

AUSTRALIAN

DIY MADE EASY

Handyman

17 **WAYS TO**
BOOST YOUR
KERB APPEAL

BUILD A LUXURY
PERGOLA
PLUS CLASSIC TIMBER
ADIRONDACK CHAIRS

Kids'
BEDROOMS
Fun projects
& paint ideas

TRIM, TIDY
& TERRIFIC
BEST BACKYARD
POWER TOOLS

HANG
BIFOLD
DOORS

CHOOSE THE RIGHT
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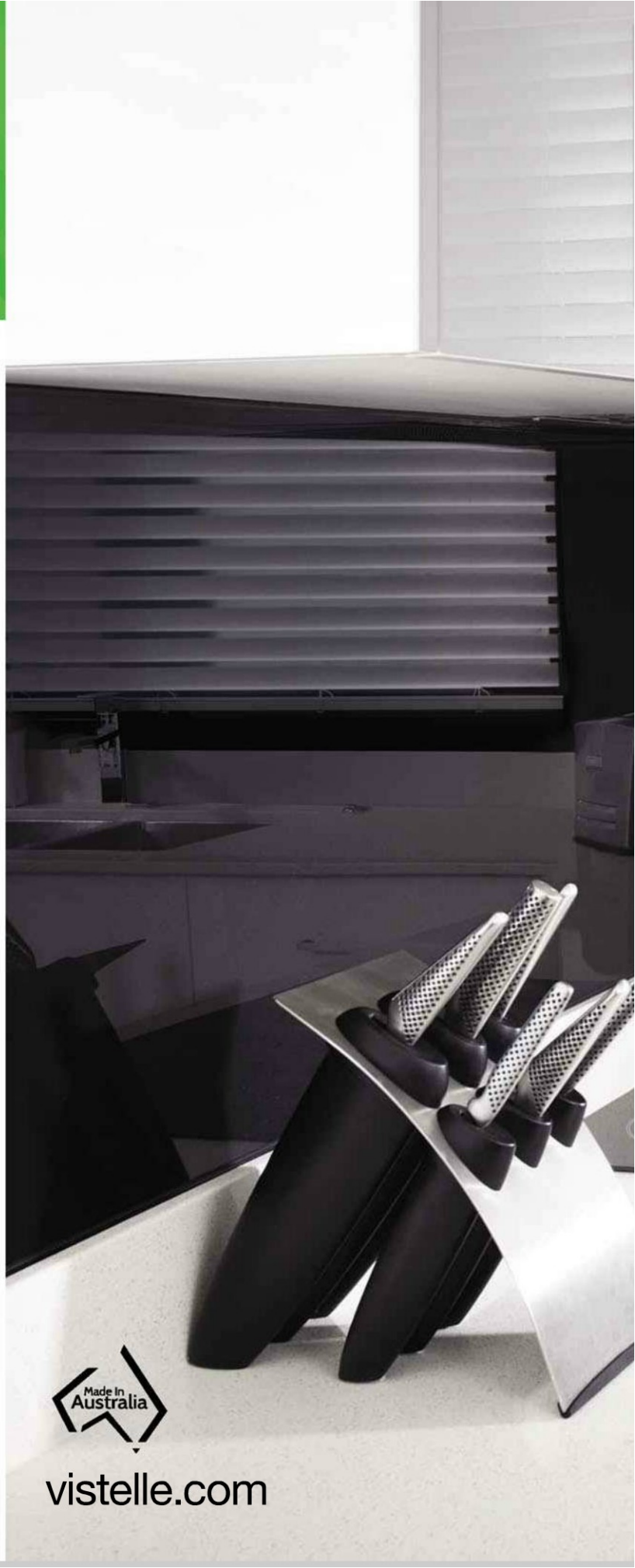


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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS L JONES
STYLING TINA HUTTON

BIRD KNIT THROW IN GREY, \$80, BED BATH N' TABLE.
ACAPULCO CHAIR, \$229 AND TABLE, \$125, MATT BLATT.
ISABELI GRID PLACEMATS, \$13 EACH, BRITTA CERAMIC TRIVET,
\$15 EACH, ARCH COASTERS, \$20 SET OF FOUR, CANTINA
PLATES, \$8 EACH, CUSHIONS, FROM \$60, ALL COUNTRY ROAD.
CUTLERY, RUNNER AND VASE, STYLIST'S OWN.

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At last, the cooler weather is abating and we can start getting ready for summer. The pergola on this month's cover is the perfect place to entertain outdoors, and it's easy to build, from page 16.

This issue also has classic timber Adirondack chairs to make for any yard, or even put in your new pergola.

FUN FOR THE KIDS

Kids' bedrooms are a place you can let your imagination run wild, and there is a lot you can do DIY.

Stylist Tina Hutton has created some fantastic projects for a child's room. They include a room divider, an ottoman, a tent, and my favourite,

a table with a resin top for preserving decorative pieces. Check them out, starting from page 93.

Painting a design on the walls has a big impact so we're sharing some ideas to inspire you. My son Louis' room was a bit featureless, so we whipped the wardrobe doors off, took them outside and spray painted graffiti on them.

He had a great time putting his designs on the doors and they certainly have added some street cred to his room!



IN THE GARDEN

When I was a child our kitchen always had little bowls of sprouting sweet potatoes, pineapples and carrot tops. If you want a child to get interested in gardening, this is a great first step for them to enjoy growing things.

In our children's gardening special, starting on page 126, we show you how to introduce fun ways of gardening, perfect for a child's attention span.

Happy DIYing.

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL

More inspiration

Looking for inspiration for your pergola project? Pinterest lets you create and organise boards of your favourite pictures. It's a great way to find and share ideas for your next project. Check out Handyman at [pinterest.com/diyhandyman](https://www.pinterest.com/diyhandyman) or scan the code below with your phone.



Make the most of the warm weather by creating an outdoor living space.



Pinterest



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WINNERS

Congratulations to Samantha Cook of Wedderburn, NSW, who has won \$300 worth of Bunnings gift cards in our Pinterest competition from the July issue of *Handyman*.

Also congratulations to Scott Crossley of Bellbird Heights, NSW, who won our subscription competition. He receives a Gerni Classic 125.2 valued at \$399.

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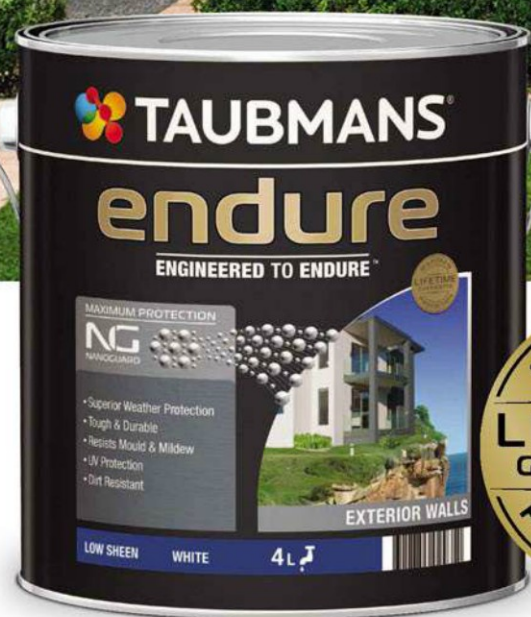


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HANDYSTUFF

Turn your garden greenery into something special with a few strategic styling choices

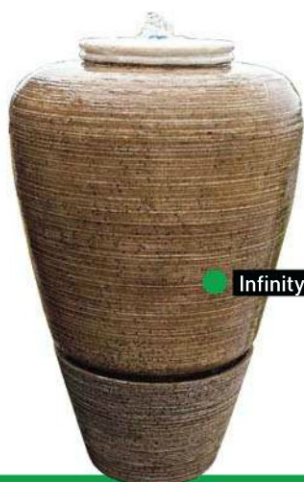
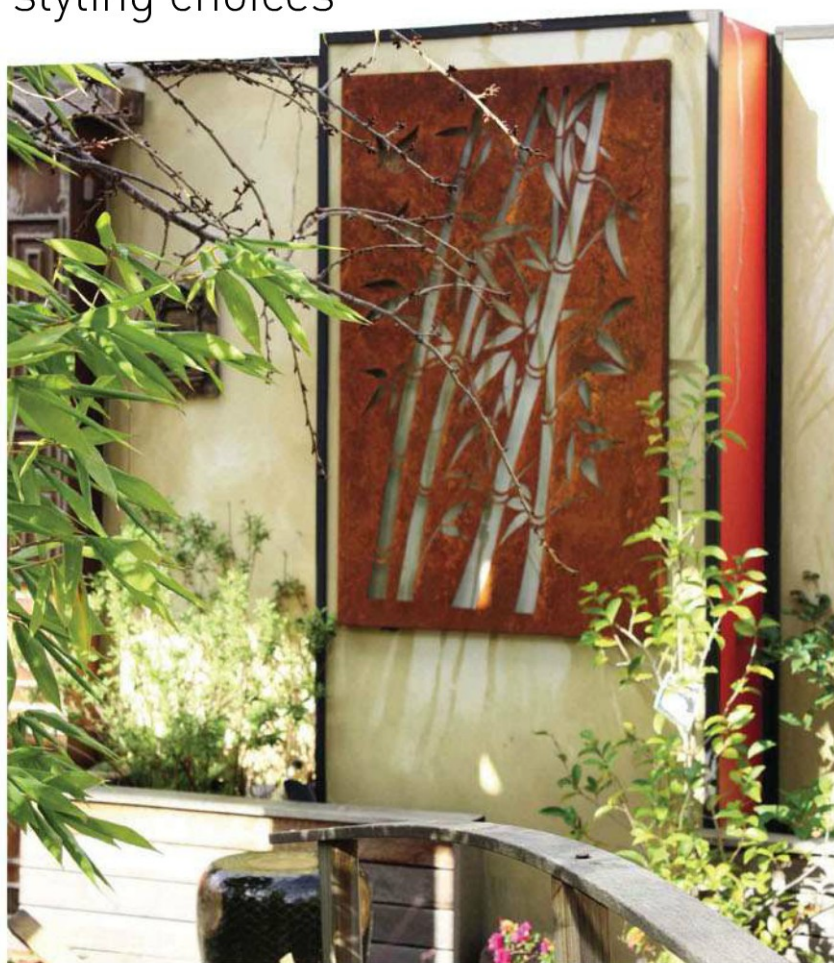
WORDS **ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT**

A cut above

Is your garden fence a bit bland? Turn it into an installation with a piece of Bamboo Design Wall Art from IMP, \$285, or pick your own custom image.

The Bamboo design is finished with Corten that gives it a rusted look while protecting the cut steel against the elements. Each artwork is pre-drilled for easy mounting and has a reverse fold frame to prevent warping.

inproducts.com.au



Infinity Vase

Infinite style

Give your yard a classy European touch with the Gardman Infinity Vase Water Feature, \$250.

With LED illumination, electric pump, 10 metre power cord and all fittings included, it makes a tranquil addition to any modern outdoor garden area.

brunnings.com.au



Easy elegance

Even the most inexperienced gardener will have success with New Guinea Impatiens.

This pretty, easy-to-grow plant flowers all year round in warm climates. It thrives in pots and comes in shades of white, pink, orange and red. \$4 each.

bunnings.com.au

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*Daniel Martain
West Busselton, WA*



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www.seasol.com.au



Did you know?

French botanist Patrick Blanc is a global pioneer in vertical gardening and is the brains behind the green wall on Sydney's Central Park apartments, the world's tallest at 150m.

Sow and grow

Starting a herb garden has never been easier with the Fertile Earth Simple Garden Assorted Seed Kit, \$40. With soil and seeds for basil, coriander and oregano included, all you need to do is add water.

Each kit includes a greenhouse lid and drainage tray. Three colour choices of cinnamon, sandstone and mocha mean this portable planter will suit any garden.

masterdistributors.com.au



Simple Garden

Growing up

Don't have the time or space to care for a garden? The Holman GreenWall vertical garden, \$99 a panel, features built-in irrigation and drainage so you can easily grow herbs or flowers on any wall or fence.

Simply secure the steel brackets to your chosen surface to mount the garden. Ask your local nursery which plants suit the position, taking into account the daily sun exposure.

holmanindustries.com.au



Garden Up

Trendy tiers

Transform an empty brick wall or a drab courtyard by planting a bright floral display.

The Whites Outdoor Garden Up vertical gardening system, \$65 for each panel, makes trialling the vertical garden trend easy.

It features a 900 x 500mm modular grid, three rectangular smart planter boxes and six hooks.

Use it to create a lush hanging garden in an unused space.

whitesgroup.com.au

Amphibian ally

You'll never forget to water the plants on your balcony again with the adorable Scheurich Froggy automatic watering system, \$13.

Simply fill the frog's mouth with water and a clay feeding plug will slowly release water into the soil as your plants need it, keeping them hydrated for up to four days.

bunnings.com.au



Carp crop cultivator

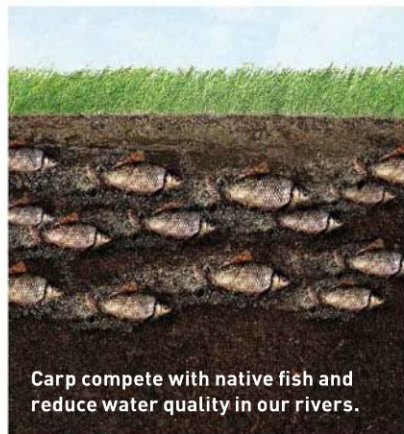
Help take back our waterways and nourish your plants without chemicals using Charlie Carp Premium Organic Fertiliser, \$10 for 1L.

Made from destructive European Carp from the Murray Darling Basin combined with a seaweed supplement, this concentrate will feed your vegies for a bumper crop. 1L makes up to 300L of fertiliser.

richgro.com.au



Scheurich Froggy will keep plants watered for up to four days.



Carp compete with native fish and reduce water quality in our rivers.

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Ekodeck can be installed just as easily as regular hardwood timber decking, with no special tools required. For the full Installation Guide visit www.ekologix.com.au

MAINTENANCE

Ekodeck is resilient and requires little maintenance compared to timber decking. However, like all exterior building materials, it requires cleaning depending on its usage and amount of foot traffic. For the full Care and Maintenance Guide visit www.ekologix.com.au

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Ekodeck is made from FSC® Certified plantation bamboo and recycled plastic bottles. As one of the fastest growing plants in the world, bamboo provides a sustainable alternative to the harvesting of established tree plantations. And by recycling plastic bottles destined for landfill, Ekodeck is able to further reduce its impact on the environment.

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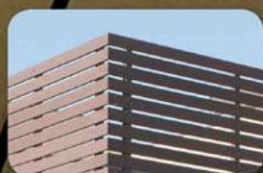
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BUYER'S GUIDE

CUTTING TOOLS

Wiggle room

Tired of your gardening gloves getting stuck in the scissor handles? Save your knuckles with a pair of KD Products 152mm Garden Scissors, \$3. The wide red handles are designed for use with garden gloves, while the steel 50mm blades are lightweight and rustproof for long-lasting power.

Shear genius

You won't need to wave the white flag when trying to take your garden path back. Cut back the edges with the Spear & Jackson 180mm Grass Shears, \$13. The PTFE coated blades rotate up to 180° with a simple adjustment, so you can trim at any awkward angle without straining your wrist.

Precision prune

Does your topiary look more like a scarecrow than a Michelangelo? Make the right cut every time with the lightweight, ergonomic Cyclone Floral & Fruit Snips, \$13. The tapered, high carbon 80mm blades are teamed with comfy-grip handles to ensure accuracy and prevent hand strain.

Lop, chop, clip and trim your overgrown backyard foliage with these useful snippers

Deluxe design

With a durable cork handle that's kind to your hands and hardened steel blades that have an antifriction coating, the Fiskars Quantum Bypass Pruner, \$65, makes light work of the jungle in your yard. As an added eco-friendly bonus all parts of this tough little tool are recyclable.

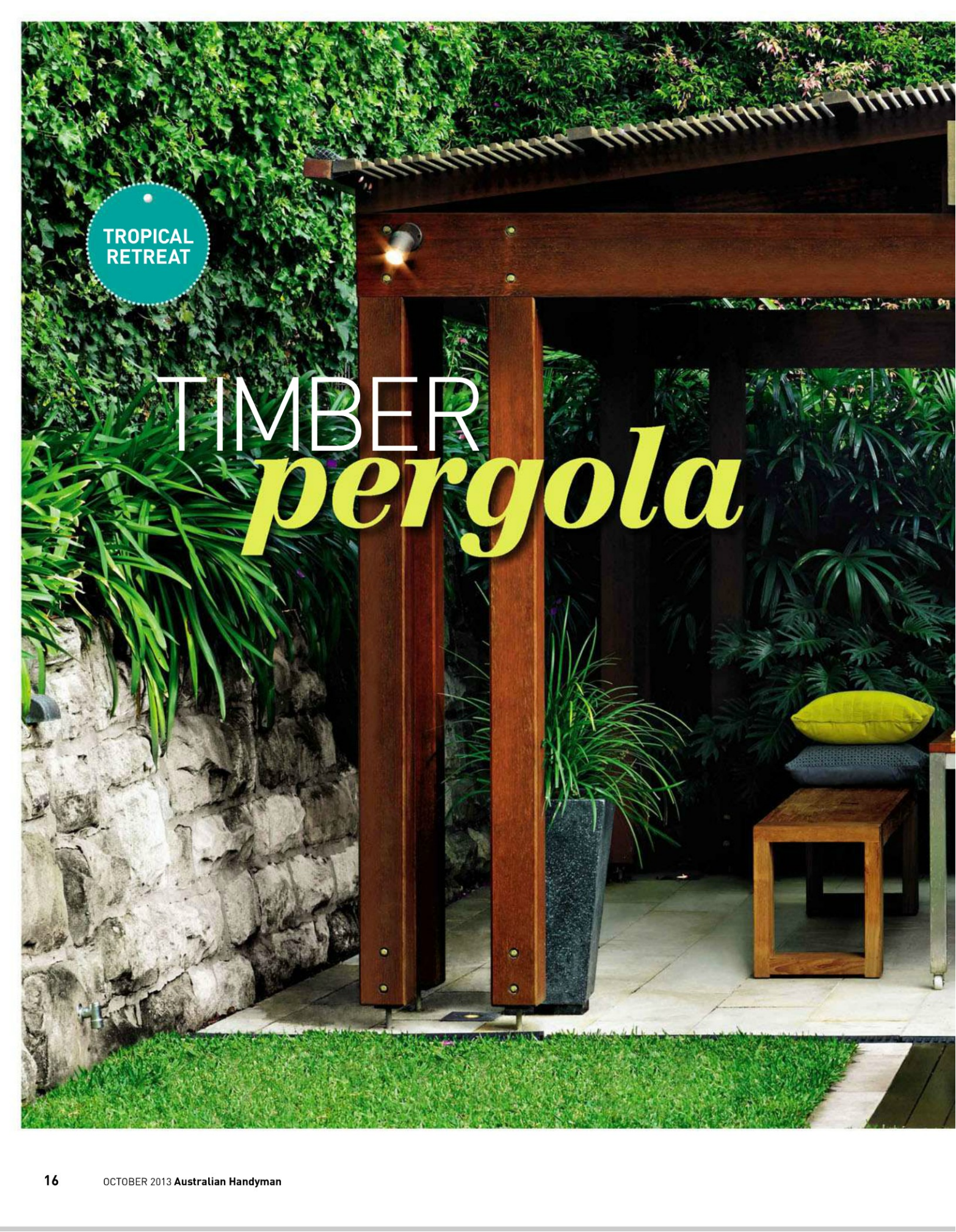
Cutting edge

Don't tackle tough woody stems with outdated secateurs. Upgrade to the Cyclone Pivot Ergo Anvil, \$47, and you won't break a sweat taming your backyard bush. Its innovative pivot system replaces the traditional volute spring which can rust or pinch skin, making for hassle-free gardening.

Budget bisector

Fell thick plant limbs in one smooth clip using the Saxon 8in Swiss Style Secateurs, \$4. This durable, budget-friendly garden tool has a shock absorbing bumper, easy grip handles and steel blades. A snap lock mechanism also keeps the sharp edges securely closed when not in use.





TROPICAL
RETREAT

TIMBER *pergola*

A photograph of a modern outdoor patio. A wooden pergola with a slatted roof covers the area. Underneath, a wooden dining table with metal legs is set with plates, glasses, and a pitcher. A wicker chair with a yellow cushion and a white towel is positioned next to a small wooden stool. The background is filled with dense green foliage. A hanging lantern is visible on the left.

Construct a versatile, all-weather
haven for entertaining or just relaxing

WORDS **JOHN BOWLER** MAIN PICTURE **CHRIS L JONES**

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SKILL> 1 2 3 4 5**TIME> 4 DAYS**

Relaxing in a tropical resort is a great way to recharge the batteries, and you can recreate that feeling in your own backyard with this timber pergola project.

Set on a concrete slab, the pergola was built using H3 treated pine finished with a timber stain to give it the look of hardwood. We used Cabot's Merbau Oil Based Timber Stain, \$81 for 4L (cabots.com.au).

The structure consists of three posts in each corner standing on galvanised supports, with beams housed into the top and mitred at the corners.

Two lintels span the beams, braced by trimmers and hangers cut along the grain from 90 x 45mm timber.

The roof has seven rafters on each side that butt together at the ridge and are topped with battens and slats. The slats create a ceiling screen that hides the clear polycarbonate roof.

This pergola filters harsh sunlight and provides shelter from rain. It requires no special tools and takes about three days to build, plus an extra day for staining or painting.

TIP Always check with your local council to find out if building approval is required. ➤



Fasteners

Attach the post supports to the concrete using 75 x 10mm galvanised Dynabolts.

Secure the posts to the post supports and attach the beams to the post housings using 150 x 10mm hex head treated pine Tech-Shield bolts and construction adhesive.

Attach the lintels with 75 x 3.75mm galvanised skewed nails and galvanised multi grips. The trimmers, hangers, rafters and battens are secured with 75mm x 10g treated pine screws. The ceiling slats are attached with 50 x 2.8mm galvanised nails, and the polycarbonate sheets secured with 50mm x 12g Clearfix roofing screws.

Securing the roof

Polycarbonate corrugated roof sheets are available in a variety of colours and opacities that can reduce light transfer from as little as 20 to 90%.

Sheets are treated on one side with a protective UV coating, indicated by a sticker on top of the sheet which should only be removed after installation.

Polycarbonate can be cut using tinsnips and holes drilled using standard twist bits or a holesaw.

To secure the sheets, drill 10mm clearance holes at every third ridge, and every second at gutters and overlaps.

Use special Clearfix self-drilling screws, which will create clearance holes as they are driven in.

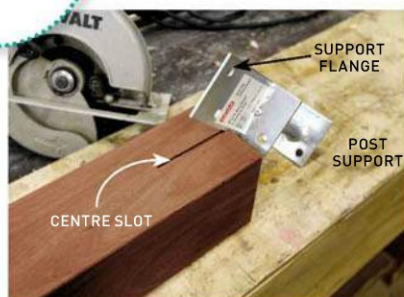
Lay the sheets in the direction of prevailing wind to prevent rain being blown in and avoid overtightening the screws as it may cause stress fractures.

TIP Stain or finish the timber before securing the roofing sheets.



Suntuf Standard Polycarbonate Sheet, 2.4m x 860mm, \$26, from Bunnings.

BUILD THE PERGOLA



1 Set out the posts

Mark the post support locations with stringlines, checking for square by measuring the diagonals and bolting the supports to the concrete. Cut centre slots in the posts for the support flange using a circular saw.



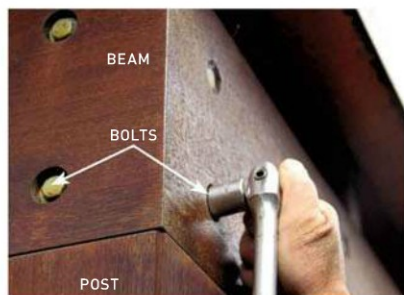
2 Cut the housings

Establish a setout post then stand each one to transfer the beam height using a water level. Number each post and mark the housing. Cut to length with a mitresaw, make 40mm cuts for each housing and chisel out the waste.



3 Stand the posts

Drill holes in the posts to match the flange holes and enlarge the first 10mm of each hole so the head can be recessed. Stand each post on a support, clamp it to a brace pegged to the ground and check for plumb then secure the bolts.



4 Attach the beams

Mitre the ends of the beams then position in the housings with any bows facing upwards. Clamp and check for plumb. Use 75mm nails to tack the beams in position, then drill 10mm holes and secure with bolts.



5 Add the lintels and trimmers

Position two lintels 1710mm from each corner with 250mm overhang. Put temporary braces across the beams, lift the lintels up and skew-nail them into the beams. Cut trimmers to fit between the lintels and secure with screws.



6 Secure the hanger cleats

Tie the lintel and beams together by attaching 42 x 45mm hangers on the inside of the beams and up the face of the lintels. Secure them with two galvanised screws into both beam and lintel.



7 Add the rafters

Butt the rafters over the beams and lintels, marking plumb lines at the ridge intersection and outer face of the beam. Use a sliding bevel to transfer the angle to a mitresaw then cut rafters to size and secure with skewed screws.



8 Install the roof battens

Position four roofing battens on each side starting 20mm from the top and secure to the rafters using screws. Space slats evenly and secure with nails. **TIP** Use a temporary length of timber on the batten ends to keep the slats aligned.



9 Secure the roofing

Attach guttering and downpipes to the rafter ends. Cut the roof sheets to size and position the first with overhang into the guttering and the edge in line with the rafter. Secure the sheets then attach capping over the ridge. ➤



PHILIPS

How to reduce your energy bill with Philips LED globes

Are you struggling with the rising costs of electricity? One of the simple ways to reduce energy in your home is to review the lighting in your home.

LED light globes are an ideal solution providing:

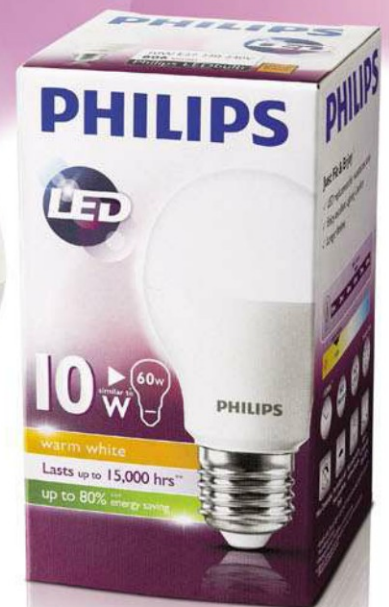
- ✓ Energy savings of up to 75% when compared to halogen globes
- ✓ Set and forget – LED globes offer very long life times of up to 15,000 hours
- ✓ Instant light output when switched on – LED globes offer a great look and feel light effect

With over 100 years of experience in lighting Philips is a reliable and trusted brand providing a lifetime of comfort.

Available now from \$9.99 RRP

Energy Saving Comparison Example

Eco-halogen	42	Watts
Lifetime of LED globe up to	15,000	Hours
LED wattage replacement*	10	Watts
This will use	76%	Less energy
You will save approximately**	\$144.57	per lamp



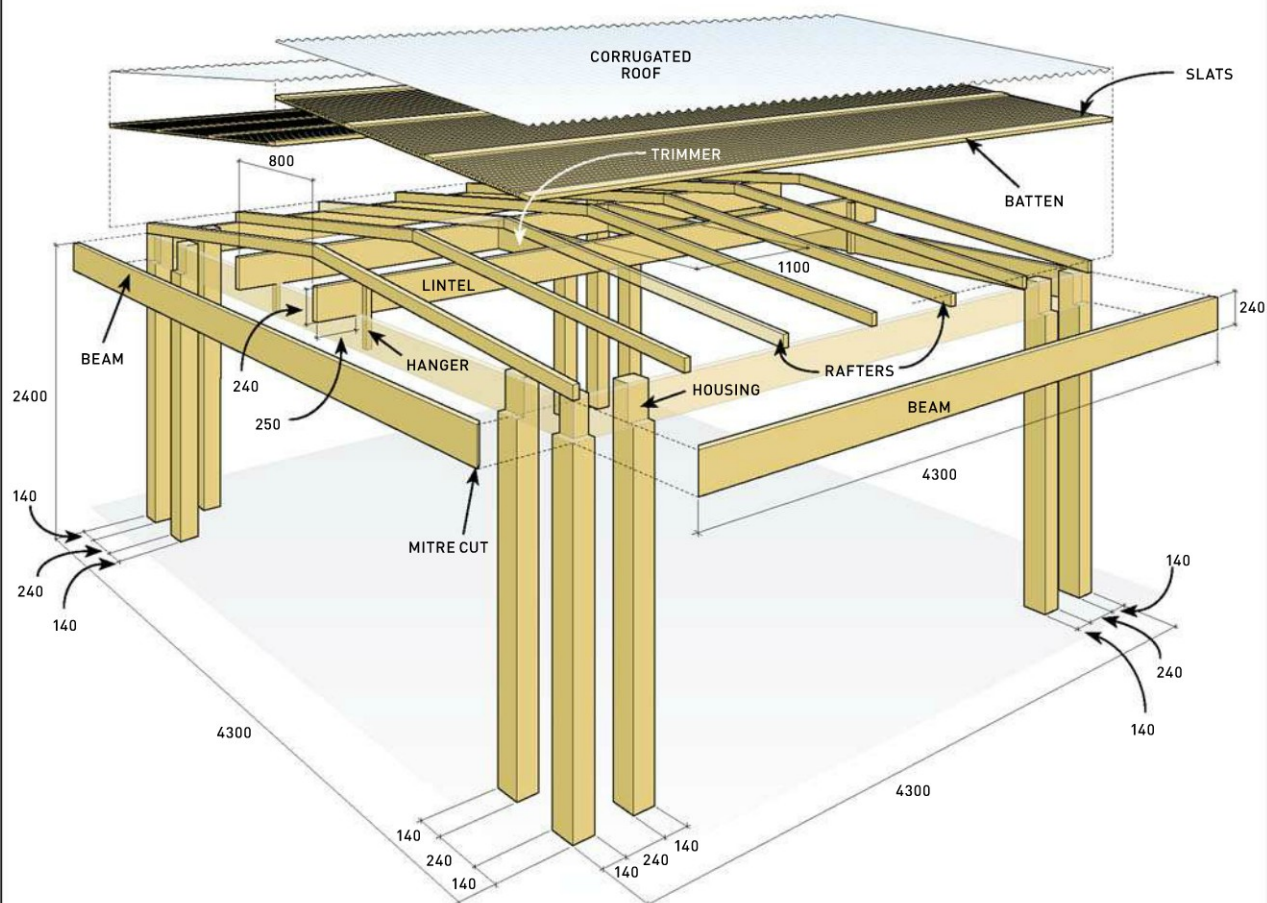
*Guide only. Actual light output may not be equivalent

**Based on an energy tariff of \$0.28215/kW hour (including GST) on energy savings for lifetime of lamp (www.energyaustralia.com). Calculations include cost of all globes

www.philips.com.au/led

TIMBER PERGOLA

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
TREATED PINE (H3)		
Beams	4300 x 240 x 45	4
Lintels	4800 x 240 x 45	2
Trimmers	800 x 240 x 45	2
Rafters	2168 x 90 x 45	14
Battens	4800 x 70 x 35	8
Hangers	460 x 42 x 45	4
DAR F/J PRIMED PINE (H3)		
Posts	2400 x 135 x 135	12
Slats	4800 x 18 x 18	108
POLYCARBONATE		
Roof sheets	2400 x 860	12
GALVANISED STEEL		
Guttering	4800 x 100 x 75	2
Capping	4800 x 100 x 100	1

Handyman.net.au

Download the tools, materials and costs to build this timber pergola.

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Before



After

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LANDSCAPE
SOLUTION

CORNER COURTYARD

Create an urban oasis in your front yard with a private paved retreat

PROJECT **FRANK GARDNER** MAIN PICTURES **GREGORY MCBEAN**

When kids take over a backyard there's often no room left for the parents to relax. So this front yard corner has been transformed into a grown-ups' retreat.

From the street, passers-by wouldn't know that this inviting courtyard was tucked in behind the front fence.

The fence stands 1500mm tall, enclosing the area on three sides and providing total seclusion.

PAVING THE WAY

This garden corner has a northerly aspect, so full sun is received all day, with a well-established tree providing welcome shade on hot afternoons.

To turn it into a courtyard, paving was laid, bordered on two sides by built-in seating.

A narrow garden bed in front of the fence provides a burst of green foliage, while on the opposite side, a small expanse of lawn separates the courtyard from the home.

The L-shaped seating is built around the tree and doubles as a retaining wall for the raised garden bed beneath the leafy canopy.

A second bench sits against the opposite wall framing the area. The slatted timber tops are hinged and lift up to reveal valuable storage space for garden tools underneath. ➤

Using Hebel

The seat benches were built using Hebel blocks. Made of Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC), the blocks are lightweight and easy to work with.

The base course is laid and levelled on a 10mm thick bed of mortar and subsequent courses on a 3mm bed of thin set adhesive.

TIP Use a panel saw to cut Hebel, and wear a respirator, ear and eye protection, sleeves and gloves.

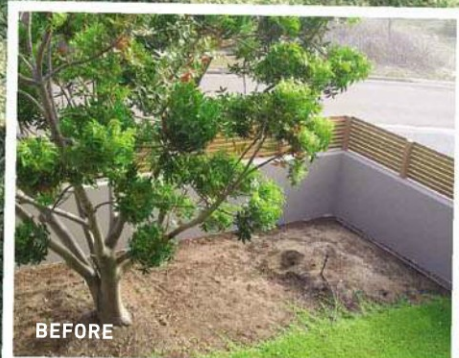


Hebel Blocks, 600 x 200 x 75mm, from \$4 each. hebelaustralia.com.au





AFTER
Large square pavers, built-in benches and leafy shade create a relaxing haven.



BEFORE

This small corner of the front yard was bare and under-utilised.



1 Pour the slab

Peg level formwork in place to contain the concrete and position a layer of steel mesh, finishing 50mm inside the formwork. Barrow in the concrete and roughly level, screeding the surface in a sawing motion. Smooth the surface using a timber float.



4 Screed the paving sand

Mark the finished height of the paving at the corners and barrow in paving sand. Set two screed rails in the sand 40mm below finished paving height then screed the sand level.

TIP Allow 15mm fall per metre for surface drainage.



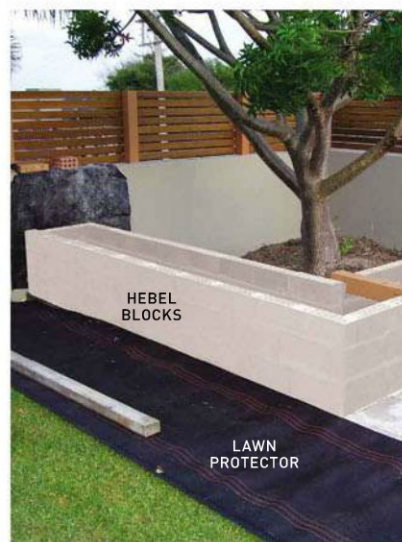
2 Lay the corner blocks

Set out the base course for both seats on the slab and roll out a layer of damp proof course (DPC). Build each corner to the required height, stepping back to the top course. Use mortar under the base blocks to set them level and adhesive between courses.



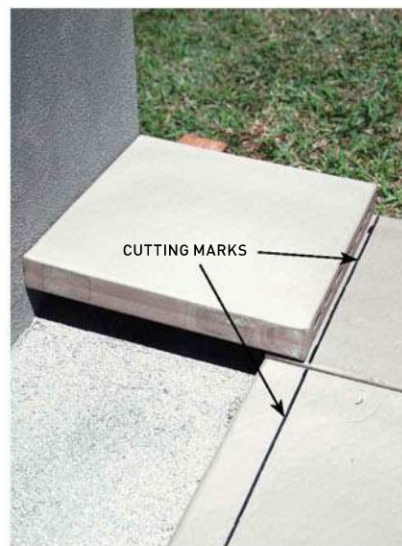
5 Lay the pavers

Use a builder's square to set a perpendicular laying line off one of the block seat walls then lay the paving one row at a time using the wall and the set stringline as a guide. Complete all the full pavers, checking alignment and making adjustments if needed.



3 Finish the block work

Set stringlines to lay the blocks in between the corners leaving weep holes in the base for drainage. Lay the second and third courses, closing vertical joints to 2mm. Mix up a Hebel render, applying a 3mm layer over the blocks and sponging to finish.

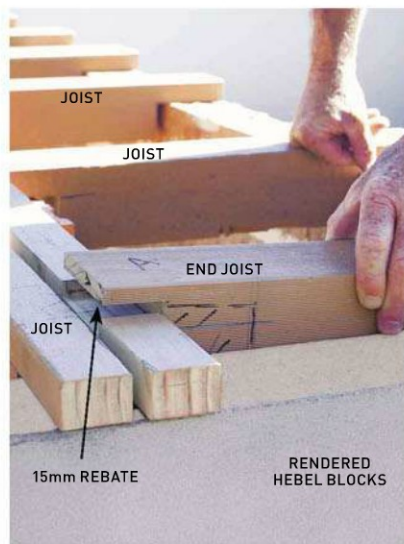


6 Finish the paving

Mark and number the pavers then use a wet bricksaw with a diamond blade to cut to size. Position the cut pavers and edge the last row to contain the paving sand using a haunch of mortar angled at 45°, then grout by filling the joints with fine sand.

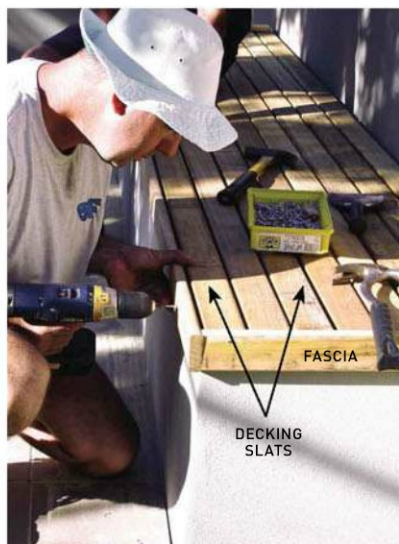


Enclosed by a tall fence on three sides, this courtyard is a parents' retreat.



7 Prepare the seat frames

Cut 90 x 90mm treated pine joists to fit across the boxes at 450mm centres. Use a mitresaw to make a series of cuts 60mm deep to house out 80mm wide rebates at both ends. At the corner of the L-shaped seat, notch out a 15mm rebate to support the end joist.



8 Secure the decking

Cut the decking slats to length for each section of seating, spacing them evenly before drilling 2mm pilot holes and securing with 50 x 2.8mm stainless steel decking nails. Cut the fascia with butt joints at the corners and secure to the joists with screws.

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Before After

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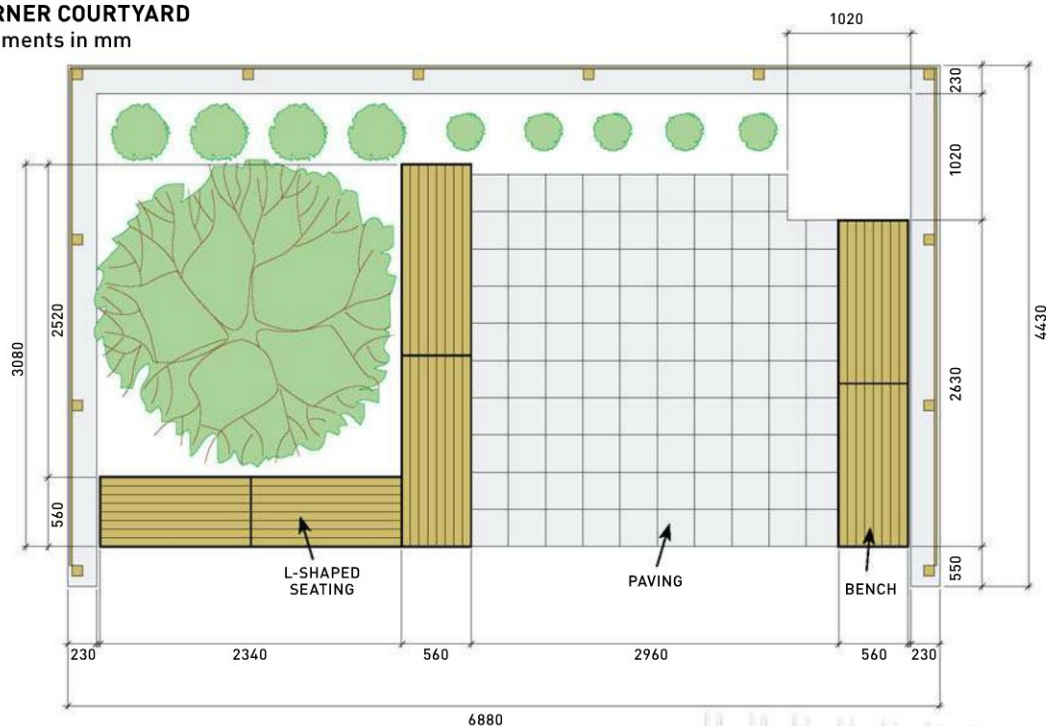
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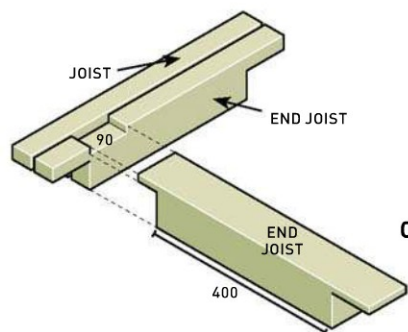
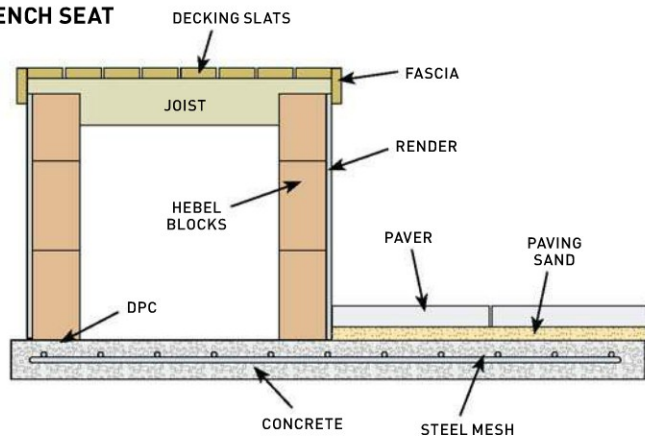
www.autosol.com.au
www.metallifesaver.com.au

THE CORNER COURTYARD

measurements in mm



BENCH SEAT



CORNER JOIST

WHAT IT COST

Do as much as possible DIY to save dollars, but if you're unsure of your skills, such as in laying blocks then hire a tradie.

Concrete	
Reinforcing mesh	\$180
Decking slats	\$45
Treated pine joists	\$280
Decking nails	\$160
Decking oil	\$15
Hebel adhesive	\$52
Hebel blocks	\$90
Pavers	\$456
Paving sand	\$540
Cement	\$65
Bagged render	\$7
Damp proof course	\$38
TOTAL	\$1958

Handyman.net.au

Download the tools, materials and costs to build outdoor seating.

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1 BUY IT • 2 CUT IT • 3 FIX IT



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Protector Easy Screen aluminium screens bring lightweight, low-maintenance beauty to your deck or veranda, or to any outdoor application, such as bin enclosures or air-conditioning units.

They're available off the shelf to 2m x 2m in three styles – slat, louver, and **adjustable louver**. Easy Screens are easily assembled, and you minimise wastage by purchasing only what you need.

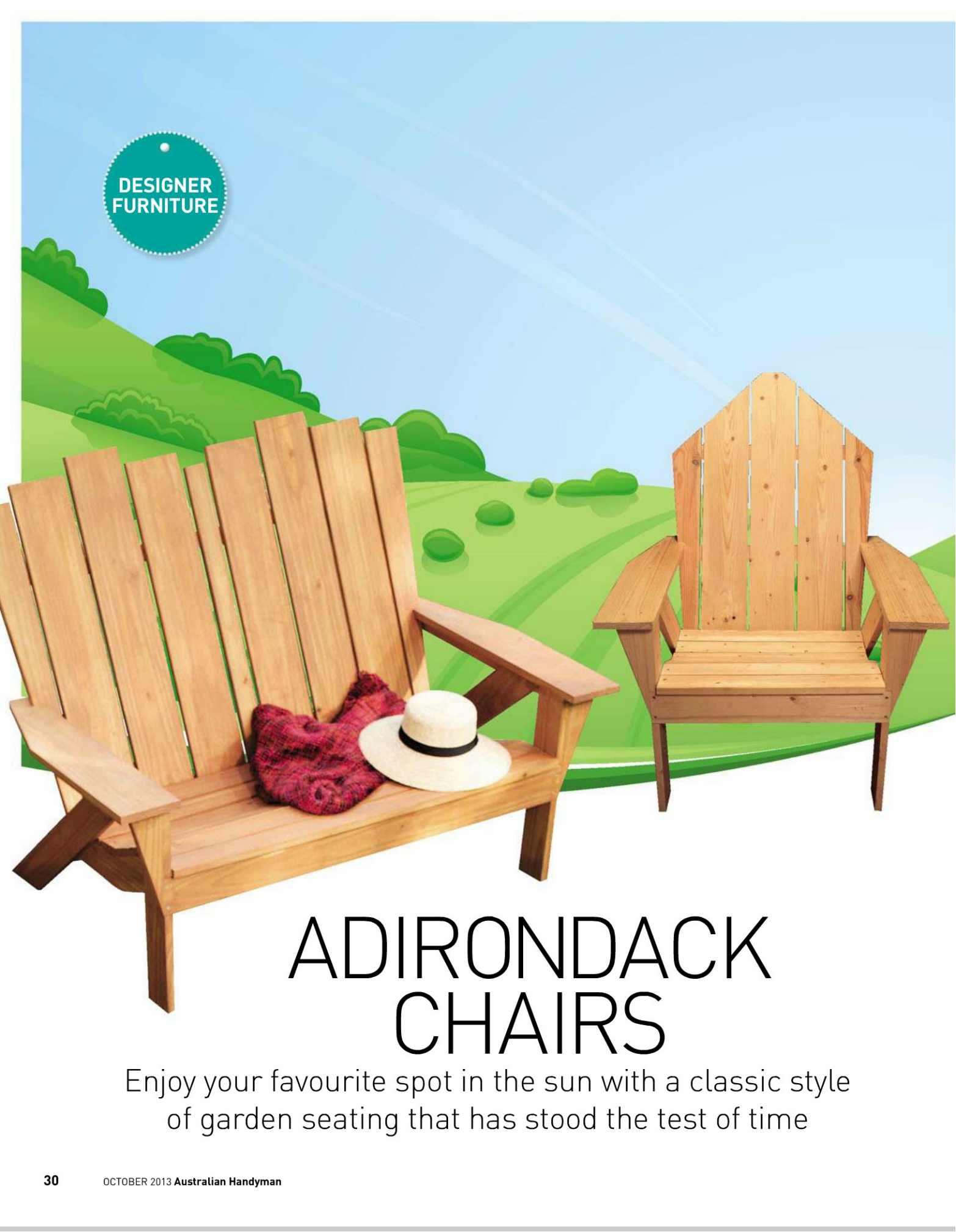
Easy Screen comes in Satin Black, Pearl White, Palladium Silver and Woodtech (wood grain) to fit in with your colour scheme. Larger sizes, different colours, **adjustable louver** and welded panels are available – just ask at Bunnings special orders counter.

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DESIGNER
FURNITURE

ADIRONDACK CHAIRS

Enjoy your favourite spot in the sun with a classic style of garden seating that has stood the test of time

These comfy chairs have wide arms and gentle curves that conform to the body.



DIY > \$210

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$1010

SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5

TIME > 2 DAYS

Settle into one of these timber chairs and you'll appreciate why the iconic design, first seen in 1903, is still such a popular choice for garden and patio seating.

Developed by Thomas Lee while on holiday in the Adirondack Mountains, northeastern USA, the chair became an instant hit with locals and its fame spread rapidly.

This chair and love seat combo is ideal for outdoor lounging. Make them in a weekend for just over \$200, and you'll have classic furniture that will be enjoyed for many seasons to come.

We used radiata pine because the chairs were not going to be exposed to the elements. It's inexpensive, easy to work with, and takes paint beautifully.

If your chairs will be left outside, use Tasmanian oak, blackbutt, maple, Western red cedar or treated pine.

TIP Seal all cut surfaces before assembly to ensure longevity. Attach furniture glides to the underside of the legs.

Fasteners

Use 30mm x 8g exterior timber screws to secure the arm bases and seat support to the legs, and the back braces to the back slats. Use 40mm x 8g galvanised screws for everything else, applying construction adhesive to all joints.

FINISH THE TIMBER

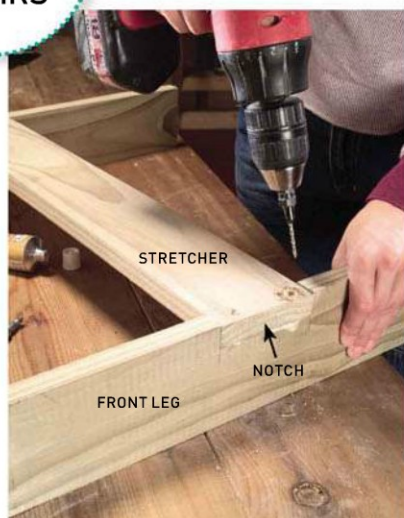
Once the chairs are assembled, round over all the edges with 180 grit abrasive paper, paying particular attention to the legs and arms.

Protect the timber by applying a stain, varnish stain, or exterior paint in the colour of your choice. We used two coats of Feast Watson Outdoor Furniture Oil in Teak. ➤



Feast Watson Outdoor Furniture Oil, \$40 for 1L. feastwatson.com.au

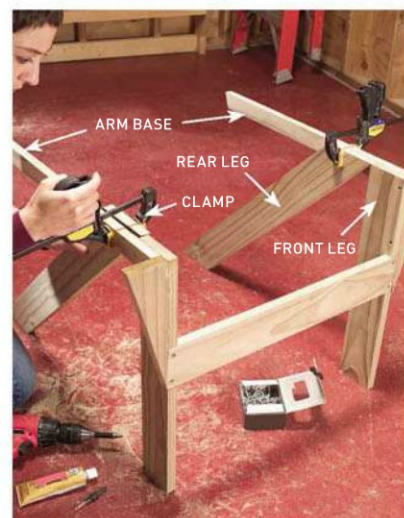
BUILD THE CHAIRS



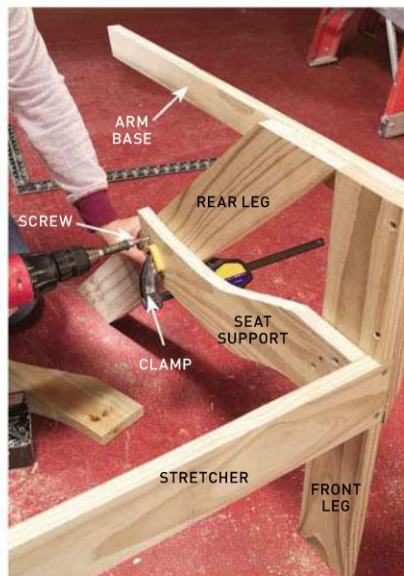
1 Secure the stretcher
Mark the notches for the stretcher on the front legs, 265mm up from the base. Make relief cuts then chisel out the waste. Position with the legs on a level surface, apply construction adhesive in the notches, then position the stretcher and secure with screws.



2 Attach the arm supports
Mark 275 x 65mm triangles on the backs of the arms then use a circular saw to cut along the marked line. Align the triangular offcuts with the top and front edges of the legs then drill pilot holes from inside the legs to secure with screws.



3 Secure the back legs
Cut the back legs with opposing 45° mitres and the back of the arm bases with 23° mitres. Secure the arm bases at 90° to the front legs. Attach the rear legs to the arm bases using adhesive and screws, making sure the arm bases are parallel to the ground.



4 Add the seat supports
Use the template to mark out the shape of the seat supports then cut out using a jigsaw. Align the square front edge of the seat supports with the back of the stretcher then use adhesive and screws to attach them to both the front and rear legs from the inside.



5 Make the chair back
Cut the two outer slats by marking a diagonal line on a slat, 40mm in from opposite edges, then dividing with a circular saw. Position the back slats on a level surface with 6mm spacers between. Add the braces, securing with adhesive and screws.



6 Secure the back
Turn the chair over and position the back face down, aligning the base of the back assembly with the seat supports and the edge of the back legs. Secure the legs to the lower back brace and the arm bases to the centre back brace using adhesive and screws.



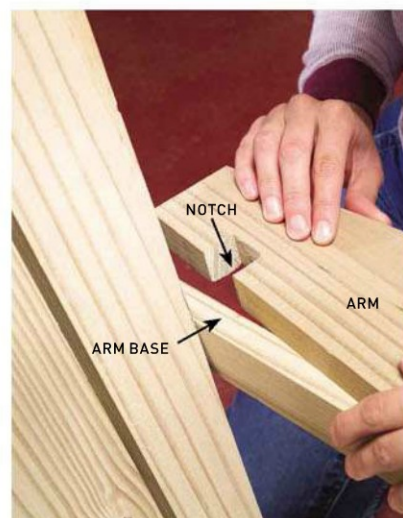
7 Attach the seat slats

Starting from the back, position the seat slats spaced evenly on the seat supports. Drill one pilot hole at each end then secure the slats with screws. Position the last slat with a 10mm overhang and secure to both seat supports and the stretcher.



8 Mark the arm notches

Position the arms on the arm bases, flush with the edge and with 40mm overhang at the front. Use the outer slats to mark the notch position and angle on the inside edge of the arms then mark cut lines to a depth of 25mm.



9 Complete the assembly

Use a handsaw to make the angled cuts at the back of the arms, finishing the notches using a chisel. Position each arm with its notch tight against the outer slat. Secure with screws to the arm bases, arm supports and the top edge of the legs. ➤

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Neville Passmore - Gardening Expert



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It comes with a drip system so there is no need to hand water. And it's so easy. Just fit the base to the wall, plant up the pots and attach the hose to the base. You can connect multiple Greenwall panels horizontally or vertically. Clever!

Choosing a chair back style

The slatted Adirondack design is well suited to a range of different back styles. If the step-back version doesn't appeal, the gable or round shape may be more to your taste.

For the gable back mark a line 40mm from the top centre to 180mm down the side of each outer slat.

Create the round-back style by marking a centrepoint 380mm down from the top then drawing an arc with a 355mm radius.

Before committing to a shape, sketch your idea on paper and tape it to the chair to see how it will look at full size. ➤



**GABLE
BACK**



**STEP
BACK**



**ROUND
BACK**

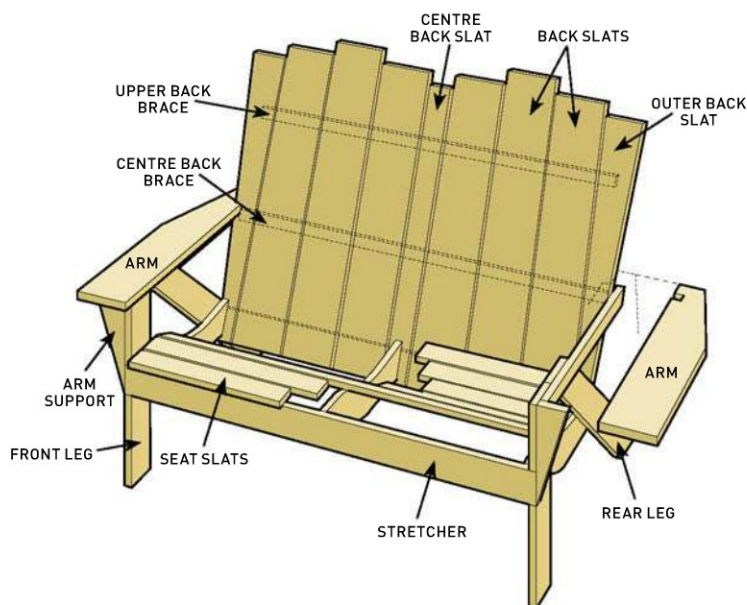


LOVE SEAT

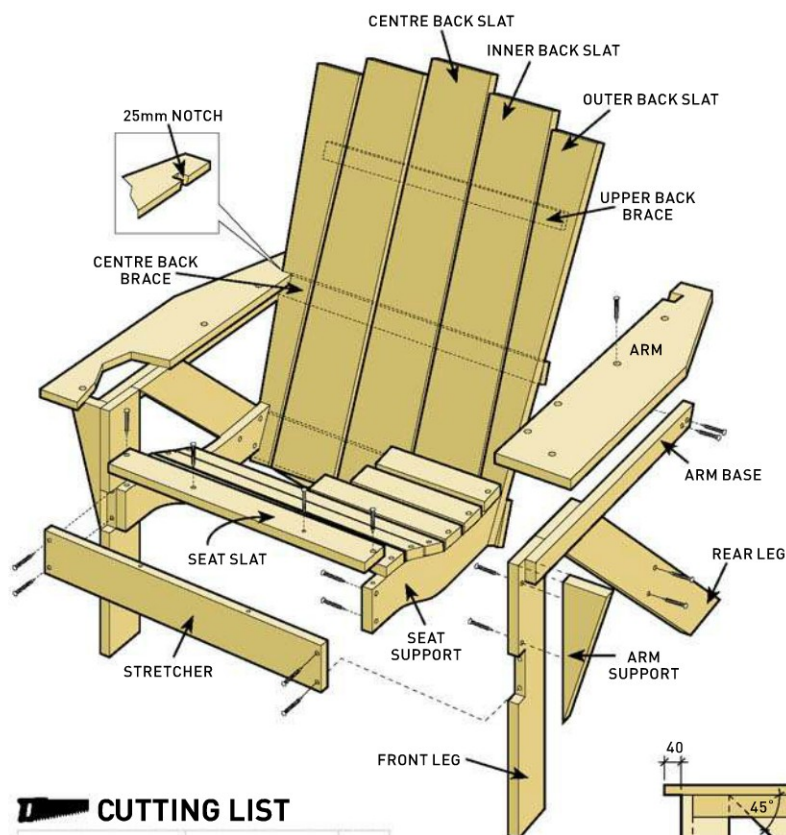
The love seat is made in the same way as the chair, except with a wider back and extra seat support in the centre. The wider back necessitates longer braces and seat slats, plus additional back slats.

CUTTING LIST

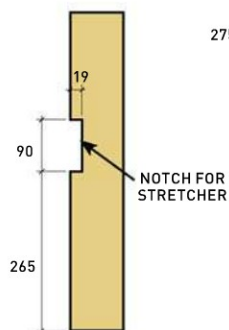
PART	SIZE	NO.
PINE		
Front legs	585 x 89 x 19	2
Front stretcher	1093 x 89 x 19	1
Arms	685 x 140 x 19	2
Arm supports	275 x 65 x 19	2
Arm bases	590 x 42 x 19	2
Rear legs	875 x 89 x 19	2
Seat supports	450 x 140 x 19	3
Long slats	910 x 140 x 19	2
Medium slats	870 x 140 x 19	4
Centre slat	830 x 64 x 19	1
Split slat	830 x 140 x 19	1
Lower brace	1055 x 89 x 19	1
Centre brace	1093 x 42 x 19	1
Upper brace	1055 x 42 x 19	1
Seat slats	1055 x 64 x 19	7



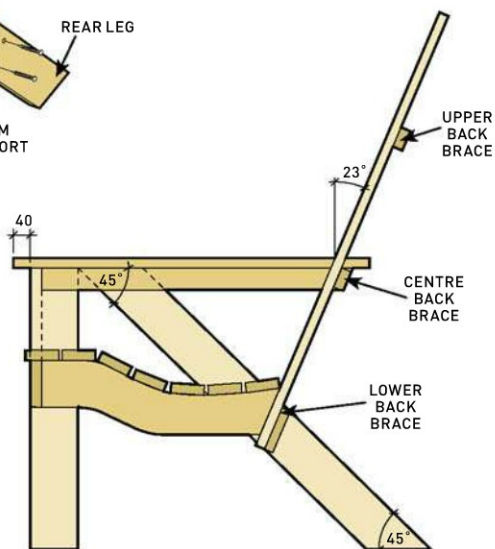
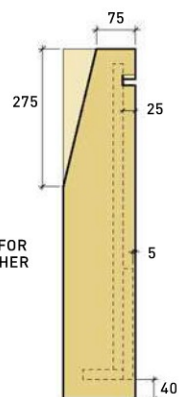
ADIRONDACK CHAIR measurements in mm



FRONT LEG PATTERN



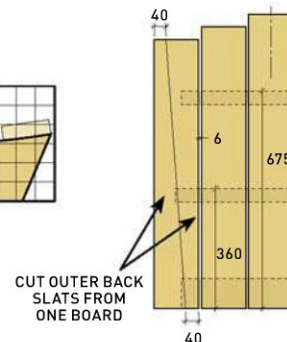
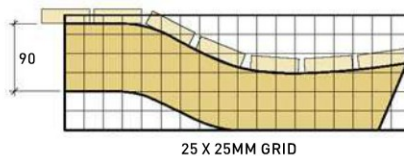
ARM PATTERN



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
PINE		
Front legs	530 x 89 x 19	2
Front stretcher	585 x 89 x 19	1
Arms	685 x 140 x 19	2
Arm supports	275 x 65 x 19	2
Arm bases	590 x 42 x 19	2
Rear legs	875 x 89 x 19	2
Seat supports	450 x 140 x 19	2
Centre slat	910 x 140 x 19	1
Inner slats	870 x 140 x 19	2
Split slat	830 x 140 x 19	1
Lower brace	547 x 89 x 19	1
Centre brace	585 x 42 x 19	1
Upper brace	547 x 42 x 19	1
Seat slats	547 x 64 x 19	7

SEAT SUPPORT TEMPLATE



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Download the tools, materials and costs to make these Adirondack chairs.

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MAXI ULTRA 515
I/N 2662051
1495h x 608W x 430d



MAXI ULTRA 715
I/N 2662052
1495h x 608W x 430d



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INDUSTRIAL *warmth*

The sympathetic renovation of a derelict building creates a light-filled family home

Marie and Alexander Templeman had walked past the disused corner warehouse near their rented inner city home many times and paid it no notice until a for sale sign appeared.

It would need to be completely gutted and rebuilt, but the location was perfect, close to work and good schools, and the price was right. They quickly made an offer.

So much work was needed that what they'd initially estimated to be a six-month renovation ended up lasting an entire gruelling year.

The couple and their two daughters moved in with Marie's parents and waited for their dream home to emerge from the construction chaos. For Marie, it happened when the glass went in.

'We had pored over the plans but it was hard to visualise the end result. When the glass doors, windows and skylights were installed, it all started making sense. It was the moment I began to fall in love with it,' she says. ➤



Splashes of bright colour bring a cosy feel to this double-height living space.





A central atrium functions as a courtyard for outdoor living.

Reclaiming old buildings

A love of raw, understated style is a design trend that has its roots in New York's SoHo in the 1960s.

When mills, factories and warehouses began to close down in the 1950s, vast old buildings in central locations were abandoned.

The bohemian movement in the US and UK saw groups of artists moving into these empty buildings.

An appreciation of the merits of industrial open-plan living was born, due to the huge, airy living spaces and unique architectural features.

Since the early days when the style was strictly interpreted, modern translations have combined eras and design elements while remaining true to the rough-hewn spirit of loft living.

COHESIVE DESIGN

The end result of the year-long reno is a light-filled home with three bedrooms and multiple family areas for relaxing. Every space is connected in function to the next, creating a warm and inviting design whole.

The expansive main living area has double-height walls and is topped off with a glass ceiling that allows natural sunlight to stream in, giving occupants a sense of being outdoors when inside.

Most of the surfaces are cool, from the polished concrete to the tiles, metal and glass, so the warmth of the sunshine creates a welcoming space for relaxing and socialising even through winter.

'I did worry that the rooms would feel cold,' says Marie.

'So we purposely chose to mix warm colours with the white on the walls, and a particular shade of purple is used throughout the home.'

The decor picks up the shade in the rugs, cushions, artworks and accessories scattered about the house, resulting in an eye-catching contrast of textures and hues.

OPEN TO THE ELEMENTS

In the centre of the house, glass bifold doors have been installed on three sides, opening out to an atrium between the living and kitchen areas which functions as a courtyard for light and air.

'We wanted to maximise the footprint of the building so there was no option for a backyard,' says Marie.

'The architect came up with this idea and as soon as you step out onto the decking, it feels like a little oasis.'

'The kids spend a lot of time out there and it's so handy as I can see them from wherever I am.'

Timber decking and outdoor furniture flank a wall of fast-growing bamboo, with potted succulents adding texture and colour. The window frames create angular shadows as the sun moves across the sky.



The kitchen is the hub of the house where the family spends the most time.

HEART OF THE HOME

The kitchen is the central room, with an office and playroom leading off. It's where the family gathers in the mornings and evenings. The design is simple and streamlined while providing maximum storage and benchtop space.

Stainless steel appliances and a slim-profile grey Caesarstone benchtop keep the palette in line with the industrial bones of the building.

A glass floor panel delineates the kitchen from the dining space, which nestles in the recessed area at the foot of the stairs for cosy family dinners and intimate entertaining.

'Though we don't have views as such, there is a lot to look at from every aspect of the house,' says Marie.

'In the kitchen, I wanted to incorporate the light from the atrium with the functionality that's needed in the place you cook,' says Marie.

'I wanted the cabinets to blend in, so kept it white and simple.' ➤

GLASS FLOOR PANEL



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THE UPPER LEVEL

A simple timber staircase with floor-level LED lighting on one side and recessed shelving nooks on the other leads to the upper floor.

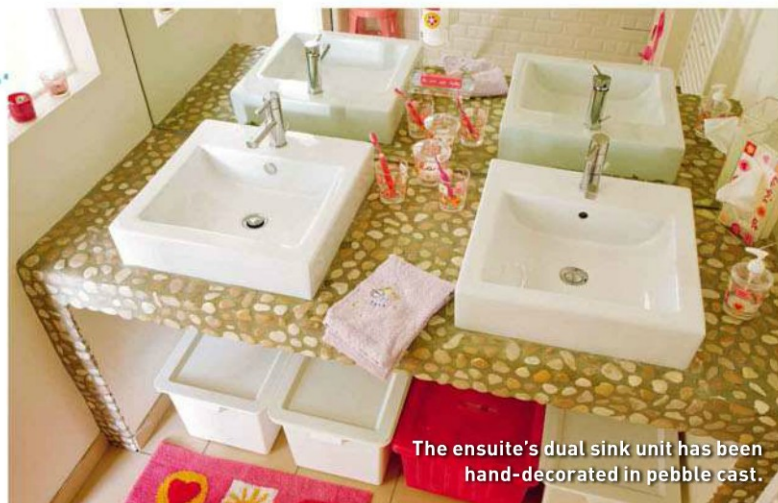
Upstairs, polished timber floors connect the three large bedrooms, including the master with full ensuite.

Light floods the space through the top floor windows, the atrium and bathroom skylights.

The ensuite's shower cubicle is tiled in neutral toned mosaic on the walls and floor. A partial wall with high windows screens the bath and further staggered walls create privacy for showering and dressing areas.

'The ensuite bathroom isn't a traditional design as it has no full walls or doors but it works really well so you never feel exposed.

'This is one space in which I can really see that good design reinvents things and ultimately makes them better,' says Marie.



The ensuite's dual sink unit has been hand-decorated in pebble cast.

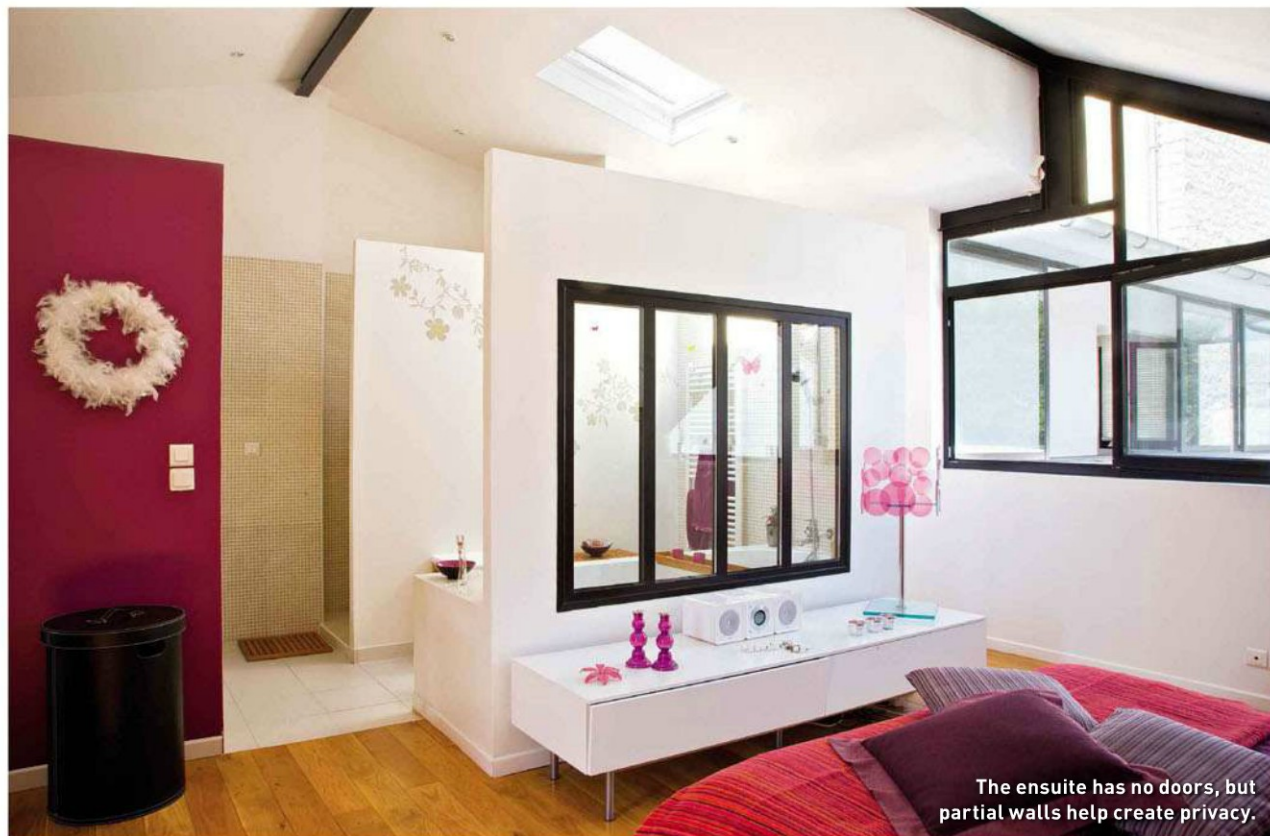
Decorating a renovated space

Revamping an industrial space might seem challenging, but any style of furnishings and accessories can work as long as a few rules are followed.

Stick to a complementary scheme of colours. In this home the neutral hues recede, letting the architecture make a statement, while the bold

purple splashes tie it all together and add personality, without overdoing it.

Materials and surfaces are integral to achieving cohesive decor that suits the style of the building. Metallic finishes, concrete, glass, weathered timber, plastics, Perspex, leather, stone and brick all work well.



The ensuite has no doors, but partial walls help create privacy.



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FROM WOE TO WOW

We visualise how this run-down property could, with a little help, turn heads for all the right reasons

There's nothing pretty about this fibro box, located in an outer western Sydney suburb, in a street of modest, but well-kept, houses. It's got all the appeal of an old shed in an empty paddock.

Fibre asbestos sheeting was hugely popular in the postwar period because it was cheap and durable. That was before the dangers of asbestos were common knowledge and fibro became synonymous with cheap housing.

Using our virtual wand, we'll glam up the fibro exterior, changing poor first impressions into instant appeal.

THE CHALLENGE

What many people don't realise about asbestos sheeting is that it's rarely a problem unless disturbed or deteriorating, which is when the lethal asbestos fibres become airborne.

So if it's in good nick, the best advice is to leave it alone and work around it. All very well, but we need one ingenious solution to dress up this ugly duckling.

A coloured render will give the house a modern look and make it appear as though it's made of brick. A coat of paint on the roof, window frames, front steps and eaves will complete the colour scheme.



This yard has no fence or gate. The lack of privacy and security need to be addressed, and we'll have to get creative with that grim front yard.

The old iron railing on the front porch needs replacing with a modern alternative.

The exterior transformation is complete, at an estimated cost of \$6,500. Passers-by would never guess that a plain old fibro house lurks behind this smart new facade.



Ask Cherie

Cherie Barber is director of Renovating For Profit, a company dedicated to teaching Australians how to add value through renovation.

Want Cherie Barber to virtually make over a room or exterior of your house?

Send us a photo of an area in your home that needs work and we'll show you what can be done. Go to handyman.net.au/mag and enter your details.

After

Coloured render, a timber screen and plants provide a smart upgrade.



Hot tips

- **TEST THE RENDER** by putting a large patch of Rockcote on your house before committing to the colour. The render will appear different in sunlight.
- **PROTECT THE LAWN** as renovations play havoc with turf. Limit tool storage to concreted paths if possible, or contain it within one designated area.
- **SPEND UP** if you can afford it by buying mature plants, not small ones, for more impact.

The six secrets of success

1 RENDER THE EXTERIOR

Traditional cement render doesn't work on fibro, so try using Rockcote instead. This product can be tinted to almost any colour and applied like render straight over fibro sheeting, eliminating the need to paint the exterior walls afterwards.



Rockcote Toscani Coloured Render, \$111 for 10L.
rockcote.com.au

2 ADD A PORCH SCREEN

In goes a new front door and timber feature screen for the porch made of treated pine and secured with screws. Off comes the shabby railing that's been there for years. The screen gives a big visual lift, adding structure to an otherwise flimsy looking home.



Buildex 75mm x 10g Bugle Head Treated Pine Screws, \$20 for 100.

3 PAINT THE ROOF

Next up, paint the roof in a contemporary grey to complement the mocha coloured walls. Reattach the downpipes and paint them and the eaves in contrasting black. It already looks like a smart, brick dwelling, not a humble fibro house.



Dulux Roof & Trim Jasper Exterior Paint, \$193 for 10L.
dulux.com.au

4 PAINT FRAMES AND PATH

Scrape and sand back the window frames and paint them in high-gloss white paint, making sure to first prep the area well and use a quality undercoat. A couple of coats of charcoal paving paint will sort out the steps, landing and front path.



Berger Jet Dry Deep Charcoal Paving Paint, \$91 for 4L.
berger.com.au

5 INSTALL A PICKET FENCE

A tidy front picket fence gives this house much-needed privacy and blends in with the era of the rest of the street. Paint it the same colour as the walls of the house to tie it all together, and finish it off with a nice, modern letterbox.



Sandleford Highlander Charcoal Fence Letterbox, \$119. sandleford.com.au

6 REVAMP THE GARDEN

For the garden, make garden beds out of treated pine sleepers, turning them up on their edge for extra height. And plant a row of gardenias and spiky cycads along the front of the house, scattering pine bark mulch on top.



Florida Gardenia, 250mm, \$30 each, from Bunnings



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OUTDOOR
UPGRADE

PAINT THE EXTERIOR

Choose a colour scheme to suit the architectural style of your house

WORDS **SITA SIMONS**

Deciding how to paint the outside takes as much time and planning as selecting an interior palette.

Indoors, there are only a few different surfaces to consider, but outside might feature anything from brick to rendered masonry, corrugated iron, various forms of weatherboard and cladding, and timber products.

Most homes feature a combination of these surfaces and figuring out the right paint to use on each one can leave you feeling daunted.

This is where modern paint technology can help. There is now a specially formulated paint for every type of wall, and the most advanced are suitable for more than one surface.

Like interior paints, exterior formulations are available in either water-based acrylic or oil-based enamel formulas and three lustres, matt or flat, semi-gloss and gloss.

In the past, exterior paint was more expensive but these days it's roughly the same price as interior products.

The difference between the two is the inclusion of UV protection, moisture barriers and stronger pigments to prevent colours fading.

SELECTING COLOURS

Take your time before settling on a palette for the exterior of your home. Get it right and your house will stand out without overpowering, get it wrong and you'll cringe every time you approach the front door.

Shaynna Blaze, host of *Selling Houses Australia* and Taubmans brand ambassador and creative director, knows the challenges. She says that a basic understanding of colour is the place to start.

As a general rule, light colours make a building look larger and are often favoured for traditional classical architecture. Strong, dark colours can be striking but may also overwhelm architecture and fade more quickly. ➤





Painting a building in a lighter colour scheme will make it appear larger.

Too many colours will look too busy, while too few can make the end result seem flat and uninteresting.

Three complementary colours and one contrasting shade is a good formula to work with.

'Most people go for a neutral tone on the walls, but to create a focal point and give your home a strong presence, add a little bold colour to one area of the exterior, such as on your front door.

'One of my favourite combinations is using Taubmans Endure Poinciana Red to contrast against neutrals and whites,' says Shaynna.

Exterior paints can be colour tinted to suit your tastes so spend a little time testing out different combinations to be sure you're getting exactly what you want.

ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

Other things to take into account before deciding on the colour scheme are the period and architectural style of the house.

'A traditional house will have individual features such as trims and rooflines,' says Shaynna.

'So sometimes it's best to keep the palette simple and use colour to accentuate one key feature.

'A more modern building may have strong lines and striking features that allow you to create a dramatic colour scheme to match.

'Contrast in your walls and trims will highlight angles that you want to be the focus of your exterior.'

It's also a good tip to take some of your cues and ideas from the surroundings of your home.

'Use your garden, driveway, guttering and landscape as inspiration for your colour palette, to create subtle contrasts and an overall sense of harmony for your property.

'Fences help frame the view of your house, and using a similar paint colour to the exterior trims creates a sense of connection between the house and the garden,' she says.

'Also, I recommend using a dark charcoal colour to paint concrete paths or driveways. This creates depth, as dark colours recede.'

GETTING READY

Just like any surface, exteriors must be properly prepared before painting.

Target peeling, flaking and bubbled paint patches and gently scrape and sand back with 180 grit abrasive paper.



With traditional homes, keep the palette simple and accentuate one key feature.

Walls need to be clean, free of dust and debris, and completely dry.

The best quality paint and the most professional technique will not yield lasting results if the surface is not well prepared.

With their improved technology, water-based acrylic paints such as Dulux Weathershield or Taubmans Endure are excellent DIY options that work well on most surfaces. ➤



Monarch SmartWool Roller Cover, from \$13, from Bunnings.

Paint chalking

As paint wears, you might notice a fine white powder on the surface. Chalking is part of the normal ageing process, but it will need to be cleaned away before repainting.

Go over the surface with a stiff bristle brush or wire brush on masonry, then rinse with a garden hose or pressure washer.

When the surface is dry, check for any chalking. If it is still visible, apply a suitable primer, or sealer for masonry, then repaint.

If little or no chalk remains and the old paint is sound, no priming is necessary and the surface can be repainted with a good-quality exterior paint.



Modern architecture offers more opportunity to experiment with colour.

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PREPARING THE SURFACE

Painting the house is a big job, but all that brushwork will be wasted if your surface hasn't been thoroughly prepped before you start. Here's how to patch up old, damaged areas to ensure a smooth base and a professional finish.

WEATHERBOARD



1 REMOVE DEBRIS by scraping flaky paint, pulling out rusty or protruding nails and replacing them with galvanised nails positioned 10mm from the original holes.



2 PATCH DAMAGE by removing paint from the area then overfilling slightly with a two-part epoxy filler and leaving to dry. Smooth with 80 then 180 grit abrasive paper, priming any bare timber.



3 FILL THE NAIL HOLES around windows and doorjamb's using a caulking gun and paintable sealant. **TIP** Old caulk loses elasticity so dig it out and refill to weatherproof.

MASONRY



1 CLEAR THE AREA by brushing away loose debris. Remove all areas of drummy render, bevelling the cut edges for smooth joining of old and new. Apply a sealing and bonding agent for render repair.

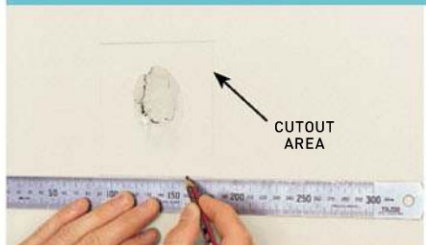


2 PATCH THE HOLE using a trowel to lay the mortar into the patch area, slightly overfilling. Screed by pushing and pulling a straightedge across the surface then fill any depressions and repeat the process.



3 FINISH THE PATCH by smoothing with a broadknife, working a float over it in circular motions as the render firms and dries, then rub with a flat sponge, ensuring the patch blends with the existing edges.

FIBRE CEMENT



1 CUT AROUND DAMAGE using a steel ruler to mark out the area, making the cutout with a jigsaw. **TIP** Use a tungsten carbide-coated jigsaw blade to cut FC (fibre cement) sheets to size.



2 CUT BACKING 40mm longer than the cutout and 2mm narrower, adding holes to thread string. Apply construction adhesive to the ends of the long sides. Position the backing in the cutout, pull it against the wall and leave to dry.



3 FILL THE CUTOUT by cutting the FC patch to fit the hole, apply construction adhesive on the back then position it in the cutout. Smooth over the joints with an epoxy filler then sand, seal and paint.



Old wrought iron enamel finishes may contain unsafe levels of lead.

Dealing with lead

Paints containing as much as 50% lead were used on the inside and outside of houses until 1965, when the legal level was reduced to 1%.

In 1992, the legal lead level was reduced again to 0.25%, before being further lowered to just 0.1% in 1997.

In old, unrenovated houses, lead-based paint is most likely to be found on window frames, doors, skirting boards, exterior walls, gutters, metal surfaces and areas covered in enamel paint.

Pink and red primer were also manufactured using lead.

Houses built after 1965 might still contain lead-based paint, particularly if old or industrial paint has been used. The paint is only dangerous if the surface is flaking or damaged.

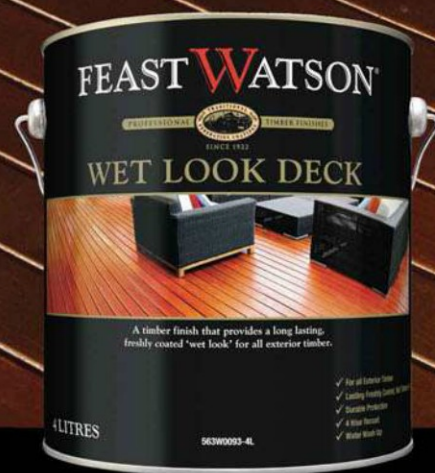
A lead-testing kit from hardware stores measures concentrations.

If lead is found to be present, special care must be taken to remove it, as it can be dangerous.

Seek expert advice and read up on government guidelines (environment.gov.au) before attempting to remove lead paint. If in doubt, call in a professional.

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MODERN *family*

A rural property gets renovated to update the heart of the home

WORDS **SITA SIMONS** PICTURES **CHRIS L JONES**

When Barry Dubois, master builder and co-host of Channel Ten's *The Living Room*, gets a brief for a new project, his first step is to speak to the people who live in the home.

It is his communication skills, along with his building expertise, that have been key to his success.

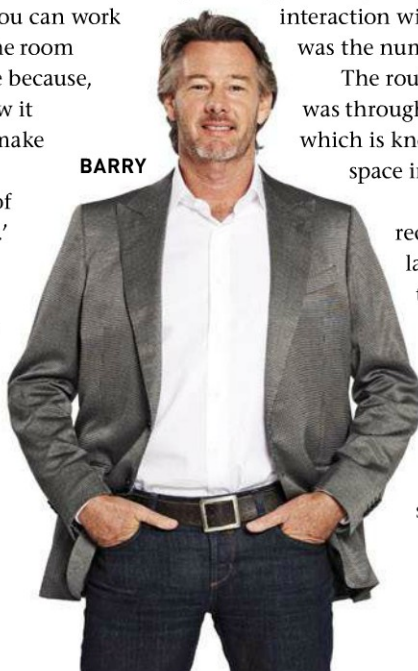
'There are layers to a renovation, and the first is getting to know the people,' says Barry.

'Once you have an understanding of who they are, you can work towards making the room reflect that picture because, whether they know it or not, what will make them happiest is a true expression of their personalities.'

FAMILY FIRST

It was clear in this two-hectare rural home, on a block shared with the grandparents, that family life is front and centre.

BARRY



Mum, dad and four kids have lived in the house for 15 years and have no plans to ever move.

'When I met this lovely family I knew the kitchen would be the hub of the home for them,' says Barry.

'As it was, there was no room for everyone to gather together. There was a tiny two-person island bench and the kitchen was a closed-off galley style that wasn't open to the backyard.

'Yet the kids are outside any opportunity they get. The lack of interaction with the outdoors was the number one problem.'

The route to the back door was through an oversized laundry, which is known as a 'transient' space in the design trade.

Barry saw that reclaiming part of the laundry would expand the kitchen and make room for a four-seater island bench.

This would be the keystone of the kitchen and a place for the family to stop and hang out. ➤





AFTER
New floors, light walls and an island bench make a welcoming space to gather.

ILLUSIONS AND INCLUSIONS

The island bench, the beautiful views and the relatively low ceilings dictated that a linear design would work best.

'The idea here is to create an illusion of height,' says Barry.

'Standing in the lounge room and looking back to the kitchen, I saw the opportunity to further harmonise the rooms by keeping the cupboards low and limiting wall units.

'Removing the cornice and running the cupboards to the ceiling draws the eye upwards and makes the receding ceiling look higher too.'

The pantry is the first cupboard to consider, particularly in a family home or for anyone who likes to entertain.

Near the fridge is always a good idea. This area will be in high use, so make it functional and avoid deep shelves that allow items at the back to get lost and forgotten about.

Lighting is always an important element in the kitchen and Barry's tip is to avoid the usual central placement.

'Lighting in the centre of the room creates shadows. I recommend putting downlights in line with the edge of the benchtops so your body doesn't cast a shadow over the working area.'

The striking pendant lights add some personality and act as feature.



The downlights are in line with the edge of the benchtop to minimise shadows.

Extending an island

A kitchen island can dominate a room. When the emphasis is on increased bench surface, the visual impact and multi-function options often get ignored.

In this family home it was the ideal central spot for an extra seating and eating space. A four-person island was installed with a modern stone surface.

But something organic was also needed. A Hickory Maple square-edged profile benchtop from the Kaboodle

range at Bunnings was cut to fit the new island. Using the same strong adhesive that secured the stone to the island, the top and sides were attached to the benchtop.

'The mum in this family is a great cook and I wanted to give her as much surface as possible,' says Barry.

The maple extension softened the stone while tying in with timber elements elsewhere.

OPEN-PLAN LIVING

As the sun goes down and the kids come inside, the lounge room is where this family gathers to watch television.

The kitchen floor tiles and the old carpet in the lounge were ripped up and replaced with bamboo flooring to link the two rooms and create a unified living space. Cabinets at the transition point provide additional storage.

A large mirror in the lounge makes the space seem bigger, while comfort and cosiness is prioritised with big sofas and scatter cushions. A blue feature wall and a graphic rug add a splash of colour.

'Where we had three isolated areas here before, we now have outdoors, utility and intimacy in one,' says Barry.

'In any renovation there's always a lot of hard work involved and problems to solve. But if you have a philosophy, a basis for everything, it all begins to flow together nicely.'



The bamboo flooring and colour scheme unifies the kitchen and living area.



A large mirror creates the illusion of space in this cosy lounge room.



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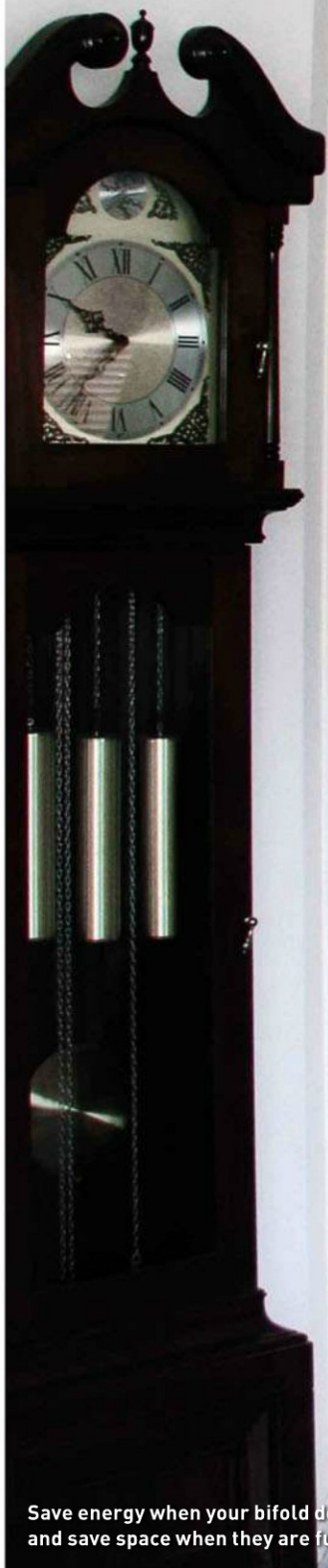
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Fasteners

Assemble the bulkhead frame and secure it to existing studs and ceiling joists with 75mm x 10g timber screws.

Attach the packing pieces to the walls with 50 x 8g screws, and the plasterboard with stud adhesive and 30mm x 8g screws.

Use cornice adhesive to attach the cornice. Secure the architrave with 30 x 1.2mm panel pins.

ENERGY
SAVER

HANG BIFOLD DOORS

Enjoy open-plan living when you want it and separate rooms when you don't

PROJECT **ED FREND**

DIY > \$1650

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$2450

SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5

TIME > 2 DAYS

Modern open-plan living areas are a popular design feature, with the dining, kitchen and lounge rooms flowing seamlessly together as one continuous domestic space.

While this approach works well for busy family life, it presents challenges for heating and cooling the home if there are only one or two occupants.

Instead of wasting money and energy by controlling the temperature of a much larger space than you need on a daily basis, install a set of bifold doors to divide the room.

AN UNOBTRUSIVE UPDATE

Bifold doors are available in standard widths of 720, 770 and 820mm and a standard height of 2040mm. They come in a range of styles including clear or frosted glass and leadlight panels.

The beauty of bifold doors is that they tuck in together as they open, allowing for full use of the doorway without taking up valuable space.

They can be retrofitted to most existing openings as long as the width and height are close enough to be adaptable to standard door sizes.

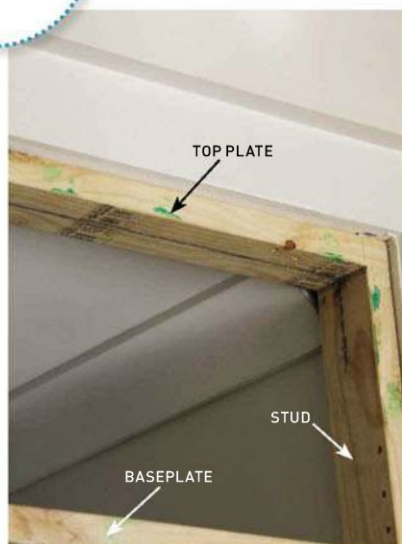
If your opening is slightly larger than a double set of doors, add some vertical packing behind the rebated jamb and attach architrave that matches the existing trim.

Like any retrofitting project, the doors should look as though they were installed when the house was built. It will take some effort to find matching door hardware or the right architrave profile but the result will be worth it. ➤



The Ryobi ONE+ Cordless Multi-Function Tool, console only, \$79. ryobi.com.au

INSTALL BIFOLD DOORS



1 Build the bulkhead

Measure the opening height then calculate the bulkhead dimensions needed to reduce the height to an opening of 2060mm. Assemble a butt-joined timber frame with a top plate, baseplate and studs at 450mm centres then secure with screws.



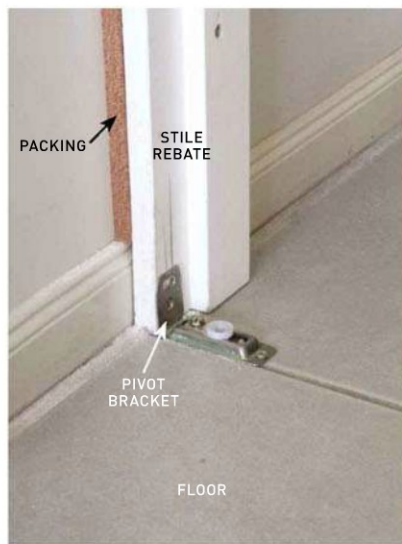
2 Secure the doorframe

Attach packing pieces to the walls then assemble the doorjamb, securing the stiles to the rebated head. Position the frame in the opening and use a spirit level to check for plumb. Secure the frame to wall studs using screws or hollow wall anchors.



3 Attach the track

Mark a centreline along the rebated section in the top of the new frame, allowing for the width of the head track. Cut each track to a length of exactly half the opening width. Drill 3mm pilot holes and secure both pieces in position with the supplied screws.



4 Secure the pivots

Attach the pivot brackets to the stile rebates and to the floor at each side. If securing to a tiled floor, use a masonry drill and nylon plugs. Insert spring pivots in the top of all door leaves and base pivots in the doors at each end of the bifold.



5 Hang the doors

Install each hinged pair of doors by folding them together and locating the top pivot in the top socket in the top track. Lower the doors and locate the base pivot in the base bracket. Adjust both pairs of doors until the clearance gaps are a consistent 3mm.

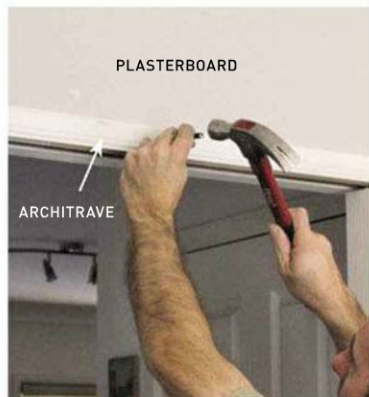


6 Finish the doors

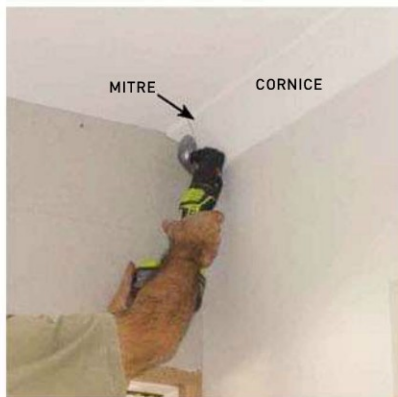
Mark the position of the doorknobs at the centre of the door stiles and middle rails. Drill 3mm clearance holes and attach the doorknobs. Add ball bearing catches to the door tops if desired and finish by painting the plasterboard and architrave.

Making the doors match

Use plasterboard, a new cornice and a coat of paint that matches the existing colour scheme to make the doors look like part of the original design.



1 FINISH THE BULKHEAD with plasterboard secured on both sides with adhesive and screws. Cut the architrave to length with mitred corners, setting the architrave back from the jamb by about 3mm.



2 INSTALL THE CORNICE by measuring 90mm from the wall along the existing cornice. Plumb a line down to mark a mitre, then use an oscillating tool or keyhole saw to cut the cornice with mitred corners. Attach with adhesive.

CUTTING LIST

measurements in mm

PART	SIZE	NO.
PRIMED MDF		
Architraves	2100 x 42 x 12	6
PRIMED FJ PINE		
Jamb stiles	2055 x 110 x 30	2
Header	1620 x 110 x 30	1
MAPLE		
Packing	2100 x 90 x 18	2
PINE		
Top/base plates	1600 x 90 x 35	2
Studs	430 x 90 x 35	5
PLASTERBOARD		
Wall sheets	1600 x 430 x 10	2
CORNICE		
Cove profile	1600 x 90 x 90	1

Handyman.net.au

Download the tools, materials and costs for installing bifold doors.



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What you'll need



Corinthian 2040 x 820 x 35mm Stanford Internal Door, \$40. corinthian.com.au



Lane Security Architectural Butt Hinges, about \$13. itwproline.com.au

Slimline and simple, the split doors open inwards on both sides of the jamb.

SPACE
SAVER

CUT A DOOR IN HALF

Free up valuable wall and floor space by making split doors to streamline an internal entryway

PROJECT **FRANK GARDNER** MAIN PICTURE **STUART SCOTT**

DIY > \$120

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$920

SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5

TIME > 2 DAYS

After finishing an ensuite reno, *Handyman* technical editor Frank Gardner decided that the standard 820mm arc of the opening door encroached too much on the available floorspace.

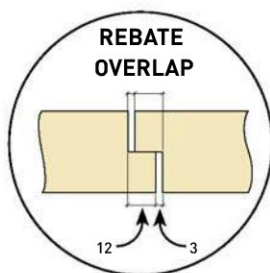
By dividing the door and hanging the two halves on either side of the jamb, he was able to reduce the arc swing to just 410mm.

Splitting a door makes a huge difference in confined areas such as laundries and powder rooms by creating extra room for furniture and fittings as the doors take up so much less space when open.

Cut a standard hollow-core door in half and add timber infill strips then rebate the meeting edges so they overlap. Attach hinges to both sides of the jamb to hang the doors.

To finish, attach magnetic or ball bearing catches to the top and add an architrave around the jamb. ➤

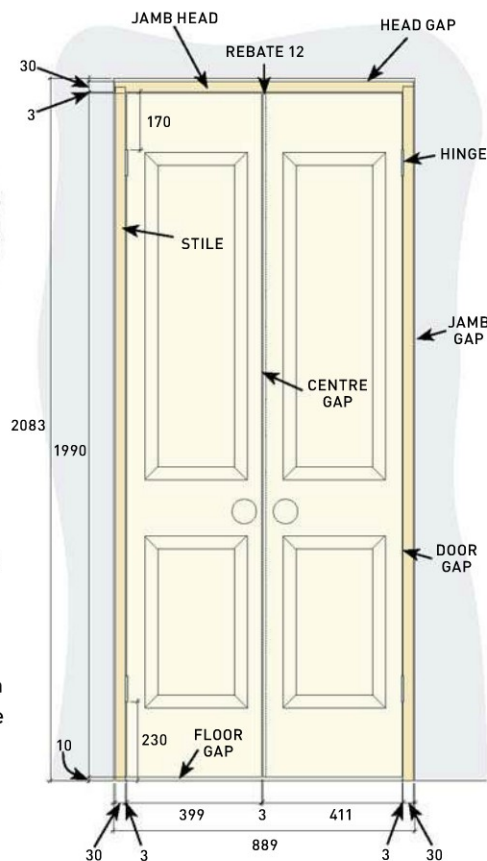
SPLIT DOORS measurements in mm



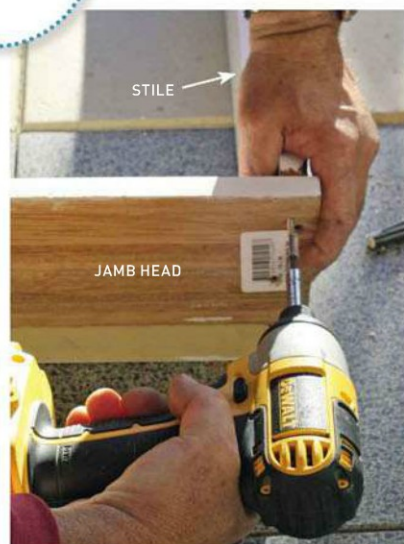
CUT THE DOORS TO SIZE

To find the total width of the split doors, measure the internal dimensions of the rebated part of the jamb then subtract 3mm from each side and 3mm from the middle.

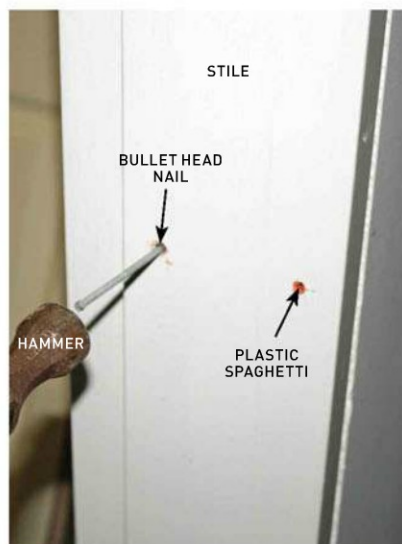
For the door height, subtract 3mm from the top and 10mm from the base for jamb and floor clearance.



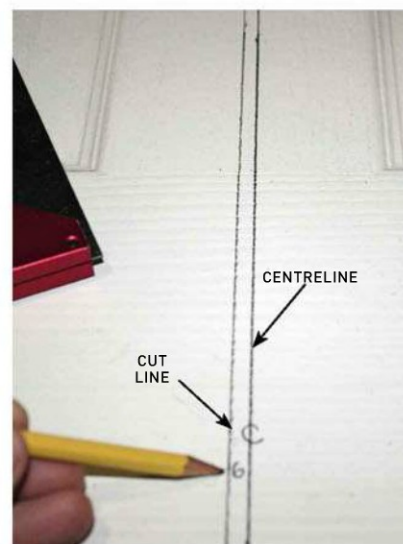
INSTALL SPLIT DOORS



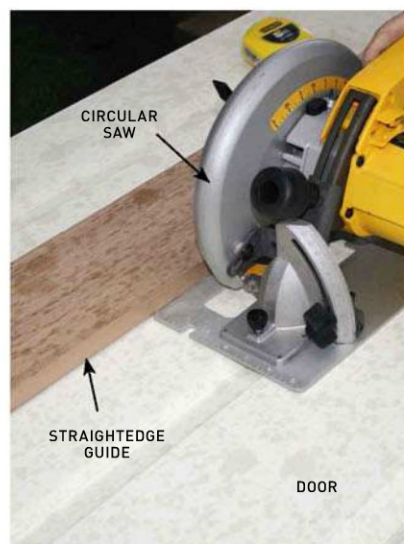
1 Assemble the doorjamb
Position the stiles against the rebated head piece, applying PVA adhesive and squaring the corners before drilling four 3mm pilot holes and securing with 75mm x 10g screws. Position the jamb in the opening and adjust, tapping in wedges to hold it.



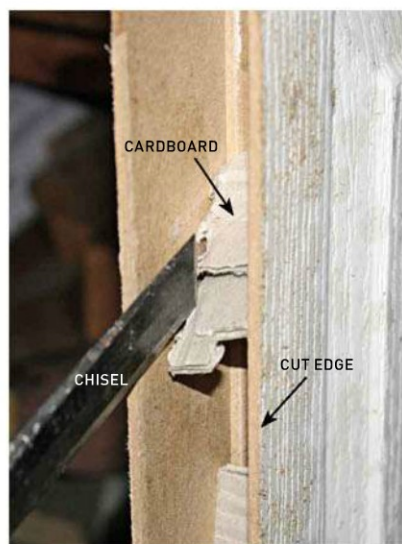
2 Secure the jamb
Drill three pairs of 5mm diameter holes into the brick mortar joints on both sides, insert 5mm plastic spaghetti and secure the jamb with 100 x 3.75mm galvanised bullet head nails. Make sure stiles are plumb with tight wedges behind all fixing points.



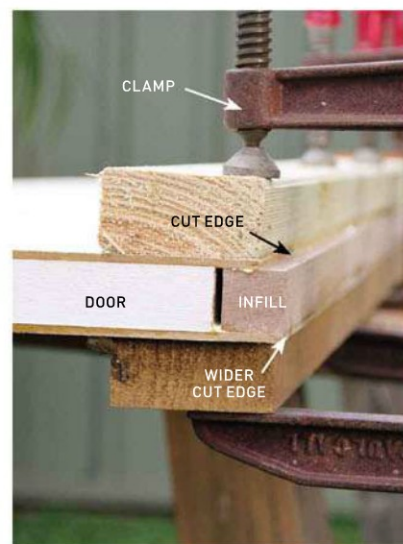
3 Mark the cut lines
Draw a vertical line down the centre of the door on the front side, then do the same on the back. Mark a second cut line 6mm to the left of the centreline on both sides. When cut, these will form the 12mm rebate so the doors overlap when closed.



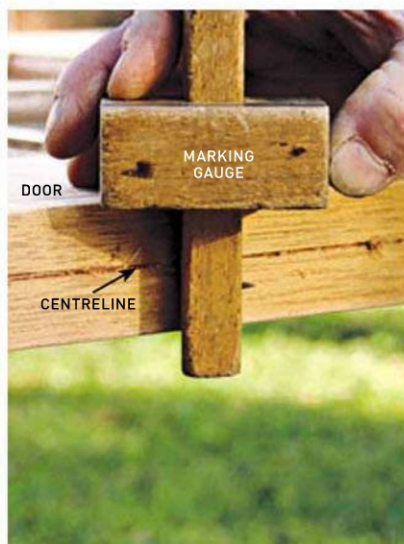
4 Cut the door
Put the door on a pair of sawhorses and trim to fit the doorway. Set the blade of a circular saw to a cutting depth of 10mm, clamp a straightedge guide in position then cut along the 6mm line through the front of the door, repeating on the reverse side.



5 Chisel out the waste
Trim away the cardboard honeycomb from in between the door faces using a chisel to clear enough space for the infill pieces. Use 180 grit abrasive paper to sand and slightly round over the cut edges of the door panelling.

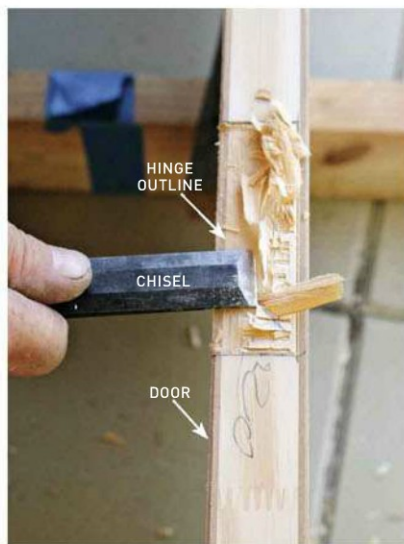


6 Secure the infills
Cut lengths of 30 x 35mm timber to fit into the central gap in each half-door from the top to the base. Apply PVA adhesive along both sides of the infills and position so the infills are flush with the wider cut side. Clamp until dry.



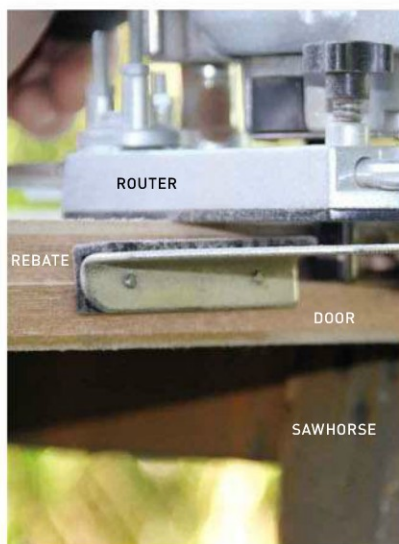
7 Mark the rebates

Use a marking gauge to draw a centreline on the inside edges of both doors. On the outside face of the left hand door and inside face of the right hand door, mark lines from the top to the base, 12mm from the meeting edges.



9 Cut the hinge housings

Mark hinge outlines on the doors then chisel out the waste. Test-fit each hinge in its housing. Wedge the door in the jamb and mark hinge positions. Chisel out as before and check the fit. **TIP** Drill 2mm pilot holes for screws to pull hinges tight into the housings.



8 Rout the rebates

Use a router set up with a fence and straight cutting bit to make three passes along the edges, removing about 5mm each pass, then arris the edges with a hand plane.

TIP The left door opens first, with the 12mm rebate cut from the front face.



10 Hang the doors

Secure the hinges and position them at 90° to the jamb. Drill pilot holes and secure two screws to the top and base hinges. Check the doors close smoothly then secure the other screws. Attach doorknobs 40mm from the edge and 1000mm from the floor.

EVERLOC

SUCTION SYSTEM

Solutions



Revolutionary Suction Technology

The Everloc Solutions range offers a wide selection of contemporary designs with an elegant chrome finish.

Everloc's Super Strong suction system allows for easy installation whilst providing consistent load bearing ability.

Ideal for installing on non-porous surfaces such as glass, tiling, mirror and laminate.

-  **NO DRILLING**
-  **NO SCREWDRIVING**
-  **NO TOOLS REQUIRED**
-  **NO SURFACE DAMAGE**

HOLDS UP TO
15kg

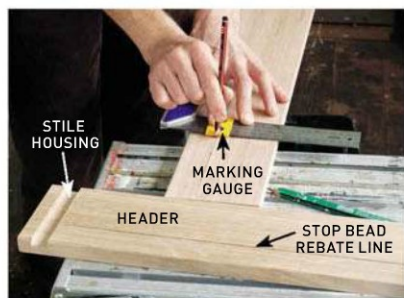
For more info visit our website:
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Available at
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Installing a door jamb



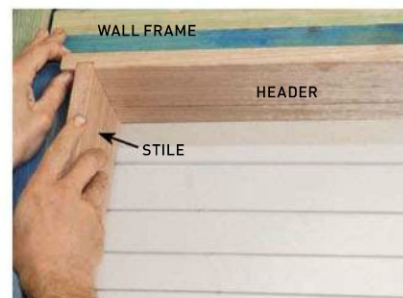
After installation the doorjamb can be stained or painted.



1 PREPARE THE DOORJAMB by cutting stile housings if needed in the header then lay jamb pieces inside face up. Measure the thickness of the door, add 2mm then set up a marking gauge to this size. Mark a stop bead rebate line down the face of each board.



2 ASSEMBLE THE DOORJAMB by positioning the top of the jamb stiles into the precut housings in the header and nail into place.
TIP Standard 820mm jams have prepared housings or use an adjustable set and cut the housings to suit.



3 POSITION THE JAMB by lifting the jamb assembly into the wall frame. The header can be a tight fit in the opening but the loose fitting stiles should be packed with wedges behind the three attachment points at the top, centre and base of the stiles.

»To hang a new door, make a hole in a stud wall and secure a hardwood doorjamb set in the opening

A doorjamb is not part of the door, but is the surrounding case into which the door opens and closes.

It consists of two upright pieces, called stiles, and a horizontal header piece. Once installed an architrave is used to frame the doorway, with the inner edge of the architrave covering the front edge of the doorjamb.

Porta has a range of hardwood doorjamb sets to suit various door sizes for single or double doorways.

Each set comes with two stiles, a header and a set of loose 30 x 10mm door stop beads. The loose beads allow you to set up the jamb rebate by positioning the stop bead to suit the thickness of the door.

These doorjamb sets are intended for a 90mm stud frame wall with 10mm cladding. If the stud frame is narrower

than the frame, or the cladding to be used is of a different thickness, the jamb should be cut down to match.

Porta doorjamb sets work equally well with new standard door sizes or for rehanging old or recycled doors which are often not standard in size. After installation the pre-dressed hardwood timber is ready for staining or painting.

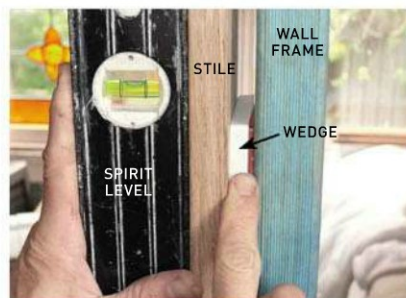
Before installing a doorjamb the wall frame needs to be prepared with the doorway opening set up 75mm wider and 30mm higher than the door.



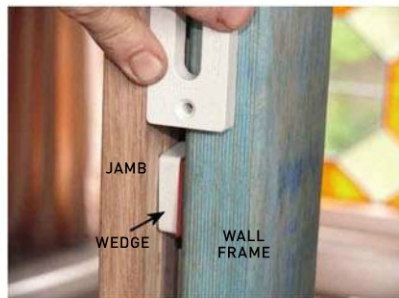
Ryobi ONE+ 18V Nail Gun, \$179.



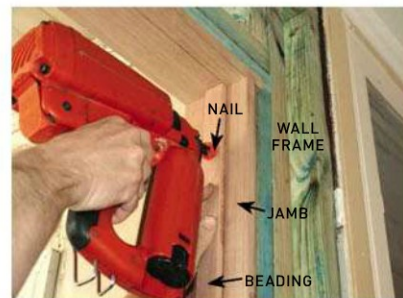
PRIMED PINE MOULDINGS



4 PLUMB THE JAMB STILES in the opening to correct any distortion in the wall frame. Use a spirit level to check each stile for plumb, tightening the wedges at the same time. Mark the position of the wedges, remove the jamb and secure the wedges to the frame.



5 SECURE THE JAMB by repositioning with the front edge set 10mm proud of the wall frame to allow for standard 10mm plasterboard. Once the front edge is plumb secure the jamb to the frame, driving 60mm nails through the jamb just below the packing wedges.



6 FIT THE DOOR STOP by cutting the beading to length with butt joints at the top corners. Position the stop beads on the marked lines and nail in position. Hang the door and attach door furniture before cladding the walls on both sides and fitting the architrave trim pieces.

FIND IT AT
BUNNINGS

BUILT-IN BASICS

Maximise storage and minimise clutter with a customised wardrobe

Adding a built-in wardrobe to the bedroom is a simple and affordable way to create organised storage while increasing the value of your home.

Built-in wardrobes make excellent use of vertical space and combine the functions of several different pieces of furniture, offering shelves and drawers alongside hanging storage.

Choosing a wardrobe is as easy as measuring the space, selecting the type of doors and adding internal fittings to suit what needs to be stored.

Flat-packed wardrobe systems allow you to decide which features you need and which ones you don't. Modular designs make it easy to fit wardrobes into tricky spaces.

Installing a built-in wardrobe is a straightforward job that can be completed over a weekend. Most bedrooms in newer homes already have a dedicated wardrobe area that is ideal for flat-packed kits.

TIP Choose mirrored doors to create a sense of space and make your wardrobe even more functional.



Get the look

Personalise your wardrobe using these clever ideas.



Flatpax 900mm Sliding Shoe Rack, \$99.



Kaboodle 450mm Wardrobe Cabinet, \$130.



Flatpax 900mm Drawer Divider, \$20.



Flatpax Slide Out Tie & Belt Rack, \$35.



**Kaboodle 925mm
Sliding Mirror Wardrobe
Door, \$499 for two.**

**Kaboodle 925mm Framed
Frosted Glass Sliding
Wardrobe Door, \$499 for two.**

WORKING
SAFELY

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN *A ladder*

Save time and prevent injury by choosing the right design for your DIY projects

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Shopping for a ladder can be a daunting task. With a huge range of makes and models available, it's tempting to just keep using the same old rickety one that's been lurking in the garage for years.

But it's time to stop playing Russian roulette with your safety and buy a decent ladder for the jobs around your home.

To find the right one for you, be sure to do a little research before you go shopping.



ONE STEP AT A TIME

The first thing to consider is the material. Ladders are made of timber, fibreglass or aluminium, but these days timber ladders are being phased out in favour of fibreglass, as it's stronger and easier to manufacture.

If you're going to be working near powerlines, to reduce your risk of electrocution choose a ladder made of fibreglass.

When there's no source of electricity in the vicinity, aluminium ladders are the best because they're strong, but more lightweight than fibreglass.

Next, think about what load rating you're going to need. This

means the maximum safe amount of weight the ladder can support.

To calculate this, weigh yourself on a scale wearing your work clothes, and carrying any tools you will be using.

Since a quality ladder is a long-term investment, factor in how much your weight might fluctuate over the years, as well as who else may use the ladder.

The next step is where most buyers get it wrong, because they incorrectly guess the height they need to reach when they're shopping in store.

Calculating the right ladder height is easy. For a stepladder deduct 600mm from the total height you want to reach, as it is unsafe to stand on the top two rungs.

For an extension ladder, multiply the height you want to reach by 1.04 then add an extra metre. ➤



Reducing the risks

Every year about 3500 Australians are hospitalised after falling from a ladder. To minimise your risk of injury, never use a ladder for work over six metres from the ground or during wet and windy conditions.

Inspect your ladder before each use for signs of damage such as warped metal or cracks. If there's any wear and tear it's time to throw it out.

Get stability by installing a cleat behind the ladder's feet, or by tying ropes to an anchored object nearby.

Once on the ladder, keep centred, never work directly above anyone and always work within arm's reach. **TIP** If there's no easy way to ensure stability, have a second person hold the ladder steady for you.



Whites On-site Ladder Stop, \$50. whitesgroup.com.au



Ladder's Little Helper, \$47. ladderslittlehelper.com



Bailey Level-Eze Ladder Leveller, \$399. baileyladders.com.au



Gorilla Ladder Tie Down Straps, \$18. gorillaladders.com.au

EVERLOC

SUCTION SYSTEM

Solutions



Revolutionary Suction Technology

The Everloc Solutions range offers a wide selection of contemporary designs with an elegant chrome finish.

Everloc's Super Strong suction system allows for easy installation whilst providing consistent load bearing ability.

Ideal for installing on non-porous surfaces such as glass, tiling, mirror and laminate.

- NO DRILLING
- NO SCREWDRIVING
- NO TOOLS REQUIRED
- NO SURFACE DAMAGE

HOLDS UP TO
15kg



For more info visit our website:
everloc.com.au

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

BUYING GUIDE

Ladders come in all shapes and sizes and are designed with specific tasks and load requirements in mind. Take time choosing the right one to make every job safer and simpler, and to prevent any heart-stopping wobbles at the top.

A-FRAME LADDERS

These multi-purpose all-rounders come in many shapes and sizes including single- and double-sided stepladders and extension ladders.

Single-sided ladders are lightweight and designed for quick odd jobs around the home.

Double-sided ladders are stronger than their single-sided counterparts and offer dual side access.

Double-sided ladders are usually the best choice for general height access in and around the home.

Use them for trimming a hedge or harvesting fruit in the garden, as well as painting and renovating.

Position the ladder with treads facing the work area and ensure the spreader braces are locked open.

TIP Never climb any further than the second rung from the top.



Rhino 1.8m 120kg Double Sided Step Ladder, \$129.
rhinoladders.co.nz

Syneco 2 Step Steel Folding Step Ladder, \$30, from Bunnings.



PLATFORM STEPLADDERS

Platform stepladders provide a safe, stable area to work at heights for extended periods of time and often come with guard rails to prevent falls.

The platform should always be set at a level compatible with the height of the task.

TIP The guard rails are prone to damage during storage, so inspect them carefully prior to each use.



Gorilla 1.2m Aluminium Platform Ladder 150kg Industrial, \$264.

EXTENSION LADDERS

This category includes straight and telescopic ladders. They are best used for exterior access to windows, roofs and gutters.

For maximum stability, set the feet of the ladder one metre back from the wall for every four metres of height. It should also extend one metre higher than the working area.

TIP Engage latching hooks after each extension to prevent movement.



Gorilla Fibreglass 120kg Extension Ladder, \$329.

MULTIFOLD LADDERS

Suitable for use on stairs, these ladders are highly versatile with the ability to be used either as a stepladder, extension ladder or trestle unit.

TIP Select a model with slip-resistant feet for added safety.

Gorilla Mighty 15 Aluminium Multifold Ladder, \$219.



Gorilla Adjustable Height Work Platform, \$139.



PORTABLE SCAFFOLDING

This is the best option for household tasks that require a lot of movement at height, such as painting or cleaning gutters.

TIP Portable scaffolding should not be used for working at heights above six metres.

BAILEY® LADDERS

NEED TO WORK AT HEIGHTS ON AN UNEVEN SURFACE?

STAY STABLE AND SAFE WITH A BAILEY PROFESSIONAL EXTENSION LADDER WITH LEVELLER

DON'T PUT YOUR SAFETY AT RISK!

The risk of ladder falls on sloping and uneven surfaces are often addressed by the unsafe practice of 'ladder chocking'. This practice sees the ladder supported by bricks or timber and can be extremely hazardous when working at heights.

THE SOLUTION

The Bailey 130kg Extension ladder with leveller is a reliable and time tested solution that provides a safe and secure footing when working on sloping sites or uneven surfaces (extends up to 200mm).

- Lightweight yet robust, the renowned Punchlock™ (swaged) rung to stile joint helps resist twist and side sway making it strong and stable when in use.
- A clever rope and pulley design keeps the rope away from the users feet and helps prevent tripping.

AVAILABLE IN TWO SIZES

3.2/5.0m (reach height 6m)

3.8/ 6.2m (reach height 7.2m)

Available from Bunnings and
other leading hardware retailers.

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

BAILEYLADDERS.COM.AU

BAIL 13053.A01

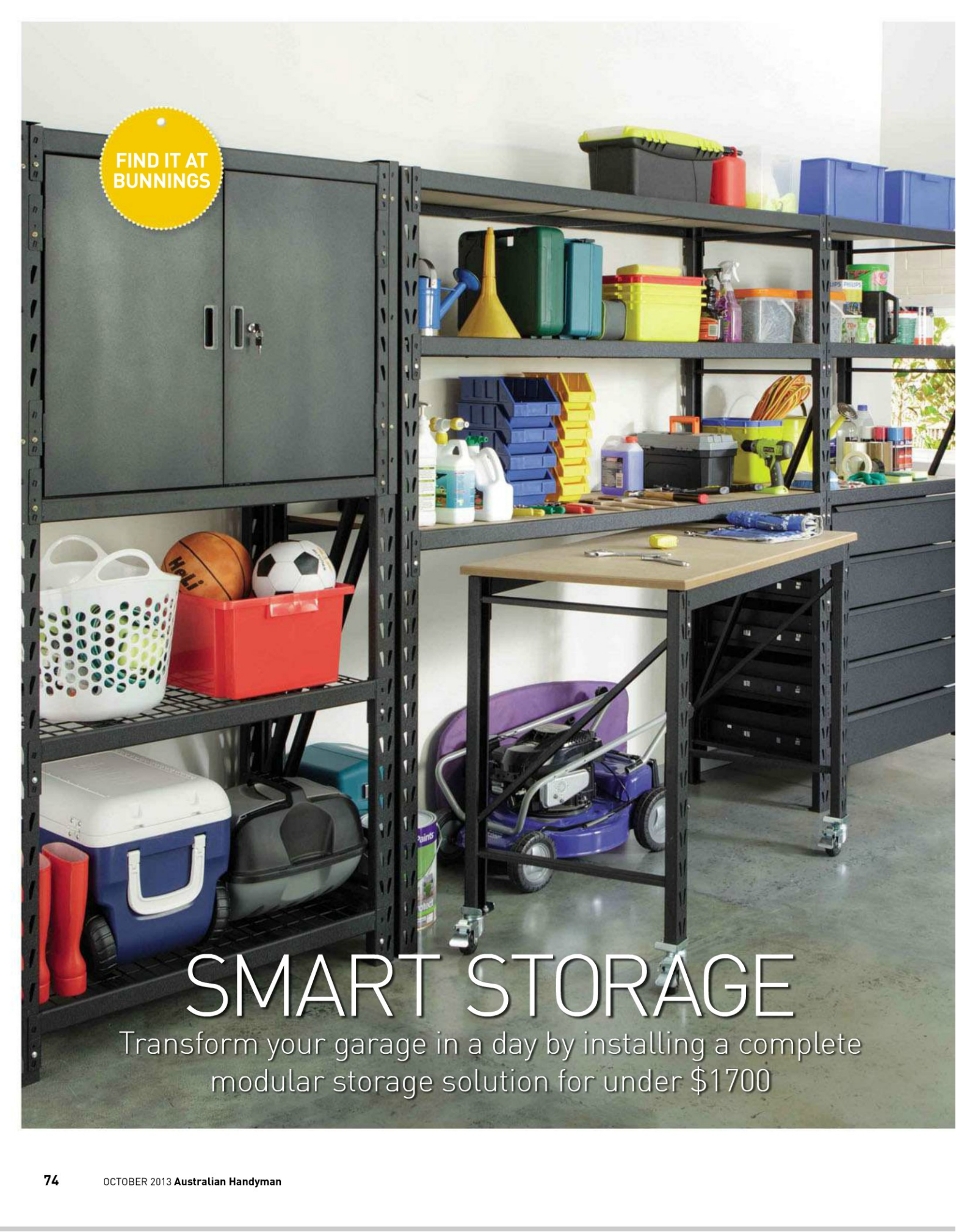


BAILEY



OFFICIAL LADDER OF THE AFL





FIND IT AT
BUNNINGS

SMART STORAGE

Transform your garage in a day by installing a complete modular storage solution for under \$1700



Keeping your garage tidy and organised makes any DIY job much easier. With a clear workspace and all your tools where you need them, your garage will be a pleasure to work in.

A modular shelving system makes effective use of vertical space and gives you the option of choosing the exact type of storage you need for your particular situation.

Determine how much space you have to work with by measuring the area, then figure out what tools and equipment will need to be stored.

Secure power tools in cabinets and use drawers and tubs to organise small items. Large shelves up high are ideal for bulky things like sporting gear.

Factor in space for a workbench and aim to keep tools within reach.

Garage essentials



Chamberlain Garage Door Opener, \$260.



Bastion Insulated Sectional Garage Door, \$899.



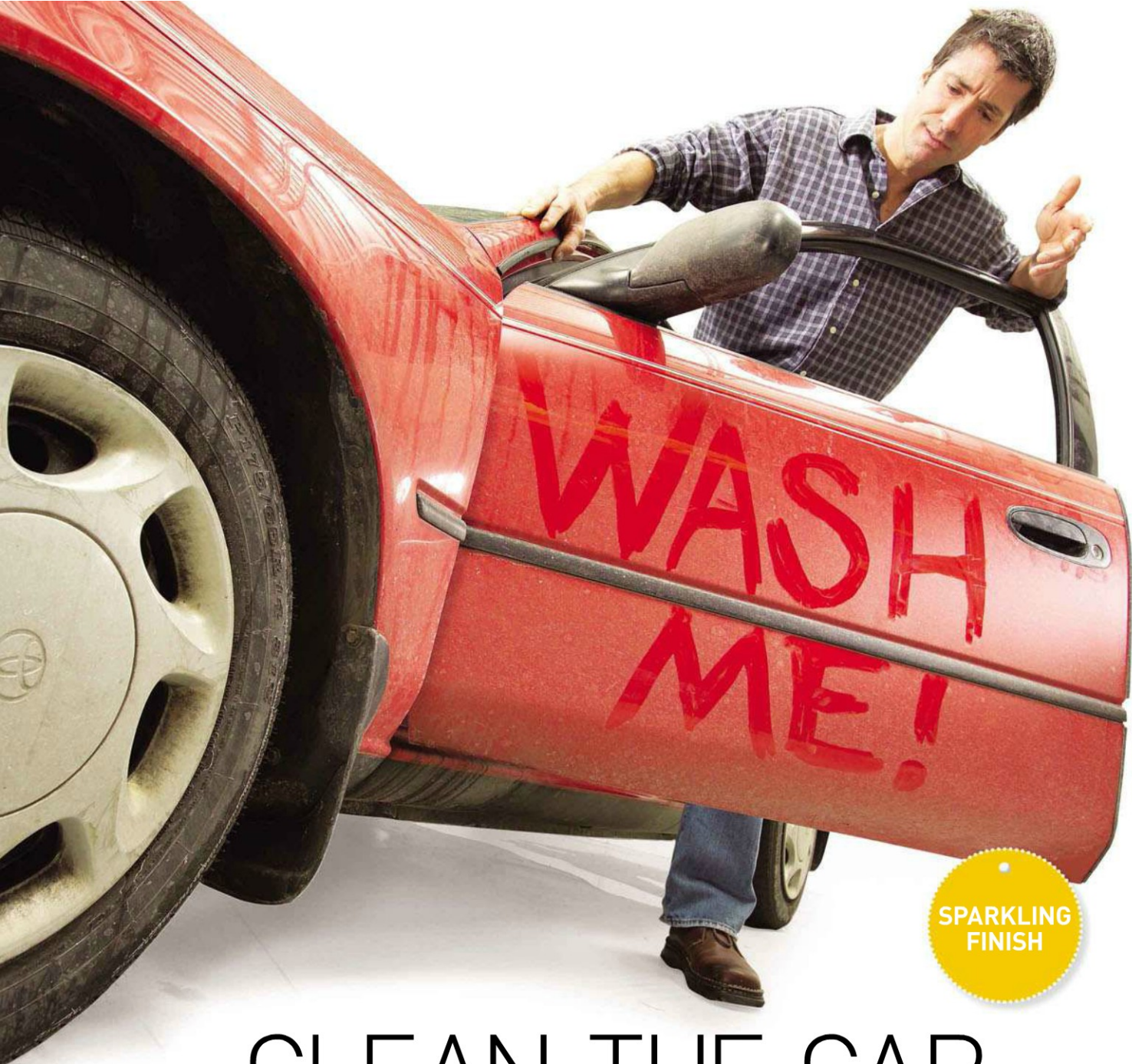
Rack It Workbench, 900 x 1345 x 675mm, \$129.



Rack It Galvanised Cabinet, 920 x 1045 x 647mm, \$179.



Rack It Shelving Upright, 1800 x 400mm, \$29.



SPARKLING
FINISH

CLEAN THE CAR

Save money and get top results with our guide to polishing and protecting your vehicle

WORDS **SITA SIMONS**

We all love a sparkling clean set of wheels, but a trip to the car wash for a thorough clean and polish can cost a lot of money and you can't always be sure you're getting good value.

It's a job many of us put off, but doing it yourself means you'll pay no more than the cost of the products, which can be used again many times.

Paying attention to detail when cleaning your car not only keeps it

looking like new, but it can help prevent premature rust and extend the life of the paint job.

Follow our easy guide to achieving a professional looking finish and long-lasting results.



1 Wash the car

Soak the car with a hose or pressure washer to wash away surface dirt and dust.

Use a jet spray on the wheel wells where road dirt accumulates. Be sure to check water restrictions in your area before hosing.

Fill a bucket with warm water and add car-washing liquid, following the volume instructions.

Don't be tempted to use detergents such as dishwashing liquid as they are too harsh for the paintwork.

Starting from the roof down, work in sections using a microfibre cloth in a circular motion, and rinse the area immediately before moving on to the next section.

Open the bonnet and boot and wipe the crevices, not forgetting around the licence plates, door handles and trim.

Rinse the whole car again then dry with a chamois, starting from the roof and wringing the chamois often.

TIP The surface of the car must not be hot when applying cleaning products, so never work in direct sunlight.



Armor All Car Wash, \$6.
armorall.com.au



Mr Clean Miracle Wash Pad, \$7, and Polishing Cloth, \$4.
apbabrands.com

Don't be tempted to use detergents like dishwashing liquid as they are too harsh for the paint



2 Scrub wheels and tyres

Soap and water is often not enough to remove caked-on dirt and grease on the wheels, so buy a specialist product for the type of wheel, which may be painted, chrome, alloy or clear coat.

Spray with wheel and tyre cleaner and allow it to soak in for 10 minutes.

Use a soft-bristle brush to work the cleaner into all the nooks and recesses. Rinse and repeat if necessary. ➤

Armor All Tyre Foam, \$6.





3 Revive the paintwork

Contamination from brake dust, air pollution and salt dulls the finish on your car and will eventually lead to surface rust and oxidation.

The best way to revive the finish is with a rubbing compound or clay bar kits. Professional detailers have been using these products for years and now they are commercially available.

Using a damp, clean cloth, rub the compound back and forth,

overlapping each stroke and applying firm pressure. Keep going until the surface is as smooth as glass, and use a dry clean cloth to remove any residue.



Turtle Wax Rubbing Compound, \$9.
turtlewax.com.au



4 Removing stickers

Soak the sticker in warm soapy water for 10 minutes, then take a plastic putty knife and get under a corner and start working it loose.

If it still won't budge, spray with water dispersant, leave for a couple of minutes to absorb, and try again. Repeat as necessary until you can peel the sticker off.

Remove the film of adhesive with rubbing alcohol, then wash and dry the area, finishing with wax.



WD40 275g, \$6.
wd40.com.au

5 Dealing with scratches

Deep scratches may need to be sanded out by a professional, but marks on the surface can often be buffed out or their appearance improved with specialised



products you can use yourself.

Before waxing, apply a small amount of scratch remover with a damp cloth, rub the affected area and quickly buff off.

Turtle Wax Scratch & Swirl Remover, \$10.

6 Wax it up

Working in sections, lightly cover the paintwork with a good quality wax solution. The wax will fill shallow scratches and protect the surface.

Apply the wax in the shade with a clean damp cloth, rubbing in a circular motion. Let the wax dry to a haze and rub off with a lint-free cloth.

Open the doors, the boot and the bonnet to remove the haze from all the edges. Reapply every six months.

Turtle Wax Super Hard Shell, \$9.



7 Polishing metal

The easiest way to keep the metal fittings on your car looking their best is to revive them with a liquid metal polish.

Use it on chrome bumpers, wheel alloys, door handles and light fittings to bring them to a high shine.

After washing and drying the car, apply metal polish with a clean lint-free cloth, working in small sections until the shine is restored.

For corroded and tarnished surfaces, apply a corrosion and stain remover prior to polishing.

Autosol Metal Life Saver, \$15.

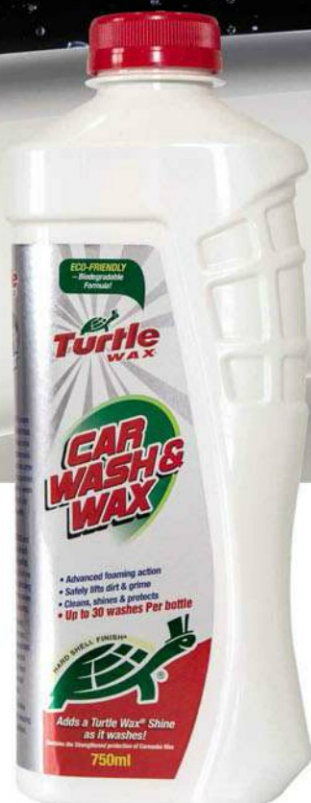


THE SMARTER WAY TO SHINE AND PROTECT

**Cleans, Shines
& Protects**



Car Wash & Wax



A Wash & Wax Treatment in One!

Turtle Wax Car Wash & Wax is a thick, rich concentrated formula that is scientifically designed for peak car washing performance. Its mild, deep-cleaning suds float away dirt and grime, waxing while you wash, leaving a sparkling Turtle Wax finish. A unique combination of ingredients makes rinsing easier, minimises towel drying, and helps to preserve your car's finish.

For further information please visit: www.turtlex.com



For the ultimate wax
after you wash



INTRODUCING THE NEW RYOBI 36V GARDEN RANGE.



RYOBI.

Powered by the
36V Lithium Battery



NO PETROL



NO CORDS



NO HASSLE

ryobi.com.au/36V

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

A TIDY YARD

Keep the garden in great shape without breaking a sweat using a trimmer, edger and blower-vac

TOOL TACTICS

There is a huge range of garden power tools on the market, so it can be hard to decide what's best for your needs.

The good news is that many of them are highly adaptable to different tasks, so you don't necessarily have to buy three separate machines.

'Some petrol-powered brush cutters have a split shaft that allows other accessories to make use of the same motor,' says Wayne Beckwith, National Training Manager for Ryobi.

'These include blowers, hedge trimmers, edgers and pruners.'

BLOWER
VAC

LINE
TRIMMER

LAWN
EDGER

EASY MAINTENANCE

Whether you're giving the garden a spring makeover or just doing a minor tidy-up, the latest powered garden tools offer maximum results with minimum effort.

LINE TRIMMERS AND BRUSH CUTTERS have a high-speed rotating head mounted on a long shaft. They trim overgrown grass edges and weeds using either nylon line or flat blades.

EDGERS use a metal blade cutting in an upright circle to trim lawn edges flush with hard surfaces.

BLOWER-VACS act as an air broom to sweep fallen leaves and garden rubbish into manageable piles for composting. The airflow can also be reversed to suck up and mulch leaf litter directly into a collection bag. ➤



TRIMMERS

*CHOOSING THE RIGHT TOOL

Lawnmowers are great for wide areas, but they can't cut right up to fences and walls, or around tree trunks and other vertical objects.

For this uncut strip, you'll need a line trimmer or brush cutter. They also make short work of overgrown weeds and straggly runners.

The difference between line trimmers and brush cutters is a bit of a grey area. A more helpful distinction is whether the tool uses a straight or bent shaft.

BENT-SHAFT models are typically the cheaper option, although slightly less torque is available at the hub.

STRAIGHT-SHAFT units are ideal for taller operators. 'They also offer extra reach to get under outdoor furniture and deeper into heavy scrub,' says Wayne.

CUTTING EDGE OPTIONS

For heavy-duty applications such as thick, long grass or dense weeds, a solid blade is better because flexible line will wear out quickly and can also get tangled, stopping the motor.

'But for simply trimming edges, they are both as good as each other,' Wayne adds.



Many brush cutters can be fitted with a line hub for light duty trimming.

LINE TRIMMERS

Often featuring a bent shaft, these are lighter in weight and usually less expensive than brush cutters.

The hub at the end of the shaft contains nylon lines that cut through grass and weeds as they are spun at high speed.

Line trimmers can be powered by petrol engines, mains electricity or batteries and are usually intended for lighter duty than brush cutters.

BRUSH CUTTERS

The line trimmer's beefier cousin, this tool normally features a straight shaft from the motor to a gearbox.

The torque is transmitted to a hub on which the blade spins parallel with the ground.

Brush cutters usually have a solid X or Y shaped blade instead of nylon cord as used on line trimmers. This packs a more powerful punch and lasts longer in heavy-duty applications.

LINE ATTACHMENT OPTIONS

There are three main ways in which the cutting line is attached to the hub. The most common is bump feed, although automatic feed and manual options are also widely used.

Regardless of what type of line your trimmer uses, or even if you have a brush cutter with a solid blade, safety eyewear is always crucial as there is a very high risk of small debris being flicked at high speed towards the user.



BUMP FEED

The most common type, this holds about 3m of trimmer line wound onto an internal spool.

As the end wears down, the operator bumps the underside of the hub on the ground as it spins, releasing a regulated length of line.

The downside is that it can be quite time-consuming to wind on new line, but various manufacturers have developed ways to simplify the process.

*POWER OPTIONS

A range of factors influence what power option will be best for you, including operating volume, portability and versatility.



PETROL

Powered by either a two-stroke or four-stroke motor, petrol line trimmers and brush cutters offer the widest range of options.

From dual-handle units that are used with a harness to split-shaft designs compatible with different accessories, petrol trimmers come with either a straight or bent shaft.

Ear protection must be worn during use as they are usually very noisy.

ELECTRIC

'If you can get away with running an extension cord, then electric line trimmers can provide you with similar power to a petrol engine with lightweight and maintenance-free operation,' says Wayne.

Light-duty units often have the motor mounted at the cutting end of the shaft, while more powerful trimmers have a motor mounted at operator height and feature a bent shaft.

BATTERY

With advances in technology, cordless line trimmers and brush cutters are rapidly growing in popularity.

Available with both bent and straight shafts, they offer the best of both worlds with quiet operation and cordless portability.

And with 36V models, there is no need to compromise on power, while heavy-duty 4.0Ah battery packs offer up to an hour of no-load running time.

AUTOMATIC FEED

'Fully automatic heads rely on the user re-spooling with exactly the correct size of trimmer line,' says Wayne.

'An internal counterbalance system works on the line weight to automatically release a measured amount of line as it is needed,' he explains.

This type of head is not normally found on petrol-driven units.



MANUAL FEED

This type uses fixed lengths of reinforced, straightened line which are replaced as they wear down.

They usually last longer than the same amount of standard trimmer line, and are the quickest to replace.

Many line trimmers can be retrofitted with universal fixed-line units that can be mounted in place of a spool hub and feature three doubled lengths of fixed line. ➤



Perfect lawn edges require regular maintenance.

*KEEP EDGES IN CHECK

'If you've got a lawn then it's a sure bet that you will need some kind of edger. After all, the grass has to end somewhere!' says *Handyman* contributor Adam Woodhams.

The choice of whether to buy a dedicated edging machine or simply make do with a line trimmer is largely based on how much of your lawn is bordered by hard surfaces.

If you have a lot of concrete paths crisscrossing your lawn, or formal lines of pavers enclosing the grass, a power edger will get rid of unsightly runners encroaching on the hard surfaces quickly and easily.

Both petrol and electric edgers usually feature a depth control and guide wheels for ease of operation. For small areas, an ordinary manual edger may be the best plan.



Some trimmers are designed to be used as edgers too.

USING A TRIMMER AS AN EDGER

If your lawn is bordered by both walls and paving, it may be worth buying a line trimmer with a pivoting head that doubles up as an edger as well.

Some models also feature an edge guide and support wheel on the cowl. These allow the trimmer to be used in almost exactly the same way as a dedicated edger, with the main

compromise being less precise control over cut depth.

If you have a petrol line trimmer or brush cutter with a split shaft, you can take adaptability to the next level by connecting the motor end to a dedicated edger attachment.

It's less costly than buying two tools and also saves on storage space.

*POWER OPTIONS

Petrol and electric edgers offer similar power and functionality, with portability and noise being the main differences. You may also decide to use a cordless trimmer to fulfil an edging function, but for the quietest option you can't beat a manual unit.



PETROL

Four-stroke petrol edgers make short work of keeping your lawn's borders in check, offering freedom to roam without compromising on power.

As with four-stroke mowers, they require oil to be added separately to the sump and are fuelled with unleaded petrol. Always use ear protection and safety glasses when operating one.



ELECTRIC

As long as mains power is available via an extension cord, electric edgers are a quiet and convenient option. They create no emissions and switch on instantly without needing a pull-start.

Electric edgers offer comparable power to petrol units, but care must be taken to keep the cord behind the cutting edge of the tool at all times.



BATTERY

Although dedicated battery-powered lawn edgers are not available, there are several cordless line trimmers with an edging function that involves pivoting the cutting head 90°.

Some models come with a cutting guide that allows them to be used in almost exactly the same way as a purpose-designed lawn edger.

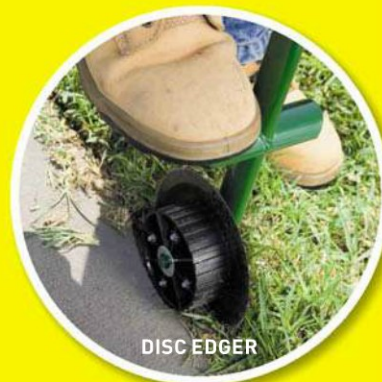
MANUAL

A manual edger may take a bit of effort to use, but it is the best choice for circular pavers or intricately shaped paths and it creates a perfect edge without the tearing that powered units can cause.

To use a disc edger, locate the wheel on the hard surface with the blade resting against the edge, hold the handles and push the foot plate with your foot.

Another type of manual lawn edger is the star wheel edger, which cuts with a scissoring action as the wheel runs along a hard surface. The edger is pushed back and forth manually and edges couch lawns easily.

An offshoot of grandad's traditional spade edging method is the half moon edger. Pressure is applied by foot in a side-to-side rocking motion to edge kikuyu and buffalo grasses easily. ➤



DISC EDGER

*CHOOSING A MODEL

Blower-vacs and leaf blowers are great tools to have around the home from spring-cleaning time to the closing stages of winter.

They can save backbreaking hours of raking or sweeping leaves, debris or grass clippings from courtyards, decks, driveways, patios and more.

Handyman technical editor Frank Gardner says, 'Visit your local hardware store and hold different models to get a feel for their weight and handling.'

Battery models just have the blower function while electric and petrol-powered tools can have all three functions of blow, vacuum and mulch in one.

FEATURES TO CONSIDER

'If you want to compare models then look at the maximum air speed and air volume emitted. The higher the number for both of these, the more powerful the tool,' says Frank.

'Also check the listed operating sound in decibels (dB) if noise is a problem in your area.'

If composting of organic matter is a high priority, Frank recommends choosing a blower-vac with a high mulching ratio and metal impellor.

'That way you can be assured the unit will give you good mileage and stand the test of time.'



Leaf blowers can save hours of tiresome sweeping or raking.

MULCH AS YOU GO

Changing from the blow to vacuum and mulch function is usually as easy as the flick of a lever or switch.

Most blower-vacs feature an impellor blade which sucks up and shreds leaf litter before depositing it into the attached leaf bag.

Cheaper models may have plastic impellor blades which are suitable for light work only.

Larger and more expensive models usually have metal impellor blades which are more robust and can shred at ratios of up to 15:1.

This means 15 bushels of leaves will be chopped into the equivalent of a single bushel of litter.

TIP Take care to avoid sucking up gravel or stones as these will damage the impellor blades.



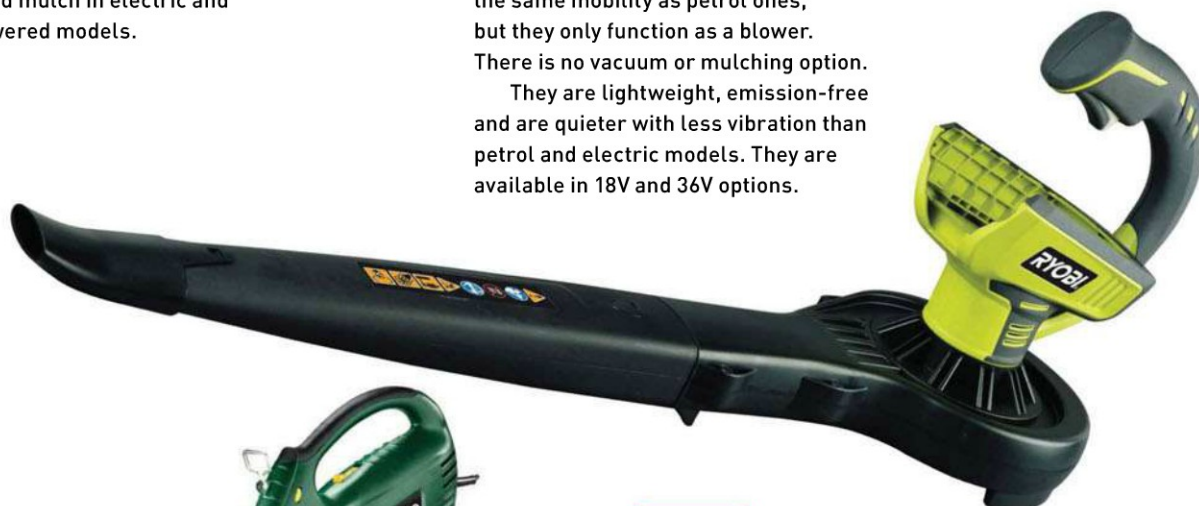
*POWER OPTIONS

Blower-vacs have a range of functions from blow-only battery options to blow, vacuum and mulch in electric and petrol-powered models.

BATTERY

Rechargeable cordless models offer the same mobility as petrol ones, but they only function as a blower. There is no vacuum or mulching option.

They are lightweight, emission-free and are quieter with less vibration than petrol and electric models. They are available in 18V and 36V options.



ELECTRIC

Electric blower-vacs have easy push-button starters and operate without exhaust emissions or the fuel mixing requirements of two-stroke petrol models. The range is limited by power cord length with power varying from about 1500W to 2400W.



PETROL

Petrol blower-vacs are the most powerful options with two-stroke and four-stroke models available. With plenty of force and no restrictive electric cord, petrol blower-vacs are ideal for larger yards and gardens. ➤



BUYING GUIDE

If you don't have many grassy areas, you might only need a light-duty line trimmer. But if you have a sizeable lawn and regularly need to get overgrown vegetation under control, all three items may be required to make your life easier.

BATTERY

LINE TRIMMERS



Ryobi 36V Line Trimmer Kit, \$299. ryobi.com.au

ELECTRIC



Bosch 400W Grass Trimmer, \$79. bosch-garden.com.au

PETROL



Makita Two-stroke Trimmer, \$199. makita.com.au

MANUAL



Hortex Grass Shears, about \$9. bunnings.com.au

LAWN EDGERS



Bosch 18V Cordless Grass Trimmer, \$188.



Ozito 1400W Lawn Edger, \$119. ozito.com.au



Victa Four-stroke Tornado Edger, \$349. victa.com



Cyclone Half Moon Edger, \$45. cyclone.com.au

BLOWER-VACS



Makita 36V Mobile Blower, \$399.



Victa 1500W Blower-vac, \$199.



Homelite 26cc Blower-vac, \$159. homelite.com



Oates 300mm Garden Broom, \$10. oates.com.au



Very handy to have around.

The extensive range of Ozito power garden tools will be very handy to have in the garden this Spring.

From edging the lawns, trimming around trees and bushes, shredding branches and cuttings, to blowing it all away!

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give it a go!

What's new

» Renovation resources



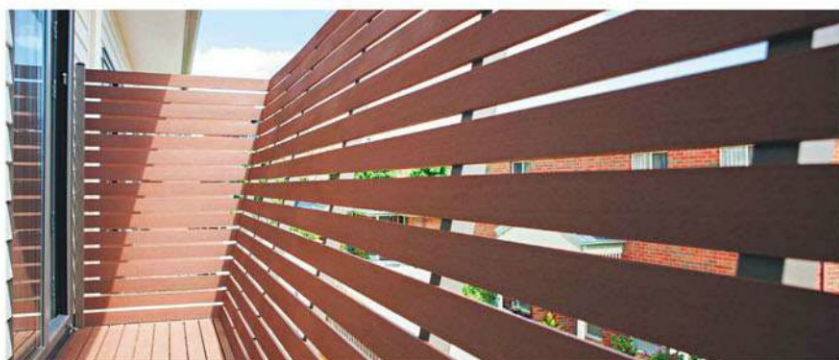
TO UPDATE your walls, use British Paints Exterior Low Sheen, \$44.90 for 4L.



SAVE TIME with British Paints Paint & Prime, \$59.90 for 4L, just apply two coats.



PAINT TO LAST when using Taubmans Endure Interior Walls, \$66.90 for 4L.



ADD PRIVACY with low-maintenance Lumber Lab Screening, \$10.75 per 67 x 15mm x 2.7m plank. Made from FSC Plantation Bamboo and recycled plastic, it does not require oiling or staining.



HANG WALLPAPER the easy way by pasting the wall, not the paper. Majestic Damask, \$49.95, also peels off in one strip.



SPRAY ON paint quickly and evenly using the Wagner Flexio 585, \$199.

» Outdoor entertaining



COOK UP A STORM with the Jumbuck Portable Charcoal BBQ, \$29, available in blue, green, black and red.



KEEP YOUR COOL at the beach when your food and drink are zipped up in the Esky Tote Bag, \$19.50.



GRILL SAUSAGES anywhere with the Marine Grade Stainless Steel Snag Portable BBQ, \$499.

»Head in-store for all your painting needs plus the latest in outdoor cooking essentials and bathroom fixtures



GO GOURMET when cooking on the Matador Classic Stone Finish 4 Burner Outdoor Kitchen, \$1599.



SET UP a Coleman Event 12 Shelter, \$168, to enjoy 12.96 sqm of protection from the harsh sun or rain.

ADD CLASS to an entertaining area with plants in Northcote Pottery Precinct Lightweight Pots, from \$9.98 to \$89.98, available in black and white.



»Bathroom hardware



CLEAN UP under a 250mm Mondella Resonance Round Shower Head, \$99, WELS 3 Star, 7.5L/min.



WASH OFF dirt with Flexispray Krome 150 Hi Rise Shower, \$59.95, WELS 3 star, 9L/min.



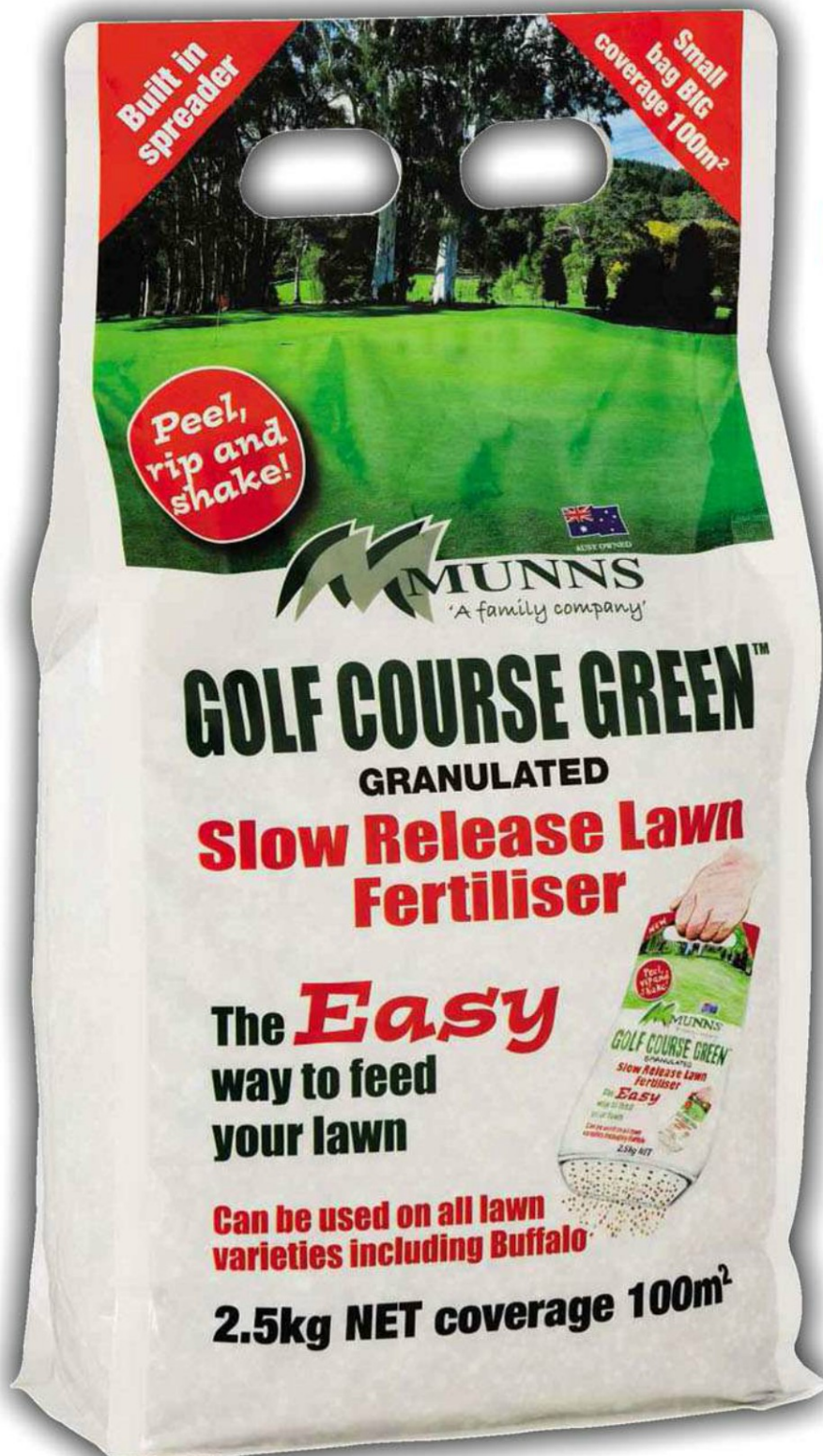
DIVE UNDER a Flexispray Krome Exposure Rail Shower, \$295, WELS 3 Star, 9L/min.



TRY A SQUARE Flexispray Tetro Rail Shower, \$79.95, WELS 3 star, 9L/min.



SAVE WATER with a Mondella Maestro Lever Handle Sink Mixer, \$149, WELS 3 Star, 8.5L/min.



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STYLE ON
A BUDGET

*Play*ROOM

Give the kids a DIY designer bedroom with just a few basic materials and lots of imagination

PICTURES **CHRIS L JONES** PROJECTS AND STYLING **TINA HUTTON**

ROOM
DIVIDER



Create a play room fit for a princess
with this fairytale-themed divider.

CASTLE SCREEN

Make a backdrop for adventure by cutting MDF panels to look like the silhouette of a medieval keep

DIY> \$85

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$485

SKILL> 1 2 3 4 5

TIME> 1 DAY

Kids are great at taking the barest hint of an idea and constructing an elaborate imaginary world around it.

If your children love to build forts from sofa cushions, they will be blown away by this castle-inspired screen. It's the perfect backdrop for legendary adventures.

The divider is made from three 1800 x 450 x 12mm panels of MDF and assembled using 305mm lengths of piano hinge. Add a decorative flag using a 300mm offcut of 6mm dowel and a triangle of fabric with a 100mm base.

Paint the divider using sample pots. We used Taubmans Peach Statice, Kendall Rose and Cotton Candy.

TIP For safety, attach cabin hooks to keep the leaves locked open in a Z-shape that will minimise the risk of the screen toppling over. ➤

Mini treasure chest

To complement the room divider, add MDF accessories such as this Boyle Square Money Box, \$6, personalised with stars and hearts.

Lightweight and paintable, MDF is a versatile and budget-friendly material to use for decorations.

Use leftover paint and scrap fabric to decorate the box for free or just a few extra dollars.

■ **APPLY A PRIMER** then two coats of acrylic to each panel with a small roller and a brush for the edges, sanding lightly between coats. Let the paint dry then assemble the box according to the instructions.

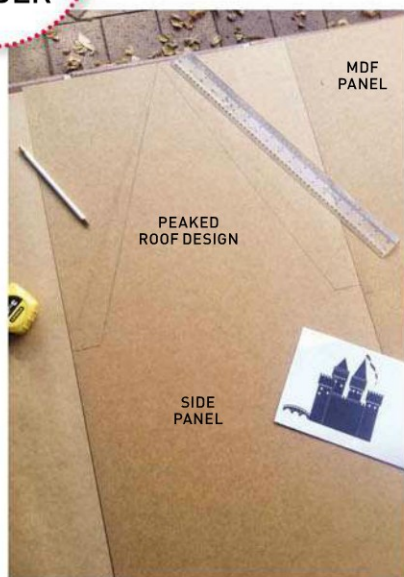
■ **POSITION THE FABRIC** right-side down then apply spray adhesive to one face of each shape and press onto the fabric. Leave to dry then use a craft knife to trim the fabric.

■ **SECURE THE SHAPES** to the box using PVA adhesive, sanding the paint slightly before applying the adhesive to improve the bond.



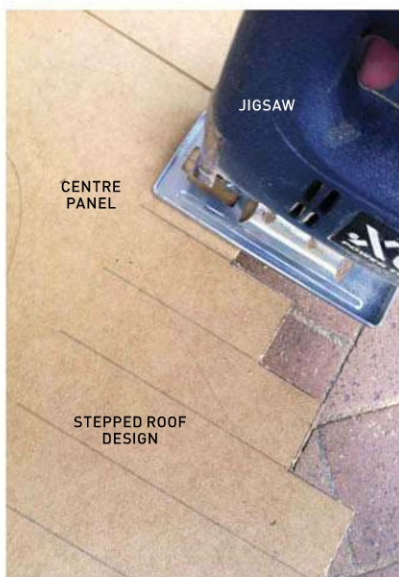
Boyle Craftwood Shapes, about \$2 each. boyleindustries.com.au

ASSEMBLE THE DIVIDER



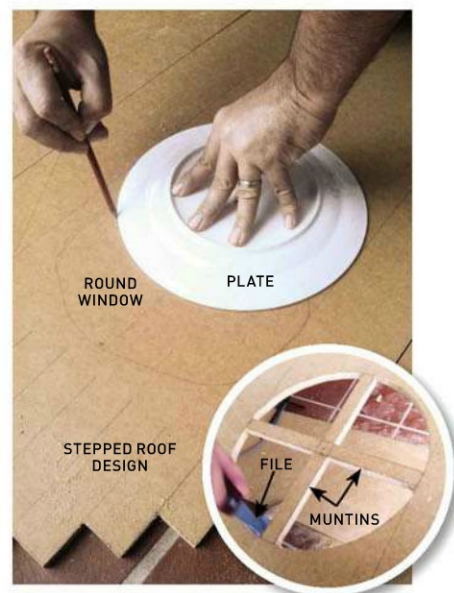
1 Draw the design

Mark the roof layout on the MDF panels. The centre panel has five steps up each side of the tower, measuring 41 x 41mm. On the side panels, mark the midpoint of the top to draw a peaked roof 205mm high.



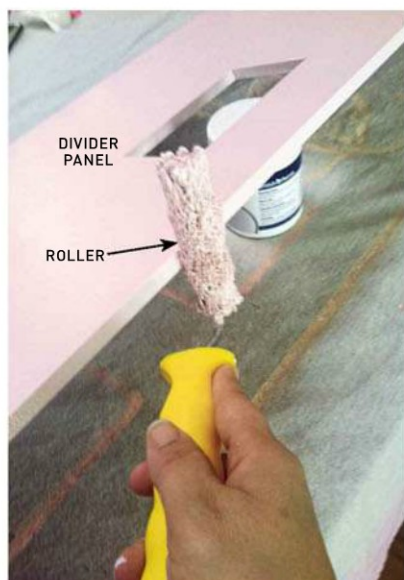
2 Cut the panels

Securely clamp each MDF panel to a workbench and cut along the marked lines of the stepped and peaked roof designs using a jigsaw. Smooth the cut edges using 180 grit abrasive paper.



3 Make the windows

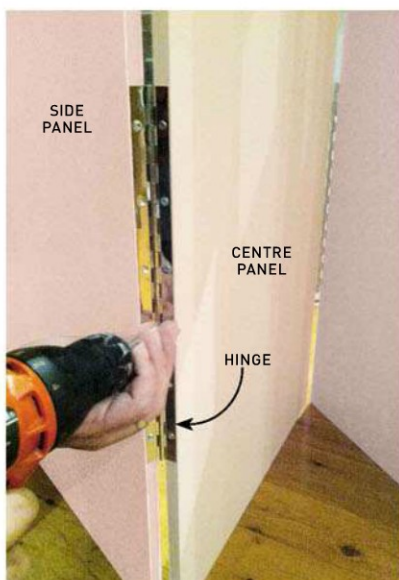
Mark the rectangular windows, drill a starter hole and cut out with a jigsaw. For round windows, trace around a plate, mark the muntins with a set square then cut as before, using a file to neaten up the corners.



4 Paint the panels

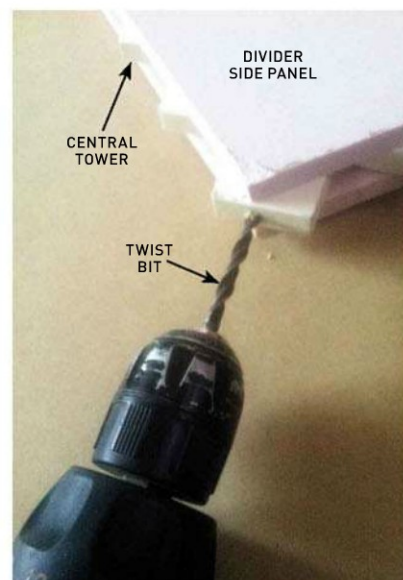
Apply primer to the MDF to seal the surface then paint each panel with two coats of acrylic using a roller, sanding lightly between coats.

TIP MDF is porous so if you don't use primer you'll need four coats of paint.



5 Secure the hinges

Lay the centre panel on a flat surface and mark the position of the hinges 300mm from the top and base on both sides. Secure one half of each hinge on the edge of the panel with screws, then attach to the side panels.



6 Add the flag

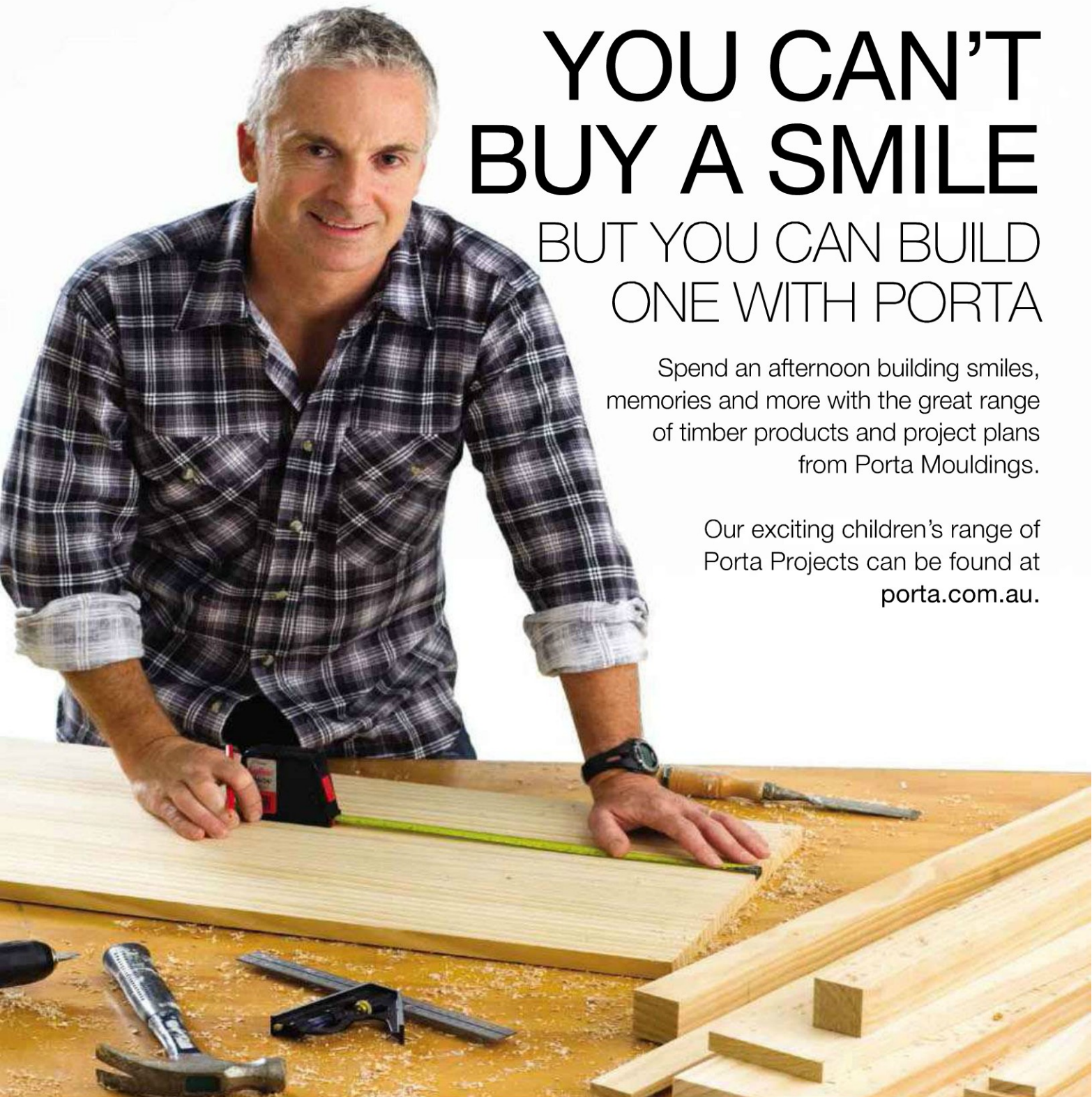
Fold up the divider and drill a hole 20mm deep in the top of the centre panel using a 6mm twist bit. Make the fabric flag, apply PVA adhesive to the hole and the dowel end, then tap it into the hole.

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Dolls House Shelving Project



Chalky Table Project



BBQ Project





MOBILE
STORAGE



Comfortable and kid-sized, this ottoman is a portable play unit with handy toy storage.

CRATE OTTOMAN

Assemble a frame of pine boxes and add a padded top for double-duty furniture that features storage and seating

DIY> \$290

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$690

SKILL> 1 2 3 4 5

TIME> 1 DAY

Building with reclaimed or recycled timber is a great way to save money and achieve a rustic feel, but sometimes shabby chic just doesn't fit with the clean and fresh look of a kid's bedroom.

This ottoman is built from repurposed pine crates, but since they're bought new, you don't have to compromise on the looks or finish.

With castors for mobility and a comfy seat pad on top, the ottoman can be wheeled out for a play date or used solo for reading and colouring. Plus, it offers plenty of storage for when it's time to pack up the toys.

Cut the seat and ottoman base from 9mm MDF, and make the cushion using upholstery foam and wadding covered in poly cotton fabric.

Finish the timber and MDF with semi gloss white acrylic.

Attach the padded top from underneath using 20mm x 8g screws that go far enough into the MDF without poking through the foam.

Use shorter or longer screws if the slats of the crates you use are thinner or thicker than 12mm.

TIP Adapt the design by making a hinged top, allowing the centre void to also be utilised for storage. ➤



Boyle Fruit Crate, \$36.
boyleindustries.com.au

Swivel Castor, 63mm,
about \$7 each, from Bunnings.



Hanging a plaque

Create customised hanging for lightweight decorative items using an MDF plaque and leftover paint.

This project used a Boyle French Corner Key Plaque, about \$6, and five small crystal drawer knobs, \$5 each, from That Vintage Shop (thatvintageshop.com.au).

■ **APPLY A PRIMER** and two coats of acrylic with a brush, sanding lightly between coats with 220 grit paper.

■ **MARK THE KNOB POSITIONS** on the back and drill five clearance holes, attaching with screws.

MAKE THE OTTOMAN



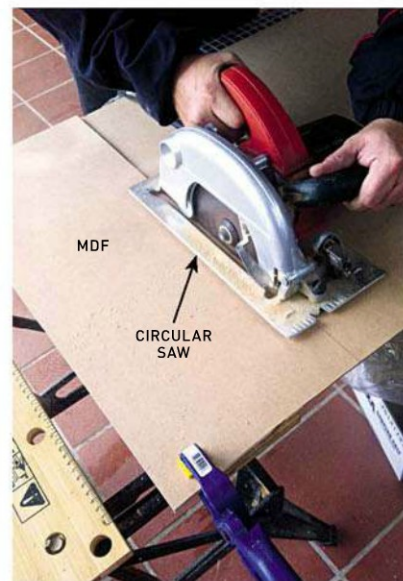
1 Paint the timber

Apply primer then two or three coats of white acrylic to the crates using a roller, sanding lightly in between coats. Use a small paintbrush to get into the gaps between the slats and ensure no timber is left raw.



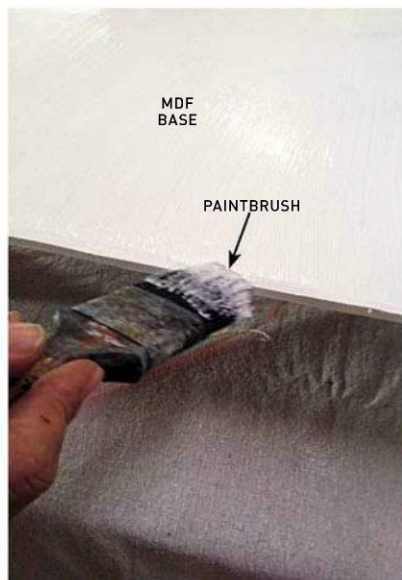
2 Join the crates

Position the four crates with a long side down so the openings face out. Butt one end of each crate against the base of the next to form a square with a centre void. Join the crates through the base slats with screws.



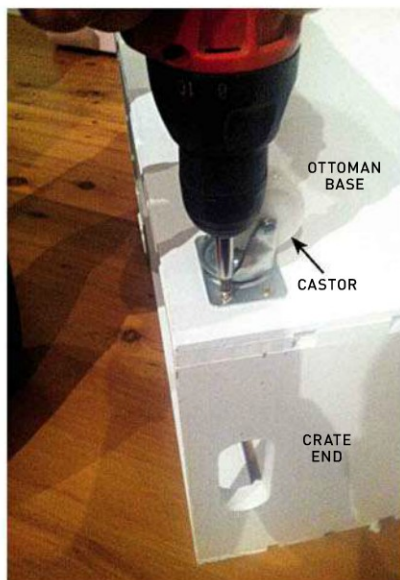
3 Cut the MDF

Measure the top of the crate assembly then mark and cut two pieces of 9mm thick MDF to size using a circular saw. One piece will be used as the base of the ottoman and the other used as a base for the seat pad.



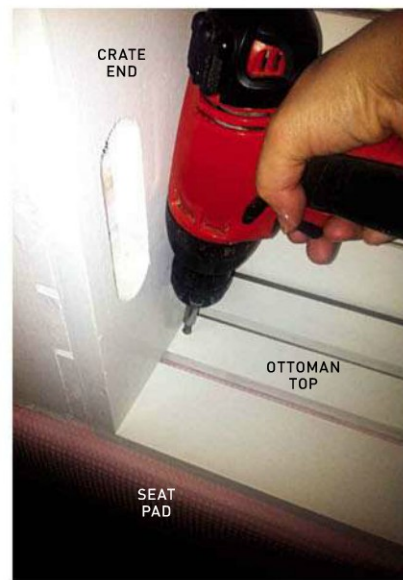
4 Paint the bases

Apply primer and two coats of acrylic to the MDF bases with a roller, using a brush on the edges, then leave to dry. Turn the crate assembly upside down and position the MDF base, securing into the slats using screws.



5 Secure the castors

Mark the hole positions for the castors in the corners on the MDF base, positioned at least 30mm from the edges. Secure the castors to the base using the supplied screws and a cordless drill.



6 Attach the seat pad

Position the seat pad face down with the crate assembly on top. Secure it from inside with 20mm x 8g screws. **TIP** If the slats are less than 12mm thick, use shorter screws so they don't poke through the foam.

Upholstering the seat pad

To upholster the ottoman you'll need a piece of foam 50mm thick, the same size as the MDF base for the seat pad.

Cut cotton wadding and fabric to size with 100 and 120mm extra all around.

Position the fabric right-side down then top with the wadding and foam.

Apply adhesive to the MDF base and position on the foam.

Poly Cotton Fabric in Baby Pink, about \$7 a metre.
fabrictraders.com.au



1 ATTACH THE WADDING to the base by folding it over the foam and onto the base. Secure the wadding in the centre of each side using a staple gun then all around the base, pulling it taut and leaving the corners free as you go. Neatly fold the corners and secure with staples.

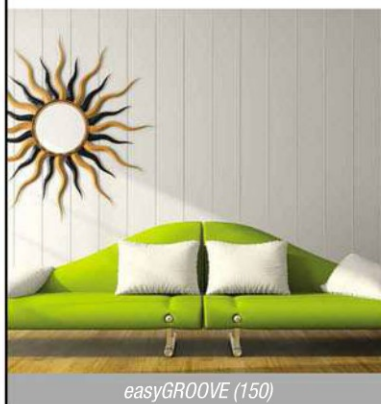


2 SECURE THE FABRIC in the same way as the wadding using a staple gun to attach it to the centre of each side. Pulling the fabric taut as you go and folding under a hem to prevent it from fraying, work your way around the base, folding and securing the corners last.

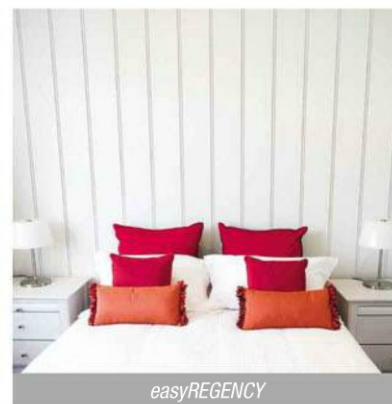
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Kids love to draw so make them a table that showcases the tools of the trade.

CUSTOM
FURNITURE

CRAFTY TABLE

Mix form and function by building a child-sized table with art supplies cast in resin for an eye-catching surface

DIY > \$140

HAVE IT DONE FOR \$340

SKILL > 1 2 3 4 5

TIME > 4 HOURS

This table looks designer but is quite easy to make. Built from MDF and pine, the resin top is cast and then attached separately.

To cast the resin, choose a flexible straight-sided plastic storage tub with a base the size you want the tabletop to be. Mark a line on the inside of the tub to use as a guide for the thickness of the tabletop when pouring the resin.

Use the plastic tub to make the resin cast then embed pencils, buttons and other items before it fully cures.

Pour a layer of resin on top to seal it. The second pour will seep down the sides of the cast and can create air pockets underneath which will be on the top of the table, so they must be removed before the resin sets.

To remove air pockets, simply rock the plastic tub from side to side and gently tap it on a hard work surface.

For the table, trace around the cast on a 1200 x 900 x 6mm piece of MDF, about \$9, and cut to size with a jigsaw.

Secure pine furniture legs, costing about \$2 each, with adhesive and 30mm x 8g screws then paint the table using sample pots, about \$8 each.

TIP Most things can be embedded in resin but porous or paper items need to be sealed with PVA adhesive. ➤



Diggers Casting And Embedding Resin, \$20, and Catalyst, \$6. recochem.com.au



Mini blackboard

Save space with a wall-mounted blackboard the kids can draw on or you can use to write them messages.

This Boyle Craftwood House Blackboard, \$20, was painted to match the bedroom colour scheme (boyleindustries.com.au).

■ **REMOVE THE BLACKBOARD** panel from the frame and set aside.

■ **APPLY A PRIMER** and two coats of acrylic to the house using a brush, sanding lightly between coats.

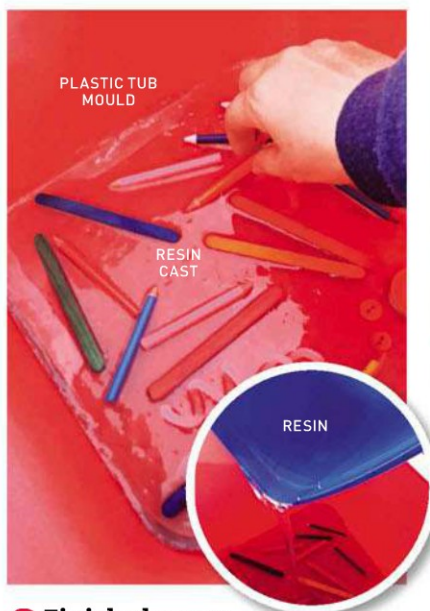
■ **POSITION THE BLACKBOARD** back in the frame then hang it on the wall.

BUILD THE TABLE



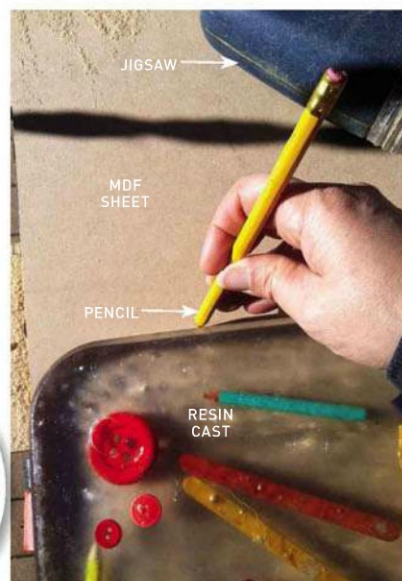
1 Pour the resin

Wipe the plastic tub with baby oil. Combine the resin and activator in an ice-cream container, mix gently to minimise air bubbles then pour into the tub mould. Let the resin set for two hours or until the consistency of jelly.



2 Finish the cast

Position the decorative items and press gently to embed in the half-set cast, then mix more resin and pour a layer over the top to seal them in. **TIP** Resin shrinks slightly as it cures so it may pull away from the mould sides.



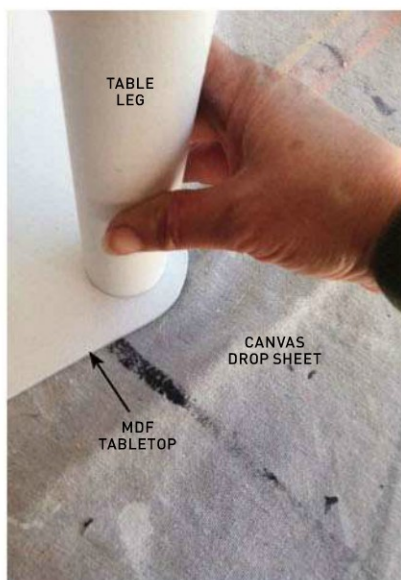
3 Cut the MDF

Let the resin cast cure for 24 hours then wipe with soapy water to remove any residual oil from the mould. Position it on the MDF sheet, tracing around it to cut out the piece with a jigsaw, sanding any rough edges.



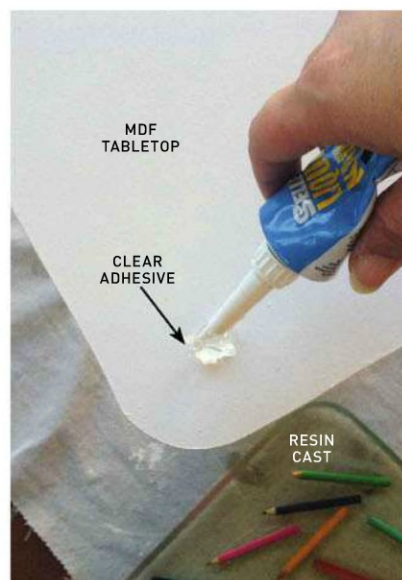
4 Paint the table

Apply a primer and two coats of white acrylic to the MDF tabletop using a paintbrush for the edges and a roller for both sides of the top, sanding lightly between coats. Paint four pine furniture legs then leave to dry.



5 Add the legs

Drill 2mm pilot holes for the legs in the MDF top. Apply construction adhesive and position the legs in the corners on the underside, securing from the top with screws. Fill, sand and paint over the screw heads.



6 Secure the tabletop

Apply a blob of clear construction adhesive to the corners of the MDF tabletop, position the resin and clamp until dry. Cover the resin with a cloth to prevent scratches and don't clamp too tightly or it may crack.

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By planting and growing their garden, children will be encouraged to make healthier food choices and lifestyle habits which they will carry through to their adult years.



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My First Garden's patented assembly system slides together in less than five minutes, with no tools or screws required!



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My First Garden is a great hands-on outdoor activity for boys and girls ages 4 and up.



Australian Made

My First Garden was developed and is manufactured in Australia using high quality Australian BlueScope Steel.

www.myfirstgarden.com.au



TINY TOTS TENT

Take the kids camping in their bedroom with a simple teepee-style shelter that costs just \$80 to make

With just a few lengths of pine, a piece of canvas and a sample pot of paint you can make the kids an indoor tent in a few hours for only \$80.

For the poles, you need four pieces of 1800 x 64 x 19mm DAR pine, about \$5 each, and three 1800 x 42 x 19mm lengths, costing \$3 each, as the braces.

Cut a rear brace to 1200mm and the side braces to 1600mm with a handsaw

and drill pilot holes to secure them to the tent poles using 40mm x 8g screws.

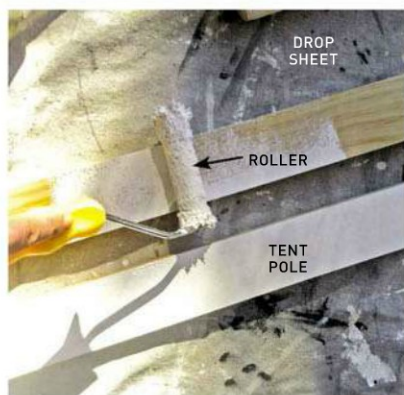
To make the frame, drill holes in the tent poles and thread two onto either end of an 1800mm long dowel with a 25mm diameter, about \$15.

Let the dowel ridge pole protrude by 100mm at the front and back. Spread the tent poles to form two triangles and add the rear cross brace, securing it to the base of the poles with screws.

Attach the canvas to the braces then drape it over the ridge pole and pull it taut, securing the braces to the base of the tent poles with screws.

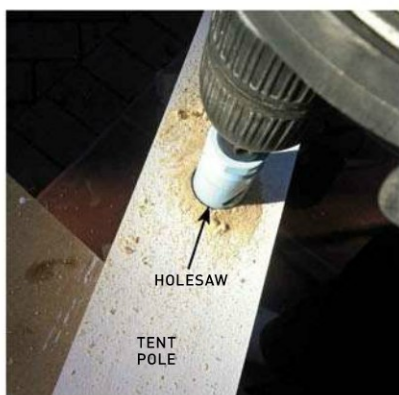
We used a 5 x 12ft canvas drop sheet that cost \$25 for the tent fabric, or you can buy four metres of 1500mm wide cotton for about the same price.

TIP For a themed or colourful tent, let the kids personalise the canvas with fabric paint or sewn-on decorations.



1 Paint the timber

Lay a drop sheet on the ground and position the four timber tent poles and three braces, painting them on both sides and the edges with two coats of white acrylic using a roller, sanding lightly between coats.



2 Drill the poles and braces

Mark a centrepoint on each tent pole 200mm from one end and use a holesaw to drill a 25mm hole for the ridge pole. Use a combination countersink bit to drill pilot holes 30mm from the ends of the braces.



3 Secure the canvas

Position the canvas right side down and lay a brace on a short side 40mm from the edge. Pull the canvas taut and fold it over the brace, attaching it every 200mm with a staple gun. Repeat to attach the other brace.



Turn indoor play time into an adventure with a canvas tent.

PLAYING WITH PAINT

Update the nursery walls with these easy painting techniques

WORDS **SITA SIMONS**

Decorating a child's room is a fun project because if there's one space where you can take a leap of imagination, this is it.

As the nursery is often one of the smallest rooms, it can be tempting to stick to white to make it appear larger.

There is a common misconception that neutral colour schemes are more soothing, and so are better suited to aiding peaceful sleep.

Colour can be calming and an interesting feature wall can enhance the space, providing a room in which a little one can thrive.

A nursery with a little personality also creates an inviting space for parents to spend time with their baby.

Decorative feature walls are quick to achieve and inexpensive. Here are three ideas for getting creative in the nursery using Dulux colour palettes.

Dulux Wash & Wear is easy to clean and is low in VOCs (volatile organic compounds) so it's well suited for children's rooms.

Retro stripe

A graphic diagonal stripe sets the tone for a bright and cheerful bedroom.

The colour is bold, but using plenty of white balances the look so that the yellow doesn't dominate.

You will need paint, brushes, a small roller, a long ruler, a pencil, a piece of chalk, a reel of chalk line and masking tape.

For 300mm stripes, use the chalk and ruler to mark a line from the bottom left corner to the top right.

With the ruler and pencil, mark 150mm and 300mm intervals along the bottom and left side of the wall. Repeat with the top and right side.

Use the chalkline to mark the lines of the stripes. Mask along the lines remembering to alternate between masking on the left side of the line, then the right side.

Apply two coats of paint with a brush or small roller. When dry, remove the masking tape. ➤





Mix a bright scheme with a neutral base so the bold colour doesn't overwhelm.

Forest friend

Get back to nature with this tree theme featuring a friendly owl in the branches. Three different shades of the same colour add depth.

You will need three shades of paint, brushes, a tape measure, a large ruler, a pencil or piece of chalk, masking tape and an animal decal.

Using the ruler and chalk, mark where the trees will be. Start narrow at the top and get wider as you go down. Next, draw in the branches.

TIP Using chalk means mistakes can be easily corrected.

Mask around the two outside trees and, using a small brush, paint in the lightest shade.

Change brushes and repeat with the next tree and darker shade, finishing with the darkest and largest tree in the centre.

Apply two coats of paint to each tree, drying between coats. Then add the decal.

Painting on a few leaves gives it a whimsical feel, but keep the decoration minimal to maintain the focus on the trees and to ensure the end result is modern and fresh.



Painting over a corner is a visual trick that creates a perception of depth.

Washing line

This sweet decorative effect uses real clothes alongside stencils for a textural and quirky finish. You will need white paint and a brush, a pencil, scissors, stiff card, a couple of items of baby clothing and some wooden pegs.

Choose a few items of clothing and trace around them in pencil onto stiff card, then cut out the stencil. Mark a line on the wall for the clothesline, then trace around the stencils so they look like they are hanging on the line.

Paint the stencils white using a small brush. When dry, hang a couple of real outfits to the line using Command Picture Hanging Strips, adding a few stitches if needed. Use Blu Tack to attach wooden pegs to finish.

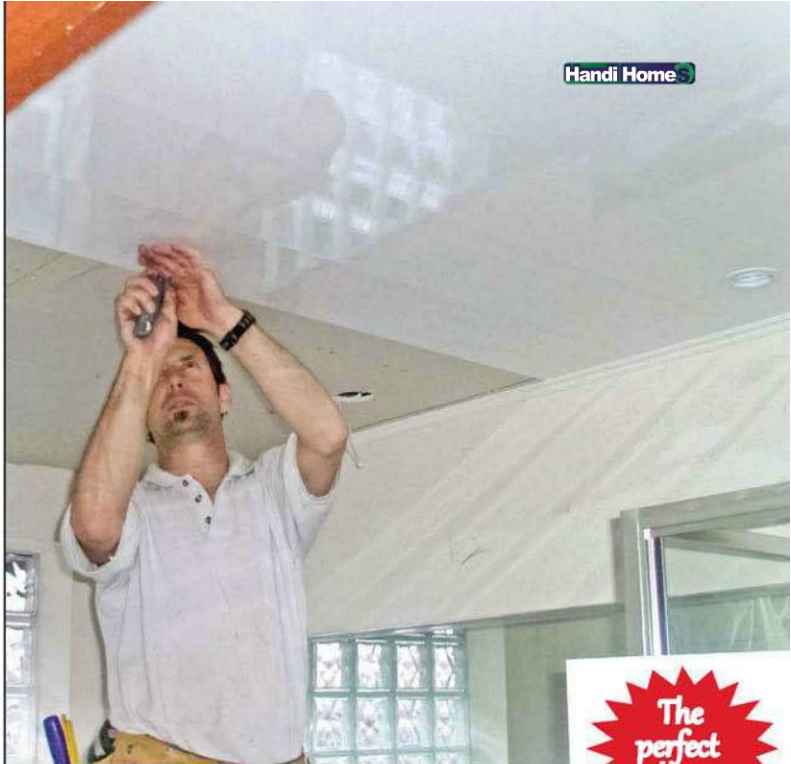


Installing timber panels

Create a country feel or get the Hamptons style with timber-look panelling from Easy Craft.

Great for bedrooms, living spaces and hallways, these easy-to-install planks look like timber, but are made of the highest grade Australian MDF, making them sustainable, hard-wearing and moisture resistant.

Available in various profiles and finishes, the panels come in standard dado rail heights of 900mm and full wall heights of 2400mm (easycraft.com.au).



Easy ceiling makeover

If your bathroom or kitchen ceiling has condensation mould or flaking plaster, here's the perfect solution. Beautiful, white high gloss **Panelscape** PVC Ceiling Panels just slot together in a tight, flush, mould free, almost invisible join to make a continuous waterproof ceiling. Simply glue the lightweight panels straight over your existing ceiling or timber frame. Your **Panelscape** ceiling will always look new. No painting is ever required.

Panelscape is available through hardware and plumbing outlets for about \$24 per square metre in sizes 250mm wide x 1.8M and 2.4M in length x 5mm thick.

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www.handihome.com.au.

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ON SALE
30 OCTOBER

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NEXT ISSUE OF**

Handyman

Gardens

Make your yard tropical by planting an exotic frangipani tree.

PLUS Expert advice on zapping aphids.

Outdoors

Build a relaxing day bed and learn to silk screen dazzling designs on cushions.

PLUS Lifestyle projects made from cement.

Small space

How to build three space saving tables which have a designer look, and fit well in smaller houses and apartments.

Get ready to barbecue

»Do the preparation now for another great summer of cooking outdoors

Before you fire up the barbie this summer, make sure it's spick and span. Give it a good going over, removing and cleaning the hotplate, grill and drip tray. Check it's in good working order and stock up on bottled gas.



BBQ Buddy Grill Cleaning Block Set, \$19.98.



BBQ Buddy 4 Burner Hooded Barbecue Cover, \$24.95.



Matador Grill Rake, \$8.99.

»Clean the barbie



1 SCRAPE THE GRILL using a wire brush to scrub off any flaking rust and stubborn build-up, then replace disposable drip trays or clear the grease from permanent trays and clean with hot water and detergent.



2 CLEAN THE HOTPLATE by spraying on a barbecue degreaser to clean all cast iron surfaces including grills, plates, burners and rock trays. Leave it to soak in for a few minutes then scrape or scrub clean.



3 WASH THE STEEL CHASSIS and operating knobs with hot soapy water and a scourer pad. Wipe all the surfaces dry with a clean cloth then replace all parts, attaching the gas and oiling the hotplate.

D.I.Y. Workshops

»Brush up your knowledge and gain new skills with workshops for everyone, including the kids

National Water Week

To support National Water Week 2013, Bunnings stores across Australia (except SA) will be running water saving D.I.Y. workshops on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th October. The workshops will focus on how you can reduce water use and save money by making your home and garden more water efficient. Kids' water-themed D.I.Y. workshops will also be run during this weekend.

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER
OUTDOOR PROJECTS
KIDS' WORKSHOP WOODWORK

SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER
NATIONAL WATER WEEK
ALL DAY PROJECT ADVICE in SA
KIDS' WORKSHOP WATER SAVING

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER
OUTDOOR PROJECTS
KIDS' WORKSHOP GARDEN CREATURES

SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER
NATIONAL WATER WEEK
ALL DAY PROJECT ADVICE in SA
KIDS' WORKSHOP WATER SAVING

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER
HOME ORGANISATION
KIDS' WORKSHOP GROW YOUR OWN

SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER
KITCHEN, BATHROOM & LAUNDRY
KIDS' WORKSHOP HALLOWEEN

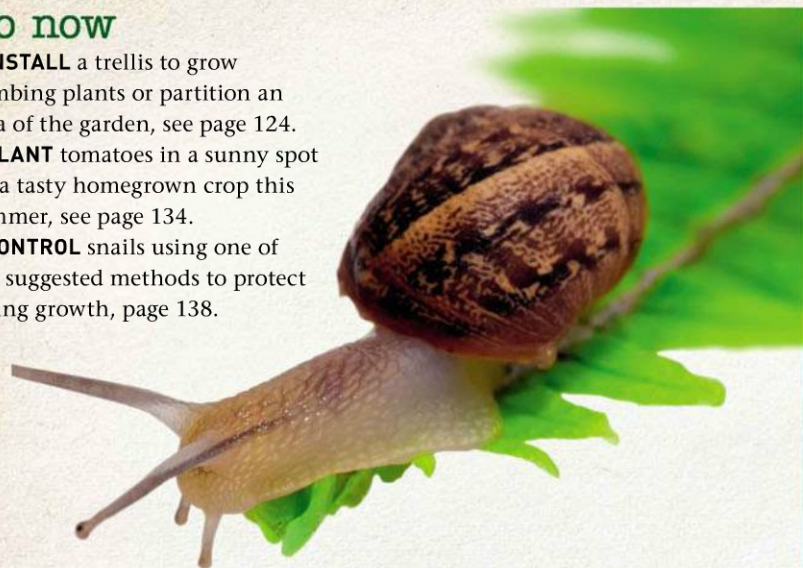
SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER
HOME ORGANISATION
KIDS' WORKSHOP GROW YOUR OWN

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER
KITCHEN, BATHROOM & LAUNDRY
KIDS' WORKSHOP HALLOWEEN

Our workshops are held every weekend at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm. For specific topics, ask in-store or go to bunnings.com.au. If you live in South Australia, speak to a team member about one-on-one sessions.

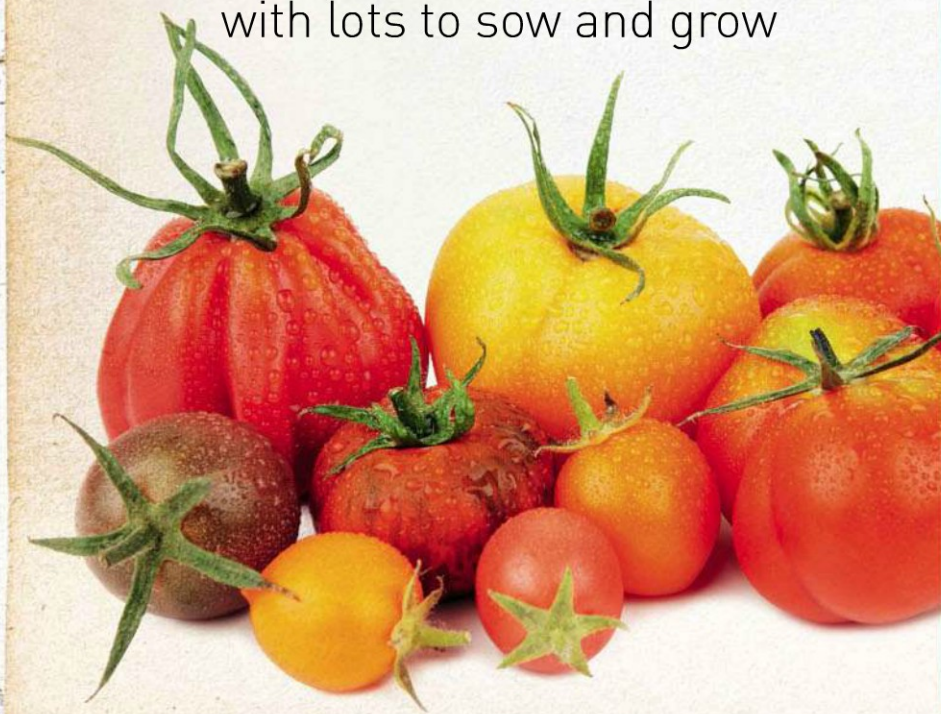
Do now

- **INSTALL** a trellis to grow climbing plants or partition an area of the garden, see page 124.
- **PLANT** tomatoes in a sunny spot for a tasty homegrown crop this summer, see page 134.
- **CONTROL** snails using one of our suggested methods to protect spring growth, page 138.



THIS MONTH

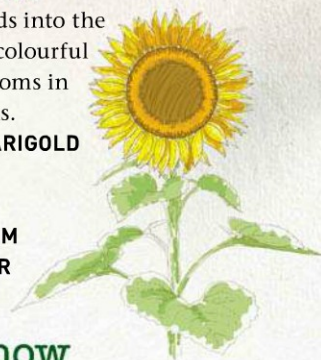
October is a very busy time outdoors with lots to sow and grow



Sow now

Get these seeds into the ground for a colourful display of blooms in 12 to 16 weeks.

- **FRENCH MARIGOLD**
- **AGERATUM**
- **DAHLIA**
- **NASTURTIUM**
- **SUNFLOWER**



Plant now

Put these seeds in during spring for a mid-summer harvest of salad greens and herbs.

- **SPRING ONION**
- **CUCUMBERS**
- **LETTUCE**
- **PARSLEY**
- **ROCKET**



Prune now

- **TRIM** spring-flowering shrubs such as forsythia and may bush as soon as they have finished blooming.
- **CUT** back frost-tender shrubs and climbers, removing any crowded and tangled overgrowth.



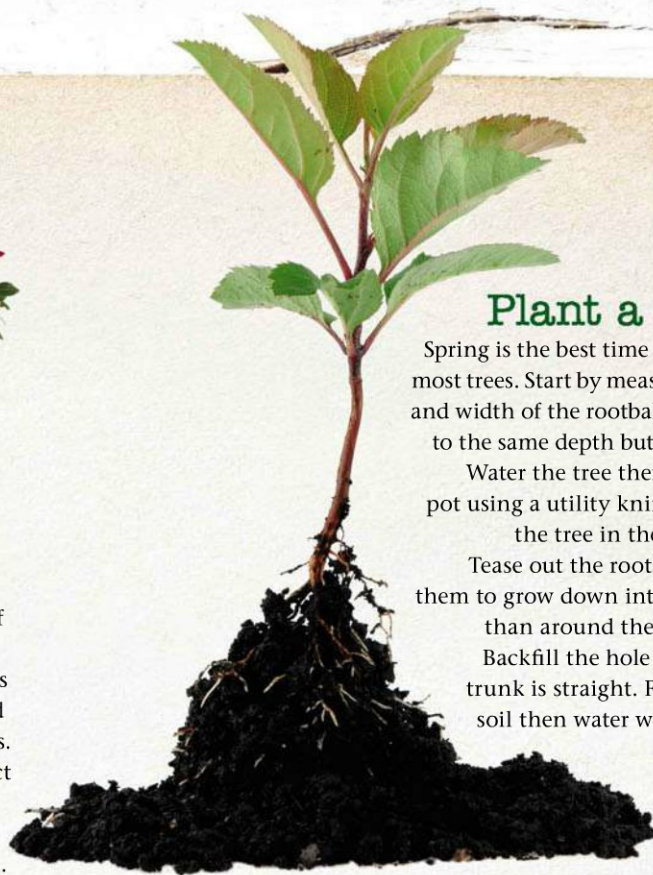
PICTURES THINKSTOCK GETTY IMAGES



Feed roses

Encourage established roses to keep producing new blooms by cutting off dead heads to prolong the display. Apply fertiliser every eight to 10 weeks in spring to promote new growth and help protect against pests and diseases.

Use a specially formulated product like Yates Dynamic Lifter Advanced For Roses, an organic-based plant food rich in nutrients (yates.com.au).



Plant a tree

Spring is the best time of year to plant most trees. Start by measuring the height and width of the rootball, digging a hole to the same depth but twice as wide.

Water the tree then cut away the pot using a utility knife and position the tree in the hole.

Tease out the roots to encourage them to grow down into the soil rather than around the rootball.

Backfill the hole and check the trunk is straight. Firm down the soil then water well and mulch.

Deadhead daffodils

If daffodils are left to go to seed they put all their energy into ripening the seeds at the expense of root and leaf growth, resulting in fewer flowers in the coming years.

After the blooms fade, pinch off the finished flowers or cut the heads off with secateurs.

Leave the stalks and leaves to die down on their own, as the bulbs need eight weeks to mature the leaves and enlarge the roots for good flowering next year.

TIP Removing spent flowers lets the bulbs produce offshoots, meaning even more blooms down the track.



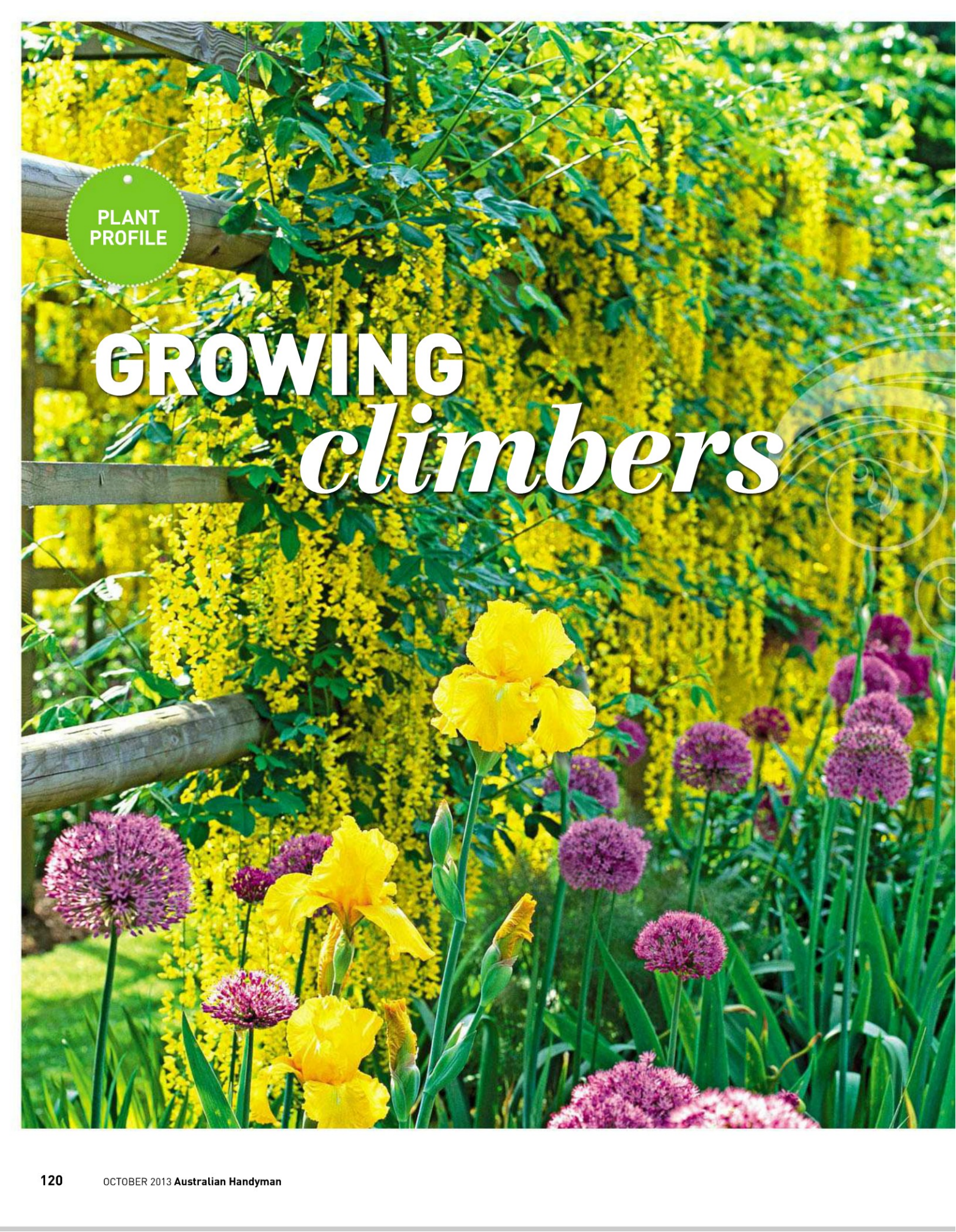
LITTLE BIBI

Top pick

For low borders and hedges try Little Bibi, a new variety of polygala from Plants Management Australia (pma.com.au). This easy-care evergreen shrub puts on a lovely display of purple pea-like flowers in spring.

Growing to about one metre high and wide, its dense, compact habit makes it perfect for pathways and entrances.

Little Bibi is heat and frost tolerant, and performs well in tubs.



PLANT
PROFILE

GROWING *climbers*

Train plants over a bare wall or trellis to create a leafy screen outdoors

To give your garden an injection of beautiful flowers, foliage and fragrance this spring, consider installing some climbing plants.

Climbers are spectacularly showy but surprisingly low maintenance, and provide a simple landscape solution to a range of garden problems and are particularly useful in small spaces.

Use them to soften a bare wall or cover a plain fence, creating a view where none exists such as in a courtyard or at the side of a house.

Let a grapevine scramble over your pergola for summer shade or use a shade-loving variety to green up the darkest corner of the yard.

Turn a bare spot into a garden feature by training a flowering climber over a trellis to screen the wheelie bins or hide the compost heap.

TIP On a deck, position evergreen scented climbers like jasmine to bring fragrance into the house.

GREEN THE SCENE

With evergreen and deciduous varieties, there are climbers for every climate and outdoor area, and spring is the best time to plant.

Choose from a huge number of vines, creepers and ramblers to suit your landscape and conditions.

For a quick fix, fast-growing species, plant certain kinds of grape vine that can grow up to a metre a year.

Or you can buy climbers up to two metres high that are often already in bloom in large containers.

As a rule, the older the plant the more it costs, depending on the size and how many stems it has.

Large potted climbers are best left as container plants and tied to a trellis for decorative effect, as they may not flower for two years if planted out.

Younger plants will establish more quickly in the garden and grow rapidly in the first couple of years. ➤

How they climb

Plants scale walls and other structures in a variety of ways. Without vertical support, climbers continue to grow but spread horizontally, forming a groundcover.

Here's a breakdown of how climbers grow.

TWINERS like clematis have stem tendrils that coil around anything nearby, including a nail, wire, or neighbouring plant stalk.

CLINGERS need no support as they develop very strong roots on the

stems in contact with a vertical surface, such as ivy on a rough wall.

WINDERS like honeysuckle coil their stems around garden stakes, trees and other supports in one direction.

SUCKERS have stem tendrils with sticky pads on the ends that are extremely adhesive and can be difficult to remove.

RAMBLERS use their thorns to scramble up a support, like roses over an arbour, but need additional tying and training.

Climbing plants like this laburnum can transform an eyesore into a feature.

CHOOSING A VARIETY

Assess the planting site before buying a climber, noting which direction the wall or fence faces and how much sun the proposed location receives. **TIP** Ask your local nursery for a variety that thrives in the area.



CLEMATIS

A deciduous climber with multiple varieties and colours. Plant on the south side so shoots grow towards the sun, keeping the roots cool. *Clematis macropetala* does well in shade.



MANDEVILLA

With dark leaves and trumpet-shaped flowers in various shades of pink this climber makes an impression. Some varieties have fragrant flowers, others feature cream coloured blooms.



PASSIONFRUIT VINE

Ideal for growing over a trellis, this vigorous evergreen climber has strong tendrils that grip the wire. The grafted Panama Gold and Red varieties bear large fruit.



BOUGAINVILLEA

A favourite with gardeners, this fast grower flowers from spring to autumn and is ideal for hiding fences. It can also be grown as a shrub and makes a good container plant.



WISTERIA

Certain wisterias can take between 10 and 20 years to flower if grown from seed, so buy them already in flower or choose grafted plants that will bloom within a few years.



POTATO VINE

A white or purple flowering evergreen climber, potato vine grows in most areas of Australia. Fast-growing and hardy, it produces clusters of flowers in summer.



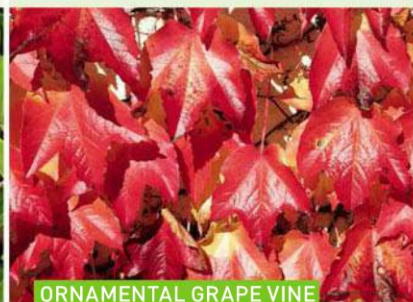
HARDENBERGIA

This Aussie native is an evergreen twining plant with leathery, dark leaves. The most popular variety is 'Happy Wanderer', which has purple blooms and likes full sun.



PANDOREA

A native vine, pandorea comes in a few forms. 'Golden Showers' puts on a show of tubular yellow flowers in spring. The pink 'Southern Belle' and white 'Lady Di' flower for most of the year.



ORNAMENTAL GRAPE VINE

This deciduous climber is the plant of choice for growing over a pergola, as it provides summer shade and winter sun. It puts on a spectacular autumn foliage display of orange and red.

HEALTHY PLANTS

Most climbers tolerate soil of various types as long as it's free draining and they like a sunny position with shaded roots.

Improve the soil before planting or use a good quality potting mix for containers. Water in well then keep the soil moist.

Feed flowering varieties with a fertiliser rich in potash but don't overfeed, as this can result in lots of stem growth and foliage but a poor display of blooms.

Climbers can grow up and over just about anything, including brick walls, buildings, stakes, tree trunks and trellis panels.

Leave at least 300mm between a wall and the trellis for good airflow, and to ensure rainwater isn't blocked by eaves or gutters.

Apply a thick layer of mulch around the base of the plant, keeping it clear of the stem to keep the roots cool in summer and provide frost protection in winter.

TIP Invest in long-handled pruners or loppers to cut back tall climbers.



TRAIN THE PLANTS

Climbers require training and most need to be tied to a support. Even varieties that cling by root or stem need help to spread evenly.

HORIZONTAL WIRES work well. Stretch galvanised wires spaced 400mm apart across a wall or between fence posts, securing them at 2m intervals with vine eye screws.

TRELLIS PANELS add a decorative element and are mounted on wall battens or posts, or left freestanding.

Tie stems loosely with soft garden ties.

TIP Use plastic plant clips to secure stems to a stake. ➤

Whites Twistable Soft Ties
5m, \$5. whitesgroup.com.au



Planting a climber

Grow climbers in well-drained soil and position the plant at least 300mm in front of the trellis or support to ensure good airflow.



1 DIG A HOLE about 10mm deeper and twice as wide as the rootball then remove the climber from its pot, loosening the roots.



2 POSITION THE PLANT in the hole and backfill with soil, firming it down gently. Water in well and if the stems are long enough tie to the trellis.

Mr. Fothergill's GARDENING THIS MONTH



- This is the key month for getting that vegetable garden underway so that you can be enjoying fresh, home grown produce over Christmas!
- Vast variety of vegetables can be sown now, including Beans, Beetroot, Capsicum, Carrots, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Leek, Lettuce, Pumpkins, Radish, Silverbeet, Sweet Corn, Tomatoes, Watermelons and Zucchini.
- Continue to sow all of your favourite herbs too as they thrive at this time of year. Most will allow first pickings in as little as 6-8 weeks and then provide an abundance throughout the Summer and following Autumn.
- October is also a great time to sow flowers from seed – such as Alyssum, Asters, Balsam, Coleus, Cosmos, Gerbera, Marigolds, Nasturtium, Petunia, Portulaca, Salvia, Sunflower and Zinnia. Propagated seedlings of Carnation, Gypsophila, Mesembryanthemum, Petunia, Phlox and Statice can also be planted out into your flower bed now, ensuring a mass of colour in the coming months.
- If you have kids in the family, get them into gardening during October school holidays. Dedicate a little garden patch for them to nurture and let them choose their favourite plants. For easy and exciting kids gardening solutions try Mr Fothergill's Little Gardeners range of seeds and all-in-one kits.



Available at
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warehouse

www.mrfothergills.com.au



US ON FACEBOOK



Install a trellis

Garden screens can hide an unwanted view, create a backdrop or partition an area for privacy. Trellis is the most popular screening material, as it is easy to install and ideal for growing climbers.

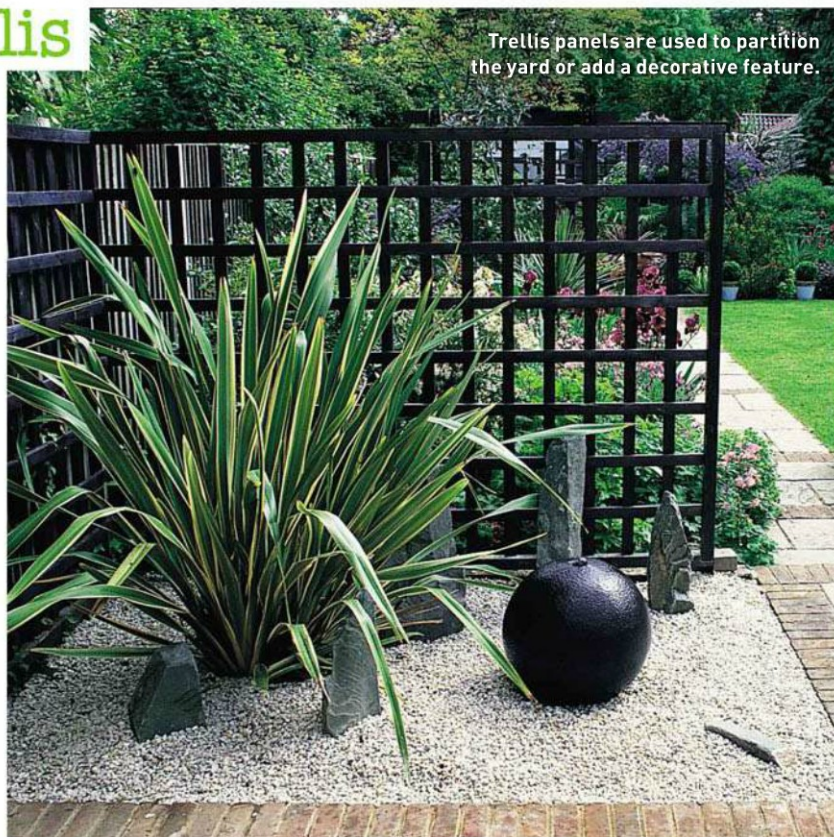
You can make a trellis from lengths of treated pine or buy readymade panels in a range of sizes, shapes and lattice patterns in timber or metal.

Designed as non-structural installations, timber trellis panels can support lightweight plants but not dense foliage. Tie plants at an angle for more rapid and effective coverage.

COVER A WALL by attaching panels to rails or battens and not directly to the surface, making maintenance easier and giving plants good airflow.

BUILD A SCREEN by sinking 90 x 90mm treated pine posts 300mm into the ground using quick-set concrete and securing freestanding panels.

EXTEND A FENCE by attaching latticework to the posts and horizontal rails at the top to raise the height.

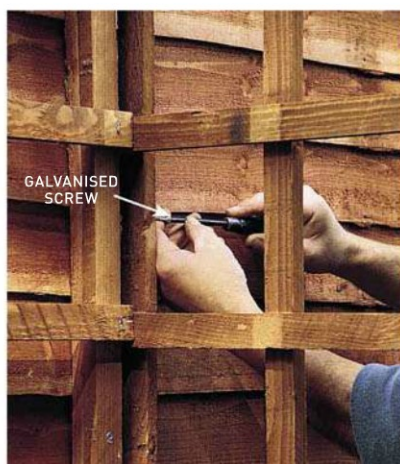


Securing a trellis

Attach a timber trellis to a fence using galvanised screws and position another panel at right angles to screen off an area of the yard. When completed, tie plants horizontally or at an angle to encourage better coverage.



1 POSITION A PANEL against the fence and secure to the posts with screws then attach another panel at 90°, aligning the slats.



2 SECURE THE TRELLIS at a 90° angle to the fence panel through the uprights. Attach the other end of the trellis to a post or external wall.



3 PAINT THE TIMBER with exterior acrylic, applying two coats with a brush and sealing any cut ends. **TIP** Oil or stain can also be used.



SHAPES RANGE
RAISED GARDEN BED

'10 IN 1'



'D' Shape



Triangle



Super Slimline



Extended Hexagon

Features

- Choose from 1 of 10 possible shapes
- Create amazing layouts using multiple beds
- Made from a durable thick gauge Zinc Alloy
- Stainless steel Wing Nuts and Bolts
- Rolled steel safety edge with clip on safety strip
- Quick and Easy Assembly
- Australian Made
- Patent Pending



birdies 4 kids
MODULAR GARDEN BED



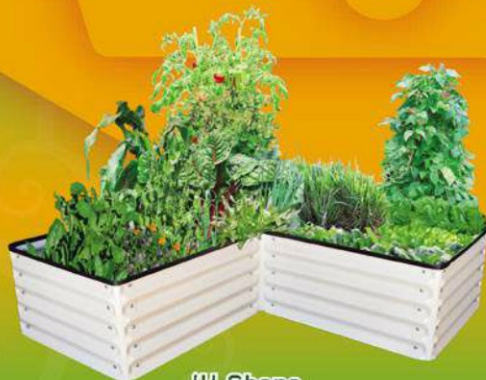
“HEALTHY
Outdoor
LEARNING”



- Choose from one 1 of 6 educational shapes
- Vibrant color combinations
- Quick and Easy assembly
- Rolled steel child edge with clip on safety strip
- Stainless steel dome nuts and bolts
- Made from a durable Zinc Alloy steel
- Australian Made
- Patent Pending

SHAPES RANGE
RAISED GARDEN BED

'L'



'L' Shape

Features

- Very practical shape
- Create amazing layouts using multiple beds
- Made from a durable thick gauge Zinc Alloy
- Stainless steel Wing Nuts and Bolts
- Rolled steel safety edge with clip on safety strip
- Quick and Easy Assembly
- Australian Made
- Patent Pending



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LITTLE

green thumbs



Tempt the kids away from the telly and into the yard with these fun gardening projects

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Gardening is one of the best activities you can encourage in your kids. It gets them into the fresh air and working with their hands while learning about plants and nature.

Children can start gardening as soon as they are able to grip a trowel but the trick is to get them interested first.

So how do you coax them off the computer and into the outdoors? With projects and products designed to make sowing and growing easier for little hands and attention spans.

Try these simple techniques for herbs and vegies so the kids can see results fast and eat what they grow. ➤

Sowing seed tapes

Take the guesswork out of growing veg with Seed Tape Easy Sow, about \$4 each from Mr Fothergill's. The biodegradable paper tape has evenly spaced seeds, making it easy for kids to plant straight rows and reducing the need for thinning.



1 DIG PLANTING ROWS about 5mm deep and spaced 300mm apart in the soil of a garden bed by hand or using a small trowel. Lay sections of the seed tape in the rows.



2 COVER THE TAPE with a thin layer of washed river sand or propagation sand using a small trowel.
TIP Using sand instead of soil makes it easier to see where to water.



3 WATER IN the sand-covered seed tape using a watering can then keep the rows moist during the growing season. Depending on the variety, seedlings emerge within 14 days.



Lure the kids outdoors by setting aside a corner for both gardening and play.



Paper pots

Raising plants from seed is always a winner with kids and growing food to eat just doubles the fun.

Grow a lunchbox favourite like cherry tomatoes in newspaper tubes, and in a few weeks you'll have lots of seedlings ready for pots or beds. You can plant the seedlings, tubes and all, as the paper eventually breaks down.

Make the pots from a tabloid-sized newspaper and long cardboard tubes, then fill with quality seed-raising mix. **TIP** Use newsprint instead of glossy paper and long tubes not toilet rolls.



Get the kids growing seedlings and recycling at the same time.



1 Roll the paper tubes
Fold a sheet of newspaper in half and position a cardboard tube on a short edge about 30mm from one end. Roll the paper around the tube in a straight line. Hold the tube firmly and fold the paper to create a flat base.



2 Add the potting mix
Slip the newspaper off each tube and position in a tray or box. Fill the paper pots with seed-raising mix using a trowel then lift the tray and gently tap it on the bench to settle the mix, topping it up if needed.



3 Sow the seeds
Carefully put one or two seeds in each pot by hand, lightly cover with seed-raising mix and water in gently. Position the tray of paper pots in a warm, sunny spot and keep moist as the seeds germinate.

MUNAKUPPI
ELEPHANT

For fun growing pots try a Munakuppi
Grow Hair Kit, \$5, from Mr Fothergill's.

Raised garden beds

The easiest way to give kids a patch of garden they can call their own is to use a raised bed. Models designed for kids are the right height for them to work comfortably, making sowing, watering, weeding and harvesting even easier. ➤

Absco My First Garden
Raised Bed For Kids, \$49,
from Bunnings.



Birdies 4 Kids 6 in 1
Garden Bed, \$69 each.
birdiesgardenproducts.com.au

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Potted herbs

Teach the kids about growing and cooking at the same time by creating a potted kitchen garden.

For hassle-free sowing, use Mr Fothergill's Seed Mats Easy Sow, about \$4 for a pack of five. The pre-sown paper mats are 8cm in diameter and are a good fit for 9cm terracotta pots, which are the ideal size for small hands.

Get the kids to write the names of the herbs on Paddle Pop sticks and put them in each pot as plant tags, so they know what to harvest. ➤



1 Prepare the pots

Fill 9cm terracotta pots to about 150mm below the rim with potting mix and gently firm down by hand, wearing gloves. Position the seed mat in the centre of the pot and gently press onto the surface of the mix.



2 Cover the mats

Pour a thin layer of potting mix about 5mm deep over the seed mat using a small trowel.

TIP Don't bury the mat too far down. Add just enough potting mix so that it is no longer visible.



3 Water the seeds

Water in the seed mat using a watering can then position the pots in a warm, sunny spot or part shade, depending on the variety. Keep the mix moist and add plant tags to identify the herbs in each pot.

Wildlife garden

Give birds, lizards and other small animals a place to call home by creating a wildlife retreat where they can forage and live safely.

This great idea works in gardens large or small, and the kids can help with the planning and planting.

Flagstones are used to create hiding spots for animals with plants nearby to provide cover and food.

A water source for flying visitors is a must but make sure it's high enough to be safe from dogs and cats.



1 Position the stones
Clear the area of plants, weeds and rocks. Position the flagstones so they are well supported with mini dens underneath, ensuring they won't be flooded and with at least one in a safe, sunny spot for lizards to bask.



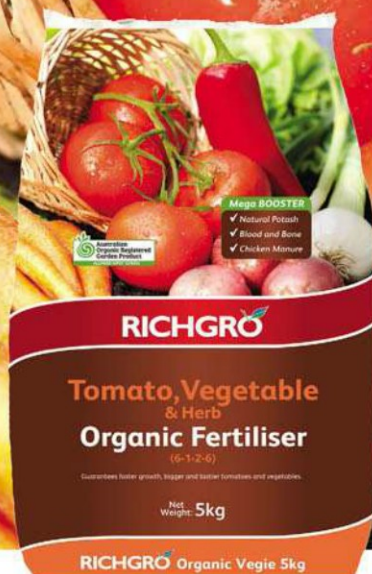
2 Add the plants
Position native plants like dianella and grevillea near the flagstones to provide cover for animals in the dens. Dig planting holes to twice as wide as the rootballs then position the plants, backfill with soil and water in well.



3 Install a birdbath
Add a pedestal birdbath among the native plants and fill it with water. In this garden, the base was a salvaged antique chimney pot and the bowl a terracotta saucer attached using landscape construction adhesive.

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CHOOSE & GROW TOMATOES

Learn the lingo

Tomatoes are either indeterminate or determinate, and are referred to as heirloom or hybrid.

■ **DETERMINATE** or bush tomatoes grow to a fixed height ranging from 900mm to 1.2m and are faster to fruit.

■ **INDETERMINATE** or vine varieties can reach well over three metres and produce large crops. They tend to be more flavoursome than bush varieties.

■ **HEIRLOOM** varieties have been around for centuries. Seeds saved from an heirloom plant have a consistent taste, shape and colour.

■ **HYBRID** plants are bred for large crops and disease resistance. Modern varieties are increasingly available in a wide range of colours and shapes.

Plant now for a tasty and colourful summer crop of sun-ripened tomatoes.

Big and juicy or small and sweet, there is a variety of this versatile fruit for every taste and outdoor space

Nothing beats the flavour and fragrance of a homegrown harvest of tomatoes picked fresh from the vine.

Belonging to the Solanaceae family of plants, which includes eggplant, capsicum and potato, tomatoes are not just round and red but also orange, yellow, purple and green in many shapes and sizes.

For a summer crop of sun-ripened tomatoes now is the time to get growing. You can raise this easy-care edible almost anywhere, as long as the plant gets plenty of sun and regular water.

Depending on their size they can be grown in pots or trained up a support like a stake or cage. Whether you have a windowsill or garden bed, choose a type to suit your space. ➤



Scotts Osmocote Plus Organics,
3.5kg, \$30. scottsaustralia.com.au

CHOOSING A VARIETY

Tomatoes are a kitchen staple, as they can be used raw, cooked or dried in a variety of ways. Pick a type to grow based on how you like to eat them most, whether it be fresh, fried, grilled, roasted or preserved.



TIGERELLA

- Medium-sized fruit, sweet taste.
- Crimson skin with yellow stripes.
- Toss with olive oil, garlic and herbs for bruschetta.



PINEAPPLE

- Huge golden fruit, firm beefy flesh.
- Tasty flavour, can weigh up to 1kg.
- Delicious with nothing more than a drizzle of olive oil and a little salt.



BLACK RUSSIAN

- Purple skin and firm red flesh.
- Sweet and tart, medium-size fruit.
- Use in homemade soups, salads and sandwiches.



SWEETIE

- Red-skinned cherry variety.
- Bite-sized, juicy and sweet.
- Serve whole in salads or slow roasted to intensify their flavour.



GREEN ZEBRA

- Small fruit, green-striped skin.
- Tangy and intense flavoured.
- These make a great chutney, or work equally well in vegetarian lasagne.



ROMA

- Oval shaped, red, fleshy fruit.
- Full-flavoured kitchen all-rounder.
- Use for sauces, pastes, soups, pizzas, curries and casseroles.

RAISE FROM SEED

Tomatoes need a sunny position in well-drained soil improved with compost. For a continuous supply of fruit, sow early, mid and late season varieties throughout spring.

To reduce the risk of disease, don't plant tomatoes where other members of the Solanaceae family, such as chillies or potatoes, have been grown in the last few years.

SOW SEEDS in spring to 5mm deep in pots filled with seed-raising mix and water in well. Position in a sunny spot.

TRANSPLANT SEEDLINGS into the garden when they reach about 80mm tall, choosing the healthiest plants and burying the stem up to the first set of leaves for good root growth.

SUPPORT STEMS by tying them to a stake positioned about 70mm behind them, using soft twine. Staking keeps heavy trusses of fruit off the ground.

ADD MULCH around the base of the plants, using compost, lucerne hay or sugar cane, watering plants little and often to prevent the soil drying out.

FEED PLANTS every two weeks with a seaweed fertiliser during the growing season and a high-potassium formula when they start to form fruit. Don't use a high-nitrogen fertiliser as you'll get more leaf growth at the expense of fruit.

HARVEST TOMATOES when they are fully ripe for the best flavour, cutting the stalk but leaving the calyx attached to the fruit. At the end of the growing season, pull the plant from the soil and hang in a sheltered, frost-free area for the remaining fruit to ripen.

WATCH FOR tomato caterpillars, as the young feed on new growth and the mature ones eat fruit from the stem. Spray with several applications of pyrethrum before they infest the plant.

TIP Companion plant with basil and marigold to deter pests and diseases.



Growing tomatoes

Raise tomatoes from seed, buy a plant from the nursery or use an all-in-one kit.



Johnsons Cook's Garden seeds, \$4.
johnsons-seeds.com.au



Mr Fothergill's Kitchen Garden Kits, \$4. mrfothergills-seeds-bulbs.com.au



Floriana Gourmet Gardener Seedlings, 100mm, \$3.
floriana.com.au



Prawn, tomato & basil pasta

PREPARATION TIME 40 mins

COOKING TIME 10 mins

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

750g tomatoes

1 Tbsp finely chopped basil

1½ Tbsp white wine vinegar

2 Tbsp olive oil

250g fresh or dried tagliatelle

500g raw prawns, peeled and deveined, tails intact

3 cloves garlic, crushed

Basil leaves, to garnish

- 1 CUT A CROSS** in the base of the tomatoes, cover with boiling water and leave for one to two minutes, then peel off the skins. Cut into quarters and scrape the seeds into a mesh strainer set over a large bowl. Strain as much of the juice as possible into the bowl and discard the seeds.
- 2 DICE THE TOMATO FLESH** and add to the juice in the bowl, then stir in the basil, vinegar and one tablespoon of the oil. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste and set aside.
- 3 PUT THE PASTA** in a pan of boiling salted water and cook according to the instructions on the packet.
- 4 MEANWHILE** heat the remaining oil in a large non-stick frying pan over high heat. When hot, season the prawns and stir-fry for two minutes. Add the garlic and continue stir-frying for a further two to three minutes, or until the prawns turn pink.
- 5 DRAIN THE PASTA** and toss in the tomato vinaigrette. Stir in the cooked prawns and the oil from the pan. Garnish with torn basil and serve.

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SNAILS AND SLUGS

They eat their way through the garden under the cover of night, leaving a slimy trail to show where they've been

A nocturnal menace to the garden in the warm months, snails and slugs have a huge appetite for many types of plants.

They love vegies, especially lettuce, but are happy to sample other delicacies from the spring garden smorgasbord. Left unchecked they'll attack flowers, with annuals like pansies and violas a favourite feast.

These pests like moist soil and are most active during cool weather and humid periods, so they're especially busy in spring and early summer.

At night, snails and slugs climb onto plants to eat foliage, hiding in leaf debris or sheltering under shrubs during the day.

SIGNS OF INVASION

Before using pest control in the garden it's essential to correctly identify the problem and use the appropriate technique or product.

If you know what to look for it's easy to spot when gastropods are helping themselves to your plants.

Healthy seedlings can disappear overnight, plus foliage and flowers show ragged or chewed-looking holes with the lower leaves of plants usually consumed first.

Snails and slugs also leave a trail, so look for shiny streaks on foliage and silver-grey slime trails appearing on the plant, soil or pots.

The best way to catch them by torchlight, before sunrise or after dark.



Making a beer bait

Slugs and snails are attracted to the sweet, yeasty combination of sugar and beer, making it the ideal bait.

Sink a shallow bowl or tub in the ground with the rim at soil level.

Stir a pinch of sugar into 150ml of stale beer then pour the mixture into the bowl to a depth of 30mm.

The pests will crawl into the beer for a drink and drown. Empty and refill the baits every two days.

METHODS OF CONTROL

The only sure-fire way to keep your garden free of snails and slugs is to destroy them. There are several ways to do this, or you can use natural deterrents to keep them away from your plants by making the garden less hospitable.



POISON

SCATTER PELLETS or apply a snail gel around plants by hand, choosing an animal-friendly product to protect pets, native birds and lizards.



Hortico Snail & Slug Pellets,
\$2 for 500g. hortico.com.au



BAIT

SET TRAPS baited with fresh lettuce, citrus rind or stale beer, check them daily and squash the pests or drop them into a jar of salty water.



On-Guard Snail Traps, \$8 for
a two pack, by Brunnings.



SHOCK

USE COPPER TAPE as a collar for young plants and pots, or as bed edging. Copper makes an effective barrier, as it gives snails and slugs a slight electric shock. This tape is about 30mm wide.



On-Guard Snail & Slug Barrier,
\$7 for 4m. brunnings.com.au



CATCH

SEARCH AND DESTROY snails and slugs by hand-picking them out of the garden and killing them.

If you can't bear to squash or drown them, mix a solution of equal parts vinegar and water and pour it into a spray bottle for a homemade and eco-friendly pesticide.

Spray the solution directly onto both snails and slugs to kill them, but be careful where you use it as vinegar is a herbicide and will also poison your plants.



DETER

POSITION TIMBER boards on the soil near vulnerable plants and the pests will migrate to the underside where they can be easily removed.

Clear away decaying vegetation and debris like rocks and leaf litter to eliminate daytime hiding places.

Mulch also makes a good home for snails and slugs, so keep it less than 80mm thick.

TIP Don't spread mulch until plants are well established and daytime temperatures are reaching 21°C.



BLOCK

LAY BARRIERS around plants, especially lettuces, to stop snails and slugs in their tracks.

These soft-bodied pests will turn away from a sharp or scratchy barrier rather than crawl across it to get to the salad bar.

Surround plants with strips of coarse grit abrasive paper or broken eggshells.

Coir also works, as the tiny fibres stick to snails and slugs, making it hard for them to move.

SMALL SPACE, BIG IMPACT

Make grand plans for a little plot to get a lush garden in a compact area

Great gardens really can come in small sizes, as having only limited outdoor space doesn't mean you have to scale back your plantings or your imagination.

There are lots of ways to give a postage-stamp size yard the look of a thriving garden featuring colourful flowers and lush foliage. All it takes is good planning.

Think outside the square to have a garden almost anywhere, including along the side passage of a house or even on a concrete patio.

DESIGN THE GARDEN

For a small garden to be able to incorporate flowers, trees, edibles, decorative features and seating you need to make the most of the available space, and design with the seasons in mind.

The key to creating a lush landscape is to make every millimetre count using layered plantings and strategically placed pots.

PLAN THE LANDSCAPE in layers, looking at the entire space from ground to sky and progressively populating it with groundcovers, perennials and annuals, then shrubs, climbers and small trees.

DOUBLE UP PLANTINGS to create the feeling of a larger, fuller garden. Mix bulbs with perennials and annuals with shrubs.

SHOWCASE THE SEASONS by choosing plants so there's always something in bloom or leaf. The idea is to have colour in every season.

TIP Use vertical surfaces like fences and walls, or install a trellis to maximise growing space.

USE POTTED PLANTS

Containers and pots can be used to great effect in a small space and provide flexibility, especially if you only have a hard-surface area like a patio or courtyard to work with.

On a deck, use plant stands with castors to give pots mobility, moving



A well-planned planting scheme turns a petite garden into a verdant oasis.

them to catch the sun or to make room for entertaining.

Use hanging baskets to grow flowers, attaching them to external walls, pergola posts and timber fences.

In the garden, planters or raised beds can be used as mini vegetable patches, while terracotta urns are great for feature trees.

Container-grown plants can't get water and nutrients from the soil, so good drainage is essential. Use a good-quality potting mix that contains a slow-release fertiliser.



For the best results, use a medium formulated for the species being grown. You can buy potting mix for cacti and succulents, roses, vegetables and herbs, or citrus and fruit.

GROW FRUIT AND VEG

A small garden can be a feast for the table and the senses as it's easy to incorporate vegies into flower beds.

Tuck tomatoes among sun-loving blooms, train sweet peas and beans up a trellis or even use lettuce as an attractive leafy border.

Vegies and herbs do well in pots as it's easy to position them in the best location for the crop, such as tomatoes in full sun and lettuce in part shade.

This versatility applies to the growing season too. Start herbs on a sunny windowsill in spring then move them outside when the weather warms up, no transplanting needed.

You may even prolong the harvest by bringing edibles indoors on cool nights once autumn hits.

TIP Grow citrus trees in large pots to double as a decorative feature. ➤

Easy watering

To efficiently water a small garden that is densely planted with a variety of different species, install a drip-irrigation system, running it through garden beds and connecting it to planters.

Soaker hoses, flexible poly pipe, joiners and inline taps are inexpensive to buy and easy to set up. Using an automatic timer also takes the guesswork and routine out of watering.



Holman 2 Hour Tap Timer, \$12.
holmanindustries.com.au

GET THE LOOK

This garden blends formal and cottage style to great effect in an 8 x 9m area.

For a similar look in your patch, incorporate these design elements when planning the landscape.

■ **LAY A GRAVEL PATH** around a central bed, creating a walkway and providing access to all corners of the garden.

■ **DEFINE THE BEDS** with edging, using stone or concrete with curved sides to complement the gravel surface.

■ **ADD OUTDOOR SEATING** at one end, positioned to make the most of the outlook and also to provide a destination in the garden.

■ **COVER A WALL** with a trellis and climbers, adding shrubs in front to create the illusion of depth and blur the boundaries of the space.

■ **POSITION AN ORNAMENT** in the central bed, such as a sculpture on a pedestal, to act as a focal point and surround it with densely planted flowers, shrubs and herbs.

**Tuscan Path
Fibreglass Pedestal,
520 x 380mm, \$70.
tuscanpath.com.au**



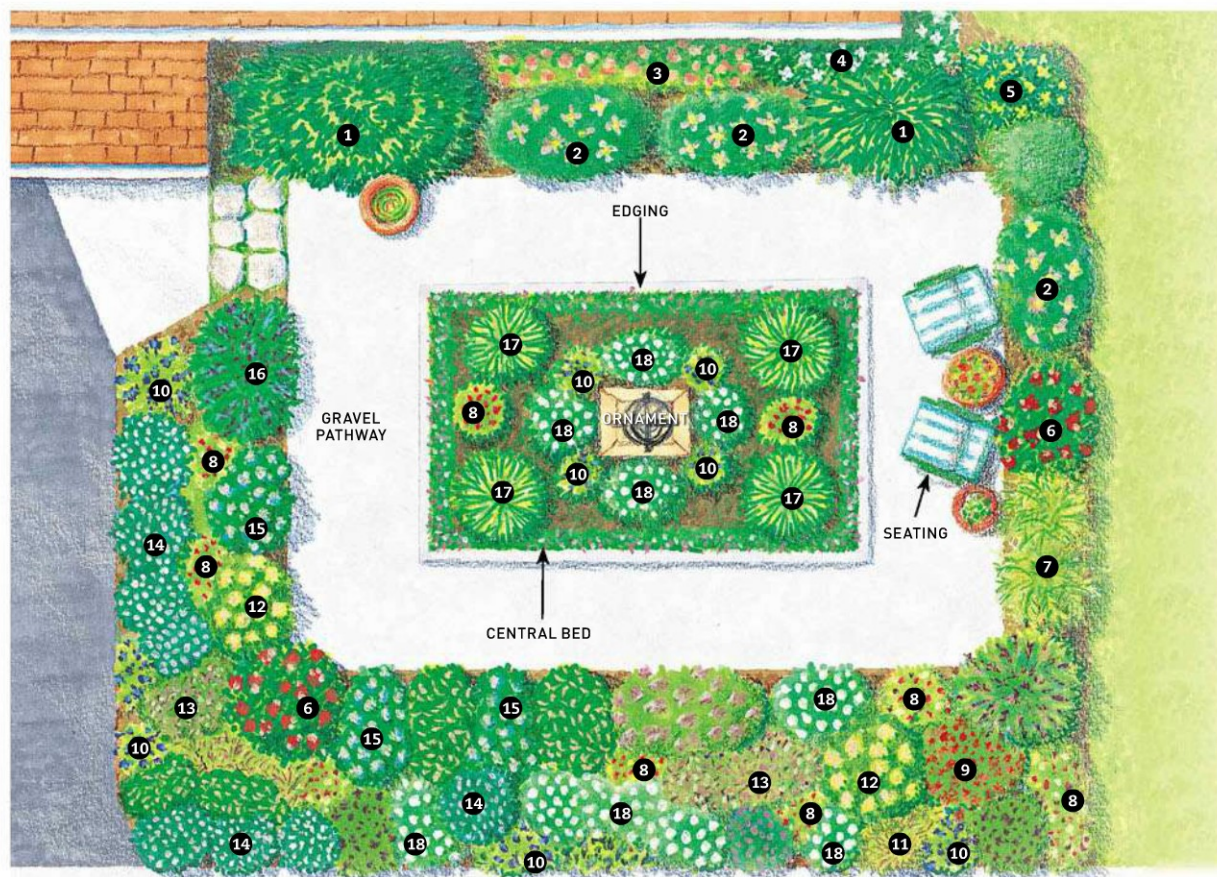
SMALL GARDEN DESIGN

- 1 Yew
- 2 Japanese anemone
- 3 Climbing rose
- 4 Clematis

- 5 Daffodil
- 6 Rose
- 7 Fern
- 8 Tulip

- 9 Phlox
- 10 Grape hyacinth
- 11 Salvia
- 12 Sedum
- 13 Creeping phlox

- 14 Sweet alyssum
- 15 Ageratum
- 16 Lavender
- 17 Chive
- 18 Nierembergia





Meyer lemon trees are compact and crop well from an early age.

Planting small trees

Even in tight spaces it's important to plant trees or evergreens to bring a sense of scale and structure to the landscape. There are many varieties of dwarf trees that are ideal for small gardens.

For an edible feature plant, add a lemon or olive tree in a tub or planter. Both are perfectly suited to growing in containers, offering foliage as well as fruit.

Another idea is to plant trees that grow on a smaller scale but are large enough to provide beauty such as weeping Japanese maples or magnolias that only reach a few metres tall like the *Magnolia stellata* 'Rosea'.
TIP When choosing a tree, check the mature size to prevent crowding the yard or creating heavy shade.

✦ Get more online

Visit handyman.net.au/mag for How To Grow A Lemon Tree plus the 6 Steps For Transforming Your Garden.

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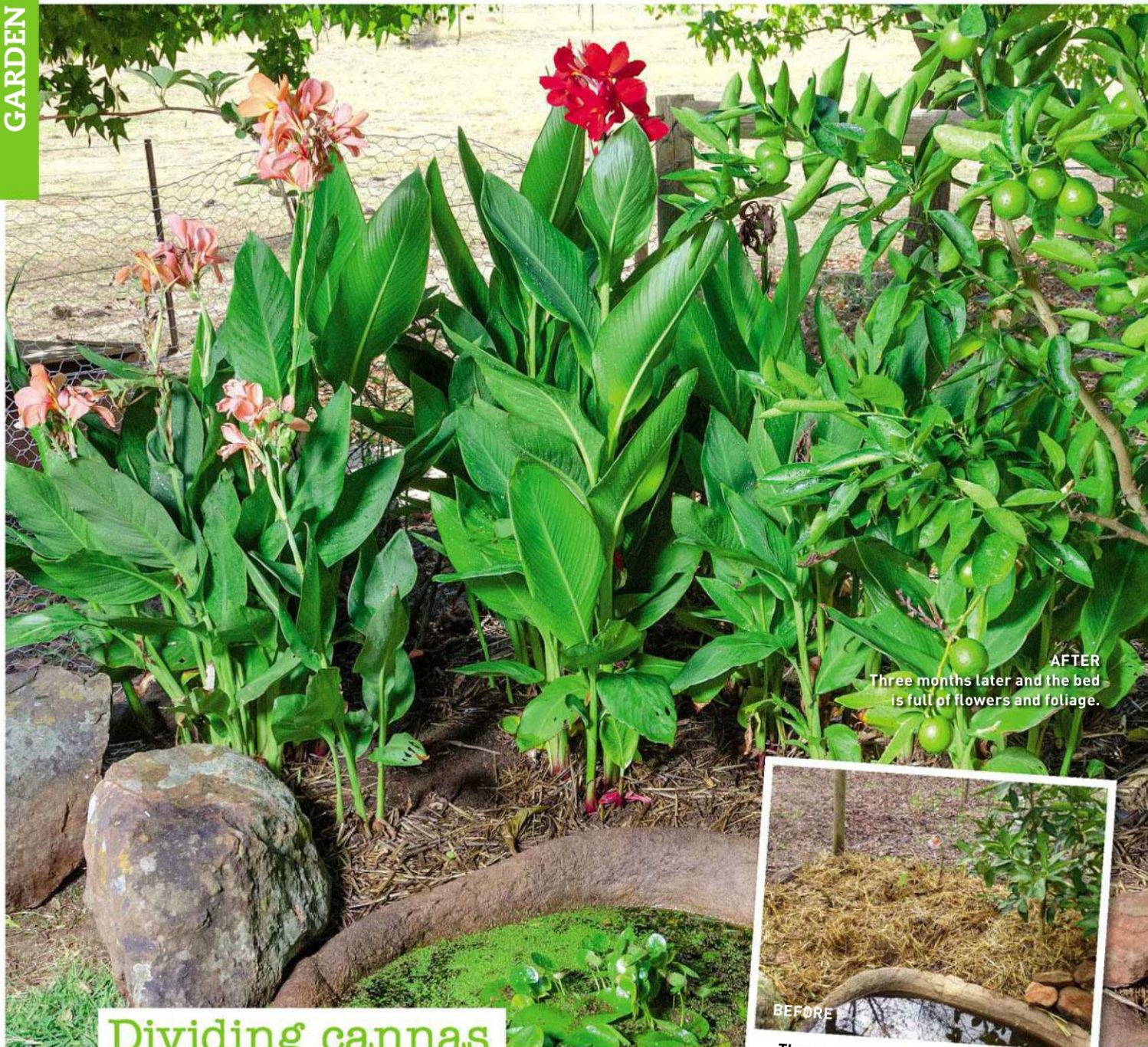


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AFTER
Three months later and the bed is full of flowers and foliage.

Dividing cannas

Handyman managing editor Lee Dashiell's cannas needed preparation to ensure a good display around his pond during the summer months.

Cannas are among the showiest flowers and are very easy to grow, blooming in multiple colours.

They put on a display of dramatic foliage and bright flowers in summer and early autumn. In winter, they die down and should be cut to the ground. **TIP** In areas where the ground freezes, they can be dug up, stored in straw and replanted in spring.

Cannas grow from rhizomes, and can be divided when dormant to keep the plant from becoming too dense, and to increase the number of plants.

To do this, dig up the rhizomes, shake the dirt off and pull them apart into smaller pieces. Replant in a new area at the same depth as they were growing, and fertilise with potash.

Lee lifted, divided and replanted his cannas in spring, adding a good layer of mulch to the bed. They sprouted and gave a full flush of colour around the pond all summer.



BEFORE

The cannas were divided and replanted in spring, then mulched and fertilised.



Pull apart rhizomes to increase the number of plants.



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