

## 10 Ways to Save on Custom Landscaping

### 1. Plan Ahead

Start with a landscape design plan prepared by a certified landscape architect. A detailed landscape plan will minimize costly project overruns by holding the contractor accountable.

### 2. Recycle

Reuse the organic soil in the construction zone. By removing the layer of organic soil prior to starting your landscape or pool project, the amount of screened topsoil needed to plant beds and lawn areas will be reduced.

### 3. Recycle More!

Reuse existing plant material. Healthy trees and plants should be cataloged and stored in a well protected nursery area. The plants should then be reinstalled as part of the new landscape.

### 4. Prioritize Materials

Use local, regional material (stones, trees, greenery etc.), as opposed to importing landscape materials from abroad.

### 5. Think Deep

Use plants that have deep rooting habits. Utilizing native plants in your landscape with deep rooting habits will reduce water consumption.

### 6. Less is More

Reduce plant sizes or quantities where necessary. Use smaller-sized material and fewer quantities in low priority areas including side yards and other areas out of the primary view.

### 7. Low Maintenance

Use low maintenance plant material. Plants such as the norway spruce, spirea, ornamental grasses and vinca all require very little maintenance and are incredibly resistant to disease and insect damage.

### 8. Choose Wisely

Be smart with materials selection. Material choices can double the cost of your landscape project; natural stone can cost 5 times more than concrete pavers. Inform your landscape architect of your preferred choice for more affordable materials.

### 9. Seed Don't Sod

Homeowners who seed in the early spring or fall will save up to 70 percent as compared to the common practice of installing sod.

## 10. Strategy

Trees planted next to the home can reduce electric bills by shading the residence from the hot summer sun. Trees also reduce home heating costs by acting as a wind break in the winter months. It is important to choose a tree with a small branching habit that won't pose a threat to the house once it matures.