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autumn
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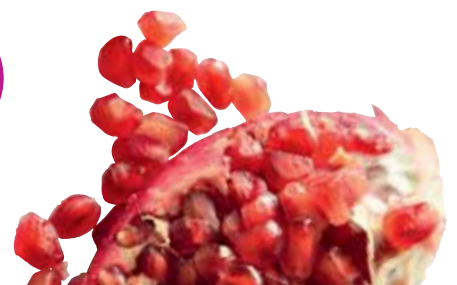
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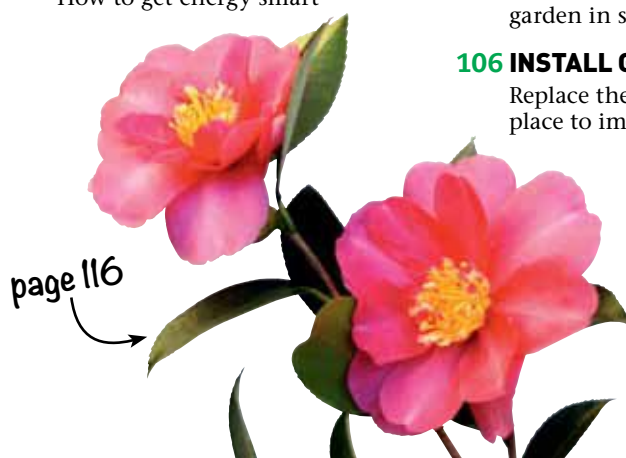
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THIS ISSUE

HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH



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EDITOR'S LETTER



The herb garden in a suitcase on this month's cover was created by chief subeditor Amanda Shaw and her friend Tracy Maryon.

They've also taken other old household items and show you how easy it is to give them a new lease of life. Check them out, on page 62.

Backyard chooks

Chickens provide fresh and delicious free-range eggs as well as use up kitchen scraps and fertilise the soil.

Our chickens wander free in the orchard at my home, so we put them away at night to protect them from foxes. As a result, we've developed fine chicken-wrangling skills.

The chicken house project in this month's issue is ideal for creating a space for them to enjoy the day in the open and move about, plus an area for them to sleep at night, protected from predators.

It also includes easy access for egg collection. See page 84.

Mother's Day

Spoil Mum this year with one of the fantastic projects made by blogger Melissa Darr, on page 54. Or, for more great gift inspiration, see Handy Stuff, on page 13, and the great ideas from Bunnings, on page 60.

Every year, my kids and I take my wife and my mother-in-law on a 'mystery tour' for the day.

Last year, we went to Cactus Country in Strathmerton, Victoria, for a Mexican lunch, margaritas and a tour of the exotic and extensive cactus and succulent gardens. It was phenomenal.

Whatever you do, make your mother feel special on Sunday, 8 May.

Enjoy the issue,

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL



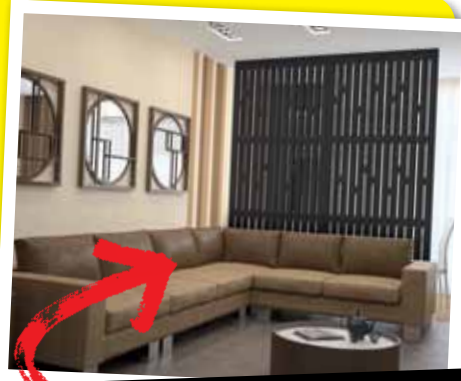
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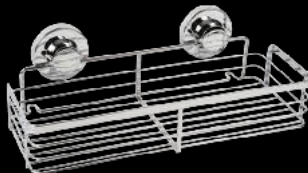
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**HANDY
STUFF**

MOTHER'S DAY GIFT GUIDE

Show Mum you care by choosing the perfect present for her hobbies

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



1 UPCYCLE a chair with a Wagner Flexio 990 Direct Feed Sprayer, \$499. wagneraustralia.com.au

2 TACKLE tasks in the Rossi Claret Elastic Sided Women's Work Boots, \$129. rossiboos.com.au

3 GIVE Mum the Bosch 200W Trigger Feed Glue Gun, \$48. bosch-do-it.com.au

4 KEEP tools on hand in an Irwin Centre Tote Tool Bag, \$100, with 42 pockets for gear. irwin.com.au

5 SPOIL Mum with a RB Sellars Sandy Casual Workshirt in Coral Check, \$65. rbsellars.com.au

6 DRIVE Phillips and flathead screws using the Kraftform Kompakt 28, \$39. bunnings.com.au

7 CREATE a feature wall with Boyle Havana Wall Panels, \$15 each. boyleindustries.com.au >





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2 UPGRADE Mum's garden gear with Fiskars Medium Power Gear Bypass Pruner, \$53. fiskars.com.au

3 PRUNE back branches with a Ryobi 12V Katana Garden Pruning Saw, \$139. ryobi.com.au

4 GET growing with Mr. Fothergill's Vegetable Garden Starter Kit, \$17. mrfothergills.com.au

5 PLANT blooms in 9 x 8cm Scheurich 937 Expressive Glazed Pots, \$4 each. tuscanpath.com.au

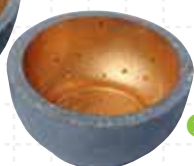
6 TREAT your mum to a pot of Ball Osteospermum Serenity Spring Day, \$12. ballaustralia.com

7 TRIM and tidy with the Ozito Power X Change Grass Trimmer & Shear, \$79. ozito.com.au ➤





1



2



3

KITCHEN gifts



4

5



- 1 **SPOIL** a special mum with a Breville Bakery Boss, \$749, to cut mixing time. breville.com.au
- 2 **GIVE** your Mum a Harrison & Co Concrete Midas Bowl, from \$28. harrisonandco.com.au
- 3 **SURPRISE** a foodie with a Smeg Stand Mixer, \$299, and Spaghetti Cutter, \$149. smeg.com.au
- 4 **DISH** up dinner for Mum on Design Twins Mango Plates, \$15 each. designtwins.com
- 5 **COOK** with the Lonely Planet Food Lover's Guide to the World, \$30. lonelyplanet.com.au
- 6 **HAVE** fun in the kitchen with the Farfalloni Silicone Pot Grips, \$25 for two. yellowoctopus.com.au
- 7 **TREAT** your mum with a Mad Millie 15 Minute Sourdough Kit, \$40. madmillie.com

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6



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Bacteria blocker

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WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



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Garden guru

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FOR YOUR INSPIRATION >>>

OUTSIDE *THE* BOX

An architect comes up with unexpected solutions to create a family sanctuary in a small space

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES SIMON KENNY

Squeezed into a cluster of houses and bordered on one side by a warehouse, this dark and dingy property was easy to pass by.

While others viewed the property and turned right around, architect Alex Roth immediately saw potential.

'It is a case of experience and perspective. There are always layers of thinking, and this is why you should hire an architect,' says Alex.

'All builds have limitations, but it's how you approach and transcend those limitations that is key,' he says.

The courtyard is the focal viewpoint for the whole house.

Raising foundations

The old house was totally demolished and, as Alex anticipated, there were issues with the surrounding warehouse wall, which stood 5.5m high.

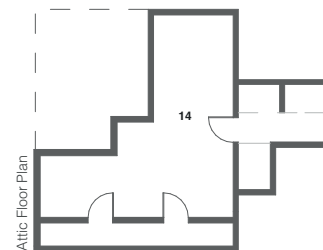
Many older buildings are built on a layer of bricks, so if you do any work near it, you undermine the existing structures, in this case, the walls.

Alex raised the level of the foundations of his house and used a thick waffle slab to provide the same strength and reduce the concrete used.

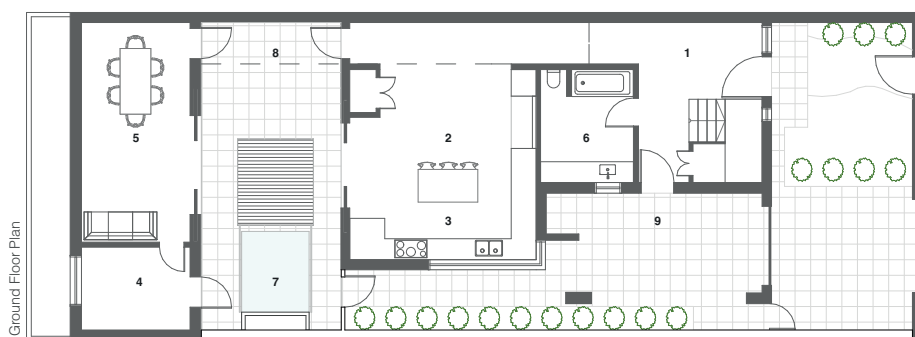
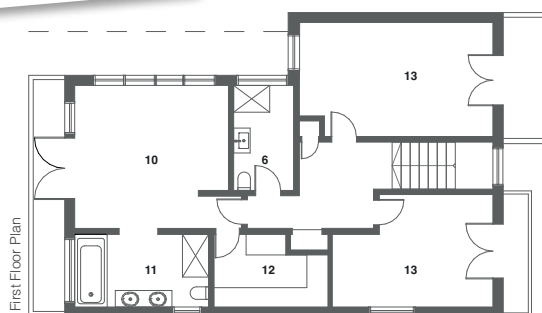
'Raising the level meant less structural impact on the surrounding walls, saving time and money without compromising the integrity,' he says.



Many old buildings don't have foundations and are literally built on a layer of bricks



- | | | | |
|---|---------|----|------------|
| 1 | Entry | 8 | Courtyard |
| 2 | Living | 9 | Garage |
| 3 | Kitchen | 10 | Master Bed |
| 4 | Study | 11 | Ensuite |
| 5 | Dining | 12 | Robe |
| 6 | Bath | 13 | Bed |
| 7 | Pool | 14 | Attic |



Exaggerating elements

While the block is only 10 x 21m, with about 320sqm of internal living space, nothing about this house feels small.

Utilising oversized elements exaggerates the perception of space, and a huge front door sets the scene.

'The entrance is also important. A wide and roomy entrance creates a landing area and avoids that feeling of having to jostle past people. >



Behind the unassuming exterior lies a light and spacious interior. **RIGHT** Comfortable transition areas such as a roomy entrance add value to interiors.



Integrating walls

The high warehouse wall reduced the light inside. But making it disappear wasn't an option, so Alex looked for ways to integrate it into the house.

'Enclosing with cathedral skylights provides a sense of volume, which always makes a house feel spacious and luxurious,' says Alex.

'The wall was also damp as it got no sun, so bringing it inside helped resolve this issue as well. I took advantage of

the height and the feel of containment to create an inward-looking space with its own sense of outlook.

'The vertical line draws you down the building and this emphasis plays with the rest of the house.'

Bringing it in instead of building up against it balanced the light, avoiding the silhouette factor that occurs when light comes from only one direction.

'This silhouette effect is what makes a space feel dark and enclosed,' he says.

The high boundary wall was made to work as integral feature.

ABOVE All the living spaces spill seamlessly onto the light-filled central courtyard.





The separate dining room is ideal for entertaining.

 Share photos of your reno

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Choosing colour

It may appear that the use of strong colours on walls is a matter of taste and personality, but there's more to it than that, according to Alex.

'It wasn't necessarily my goal to use feature colours, but they serve a real practical purpose. To detract from the wall being the dominating feature, I actually drew attention to it,' he says.

'Choosing the strong colour for the entire expanse means the eye registers



Casual and comfortable living spaces add to the sanctuary feel of the home

the red, but then diverts to the blue sky. It invites the sky in, adding to the feeling of openness and space.'

The paint was waxed using a high-grade buffing machine, resulting in an amazing depth, similar to looking into something translucent.

'It was done painstakingly by hand, but the effort elevates it from a simple red wall to something different and purposeful. It's also incredibly tactile and has a life of its own,' says Alex. ➤



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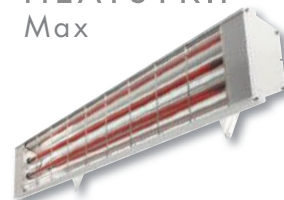
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Doubling up

The inward-focus of the home centres around the courtyard, and the relatively small area is maximised in function.

The paved space is cool, light reflective and practical for entertaining, lending a Mediterranean feel, coupled with the coral-coloured walls.

'I wanted to add water. It was too small for a full pool and, not willing to compromise the flow with fencing, I flipped the process and made a sliding deck double as a pool gate,' says Alex.

'A lot of work went into getting the gauge just right on the wheels to provide adequate resistance so only an adult can open it,' he says.

An oversized spa in the winter and a 3.5 x 3.5m plunge pool in summer, the deck slides and locks to cover it.

It keeps leaves out and heat in, and reduces the amount of chemicals needed, as it's not exposed to UV rays.

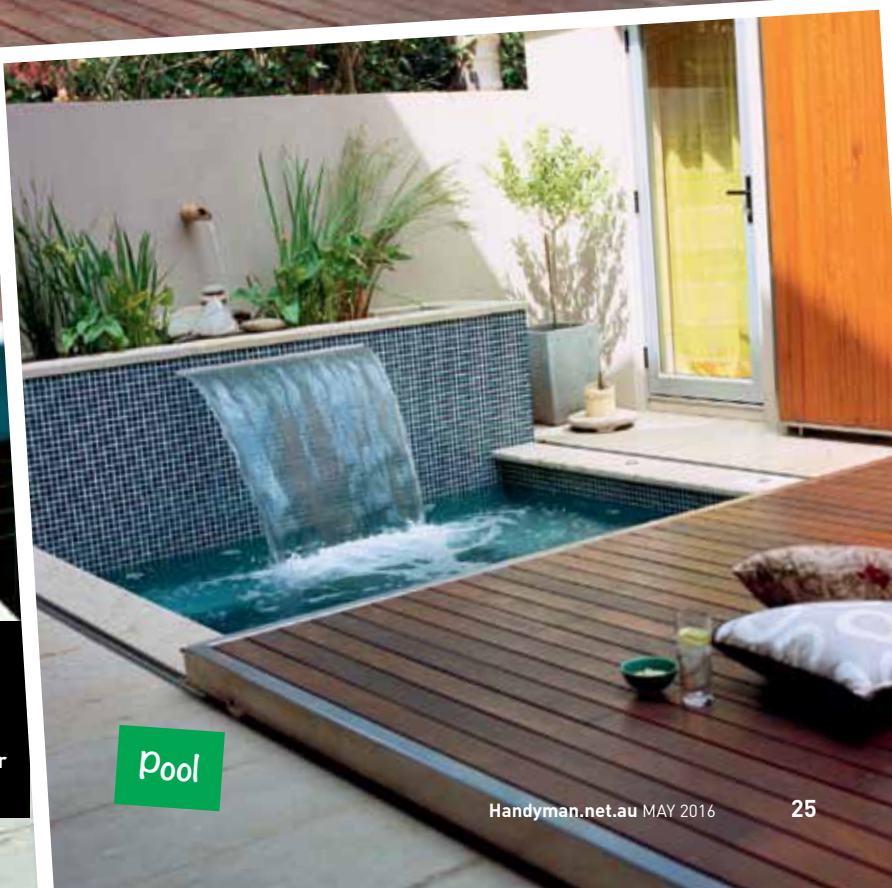
When closed, it sits flush with the internal floors, creating a seamless outdoor entertaining area. >

Courtyard



The courtyard is both an outdoor entertaining space and pool area. **RIGHT** The timber deck serves as a sliding cover for the plunge pool.

Pool



Maximising spaces

The kitchen floorspace is relatively small, but many tricks have been used to make it feel expansive. The island bench is in excess of 1.2 x 3m and the back bench 8.5m long.

'I'm a big fan of a kitchen party, so I want room for everyone,' says Alex.

A large sliding window above the sink brings in a green aspect and takes advantage of the neighbouring trees. It was cantilevered for support and so the eye travels across and out.

The floor plate is smaller than the ceiling plate so, again, you perceive the space to be larger than it is.

Massive sliding glass doors off the kitchen recede into the walls, so the courtyard is integrated and accessible.

Dining

Kitchen

The oversized kitchen island bench is designed to accommodate the whole family. **ABOVE** A small but functional dining room is set across the courtyard from the living area.

The living space is informal and low maintenance.

Living

Choose larger and fewer pieces of furniture for a small room to avoid cramping the space

The living room is casual and understated, with relaxation and comfort being the primary objectives.

In an additional pavilion situated at the other side of the courtyard from the kitchen and living area,

there is a small and intimate dining room, as well as a separate study.

'These look into the central space and back at the house, so everything works to focus and contain, like your own private world,' says Alex. ➤



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Gaining height

On the first floor, there are three bedrooms and the family bathroom.

The master bedroom follows the extended roof line inside, and the internal timber ceiling adds warmth.

It is spacious, featuring an ensuite with bath and a full-length balcony that provides a private viewing point.

'Design is making decisions about all the variables and ordering them into a solution,' says Alex.

'What my training and experience offer is an aptitude for thinking outside of the box and the scientific rigour for knowing how things go together, then testing how that can vary.

'This house was an experiment in many ways and it works,' he says. 🌱



If floorspace is limited, look to gain height for a spacious feel



Master bedroom



The master bedroom ensuite looks out over the sunny courtyard. **ABOVE** A cathedral window lets in more light without sacrificing privacy in the bedroom.

Bathroom



STEAL THIS STYLE

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Alex Roth
Roth Architecture

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Dramatisation
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BEFORE

AFTER

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ATTACK INDOOR MOULD & MILDEW FAST -
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BEFORE



AFTER



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Create your dream bathroom for a stunning price with **VIVACE**, one of seven unique and affordable styles from Mondella.

DIY TIP

Replacing old fixtures and fittings is a quick and easy DIY update and can make a big impact on a tired-looking bathroom.

Beautiful budget BATHROOM UPGRADES

Two run-down spaces get two different luxury looks without breaking the bank

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

The bathroom is one of the busiest rooms in the house, and renovating it to remove a clunky layout will add value and simplify the morning rush.

Practical storage options and a combination of natural and fitted lighting should be included in any new design, while the needs of your family have to be considered as well.

The average cost of a bathroom renovation is \$15,500, but you can create a new look for much less. ➤

Watch the video 'How to Plan a Bathroom Renovation' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



Before

Ensuite overhaul

As an extension of the master bedroom, an ensuite may be viewed as a luxury, as it doesn't play a large role in the daily routine of a busy family.

It can be neglected until the main bathroom has been done, by which time there is often little budget left over.

Transforming an old ensuite into a private haven for parents to escape and unwind at the end of a day doesn't require a large infusion of cash.

This dingy 1970s ensuite was redesigned twice to show that, even on two modest budgets, it can be transformed into a relaxing retreat.



Forward planning is always vital for a bathroom reno to avoid costly mistakes in the layout of the space

GET THE LOOK



Mondella WELS 4-star Concerto Toilet Suite, \$429.
mondella.com.au



Cotto Tiles 330 x 330mm Limestone Ceramic Matt Floor Tile, about \$42 for 11, from Bunnings.



Mondella 120W Stainless Steel Concerto 8-bar Heated Towel Rail, \$335.



Satara Peg Stool, \$396.
satara.com.au





UNDER
\$4000
COST

Look 1

The change in layout has made the most of this compact ensuite.

Low-cost luxury

The clever redesign of this ensuite pairs practical solutions with beautiful design.

A reshuffle of the floorplan created extra room and allowed for a larger shower to be installed.

The glazed porcelain floor tiles offer a quality finish and have water-resistant qualities to help prevent water build-up.

A clear glass shower screen gives the illusion of space, while recessed shelving and a mounted multi-towel rail add plenty of compact storage. >

2 Sleek retreat

Putting together a functional bathroom with a high-end, contemporary finish is achievable, even on a minimal budget.

White textured tiles contrast with a luxurious black shower splashback for a classic monochrome colour scheme that won't date.

A frameless shower screen and in-built accessories create clean lines and keep clutter out of sight, while modern chrome fixtures and fittings update the space and create a polished final look that's easy to maintain.



Improve functionality
by adding mood
and task lighting



Look 2

This ensuite shouts high-end luxury
with streamlined functionality.



UNDER
\$7000
COST

GET THE
LOOK



Dulux Wash & Wear Plus
Anti-Bac Low Sheen Vivid White,
\$80 for 4L. dulux.com.au



Everton 900 x 900mm
Polished Flat Edge Mirror,
\$44. everton.com.au



IXL 2 x 275W 3-in-1 Eco Tastic
Triumph Bathroom Heater,
\$152. ixlappliances.com.au



Methven WELS 3-star Chrome
Kiri Satinjet Hand Shower,
\$190. methven.com/au >



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Easy Installation



Black Diamond



Beige Stone



Charcoal Stone



Finger Parquet



Black & White Check



Grey / Blue Stone



Green Slate



Strip Parquet

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(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

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www.ideal-diy-floors.com.au
IDEAL helpline 03 9562 8298

Look 1

Style and functionality blend to fit in with a busy family routine.

UNDER
\$5000
COST

Main makeover

As one of the most-used rooms in a family home, a dated or run-down main bathroom would be high on the list of essential renovations, but it can also be one of the most expensive.

This bathroom had an awkward layout, with an off-centre mirror, an oversized vanity and a separate toilet.

Whether you're looking to start from scratch or just update a few key features, you'll be inspired by these two budget-friendly makeovers that transformed this awkward bathroom.



Adding clever storage
is the best way to
free up floorspace

Before



1 Family refit

Redesigned with a busy family in mind, this bathroom has been set up for a smooth daily routine.

For young family members, a built-in bath was added, which takes up less floorspace than a freestanding tub, allowing room for a full shower to be included.

A little creativity was needed to add functional elements to the space. These include a vanity with compartmentalised storage and a shelf by the tub for beauty products and accessories. >

GET THE
LOOK



Mercator 240V Large
Soprano Pendant, \$79.
mercator.com.au



Cotto Tiles 22 x 46mm
Clay Porcelain Mosaic Tile,
\$7 each, from Bunnings.



Caroma Carboni II
Above-counter
Basin, \$189.



Caroma Newbury
1525 Bath, \$393.
caroma.com.au

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BUILDING TRUST





UNDER
\$10,000
COST

2 Modern haven

Creating a day spa-like oasis in your own home isn't hard. Simply team sandstone tiles and timber accessories with chrome tapware and towel rails.

Plan the area around clean lines and a minimalist aesthetic for a sophisticated, elegant room.

Pairing all-white walls and bathware with a frameless shower screen gives the illusion of space.

A freestanding bathtub under the window also helps to create a luxurious focal point as you walk into the room. >



A glass pendant light over the tub adds wow factor

Look 2

Minimalism and clean lines combine to create a day spa haven at home.

YOUR EVERYDAY INDULGENCE

Timeless, yet modern design. This beautiful and durable range is made from solid brass and finished with chrome. Circular profiles help soften sharp angles, resulting in a balanced and versatile collection that lifts any kitchen or bathroom with subtlety and modern refinement. Complete with the latest Dorf technology the Villa range is simply built to last.

Villa Basin Mixer available now at Bunnings.



BUDGET TIP

Make any necessary changes to your original design early on in the renovation, as this will save you money in the long run.

Chrome fittings offer a contemporary look.

GET THE LOOK

f 7 bathroom design tricks
Visit facebook.com/HandymanMagazine

Dorf WELS 5-star Arc
Chrome Basin Mixer, \$305.
dorf.com.au

Brilliant 20cm LED Hubble
Pendant Light, \$84.
brilliantlighting.com.au

Cube 1600 Back To Wall
Freestanding Bath, \$2185.
caroma.com.au

Mimosa 45cm Timber
Side Table, \$79,
from Bunnings. ☺



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existing
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or

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(included)

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toilet roll holder
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tumbler & holder
4822387



towel ring
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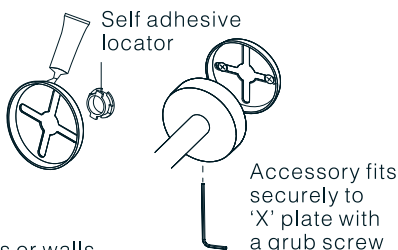


Unique 'X' plate

- Can be screwed to walls using the same fixing holes left by most old accessories, **no drilling is required**.
- Can be glued securely to uneven and shiny tiles or walls, **no drilling is required**.
- Universal across the Flexi-Fix range so you can easily update your accessories in the future.

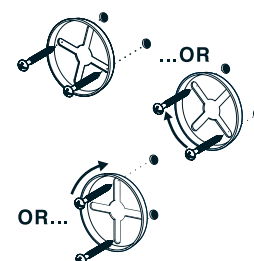
Flexi-Fix Glue fixing option

- No drilling required
- Glue included
- Glues securely to most tiles or walls
- Self adhesive locator holds 'X' plate in place while glue hardens.
- Glue can be easily removed in the future with no surface damage.



Flexi-Fix Screw fixing option

- Old fittings can be replaced, the 'X' plate can be easily aligned with new or existing drilled holes.
- No accurate drilling required
- Screws and fittings included





Before



After

The bathroom is now a light and inviting place to use each day.

READER'S PROJECT

Bathroom revival

Accessing the shower in this tiny bathroom was a challenge, and the original layout and fittings weren't working. This inspired *Australian Handyman* reader Nathan Congram to transform it for his parents.

'The room was old, decrepit and impractical. The renovation gave me the opportunity to implement my ideas and create a warm and inviting place for them,' he says.

By using two mirrors, installing a corner-opening shower and laying new white wall tiles, he was able to make the 1900 x 2600mm bathroom appear spacious and well lit.

Completing the makeover himself kept the budget down to just \$1800, including all new fixtures and fittings.



Nathan

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

★
Install two mirrors to add depth to a tiny room, as they create the illusion of more space and reflect light



ABOVE White, large-format tiles help make this small space appear bigger.
BELOW A shower that opens at the corner makes access easier.



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INSTALL A NEW LAUNDRY

Use clever storage solutions to turn a basic room into a tidy workspace

Although it's often the last room on the renovation list, having a laundry that's a hub for all things cleaning can make it easier to keep the home tidy.

The laundry in this suburban house was basic, with only a double sink, washing machine and minimal storage, and badly needed an overhaul.

While there was plenty of space in the room, the lack of cabinets meant unsightly equipment was kept in the open, making the space look messy.

The room was redesigned as part of a larger renovation that extended the home, leaving a blank slate for a functional and organised laundry.



A layout change is worth the expense if it boosts storage



Use a Kaboodle 450mm Linen Chute, \$201, to conceal washing. kaboodle.com.au



Free up floorspace with a Robinhood Deluxe Ironing Centre, \$329. robinhood.com.au

After

The new laundry boasts impressive storage in a compact space.

DESIGN TIP

To add visual interest, lay white rectangular subway wall tiles in a herringbone pattern and choose a benchtop in a contrasting colour.



Specialised storage

Bulky, awkward equipment has been incorporated into the cabinetry of the laundry, freeing up floorspace and creating an orderly, streamlined look.

The built-in hamper was conveniently installed next to the washing machine and keeps dirty clothes hidden. The dryer was mounted overhead to allow space for cabinets below.

A drying cabinet has been included to air clothes, expanding from the wall and packing away neatly when not in use.

The wall-mounted ironing station is a handy storage feature, incorporating a folding ironing board that swivels to change position. There's also space to store the iron and accessories.

Before

SPACE SAVERS

When designing a laundry, it is important to consider how the room will be used. In the majority of homes, laundries have to double as a space for washing clothes and a storage area for cleaning equipment.

This laundry was designed around the basics, with a washing machine

tucked neatly underneath the large benchtop and a deep sink adjacent, with a wall mixer to maximise space.

Cabinets were selected based on what needed to be stored, with space allocated for tall gear, such as brooms and vacuum cleaners, and pigeon holes for small, frequently used items.

Hang washing on a Flatpax 900mm Utility Drying Cabinet, \$211. flatpax.com.au



DIY TIP

When laying a fresh slab for a floating floor, leave it to cure for one month per 25mm thickness before installing the new boards.



DIY flooring

Modernise your interior by choosing the right surface for each room

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

There are many different flooring options when laying a new surface, and the right one will depend on the look, feel and size of the space in question.

Laminate boards feature designs that resemble popular timbers or other textures such as stone. They are

made from MDF and have a melamine resin layer on either side of the board.

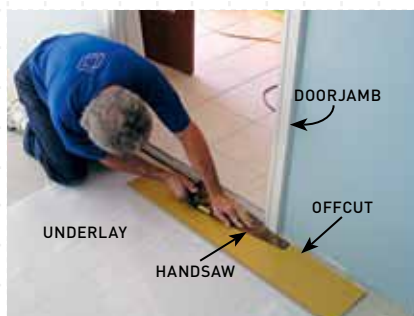
Engineered flooring, made from a thin layer of natural timber glued to a plywood base, is also popular.

Carpet is another option if you would prefer a surface that is quieter and more comfortable to walk on.



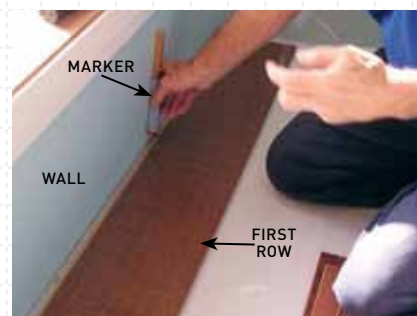
1 Level the subfloor

When laying over concrete, run a spirit level across the subfloor to find peaks and valleys of more than 3mm. Use an angle grinder to remove high spots and spread self-levelling compound over low areas with a steel float.



2 Prepare the doorjamb

To trim the base of the doorjamb to allow the new floor to fit underneath, position an offcut of the flooring and underlay next to the jamb to determine the height. Carefully trim the base of the doorjamb using a handsaw.



3 Scribe the first row

Trim the first row of boards to align with the wall. To scribe the boards, tape a permanent marker to a narrow timber block, sliding it along the wall above the flooring so the pen marks a corresponding line on the boards.

Fitting new floorboards

Boards are designed to respond to moisture, so leave the packs in the room for a few days before laying them so they can acclimatise.

If the base of a door sits close to the existing floor, shorten the door using a plane, removing enough material so it doesn't scrape.

➤ **NOISE-PROOF** the floor by laying foam underlay beneath the boards, which also provides cushioning. To buy underlay, multiply the length of the room by the width and add 10% to allow for miscalculations.

➤ **REMOVE SKIRTING** and replace it when all the boards have been laid, leaving a gap underneath the skirting to allow the floorboards to expand and contract due to variations in temperature and moisture.

Floorboards are the ideal choice for a modern living area.



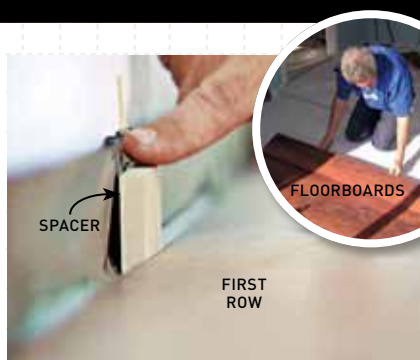
Price a floating floor

To lay boards DIY, you will need to buy a floor-laying installation kit, \$25, underlay, from \$45, duct tape, \$5, and the boards themselves, from \$15 per sqm for laminate boards.

➤ **LAY IT DIY** for about \$670 for a 20sqm room, at about \$30 per sqm.

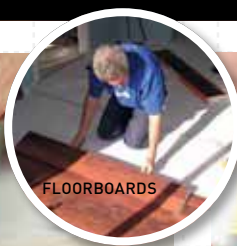
➤ **CALL A TRADIE** to lay it for you for about \$400 a day, plus materials.

➤ **HAVE IT DONE** by a floor company for about \$1400 for a 20sqm room, including materials and labour.



4 Position the boards

Use spacers to keep the boards away from the wall for an expansion gap of up to 15mm. Lay the floorboards in sequence, keeping the tongue against the wall, joining long sides first and leaving a small gap at the end.



5 Tighten the joints

Tap the long sides of the boards together using a tapping block and hammer. Reposition the block at the open end of the board, tapping until the end join butts tightly and working across to complete one row at a time.



6 Position the end boards

To install the last board, hook a pulling bar over the end of the board, then tap the upturned edge with a hammer to pull the board into position. When all the boards are laid in position, replace the skirting boards. ➤



Soft carpet is comfortable and luxurious underfoot.

SAFETY TIP

Laying floorboards or carpet will mean several hours of working on your knees, so invest in a pair of kneepads to prevent injury.

Laying a carpet

Well suited to low-traffic spaces such as bedrooms, carpet provides sound insulation and warmth underfoot while adding a touch of luxury.

Carpet can be laid over most surfaces using underlay to extend the life of the product, giving it better resilience and comfort underfoot.

To choose the best carpet for the room, consider its intended use and your budget as it comes in a variety of materials and weaves, with costs ranging from premium prices for pure wool to the less expensive synthetics.

TIP Colour choice depends on the decorating scheme but, generally, light colours make a room look larger while darker shades hide the dirt.



Cost a new carpet

To lay carpet DIY, you'll need to buy a carpet-laying kit, about \$71, seam tape, about \$17 for 5m, underlay, from \$10 per sqm, a carpet gripper, \$1 a metre, and the carpet itself.

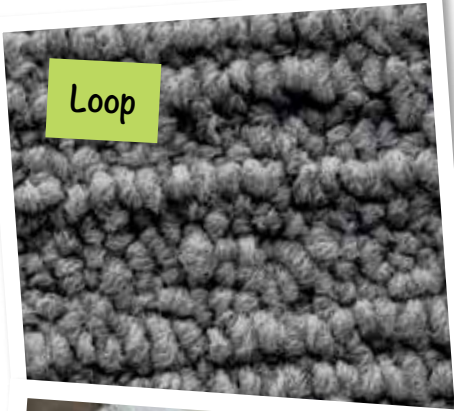
Carpet is priced by the square metre, but as it comes in a roll of 3.66 or 4m wide, the cost is

calculated by the linear metre or converted into square metres.

To work out how much you need, multiply the width and length of a square or rectangular room to find the number of square metres.

A professional carpet layer will charge from \$20 - \$40 per sqm for installation and materials, based on the quality of the carpet.

Loop



Twist



TOP PICKS

If you don't want to lay carpet DIY, Bunnings has a range of carpets in a variety of piles and colours. Carpet and installation is priced by the room. Check out bunnings.com.au for more information.

CHOOSING A WEAVE

Carpet comes in various weaves, each designed to suit different amounts of wear and tear.

For high-traffic areas such as hallways or living rooms, denser weave such as loop pile is ideal as it's more durable. For low-traffic areas such as bedrooms, twist pile is a better choice.

There are also products that mix loop and twist pile, so ask your carpet retailer for advice on your specific application.

➤ **LOOP PILE** is created by looping the yarn into a dense, durable, level surface that doesn't show traffic marks created by walking or vacuuming. It's a favourite in many homes for living areas.

➤ **TWIST PILE** is soft to touch and is created by twisting the fibres, creating a plumper texture. The pile lies in varying directions, which creates a great overall textured appearance in a room. ✨

Minster Carpets Cullman
Broadloom Level Loop Pile,
\$590 per room.

Minster Carpets Jacobs,
100% Nylon Twist Pile,
\$730 per room.

Godfrey Hirst Mayfair
100% Nylon Cut Pile Plush
Carpet, \$840 per room.

Floor Select Newport
Solution Dyed Polyester
Carpet, \$980 per room.

Pastel palette perfection.

For information on how to change from your existing look to Feast Watson Liming White Floor Finish and Liming White Stain & Varnish, see feastwatson.com.au.

Follow us on  



**ENRICHING AUSTRALIAN TIMBER
SINCE 1922**



Self-adhesive vinyl boards are super simple to lay DIY.

Natural - Lord

Find it at Bunnings

EASY-FIT FLOORING

Lay a budget-friendly new floor with this versatile range of vinyl tiles

Durable, inexpensive and available in a variety of styles and sizes, vinyl is an ideal material for new flooring.

Having shed its old-fashioned image thanks to new designs and technology, vinyl has reclaimed its place as a popular flooring option.

These self-adhesive tiles from Senso Flooring are easy and quick to install,

and can be laid on a smooth, sound, dry, clean concrete or timber subfloor.

Timber floors need to be covered with a masonite or plywood underlay. A water-based primer must be applied to both concrete subfloors and timber floors before laying tiles or planks.

To lay the Senso tiles, you simply peel off the backing and apply, using a roller for maximum bond.



Vinyl floors are quiet to walk on and are second only to carpet for underfoot warmth

SENSO STYLES

Natural

SPRINGFIELD

LORD

FIGARI SAND

FIGARI GREY

DIY TIP

Apply a water-based primer to your subfloor before laying vinyl self-adhesive tiles to improve product performance.

Rustic - Vintage Mix

Urban - Ceruse Blanc

LEFT The durability of vinyl flooring makes it ideal for a kitchen.

RIGHT Go for a more urban look with light-coloured vinyl boards.

Rustic

PATCHWORK

PECAN

VINTAGE MIX

WALNUT

WHITE MIX

WHITE PECAN

Urban

GREYTECH LIGHT

BLACK TECH

WHITE TECH

CERUSE BLANC

LOFT DARK

Find it at Bunnings

HANG UP CURTAINS

A simple curtain on a rail can make a huge difference to a space. It helps to block light, adds insulation and provides privacy.

To hang a curtain, all you need is the rail, a power drill and a few basic DIY items. Just find the drop of the curtain, install the holders, thread the curtain on the rail and hang it.

TIP Curtains come in standard sizes, or can be ordered or cut to length.



1 Measure the drop

Use a tape measure to work out the distance from the curtain rail holders to the floor, then subtract 30-40mm to get the drop of the curtain. This ensures the fabric won't drag on the ground or obscure any powerpoints.



2 Hang the curtain

Remove a stop end and thread the curtain onto the rail. Replace the stop end and position the rail on the holders, leaving a curtain ring outside the holder on each end. Drive a screw into each holder and rail to stop it sliding around.

Materials

Ladder
Tape measure
Pencil
Power drill
Curtains
Screws

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DIY

MOTHER'S DAY

Treat Mum this year with a trio of unique homemade gifts

PROJECTS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

For Mother's Day this year, crafty blogger Melissa Darr designed three thoughtful presents for mums just like her to enjoy.

Busy mums appreciate the gift of relaxation, so she created a bath shelf using a pine board and spray paint to encourage soaking in the tub.

Gourmet mothers will love the set of tools Melissa customised by etching

designs onto timber kitchen utensils with a wood-burning tool.

And to make Mum's daily cuppa extra special, she gave plain white mugs a metallic finish.

The projects are easy to do but have great visual impact, and Melissa was over the moon with the results.

'Mums will cherish these gifts for years to come,' she says.

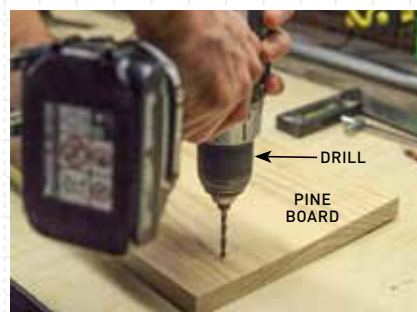


A bath shelf is an ideal project for a novice DIYer

DESIGN TIP

For a classic rather than contemporary look, use a timber stain instead of paint on the shelf, finishing with a coat of clear sealer.

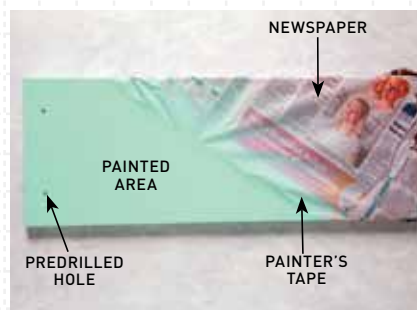
1 2 3



1 Cut the timber

Measure the full width of the tub and cut a 19mm thick pine board to fit. Mark the handle positions 30mm in from the board ends. Pre-drill the screw holes and test-fit the handles.

TIP Use metal T-pull cabinet handles.



2 Paint the board

Sand the timber with 120 grit paper, wiping off the dust with a cloth. Use painter's tape and newspaper to cover the board on an angle, spray with two coats of paint, then allow to dry. Paint another section in a second colour.



3 Finish the shelf

Apply two coats of a clear gloss spray to the entire shelf to seal the surface, then allow to dry. Attach anti-skid pads at each corner on the underside of the board, securing the handles in the holes using the supplied screws. ➤



Melissa

EXPERT SECRETS

Choose colours that complement the decorating scheme in Mum's home when making these gifts.



Get more DIY from Melissa
Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com

Gourmet gear

A keen cook herself, Melissa wanted to create something that she knew would be fun to use in the kitchen, so was inspired to decorate a set of generic wooden utensils with individual hand-drawn designs.

She used a pencil to sketch words and patterns on the utensils, etching the designs into the timber using an inexpensive wood-burning kit, from hardware and hobby stores.

Melissa was able to complete the project in just one afternoon.

'All you need to do is come up with your design, sketch it, etch it, and you're done,' she says.

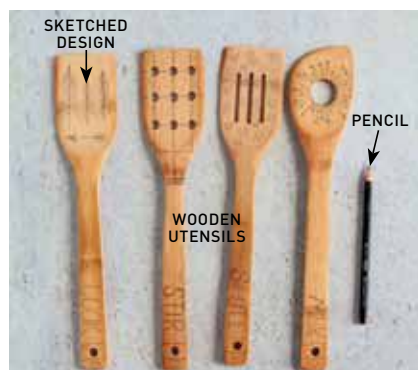


Give a foodie a customised set of wooden utensils for all their culinary creations

1

2

3



1 Sketch the design

Lightly sketch words and patterns onto the wooden utensils with a pencil. Plug in the wood-burning tool, making sure you attach the right tip for the job.

TIP Ensure the tool is placed on the enclosed stand while warming.



2 Etch the timber

When the wood-burning tool is hot enough, etch the design, using an offcut of timber as a work surface.

TIP Practise burning the design on a scrap piece of timber rather than etching straight onto the utensils.



3 Finish the utensils

Go over your design a second time with the wood-burning tool to give the etching a more noticeable effect. Allow the utensils to cool down, then give them a wipe over with a damp cloth to remove any burnt bits. ➤



Etched utensils

DIY TIP

When handling a wood-burning pen, always etch lightly, avoiding the temptation to press down hard on the timber surface.

▶ Watch the DIY video online
Visit handyman.net.au/etched-utensils

BUDGET TIP

If you want to cut the cost of buying spray paints, you can revamp the mugs by using permanent marker pens instead.

Custom cuppas

These stylish painted mugs were finished in an afternoon, and they're so easy to do that you can get the kids to help.

For this project, Melissa used a set of plain white mugs, painter's tape and newspaper, an easy surface preparation spray, a metallic-look spray paint and a clear satin finishing spray.

'The dip-effect style of these mugs is totally on trend at the moment, and they will delight your loved one,' says Melissa.



▶ Watch the DIY video online
Visit handyman.net.au/painted-mugs

Painted mugs

1 Prepare the surface

Use painter's tape to create designs on the mugs, then stuff with newspaper to prevent paint getting inside. Spray the outside of the mugs with Easy Surface Prep, so the paint will adhere to the glossy surfaces without sanding.



2 Paint the mugs

Spray the mugs with two coats of metallic-look paint, letting it dry in between coats. Leave to dry overnight, then apply two coats of clear satin finishing spray. Once this is dry, carefully remove the painter's tape. 🍷

MELISSA'S PICKS



Bamboo Utensils Set, \$7 for six.
kmart.com.au



Threshold White Coupe Mug, \$16 for four.
target.com.au



Flood ESP Easy Surface Prep, \$16 for 300g.
floodaustralia.net



Porta Pine Laminated 1210 x 300 x 19mm Panel, \$36.
porta.com.au



Dulux Dura max Bright Finish Gold Spray Paint, about \$20 for 300g.
dulux.com.au



Tradeflame 30-piece Wood Burning Kit, \$32, from Bunnings.

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GROW TIP

Extend the growing season and protect seedlings of vegetables and flowers well into winter by installing a greenhouse.

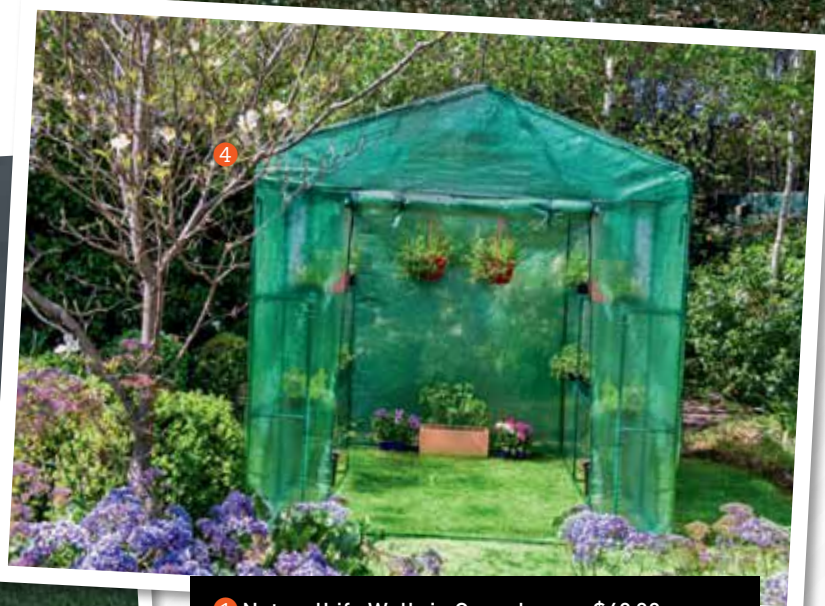
Q Find it at Bunnings



Mother's Day

Gift guide

Head instore to find out the ideal gift for your mum



- 1 NaturalLife Walk-in Greenhouse, \$69.90.
- 2 NaturalLife Two-tier Greenhouse, \$23.90.
- 3 The Organic Garden Co Raised Garden Bed, \$99.
- 4 NaturalLife Medium Walk-in Greenhouse, \$179.



Get Mum a Gardman Gothic Arch, \$62.50.



Water Mum's favourite blooms using the Gardena Classic Hose Box 15 Set, \$139.

Keep the garden watered with a Gardena Classic Multi Sprayer, \$26.99.



Brighten Mum's balcony with Petaluma Chrysanthemum Bowls, from \$33.48 each.



Raise fresh herbs and vegies in the Heritage Range Garden Bed, \$99.

HOUSEHOLD HELPERS



Get flawless floors with the Vax Dynamo Power 25.2V Cordless 2-in-1 Vacuum Cleaner, \$199.

Give your mum a break and clean up with the Dirt Devil 2-in-1 Steam and Clean Steam Mop, \$95.



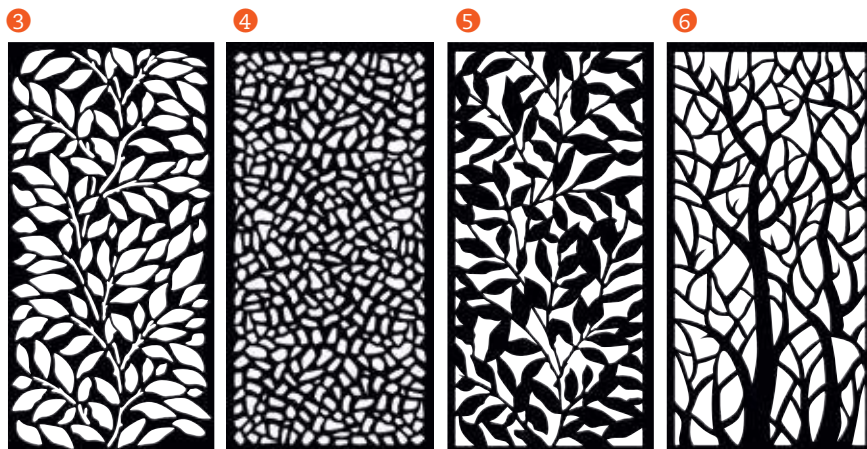
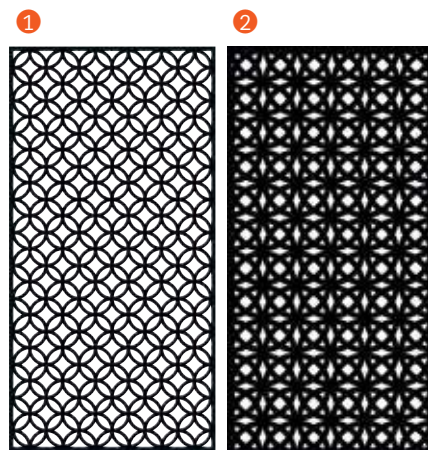
Help your mum organise her wardrobe with the Clever Cube 4 x 4 Flexi Storage Unit, \$119.



Organise Mum's shoes with ease using a white or brown timber Shoe Rack, \$28.

GARDEN SCREENS

- 1 Halo Screening, \$99.
- 2 Orbit Screening, \$99.
- 3 Jungle Screening, \$99.
- 4 Riverbank Screening, \$99.
- 5 Tangle Screening, \$99.
- 6 Woodland Screening, \$99.



GIVE IT A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Revamp those old homewares you have lying around and reap the style rewards

PROJECTS TRACY MARYON AND AMANDA SHAW PICTURES SUE FERRIS STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ

Are you just about to throw out furniture that looks well past its prime? Before you do, take another look with an eye to upgrading DIY.

That vinyl suitcase you've been using to store paperwork can be given a new purpose as a novel planter.

Those plastic-topped stools and that outdated footstool are easy to spruce up, while the timber stepladder that's been gathering dust in the garage can become a bedside table.

You'll keep them out of landfill, save money on replacements, and give your home designer chic.



You'll see that heap of stuff in the garage in a totally new light after doing just one upcycling project

TRACY'S PICKS



Assorted 150mm osteospermums, \$12, from Bunnings.

Grunt 2 x 5m Heavy Duty Multi Purpose Black Builder's Film, \$14. usegrunt.com



Trojan Medium Duty Staple Gun, \$30. trojantools.com.au



Tarzan's Grip 22m Super Strong Duct Tape, about \$15, from Bunnings.



Dulux DuraMax Granite Effect, \$23 for 300g, Stainless Steel Finish, \$20 for 300g, and 2-pack Clear Coat, \$25 for 125g. dulux.com.au

Before



Amanda & Tracy

EXPERT SECRETS

Bargaining isn't just for markets, it's worth asking for a discount at garage sales and secondhand stores.

LADDER TABLE

After

Fixed and painted, the ladder is now his-and-hers bedroom storage.

Knick-knack display

A kerbside find, this paint-spattered ladder was in poor condition. It was very rickety and the timber support bracket needed replacing.

To make it more functional for decorative display, the top was replaced with a length of timber 30mm wider than the original.

The ladder was primed, then a coat of black paint was applied, followed by an off-white shade.

It was sanded back with medium-grit paper to reveal the black paint, and the edges rubbed lightly to show a little bare timber.

The worn rope was replaced with black-and-white cord. ➤

SUITCASE PLANTER

DESIGN TIP

Layer textures to create visual interest in an outdoor area, using finishes such as timber, terracotta, stone and metal.



 See more upcycling ideas
Visit pinterest.com/diyhandyman

Before



This vinyl suitcase was picked up at a vintage market for \$15 and turned into a novelty planter with just a bit of paint and potting mix.

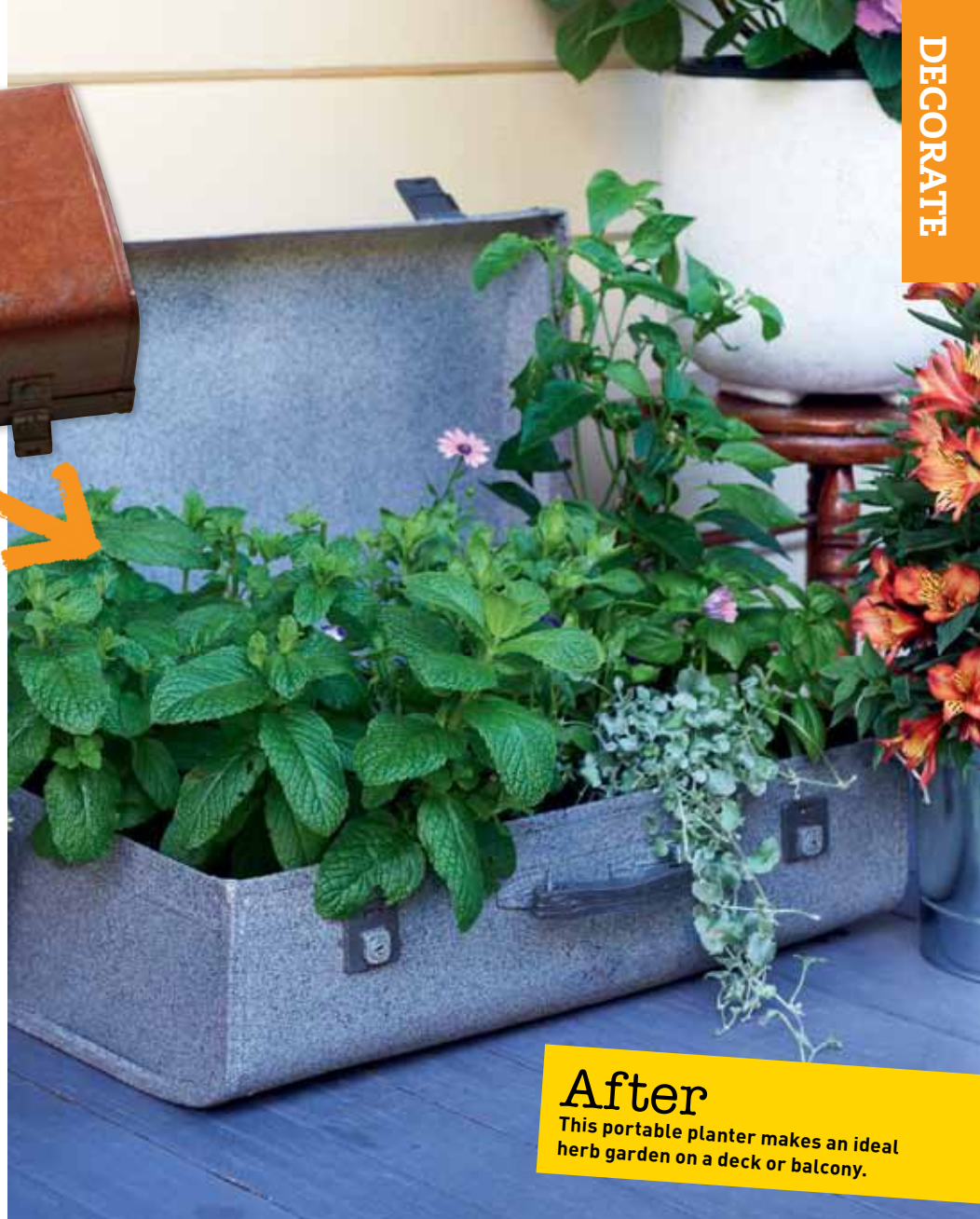
The suitcase was sprayed inside and out in a dark-grey granite-effect specialty paint to give it a stone look.

It was then given a protective durable finish using a two-part gloss clear coat spray paint from Dulux.

Adding drainage holes and a liner turned it from luggage into a planter.



Team basil and mint with flowers for a herb planter with colour



DECORATE

After

This portable planter makes an ideal herb garden on a deck or balcony.

1 2 3



1 Spray the suitcase

Drill drainage holes in the base of the suitcase. Spray inside and out with two coats of special-effect paint using even strokes, then leave to dry. Paint the hardware in a contrasting colour. Apply an exterior clear spray paint to the outside of the case to protect the finish.



2 Line the inside

Use black builder's film to line the inside of the base half of the case, then trim to fit, leaving a 30mm overhang. Make holes in the liner to align with the drainage holes in the case. Add a layer of blue metal aggregate to cover the lined base.



3 Add the plants

Position the plants and when happy with the arrangement, remove and add a layer of potting mix. Return the plants, fill the planter to 50mm below the rim and firm down the mix. Fold and secure the liner using waterproof duct tape. Water in the plants. ➤

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STONE-LOOK STOOLS

Found at a car boot sale for a \$1 each, these stools with plastic tops and metal legs were worse for wear.

The faded seats were given the look of granite using a specialty spray paint in a light grey, while the badly scratched legs were easily revived with a stainless steel-effect spray paint.

Salvaged on council clean-up day, the table was a great match for the revamped stools. The glass top was cleaned and the stand sprayed with the same stainless steel-effect spray paint.

To protect the finish, a gloss clear coat spray was applied to all the newly painted surfaces. ➤



Spray light coats and let the paint dry fully in between.

Before

PICTURES (BEFORE, STEP) AMANDA SHAW



After

The plastic tops now have the look of high-end designer stone.

VINTAGE FOOTREST

This old footstool was a family hand-me-down in need of new upholstery, and the old-fashioned dark stain on the legs had to go.

To give it a facelift, the legs were primed and painted white. Medium grit sandpaper was used to give the painted timber an aged look.

The top was unscrewed from the legs and the old upholstery removed. A new piece of foam and fabric were cut to fit, then secured to the original seat base using adhesive and a staple gun. 🛠️

The fabric was bought at a market for a few cents.

After

New upholstery and a distressed finish give the dated footstool a shabby-chic look.

Before

PICTURES (BEFORE, STEP) | TRACY MARYON



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**1
DAY**

**\$339
COST**

WORKSHOP BENCH

Design and create a classic workbench for DIY projects

WORDS AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT



Every DIYer needs a dedicated space to work and keep tools, whether it's a shed or a bench tucked into the garage.

Featuring a large work surface and a shelf for storage, this sturdy, classic 1800 x 800mm bench was made using inexpensive pine and plywood, and is easily adjusted to fit any space.

The design is simple, with a top and a base frame for the bench and shelf. Both butt and mitre joints are used, with notches cut into the legs and shelf for easy assembly.

Dressed pine is used to trim the frames for a neat finish and tung oil applied to the raw timber to nourish it and give it a natural matt finish. ➤

Materials

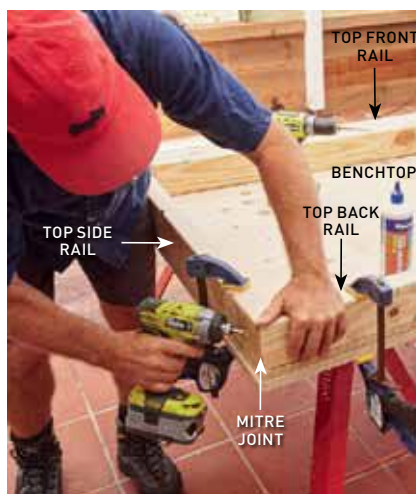
Structural pine	\$67
Premium grade dressed pine	\$31
CD plywood	\$130
Tung oil	\$36
Wood glue	\$27
Galvanised screws	\$23
Galvanised nails	\$9
Cuphead bolts	\$16
TOTAL	\$339

MAKE THE BENCH



1 Make the legs

Cut four 790 and four 880mm lengths of 90 x 45mm pine. Mark 90 x 45mm notches on the tops of the 880mm lengths and cut out with a compound mitresaw. Apply adhesive and clamp the 790 and 880mm lengths in pairs, aligning the ends. Drill 4.5mm pilot holes, securing with six batten screws.



2 Build the top frame

Make 45° mitre cuts at each end of the top rails with a mitresaw. Build the top frame, securing the mitre joints with adhesive and batten screws. Attach the legs using coach bolts and batten screws. Position the three top cross rails between the front and back rails, securing with batten screws.



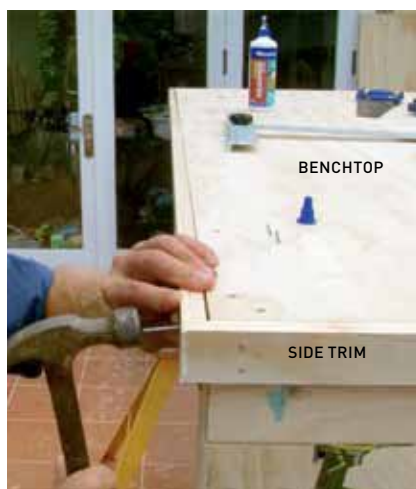
3 Assemble the shelf frame

Position the front and back shelf rails between the side rails, drill 4.5mm pilot holes at each joint, securing with batten screws. Position the shelf cross rails between the front and back rails and secure with screws. Mark 230mm up each leg and attach the shelf frame from the inside using batten screws.



4 Attach the benchtop

Mark the benchtop and shelf on plywood, then clamp a straightedge, cutting them with a power saw using a fine tooth blade. Cut the notches out of the shelf with a jigsaw. Drill 3mm pilot holes in the bench and shelf, securing with adhesive and 40mm screws into the frame and rails.



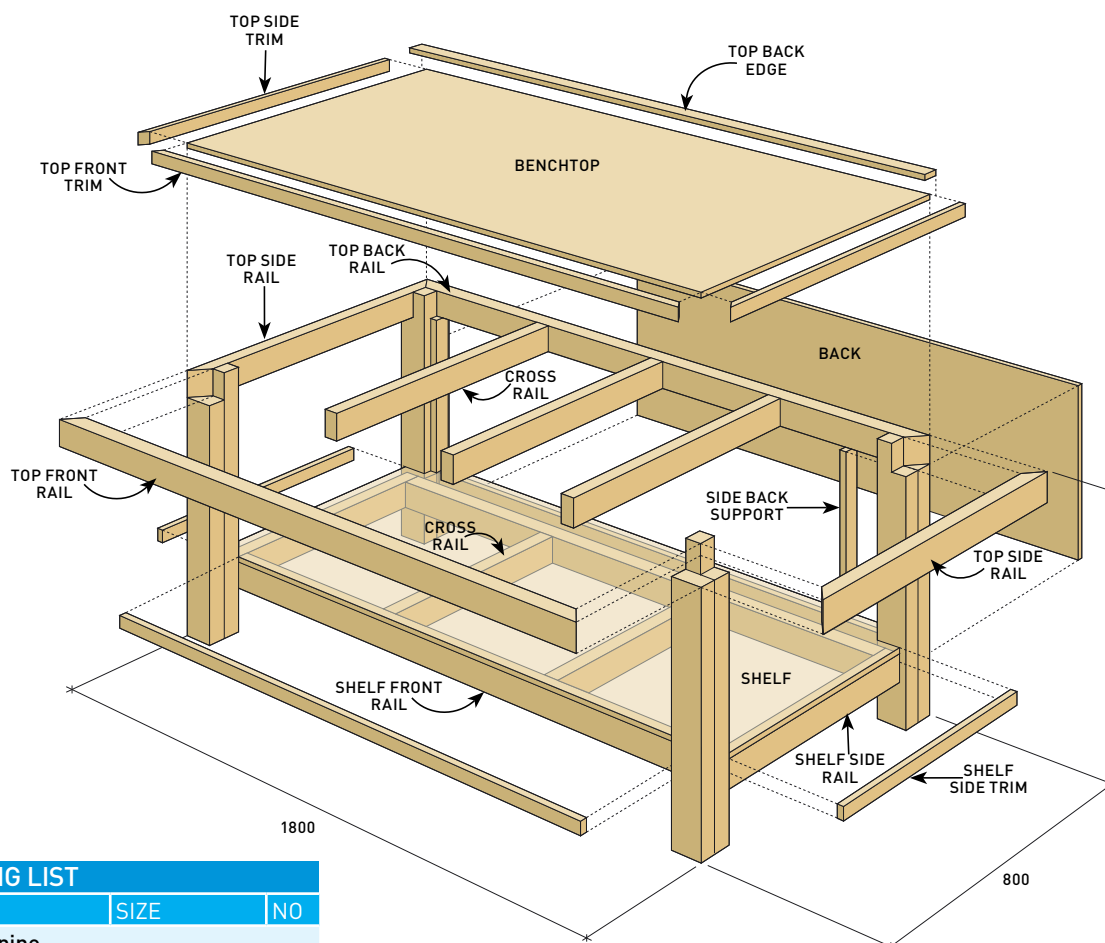
5 Secure the trim

Attach the front and side trims to the bench and shelf flush with the tops, using adhesive and nails. Attach the top back edge to the bench and the shelf back support flush with the shelf. Attach the side back supports to the inside of the back legs. Clamp and screw the back to the supports.



6 Apply the finish

Punch all nail heads 1-2mm below the surface and fill all nail holes and other imperfections in the timber as needed. Let the filler dry, then sand the whole bench to a smooth finish using 80 grit, then 120 grit paper and an orbital sander. Dust the entire bench and apply two coats of tung oil.



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Structural pine		
Legs	790 x 90 x 45	4
	880 x 90 x 45	4
Top front/back rails	1800 x 90 x 45	2
Top side rails	800 x 90 x 45	2
Top cross rails	710 x 90 x 45	3
Shelf front/back rails	1660 x 90 x 45	2
Shelf side rails	620 x 90 x 45	2
Shelf cross rails	530 x 90 x 45	2
Dressed pine		
Top front trim	1840 x 42 x 19	1
Top back edge	1840 x 42 x 19	1
Top side trim	820 x 42 x 19	2
Shelf front trim	1710 x 42 x 19	1
Shelf side trim	620 x 42 x 19	2
Shelf back support	1620 x 42 x 19	1
Side back supports	540 x 42 x 19	2
CD plywood		
Benchtop	1800 x 800 x 17	1
Shelf	1750 x 690 x 17	1
Back	1620 x 510 x 17	1

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
100mm x M10 cuphead bolts	Legs
14-10 x 85mm type 17 galvanised batten screws	Legs, top frame, shelf frame, shelf and top cross rails
40mm x 8g galvanised wood screws	Bench, shelf, top back edge, back supports
40 x 2mm galvanised bullethead nails	Trim ➤

Scraps and offcuts

Taking a waste not, want not approach after laying a floating floor, *Australian Handyman* contributor Gun Arvidssen built a workbench entirely from scrap timber.

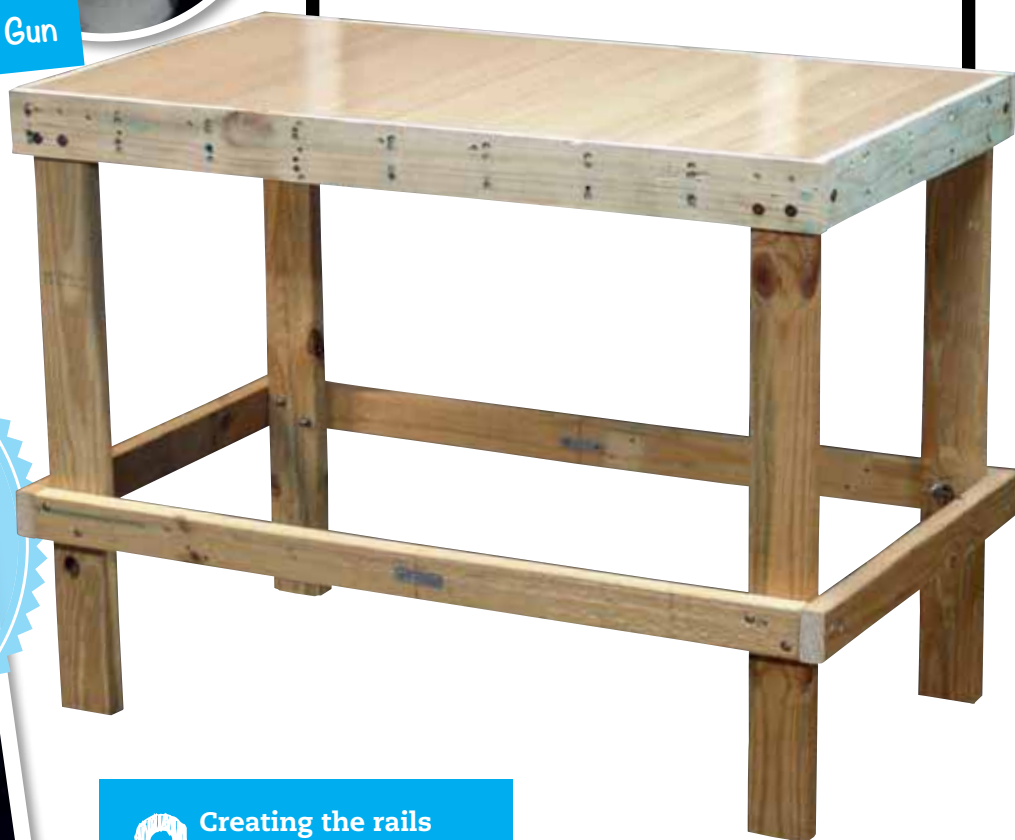
'I decided the floorboards would make a great benchtop, as they are pre-finished and simply click together,' says Gun.

The only expense was for a pack of 100mm bugle screws for the butt joints, which set him back just \$6.



Gun

SIX-DOLLAR WORKBENCH



DESIGN TIP

Give a workbench built from recycled timber a thorough sand to smooth rough edges and splinters, but otherwise leave it unfinished.



1 Re-using old timber

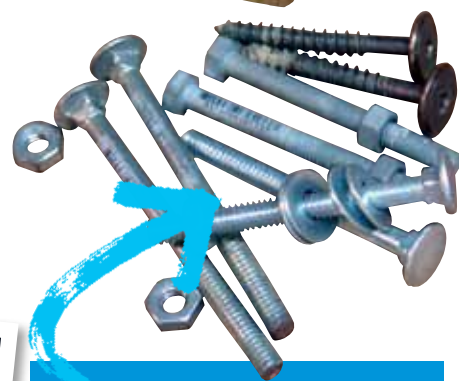
Gun clad the benchtop in 14mm thick engineered Tasmanian oak floorboards for durability and a smooth surface.

The benchtop trim was made from what had been a shelving system, while the legs were cut from 90 x 45mm salvaged pine.

2 Creating the rails

To make the long rails for the base frame, Gun joined two lengths of timber with biscuits, PVA adhesive and metal straps.

'The pieces were great for the side rails but too short for much else, so the most obvious thing was to join them,' he says.



3 Free fasteners

Aside from the bugle screws, Gun had all the other fasteners he needed for the project left over from other jobs.

'The bugle screws were only \$6 anyway, so I still got a good deal for such a great-looking and functional workbench,' he says.

TOP PICKS



Ozito 18V Cordless Drill Driver, \$88.
ozito.com.au



Bosch 350W 125mm Random Orbital Sander, \$142.
bosch-do-it.com.au



Irwin Quick-Grip Bar Clamps XP600, \$45.
irwin.com.au



Ryobi 1200W 210mm Compound Mitre Saw, \$149.
ryobi.com.au



Feast Watson Tung Oil, \$36 for 1L.
feastwatson.com.au



Selleys Durabond Aquadhere Polyurethane Glue, \$27 for 460ml.
selleys.com.au



Zenith 8-10 x 40mm Galvanised Timber Screws, \$4 for 20.
itwproline.com.au

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Winter warmth

Prepare for cold weather by making sure your home keeps the heat in and the draughts out

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

DESIGN TIP

Uninsulated flooring can account for up to 10% of heat loss in the home, so use rugs if you have floorboards and seal any gaps with filler.

Heating and cooling a home makes an obvious impact on energy bills, but just how much it affects them may come as a shock.

On average, 40% of home energy use is for heating and cooling and that doesn't even account for hot water.

To save money this winter, get energy smart. The key is to have good insulation and ventilation, and there are lots of changes you can make DIY.



You can waste up to 30% in energy use through having inadequate insulation

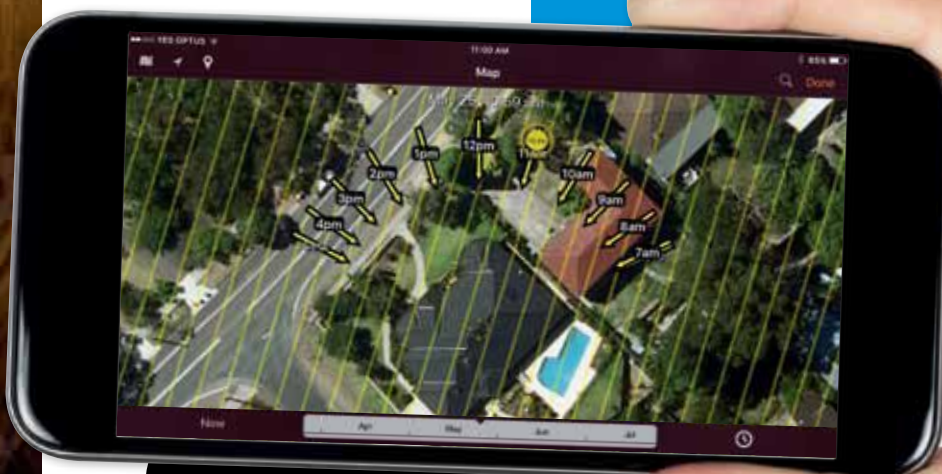


Solar solution

How much sun your home gets, or solar access as it is known, is an important part of understanding the heating and cooling needs of your property.

The easiest way to discover your solar access and plan how to heat and cool your home is to use the Sun Seeker app (available on iOS, \$14.99, and Android, \$9.99).

It tells you which direction the sun comes from at different times of the year and uses augmented reality to view the path of the sun across the sky. It's an invaluable landscape-planning tool as well.



GET
PASSIVE

When it comes to heating and cooling, passive measures will incur little or no ongoing costs after installation, but they do have a positive effect on your home and wallet.

These measures, which include ventilation and insulation, are a great example of the simple and effective sustainable steps you can take.

When most people think about sustainability, they generally only

think of the environment, but balanced sustainability also takes into account other factors such as economic and human impacts.

Taking a passive approach to cutting back your heating costs ticks all these sustainability boxes.

Most passive measures are easy to install and will save you money, while making your home more comfortable and reducing your carbon output. ➤

Ceilings and attics

Whether you have a large attic or just a thin layer between a flat roof and the ceiling, the roof cavity is a critical area for keeping your house warm in winter and cool in summer.

Heat can be very easily and quickly lost through a plasterboard ceiling as it rises. One of the best ways to retain heat is with good insulation.



R-value requirement

The R-value of insulation relates to its ability to resist the movement of heat in or out of a structure. As a general rule of thumb, the cooler the climate, the higher the R-value required.

Somewhere such as Thredbo, where retaining heat is a priority, ceiling insulation rated at R-4.8 would be the minimum needed.

In an area such as Brisbane, where keeping heat out is key, a minimum value would be R-2.7.

Talk with a local insulation supplier for advice for your region.



1 2 3

INSTALL ROOF INSULATION To prepare for laying insulation, evenly distribute the packs around the ceiling space, cutting them open with a utility knife around the sides from top to base. Fluff the batts, as they are more efficient when expanded.



1 Prepare the area

Gently sweep the area, removing any debris or old insulation. Measure the surface area in square metres to calculate how many insulation packs are needed, buying batts with the correct R-value and width for the area.



2 Install the batts

Position the batts between ceiling joists, ensuring they are expanded to full thickness. Slide underneath any pipes or cables as necessary. Trim batts to size with a utility knife, using a piece of timber as a cutting board.



3 Fill the gaps

Butt the batts as closely together as possible to avoid heat leakage. Cover all areas, saving offcuts to fill smaller gaps and odd spots. Remove any waste from the roof space, such as the insulation packaging, before finishing up.

Always wear safety gear when installing insulation.

SAFETY TIP

Avoid positioning insulation batts against or over any light fittings, vents or ducting, chimney parts or plumbing.

Walls and floors

Although the energy loss through walls and floors is not as great as that of ceilings, insulation can make a significant difference.

In most cases, you'll really only be able to retrofit wall or underfloor insulation during renovations. If you're building a new home, insist on the maximum insulation for all spaces.

The additional cost during the building process is minimal, but the long-term savings and improvements in sustainability are enormous.



Building and renovating

If you're designing a new home or renovating, talk with your architect or builder about passive design features.

These can be as simple as maximising any insulation and extending the eaves to offer more sun protection during summer.

You can also avoid using dark materials and create closed-off living areas that can be heated and cooled independently. >

ADAM'S PICKS



Earthwool R-3.5 175 x 430mm Ceiling Insulation, about \$66 for 21 batts. knaufinsulation.com.au



Draft Stopper Ceiling Exhaust Cover, \$35. draftstopper.com.au



IXL Eco Ventflo 200mm Exhaust Fan with Draught Shutters, \$56. ixlappliances.com.au



This will floodlight an entire roof space, giving you plenty of light to safely insulate a cavity.

Ryobi One+ 18V LED Hybrid Worklight, \$119. ryobi.com.au

Windows and doors

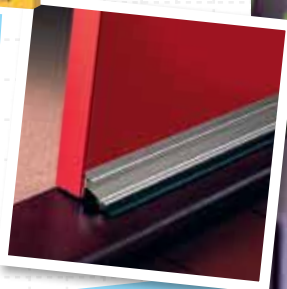
Take a close look at all of your doors and windows when they're shut and you'll find that many of them don't actually close with a snug fit.

These gaps, small as they may be, create draughts and leak heat. Glass in windows and doors is also a major area of heat loss, so consider double glazing as a passive measure. 

ADAM'S PICKS



Raven 5m Draught Excluder Door and Window Seal, \$12. raven.com.au



Raven 1220mm Silver Automatic Weather Door Seal, \$32.



Polar Eco-View 1410 x 2145mm Aluminium Sliding Door Kit, \$1026. polarwindows.com.au



Zone Interiors 600 x 1200mm Alabaster Boston Cellular Blind, \$70. zoneinteriors.com.au

Curtains with blackout lining insulate glass windows.

DIY TIP

Window furnishings act as insulation, so make curtains more efficient by adding a pelmet and ensuring they fall all the way to the floor.





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You'll love Earthwool® insulation because it's so easy to install in your ceiling and it will help you **save up to 30%*** on your power bill.

This is because Earthwool is made using recycled glass and features high R-values, which is the measure of their thermal performance. The higher the R-value, the better for you and your wallet.

For more information, visit thinkinsulation.com.au



*yourhome.gov.au

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the feel good glasswool insulation

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Find it at Bunnings

What's new

Pick up the latest products for the home and garden instore



SAFETY TIP

Check fire alarm batteries every six months and have your fireplace serviced annually to reduce the risk of house fires.

- 1 Scandia Supremacy 200 mid-size slow-combustion wood fire, \$1799.
- 2 Scandia Helix wood fire, \$1849.



Grow vegies in The Organic Garden Co Raised Bed, \$79.

GARDEN GEAR



- 1 Gardena Soil Moisture Sensor, \$99.99.
- 2 Gardena Automatic Water Distributor, \$89.74.
- 3 Gardena Water Computer Master Control, \$200.
- 4 Gardena Rain Sensor, \$99.99.



Keep cosy outside all winter long with the Glow Manzano Fire Pit, \$279.



Warm up with friends this chilly season around the Glow Sienna Fire Bowl, \$59.

RENOVATION ESSENTIALS



Transform your garage floor with a RockSolid Floor Coating Kit, from \$169.95.



Landscape for life with the no-maintenance 1.8m Ekologix Composite Sleepers, \$24.95.

Cover it in one coat using Chalked Ultra Matt Paint, from \$36.90.



Conceal screws with Ekodeck Plus boards, in four colours, 88 x 23mm for \$6.90 a linear metre, and 137 x 23mm for \$12.90 a linear metre.

HOME *TO* ROOST

Give your chooks a place to call their own with a spacious backyard coop and run made from reclaimed hardwood

PROJECT ADAM WOODHAMS **PICTURES** ADAM WOODHAMS AND CHARLIE BACON

Keeping chooks in the backyard has become popular again in recent years as more and more of us have rediscovered the benefits of owning these feathered friends.

Chickens are great fun to have at home and they are fantastically sustainable. Not only do they lay eggs and produce manure, which can be used for composting, they also gobble up pests and snails in the garden.

Every chook needs a place they can call home, so we called up sustainability expert Charlie Bacon from Ecolicious to help us build a chicken house (ecolicious.com.au).



EXPERT SECRETS

Placid Faverolles are a French breed of chicken that make ideal pets and don't make much noise.



Before

ADAM'S PICKS

Gardman 25 x 25mm 2100mm Hardwood Garden Stake, about \$18 for four, from Bunnings.

Whites Wires 1200 x 5000mm Small Bird Aviary Mesh, \$24. whitesgroup.com.au

Pryda 200 x 90mm Heavy Duty Galvanised Full Stirrup Post Anchor, about \$8. pryda.com.au

90 x 45mm MGP10 H3 Treated Pine, about \$5 per linear metre, from Bunnings.

DIY TIP

Always check with your local council for any regulations on keeping chickens and the permitted size and position of coops.

After

The coop sits in an unused corner of the yard and gives the chooks plenty of space.



Building the house

We built a coop and a run for up to six chooks from reclaimed hardwood. Both parts can be adjusted for size.

The structure has a large sheltered roosting area, nesting and laying box, and storage space.

Its elevated design creates a shady cool zone underneath. The flooring and the nesting box can be pulled out for cleaning. >



H See how to build this coop
Visit handyman.net.au/chook-house



There is easy access for feeding and cleaning through the main gate.

KAYE'S PICKS

Check out Kaye's three favourite breeds of chicken.



➤ **AUSTRALORPS** have shiny black feathers, are easy to handle and lay about 250 eggs a year. They also come in a smaller bantam type, producing smaller eggs.



➤ **SILKIE BANTAMS** have a cute, fluffy appearance and are gentle natured, which kids love. But while they make great pets, don't expect vast quantities of eggs.



➤ **ISA BROWNS** are crossbred, caramel-coloured birds that, like other hybrid chooks, provide about 300 large brown eggs a year. They also rarely go broody, which can halt egg production. ➤



Chickens like to scratch the ground to look for food.

CARING FOR CHOOKS

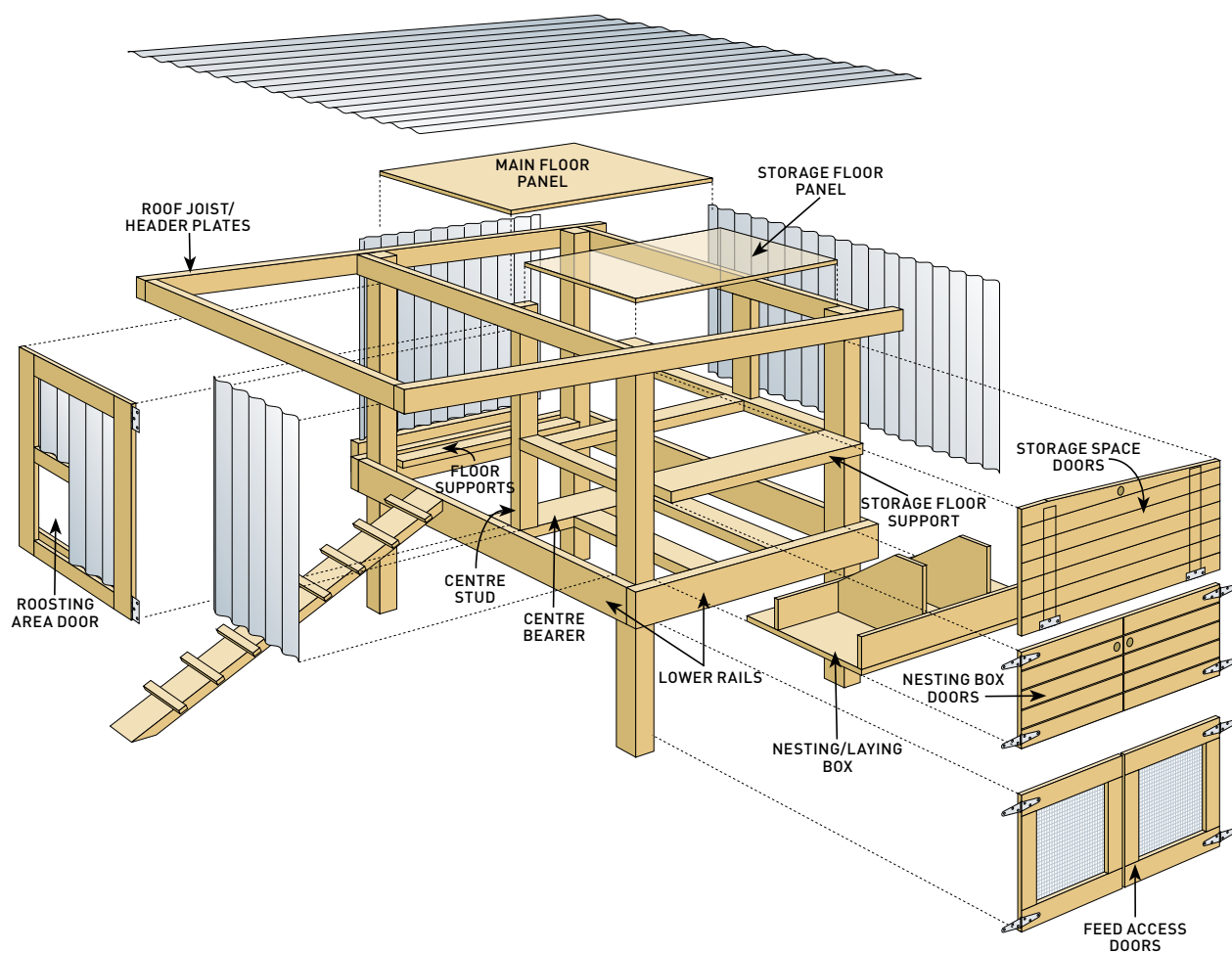
Keeping chickens is a fully rewarding experience, but they do need plenty of TLC. Here's what Kaye Browne, pet expert from vettalktv.com advises.

- **GET** two or more birds to create a new flock, never just one.
- **BUY** good-quality chook food and provide clean drinking water.
- **GIVE** new chickens a week or so to learn they have a new home before allowing them to roam free.
- **TALK** to your chickens when giving them food or a treat so they associate humans with good things.
- **POSITION** branches in their run and roosting space to exercise their feet and provide a lookout so they will cluck when they see you each day.

- **REPLACE** dirty litter from under their roosts regularly and ensure laying boxes are always clean.
- **TREAT** for worms every three months and ensure they have an area to dust-bathe to help smother mites. If needed, also treat the henhouse with a permethrin insecticide.
- **ENSURE** a constant supply of shell grit to provide the calcium they need to make good strong eggshells.
- **TRIM** the feathers of one wing of flighty birds while they sleep so they won't be able to fly off.
- **GROW** an edible vine over part of your chook house to provide them with fruit and to make them feel hidden from wild birds overhead.

As well as providing eggs, hens make great pets.





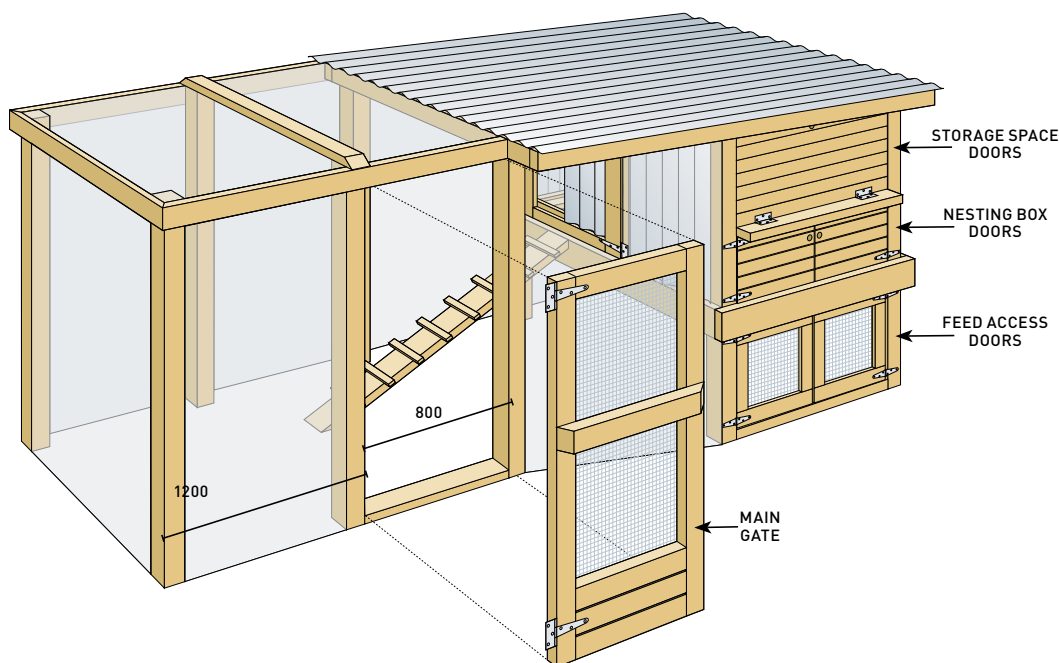
Get the project online

For the full instructions on how to make this chook house and run from scratch, visit handyman.net.au/chook-house.

We show you how to build the structure in your backyard, with step-by-step pictures and instructions, cutting and materials lists, and diagrams. 🛠️



CHOOK RUN



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



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Create a potted pond

Make a simple water feature in an afternoon

PROJECTS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Bring the soothing sound and sight of water to your outdoor space with a pond in a pot, complete with a fountain.

Once you have the necessary equipment to hand, you can put it together in just a couple of hours.

Instead of the traditional method of sealing a pot to hold water, this project uses a plastic bucket as a liner.

The trick is to choose the bucket first, then find a pot to fit it. The pot we used measures 48 x 46cm.

To assemble the potted pond, put the bucket in the pot, install a basic pump and fill it with water. ➤



Choose a designer pot for a pond that can double as garden decoration

Create nighttime ambience with a coloured pond light.

ADAM'S PICKS

Materials

Pot	\$80
Bucket	\$15
Gravel	\$9
Pebbles	\$18
Pump	\$190
Pond light	\$99
TOTAL	\$411

Aquapro 18 LED Multi Colour Pond/Garden Light, \$99.

Aquapro Solar Pump and Panel Kit, \$190.
aquatecequipment.com

All Set 65L Black Storage Tub with Rope Handles, \$15.
bunnings.com.au

Tuscan Path 15kg Decorative Pebbles, \$18.
tuscanpath.com.au

\$411
COST

Tuscan Path 48 x 46cm Lightweight Saturn Pot in Black, \$80.



SAFETY TIP

Avoid positioning a filled pot weighing 100kg or more on the edge of a balcony or deck, unless it sits over a bearer and a post.

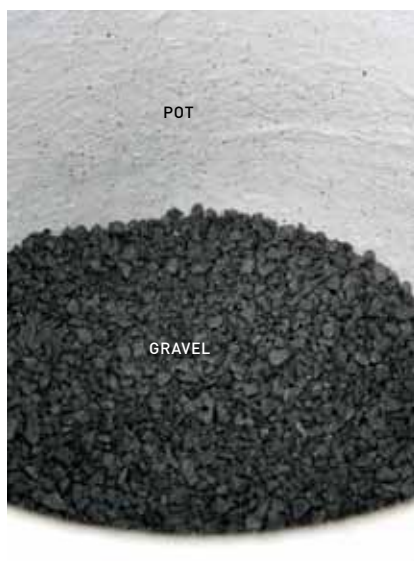
▶ Watch the DIY video online
Visit handyman.net.au/pond-in-a-pot

ASSEMBLE THE POND



1 Check for level

Position the pot in a suitable location, where it will have adequate support, then check for level using a spirit level. Check that it is level from side to side and from front to back, adjusting the position of the pot as needed.



2 Add the gravel

Fill the base of the pot with enough gravel to support the bucket and keep the pot stable and level. Position the bucket and add more gravel if needed.

TIP We used builder's 14mm bagged blue metal aggregate.



3 Position the bucket

Gently lower the bucket into the pot, checking that it sits firmly on the gravel. Cut the rope handles off the bucket and if there are any protruding lugs under the lip, remove these using a utility knife.



4 Install the pump

Position the pump in the bucket, ensuring the outlet spout is directly above the centre of the pot. Don't plug in the solar panel yet. Add the LED light to the bucket, making sure it is fitted with its weighted base.



5 Add the pebbles

Position extra-large river pebbles in the base of the bucket to keep the pump and light in position, ensuring you don't put any on top of them.

TIP Wash the pebbles before adding them to avoid clouding the water.



6 Fill with water

Use the hose to fill the bucket with water, then plug in the pump. Make any necessary adjustments to the flow of the water by adjusting the pump.

TIP Choose a pump with a higher capacity than needed for the pot size.



Waterlilies



Water irises



Nymphaoides

Add plants

Aquatic plants will give your water feature an extra dimension and bring it to life.

There's a surprisingly large range of suitable plants available.

It varies depending on where you are in the country, so ask an expert at your local nursery or garden centre for advice.

A few hardy aquatic favourites include water irises, waterlilies, pontederia and nymphaoides. 🌿

ANSWERS FOR YOUR WATERGARDEN MADE EASY

DISCOVER | CREATE | ENJOY

Transform your Patio

Almost everyone agrees, there's nothing more peaceful than the sight and sound of flowing water.

Simple to install, this patio pond will create a focal point in any small space.

Follow our 'How to Guide' and transform your patio or alfresco area in a few hours. Why not add some lighting to your project, so you can enjoy the feature day & night.



Everything you need is available at your local Bunnings Warehouse or online at aquatecequipment.com

Check out our



'How to Guide'



Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse
bunnings.com.au

WIN

\$3630 IN PRIZES

Turn food scraps into free fertiliser, helping the environment and your pocket at the same time. Composting is the super-simple way to recycle kitchen waste and even turn pet poo into plant food.

But forget building an open bin and turning the heap. Tumbleweed has a range of ready-to-use products that take all the work out of composting (tumbleweed.com.au).

All you do is add waste to an in-ground composter, then let the worms work their magic.

Australian Handyman is giving away 10 Pet Poo Worm Farm kits and 20 Worm Feast kits.

For your chance to win, go to handyman.net.au/tumbleweed and tell us in 25 words or less which kit you'd like and why you want to start composting.

Entries close 26 May 2016. See the website for full terms and conditions. Winners will be announced online in June 2016.

**ENTER BY
26 MAY**

**DON'T MISS
OUT!**



Compost made easy

Handyman is giving away 30 Tumbleweed kits that take the mess, fuss and smell out of composting. Go online to win!

PRIZE 1

10 x Pet Poo Worm Farm kits, worth \$243 each

Add your animal waste to the Pet Poo Worm Farm and the composting worms will turn it into nutritious fertiliser. Move it to any area that needs attention and watch your lawn, trees and plants thrive.



Compost Mate, \$20,
Tube-O-Worms, \$84.



Pet Poo
Worm Farm, \$179.

PRIZE 2

20 x Worm Feast kits, worth \$60 each

Fertilise your garden and recycle kitchen waste the easy and natural way. The Worm Feast is an in-ground feeding station, where composting worms and earthworms turn your food scraps into plant food.



Worm Feast,
\$29.



Worm Farm & Compost
Conditioner, \$11.



Organi-bin,
\$20.

ENTER NOW AT HANDYMAN.NET.AU/TUMBLEWEED



PVC bistro blinds are made using heavy-duty material, can be cut to size and come in both clear or charcoal with a white or black trim.



Find it at Bunnings

ADD BLINDS

Protect your outdoor room from the elements to create an all-weather space for winter entertaining

Bistro blinds can be added to a covered deck to allow the space to be used for entertaining year-round, even during bad weather.

They protect against wind and rain but are easy to unzip and roll up on days when they're not needed.

Bistro blinds come in a wide range of ready-to-hang sizes, and accessories

such as zip joiners mean several of them can be connected for large areas.

Awning-style blinds block out heat to keep spaces cool, but can also help retain warmth during winter to maintain a cosy temperature inside.

Fixed-arm awnings are suitable for windows, while folding-arm awnings can be used on windows and doors.

DIY TIP

Bistro blinds range from 900 to 3000mm in width and can be joined to provide protection for any outdoor room.



Fixed-arm awnings are compact and retractable, and are great for retaining heat inside the home. They also help protect furniture and fabrics from fading.

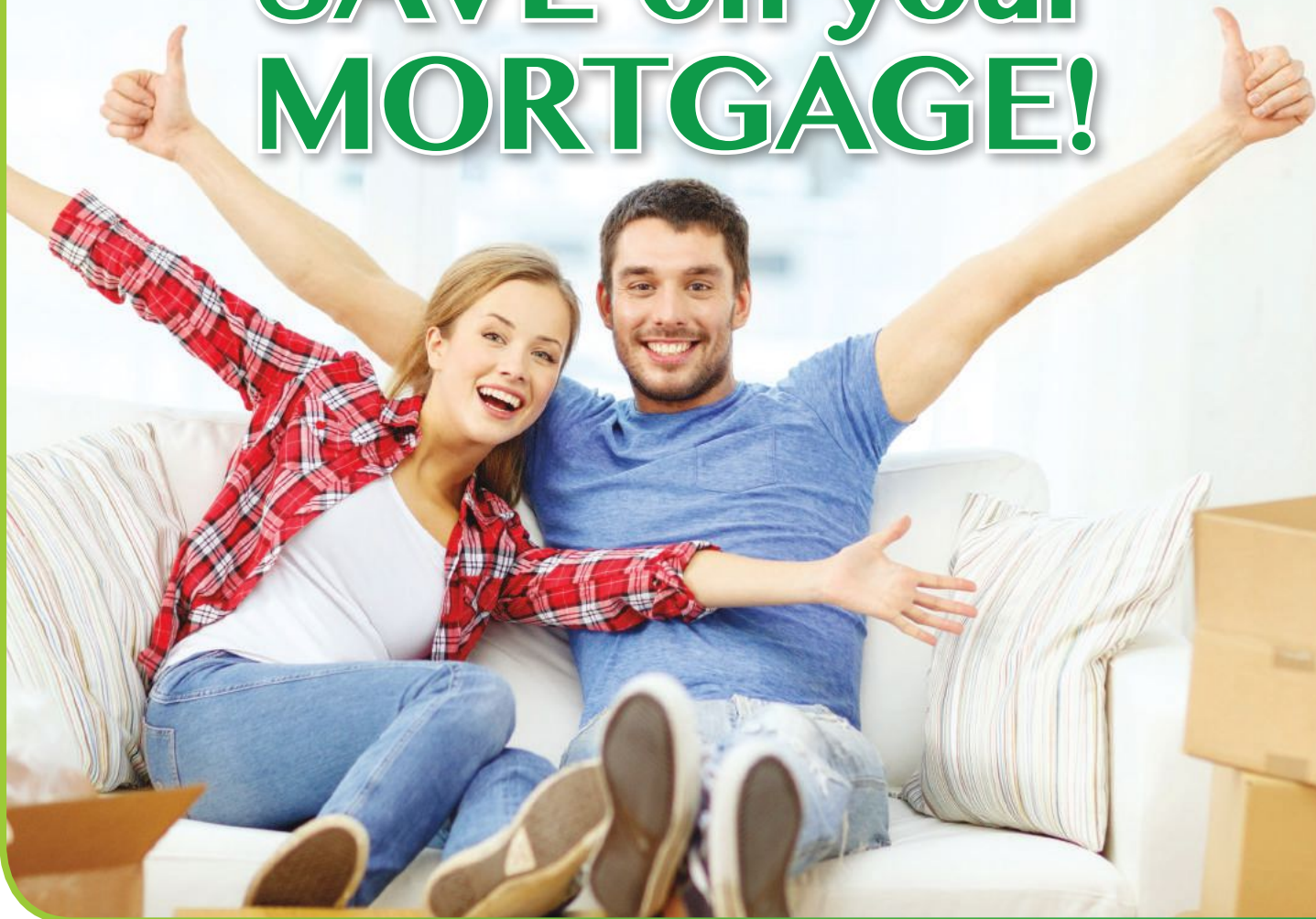


Folding-arm awnings are designed to shield doors and decks from excessive sun or rain. They are easily folded back, making them a useful temporary cover.



PVC roller blinds are ideal for stabilising interior temperatures, as well as preventing heat loss in winter and blocking heat and UV rays in summer.

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Autumn tidy-up

Do these jobs in the garden now so it looks wonderful throughout winter

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



Cheryl

EXPERT SECRETS

If you don't have a compost heap, cut up any weeds that haven't gone to seed and spread directly on the soil as mulch.

The cooler weather of autumn is the ideal time to roll up your sleeves and tackle those chores that have been building up in the backyard over the summer.

At this time of year the soil will also retain some warmth, so anything planted or moved will have a chance to settle in before winter.

It's also a good time to clean up fallen leaves, start a compost heap, condition your soil and divide perennials to get plants for free. ➤

Remove the weeds

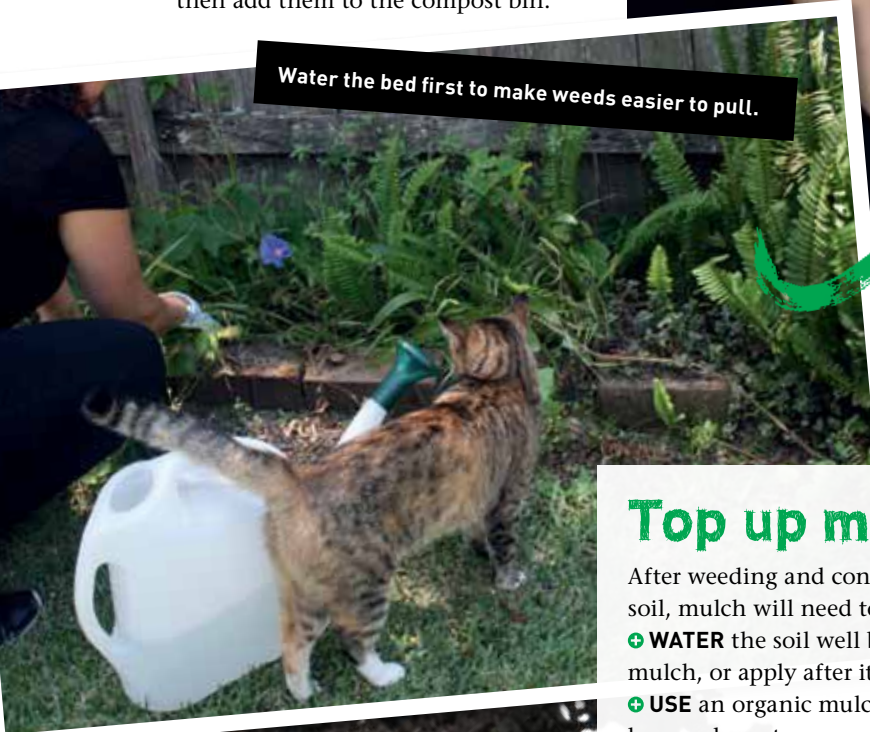
Weeds compete with plants for soil nutrition and leave them open to attack by insects and diseases. So start the autumn tidy-up by removing weeds in beds and pots.

They grow in every season and it's best to attack them as soon as they appear. Dig them up if necessary, making sure you get the roots as well.

Put any hard-to-kill bulbous, perennial and seeded weeds into a plastic bag. Tie the top and leave the bag in the sun until the weeds rot, then add them to the compost bin.



Water the bed first to make weeds easier to pull.



Put tough weeds in a bag to rot before composting.

Top up mulch

After weeding and conditioning the soil, mulch will need topping up.

➤ **WATER** the soil well before applying mulch, or apply after it has rained.

➤ **USE** an organic mulch such as lucerne hay, straw, pea straw or sugar cane because they add organic matter to the soil as they break down.

➤ **SPREAD** a light layer of mulch to only about 25mm thick for winter, so the warmth of the winter sun can penetrate through to the soil. Water it in well after laying.

➤ **ENSURE** the mulch is clear of tree trunks and plant stems to prevent fungus or rot developing.

Prep the soil

For plants to stay healthy, soil needs to be reconditioned at the end or start of each season.

Add cow or chicken manure, compost or mushroom compost to the surface of the soil.

Organic matter breaks down and supplies nutrients to plants and builds soil structure.

You can also use a seaweed product to promote beneficial micro-organisms in the soil and help plants thrive.





Natural weedkiller

Keep paths and pavers weed-free by spraying them with a DIY herbicide.

Simply pour white vinegar into a spray bottle and apply directly to weeds, taking care the spray doesn't drift onto plants.

Turn the compost

Compost is full of goodness, but heaps need regular turning and forking to assist aeration and speed up decomposition, making composting a bit of a chore.

To get the benefit of compost without the hard work, try a tumbler. Choose a size to suit your space, put it in an easily accessible spot and add to it regularly.

Tumblers are very easy to use, as you just turn the barrel every few days for rich compost in as little as six weeks. ➤



Rake up lawn leaves to add to compost

Tumbleweed 220L Compost Tumbler, \$188. tumbleweed.com.au



WormFeast®

Perfect maintenance free worm farm for all veggie and flower gardens. Turn your kitchen scraps in to free fertiliser.



Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse
bunnings.com.au
And all good nurseries

www.tumbleweed.com.au



GROW TIP

Consider planting a winter-flowering native such as a grevillea, as birds will flock to the nectar, adding fauna to your winter landscape.

Plant trees and shrubs

May is a good month to plant new trees and shrubs, as the soil is still warm enough in most climate zones, and the plantings have a chance to settle in during winter.

When choosing a tree or shrub from the nursery, make sure it is appropriate for your climate and suited to the planting position and will receive the requisite light.

And check the mature height and width so it won't outgrow its position.



1 2 3

HOW TO PLANT Don't simply dig a hole and plonk in the tree or shrub, as a little preparation of the soil and simple measures will help your transplant thrive. **TIP** Water the tree or shrub several hours before you plant it out.



1 DIG A HOLE twice the width of the pot containing the new shrub, making sure it is also a little deeper. Use a hand trowel or spade if needed. Gently remove the plant from the pot.



2 MIX COMPOST into the excavated soil and add a layer in the base of the planting hole. Position the shrub so it is at the same level in the soil as it was in the pot.



3 BACKFILL THE HOLE with the soil and compost mix, then gently firm it down by hand. Water in well, using a seaweed solution to help prevent transplant shock, then mulch.



Falling leaves

Don't discard fallen leaves. Check out these ways to create free soil conditioner.

➤ **ADD** them to the compost heap.

➤ **PUT** leaves in large plastic garbage bags and add a little water and Yates Dynamic Lifter.

Make a few holes in the bag, tie the tops and leave them for several months. Your reward will be nutrient-rich humus.

➤ **SPREAD** leaves directly on beds to act as mulch and add Dynamic Lifter or cow manure to help break them down.



Compost Mate

Designed to speed up your composting process. Mixes and aerates as you turn.



Green up the grass

A lawn looks good and also has the practical value of consuming carbon dioxide and trapping dust. Autumn is a great time to get grass into shape and keep it healthy during winter.

Lawns need to be aerated, as the soil can become compacted.

Aerate small lawns by making holes with a garden fork every 100mm. For larger areas, you can hire a spiked roller.

Treat the soil with a hose-on seaweed solution to increase the biological activity in the soil and help keep grass green and healthy. ➤



Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse
bunnings.com.au

And all good nurseries

www.tumbleweed.com.au

Divide plants

Autumn is a good time to divide perennials for replanting and can be done every three to four years.

If a particular plant looks good in one area, consider using it more widely, as repeat plantings can visually unify the garden.

Perennials that have multiple stems arising from the base of the plant can be divided. Plants that are flowering less freely, have become

congested or are dying back in the centre benefit from division.

Perennials ideal for dividing include ajuga, achillea, agapanthus, astilbe, bergenia, canna, catnip, flax, helianthus, hosta, red hot pokers, liriope, penstemon, phlox and phlomis.

TIP To give you more variety, swap divided perennials with your gardening friends.

BUDGET TIP

Division will keep perennials vigorous and provide you with new plants for free, as you can turn one plant into three or four.



How to divide

Here's how to divide and replant perennials.

- ➊ **DIG** up the plant carefully with a fork. Shake away soil so the roots can be easily seen.
- ➋ **PULL** apart the rootball into sections using your hands, or cut with a pair of secateurs or a sharp knife. You may need to use a spade with plants such as agapanthus.
- ➌ **MAKE** holes for the divisions and add a layer of well-rotted compost. Plant at the same depth as the mother plant and backfill with the removed soil. Water in well, then water the plants frequently until established.



Sow seeds

Clear beds or troughs of summer greens that have bolted to seed for a winter crop such as silverbeet.

- ➕ **REMOVE** the old crop, getting all the roots and any weeds.
- ➕ **ADD** compost to the soil and fork it in well, then make rows for sowing using a fork or trowel.
- ➕ **SPRINKLE** the seeds to the depth and spacing indicated on the packet. Cover seeds with soil and water in well.

Sow seeds of native everlasting daisies for a spring showcase.

Pet Poo Worm Farm

Perfect way to
convert pet poo and
kitchen scraps into
a beautiful garden.

Autumn checklist

- ✓ **PLANT** snowpeas and sugar snap peas, except in cold zones. Add lime to soil if it is on the slightly acid side. Climbing cultivars bear higher yields.
- ✓ **GET** any spring bulbs you haven't planted yet in the ground.
- ✓ **REMOVE** and destroy any rose leaves covered in black spot.
- ✓ **FEED** autumn-flowering bulbs.
- ✓ **MOVE** evergreen trees and shrubs planted in the wrong position.
- ✓ **PLANT** citrus, choosing a sunny spot in well-drained soil.
- ✓ **SOW** native everlasting daisies in well-drained soil in sunny beds or grow with ornamental grasses.
- ✓ **PLANT** globe artichokes in ornamental or kitchen gardens for their handsome grey leaves.

CHERYL'S PICKS



Yates Dynamic Lifter Organic Plant Food, \$16 for 7kg.
yates.com.au



Seasol Seaweed Concentrate, \$11 for 1L.
seasol.com.au



Earthwise Growing Essentials Pea Straw Mulch, \$16 for 10kg, from Bunnings.



Cyclone Quick Release Titanium Blade Secateurs, \$32.



Cyclone Super Garden Rake, \$25.
cyclone.com.au



Spear & Jackson Short D Handle Garden Fork, \$23.
spearandjackson.com.au



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INSTALL GUTTERING

Spruce up the exterior and improve rainwater drainage with new gutters

Gutters and downpipes are designed to divert rainwater from the roof into drains or tanks. So if the system is old or poorly maintained, it can cause all kinds of water damage.

If a gutter is blocked, the water will flow over the top and run down exterior walls, finding easy access

points to the interior, and pooling on the ground around the house.

Replacing guttering can be done DIY but requires working up high for an extended period, so you'll need a safe ladder. A toolbelt will help avoid climbing up and down too often.

TIP Wear leather gloves to protect hands from sharp edges when cutting gutters.



Connect new guttering to a rainwater tank for a free source of water for the garden



1 Remove the old guttering

Bend back the brackets holding the old guttering using multitools. Remove the downpipe by detaching its brackets and disconnecting it from the guttering. Roll the guttering off the brackets and remove it, then use a wrecking bar to pry the old brackets off the fascia board.



2 Mount the new brackets

Attach a bracket at the top of the fascia at one end of the wall, then attach a bracket at the other end, lowering it 10mm from the top of the fascia for every 5000mm of length. Run a stringline between the brackets and install brackets 1200mm apart on the line.



3 Attach the end stops

Run a bead of silicone around the edge of the end of the gutter and slide the end stop into position. Secure the end stop with one pop rivet on the front and back and two more on the base. Seal the rivets with a dab of silicone on the inside and outside.

Watch the video 'How to Install Guttering' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

DIY TIP

Install guards to prevent leaves and debris from clogging gutters, selecting fireproof mesh for bushfire-prone areas.

What you need

- Ladder
- Cordless drill
- Stringline
- Multigrips
- Wrecking bar
- Chisel
- Hammer
- Tin snips
- Measuring tape
- Safety glasses
- Pop rivet gun and rivets
- Caulking gun
- Silicone
- Guttering
- Gutter brackets
- End stops
- Downpipe pop
- Exterior screws



4 Install the downpipe pop

Position the pop near the lower end of the gutter and mark where the tube of the pop will push through. Cut a hole in the gutter for the pop tube. Apply silicone around the edge of the hole, insert the pop tube through the hole and secure it using rivets.



5 Attach the new gutters

Using a second set of hands, lift the gutter and roll it over the brackets into position. Install the lower end first, then work upwards to minimise the chance of joints leaking. Once all pieces are in position, roll the brackets in to secure the gutter and tighten using multigrips.

Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE

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



ryobi.com.au

A CUT ABOVE **RYOBI**
TOOL BLOX

THE TOOL BOX THAT REALLY STACKS UP.

Available at **BUNNINGS warehouse**
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Tool Blox, the clever new storage system from RYOBI, lets you assemble new units as needed. The units lock together to create a modular system and you can even add wheels.



FSA/COR0164 PM0D9

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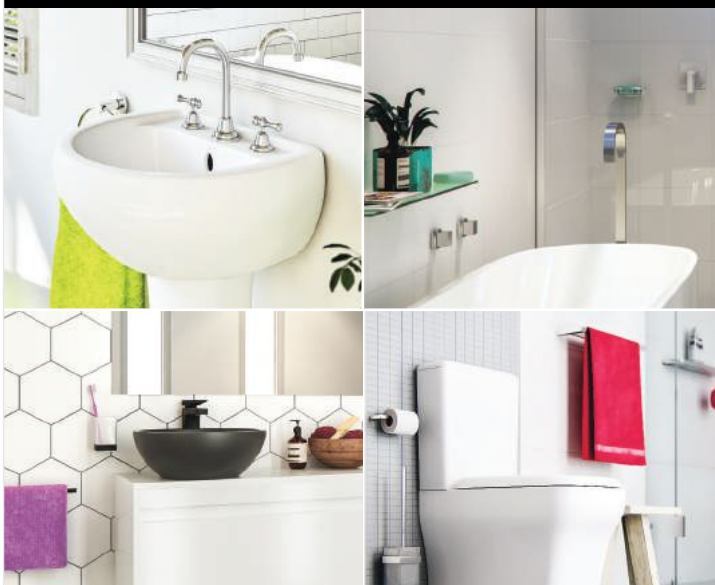
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This month

Enjoy the foliage colours and tasty crops of autumn before winter sets in

To-do list

May is the last chance to get the garden winter-ready.

- ✓ **BUILD** covers for frost protection in cold zones.
- ✓ **COLLECT** and compost fallen autumn leaves.
- ✓ **PLANT** climbers such as bougainvillea and fragrant stephanotis in hot zones.
- ✓ **CHECK** indoor plants for mealy bugs.
- ✓ **ORDER** new roses as bare-rooted plants.
- ✓ **RAISE** mower blades so the longer grass can feed the roots.
- ✓ **THIN** seedlings in the vegie patch where needed.
- ✓ **BUY** and plant certified virus-free strawberries.
- ✓ **DIVIDE** asparagus and perennial herbs.

Do now

- + **CHOOSE** beautiful blooms for colour in the cool months, page 116.
- + **PLANT** pomegranates for an exotic homegrown crop, page 122.
- + **GROW** herbs in containers for winter flavour, page 126.

Flowers to sow

Plant these seeds in trays except in very cold zones for late spring blooms.

- + **COLUMBINE**
- + **ICELAND POPPY**
- + **WALLFLOWER**
- + **HOLLYHOCK**
- + **CARNATION**

Carnation

Vegies to grow

Add greens and bulbs to the vegie patch for crops from winter to spring.

- + **LETTUCES**
- + **SPINACH**
- + **SHALLOTS**
- + **ONIONS**
- + **CRESS**

Spinach

TOP PICK

✦ LIRIOPE 'EMERALD CASCADE'

With a dramatic arching habit, glossy foliage and mop top effect, this shade-loving star brings neglected or difficult areas of the garden to life.

Use 'Emerald Cascade' in borders, along fence lines, as an understorey planting or as a potted feature on patios. It also makes a great house plant.

Grow it in part or deep shade and apply a slow-release fertiliser in spring. It likes most soils, and water needs are low once established.

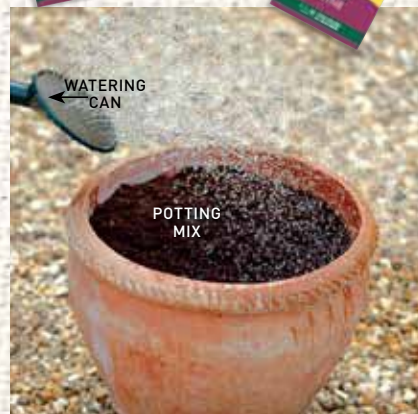


1 2

SOWING MADE EASY Mr. Fothergill's Seed Mats, about \$4 for a pack of three, take the guesswork out of planting herbs, as the seeds are evenly spaced between layers of biodegradable paper.

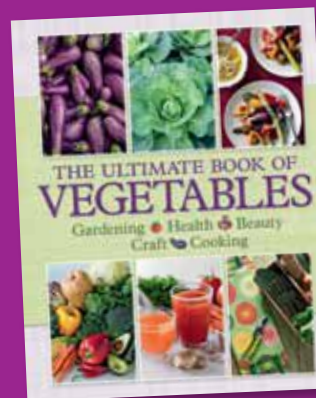


1 FILL the container with potting mix to about 20mm below the rim. Position the seed mat on top and lightly cover with more mix.



2 WATER well and position the pot in a warm spot, keeping the mix moist.
TIP Seed mats reduce the need for thinning seedlings.

BOOK CLUB



Featuring over 50 varieties from artichoke to zucchini, *The Ultimate Book Of Vegetables* (\$40, Reader's Digest) lives up to its name. Learn how to start a vegie patch and harvest crops for meals, beauty products, remedies and even craft. (shop.readersdigest.com.au) >

AMAZING BERRIES



Strawberry

If you love strawberries, you'll want to grow these unique varieties from United Nurseries. These three amazing berries, \$13 each, offer a delicious twist on a favourite fruit. For growing tips and recipes, visit united-nurseries.com.au.

Fragaria x ananassa 'Mieze Schindler'

The dark-red Strasberry has been around for 100 years, but is not very well known.

A plump, deep-seeded fruit, this strawberry gets its name from its raspberry flavour.

To get Strawberry to fruit, grow it with a self-pollinating strawberry plant. It's best eaten freshly picked or cold.

Fragaria x ananassa

White strawberries have always been around, but the Pineberry is unique in looks and taste.

This small round fruit has red seeds, juicy white flesh and a sweet and tangy pineapple flavour.

It needs a pollinator of one quality red strawberry, and the fruit may turn light pink if grown in full sun. Pineberry is best eaten cold or freshly picked.



Pineberry



Bubbleberry

Fragaria moschata

A high-yielding heirloom variety, the Bubbleberry was popular in the 1800s and is back after an absence of nearly 100 years.

This small pink strawberry has a sweet bubblegum taste and is great for making jams, sauces, cakes and ice-creams.

Strongly flavoured and very fragrant, eat this fruit when pink. It can be stored in the fridge. 🍓

Feed now

In cool and temperate zones, boost these vegies with liquid fertiliser.

- + BRUSSELS SPROUTS
- + SILVERBEET
- + CABBAGES
- + BROCCOLI
- + SPINACH



Brussels sprouts

Prune now

Trim dead wood, deadhead summer flowering shrubs and take cuttings.

- + CAMELLIA SASANQUA
- + EVERGREENS
- + FRUIT TREES
- + ROSES
- + HEBE



Rose

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COLOUR — IN THE — COOL MONTHS

Enjoy beautiful blooms in your
backyard, even in autumn and winter

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

You don't have to wait until the warm weather returns to bring colour to the garden, as there are many flowers that bloom in autumn and winter.

A trip to your local nursery could be the first step towards adding colour in the cold seasons.

Whether you want to cheer up a sunny spot or a shady corner, you'll find plants that will do the job.

Camellia

The flowering queen of autumn and winter, you can find a camellia cultivar to fit almost every niche in the garden.

They are tough, undemanding plants, but give them a little TLC and you'll be rewarded with lots of blooms.

✚ **PLANT** The soil should be slightly acidic, friable and well-drained. Fork in cow manure and compost to improve it. Dig a planting hole twice as wide and as deep as the rootball.

✚ **GROW** Water regularly, especially when hot and dry. Feed in early spring to boost growth and again in summer to encourage more flowers.

Water the ground thoroughly around a camellia before and after applying fertiliser.

✚ **MULCH** Use sugar cane, lucerne hay or composted autumn leaves. Spread a 75-100mm thick layer of mulch, keeping it clear of the trunk.



If you're short on
space, you can grow
a camellia in a big pot



PICTURES (MAIN) ALAMY (BOTTOM) CHERYL MADDOCKS



Feed the birds

Do feathered visitors a favour by planting native winter-flowering shrubs.

Good choices are grevillea, correa, heath banksia (*Banksia ericifolia*), pink waxflower (*Philotheca australasius*), pink-flowering *Thryptomene saxicola* and Geraldton waxflower (*Chamelaucium uncinatum*).

Grevillea



Pink waxflower

Add colour and attract birds with winter-flowering grevillea.

BRIGHT IDEAS

A well-planned garden has a number of seasonal layers of flowers. Without these layers, there will be a blaze of spring or summer colour but nothing much for the rest of the year.

Every garden has its peak period, but it is possible to plant so that one clump of perennials or annuals

finishes flowering as a nearby clump is coming into bloom.

Different garden beds can also be used to emphasise each season. This creates perpetually shifting garden scenes as the seasons progress, and the result is a sense of movement in the garden. >

Winter-flowering shrubs

There are some pretty shrubs that brighten up the winter garden.

Shrubs are essential plants, as they form the skeletal structure of a garden design and provide a permanent framework of leaf and flower forms.

They can also be used to fill the spaces between trees and low-growing annuals and perennials.

Choose shrubs that flower in different seasons so you have colour throughout the year.

WHAT TO PLANT

Marguerite daisy



Winter daphne



Diosma

Winter daphne

Daphne odora bears clusters of sweet-smelling, pink-tinged flowers.

❖ **GROW** Plant in an east-facing spot in well-drained, slightly acidic soil. Give it a monthly tonic of seaweed extract and regularly apply Yates anti-rot. It can be grown in a pot.

❖ **HEIGHT** 1.5m

Marguerite daisy

Small, shrubby *Argyranthemum* hybrids are a welcome sight in July with their colourful flowers.

❖ **GROW** Good drainage and a sunny spot is essential. Ideal for coastal gardens and can be grown in a pot. Prune lightly after flowering.

❖ **HEIGHT** 600-900mm

Diosma

The tiny pink flowers of diosma (*Coleonema pulchellum*) are borne from late winter to early spring amid narrow aromatic foliage.

❖ **GROW** Give it free-draining soil in full sun. It can be grown as a hedge and dwarf cultivars are available.

❖ **HEIGHT** 900mm-1.2m

Winter honeysuckle

Luculia

GROW TIP

Bring bell-shaped rosy-red blossoms to a winter garden by planting a Taiwan cherry tree (*Prunus campanulata*).

Viburnum

Luculia

Luculia gratissima is valued for its large and perfumed pink midwinter flowerheads.

❖ **GROW** Plant in a frost-free, east-facing position. In cool climates, grow luculia under the eaves of the house.

❖ **HEIGHT** 3m

Winter honeysuckle

The small, strongly scented cream flowers of winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) appear from winter to spring.

❖ **GROW** A tough plant, it thrives in a sunny spot if given regular applications of water and fertiliser.

❖ **HEIGHT** 2m

Viburnum

Viburnum farreri bears clusters of pale-pink fragrant flowers on leafless branches during winter.

❖ **GROW** This deciduous shrub likes well-drained soil and a sunny position. Plant near a window or door to appreciate its scent.

❖ **HEIGHT** 3m ➤

Pot up colour

Growing flowering annuals in pots is a quick colour fix for winter and will certainly brighten up cold days.

Plant in window boxes and hanging baskets or fill your garden with pots of colour. And positioned by the front door, they'll be a welcoming sight.

You can mix and match annuals for bright colour combinations, and change colours with the seasons.

If you plant seedlings in autumn or winter, they flower in a few weeks.

1 REMOVE the seedling carefully from its punnet so you don't disturb the roots. Use a high-quality premium mix that carries the Australian Standards tick.

2 WATER the punnet of annuals before transplanting, then water regularly. Feed monthly with a soluble plant food.

TIP Use a plastic pot for good water retention, then use a larger, more attractive terracotta or glazed container as a sleeve.

Linaria

DESIGN TIP

Lift the tone of a dry, shady spot with a winter-flowering bulb such as *Clivia miniata*, which bears brilliant orange flowers.

WHAT TO PLANT

Iceland poppy

Calendula

Cineraria

Cineraria

Brighten up dark corners with pots of colourful cineraria. They are easily grown as annuals for temperate climates.

➤ **POSITION** Semi-shade

Viola

Free-flowering violas with their small pansy-like flowers come in various shades. Pick the flowers to encourage more to grow.

✚ **POSITION** Sun or semi-shade

Linaria

Bears masses of flowers in a variety of colours in winter.

Linaria is easily grown from seed or you can buy advanced seedlings and pot them up.

✚ **POSITION** Sun

Iceland poppy

This pretty annual bears winter and spring flowers in shades of salmon, apricot, yellow and cream.

Protect from wind and pick for indoors just before bud burst.

✚ **POSITION** Sun

Calendula

These orange or yellow daisies brighten up winter days. Remove spent blooms to prolong flowering.

The flowers are edible so add them to salads or use as a garnish.

✚ **POSITION** Sun

Polyanthus

A perennial that is usually grown as an annual, polyanthus comes in a variety of colours.

Pot up in shallow bowls for an enchanting look.

✚ **POSITION** Sun or semi-shade

Pansy

These reliable winter flowers provide a great choice of colours. Picking the flowers encourages more blooms to grow.

✚ **POSITION** Sun, but tolerates afternoon shade in hot climates

Primula

Ideal for mixed plantings, choose from a variety of shades, including pink, lavender, purple or white.

Pick the finished blooms of primula to extend the show.

✚ **POSITION** Sun or semi-shade

Did you know?

Pansies became popular in England around the early 1800s when gardeners started to experiment with hybridising. And by 1845, there were 354 different types.

Polyanthus

Viola

Pansy

Primula

— THE POMEGRANATE — POWERHOUSE

Bearing gorgeous scarlet flowers and delicious juicy fruit, this tree is a garden must-have

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

PICTURES ALAMY, ISTOCK

Scoop out

You can eat a pomegranate simply by cutting the fruit in half and scooping out the seeds with a spoon.

Roll them around in your mouth, sucking the surrounding juice sac, or aril, while you chew the seeds to release the juice.



Drink up

Rich in fibre, folate, potassium and vitamins C and K, pomegranate juice is very high in antioxidants, especially polyphenols, which help protect against free radicals.

Research shows it may also reduce plaque build-up on artery walls, working in a similar way to aspirin. And studies suggest that it may help lower blood pressure.

DESIGN TIP

Pomegranate can be used as a feature tree or grown as a hedge, depending on the space, or even planted in a large container.

The fruit has a crown-like calyx and is about 50-120mm in diameter.

Thought to be one of the oldest fruit trees under cultivation, the pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) is native to Iran and Afghanistan and has naturalised throughout the Mediterranean region.

It's a showy plant, featuring glossy green leaves that turn yellow in the autumn and bearing large scarlet flowers in spring and summer.

The beautiful red-skinned fruit ripens in autumn and remains on the tree after the leaves have fallen.

Cut a fruit in half and you'll see the membranous white-walled sections, each filled with seeds surrounded by juice sacs, known as arils.

HOW TO GROW

A long-lived small deciduous tree or large shrub, pomegranate grows to about 4-5m high. It has an untidy habit but judicious pruning when young will give the tree a good shape.

✦ **PLANT** Give it well-drained soil and add compost or well-rotted manure before planting. Pomegranate loves heat, so position it in a sunny spot.

It tolerates frost but not humidity, so it won't grow well near the coast.

✦ **GROW** Pomegranate is drought tolerant but trees yield better-quality

fruit if watered regularly. Feed in late winter and early summer with a complete plant food for fruit. Mulch with lucerne hay or pea straw.

✦ **PRUNE** Cut back in winter to remove overcrowded or dead wood. Don't prune the whole tree, as fruit is borne on wood that's 2-3 years old.

✦ **HARVEST** Pick when the fruit is plump and the skin red. If unsure, tap the fruit with your finger and, if it sounds metallic, it's ripe. Cut the fruit from the tree with secateurs. ➤

Ornamental and hardy, a pomegranate tree is easy to grow.

Release the seeds

It may be a bit tricky to open and enjoy this fruit, but it's well worth the effort. A medium-sized fruit yields about one cup of seeds. They can be kept in the fridge for about a week or frozen.

1 2 3



1 HOLD the pomegranate in your hand, then use a sharp knife to make 4-6 cuts all around the fruit from the stem to the other end, making sure you only cut through the skin.



2 SLICE off the top to reveal the bright red seeds. Hold the fruit in both hands over a small bowl to catch any juice, then pull apart the sections using your hands.



3 TAKE a section in both hands, then push out the seeds into the bowl. Peel off any pieces of membrane that are still covering the seeds. Discard the peel and membrane.

IN THE KITCHEN

With their sweet-tart flavour, pomegranate seeds can be used in both sweet and savoury dishes.

- ✦ **SPRINKLE** on cereal.
- ✦ **TOP** pancakes or waffles with maple syrup and seeds.
- ✦ **USE** to make bruschetta. Spread goat's cheese on toasted bread, then top with pomegranate seeds and a little parsley.

- ✦ **MAKE** a salsa with pomegranate seeds, avocado, kiwifruit, chilli and coriander, and serve on meat or fish.
- ✦ **TEAM** with duck, chicken and lamb.
- ✦ **MIX** with other fruit for a smoothie.
- ✦ **SPRINKLE** over vanilla ice-cream, sorbet or yoghurt.
- ✦ **TOSS** into a mixed-berry fruit salad.
- ✦ **ADD** a few arils to a glass of your favourite sparkling wine.



Roasted cauliflower with pomegranate



Tuna with parsley and pomegranate salad



H See these recipes online
Visit handyman.net.au/pomegranate-recipes

Chilled lime cheesecake

PREPARATION TIME 30 minutes,
plus 3 hours setting

COOKING TIME 5 minutes

Ingredients

2 tablespoons canola oil
2 tablespoons brown sugar
½ cup wholemeal plain flour
½ cup almond meal
600g silken tofu, drained
⅔ cup low-fat natural yoghurt
⅓ cup icing sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 tablespoon finely grated
lime zest
2 tablespoons lime juice
1 tablespoon powdered
clear gelatin
1 pomegranate

1 COMBINE the oil, brown sugar, flour and almond meal in a non-stick frying pan. Stir over medium heat for 5 minutes until golden brown. Transfer the mixture to a plate and put in the fridge to cool.

2 PUT the tofu, yoghurt, icing sugar, vanilla extract, lime zest and lime juice in a food processor, and process until smooth.

3 POUR 2½ tablespoons cold water into a small heatproof bowl. Sprinkle with the gelatin. Leave for 1 minute until softened. Sit the bowl in a larger bowl of boiling water, then whisk until the gelatin dissolves. Stir a spoonful of the tofu mixture into the gelatin, then add to the tofu mixture. Process briefly to combine.

4 LAY a large sheet of baking paper over the base of an 18cm springform cake tin, then clip the side into place, leaving the excess paper sticking out of the side of the tin. Lightly oil the side. Pour in the tofu mixture, then sprinkle over the almond mixture. Refrigerate for 3 hours until set.

5 REMOVE the seeds from half the pomegranate. Extract the juice from the other half with a citrus squeezer.

6 RUN a non-serrated knife around the tin to loosen the cheesecake. Invert onto a serving plate, remove the side of the tin and peel off the paper. Spoon the pomegranate seeds over the cheesecake and drizzle with the pomegranate juice. Cut into wedges and serve immediately. ✨

Serves 8-10

RECIPE TIP

This no-bake cheesecake doesn't actually contain any cheese. Instead, silken tofu makes a light and creamy filling.

Pot up a herb garden

Grow your own flavourings and garnishes in any outdoor space

Fresh herbs are garden all-stars. They're easy to grow and care for, look good, smell great and save you money at the supermarket. No matter where you live, you can grow herbs in every season.

Whether it's in a courtyard, on a balcony or in a small garden or big backyard, herbs will thrive in hanging baskets, planters, pots and other containers.

Grow all your favourite herbs for cooking in containers.

Group herb pots in a decorative planter for a lush display.



Select the position

Herbs love growing in pots and many varieties, such as mint and oregano, can take over a garden bed, so it's best to contain them. Give potted herbs the right location in good-quality potting mix and they'll thrive.

☀ **SUN AND SHADE** Many herbs, such as marjoram, fennel and thyme, like full sun, while others, such as catmint and coriander, prefer partial shade.

Determine how much sun your outdoor space gets during the year, and choose your plants accordingly.

☀ **INTENSE HEAT** In hot climates, give plants shade protection, as the heat can be too intense even if they like full sun in cooler zones.

🌬 **AIR CIRCULATION** Good air flow is essential, as humid conditions can create fungal problems. Avoid positions open to strong winds.



The right pot

The shape and size of herb pots or containers plays an important part in the success of the plant as both a crop and a landscape feature.

⊕ **AVOID** using lots of little pots, as they tend to make small spaces look cluttered and get lost in big areas.

The same pot in different sizes will give an area a unified look.

⊕ **MATCH** the habit and form of the herb to the container. Peppermint and thyme will spill over pot rims, while rosemary grows over a metre tall.

⊕ **CHOOSE** containers in textures and colours to complement the location.

TIP Go for the biggest practical pot, as the roots of herbs need space. ➤



H 10 essential cooking herbs

Visit handyman.net.au/top-10-herbs



Choose the material

The type of material a pot is made of will affect both the look and the portability of your herb garden.

✦ **TERRACOTTA** containers are popular, as they're practical, affordable and attractive, but they do dry out much faster than plastic pots.

✦ **LIMESTONE** and concrete pots make a big impact visually but are heavy and hard to move when planted up.

✦ **PLASTIC** pots are lightweight and come in a huge range of colours. As they're not porous, they hold moisture longer than concrete or terracotta.

Pots made from polyethylene and fibreglass are long lasting and waterproof, and they can also be frost-, UV- and scratch-resistant.



GROW TIP

It's worth investing in a good-quality potting mix for herbs as, over time, you'll have healthier and happier plants.



Firm potting mix around the roots of herbs with your hands.

PICK THE MIX

Using the right growing medium is vital when it comes to herbs.

Potting mix is better than garden soil, as it's designed for containers and provides just the right balance between holding water and giving good drainage.

At the nursery, you'll find various organic mixes that are tailored to different situations,

such as hanging baskets, and to different varieties, such as herbs and vegetables.

Look for the Australian Standard logo and ticks on the bag, which indicate the quality of the mix and identify various ingredients.

These can include a wetting agent to stop the mix drying out too fast, vermiculite to keep it lightweight, and a slow-release fertiliser.



Watering

Most herbs like to be kept moist, but they also need to be allowed to dry out between waterings so they're not left standing with damp roots.

A quality potting mix provides good drainage, while drainage holes in the base of a pot allow excess water to escape.

To make watering easy, buy a colourful watering can that's easy to find, fill and carry. Keep it out of direct sun so it lasts longer.

Give them food

Herbs in pots should be planted in a mix containing a slow-release fertiliser and also fed regularly.

A soluble all-purpose fertiliser is ideal for container-grown herbs. It will contain all the necessary nutrients to promote healthy roots, flowers and leaves, while helping herbs grow into vigorous, sturdy plants.

Make sure you always follow the dosage directions on the packet.

It's also a good idea to use a liquid seaweed product at planting time to help minimise transplant shock, and add it to your watering regimen. ➤

DESIGN TIP

Experiment with unusual containers such as old colanders, buckets and wicker baskets, adding drainage holes if needed.



Herbs will grow more quickly if fertilised.

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Potted perennials

Give herbs a check once a year and if they have outgrown their container, repot them into a bigger one. For annuals, discard and start again.

✦ **REMOVE** the plant from the pot carefully, and put the old potting mix in the compost. Fill the base of a larger pot with fresh potting mix.

✦ **TRIM** the roots of the plants if they look congested, and cut off any old stems to give the plant a tidier shape. This light trimming will also help to promote new growth.

✦ **REPLANT** the herb in the new pot and backfill with potting mix, gently firming it down with your hands as you go. Water in well.



Create a vertical kitchen garden with herb baskets.



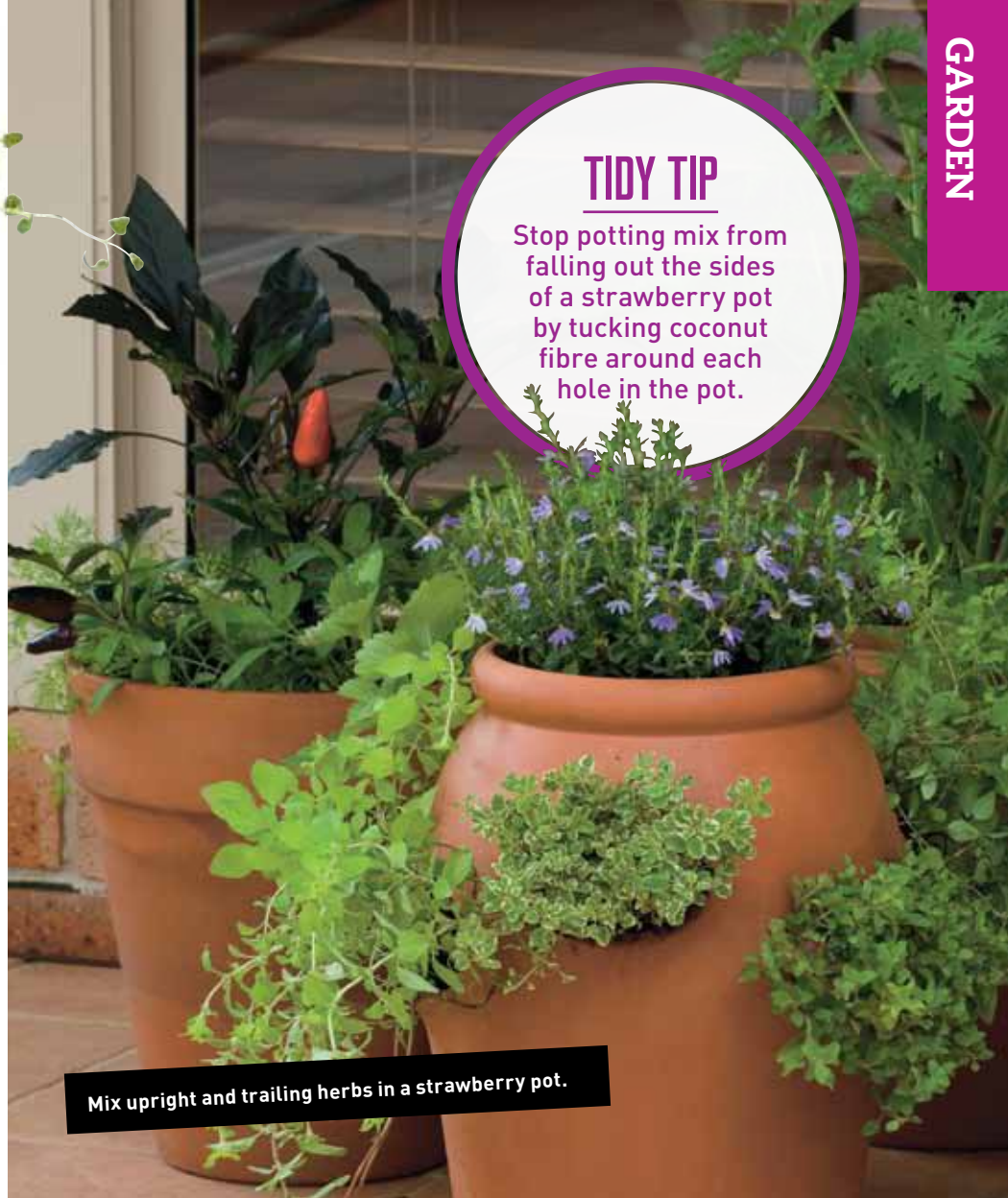
MIXED HERB PLANTER

A strawberry pot makes a great mixed herb planter. Experiment with the combination of herbs and their positioning to get a look you like.

Use trailing varieties such as thyme and variegated and common oregano in the side holes, and a flowering plant with an upright habit in the top.

What you need

Large terracotta strawberry pot
Potting mix
Hand trowel
Trailing herbs
Flowering plant



TIDY TIP

Stop potting mix from falling out the sides of a strawberry pot by tucking coconut fibre around each hole in the pot.

Mix upright and trailing herbs in a strawberry pot.

1 2 3



1 Add the mix

Use a hand trowel or scoop to fill the strawberry pot with potting mix until it comes to just beneath the level of the first hole. Remove the first herb from its container and tease out the roots to loosen the mix. Gently ease the roots into the lowest hole in the pot.



2 Position the plants

Add more potting mix to the pot, firming it with your hand to cover the roots of the first herb. Fill to the level of the next hole with potting mix and add another herb. Repeat to plant the rest of the holes, leaving enough space for a plant at the top.



3 Plant the centrepiece

Add an upright flowering annual or perennial at the top of the planter as a centrepiece. Position the pot in a sunny spot, then water in well.

TIP We used fanflower (*Scaevola aemula*), but any plant with an upright habit will work. ➤



HANGING HERB BALL

This mini hanging kitchen garden looks impressive but is easy to create DIY. You just join two baskets to make a ball and plant through the sides.

When choosing the herbs for the ball, think about their leaf shapes, colours and growing habits.

For this ball, a mixture of trailing and upright varieties were used, with broad-leaved herbs contrasting with plants featuring feathery foliage.

Add plants for their scent as well as form and colour, and consider using flowers for a pop of colour. Include easy-grow herbs like basil, parsley and chives for their versatile culinary value.



Combine form and function in a culinary masterpiece and hang it on a deck, patio or verandah

KEEP IT HEALTHY

- **SELECT** a secure position to hang the ball, as it will become heavy once it has been watered.
- **HANG** the ball in a position that receives only morning sun for 1-2 weeks until the roots are established, then move it to a sunny spot away from drying winds, as herbs love the sun.
- **FEED** the ball fortnightly with a soluble all-purpose fertiliser to help it grow quickly.
- **WATER** daily at the top and use a spray bottle to mist the foliage so the herb ball gets a good drink every day.

1 2 3



1 Prepare the baskets

Support a wire basket on a stand with the basket liner in position. Wet the liner so it expands, then make a series of holes with a piercing tool, forcing the fibre outwards. Protect each herb with plastic wrap, pushing them into the holes. Repeat for the second basket.



2 Cut the cardboard

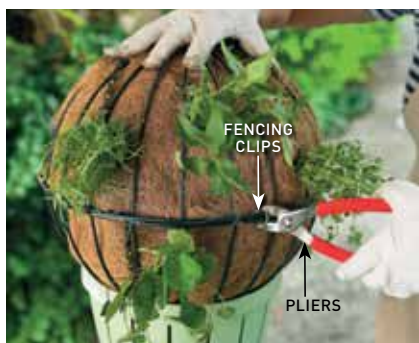
Blend potting mix with perlite and vermiculite, then part-fill each basket. Press the mix around the roots, then position a plant through the base of the top basket. Cut out a cardboard cover for the top basket, pierce several holes in it and secure with wire.



Go for a mix of colour, taste and scent in the ball.

SAFETY TIP

Never attach the hooks or brackets for hanging planters or baskets to crumbling brickwork or rotting timber posts or beams.



3 Assemble the ball

Position the top basket on the base basket on the stand, aligning the rims to create the ball. Use wire fencing clips and pliers or twisted wire to join the baskets. For maximum strength, attach the hanging chains to the rims of both baskets.

What you need

2 metal hanging baskets
2 coconut fibre basket liners
Perlite
Vermiculite
Potting mix
Plastic wrap
Wire
Corrugated cardboard
Hanging chain set
Selection of herbs



➤ **APPLY** a seal to porous pots to reduce moisture loss, or buy glazed ceramic pots, which are not as porous as untreated concrete, terracotta or limestone.

➤ **BUY** lightweight fibreglass or polyethylene containers so you can move the pots around a deck or patio.

➤ **USE** static or movable stands on castors to raise pots and make moving them or sweeping the floor easier. Ensure the pots are secure and won't move around on windy days.

➤ **CHOOSE** heavy or large pots in areas regularly exposed to strong winds, such as rooftop gardens and balconies.

➤ **CONSIDER** the scale of the container, as a huge pot will look totally out of place squeezed onto a tiny balcony.



➤ **STAND** pots on saucers to hold any excess water and stop surface staining on tiles or decking, but make sure you give the roots a chance to dry out. ❖

What's on this month

FREE Kids' D.I.Y. Workshops

» Saturday 30 April WOODWORK Make something special out of wood	» Sunday 15 May WOODWORK Make something special out of wood
» Sunday 1 May FUN MOSAICS Learn a new skill and create a mosaic	» Saturday 21 May FUN WITH PAINT Have fun with bright coloured paint
» Saturday 7 May MOTHER'S DAY Come and make something special for Mum	» Sunday 22 May GARDEN CRAFT Create a masterpiece for your garden at home
» Sunday 8 May MOTHER'S DAY Come and make something special for Mum	» Saturday 28 May WALL ART Make your very own decoration to hang on display
» Saturday 14 May DECORATOR Learn some new decorating skills to create art	» Sunday 29 May NATURE Get creative and make a living masterpiece

Our workshops are held every weekend at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm. For specific topics, ask instore or go to bunnings.com.au. If you live in South Australia, speak to a team member or visit bunnings.com.au for details about our great one-on-one D.I.Y. workshops. These workshops run from 10am to 4pm each Saturday and Sunday.

FREE Adult D.I.Y. Workshops

» Saturday 30 April and Sunday 1 May BASIC D.I.Y. SKILLS Learn the basic skills to start your own project	» Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 May GARDENING D.I.Y. Learn to grow herbs, plants and vegetables
» Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 May D.I.Y. PROJECT WEEKEND Get advice and handy tips for your project	
» Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 May FLOORING D.I.Y. Learn the skills to lay your own flooring	
» Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 May STORAGE SOLUTIONS D.I.Y. Learn to organise a garage, bedroom or kitchen	

For more information on other instore events or to book, visit bunnings.com.au/yourstore



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NEXT ISSUE

RENOVATE

Repair and replace kitchen surfaces for an easy DIY makeover.

PLUS Clever storage ideas to create space.

BUILD

Make over the garage or workshop with handy storage solutions.

PLUS Install a new back deck step-by-step.

GARDEN

Plant liliums now for a show-stopping floral display next summer.

PLUS How to grow African violets.

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



POP QUIZ!

Name these trees

With their colourful autumn foliage, can you identify these trees? The answers are at the bottom of the page

Why leaves change colour

Foliage colour is determined by pigments, which are naturally produced by leaf cells.

The three pigments that colour foliage are chlorophyll, carotenoid and anthocyanin.

In summer, trees use sunlight to convert water and carbon dioxide into sugar, known as photosynthesis.

Chlorophyll is what makes the leaves green and, as the days shorten, the trees respond to the decreasing sunlight by stopping production of it.

The carotenoid pigment then shows through, giving the leaves their yellow and orange shades.

Protective anthocyanins are also produced so the tree can recover nutrients before the leaves fall off.

ANSWERS 1 SUGAR MAPLE 2 OAK 3 JAPANESE MAPLE 4 CREPE MYRTLE 5 LIQUIDAMBAR 6 CHINESE TALLOW 7 SMOKE BUSH 8 POPLAR

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