not fall under PD conditions. Also, a local planning authority may not consider a new garden office used five days a week to meet the PD conditions.

Next, the building must be a single storey and not exceed 4 metres in height for dual pitch (or hipped) roofs, 3 metres for other roof designs or 2.5 metres where the building is within 2 metres of the property boundary. There is also a maximum eaves height of 2.5 metres.

Also, all buildings, containers and other exterior structures (both new and existing) must not occupy more than 50% of the space around the 'original' dwelling. Any new outbuilding must not occupy land forward of the wall of the principal elevation of the property – usually the elevation facing the road that serves the property.

Further factors to consider:

- Permitted Development does not apply to listed properties or those created through change of use.
- Planning permission may be required where the outbuilding is used continually as an office or for running a business as this may fall outside of an incidental use.
- Further restrictions apply for properties within designated areas such as a National Park, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads.
- The design of the outbuilding must not include a verandah, balcony, or raised platform of more than 0.3 metres in height.
- Permitted development rights for the property may have been previously removed by the planning authority, such as through an Article 4 Direction.

BUILDING REGULATIONS

Small, detached buildings do not typically need Building Regulations approval if the floor area is less than 15 square metres and does not contain sleeping accommodation. Where the floor area is between 15 and 30 square metres, approval is not needed if it contains no sleeping accommodation and is either at least one metre from any boundary or is constructed substantially of non-combustible materials.

While building regulations do not apply for smaller buildings, it is important that measures are taken to ensure the health, well-being and safety of those using it. For example, any building connected to the electrical supply must comply with Approved Document P: Electrical Safety.



PERGOLAS AND GARDEN BARS

Among the simplest, but most in-demand additions to garden spaces, are structures such as pergolas and garden bars. Pergolas provide a shaded or sheltered area of the garden offering a valuable extension to the living space. These are relatively simple to create using high quality treated timber and simple fixings. Builders' metalwork products, such as **Simpson Strong joist straps and hangers**, are ideal for connecting the sections together.

Garden bars are also growing in popularity as the centre of an at-home social space. The design of these compact cabins can be customised to the tastes and requirements of the customer, and can range from simple to more complex structures.

For any outdoor space or construction, consider how an additional power supply can elevate the area for entertainment appliances such as lighting and sound systems, projectors and fridge freezers, as well as supplying electricity for tools and other equipment. The **BG Nexus Storm 13A 2 Gang Weatherproof Socket** is ideal for this as the IP66 rating provides adequate protection against dust and moisture ingress.



IronmongeryDirect

Product code:
949251



ElectricalDirect

Product code:
826065

LIGHTING AND HEATING

Lighting is a simple way to provide additional versatility and comfort to both pergolas and garden bars. Lighting not only provides illumination that allows the garden to be used in the evenings, but can also accentuate the design and help create a welcoming atmosphere.

Wall or ground mounted solar lights provide a simple and effective option. The IP44 rated **Lutec Bubble LED Solar Light** for instance, has a sleek stainless steel design and produces a cool white (4000 Kelvin) light. Similarly, there is a wide range of high quality, mains powered lights in different types and styles to meet the aesthetic requirements of the homeowner. The **Forum Leto 2 Up & Down Outdoor Wall Light** has a simple and understated design and is available in a range of finishes including white, black, copper, anthracite and stainless steel. Alternatively, products such as the **Integral LED Curve Wall Light** and **Forum Zinc Hestia LED Wall Lantern** provide contemporary styled options for those looking for a bolder, modern look. Also, adding a weatherproof switch, such as the IP66 rated **Click Scolmore Essentials 1 or 2 Gang units**, to the installation makes it easy to control the lighting.



ElectricalDirect

Product code:
891911



ElectricalDirect

Product code:
878445

Another valuable addition to these areas is a source of heating, enabling the outdoor spaces to be used comfortably for more of the year. Wall mounted options such as the **Forum Blaze Patio Heater**, which has integrated LED lights, and **Forum Flare**, which can be operated by remote control, offer variable settings and provide effective heat coverage as well as safety features.



ElectricalDirect

Product code:
691366

IP RATINGS EXPLAINED

The IP or Ingress Protection rating describes the products' resistance to foreign body and water ingress. It consists of a two-digit code with the first showing the protection from dust and other objects, and the second defining the level of water resistance (see table below). As an example, an IP67 rated product is dust-tight and waterproof to immersion in water up to 1 metre.

First digit - foreign body ingress	Second digit – water ingress
0 – No protection	0 – No protection
1 – Objects greater than 50mm	1 – Vertically dripping water (when mounted upright)
2 – Objects greater than 12.5 mm	2 – Vertically dripping water when tilted at 15°
3 – Objects greater than 2.5mm	3 – Spraying water
4 – Objects greater than 1 mm	4 – Splashing of water
5 – Dust protected (dust ingress not fully prevented)	5 – Water jets (4.4 psi pressure)
6 – Dust tight (complete protection)	6 – Powerful water jets (15 psi pressure)
	7 – Immersion in water up to 1 metre depth
	8 – Immersion in water of 1 metre depth or more

DECKING

A staple of many gardens, decking areas can add real value to outside areas. As well as providing spaces that can be used all year round, it can be used to create feature pathways through the garden or for expanding areas around pergolas and other structures for even more versatility.

Adding a balustrade to the edge of the decking can help segment different areas of the garden. Simple to install wire rope systems can help achieve this separation without creating barriers that might make the garden feel smaller. Selecting a product made from corrosion resistant Grade 316 stainless steel is also recommended to ensure a high-quality, long-lasting finish. Alternatively, frameless glass balustrade systems, such as the **Barrier Sabco Aluminium Rail Kit**, can create the same barrier-free effect with a sophisticated, sleek and minimalist look.



IronmongeryDirect

Product code:
237098



Also, for subtle illumination of the decking area, products such as the waterproof IP67 rated **Lutec Twilight LED Decking Lights** provide a low energy option with minimal maintenance required for the homeowner.

ElectricalDirect

Product code: 418438



SHEDS AND SUMMERHOUSES

Customers are now wanting more when it comes to outdoor buildings that were traditionally seen as basic and functional, such as sheds and summerhouses. Depending on the customer's requirements, there are a wide range of options for the design of these structures. However, there are a number of areas where additional fixtures and fittings can be recommended to create a better, more useful space.

LIGHTING – BOTH INDOOR AND OUT

As with many outdoor projects, lighting can be a valuable addition. When installed within a shed for instance, it can help make it easier when tasks need to be carried out inside the building. Although the lighting will be inside, it is however important that the fixtures are suitable for the possible temperature and damp conditions that come with being housed outside. For example, outdoor bulkhead lights are a durable and effective option for this purpose. The **Forum Capella LED Oval and Round Grid Bulkhead Lights** are corrosion resistant, have a 25,000 hours lifespan and can be wall or ceiling mounted.



Bulkhead lights with a softer aesthetic can be used for summerhouses. The IP44 rated **Stanley Round Bulkhead Light** in stainless steel and the **Forum Ripon LED Round Flush Light** provide two different design options.

While these are also suited for use on the exterior of the building, there are many products that offer a more classical styling with a modern twist. For example, the **Luceco LED Outdoor Coach Wall Lantern** which has an average lifetime of 20,000 hours and the die-cast aluminium **Forum Triton LED Half Wall Lantern**, which has a 30,000 hours lifespan.

SECURITY

Ensuring that the contents of an external building are protected from theft is essential and often simple to achieve with a range of solutions available. Fitting a hasp & staple in combination with a padlock for instance can often suffice as a security measure. The **Squire Combi All Weather Padlock** is a popular choice. It has a four-digit combination and a die cast alloy lock body, with a dual compound protective cover for high corrosion resistance.

However, if there are expensive tools for instance that need securing from theft, a heavy-duty product such as the **ABUS Series 125 High Security Hasp & Staple** is ideal. With a hardened staple and extra strong hinge, it is designed to resist physical attack. Equally important is the choice of padlock with both key and combination options available. There is also the option of fitting a locking bolt such as the **Yale 600 Combination Door Bolt** or the **Squire KeyBolt** which has a 4 lever lock mechanism for excellent reliability outdoors.

For a durable, high security solution there are products such as the **Borg BL4409 Push Button Lock**. Easy to install on 25-80mm thick doors, it has a weatherproof marine grade keypad and tested for corrosion resistance with a 1,000 hour salt spray test.



IronmongeryDirect

Product code:
181598



IronmongeryDirect

Product code:
388195



IronmongeryDirect

Product code:
180357

GARDEN OFFICES AND STUDIOS

Among the more complex garden building projects is the creation of an office space. With work patterns evolving and moving towards more remote working, many homeowners are looking to create separate office spaces. Similarly, some customers may be looking to add an area dedicated to leisure activities and hobbies. For these projects there are many factors that must be considered.



IronmongeryDirect

Product code:
604220

Firstly, its design and construction must ensure it is fully weatherproof and sufficiently insulated. The use of high-quality, permanently flexible sealants, such as **Soudal Exterior Frame Silicone**, can help ensure long-lasting durability and weather-tightness for the windows.

It must also be connected to the electrical supply in a safe and compliant way, with the correct type and placement of cables from the main property. Smaller ‘garage’ consumer units are ideal for these projects and there is a range of populated and unpopulated units available from brands such as BG, Danson, MK and Fusebox.



ElectricalDirect

Product code:
717931

HEATING AND VENTILATION

With people spending extended periods of time in these buildings, creating a comfortable and healthy indoor environment is important.

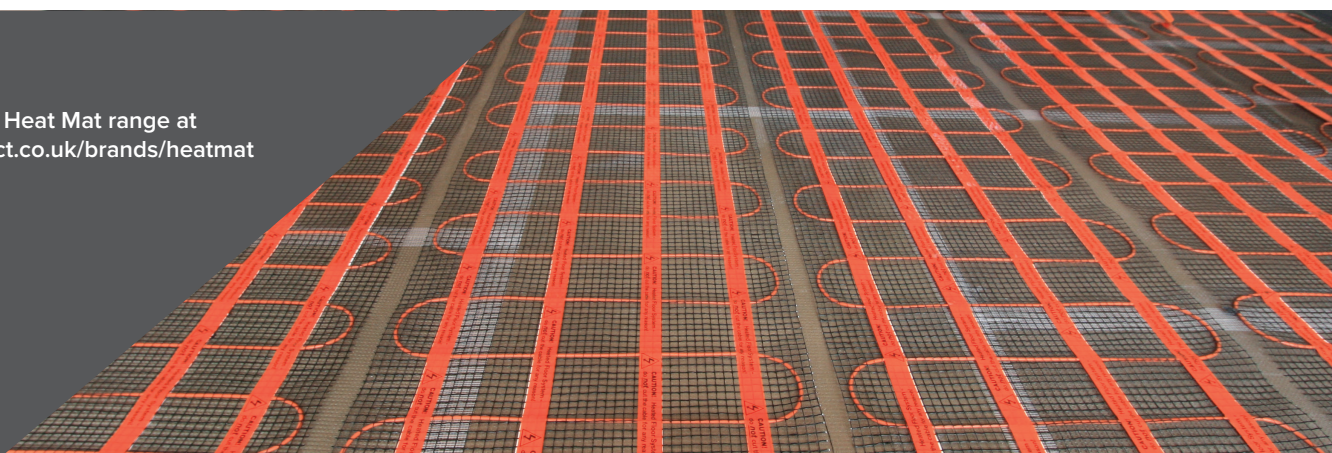
The heating of separate office spaces is an essential consideration if it is to be used all year round. While portable heaters can provide a simple solution to meet this need, it may be worth considering panel heaters as an effective and space saving alternative that often also have additional features that may benefit the customer.

The energy efficient ATC panel heaters are perfect for year-round warmth. ElectricalDirect has several models in stock, including the **Merida RF Digital Panel** range. Available in outputs from 0.5kW to 2kW, this smart collection incorporates technology that allows the user to adjust heating remotely via an ATC Smart Control App, or voice control with Alexa and Google Home. It also has open window detection that prevents heat being wasted by pausing the heating if a window or door is opened.

Another option to consider that has risen in popularity are underfloor heating systems. The award-winning range from **Heat Mat** offers a versatile, efficient heating solution either, as a primary heating source in a well-insulated garden room whilst freeing up valuable wall space, or as a secondary heat source to provide luxurious under foot warmth when paired with an electric heater. These electric, underfloor 160W heating mats are simple to install and can be fitted directly beneath tile and stone floors, or covered with levelling compound to fit underneath carpet, LVT, engineered board and laminate floors. Covered by Heat Mat's Lifetime Warranty, BEAB approved and 18th Edition compliant, the range is available in various sizes for floor coverage up to 14.7m².

ElectricalDirect

View our complete Heat Mat range at
www.electricaldirect.co.uk/brands/heatmat



SECURITY

Given the value of equipment that may be kept in an office, it is worth approaching the door and window security for these buildings as you would to the main house. For example, doors should be secured with high-quality multi-point locks. The **Yale Doormaster PAS3621 Multipoint Door Lock** is tested to the police's Secured by Design standard and also complies to PAS 3621 – the equivalent to the familiar BS 3621 standard for single point locks.

Additionally, it can be valuable to recommend simple CCTV solutions to monitor the building. The **Legrand Netatmo Pro Outdoor Smart Camera** features full HD 1080p video, with real-time and precise alerts to the user's smartphone once movement is detected. It can also distinguish between people, cars and animals - providing updates on what the user chooses to monitor.



IronmongeryDirect

Product code:
986369



ElectricalDirect

Product code:
675584

CABLE MANAGEMENT

While sometimes overlooked for home offices, cable management can help ensure a safer and more organised space while also protecting cables from damage. Mini-trunking such as the **Marco Mini PVC Trunking** or the **D-Line ½ Round PVC Mini Trunking** can be ideal options where a small number of cables need to be contained. Both are self-adhesive, making the sections easy to install. In some situations, it may be preferable for the cables to be installed at floor level, in which case there are ¼ round floor trim options that fit against the wall edge.



Outdoor and garden projects are now more popular than ever with homeowners looking to create extra space and make the most of their property. At **IronmongeryDirect** and **ElectricalDirect** we have all the products you need to complete these projects – all from one source – and with delivery options that mean you can always get the products you need, when they are needed.

Explore all we have to offer at

www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk and www.ElectricalDirect.co.uk



ABOUT US

IronmongeryDirect has been supplying architectural ironmongery to tradespeople for over 50 years. With over 18,000 products in stock including everything from door furniture, closers, hinges and intumescents to cylinders, mortice locks and latches.

Specialist online retailer, **ElectricalDirect** has over 12,000 products in stock including everything from first fix to finishing touches, all from top trade brands like FuseBox, JCC and Doncaster Cables.

We offer a range of flexible delivery options to meet the needs of our customers' busy schedules, including free next day delivery on orders over £45 ex VAT, same day delivery to postcodes in selected areas of London and the East of England, as well as click and collect from 6,500 pick up points across the UK.



"We place our customers at the heart of everything we do. That's why we constantly review every part of our business, to ensure you have the products you need, when you need them."

Dominick Sandford,
Managing Director