

VIDEO IN THE SUN

1. Use a TV meant for the outdoors that can deal with the elements and daylight.
2. Minimize glare by placing your display in a shaded area.
3. Want an outdoor projection setup? Motorized drop-down screens can be used with a carefully housed or portable projector for after-dusk viewing. You may still want a bright LCD TV for daytime viewing, though.
4. Locate a projection screen where it can roll up and away when it's not being used so it will be protected from the elements and raise no visual distractions with the landscape.

AUDIO ALL AROUND

5. For audio, think in terms of coverage, not loudness. What you want is even coverage throughout the outdoor area, without any hot spots or dead spots. The best way to accomplish this is to use a lot of smaller speakers.
6. Position the speakers so that they're firing toward the house. You'll get better sound coverage, and you'll be a better neighbor. Plus, when the speakers are placed away from the house, they won't conflict visually with your home's design and architecture. Blend the speakers into the landscape by choosing models that resemble rocks, planters and other backyard objects.
7. Need more bass? Complement your outdoor speakers with in-ground subwoofers. What's great about the in-ground sub is that only part of it sticks out of the ground.



COMPONENTS AND WIRING

8. Locating and wiring source components (cable Box, Blu-ray player etc.) to an outdoor video display can be a major challenge. The first rule of thumb is to try to keep as much of the gear inside the house as possible.
9. Run all outdoor cabling through conduit. This will protect it from rodents and garden tools.
10. Even if you'll be using conduit, always use direct-burial cables. It's always a good idea to separate power and A/V cables. Run two or three conduits to accommodate all types of cables and to future-proof your outdoor area.
11. The length of outdoor cabling can cause problems. You have to think about what the distance will do to the audio, video and control signals.

CONTROL IN PARADISE

12. Rule number one: Don't bring the remote control near the pool. Rule number two: Always, always, obey rule number one.
13. If simple A/V controls are all you're looking for you can get a simple weather-resistant controller. Its simple design and rugged weatherproofing make it perfect for poolside A/V control.
14. If you're interested in controlling an entire home automation infrastructure from an outdoor environment, a step-up controller like Universal Remote Control's iPad app can facilitate.
15. An RF (radio frequency) remote is often preferred over IR (infrared) in an outdoor setting, both for greater coverage and to avoid IR interference from sunlight