

HOW TO HEATPROOF YOUR HOUSE INSIDE & OUT

AUSTRALIAN

INSTALL POOL FENCING ^{page 30}

Handyman

3 SUPER EASY
GARDEN
MAKEOVERS

PAINT
THE FLOORS FOR A NEW
LOOK ON A BUDGET

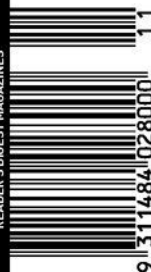
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Get the look
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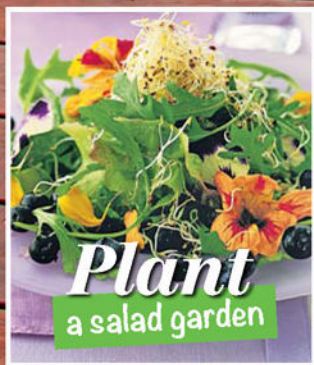
Outdoor living
STYLE THE DECK FOR SUMMER

READER'S DIGEST MAGAZINES



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Plant
a salad garden



Tidy
the spring yard



Hang a new gate

page 100

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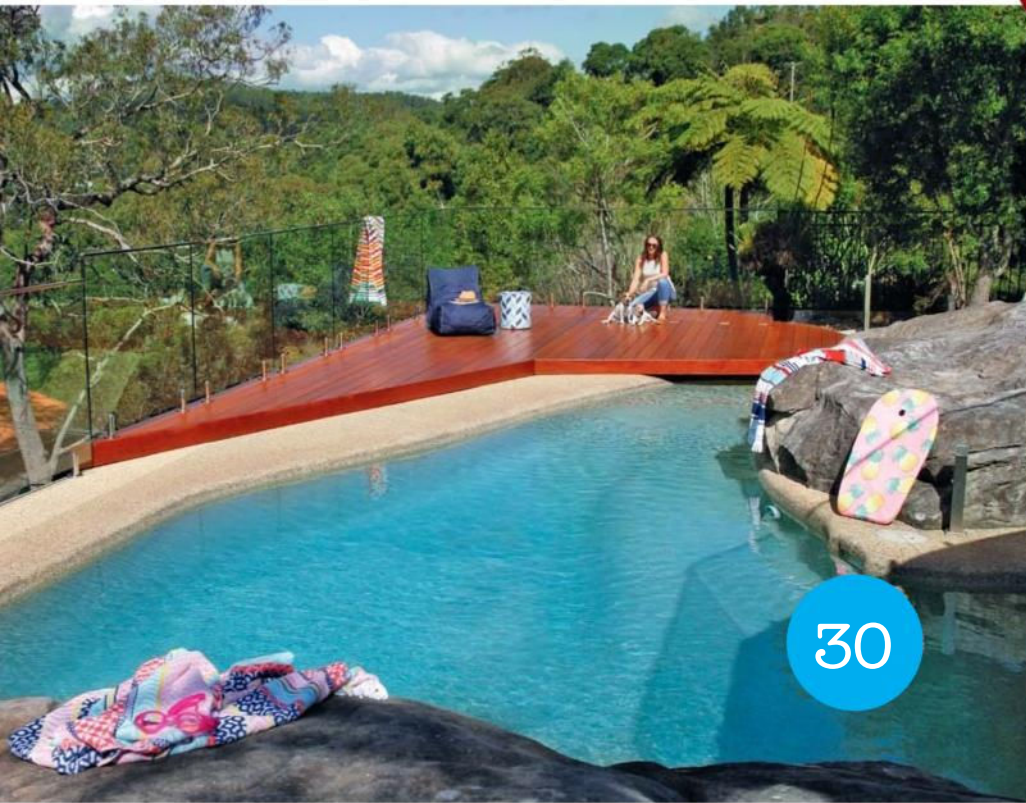


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NOVEMBER ISSUE



REGULARS

- 12 HANDY STUFF**
Freshen up the bathroom with new fittings and accessories
- 18 BUYER'S GUIDE**
A round-up of coffee makers for a daily DIY brew
- 46 BASIC SKILLS**
Learn how to operate a random orbital sander
- 82 ORIGINS**
Discover all the hard facts about concrete
- 114 GET THE MAG**
Subscribe and save 38% off the cover price
- 116 SEE THE WORLD**
Take a tour around the streets of New York City

Build

- 20 DECK WITH A VIEW**
Build circular decking platforms for entertaining
- 30 FENCE AND CLEAN THE POOL**
Install glass fencing and get the water crystal clear
- 38 MAKE A BBQ BENCH**
Create an outdoor preparation area for summer
- 44 BACKYARD DINING**
Choose the best barbecue ready for alfresco cooking



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY
STEVE PERRIOTT



page
142



Renovate

- 48 GREEN DREAM**
A new home blends in perfectly with the surrounding rainforest
- 57 STAY COOL IN SUMMER**
How to keep the heat at bay in your home and garden
- 64 FRAME THE BATH**
Build a sturdy timber structure to support a built-in tub

Decorate

- 66 PAINT THE FLOOR**
Give a new look to concrete or timber flooring with paint
- 72 SOLID FORM**
Innovative ways to use concrete in all styles of interiors
- 76 CEMENT DESIGN**
Make contemporary homewares DIY using plastic moulds

Outdoor

- 87 3 DIY GARDEN MAKEOVERS**
Quick and easy projects to transform your backyard
- 96 OUTDOOR OVERHAUL**
Turn a bare, unused garden into a living and dining space
- 100 INSTALL A NEW GATE**
Upgrade a side passage by patching up old posts and hanging a gate
- 106 CHOOSE THE RIGHT LADDER**
Get the best equipment for the job and learn how to avoid injury
- 110 GARDEN PLAYGROUND**
Provide hours of entertainment for the kids over the holidays
- 112 XMAS LIGHTS**
Illuminate your place with a dazzling festive display

Garden

- 122 THIS MONTH**
Prepare the garden for the summer months ahead
- 126 GET SET FOR THE HEAT**
Tackle a few jobs now to help the backyard survive the hot season
- 134 CREATE A LOW-ALLERGY GARDEN**
Help avoid hay fever or asthma by growing the right plants
- 142 GROW SALAD GREENS**
Plant a combo of lettuces and leafy greens in beds or pots
- 152 COOL SUMMER CROP**
Add cucumbers to your veggie patch for a refreshing salad staple
- 156 FIX FENCE PALINGS**
Replace old or broken palings for a budget-friendly makeover
- 160 POP QUIZ**
Test your knowledge of cats by identifying these breeds

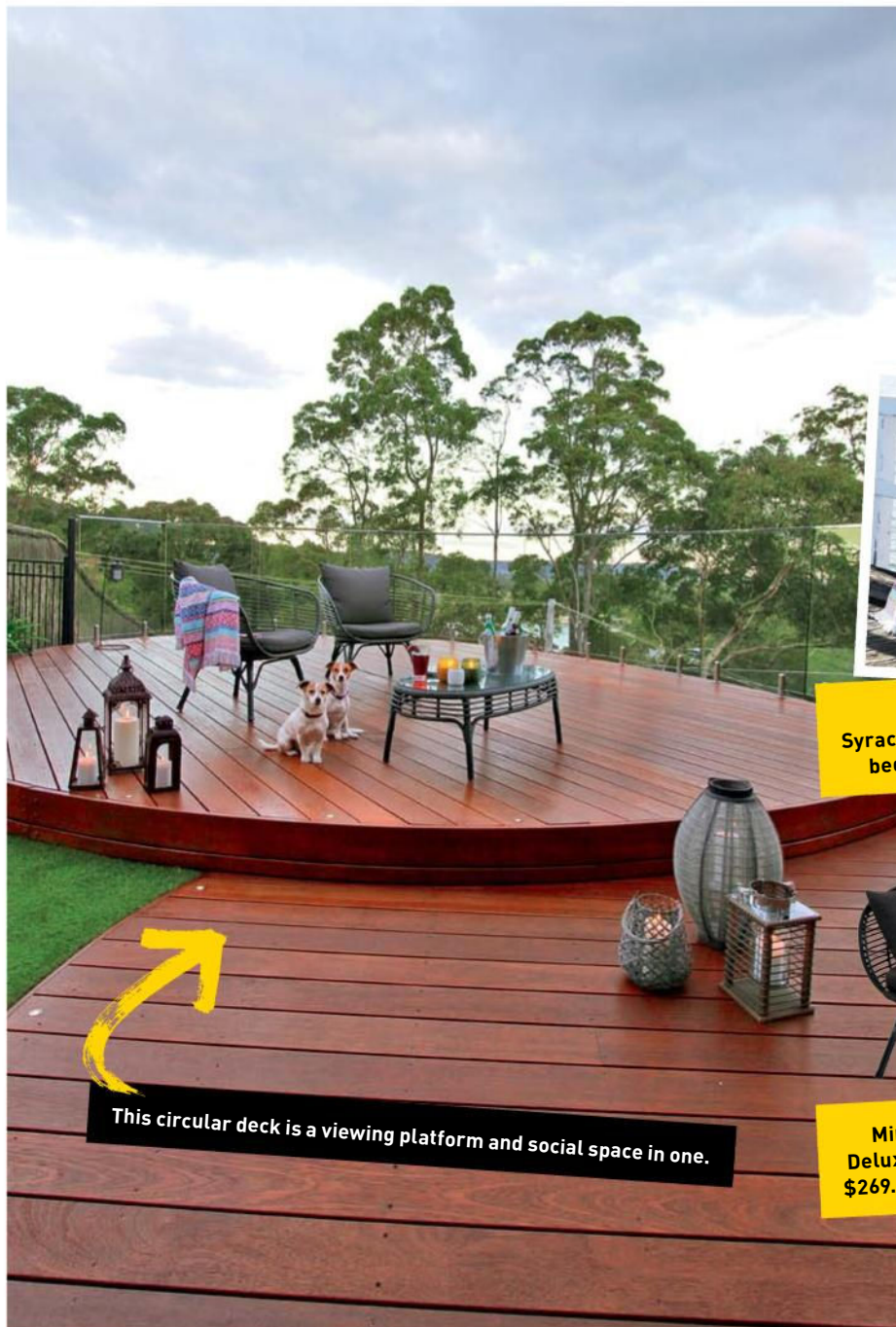


GET THE LOOK

LOVE THE COVER?

Turn a bare deck into an entertaining area with outdoor seating and accessories

MAIN PICTURE STEVE PERRIOTT



Situated up high, this timber deck features frameless glass panels to fence off the drop while making the most of the surrounding views.

Featuring a modern circular design, adding a comfortable three-piece outdoor setting creates a great place to socialise on this open-air deck.

Large lanterns offer ambient lighting and bold candles add colour while keeping mozzies at bay.



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THIS ISSUE

HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH



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PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Designed for indoor or outdoor use, Protector Aluminium Decorative Screens are a great way to increase privacy and create zoned areas.

Made from powdercoated aluminium, they won't rot or rust and don't need painting, and are easily installed DIY using brackets (protectoraluminium.com.au).

EDITOR'S LETTER



A few months ago, I went on a trip to New York City. My sister Helen has lived there for years but for some crazy reason I hadn't visited before.

Manhattan in midsummer is incredible. I expected the energy, but I wasn't prepared for all the flowers in hanging baskets, sidewalk planters and window boxes. It felt like every street was in full bloom.

So I came home ready for summer and now it's finally almost here. And November is the issue when the whole team gears up for outdoor living.

Get ready for summer

Features editor Ashleigh kicked things off with the fabulous circular deck on the cover. Turn to page 20 to find out how it was built and to get the look.

I added a practical project to the mix. Last month I mentioned replacing a rotten gate and this issue has the before and after pics. Turn to page 100 to see the difference hanging a picket gate and painting it white makes to the side passage of the house.

The hanging baskets of flowers on the fence really spruce up the area and look great from the bedroom windows.

Senior editor Daniel had great fun building a barbecue bench for cooking alfresco. With plywood cabinets and a hardwood top, it looks designer but is easy and budget-friendly to build. Check out his handiwork on page 38.

Happy DIYing,

Artemis



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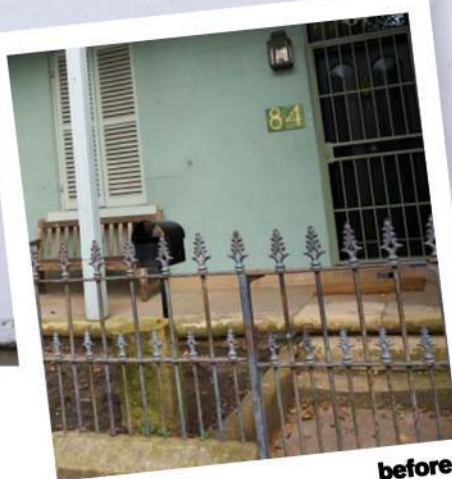
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HANDY STUFF

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Give a dingy bathroom new life with a fresh set of fittings and accessories

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Benchtop bowl

Replace your tired old basin with the Clark 505mm Cellini Single Bowl with Tap Landing Overmount Sink, \$450. This 20L stainless steel sink features a pop-up waste device.

clark.com.au



Bold basin

Pop the on-trend Mondella Vivace Matte Black Basin, \$169, on your vanity for a fresh new look. Made of vitreous china for a tough finish, the basin comes with a five-year warranty and is easy to install.

mondella.com.au

Flexible fluid

Install the WELS 4-star rated Dorf Vixen Retractable Sink Mixer, \$310. Made from brass and soft flexible PEX hose, it's available in chrome, or matt black or white with chrome accents to suit any home.

dorf.com.au



Liquid lever

Remove bulky bottles from your shower with the Modena by Enzo Barelli Soap Dispenser and Holder, \$23. Screws and brackets are included to attach the modern chrome-finished dispenser to your wall with little fuss.

stefani.com.au



Tooth trestle

Pick up a pair of the quirky Propaganda Tooth Toothbrush Holders, \$27 each. Available in white or gold, these ceramic holders are 6.5cm tall and can each hold four brushes. ➤

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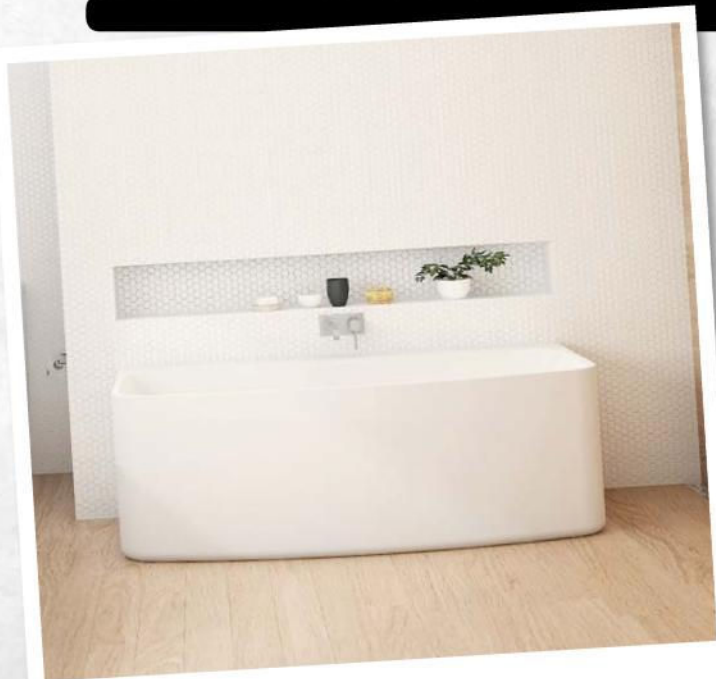
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estilo.com.au



Twin tub

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caroma.com.au



Designer dryer

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barben.com.au

Safety spray

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handihome.com.au



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Rapid refinish

Freshen grout without any fuss with the White Knight White Grout Pen, \$14 for 5ml. The pen is ideal for creating new grout lines on painted tiles and re-whitening discoloured or faded grout on existing tiles.

whiteknightpaints.com.au



Fissure fix

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timbermate.com.au



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selley.com.au

Surface switch

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rustoleum.com.au



Floor facelift

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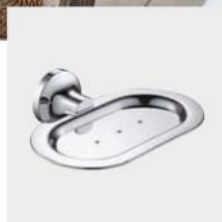
//01 Sahara Basin Mixer



//02 Sahara Wall Faced Toilet Suite



//03 Sahara Robe Hook



//04 Sahara Soap Dish



//05 Sahara Rail Shower



//06 Sahara Shower Mixer

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BUYER'S GUIDE

COFFEE MAKERS



Double delight

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Traditional tool

Try the Avanti Six-cup Espresso Maker, \$30, to make coffee. The traditional Italian-style brewer can be used on gas or electric stovetops. avantihomewares.com

Warm wake-up

Start the day with a ready-to-drink roast using the Breville Aroma Style Electronic Drip Coffee Maker, \$70. It has a pre-set timer and an LCD display. breville.com.au



Benchtop barista

Skip the line at your local cafe with the Breville Duo-Temp Pro Coffee Maker, \$400, featuring low pressure pre-infusion and precision dosing of coffee grinds. breville.com.au

Get your morning cup of java for less with the latest machines to DIY at home

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Espresso express

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Countertop cuppa

Use the theatrical KitchenAid Siphon Coffee Brewer, \$279, for a fresh black coffee. It comes with a cleaning brush, scoop and three reusable filters. kitchenaid.com.au

Stovetop special

Bring out the best in your beans with the Atomic Coffee Machine, \$550. The Italian stovetop design has a group head, steam wand and cup. bontradingco.com.au



Backpack brew

Make your coffee wherever you are with the portable Handpresso Wild Hybrid Espresso Maker, \$185. Designed for use with ground coffee or ESE pods. thedesigngiftshop.com



Pressed perfection

Simplify your daily morning routine with the easy-to-use Baccarat Venice Eight-cup Plunger, \$70. All you need is ground coffee and boiling water. house.com.au

DECK WITH A VIEW

Transform an unused area into a fabulous entertaining space with a custom-designed circular deck

PROJECT SCOTT MANUELLE PICTURES STEVE PERRIOTT

4
DAYS

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Timber decks are a great way to create an outdoor living area that's perfect for entertaining guests. They're an ideal alternative to grass in shaded yards and areas prone to harsh weather conditions.

This unique circle design was built for Chris and Frances Manuelle. The top level of their sloping block only sees sun during the middle of the day, and leads to a slippery site full of moss and weeds.

Uninviting, they rarely used the area, despite a stunning panoramic view of the ocean and national parkland.

The couple wanted to reclaim the space for entertaining and enjoy the area with a design that would suit the bush setting. They chose a cascading design of three circular merbau decks broken up with artificial grass. ➤

Before



Materials

Timber framework	\$455
Merbau decking	\$1422
Aluminium flat bar	\$194
Stirrups	\$87
Fasteners	\$142
Concrete	\$312
Deck cleaner	\$116
Decking oil	\$71
TOTAL	\$2799

After

The new design links the entire area together with more space for entertaining.

LAY A CIRCULAR DECK

1 Build the frame

Drive a timber stake into the centre of the area and hammer in a nail. Tie a stringline to the nail and attach the other end to a spray paint can 1950mm from the centre. Pull the stringline taut and mark out the circle.

Mark the location of the bearers and joists, then dig 300mm deep footing holes at the bearer ends and in the centre of bearers that are over 1500mm long.

Join the bearers and joists using nails to form the frame. Cut angled rim joists and secure around the perimeter, trimming the joists to fit if required.

2 Set the bearers

Use offcuts to support the bearers at the correct height and check for level. Secure the stirrups to the bearers over each hole using screws.

Mix up the concrete and pour it into the footing holes, ensuring the stirrups are centred. Prod the concrete in the hole to remove any air pockets, then smooth to finish. Allow the concrete to set, then remove the offcuts.



3 Add the ramp

The three decks are connected to each other and the existing patio with ramps. To make a ramp, cut the end joist at the ramp position, then butt join the ramp frame joists to the outer joist and secure to the ramp bearer.

Cut ramp joists at a 9° angle at both ends, then secure between the ramp bearer and the outer joist. Reinforce the ramp joists with noggins if required, then secure decking boards to the ramp joists.

TIP To attach a new bearer, secure the stirrups to footings using Dynabolts.

4 Lay the boards

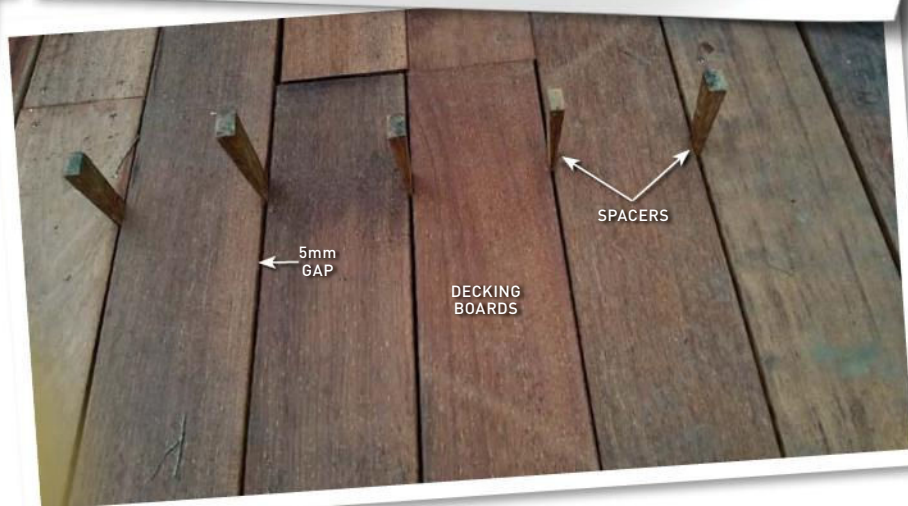
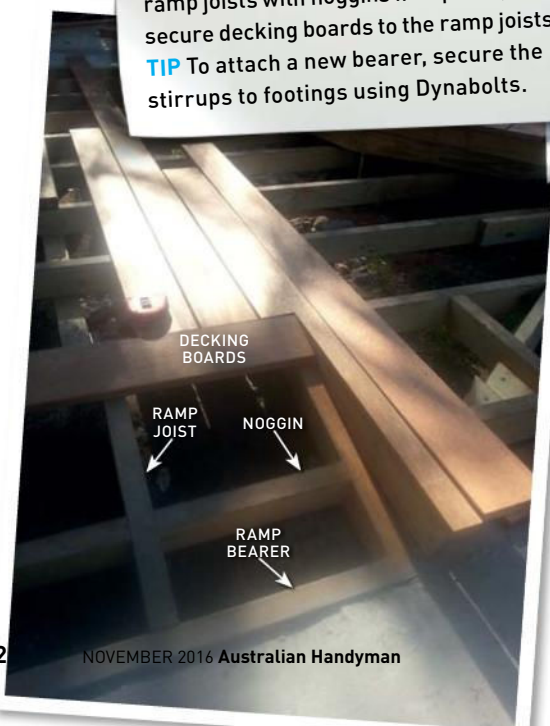
Secure the centre board first, using a stringline as a guide. Work outwards, laying every sixth board and use spacers between each board to give a 5mm gap.

Drill countersunk holes and secure the boards to the joists using

two decking screws for each joist. Lay the remaining boards, ensuring there is an overhang at each end.

Butt join the boards over the joist centres, cutting them at a 2° angle using a mitresaw to minimise gaps.

TIP Including wastage, this deck used 120m of 140 x 25mm merbau boards.



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BOARDS

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SAW

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GUIDE

5 Cut the overhang

For a guide, loosely screw a board to the centre of the deck, ensuring the board can pivot.

Attach the board to the top of the base plate of a jigsaw or circular saw, ensuring the blade clears the frame.

Cut the boards along the perimeter of the deck to create a neat circle, then remove the guide.

Secure lengths of aluminium flat bar to the edge of the deck with countersunk screws every 600mm, predrilling holes in the timber and the aluminium.

DIY TIP

Allow decking boards to season for up to six weeks before finishing, or clean with a tannin remover to coat them immediately.

DECKING
BOARDS

TIMBER
CLEANER

STIFF-BRISTLED
BRUSH

6 Finish the deck

Sand the boards using fine grit abrasive paper, then sweep the surface clean.

To allow immediate coating of the boards, wet them with water, then apply tannin remover, scrubbing with a stiff bristled brush. Leave to soak in

for 15 minutes, then thoroughly hose away using a pressure washer.

Wash the boards with timber cleaner, then rinse with water and allow to dry completely. Apply two coats of decking oil, using an applicator to coat three boards at once in long, even strokes. ➤

DIY TIP

Lay rubber mats under artificial turf for a more realistic feel underfoot. Select a product with holes to allow water to drain away after rain.

ABOVE The deck is bordered by mondo grass and proteas.
BELOW Ramps were incorporated into the design as a safety feature.

Style the space

To complete the low-maintenance makeover of this entertaining area and ensure the slippery moss stayed at bay, the couple chose artificial turf.

As the base for the turf, a concrete slab was poured with a high centre point to allow for water to drain to the edges. Strips of glue were then applied to the concrete before the grass was laid from left to right.

It was pulled tight and secured with lengths of aluminium flat bar. Washed beach sand was pushed against the pile with a stiff broom, to support the strands of faux grass.

The edges of the area were softened with mondo grass and proteas. ➤



Built-in LED lights add ambience and highlight the rounded profile of the deck

Oversized steps lead the way from the house to the decks.



THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR DECKING

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- Lightweight and easy to handle
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- Produced in Australia from sustainably grown Australian plantation pine
- This product comes with a guarantee* from Koppers Performance Chemicals



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Disclaimer: While the products in this document possess the characteristics described, no representation is made that the products will be effective in all locations and circumstances. Much depends upon building design, construction practices and the environment in which the products are used. Products must be installed in accordance with Carter Holt Harvey recommendations, industry accepted guidelines and good building practice.

*Conditions apply. See www.kopperspc.com.au for details.

 **CarterHoltHarvey**
Woodproducts Australia



A trap door fits seamlessly into the deck, but provides easy access to the pool equipment below.



Hidden hatch

On the second level of the backyard, a matching merbau poolside deck links the two entertaining areas.

The deck conceals the pool pump and equipment, with a discreet trap door built-in to allow access.

To make the hatch, a hole the size of the pump was cut out of the deck, including the joist. The cut joists were reinforced using two 140 x 45mm noggins to create the frame.

The door is constructed from 70 x 45mm treated pine, with the cut decking boards secured to the frame so they align with the rest of the boards.

Four 100mm stainless steel hinges were secured to the back side of the hatch frame into a decking joist.

The handle cutout was created by boring two 25mm holes in the middle board 100mm apart using a spade bit, then joining the holes with a jigsaw. ➤



Smooth the cutout handle for a finger-friendly grip by routing the edge with a round-over bit

TOP PICKS



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



Cabot's Aquadeck Merbau Exterior Decking Oil, \$71 for 4L. cabots.com.au



Buildex 12-11 x 65mm Stainless Steel Type 17 Decking Screws, \$89 for 250. buildex.com.au



Intergrain Reviva Timber Cleaner, \$59 for 4L. intergrain.com.au



design it



*easy*craft it



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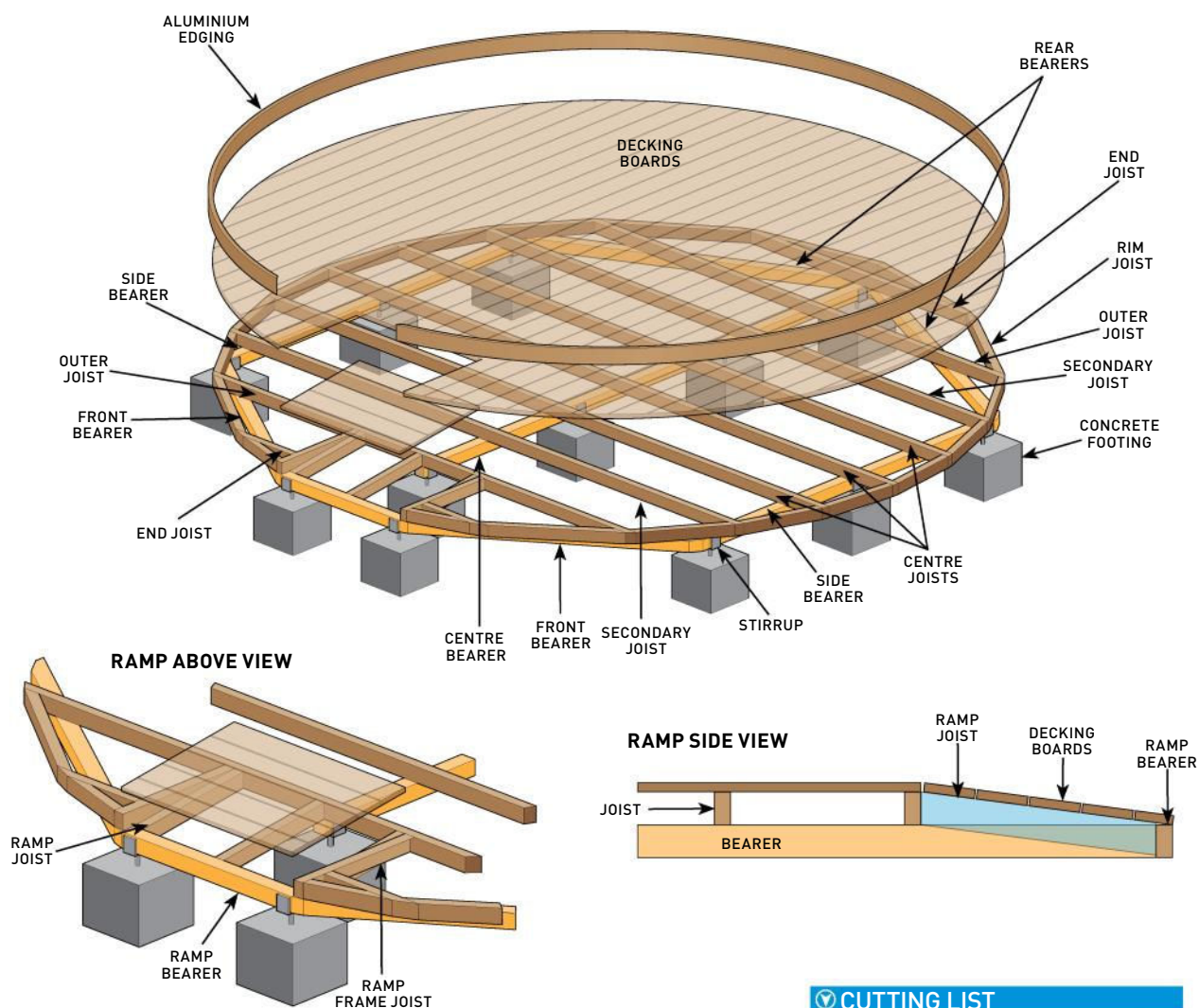
Discover a world of possibilities for beautiful wall and ceiling finishes with easycraft.

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 **easycraft**
stylish solutions for walls and ceilings

CIRCULAR DECK

measurements in mm



Cutting the rim joists

This deck needed 12m of 90 x 45mm treated pine for the rim joists. For a perfect fit, use the joists as a guide to mark each cut. 🛠️

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
10 x 75mm Dynabolts	Ramp stirrups
12g x 65mm stainless steel screws	Decking boards
75 x 3.75mm galvanised nails	Joists
14g x 75mm bugle batten screws	Stirrups
8g x 50mm stainless steel countersunk screws	Aluminium flat bar

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Treated pine		
Centre joists	4200 x 90 x 45	3
Secondary joists	3600 x 90 x 45	2
Outer joists	3000 x 90 x 45	2
End joists	1500 x 90 x 45	2
Centre bearer	3600 x 90 x 70	1
Side bearers	2400 x 90 x 70	2
Front bearers	1500 x 90 x 70	2
Rear bearers	1800 x 90 x 70	2
Ramp bearer	900 x 90 x 70	1
Ramp joists	560 x 90 x 45	3
Ramp frame joists	620 x 90 x 45	2

DON'T LET MOZZIES SPOIL THE PARTY!



Natural MOZZIE REPELLENT RANGE

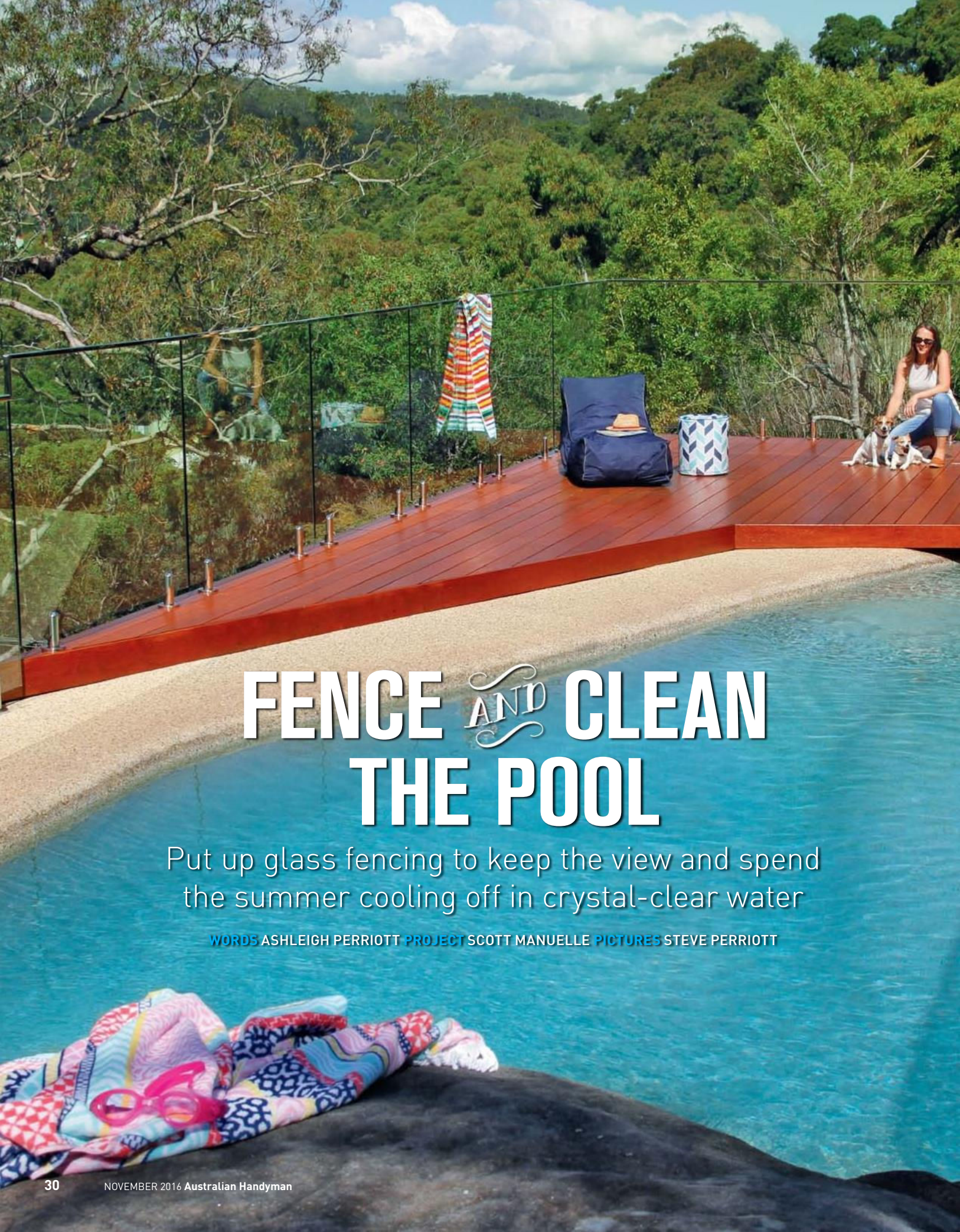


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FENCE *AND* CLEAN THE POOL

Put up glass fencing to keep the view and spend the summer cooling off in crystal-clear water

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT PROJECT SCOTT MANUELLE PICTURES STEVE PERRIOTT

DIY TIP

To help work out what components you need for your fence, measure the perimeter and send the dimensions to the fence supplier.

Glass panels won't block out a beautiful view.

To prepare this pool area for the sunny season, we replaced an old fence with new glass panels to make the most of the great panoramic views.

The pool required a little cleaning and a basic chemical check after the winter months spent shaded by trees, to ensure it was safe for swimming.

A neglected pool can be a source of infection and a pH that's too high or too low can cause damage to pool surfaces and equipment, as well as skin irritation. So it's key to check it's safe to dive into after the off season. ➤



Visit your state government's website to ensure your pool area meets the safety standards required by law

INSTALL GLASS PANELS



1 Reinforce the deck

Mark the post positions on the underside of the decking boards, then cut noggins from 140 x 45mm treated pine to fit snugly between the joists. Secure the noggins at the post positions using 100mm bugle screws.

TIP The noggins prevent the boards from splitting under lateral load.



2 Attach the posts

Position the posts 70mm from the edge of the deck. Use 14g x 75mm stainless steel bugle screws to secure the posts to the decking boards and noggins. Insert the plastic sleeve into the post with the stainless steel plate on the grub screw side, then slide the cover plate over the post.



3 Secure the panels

Working with a helper and wearing glass-gripping gloves, lift the glass panels into the posts, ensuring each plastic sleeve insert remains in position. Tighten the grub screws using an Allen key to secure the glass.

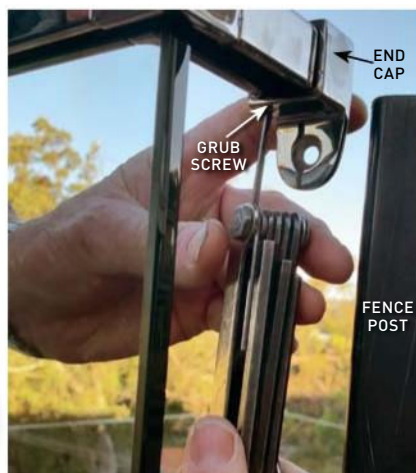
TIP Slip lengths of pool noodle over panel edges to prevent chipping.



4 Add the rail

Apply a bead of silicone along the top edge of each panel with a caulking gun. Position the handrail on the top of the panel, lowering it from right to left and pressing firmly to spread the silicone evenly, wiping away any excess.

TIP Use a silicone that is applied white and dries clear.



5 Secure the end cap

Once the silicone has cured, attach the end cap to cover each end of the handrail using the supplied grub screws, tightening with an Allen key. For panels adjoining a fence, secure the cap to the post with screws. To secure to a wall, drill holes and insert wall anchors, then attach with screws.



6 Clean the fence

Use methylated spirits and a microfibre cloth to clean away excess silicone sealant, as well as dirt or fingerprints, from the rails and the glass panels. Ensure the cloth is clean before use to avoid scratching the steel or glass.

TIP Avoid water marks by cleaning panels regularly with diluted vinegar.

DESIGN TIP

Avoid planting large, flowering or deciduous trees near pools, as the lining can be cracked by roots, and leaf or flower drop creates work.

Empty the leaf basket at least once a week.

Top cleaning tips

Maintaining your pool requires a lot less work than having to clean it after neglect. To save time and cash, try these easy tricks to keep the water perfect all year round.

Invest in an automatic pool pump or a robotic cleaner to remove the majority of the debris that falls in.

To protect your pool during spring and autumn when plants are dropping large amounts of leaves and flowers, use a pool cover to keep them out.

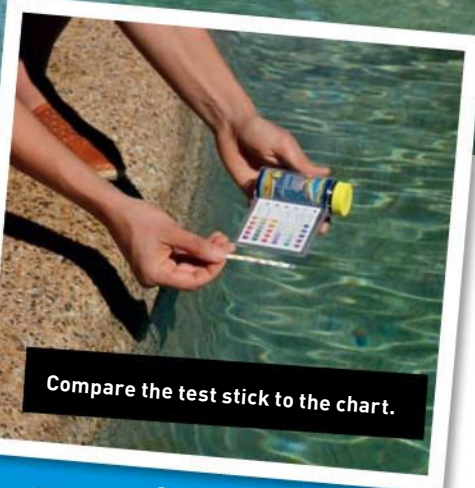
A cover will also come in handy during summer, as it can combat evaporation, assisting with keeping the chemical balance in check.

Keeping pool water clear can be time-consuming, but a basic floating chlorine dispenser can save you time and prevent problems such as algae, unpleasant odours, eye irritation, slippery surfaces and discoloured water.

If it becomes too much work, call a professional service to sort it for you.



Don't neglect a pool or restoring the water to safe swimming conditions may take weeks



Compare the test stick to the chart.



Test the water

As a result of rain, use and debris, the pH and chemical levels of a pool are in constant fluctuation. To avoid issues such as eye irritation, you'll need to regularly test your water.

DIY test kits measure the levels of each key chemical element and provide a chart to achieve perfect swimming conditions. ➤

PROBLEM SOLVERS



Algafree Pool Drops, \$45 for 1L.
algafreeaustralia.com.au

POOL SURFACE stains are from rusted metal fixtures or algae and leaf build-up. To fix, dissolve spots with an acid-based remover.



Hy-Clor Zero Stain Remover, \$30 for 1kg.

SLIPPERY WALLS and floors are a result of algae present in the pool. To fix, adjust the pH, add chlorine and algicide.



Hy-Clor Pool Cloud Out, \$14 for 1L.
hyclor.com.au

DIRTY OR CLOUDY water is caused by a high pH, heavy rain or heavy use and poor filtration. To fix, lower the pH, add a clarifier and filter.



Hy-Clor Soft Pack Soda Ash pH Increaser, \$11 for 2.5kg.

EYE IRRITATION is caused by a low pH, low chlorine levels and the presence of chloramines. To fix, add chlorine and raise the pH.



Keeping it clean

✚ **FILTERS** clear the water of contaminants such as pollen, leaves, sunscreen and hair.

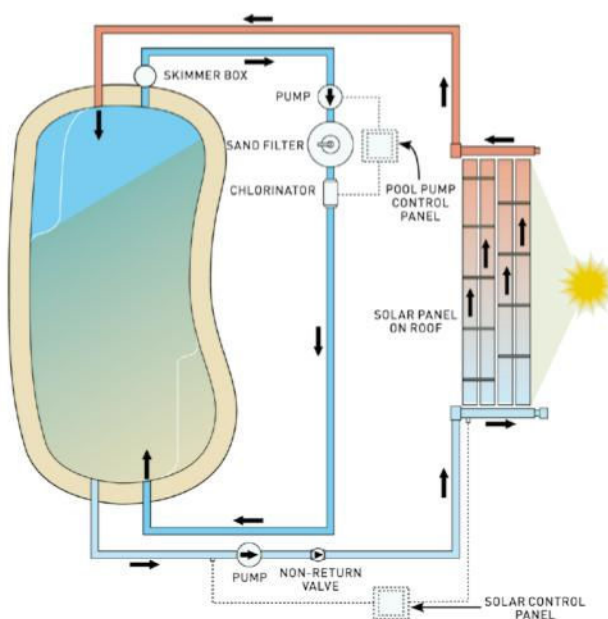
Filters use sand or fine diatomaceous earth to trap debris. ✚ **PUMPS** keep the water circulating through the filtration system to disperse chemical treatments and prevent any debris build-up with a constant flow.

They're usually powered by an electric motor. It should be run for about six hours a day, so install a timer to turn it on and off. ✚ **CLEANERS** work in tandem with the filter, sucking up debris from the pool floor and walls.

Manual and auto-pulse action pool vacuums are run on suction from the pump. Robotic cleaners are powered independently. ➤



KEEPING IT CLEAN



DIY glass, clearly all class.

Whether you're building new, or just looking to update, there's nothing quite like an Everton glass pool fence to transform the ordinary into extraordinary.

Everton's range of DIY pool fences are safe, stylish and budget friendly. You can install them with the help of a mate in as little as a weekend.

Visit everton.com.au or discover the entire range at Bunnings.


Everton
THE CHOICE IS CLEAR

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



Stay safe

Pool safety regulations are similar nationwide in Australia, although there are a few regional variations.

National standards require a pool fence be at least 1200mm high with gaps of 100mm or less and nothing climbable nearby.

The gate must swing away from the pool and be self-closing, with latches fitted on the pool side, 300mm from the top of glass gates or 1500mm from the ground for metal. 

It's important to comply with safety regulations around a pool.

GET THE LOOK



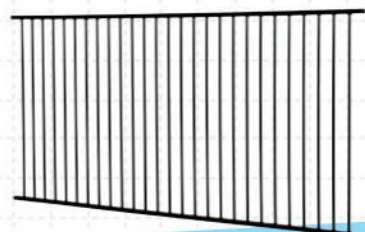
Everton Aluminium Mini Post, \$73 each.
everton.com.au



Kmart Cove Outdoor Ottoman, \$20.
kmart.com.au



Morgan & Finch Mondello Beach Towel, \$60.
bedbathntable.com.au



Protector Aluminium 2.45 x 1.2m Black Ulti-m8 Flat Top Pool Fence Panel, \$79.
protectoraluminium.com.au



Mojo Classic Pinstripe MyLounge Outdoor Cushion, \$150.
mojobrand.com.au



Assorted Proteas, 140mm, about \$18.
bunnings.com.au

A PLANET FIRST FOR POOL SAFETY



THE ONLY LATCH ON THE PLANET WITH CHILD PROOF SAFETY BUTTON

Award winning Tri Latch from G8Safe – the world's first pool gate latch with dual action safety button that prevents children using implements to push up the button. No other latch offers the level of safety and quality you get from a trilatch.

MAKE IT SAFE, MAKE IT G8SAFE

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G8Safe offers a range of high quality hinges and latches to suit many applications, including our best selling Mega Value Kit, containing everything you need for a child safe pool gate. All available at Bunnings Warehouse. Scan QR code or visit g8safe.com.au to view our range.



G8SAFE

.com.au

CREATING WAVES FOR POOL SAFETY

MAKE A BBQ BENCH

Top plywood cabinetry with hardwood beams to create an outdoor prep area

PROJECT DANIEL BUTKOVICH PICTURES SUE FERRIS

The entrance area of this inner city townhouse was bare and unused. A more private rear courtyard was used as a garden, but the covered front verandah was ideal for an outdoor entertaining area.

A cabinet was designed to fit across a 2200mm wall and be used as a food prep area for an existing gas barbie.

Featuring ample storage, it was built high enough for the edge of the barbie to tuck underneath one end.

The cabinet was built from formply. Designed for concrete formwork, it's strong and moisture-resistant. Karri beams from Porta were used for the benchtop, as the hue of the hardwood warms up the space (porta.com.au).



Don't toss an old barbecue, give it a new setting with a custom-made bench instead

DANIEL'S PICKS



Cabot's Danish Oil, about \$31 for 500ml. cabots.com.au



Bosch Blue 18V 165mm Cordless Circular Saw, \$149, skin only. bosch-pt.com.au



Zenith 65mm Easy Fit Hinge, about \$1. itwproline.com.au



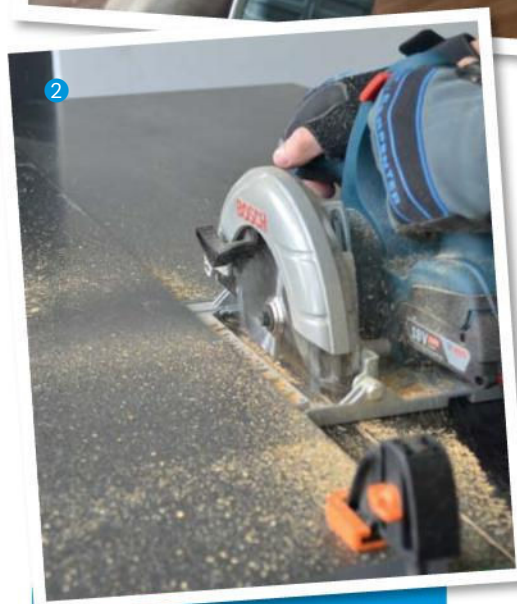
Formrite Formply Sheet, 2400 x 1200 x 17mm, \$76. chhwoodproducts.com.au



Ambassador Black 125mm Rubber Heavy Duty Swivel Castor, \$20. ehi.com.au



1



2



Make straight cuts

Accurate cuts are essential when making cabinets, as small deviations can leave doors misaligned. It's also important to avoid splintering on ply edges.

1 SET THE BLADE DEPTH

Adjust the base plate so the blade protrudes only half a sawtooth more than the thickness of the timber to reduce splintering.

Circular saws cut on the upstroke, so always cut with the good side facing down.

2 USE A CUTTING GUIDE

To cut a ply sheet lengthways, clamp another sheet to it and use the factory edge as a guide, allowing for the offset of the saw blade. For smaller cuts, use a cutting guide. ➤

TOOLS

CIRCULAR SAW, DRILL,
RANDOM ORBITAL
SANDER

2
DAYS

\$780
COST

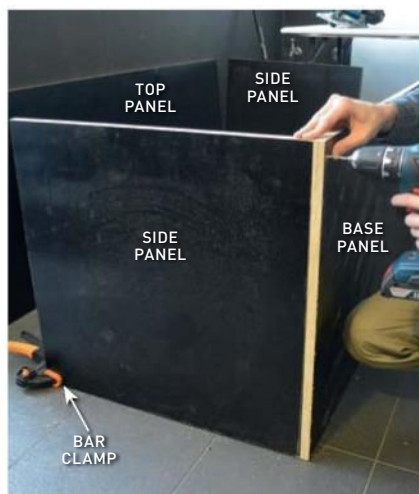
BUDGET TIP

Formply is strong, durable and affordable, and the hard resin surface doesn't need to be painted, saving time and money.

Materials

Hardwood beams	\$464
Plywood	\$140
Castors	\$80
Bolts and screws	\$33
Door hardware	\$32
Danish oil	\$31
TOTAL	\$780

BUILD THE BENCH



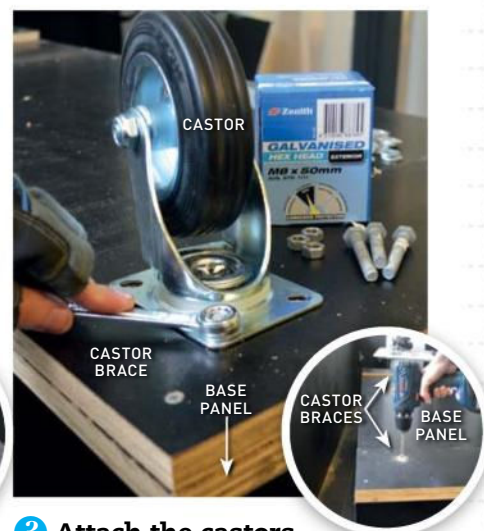
1 Assemble the frame

Position the side panels upright and use bar clamps to support them, then position the base panel against the edges of the side panels. Predrill holes in the base panel, then secure to the side panels with screws. Position the top panel against the side panels, predrill and secure with screws.



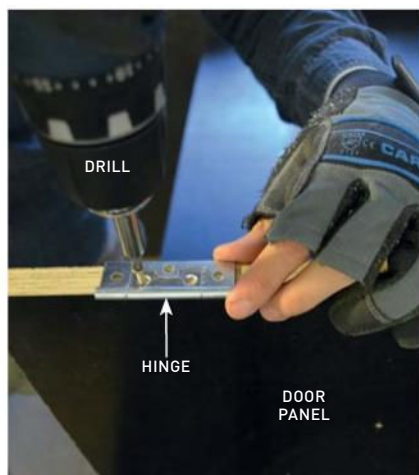
2 Install the divider

Turn the cabinet upright. Mark the midpoint on the front of the cabinet and insert the divider panel, clamping in position. Secure the divider through the top and base panels using screws, so it is flush with the cabinet front. Position the back panel and secure with screws into the top, base and sides.



3 Attach the castors

Turn the cabinet upside down, position the castor braces on the base panel and align with the side, front and back edges, securing with screws. Mark the position of the castors on the braces, then drill 8mm clearance holes and secure the castors with bolts, tightening with a spanner.



4 Hang the doors

Secure two hinges to each door 65mm from the top and base. Position the door in the cabinet and support with wedges, then mark the location of the hinges on the cabinet frame. Predrill the top holes of each hinge and secure with screws, test the hinge, then drive the remaining screws.



5 Install the benchtop

Move the cabinet into position flush against the wall. Position the beams on top and clamp in place, then mark the cutting line across all the beams and cut using a circular saw. Predrill holes, then secure through the underside of the top panel using four screws for each beam.



6 Finish the timber

Sand the benchtop using a random orbital sander and 150 grit abrasive paper, then sand with 240 grit paper. Wipe the benchtop with a tack cloth to remove any dust and debris, then apply two coats of Danish oil using a paintbrush, following the grain of the timber. Attach the doorhandles. ➤

GET THE LOOK

Lotus Collection
Ceramic Pot with Saucer,
\$6. bunnings.com.au

Food For Life
Herbs, 95mm, \$4.
bunnings.com.au

Maidenhair Fern,
150mm, about \$10
from nurseries.

Large white
Geo Pot, \$7.
kmart.com.au

Dipped Bamboo
Salad Bowl in Blue,
\$10. kmart.com.au

BBQ Buddy Spatula
and Tong BBQ Set,
\$15. bbqbuddy.com.au

Morgan & Finch
Waikiki Tea Towel, \$7.
bedbathntable.com.au

STYLE TIP

The black cabinet doors
suit the monochrome
palette of the verandah
and team with the chunky
benchtop to create an
industrial look.

▶ Watch the video online
Visit handyman.net.au/bbq-bench

Primed and ready to use building solutions for your outdoor projects.



Woodhouse Weatherproof® is a complete range of Primed and H3 Treated products, designed for use in outdoor construction. Whether it be a new pergola, adding handrails to a deck, cladding an extension or adding the finishing trim to your project, there is a product to meet your construction needs.

Pink Primed with a genuine PPG Primer and H3 LOSP Preservative Treated against fungal and insect attack, Woodhouse Weatherproof® is a product of choice for all exterior, above ground applications.

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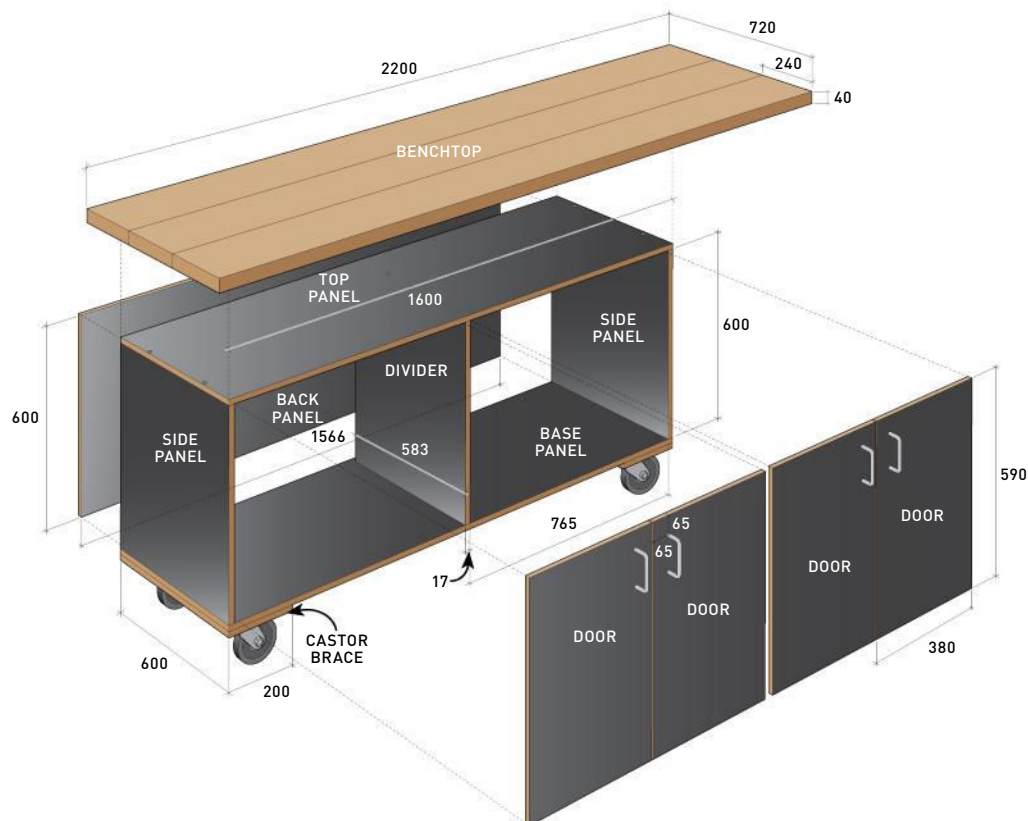
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Weatherproof
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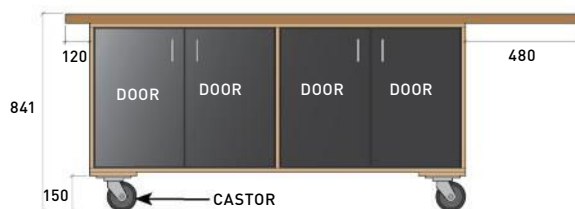
woodhouse-weatherproof.com.au

BBQ BENCH

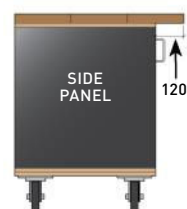
measurements in mm



FRONT VIEW



SIDE VIEW



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Formply		
Top panel	1600 x 600 x 17	1
Base panel	1600 x 600 x 17	1
Side panels	600 x 600 x 17	2
Back panel	1566 x 600 x 17	1
Divider	600 x 583 x 17	1
Cabinet doors	590 x 380 x 17	4
Castor braces	600 x 200 x 17	2
Hardwood		
Benchtop beams	2200 x 240 x 40	3

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
10g x 50mm galvanised timber screws	Cabinet, castor braces, benchtop
5g x 15mm zinc-plated timber screws	Hinges
M8 x 50mm galvanised hex head bolts	Castors

Attractive & Versatile KARRI TIMBER

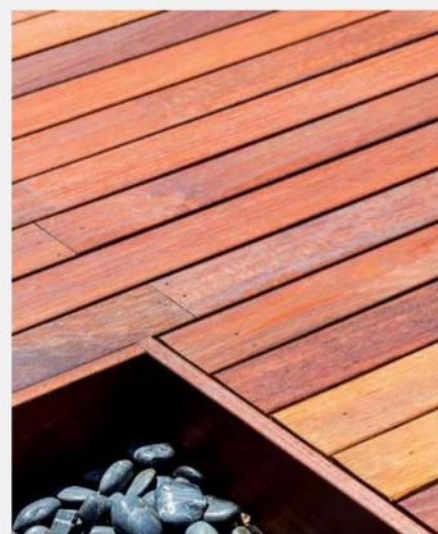


Porta offers a range of **Karri hardwood** decking and F27 beams ideally suited to the Australian climate.

Karri hardwood is an attractive timber with colour hues that add lightness and warmth to any surrounding, making it a popular timber solution for your project.

Karri is suitable for various above-ground external applications, including:

- Decking
- Benches & seats
- Pergolas
- Garden beds & retaining walls
- Structural beams
- Screening



ABOUT KARRI HARDWOOD...

- Class 2 above ground durability
- Hard-wearing & durable
- An Australian certified hardwood
- Stress rated – F27 Beams
- Versatile & attractive ideal for exposed applications
- Sand, machines and stains well



Ask about Porta's Karri hardwood range at your nearest hardware outlet

www.porta.com.au | 1300 650 787

people who know & love **timber**

Backyard dining

Find it at Bunnings

Get set for a summer of alfresco cooking, eating and entertaining

Cooking and eating alfresco when the weather warms up and the days get longer is a true Aussie pastime.

Depending on the size of your yard and how much money you want to spend, there is a wide range of options available, from pizza ovens to barbecues and outdoor kitchens.

Pizza or wood-fired ovens create a rustic feel in the backyard and are ideal for making bread and, of course, pizza. They are also a great option for cooking roasts and vegies.

Chargrillers use charcoal as their fuel, giving the food a distinctive, smoky flavour, making them a real favourite with barbecue enthusiasts.



ABOVE Chapala Large BBQ Pizza Oven, \$549, and stand, \$269.
BELOW Jumbuck Charcoal Kettle BBQ with Pizza Ring, \$390.



Matador Hooded Four-burner Boss Barbecue, \$890.

DIY TIP

Season a new barbecue by burning it on high heat for an hour, then rubbing the hot grill surfaces with a cloth dipped in cooking oil.

Matador Hooded Six-burner Titan Barbecue Kitchen, \$3290.



Gas barbecues

The top option for the serious outdoor chef, a full kitchen will include just about all you need for cooking up a feast, no matter the occasion.

Gas barbecues are ideal for outdoor kitchens, as they're efficient and easy to clean. Available as two-, four- or six-burner models, you can choose between portable or built-in units.

If you're short on space, a portable barbecue is a great solution, as it can be moved out of the way when not in use.



A gas barbie can be used to cook an entire meal, from meat to veg and even dessert



LEFT Odyssey Portable Two-burner Barbecue with Trolley, \$599.

RIGHT Jumbuck Hooded Two-burner Barbecue with Side Burner, \$229.

BASIC SKILLS

Random orbital sander



Random orbital sanders are ideal for DIY. The powerful motor makes them capable of quick surface removal, and they can also be used for fine sanding.

Unlike a standard orbital sander, the base disc moves in a random orbital pattern, allowing the sander to remove surface material without leaving circular marks on the timber.

They feature abrasive paper discs that attach using hook-and-loop pads or pressure-sensitive adhesive. The discs have holes that align with those in the base plate for dust extraction.

Keep a random orbital sander moving at all times for an even finish, guiding it along the workpiece at a rate of about 25mm per second.

TIP Wear safety goggles, a respirator and hearing protection when sanding.



Watch the video online
Visit handyman.net.au/sander



• APPLY LIGHT PRESSURE

Don't press too hard on the surface when sanding, as this will slow down the sander, resulting in scratches on the timber. Grip the handles gently but firmly and let the sander do the work.



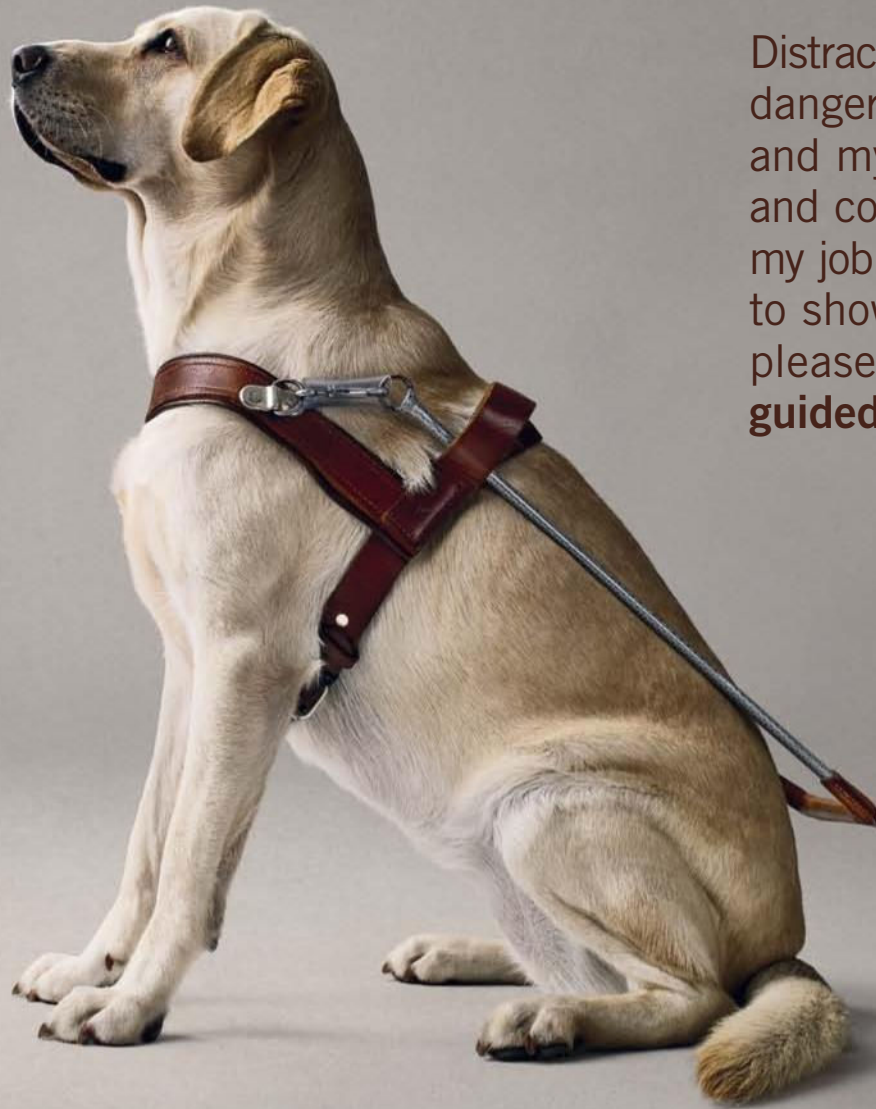
• MARK THE SURFACE

For an even sanding job, draw a squiggle across the timber using a pencil, then sand until the mark is removed. Repeat for each grit, applying lighter pressure with the pencil for finer grit papers.



• CHANGE THE DISC

Sanding discs clog and deteriorate quickly, after which point they no longer remove surface material. If you're doing a lot of sanding, change discs every 30 minutes.



Distractions can be dangerous to me and my handler, and could cost me my job. If you want to show me love, please do it at guidedogs.com.au

**I'M WORKING
RESPECT
MY UNIFORM**

Guide Dogs
NSW/ACT

GREEN DREAM

A contemporary home in tropical north Queensland was designed to be in harmony with the surrounding rainforest

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES SEAN FENNESSY

It was the desire for a simpler life that prompted interior designer Anne-Marie Campagnolo and builder and architect Jesse Bennett to leave the city. They decided to go back to the tropical Queensland coast, where Anne-Marie had grown up.

So with just a modest budget and a commitment to the passive design principles best suited to a life in the somewhat unforgiving tropics, the couple made the move.

After spending a year looking for a site in their price bracket that wasn't already cleared, they found a 500sqm block on a steep slope, fully immersed in the pristine Daintree Rainforest.



The build is a tribute to working with the environment rather than against it.

ECO TIP

Turn a flat roof into a garden to help cool the house in summer and keep it warm in winter, plus blend the structure into the surroundings.



The couple's home has way exceeded their expectations.

Award winner

The end result was something that neither Anne-Marie nor Jesse could have fully imagined.

Multi award-winning Planchonella House has been lauded both here in Australia and around the world for its striking form and pared-back ethos.

This is a house that manages to combine exacting architectural detail with handmade elements and eBay finds, contrasting utilitarian concrete with lush tropical plants to create a home that is in total harmony and acceptance of the environment. ➤

Tropical template

In a region typically dominated by residences constrained by the prevailing forces of nature, Anne-Marie and Jesse went with it instead of against it, and the build is testament to that lack of fear of the environment.

'Jesse wanted to respond to the conditions, rather than attempt to overcome them. We saw so many examples of homes that don't take into account the vagaries of living in the tropics,' says Anne-Marie.

'Even the traditional Queenslander that works well in Brisbane doesn't

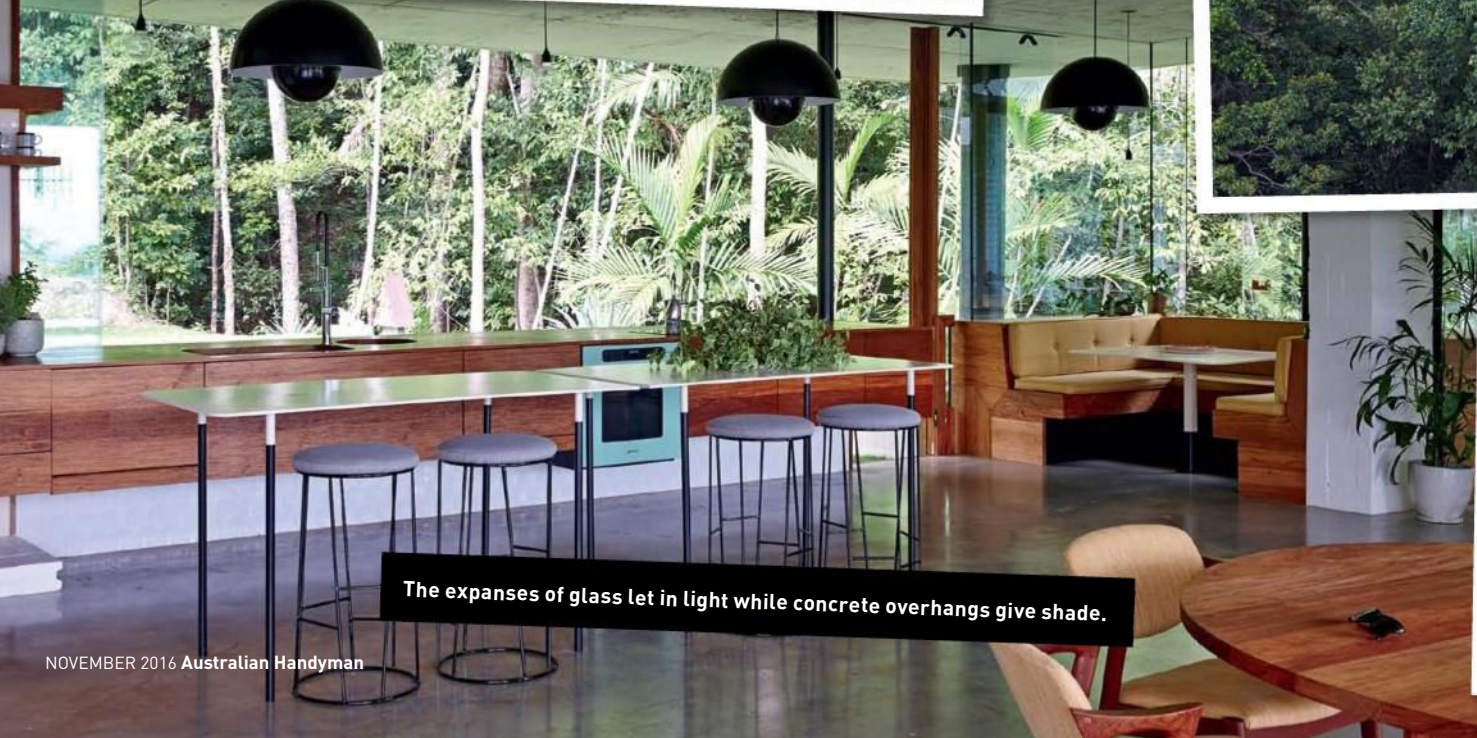
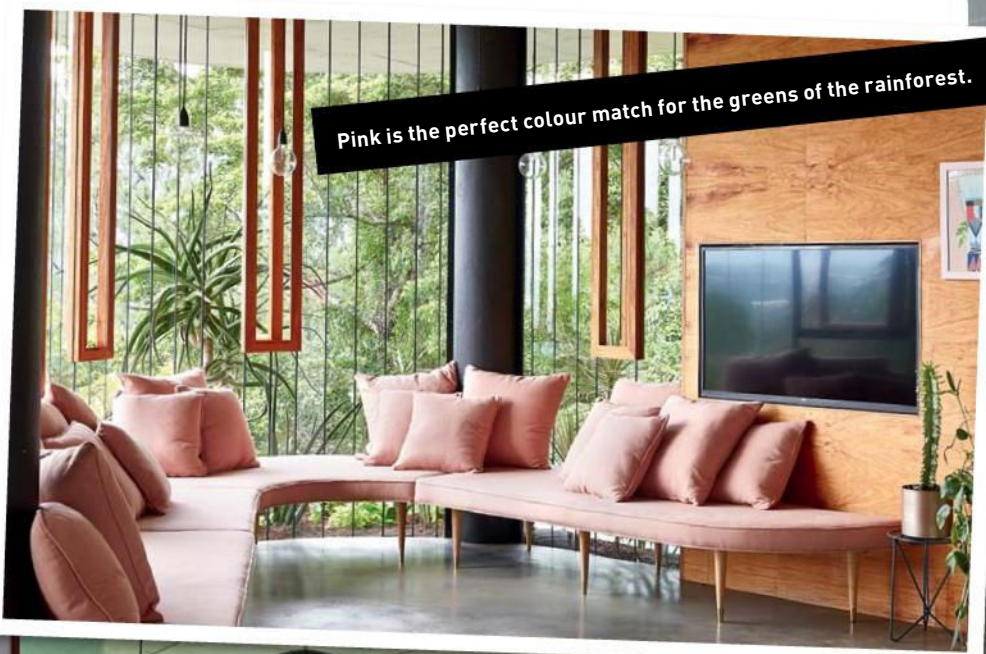
work here. This climate can make life uncomfortable, so you have to take it into account every step of the way.'

The site also presented challenges, not least of which was access. Combine this with a tight budget, and the sheer effort of the project becomes clear.

Doing most of the work himself, Jesse says it was hard to find tradies, even when he could work them into the budget. So he and Anne-Marie persevered, making countless trips up and down the unsealed drive in the ute.

'Jesse is a changed person. We both are,' says Anne-Marie.

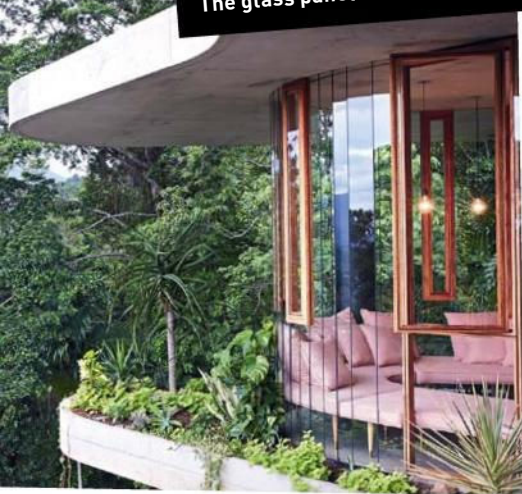
Pink is the perfect colour match for the greens of the rainforest.



The expanses of glass let in light while concrete overhangs give shade.



The glass panels can be positioned to let in the breeze.



Concrete curves

While most builds want to maximise light, this home needed to minimise it and create plenty of shade while still bringing light to the living areas.

What Jesse and Anne-Marie knew from experience is that people in the region don't spend much time indoors.

'People hang out in their sheds or garages. If they have a barbecue or a party, they have it there, as these spaces have good overhangs, or they use the area between the house and shed or garage,' says Anne-Marie.

'A lot of the big agricultural sheds here also have massive doors each side that open up to let the breeze through.'

To create this same effect, two thick concrete slabs form the roof and the floor, providing a muted, natural colour palette and a feeling of being cocooned within.

The overhangs shade the central living area, and expanses of panelled glass allow in the light. ➤

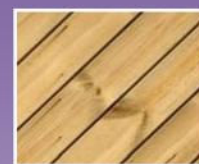


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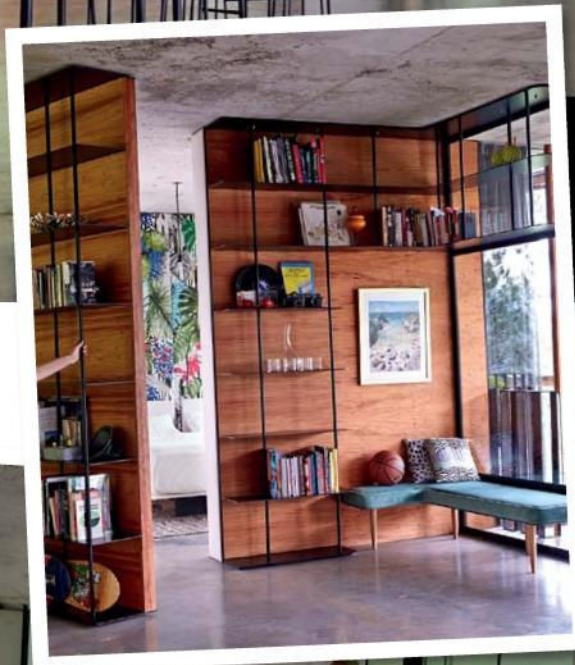
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Using soft lighting instead of LEDs helps to keep bugs at bay.



LEFT A bookcase doubles as a door through to the master bedroom.
BELOW Corner seating takes in the view in comfort and privacy.



Simply restrained

Jesse feels that architecture can be overly complicated and likes to take a simple approach.

'He'll always find the simplest solution. Nothing is off the shelf, he has made it all. We wanted less stimulation not more, so there's no crazy technology,' says Anne-Marie.

The way the windows have been designed circumnavigates the need for air-conditioning, and a limited palette of materials reinforces the brief.

'Everything is easy. In every other place I have lived, lots of things were difficult. The bathrooms were too

small, rooms were closed off, and accommodating guests was tricky.

'The way Jesse has designed this house makes everything work, and guests have their own sanctuary.

'Everyday tasks are enjoyable. I used to hate doing the washing, but now I look forward to being in there. Everything about the space feels good.

'Jesse spent a lot of time thinking about the tasks that would need to be performed, so the laundry was made semi-permeable to get all the breeze.

'And there's a perfectly positioned undercover space for drying clothes in the wet season, so a dryer isn't needed.'



The design of the house meant that the least amount of trees had to be felled



A single flight of stairs connects the levels, keeping to the simple brief.

Shapely layout

The long, winding driveway leads you to the garage, which has a retaining wall behind. This forms the level for the laundry and a workshop.

A flight of stairs at the front of the house takes you to the living areas, kitchen and a terrace, complete with a cantilevered breakfast nook.

The steep site meant suspending the two layers of concrete at the front of the house and creating a retained level area at the back. The lawn provides the connection to the forest.

Two wings feed off the central living spaces, with one wing being accessed through a bookcase that operates as a door. This wing houses the master bedroom, ensuite and a walk-in wardrobe.

The other wing consists of a guest bedroom and bathroom, plus an office and a creative space.

'This is somewhere that we can make a mess,' says Anne-Marie. ➤

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Interior inspiration

In contrast to the strong, raw materials that form the structure, the treatment of the interior is soft and lush.

Pink may seem an offbeat choice, but it's a perfect complement to the green rainforest, as they are opposite on the colour wheel. Trends hold no interest for Anne-Marie.

'Your interior should reflect your style and personality, so I only buy what I love,' she says.

'I love colour and love mixing expensive pieces with cheaper ones. The dining room chairs were a splurge, but other things I bought after stalking eBay and Gumtree for months.

'I value things that have been made by people I know, like an artwork by Jesse's brother and wall-hangings my mum made.

'They make me feel good and as though the space is authentically ours. It takes time to put things together, upcycling furniture as you go. It's always an ongoing process.'

Anne-Marie followed the themes Jesse had brought in through the architecture, reflected in round motifs such as the bathroom tiles, the round table and rug, and circular stools.

Small details like this are cohesive elements that allow everything to make sense and feel in place.

A freestanding bath enjoys a panoramic forest view.



Circles and curves are a running motif that connects the spaces.





A dramatic fabric bedhead also forms a partition wall.

Natural living

It took more than two years to finish, but the huge effort of the build was all worthwhile. Living in Planchonella House has brought levels of enjoyment Anne-Marie didn't anticipate.

'I grew up on a farm and when I first met Jesse, he would tell me that architecture can change your life, but I had no comprehension of what that really meant,' says Anne-Marie.

'And I didn't get it until we moved in. I knew this house was going to be great, but I didn't actually think it would change me. I was wrong.

'Living in this environment, with natural ventilation and loads of natural

light, it affects you physically and biologically. It makes you happier, calmer, and more in the moment.'

The house has a character all of its own. The concrete changes colour, depending on the light, creating different atmospheres.

And after the necessary clearing to build the house, nature will now partially reclaim it.

There's an element of this house that is challenging you to live in it, to surrender to something greater. It's a changing tableau.

'It is not a show house in any way at all. It's comfortable and lived in,' says Anne-Marie. 🌿



The interior themes take simple cues from the architecture and the environment

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Summer is coming, and with it, those sweltering days and nights that can make life uncomfortable.

Air conditioning is an effective solution, but it's not the only way to cool down the house. There are many simple methods that will suit any home and any budget.

Each house is different, so look around your place and make note of where you think improvements could be made. Combining a few strategies will improve the overall cooling effect and keep your bills down. ➤

STAY COOL IN SUMMER

Combine a few simple, cost-effective strategies to cool your home and help the garden survive the hot season

WORDS SITA SIMONS

Install insulation

In the home, about 25-30% of heat is lost through the ceiling, so it makes sense for your comfort and your wallet to add insulation.

Installing insulation between the ceiling joists is a straightforward DIY job, and the key is to measure and cut precisely. Keep all the offcuts to seal any gaps at the end.

Even a small gap can greatly reduce the insulating value, so fit batts snugly, avoiding gaps around ducts and pipes, and tape up holes and joins.

Make sure the ends of multi-cell and concertina foils are well sealed. Also ensure that corners of walls, ceilings and floors are properly insulated, as these are areas where heat leaks most often occur.



Wear protective gear when installing batts.



Draw hot air and moisture out of the ceiling space with a roof vent.



Create ventilation

Roof ventilation prevents heat build-up in the cavity, which in turn reduces the room temperature. Whirly birds, and vents in gables and eaves, direct moist and hot air from the roof.

Create a vacuum that draws in cool air and expels hot air by opening a small window on the cool side of the house and a larger window on the hot side.

Keep the windows and doors closed during the hottest part of the day and open at night once the temperature has dropped.

Circulate air

There's no doubt that on the hottest days, nothing beats the chill of an air conditioner and smart use can make it efficient and economical.

Newer units will generally be quieter, more energy efficient and economical to run, so it can be worth the investment to replace old systems.

Ceiling fans and standing fans are low cost and draw minimal energy. They work by circulating the air, making temperatures more even.

Position standing fans near an open window at night. Using a ceiling fan with an air conditioner can allow the thermostat to go down by as much as four degrees, saving energy and money.

 Get more tips for keeping cool
Visit facebook.com/HandymanMagazine

Smart windows

Double-glazed windows provide an effective heat barrier, increasing the number of surfaces from two to four.

The glass can be coated with a low-emissivity treatment that reflects infrared and UV radiation. Tinting the windows can also provide heat-blocking, and is easy to DIY.

Shading the windows with insulated curtains or good-quality blackout blinds keeps sunlight out.

Team with awnings or umbrellas outdoors and you will develop a good heat barrier that will help the temperature to drop inside. ➤

Focus on the windows to reduce the temperature indoors.

Installing energy-efficient windows is one of the best ways of improving thermal performance



Clever landscaping

Garden landscaping should serve double duty by working to shade the house and also to protect the plants so the garden flourishes and survives throughout the summer.

Avoid planting trees haphazardly and carefully plan to gain maximum shade properties. Deciduous trees planted on the northern and western side of the house will provide shade in summer without impeding sunshine in winter.

Vines are quick growers and they can be grown over screens and used to cover windows, shielding the inside of your home from direct sunlight.



Outdoor shade

Awnings over windows help keep the heat out, and a well-positioned umbrella can serve the same purpose.

Use shade structures such as pergolas or shadesails over concrete or paved areas, as hard surfaces can reflect and radiate heat towards the house.

Solid walls can also provide shade to create a cool and relaxing spot in the backyard.

Shade structures help protect plants and the lawn.



Water features

Incorporating a water feature can help make the immediate area more comfortable through evaporative cooling.

Choose one with a circulating function or a running fountain to discourage mosquitoes.

Installing a small pool also increases the evaporative efficiency, and there's the added bonus of having a spot to dip your feet in on a hot day.

A covered entertaining area also serves to shade the house.



Spread mulch

Australia's long, hot summers can mean a scorched lawn and wilted plants, but there are a few strategies to minimise damage.

Heat causes the evaporation of moisture from the soil, so protect it with a layer of mulch at least 20mm thick for fine mulches and 80mm for coarser material.

Mulching is particularly important for plants with shallow or delicate root systems such as citrus, camellias and azaleas.



Avoid cutting the grass too short in the hottest months.



Lawn care

A dry, brown lawn may not look great, but it is actually in survival mode, using its ability to become dormant in order to endure harsh periods.

After a good soaking of rain, the turf usually springs back.

Keep the lawn green by raising the mower by at least 30mm when cutting, so the grass blades remain longer and provide better shade for the soil.



Protect plants

Australian natives do well in hot, dry conditions and need minimal maintenance. Look for succulents, agaves, grevilleas and westringias to form the foundation of a good drought-tolerant garden.

Potted plants need more care than those in the ground. Water twice a week through summer, and

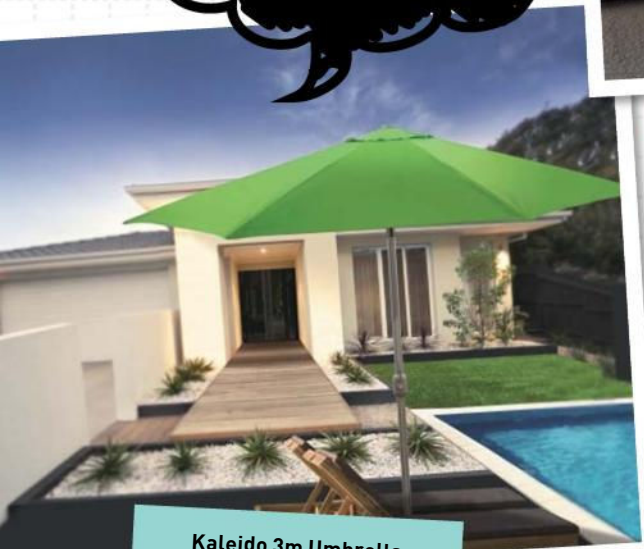
regularly check to see if they are in need of more water by sticking your finger 25mm into the soil. If it feels dry, it's time to water.

Moving pots close together helps to create humidity, cooling the plants.

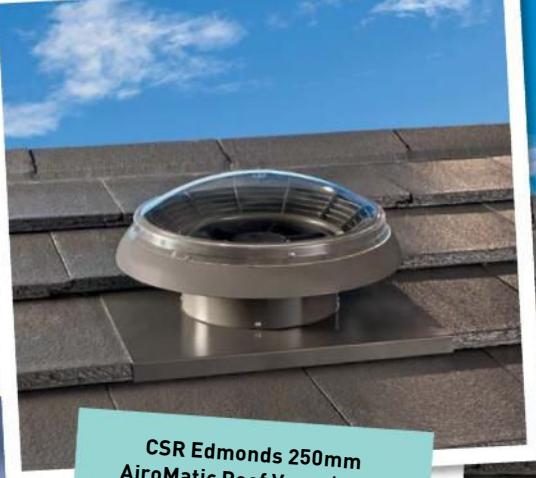
A slow drip from a tap or hose gives potting mix a thorough soaking without the water flowing straight out of the drainage holes. ➤



COOLING SOLUTIONS



Kaleido 3m Umbrella Canopy in Apple Green, \$70. kaleidoumbrellas.com.au



CSR Edmonds 250mm AiroMatic Roof Vent, \$292. edmonds.com.au



CSR Edmonds 300mm Ironstone Windmaster Roof Vent, \$117.



Haron 400 x 200mm Aluminium Eave Vent, \$21 for two. haron.com.au



Acol Ezylite 200mm Premium Solar Roof Vent Fan, \$255. ezyliteskylights.com.au



Dynabreeze 450mm Industrial Floor Fan, \$107. bunnings.com.au



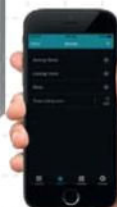
Dynabreeze 450mm Industrial Wall Fan, \$109. bunnings.com.au



Knauf Insulation Earthwool 210 x 430mm Ceiling Batts, \$72 for 11. knaufinsulation.com.au



Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Reverse Split Air Conditioner, \$1631. mhiaa.com.au



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FRAME THE BATH

Create a strong timber structure to support the weight of a built-in tub

A full bathtub can weigh hundreds of kilograms, so it needs a strong frame to support it on all sides.

You can create a frame for a bathtub using structural timber, securing it to the wall studs and the floor for maximum strength.

When the frame is built, line the inside with fibre cement sheets. Before installing the tub, lay a mortar bed so the base of the tub is supported.

What you need

- Bathtub
- Structural timber
- Nailgun
- Pencil
- Measuring tape
- Circular saw
- Spirit level

DIY TIP

When the bathtub is installed and the tiles are laid, apply flexible silicone sealant around the edges to prevent water damage.



Line the outside of the frame and tile it to match the rest of the bathroom



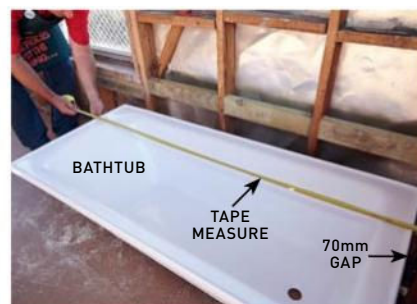
1 Mark the frame height

To determine where the top of the frame will be installed, measure the height of your bathtub, then add another 80mm to account for any variations in the height of the floor. Mark this point on the wall studs.



2 Install the noggins

Measure the distance between each of the wall studs at the mark, then cut noggins to size and secure between the wall studs using a nailgun.
TIP The noggins provide a base for wall linings once the frame is installed.



3 Measure the tub

Position the bath with one end 70mm from the wall to allow for the width of the frame. Measure from the wall to the other end of the bath and add 70mm. Cut the top and base rails for each side of the frame to this size.



Watch the video 'How to Build a Bath Frame' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



4 Mark the stud positions

Use an offcut to mark the location of four studs on each rail, with one at each end and two spaced evenly along the rail no more than 600mm apart. Measure and cut eight studs 95mm less than the desired height of the frame.



5 Assemble the sides

Secure the studs in position by butt joining them to the rails at their marked locations. Repeat for the ends, with rails 30mm shorter than the width of the tub to create a 15mm ledge to support the tub.



6 Construct the frame

Position one side against the wall and the other side parallel, with the ends in between. Secure to the wall studs with nails, then secure the sides to the ends. Insert the tub and check that it is supported on all sides.

PAIN^T THE FLOOR

Give timber and concrete a colour treatment for a new look without spending big bucks

WORDS SITA SIMONS

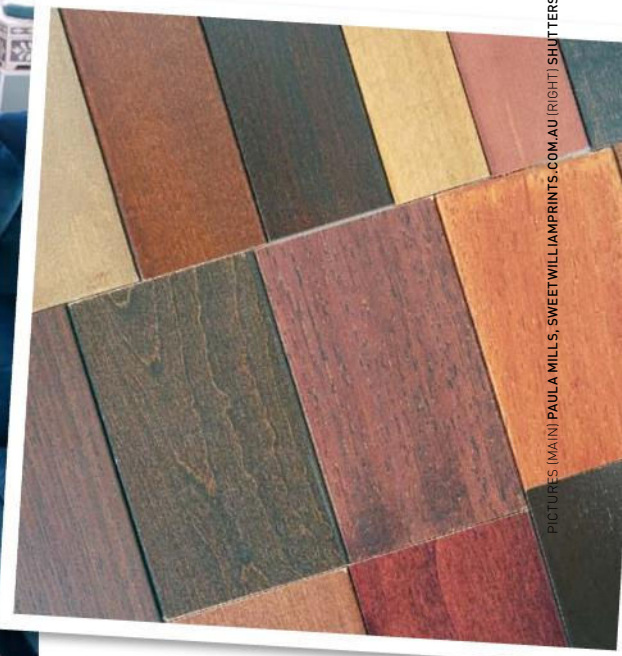
Once the decorative mainstay of many residences, painted floors took a back seat with the advent of timber treatments and stains that let the grain and colour of the boards take centre stage.

Over the past few years, the look has made a big comeback in everyday interiors, particularly as Scandinavian and industrial looks continue to be the strongest interior design trends.

Whether you want to prepare the house for sale or simply update your interior, painting the floor is a great way to give any room a quick and cost-effective makeover.

Modern looks are achieved with either very pale colours, ranging from white to eggshell greens and blues, to the other end of the spectrum, starting from the very current preference for grey tones to sheer blacks.

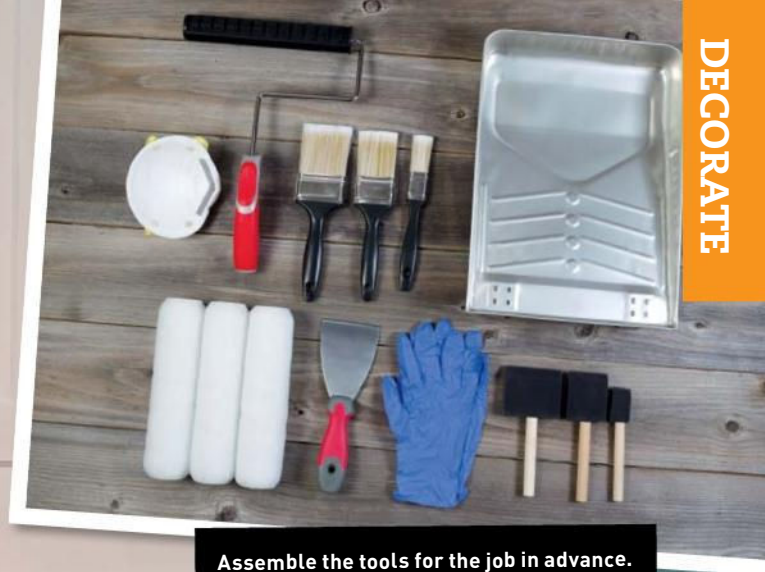
A painted floor lends a very different feel to a room.



PICTURES (MAIN) PAULA MILLS, SWEETWILLIAMS.COM.AU (RIGHT) SHUTTERSTOCK

DIY TIP

Avoid painting yourself in by starting off in the corner furthest away from an exit point, then working your way towards it.



Assemble the tools for the job in advance.

Ensure the timber is clean, level and smooth for paint adhesion.



Oil and water

Remember the golden rule of using a water-based top coat with a water-based paint, and an oil-based finish with an oil-based paint.

An oil-based polyurethane will have a slight honey tone, so be aware of how the colour may change if this type is chosen.

Application tips

Every floor needs to be resistant to scratching and scuffing, and also able to withstand foot traffic.

And painting a floor comes with its own set of rules to achieve a long-lasting and resilient finish.

Remember that it's very hard to return a painted floor to a natural timber look because the paint soaks into the grain, so be sure you want to go ahead with it before committing.

One steadfast rule for painting floors is to apply thin layers of paint, allowing each to dry thoroughly before applying the next. The longer

each coat is left to cure, the more durable the end result will be.

Take care to load the paint evenly and work quickly, making even, long strokes. While a roller is the quickest method to apply paint, a paintbrush is best for uneven timber floors.

In theory, any type of paint can be used, but specialist formulations are designed to be more hardwearing.

Finish with a coat of polyurethane, using satin for a more matt finish, and gloss for a high-shine look.

As with all painting projects, a professional-looking end result is dependent on the preparation. ➤



Prepping and painting

On coated timber, punch in any protruding nail heads, then fill the holes. Sand the floor evenly using an orbital sander and 120 grit sandpaper.

Previously painted or clear-sealed floors only require a light sanding for the paint to adhere well.

Old lining boards with carpet laid over the top may need a heavier sanding to create an even surface.

Vacuum well and clean the floor, allowing it to dry thoroughly, then mask off the skirtings and doorframes.

Working from the furthest corner, apply primer, then at least two thin coats of paint, allowing each to dry as per the directions.

Finish with a clear polyurethane and allow to harden for at least 48 hours before walking on it or putting furniture back in the room.



An imperfect paint finish can be part of the appeal, but sealing well is key



An orbital sander collects the dust for a quicker job.



Thin layers of paint are easier and quicker to apply, and create a tougher finish.



SAFETY TIP

Solvent-based sealants are versatile and easy to use, but also highly flammable, so be aware of anything that could ignite while working.



Coloured concrete

In most cases, dyes and aggregates are mixed into the concrete to create the desired colour, but you can also finish plain concrete using paving paint.

The way the concrete is sealed will affect the final look. Applying sealant can be a DIY job and needs minimal drying time to produce a hard, durable finish. ➤

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Fill any cracks, then paint a concrete floor to refresh it.

Driveways and paths

To give paths and driveways a facelift, use paving paint. Old and tired paths and driveways can detract from that all-important kerb appeal, especially if you are planning to sell.

Painting is a low-cost option that is easy to DIY. Dark-coloured paint will hide cracks and imperfections, but the preparation work is important for a professional finish.

Sweep well and clean the area with a pressure washer. Mask the edges and mix the paint. For an even first coat, you can thin the paint with 100ml of mineral turps per litre.

Allow the first coat to dry overnight, then apply another coat, letting that cure for up to seven days.

Use a long-handled roller to paint large areas.

Take care to mask all edges as paving paint is difficult to clean up.

TOP PICKS



White Knight Ultra Pave, \$75 for 4L.
whiteknightpaints.com.au



Rust-Oleum RockSolid Fast Patch, \$40.
rustoleum.com.au



Feast Watson Satin White Floor Paint, \$90 for 4L.
feastwatson.com.au



Cabot's Water Based CFP Floor, \$114 for 4L.
cabots.com.au



Slip ratings

When it comes to the safety of painted floors in private residences, the National Construction Code stipulates it is at the risk of the homeowner. The general exception is stairs, for which you may need a slip rating.

Each state and territory is responsible for endorsing and amending the code, so check with your local council to see if particular restrictions apply.



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SOLID FORM

Take concrete indoors with these innovative ideas for surfaces, furniture and accessories

WORDS SITA SIMONS

The word may conjure images of dense cityscapes and austere architecture, but concrete is having its moment in the sun.

An affordable material with many applications, concrete is integral to the building industry, and has become very popular for interiors as well.

Concrete finishes suit an industrial look and have long been favoured by designers for modern residences and repurposed commercial buildings, but it's not limited to one style.

It's labour and cost effective to use and, as it's renewable and sustainable, concrete has green credentials, too.

The raw quality of concrete makes it ideal for all kinds of interiors, and it works well with other natural materials such as timber and stone.

In an industrial-style setting, concrete pairs well with stainless steel.

DIY TIP

Keep concrete benchtops clean and free of stains with non-acidic cleaners formulated for natural stone finishes.

**Installing a benchtop**

A concrete benchtop is most often poured in situ using steel-reinforced formwork, to support the weight of the cured material and to protect it from cracking and damage over time.

Sealing the benchtop is of prime importance when using concrete in a kitchen or bathroom.

Depending on the desired finish, you can choose between penetrative sealants, which seal the concrete from the inside out for a matt result, or a surface finish that enhances shine.

While it can be an expensive option, a cleverly engineered and well-finished concrete benchtop will last indefinitely.

A concrete benchtop suits a kitchen with an ultra-modern aesthetic.

Kitchens and bathrooms

Incorporating concrete into kitchen and bathroom design has really taken off in the last 10 years, due to its practical nature and versatility.

The look of concrete is endlessly variable, depending on the aggregates that create texture, which can be anything from quartz to seashells, and the oxides and dyes used to generate different colours.

There are different types of concrete and varying classes of finish. Although it is possible to DIY, getting the best results is a specialised job which is best left to the professionals.

All concrete is going to need some level of grinding back to make it even and smooth, but polishing can be done to different degrees to produce anything from a very raw look to a highly mirrored finish. ➤



Concrete is not only for industrial-style interiors. It suits many different looks, depending on the application

In a bathroom, polished concrete creates smooth, seamless lines that are pleasing to the eye.



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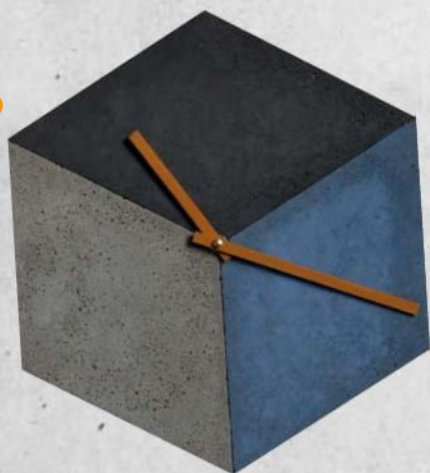
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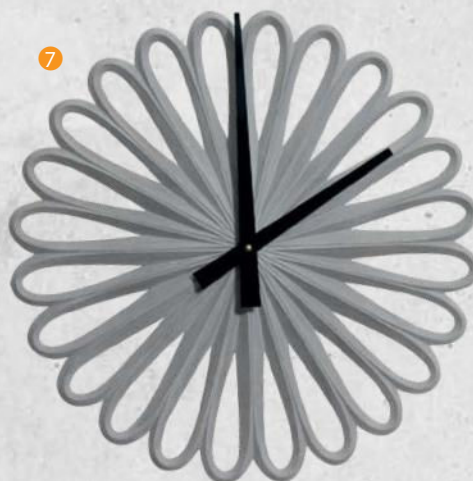
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6



7



- 1 Table by Kolorum, \$68. en.dawanda.com
- 2 Handmade bowl, from \$50. etsy.com
- 3 Candle holders, from \$50. habitat101.com
- 4 Dala Horse, \$39. mintinteriordesign.com.au
- 5 Vase by MenschMade, \$250. thedesigngiftshop.com
- 6 Clock, BetonIDEE, about \$145. en.dawanda.com
- 7 Blossom Clock, \$185. downthatlittlelane.com.au



Taking shape

The mould or formwork is a particularly important aspect of working with concrete, as the product will take on the precise shape of the mould.

This quality also makes it a great material for forming any number of decorative items, from clocks and vases to artworks.

The simplicity of the material and the wide possibilities for creative applications has seen a boom in concrete homewares that shows no signs of waning.

Trend forecasters predict that concrete art will be a big feature in the coming year and concrete furniture and homewares will continue to be popular inclusions in interiors.

Concrete interiors work well when contrasted with timber.

DESIGN TIP

When using concrete on walls, there is less need for sealants. The natural ageing of the material adds to its aesthetic appeal.

Concrete vs cement

Although the two terms are often used interchangeably, concrete and cement are not the same thing. Concrete contains cement, sand, aggregate and water.

The aggregate includes materials such as gravel or crushed stone.

The most common type of cement used today is Portland. A British cement manufacturer, Joseph Aspdin, developed the material in the 1800s and gave it this name, as it resembled Portland stone, a type of limestone.

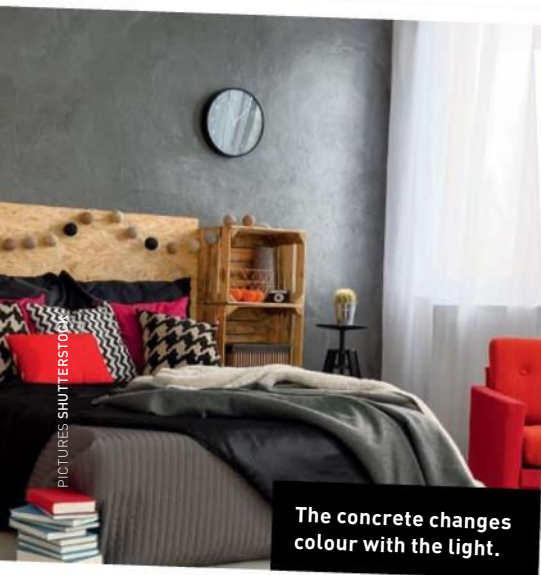
He discovered that adding clay to limestone and superheating it

allowed the resulting mixture to set into a rock-like material.

Portland is a type of hydraulic cement, which means that when water is added, it starts the chemical reaction that causes the cement to set, holding the aggregate and sand together to form concrete.

Before the concrete is allowed to cure, the mixture needs to be poured into a mould so that it will harden into the desired shape.

The longer the mixture is kept damp, the stronger it becomes. Carefully controlled curing is key to achieving the most durable result. 🍌



The concrete changes colour with the light.



Bare concrete walls are a design feature.

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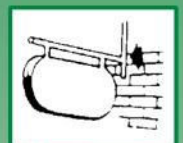
Expands & Grips



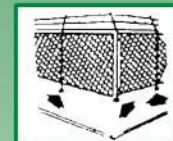
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Patch Brickwork



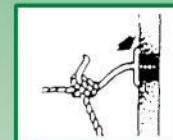
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CEMENT DESIGN

Make industrial-look homewares using plastic containers as moulds

PROJECTS AND PICTURES SUE FERRIS STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ

Fast becoming a staple of chic modern interiors, cement is no longer simply seen as the ugly, utilitarian building material it was in the past.

As it is so easy to mould, it is used increasingly as a material to make industrial-look, designer homewares.

Here, we show you how to create succulent planters, a wine cooler and drink coasters DIY, using a simple cement and sand mix and a variety of basic plastic moulds.

What you need

- Cement and sand mix
- Cement plasticiser
- Plastic moulds
- Plastic bottle
- Thick plastic sheet
- Cardboard sheet
- Polystyrene foam sheet
- Sticky tape
- Concrete paving sealer



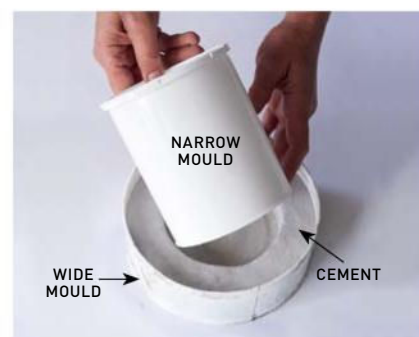
Succulents provide living decorations all year round.

1 2 3



1 Pour the cement

Pour a thin layer of a sand and cement mix into a wide plastic mould. Centre a narrow mould in the mix and tape in position. Fill the mould to 10mm below the rim, then tap to remove air bubbles.



2 Remove the mould

Allow the cement to set completely, then carefully remove the narrow plastic mould and dispose of it. The mould should come out easily but, if not, cut it away with a utility knife.



3 Finish the planter

Cut away the wide plastic mould from the cement using a utility knife to release the planter. Drill a hole for drainage through the base of the planter using a diamond core bit. ➤

SUCCULENT PLANTERS

The grey concrete contrasts well with the varied tones of foliage.



GROW TIP

Select the right succulent for the planter. Here, echeverias were used, which have short-root systems suited to shallow but wide containers.



Sue & Gema

EXPERT SECRETS

The cement mix shouldn't be too watery when made, as it is likely to crack when set.



WINE COOLER

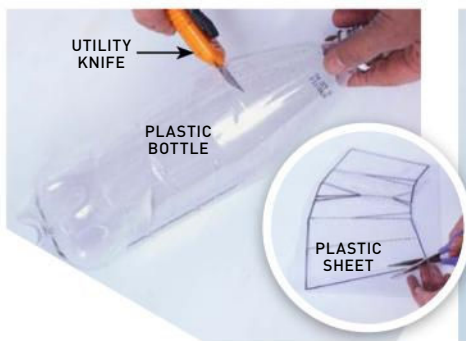


Sharp, geometric lines and a raw, unpolished finish give this cement wine cooler a contemporary edge.

For this project, a template was created on a thick plastic sheet, its sides folded and taped together, then used with a plastic bottle as a mould.

A plasticiser was added to the cement mix to make it easier to work into the shape of the mould.

For the template to make this cement wine cooler, visit handyman.net.au/wine-cooler



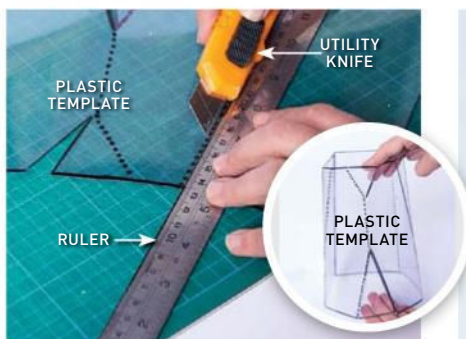
1 Create the templates

Mark and cut out the template on the plastic sheet, then repeat this for the cardboard sheet. Cut the top off the plastic bottle, leaving 50mm extra than the height of the wine cooler.



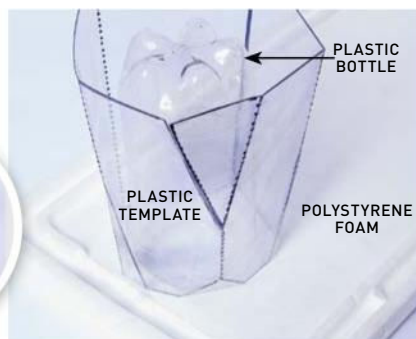
2 Secure the bottle

Cut a hole in the polystyrene foam to snugly fit the circumference of the plastic bottle. Position the bottle in the hole in the polystyrene foam, with the cut end facing downwards.



3 Cut the templates

Put the plastic template on a cutting mat. Cut along the solid lines and score and fold along the dotted lines. Tape the template securely together, then repeat for the cardboard template.



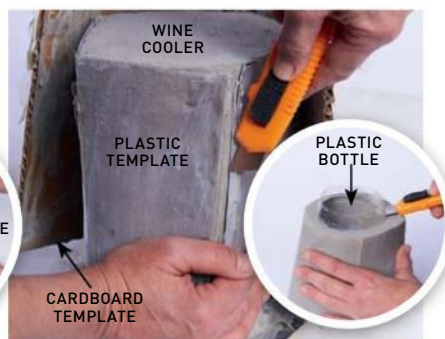
4 Add the template

Put the template on the polystyrene foam over the bottle, with the top of the template facing down. Make sure the top edges are equidistant to give a symmetrical opening.



5 Add the cement

Secure the template to the polystyrene foam with tape. Add the cement using a trowel, tapping the sides to remove air bubbles. Tape the cardboard template around the plastic to stop it bulging.



6 Remove the templates

Once the concrete is completely set, remove the templates using a utility knife. Turn the cooler the right way up and cut the excess plastic from the bottle in the centre of the cooler. ➤



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AFTER*

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DRINK COASTERS



These drink coasters are ideal for a lounge or dining setting indoors or out.

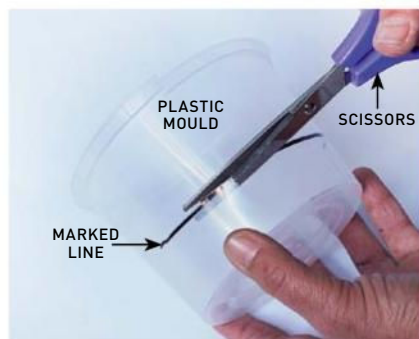
Easy and quick to make, the coasters were moulded in basic plastic containers, cut to size.

To give the coasters a slight sheen and provide protection from moisture, they were finished off with a concrete paving sealer.

Durable and on trend, these coasters work for indoor and outdoor spaces.

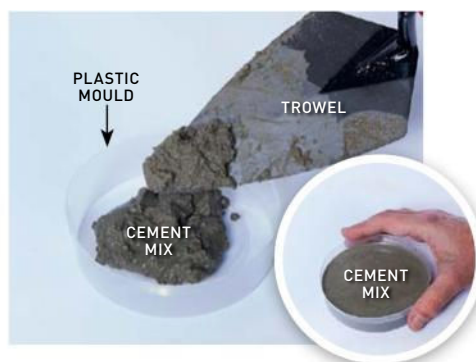
 See more cement projects
Visit pinterest.com/DIYHandyman

1 2 3



1 Cut the mould

Mark the height of the coaster around a plastic container with a marker pen. Cut along the line, leaving a little extra height at the top to make the mould easier to remove.



2 Add the cement

Fill the plastic mould with a sand and cement mix using a trowel, ensuring it is evenly spread. Gently tap the side of the mould to remove any air bubbles.



3 Remove the mould

Once the concrete is completely set, carefully remove the coaster from the plastic mould. Use a small paintbrush to apply concrete sealer to the coaster. 🍷



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BUILDING TRUST



★ ORIGINS

Concrete

DIY TIP

Use premixed bags for small jobs, and hire a mixer or have concrete delivered by truck for larger projects such as paths or driveways.

THE HARD FACTS

Since ancient times, concrete has been one of the most versatile building materials available, and today few modern buildings are constructed without it.

Concrete can be shaped with formwork and is extremely durable, giving it many DIY uses, including for driveways, paths, deck and fence post footings, and slabs for sheds.

It can also be used as a design element inside the home, and concrete floors, walls, furniture and homewares can create a modern industrial look.

Modernise an interior with exposed concrete walls.

Learn the lingo

Often confused, concrete, cement and mortar are very different. **CONCRETE** is a malleable mix of cement, sand, aggregate and water that can be cast in almost any shape and sets rock hard.

CEMENT is the binder, made from limestone and clay heated and ground with gypsum into a powder. **MORTAR** is a mixture of sand, cement and water, and is used as a bond for brickwork and paving.



Mixing concrete

Concrete for floors, paths and footings is comprised of four parts 10-20mm aggregate, two parts fine sand and one part cement.

To make concrete, combine dry ingredients in a wheelbarrow, then add water and mix to a creamy consistency.

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Green up small spaces with woven resin rattan Wicker'd 35cm Wall Baskets, \$19.98 each.



Guide the way with Gardenglo Pearl Grey 22cm Solar Path Lights, \$22 each.



Relax in a Decorium Freestanding 1715 x 825 x 535mm Bath, \$2179, with integrated overflow.



Keep cool over the sunny season with the Arlec 130cm Ceiling Fan with LED, \$169.



Beat the heat with the energy efficient Arlec 130cm Ceiling Fan, \$139, for indoor use.

SAFETY TIP

Always wear a weight belt and team up with a friend or two when moving heavy items to prevent a back injury, or hire a professional.



Protect precious items while relocating with a 1.8 x 3.2m Premium Moving Blanket, \$29.95.



Prune plants precisely with the powerful Cyclone Telescopic Ratchet Bypass Lopper, \$69.98.



Roll bulky items into place with the 590 x 490mm Wrap and Move Moving Dolly, \$29.95.



Scrub grease and grime away with Selleys Sugar Soap, \$14.98 for 5L, in an easy-pour bottle.



Repair holes in skirting and architraves with Polyfilla Sandable Gap Filler, \$7.34 for 380g.



Clip back bushes with Cyclone Telescopic Hedge Shears, \$59.98, with non-stick PTFE blades.

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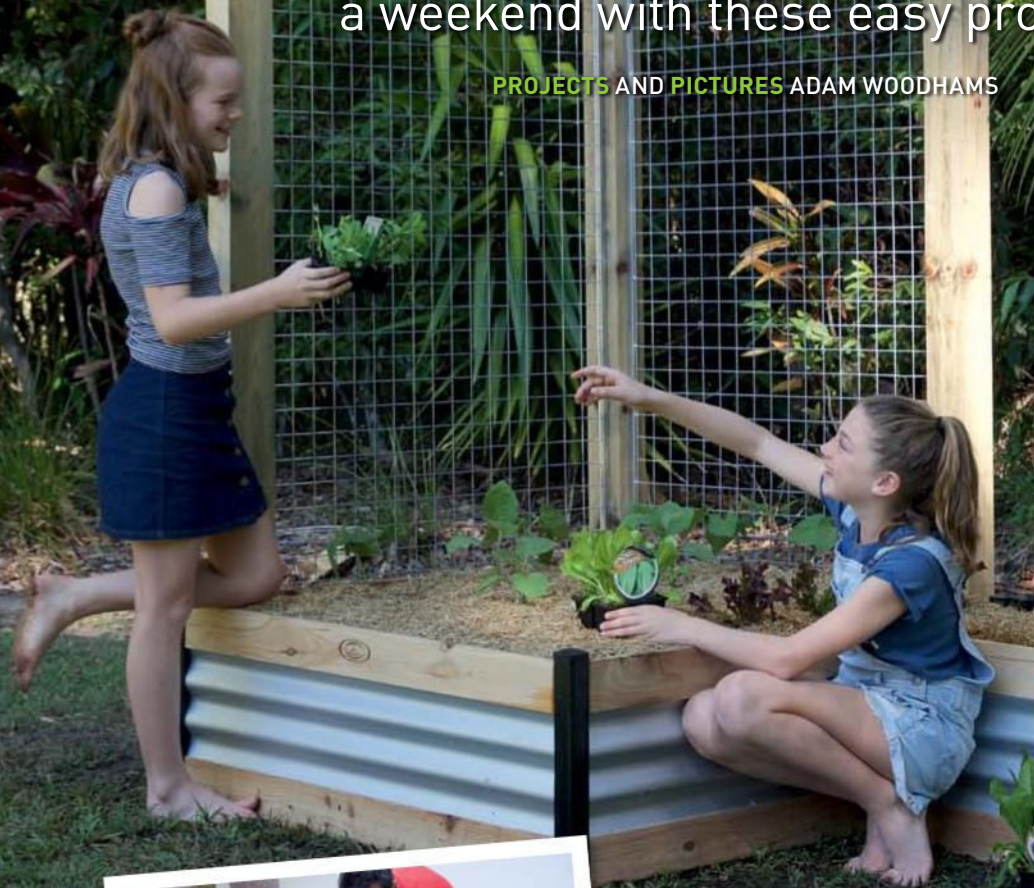
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3

DIY GARDEN MAKEOVERS

Transform your backyard in just a weekend with these easy projects

PROJECTS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS



Adam

EXPERT SECRETS

Overhaul a big garden with bite-sized projects rather than attempting to do it all in one go. >



DIY TIP

Add pebbles or gravel to a pond base to create a natural biological filter, helping to keep your pond clean and clear.

Add a water feature

Installing a pond seems like it should be a simple job. After all, you just need a vessel to hold the water, a pump and filter, and a length of hose.

But the difficulty has always been in precisely matching all of the parts to get the effect you are after.

So how do you make sure you install the pond you want, easily, quickly and with all the right parts?

The best way to do it is to opt for a preformed pond that comes in a kit, with all the parts matched. All you need to do then is dig a hole, install the pond, add a pump and the water.

Create a cool corner in the garden with a preformed pond.

TOP PICKS

What you need

Pond kit, including
preformed shell, pump,
pond light and filter
Pebbles or gravel
Mulch
Plants
Hose



Scotts Osmocote Water Gardens
& Aquatic Plants, \$7 for 250g.
scottsaustralia.com.au



Alcantarea Rubra
Bromeliad, 330mm,
\$185. bunnings.com.au



Aquapro Coquetdale
Preformed Poly Pond, \$109.
aquatecequipment.com

INSTALL THE POND



1 Dig the hole

Find a spot in the garden that will allow the pond to be viewed from different angles, avoiding a full-sun location, as this will restrict algae growth. Position the preformed pond in the location, marking around it with a spade. Remove it, then dig the hole roughly to the form of the pond.



2 Install the pond

Position the pond in the hole, ensuring there are no protruding rocks or roots. Sit the pond so its lip is above the soil, then mulch level to prevent debris washing in when it rains.

TIP If the soil is rocky, dig a bit deeper than required and line the inside with pavers or use coarse river sand.



3 Level the pond

Stabilise the pond by adding loose soil to fill any voids around the edges. Check the pond is level side to side and back to front with a spirit level. Add further loose soil around the edges if the pond is still not level. Check again using a spirit level until the pond is completely level.



4 Plant up the sides

Add plants around the sides of the pond, mixing the textures, colours and heights of the plants to create a natural, organic look. Use taller plants towards the rear of the pond, tapering the height towards the front, to frame the view of the pond. Sweep away any soil from the pond.



5 Add the pebbles

Wash the pebbles or gravel to remove any silt, then add a layer to the base of the pond. Remove the filter cage from the pump and screw it onto the large filter block. Position the pump in the deepest area of the pond, running the cord to an electrical source as discreetly as possible.



6 Fill with water

Position the light in the layer of pebbles or gravel, then wait until dark to adjust the angle to the desired spot. Fill up the pond with water, then carefully mulch around the plants and switch on the light.

TIP Add fish and aquatic plants to bring the pond to life. ➤

Each garden bed can be assembled in 15 minutes.

GROW TIP

Add a mesh frame for growing climbing plants such as beans and peas, and also for tying back tomatoes and other tall growers.

▶ Watch the video online
Visit handyman.net.au/mini-garden

Create a mini garden

If you want a spot to grow vegies or flowers, but creating a bed or patch from scratch is too hard, go for an easy-to-build railed bed in a box.

We built a 1100 x 1100 x 400mm bed and a 1150 x 400 x 400mm bed to create an instant mini garden.

To give our plants extra support, we also added a climbing frame at the back using two 1800 x 900mm framed mesh panels secured to three 100 x 75 x 2400mm fence posts.

What you need

- Garden-bed kits
- Bulk soil or bagged potting mix
- Mulch
- Seedlings
- Framed mesh
- Fence posts
- Galvanised wafer screws

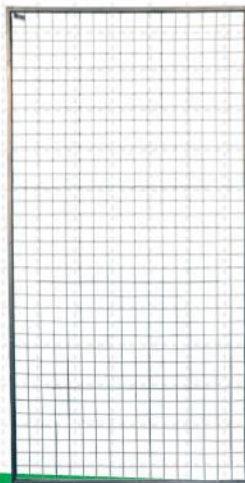
TOP PICKS



Lufkin 10m Fluorolok Tape Measure, \$30.
apextoolgroup.com.au



Ryobi One+ 18V Cordless Compact Drill Driver, \$89, skin only. ryobi.com.au

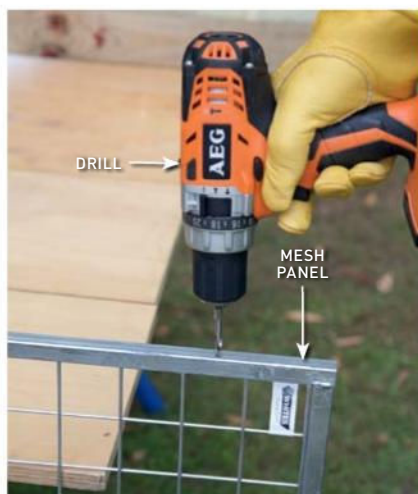


Whites Wires 1800 x 900mm Framed Panel Plant Trainer, \$66. whitesgroup.com.au



Birdies Aluzinc Corrugated Steel And Timber 1100 x 1100 x 400mm Garden Bed, \$149. birdiesgardenproducts.com.au

BUILD THE BEDS



1 Secure the panels

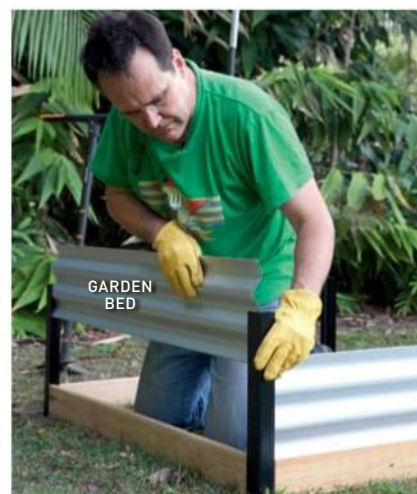
Cut the top of the fence posts to a 45° angle. On each side of the mesh panels, pre-drill three holes at the top, middle and base. Secure the mesh about 20mm in from the face of a post at the desired height, then secure it to a second post at the same height. Secure the other mesh panel to the remaining post.



2 Dig the post holes

Measure the position for the post holes for the mesh frames using a tape measure. Mark the holes with line-marking paint, then dig the holes to about 200mm deep.

TIP The mesh frame will become self-supporting once the second panel is added at right angles.



3 Make the main bed

Assemble the 1100 1100 x 400mm garden bed, which will have the mesh frame behind it, following the instructions. Position the completed garden bed beside the post holes. Install the mesh frame in the post holes at the rear of the bed, and support it temporarily.



4 Secure the frame

Position the second panel in the remaining post hole. Clamp to the mesh panel post, ensuring it is at the right height and position, then secure with screws. Check for level across the top of the climbing frame and check the posts are plumb. Fill the holes with the excavated soil.



5 Line with newspaper

Assemble the second garden bed, then lay about six sheets of newspaper over the base of both beds to form a weed barrier. Add the included filter fabric over the top of the newspaper, to provide an extra filtration layer for drainage. Water the paper down to stop it blowing away while exposed.



6 Add the soil

Fill both of the garden beds with soil or potting mix until they are nearly completely full, gently tamping down as you go to remove any air pockets in the soil. Add the plants, positioning smaller plants at the front of the bed and taller plants towards the rear, then mulch. ➤



Plants with thick foliage and long leaves bring the sparse area to life.
RIGHT The shaded garden now offers a spa-like view from the bathroom.



Plant up a shady spot

Areas close to the walls of your home that get little natural light can be challenging spaces to grow plants.

The level of shade dramatically limits planting choices, while the conditions created make for less than ideal growing conditions.

Turning one of these neglected spots into a quality garden space isn't as simple as just popping in a couple of plants and hoping for the best.

The shady conditions will likely have created underlying issues that need to be dealt with before planting.

This shaded area was very dry, as it was hemmed in by walls on three sides. Here's our guide to turning the space into a green asset.

1 2 3



1 Tidy the area

Remove weeds and any plants that are beyond salvaging from the area, tidying up the plants you want to keep. Clear away the mulch from the area. Blend through compost and soil wetter, then scatter a fertiliser.



2 Position the plants

Lay out the garden, positioning the shortest plants at the front, leaving them in pots. Step back and check the arrangement from another perspective to ensure the plants are in the correct position. Rearrange as required.



3 Dig the holes

Dig the planting holes, then add compost or soil improver and a small amount of pre-soaked water-storage crystals to each hole before adding the plants. Water thoroughly, giving all plants suitable coverage. Add mulch.



IMPROVING THE SOIL

You can fix dry soil by blending through a premium compost-and-planting mix, which will add moisture.

Soil wetters and water-storage products will also help. Soil wetters break any water repellency, allowing water to reach to the roots, while water-storage crystals make it easy for roots to access water.

You can also mulch the area, which will help the soil retain moisture and encourage beneficial earthworms. ➤

TOP PICKS



Scott's Pure Organic Premium Potting & Planting Mix, \$14 for 25L. scottsaustralia.com.au



Richgro Pinebark Mulch, \$8 for 40L. richgro.com.au

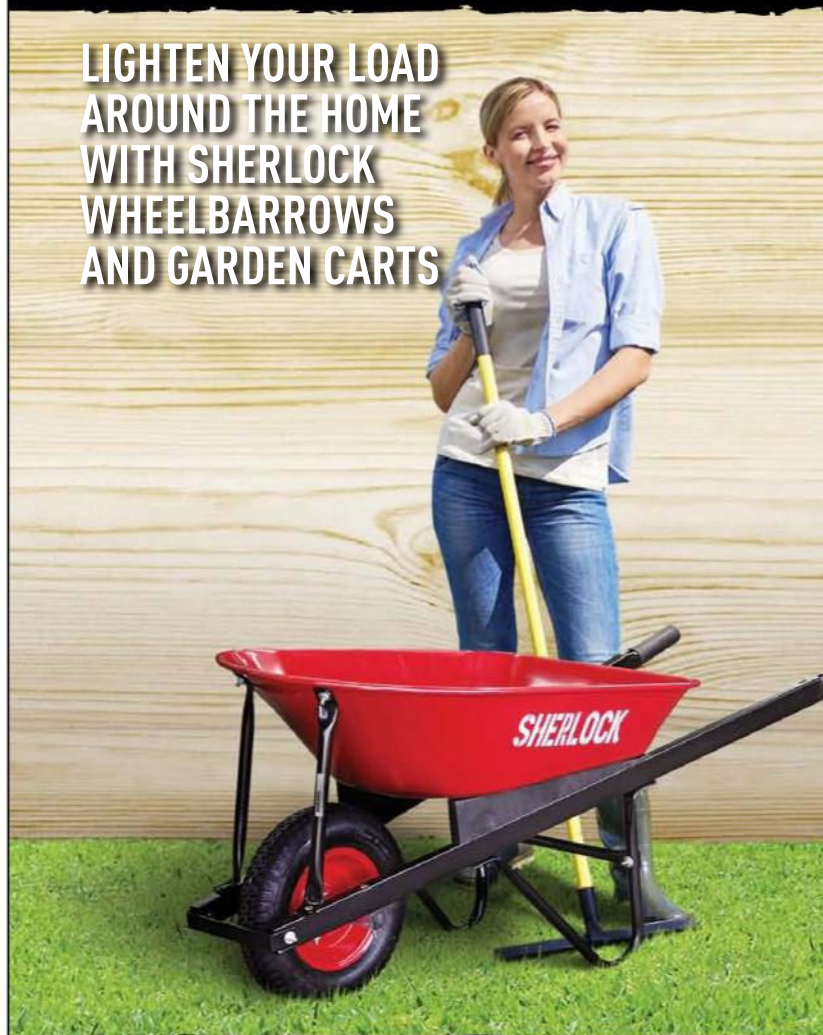


Hortico Water Storage Crystals, \$13. hortico.com.au

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PLANT SELECTION

Although there are a few notable exceptions, such as bromeliads, clivias and most ferns, most garden plants don't like deep shade. So you need to look beyond the regular palette of plants.

If you live in a sub-tropical area, you'll be spoilt for choice. In other areas, provided you don't get frost or severe cold, many plants considered as sub-tropical or even as indoor plants will survive and thrive in shade.

For this particular shady area, here's what we used.

Ctenanthe 'Grey Star' is an awesome foliage plant, with large, silvery green leaves.

It prefers well-drained soil and warm temperatures, and is excellent for filling gaps at the 1m height range.



Golden cane palm (*Dypsis lutescens*) is often grown as an indoor plant in cooler areas, and will thrive in a warm sheltered part of the garden.

It's an unusual palm as it forms a multi-trunked clump.



Native ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*) makes a dramatic backdrop planting, as it can reach 2-3m in height. It has striking red leaves and white flowers.

Irrigation is a must as it needs reliable moisture.



Cordylines are very useful in the shade. They are available in a huge range of colours and foliage forms.

Many can get too tall, but they will reshoot quickly if you simply cut off their heads.

Liriope 'Stripey White', which is planted here with dwarf cordylines, has that magic combination of variegated foliage and long strappy leaves.

It's a hardy shade lover that can tolerate most climates.





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OUTDOOR OVERHAUL

Turn an unused backyard into an alfresco dining and entertaining area

Aussie backyards used to cater to the basic needs of a family with space for kids to play and a place to hang washing up to dry.

But our lifestyles have evolved and outdoor areas are now places to garden, relax, dine and entertain.

The layout of this home was dated and needed rejigging. A new deck took

the place of the concrete patio, and the covered pergola was swapped for a modern roof with an open design to maximise the natural light.

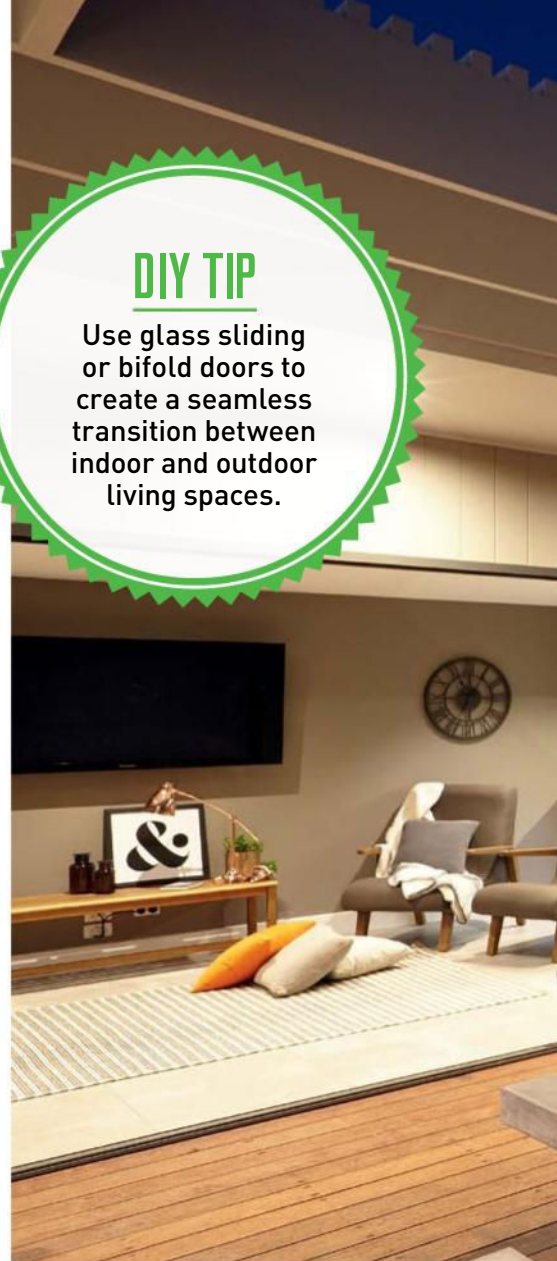
Bifold doors replaced the back wall of the house and the garage was converted into an outdoor room. The two are linked by the new deck, which was styled as an alfresco dining area.



A bar table is a great way to fit more seating on a deck that already has a dining setting

DIY TIP

Use glass sliding or bifold doors to create a seamless transition between indoor and outdoor living spaces.



Timber, stone, concrete and steel combine to create an outdoor area with both warmth and texture.

LEFT Cater for large groups with an oversized table and bench seats.



Before



Watch 'How to Design your Outdoor Room' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



After

The deck features a wood-fired oven and barbecue for the outdoor chef.

Before



Easy entertaining

To overhaul the backyard, the concrete patio and paths were replaced with timber decking at the back and side of the house.

The back deck was turned into an alfresco dining area with a deluxe bench featuring a wood-fired oven and barbecue. The converted garage has a sink, fridge and dishwasher for easy outdoor entertaining.

As a final touch, a spa was built into the deck for an all-season luxury escape in the backyard. ➤



Fresh food

The neglected garden had just one tree and patchy grass.

The new deck left enough space for a small lawn, and raised beds were added and planted up.

A vertical garden saves space and doubles as a design feature, plus it is very handy for growing vegies and herbs for cooking.

Watch 'How to Build a Vertical Garden' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

GET THE LOOK



Chapala Large BBQ Pizza Oven, \$549.
chapala.com.au



Birdies 1200 x 400 x 300mm Heritage Modular Raised Garden Bed Kit, \$98.
birdiesgardenproducts.com.au



Country Value Assorted Vegetable Seeds, \$1.49 per pack.
bunnings.com.au



Holman GreenWall Vertical Garden Kit, \$49.
holmanindustries.com.au

Watch 'How to Install a Frameless Glass Pool Fence' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



TIDY TIP

Cover a spa whenever it is not in use to protect it from leaves, excessive evaporation and fading from the summer sun.



Mimosa Nebraska Cement Bench, \$749. bunnings.com.au



Marquee Dream Grey Polycarbonate Mallee Chair, \$99. bunnings.com.au



Mediterranean Woodfired Ovens Large Entertainer DIY Pizza Oven, \$2499. woodfiredovens.com.au



Spa Industries Summer Sapphire Seven-seat Venetian Spa, \$7999. spaindustries.com.au

INSTALL A NEW GATE

Patch up and replace old posts to hang a timber garden gate

PROJECT DANIEL BUTKOVICH STYLING ARTEMIS GOUROS
PICTURES SUE FERRIS

The gate in the side passage of this suburban home was broken and needed replacing. A timber post had rotted and was no longer structurally sound, causing the gate to fall off its hinges.

As the old gate was a standard size, it was easily replaced with an off-the-shelf product, saving the time and effort of building a new gate.

While the post on the house side supporting the gate was completely degraded and had to be replaced, the other post needed only minor repairs.

The damaged surface of the fence post was scraped away, and wood hardener applied to the bare timber. Wood hardener stops rot and preserves timber, and filler can be applied over it for a complete repair. ➤



Use a paint sprayer to make painting large surfaces quicker and easier



Before

Materials

Gate	\$98
Post	\$9
Paint	\$31
Hinges	\$33
Latch	\$41
Fasteners	\$13
Wood hardener	\$22
Filler	\$17
TOTAL	\$264

TOP PICKS



Bosch Blue 18V Cordless Drill Driver Kit, \$199.
bosch-pt.com.au



Whites Outdoor Garden Up Balcony Planter, \$17.
whitesgroup.com.au



Wagner Flexio 585 Paint Sprayer, \$249.
wagneraustralia.com.au



Earl's Wood Hardener, \$22 for 250ml.
timbermate.com.au



Closed Round Top Treated Pine Gate, 1500 x 900mm, \$98. bunnings.com.au



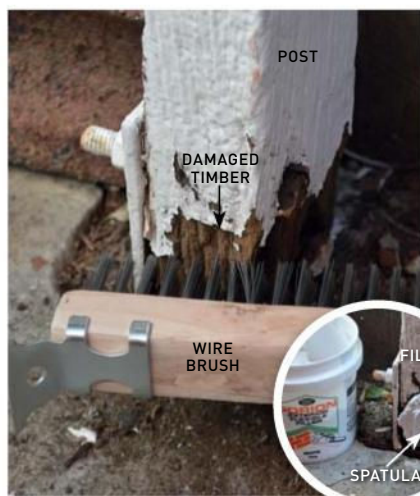
After

The new gate is a landscape upgrade that improves security.

DESIGN TIP

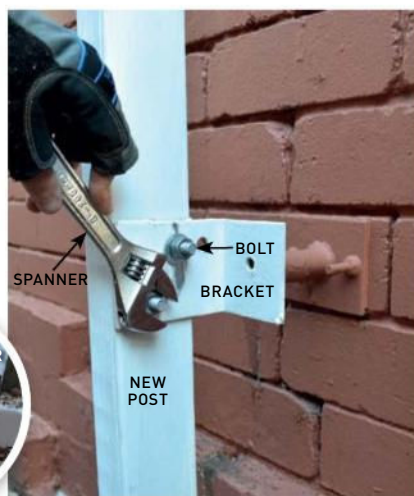
To maximise privacy and conceal unsightly features, such as water heaters, choose a gate with a closed picket design.

REPLACE THE GATE



1 Repair damaged timber

Use a wire brush to remove soft, rotten timber and flaking paint. Apply wood hardener to the timber, drilling small holes first to allow it to penetrate. Apply flexible exterior filler, then shape it with a spatula and allow it to cure. Sand and paint the post with two coats of exterior paint.



2 Replace the post

Measure the old post, then remove it by loosening the bolts securing it to the bracket. If the bolts are rusted, cut them using an angle grinder. Cut the new post to size, then paint it with two coats of exterior paint. Secure the post to the brackets using M8 x 75mm bolts.



3 Paint the gate

Lay the gate flat and sand both sides using a random orbital sander and 150 grit abrasive paper. Use bar clamps to support the gate upright, then paint both sides of the gate using a paint sprayer and water-based exterior paint, diluting with water up to 10% if required.



4 Secure the hinges

Align the tab on the top hinge with the edge of the gate top rail. Mark the hole positions and drill pilot holes using a 3mm drill bit, then secure the hinge using 10g x 35mm wafer head screws. Repeat for the lower rail. **TIP** Ensure hinges are positioned at least 900mm apart.



5 Hang the gate

Position the gate, supporting it at the correct height. Check for level, then mark the hinge hole positions on the post. Drill pilot holes using a 3mm drill bit, then secure the hinges to the post using 10g x 35mm screws. Check that the gate opens and closes properly, adjusting the tension if required.



6 Install the latch

With the gate closed, hold both sides of the latch in position and use a square to mark the location of the tops. Secure the keeper using the supplied screws, then align the latch body and secure, ensuring the gap between the keeper and the body is less than 10mm. Check that the latch closes automatically.

Choosing gate hardware

Gates that allow access to the backyard need to provide adequate security, especially if there are small children or pets in the family.

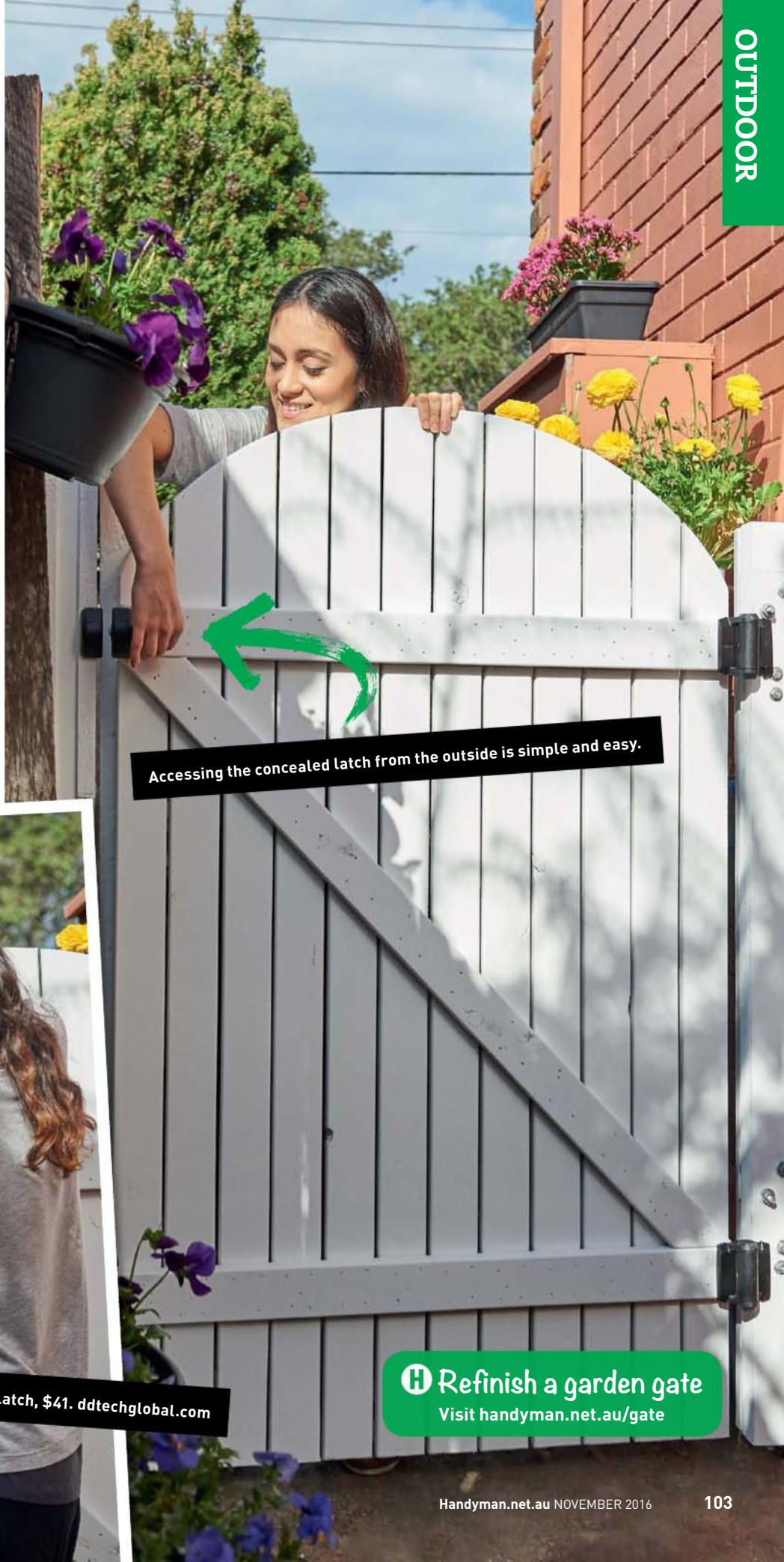
Self-closing hinges ensure that the gate won't ever be left open, as the adjustable tension mechanism means the gate always swings closed.

Installing a lockable magnetic latch further improves security, and means a padlock isn't required to keep the gate locked.

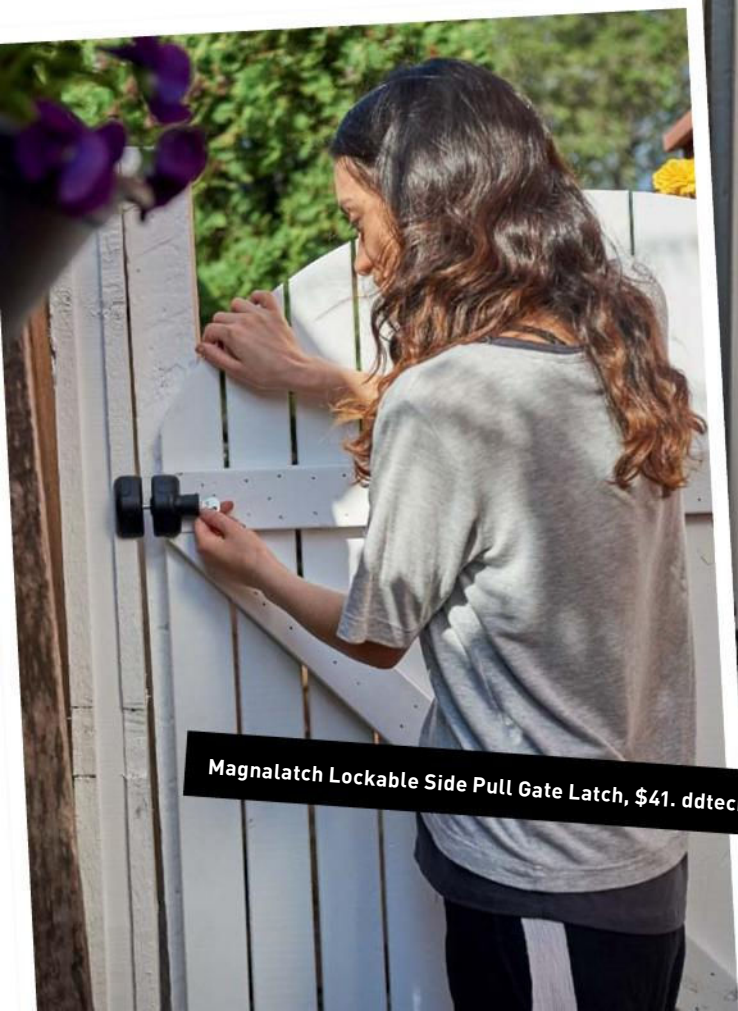
Designed for use on pool fences, these latches can be used on any gate and attach on the rear with no visible fasteners for a streamlined look. ➤



Maximise security by installing self-closing hinges and lockable gate latches

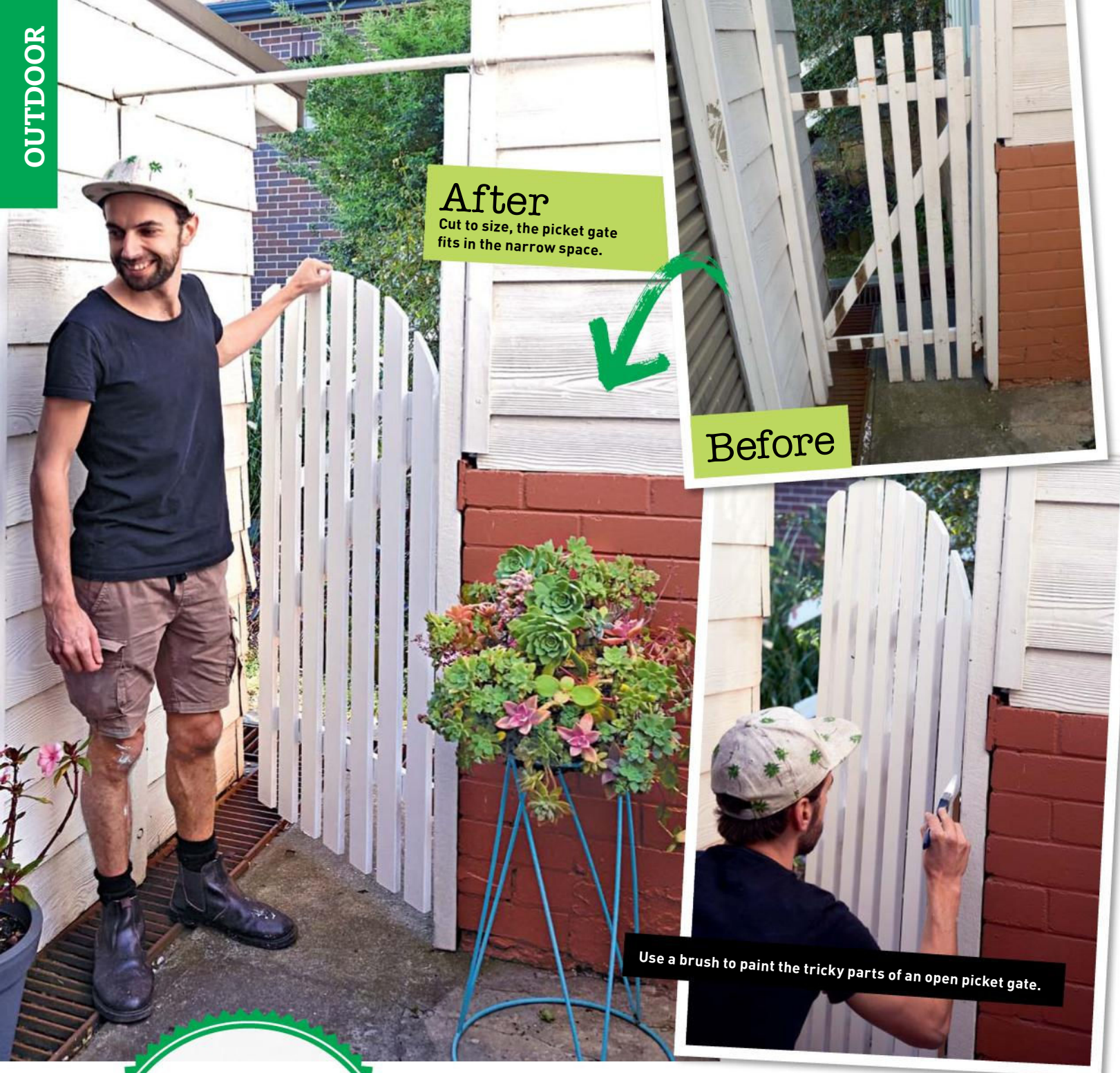


Accessing the concealed latch from the outside is simple and easy.



Magnalatch Lockable Side Pull Gate Latch, \$41. ddtechglobal.com

 Refinish a garden gate
Visit handyman.net.au/gate



After

Cut to size, the picket gate fits in the narrow space.

Before

Use a brush to paint the tricky parts of an open picket gate.

DIY TIP

Use galvanised or stainless steel screws when securing gate hinges and latches to prevent corrosion and ensure longevity.

Trim a gate

On the other side of the same house, another garden gate also needed to be replaced, as the pickets had fallen off and the rails were rotting.

The opening was slightly narrower than standard size, but the cost of the timber to build a new gate was more than the cost of a readymade product.

To save time and money, a new timber gate was bought and trimmed

to size. The rails on the latch side next to the first picket were cut down using a circular saw.

Once trimmed, the gate was hung using galvanised T-hinges and painted in position, then a simple pad bolt installed.

To prevent overspray and to coat all the areas of the open picket design, it was given two coats of exterior water-based paint using a brush. 🌿

The Wagner logo, featuring a stylized black triangle above the word "WAGNER" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters, all set against a bright yellow rectangular background.

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CHOOSE THE RIGHT LADDER

Stay safe at home by getting the ladder to suit your DIY needs

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

If asked to consider what are the most potentially dangerous tools you have in your garage, your mind may jump straight to drills, chainsaws and power saws.

But the truth is that a ladder is one of the most hazardous pieces of equipment you can use.

And you may also think that most accidents involving a ladder occur in the workplace but, surprisingly, 80% are home-based DIY accidents.

Perhaps the most alarming statistic is the height required for a fall to be serious, with accidents from as low as a metre recording significant numbers of serious injuries and even fatalities.

Here are our tips on selecting the right ladder and how to use it safely.



Suitable footwear is a must on a ladder.



For extra height, use an extension ladder.



Watch your step

The vast majority of ladder accidents occur from the simplest of things, such as going up and down incorrectly, the ladder moving, or overbalancing.

To avoid injuring yourself, follow this handy guide to ladder safety.

- **WEAR** closed-toe, non-slip footwear.
- **KEEP** the treads and rails of the ladder clean and free of any dirt.
- **REPLACE** a bent or damaged ladder.
- **ENSURE** the ladder is standing and resting on a stable and solid surface.

- **USE** a 1:4 ratio to avoid slippage. For every 4m in height, the ladder feet should be 1m away from the surface it is resting on.
- **STAY** at least 3m from power lines.
- **DON'T** use items such as loose bricks to prop up or level ladder legs.
- **TAKE** care when leaning against poles or tree trunks, or use a ladder with a pole or trunk support.
- **CHECK** that any locks or braces are secured before climbing.
- **MAINTAIN** three points of contact while climbing and working.

- **AIM** to keep your shoulders inside the line of the rails when extending your arms, to avoid overreaching.
- **FACE** inwards, towards the rungs.
- **DON'T** stand any higher than the third rung from the top.
- **AVOID** work that requires vigorous pushing or pulling while on a ladder.
- **DON'T** work on anything directly above you that may fall on you. Set the ladder to one side and a little higher.
- **CLIMB** down to change the position of a ladder rather than attempting to move it while you're still on it. ➤



Use a ladder fitted with a tree guard for safety.

DIY TIP

Select a ladder with a maximum length of at least 1m greater than the height you need to reach for a specific job.

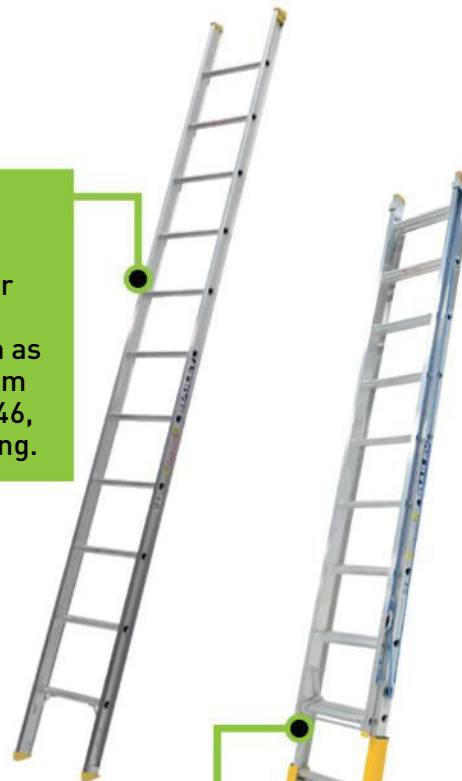
SINGLE AND EXTENSION

Intended for higher-reach jobs, single and extension ladders are generally considered for outdoor use.

A single ladder is a set length, whereas an extension ladder usually works in two stages and can be easily extended to a range of heights using a pulley and locking mechanism.



With no hinges, pulleys or locks that can wear over time, single ladders, such as the 3.6m Bailey Aluminium Pro 11 Single Ladder, \$246, tend to be very long lasting.



Short on storage space? The compact Bailey 135kg Triple Extension Ladder, \$259, extends to a height of 4.15m and folds down to just 2m (baileyladders.com.au).



Ideal for extra-high tasks, the Bailey 3.2-5m 130kg Aluminium Leveller 10 Extension Ladder, \$374, has built-in levelling features for easy set-up and added safety.



SAFETY ACCESSORIES

No less important than the ladders themselves are the accessories that help to add height, improve safety, and make certain jobs easier to do.



The Gorilla Aluminium Outrigger Ladder Accessory, \$50, can be fitted to almost any ladder and provides more stability against walls (gorillaladders.com.au).



Simple to fit onto the end of most extension ladders, the durable Gorilla Ladder Bumpers, \$12 a pair, reduce the risk of the ladder slipping and protect the surface.



Designed to protect gutters, the Ladder's Little Helper, \$50, has a non-slip surface to resist movement on the gutter at the resting points (ladderslittlehelper.com).



WORK PLATFORMS

SAFETY TIP

Check the load capacity of the ladder, as one suitable for 120kg or less should be considered for light domestic use only.

Although not technically ladders, work platforms are useful for elevated jobs such as painting indoors and out.

Look for models with legs that can be independently height adjusted, which are ideal for use on steps.

STEP OR A-FRAME

Useful for both indoors and out, stepladders are easy to handle and store. There are a few variations on the A-frame type.



Perfect for more vigorous jobs, the Gorilla Adjustable Height Work Platform with Connecting Brackets, \$156, can be raised from 600mm to a height of 900mm.



A variation on single-sided stepladders, the Gorilla 1.2m 150kg Aluminium Platform Ladder, \$293, has a non-slip platform and supporting 900mm hand rail at the top.



With a fold-out shelf to hold paint or tools, the Rhino 1.8m Single-sided Aluminium Step Ladder, \$84, is a versatile, all-purpose option for indoor jobs (rhinoladders.com.au).

The Bailey 2.1m Pole Support Dual-purpose Aluminium Ladder, \$214, is climbable on both sides. It also opens out to function as a single ladder and features a tree guard.





- 1 Lifetime 82.5cm Children's Blow Mould Picnic Table, \$79.
- 2 Swing Slide Climb Windsor Playset, \$1549.

Garden playground

Make summer fun for the kids by creating an exciting space in the backyard with playsets, swings and sandpits

For kids, the warmer days and the start of the holiday season mean spending more time having fun outdoors.

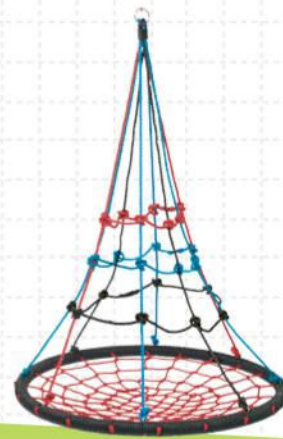
A purpose-built playground in the backyard will provide an ideal, dedicated place for them to climb, swing and play all day, every day.

There is a whole range to pick from, so consider the age of your kids and the size of your yard before choosing.

Ideal as a Christmas gift, here are a number of the great options that are available this summer.



Give the kids a great hideaway with the Swing Slide Climb Shack Timber Cubby House, \$299.



Provide a place for children to play with the Swing Slide Climb Spider Net Swing, \$119.

- 1 Swing Slide Climb Six-function Swing Set, \$169.
- 2 Fountain Products Clam Shell Sandpit, \$13.45.
- 3 Swing Slide Climb Coloured Sand, \$17.90 for 10kg.
- 4 Pour-In-Place 1.5sqm Red Wetpour Rubber Surfacing, \$64.90.
- 5 Swing Slide Climb 1.8m Freestanding Water Slide, \$99.

SAFETY TIP

When installing a playset, leave enough room around the edges for kids to play without obstruction from walls or a boundary fence.





Find it at Bunnings

XMAS LIGHTS

Give your place a seasonal glow with festive outdoor lights and decorations

Keep the Christmas spirit shining brightly this year by dressing up the front of the house and the garden with dazzling decorations.

Fairy lights and garlands can be used to light up plants, doors and roof lines, but don't stop there.

For a really fun and festive look, decorate the front lawn with inflatable

Santas and reindeers, or add statues to light up the night.

Illuminate garden pathways with colourful stakes to welcome guests and guide them to the door.

And use laser lights to project coloured beams and white snowflakes for a vibrant visual display with a classic Christmas theme.



LASER LIGHTS

1 Verve Red And Green LED Projector Garden Light, \$99.

2 Verve Snowflake LED Projector Light, \$39.

ALL FEATURED PRODUCTS NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STORES



SOLAR STAKES

- ① Lytworx Solar Reindeer Stake Multicolour, \$8.
- ② Lytworx 95cm Santa Stop Here LED Solar Stake, \$25.
- ③ Lytworx Candy Cane Solar Stake, \$25 for 10.



INFLATABLES

- ① Inflatable 270cm Santa On Sleigh with Three Kangaroos, \$119.
- ② Inflatable 180cm Santa with Tractor, \$129.
- ③ Inflatable 120cm Reindeer, \$49.
- ④ Inflatable 180cm Santa In Chimney Remote Up & Down, \$99.



STATUES

- ① Lytworx Santa Climbing Silhouette, \$99.
- ② Lytworx Kicking Leg Deer, \$59.
- ③ Lytworx Shooting Star Silhouette, \$79.

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SEE THE WORLD



New York City in the summer



↑ Most sidewalk beds have 'Curb your dog' signs, but this one must be an autumn leftover.
 ↓ Outside the New York Public Library on West 42nd Street is this bed filled with begonias, cannas and pennisetum.



Manhattan blooming

When people imagine New York City they think of skyscrapers and subways, but this concrete jungle has some of the best urban plantings in the world.

Manhattan in particular is surprisingly lush. There is the famous and enormous Central Park, plus lots of green squares dotted about the island.

From hanging baskets on street lamps to window boxes on brownstones and verdant sidewalk beds, there is garden inspiration to be found on every street.

A living landscape feature located in the financial district.



PICTURES ARTEMIS GOUROS



← This white mandevilla is in front of a ritzy building on the exclusive Upper East Side on famous 5th Ave.
→ A restaurant in Little Italy with a lush collection of tropical plants, including croton, monstera and ficus.



Fact check

Arguably the most famous park in the world, Central Park is over 150 years old and is entirely landscaped.

➤ The not-for-profit Central Park Conservancy manages the park.

It was formed in 1980 by citizens determined to improve the park, which was in a period of decline.

➤ Central Park has about 26,000 trees and covers an expanse of 843 acres.

➤ The annual operating budget of Central Park is a huge \$67 million.



↑ Rows of begonias in the middle of the famous Park Avenue.
→ Downtown in the West Village, the townhouses and brownstones feature climbers, shrubs and beautifully planted window boxes.



★
Urban plantings dampen street noise, improve the air and are wildlife friendly

Handyman

BUYER'S GUIDE

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



ryobi.com.au

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Want to change a room in a weekend?

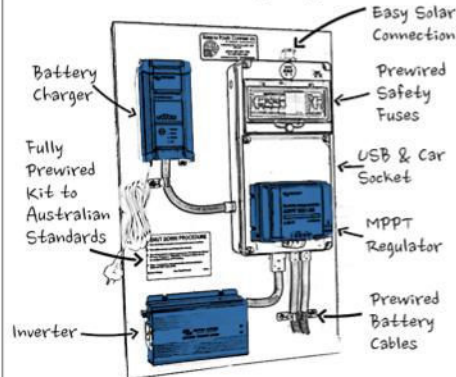
Then check out Easycraft's new wall lining panels. They go straight over existing wall materials and transform a room immediately. Different profiles are available and they come pre-primed ready to paint. Look for them in the Bunnings timber panels aisle or ask at the Special Orders desk.

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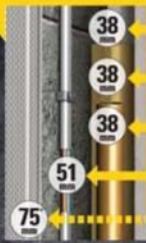
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This month

Summer is about to hit, so get the garden ready for the hot season



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- + FRENCH MARIGOLD
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- + LETTUCE
- + SPRING ONION
- + SQUASH
- + ZUCCHINI

Cucumber



Do now

- + PREPARE the garden for summer growth, page 126.
- + DESIGN and plant a low-allergy landscape, page 134.
- + CREATE a salad garden for summer crops, page 142.

WHAT'S IN COLOUR

✦ **FOXGLOVE 'RUBY GLOW'** is a new and exciting variety for 2016 that blooms in spring then all summer long.

Featuring low-mounding green foliage and an upright habit, this foxglove cultivar grows up to 60cm high and 50cm wide.

Borne on tall flower spikes, the outward facing blooms are a rich ruby red with peach-coloured throats. The blooms start to open at the base of the stalks and slowly move up, for an extended show of spectacular colour.

This showy plant is excellent for adding drama to beds, grows well in pots and makes an excellent cut flower.

Give 'Ruby Glow' a position in full sun in well-drained soil and water regularly during the growing season.

Foxglove 'Ruby Glow'

To-do list

Prepare the garden to beat the summer heat for a lush and colourful landscape.

- ✓ **CONTROL** fruit fly with traps, baits and spray.
- ✓ **TIE** tomato plants to stakes and trellises.
- ✓ **MULCH** containers to keep potting mix moist.
- ✓ **DIVIDE** bearded iris.
- ✓ **MOW** regularly but don't cut grass too short.
- ✓ **PLANT** pots and hanging baskets with annuals to colour up outdoor areas.
- ✓ **CHECK** pumps in ponds and water features are working to avoid stagnant water that attract mozzies.
- ✓ **TAKE** herb cuttings. ➤

TOP PICKS

Vertical gardening

A fast, easy way to green up small outdoor areas without losing floor space is to garden vertically. And for a display that is both decorative and practical, grow herbs on your walls.

To make vertical gardening super simple, go for a Greenwall kit from Holman, choosing a style to suit your space (holmanindustries.com.au).



Benchtop kit, \$40



Pixel Pot kit, \$79



Showa gloves, \$23

Work gloves

Do all your garden jobs with just one pair of gloves. Lynn River Showa 306 gloves, from Bunnings, are designed to reduce fatigue and feature breathable high-grade foam and a water-repellent coating. So they're ideal for watering, digging, pruning, weeding or mowing.



Roses

Prune now

Lightly trim or deadhead early spring-flowering plants.

- ✦ NATIVES
- ✦ SHRUBS
- ✦ HEDGES
- ✦ CLIMBERS
- ✦ ROSES

Harvest now

Pick or cut these in-season vegies and greens.

- ✦ ASPARAGUS
- ✦ BEANSPROUTS
- ✦ CABBAGE
- ✦ RHUBARB
- ✦ SILVERBEET



Cabbage

Feed now

Give plants in growth regular applications of liquid fertiliser.

- ✦ ROSES
- ✦ PAWPAW
- ✦ VEGIES
- ✦ HERBS
- ✦ BANANAS

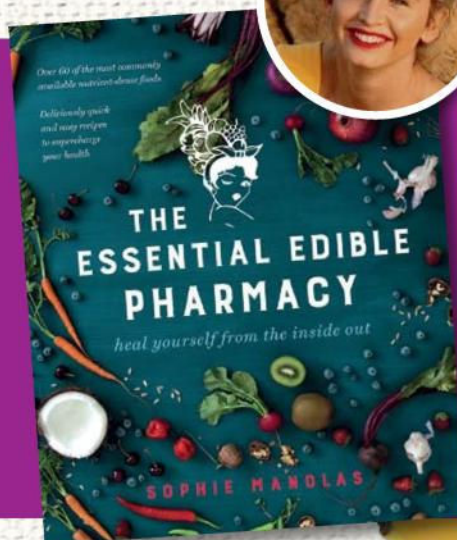
Banana

BOOK CLUB

Say so long to superfoods and hello to everyday eating with *The Essential Edible Pharmacy* by Sophie Manolas (Exisle, \$35).

A clinical nutritionist, Sophie is passionate about good food in a down-to-earth, fresh is best way.

This book features recipes for over 60 commonly available nutrient-dense foods, so you can eat your way to a healthier you. 🍌



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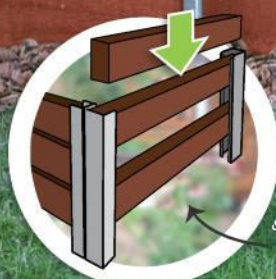
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GET SET FOR THE HEAT

Prepare your garden so it's able to survive the hot summer sun

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

As flowers unfurl and scents abound, summer is a magical season in the garden. It is the time for relaxing and entertaining outdoors, so you want your backyard to be looking its best.

If you tackle a little groundwork now by weeding, conditioning the soil, fertilising and mulching, you will see plants growing by leaps and bounds. And it's also the perfect time to make your own compost.

PICTURE: ISTOCK



Never add weeds that have gone to seed to the compost heap. Bag them up and allow them to rot.



Eliminate weeds

It is important to get rid of weeds when they first appear, as they compete with plants for the nutrients in the soil and leave them vulnerable to diseases and attack by insects. Here's how to win the war on weeds.

- **PULL** them up by hand, removing the roots as well. Remove a weed as soon as you see it, as one can quickly turn into hundreds once it goes to seed.
- **LEAVE** annual weeds that haven't gone to seed on the surface of the soil, where they'll break down, conditioning

the soil. Leaving them in the original spot adds mulch and saves you the trouble of taking them to the compost.

- **PUT** weeds that have gone to seed, perennial weeds and hard-to-kill bulbous weeds in a plastic garbage bag. Tie up the bag and leave it in the sun for 4-6 weeks to rot, then toss the rotted weeds onto the compost heap.
- **SPRAY** weeds on pathways and between pavers with vinegar. Take care the spray doesn't drift onto any plants you don't want to kill.



Rejuvenate the soil

Healthy soil is the key to good gardening and it will also hold water for longer to help your plants withstand the heat.

Soil needs to be reconditioned regularly for plants to perform well, and the end or start of each season is the ideal time to add conditioners.

Organic matter conditions your soil and keeps your plants healthy by supplying nutrients.

- **ADD** a layer of compost, mushroom compost, or cow or chicken manure to the surface of the soil.

- **APPLY** a seaweed product to help promote beneficial microorganisms.



Carting made easy

Make your life easier and save time by moving your garden waste and cuttings about in a cart, such as the Sherlock 67L Poly Tray Cart, \$89 (sherlocklastslonger.com.au).

Featuring a steel chassis and four pneumatic tyres on steel rims, it's ideal for all your general garden maintenance needs. ➤



Summer mulching helps keep your plants hydrated.

Add mulch

Spreading a good layer of mulch on garden beds is essential in summer, as it helps retain moisture in the soil, keeps the soil cooler and suppresses weeds.

Water the soil well before and after applying mulch.

✚ **FLOWERS AND VEGIES** Add a 75mm layer of lucerne hay, pea straw or sugar cane mulch to flower and vegetable gardens. Ensure it is clear of stems to prevent fungus or rot developing.

✚ **SHRUBS** Spread coarse woody materials, such as cypress pine bark or eucalyptus mulch, on shrub beds.

Always add manure or apply Yates Dynamic Lifter under the mulch, as these materials can draw nutrients out of the soil to the detriment of plants as they break down.

✚ **POT PLANTS** For pot plants, mulch with lucerne hay.

TIP Use inorganic mulches such as gravel, scoria and pebbles on succulent beds and gardens in fire-prone areas.



Get the kids to join in and help with the watering.



Well connected

At this time of year, watering is a top priority to promote good growth, so it's the ideal time to make sure your hose fittings are properly connected to the hose and don't pull out or leak.

Hose connectors using Grip 'N' Lock Technology from Holman are a good solution. They are available in plastic, \$5, and brass, \$10 (holmanindustries.com.au).



Water in the evening or early morning when it's cooler.

WAYS TO BEAT THE HEAT

Prevent your garden suffering from the blistering heat with these tips.

- **GIVE** the garden a good soaking the evening before a day of unusually high temperatures has been forecast. If that's not possible, water early in the morning.

Water deeply around the roots of plants, shrubs and trees, as that's where the water is needed most.

- **DON'T** be overly concerned if plants wilt a little in extreme heat. They are tougher than you think and will bounce back when the weather cools in the evening.

Vulnerable plants can be sprayed with Yates DroughtShield, which will

help reduce the amount of water lost through the leaves and also protect them from wind and sunburn.

- **SPRAY** the outside of terracotta pots with Yates Pot A Seal to help prevent moisture loss.

- **APPLY** a wetting agent such as Seasol Super Soil Wetter & Conditioner if you find the garden is drying out too quickly, even after a good watering.

Wetting agents help to improve penetration of water into the soil.

If the garden has been mulched, remove the mulch and apply the wetting agent directly to the soil, then replace the mulch. ➤



Most lawn grasses can withstand heat better when not cropped too closely.

RELN

> garden

220L Compost Tumbler

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Make your own compost

Compost is nature's way of building soil fertility. It conditions the soil, provides food for soil microorganisms and improves the structure of the soil and its water-holding capacity. It is also a convenient way to dispose of organic matter.

There are various ways to make compost. You can create a traditional heap on the ground, use one of the various compost bins or tumblers, or make compost in a worm farm.



PEST TIP

Don't add diseased plant material or fruit infected with fruit fly to the compost. Put it into plastic bags and discard.



A spadeful for each plant a few times a year is ideal.

Don't add dog and cat excrement to the heap, as it can spread disease.

How it works

The ingredients you add to your compost heap will determine how it functions, so it's important to get them right.

Too much carbon slows decomposition, while too much nitrogen will make the heap smell.

A ratio of 30 parts carbon to one part nitrogen is ideal.

✦ **NITROGEN MATERIALS** Grass clippings, vegetable food scraps, garden refuse, animal manures and green garden clippings.

✦ **CARBON MATERIALS** Leaves, sawdust, straw, chipped wood products and shredded paper.

How to make a heap

Ideally, there should be two piles of compost going at once, the completed pile that is decomposing and one in the process of being built.

A heap can be made on the ground, but using an enclosure makes it easier to maintain and prevents any loose materials from being blown about.

Wood, bricks, concrete blocks or even chicken wire wrapped around stakes are suitable for enclosures.

You can throw the compost ingredients on the heap, ensuring you have the carbon/nitrogen ratio right, but the traditional way to make a heap is to layer it.

✦ **START** with a 300mm layer of plant waste, then add a thin layer of blood and bone, manure, organic topsoil, or compost from a finished heap, which breaks down the compost material.

You can also buy compost activators.

✦ **CONTINUE** adding to the heap in layers until it is about 1m high.

✦ **KEEP** the heap damp, not mushy, and don't mat it down, as this impedes aeration. Water with a seaweed product to provide micronutrients.

✦ **TURN** the heap regularly, turning the outer parts into the middle where the heat is. The more often you turn it, the quicker your compost will be ready.

WHAT CAN GO WRONG?



Heap is too dry

- ❖ **CAUSE** This is a sign that there is too much carbon in the heap.
- ❖ **REMEDY** Add manure and other nitrogen-rich ingredients to the compost.



Doesn't heat up

- ❖ **CAUSE** If the pile does not heat up, this is a sign that it is lacking in nitrogen.
- ❖ **REMEDY** Add high-nitrogen materials such as grass clippings, manure or blood and bone. Turn the heap regularly. Cover with insulating material in winter.



A bad smell

- ❖ **CAUSE** A smell like rotten eggs indicates there is insufficient air or a lack of carbon in the heap.
- ❖ **REMEDY** Add high-carbon materials such as dead leaves, old stems, sawdust or straw, then turn the heap. Add dolomite or wood ash to reduce acidity.

Rodents in the heap

- ❖ **CAUSE** Rodents search for food in the compost and like the warmth of the heap.
- ❖ **REMEDY** Turn the heap regularly to discourage habitation. Don't put any dairy products, seafood or meat in the heap.



Heap is too wet

- ❖ **CAUSE** Too many nitrogen materials in the heap.
- ❖ **REMEDY** Add dry shredded newspaper, leaves or straw to the compost.



Seedlings appear

- ❖ **CAUSE** When the heap has not been hot enough to kill seeds, seedlings will grow in the heap.
- ❖ **REMEDY** Add material high in nitrogen, turn the heap more regularly and cover with punctured black plastic or a compost blanket to retain heat, especially during winter. ➤

RELN
➤ garden

Worm Farm & Compost Conditioner

Balances pH levels, adds extra nutrients and prevents pests in your compost bin.



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Worm farming

A worm farm is a self-contained system of trays where the worms live and is an alternative to traditional composting, especially in small gardens.

Compost worms are the ultimate recyclers, and your reward will be fertile compost, which can be used on garden beds and pot plants, and worm juice.

You simply add all your vegetable scraps to the tray and the worms do all the work, producing a rich, black concentrate packed with nutrients.

Worms produce a concentrated compost from kitchen scraps.

DIY TIP

Give worms a handful of food scraps twice weekly for a few weeks, then gradually increase the amount as they multiply.

Caring for worms

Place the bin in a cool area that doesn't receive direct sunlight and keep the contents of the bin moist, taking care not to overwater.

Feed the worms coffee grounds, tea leaves, crushed eggshells, fruit (except citrus), cooked grains, bread, pasta, chopped fresh and cooked vegetable scraps and newspaper.

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

If lots of worms are on the sides or lid of the bin, this indicates its contents are too soggy. Mix in dry shredded newspaper to dry it out.

After about two months, the rich castings build up and worm juice accumulates. Dig the castings into moist soil or add to potting mix.

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



Find a semi-shaded spot for your farm, as worms don't like excessive heat

Chop food finely so it's easier for your worms to digest.

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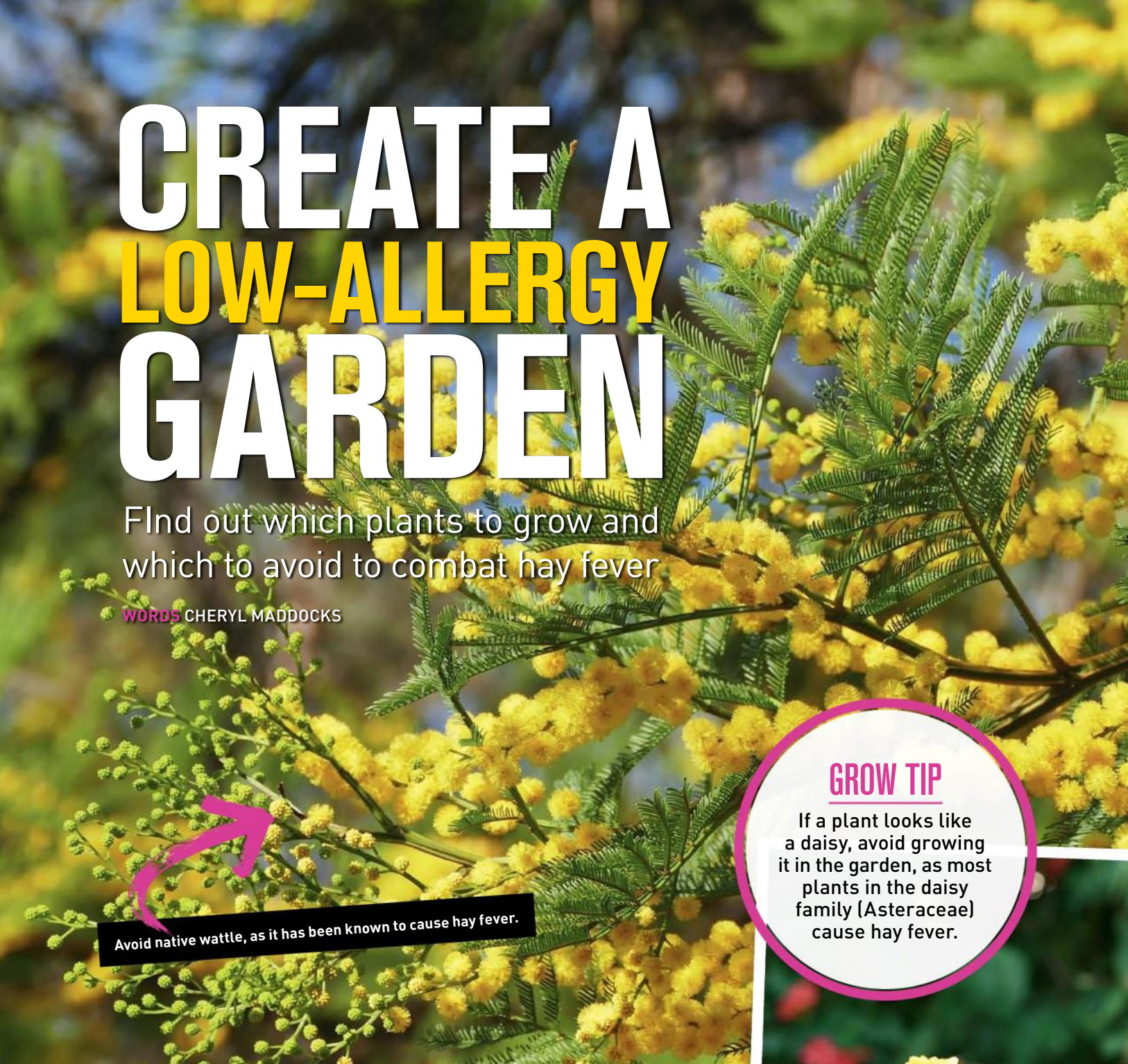
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CREATE A LOW-ALLERGY GARDEN

Find out which plants to grow and which to avoid to combat hay fever

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



Avoid native wattle, as it has been known to cause hay fever.

GROW TIP

If a plant looks like a daisy, avoid growing it in the garden, as most plants in the daisy family (Asteraceae) cause hay fever.

In spring and summer, the garden bursts into feverish activity with sensational flower displays and scintillating fragrances.

But for many people, this time of the year can bring with it a different type of fever when outdoors. They're plagued with a runny nose, sneezing, coughing and burning eyes.

In Australia, allergies are among the worst medical conditions that

we face, ranging from hay fever and dermatitis to asthma.

Australia has one of the highest asthma rates in the world.

It is estimated that one in 10 Australians, about 2.3 million, have asthma, with 34% of these people reporting that the disease interferes with their daily living.

Rightly or wrongly, many sufferers blame plants for their woes.

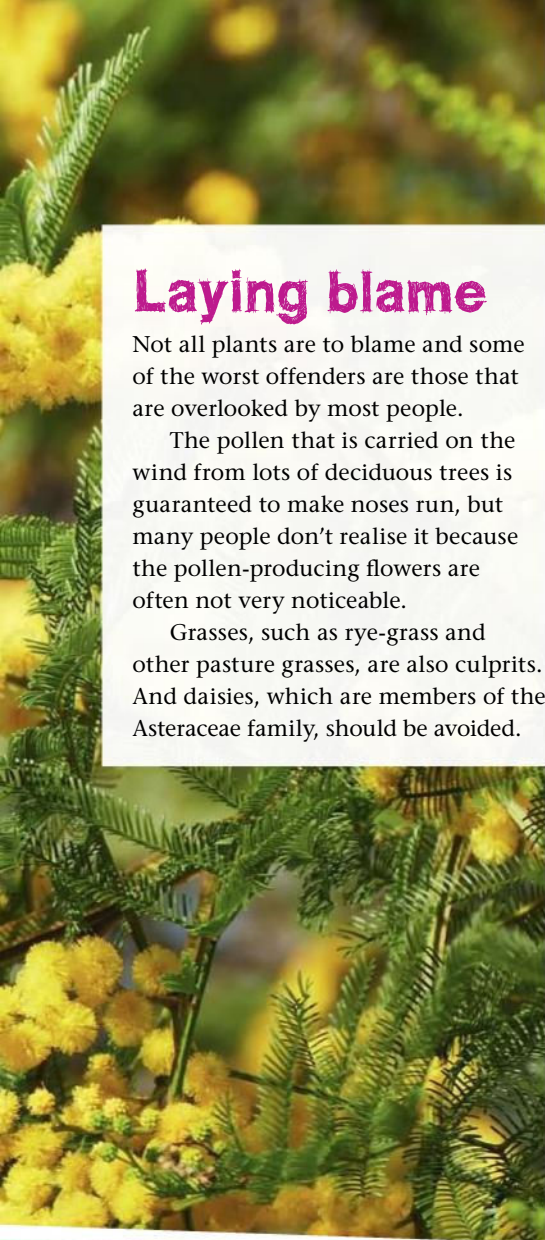


Laying blame

Not all plants are to blame and some of the worst offenders are those that are overlooked by most people.

The pollen that is carried on the wind from lots of deciduous trees is guaranteed to make noses run, but many people don't realise it because the pollen-producing flowers are often not very noticeable.

Grasses, such as rye-grass and other pasture grasses, are also culprits. And daisies, which are members of the Asteraceae family, should be avoided.



Choose plants that are pollinated by nectar-feeding birds.



Native kangaroo paw is a nose-friendly option.



Guard against allergies

Fortunately, asthma and allergy sufferers don't have to rip up their plants and replace them with concrete. It is possible to live in harmony with many plants.

As a rough guide, most brightly coloured flowers are pollinated by birds or insects, so their pollen does not float about in the air and trigger allergic reactions.

Other plants on the safe list include most Australian natives, which are pollinated by birds. ➤

WHAT TO PLANT?

To help reduce your risk of allergies so you can enjoy gardening or simply spending time outdoors, here's a guide on what plants are good to grow and those that are best avoided.

Trees

For creating privacy and shade, trees are important inclusions in the garden, and there are plenty of suitable choices.

✦ **GROW** Lilly pilly, *Agonis flexuosa*, banksia, cabbage palm, eucalyptus, melaleuca, callistemon, prunus, magnolia, pawpaw, *Nyssa sylvatica*, citrus and flowering crab apple.

✦ **AVOID** Oak, liquidambar, maple, ash, hazel, elm, willow, birch, plane tree, mulberry, cypress, olive and white cedar (*Melia azedarach*).



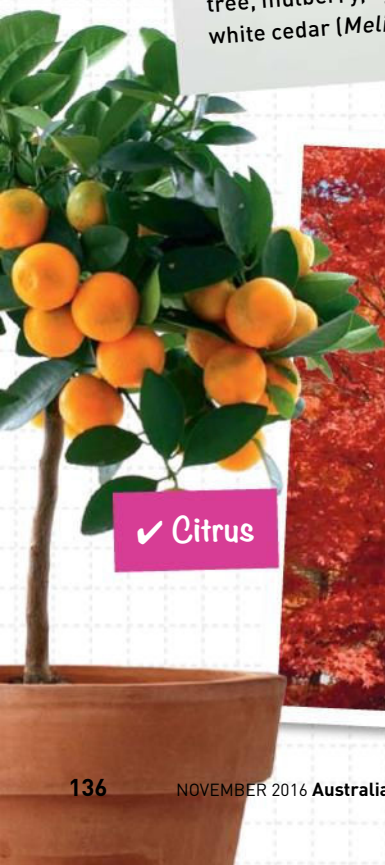
✓ Magnolia



✓ Cabbage palm



✓ Lilly pilly



✓ Citrus



✗ Maple



✗ Olive

✓ Rhododendron

✗ Grevillea

✓ Kiwifruit

Climbers

Useful for adding greenery in small spaces, climbers can be trained over trellises or walls to block out ugly views or increase privacy.

✚ **GROW** Passionfruit, kiwifruit, mandevilla, ivy leaf geranium, crimson passionfruit, banksia rose, clematis, climbing roses, star jasmine, hardenbergia, edible passionfruit and the wonga vine.

✚ **AVOID** English ivy. ➤

Shrubs

Ideal for use as hedges, shrubs also form the middle storey of the garden.

✚ **GROW** Banksia, bottlebrush, gardenia, French lavender, abelia, rosemary, weigela, rhododendron, leptospermum, tibouchina, roses, yucca, camellia, azalea, plumbago, westringia and flax.

✚ **AVOID** Privet, grevillea, wattle, albizia and hazelnut.

✓ Banksia

✓ Clematis

✗ English ivy

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✓ Anemone

Perennials

Plant hardy perennials to provide form and structure to garden beds.

✚ **GROW** Anemone, bromeliad, columbine, coleus, impatiens, verbena, bulbs, snow-in-summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*), begonia, pelargonium and *Viola hederacea*.

✚ **AVOID** Chrysanthemum, English daisy and anthemis.

✓ Verbena

✗ Chrysanthemum

Annuals

They bring seasonal colour to garden beds and pots, and there are plenty of nose-friendly annuals.

✚ **GROW** Ageratum, lobelia, pansy, phlox, verbena, alyssum, foxglove, snapdragon, larkspur, cornflower, nemesia, petunia, sweet William and nasturtium.

✚ **AVOID** Marigold, calendula and aster.

✓ Foxglove

✗ Marigold

✓ Lobelia



✓ Basil

Herbs

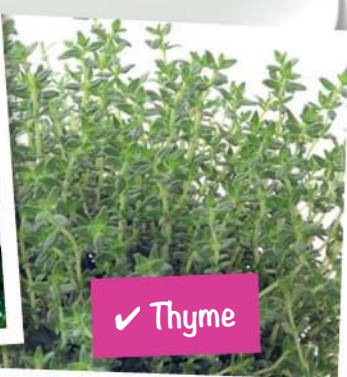
Grow the herbs you use for cooking, but make sure their flowers won't aggravate your allergies.

✚ **GROW** Chives, dill, basil, thyme, horseradish, fennel, mint, sage, marjoram, oregano, parsley, rosemary and tarragon.

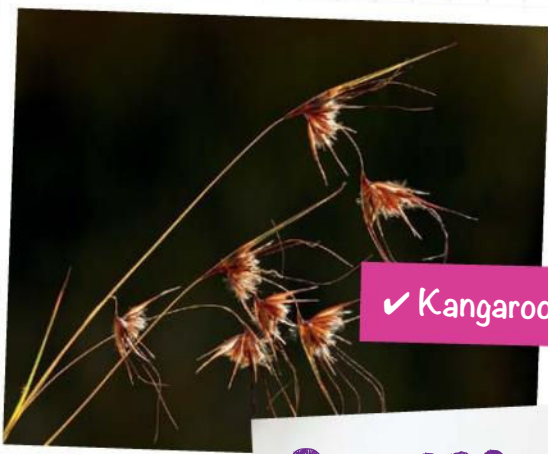
✚ **AVOID** Chamomile and wormwood.



✗ Chamomile



✓ Thyme



✓ Kangaroo grass

Grasses

Like other plants, the flowers of lawn grasses and ornamental grasses produce lots of pollen. But there are pollen-free types.

✚ **GROW** Greenlees Park Couch or Buffalo for lawns, and native ornamentals such as weeping grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) and kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*).

✚ **AVOID** Exotic lawn grasses such as bent and rye, and couch varieties, except Greenlees Park. ➤



✗ Bent grass

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No other Petunia plant can boast the starry-speckled pattern of this unique bloom!

- White speckles against a deep purple-blue backing recreate a clear night sky.
- You'll get lost gazing at the myriad of patterns - each flower is totally unique.
- Let this petunia spill from hanging baskets and patio containers for an eye catching display this summer.

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Golden rules

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria (asthmaaustralia.org.au) has this advice.

- ✦ **CHOOSE** plants pollinated by birds and insects rather than by the wind.
- ✦ **GROW** grass that produces little pollen and doesn't need frequent mowing.
- ✦ **REDUCE** weeds by using inorganic mulches, such as pebbles and gravel, and weed the garden often.
- ✦ **CARRY** your reliever medication with you at all times, especially when working in the garden.
- ✦ **SELECT** low-maintenance plants.
- ✦ **LOOK** for lightly scented plants that don't produce lots of pollen.
- ✦ **AVOID** making compost heaps and use a closed tumbler or bin.
- ✦ **GARDEN** when the weather is cooler and it's not windy.
- ✦ **ASK** your doctor for a written Asthma Action Plan that will assist you to manage your asthma.
- ✦ **WEAR** gloves, as some plants can cause an allergic reaction if touched.

Lose the lawn?

While most people like to have grass in the backyard, it is possible to have a great-looking garden without a lawn.

Paving stones interplanted with dwarf mondo grass, kidney weed (*Dichondra repens*) or native violet (*Viola hederacea*) look very effective. Bricks and gravel can also be used and are low maintenance.

MAKE WAR ON WEEDS

No-one likes weeds, and there are certain types that can cause more trouble than others. These are the worst offenders.

✦ **ASTHMA WEED** This aptly named weed (*Parietaria judaica*) causes allergic reactions through its sticky leaves and its pollen, which is produced year-long. Remove with a herbicide such as Roundup and always wear gloves if handling.

✦ **PATERSON'S CURSE** With its pretty purple flowers, Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*) may look great growing in paddocks and by the roadside, but it is a pest to farmers and a common cause of hay fever. Remove with a herbicide.

✦ **RAGWEED** A fast-growing, fern-like plant with green flowers, ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) has green flowers. The pollen can cause hay fever and may aggravate asthma and dermatitis if touched. Remove it using a herbicide.

✦ **PLANTAIN** Found in lawns and garden beds, a plantain (*Plantago* spp.) can flower for up to nine months of the year and causes hay fever. Remove the rosette of leaves before flower spikes form. Dig out the taproot or apply a herbicide. 🍷

Asthma weed

Paterson's curse

Ragweed

Plantain

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GROW salad greens

Create summer salads using your own home-grown mix of leaves

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Fresh salad greens are eaten more regularly and ritually than any other vegetable, and they are very easy to grow.

You can produce a feast of greens in a 2sqm area. And they thrive in pots, large bowls or troughs, so you can still grow your own even if you live in an apartment and only have a balcony.

Raised vegetable beds designed for small spaces are also available.

If you plant a combination of different lettuce leaves and a selection of other leafy greens, you can create your own mix to suit your tastes.



Cheryl

EXPERT SECRETS

Give a living salad bowl as a gift. Plant seedlings in late November and they'll be ready for picking by Christmas.

Grow a variety of greens in one pot for a ready-made salad mix.



Lettuces

There is a huge range of lettuces available as seeds or seedlings. Popular varieties, especially for pots, are the loose-leaf lettuces, such as 'Multileaf' or 'Oakleaf', that can be continuously picked.

If you have the space, try firm, crisphead types such as 'Great Lakes' and 'Iceberg', which have a dense, cabbage-like heart, and love the summer heat.

Lettuces form the base of most salads.



RIGHT Greens such as radish leaves give a mustard taste to salads.



HOW TO GROW

For an abundant, healthy crop, simply follow a few simple rules.

➤ **SOW** seeds or seedlings successively to extend the harvest. The seeds can be sown directly in the ground where they are to grow.

➤ **POSITION** in a sunny spot with protection from the hot afternoon sun, especially during the summer months.

➤ **SOIL** should be free draining and enriched with organic matter, such as compost, poultry manure, Yates Dynamic Lifter or cow manure, before planting. Organic matter helps retain water and slowly releases nutrients.

➤ **FEED** greens fortnightly using a complete soluble plant food.

➤ **WATER** regularly for steady growth and to ensure the leaves stay succulent and tasty. Keep the soil or potting mix damp but not wet.

You'll most likely need to water your greens every day or two, but this can become a pleasant early morning or evening task. And you will soon work out a watering routine based on the weather.

➤ **MULCH** with lucerne hay, pea straw or sugar cane to help retain moisture in the soil and prevent weeds. ➤

LEAFY GREENS

A selection of peppery-flavoured greens, such as radish, mustard or watercress, are ideal for dressing up the milder flavour of lettuce leaves.

1 Radish

The mustard-tasting leaves of radish are popular in salad mixes.

Sow the seeds directly where the plants are to grow.

They can be planted close together, as you will only be harvesting the leaves. Pick the leaves when about 40mm high.



2 Mizuna

The young and deeply serrated leaves of mizuna are milder than the mature ones.

They can be harvested for many weeks as needed by cutting them just above the crown. New leaves will keep on appearing.

Mizuna grows easily from seeds sown directly where the plants are to grow.



3 Nasturtium

The young leaves of nasturtium add a spicy taste to salads. The flowers make pretty garnishes and can also be eaten.

Sow the seeds directly where the plants are to grow.



4 Rocket

Give rocket shade from the hot afternoon sun to help prevent it bolting to seed.

The leaves are at their best when picked young. Wild rocket has deeply serrated leaves.

Rocket grows easily from seeds sown directly where the plants are to grow.



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5

Sorrel

The lemon-flavoured leaves of perennial red-veined sorrel brighten up green salads and are high in vitamin C and iron.

Use only the young leaves in salads and cook the older leaves.

Sorrel is easily sown from seed or you can buy potted plants. The seeds are not sold in WA.

6

Mustard

The young leaves of mustard greens have a zesty, peppery taste.

Cultivars with serrated leaves are best for salads and you can choose from red or green leaves. Mustard greens are easily grown from seed.

7

Leaf celery

A form of wild celery, this plant has a parsley-like habit and the leaves can be harvested for many weeks.

Once the young leaves are picked new ones quickly appear. Grow from seedlings or seed.

8

Spinach

Baby spinach leaves are sweet and high in iron. Try perpetual spinach, which can be harvested repeatedly.

Spinach grows easily from seeds sown directly where the plants are to grow. ➤

Watercress

With its peppery taste, watercress is popular in salads and sandwiches. It is very easy to grow your own, so you can harvest the leaves when needed.

It can be grown in garden beds from seed sown directly where the plants are to grow, or from cuttings.

Plant in a garden bed in soil that is kept moist, or in a pot placed in a deep saucer constantly filled with water.

GROW TIP

As it is an aquatic plant, watercress can be grown in a pond. Immerse the pot so that the rim is just above the water.

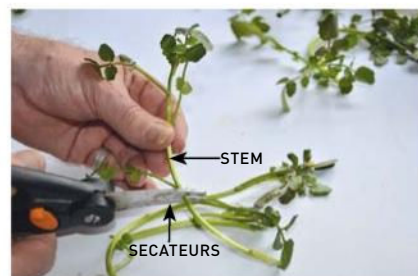
Did you know?

Watercress is one of the oldest leaf vegies consumed by human beings and it has recently been claimed as a superfood.

Research shows that it may help to prevent the risk of cancer, especially prostate cancer, and it is a good source of vitamins C, K and E, calcium, iron, zinc, manganese and folate.

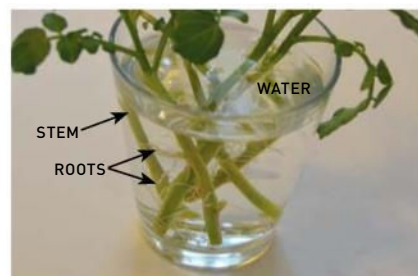
1 2 3

GROW FROM CUTTINGS You can take cuttings from a home-grown plant and even store-bought bunches.



1 Cut the stems

Select several strong stems from the plant or bunch. Make cuts on each stem just below the third or fourth node using secateurs. Remove the lower leaves from the stems.



2 Allow to take root

Fill a glass with water and add the cuttings. Put in a shaded spot indoors and in about four days, roots will appear on the nodes. After about six days they'll be ready for planting.



3 Plant the cuttings

Plant the rooted cuttings in pots using a premium potting mix for herbs and vegetables. Put in a semi-shaded spot and keep the mix moist. The cuttings can also be planted into a garden bed.

Put the bowl by the kitchen door so your greens are close at hand.

Plant a salad bowl

Choose your favourite lettuces and salad greens and pot them in a bowl.

You can plant seedlings or buy semi-advanced plants if you want

to start picking earlier. We used a mix of 'Multileaf' lettuce, rocket, perpetual spinach, red-veined sorrel, mustard and celery leaves.



1 2 3



1 Add the mix

Select a plastic or terracotta bowl about 400mm wide. Fill the bowl using a premium potting mix for vegetables and herbs so that the mix comes to about 25mm below the rim.



2 Plant the greens

Remove the salad greens carefully from their containers and position them in the mix. They can be planted close together, as you will be picking and feeding them frequently.



3 Water in well

Water in and position the bowl in a sunny spot with shade from the afternoon sun. Feed fortnightly with a soluble plant food and water regularly, daily in hot weather. ➤

PICTURES CHERYL MADDOCKS



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BED



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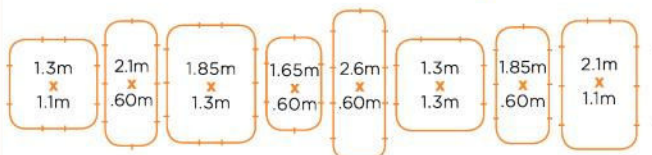


NEW
6in1
VEGGIE BED
\$89

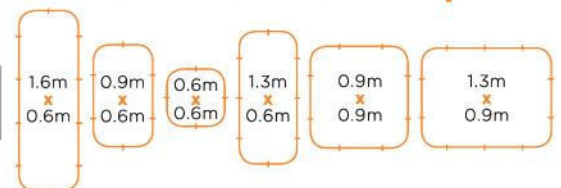
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Microgreens

Smaller than baby leaves but larger than sprouts, microgreens are nutritional powerhouses, full of vitamins, minerals and protein.

Microgreens can be grown outdoors and you can even produce a good harvest on a balcony. They can also be grown inside on a windowsill.

- **FILL** a seed tray or punnet, or a shallow bowl, with 25-50mm of an organic potting mix.
- **SOW** the seeds evenly over the surface. They can be sown close together, as they won't grow to full size. Cover with a thin layer of mix.
- **POSITION** the container in a spot that gets good indirect light.
- **WATER** daily using a mist sprayer.
- **HARVEST** by cutting them off at soil level using scissors when they are about 30-50mm high. ➤



In salads, microgreens pack a flavoursome punch.



Get two or more trays so you can resow for a continuous supply.

What to plant

Good choices include basil, beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, celery, chervil, Chinese greens, cress, dill, endive, fennel, kohlrabi, mizuna, radish, rocket, silverbeet, snow peas and spinach.

CHERYL'S PICKS



PowerFeed Plant Food, \$11 for 1.2L.
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Scotts Pure Organic Premium Potting & Planting Mix, \$14 for 25L.
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Mr. Fothergill's Micro Snips, \$4.
mrfothergills.com.au



Northcote Pottery 400mm Villa Plastic Bowl in Graphite, \$11.
northcote pottery.com.au



Johnsons World Kitchen Wasabi Rocket, \$4.
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Johnsons World Kitchen Red Veined Sorrel, about \$4.



SHEARS & LOPPER RANGE

LIFETIME GUARANTEE

With a prestigious history that extends for more than 100 years, Cyclone has become the most respected gardening tool supplier in Australia.

Every one of our quality Cyclone garden tools have been designed and created for a specific task and we are proud to say there aren't many gardening and landscaping tasks, both domestic and commercial, that we haven't got covered.

Cyclone tools are tough and after hundreds of hour's work, take on that 'comfortable' and 'familiar' feel of a good mate - they are not easily parted with and usually only change hands after being handed down to the next generation.

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Serves 4

Curried chicken salad with spinach and nectarines

PREPARATION TIME 20 minutes

COOKING TIME 10 minutes

Ingredients

1½ tablespoons olive oil
400g boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into thin strips
1½ tablespoons lemon juice
1 garlic clove, crushed
3 teaspoons mild curry powder
2 teaspoons soy sauce
Freshly ground black pepper
50g sugar snap peas or snow peas, trimmed
2 ripe, sweet nectarines
300g natural yoghurt
3 teaspoons mango chutney

1 teaspoon honey
2¼ cups (100g) baby spinach leaves or rocket leaves
⅓ cup (30g) toasted flaked almonds

- 1 HEAT** the oil in a frying pan, then cook the chicken strips over medium heat for 4-5 minutes or until cooked through. Remove the pan from the heat.
- 2 COMBINE** the lemon juice, garlic, curry powder and soy sauce in a small bowl. Season with pepper. Add the mixture to the pan and toss to coat the chicken. Set aside.
- 3 BLANCH** the sugar snap peas or snow peas in a saucepan of boiling

water for 2 minutes. Drain and briefly rinse under cold water. Cut in half on the diagonal if large.

- 4 HALVE** the nectarines and remove the stones. Cut three halves into thin wedges and dice the remainder.
- 5 PUT** the yoghurt in a bowl and add the diced nectarines, chutney and 1 tablespoon of the curry mixture from the pan, leaving the chicken in the pan. Stir in the honey.
- 6 DIVIDE** the spinach or rocket among four serving plates and arrange the chicken, sugar snap peas or snow peas and nectarine wedges on top. Spoon the yoghurt dressing over the salad and garnish with the flaked almonds.

Beetroot and mozzarella salad

PREPARATION TIME 20 minutes

COOKING TIME Nil

Ingredients

200g beetroot leaves
1 small bunch (about 650g) baby red beetroots, trimmed and thinly sliced
1 small bunch (about 650g) baby yellow beetroots, trimmed and thinly sliced
1 Lebanese or other small cucumber, thinly sliced
2 fresh mozzarella balls (about 100g each) torn into bite-sized pieces
¼ cup (5g) fresh mint leaves
2 tablespoons fresh dill sprigs

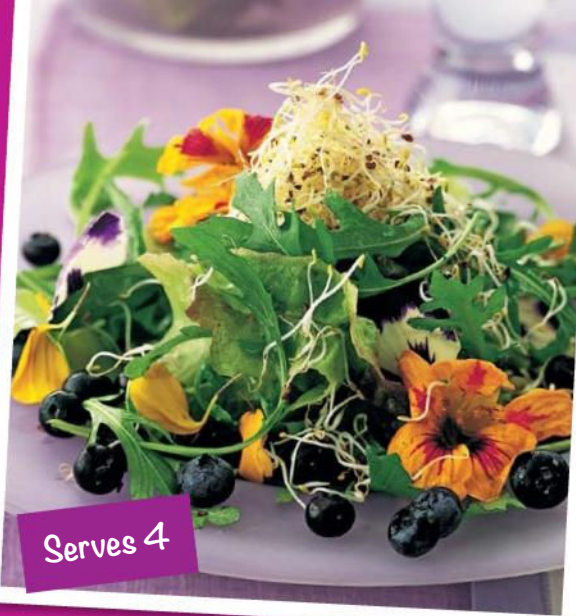
Horseradish dressing

2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon caster sugar
2 teaspoons horseradish cream
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper

1 ARRANGE the beetroot leaves, red and yellow beetroot slices, cucumber, mozzarella, mint and dill on a serving platter.

2 MAKE the dressing by putting the oil, lemon juice, caster sugar and horseradish cream in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper, then whisk until well combined.

3 DRIZZLE the dressing over the salad and serve immediately.



Serves 4

Mixed salad leaves with flowers and blueberries

PREPARATION TIME 10 minutes

COOKING TIME Nil

Ingredients

1 small oakleaf lettuce, torn into bite-sized pieces
85g rocket leaves
¾ cup (100g) blueberries
1½ cups (80g) alfalfa sprouts
30g mixed edible flowers such as nasturtium, borage, viola and pansy, and herb flowers such as sage and rosemary

Honey mustard dressing

¼ cup (60ml) grapeseed oil
Juice of 1 small lemon
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon honey
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper

1 MAKE the dressing by whisking the oil with the lemon juice, mustard and honey in a large shallow bowl. Season with salt and pepper.

2 ADD the lettuce and rocket to the bowl, and toss to coat with the dressing. Sprinkle the salad with the blueberries. Arrange the alfalfa sprouts and flowers on top and serve immediately. 🌱

Serves 4



COOL SUMMER CROP

Juicy and crisp, cucumbers are a must-have in your vegie patch



The cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) is a widely cultivated plant belonging to the gourd family Cucurbitaceae.

It is a creeping vine that bears cylindrical fruit in various shapes and sizes, ranging in colour from dark green to creamy white, gold and brown.

Many varieties tend to spread, but there are also compact types that have been bred for small spaces.

A refreshing salad staple, the plant fruits easily and abundantly in summer and through into autumn.



The pretty yellow flowers can be eaten or used as a garnish

GROW TIP

Use a raised garden bed if you have a drainage problem in your garden, as vegies love a moist but free-draining soil.



PICTURES SHUTTERSTOCK



How to grow

While some types of cucumber are best as groundcovers, others are ideal climbers. Common types include telegraph, Lebanese and white apple.

✚ **SOW** the seeds directly where the plants are to grow in a sunny, protected position in well-drained soil that has been generously enriched with compost or well-rotted manure.

✚ **WATER** regularly, especially during the growing season and mulch well with lucerne hay or pea straw to help prevent the soil drying out.

✚ **FEED** cucumbers fortnightly with a soluble plant food.

✚ **HARVEST** the green varieties for salads when they are 150-200mm long and apple cucumbers when they are the size of a tennis ball. Lebanese cucumbers are best harvested when about 100mm long.

Cucumbers should be ready to harvest about 10-12 weeks after sowing.



Use secateurs to harvest cucumbers to avoid damaging the vine.



Provide protection

Elevating the vine over a trellis decreases humidity around the foliage. This helps to reduce fungal problems, prevent blemishes forming and protect against insect damage.

Mites can attack in hot, dry climates, so reduce the risk by hosing underneath the foliage. ➤

Healthy facts

Adding cucumbers to your salad can have important health benefits.

Made up of about 95% water, cucumbers help ward off dehydration. They contain B vitamins, including B1, B5 and B7, and are rich in fibre, essential for healthy digestion.

They contain polyphenols called lignans, which may help reduce the risk of heart and blood vessel disease.

Research carried out also reveals that a group of compounds found in cucumbers, called cucurbitacins, may block the transmission of signals inside cancer cells, discouraging the growth of tumours.

Pick the fruit regularly to encourage flowering and cropping.

SUMMER REFRESHER

Serves 3



Peel and seed 1 cucumber (600g), reserving a few ribbons.

Put the cucumber, the juice of 1 lime, 1 tablespoon honey, a 4cm piece of grated ginger and ¼ cup (10g) torn fresh mint leaves in a food processor or blender, then process until smooth.

Fill glasses with ice, pour over the cucumber mixture and garnish with the cucumber ribbons. ●

Did you know?

Putting slices of cucumber over your eyes may help to reduce under-eye puffiness and relieve tension and headaches.

Like a cool, wet cloth, the cold slices shrink blood vessels slightly, reducing blood flow in the area and easing the pressure and puffiness.

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FIX FENCE PALINGS



Timber fences are exposed to the elements and they weather over time, and the palings can come loose.

Replacing old or broken palings to keep a post-and-rail fence structurally sound is an easy, budget-friendly DIY job.

You simply have to pry off the old paling and replace it with one cut from new timber.

What you need

Sawhorse
Tape measure
Combination square
Circular saw
Hammer
Wrecking bar
Galvanised flathead nails
Spirit level
Ear muffs
Safety goggles

Watch the video 'How to fix a fence paling' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

1 2 3



1 Remove the broken palings

Starting at the base, use a wrecking bar to pry the paling off the fence rails. Palings are cut from softwood timbers, so it should come off easily. Use a claw hammer to remove any nails that didn't come off with the paling.



2 Cut the fence timber

Measure an old paling to mark the new timber, cutting to length with a circular saw. For a cleaner cut and to reduce kick back, start with the blade slightly away from the timber, wait until the motor reaches full speed, then start the cut.



3 Attach the new palings

Position the new paling, use a spirit level to check it's straight and hold in place with your foot. Secure to the top rail with one nail then, working down, hammer two nails into each rail. Finish with a second nail into the top rail.



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What's on this Month

FREE Kids' D.I.Y. Workshops

» Saturday 5 November WOODWORK Make something special out of wood	» Sunday 13 November GAME MAKERS Have fun with the game makers workshop
» Sunday 6 November FUN MOSAICS Learn how to make a beautiful mosaic	» Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 November CHRISTMAS GIFTS Have fun while creating a gift for someone special
» Saturday 12 November WALL ART Create a masterpiece for your bedroom	» Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 November SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS Get helpful tips on sustainability for the festive season

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 5 and Sunday 6 November OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING Find out how to create the perfect outdoor entertaining area
» Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 November PREPARE FOR THE HOLIDAYS Learn expert tips and new skills to get ready for the season
» Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 November DECKING Get the skills you need to create the perfect deck for summer
» Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 November SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS Get helpful tips on sustainability for the festive season



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

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Handyman

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Spruce up the yard for summer, grow herbs for cooking and try organic pest control.

PLUS How to grow plants from cuttings.

BUILD

Get the ultimate guide to decking, from design ideas to step-by-step building projects.

PLUS How to refresh timber deck boards.

HOLIDAY

Make rustic Christmas decorations and recipes for summer entertaining.

PLUS How to boost home security.

1



2



3



POP QUIZ!

Name that Cat

Test your knowledge by identifying these felines. The answers are at the bottom of the page

4



7



6



5



8



9



10



ANSWERS 1 ABYSSINIAN 2 AMERICAN BOBTAIL 3 BENGAL 4 SCOTTISH FOLD 5 HIMALAYAN 6 BURMESE 7 BRITISH SHORTHAIR 8 MANX 9 MAINE COON 10 DEVON REX

PICTURES ISTOCK

A CUT ABOVE 

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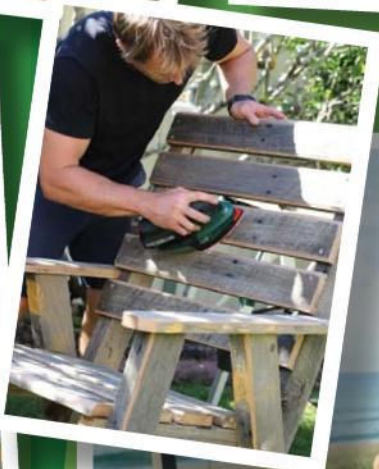
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Full project guide is available at
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