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So, you really, really want a fire feature in your backyard, and who can blame you? With the warm glow of the fire on the patio, you will be able to maximize your time outdoors, staying outside late into the night, because you won't be fighting against the nighttime chill. If you're entertaining guests on an unusually cool day, there is no need to move the party inside.

Just stoke the fire and stay the course. Even when it's not the traditional outdoor living season—Memorial Day through Labor Day—you are free to relax or socialize outdoors, thanks to your backyard fire pit.

Once you decide you'd like to own one, by no means are you ready to begin shopping for backyard fire pits. You need to acquaint yourself with all the backyard fire pits available to you today. Indeed, there are many shapes, sizes, styles, materials and fuel types to consider.

Let's begin with the most natural option in the world of backyard fire pits: The wood fire pit. This option is the one for you if you love the crisp crackle of a roaring fire, the smell of smoke rising from smoldering wood, and the pop of little sparks flying out from the center. Chopping wood isn't a chore to you—it's a pastime. And stocking it is no big deal either. Sound like you? Go ahead and start looking for your dream wood fire pit.

Gas fire pits, on the other hand, offer a cleaner, hands-off experience. If you don't have a large patio, or you're not exactly a Boy Scout, consider this low-maintenance alternative.

Usually, you just flip a switch and a clean, bright flame rises from the center of your gas fire pit. The powerful flames produce plenty of heat, and you don't have to continue to stoke the fire through the evening. These backyard fire pits typically run on propane or ethanol. If you have a preference, look for your preferred fuel type as you browse backyard fire pits.

Both wood and gas fire pits come in a myriad of style choices. There is something for every taste. Do you find glossy granite countertops drool-worthy? You will swoon over the granite fire tables available today. Are you a modern urbanite? A steel fire pit will probably appeal to you. Do you fancy something ornate? A mosaic tile fire pit or Patina fire pit bearing a picturesque motif may be just perfect. No two backyard fire pits are alike, which is good, since you have personal tastes that must be satisfied. Enjoy searching for yours!

Once you bring yours home, be sure to display it in a highly-visible spot to properly show it off. Your fire pit should also be kept at a safe distance from combustible walls, and standing on a non-combustible surface.

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