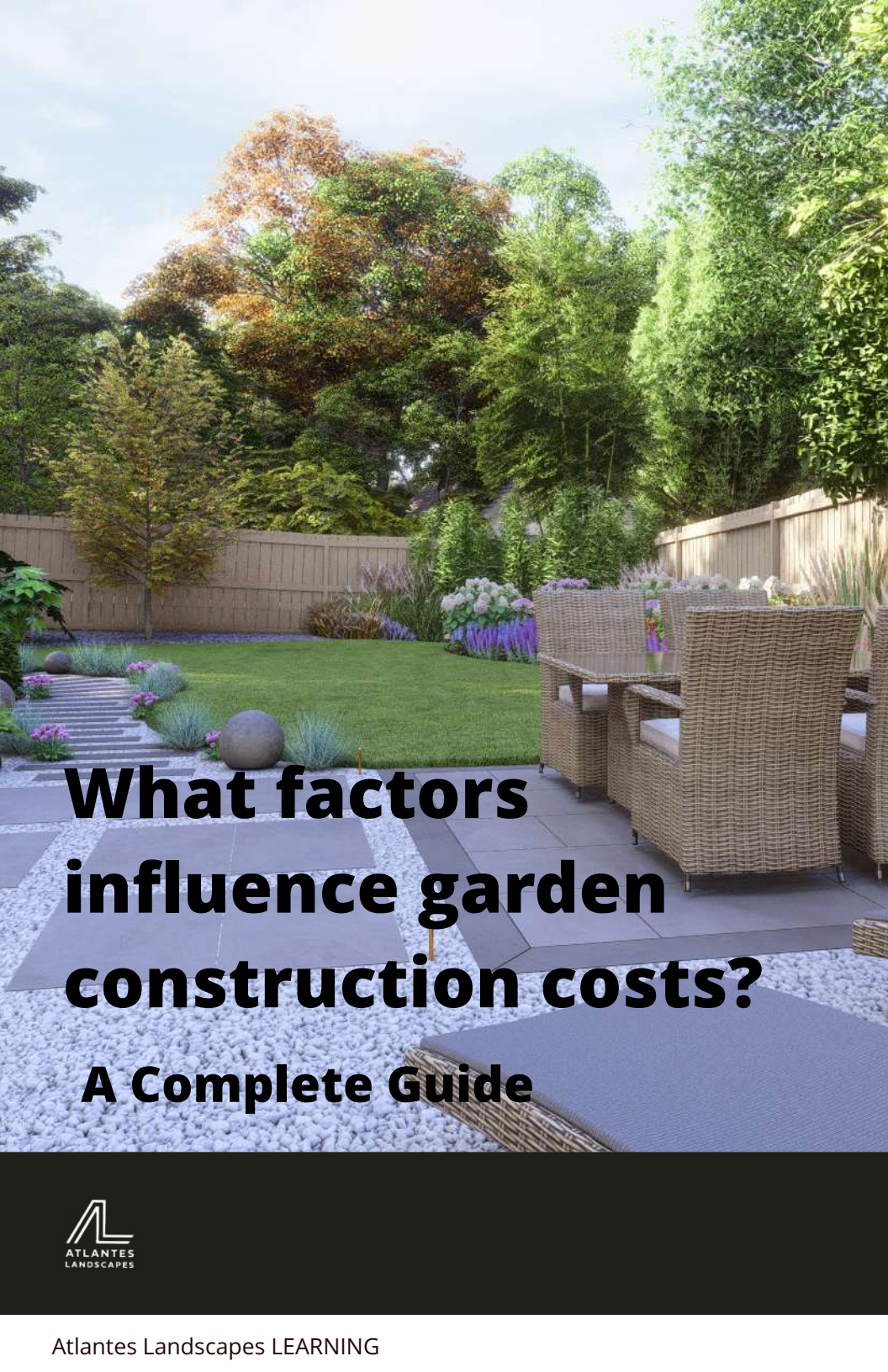


A photograph of a well-maintained garden. In the foreground, there is a paved patio area with a wicker outdoor dining set. To the left, a gravel path leads to a lawn. The background features a wooden fence and a variety of trees and plants, including some with autumn-colored foliage.

What factors influence garden construction costs?

A Complete Guide

Introduction

Building your dream garden is an exciting journey. Before you start imagining relaxing on your new patio, it's important to understand the factors that influence the cost.

From Devon's hilly landscapes to the choice between premium paving or more budget-friendly options, this guide will give you a clear picture of what affects the price of a garden transformation.

At Atlantes Landscapes, we are committed to respecting your budget and expectations. We believe a well-built garden should be both beautiful and durable, giving you confidence that your investment will last for years to come.

With our expertise, every garden we build is designed to endure. The difference between a garden that needs repairs in a few years and one that thrives for decades often comes down to selecting the right materials and using the right construction methods.

This guide will help you plan, budget, and make informed decisions, so your garden can be a space you enjoy for many years.



1. Understanding Your Garden's Existing Features

Topography and Soil Conditions

- Devon's rolling hills and sloping gardens make for beautiful scenery but can drive up costs. If your garden is on a slope, additional work like terracing, retaining walls, and levelling may be required, significantly increasing labour and material expenses.
- Soil type affects both planting and groundwork costs. Clay-heavy soils require more drainage solutions, while sandy soils may need extra nutrients and reinforcement to support hard landscaping.
- Poor drainage can add unexpected expenses. If your garden retains water, installing soakaways or French drains can prevent costly future repairs.

Size and Access

- Larger gardens naturally cost more to landscape, requiring more materials and labour.
- If access to your garden is restricted—such as needing to transport materials through your home—additional labour will be needed, increasing costs.
- Sites with critical access limitations may delay the work and consequently increase costs. Narrow passages, steep slopes, or limited entry points often require additional planning, manual labour, or specialised equipment, all of which impact the overall project timeline and budget.



2. Key Building Components and Their Cost Factors



Hard Landscaping

- **Patios & Decking:** The choice of material impacts costs significantly. Natural stone patios offer longevity and elegance but can be expensive. Concrete paving is more affordable but lacks the same aesthetic appeal. Timber decking has a lower initial cost but requires ongoing maintenance, which adds to long-term expenses.
- **Fencing & Walls:** Wooden fencing is cheaper upfront but requires repainting and repairs over time. Stone walls and composite fencing have a higher initial cost but last longer with minimal upkeep.
- **Pathways & Driveways:** Gravel is the most affordable option but requires occasional replenishing. Resin-bound and block paving have a higher installation cost but offer better durability and a polished finish.

Soft Landscaping

- **Turfing & Lawn Installation:** While traditional grass is cost-effective long term, it requires maintenance costs like watering, mowing, and fertilisation. At Atlantes Landscapes, we do not work with artificial grass as it is not sustainable. We believe in promoting biodiversity, and real grass supports local ecosystems better than synthetic alternatives.
- **Planting & Beds:** The cost varies based on plant selection. Low-maintenance, native plants are more affordable in the long run, whereas exotic species require ongoing care and higher initial investment.
- **Raised Beds & Planters:** Although more expensive to install, they can reduce long-term maintenance costs by improving soil quality and preventing erosion.



3. Choosing the Right Materials and Balancing Costs

Comparing Material Costs

- **Wood vs. Composite Decking:** Softwood decking is cheaper but requires maintenance and oiling. Composite decking has a higher upfront cost but is more durable and needs little maintenance.
- **Natural Stone vs. Concrete Paving:** Natural stone paving can be premium-priced but lasts decades. Concrete offers a more cost-effective alternative but may require earlier replacement.
- **Brick vs. Rendered Walls:** Brick walls provide a long-lasting solution at a moderate cost, while rendered walls are often cheaper but require repainting and maintenance over time.

Sustainable & Locally Sourced Materials

- Using locally sourced materials can save on transport costs and support the Devon economy.
- Reclaimed materials can be a budget-friendly option while adding character to the garden.
- Permeable paving helps prevent drainage issues, potentially saving costs on future flooding repairs.

4. Labour & DIY Considerations: Costs of Doing It Yourself vs. Hiring Professionals

Professional vs. DIY Approach

- Hiring professionals like Atlantes Landscapes ensures high-quality workmanship and long-term durability but may come at a higher initial cost.
- DIY projects can be cheaper but may result in costly mistakes or require professional intervention later, negating any savings.

Hidden Costs and Considerations

- **Waste Disposal:** Skips and waste removal services add to overall costs.
- **Planning Permissions & Regulations:** If your project requires permission, factor in additional time and costs for applications.
- **Maintenance Requirements:** High-maintenance gardens require ongoing investment, so opting for durable materials may reduce future expenses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OUR HR CONSULTING SERVICES:

Telephone: 01392 925735

Address: Unit 4 Dunchideock Barton Courtyard,
Dunchideock Barton, Dunchideock,
Exeter
EX2 9UA

Email: paul@atlanteslandscapes.co.uk

Web: <https://atlanteslandscapes.co.uk/>