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AUSTRALIAN

Handyman

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page 114

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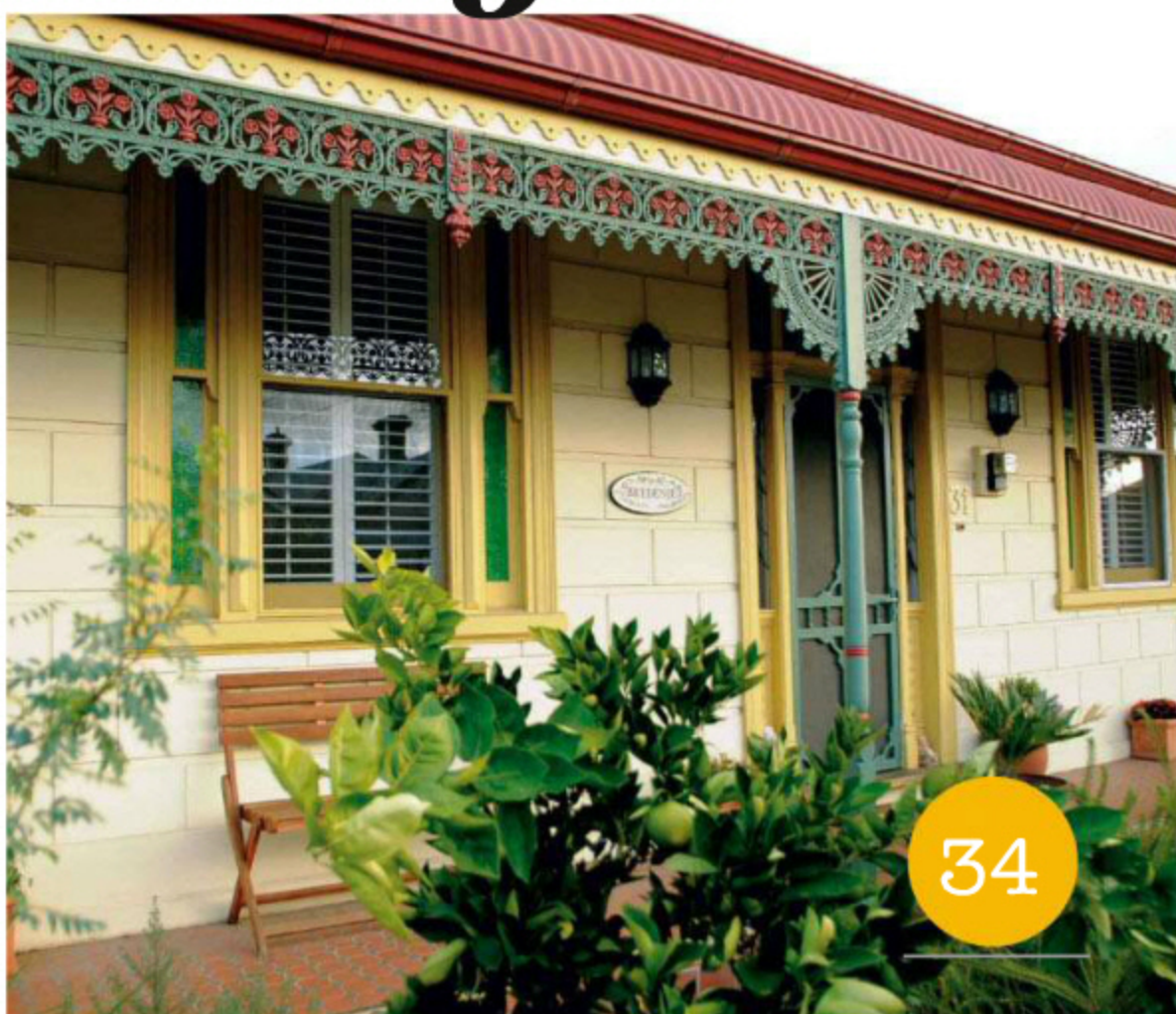
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August*issue*



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Weird and wacky, and sometimes practical. That pretty much sums up this year's batch of man caves, on [page 64](#).

I love the ingenuity, sense of fun and imagination that's culminated in the creation of these private oases. Be inspired and show off your personality with your own bespoke workshop.

In another Father's Day special feature, we show you how to build a bookcase with your child. And what a good idea to get them started young, to develop great DIY skills while you, their favourite role model, are there to ensure their safety.

Plus, Handy Stuff this month has lots of gift ideas for Dad, on [page 13](#).

Repairing old houses

I've lived in a few old houses and while they have a certain charm and character, they also come with a different set of renovation needs.

From leadlight windows to timber fretwork, wrought-iron lacework and tessellated tiling, these buildings and their materials require special skills.

Australian Handyman is here to help with repairs for these areas and inspiration for painting the facade.

We've spoken to colour experts about their suggestions for both traditional and modern colour schemes for terraced and weatherboard houses, as well as Californian bungalows. This special section starts on [page 20](#).

Winter is almost over!

Now is a great time to finish off those interior projects that will make a huge impact on your home.

In this issue, we demonstrate how to create a feature wall with wallpaper, which will add wonderful texture, colour and warmth to any room in your home.

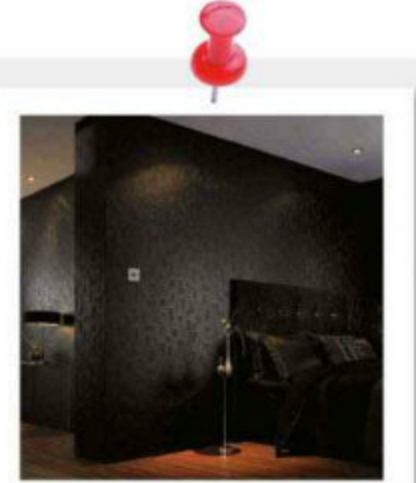
Plus we show you how to make easy-to-DIY bedheads and coat racks.

All of these projects give you enormous bang for your buck for an instantaneous facelift. So what are you waiting for?

Enjoy the issue,

Lee Dashiell

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL



Get creative in the bedroom with decorative wallpaper.

More inspiration

Are you planning on renovating your bedroom and need some more inspiration?

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

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

When designing a new kitchen or renovating an old one, choosing appliances is half the fun, but you have to make sure they suit your needs and don't just look good.

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HANDYSTUFF

Put a smile on your dad's dial this Father's Day with these clever gift ideas for the outdoors or the workshop

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT MAIN PICTURES STUART SCOTT



Bringing beer to a barbie has never been so easy.

Brew bag

Make sure Dad's day isn't ruined by a warm beer with the Esky 30 Can Hybrid Cooler with ice brick, \$30. Fully insulated with a hard inner liner for cold retention, the generously sized cooler has an easy-access lid and is leak-proof. The carry strap makes carting a few beverages to his mate's place simple and won't break his back.

colemanaustralia.com.au

Shine a light

Get more from your day with the Life + Gear Multi-Function Glow Lantern, \$29. Switch light modes with the simple twist of a dial between a single CFL light, double CFL lights, LED nightlight, LED red glow light or red LED flasher.

lifegear.com



Gas up 'n' go

Fire up the grill anywhere, anytime with the single burner butane Gasmate Portable Cooker, \$14. It's lightweight and easy to transport, while a gas leak prevention and shut-off system combined with solid brass valves mean it will take a knock or two.

gasmate.com.au



Chill out chair

Set Dad up in style while he's watching you on the field in a Marquee Deluxe Camping Chair, \$18. Easy to fold up and transport, it has a comfortable padded polyester seat and back while the armrest features a drink holder for his coffee or beer. ➤

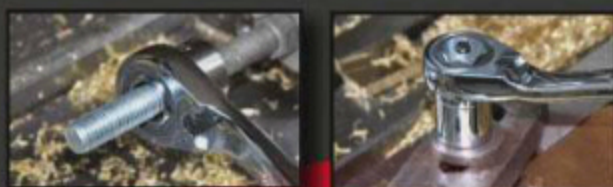
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Make cleaning up effortless with a barbecue grill cover.

Straight shooter

Get your dad into gear with a new Karcher K3.200 High Pressure Cleaner, \$349. Compact, with a telescopic handle, it's easy to manoeuvre and store. It comes with a 1.7kW long-life water-cooled motor to give as much power as a larger unit, a vario spray lance, dirt blaster and 7m hose.

karcher.com.au



A cut above

Keep tools in tiptop shape with the Eze-Lap Diamond Plate Sharpener, \$70. The plate cuts tools from any direction and is designed to last as it is milled flat and will not dish out with use. Mess-free, the plate needs no lubrication and won't break when dropped.

ezelap.com.au



Grilling gear

Cut back on cleaning up after a barbie with a Lavaliner EZ Grill Liner, \$4. Easy to wipe clean with paper towel and dishwasher-safe, the liner can withstand heat up to 260°C. You'll keep your dad happy as the non-stick surface prevents a build-up of any burnt-on food scraps, which means he has to spend less time scraping.

bunnings.com.au



Endless edges

Sick of running out of battery or cord length while working in the garden? Problem solved thanks to the Ryobi 18V Hybrid Line Trimmer, \$199, and the Ryobi 18V Hybrid Fan, \$59. The new technology means you can switch between a battery or corded mains source so you won't ever have to leave a job half finished again. ➤

ryobi.com.au



Light up the night

Switching from day to night is simple with the Panther Vision Powercap, \$20. The brushed cotton cap will protect Dad's face from the sun and the four concealed LEDs under the brim provide light for up to 43 hours. Two of the LEDs illuminate up to 12.8m in front of the wearer while the other two focus on close up work.

panthervision.com



Electric jacket

Find your dad gets a little too frosty? Warm him up with an AEG 12V Heated Jacket, \$199, available in sizes small to XXL. Made of soft, durable polyester with a fleece lining and built-in hood, it's wind- and water-resistant. It also features three carbon-fibre heating elements with three heat settings.

aegpowertools.com.au



Easy squeezy

Get your dad's workshop in order with Viewtainer Standard Series Containers, small, \$2, and large, \$4. To fill up the container, push in the lid and squeeze to create a funnel, then just pop in any spare hardware. Squeeze the lid to easily release the hardware.

viewtainer.com



Manage mess

Clear off tricky substances from hands with Grime Boss Heavy Duty Hand Wipes, \$3 for 10. The special formula wipes away sealants, grease, paint and other gunk quick and easily without harsh chemicals or rubbing skin red raw.

grimeboss.com.au

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BUYER'S GUIDE

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT PICTURE STUART SCOTT

SHOVELS & SPADES

Unearth the right digging tool for your next DIY landscaping job to make shifting and spreading easier

Garden go to

Staring at a mountain of mulch? Pick up the Stanley Square Mouth Shovel, \$43. With a long ashwood handle and weighing only 2.3kg, this is best put to work shifting and spreading soil, sand and mulch. The steel head is 2mm thick and features a foot tread for extra power. stanleyworks.com.au

Light & easy

Take on tough soil with a Fiskars Garden Light Pointed Spade, about \$43. With a plastic-coated aluminium shaft, it's lightweight and rust-resistant. The pointed blade is made from boron steel for easier soil penetration. Use this 1.3kg spade to aerate, stir or turn soil and cut through roots. au.fiskars.com

Step on it

Take a note from the pros and dig holes for piping or drains with the Kelso Long Handle Plumber's Shovel with Power Step, \$35. Made to last, the strong narrow head is treated to prevent rust and the fibreglass handle has a steel core. bunnings.com.au

Sturdy shifter

All set for a garden clean-up? Add a True Temper D Handle Round Mouth Shifting Shovel, \$29, to your tool collection. Ideal for removing or spreading large loads of soil, sand or other materials, it has a hardwood handle and heat-tempered steel blade for durability. amestruetemper.com

In the trenches

Tackle the turning over of soil with the budget-friendly Spear & Jackson Trenching Shovel, \$20. The carbon steel blade is 300mm long and 1.6mm thick and is secured to the elm timber handle by a reinforced steel collar for added strength. spearandjackson.com.au

Concrete carter

Let loose when landscaping with the Cyclone Square Mouth Concreting Shovel, \$25. It has a Y grip short handle for close work, and the light 1.6mm blade and all-steel construction make it ideal for mixing concrete as well as loading or spreading wet or heavy materials. cyclone.com.au



Colour update

Give your home a modern makeover or traditional restoration with exterior paint ideas from the experts

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH ILLUSTRATIONS STEPHEN POLLITT

Australia's suburbs are filled with a mix of architectural styles dating back to the 19th century. Renovating a period home can be tricky, particularly where there are heritage constraints.

The quickest and easiest way to restore or update a classic older home is by painting the exterior.

We asked the experts about the best modern and traditional colour schemes for three styles of Aussie period homes.

Traditional colour scheme

'Neutrals and brown tones are the Edwardian colour scheme for timber and brick exteriors,' says Taubmans ambassador and TV host Shaynna Blaze.

'Use tessellated pathways as a guide. These colours will enhance the pathway detail to enrich the traditional look of the home.'



TRADITIONAL



Californian Bungalow

Built from affordable materials and designed for a warm, dry climate, this style of house became popular in the early 20th century and represented an increased influence of American culture on Australian society.

The cosy design is characterised by gabled roofs with overhanging eaves and a large verandah with prominent columns supporting the roof. Front rooms sometimes feature bay windows with stained glass panels.

The architectural style overlapped with traditional Edwardian design and reached its peak of popularity during the 1920s. Thousands of houses were built in inner-city areas as well as on larger blocks in newer suburbs.

As the Great Depression took hold and construction slowed, the style fell out of favour as quickly as it began. ➤



Modern colour scheme

Shaynna says, 'Create a modern look by painting the roof in grey and contrast this with white on the trim to make it fresh. The deep charcoal roof is in line with the modern grey palette of now.'

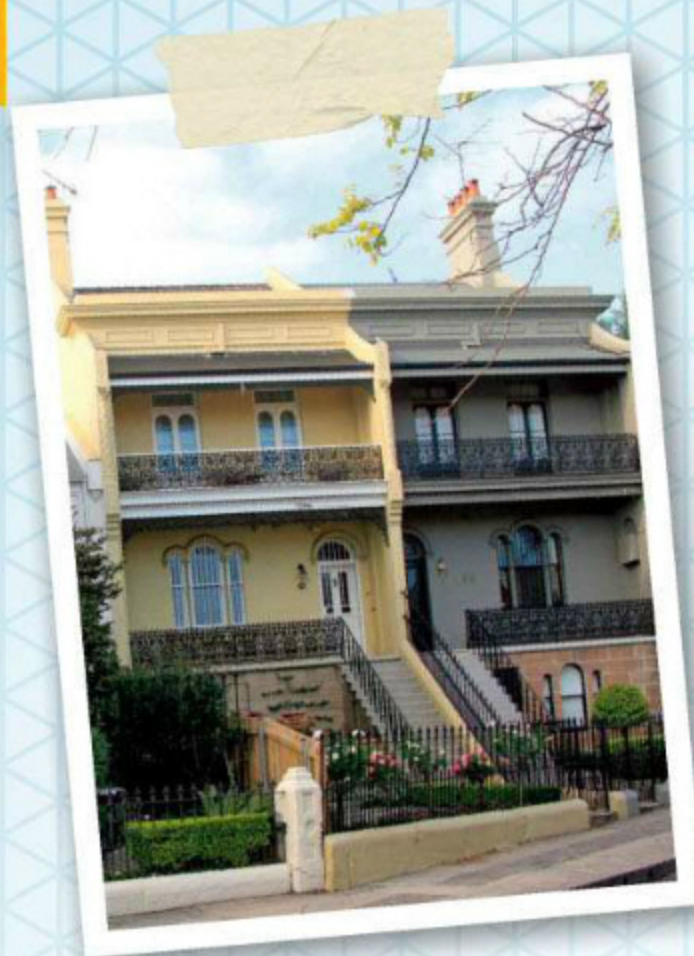
'The accent of a deep teal-like colour on the gable is a modern version of the period green.'



MODERN



PICTURES (BACKGROUND) THINKSTOCK (TOP) GETTY IMAGES



Terrace

One of the oldest styles of housing in Australia, Victorian terraces emerged in the mid 19th century during the economic boom of the Gold Rush.

They were constructed mainly from locally manufactured brick rather than sandstone and were built for the emerging middle class.

As a result, they are characterised by ornate external embellishments such as iron lacework, rendered walls, and decorative brickwork. Gates and fences commonly include cast iron spears, and stone or concrete piers.

Victorian terraces are normally single, double or triple storey buildings and usually built in rows of several dwellings. They are set close to the street and commonly feature timber verandahs and small gardens.

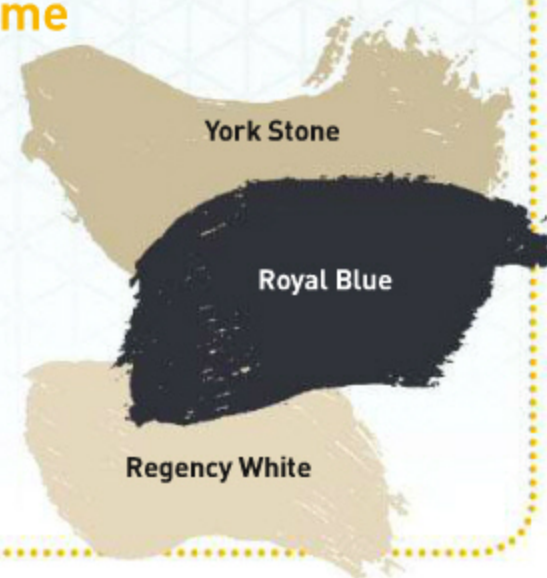
While many examples were demolished during the early 20th century as they were considered slums, existing terraces are now largely heritage listed and highly sought after in gentrified suburbs.



Traditional colour scheme

'For a traditional style, I would look at stone for the rendered walls, white for the wrought iron and dark blue for the timber doors,' says Andrea Lucena-Orr, Colour Planning Manager at Dulux.

'Selecting colours from the traditional palette ensures you are keeping the home in the heritage period. Many councils have a caveat on heritage listed homes to ensure these older homes remain authentic.'



PICTURE TOP/ALAMY



Modern colour scheme

'For a modern style, I would select grey for the walls, white for the wrought iron and black for the doors,' says Andrea.

'Choosing a darker palette with a contrast automatically gives it a more up-to-date feeling and a more contemporary look.'

'Highlighting the details in the white really makes them stand out against the darker grey backdrop.'



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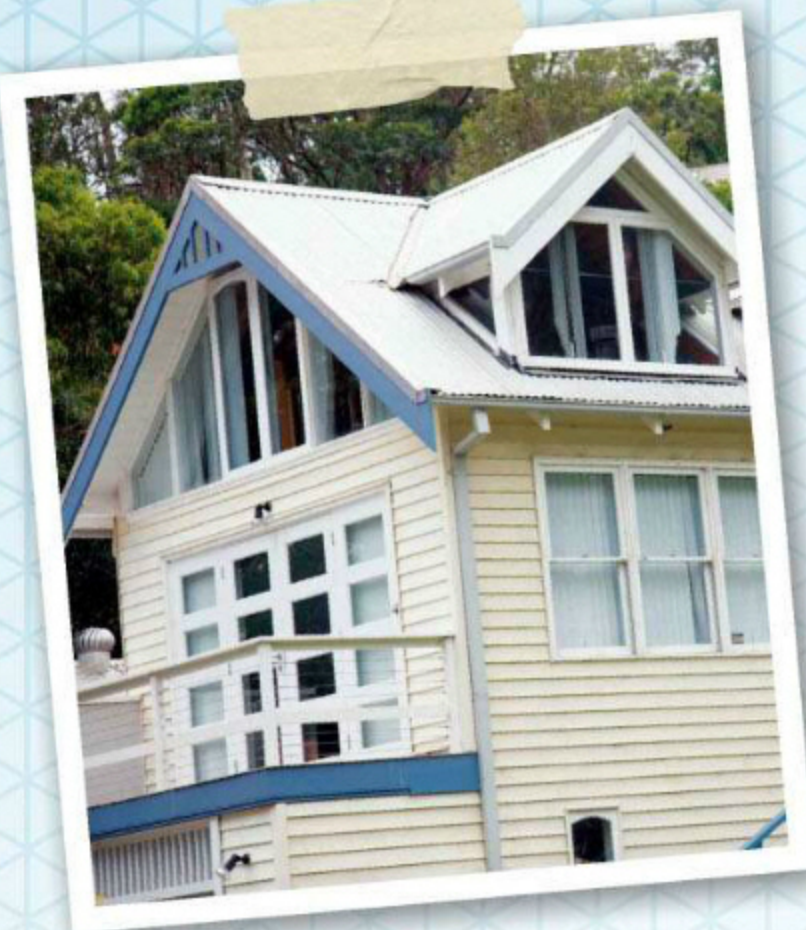
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Weatherboard

Edwardian or Federation architecture followed the Victorian period and reflects the economic downturn at the end of the 19th century with more austere building materials and less ornamentation.

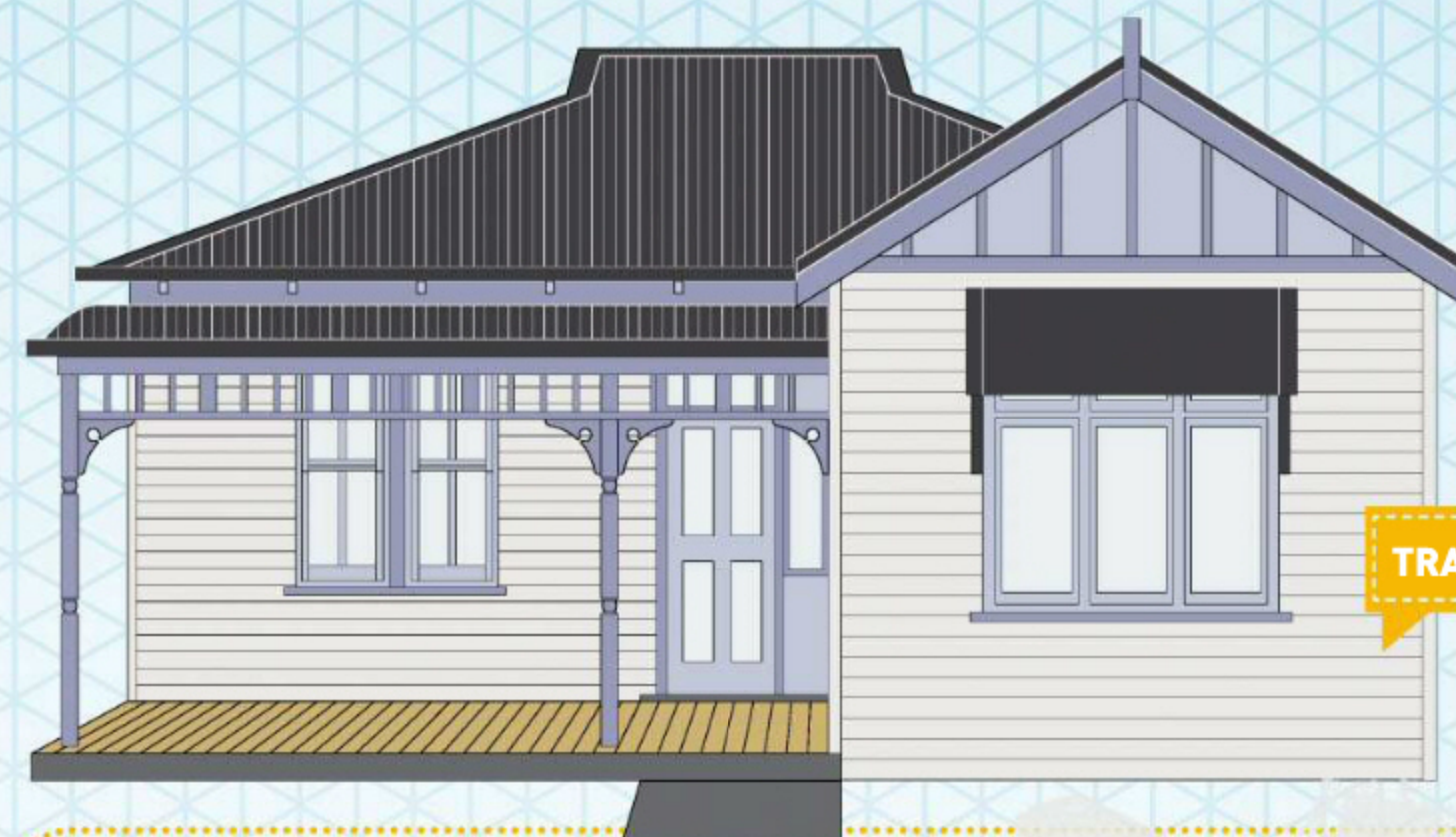
While brick was the material of choice for homes of the wealthy, inexpensive weatherboards were favoured by the working class.

As a result, most weatherboard cottages are mostly found in the inner city where factory workers and labourers resided, but spread further from city centres on larger blocks as railway lines were constructed.

They are less symmetrical than Victorian houses and often feature corrugated iron roofs and L-shaped verandahs with modest timber fretwork on support brackets.

In the early 20th century this was the most common type of house in Australia, but the majority of these humble homes have since been demolished to make way for more modern buildings and apartments.

PICTURE (TOP) ALAMY



Traditional colour scheme

'Classic Edwardian weatherboard homes are pieces of Australian history, so choosing paint colours is especially important,' says Caitlin O'Brien, Product Manager at British Paints.

'A contrasting colour scheme will look striking and authentic, so choose white for the weatherboards with charcoal for the roof. For the concrete path, I'd recommend Berger Jet Dry paving paint in Cannon Ball.'

Smiley White

Ace of Spades

Cannon Ball



Modern colour scheme

'For a modern take on your Edwardian home, use two different whites. Paint the weatherboard walls with a lighter shade and use a darker shade for the corrugated metal roof,' says Caitlin.

'Paint the path with Berger Jet Dry Wordless. Be bold and add impact by selecting a vibrant colour for your front door. Great colours include Yellow Mania, Harbour View and Red Alert.'





Restore leadlight windows

Treat your precious stained glass panels with TLC to keep them in tiptop shape and shining bright

Glass has been around for thousands of years, with eastern Mediterranean cultures using silica, sand and ash to make it more than 3000 years ago.

They discovered that adding impurities such as metal oxides stained the glass a range of colours.

The Romans then began putting it into windows about 2000 years ago, giving rise to the stained glass window.

Over the last 1000 years, the making of windows from stained glass and leadlight has changed little.

Today, many glass studios offer tuition for the keen amateur.

Most stained glass and leadlight windows we see in Australia are those beautifully coloured and detailed ones that adorn Federation houses.

STAINED GLASS is glass that has been treated with a stain, with 'yellow stain' being among the most common treatments. It is created by staining the surface of the glass with a silver nitrate solution. The glass is then fired in a kiln to produce a variety of colours from pale lemon to rich orange.

LEADLIGHT is a term used to describe a window panel with pieces of glass bound together with slender bars of lead commonly known as comes, solder and a special cement.

The Victorians' love of colour and detail made itself apparent in many forms. Their decorative glasswork consisted largely of leadlight panels using stained or etched glass.

These became more elaborate at the end of the 19th century, with very

colourful and elaborate leadlights often fitted in front entrances of homes.

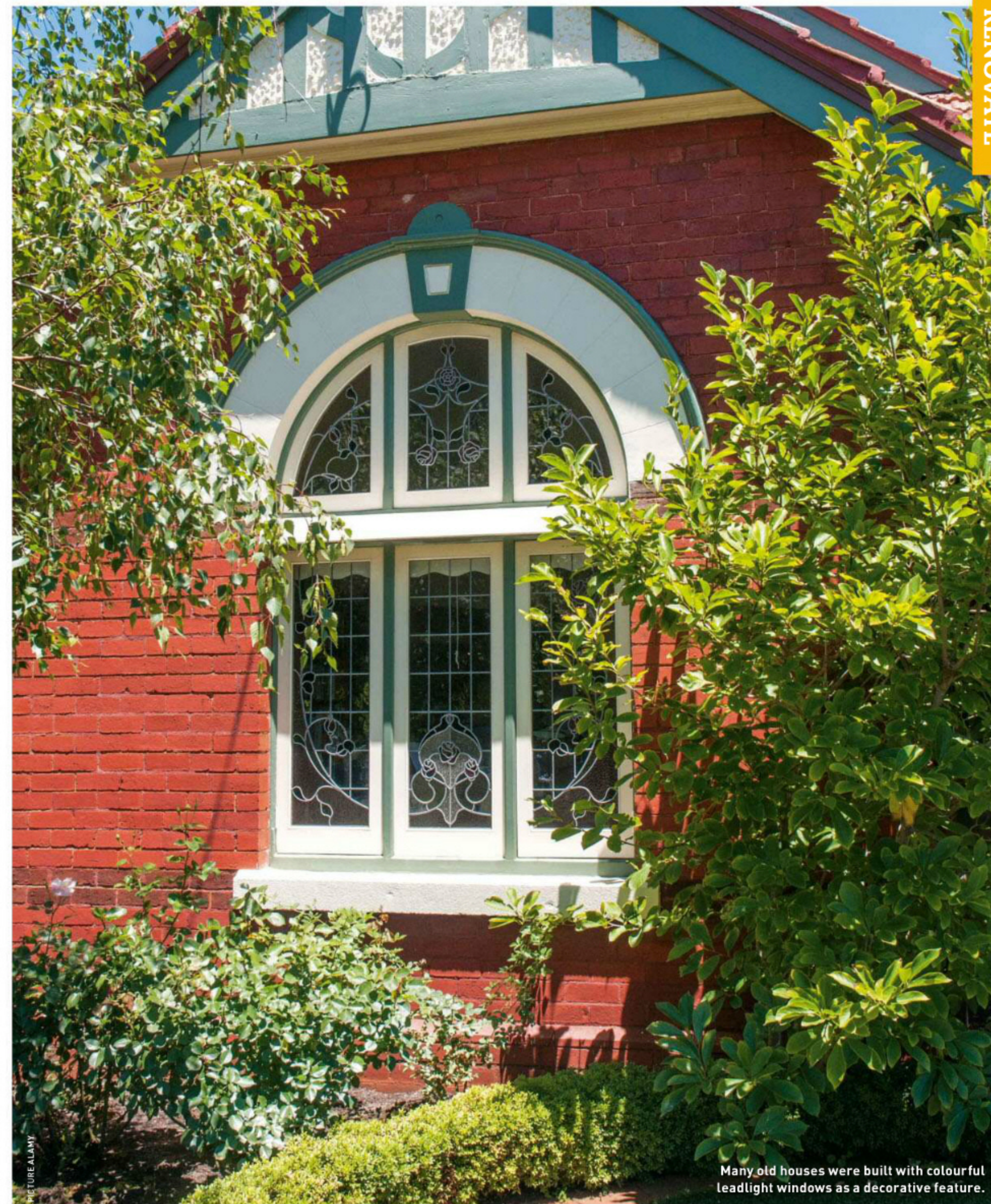
At night, the beautiful colours can be seen at their best, illuminated by soft indoor lighting and offering a warm welcome to any visitor.

By day, stained glass is best enjoyed from the inside, with sunlight streaming through the windows to bathe the room in colour.

Stained glass windows can also be painted with vitreous paints made up of a black or brown pigment. These are mixed with powdered glass and gum, along with iron or copper oxide.

These paints are typically thinly applied and used to create decorative motifs or the scenes depicted in church windows. The panes are then fired to fuse the paintwork to the glass. ➤

PICTURE THINKSTOCK



Many old houses were built with colourful leadlight windows as a decorative feature.

Cut the glass

To repair leadlights, new glass will need to be cut safely and accurately. You'll require a glass-cutter and glass square, or a non-slip ruler, for this job.

A tungsten-wheel oil cutter costs about \$50, and this will have you cutting accurately in no time.

When working with glass, wear goggles and keep your workspace free from glass splinters and dust.

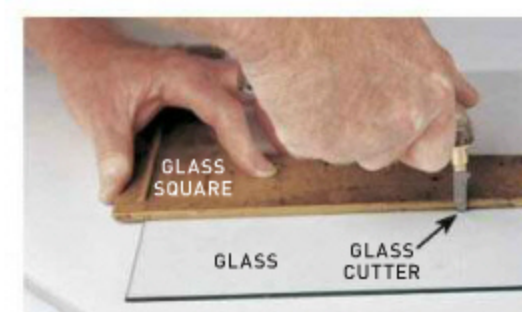
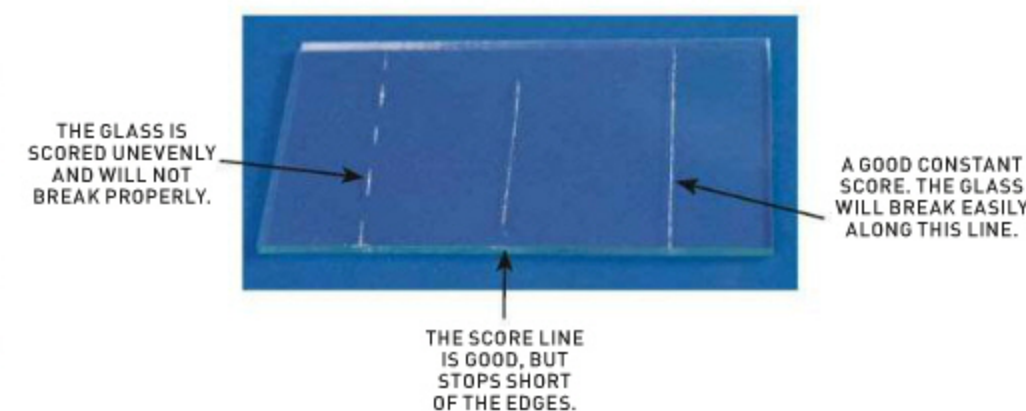
Start with the cutter about 3mm from the edge opposite you. If you start on the edge, it may run forward and chip the glass. Draw it slowly towards you with a firm, even pressure until a line is scored the full width of the glass.

It takes practice to get the pressure just right. Too much and the cutter will dull quickly, not enough and the glass won't be scored correctly and will break unevenly as a result.

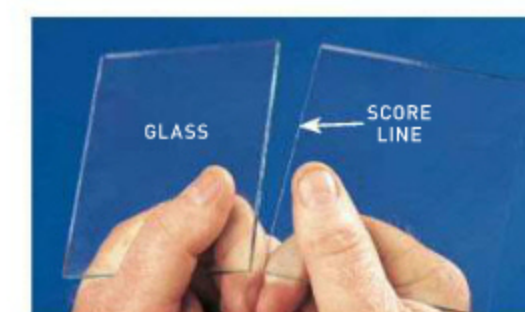
When glass is being scored correctly, it will hiss slightly as the cutter is drawn across the surface.



THE RIGHT CUT



1 HOLD THE CUTTER perpendicular to the glass. Starting about 3mm from the edge of the glass, draw the cutter towards you with a firm, even pressure.



2 GRASP THE GLASS at each side of the score line, then roll your wrists and press down with your thumbs. A quick snap should give two even pieces.

Removing a pane

When you are removing the putty and glazing bead from the frame to release the glass, you need to proceed very carefully.

If you're removing putty, chip it gently from the frame using an old chisel and a hammer. Don't use a heat gun or you may damage the surrounding paintwork.

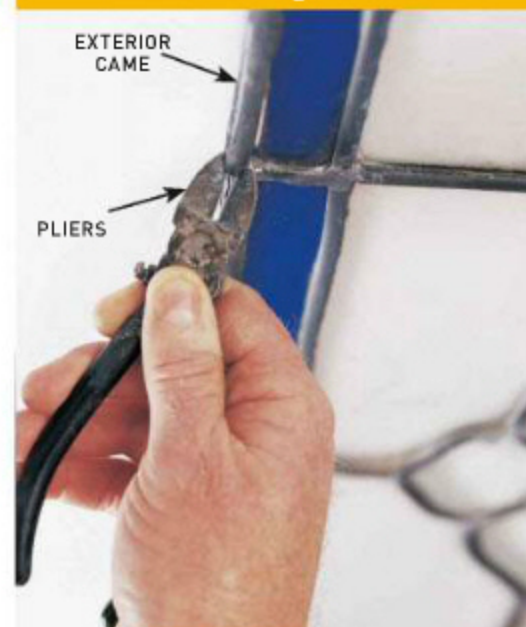
Use long-nose pliers to remove any nails in the rebate holding the window in the frame.

Expose the leadlight and move it to a clean, flat surface.

To remove the broken piece or pieces, work from the outside of the leadlight to the inside by gently snipping out the lead cames around the broken piece.

If the broken piece is in the middle of the leadlight, remove the pieces between the damaged piece and the perimeter.

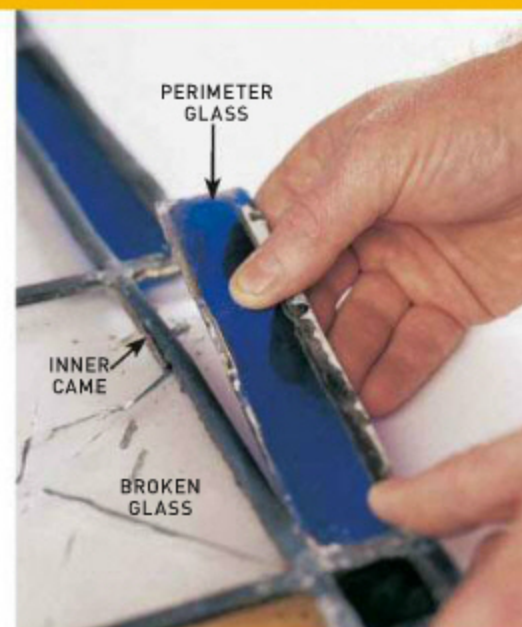
Install new glass and cames



1 Cut out the lead cames

Using side-cutting pliers, snip the lead came at the soldered joints at each end of the section containing the broken glass. Carefully pull off the exterior piece of came.

TIP Try to retain the damaged piece as a template for cutting the new glass.



2 Take out the glass

Carefully remove the perimeter piece of glass from the window frame, setting it aside to use again when replacing the glass. Cut out the piece of inner lead came at the soldered joints at each end using side-cutting pliers.



3 Clean the lead cames

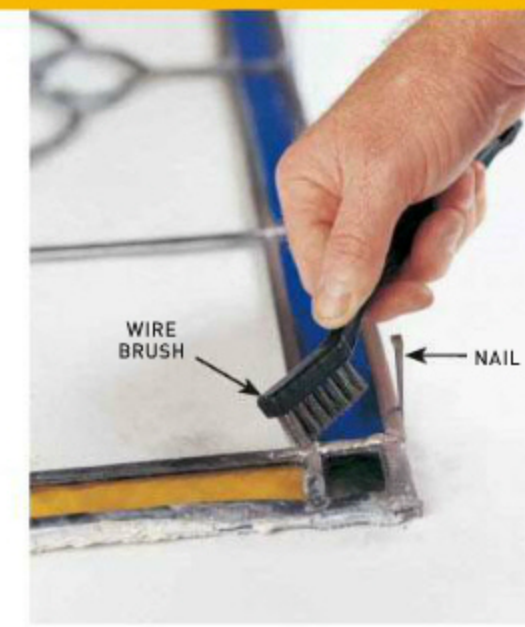
Gently knock out all the broken glass from the section, taking care you don't cut yourself. To clean the came, remove all the old cement and the shards of glass from around the lead cames using a lead knife or small flat drive screwdriver.

PICTURE (TOP) THINKSTOCK



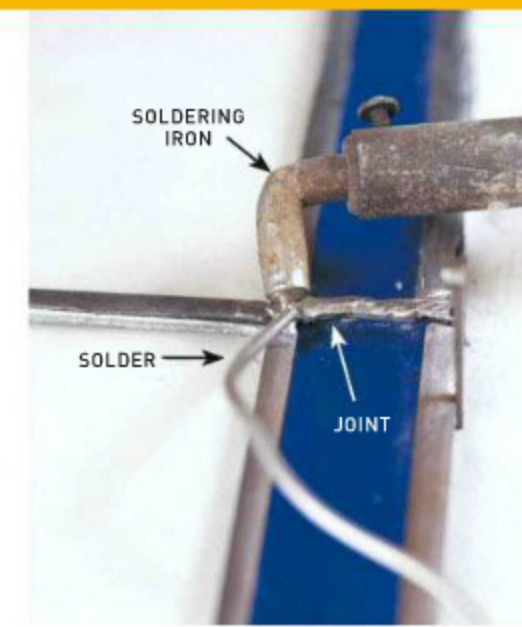
4 Replace the glass

Cut a piece of glass to size, then carefully slide it into the lead cames. Cut and fit a new piece of interior lead, butting it tightly against the glass. Replace the perimeter piece of glass, then cut another piece of lead and butt it tightly against the glass.



5 Polish the metal

Use a nail to hold the exterior came in position, then rub the joints to a shiny finish with a wire brush. To clean and etch the metal, apply oleic acid flux, available from leadlight suppliers, to the joints to be soldered using a small paintbrush.



6 Solder the joints

Melt the solder on the tip of the preheated soldering iron. Touch the tip of the iron onto the fluxed joint, then lift the iron slightly and add solder, as required. When cool, clean around the joint with a soft cloth to remove any flux residue. ➤



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Finish the panes

After replacing a broken pane with new glass and soldering new lead comes, you need to strengthen and waterproof the window frame.

This is a very messy job, so wear a mask, rubber gloves and coveralls.

The cement that is used on the comes is impregnated with carbon black, a fine powder that gets into everything and is hard to remove. You'll also need putty whiting.

TIP These products are available from stained glass and leadlight suppliers. Try theleadlightworkshop.com.au.



3M Tekk 2-pack Safety Paint Odour Valved Respirator, about \$27. 3mtekk.com.au

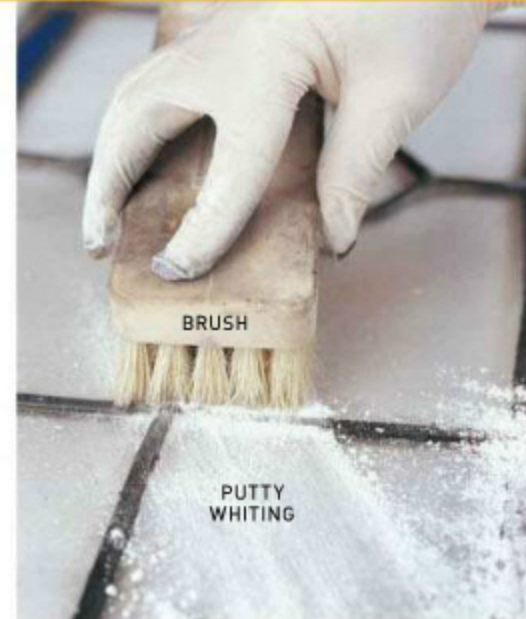


Cement and polish the comes ▼



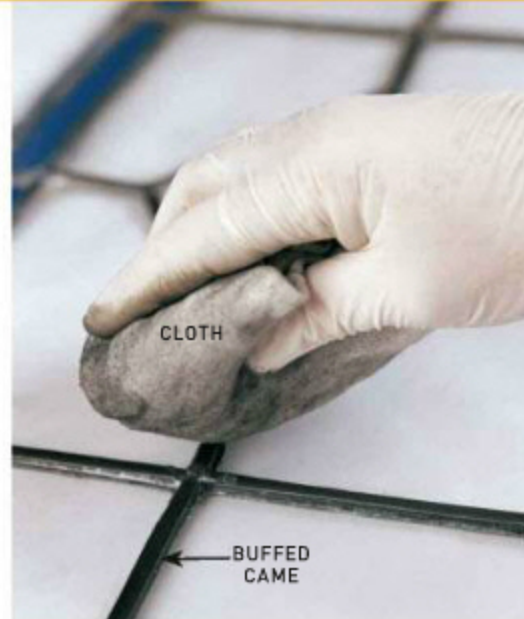
1 Apply the cement

Roll a little cement in your palm, knead it until soft, then push it under the came leaves on each side. Scrape off the excess with a flat drive screwdriver. Sprinkle putty whiting onto the glass, which helps dry the cement and remove any residue.



2 Work in the whiting

Gently rub the putty whiting over the cemented area using a brush with medium-stiff bristles. Wipe off the excess and let it cure for 12 hours. Rub a little black stove polish on the comes, avoiding getting any on the glass, then leave it to dry for 20 minutes.



3 Buff the lead comes

Using a soft-bristled brush, about as stiff as a shoe brush, buff the lead comes until you achieve a satin finish. Continue buffing using a clean, soft cloth for a finer polish. The more you buff, the better the result will be. ➤

PICTURE (TOP) THINKSTOCK

Entrance door reno

When *Handyman* contributor, Rachel Smith, bought her house, she asked Sydney-based leadlighting expert Ray Barlow, to revamp her front door with new leadlight windows.

There was space for three windows, consisting of a main panel and two small squares. Ray drew the design to the actual size, then taped it to the window to choose the colours.

To make the glass panels, Ray cut the coloured pieces to size for each section, then assembled them using lead came that he soldered together.

Once the leadlight had been buffed to a shiny finish, the old windows were removed and new ones installed, with the inlay mouldings replaced as well. To finish, the door was given a glossy coat of water-based enamel.



Weller 30-130W Thermo-Boost Soldering Tool, \$52, from Bunnings.



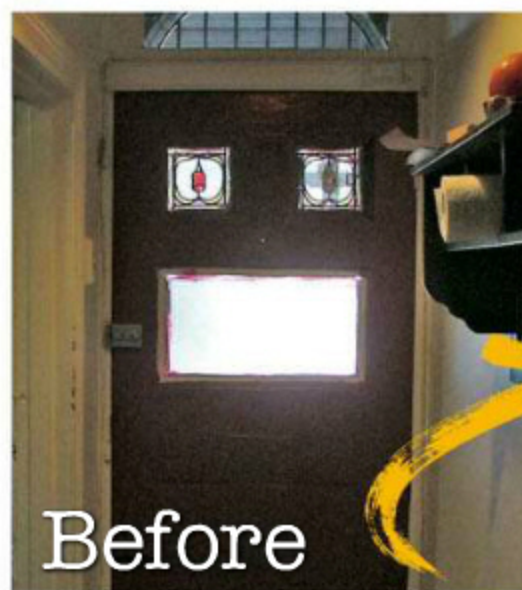
The window's colours were carefully chosen before any glass was cut.

Painting the door

The entrance to your home is the first thing visitors see, and faded, peeling paint along with cracked, dated leadlight windows were making a bad first impression.

The first step is to remove the old inlay mouldings and stained glass, then strip and undercoat the door before installing the new leadlight windows.

Finish by painting the door using a water-based enamel, which helps seal the leadlights. Choose a vibrant colour that complements your home's decor while adding a modern twist.



Peeling paint and dated leadlight windows made an unwelcoming impression.



Each morning, the hallway is flooded with colourful streams of light.

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WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Restoring the decorative details of an old home is just as important as maintaining the structural elements of the building.

Decorative timber, tiling and metalwork help define the style of a home and add character. A lovingly maintained period home will always continue to increase in value.

Timber fretwork is a design element often seen on Federation and Queenslander houses. It usually consists of decorative brackets or panels underneath verandah roofs.

Cleaning and repainting fretwork regularly will ensure it lasts for decades. If the timber begins to rot, the fretwork will need replacing.

Simple designs can be reproduced with a scroll saw, but if the original is prohibitively intricate, then use a store-bought replacement instead.



Cornall Treated Pine Corner Bracket, 355 x 355mm, \$39. cornalls.com.au



Intricate fretwork can be supplied by a specialist and installed DIY.

Tessellated tile floors

In this tiling method, small squares, blocks or triangles are arranged in chequered or mosaic patterns.

This technique was first used by Cistercian monks in the 12th century, who made earthenware tiles, and it's a common feature on Victorian and Federation homes.

The tiles are quite plain on their own, but add vibrant colour when laid out in geometric patterns.

MATCH new tiles to old tiles by removing the damaged tile and taking it to a supplier.

LAY new tiles in less visible areas. Remove tiles from out-of-the-way spots to replace prominent ones.

REPLACE a damaged screed base by mixing four parts sand with one part cement, then add water to bind the mix without making it wet. Trowel into the area and level off.

Repairing tiling

Tessellated tile floors were often laid on a rubble base, which is relatively unstable and can cause tiles to subside, becoming cracked, uneven and loose.



TESSELLATED TILING



1 REMOVE BROKEN TILES using a cold chisel and mallet, without damaging the base material or other tiles. Remove debris from the sides and corners of tiles with a scraper.



2 ROUGHEN THE BASE with a cold chisel, then vacuum out debris and dust. Use an offcut to apply tile adhesive to a narrow space or a notched trowel for a larger area.



3 LAY THE NEW TILES in position without pressing too hard, gently tapping them with a rubber mallet, if necessary. Wipe away any excess adhesive with a damp cloth. >

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Wrought iron lacework

Ornate ironwork is a feature found on many older properties, especially those dating from the Victorian era.

Restoring it can totally transform the look of the house, as well as help protect the metal to prevent rust.

Often, all it takes to improve the condition of ironwork is a good clean. Spider webs, dirt and road grime can all be removed with a stiff-bristled brush and soapy water.

Over time, paint can flake from wrought iron, leaving it looking shabby and devaluing your home.

The best way to restore flaking ironwork is to strip off as much paint as possible, then apply a rust converter and repaint the surface.



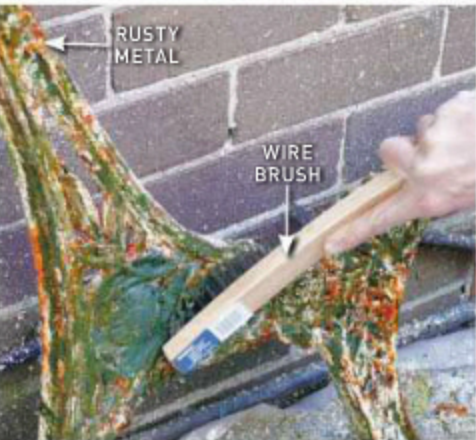
Painting ornate metalwork instantly enhances the appearance of a house.



White Knight Rust Converter, \$26 for 500ml. whiteknightpaints.com.au

Restoring ironwork

When revamping wrought iron, removing paint from detailed areas is essential. Old metal often has multiple layers of paint that obscure the details and create an uneven surface. Dispose of any paint scrapings carefully, as they may contain lead.



1 APPLY PAINT STRIPPER, then cover it with a plastic sheet and leave for half an hour. Scrub with a wire brush dipped in water to remove the paint layers. Clean with soapy water.



2 REMOVE REMAINING PAINT and flaky rust with an angle grinder fitted with a wire cup brush. Wipe the surface with methylated spirits to remove residue. **TIP** Use a flat wire wheel for tight spots.



3 APPLY RUST CONVERTER to the remaining rust, then two coats of rust-proofing primer. Allow to dry, then apply two coats of exterior enamel paint. Leave to dry.

PICTURE (TOP) BETTY IMAGES



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- MINI CUTTER: 50mm





The finishing touch

A simple, yet often overlooked, way to give a room architectural or designer flair when it comes to renovating is to install cornicing.

Cornices add detail and enhance the aesthetic appeal of a room, with styles ranging from art deco, plain and heritage charm to a modern slick look.

They provide the perfect finishing touch when balanced with the room's decor and interior design features.

So when it's time to fill the gap between the wall and ceiling, first consider the desired look you want to achieve with a room.

Now simply select the cornice that suits the decor from the range of profiles available.



A cornice with clean lines is ideal for a simple bedroom setting.

CSR Plaster Adhesive Cornice Cement 60, \$17 for 5kg. gyprock.com.au

Putting up the cornice

In this room, the damaged and outdated cornicing was removed and the pieces were used as templates to measure up the required lengths of new cornice. It was installed DIY using cornice adhesive.



1 CUT THE CORNICE by measuring the old cornice and marking the new pieces to cut them to length. For an internal corner mitre, position the cornice upside down in a mitre box and cut with a handsaw.



2 APPLY THE ADHESIVE by mixing it in a bucket until it is a creamy consistency, then use a steel trowel or float to apply it to both back edges of each length of cornice, finishing at a depth of about 20mm.



3 SECURE THE CORNICE by lifting each length into position. Press firmly and fill the joints with adhesive. Use a spatula or putty knife to scrape the adhesive from the joints, then wipe away any excess with a damp cloth.

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After

Mason's room has been styled to reflect his love of comics and skateboarding.

Room reno

On moving into their dream home, Katie Vagg and her partner Ben Spry found that they needed an extra bedroom. With three kids under 10, they hoped each child could grow up with their own space.

The solution was to divide the timber-panelled family room to create two separate bedrooms for their two oldest children, Mason and Tayah.

Katie and Ben installed Gyprock plasterboard walls with Alto cornices, transforming one awkward room into two functional bedrooms that reflect each child's personality.

Tayah's room features a built-in wardrobe and desk, while Mason's room includes a chalkboard wall and unique storage ideas.



Before



After

Tayah's room includes a built-in desk for writing, drawing and colouring.

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On the wall

Use the latest generation of easy-to-put-up wallpaper to give a room an instant facelift

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ MAIN PICTURES CHRIS L JONES

The true test of a marriage, it's been said, is whether a couple can survive hanging wallpaper together. But with the new generation of easy-to-apply products available, your relationship is now safe!

Struggling with heavy, wet and sticky rolls is a thing of the past, as new wallpaper products allow you to apply paste directly to the wall, making papering an easy two-person job.

When you want to redecorate, the wallpaper can be easily removed. ➤

Picking a pattern

Wallpaper patterns reflect the personality of the room's owner.

When choosing a design, take your time and hang up samples to see if you can live with the pattern.

Trend-wise, dull paisley designs are out while bold shapes and

botanical patterns are in. For a subtle effect, choose a small geometric design and for more impact, go with a larger pattern.

For a modern take on a classic style, we've used a metallic damask pattern in this bedroom.

After

Papering just one wall makes a bold statement without being overwhelming.

Before

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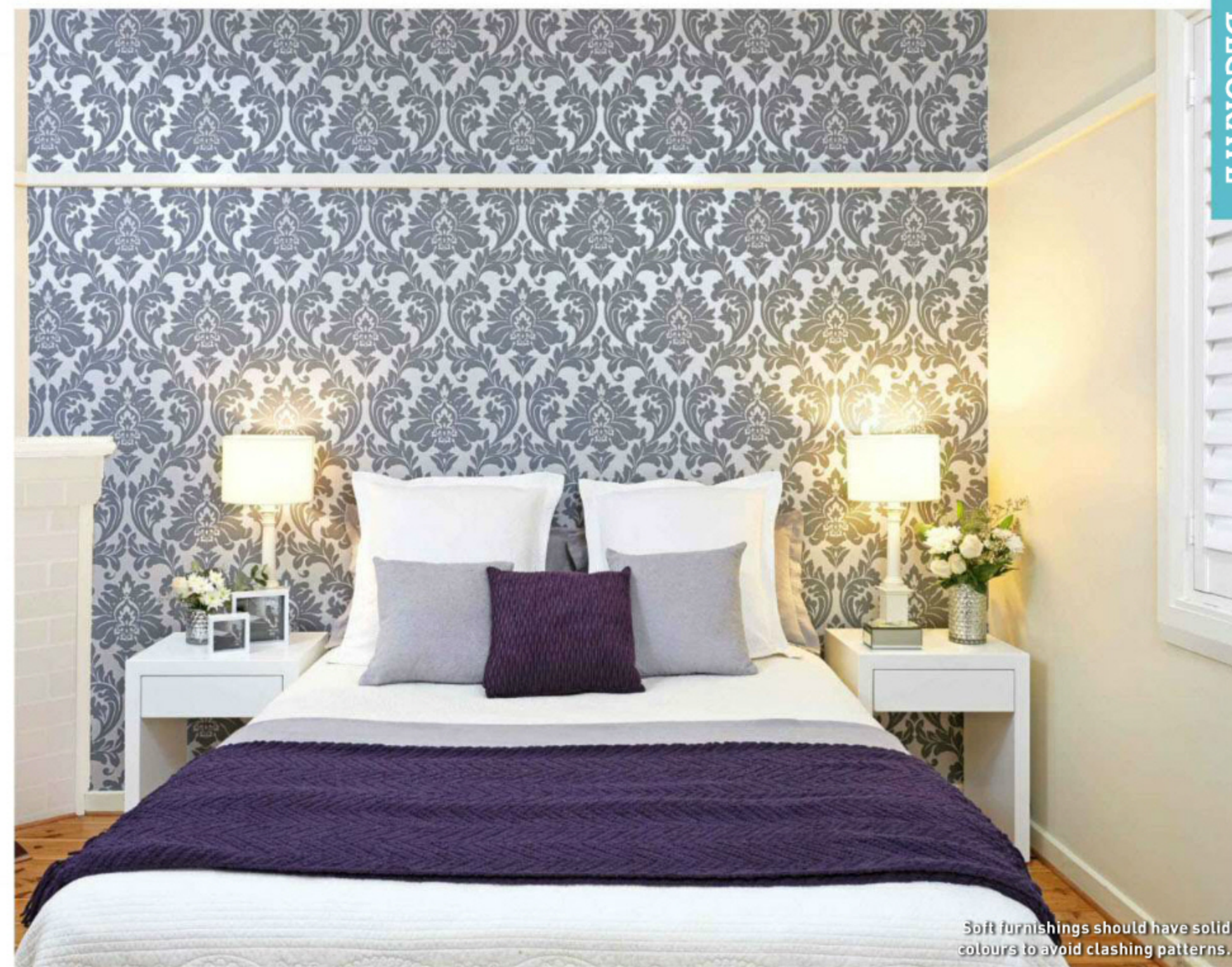
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before

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Soft furnishings should have solid colours to avoid clashing patterns.

Prepare the room

To calculate the number of rolls of wallpaper needed, measure the length and height of the wall.

This 3.3 x 2.4m wall required two 10m rolls of 52cm wide Graham & Brown paper, which allowed for 20% wastage when matching the pattern.

Before you begin, move furniture from the room and lay drop sheets.

The walls in this bedroom had been painted recently, so they only needed to be washed to remove any dirt or grease. For bare plasterboard walls, apply a primer and allow to dry.

To hang the wallpaper, we used a kit that included the paste, a plumb line, smoother, roller and tray.

TIP Remove old paper with a steamer or scraper, then sand and wash the wall.

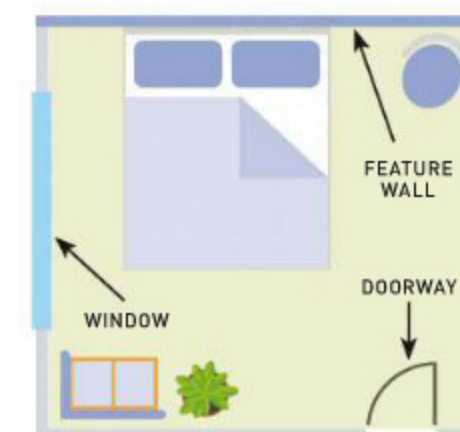
Make a feature wall

Papering a single feature wall adds interest to a room without overwhelming the space.

As it is intended to be the most dominant visual element and sets the mood and feel of the room, a feature wall needs to be selected carefully.

Determine which wall your eye is naturally drawn to when going into the room. Avoid choosing a wall with a door or window, as this can detract from the impact of the pattern.

A feature wall can often be used to provide a backdrop for a piece of furniture such as a bed



or sofa. If this is the case, stick with solid-coloured furnishings to avoid heavily clashing patterns.

Take into account the available light in the room. Designs that look great in pictures may appear dull unless the wall is adequately lit. ➤

📌 Hang the wallpaper



1 Mark a starting line

Deduct 20mm from the width of the wallpaper then, starting from the corner, mark that measurement on the wall. Use a plumb line or spirit level to draw a perfect vertical line. **TIP** This line is used for alignment, as walls are rarely perfectly straight.



4 Trim the excess paper

Smooth out any imperfections with a broad knife, then trim the excess paper at the corner, top and base of the wall with a utility knife. Use the broad knife as a guide, if necessary. **TIP** Use a utility knife with a snap-off blade to keep the tip sharp.

2 Paste the wall

Mix the paste according to the instructions. Pour it into the tray and use a roller to apply it to the wall, starting at the corner and overlapping the marked line by 50mm. Smooth the paste to an even consistency and wipe any excess from the skirting boards.



5 Hang the next drop

Position the paper on the wall and align the pattern with the first drop as you unroll the paper. Butt the second drop precisely to the first and smooth into position. Continue hanging paper across the wall, trimming as you go and wiping away any excess paste.

3 Hang the first sheet

Decide where you want the top of the pattern to begin and cut the roll so there is 100mm of excess above this point. Have a helper unroll the paper while you position it on the wall, lining it up with the pencil line and ensuring there is excess at the top.



6 Work around obstacles

When wallpapering around window frames, powerpoints or other obstacles, use scissors to cut out the sections first, leaving 50mm of excess. Carefully trim the edges with a utility knife until the wall is completely covered.

You will need

Equip yourself with the right tools and enlist a helper to make hanging wallpaper much simpler.



Graham & Brown Majestic Wallpaper, \$60 for 10m. grahambrown.com



Uni-Pro 250mm Broad Knife, \$11. unipro.com.au



Trojan 900mm Box Level, \$30. trojantools.com.au



Stanley Fatmax 9mm Snap Off Knife, \$10. stanley.com.au



Lufkin 8m Autolock Tape Measure, about \$13. lufkintool.com



Super Fresco Easy Wallpaper Paste & Hanging Kit, \$30, from Bunnings.



Zinsser Paper Scraper Wallpaper Remover, \$24. rustoleum.com.au



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Spruce up your bedroom

Turn an ordinary bed into the focus of attention by adding a decorative headboard

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

A bedhead can help transform a room, adding interest to a blank wall behind the bed and making the space feel cosier.

They can be purely decorative or can incorporate shelves or lighting to make them more functional.

Padded bedheads can even provide comfortable back support when sitting up reading or relaxing in bed.

You can spend hundreds of dollars purchasing a brand-new headboard, but it's easy to make one DIY, and it will cost you a fraction of that.

Here we show you how to create your own unique bedheads using just a few basic materials such as paint, plywood and fabric.

Gate bedhead

Give your bed a metal headboard by upcycling old gates. Scrape off any flaking paint with a wire brush and apply rust converter to seal any rusted areas. Sand, apply primer and spray with paint.



PICTURES AUSTRAL

Fabric headboard

For a vintage look, make a bedhead and cover it with French-style toile fabric. Cut a piece of MDF to the desired shape using a jigsaw, then attach a piece of 50mm foam using spray adhesive. Cover the foam with fabric, wrapping it around the back of the headboard and securing with a staple gun.



Letter backdrop

Mount different-sized letters on the wall behind the bed for a unique and eye-catching bedhead.

Use DIY polystyrene letters and MDF store-bought letters, then decorate them to match the colour scheme.

Hang them randomly on the wall using picture hanging strips, mounting smaller letters on larger letters at staggered heights to add depth.

Personalise a child's room by choosing letters to spell out their name or favourite sporting team and arrange them in order on the wall.



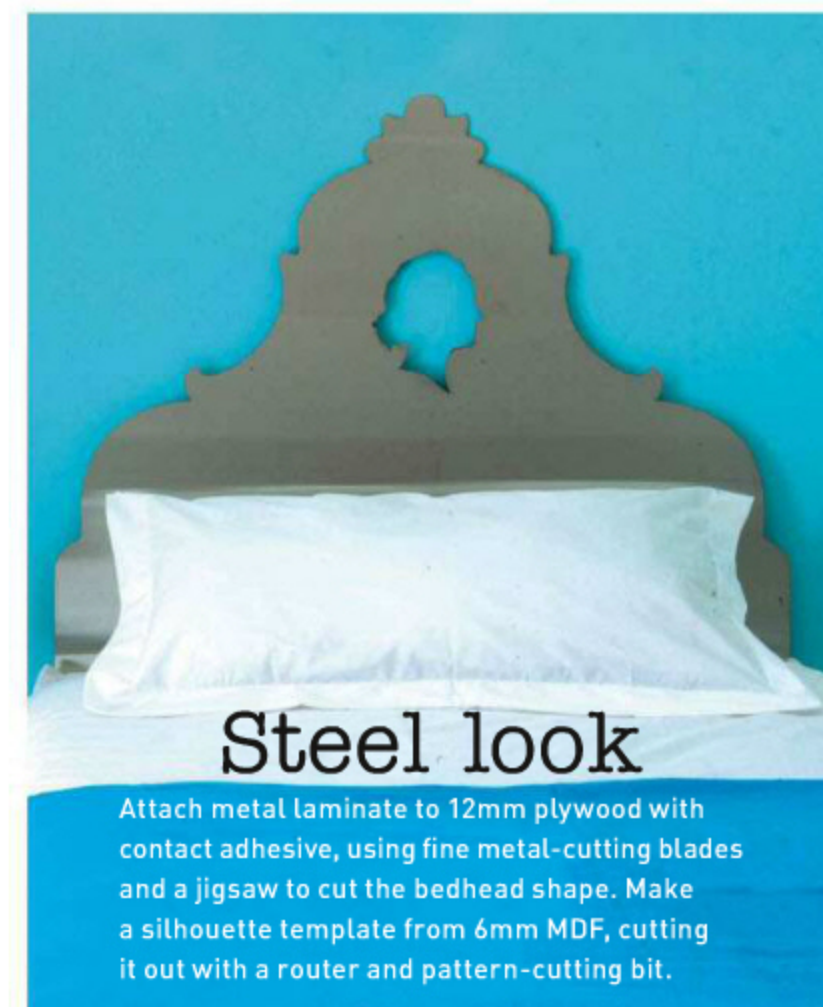
Boyle Large Craftwood Letters, about \$2. boyleindustries.com.au

Making the letters

- 1 PRINT OUT** different letters in large fonts, then draw the outlines on polystyrene. Cut the letters out using a utility knife. Use additional store-bought MDF letters in varying sizes.
- 2 PAINT EACH LETTER** using acrylic paint and a roller. Use only a few different colours for a unified look. Avoid using spray paint as this will dissolve the foam.
- 3 DECORATE THE LETTERS** by adding stripes to a couple of them. Apply masking tape horizontally across the letters, then paint in the unmasked area. Remove the masking tape after 24 hours.
- 4 ADD TEXTURES** by attaching pieces of patterned wrapping paper, wallpaper samples and fabric using solvent-free adhesive.



Brighten up a room using decorated letters hung randomly on the wall.



Steel look

Attach metal laminate to 12mm plywood with contact adhesive, using fine metal-cutting blades and a jigsaw to cut the bedhead shape. Make a silhouette template from 6mm MDF, cutting it out with a router and pattern-cutting bit.



Painted panel

Draw a headboard design on the wall behind the bed, masking it off with painter's tape for clean lines. Paint the headboard with a roller and brush, using the wall colour, mixing it with white paint to create a lighter shade.

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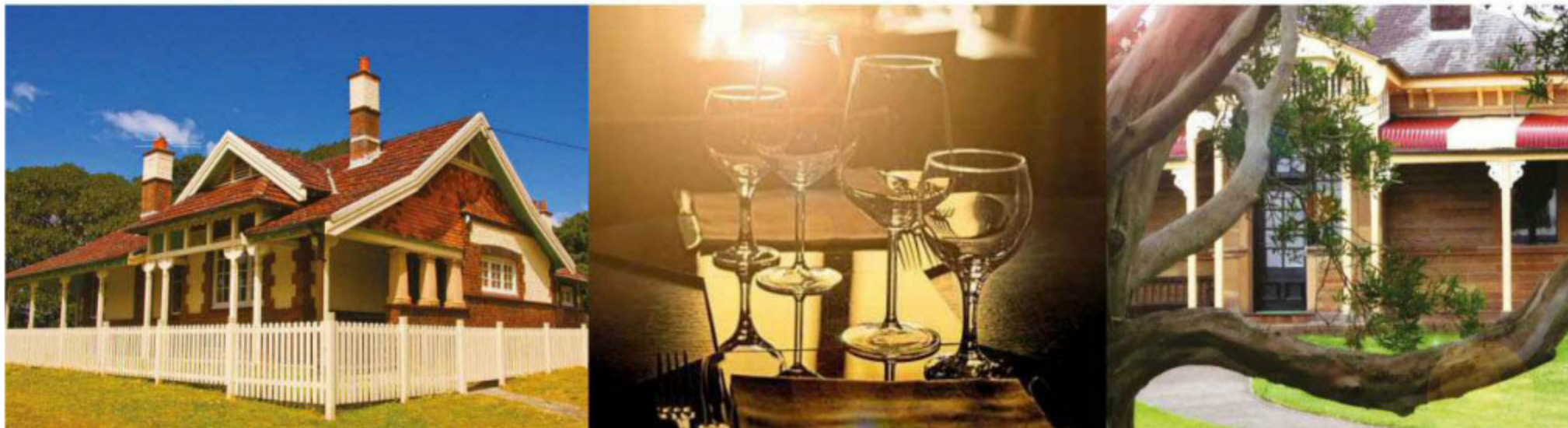
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Check website for terms and conditions. Competition closes Friday 15 August 2014.
Please note the prize does not include travel to/from Sydney.
The winner will be judged by experts represented by the Australian Garden Show Sydney, the Hughenden Hotel and Handyman Magazine.
The winner will be notified by email and the winning entrant will be listed on the website.


THE RESIDENCES
CENTENNIAL PARK



MAKE A COAT STAND

Need a place to hang your stuff? These functional but fun racks will do the job

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Keeping coats, hats, bags and other accessories tidy and within reach is easy if you have a rack to hang them on.

Also, by giving you more room in the wardrobe, it will help prevent clothes being crushed.

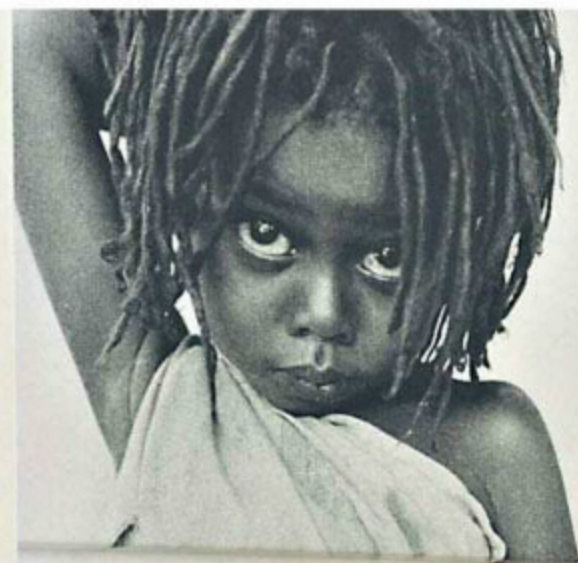
Coat stands work well positioned in high-traffic areas, such as entrance halls, or in alcoves and corners to take

advantage of small spaces. In the bedroom, they look great used as display stands for jewellery.

Generally, they are freestanding but can also be mounted on a wall or to the back of a door.

These three racks are simple to make yet create a big impact. They all require minimal materials, so they're budget-friendly, too. ➤





Tree-shaped rack

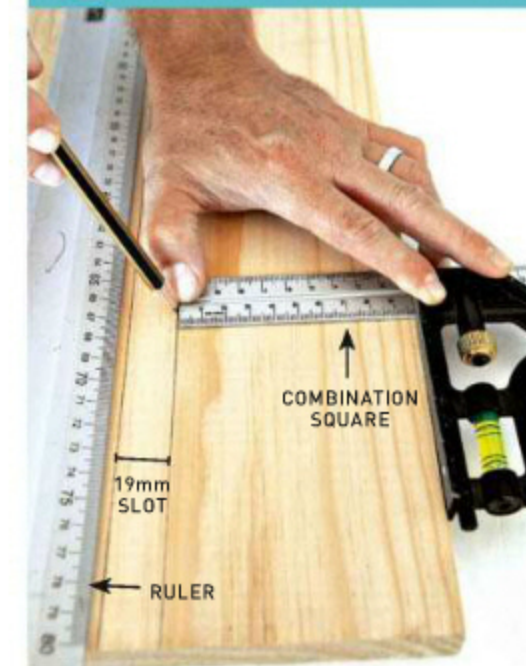
This quirky stand is made from two lengths of 1800 x 240 x 19mm pine slotted inside each other.

The leaves at the top act as hooks and the base features triangular feet designed to resemble roots. The slimline rack is perfect for narrow hallways or nooks.

To add depth and detail, use different shades of green for the foliage. Paint the trunk white or brown, or the colour that best suits your decor.

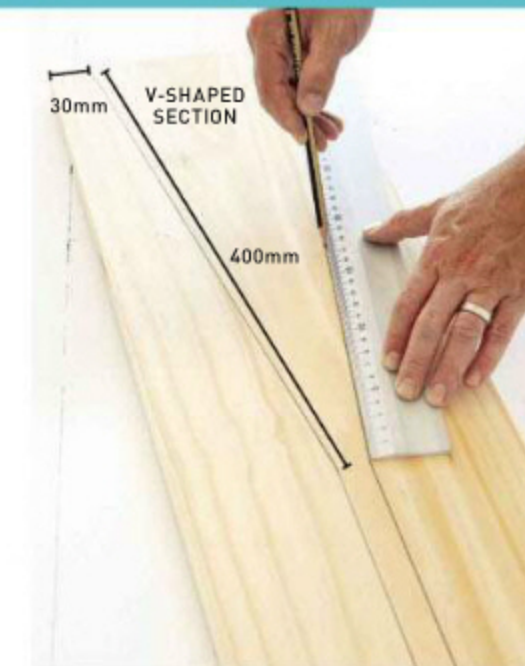
When not in use, this stand can double as a piece of artwork.

Make the rack



1 Mark the slots

Cut two lengths of 1800mm timber to 1600mm, keeping the 200mm offcuts. Use a ruler and combination square to mark out a 19mm wide slot along the length of each piece down the centre, parallel to the edges. Mark the halfway point on each piece.



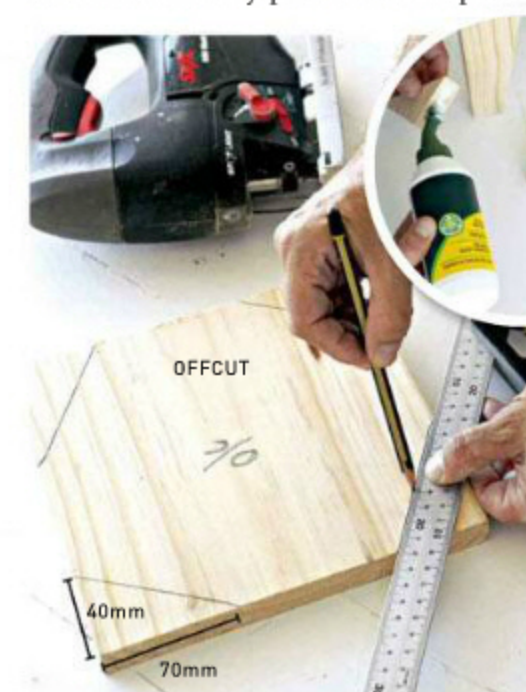
2 Mark the cutouts

Make a mark 30mm from each side at the base of each piece, then draw a 400mm diagonal line from each mark to create a V-shaped section. Remove pencil marks so the V-shaped section overlaps the slot on one piece and is opposite the slot on the other.



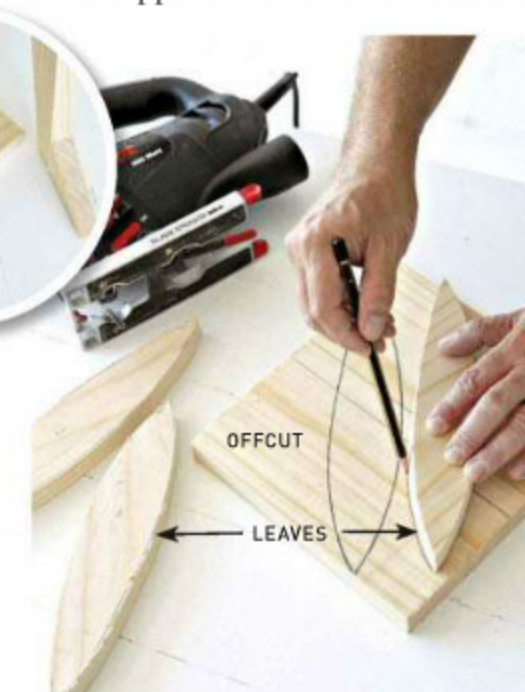
3 Cut the timber

Use a jigsaw to cut out the slots and V-shaped sections, keeping the offcuts. Apply PVA adhesive to the inside of the slots and slide the two pieces of timber into each other so the V-shaped areas form the legs. Stand up the rack assembly and leave to dry.



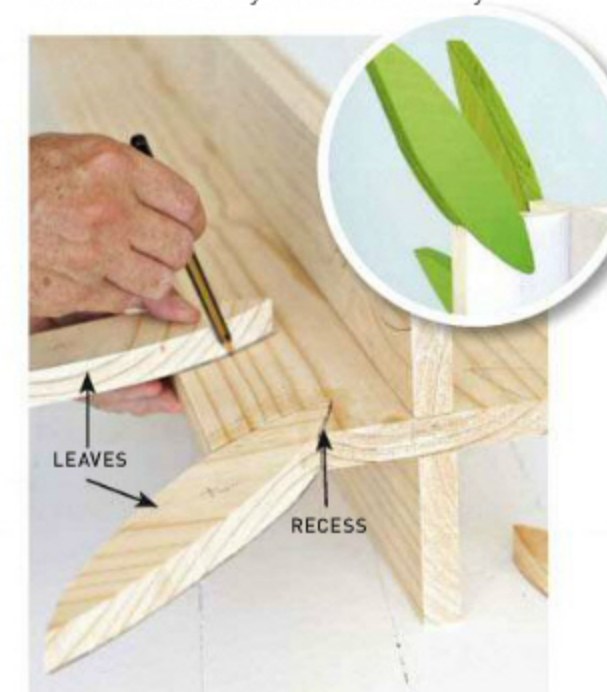
4 Make the feet

Mark four triangles measuring 40 x 70mm on each corner of an offcut, then cut them out using a jigsaw. Lay the rack on a workbench and attach the triangles to the base using PVA adhesive, then leave to dry before standing the rack up again.



5 Cut out the leaves

Draw an elliptical-shaped leaf on an offcut and cut it out with a jigsaw. Use the leaf as a template to make seven more leaves. **TIP** If you need to hang more than eight items, make extra leaves from timber of the same thickness.



6 Attach the leaves

Position the leaves with one-third overlapping the rack, trace the outline with a pencil, then cut out the recesses using a jigsaw. Attach the leaves with PVA adhesive. When dry, sand the rack using 240 grit abrasive paper, then paint the leaves and trunk. ➤



Stencilled stand

The best thing about this rack is that it takes up no floorspace at all. Strategically placed hooks and the outline of a bentwood design create a wall-mounted rack with plenty of character.

To make it, choose a design that suits the space, then sketch the outline onto the wall.

Paint within the outline, using masking tape to avoid mistakes, then attach the hooks.

TIP Use a contrasting colour to make the rack stand out.

Create a talking point in a room and keep it clutter-free, too.



Rustic rack

This stand is made from one long branch, with forked branches used as legs and small branches as braces, all attached with screws.

It features antique shutter clasps as hooks, but you can use any type.

Cut a 200mm disc with a jigsaw from 19mm plywood, then cut it in half and remove the central sections to fit around the main branch.

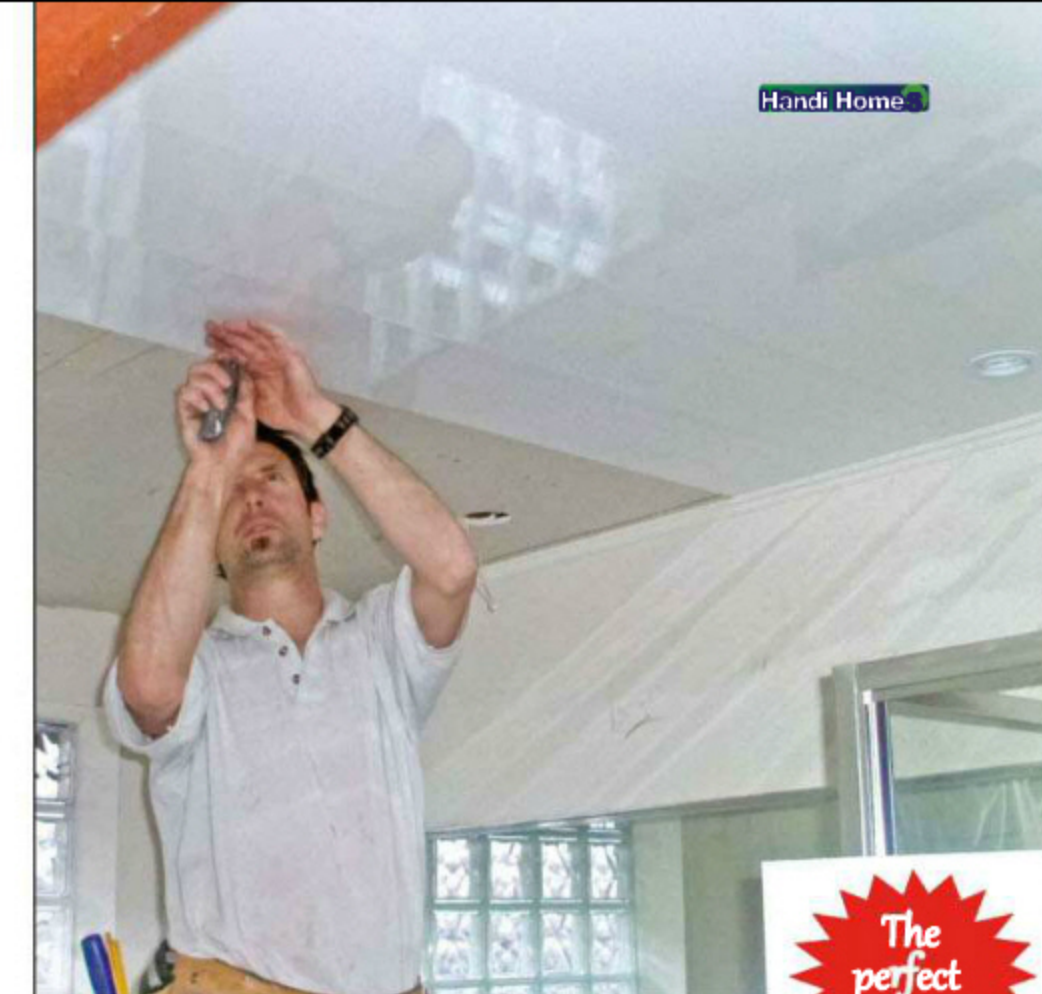
Secure each half to the branch with PVA adhesive and screws, then apply metal primer to the hooks. Attach the hooks, then finish with black enamel.

Dulux Prepcoat All Metal Primer, \$25 for 500ml. dulux.com.au



PICTURE ROB RICHENFIELD

Handi Home



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www.handihome.com.au

Father's Day gift guide

»Head instore to pick up the best gifts for a handy dad from the latest gardening, grilling and workshop tools

»Spray equipment



APPLY PAINT quickly and evenly using the Flexio 585 Paint Sprayer, \$199, without the hassle of diluting the paint.



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»Garden gear



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LOCK UP the shed with the Master Lock Excel 45mm Brass Padlock, \$53 for two.



BIND YOUR BIKE using the Master Lock Python Lock, \$49.97, with a 30cm to 1.8m cable range.



CHAIN THE GATE closed with the steel Master Lock Security Chain, 8mm x 2m, \$49.90.

Father's Day gift guide

» Handy solutions



SIZZLE SAUSAGES with the BBQ Portable Jumbuck Entertainer, \$189, and matching stand, \$110.



SUCK UP steam using the BBQ Rangehood, \$998, with a three-speed fan and push-button control.



CHUCK A STEAK on the Jumbuck Dual Fuel BBQ, \$449, for both gas and charcoal cooking with cast iron cooking surfaces.



LIGHT IT UP using the Power Beanie, \$24.98, with four extra-bright LED lights for a perfect hands-free flashlight.



FILL UP Dad's tool belt with the Trojan 47 Piece Tool Set, \$39.98, including a tool tote for easy access and storage.



TIGHTEN UP loose nuts and bolts using the Trojan Through Drive Socket Set, \$24.98, with a ratchet driver and 10 spline sockets.



SORT AND STORE all your tools in the garage with the Kincrome 9 Drawer Chest & Trolley Combo, \$499.



DITCH THE DARK with the Arlec LED Tripod Work Light, \$59, including two adjustable heads with 130° coverage.

» Charging tools



GO LONGER with a Varta Mini Power Pack, \$19.95, which gives 60 extra minutes of power for your phone or mobile device.



STAY ALIGHT with the Varta 5 Watt Indestructible Lantern, \$39.95, which floats in water.



CHARGE UP batteries in 15 minutes using the Varta Ultra Fast Charger, \$69.95.



Sheds showcased

Take inspiration from these incredible creations to build the retreat of your dreams

Garden sheds have long been the DIYer's refuge, with designs ranging from simple shacks to amazing elaborate structures.

Many proud shed owners have designed their space to reflect their personality, suit a theme or work as an entertaining area that takes pride of place in the backyard.

The annual Shed Of The Year contest in the UK showcases some of the most original designs, with sheds evolving into man caves, bars, guesthouses and kids' play areas. ➤



Paul Goodfellow's shed, The Georgie Racer, is situated on an RAF base.



Hidden inside this ordinary-looking shed, there's live sports and beer on tap.



The roof doubles up as a vegie garden with a bathtub for a relaxing alfresco soak.



Joel Phelan's eco-friendly shack serves as a workspace and a music and art room.



This rustic shack was constructed by India Hurst from 100% recycled materials.



An outdoor classroom built by teachers and parents at Coombe Hill Infants School.



These four Finnish cabins are used by the Equine Assisted Therapy Association.



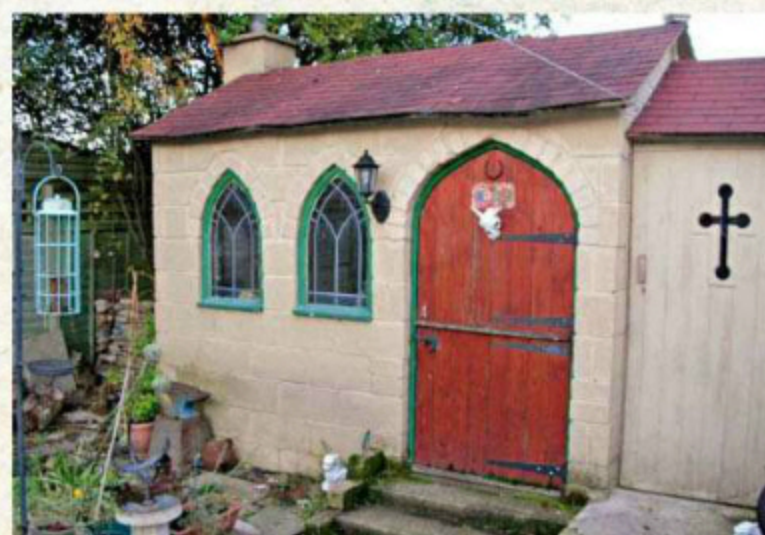
Kevin McGivern's pagoda-style 'shedoga' is made from plywood with a shingle roof.

PICTURES AUSTRALIA/BACKGROUND THINKSTOCK

FATHER'S DAY



Zhanna Pechugina's three cats have the run of her daughter's cubbyhouse.



Complete with brick walls, Gothic arches, shingle roof, and a fireplace, Derek Rose's shed resembles a medieval church.



Simon Tarabella wanted to bring a tropical feel to his yard and modelled The Rum Shack on a Caribbean beach bar.



Owner John Hardisty used old tiles to create his opulent Gaudi-inspired summerhouse.



Martin Laverick gave his shed a Spanish villa look by using textured paint.



The interior of this shed boasts a karaoke machine, disco lights, a flat-screen TV and bar.



Garry Wells-Larter is the proud owner of this entertainer's haven.

FINALLY ONE PAIR OF GLASSES...

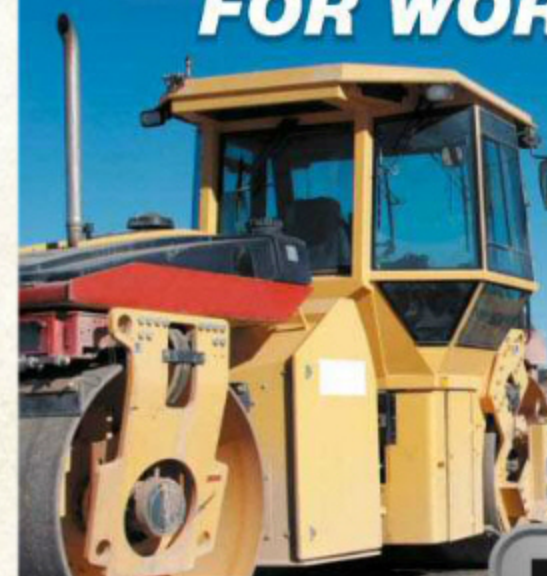


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BOOKCASE BUILT BY TWO

Spend Father's Day in the workshop this year and pass on your DIY woodworking skills to the next generation

Here's a simple project that gives your child the chance to spend the day with Dad and get hands-on DIY experience.

The parts for this bookcase are cut from standard-sized pine, costing about \$120 in total.

It has five shelves, including the top and base, four legs and a back made of four boards. The laminated decorative top panel is made by joining two boards with biscuits.

For extra strength, the shelves and legs are also secured with biscuit joints, using a biscuit joiner to cut the slots.

Cut the timber parts to length and bevel the legs with a mitresaw, and use a router to chamfer the decorative top. **TIP** You can also use a circular saw or handsaw and leave the top edge square.



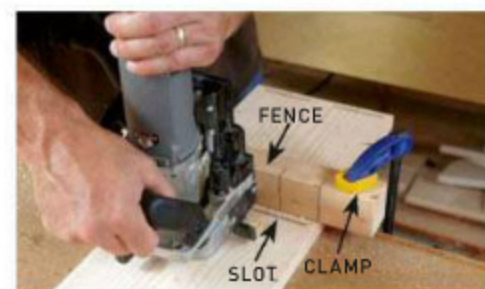
Ryobi 600W Biscuit Joiner,
\$119. ryobi.com.au

Cutting the biscuit slots

For consistent biscuit slots, mark the width of the boards and the slot centres on an offcut of 42 x 42mm timber, then use it as a fence for the biscuit joiner.



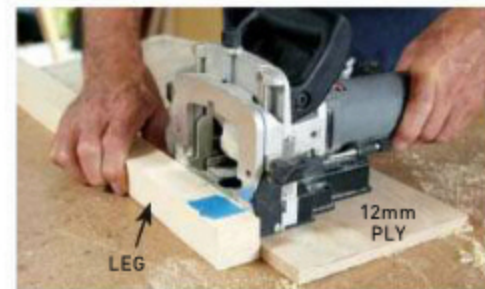
1 CLAMP THE FENCE to the work surface and butt each side against it. Centre the biscuit joiner on the marks, then cut the slots at the ends.



2 MARK THE SHELF POSITIONS on the sides, then clamp the fence and align the biscuit joiner with the slot centre marks to cut the slots.



3 CUT THE EDGE SLOTS on the top, the sides, and on the ends of the shelves, pressing the biscuit joiner base plate firmly to the workbench.



4 CUT THE LEG SLOTS using the biscuit joiner's height control to raise the slot height, or use an offcut of 12mm plywood as a spacer.



TIME 1 DAY
SKILL INTERMEDIATE

DIY \$120

TOOLS DRILL, ROUTER,
BISCUIT JOINER,
MITRESAW

Father-and-son team

We provided the plans for this Father's Day project and our DIY recruits took it from there. Justin is a fireman whose hobby is woodwork. He built the shelves with his 11-year-old son Jackson, who had fun learning power tool techniques from Dad. ➤

Team up with your child to build this simple bookcase.

Build the bookcase



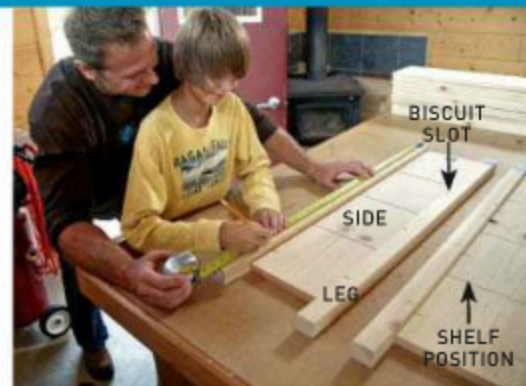
1 Cut the parts

Use a pencil and measuring tape to mark the parts, drawing lines across the boards with a try square. Clamp each board securely to a mitresaw base plate and cut to length.



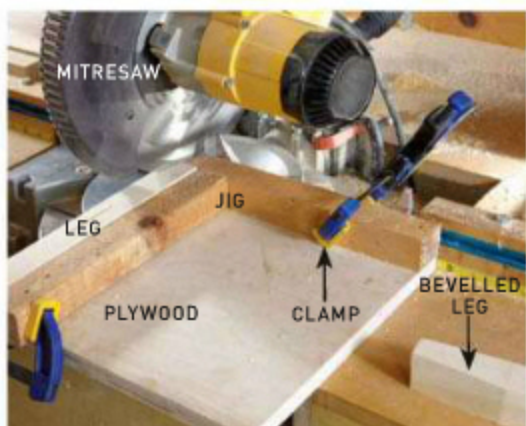
2 Mark the shelf positions

Position the sides edge to edge with the inside faces up. Mark the base lines for the shelves 224mm apart across both sides using a builder's square and a pencil.



3 Mark the biscuit slots

On the sides, mark biscuit slot centres 50 and 325mm from each end. Position each side between two legs with their tops flush, then transfer the centre marks to the legs.



4 Bevel the legs

Secure two pieces of scrap timber to a plywood square at right angles to make a jig, then clamp it to a mitresaw fence, cutting a 10° bevel to extend 75mm up from the base of each leg.



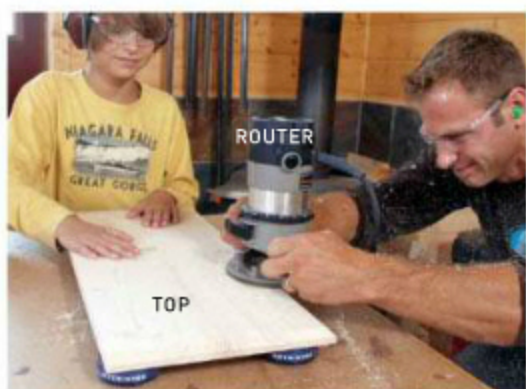
5 Add the biscuits

Use a temporary fence to align the biscuit joiner to cut the slots. Apply PVA adhesive in the slots of one side and onto the biscuits using a small flat brush, then insert the biscuits.



6 Assemble the shelves

Apply adhesive to the shelf ends and tap into position on the side. Add the other side, measure the diagonals to check for square, then secure with sash clamps until the adhesive dries.



7 Chamfer the top

Use a router and 45° chamfering bit to bevel the front and sides of the edge-laminated top. Drill 4mm clearance holes through the top shelf to secure with screws from underneath.



8 Secure the legs

Spread PVA adhesive in the slots and along the front edge of the sides, then insert the biscuits. Position the legs with the bevel on the inside, then tap into position, clamping until dry.

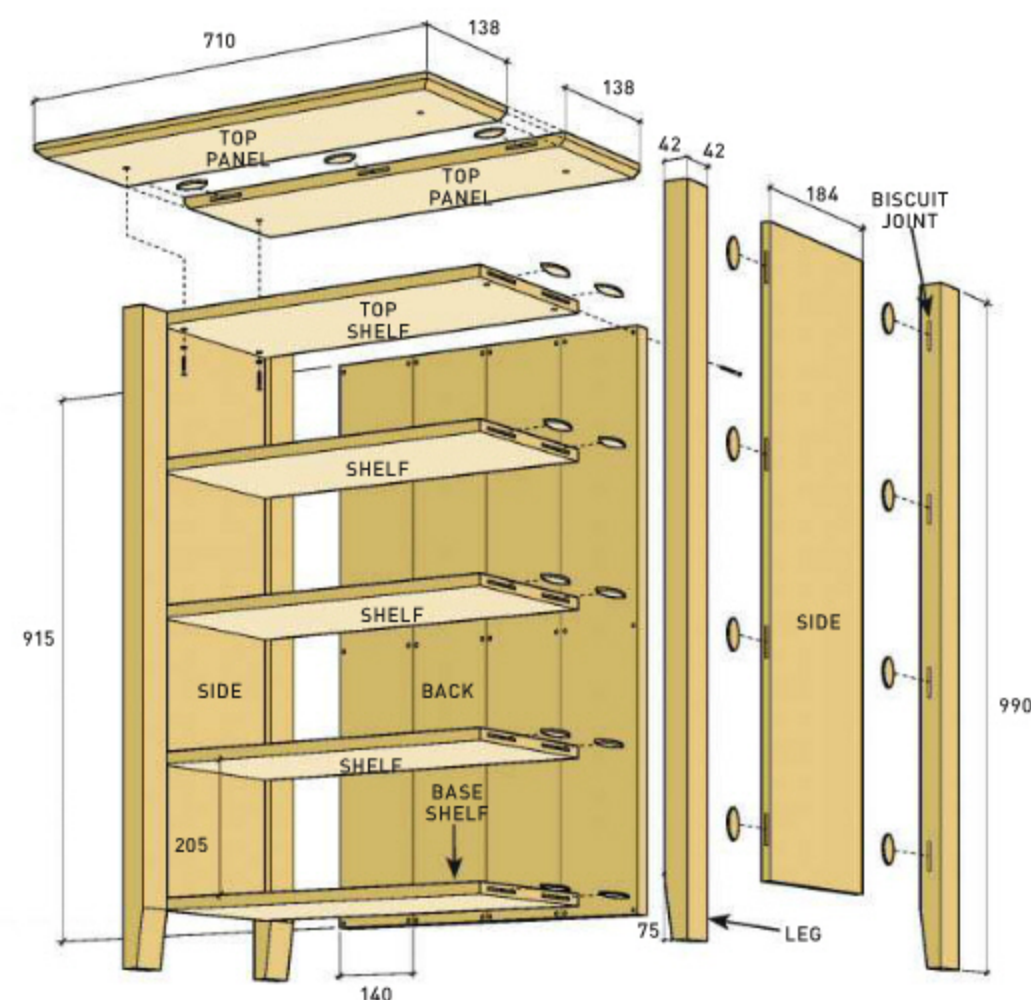


9 Attach the back

Position one back board at a time, flush with the top and base shelves, drill 2mm pilot holes and secure with screws. Sand the bookcase with 180 grit abrasive paper, then apply a finish.

Bookcase

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
Pine		
Sides	915 x 184 x 19	2
Shelves	584 x 184 x 19	5
Legs	990 x 42 x 42	4
Top	710 x 138 x 18	2
Back	915 x 140 x 12	4

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Biscuits, size 20	Shelves, legs, top and sides
Timber screws, 30mm x 8g	Top
Timber screws, 40mm x 8g	Back

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TIME 1 DAY
SKILL BASIC
DIY \$165
TOOLS MITRESAW,
CIRCULAR SAW,
BRAD NAILER

LEANING TOWER OF SHELVES

Create simple but decorative vertical storage using lengths of plywood and pine

At first glance, this lightweight ladder-like shelving looks like it might topple over, but it's actually very stable and sturdy.

The legs are cut at a 10° angle, and the incline against the wall keeps the 2100mm high shelving solidly upright.

The tray-like shelves can hold items up to 330mm high, and each shelf is less deep than the one below to follow the angle of the unit.

The shelving can be constructed from a more expensive timber, such as maple, jarrah or Tasmanian oak, to showcase the grain.

Or, it can be made from plywood or pine and finished with a timber stain to keep costs down.

This set of shelves was made out of BC grade plywood with the better B side facing up. The plywood layers at the front edge of each shelf are

hidden behind iron-on edging, while the legs, spacing cleats and shelf backs and sides are cut from DAR finger-jointed pine.

After being assembled, the shelving was thoroughly sanded with 180 grit abrasive paper and a satin stain and varnish in jarrah was applied.

TIP For a painted finish, make the shelving from MDF and apply a sealer, then two coats of acrylic. ➤

What you need



Irwin 75mm Quick-Grip Spring Clamp, \$12. irwin.com.au



Craftright 1200mm T-Bar Sash Clamp, \$30, from Bunnings.

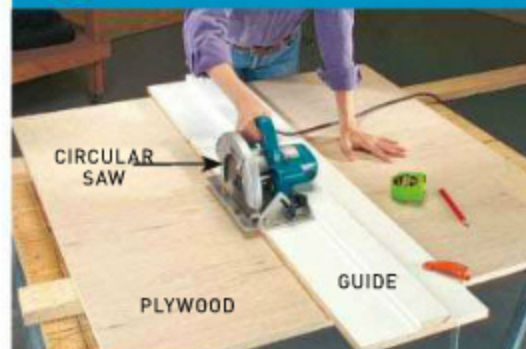


British Paints Jarrah Stain & Varnish, \$12 for 250mL. britishpaints.com.au



Ryobi ONE+ 18V Airstrike Brad Nailer, \$199, excluding battery. ryobi.com.au

Build the shelves



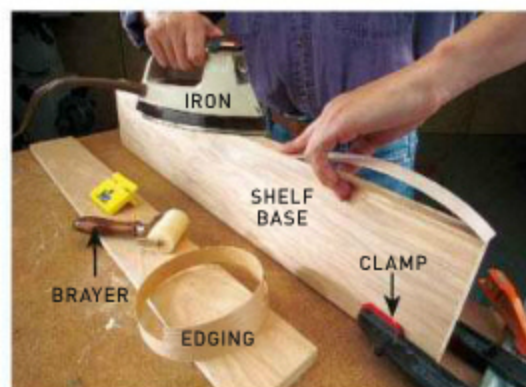
1 Prepare the plywood
Position the plywood with the best side down, then cut it to 775mm using a circular saw and straightedge guide.
TIP To make a guide, attach a 100mm wide strip of melamine with a factory edge to a 330mm wide piece.



2 Cut the shelves
Rotate the plywood 90° and clamp the straightedge guide to cut the five shelves using a circular saw. Cut the narrowest shelf first to ensure enough ply is left to clamp the guide firmly when the largest shelf is being cut.



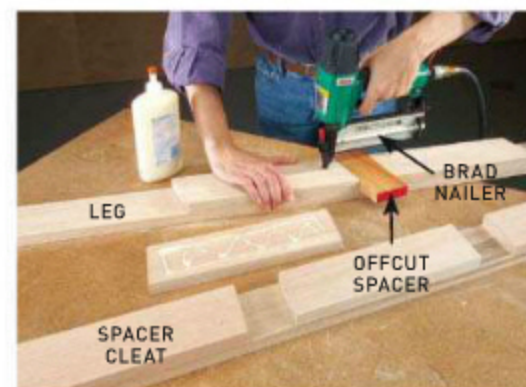
3 Cut the legs
Mark a 215mm long taper at a 10° angle on the leg tops and top spacer cleats. Clamp to a pair of sawhorses, then cut the tapers using a circular saw or jigsaw. Round over the cut edges with 180 grit abrasive paper.



4 Attach the edging
Clamp the bases on edge to the workbench with the best edge up, then sand with 150 grit abrasive paper. Use an iron on the cotton setting to attach the edging. Go over it with a brayer, then trim the overhang with a flat file.



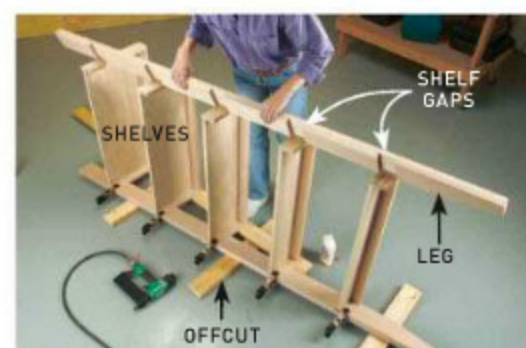
5 Make the angled cuts
Use a mitresaw to square-cut the shelf backs and sides to length, then rotate the saw to 10° and cut one end of each shelf side. Next, make all the angled cuts on the two pine legs and 12 spacer cleats.



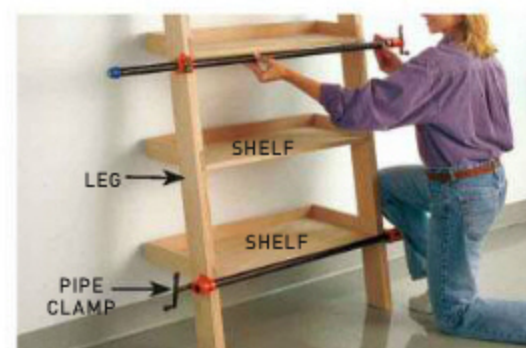
6 Secure the cleats
Position the spacer cleats on the legs to check the shelves will be level once secured. Working from the base, secure the cleats with PVA adhesive and a brad nailer, using an offcut of 67 x 18mm timber to space the cleats.



7 Join the shelves
Working on a flat surface, apply PVA adhesive to the back edge of each base. Position the backs and secure with brads at 100mm centres. Attach the sides with the angled ends at the front using PVA adhesive and brads.

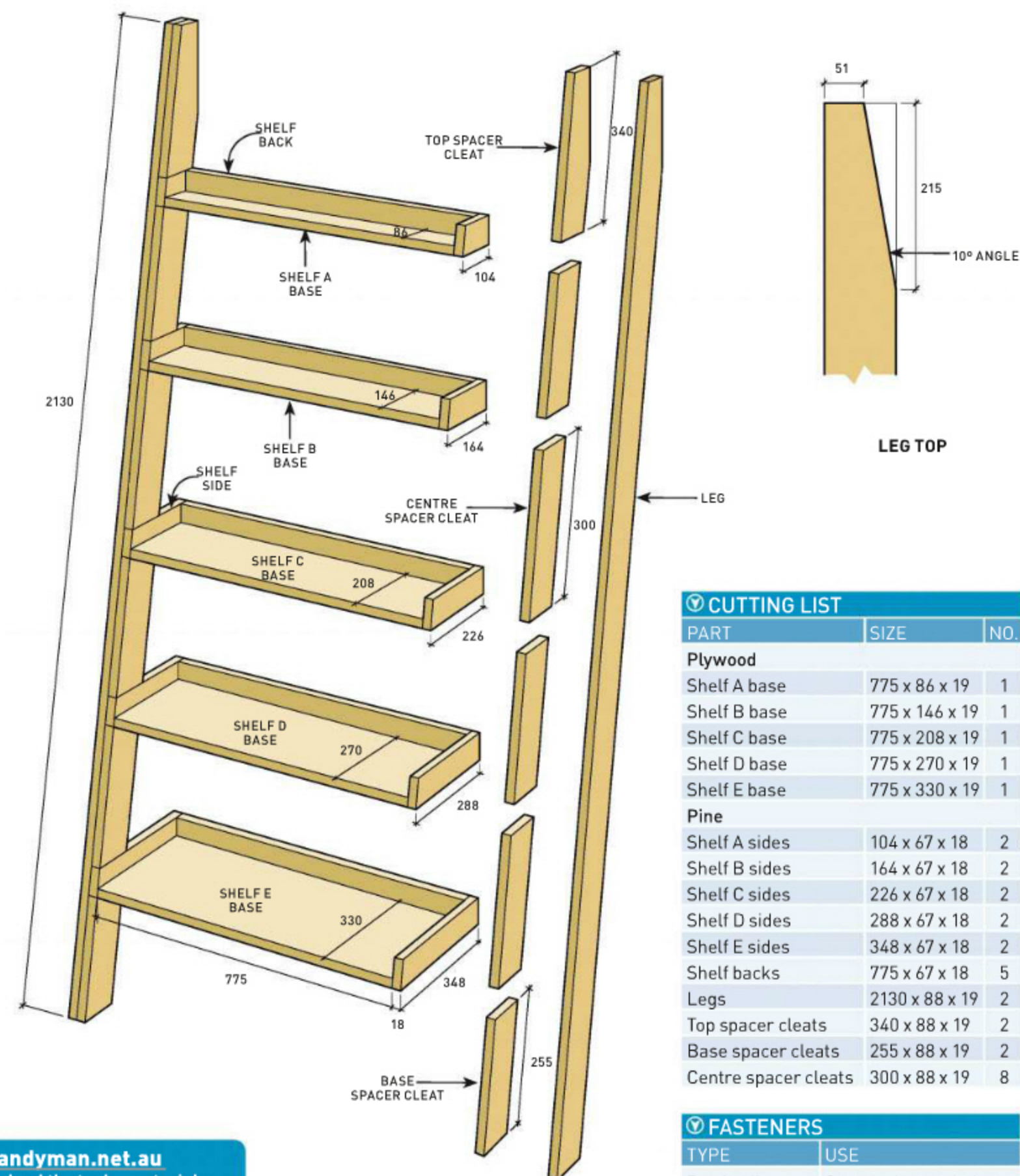


8 Assemble the unit
Position one leg on three offcuts and apply PVA adhesive in the gaps between the spacer cleats. Clamp the shelves flush with the leg front and secure with nails. Apply adhesive to the other leg, position and secure.



9 Finish the shelving
Position the shelving against a wall, check for square and hold it using pipe or sash clamps until the adhesive dries. Fill over the nail heads with timber filler, then sand and apply stain, finishing with a clear polyurethane.

Tower of shelves measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST		
PART	SIZE	NO.
Plywood		
Shelf A base	775 x 86 x 19	1
Shelf B base	775 x 146 x 19	1
Shelf C base	775 x 208 x 19	1
Shelf D base	775 x 270 x 19	1
Shelf E base	775 x 330 x 19	1
Pine		
Shelf A sides	104 x 67 x 18	2
Shelf B sides	164 x 67 x 18	2
Shelf C sides	226 x 67 x 18	2
Shelf D sides	288 x 67 x 18	2
Shelf E sides	348 x 67 x 18	2
Shelf backs	775 x 67 x 18	5
Legs	2130 x 88 x 19	2
Top spacer cleats	340 x 88 x 19	2
Base spacer cleats	255 x 88 x 19	2
Centre spacer cleats	300 x 88 x 19	8

FASTENERS	
TYPE	USE
Brad nails, 30mm	Spacer cleats, shelves, shelf backs and sides

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

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Almost 3500mm wide, the timber gates feature automatic openers on the inside.

Classic gates

Make a driveway entrance for your property for just \$1000

WORDS FRANK GARDNER PROJECT JOHN BOWLER

This homestead had a boundary defined by a fence with brick columns flanking the driveway entry, but there weren't any gates.

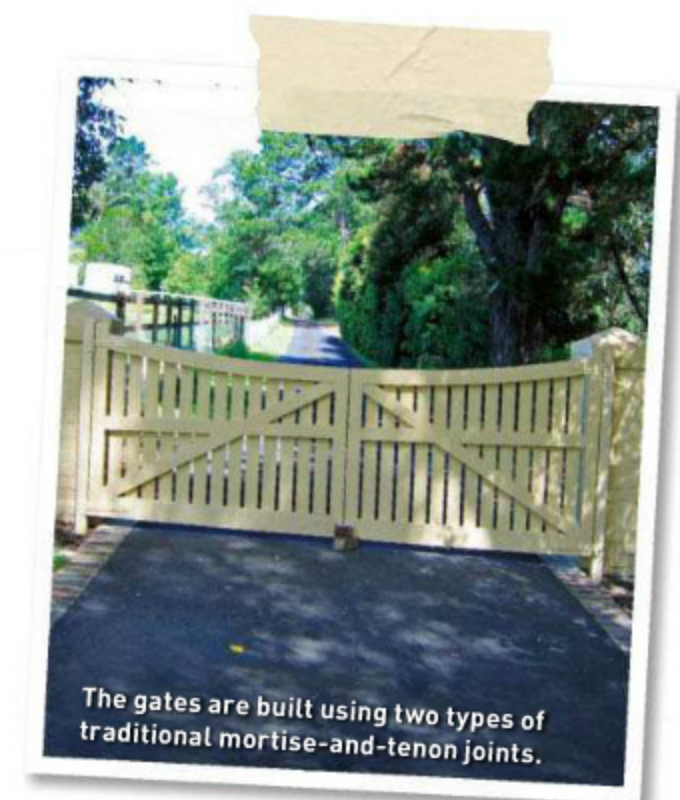
To match the architectural style and colour of the country home, lightweight gates were built.

Spanning nearly 3500mm, they are made from dressed all round (DAR) Western red cedar and hung on 75mm square galvanised posts that are concreted into the ground.

Electric openers secured to the posts are powered by a solar panel for automatic movement, with a stop installed in the ground at the front.

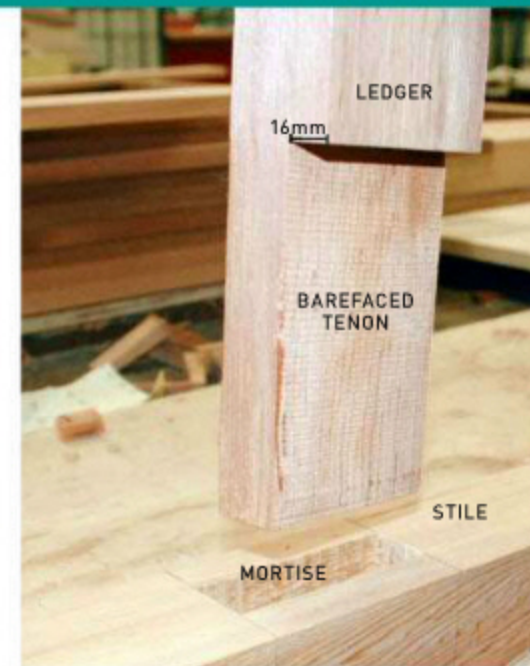
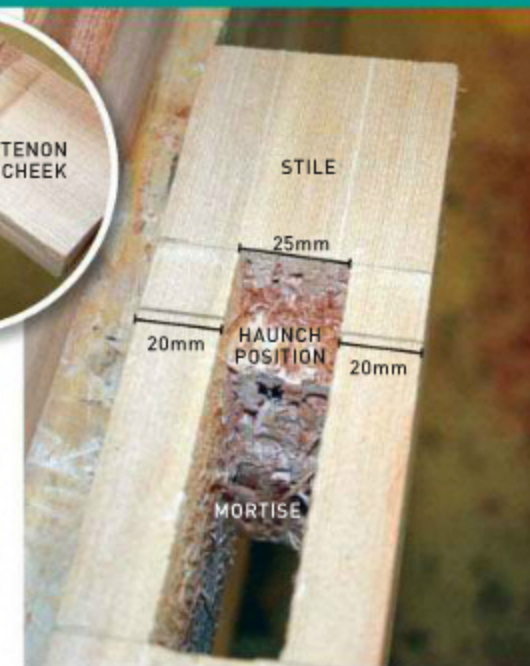
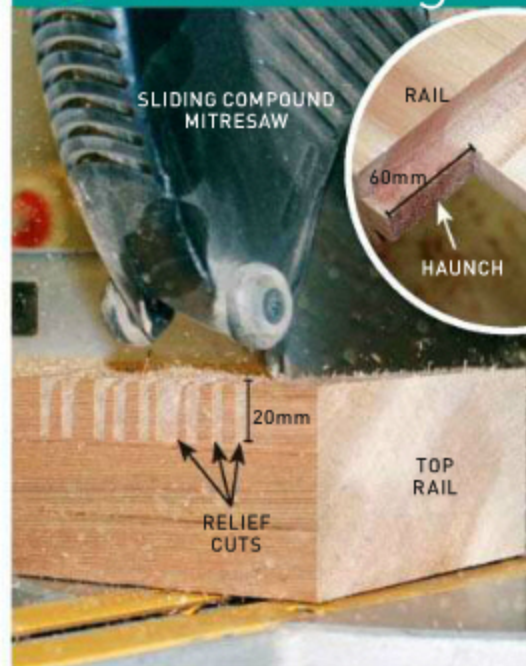
Each gate is 1700mm wide with 15mm clearance between the stiles and posts, and a 15mm gap at the centre.

Mark a full-size setout on two 2400 x 1200mm sheets of MDF, check the parts are square and aligned, then cut out the timber pieces and position them on the MDF setout. ➤



The gates are built using two types of traditional mortise-and-tenon joints.

Build the gates



1 Cut the haunched tenons

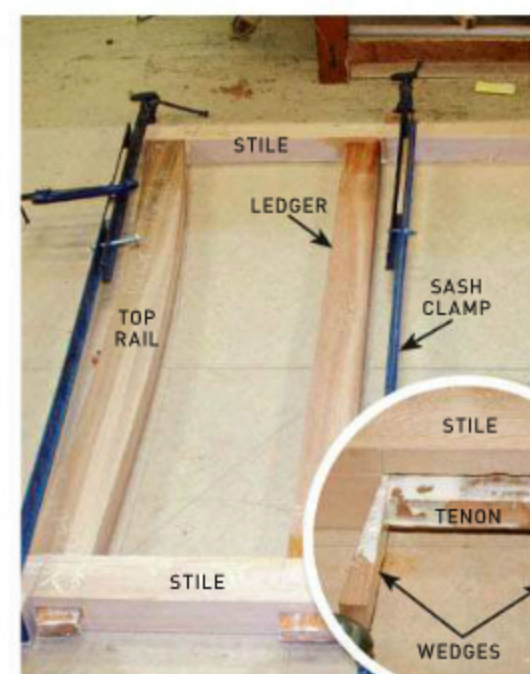
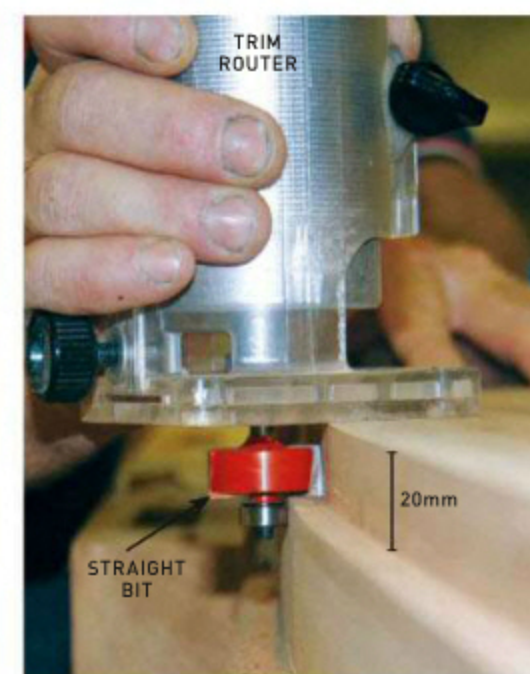
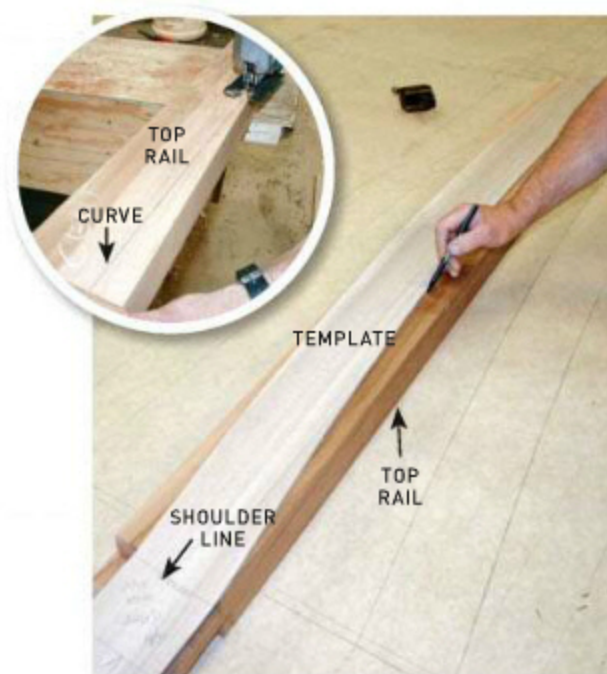
Mark the shoulder lines 1520mm apart across the base rail ends. On the top rails, use the MDF setout to mark the angled shoulder lines. Use a sliding compound mitresaw to make 20mm relief cuts. Clean out the waste and cut a 60 x 25mm haunch on each tenon.

2 Cut the mortises

On the base rails, mark the tenons and haunches by squaring around all faces. Set a mortise gauge to 25mm and score parallel lines between the setout marks on the stiles, chiselling out the waste. Cut the base tenons as before and check for a tight fit.

3 Prepare the ledger joints

On the ledgers, mark the shoulder lines for the barefaced mortise-and-tenon joints, set the blade depth to 16mm and make close relief cuts on one side. Clean up the tenon cheek, then chisel out a matching mortise in the stile.



4 Cut the top rail curve

On 1800 x 140 x 4.5mm plywood, mark and cut a 100mm wide curve to the centre of the gate as a template. Mark the curves on the top rails, cut with a jigsaw and use a belt sander with 80 grit abrasive paper to sand, rounding over the edges.

5 Test the frames

Use a trim router and 12mm straight bit to cut a 20mm deep rebate along the edge of the top and base rails for the pickets, increasing the depth with each pass. To test-fit, assemble the frames, pulling together with a sash clamp at each rail. Check for square.

6 Assemble the frames

Position the frame on the setout, apply exterior PVA adhesive to the tenons, tap the joints together and use sash clamps to wind them in until the shoulders are firmly against the stiles. Check for square, then tap timber wedges into the joints, leaving to dry.

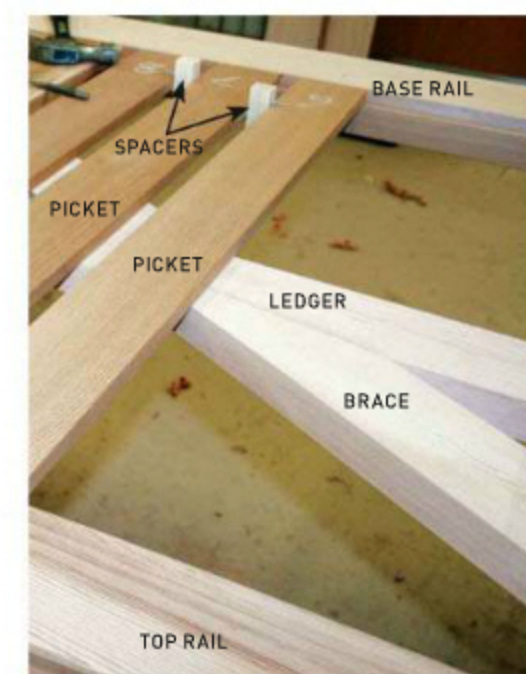
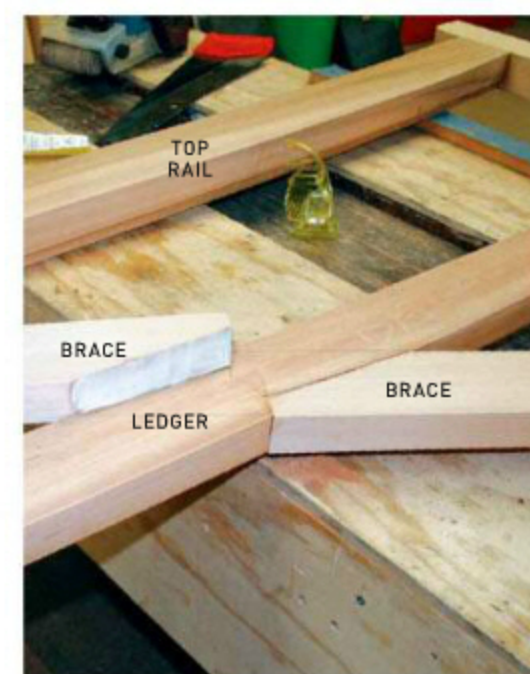
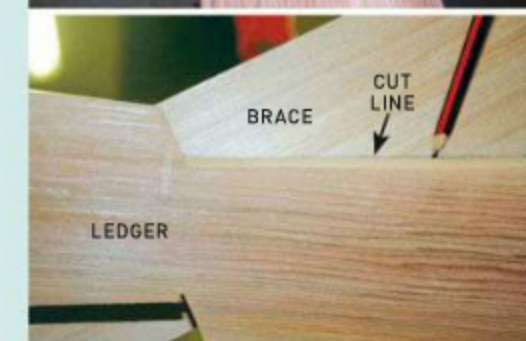
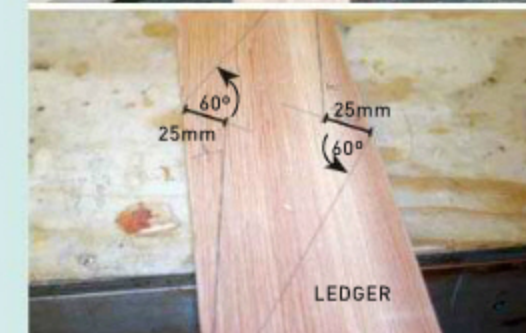
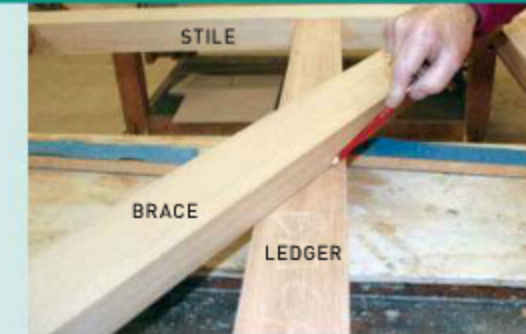
Joining the ledger and brace

The ledger secures to the stiles and is notched at the centre to hold the brace. The brace is cut on an angle to fit into the corners of the frame and spliced to lock into the ledger. **TIP** The brace transfers part of the weight of the gate to the hinged side, offsetting the tendency to sag.

1 POSITION THE BRACE between the frame corners so it runs from the base hinge up to the latch. Mark the angles to fit into the corners, cut, then mark where it crosses the ledger.

2 MARK UP THE LEDGER with 60° angles at the end of the lines. Measure 25mm in to mark a line back to the edge, using a jigsaw to cut the waste on both sides.

3 REPOSITION THE BRACE in the frame corners to mark the ledger cutouts on it. Use a jigsaw to cut the brace to fit, securing with exterior PVA adhesive and galvanised nails skewed into the ledger.



7 Secure the brace

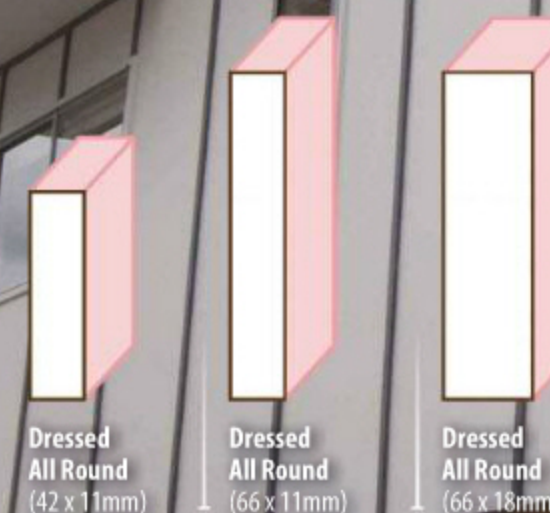
Use the setout to mark and cut the ledgers and braces, applying adhesive, then securing the brace to the ledger and frame with nails. Cut protruding tenons and wedges flush with the face of the stiles, then use a belt sander to smooth over the joints until flush.

8 Add the pickets

Position the pickets in the rebate of the base rail, using 25mm spacers suspended on nails, then mark the tops to match the curve of the top rail. Cut with a jigsaw and secure with galvanised nails, then finish with two coats of exterior gloss acrylic. ➤

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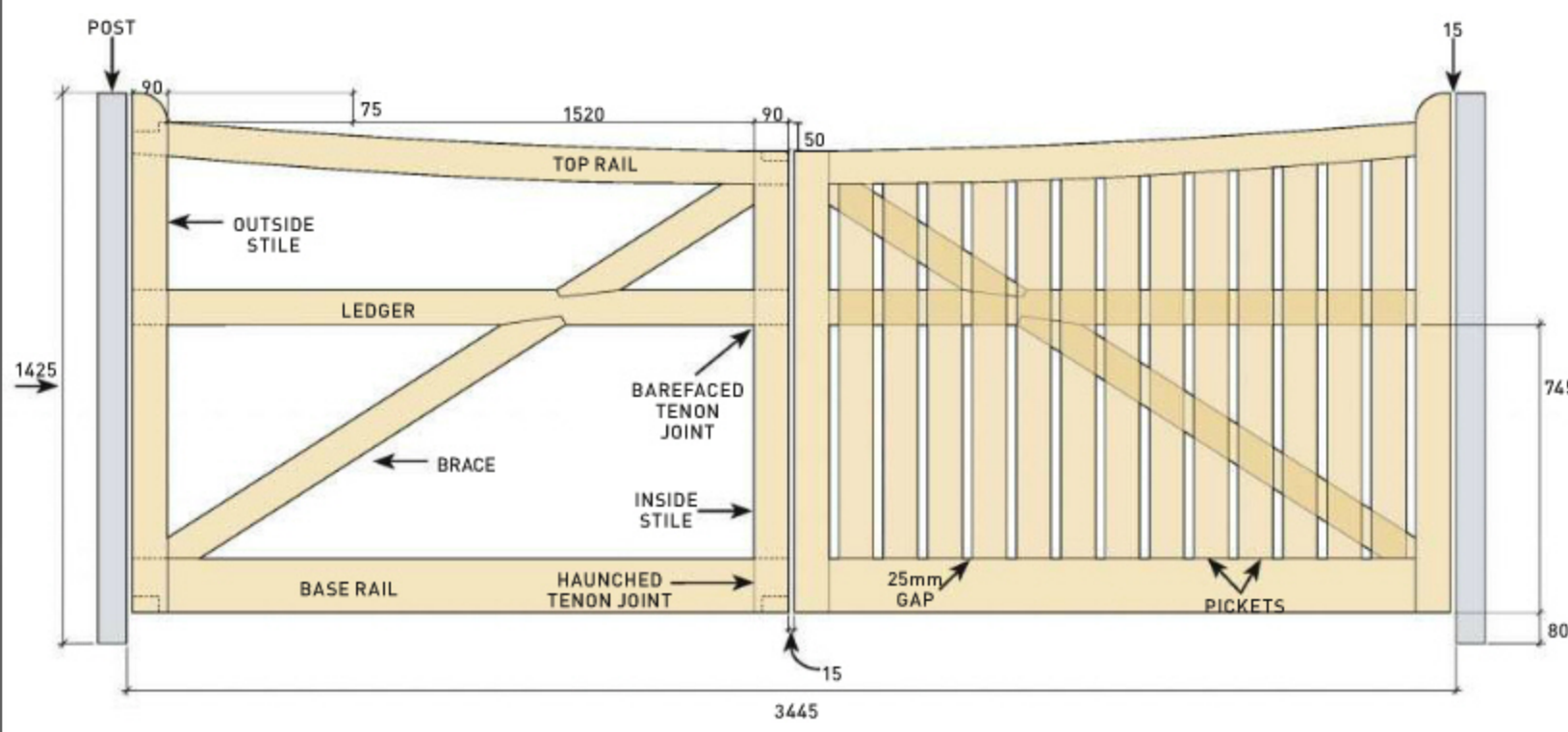
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centre or scan this QR code for information
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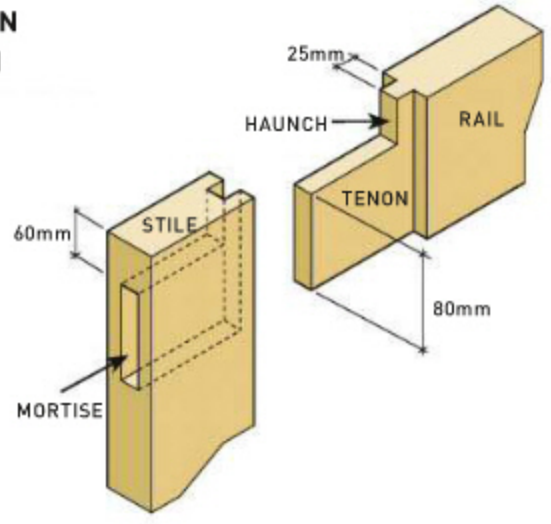
Classic gates

measurements in mm



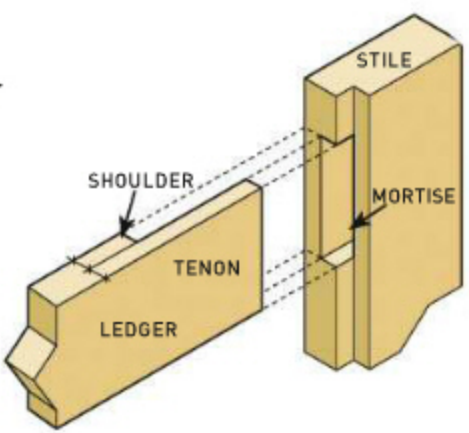
HAUNCHED MORTISE AND TENON

This has a tenon that is one-third the thickness of the timber that passes through the stile, plus a mortise that is the socket to match. The haunch is a short section of the tenon that fits into the groove beside the mortise to keep the joint from twisting.



BAREFACED MORTISE AND TENON

This is used when the rails and ledger are thinner than the stiles. It has a tenon with one shoulder, which allows the width to be increased to half the thickness of the timber, making the joint stronger.



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
Western red cedar		
Outside stiles	1345 x 90 x 65	2
Inside stiles	1120 x 90 x 65	2
Rails	1700 x 140 x 65	4
Ledgers	1700 x 90 x 41	2
Braces	1800 x 90 x 41	2
Pickets	1060 x 90 x 17	26

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Galvanised nails, 65 x 2.8mm	Ledger and brace
Galvanised bullethead nails, 30 x 2mm	Pickets

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BUILD A BOUNDARY FENCE

Provide more privacy in the backyard by installing a simple post-and-rail steel fencing system

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER MAIN PICTURE STUART SCOTT

A solid steel fence can increase security for your family, pets and property, while screening your backyard from the neighbours.

This home had an old steel fence with rotting timber rails. To improve privacy and complement the newly revamped pool area, it was replaced with a higher all-steel fence.

First, the old fence was removed and the boundary line identified, then to prepare the site, any debris

or vegetation that could interfere with construction was cleared away.

Order the materials

To calculate the materials needed, divide the total fence length by the rail length and factor in the posts.

For this project, the Fielders Panel Fencing System was used, including 2670mm posts, 2370mm rails, and 1800mm Colorbond steel panels in Grey Ridge (fielders.com.au).

Each fencing section requires two posts, three fence panels and two rails.

This 25m long boundary fence consisted of just over 10 sections, requiring 22 posts, 32 panels and 22 rails, costing \$956 in total.

The posts are set in position with concrete. Buy 20kg bags of premixed concrete from your local hardware store for about \$7 each, or make your own by mixing gravel, sand and cement in a 4:2:1 ratio. ➤

Maintaining the metal

To keep your steel fence looking its best, all you have to do is hose it down occasionally when you're watering the garden or lawn.

USE A SOFT BROOM to remove any cobwebs or loose dirt and pay extra attention to the area under the top rail, which is sheltered from being washed naturally by rain.

KEEP SOIL AWAY from the base rails and fence posts to avoid water retention, which leads to corrosion.

PROTECT THE FENCE from any overspray when using garden products such as weedkillers and fertilisers because these can damage the surface. If this happens, wash the fence down with water.

REPLACE DAMAGED PANELS but don't use touch-up paint on any minor scratches, as it will weather differently to the original painted surface.



Install the fence



1 Clear the site

Demolish the existing fence using a pry bar and hammer, wearing protective gear. Use a handsaw and secateurs to cut away any branches obstructing the line of the fence.

TIP Recycle old steel fence panels.



2 Set out the post holes

Mark out the post hole positions along the fence line with line marking spray paint, or use small pegs. Position a fence rail on the ground to mark the post hole centres, or measure 2370mm between the centres.



3 Mark the fence line

Excavate the holes for the first and last end posts, concreting the posts in position. Secure a stringline to one end post, then stretch until taut and secure to the other end post to establish a straight line for the fence.



4 Excavate the post holes

Dig a 150mm diameter post hole to the required depth at each marked hole centre. Hold the stringline aside and use a post hole clamshell digger to remove the soil waste. Use a spud bar if the digging is tough.



5 Join the posts

Position two posts back to back and secure using an impact driver and self-drilling 16mm x 14g Tek screws. Drive two side by side 60mm from the top, then offset the screws down the posts, spaced up to 300mm apart.



6 Secure the base rails

Set taut stringlines for the top and base rails, then position two posts in adjacent holes, adjusting the height to the top stringline. Secure a base rail set to the base stringline using screws and use a spirit level to adjust the rail.



7 Concrete the posts

Mix the concrete and fill the post holes, keeping it 50mm from the base rail and sloping the top for runoff. Use a spirit level to keep the posts plumb. Position the top rails, then let the concrete set overnight.



8 Slot in the panels

Remove the top rails, one section at a time. Slot three panels into each base rail, overlapping the edges. Cut the panels to fit, as needed, with a nibbler, then check the overlap is flush and the end panels sit in the U-shaped posts.



9 Attach the top rails

Position the top rail in one post and slowly work your way across the section, slotting in the panels. Adjust the top rail so it sits 2mm above the posts, then secure with self-drilling 16mm x 14g Tek screws on both sides.

Meeting the regulations

Before putting up a new fence, it's necessary to talk to your neighbours. There are also council building regulations that need to be met.

So don't install a fence without checking a few things first.

With neighbours, both parties are usually required to share the cost of a dividing fence that is considered sufficient. This means a standard or basic fence for the area.

If one party wants more, they may have to pay the additional costs

over and above the shared cost of a sufficient fence.

Check with the local building authority or council whether there are any restrictions on the fence height or type of material used.

The council can also specify the boundary to kerb distance, so be careful on corner blocks, and make sure the fencing style meets any streetscape or heritage regulations.

TIP Before building, have a surveyor mark disputed or vague boundaries.



Choose the material

A fence is exposed to the elements, so it needs to be durable. Timber and brick are common alternatives to steel fencing.



TIMBER

Treated pine is the most popular for traditional lap-and-cap paling fences. It is important to select the right hazard treatment level with treated pine, selecting H3 for palings and capping, with H4 the correct choice for in-ground posts.



BRICK

The toughest of the lot, brick offers the most in security and privacy. Double brick is more substantial than single-skin brickwork, but the material and construction costs can be high. Many are rendered and painted to match the property. ➤

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An unusual dome shaped shed houses a home office and a backyard cinema.

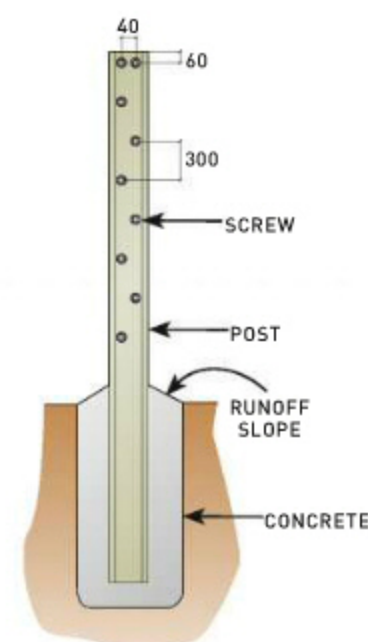
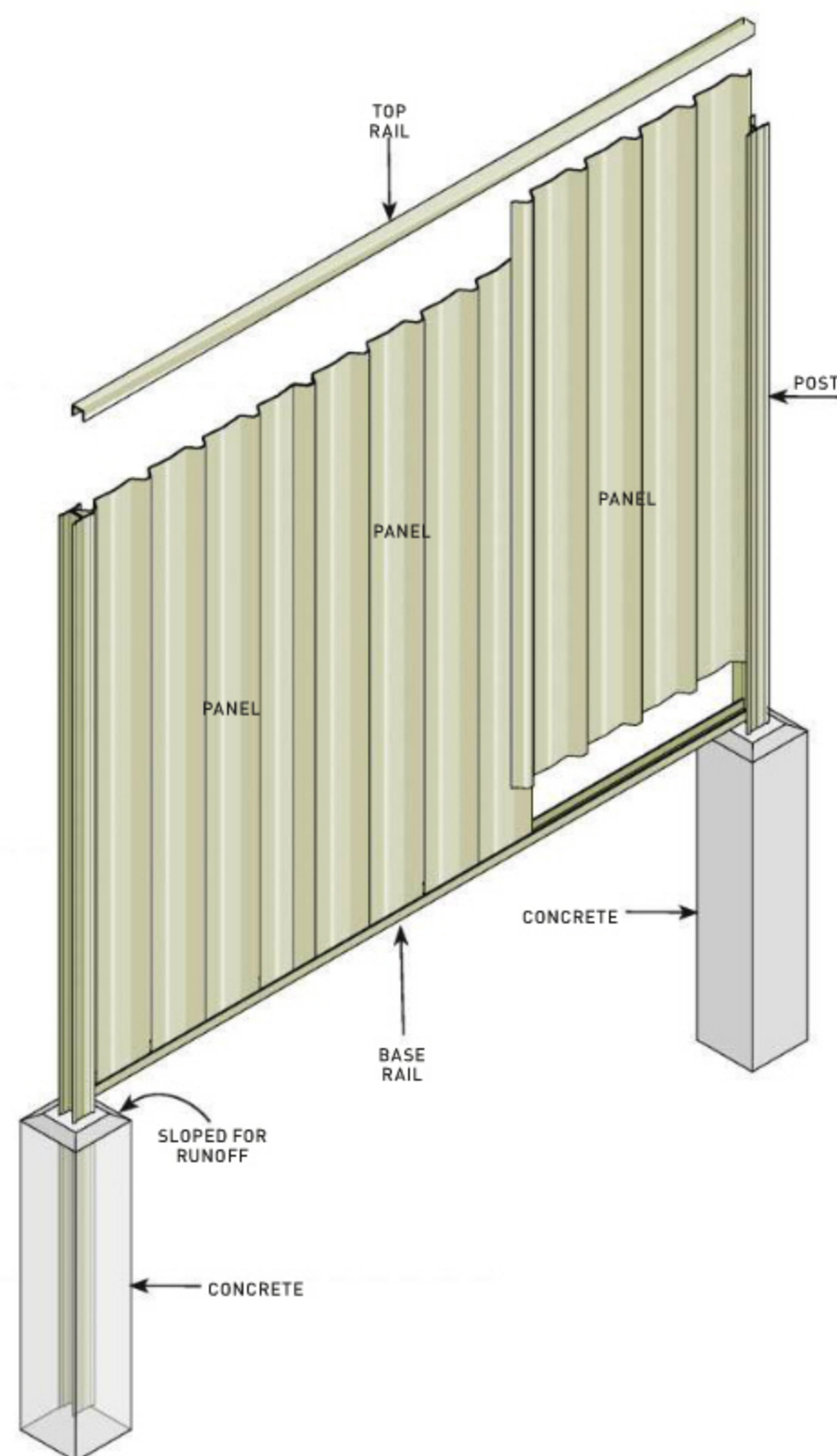
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Boundary fence

measurements in mm



BACK-TO-BACK POSTS

Sinking fence posts ▼

Fencing has to withstand winds of considerable force at various times, so it's important to build a strong and durable fence.

The way to do this is to have posts of a suitable length set in post holes of the correct depth.

Post lengths increase in proportion to the depth of the hole, which in turn is determined by the type of substrate on your site.

ROCK requires holes to be dug 350mm deep and one bag of concrete for each post.

CLAY SOIL needs a hole depth of 600mm and two bags of concrete.

SANDY SOIL requires 900mm holes and three bags of concrete.

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Pool fencing

Put up a new fence around your pool that looks good and provides safety

Aluminium fencing is a popular choice for a pool surround, as it is low-maintenance, quick to install and very affordable.

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

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

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

If you have a steep yard, you can step the panels down the slope.

Pool fencing can only be stepped a maximum of 100mm.

If your slope is too steep for this, go to the Special Orders desk at your local Bunnings to discuss options for a raked panel.



68 Safe Tri Latch Pool Gate, \$79.
protectoraluminium.com.au

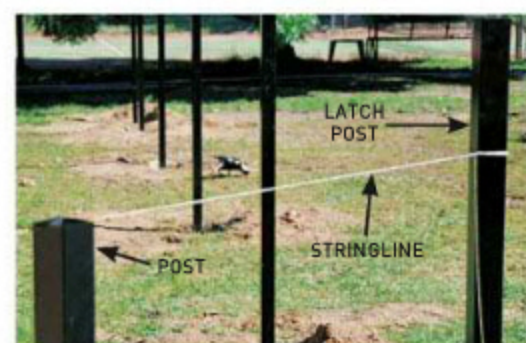


Stay safe with an easy-to-install pool fence that meets Australian Standards.



1 Excavate the post holes

Clear the area of foliage and run a stringline low to the ground, using a fence panel as a spacer to mark the post holes at 2500mm centres. Excavate the post holes 200mm in diameter and 600mm deep with a power auger.



2 Position the posts

Set a stringline for the post tops. Allow a gap of up to 100mm below and 50mm above each panel, with the latch post extending 300mm above the gate. Position the posts in holes and fill with concrete, sloping the surface for runoff.



3 Attach the fencing panels

Slide the panel brackets over the top and base rails, raising them into position on temporary blocks. Use a spirit level to check the panels are level, then secure the brackets to the posts with self-drilling Tek screws.



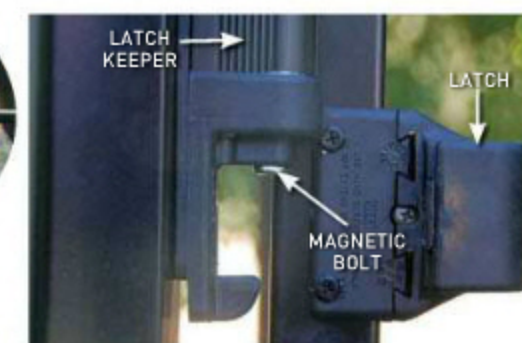
4 Cut the panels

If the fence needs to negotiate an angle other than 90°, change the direction of the fencing by cutting the ends of the panel rails using an angle grinder with a cutoff wheel. Touch up the cut ends with spray paint.



5 Hang the gate

Attach the self-closing hinges to the outside of the gate using Tek screws, 80mm from the top rails and level with the base rail. Space the gate evenly, using a torpedo level to check the gate is level.



6 Attach the gate latch

Secure the latch at least 1500mm above ground level, closing the gate with it in position. Tap in the post caps, then adjust the springs on the hinges to ensure the gate will close from any opened position automatically.

Chic security

Protect your home without turning it into a fortress by installing eye-catching but secure screens

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Tough metal gates and doors prevent burglars from breaking in by acting as both a physical barrier and a visual deterrent. Decorative ironwork keeps the home secure, but allows a view and adds an attractive visual feature. ➤

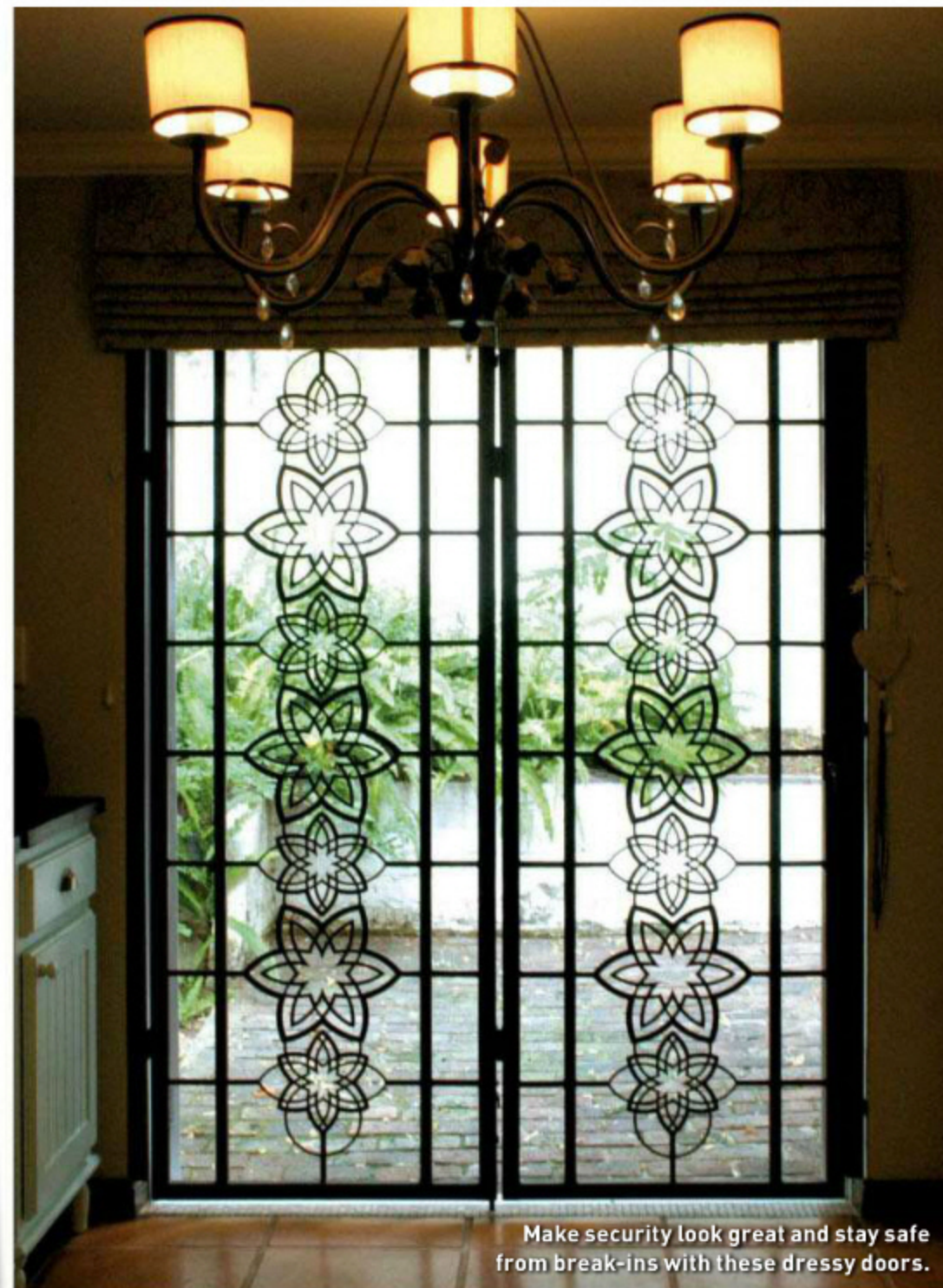


Doors

It's relatively easy for a burglar to pry open a timber door with a crowbar, but it's practically impossible to break through wrought iron security screens.

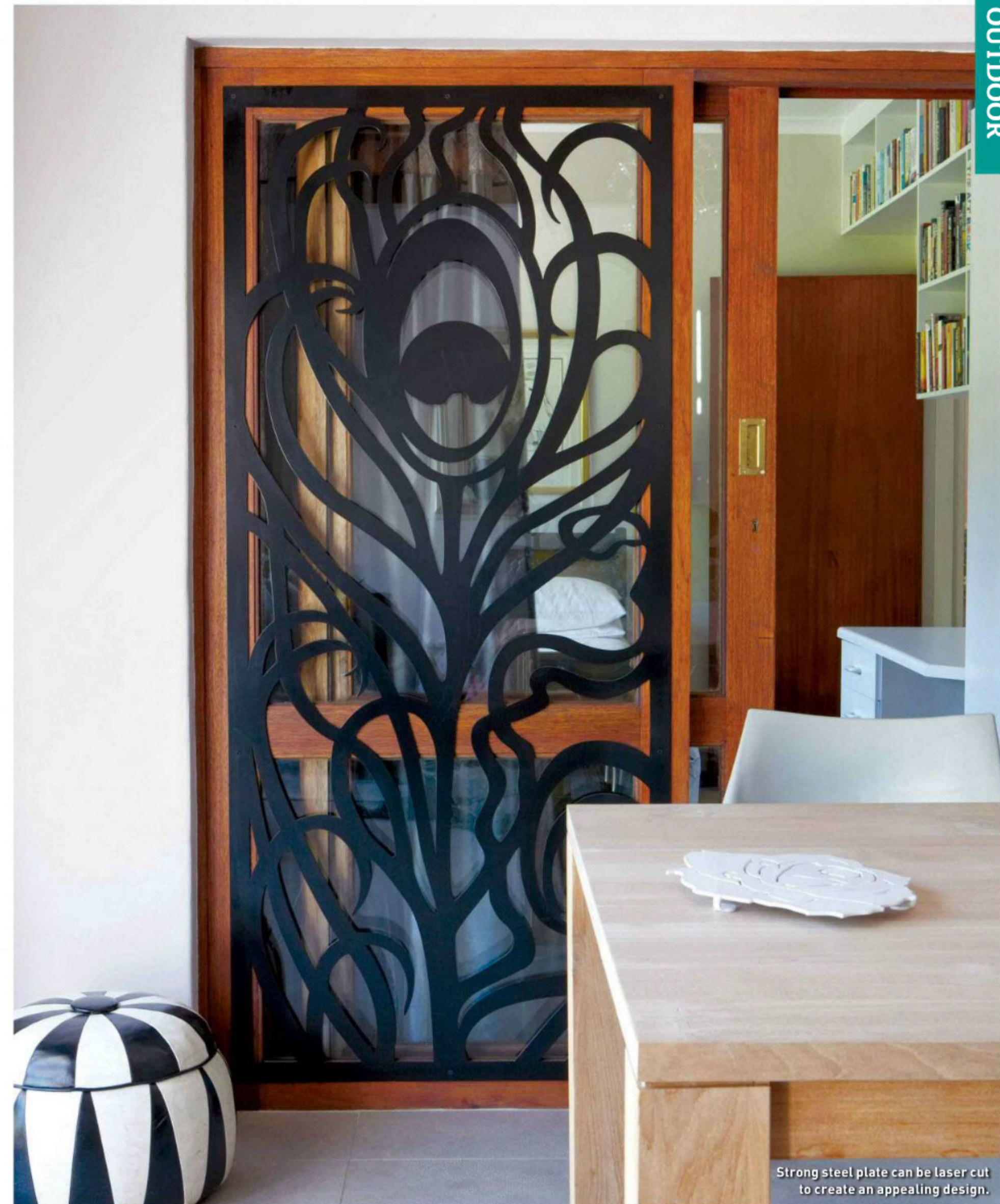
Doors custom-made by a blacksmith are usually stronger than the mass-produced options, but they are also more expensive.

Ensure the doors are securely mounted and the gaps are too small for a person to fit through.

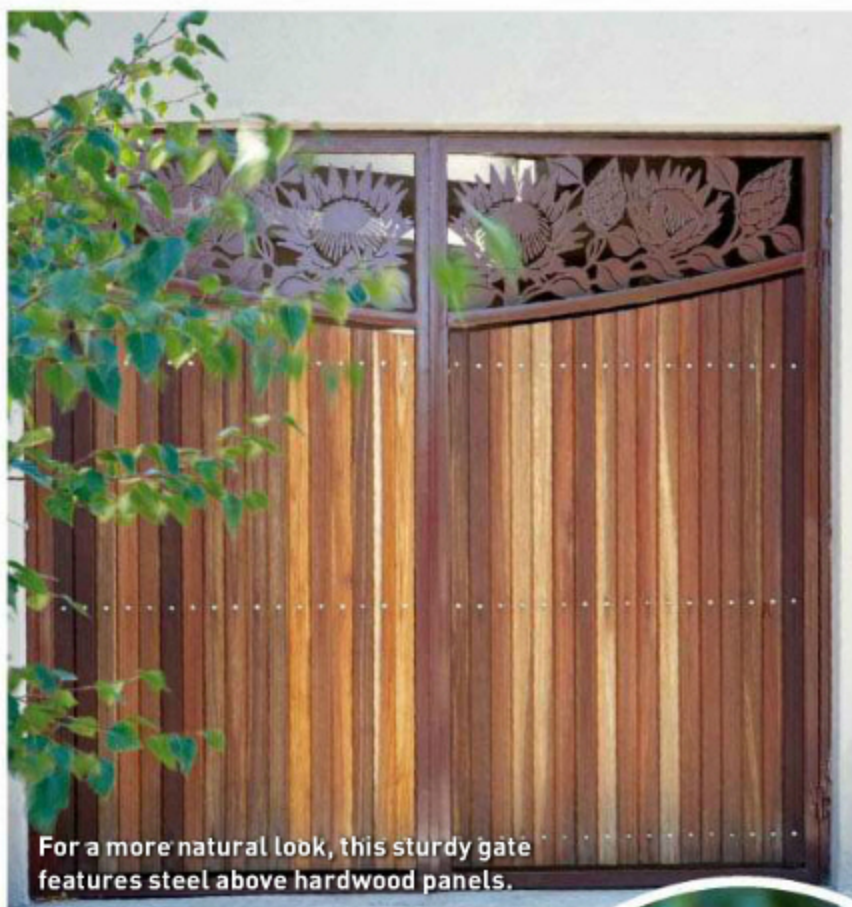


Make security look great and stay safe from break-ins with these dressy doors.

PICTURES AUSTRAL



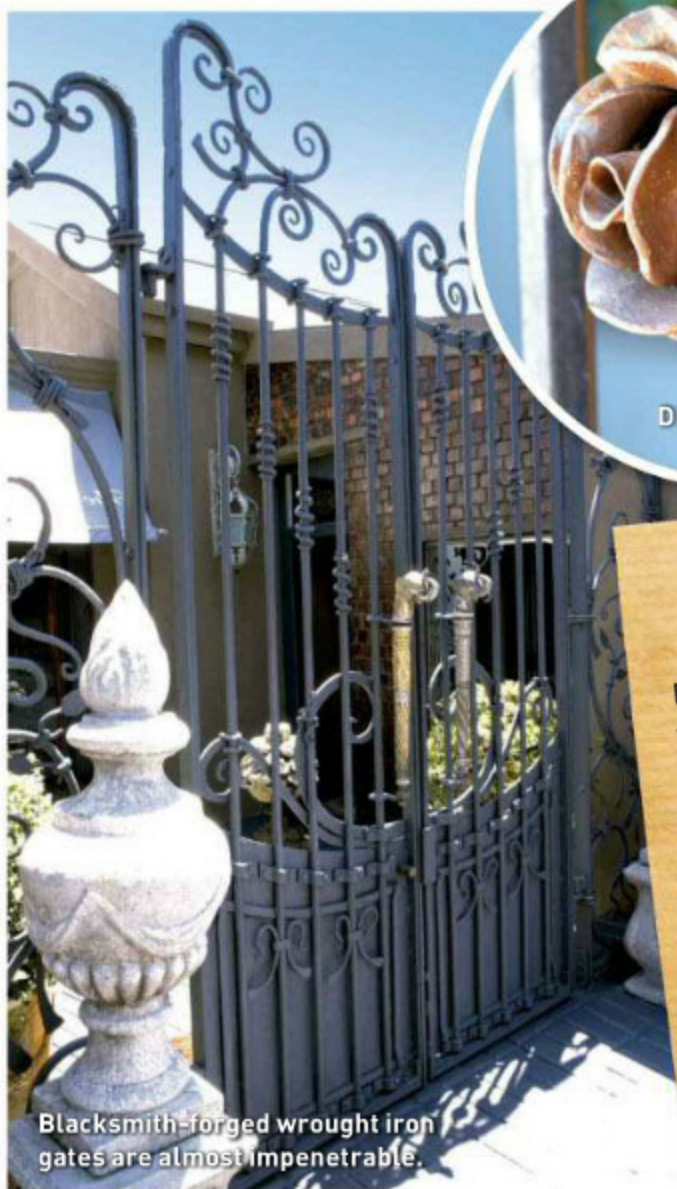
Strong steel plate can be laser cut to create an appealing design.



For a more natural look, this sturdy gate features steel above hardwood panels.



A steel door is transformed from dull to welcoming with ironwork.



Blacksmith-forged wrought iron gates are almost impenetrable.



DECORATIVE
DETAIL

Gates

Entry and driveway gates protect the property and can also provide a secure and private outdoor entertaining area or a safe place for children to play.

Installing security gates on all property entries may also reduce the need for excessive security measures on windows and doors.

For gates to be secure, they need to be perfectly fitted to an entrance or too high to climb.



PICTURES AUSTRAL

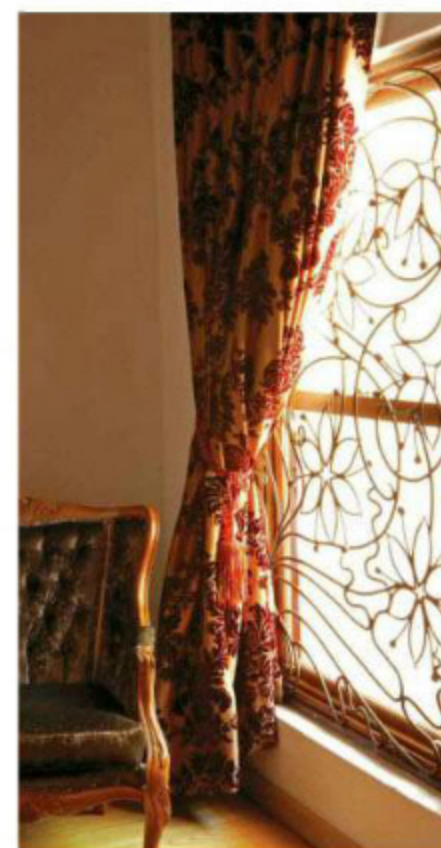


Iron bars don't have to make your place look like a prison.

Windows

Thieves can enter the house through even the tiniest of windows, so minimise the risk of burglary by installing a barrier that allows light and ventilation but will prevent intrusion.

Bars and grilles should be installed on windows using one-way security screws that anchor the bars directly to the window frame or the brickwork so they can't be removed.



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Workbenches



■ **ROMAK GARAGE WORKBENCH**, \$89, measures 1405 x 1100 x 540mm and features a sturdy MDF bench and shelf, each with a 200kg capacity. It includes a pegboard with 20 hooks and has a black powdercoated finish.



■ **QIQ FIX METAL WORKBENCH**, \$299, features a durable 25mm MDF tabletop and heavy-duty steel frame. Measuring 910 x 1800 x 600mm, it has a powdercoated hammer finish and is quick and easy to assemble.



■ **ULTIMATE GARAGE WORKBENCH**, \$399, has a huge 500kg capacity, lacquered MDF benchtop and a large pegboard. Made from galvanised steel with a powdercoated finish, it measures 1835 x 1500 x 600mm with 75mm legs.

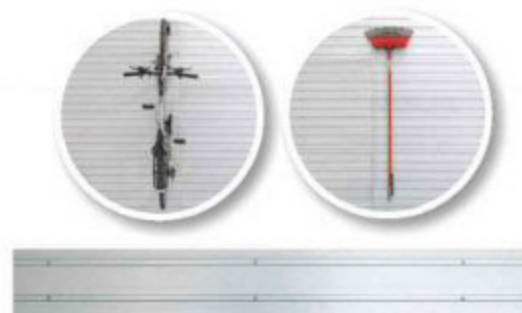
Hooks and rails



■ **ROMAK DUAL STORAGE HOOK**, \$8, features a heavy-duty steel construction with a powdercoated finish and PVC coated arms. It easily mounts to a wall and is ideal for storing garden tools, hoses, pieces of timber and more.



■ **QIQ FIX TWO PIECE UTILITY HOOK SET**, \$4, features two compact steel hooks with a powdercoated finish. They are easy to install, can be mounted together or separately and are ideal for hanging small tools and accessories.



■ **STOREASE GARAGE WALL PANEL**, \$23, provides simple hanging storage. Once the panels are in position, hooks can be easily added or moved without drilling more holes in the walls. Each panel measures 1200 x 150mm.

Cabinets



■ **QIQ FIX GREY POWDER COATED CABINET**, \$174, has four internal shelves, three of which are adjustable, plus lockable doors and recessed handles. It has a grey powdercoated finish and measures 1680 x 760 x 380mm.



■ **ROMAK TWO DOOR METAL GARAGE CABINET**, \$399, features four internal shelves, recessed handles, lockable doors and castors. It has a heavy-duty design with a powdercoated finish and measures 1900 x 780 x 465mm.



■ **ULTIMATE TALL STORAGE CABINET**, \$449, is the widest in the range, measuring 1835 x 1000 x 450mm. It has six adjustable shelves, a 250kg capacity, lockable checkerplate doors, steel construction and powdercoated finish.

Shelving



■ **HANDY STORAGE GALVANISED FOUR SHELF UNIT**, \$16, features adjustable shelves that can hold up to 50kg evenly distributed. It's ideal for convenient and affordable storage in any garage and measures 1370 x 710 x 305mm.



■ **HANDY STORAGE BOLTLESS FIVE SHELF UNIT**, \$99, is easy to assemble with no nuts or bolts. With a heavy-duty construction, each shelf holds up to 200kg evenly distributed. It measures 1830 x 1219 x 400mm.



■ **QIQ FIX SIX TIER HUGE SHELF**, \$149, features a powdercoated finish and an easy snap-lock assembly system. Each shelf has a central brace and can hold up to 150kg of weight evenly distributed. It measures 2090 x 1200 x 457mm.

From gloom to glam

An underused courtyard is turned into a modern multipurpose space

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERIE BARBER

Big outdoor areas like *Handyman* reader Jessica Powell's patio are absolute gold in a highly built-up inner-city suburb.

It's like a whole extra room on your doorstep, so from a renovation perspective, that's how you need to approach its design and fit-out.

We'll take this scrappy courtyard and turn it into a multifunctional space that the owners can use all year.

Natural materials like timber and stone, and some modern decorative touches, can absolutely transform an outdoor area for very little cost.

A functional and visually appealing outdoor space will always add value, especially in an apartment block where it makes the unit stand out.

The challenge

At the moment, the courtyard lacks uniformity, which makes it appear permanently untidy.

There are too many different finishes on the walls and floor, including the two paved surfaces.

The trees block out the light and the owners complain about the falling leaves.

Our main objective is to choose finishes and colours that tie the whole courtyard together, as well as incorporate practical features.

We'll add built-in seating, a neat bench to house the barbie, plus a grassed play area for kids, which is great for resale value. ➤

Get a free makeover ▼

Cherie Barber is the owner of *Renovating For Profit*, a company dedicated to teaching people how to buy, renovate and sell or rent properties for a profit.

She is also a public speaker and TV renovator on Network Ten's *The Living Room*.

Cherie is offering a free virtual makeover to *Handyman* readers in need of inspiration.

Send us a photo and a description of an area in your home that needs work for the chance to get a makeover.

To upload your photos, go to handyman.net.au/virtual-makeover.



After
Functional additions transform this patio into a place fit to entertain.



Before
Without uniformity, the courtyard wasn't living up to its potential.

PICTURE (BACKGROUND) THINKSTOCK

The six secrets of success

1 LAY THE DECKING

We need to remove the straggly trees and garden beds to clear the way for a deck.

This can run straight over the existing paving, creating one seamless indoor and outdoor living space. The warm reddish tones of merbau timber will work really well with our colour scheme.



90 x 19mm merbau decking, about \$5 a linear metre, from Bunnings.

2 PAINT THE WALLS

While mostly rendered, there are a few stray areas on the walls where the red brick needs covering, such as the trim on the top.

Once they have been rendered, we'll paint all the walls in a modern grey. One solid colour will minimise the number of different finishes competing for attention.



Taubmans Endure Neutral Matt Exterior Paint, \$86 for 4L. taubmans.com.au

3 INSTALL A BARBECUE

Merbau decking boards can be used for a feature wall as well as the built-in seating and barbecue bench. It's a perfect way to tie the whole courtyard together.

Adding a hinged seat creates extra storage for gardening supplies or barbecue tools to help keep the area neat and tidy.



Beefeater 4 Burner Built-in Hooded Barbecue, \$699. beefeaterbbq.com

4 ADD A FEATURE WALL

A stacked stone-cladded wall behind the barbecue will really offset the warm tones of the timber and the cool grey walls. And the natural-looking texture gives a more organic feel.

It also forms a safe splashback for the barbecue and hides the dated red brick wall behind.



Decor8 400 x 125mm Panelstone Vertical Paver, \$25 for five. decor8tiles.com

5 REVAMP THE GARDEN

In a compact courtyard, a vertical garden is a great use of space. An edible garden is even better, so we've used rows of terracotta pots filled with common kitchen herbs.

A garden bed edged with sleepers and filled with low-maintenance plants, decorative pebbles and lush turf revitalises the space.



Renaissance 100mm Assorted Herbs, \$4. renaissanceherbs.com.au

6 FURNISH AND DECORATE

There's plenty of room in the layout for a big table and stackable stools.

You can use an umbrella for shade in summer and an outdoor heater for warmth in winter, creating year-round alfresco dining.

Colourful scatter cushions and decorative wall art provide the finishing touches to the makeover.



Northcote Bordeaux Madrid Garden Wall Art, \$52. northcotepottery.com

DON'T JUST FIT A TANK.

MAXIMISE YOUR WATER CATCHMENT.



A rainwater tank is a great way to save water but it's important to maintain the tank and keep it working effectively to reduce the risk of contamination.

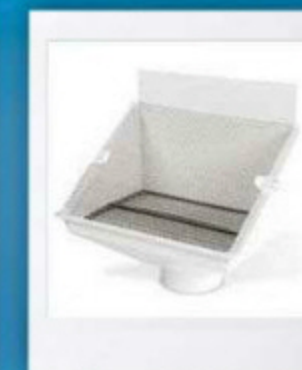
Preventing problems before they arise will save you time, money and water.



Tank Guardian Easy-Clean
Easily installed on top of an existing tank screen and protects from the build-up of leaves and debris.



Mozzie Stoppa Easy-Clean
Maintenance friendly, easy cleaning screen that keeps mosquitoes, insects and vermin out.



Leaf Eater Original Rain Head
Prevents leaves and debris from blocking downpipes and entering rainwater tanks.



Upgrade Screens
Enhances catchment efficiency and flow rate by deflecting debris away from the flow of water.



First Flush Water Diverter
Prevents contaminated water from entering rainwater tanks.

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TV safety straps

Even as a safety-savvy parent, keeping your newly mobile toddler safe can be a challenge.

Most families secure hazards in the kitchen, bathroom and laundry, but don't always realise that there may be dangers lurking in the living room.

According to Product Safety Australia, from 2006 to 2010, children under 10 accounted for 70% of Victorian emergency admissions related to injuries caused by TVs tipping over. So strap that screen and keep your kid safe!



Dream Baby Flat Screen TV Saver, \$8.94.



Secure the TV to the cabinet or wall to remove the risk of injury.



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

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If you live in South Australia, speak to a team member or visit bunnings.com.au for details about our great one-on-one D.I.Y. workshops. These workshops run from 10am to 4pm each Saturday and Sunday.



SATURDAY 26 JULY
HOW TO PLANT A TREE
KIDS' WORKSHOP HOW TO PLANT A TREE

SUNDAY 10 AUGUST
HOME ORGANISATION
KIDS' WORKSHOP ART CLASS

SUNDAY 27 JULY
HOW TO PLANT A TREE
KIDS' WORKSHOP HOW TO PLANT A TREE

SATURDAY 16 AUGUST
STORAGE SOLUTIONS
KIDS' WORKSHOP DRESS-UPS

SATURDAY 2 AUGUST
FLOORING
KIDS' WORKSHOP ANIMAL CRAFT

SUNDAY 17 AUGUST
STORAGE SOLUTIONS
KIDS' WORKSHOP CRAFTS

SUNDAY 3 AUGUST
FLOORING
KIDS' WORKSHOP WALL ART

SATURDAY 23 AUGUST
INDOOR PROJECT
KIDS' WORKSHOP DECORATOR

SATURDAY 9 AUGUST
HOME ORGANISATION
KIDS' WORKSHOP WOODWORK

SUNDAY 24 AUGUST
INDOOR PROJECT
KIDS' WORKSHOP FUN WITH PAINT

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ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

STATIONARY POWER SAWS

Keep on the cutting edge with tools for everything from construction jobs to intricate detail work

MITRESAW

BANDSAW

***MAKING THE CUT**
Being able to accurately cut various timber shapes and sizes is essential to DIY, and you'll soon feel the pinch if you're using an ordinary handsaw. 'Owning a set of freestanding or bench-mounted saws is like having a stable of thoroughbreds ready to cut to the chase and get the job done with minimal effort,' says Handyman Technical editor Frank Gardner. And you'll be rewarded with years of smooth cutting if you buy the best quality you can afford. 'I have had the same bandsaw for 20 years and it still runs as effortlessly as it ever did,' says Frank.

SAWS AIN'T SAWS

Most DIYers are familiar with a handheld circular saw, but there is some uncertainty about stationary saws. **MITRESAWS** can make square and mitred cuts up to 45°, and a compound saw can also tilt to cut bevels up to 45°. **BANDSAWS** are ideal for cutting curves and making a board thinner, called re-sawing. They use a blade that is looped around a set of wheels and runs in a continuous circuit. **TABLESAWS** can make cuts along and across the grain, called ripping and crosscutting. The saw is mounted underneath a table with the blade projecting upwards through a slot. **SCROLL SAWS** cut intricate shapes. The thin blade is stretched between two arms that oscillate up and down. ➤

TABLESAW

Make cuts across the grain, called crosscutting, with this accurate and heavy-duty tool. It is designed for square, mitred or bevelled sawing of door and window trim, roof framing, decking boards and other long pieces of timber.



*WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE?

While tablesaws and bandsaws are often sold with a stand that brings them up to a comfortable operating height, mitresaws are designed to be carried to a worksite, if needed. They can then be positioned on the ground for fast, repetitive crosscutting of framing, decking, cladding and similar timber profiles. A compound mitresaw has a circular platform that can be turned

through 90° relative to the fence where the workpiece is positioned. The saw itself is mounted on a springloaded arm that can be swung down to cut the timber, with the blade descending into a slot in the mitre platform. The pivot of the swing arm can also be tilted up to 45° to one or both sides, a feature described as single or double action.

*LET IT SLIDE

While a sliding compound mitresaw is more expensive, it can handle a larger variety of section sizes. Its swing arm is mounted on a pair of sliding rails that extend the reach of the saw blade, allowing the tool to handle wider workpieces. Tilting the blade makes it easier to cut bevelled edges on skirting boards and similar workpieces. Turning the mitre platform to an angle other than 90° while also setting a bevel component results in a compound mitre cut, as required for jobs such as cornice installation. **TIP** Most mitresaws have bolt lugs to allow them to be bench-mounted.



SINGLE-ACTION COMPOUND MITRESAW

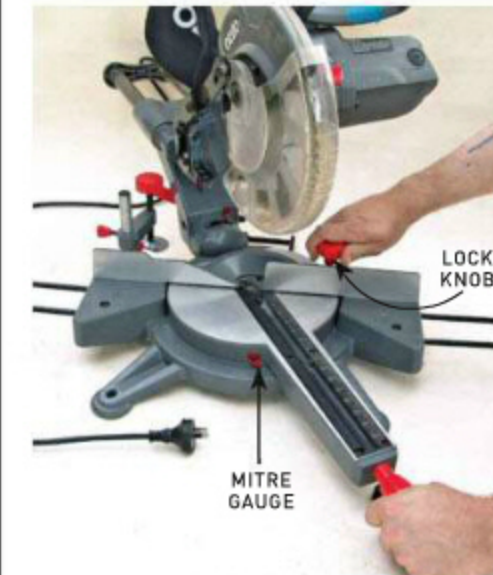
*MITRESAW SAFETY

Mitresaws feature a blade guard that is connected to the swing arm pivot by a mechanical linkage. This opens the blade guard automatically

as the saw is brought down towards the workpiece and closes it again once the cut is completed. Always unplug the saw before making any adjustments.

*SQUARE CUTS

Keeping the mitre platform and the bevel pivot at the default 90° setting, align the timber so the saw blade is on the waste side of the cut line. Switch on the saw and let it spool up to full revs, then push it down to the workpiece. If your mitresaw has a slide feature, move the saw forward smoothly and slowly to complete the cut. **TIP** Use the integrated clamps, if available, to hold the workpiece you are cutting to length.



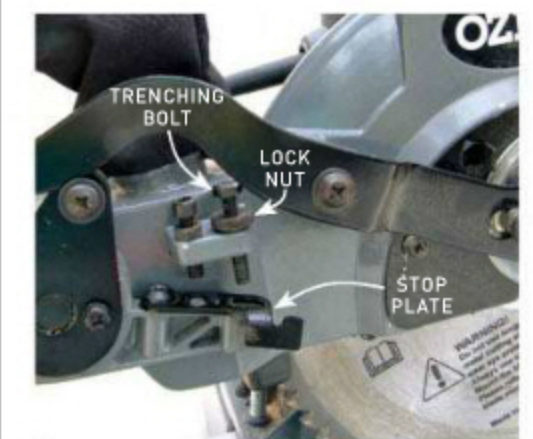
*MITRES

Unlock the mitre platform and rotate it so the saw blade is orientated at the required angle, which is indicated on the mitre gauge. Tighten the lock knob or quick-release lever, then start the saw and cut the timber. For 45° mitres, first cut test pieces from scrap timber or use a speed square to make sure the mitres will come together precisely at 90°, then adjust the angle of the saw blade by a fraction if necessary.



*COMPOUND ANGLES

When cutting workpieces such as cornices that require a joint involving both a mitre and a bevel, set the mitre angle on the saw first. Once the mitre platform is locked in position, release the bevel pivot and set the angle of tilt.



CHECKING FOR PRECISION

To check that the mitre platform is set to exactly 45° before making a mitre cut, unplug the saw then position a speed square between the blade and the fence. If your saw doesn't have a laser guide, you can check exactly where the cut width, called the kerf, will be, before committing to a cut. This is particularly useful if you have set up a stop block and

will be making repetitive cuts to the same length. Switch on the saw and carefully lower it to the workpiece until the teeth just nick the surface. If the kerf is on the waste side of the cut line, complete the cut.



*BEVELS

To tilt the saw blade so a bevelled cut can be made, loosen the pivot lock that holds the slide assembly and swing arm by turning the quick-release handle. Tilt the slide assembly to the required angle, then tighten the handle to lock the pivot. Many saws feature a control stop that also lets you adjust the bevel angle very precisely for tight-fitting mitres on skirting and similar workpieces.



*TRENCHING

Sliding mitresaws normally include a trenching bolt that prevents the swing arm from descending fully into its receiving slot. This has a similar effect as setting a handheld circular saw so it cuts to a specific depth. This is useful when making rebates and relief cuts for housings or half-lap joints. To set the trenching control, flip out the stop plate and wind the bolt in or out until the required depth is achieved, using a scrap of timber to check, then tighten the lock nut. ➤

TABLESAWS

Suitable for DIYers of all proficiencies, and capable of handling so much more than only those workpieces that are too large to be comfortably cut using other tools, a tablesaw is a versatile tool that represents a worthwhile investment.

*ON THE TABLE

If you're cutting a lot of timber along the grain, called ripping, then a tablesaw is a smart step up from a handheld circular saw.

Tablesaws are tough, accurate and surprisingly inexpensive, with 1200 to 2000W models able to safely rip hardwoods to about 30mm thick and softwoods to about 50mm.

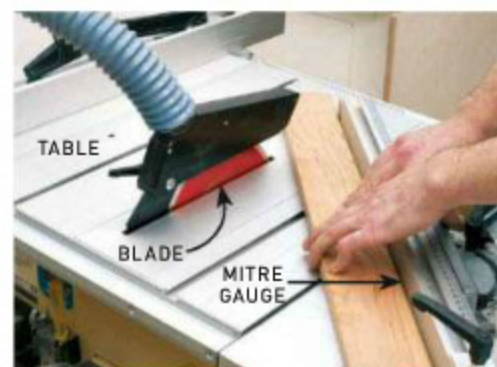
They can also cut across the grain, called crosscutting, as well as being able to make accurate mitres, grooves and rebates.

Cutting full sheets of MDF or particleboard is not recommended, as the tables aren't big enough to support them safely.

Tablesaws can generate a large amount of sawdust, so always use a dust mask and connect a workshop vac to the dust extraction port.



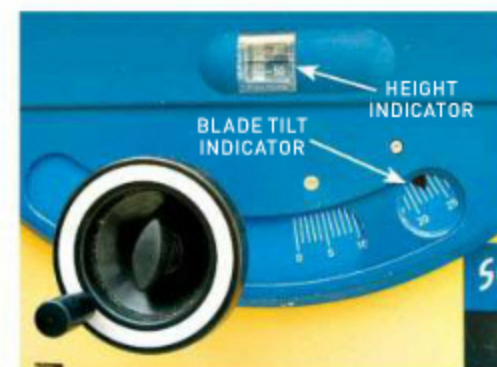
*FEATURES OF A TABLESAW



THE TABLE is machined flat with one or two slots formed parallel to the blade. These slots are useful when crosscutting with a mitre gauge. **THE FENCE** is used when ripping material parallel to the blade. It should be locked firmly in position and have no lateral movement.

The fence is offset from the blade at the required distance using a measurement scale located across the front of the table.

THE BLADE can be tilted to enable angled cuts between 0° and 45° as



well as raised or lowered by turning a simple handwheel. This feature is typically used when making housings or trenching cuts.

THE RIVING KNIFE is a flat piece of metal behind the blade. It is vital for safety, as it maintains the separation in the workpiece after the cut is made and prevents it from jamming on the blade and causing kickback.



TABLESAW SAFETY

Tablesaw blades are covered by an overhead guard to protect the user from the rotating blade. It is both illegal and dangerous to operate your saw without the blade guard in position.

Familiarise yourself with the user manual and unplug the cord before making any adjustments or changing the blade. Use a push stick instead of your fingers to feed timber through the blade.

Always use safety glasses, a dust mask and hearing protection when operating the saw, and avoid wearing any loose clothing or jewellery that can be caught in the blade.

*TABLESAW TECHNIQUES

Many DIY projects require long pieces of timber to be cut along the grain or for precise bevels to be made along the edge of a panel.

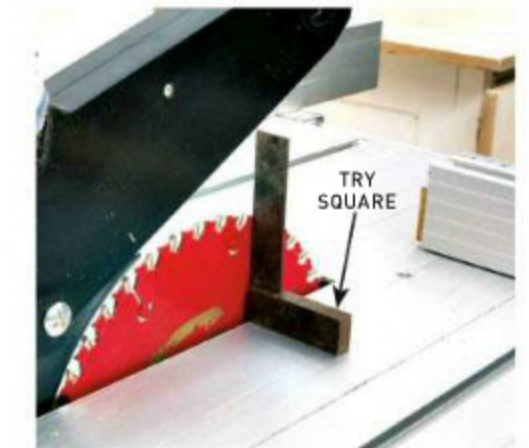
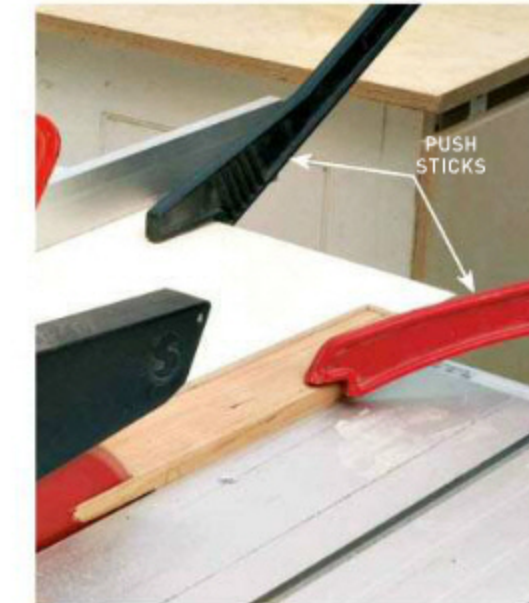
For jobs like these and many others, it's important to know how to use a tablesaw and the accessories it is sold with efficiently and safely.

*ALWAYS USE PUSH STICKS

A push stick is a device usually supplied with the saw or made from timber or plywood.

Push sticks are designed to help you feed timber through the saw while keeping your fingers well out of the way of the blade.

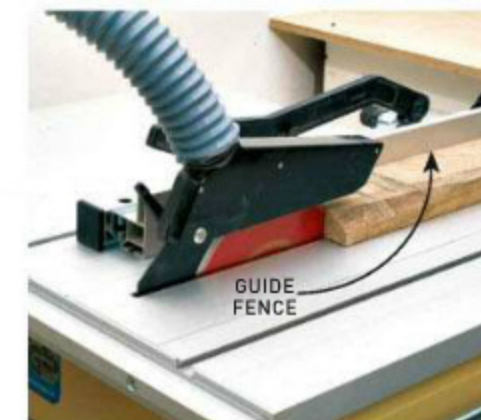
They are particularly useful for jobs like cutting thin strips of timber from a larger workpiece. Make sure you have one for each hand and familiarise yourself with using them even when they are not crucial.



*CHECK BLADE ALIGNMENT

Set the saw's blade angle to 0°, then unplug the cord and open the blade guard. Position a try square with the stock flat against the saw's tabletop, pushing the square up to the blade.

If there is a gap between the square and the blade, adjust the blade setup until it is square.



*RIP TIMBER

Move the guide fence the required distance from the blade using the graduated measurements across the front edge, then lock it into position.

Make sure the blade is set high enough to cut all the way through the timber, then position the workpiece against the fence.

Push the timber towards the blade and feed it steadily through while keeping it pushed hard against the fence for a perfectly straight cut.

TIP When ripping long boards, it's useful to have a roller stand for the timber to rest on as it leaves the saw.

*CROSSCUT TIMBER

Square up the mitre gauge to the saw blade using a set square, then use screws to secure an extension fence to the mitre gauge.

Trim off the extension by pushing it through the blade, then align the cut line on the timber with the end of the extension fence. Start the saw and use the extension fence to push the timber through the blade.

TIP Never use the rip fence for crosscutting, as it greatly increases the risk of kickback.



*MAKE MULTIPLE CUTS

Use a stop block for projects that require multiple matching pieces of the same length.

Secure an extension fence to the mitre gauge and trim it to size, then clamp an angled stop block at the required length. Hold each board securely against the stop block to make the cuts. ➤

BANDSAWS AND SCROLL SAWS

Traditionally the domain of more ambitious DIYers, these power tools are much easier to use than you might think, and can greatly expand your horizons when making anything from furniture to decorative items and toys for children.

*BANDSAWS

While mitresaws and tablesaws are both designed around a circular blade, bandsaws and scroll saws feature a linear blade.

Extremely useful for advanced DIY and precision joinery, bandsaws are less difficult for the beginner to master than many believe.

Although jigsaws are more popular for cutting curved shapes in timber, and fitting a circular saw with a guide fence is a familiar way of ripping timber, bandsaws can perform both these tasks.

As with tablesaws, bandsaws can be used to make unique DIY projects that rely on non-standard timber section sizes.

In addition to a fence parallel to the blade, they are normally sold with a sliding mitre gauge for angled cuts, and many models feature a table that can be tilted up to 45°.



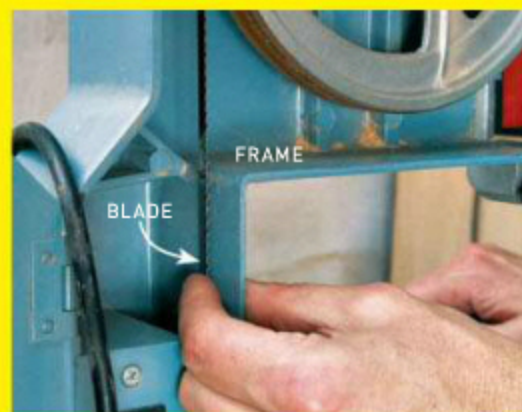
SETTING UP A NEW BLADE

As the bandsaw's teeth are dulled through use, the blade will start to flex unevenly and fail to cut parallel with the fence, indicating that it's time for a replacement. **TIP** Turn the blade loop inside out to reverse the tooth direction, if necessary.



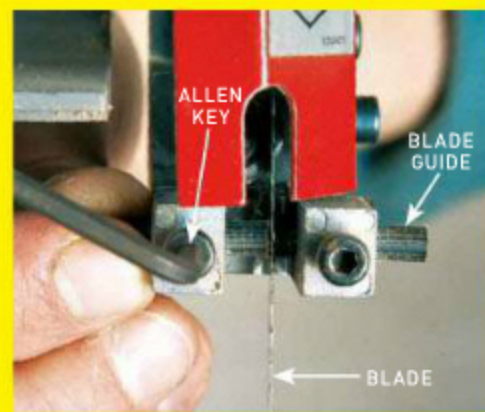
1. REPLACE THE OLD BLADE

Open the casing and loosen the blade tensioning system then, wearing work gloves, remove the old blade and fit the new blade over the wheels, ensuring the teeth are orientated in the correct direction.



2. SET THE TENSION

Turn the top wheel slowly until the blade runs centrally along the tires of each wheel. Increase the tension until the blade is taut but still elastic enough to travel about 10mm to one side when squeezed towards the frame.



2. FINE-TUNE THE BLADE PATH

Adjust the tracking control to keep the blade centred on the tires. Use an Allen key to set the thrust bearings behind the blade and the blade guides on either side to provide about 0.5mm clearance all round.



*SCROLL SAWS

These are not tools for heavy-duty DIY jobs, but for extremely fine precision sawing that can give timber an almost laser-cut look.

Scroll saws are mainly designed for decorative applications, ranging from fretwork to jigsaw puzzles.

They are also invaluable when extremely tight turns or fine details must be negotiated when cutting structural elements.

Scroll saws often feature tool-free blade change, making it easy to cut out shapes that are fully enclosed by surrounding timber by

drilling a small starter hole and feeding the blade through it.

Most feature an air blower to keep the cut line visible, and if a workshop vac is also connected, the tool can be nearly dust-free to use.

The air blower is often mounted on a hold-down shoe similar to that on a sewing machine. The shoe stops the workpiece from catching on the blade and chattering up and down as you work.

TIP Do not touch the blade straight after sawing, as it will be hot enough to cause nasty burns.



MOTO-SAW

Scroll saws are power tools that perform a similar task to coping saws or fretsaws, but unlike these hand tools, they are usually positioned on or secured to a workbench when in use.

The unique Dremel Moto-Saw is a natural evolution of the idea. It can be used as a conventional variable-speed scroll saw, with a work table that can be attached firmly to the edge of a workbench.

For projects that need greater manoeuvrability, the saw unit can be detached from the work table and used independently like a powered fretsaw.

The blade can be changed without the use of tools, and can also be mounted at 90° to the frame, like a coping saw.

*TIMBER ART

Scroll saws can be used to create amazingly intricate timber artworks.

There are countless scroll saw projects and patterns available in books and online, ranging from geometric fretwork to patterns and pictures, even portraits.

Whether you create standalone artworks, or inlays for furniture and other more conventional DIY projects, a scroll saw will enable you to make ornate embellishments limited only by your imagination. ➤



BUYING GUIDE

Choose a stationary saw based on your DIY needs. Mitresaws are great for crosscutting, tablesaws are handy for cutting along the grain, bandsaws are ideal for curve cutting and scroll saws are best-suited for finer detail work.

COMPOUND MITRESAWS



Perfectly suited to DIY use, this mitresaw features a 36-tooth 255mm blade and can be folded down for easier transport.

Ozito 1800W Compound Mitresaw, \$119. ozito.com.au



Featuring a built-in laser for easy cut alignment, this 254mm saw also has a quick-release mitre adjustment and LiveTool indicator for safety.

Ryobi 2000W Sliding Compound Mitresaw, \$299. ryobi.com.au



This saw has a vibration-reducing soft-grip handle, extension bars for supporting long pieces of timber and a 250mm blade.

Bosch 1800W Sliding Compound Mitresaw, \$373. bosch-do-it.com.au

TABLESAW AND BANDSAWS



Ideal for cutting large sheets, this has detachable extension tables, a dust-extracting blade guard and a cut capacity of up to 70mm at 90°.

Ozito 1500W 250mm Freestanding Tablesaw, \$198.



A powerful 420W motor and a cutting height of 125mm make this perfect for curved and straight cuts, plus it has a throat depth of 245mm.

Full Boar 420W Bandsaw, \$249, from Bunnings.



This saw features a throat depth of 230mm as well as a blade with 80mm cut height, capable of making bevels up to a 45° angle.

Ryobi Adjustable Height 350W Bandsaw, \$269.

SCROLL SAWS



This incredibly versatile tool features adjustable speed and tool-free blade change, plus it comes with eight blades.

Dremel Moto-Saw, \$129. dremel.com.au



Designed for precise cuts in timber, plastic and plaster, this saw has a 405mm throat depth and an air blower to clear sawdust from the cut line.

Ozito 120W Variable Speed Scroll Saw, \$149.



With a throat depth of 405mm, this offers variable speed and has an air blower, built-in work light and a table that can be tilted up to 45°.

Ryobi 125W Scroll Saw With In-built Work-Light, \$199.

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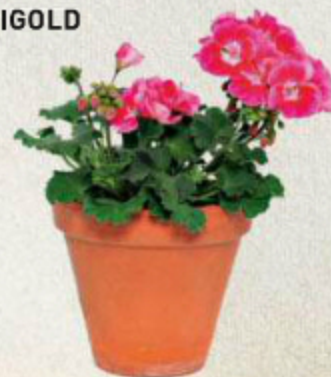
THIS MONTH

Prune and plant in August to get ready for the first flush of spring

Sow now

Get these seeds into garden beds or pots from late winter.

- AFRICAN MARIGOLD
- BEGONIA
- CARNATION
- DAHLIA
- GERANIUM



Grow now

Plant these vegetables now for crops from midspring.

- BEETROOT
- CABBAGE
- PARSNIP
- SPRING ONION
- RHUBARB



Harvest now

Late winter is the season for picking greens and fruit.

- BRUSSELS SPROUTS
- SPINACH
- MANDARIN
- KIWIFRUIT
- LEMON



Do now

- **PLANT** a bagged tree for a showcase of spring blossoms year after year, page 124.
- **RAISE** exotic and amazing carnivorous plants in your backyard, page 128.
- **LANDSCAPE** a shady garden with the right varieties for the conditions, page 140.



Top pick

Give a shady spot a colour boost with winter-blooming hellebores. Usually mass-planted under established trees, they can also be grown in pots on covered patios. 'Winter Sunshine' is new from PMA (pma.com.au), and is bred to be long-flowering. Reaching 500mm high and spreading to 600mm, it has dark-green serrated leaves and delicate pink buds that open to cream flowers, maturing to a dark red.

Test your soil

Soil is the raw material of a garden and it affects how well plants grow, so you need to know the type you have.

SANDY soils are free-draining but lack nutrients.

CLAY soils drain slowly and have a high water-holding capacity. **LOAM** soils are good at holding water, fertile and free-draining.

Whether soil is acid, alkaline or neutral determines the type of plants that can be grown in it.

The acidity and alkalinity are measured using the pH scale, which ranges from 0-14, with seven being neutral.

Most natural soils have a pH of 4-9, with few plants

growing outside of this range. Gardeners usually aim for a soil pH of 6.5-7 to maximise their growing options.

To find the pH of your soil, test it using a kit or meter from a garden centre.

Add lime to raise the pH and neutralise soil acidity, digging in small amounts.

TIP Avoid handling soil samples with bare hands as your skin pH may affect the final reading.

Gardman Soil pH Meter, \$11. brunnings.com.au



Preparing for the new season

While it's still too cold and the ground's too hard to do much in many parts of the country, there are lots of general jobs you can tackle in August before the new season starts.

■ **PREPARE** the site for a new lawn to be sown or laid in spring.

■ **PLANT** bare-rooted roses and take cuttings of miniature roses.

■ **CHECK** new rose shoots for aphids and hose them off.

■ **SPRAY** white oil on camellias to kill scale and overwintering eggs.

■ **PLANT** azaleas and camellias in temperate zones.

■ **DIVIDE** agapanthus and daylilies in warm areas.

■ **IMPROVE** the soil in flowerbeds for summer plantings.

■ **SAVE** the seeds of poppies, primulas and other self-seeding flowers for next year.

■ **ADD** kangaroo paws to a rock garden, choosing those in flower.

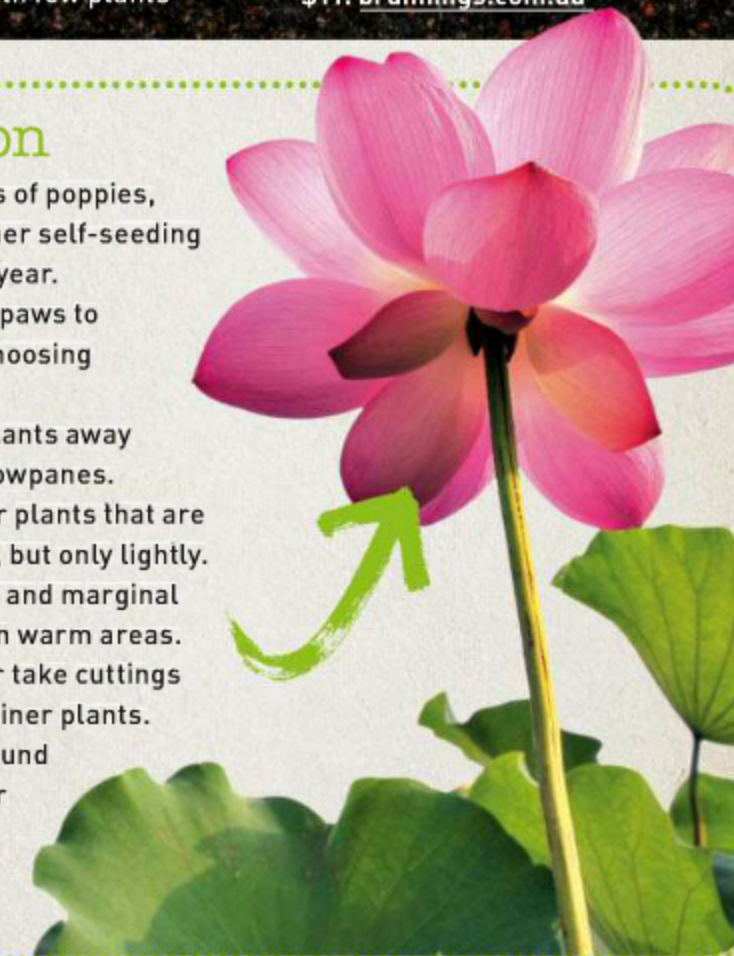
■ **KEEP** indoor plants away from chilly windowpanes.

■ **FEED** container plants that are actively growing, but only lightly.

■ **PLANT** aquatic and marginal plants in ponds in warm areas.

■ **PINCH BACK** or take cuttings from leggy container plants.

■ **REPOT** root-bound plants in a bigger pot with new mix, trimming the roots. >



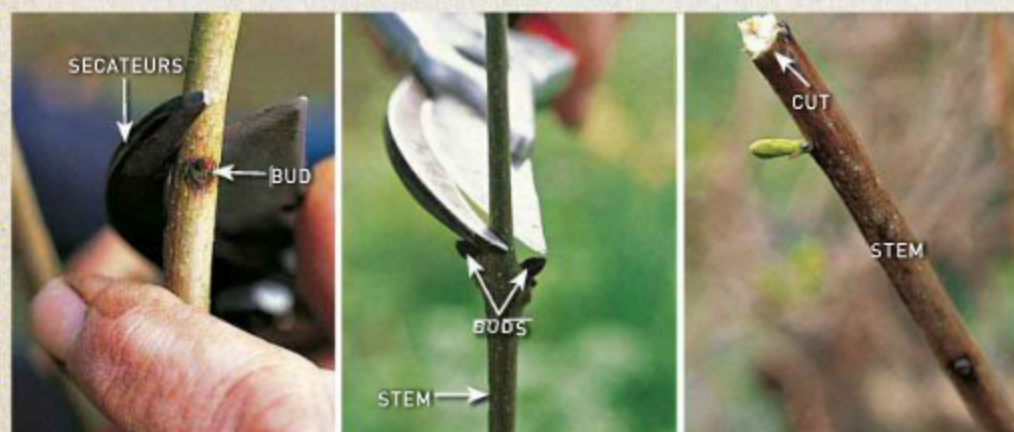


Pruning plants

When you prune, you cut through the bark, which is what protects a plant from disease.

The cleaner the cut, the faster the wound will dry and heal, so it's important to keep tools sharp and avoid ragged cuts and torn bark.

Plants have natural defences against injury, concentrated in certain places such as the joint where a bud or leaf grows. Cutting close to this point helps the wound heal quickly.



1 PRUNE THE STEM

just above a bud using clean and sharp secateurs, angling the cut to direct water away from the bud.

2 CUT THE STEM

straight across where buds are in pairs on opposite sides of the stem, up to 5mm above the buds.

3 LEAVE THE CUT

to dry and heal on its own. A correctly pruned cut will heal quickly, unlike ragged or torn bark.

Prune now

Lightly prune hardy evergreen plants and winter-blooming shrubs that have finished flowering.

- ABELIA
- BEAUTY BERRY
- BUDDLEIA
- CHINESE LANTERN
- TIBOUCHINA



Feed now

Give winter vegetables and tropical fruit a nutrient boost, and fertilise established roses.

- BANANAS
- CITRUS
- LAWNS
- ROSES
- VEGETABLES



Tree netting

When you go to the trouble of growing edibles, you want to be able to enjoy the fruit, or vegetable, of your gardening labours.

There's no denying that wildlife can wreak havoc in the garden, but there is a way to protect your crops without harming birds, possums, bats and other animals.

Protect individual fruit with purpose-designed bags or sleeves and use a net with a frame to cover an entire tree.

Opt for white, as it's the colour that's best seen by animals at night, and make sure it's densely woven so it won't trap wildlife.

If the packaging doesn't say whether it's wildlife-safe, do the finger test. That is, if you can poke your fingertip through, it fails the test.

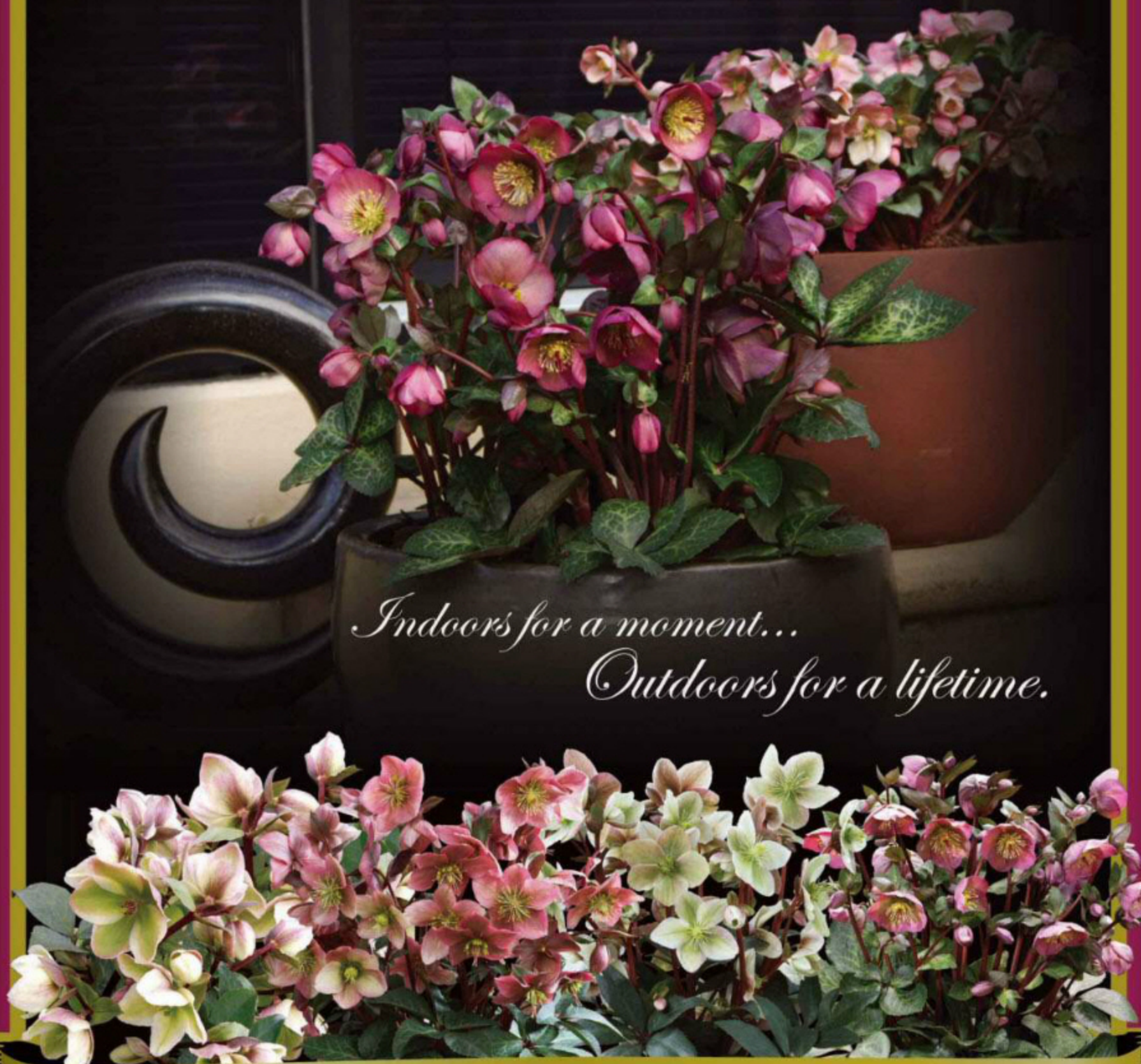
For more information, visit wildlifefriendlyfencing.com.



PICTURES (TOP, BOTTOM LEFT, BOTTOM CENTRE) THINKSTOCK (BOTTOM RIGHT) GETTY IMAGES

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Blossom trees

Get them in the ground now for a spectacular showcase of lovely flowers every spring for years to come

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Spring comes in on a wave of living energy that shows itself in colourful annuals and bulbs, but it's also the season for blossom trees.

Providing a breathtaking display on a larger scale than bedding plants, there is a tree for every space, from big backyards to balconies.

For masses of blooms year after year, plant a tree to suit your climate zone, with flowers in a colour you love.

The size on the label is an estimate at maturity, or 20 years old, for a plant grown in ideal conditions, so be aware it may be smaller at your place.

Buy them in a bag

When you shop for blossom trees in late winter, you'll find leafless plants that look like sticks in plastic bags.

But don't let this put you off, says Wes Fleming, the tree guru from Fleming's Nurseries, as bagged is one of the best ways to buy them.

'We field-grow our trees under ideal conditions,' says Wes.

'When they drop their leaves and sap movement slows almost to a stop, we lift them from the ground, wash and trim their roots, then bag them in a quality growing mix.'

'Bagged plants are lighter and easier to transport and care for, so you'll find that premium plants are much cheaper in bags than pots later in the year.'

'They are very quick to establish, performing brilliantly from their first spring in the ground and for many years to come.'

Trixie 'Pixzee' Peach Fruiting Tree, from \$52. flemings.com.au



Choose a fruiting variety ▼

To get fruit as well as flowers, opt for a cultivar of a traditional blossom tree that maintains a compact, even dwarf, form so that you can grow peaches, nectarines, pears, apples or cherries on a sunny balcony or in a courtyard.



PEACH

Growing to 1.5m tall by 1.5m wide, the spring-flowering dwarf Trixie 'Pixzee' Peach is mouth-watering when dripping with fruit in summer.



APPLE

Fruiting apples put on a gorgeous display of flowers in spring and make excellent espaliers. Train them to grow over walls or fences.



PEAR

The miniature fruiting Trixie Pear grows to 1.5m tall by 1.5m wide, and looks divine in spring when covered in delicate white flowers.



JAPANESE CRABAPPLE

Falling leaves

Spring blossom trees are deciduous, losing their leaves in late autumn and remaining bare across winter.

This reduces their usefulness for screening, but the summer shade and winter sun allows for underplanting with spring bulbs.

And as they flower on bare wood before the leaves appear, the impact of their blooming is amplified.

Evergreens shed foliage all year, but deciduous trees do it in one big drop, meaning less mess and one big leaf pile to compost or mulch.

Plant a beautiful blossom tree to add a spring showstopper to the garden.

PICTURE (TOP) THINKSTOCK



FLOWERING CHERRY



DOGWOOD



FLOWERING PLUM

Pick of the bunch

Dogwoods

These trees (*Cornus* cultivars) look amazing mass-planted in a big garden. The petals of the large blossoms are actually modified leaves, called bracts, that surround the tiny flowerheads. **FLOWERS** Clear white to magenta-red. **FOLIAGE** In cooler areas, many put on colourful foliage displays in autumn. **SIZE** Less than 6m tall by 5m wide. **FORM** Become domed with age.

Ornamental pears

Known as 'the landscaper's mate', ornamental pears (*Pyrus* cultivars) are hardy, adaptable and grow reasonably fast. Use the tall and narrow forms for boundary planting, or flank a path or driveway with a matched pair. **FLOWERS** Snowy-white blossoms. **FOLIAGE** Boldly coloured in autumn, showing fiery reds and oranges. **SIZE** Most are about 7m tall by 4m wide, but some can reach 12 by 9m. **FORM** Columnar to pyramidal.

Crabapples

Ideal for small spaces, crabapples (*Malus* species and cultivars) provide spring flowers, summer shade, winter sun and ornamental autumn fruit. **FLOWERS** Open pink and turn white. **FOLIAGE** Changes to tones of yellow and red before falling in autumn. **FORM** Differs with variety for this small to medium deciduous tree. **SIZE** Depending on variety, 6m tall by 5m wide, but most are smaller.

Flowering stone fruits

Cherries, plums and peaches (*Prunus* cultivars) are among the finest spring-flowering trees. They are so spectacular that, in Japan, entire festivals are devoted just to their blooming period. With a diversity of forms and sizes, there is a variety for just about any garden need, and the stems make beautiful floral displays. **FLOWERS** White, pink and red shades.

FOLIAGE Colourful in autumn in the cooler regions. **SIZE** Grow up to 5m tall by 5m wide, but most are smaller. **FORM** Columnar and vase-like to spreading and weeping standards.

Redbuds

The *Cercis* cultivars aren't as well known as the other spring bloomers and include the 'Forest Pansy' and Judas tree. Ideal for smaller spaces, they have tiny pea-like flowers all along the branches and lovely heart-shaped foliage. **FLOWERS** Delicate fuchsia pinks to sumptuous rose-purples. **FOLIAGE** Heart-shaped with many putting on a colourful autumn show. **SIZE** Less than 5m tall by 5m wide with a number of varieties only 3 by 2m. **FORM** Varies widely from upright and vase-like to loosely spreading trees.

Planting a bagged tree

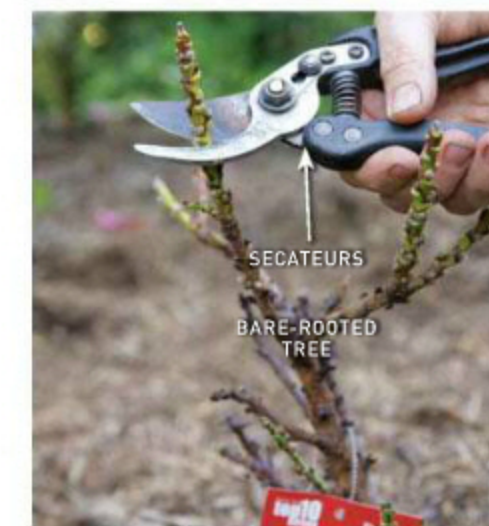
Dig a hole at least twice the width of the bag, plant the bare-rooted tree, then water deeply once a week until established. **TIP** Use a Fiskars QuikDrill soil auger, about \$73, to make digging the hole easy (au.fiskars.com).



1 REMOVE THE TREE from the bag and find the original soil line on the trunk below the graft point. Position in the hole with this line at the finished soil level. Backfill and firm the soil to remove air pockets.



2 CREATE A DAM of raised soil around the tree about 200mm from the trunk as a watering dish. Apply a slow-release fertiliser, taking care not to let it touch the trunk. Mulch the soil, keeping this clear of the trunk, then water in well.



3 PRUNE THE TREE by as much as one-third before or immediately after planting. This will bring the canopy back into balance with the roots that were lost when the plant was cut from the ground.

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The Venus flytrap was described by Charles Darwin as 'one of the most wonderful plants in the world'.

PICTURE: GETTY IMAGES



Backyard carnivores

Grow bizarre but beautiful plants that will make a meal out of the insect population in your garden

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERYL MADDOCKS

There's something prehistoric and fascinating about carnivorous plants. They have an amazing ability to fend for themselves, which proves just how well plants can adapt to surviving in harsh environments.

Flesh eating is a prevalent practice in the plant world, with more than 500 different species of carnivorous plants in many varied habitats.

These include the well-known Venus flytrap, or *Dionaea muscipula*, which was named after Venus, the goddess of love and beauty.

They are all interesting in their own way, and each has a particular means of capturing insects.

Many varieties can be grown in the garden, but take care, as lots of people start with one plant and find them so captivating they end up collectors!

How they evolved

During the evolution process, as landforms changed, certain types of plants grew in peat bogs. The soil was very acidic and low in the nutrients vital for the survival of these plants.

But it was the ideal environment for insects, so the plants gradually began to evolve. They developed ways to lure and trap this unsuspecting prey, as well as the chemistry that was necessary to convert it into food.

While it may be tempting to feed insects to your meat-eating plants, an overabundance of food can actually be harmful to the plant.

An engorgement of insects to a carnivorous plant is like a fertiliser boost for any other plant, so allow them to feed naturally.

TIP Growing these plants is a great way to interest kids in gardening. ➤

Did you know?

In the film, *The Day Of The Triffids*, the shape of the 3m high plants that devoured people was inspired by the *Sarracenia flava*, or yellow pitcher plant, but with a variation.

The sarracenia-like triffids had an appendage resembling a tongue in the movie that caught and stung unsuspecting victims with a deadly poison.



100mm Assorted Sarracenia Pitcher Plants, from \$12 each, from Bunnings.

Choose a variety ▼



Venus flytrap

This grows naturally in North and South Carolina in the USA and there is only one species in the genus.

The hinged leaves are edged with stiff spines and glands that secrete nectar.

There are tiny sensitive hairs inside the leaves and when they are touched, the leaves spring shut and trap the prey. The insect is then dissolved by enzymes.

The trap reopens and any remains are either washed or blown away.

Repeated false alarms are harmful to the plant, so don't touch the leaves.

HOW TO GROW

It likes temperate, tropical and subtropical climates. Grow it in pots in full sun.

POTTING MIX is made from three parts peat moss to one part coarse river sand. **MULCH** with sphagnum moss, which serves as a moisture indicator. When the moss turns brown, the soil is lacking in water.

WATER with distilled water regularly and stand the pot in a tray with about 20mm of water at all times.

TIP Cut the trap off at its base when it dies and a new one will quickly grow.



Brunnings Peat Moss, \$6 for 5L. brunnings.com.au



Monkey cups

There are about 140 species of nepenthes and they're commonly called tropical pitcher plants or monkey cups, as they grow so big that monkeys drink from them.

They catch their prey in modified leaves or pitchers by luring insects, and even small frogs, with nectar found around the rim.

The insects slip down the waxy insides and drown in a deadly mix of digestive fluids.

HOW TO GROW

The majority of nepenthes need warmth and humidity. They can be grown outside in tropical regions or in a hothouse in temperate areas.

The highland species will grow outside in temperate climates. Plant in pots or

hanging containers so they get the morning sun.

POTTING MIX is made from two parts sphagnum moss to one part orchid bark. Don't pack down the mix, as they love free drainage.

FEED with a fertiliser high in nitrogen at half strength if they're in a hothouse. If grown outdoors, they don't need fertilising.

WATER from the top every few days. Don't stand the pot in water or the roots will rot.



Osmocote Orchid Mix, \$7 for 10L. scottsaustralia.com.au

PICTURE (LEFT) THINKSTOCK



Pitcher plants

Native to North America, there are eight species in the *Sarracenia* genus. They produce stunning flowers and can grow vertically or prostrate.

These plants catch prey in leaves that form a funnel. The insects crawl into the pitcher, attracted by the sweet-smelling nectar.

Once inside, downward facing hairs and a slippery wax coating prevent their escape. Their fate is sealed when they fall into a pool of digestive liquid at the base.

HOW TO GROW

Sarracenia will grow in temperate and tropical areas in pots or bog gardens.

They can be placed in a pond as long as the

rim of the pot is above the water level. Position them in full sun with protection from frost.

POTTING MIX is made from three parts peat moss to one part coarse river sand. **MULCH** the mix with damp sphagnum moss.

WATER freely in summer with distilled water and use a pot tray. They are dormant in winter, so remove the tray and water just once a week.



ANL Superior River Sand, \$8 for 20kg. anlscape.com.au



Sundew

The sundew, or *Drosera*, derives its name from the beautiful display it puts on when its sticky tentacles are wet from the dew and shimmering in the morning sun.

These plants secrete a sticky substance on the end of fine hairs that attract and catch insects.

On landing, an insect is glued to the plant by these hairs and, within minutes, escape is impossible.

The secretion then acts as an acid, dissolving the insect's internal organs into a form that the plant can use to feed itself.

There are about 104 species around the world and over half of them are native to Australia.

HOW TO GROW

Sundews are easy to grow, especially if you find one suited to your climate.

Raise them in pots and find a spot for them in bright, filtered sunlight.

POTTING MIX is made from three parts peat moss to one part sand. **MULCH** the mix with damp sphagnum moss.

WATER by placing the container in a tray of water. Remove the tray in winter and water once a week.



Brunnings Sphagnum Moss, about \$10 for a 150g block.

Growing plants indoors

Bring the outdoors in with greenery and blooms to suit every room

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

There's really no such thing as an indoor plant, there are just certain species and varieties that can survive indoors.

House plants create harmony by breaking down the barriers between the inside and the outside world and can create stunning visual statements in every style of home.

An easy way to bring any space to life is to use striking pots, large tropical leaves, beautiful flowers and plants with architectural shapes.

With such a wide choice of species you can grow indoors, there is the option to group interesting containers creatively or display plants individually to great effect.

Keep plants everywhere, from the kitchen and bathroom to living spaces, the bedroom or a hallway.

The only thing limiting you is the available light and temperature, so choose a plant to suit the conditions.

The healthy choice

Keeping house plants is more than just a decorating choice. Research has long shown that just a few plants in 200mm pots can significantly reduce indoor pollution.

Initially it was thought the leaves absorbed airborne contaminants, but it was found that microbes in the potting mix are the vital agents.

They munch on volatile organic compounds, which are found in household items like furniture, computers, new carpets and paint.

The symbiotic relationship between the mix and plants creates a bio-filter effect, so the more greenery you have indoors, the cleaner the air.

Other studies have found that in addition to reducing pollution, plants grown in the home have a range of psychological and aesthetic benefits, helping to create a more harmonious environment. ➤

Feeding house plants

Plants in containers rely on us to keep them healthy. They need to be fed regularly when they are actively producing new growth, generally from spring to autumn.

Slow-release fertilisers are best, and the easiest feeding method is to apply a six-month controlled-release plant food in spring.



Scotts Osmocote, Pots, Planters & Indoors, about \$6 for 500g.
scottsaustralia.com.au

PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

House plants are just varieties that can survive happily inside.

Help your plants thrive

The most common problem affecting indoor plants is overwatering. The amount of water a plant requires varies with the species, as well as the light, humidity and temperature.

WATER needs are also linked to the growth cycle. A plant requires more during its active growth period in spring and summer, but less in winter.

To check if a plant needs watering, poke your finger into the top 10mm of potting mix to see if it's dry.

LIGHT is important for plant health. Too much light is indicated by faded leaf colour, and wilting or scorched foliage. A plant not getting enough light loses leaves it can't support and the plant leans towards the light.

AIR POLLUTION from gas may cause flowering plants to lose their buds and leaves to yellow and drop.

If the leaves are dusty, it's hard for a plant to absorb carbon dioxide. Take it outside on a warm day and lightly hose it, or sponge the leaves regularly.

TIP Check the light and water levels on the label before buying a plant.



The right amount of light is crucial for a plant and levels can vary greatly, even within a room.

Creating a good atmosphere

Many indoor plants originate from rainforests and prefer high humidity, but heaters inside the house can dry the air. Temperature is another key factor, as it interacts with air, humidity and light to affect plant metabolism directly.

HUMIDITY LEVELS can be increased with regular misting and by placing pebbles in a saucer filled with water, then sitting the pot on top. As the water evaporates, it produces moisture in the surrounding air.

Grouping plants is also helpful, as the evaporation from the soil together with moisture lost from the foliage creates a damp microclimate around the plants.

TIP Low humidity makes foliage lose its lustre and leaf tips turn brown.

TEMPERATURE spikes and drops, and sudden changes in air movement, can send plants into shock. So take care in winter with plants kept near windows.

Most indoor plants adapt naturally to normal home temperatures, but prefer it if the mercury drops at night. This gives them a break from the rapid rate of transpiration during the day, when temperatures are higher and water loss is greater.

Also consider seasonal temperature changes. A plant may thrive on a windowsill in summer, but the same position may be too cold during winter.

Give them an annual holiday outdoors in a shaded spot, as long as it's not during winter.

PICTURES THINKSTOCK



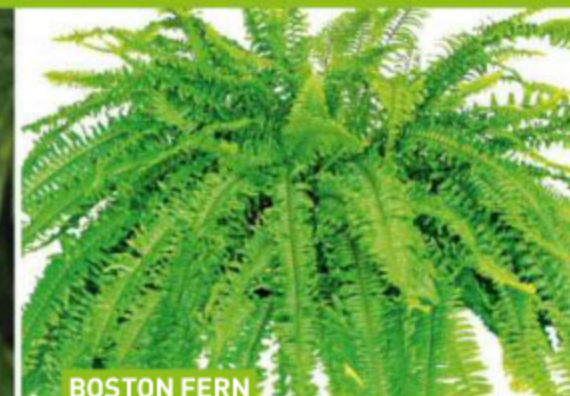
PICTURES GETTY IMAGES, THINKSTOCK

Select a variety ▼



PEACE LILY

Among the toughest of pot plants, peace lilies won't die if you forget to water them. Drooping leaves will indicate they need watering. They will also tolerate air-conditioning.
LIGHT Low to medium light, no sun



BOSTON FERN

Ideal for bathrooms, the long fronds of this fern make it perfect for hanging baskets or plant stands. Position it out of draughts, keep the soil moist and spray-mist the leaves in dry weather.
LIGHT Bright, no sun



CAST IRON PLANT

The common name of the easy-care aspidistra, cast iron plant, says it all. This hardy plant with broad dark-green, strap-like leaves is well suited to a busy household.
LIGHT Low to medium



DRACAENA

The dramatic shape and striking, strappy leaves of dracaena make it very popular as a house plant. Don't position it near windows in cold areas or it may drop its leaves.
LIGHT Medium to high



ZANZIBAR GEM

Also known as the eternity plant, zanzibar gem grows from 600 to 900mm high. It displays dark-green, shiny succulent-like foliage and stores water in its rhizome.
LIGHT Low to high



FIG

There are many varieties for indoors, such as the fiddle-leaf fig, weeping fig and the rubber tree. Keep the mix moist in summer, but water during winter if the soil looks dry.
LIGHT Bright but not direct sunlight



PONYTAIL PALM

Despite being commonly known as the ponytail palm, this plant is not a palm. It features strap-like leaves that sprout from a bulbous trunk, where water is stored.
LIGHT Bright



DEVIL'S IVY

A tough climbing plant with aerial roots, devil's ivy will trail without a host to climb on. Keep moist during summer but, in winter, let the mix just about dry out before watering.
LIGHT Medium to bright



MOTHER-IN-LAW'S TONGUE

This tough-as-old-boots plant has stiff dark-green marbled leaves, some edged with gold or silver. Don't let it sit in water, and give it less to drink in winter in unheated rooms.
LIGHT Low to high ➤



Repot an indoor plant

Most indoor plants need repotting every couple of years. Even if the plant hasn't outgrown its container, potting mix degenerates and needs renewing to supply the plant with nutrients.

If it is root-bound or has grown considerably, the plant will need a bigger pot. Select one 50 to 100mm larger in diameter than the original.



Northcote Pottery 38cm Forest Green Primo Pot, \$36. northcotepottery.com



Potting mix deteriorates over time, so house plants will need replanting.



1 Remove the old pot

Lift the plant from the old pot and if it is root-bound, tease out the roots from the potting mix. Part-fill the new pot with fresh potting mix so the plant will sit about 25mm below the rim, to stop mix and water spilling out.

2 Fill with potting mix

Position the plant in the pot, then fill around the rootball with potting mix using a hand trowel. Firm the mix lightly by hand but don't pack it around the roots, as this could impede drainage.

3 Water in well

Use sharp secateurs to cut off any dead foliage or flowers, then water in the plant well using a watering can. Before taking the plant back indoors, give it a gentle spray with the hose to rinse off the leaves.

Treating common ailments

House plants can suffer from various conditions that affect the foliage and stems. Here are common problems to look for and how you can treat them.



PROBLEM Browning on the leaf tips and margins of cordylines, yuccas, dracaenas, ferns or palms.

CAUSE Fluoride.
SOLUTION Use filtered or distilled water on the plants.

PROBLEM Yellow and blotched leaves on dracaenas and cordylines.

CAUSE Chlorine.
SOLUTION Boiling the water and allowing it to cool before watering the plant will help to remove chlorine.



PROBLEM Raised bumps on either the leaves or stems.

CAUSE Scale.
SOLUTION Scrape off the small infestations with your fingernail or spray with Hortico White Oil.

PROBLEM Downy white patches on the leaves and stems.

CAUSE Mealy bug.
SOLUTION Spray the plant with Yates Pest Oil.

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Install drip irrigation

»Sustain your plants with a watering system that makes every drop count

Keeping your plants consistently watered is essential for a healthy and disease-free garden.

Targeted watering of plants directly at their roots is the most efficient way of ensuring they stay hydrated, and minimises water wastage.

Drip irrigation is a proven method of providing a consistent amount of water at ground level where plants need it most, and it's also easy to install.

To start, sketch out the area you want watered and figure out where the main irrigation tube should go, bearing in mind the position of the tap. Next decide how much tubing is needed and what type of drippers you want.

When you have a rough outline, you can start to put together a list of the pieces you need.

After installation, check the system by turning it on slowly and gently until the tubes are filled with water and there is a consistent flow from all drippers.

TIP If the pressure is too high, some drippers may pop out of their tubes.

»The tools you'll need



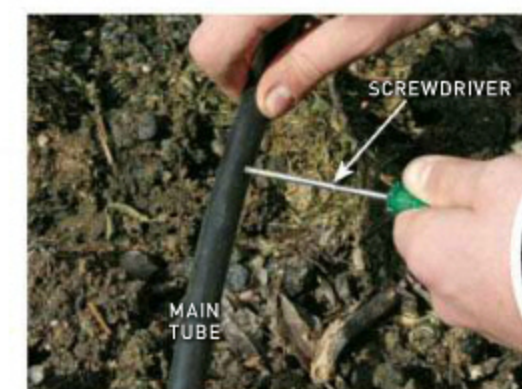
1 LAY THE MAIN TUBE over the surface of the garden bed so it covers the area to be watered. Weigh down each end of the tube with a brick to keep it in position. Cut the tube to length using secateurs.



2 INSERT THE END PLUG into the main tube, soaking the end of the tube in a cup of boiling water to soften it if it's stiff. Use a hammer to nudge the end plug firmly into place.



3 ATTACH THE RATCHET CLAMP onto the end plug to lock it to the irrigation tube and prevent it from sliding off. Tighten the ratchet clamp manually, then use pliers to squeeze it tighter.



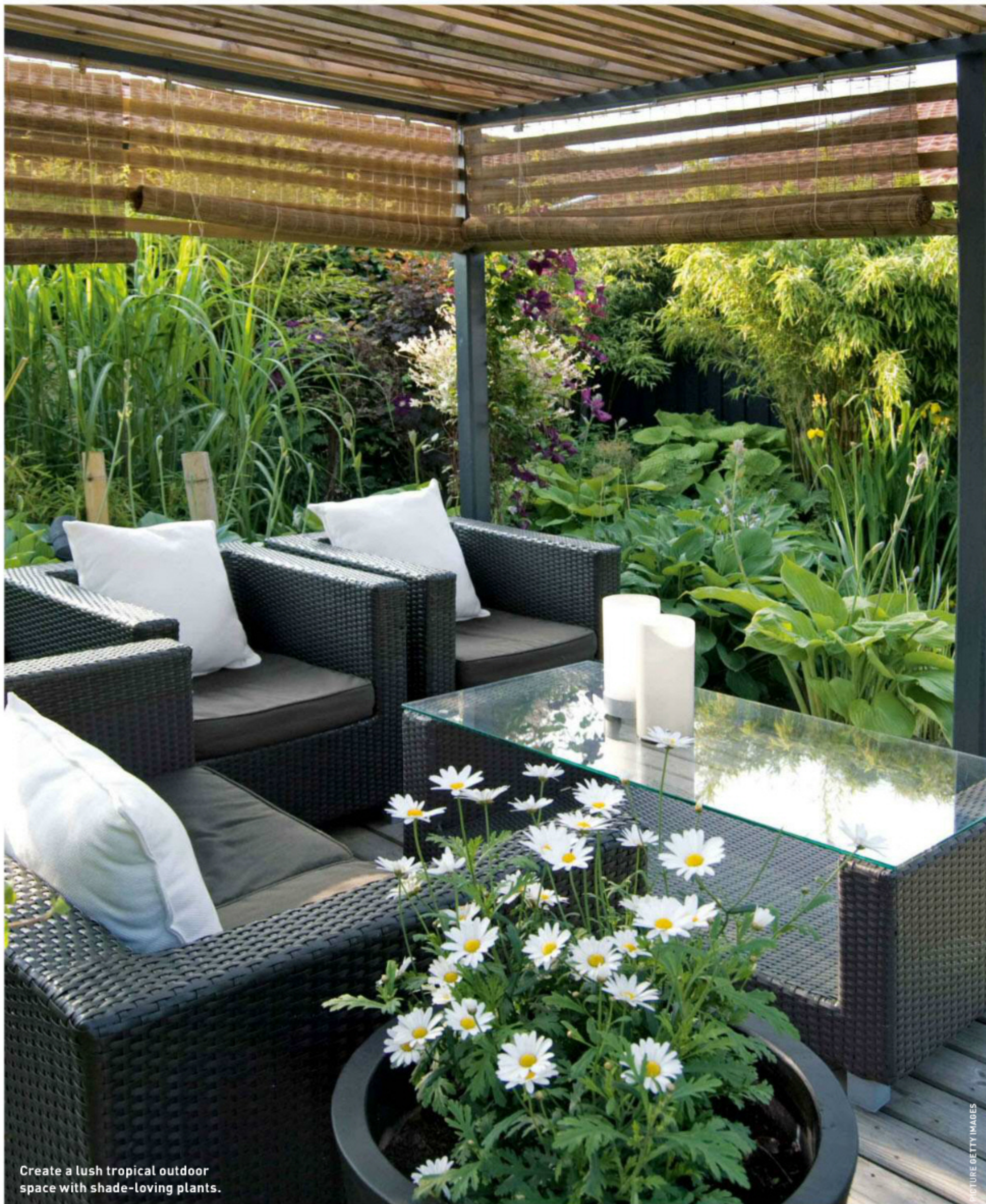
4 PIERCE THE MAIN TUBE where the drip tubes will be located using either a sharp piercing tool or a small screwdriver. Take care not to cut through both walls of the tube.



5 INSERT THE JOINERS into the main tube, then attach the other end to the drip tube to link the two tubes together. **TIP** Joiners can be spiky to grip, so hold them in position using pliers.



6 CUT THE DRIP TUBES using secateurs so they will reach to the centre of the plants to be watered. Attach a spike end and dripper to each drip tube and drive them into the ground.



Create a lush tropical outdoor space with shade-loving plants.

PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

In the shade

Make a shady garden thrive by opting for plants that suit the conditions and giving them what they need

Finding plants that will survive and thrive in locations where little sun penetrates is one of the most difficult gardening dilemmas.

In Australia, this usually means the area on the south side of your home, which can be moist as well as shady.

Many suburban gardens have large established trees that cast shadows over part of the backyard.

In small backyards or courtyards, the trees don't need to be very big to create shady problem areas.

With plot sizes shrinking and housing density increasing, gardening in areas without sun is becoming more relevant across the country.

Variations of shade

The key to creating a successful shady garden is in the planning, so it's essential to identify the type of shade you're dealing with before planting.

FULL SHADE means no direct light penetrates. It usually occurs under large trees or on the south side of a building, especially between houses.

Complete shade presents the toughest challenge. A garden under established trees competes for nutrients and water, with the canopy stopping a lot of the rain reaching the soil.

SEMI OR PART SHADE means the area gets sun for only half the day. It's important when working with part

shade to distinguish between plants that like morning or afternoon sun.

LIGHT OR DAPPLED SHADE refers to an area that receives filtered sunlight during the day, such as under plants with foliage that is not too dense.

Other areas that need thought are the pergola, balcony and indoors.

House plants receive neither rain nor nutrients, so these should be very hardy, or very well looked after.

A shady garden has the potential to be soothing and restful in a way sunny yards are not.

Shaded spots make great summer retreats, so add a comfortable outdoor setting for those hot days. ➤

Choosing marginal plants

For wet and shady areas, try these plants. Called marginal or bog plants, they grow in a range of positions from light to full shade and are used to landscape around the edge of a backyard pond.



LACY TREE FERN



SWEET FLAG



ELEPHANT'S EAR

PICTURES GETTY IMAGES

Select a variety ▼



HOSTA

ENGLISH WOODLAND

Mass-plant anemones in the dappled light under deciduous trees for cool-weather colour and add classical statuary or a pond. **FOXGLOVES** add height as well as colour at the back of garden beds. **HELLEBORES** multiply well and provide lovely winter colour. **BLUEBELLS** flower in spring and look delightful in drifts. **HOSTAS** have a range of foliage. **FORGET-ME-NOTS** self-sow to bloom year after year.



HARDENBERGIA

BUSHLAND

Go bush under eucalypts with natives, logs and rocks, and a rustic sculpture. **SHRUBS** such as correas attract honeyeaters, and *Hardenbergia* 'Bushy Blue' flowers during winter and spring. **BANKSIA** 'Roller Coaster' and 'Cherry Candles' are striking groundcovers. **PERENNIALS** like brachysome have daisy-like flowers, and fan flower, or *Scaevola*, is good for dry spots. **GRASSY PLANTS** like lomandra look great in drifts while dianellas have pretty blue flowers and purple berries.



CARROT AND BEETROOT

VEGETABLES AND HERBS

Generally, fruiting plants need sun to ripen, but those grown for their leaves and roots will tolerate shade. **SPINACH** and silverbeet will both perform well in part shade. **LETTUCE** prefers part shade with the morning sun only. **ROOT VEGIES** such as potatoes, radishes, carrots and beets grow in part shade but mature more slowly. **CULINARY HERBS** like chives, mint, thyme and parsley all do well in part shade. Mint likes morning sun.



CYCLAMEN

INDOOR AND BALCONY

In apartments, all gardening is done in pots and the conditions are usually part to full shade. But the plants can be moved about to take advantage of sunny spots. **BONSAI** need protected positions, as their small pots tend to dry out. **CYLCAMENS** provide constant winter colour. Feed and deadhead regularly. **DAPHNE ODORA** has fragrant, late winter flowers and likes morning sun. **ROCK LILY** is a native orchid with beautiful shiny green leaves and wonderfully fragrant flowers.



BROMELIAD

DRY SHADE

These areas are usually found right next to big trees. For these challenging places to garden, choose robust types that look lush but need little water. **BROMELIADS** come in a variety of different leaf colours. **PLECTRANTHUS** has eye-catching leaves and flowers in the autumn. **HOLLY FERN** has glossy green fronds and can be planted as a groundcover. **ASPIDISTRA** or cast iron plant, as it is known, has hardy attractive leaves. **HEN AND CHICKS** are shade-tolerant, rosette-shaped succulents.



AZALEA

ASIAN SUBTROPICAL

For very shady yards or south-facing passages, try a mini jungle look with canopy, filler and groundcover plants. **BANGALOW PALMS** and native frangipanis are ideal canopy plants, with cordylines as a palm alternative in a small backyard. **AZALEA** and *Fatsia japonica* shrubs are great fillers. Use bird's nest fern on tree branches and *Canna* 'Tropicanna' for a lush understorey. **MONDO GRASS**, variegated liriopes and kaffir lilies are verdant and make ideal groundcovers.



Planting basics

Shady gardens have very different maintenance needs to sunny spaces. Most plants grow more slowly, so pruning and weeding is easier.

Here's how you can help your shady backyard thrive.

MULCH planted areas under established trees with compost and manure, then top with a thick layer of organic mulch to provide nutrients and trap water.

FEED plants with a seaweed foliar liquid spray directly on the leaves so the trees can't steal the goodness.

REMOVE any bark, small branches, sticks and fallen leaves smothering plants and return them to the garden as mulch or compost.

CHOOSE hardy plants with low water needs and a tolerance for shade, such as orchids, bromeliads and succulents.

Build up beds over tree roots to 150mm deep and use bark mixes. **USE** root barriers near big trees to help plantings establish. The barriers must not interfere with major tree roots and should extend above the ground.

PLANT in pots under trees where it is difficult to dig into the roots.

PRUNE established trees carefully to let more light through to the ground.

As a general rule, don't prune more than one-third of the canopy of a tree at any one time.

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COMING IN SUMMER 2014



5 ways to attract birds to your garden

Add native shrubs

Plant grevilleas, kangaroo paws and banksias in the garden. These natives are favourites with honeyeaters and rainbow lorikeets, as their beaks are perfectly shaped to get nectar from the blooms.

Don't feed them

Giving birds food can have a negative impact on their health if it doesn't provide adequate nutrition. Feeding stations can also cause diseases to spread. So stick to native plants and a supply of clean water.

Put up a nest box

Certain birds like nesting in tree hollows, but these are often hard to find. Install nest boxes with entrance holes suitable for the local birds, but ensure they're not too big, as predators can attack the birds or steal the eggs.

Give them shelter

Areas with dense foliage make birds feel secure, so combine native grasses with shrubs and flowering gum trees. This will provide a safe haven for them to build nests and forage for seeds, fruit and insects.

Quench their thirst

Birds feel safer if their water source is elevated, with a tree near, so they can escape from predators. Keep a birdbath full of clean, fresh water so they know it's always available and to help reduce the spread of disease.



Keeping the cat indoors will ensure the birds are safer.

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