

rethink/ SHADING



Cool off with a Shade Structure



Keep cool by shading your space

Adding shade to an outdoor living area in Austin makes good sense – it keeps it cooler and more inviting year-round.

Shade structures adjacent to your home – especially those that shade windows and glass doors, and east -or west-facing walls – reduce solar gain and the need for air conditioning, while keeping your interior more comfortable.

By shading concrete patios and walkways, or similar hard surfaces, you can reduce the solar heat reflected back into your yard and home.

While slow-growing trees can take decades to mature, the solar relief provided by a shade structure (or large, movable plant) is immediate.

Shade for Your Home

Consider:

- Covered porch
- Awnings
- Pergola or vine-covered arbor or trellis
- Umbrella
- Shade sail
- Patio or deck cover
- Carport cover
- Large leafy potted plants, on wheeled platforms
- Tall hedges

BENEFITS

- Reduce energy use for AC
- Shade structures can provide protection from sunburn, skin cancer, and heat-related illness
- Improve comfort by lowering temperatures, indoors and out
- Shade landscaping and potted plants, for improved drought tolerance and reduced water use
- Protect and extend the life of patio furniture, decking, etc.
- Protect and cool cars parked on concrete driveways

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Choosing A Shade Structure

Visit local home-improvement stores, or online resources, to gather ideas and information about residential options for creating shaded surfaces and “outdoor living rooms.”

Shade Sails and Canopies: Tensioned shade structures, made from outdoor fabrics are available in a variety of shapes and sizes. They are stretched taught from anchor points connected to buildings or posts. Simple install-it-yourself options are available for under \$100. High-end products, which may require professional installation, can be researched on manufacturers’ websites.

Built Structures: For a permanent structure, consider engaging an experienced professional to design and build a long-lasting, handsome structure than enhances the beauty and value of your home. Many do-it-yourself plans, designs, and kits are also available.



Resources

Easy Ways to Create Shade

www.idealhomegarden.com

Shade Structure Photo Library

www.houzz.com/shade-structure
<http://www.houzz.com/shade-structures-for-patios>

SunWise (EPA)

www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvandhealth.html