



Berlin Gardens' Comfo-Back dining chairs and swivel rockers with a 44"x 96" table.

## Top Trends in Outdoor Living Furniture

**T**HIS YEAR MARKS the 50th anniversary for Viking Ski & Patio, which is currently transitioning from its winter focus to seasonal outdoor living. Known for its expertise in fitting skiers and snowboarders for the winter with top-of-the-line products as early as October 1, the shop draws clientele from as far away as Rockford, Naperville, and Joliet. But now, in anticipation of spring, summer, and fall, the Olson family was busy changing seasons inside their store in Barrington by mid-April.

Steve Olson says that the big trend in outdoor living furniture is not just design updates, but a focus on the materials. The Berlin Gardens line offers a 20-year warranty on its virtually indestructible plastic material furniture. Made 95 percent out of recycled milk jugs, not only is this material long-lasting and rot-resistant, it requires no paint, will not splinter, and only requires light soap and water for cleaning (see illustration).

Each September, the Olsons attend the patio show at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Olson, who has worked at the Barrington store for nine years, says his store has four top outdoor living brands that are leading the



The lifecycle of Berlin Gardens' poly product, from recycled milk jugs to near indestructible, long-lasting outdoor furniture.



The Homecrest Lana uses a sling aluminum spring base dining chair and a Lunar aluminum octagon fire pit table with leather embossed aluminum top.



Lloyd Flanders Hamptons collection uses a woven a process by which cellulose strands are woven into a wicker fabric for durability and ease of care.

trends: Berlin Gardens, Lloyd Flanders, Homecrest, and OW Lee. For buyers who need help with outdoor furniture, Viking Ski & Patio will design the space, deliver the furniture, and assemble it completely. All of the furniture mentioned here is made in the U.S.A.

The latest trend in outdoor furniture is moving toward deep-seating sofas and lounge chairs with tables, and for some, fire pits. Today, fabrics are more high-tech than ever and as Olson says, get better each year. “Sun-brella’s custom rain fabric is waterproof and designed to be left outdoors. The fabric is yarn-dyed and treated all the way through and its 100 percent solution-dyed acrylic holds up to the weather and is very durable. A light soap and water solution is all you need to clean it up,” he says. 

Viking Ski & Patio Shop is located at 131 W. Northwest Hwy. in Barrington. Call 847-381-1188, or visit [www.chicagopatiofurniturestore.com](http://www.chicagopatiofurniturestore.com).



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