

private eye

Since time immemorial, there have been just two kinds of furniture that have adorned our gardens and patios — either ghastly plastic moulded chairs or impractical cane furniture that lasted for no more than a couple of months. Legs of the tables and chairs would then crack open due to a combination of moisture and heat. Quite often, we have chosen to forego a nice evening holed up inside the house when we could have enjoyed the throes of nature but for the wicked rain that wet the chairs and they refused to dry!

The dilemma every house owner faces is what kind of furniture to employ for the outdoors that looks chic but is pragmatic as well. At Essentially Metal, our USP is outdoor furniture.

There is furniture available in wood, steel, wrought iron, jute and glass. Most of these are treated to last all sorts of weather. Metal has to be powder coated, wood should be seasoned, and the ply should be waterproof and so on. Pure polyester gives a guarantee



FURNITURE FOR ALL SEASONS

Nishu Jouhari, owner of Essentially Metal in Bengaluru guides us towards appropriate outdoor furniture.





of around three years. Stainless steel 304 grade is the best as it is anti-rust. When it comes to wooden alternatives, one must choose seasoned woods of red cedar and acacia, as they look good and are durable. It would be foolish to get furniture made out of rubber as it is highly porous and has a tendency to absorb moisture. Teak, too, makes for a viable alternative. You can always combine wood with glass, cane, acrylic, jute, twine, etc. to push up the glamour quotient.

The fabric employed to make cushions should be waterproof and foam of the cushions should be able to drip dry. You must ask your furniture dealer a lot of questions about the raw materials as that way you will get a clear picture of durability of your furniture. Maintenance of this furniture does not require spending hours taking care of it. Metal furniture requires painting and powder coating once in a while that affords it anti-rust properties. Apart from this you don't really have to do much.

One can choose from a rather extensive range of outdoor furniture from benches to loungers, from tables to trolleys, from planters to swings and outdoor bars. The outdoor furniture is trendy, stylish and maintenance free. A variety of materials such as, polycarbonate, terracotta, tile mosaic, painted and stained glass and even dried flowers are used and are combined effectively with metal and wood to create comfortable and durable outdoor furniture. At Essentially Metal, garden benches happen to be the most popular items on sale. The sun loungers and hammocks too do well, but the most impressive thing is the collection of outdoor bars.

Most outdoor furniture shops allow you to pick up individual pieces. It is not necessary to buy the whole set in one go. Though, the customization option is available only for bulk orders. With the prices ranging from about Rs. 1,800 to Rs. 5,500 for chairs, Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 10,000 for tables, Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 30,000 for swings and hammocks, Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 25,000 for sun loungers, this furniture is affordable and the expertise invaluable. What more could one ask for!

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