

OUTDOOR KITCHENS

Your Complete Buying Checklist

We know that investing in an outdoor kitchen is a big step, so here's a comprehensive checklist of six key considerations to guide your outdoor kitchen journey, whichever kitchen you choose. Use this checklist to make choices that will reflect your investment and ensure you remain comfortable with your decision for years to come.

1. Have you researched the materials?

An outdoor kitchen is, by its nature, exposed to the elements. Quality is crucial for longevity; the kitchen should be made from heavy-gauge, durable and thoroughly tested materials. Are the materials lab-tested against moisture, salt, and UV - or will you be replacing parts in a few seasons? Be wary of steel or plastic which may rust, warp, or degrade. Look for heavy-gauge aluminium with a marine-grade powder coating, which simply doesn't rust or peel.

2. Have you felt the quality in person?

Visiting a showroom and/or asking for physical samples is the best way to feel the weight and quality of outdoor kitchen materials. It's going to be outside year after year, so it has to be right for the investment.

3. Configurable to suit your needs, or stuck with a fixed design?

Think about the "core trio" of any kitchen: Oven, sink, and fridge. It's the same outside. Can you arrange appliances for how you want to cook and host—like moving the sink above the fridge? Ensure units are flexible and configurable for a smooth workflow.

4. Have you considered BBQ quality and longevity?

Consider that a built-in BBQ will need to last as long as the outdoor kitchen does. And vice versa. To prevent any costly replacements, ensure any integrated BBQs used are of high quality, have a good reputation and come with weather-proof covers.

5. How much upkeep will an outdoor kitchen need?

Can it be hosed, pressure-washed or wiped clean without fading, rusting or tarnishing? Are the surfaces stain-resistant, scratch-resistant and weatherproof? Be cautious with wood: it can demand ongoing maintenance or costly replacement. If used, choose oily, tight-grain timbers like iroko or teak that withstand harsh conditions with minimal upkeep.

6. Have you checked the warranty period small print?

Many outdoor kitchen brands will often give a lifetime warranty, but in the small print only a few very minor components are covered under that lifetime. Ensure you check what is included and look at the reputation of companies on places like Trustpilot, to ensure installation and aftercare are as reliable as the outdoor kitchen itself.