FREE GUIDE · DRY HEAT LIVING

The Hot-Climate Sauna Buyer's Checklist

From Dry Heat Living: backyard upgrades built for desert heat

Eight checks before you order an outdoor sauna for a hot, dry yard in Arizona, Texas, Southern California or anywhere in the Southwest.

1 Power: know what your panel can handle

- [ ] Find the heater's voltage and amp rating on the spec sheet. Full-size electric heaters usually need a dedicated 240V circuit (the Almost Heaven Timberline's 8 kW heater needs a hardwired 240V, 40-amp circuit, for example).
- [ ] Get an electrician's quote **before** you order. If your panel already carries two AC units, a new circuit can mean a panel upgrade.
- [ ] Infrared-only and combo barrels may run their infrared side on a standard 120V outlet. Confirm it on the product page.

2 Sun: pick the spot by afternoon shade, not just space

- [ ] East and north sides of the house get the least afternoon sun.
- [ ] Avoid putting glass walls or doors on the west side.
- [ ] Note where shade falls at 4 PM in July, not just in spring.

3 Base and drainage: plan for monsoon storms

- [ ] Check the manufacturer's base and foundation requirements before you pour.
- [ ] Level concrete pad or compacted pavers sized to the exterior footprint (not the interior dimensions).
- [ ] Water drains away from the base; barrels sit on cradles, so runoff can pool underneath.

4 Wood and UV: protect it from desert sun

- [ ] Follow the manufacturer's guidance on sealing or staining the exterior.
- [ ] Thermally modified wood is more stable in dry heat, but it still greys in strong sun.

5 HOA and permits

- [ ] Ask your HOA whether backyard structures need approval.
- [ ] Ask your city whether the new electrical work needs a permit.

6 Delivery and assembly

- [ ] Measure gate width and the path to the pad. Many kits arrive by freight on a pallet.
- [ ] Plan DIY assembly for October through April. Building a kit on a sunny slab in July is miserable work.

7 The real budget, not just the sticker price

- [ ] Is the heater included, or sold separately ("+ heater")?
- [ ] Electrician and permit
- [ ] Pad or pavers
- [ ] Shipping and any liftgate or offloading fee
- [ ] Exterior sealant or stain

8 When you'll actually use it

- [ ] In the Phoenix area, October through April is prime sauna season.
- [ ] In summer, plan on evening use, and add outdoor lighting.

Quick comparison sheet (fill in for up to 3 models)

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Price (heater included?)			
Heater type and kW			
Voltage / amps			
Exterior footprint			
Capacity			
Wood			
Warranty			

Compare 7 premium outdoor saunas side by side: **dryheatliving.com/outdoor-saunas/**
Outdoor saunas under $10,000: **dryheatliving.com/saunas-under-10k/**

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