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The gas fire pit is becoming one of the most popular must-have features in the real estate market of today. Although people want to spend less money in the down economy, they don't want to sacrifice on lifestyle, and the demand for a gas fire pit in every backyard is a prime example.

Thankfully for sellers, a gas fire pit can be purchased and installed at relatively low expense. For \$200 or \$300, you can bring home a gas fire pit that is attractive, durable, and convenient to use. Of course, price points are all over the map, but rest assured there are plenty of options available in that ballpark.

Gas fire pits may be decorative, featuring the insignia of your favorite team or decorative nature motifs, or simply feature a sleek modern or charming rustic design. Steel, stainless steel, and cast iron are popular gas fire pit materials, favored for their longevity as well as their classy appearance.

What's so great about a gas fire pit? Why not just opt for a wood-burning fire pit, which will surely conjure up nostalgic memories of gathering around the campfire as a child? Well, the simple answer is people do not want to be bothered with wood. You may prefer it, and if you have no plans to sell your house, by all means choose one. Otherwise, a gas version is the wiser choice.

First of all, buying lumber to fuel a fire on the backyard patio can be a bit of a hassle. You must pay to have it delivered, unload it and store it in a place that is completely free of moisture. If the wood is exposed to water, it is virtually useless until it dries completely. And that can take weeks! Even if wood is properly stored and kept dry, it is still difficult to get a fire going using logs. You will need lighter fluid or a starter log to get the flames to take. This process can take up to a half hour, and of course you have to continuously stoke the flames to keep them going strong.

A gas fire pit is ignited in an instant, with the flick of a switch. As long as you have fuel to burn, your fire will stay bright and radiate strong heat for as long as you need it. Instead of focusing on keeping the fire roaring, you can socialize with your guests and sit back and relax yourself. It is a much nicer way to entertain.

Finally, consider the mess associated with gas fire pits. Essentially, there is none. A wood burning fire pit must be thoroughly doused and cleaned out when you're through. Plus you need to haul away the charred timber and sweep up all around it. Backyard living is supposed to be easy—why take on these tasks when it's not necessary?

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