

STARRING OUR BEST READER PROJECTS page 80

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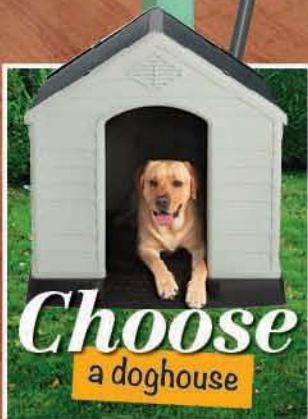
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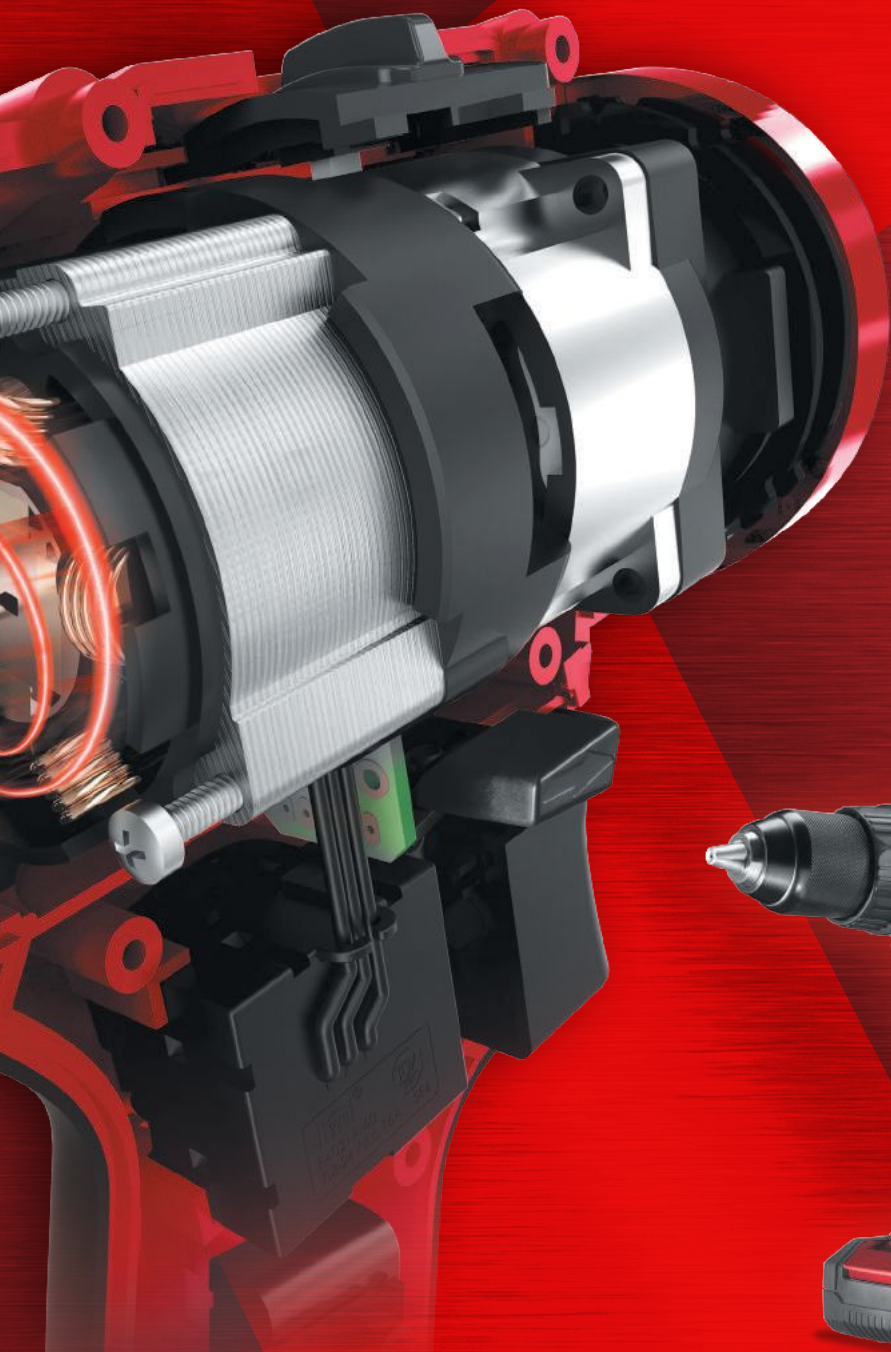
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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY
SUE FERRIS

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to *Handyman* p138

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GET THE LOOK

LOVE THE COVER?

For relaxed kitchen style, add pops of colour against a neutral backdrop

MAIN PICTURE SUE FERRIS

This glass vase was bought from a Salvation Army store for \$28.

Designed for entertaining, this open-plan kitchen and dining area provides ample seating for eating and socialising, and a mobile bar.

Touches of personality and colour are introduced to the otherwise neutral colour scheme through easy-to-update pieces such as the wall clock, chairs, vases and a customised table.

TENDRIL

Dulux Aquanamel in Semi Gloss, about \$45 for 1L.
dulux.com.au

Satara Lazer Bar Stool, \$792.
satara.com.au

Probilt 12mm Ancient Cypress Laminate Flooring, about \$54 for 1.548sqm, from Bunnings.

Jupiter Dining Chair in Optic White, \$69.
freedom.com.au

Jasper & Eve Blush and Timber Wall Clock, \$129.
jasperandeve.com.au



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THIS ISSUE

HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH



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A big congratulations to the Stanley competition winners from the Dec 2015/Jan 2016 issue.

Caitlin Ross, QLD, Melissa Roach, QLD, Ben Hunter, NSW, Rhonda Oakley, QLD, Fiona De Angelis, VIC

EDITOR'S LETTER



In *Australian Handyman*, we like to inspire our readers. From building projects to garden design and decorating ideas, we offer ways you can improve your home.

In this issue, on page 80, we're also featuring projects and time-saving tips that readers have shared with us.

And if you send in your DIY project and we publish it, we will give you \$300. For tips, we will give you \$100. Enter at handyman.net.au/win.

It's playtime

When I was a kid, my father installed the most astonishing swing, tyre and trapeze set for me and my siblings.

This involved using a huge crane to dig holes and put telephone poles in the ground. The swings were so long, we'd literally swing up into the trees. It was no DIY job.

But you can spoil your kids just as well with a play set you can DIY. And you can add a soft-fall surface to keep them safe. See page 60.

Time wasters

I love a good shortcut as it makes the job quicker and easier, right? And I hate to admit it but I am guilty of having done most of the 20 paint shortcuts, on page 44, that do more harm than good.

Get a professional look by avoiding these shortcuts, as they make the job take longer and give an inferior finish.

Get the news

Have you signed up for our e-newsletter yet? Each week, we'll send you what's new, including stories, projects, videos and recipes. We'll also show you how you can win prizes and cash.

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MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

The Vixen range of retractable sink mixers from Dorf combines good looks and functionality to make a bold statement in the kitchen.

The gooseneck design with a pull-down, retractable handpiece allows the spray to be easily directed around the sink area, so washing up and rinsing vegetables is a breeze.

A long life is ensured by the solid brass construction, while the flexible SoftPEX hose is free from impurities and provides superior durability.

It also boasts a 4-star WELS rating for excellent water efficiency.

The two-tone finish is available in matt black and chrome, or white and chrome, for a contemporary look in new kitchens, while the all-chrome model is ideal for both classic and modern homes (dorf.com.au).



Dorf Vixen Black Retractable Sink Mixer, \$298.

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Australian Handyman

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HANDY STUFF



Bedside beauty

Use Componibili Metallic Storage Units to keep the bedroom tidy, from \$350 each. The units are 32cm wide and available in two- or three-drawer options and three metallic finishes.

top3.com.au



Pop-up pile

Hide your dirty clothes in the Sperling Pop Up Black Mesh Laundry Hamper, about \$9. It features two handles and collapses flat when not in use. It's also ideal for storing linen, toys or sporting goods.

sperling.com.au

STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Keep your place clutter free and maximise space with these products

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Loafer loader

Organise your shoe collection with an Easier Storage Two-tier Chrome Expanding Shoe Rack, \$12. The two-row design has an expandable width up to 115cm.

bunnings.com.au



Handy hideaway

Tidy away purses, bangles, loose change and more in the innovative Hook Nooks, \$13 each. Made from 50% recycled materials, they have a diameter of 9.5cm and extend 12cm from the wall. The mounting hardware is included.

upcyclestudio.com.au



Treasure chest

Keep jewellery safe in a Theresa Arns Black Ash Jewellery Box, \$199. The mirror acts as a lid and the holder measures 28 x 15 x 4.5cm.

top3.com.au



Looped levels

Store shoes for easy access in any type of closet using a Harmony Premium Nine-shelf Hanging Wardrobe Organiser, \$17. It simply fastens around the clothes hanging rack with Velcro. bunnings.com.au



Knick-knack nook

Pop books, pencils and scissors in the colourful Normann Copenhagen Pocket Organisers, from \$25 each. Just mount each one to the wall with the hidden sliding bracket. top3.com.au



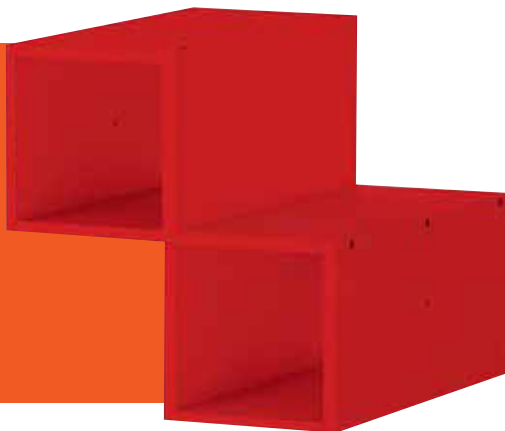
Corner cure

Utilise wasted space with Romak Four-tier 140 x 35 x 35cm Chrome Wire Corner Shelving, \$72, with adjustable shelves. romak.com.au



Double divider

Maximise shelf space with a Clever Cube Divider Insert, \$25. Ideal for magazines, toys and other small items, the divider measures 37 x 33 x 33cm and is easy to assemble. It's available in red and black. handy-storage.com.au



Tidy tubs

Sort your long-term storage items with the Ezy Storage Solutions Extra Large Hanging Compartments, \$6 for three. They are designed to hang inside Ezy Storage large plastic bins to keep fragile items safely separated. ezystorage.com.au



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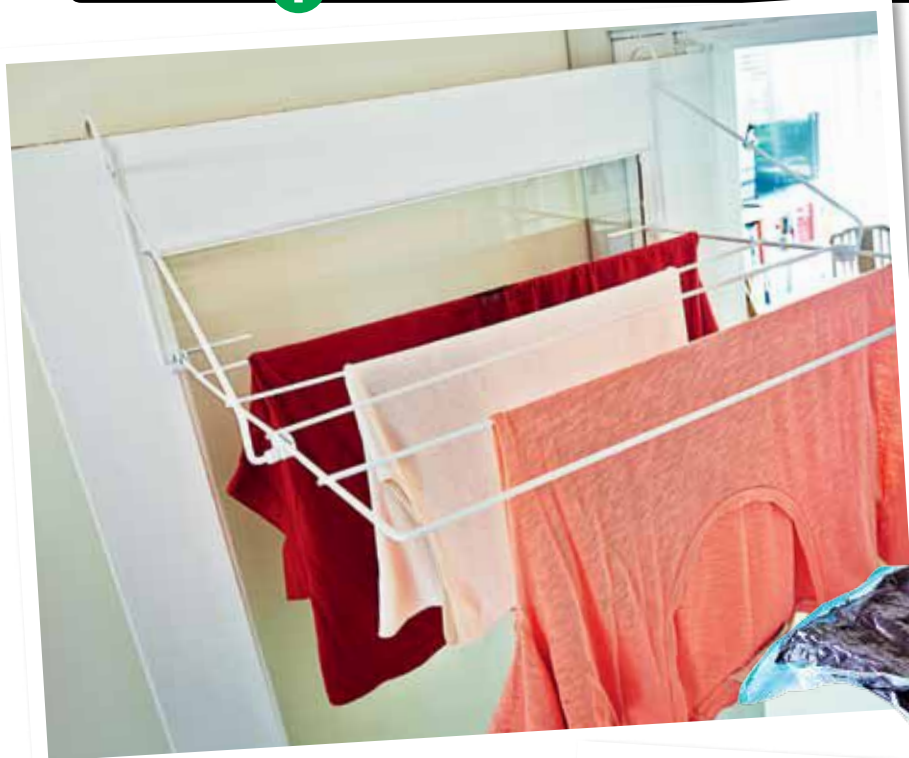
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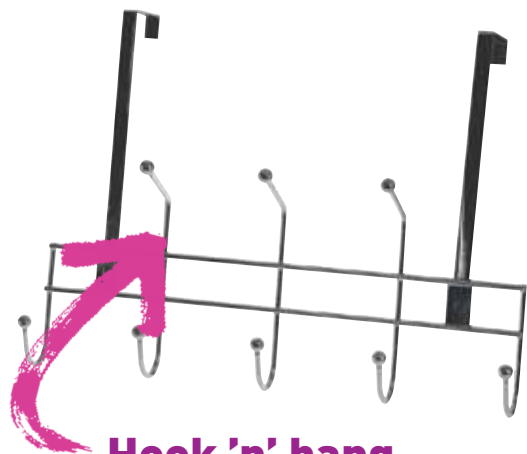
Ready rail

Free up floorspace on laundry day with an LTW Over Door Clothes Airer, about \$14. It has five rails and folds up flat when not in use.
bunnings.com.au

Tight squeeze

Stack spare clothes in a Betani Compressed Vacuum Bag Value Pack, \$20. For a compact storage solution, simply tuck your clothes inside the large and extra large bags and seal them, then remove the air with a vacuum.

bunnings.com.au



Hook 'n' hang

Make the most of vertical storage by hanging scarves and bags on a Romak Eight-ball Hook Over Door Hanger, \$20. Chrome plated and measuring 400 x 290 x 100mm, it fits over a standard door without the need for screws or nails.

romak.com.au



Portable pole

Ironing is made easy with the clever Extenda-A-Rail, about \$17. It fits any doorway 88-160cm wide and holds up to 7kg with its self-supporting design that won't mark doorframes.

handihome.com.au

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BUYER'S GUIDE

GARDEN HOSES

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Forget hose ends falling off with a Gardena 13mm x 15m Premium SuperFlex Hose with Power Grip, \$59, with high-density mesh reinforcing. gardena.com/au/



Direct drainer

Drain water directly from your washing machine into your garden with the easy to connect Nylex 22mm x 10m Grey Water Chief Hose, \$22. cyclone.com.au



Tough stuff

Tackle everyday watering with the tough Nylex Knockabout 12mm x 15m Garden Hose, \$25. It's UV protected, has reinforced braiding and a 1.8mm rubber hose wall. cyclone.com.au



Subtle seeper

Drip water directly onto a plant's root zone with the Holman 30m Dripping Hose, \$39. The low-pressure system can be installed both above and below mulch. holmanindustries.com.au



Water smart by using the best product to suit your outdoor space and budget

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Sturdy staple

Guaranteed for 20 years, the Toro 12mm x 15m Velocity Garden Hose, \$79, has superior kink resistance. Its hybrid polymer construction is highly flexible and durable. toro.com.au



Double duty

Soak or sprinkle with the Pope 15m Soaker Hose, \$20. It has wide fins on either side of the hose to prevent twisting and comes with a snap-on connector. popeproducts.com.au



Compact coil

Bin the bulky hose reel in a small space and try an Aqua Systems 15m Coil Garden Hose and Spray Gun, about \$21. The gun features seven spray patterns. bunnings.com.au



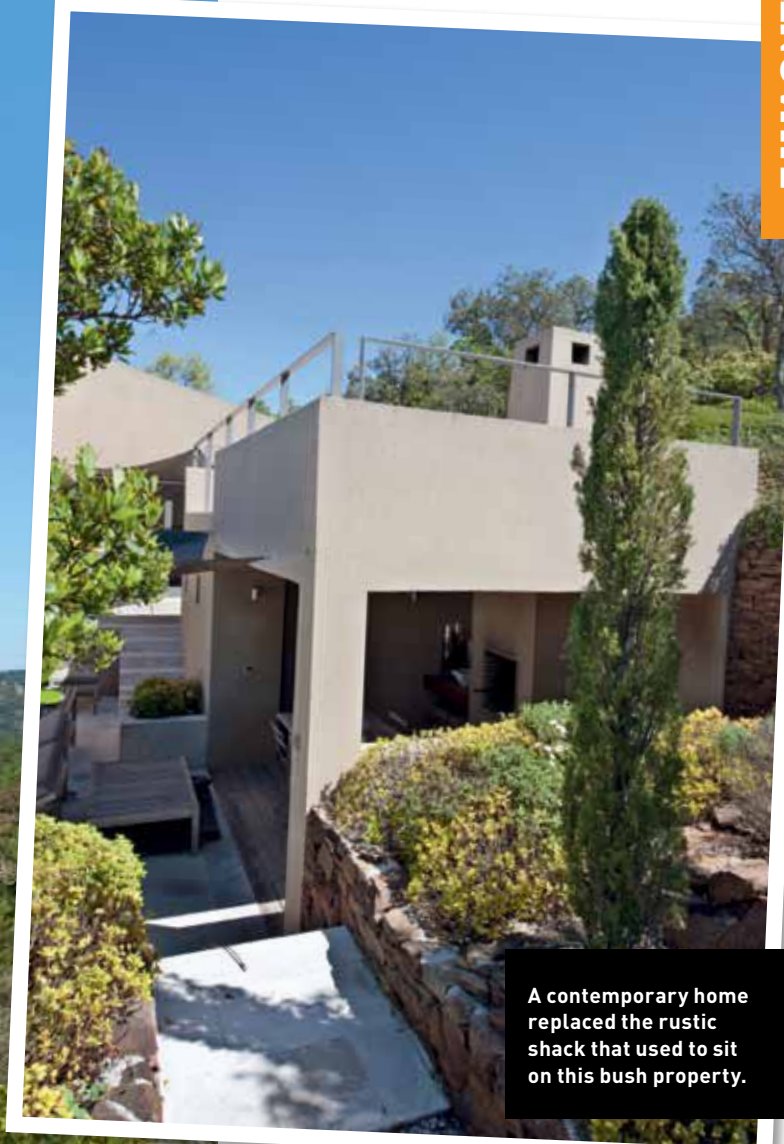
FOR YOUR INSPIRATION ►►►

MOUNTAIN RETREAT

A new build on a family plot of land strikes the ideal balance between modernity and simplicity

WORDS SITA SIMONS





A contemporary home replaced the rustic shack that used to sit on this bush property.



The swimming pool is positioned to take advantage of the bush setting and amazing mountain views.

As a child, Mark Parer spent his school holidays with his father and siblings in a shack in the bush. But it wasn't always welcomed.

'I would moan like mad,' says Mark, who is now 58 years old.

'We had no TV, no neighbours and no privacy. The place my dad bought was as basic as it comes, with only two rooms. How he put up with us, I'll never know.'

But those holidays formed some of his best childhood memories and a lasting connection to the landscape.

When Mark inherited the 2.5ha of land, he left everything untouched for a number of years, unwilling to change what had been there.

And when he and his wife decided to leave city life behind, there was really only one place to go. ➤

Pool priority

There was one element that was non-negotiable when Mark decided to build a new home on the property.

'The nearest beach is miles away, so a swimming pool was essential. I looked at plans with the architect and she suggested it was also a way to bring water to the dry environment, so the design got larger,' says Mark.

Most people include a pool for the kids, but here it was a defining feature that drove the rest of the build.

To keep the reference strong, the 20m pool runs long and narrow into the distance, forming the visual punctuation in the bush landscape from each room of the house.



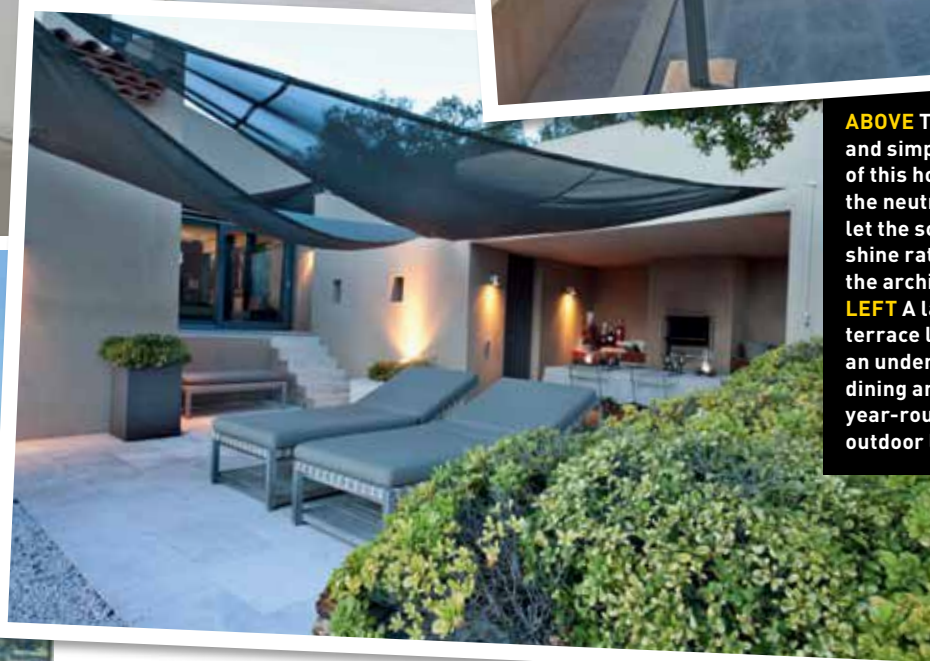
Earthy tones work beautifully against a backdrop of blue sky



The expansive living spaces feature comfortable furnishings that are made for entertaining and family living.

A design feature as much as it is a lifestyle choice, the swimming pool brings water to the dry bush landscape.





ABOVE The clean and simple lines of this home, and the neutral tones, let the scenery shine rather than the architecture. **LEFT** A large sun terrace leads off an undercover dining area for year-round outdoor living.

Blending in

A guiding principle of successful architecture is creating buildings that sit comfortably in their environment.

This home was built on a high point of the land in order to capture the best of views from every angle, and clearing the 500sqm site was a mammoth undertaking.

'We had real challenges getting machinery in and, in some ways, I felt it was the land biting back at the changes I was making,' says Mark.

'But I was very happy with the sympathetic and responsive treatment to the environment that the architect made, so I knew the end result would be worth all the pain.'

The final result is 260sqm of living space, including three bedrooms and two bathrooms. In addition, extra space is given to a gym, games room, pool house, cocktail bar and storage.

Just as it was more than 50 years ago, this home is a place to spend leisure time with family. ➤

Central views

The home follows a simple floorplan of living and dining at the front, with bedrooms and bathrooms to the back.

A central courtyard links all the spaces and also provides ventilation, visual balance and views.

It also features a limestone step arrangement, which reflects the lines of the house and acts as a defining sculptural element, combining nature and the built environment.

A mature olive tree references the European-influenced design and the wider bush landscape.

'You don't realise how important these exacting details are until you are living with them,' says Mark.

'It's such a relaxing and calm house, and I know it's at least in part down to the attention to every aspect working together in harmony.' ➤



Keep furnishings simple for a modern home that won't date

The internal courtyard creates long views from the back of the house to the pool.





Throughout the home and grounds, the frames of full-height windows and doors form visual corridors.



ABOVE Nature is never far from sight, even in the bathrooms, with floor-to-ceiling doors letting the outside in and large mirrors reflecting the views.

BELOW Vertical lines form the structure and logic of all of the high-ceilinged interior spaces.



Understated luxury

In this house, the palette is soft and earthy, with all the strong colour being reflected from outside.

The generosity of the floorplan means that lots of space is given to everything, enhancing the feeling of luxury and unhurried leisure.

No elements compete and excess is avoided. The quality of the light and the open but considered spaces make this home a private oasis.

‘Even the kitchen takes second place to the view. This was something different for us, to take the focus away from the interior,’ says Mark.

‘Of course, we have all of the inclusions we need, such as storage and bench space and a double-sized stove, but the simplicity of the design makes it enjoyable and unfussy to use.’

All the technology in the home works cleverly behind the scenes to provide modern conveniences such as heated floors, automatic blinds and curtains, and music.

‘Without really realising it until it was finished, this modern and comfortable home has managed to retain something of the feeling of my dad’s old shack, something that makes me incredibly happy,’ says Mark. 🍷



When the view commands all the attention, interiors are best decorated with a light hand

A room built for cooking and socialising, the kitchen still defers to the view and is bordered on one side by the courtyard.





ABOVE A monochrome palette throughout suits the streamlined spaces and directs attention outdoors.

BELOW Discreet technology, such as built-in speakers and underfloor heating, makes this large house a comfortable family home.



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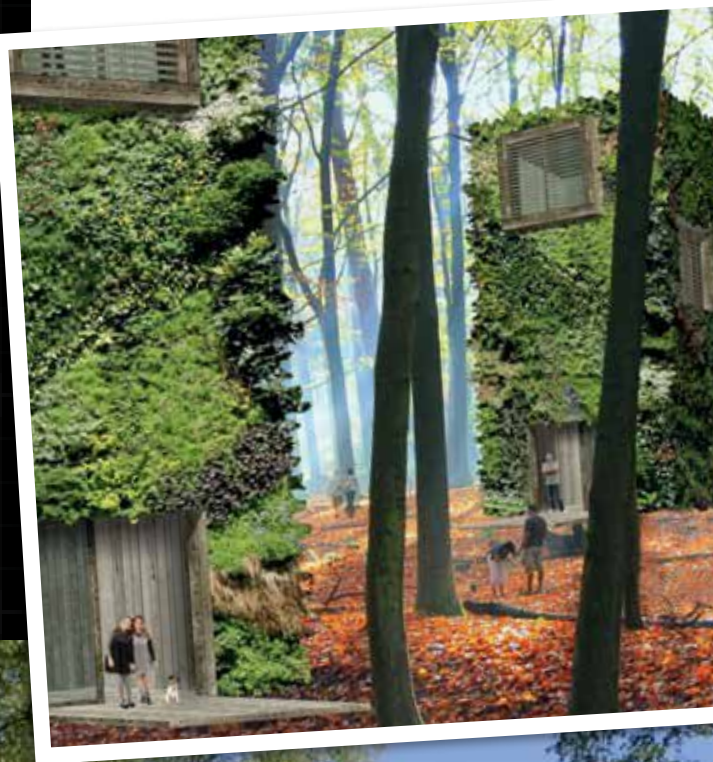
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BUILDING TRUST



GREEN LIVING

These homes of the future blend seamlessly with nature



Covered in foliage, these unique homes are situated in a city woodland.

In urban areas, the 'treescrapers' can boost green spaces to improve air quality and visual appeal.

Have you ever wanted to live among nature in a treehouse but baulked at the prospect of managing the everyday necessities such as electricity and plumbing while living off the grid?

A new building concept is set to change all that by fusing nature and architecture in a fully equipped, multipurpose dwelling.

Oas1s, an idea conceived by Dutch architect Raimond de Hullu, is intended to revitalise urban spaces by replacing concrete with greenery and creating the world's first 100% eco city.

'For those people who demand a high-quality and green standard of living, Oas1s brings competitive middle-class housing,' says Raimond.

A typical Oas1s home is clad with vertical gardens and features three bedrooms and two bathrooms, plus lounge, dining and storage areas in a 160sqm, four-storey layout.

The eco-homes are designed to be constructed within a forest-like urban community that doubles as a public park. The compact sites will be car-free, with electric car-share stations located at the fringes.

The spacious interiors feature recycled timber and triple-glazed windows that allow natural light to flood into the home.

DESIGN TIP

Grow vertically by installing a wall garden, training climbing plants up a frame or using hanging baskets.



Back to nature

Living off the grid means all electricity and water must be provided by nature.

In a self-sufficient Oas1s home, power comes from solar panels, water is collected and recycled and green walls can provide edible produce.

The homes can also be set up as an eco-resort, allowing guests to experience natural locations while making minimal impact on the environment.

BUDGET KITCHEN

A handy couple knocks out a wall and installs new cabinetry DIY to add value to their rental property

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT PICTURES SUE FERRIS

SAFETY TIP

Ensure the power is shut off before beginning any demolition work to avoid accidentally cutting through live wires.

After

The layout is the same, but the kitchen is now flooded with light and bang up to date.

The kitchen in this investment property was well past its prime. Dated peach cabinets dominated the small space, and were teamed with a brown splashback and grey benchtops, making it an eyesore.

Maria Coutinho and her husband Pedro spent just \$6300 to update it. They knocked out a wall and designed the kitchen using Kaboodle cabinets and benchtops. A rangehood, new sink and lighting were also added.

The reno took a week and doing the work DIY, except for plumbing in the new sink, and not changing the wiring kept the costs right down. ➤



Opening up the kitchen entrance created space for a breakfast bar with a built-in wine rack and stools



Black subway tiles create a sleek splashback in the new kitchen. **BELOW** The old cabinets, sink and tiles were stripped out.

Before



PICTURES (BOTTOM) MARIA COUTINHO





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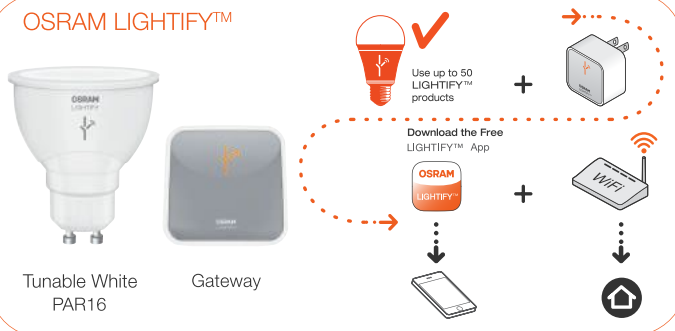


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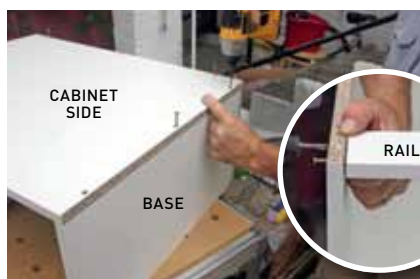
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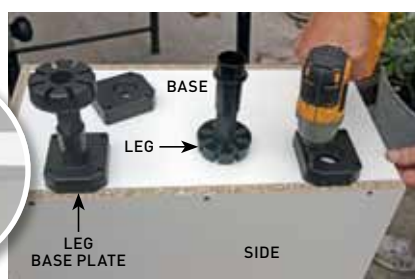
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INSTALL THE CABINETS



1 Assemble the cabinets

Secure the back to the base using the supplied screws and predrilled holes, ensuring the leg holes are on the outside. Add the sides, keeping the front edges flush, then attach the rails in between with two screws each end.



2 Attach the legs

Position the leg base plates with the tapered edges on the sides and the front legs set back 60mm. Push in the legs, then use a combination square to set the height to 145mm to match the maximum height of the kickboard.



3 Add the drawers

Attach the runners to the inside face of the cabinet sides and the guides to the drawer sides, aligning the guide marks. Insert the drawers.

TIP Screw heads can impede runners if they are not driven accurately.



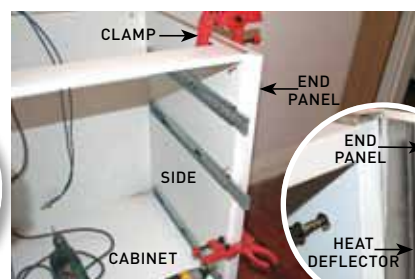
4 Position the cabinets

Use a spirit level to mark a level line on the wall, 865mm up from the lowest point on the floor. Position the cabinets and adjust the legs so the tops meet the wall line, then check for level in both directions.



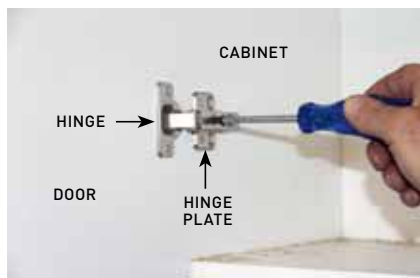
5 Cut the pipe holes

Mark any pipe holes down from the level line and cut with a holesaw from the outside, finishing from the inside. Drill 5.5mm holes into the wall through every second cabinet, insert plastic plugs and secure with screws.



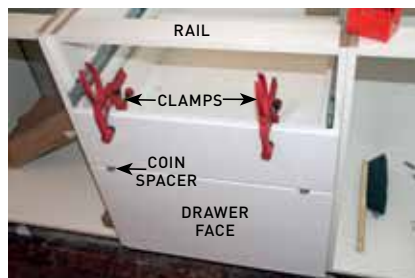
6 Secure the end panels

Clamp the end panels with the front edge overhanging the cabinets by 20mm, and plane to finish flush at the top. Secure through the inside of the cabinets with screws. Add heat deflectors for the oven cabinet.



7 Hang the doors

Secure the plates to the cabinet sides and the hinges to the doors, then hang the doors with even gaps. The two plate screws adjust the height, while the centre screw on the hinge arm moves the door left or right.



8 Add the drawer faces

Drill clearance holes in the drawer front corners. Position the lowest face flush with the cabinet base with even gaps on the sides. Secure from inside with screws, using clamps and coins as spacers to attach the remaining faces.



9 Install the kickboards

Cut the kickboards to length and position hard against the legs. Mark 50mm back from the cabinet base front edge using a combination square. Secure with screws. Seal around panels and kickboards with silicone. >

Keep the colour scheme neutral for a rental property.

Style the space

Renovating a rental property means putting aside personal taste to create a neutral backdrop anyone can live in.

Maria chose white cabinets to make the most of the increased natural light, teaming them with dark stone-look benchtops to create a space that won't date. The black subway tiles used for a splashback add a designer element.

To appeal to potential tenants, she injected colour into the monochrome room through accessories. ➤

GET THE LOOK



Kaboodle Living Room Discreet Grip Handle, \$4.
kaboodle.com.au



Spike Pineapple Cookie Jar, \$20.
target.com.au



Harvey Norman J2 Barstool, from \$269.
harveynorman.com.au

Johnson Tiles 300 x 100mm Black Gloss Ceramic Wall Tile, \$45 per carton. johnsontiles.com.au

The Urban Cook by Mark Jensen (Murdoch Books, \$50). murdochbooks.com.au





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A lifelike 3D rendering is invaluable in planning a kitchen.

DESIGN TIP

Plan your kitchen online with the working triangle of the fridge, stove and sink in mind to get the layout right.



DIY design

To ensure the final layout of the kitchen was going to make the most of the space, and the finishes would complement each other, Maria designed it with the help of a Bunnings consultant.

In addition to a floorplan, a 3D rendering of the renovation was provided, to give a realistic preview of the finished design, ensuring any errors were caught before purchase and installation.

The Kaboodle website has tools for you to try this at home (kaboodle.com.au).

The mykaboodle management tool enables you to create mood boards, collect images and track the progress of your DIY project. 🛠️



2D FLOORPLAN



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IMAGES KABOODLE KITCHEN



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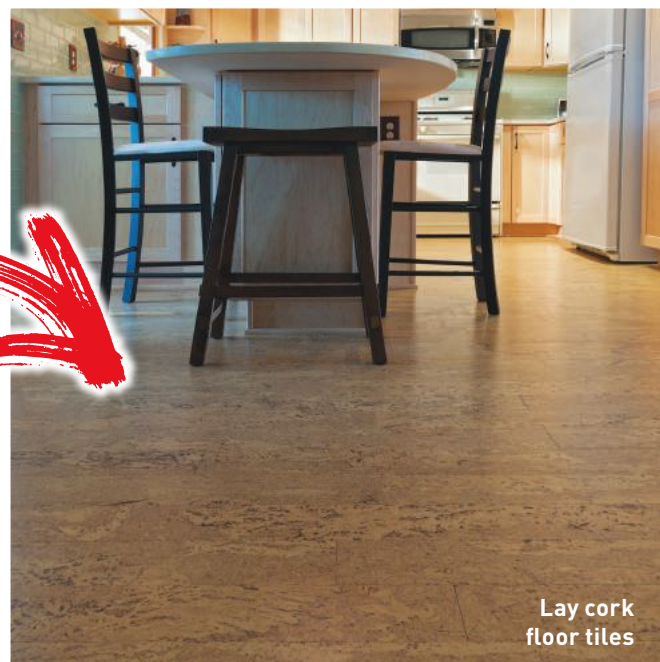
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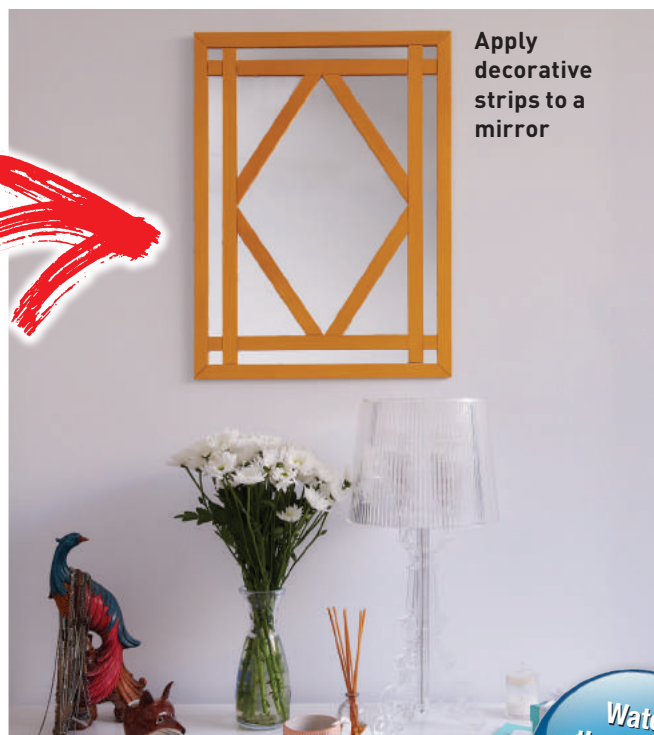
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Be brave and inject your personality into the kitchen with vibrant paint.

CREATIVE COLOUR

Bring your house to life with these easy tips for picking the ideal interior paint

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

While many of us will consider white or neutrals the go-to paint selections for the interior surfaces of a home, this can leave them boring and cold.

Creams, beiges and off-whites do give a uniform look but don't highlight all the pieces of furniture, artworks, textiles and other knick-knacks you've got on display like the right palette of colour choices can.

Understanding a few simple design rules will help you let go of your fear of applying colour to the walls, making it easy to bring your home to life with your favourite shades.

PICTURE: ISTOCK



Style of home

Consider the interior architecture and decorating style in your home when selecting the paint colour.

Looking to established colour schemes from the period or style will help you choose.

To update an older style, add pops of contrasting colours.

DESIGN TIP

Consult a colour wheel, remembering tonal hues are close together and contrasting colours are on opposite sides.



Mood and feeling

Colour impacts the way you feel, so playing with different tones and shades can dictate the mood of a room.

Contrasting colours and bright tones energise a space, making them ideal for busy zones such as the living room and kitchen.

Tonal colours that sit next to each other on a colour wheel and soft tones are harmonious, leaving areas such as the bathroom and bedrooms tranquil and relaxing.



Flow between rooms

The final key aspect to consider when choosing colours is the layout of your home.

Open-plan living spaces need a connected colour scheme, while closed-off rooms work well with their own look and style. ➤



Find out how to paint a feature wall

Watch it at [youtube.com/HandymanMagazineAU](https://www.youtube.com/HandymanMagazineAU)



Sample selection

The swatches in the paint section of your hardware store are one of the best tools for choosing a bold new colour scheme for the home.

Paint companies have grouped colours into families, collections, concepts and schemes.

This makes it easy to pick a contrasting set of colours, as they've already paired what works well together for you.

DIY TIP

Paint a piece of white cardboard with sample paint and move it around a room to see how it looks in different light.

Bold colours energise the mood of a room and suit living areas.

Quality check

Go for the best quality paint you can for your budget. High-end paints are more concentrated with finer pigments and higher-grade resins. You will end up with a better-looking finish and fewer coats will be required.

For the best result, pair the sheen level with the interior surface it suits.

Easy to clean, and able to withstand moisture and grease, glossier finishes are more durable. They're best for trims, cabinets and high-traffic rooms such as the kitchen and bathroom.

Flat finishes are better at hiding surface imperfections and work well on ceilings and low-traffic areas such as the living and dining rooms.



Quality ceiling paints won't spatter and they have pigments added to make them brighter





Heads up

While using bold colours on the ceiling can have a dramatic impact, bear in mind that it can also affect its visual height. It can make the ceiling appear higher or lower, depending on the size of the room, the lighting conditions and wall colours.

DIGITAL DESIGN

Not keen on sample pots or swatches? Companies including Taubmans, Dulux and British Paints have tools on their websites and apps where you can view the room you want to paint in different colour choices. You can also use these clever apps to find great colours from other sources.



ColorSchemer (free)

Study a colour wheel and create a custom colour palette with this app.

You'll also have access to over a million palettes created by other members of the app, which will give you lots of inspiration.



Real Colors (free)

Have you got a photo you just love because of its colour combinations?

Pop it into this genius app and it'll isolate the colours to create a custom colour palette you can take to the hardware store. 🍷



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45 SERIES

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

7 YEAR
Domestic Warranty

They are suitable for
WET AREAS

SELF STICK
Easy Installation



Char-Brown Slate



Travertine Stone



Black Marble



Natural Wood Plank



Mocha Parquet



White Marble

30 SERIES

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

3 YEAR
Domestic Warranty

They are suitable for
WET AREAS

SELF STICK
Easy Installation



Black Diamond



Beige Stone



Charcoal Stone



Finger Parquet



Black & White Cheq



Grey / Blue Stone



Green Slate



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20 PAINT SHORTCUTS

THAT DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD

Avoid these common pitfalls when decorating rooms DIY

Finishing a paint job as quickly as possible may be desirable, but taking shortcuts will often create problems instead of solving them.

So steer clear of these 20 dodgy time savers to guarantee great results.



1 Trying to cover in one coat

It's a bad idea to slather on a thick layer of paint in an attempt to save a little bit of time.

For starters, one coat rarely covers well. A thick coat will also run and take forever to dry.

Applying two thin, even coats is easier and will give you a much better end result.



2 Not sanding the walls

For a lump-free finish, sand your walls before you roll on paint.

Sanding gets rid of bumps, roller lint and flaking paint left over from previous paint jobs.

Use a pole sander and 80 or 100 grit sandpaper. You can use a handheld sanding block instead, it'll just take longer.

3 Painting over unprimed patches

Most patching compound leaves a foggy spot on the wall when you paint over it. This is what painters call flashing. And it's ugly.

Prevent flashing by applying primer over the patch with a sealing-type primer.



4 Painting over partially dried paint

In a hurry to get the job done? Painting over paint that's not completely dry isn't the answer.

The worst-case scenario is that you'll loosen the partially dry paint and it will start to come off onto your brush or roller, creating a real mess.

It can also cause adhesion problems or even slow the drying time, so follow the drying time instructions on the paint tin.

5 Skipping the prep work

Washing, patching, filling and sanding are undoubtedly tedious, time-consuming tasks. But there's no substitute for good prep work if you want a great end result.

6 Not masking the skirting

Even if you're a tidy painter and can brush a perfectly straight line, you should still use painter's tape on the skirting boards.

If not, you're sure to end up with spatters on the boards, or worse, get paint all over them.

You don't have to completely cover the skirting board. A strip of 25mm tape is all you need to catch any spatters.

7 Expecting paint to fill the gaps

You won't save any time by trying to use thick paint to fill the gaps in the skirting boards.

When the paint dries, the gaps will reappear, meaning you'll have to apply filler anyway. So, always fill first, then paint. ➤

★
Always follow the drying instructions on the paint tin

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9 Not thoroughly mixing the paint

Using paint that is not well mixed can be problematic when you go to touch up areas afterwards.

If you use the remaining paint in the base of the tin to touch up, you'll discover it's a slightly different colour because the paint hadn't been mixed well.

8 Bumping the ceiling

A slight distraction is all it takes to bump the ceiling with a roller, leaving you with a touch-up job.

You can avoid this problem by cutting in with a brush, painting a 50mm strip of paint parallel to the ceiling first, then rolling up to this buffer zone.



10 Painting over wallpaper without sealing it

A one-day project can become a week-long job if you don't remove the wallpaper first, or at least apply a stain-blocking sealer.

The paper is likely to soak up the paint and start to peel off the walls in spots if it isn't sealed.



11 Leaving the lid off the paint tin

There are many reasons you should put the lid back on the tin as soon as you're done painting.

Perhaps the most obvious one is it will stop someone stepping on the lid and treading in paint.

But it'll also keep your paint clean and stop it from drying out.

12 Choosing the wrong colours

If you base your colour choice on paint swatches, you may be in for a nasty surprise.

We've all done it. You pick out a nice colour from the swatch at the hardware store and order your paint, but when you put the paint

on the walls at home, it doesn't look like the colour you chose.

You can avoid this problem by buying a small sample tin of paint that you can try out on the walls. Remember to look at it in both natural and artificial light.



13 Brushing too much

For the smoothest possible finish when painting timber trims and doors, avoid too much brushwork.

Load the brush and quickly cover an area with paint, then use a stroke or two to level it off.

This way, you won't leave unsightly brush marks or ridges.

PICTURES (STOCK)



15 Painting in the heat

Doing a paint job on an extremely hot day is a bad idea, as the paint will start to dry before you can spread it evenly, leaving streaks.

Plan your painting to avoid doing it in direct sun, if possible. Try to paint south-facing walls in the morning or the evening when the sun is less intense.

Equally, avoid painting on cold days when paint will dry slowly.

14 Letting the roller touch the floor

If you're painting walls without skirting boards, leave an unpainted strip along the base that will be covered once the skirting boards have been installed.

Painting too close to the floor can result in your roller picking up dirt, lint and hair that can then be spread across the wall. ➤



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16 Using the wrong paint

If you've chosen the wrong paint for the job, no matter how good your application technique is, the project isn't going to turn out well. Here are three situations to watch out for.

① **ENSURE** the surfaces are perfectly smooth if you want to paint with a semi gloss or gloss sheen, or else light will show up every defect.

② **START** with a tinted primer when covering a light-coloured wall with dark paint. Grey is a great choice under most dark colours.

③ **LABEL** the tins if you're painting with two sheens of the same colour, as it's very easy to mix them up. You won't realise your mistake until the walls are dry and it is too late.



17 Working in low light

Avoid painting interior surfaces in low light, as you won't get a fair impression of how it will look when the light is brighter.

The most likely problem areas that you'll miss are thin patches and other surface imperfections, so always make sure you have bright light when painting.

18 Painting over glossy finishes

When you paint over any surface that already has a coat of varnish or glossy paint, apply a surface preparation product first.

Thorough sanding will work, but wiping the surface with a liquid bonding agent is easier and more effective.

19 Buying cheap brushes and roller covers to save money

Good-quality brushes and roller covers give a better finish.

This not only saves time, but they will also help the paint go further, saving you money as well. They'll last far longer if you take good care of them.

20 Painting timber without a stain blocker

Timber contains tannins that bleed through most acrylic paint.

Prime trims and doors with a stain blocker before painting to prevent the tannins bleeding through the paint as it dries. 🌟



MONARCH®

Professional PAINTING TIPS

TIP 3

The **Monarch Razorback extension poles** (110/220mm **\$25.98**, 160/300mm **\$34.98**) are made from extremely lightweight aluminum and come with soft grip for comfortable painting. Its smart lock technology allows to easily interchange paint tools with a simple click and lock.

There is a variety of **Monarch Drop Sheets** (Monarch Plastic Drop Sheet **\$5.28**; Monarch 9' x 12' Paper Poly Drop sheet **\$7.98**; Monarch 9' x 12' Canvas Drop Sheet **\$44.98**) available for all your painting projects. Use drop sheets around your home to protect floors and furniture.

TIP 1

✓ The key to getting a **professional finish** is using quality paint with **quality brushes and rollers**.

TIP 5

Use a quality roller for a professional finish. The **Monarch Razorback Walls & Ceiling Roller (\$13.98)** applies paint easily giving a smooth even film to all walls and ceilings. Ensure you wash your roller before using to remove any loose fluff.

TIP 4

Monarch introduces innovation and design with the new **Razorback Lasergrip Range** of Brushes (50mm Wall Brush **\$19.98**, 50mm Trim Brush **\$18.98**). Laser cut handles improve grip & reduce fatigue providing better control and precision when painting. This combined with NYTEC filament provides ultra-smooth application, durability and easy clean painting.

TIP 2

Use **Monarch Mini Gap Filler (\$1.97)** or **Monarch Mini Coloured Caulk (\$5.69)** to fill any gaps before painting on surfaces such as door frames and windows. To get a smooth finish wipe off the excess gap filler using the **Monarch 3 in 1 Caulking Tool (\$4.60)**.

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PERFECT FINISH

Choose the right product to get a professional result with this round-up of paints for every application



A fresh coat of paint can quickly transform your home but, with so many products available, the choice can be overwhelming.

To get a great result that will also stand the test of time, you need to choose the best paint for the job.

There are interior and exterior paints for every surface, such as walls and ceilings, plus formulations for different areas, including rust or mould inhibitors, and stain blockers.

Identify the surface, then select the paint to use for a professional finish.

1

Undercoat

It is essential to apply an undercoat to unfinished walls before painting.

It fills cracks or defects, resulting in a smoother finish, and provides a strong bond for topcoats to ensure durability.

Pick either an oil-based or a water-based undercoat to match the topcoat being used.

2

Oil-based paints

Traditionally used for trim, doors, furniture and floors, these are more durable than the water-based versions.

Oil-based paints ensure a smooth and even finish, as brush strokes disappear when dry.

Made of either synthetic alkyd or natural linseed oils, they clean up with turpentine.

3 Water-based paints

Also known as latex, water-based paints dry much faster than oil-based but aren't as durable, although newer products are becoming more so.

Most often used on walls and ceilings, they are resistant to cracking or flaking, making them a good choice for use externally in harsh weather conditions.

Other advantages are that the colour is more stable over time and they contain much lower levels of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) than oils, which can have adverse health effects.

Interior



Family-friendly formula

With 101 Barrier Technology, Dulux Wash & Wear, \$71.90 for 4L, is designed for ultimate washability. It requires just a wet cloth to remove stains and marks.



Quick cover-up

Containing a concentrated titanium pigment, Dulux Wash & Wear Plus Super Hide, \$89.90 for 4L, will cover any dark wall in just two quick-drying coats.



Wet-area wonder

Designed to withstand the growth of mould, Dulux Wash & Wear Plus Kitchen & Bathroom, \$85.90 for 4L, has a low VOC formula and won't wear away with frequent cleaning.



Guaranteed guard

Engineered with Nanoguard Technology, Taubmans Endure Interior Paint, \$63.90 for 4L, creates a protective shield over walls against dirt, bacteria, stains, mould and mildew. ➤

4 Enamels

Waterborne enamels, also known as waterborne alkyds, are newer technologies that mimic oil-based paints but contain lower VOC levels.



NEW



BEFORE



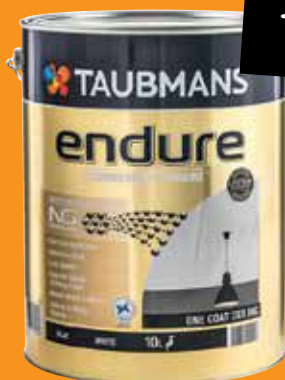
AFTER

Dy-Mark Frosted Glass spray creates a **smooth frosted effect** on plain glass that can be used for **decoration or privacy**.

It is suitable for use on any **interior clear glass surface**.

Ideal for creating etched look on **glass doors, windows, mirrors, glass ornaments & more!**

Dy-Mark



Two-in-one

Breathe easy

Approved by the National Asthma Council's Sensitive Choice program, Taubmans Endure One Coat Ceiling, \$149 for 10L, has a low VOC formula that blocks mould and mildew growth.



Allrounder undercoat

Dry in just 30 minutes, Zinsser Bulls Eye 1-2-3 Undercoat Primer-Sealer Stain Blocker, \$71 for 3.73L, inhibits rust and adheres to glossy surfaces on the exterior or interior of your home.



Time-saving tone

British Paints Paint & Prime, \$60.90 for 4L, only requires two coats to cover bare plaster and dark colours. Designed to get the job done quickly, the recoat time is just two hours.

Watch the video 'How to Choose Paintbrushes and Rollers' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

Keep floors in good nick by protecting them with drop sheets before painting.



PROPER PREP

To achieve a long-lasting, smooth paint finish, it's essential to take the time to prepare the area properly.

Before painting, fill any gaps or cracks, then sand and thoroughly wash the surface using sugar soap.

Also protect surrounding areas by using drop sheets and painter's tape to prevent drips and seepage, and cover windows with plastic sheets. ➤



Choosing tools

Having the right equipment is the key to getting a professional finish. **BRUSHES** are best for detail work such as trim or edging.

Use synthetic filaments for water-based paints, as they hold their shape in moisture, and natural bristles for oil-based. **ROLLERS** come in microfibre, foam, lambswool, synthetic or mohair for ceilings and walls.

Accessories like extendable poles make the job easier and minimise clean-up time.



Select a paint with UV resistance for a long-lasting finish.

Exterior



Flexible finish

☀ Formulated for the tough Australian weather conditions with MaxiFlex Stretch Technology, Dulux Weathershield, \$71.90 for 4L, resists stains and will expand and contract to prevent cracks.



Sun survivor

☀ Ideal for weatherboards, trim and roofs, Taubmans Endure Exterior, \$63.90 for 4L, features UV protection and Nanoguard technology for a durable finish that won't flake, blister or peel.



Wood worker

☀ Cabot's Aquadeck Decking Oil, \$69.90 for 4L, lasts twice as long as traditional oils and will both nourish and protect timber. This low-odour oil can be used on decks, furniture and more. 🛡

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Watch the video 'How to Apply Wallpaper' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

Superfresco Easy Red Poppies 52cm x 10m Wallpaper, \$51.45.

Find it at Bunnings

One-day update

Pick a bold print to make over a room in an afternoon

Giving your home an overhaul in less than a day is easy with the wide range of fun and colourful wallpapers available.

Whether you want to liven up a bland room or create a calming environment there's a print to suit.

Modern wallpapers are easy to DIY, as you paint the paste directly onto the wall instead of the sheets, making it a simple afternoon job for two.



Style inspiration

- ① Superfresco Easy Gloria Perle
52cm x 10m Wallpaper, \$49.95.
- ② Superfresco Easy Eden Natural
52cm x 10m Wallpaper, \$49.95.
- ③ Superfresco Easy Majestic Hot Pink
52cm x 10m Wallpaper, \$49.95.
- ④ Superfresco Easy Domaniale Paillette
Blanc 52cm x 10m Wallpaper, \$49.95.
- ⑤ Graham & Brown Chinoiserie Imperial
Yellow 52cm x 10m Wallpaper, \$61.75.
- ⑥ Superfresco Easy Silver Glitter
Zebra 52cm x 10m Wallpaper, \$49.95.



Q Find it at Bunnings

REMOVE WALLPAPER



Stripping old wallpaper can be a big job, especially if it has been hanging for decades.

Unlike modern wallpapers, the pastes and materials used in the past can be a challenge to get off but not impossible, if you have the right tools.

Here are two effective methods for removing old wallpaper DIY.

What you need

- Safety gear
- Bucket
- Masking tape
- Chemical remover or wallpaper stripper
- Paint roller and tray
- Paint scraper
- Wire brush
- Wallpaper steamer
- Drop sheet



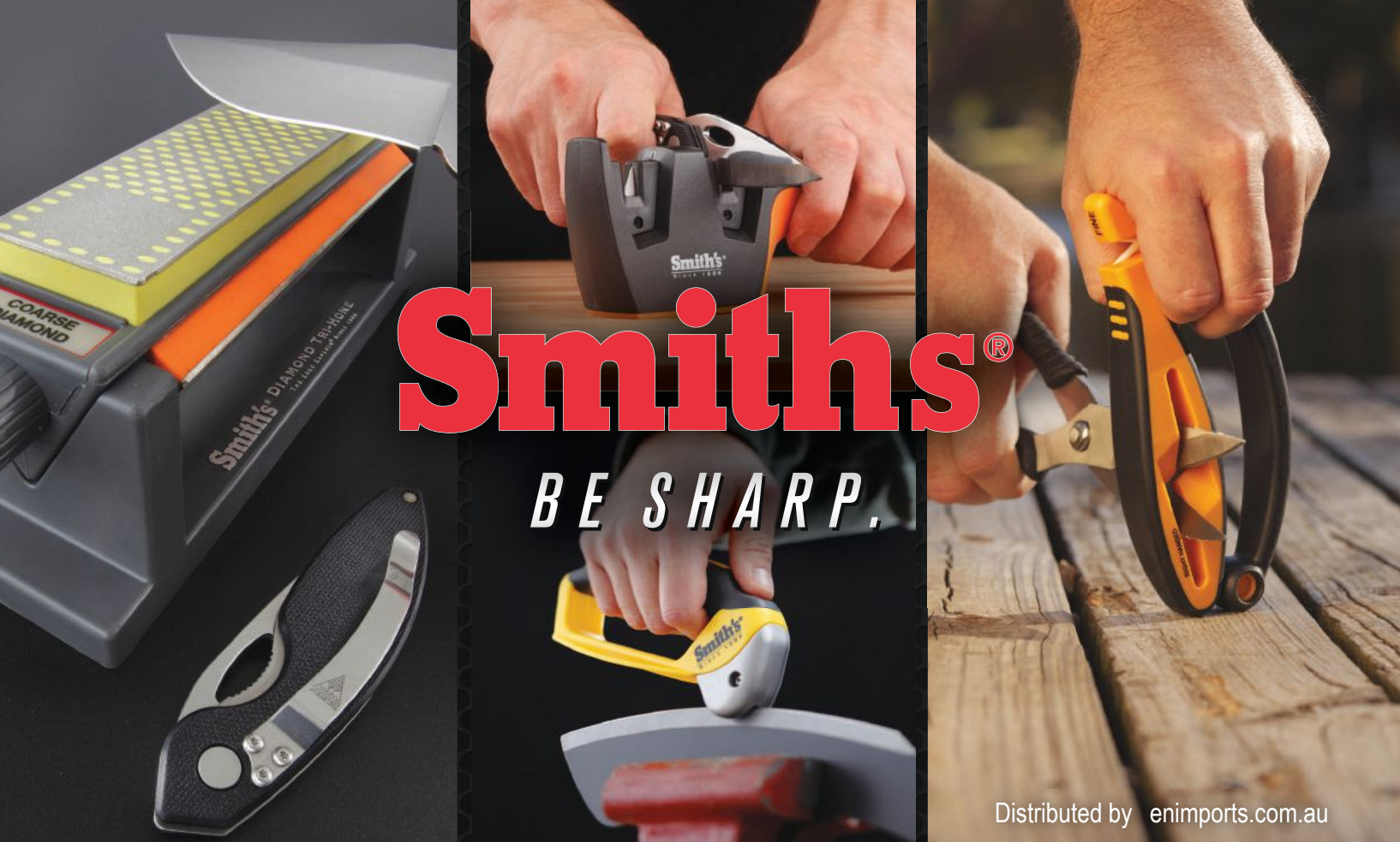
Chemical method

Lay a drop sheet and score the wallpaper using a wire brush. Mix up chemical remover, pour into a paint tray and apply using a roller, wetting the paper well. Scrape off the wallpaper, then reapply the remover, soaking any stubborn spots. Scrape the wall clean and rinse with water.



Steamer method

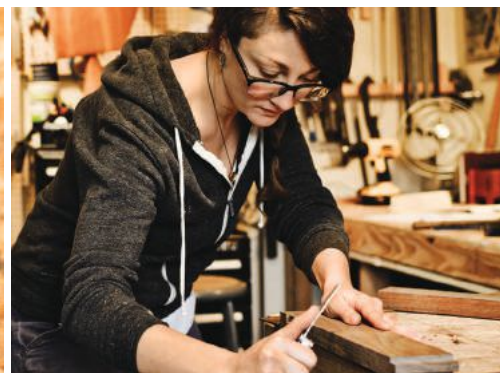
Cover any powerpoints with tape, lay a drop sheet on the floor and make sure the area is well ventilated. Press the paddle of a wallpaper steamer against the wall, a section at a time, for about 30 seconds or until the paper starts to peel off, removing it with a scraper as you go.



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CREATE A BACKYARD PLAYGROUND

3
DAYS

\$3077
COST

Materials

Play set	\$1549
Rubber crumb compound	\$1298
Concrete	\$150
Roadbase	\$80
TOTAL	\$3077

Turn a bare patch of the garden into a paradise for the kids by installing a multifunctional play set

PROJECT AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

This family home had been recently renovated and the yard was not yet landscaped, making it an ideal spot to create a children's playground.

Carrie and Steve Gregg wanted somewhere their kids, two-year-old Lily and baby Harper, will use for years.

They chose a multifunctional play set that includes a slippery dip, ball pit, climbing wall and more, so the kids will never run out of options when it comes to playtime.

Several pairs of hands were needed to assemble the play set, before the footings were excavated and the structure was secured with concrete.

A crushed-rock substrate was created to level the ground, then rubber crumb was laid over the top to provide a soft-fall surface.



Setting the surface

For the surface, we used Pour In Place rubber crumb compound, which is available in a range of colours from red to black (pourinplace.com.au).

It comes in boxes, with each one covering an area up to 1.5sqm, and it is easily laid DIY.

Pour in Place can be applied over concrete or just about any other stable surface. The only tools you'll need are a float and a utility knife, as everything else is in the box.

This backyard was very sandy, so we added a 50mm layer of fine roadbase in a loose free-form shape to create a stable substrate.

We screeded the new substrate level, then spread a 15mm layer of Pour in Place over the top. ➤



After

The playground is a vital part of the newly turfed garden.

Before





Choosing the play set

The Windsor play set is from Swing Slide Climb, who offer a variety of great options for kids (swingslideclimb.com.au).

This model has everything from a swing and a climbing wall, to a sand/ball pit and a slippery dip, and is suitable for kids aged up to 12 years old.

TIP Ensure you have a number of people to help you assemble your play set, as they have many parts.

The new playground has already given Lily hours of fun.

STUART'S PICKS



Swing Slide Climb Windsor Play Set, \$1549. swingslideclimb.com.au



Pour In Place Rubber Surfacing in Red, \$65 for 1.5sqm. pourinplace.com.au



Ryobi One+ 18V Brushless Drill Driver, \$129. ryobi.com.au



Spear & Jackson 405mm Pointed Nose Masonry Float, about \$21. spearandjackson.com.au



Australian Builders Home Handy Pack Concrete, \$7.50 for 20kg. bpsaust.com

BUILD THE PLAYGROUND



1 Prepare the site

Consult the plans for the precise area needed for the layout, ensuring there is plenty of clearance around the shop, slippery dip, swings and fireman's pole, where the rubber crumb surface will be laid. Chip out any grass with a mattock, then use a rake to groom the site, removing any large stones.



2 Assemble the play set

Keep everything organised by using containers with lids to house individual items. Lay out all the components logically and follow the instructions carefully and precisely. Ensure you have a number of helpers on hand as, once fully assembled, the play set will be heavy to move.



3 Create concrete footings

Prop up the play set with offcuts of decking or similar to support it, then excavate the footings. Consult the instructions for the exact positions of the footings. Fill the footings with concrete, embedding the supplied fittings into the mix. Allow to fully cure before loading.



4 Create the substrate

Mark a free-form shape around the assembled and concreted play set, allowing plenty of room at the various activity centres of the play set for the kids to play. Spread a 50mm layer of roadbase, then screed and compact it with a straight piece of timber or screed board until the surface is level.



5 Spread the rubber crumb

Remove the parts of the play set that may impede laying the rubber crumb, such as the slippery dip. Mix the supplied binder adhesive from the kit with the rubber crumb in the bag. Cut the bag and spread the mixture with a lubricated float. Repeat this until the entire area is covered.



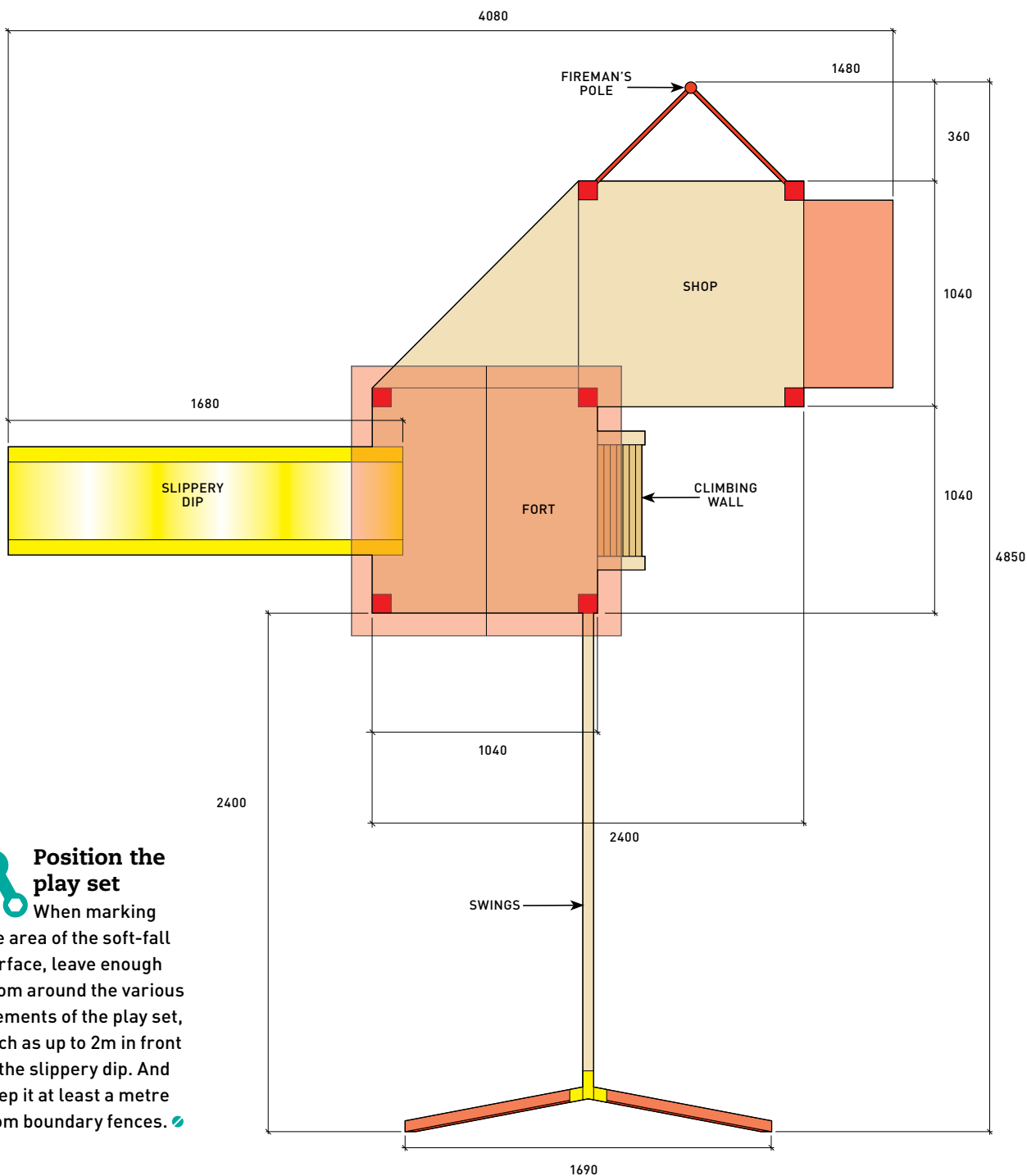
6 Finish the edges

Smooth and roll the rubber crumb surface with the float as you go, to achieve a seamless transition to the surrounding surfaces. Leave the newly laid rubber crumb surface for 12 hours to fully cure, then return the elements of the play set that were removed before the surface was laid. ➤



BACKYARD PLAY SET

measurements in mm



Position the play set

When marking the area of the soft-fall surface, leave enough room around the various elements of the play set, such as up to 2m in front of the slippery dip. And keep it at least a metre from boundary fences. 🛠️

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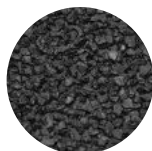
SHED RED



FOREST GREEN



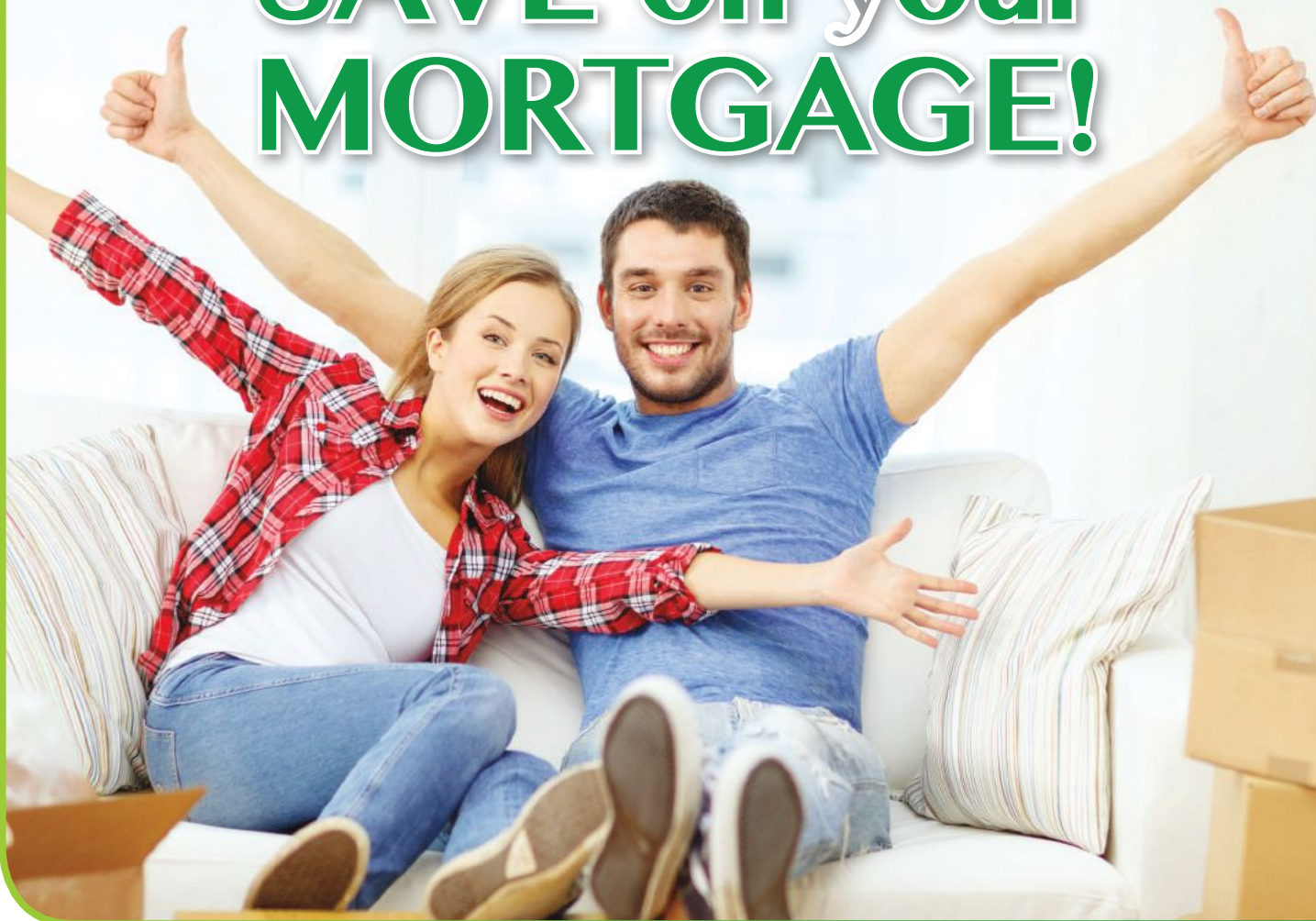
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Put up a PET HOUSE

Create a home for your favourite animal friend with an off-the-shelf option or make one from scratch

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS



For many of us, pets are a big part of our lives, and ensuring they have a good life is important.

Just like us, pets want somewhere safe and cosy they can retreat to, with protection from the elements.

A dedicated enclosure can provide that security, giving your pets creature comforts and showing them you care.

There's a variety of off-the-shelf pet houses available, from kennels to aviaries, or you can get crafty and build your own pet palace DIY.

Either way, here are a few ideas to get you started. ➤

KENNELS



The Fido & Fletch Medium Plastic Dog Home, \$115, has an elevated floor to keep your pooch off the cold or wet ground at night (fidoandfletch.com.au).



Treat a big dog to the Fido & Fletch Large Dog Home, \$139. It comes flatpacked and this easy-to-assemble doghouse has a removable base for easy cleaning.

Expert advice

Radio and TV pet expert Kaye Browne from vettalktv.com has lots of great advice on how to create a new home for your best furry friend.

- **PROVIDE** reliable protection from the sun, rain and wind, and from being damp underfoot.
- **ENSURE** entry and exit points are lockable to prevent escapees and thwart potential attackers.
- **GIVE** lots of space to your pets. Bigger almost always means better, especially for multiple animals.
- **REDUCE** stress by providing protection against predators, such

as shade cloth or canvas for birds, even in fully enclosed structures.

- **ADD** mosquito netting for rabbit and guinea pig runs to guard against heartworm.
- **MAKE** all small animal and bird enclosures fox-proof.
- **ATTACH** a water container to the wall to ensure water is always available for animals.
- **SELECT** metal to enclose rabbits, as they will chew through wood.
- **USE** only galvanised iron, avoiding cheap imported cages, wire or mesh.
- **CLEAN** pet enclosures daily, especially in warmer weather, to reduce flies and prevent disease.

CREATURE COMFORTS



- ① **SLEEP EASY** with a Fido & Fletch Medium Pet Bed with Cuddly Top Cover, \$40. Odour resistant and washable, it's a low-maintenance bedding option (fidoandfletch.com.au).
- ② **COOL DOWN** with Pillar Products 900 x 500mm Cooling Pet Mat, \$27. It absorbs body heat to keep pets comfortable in hot weather (bunnings.com.au).
- ③ **GO ANYWHERE** with a Fido & Fletch Foldable Pet Carrier. It's available in three sizes, from \$69, and features ventilation and a removable blanket.

ENCLOSURES



Clad with western red cedar, the Ranch Animal Enclosure from Stilla, \$999, has excellent insulation and an attractive country-style look (stilla.com.au).



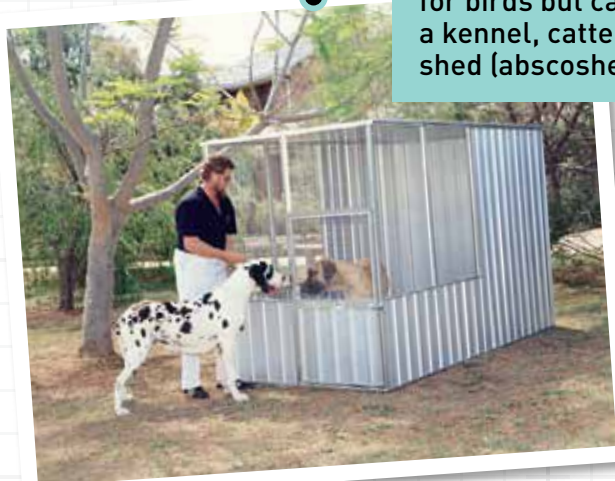
Standing at 1.8m, and made from robust materials, the Galvanised Steel 2-in-1 Pet Enclosure from Rapidmesh, \$369, is a good pick for big pets (rapidmesh.com.au).



AVIARIES



The versatile Flat Roof Aviary in Zincalume from Absco Sheds, \$525, is ideal for birds but can be used as a kennel, cattery or chook shed (abscosheds.com.au).



At just over 2 x 2m, the Absco Sheds Aviary in Pale Eucalypt, \$745, is a great buy for serious bird keepers or breeders, and it's quick and easy to put together. ➤



SAFETY TIP

When rolling out wire mesh, use a sharp utility knife to remove any spikes protruding from the wire.

Be wire savvy

When creating a new pet space as a DIY project, you'll no doubt be looking at wire for part of the build.

There are a few things to consider when choosing wire.

- + **SELECT** a quality wire that is intended for pet or livestock use.
- + **CONSIDER** the aperture or size of the holes in the wire, and the diameter or thickness of the wire threads, as well as the height and length.
- + **GIVE** small birds a wire with a 12mm aperture and 0.8mm thread. For big birds, such as cockatoos, use 2.5mm thick wire with a 25mm aperture.
- + **USE** light- to medium-duty animal netting with a 30mm aperture and 0.9mm wire for small pets.
- + **CREATE** a place for mice, rats or snakes with a finer 6.5mm aperture and 0.6mm wire thread.
- + **SCRUB** wire with 2 cups of vinegar mixed in a bucket of water, then rinse. This helps prevent any health risks from the galvanised coating. 🌿

DIY PET PENS

If you prefer the idea of making your pets a home DIY, we have a few step-by-step projects online that you can try.

Visit handyman.net.au to get plenty of further inspiration.



Build a coop to house your hens
Visit handyman.net.au/chicken-house



Create a hideaway for your dog
Visit handyman.net.au/doghouse



Make a cat bed from a suitcase
Visit handyman.net.au/cat-bed



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DIY PAVING

Add a low-maintenance entertaining area to any backyard with pavers

Choose large-format pavers for a modern courtyard.

Transform an unused corner of the backyard into an inviting alfresco space that's easy to maintain by laying pavers DIY.

They range in size, colour and type to suit all situations, from budget-friendly concrete to top-of-the-range natural stone.

When selecting pavers, remember to consider how they feel underfoot, as well as their cleaning requirements.

LAY THE PAVERS



1 Excavate the area

Set out the area using marking paint, then remove any soil, vegetation and grass with a shovel. Make deep, parallel cuts spaced one shovel width apart, then slide the shovel underneath to lift the turf in strips. Dig deep enough to allow for 100mm of roadbase, 30mm of sand and the thickness of the pavers.



2 Prepare the base

Spread 100mm of roadbase evenly over the area to be paved, then compact it twice with a plate compactor. Spread 30mm of washed sand evenly over the roadbase and screed using a timber float, checking for level.

TIP You can hire a plate compactor for about \$60 a day.



3 Position the pavers

Set up a stringline along the edge of the area to ensure the pavers are straight. Starting at one edge, lay the pavers across the area with 3mm gaps in between to allow for jointing sand. Check the pavers are straight and level, then wriggle them into place and tap with a rubber mallet to adjust.



4 Haunch the edges

Prepare a sand and cement mix by adding water until it is the consistency of toothpaste. Use a steel float to spread the mix alongside the pavers to reach halfway up the edge, sloping it away at a 45° angle. This locks them in position.

TIP Use 20kg premixed bags of sand and cement for small jobs.



5 Fill the gaps

Sweep dry jointing sand across the area to fill the gaps between the pavers. Use a plate compactor to compress and settle the pavers into the sand, placing a piece of carpet underneath to protect the pavers. Lightly spray the area with water using a hose, to activate the jointing sand. Apply a sealer, if desired.

Cutting pavers

Pavers laid around awkward corners usually need to be cut to fit. They can be cut dry using a large angle grinder with a segmented diamond blade.

For larger areas with a lot of cuts, you can hire a wet-bladed brick saw for about \$110 a day.



HOW TO HANG PLASTERBOARD

Renovate a tired hallway by replacing the surfaces DIY

PROJECT AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

This 1950s coastal cottage had undergone a number of updates over the previous few months, and the hallway was the next area on the list to be given a reno.

The plasterboard was stripped off the stud walls, then new insulation was added into the wall cavities.

New plasterboard linings and cornices were cut out and installed. The original skirting board was kept, but the old picture rail wasn't replaced.

Hanging plasterboard isn't hard as long as cutting is done accurately, but getting the joints smooth requires skill, as a rough finish will show.



If you want to call in a plasterer for the joints, it will take a day and cost about \$400 for an average-sized room



Good practice

When jointing, it's common for inexperienced DIYers to overfill. Thinner applications of compound are always best.

Try to use just enough compound to fill the joints and no more. It's easy to top up with a second application if necessary.

Wear appropriate safety gear and strip wall linings carefully after switching off services.

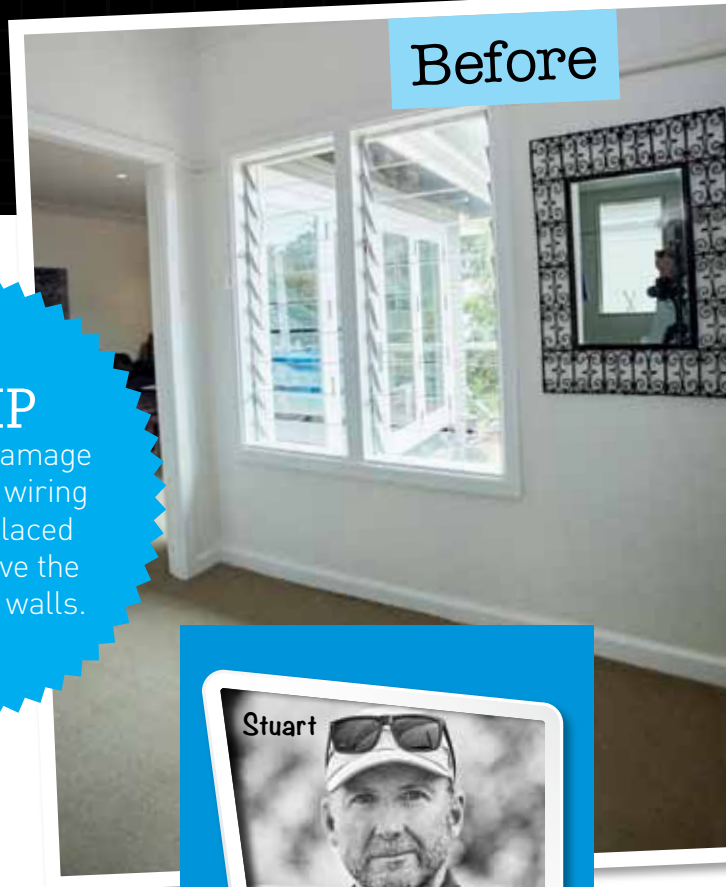
Have an electrician terminate any wiring that will be affected before commencing work.

And if it's necessary to handle wiring, turn off the power at the fuse box before you begin the work. >

DIY TIP

Check for pest damage or old or unsafe wiring that can be replaced when you remove the linings from the walls.

Before



Stuart



EXPERT SECRETS

Imperfections are more noticeable on large surfaces, so build up your skills before tackling those areas.

TOOLS
SANDER, DRIVER,
HANDSAW

**3
DAYS**

**\$155
COST**

Materials

Plasterboard	\$54
Jointing compound	\$54
Stud adhesive	\$14
Cornice	\$11
Cornice cement	\$11
Paper jointing tape	\$7
Bugle plasterboard screws	\$4
TOTAL	\$155

After

The walls have been relined and painted, and new cornices added.

INSTALL THE NEW WALL



1 Measure the walls

Remove the existing trim, window frames and plasterboard, saving the skirting to reinstall later. Measure up and draw a plan of the walls to be lined, including window and door openings. Use this to work out the size of the plasterboard sheets you will need to use to complete the job.



4 Add the cornice

Measure the wall at the ceiling line, transferring the measurements to the new cornice, then mitre cut the ends. Dry fit the cornice, marking the wall along the base, then tack in a few nails on this line. Add cement to the edges of the cornice and lift it onto the nails, securing with temporary screws.



2 Cut the sheets

Cut a sheet of plasterboard for the top half of the wall and one for the base. Mark the overall wall length on the sheet. Score the sheet using a trimmer knife and a straightedge, then snap the sheet, cutting the backing paper.

TIP Use a holesaw to cut openings for powerpoints and light switches.



5 Set the joints

Spread a 1mm layer of compound at the corners and horizontal joints using a broad knife. Bridge the joints with paper tape, working it into the compound. Allow to dry, then lightly sand. Apply a second coat of compound over the joint to a 2mm depth and smooth. Allow to dry, then sand.



3 Install the plasterboard

Add a daub of adhesive to each stud, avoiding the first and last studs and the rebated edges, as these will be screwed. Put 10mm packers on the floor and position the base sheet. Screw the edges on every stud, the centres on every second stud and the ends about every 250mm. Repeat for the top sheet.



6 Paint the walls

Apply wallboard sealer to the entire area. A second coat may be required over joints and screws to seal those areas adequately. Apply an undercoat and paint the plasterboard using a roller. Reattach the architraves and skirtings, filling and sanding as required. Finally, touch up the trim. 🛠️

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CSR

ON THE LEVEL

Take the guesswork out of getting a picture straight

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

We've all tried to hang a picture on the wall and got into a debate about the right height and position, followed by the inevitable, 'Is it straight?'

You can make picture-hanging disputes a thing of the past with a laser level kit from Bosch.

The PLL 360 Line Laser comes with its own tripod, and it's self-levelling, so you'll be set up in seconds.

It projects a forward-pointing vertical line and a line on a 360° horizontal plane, which can be run at the same time or switched on and off independently.

This tool is not only useful for hanging pictures, it's also perfect for tiling, putting up shelves, wallpaper hanging, setting out for ceiling lights and much more.



Aligning
objects around
the house is
a breeze with a
levelling tool

PLL 360 Line Laser with Tripod, \$226. bosch-do-it.com

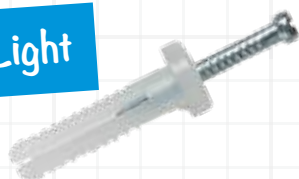


Automatic self-levelling guarantees fast and accurate work.

CHOOSE AN ANCHOR

MASONRY Drill a hole in the wall using a hammer drill and masonry bit, then tap in a wall plug or expanding anchor.

Light



⊕ For a nylon anchor, drill a hole the same diameter in the wall and insert the anchor, tapping in the nail with a hammer. Leave the head protruding for pictures that weigh up to 10kg.

Medium



⊕ Plastic star plugs are colour coded for size and length. For a blue plug, drill an 8mm hole, drive in a 14g screw and leave the head protruding to hang pictures up to 15kg in weight.

Heavy



⊕ With a sleeve anchor such as a DynaBolt hook, bore a hole with a masonry drill and tap in the bolt. Tighten and secure, using locking pliers for extra leverage if needed. This holds up to 20kg.

PLASTERBOARD It's best to secure a hook directly into the wall stud, but if there isn't one, then you can use a hollow wall anchor.



⊕ When using a self-drilling anchor such as a Wall-Mate, there's no need to drill a hole first. Simply drive the anchor into plasterboard, then wind in a screw hook to hang pictures up to 10kg.



⊕ To use a molly bolt, drill a 10mm diameter hole, then install the bolt with a setting tool. Remove the screw, add a picture hook and replace the screw to hold up to 15kg.



⊕ Mark the wall and position a four-pin hook. Use the built-in spirit level to check for level and tap the pins into the holes with a hammer. Heavy-duty four-pin hangers hold up to 20kg.

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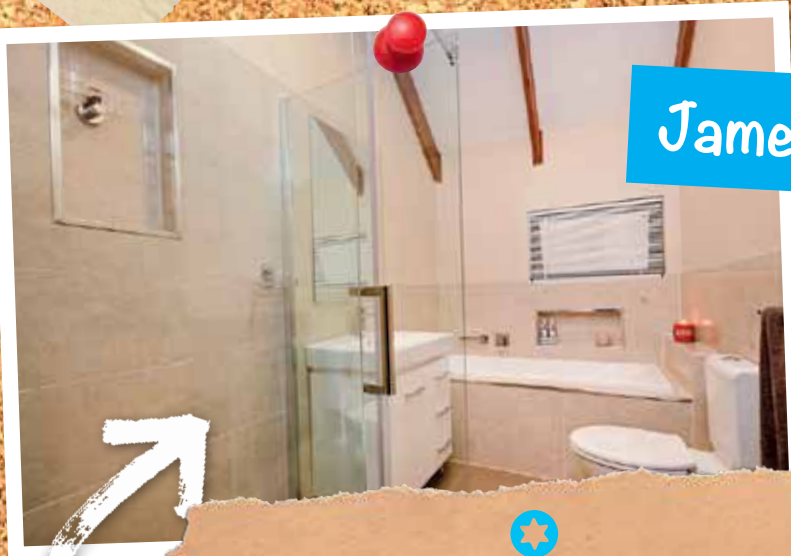
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READERS' PROJECTS

See what these DIYers do in their spare time, from renovating rooms to making mailboxes

James bathroom reno



★
The trick to transforming the bathroom DIY is good tiling skills

Buying his first home was the impetus for James Illes to pick up tools and begin renovating.

After getting quotes of over \$7000 to update the bathroom, he chose to revamp it DIY instead.

'I thought about it for a while and eventually decided to give it a go myself,' says James.

'I'd done smaller projects before and my dad is very handy so he taught me a lot.'

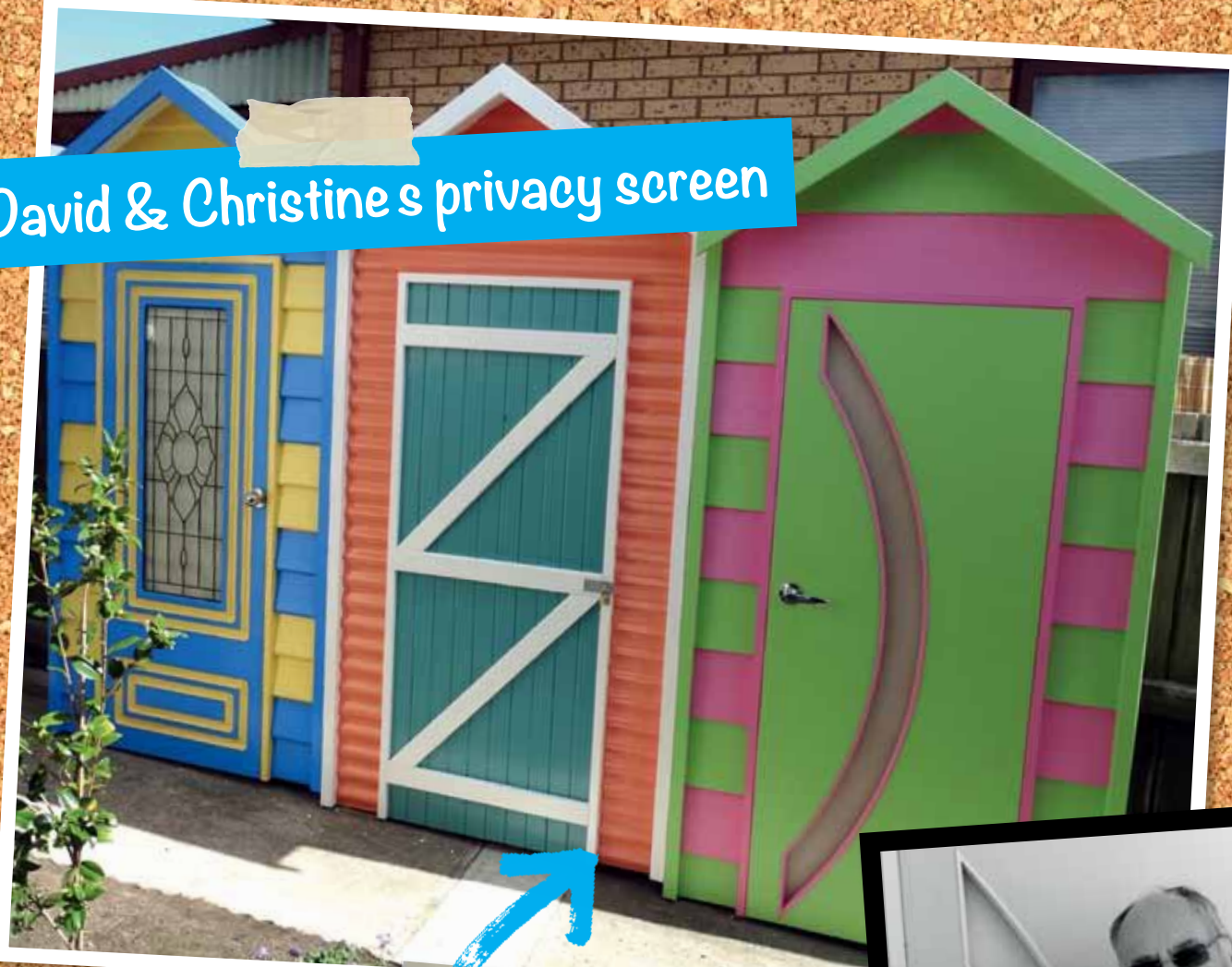
James redesigned the layout of the bathroom, stripping out all fixtures and tiles. He replaced the blue board walls and the old screed, then installed a bath.

A wall was built for the tub and timber frames for shelving, then James tiled and grouted the floor and walls, before painting.

In the end, he completed the stunning reno for just \$2100.



David & Christine's privacy screen



After renovating their weekender at Coronet Bay in Victoria, David and Christine Mitchell built an eye-catching privacy screen.

'We decided that, being close to the beach, we would go for a bathing box theme,' says David.

A support frame was built and attached to the fence, then three sheets of 15mm exterior ply, cut to bathing box shape, were attached to the frame.

Doors were added, then each box was given different cladding, including corrugated iron, timber weatherboards and a fibre-cement version called HardiePlank.

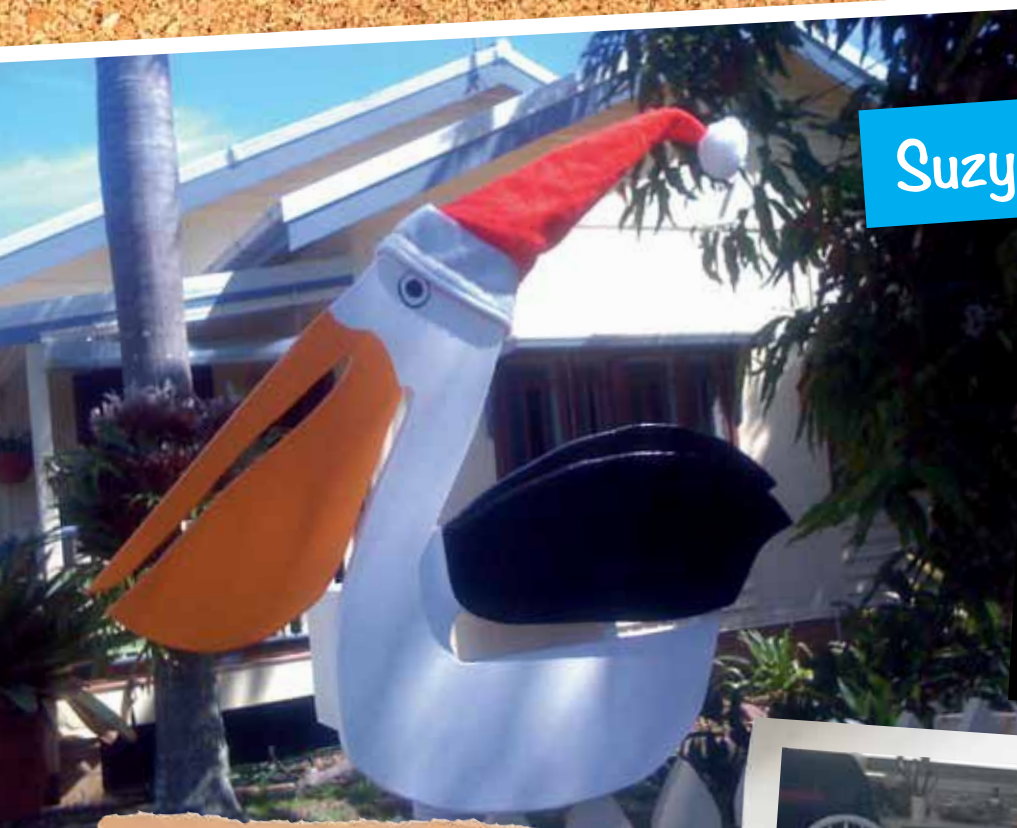
David created the eaves and fascias using 230mm HardiePlank with 70mm grooved treated pine decking, then each box was painted in a bright colour scheme.

'We now have a privacy screen that brings the beach to us when we look at it,' he says. ➤



When it comes to creating something eye-catching, colour is the key

Suzy's pelican mailbox



Be inspired by the things you love when building something new



When friends of Suzy Hindley bought their dream home, she thought she would give them a unique housewarming gift.

'They needed a new mailbox, and my friend loves pelicans so I happily offered to make one for her,' says Suzy.

She came up with 2D images on paper, then transferred them onto 12mm marine-grade plywood. She cut out the pieces with a jigsaw and painted them.

The pieces for the box were scribed out, then the screw holes predrilled and countersunk. A vice was used to hold it together while it was glued and screwed.

Suzy pre-painted the inside of the box to seal it, then attached it to the pelican, nicknamed Mr Percival, before painting it.

She spent \$66, with the paint accounting for most of the cost.

'Mr Percival is now happily living in Currimundi,' she says.

Andrew's kingfisher mailbox



While looking around to buy a new mailbox, keen DIYer Andrew Ho had the idea to create one from scratch.

'I noticed many customised designs and quickly decided to do one myself,' he says.

'I was inspired by the bold and sharp colours of a kingfisher that I saw in a book.'

Andrew built the mailbox using exterior plywood and spray paint, spending about \$70 in total.

'The tools and design are very simple and it was straightforward to build, with the only problem being the extra care needed when screwing into plywood,' he says.

'The finished box is very noticeable from the road and my two little girls love it. They have promised they will now help to check the mailbox every day.' >

★
Make it easy for visitors to find the house with a stand-out mailbox

Tom's coffee cart

Coffee lover Tom Neivandt took inspiration from daily coffee runs to build his own barista station.

By attaching redgum sleepers that he had in his garden to two kitchen cabinets, Tom created his unique feature piece for his home for just under \$800.

'I had a final design in my head, that of a modern-looking cabinet with a rustic-looking benchtop and timber wheels,' he says.

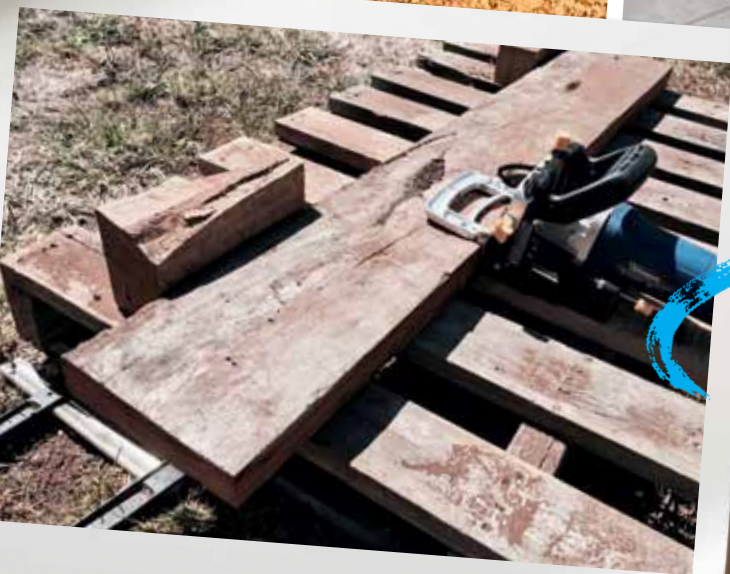
Tom bought two cabinets and assembled them, then sanded and

varnished the sleepers, which was the lengthiest part of the project.

He then used a biscuit joiner to join the sleepers together, forming the benchtop. The benchtop was then screwed onto the cabinets using a bracket kit.

'The whole unit is very heavy, but I built it like this so that if I ever need to move it, it will come apart in two pieces,' says Tom.

Finally, he added the wheels to complete the look, finishing off the whole project in a single weekend.



Create an organic look with recycled or salvaged materials

Grant's fireplace build



When Grant Watson bought his Federation home in 2011, he had never even owned a drill, much less attempted any DIY.

But necessity became the mother of invention when Grant wanted to restore some of the original features in the old house.

'There was an obvious space where the fireplace should have been. While there are regulations about open fires in bedrooms, I wanted it as a feature,' he says.

He bought the tools and knocked out the old bricked-up fireplace, bracing it with a steel strap before packing, rendering and trying his hand at tiling.

A steel insert and a mantel, both found on eBay, were added.

Finally, Grant painted the fireplace, completing the project in just a few days for \$300. ➤



Look online and in second-hand shops for original fixtures at bargain prices



Sven's pallet patio setting



It took an empty patio and a pile of discarded pallets to motivate Sven Proescher to build a full set of unique outdoor furniture, for a total cost of just \$180.

'I like the idea of using what you have, and I'd also been interested in attempting a build with pallets,' says Sven.

Once he began, there were two problems he had to solve through trial and error.

'One issue was getting the seat back at an angle to make extended sitting comfortable. The other was making the seat strong enough,' he says.

After solving these problems, which involved much reinforcing, Sven attached castors to the single seat and table.

He then finished off all the pieces with exterior grade paint.

Finish outdoor furniture in exterior paint to protect it from the elements





Siobhan's day bed

Inspired by the *New Zealand Handyman* Dec 2013/Jan 2014 issue, reader Siobhan Lenehan built the day bed that was featured on the cover.

This was an ambitious project for 18-year-old Siobhan, but she had the support and guidance of her grandfather throughout.

'My mum said she loved the day bed, so we decided to make it. My grandad said he'd teach me the skills I needed and how to use the tools, so we got to work,' she says.

They spent about 25 hours on the project over six weeks, finishing it at a cost of about \$350.

'I learned a lot and I now know that building something is not as intimidating as it looks.'



Siobhan (far right) with other members of the family.



Win
\$300

CASH FOR DIY

We love to share what our readers are working on, whether it's building a deck, revamping a room, landscaping the yard or making furniture.

No project is too big or too small, and the more unusual it is, the better.

Send us photos of your DIY project for your chance to win \$300 and have it published in *Australian Handyman*.

Take high-resolution before and after photos, plus one of yourself, then submit them online at handyman.net.au/win

READERS' TIPS

Check out these handy hints from real-life DIYers

No-one wants a long list of jobs hanging over their head and cutting into their weekend time.

And when it comes to saving time and money in the home and garden, *Australian Handyman* readers are very creative.

Here are 12 of the best DIY shortcuts and budget busters we've seen lately.

1

Removal remedy

Get rid of pieces of old wallpaper easily with a solution of half water and half white vinegar. Pour into a spray bottle, apply to the wallpaper and leave for 10 minutes.

With the mixture applied, you will be able to scrape the paper off the wall effortlessly.

Michelle Dennis, QLD

2

Crush cure

After you've moved furniture and it has left the carpet squashed and flat, position a tea towel over the area and give it a quick going over with the iron.

This will raise the carpet pile back up, hiding marks made by heavy items and chair legs.

Zoe-Lee Sweeny, NSW

3

Smooth move

If you need to fill any gaps when working with timber, mix some sawdust with the adhesive so it colour matches.

Jenna Farrelly, SA

4

Sachet solution

Put the silica sachets from shoeboxes in with your tools to keep them from rusting.

Natalie Murnane, NT



5

Nailed it

Touch up areas of chipped or scratched oil-based gloss paintwork with nail polish.

Match the colour from the vast array of nail polishes available, as they are also oil-based. You can buy bottles for as little as \$2.

Nail polish instantly smooths out as it dries, which eliminates any obvious brush marks.

There are even thin base and top coats to prime and seal.

Anna Downs, WA



6

Odour absorber

Put dry teabags in smelly shoes or a gym bag and they'll help to absorb the unpleasant odour.

Natalie Karakolis, VIC



7

Tape trick

Avoid drilling all the way through a piece of timber by using electrical tape on the drill bit to mark the desired hole depth.

Amelia VanderNiet, TAS



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8

Pest protection

Stop snails from ruining your plants by using eggshells.

Put the eggshells in the oven to dry them out, then crush them with a mortar and pestle.

Sprinkle the crushed shells on the soil where the plants are worst affected by the snails. This eco-friendly solution can reduce their presence by up to 80%.

Henriett Bartlett, WA

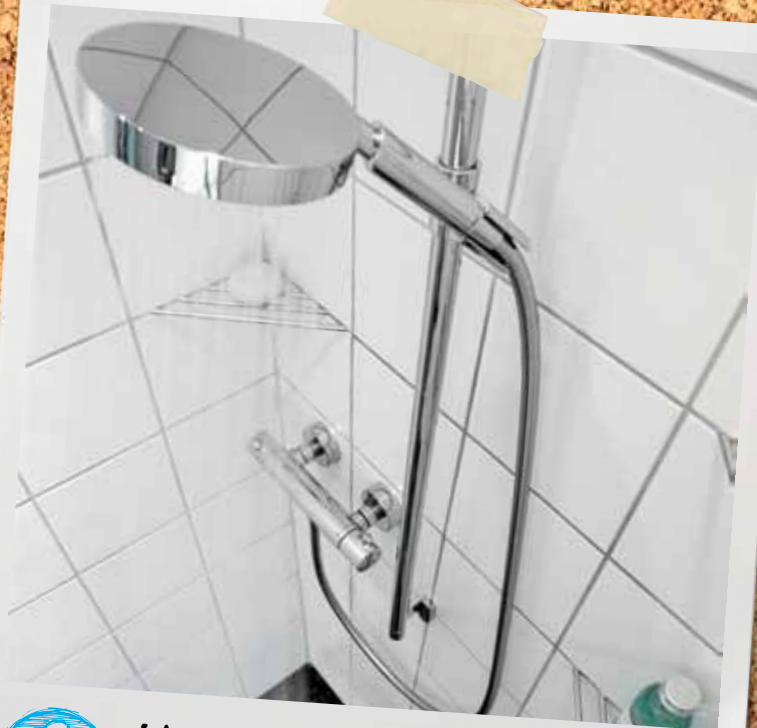


9

Wax off

Prevent the build-up of mould in your shower by applying car wax to the wall tiles. The water bounces straight off, keeping the shower mould and dirt free.

Sharon Jarvis, NSW



10

Oil scrub

Clean dirty garden tools in a bucket of sand and mineral oil to prevent rust and keep them well oiled.

John Sgar, VIC

11

Nail grip

Keep loose nails in a handy

place while you work by attaching a magnet to your hammer.

Simply find a small magnet that measures about 25mm in diameter. Secure it to the base of the hammer grip with strong adhesive, giving you an easy place to put your spare nails.

Adam Menzell, SA



12

Back-up burner

If the power goes out and you have no candles, crayons will burn for approximately 30 minutes.

Robynlee Clayton, TAS



Win
\$100

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and share your best DIY tip



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1 Scandia Heat and Cook, \$1699.

2 Glow Venetian Clay Fire Pit, \$229.

3 Glow Sienna Fire Bowl, \$59.

4 Glow Petra Fire Pit, \$349.

5 Glow Incan Clay Fire Pit, \$89.

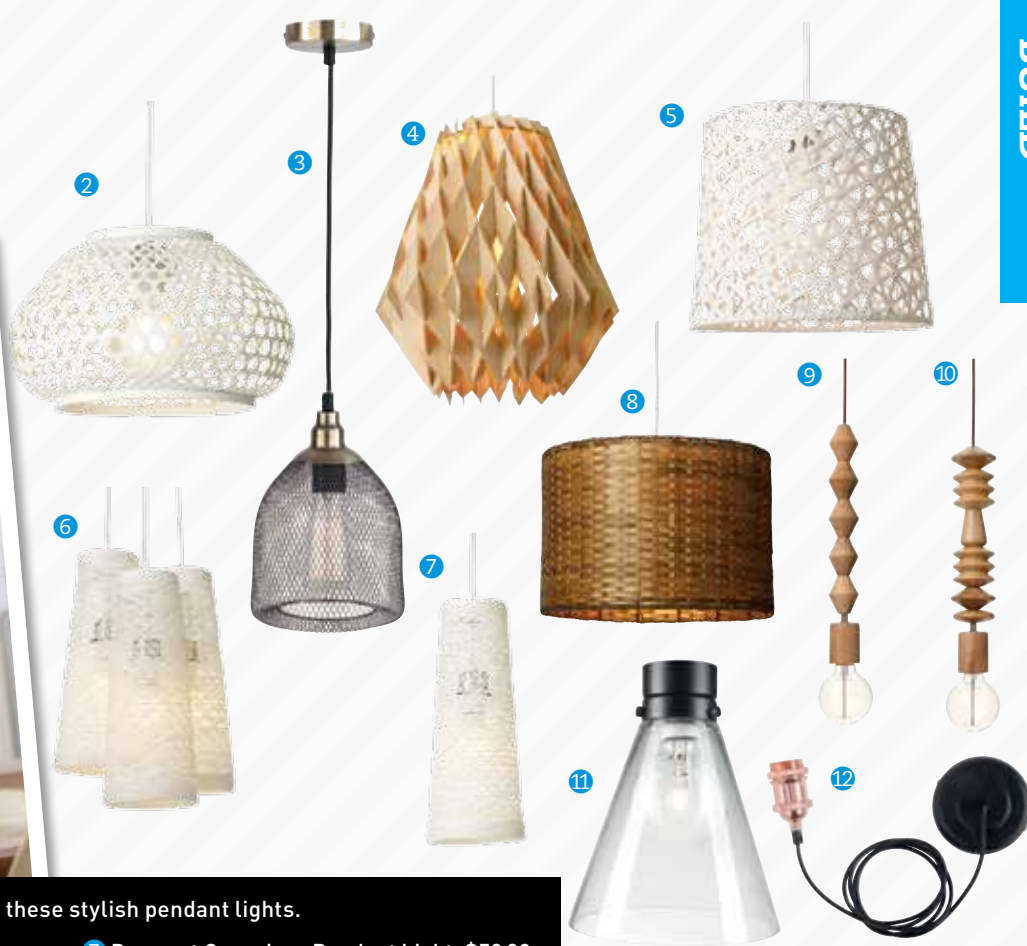
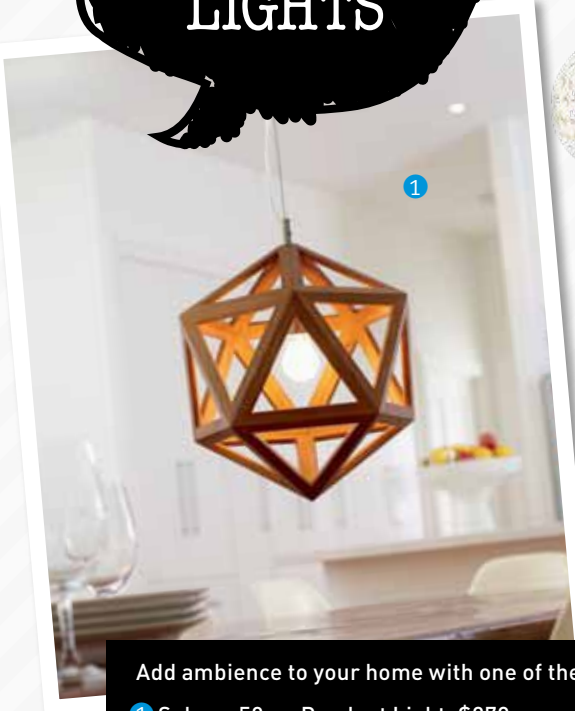
6 Glow Acheron Fire Pit, \$149.

7 Glow Maya Sun Clay Chimenea, \$189.

8 Glow Vida Fire Pit, \$135.

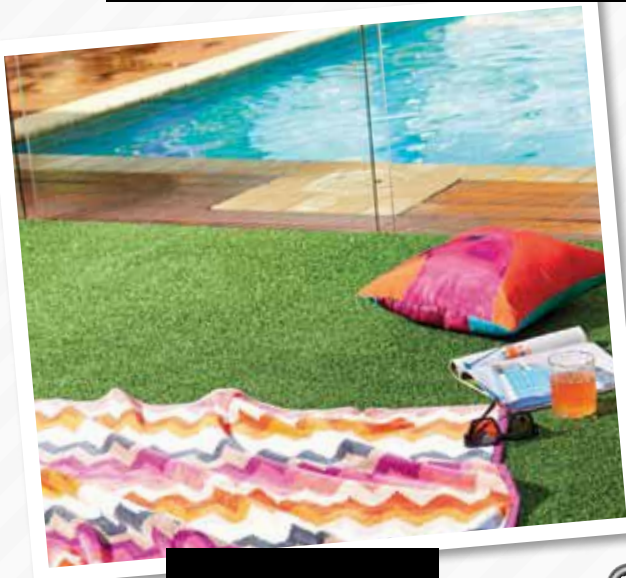
9 Glow Manzano Fire Pit, \$279.

PENDANT LIGHTS



Add ambience to your home with one of these stylish pendant lights.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Sakura 50cm Pendant Light, \$279. | 7 Derwent One-piece Pendant Light, \$59.90. |
| 2 Maui Pendant Light, \$79.90. | 8 Kubu Pendant Light, \$99.90. |
| 3 Orleans Pendant Light, \$49.98. | 9 Diamond Pendant Light, \$44.90. |
| 4 Metropol Pendant Light, \$149. | 10 Amal Pendant Light, \$44.90. |
| 5 Abacus Pendant Light, \$89.90. | 11 Janet Batten Fix, \$49.90. |
| 6 Derwent Three-piece Pendant Light, \$119. | 12 Andy Suspension Kit, \$49.90. |



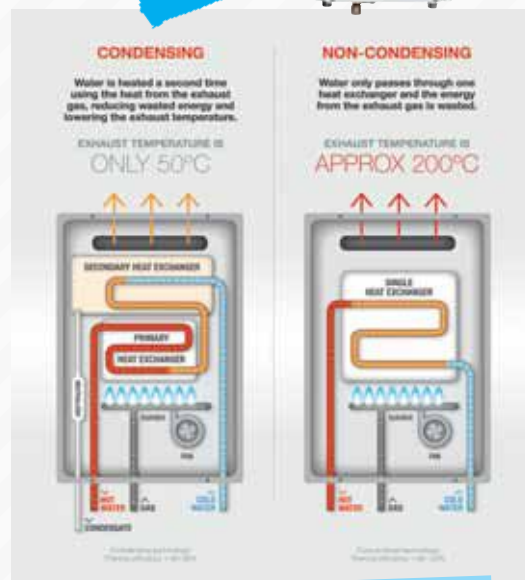
Get a green lawn all year long with the Coolaroo Fresh Cut Prepacks, from \$59.90.



Get the job done with the Wera Kraftform Plus Rack Screwdriver Set, from \$39.



Twist it tight with the Joker Ratcheting Combination Wrench, from \$24.98.



Prepare for winter with the Dux Condensing Continuous Flow Water Heater with a 6.7 star energy rating, from \$1089.

STYLE REMADE

Learn the secret to creative upcycling from an expert homemaker

WORDS AND PICTURES SARAH HEERINGA

One thing everyone needs when dressing for the day is a decent mirror to see themselves in. And what better for an honest appraisal of your outfit than a full-length mirror?

Sometimes it pays to ponder for a little while before embarking on an upcycling project, but my initial idea

after acquiring this freestanding, second-hand mirror was that staining it black would be the best way to add more elegance and modernise it.

I've found that black pieces of furniture combine well with crisp white bedding and natural-toned walls for a dramatic yet harmonious bedroom.



A freestanding, full-length mirror can work in a corner of the bedroom or as a feature piece of furniture



1 2 3



1 Tape the mirror

Remove the mirror from its stand. Run a line of masking tape around the edge of the mirror to protect it from paint splashes and sandpaper scratches.

TIP Spread a canvas drop cloth on the floor in your work area.



2 Sand the timber

Lightly sand all the timber surfaces on the mirror and stand that are to be stained using medium to fine grit sandpaper. Wipe off all the dust with a clean lint-free cloth, making sure it is just damp and not wet.



3 Apply the stain

Using a medium-sized paintbrush, apply 1-2 coats of a water-based stain to all timber surfaces to achieve the depth of tone you want, leaving the stain to fully dry between coats. Remove the tape, polish the mirror and rehang.

VINTAGE MIRROR



Design tweaks

The height of the tall spindle arms was reduced to minimise the Victorian-style fussiness of the mirror. This was done easily with a sharp handsaw.

Adding small wheels from an old TV cabinet to the feet completed the transformation. >



Before

After

With a dark stain and shorter arms, the mirror is now vintage chic.

BARROW GARDEN

After

Old but still sturdy, the wheelbarrow is now a colourful garden planter.

Before

BUDGET TIP

Check local garage sales or online trading sites for a reasonably priced second-hand metal wheelbarrow.

Portable planter

Growing food in a wheelbarrow is an easy way to start a kitchen garden. Just park it on your patio or deck and wheel it out of the way as needed.

Look for a sturdy barrow with a decent weight-bearing wheel. Check the tyre and rim are in good condition and the handles aren't rusty or loose.

Give it a bright paint job, using up leftover pots from other projects.



Mix flowers with vegies to add colour to the crop.



Paint and plant up a wheelbarrow for an instant no-dig vegie patch you can move to catch the sun

1 2 3



1 Paint the barrow

Scrub the barrow with soapy water and allow to dry. Sand the surfaces to be painted using medium-grit paper, wipe off the dust and apply a metal primer. Paint the tray, handles, legs and tyre rim in the colours of your choice.



2 Drill drainage holes

Apply a second topcoat, then drill drainage holes in the base of the wheelbarrow tray. Take care not to drill too many holes, or too near the corners, as it will weaken the tray. **TIP** Use waterborne enamel paint.



3 Prepare the tray

Add a biodegradable, non-toxic lining such as hemp to the tray. Pour in gravel for drainage, fill with potting mix, then plant out and water in well.

TIP Ask a local cafe to give or sell you empty fair-trade coffee sacks. ☘



Sarah

Style it DIY

In *Reclaim That: Upcycling your Home with Style* (New Holland, \$30), journalist and homemaker Sarah Heeringa shares her passion for upcycling.

Filled with stunning photos and step-by-step projects on how to remake second-hand pieces, this book will inspire you to transform your home DIY.

Easy table revamp

Use veneer and paint to transform a budget item into a designer piece

PROJECT DANIEL BUTKOVICH STYLING ARTEMIS GOUROS PICTURES SUE FERRIS

Shopping for furniture can leave a serious dent in your wallet, with quality pieces often demanding high prices. But you can get the designer look for less by making over budget furniture.

This pine table was affordable but plain, so it was refinished. Veneer hides the knots on the top, while the green legs add a retro feel. To keep costs low, we used leftover varnish on the top and bought only a sample pot of paint.

A 1220 x 1220mm sheet of 0.4mm mahogany craft ply, about \$130 from timber suppliers, was cut to size and attached using contact adhesive. Clear varnish enhances the appearance of the grain and creates a durable surface.

New, raw timber will only need a light sand with medium grit paper to prepare it for priming and painting. For a second-hand table, use a palm sander and coarse grit pads to remove the old finish first. ➤

BUDGET TIP

Find second-hand furniture to make over in charity stores or online on eBay, Gumtree or Trading Post.



Before

DAN'S PICKS

Veneer creates the look of expensive timber for a fraction of the price



Ryobi 12V Li-Ion Cordless Palm Orbital Sander, \$129. ryobi.com.au



Dulux Deep Base Sample Pot, \$8 for 250ml. dulux.com.au



Rocket Sanding Kit with 10 Sanding Sheets, \$7, from Bunnings.



Feast Watson Weatherproof Varnish, about \$52 for 1L. feastwatson.com.au



Selleys Kwik Grip Spray Contact Adhesive, \$19 for 350g. selleys.com.au



After

With a mahogany veneer and green legs, the pine table is a contemporary classic.

TRANSFORM THE TABLE



1 Cut the veneer

Measure the table and mark the measurements on the veneer, adding 10mm to the length and width. Cut the veneer to size with a new blade in a utility knife, using a steel rule as a guide. The knife tends to follow the grain, so score the surface, then make multiple passes to cut through cleanly.



2 Attach the veneer

Spray both the tabletop and the veneer with contact adhesive and leave until touch-dry. Position the veneer above the table, allowing 5mm overhang on each side, then carefully lower one end onto the surface and lay it down slowly. The adhesive grips immediately on contact and can't be repositioned.



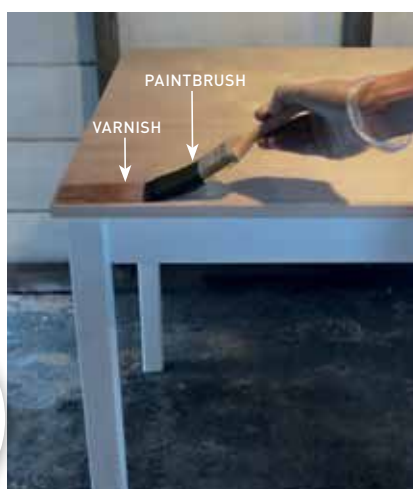
3 Smooth and prime

Use a plastic broadknife to smooth out any bubbles and ensure the entire surface of the veneer is in contact with the table. Position a sheet of plywood on the veneer, weigh down or clamp and leave overnight. Sand the frame using 120 grit paper, wipe with a tack cloth and apply primer.



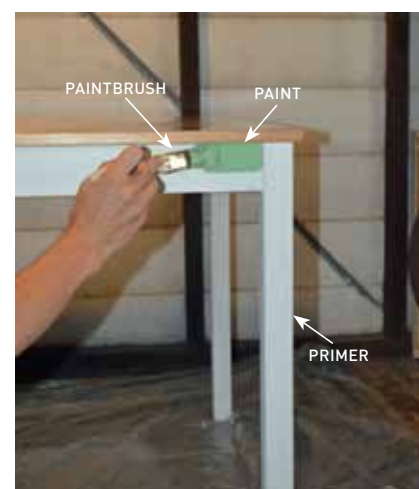
4 Trim and sand

Trim excess veneer from each side with the utility knife. Smooth the edges of the veneer using a sanding block and 240 grit paper, taking care not to remove too much material. Sand the top of the veneer using 240 grit paper, working only in the direction of the grain.



5 Apply the varnish

Wipe the surface with a tack cloth, then apply clear varnish to the veneer and the edges of the table using a paintbrush. Work only in the direction of the grain using long, even strokes. Once dry, sand lightly with 240 grit paper, wipe clean with a tack cloth and apply two more coats.



6 Paint the frame

Sand the frame with 180 grit paper, then apply two coats of water-based acrylic paint, using an angled trim brush for cutting in and a small roller for large sections. Sand lightly between coats using 240 grit paper.

TIP Apply masking tape to protect the tabletop from paint.



On the edge

The veneer has only been applied to the top, as the edges of this table are rounded, which creates an appealing contrast between timber grains.

For tables with square edges, veneer edge banding can be applied. Secure it using Selleys Kwik Grip Vertical Gel, \$6 for 40g (selleys.com.au). 🛠️



Durable semi-gloss paint is easy to clean and ideal for the frame.

MAKE A MENU BOARD

How to turn an old window frame into a chalkboard

WORDS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

DIY blogger Melissa Darr has a talent for turning old objects into decorative pieces.

Wanting the kind of French-style blackboard she'd seen in shops for up to \$90, Melissa decided to make her own using an old sash window frame.

First, she removed the glass from the frame and replaced it with a piece of MDF. Melissa then sprayed this with chalkboard paint and transferred a printed design onto the board.

'The menu board fits perfectly above my wine cabinet and brings me great joy. I love the old rusty handle and hook that were reattached. I think they really add charm,' says Melissa.



DIY TIP

When making something look worn and rustic, concentrate on the edges of the piece and highlight any rough patches.



Melissa



EXPERT SECRETS

Keep pieces of removed hardware in a jar so they're easy to find when you want to replace them later.

2 Add the board

A piece of 4mm MDF board was cut to fit the frame, then sprayed with two coats of black chalkboard paint and allowed to dry.

Wood glue was applied to the edges of the board, which was pressed into the frame and clamped until dry. Nails were hammered in for extra strength and the old hardware was added.

Melissa researched online for fonts and designs she liked, then wrote her own message and printed it out.

The back of the printouts were coloured with lead pencil, roughly cut out, then positioned on the board.

She traced over the designs and words to transfer them onto the board. Using a fine-tipped paintbrush, she painted the outlines in a soft grey.



Check out your local recycling centre for old sash windows

1 Prepare the frame

Melissa found a second-hand sash window and removed the pane of glass from the frame.

She applied strips of masking tape over the glass to help contain the shards, placing the frame on sheets of newspaper to catch the pieces. Melissa

then broke the glass and removed and disposed of all of the pieces.

The frame was thoroughly cleaned and all the hardware removed and reserved, then the frame sanded.

Two coats of white acrylic paint were applied and the new finish was given an aged look using sandpaper.

Wear safety goggles and gloves when removing a windowpane.



The letters and designs were painted in grey and highlighted in white.

Get more DIY from Melissa
Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com



Watch the video 'How to Build a Walk-in Wardrobe' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

Find it at Bunnings

SPACE SOLVER

Boost clothes storage in the bedroom by installing a walk-in wardrobe

Efficient storage solutions keep the bedroom tidy and make it easier to organise clothing, accessories and shoes.

Walk-in wardrobes provide ample storage and are simple to install DIY.

Modular designs can be set up in any space, making it easy to create

a walk-in wardrobe along an unused wall or in an awkward corner.

You can also convert a spare room into a walk-in wardrobe to free up floorspace in the bedroom.

TIP Use the online wardrobe planner at bunnings.com.au to plan your space and visualise your new wardrobe.

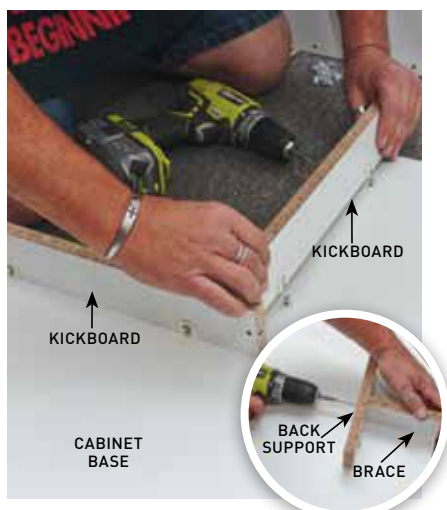
DESIGN TIP

Select components based on what clothing needs to be stored, combining cabinets and drawers with hanging storage.

What you need

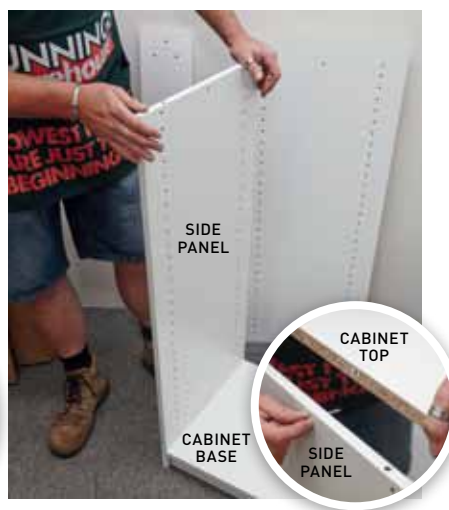
Drill
Spirit level
Hammer
Screwdriver
Pencil
Hacksaw
Sawhorse

BUILD A WALK-IN WARDROBE



1 Assemble the base

Tap the cams into the kickboard holes, then insert the locking pins into the holes in the base shelf. Insert the locking pins into the cams on the kickboard, then turn the cam to lock in place. Repeat for the back support, then position the brace perpendicular to it, securing with screws.



2 Add the sides and back

Assemble the corner cabinet by securing the side and back panels to the base with screws, ensuring the finished edge is at the front. Stack the shelves on top of the base to make it easier to position them later, then secure the top shelf to the cabinet sides and back with screws.



3 Install the shelves

Finish the corner cabinet by lifting each shelf to the desired height, then insert the shelf pins into the holes in the side panels to support each shelf. Assemble the side cabinets by joining the sides to the base, kickboard and top using screws to create the frame, securing the back with nails.



4 Attach the top cabinets

Assemble the top cabinets in the same way as the base cabinets. Insert the dowels into the holes at the top of the base cabinet, tapping them in gently with a hammer. Lift the top cabinet onto the base cabinet and align the holes with the dowels to lock it into position.



5 Make the drawers

Slide the drawer base into the grooves in the drawer sides. Fold over the drawer front, align the holes with the dowels and tap into position, then secure the handles. Attach runners to the base of the drawer and the inside of the side cabinets by aligning the pins and securing with screws.



6 Secure the rods

Cut the hanger rod 10mm shorter than the distance between the cabinets. Secure a flange to a wall or side panel with screws, slide another flange over the rod and insert into the mounted flange. Level the rod and secure the other flange on the opposite wall or panel. Attach the top shelf with screws.

Handyman

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TIMELESS

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A door is a statement of what to expect as you enter a room. That's why Sally Klopper of Sally Caroline Interior Design starts with Corinthian's Moda Collection. With 24 timeless designs to choose from, a Moda door will be right at home in your home. To watch Sally talk about her timeless design principles, visit Corinthian.com.au

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This month

April is a great month to plant and plan ahead for flowers and vegies

Do now

- + **PLANT** bulbs now for a dazzling display next spring, page 114.
- + **GROW** ornamental grasses for a low-maintenance landscape, page 125.
- + **RAISE** organic crops of winter veg for homegrown flavour, page 132.

Flowers to sow

Start these seeds now for colourful blooms in 14 weeks.

- + **PAINTED DAISY**
- + **VIRGINIA STOCK**
- + **CORNFLOWER**
- + **LOBELIA**
- + **NIGELLA**

Cornflower

Vegies to grow

Plant these before the end of the month for winter crops.

- + **SPRING ONIONS**
- + **BROAD BEANS**
- + **SHALLOTS**
- + **TURNIPS**
- + **LEEKs**

Turnip

WHAT'S IN COLOUR

✦ **BRUNNERA 'SILVER HEART'** This new cultivar of a classic shade-loving perennial is an outstanding performer.

Featuring striking silver foliage with green veins, it looks good all year and produces clusters of deep cobalt blue flowers in August and September.

Use 'Silver Heart' to bring low-light areas to life, mass-planting it for impact. A low, clumping plant, it reaches 30cm high and spreads to 60cm, is easy to grow in beds or pots and tolerates more sun than other brunneras.

Give it a position in full or part shade in well-drained soil.

'Silver Heart' has moderate water needs, but don't let the soil dry out until it's established.

Feed after flowering and trim older foliage to encourage regrowth from the centre.

'Silver Heart'



To-do list

Make the transition between summer and autumn with these jobs.

- ✓ **LAY** turf or sow grass in tropical and subtropical climate zones, watering well until established.
- ✓ **DIVIDE** bearded iris and polyanthus, then plant out.
- ✓ **PLANT** hanging baskets for winter flowering.
- ✓ **SPRAY** roses for black spot, mildew or aphids in cool zones if needed.
- ✓ **TAKE** hardwood and semi-hardwood cuttings.
- ✓ **KEEP** autumn leaves from fouling pond water.
- ✓ **COLLECT** fallen leaves for mulch or compost.
- ✓ **TREAT** fungal problems on vegies and ornamentals.

BOOK CLUB



Following on from their bestseller *Super Green Smoothies*, sisters Sally Obermeder and Maha Koraïem are back with *The Good Life* (Allen & Unwin, \$35). With more than 160 easy and tasty recipes, it's the perfect way to put your vegie patch to use so you can eat green and lean every day. ➤

LOVELY LAVENDER



To dry lavender, hang up prunings in a cool, dark spot.

If you bought a potted lavender over the summer when it was fragrant and in bloom but have yet to plant it out, you don't have to wait until next spring.

Lavender is usually propagated or sown from seed in spring, but it can be planted any time in most climate zones, as long as there is no frost and the soil can still be easily cultivated.

A Mediterranean shrub, lavender likes well-drained soil and full sun.

Give it a sheltered spot out of wind, growing it near a solid wall if you can, so the heat retained from the sun will protect the plant on winter nights.

TIP Remove spent blooms and trim every spring. It doesn't regenerate from old wood, so don't prune too hard.

Gourmet vegies

The cooler weather of autumn is designed for vegie gardening, as it's not too hot to do the prep work to start a patch from scratch.

Or if you're sowing an existing patch for the new season, there are

lots of fast growers to get into the ground for a bumper winter crop.

And for a patch with international flavour, the seeds in the Johnsons World Kitchen range are the easy way to grow vegies, greens and herbs from all around the world. ✂

Johnsons World Kitchen seed packets, from \$3-\$5 each. johnsons-seeds.com.au



Feed now

Give plants a boost before they slow down with the cold.

- + FLOWERING ROCK PLANTS
- + MACADAMIA TREES
- + CHRYSANTHEMUMS
- + FRUIT TREES
- + DAHLIAS



Chrysanthemum

Prune now

Deadhead flowering plants and trim perennials that have finished.

- + EASTER DAISIES
- + FRANGIPANIS
- + HIBISCUS
- + ROSES
- + ABELIAS



Frangipani

Harvest now

Get in late crops and fruit during April.

- + MUSHROOMS
- + NECTARINES
- + PUMPKINS
- + APPLES
- + KIWIS

Kiwi





nylex

The new **Nylex NeverKink PRO** Garden Hose utilises Patented Anti-Kink Technology providing superior resistance against kinks and twists. The reinforced knitted structure also provides superior resistance to pressure and is UV protected which ensures the hose won't go dry or brittle when left out in the sun. The **NeverKink PRO** hose also features new Visigrip Technology providing a non-slip grip making it easier to roll. With a Lifetime Guarantee the **NeverKink PRO** is the ultimate garden hose.

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Spring heroes

Be inspired to plant bulbs now for a dynamic new-season display

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

Even if you're not a gardener, you'll know that spring is a sensational time, as the garden wakes from its winter slumber, overflowing with abundant growth and colour.

Perhaps the greatest surprise packages of all are the spring-flowering bulbs. Odd-looking things, they lay dormant in the soil, then come spring, they explode into life with masses of foliage followed by beautiful blooms.

And bulbs are easy to grow in beds, pots or even window boxes.

Get the kids involved, too. They'll love the transformation, just like the ugly duckling story, told in flowers.

Tulip mania

It is widely believed that in Holland in the 1600s what is considered to be the world's first financial bubble developed.

This bubble market was driven not by real estate or gold, but by tulip bulbs. The Dutch went wild for this new plant, introduced from regions such as Turkey. Before collapsing, the price for a bulb skyrocketed to as high as 10 times the annual wage of a skilled craftsman.

BULB CARE

When you buy new bulbs, they are primed and ready to flower, but here's how to get the most from them.

✦ **STORE** bulbs in the crisper section of the fridge for about six weeks before planting in warmer regions. This can help them perform better.

✦ **GIVE** bulbs free-draining soil, as they won't tolerate wet feet.

✦ **PLANT** the bulbs with the roots pointing downwards.

✦ **FOLLOW** the instructions on the packet on the planting depth and the level of sun or shade required.

The general rule of thumb is to plant a bulb twice as deep as it is tall. So a 50mm bulb is placed at a depth of 100mm.

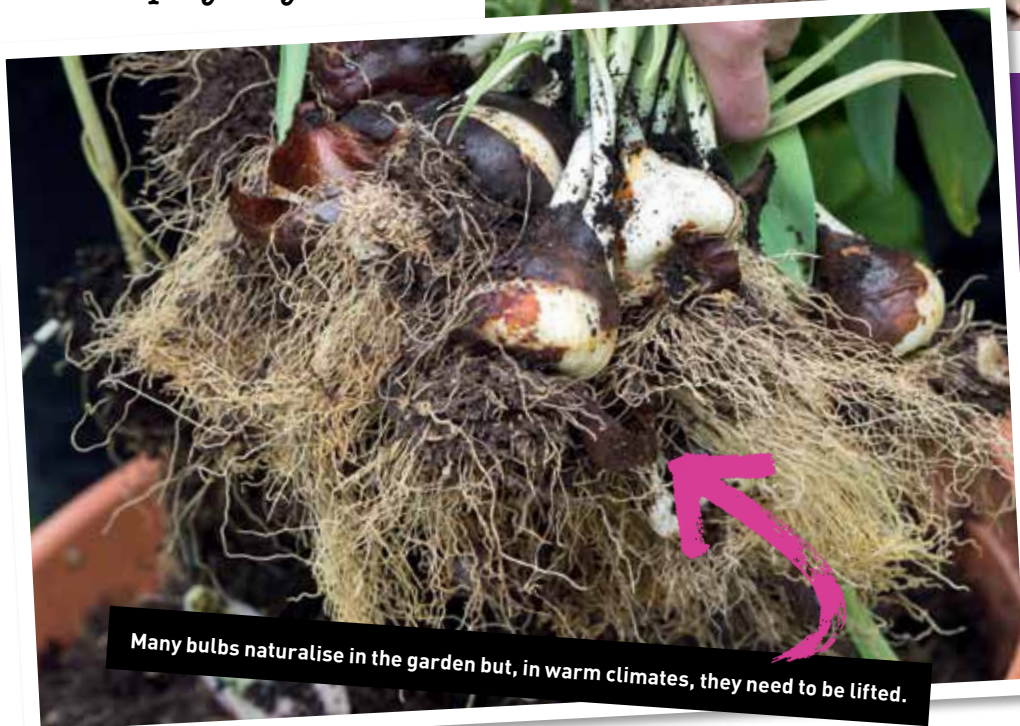
✦ **RESIST** overtiding the bulbs after flowering. Just remove spent blooms and only trim off leaves as they die, as they use this post-flowering period to store energy for next year's flowering.



If space is limited, plant bulbs in multiple pots and you can have a display anywhere

GROW TIP

When planting, vary heights, positioning tall bulbs at the centre or rear so they don't steal the show.



Many bulbs naturalise in the garden but, in warm climates, they need to be lifted.



Lifting and storing

Some bulbs perform best the next year if removed from the ground, especially if your region is very warm across summer, or you have heavy rain during their dormant periods.

After they've flowered and the foliage has completely browned off, gently lift them. Remove any soil and leaves, then trim the roots. Allow to dry for a few days and place in a paper or net bag.

Store in a cool, dry spot until planting time, occasionally checking for rot or fungus and throwing out damaged bulbs. ➤

WHAT TO PLANT

1 Jonquil

Excellent for naturalising under deciduous trees, jonquils are hardy and reliable like their close cousins, daffodils.

The flowers come in whites and creams and are richly fragrant.

TIP Old-fashioned paperwhites are one of the earliest flowering bulbs, coming out as early as May.

2 Daffodil

Probably the best known of the bulbs is the daffodil. The cheerful blooms held above long stems nod gently in a spring breeze.

Daffodils are very hardy and suitable for naturalising in most regions, and the flowers can be yellow, near white or bicoloured.

3 Ranunculus

This plant flowers in red, orange and white.

It must have good-quality and free-draining soil in full sun, with protection from the wind.

Plant the tubers with the claws facing downwards, then mulch the surface of the soil with a quality composted manure.

4 Anemone

One of the most riotously colourful and abundantly flowering of the spring bulbs, anemones make excellent cut flowers, as they will last for well over a week in a vase.

As the stems develop, they need regular watering and feeding with an organic liquid plant food.





5 Freesia

Hardy and vigorous, freesias will happily naturalise and multiply.

But be aware that old-fashioned varieties are considered a nuisance plant in some regions, escaping to areas such as roadside clearings.

Available in a bright range of colours, many are highly fragrant.

6 Hyacinth

Stems packed with perfumed, bright blooms are the hallmarks of the hyacinth.

In colours ranging from pure white to pinks, blue-purples and gold, it is a serious show-off.

It performs best in cooler regions but can be planted for a one-off display in other areas.



7 Snowflakes

One of the most understated and delicate of the bulbs, this lovely plant is also extremely hardy and ideal for naturalising in situations from sun to shade.

Needing very little care, it will flower year after year in most regions except the tropics.



8 Tulip

With their elegant blooms, tulips are like the royalty of the bulb world. The colours range from pastel hues to bold solid colours and patterns.

They like a cold winter or time in the fridge, good drainage, and sun and wind protection. In warmer areas, lift and store or replant.



9 Iris

Perhaps the most romantic of the spring bulbs is the iris. Tall flower stems stand proudly above the fine silver-grey foliage. Irises can be naturalised in cooler regions.

The blues and purples are highly prized, but don't overlook the whites and yellows. >



For an extended flowering display, underplant your bulbs with annuals

POTTING BULBS

Planting up a pot or window box with bulbs is easy and rewarding. Here are a few tips to help them thrive.

- + **CHOOSE** a container that has very good drainage and avoid placing a saucer underneath it.
- + **USE** a quality bulb potting mix.
- + **POSITION** the bulbs no closer than 30-50mm to the container sides or they will get too hot.

- + **KEEP** the taller-growing plants to the rear or centre of a display.
- + **ALLOW** the mix to nearly dry out between waterings.
- + **FEED** bulbs at planting time using a quality controlled-release fertiliser, then again during flowering.
- + **PUT** the container in a partially sunny spot, avoiding afternoon sun, until the weather cools down.



Add colour to the garden with bright bulbs in pots.

1 2 3

Choose a large container for your bulbs and mass-plant to create the maximum visual impact.



1 Add the potting mix

Fill the pot to about 100mm below the top lip with potting mix, checking the instructions on the pack, as this will vary depending on the planting depth requirement of the bulbs. Pat down to remove air pockets but don't compress.



2 Position the bulbs

Plant from the centre of the pot out, placing the tallest bulbs in the centre or at one side. Don't position any bulbs too close to the pot sides. Gently push the bulbs into the mix, then top up to about 30mm below the lip with mix.



3 Cover with mulch

Add a thick layer of lucerne mulch. Position the pot in a semi-sunny spot, avoiding afternoon sun. Water in well with a seaweed solution. When foliage appears, position the pot according to the needs of the bulb variety.

 See more great ways to display bulbs
Visit pinterest.com/diyhandyman



Design ideas

With their stunning displays at times when colour and flowers may otherwise be in short supply, bulbs can be used to great effect.

To get you started, here are a few ways to plant them.

A solid backdrop amplifies the impact of a small planting of bulbs and also provides the necessary wind protection.

Bulbs come into their own when planted under deciduous trees. This position allows them winter sun and protection from summer heat.



LEFT With their height and elegant linear form, irises look great flanking garden features such as tall plinths. **RIGHT** Mass-plant multiple colours of the same species, such as ranunculus, for wow-factor. 🌷



ADAM'S PICKS



Eden 51cm Green Earth Low Bowl Plastic Pot in Charcoal, \$55. edenbrand.com



Scotts Pure Organic Premium Seaweed Plant Food, \$14 for 1L, \$14. scottsaustralia.com.au



Earthwise Growing Essentials Lucerne Mulch. \$20 for 10kg, from Bunnings.



Bloomin' Bulbs 60 Massing Mixed Freesia Landscaper Pack, about \$20. bloominbulbs.com.au



Scotts Osmocote Professional Bulb Mix, \$7 for 10L.



PLANT A MANDARIN TREE

Get this citrus in the ground now and reap the benefits of freshly picked fruit

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Easy to peel, mandarins make a healthy fast food. And picked straight from the tree, they are an ideal fit for a school lunch box and aren't too messy to eat.

An attractive tree with glossy foliage and perfumed flowers, this citrus doesn't grow overly tall, so it's suitable for large and small gardens.

You can use it as a feature tree or plant several to form a screen.

If you have the space to grow a couple of different cultivars with varying harvest periods, you'll be picking mandarins for months.

CARING FOR YOUR CITRUS

Citrus trees like a frost-free climate, sunny location and shelter from wind.

✦ **PLANT** in free-draining soil, digging in copious amounts of compost.

Dig a hole twice the size of the rootball and plant so the soil level is the same as in the pot. Ensure the bud union is well above ground level.

Water twice a week for six weeks until they are established, then water thoroughly every week, especially while the fruit is ripening.

✦ **MULCH** with sugar cane, lucerne hay or pea straw to help keep the

soil moist, leaving at least a hand's span clear around the trunk when applying to prevent collar rot.

✦ **FEED** with a complete citrus food, cow manure or blood and bone. Apply under the mulch in early spring, early summer and early autumn. Apply fertiliser to damp soil and water it in.

✦ **PRUNE** half the developing fruit on young trees in their first and second years so the trees don't exhaust themselves. They don't need annual pruning for fruit production, but they can be pruned into any desired shape.



GROW TIP

The roots of mandarin trees spread to the outer perimeter of the branches, like all citrus, so water and feed there.



✦ Don't feed newly planted trees for at least six weeks or until new growth shows the roots are established

In the kitchen

Eat mandarins fresh from the tree or use them in savoury and sweet recipes.

- ✦ **USE** in stir-fries.
- ✦ **TOSS** into salads.
- ✦ **PUT** in orange marmalade.
- ✦ **ADD** to jellies.
- ✦ **TRY** in tarts.
- ✦ **LAYER** in trifles. >



Mandarin chicken with bean sprout and watercress salad



Mandarin and lamb stir-fry



Get these recipes online

Visit handyman.net.au/mandarin-recipes

WHAT TO PLANT

1 Clementine

The juicy medium-sized fruit are easy to peel and contain few seeds. It is a strong growing and vigorous tree.

✦ **HARVEST** Midwinter.

HEALTH TIP

Low in kilojoules, a good source of vitamins A and C and fibre, this citrus also contains magnesium, calcium and potassium.

2 Honey Murcott

This variety is more like a mandarin and orange cross. It has a thin, tight skin, sweet taste and a high juice content. It is a strong-growing upright tree.

✦ **PICK** Late winter into early spring.

3 Imperial

A popular mandarin tree with easy-to-peel medium to large fruit. It's strong growing with an upright habit.

✦ **PICK** Late autumn to early winter.

Dwarf cultivars

For tiny backyards and balconies, there are some great dwarf mandarin choices that can be grown in large tubs.

Try the easy-to-peel dwarf 'Emperor', the heavy-cropping dwarf 'Imperial', or the dwarf 'Engall's Seedless'.

✦ **SELECT** a pot with a diameter of at least 400mm. You can increase the size of the pot as the tree grows.

✦ **WATER** thoroughly an hour or two before removing the tree from its pot.

✦ **HALF-FILL** the container with a premium potting mix for citrus and fruit. Position the tree so the soil level is the same as in the old pot. Backfill with potting mix.

✦ **FIRM** the mix, then water in, topping up with mix if it sinks.

✦ **REMOVE** any fruit on small trees in the first year so that the tree's energy will go into making new growth.





5 Emperor
One of the easiest to peel and segment, this variety has a puffy, loose skin. The fruit of this strong-growing tree has an excellent flavour with few seeds.
+ **PICK** Midwinter.

4 Ellendale
This mandarin produces large flattish and very juicy fruit. The skin is smooth and tight, making it hard to peel.
+ **PICK** Late winter to mid spring.

CHERYL'S PICKS



Yates Success Ultra Insect Control, \$24. yates.com.au



Hortico White Oil Concentrate Insecticide, about \$13 for 500ml. hortico.com.au

PROBLEM SOLVER

Citrus leaf miner

- + **CAUSE** Tiny silvery moths that are difficult to see. They lay their eggs on new growth and the larvae tunnel into the leaves.
- + **SPOT IT** Silver trails on new foliage are the first sign, then curling and distortion of leaves.
- + **FIX IT** Spray with Hortico White Oil.



Citrus gall wasp

- + **CAUSE** Small black wasps lay groups of eggs in young soft twigs in early spring.
- + **SPOT IT** As the larvae develop, the plant is stimulated to produce extra cells, causing lumps on branches, known as galls.
- + **FIX IT** Remove and dispose of the infected branch before the end of winter while the pupating wasps are inside to avoid reinfection.

Collar rot

- + **CAUSE** A fungal root disease that attacks the trunk of the tree just above soil level.
- + **SPOT IT** It causes yellowing foliage and a damaged area on the lower trunk. If left untreated, the rot will spread around the trunk, ringbarking the tree.
- + **FIX IT** Scrape the bark back to healthy growth. Keep the area around the trunk free from weeds and other plants. Don't overwater.



Bronze orange bug

- + **CAUSE** Flat, green nymphs, and dark-brown or black adults that are about 25mm long.
- + **SPOT IT** Both nymphs and adult bugs cause flower and fruit fall by sucking on the stalks.
- + **FIX IT** Spray young nymphs during winter with Yates Success.

Remove the adults by hand and put in a bucket of boiling water and detergent. Wear gloves and eye protection, as they squirt a nasty-smelling chemical. ☹

A CUT ABOVE 

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GREAT GRASSES

Transform your backyard with these easy-care clumping plants

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERYL MADDOCKS

The long leaves of ornamental native and non-native grasses, and grass lookalike plants, will introduce movement to your garden.

Varying in height, they provide a vertical emphasis in beds, and many of them bear gorgeous flowers.

Tall grasses can serve as finely textured screens or feature plants while short types can be used as groundcovers or lawn substitutes.

HOW TO PLANT

There are many ways to incorporate decorative native and non-native grasses into your garden design.

✦ **PLANT** tall and short ornamental grasses among flowering annuals and perennials to create a country meadow-like garden bed.

✦ **MIX** grasses of different heights in a bed or mass-plant the same grass for an elegant look.

✦ **GROW** in containers, as they look beautiful billowing out of pots.

✦ **REPLACE** a front lawn or a nature strip with ornamental grasses. It cuts down on mowing and provides a habitat for small creatures. ➤

Give your garden texture with ornamental grasses.

TYPES OF GRASSES

Native and non-native ornamental grasses are suited to many landscape situations. Once established, most thrive on rainwater, making them excellent choices for dry garden beds.

Water newly planted grasses regularly for the first couple of months until they are established. Feed with a controlled-release fertiliser in late winter and mulch regularly.

NATIVES

Poa labillardieri

Also known as common tussock grass, *Poa labillardieri* has green leaves. The cultivar 'Eskdale' is a very drought-tolerant grass with fine blue leaves that grow up to 600mm in height.

GROW Plant in full sun or part shade and trim back every year to 150mm above the ground.

USE Plant in rockeries, use as a feature, grow on banks to help stabilise the earth, or mass-plant.

Pennisetum

These lovely native grass cultivars have elegant feathery flowers that stand above arching foliage.

❖ **'PURPLE LEA'** bears purple blooms above 800mm high green leaves.

❖ **'PENNSTRIPE'** features variegated foliage and whitish flowers. It grows to 450mm high and wide.

❖ **'NAFRAY'** has cream flowers and reaches a height and width of 600mm.

❖ **'RUBRUM'** has purple-pink flower spikes and grows up to 600mm high.

GROW Plant in full sun to part shade in sandy or clay soils. Trim back by two-thirds if they become straggly.

USE Mass-plant or grow in large pots, beds or rockeries.



'Rubrum'



'Mingo'



Poa labillardieri

Themeda

A prostrate kangaroo grass, *Themeda* 'Mingo' forms a mound of bluish foliage that grows up to 200mm high and 600mm wide.

Rust-coloured seed heads appear during summer.

GROW Plant in full sun to part shade. Trim back by two-thirds if the leaves become untidy. Suited to all soil types, it is frost tolerant.

USE Plant in rockeries, grow as a groundcover, or mass-plant.



Cheryl

EXPERT SECRETS

Most ornamental grasses like a trim once a year in late autumn or winter.

NON-NATIVE

Miscanthus sinensis

With pretty feathery flowers, the foliage of these tall grasses colours beautifully in autumn.

The cultivars don't self-seed and some have variegated foliage.

✦ **'SARABANDE'** has narrow arching green leaves.

✦ **'GOLD BAR'** bears dark-green leaves that are banded with gold.

✦ **'GRACILLIMUS'** features purple-pink autumn flowers.

GROW Plant in full sun to part shade in well-drained loamy garden soil. Cut back hard in late winter.

USE Plant for vertical interest in beds, or mass-plant.



'Karl Foerster



Calamagrotis acutiflora

The cultivar 'Overdam' grows up to 1.2m high and has variegated cream and green foliage and flower plumes, which appear from summer to winter.

'Karl Foerster' grows to 1.8m and has feathery seed heads.

GROW Plant in full sun to part shade. Cut back hard late winter.

USE Grow as a specimen plant, or mass-plant. >

GRASS LOOKALIKES

With their strappy foliage, some plants have a grass-like appearance. They can be used in the garden the same way as ornamental grasses.

Lomandra, dianella and liriopie are all extremely hardy plants and the cultivars are available in a variety of heights and leaf colours.

Dianella

These tough evergreen native grass-like plants all have blue and yellow flowers followed by purple-blue berries.

Cultivars include 'Destiny', which has variegated foliage, and 'Cassa Blue'.

GROW Most dianellas will grow in sun or part shade.

USE Plant in rockeries or pots, grow as border plants or as a groundcover, or mass-plant.

'Katrinus'



Did you know?
Indigenous Australians used the smooth, strappy leaves of *Lomandra longifolia* to make baskets and eel traps. The seeds were ground into flour and the tender leaf bases eaten.

'Cassa Blue'



Liriopie

Evergreen liriopies with their strap-like leaves have pretty flowers in purple, blue, pink or white. There are many cultivars and some varieties have variegated leaves.

GROW These tough waterwise plants will grow in sun or shade. Cut back ragged leaves in winter, to allow for new growth.

USE Plant as a lawn substitute, use as a groundcover or for borders and edging, or grow in containers.



PICTURE (BOTTOM LEFT) OZBREED



Lomandra

Native lomandras, known as mat rushes, are attractive and tough.

There are some fabulous lomandra cultivars suited to a variety of garden situations.

✦ **'TANIKA'** has fine green 600mm high leaves. It's ideal for mass plantings, containers, along driveways or on banks, and will flourish when drainage is good.

✦ **'KATRINUS'** grows up to 800mm high. It tolerates humidity and frost, and can thrive in harsh roadside conditions. It has honey-perfumed yellow flowers.

✦ **'NYALLA'** has fine blue-green leaves and forms a stunning mound that grows up to 750mm high and wide. It tolerates windy and salt-laden positions and looks striking in a large pot.

GROW Depending on the cultivar, they will grow in sun or shade.

USE Plant on embankments or under tall trees or shrubs. ✦



Lomandras are so tough, they're used by the roadside where they survive on rainwater alone



Liriope

Rejuvenate your lawn this Autumn

Summer can really take its toll on your lawn. Autumn is the perfect time to give your lawn a much needed boost to help get it looking green and healthy again.

STEP 1 CONTROL THE WEEDS



After summer, your lawn can be left tired and depleted, leading to bare patches. Bare patches allow bindii and broadleaf weeds such as clover, dandelions and thistles to establish in your lawn. Control weeds with **Yates Weed'n'Feed™** or **Yates BuffaloPRO® Weed'n'Feed™**, which is specially formulated for buffalo lawns. A quick spray will kill the weeds and give your lawn a nice feed at the same time.

STEP 2 FIX BARE PATCHES



Bare patches can really ruin the look of your lawn, so autumn is the best time to fix them. During autumn the weather is mild and this will allow the new grass to establish and grow deep roots before winter arrives. Prepare the patch by applying **Hortico® Lawn Top Dressing**. The mix will retain water and nutrients around the new grass to help it establish. Then scatter **Hortico® Lawn Repair Seed**. It contains a mix of tough, fast growing and drought tolerant lawn grasses, which will help fix your bare patches quickly and, has added fertiliser to feed your new lawn seedlings.

STEP 3 FEED YOUR LAWN



Most Australian lawns grow quickly over summer and by Autumn all that growth can leave them depleted. Feed your lawn with **Yates® Dynamic Lifter® Concentrated Lawn Food**. It cares for your lawn in 2 ways. The organic matter improves soil structure and water holding capacity while the added nutrients will encourage healthy growth for a lush, green lawn.

For more great seasonal gardening advice visit:
inyourgarden.com.au

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FOR YOUR INSPIRATION ►►►

Grow your own furniture

How one man sprouts tables
and chairs from the earth

Gavin's one-piece chairs are crafted from a single tree.



LEFT Secured around a plastic mould, this tree is being formed into the shape of a chair.
BELOW These hexagonal moulds will eventually become floor and pendant lamps.

Deep in the English countryside, Gavin Munro of Full Grown (fullgrown.co.uk) is growing a field full of furniture.

This is achieved using an innovative technique known as botanical manufacturing.

On his farm in Derbyshire, Gavin raises willow, oak, ash and sycamore trees in special moulds, with the trunks and branches manipulated to grow in the shape of tables, chairs and even lamps.

Joints are formed by shaving patches off the bark and aligning the branches, which eventually fuse.

Ex-gardener Gavin says it makes more sense to train trees to shape in four years, rather than chop down a tree and cut it up, just to stick it back together again.

In his one-hectare field, Gavin has about 400 pieces of furniture growing. They'll be harvested later this year, then dried and treated.

The first of the items are being sold for between \$2000 and \$5000.



Even after a tree has been harvested, shoots can be trained to create new pieces

Mirror frames in varying shapes and sizes are grown.



Get planting for cool-weather crops

Now's the time to sow the seeds to enjoy salad greens and vegies in the autumn and winter

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

It's changeover month. At this time of the year, it's out with the last of the summer vegetables and in with the autumn and winter crops.

Put in a bit of work in the garden now and you'll have a good yield of vegetables during the cooler months.

Now's the time to plant salad greens and leafy vegetables, including Asian greens, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and kale, which all belong to the Brassicaceae family.

PICTURE: ISTOCK

PREPARE THE PLOT

Before planting your autumn and winter crops, remove all the finished plants from the vegetable patch and put them on the compost heap.

Dig up any weeds, making sure you get the roots as well. Weeds compete with plants for soil nutrition and leave them open to attack from insects and diseases.

Remove weeds, roots and all, when digging over the vegie patch.



Encourage earthworms

Organic matter attracts worms, which break down root mats and create tunnels to allow oxygen and water to penetrate the soil. The plant roots quickly take advantage of these tunnels, which are coated with nitrate-rich mucus.

Condition the soil

Once you've removed all the weeds, it is time to get the soil ready by adding compost or manure. This will keep it in excellent shape and help your vegetables thrive.

Adding chicken or cow manure, or compost, builds soil structure, as the compost or manure eventually disintegrates, supplying the soil with beneficial organic matter.

Compost is full of nutrients and regenerates the soil while increasing its water-holding capacity by at least 30%.

Dig the compost or manure lightly into the soil, then give it a good rake to make it crumbly, level and smooth. ➤



Recycling organic waste means less ends up in landfill

Compost is a great soil conditioner, and it's free.

SALAD GREENS TO GROW

Salads are eaten throughout the year, and autumn is a great time to plant lettuces, rocket, mizuna, spinach, celery leaves and beetroot leaves.

Grow them in pots or beds in a sunny spot and feed fortnightly with a complete soluble plant food.

Lettuces

As a staple, lettuce is very handy to have on hand. There are lots of varieties with a diversity of leaf shapes and colours. Each has its own individual but subtle taste.

These varieties can essentially be divided into four types.

✦ **COS** Popular in Caesar salad, this type, also known as Romaine, doesn't have a definite centre, and the leaves grow from a long central stem. Try 'Red Cos' or 'Cos'.

✦ **HEARTING** This type, also called crisphead, has a cabbage-like heart. Try 'Great Lakes' or 'Iceberg'.

✦ **BUTTERHEAD** As this type has a loose centre of leaves, it can be picked whole or by leaf. Try 'Buttercrunch', 'Green Mignonette' and 'Brown Mignonette'.

✦ **LOOSE-LEAF** This type can be constantly picked without pulling up the whole plant. Try 'Green Oakleaf', 'Red Oakleaf', 'Australian Yellow' and 'Red Coral'.



Iceberg



Brown Mignonette



Red Oakleaf

Mizuna

With its attractive, deeply serrated leaves, mustard-tasting mizuna looks good in pots or garden beds.

Sow the seeds directly where the plants are to grow and transplant

the seedlings to 250mm apart. The young leaves can be harvested as needed to encourage more growth.

Add mizuna to salads and team with fish. Use the leaves as a garnish for soups to impart a mustard flavour.



Cress

This salad green can be easily grown in a tray on a sunny windowsill. You can sow the seeds on moist cotton wool or paper towel, or on a thin layer of seed-propagating mix.

They can also be sprinkled onto soil in beds or pots.

Pick the young leaves, as required, and add to salads and sandwiches for a peppery taste.



Beetroot leaves

If you're growing beetroot just for its young leaves, the seeds can be sown closer together, about 20mm apart.

A beetroot seed is actually a cluster of a few true seeds and, upon germination, 2-3 seedlings appear. You can keep one for the leaves, then transplant the others to reach maturity for their roots.

Harvest the young leaves when they reach about 50mm in length and add to salads.

Spinach

Sow the seeds directly where the plants are to grow. Pick the leaves frequently to promote growth.

The leaves of baby spinach, one of nature's superfoods, add flavour to salads.

Celery leaves

Plant seedlings or sow the seeds directly where they are to grow.

Also called Chinese or cutting celery, the leaves add a refreshing celery taste to salads.

Pick the young leaves for salads and use the older leaves in stir-fries, soups and stews.



Rocket

This salad green grows well in autumn and winter and won't bolt to seed. It is easily grown from seeds sown directly where the plants are to grow.

Pick the young leaves as required, as frequent picking means more leaves. Wild rocket has deeply serrated leaves.

Rocket is commonly used with lettuce in salads. ➤

ASIAN GREENS TO GROW

If you like to whip up a stir-fry, plant a few Asian greens. All are easily grown from seed, and you can also buy seedlings.

They are fast growing and like a sunny position and, if space is limited, they can be grown in pots.

The flowers of Asian greens are edible and make a pretty garnish.

Chinese cabbage

Also called wong bok and nappa cabbage, Chinese cabbage forms a densely packed head of fine-textured, crinkly leaves that are blanched in the centre.

Mr. Fothergill's Chinese cabbage 'Nagaoka' is ready for harvesting in about 10 weeks.

Use the leaves as a wrap or base for steaming fish, or add to coleslaw or Asian salads.



Kimchi

Chop 1 Chinese cabbage and put in a colander over a plate. Sprinkle with 5 tablespoons salt, then toss. Stand for 30 minutes, rinse and drain well, then transfer to a big glass container.

Add 1 peeled and sliced cucumber, 12 thinly sliced radishes, 4 chopped spring onions, 3 thinly sliced garlic cloves and a peeled and sliced 3cm piece of fresh ginger.

Combine 1 tablespoon salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup rice vinegar, 1 tablespoon chilli paste and 12 cups water in a large bowl. Stir until the salt dissolves, then pour over the vegetable mixture.

Cover and refrigerate the kimchi, stirring occasionally, for at least two days, before serving.

TIP Serves 20 or makes 10 cups.



Test the pH

Most vegetables like a soil with a pH of about 6.5, so it's a good idea to test it every couple of years.

Soil can slowly become acidic through fertilising. If it is too acidic, you can rectify it with dolomite, garden lime or a liquid lime. Make sure you follow the directions on the test packet.



Chinese broccoli

This green produces much smaller flower rosettes than common broccoli. It is harvested about nine weeks after sowing, just before the flowers open.

Also known as Chinese kale, kai lan and gai lan, the whole plant can be eaten, including the stems, leaves and flowers.

Steam and serve with soy sauce and fried garlic as a side.

Tatsoi

The deep-green leaves of fast-growing tatsoi, or Chinese flat green cabbage, have a slightly nutty flavour.

For continuous picking, remove the outside leaves from the rosette individually.

Add the young leaves to Asian salads, or steam the leaves and stalks and serve seasoned with soy sauce and garlic.



Bok choy

This fast-growing Asian green has tender and crunchy pale green or white stalks.

You can pick bok choy, or pak choi and Chinese white cabbage as it is also called, while young or allow it to mature. It reaches maturity in about six weeks.

Add the young leaves to salads or steam whole and serve with oyster sauce and sesame oil. ➤



Share your vegie garden photos
Post a pic to Instagram and tag @HandymanMagazine

Choy sum

This popular Asian green, also called Chinese soup green and choi san, has large leaves and delicate-tasting stems.

Choy sum can be harvested young or allowed to mature. You can eat the whole plant including the small yellow flowers.

Add the stems and seeds to soups or steam the stems and serve as a side dish.



GROW TIP

Seaweed products, such as Seasol, promote beneficial micro-organisms in the soil, which in turn keeps the plants healthy.

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Broccoli



Brussels sprouts



Cauliflower



Cabbage

MORE WINTER STAPLES

Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and kale are essential autumn and winter vegetables. You can sow the seeds or buy seedlings.

Give them a sunny spot, keep well mulched and water regularly. Apply a complete soluble plant food fortnightly to ensure steady growth.

Add to stews, soups or simply steam or boil and serve with butter and salt and pepper.



Dig in dolomite or lime before planting, as brassicas are sensitive to acidity



Eat kale raw, steam it, sauté it with garlic or add it to soups and stews.

Kale

Did you know?
Research shows that all members of the Brassicaceae family are potentially anti-inflammatory and reputed to prevent cancer. They're low in kilojoules and rich in vitamins C and K, betacarotene, folate, potassium, magnesium and calcium.

PEST BUSTERS

Caterpillars

🔴 **SPOT IT** Larvae, especially of the cabbage white butterfly, love all brassicas and will chew the leaves on young and old growth.

🔴 **FIX IT** Yates Nature's Way Caterpillar Killer controls most caterpillars. It contains natural bacteria that kill the larvae once the insecticide is ingested.



Snails and slugs

🔴 **SPOT IT** These pests will munch on most vegies, especially salad greens. Look for shiny streaks and slime trails.

🔴 **FIX IT** Used coffee grounds or broken eggshells sprinkled around plants help deter snails.

Pour beer into a container and sink it in the ground for a trap. Or use environmentally friendly snail and slug pellets. ➤



Mala sian-st le Asian greens with noodles

PREPARATION TIME 10 minutes

COOKING TIME 10 minutes

Ingredients

- 450g hokkien egg noodles
- 1 tablespoon Malaysian shrimp paste (belacan)
- 1 tablespoon canola or peanut oil
- 1 long red chilli, seeded, finely chopped
- 1 large garlic clove, crushed
- 2 tablespoons small dried shrimp
- 1 tablespoon palm sugar, shaved, or dark brown sugar
- 2 bunches Asian greens, such as bok choy, choy sum or Chinese broccoli, leaves separated, ends trimmed

1 PUT the noodles into a heatproof bowl and pour over boiling water to cover. Soak according to the packet directions, then drain and set aside.

2 PRESS the shrimp paste into a flat disc and put into a wok or large frying pan. Heat over low heat until fragrant, then add the oil, chilli, garlic and dried shrimp. Stir to distribute the shrimp paste evenly and combine the ingredients, then cook for 1 minute.

3 STIR in the palm sugar, Asian greens and noodles, and cook for 5 minutes or until the greens wilt and the stems are tender. If the noodles stick to the wok, add 3-4 tablespoons water. Serve immediately.

RECIPE TIP

For a milder version of this dish, you can replace the shrimp paste with the same quantity of fish sauce.

Serves 4



RECIPES THE ULTIMATE BOOK OF VEGETABLES, READER'S DIGEST, TO ORDER THIS BOOK, CONTACT CUSTOMERSERVICE.AU@READERSDIGEST.COM



Kale smoothie

Remove the stem and shred 1 kale leaf to give $\frac{1}{2}$ cup firmly packed kale. Core and chop 1 green apple, slice 1 frozen banana, chop 3 dates and grate a 1cm piece fresh ginger. Process in a blender with $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups coconut water. Drink straightaway.

TIP Makes $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups. 🍷

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NEXT ISSUE

OUTDOOR

Keep chickens in the backyard and build a coop step by step.

PLUS Create a pond in a pot and add a fountain.

GARDEN

Plant herbs and flowers for homegrown flavour and colour during winter.

PLUS The easy way to grow pomegranates.

DECORATE

Get style on a shoestring with easy, inspirational upcycling techniques.

PLUS Three unique gifts to make for Mother's Day.

What's on this April

FREE Kids' D.I.Y. Workshops

» **Saturday 2**

CRAFT

Get creative using a variety of materials

» **Sunday 3**

FUN WITH PAINT

Make something great to share with friends

» **Saturday 9**

GROW YOUR OWN

Learn tips for growing vegetables at home

» **Sunday 10**

SUSTAINABILITY

Recycle household items to create a masterpiece

» **Saturday 16**

GAME MAKERS

Create your own fun at the game makers workshop

» **Sunday 17**

ANIMAL CRAFT

Make a craft animal with different materials

» **Saturday 23**

GROW YOUR OWN

Learn tips for growing vegetables at home

» **Sunday 24**

ANZAC DAY

Create your own Anzac poppy

» **Saturday 30**

WOODWORK

Make something special to take home

FREE Adult D.I.Y. Workshops

» **Saturday 2 and Sunday 3**

D.I.Y. PROJECTS

Speak with your local D.I.Y. presenter to get expert advice to help finish your project

» **Saturday 9 and Sunday 10**

TILING AND PLASTERING

Learn to tile and plaster your way through your next project with these handy tips

» **Saturday 16 and Sunday 17**

GROW YOUR OWN

Create the perfect soil-free vegetable or herb garden in the smallest of spaces

» **Saturday 23 and Sunday 24**

INDOOR PROJECTS

Our expert team members will give you advice on kickstarting your indoor projects

» **Saturday 30**

BASIC SKILLS

Come down to your local warehouse and learn the basic skills to start your next D.I.Y. project



Our workshops are held every weekend at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm. For specific topics, ask instore or go to [bunnings.com.au](https://www.bunnings.com.au). If you live in South Australia, speak to a team member or visit [bunnings.com.au](https://www.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. For more information on other instore events or to book, visit [bunnings.com.au/yourstore](https://www.bunnings.com.au/yourstore)

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1



2



3



POP QUIZ!

Name that *vegetable* *flower*

Can you identify these blooms belonging to plants you'll find in the veggie garden? The answers are at the bottom of the page

4



5



8



7



6



ANSWERS 1 EGGPLANT 2 ARTICHOKE 3 ZUCCHINI 4 CHILLI 5 POTATO 6 ONION 7 GREEN BEAN 8 TOMATO

PICTURES (STOCK [BACKGROUND] THINKSTOCK)



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