



Photo: S.R. Smith

## Bring the Water Park to your Backyard with WetDek

Versatile, fun and economical, the WetDek can turn your backyard into a sprinkler-runners heaven while still acting as a beautiful water feature. **BY ALISON STANTON**

**FOR MANY OF US,** a summertime memory from our childhood involved three things: a hose, a sprinkler and water shooting up into the air. Running back and forth through the cool spray of water, it was amazing how refreshed the sprinkler managed to make us feel and how much fun it was to try to catch the water as it fell down on our heads.

Now, thanks to S.R. Smith, an equipment manufacturer based in Canby, Ore., families can experience the joys of running through the sprinklers anytime. The company unveiled the WetDek – a product that is similar to splash pads seen at water parks, but is designed with the homeowner in mind. So far, the customer response has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

Dan deHaan, channel manager for S.R. Smith,

explains how the WetDek offers customers more features than a traditional oscillating sprinkler.

"It's such a great product. It's very versatile, and aside from being a splash pad it's also a landscape feature," he says. "You can have the jets shoot into your pool or spa, or have it as a backyard water feature. It can either stand alone, or be around the spa. When the WetDek is not turned on, it acts as a regular patio."

Of all of the choices, deHaan says the stand-alone model is the most popular with the customers, many of whom are looking for a backyard water feature that complements their pool or spa.

"It's a tried and true concept in commercial settings that we are bringing to the backyard," deHaan says.

Brett Fritts, vice president of marketing for S.R.

Smith, says the WetDek can also be constructed in a variety of shapes and made from different-textured products.

"Builders, retailers or landscape companies work directly with the homeowners to design a shape that works best in the yard, like circles, squares or other free form shapes" says Fritts. "Once this has been determined the installing company presents the customer with surface finish options. Currently, most consumers are opting for a durable brushed concrete finish."

DeHaan says the zero-depth WetDek is also available with six, nine or 12 jets and comes with a multi-channel controller that offers customers four distinct water play programs.

"It can do two zones at once, or three at once, and the water can shoot out either randomly or in a pattern," deHaan says.

As a major bonus, deHaan says the WetDek offers something that the sprinkler systems of old and the water parks of today are lacking: guaranteed clean water.

"People are able to control how the water is cleaned from their own home, whereas you can't control how the water is cleaned at a water park," he says, explaining that the water that comes from the WetDek is chlorinated as opposed to ordinary hose water.

And for the animal lovers out there, Fritts says you should be prepared to share your WetDek with them as well. "We have one customer who has a WetDek, and two labs, and they love it. It's become a kind of doggy water park for them." ●

To learn more about installing a WetDek in your backyard, contact S.R. Smith: 800-824-4387 or [SRSMITH.COM](http://SRSMITH.COM)



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