



Boulders: How to use them to complement your landscape

One of my biggest pet peeves is the way some landscapers use natural boulders in their landscape designs.

I've been designing and installing landscapes both residential and commercial over the past thirty-plus years. There is a right way and a wrong way to use large boulders. There are many reasons to use boulders, for instance as a way to fill a spot in a bed that is not right for a planting, be it a shrub or a grouping of perennials. It may serve



a purpose, maybe to transition a change in grade or to help direct water runoff or protect against erosion, and sometimes they just look good with plantings around them. But when they are just plopped down on top of the soil, mulch, sod or wherever they are used, if they are not set into the ground so it looks like they have been there and only after years of soil erosion have they now been exposed... LET'S FACE IT - no one likes it when they just look like a zit that shows up the day of a big date as that has the habit of drawing everyone's attention - but for all the wrong reasons.

The lesson here is no matter why we use them, it's a good bet that taking a little extra time and effort to dig out enough soil so the boulder is set into the grade and not just sitting on the surface like it dropped out of the sky and may roll away at any moment will improve your design immeasurably.



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[***Return to Archive***](#)

