

AUSTRALIAN

Handyman

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HANG A NEW SCREEN DOOR

➕ PATCH HOLES IN MESH



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MAKE A SCARECROW & TREE LIGHTS



Fix a ceiling fan
EASY WAYS TO STOP THE WOBBLES

PRESSURE TOOLS

Paint walls, clean decks,
pump tyres and wash cars

Endless SUMMER

- INSTALL A POOL FENCE
- COOL THE HOUSE DOWN
- BUILD AN OPEN-AIR SHOWER

Sprinklers for every lawn

GET
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CLEAR
WATER



PLAY SAFE THIS SUMM

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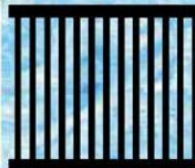


ER

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February *issue*



TIME 1 DAY
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DIY \$340



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL WEE

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The timber look aluminium door from Hills gives you the beauty and warmth of natural wood with the durability and strength of aluminium. Fire rated and built to last, they are available in a range of natural wood finishes.

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Redwood



Cedar



Ash

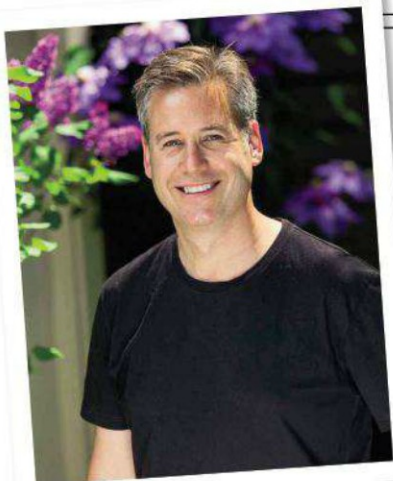


*Subject to the terms and conditions available at hillshome.com.au

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hillshome.com.au

HILLS.



The outdoors is where most of us focus our leisure time and *Handyman* is here to help you get the most from your summer.

If you have a pool, you'll know how time consuming the upkeep can be. The more use it gets, the more work is required to keep the water clean.

We've taken the mystery out of testing water and ridding the pool of bacteria, algae and cloudiness. Best of all, it's easy to DIY. Check out our handy chart on page 24.

Keep mozzies out

These tiny, whiny irritants are the bane of everyone's summer. Not only do they hassle us when we're outdoors, they interrupt a peaceful night's sleep by buzzing round our ears when we're lying in bed.

Last month we featured ways to keep mozzies at bay, and in this issue we concentrate on keeping them out of the house.

Flyscreens are very effective as long as they are fitted properly. We show you how to install a new screen door and repair an old one, patch a hole in mesh and how to reinforce screens so pets can't push them out. See page 76.

I'm certainly motivated to get my screens in tiptop shape this weekend.

New and old bathrooms

When designing a new bathroom, it's important to get the lighting right, whether installing task lighting for the mirror or ambient lights for relaxation.

This should be well thought out so the wiring can be done before any tiles are laid. We have put together a checklist of ideas to consider before you take the plunge, from page 44.

But if your bathroom is not new, you may want to consider some of our easy makeover ideas, fixes and repairs to keep it looking good.

Enjoy the issue.

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL



Transform your bathroom into a tranquil, relaxing space.

More inspiration

Is your bathroom in need of an update? Pinterest lets you create and organise boards of your favourite pictures. It's a great way to find and share ideas for your next DIY project.

Check out *Handyman* at pinterest.com/diyhandyman or scan this code with your phone.



Pinterest

Win \$100!

We like to hear from you

Visit handyman.net.au/mag and share your DIY tips. Just tell us your favourite handy hint, clever idea or time-saving shortcut, and you'll win \$100 if your tip is published.



Handyman Reader Alda Schinaia of St Kilda, Vic, wins \$100 for this tip that takes the mess out of painting.

'When painting a wall, insert the roller tray into a plastic bag, then carefully pour paint into the tray on the outside of the plastic bag.

'Once you have finished painting, drain the excess paint, remove the bag and discard, leaving your tray clean and ready to use,' says Alda.

If you're using a brush, try lining a pail with foil for the same effect.

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No Mess.
No Fuss.**

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**Reader's
Digest**
AUSTRALIA

Published by Reader's Digest (Australia) Pty Ltd
[ABN 81000565471] 80 Bay St, Ultimo, NSW 2007
©2014 Reader's Digest (Australia) Pty Ltd
Prepress by Sinnott Bros
Unit 7, 108-120 Silverwater Road, Silverwater NSW 2128
Printed by Times Printers Pte Ltd,
16 Tuas Ave 5, Singapore 639340
Distributed by NDD Distribution Pty Ltd



Handyman magazine is printed on
PEFC-certified paper, providing an
assurance that the paper is produced
from sustainably managed forest,
recycled and controlled source

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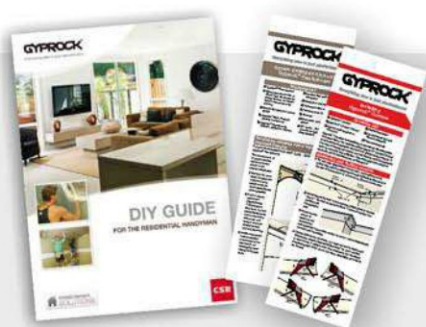
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“Why just grow plants in garden beds when you can grow them up a wall”

Neville Passmore - Gardening Expert



Drip System

Available at
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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!

HANDYSTUFF

It's 'Do a Grouch a Favour Day' on 16 February, so cheer up the grump in your life with these clever ideas

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Save your best crockery and serve up on plates designed for the barbecue.

Shirt ruined

Getting splattered with ketchup might not be what your friends had in mind when they dressed up for lunch at your place.

FIX Eat neat by serving up on BBQ Buddy Plates, \$8 for eight. With a raised rim, attached cutlery and sauce pockets, everything stays in place for less mess.

bbqbuddy.com.au

Plagued by mozzies

Don't let your guests get itchy and twitchy when eating alfresco.

FIX Keep mosquitoes away from the table without disturbing the elegant setting by adding a Waxworks Ceramic Pillar Candle Holder, \$10.

Available in several colours, it burns citronella spiked candles.

waxworksworks.com.au



Bump in the night



Stubbing your toe while groping around for the light switch is a tried and tested mood killer.

FIX Help out the night owl in your family by getting some Magic Living LED Lights with Sensor, \$17.

They are energy saving, so won't cause a spike in the electricity bill.

bunnings.com.au

Being spied upon by nosy neighbours is enough to trigger an over-the-fence feud.

FIX Call a truce while adding rustic style to your yard by installing Sekit Steel Rust Look Screening, \$99 for an 1800 x 900mm panel.

Choose from 16 beautiful designs including bamboo, outback or forest.

sekit.com

Prying eyes



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+ Anti Mould + Anti Bacterial

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Got it
pegged?

Nothing ruins a morning like having to fumble in the dirt for scattered pegs when the basket breaks.

FIX Instead of getting cross, install an At Home Peg Tidy, \$20.

It takes just two minutes to clamp onto the clothesline, while its steel construction and flip-lid means the pegs are protected from the elements and will always be within easy reach.

bunnings.com.au

Playing
with fire

Losing an eyebrow or scorching a finger can take the shine off a backyard barbecue.

FIX Get your cranky cook back in the entertaining spirit by giving them a BernzOmatic Premium Flexible Utility Lighter, \$8.

The added reach and flexible stem makes lighting up the barbie risk-free.

bernzomatic.com



Unhappy
feet

The end of summer can signal dry, brown grass, spiky bindiis and a bad mood.

FIX Maintain a soft, green carpet of grass minus the foot hazards with Yates Weed 'n' Feed, \$16 for 4L.

Just attach it to the hose and spray over the lawn next time you water.

yates.com.au



Having a tiny backyard with limited room to move can quickly get tempers fraying.

FIX Install a Sun King 4 Line Retracting Clothesline, \$59.

Made of steel, it's wall-mounted and saves yard space without losing line space, so you won't have to use the chairs as hangers on laundry day.

bunnings.com.au

No more
hang-ups





A flyscreen helps banish bugs while keeping cool air flowing in.

Stretching the point

Hot or bothered



A common source of annoyance for the vertically challenged is being unable to reach something on a shelf.

FIX Get a Boyle Timber Stool, about \$20, for the little person in your life.

With 180mm added height, it will help them out when you're not around and you can customise it with a coat of varnish or paint.

boyleindustries.com.au

Having to choose between mozzies and no air on a warm night would leave anyone tossing and turning.

FIX Help your fretful family keep their cool by investing in a Magnet Adjustable Flyscreen, \$30.

It's lightweight, with a height of 350mm, and expands from 485mm to 925mm wide.

bunnings.com.au

Know the drill

Seen a few too many tantrums over one missing drill bit?

FIX Simplify the system with a Kango 12mm Multipurpose Drill Bit, \$26.

Made of high-quality steel, it's suitable for use on metal, brick, tiles, timber and plastic.

kangotools.com.au



No messing around

When a neat freak shares a home with a slouch, it can often be a recipe for disaster.

FIX Avoid squabbles by storing your stuff on a Wilmaplex Extra Deep Shelf, 600 x 290mm, \$20.

Made from high-quality pine with moulded brackets, it has wall plugs included for hanging.

wilmaplex.com.au



6X STRONGER
THAN STANDARD SCREENING *



PET MESH™

Extra strength insect screening for today's homes

Cyclone Pet Mesh insect screening is the perfect choice for screening windows and doors where pets' claws are a problem. This high strength insect screening product features heavy gauge PVC coated polyester fabric to provide extra resistance against tearing by pets' claws. The additional strength of Pet Mesh also helps to resist damage from children playing in or around the home.

Pet Mesh is flexible for easy installation and the charcoal colour of the fabric minimises glare from the sun. It is available in a choice of 910mm or 1220mm widths for your added convenience.

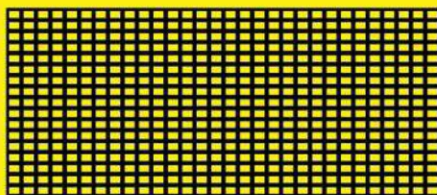
Cyclone also offers a selection of accessories designed for fitting Pet Mesh to window or door frames. These accessories include a variety of spline rollers as well as high quality PVC spline.

For more information about Pet Mesh and other products in the extensive Cyclone insect screening range, please contact Customer Service on 1800 335 019 or visit www.cyclone.com.au

**Standard screening refers to typical Fibreglass insect screening*

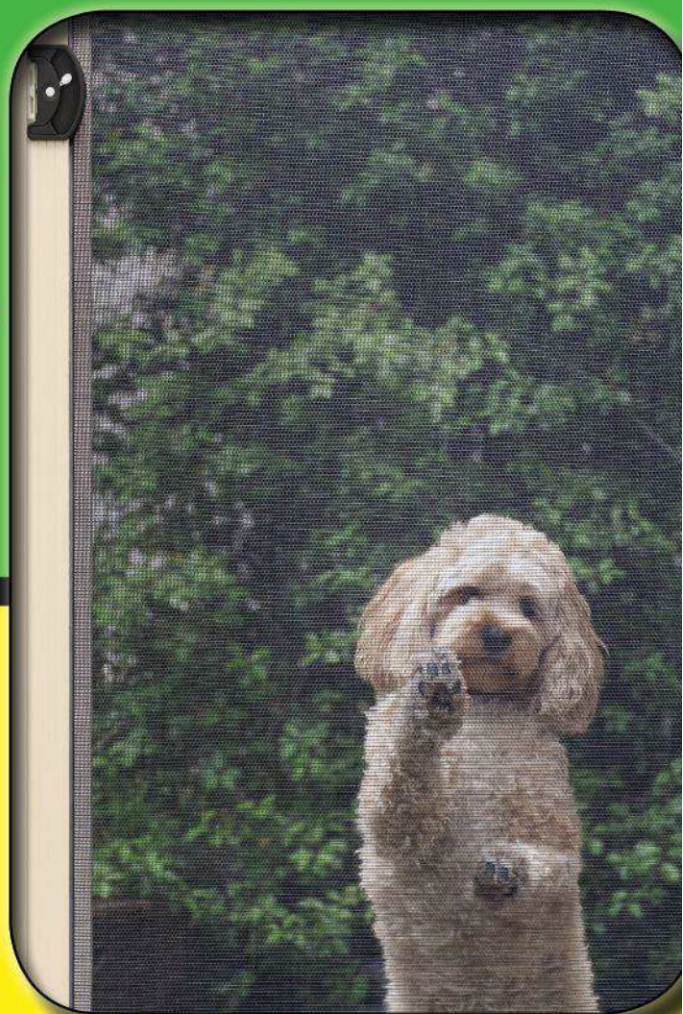
SPECIFICATIONS:

- PVC coated polyester yarn
- 0.8mm diameter yarn



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Corrosion Resistance	★★★★★
UV Resistance	★★★★★
Strength Rating	★★★★★



BUYER'S GUIDE

SPRINKLERS



Water wave

Set a spray to cover half your garden and lawn in one. The Holman Oscillating Sprinkler, \$20, with adjustable spray pattern, can cover up to 200sqm to get the job done faster. It has self-cleaning rubber nozzles for low maintenance, so there's no excuse for letting your lawn turn into the Sahara.

Hose hugger

Blaze a lush trail around the yard without lifting a finger using the Pope Water Tractor, \$77. Ready to tackle lawns of any shape, the tractor has adjustable jets and self-propels along the hose with an automatic shut-off. It's ideal if you have slopes or sandy soil, and works well in windy conditions.

Splash spike

Don't let that awkward spot in the corner go brown and lifeless. Water it easily with the portable Garden Mate Plastic Sprinkler, \$9. Reach up to 20m in either a full or part circle, or connect multiple stakes together with 12mm hose fittings into a system that can quench the whole garden in one go.

Splash out and make maintaining a lush lawn simple with these easy-to-use garden sprinklers



Spot spray

Ensure small spaces get a thorough soaking with the Pope Handy Sprinkler, \$12. Its 8m reach and full-circle spray means the water will get where it's needed. There are holes in the base for pegging it down when the kids are around or things get windy. Just snap it onto the hose and turn on the tap.

Rain rover

Don't neglect your plants just because you've got a big garden. Even the ones in far corners will get a drink with the Holman Travelling Sprinkler, \$89. Made of durable cast iron, and with two speed options, it can drench an impressive 1100sqm as it propels itself along the length of the hose.

Tee time

Specially designed to save water in drought conditions, the Wobble Tee Sprinkler, \$35, has no misting when set on low or medium. One sprinkler covers a 15m diameter but several can be joined with pipes to cover large areas of the garden. It has a removable filter and runs on any water source.

A lush garden scene with a swimming pool, a white lounge chair, and various tropical plants. The background is filled with dense green foliage, including a large tree with broad leaves and small white flowers. In the foreground, a white lounge chair is partially visible, and a large potted plant with green leaves and small white flowers sits on a stone patio. The swimming pool is visible on the right side of the image.

Easy pool care

Invest a little time and follow these simple steps to keep your swimming pool crystal clear all year

WORDS LEE DASHIELL MAIN PICTURE MICHAEL WEE

Swimming pools are a summer essential, providing fun for the kids and relief from the heat. But they have to be regularly maintained for hygiene and safety.

Left to its own devices, a pool becomes the perfect breeding ground for bacteria and algae, which can lead to ear, nose and skin infections.

As well as clearing fallen leaves and debris, you need to sanitise the water using a balance of chemicals.

If it is too acidic, it can cause itchy skin and red eyes. If too alkaline, it can damage the pool surfaces and equipment.

To keep maintenance work to a minimum, ensure you have a good pump and filter and check the water weekly, even through winter.

Chlorine is the standard way to keep water clean and is applied via granular, tablet or liquid form, or using a salt chlorinator. Additives like clarifier condition the water. ➤





Well-maintained water that's clear, clean and safe to swim in shows off these mosaic tiles at their best.



Check the water

Most experts agree that pool water should be checked regularly to assess its chlorine and pH levels, water hardness and total alkalinity.

DIY test kits measure these levels and explain what should be added to achieve the optimal water balance.

To determine the water quality, dip a test strip into a sample of water from your pool, wait 15 seconds then match the colours to the chart that comes with the kit.



AquaChek Select Kit, \$30 for 50 test strips. aquachek.com



When the water's crystal clear you'll want to dive in every day.

Tile and leak repair ▼

If the coping tiles around the edge of the pool are loose, they must be repaired before they fall off or break. Use polyurethane adhesive sealant to secure the tiles to the pool shell.

Check for leaks around the skimmer box, edges of the pool shell and water outlet from the pump and filter equipment, as these are the most

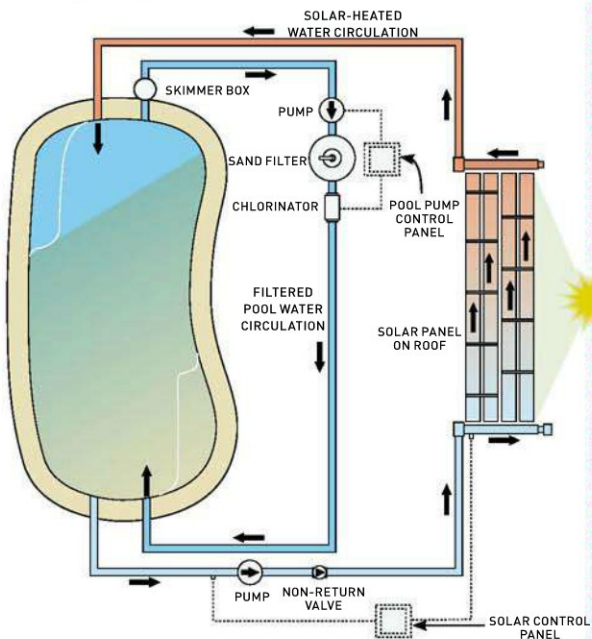
common areas for problems with leakage to occur.

Over time, leaks will cause damage to any nearby structures. Use a sealant to make any leaky areas fully watertight.

Sikaflex 11FC Polyurethane Adhesive Sealant, 310ml, \$18. aus.sika.com



Keeping it clean



A FILTER clears the water of all kinds of contaminants from dust, pollen and leaves, to sunscreen, loose hair and sweat released by swimmers.

Filters use sand or a fine abrasive powder called diatomaceous earth to trap debris. Some incorporate a cartridge with polyester cloth or corrugated paper to catch dirt, which is removed by cleaning the filter. **A PUMP** keeps water circulating through the filtration system to disperse chemical treatments and prevent any build-up of debris by maintaining a constant flow.

Pool pumps are usually powered by an electric motor. They can be energy guzzlers, so use yours wisely. It should be run for around six hours each day, so install a timer to switch it on and off.

A CLEANER can work in tandem with the filter, sucking up debris from the floor and walls of the pool.

Manual and automatic pulse action pool vacuums are operated by suction from the pump, but robotic cleaners are powered independently. ➤



Hy-clor Pro Robo Works Water Jet, \$699. hyclor.com.au



Hy-Clor Slider Vac Pool Cleaner, \$249.

Rethink the Bathroom Remodel

Do-It-Yourself Tile Coating System



ROLL NEW LIFE ONTO YOUR TILED WALLS AND FLOORS IN JUST ONE WEEKEND

The breakthrough technology of Rust-Oleum Tile Transformations changes the look of outdated tiles without costly, messy demolition. It's ideal for tiled walls and floors in your bathroom, plus tiled splashbacks and benchtops in your kitchen. In two easy steps, simply clean the tiles and roll on the new coating. Beautiful, durable and fast, this kit will give your tiles a makeover you'll love in just one weekend.

- **Specially formulated coating bonds tightly to all ceramic and porcelain surfaces and grout**
- **No primer needed**
- **Durable fine white textured finish**
- **Available in Aspen White**



For more information visit www.rustoleum.com.au

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warehouse

🔍 Eight pool problems solved

1. Black spot algae

CAUSES

- Cracks, divots or eroding pool surface, allowing algae to grow.
- Poor water circulation.

FIX

- Treat the water with black spot and algae remover.
- Ensure the water is circulating correctly.



Hy-Clor Blackout,
\$14 for 1L. hylcor.com.au

2. Cloudy water

CAUSES

- Heavy pool use.
- pH too high.
- Poor filtration.

FIX

- Adjust pH to between 7.2 and 7.8.
- Add clarifier and recirculate for one hour, turn off the filter and let the water settle for 24 hours, then vacuum the pool.



Hy-Clor Water Clarifier,
\$14 for 2.5L.

3. Unpleasant odours

CAUSES

- Chloramines present in water.
- Chlorine level too low.

FIX

- Check chlorine levels.
- Ensure the filter is running for a sufficient amount of time.
- Clean the filter.
- Adjust pH if required.



Hy-Clor Super-Shock
Granular Chlorine, \$30 for 4kg.

4. Green water or algae

CAUSES

- Low chlorine level.
- pH too high.
- Faulty salt chlorinator.
- Pump and filter not operating.

FIX

- Clean filter.
- Check pump or chlorinator for faults.
- Check chemical levels and adjust.



Hy-Clor Instant Pool Chlorine
Pellets, \$19 for 1kg.

5. Dirty water

CAUSES

- Neglect.
- Heavy use.
- Heavy rain.
- Lack of chlorine.
- High pH.

FIX

- Broadcast flocculant.
- Vacuum debris on floor.
- Turn on filtration system to recirculate mode, or remove cartridge and then turn on filter.



Hy-Clor Flocculant,
\$10 for 2kg Soft Pack.

6. Eye irritation

CAUSES

- Low pH.
- Chloramines present in the water.
- Chlorine level too low.

FIX

- Check and adjust the pH levels.
- Add chlorine.



Hy-Clor pH Increaser,
from \$10 for 2.5kg.

7. Slippery walls & floor

CAUSES

- Algae present in pool.

FIX

- Check and adjust pH if required.
- Add chlorine.
- Add algicide evenly around the pool.



Algaefree Pool Drops, \$44.
algaefreeaustralia.com.au

8. Pool surface stains

CAUSES

- Metallic discolouration, caused by rusting fixtures or dissolved metals in the water.
- Organic stains, caused by algae build-up or leaves.

FIX

- Treat metal stains with acid, use caution.
- Use an enzyme based cleaning product on organic stains.



Hy-Clor Metal Out,
\$30 for 1kg.

Spend a little time on your pool and reap the rewards all year round.



Replacing a pool pump

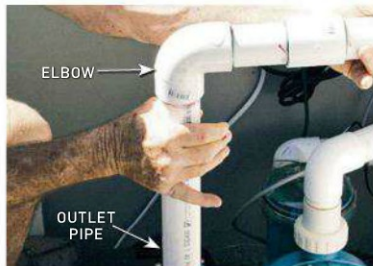
Installing a replacement pump can be as simple as undoing the inlet and outlet pipes on the old mechanism and reconnecting them to the new one.



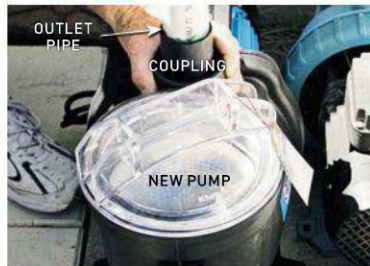
1 REMOVE THE OLD PUMP by unscrewing the coupling nuts that secure the inlet pipe to the front of the old pump, and the outlet pipe that goes to the filter.



2 POSITION THE NEW PUMP then cut the lengths of new pipe to size or modify the existing pipes as necessary. Dry-fit the parts with PVC pipe elbows and joiners.



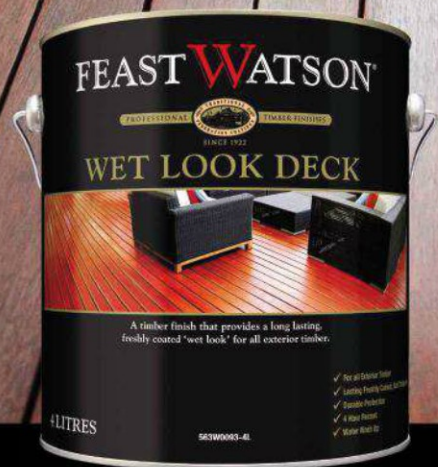
3 SECURE THE PLUMBING by priming all the joining surfaces and applying Type P green PVC pipe cement evenly to both surfaces, then assemble the parts.



4 CONNECT THE NEW PUMP to the couplings using rubber O rings between the couplings and the pump. Let the cement dry for a day before turning on the pump.

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For information on how to change from your existing finish to Wet Look Deck see www.feastwatson.com.au

POOL FENCING

Install glass panels and mini posts to stay safe without blocking the view

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER MAIN PICTURE STUART SCOTT

One are the days of the pool fence that fulfilled the safety regulations but did nothing to enhance the appearance of the yard.

Today's pool owners want a safe outdoor area that doesn't have to compromise on looks, so modern pool fencing comes in a range of materials with slimline, unobtrusive rails, posts and gate hardware.

Handyman Technical editor Frank Gardner needed a pool fence that he could install between rendered brick columns. He chose glass panels, as they are tough, visually unobtrusive and work well in any space.

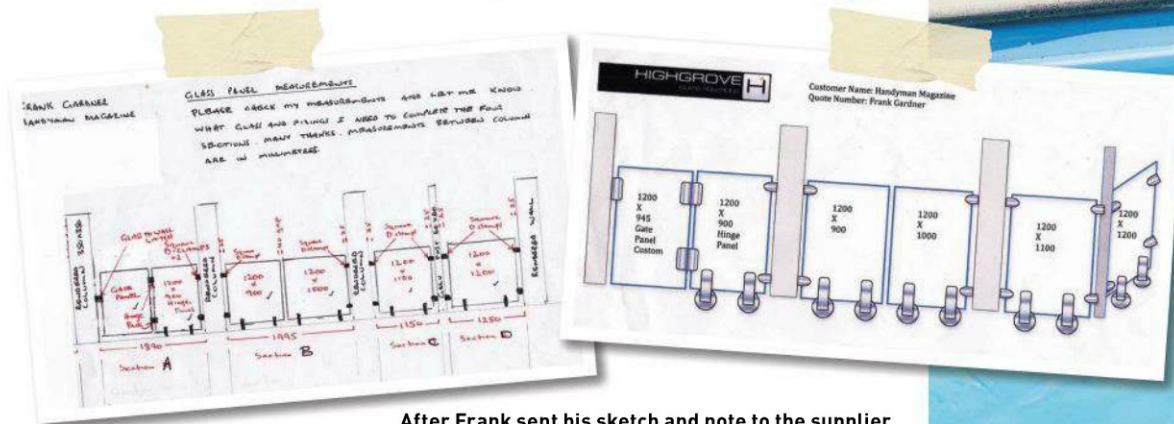
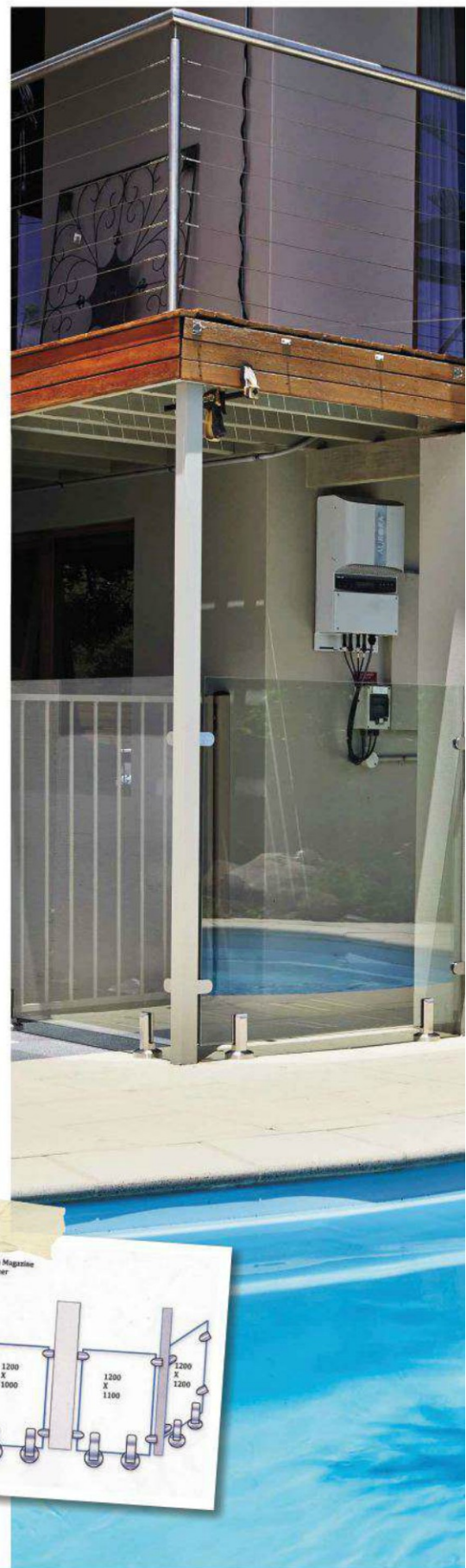
Plan the layout

Find out what components you will need to construct a pool fence that meets council requirements.

Frank chose a fully frameless mini post system from Highgrove (highgroveglass.com.au). He installed six glass panels, including one custom gate panel, with concrete footings, for \$2625. The fence measured 6.3 metres.

To help work out what you will need, send the supplier the dimensions and the type of system required.

They will respond with a diagram of the recommended configuration, plus a parts list and cost estimate. ➤



After Frank sent his sketch and note to the supplier, they responded with a customised diagram.



TIME 3 DAYS
SKILL ADVANCED

DIY \$2625

TOOLS HAMMER DRILL,
CORDLESS DRILL

This modern, streamlined glass fence gives the pool area an instant upgrade.

Installation checklist ▼

Before you start the project, make sure you're fully prepared.

■ **CONTACT THE COUNCIL** to check what building regulations you will need to comply with.

■ **CHECK THE SITE** for available attachment points such as a concrete slab or footing.

■ **CHOOSE THE FENCING** suitable for your site, then work out what components you will need.

■ **ORDER THE COMPONENTS** then prepare the site as required.

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All kits sold with battery and charger. Products also available as tool only. FSA/TECH0016

Prepare the site

This fence system requires the posts to be secured to either a 100mm thick slab or 400 x 400 x 400mm footings.

As the existing pavers had been originally laid on sand over roadbase, concrete footings had to be poured to support the new mini posts.

Frank lifted the pavers and then dug 400 x 400mm trenches through the roadbase between the columns before pouring the concrete.

'Once the footings had been poured, I screeded a 10mm thick wet mortar bed over the concrete and then replaced the pavers,' says Frank.

The mini posts were attached to the new footings using 8mm galvanised threaded rod, secured into the concrete with a chemical anchor.



Ramset UltraFix Plus Chemical Anchor, \$31 for 300ml. ramset.com.au

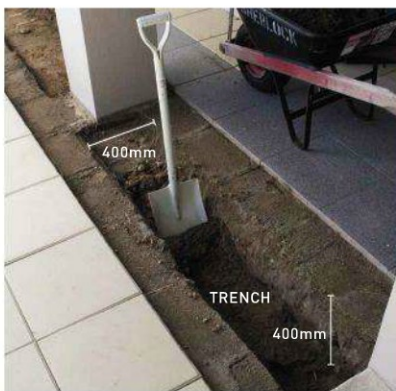


Frameless glass pool fencing provides safety while being almost invisible.



1 Lift the pavers

Work two flat drive screwdrivers into the paving joints and apply pressure to the handles to lift a paver from its location. After removing the first paver to create an opening, lift out as many pavers as required to expose the footing site.



2 Excavate the trenches

Dig 400 x 400mm trenches with centrelines corresponding to the marked fence centrelines. Use a mattock or spud bar to break up compacted roadbase then shovel it into a wheelbarrow for removal from the site.



3 Pour the concrete footing

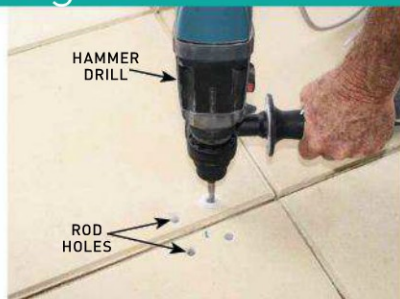
To make the concrete, combine 10 parts aggregate, five parts sand and two parts cement with water. Fill the trenches to the top of the roadbase level, then use a spirit level to screed the concrete. Leave to dry then replace all the pavers on a wet mortar mix. ➤

▼ Install the fencing



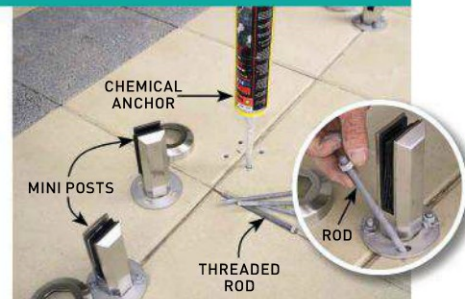
1 Set out the hole positions

Mark the fence centreline using a stringline. Mark positions for the rod holes using a mini post as a template, aligning it with the fence centreline. Position the posts 150mm from either edge of the glass panels.



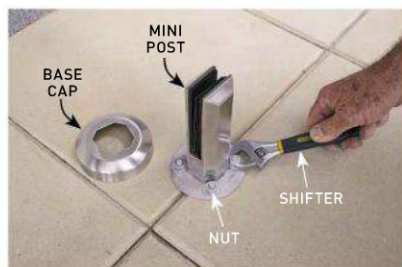
2 Drill the rod holes

Use a hammer drill with a 5mm then 10mm masonry bit to drill the holes for the rods through the paving and into the concrete footing to a minimum depth of 90mm at each marked position.



3 Anchor the rods

Position the posts and check the hole alignment then use a hacksaw to cut 8mm rod to length. Use a caulking gun to apply chemical anchor into the holes then wind in the rods, leaving 10mm protruding above the base plate.



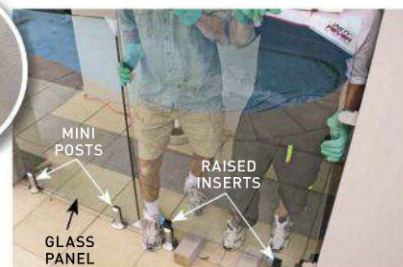
4 Bolt the posts

Leave the chemical anchor for about an hour to cure. Secure the posts to the threaded rod using galvanised washers and nuts, tightening each with a socket wrench or shifter. Slip a base cap over each mini post.



5 Secure the D-clamps

Mark the fence centreline and top and base of the glass panels on the columns. Mark screw positions 150mm from the top and base. Drill 60mm deep holes, tap in plastic plugs and secure the D-clamps with screws.



6 Position the glass panels

Working with a helper and wearing glass-gripping gloves, lift each glass panel carefully into the mini posts, making sure the rubber insert is slightly raised and not folded over. Allow the glass to slide into position.



7 Secure the glass panels

Use a measuring tape to check that the glass panels are positioned correctly with equal spacing at both ends then use an Allen key to tighten the clamp section of each mini post, securing the panels firmly.



8 Level the panels

Use a spirit level to check the glass panels are level and plumb. To make adjustments, loosen the nuts securing the mini post base and insert packers under the baseplate. Tighten the nuts and replace the base caps to finish.



9 Hinge the gate panel

Attach the hinges to the hinge panel then release the tension. Prop the gate in position and secure it, then use the supplied tensioning lever to adjust the hinge tension so the gate closes itself. Attach the latch on the pool side.

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* Not for permanent water immersion



Metal pool fence

Aluminium fencing is a popular choice for a pool surround, and is both low maintenance and affordable.

This pool previously had an unsightly fence that wasn't up to code and needed replacing. Installing the new fence was an easy weekend job.

To install a fence, set up a stringline to mark the post heights. Dig post holes then position the posts in the holes and fill with concrete.

Allow the concrete to set then secure each corner of the fence panels to the posts using the supplied brackets.

The 2450 x 1200mm Protector Aluminium panels used for this project are powdercoated, come in a range of colours and cost from \$87.

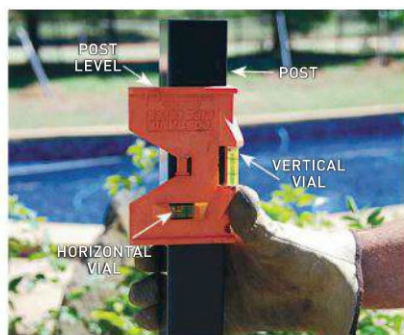
The new fence provides essential pool safety without detracting from the look of the backyard.



Cement Australia Concrete Mix, \$7 for 10kg. cementaustralia.com.au



Stay safe with an easy-to-install pool fence that meets Australian standards.



1 Plumb the posts
Mark post holes 2500mm apart. Dig holes 600mm deep and allow for one extra post for any change of direction or to finish a run. When marking out the gate, allow 1000mm from inside post to inside post. Install the posts and check for plumb using a post level.



2 Attach the fence panels
Slide the panel brackets over the top and base rails, resting them on temporary blocks. Check that the fence panels are correctly aligned using a spirit level, then secure them to the concreted posts using self-drilling Tek screws.



3 Hang the gate
Attach self-closing hinges to the outside of the gate, 80mm from the top rail and level with the base horizontal rail using self-drilling Tek screws. Space the gate evenly, checking for level. Secure the latch to the gatepost 1500mm from the ground.



Pool safety regulations

The laws in Australia are similar in each state, although there are a few regional variations.

Some states require you to obtain a Certificate of Registration.

If your home is to be sold you may also need a Pool Compliance Certificate, which will involve an inspection from your local council.

The following Australian standards apply in all states.

■ **POOL FENCES** must be at least 1200mm high with gaps of 100mm or less and nothing climbable nearby.

■ **THE GATES** must swing away from the pool and be self-closing with latches on the pool side, 300mm from the top of glass gates or 1500mm from the ground on metal gates.

To ensure you comply fully with regulations, visit your state government's website for more information on pool safety.



Magnetic Glass To Wall Latch, \$190.
highgroveglass.com.au



G8safe Push Tri Latch, \$79.
g8safe.com.au



Series 3 MagnaLatch with Indicator, \$89.
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OPEN-AIR SHOWER

Build a frame and plumb it DIY to rinse off after the beach or before a swim in the pool

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER MAIN PICTURE STUART SCOTT

Standing under an alfresco shower is the ideal way to rinse off salt, sand or chlorine after a dip on a hot summer's day.

Made from merbau decking with screens on three sides, this simple, attractive design is a desirable addition to any pool or garden area.

Position the shower either on the lawn or a hard surface, preferably with a drain nearby.

Merbau is durable, readily available and finishes well after a light sand. It's also heavy enough to make the structure stable.

Finish the timber with decking oil to seal it from moisture.

TIP Merbau, like most hardwoods, can stain light-coloured paving or concrete as tannins leach out in the first few months.



Feast Watson Wet Look Decking Oil, \$83 for 4L. feastwatson.com.au

Connect the plumbing

The shower plumbing consists of two lengths of half-inch copper water pipe joined with brass compression fittings that feature an outer nut and inner ring of copper or nylon called an olive.

Measure and mark the finished timber frame to calculate the lengths of pipe required.

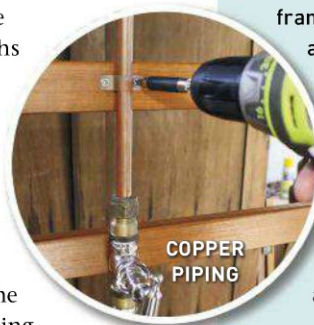
Cut the pipe to size with a hacksaw and smooth the cut edges with a file.

Attach an elbow to one end of each length of pipe with the olive and the nut, taking care not to over-tighten.

Connect the tap between the two pipes using straight joiners. Add the showerhead by securing it to the top elbow using an adjustable wrench.

Secure the shower assembly to the centre of the framework using copper pipe brackets and 15mm x 8g stainless steel screws. Connect the shower to a snap-on garden hose.

TIP When showering, take care if the hose has been in the sun as the initial flow of water may be very hot. ➤



Preparing the timber ▼

The base platform and posts are cut from 90 x 19mm timber.

The back and side slats are the same merbau decking boards used for the rest of the framing cut along the grain on a tablesaw. A circular saw can also be used.

Adjust the width of the tablesaw fence to cut exactly on the centre of the boards, using a push stick to guide the boards through the blade and protect fingers.

Use a router and a 6mm roundover bit to finish the square cut edges so that they all look the same, then sand them with 180 grit paper.



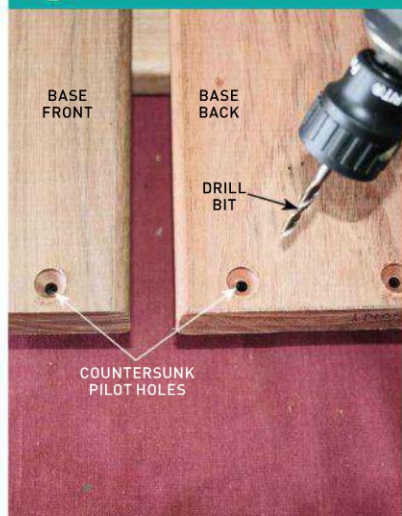
TIME 1 DAY
SKILL INTERMEDIATE

DIY \$340

TOOLS MITRESAW,
DRILL, ROUTER

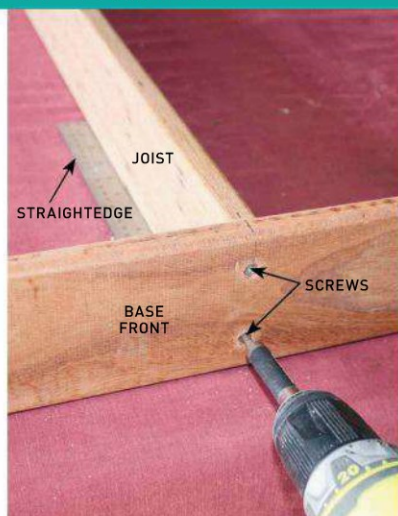
A simple timber shower gives the pool area a resort feel.

▼ Make the shower frame



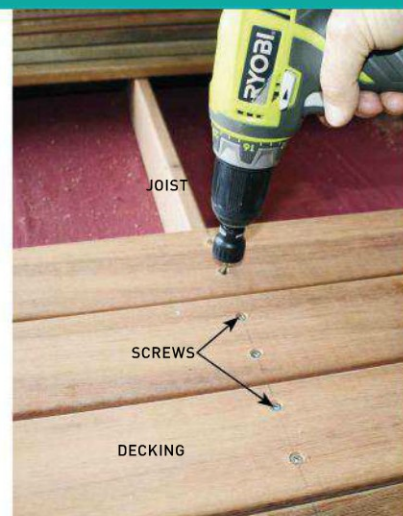
1 Prepare the base frame

Use a mitresaw to cut the base front, base back and joists to length. Lightly sand the cut edges to remove any splintering. Drill a pair of 2mm countersunk pilot holes, 10mm in from each end and in the centre of the base front and back.



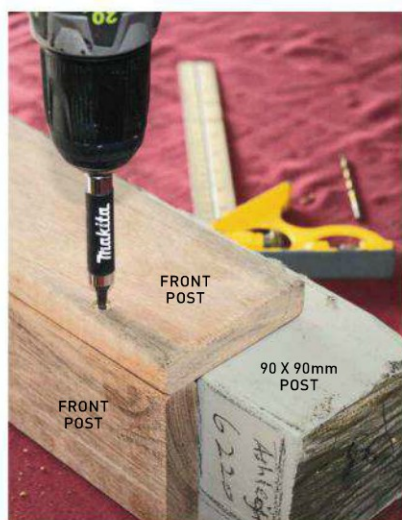
2 Build the base

Apply exterior adhesive to the end of the joists then position the base front and secure with stainless steel screws. Attach the back, keeping the edges flush and checking the 900 x 900mm base frame for square by measuring the diagonals.



3 Secure the decking

Lay out the decking boards with equal gaps to determine spacing. Position each board, drill countersunk pilot holes at the ends and secure with screws. Mark a centreline across the boards, drill pilot holes and secure to the centre joist.



4 Make the corner posts

Arrange the long back and short front posts into pairs. Position each pair at right angles over a length of 90 x 90mm post. Drill 2mm countersunk pilot holes 50mm from each end and at 300mm centres then join each of the four corners together.



5 Assemble the back frame

Lay the back corner posts together on a level surface. Mark 500, 800, 950, 1100, 1250, 1400, 1735 and 2075mm up from the base, squaring lines across. Space the posts 900mm apart and secure the slats in position, keeping the marked line at the top of each one.

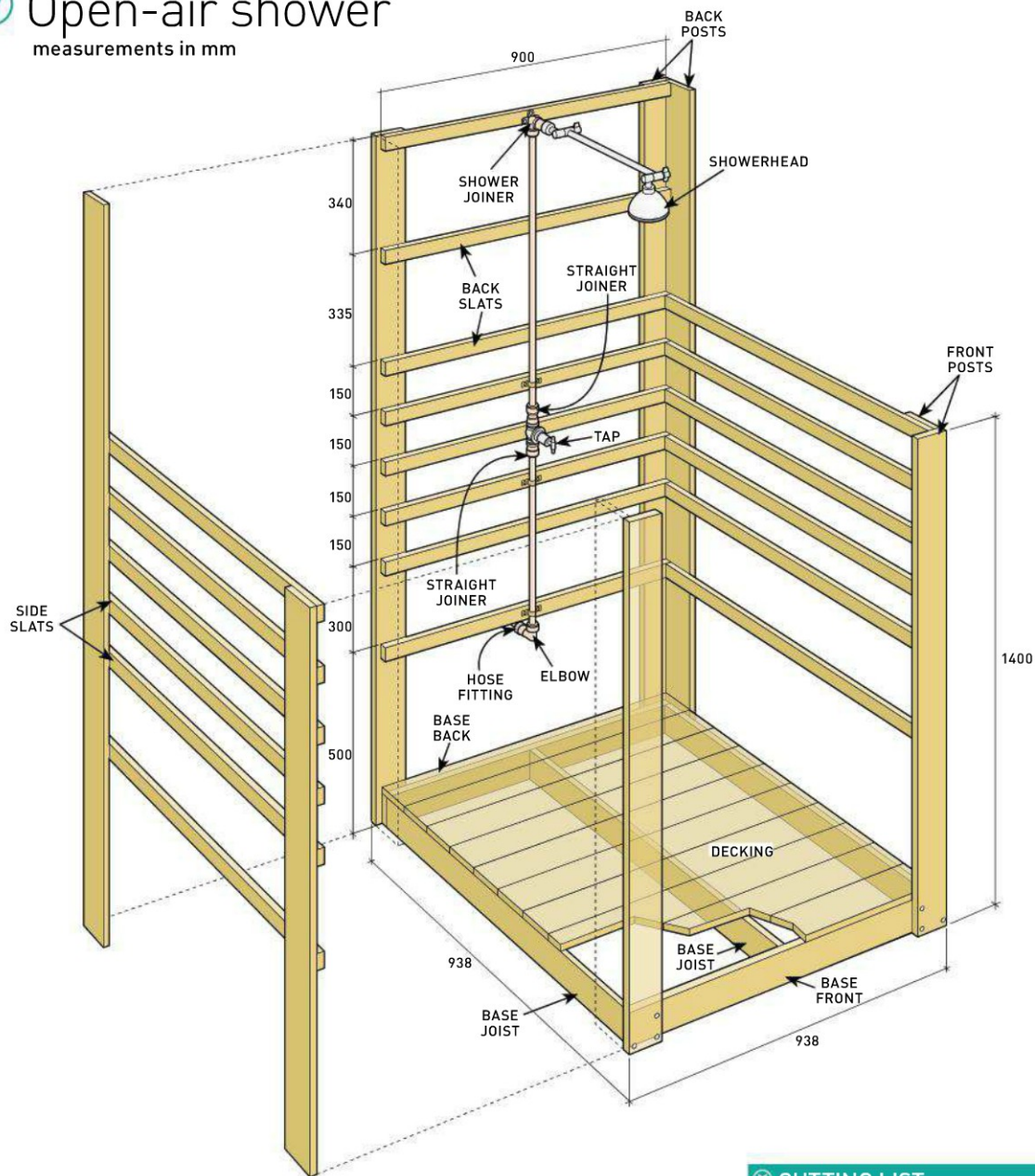


6 Attach the sides

Stand the back, check for plumb and secure it to the base back and sides. Attach slats to the front posts in the same spacings as the back frame and position each side, aligning the slats. Attach side slats to the back posts and the front corner posts to the base.

Open-air shower

measurements in mm



FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
50mm x 8g stainless steel decking screws	Base, deck and posts
30mm x 8g galvanised exterior screws	Slats
15mm x 8g stainless screws	Copper pipe brackets

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
Merbau decking		
Front posts	1400 x 90 x 19	4
Back posts	2075 x 90 x 19	4
Base front/back	900 x 90 x 19	2
Base joists	862 x 90 x 19	3
Decking	900 x 90 x 19	10
Back slats	900 x 42 x 19	8
Side slats	881 x 42 x 19	12

Handyman.net.au
Download the tools, materials
and costs to make this project.



TIME 2 DAYS
SKILL INTERMEDIATE

DIY \$930

TOOLS CIRCULAR SAW,
MITRESAW, NIBBLER

This weatherproof, low-profile pump house is constructed with traditional stud walls and a gable roof.

POOL PUMP HOUSE

Keep essential machinery out of sight and protected from weather extremes

PROJECT AND PICTURES ROBERT REICHENFELD

Some backyard fixtures are best kept hidden, and the pool pump is no exception. This miniature house conceals the machinery and protects it from the elements, while still allowing easy access.

The dimensions can also be easily adapted to suit other items that you'd prefer to hide, such as wheelie bins or LPG cylinders.

To build the stud walls and gable roof frames, use primed H3 treated pine, cutting the ridge end of the rafters and barge at 30° using a sliding compound mitresaw.

Since this is a small structure with only three pairs of rafters, there is no need to include a ridge board, just reinforce the rafter joints using collar ties cut from mending plates using a jigsaw with a metal cutting blade.

For the cladding, rebated Baltic pine weatherboards were ordered raw then primed before assembly, but to save time, you could buy primed H3 treated pine or manufactured boards such as Weathertex instead.

Use a nibbler or aviation shears to cut the galvanised corrugated roofing sheets to size, pairing them with tubular barge capping for a classic country look.

To finish, add the hardware and paint the pump house. ➤



Pryda Mending Plate, 190 x 100mm, about \$2. pryda.com.au

Add the hardware ▼

Once the pump house is bolted in position, use a 25mm chisel to cut housings for 100mm stainless steel butt hinges in the doorjamb and side of the door. Secure the hinges and hang the door, then add a padbolt.

Cover the screw heads with exterior filler, leave to dry then sand lightly with 120 grit paper.

Apply metal primer to the galvanised roof followed by a metal paint. Finish the timber components with two coats of exterior acrylic.

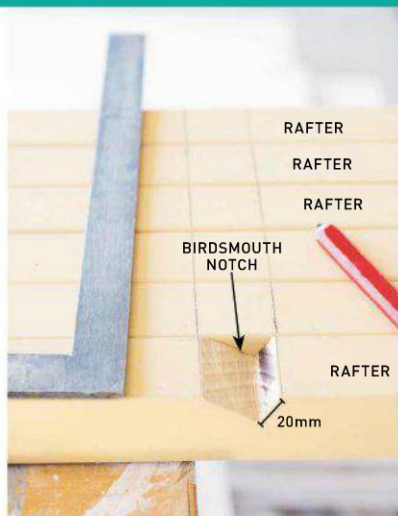


**DOOR
HARDWARE**

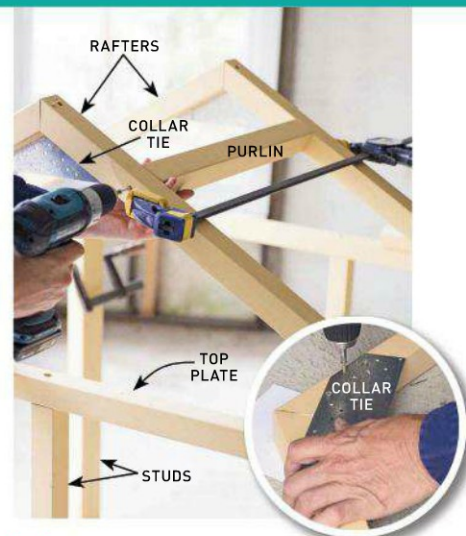
🔧 Build the pump house



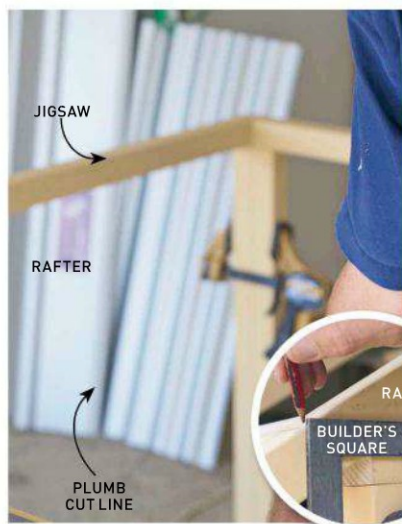
1 Construct the wall frames
Use bugle screws to secure the studs between the base and top plates. Clamp the side frames between the front and back then secure with screws.
TIP The door-side frame comprises a pair of jambs and a top plate only, with no base plate.



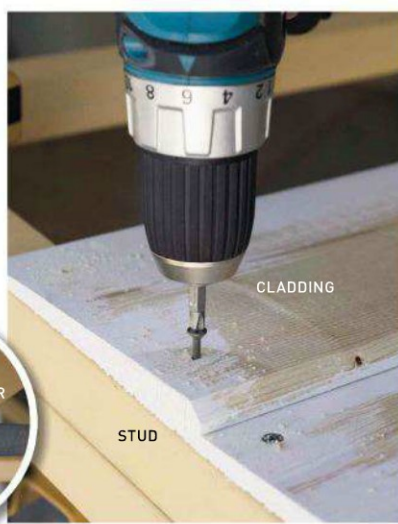
2 Prepare the rafters
Clamp a pair of rafters together in position and mark birdsmouth notches 20mm deep at the point where the rafters meet the top plates. Cut the first notch then clamp all six rafters with their ends flush to mark and cut the remaining notches.



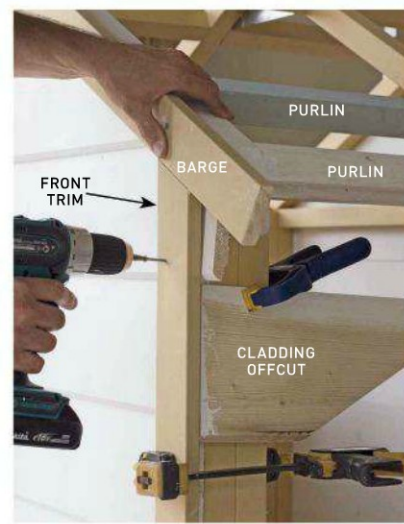
3 Build the roof frame
Secure the pairs of rafters together using screws and cut-down mending plates as collar ties. Clamp purlins in between and secure with screws.
TIP Position the end purlins to rest against the top plates and plane off the corner flush with the rafters.



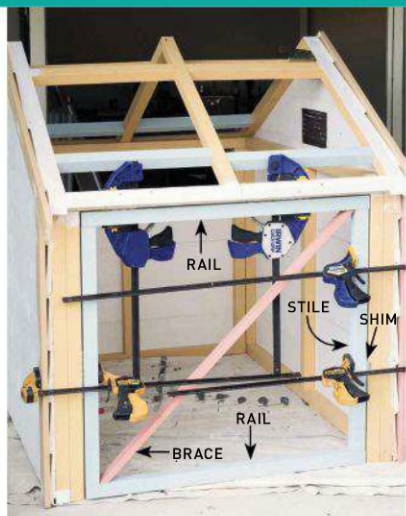
4 Trim the rafters
Use a builder's square to mark a plumb cut line on the rafter ends 40mm from the edge of the frame, and then use a jigsaw with its baseplate set to 30° to trim the ends of the rafters. Secure the purlins to the top plates with screws.



5 Secure the cladding
Turn the structure on its side then, working from the base up, attach the cladding using screws. Mark the gable pieces directly from the rafter profile and cut them as you go.
TIP Make the small top piece of gable cladding from an offcut.

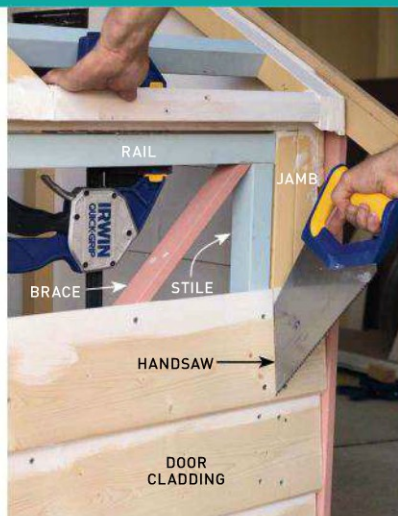


6 Add the barges and trim
Clamp the barges in position, overhanging the rafters by 18mm, then secure with treated pine screws. Mark and cut the front and back trim pieces to fit, using a cladding offcut to space the overhang.
TIP Don't add the side trim pieces yet.



7 Build the door frame

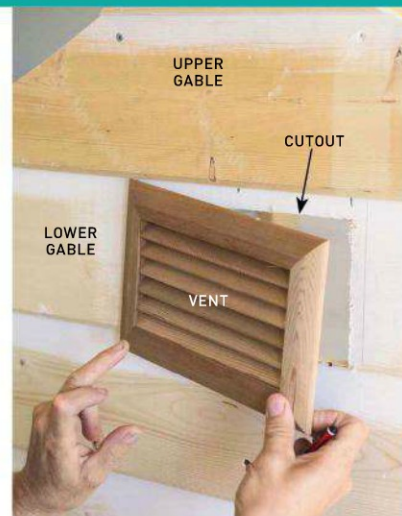
Clamp the stiles between the rails and secure with screws. Mark the diagonal brace directly from the door and cut to size, then secure from the top of the bolt side to the base of the hinge side. Clamp the door in position using shims to maintain even spacing.



8 Clad the door

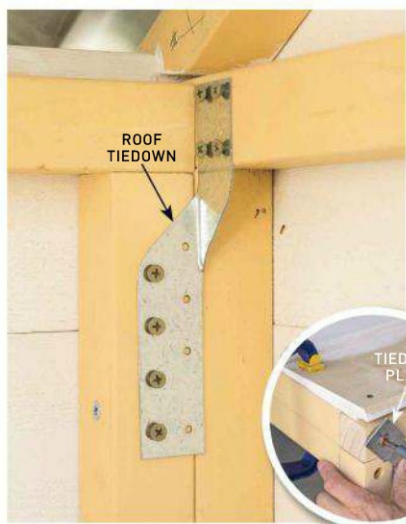
Attach cladding across the entire door side, securing the boards with screws both to the door structure and the jambs. Use a handsaw to cut the door free by sawing down the gaps.

TIP Start the cut before securing the uppermost board.



9 Install the vent

Bore a starter hole in the lower gable using a drill with a 10mm twist bit, then use a jigsaw to make a cutout for the vent. Secure the vent using construction adhesive. Add the side trim then use a handsaw to cut the cladding flush with the barge.



10 Add tiedowns and plates

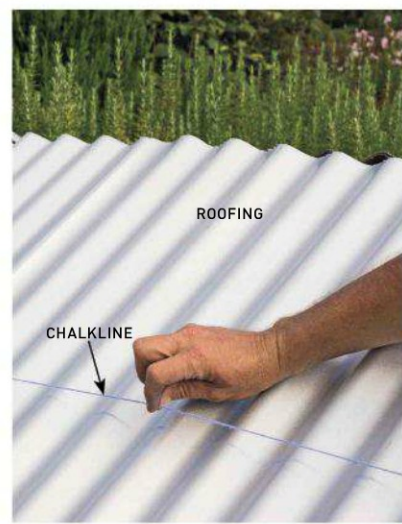
Connect the internal corners of the walls to the roof frame with galvanised tiedowns. Attach the tiedown plates to the underside of the frame using bugle screws.

TIP You will need two left-twist and two right-twist tiedowns for the roof.



11 Secure the barge capping

Attach the battens to the rafters using screws. Measure and mark the roll-top barge capping from the roof frame and use a hacksaw to cut it to size. Clamp the barge capping in position then secure it to the barge and rafters using roofing screws.

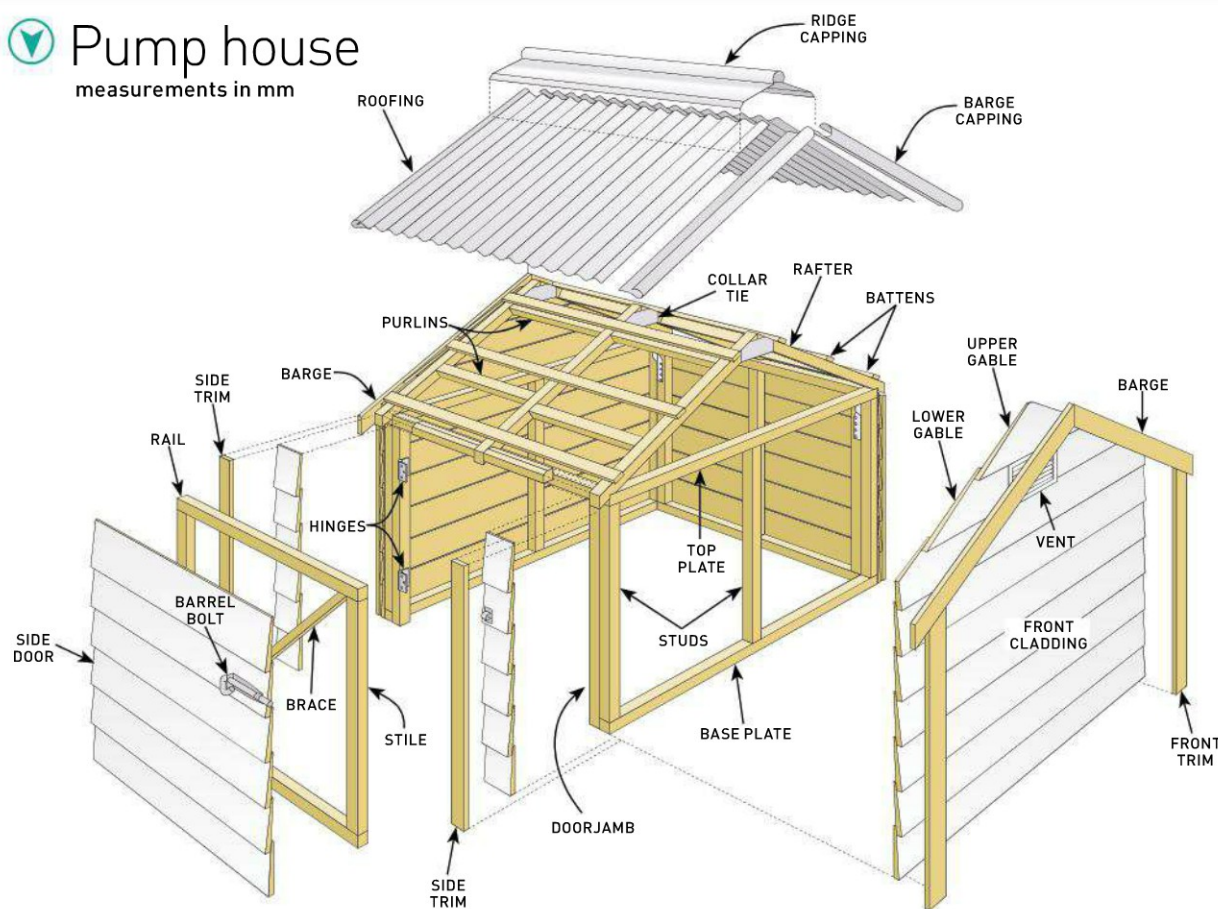


12 Attach the roofing

Snap a chalkline to show the batten centrelines then use screws to secure the roofing sheets, overlapping them by one and a half corrugations. Add the ridge cap then use a masonry bit to drill 8mm diameter holes in the slab to secure the frame. ➤

Pump house

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
H3 Primed treated pine		
Studs	806 x 42 x 42	9
Base/top plates	1350 x 42 x 42	4
Side base/top plates	980 x 42 x 42	3
Doorjamb sides	848 x 42 x 42	2
Rails	880 x 42 x 42	2
Stiles	750 x 42 x 42	2
Brace	1110 x 42 x 18	1
Rafters	835 x 42 x 42	6
Purlins	469 x 42 x 42	12
Barges	920 x 65 x 19	4
Front/back trim	873 x 65 x 19	4
Side trim	842 x 65 x 19	4
Battens	1095 x 42 x 18	6
Baltic pine cladding		
Front/back	1350 x 165 x 18	12
Lower gables	1150 x 165 x 18	2
Upper gables	700 x 165 x 18	2
Side/door	880 x 165 x 18	12

Galvanised steel

Roofing	810 x 920	2
	460 x 920	2
Ridge capping	1240 x 350	1
Barge capping	920 x 100 x 50	4

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Bugle screws 75mm x 14g	Wall and door frames, tiedown plates
Treated pine screws 75mm x 10g	Roof frame
Treated pine screws 20mm x 8g	Collar ties, padbolt and roof tiedowns
Treated pine screws 40mm x 8g	Cladding, barges, trim, battens and hinges
Self-drilling roofing screws 50mm x 10g	Roofing and ridge cap
Self-drilling roofing screws 25mm x 8g	Barge capping

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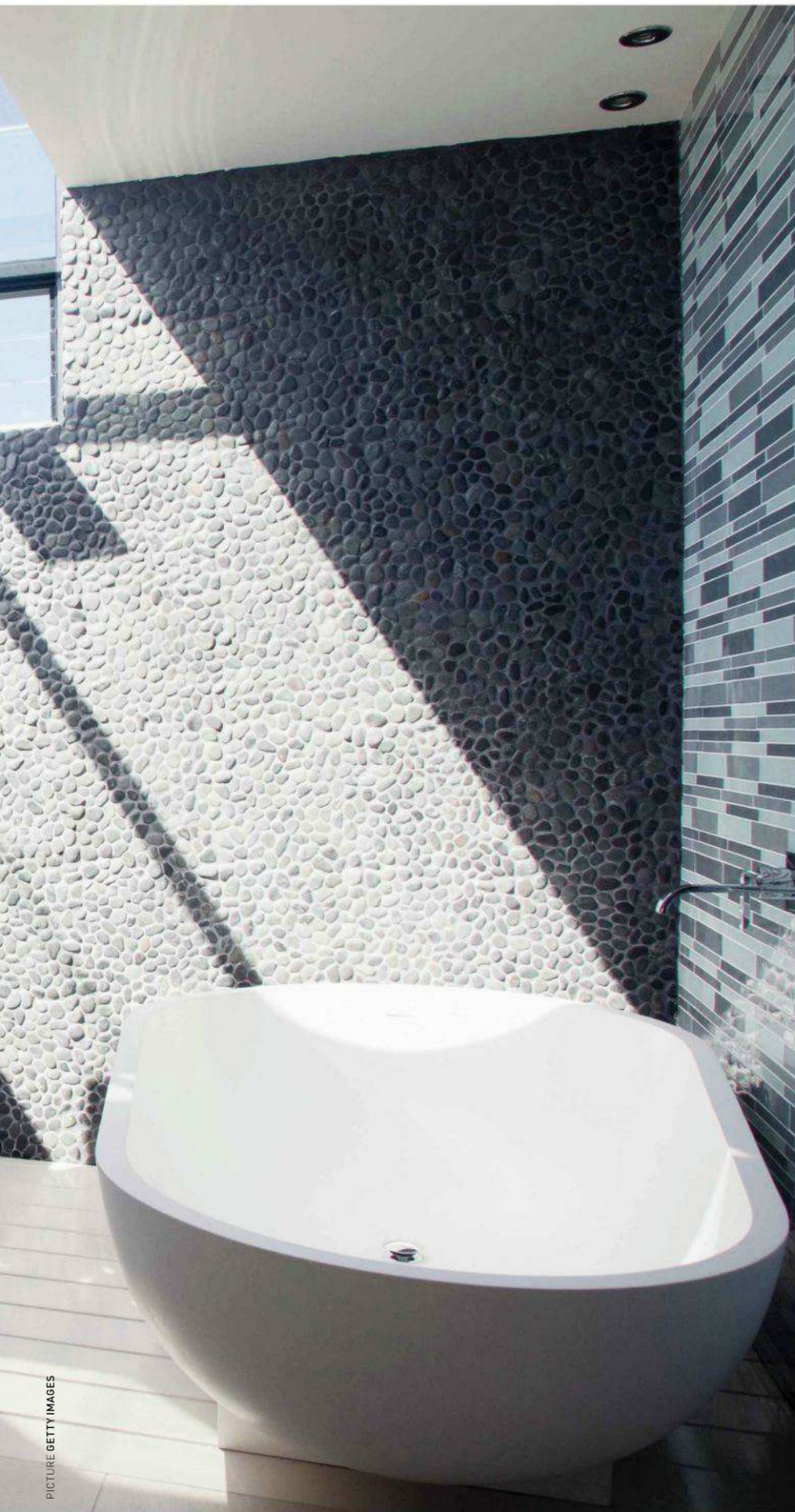


Bright ideas

Set the right tone in the bathroom using lighting
to create a haven for the whole family

WORDS SITA SIMONS

Find innovative ways to bring in
as much natural light as possible
to create a relaxing sanctuary.



PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

Great bathroom design is dependent on great lighting. In a space that each family member uses daily, lighting is as essential a component as the fittings.

Successful lighting is achieved by a layered approach that tackles each bathroom function separately, from grooming to unwinding, while working as a whole to enhance the best features and create ambience.

1 Natural light

In the bathroom, we spend a lot of time looking in the mirror so bringing in daylight is a priority. When it comes to windows think big and, if possible, floor-to-ceiling.

Privacy can be maintained using frosted glass, which has the added benefit of diffusing the light for a slightly softer focus. Louvres draw in fresh air as well as light, and allow for the control of strong sunlight.

Windows in older bathrooms tend to be small, so if you're planning a big renovation, consider enlarging them or adding more.

If you have a view that's worthy of attention, bifolds can create wow factor by bringing the outside in. ➤



Velux Manual Openable Skylight, various sizes, from \$826. velux.com.au



A soak in the bath is more relaxing with soft, diffused mood lighting.

2 Keep it private

The downside of large windows in the bathroom is that you increase the chance of being seen from the street.

Frosted and obscure glass provide good privacy but if your budget won't stretch that far, try tinted or frosted film on the existing windows.

A bathroom needs airflow, but opening windows can reduce privacy. Using blinds or shutters is the obvious solution, but make sure the material is suitable for a wet area and go for wide slats to avoid mildew build-up.

3 Small spaces

Modern architecture has begun to bend the rules, but in most homes the bathroom is one of the smallest rooms. If there's no space for big windows a skylight may be the answer.

Compared to vertical windows, a skylight lets in far more light and, because the illumination comes from above, shadows and glare are minimal.

Skylights are relatively low cost, but it may be worth spending a bit more for models with rain sensors that close automatically in bad weather.

4 Task lighting

For shaving or putting on make-up, a strong, even light is needed around the mirror and vanity.

A common mistake is to position a downlight above the mirror, which creates shadows on the face.

Vertical fittings either side of the mirror at about eye level will cast an even light across the face to minimise any unflattering shadows.

5. The right accent

Show off your best design features and fittings with accent lighting. Recessed spotlights make stylish statements, while lights with domed covers spread the light out more evenly. Bath and shower lighting works best with diffused rather than direct light.

Illuminate cabinetry with integrated LEDs and add flexibility by having lights wired to separate switches and installing dimmers to control the brightness.

6 Turn up the heat

Mould and mildew can cause big problems so good airflow is essential. Boost ventilation by pairing your lighting with an extraction fan.

Adding a heat lamp is a low-cost way of providing a source of warmth, which makes getting in and out of the bath and shower more comfortable in winter, but also helps absorb moisture.

Infrared bulbs work by using most of the energy generated to produce heat rather than light. A heat lamp is expensive to run if left on for long periods so wire it into a light switch and turn both off at the same time. ➤



IXL 3 in 1 Neo White Fan Heater With Light, \$569. ixlappliances.com.au



Good light fittings work with the decor to unify the overall look.

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Sure can!



7 A soft touch

If you are up often during the night, or have young children, a soft light source is useful.

Keep running costs low by installing concealed LED strips behind moulding, which also serves to highlight the perimeter of the room, drawing the eye outwards.

6 Set the mood

When you want the bathroom to be a relaxing, luxurious space, ambient lighting comes to the fore.

The central ceiling fixture is the main light source and, depending on the size of the room, can be a decorative focal point.

Using a dramatic fitting such as a chandelier or designer shade can transform an average bathroom into something more special.

In any new bathroom, installing dimmer switches will pay dividends even on task lighting, by allowing your eyes to adjust in the morning.

9 What wattage?

In the main or guest bathrooms use fixtures that provide 75 to 100 watts of illumination, which equates to a 24 to 26 watt compact fluorescent or 20 to 25 watt LED.

Compact fluorescent bulbs are best for task lighting. Lights in a second bathroom, where there is less need for task lighting, can function with much lower wattage, in the 45 watt range.

10 Upon reflection

The surfaces and colours of finishes and paints all have an effect on the quality and tone of the light.

Mirrors, tiles and stainless steel will reflect light and maximise the ambience, but can also create glare.

Some paint colours will work well with cool white bulbs while others cast a better light with warm white.

It might be worthwhile consulting a lighting professional to achieve a colour balance for your bathroom that is as even and natural as possible.



The colours and textures of bathroom fittings affect the tone of the light.

PICTURE GETTY IMAGES



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Get the look



**Forme 1200mm Grey Ash
Wall Hung Vanity, \$909.**



**Marbletrent Barossa Slider
Shower Screen, 1220 x 900mm,
\$689. Base not included.**

**Flexispray Tetro Shower,
WELS 3 Star 9L/min,
\$79.95.**



**Caroma Cirrus Basin
Mixer, WELS 5 Star
6L/min, \$119.**



**Mondella Rococo Back To Wall
Toilet Suite, \$289. WELS 4 Star
3L/Half, 3.5L/Average
and 4.5L/Full Flush.**





Soften modern lines and create a resort-like feel with a curved tub.

Styling the bathroom

Transform a cluttered, uninspiring space into a sleek, modern sanctuary

Considering it's such a vital room in the house, the bathroom is often sorely neglected when it comes to style.

Use modern fixtures, lighting and design elements to turn your claustrophobic bathroom into a talking point while adding value.

Update the fittings

The simplest and most affordable way to modernise a bathroom is by updating the fixtures.

Choose chrome mixer taps for a sleek look and install an adjustable rail shower for added convenience.

Space is often the key issue when it comes to bathroom renovations. Make a room feel bigger by filling it with natural light from large windows.

Add a sense of space with mirrors and frameless glass shower screens.

Maximise storage while keeping an open feel by installing a floating vanity. Use recessed shelves to minimise clutter, free up bench space and add visual appeal.

Install a toilet that sits flush to the wall or features an in-wall cistern to save space and make it easier to clean.

If space permits, dual basins and showers allow two people to use the bathroom at once, preventing morning queues and adding a touch of luxury.



Natural light, large mirrors and bright colours add a sense of space.

VANITY MAKEOVER

Painted cabinets and exotic tiles give this dated bathroom an instant facelift

PROJECT LEE DASHIELL PICTURES GEOFF BECK

When a bathroom needs updating you don't have to spend thousands replacing all the fittings. A coat of paint and one or two well-chosen pieces can breathe new life into old cabinets.

Handyman Managing editor Lee Dashiell's bathroom had 1980s timber cabinetry that was still sound, but over the years had become scratched and the surface looked patchy.

'To change the look, plus modernise and brighten the room, we decided to paint the cabinets,' says Lee.

'We also wanted to add some personality so we tiled over the benchtop with Mexican tiles and installed hand-painted sinks.'

To install a sink, place it upside down on the benchtop and mark its outline on the timber with a pencil.

Make 10mm marks inside the outline every 50mm, then connect the marks to form the cut line.

'I used a drill with a 10mm bit to make a starter hole inside the cut line, then made the cut with a jigsaw while supporting the cutout,' says Lee.

'I smoothed the edges with a sanding block and sealed them with finishing oil to stop moisture damage.

Painting the doors

Preparation is key to a good finish, so the doors were scrubbed with sugar soap and undercoated with a primer and sealer.

Priming timber before painting is essential and Lee used a product with a stain block to stop any colours leaching out of the timber and showing through the paint.

'I was surprised how well the primer-sealer adhered to and coated the glossy doors. I didn't have to sand them down to prepare them, which was a great time saver,' says Lee.

The cabinets were given two coats of primer and two coats of paint, then finished off with new handles. ➤



Zinsser Bulls Eye 1-2-3 Undercoat Primer Sealer, \$60 for 3.75L. rustoleum.com.au



AFTER
Newly painted doors and a retiled benchtop leave the bathroom looking fresh, modern and clean.



Laying the tiles

When creating a splashback using tiles in varied patterns, Lee advises first arranging the tiles on the floor to avoid similar ones being placed together.

A tile cutter should be used for straight cuts and can be hired for about \$60 a day. For angled tiles near the sink, use an angle grinder to cut the tiles halfway through then snap them.

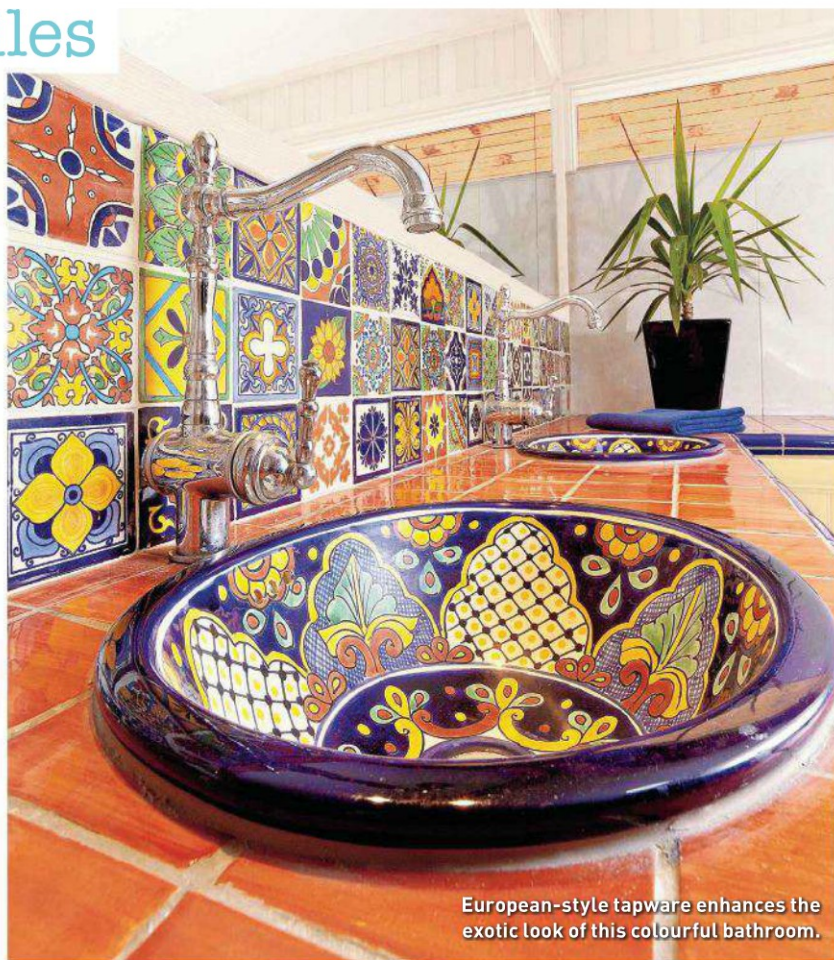
'Prior to tiling, I applied a coating of primer and bond-enhancer to create a porous surface for the tiles,' says Lee.

Lay the front edging tiles first to ensure even spacing, followed by the bench tiles then the splashback tiles.

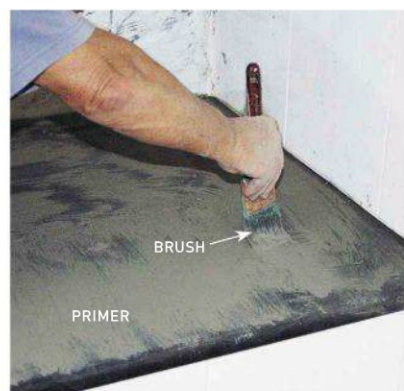
Finally, install the sinks then apply silicone around the edges to seal them. Have a plumber connect additional taps and re-route the drains if necessary.



Davco Ultrabond Liquid, \$49 for 5L, and Powder, \$28 for 20kg. davco.com.au



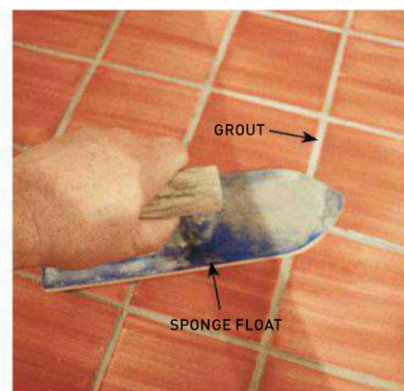
European-style tapware enhances the exotic look of this colourful bathroom.



1 Prepare the surface
Mix five parts of primer powder and three parts liquid in a bucket. Add a further three parts powder and mix thoroughly, then add two parts powder and stir. Leave the mix to stand for 10 minutes then re-stir. Apply two coats with a brush.



2 Lay the tiles
Apply tile adhesive to the back of each tile using a notched trowel, then lay them in position on the benchtop and splashback.
TIP Decorative tiles vary in size so set them out to check the fit before applying the coating and adhesive.



3 Grout the tiles
Prepare the grout and work it over the tiles with a sponge float to fill the gaps in between. Leave it to dry then remove the excess with a wet sponge, buffing the tiles with a towel.
TIP Use a grout additive to strengthen bonds and increase water resistance.

FEATURED

HOW TO BE A DIY HERO

Your mate across the fence is doing it. Those guys on the TV are doing it. Now, it's your turn.

BY MARBLETREND BATHROOMS

TODAY, it's all about DIY. Follow these three simple steps and you'll be a homegrown DIY hero in no time!

1 DO YOUR RESEARCH

Before jumping in, make sure you ask these questions:

- Where do the tradies shop?
- What is the best brand for the DIY bathroom renovator?
- What preparation will you need to do?
- How long will installation take?

It also pays to search online to review product styles and get the latest installation tips and tricks. Our favourite forum is the 'Help! I'm Renovating My Bathroom' page on Facebook.

2 ASK THE EXPERTS

Still unsure? Ask the experts – check out product reviews on YouTube, call a showroom to get a better understanding of product features or jump onto forums and groups discussing bathroom renovations online.

3 MAKE IT EASY FOR YOURSELF

Before purchasing, make sure you check the following:

- Does the product come with an installation manual or, even better, an installation kit?
- What are the warranty periods?
- Are there different size options?
- How easy is cleaning and maintenance?

For product and stockist information, go to www.marbletrend.com.au



Marbletrend Bathrooms
Barossa Pivot Shower Screen



Marbletrend Bathrooms
Barossa Slider Shower Screen

The **Barossa Shower Screen**, by Marbletrend Bathrooms, is available as a pivot frameless, semi-frameless or slider screen, in a range of sizes. The shower comes with an easy-to-clean toughened glass surface, and installation kit – perfect for DIY.



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DIY \$350
TOOLS CIRCULAR SAW,
DRILL, ROUTER

Iridescent glass tiles reflect a kaleidoscope of brilliant colours that change with the light and viewing angle.

FRAMED MOSAIC MIRROR

Create a designer piece on a DIY budget using timber, glass tile sheets and a panel of MDF

Most mirrors around the home are functional pieces on bathroom cabinets or wardrobe doors. Create a decorative feature DIY by giving a plain mirror a timber frame and mosaic border.

Cut a 1200 x 900 x 16mm MDF panel, \$18, down to 1170 x 870mm. Build a frame for the backing from two 2400 x 65 x 19mm lengths of Tasmanian oak, about \$15 each.

Add mosaic tile sheets for the border then use mirror and glass adhesive to secure a 900 x 600 x 5mm mirror with a bevelled edge, about \$30, from Bunnings.

Meranti or radiata pine can also be used for the frame but Tasmanian oak has a tight grain pattern and natural

sheen that's beautifully enhanced by a coat of Cabot's Oil Based Interior Stain, \$18 for 250ml.

You'll also need both tile and PVA adhesive, premixed grout, clear polyurethane and timber screws.

Cut the frame pieces using a mitre box and tenon saw or a mitresaw. For this project, the stiles are 1170mm long and the rails 950mm.

Hang the mirror

To wall-mount the mirror, use a stud finder to locate two adjacent studs then mark the screw hole positions, drawing a level line across them.

Check the exact distance between the points then use a twist bit to drill pilot holes and secure 65mm x 8g



screws into the studs, leaving the heads protruding about 3mm.

Cut 3mm deep housings on the top of the backing panel with a router for 26 x 15mm D-rings, spaced to match the wall screws.

TIP Use 50mm x 8g screws with wall plugs to hang it on masonry. ➤

Choosing the mosaics ▼

Mosaic tiles are often sold in sheet form, with the tile faces glued to paper or backed with mesh.

The opalescent tiles used for this project were paper faced, so no mesh can be seen through the glass.

If using mesh-backed tiles, choose an adhesive in the same colour to create a uniform backing.

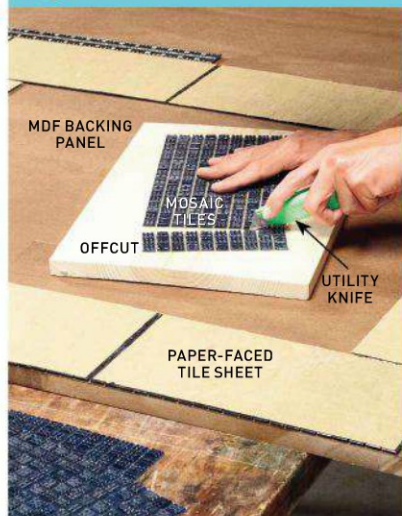


Galaxy Blue Opal 15 x 15mm Mosaic Tile Sheet, \$35. mosaictiles.com.au



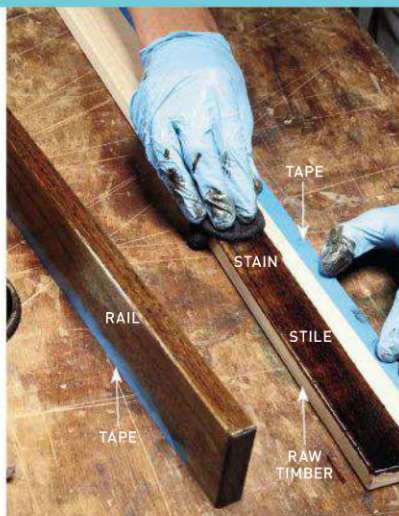
Cotto Tiles 19 x 19mm Tile Glass Mosaic, \$18, in three colours, from Bunnings.

Make the mosaic frame



1 Set out the border

Cut the MDF to 1170 x 870mm using a circular saw and straightedge guide. Trim the mosaic tile sheets to 150mm wide using a utility knife, then set out into a border on the MDF backing using a builder's square to align the corners, and number each sheet.



2 Prepare the frame

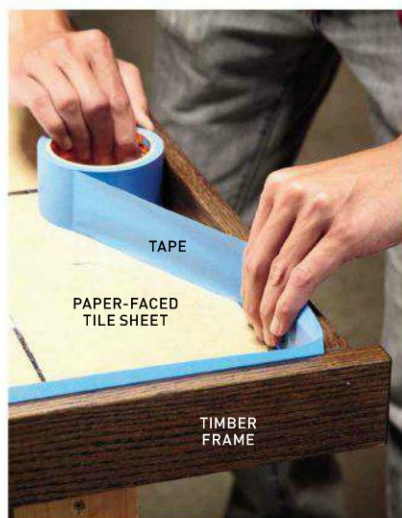
Lightly sand the frame pieces with 180 grit paper. Mask off the sections that will be glued to the MDF backing. Apply a coat of timber stain and clear polyurethane, then secure the frame pieces to the MDF and each other with PVA adhesive and 40mm x 8g screws.



3 Lay the tiles

Apply premixed tile adhesive to the MDF backing using a notched trowel then position the tile sheets, butting them against the inside edges of the timber frame to align them.

TIP Use wall tile adhesive to prevent the sheets from slumping.



4 Mask the frame

To keep grout off the timber, apply tape around the inside of the frame, butting the edge against the tiles. Soak the paper facing on the tiles with water then carefully peel it away.

TIP Use a painter's multi-tool to push the tape right into the corners.



5 Apply the grout

Work premixed grout into the tiles on the diagonal using a sponge float. Let it dry for 20 minutes then wash off the excess grout with a sponge and clean water. After 24 hours, buff off the grout haze using a cloth and a mix of water and white vinegar.



6 Secure the mirror

Cut 300 x 40mm shims from 3mm scrap MDF and attach them to the backing panel using PVA adhesive. Use a caulking gun to apply mirror and glass adhesive to the shims and the inner row of tiles, then lower the mirror into position and leave to dry.

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EASY DIY BATHROOM FIXES

Make minor repairs to save on plumbing costs, reduce water wastage and prolong the life of your fittings

Like any other room in the house, the bathroom needs regular maintenance to keep it in good shape and avoid expensive repairs.

Taps and other metal fittings rust or wear out over time, and sometimes replacement is the best option.

While showerheads can last for years, they do eventually start to look grotty and dated, and most of the older models were designed before saving water was even a consideration.

If your showerhead has been around since Elvis was still alive, then it's time to get a new one.

A basic water-saving one will cost upwards of \$20 and they only take about 10 minutes to install.

It doesn't need any specialised plumbing tools, just a shifting spanner, utility knife and wire brush.

TIP If your showerhead doesn't come with a reel of plumber's tape, buy one for about \$1, from hardware stores. ➤



Dorf Stayfast Adjustable Wall Shower in Chrome, \$40. dorf.com.au

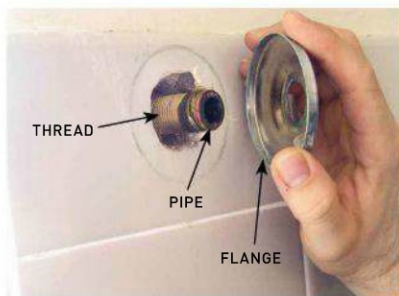
Replacing a showerhead

Removing the old apparatus and fitting a new one takes minutes and gives an old bathroom an instant lift. Most plumbing jobs have to be carried out by a qualified professional, but simple tasks like this one are fine for anyone to DIY.



1 REMOVE THE OLD SHOWERHEAD using a shifter to loosen and unscrew it from the pipe in the wall, taking care not to wrench the pipes.

TIP Spray WD-40 on the thread first.



2 CLEAN THE THREAD with a utility knife. Remove the old flange and clean the tiles around the hole, then use a wire brush to remove any remaining debris from the thread of the showerhead pipe.



3 POSITION THE NEW FLANGE then wind two turns of plumber's tape onto the thread in a clockwise direction. Wind on the nut and secure with a shifter, but don't over-tighten.



A fresh bathroom with shiny new fittings is a pleasure to spend time in.

Unblock the sink

When the bathroom drain gets blocked, avoid paying a plumber hundreds of dollars to remove a simple hair plug by trying these tricks first.

IF THE SINK has a push-type pop-up stopper, unwind it, remove debris and wash the stopper and plug hole with soapy water and an old toothbrush.

USE A PLUNGER if the blockage persists. Stuff the overflow opening with a wet cloth, position the plunger cup so it covers the drain hole, then fill the sink with enough water to cover the cup.

Plunge vigorously up and down until the debris is sucked out. Never use a plunger immediately after pouring chemicals down the drain.

TRY A COATHANGER if the plunger didn't work. Unwind and remove the pop-up stopper, bend a hook in a wire coathanger and feed it down the drain.

Fish around for whatever is blocking the pipe and try to pull it out.

CHECK THE TRAP under the sink. Put a bucket under the U-bend and unscrew the couplings connecting it to the pipes. Let the water drain, then search for the blockage with coathanger wire.

USE AN AUGER or plumber's snake if you have one, as they have a longer reach than coathanger wire.

If you can't get hold of an auger, call in an expert. To save time and money tell the plumber what measures you have already tried.



Make the first plunge a slow one to expel air, then pump vigorously.

Adjust a pop-up stopper ▼

A pop-up stopper needs to be adjusted when it either fails to hold water in the sink or doesn't lift high enough to let water drain.

Older-type stoppers are moved up and down by a three-part linkage consisting of a lift rod, a metal strip with holes in it called a clevis, and the pivot rod, which supports the



stopper or may be connected to it.

If this linkage comes loose the stopper won't work properly.

■ **IF A POP-UP STOPPER** won't seal, pull it out and check for debris. Some pop-ups lift out, some wind out, and others require you to pull out the pivot rod to which they're attached.

■ **WASH THE STOPPER** and check the rubber seal. If it's dry or cracked, replace it.

■ **REINSTALL THE STOPPER** and check the seal. If it still isn't working, and you have a lift-rod type, use pliers or fingers to loosen the grub screw attaching the lift rod and the clevis. Pull the rod up, push the stopper down and retighten the screw.

■ **IF THE PROBLEM PERSISTS** move the pivot rod to a different hole in the clevis. To do this, squeeze the spring clip on the clevis and slide the rod out. Move the clip and rod to the next hole.

Fixing a leaky tap

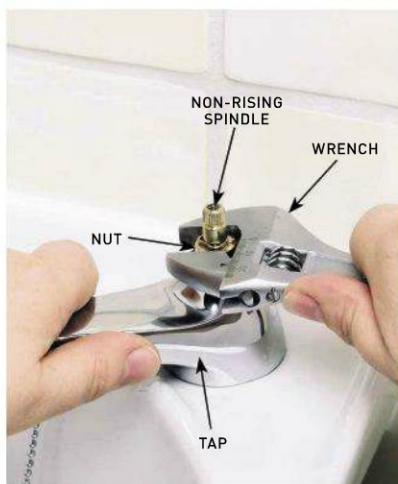
If the tap's dripping it probably needs a new washer. To replace it, turn off the water supply and turn the tap fully on. Place a plug in the plughole to avoid losing small parts.

On a non-rising spindle tap, prise off the handle cover to expose the retaining screw. Remove the screw and handle to expose the headgear.

On a rising spindle tap, first remove the coloured index disc on the handle and the retaining screw to release the handle.



Fix-A-Tap Soft Turn Tap Valves, about \$5 for two. fixatap.com.au



1 REMOVE THE HEADGEAR after you have taken off the handle, using an adjustable wrench to undo the headgear nut. Brace the tap with your other hand to stop it from spinning as you turn the nut, as this could weaken the tap's plumbing connection.



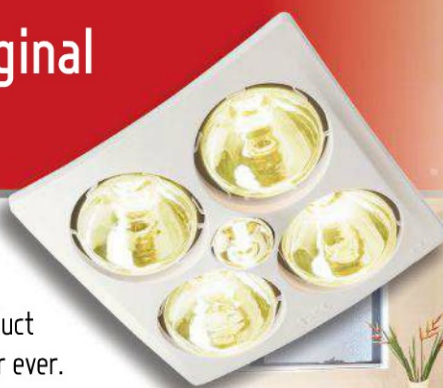
2 LEVER OFF THE OLD WASHER with a screwdriver and replace the body washer and spindle O-ring using needlenose pliers. If the leak persists, the valve seat may need to be resurfaced. If in doubt, contact a plumber. ➤

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Tastic Original shown above

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Mend the toilet

Loo maintenance isn't high on anyone's list of favourite chores, but it's essential to keep everything in working order.

Follow these tips to avoid overflows, wasted water and flushing failure.

TIGHTEN THE CONNECTIONS to the water pipe if there's a leak pooling on the floor. Also check the tightness of the big plastic nut on the flush pipe underneath. If that doesn't work, the sealing washer may have perished, and you'll need a plumber to replace it.

LOOK INSIDE THE CISTERN when it won't flush to make sure it contains water. If it's empty then the problem is with the inlet valve or supply pipe.

If there is water in the cistern, check the flushing arm is connected to the internal hook at the top of the cistern and is lifting the piston.

POOR FLUSHING can be caused by the flush pipe being pushed too tight into its housing, restricting the flow. Try pulling it back and see if it improves.

A flush failure may also be caused by a loose handle in older cisterns. Remove the cistern lid, hold the handle and tighten the locknut with a wrench.

ADJUST THE WATER LEVEL in an older float ball assembly by bending the metal float arm up or down slightly, or by adjusting the screw in newer models.

If the water level is fine, you may need to replace the plastic flap valve inside the siphon unit.



The loo needs more than just regular cleaning to keep it in tiptop shape.

Clear a blocked toilet ▼

Fixing a broken loo is not one of those jobs that can be put off. But before you call in the cavalry, bail out the excess water and try a couple of DIY fixes.

■ **PUT A PLUNGER** over the drain opening so it seals it completely. Plunge vigorously 10 or 12 times, then yank the plunger out with force.



Repeat as many times as needed. If you don't have a plunger to hand, improvise by wrapping a plastic bag around a mop head.

Secure the bag to the mop handle first so that it can't work free.

■ **NEVER USE A PLUNGER** straight after a chemical drain treatment in case you splash yourself with harsh chemicals.

■ **PROBE THE BLOCKAGE** using a plumber's snake, or auger. This is a crank-handled tool that winds a cable with a hooked spring tip through the toilet's U-bend trap and into the drain.

■ **USE THE AUGER** to grab the blockage and very carefully pull it back out through the trap, or to push through and break it up. If you can see the blockage, bend a hook in a wire coathanger to try to fish it out.

How a toilet works

Most toilets use a siphon flushing system with an inverted U-shaped pipe that prevents water leaking from the cistern into the pan in between flushes.

Modern toilets are usually designed as dual-flush, with a two-part button or 'flush-and-hold' system to save water.

Slimline cisterns may be too small to incorporate a ball-float system. Instead, they use a Torbeck valve with a very short float arm and mini float, or a vertical valve with a float cup that fits around the centre column.

In both cases, a valve-operated flush mechanism replaces the siphonic system, and is activated by a push button, usually in the cistern lid.

Toilets with this kind of mechanism are not easy to maintain or repair yourself, and problems often require a replacement part.



Kinetic 100mm PVC Plastic Ball Float, \$5, from Bunnings.



Kinetic Caroma Cistern Washers, \$9 for five.



Fix-A-Loo Hush Flush Dual Flush Toilet Valve, \$67. fixatap.com.au

Haron Fluidmaster Bottom Entry Inlet Valve, \$20. haron.com.au



Haron Fluidmaster 400UK Cap Assembly, \$7.



Handihome GP101 Toilet Unblocker, \$21. handihome.com.au



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Glass *palace*

For the designer and owner of this private forest bungalow, his glass-walled home is a dream come true

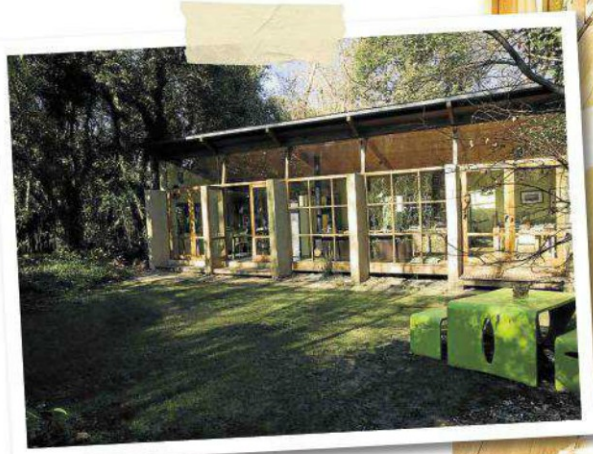
WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

When a home is built in a beautiful natural environment, the design needs to allow for maximum appreciation of its surroundings.

When architect Hugh Fraser stumbled across this tree-covered block, he found something he had been dreaming about for years.

'I'd always wanted to build something simple with open spaces, using lots of glass for light,' says Hugh.

Taking full advantage of the forest setting, Hugh built his dream home using floor-to-ceiling glass for almost every wall in the house. ➤



Hugh's house was built in a natural clearing on the heavily overgrown block.



An open-plan design creates a sense of space in the relatively small home.

PICTURES AUSTRAL



Every piece of furniture is built from timber or coloured with natural tones.



A wood burning fireplace is the main focal point in the living room.



The kitchen, with custom-designed sink and counter, is Hugh's favourite room.

Leafy location

In a home surrounded entirely by trees on all sides, Hugh can enjoy looking out on the picturesque rural scenery without fear of prying eyes looking in.

He found his perfect spot through a friend, who lives in the neighbourhood and told him of a vacant block that was for sale.

Initially, Hugh was dubious and worried that the area would be 'a bit old-ladyish' for him after having lived for years in the busy inner city.

When his friend described it as bush within a suburban area, Hugh's cynical response was, 'Three trees do not a forest make, dear!'

But he visited the block out of curiosity, and was immediately struck by how ideal it was for what he had in

mind. At once he could picture building the home he had been planning in his head for decades.

'I drove there and when I climbed over the perimeter wall, I saw an overgrown block. Then I walked into the clearing and knew immediately I'd found the right place,' says Hugh.

Total privacy

With his neighbours conveniently screened out by the trees, Hugh quickly set to work constructing the glass-walled house in the natural clearing, taking only four months to complete the project.

Hugh didn't need to cut down any trees on the block to make room for his home, but since moving in he has been slowly removing non-native trees to use as firewood.



Sliding doors bathe the bedroom with morning sunlight.

Natural interior

The character of Hugh's home lies mostly in its design, which sits in harmony with the bush setting.

Warm timber is used throughout for the floors and window frames, with the ceiling's exposed beams and plywood panels creating the feel of a jungle retreat. Almost every piece of furniture continues the timber theme.

Every room features fantastic views of the bush through floor-to-ceiling windows or sliding doors, making the greenery a dominant feature and filling the home with natural light.

The few walls that aren't dominated by enormous windows or sliding doors are painted light green, further adding to the brightness of the home.

Carefully selected artworks adorn any walls large enough to accommodate them. Natural textures can be found throughout, with throw rugs featuring exotic patterns found in nearly every room.

The house is almost entirely open plan, with a small partition wall separating the kitchen from the spacious living area.

With a wood burning fireplace in the centre of the living area, the overall effect is a warm and inviting home that is the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Simple pleasures

Hugh's Saturday morning ritual is enjoying a coffee and reading the papers while the dappled light filters into his bedroom, with the wild bush only metres away.

Not being a fan of generic kitchens, Hugh designed the counter and sink himself, and the kitchen is now his favourite room in the house. He describes it as 'a condensed version of the house in one room'.

'I love this room. The wine and music are always close at hand. I'm not a great cook but I refuse to eat rubbish so even if it's just for me, I make something every night,' says Hugh >

Smart design

Having grown up in a family of five children, Hugh relishes the space and privacy that comes with this home.

'We either had to share a room or sleep in weird places like under the stairs,' says Hugh.

Still, living within a bush setting has taken some getting used to, as the still silence of the night is regularly interrupted by the noises of the birds and other animals outside.

Although Hugh's home is relatively compact, the glass makes the house feel larger than it actually is. He believes it's all about how efficiently you use the area you have.

'The house is only 135 square metres, but you don't actually need much more if a house is correctly articulated,' says Hugh.

'You just need to work out beforehand how the home will be furnished and how you'll move through and live in it. How you'll interpret the space.'



Unspoilt bush views make working in the study a pleasure.



Natural textures and furnishings reflect the home's leafy setting.

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Cool the house

Turn your home into a temperate, eco-friendly oasis using six simple passive cooling techniques

WORDS MONICA NYE

As summer temperatures soar, it's more tempting than ever to use power-hungry air-conditioning at home. But you risk being hit with a huge electricity bill.

To cool down without breaking the budget while improving your green credentials, reduce room temperature and increase airflow by following a few simple design principles.

Melbourne-based architect Peter Georgiev of Georgiev Partnership and Homesafe Group has been creating and promoting passive solar home designs since the 1970s.

He says whether you live in an established home or are building a new house, these simple ideas can make summer much more pleasant.

1 Thermal massing

Peter says one of the fundamental cornerstones of passive solar design is thermal massing, which makes a home warm in winter and cool in summer.

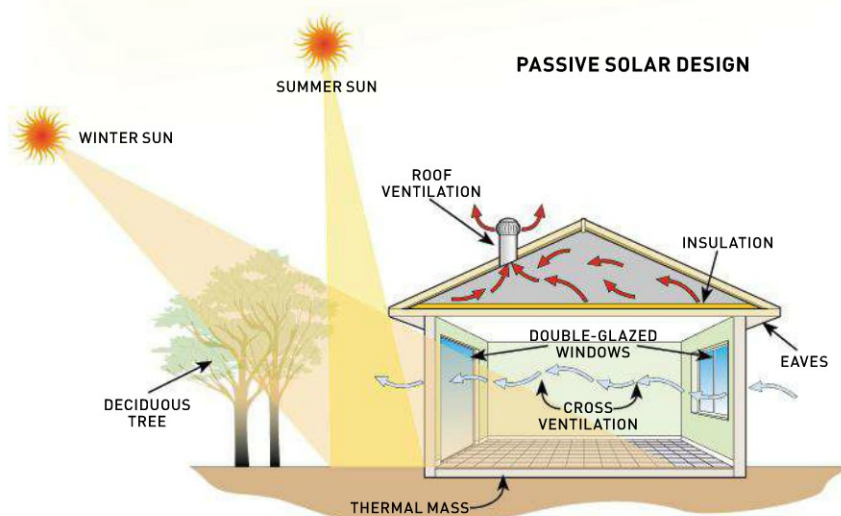
Thermal massing uses direct sunlight in winter to heat an element within the building that can store and then slowly emit that warmth over the course of the evening. Elements such

as concrete or tiled floors, or even brick walls, are all good heat retainers.

'In winter, we know the sun's trajectory is around 26° to 30° so it shines more directly into windows at that time of year,' says Peter.

'In summer it's the reverse. We've got the sun directly overhead so devices like eaves, pergolas, and deciduous plants stop the sun from hitting the internal mass.'

Even in the height of summer, the floor remains cool, creating a pleasant and comfortable place of retreat when the temperature rises outside.



How it works

Passive solar design uses simple ideas to cool the home.

- **THERMAL MASS** emits heat in winter, staying cool in summer.
- **INSULATION** helps maintain desired room temperature.
- **CROSS VENTILATION** uses natural breezes for cooling
- **EAVES** shade windows from sun.
- **DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS** help reduce heat transfer.
- **DECIDUOUS TREES** provide summer shade and winter sun.

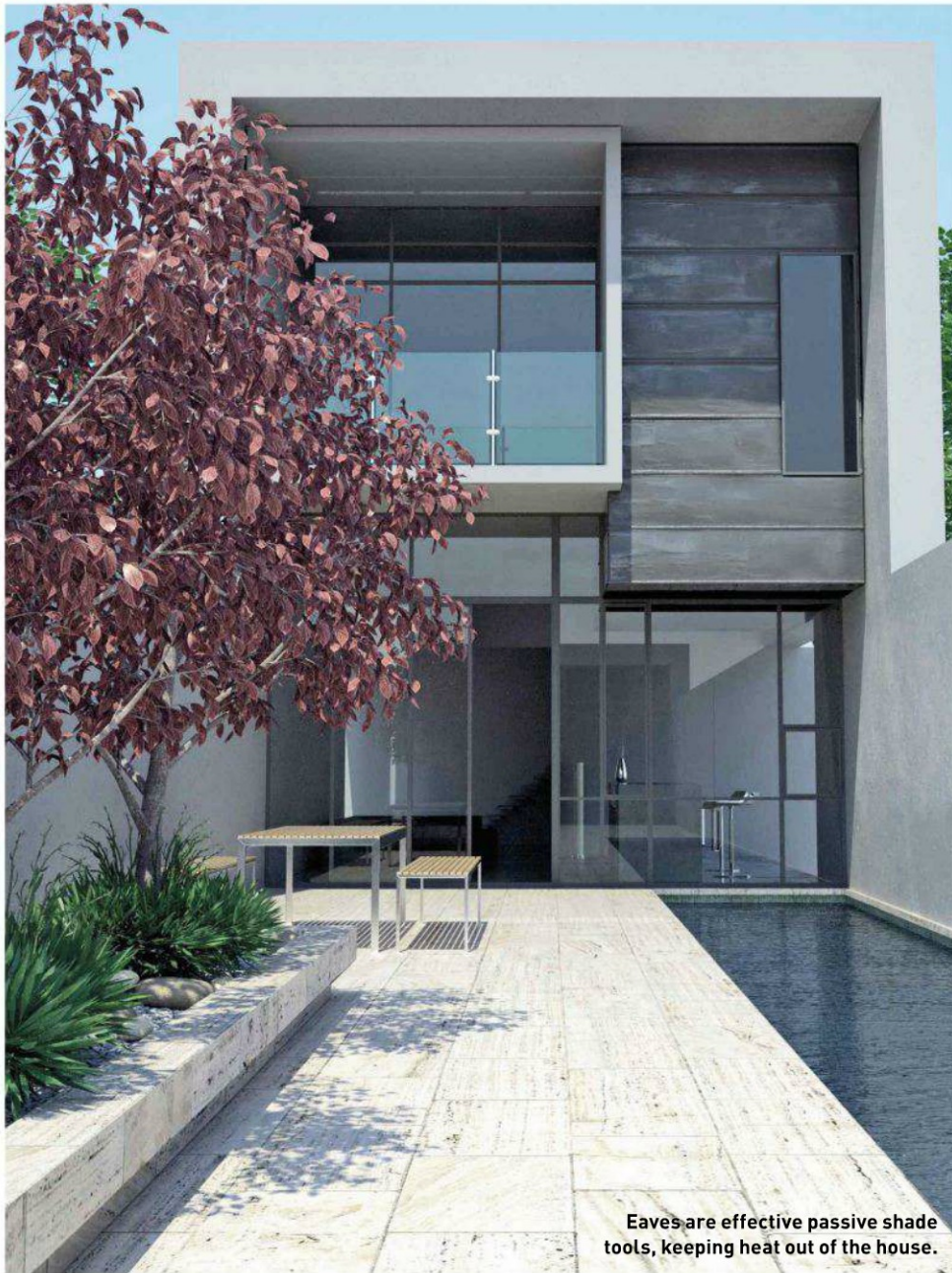


Cross ventilation is a simple and effective way to reduce room temperature.

Cooling on a budget

The simplest ways to cool the home are to keep heat out and prevent it from being generated inside, saving you hundreds of dollars in energy costs.

- **HANG INSULATED CURTAINS** on the inside of windows and bamboo screens for the outside to help prevent the sun's heat from entering.
- **CLEAN AIR-CONDITIONER** filters every month during summer to help it work more efficiently.
- **SHADE PAVING** and concrete using trees and awnings to prevent these areas from radiating heat.
- **COOK ON THE BARBECUE** to avoid generating excess heat inside from cooking in the oven or on the stove.
- **USE FLUORESCENT BULBS** or LED lights as they produce a fifth of the heat of incandescent bulbs.
- **CONNECT APPLIANCES** such as TVs and computers to a powerboard and turn them off at the wall when not in use to stop heat generation. ➤



Eaves are effective passive shade tools, keeping heat out of the house.

2 Awnings and eaves

Preventing direct sunlight from entering the home is an obvious way to reduce room temperature.

Eaves and awnings shade windows and doorways to reduce heat in summer without blocking sun in winter.

'The idea is to keep the heat and direct sun away from windows. Eaves are very effective passive shade devices and should be an integral part of any good design,' says Peter.

'Every house in the 50s and 60s had eaves, but look around the suburbs today at new homes and you'll see volume builders aren't installing them.'

3 Double glazing

'With a new house, you have the full suite of solar features to include. But an old house can still be helped out a little more,' says Peter.

In a recent fit-out of a 1970s house, Peter used double-glazed windows for better temperature control.

The single-glazed windows were replaced with double-glazed glass with a low E coating, a metallic film that helps insulate the glass from heat transmission to maintain the desired temperature year round.

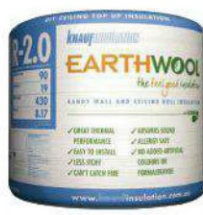
'With double glazing, the number of surfaces increases from two sides to four. Coupled with the low E coating, this provides a very effective and passive heat barrier,' says Peter.

Keeping your cool

Reduce heat in the home without air-conditioning by combining passive cooling techniques with low-energy appliances. Minimise heat build-up while maximising airflow for a comfortable home.



Edmonds Turbobeam Clear Ventilator, \$92.
edmonds.com.au



Knauf Earthwool Insulation Roll, \$27.
knaufinsulation.com.au



Handi Home Tinted Window Film, 900 x 2000mm, \$20.
handihome.com.au



Arlec 40cm Pedestal Fan, \$139.
arlec.com.au

4 Cross ventilation

Understanding wind and weather patterns allows you to take advantage of natural breezes in your area.

Opening a smaller window on the cool side of a building and a larger window on the opposite side allows the breeze to create a vacuum that draws in cool air and expels hot air.

This prevents heat build-up, brings the fresh air inside and vents stale air, making your home less stuffy.

5 Natural air-conditioning

According to Peter, a home doesn't need air-conditioning as long as the aspect is correct, the design allows for cross ventilation and there's insulation.

Ceilings fans are preferable to air-conditioning, although technically not part of a passive energy design.

'A passive solution is a wind generated fan in the ceiling cavity which allows air to flow in and out of the roof space,' says Peter.

6 Smart gardening

Good landscaping can also help reduce the temperature indoors.

Deciduous plants create shade in the heat of summer but won't stop the sun providing warmth during winter.

'A grapevine trailing over an arbour or pergola is doing the job of protecting a concrete slab or tiles at ground level,' says Peter.

'The thermal massing principle then comes into play.'



A shaded outdoor area helps prevent heat from entering the home.



How do you cool the home in summer without air conditioning?
Head to facebook.com/HandymanMagazine and share your best tips.

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HOW TO DESIGN YOUR
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INSTALL A SCREEN DOOR

Let the breeze in and keep the bugs out with mesh screening to protect your home

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER

Summertime is bug time with flies, mozzies, moths and beetles all wanting to get inside the house and share our space.

To keep them outside where they belong, the easiest and most effective answer is to install a screen door.

Measure the width and height of the door opening in the jamb to determine the door size needed.

Screen doors are available to buy in standard imperial and

metric sizes to match most existing types of doorframe.

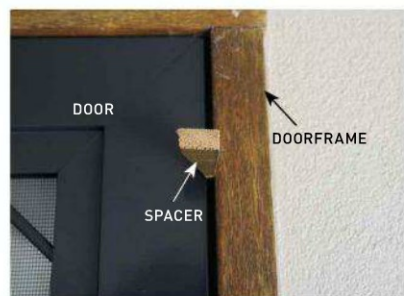
Next decide whether your door will be hinged on the left or right side when viewed from the outside.

Most screen doors are hinged on the right but the existing hardware may be the determining factor, if the handles from both doors clash.

If that is the case, screen doors are usually reversible with the lock body simply turned upside down.

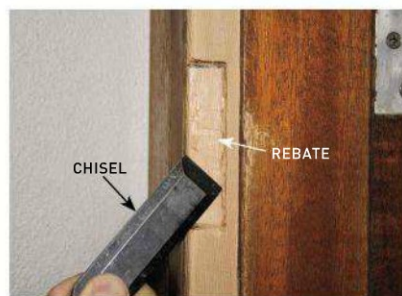


Hills Screen Door, \$199. hills.com.au
Bastion Steel Door, \$199. bastionprotects.com



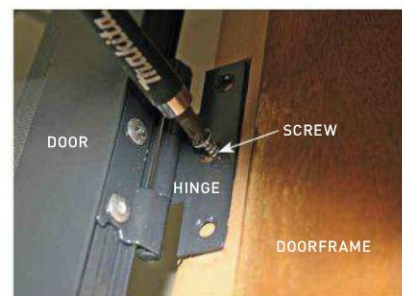
1 Position the door

Decide which side to hinge the screen door then position it, with hinges closed, in the doorframe. Adjust the door, leaving about 3mm clearance on all sides with extra gap at the base if needed, then secure with small timber wedges or spacers.



2 Make the hinge rebates

Use a pencil to mark the hinge positions on the frame then remove the screen door. Open the hinges and align them with the pencil marks. Mark the outline of the hinges and screw holes. Cut the hinge rebate to a depth of 2mm using a 25mm chisel.



3 Hang the door

Drill 1.5mm pilot holes at the marked screw hole positions then secure the screen door at each hinge position with one screw only. Check the door opens and closes freely and sits correctly in the frame then secure the remaining screws into the hinges.



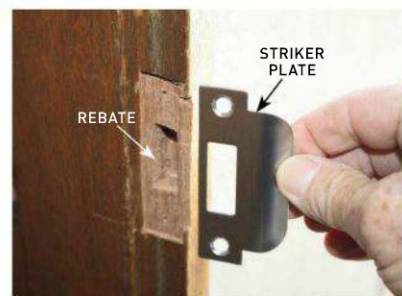
4 Fit the handle

Point the handles towards the door hinges and, with the snib in the up position, fit the interior handle to the inside of the screen door. Insert the square connecting rod through the lock body and fit the outside handle, securing with two screws.



5 Insert the lock cylinder

Put the key in the lock and check the cam rotation. Leave the key and insert the cylinder into the lock body and secure with the supplied screw. Push the auxiliary bolt in to release the main bolt, turn the snib to horizontal and check the key works.



6 Attach the striker plate

Close the door and mark the position of the main bolt on the jamb. Position the striker plate on the marks and run a pencil around the inside and outside of the plate. Rebate the inside rectangle with a chisel to a depth of 18mm then secure with screws. ➤

Replace the mesh

Screen doors are opened and closed thousands of times a year and, if small children and pets are running around, damage can appear very quickly.

On this maple framed door, the mesh in both upper and lower panels has been pushed out from under the beading that holds the screen in place, letting flies, moths and mozzies in.

To repair, remove the door from the jamb and lay it on a level work surface. Remove the damaged mesh by prising up the timber beading using a chisel, then remove the staples.

Replace the screen and the beading, in this case 23 x 8mm Tasmanian oak.

Smooth off using a random orbital sander and 180 grit paper, then apply two coats of finish.

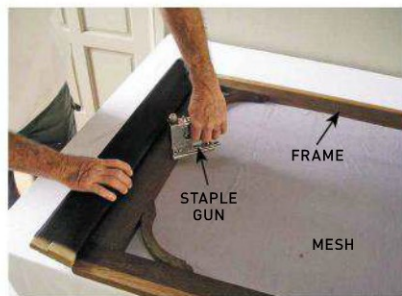
TIP Use sanding sponges to prepare the moulded timber beading.



Arrow 12mm T50 Staple Gun, \$50. arrowfastener.com.au

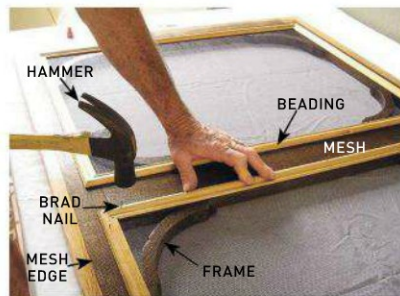


AFTER
The new mesh provides a neat, bug-proof barrier to protect the home.



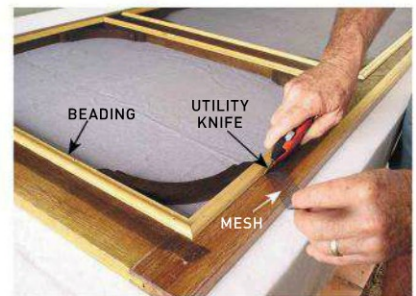
1 Attach the mesh

Use galvanised staples to secure one end of the mesh to the frame. At the opposite end, roll mesh around a length of timber to tension. Secure on all sides with staples, spacing them 100mm apart and parallel to the edge, centred under the beading.



2 Secure the beading

Sand and refinish the beading and position on the door, keeping the inside edge of the beading flush with the frame edges. Secure with bullethead brads, keeping the mitred corners tight, then punch beneath the surface and fill holes with timber filler.



3 Remove the excess mesh

Use a sharp utility knife to trim away the excess mesh protruding beyond the line of the timber beading. Pull the excess mesh taut while running the blade carefully and at a slight angle along the back of the beading. Rehang the door.



Pet-proof the door

Dogs and cats like coming in and out of the house and if you don't have a pet flap, they'll just find a way to push through door and window screens to get in.

This makes the screening inefficient as it creates gaps for insects to enter.

To deter this behaviour in your pet and stop your screens being ruined, replace the flyscreen and strengthen the panel by stapling wire mesh over the top. Once the beading is reinstalled, the flyscreen and wire mesh combination should have enough strength to keep animals from pushing through.

White's Aviary Mesh,
1.2mm x 5m, \$37.
whiteswires.com.au



Defuzz mesh screens ▼



Using a vacuum cleaner or pressure washer to remove dust, cobwebs and fluff from a screen isn't always effective.

A shortcut is to use a lint roller. Swipe across the screen surface and the fluff comes right off. Go over the screen on both sides. For hard-to-reach spots, tape the lint roller to a pole.



Oates Soft Grip Lint Roller, \$5.
oates.com.au

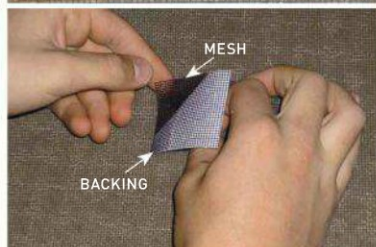
Repairing a hole

Sometimes small holes appear in a screen panel and all that is needed to seal it is a quick patch of screen repair tape.

Just cut a patch to the size you need, peel the tape off the backing and stick over the hole in the screen.

Use a patch on each side of the screen to guarantee lasting adhesion.

Perma Fly Screen Repair Tape,
50mm x 5m roll, \$11.
permaproducts.com



SERVICE A CEILING FAN

If your rotating fan has got the wobbles, try these simple tricks to diagnose and fix the problem

A wobbly overhead fan isn't just distracting, it can also cause the parts to wear out faster than they should. In extreme cases it can be a warning that the fan is in danger of falling from the ceiling.

Any judder should be fixed promptly but before you tackle it, you should first make sure your fan is mounted correctly to the ceiling.

The fan should feel solid when you pull down on the pipe that supports it. Check under the slide-down cover plate to make sure the mounting is stable.

If the fan is loose, remount it correctly. Once the fan is secure, turn it back on. If there is still a residual wobble, some further investigation is needed. Follow these steps to figure out what's wrong and fix it.



Tightening the blades ▼

If your fan has operated smoothly in the past and has gradually developed the shakes, loose screws are likely to be the cause.

Turn off the power supply to the fan. Hold the motor body and gently wiggle the blades to make sure they're all firmly fastened. If any feel loose, tighten the screws that secure the blades to the blade holder.

If that doesn't fix it, tighten the screws that fasten the blade holders to the fan's flywheel. You may have to remove the cover plate or light fixture under the fan to access them.

Once all the screws are tight, reconnect the power supply, turn the fan on and check for balance. If the wobble still persists, it could be a problem with the blade alignment.



Moretti 130cm Maldives Ceiling Fan, 316 stainless steel, \$169, from Bunnings.

Aligning the blades ▼

Blade holders are usually made from soft metal that can easily bend if you carry something tall through the room and accidentally bump the fan. To check the alignment, measure the distance from the ceiling to each blade.

Hold your tape measure in one spot and slowly rotate the blades manually, measuring each blade in exactly the same position. If you find a blade that's more than 5mm higher or lower than the others, gently bend the blade holder up or down until it is set in the correct position. If it's still wobbling, try balancing the blades.



Balancing the blades

Checking the blades requires 20c coins, Blu Tack, a tube of superglue and a little patience. This trial-and-error process can take some time.

Turn on the fan and find the speed that creates the worst judder. Stop the fan and use Blu Tack to stick a coin on the top of the lower edge of a blade. Turn the fan on to see if the wobble is better or worse.

Repeat with each blade until you find the culprit, then move the coin in and out until you find the spot that best improves stability.

Squeeze a dab of superglue onto the coin and stick it on the spot on top of the blade. Add more coins if needed.



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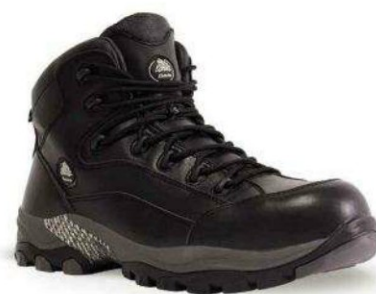
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MAKE DIY EASY with an Ozito Drill Kit, suitable for all home projects, \$99.



REFRESH THE ROOM with Taubmans Ceiling Paint, \$29 for 6L.



SAVE TIME on your reno with British Paints Paint & Prime, \$55 for 4L.



TRIM BACK TURF with precision using an Ozito Electric Lawn Mower, \$99.



SUCK UP SPILLS using a Karcher WD 3.330 Wet and Dry Vacuum, \$99.



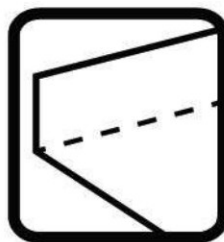
LOP OLD BRANCHES with the Bosch KE0 Garden Saw, \$149.



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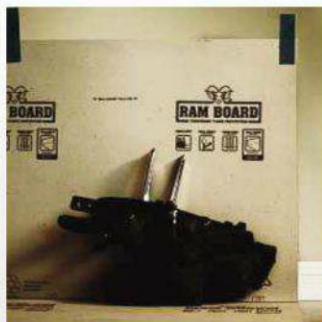
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Clean up, spruce up and pump up with these home and workshop time-savers



AIR
COMPRESSOR

* TOUGH TOOLS

Whether you're a DIYer or tradie, there's an enormous range of paint sprayers, pressure washers and air compressors to suit your needs.

According to *Handyman* Technical editor Frank Gardner, these tools are designed for use with a variety of attachments.

'This makes them suitable for highly specialised jobs, from driving nails into timber to cleaning the underside of a car,' says Frank.



PAINT
SPRAYER

PRESSURE
WASHER



EASY MAINTENANCE

These handy tools are great time-savers for any job, whether it's cleaning a driveway, painting the shed or topping up a tyre. **PRESSURE WASHERS** are ideal for almost any major cleaning project outdoors and are available in both electric and petrol-powered models.

AIR COMPRESSORS are essential for the garage or workshop, and use a flexible hose to power attachments such as nailguns and impact drivers.

PAINT SPRAYERS take the hard work out of painting projects, applying paint up to three times more quickly than by brush. ➤

PRESSURE WASHERS

*CLEAN WHILE SAVING WATER

Pressure washers are usually supplied with water from a garden tap or water tank. The flow rate is up to 80% less than that of an ordinary hose, but the pressure is more than 30 times higher.

They work by pumping water through a flexible hose and out of a nozzle in a spray lance or other attachment. The more pressure the pump can generate, the tougher the cleaning jobs the washer can tackle.

PETROL VERSUS ELECTRIC

Petrol-powered pressure washers are generally much more powerful and can supply more pressure, measured in pounds per square inch, or psi, than electric models.

Ideal for large cleaning jobs such as decks, driveways and roofs, they don't need an electrical power outlet or extension lead.

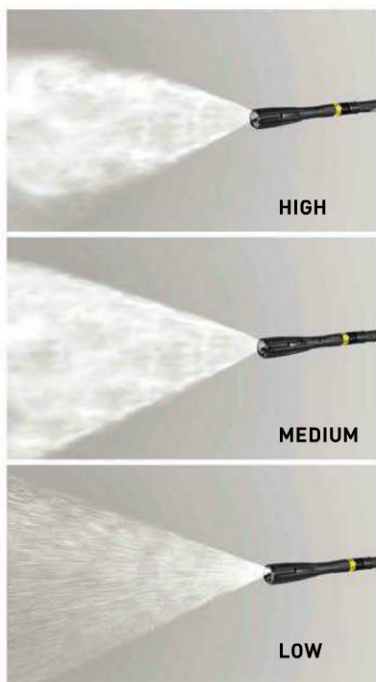
They are more durable and require less care to use as the pressure can be regulated to avoid damage on smaller jobs. They can deliver up to 3000psi.

Electric pressure washers are often cheaper, lighter, quieter and smaller. They are used for tasks such as cleaning the car, motorbike or barbecue, and typically deliver 1300 to 2000psi.



* SPRAY NOZZLES

Pressure washers usually come with quick-connect interchangeable nozzles featuring different spray patterns and turbo heads for varied pressure rates and cleaning tasks.



Blast away grime to get the deck ready for refinishing.

PICTURE (LEFT) THINKSTOCK

ACCESSORIES

Stock up with everything you need to make the most of your pressure washer, from nozzles that offer different spray patterns to extension lances and hoses to supply the pump with water from a garden tap or rainwater tank.



FOAM NOZZLE allows you to mix detergent into the water jet for more effective cleaning.



POWERSPEED NOZZLE is 70% more efficient than a standard nozzle for general cleaning.



WATER SUCTION KIT is for emptying ponds or drying flooded areas.



UNDER-CAR CLEANER easily removes mud and sludge from the car chassis.



CAR WASHING BRUSH to scrub dirt and grime away from problem areas.



MULTI SPRAY LANCE lets you select from five spray patterns.



EXTENSION LANCE telescopes out to 4m, allowing you to clean hard-to-reach areas.



WATER FILTER protects the pump by purifying potentially dirty water drawn from a bucket.



SUPPLY HOSE draws water for the pressure pump from a bucket or rainwater tank up to 5m away. ➤

AIR COMPRESSORS

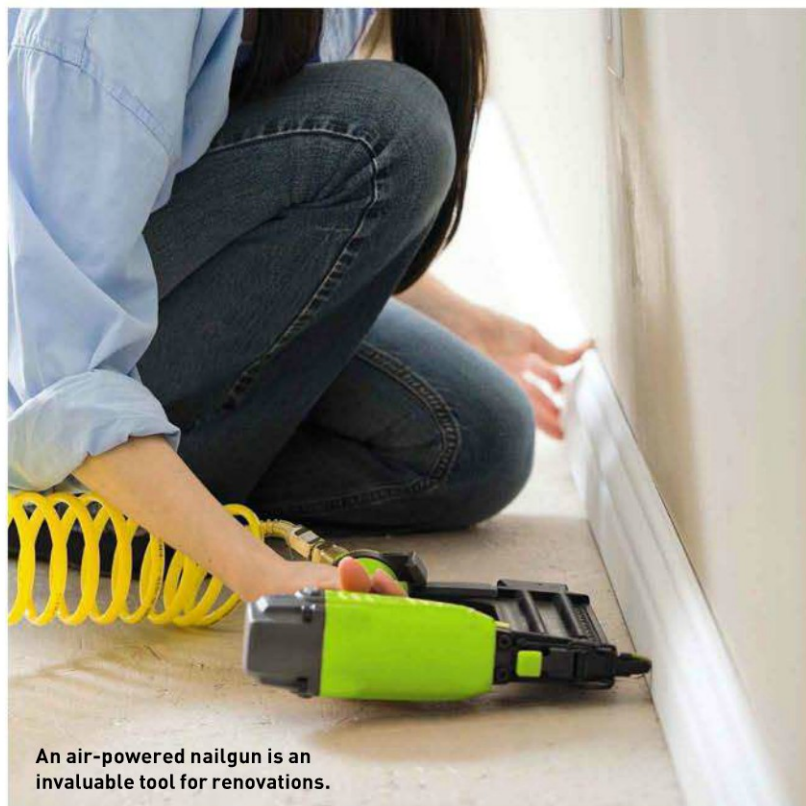
* WORK UNDER PRESSURE

Air compressors are machines that store pressurised air to power pneumatic tools such as nailguns, staplers, impact wrenches and paint sprayers.

Tradies use them for framing and roofing while DIYers employ them in home improvement projects and lighter applications such as inflating tyres, toys and sporting equipment.

Most have a holding tank filled with air that's compressed by a motor-driven pump. The air flows through a flexible hose to power whatever tool is attached.

A regulator keeps outgoing air at a consistent pressure, while an automatic switch activates the motor to compress more air as it is used, turning it off again at peak pressure.



An air-powered nailgun is an invaluable tool for renovations.

* BUYING AN AIR COMPRESSOR

Compressors complying with the Compressed Air Association of Australasia (CAAA) Protocol 2000 have a label with pump displacement details and free air delivery figures.

This lets you easily compare different models without having to do complicated calculations. Entry-level air compressors are often 12V types that plug into the car cigarette lighter jack.

If you use pneumatic tools often, choose an oil-lubricated compressor that has enough free air delivery, measured in litres per minute, to drive the tools you plan to use.

Nailguns, sprayers and other tools have different requirements so match the air tool's consumption to the compressor's output.

Choose a compressor with 30% more output than the tool with the highest flow rate so you have some headroom to spare.

ATTACHMENTS

Air-driven tools are lightweight but powerful, as the energy that does the work is supplied by the compressor, so an onboard electric motor is not needed. They are also safer than mains-powered tools as there is no risk of electrocution.



GRINDER for welding preparation, deburring and cutting metal.



TYRE INFLATOR for pumping up tyres, air beds and sports balls.



BLOW GUN for targeted cleaning and regulating air pressure.



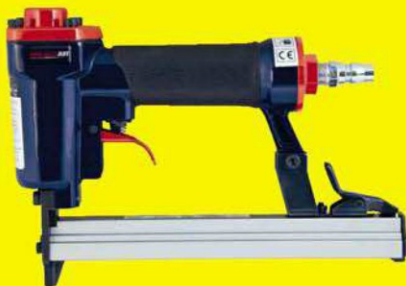
RACHET for rapidly loosening or tightening nuts and bolts.



BRAD GUN AND NAILGUN for building cabinetry, fencing and construction with timber.



IMPACT WRENCH for car wheel nuts and other heavy-duty applications.



STAPLER for driving staples into timber or metal, used in construction and upholstery.



SANDER for fast and easy surface preparation.



SPRAY GUN AND AIRBRUSH for painting all types of surfaces and for car detailing. ➤

PAINT SPRAYERS



*SPEED UP THE PAINTING PROCESS

If painting is a task you dread, or if using a paintbrush and roller seems like a slow and arduous way to apply finish, consider spray painting.

A power paint sprayer is a fast way of achieving good coverage and gives a consistent, uniform finish.

Great for painting both interior and exterior surfaces, power paint sprayers are particularly handy when trying to paint textured, hard-to-reach or intricate areas.

Save time by spray painting cladding, fencing, lattice, decking, grilles, furniture and even toys.

With the variety of paint sprayers available, it's easy to choose one designed specifically for the type of project you need to accomplish.



HVLP SPRAYERS

High Volume Low Pressure (HVLP) sprayers, also called air sprayers, disperse a mist of paint suspended in a large quantity of air.

An HVLP sprayer provides smooth, glossy and consistent cover, giving the user maximum control. Paint normally needs to be diluted as specified by a viscosity table in the user manual.

AIRLESS SPRAY GUNS

Larger projects are better suited to an airless sprayer. Airless sprayers use high pressure, provided by a pump, rather than air, to disperse the paint.

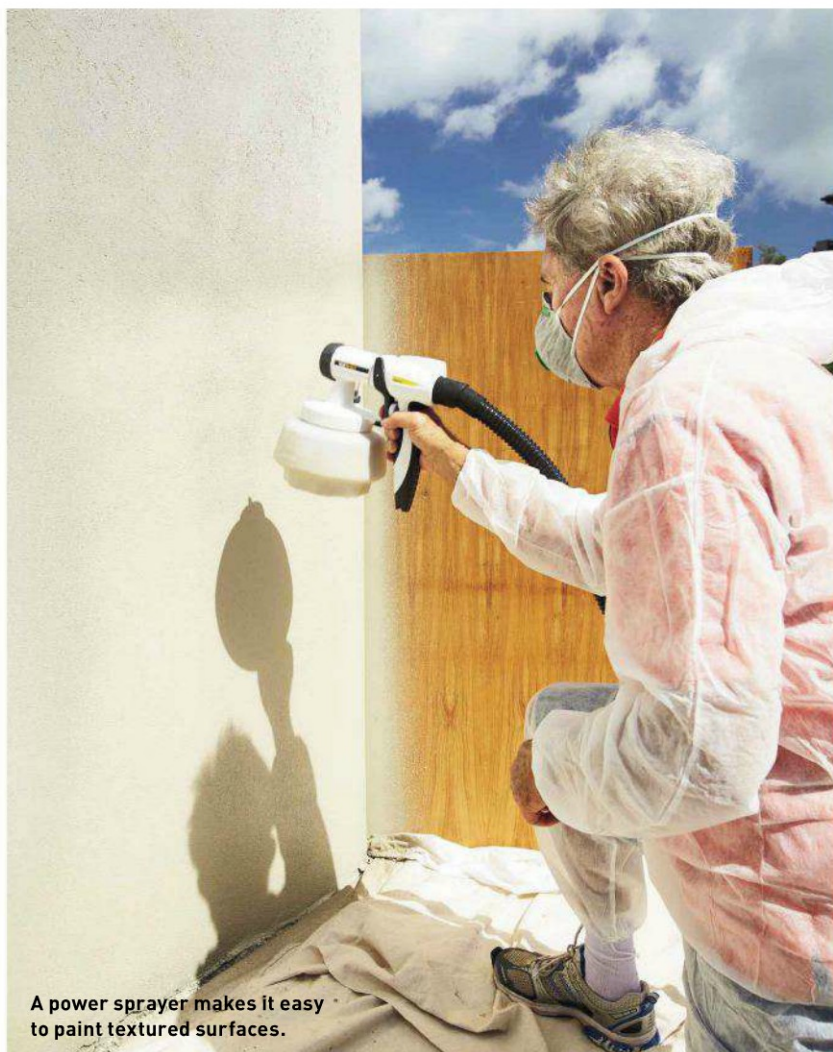
Some airless sprayers draw paint directly from the tin, eliminating the need to reload a reservoir. They are perfect for walls, exterior cladding, fences and any larger outdoor project.

*SPRAY PAINT A WALL

Spray painting is the quickest way to coat a wall or ceiling. An HVLP gun is a good choice for interior walls as it produces less overspray than an airless sprayer, so it doesn't waste paint.

The air pressure is supplied by a small onboard compressor, or a portable turbine carried on a shoulder strap and connected to the gun by a flexible hose.





A power sprayer makes it easy to paint textured surfaces.

*SPRAY-PAINTING TECHNIQUES

Follow these tips for a perfectly painted surface every time.

■ **COVER ALL NEARBY** surfaces and never use a paint sprayer to do exterior work on a windy day.

■ **WEAR A DISPOSABLE** spray suit and a suitable respirator.

■ **TEST THE SETTINGS** of the sprayer on a piece of cardboard until you achieve the correct flow. Smooth surfaces need less power than irregular areas such as fencing.

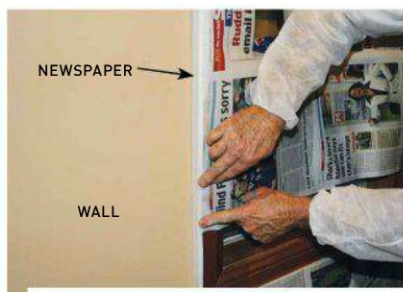
■ **MOST PAINT SPRAYERS** have an adjustable nozzle with a choice of up to three spray patterns: round, horizontal fan and vertical fan.

■ **A ROUND PATTERN** is great for railings, fence posts, corners and edges. A horizontal fan pattern is better for fencing and lattice, while a vertical fan pattern is best on decking, cladding and sheds.

■ **HOLD THE GUN** at an even distance from the target object and spray in smooth, even sweeps.

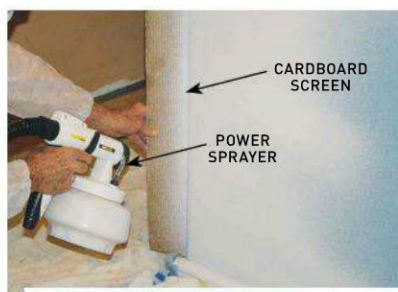
■ **SET THE SPRAYER** in motion before squeezing the trigger, and release it before stopping when you reach the end of a pass.

■ **DRIPS AND RUNS** are problematic to correct, so spray lightly and apply an extra coat if needed. ➤



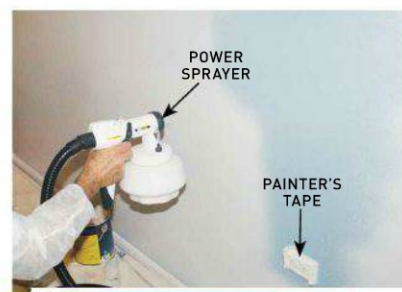
1. PREPARE THE WALL

Sand with 180 grit paper then wash down with sugar soap and rinse. Cover trim, windows and doors with newspaper and floors with drop sheets. Use painter's tape to mask skirtings and architraves.



2. START AT A CORNER

Dilute the paint according to the manufacturer's instructions then start spraying from a corner, working in smooth, even strokes. **TIP** Use a piece of cardboard as a screen to catch any overspray.



3. SPRAY PAINT THE WALL

Hold the gun about 250mm from the wall, moving your whole arm to ensure even coverage, rather than pivoting at the wrist. To avoid patchiness, don't stop until the entire wall is covered.

BUYING GUIDE

Purchasing a pressure washer, air compressor or paint sprayer may stretch the budget, but the time and effort saved around the home is worth the expense, especially when it comes to those large-area maintenance jobs.

LIGHT DUTY

PRESSURE WASHERS



Ideal for smaller tasks around the home and garden, this model uses 80% less water than a garden hose and supplies 35 times the pressure.

Karcher 1400W 1450psi High Pressure Cleaner, \$88. karcher.com.au

MEDIUM DUTY



With a compact, upright design this model is suitable for many tasks around the home. Accessories include a patio cleaner and car washing brush.

Gerni 2100W 2100psi High Pressure Cleaner, from \$549. gerni.com.au

HEAVY DUTY



Designed for heavy outdoor use with a 205cc four-stroke petrol engine and 3000psi of pressure to handle the toughest caked-on dirt.

Briggs & Stratton 3000psi Washer, \$1049. briggsandstratton.com.au

AIR COMPRESSORS



For small jobs around the home and car, this 12V compressor supplies 150psi and pumps air at a rate of 36L per minute.

Lion 12V 150psi Air Compressor, \$68. lion.net.au



This compact 10L compressor is rated at 1.5HP with an output of 56L per minute, and includes an 8m hose plus side-mounted tool holders.

Ryobi 280psi Air Compressor, \$199. ryobi.com.au



Delivering an impressive 200L per minute, this belt-drive 2.5HP compressor with 50L tank is suitable for most air tools and nailguns.

Spear & Jackson 125psi Compressor, \$494. spearandjackson.com.au

PAINT SPRAYERS



Designed for spraying timber garden fences, gates, lattice and garage doors, this model is lightweight and easy to clean.

Wagner W95 Fence Sprayer, \$59. wagneraustralia.com.au



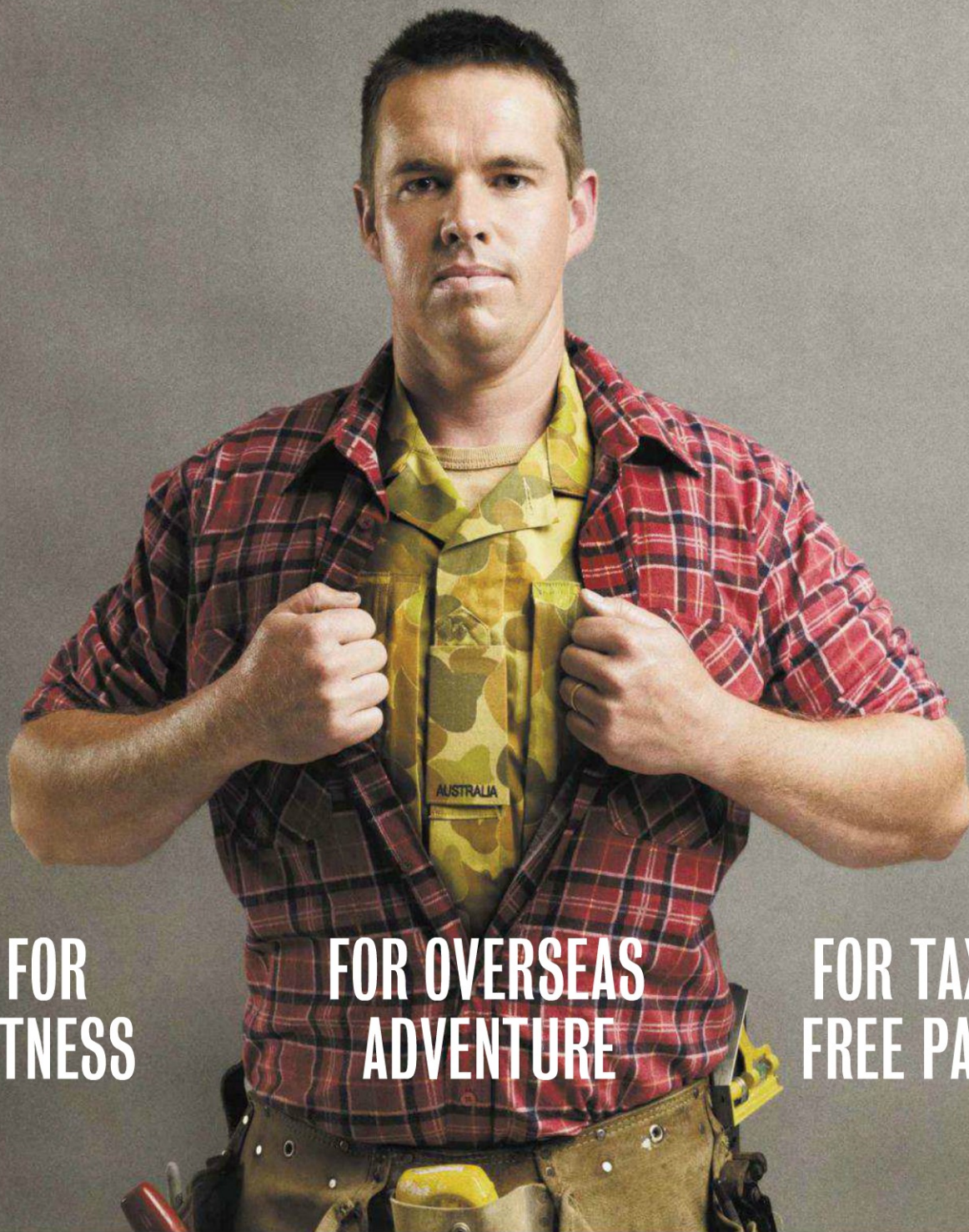
Airless spray gun designed for the serious DIYer, capable of drawing interior or exterior paint, varnish or lacquer directly from the can.

Ozito 650W Airless Sprayer, \$349. ozito.com.au



Ideal for medium-scale projects around the home and garden, this sprayer has a two-stage pressure adjustment for varied applications.

Wagner Project 115 Airless Power Sprayer, \$599.



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Off the wall

Turn a masonry surface into a mini sports arena with action-packed games for kids of all ages

PROJECT AND PICTURES DANIA WARMERDAM



★★★
UNDER
10
Sports wall

★★★
THREE
TO 12
Rock climb



This retaining wall for a garden bed is an excellent blank canvas for games.



CRICKET

Get in some soccer practice any time you feel like it with a removable goal.

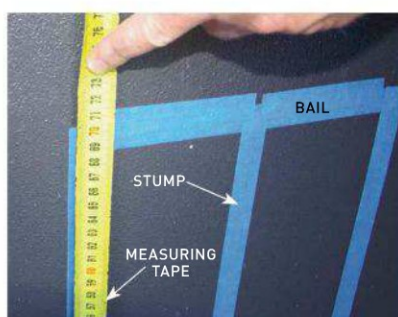
Ball games

Once children start school they tend to become involved in sport, and even the smallest backyard can provide a safe space for them to practice.

Using painter's tape, create a temporary arena for your budding sports star. From footy in the winter, to cricket and tennis in summer, there's scope for year-round activity.

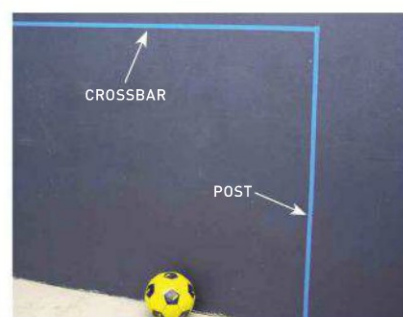


3M Scotchblue Masking Tape
19mm x 55m, \$7. scotchblue.com.au



Cricket pitch ▼

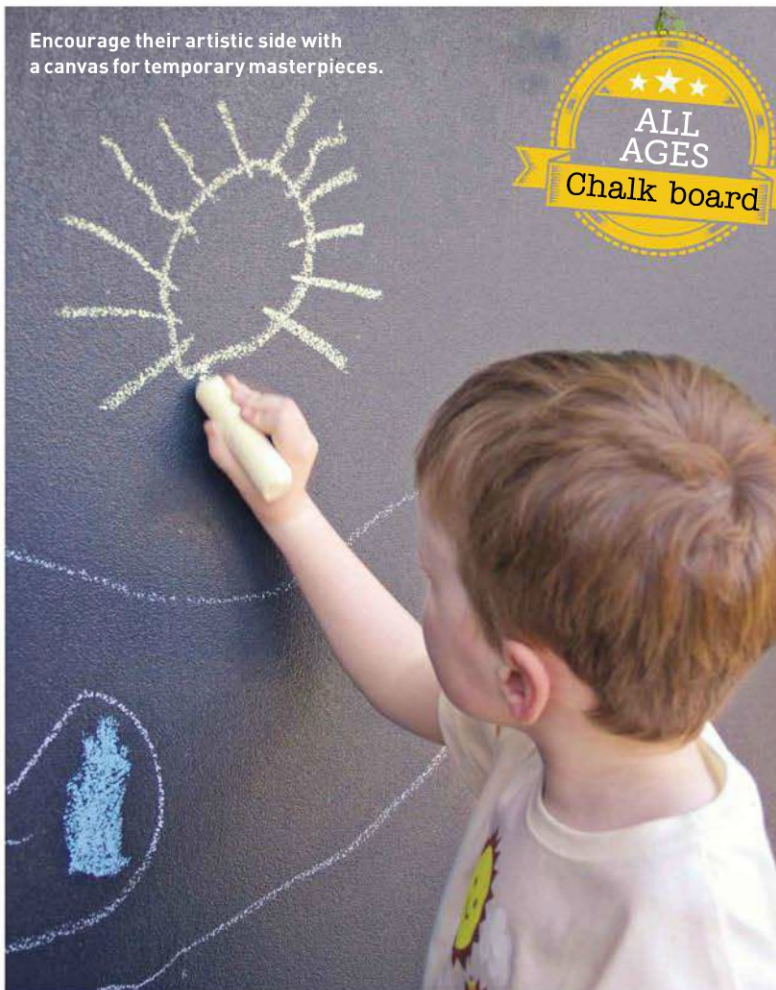
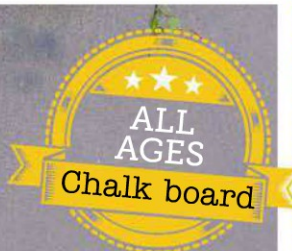
Cricket stump dimensions are 229 x 711mm. Measure the first stump and mark the wall with masking tape. From the top, measure across to the third stump and tape, then position the middle stump. Add the bails.



Soccer goals ▼

The dimensions of a junior net are 2133 x 6400mm. Measure across the base for the width, then tape the posts to the height of the net on both sides. Join the posts to create a crossbar. Make the goal smaller to increase difficulty.

Encourage their artistic side with a canvas for temporary masterpieces.



Creative canvas

Young children love to draw and paint, so turn the wall into a blank canvas for their ideas. Chalkboard paints are washable and come in a range of tintable colours.

Clean the wall and prepare the surface with a waterproof membrane. Once dry, apply the paint. One litre will cover 16sqm. Let it dry completely before use. ➤



Dulux Design Chalkboard,
\$42 for 1L. dulux.com.au



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*The maximum weight bearing ability of EVERLOC will vary from surface to surface.
The Large Everloc suction cups can hold up to 15kgs and the Small suction cups can hold up to 8kgs.
*Product availability and ranging will vary from store to store.



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Vertical challenge

As your kids grow a little older, they will relish the challenge of a climbing wall. Not only is it a great workout, it increases self-confidence, teaches trust and builds strong, healthy bodies.

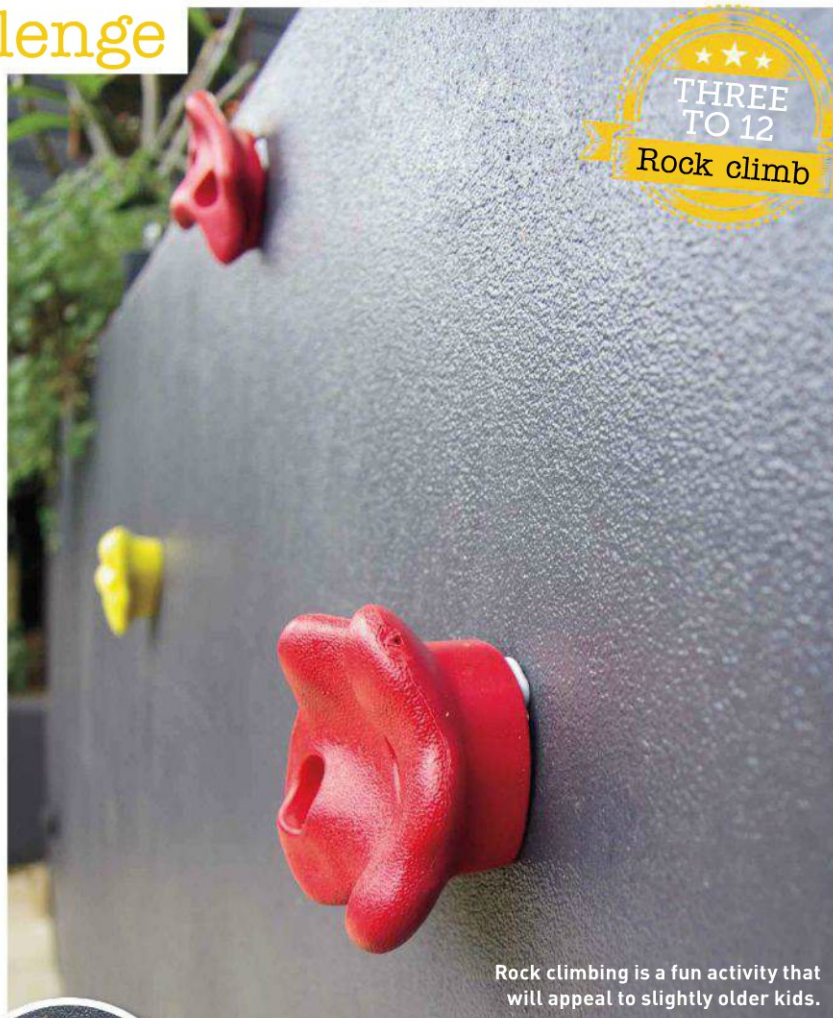
Rock climbing grips are ideal for any play area with vertical walls or ramps. For safety, position foam mats under the wall. Make sure the kids put on safety pads for elbows and knees, and always wear a helmet.

The grips used for this project come in different sizes in packs of five. Pre-drilled holes and fasteners are included, making them simple to install on timber walls and ramps.

For a masonry wall like this one, use masonry anchors such as DynaBolts.



Swing Slide Climb Rock Climbing Grips, \$20. swingslideclimb.com.au

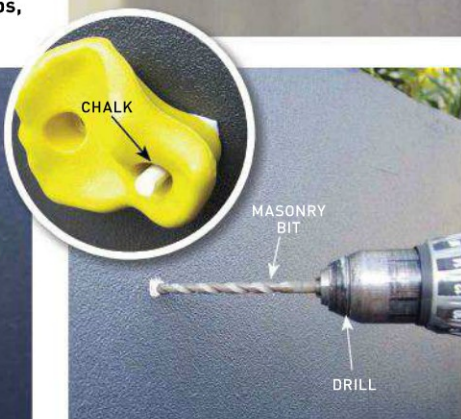


Rock climbing is a fun activity that will appeal to slightly older kids.



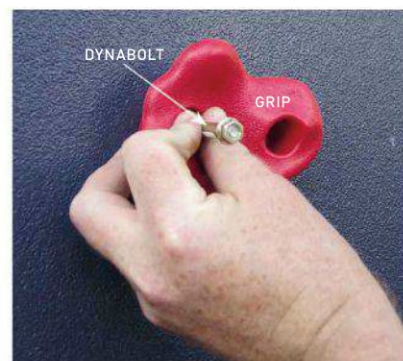
1 Position the grips

Apply Selley's Ezy Tack to the back of the climbing grips and arrange them on the wall. Enlist the kids to help move them around and check the spacing until you get the ideal set-up. It should be difficult but not impossible.



2 Drill the holes

Draw a chalk mark in each hole to indicate the positions of the grips as a guide for drilling. Remove the grips and pull off the Ezy Tack, then drill the holes in the wall using an 8mm masonry drill bit.



3 Secure the grips

Using M8 DynaBolts, attach the grips to the wall. Always test each rock grip for weight before letting the kids loose on them. When all the grips are in position, arrange the foam mats on the ground and start climbing.

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- 100% Australian made



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Earl's® Wood Hardener penetrates into soft rotted wood fibres, restoring them to near original strength. Then just fill with Earl's® Powder Putty when dry.



POWDER PUTTY®

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- Concrete
- Cement sheet
- Plasterboard
- Steel
- Masonry



Just mix with water

No waste, easy to use
Non-shrinking & water-resistant
100% Australian made



TOMMY TAPE®

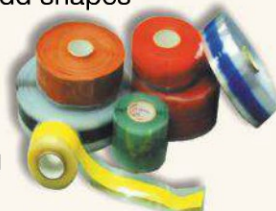
Self fusing silicone tape

- For home, marine, electrical and auto
- Can be applied under water, on extreme temperature items, around odd shapes
- Repair, insulate and protect

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2006

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- Bonds and dries quickly
- PC products for metal, plumbing, marine, concrete, high temperatures and heavy-duty projects.



WAXSTIX® TOUCH-UP CRAYONS

Comes in 13 different colours

TIMBERMATE carry a wide range of coloured wax sticks to repair scratches on timber surfaces. No beeswax to leave white marks. Keep your timber looking new.



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Kid-scape the garden

Add colour outdoors with fun and easy projects for junior designers

PICTURES AND WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

Gardening can be a lot of fun for kids, giving them the chance to get outside and grub around in the dirt.

And if you give kids an area outdoors to call their own they'll be rolling up their sleeves in no time.

The vegetable garden is a great starting point and a wonderful way for them to develop an understanding of where fresh food comes from.

You'll be surprised how many more veggies they are likely to accept on the dinner plate when they've grown them with their own hands.

Let them add a scarecrow and it will become their favourite spot.

Watering and weeding takes up only so much time, so to really keep kids interested between sowing and harvesting crops they need to have a stake in the garden.

The best way to do this is to create a kid-friendly landscape and this is possible whether you have a large garden, small courtyard or balcony.

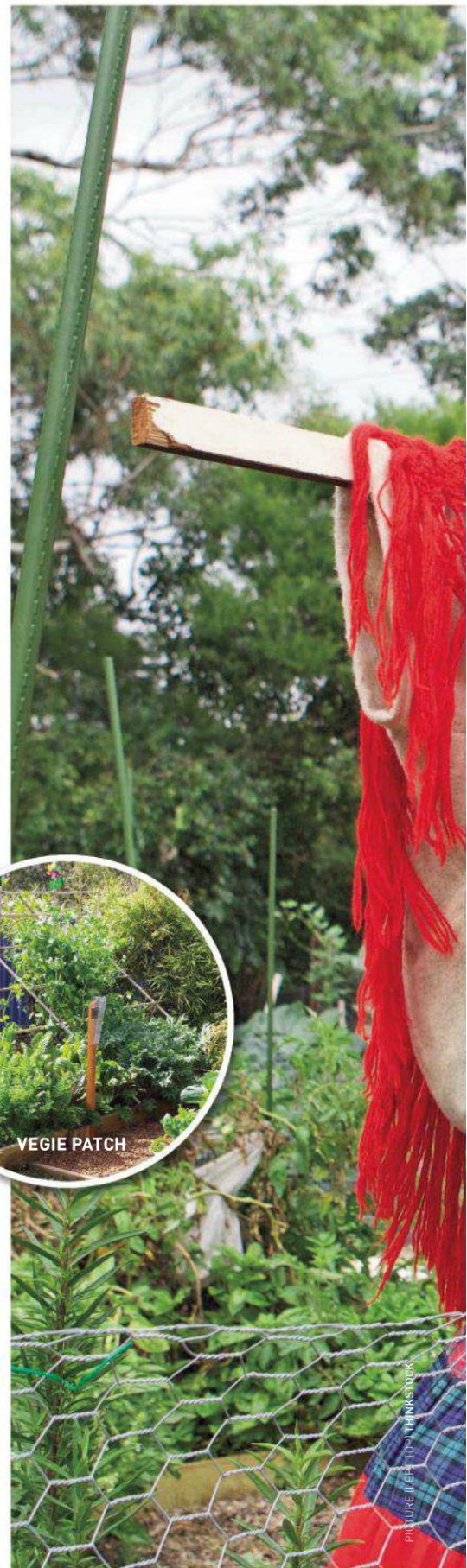
Use raised beds to give children a dedicated growing area, mark out kids-only spots using puppets, or decorate lights to hang outdoors and you won't be able to keep them away. ➤



My First Garden Raised Bed,
from \$49. myfirstgarden.com.au



Birdies 4 Kids 6 in 1 Raised Garden Kit,
\$68. birdiesgardenproducts.com.au





Watch a scarecrow ▼

As a reward for the hard work of sowing garden beds and to give the vegie patch a guardian, help the kids make and dress a scarecrow to protect their crops from birds. **SINK A STAKE** up to 3m high about 600mm into the ground, securing a crosspiece 300mm from the top.

ADD CLOTHES and stuff with grass clippings, woodchips or rags, tying the waistband and pant legs in place. **MAKE A HEAD** from nylon tights or a hessian sack, stuffing it with plastic bags and securing to the stake with twine. Add a face and hat to finish. **TIP** Use bright colours to deter birds.

Adding a scarecrow to the vegie patch is a great way to combine craft with gardening to make it even more fun.



Garden craft

Take the time to look and you'll find your garden is a great source of craft supplies, including seed pods, colourful foliage and flowers, twisted branches and straight twigs.

A collection of goodies from the garden works well to create markers for paths and garden beds.

Just add a few colourful pipe cleaners and Paddle-Pop sticks, then grab a hot glue gun and you're all set to create anything your imagination can conjure up.

This alien stick puppet was assembled using a glue gun, under adult supervision, to join porous materials and the shiny seedpods.

TIP When removing a part of a plant, trim it with secateurs rather than tearing it off by hand.



Mark paths or beds belonging to junior green thumbs with stick puppets.



Designing a flower press

Pressed and dried flowers make beautiful keepsakes or additions to art and craft projects.

A flower press is a simple device that features a rigid base and top plate with bolts through each corner.

To make your own press, cut two 300 x 300mm squares from 9mm marine or exterior ply.

Drill holes about 20mm in from the corners, insert the bolts and secure threaded drawer knobs over the top.

TIP You can also use wing nuts.

To adjust the size of the press simply cut the plywood larger or smaller. For scrapbooks or albums you may want it A4 size.

Position the flowers and leaves between layers of paper on the base plate then add the top plate.

Wind the knobs to tighten the bolts and draw the top and base plates together, compressing the contents of the press.

Change the paper every few days until the flowers or leaves have dried.



my first garden™

Fun outdoor learning.

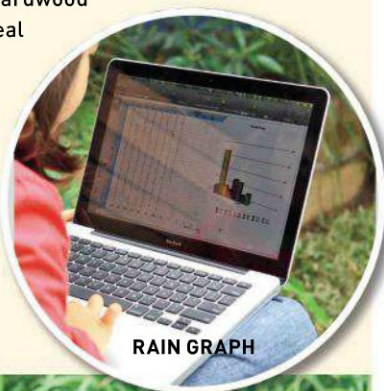
Available at
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Watch the weather ▼

Add a rain gauge to the garden and open up a new world for kids to explore. It is a simple and fun learning tool that helps children appreciate the importance of climate in their garden. The best spot is somewhere that's frequently visited like the vegie garden.

POSITION THE RAIN GAUGE high enough so water won't splash into it and in an area clear from overhanging buildings or trees. A large, securely mounted, seasoned hardwood garden stake is an ideal mounting point.

KEEP RECORDS to help kids learn how to track data and look at summarised results. Create a spreadsheet and graph that tallies the monthly and annual rainfall. ➤



Keeping an eye on rainfall gives kids a reason to get outdoors regularly.

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Cottage Green®	Sunflower Yellow	Sky Blue	Hot Pink

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www.myfirstgarden.com.au

Outdoor lights

Turn your garden into a fairy wonderland after dark by adding handmade lanterns.

All you need is glass paint, LED tea-light candles and glass containers or bottles in just about any shape you can find.

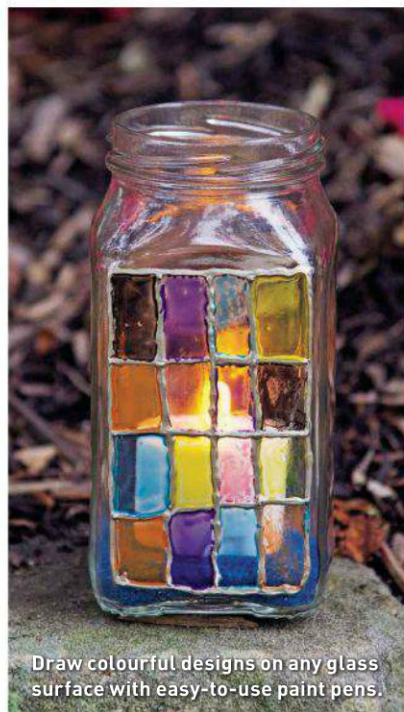
To hang lanterns from trees in the garden, decorate jars with wire handles. If you don't have any, choose jars with a lip and make a hanger using galvanised tie wire from the hardware store.

Paint markers make it easy to create pictures and patterns on glass candle holders of all shapes and sizes.

They cost from \$5 each, from Officeworks, resist fading and come in a range of colours including metallics (officeworks.com.au).

Get the kids to practise first on a piece of paper the same size as the surface to be painted.

TIP If using real candles, don't paint on the side exposed to the flame.



Draw colourful designs on any glass surface with easy-to-use paint pens.



Painted glass beehive pots make colourful hanging lanterns in trees.

+ Get more online

Visit handyman.net.au/mag for Gardening Activities For Kids.



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



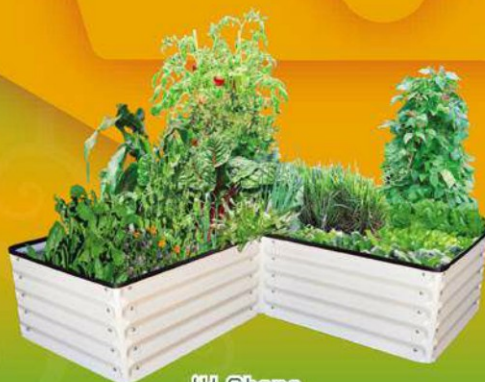
“HEALTHY
Outdoor
LEARNING”



- 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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Gardening for kids

The best way to lure the kids away from the computer or telly and into the outdoors is to give them a fun gardening project.

Gardening gets them into the fresh air but also teaches them about food and the environment.

Mr Fothergill's makes it easy for kids to get their own garden started with an all-in-one pot they can use anywhere, even on a sunny windowsill.

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TIP The lid turns the pot into a mini greenhouse, so take it off after the seeds have developed their first leaves.

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1 ADD THE PEAT PELLET to the base of the pot and pour in one cup of warm water. Let it stand for up to 10 minutes until the pellet has fully expanded.

2 CREATE DRAINAGE by poking a few holes in the base of the pot, then use a stick to fluff up the expanded peat.
TIP The peat should almost fill the pot.

3 MAKE PLANTING HOLES 5mm deep then put a seed in each one. Lightly cover the seeds, add the lid and put the pot in a sunny but not too hot spot.

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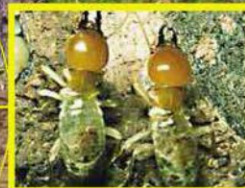
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THIS MONTH

Summer is nearly over so keep the garden well watered and prepare for the cooler days of autumn



Do now

■ **CHECK** out an inspirational coastal garden for tips on how to landscape your place, on page 118.

■ **GROW** herbs by cuisine, creating potted combinations designed for cooking, see page 128.

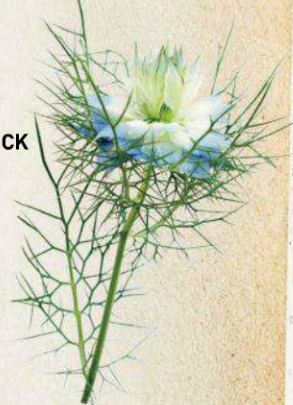
■ **HARVEST** herbs and learn how to preserve them for a longer shelf life, from page 124.

■ **MAKE** timber plant tags for the garden to identify herbs for fast picking, on page 136.

Sow now

For late autumn colour, get these seeds in the ground by the end of summer for blooms in 14 weeks.

- IMPATIENS
- LOBELIA
- NIGELLA
- SCABIOSA
- VIRGINIA STOCK



Grow now

For an autumn harvest of vegies and greens, start growing these edibles from seed in late summer.

- BEETROOT
- CARROT
- RADISH
- SILVERBEET
- TURNIP



Feed now

Keep the garden fed and watered to help it continue to bloom and crop in the last hot month of summer.

- CITRUS AND FRUIT TREES
- LEAFY VEGETABLES
- BERRY-PRODUCING PLANTS
- SPRING-FLOWERING CLIMBERS
- POTTED FERNS



Summer roses

Roses are in bloom and for sale in containers right now, costing about \$10 for a 140mm plant and up to \$50 for a 250mm, depending on the variety.

They cost more than buying them bare-rooted in winter but you can check out their colour and scent.

■ **CHOOSE** standard or patio roses for growing in containers, and bush plants, groundcovers or climbers for beds.

■ **WATER** roses at the base in the morning or evening. Established plants can survive dry spells but flower better if well watered. Young, recently planted or container roses need regular watering.

■ **FEED** monthly during the growing season and deadhead for autumn blooms.

■ **LOOK** for rust, mites or black spot, and spray plants with a combined insecticide and fungicide such as Yates Rose Gun Advanced, \$9 for 750ml (yates.com.au).



Backyard checklist

Here's a round-up of jobs to keep the garden healthy in late summer.

■ **WATER** plants regularly and apply soil wetters to garden beds.

■ **PICK** ripe crops, and remove fallen fruit to prevent fruit fly.

■ **TRIM** hedges and prune shrubs that have finished flowering.

■ **ORDER** spring-flowering bulbs.

■ **DEADHEAD** flowering plants to encourage more blooms.

■ **PREPARE** beds for new plantings.

■ **TAKE** cuttings for propagation.

■ **KILL** weeds in lawns and paving.

■ **ZAP** any pests and diseases.

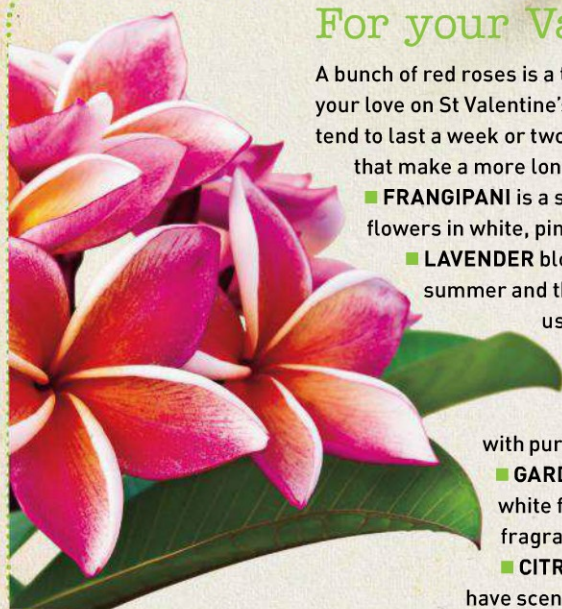
■ **MOW** grass to a height of 40mm.

■ **FEED** plants with a fertiliser formulated for the species.



Top pick

For maximum effect with minimum effort, mass plant *Abelia* 'Kaleidoscope', a low-maintenance shrub with striking foliage year-round and fragrant white blooms from late spring to autumn. It reaches 700mm high and spreads to 900mm with variegated growth that starts off light green in spring and goes fiery red by winter. Drought-tolerant once established, it should be grown in full sun. Feed and trim it in spring. ➤



For your Valentine

A bunch of red roses is a traditional way to declare your love on St Valentine's Day but cut flowers only tend to last a week or two. Here are five plants that make a more long-lasting gift.

- **FRANGIPANI** is a small tree with fragrant flowers in white, pink, red and yellow.
- **LAVENDER** blooms from spring to summer and the dried flowers can be used for soaps, creams and linen sachets.
- **ROSEMARY** is an aromatic edible herb with purple, blue or white flowers.
- **GARDENIA** is a shrub with white flowers that is in full and fragrant bloom during summer.
- **CITRUS TREES** bear fruit and have scented leaves and blossoms.

Plant clinic

The heat and humidity of late summer provide ideal conditions for insects and fungi to thrive. Here are three of the most common plant problems.



SAP SUCKERS like scale, aphids and mealy bugs feed on plants, secrete honeydew which attracts fungus and spread diseases. Treat with a soap spray or white oil, using an organic formula to protect pets, edibles and ladybirds.



POWDERY MILDEW forms a white film on leaves that spreads to buds, stems and fruit in humid, conditions. Roses and vine crops are vulnerable. Bin the affected parts and treat plants with a fungicide that's safe to spray and pick on the same day.

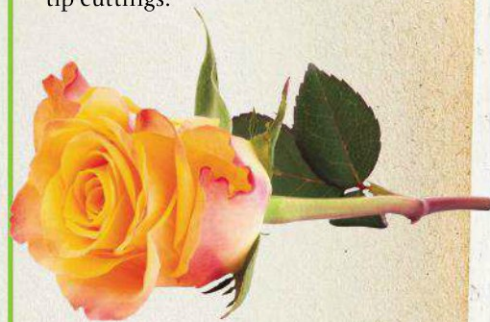


FRUIT FLIES lay eggs in ripening fruit that falls to the soil where the larvae turn into adults. The most effective control is to seal fallen and unpicked fruit in plastic bags and cook in the sun or freeze, then throw in the bin. preventfruitfly.com.au

Prune now

Give plants a clip after summer to tidy up for autumn and promote new growth next spring.

- **SHAPE** stone fruit trees into a vase form after harvest.
- **TRIM** roses lightly to encourage autumn flowers.
- **CUT** back fast-growing climbers.
- **PRUNE** shrubs after flowering.
- **THIN OUT** NSW Christmas bush.
- **TIDY** up geraniums and take tip cuttings.



Harvest now

With so many fruits ripening at this time of year, one of the most important jobs is picking produce.

- **BLACKBERRIES**
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An oasis by the sea

In his stunning book on the coastal gardens of Australia, landscape designer Myles Baldwin discovers a hidden gem

PICTURES SUE STUBBS



During the search for gardens for this book I rang designers who I knew worked on the coast, and Matt Cantwell of Secret Gardens, Sydney, told me I should go to Avalon.

It's one of my favourite parts of the upper northern beaches. On one side is a beach flanked by high rocky cliffs. On the other is Clareville and Pittwater, a magnificent stretch of water.

I've been lucky enough to do a few jobs in Clareville, including one cottage perched on a sea wall only inches above the high tide mark.

Matt's garden in Avalon was my idea of the ultimate coastal garden.

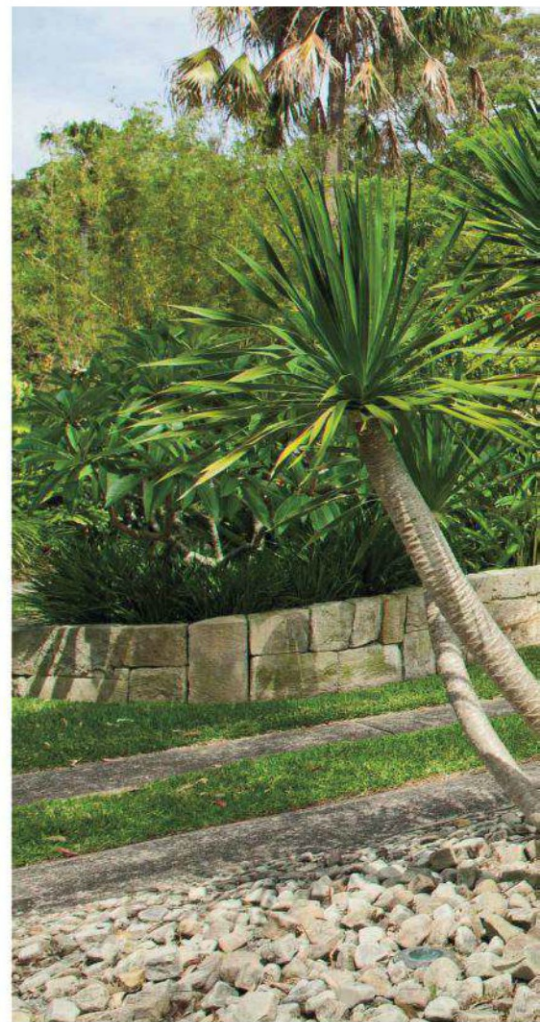
Set back a long way from the street, and hidden by a deep garden backed by dense plantings of syzygium and melaleuca, is a modest 1950s single-storey weatherboard house.

A carport on one side deals with the parking, and a mushroom and white colour scheme provides a clean, contemporary feel that doesn't remove from the architectural intent.

It's home to a couple who came to Avalon for a sea change from inner-city Sydney. ➤



Converted from a carport, this cabin is surrounded by native palms, tree ferns and *Philodendron 'Xanadu'*.



Contemporary yet calming

Leading to the house from the street is a bitumen drive. There's a softness to bitumen many people would not be aware of. It's not like walking on grass but compared to concrete or hard stone it's a cloud, absorbing every step.

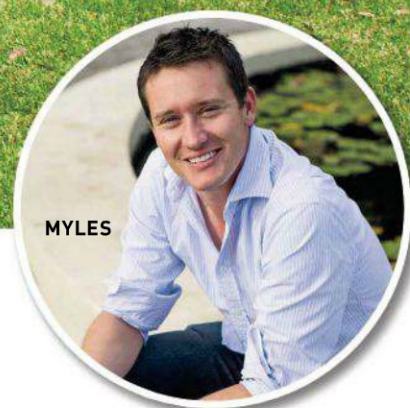
I'm impressed the client went with it as I've wanted to use bitumen on several projects and been shot down with comments like, 'Isn't that what roads are made out of?'.

Walking to the house, the drive is flanked on one side by a loose screen of mixed gingers and subtropical perennials then a tall drift of bamboo that disguises the boundary.

To the other side, *Alpinia zerumbet* is allowed to get to full height.



In this landscape stone mulch and walls provide a wonderful contrast to the expanse of lawn.



MYLES

Closer to the house the drive splits and a rock garden supports a *Ficus lyrata*, multi-headed *Dracaena draco*, archontophoenix and frangipani, and also drifts of lirioppe, mother-in-law's tongue and beehive ginger, setting the theme of things to come.

At the house I can enjoy the simple yet smart use of stone and the bold subtropical planting scheme Matt Cantwell is renowned for.

Reinforcing the location of the front door, a line of sandstone treads stretch across the concrete runners, sweeping past the house and onto the front lawn.

Invited around to the back garden I find it, too, is a subtropical world, a blend of towering palms, tree ferns

and native trees such as melaleuca, angophora and casuarina. Many of the trees are part of a landscape that continues across several neighbouring properties, a great trick which is under-utilised in more urban areas.

At the rear of the house I am lost in a dense world of tree trunks and large shade-tolerant leaves.

Combinations of hymenocallis, cordyline and red dracaena work well, almost like giant flower arrangements depicting subtle foliage contrasts.

Once you enter the rear garden you feel that you're in a different climate. The air seems more dense, and it's possibly a little warmer, which is strange as it's on the southern side of the house. Maybe there's something in

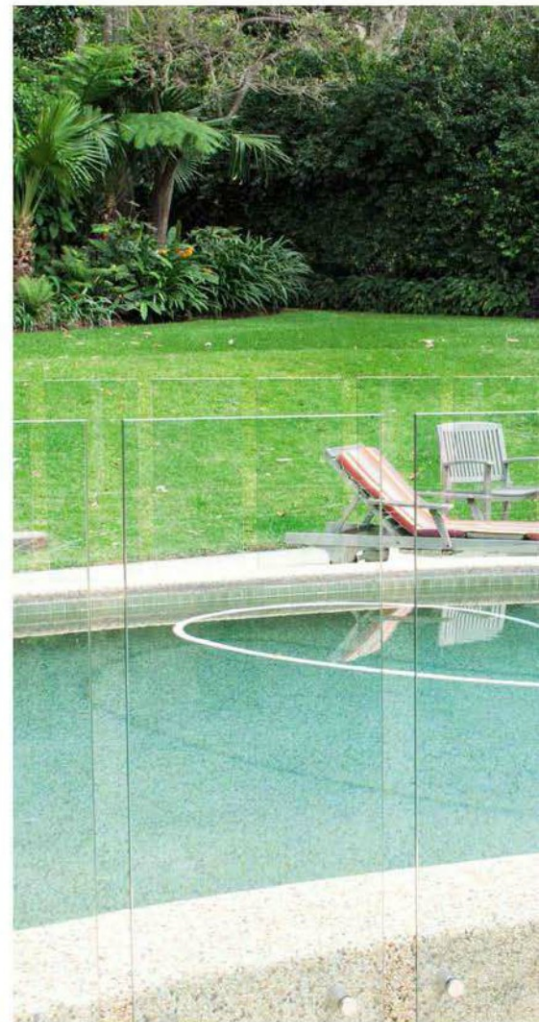
the idea of plant density and moisture within foliage, and heat within life.

A beautiful lawn meanders around the tropically themed gardens, with shafts of light getting through such canopy flower plants as hibiscus and the old-fashioned abutilon, commonly known as the Chinese lantern.

In the middle of the garden a stone feature pond adds the sound of water to the peaceful setting. Simple in design, a low wall curves out to make the pond with a high wall rising at the back as a mound for the spout. ➤



Abutilon loves a coastal climate of high humidity, free-draining soil and salty air but not heat or wind.



A beautiful solution

The swimming pool is a water feature of a very different sort. For many Australian landscape designers, the pool is a means of expression, to show off or to experiment with materials and technological advances.

The pool in the Avalon garden is all these things and as old as the house. When the owners were looking at the cost of building a new one, they thought about whether the money would be better spent in the garden.

As it turns out the garden won, but they still had to deal with the pool, as it didn't even have a fence.

The solution was narrow pieces of glass fencing attached to the raised coping around it. This created a safe



The fenceless pool was screened by glass panels and incorporated as a feature of the new garden design.

and legal enclosure, fenced off from the rest of the garden. At first glance it seemed strange to have the fence right up against the pool, and I thought there must be another way of doing it.

But of course there isn't, and when you understand how the house works, and the importance of the garden as a whole for the owners, this is the best solution by far.

It's also a beautiful solution, where the engineering required to set the glass has become a feature rather than something designed to be invisible, as is usually the case.

An inspired solution to an all too common problem. I especially like the arrangement of three lugs to support the glass rather than an even four.

The garden at Avalon is, for Matt the designer, a triumph in horticulture and aesthetics, while for the owners it's a triumph for a way of life.

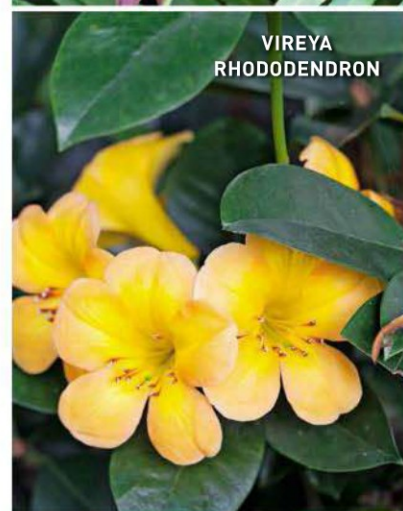
They saw beyond what is now the norm of demolishing and rebuilding, and fell in love with the idea that a home, to quote Darryl Kerrigan, 'is more than bricks and mortar'.

On the day I was walking through the garden, guests were arriving, and the owners' adult children had also come over to visit.

It's a place you want to be, it's a place that makes you feel happy. Would this property have the same feeling if the house was twice as large? I doubt it. Would the garden be anywhere near as good? No way.



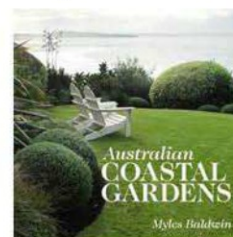
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VIREYA
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About the book

Go on a journey all over the country with landscape designer and horticulturist Myles Baldwin as he discovers inspirational gardens by the sea.



Australian Coastal Gardens
by Myles Baldwin
(Murdoch Books, \$90).



Raising basil ▼

To grow well, basil needs warmth and shelter, a free-draining rich soil and regular feeding.

Water plants before midday whenever the soil is dry, but avoid overwatering. Feed basil every 10 to 14 days with high-nitrogen liquid fertiliser.

Pinch out the growing tips regularly, starting while the plants are still small. This will encourage bushy growth and prolong the life of the plants by suppressing flowering.

Try out different herbs like thyme, rosemary and basil in pots before planting up a kitchen windowbox.

Summer herbs

What to sow, grow and harvest now to preserve and enjoy for months to come

Culinary herbs are at their tastiest from midsummer, when their foliage is still fresh and unblemished, as their flavour peaks just before flowering.

This is the time to harvest large quantities to preserve for later. Water and feed herbs well afterwards for a second harvest at the end of summer. **SOW** herbs like parsley in summer for use in autumn and winter.

When the seedlings are big enough to handle, water well and thin out to 80mm apart then water them again.



CUT off the growing tips of bushy herbs like basil for kitchen use and to encourage lots of new sideshoots.

WATER recently planted herbs in dry weather and check pots regularly.

KEEP on top of weeds, especially in new beds where herbs are establishing.

FEED potted herbs and new perennials in beds with a high-potash fertiliser.

Propagation basics

There are four techniques for creating new plants from herbs.

PINCH out parsley flowers on older plants for more leaves but let one or two flower and self-sow to provide seedlings for transplanting in autumn.

DIVIDE old mint for new plants. Lift mature clumps after flowering, chop

into pieces with a spade and transplant the outer pieces, discarding the centre.

TAKE cuttings of woody herbs like bay and rosemary in summer, dip the stems in hormone powder and pot up.

LAYER low branches of thyme and rosemary by pinning them down in the soil, keeping the tips above ground, and they should take root by winter.



Richgro Tomato, Vegetable & Herb Organic Fertiliser, \$13. richgro.com.au

Growing mint

Most varieties of mint are vigorous growers with a spreading habit.

To prevent the roots invading nearby plants, grow mint in pots or confine in beds by planting in an old bucket, making sure it has lots of drainage holes in the base.

Trim back any wandering roots once or twice in summer.

As mint starts to flower, the quality of the foliage deteriorates.

Cut down a proportion of the tall stems to just above soil level, water well and apply a high-nitrogen fertiliser to stimulate a second crop of young, full-flavoured leaves.

Check for mint rust, looking for pale, swollen or distorted stems and dirty orange spots on the leaves.

Cut off affected growth to ground level and burn, or dispose of it in the bin immediately. ➤



Preserving herbs

Gather herbs for preserving on a dry morning before the sun reaches the plants. Harvest only as much as you are able to preserve straight away and select clean, healthy growth. Keep different herbs separate to avoid cross flavouring.



FREEZING

The best way to keep the flavour and colour of most leafy herbs is freezing. Wash sprigs in cold water and shake dry, as patting can bruise the leaves. ■ **BAG UP** small, loose bunches and freeze. Crush the leaves in their bags when fully frozen, working quickly before they thaw, then store in labelled containers to save space.

■ **PACK** finely chopped leaves into ice-cube trays, add water and freeze. Store the cubes in the trays or bags.

Use this method to make ice cubes from borage flowers and the leaves of variegated mint and lemon balm for adding to cold drinks in summer.

TIP Use the herbs frozen not thawed.



DRYING

After picking, dry herbs immediately to retain as much of their colour and oils as possible. They are ready when the leaves snap easily but are not so brittle they crumble to dust.

Store dried herbs whole or crushed in airtight jars or tins in a cool place.

■ **AIR DRY** in a well-ventilated, warm, dark place. Tie the stems into small bundles and suspend from hooks, or spread in a single layer on trays and turn several times in the first few days.

■ **OVEN DRY** on a very low temperature with the door ajar. Spread the herbs on trays lined with baking paper and turn often, ensuring they don't get too hot.

TIP Dry seeds for a few days then store.



INFUSING

Flavour liquids and butter with the fresh taste of leafy herbs to use for cooking or as condiments.

Oregano, basil and chives are ideal for this. To prepare, grind the herbs to a pulp using a mortar and pestle.

■ **ADD THE HERBS** to sunflower or olive oil, or white wine or cider vinegar, and infuse for two to three weeks. Strain the liquid and pour into a clean bottle or jar, adding a fresh sprig of the herb.

■ **BLEND THE HERBS** with unsalted butter and store in the refrigerator for a week, or shape into a log, wrap in baking paper and freeze.

TIP To make herb jelly, combine mint leaves with cooking or crab apples.

▼ The basics

The leaves, flowers and seeds of herbs can be preserved for later use. Here is a guide to common herbs and methods to preserve them.



Herbs and greens make leafy, aromatic and colourful garden beds.

HERB	PART	METHOD
Basil	leaves	freeze, infuse in oil or vinegar
Bay	leaves	dry, infuse in oil or vinegar
Bergamot	flowers, leaves	dry
Chamomile	flowers, leaves	dry
Chervil	leaves	freeze
Chives	flowers, leaves	dry, freeze, make butter
Coriander	seeds	dry
Dill	leaves, seeds	freeze, infuse in vinegar, dry
Fennel	leaves, seeds	freeze, infuse in oil or vinegar, dry
Hyssop	flowers, leaves	dry, infuse in oil
Lemon balm	leaves	dry, freeze, infuse in oil or vinegar
Lemon verbena	leaves	dry, infuse in oil or vinegar
Marjoram	flowers, leaves	dry, freeze, infuse in oil or vinegar
Mint	leaves	dry, freeze, infuse in oil or vinegar
Parsley	leaves	freeze, mix with butter, infuse in vinegar
Pot marigold	flowers	dry
Rosemary	leaves	dry, infuse in oil or vinegar
Sage	flowers, leaves	dry, infuse in oil or vinegar
Savory	leaves	dry, infuse in oil or vinegar
Tarragon	leaves	freeze, infuse in oil or vinegar
Thyme	leaves	dry, infuse in oil or vinegar



GARDENING THIS MONTH



February is a month of enjoying the rewards of Spring planted vegetables and flowers. Feed your leafy vegetables and flowering annuals regularly to replace nutrients consumed during this high production period. Also keep your annuals and perennials well watered during the hot spells that can really test the resilience of many tender plants.

Whilst February is typically one of the hottest months of the year, it's also the time to start your Autumn sowings in seed trays, Jiffy Peat Pellets and pots or greenhouses. Sowing now will result in early season blooms and crops! Make sure you avoid placing these in direct sun during the hottest parts of the day.

Flowers to sow now include Alyssum, Aquilegia, Calendula, Candytuft, Carnation, Cornflower, Delphinium, Hollyhock, Larkspur, Lavender, Lobelia, Lupin, Pansy, Snapdragon, Stock, Virginian Stock and Viola.

Vegetables to sow now include Beetroot, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Celeriac, Leek, Lettuce, Kale, Onions, Parsnip, Silverbeet and Spinach.

Whilst starting out your Autumn seeds you can begin preparing your garden beds for the upcoming season. Turn the beds and enrich with organic matter as your flowers finish and Summer crops are harvested. See our website for our new Online Garden Planner and iPhone App that help you plan your Autumn garden!



www.mrfothergills.com.au



US ON FACEBOOK



Pots of flavour

Grow herbs from around the globe to enjoy fragrant dishes from a different country every day

WORDS LEE DASHIELL MAIN PICTURES GEOFF BECK



Having pots of plentiful herbs on hand helps you stay creative in the kitchen.

All across the world people have been cooking with herbs for thousands of years, creating distinctive local dishes and recipes to be handed down through generations.

Growing herbs in the garden is an easy way to bring these exotic flavours and methods into your own kitchen.

Herbs in pots add an attractive feature to a garden, and they are very easy to grow. Using quality potting mix that contains water-saving crystals, wetting agents and fertiliser will almost guarantee success.

Planting herbs in pots means you can control the conditions in which

they grow, moving them into direct sun in the cooler months and dappled shade in warmer weather.

They are also ideal for growing on balconies, patios or windowsills.

Choose the pots

Look at the overall style of your yard and select pots to match. Choose between sleek and modern, country rustic or a Mediterranean style.

Terracotta pots suit most garden styles, but rough timber crates lined with plastic, or even an old wheelbarrow can work well. Just ensure there is adequate drainage.

Select the herbs

Next you need to decide what you want to grow in your herb garden.

The ideal grouping for each pot should include a tall feature plant, small bushy plants and a trailing herb to soften the edges.

Herbs need about six hours of sunlight a day to help them thrive and resist disease. Pots dry out quickly so they have to be watered more often.

A diluted liquid fertiliser applied weekly will help the plants flourish. And when you cut your herbs from the pot, that will encourage more abundant, bushy growth. ➤

Potting by cuisine

MOROCCO Saffron, mint, paprika, turmeric and cinnamon.

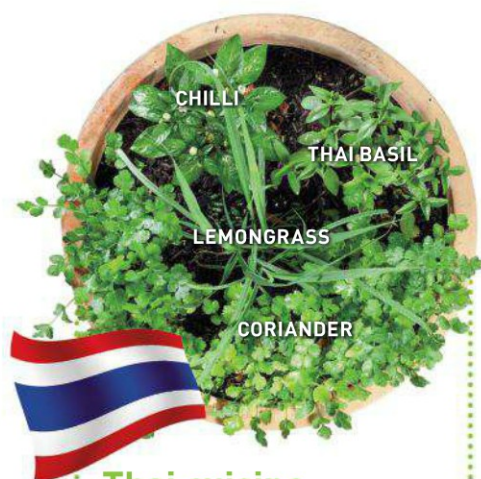
VIETNAM Lemongrass, lime, mint, coriander and betel leaf.

MEXICO Chillies, coriander, garlic chives and oregano.

INDONESIA Galangal, star anise, caraway, clove and tamarind.

INDIA Mint, cumin, coriander, curry and cardamom.

Find out which herbs to use for Thai, French and Italian cuisine and try out our simple recipes, from page 130.



Thai cuisine

A classic Thai dish contains spicy, sweet, sour and savoury flavours, combining ingredients such as chilli, palm sugar, lime juice and fish sauce for the perfect balance of flavours.

Grow herbs such as chilli, Thai basil, coriander and lemongrass to cultivate the taste of Thai food in your own backyard.

Herby Thai salad

PREPARATION 20 mins

plus 15 mins cooling

COOKING 5 mins

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

1½ Tbsp light olive oil
500g lean chicken or beef mince
2 tsp finely grated fresh ginger
2 garlic cloves, crushed
2 long green chillies, finely chopped
1 large French shallot (eschalot), halved, thinly sliced
⅓ cup fresh coriander leaves
2 Tbsp torn fresh mint
¼ cup firmly packed torn basil
1 kaffir lime leaf, finely shredded
¼ cup lime juice
2 tsp fish sauce
1 Tbsp grated palm sugar, dark brown sugar or caster sugar
8 iceberg lettuce leaves, to serve
¼ cup chopped unsalted roasted peanuts, to serve

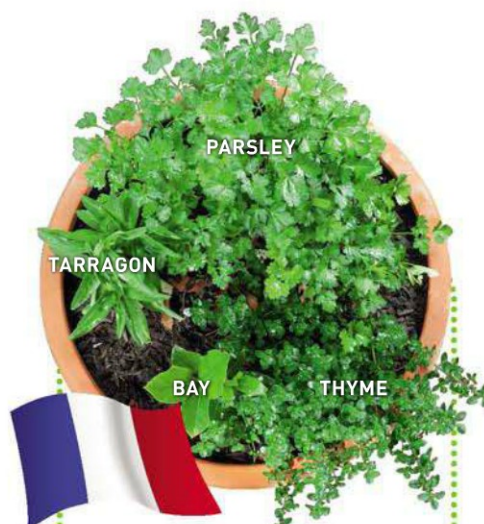
① **HEAT THE OIL** in a wok or large frying pan over high heat. Add the chicken or beef, ginger, garlic and chillies, and stir to break up any chunks in the meat. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring regularly, until cooked through. Add the shallot and mix well. Transfer the mixture to a bowl and leave to cool for 15 minutes.

② **ADD THE CORIANDER**, mint and basil to the meat in the bowl. Put the kaffir lime leaf, lime juice, fish sauce and sugar in a small bowl and whisk to combine. Pour over the meat and herb mixture and toss well.

③ **DIVIDE THE LETTUCE LEAVES** between four serving plates and fill with the meat and herb mixture. Sprinkle with peanuts and serve.

COOK'S TIP If available, use Vietnamese mint and Thai basil instead of regular mint and basil for a more fragrant and authentic flavour. You can also replace the kaffir lime leaf with 1 teaspoon grated lime zest.





French cuisine

The regional cuisines of France take influences from their nearest neighbours. The south-east has hints of Italian, while in the north there's a British flavour.

A typical French diet is made up of high-quality seasonal ingredients. Sauces are the key feature, prepared with fresh herbs such as thyme, parsley and bay.

Mixed bean cassoulet

PREPARATION 20 mins

COOKING 55 mins

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 butternut pumpkin, peeled, seeded and diced
- 300ml salt-reduced vegetable stock
- 410g can chopped tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp tomato paste
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 420g can butter beans, drained and rinsed
- 420g can borlotti beans, drained and rinsed

HERB CRUST

- 1 cup dry wholemeal breadcrumbs
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup mixed nuts, coarsely chopped
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

1 PREHEAT THE OVEN to 200°C.

Heat the oil on the hob in a flameproof casserole dish and sauté the onion over medium heat for 5 minutes, or until softened. Add the garlic and pumpkin and cook for a further minute, stirring constantly.

2 ADD THE STOCK, tomatoes, tomato paste, bay leaves, thyme and beans and combine well. The mixture may look dry, but the pumpkin will produce extra juices as it cooks. Slowly bring to a boil, then cover the dish, transfer to the oven and cook for 25 minutes.

3 FOR THE HERB CRUST combine the breadcrumbs, nuts and parsley in a bowl. Remove the casserole from the oven and season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Scatter the breadcrumb mixture over the top.

4 RETURN THE CASSEROLE to the oven without the lid. Bake for a further 20 minutes until the herb crust is lightly browned. Serve hot. ➤





Italian cuisine

Italy is divided between cuisines of the north and south. In the north, they use more butter and cream in their sauces while southern sauces are more tomato based.

Italians cook simple meals of seasonal vegetables and grains with meat as an accent, using herbs such as oregano, sage, rosemary and basil.

Beef and tomato ravioli

PREPARATION 15 mins

COOKING 25 mins

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

4 Tbsp olive oil
200g minced beef
200g minced pork
1 onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 Tbsp oregano, chopped
1 sprig rosemary
2 cups chicken stock
250g zucchini, diced
800g can chopped tomatoes
400g ravioli
¼ cup toasted pine nuts
Small fresh basil leaves, to garnish
Grated Parmesan, to serve

1 HEAT HALF THE OLIVE OIL in a heavy-based saucepan. Add the beef and pork and fry over high heat for 2 minutes, or until the meat has

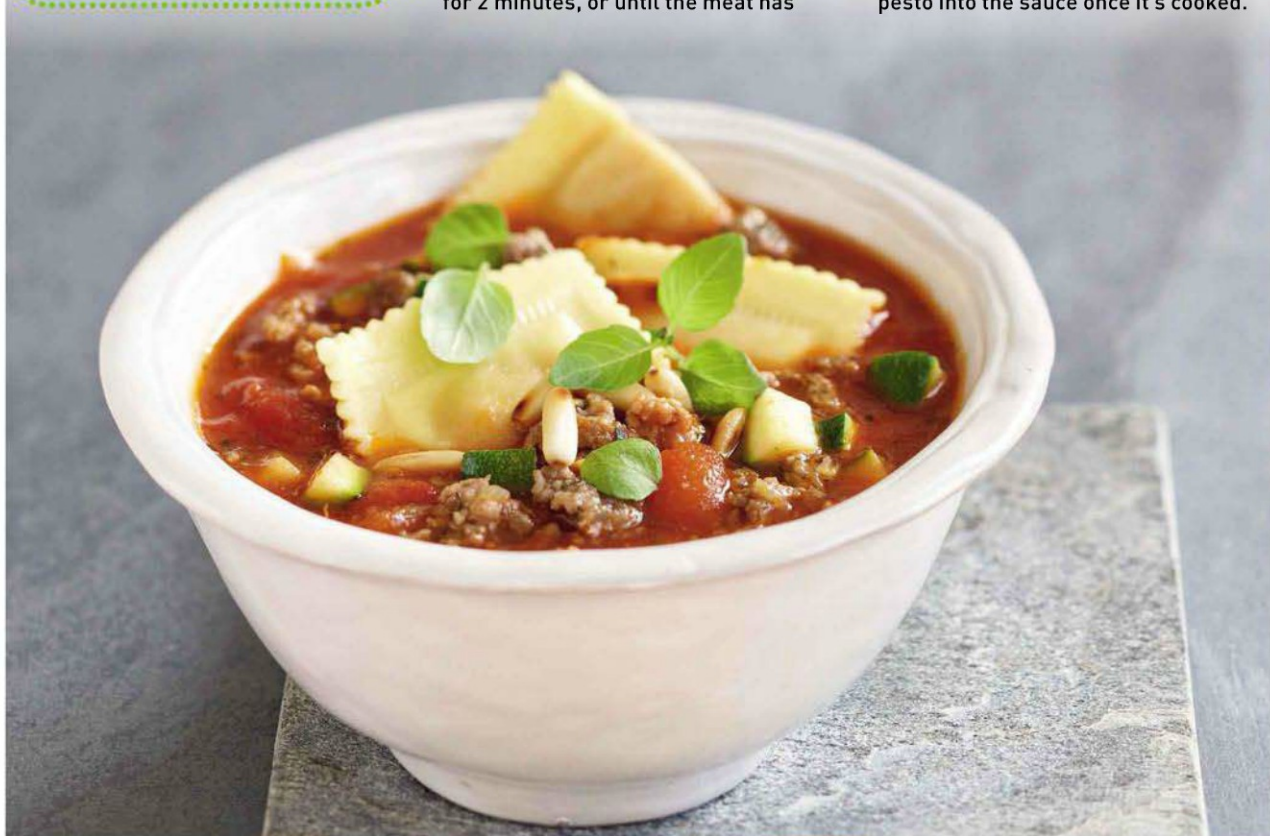
changed colour, breaking up any chunks with a wooden spoon.

2 ADD THE ONION and garlic and sauté for 1 minute. Sprinkle with the oregano and rosemary and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Stir in the stock, bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to low. Cover and simmer for about 8 minutes.

3 STIR IN THE ZUCCHINI and cook for 5 minutes. Mix the tomatoes through and bring to the boil. Stir in the ravioli carefully and allow it to gently heat in the sauce for about 5 minutes. Check the packet for specific directions as the pasta cooking times can vary.

4 SPRINKLE THE PASTA with the pine nuts, garnish with basil leaves and drizzle with the remaining tablespoons of oil. Serve with grated Parmesan.

COOK'S TIP For a quicker preparation time, omit the pine nuts and basil leaves and stir 4 tablespoons basil pesto into the sauce once it's cooked.





EDGE TRIM CUT

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Grow microgreens

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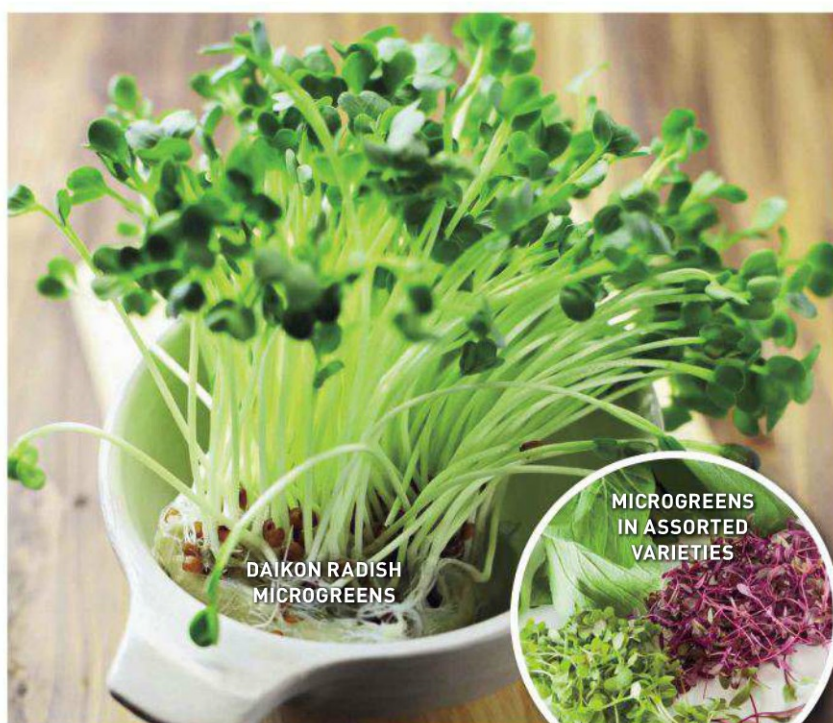
A culinary 'it' food, microgreens are seedlings that have just started to develop leaves. They are tasty, nutritious and easy to grow.

Kids love growing them as the results are almost instant. They germinate within a week and usually harvest after two.

Mr Fothergill's has a miniature and reusable hydroponic system for growing microgreens. No soil is required, just a growing tray and seed packet from the range of five mixes based on different cuisines from around the world.



Mr Fothergill's Microgreens Growing Tray and Salad Green Seeds.



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MICROGREENS IN ASSORTED VARIETIES



1 POSITION THE TRAY in a warm and sunny location on a level surface. Fill the reservoir with fresh water to just below the growing screen.



2 LAY TISSUE PAPER on top of the growing screen and shake the packet to mix the seeds well, spreading them evenly over the top of the paper.



3 MIST THE SEEDS with water a few times daily as the seeds germinate and top up the reservoir as needed. Stop misting once the roots are in the water.

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SUNDAY 19 JANUARY
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KIDS' WORKSHOP BACK TO SCHOOL

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY
STORAGE SOLUTIONS
KIDS' WORKSHOP WALL ART

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY
FAMILY FUN
KIDS' WORKSHOP AUSTRALIA DAY

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY
STORAGE SOLUTIONS
KIDS' WORKSHOP DECORATOR

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY
QUICK REFRESH, REPAIR & MAINTENANCE
KIDS' WORKSHOP AUSTRALIA DAY

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QUICK REFRESH, REPAIR & MAINTENANCE
KIDS' WORKSHOP CHINESE NEW YEAR

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY
QUICK REFRESH, REPAIR & MAINTENANCE
KIDS' WORKSHOP CRAFT

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY
TILING & PLASTERING
KIDS' WORKSHOP FUN MOSAICS



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.

Rustic herb signs

Handyman Managing editor and keen cook Lee Dashiell likes to add lots of herbs to his summer kitchen garden.

'This year I planted sage, thyme, rosemary, oregano and tarragon and in weeks the herbs had grown enough for me to start tip-pruning them,' says Lee.

'But I hadn't kept the plant tags that came with the herbs, making it easy to forget which was tarragon and which was oregano.'

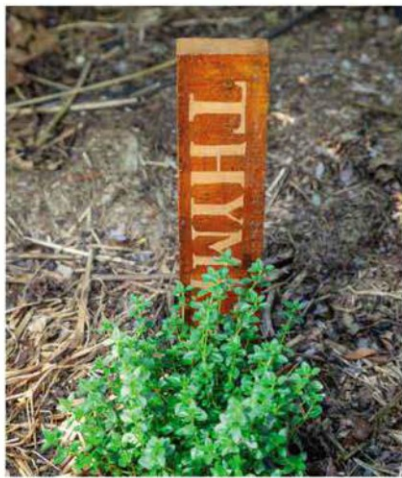
To label the herbs, Lee used 300mm high garden edging stakes to make rustic timber signs for each one.

'I drew the letters on the stakes in pencil and carved them using a rotary tool. Changing attachments for different parts of the letters allowed me to carve the intricate areas more accurately.

'A light sand smoothed out the gouges then I painted the letters with clear exterior varnish for a gloss finish on the rough-hewn background.'



Ozito 170W 42 Piece Rotary Tool Kit, \$40. ozito.com.au



For a no-carve method, write the letters on the stake then apply gloss exterior varnish, leaving the herb name raw.



Carve herb names into timber plant tags for the kitchen garden.

✦ **Get more online**

Visit handyman.net.au/mag for how to Make Copper Plant Tags.



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