



SMALL SPACE SOLUTIONS: EXPERT REVEALS HANDY HACKS FOR MAXIMISING SMALL OUTDOOR SPACES

- With ‘small garden ideas’ peaking every April for the past 5 years*, the UK is about to get creative with its balconies and small outdoor spaces as warmer weather approaches
- From vertical decorating to creating the illusion of space with mirrors, B&Q’s Gardening Expert, Stephanie Chambers, has shared her top 10 tips and product picks to make the most of micro-spaces
- B&Q’s new outdoor range is available online on [diy.com](https://www.diy.com) and in stores nationwide now.

March 2025: April is when the sun finally starts to break through the clouds, so it’s no surprise that, for the past five years, Google has seen a yearly surge in searches for “small garden ideas.”

And with ‘Apartment Balcony Garden’ videos amassing over **6.6M** posts on TikTok, it’s clear that Brits are eager to make the most of their small outdoor spaces.

B&Q’s Head of Outdoor & Gardening, Stephanie Chambers has unveiled a comprehensive guide to transforming balconies or micro-gardens, with nifty but impactful tips and product starting at just £12.

From investing in space-saving furniture sets to adding smaller accessories, even the most amateur gardening enthusiast will be able to stretch their small outdoor space to suit their needs.

Stephanie says “Many people assume that a small outdoor space limits what they can do, but with a few smart design choices, any balcony or garden can feel spacious, inviting, and functional. From multi-purpose furniture to clever vertical planting, it’s all about making strategic use of every inch. The good news is that even the smallest tweaks can have a huge impact.”

Stephanie’s top tips:

1. Think vertical

When floor space is limited, vertical solutions like wall-mounted planters, hanging baskets, and tiered plant stands can maximise greenery while keeping the area open and visually dynamic.

Stephanie's picks:



[Faux rattan Brown Hanging basket](#) - £14



[Costway Vertical Planter w/ Self-Watering Planter Box](#) - £36.95

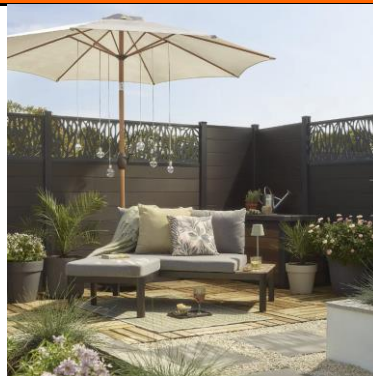


[Outsunny 4 Tiered Plant Pot Stand](#) - £23.99

2. Multi-functional furniture and slimline storage is key.

Space-saving furniture such as foldable chairs, stackable stools, and benches with built-in storage keeps things practical without clutter. Slimline storage units, wall-mounted shelves, and hidden compartments help maintain an organised and open feel. The options are vast, but the amount of space taken up is not!




Stephanie's picks:



GoodHome Elos Beige 4 seater Dining set - £425	GoodHome Thilia Grey 2 Seater Garden furniture set - £350	Keter Signature Decocoat Walnut 380L Garden storage box - £150 <i>Voted <u>Product of the Year</u> in the Garden Lifestyle category</i>
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3. Clever zoning

Even in a small garden or balcony, defining zones for lounging, dining, and plants can help create a sense of order. Use outdoor rugs, planters, or different flooring textures to subtly separate areas without crowding the space.




Stephanie's picks:		
		
Fresca Bombay Smoke grey Matt Stone effect Textured Porcelain Outdoor Floor Tile - £36	Smart Garden Alfresco Red, Pink & Yellow Zig Zag Outdoor Rug - £25	Klikstrom Lemhi Natural Pine Deck board - £24

4. Mirror magic

Mirrors don't have to be just for self-admiration - a well-placed outdoor mirror can create the illusion of depth, making a small space feel much larger. Position it to reflect greenery or light for an airy, open effect. Just make sure it's suitable for garden use and weatherproof!




Stephanie's picks:



		
Terrastyle White Curved Framed Garden mirror - £18	Beige Oval Framed Garden mirror - £25	Terrastyle Gold Square Framed Garden mirror - £42

5. Kitchen garden and compact cooking

Garden-goers don't need a huge space to grow fruit and vegetables, many thrive in small outdoor spaces! Herbs like rosemary, thyme, and mint are not only perfect to grow right now ahead of spring but they also add a lovely scent to any space. To cook this fresh produce, compact BBQs, tabletop grills**, and foldaway drinks trolleys offer alfresco dining without sacrificing room.

Stephanie's picks:		
		
Verve 'Rosemary' Herb Seeds - £2.50	CosmoGrill 2 Burner Compact Gas Stainless Steel BBQ - £124.99	Verve Growhouse - £13

6. Lighting for atmosphere

No need to cut the night short when the sun goes down. Soft, warm lighting can make a small space feel cosy and inviting. Battery-powered lanterns, solar fairy

lights, and LED strips are perfect for adding ambiance without needing outdoor wiring.

Stephanie's picks:



[Anakena Battery-powered Warm white 10 Integrated LED Outdoor String lights](#) - £12



[Warm white 10 LED Outdoor String lights](#) - £18



[Solar Spiral Solar-powered Warm white LED Outdoor String lights](#) - £20

7. Keep it cohesive

Too many different styles or colours can make a small space feel chaotic. Stick to a consistent theme, whether minimalist, rustic, or Mediterranean to create a more harmonious and visually open design.

Stephanie's picks:



[GoodHome Omalos Beige Egg chair](#) - £225




[GoodHome Vitello Dark grey Round Side table](#) - £40



[GoodHome Vitello Grey 6 Seater Dining set](#) - £900

8. Add finishing touches that show off personality

Make an outdoor space feel like a true extension of the home with fun and personal decor. Add a touch of character with colourful garden ornaments or consider a vibrant wind spinner or a calming wind chime. These small touches help bring personality and charm to even the most compact spaces.

Stephanie's picks:		
		
Flamboya Blue Double helix Wind spinner - £20	Terrastyle Off-white Temple Garden ornament - £40	Smart Garden Trio Artificial topiary Ball - £48

All items are available in-store at B&Q and online now. Next day click & collect delivery is available on many products for a convenient shopping experience and B&Q Club members enjoy rewards every time they shop - helping them to create a home they love. For more information visit: www.diy.com.

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*<https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=today%205-y&geo=GB&q=small%20garden%20ideas&hl=en-GB>

** Tabletop BBQs should not be used on balconies

About B&Q:

B&Q is the UK's leading home improvement and garden living retailer with over 300 stores throughout the UK and Ireland, offering great prices, with over 700,000 products available to order at diy.com for home delivery or click and collect.



For trade professionals, B&Q TradePoint offers exclusive membership to those in trades such as electricians, plasterers, fitters, plumbers, roofers, decorators, joiners, tilers, builders, landscapers and facilities and maintenance professionals. TradePoint members have exclusive access to dedicated TradePoint counters at around 200 B&Q stores as well as to [Tradepoint.co.uk](https://www.tradepoint.co.uk).

B&Q launched the UK's first home improvement marketplace in March 2022, adding additional choice for consumers. The marketplace offers a unique, integrated experience with in-store returns for many products and Click + Collect options being explored.

Their team of more than 21,000 colleagues of all ages are respected nationwide for providing great home improvement help to customers. They're the beating heart of B&Q and their iconic orange aprons are worn with pride.

Every year, more than 20 million people improve their homes and make life better with B&Q, and every year the company achieves ever-higher standards for sustainable operations and sourcing, and supports our local communities, including funding B&Q Foundation grants and Shelter's DIY Skills Advisors. For more information on our community initiatives visit diy.com/corporate/community or to read our Build a Life Project annual report visit diy.com/responsible-business

B&Q is part of Kingfisher plc, the international home improvement company, operating 2,000 stores in 8 countries across Europe.

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