

36

PAGES OF BATHROOM FIXES & INSPIRATION

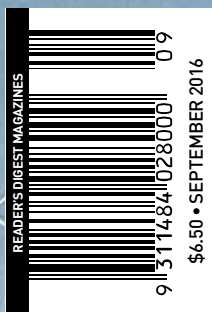
AUSTRALIAN

GREEN UP THE BALCONY ^{page 134}

Handyman

RENOVATEEXPERT TRICKS TO GET
TOP DOLLAR AT AUCTION**GARDEN**SOLUTIONS FOR
SHADY PLACES**BUILD**CLASSIC LAP-AND-CAP
TIMBER FENCECheck out
this reno
p50

Design

HOW TO GET YOUR DREAM
BATHROOM ON A DIY BUDGET

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tuscanpath.com.au



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BATHROOM SPECIAL



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY
STEVE PERRIOTT

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to *Handyman* p105

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GET THE LOOK

LOVE THE COVER?

Design a luxurious bathroom around a bold and shapely freestanding tub

MAIN PICTURE STEVE PERRIOTT

Transform a tired bathroom into a modern oasis by pairing marble wall tiles and a bespoke timber vanity with a black tub and tapware.

Vibrant artwork and linens are easy to update and infuse the space with personality. Lush plants, scented candles and a bath tray create a resort-style feel without the hefty price tag.



Kmart Blue 75cm Circular Canvas with Abstract Print, \$14. kmart.com.au



Devil's Ivy Hanger, \$24 for a 20cm pot, from nurseries.



Waxworks Citronella Vintage Jar Candle, \$6. waxworkworks.com.au

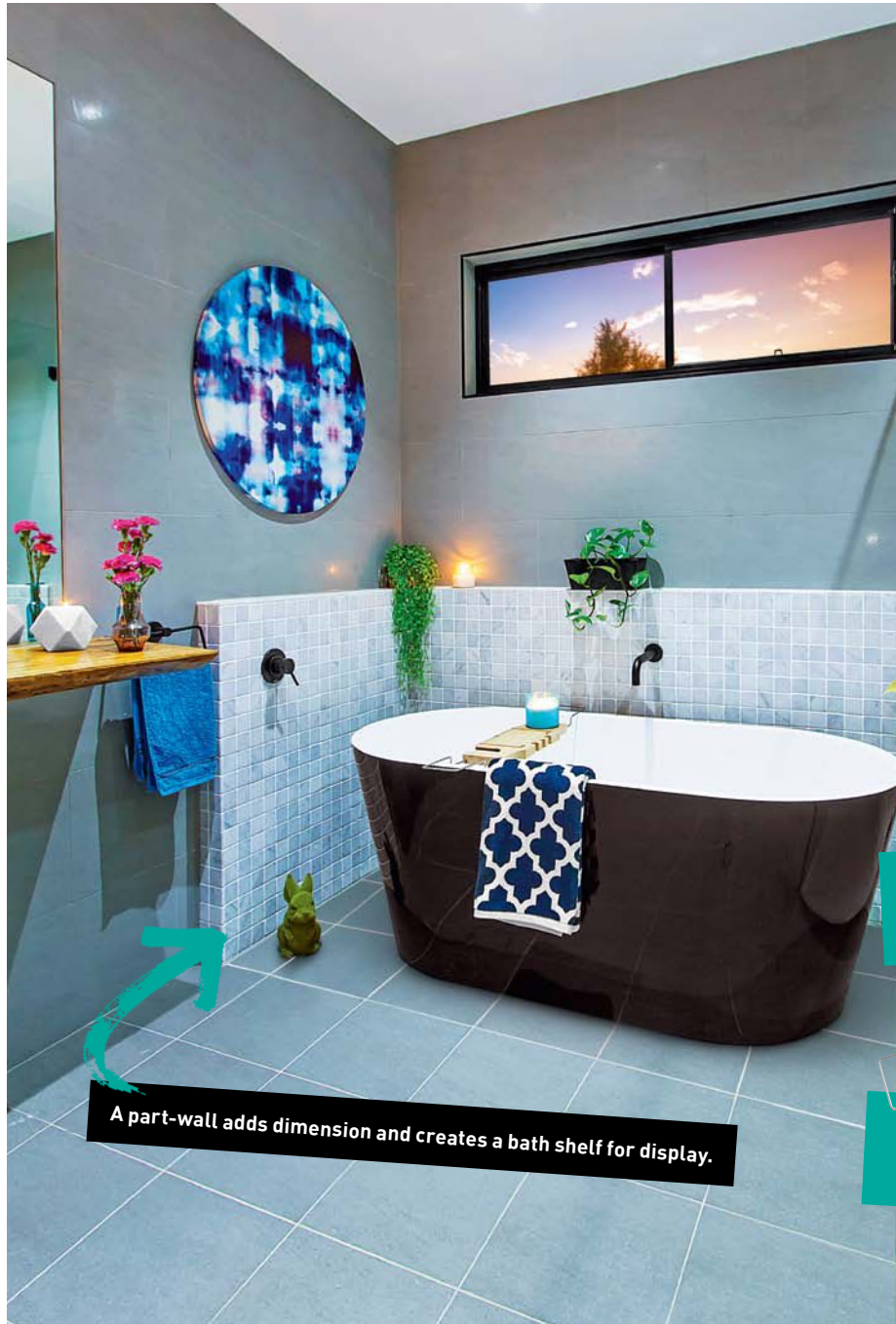


Ovela Bamboo Bath Caddy, \$36. kogan.com.au



Eden 25cm Green Earth Trough Plastic Pot in Charcoal, \$9. edenbrand.com

A part-wall adds dimension and creates a bath shelf for display.





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Goodbye Lee

This month, the team at *Australian Handyman* says a fond but sad goodbye to our Managing editor Lee Dashiell.

After nine years with the magazine he'll be missed, so join us in wishing him all the best.



THIS ISSUE

The bathroom is probably the most important room in the home after the kitchen, and can be as costly to renovate, so this month we've put together a special section.

For design inspiration, check out the beautiful bathrooms featuring the latest trends, from page 23.

But if you want give a bathroom with good bones but little style a new

EDITOR'S LETTER

look for less than \$1300, the story on page 32 is for you. The trick is to change the taps and towel rails, then add colour with towels and plants.

And check out the real-life reno featured on our cover. It's a great example of how you can turn a tired bathroom into a modern oasis.

Spring is finally here

To celebrate spring, we have lots of ways to get into gardening, whether you have a big yard or tiny balcony.

For instant colour after winter, fill beds and pots with annuals. We have design ideas and lists of what to plant, on page 126.

If you want greenery but don't have much room, see our urban garden ideas to make high-rise horticulture simple, on page 134.

Moving house made easy

Handyman project editor Adam Woodhams recently moved from Sydney to Brisbane.

And he used the experience to write a foolproof guide to relocating. See page 66 for Adam's top tips to make your next move stress-free.

Enjoy the issue,

THE HANDYMAN TEAM



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

If you're planning a reno or a room revamp, check out the Woodhouse range of Edgeline Radiata Mouldings (woodhouse-edgeline.com.au).

A paint job and new trim is the quickest and easiest way to update interiors DIY, and the white-primed Edgeline skirting and architraves are priced from just \$3 per lineal metre.



Architrave, 66 x 18mm.



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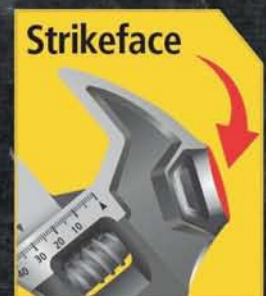
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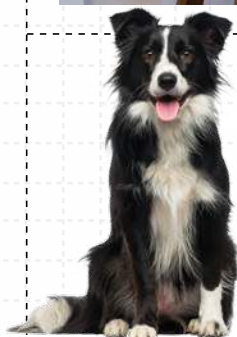


Kitchen revamps



**Outdoor living
inspiration**

FAST FACT



Australia has more pets than people, with 25 million animals in 63% of homes.

PICTURES ISTOCK

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rbsellars.com.au

SPRING GARDENING

Prep the garden for the growing season with these clever tools

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

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uvwraps.com.au



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homecare.com.au



Digit defender

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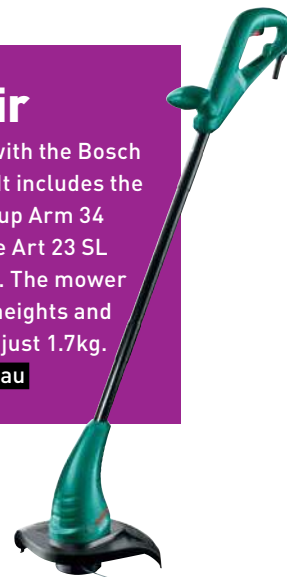




Power pair

Manicure the lawn with the Bosch Garden Pack, \$199. It includes the easy-to-store, fold-up Arm 34 Lawn Mower and the Art 23 SL Grass Line Trimmer. The mower has five adjustable heights and the trimmer weighs just 1.7kg.

bosch-garden.com.au



Root remover

Take out troublesome plants using the Fiskars Xact Weed Puller, \$74. The ergonomic design grabs from the root, removing the need to bend, kneel or use chemicals. An ejection system then releases the weed into a bin.

fiskars.com.au



Careful clipper

Use Cyclone Floral Snips, \$14, for all your light trimming jobs. They feature a handle lock for safety and comfortable polypropylene grips. Weighing just 110g, the snips have durable steel blades and 120mm handles.

cyclone.com.au

Hedge honer

Tidy up in the garden with the Ozito Power X Change 18V Grass Trimmer and Shear, \$79, skin only. Ideal for edging lawns and trimming shrubs, it has a tool-free, quick-change system.

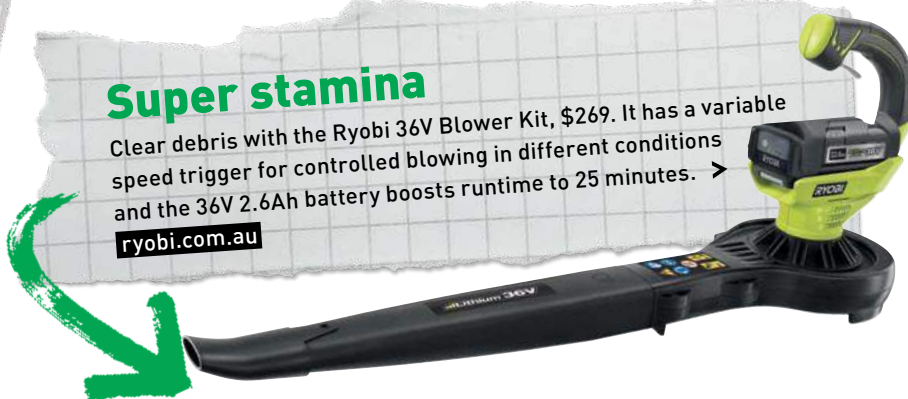
ozito.com.au



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tuscanpath.com.au



Paper process

Create your own biodegradable seedling starters from recycled newspaper using the Burgon & Ball Eco Pot Maker, \$49. It makes three different pot sizes and is made from sustainable wood.

biome.com.au



Worm waste

Turn scraps into soil with the Tumbleweed Worm Feast In-ground Worm Farm, \$30. It has an easy locking lid and is simple to install and relocate in garden beds.

tumbleweed.com.au



Easy edibles

Stop stalling and start a veggie garden using Mr. Fothergill's Roll 'n' Grow Garden, \$20. It is a 2m long biodegradable paper mat pre-sown with seeds and comes in three varieties. Just roll out, cover with soil and water well.

mrfothergills.com.au



Floating flora

Transform a bare wall into a lush garden with the Holman GreenWall Vertical Garden Kit, \$69. It has eight pots per kit and an in-built watering system.

holmanindustries.com.au

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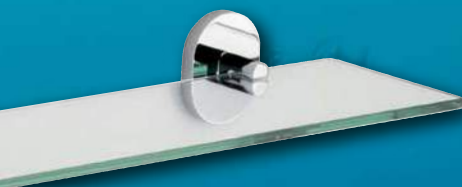
soap dish

4822388



towel rail

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glass shelf

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Family friendly

Keep a pair of Smiggle Graphic Scissors, \$4, on hand for crafting with the kids. Available in five fun-coloured designs, they feature stainless steel blades.



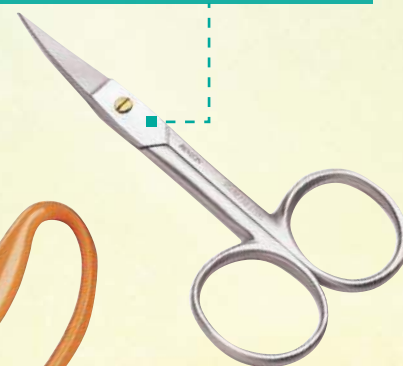
Serrated shear

Have a pair of Wiss Core General Purpose Scissors, \$22, on hand to trim paper, fabric, cardboard and plastic. The titanium-coated blades are serrated for smooth cutting.



Talon trimmer

Try the Revlon Nail Scissors, \$16, for a DIY manicure. The fine, curved blades make precise trimming easy and are crafted from stainless steel for a sharp, durable design.



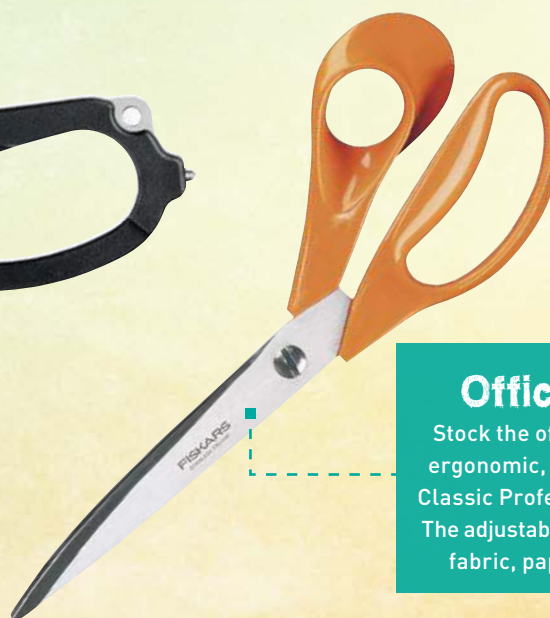
Survival snip

Take the Leatherman Raptor Shears with Holster, \$186, on every trip. Developed with emergency service professionals, they feature survival tools such as a ring cutter and ruler.



Office original

Stock the office with the original ergonomic, right-handed Fiskars Classic Professional Scissors, \$60. The adjustable screw-on blades cut fabric, paper and light metal.



Make the right cut, whether you're being crafty with the kids, pruning plants or trimming your nails

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Comfy cropper

Make cutting easy on your hands with the J Burrows Comfort Grip Scissors, \$3. Designed for use in the office or home, they're suitable for right- or left-handed users.



Training tool

Use the Maped Koopy Scissors, \$5, to teach kids over five how to use this tool. Comfort-grip handles automatically spring open after each cut to demonstrate the technique.



Lock lopper

Style hair like a professional at home using the Manicare Hair Dressing Scissors, about \$21. Featuring 24k gold-plated handles, they're designed for longevity.



Careful cutter

Protect kids' hair and fingers from injury with the Celco Kids Plastic Safety Scissors, \$1, which feature a blunt tip. They're ideal for cutting paper and come in various colours.



Plant pruner

Harvest herbs using the Fiskars Take Apart Garden Scissors, \$16. The serrated blades keep a tight grip to give a clean cut, and also separate to make cleaning easy.



Bone blades

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BATHROOM SPECIAL

BATHING BEAUTIES

A pit-stop destination or a place to linger longer, a bathroom should deliver both on form and function

WORDS LYNN LEWIS

PICTURE ALAMY



BATHROOM SPECIAL



A light-filled room with a view brings the outdoors in.

All the design elements, from basins to mirrors and windows, are generous in scale, suiting the size and aspect of the room.



Mood magic

A bathroom, like most other rooms in your home, can very quickly go from tidy to messy in the general hurly-burly of the day.

So, working out a layout that can cope with the traffic and makes maximum use of the space is top priority, along with choosing design elements that comfort and cosset.

For a small room, wall-hung vanities and toilets, and wall recesses for storage of toiletries, maximise space, while mirrored cabinet doors, frameless shower screens and carefully placed lighting trick the eye size-wise.

If you have a great outdoor view, make it a focal point. When natural light and a view are limited, play up the drama of a darker, cocoon-like space and it will be a pleasure to relax in. ➤

PICTURES ALAMY



ABOVE A black pedestal basin and floor are dramatically offset by the bright, white features and gleaming mirror and chrome finishes.



Soften the impact of a light and dark look with a bright lampshade



A claw-foot bath with a matt-finish exterior adds luxury.

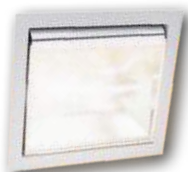
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BATHROOM SPECIAL



Reflective surfaces add depth and the illusion of space.



High-impact gloss and warm-coloured textures are a great match

Think colours and what you are happy to live with for a long period of time in your bathroom.

A combination of black and white is always neat as a button, spelling sparkling and contemporary, and provides a backdrop to just about any colour you love for towels, bath mats and decorative touches.

Or, stick with the black-and-white theme and keep everything in the family for a more streamlined look.

Team white fixtures and fittings with golden or dark chocolate-hued timber for a warmer vibe. ➤



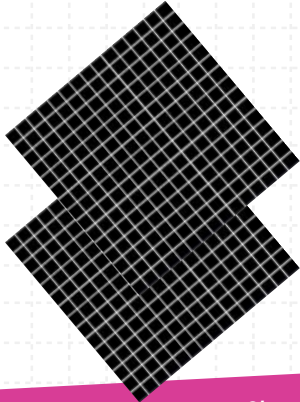
Soft lighting creates a warmth and intimacy in a room where comfort and pampering are key.

PICTURES ALAMY

GET THE
LOOK



Brilliant Lighting
Timber Axiom Pendant, \$416.
brilliantlighting.com.au



Cotto Tiles 19 x 19mm Gloss
Black Mosaic Tile Sheet,
about \$6. bunnings.com.au



Phalaenopsis Orchid,
120mm, about \$30, from
nurseries or florists.



Oxfam Coconut Scented
Candle in Glass, \$30.
oxfamshop.org.au



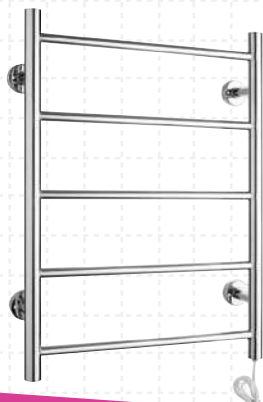
Mondella WELS 5-star
Vivace Basin Mixer, \$215.
mondella.com.au



Boutique Bamboo
Table Mirror, \$21.
bunnings.com.au



Naleon Ultimate Chrome
Two-tier Corner Shelf,
\$70. naleon.com.au



Estilo Five-bar Wall
Mounted Heated Towel Rail,
\$89. estilo.com.au

Avoid feeling like this...



Choose taps that
come with these...

ONLY
SUPPLIED
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GUARANTEED
TO FIT



Find out more
ezyfix.com.au

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BATHROOM SPECIAL



Bring in warmth with gold-hued timber, wicker and towelling.

Rugged, textured finishes add interest in a clean-lined space with soft downlighting.



Texture mix

Consider the materials you'd like around you, and mix up textures.

A rough-hewn wall contrasts with sleek timber and a shag-pile rug, while a matt-finish bath looks glamorous against glossy paintwork and shiny chrome tapware.

Whether it's timber, metal, ceramic or glass, the material you choose must be able to withstand moisture, as no matter how effective your ventilation, there are going to be splashes and spills, and damp towels draped about.

A cold room is a definite no-no, so if the budget can extend to under-floor heating, so much the better. If not, consider a combination heat, light and exhaust fan system.

And including a heated towel rail is a worthwhile splurge. After all, creating a bathroom that's a soothing comfort zone should be every renovator's prime objective. ➤



Practicalities and pampering are ideal teammates in a bathroom



A patterned floor echoes the squared texture of the glass panelling.



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BUILDING TRUST





BATHROOM SPECIAL

**GET THE
LOOK**

Natural light and access to fresh air are ideal in a steamy, damp bathroom environment.



Rick McLean's 1800 x 900 x 600mm White Modern Acrylic Freestanding Bath, \$1692. rickmcleans.com.au



Caroma Sahara Chrome Shower Mixer, \$153. caroma.com.au



Pride Industries Ezyfix Revolution Air Shower, \$149. prideindustries.com.au



HPM Ducted Four-lamp Instant Heat 3-in-1, \$249. hpm.com.au



A deep bathtub set against rich timber creates a warm and welcoming cocoon.



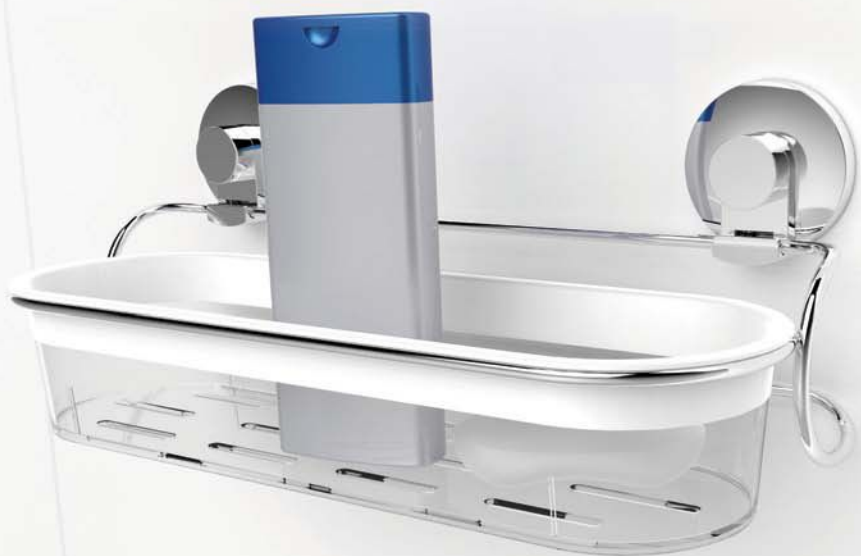
Award 1200mm Orca Floor Standing Vanity, \$575. awardbrands.com.au



The perfect bathroom is a sanctuary that caters to our busy lifestyles

XPRESSIONS Bathroom accessories

Stainless steel for maximum
rust resistance



■ double corner basket



■ dental station



■ medium shelf

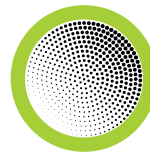


■ vanity mirror



■ soap holder

works on
**textured
surfaces**



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BATHROOM SPECIAL

QUICK FIXES

Make an old bathroom look like new with these simple and easy solutions

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH STYLING ARTEMIS GOUROS
MAIN PICTURES SUE FERRIS

Everyone dreams of a brand-new bathroom, but once you add up the cost of new fixtures and tradies to handle the plumbing, the bill can easily run into the thousands.

If the budget won't stretch that far, you can refresh the bathroom by

installing new towel rails, shelves and hooks DIY, and resealing fixtures to prevent further problems.

A new showerhead and basin set will make a big impact for minimal outlay, and a plumber will charge about \$200 to install both.



Get the feel of a new bathroom by replacing small items and handling maintenance DIY

VANITY MAKEOVER

After a couple of decades of constant use, this vanity was showing its age.

The tapware was chipped and scratched and the silicone sealing the gap between the vanity and the wall was flaking off, allowing moisture to get behind and cause mould.

To update the vanity, a plumber removed the old basin set and installed a new chrome model. The old silicone was replaced DIY with SikaSeal Kitchen and Bathroom Silicone Sealant, \$10 (sikaretail.com.au).

COSTS

\$700 FIXES
\$200 TRADIES
\$355 EXTRAS
\$1255 TOTAL

Maidenhair Fern, \$10, from nurseries.

After

The vanity is transformed with new taps and sealant.

Before



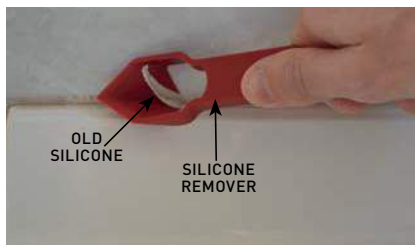


Dorf El Toro Cross Basin Set, \$148.
dorf.com.au

Boutique Bamboo Soap Dispenser, \$16.
awardbrands.com.au

Flexi Fix Esher Tumbler and Holder, about \$34.
evolvelifewares.com.au

1 2 3



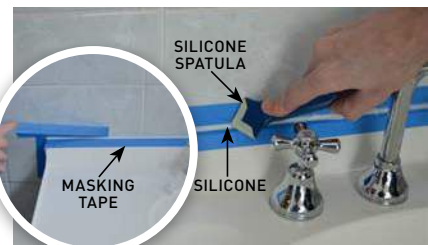
1 Remove old silicone

Use a plastic silicone remover to peel off silicone by pulling the angled blade towards you and scraping residue with the flat blade. Carefully cut away deeper silicone using a utility knife, then wipe the surface clean.



2 Apply new sealant

Tape either side of the joint, 5mm from the edge. Cut the nozzle at a 45° angle, then apply using a caulking gun, pushing the nozzle forward as you squeeze the trigger to push the silicone into the gap.



3 Smooth the bead

Dip a rounded silicone spatula in soapy water, then smooth the bead by drawing the spatula towards you, wiping off excess silicone frequently. Remove the tape immediately to create a neat edge. ➤

BATHROOM SPECIAL

Dorf El Toro Shower Set, \$148.
dorf.com.au

Flexi Fix Esher Soap Dish and Holder, about \$35.
evolvelifewares.com.au

After

Replacing the damaged accessories and fittings modernises the shower.

Before

REFRESH THE SHOWER

To match the new basin tapware, a chrome showerhead and taps were installed. The rusty shelf was replaced with the Flexi Fix Esher 138mm Glass Shelf, \$66.

The soap dish mount had rusted, making the screws hard to remove.

The old screws were cut using a rotary tool and then extracted with pliers, and new wall plugs and a soap dish installed. ➤

1 2 3



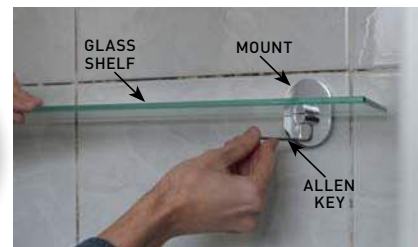
1 Remove the old shelf

Undo the grub screws underneath the mounts to remove the old shelf, then extract the old screws and remove the old mounting plates. Replace damaged wall plugs by tapping new ones into the holes and trimming to size.



2 Attach the mounting plates

Position the plate over the wall plugs, attaching with the screws. Check for level and reposition by loosening the screws. If the existing holes aren't suitable, apply masking tape and drill new holes using a tile bit.



3 Install the new shelf

Position the mounts over the mounting plate and tighten the grub screws. Slide the shelf into the mounts and use a tape measure to check it is centred, then tighten the grub screws using the supplied Allen key. ➤

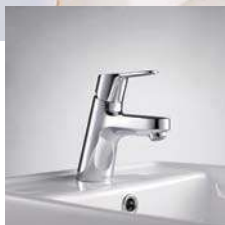
Inspiring bathroom collection

Caroma, Australia's most trusted named in bathrooms, introduces the Sahara Collection, **exclusive to Bunnings**.

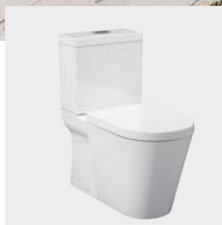
Everything about Sahara exudes quality, from its refined, contemporary style, to it's engineering in Australia for optimum efficiency and reliability.

The Sahara Collection works wonderfully together, across **tapware, mixers, shower, toilet and accessories**.

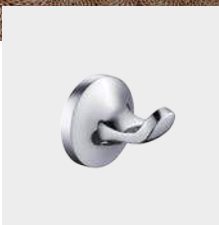
EXCLUSIVE TO BUNNINGS



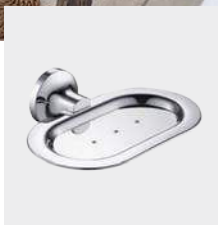
//01 Sahara Basin Mixer



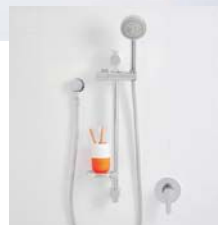
//02 Sahara Wall Faced Toilet Suite



//03 Sahara Robe Hook



//04 Sahara Soap Dish



//05 Sahara Rail Shower



//06 Sahara Shower Mixer

inspire
Caroma Sahara Collection

Available at
BUNNINGS



BATHROOM SPECIAL

PAINT THE WINDOWSILL

Over time, the moisture in the air can cause paint in the bathroom to peel or become mouldy, detracting from the look of the room.

This windowsill hadn't been repainted in years. A fresh coat in gloss white brightens up the space, and Taubmans Easycoat Anti-Bacterial Doors & Trim, about \$36 for 1L, helps to prevent mould (taubmans.com.au).

Before painting, prepare the surface by cleaning thoroughly to inspect the condition. Repair damage using filler before sanding and priming to prepare for paint.

Northcote Pottery Villa
200mm Graphite Pot, \$3.
northcotepottery.com

Flexi Fix Esher
Towel Ring, \$56.
evolvelifewares.com.au

Lorraine Lea Cooper
Orange Hand Towel,
\$12. lorrainelea.com

After
With a fresh coat of paint, the
windowsill looks like new.

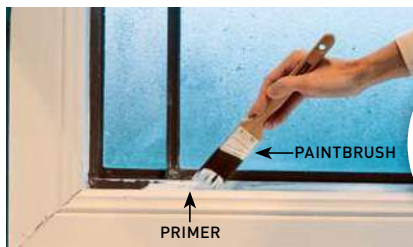


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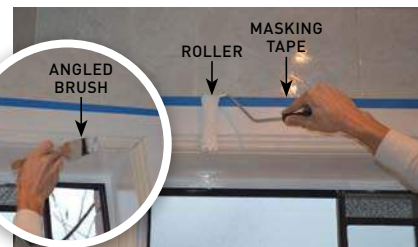
1 Remove old paint

Scrape away flaking paint with a paint scraper and fill any holes or cracks with timber filler. Sand the surface using a power sander and medium grit paper for flat surfaces, using a flexible sanding pad for details.



2 Prepare the surface

Clear away any dust and debris with a handheld vacuum cleaner and sugar soap wipes. Mask off the edges and hang a drop sheet to protect the wall and fixtures. Apply primer to the windowsill and allow to dry.



3 Apply new paint

Apply two coats of gloss paint to the windowsill, using an angled brush for details and to cut in at the edges, and a roller for flat surfaces.
TIP Remove the window pane to make the frame easier to paint.



Enzo Barelli
Bamboo Mat, \$27.
stefani.com.au

Lorraine Lea Cooper Orange
Bath Sheet, \$45, and
Charcoal Bath Towel, \$35.



Add hanging storage

To continue the chrome look throughout, the towel rail and robe hook were replaced with matching items using the existing mounts.

Extra storage was added on the door using the Naleon Ultimate Double Hook, \$15 (naleon.com.au).

Suction hooks easily attach to tiles and other smooth surfaces, but for porous surfaces such as timber or plasterboard, a self-adhesive plastic mounting disc is required. ⚠



Press the cap, then twist the knob to install.



IDEAL WINTON VINYL TILES

45 SERIES

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

7 YEAR
Domestic Warranty

They are suitable for
WET AREAS

SELF STICK
Easy Installation



Char-Brown Slate



Travertine Stone



Black Marble



Natural Wood Plank



Mocha Parquet



White Marble

30 SERIES

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

3 YEAR
Domestic Warranty

They are suitable for
WET AREAS

SELF STICK
Easy Installation



Black Diamond



Beige Stone



Charcoal Stone



Finger Parquet



Black & White Cheq



Grey / Blue Stone



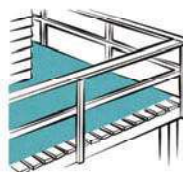
Green Slate



Strip Parquet

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www.ideal-diy-floors.com.au

Renovate on a budget

Give a bathroom a style injection with modern fixtures and a few clever fixes

WORDS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

When DIY blogger Melissa Darr moved into her house five years ago, the bathroom wasn't unbearable, but it wasn't entirely what she wanted either.

'The wall and floor tiles were pretty new, the vanity wasn't too daggy and it had newish feature tiles around the shower and bathtub,' says Melissa.

'But the gold edging on the shower screen and mirror was not to my taste and neither were the feature tiles.'

'The finish of the entire bathroom was kind of wanting.'

Melissa and her husband Bevan chose to give the walls a fresh coat of paint, leaving it at that until they had the time and money for a full reno.

In the meantime, they decided on what they wanted to overhaul and came up with a plan, which included replacing the toilet and vanity unit, installing a new shower screen and re-grouting the tiles.

Armed with a \$5000 budget and aiming to complete the work in just a couple of weeks, it was time to give the bathroom a fresh new look.



Melissa

EXPERT SECRETS

Use the money you've saved by DIYing to splurge on accessories and fittings.

Before





BATHROOM SPECIAL

BUDGET TIP

Sell any unwanted items from the reno, such as mirrors and vanities, and use the money to buy items for the new bathroom.

After

A cosmetic renovation makes the bathroom brighter, cleaner and more spacious.

Get more DIY from Melissa

Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com

THE RENO PLAN

- + INSTALL a new shower screen.
- + ADD new feature tiles above the bathtub and in the shower.
- + RE-GROUT the floor tiles.
- + FIX the cracked tiles in the shower.
- + REPLACE the toilet, vanity unit, towel rails and mirror.
- + CHANGE the tapware and accessories.
- + SEAL around the bathtub.
- + REPAINT the walls.
- + CREATE a feature piece. ➤

Add greenery anywhere with a DIY terrarium.



BATHROOM SPECIAL



After

The oak-look vanity provides everyday luxury on a budget.



Before

Replace the vanity

For the vanity, Melissa wanted something a bit different than the standard white floor cabinet.

She initially chose a wall-mounted vanity but had to compromise, as the drainage from the original vanity went through the floor and they didn't want to spend too much on plumbing.

They settled on an oak-look one with a white ceramic top.

'Choosing a coloured vanity was way out of my comfort zone, but I can honestly say I really am happy with our selection,' says Melissa.

Once the vanity was installed and a mirror attached to the wall, new tapware and towel rails were added.



Adding feature tiles

Knowing the existing neutral white and grey marble look would work well with just about any new colour scheme, Melissa and Bevan kept the original wall and floor tiles in place, removing only the blue and green feature tiles.

'Not stripping everything back to the bare bones saved us lots of money,' says Melissa.

To remove the feature tiles without damaging the surrounding wall, Bevan removed the grout along

the top and base of the feature tiles using the blade of a multi-tool.

He then gently hammered out the old feature tiles with a chisel and hammer, slowly working his way around the shower and other areas of the bathroom, before replacing them with a mosaic-design tile.

'I love these tiles in the shower. They really add a nice modern edge to the bathroom,' says Melissa.

'Although they weren't the cheapest tiles, they were definitely worth the investment.'



Mosaic tiles were installed in the shower recess.

Overhaul the shower

After replacing the feature tiles in the shower, Bevan also removed a number of cracked wall tiles in the recess, replacing them with new tiles.

'Sourcing the correct shade of white tiles for the shower was actually the most difficult part of the whole renovation,' says Melissa.

'We ended up buying three versions of the same tile to get the right shade. It still wasn't perfect, but we matched it the best we could.'

Once the tiling in the recess was done, a shower screen was installed by a window and door company.

'To give the feel of a frameless screen without the price tag, we chose a semi-frameless one,' says Melissa.

'We decided on a matt-silver edging around the screen, which flowed seamlessly with the rest of the bathroom. No more ugly gold.'

Adding a new showerhead and tapware completed the shower. ➤



Before



After

A modern screen brings the shower up to date.

When retiling a bathroom, it's important to add new waterproofing

Pixel Perfect



Full HD
1080

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CHANNELS 6 - 12

DAB+
DIGITAL RADIO

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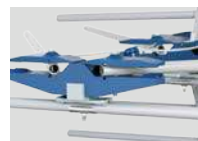


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Machine pressed front elements for extra strength

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antsig.com



BATHROOM SPECIAL

New feature tiles and stainless steel tapware bring a modern edge.

Revamp the bath

As with the other areas of the bathroom, the feature tiles were replaced in the wall above the bath.

New tapware was installed and a double towel rail was added. Bevan then sealed around the edge of the bath using silicone.

'Doing these little things refreshed the whole space and made it look as good as new again,' says Melissa.

DIY TIP

Use a frameless flat-profile mirror over the vanity instead of a medicine cabinet to give a streamlined look.



Repaint and re-grout

Having originally painted the bathroom the same colour as the rest of the house, Melissa now wanted to try something a little bit different on the walls.

'I was after a bit of a cooler colour in the bathroom to suit the grey and white marble floor tiles and the new marble mosaic feature tiles,' she says.

'After three or four test pots, we settled on a white with a really lovely soft grey tone to it.'

The paint job helped brighten up the areas of the bathroom, such as the toilet recess, that didn't get a lot of natural light.

Bevan decided to re-grout the floor and wall tiles, as they weren't being replaced, to bring them back to a near-new condition.



Re-grout tiles in a bathroom to refresh the look and save money



Grandeur Bath Towel
In Aqua, \$10.
target.com.au



Everton 900 x 900mm Polished
Bevel Edge Mirror, \$54.
everton.com.au



Dunlop Easy Clean White
Epoxy Grout Kit, \$66.
dunlopdij.com



Elevate Design Grow Hanging
Flower Pots By Anne Black, \$124
for two. hardtofind.com.au

Create a feature

The toilet suite was replaced with a new model, then Melissa decided to add visual interest to the bare alcove with a feature piece.

'We thought of adding a canvas print or a framed picture, but then we saw the idea of hanging plants on the internet, and I couldn't resist,' she says.

Melissa found three hanging pots, added plants, then hung them. 🌱

TOILET SEATS



Renew



The **TS-800** Toilet Seat is constructed with solid and durable PP Plastic with a smooth flowing design to suit most Toilet Suites.

Includes heavy duty PP Plastic bottom fixing Hinges.

The Silk Coating Finish assures easy cleaning and long life Gloss



SLOW CLOSE



Update

The **TS3800FS** Family Seat is an adult seat with a detachable Toilet Training Seat for young children.

An in built magnet in the lid holds the Toilet Training Seat in place until released. If the Toilet Seat is no longer required, simply detach by clicking it out.

- Assists in Toilet Training
- Child Seat secures in lid when not in use
- One button detaches entire seat for easy cleaning
- Child Seat is detachable if no longer required



SLOW CLOSE



Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

HARON INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD www.haron.com.au

DESIGN TIP

Accessorise a modern bathroom with organic materials, such as timber or wicker, to soften an all-white colour scheme.

After

The bright bathroom boasts ample storage and contemporary style.



Before

FROM RETRO TO REFRESHING

Updating the colour scheme and replacing the hardware modernises this dated bathroom

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERIE BARBER



While black and pink may have been a dashing colour scheme back in the day, it's certainly not going to win any design awards these days.

The dark colour scheme makes the room feel cramped, and despite being a relatively large space, storage is lacking.

On the plus side, the layout works fine, which means reno costs will be low, as there won't be any major plumbing work.

The reno challenge

With a budget of \$2000, a cosmetic refresh will neutralise the flamboyant colours and modernise the fixtures and fittings.

Hexagonal floor tiles still work well in a modern bathroom, so I'll retain them to keep costs down.

The pedestal basin will be upgraded to a wall-hung vanity to add extra storage space.

Finally, a timber bench, a coat of paint and a modern art print complete the transformation. ➤

FREE VIRTUAL MAKEOVER

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

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

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

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

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

SIX STEPS TO SUCCESS

BATHROOM SPECIAL

1 REPLACE THE VANITY

Lack of storage is a real problem, so I'll kill two birds with one stone by removing the pedestal basin and installing a wall-hung vanity.

The fresh white cabinets and a timber benchtop give the bathroom an instant modern lift.



Cibo Design 900mm Glee Vanity with White Basin, \$877. cibodesign.com.au

2 UPSIZE THE MIRROR

The 900mm wide vanity provides a lot more bench space, so I'll pair it with a mirror the same width.

Mirrors are a great way to bounce light around a room and make a space feel larger.

With a bigger budget, I would also install task lighting above the vanity.



Everton 900 x 750mm Polished Flat Edge Mirror, \$38. everton.com.au

3 PAINT THE SURFACES

The retro colour scheme just has to go, so I'll use specialty paints to update the gaudy black tiles and refinish the pink bath.

Together with a fresh coat of paint on the upper part of the wall, this will obliterate the offending colour scheme.



White Knight Tub & Basin Paint, \$84 for 500ml. whiteknightpaints.com.au

4 ADD NEW LIGHTING

Our white-washed bathroom now needs a colour lift and there's no better way to do that than with artwork and feature lighting.

As well as suiting the new look perfectly, a retro pendant light is also a nod to the original 50s' era bathroom.



Verve Design Tyler Pendant Lamp in Black, \$109. arlec.com.au

5 INSTALL A DOOR

The door handle not only needs an update, but I also want it to be lowered to give a more modern look.

You can pick up a new door and handle for under \$100 these days, so I'll just dispense with the old door and install a new one.



Corinthian Doors Readicote Internal White Flush Door, 2040 x 820 x 35mm, \$49. corinthian.com.au

6 UPDATE THE HARDWARE

Now it's time to replace all the old hardware, from the taps and towel rail to the soap dishes.

They may seem like insignificant details, but they're the key to a modern and coordinated fit-out.

I've opted for a square finish in this bathroom, but any contemporary look would work, as long as it's consistent throughout. ☺



Caroma Quatro Chrome Bath Wall Mixer, \$220. caroma.com.au



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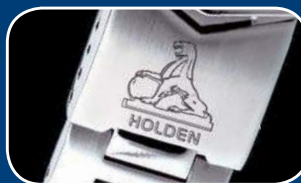
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Choose fixtures that suit your style to create a luxurious sanctuary

Aspacious, modern bathroom is at the top of the wish list for any homeowner, and is one of the best ways to add value.

Minimising costs makes a reno more achievable, so work with the layout you have to save on tradies.

Create the illusion of space with large-format tiles, contrasting with a tiled feature wall for visual interest.

Boost storage with a generous vanity and floating shelves, and consider adding a recessed niche in the shower for shampoo and soap.

- 1 Rick McLean's Designer Bathware Freestanding Tub, \$1126.
- 2 Mondella Concerto Rain Shower, \$245.
- 3 Mondella Concerto Heated Towel Rail, \$335.
- 4 Mondella Concerto Toilet Suite, \$279.
- 5 Cibo Design 900mm Slide Vanity, \$845.



If space permits, add a freestanding tub to turn the bathroom into a relaxing haven



BATHROOM SPECIAL



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



- ① Mondella Chrome Cadenza Amplify Mirror, \$39.90.
- ② Highgrove Frameless Glass Shower Panel Kit, \$224.
- ③ Mondella Chrome Cadenza Shower Set, \$63.12.
- ④ Mondella Chrome Cadenza Glass Corner Shelf, \$54.17.
- ⑤ Mondella Chrome Cadenza 230mm Three-hook Towel Bar, \$24.20.

- ① Forme Two-door Logan Shaving Cabinet, \$299.
- ② Mondella Resonance Pin Lever Basin Set, \$106.
- ③ Caroma Kari Wall Faced Toilet Suite, \$698.
- ④ Mondella Resonance 250mm Round Shower Head, \$115.
- ⑤ Mondella Resonance Floor Mounted Bath Spout, \$179.



DESIGN TIP

A tiled nib wall adds a different dimension and provides a shelf in the shower and splashback for the freestanding tub.

MODERN MAKEOVER

Rebuild a rundown bathroom with marble, timber and contemporary black finishes

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT PICTURES STEVE PERRIOTT



BATHROOM SPECIAL

After

Sleek and modern, the 2.3 x 2.95m room now features a freestanding bath and shower.

The bathroom in this family home was poorly planned and had seen better days. A dated pastel green bath dominated the room and mould had taken hold in the grout.

Before they moved in, builder Scott Manuelle (smconstructions.com.au) and his wife Alison spent \$10,000 and two weeks transforming it.

To keep costs down, the couple sourced a lot of the materials from eBay and Scott was able to complete most of the work with Alison's help.

Alison settled on a contemporary design and chose a black bathtub, tapware and fittings.

Marble tiles and a floating timber vanity completed the look. ➤



A bath with a dark exterior creates a focal point without absorbing all the light

Before





BATHROOM SPECIAL

To mount the elegant floating taps on the mirror, the plumbing had to be rejigged.



Careful planning will prevent delays or expensive mistakes during a renovation



Floating timber top

With plans to expand the house and use this room as a guest bathroom, Alison chose not to install a vanity with storage.

Having sourced a slab of spotted gum for a floating vanity, she coated the timber with a clear polyurethane finish to protect it from water damage.

To streamline the basin area, Alison decided to extend the mirror to meet the vanity top and mount the taps through it.

A black decorative waste pipe matches the tapware for a cohesive look.



TRADIE TIP

Have an electrician add an extra, separate circuit to the power box to support the energy needs of features such as in-floor heating.

Floor overhaul

As Scott began work, he discovered the original floor was poorly built, with the joists positioned too far apart.

To fix the problem, he had to reinforce it and put down compressed fibro before he could start installing the waterproofing and tiles.

Scott lay the in-floor heating coil himself, then had an electrician connect it to the mains power.

'I love the heating and it is very efficient. We only use it for an hour and a half in the morning and two hours at night, and it stays warm after you turn it off,' says Alison. ➤

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BATHROOM SPECIAL

The old green bath with shower was replaced with a frameless glass screen and separate tub.

The marble tile feature wall doubles as a shelf.

GET THE LOOK



Caroma Noir 1700 Freestanding Bath, \$2289. caroma.com.au

Caroma Black Liano Nexus Bath Shower Mixer, \$289.



Forme Organic Oval Countertop Basin, \$129. formeathroomcollection.com.au



Johnson Tiles 400 x 400mm Sorrento Olive Matt Ceramic Floor Tile, about \$43 for nine. johnsontiles.com.au

Methven Krome Matt Black Three-function Exposure Rail Shower, \$325. methven.com.au

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TILE THE BATHROOM FLOOR

DIY TIP

Multiply the width of the room by the length to determine the amount of tiles required, adding 10% extra for wastage.

Keep tradie costs down when renovating by tiling DIY

Laying floor tiles can be time consuming, but doing it yourself can significantly reduce the cost of a bathroom renovation. Luckily, it is a straightforward process for anyone with basic DIY skills.

When laying bathroom tiles, ensure the subfloor is professionally waterproofed before starting to avoid water damage down the track.

To lay tiles neatly, a reference point called a datum line is marked across the floor, creating a guide to keep the tiles aligned.

Once all the tiles are laid and the adhesive has cured, apply grout to fill the gaps and seal it using grout sealer to prevent discolouration.

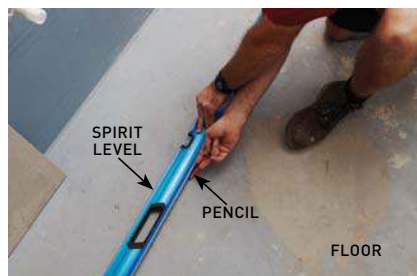
TIP Choose large-format tiles to make a small bathroom feel bigger.

What you need

- Tiles
- Tile adhesive
- Tile cutter
- Spacers
- Angle grinder
- Trowel
- Notched trowel
- Drill and mixing paddle
- Bucket and sponge
- Tape measure and pencil
- Spirit level
- Needle nose pliers



Ensure the tiles are symmetrical and spaced evenly by aligning them to a datum line



1 Mark your datum line

Use a spirit level, tape measure and pencil to mark the datum line. This reference point allows for the tiles of the same width to be laid around the edge of the bathroom so the tiling job looks symmetrical and to account for any uneven walls.



2 Test-fit the tiles

Before applying adhesive, lay out the tiles dry, using the datum line as a reference, to see what the finished floor will look like. Check the tiles are evenly spaced on every side of the wall, and if any are uneven, adjust the datum line as required.



3 Mix the adhesive

Pour water into a bucket and add powdered adhesive according to the instructions. Mix it using a drill and mixing paddle until it's the consistency of toothpaste. If the adhesive is too thick or too runny, add more water or powder and mix again.



BATHROOM SPECIAL

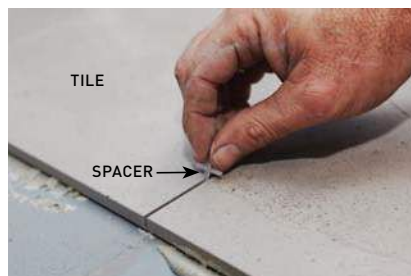


Watch the video 'How to Lay Floor Tiles' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



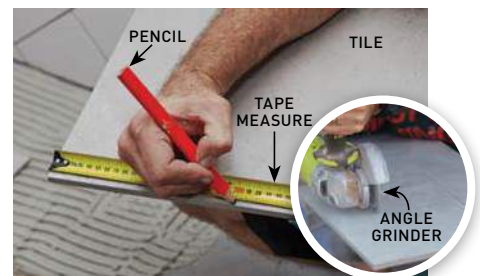
4 Lay the tiles

Use a trowel to apply adhesive between the datum line and the wall, then run a notch trowel across the adhesive. Apply adhesive to the edge of the tile that runs along the datum line, then position it on the adhesive and gently press down so it is flush with the line.



5 Insert the spacers

Lay a row of tiles across the floor, then wipe off excess adhesive with a damp sponge. Insert spacers between them to keep the grout lines straight, using two spacers for each side of a large tile. **TIP** Once the adhesive is dry, remove the spacers with needle nose pliers.



6 Cut tiles to size

Measure the distance between the wall and each laid tile at both ends of the tile. Mark this distance on a new tile and connect the marks with a line, then cut using a tile cutter. Mark the position of the floor waste, then plunge cut with an angle grinder.

SELL FOR TOP DOLLAR

Maximise profits on auction day with these makeover tips from an expert

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES GRANT NELSON

Getting the best price for your place at auction is the number one goal of any homeowner.

But in Australia's housing market, it is no longer enough to mow the lawn, give the interior a clean and hope for top dollar says Grant Nelson, owner of Sell Fast Property Makeovers.

'Even if you have a great location, the best agent and a sunny day for auction, nothing works better than carefully considered renovations before listing for sale,' he says.

According to Grant, most buyers are stretched to capacity these days and don't have extra funds for a big reno.

Instead, the onus is on the seller to make improvements that will generate the most interest at auction.

'It's about getting buyers interested so the auction will result in you getting the true value of your home,' he says.



Make a good impression

The importance of kerb appeal is well known and, when it comes to selling, this is a vital element to get right.

Creating an expectation, then meeting it, is the key to getting offers and confirming buyers at auction.

'The driveway to the door is your red carpet. It sets the standard for the property and gets the buyers excited for what's inside,' says Grant.

'Buyers have already been primed by the agent's online photos, which are often digitally enhanced, so they already have an expectation. If they get there and their expectations aren't met, there's no getting them back.

'Once your prospective buyer is disappointed at the door, that negative feeling will pick up speed and they'll ask themselves what else is wrong. You only get one chance at a first impression, so make it a good one.'

Grant suggests three main jobs for the exterior. A front garden tidy-up, backyard makeover, and pressure clean.

'Cleaning the driveway, courtyard pavers and around pools makes a huge, instant difference. It is a relatively low-cost application that is worth much more on return,' he says.

'A neat, easily maintained garden creates the impression that it is a well-cared-for home.' ➤

DIY TIP

A general clean-up of the garden is one of the most important ways to meet the expectations of potential buyers.



Before



After

A clean driveway, neat lawn and tidy yard set a good standard.

Concentrate on essentials

Getting the basics right is key before selling, and Grant says there is huge value in clever, targeted improvements, with painting and flooring the most effective jobs you can do.

'A fresh paint job is going to bring attention to the flooring, which is likely to be as tired as the paintwork, so don't do one without the other,' he says.

'Together, these two elements make a big difference, and if you can only stretch to the minimum, just do these.'

If you can spend more, kitchens and bathrooms are the big-ticket items.

'Buyers love a renovated kitchen and bathroom, but it doesn't need to be high end. Try to improve what's already there,' says Grant.

'Painting cabinets, adding new handles and resurfacing benchtops can make a huge difference.' >

After

Repainting and refinishing the floor transforms this bedroom.



Before



Before



After

Bright walls, a new carpet and modern furniture give this room fresh appeal.



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CREATING WAVES FOR POOL SAFETY

Avoid an average job

It can be tempting to do a surface job for as little money as possible, and do as much as you can yourself.

While this is understandable, says Grant, it comes with a warning.

‘Something is not always better than nothing. A mega-budget job is easy to spot and can backfire if buyers think it won’t last,’ he says.

‘If you can’t afford renovations, it may be best not to do them at all. Just clean and tidy up, including outdoors.’

Also don’t attempt work you’re not confident or proficient enough to do, such as installing a deck.

‘Decks can be a common pitfall. If a builder’s report highlights a badly put-together effort, it creates a poor impression and gives buyers an in to start bargaining down,’ he says.



**Limit the ways
a buyer can negotiate
you down so the ball
is in your court**



Be wary of bad advice

You may well receive advice from agents that you don’t have to do anything before you sell, as properties like yours are selling like hotcakes.

It’s important to be informed before making any decision.

‘You have more to gain from a makeover than an agent does, because they always have a vested interest in a quick sale. Their

commission isn’t going to budge too much after a renovation,’ says Grant.

‘Also, if a house is going on the market, but the sale is delayed by doing improvement work, there’s always the potential for another agent to make a better pitch, then the first agent misses the sale.’

It is important to remember, though, that your time is money, so the length of time spent on a reno should be factored into the cost. >



Before



After

Resurfacing and replacing appliances, tiles and door handles reinvestigates this kitchen.

Before

After

Completely revamped, this bathroom is a real drawcard for a potential buyer.

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After

A backyard overhaul provides an inviting outdoor entertainment space.

Find a happy medium

Get to know what's on offer in your area. Median house prices are a good guide, but try to compare like with like.

There are theories on how much you should spend on renovations, with one suggesting that every dollar you spend should be returning three.

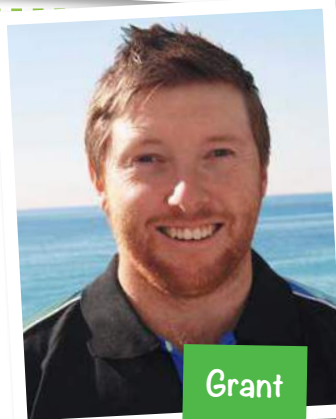
'We find on average at the moment that it may cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for a really effective makeover, for places that haven't been updated in 15 years or more,' says Grant.

'If bathrooms or kitchens need a lot of work, it could be up to \$40,000. What you spend should always be in balance with a realistic return.

'We go through and quote for every job, and itemise it. We know not everyone has the cash to do it all, so we say 80% is the sweet spot.

'That way, you can go to market knowing that you did as much as you could for a profitable result.'

Before



Grant

Reno expert

As director of Sell Fast Property Makeovers (sell-fast.com.au), Grant Nelson is a specialist at maximising a home's true value before it is put on the market.

Grant works closely with prospective sellers to determine what improvements can be made to ensure their home appears as desirable as possible for auction. ●



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A moving experience

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WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

BUDGET TIP

If you're purchasing boxes, ask the supplier if they have a buy-back scheme so you can return them once you've unpacked.

It's inevitable that at one time or another you have to move home. Maybe you're downsizing or upsizing, or just want a sea change or tree change.

And whether you're going interstate, overseas or only across town, the process of packing up all your belongings and repeating the process in reverse at the other end is pretty much the same.

According to research, many people say they'd like to move to a new home but are afraid of the upheaval. Yet it doesn't have to be a traumatic experience.

Here, *Handyman* project editor Adam Woodhams, who has just relocated from NSW to Queensland, shares his personal tips, and gets advice from the experts, to make your move as painless as possible.

Dedicate a room for putting boxes as they're packed.





Before the big day

The best way to ensure your move runs smoothly is to start the ball rolling as early as you possibly can.

It makes sense to have a declutter before getting quotes from removalists, as you should try to seriously reduce the amount of stuff you're moving.

Use online market places or hold a garage sale to get rid of anything from furniture to clothing.

Remember you can give unwanted items and clothing to charity shops.

Once you are down to just the essentials, get a removalist quote and begin packing up your belongings.

The best approach is to pack up one room that's close to the entry of your home and dedicate this as your box room. This way, as you gradually fill boxes, they can be neatly stacked without creating a mess.

This will make the job easier and faster for the removalists and help to keep your stress levels down. ➤

Boxing clever

The main aim is to get everything from point A to point B undamaged, leaving nothing to chance.

Items such as books and crockery need heavy-duty, medium-sized boxes, while large, thin-walled boxes are great for light, bulky things such as pillows, Doonas and stuffed toys.

There are also portable wardrobes with hanging racks available, as well as specialised boxes for wide-screen TVs.

Butcher's paper is the best choice for wrapping plates and glassware. Bubblewrap, which comes in a range of sizes, is ideal for unusual-shaped, large fragile items.

Use a good-quality packing tape to seal the boxes and seal the base of each box with a double run of tape.

Consider buying padded moving blankets, lounge and chair covers, and mattress-protection bags if you are planning to move DIY.



Packing hacks

We asked David Seehusen, owner of Red Truck Removals (redtruck.com.au), for tips on making your move as stress free as possible.

- + **GIVE** yourself plenty of time to pack, as rushing things is likely to increase the risk of breakages.
- + **USE** good-quality boxes for packing your belongings.

- + **PACK** fragile kitchenware just as you would in the dishwasher, with plates standing on edge and glasses facing rim-down.
- + **PUT** bedding and toiletries in suitcases so they're easily accessible when you come to unpack.
- + **LABEL** every box clearly with the room the contents live in so it's easy to identify where it needs to go.



Trouble-free towing

If you're thinking of hiring or buying a trailer for a DIY move, Stuart Daniels from Trailers 2000 has this advice.

➤ **BUY** Australian-made trailers, as they're manufactured to meet Australian standards and you're supporting local industries.

➤ **CHOOSE** a trailer made of galvanised steel. Avoid painted trailers made from black mild steel, as these can rust quickly.

➤ **ENSURE** the wheels and tyres are new. Many new trailers advertised online are sold with secondhand wheels and tyres.

➤ **PICK** a trailer with LED lights.

Check all items are securely strapped down before setting off.

Doing it DIY

If you decide to do the moving yourself, don't underestimate the time it can take and the difficulty you may face, especially when it comes to shifting large items such as whitegoods.

For this task, a multi-wheeled stair-climbing trolley, which can be rented or bought, is a necessity.

A small, rented light removalist's truck that can be driven on a standard driver's licence may be all you need.

They generally have a hydraulic tailgate lift, so heavy items can be easily lifted on board.

Renting or buying a trailer is another good option, as large items can be easily moved on an open trailer.

When you are filling any truck or trailer, make sure the weight is evenly distributed, that everything is securely strapped down and covered, and that you don't overfill it. ➤

TOP PICKS



Trailers 2000 8 x 5ft Heavy Duty Galvanised Trailer, \$1974.
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Wrap & Move 311L Heavy Duty Porta Robe Moving Carton, \$17.
salesforcenational.com.au



Fido & Fletch Large Foldable Pet Carrier, \$99.
fidoandfletch.com.au

Moving pets

The process of packing up and moving out can be a stressful and unsettling time for your four-legged friends.

Check out these tried-and-tested techniques from pet expert Kaye Browne of vettalktv.com that will help keep them safe and calm.

Keep up the cuddling to make your pet and you feel calmer.

Pre-move

- + **STICK** to regular routines with meals, walks and playtime.
- + **AVOID** washing bedding, as cats and dogs are reassured by their own smell.
- + **KEEP** your pet in a safe room with their bedding, toys and water when the removalists arrive and empty this room last. Or you could put them in a boarding kennel 2-3 days before the move.
- + **TAKE** them to the vet if they need any medication, such as for travel-sickness. Sedation is not advised for air travel.
- + **GET** them used to a carrier by putting their bedding, toys and treats inside.
- + **CHECK** their ID tag is up to date, legible and securely attached.
- + **CONSIDER** joining the nationwide ID tag Freecall service Boomerang-ID (boomerangid.com.au), which reunites pet owners with their lost pets 24/7.

Post-move

- + **UNPACK** and position their luggage first and watch they don't try to urinate while exploring their new home.
- + **FEED** them in a safe room while you unpack everything else.
- + **USE** a plug-in diffuser, which releases a calming scent, for very anxious pets. Try Adaptil for dogs and Feliway for cats.
- + **RE-ESTABLISH** regular routines for feeding and other indoor activities, but keep them safely indoors.
- + **ALLOW** at least a week before you let a cat venture outside and do so just before mealtimes so you can lure them back indoors for dinner.
- + **TAKE** a dog out on a lead to explore the new neighbourhood, allowing them to urinate on trees and groundcover so they can find their way back home should they accidentally get out.

ADAM'S CHECKLIST

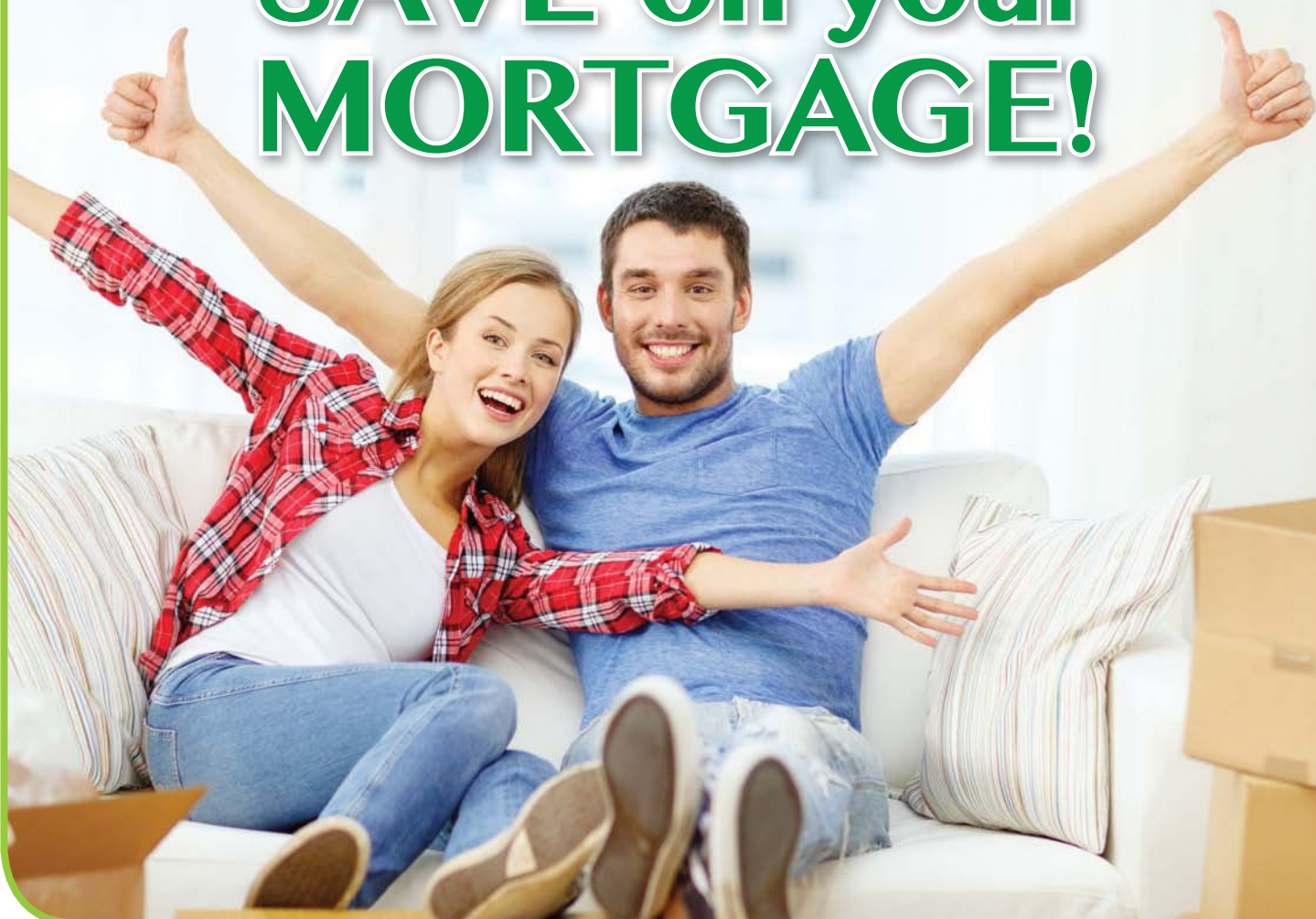
- ✓ **DECLUTTER** as early as possible.
- ✓ **SET** a date for a garage sale or sell items online as you go.
- ✓ **SEEK** a removal quote as early as practicable or rent a truck or trailer if you are moving DIY.
- ✓ **TALK** with your vet about moving your pet and obtain any records you may need in your new location.
- ✓ **BUY** cardboard boxes in a range of appropriate sizes.
- ✓ **CONTACT** the Post Office about redirecting your mail.
- ✓ **MAKE** a list of people you need to advise on your change of address, including the Electoral Commission and the Australian Taxation Office.
- ✓ **ARRANGE** disconnection for the utilities, phone, internet and cable TV for the day you move out.
- ✓ **ORGANISE** all the same utilities and services to be active at your new home on the day you arrive.
- ✓ **BOOK** a cleaner and a gardener for the lawn, garden and pool so that everything is neat when you leave. Using contractors lets you focus on the move and will save you stress. ●



Leave the home clean and the garden tidy.

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BUDGET TIP

Microfibre cloths are re-usable and don't need cleaning products, so are more cost-effective than disposable wipes or other types of cloths.

THE BIG CLEAN

Get the house spotless when moving with this cleaning guide

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

If you're moving house, you'll need to leave your old place looking immaculate for the new owners. And this can mean cleaning years of built-up grime.

For renters as well, a detailed clean can often mean the difference between having the bond returned or withheld.

It can also be a good idea to plan a deep scrub for the house you're moving into, as cleaning it while it's empty will be easier than doing it after the furniture has been added.

But even the most diligent scrubber can miss those hidden dirty areas, so follow these tips for a spotless finish.

DITCH THE DIRT

When giving the home a thorough final clean, there are several key areas that are still often overlooked.

In the kitchen, check for grease on cabinets and crusted-on oven grime. Clean away any food scraps and dust caught behind appliances.

In the bathroom, get rid of grout mould and ensure there is no hair left

in the drawers and the drains. The shower screen also needs to be left free of soap scum.

Living areas require fans and light features to be wiped down for dust.

Outside, the roof and pergolas should be checked and cobwebs swept away. Outdoor areas should also be free of moss and lichen build-up. ➤

Brush off dirt from the exhaust fan using a duster.

Clean away grease built up on the top of the cabinets.

Remove any food waste left in the dishwasher filter.

Use a degreaser to get rid of juices stuck on the oven.



Glitz Shower Bathroom Foam, about \$5 for 400g. cleanwithglitz.com.au



Oomph Degreaser, about \$5 for 500ml. oomphit.com.au



Oates Dome Premium Outdoor Cobweb Broom, \$14. oates.com.au



30 Seconds Outdoor Cleaner with Power Sprayer, \$31 for 5L. 30seconds.com.au



A professional uses industrial-grade products.

HIRE HELP

If you're short on time or the task of cleaning your home to the highest possible standard is too much for you to handle, it may be best to hire a professional.

In addition to being efficient, cleaners use industrial-grade equipment and chemicals that will make short work of mess.

Just do your research and select an individual or company that is insured, so your property and possessions are protected.

If you're not keen on going down this route, you can rent the equipment yourself and do it DIY.

Ask your local hardware store if they hire out equipment, or try a company such as Coates Hire (coateshire.com.au) or Kennards Hire (kennards.com.au). ➤



PICTURES: ISTOCK

Every deck deserves one

The Oates Household Deck Scrub is lightweight, yet strong and hardy, making it the perfect tool for cleaning and scrubbing large areas.

Ideal for concrete, outdoor tiles, decking and patios.

Front scraper to remove stubborn built up grime



22mm powder coated steel handle

Oates
cleans best!

See Oates® full range of new products at
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Available at
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warehouse
bunnings.com.au



Clothing



Disposing of waste

The final step in the house clean-up is to remove bulky garden waste, unwanted furniture and belongings, and any other accumulated rubbish.

There are lots of ways you can dispose of this stuff.

- **HIRE** a skip bin from a hardware store or specialist company.
- **TOW** it to the local tip in a trailer. You can find the closest one by contacting your council.
- **BOOK** a council clean-up. Homeowners are generally entitled to several a year.
- **DROP** old paints and chemicals at the collection centre.
- **DONATE** furniture, clothes, homewares and other items you don't want to a charity such as Vinnies or the Salvos.
- **SELL** any belongings of value on the internet on websites such as Gumtree or eBay. 📌



Contact the council for information on chemical waste, and tips or kerbside pick-ups in your area



Remember to wipe down dusty shelves and surfaces.

Furniture



Paints



Rubbish

SKIP HIRE



BEFORE



AFTER

Quick fix for that awkward spill



www.cleanwithglitz.com.au

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BUNNINGS
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Spotless pets

How to keep your home stain and smell free the easy and green way

WORDS SHANNON LUSH AND JENNIFER FLEMING



Dog smell in cars

The smell comes from the oil in their coat and means your dog needs a bath. Keep an old blanket for them to sit on in the car.

To remove the oily stain, place 1 cup of unprocessed wheat bran in a large bowl.

Add drops of white vinegar one at a time, stirring as you go, until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. It shouldn't be wet. Add 2 drops of dishwashing liquid.

Place the mixture into the toe of pantyhose and tie up tightly. It will be the size of a tennis ball. Rub over the area. Don't forget to wipe over doors and windows.

DIY TIP

To stop a puppy from chewing on timber furniture, wipe with two drops of lavender, cinnamon or chilli oil, or oil of cloves.



Dog kennels

Dog kennels are made of timber or plastic. To clean, remove the contents of the kennel and wipe the interior with white vinegar on a cloth. Then wipe with a cake of bathroom soap and water.

To remove the smell, mix 1 litre of hot water, ¼ teaspoon of oil of cloves and 2 tablespoons of dried mint in a spray pack. Allow to cool.

Spray over every surface and wipe with pantyhose. The oil of cloves kills mould and the mint kills fleas. Reapply once a month.

Portable kennels are made of powdercoated steel and polyester fabric. Wash the fabric with a cake of bathroom soap and cold water.

Dog kennels should be elevated so air can circulate. One option is to place bricks underneath the kennel.

If you live in an apartment, you may have a pet loo or potty patch. This is a porous synthetic grass mat on top of a plastic urine collection tray.

The best way to clean it is to spray with white vinegar and water and rinse with fresh water.



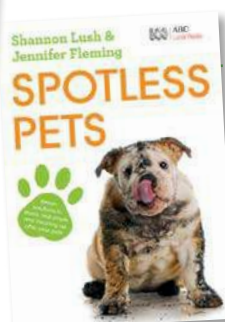
To keep dogs off the couch, tuck a bag of dried lavender behind the cushions



Jennifer



Shannon



Let the experts show you how to combat pet mess.

Get the book

This is an edited extract from *Spotless Pets* by Shannon Lush and Jennifer Fleming (ABC Books, \$20).

Packed full of easy-to-follow tricks and techniques for lifting stains and banishing smells, it's a must for every pet owner and will become your go-to guide for keeping your home and car clean.



Scratch marks on leather

WHAT TO USE Bead of water, walnut-coloured shoe cream, cloth, stainless steel spoon, boiling water, tea towel and leather conditioner.

HOW TO APPLY Before tackling any stains, work out if the leather is waxed, plasticised or oiled.

Place a single bead of water on an inconspicuous part of the leather. If it soaks in slowly, it's waxed. If it rolls off, the leather coating is plasticised. If the water soaks into the leather, it's oiled.

For brown leather, cut a walnut (the nut, not the shell) in half and rub the cut surface over the area. Leave for 1 hour for the colour to cure.

For other leather, use shoe cream, not shoe polish or wax, that matches the colour of the leather. Apply with a cloth over the marked area only.

To set the shoe cream, rub over it with the back of a warm stainless steel spoon. To warm, dip the spoon in a glass of boiling water and dry with a tea towel.

Wipe with leather conditioner. To make, place 1 teaspoon of beeswax, 1 teaspoon of lavender oil and 1 teaspoon of lemon oil on a 100% cotton cloth or old T-shirt.

Put in a microwave-safe dish. Microwave on high in 10-second bursts until the beeswax melts.

After use, place the cloth in a zip-lock bag and store in the freezer, ready to use again. ➤



DIY TIP

If your bird flies freely around the house, create a branch perch area with a large sand tray underneath and it will poo there.



Cleaning bird cages

In the wild, birds drop their poo and fly away, as they don't sleep near their faeces. Bird poo can cause corrosion on the wires of a birdcage and muck inside the cage can cause sickness, so clean the cage once a week.

Remove seed and water containers and place the entire cage in the sink. Run water over the cage, gently giving your bird a bath at the same time. Help distribute the water in a spray by aiming it at the cage wire.

Alternatively, place the cage in the shower with enough space for the bird to step out of the flow of water. Leave

the cage to drain and air-dry inside or outside the house.

A third option is to clean the cage outside over a garden bed. The poop makes great fertiliser. The birdseed will grow as a weed and it's easy to pull out because it's a single-root plant. Collect the seed heads to feed to your bird.

Commercial bird poo removers are available but you can clean cages with a cake of bathroom soap and cold water on a cloth, before wiping with white vinegar on a cloth.

To protect the wire from further corrosion, wipe with sweet almond oil.



Algae in birdbaths

WHAT TO USE Pantyhose and non-iodised salt.

HOW TO APPLY Remove water from the birdbath and wipe the algae with rolled-up pantyhose.

To stop the problem recurring, add a pinch of non-iodised salt to each litre of clean water.

The birds won't be deterred by the tiny amount of salt in the water, but the algae will.



Keeping fish

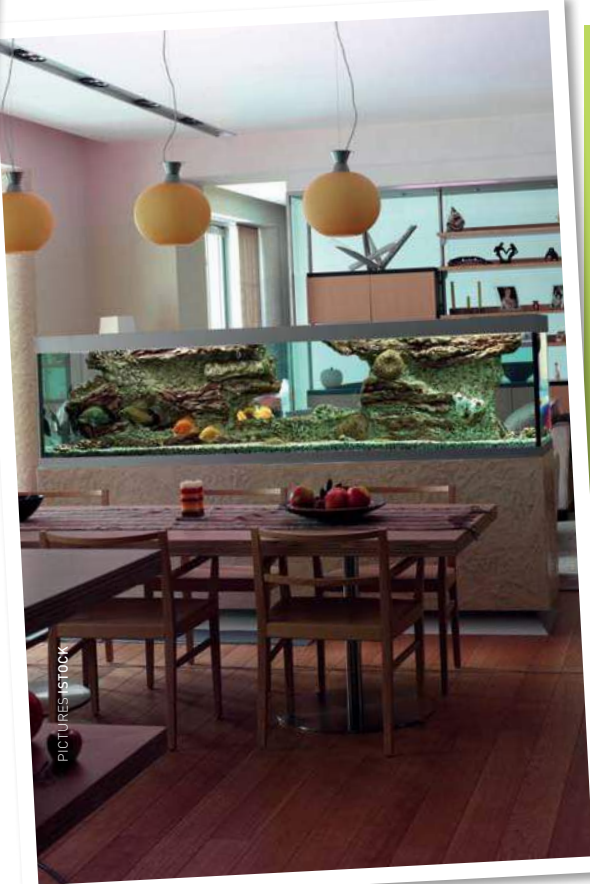
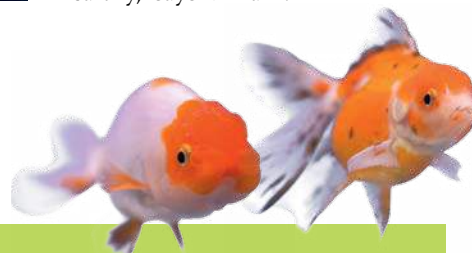
Fish are the forgotten family pet, says University of Western Australia science researcher Miriam Sullivan.

'Just like cats and dogs, fish are intelligent, long-lived and can feel pain, but you'd never flush a dead cat down a toilet or win a puppy at a carnival.

'With 1.5 billion pet fish sold globally every year, it's time to take better care of them and regularly cleaning an aquarium is one of the most effective ways to keep your fish healthy,' says Miriam.



In Australia, more than 20.5 million fish are kept as pets



Cleaning fish tanks

An average fish tanks holds 40 litres of water or more.

Clean it weekly, but there's no need to remove the fish or tank contents.

Small tanks, under 40 litres, need to be cleaned twice a week with 50% water change. If the tank doesn't have a filter, change between 50-100% of the water every day.

➤ **ALGAE** If algae is present, wipe the inside of the glass with pantyhose pulled over your hand like a mitt. Do this before removing any water.

➤ **WATER** Remove 15% of the water.

➤ **GRAVEL** Clean 25% of the gravel with a siphon. Or remove 25% of the gravel, place it in a sieve and flush with boiling water. Allow to dry.

➤ **FILTER** If you need to clean the filter, don't change all the water at

the same time. Rinse a new filter under cold running water.

➤ **DECORATIONS** To clean algae from decorations, put inside a plastic bag with sand, close tightly and shake.

➤ **WATER** Replace the water, matching the temperature. Fill a plastic bag with fresh water, sit the bag in the tank until the water inside the bag is the same temperature as the tank water. Slowly add the new water.

If it's a large amount, transfer it from a bucket uncontaminated with detergents using a siphon. Leave a gap between the water level and the top of the tank for oxygen exchange.

➤ **WIPE** Use white vinegar on a cloth for the outside of the tank. Never use strong detergents, as they can seep into the water and harm the fish. ❌

CONVERSION BY DESIGN

Lots of space and bold colours inspired an architect to turn an old church into a modern, comfortable home

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES ANDREW WATERS

Although he'd never had the desire to live in a church, after seeing this 150-year-old one in an industrial suburb of Port Adelaide, SA, architect Stewart Kirby of Stewart Kirby Design (skd.com.au) rapidly warmed to the idea.

'I'm not religious, but there was something about the feeling in this building. I felt at ease and loved the grandiosity of the features,' he says.

Given the choice, Stewart says he would have gone for a 60s A-frame home, having always lived in sleek, modern spaces, but he was drawn to the chunky nature of this structure.

He knew there would be particular challenges with living in such a unique space, but also benefits that may not be found in any other type of building.

Groups of cacti create sculptural landscape art.



Colour is used to create warmth in the cavernous space.

Respecting space

The vast, open space is one of the main charms of a church conversion, but it is also a tricky template to turn into a multi-roomed residence.

The original Glanville Mission Church, dating back to 1863, was first converted into a private residence over 20 years ago, and the two previous owners had both undertaken various parts of the renovation.

'I wish I'd seen the first round of work, and I don't know how far they took it before the second owners came along and added their ideas. When I bought the property, much of the basic work had been done,' says Stewart.

Church conversions can easily be over-divided. There are many examples of trading the valuable asset of space for multiple pokey areas, in a building designed to have one internal space.

But the best renovations respect height and light, and work with natural dividing lines, such as running the kitchen from the pulpit step.

'When you have space at your disposal, less is more. This house is quite a study in paring back, with the basics forming the backbone of the design for best form and function.

'It's really one bedroom, with an office, a kitchen, open-plan living and dining, and two bathrooms.' ➤



Think about shape and colour when mixing furniture from different eras and styles

FLOORPLAN



AREAS (approx)	m ²
GROUND FLOOR	136
FIRST FLOOR	86
VERANDAH	16
TOTAL	242



An oversized dining table is a bold decorating statement.

BUDGET TIP

Watch for office or business relocation sales to pick up furniture bargains such as a boardroom table and chairs.

Making improvements

The property didn't need renovating from the ground up, but it did require a lot of maintenance work.

With old buildings, typical problem spots include the windows, roof, a lack of plumbing, insufficient heating and cooling, and draughts.

As he was working with a limited budget, Stewart completed only the most essential and effective repairs.

'The gutters were overflowing, the trim was dropping off and hadn't

been painted for ages. I re-roofed the back section over the verandah, as it had completely disintegrated,' he says.

Keeping the feel of the church and respecting the original features was important to Stewart.

'I enjoy the fact you can look down the length of the building, without feeling it's cut off and segmented.

'It is stereotypical, quaint church architecture, including the leadlight and stained-glass windows, and that's the way it should be.'

Embracing colour

The interior colours were already in place when Stewart moved in and rather than rebel against the scheme, he decided to take it to a new level.

A bit of repainting in the same colours deepened the saturation on the walls and refreshed the overall look.

'The height of the ceilings is what saves these very bright colours from being overwhelming and, instead, it just makes the whole place feel happy and welcoming.'



Reclaiming storage

The kitchen is orientated in an elevated position where the pulpit was once located. It overlooks the rest of the house, as the priest would have overlooked the congregation.

The existing cabinetry had worn well, but the layout was unworkable.

'There was no room to install a dishwasher and an old enamel

oven that was barely functioning dominated the space. Its awkward positioning also prevented easy access to the cabinets near it,' say Stewart.

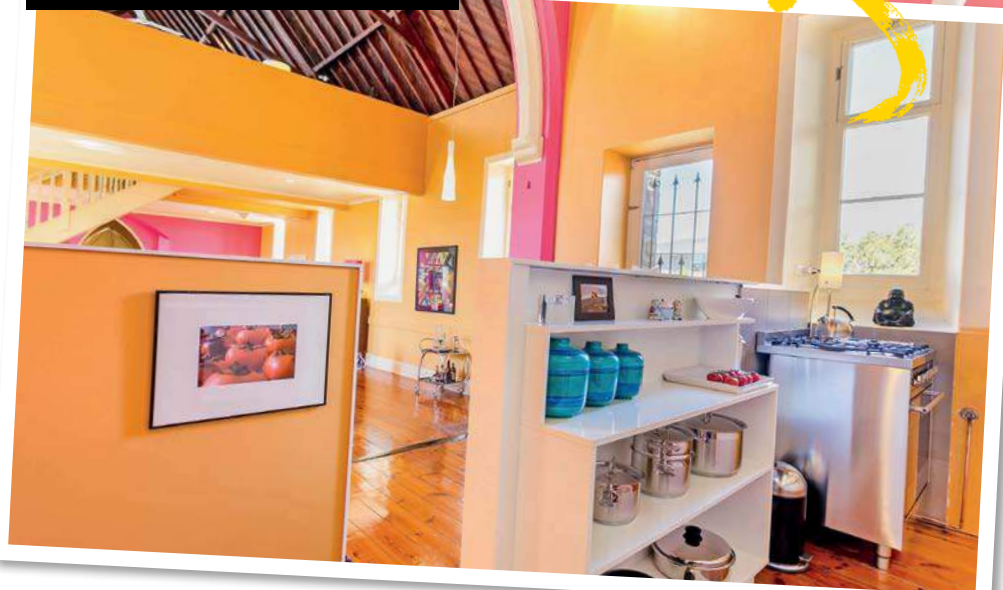
'As storage is at a premium in a large open space, I had to reclaim as much as I could. Reorientating solved these problems and made it more functional. A half-wall shields open shelving from view and keeps the kitchen neat.' ➤



Fill the space with the things you love
and the design direction will become clear



ABOVE Low walls delineate the kitchen within the open-plan design.
BELOW Much-needed storage is concealed behind the half-walls.



'I rarely have anyone over who doesn't comment on how uplifting it is, whether they like the colours or not,' says Stewart.

No restraint has been shown in the furnishings either, with jewel tones complementing the classic mid-century lines, adding to a feeling of extravagance and comfort.

'I think each new owner will just come along and add something to what exists. Nothing needs to be changed, as it's such a lovely place.'

Creating zones

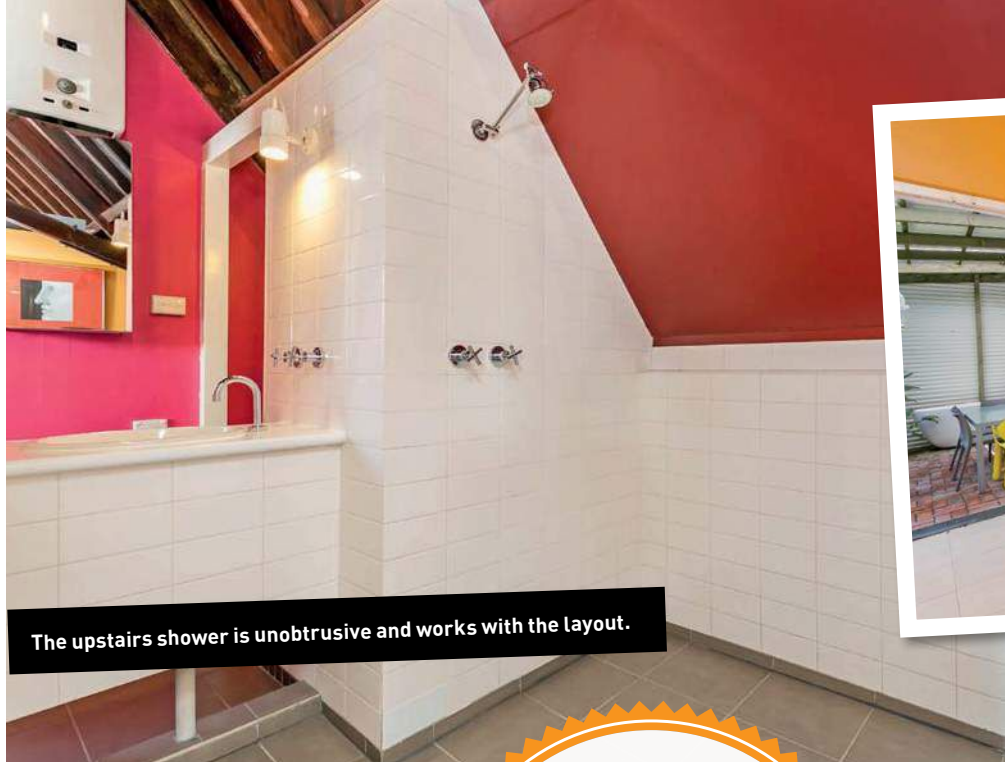
In the central nave of the church, where the congregation would have sat, Stewart positioned the living area.

Using his collection of mid-century furniture, he created functional zoned areas around colourful rugs.

An oversized dining table reflects the scale of the building and doesn't get lost in the room.

A seating area, library nook and dining area are defined spaces, but are unified by style and design.

The original church had two outhouses. One was turned into a full bathroom and laundry and the other used for valuable storage.



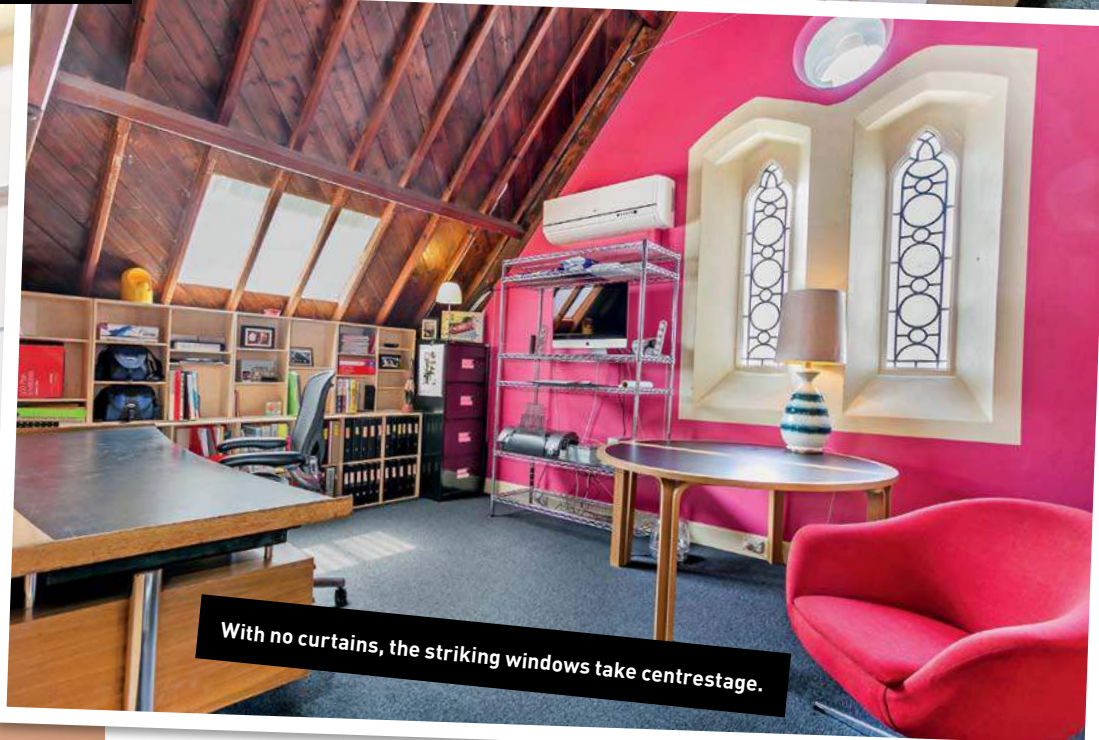
DESIGN TIP

Use a circular rug in a large and open living area to create a cosy and harmonious gathering place and add warmth.





ABOVE The downstairs bathroom doubles as a laundry, with access to the verandah. **RIGHT** Keeping furnishings to a minimum allows the architecture to be the focus.



With no curtains, the striking windows take centrestage.

Opening up

Upstairs, the mezzanine level houses the bedroom and studio-cum-office, as well as a bathroom.

Stewart replaced the carpets and removed all the heavy curtains. He felt the design worked better with no window treatments, and maximised the natural light available.

A rusty and unattractive exhaust fan was removed from the round window at the front of the church.

Melamine wardrobes were replaced with a simple open hanging system, which doesn't block the flow.

'I wanted the timber rafters to be unfettered so the architecture could be fully appreciated,' says Stewart.

'The curved shape makes the bedroom space feel private, although it is open to the other side.'

The upstairs bathroom mirrors the shape of the ceiling, again making a feature of the architectural style. ➤



Adding insulation

The height of the interior and the poor condition of the roof meant the potentially cold Adelaide winters and hot summers could be problematic.

Stewart filled in the gaps in the fabric of the building, then installed a 5kW PV solar system on the northside roof, which made a dramatic difference.

'The 16 or so panels helped shade the roof and acted as eaves for the skylights. The energy collection in summer made a massive difference.

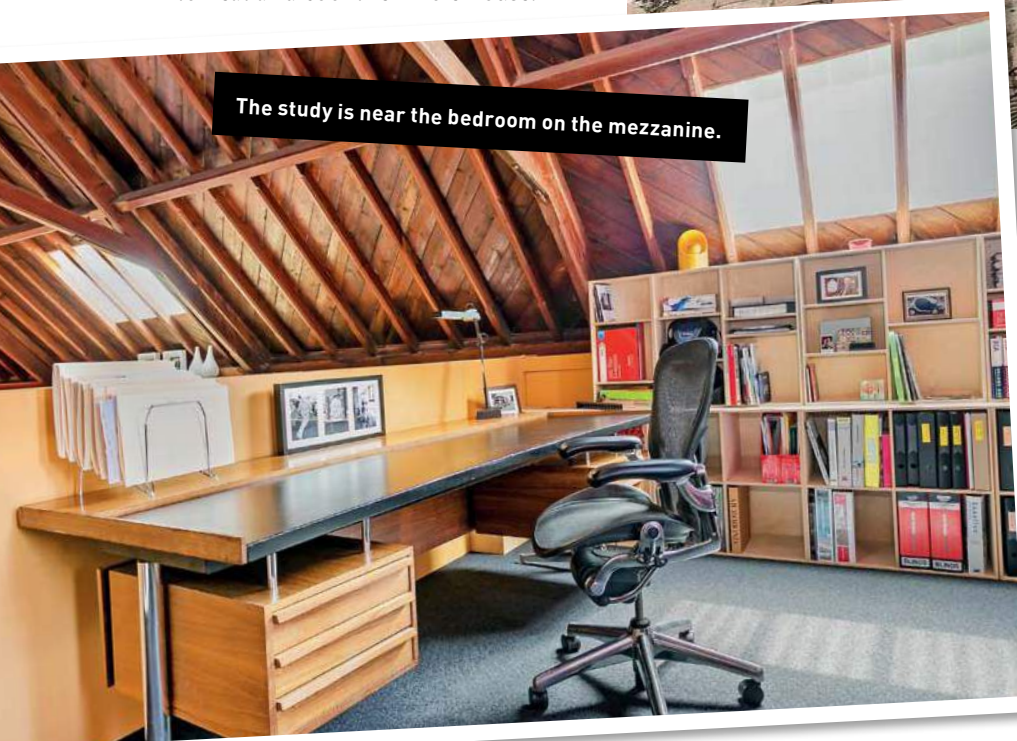
'Where I could gain access to roof space, I put in Air-Cell foil insulation sheeting. Even removing the heavy curtains from the northside windows introduced much more sun in winter.

'Anywhere I could improve the thermal efficiency, including replacing a couple of windows, I did,' he says.

Once all the gaps were filled and trim replaced, two existing split system air-conditioners worked well to heat and cool the whole house.



A paved area provides a secluded spot for outdoor seating.



The study is near the bedroom on the mezzanine.

Designing outdoors

A large part of the work Stewart did was in the grounds of the residence.

'The garden was a mass of weeds, so I stripped it back to create a blank canvas for my garden designer,' he says.

Mark Ellis, the designer, had to turn the southern garden into a shady summer haven that would attract birds.

He took the bold colour scheme outside after seeing various creative approaches to home decor in the area, which quashed his reservations about upsetting the neighbours.

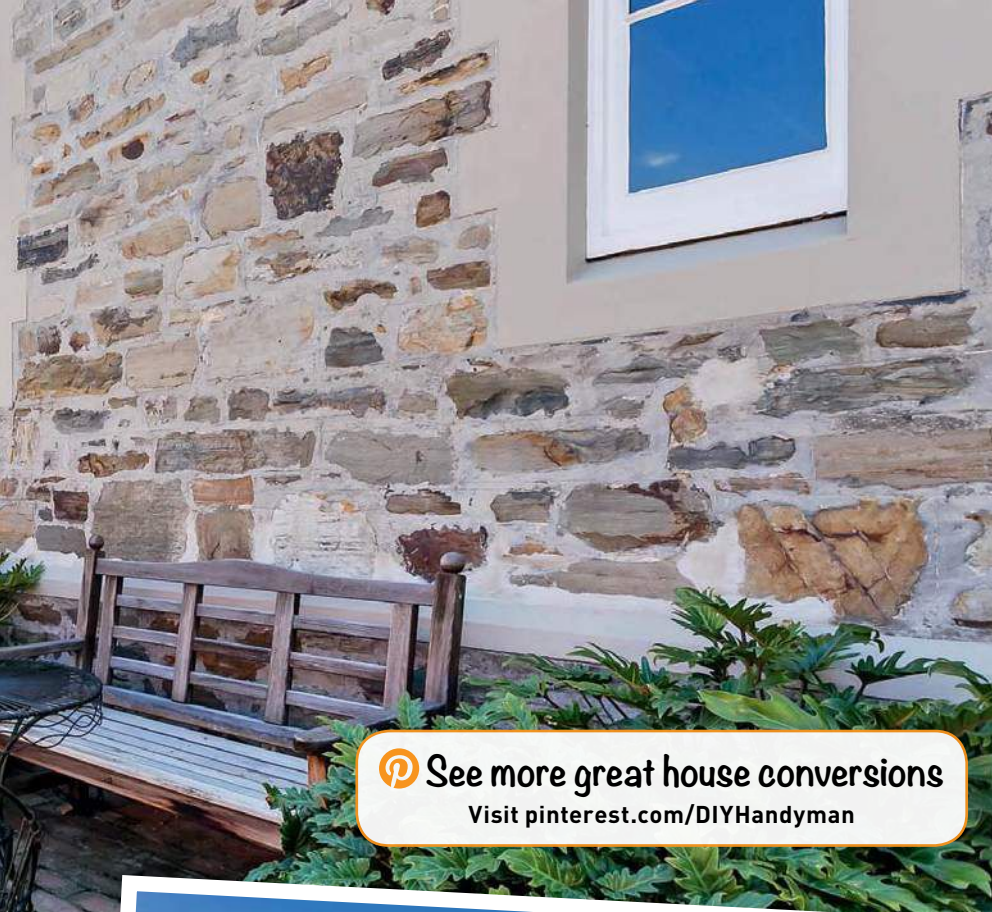
Banksia and crepe myrtles were planted, which would provide great contrast with the orange fence until they reached full height.

'The front door and the masonry wall in the garden were an off-beige and the carport was a real eyesore.

'Being bold with them has elevated the whole space. It makes people smile and feel happy, and I love that.' 🍷



Use furniture to carve a modern space in a home with period architectural features



 **See more great house conversions**
Visit pinterest.com/DIYHandyman



ABOVE A brightly coloured striped door sets the tone for what lies behind it.

BELOW The interior bold colour scheme was extended to the outdoor areas.



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



For more handy renovation tips and hints, scan here.



Available at
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Look in the sandpaper section at Bunnings.

A photograph of singer Tom Jones standing behind a dark wooden bar. He is wearing a white Adidas tracksuit jacket with blue stripes on the sleeves and a gold cross necklace. He holds a brass bell in his right hand. On the bar are various items including a brass lantern, a glass of water, and a brass container. The background features a large window with floral curtains and a vase of orange flowers on a side table.

Singer Tom Jones goes for
flowered drapes and chrome,
brass and timber detailing.

Salute to the 70s

Take a step back in time to when interior design had even more attitude than the famous celebrities of the decade

WORDS LYNN LEWIS

A photograph of crooner Val Doonican sitting at a wooden table with two children. They are in a kitchen with floral wallpaper and a wooden cabinet. Val is holding a spray can and working on a large, golden, pig-shaped object. The children are looking on with interest. A clock is visible on the wall.

Crooner Val Doonican gets crafty
with the kids in an era when kitchens
increasingly became family rooms,
often featuring teak or pine finishes.

Today, to eyes more accustomed to a pared-down look, the explosions of colour, pattern and all things bright and shiny that were emblematic of 1970s decor, may seem totally over the top.

But no-one can deny the warmth, exuberance and sense of adventure it generated, both then and now.

Designers took inspiration from Space Age technologies that developed new materials such as vinyl, Formica, moulded plastics and tubular steel.

Floor-to-ceiling tropical treatment for actress Joan Collins' bedroom.



DESIGN TIP

Patterned fabrics and wallpaper in shades of orange, purple and green are central to the look, plus avocado and yellow appliances.

Catherine Zeta-Jones chats with her mum and keeps her toes cosy in the shag-pile carpet. Shag pile was also the go-to choice for 70s toilet-seat covers.



And they also tapped into the bohemian, hippie culture with its love of nature, as seen in wild, colourful geometric and flower patterns that flourished on fabrics and furnishings.

In strong contrast, if it wasn't white, bright or bold, then it was brown. Timber and brick finishes, leather upholstery and dark patterned wall-to-wall carpet created a cave-like, masculine atmosphere.

But mostly, loud was definitely the decorating order of the day. ➤



Actor John Cleese and wife Connie Booth choose hanging plants and fussy window treatments.



ABOVE Bay City Rollers' bass guitarist Alan Longmuir reclines among patterned earth tones.
RIGHT Rocker Rod Stewart on-trend in his white and harvest gold 'island' kitchen.

DIY TIP

Get the 70s look with macramé plant holders, string art, embroidered wall hangings and colourful afghan throws.





ABOVE Actress Helen Mirren sports hippie/boho fashion favourites of the time, including velvet, lace and clomping platform shoes.



Rock musician Suzi Quatro with husband Len Tuckey enjoying their bar nook.

Structurally, houses became more open plan, with living areas flowing into one another. Basements were turned into recreation rooms and often contained a bar area.

Kitchens morphed into family rooms, and were no longer the solitary domain of the cook of the house.

Outdoors came indoors with hanging and climbing greenery, such as spider and snake plants,

rubber trees and fiddle-leaf figs, turning living rooms into jungles.

And let's not forget the art and craft absolute must-haves, ranging from macramé plant holders, wicker furniture and string pictures to colourful abstract paintings.

If you loved the Jetsons and you are a bit of a Mod at heart, it might be time to revisit the 70s. It's a period in decorating with a lot to offer. 🍷



An imposing house plant and lots of gilt for Elizabeth Taylor.

ADDING DRAWERS

Increase storage options in a built-in cupboard with DIY sliding drawers

PROJECT AND PICTURES SUE FERRIS

Concealed storage is not only a sure-fire clutter buster, but it's easy to create DIY.

The shelves of this built-in wall unit were packed with books, CDs and DVDs, but the base cupboards were underutilised. To provide more storage with easy access, drawers were custom-built for the cupboards.

Seven timber drawers were made from 425 x 90 x 12mm lengths of DAR pine, using simple butt joints secured with dowels and wood glue.

The cupboards were separated by dividers but built right to the brick walls either end, so plywood panels were installed using brackets to create a frame for the sliding drawers.

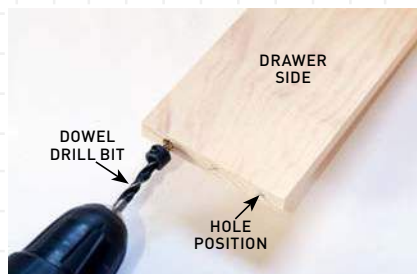


Before

Materials

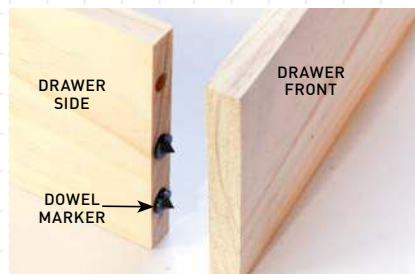
DAR treated pine	\$62
7mm plywood panels	\$84
Drawer runners	\$110
6mm dowel jointing kit	\$14
PVA wood glue	\$6
8g x 15mm timber screws	\$5
TOTAL	\$276

Installing made-to-measure drawers makes the most of empty cupboard space



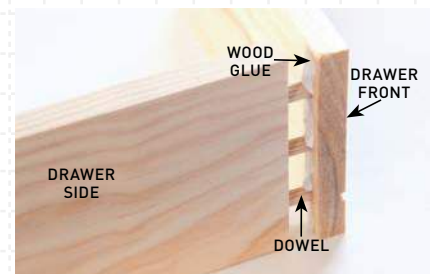
1 Drill the dowel holes

Measure and mark the positions for three holes for the dowels on the ends of the drawer sides using a pencil. Use the drill bit included with the dowel-jointing kit to make the holes for the dowels.



2 Add dowel markers

Insert the dowel markers in the holes on the ends of a side. Line it up at a right angle with the drawer front, pressing together to mark the hole positions. Repeat with the drawer back, then the other drawer side.



3 Make the drawer box

Drill dowel holes in the drawer front and back. Apply wood glue to the holes in the drawer sides, front and back, then insert the dowels. Join the pieces, pressing firmly, using a set square to ensure your angle is exactly 90°.

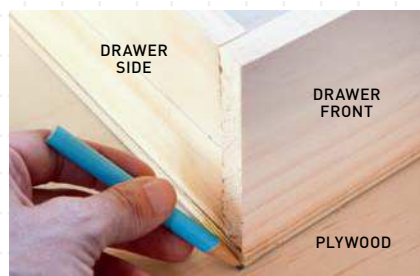
TIDY TIP

Use trays and add dividers to the drawers to help organise CDs and DVDs, making them much easier to find and access.



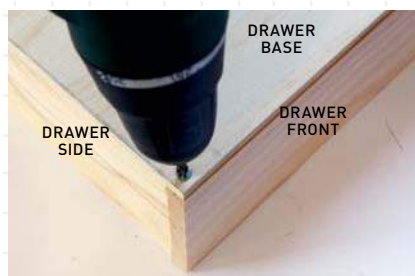
After

Fitted with drawers, the cupboards now provide lots of extra space for storage.



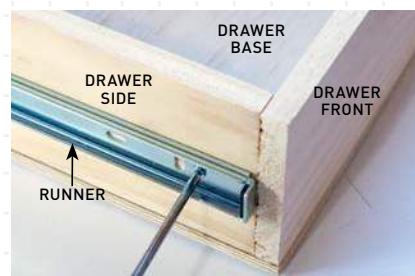
4 Mark the base

Position the drawer box on top of a 900 x 600 x 7mm plywood panel. Use a pencil to mark around the edges of the drawer box for the drawer base. Cut out the plywood using a circular saw.



5 Attach the base

Apply wood glue around the base edge of the drawer box, then position the plywood base on top, pressing down firmly to join. Secure the plywood drawer base to the drawer box using screws.



6 Add the runners

Measure and mark the location of the drawer runners. Secure the runners to the drawer sides and the interior cupboard panels, using the supplied screws. Check the runners for spacing, then install the drawer.

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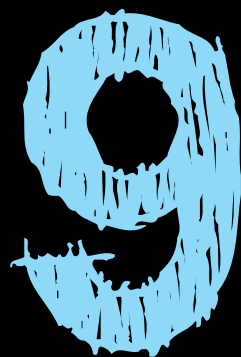


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SEALING TIPS

Get a professional finish when using sealant to fill gaps DIY

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Sealant is one of the most versatile products around. It's relatively inexpensive, and the amount of money it saves you in energy costs and leak repairs more than makes up for what you pay for it.

You can buy a speciality sealant to fix everything from a leaky gutter to gaps around a window.

It can be used for easy DIY fixes on everything from plasterboard, plastic, glass and timber to metal, concrete, stone and brick. ➤

1 Check the seal

In early spring and autumn, test the points around the exterior of your home where water could get inside, such as door and window frames or cladding.

Make sure that all joints are watertight and undamaged.

To check for damage, poke the sealant with a screwdriver. It should have some give. If it cracks or tears, it needs replacing.



2 Prepare the area

Clean the surfaces you are going to seal to ensure the sealant will adhere firmly.

Wipe off any dust or dirt, remove oils and deposits, as well as any existing, damaged sealant.

If you're sealing around a door or window frame, make sure the paint is sound. Sand, prime and repaint it first, if necessary.



3 Plug the tube

To keep leftover sealant in good condition for the next job, clean the nozzle after use and plug it with a rustproof, 50mm screw or nail.

You can also invert the cap to fit into the nozzle or cover the end in plastic wrap to help prevent the sealant from hardening. Buying a spare nozzle is another option.

4 Keep it flexible

Depending on the type, a sealant can become stiff and hard to work with when it's cold. Heat makes it more flexible and easier to apply smoothly.

In cold weather, dunk the cartridge of sealant in a bucket of warm water for half an hour before you use it.

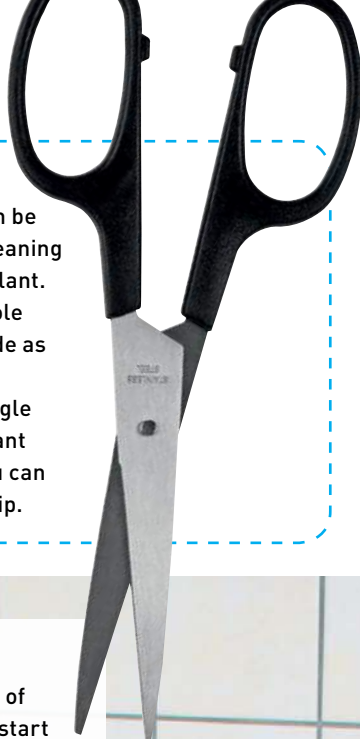


5 Cut the nozzle

The nozzle can often be cut too far down, meaning it will dispense excess sealant.

For best results, the hole should be about half as wide as the space you're filling.

Cut the tube at a 45° angle and to make applying sealant easier around corners, you can make a V-notch cut in the tip.

**6 Tool the bead**

Sealant needs to be tooled, or compressed, into the seam. It should be thick where it adheres to both sides of the joint but thinner in the middle.

Use the cut end of the nozzle or a wet finger, but wear latex gloves to avoid irritation. An ice cube will also do the job.

**7 Keep it steady**

Squeeze the trigger of the caulking gun to start the sealant flowing. Begin at one end of the gap and move slowly, keeping a firm, steady squeeze on the trigger as sealant is dispensed.

To stop the flow at the end, release the locking bar on the piston, located where your thumb is when you're holding the gun.

**8 Guide with tape**

To get a straight, neat line of sealant, stick a strip of masking tape on either side of the seam.

Apply about 1m of sealant at a time, smooth the finish, then slowly remove the tape.

**9 Fill big gaps**

Using just sealant on gaps wider than 5mm or deeper than 10mm can be wasteful.

For deep cracks, press backer rods into the gaps before applying.

Fill wide gaps, such as where a pipe comes out through a wall, using expanding foam filler. Once dry, cut off any excess with a sharp knife or hacksaw. >



DIY TIP

Sealant can degrade over time, so test an old tube by leaving a little on a non-porous surface. If it doesn't harden in 24 hours, discard it.

HOUSEHOLD SEALANTS

 Get more handy DIY tips
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Everton Clear Glazing Silicone, \$6 for 300g. everton.com.au



Dunlop Grey Roof Gutter & Pond Repair, \$16 for 310ml. dunlopdiiy.com



Polyfilla Expanding Foam, about \$16 for 390g. poly.com.au



Gyprock CSR Wet Area Acrylic Sealant, \$9 for 450g. gyprock.com.au



Selleys Ezi Press White No More Gaps, \$8 for 170g. selleys.com.au



Parfix Black Polyurethane Sealant & Adhesive, \$12 for 310ml. bunnings.com.au



SikaSeal Roof and Gutter Silicone Sealant, \$8 for 300ml. aus.sika.com



Tremco Fyrethane Grey Acrylic Sealant, \$11 for 600ml. tremco.com.au

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TOP TRENDS FOR KITCHENS

Use the latest design concepts and ideas to create an up-to-date space

Minimalist themes

Handle-less kitchens, neutral tones, and clever simplistic designs are all elements that fall under the minimalist kitchen category.

Minimalism doesn't stop at the design. Stretch this concept even further and part ways with any unused items in your cabinets, drawers and pantry, for a fuss-free space that is devoid of clutter.



Kaboodle 600mm Spiced Oak Modern Cabinet Door, \$149.

Warm timbers

From benchtops and flooring to accessories and floating shelves, timber can be worked into a kitchen in a number of ways. You can even have timber-look cabinet doors.

Using timber is a great way to add warmth to a kitchen, especially when darker colours are predominantly used. It's the perfect neutraliser.



ABOVE For sleek but affordable kitchen style, choose a Kaboodle 600mm Calcutta Gloss Laminat Benchtop, \$157 per linear metre.

+ **THIN BENCHTOPS** are definitely in, with marble the most popular look of all. This type of benchtop works particularly well in minimalist kitchens where simplicity is key.



Pair a monochrome colour scheme with minimalist style for contemporary chic

PICTURES (LEFT, TOP) KABOODLE

Tactile textures

Kitchens don't have to be either matt or glossy, and you don't have to stick to laminate. Texture is big and works across different styles.

From rough earthy timbers to patterned metals and bare concrete, everything goes.

Watch the video 'How to Design a Kitchen' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

ABOVE For contemporary country chic, mix white cabinetry with a Kaboodle Vic Ash Benchtop, \$399 per 2400 x 600mm.

BELOW Make the kitchen the hub of the home with a Brilliant Benchtop Popup Powerboard, \$169, with three outlets and two USB ports.

Pastel shades

Soft chalky pastels are taking over from the more traditional off-white shades in kitchens.

First seen in Scandinavian kitchens, these unique shades, ranging from light greys to pinks, are now being used in other styles.

Kaboodle 600mm Pearlini Three-drawer Panels, \$56.

Smart solutions

Kitchens are getting smarter this year. Homeowners are installing smart appliances to help with automated cooking, as well as powerpoint outlets featuring USB ports to charge their devices.

Modern technology reinforces the kitchen as the hub of the home for everyday living.



Find it at Bunnings

INSTALL HANDLES

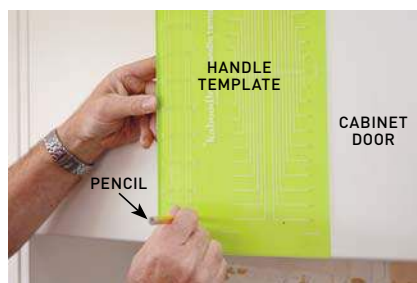
Cabinet and drawer handles can have a surprisingly big impact on the overall look of a kitchen.

Fitting handles is the final stage of a kitchen reno, and is easy to do using a template. Simply mark and drill the holes, then attach them with the supplied screws.

Materials

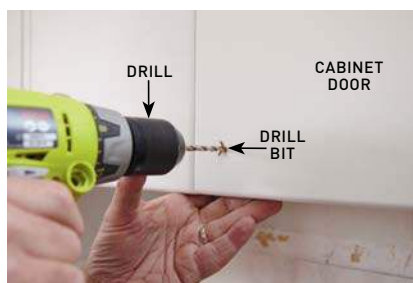
Handle template
Power drill
Handles
Pencil
Phillips head screwdriver
Cutting nippers

1 2 3



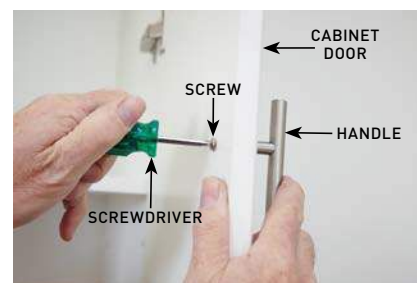
1 Mark the screw holes

Position the template on the lower corner of the door opposite the hinges. Locate the holes in the template that match your handle, then mark the screw holes on the door using a pencil.



2 Drill the holes

Position the handle next to the pencil marks to check that the holes are marked accurately. Make the holes using a cordless drill, selecting a drill bit that is slightly wider than the supplied screws.



3 Attach the handles

If the supplied screws are too long, trim them using nippers so they protrude 5mm. Attach the top screw first using a screwdriver, keeping it slightly loose. Attach the lower screw and tighten, then tighten the top.

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PHOTO: STUART SCOTT

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*local call costs from landlines only

FENCE THE YARD

Create a classic lap-and-cap backyard boundary using treated pine palings

PROJECT AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

TOOLS
POWER SAW,
NAIL GUN

5
DAYS

\$918
COST

A fence defines the boundary of a property and keeps children and pets safe and secure.

The backyard of this property had never had a boundary fence and, while the hedge provided a natural screen, a permanent and low-maintenance solution was needed.

To fence the yard, a classic 1.8m high post-and-rail fence was built using a lap-and-cap design with 100mm palings. Treated pine was used, as it's durable and inexpensive.

Once completed, the timber was allowed to season for four weeks, then painted with Walpamur Fence Finish.

After

With a sturdy timber fence, the boundary line is now well defined.

Plan the fence

Before beginning construction, you will need to discuss options with your neighbour as they have a say on the type of dividing fence.

Both owners are usually required to equally share the cost of a fence that is considered sufficient and appropriate for the site.

If only one party wants extra features or a premium fence, they may have to pay the additional costs.

Your council will also have regulations regarding the height or style of the fence to be installed, and these can be found on their website or at their local office.

Dial Before You Dig can provide information on what underground services may be affected and their locations (1100.com.au) ➤

Stuart



EXPERT SECRETS

Add 50mm of coarse sand or gravel to post holes to allow water to drain away from the base of the posts.



Have a surveyor mark disputed or vague boundaries to establish their precise location

Before



Ryobi Airwave Clipped Head Air Framing Nailer, \$139. ryobi.com.au



Australian Builders Ready Mixed Concrete, \$8 for 20kg. bpsaust.com



Walpamur Fence Finish in Iron Bark, about \$56 for 10L. duluxgroup.com.au

Materials

Fence palings	\$308
Posts	\$123
Rails	\$198
Capping	\$113
Concrete	\$90
Paint	\$56
Nails	\$30
TOTAL	\$918

BUILD THE FENCE



1 Set out the fence

Run a stringline between the start and end points for the fence. Mark post holes at 2400mm intervals along the stringline with line-marking paint. Transfer the marks to the ground using a spirit level or plumb bob. Dig 250mm wide by 600mm deep holes at each position using a post hole digger.



2 Install the posts

Insert a post in each hole and brace in position, plumb against the stringline. Trim the posts at the base to create a smooth top to the fence if the ground undulates. Fill each post hole to ground level with concrete, using a float to slope it away from the posts to drain water. Let the concrete set overnight.



3 Add the rails

Insert the rails through the post mortises, joining the rails with scarf joints at the posts and securing with nails through the post and both rails. Stagger the joints from one post to the next to increase the strength of the finished fence.

TIP One rail will span three posts.



4 Secure the palings

Run a stringline 10mm above the post tops. Using a nail gun and starting at the first post, secure a paling with two nails on each rail, so the tops are above the stringline and the bases touch the ground. Secure the remaining palings using a rail offcut to space 50mm apart. Attach palings to cover the gaps.



5 Trim the palings

As the palings follow ground level, there will likely be a ragged top line once they have been secured to the rails. At each post position, mark the front face of the paling 10mm above the post and spring chalklines between these marks. Cut the palings along this line using a power saw.



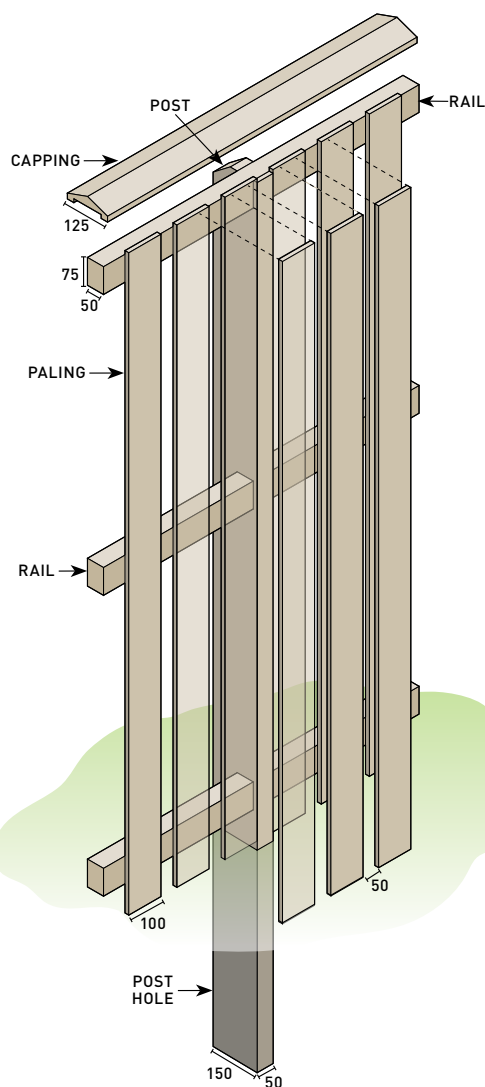
6 Attach the capping

Make a 45° cut at the back edge of each post to allow the capping to overhang by 10mm and for water to drain off. Cut the capping to length and secure with nails, joining the capping with scarf joints.

TIP For sloping sections, use capping offcuts to test the angled cuts. 🍋

PALING FENCE

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Treated pine		
Palings	1800 x 100 x 12	220
Posts	2400 x 150 x 50	7
Rails	4800 x 75 x 50	9
Capping	6000 x 125 x 38	3

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
100 x 4.5mm galvanised flathead nails	Posts, rails and capping
50 x 2.8mm galvanised flathead nails	Palings

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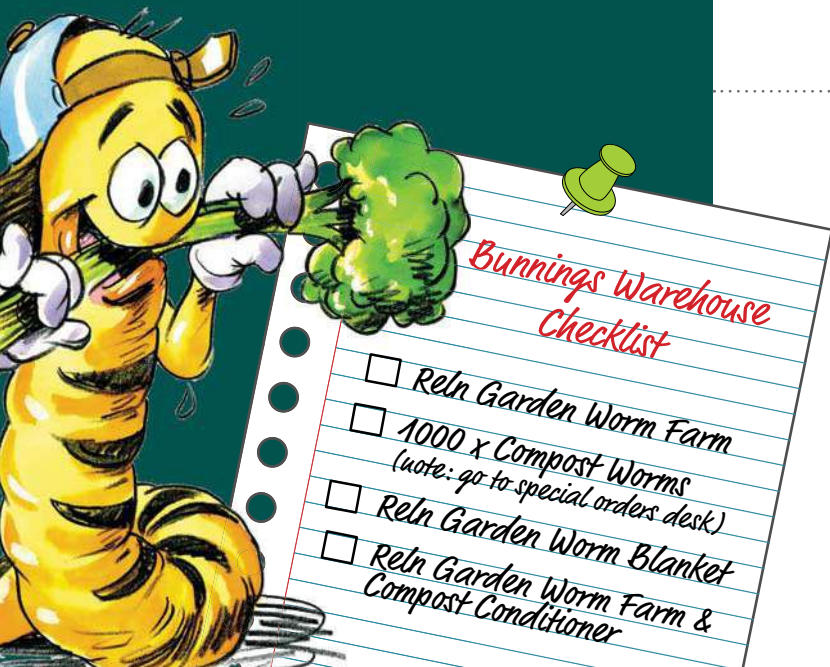
> ABOUT WORM FARMS

Creating a Worm Farm is a great way to recycle organic kitchen waste into a highly nutritious soil conditioner – plus it's fun and easy for the whole family to get involved.

How it works

Worms take your leftover food scraps and turn them into a dark, soil-like material with a pleasant earthy smell – known as worm castings.

They also produce a liquid called worm tea. Worm castings and worm tea, diluted 10:1 with water, are wonderful additives to any garden. You will see exceptional results in the colour, quality and quantity of all your fruit, vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants.





220L Compost Tumbler

> ABOUT COMPOSTING

Making compost is the perfect way to recycle organic garden and kitchen waste into a highly nutritious soil conditioner – and it's so easy to do!

How it works

Compost is made when micro-organisms feed on organic matter - any plant, animal tissue or residues - and break it down into smaller and smaller pieces. When the waste is fully decomposed it forms humus - or compost - a dark, soil-like material with a pleasant earthy smell.

While natural decomposition takes a long time, you can produce mulch in four weeks or rich compost in 6-8 weeks by creating the perfect environment and providing the air, water and food that micro-organisms need to rapidly multiply and quickly break down organic waste.

Once you've made your mulch or compost, place it around your plants, keeping it away from the stems, to feed important nutrients into the soil and to hold moisture in.

For more info on how to start your worm farm or compost go to:

www.relngarden.com.au



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SIMPLE SCREENING

Boost privacy and create shade in an entryway with a slatted screen

PROJECT AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Adding an outdoor screen is one of the easiest and most practical ways to solve a variety of landscape challenges.

A screen can be used to improve both privacy and security, block out an undesirable view or create filtered shade in an exposed spot.

The main entrance to this home was open on all sides and was hit by afternoon sun, so a screen was installed on one side using decking boards and aluminium channel.

A slatted timber screen is easy to install DIY, very budget-friendly and can be customised to fit any space.

For a low-maintenance screen that will last, we used a composite board called Ekodeck instead of timber. ➤

Materials

Screening slats	\$126
Aluminium channel	\$7
Rectangular aluminium tube	\$11
Buttonhead stitching	
timber screws	\$4
Stainless steel countersunk decking screws	\$58
Pop rivets	\$4
TOTAL	\$210

DIY TIP

Always secure a screen to at least three fixed points, such as two posts and a centre support, to prevent the slats from bowing.



EXPERT SECRETS

Composite timber is not only resistant to fading, rot, decay, termites and mould, but it will never need oiling or painting.

Before



TOOLS
CIRCULAR SAW,
DRILL

After

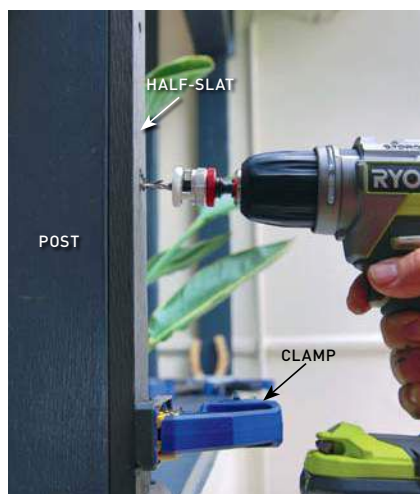
The screen has improved the look of the entrance while adding protection.

1
DAY

\$210
COST

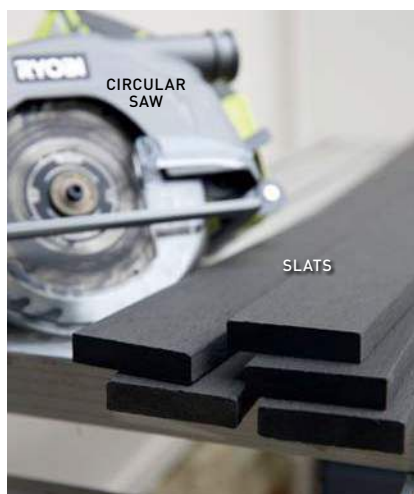
H Learn how to tile a porch
Visit handyman.net.au/entrance-tiles

BUILD THE SCREEN



1 Attach the half-slats

Measure the height of the posts on both sides of the opening. Cut a slat to length, then rip saw it in half vertically. Clamp one of the half-slats flush with the exterior side of one of the posts. Predrill, countersink and secure to the post with 40mm screws. Secure the remaining half-slat to the other post.



2 Cut the screen slats

Measure the opening and calculate the number of slats needed, with 15mm gaps in between. Cut the slats to length using a circular saw. Lay a slat flat on the surface as a spacer. Position the base slat, predrill and countersink, then secure the base slat using screws, checking for level with a spirit level.



3 Add a centre support

Cut aluminium tube to length to use as a centre support, then cut pieces of aluminium channel as saddles. Secure the saddles at the top and base of the opening. Predrill the saddles and tube, then join using a pop rivet gun.

TIP Paint the saddles and centre support before securing, then touch up.



4 Install the slats

Using a slat as a spacer, position the second slat above the base slat. Predrill and countersink the slat at each end, securing it to each post with two screws. Install the remaining slats, checking for level as you go.

TIP The centre support is located on the outside or rear of the screen.



5 Secure the centre support

Mark screw holes along the centre support, with the marks centred on each slat and running in a straight line up the support. Predrill, taking care not to drill through the slats. Pull each slat firmly against the centre support from the front while securing buttonhead screws using a drill.



6 Cover the slat ends

Measure and cut two slats to cover the slat ends. Make a 45° cut on the base of the cover slats, if required. Predrill and countersink the slat covers, securing at the top, base and centre with two screws.

TIP We offset the slat covers about 10mm in from the screen edges.

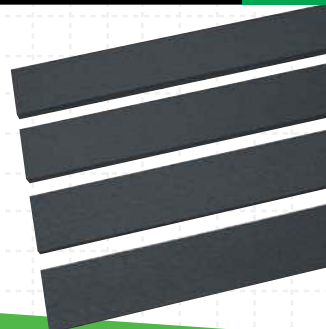
ADAM'S PICKS

CHARCOAL ESSENCE

Dulux Weathershield Low Sheen, \$49 for 1L. dulux.com.au



Ryobi One+ 18V Cordless Impact Driver, \$129, skin only. ryobi.com.au



Ekodeck 67 x 15mm Greystone Composite Screening, about \$8 for 1.8m. ekologix.com.au



Metal Mate 16 x 16 x 1.5mm Aluminium Channel, \$7 for 1m. rcr.com.au



Zenith 8g x 20mm Galvanised Button Head Stitching Timber Screws, about \$4 for 30. itwproline.com.au



P&N Quickbits TCT Cut-Smart Countersink Drill Bit, \$52. bunnings.com.au



Buildex 8 x 40mm Stainless Steel Countersunk Rib Head Decking Screws, \$58 for 250. buildex.com.au

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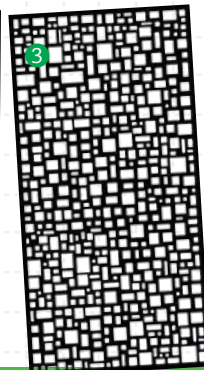
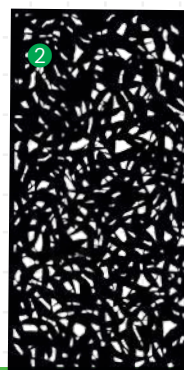
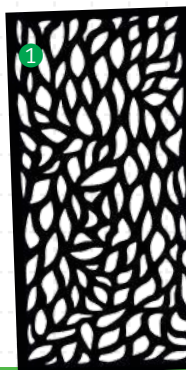
Cook for a crowd with the Gasmate Odyssey Three-burner BBQ with Trolley, \$699.



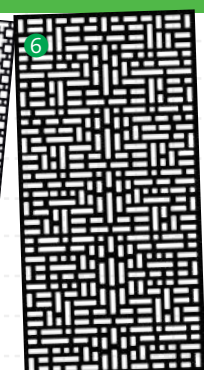
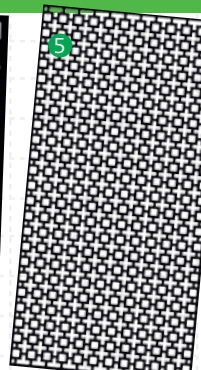
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1



2



3



4



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BUDGET TIP

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Marigold

Cosmos

This month

Whip the spring garden into shape and plan ahead for summer

Flowers to sow

Get these started now for early summer blooms.

- + AGERATUM
- + COSMOS
- + GAZANIA
- + LUNARIA
- + MARIGOLD

Vegies to grow

Add these to the vegie patch for crops from late spring.

- + CAPSICUM
- + CARROT
- + SPRING ONION
- + LETTUCE
- + TOMATO

Capsicum

Carrot

Do now

- + DESIGN a balcony garden, page 134.
- + ADD shade-loving plants, page 142.
- + PLANT a lime tree, page 150.

WHAT'S IN COLOUR

✦ **PETUNIA 'NIGHT SKY'** is a bold new variety of an old favourite that is being released this spring.

Featuring gorgeous deep-purple blooms with white flecks, it mimics the look of a starry night sky and will bloom right through to late summer. The colour pattern varies as it flowers through the seasons.

Growing to 40cm high, this petunia has a mounded trailing habit and spreads from 60-90cm.

It can be grown in containers and will create a gorgeous display in hanging baskets. In garden beds, space plants at least 50cm apart.

Give 'Night Sky' a position in full sun, watering regularly and keeping it well fed for best performance.

Petunia 'Night Sky'

BOOK CLUB



If you want to grow your own food but think you don't have the right place, *Small Space Big Harvest* (DK Books, \$35) is for you.

Featuring beautiful photos, handy charts and diagrams, and a crop planner, it's packed with practical info and inspiration.

Find out what to plant, where and when for fresh fruit, herbs and vegies year-round.

Give the garden a colour injection with boldly coloured spring annuals

To-do list

Get the garden ready for the new season.

- ✓ **PLANT** summer bulbs and also annuals as the weather warms up.
- ✓ **TRIM** thyme, mint and any leggy-looking herbs.
- ✓ **PRUNE** native plants lightly and take frangipani cuttings in tropical zones.
- ✓ **MULCH** lemon trees, but keep it clear of the trunks.
- ✓ **REPOT** indoor plants.
- ✓ **DIVIDE** waterlilies.
- ✓ **TAKE** basal and tip cuttings of perennials.
- ✓ **CHECK** roses for pests and diseases, and treat.
- ✓ **LAY** new turf or sow lawn seed. ➤

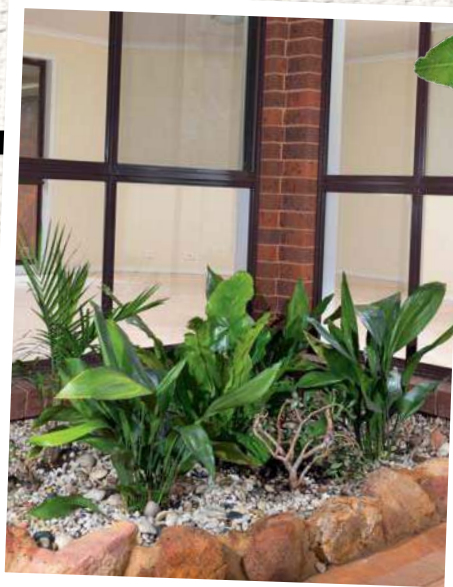
HOW TO RECLAIM A POND

Ponds are a great garden feature, but they do need maintenance year-round.

At this rental property, the fish were rehomed and the pond turned into a garden to minimise the upkeep. It was planted with a palm, bird's nest ferns, and cast iron and jade plants.



1 REMOVE any fish or plants from the pond, then drain the water and remove the shell or liner. Clear out any debris from the base of the pond hole.



2 FILL the hole with an all-purpose garden soil with added soil wetter using a shovel and wheelbarrow. Plant up, water in and mulch with pebbles.

Clean the mower

As the weather warms up, the lawn will need regular mowing, and a bit of TLC will keep a mower running smoother for longer.

It's a good idea to replace dull or nicked blades, change the oil and fuel, and clean the air filter.

The easiest DIY mower care is a good clean and with the right product, it's easier than ever to do.

Simply use WD40 Specialist Lawn & Garden Powerful Foaming Cleaner, \$5, to blast grime and lawn clippings from under the deck and on the top (wd40.com.au).



Prune now

Tidy up plants that have finished flowering.

- + HIBISCUS
- + NATIVES
- + PASSIONFRUIT
- + EVERGREEN HEDGES
- + WINTER-BLOOMING SHRUBS

Harvest now

These vegies and greens are ready to be picked.

- + ARTICHOKE
- + BRUSSELS SPROUTS
- + CABBAGE
- + LEEK
- + SILVERBEET

Artichoke



Feed now

Dose plants in active growth and give fruit a boost.

- + APPLE TREES
- + CITRUS
- + CAMELLIA
- + ROSES
- + LAWNS

Apple



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SPRING STANDOUTS

Fill your garden with annuals to make
a colourful impact after the winter months

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

The bright and beautiful blooms of spring annuals allow you to experiment in the garden with colour combinations and planting options in a way that isn't possible with shrubs.

An annual is a plant that grows from seed, produces flowers and seeds, then dies within a year.

In new gardens, they're ideal for filling bare spaces in garden beds while more permanent plants are growing.

And containers bursting with annuals will instantly transform a verandah, balcony or courtyard.

So head to the nursery to check out the spring-flowering annuals and the array of pots to suit every type of plant.

PICTURE: ISTOCK



Growing from seed is a thrifty way to produce a garden full of spring colour.

And after thinning out seedlings that you've grown from seeds sown directly into the ground, you can use them to plant up pots and save money.

Direct sowing

Annuals such as cosmos and poppies are so easy to cultivate that you can sow the seeds directly where you want them to grow in beds or pots instead of using seed-raising trays.

❶ **PREPARE** the bed before planting by pulling out any weeds, then rake the soil to remove any clumps.

❷ **SOW** the seeds according to the packet directions and keep the bed moist while the seedlings germinate.

❸ **THIN** out the seedlings when they reach a height of 50-75mm.



Plant seedlings

Water the punnet before transplanting and plant out in the cool of the evening.

❶ **REMOVE** the plant carefully from its punnet.

❷ **DIG** a hole and position the plant, making sure the roots are not crowded. Backfill with soil.

❸ **WATER** in with a seaweed solution to prevent transplant shock and mulch with lucerne hay.



Non-direct sowing

Annuals that do not like to be sown directly, such as stocks, bedding begonias and English daisies, can be sown in seed trays.

❶ **FILL** the tray with a seed-raising mix, then sow the seeds according to the packet directions.

❷ **WATER** lightly with a mist spray and cover the tray in plastic wrap. Place in a warm, shady spot.

❸ **REMOVE** the plastic wrap when the seedlings emerge. Water regularly with a mist spray, then transplant into a pot or garden bed when 50-75mm high. ➤

Design ideas

There are many ways to plant annuals to the best effect in the garden.

- ✦ **GROW** plants with different leaf and flower shapes together, such as snapdragons and gypsophila, to emphasise their diversity.
- ✦ **GROUP** the same type of annual, such as ageratum, or blend this with a different group, such as cosmos, to create a strong visual look.
- ✦ **PLANT** annuals of different heights in a pot, positioning tall ones, such as stock, in the centre and low-growing ones, such as bedding begonias and trailing lobelia, around the sides.

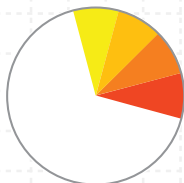
COLOUR COORDINATE



Colour sets the tone of a garden, so is very important when choosing annuals.

The colours in your home reflect your taste and can work well outdoors, too. The easiest way to plan a scheme is to use a colour wheel.

TIP As a shortcut or to get you started designing with colour, seed suppliers offer carefully selected flower mixes.

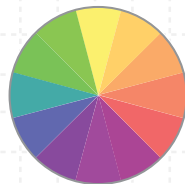


✦ **HARMONIOUS** Colours that are adjacent or close neighbours on a colour wheel, such as red, orange and yellow, will give a harmonious scheme when used together.



✦ **COMPLEMENTARY** Using colours from opposite sides of a colour wheel creates a complementary scheme.

The most intense contrasts are formed by using colours that lie directly opposite each other, such as red and green, yellow and violet and blue and orange.



✦ **TINTS AND SHADES** You can also use tints and shades of the same colour for a themed look. This adds interest and depth when using mainly one colour in landscaping, and when done in small gardens, it isn't overpowering.



Help them thrive

It's important to choose the right plant for the right spot. You can buy annuals for sun, shade or part shade.

Mulch around the plants to keep moisture in the soil and water regularly. Annuals in pots may need watering daily in hot weather.

Feed annuals fortnightly with a soluble complete plant food and remove spent flowers to encourage more blooms.

Did you know?

English daisies, nasturtiums, pansies and violas are edible. Add the petals to salads, or use as a garnish or for cake decoration.

They should be blemish-free and unsprayed, so it's best if they can be picked from your own garden. Wash them in cool water to remove dust and pick early in the morning or at dusk. >



PICTURE: ISTOCK

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WHAT TO PLANT

Impatiens

Also called busy Lizzie, this plant produces a nonstop display of flowers in white, pink and purple.
POSITION Full sun in cold climates, part shade or shade.

Cosmos

Tall-growing cosmos comes in shades of white, pink or crimson and is easily grown from seed. It features fine feathery foliage.
POSITION Full sun.

Nasturtium

Great for beds, rockeries, hanging baskets and pots, colours include yellow, orange and red. Some varieties have semi-double blooms.
POSITION Full sun or part shade.

Lobelia

Ideal for pots and edging garden beds, this low-growing plant has tiny, dainty flowers in shades of blue, pink, mauve and white.
POSITION Full sun or part shade.

English daisy

Also called bellis, this short-lived perennial is usually treated as an annual. It carries its daisy-like flowers on 15cm high stems.
POSITION Full sun or part shade.

Poppy

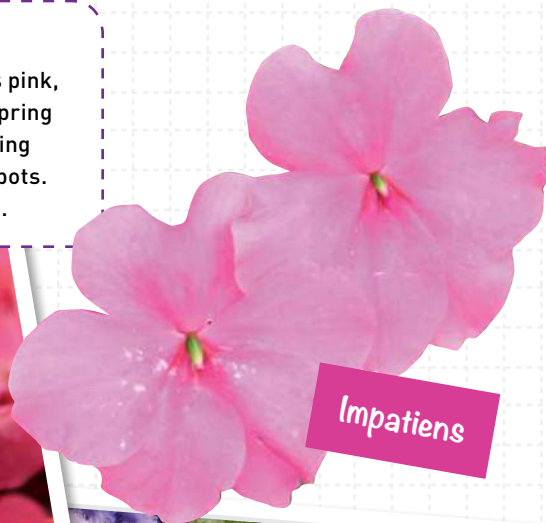
Shirley poppies come in shades of red and pink. Pick the flowers regularly to encourage more.
POSITION Full sun, with shelter from the wind.

Bedding begonia

This hardy annual produces pink, white or red flowers from spring to autumn. It's ideal for edging flowerbeds and growing in pots.
POSITION Full sun or shade.



Begonia



Impatiens



Cosmos



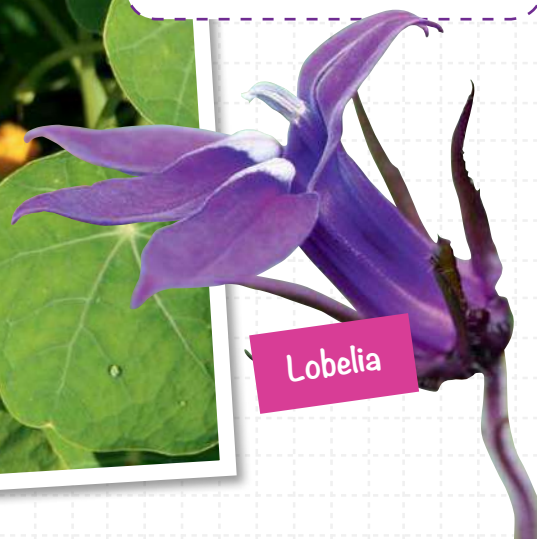
Ageratum

Ageratum

With its soft-blue flower clusters, ageratum, or floss flower, puts on a show through spring and summer. It will self-seed in the garden.
POSITION Full sun or part shade.



Nasturtium



Lobelia

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TRUSTED

Oxy-Shield is a specially formulated landscaping steel, designed to impart a decorative rust-look without the inherent degradation of regular steel.

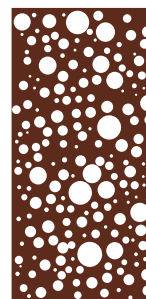
- ✓ Architectural feature
- ✓ Unique rust look
- ✓ Laser-cut design



Leaf



Bamboo



Galaxy



Spiral

The surface oxidises to form a protective coating resistant to corrosion and flaking - a durable long-lasting steel. With a rich, earthy patina - a favourite amongst landscapers - it blends effortlessly into any backyard or garden setting.

Gypsophila

A popular bloom for use in flower arranging, gypsophila, or baby's breath, bears sprays of delicate white, pink or red blooms.

POSITION Full sun.



English daisy

Cornflower

Most well-known in a blue shade, cornflower also comes in rose, maroon, lavender and white. It is ideal for indoor decoration.

POSITION Sun or part shade. ➤



Cornflower



poppy

Stock

Borne on tall stems in a variety of shades, the perfumed blooms of stock make ideal cut flowers. Dwarf varieties are also available. **POSITION** Full sun.

Alyssum

Commonly called sweet Alice, this low-growing annual is covered in white or deep-violet flowers that will attract bees to the garden. **POSITION** Full sun.

Snapdragon

This short-lived perennial is usually grown as an annual and comes in a wide range of colours. It makes an excellent cut flower. **POSITION** Full sun.

Pansy and viola

These plants flower from winter into spring and are ideal for pots, hanging baskets and beds. **POSITION** Full sun, with afternoon shade in hot climates.

Sweet pea

This climber has delicate fragrant flowers. There are dwarf varieties available that grow well in pots. **POSITION** Full sun, with shelter from the wind. ☼



Stock



Alyssum



Snapdragon



Pansy



Sweet pea

CHERYL'S PICKS



Scotts Osmocote Professional Seed Raising & Cutting Mix, \$11 for 25L. scottsaustralia.com.au



Mr. Fothergill's Nasturtium, Gypsophila and Alyssum Seeds, from \$3 a packet. mrfothergills.com.au



Seasol The Seaweed Solution Complete Garden Health Treatment, \$18 for 2L. seasol.com.au



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Classic Planter
495mm



Terrace Planter
190mm



Herb Planter
290mm



Petite Wall Pot
250mm



Grande Wall Pot
390mm



SLATS

screens & fences

WIRE

trellis & mesh

WALL

bricks & fences

Easy as 1-2-3

- 1 Choose your surface
- 2 Select your pots
- 3 Match the hooks

Whites Garden Up Mix'n'Match range of pots and hooks are designed to give you the freedom to plant what you want, where you like.



Terrace Planter
190mm



Herb Planter
290mm



Classic Planter
495mm



Grande Wall Pot
390mm



Petite Wall Pot
250mm



Terrace Wire Hook



Herb Wire Hook



Classic Wire Hook



Classic Slat Hook



Classic Wall Hook

Be a balcony gardener

Transform a bare outdoor space into a high-rise green retreat that will give you hours of pleasure

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



PICTURE: ISTOCK

As inner-city apartment living becomes increasingly popular, boutique balcony gardening is rapidly growing.

Modern 'balcony-scaping' means that lush outdoor spaces are turning bland blocks into green buildings.

While it may not be big, a balcony is the closest thing many of us have to the great outdoors. And spring is the perfect time to give it a boost.

Here's how to practice high-rise horticulture and turn your lacklustre balcony into a gorgeous green space.



There are plants to suit any space, no matter how small.

Ways to landscape

There are lots of great timber, stone, plastic, terracotta and steel pots available in a wide range of colours.

- ✦ **SELECT** pots that will reflect and enhance the mood of your balcony.
- ✦ **GROUP** pots to create a feature and use leaves of different shapes to create interest. Bold pots and planting styles look striking if you have the space, but simplicity can also be effective.
- ✦ **FILL** tall troughs with clipped plants for a sculptural presence and to provide privacy. Try box, native lilly pilly, weeping fig or murraya.
- ✦ **PLANT** large pots with shrubs and underplant with flowering

annuals. Change colour with the seasons and have twice the value in the pot.

- ✦ **DISPLAY** seasonal colour or special plants on your outdoor table.
- ✦ **UTILISE** wall space with vertical gardens and hanging baskets.

Or train climbers on trellis or wire stretched diagonally or in patterns.

Perfumed Chinese star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*), poet's jasmine (*Jasminum sambac*) and *Hardenbergia violacea* are great choices. Mandevilla blooms from spring through autumn in shades of white, pink or red. ➤



Re-potting rules

If your existing plants are looking scraggly and not growing well, they may simply need to be re-potted.

It's a good idea to re-pot plants every 2-3 years, even if they haven't outgrown their pots, as the potting mix degenerates over time.

Check the mixes in your pots have not become water-repellent and hard to re-wet. This will be obvious if the level of the mix has dropped and the water doesn't drain away quickly.

Old potting mixes can also become compacted, reducing the access of the roots to their supply of oxygen.

Re-pot in the same container if the plant isn't root-bound. If it is, or it has grown considerably, use a pot about 5cm bigger to give it room to grow.

New plants brought home from a nursery usually need to be re-potted into a larger pot, or one of your choice.

Pick the pot

Large pots work well on balconies, as they hold moisture better than small ones. Self-watering pots are also ideal.

If you have to carry them upstairs, plastic pots are a good choice, as they're light. They also retain water well and some look like terracotta.

Select plastic pots that are large and heavy enough to withstand wind when filled with potting mix.

For vegetables, choose large troughs so the plants have enough space.

Spray unglazed terracotta and concrete pots with Yates Pot A Seal to prevent moisture loss, or line the sides of the pot with black plastic.

Use pot feet to avoid staining the balcony floor. If run-off is a problem, put the pot on a tray to catch water and empty the tray regularly.

ECO TIP

Grow your own vegetables to save on grocery bills and avoid any wastage. It will also help reduce food miles.



1 2 3

HOW TO RE-POT To help keep your plants performing at their best, they will need re-potting every couple of years into larger pots.



1 Add potting mix

Water the plant about an hour before re-potting, then partially fill the new pot with a premium potting mix. Remove the plant from the old pot, taking care not to damage the roots.



2 Trim the roots

Check the root system carefully and if the plant is root-bound, lightly loosen the roots with your fingers, then trim off any twisted or broken pieces using secateurs.



3 Pot the plant

Position the plant in the centre of the pot so it is at the same level as it was in its original pot. Top up with potting mix to about 25mm from the rim, firming it down, then water in lightly.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLANTS

Every balcony situation is different, so your plant choices will be affected by conditions such as the amount of light the balcony receives.



➤ **SOUTH-FACING** balconies receive little or no sun, so choose shade-loving or indoor plants.

➤ **WHAT TO GROW** Cast-iron plant, mother-in-law's tongue, clivia, liriopse, elephant's ears, justica, cane begonia, ctenanthe, nandina and bird's nest fern.

For height, try *Fatsia japonica* and the parlour palm.



➤ **EAST-FACING** balconies get some sun in the morning but are shady for the rest of the day.

➤ **WHAT TO GROW** Begonia, small camellia cultivars such as 'Fairy Wand', bromeliad, hydrangea, impatiens, dianella, liriopse, orchid, maranta, ctenanthe, nandina, ferns, fuchsia, daphne, cyclamen, lobelia and *Lomandra* 'Tanika'.



➤ **WEST-FACING** balconies can be scorchingly hot at the end of the day, especially in summer, so tough, heat-loving plants are the best choice.

➤ **WHAT TO GROW** Agave *attenuata*, geranium, petunia, flax, yucca, bougainvillea, verbena, petunia, lavender, herbs and bay.

Mix and match different succulents in large pots for an interesting look.



➤ **NORTH-FACING** balconies are drenched in sun during the day. You can grow a range of plants, including vegetables and herbs.

➤ **WHAT TO GROW** Yucca, cordyline, flax, roses, gardenia, geranium, hebe, bougainvillea, citrus and dwarf fruit trees.

For a colourful display, fill large pots with a mix of seasonal annuals such as cosmos, bedding begonias and stocks. ➤



DIY TIP

Consider having a tap installed on your balcony and connect it to a patio hose to make watering your plants an easier task.

WINDY SOLUTIONS

Don't put all pot plants in the too-hard basket because you have a hot, windy balcony. The simple answer is to opt for those that can weather the wind.

➤ **WHAT TO GROW** Coastal rosemary (*Westringia fruticosa*), dwarf bougainvillea, rosemary, coral plant (*Russelia equisetiformis*), hebe, kangaroo paw, lavender, oleander, bird of paradise, verbena, Japanese pittosporum (*Pittosporum tobira*), looking-glass plant (*Coprosma repens*), lomandra and *Agave attenuata*.

Give protection

In apartments, wind can be a problem, as it batters plants, dries them out quickly and can blow pots over. If your balcony faces the sea, wind problems will be compounded by salt.

- **USE** large, heavy pots and water frequently, even daily in hot weather, as dry potting mix becomes lighter.
- **CHOOSE** mounded and small-leaved plants, which are more wind-tolerant.
- **MULCH** pots with pebbles to help retain the moisture.
- **SECURE** pots to the balcony railing, using wire for an unobtrusive look.
- **ATTACH** clear Perspex to the inside of the balustrade to prevent wind hitting plants below railing height.
- **GROW** wind-affected plants in the lee of the balcony railing or use larger, more established plants as shelter.
- **CHECK** what is growing beside the road or on roundabouts in your area, as these plants will be tough varieties.
- **BUY** large plastic pots, as they have better water retention than terracotta, and use a larger, heavier terracotta container as a sleeve.
- **ADD** water-holding crystals to the potting mix when re-potting.



Oleander



Kangaroo paw



Coral plant



Lavender



Hebe



Rosemary



Check your plants for pests, such as caterpillars.

Help them thrive

- ✦ **USE** a top-quality premium potting mix that carries the Australian Standards tick and add Seasol Planting Gel to promote moisture retention.
- ✦ **MULCH** the pots with sphagnum moss, sugar cane or pebbles.
- ✦ **FEED** potted plants in the growing and flowering season, but cut down when plant growth slows. Use a three-month controlled-release fertiliser or regularly liquid-feed. Water before and after applications.
- ✦ **MAKE** watering a relaxing part of your morning or evening routine, as potted plants need frequent watering, especially after windy weather.
- ✦ **CONSIDER** installing an automatic drip-irrigation system if you are away for long periods of time. ➤

PICTURE CHERYL MADDOCKS

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Grow up the wall

The entrance to this ground-level apartment had an empty wall that was the ideal location for a vertical garden.

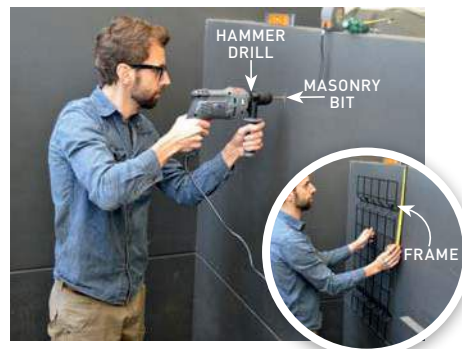
The frame was mounted on the concrete wall using wall plugs and

screws, and pots were hung using the supplied brackets.

Parsley, mint and lettuce create an edible garden, while chrysanthemum and polyanthus provide colour and also attract beneficial insects.

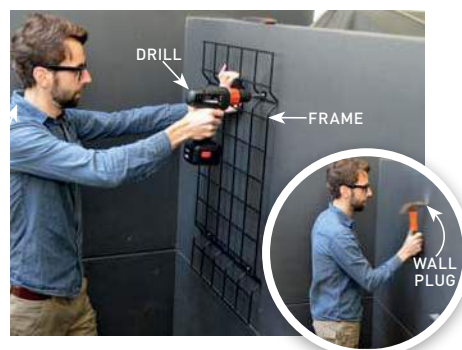


1 2 3



1 Drill mounting holes

Hold the frame against the wall and check for level, then mark mounting holes with a pencil. Use a hammer drill and a 6mm masonry bit to drill 35mm deep holes.



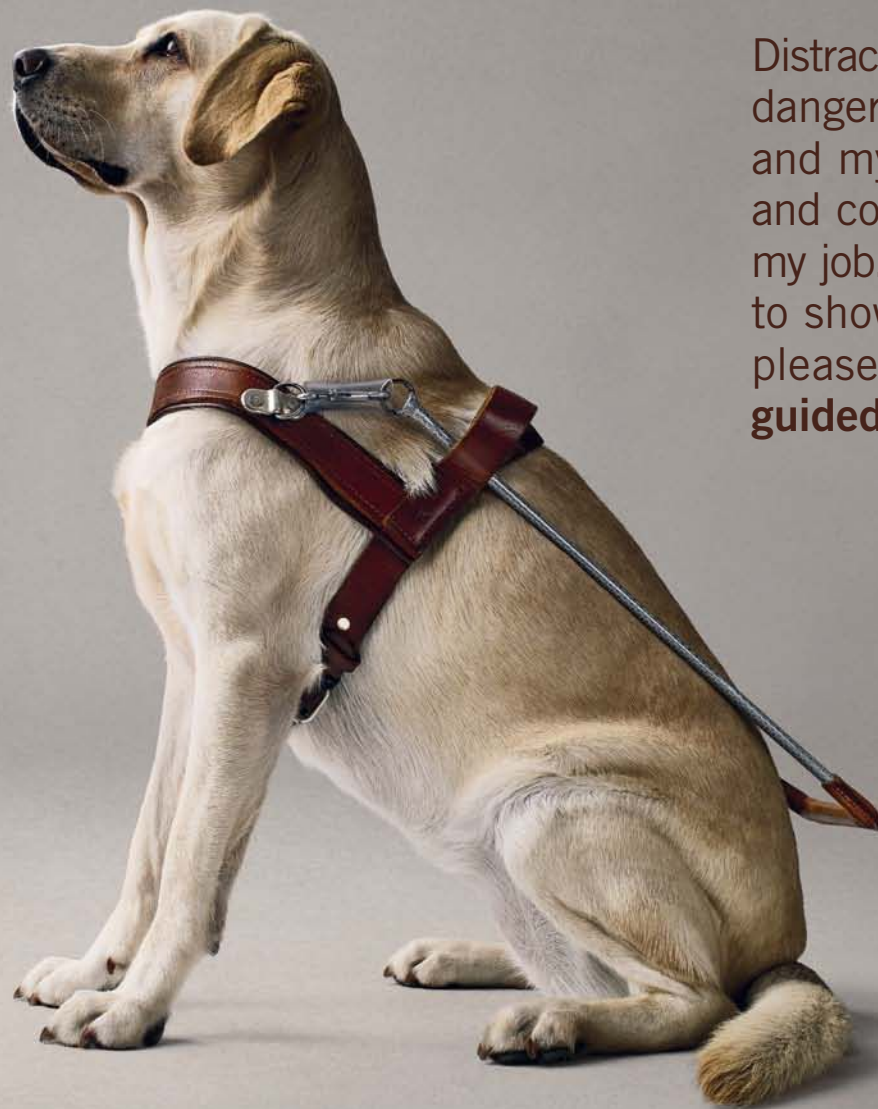
2 Attach the frame

Tap green wall plugs into the wall using a hammer, then align the mounting holes with the wall plugs and drive in 32mm buttonhead screws to secure the frame.



3 Install the pots

Position the plants in the pots, then backfill with a premium potting mix and water in well. Attach the brackets to the pots, then hang on the frame, spacing them evenly. ✨



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GROW TIP

Increase planting opportunities in dry shade by adding an irrigation system on a computerised timer, and mulching well.

SHADY HEROES

Green up those dark places in your garden with shade-tolerant shrubs, vines and annuals

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

One of the most common problem spots that gardeners face is a shady area in the backyard. It could be around the side of the house, under a large tree or just a situation created by aspect.

These spots often end up neglected due to the difficulty they pose, but they can be turned into amazing landscape assets by selecting plants that happily tolerate various levels of shade.

Here's how to make your shady place your favourite corner.



Types of shade

The level of shade can vary, so get to know how much light you get in your shady spot to make choosing plants and solving associated problems easier.

➤ **DAPPLED LIGHT** Occurs under trees with open canopies, such as gum trees. This type of shade offers the most planting opportunities, as many plants can adapt to, or tolerate, the conditions. These areas may also be quite dry.

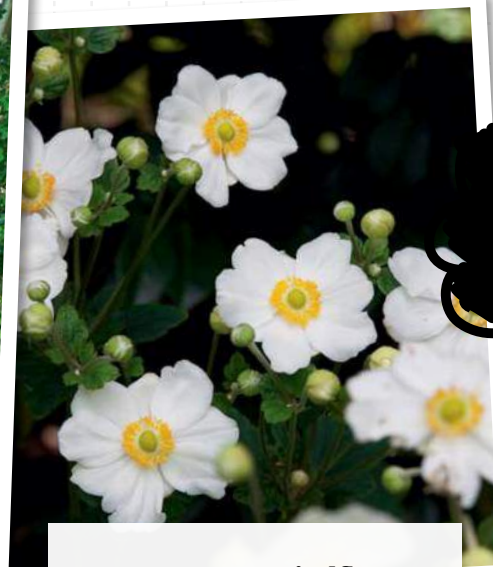
➤ **PART SHADE** This is often found at the side of a house, where there is sun for only part of the day. You will have more planting opportunities if there is morning sun instead of afternoon sun.

➤ **DAMP SHADE** An ideal location for many ferns and other moisture-loving plants, as the soil remains damp.

➤ **DRY SHADE** This is common under large vigorous trees. To make the most of these areas, the regular addition of compost and mulch is needed. Creating raised beds or using pots and planters can expand planting options further.

➤ **DEEP SHADE** With this type of shade, the area receives no direct light. The plant range may be limited, but the results can be very rewarding.

You may want to consider lifting the levels of light by thinning the canopies of the trees creating the shade.



Japanese windflower

This perennial plant is an absolute gem. The flowers appear in abundance in late summer to mid autumn in colours including white, pink and red.

It will thrive in a dappled-light situation or a spot with part shade in the morning, and likes a quality soil and reliable moisture.

WHAT TO PLANT



Hydrangea

One of the best known of the real shade-loving bloomers would have to be the hydrangea. Big, beautiful leaves and football-sized flower heads make it a sight to behold.

It needs pruning annually and will thrive in any type of shade with reliable moisture. It can tolerate all but the coldest conditions.



Azalea

With its flamboyant flowering displays in nearly every colour of the rainbow, this shrub will bring a shady spring garden to life.

It will happily grow in dappled light and part shade. It can be quite dry tolerant once established but performs best with reliable moisture. It can also handle cool conditions fairly well. ➤

Native violet

If you want a beautiful groundcover in damp shade, add the delightful native violet to the garden.

It will grow in all cool, damp regions in most levels of shade but won't survive in dry conditions.

The native violet flowers abundantly in spring and summer and spot flowers year-round.

Coleus

Grown primarily for its superbly patterned foliage, coleus can also feature pretty flower spikes.

A warm-season annual that is grown across spring and summer, coleus, or flame-leaved nettle as it is also known, will add colour in dappled light and part shade.

It likes good soil and reliable moisture during hot weather.

Clivia

This plant will thrive in all levels of shade, and can be grown indoors. It will tolerate virtually any soil type, except constantly wet conditions.

In late winter, it bears blooms ranging in colour from delicate whites, yellows and salmons to near-luminous orange-reds.

Clivia forms large clumps that can be easily divided.

Wonga wonga vine

This lush native climber is great for covering a fence or trellis in a shady spot. It flowers in spring in colours ranging from white to burnt-orange.

A hardy plant, it will grow in part shade in damp or dry conditions, but prefers reliable moisture. Trim to encourage density and keep it under control.

Lilly pilly

A large shrub, lilly pilly makes an ideal hedge and features sprays of flowers from discreet to showy. Many have colourful new foliage and fruit, which is often edible.

Grow lilly pilly in dappled light, part shade, damp shade and dry shade if well mulched.



Bromeliad

This shade lover grows in anything but damp shade, providing year-round lush foliage and wow factor when in flower.

Bromeliads are striking when planted in rockeries. They will also happily grow in dry shade under big trees. Just add a heavy layer of a quality mulch before planting.

Once established, this plant is hardy, but it likes reliable moisture.

Bird's nest fern

One of the finest native ferns, this plant is suitable for growing in virtually any shade position.

As an epiphyte, it needs to be planted in a situation that has extremely good drainage, such as in mounded mulch or a bark-filled rockery. To perform at its best, it requires reliable moisture.

Flowering kalanchoe

In autumn and winter through to spring, this plant will bring waves of colour to shady spots.

It comes in every colour bar the blue range and will tolerate every level of shade, except damp conditions, but does like regular watering. It is also ideal for planting in a pot. 🌸



PICTURE (CENTRE) / ISTOCK



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Worm farms made easy

Recycle kitchen scraps in the garden to make free fertiliser

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Eating fresh food at home keeps the family healthy, but the scraps from your kitchen can also help improve your garden, and the planet.

Composting is a simple way to turn food waste into rich fertiliser that promotes healthy plant growth.

Plus, it keeps organic matter out of landfill, where nutrients are locked away and it would otherwise generate greenhouse gases such as methane.

At home, composting is easy with a worm farm. They're compact, easy to set up and ideal for small backyards.

Earthworms work underground, digesting organic matter and leaving behind castings, which are full of nutrients that plants require.

Worms burrow through the soil, opening up tunnels that allow oxygen and water to penetrate.

These tunnels are coated with nitrate-rich mucus that plants absorb through their root system.

Most worm farms use compost worms, which are slightly different to earthworms, as they live closer to the surface and eat fresher organic matter.

Setting up a kit

Composting with worms couldn't be simpler, with a range of worm farms available to suit the size of your garden and household.

Most tiered worm farms consist of one or more working trays, where the worms live. This is also where worms are fed and process their food.

Holes in the base of the trays allow worms to migrate to the upper levels, as they fill the lower trays with castings.

Once the worms have migrated, the castings can be collected and mixed into the soil of a new garden bed, or diluted with water to create nutrient-rich liquid plant food.

The lowest level is called the collector tray, and this is where worm juice accumulates. This prized liquid can be extracted using the tap and diluted with nine parts water before being used on the garden or pot plants.



Having worms in the garden is one of the signs of a healthy soil ecosystem



1 2 3



1 Assemble the worm farm

Attach the legs to the collector tray, then screw on the tap and insert one working tray into the collector tray, saving the others for later. Hydrate the bedding block in a bucket of water and spread it over the working tray.



2 Add the worms

Pour the contents of a worm farm starter kit on top of the bedding and spread it out gently. Position a worm farm blanket on the top and allow the worms to settle in for a week before their first feed.



3 Harvest the castings

Extract the juice frequently using the tap. To harvest the castings, remove the lid and the blanket to expose the worms to the light, causing them to burrow. The top level of castings can then be scooped out with a trowel. ➤



Worms can't digest garden refuse, so add it to a compost bin.

DIY TIP

Keep a small container for food scraps in the kitchen to feed worms daily, chopping pieces finely to make it easier for them to digest.



FEEDING WORMS

Once established, worms can eat about half their body weight in food in a day, so feed them a small handful of food scraps daily. Let worms eat 80% of their last meal before feeding.

Ok to eat



Newspaper



Fruit



Tea leaves



Coffee grounds



Bread



Eggshells



Vegetables



Pasta



Citrus

Not ok to eat



Onion



Chilli



Glossy paper



Garlic



Oil



Meat



Dairy

Caring for your worms

Worms like to be kept moist, but not wet, so give them a light spray of water every few feedings and drain the lower tray frequently to avoid excessive water build-up. Pour in 5L of water weekly to keep them moist.

A healthy worm farm should have an earthy smell, but if it smells like rotting food, you might be feeding them too much. Reduce the amount of scraps and mix in hay or shredded newspaper to absorb excess moisture.

TIP Position your worm farm out of direct sunlight and heavy rain.



Add a compost conditioner to help neutralise acidity and minimise pests



Free-range farms

In-ground farms consist of a chamber submerged in the soil where food scraps are deposited. They have a lid to keep smells in and vermin out.

The walls of the chamber are dotted with holes and the base is open, allowing worms to enter and exit to feed on the food inside. ♡

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ZEST FOR LIMES

Grow this citrus to enjoy its fragrant flowers and flavoursome fruit

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



DIY TIP

If you have fruit left over after harvesting, you can simply freeze the juice in ice-cube trays and use as needed.



Classified as citrus, limes are mostly warm-climate trees. The fruit is generally smaller than other commonly grown citrus such as oranges, lemons and mandarins.

There are several species that can be grown at home, including native finger lime and Kaffir lime. And the bonus with growing limes, as with all citrus, are the fragrant flowers.

Limes are an excellent source of vitamin C and a great alternative to lemons. And if you like acidic tastes, this fruit is for you, as it contains one and a half times more acid, weight for weight, than a lemon.

They can be used in seafood dishes, with chicken and other meats, in cakes, drinks, desserts, biscuits, marmalade and, of course, as a substitute for the lemon in gin and tonic.



PICTURES ISTOCK

HOW TO GROW

The cultivation requirements of all lime trees are the same.

➤ **POSITION** in a sunny spot with protection from the wind.

➤ **SOIL** must be free-draining. Limes dislike badly drained clay soils or those with heavy subsoil. Dig in copious amounts of compost before planting. Water in with a solution of Seasol to help prevent transplant shock.

➤ **WATER** newly planted trees twice a week for six weeks until established, then water well once or twice a week, especially while the fruit is ripening.

➤ **FEED** with a complete citrus fertiliser in spring and late summer.

Or alternate a complete citrus fertiliser with Yates Dynamic Lifter, cow manure or blood and bone. Apply to damp soil under the mulch in early spring, early summer and late summer.

The roots spread to the outer perimeter of the branches, so water and feed there. Wait at least six weeks or until the roots have established before feeding newly planted trees.

➤ **MULCH** with sugarcane, lucerne hay or pea straw to keep the soil moist and prevent weeds growing and competing for the nutrients. Leave at least a hand's span clear around the trunk.

Pruning isn't needed to produce fruit, but the tree can be trimmed into shape.

GROW TIP

Remove half the developing fruit on young trees in their first and second years to prevent the tree exhausting itself.



Cheryl

EXPERT SECRETS

Roll a lime firmly on the work surface before cutting to get the maximum amount of juice.

Did you know?

British sailors in the 19th century had lime juice added to their daily ration of watered-down rum to stave off scurvy. This practice led Australians and Americans to give the English the nickname limey. ➤



Bees love the sweetly scented blossoms.

WHAT TO GROW

Kaffir lime



Kaffir lime

The Kaffir lime (*Citrus hystrix*) grows to about 1.5m. As the leaves are constantly picked for cooking, the plant usually remains small, and will grow well in a pot.

The strong lime-tasting leaf is 'waisted', resembling two leaves joined together. It is an essential ingredient in many Thai recipes, including green curries, fish dishes and soups.

Before use, the leaves are generally shredded or cut, and they can also be frozen in a plastic freezer bag.

While the flesh of the knobbly fruit is not eaten, the zest is delicious in cooking.

Tahitian lime



Tahitian lime

The most popular homegrown lime, Tahitian lime (*Citrus x latifolia*) is thought to be a hybrid of the West Indian lime and the citron.

It reaches about 3m high and does well in the garden or in a pot.

Also called the Persian lime, this small tree will grow well as far south as Sydney and Perth in

frost-free zones. Given frost protection, it can be grown as far south as Victoria.

This citrus tree produces green thin-skinned fruit that are about 50mm in diameter and ripen over a five-week period in autumn and early winter.

They are at their juiciest when the skin is just turning light yellow.

Finger lime



Finger lime

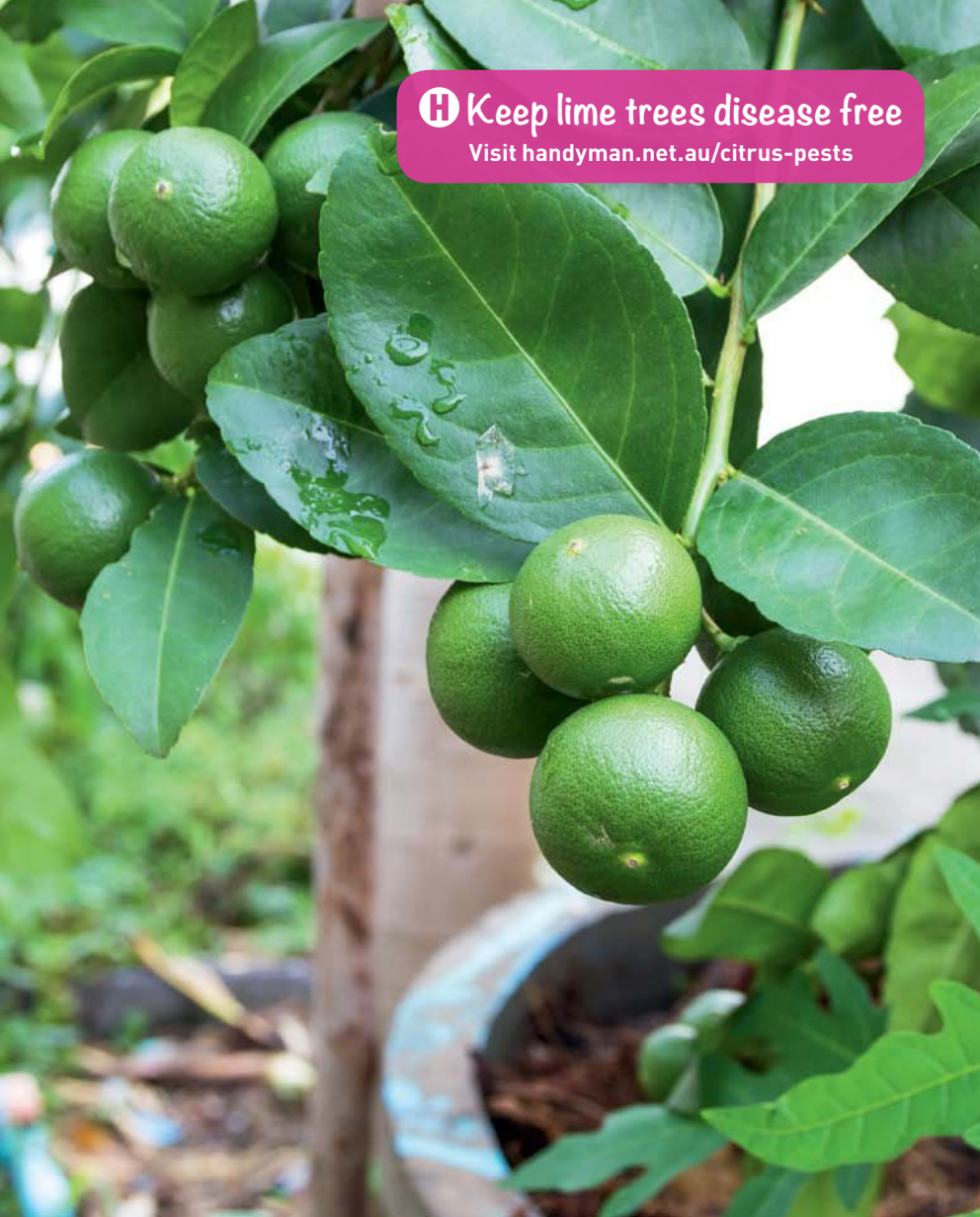
Many top Australian chefs and gourmet cooks love our native finger lime (*Citrus australasica*) because of its superior lime taste.

Finger lime is an under-storey rainforest tree that reaches a height of 2-5m when planted in the garden, but lower when grown in a large pot.



The fruit contains a mass of juicy, strongly lime-flavoured citrus pearls or juice vesicles that resemble caviar. Cultivars are available with green or pinkish-red pearls.

They can be used to garnish chicken, seafood and oysters, and also make interesting jams, chutneys and savoury sauces.



H Keep lime trees disease free
Visit handyman.net.au/citrus-pests

Plant in a pot

Lime and Kaffir lime trees grow well in containers, and there are dwarf varieties available.

Choose a pot that is 40-50cm in diameter with good drainage, using pot feet so drainage is unhindered.

Use a specialised potting mix for citrus and add about 10% soil or, even better, homemade compost. The tree will be in the pot for a long time, so these additions will help prevent the mix from slumping.

Frequent feeding is essential, especially from late winter to the middle of autumn. Apply a complete citrus food every six weeks.

Or you can use a six-month controlled-release fertiliser such as Scotts Osmocote Fruit, Citrus, Trees & Shrubs. Always water the pot well before and after applying fertiliser.

Water regularly, especially during summer when you may need to water daily, and mulch with lucerne hay. ➤



If space is limited, choose a dwarf variety or grow a lime tree in a pot

PICTURE: ISTOCK

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> garden

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Pan-fried lime & chilli chicken

PREPARATION TIME 10 minutes

COOKING TIME 15 minutes

Ingredients

1 teaspoon finely grated lime zest
2 tablespoons lime juice
2 tablespoons peanut oil
2 tablespoons chopped fresh coriander
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 red birdseye chilli, finely chopped
Freshly ground black pepper
16 chicken tenderloins

① **COMBINE** the lime zest, lime juice, oil, coriander, garlic and chilli in a large bowl. Season with freshly ground black pepper.

② **ADD** the chicken to the bowl and mix well to coat.

③ **HEAT** a non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Add half the chicken and cook on each side for 3 minutes, or until cooked and golden brown. Transfer to a plate and loosely cover with foil to keep warm while cooking the remaining chicken. Serve hot, drizzled with the pan juices.

Serves 4



Margarita

This famous tequila-based cocktail makes a great tangy summer aperitif.

Ingredients

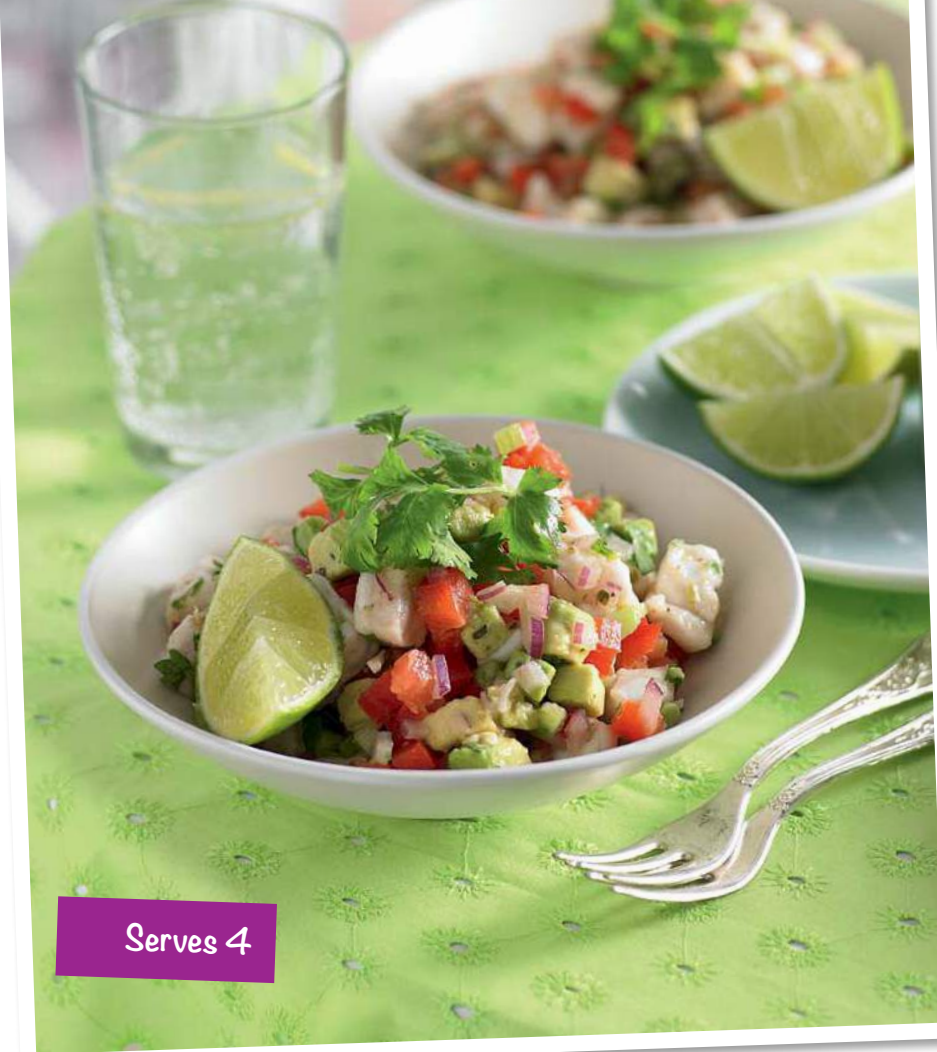
1 lime
Fine sea salt, to coat
1½ measures (45ml) tequila
1 measure (30ml) Cointreau
1 tablespoon lime juice

① **RUB** cut lime around the rim of a margarita or martini glass.

② **DIP** the rim of the glass into a saucer of salt to coat.

③ **FILL** a shaker with ice. Add the tequila, Cointreau and lime juice, then shake well. Strain and garnish with a twist of lime.





Serves 4

White fish ceviche with avocado, capsicum, onion and tomato

PREPARATION TIME 20 minutes, plus 3-6 hours marinating

COOKING TIME Nil

Ingredients

500g firm white fish, such as blue-eye trevalla, snapper, hake or cod
3 large limes
1 red capsicum, finely diced
1 small red onion, finely diced
1 small garlic clove, crushed (optional)
2 ripe tomatoes, skins removed and diced
1 small cucumber, peeled, seeded and diced
1 tablespoon chopped fresh coriander leaves, plus extra leaves, to garnish
1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
1 small pinch white pepper
1 firm ripe avocado, diced
1 lime, quartered, to serve

1 PAT the fish dry with paper towel. Cut into 2cm cubes and remove any bones. Put in a glass dish with a lid.

2 GRATE the zest of 1 lime finely and juice all three limes. Add the lime zest and juice to the fish and stir to coat. Cover the dish with the lid or use plastic wrap, then refrigerate for 3-6 hours. The fish is 'cooked' by the juice and is ready to eat when it is firm and opaque.

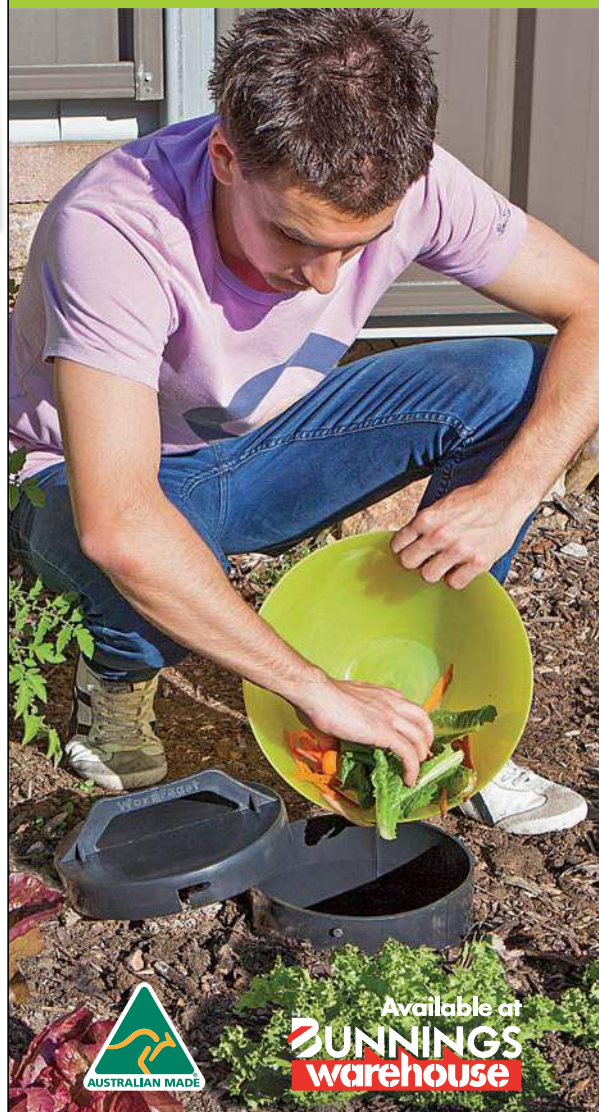
3 DRAIN off any liquid from the fish, then transfer to a large bowl. Add the capsicum, onion, garlic, tomato, cucumber, chopped coriander, cumin, oregano and white pepper, then stir to combine. Gently fold in the avocado.

4 SPOON the fish mixture onto serving plates. Garnish with the extra coriander leaves and serve with the lime quarters. >

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Serves 4

Mango and papaya with lime mousse

PREPARATION TIME 15 minutes

COOKING TIME 10 minutes

Ingredients

2 limes

1 tablespoon gin

3 tablespoons sugar

1 mango, diced

1 papaya, diced

Lime mousse

1 eggwhite

Pinch of salt

150g thick cream

Grated zest and juice of 1 lime

2 tablespoons acacia honey

1 USE a citrus zester to finely grate the zest from 1 lime, then set aside. Juice the limes and pour the juice into a small measuring cup. Add the gin and enough water to make $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (125ml).

2 POUR the lime and gin mixture into a small saucepan and add the sugar. Bring to the boil over medium heat, then reduce the heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes, or until the mixture thickens to a syrup.

3 PUT the mango and papaya in a bowl. Pour over the hot syrup, then cover and refrigerate to allow the fruit to marinate.

4 MAKE the mousse by whisking the eggwhite with the salt until stiff. Whisk the cream with the lime zest, lime juice and honey, then gently fold in the eggwhite.

5 DIVIDE the fruit and syrup among serving dishes, then top each with a spoonful of the lime mousse. Sprinkle with the reserved grated lime zest.

Lemon and lime sorbet

To serve six people, you need 1 cup caster sugar, the rind and juice of 2 lemons and 4 limes, and 2 eggwhites.

MAKE THE SYRUP Put the sugar and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water in a pan and heat gently, stirring continuously, until the sugar dissolves. Bring the liquid to a boil and immediately remove the pan from the heat.



1 ADD the lemon and lime rind to the hot syrup, then let the syrup cool to room temperature.



2 STRAIN the cooled syrup into a bowl and stir in the fruit juice. Pour into a container and freeze until it resembles slush.



3 WHISK the eggwhites until soft peaks form, then add the slushy sorbet in large spoonfuls and gently whisk. Return the mixture to the freezer until it is icy and half-frozen. Remove and stir gently with a fork, then return to the freezer until solid. ❖



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What's on this Month

FREE Kids' D.I.Y. Workshops

» Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 September **MAKE A GIFT FOR DAD**

Create a special gift this Father's Day

» Saturday 10 September **DRESS-UPS**

Design a wearable masterpiece

» Sunday 11 September **WOODWORK**

Make something special out of wood

» Saturday 17 September **FUN WITH PAINT**

Have fun with bright-coloured paint

» Sunday 18 September **GAME MAKERS**

Create your own fun

» Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September **GARDEN TO PLATE**

Plant your own vegetable pot plant



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 3 and Sunday 4 September **D.I.Y. PROJECTS WEEKEND**

Learn great advice and handy tips

» Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September **HOME ORGANISATION**

Get your place sorted this winter

» Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September **PAINTING AND PLASTERING**

Find out how to master your next project

» Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September **GARDEN TO PLATE**

Grow your favourite vegetables and herbs



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PLUS Ideas to spruce up the yard for spring.

DECORATE

Turn trash into treasure with easy painting techniques for furniture and accessories.
PLUS Replace old sofa webbing DIY.

OUTDOOR

Feed the lawn for your greenest grass ever and choose the right mower for your patch.
PLUS How to lay paving like a professional.

1



2



3



4



POP QUIZ!

Name that *native*

Can you identify these Aussie plants?
The answers are at the bottom of the page

5



8



7



6



ANSWERS 1 BANKSIA 2 CORREA 3 WATTLE 4 BOTTLEBRUSH 5 WARATAH 6 WESTRINGIA 7 KANGAROO PAW 8 GREVILLEA