Backyard Movie Night Checklist

A simple, step-by-step printable for a cozy no-travel night at home.

Movie: _____	**Date:** _____
Start time: _____	**Backup indoor plan:** _____

1. Before Movie Night

- ☐ Check evening weather, wind, and temperature.
- ☐ Check sunset time so you know when the screen will be visible.
- ☐ Choose the movie before everyone heads outside.
- ☐ Charge devices or confirm they can stay plugged in.
- ☐ Download the movie ahead of time if Wi-Fi is unreliable.

2. Screen + Tech Setup

- ☐ Set up the screen or sheet before dark.
- ☐ Place projector on a stable table or surface.
- ☐ Test picture placement and focus.
- ☐ Test speaker volume or Bluetooth connection.
- ☐ Place outdoor-rated extension cords safely away from walkways.

3. Seating + Cozy Setup

- ☐ Set out camping chairs, patio chairs, blankets, or cushions.
- ☐ Add a waterproof picnic blanket or outdoor rug under floor seating.
- ☐ Bring out extra throws or sweatshirts for after sunset.
- ☐ Set up kids' seating near the front and taller chairs behind them.
- ☐ Keep pillows and blankets in one area for easier cleanup.

4. Lighting + Safety

- ☐ Use soft string lights, lanterns, or solar path lights around the edges.
- ☐ Keep bright lights away from the screen.
- ☐ Add a small light near the snack table.
- ☐ Keep a flashlight or lantern handy for trips inside.
- ☐ Tape down or move cords that could become tripping hazards.

5. Snacks + Drinks

- ■ Set up a snack table before the movie starts.
- ■ Put popcorn, pretzels, candy, fruit, or cookies into easy portions.
- ■ Fill cups, water bottles, or a drink dispenser ahead of time.
- ■ Set out napkins, wipes, and a trash bag or bin.
- ■ Keep a tray or basket nearby for carrying dishes back inside.

6. Bugs + Comfort

- ■ Put bug repellent where guests can find it.
- ■ Light citronella candles or set up your usual mosquito-control option.
- ■ Have everyone take a bathroom break before the movie starts.
- ■ Bring pets inside or settle them before the movie begins.
- ■ Keep one extra blanket or sweatshirt nearby, just in case.

Optional Backyard Movie Night Supplies

You do not need all of these. Start with what you own, then add the items that make repeat movie nights easier.

■ Outdoor projector	■ Portable movie screen or white sheet clips	■ Bluetooth speaker
■ Outdoor-rated extension cord	■ Small table for projector	■ Waterproof picnic blanket
■ Camping chairs or outdoor cushions	■ String lights or lanterns	■ Popcorn boxes or snack trays
■ Drink dispenser or insulated cups	■ Bug repellent or citronella candles	■ Collapsible cleanup bin

Quick Notes

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Tip: Keep the first one simple. One movie, one blanket, and one bowl of popcorn is still a backyard escape.