



## ***Beautiful Boulders- Low Maintenance Landscaping***

Natural stone is one of the longest lasting and eye catching additions to a mountain landscape. Large boulders can create boundaries, add height and textures to make a yard more appealing. One of the main problems with using boulders or large rocks to a new location is bringing them into the surroundings so that they appear natural to the yard. Living in a mountainous area, one will see large boulders all around. So, to integrate large rock or boulders into a yard it is important to plan flowerbeds, trees, and other landscaping features to work with such a bold feature. Boulders or large stones can weigh several hundred to thousands of pounds, so plan out your yard prior to

the stone delivery. A professional landscaping designer can help you properly lay out a plan for the rock placement and the surrounding landscaping.

Natural stone, being a beautiful addition, is also one of the most unpredictable additions. Every boulder is unique. So, have a professional designer create a plan. Once a boulder is delivered to a site, plans may change due to a final selection and placement in the field. The landscaper's drawings will only be a suggestion. The real art for fine rock work will only be done by a designer or contractor with a lot of field experience.

The cost of using stone or boulders for one's landscape can be high. There are many factors that can aid one in choosing the visual appeal and practicality of using landscape boulders. Is it cost effective for you to landscape with boulders?

There are hundreds of different types of natural rock and stone in America, as well as many artificial building materials. The right rock should fit in with the style of your house and your landscape. One should try to fit the style of their yard with the area of the country one lives. If there is a local boulder source, you and your contractor might take a trip to see the actual stones that are available. If you outsource your boulders, often if they come and you are not pleased it is difficult and expensive to return them.

Using local natural rock is the most advisable. If one chooses to use a contrasting colored rock or boulder, it will not only fail to look natural, but the actual look will often be disturbing. Using local natural rock will allow one's landscape to blend with the existing yard seamlessly.

One should make sure they use the proper sized boulders. This is one of the most common errors in using boulders. A professional landscaping designer's field experience can come in handy in these situations. The most common error is using undersized boulders, for the weight of the larger, impressive rocks make them more expensive to deliver and place. But, beware, if one tries to skimp on cost, the rock

fails to demonstrate your designer's efforts and your desires. The large boulders do make a stunning statement. Where large boulders are not possible, due to hard to reach areas, one can choose to use a multitude of modestly sized ones arranged in a creative way.

One should always make sure that the contractor they choose is



highly experienced. The weight of the medium and large boulders is usually underestimated by a homeowner. There is a risk to driveways, permanent structure, vehicles, and other landscaping from the weight of these heavy objects if not handled safely. One's contractor should be aware of the weight and equipment needed to position the boulders for just the perfect look.

Remember, normally in nature does one find just one rock sitting on top of the ground. To make your boulders look like they are natural, they should exist in groups and be partially planted into the ground. Each boulder usually has one side or angle that is more attractive, so let

your contractor or designer take their time when placing the rocks, often times moving them several times to get the position just accurate. The perfect stone's face should be positioned for high visibility. Think about a Japanese garden, they appear to be successful constellations of boulders that resemble natural rock outcroppings.

Boulders and other rocks can create the ideal planting opportunities for landscaping projects. Plants naturally grow at the edges of boulders for protection from elements and to access moisture from underneath the rock in dry seasons. Rock is a universal element, so it is the plants that your landscaping designer chooses to complete your project that will make the difference. Boulders and rock should appear as if they are rising up from the ground and the vegetation. Boulders can also be placed in areas where there are gaps, utility objects, foundations, or irrigation heads.

Natural rock is one of the most versatile elements to use in a landscape makeover. Natural rock and boulders will add texture and contrast. They serve as durable groundcover and best of all require little or no maintenance. Once again, natural boulders will be one of the most long lasting and beautiful additions you can make to your landscape.

