

AUSTRALIAN HANDYMAN JULY 2015 • EASY WAYS TO UPDATE YOUR KITCHEN • HANG A DOOR • GROW ROSES • 10 PAINT TIPS • PEGBOARD PROJECTS • INSTALL A FRONT FENCE • WORM FARMING

26 PAGES OF KITCHEN DESIGN + DIY

SPECIAL SECTION

AUSTRALIAN

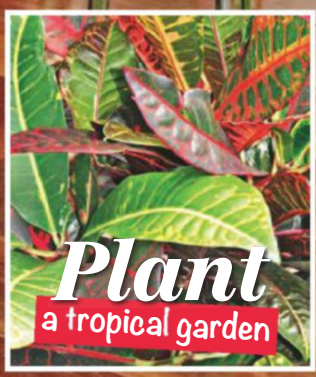
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JULY ISSUE



124



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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES KNOWLER

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to *Handyman* p82

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GET THE LOOK

LOVE THE COVER?

To design a fun family kitchen, team bold colours with white cabinetry

PICTURE JAMES KNOWLER



For functionality in a family kitchen, you need lots of bench space with seating, plus plenty of easy-to-access storage.

This kitchen was designed around the vibrant green splashback and features an oversized island with seating and storage.

With a poured concrete benchtop and vivid colours, the kitchen is fun and eclectic but practical.



Bellini Black Fascia Canopy 90cm Rangehood, \$393.
belliniappliances.com.au



Highgrove Pea Case 6mm Glass Splashback, \$397 per sqm.
highgroveglass.com.au



Bellini Gas Cooktop and Electric Oven Package, \$693.



Methven Minimalist Goose Square Gooseneck Sink Mixer, \$331.
methven.com/au



Benzer 23cm French Blue Gourmet Round 4L Casserole with Lid, \$169.
victoriasbasement.com.au

Charles Ghost Transparent Green Mid Stool, \$290.
spacefurniture.com.au

Tarkett 1.754sqm Vibrant Sydney Blue Laminate Flooring, \$53. tarkett.com.au

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THIS ISSUE



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After



Before



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

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The filter is neatly hidden beneath the sink.



EDITOR'S LETTER



Looking at before and after photos is something I always enjoy doing. It's often hard to believe it's the same place.

Take for example the two kitchens featured in this issue of *Handyman*, starting on page 54. They weren't offensive, but they weren't exactly inspiring either, and their renovations have brought them bang up to date.

It proves what a difference can be made with just a little imagination and some grunt work. It's all about looking at what exists and seeing if any of it can be retained, and what works and what doesn't.

And of course, you have to think about your finances. On a tight budget, a surface refresh can make a great impact. But if there's more wiggle room, you can go for a full makeover.

First impressions

Another amazing transformation in this issue is the house on page 84.

A standard red brick semi has been given a new personality with

just a front fence and landscaping. Easily done in a weekend, this has given the house massive street appeal.

Our step-by-step instructions show you how you can do this and add lots of oomph to your front yard.

Paint transformations

The easiest and most cost-effective way to transform a space is with paint.

In our feature on page 34, you can see how the same room can be given three different colour schemes to create three different moods.

This fast facelift is another easy-to-DIY job that you can do in just a few days. We also share tips to help you get a professional finish.

Be inspired, we're here to help.

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL

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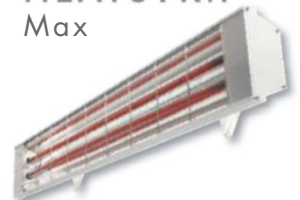
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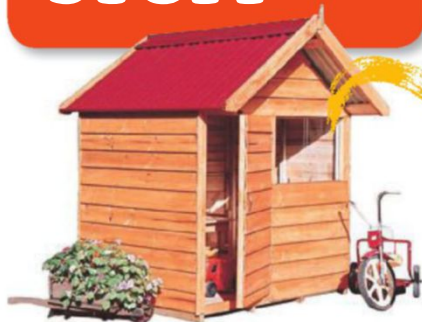
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HANDY STUFF



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Give kids their own space where they can let their imagination run wild with a Cedar Shed Industries Playshop Cubby, \$946 (cedarshedind.com). Measuring 1.5 x 1.2 x 1.9m, it has easy-to-assemble pre-made panels and the hardware is included.



Rock 'n' roll

Get them excited about helping out in the garden with a Gardena Plastic Wheelbarrow with Tools, \$39. With interchangeable spade, rake or broom heads, the handle can be attached to the side of the 7kg wheelbarrow for easy transportation when moving it. gardena.com.au

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Entertain the kids and yourself during the school break with these fun ideas

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



TIP

Go for self-watering hanging baskets on the cubby in case the kids forget to water the plants.

Lure the littlies outdoors with a cubbyhouse.

Buried treasure

Add the fun of the beach to the backyard with the My First Garden Sandpit, \$45 (myfirstgarden.com.au). The BlueScope Steel pit measures 110 x 110 x 21cm and needs no tools or screws to assemble.



Garden buddy

Bring to life a quirky friend to watch over the garden with a Wippers Surfer Gnome Kit, \$20. The 28cm high gnome comes with five bright paints, a brush and an activity book. > wippers.com.au



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Posy pillow

Brighten up your little girl's room with the floral-inspired Amara Breakfast Cushion, \$32. Printed on cotton sateen, it features appliqué and embroidery detail with piped edging. The pillow is 30 x 40cm and has a removable cover for washing. designerschoice.com.au



Chalk it up

Let your little princess loose to draw to her heart's content with the Boyle Craftwood House with Blackboard, \$20 (boyleindustries.com.au). Pretty it up by painting it in pink with White Knight Squirts Spray Paint, about \$7 for 310g (whiteknightpaints.com.au).

Trinket trunk

Keep your creative kid engaged with the Wood Worx Jewellery Box Kit, about \$15. Easy to assemble, it includes wooden pieces, stencils, paints, stickers and gems to design a jewellery box. colorific.com.au



Flutter flare

String up Roomates Butterfly Ball Lights, \$9 (kmart.com.au), to brighten up the bedroom. LED battery operated, the string measures 225cm long and is ideal for when your child outgrows a night-light but doesn't like to go to sleep in total darkness.



Tweet tube

Slip storage into your daughter's space with the Roomates Bird Toy Storage Hamper, \$10. Collapsible and able to hold 5kg, the polyester hamper is 48cm high and 43cm in diameter. kmart.com.au





Garden glow

Hang a few vibrant Classic 8cm Honey Pot Glass Tealight Holders, \$3 each, from trees in the garden to add colour and a warm glow. The decorative candle holder is available in yellow, blue, red and green, weighs 200g and has a sturdy metal handle.

bunnings.com.au



Create 'n' wait

Sculpt at home with Boyle Air Drying Clay, about \$8 for 500g (boyleindustries.com.au). Available in either terracotta or white, the clay becomes as hard as earthenware in 24 hours without baking in a kiln. It's fine grained for detail work and sticks to wood, ceramic, glass and plastic.



Finger fun

Get messy with the kids and spend an afternoon painting up a storm with Boyle Crafty Fingers Finger Paint, \$9. Easy to wash off, these water-based paints are non-toxic and quick drying. The set of six 35ml vivid colours can be used on paper, cardboard and fabric.

boyleindustries.com.au

TIP

Safely secure lanterns or tea-light holders with cable ties on sturdy tree branches.



Customise a store-bought glass lantern with coloured pens.



Tactile tiles

Encourage budding little artists with the Mandala Art Mosaic Picture Frame Kit, \$18 (mandalaart.com.au). It includes an MDF picture frame base, vitreous glass tiles, a pattern guide, acrylic glue, white grout and a grouting sponge, plus plastic gloves.



Colour it

Available in a range of 12 bright colours, Pentel Paint Markers, about \$6 each, are ideal for decorating outdoor lanterns. The permanent cellulose-based paint markers have a bullet tip and can be used on wood, glass, thick card or metal.

officeworks.com.au

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BUYER'S GUIDE

DRILL BITS

Brick buster

Featuring an asymmetrical flute for fast removal of debris, the Kango Straight Shank Masonry 5mm Drill Bit, \$5, is designed for heavy duty use in hammer drills and is 85mm in length.



Spot on

Make precise holes fast with the Crafright 200mm three-piece Auger Drill Bit Set, \$9. The 8, 10 and 12mm carbon steel bits have rotating blades to remove waste material as you go.



Double duty

Speed up a renovation by creating pilot and countersunk holes in one go with the P&N Quickbit TCT Countersink, \$31. Use it to prep cement sheet, timber, blueboard and plastic.



Pick the right bit for your drill to make holes in everything from glass to metal and timber

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT PICTURE STUART SCOTT

Glass guru

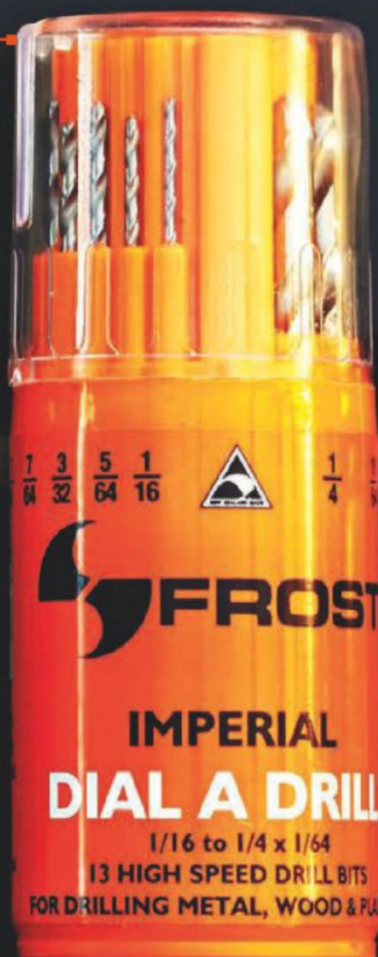
Carbide tipped for durability, the Ryobi Four-pack Glass and Tile Bits, \$10, make renovating the bathroom or kitchen easy. The pack includes $\frac{1}{8}$ ", $\frac{3}{16}$ ", $\frac{1}{4}$ " and $\frac{5}{16}$ " bits.

All rounder

Invest in a Frost 13-piece Imperial High Speed Steel Drill Bit Set, \$26. The high speed steel bits are designed for general purpose and are also available in a metric option.

Wood borer

Designed to cut through timber four times faster than standard bits, the Irwin 14mm Speedbor Blue Groove Spade Bit, \$9, has a curved scoop to optimise control and scrap removal.



COLOUR IT GREEN

Revitalise your home using bold paint shades and eye-catching accessories

WORDS NICK BANKS



APPLYING A WALL STICKER

- ✦ **CHOOSE** a wall sticker made of a material that won't damage the walls, peel off at the edges or fade.
- ✦ **CLEAN** the surface of any dirt or dust, ensuring the wall is completely dry before applying the sticker.
- ✦ **IDENTIFY** exactly where you want the stickers to go by lining them up on the wall, then use masking tape to temporarily secure them in place.
- ✦ **PEEL** off the pieces of backing paper to attach the stickers to the wall.
- ✦ **USE** a credit card to smooth the surface and remove any air bubbles, then finish off with a soft cloth.

A coat of green turns an obtrusive bathroom into a feature wall. **RIGHT** Mix and match accessories in different shades of green.

Found in abundance in nature, the colour green symbolises growth, balance and harmony. While deemed a restful shade, it is also said to renew energy.

It is often overlooked when it comes to interiors, as large swathes of green can be overwhelming if not done right.

But, with a huge range of shades to choose from, green is a versatile colour. You can use it to liven up a blank room or to create a sense of calm in a busier space. ➤



The human eye can distinguish more shades of green than any other colour

PICTURES AUSTRAL

DIY TIP

Give plain white walls in any room an instant colour boost with an easy-to-install and fun sticker.

Mood improver

As there are so many natural shades of green around us outdoors, it is an ideal colour choice for interiors.

Studies have shown that a green environment can reduce fatigue, as it induces the least strain on the eyes.

With a focus on the moods that different colours inspire, designers have increasingly used green paint, prints and accents to create a sense of wellbeing in living spaces.

Use white and mint green to create a crisp and fresh colour scheme for both the bedroom and bathroom.

 Share your colour transformation
Post a pic on Instagram and tag it #HMCcolourit



GET THE LOOK



Replica Xavier Pauchard Bar Stool in Green, \$99. replicafurniture.com.au



Ovela Dining Armchair Eames Replica, \$79 for two. kogan.com/au



Anne-Claire 60cm Petit Soft Crochet Pear Beanbag, \$340. au.amara.com



Solid Timber Log Stool in White, \$399. urbancouture.com.au

MARVELLOUS IDEA

RACING GREEN

Taubmans Endure Low Sheen Interior, \$86 for 4L. taubmans.com.au



The Wall Sticker Company World Map, \$90. thewallstickercompany.com.au



Green is the colour of the lucky Irish shamrock and the gemstone jade, which is considered sacred in Asia

Choices galore

There is a near-endless range of greens to select from, all of which have their own associations.

Khaki and colonial greens offer an older, more classic feel, while forest

and moss greens are perfect for rooms that look out onto gardens.

Softer greens, such as seafoam and mint, are ideal for bathrooms, and blue-green teal is an uplifting shade that will brighten up a gloomy space. ●



DESIGN TIP

Basswood and white pine are the easiest woods to carve for beginners, and both offer a fine grain.

Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* was the inspiration for this piece.



Paintbrush art

Be inspired to make your own upcycled artworks by these amazing re-creations of famous paintings

WORDS NICK BANKS

Carved in intricate detail, with brush hairs serving as long gowns, these quirky copies of old works of art are actually made from recycled paintbrushes.

They've been produced by artist Rebecca Szeto, who was motivated to copy female figures from paintings by Old Masters Johannes Vermeer and Diego Velázquez, among others.

Rebecca carves and paints her own used brushes to produce these one-offs.

'I use humble mass-produced, end-of-life materials, inspired by my experience as a faux finisher,' she says.



These Paintbrush Portraits pay homage to the works of the Old Masters.



Turning old paintbrushes into works of art is the ultimate in upcycling.



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A woman with curly hair, wearing a red tank top and a pink headscarf, is painting a wall green with a roller. The wall is partially painted green, and the rest is white. The text '10 tips for a perfect paint job' is overlaid on the white part of the wall. The number '10' is large and green, with the roller positioned as if it's just finished painting the '0'. The word 'tips' is in a green outline font, and 'for a perfect paint job' is in a bold black font.

10 tips for a perfect paint job

Follow this advice from the pros
to get a smooth, clean finish



1 Roll paint along the edges for a consistent texture

Corners and areas next to trim that are painted only with a brush have a noticeably different texture than the surrounding rolled-on paint.

To ensure the finished texture will be consistent, brush on the paint, then roll it out with an 80mm roller.

Roll as close as you can to the edges of these areas without bumping the adjacent wall or getting any paint on the trim. Work in sections, brushing the paint on and then rolling it out.



2 Let the paint dry, then cut the tape off

When you have finished painting, make sure you don't just rip off the masking tape around the trim.

Paint forms a film between the wall and the tape, and removing it tears pieces of dried paint off the wall. So before pulling off the tape, cut it loose.

Wait at least 24 hours for the paint to completely dry, then use a sharp utility knife to slice through the film.

Start in an inconspicuous area to make sure the paint is hard enough to slice cleanly. As you cut the film, pull away the tape at a 45° angle.



3 Banish mess when doing a paint job

The plastic-wrapped case that holds bottles of water makes an ideal holder for your paint cans, trays and brushes. Sloshed or dripped paint won't then spill onto a drop sheet and get tracked all over the house.

4

Repair any cracks or holes with filler

It can be easier just to start painting right away when beginning a room makeover, but for a perfect job it is important to prep the walls first.

Using a quick-drying, all-purpose filler, like Earl's Multifill, about \$22, will do the job (timbermate.com.au). For a smooth finish, wet the palette knife before spreading the filler.



5

Use a small sanding sponge for the trim

Sanding trim between coats of paint is the key to an ultra-smooth finish.

But instead of reaching for the sandpaper, use a sanding sponge. These conform to the shape of the trim and get into spaces sandpaper can't reach.

They also apply an even amount of pressure to knock down rough spots over the entire surface. ➤



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6 Paint the trim before the walls and ceiling

Professional painters usually follow a certain order when decorating a room. They paint the trim first, then the ceiling and the walls.

This is because it's quicker and easier to apply masking tape to the trim than to tape off the walls.

When painting the trim, you don't have to be neat. Just concentrate on getting a smooth finish on the wood. Don't worry if the trim paint gets slopped onto the walls, as you'll cover it later when painting the walls.

Once the trim is completely covered and left to dry for at least 24 hours, mask it off with painter's tape. Now you can focus on painting the ceiling, then the walls.

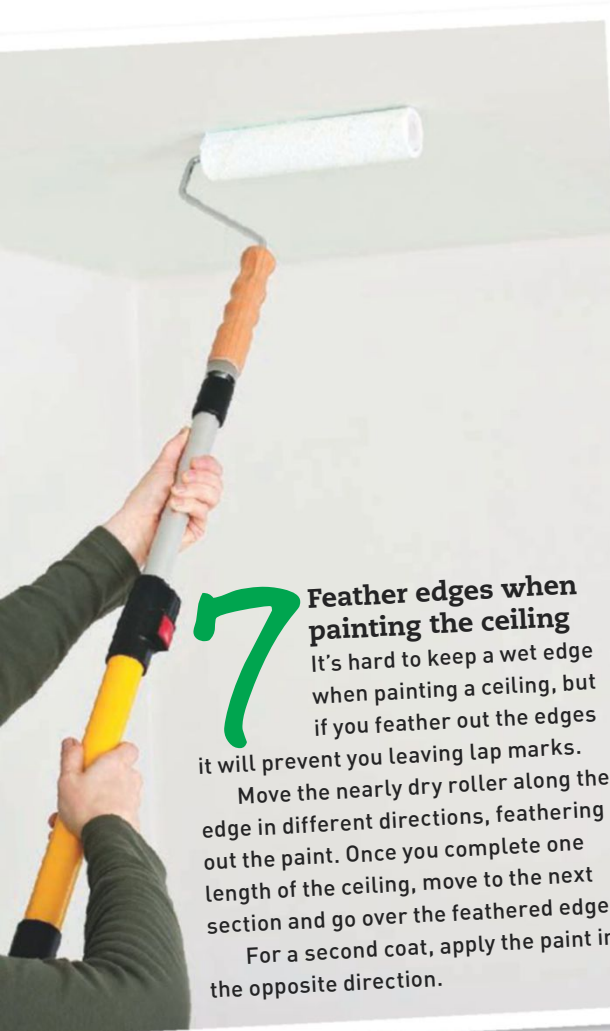


7 Feather edges when painting the ceiling

It's hard to keep a wet edge when painting a ceiling, but if you feather out the edges it will prevent you leaving lap marks.

Move the nearly dry roller along the edge in different directions, feathering out the paint. Once you complete one length of the ceiling, move to the next section and go over the feathered edge.

For a second coat, apply the paint in the opposite direction.



8 Clear the room before starting

If something is too big to remove, put it in the centre of the room and cover it. Use canvas drop sheets as, unlike plastic, they stay put without tape and aren't slippery.



PICTURES GETTY IMAGES, THINKSTOCK



PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

9 Elevate chair legs to prevent them sticking
When recolouring a chair, the legs can often end up sticking to the newspaper or drop sheet you're painting on.

Work hassle-free by fitting plasterboard screws about 15mm into the base of the legs. This makes it easier to paint the chair and allows you to coat the underneath of the legs.

10 Avoid marks for a smooth finish
Roll the walls top to bottom and bottom to top, right to left. Keep the open side of the roller facing the side that's already painted. You'll put less pressure on that side, so you're less likely to leave marks.

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REFRESH YOUR SPACE

Select the best colour to make your home pop with these expert tips to get it right the first time around

A fresh coat of paint is a quick and cost-effective way to give your home a dramatic facelift, making it the talk of the whole neighbourhood.

To revitalise your house, just follow these handy hints from Bunnings National Paint Buyer, Mick Heanue.

Find inspiration

Put together a folder of photos and magazine cutouts including colours you like and inspirational spaces that have the look you want to replicate.

Create a mood board from the folder's contents, discarding what doesn't work for the project.

Stuck for ideas? Pick your favourite shade from an artwork or furnishings to use as a main colour or as an accent. Or choose a mood you'd like to create and select tones that inspire it.



WHAT YOU
NEED

Monarch Razorback 100mm
Nylon Wall Paint Brush, \$26.98.

British Paints White Interior Low
Sheen Paint & Prime, \$55 for 4L.

Flexovit 80 Grit Sanding Sheets
For Paint Surfaces, \$1.02.

★
Natural daylight shows the truest colour, while incandescent lighting brings out warm tones and fluorescents cast a sharp blue tone

DESIGN TIP

Consider how a room connects to others when selecting a colour, as open-plan areas need a link through colour.

Calculate your paint

Once you have picked the colour scheme, it's time to get started.

The Bunnings Paint Calculator helps you plan the new look for your home, saving you time and money by calculating the volume of paint you require for each room.

Simply enter the room dimensions and the number of doors and windows to calculate how much paint you need.

Choose the finish

While low-sheen is the most popular finish for walls, matt finishes are increasing in popularity as they can add differing depths of interest to a space.

Flat paint hides flaws in old walls while a semi- or high-gloss paint works best on woodwork, such as door and window frames or skirtings.

Many companies now offer 'one coat wonders', so it's worth asking an expert about the different options available.

TEST IT OUT

Buying samples can be a messy process to trial your colour choices. A great way to test colours is to use an online tool such as the Bunnings Paint Colour Planner (bunnings.com.au).

It lets you upload photos of a room to see how different paint colours will work before making a decision.

ONE ROOM, THREE WAYS

An empty white room is given new life with colour

WORDS ARTEMIS GOUROS

1 Tropical style
For a lush feel, use green daringly. Start with a sofa in a bold block colour, then add curtains, a rug and floor cushions patterned in bright green and cool white.

Anchor the look with a few black pieces, introducing accent colours such as blue and orange through the sofa cushions. Accessorise with citrus colours like lime and yellow.

Greenery is a must, but choose strappy-leaved structural plants. ➤



DESIGN TIP

Adding a light shade to suit the decorating style is an essential part of creating a new look in any space.

Leafy designs and bright greens create a tropical feel.



2 Bazaar style
The exotic look is easy to achieve as it relies on a few key items, plus vintage pieces or market finds.

Rich purple teams beautifully with vibrant orange and works in textiles, lamps, vases, flowers and ornaments.

Smooth and hammered metal is essential to the look, so finish furniture with metallic paint, and add chrome or stainless steel vases and plant pots.

Embellished cushions and bright but sheer curtains complete the look.



CUSTOMISE WITH COLOUR

You don't need to be an interior designer to change a room to suit the seasons. Dulux creative consultant Bree Leech says, 'One room can be dramatically styled to create a totally different mood.'

Simply paint the room, keeping key pieces, and replace a few features to tie in with the new colour scheme.

A little luxury and lots of colour create this look.



Cool palette

Textured furnishings in leather, wool, stone, fur and timber complement the light floorboards and soften the graphic geometric wall pattern and cooler grey-based colours.



Dark palette

Sultry colours help add atmosphere to large and high-ceilinged spaces, making them feel cosy. Focal points in lighter colours like long curtains, or warm tones such as a leather armchair, add depth and intensity. ➤



3 Country style

For a contemporary take on country style, soften the traditional look.

It's still about being cosy and comfortable but less busy. So cover sofas in solid colours instead of patterns, using soft pastels.

Save the bright tones for furniture like vintage suitcases that do double duty as tables and storage.

Floral is key but doesn't dominate, so add lots of real blooms and choose other designs for soft furnishings. ●

★
Cut jugs, vases and teacups in half and mount them on the wall for a postmodern display of traditional knick-knacks



Floral without being fussy, this look is cosy chic.

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PEGBOARD BY DESIGN

Make over a child's room using just a budget hardware basic

WORDS ARTEMIS GOUROS PROJECTS GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS



A pegboard is usually found mounted on the wall in a shed or garage, but you can bring this workshop staple inside and use it for something other than hanging tools.

Here, we've taken the pegboard concept and used it to make decorative storage for a kid's bedroom.

Pegboard comes in panels made of masonite, a composite wood product, or powdercoated steel.

They are similarly priced at about \$30 a panel, but we used masonite because it can be easily cut to size. ➤

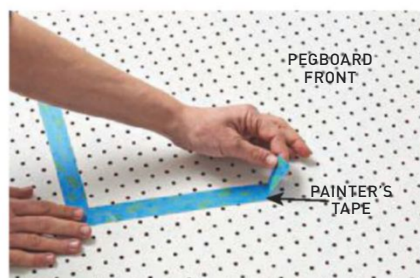


Headboards are easy to DIY and can be customised to suit the size and style of the bed, from framed to an ensemble

EXPERT SECRETS

Kids grow fast and their tastes change, so use paint to keep their bedrooms up to date without breaking the bank.

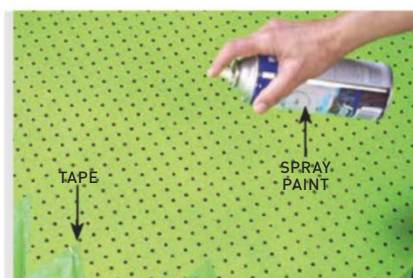
1 2 3



1 Prepare the pegboard

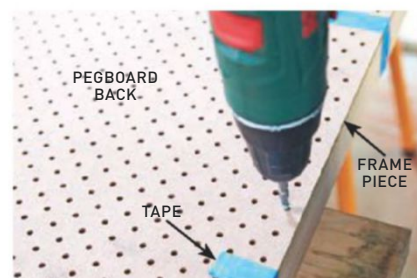
Use painter's tape to mask off the shape of mountains on the front face of the pegboard panel, covering the sections to be left unpainted with plastic.

TIP Standard single beds measure 920 x 1880mm, so to eliminate cutting use a 915 x 1220mm panel.



2 Apply the paint

Spray the mountain shape on the front face of the pegboard with two coats of paint in the colour of your choice, allowing it to dry in between coats. Remove the painter's tape while the paint is still slightly wet, pulling it away at a 45° angle.



3 Make the frame

Cut 30mm pine with a jigsaw to make a butt-jointed frame. Turn over the pegboard and position each frame piece against the front face flush with each edge, securing temporarily with tape. Attach the frame with screws through the back of the pegboard.

BEDHEAD SCENE



Drill holes into stud or masonry walls to hang the pegboard securely.

SAFETY TIP

Add pegboard hooks to hang lightweight storage baskets on the headboard but remove them when the bed is occupied.

COAT-RACK EXCHANGE



Every kid's room needs a coat rack to hang hats, scarves, bags and jackets.

But instead of plain wall hooks, make a faux pegboard and hang it on the wall, adding customised hooks painted in bright colours.

It's as easy as drilling holes in a sheet of plywood and making hooks from dowel and bun feet.

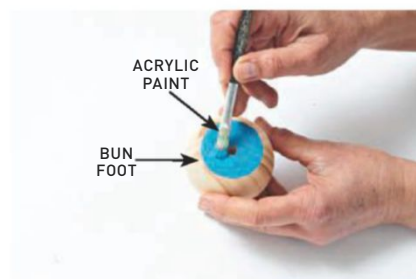
Make only about five hooks to avoid overloading the rack and so you can move them into different configurations, leaving some low enough for little arms to reach.

1 2 3



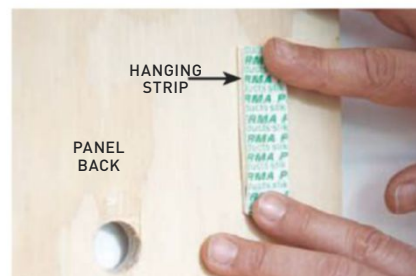
1 Prepare the panel

Cut a 1220 x 610 x 12mm plywood panel to 900 x 600mm using a jigsaw or circular saw. Measure and mark a 100mm grid on the plywood using a straightedge and a pencil. Use a drill and a 19mm spade bit to make holes at each intersection of the marked grid.



2 Make the hooks

Cut 19mm dowel into 100mm lengths using a handsaw, sanding the rough edges. Drill 3mm pilot holes to 10mm deep in each dowel using a twist bit. Apply acrylic paint to the top or side of each bun foot using a paintbrush, then leave to dry.



3 Finish the rack

Insert the dowels into the large holes on the bun feet, securing through the small holes using 8-15 x 40mm white buttonhead screws. Install the hooks in the panel, then wall-mount it using picture hanging strips rated to take the weight of the rack with items on it. ➤

Turn furniture feet into colourful coat-rack hangers.

DIY TIP

Cut a single sheet of plywood to size with a circular saw or use a jigsaw to make curved shapes.

Designing bedroom storage means you can make functional pieces do double duty as decorative features

CRAFT STATION

Colourful tools can make cute display pieces.



Kids' craft usually involves glue, glitter and paint so it often gets messy, but you can keep order by using pegboard.

Cut it into the shape of your child's first initial and use this letter as a wall-mounted craft station to put tools on show when they are not in use.

Lay out everything you want to hang on the pegboard before cutting the letter to make sure it fits. Take a picture or make a sketch to use as a reference when it comes to hanging the items.

With a fun place to put all their tools and materials, kids won't mind cleaning up after an arts and craft session

DESIGN TIP

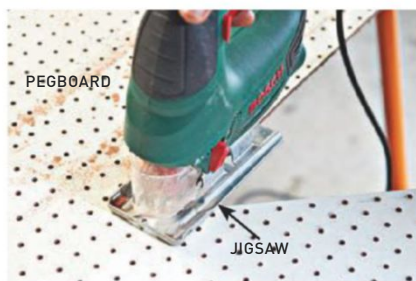
The pegboard letter is left white so the tools stand out, but the edges are taped to make it pop against a plain wall.

1 2 3



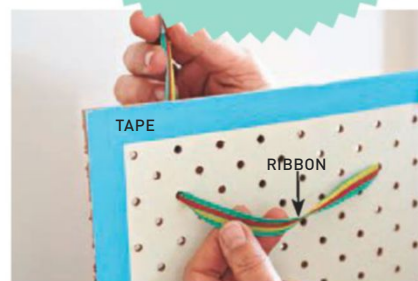
1 Prepare the pegboard

Draw a letter on cardboard using a straightedge and a marker, then cut it out with scissors. Position the cardboard template on the front face of a 1220 x 915mm pegboard panel, secure it temporarily with tape and trace around it with the marker.



2 Cut the shape

Lay the pegboard with the front facing up on a pair of sawhorses and clamp in position, using a jigsaw to cut out the marked letter shape. Sand any rough cut edges, then apply 20mm wide coloured painter's tape around the edges of the letter.



3 Add the hangers

Thread ribbon through the pegboard holes and knot it at the back to create card holders, then insert pegboard hooks into other holes for hanging tools. Wall-mount the letter using picture hanging strips rated to take the weight when fully loaded. ●



STUDIO SHELF

Give junior artists a shelf to store and display their pencils and other tools of the trade, and clip artworks to the front to make a mini gallery.

The fastest, simplest way to put up a shelf DIY is to use an adhesive that's up to the job. You'll need an ultra-strong, water-based adhesive

like Sika MaxTack, which forms a strong bond after three seconds.

Items can also be repositioned for up to five minutes and it cleans up easily with water.

Sika MaxTack Construction Adhesive, \$11 for 300ml. aus.sika.com





DESIGN TIP

The use of a bank of oak doors, stained to a chocolate finish, introduce warmth and personality to the space.

CONFIDENT KITCHENS

Clever design is now leading the way and the kitchen is taking centre stage in the home

WORDS SITA SIMONS

The Australian taste for open-plan living is nowhere more evident than in the evolution of kitchen design.

Once a separate space, designed with function first and foremost in mind, the kitchen is now the focus of open-plan living areas.

It's a room that has to achieve high functionality with seamless aesthetics.



Finding ways to use all the available space is key to successful design.



Sleek but warm

This architectural build in the Perth suburb of Brentwood had big demands for a new kitchen design.

Steve Johnson, head designer of Retreat Designs, in Subiaco, WA, took the opportunity to integrate high-spec features while staying away from over-sleek minimalism.

‘There is something of a kickback to the all-white, often sterile-looking kitchen, and the current trend is to add warmth and personality,’ says Steve.

Taking a cue from European designers who generally have to work with much smaller spaces, Steve incorporates innovative ideas that aren’t immediately obvious.

‘One thing that always works well, particularly ergonomically, is the use of retractable doors,’ says Steve.

‘Instead of losing valuable walkway space, these doors have a hinge system that allows them to open and then fold back into a void,’ he says.

The coffee machine is built into this area and sits on a stainless steel shelf. A steel panel below flips up to the same level to create another workspace. ➤

SMART STORAGE

The aluminium-framed cabinetry becomes a feature while also offering all the storage required.

‘This client wanted a neat and tidy space with everything hidden. Creating a wall of storage is an excellent solution that achieves both things at once,’ says Steve.

‘The fridge is concealed behind a door and all the appliances are disguised and integrated.’



DESIGN TIP

For a more organised and ergonomically efficient kitchen, replace base cabinets with drawer systems.



The engineered stone benchtops add to the natural feeling of warmth and have the look of marble but without the upkeep or staining issues

Innovative ideas

Modern kitchens have embraced the island as both a practical workspace and for additional storage, as well as to provide a central element.

But in an otherwise pared-back space, a large island can be heavy and dominating. To bring lightness to something so solid, a deep rebate runs around the entire perimeter so the top seems to float above the cabinetry.

The rangehood, which extends into the space because of the position of the cooktop, is clad and painted to become part of the architectural detail rather than a visual drawback.

Storage is organised on both sides in customised drawer formats.

'Cupboards are almost a thing of the past. They are poor solutions to kitchen needs, and while drawers are more expensive overall, it's a small cost load that's worth bearing,' says Steve.



The rangehood is designed to cleverly blend in. **ABOVE** Complete with a vegetable washing sink and cooktop, the island area is dedicated to preparation and cooking.

CUT CORNERS

A built-in pantry provides storage for all the dry goods and banishes the bane of every kitchen, that awkward and inaccessible corner cabinet.

'This is a system that utilises the space. It's a tray that pulls in and out of the cupboard, so rather than you having to reach into the recess, it comes to you,' says Steve.



KITCHENS OF THE FUTURE

A formative background in IT means Steve is well placed to consider the future of kitchen design.

'Technology will lead the way, with automated and mechanised systems, but it's not all buttons and gadgetry,' he says.

'Form and how the kitchen sits in the space is something all design is moving towards.'

A young couple in Quinns Rocks, WA, wanted a totally integrated kitchen in which nothing identified it as a working space.

They were fans of the British TV program

Grand Designs and saw a solution on the show, then asked Retreat Designs to do the same for them.

'This is unusual in that it really is form over function here, but it is very telling of the way things are going.'

'With open-plan living, people don't want to see all the appliances and functional equipment when sitting on the sofa or around the dining table,' says Steve.

This kitchen takes design a step further, with a huge walnut panel that slides manually across the cooktop and sink to create a dual table space. ➤



STEAL THIS STYLE

The kitchen is such an important feature, both for lifestyle and resale value, so warmth is key.

Steve Johnson

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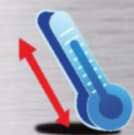
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Henkel

MIX & MATCH



The floor is tiled for durability, and the chevron pattern ties into the parquet in the rest of the house.



Personal perfection

In this family home in Adelaide, SA, the owners wanted a design that was anything but traditional. Interior designer Susanna Bilardo of Enoki (enoki.com.au), took on the task.

'This space is an experiment in finishes and how a kitchen can break the norms,' says Susanna.

'The goal was to make a kitchen and living area that was united as one, a space in which they could bring their friends through and sit together, and cook at the same time.'

Crucial to the success of this design is the scullery, which is hidden behind the kitchen and doubles as a laundry.

'Including a space where all the work can be done and kept out of sight means less need for expanses of storage and benchtops in the main area.'

'It also means they could turn the idea of an island on its head and use a large dining table as a working and an entertaining space,' says Susanna.



EXPERT SECRETS

A kitchen design undoubtedly works best when it reflects the needs and personalities of the householders.

Susanna Bilardo

DESIGN TIP

Choose items on their own merit so old and new styles work together, rather than matching things.

BLENDING SURFACES

The cabinetry is stained with Black Japan to give a matt finish through which the grain is still visible.

Solid oak benchtops featured on one side of the old-fashioned range are sealed and treated to withstand kitchen work.

A practical stainless steel benchtop on the

other side of the range was added for the serious cook.

The rangehood cladding is formed using a black stained-all-through MDF product called Valchromat.

Uneven and mottled glazed butcher's tiles lend a warmth and aged look that doesn't jar with the black finishes. ➤

PICTURES SIMON VAUGHAN



IDEAL WINTON VINYL TILES

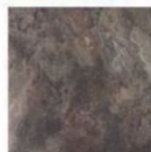
45 SERIES

45.7cm x 45.7cm
(5 tiles = 1sp. mtr)

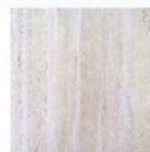
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For quick installation



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Travertine Stone



Black Marble



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Mocha Parquet



White Marble

30 SERIES

30.5cm x 30.5cm
(10.75 tiles = 1sp. mtr)

3 YEAR
Domestic Warranty

They are suitable for
WET AREAS

SELF STICK
For quick installation



Black Diamond



Beige Stone



Charcoal Stone



Finger Parquet



Black & White Cheq



Grey / Blue Stone



Green Slate



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FAMILY VALUES

A kitchen for a family of six needs seamless functionality, and nothing precious and sterile would do for this property in Adelaide, SA.

'This is a busy, vibrant household and we knew we could have real fun with the design,' says interior designer Susanna Bilardo.

The process started, unusually, with the glass splashback.

'It was this shamrock green glass that tipped the whole project forward. The client loved it and from there, we introduced the neon pink,' says Susanna.

DESIGN TIP

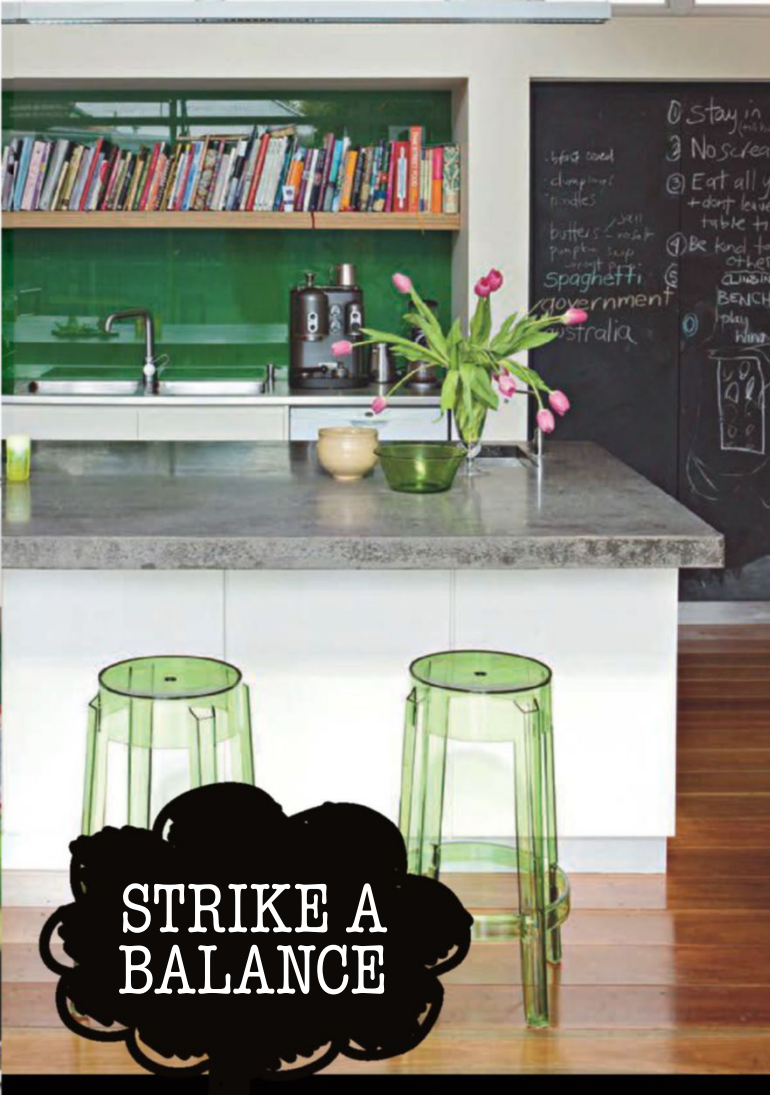
A suspended fluorescent light provides an effective architectural detail as well as bright task lighting.



Fun, eclectic, colourful and offbeat was the brief from this family.



Large doors finished with blackboard paint conceal more storage space and make a fun family message board



STRIKE A BALANCE

While the bold elements make a definite impact, the rest of the cabinetry was kept simple and white to provide balance.

The oversized island has ample storage and the top is made of ultra-durable

poured concrete, which doubles as an excellent work surface.

At one end, a small bar sink signals the social life of the family, while the prep area is kept to one bank at the back. ●

PICTURES JAMES KNOWLER

Handi Home



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www.handihome.com.au

KITCHEN REMODEL

The outdated hub of this house is transformed with a totally new look

PROJECT AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

DIY blogger Melissa was very excited that the time had come to finally redo her kitchen, and her mind was racing with ideas for what she wanted.

It would have a French provincial look to fit in with the rest of the house, but she wanted a modern feel to it.

'We took the time to look into exactly how we wanted to change

the kitchen and how it needed to be arranged,' says Melissa.

'We weren't at all happy with the kitchen having just the one entry point, as this made the space feel cramped and enclosed.

'So we came up with a design that would give it a more open-plan look and hopefully utilise the space we have well,' she says.

 For more DIY from Melissa, follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com



Before



After

With a more open-plan design, the kitchen is spacious and user-friendly.

Melissa



EXPERT SECRETS

Good planning is key. Get lots of inspiration, make a mood board, do your budget and stick to it, plus seek advice from other renovators.

MEL'S PLAN

★
The kitchen was opened up to the rest of the house by swapping an obtrusive breakfast bar with a mobile kitchen island

- **CLEAR** everything out of the old kitchen cabinets and find a place to store it all.
- **DISMANTLE** the kitchen cabinets.
- **REMOVE** the old tiles from the walls and pull up the lino.
- **INSTALL** new base cabinets and colonial style glass-fronted cabinets either side of the new rangehood.
- **TILE** the floor and the splashback. ➤



Out with the old

The first task was to clear out all the old kitchen cabinets.

'I had the pleasure of taking all the items out of the cabinets and finding somewhere to store them while we renovated. And what better place than our living room,' says Melissa.

The kitchen cabinets were then carefully removed and the wall tiles ripped off to leave just the shell.

'Bevan's brother helped him pull out the old kitchen, which took them most of the day, with a few gruesome discoveries such as an old mice nest under the floor,' she says.

After the cabinets were removed, it seemed to stir up a musty smell.

'We decided to put a lick of paint over the walls and floors where there were stains to try and seal in the smell.'



To find out how to deal with pests, turn to p100.

BUDGET TIP

Put your old kitchen cabinets up for sale online to recoup some of the cost of the renovation.



The kitchen was custom-made and installed by a local cabinet-maker.





In with the new

Melissa and her husband Bevan went in search of a new oven, cooktop and rangehood to buy.

'I finally decided on a 900mm wide inbuilt oven and a 700mm gas cooktop,' says Melissa.

'I am not exactly happy with the gas cooktop. I prefer cooking with electric, but the gas cooktop we were looking at was cheaper, so it won.'

It was then time to choose the colours for the new benchtops.

'After looking at colours for the benchtops, I decided on Laminex Diamond Gloss in Limestone. And, I thought a plain white for the cabinets would work well,' she says. ➤



medium shelf ■



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15kg

holding capacity*

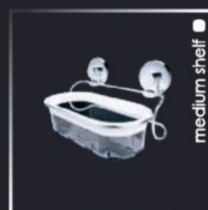
XPRESSIONS bathroom accessories



shower caddy ■



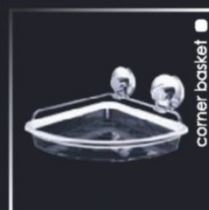
large shelf ■



medium shelf ■



dental station ■



corner basket ■



double corner basket ■



utensils cup ■



soap dish ■



*The weight rating applies to suction cups installed under ideal conditions and should be used as a guide only. The maximum weight bearing ability of this product will vary from surface to surface. This product is designed for use only as illustrated on front of packaging.

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warehouse

bunnings.com.au

DIY TILING

• SPLASHBACK

After the cabinets were installed, the walls were grouted and Bevan lay more than 400 small square white tiles for the splashback.

• FLOOR When the splashback was completed, large-format floor tiles in a neutral colour were laid diagonally.

Open shelving is ideal for displaying decorative items.

Three rows of feature tiles in a contrasting colour break up an expanse of white

Large-format floor tiles make the room feel spacious.

PORTABLE STORAGE

An island bench in the centre of the space with drawers and double-sided cabinetry for storage has pride of place.

It also has wheels so it's great to use out on the deck as a preparation area.

To add character to the room, it was given a timber top.

STYLISH WATER FILTER TAP – DIY KIT



There's no need to drill into your benchtop – it simply replaces your existing tap.



These stylish European taps will have your kitchen looking fantastic. They have a lever for BRITA filtered water and a lever for your unfiltered hot/cold water. The filter is tucked from view beneath the sink to provide filtered water for six months. A sensor lets you know when it's time to replace.

There's no need to drill into your benchtop – it simply replaces your existing tap.

They give you great tasting filtered water at your fingertips. Just ask restaurateur and MasterChef judge Gary Mehigan.

Water is an essential ingredient and if you get the basics right, you have the foundation for good cooking. Filtered water brings out the true flavours and aromas of your food.

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bunnings.com.au



DESIGN TIP

The new shelves add warmth and complement the modern timber-look vinyl floor, pulling the whole look together.

After

With a new floor and surfaces, this kitchen is now a standout.



Before

FROM DUD TO DREAM

Revamping the surfaces salvages this dated kitchen, adding much-needed wow factor

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERIE BARBER



Like so many kitchens I find in older properties, this one can be transformed relatively simply and cheaply.

The layout is good, and the working triangle of the fridge, stove and sink is spot on. It's structurally sound as well, and has a large window that provides plenty of natural light.

We just have to do something about that wishy-washy '80s colour scheme and modernise a few of the features.

The reno plan

This home was built on a modest budget several decades ago and, while its style hasn't aged well, the bones are still in good condition.

Rather than ripping out the existing cabinets and benchtops, we'll paint and seal them with a hard protective coating for a fraction of the price of new cabinets.

The flooring will get an update, and modern venetian blinds will dress up the window and add privacy.

It's then up to accessories and lighting to bring it all together. ➤

FREE VIRTUAL 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.

SIX STEPS TO SUCCESS

1 REPLACE THE SINK

First, we'll shop around for a bargain double sink that fits the cutout already in the benchtop.

It won't take up extra space but will make the kitchen more functional, and also provide the opportunity to replace the relic of a tap.



Flexispray Lush Sink Mixer, \$104.
flexispray.com.au

4 ADD NEW FEATURES

The splashback needs neatenning up. So we'll strip the white tiles, then add shelves, a cabinet and new stainless steel handles.

Hexagonal dark tiles provide the definition and focal point that was lacking.



Kaboodle 450mm Wall Cabinet, \$74.
kaboodle.com.au

2 PAINT THE WALLS

The walls, ceiling and trim get a crisp white treatment in Dulux Natural White.

We'll use high gloss for the trim and low sheen for the walls and ceiling.

An anti-mould paint, like Wash & Wear Kitchen & Bathroom, is ideal.



Dulux Wash & Wear Kitchen & Bathroom Low Sheen Paint, \$82 for 4L. dulux.com.au

5 INSTALL THE LIGHTING

Lighting is important for mood and ambience as well as for doing tasks.

Let's just say that the bare bulb here wouldn't win any design awards!

I'll put in downlights, a feature light and a micro venetian blind for the window.



Nelson 50W Gimble Brushed Chrome Downlight Kit, about \$12, from Bunnings.

3 REDO THE SURFACES

The cabinets and benchtops only require a colour update. Laminate primer and paint, plus White Knight Bench Top Clear is all we need.

I've opted for white cabinets and black benchtops. The fridge can also be modernised with appliance paint.



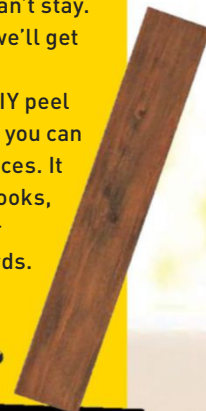
White Knight Bench Top Clear, \$94 for 1L.
whiteknightpaints.com.au

6 LAY NEW FLOORING

That vinyl floor can't stay. Well, it can, but we'll get the 2015 version.

Gerflor has a DIY peel and stick product you can lay on hard surfaces. It mimics various looks, the most popular being rustic boards.

It's the perfect match for the timber shelves.



Gerflor Uranus Self Adhesive Vinyl Plank, \$44 for 16. gerflor.com.au

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ISLAND BENCH

Create a kitchen bench with storage using a reclaimed door and old pallets

WORDS ARTEMIS GOUROS

An island bench is a handy addition to any kitchen, providing more preparation space and extra storage. And if it's on castors, it can be easily tucked away in a corner when not in use.

It's also a budget way to create an eat-in kitchen, as with just a few stools, an island bench makes an ideal casual dining station.

This bench was built as a frame made from inexpensive pine, using recycled pallets for shelves and an old door as a top. It cost less than \$100 to make and suits a country-style kitchen.

You can use a new door and pallets or salvaged ones, depending on how rustic you want it to look.

Two of the legs are on castors to give the island mobility while, on the other end, there is a rail between the legs for hanging towels or utensils. Use a towel rail or make one from threaded steel pipe and fittings. ➤

Materials

Pine	\$63
PVA adhesive	\$11
Timber screws	\$12
50mm fixed castors	\$4
Multipurpose filler	\$9
TOTAL	\$99

DIY TIP

Drill pilot holes to prevent breakout in timber when screwing. Use a bit that matches the thickness of the screw shaft.



Websites like Gumtree often have pallets on offer for free.

TOOLS

DRILL, JIGSAW,
CIRCULAR SAW

1-2
DAYS

\$99
COST



A kitchen island does double duty
as a food prep and dining area,
plus provides extra storage

BUILD THE BENCH



1 Join the rails

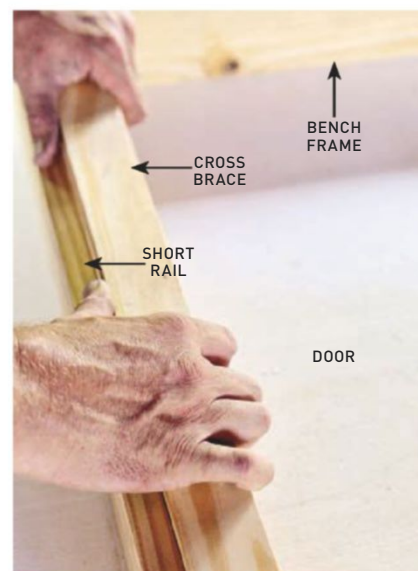
Position the short rails between the long rails, securing the butt joints with PVA adhesive and two timber screws in each one to make the frame for the bench. Clamp until dry.

TIP Drill pilot holes before securing.



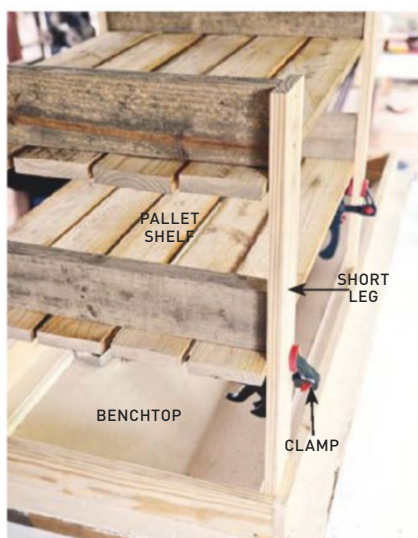
2 Secure the short legs

Position the short legs inside the frame at one end, securing through the long rails with timber screws. Position the shelf supports against the centre short rail and secure through the long rails using screws.



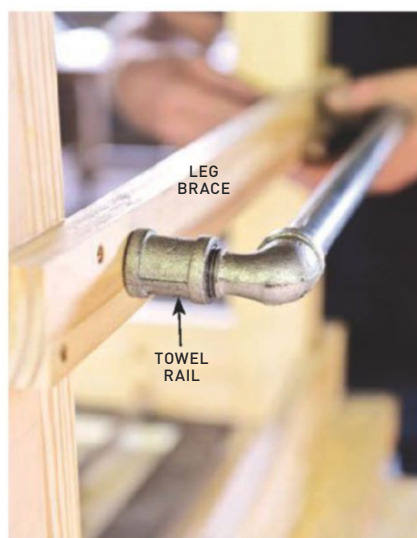
3 Attach the door

Position the bench frame on top of the door, position a cross brace at each end, then drill pilot holes in the short rails, securing with screws. Drill pilot holes in the top of the cross braces, securing the door with screws.



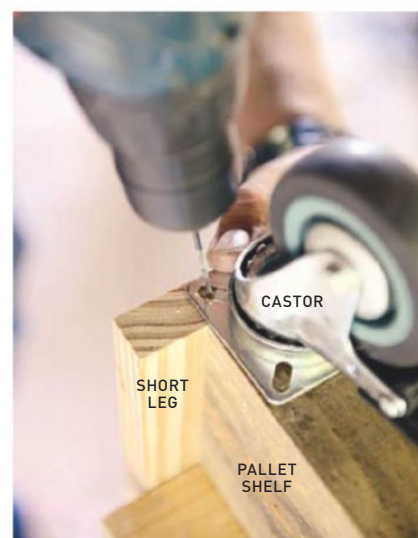
4 Install the pallets

Cut the pallets to size using a circular saw. Re-nail the pallet boards to the bases of the pallet shelves, if needed. Secure the shelves to the short legs and the shelf supports using adhesive and screws, clamping until dry.



5 Add the legs

Position the legs inside the bench frame. Drill pilot holes to secure the legs through the long rails using timber screws. Install the leg brace, securing with screws, then use a spade bit to drill holes, attaching a towel rail.

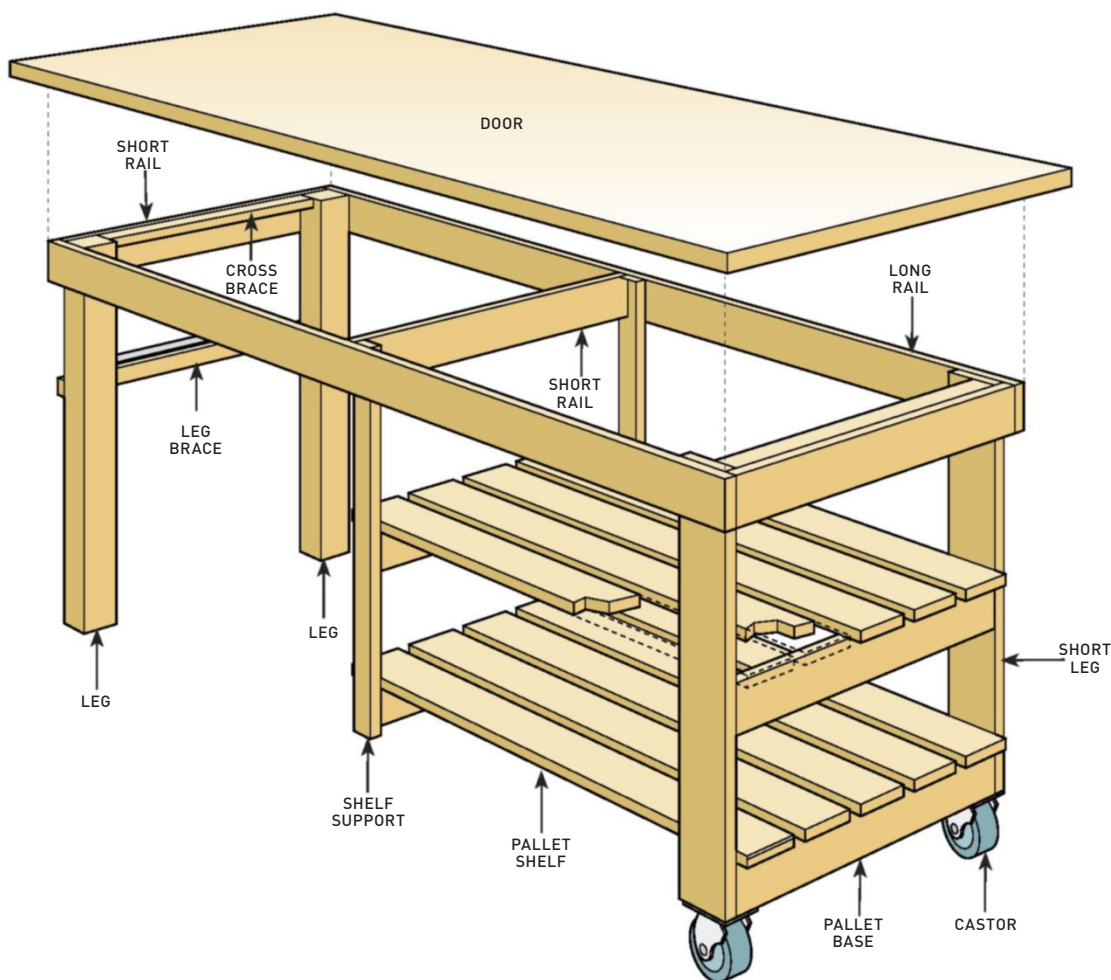


6 Finish the bench

Attach castors to the base of the short legs using the supplied screws. Turn the island bench the right way up and then fill all the screw holes with filler. Sand and stain, or paint, the island bench. 🛠️

ISLAND BENCH

measurements in mm



FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Timber screws, 75mm x 8g	Frame, pallet shelves, legs and cross braces
Timber screws, 50mm x 8g	Door, short legs, shelf supports and leg braces

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
DAR pine		
Legs	900 x 70 x 70	2
Short legs	840 x 90 x 45	2
Long rails	1800 x 90 x 45	2
Short rails	560 x 90 x 45	3
Shelf supports	840 x 42 x 30	2
Cross braces	470 x 42 x 30	1
	420 x 42 x 30	1
Leg brace	560 x 42 x 30	1

Find it at Bunnings

TIMBER TABLET HOLDER

Turn an everyday kitchen tool into the modern version of a cookbook stand in three easy steps. With just a piece of moulding and MDF you can make over a timber chopping board as a tablet holder to use while cooking.

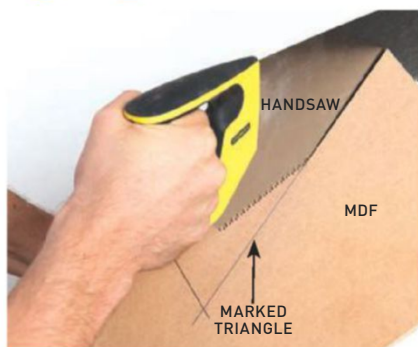
Materials

U-shaped moulding
Ruler
Handsaw
Timber chopping board
MDF board
PVA adhesive
Paint or lime wash
Fine grit sandpaper



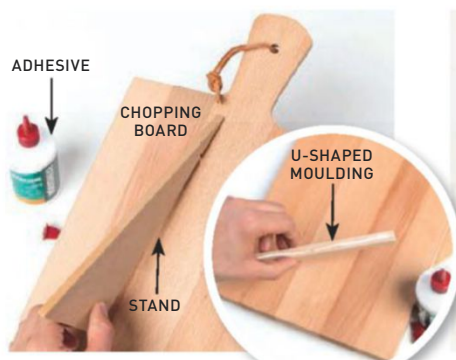
Make a stand for your tablet to use it in the kitchen.

1 2 3



1 Cut out the stand

Draw a right-angle triangle onto 9mm MDF using a factory edge for one side, then cut out using a handsaw. Make the stand over half the height of the chopping board with one angle of at least 20°, to support the tablet weight.



2 Make the holder

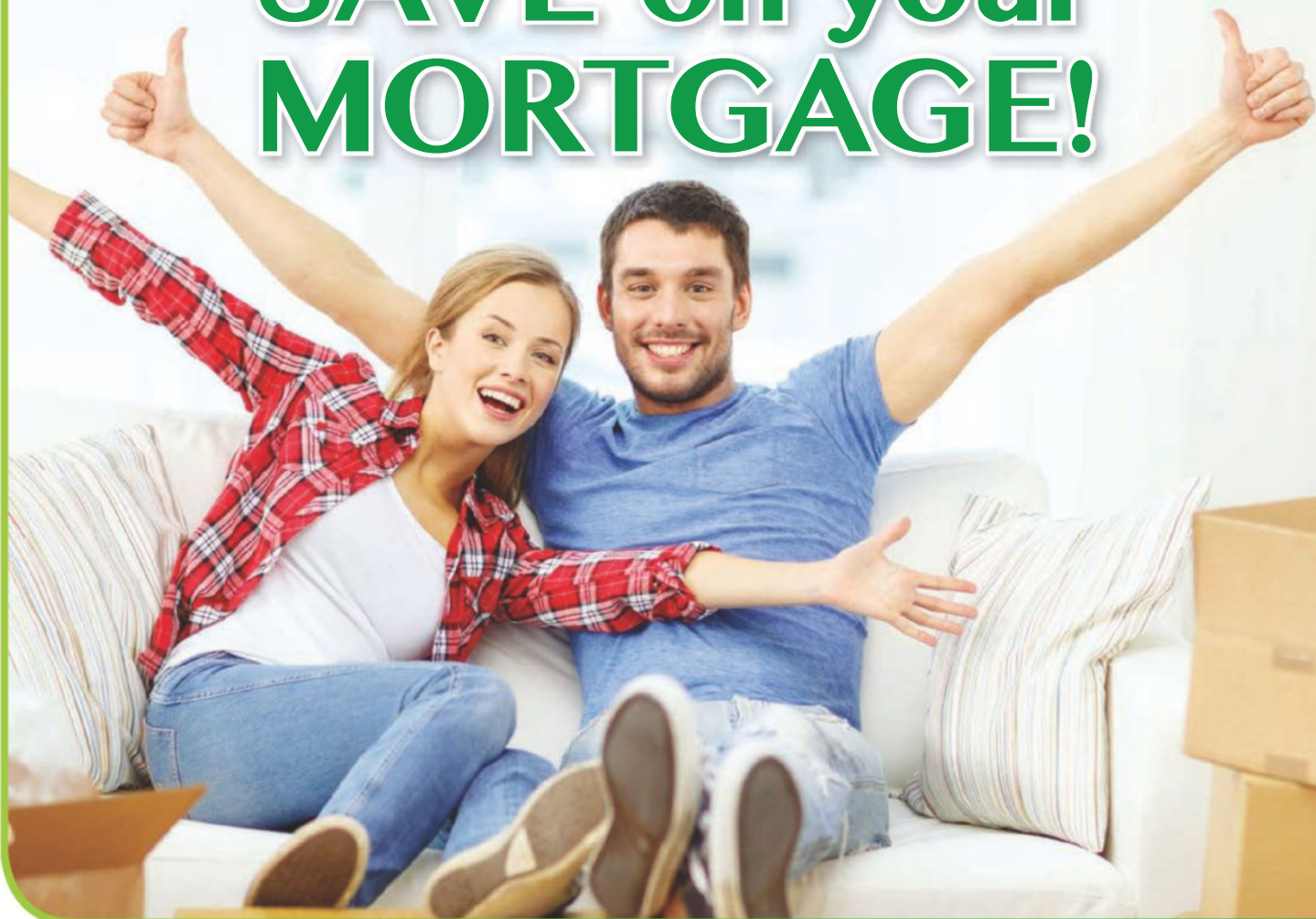
Cut U-shaped moulding to the tablet width, securing it to the front of the board 30mm up from the base with PVA adhesive. Centre the stand on the board back at least 10mm up from the base, attaching with adhesive.



3 Apply the finish

Use a paintbrush to apply a coat of acrylic paint, then allow it to dry. To distress the finish, sand it back to reveal the bare timber using fine grit paper. Or apply a lime wash stain to the bare timber.

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Create your DREAM KITCHEN

Transform the heart of the home
into a luxurious, designer space

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

As the centre of a family home, the kitchen is in use on a daily basis and is often the focal point during a party.

Creating a designer-look kitchen can be as simple as replacing cabinet doors and handles, and installing a new splashback and benchtop.

Mixing elements of different traditional styles can give a unique custom look to suit your space.

Improving the kitchen is also a practical investment, as it will help raise the value of your property.

A breakfast bar provides extra seating for dining.

PICTURE KABOODLE KITCHEN

CABINETRY

As one of the central elements in forming a cohesive look, cabinets set the tone for your kitchen.

Select classic, monochrome shades, such as black or grey, for modern, minimalist designs.

Raw or lightly stained timber cabinets represent a more urban style, while white or cream doors with moulding add a distinct country element to a kitchen.

Handles are important details and can both reinforce a style and add extra character.

DESIGN TIP

Consider what type of mechanisms you'll have on the doors and drawers when choosing the style of handles.

Replacing cabinet doors and drawers provides a fresh look.

Benchtops

Choosing the right material for the benchtop will determine the final look of the room, as it is one of the most dominant visual features.

A monochromatic bench is a good base to start with, allowing you to add statement pieces later to introduce more character.

Granite benchtops bring class and style, and you can achieve the same look with engineered stone or marble.

Timber is a good choice if you're wanting a rustic feel, while stainless steel offers contemporary chic.

For something different altogether, laminates are versatile and come in a range of colours and patterns. ➤



A monochrome benchtop goes with everything and makes future updates easy and inexpensive

GET THE LOOK



Kaboodle 2400mm Casablanca Benchtop, \$435. kaboodle.com.au

Prestige 96mm Brushed Nickel Handle, \$5. itwproline.com.au



Naleon Adhesive Paper Towel Holder, \$17. naleon.com.au

Sikasil-CAP 300ml Off White Silicone Sealant, about \$10. aus.sika.com



Kaboodle Modern Profile Spiced Oak Cabinet Door, \$91.

Splashbacks

An effective way to revive the kitchen is by adding a splashback. While they are functionally important, protecting walls from stains and damage, they also play a key aesthetic role.

For a modern look, create a kitchen in dual tones by using subway tiles with contrasting grout. If you want to give a sense of space in a small area, use a mirrored glass splashback.

If you're after a more vibrant look, a mosaic splashback will add plenty of colour and texture. ✨

White tiles with black grout provide a clean, modern style.

DIY TIP

To create a striking mosaic splashback, use tile sheets to get the job done quickly and effectively.

Acrylic panels can be customised with an image of your choice for a unique, personalised touch

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TOP **2015** KITCHEN TRENDS

Check out what looks are hot right now from splashbacks to shelving



Tiles laid in patterns

Splashbacks that feature tiles laid in patterns have made a comeback, with herringbone being the latest trend.

Subway and squared tiles are also being widely used with black grout for a stylish contrast against traditional white cabinetry.

Q Find it at Bunnings



Industrial appeal

Exposed beams and brick splashbacks are very popular when it comes to kitchen themes today.

These rustic features add charm and character to a space and look best in a contemporary-style kitchen.



Natural timbers

The raw materials usually found in country homes are now common features in modern designer kitchens, bringing a warm aesthetic.

Timber-like finishes and textured timbers add a natural earthy feel to any kitchen.

Black and white appliances

While stainless steel will always be a favourite choice, black and white appliances can give your kitchen that extra bit of elegance and modern flair. They work best in kitchens with a black and white or neutral colour scheme.



The two-tone effect

This look adds contrast and character to a space, especially when polar opposite shades or textures are used.

Dark-coloured cabinets teamed with timber work well and are also being used with gloss white cabinetry.

Open-plan design

The advantages of an open-plan kitchen layout are numerous.

It makes the space much more inviting and accessible, and also ties the kitchen in with the rest of your home.



Exposed shelves

These are commonly used in all types of kitchen designs and showcase what was once hidden away in wall cabinets.

They can be customised to suit the length and depth of your space, or added on to your island breakfast bar.

You can also create your own from any benchtop offcuts you may have.



 An open-plan kitchen gives the illusion of more space and increases air flow and natural light

Copper and gold accents

These two metallics add an element of industrial elegance to your kitchen. They complement neutral shades and really shine when they're incorporated with vibrant colours or timber textures.

HANG A DOOR

Replace an old door to freshen up the appearance of your hallway

WORDS AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

Often, all it takes to give a tired and outdated hallway a lift is installing a new door.

The main areas of this cottage had been recently renovated, which highlighted the need for an update in the spaces that hadn't been touched.

A bedroom door with chipped and peeling paintwork, as well as an ill-fitting passage set, needed to be replaced with a modern option.

Hanging a door can be a tricky process but with the right method, it is something that can be done DIY. Take your time and follow the rule, measure twice, cut once, to achieve a great result fairly easily.

We hung a hollow core door, which is the usual choice for interiors.

The other alternative is a solid door, but these are usually used for exteriors. They are also much heavier, so you may need an extra pair of hands.

The door, hinges and new passage set for this project came to just \$90. ➤

Before



After

With a modern door, the bedroom entrance is instantly improved.



1
DAY\$90
COST

DIY TIP

Build braces to clamp to your door while you work on it, making sure you set the post of the brace at 90° to the base.



Choose a door and handles to complement your decor and add instant wow factor

STUART'S
TOOLKIT

Zenith 100mm Chrome Loose Pin Butt Hinge, \$3.
itwproline.com.au



Bosch 1500W 184mm Circular Saw, \$79.
bosch.com.au

Corinthian Readicote Internal Flush Door, \$48.
corinthian.com.au

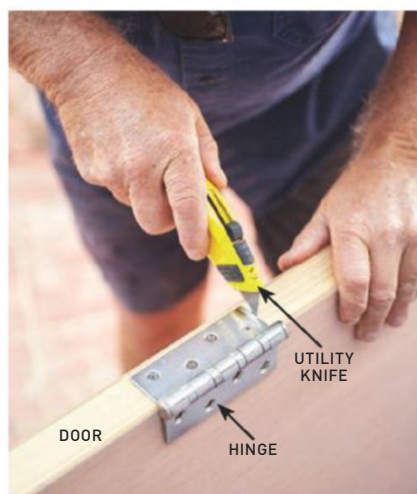
Decorative panels give a door character and appeal.

INSTALL THE NEW DOOR



1 Trim the door

Measure the doorway and, if the old door fits well, remove it and use it as a template for the new one. If it needs to be trimmed, take equal amounts from the sides, top and base. Use a plane to trim a few millimetres and a straightedge and circular saw for larger amounts.



2 Set the hinge positions

Transfer the hinge positions from the old door, or measure them from the existing jamb. If it's a new jamb, set the hinges 150mm from the top and 200mm from the base. Position the hinges on the door, drill pilot holes and secure with screws. Score around each hinge with a utility knife.



3 Rebate the hinges

Unscrew the hinges and remove them. Working with the grain, slowly and carefully gouge a series of shallow cuts using a sharp chisel. Clean out the rebate areas to the depth of the hinge, then position the hinges back in place, securing them with screws.



4 Hang the door

Test-fit the door, packing under the base to accurately position it. Check the hinge positions on the jamb and modify, if needed. Set the door at 90° to the opening and pack it to align the hinges on the jamb. Starting at the top, put two screws in each hinge, test the swing and fit, and finish securing.



5 Install the passage set

Pack under the door and mark the centre of the door edge for the passage set. Measure the depth of the latch to the spindle and transfer this mark to the door using a square. Install the passage set and mark the position of the strike plate. Screw the plate in position and scribe around it with a utility knife.



6 Finish the door

Chisel the rebate for the strike plate to set it flush in the jamb and chisel out the hole for the latch tongue. Remove the hardware from the door, then unscrew the door, supporting it with packers and removing the top screws last. Sand and paint the door, then rehanging and refit the hardware. 🛠️



DECO 4S

MODERN STARTS WITH CORINTHIAN

THE DECO COLLECTION

The Deco Collection uses clean lines and geometry to open up a world of modern design for your home. When Georgia Ezra, of G.A.B.B.E Interior Design, is tasked with creating a stylish, modern room, she starts with Corinthian. For some design inspiration, watch Georgia style this room at Corinthian.com.au

"First impressions start at the entrance to a room, so let the door lead your interior design."

GEORGIA EZRA, G.A.B.B.E INTERIOR DESIGN



**CORINTHIAN
DOORS**
A JELD-WEN Company

A home for the birds

Build a simple birdhouse with plywood for small visitors to the garden

This birdhouse is simply a box with a bird-shaped lid turned on its side.

Made from plywood, the lid is attached with a hinge and a simple hook holds it closed.

A half sheet of marine ply, costing \$17, is enough for the birdhouse and it's built using adhesive and brads.

Print or draw a bird shape and enlarge, if needed. Trace it on the ply, cut out with a jigsaw then make a 38mm entrance with a holesaw.

Sand and finish the birdhouse with primer, two coats of exterior paint and clear polyurethane.

Make the box

➊ **CUT** one 130 x 130mm box base, two 130mm long x 120mm wide sides and two 118mm long x 120mm wide sides, from 6mm plywood.

➋ **POSITION** the 118mm long sides between the 130mm long sides, securing the butt joints with brads and adhesive. Check the box frame for square and clamp until dry.

➌ **ATTACH** the box frame to the box base using brads and adhesive, clamping until dry.

TIP Use a jigsaw with a fine-toothed blade to make smooth cuts in thin ply.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1220 x 610 x 6mm marine grade plywood
- Brads and brad nailer
- Picture-hanging hooks
- Stainless steel 25mm fixed pin butt hinge
- Screw eyes and hook
- Exterior PVA adhesive like Selleys Aquadhere
- Exterior primer and paint
- Marine grade clear polyurethane
- Jigsaw
- Drill
- 38mm hole saw
- Clamps
- Paintbrush
- Fine-grit sandpaper



★
Attract wildlife and add colour to the backyard with this cute dwelling

Bell-shaped bird feeder

Handyman reader Manno Heyblom from Baranduda, Victoria, made a bird feeder by mounting a plywood disc and a plastic plate on a timber garden stake. He secured a 25 x 1500mm metal arm to the stake with two screws and bent the top into a circle to hang a birdseed bell.



Join a box side to the bird back at the tail end with a hinge.

Attach screw eyes and a hook to the box and bird back.

DIY TIP

Attach picture hooks to the back of the box, then hang it from screws secured in the tree trunks.

This plywood birdhouse can be customised to any shape or size.

 Want more backyard projects?
Get inspired at pinterest.com/DIYhandyman

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3-4
DAYS

NUTS AND BOLTS

Ramset anchor studs, chemical anchors and adhesives are a great alternative to Dynabolts in applications where they are unsuitable, such as when working with path edges and hollow bricks.

If you want to give your property kerb appeal and add value, a new fence makes a huge difference

After

The formerly unkempt property is now an appealing home.

FENCE THE FRONT YARD

Give a barren garden a facelift with new aluminium fencing and landscaping

WORDS AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

The new owners bought this semi-detached house as a rental property, so naturally wanted to maximise their return without overcapitalising on their investment.

By carefully considering their budget and making clever decisions about how and where they spent their money, they managed to do just that and the property now presents well.

A big priority for them was to provide prospective tenants with privacy and security.

Installing aluminium fence panels in the front yard and adding driveway gates achieved this goal, and was also a quick and easy job to DIY.

Throw in a little inexpensive landscaping and the house no longer looks run-down but has kerb appeal. ➤

Before



DIY TIP

To cut aluminium fence posts to length, use a 1.5mm stainless steel grinding wheel for a clean cut, or use a hacksaw.

CHOOSE THE STYLE

Fence panels with a double top rail design from Protector Aluminium were chosen by the owners. These can be ordered through their website (protectoraluminium.com.au).

Protector offer numerous different fence styles through the Special Orders desk at Bunnings, but a couple of styles are kept in stock, so you can buy off the shelf to get started right away.

All other components were off the shelf, which is great when you need to pick up a few extra screws or a post as we did.

This fencing system is simple and inexpensive. That means you won't have any trouble tackling it with tools you probably already own. And better still, you won't have to call in tradies or spend days getting it done.

INSTALL THE FENCE



1 Mark the post holes

Measure the area to be fenced and set up a stringline to mark the fence line. Mark the post positions with set-out paint. Standard fence panels are 2.4m long x 1.2m high and, if cutting, leave 35mm clear on the rails to fit brackets.



2 Dig the post holes

For new footings, attach masking tape to the stringline centred over the post positions, digging 250 x 250 x 600mm deep holes at these locations.

TIP Always check with Dial Before You Dig (1100.com.au) before excavating.



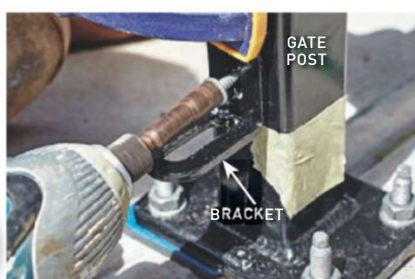
3 Sink the posts

Install formwork around the post holes and check for level. Measure down from the stringline to mark finished footing heights. Pour in concrete, tamp and agitate so it settles, then smooth with a float. Let it cure for at least 24 hours.



4 Set the posts

Secure the posts to the new concrete footings using anchors or Dynabolts. Use a post level and thin packers to set them plumb. Position the last post, which is for the gate, drilling through the posts into the adjacent brickwork.



5 Attach the gate hinges

Hammer the gudgeon hinge plugs into the gate stile. Mark the gate base on the post. Set the bracket. Fit the hinge pin to the bracket, then fit the gate with the top hinge. Mark the post, remove the gate and screw the top hinge.



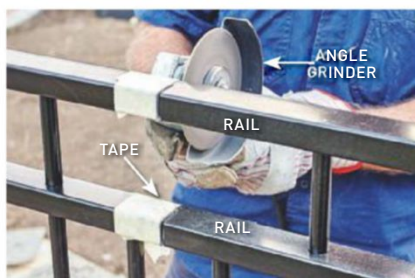
6 Hang the gates

Remove the top hinge and position on the gate, then fit the gate. Insert the supplied screws and tighten using a ring spanner. The gudgeon hinge allows vertical and horizontal adjustment so you can fine-tune the gate position.



7 Add the gate hardware

Attach the D-Latch to the post using the supplied self-drilling Tek screws. Align the striker on the gate, securing with the supplied screws. Adjust to ensure the gate latches smoothly. Fit drop bolts to the gate to hold it open.



8 Fit the fence panels

Cut the fence panels to length using an angle grinder, taping the rails to protect the finish. Ensure the rails have 35mm clearance for the brackets and the panels are symmetrical. Slip the brackets over the rails, then set the panels and level.



9 Secure the brackets

Secure the brackets with the supplied self-drilling Tek screws using a drill or impact driver. Double rail panels have three brackets per side. Drive a screw through the base of a bracket on each side to secure the panel horizontally.



SET THE POSTS

We were setting posts on existing concrete paths and new footings, so chose ones with a base flange.

The 1300mm posts allowed for stepping between the fence panels on sloping ground. Align with a stringline and mark the positions on existing surfaces.

Grind the concrete level to accept the flange, if necessary.

Protector recommends fixing with stainless steel Dynabolts, which rely on compressing the anchor within the masonry.

We risked breaking out the side of the path so used 10mm Ramset galvanised anchor studs and adhesive instead.

Drill 12mm x 90mm deep holes for the studs. >



LANDSCAPE BASICS

The front yard was nothing but dirt before the fence was installed.

It took just a few rolls of turf, hardy plants and mulch to turn it into an attractive, low-maintenance garden.



Sir Walter Buffalo 0.5m² Instant Turf, from \$6. sirwalter.com.au



Dans Plants
190mm Yucca, \$15,
from Bunnings.



Debco PotMate Mulch,
about \$13 for 60L.
debco.com.au

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After

Easy-to-install louvre gates now provide both security and privacy.

Before



Screen the side

This property had a driveway that accessed a rear garage, and the owners wanted to secure this area while still providing easy access.

Protector Aluminium have a range of versatile screening products.

Slats or louvres, fixed or adjustable, there are a host of applications for these products around the home that can provide both security and privacy.

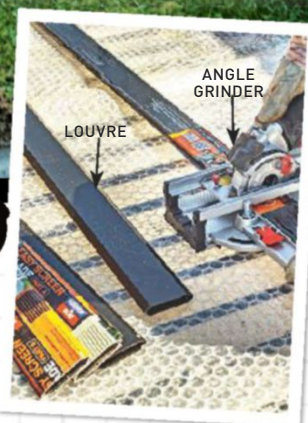
Our solution was to create a pair of 1.8m high gates using fixed louvres secured to a box frame made using gate corners and posts.

This is a simple modular system and Protector can provide custom solutions for any site, then supply them ready to go. Or you can grab it all at Bunnings and knock them up yourself as we did.

All the extra bits and pieces like hinges, latches and screws are right there on the shelves. 🛠️

DRILL DEEP

Put a piece of tape on your drill bit to mark the depth of the screw holes. As a bonus, the tape will sweep the hole as you drill.



➤ Slats, louvres, framing materials and posts can be cut easily with an angle grinder or aluminium blade on a powersaw.



➤ We created 1.8m high gates using fixed louvres set in a frame made with Easy Screen Gate Corners and 50 x 50mm posts.



➤ The louvre gates were hung between the house and the existing steel side fence by attaching them to posts.



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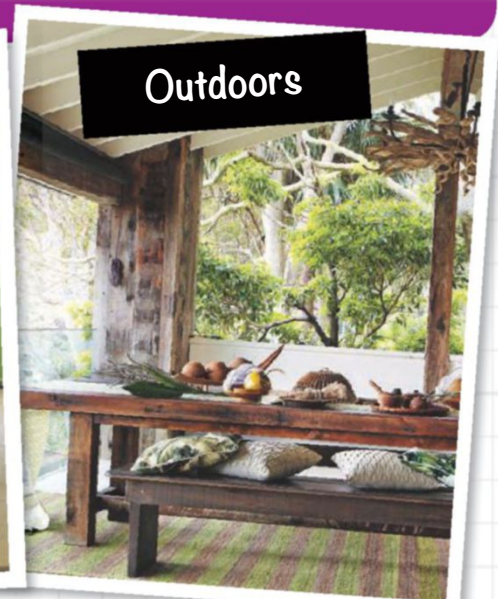
Tag it #HMPetProjects



Wall art



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1
DAY\$186
COST

DESIGN TIP

Add a series of small walls instead of a tall one to create more planting opportunities and avoid the need for an engineer.

RETAINING WALL

Landscape a sloping site in your backyard with a simple DIY solution

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

As well as stopping your uphill becoming the downhill, retaining walls can also be an excellent design addition and problem solver.

Use them to add terraces or levels, make paths and create more planting opportunities if your soil is shallow.

By reducing the slope, they also slow water flow, giving it more chance to soak in and making your garden more self-watering and sustainable.

The range of materials for retaining walls varies from natural stone and purpose-designed masonry blocks to bricks and treated pine sleepers. ➤



What you need

This sloping garden had no proper entry, so two low walls were built to level off the area and form a walkway, and steps were added.

Treated pine sleepers are the easy and economical option to build a non-structural retaining wall.

To make one section of wall that is 3m long x 400mm high, you'll need two 200 x 50mm x 3m sleepers and at least one 200 x 75mm x 2.4m sleeper. Use 50mm thick sleepers for the wall rails and 75mm sleepers for the posts.



Find out the location of all utilities to avoid costly damage.

DIG DOWN WITH CARE

Before excavating for walls and posts, it's important that you have a clear picture of what's underground.

Contact Dial Before You Dig (1100.com.au), a free service that provides diagrams for all utilities.

But still always dig with care as, despite having utility reports, we still encountered a pipe, which was most likely a redundant water pipe, through the middle of our area of excavation.

We could have had a pipe survey company come and check it for us, but it was easier, and cheaper as well, to just adjust our levels and work around it.



Before

After

With two low walls and steps this yard is much more accessible.



Materials

Wet-treated 200mm pine sleepers	\$51
100mm Buildex Timber	
Construction Screws	\$15
Rein Slotted Stretch-Drain	\$63
Quick-set concrete	\$21
40kg blue metal aggregate	\$17
Filter or drainage fabric	\$19
TOTAL	\$186

CHECK THE HEIGHT

A non-structural low wall can be easily designed and constructed by the average DIYer.

But if the height exceeds 400mm, it's close to a boundary, or it will be carrying a heavy load or a 'live' load like a driveway, then you may need to seek professional advice on its design.



Contact your local council to see if there are any rules regarding the size and position of walls

INSTALL DRAINAGE

Don't drain towards adjoining properties.

Lay slotted ReIn Stretch-Drain behind a retaining wall and pull it out to the required length. Make sure it falls slightly in the desired direction.

Cap the starting end and connect the output end to unslotted pipe, then run to stormwater or another section of slotted drain shallowly buried in the garden as a watering pipe.

Cover to 50mm deep with blue metal aggregate, add filter or drainage fabric, then backfill behind the wall with soil. ➤

For more drainage solutions, turn to p96.

Finish with a layer of turf to prevent soil erosion.

BUILD THE RETAINING WALL



1 Mark the area

Use set-out paint to mark the area on the ground, then set a stringline to look at levels. This build was to use cut-and-fill techniques in order to also create a level pathway on the downhill slope of the main retaining wall, so a low wall was required on the downhill side as well.



2 Dig the site

Excavate the site where both of the retaining walls are to be located, then clear an area at least 500mm wide for each to allow for both the wall and clearance for drainage behind. To break up any rock while digging, use a demolition breaker hammer.



3 Build the steps

Use at least three screws to secure each step at the front and back. Position the steps and check for level from side to side and front to rear. Dig the front post hole to 400mm deep and cut the 200 x 75mm sleeper into three 800mm posts. Position one in the post hole and concrete in place.



4 Install the posts

Reset the stringline to check for level, then mark the position for the remaining posts at 1500mm centres. Dig the post holes, then sink the posts using quick-set concrete.

TIP If the wall is one sleeper long, the outside edge of the last post should be flush with the end of the sleeper.



5 Attach the sleepers

With the posts secured in position, attach the horizontal wall rails at the back of the posts using timber construction screws. The sleepers can be screwed in from the front or back but, if securing from behind, ensure you don't drive the screw out through the front face of the sleeper.

TREATED PINE BASICS

Traditionally, pine is preserved with chromated copper arsenate (CCA). As arsenic can leach, this type shouldn't be used for handrails, decks or vegie patches.

ACQ pine uses mainly copper, and while it won't leach toxins it's five times more corrosive, so you must secure with ACQ-safe screws.

Micronised treatments use copper microparticles in sleepers called Microshades. A safe option, these also need ACQ-safe screws.



Don't make the steps too large or it will be hard to position them.



ADDING STEPS

For steps, we built a 1m wide box construction, with 250mm treads and 150mm risers.

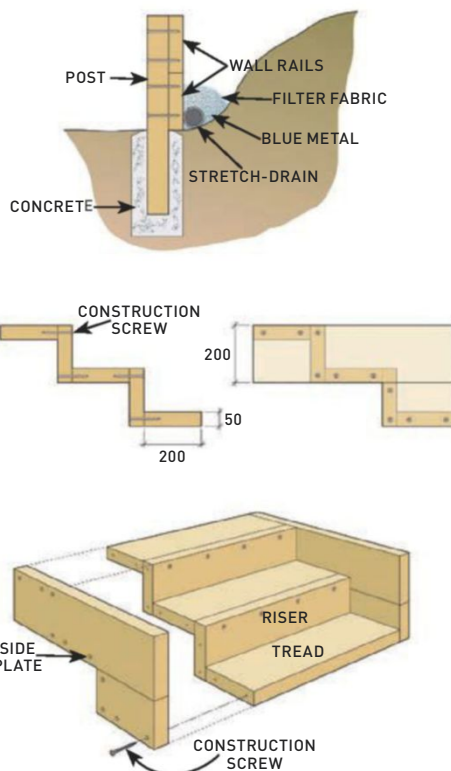
Adjust the plan to fit with posts and any existing structures, adding the top step once the main structure is secured in position.

Use timber construction screws if you're securing to an existing structure. Attach one side to the structure and the other side to the wall post. ✓



WALL AND STEPS

measurements in mm



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Drainage solutions

Prevent any problems with flooding by installing discreet drains in your garden

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS



Badly designed or poorly installed drains, or a lack of drainage altogether, can lead to boggy spots on the lawn or even flooding.

To avoid this, you need to have drainage in your yard that captures the water before it causes any problems.

It should run the water quickly and efficiently to a dispersion or stormwater system, but never the sewer.

With many off-the-shelf DIY solutions available, installing drainage no longer needs to be a complicated or expensive job.

After

A neat grated drainage channel has alleviated the boggy patches.

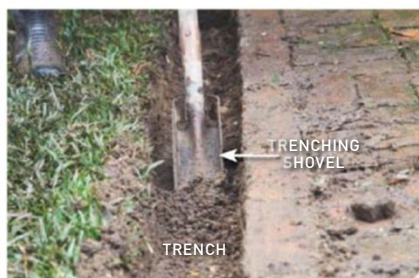
Before



A great sustainable solution for surplus rainwater from small drains is to re-use it to water other parts of the garden

1 2 3

INSTALL SURFACE DRAINAGE To lay this low-profile drain and dispersion system, you'll need a stringline and set-out paint, grated drainage channels, an unslotted ag pipe, end caps, premixed concrete, silicone, a trenching shovel and rubber mallet.



1 Dig a trench

Set out the location for the drain using a stringline and set-out paint. Dig a trench for the drain at least 130mm deep and about 250mm wide.

TIP Use a trenching shovel to dig the trench to make it easier to create a narrow channel.



2 Fit end caps

Attach end caps to the drain and secure them in position with silicone sealant. If necessary, cut the drain to length with a handsaw and make a suitably sized hole for connecting it to an output pipe. Dig another trench for this output pipe.



3 Lay the drain

Mix the concrete and lay a bed in the main trench. Position the drain with the grate in place, then tamp it down using a rubber mallet, ensuring there is adequate fall towards the output end. Connect the output drain, then backfill the excavations and bring to level. ➤

DIY TIP

Local councils have very clear guidelines on drainage and handling stormwater, so if in doubt give them a call.

ADAM'S PICKS



EasyDrain 80mm x 1m
Channel and Grate, \$15.
everhard.com.au



Hart Heavy Duty Long
Trenching Shovel, \$45.
harttools.com.au



Reln 65mm x 8m
Unslotted Stretch Agi
Pipe, \$27. reln.com.au



Adam

EXPERT SECRETS

Don't use dispersion systems across sloping garden areas, as land slippage may result.

1 2 3

INSTALL SUB-SURFACE DRAINAGE For a system that catches and disperses water at its source, you'll need a length of trench liner, end caps, drain matting and blue metal aggregate. Decorative gravel, timber edging and a drainage pipe are optional.



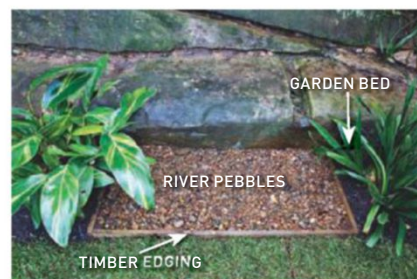
1 Lay trench liner

Excavate a trench in the impacted area 100mm deeper than the height of the trench liner, and deeper if you plan to add a garden bed. The liner will allow water to disperse, but you can also fit a drainage pipe, or a slotted ag pipe if you're adding a garden bed.



2 Add the aggregate

Cover the entire trench liner with drain matting, then backfill the trench using blue metal aggregate, making sure the liner is completely covered by a layer at least 30mm deep. Top the blue metal with another layer of drain matting.



3 Cover the drain

Conceal the drain by adding a layer of decorative river pebbles, constrained by timber edging. Or lay turf or put a garden bed over the top of the drain.

TIP If adding a garden bed on top, dig the drain a bit deeper to allow for soil and use shallow-rooted plants. 🌱

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



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PURGE PESTS

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WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



As winter settles in, you may find that unwelcome guests attempt to set up camp in your home, seeking food, shelter and warmth as the temperatures drop.

But you can ensure these creatures, such as rats, mice and cockroaches, don't stay for the season and produce a new generation to plague the house.

Learn their weaknesses to stop them spreading disease and causing damage to your home.

PICTURE THINKSTOCK

RAT ATTACK

Have you noticed frayed wires, gnawed skirting boards, holes in woodwork, nests in attic insulation, and droppings?

This indicates you have a rodent infestation. Carriers of disease, rats can cause structural damage or spark electrical fires.

Discourage them from entering your home by sealing holes, removing leaf litter and rubbish from the garden, trimming branches away from the roof, closing garbage bins and installing wire mesh over compost bin vents.

If they've already made it inside, leave out poisoned baits, remove nests, or set out traps and, in extreme cases, call in a professional. ➤



In eastern Australia, the subspecies of bush rat is often mistaken for the introduced black rat, but they are shy with rounded ears and don't carry disease

DIY TIP

Tie bacon rind and other strong-smelling food sources like anchovies to a trap to outsmart crafty rats.



HOUSE MOUSE

Mice constantly gnaw on anything and everything, from your cereal to the skirting boards, and can leave behind about 80 droppings each day.

This activity contaminates food, cupboards and benchtops, and results in particles that can trigger asthma.

Set baited traps on pathways that mice regularly use, which can be identified by droppings, trails of urine, grey smudges on walls and entry points in the walls. ➤

SAFETY TIP

Wear gloves when handling traps to protect yourself from disease and to avoid leaving your scent behind, as it may deter mice.

WHAT YOU NEED



Nooski Mouse Trap, about \$10.
nooski.com



The Big Cheese Revolver Mouse Trap, \$5. the-bigcheese.com.au





Wild mice live up to two and a half years and can start producing offspring at just six weeks old. One female can produce over 100 babies each year



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COCKIE CLASH

These insects thrive in warm, humid and unhygienic conditions. And they can take over quickly in winter, with heaters running and washing hung up inside to escape the rain, as this creates the ideal environment.

Wiping out a colony living in your house starts with ensuring all bins have lids and that no food, including pet food, or rubbish is left out to remove all sources of sustenance.

Fixing leaky taps and wiping sinks dry between use will also help, as it will deprive them of access to water.

Once you've made life hard for them, eradicating them can be as simple as spraying them on-site with an aerosol or using sticky traps and baits.

You can also buy a bomb from your local hardware store that provides up to three months protection. 🍀

DIY TIP

Lure and trap cockroaches by greasing an empty margarine container and baiting it with a little honey.

The American species is the largest of the common cockroaches, growing to about 4cm.



The three common species of cockroach in Australia found in and around the home are the German, American and Oriental



PICTURES ALAMY, THINKSTOCK

Handyman

NEXT MONTH

On sale 30 July

OUTDOOR

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GARDEN

Trim trees and shrubs with our simple guide to winter pruning.

PLUS Grow the greenest winter lawn.

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Treat Dad to a handmade present or choose one from our gift guide.

PLUS Find inspiration for his shed.

WHAT'S NEW

Head instore to pick up the latest products for the patio or garden

Q Find it at Bunnings

SAFETY TIP

Choose one firestarter or accelerant when lighting a fire, as mixing may result in explosions or volatile flames.

BACKYARD BITS



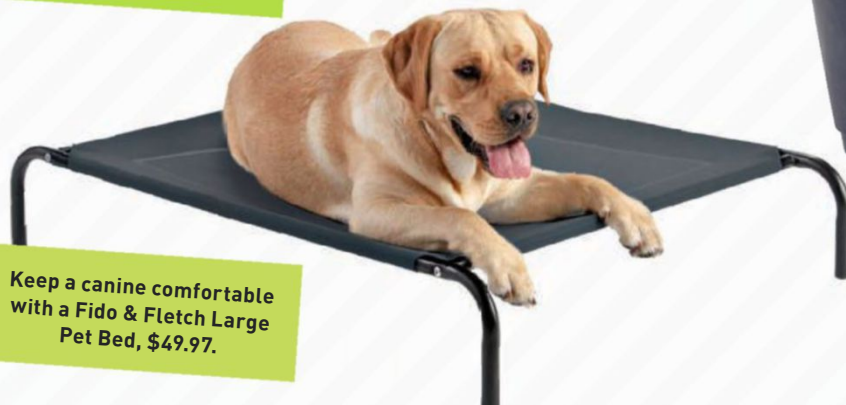
Protect your pooch from the weather with a Fido & Fletch Large Pet Home, \$129.



Flare up flames with Samba Individually Wrapped Firelighters, \$3.99 for 18.



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Keep a canine comfortable with a Fido & Fletch Large Pet Bed, \$49.97.



Haul your hound around in the portable Fido & Fletch Large Plastic Kennel, \$119.

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Take down trees using the Ozito 41cc Petrol 406mm Chainsaw, \$159.



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Ditch garden debris with the Ozito 18V Power X Change Lithium Ion Blower Kit, \$109.



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- 4 Telescopic Ratchet Bypass Lopper, \$87.
- 5 Ratchet Anvil Lopper, \$74.98.

Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE

Take the DIY option for your home improvement projects by choosing the best tools and equipment from our market round-up

The advertisement features a background image of white-painted wooden radiata mouldings. The Woodhouse Edgeline logo is in the top left, with the tagline 'WHITE PRIMED FINGER JOINTED RADIATA MOULDINGS'. The main text describes the product's use for kitchen and shelving projects. A list of features is provided, and the Bunnings Warehouse logo is in the bottom right corner.

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For further product information visit:
woodhouse-edgeline.com.au

The advertisement shows a man and a young boy playing with a stack of green and black plastic storage boxes. The man is standing and holding a box, while the boy is sitting on a colorful play mat, also holding a box. The RYOBI logo and 'TOOL BLOX' text are in the top right. The text 'THE TOOL BOX THAT REALLY STACKS UP.' is centered. The Bunnings Warehouse logo is in the bottom left, and a descriptive paragraph is in the bottom right.

A CUT ABOVE **RYOBI.**
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ryobi.com.au

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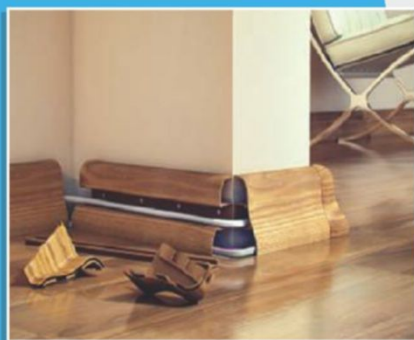
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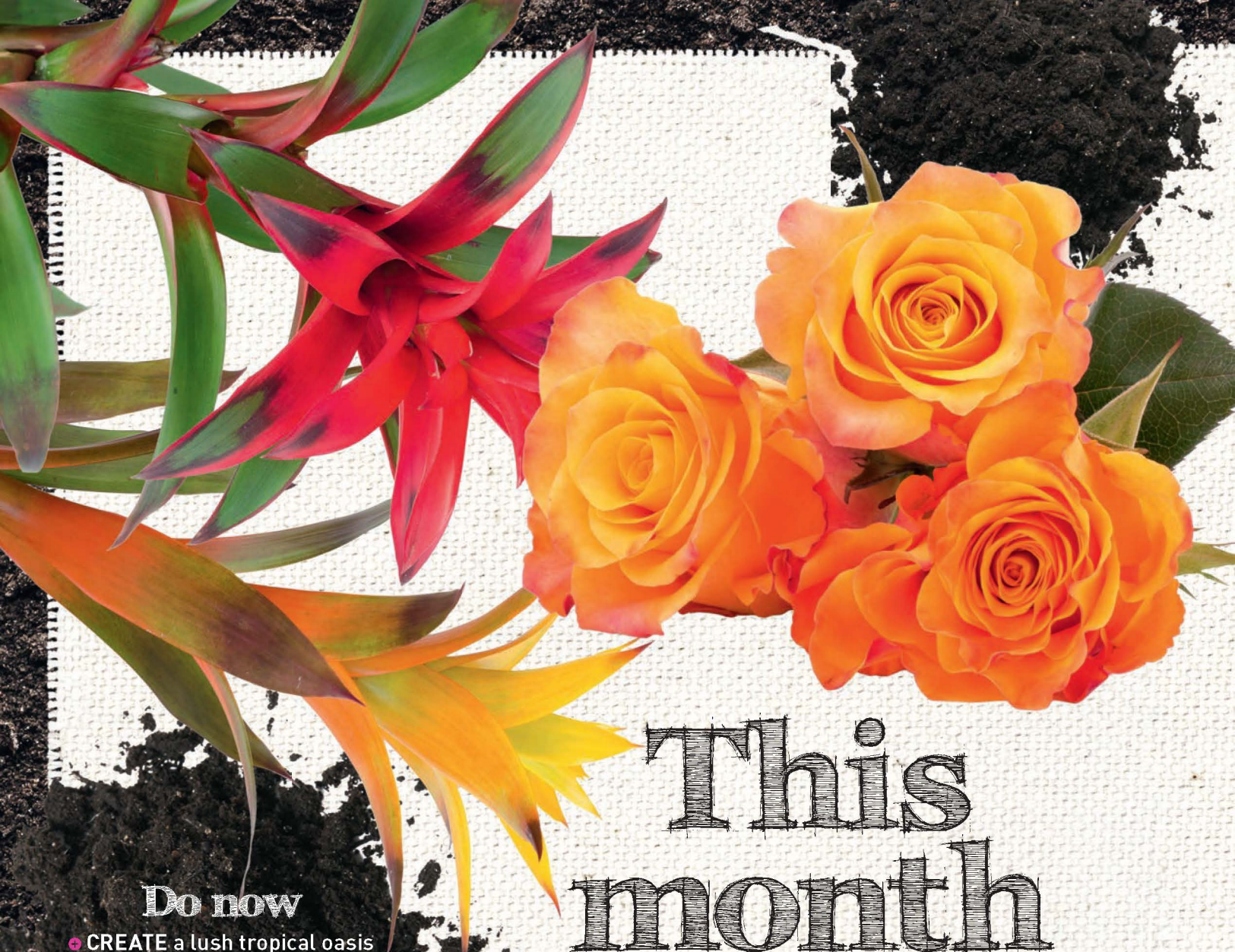
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Do now

- **CREATE** a lush tropical oasis in any backyard, page 116.
- **GIVE** roses TLC for a bounty of blooms, page 124.
- **ADD** a worm farm to boost garden health, page 130.

This month

Midwinter is a great time to plant a tree and tidy up around the yard



Flowers to sow

Design a spring display in temperate to tropical zones.

- **DELPHINIUM**
- **GLOXINIA**
- **CLEOME**
- **MALOPE**
- **STATICE**

Gloxinia



Vegies to grow

Plant now for spring crops in all climate zones.

- **ASPARAGUS CROWNS**
- **BROAD BEANS**
- **LETTUCE**
- **SPINACH**
- **PEAS**



Broad beans

PICTURES ALAMY, THINKSTOCK

WHAT'S IN BLOOM

If you're looking for a real winter garden showstopper, you can't go past *Hakea* 'Stockdale Sensation'.

This spectacular new variety of a favourite Aussie native is covered in red and cream pincushion flowers at this time of the year.

A fast-growing shrub with a dense weeping habit, it reaches 3m high and spreads to 2m, making it ideal for new gardens. Mass plant for a stunning display or use as a feature or hedge. The blooms make great cut flowers.

Grow this hakea in well-drained soil and give it a position in full sun for maximum blooms. Water needs are low once established and you can prune it as needed.

Hakea

WEED ZAPPER

This is the season to take care of any essential but boring outdoor jobs you've been putting off, like tackling weeds gone wild on driveways, paths and paved areas.

Choose a power sprayer with a large tank and a long hose to get the job done fast, and look for an ergonomic design like the new Ryobi sprayer, to save your back from strain.

Ryobi One+ Sprayer
Console, \$85.
ryobi.com.au

Avoid spraying weeds if it has just rained or is about to.

To-do list

Tackle these winter garden jobs.

- ✓ FEED passionfruit vines.
- ✓ PRUNE apple and pear trees.
- ✓ DEADHEAD camellias and feed after flowering.
- ✓ CLEAN and oil garden tools.
- ✓ STAIN or paint outdoor furniture.
- ✓ REDUCE watering of indoor plants.
- ✓ RAISE the height of mower blades.
- ✓ DIG over empty vegetable beds. ➤

HOW TO

PLANT A TREE

Sunday 26 July marks the 20th anniversary of National Tree Day, so plant one to commemorate the event (treeday.planetark.org).

Just ask a horticulturist at your local nursery to help you select the right species for your situation. We used a new evergreen *Magnolia grandiflora* called 'Alta' that bears large white flowers with a lemon fragrance (flemings.com.au).

GROW TIP

For natives like grevilleas and banksias, you shouldn't improve their planting soil with nutrient-rich products.



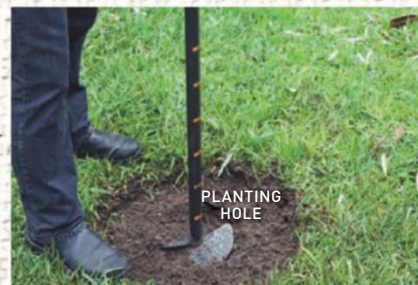
Magnolia 'Alta'

Trees in lawns

Planting a tree in the lawn is an Aussie tradition, but you need to ensure there's no grass around its base and add a barrier to protect it.

A GreenWell Water Saving Plant Surround, \$10 (greenwellwatersavers.com), keeps grass away and makes watering easy. At mowing time, simply use clippers to trim around it by hand.

1 2 3



1 Dig the hole

Remove any grass or competing plants, then dig a planting hole at least twice as wide and slightly deeper than the pot size. To improve the excavated soil, blend through compost or well-rotted manure as suits the plant variety.



2 Plant the tree

Remove the plant from the pot and position in the hole so the rootball sits at the same level as the surrounding soil. Backfill with the improved soil, pressing down gently to remove air pockets without overcompacting it.



3 Install the surround

Position a plant surround in the soil around the tree, tamping it down with a rubber mallet. Fill it with water and let it soak in. Mulch the tree, ensuring none is pushed against the trunk, then water in with Seasol. 🌱

ryobi.com.au

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PLAN A TROPICAL PARADISE

Create your very own lush landscape
in the backyard whatever the climate

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERYL MADDOCKS

Holidays and gardens have a lot in common, as they're both about relaxation and pleasure.

And if you associate the tropics with wonderful vacations, you may want to keep the holiday spirit alive by creating your own permanent tropical retreat at home.

You need a rich mix of foliage textures and colours for a peaceful exotic garden mood.

Think large vibrant foliage, flamboyant flowers and eye-catching architectural statement plants.

This garden style isn't exclusive to the tropics, as it's also ideal for gardens that are frost-free and can provide shelter for plants from the hot afternoon sun.



Group plants with different leaf shapes together to bring out the best in both and use variegated foliage to break up green compositions

CARING FOR YOUR GARDEN

Give your tropical plants a little TLC to keep them looking their best.

- **DIG** copious amounts of well-rotted manure or compost into the soil. Organic matter will hold moisture in the soil to keep your large-leafed plants healthy.
- **FEED** generously with compost or cow manure in the spring and summer.
- **MULCH** around the plants with composted leaves, lucerne hay or pea straw to keep roots cool and retain moisture, topping up as needed.
- **WATER** regularly using a hose or install a drip-watering system. ➤

PLANT IN LAYERS

Tropical gardens are densely planted, which gives them their lush look.

They're designed on three levels, starting with an upper canopy of taller trees and palms that create a warm microclimate and provide shade and protection for lower plants.

The middle layer is made up of shrubs and tall perennials, then at soil level, low growers give a mix of leaf textures and colours.

While the foliage colour is important, the structure, texture, shape and composition are also key considerations.

There is a huge variation in foliage shape, colour and texture, and while mainly green, it can also be colourful.

Colourful canna lilies and cordylines make great accent plants in the middle layer.



MIDDLE LAYER

Choose plants 1-2m high with luxuriant foliage in different shades and shapes, and featuring stunning flowers.

TOP PICKS Clustered parlour palm (*Chamaedorea seifrizii*), lady palm (*Rhapis excelsa*), canna lily, zebra plant (*Calathea zebrina*), elephant's ear (*Alocasia* and *Colocasia*), flag ginger (*Costus*), shell ginger (*Alpinia zerumbet*), blue ginger (*Dichorisandra thyrsiflora*), heliconia, strelitzia, gardenia, cane begonia, cordyline, yucca, Fijian fire plant (*Acalypha*) and Brazilian plume (*Justicia carnea*).

Ginger

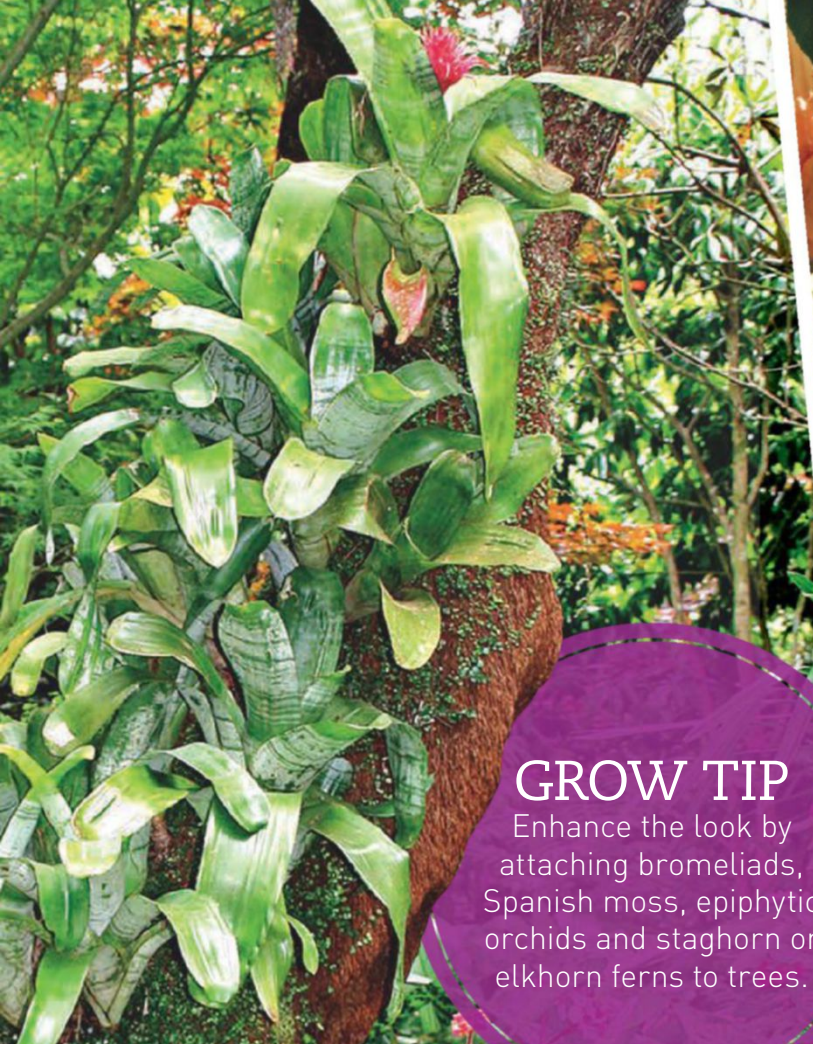
Introduce a few large-leafed edibles to the mix at ground level

Galangal

Turmeric

Cardamom





Brugmansia boasts masses of spectacular flowers in summer.

UPPER CANOPY

You can use any trees in the upper canopy and intersperse them with palms, tall tree ferns and tall shrubs.

✦ **TOP PICKS** Golden cane palm (*Dypsis lutescens*), kentia palm (*Howea forsteriana*), majestic palm (*Ravenea rivularis*), Alexandra palm (*Archontophoenix alexandrae*), giant bird of paradise (*Strelitzia nicolai*), Abyssinian banana (*Ensete ventricosum*), frangipani, lilly pilly, ivory curl tree (*Buckinghamia celsissima*) and brugmansia. ➤

GROW TIP

Enhance the look by attaching bromeliads, Spanish moss, epiphytic orchids and staghorn or elkhorn ferns to trees.

LOW GROWERS

When it comes to the lower layer, dense planting adds to the rich feeling of a tropical-style garden.

✦ **TOP PICKS** Bromeliad, bird's nest fern, *Philodendron 'Xanadu'*, cycad, clivia, lily turf, acalypha, aglaonema, caladium, coleus, croton, maranta, calathea and impatiens.



Croton is an eye-catching choice for the low layer.

ADD A POND

Water is an important part of the tropical look, so add a pond. And if you include a fountain, you'll also benefit from the soothing sound of running water.

But if space is limited, plant a water bowl. The plants need to be positioned at the correct height in the water. Lotus plants and waterlilies should go deep in the water while others do best with the rim of the pot just above water level.

You can gain the correct height for the pots by standing them on bricks or an empty upturned pot in the base of the water container.

DIY TIP

If a pond isn't an option, create an imitation stream bed with pebbles and rocks, softening the edges with overhanging plants.

Did you know?

Stone and terracotta plant pots add to the tropical ambience, especially when they have aged. You can speed up the ageing process by painting them with a solution of diluted yoghurt.

Plant up the pots with colourful dwarf bougainvillea, New Guinea impatiens or tropical rhododendrons (Vireya Group).

Lay terracotta urns among plants and add statues to complete the look.

PAVE THE WAY

When it comes to creating a tropical feel, any pathways you build should have a natural appearance.

Stone pavers combined with gravel or interplanted with miniature mondo grass, or railway sleepers used with pebbles or bark mulch look great.

A slightly raised path made from timber decking boards always works well in this kind of lush setting.

If you already have unappealing concrete floors or pathways in the backyard, you can also lay boards on top to conceal them from view.

No tropical garden is complete without hibiscus plants, so get a couple to use in the background



Furniture to fit

Cane, timber, stone and concrete furniture all suit a tropical-themed garden, so team cane Asian-style furniture with lots of cushions.

Add a day bed to provide a place where you can relax and enjoy your luscious new garden.

Timber benches, chairs and tables can be left unpainted if you want a simple look or brightly coloured for a more exotic appearance.

If you have any unsightly walls or fences you want to conceal, bamboo screens are ideal for this purpose. ➤

PLANTING IN COOL CLIMES

You can still create a tropical-style garden in a cool frost-free or temperate area. The plants you select may not be tropical in origin, but as long as they have the look, they'll work.

✚ **UPPER CANOPY** Suitable palms for this layer include Bangalow palm (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), European fan palm (*Chamaerops humilis*) and Chinese windmill palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*).

Lilly pilly, *Magnolia* 'St Mary', *Michelia alba* and clumping bamboo are good for screening, while tall tree ferns and Abyssinian banana (*Ensete ventricosum*) provide height and shade.

✚ **MIDDLE LAYER** Use flax, cordyline, *Beschorneria yuccoides*, yucca, *Aucuba japonica* 'Variegata', strelitzia, cane begonia, *Fatsia japonica*, ginger lily (*Hedychium*) and ornamental grasses.

✚ **LOW GROWERS** Go for plectranthus, cast iron plant, impatiens, ferns, lamium, helleborus, arum lily, clivia, day lily, bromeliad and hosta. ✚

Choose plants with large, colourful leaves that shout a tropical hello and they'll fit into the scheme

Plectranthus

Bangalow palm

Fatsia japonica

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EXPERT SECRETS

A sprinkle of sulphate of potash around roses helps them naturally defend against fungal attack by thickening the cell walls of foliage.

It's coming up **ROSES**

Give these beautiful plants a little TLC and you'll be rewarded with a dazzling display every year

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

GROW TIP

Plant a climbing rose at least 450mm from a wall, leaning it towards the wall, so it can be easily tied to the support as it grows.



HELP THEM THRIVE

Roses are hardy plants and with just a little care, they'll flourish.

➤ **POSITION** where they will receive at least six hours of sun a day and have protection from harsh winds.

➤ **PLANT** in well-drained soil, enriched with organic matter. Dig in cow manure or compost about 4-6 weeks before planting. Add liquid lime to acidic soils.

➤ **WATER** regularly and deeply the first year after planting. Established plants only need a deep watering once a week.

Water early in the morning at ground level to help reduce fungal diseases.

➤ **FEED** in spring, summer and early autumn with Yates Dynamic Lifter Plus Flower Food, an organic fertiliser or a complete rose or citrus food. Alternate between chemical and organic feeds.

➤ **MULCH** in spring after feeding to keep the roots cool and moist, and suppress weeds. Apply a 50mm layer of lucerne hay, keeping it away from the stem. Top up in summer, if needed.

Versatile roses come in an amazing variety of shapes and sizes. They can climb, cascade, ramble, conceal and decorate.

You can plant them in garden beds, use them on archways and pergolas or drape them over rose obelisks.

Groundcover varieties are ideal for growing over banks, as a mass display or cascading out of containers. They can also be used as low hedges to line pathways or garden beds. ➤

CHERYL'S PICKS



Richgro All Purpose Rose & Citrus Fertiliser, \$5 for 2.5kg. richgro.com.au



Richgro Granular Sulphate of Potash, about \$12 for 2.5kg.

WHEN TO PRUNE

It is necessary to prune roses to reinvigorate the plants before they produce a new harvest of blooms.

Repeat-flowering climbing and bush roses are pruned in June and July in frost-free climates, and in late August and early September in cold climates.

Start by removing the dead wood and then the old, unproductive wood. Old wood has a rough bark with a dull, grey appearance while young wood has smooth red or green bark.

Arm yourself with long gloves, sharp secateurs and a pruning saw.

✿ **CUT** the old wood back to a strong young branch, or if there isn't one, back to the bud union. Remove any branches crowding or crossing over healthy branches, then cut out twiggy growth.

✿ **PRUNE** the remaining growth back by a third to a half. Make the cut about 5mm above a bud that points outwards from the centre of the plant, angling the cut slightly so it slopes away from the bud.

TIP Once-flowering climbers such as banksias and species roses that only bloom in spring are pruned after they have flowered.

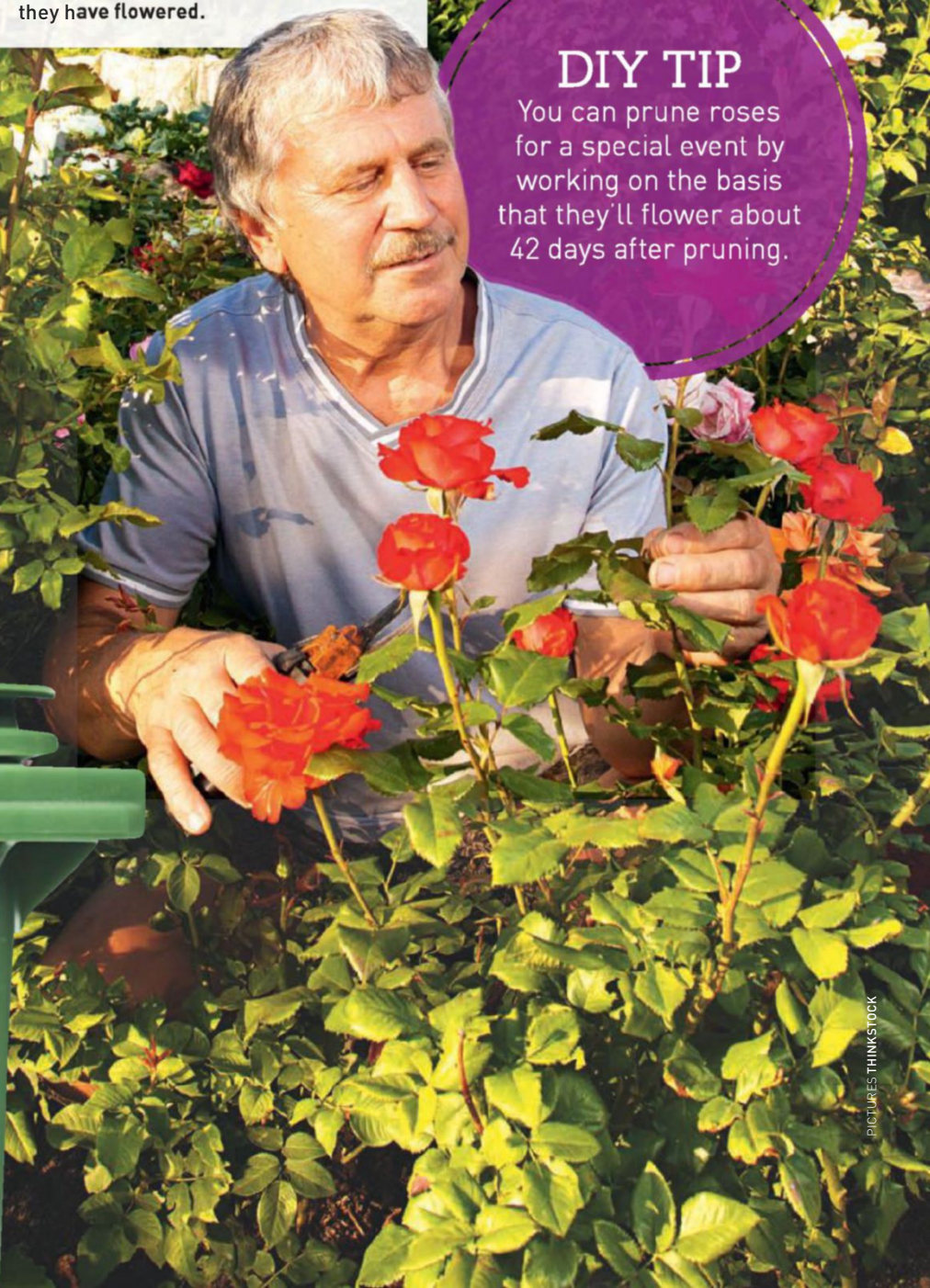
DIY TIP

You can prune roses for a special event by working on the basis that they'll flower about 42 days after pruning.

After pruning

Prevent the spread of fungal diseases, including the dreaded black spot, by collecting all rose clippings and leaves and putting them in the rubbish bin rather than the compost.

Spray with lime sulphur to get rid of any lingering fungi.





Run hedge clippers or shears over large shrub and groundcover roses to prune

PLANT ROSES IN WINTER

The best time to plant roses is in winter when they are dormant. Buy them as bare-rooted plants that are wrapped in plastic or hessian.

➤ **UNPACK** the plant, shake the roots free of packing material, then soak them in a bucket of water.

➤ **DIG** a hole about 500mm wide and deep enough for the bud union to be 25-50mm above the soil level.

➤ **MAKE** a mound of soil in the centre of the hole and position the rose on top. Backfill the hole, making sure the bud union remains at the appropriate height above the soil level.

➤ **FIRM** the soil around the rose, then water in using one full 9L watering can. Add more soil, if needed, and mulch with lucerne hay, keeping it away from the stem.

TIP Don't fertilise a newly planted rose until new growth begins in spring. ➤



Grow coriander, dill, sweet Alice and lavender around roses to attract beneficial insects.

Time to transplant

Winter is a good time to move a rose that is growing in the wrong position.

Drive a spade deep into the soil 350mm from the trunk, continuing around the rose until it lifts easily from the ground.

Cut the branches back by two-thirds and replant. Water with a seaweed solution, then water regularly until re-established.



Black spot



Aphids



Powdery mildew

NIP NASTIES IN THE BUD

Keep your roses healthy by spotting pests and diseases and treating them.

- ❖ **BLACK SPOT** Causes yellow leaves with black spots. Bin any fallen leaves and use Eco-Organic Eco-Fungicide or Yates Fungus Gun to spray the plant.
- ❖ **POWDERY MILDEW** A white powdery growth on leaves, stems and buds. Spray with Yates Rose Gun Advanced or Eco-Organic Eco-Fungicide.
- ❖ **APHIDS** Sucking insects that distort new growth. Hose off and squash with your fingers or spray with an insecticide.
- ❖ **SCALE** Small white or brown lumps attached to stems. Spray with white oil or scrape them off with your fingernail.
- ❖ **THRIPS** Minute insects that suck the sap of flowers and buds, browning the petals. Spray with an insecticide such as Eco-Organic Hippo Enhanced Eco-Oil.
- ❖ **TWO-SPOTTED MITE** Tiny sap-sucking insects that turn the leaves grey and mottled. Spray with an insecticide such as Yates Rose Gun Advanced.

1 2 3

TAKE CUTTINGS Most roses can be propagated from cuttings, and the best time to take them is from April to July so the roots will be produced over the winter months. Choose stems of the current season's growth with three leaf sets either side.



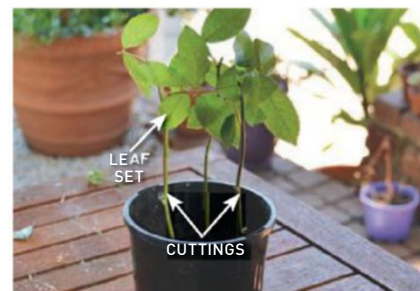
1 Cut the stems

Take cuttings 250mm long, using secateurs. Cut above a bud at the top to remove the shoot tip and below a bud at the base. Leave one leaf set at the top of the cutting and remove all the lower leaves.



2 Dip the base

Put a little honey in a small glass and dip the base of the cutting into the honey, which contains amino acids and growth factors. Or dip the end into rooting hormone powder, then shake off the excess.



3 Plant the cuttings

Add 3-4 cuttings to a 150mm wide pot filled with propagating mix. Position in a shady spot and keep the mix moist. In late spring, lightly pull the cutting and if there is slight resistance, it has developed roots. 🌹

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The wonder of worms

You may want to run a mile when you spot a slimy earthworm, but they're essential to our existence

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



How they work their magic

Worms improve the structure of the soil and increase the air supply in it. This makes it possible for bacteria, fungi, viruses, insects and micro- and macro-organisms to survive.

Earthworms burrow into the soil and break down root mats, opening up tunnels for oxygen and water to penetrate the soil.

Coated with nitrate-rich mucus, the roots of plants quickly take advantage of these tunnels, getting nutrition from the mucus.

PICTURE ALAMY

There are about 1000 native species of earthworms in Australia and, as unappealing as they may be, they are a necessary part of the soil and play a vital role in the health of plants.

They work tirelessly beneath our feet to produce rich castings, called vermicast, which are the essential building blocks of soil.

We rely on them to mine the soil and recycle nutrients to provide the right environment for plants to grow.

Compost worms can also be used to recycle kitchen scraps, and farming worms is an ideal method of recycling.

This type of worm is different to an earthworm as it lives closer to the surface, eats fresher organic materials and likes wetter conditions. ➤



Earthworm castings are far richer in minerals than the earth they ingest and, when deposited into the soil, act as a fertiliser

Did you know?

Aristotle called earthworms the intestines of the soil and Charles Darwin wrote, 'Of all animals, few have contributed so much to the development of the world, as we know it, as earthworms.'

Encouraging earthworms

It's easy to naturally attract worms into your garden.

❶ **ENSURE** the soil is moist but free-draining.

❷ **GARDEN** organically and always use organic mulches like leaf mould, lucerne hay or pea straw.

You get a twofold result, as organic matter not only keeps these workhorses happy, it also conditions your soil as it breaks down.

❸ **ADD** compost and manure regularly to the soil.





FARMING WORMS

Compost worms are the ultimate recyclers, and even apartment dwellers can make good use of their capabilities and receive fertile compost for their pot plants in return.

Just add all your vegie scraps to the bins and the worms do all the work, producing a rich concentrate oozing with nutrients that can be used as a fertiliser on pot plants and garden beds.

DIY TIP

Add a trowel full of castings to a watering can, fill it with water and stir, then use it on your vegetables or pot plants.



WHAT YOU NEED



Care for your compost worms

Place the bin in a cool area that doesn't receive direct sunlight and keep the contents of the bin moist.

Worms eat coffee grounds, tea leaves, crushed eggshells, all fruit except citrus, cooked grains, bread, pasta, chopped fresh and cooked vegetable scraps and newspaper.

Don't feed them citrus, onions, meat, cheese, oil or too much dairy.

If lots of worms are hanging out of the sides or lid of the bin, it means the contents are too soggy. Mix in some dry shredded newspaper to help dry it out.

The rich castings will build up and worm juice accumulates in the base of the box. It can be dug into moist soil or added to potting mix.

Mix the worm juice with nine parts water and use to water pot plants, flowers and vegetables.



Dr Worms 1200+ Live Composting Worms, \$55, from Bunnings.



Tumbleweed Three-tier Worm Café, \$85. tumbleweed.com.au



Feed your worms a handful of scraps twice a week for the first few weeks, then increase the quantity gradually as they multiply



SETTING UP A WORM FARM

Worm farms offer a genuine alternative to traditional composting, especially if you have a small garden.

You can buy a readymade worm farm, such as the Worm Café, and set it up yourself. After a few months, you'll be harvesting the castings.

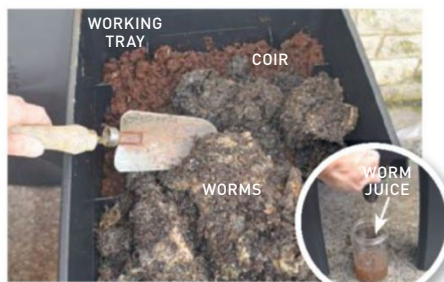


1 2 3



1 Assemble the farm

Attach the legs to the base of the collector tray and screw in the tap. Insert a working tray into the top of the collector tray and add a piece of cardboard. Hydrate a coir brick and spread it evenly over the cardboard.



2 Add the worms

Gently spread the worms over the coir with a trowel and cover with a worm farm blanket or hessian. Close the lid and let them settle for a few days, then feed, keeping the farm moist. Use the tap to extract the worm juice.



3 Harvest the castings

After 2-3 months, the tray will be full of castings. Add the next tray and half fill with compost, shredded newspaper and a handful of scraps. The worms will move to the new tray and the castings can be removed from the lower tray. 🍷



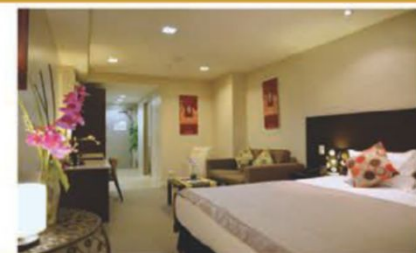
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What's on this July

Adult D.I.Y. Workshops

Saturday 27 June Windows and doors	Saturday 18 July Flooring
Sunday 28 June Windows and doors	Sunday 19 July Flooring
Saturday 4 July Indoor project	Saturday 25 July Quick refresh, repair and maintenance
Sunday 5 July Indoor project	Sunday 26 July Quick refresh, repair and maintenance
Saturday 11 July Home organisation	Saturday 1 August Storage solutions
Sunday 12 July Home organisation	Sunday 2 August Storage solutions

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 27 June Animal craft	Sunday 18 July Craft
Saturday 28 June Game makers	Sunday 19 July Decorator
Saturday 4 July Wall art	Sunday 25 July How to plant a tree
Saturday 5 July Fun mosaics	Sunday 26 July How to plant a tree
Saturday 11 July NAIDOC week	Sunday 1 August Dress ups
Saturday 12 July NAIDOC week	Sunday 2 August Fun with paint

For more information on other instore events or to book, call (03) 8831 9777 or visit bunnings.com.au



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EXTRAORDINARY USES FOR
CLOTHES PEGSHAMMER
HELPER

Make sure you hit the nail and not your finger by using a clothes peg to hold nails when hammering in those hard-to-reach places.

CLOSET
SORTER

Hold together pairs of children's shoes, boots, socks and gloves with clothes pegs and put an end to frustrating hunting expeditions in the wardrobe.

BAG
SUPPORT

Shake open a plastic rubbish bag and spread it wide, then use clothes pegs to clip one side of the bag to a fence or a bush, so it will stay open for easy filling.

OBJECT
CLAMPER

Use clothes pegs as clamps when you're gluing two thin items together. Allow the pegs to hold them in place until the adhesive dries.

LIGHT
HOLDER

Keep outdoor Christmas lights in place and ready to withstand the elements by securing them to gutters, trees or bushes with clothes pegs.



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

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

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Create a timeless transformation... with Porta mouldings

See How
Online...
See our new website
with DIY videos and
design ideas using
mouldings.



1
PM-3115

[or]



PM-3012



2
PM-2009

[or]



PM-1508



3
BVA-9211

Transforming your home into a timeless Danish inspired masterpiece is easier than you think with Porta mouldings. Combine the clean lines of solid timber mouldings with a splash of colour to bring new life and elegance to a room. Take a look at our website to see the hundreds of different moulding options and start creating your own contemporary classic.

Available from Bunnings and major timber & hardware outlets.

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