

AUSTRALIAN

We show you how

Handyman

DIY Backyard MAKEOVER

CREATE A TROPICAL OASIS WITH
PAVERS, PLANTS AND PAINT

**DON'T KILL
YOUR LAWN!**

Fertiliser tips
and tricks

KIDS' BEDROOMS

Styling secrets
from the experts

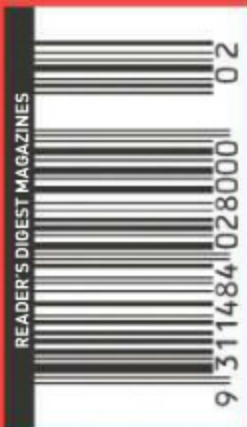
WIN
POOL CARE
FOR A YEAR
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PAINT CONCRETE
IN A WEEKEND

■ How to store
homegrown herbs

KITCHEN
must-haves

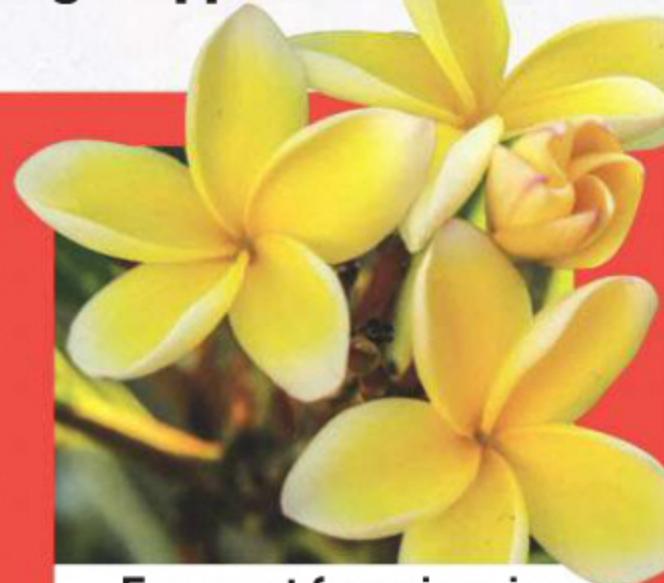
What's new in benchtops, splashbacks,
cabinets, flooring & appliances



Heavy lifting made easy



Glamping essentials



Fragrant frangipanis

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Everton
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WARRANTY**



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Because you can't turn your back for a second

NEW: Visible Lock Indicator



This brilliant new feature makes it easy to see, at a glance, whether MagnaLatch® is locked or unlocked. This means even greater peace-of-mind and an extra level of security for toddlers around swimming pools and other no-go areas.

NEW: Rekeyable Security Lock



MagnaLatch 'Series 3' offers not just additional security but also extra convenience, to ensure that maintaining children's safety is easy. A new Security Lock can now be rekeyed to match other doors and accesses around the home and garden.

Toddler drownings in backyard pools is still the leading cause of accidental death in children under five years.

For 25 years Australian homeowners, pool owners and childcare centres have trusted the iconic MagnaLatch® to keep toddlers safe around pools and roads.

The proudly Australian-made and -owned MagnaLatch® has become the world's best-selling pool safety gate latch. No wonder we've sold millions worldwide.

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BUILDERS' HARDWARE AISLE



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The new MagnaLatch 'Series 3' is safer than ever. A new, visible (red dot) Lock Indicator shows, at a glance, whether your gate is securely locked. The lock can even be rekeyed to match your front door.

MagnaLatch® is available from all Bunnings stores (Builders' Hardware aisle) or your local fencing contractor. Ask for the "MagnaLatch" by name, and beware of cheap, Asian-made copies.

For more: www.magnalatch.com.au



MagnaLatch® is supported by KIDSAFE® and former Olympic Swimming Coach and child water safety advocate LAURIE LAWRENCE.

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PoolScape cool for a hot summer

Bunnings now provide an exclusive range of above ground inflatable, canopy, steel frame and steel wall pools plus pool accessories for families big and small who like being cool during summer.



Add value to your backyard this summer with a PoolScape above ground pool.

Complete with professional filter pump combinations and accessories, these premium DIY packages will provide you and your family with endless days of summer fun and turn your backyard into an aquatic wonderland.

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www.poolscape.com.au

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warehouse
bunnings.com.au

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY ANDY FRAME
STYLING JOSEPH P DAVIS

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to *Handyman* p132

A CUT ABOVE

RYOBI
ONE+

ryobi.com.au

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RYOBI ONE+ tool system starts with the powerful new Lithium+ battery, now with up to 4 times the run time.



**THIS
ISSUE**



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Any DIYer needs a vice to hold workpieces in place, and one that is portable and versatile is ideal.

The Stanley Quick Close Vice features a lever arm to allow for quick opening and closing of the steel jaws. It also has removable pads to protect your work.

It can be secured to almost any surface with the clamps or screws and suits a range of DIY jobs (stanleyworks.com.au).

EDITOR'S LETTER



Having a swimming pool is a luxury many Australians enjoy. The design of the pool, as well as the look of the surrounds, reflects the owners' lifestyle.

It can be a great source of exercise and provide constant joy for the kids throughout summer. And if you like to relax in a tranquil outdoor area, a pool is the perfect way to get a resort feel in your backyard.

This month, we show you different ways to update the pool surrounds, from painting concrete to achieve a designer finish, [page 20](#), to laying new pavers, [page 24](#).

We also advise you what to plant around the pool to create a lush landscape and reduce the amount of leaves falling in the water, on [page 34](#).



On chilly days, the centre grill can be left open to enjoy as a fire pit.

Barbecue season

With summer in full swing, it's the ideal time to cook outdoors, not just for the culinary delights you can make, but also to reduce the heat indoors.

While researching our barbecue story, on [page 44](#), we came across this crazy JAG Grill from the US, where everyone gets an individual grill rack so they can prepare their own meal.

It will set you back a few grand and is currently not shipped overseas, but watch this space.

Fitting out a kitchen

There are countless options when designing a new kitchen and lots of tough decisions to be made. To help you choose the best products for you, check out our buyer's guide, [page 57](#).

Enjoy the issue,

Lee Dashiell

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL

MORE INSPIRATION

Need ideas for your pool or outdoor area? 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.

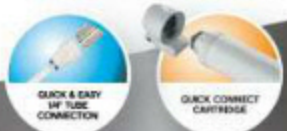
Check out the Handyman boards at pinterest.com/divhandyman or scan this code with your phone.



Pinterest

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Handyman

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SELLEYS
IF IT'S SELLEYS IT WORKS™

*Compared to Liquid Nails Original



+ HANDY STUFF

GLAMPING MADE EASY

Take a camping trip without leaving all your creature comforts behind

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Get the latest in luxury supplies for an enjoyable camping experience.

Hangin' out

Ease back and relax in a Two Trees Torquay Double Rod Hammock, \$60. Made of quality blended cotton fitted onto hardwood rods, it can hold up to 150kg. The hammock also has a high rope count to ensure you'll stay safely above the ground without any unexpected drops to dampen your mood while watching the sun set.

twotreeshammocks.com.au



Hi-tech tent

Stop stressing you'll be stuck without the creature comforts of home and get a Fool On The Hill Four Man Solar Powered Tent, \$380. It includes a 5W solar panel and lithium solar storage bank as well as mobile phone and USB charging adaptors.

downthatlittellane.com.au

BYO breeze

Keep fresh inside your tent while trekking with the Ryobi One+ 18V Li-ion Hybrid Portable Fan, \$59. It offers 16 hours of cordless run time before you'll need to plug it in. Two speed settings and an adjustable head give you further flexibility over fresh airflow.

ryobi.com.au



Cush the tush

Skip the sticks and stones with the Mojo Sea Blue Maxi Pod, \$99. It's weatherproof and durable, and the nylon construction makes it easy to clean with a sponge. Add comfort to your camp site with this luxury seating solution, which is a spacious 110 x 32cm in size.

mojobrand.com



PICTURE MAIN/ALAMY

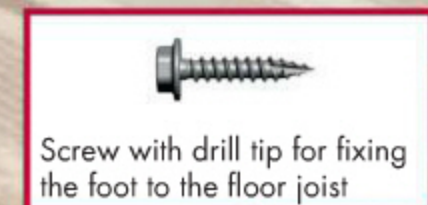
HEIGHT ADJUSTABLE PEDESTAL FEET

For substructures for timber deckings



Creates raised timber and paved floors on balconies, podiums and roof tops.

- + Allows for positive drainage and air ventilation
- + Height adjustable
big feet: 70 – 170mm
small feet: 35 – 60mm
mini feet: 25 – 40mm
- + Easy mounting
- + Easy levelling
- + Resistant to UV, weather and heat
- + Load-bearing capacity
big feet ≥ 800 kg
small & mini feet ≥ 200 kg



Screw with drill tip for fixing the foot to the floor joist



base plate to be bedded on compacted ground

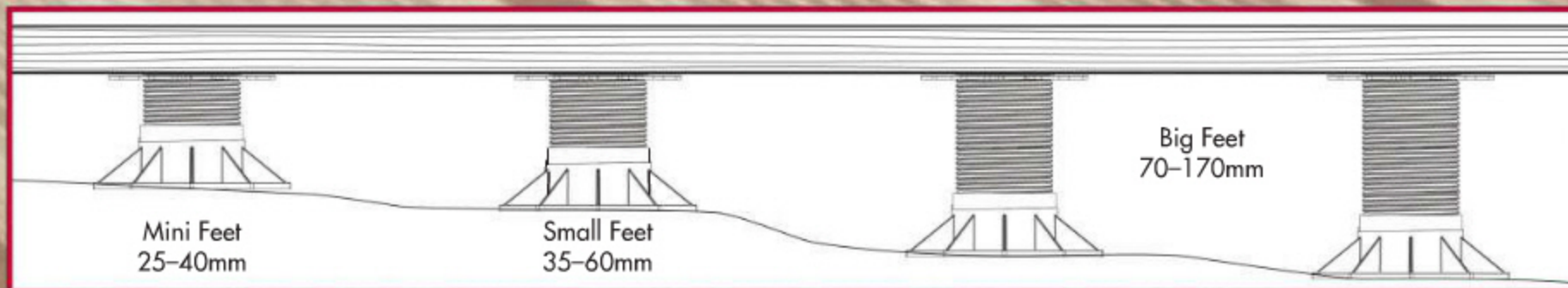


stop for the floor joist

support for the floor joist freely rotatable (except Minifoot)

adjusting wheel

load-bearing thread



Make sure you dine in style while enjoying the great outdoors.

Topple safe

Support stemware with a SteadySticks Wine Glass Holder, \$25 for two. Designed to make sure you never spill a drop, it holds your glass 26cm above uneven ground. Made of stainless steel, this is the perfect sturdy staple to stack in your picnic basket ready for your next escape. steadysticks.com



Picnic pride

Get comfortable anywhere instantly with a Coleman Extra Large Picnic Blanket, \$20. Made from soft polar fleece in a classic blue tartan design with a PVC waterproof backing, it will protect you from damp, rough ground. Rolled into a carry pack with handle, this blanket measures 150 x 200cm, making it big enough to fit the whole family. colemanaustralia.com.au

Chef away

Bring your skills with a skillet to your adventures using a Gasmate Two Burner Portable Camping Stove, \$40. Easy to travel with, it folds down to the size of a briefcase and has built-in windshields. Fine-tune the flame with the twist-knob adjustment control on each burner and clean up spills swiftly by removing the chrome trivet. gasmate.com.au



Ice 'em up

Forget forcing down a warm beer in the outback. The Esky 50L Wheeled Hard Cooler, \$98, will keep things chilled. An internal tray and divider prevent the wine from rolling the cheeses flat before your feast, while moving it is made easy with a retractable handle and wheels. colemanaustralia.com.au



Teepee tea

Enjoy your morning brew in the Cranmore Home How To Build Your Own Teepee Enamel Mug, about \$15. Apart from its generous 10cm high design, it also features instructions for building a teepee out of sticks enabling you to indulge your creative side. cranmorehome.com.au



A hanging lantern and candles give a tent a glamorous feel.

Green guard

Sick of swatting flies? Try out the EnviroSafe Fly + European Wasp Trap, \$10. Pesticide-free and non-toxic, a replaceable bait draws in insects. An eco-friendly solution to outdoor pests, this trap is the winner of the 2014 Green Lifestyle Award for home products. envirosafeaustralia.com.au



Birdie bright

Make navigating in the dark easy at home and in the bush with the Click Nightguard Rechargeable Torch, \$20. When plugged into a wall socket, it acts as a motion-activated night-light. Take it out of the holder and it becomes a portable torch that's always charged and ready to go. bunnings.com.au



Refresh 'n' dress

Pack light and explore for days but smell fresh with the Scrubba Wash and Dry Kit, \$110. The bag has a flexible internal wash board for washing-machine performance in minutes. The kit also includes a packing cell, two inflatable coathangers, an elastic clothesline and a Scrubba travel towel. thescrubba.com.au



Royal rest

Bring a bed so soft you'll think you're still at home with the Oztrail Velour Queen Air Mattress, \$55. It provides proper back support with inner coil construction and edge-to-edge support. Inflation is fast with just two steps and packing up is effortless, as the mattress deflates instantly. oztrail.com.au



Multi tool

Never leave home unprepared by packing the ultimate camping companion, the Victorinox Spartan Swiss Army Knife, \$25. Descended from the original Officer's Knife of 1897, the Spartan features 12 essential camping tools. These include two blades, a screwdriver, corkscrew and tweezers. swissarmy.com

PICTURE: MANUJALAMY



DECO 2D

The clean and linear style of the Deco 2D perfectly sets the tone for modern architecture, designer furnishings and contemporary art.

MODERN STARTS WITH CORINTHIAN

THE DECO COLLECTION

When entering a room the first thing you see is the door. So when designing your modern home, inspiration starts with Corinthian. The Deco collection, influenced by the international Art Deco design movement, uses clean lines and geometry to open up a world of modern design for your home. Every design project needs a starting point, and there's no better place, than to start with Corinthian. corinthian.com.au



With a collection of 15 door designs in the Deco range, your ideal style starts with Corinthian.

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DOORS**
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BUYER'S GUIDE

CIRCULAR SAW BLADES

Treat your saw to a new set of teeth for everything from doing demolition work to making mirror-smooth cuts

WORDS GUN ARVIDSSEN

Cut it fine

For an incredibly smooth cut, spool up an Irwin Professional 184mm blade with 60 teeth, \$32. The precisely engineered, diamond-ground teeth are perfect for fine trim cutting and finish work.



Bling ring

With polycrystalline diamond (PCD) tipped teeth, the Irwin Marathon 184mm PCD Fiber Cement blade, \$93, is a powerful ally. Its low-tooth blade has a thin kerf and produces less dust than a continuous diamond blade.



Plastic fantastic

The Irwin Marathon 184mm PVC Cutting blade, \$15, has 120 teeth in a 60° design to eliminate chipping and cracking. With heat vents and expansion slots to prevent blade warping, it cuts precisely and ejects chips smoothly.



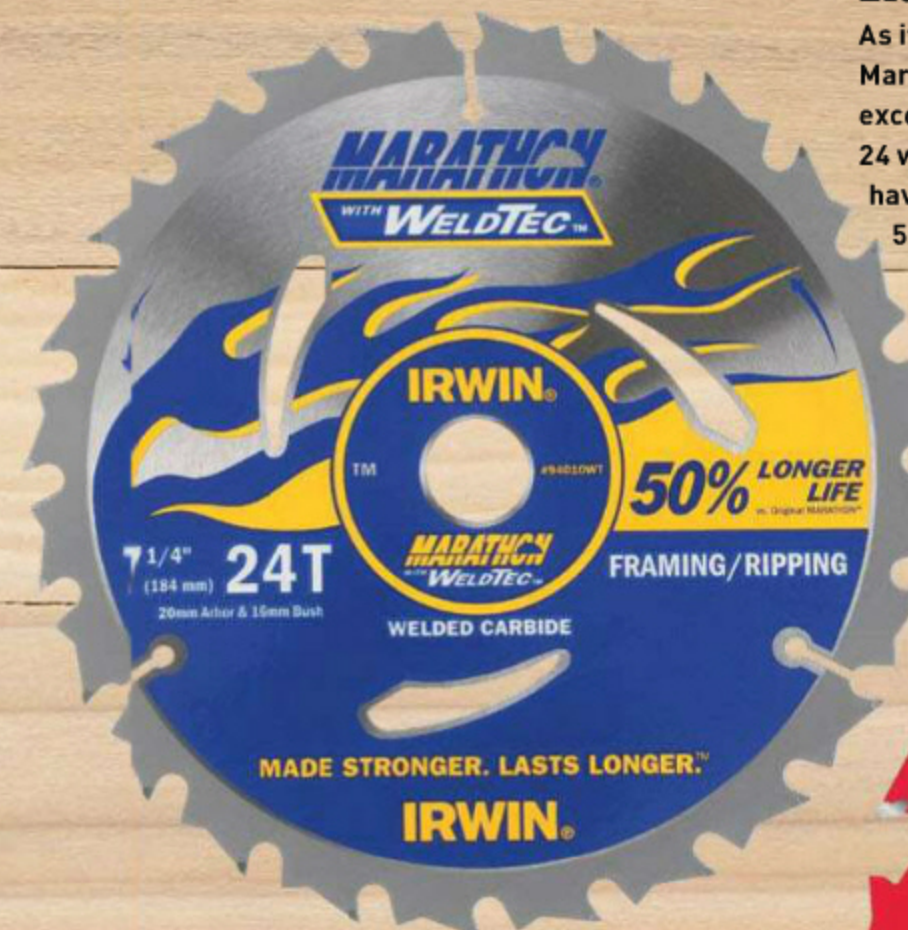
Slice and dice

Featuring 40 precision-machined teeth with anti-kickback shoulders to reduce sparks and dust, the Irwin Marathon 184mm Metal Cutting blade, \$78, provides extra safety in the workshop and ensures accurate cuts.



Run a marathon

As its name suggests, the Irwin Marathon 184mm blade, \$21, has exceptional staying power. Its 24 welded tungsten carbide teeth have a 30% stronger bond and 50% longer life than other blades.



Blade red

For heavy-duty framing work and demolition jobs, the 184mm Diablo Demo Demon, \$40, has 24 teeth and features lock-tooth technology that allows it to slice through embedded nails.



Poolside makeover

All it took was cleaning and painting the concrete to give this space a designer finish

WORDS LEE DASHIELL MAIN PICTURES ANDY FRAME

After

Painting stripes on the ground and bringing in comfortable furniture transformed this outdoor seating area.

PICTURE (INSET) JOSEPH P DAVIS

The large palm trees and lush surrounding gardens give this pool area the feel of a tropical oasis with a delightful ambience.

But the poolside concrete had been left in its natural state by the previous homeowner. And while it was practical, the plain concrete was stark and made the space appear unfinished and uninviting.

In a weekend, the entire pool area was revamped by thoroughly cleaning and applying paving paint directly onto the concrete. ➤



Before

Style the surrounds

Before the transformation, the old banana lounges and statues gave the area a dated look suited only for swimming and sunbathing.

To make it more contemporary, and to give the space a new purpose, an entertaining area was created, complete with comfortable chairs, side tables, umbrellas, colourful pillows and accessories.

To complete the new look, the concrete was coated in paving paint, which is available in lots of colours to suit any exterior.

Instead of using a solid colour, the concrete was painted with wide stripes, which added character and depth, plus a designer feel.

TIP Allow new concrete to cure for at least 12 weeks before painting.

REGAL
RED

Berger Jet Dry Non Slip Paving Paint,
\$208 for 10L. bergerjetdry.com.au



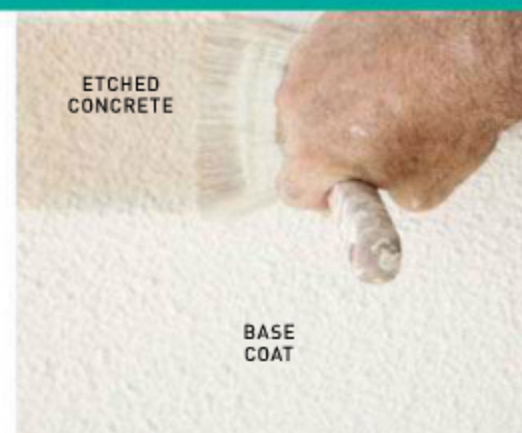
Give a pool resort-style luxury by painting the surrounding concrete.

Painting the concrete ▼



PRESSURE
WASHER

CONCRETE



ETCHED
CONCRETE

BASE
COAT



PAINTED
STRIPE

BASE
COAT

1 Prepare the surface

Clean the concrete using a high pressure washer, then etch the surface with a long-handled scrubbing brush and a solution of three parts water and one part hydrochloric acid. Leave for 15 minutes, then wash off. The surface should feel like rough sandpaper, if not, repeat the process, then sweep clean.

2 Apply the base coats

Cut in all edges with a brush, then load a roller with white paving paint. Starting in a corner, roll three strokes in a zigzag pattern, smooth out the paint with straight strokes, then go over it with a non-loaded roller to even it out and hide any marks. Leave it to dry, then apply a second coat.

3 Paint the stripes

Measure the stripes and mask off with painter's tape on the outside edge. Cut in with a brush, then apply two coats with a roller, allowing the paint to dry in between coats. Remove the tape before the paint is fully dry. **TIP** For a clean line, press firmly so the paint doesn't seep under the tape.

PICTURES (BOTTOM) THINKSTOCK

Pool problems solved

Cloudy water

CAUSES

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

FIXES

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



Hy-Clor Water Clarifier,
from \$15 for 2.5L.

Unpleasant odours

CAUSES

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

FIXES

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



Hy-Clor Super-Shock Granular
Pool Chlorine, from \$33 for 4kg.

Green water or algae

CAUSES

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

FIXES

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



Hy-Clor Instant Pool Chlorine
Pellets, from \$20 for 1kg.

Dirty water

CAUSES

- Neglect.
- Heavy use.
- Heavy rain.
- Lack of chlorine.
- pH too high.

FIXES

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

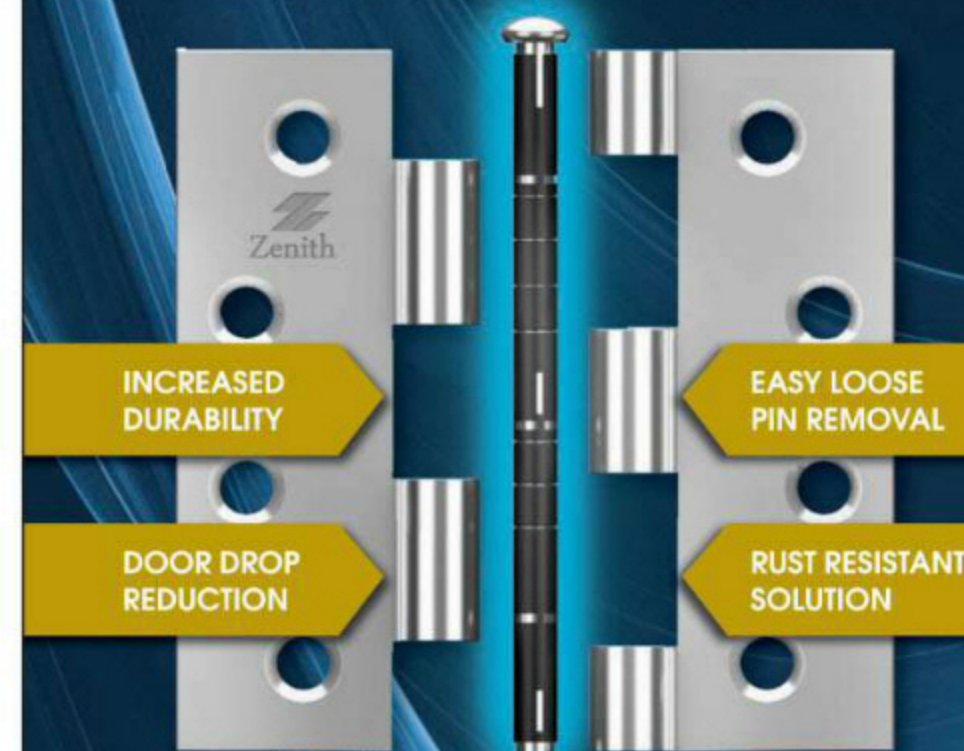


Hy-Clor Super-Floc,
from \$23 for 1L.

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LAY POOL PAVERS

Upgrade the surrounds of a backyard swimming pool this summer with new paving

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER PICTURES GREGORY MCBEAN STYLING KAREN DUGGAN

There's nothing better than enjoying a long, hot Aussie summer by the water, but old and dirty paving can make relaxing by the pool much less appealing.

Surrounded by pavers that had lost colour and showed signs of surface pitting, this backyard pool needed a new-season makeover.

Updating the surrounds of this fibreglass pool involved laying larger 400 x 400 x 40mm pavers, and rounded edging for the coping.

As the property was on the coast and had a saltwater pool, a tough, long-lasting material was essential, as the paving would be subjected to the corrosive effects of salt and chlorine.

Concrete pavers with an exposure grade category in accordance with Australian Standards were selected from the Adbri Masonry Euro Classic range (adbrimasonry.com.au).

They are available through the Special Orders desk at Bunnings, and are ideal for use around saltwater pools.

Make a solid base

For pavers to withstand the test of time and countless litres of splashing and runoff, a solid base is essential.

Use a 100mm thick bed of compacted roadbase or a 100mm thick reinforced concrete slab. A slab is the better option around pools and was the substrate here.

Before laying the new pavers, the old coping and pavers were removed.

The coping, usually consisting of bullnose pavers, borders the pool edge. The pavers are glued to the edge beam on fibreglass pools or bedded in mortar around concrete ones.

To get the best bond to fibreglass, remove the gel coat and expose at least 80% of the raw fibre.

New bullnose coping pavers were bedded on a two-part adhesive, as well as a narrow bed of mortar around the fibreglass top edge of the pool.

TIP Bullnose or sharknose edging helps divert water splashes back into the pool and increases user safety. ➤

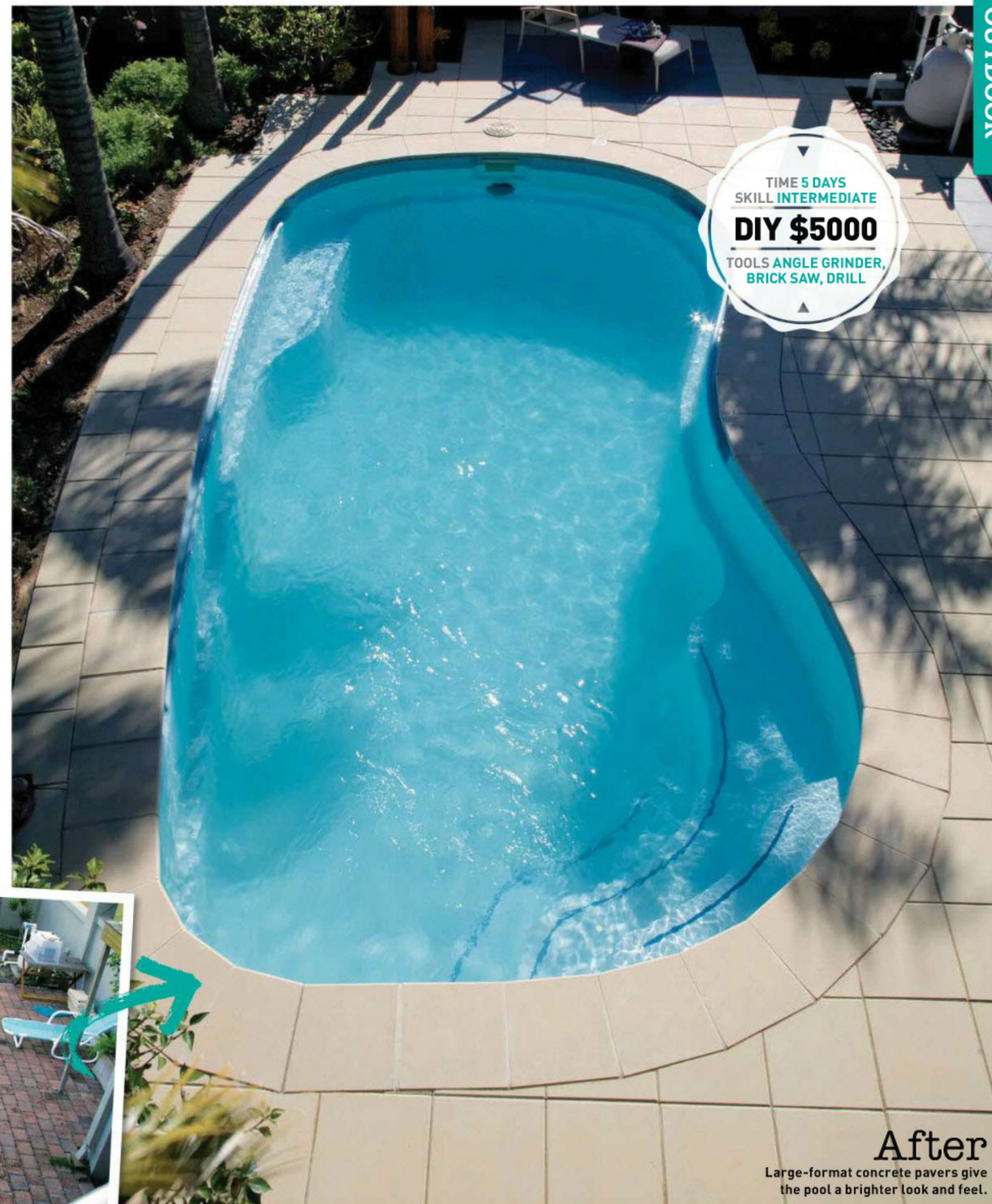


Dunlop Tile-All Tile Adhesive Kit, \$55 for 6.7kg. dunlopdry.com

PICTURE (TOP) ALAMY



Before



TIME 5 DAYS
SKILL INTERMEDIATE
DIY \$5000
TOOLS ANGLE GRINDER,
BRICK SAW, DRILL

After

Large-format concrete pavers give the pool a brighter look and feel.

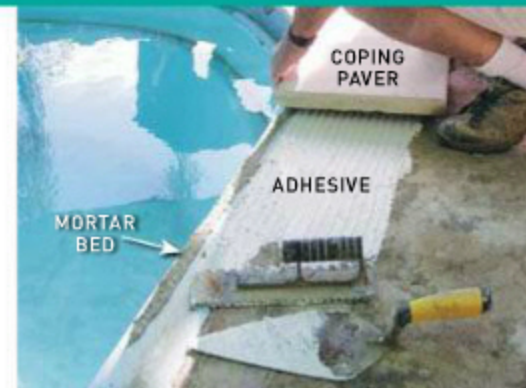
⑦ Lay the pavers



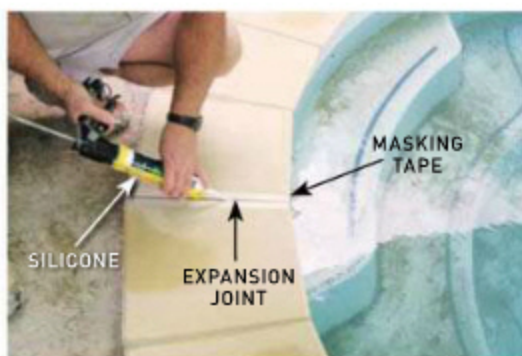
1 Mark and cut the coping
Position the pavers overhanging the pool shell by 40mm. Overlap every second one, halving the overlap to mark cut lines on both pavers. Cut the pavers using a wet brick saw, then replace them to check the alignment.



2 Spread the adhesive
Lay a narrow mortar bed at the pool edge, then use a 10mm notched trowel to spread adhesive around the perimeter. Apply enough adhesive to lay three pavers at a time, spreading it slightly wider than a paver width.



3 Lay the coping
Bed each paver gently onto the adhesive, checking that the joint alignment is parallel and the overhang is even. Use a spirit level to ensure each paver falls slightly away from the pool.



4 Finish the joints
Grout the joints using a wet sand and cement mix, leaving an unfilled expansion joint every 2m. Mask off the edges of the expansion joints, then run a bead of silicone into each joint and smooth with a soapy finger.



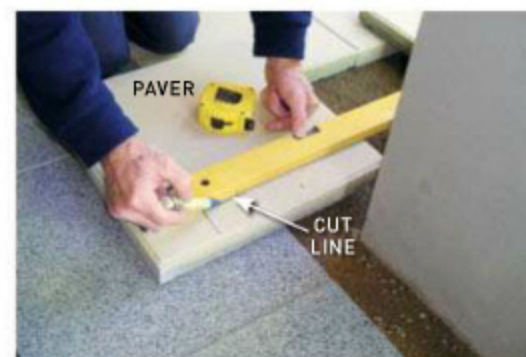
5 Screed the sand
Set stringlines at the finished paving height and position screed rails 35mm below them. Pull a screed board across the rails to level the surface of the sand, then remove the rails and fill the channels with sand.



6 Set the laying lines
At both ends of the area to be paved, set perpendicular stringlines located to allow full pavers to fit against the house wall and step. Use a builder's square or the 3-4-5 method to ensure they are square.



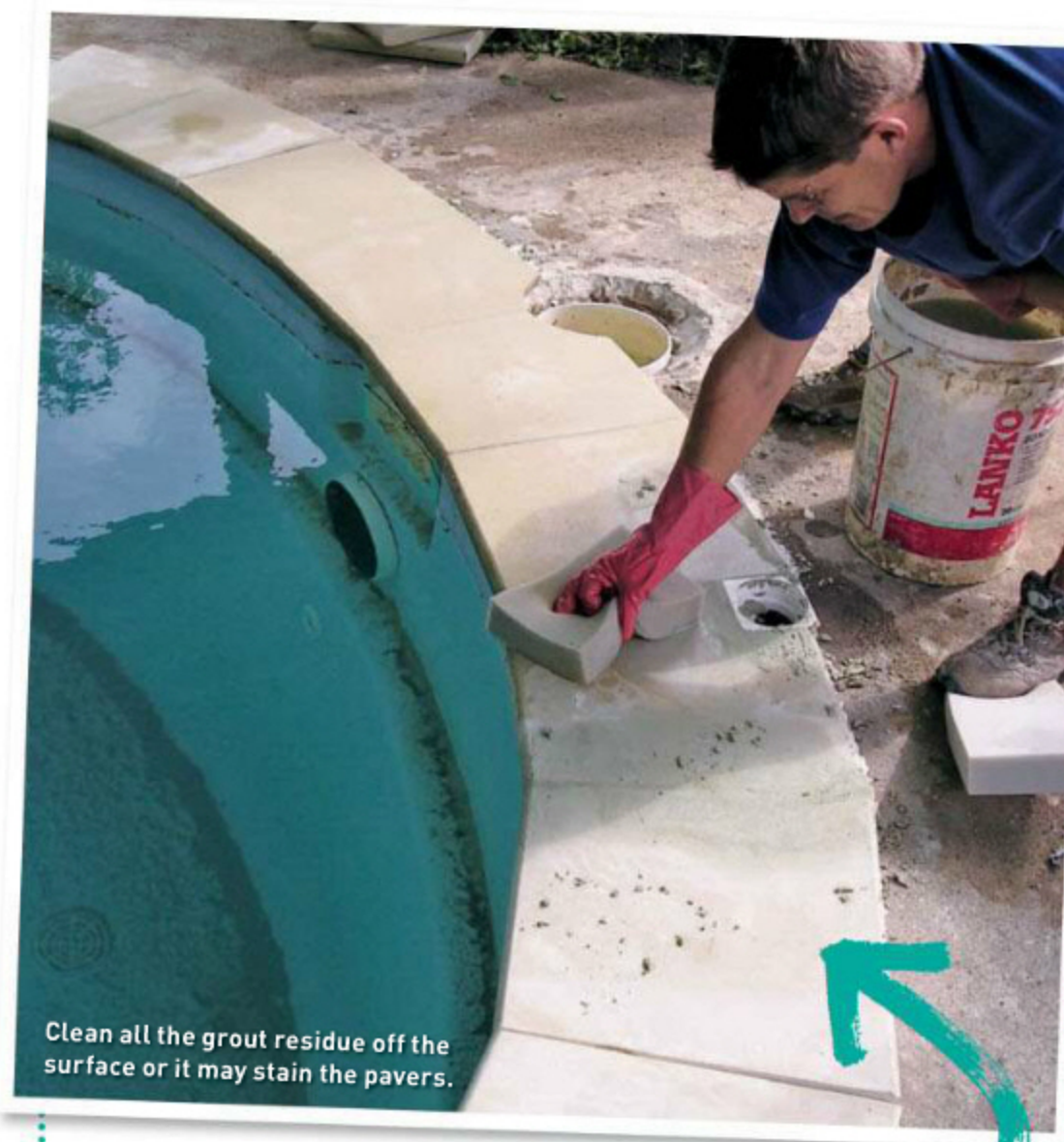
7 Lay the pavers
Follow the stringlines to lay a lead row of pavers, then work from this row to lay the adjacent rows of pavers, leaving a minimum gap of 2mm between each row. Compact the pavers using a rubber mallet.



8 Mark the cuts
Measure each gap to be filled, then transfer the measurement to a paver, marking cut lines with a straightedge or spirit level. Number each cut paver and the corresponding position on the nearest full paver for easy replacement.



9 Cut the pavers
Wearing a raincoat and full protective gear, use a wet brick saw with a segmented diamond blade to cut the pavers. Lay the pavers, then edge with a wet mortar mix and finish by grouting the paved area.



Paving materials

In addition to the new pavers, you will need to order materials to create a base, lay the paving and grout the finished result.

■ **THE BASE** should be 100mm deep and can be a reinforced concrete slab or compacted roadbase.

Concrete around pools is best for stability. To calculate the quantity, multiply the surface area by the depth, for example, $40\text{m}^2 \times 0.1 = 4\text{m}^3$.

■ **BEDDING SAND** covers the base to a depth of about 25mm to provide a level laying surface and stop the pavers from moving.

Often called packing sand, paving sand or washed river sand, it has coarse grains, and the type varies with location.

■ **GROUT** fills the joints between the pavers, with fine-grained beach sand being the cheapest alternative.

Mixing one part dry cement with six parts sand makes a more stable grout, or use a commercial grout available at hardware stores.

Use a broom to work the grout mixture into the joints, then hose lightly to moisten it. Leave the grout to set, making sure no residue is left on the surface.

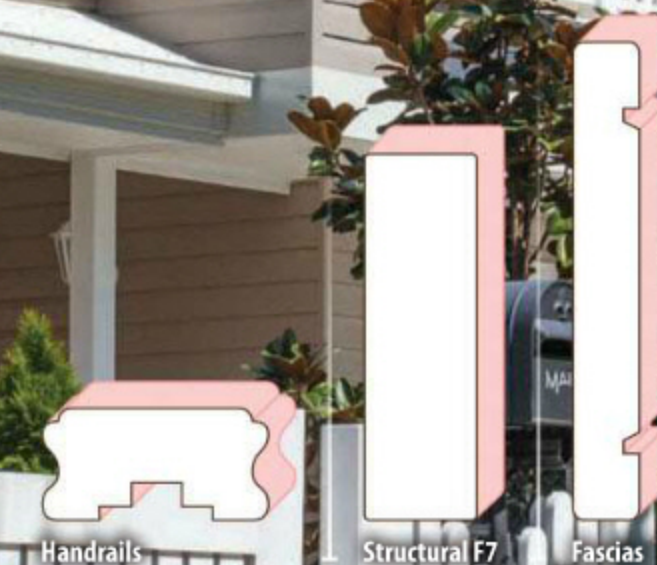
One wheelbarrow load of sand is generally enough to grout the paving around a standard-sized pool.

■ **MORTAR** is needed to grout the joints between the bullnose coping pavers. Make a wet mix of three parts sand to one part cement and use a sponge to work the mortar into the joints, washing it off with clean water.

Sponge-finish the mortar edge beneath the front of the bullnose pavers and leave an expansion joint without mortar about every 2m. ➤

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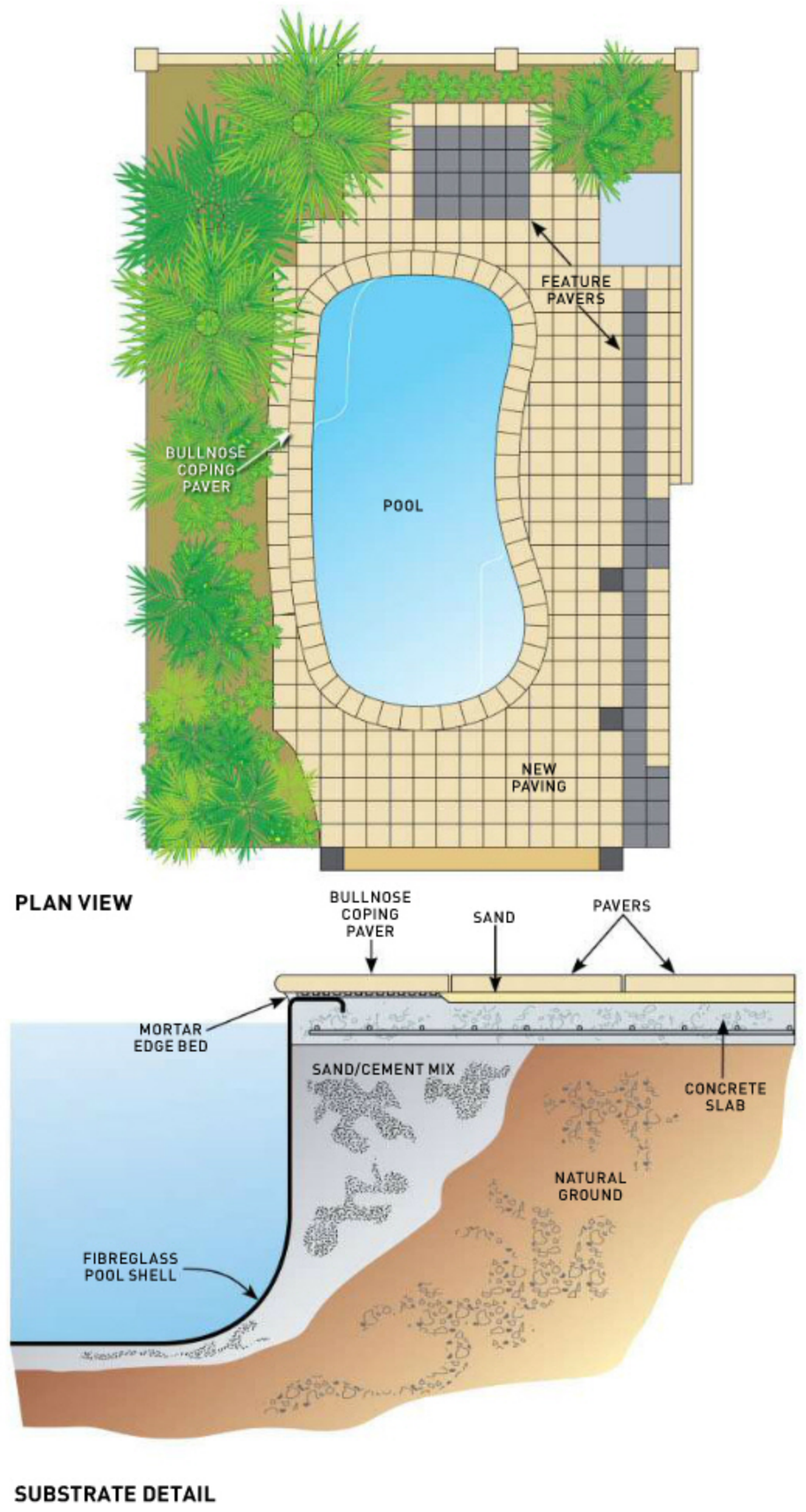
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Pool paving



Laying basics ▼

Try these simple yet handy techniques to make paving around a pool easier.



■ **OFFSET LARGE PAVERS** when stacking them by positioning each paver rotated 45° relative to the previous one. This makes it easier to pick them up by the corners.



■ **CHECK THE HEIGHT** of the screeded sand using a paver offcut to ensure the finished paving height will precisely match the top of the coping.



■ **SCRIBE THE CIRCLE** for the pool skimmer box opening by using the ring that the lid sits in as a template to mark the pavers ready for cutting. ➤

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Adelaide Brighton Cement Ltd

Towel rack

Kids love to play in the pool with their friends during the summer, but it does mean lots of wet towels just get dropped on the ground.

The solution is to build a simple towel rack from high pressure pipe, elbows and T-joiners, attaching them to each other with PVC cement.

To make the rack, 40mm pipe was cut to length using a handsaw and joined into two triangular side frames using 45° and 90° elbows. T-joiners were used to connect the frames with cross members.

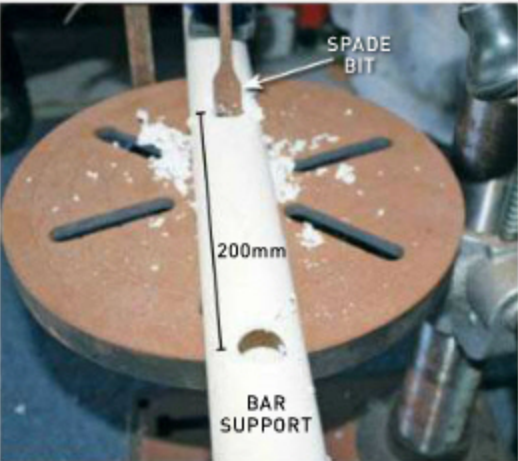
The six bars of the towel rack are 1m lengths of 15mm PVC pipe. The bars slot into 19mm diameter holes drilled at 200mm spacings into the bar supports at the front.



Protok PVC Priming Fluid, about \$7, and Cement, \$6, from Bunnings.



Make wet, smelly towels a thing of the past with an outdoor drying rack.



1 Drill the holes

Use a spirit level to mark a straight line on both bar supports. Mark drilling points every 200mm from the top along the line, then carefully bore 19mm diameter holes using a drill press and spade bit.

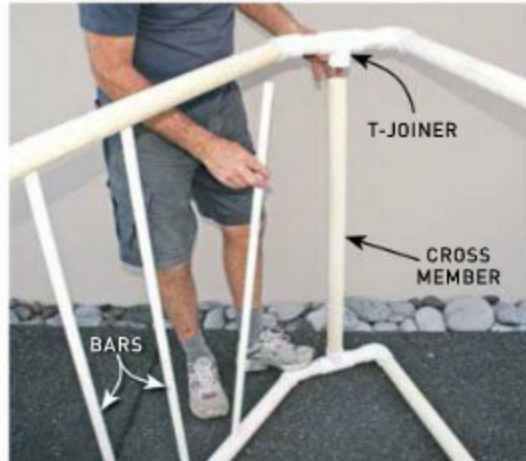
TIP If you don't have a drill press, clamp the pipe and use a drill guide.



2 Assemble the sides

Dry-assemble both sides of the frame, orientating the T-joiners so that the open ends are facing each other, using the short T-jointer connectors to space them. Glue the joints one at a time using PVC cement.

TIP Use PVC priming fluid to prepare both surfaces before applying cement.



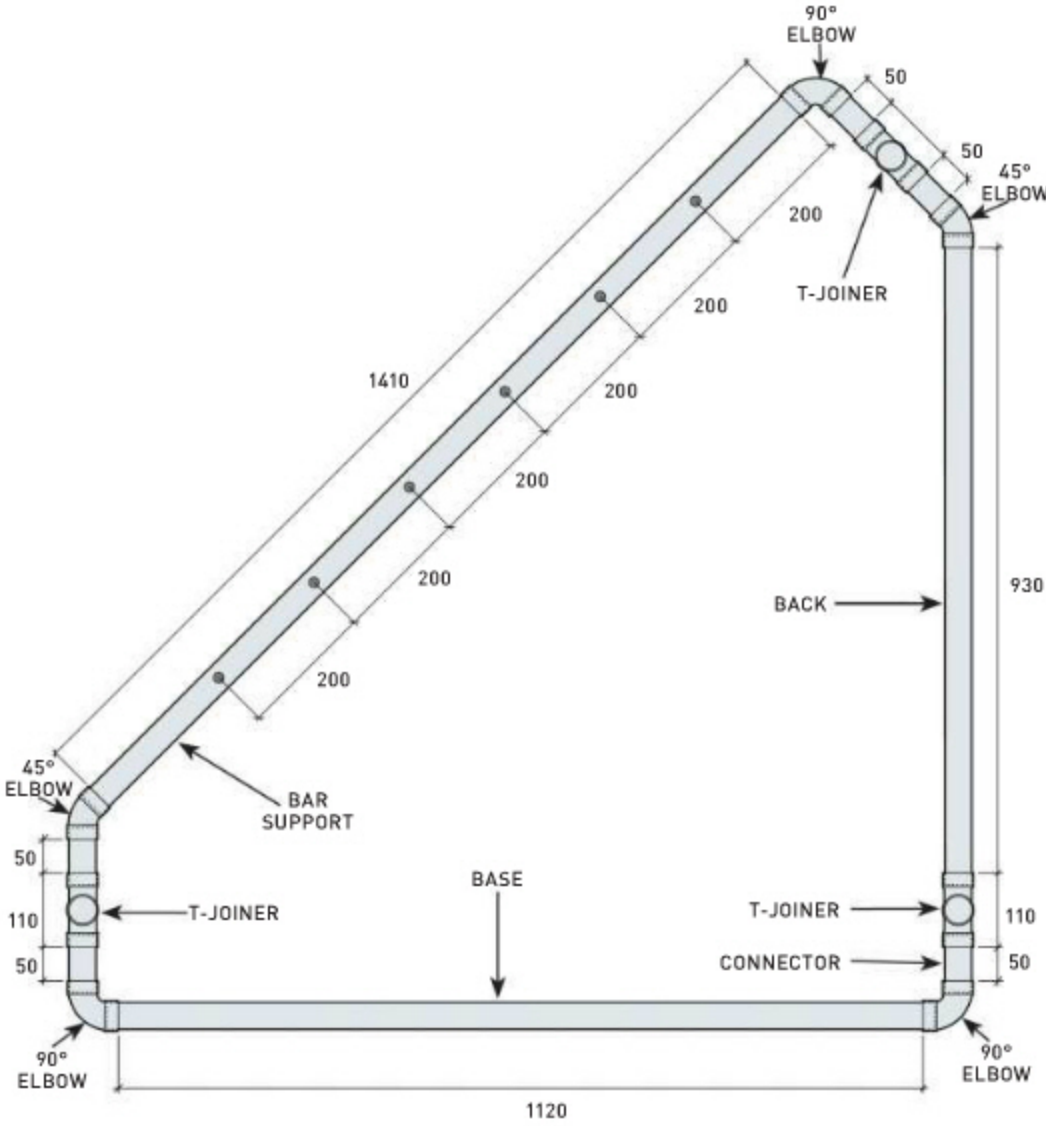
3 Join the sides

Lay one side on a flat surface with the T-joiners facing up, then test-fit the assembly, inserting the bars in the holes and positioning the cross members. Check all the pieces fit together correctly and the frames are parallel, adjusting if needed, then glue the cross members in position.

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER PICTURE (MAIN) STUART SCOTT

Pipe towel rack

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
PVC high pressure pipe		
Cross members	890 x 40	3
Backs	980 x 40	2
Bases	1170 x 40	2
Bar supports	1460 x 40	2
Connectors	100 x 40	10
Bars	1000 x 15	6

Wet Look Deck, from Feast Watson.



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

Foot wash

Tired of sand being trekked through the house whenever the kids come home from the beach?

A traditional foot wash is the solution. It takes about 20 minutes to make and costs next to nothing.

You'll need two 400 x 70 x 22mm and two 356 x 70 x 22mm lengths of treated pine, eight 50mm x 8g screws and suitable river stones.

Build the frame, then position it on the grass near an outdoor tap and fill it with the stones.

If there are no taps on the way into the house, keep a hose nearby so the foot wash will be the first port of call after a trip to the beach.

TIP It also doubles as a handy drainage slab under an outside tap.



Tuscan Path Polished 50-80mm Pebbles, \$20 for 10kg. tuscanpath.com.au



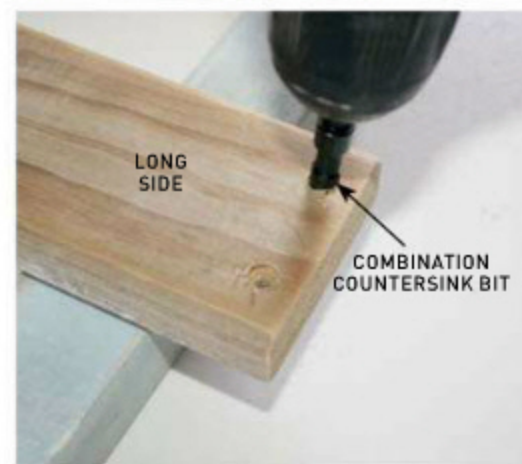
Fill a simple timber frame with river stones for a DIY backyard foot wash.

✦ **Get more online**
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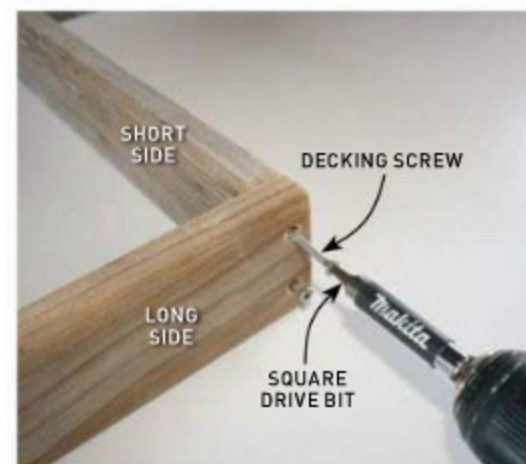
1 Cut the sides to length

Use a mitresaw or handsaw to cut the four sides to length from an 1800mm piece of treated pine decking or similar timber. Treated pine or hardwood can be left natural, or if you prefer, it can be finished by applying two coats of a paint or stain suitable for exterior use.



2 Drill the pilot holes

Use a 2mm combination countersink bit to drill two holes, 10mm from each end of the long sides, then sand all cut edges lightly to avoid getting bare feet spiked with splinters. Use a 2mm twist bit to drill corresponding pilot holes into the end grain of the short sides.



3 Assemble the frame

Use a square drive bit and a cordless drill to drive 50mm x 8g stainless steel decking screws through the countersunk pilot holes into the ends of the short sides. Check the frame for square, then position it in a suitable location and fill with river stones.

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER PICTURE (MAIN) STUART SCOTT

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Planting around a pool

Select the right varieties for the poolside to create a lush backyard landscape

Plan ahead and leave space for a pool when you lay out the garden.

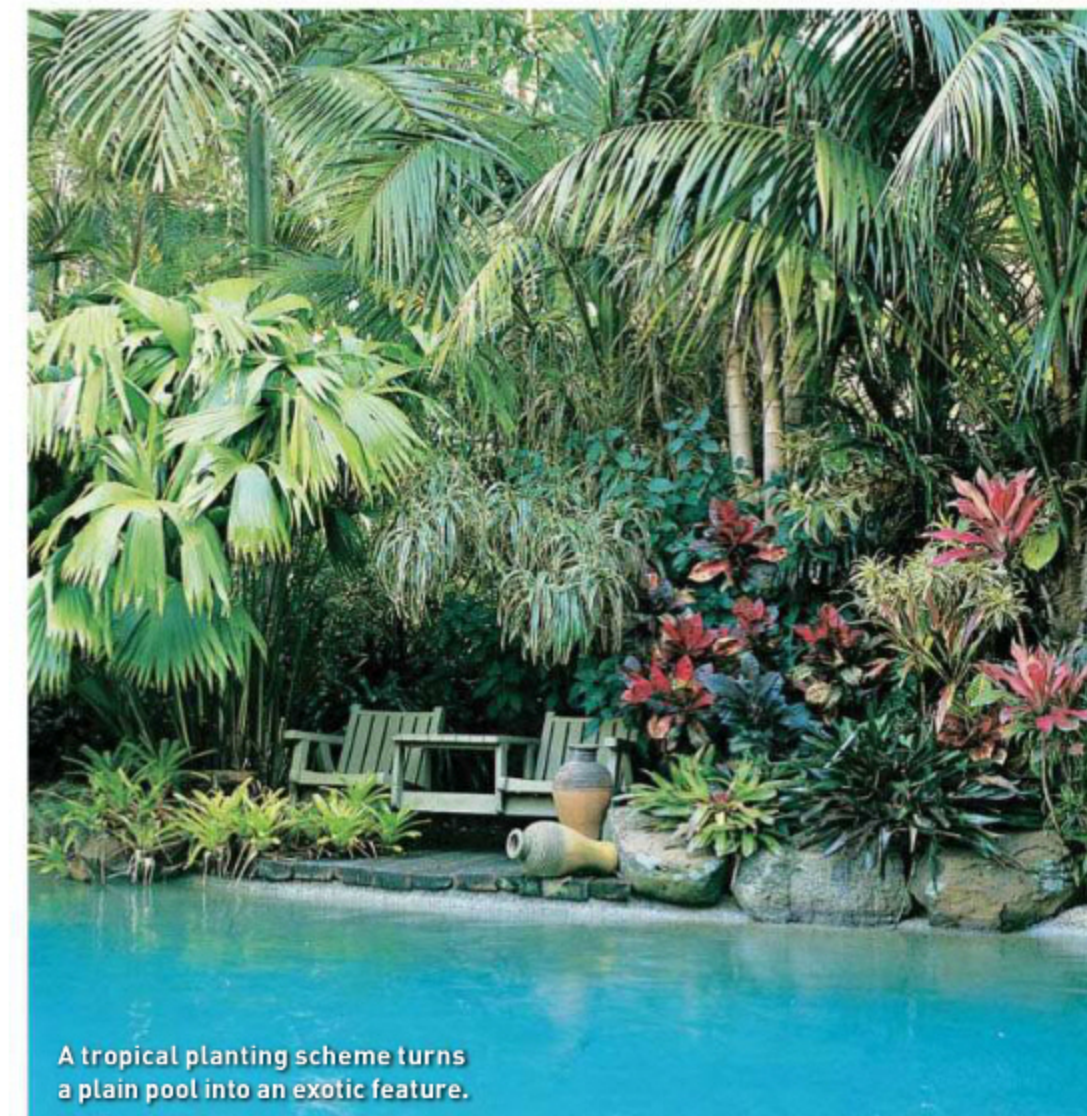
A swimming pool is often on the wish list for the backyard but may not be on the reno budget for several years.

If you're landscaping from scratch and you would like a pool in your backyard down the track, make space for it as you lay out the garden.

The future pool site should be earmarked for temporary gardens or as a play area, but don't plant trees or erect any structures that will be difficult or expensive to remove.

Also plan ahead for access to the site, as digging equipment will need to be brought in and soil and rocks removed during the excavation and pool installation process.

TIP Access can be through the garage if there is a door on the garden side.



A tropical planting scheme turns a plain pool into an exotic feature.

Choose a location

The ideal place for a swimming pool is an open, sunny spot. It can be any size, from a traditional kidney shape to a narrow lap or small plunge pool where space is limited.

Create the illusion of a larger yard by investing in glass fencing. While still meeting safety requirements, glass panels make the pool a feature and keep the views open.

The fence must be kept free of plants that could assist a child to climb over it, so don't try to hide pool fencing with shrubs, strongly branched climbers or trees.

Instead, opt for plants with soft stems or foliage like agapanthus or dwarf New Zealand flax.

Prevent leaf drop

Leaves falling into the swimming pool from overhanging or neighbouring trees is a common problem.

Minimising the number of trees around a pool is one solution, but it also eliminates any welcome shade.

Deciduous trees are a great choice for poolside planting. A pool cover can be used to keep the water leaf-free

during the cooler months of the year when they drop their leaves.

Shadesails are an alternative to poolside trees. They come in a large range of colours and sizes, and are available at hardware stores or can be custom-made for your site.

Add colour

Hibiscus are very popular plants to grow by the pool in frost-free, warm to tropical climates.

Featuring brightly coloured flowers in red, orange, yellow, pink and white, they range from a compact 1m high to 3m tall plants. The dwarf varieties bear small flowers over many months.

When selecting hibiscus, choose a variety that will grow to a height and width to suit the space. Spring pruning sets up the plants for good strong growth and a long flowering season.

To keep hibiscus flowering all summer, mulch them with a 70mm deep layer of organic matter. Feed monthly and regularly remove spent flowers to encourage more blooms. ➤

Problem plants

Any plants that drop small leaves, are thorny or spiky, or attract a lot of bees are best avoided near swimming pools.

Problem varieties for planting around pools include cacti and succulents, jacarandas, many conifers, roses and silky oaks.



When landscaping a pool, use plants that won't drop leaves into the water.



Top poolside plants ▼



AGAPANTHUS

Drought-tolerant agapanthus are striking poolside plants, with strappy leaves and showy blue or white flowers on tall stems during summer when the pool is in use.



CAMELLIAS

Excellent, no-fuss evergreen screening plants, camellias have the additional benefit of blooming from autumn to winter, providing interest when the pool isn't being used.



CITRUS

Add ornamental tubs of cumquats or dwarf lemon for an eye-catching feature in a hot and sunny pool enclosure. Give them well-drained soil and fertilise twice a year.



DIETES

Massed dietes thrive in the hot, dry conditions and narrow spaces that often surround swimming pools. Expect the flowers to bloom from spring to autumn.



GERANIUMS

With their vibrant colours, geraniums are ideal poolside plants, displayed in pots or hanging baskets, or planted in the ground. Prune them in autumn as the swimming season finishes.



CANNAS

Lovers of the sun and heat, cannas add a tropical touch. They come in a range of foliage colours and the taller varieties are great structural additions to beds by the pool. ➤

PICTURES: ALAMY, THINKSTOCK

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Glass fences allow clear views of the pool area while maintaining safety.

Smart pool fencing

If you own a backyard swimming pool, you are required by law to have it fenced off to protect people, but that doesn't mean it can't look good.

Glass pool fences are sleek and streamlined and are held in place by ground brackets. Their minimalist design complements different pool and landscape styles.

Frameless glass pool fences have no posts or rails that can detract from the look of your outdoor space.

The toughened glass panels are completely transparent, which keeps sightlines open and makes it easy to keep an eye the kids while they are in the pool.

Installing a glass fence DIY is as easy as buying the components, attaching the brackets to the ground and slotting the panels in position.



Everton 1200 x 1200 x 12mm Glass Pool Fence Panel, \$99. everton.com.au

Calculate your needs ▼

Everyone's pool area is a different size and shape, so there is no one-size-fits-all pool fence kit.

The Everton pool fence calculator (everton.com.au) makes it easy to determine what parts and components you need to build any glass pool fence.

Simply select the style of fence and the number of sides, input the length of each side and choose the gate position.

The calculator automatically creates a shopping list and price estimate, which can be taken to Bunnings to order the parts.

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BUILT-IN BARBECUE

Install an outdoor cooking area
using lightweight concrete blocks

PROJECT DAVID RYAN PICTURES GEOFF BECK

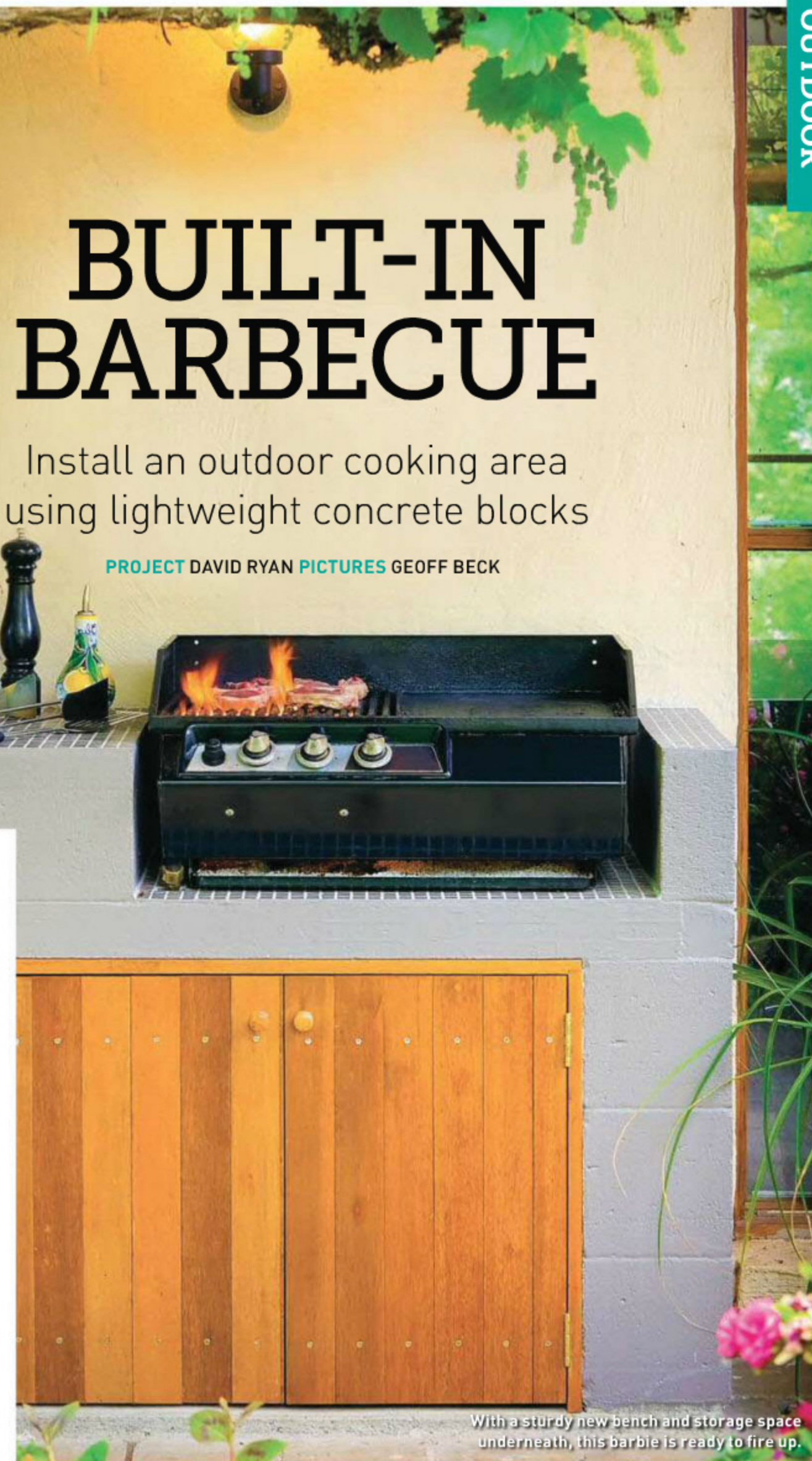
This barbecue originally sat on a wobbly cart, which made cooking difficult and caused the oil to pool in a corner. The new built-in bench is made from special concrete blocks that have been clad with tiles, with meranti doors added to conceal the gas bottle underneath.

Using Hebel blocks

Hebel autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC) is a lightweight, heat-resistant material. The blocks and panels are easy to lay and after the first course is levelled, the rest are secured with a 3mm bed of adhesive.

To cut Hebel, use a handsaw and wear a respirator, safety glasses, long sleeves and gloves.

Tile the panel and side blocks by spreading tile adhesive and laying the tiles. Mix grout and push it into the joints with a squeegee, then wipe clean when dry. ➤

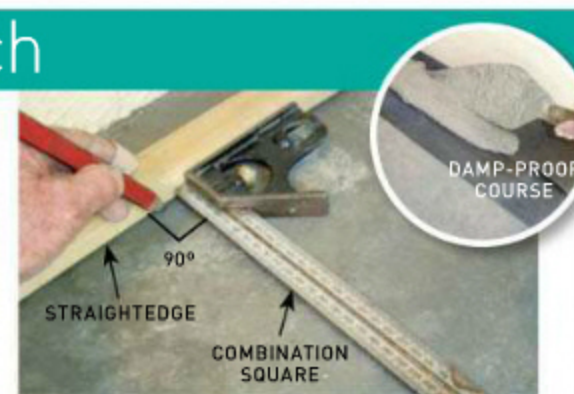


With a sturdy new bench and storage space underneath, this barbie is ready to fire up.

Build the bench



1 Pour a concrete slab
Excavate the area to 100mm deep and position the formwork. Mix quickset concrete and pour the slab, screeding the surface with a sawing action across the formwork. Follow with a steel float to create a smooth finish and leave to dry.



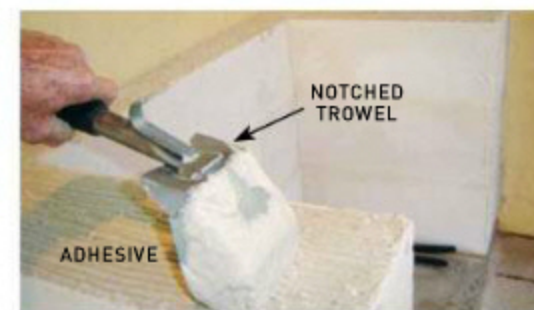
2 Add the damp-proof course
Use a combination square and straightedge to mark out the bench. Roll out a layer of aluminium damp-proof course (DPC) where the Hebel block courses will be laid, creating a slip joint between the blocks and the concrete.



3 Lay the first course
Use a brickie's trowel to spread mortar 10mm thick over the DPC, then tap the end blocks of the first course into position. Apply adhesive to the butting ends of the back blocks using a notched trowel, lay them in position and check with a spirit level.



4 Lay the remaining courses
Position the blocks of the second course mirroring the first course, staggering the vertical joints between the blocks. Apply adhesive to all joints, tapping the blocks to close the vertical joints to 2mm. Lay the third course to match the first course.



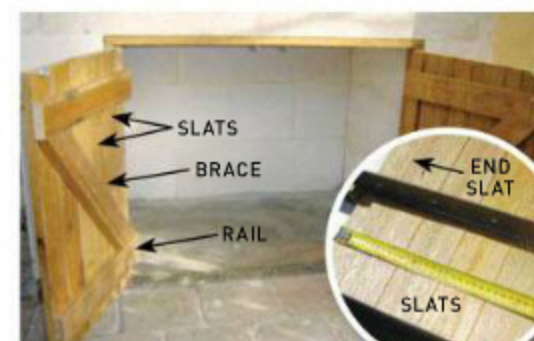
5 Bed the burner panel
Check the 75mm thick panel against the blocks of the third course and adjust if necessary so the panel fits neatly. Use a notched trowel to apply adhesive over the third course, then bed the panel on the adhesive, tapping to make it level.



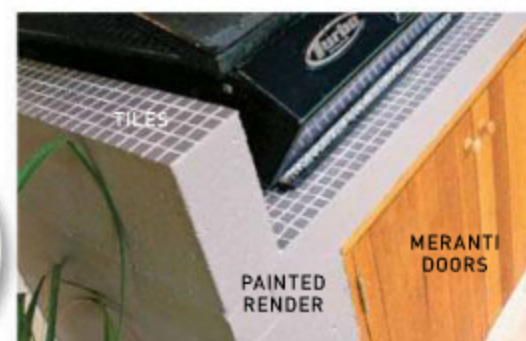
6 Add the side benchtops
Apply adhesive to the panel and two 600 x 200 x 200mm blocks, then secure them to one end of the panel, forming the serving area. Use adhesive to secure a 600 x 200 x 100mm block at the other end of the panel, leaving a 700mm gap for the barbecue.



7 Attach the door frame
Use a router to cut an 18mm wide x 5mm deep rebate on each end of the door head, then secure it to the stiles using adhesive and screws. Drill clearance holes through each stile and secure the frame to the blocks using 100mm x 14g galvanised bugle screws.



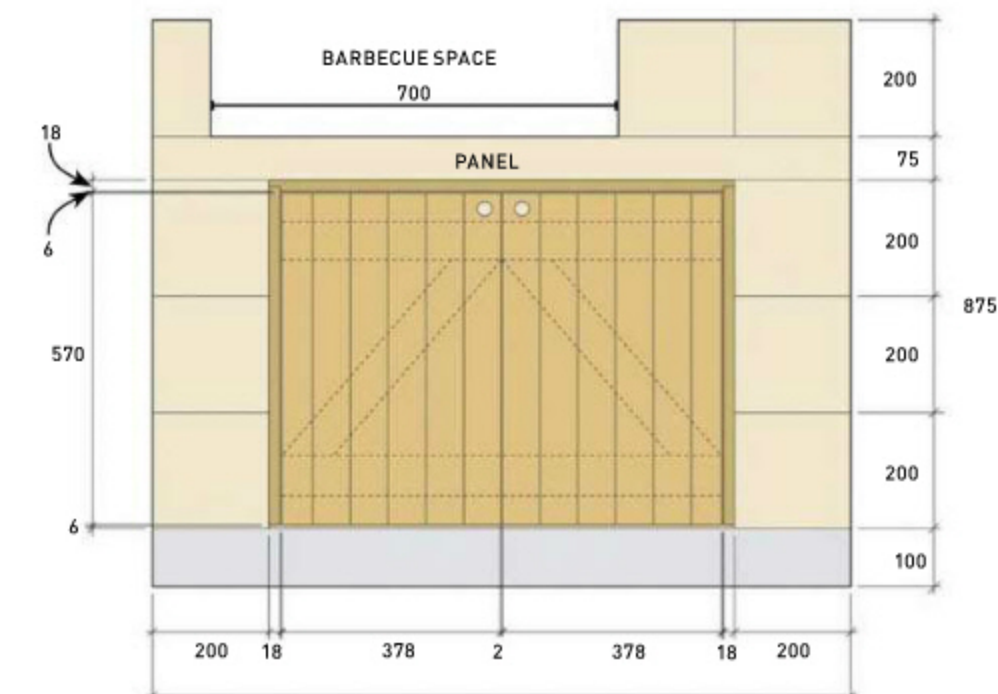
8 Make and hang the doors
Use a circular saw to cut the end slats so the doors fit with a 3mm gap on the sides and a 2mm gap between. Edge-laminate the slats using clamps and adhesive. Use screws to secure the rails and braces, then align the hinges with the rails and hang the doors.



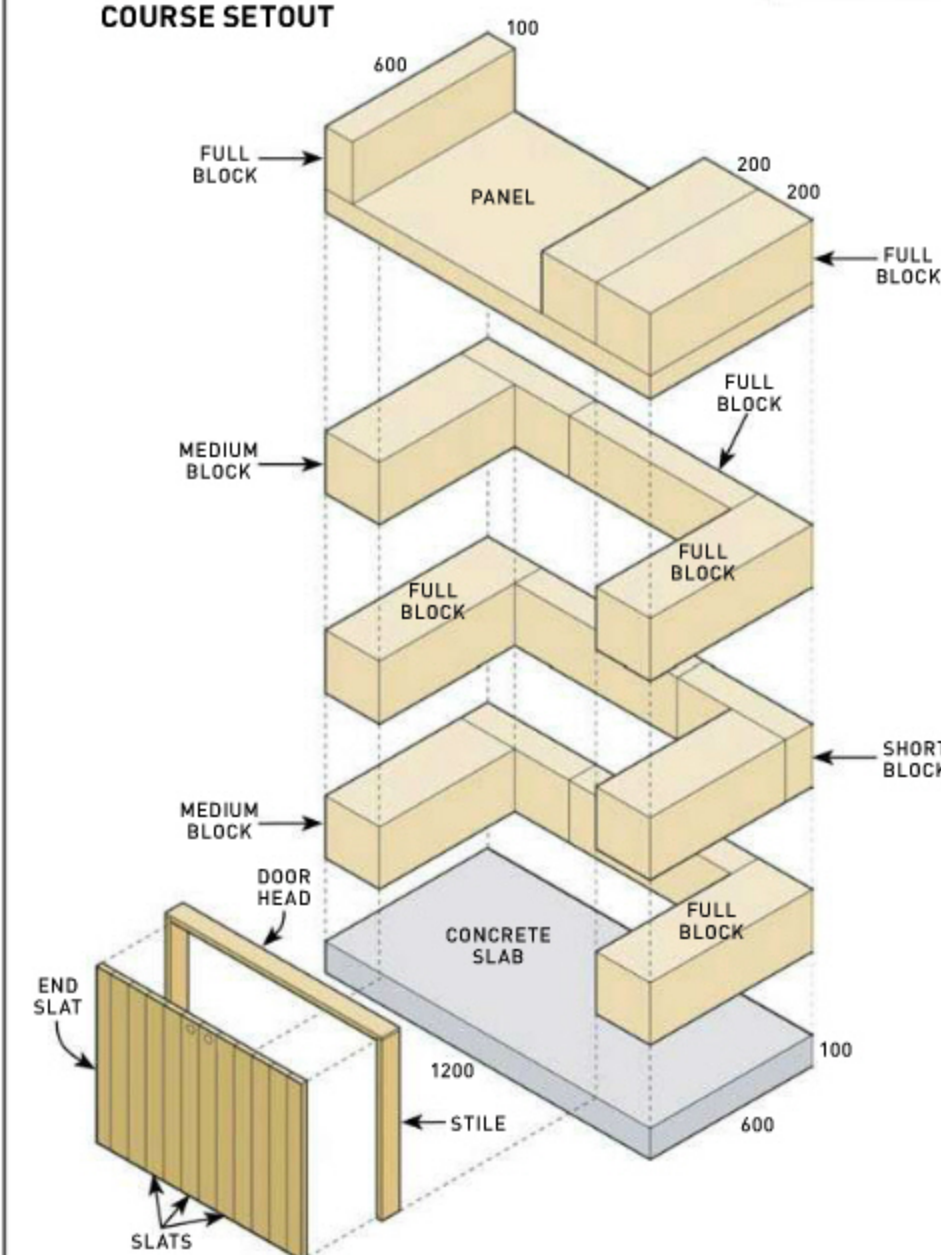
9 Apply the render and tiles
Scrape down the blocks, mix Hebel HighBuild render to a creamy consistency, apply 3mm thick, sponge for a bagged finish and leave to dry. Apply sealer and two coats of exterior acrylic, then tile the top, including the panel under the barbecue.

Built-in barbecue

measurements in mm



COURSE SETOUT



FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Galvanised bugle screws, 100mm x 14g	Door frame
Galvanised screws, 30mm x 8g	Stiles
Supplied screws	Hinges

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
AAC		
Full blocks	600 x 200 x 200	5
	600 x 200 x 100	4
Medium blocks	500 x 200 x 200	3
Short blocks	400 x 200 x 100	3
Panel	1200 x 600 x 75	1
Meranti		
Stiles	900 x 65 x 18	2
Head	900 x 65 x 18	1
Slats	881 x 65 x 18	10
End slats	575 x 53 x 18	2
Rails	370 x 65 x 18	4
Braces	500 x 65 x 18	2

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

Cooking on the barbie

For a sizzling success, check out these barbecue techniques and tasty recipes for meat and vegies

There's more to barbecuing than just firing up the barbie and adding the food. Follow this guide so that your meals will be cooked to perfection every time.

Barbecuing

Traditionally, this means cooking on the hotplate, the flat solid part of the barbecue. A quick and easy method, it's suitable for most food types, including meat, seafood, poultry, vegetables and fruit, plus kebabs and skewers.

■ A hotplate is a feature of most types of barbecues, such as trolleys and built-ins, and newer kettle barbecues.

■ Hotplates are generally made of cast iron, which retains heat very well, but enamel-coated steel is also used and is easy to clean.

■ Before heating the hotplate, brush it with oil, if necessary, as brushing the hot surface with oil will result in lots of smoke. Or, brush the food with oil before placing it on the hotplate.

Grilling

This method uses the grill rack, which is usually made of cast iron. Food is exposed to the heat source through the slots, creating that fabulous chargrilled flavour, as well as the distinctive charred

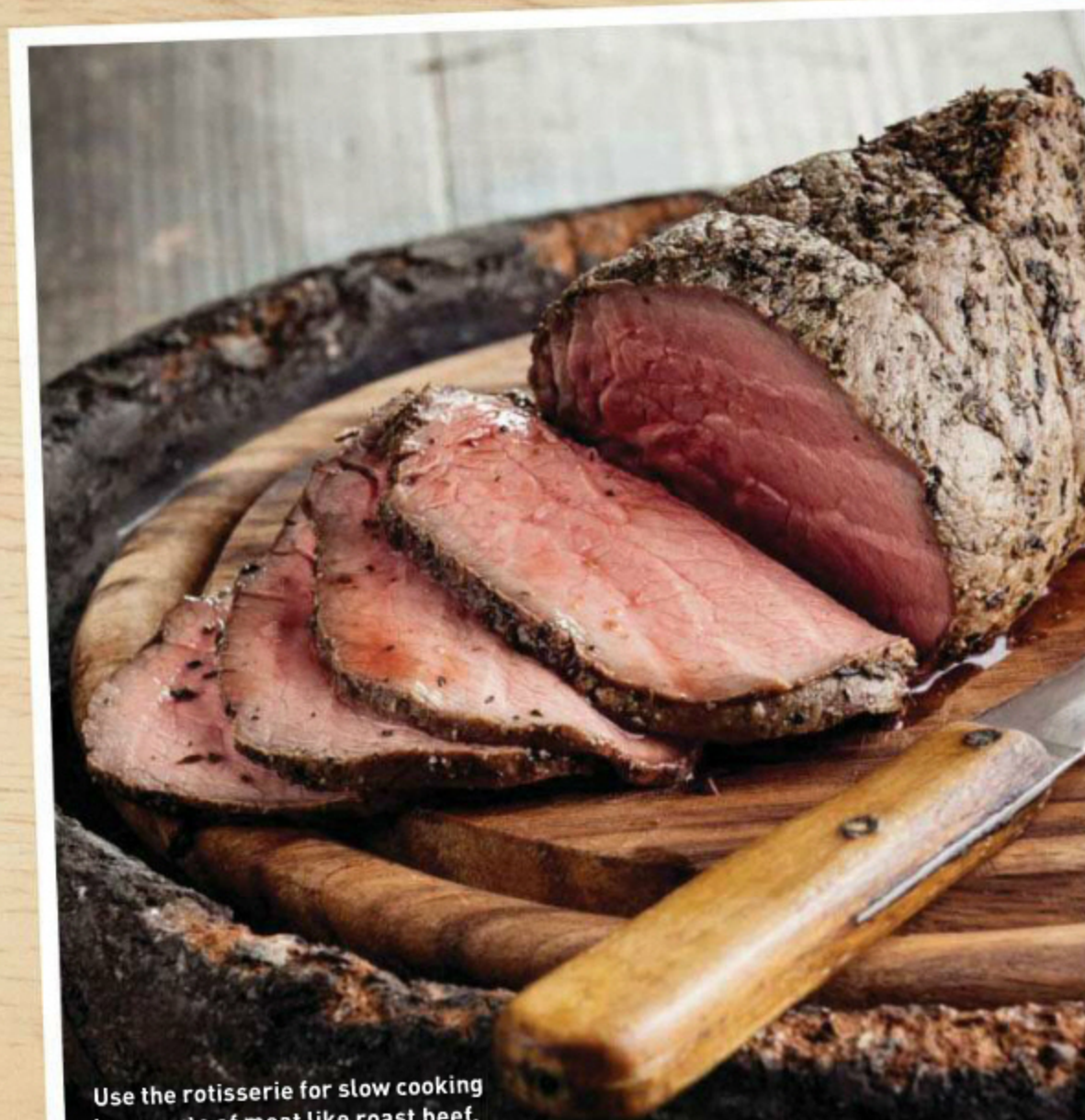
stripes. As the food cooks, any juices or fat drain out, making this cooking method a healthy choice.

■ Most trolley and built-in barbecues have a slotted grill rack and solid hotplate, while kettle and hibachi-style barbecues mainly use a grill rack.

■ When cooking foods with delicate flesh or texture, such as fish, tofu, soft vegetables and fruit, you can cover the rack with foil before heating. This stops the food slipping through the slots and also prevents it from overcooking.

■ Brush the grill rack with oil before heating, or brush the food with oil before placing it on the grill rack.

PICTURE (TOP) THINKSTOCK



Use the rotisserie for slow cooking large cuts of meat like roast beef.

Rotisserie

Once the domain of professional chefs, the rotisserie can now be enjoyed at home.

It is ideal for slow cooking large cuts of beef or pork, as well as poultry roasted whole, such as chicken, duck, turkey and spatchcock.

Only the largest and more expensive barbecues, usually trolleys, have rotisseries.

■ **PREHEAT** the barbecue without the rotisserie in position, so you are able to handle the rotisserie rod safely when securing the meat.

■ **BALANCE** the meat evenly on the rotisserie rod to avoid overworking the motor.

■ **TURN** off the burner directly under the meat and add a drip pan, as rotisseries use the indirect method of cooking.

■ **CLEAN** the rotisserie with hot, soapy water after you've finished cooking and when it has cooled down. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

Roasting

A barbecue with a hood is like having an outdoor oven. Almost anything that you can roast in an oven can be cooked using this method.

Hoods are usually made of thick stainless steel or enamel-coated steel, while some have windows that allow you to easily check the food. They may contain air vents, which you can open or close to control the heat.

■ Trolleys or built-ins can have hoods that detach from the unit, while others are hinged. Kettle barbecues have detachable hoods with air vents and sometimes a handle for easy lifting.

■ Preheat

the barbecue with the hood closed when roasting food.

■ If using a roasting dish, preheat the barbecue with the dish on the hotplate or grill rack, as directed in recipes.

■ Make sure you always clean the hood after each use. ➤



When roasting, use the cooking juices to make a delicious gravy to accompany the meat.

PICTURES THINKSTOCK

Side burner

Anything you can cook on an electric or gas cooktop can be cooked on a barbie side burner.

You can stir-fry, braise, casserole, boil or fry using a wok, steamer, saucepan or frying pan. Having a side burner means you can cook almost any recipe without going into the kitchen.

It is ideal for recipes that require both barbecuing or grilling and indoor cooking methods, such as boiling a sauce or steaming vegetables and rice.

Many of the large trolley barbecues include a side burner. **TIP** Clean it according to the manufacturer's instructions and don't use abrasive products.



The side burner is ideal for quick and healthy stir-fries.

A pizza oven is also great for roasting meat or vegetables.



Making pizzas

An exciting addition to backyard cooking is the pizza oven. Specifically designed to cook pizzas, it can be either a traditional built-in wood-fired oven or portable model.

But it's also possible to make authentic pizzas by using a barbecue with a hood or a kettle barbecue.

Pizza stones are made from heat-resistant, porous earthenware that allows the pizza base to become evenly browned and crispy, just like a traditional wood-fired pizza oven.

■ If using a pizza stone, preheat the barbecue with the stone in place, and always use a large spatula to move the stone, as it gets very hot.

■ Preheat a covered barbecue or kettle barbecue with the hood closed.

■ Don't oil pizza stones, submerge them in water or use detergents. To clean, wipe with a damp cloth.

■ Pizzas are cooked using indirect heat, so turn off the burners directly under the pizza or push the coals to the sides.

■ Place the pizza on the pizza tray or stone, baking tray or roasting dish in the centre of the barbecue, which will allow maximum air circulation.

Direct heat

For foods that cook quickly, such as steaks, kebabs, hamburgers, boneless chicken fillets, seafood, vegetables and fruit, direct heat is used.

The barbecue can be uncovered or covered, according to the recipe. Turn the food halfway through cooking.

If using wood, charcoal, briquettes or coals, spread the fuel in a even layer. For a gas barbecue, turn on the burners under the hotplate or grill rack.

Indirect heat

This is used for foods that take longer to cook, like big cuts of meat or whole fish. The hood is usually closed.

If using wood, charcoal, briquettes or coals, pile half the fuel on one side and half on the other side. Place a drip pan in the centre before adding food.

For every 45 minutes of cooking, you may need to add more fuel.

Preheat a gas barbecue with the burners turned on. When heated, turn off the middle one, put a drip pan in the centre, then add the food.

On a two-burner barbecue, turn off one and put the drip pan and food on that side. For a barbecue with four or more burners, turn off the burners below the food.

Barbecuing basics

Always position the barbecue on a solid, level surface, away from fences, vegetation or overhanging structures such as eaves or pergola roofs.

■ **COOK** in a well-ventilated area and don't use a barbecue in high winds, or ensure that it's protected, and check for fire bans, if applicable.

■ **STORE** charcoal in a dry place, as damp or wet charcoal may not ignite.

■ **DON'T** add lighter fluid to coals that have been lit, or use gasoline or kerosene to light briquettes.

■ **WAIT** until the coals are ash-grey and radiating heat, without flames, before you start cooking. This can take up to an hour, depending on your barbecue.

■ **PREHEAT** the hotplate or grill rack for 5-10 minutes for a gas-fuelled barbecue before adding food. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

■ **ALLOW** more cooking time on cold or windy days, or at higher altitudes. On extremely hot days, allow less time.

■ **DON'T** discard the ashes until they are completely cooled. For barbecues with hoods, close the hood and vents, then let them stand until cold.

■ **CLEAN** the cooking surface with a stiff wire brush or scraper after cooking. Lightly oiling the hotplate or grill rack will prevent rust build-up and make cleaning easier.

Cooking techniques

Bring food, especially meat, poultry and seafood, to room temperature before adding it to the barbecue. If it is cold, it may burn on the outside before the inside is cooked.

■ **PREVENT** flare-ups during cooking by trimming excess fat from meats, use lean meats or place a drip pan directly underneath, stacking coals on

either side.

Also drain marinated meat so it is not dripping oil when added to the grill.

■ **USE** a nonmetallic bowl to marinate food if the marinade is acid-based, as metal can react with acidic ingredients such as citrus juice, wine or vinegar. You can also use heavy-duty plastic bags for marinating.

■ **WRAP** food to prevent moisture loss and enhance its flavour. As well as foil, you can use banana leaves, corn husks or paperbark.

■ **AVOID** overcrowding food on the hotplate or grill rack. Allow space around each piece for even cooking.

Using skewers

You can use either metal or wooden skewers for barbecuing.

■ **SOAK** all nonmetal skewers in cold water for 30 minutes before using.

Metal skewers are usually made of stainless steel or cast iron, and come in various lengths.



■ SKEWER

the food pieces directly through the centre so they stay in place.

■ **USE** the woody stems of edible plants, such as rosemary or bay, as skewers to impart a subtle flavour. Bamboo shoots, sugar cane and lemongrass can also be used.

■ **ENSURE** you don't pack food too tightly or it won't cook evenly.

■ **USE** tongs or a spatula to turn or move skewers, as even soaked skewers can become hot and burn you. ➤



When using indirect heat on a kettle barbie, move the coals to the side.

Kettle models

Make sure you use the right fuel when using this type of barbecue.

Buy briquettes specially designed for use with kettle barbecues. If you use preferred brands, you will rarely need to add extra fuel during cooking.

Barbecue briquettes come in two sizes. Small ones are the size of golf balls, while large ones are twice this size.

For your first barbecue, check the owner's manual to see how many you'll need and count them.

Once you're familiar with the quantity needed, you'll be able to judge it visually.

Sticky teriyaki chicken wings



Serve these chicken wings as finger food or with rice and vegies for a main.

PREPARATION TIME 15 mins,
plus 2 hours marinating

COOKING TIME 35 mins

SERVES 4

4 tablespoons soy sauce
2 tablespoons honey
2 tablespoons dry sherry
2 teaspoons finely grated fresh ginger
1 clove garlic, crushed
12 chicken wings
1 tablespoon sesame seeds, toasted
2 spring onions, thinly sliced on the diagonal, to serve

- 1 COMBINE** the soy sauce, honey, sherry, ginger and garlic in a bowl. Put the chicken wings into a large nonmetallic dish, then drizzle the marinade over the chicken and turn to coat evenly. Cover and put in the fridge for 2 hours to marinate.
- 2 PREHEAT** a covered barbecue or kettle barbecue to 180°C with the hood closed. Line a large baking tray with baking paper and arrange the chicken wings in a single layer. Put the baking tray on the hotplate or grill rack over indirect heat and close the hood. Cook for 35 minutes or until the wings are golden brown.
- 3 SET** aside the chicken wings until cool enough to handle with your fingers. Serve sprinkled with sesame seeds and topped with spring onion.

Spicy Jamaican chargrilled chicken

PREPARATION TIME 15 mins,
plus at least 1 hour marinating

COOKING TIME 35 mins

SERVES 4

3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 onion, very finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 fresh red chilli, seeded and finely chopped
½ teaspoon ground allspice
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
Grated zest and juice of 1 lime
8 chicken drumsticks or thighs, about 700g, skin removed
Lime wedges, to serve

- 1 HEAT** the oil in a small frying pan over medium-low heat. Add the onion, garlic and chilli and cook, stirring frequently, for about 10 minutes, or until the onion softens and starts to brown. Transfer to a large, shallow nonmetallic bowl, add the allspice, cinnamon and the lime zest and juice, then stir well to combine.
- 2 CUT** a few shallow slits in each piece of chicken, then add to the bowl with the marinade. Turn the pieces to coat thoroughly with the marinade, rubbing it into the slits in the meat. Cover and leave to marinate at room temperature for 1 hour or put in the fridge for up to 24 hours.
- 3 PREPARE** a charcoal barbecue and wait until it has burned down to coals covered with grey ash. Remove the chicken pieces from the marinade and add to the barbecue. Cook, turning and brushing frequently with the marinade, for 20-25 minutes or until cooked all the way through. Or, preheat a gas barbecue hotplate or grill rack to medium-high and cook the chicken over direct heat for 20-25 minutes, turning and basting frequently.
- 4 SERVE** the chicken immediately, garnished with the lime wedges. ➤



If you need to cool down these drumsticks, leave out the chilli.

PICTURE (BOTTOM) THINKSTOCK



Ask your butcher to debone and butterfly the leg of lamb for you.

Butterflied leg of lamb

PREPARATION TIME 15 mins, plus at least 4 hours or overnight marinating
COOKING TIME 30 mins
SERVES 4

1 tablespoon chopped rosemary
 1 tablespoon chopped thyme leaves
 1 tablespoon wholegrain mustard
 2 cloves garlic, crushed

2 tablespoons olive oil
 1.5kg butterflied leg of lamb
 Lemon wedges, to serve

1 COMBINE the herbs, mustard, garlic and oil, then rub all over the lamb. Put in a nonmetallic dish, cover and put in the fridge for at least 4 hours. Remove from the fridge 30 minutes before cooking.

2 PREHEAT a covered barbecue or kettle barbecue to 180°C with the hood closed. Add the lamb to the hotplate or grill rack over indirect heat and close the hood. Cook, turning once, for 30 minutes. Set aside on a plate and cover loosely with foil for 15 minutes to rest.

3 CUT the meat into slices across the grain and serve with lemon wedges.

Thai beef salad with papaya

PREPARATION TIME 20 mins
COOKING TIME 10 mins
SERVES 4

2 thick-cut lean sirloin steaks, about 500g in total, trimmed of fat
 1 cup jasmine rice
 1.25L chicken stock
 4 fresh kaffir lime leaves, crushed
 2 teaspoons sunflower oil
 2 firm, ripe papayas, peeled, seeded and sliced
 ½ Lebanese cucumber, halved lengthways, seeded and sliced
 20 fresh mint leaves, shredded
 ½ cup fresh coriander leaves, finely chopped
 1 red onion, thinly sliced
 Inner baby leaves of 2 lettuces
 ½ cup roasted peanuts, coarsely chopped, to serve
 Fresh mint sprigs, to serve

Thai lime dressing

2 tablespoons sunflower oil
 1 tablespoon honey
 Grated zest and juice of 1 lime
 2 tablespoons fish sauce
 2 tablespoons light soy sauce
 1 fresh red chilli, or to taste, seeded and finely chopped
 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped

1 MAKE the dressing by combining all the ingredients in a small nonmetallic bowl. Put the steaks in a nonmetallic dish and spoon over 3 tablespoons of the dressing, turning to coat all over. Reserve the remaining dressing. Set aside the steaks to marinate.

2 PUT the rice in a saucepan with the stock and lime leaves. Bring to the boil, cover and leave to simmer for 10 minutes or until tender, or cook according to the packet instructions.

3 MEANWHILE, pat the steaks dry with paper towel. Lightly oil a barbecue hotplate or grill rack and preheat to high heat. Cook the steaks on the hotplate or grill rack over direct heat for about 2½ minutes on each side for rare, or until cooked to your liking. Set aside the steaks on a chopping board, cover with foil and leave to rest for a few minutes.

4 PUT the papaya, cucumber, mint, coriander and onion in a medium-sized bowl. Add all but 2 tablespoons of the remaining dressing, then gently toss.

5 DRAIN the rice well and divide between four plates. Place the lettuce leaves on the plates and top with the papaya salad. Slice the steaks into strips and arrange them on top of the salad. Spoon over the remaining dressing and sprinkle with the peanuts and mint sprigs. ➤



The key to a great salad is to use the freshest ingredients you can find.

Barbecued pork tenderloin ribs

PREPARATION TIME 30 mins

COOKING TIME 45 mins

SERVES 6

2 pork tenderloins, about 350g each, trimmed of fat
Olive oil cooking spray
1 red onion, chopped
1 red capsicum, chopped
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 cup tomato sauce
½ cup mild chilli sauce
¼ cup molasses or treacle
3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons soft brown sugar
2 teaspoons chilli powder
2 teaspoons mustard powder
Hot chilli sauce, to taste

1 SOAK four 30cm wooden skewers in water for 30 minutes to prevent them burning. Butterfly the pork tenderloins, cut them to resemble ribs, then thread them onto the skewers. Cover and put in the fridge.

2 PLACE the oven rack in the upper third of the oven and preheat to 230°C. Lightly oil a roasting pan. Spread the onion, capsicum and garlic in the pan and lightly coat with cooking oil spray. Roast the vegetables, tossing frequently, for about 15 minutes or until browned and tender.

3 TRANSFER the vegetables to a food processor. Add the tomato sauce, mild chilli sauce, molasses, Worcestershire sauce, sugar, chilli powder, mustard

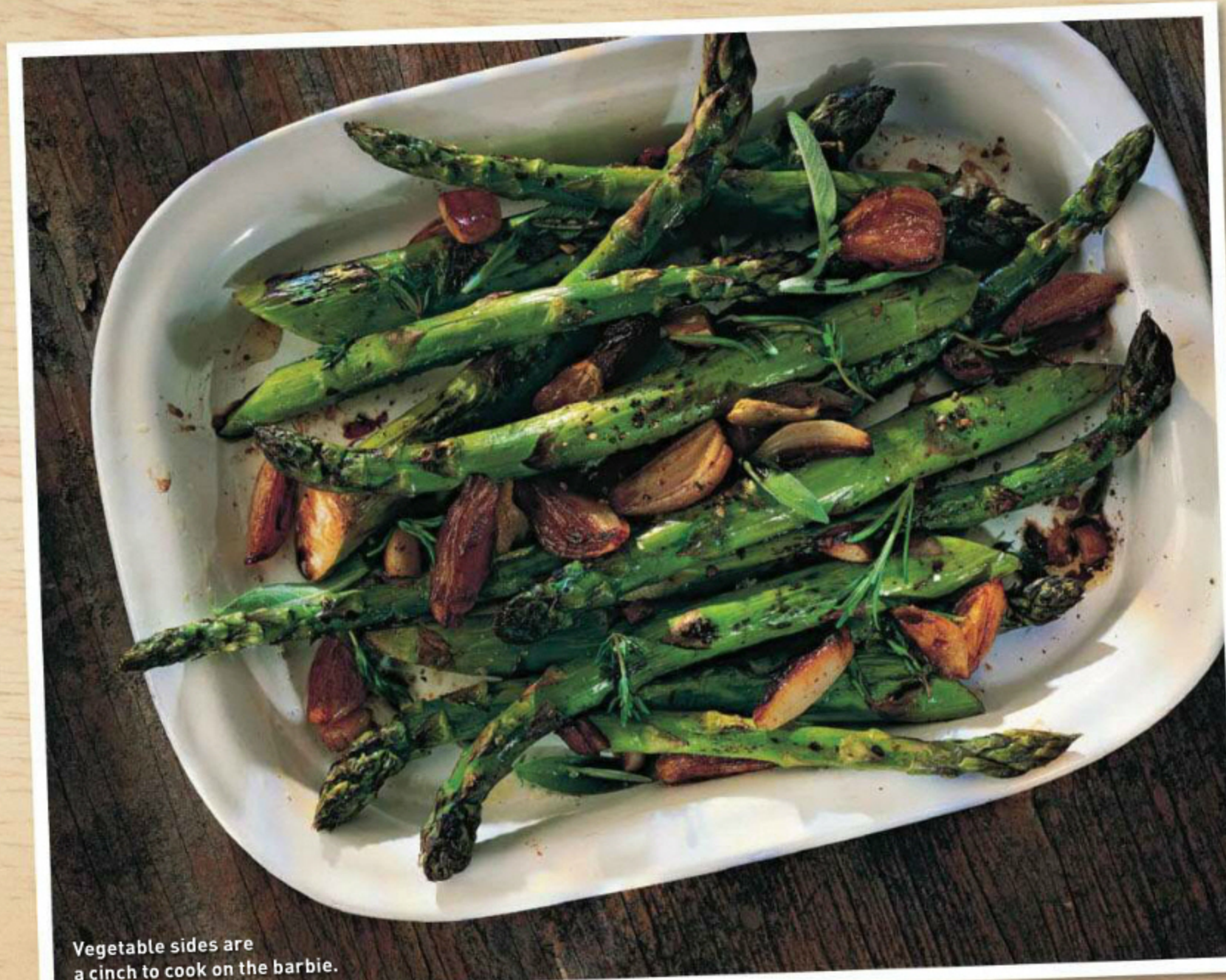
powder and hot chilli sauce. Puree, then pour into a saucepan. Cover and cook over medium-low heat, stirring occasionally, for about 15 minutes or until bubbly and well flavoured. Remove a cup of the sauce for basting and keep the rest hot.

4 OIL a barbecue grill rack lightly and preheat to medium-high heat. Baste each side of the pork generously with the sauce, then cook on the grill rack over direct heat, turning and basting every 4 minutes, for about 15 minutes or until well browned and cooked through. Serve the pork with any remaining sauce on the side.

TIP Serve the pork tenderloins with a refreshing garden salad.



Slice and skewer pork tenderloins to resemble ribs.



Vegetable sides are a cinch to cook on the barbie.

Asparagus with balsamic dressing

PREPARATION TIME 5 mins

COOKING TIME 15 mins

SERVES 4

500g asparagus, trimmed
1 tablespoon olive oil
6 large cloves garlic
4 eschallots
Salt and pepper
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
1 tablespoon mixed chopped fresh thyme, sage and rosemary

1 PREHEAT a barbecue hotplate to medium-high heat.

2 COMBINE the asparagus and half of the oil in a large bowl, then use your fingers to rub it in so that all the spears are well coated. Cook the asparagus over direct heat for 5-10 minutes, depending on the thickness of the spears, until they are softened and slightly browned.

3 PEEL the garlic and eschallots, cut them into quarters, then drizzle over the remaining oil. Cook on the

hotplate over direct heat, turning occasionally, for 5 minutes or until golden and tender.

4 PLACE the asparagus, garlic and eschallots on a serving platter, season with salt and pepper, to taste, and sprinkle with the vinegar and herbs. Serve immediately, or set aside for a few hours to allow the flavours to develop, then serve at room temperature.

TIP You can cook this dish in advance as it can be served at room temperature.

before & after

new dream kitchens

before

When taking on a kitchen renovation in their older style apartment, Alex and Ange never imagined the final result would be an open plan kitchen full of natural light. It's the perfect place to read the Sunday papers and enjoy breakfast together each morning.

plan

alex "The first thing we needed to consider was that the kitchen sits to the side of the living room, so we have to look at it even when we weren't using it. A friend told us about kaboodle after seeing their range at Bunnings. We started by checking out what they had on display, and there were heaps of options for us to choose from. We tried all sorts of combos in their online planner before we decided on the final design."

ange "I knew right away that I wanted the handles to blend in with the rest of the kitchen and the discrete grip handles tied in perfectly with the design."

select

ange "I just loved the idea of two-tone cabinetry. The gloss white and luminess metallic cabinets create the perfect contrast and look fantastic with the bamboo bench top. Overall, I was just trying to keep a minimalist aesthetic but now these cupboards are ten times better than the ones we had previously."

create

alex "Installing the kitchen was easier than we thought it would be. We made sure to stick to the instructions and if we had any issues, the videos on the kaboodle website got us out of any strife."

ange "I think the hardest part of the process was removing the wall between the old laundry and kitchen."

enjoy!

ange "Sunday mornings are at an elite level now. We take the dog for a short walk, grab a coffee and the papers then come home to cook up a big breakfast which is usually followed by us spending a long lazy morning sitting around at the kitchen table. It's just such nice and fresh environment to be in, especially as the sun is streaming through the window. I could sit there all day."

alex "Agreed!"

for more inspiration visit kaboodle.co.nz

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

kaboodle
KITCHEN

after

"A friend told us about kaboodle after seeing their range at Bunnings. We started by checking out what they had on display, and there were heaps of options for us to choose from."

alex



With a wide range of sinks available, we recommend Clark to give you everything including the kitchen sink! Catering for every style and budget, whether you're looking for a European or classic style, Clark will have it and everything in between.

“

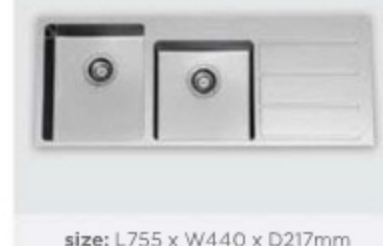
Clark and Pete Evans have joined forces to create a stunningly smart kitchen sink collection with all the right ingredients for the home. The sink collection is inclusive of integrated accessories personally designed by Pete to make food preparation easier than before.

”



evolution 1.75 bowl (undermount)

Item no: **5110323**(Left), **5110324**(Right) product code: **EVO175U.L**(Left), **EVO175U.R**(Right)



- Features tight radius corners & flat sink base for a cutting edge geometric look
- Left or right hand bowl configurations with 0 or 1 tap hole available
- Also available in single, 1.5 & double end bowl sizes
- Includes:



size: L755 x W440 x D217mm

Pete Evans 1.75 end bowl (overmount & undermount)

Item no: **5110383**(Left), **5110384**(Right) product code: **6640.1L**(Left), **6640.1R**(Right)



- Makes food prep easier with cleverly designed & integrated accessories
- Left or right hand bowl configurations with 0 or 1 tap hole available
- Also available in single, 1.5 & double end bowl sizes
- Includes:



size: L1120 x W490 x D217mm

mantra 1.75 end bowl

Item no: **5110453**(Left), **5110454**(Right) product code: **MT175EB.1L**(Left), **MT175EB.1R**(Right)



- Modern, streamlined design
- Rear positioned wastes
- Clark Lifetime Warranty™
- Left or right hand bowl configurations with 0 or 1 tap hole available
- Also available in single, 1.5 & double end bowl sizes
- Includes:



size: L1120 x W500 x D195mm

quatro 1.75 end bowl

Item no: **5110176**(Left), **5110177**(Right) product code: **6030.1L**(Left), **6030.1R**(Right)



- Barely there edge, square corners & contrasting curved bowls
- Left or right hand bowl configurations with 0 or 1 tap hole available
- Also available in single, 1.5 & double end bowl sizes
- Includes:



size: L1120 x W500 x D197mm

vital 1.75 end bowl

Item no: **5110291**(Left), **5110290**(Right) product code: **1127.1L**(Left), **1127.1R**(Right)



- Includes deep main bowl & generous second bowl
- Stylish smooth, rounded corners & modern drain
- Left or right hand bowl configurations with 0 or 1 tap hole available
- Also available in single, 1.5 & double end bowl sizes

size: L1080 x W480 x D190mm

round bowl overmount with tap landing

Item no: **5110274** product code: **4012**



- Available without tap hole in both overmount & undermount
- Perfect option for a wet bar, alfresco area or butler pantry
- Includes basket waste
- Bowl volume: 22.5L

size: 438mm Diameter



Kitchen buyer's guide

Make renovating the hub of the home easy with the latest ideas for surfaces, cabinets, appliances and accessories

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH



Renovating the kitchen is one of the best ways to add value to your home. It's a great practical improvement that offers benefits every day, as the kitchen is one of the most used rooms in the home.

The range of surfaces, cabinets, appliances and accessories out there is huge, so it pays to spend time choosing the right products to get the best kitchen possible for your budget.

Here is a round-up of products to give your kitchen a designer look and functional upgrade. ➔





Essential Stone Chardonnay Benhtop, \$608 per sqm.
essentialstone.com.au

Benchtops

The benchtop is the kitchen's most used feature and largely determines the look of the space.

Laminate is the most affordable material and is relatively durable and low-maintenance. The latest designs can give a realistic stone look for a fraction of the cost of the real thing.

Timber benchtops can be a solid slab or multiple pieces laminated together, and offer timeless style.

Stone benchtops are more expensive and require sealing. Choose engineered stone for a more budget-friendly option.



Kaboodle 2400 x 900 x 50mm Bamboo Benchtop, \$515.
kaboodle.com.au



Kaboodle DIY 2400mm Casablanca Black Textured Laminate Benchtop, \$290.

Highgrove 600mm Stainless Steel Backing Plate, \$117.
highgroveglass.com.au



Highgrove 1000 x 570 x 6mm Hot Lips Red Universal Glass Splashback, \$95.

Bellessi 2440 x 725 x 6mm Motiv Splashback, \$949, from Bunnings.

Splashbacks

Located behind the stove or sink, the splashback protects the wall from stains and damage caused by water or grease.

Tiles are the most affordable material and subway tiles with contrasting grout or mosaic sheets create instant impact.

Glass splashbacks are easy to clean and come in a range of colours, or use mirrored glass to give a sense of space.

Acrylic panels are also used for splashbacks and you can customise them with an image of your choice. It's a clever way to personalise your kitchen and make your home unique. ➤



Kaboodle 600mm
Luminess Metallic Modern
Pantry Door, \$180.

Cabinets

Storage is essential in a kitchen and a renovation is the ideal time to add more, so consider how you plan on using your new space to determine the layout. It's also important to think about the size of your family in the future.

For specialised storage such as a pantry or deep drawers, figure out where items will be used most and position the cabinetry close by.

Cupboard doors are the most dominant design element, so make sure the colour, finish and profile is suited to the look you're going for.

Clever Cube Storage 330mm
Black Wine Rack Insert, \$24.
handy-storage.com.au



Kaboodle 450mm
Chocanilla Modern
Cabinet Door, \$31.



Kaboodle 600mm
Three-drawer
Base Cabinet, \$204.





Cooktops

The biggest decision when choosing a cooktop is deciding between gas and electric, as each have their advantages.

Gas stoves are cheapest to run and provide easily controllable instant heat, but gas isn't available in all areas.

Electric cooktops can use either coils, hotplates or a ceramic glass surface to heat cookware directly, while induction cooktops use magnetic fields that cause cookware to heat up without heating the surface itself.

If possible, install a rangehood that vents outside to avoid grease build-up.



Everdure 90cm Glass Canopy Rangehood, \$398.
everdure.com.au



Bellini 60cm Recirculating Slideout Rangehood, \$148.
belliniappliances.com.au



Bellini 60cm Four-burner Gas Cooktop, \$266.



Elba 60cm Black Glass Electric Cooktop, \$498.
elba.com.au



Bellini 50cm White Freestanding Electric Oven, \$365.



Everdure 60cm Built-in Side Opening Electric Oven, \$686.

Ovens

Electric ovens are found in most homes, with gas ovens becoming less common.

Ovens can either be combined with cooktops as one freestanding appliance or separate from the cooktop, which allows them to be installed either underneath a benchtop or on a wall.

The most common width for both ovens and cooktops is 60cm, although wider 90cm ovens are becoming more popular, as they're ideal for large meals.

If you entertain often or regularly cook for a crowd, investing in two ovens may be a must-have, not a luxury.

Handles

They may be small, but handles are important details that can add character to a kitchen or reinforce a style.

Ornate drawer handles pair well with crisp white cabinets and timber benchtops for a country look. Round knobs look good with both classic and modern streamlined designs.

When choosing handles, consider what type of mechanisms you will have on your doors and drawers.

Some drawers have a handle cut into the face, while push-to-open doors may not even require one at all. ➤

Brassline 100mm Drop Drawer Handle, \$10.
delfarchitectural.com.au



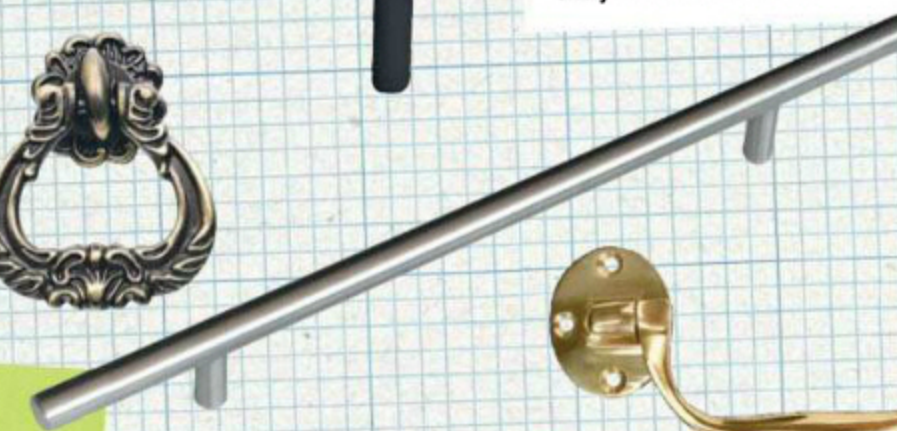
Prestige Matt Black 96mm Twist Handle, \$10.
itwproline.com.au



Prestige Antique Brass 12mm Pull Handle, \$6.



Kaboodle 192mm Stainless Steel T-Pull Handle, about \$10.



Kaboodle 27mm Zinc Alloy Mushroom Knob, about \$3.



Brassline 120mm Drop Drawer Handle, \$10.





Illume 400mm Square Shaftless Skylight System, \$355. kimprod.com.au

Skylights

Kitchens need plenty of lighting for the tasks at hand. While downlights work well at night, natural light is best for daytime.

Skylights are a great way to brighten any room, but especially a windowless kitchen in the centre of the home.

If a roof window or traditional skylight isn't possible, try another option.

Fit a flexible and reflective shaft tube in a two-storey home to funnel light from a roof dome to a ceiling diffuser.

Or for just the effect, add a shaftless system of sensor-controlled lights that adjust to the available light outside.



Acol 300mm Ezylite Round Skylight Kit, \$99.



Acol Roof Window Skylight, \$495. acolskylights.com.au

Flooring

The kitchen is a place where you will be on your feet the entire time, so choosing flooring requires careful thought.

Hardwood floorboards have a classic and timeless look, but in a high-traffic area like a kitchen, they'll need to be refinished every few years.

Tiles are tough and low-maintenance but feel hard underfoot and cold in winter.

Compared with hardwood, floating floors are more affordable and simple to install DIY, while the latest vinyl flooring designs are better than ever, making it easy to get style on a budget.

Gerflor Hobby Granite Grey Vinyl Flooring, \$15 a metre. gerflor.com.au

Winton 305mm Charcoal Stone Self Stick Vinyl Tile, about \$1 each. ideal-diy-floors.com.au

Tarkett 8.5mm Cherry Engineered Timber, about \$72 for 1.61sqm.

Tarkett 10mm Autumn Bamboo Flooring, \$62 for 1.41sqm. tarkett.com.au

Cotto 330mm Sandstone Porcelain Matt Floor Tile, about \$41 for 11, from Bunnings.

Cotto 330mm Thaicera Terracotta Ceramic Floor Tile, \$3 each, from Bunnings.

There's a New Boss of the Underground

Everhard's new PIT BOSS provides an easy, quick and simple method of securing 90mm or 100/110mm uPVC pipe to polypropylene stormwater pits.



Product code: 80080

The EasyDRAIN™ Pit Boss provides a secure and easy connection between Everhard's range of polymer rainwater and stormwater pits and uPVC pipe.

Made from ABS material, the EasyDRAIN™ Pit Boss can be secured to the wall of either the rainwater pit, Series 300, 450 and 600 Stormwater Pits using a suitable adhesive and stainless steel screws. Once installed, 90mm or 100mm uPVC pipe can be connected and sealed using plumber's solvent cement, providing a secure, water tight seal between the stormwater pit and the stormwater pipe, eliminating issues of pipe separation caused by subsidence and poor pipe connections.



Works with ANY polypropylene pit!

From retro to metro

A drab 1970s kitchen enters the 21st century for less than \$10,000

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERIE BARBER

With its sensible layout and sturdy construction, this small kitchen is typical of the '70s era, but it's thoroughly dated by today's standards.

While it's in good condition for a kitchen of its age, the retro colour scheme and finishes make the room feel gloomy.

It's a great candidate for a modern makeover on a budget that will easily come in under \$10,000. The reno will brighten up the room and make the home more liveable, adding value.

The reno plan

Engineered stone benchtops have really come down in price in recent years as their popularity soars, so we'll make the breakfast bar the centrepiece.

We'll also replace the original appliances, and update both the cabinets and flooring with affordable and modern materials.

You could easily go overboard renovating a kitchen with fancy tiled splashbacks and contrasting colours for the cabinets, but I prefer a safer look for a small kitchen that is part of an open-plan living space. ➤

Get a free makeover ▼

Cherie Barber is the owner of Renovating For Profit, a company dedicated to teaching people how to add value to their property through smart renovation.

She is also a public speaker and TV renovator on the popular Network Ten show *The Living Room*.

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

Send us a photo and 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.

PICTURE (BACKGROUND) THINKSTOCK

After

Updating the surfaces but using the old layout gives a big impact for a low cost.

Before

The dated kitchen was dreary and trapped in the last century.

The six steps to success

1 MOVE THE OVEN

The only change we will make with the positioning of appliances is to move the oven from beside the fridge to under the cooktop and replace it with a newer model. It's a more practical spot and means we'll now get a seamless look to the side wall cabinets with the ugly brown oven gone.



Elba 71L 60cm Stainless Steel Electric Oven, \$598. elba.com.au

2 INCREASE BENCH SPACE

Replacing the old 90cm cooktop with a new 60cm one will gain valuable bench space. We'll also replace the old sink with a deep double bowl for added convenience. The microwave will be given its own place under the bench, creating a clutter-free workspace for preparing meals.



Everdure 60cm Four-burner Gas Cooktop, \$389. everdure.com

3 UPDATE THE SURFACES

Engineered stone benchtops have been wrapped around the breakfast bar in a square finish, then run up the wall behind the sink to create a virtually maintenance-free splashback. New cupboards in a modern timber veneer contrast beautifully with the crisp white benchtop.



Kaboodle 717 x 447mm Chocolate Wood Cabinet Door, \$60. kaboodle.com.au

4 ADD A SPLASHBACK

A mirrored splashback behind the cooktop enhances the sense of space in a small area and is easy to clean. Otherwise, ever-popular subway tiles would be a textured alternative to shiny glass. Tiles are more affordable than a glass splashback, but it's all about personal taste.



Highgrove Silver Metallic Splashback, \$144. highgroveglass.com.au

5 LAY NEW FLOORING

The 1970s linoleum floor heavily dates the kitchen and needs to be replaced. Its contemporary successor is self-adhesive vinyl flooring, a hard-wearing alternative that's easy to lay DIY. It comes in a variety of textures and colours, so we've chosen a rustic pale timber look for timeless style.



Gerflor Pecan Senso Rustic Self Adhesive Vinyl Plank, \$55 for 16. gerflor.com.au

6 INSTALL MODERN LIGHTING

New downlights will brighten up the space while pendant lights give that added wow factor. A micro venetian blind for the window and a coat of fresh paint completes a makeover that could be done with careful planning in less than two weeks, but will still look great for years to come.



Brilliant 60W Black Matrix Pendant Light, \$139. brilliantlighting.com.au



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Virtual renovation

Use the latest computer technology to design your dream kitchen

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Replacing a kitchen or installing a brand-new one is the most exciting part of a renovation, but it requires careful thought as it's such an important part of the home.

Often the hardest part is deciding on the layout and picturing exactly how the kitchen will look, but it's now easier than ever thanks to the Bunnings 3D Kitchen Planner.

The software allows renovators to experiment with different layouts, trial multiple finishes and mix and match cabinets, benchtops and doors to create a dream kitchen.

DIYers can see how their kitchen will look before even a single product has been bought, which can help avoid costly mistakes and minimise the need for remodelling later.

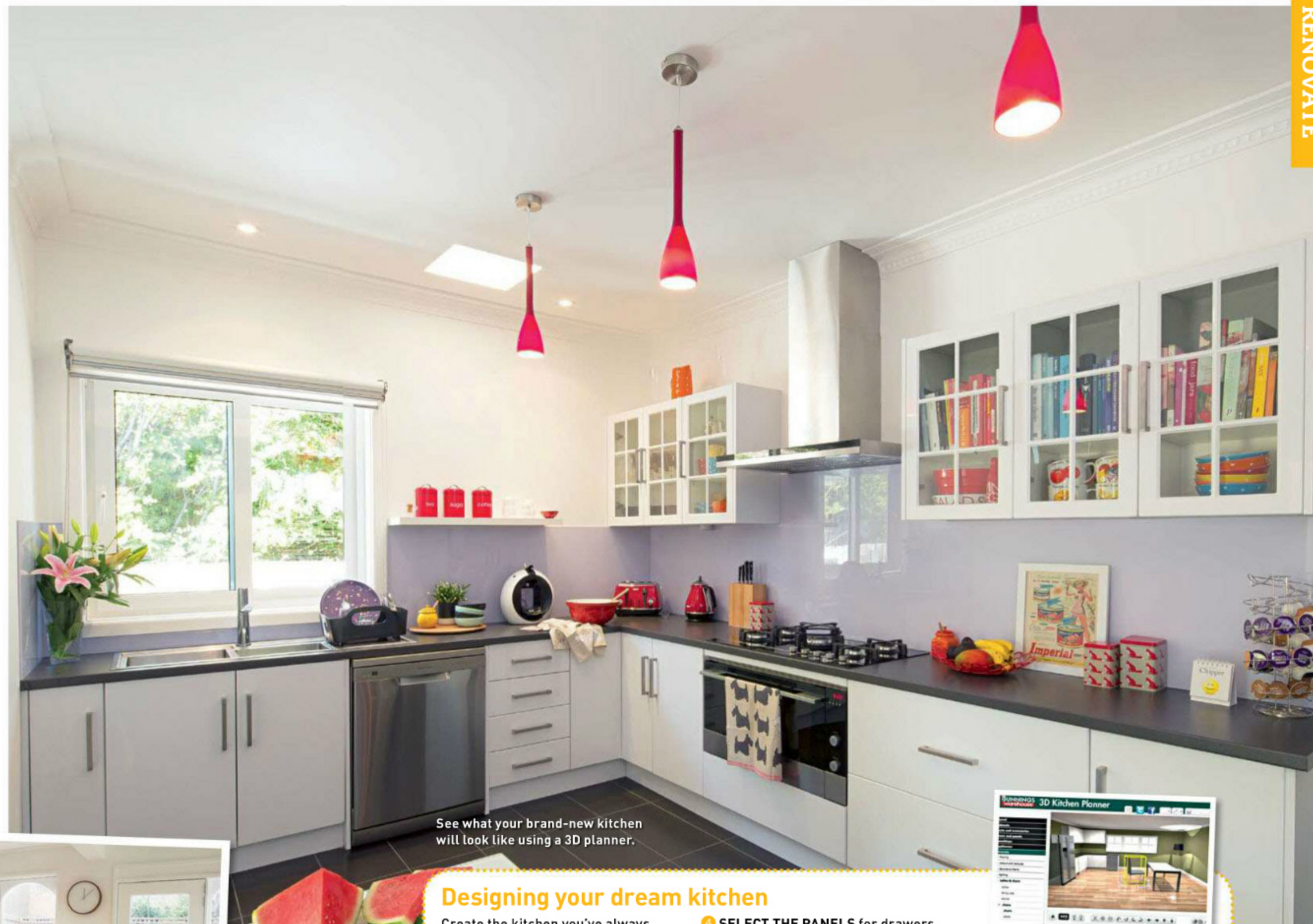
Simon Warmington, Bunnings National Kitchen and Appliances Buyer, says the 3D Planner provides people with a virtual space to visualise every element of the room.

'The 3D Planner has really revolutionised DIY renovation as you can use it to create your dream

kitchen from scratch and each design can be tailored to your layout and budget,' says Simon.

The planner can be used to design each part of the room, including the shape and size, type of products and colour and materials used.

To learn more about the 3D Kitchen Planner, visit your local Bunnings store or bunnings.com.au.



See what your brand-new kitchen will look like using a 3D planner.

Designing your dream kitchen

Create the kitchen you've always wanted in just a few simple steps.

- 1 DRAW THE LAYOUT** by measuring the space and including the position of the doors, windows, plumbing, electrics, ventilation and appliances.
- 2 POSITION THE CABINETRY** around the room, including base, corner, wall and pantry cabinets.
- 3 PICK THE HARDWARE** such as handles and hinges for cabinets and runners for drawers.

- 4 SELECT THE PANELS** for drawers, doors and kickboards. Experiment with colours and styles, considering the look and theme of your home to ensure that finishes complement one another.
- 5 CHOOSE A BENCHTOP** from a wide range of styles, including laminate, timber and engineered stone.
- 6 INCLUDE THE APPLIANCES** when the layout is complete, selecting from the range available or using the dimensions of your existing appliances.

- 7 ADD THE ACCESSORIES** by choosing a dining set, plants to place around the room, decorative items for the walls and lighting options.
- 8 PRINT THE SHOPPING LIST** once you are satisfied and take it into your local Bunnings store to purchase your chosen products.



African dream

Sweeping views take centrestage in this seaside holiday home built for comfort

WORDS SITA SIMONS

Designed for relaxation, the outside living space is kitted out with comfy sofas and ottomans.

PICTURES AUSTRAL

The waterfront enclave of Llandudno, just 20km from Cape Town in South Africa, is considered one of the most beautiful beaches on the peninsula.

With no streetlights and no shops, it's a place dedicated to relaxation. And it's also home to some of the most expensive real estate in the area.

When a British property developer wanted a holiday home, he didn't have to look any further. The property he bought was sprawling and run-down, and in need of some TLC.

Interior designer, Jayne Wunder (jaynewunder.com), who'd previously worked with the owner in the UK, was brought in with the brief to make the

house liveable for a year, then demolish and rebuild it.

But Jayne's refurbishment, along with architectural changes, was so successful, that the original house is still standing.

Set high on the headland, it takes in panoramic views of the Atlantic Seaboard, which provides an ever-changing moving picture.

The living spaces that face the sea are flooded with light, and it's this quality of light and reflection that influences the decor and ambience.

As a holiday escape, the house was to be a haven of calm, as well as a place to enjoy the luxury of stress-free entertaining. ➤



Lots of the furniture was made from salvaged driftwood.



Huge wall-mounted antique doors serve as unique artwork in the main living area.

Contemporary comfort

Relaxation is paramount in this home. In the main living area, there are multiple day beds, sofas and built-in seating alcoves with piles of cushions, covered in natural linen.

Much of the furniture was made to order using simple, strong shapes in varying tones of reclaimed timber and driftwood. Vaulted ceilings are a sign of the property's age and contrast with the very modern decor.

When considering the interior of the home, Jayne allowed the natural vista to take pride of place.

'I didn't want anything competing with the view. In its spectacular setting,

this home suits what I call non-colours, the grey shades of neutral, with touches of ginger and coffee,' says Jayne.

'It all works to reflect the natural environment back into the house. There is an honesty and purity to this kind of interior, and my feeling is it never dates and is enjoyable over time.'

Entertainer's delight

The owner has a love of entertaining, so multiple seating areas were created throughout, with the colour chosen to be suitable for everyday use.

The tone is picked up in the wall art, with antique North African doors presiding over the family-sized sofa.

The African theme is one that runs throughout the home in subtle ways. Jayne has deliberately represented the vast diversity of African culture to avoid becoming clichéd, mixing tribal artefacts with Moorish influences.

Pairing art with a neutral palette creates a gallery effect. Anything wall mounted becomes the focal point, so choosing pieces that allude to a place or personality form a cohesive look.

'It's about treating themes with a light hand. Going over the top with a particular look never gels well, but making a reference here and there creates interest and brings a level of sophistication,' says Jayne.



A collection of white ceramic pieces makes a textural statement in the serene kitchen.

White but warm

A kitchen is generally designed to be mainly functional with maximum storage space but when it is a holiday home, it can be pared back.

In this entertainer's kitchen and dining space, there is a feeling of luxury that could be considered rather impractical for an everyday family residence.

And while the colour scheme is predominantly white, with just a hint of contrast in the bone-tinted terrazzo floor, it manages to look warm and inviting, rather than sterile.

The original kitchen was small and cramped, so Jayne worked with the architects to transform a squash court on the lower level into a kitchen and entertainment area that opens onto an infinity edge pool and terrace.

'It was an unusual approach and the sheer scale was a challenge, but the result was fantastic, and the height in the room gives it a very grand feel,' says Jayne.

Having minimal wall-mounted cupboards further enhances the sense of space and expansive luxury.

The workspace is maximised with a double island topped with Caesarstone, and there's plenty of storage space to keep everything to hand but out of sight.

'Keeping a very white and bright kitchen clean and tidy is essential, so we used easy-clean surfaces and made space for every element,' says Jayne.

'Using push-function drawers and cupboards minimises visual distractions while also enhancing the functionality,' she says. ➤

When you're preparing curved timber and mouldings for painting, reach for the Rocket Sanding Kit. This dual density sanding block has a soft side for the contours and a firm side for flat areas. It comes complete with a range of sanding sheets with handy peel and stick backing for easy changes. The Rocket Sanding Kit is a complete solution with all the sanding tools you'll ever need.



For more handy renovation tips and hints, scan here.



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Look in the sandpaper section at Bunnings.



In one of the many seating areas, African sculptures are displayed on scaffold planks.

Tranquil retreat

A bedroom should always be an oasis of calm, so the white-on-white theme works well. Full-length curtains soften the look and refract the ocean light.

Soft, cool fabrics contrast with the bark-edged timber headboard, which continues the driftwood theme running throughout the house.

'I've sourced a lot of driftwood locally and from the beach, and I've had other pieces bleached to achieve that weathered look,' says Jayne.

'The bedhead and a few of the other pieces were made from timber that was found on Table Mountain. The richness in colour and rawness of form work in perfect contrast.'



The feel of laidback luxury is carried through to the master bedroom.

Perfecting the palette

It can be tricky to get a neutral and white colour scheme right without it looking lifeless. Here are five tips for creating the perfect subtle palette.

- 1 **TONES** are important with neutral shades. Using one white shade can make a space seem undefined and flat, so add subtle tonal differences by picking 3-4 for the best impact.
- 2 **TEXTURES** are crucial to layering a neutral space, and reflect the function and feeling you want to create. Mix cool fabrics with warm choices, such as linen with wool.
- 3 **SHAPE** has extra significance in a minimal palette. Select furniture with strong lines and let it shine. Look for pieces with delicate arms and legs that let light pass through to enhance the feeling of space.
- 4 **PATTERN** adds personality and warmth, but too much can make an area look cluttered. Opt for a few base colours and stick to a theme.
- 5 **CONTRAST** is an underlying principle in every successful space. When using neutrals, the contrast should be subtle, not glaring.



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Choose The Right White Paint.

Generously proportioned furniture provides a clean, simple look.

Beat the heat

Transform your home into a cool oasis as the temperature rises

Switching on the air conditioner is an easy way to take refuge from the blistering heat, but one look at your power bill after a long, hot summer may force you to consider alternative ways to keep cool.

Every house is different, so there isn't a single one-size-fits-all solution.

Look around your place with the following strategies in mind and you may better understand where heat is entering your home and adopt ways to help reduce the problem.

1 Create cross-ventilation

Make the most of air circulation by opening up windows on either side of the house. This creates a cross breeze that drastically reduces heat build-up and brings in the fresh air.

2 Add extra shade

Install awnings or shadesails, or hang shadecloth to prevent direct sunlight from entering the house, helping to keep it cool.

Plant deciduous trees near the house, or a vine to grow over a pergola, so you can take advantage of the shade in summer and sunlight in winter.

3 Tint the windows

While glass absorbs heat, window tinting helps block thermal radiation, which is responsible for increased temperatures inside the home.

Tinting is a DIY job that involves attaching a film to the surface of the glass, allowing you to enjoy large windows without excessive heat.

In winter, this insulation will also reduce heat loss from inside the house.

If installing new windows, choose double glazing for extra protection.

4 Use blackout blinds

Keeping the house dark during daylight hours helps keep out the heat. Opaque interior or exterior blinds can be easily installed to restrict the amount of light entering the house.

5 Install ceiling fans

Circulating the air in the house using fans may be enough to keep you cool, restricting air conditioner use to when it's absolutely necessary.

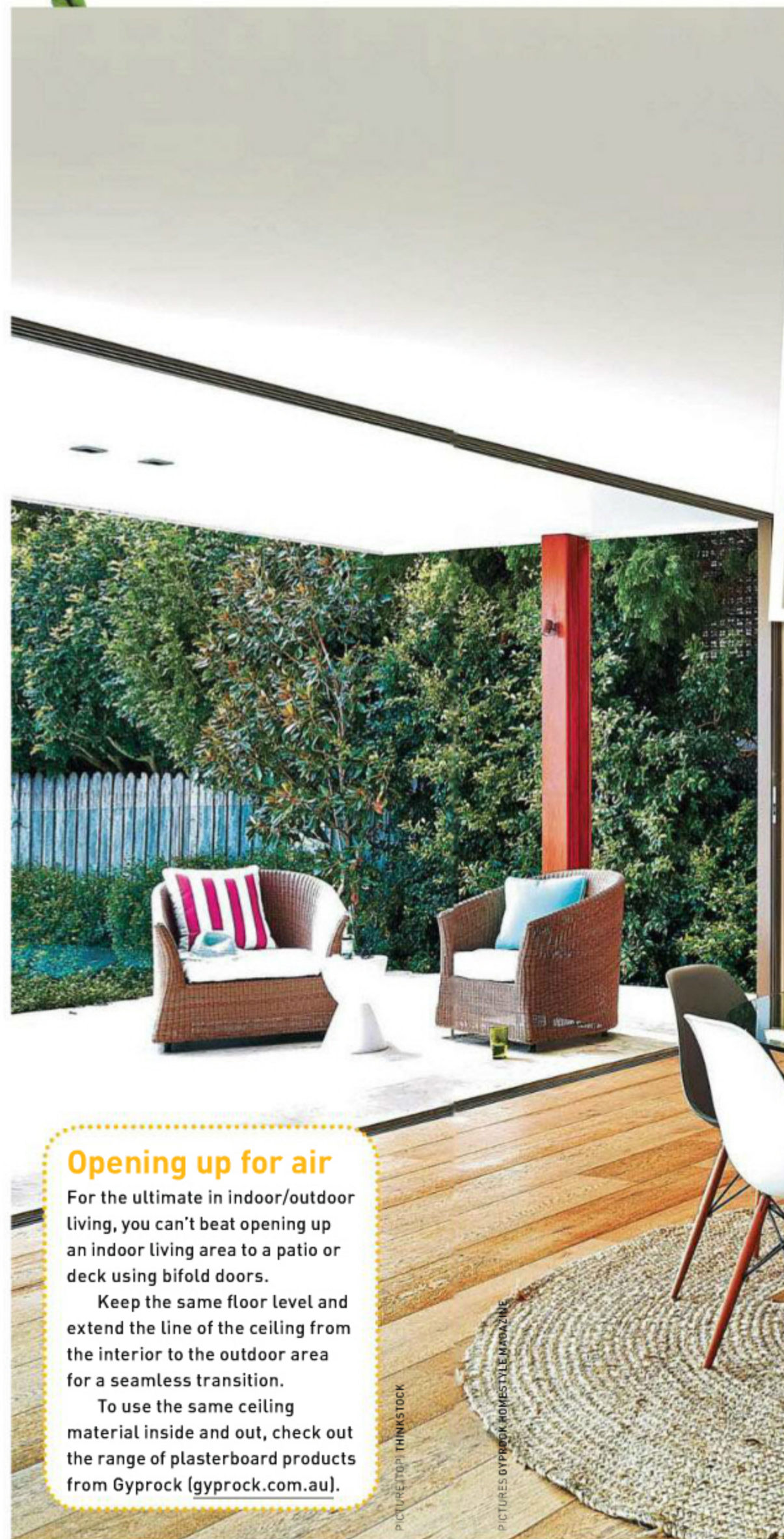
Using heat-minimisation strategies before turning on the air conditioner will reduce your power bill, as the unit won't need to work as hard. ➤

Opening up for air

For the ultimate in indoor/outdoor living, you can't beat opening up an indoor living area to a patio or deck using bifold doors.

Keep the same floor level and extend the line of the ceiling from the interior to the outdoor area for a seamless transition.

To use the same ceiling material inside and out, check out the range of plasterboard products from Gyprock (gyprock.com.au).



Make the most of cool breezes by installing bifold windows.



Link an open-plan living space to the outdoors for easy summer entertaining.

Cooling solutions



STAY COOL using an Akai 2.6kW wall-mounted air conditioner with remote control, \$399. akai.com.au



TINT GLASS DIY with Handi Home Cling-On Grey Tinted Window Film, \$22. handihome.com.au



LINE THE WALLS and ceiling with Earthwool R-2.0 Insulation, \$30 for 19m. knaufinsulation.com.au



COOL OFF using a Dynabreeze 45cm Silver Industrial Floor Fan, \$100, from Bunnings.

CIRCULATE AIR with an HPM 1200mm Stainless Steel Hang Sure Ceiling Fan, \$98. hpm.com.au

PROVIDE SHADE with a Windoware 1200 x 2100mm Retractable Outdoor Blind, \$70. windoware.com.au



SHUT OUT SUNLIGHT with a Windoware 900 x 2100mm Blockout Roller Indoor Blind, \$40.



CHILL OUT with an Arlec 12000BTU 3.5kW Portable Air Conditioner, \$499. arlec.com.au



CREATE A BREEZE with a Moretti 77cm Four-speed Tower Fan with remote, \$100, from Bunnings.

PICTURE THINKSTOCK AIR CONDITIONERS FEATURED ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN BUNNINGS WA

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For more information about Loctite products call 1800 810 280 or visit www.henkel.com.au

Adhesives for DIY jobs

Create a super-strong bond by using the best product for the surface

WORDS FRANK GARDNER

Fix furniture

When repairing a wobbly chair or any other pieces of furniture with loose timber joints, choose a PVA adhesive.

These need no mixing, they dry clear, are easy to sand and are water-based, so clean up easily.

PVAs are also fast setting, strong and versatile. Weldbond is fume-free and acts as a glue, bonding agent, sealer and primer.

It can be used on almost any surface from timber to metal and masonry.

Weldbond Universal Adhesive, \$11 for 227ml. weldbond.com



Have you ever looked for the right glue or adhesive to use on a DIY job and been baffled by the range of products? Here's a simple breakdown of what to use for a few basic jobs around the home.

Traditionally, the word glue was used to refer to bonding agents derived from natural products, while adhesives were those with synthetic bases. But today, most glues and

adhesives are synthetic-based, so the terms are interchangeable.

When purchasing an adhesive, it's best to consider the two surfaces that need to be attached, then select one that bonds with both.

The main types of adhesives include epoxies, superglues, contact adhesives, polyvinyl acetates (PVA), polyurethanes, construction adhesives and specialty adhesives. ➤

Attach skirting boards

To secure skirting, use construction adhesive. It's multipurpose and heavy duty, and comes in a tube, cartridge or pressure pack.

Construction adhesives have great gap-filling qualities, so can bond smooth or rough surfaces, including timber, plasterboard, foam, concrete and glass.

Use Sika MaxTack for skirting or shelving, as after three seconds of applied pressure it bonds strongly, so there is no need to use nails or vices.

Sika MaxTack, about \$10 for 300ml. aus.sika.com



Mend ornaments

Had the grandkids over for a visit and a much-loved ornament has been dropped and damaged? Try one of the superglues.

Superglues, or cyanoacrylates, are available in both liquid and non-drip gel form.

They cure in minutes and reach full strength in about two hours.

Use superglues for very small repairs where a strong, waterproof bond is needed, such as fixing glass, ceramics or toys, or to assemble model kits.

Tarzan's Grip Super Glue, about \$4 for 30ml, from Bunnings.



Tile walls

As they're used mostly in wet areas like bathrooms and kitchens, adhesives for wall tiles are designed to be waterproof and bond to a range of substrates like concrete, FC sheet and ply.

Wall tile adhesives come in powder form or ready-mixed, have superior flexibility and high grab to support heavy tiles.

Apply the adhesive using a notched trowel and then adhere the tiles.

Dunlop Wall Tile Adhesive, \$45 for 5.5kg. dunlopdry.com.au



Reattach laminate

The damaged edge of a laminate benchtop can be glued back down using contact adhesive.

A rubbery glue developed to mend punctures in inner tubes, it is now mainly used to attach sheet materials to particleboard like benchtops and kickboards.

Available as either a solvent or water-based type, apply it to both surfaces with a brush, then press together when tacky.

The adhesive bonds on contact, so clamps aren't needed.

Selleys Horizontal Kwik Grip, about \$22 for 1L. selleys.com.au



Cap masonry walls

Use an epoxy adhesive to cap a concrete block retaining wall, as its two-part resin and hardener system makes it one of the strongest adhesives.

A cartridge epoxy like Dunlop Builder's Bond is a high-strength, multipurpose, rapid-cure bonding and repair system.

Suitable for use on materials like brick, concrete, block and even timber, it sets stronger than concrete both indoors and out.

Dunlop Builder's Bond Epoxy, \$28 for 254ml.



Repair ceramic pots

If the corner has chipped off your favourite garden pot, you'll need a small-tubed epoxy that can be mixed manually or dispensed via a syringe with a self-mixing nozzle.

To glue the chip back on or make small repairs on metal, timber and most rigid plastics, use a two-part self-mixing epoxy like Loctite.

It consists of a resin and hardener that sets in five minutes and reaches handling strength in one hour. It is water-resistant and doesn't shrink.

Loctite Easy Repair, about \$6 for 14ml. loctite.com.au



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Assemble a barbecue

Bought a new barbie and need to put it together? Squeeze a few dabs of threadlocker on the bolt threads and the nuts won't loosen with vibration and movement, plus the parts will dismantle with normal hand tools.

These products can also be applied to bolts on outside furniture, toys and even lawnmower blades.

Use one like Loctite 243, which has improved high temperature performance, seals against leakage and prevents thread corrosion.

Loctite 243 Threadlocker Adhesive, about \$13 for 10ml. loctite.com.au



Secure decking

Exposed timber decking can cop a real beating from heat and rain, popping nails and causing boards to loosen around fastenings.

If you just re-nail the boards to the joists, the problem will occur again, so apply an adhesive like Selleys Liquid Nails first. It creates a strong bond, stopping movement and wear.

It is rubber-based and dries by solvent evaporation, and its flexibility helps make decks tight and quiet.

Selleys Liquid Nails Heavy Duty, about \$5 for 350g. selleys.com.au



Restore handrails

A deck over 1m high must have a safety balustrade. Maintenance is key, as balusters and handrails can be dangerous if neglected.

To repair a balustrade, use a fully waterproof adhesive that's suitable for timber and able to withstand temperature extremes like Sika SuperGrip.

It cures fully in just 30 minutes, forming a high-strength and watertight bond.

A polyurethane, it dries to a clear finish, ready for painting.

Sika SuperGrip 30 Mins, \$14 for 310ml. aus.sika.com



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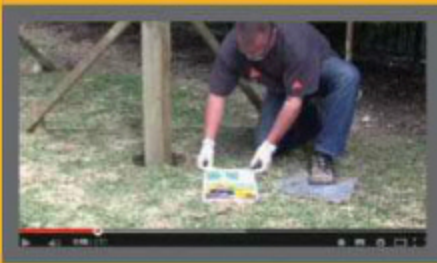
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What's new

Head instore to set yourself up to tackle those last few DIY jobs before summer ends



WATER WELL with the Nylex Foot Pedal Hose Reel, \$179, featuring a 12mm trigger gun and anti-leak connectors.



FEED PLANTS with Thrive Easy Pods All Purpose Soluble Fertiliser, \$12.95 for 400g, for no-mess nutrition.



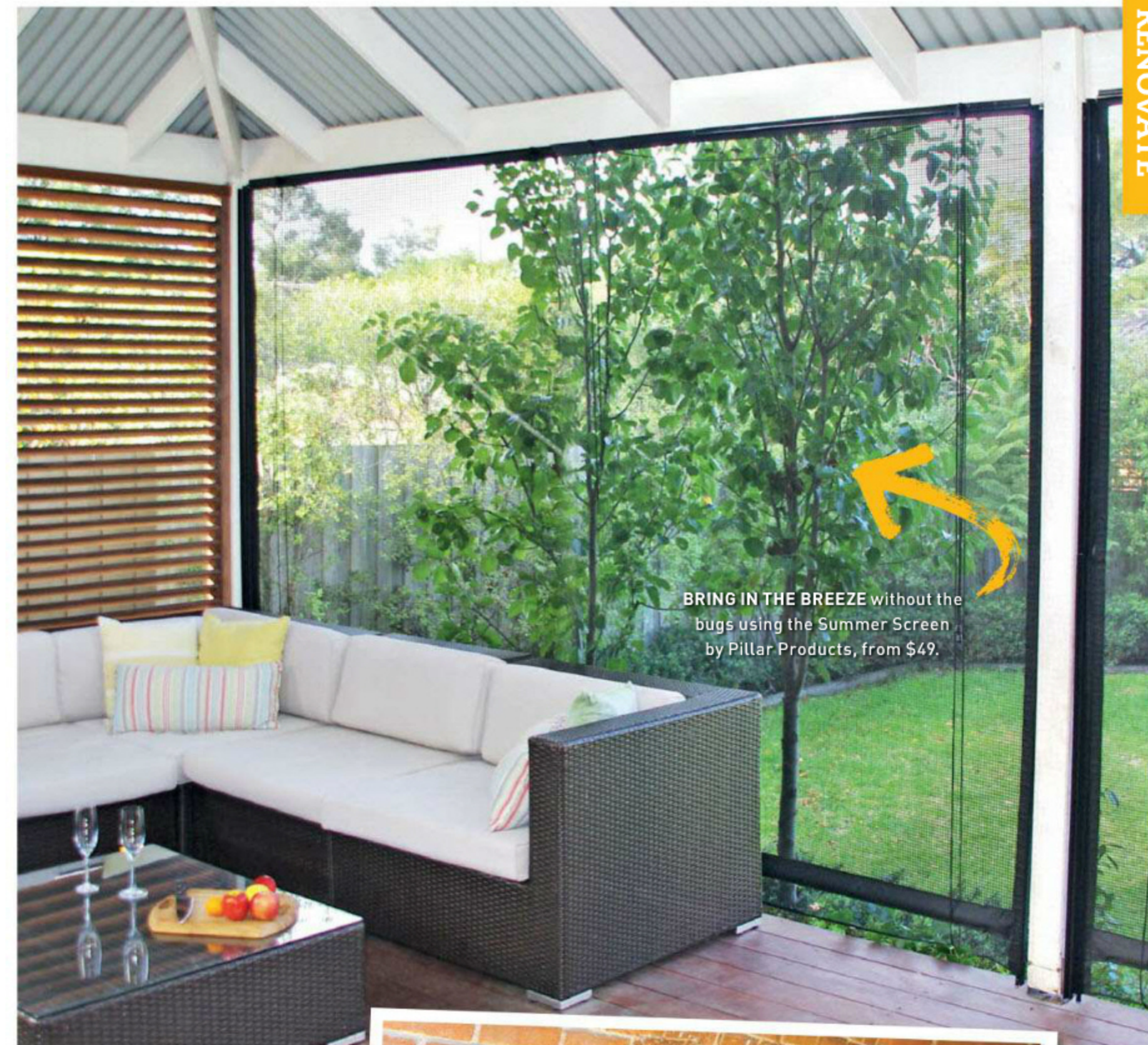
INCREASE CONTROL with the Hart Two-piece Auxiliary Handle Set, \$9.90, including a 90° and front handle.



FIX SCUFFS using Dy-Mark Touch Up Quick Dry paint with Metal Protection, \$5.95 for a 100g aerosol.



SMOOTH AND SHAPE with the Hart Xlock Files, each with an ergonomic rubber handle, ranging from \$4.50 to \$20.98.



BRING IN THE BREEZE without the bugs using the Summer Screen by Pillar Products, from \$49.



STACK IT using the 20 x 9 x 11cm Terracotta Cellarbrick, \$4.90, to create a wine rack or complete cellar.



Find it at Bunnings

Check these out

Gear up to give your place some much-needed TLC with these top garden and DIY products



FIX IT FAST without the fuss of cords using the Ozito 18V Drill and Impact Driver Lithium-ion Set, \$98.



BEAT THE HEAT with the convenient 1.83 x 5m Coolaroo Handy Exterior Fabric Shade Cloth, \$19.97.



PROTECT PAVERS with the Crommelin Sealers Wet Look Paving Sealer, \$73 for 6L, for a flawless finish.



PAINT AND PROTECT with Dulux Weathershield Low Sheen, \$72.90 for 6L, designed for Aussie conditions.



BRUSH ON British Paints 4 Seasons, \$59.90 for 6L, for a finish that won't blister, flake or peel for 15 years.



REFRESH TIMBER with Cabot's Natural Aquadeck, \$79.90 for 6L, which lasts twice as long as traditional oils.



BEAT MOULD with Taubmans Easycoat Anti-bacterial, \$54.90 for 6L, for walls and ceilings in high humidity areas.



LIGHTEN UP with a Deta Dimmable 12W LED Downlight Kit, \$29, for a flexible lighting solution to set the mood.



CLEAN UP caked-on grease, grime or garden debris with ease using the Karcher High Pressure Cleaner, \$349.



REACH IT with ease using the Gorilla Two-step Ladder, \$59, which has a tray to keep tools or paint handy.



BRIGHTEN THE NIGHT using the weather-resistant Arlec High Voltage Work Light, \$59, and adjustable tripod.



GROW GREENS and vegies in an Organic Garden Co Raised Garden Bed, \$99, for farm fresh food at home.



WORK FOR HOURS without stopping with the Ryobi One+ 18V Drill Driver Kit, \$199, including two batteries.



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ON SALE
26 FEBRUARY

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How to choose and use doors to instantly change the personality of your home.
PLUS Hang an internal door step by step.

Ceilings

Make over any room with easy ways to paint the ceiling like a pro for a flawless finish.
PLUS LED vs halogen. What's the difference?

Bathrooms

Ideas and inspiration to create a luxurious hotel-style bathroom at your place.
PLUS Storage solutions for small spaces.

PICTURE ALAMY

DECORATE

Room to play

Share the style secrets of an expert to give your kid a space they'll love

WORDS LEEANN YARE PICTURES LARNIE NICOLSON

When it comes to kids' bedrooms, you can never have too much colour.

No matter what your own style is, kids' rooms are the spaces where you can really go crazy. Using a few creative and fun ideas, you can give them an inspiring room they'll love to hang out in.

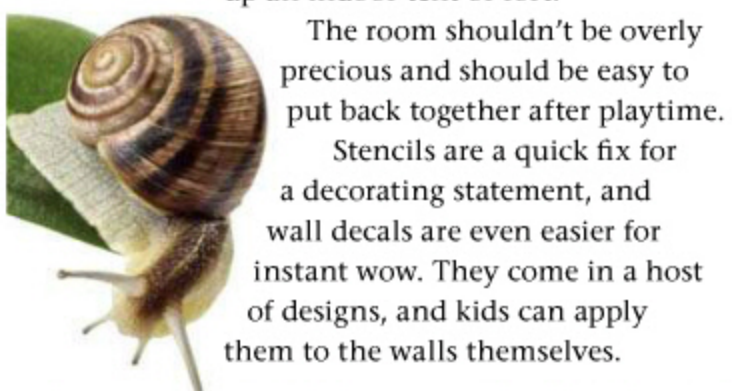
Slugs and snails

A kid's room is not just for sleeping in, it should be a space where they love to hang out, so make it comfortable.

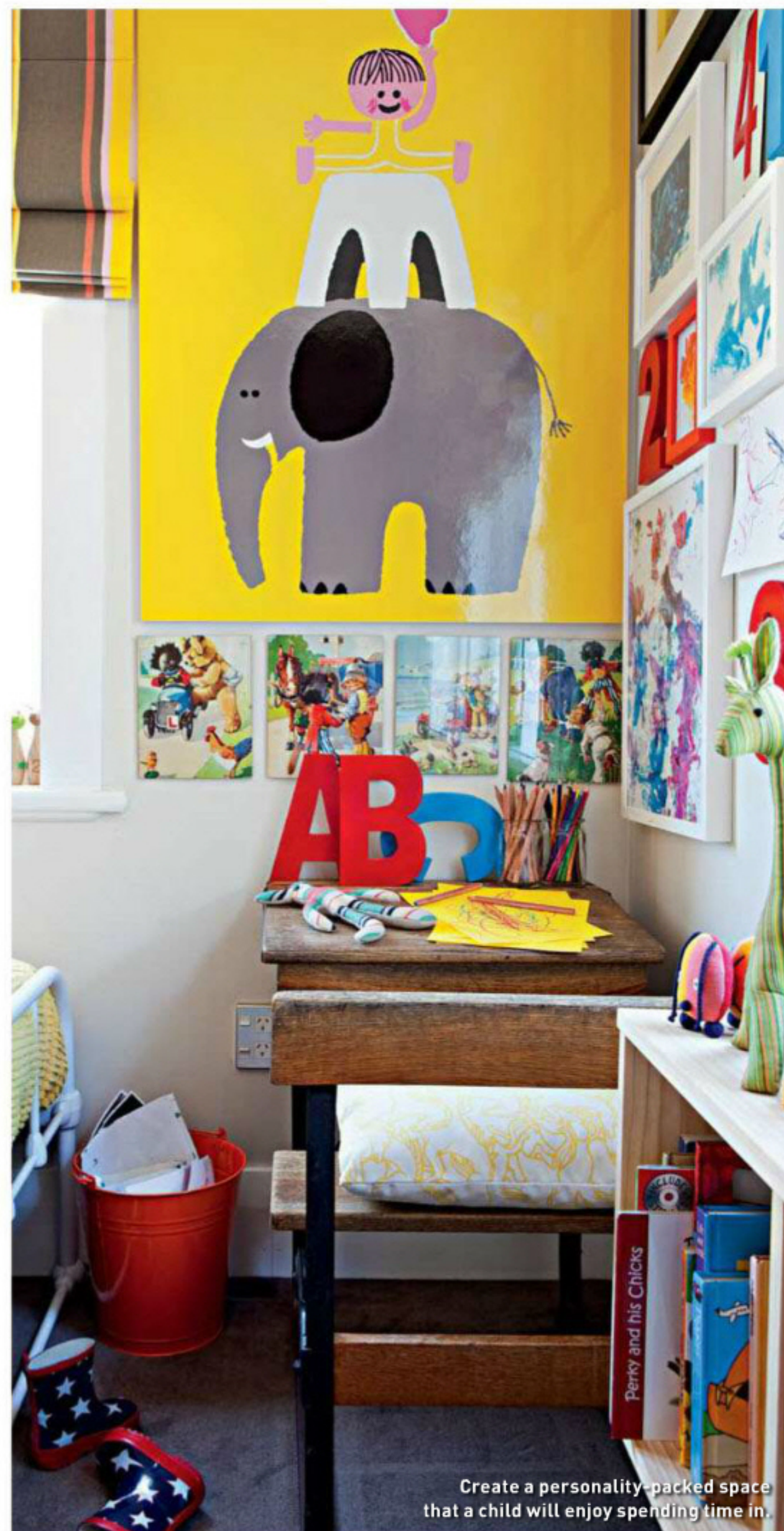
Hard floors are uber practical when it comes to keeping them clean, but soften them up with a cosy rug and a bunch of cushions they can use to play on the floor, or rustle up an indoor tent or fort.

The room shouldn't be overly precious and should be easy to put back together after playtime.

Stencils are a quick fix for a decorating statement, and wall decals are even easier for instant wow. They come in a host of designs, and kids can apply them to the walls themselves.



Add clever storage so the room can be put back together after playtime.



Create a personality-packed space that a child will enjoy spending time in.

Sugar and spice

I was never much of a pink girl as a child, but I am making up for it with a vengeance as an adult.

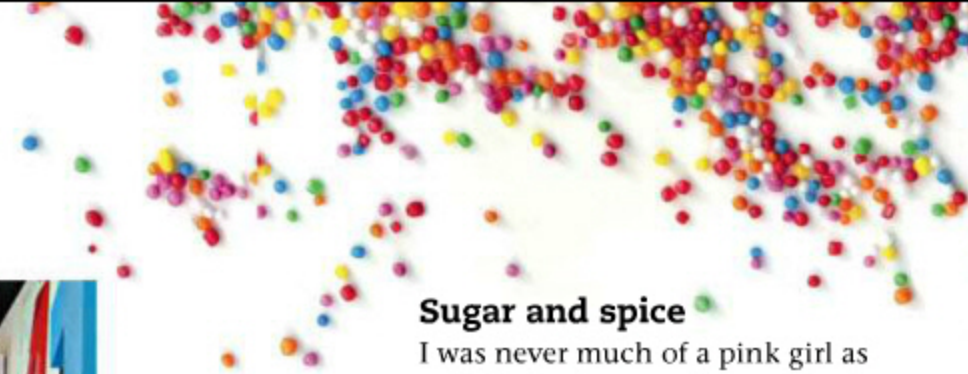
I'm so obsessed, even my sons have hot pink somewhere in their rooms! Generally speaking, most girls go through a pink-on-pink-on-pink stage, some for longer than others.

You can attack it in two ways. Embrace it and make pink the main player, or tone it right back so that it becomes just an accent.

If you go for the first option, keep the colours turned down a notch or two so it's not sickly sweet.

There are plenty of gorgeous pinks with slightly more muddy undertones that look great on walls, and then you can layer up a whole collection of pinks, from pretty pale pastel through to touches of vibrant neon.

Getting creative doesn't have to mean a huge budget. Wallpaper offcuts and sheets of wrapping paper make a great patchwork wall, while garlands, bunting and hanging paper decorations are cheap as chips.



There are no rules with a kid's room, just the extent of your ideas.



A black and white wall-hanging works well to tone down pink.

If you go down the less is more road with pink, choose a neutral backdrop to work with.

Black and white always make a great base, and can be used together in so many different ways, from solid colour-blocked walls to graphic stripes, painted furniture or even a packet of black wall decals applied randomly over a white wall.

This makes sense not only with pink, but with any bright colours your child loves that you might like to tone down and satisfy their colour cravings without having to cover all the walls.

A bedhead can be an easy way to create an eye-catching feature and embrace colour. You can pick up affordable options second-hand that a coat of paint will transform into something really cool.

Sketch a bedhead shape on the wall and use colourful washi tape to colour in the outline or the entire thing. ➤



Paint by numbers

Ask the kids what colours and patterns they like, and what they really want in their rooms, then negotiate. Give them a few realistic options, so they think they've made all the decisions.

I stay away from anything overly themed, but it's always possible to come up with solutions they'll love.

Give the green light to colour. There is nothing more inspiring than a decent dose of colour and when it comes to the rooms of youngsters, you can never have too much, so don't be scared to use bags of it.

Whether your preference is for bold and bright or soft and muted, consider using big blocks of colour.

The walls are a great place to start, but don't limit yourself there. Shelves, window frames, doors, furniture, accessories and even the ceiling can all be transformed with a coat of paint or roll of wallpaper.

Paint is cheap to buy and easy to apply DIY, so there is no excuse. Paint a door in an eye-catching tint, or use tape to mask off a few stripes.

If you want to create a pattern, grab a stencil or trace a random selection of circles.

You may only need a few sample pots to achieve something striking. ➤



Give your child what they love without sticking to just one theme.



A roll of wallpaper or coat of paint can totally transform a room.

PICTURE (TOP LEFT) THINKSTOCK



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Young guns

For older kids, keep the palette understated, as teens are known for rapid changes of taste. It's much easier to rustle up a new look on a whim with a few accessories or new duvet cover, rather than completely redecorate the walls. You can't go wrong choosing a more sophisticated colour or a wallpaper design that will take them from tweens to young adults.



Reproduced with permission from *Rooms To Love* by LeeAnn Yare and Larnie Nicolson (Penguin Group NZ, \$65).



PICTURE (TOP) THINKSTOCK

Storage solutions

Keep the clutter to a minimum in a kid's bedroom with purpose-designed furniture and wall-mounted shelves.



- Streamline a space with Kaboodle pieces, mixing and matching coloured front panels (kaboodle.com.au).
- 1 DESK AND ROLLOUT BOX, \$120, and front panel, \$28.
 - 2 STORAGE DRAWER UNIT, \$150, and panels, \$14 each.
 - 3 WARDROBE, \$189, and door panels, \$30 for two.



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

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www.handihome.com.au

Find it at Bunnings

Smart storage

Use affordable and versatile cube shelves to bring organisation to the living room, bedroom or home office

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Adequate storage is essential in any home, especially if you have a large family.

The Clever Cube Storage System is a versatile and customisable shelving solution that's ideal for any room, including kitchens, bathrooms, kids' rooms and the home office.

Compact solution

The new Clever Cube Compact Storage System is the latest affordable addition to the range and features a thinner 12mm outer wall and 270mm inner shelf width.

It comes in a larger range of sizes and configurations, plus there is a selection of Clever Cube accessories designed to fit the compact lineup to make it more versatile.



Clever Cube Compact
1 x 2, \$25, 2 x 2, \$37,
2 x 4, \$46, from Bunnings.



Original organisation ▼

The original Clever Cube range has a 38mm thick outer wall and a 330mm inner width, and is available in white PVC, white gloss and black oak. Each shelf holds up to 15kg evenly distributed.

The open shelves enable easy access to frequently used items and they are ideal for displaying ornaments, books and DVDs in a modern living room.

Clever accessories

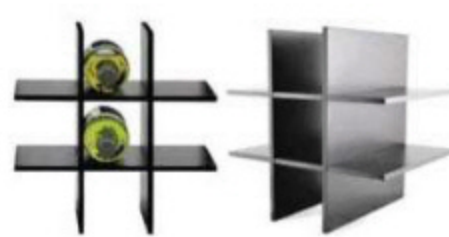
With a range of drawers, dividers and doors for both the original and the compact Clever Cube Storage System, you can customise the shelves to suit what you need to store. Accessories come in a variety of colours and materials.



Clever Cube Compact 270 x 270 x 280mm
Fabric Storage Container, \$5.



Clever Cube Compact
270 x 270 x 280mm Natural Inserts, \$16.



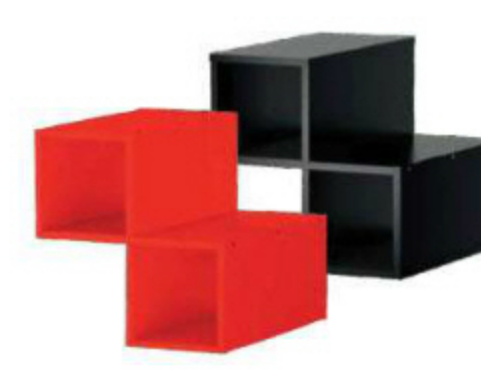
Clever Cube 330 x 270 x 330mm
Black Wine Rack Insert, \$24.



Clever Cube 330 x 330 x 370mm
Plastic Storage Container, \$5.



Clever Cube 330 x 330 x 370mm
Natural Inserts, \$20.



Clever Cube 330 x 330 x 370mm
Storage Divider, \$24.

Handyman *is on* facebook



Make a drilling guide from timber offcuts to help drill straight holes in vertical surfaces.

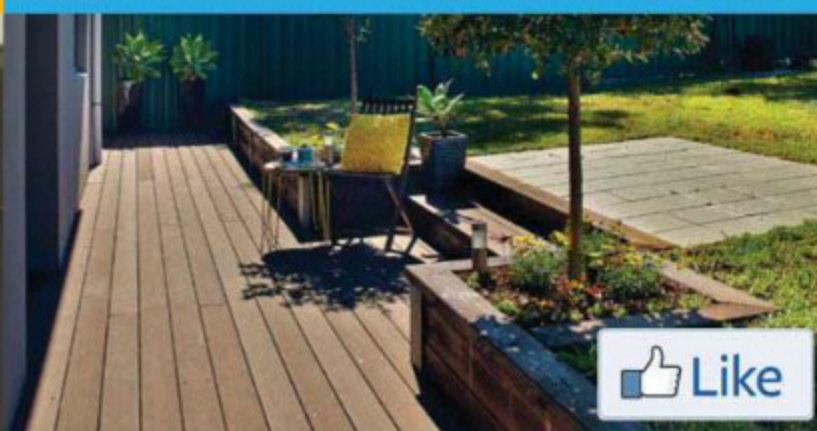
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ROPES OF STYLE

Make over homewares with
just rope and a bit of hot glue

WORDS ARTEMIS GOUROS PROJECTS GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS



The trick to getting bright and breezy beach-house style year round in any location is to add colours that evoke coastal living.

Light blue and sand tones are key elements of the look and can be used on walls and furniture, and also for homewares and accessories.

For a fast and budget-friendly way to transform a home with a beachy theme, get crafty with DIY.

Here's how to create or make over knick-knacks and homewares with rope sold at the hardware store. ➤

Open shelves

Create storage in the kitchen or an open-plan living and dining room to display ornamental items like jugs.

Turn two timber boards about 500mm long into a pair of hanging shelves joined by rope you can buy at the hardware store.

While the idea is simple, the look is limited only by your imagination, as the raw timber shelves can be painted, stained or left bare.

For this project, they were finished with a simple wood wash made from paint so the grain stayed visible.

The rope can be any colour or thickness but must be strong enough to carry the shelves when loaded.

Use a drill to make holes in the boards large enough to thread the ropes through, knotting them above and below to join the shelves.

To hang the shelving, use a stud finder to locate two adjacent studs, then drill pilot holes and secure the lashing hooks with 40mm x 8g screws.

Thread the rope hangers onto D shackles, then attach them to the lashing hooks secured to the studs.

What you need

- Two 500 x 240mm timber boards
- Drill and 12mm spade bit
- Sample pot of acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Two lengths of 10mm rope
- Two lengths of 3mm cord
- Two D shackles
- Two lashing hooks
- Masking tape
- Scissors



Display decorative knick-knacks on these open hanging shelves.

Make the hanging shelves



1 Prepare the boards

Lay the boards on a flat work surface, then mark the hole centres located 25mm from the ends and 20mm in from the front and back. Use a 12mm spade bit to drill holes in each of the four corners of the shelves.



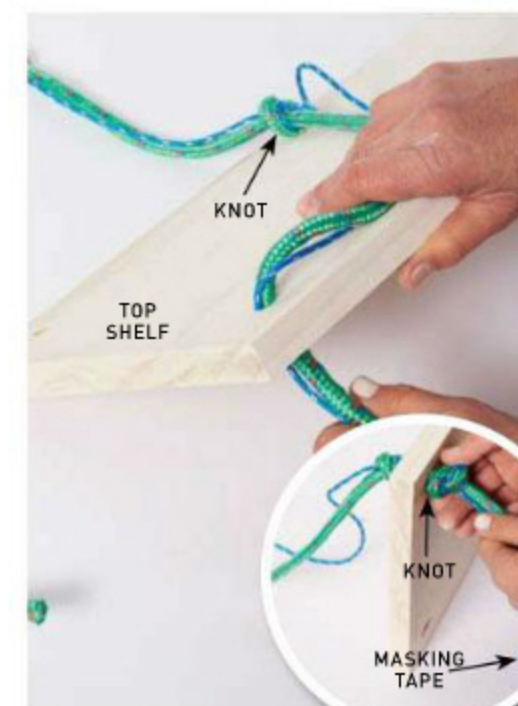
2 Paint the timber

Apply a wood wash to each side of the boards to stain instead of painting so the grain shows. Dilute four parts acrylic paint with one part water and apply the wash with a paintbrush, wiping it off with a soft cloth.



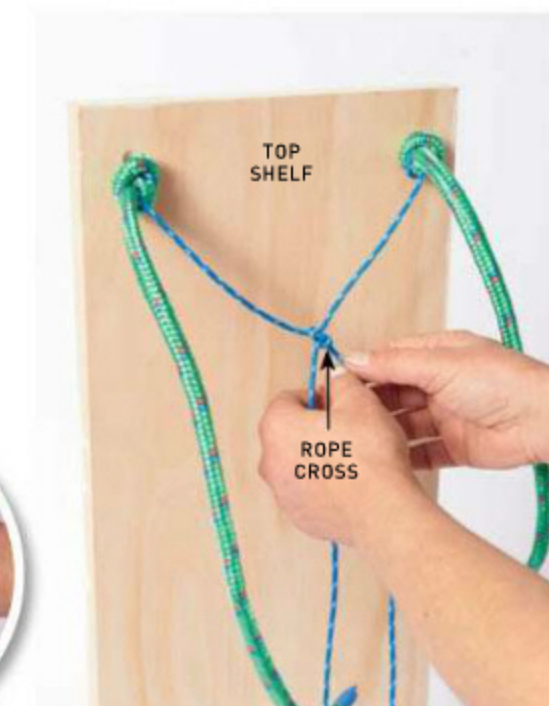
3 Make the hangers

Wrap masking tape around the rope ends. Thread a length of 3mm cord and 10mm rope through each D shackle, making hangers with 1m long tails. Tie the ropes in a half hitch knot 300mm from the ring on each tail.



4 Add the top shelf

Take the tails of one rope hanger and thread through the drilled holes on one end of a board. Knot the ropes underneath the board, pulling tightly so the tied knots sit firmly against the shelf. Repeat for the other end.



5 Tie the ropes

Take the 3mm cords of each hanger and knot them together, then tie them to the 10mm ropes to form a cross shape. Make a knot on each tail about 300mm from the knot at the base of the top shelf.



6 Finish the shelves

Thread the rope ends of each hanger through the drilled holes in the lower shelf and knot to secure, trimming the ends. To hang the shelves, attach the D shackles to lashing hooks secured to the studs. ➤

Hall mirror

Round mirrors are a great addition to a hallway but can be very expensive and too heavy to wall-mount.

To save the plasterboard and your wallet, give a lightweight mirror a rope frame and hang it up DIY.

Round flat mirrors about 400mm in diameter can be found online from craft suppliers, costing from \$20.

Choose a natural-fibre rope, buying enough for the frame and hanger. We used 8mm sisal for this project.

TIP Use any leftover rope to make or trim matching accessories such as the flower tins opposite.

What you need

- Flat round mirror
- Natural-fibre rope
- Hot glue gun

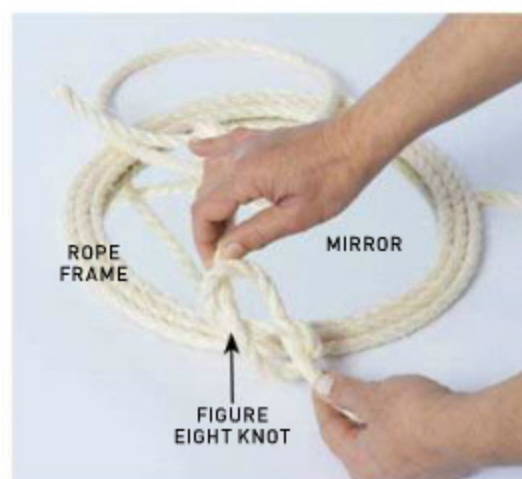


Give a plain mirror a rope frame for fast beachy style on a budget.



1 Make the frame

Measure and cut three lengths of rope to fit around the edge of the mirror in concentric circles, making a new frame. Use dabs of hot glue to attach each rope circle to the mirror face, lining up the cut ends neatly.



2 Tie the rope knots

Allow the glue to dry completely, then cut a 1m length of rope to make the mirror frame hanger. Tie a simple figure eight knot on either end of the rope, using a few dabs of hot glue to keep it in place.



3 Attach the hanger

Use the hot glue gun to secure the figure eight knots halfway down on opposite sides of the frame, with one knot covering the cut ends of the rope frame. Allow the glue to dry, trim the rope ends, then hang the mirror.



Turn empty tins into vases for cut blooms with just a coil of rope.

Flower tins

Make rope-wrapped vases for cut flowers from the garden.

Remove the lids and labels from different-sized tins of fruit, then wash thoroughly with hot, soapy water.

Attach the end of a length of rope to the base of a tin with a hot glue gun, using masking tape to hold it in position.

Wrap the rope tightly around the can, adding a dab of glue every 30mm. At the top, trim and glue down the rope.



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Take a peek inside a selection of Australia's best outbuildings from the country to the coast

WORDS AND PICTURES SIMON GRIFFITHS

Wherever you go in Australia, there's always a shed. We store things in them, people work in them, and some are old, forgotten and falling apart.

But there's always hope as modern sheds keep being built and people keep inventing new uses for old sheds.

They are as many and as varied as the population of Australia.

Shared space

No book on Australian sheds would be complete without mentioning the great work of the Men's Shed Movement, which serves to give men a space to work, and talk to like-minded people.

The Kyneton Men's Shed in Victoria may look boring from the outside, but inside it contains lots of great locals and the projects they're working on.

Walk in and you're greeted and given a tour. It's hard to have a short visit when a mug of tea is pressed into your hand and you are made to feel welcome as you meet everyone.

The shed is filled with all sorts of machinery and most men are working on projects, yakking away to each other. They all seem to have a great time, and that's what it's all about. ➤

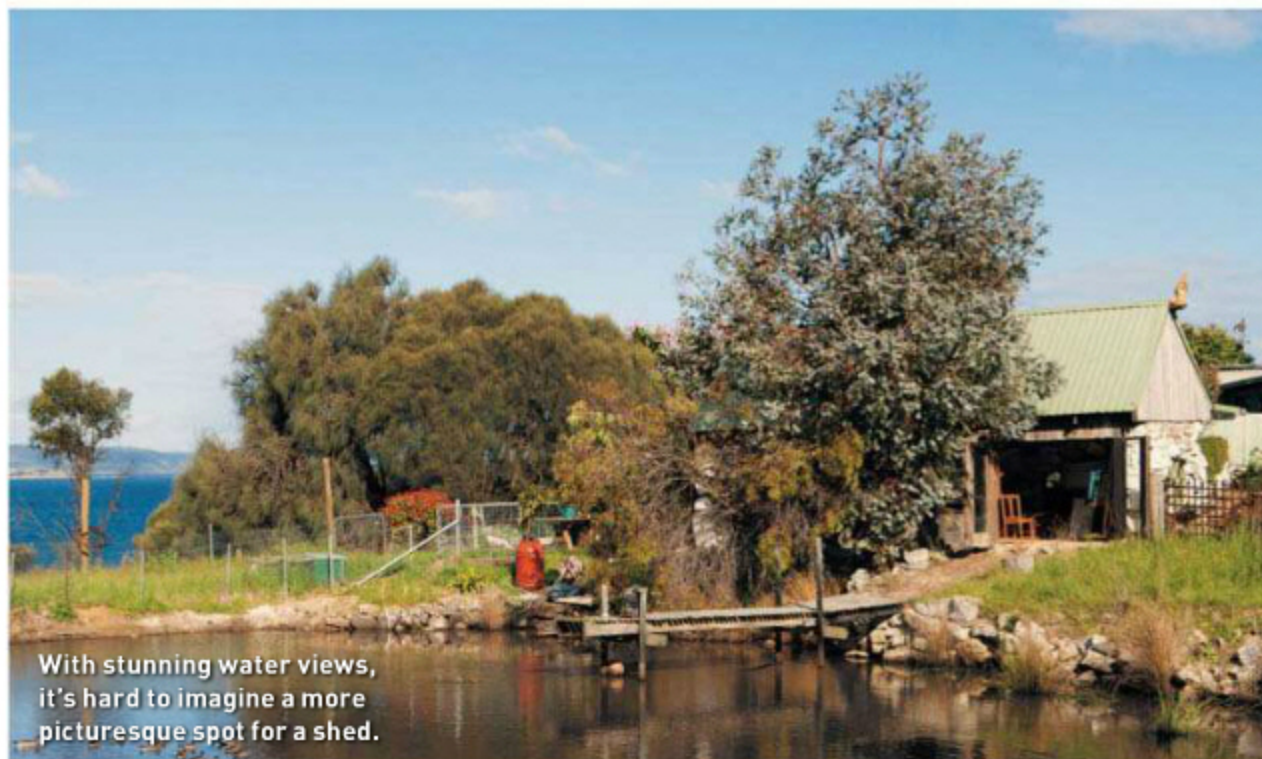


With everything you could want in the way of tools, this shed is an ideal shared space for DIY projects.

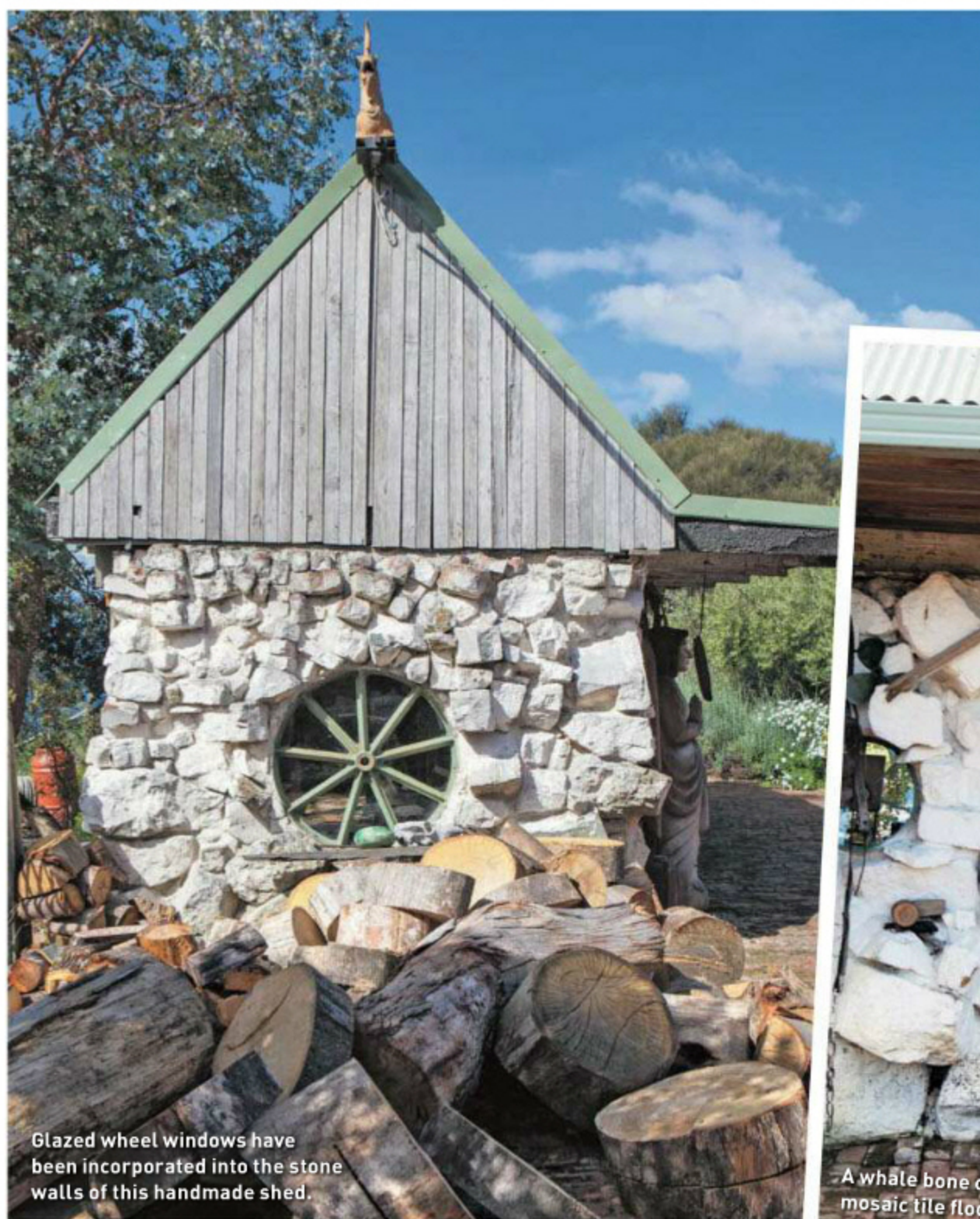
PICTURE (TOP) THINKSTOCK



The Kyneton Men's Shed is always open to visitors and there are plenty of locals to chat with over a mug of tea.



With stunning water views, it's hard to imagine a more picturesque spot for a shed.



Glazed wheel windows have been incorporated into the stone walls of this handmade shed.

Artist's retreat

Tucked away in one of the most beautiful parts of Tasmania is Ineke and Carl Souris's shed.

It started out as a stone wall that Carl was building, and morphed into a shed. Carl is a talented builder and recycler of materials, and the shed is a work of art in itself with its glazed wheel windows and mosaic floor.

A whale bone decorates the doorway and once inside, when you look up, you realise that an old boat has been built into the roof.

Everything about this place is beautiful and handmade, and the stunning water views make the shed an ideal inspirational space for Ineke to use as an art studio.

The shed is perched on a dam and a little jetty is close to the back door, where you can wander out and sit, splashing your feet in the water while you watch the family of ducks.



A whale bone over the doorway and mosaic tile floor add to the rustic look.



Beautifully decorated, this shed is used for open-air dining, whatever the weather.



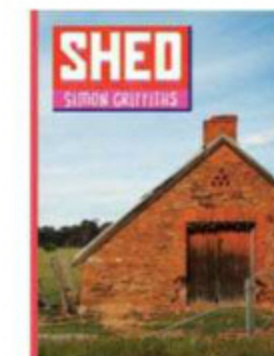
Set in a lush garden, the dining pavilion shows no sign of its previous life as an old bike shed.

New beginnings

This former school bike shed at Musk Farm in Victoria has been converted into a spectacular dining pavilion and gardener's rest space.

It has views of the garden from three sides and a smart interior, with curtains, a large dining table and comfortable cane chairs. It shows just what can be done with an old shed.

Timber shingles were used to replace the corrugated iron roof and the building now seems to disappear into the lushly planted and beautifully maintained garden. It's hard to believe this shed was once a home for bikes.



Shed by Simon Griffiths (Lantern, \$40).

REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION FROM SHED © TEXT AND PICTURES SIMON GRIFFITHS

Living on the edge

Soak up the soaring views from this revolutionary cliff-top house

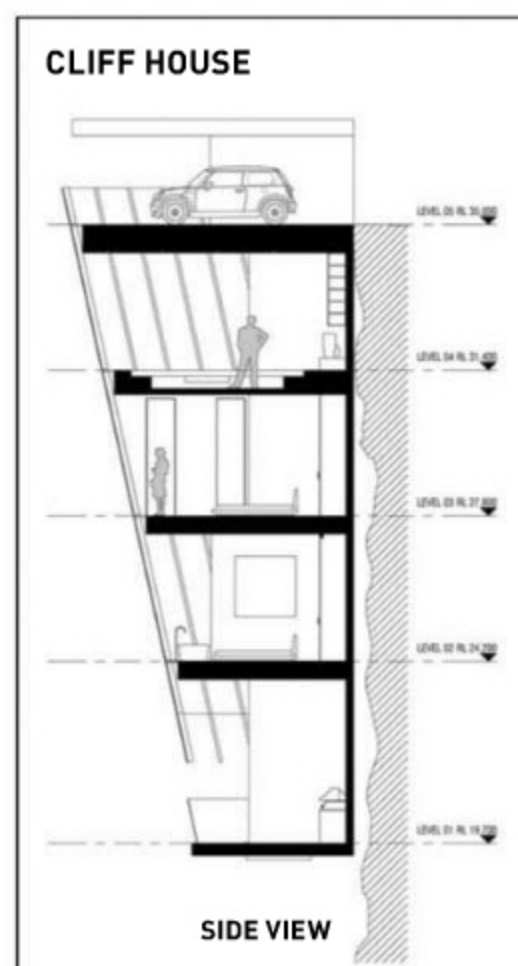
This stunning see-through building hanging off the side of a cliff certainly isn't your average three-bedroom family home.

Called Cliff House, it's a conceptual five-storey building that was designed to be suspended from a precipice on a rugged parcel of land located on the southwest coast of Victoria.

The brainchild of Modscape, an innovative modular architecture firm (modscape.com.au), it has expansive glass windows, offering incredible views over the ocean, and features three double bedrooms.

Inspired by the way barnacles cling to the hull of a ship, the house is designed to hang delicately off the cliff side rather than sit on top of it.

According to Modscape, the home is visualised as a natural extension of the cliff face, rather than an addition to the landscape, to create an absolute connection with the ocean. ➤



The modular home is designed for extremely rugged cliff-side locations.



Massive windows on three sides open the home to sensational views.

Clever construction

The Cliff House conceptual home is designed to be anchored to the cliff face with engineered steel pins.

It utilises stacked modules as well as other design and prefabrication technologies by Modscape to overcome construction challenges and expenses.

Entry to the home is through a garage on the top level, with the other four floors accessed via a central lift or winding staircase.

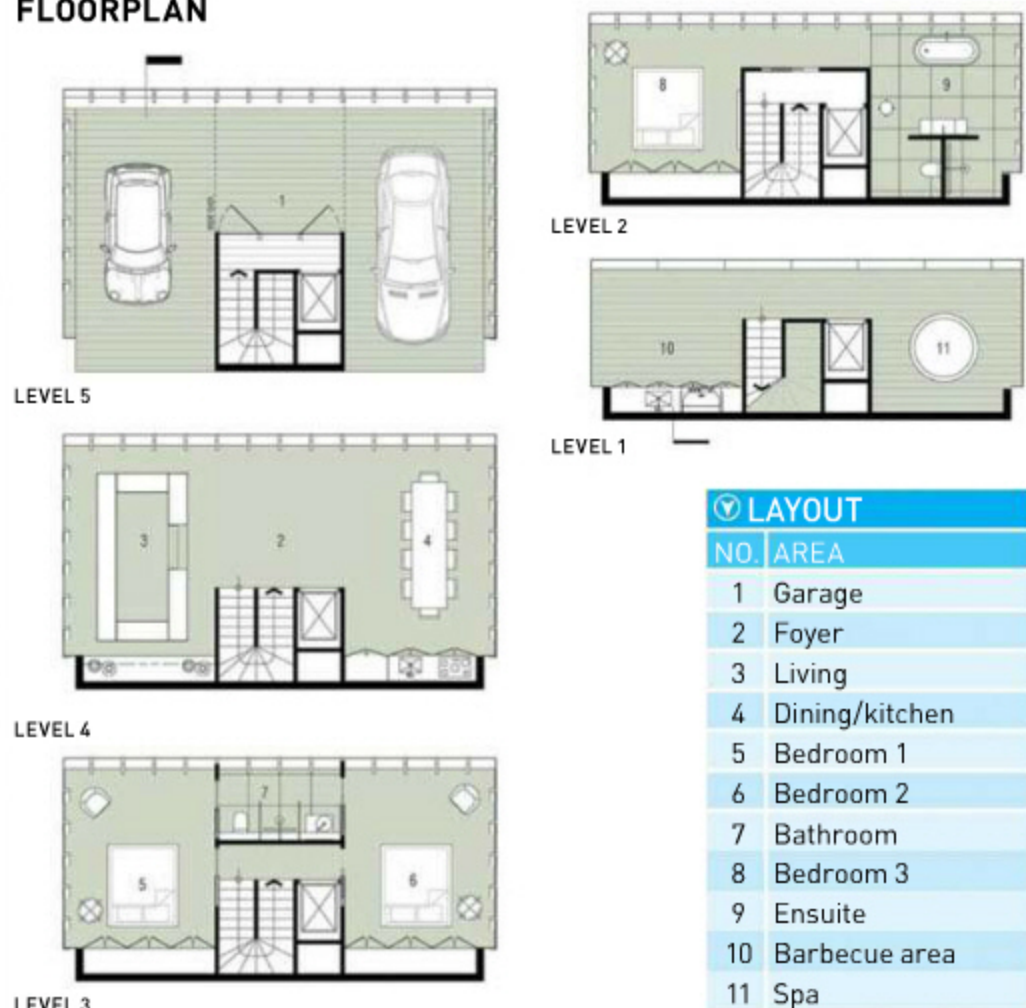
Level four has a large open-plan kitchen and living area, while level three is divided into two double bedrooms and a bathroom.

Another bedroom with ensuite is on level two, and the lowest level boasts a spa and barbecue area.

The interiors are furnished in minimalist style to ensure the views of the ocean and the unique spatial experience of the location remain the integral focal point.

With its stunning, contemporary design, Cliff House is a wonderful example of building outside the square.

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Do now

- **GROW** frangipanis to enjoy exotic and fragrant backyard flowers, page 124.
- **STORE** herbs in the freezer or preserve in vinegar for use during winter, page 128.
- **KEEP** the lawn healthy with our foolproof guide on the right way to fertilise, page 134.

This month

Pick the last blooms and fruits of the season as summer draws to a close



Flowers to sow

Get planting now for a burst of late autumn and winter blooms.

- **SPIDER FLOWER**
- **ICELAND POPPY**
- **NEMOPHILA**
- **AGERATUM**
- **VIOLA**

Vegies to grow

Start sowing for greens from eight weeks and vegies in just 12.

- **BEETROOT**
- **CARROT**
- **LETTUCES**
- **SILVERBEET**
- **SWEDE**



PICTURES: ALAMY, THINKSTOCK

Top pick

Add colour to the garden and grow gorgeous flowers for cut arrangements with the Armeria 'Bees' Collection.

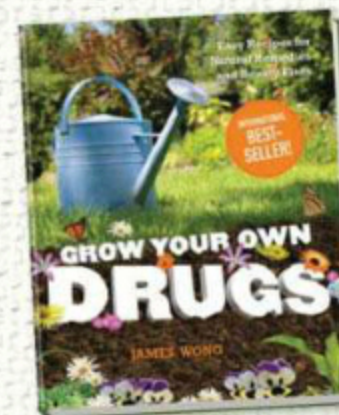
A clump-forming evergreen with stunning round blooms, armerias are great for edging and containers.

The flowers sit on tall stems and last well in vases, and come in a range of colours including salmon, lilac, pink and ruby.

Give them a position in full sun in well-drained soil and deadhead regularly for more blooms.

Dry tolerant once established, give them an occasional deep watering in periods of extended heat.

Book club



Whether you suffer from insomnia, the kids have eczema or your partner is under the weather, this fantastic guide has the remedy.

Grow Your Own Drugs (\$40, readersdigestdirect.com.au), by ethnobotanist James Wong, shows how affordable and easy it is to make your own home remedies to treat a range of everyday ailments.

Plus find out the top 100 plants to grow or buy. You'll be surprised by which ones contain the same active ingredients as many over-the-counter drugs.

It features more than 100 recipes and 150 colour photos to help you cure minor conditions the natural way by making salves, teas, creams, lozenges and more.



ARMERIA 'BEES SALMON'

Wall planter

If you're looking for an easy budget-friendly way to garden vertically, the new Mini Wall Mounted Vertical Garden, from Bunnings, comes with a watering kit and pots, \$30.

You can use it for herbs or flowers both indoors and out, as it can be mounted on most smooth surfaces. ➤



Put a cork in it

Turn wine corks into novelty DIY plant tags in just two easy steps.

Write the plant name on a cork with a permanent marker, then stick it on a stake or skewer. If you don't have

any wine corks, you can buy them from craft stores and online.

Fast, fun and budget-friendly, this is a great idea for herbs growing in pots on the windowsill.



Create cork plant tags for windowsill herbs.

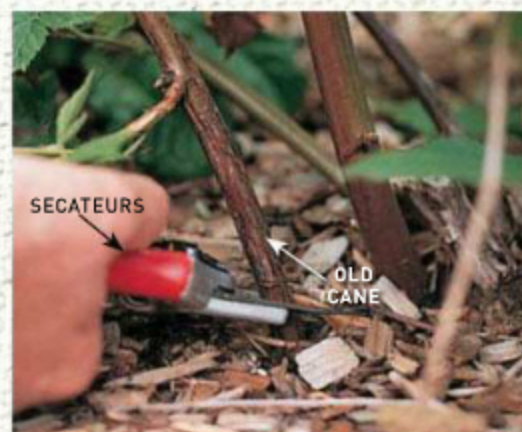
Cut back raspberries

Raspberries produce new branches from the rootstock and need to be trained on wires. On summer-fruiting varieties, these new canes will bear next year's fruit and need to be kept out of the way until the current canes have fruited and are cut back, then tied to the support.



1 Tie in the new canes

To keep the new canes separate and tidy from this year's fruiting canes, and prevent wind damage, tie them vertically into a loose bundle with garden string.



2 Cut the old canes

Once the raspberries have finished fruiting, remove the old fruiting canes at ground level, cutting them off using clean and sharp secateurs.



Eco zapping

Get in control of pests in the garden the organic way by using Eco-Neem.

A registered organic insecticide for use on ornamental plants, it works on a variety of chewing and sucking insects, including curl grubs, caterpillars, aphids, wingless grasshoppers and mites.

It's easy to use and safe for pets, lizards, birds and beneficial insects like bees.



Eco-Neem Botanical Insecticide, \$20 for 100ml. ecoorganicgarden.com.au

Prune now

Tidy summer bloomers and fruiters that have finished producing.

- STONE FRUIT TREES
- FLOWERING SHRUBS
- BOUGAINVILLEAS
- PELARGONIUMS
- ROSES



Feed now

Give roses a boost for autumn flowering and fertilise summer edibles.

- SPRING-FLOWERING CLIMBERS
- LEAFY VEGETABLES
- BERRY PLANTS
- CITRUS
- PAWPAW

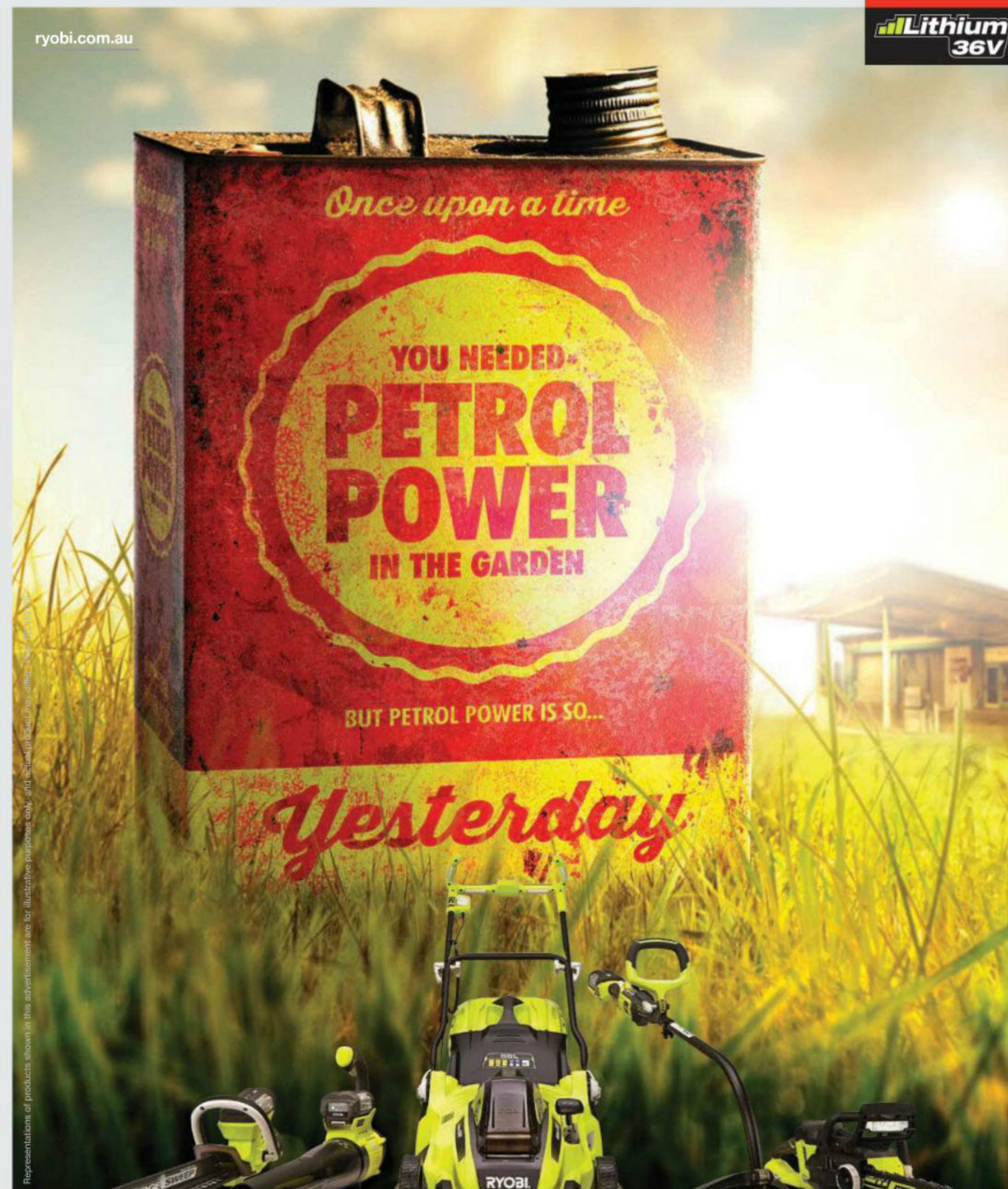


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Fabulous frangipanis

Grow these tropical trees in pots or garden beds and enjoy their exquisite fragrant flowers

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Plant a frangipani and bring a wonderful heady perfume to the garden, especially in the evening. And the long flowering period ensures you can enjoy the scent for many months.

The beautiful flowers, set against exotic, large green leaves will also add a touch of tropical splendour.

Native to South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, frangipanis (*Plumeria*) are at home in any warm climate garden and are very common in coastal suburbs.

Depending on the species, they grow into small trees from 3-6m tall with a wide umbrella-like habit that's ideal for providing shade.

There are both deciduous and evergreen species, with dwarf and semi-dwarf cultivars being suited to containers and small gardens.

To decorate the bare winter branches, use them as a support for bromeliads and orchids.

TIP Grown out of the tropics, most evergreens drop some leaves in winter.

Choose a colour

In Australia, frangipanis are sold by colour and variety, and the further north you go, the wider the choice.

Breeding has resulted in more than 350 varieties in different colour forms, including shades of pink, red, yellow, orange and purple, as well as bicolours.

The hardiest frangipani in climates like Sydney is the deciduous *Plumeria rubra* var. *acutifolia*. It bears creamy white flowers with yellow centres from late spring, and there are breeds with different-coloured centres.

The evergreen white-flowering *Plumeria obtusa*, commonly known as

'Singapore White', grows best in semi-tropical and tropical areas. Recent breeding of 'Singapore White' with other species has produced a range of colours. ➤



Plumeria Darwin 200mm Frangipani, \$23, from Bunnings.

What's in a name

Plumeria is the genus name of frangipani and pays tribute to 17th century French botanist Charles Plumier, who documented many South American plants and animals.

The common name, frangipani, was the name of an Italian perfume

that was created by the Marquis Frangipani and used to scent gloves in the 16th century.

When the frangipani flower was discovered, its fragrance reminded people of the scented gloves, which is how the flower got its name.



Pick frangipani flowers at their base and float them in a water bowl, adding candles for a captivating garden feature.

PICTURE (TOP) THINKSTOCK



How to grow

These easy-to-grow trees are also undemanding to care for.

They are happy in most soil types, even sand, as long as it is free draining, but they struggle in wet clay soils, especially during winter.

POSITION frangipanis in a spot where they will receive at least six hours of sun a day and get some protection from prevailing winds. It is also essential to protect them from frost.

WATER requirements are low. In the tropics, they survive on summer rain.

In dry summers, water established trees deeply every 3-4 weeks. Newly planted trees require weekly watering.

FEED in spring with a six month controlled-release fertiliser.

Mulch with lucerne, pea straw or sugar cane to keep the soil cool during summer. Don't apply mulch directly next to the trunk.

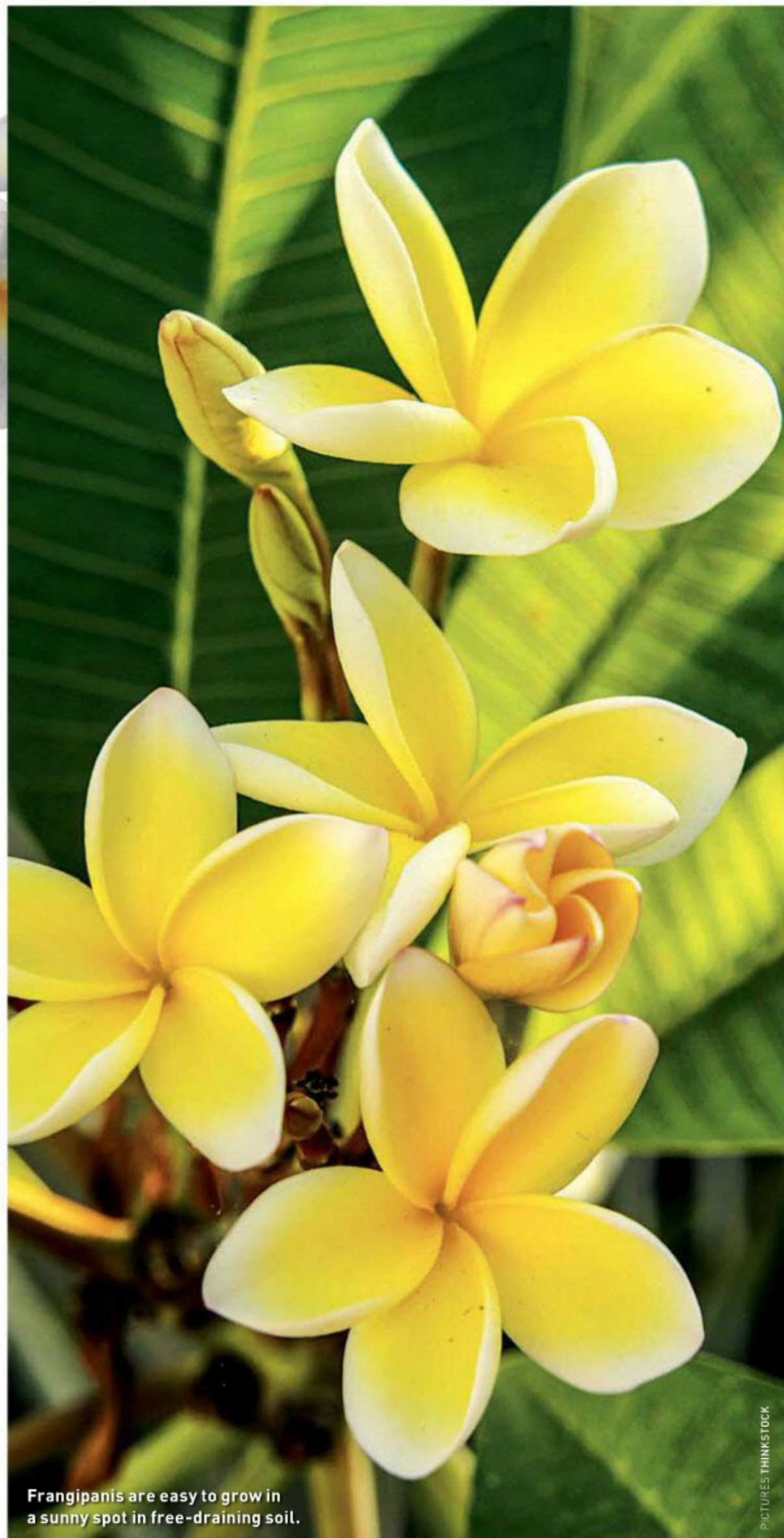
PRUNE only to remove a branch over a pathway or to contain their canopy, otherwise it's not necessary. Prune in winter when the sap flow is low.

WATCH for plumeria rust that appears as yellow, powdery pustules on the underside of leaves.

Use a fungicide to treat rust and practice good plant hygiene by raking up fallen leaves.



Eco Organic Garden Eco-Fungicide, \$18 for 500g. ecoorganicgarden.com.au



Frangipanis are easy to grow in a sunny spot in free-draining soil.

PICTURES: THINKSTOCK



Take cuttings

It's very simple to propagate frangipanis from cuttings.

While you can take large cuttings, as even 2-3m long branches will grow roots, most people start with one about 500mm in length.

The best time to take cuttings is in late winter or early spring.

Select a suitable branch and cut it from the tree with a pruning saw, wearing gloves, as the cutting will ooze a milky sap that can cause irritation to eyes and skin.

Lay the cutting on concrete or paving in the shade for at least a week to let the wound heal and then form a callus.

Pot up the cutting in a container filled with a good-quality potting mix or plant it straight into the ground where you want it to grow. Stake larger cuttings to hold them in position.

Take care not to overwater the cutting, as the base may rot. A weekly watering is sufficient until the roots develop.



Raising in pots

Frangipanis are slow growing, so they're perfect for pots on sunny balconies and courtyards.

To make sure they don't blow over, plant them in wide-based pots with good drainage and use a premium potting mix.

Water pots every 2-3 days in summer, but let the potting mix nearly dry out in winter in between waterings.

TIP Apply a controlled-release fertiliser in spring and summer.



PICTURES: (TOP) JECCA BLAKE (RIGHT) THINKSTOCK



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Preserving herbs

Enjoy summer herbs all year round by drying and freezing, plus making vinegars and sauces

Grow and preserve your own herbs for a supply of great homegrown flavour.

At this time of the year, herb beds are bursting with more produce than can be used.

But instead of wasting surplus summer herbs, harvest the whole lot.

Pick herbs before the flowers develop on warm, dry mornings after the dew has evaporated.

Use as much as you can fresh and preserve the rest for later.

It's easy to do and herbs taste better if you grow and preserve them yourself without chemical additives.

There are several methods to choose from and the one you use depends on how you plan to cook with the herbs over winter.

You can freeze, dry or infuse herbs in vinegar and oil for use in recipes and to serve with meals.

Drying

Effective herb drying relies more on abundant dry, fresh air than heat.

A well-ventilated place out of direct sunlight is ideal. In humid areas the process may be slower, and mould can be a problem.

If air-dried herbs get mouldy, use a small dehydrator instead.

Strip large-leaved herbs, such as sage and mint, from their stalks, discarding any damaged leaves.

Leave small, feathery herbs like dill and fennel on the stalks until dry.

Tarragon, bay, mint, lemon balm, lavender, rosemary and small-leaved herbs such as thyme take well to air-drying, so are ideal for beginners.

Crumble dried herbs with your fingers, discarding the hard leaf stalks and midribs, and store in small airtight containers.

If you use clear glass jars, store them in a dark place so the herbs don't lose their colour.

Drying herbs concentrates the flavours, so you don't need to use as much when you're cooking.

A good rule of thumb is to substitute one teaspoon of dried herbs for one tablespoon of fresh.



Hanging herbs in bunches is the simplest way to air-dry them.

Herb-drying techniques

Here are four easy ways to dry common culinary herbs at home.

1 TIE SPRIGS in small, loose bunches, as big ones can go mouldy and develop discoloured leaves.

Hang the bunches, leaves down, wrapped loosely in thin paper bags to keep out dust and catch any falling leaves or seeds. Avoid plastic bags, as they don't allow airflow.

Allow 7-10 days for full drying, depending on leaf size and humidity. Herbs are dry when the crushed leaves sound like crisp cornflakes.

For the seeds of herbs and spices such as coriander, caraway, parsley and fennel, harvest them

when the seed heads are mostly brown, cutting the stem as long as possible.

2 MAKE A RACK by stretching muslin, cheesecloth or netting over a timber frame, then secure. Space individual sprigs or leaves on the rack and put it in a warm, airy spot out of direct sun.

Turn the sprigs often so they dry evenly, which should take 2-3 days.

3 STRIP THE LEAVES of herbs such as sage, mint, rosemary and parsley from their stalks. Spread them on a tray covered in muslin and put in an oven set to the lowest temperature, as high heat will diminish fragrant essential oils.

Leave the door ajar so moisture can escape and turn the leaves after 30 minutes so they dry evenly, which takes about an hour. Turn off the heat and leave them in the oven until cool.

4 USE THE MICROWAVE for drying small quantities of herbs. Separate the leaves from the stems, rinse if necessary and allow to air-dry.

Put the leaves on paper towel in a single layer on a microwave-safe plate. Top with paper towel and microwave on high for one minute.

Watch the herbs and stop the microwave if you smell them burning. If needed, continue heating the herbs in 30-second bursts until dry. ➤



For use in soups or casseroles, freeze herbs in an ice-cube tray.

Freezing

A good way to retain the colour and flavour of herbs is to freeze them.

Freezing is a particularly suitable storage method for culinary herbs with very fine leaves or a very high moisture content, and for those that lose their taste when dried.

Good candidates for freezing include fennel and dill, tarragon, chives, parsley, chervil and basil.

FOR SMALL QUANTITIES of fresh herbs or to add to wet dishes, such as soups, casseroles and risottos, freeze them in ice-cube trays.

Rinse the herbs under cold water, then finely chop them. Put one tablespoon into each segment of the

ice-cube tray, add a little water, then place the tray in the freezer.

When the cubes are frozen, put them in a labelled plastic bag or container and they'll keep for months.

FOR LARGE QUANTITIES of fresh herbs or to use in recipes that won't benefit from the extra water from the melted ice, freeze whole bunches of herbs.

Rinse the herbs under cold water, pat dry with paper towel and tie loosely together. Seal the bunch in a labelled plastic bag and freeze.

The frozen herbs will become quite brittle, so scrunch the bag with your hand to break the leaves into pieces before using them.

Chop summer herbs and freeze in a small container for winter use.

Herb vinegars

Vinegars infused with homegrown herbs are a tasty addition to recipes and salad dressings. To retain the flavour, store herb vinegars in a cool, dark place. Wine vinegars vary greatly in price and quality, so buy the best you can afford.

Rice vinegar with coriander

3 fresh kaffir lime leaves
4 slices galangal, each 5mm thick
2 cloves garlic
15-20 fresh coriander leaves
1 cup rice wine vinegar

① **BRUISE** the lime leaves, galangal and garlic by hitting them with the flat of a knife. Put in a clean 250ml bottle with the coriander leaves, then pour in the vinegar.

② **LEAVE** for 3-4 days to allow the flavours to develop.

Fennel and saffron vinegar

4 sprigs fresh fennel leaves
2-3 whole dried chillies
2 cloves garlic
¼ teaspoon fennel seeds
Pinch of saffron
2 cups white wine vinegar

① **PUT** the fennel leaves, dried chillies, garlic, fennel seeds and saffron in a clean 500ml bottle, then pour in the vinegar.

② **LEAVE** for 3-4 days to allow the flavours to develop.

Tarragon and red wine vinegar

15 fresh tarragon leaves
10 juniper berries
2 cups red wine vinegar

① **BRUISE** the tarragon leaves and berries by hitting them with the flat of a knife, then put in a clean 500ml bottle and pour in the vinegar.

② **LEAVE** for 3-4 days to allow the flavours to develop.

Infuse store-bought vinegars with fresh herbs for a gourmet addition to recipes.

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Fertiliser blunders

Avoid making these four common mistakes to grow greener grass with fewer weeds

Follow a few basic feeding guidelines for a lush lawn.

When it comes to fertilising your lawn, it's surprisingly easy to get it wrong.

Lots of homeowners and turf professionals alike tend to make the same four fertiliser no-nos.

If you avoid making these mistakes, you'll be rewarded with greener grass, have fewer weeds and save money.

1 Failing to test the soil

To bring grass back to life, first have the soil tested. Think of it as getting a check-up for your lawn.

The test results will help determine what type of fertiliser you should use and how often to apply it.

Take 10-12 random soil samples from the lawn to a depth of 80-100mm, making sure there is no vegetation or excessive root mass in the samples.

Combine the samples, then put a cupful in a plastic bag and send it off for testing. You can search online for labs that test backyard soil.

A soil test measures nutrients like phosphorus, needed for good root development, and potassium, which remedies environmental stresses.

It also reveals the pH level. Soil with a neutral or slightly acidic pH from 6-7.2 is ideal. If it's too low or high, fertiliser may not work well.

If the pH is too high, treat the lawn with iron sulphate or sulphur, but if it is very low, apply lime.

The test results may recommend adjustments to correct nutrient or pH issues, so it's best to test annually until the problems are corrected.

Once tested, look after your lawn accordingly. If any future issues arise, retest in early spring before it comes out of dormancy, but not after fertilising.

Some nurseries provide testing and advice on improving soil health. Soil pH meters and DIY test kits can also be bought from hardware stores.



Testing the soil will reveal what type of fertiliser you need to apply.

2 Applying too much

Fertilising more than four times a year is overkill. Once or twice a year is usually adequate.

If you apply too much fertiliser, especially where the soil is sandy, a fair amount of it will leach through the soil and eventually make its way into groundwater, wetlands, lakes and streams.

Lawn grasses only need a certain quantity of food. Overfertilising soil with nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium makes lawn grasses weak and more susceptible to disease.



Too much fertiliser can burn the foliage or cause a build-up of thatch, which will ultimately choke the lawn.

It also means that you'll be mowing more frequently than necessary, resulting in excessive soil compaction, plus exhaust and noise pollution, not to mention wear and tear on the lawnmower. ➤

3 Feeding at the wrong time

If you fertilise once a year, apply it in early autumn. This is when your lawn is at its hungriest and will respond best to the nutrients it receives.

Fertilising at this time will help replenish food reserves after a long, stressful year of growing, and before the harshness of winter sets in.

For a biannual dose, apply it around the middle of April, when it will act as a second helping of food going into winter.

A third application can be added in the middle of spring and can be combined with a crabgrass preventer.

If you feel a fourth application is necessary, do it midsummer, but avoid fertilising when it is hot and humid, as it can harm the lawn. You can use an organic fertiliser, which is more lawn-friendly in hot weather.

In the spring, apply just enough fertiliser to help green up the lawn, about half of the normal amount should be sufficient.

Even without it, your lawn will grow quickly when the temperatures become consistently higher.

Grass grows fastest in the late spring and early summer, so don't promote even more growth at this time by fertilising.



4 Using it carelessly

Fertiliser is a valuable tool in keeping a lawn healthy, dense and green, but it can also create environmental concerns if not used responsibly.

Take care when using it so it doesn't get washed off your lawn into the street. As well as helping our environment by using less

fertiliser, we can do even more by ensuring it stays where it's intended.

Never apply any type of fertiliser close to wetlands, rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. Heavy nutrient loads in these bodies of water will create excessive weed growth and algae blooms. Stay at least 2m away from water when applying fertiliser.

After fertilising, sweep up and collect what remains on hard surfaces, such as the driveway, or rain will wash it into water features and storm drains.

Using organic fertiliser is an option. It helps feed the lawn by stimulating microbial activity in the soil, creating a healthier medium in which the grass can grow.

Organic fertilisers can also improve the structure of the soil and increase moisture retention. Try Yates Dynamic Lifter Organic Lawn Food.



PICTURES THINKSTOCK

Dos and don'ts ▼

- ✓ **TEST** the soil before fertilising.
- ✓ **USE** the test results to choose the right fertiliser.
- ✓ **SPEND** time accurately measuring the size of your lawn.
- ✓ **TRY** an organic type of fertiliser during the hot summer months.
- ✓ **BUY** a quality fertiliser spreader that best fits your needs.
- ✓ **CALIBRATE** the spreader to make sure you apply the right amount.
- ✓ **ENSURE** that the spreader is well maintained.
- ✓ **KEEP** records of what and how much you apply, and when.
- ✗ **TEST** the soil after applying fertiliser to the lawn.
- ✗ **GUESS** how much fertiliser you need and what setting to use.
- ✗ **USE** a drop spreader on big lawns.
- ✗ **SPREAD** fertiliser on the lawn in hot and humid weather.
- ✗ **FEED** the lawn more than four times a year.
- ✗ **USE** liquid fertiliser.
- ✗ **APPLY** phosphorus unless the soil test indicates a deficiency.
- ✗ **FERTILISE** near any bodies of water, or on hard surfaces or frozen ground.

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WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

WHEELS

They can be single or triple, with pneumatic being best for garden use. Go for puncture-proof, gel-filled tyres.

HANDLES

These can be either dual, hoop, pram or P type, with some trolleys featuring a combination.

WHEEL GUARDS

They provide protection when carrying bags by preventing them getting caught in the tyre or rubbing on it.

TOE PLATE

This lifts and carries the load, and the wider and deeper the plate is, the larger the load it can handle.

The Toplift P-Nose Heavy Duty Trolley, with 250kg capacity, is ideal for garden use, \$129.



Move a large pot quickly and easily by strapping it onto a hand trolley.

Take steps ▼

With a bit of effort, you'll be able to convince a regular trolley to go up or down steps, but if you want to do so safely and with ease, then a tri-wheeled stair-climbing trolley is the best option.

With a 250kg load capacity, the Westmix Large Stair Climber, \$179, can handle just about any moving task.

At 1.5m tall and over 60cm wide, it can take on larger loads with ease.

The guards on the rails avoid damage to the load and it features an in-built heavy-webbing ratchet strap so your load stays firmly on the trolley.



When it comes to moving stuff, whether it's a pile of soil or mulch, bags of compost or a large pot, there's the hard way to do it and the easy way.

Attempting to carry a large object in your arms or making multiple trips is the hard way. Using a wheelbarrow or hand trolley and letting the magic of leverage make light and safe work of heavy tasks is the easy way.

The wheelbarrow is a masterpiece of simple ingenuity. It was first widely used in China almost 2000 years ago, and the design has changed very little in all this time.

Wheelbarrows are also more than just a vessel for carrying a load. The tray is ideal to use for mixing

wet or dry materials, such as a batch of concrete or a blend of your own compost or soil mix.

The hand trolley, or hand truck, is for single-purpose use and is a relative newcomer, taking the form we know during the Industrial Revolution.

So when do you grab the hand trolley over the wheelbarrow, or vice versa? While there are times when both will get the job done safely and efficiently, like moving bagged items, each has specific tasks that it does best. **WHEELBARROWS** can transport loose loads, wet or dry, such as soil, sand, mulch, concrete, rocks and bricks.

HAND TROLLEYS are designed for large or heavy single-item loads like a statue, large pot or garden bench.

Hand trolley safety

The key to using a hand trolley safely is to make sure you never exceed the load rating and check that the area you'll be travelling through is clear of obstructions.

- **SLIDE** the toe plate as far under the load as possible.
- **BALANCE** the load evenly on the toe plate so it is not weighted to one side.
- **AVOID** top-heavy loads or where the centre of gravity is above the handles.
- **STRAP** tall loads to the trolley.
- **TRAVEL** forwards unless you are going up steps or a ramp.
- **KEEP** both hands on the handles at all times when moving a load.
- **LOAD** your trolley in a way that doesn't restrict your vision. ➤



Wheelbarrow safety

Before filling a wheelbarrow, make sure the tyre is fully inflated and don't use one that's missing any bolts or has bent legs, handles or stays.

For timber-handled barrows, ensure the handles are not split or damaged.

■ **ENSURE** the area you'll be wheeling through is clear of obstructions such as rocks or large sticks.

■ **AVOID** overloading a wheelbarrow by weight or volume.

■ **LOAD** the wheelbarrow tray so the weight is over the wheel and biased towards the front of the tray, but evenly distributed to the left and right.

■ **KEEP** the load low and never try to move a wheelbarrow that you can't see over or around, and don't carry a load that protrudes from the sides.

■ **LIFT** the wheelbarrow using your legs, not your back.

■ **WALK** forwards with the barrow in front of you, don't drag it backwards.

■ **USE** extra care with unstable loads such as concrete or large rubble, as they can shift position and very easily overbalance the barrow.

■ **LET** a barrow go if it starts tipping over, don't try to pull it back.

Leverage allows you to lift a heavy load, but you won't be able to support it once it tips and you've lost the advantage of that leverage.

■ **EMPTY** loads slowly and maintain a firm grip as you do so.

Ramp it up ▼

Negotiating steps with a wheelbarrow can be daunting for even the most experienced barrow-hand.

Temporary ramps are the safest way to overcome the problem, but setting them up properly can take time. This single folding ramp from Silvan Selecta, \$99, is the simple answer (silvan.com.au).

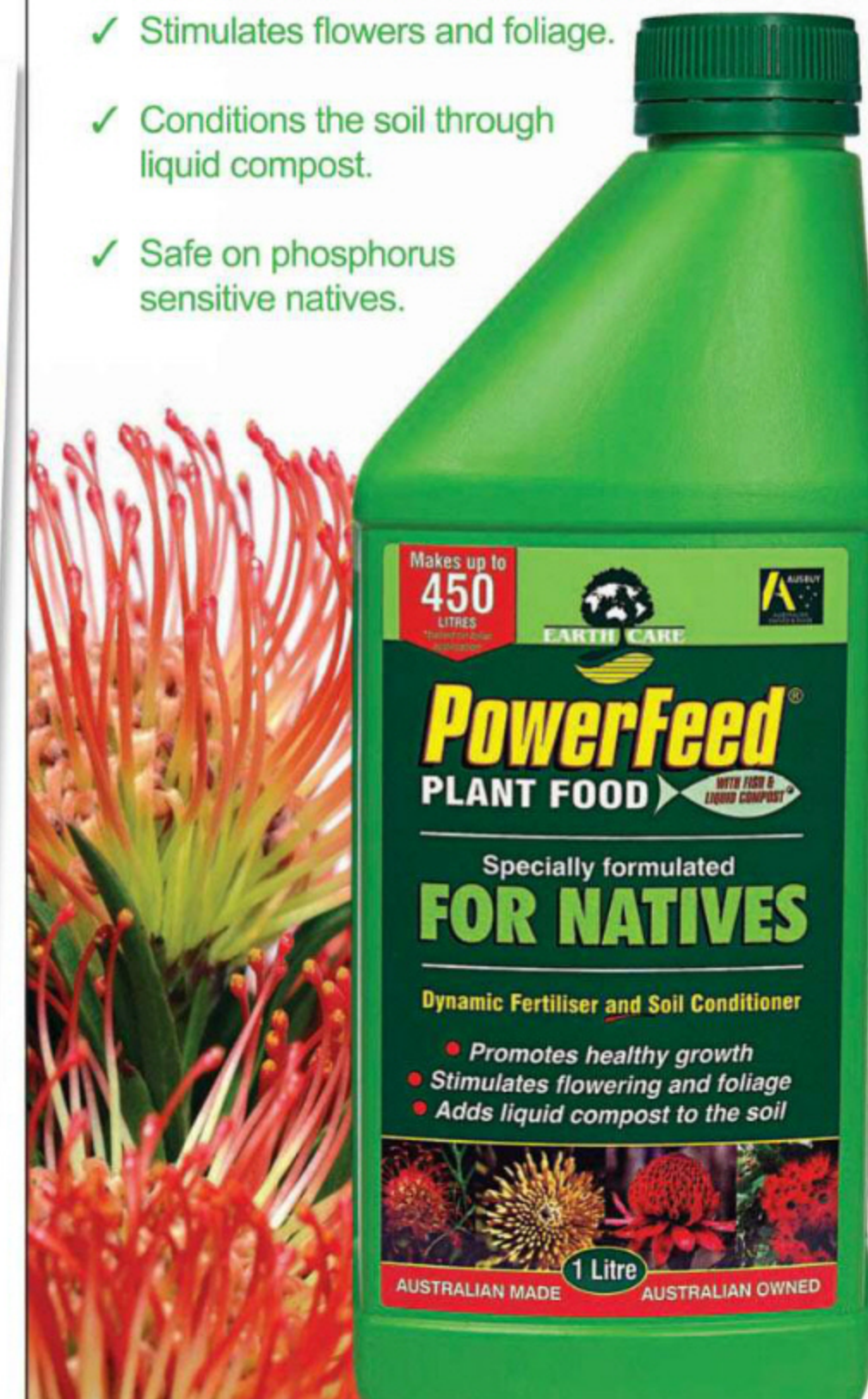
With a load capacity of up to 175kg, yet weighing only 8kg, it can be set up in seconds to give you a sturdy 2.2m long wheelbarrow or access ramp.



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Backyard lighting

Find it at Bunnings

Add DIY lighting to highlight features and improve access so you can enjoy the garden all year round

There are so many different types of garden lighting that all it takes to create ambience after dark is a little imagination.

A typical house has a spotlight attached to the fascia to light the yard. While this is ideal for getting clothes off the line after dark, it does little to create atmosphere when entertaining.

To make the most of your outdoor spaces, first devise a lighting plan, considering options such as where you need illumination for cooking and eating, as well as which garden features you'd like to highlight.

There are multiple ways to create a dramatic and effective lighting scheme, and most can be done completely DIY without a tradie.



Creative lighting turns landscape features into garden showpieces.

Installing low-voltage cable and lights

Add a spotlight connected to a transformer to the garden to uplight a tree, creating a feature.

TIP It's safer to have power turned off at the powerpoint until each connection is complete.



1 INSTALL THE TRANSFORMER and attach the cable, turning the power on to check connections as you go. Choose the position for the light and open the cable connector.



2 MAKE THE CONNECTION by pressing the cable onto the spiked pins so they show through the top. If the light isn't working, you haven't made a strong connection, so spike the cables again.



3 SET UP THE LIGHT by securing the connector lid over the spiked cable. Position the spotlight in the garden, checking it at night to ensure the beam is aimed at the right spot.

PICTURE (TOP) THINKSTOCK

What's on this February

D.I.Y. workshops

Saturday 31 January Home organisation	Saturday 14 February Kitchen, bathroom and laundry
Sunday 1 February Home organisation	Sunday 15 February Kitchen, bathroom and laundry
Saturday 7 February Kitchen, bathroom and laundry	Saturday 21 February Basic D.I.Y.
Sunday 8 February Kitchen, bathroom and laundry	Sunday 22 February Basic D.I.Y.

Our workshops are held every weekend at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm. For specific topics, ask instore or go to bunnings.com.au. 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.

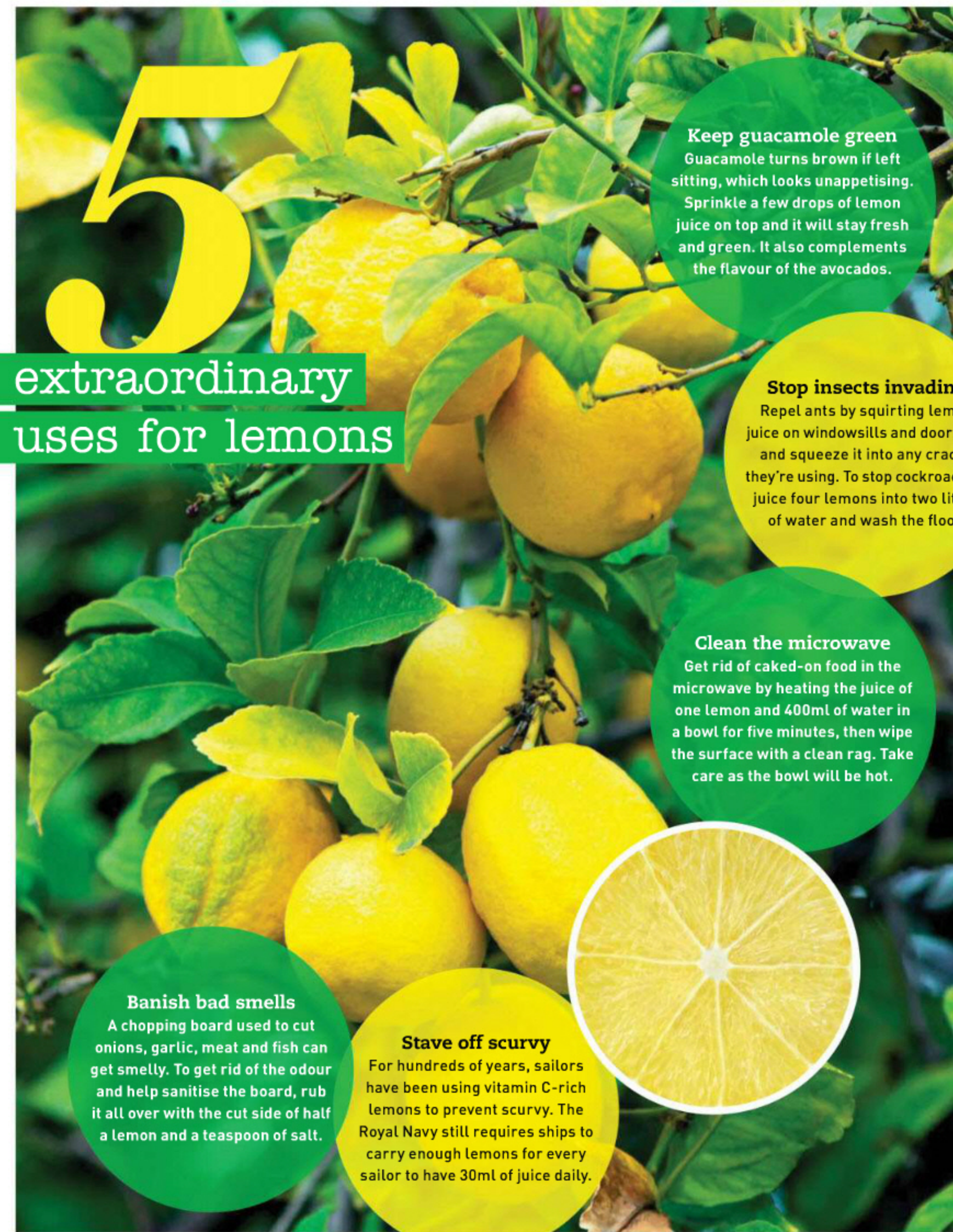
Kids' D.I.Y. workshops

Saturday 31 January Art class
Sunday 1 February Art class
Saturday 7 February Wall art
Sunday 8 February Game makers
Saturday 14 February Valentine's Day
Sunday 15 February Decorator
Saturday 21 February Chinese New Year
Sunday 22 February Fun mosaics



For more information on other instore events or to book, call (03) 8831 9777 or visit bunnings.com.au

BUNNINGS
warehouse



5 extraordinary uses for lemons

Keep guacamole green
Guacamole turns brown if left sitting, which looks unappetising. Sprinkle a few drops of lemon juice on top and it will stay fresh and green. It also complements the flavour of the avocados.

Stop insects invading
Repel ants by squirting lemon juice on windowsills and doorsills, and squeeze it into any cracks they're using. To stop cockroaches, juice four lemons into two litres of water and wash the floor.

Clean the microwave
Get rid of caked-on food in the microwave by heating the juice of one lemon and 400ml of water in a bowl for five minutes, then wipe the surface with a clean rag. Take care as the bowl will be hot.

Banish bad smells
A chopping board used to cut onions, garlic, meat and fish can get smelly. To get rid of the odour and help sanitise the board, rub it all over with the cut side of half a lemon and a teaspoon of salt.

Stave off scurvy
For hundreds of years, sailors have been using vitamin C-rich lemons to prevent scurvy. The Royal Navy still requires ships to carry enough lemons for every sailor to have 30ml of juice daily.



PICTURES THINKSTOCK



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