

A BUYER'S GUIDE

FOR OUTDOOR SPEAKERS

Technology for outdoor speakers has dramatically increased over the last few years. The demand for more sophisticated technology is on the rise as more and more people want to bring quality sound into their outdoor living spaces.

Whether you have a condo patio, an inner city porch, or a backyard of a few acres, a durable outdoor speaker will enhance any situation. The following guide will help you in your search for the perfect outdoor speaker.

Performance

Sound from an outdoor speaker must be heard clearly over various background noises such as traffic, wind and animals; therefore, they must provide a superior level of clarity and quality than typical indoor speakers. Cheap outdoor speakers might have a wide frequency response and be able to produce a broad *range* of sound, but they can also produce high levels of distortion, which reduces the *quality* of sound. Remember, when it comes to outdoor speakers, you get what you pay for. A cheap speaker might have acceptable sound out of the box, but will lose sound quality over time and need to be replaced. You want a speaker that will sound just as good after twenty years of use as it did on day one.

Durability

Another consideration in choosing an outdoor speaker is its durability. Some speakers are not meant to be exposed to weather and can easily be ruined by elements such as rain, sleet or snow. Watch out for “patio” speakers, as these are only meant to be hung under eaves and protected from weather. Look for *weatherproof* (as opposed to *weather resistant*) speakers that can handle exposure to extreme heat, cold, humidity, rain, and snow. Also, take a look at the warranty for any speaker you might buy, as this will indicate the manufacturer's confidence in their product. A durable outdoor speaker will ensure many years of listening enjoyment.

Appearance

A key characteristic of any outdoor speaker is its ability to blend in with its surroundings. When choosing an outdoor speaker, make sure to find one that not only blends in, but “disappears” into its environment. Discrete is the goal here, as a speaker should never detract from the landscape around it. A quality outdoor speaker will continue looking great even after exposure to elements such as rain, sleet, snow, or salt spray. When searching for a speaker, look for one that can hide amidst your outdoor space and continue looking good after long-term exposure to the elements.

With these factors in mind, you will be well on your way to finding the best speaker for your outdoor space. And, once installed, you'll enjoy hour after hour of outdoor fun, not to mention being the envy of the neighborhood.

