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Summer Styling Secrets: How to Create the Perfect Outdoor Oasis

With the warmer weather officially here, it's the perfect time for backyard entertaining. But you might be looking at your outdoor space, and realising it needs a bit of love. We speak to Justine Wilson, principal stylist at Vault Interiors, as she shares her expert tips on creating the ultimate summer sanctuary this season.

Weather-Resistant Furniture

Outdoor furniture needs to withstand all that summer weather throws at it, so durability is essential. Justine advises choosing UV-resistant, water-resistant, and rust-proof materials like aluminium, teak, or wicker. "And don't forget to add some outdoor cushions for comfort," she notes, adding that weather-proof fabrics are a must to keep your space looking fresh and functional all season long.

Layers & Textures

Bring an inviting feel to your outdoor area by layering different textures and soft furnishings. "Introduce textures through cushions, throws, and rugs to make the space feel cosy," Justine suggests. Look for materials that can handle the heat and moisture of summer, like jute and outdoor-grade fabrics, which add style and durability to your outdoor space.

Go Green

Plants are a simple yet impactful way to spruce up your outdoor area. Justine suggests incorporating a variety of plants to create layers and visual interest. "Choose a mix of potted plants, hanging baskets, and vertical gardens," she says. This approach enhances the natural look and creates a fresh, lush vibe.

Set the Mood

Good lighting can transform your outdoor area, making it usable and inviting well into the evening. "String lights, lanterns, or solar-powered garden lights add ambience and create a warm, inviting atmosphere for summer nights," Justine advises. Lighting can also highlight specific areas, adding depth and visual appeal to your layout.

Stay Cool

Make sure your outdoor space is comfortable even on the hottest days by having shade options. "Umbrellas, pergolas, or shade sails provide relief from the sun and add an architectural element to your outdoor design," says Justine. These additions are both practical and stylish, helping you make the most of your space during peak summer heat.

Host with the Most

An outdoor bar or kitchen setup is a great addition to making summer entertaining easy. "Summer is all about entertaining, and having a dedicated outdoor bar or kitchen makes hosting easy and fun," Justine explains. This could be a fully equipped outdoor kitchen, or a simple bar cart stocked with your favourite drinks—either way, it's a crowd-pleaser.

