

AUSTRALIAN

HOME OFFICE ESSENTIALS ^{page 12}

10 STEP

KITCHEN RENO PLAN

BUILD
SNEAKY STORAGE
FOR BEDROOMS

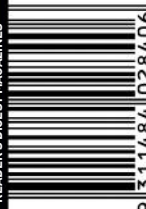
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inspiration*



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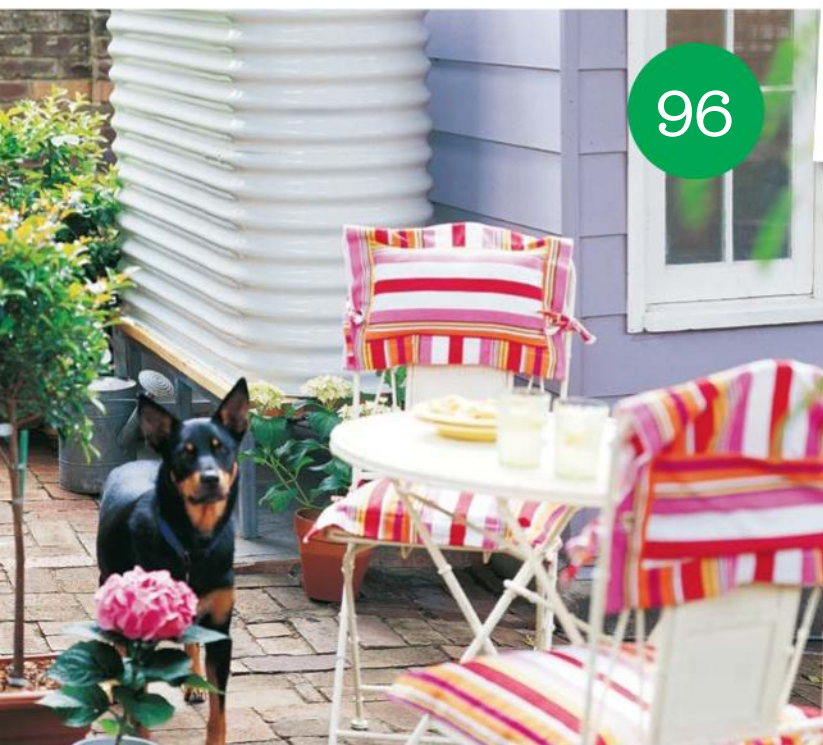


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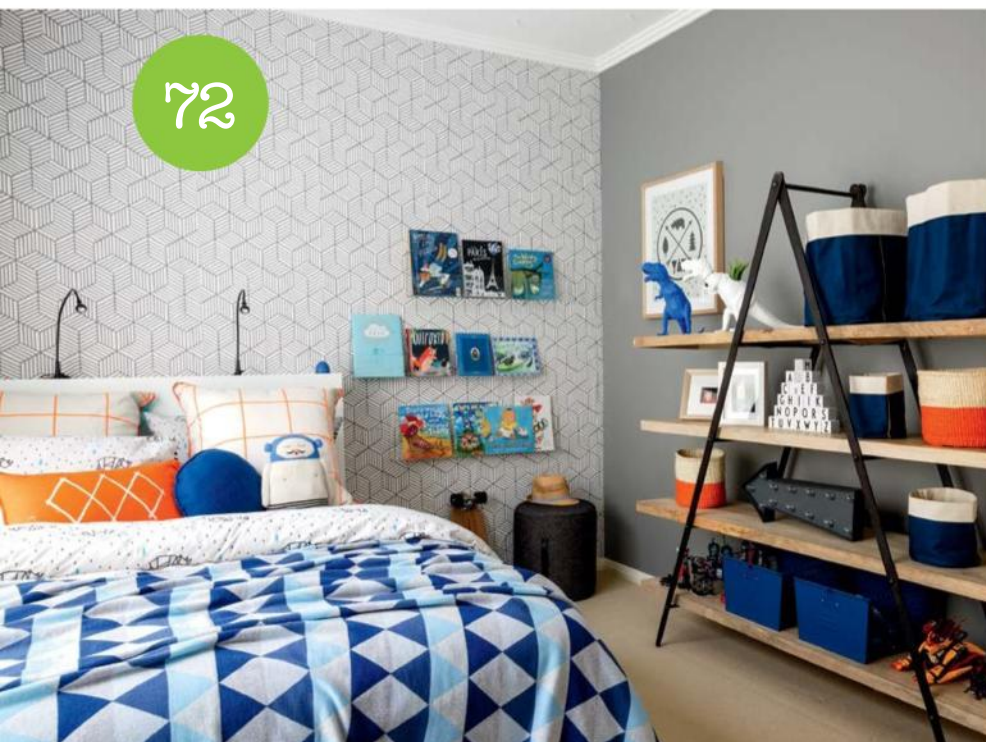
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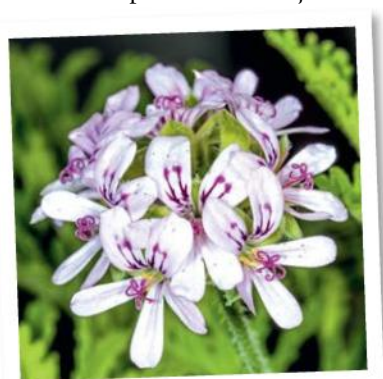
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GET THE LOOK

LOVE THE COVER?

Transform the kitchen with a statement colour and stainless steel appliances



For a modern makeover, this kitchen teamed glossy powder blue cabinetry with stainless steel appliances and accessories.

This space was designed as the ultimate entertainer's dream with dual gas and induction cooktops.

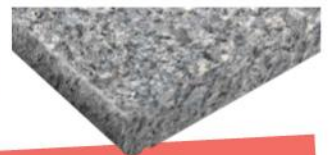
With plenty of built-in cabinetry, it allows for all the latest equipment without cluttering the benchtops to give a fresh and functional finish.



Magis Bombo Stool, \$860.
cultdesign.com.au



Bellini 60cm Stainless Steel Automatic Rangehood, \$540.
belliniappliances.com.au



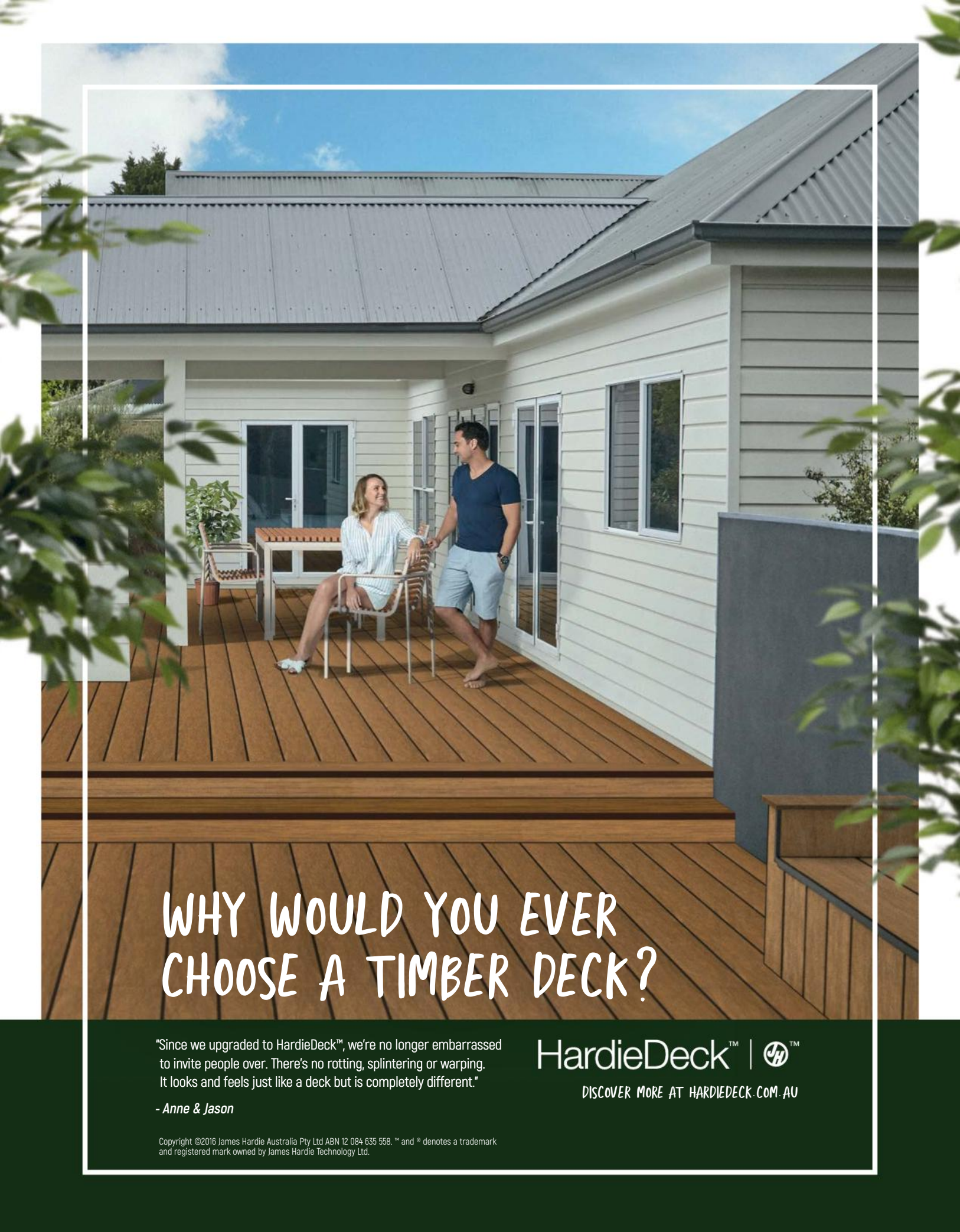
Kaboodle 2400 x 600mm Marble Laminate Benchtop, \$238.
kaboodle.com.au



Prestige 13.5 x 416mm Round Bar Handle, about \$16.
itwproline.com.au



Bush TR82 DAB+ Retro Style Digital Radio FM/AM, \$139.
bushaustralia.com.au

A man and a woman are sitting on a wide wooden deck in front of a modern house. The house has a corrugated metal roof and white horizontal siding. The woman is sitting on a metal chair, and the man is standing next to her. The deck is made of wooden planks. The scene is framed by green foliage on the left and right sides.

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THIS ISSUE

HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH



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EDITOR'S LETTER



Here's Daniel taping up in preparation to get paint over those daggy blue laundry walls!

The new year is well and truly underway and the team at *Handyman* is here to help you meet your DIY resolutions for 2017.

Everybody wants more storage, so Features editor Ashleigh came up with clever ways to get hidden storage into kids' bedrooms with double-duty furniture made from MDF, page 76.

The reno wish-list

For most people, a new kitchen is top of the wish list and if that's you, check out our 10-step reno plan, page 18, and design inspiration, page 24.

But if, like me, you've been living with a less-than-impressive laundry, we show you how to get a brand-new space DIY. I wasn't going to confess it was my laundry, and one look at the before pics will tell you why.

But then I thought that I can't be alone and lots of us must put off fixing

up the laundry because of time or money, so I'll cop to the messy eyesore in order to inspire others to have a go.

It really is amazing what you can do on a budget. Apart from swapping the tapware, no plumbing or major changes were made. Instead, Senior editor Daniel used all his smarts and skills to transform the room.

He came up with ways to work with the layout, like adding a blind corner cabinet, then cut a gorgeous waterfall bench to fit. I helped, but mostly with the fun stuff like painting.

To see what we did and what you can do, too, turn to page 36. (And I promise the rest of my house is much, much tidier than the laundry was!)

Happy DIYing,

Artemis

Product of the month

If you're after a reliable and affordable magnetic gate latch for the garden, the Australian-made MagnaLatch Side Pull, \$40, from D&D Technologies, now comes in a key-lockable version (ddtechglobal.com).

The world's first magnetically triggered gate latch, it's made from polymer housings and stainless steel components to guard against rust. It also features horizontal and vertical adjustment for ongoing reliability, and comes with a lifetime warranty.



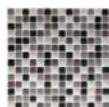
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Australian Handyman

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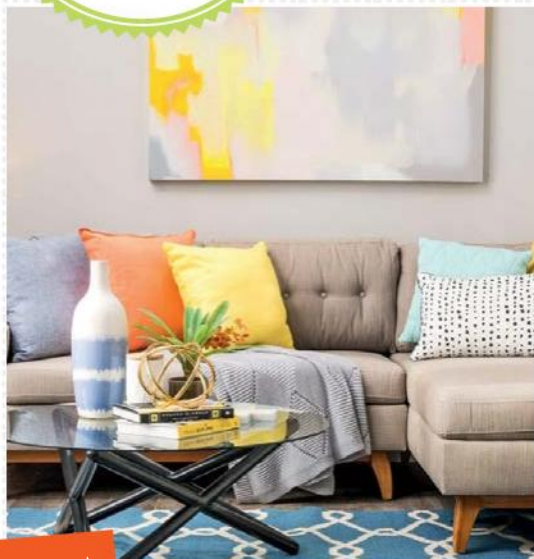
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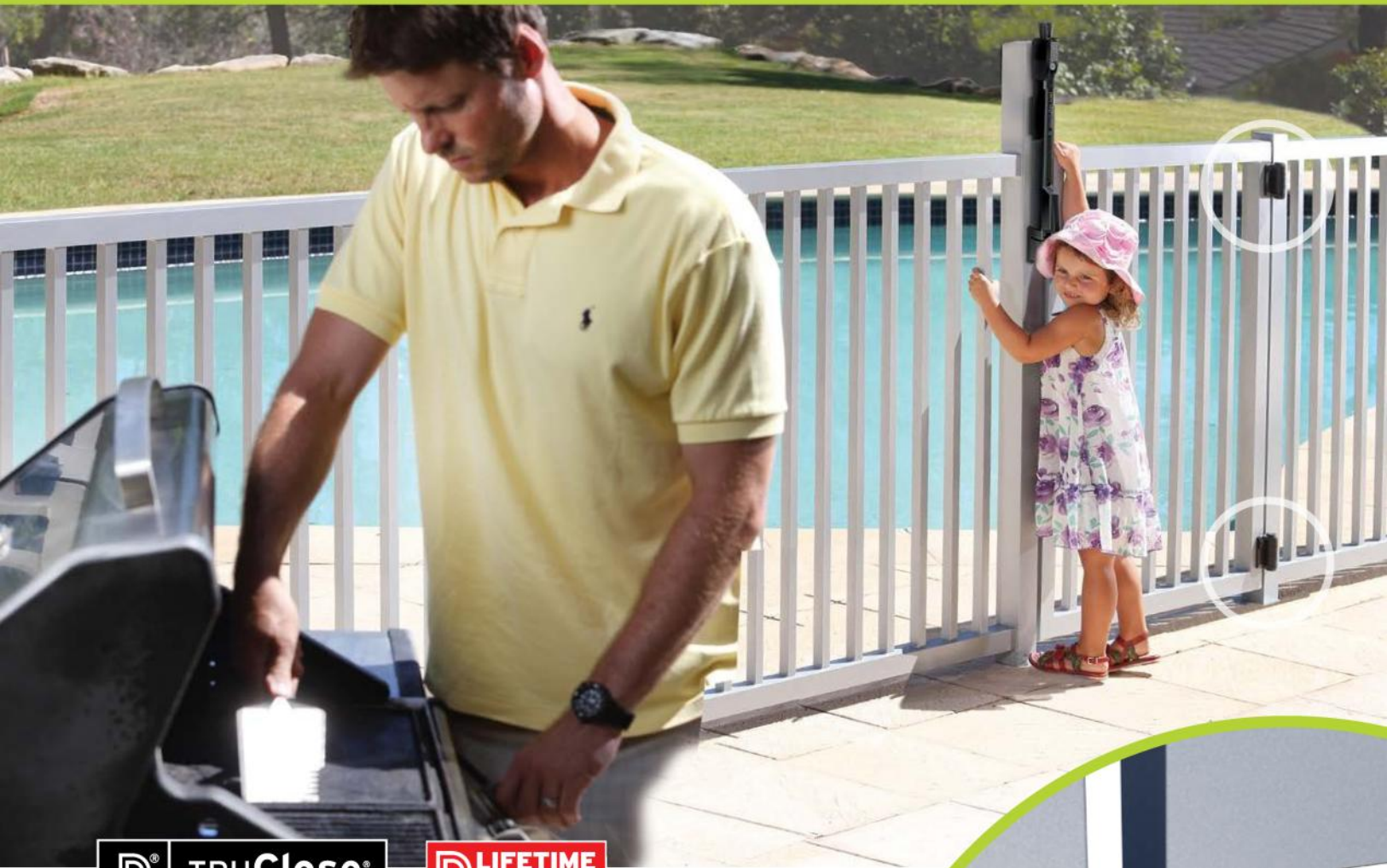
FAST FACT

Arthur James Arnot invented the world's first electric drill in Melbourne, Australia. It was patented in 1889.

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apple.com.au



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zanui.com.au



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sandisk.com.au



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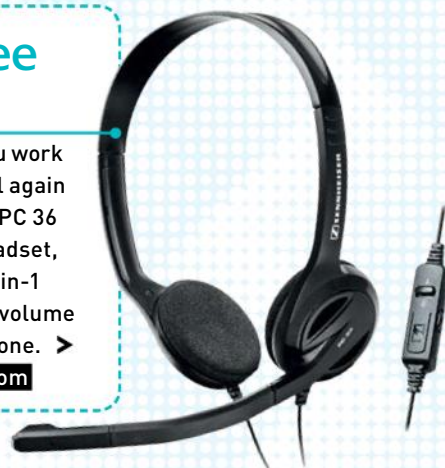
Skip multiple trips to the store with the wireless Epson EcoTank Expression ET-2500, \$449. It has easy-to-refill tanks with enough ink to print 4000 pages in black and 6500 in colour.

epson.com.au

Hands-free helper

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en-au.sennheiser.com



WORDS ASHLEIGH PERROTT

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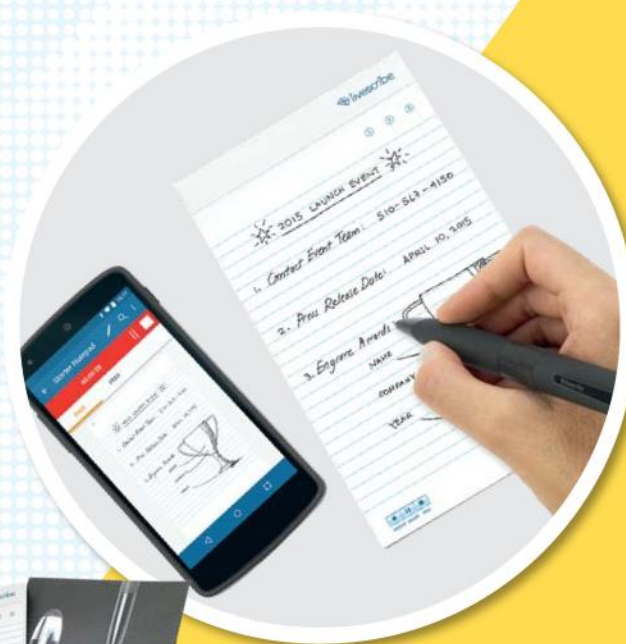
officeworks.com.au



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shop.readersdigest.com.au



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smartpen.com.au



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yellowoctopus.com.au



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handihome.com.au



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brilliantlighting.com.au

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Keep comfortable at your desk in the York High Back Plush Chair, \$199. It comes with a five-year warranty and can hold up to 150kg. Crafted from leather, it has thick padding and a contoured shape for support.

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CREATING WAVES FOR POOL SAFETY



DIY TIP

Consulting a specialist can be invaluable for the novice renovator and the investment up-front can help avoid costly mistakes.

10 STEPS TO RENO SUCCESS

Follow this plan to get your kitchen installed on time and within budget

WORDS SITA SIMONS

The kitchen forms the centre of everyday activity in a home, so it is often at the top of a homeowner's renovating wishlist.

From cooking and entertaining, to socialising and even working, the kitchen of today is a very different

space to the old closed-off room at the back of the house. It really is now the heart of every home.

Avoid budget blow-outs and stress when renovating by getting the planning stages right, so you know what to do, and when.

1 Choose the material
Deciding on the fabrication of a kitchen is the first step in any renovation.

Designed to be DIY-friendly, flatpack options are precisely drilled and cut, so you assemble the item like a jigsaw puzzle.

All cabinetry, benchtops, fittings, handles and drawer runners are included, making it the most economical option.

Custom-built kitchens made by joiners and carpenters provide a highly specialised result, but come with a higher price tag.

Custom building can utilise many different materials and create something of great quality and design that will last.



2 Design the layout

A new kitchen should reflect your needs and lifestyle. Look at what you own and need to store, and think about how to use the space.

If you have a huge cookbook collection, make room for it. If you are a serious baker, consider what kind of drawers and cabinets will make it easiest for you. Taking the time now minimises regrets later.

The layout should be safe and ergonomic. The golden standard of the 'working triangle' is the imaginary line that connects the three main activity areas, the cooktop, the sink and the fridge.

This triangle makes working efficient while also keeping a safe and comfortable distance between stations. Make sure nothing blocks the triangle for best results.



3 Book the tradies

Call the plumber first to see what can be achieved and what is needed.

Always check the credentials of tradies with your local building authority. If you need gas work, only use a qualified gas installer, as it is very dangerous.

Once the layout is agreed, book an electrician. A licensed electrical contractor is the only person qualified to disconnect fixed appliances and power, and to reconnect newly installed fixed appliances.

The tradies will have to come three times, first to disconnect everything before demolition, then to rough in for the new kitchen, and lastly to install when everything is in place. ➤

4 Remove the old

Dismantling the cabinets is a job you can do DIY to save money. You'll need a crowbar, drill, screwdriver and hammer.

If the old carcasses are being re-used, a specialist may be needed to remove the benchtop to avoid damaging it.

Carefully remove any tiles or splashbacks. The wall can often come away with the tile and require plastering.

If you are replacing flooring, take out the old floor last. Depending on the type, you may require a professional to avoid damaging the subfloor.

Hire a skip bin or trailer for waste, or sort out the materials that can be recycled, such as the cabinets, sink and appliances.

5 Paint and plaster

There are two schools of thought here.

The first is that painting is much easier in an empty space, particularly if DIYing. The issue is that the finish may be damaged by all the work that follows.

The other option is to paint around cabinets and tiles. This can potentially save money and time, but it runs the risk of spillage and is less straightforward.

With painting, the rule is, if you're not experienced, always hire a professional.

TIP Plaster any holes in the walls as needed before painting.

6 Install the cabinets

Read your instruction manuals carefully if you are installing a flatpack DIY and check you have the tools needed.

Check your floors and walls are level and locate the studs using a stud finder. Mark the locations in pencil.

If attaching to masonry walls, ensure you have the right screws, generally 60mm or bigger. Check with a specialist that what you are using is suitable.

Clear a space to lay out the components, then mark the position of the cabinets on the walls in pencil before installing.

7 Lay the benchtop

If you have chosen a flatpack kitchen, the benchtop will be included and can be laid after the cabinets are assembled.

Granite, engineered stone, stainless steel and solid surface materials, such as Corian, should all be installed by a specialist. They will need to be measured up

and templates created first, so they can be made exactly to size.

Manufacturing time is generally around 10 working days, but this will vary depending on the supplier.

Concrete benchtops require a mould and have to be poured on-site. Depending on the thickness, you may require extra support in the cabinet to hold the weight. ➤

SAFETY TIP

If a benchtop overhangs the cabinets to form a breakfast bar, anything over 300mm will need to be supported with brackets.



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10
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CLEAN REMOVAL

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8 Add the splashback

The main function of a splashback is to protect the walls, but they also have a high aesthetic value and are used to complete the look of a kitchen.

The choice of materials is varied, including acrylic, glass, stainless steel, timber and copper sheeting.

Tiles remain the most popular choice, with large-format tiles being the easiest to lay. This is because they are fewer in number per square metre, and the wider-spaced grout lines work well in smaller spaces.

Choose a tile that suits the style of the cabinetry, and tile as high as you can for a designer look.

9 Finish the trades

Now is the final call for the trades, who will 'fit off'.

The electrician will install all power outlets, light switches and light fittings, connect and test all appliances, then fit out the switchboard with safety switches and circuit breakers.

The plumber will finish off any pipework, connect pipes to taps or valves and test the mounting of the sink, taps and hot water system.



10 Lay the flooring

Arguably the most cost-effective option is to lay new flooring last to avoid damage during the renovation.

Laying the floor first is an easier process and avoids having to cut around objects, but it also means the cabinets will have to be removed if the floor is replaced.

Timber boards and floating floors can't be installed under cabinets, as the cabinets will be too heavy and restrict the floor from expanding and contracting.

If laying the floor last, don't install the kickboards until the job is finished. 🌱

H Top 10 kitchen design mistakes

Visit handyman.net.au/kitchen-mistakes



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Unlike matt finishes, glossy surfaces will reflect the light, so take this into account when selecting your cabinets.

Designs on kitchens

Whatever your taste and whatever your space, there is a style and layout to suit you

WORDS SITA SIMONS

PICTURE ALAMY

Tinted glass splashbacks don't interrupt clean lines but add a hint of colour that breaks up a white scheme.

While designing a kitchen is the most exciting part of the renovation process, there is so much choice that deciding what you want can be overwhelming.

Whether you want to stick with white, or strike out and go for a bold option, take inspiration from our gallery, which shows you how to create the space you want.

Pay attention to trends for finishes, materials and technology, but let the style be all your own.



The direction the light falls during the day is an important design element

◀ Baby blues

Powder colours are having their moment in the sun and stepping out with an unusual colour choice in the kitchen can pay style dividends.

Anything in a blue hue can work well in the social and practical space that a kitchen forms, and teamed with steel accessories and hardware, it's an out-of-the-box choice that isn't over the top.

The key with colour is to give it room, so keep the palette elsewhere simple and benchtops clutter-free.

Right white ▲

No matter what the trend advice, a white kitchen never goes out of style. The go-to choice for many renovators, it's a fail-safe option that is anything but boring with the right treatment.

Rather than the colour, it's the surfaces and cabinetry style that can make a white kitchen look ho-hum, so take a modern approach and stick to sleek lines and shiny surfaces to create a luxurious look.

Splurge on the benchtop and use pops of colour to elevate the finish. ➤



Painting brick

Exposed brick is back in vogue, and painting it gives a clean, fresh look, but thorough prep is the key to a good finish.

Fill any holes or gaps in the mortar with a caulking gun. Allow to set, then clean with soap and water and a hard-bristled brush.

Select a masonry primer and press the paint into the brick using a roller with a long nap.

Finish with at least two coats of acrylic paint, using a paint sprayer for even coverage.

Retro mix ▼

Interior trends inevitably follow fashion trends, and everything retro is cool again.

Exposed brick walls are to be celebrated rather than concealed. And painting them provides an industrial edge that pairs well with stainless steel cabinets and benchtops, and a vintage-style fridge.

The key to achieving this look is not to try to match elements too precisely, but go with a general theme and work with what you have.

Black beat ►

The strong black kitchen trend is one that doesn't appear to be fading. The best way to incorporate black, whether it's on a large scale or in just a few accessories, is to go for a matt or low-sheen finish.

As a neutral, black can always be incorporated. A really striking black kitchen can work particularly well in large, open-plan spaces.

Texture matters, so if you're going for this look, be sure to incorporate different finishes and materials. ➤

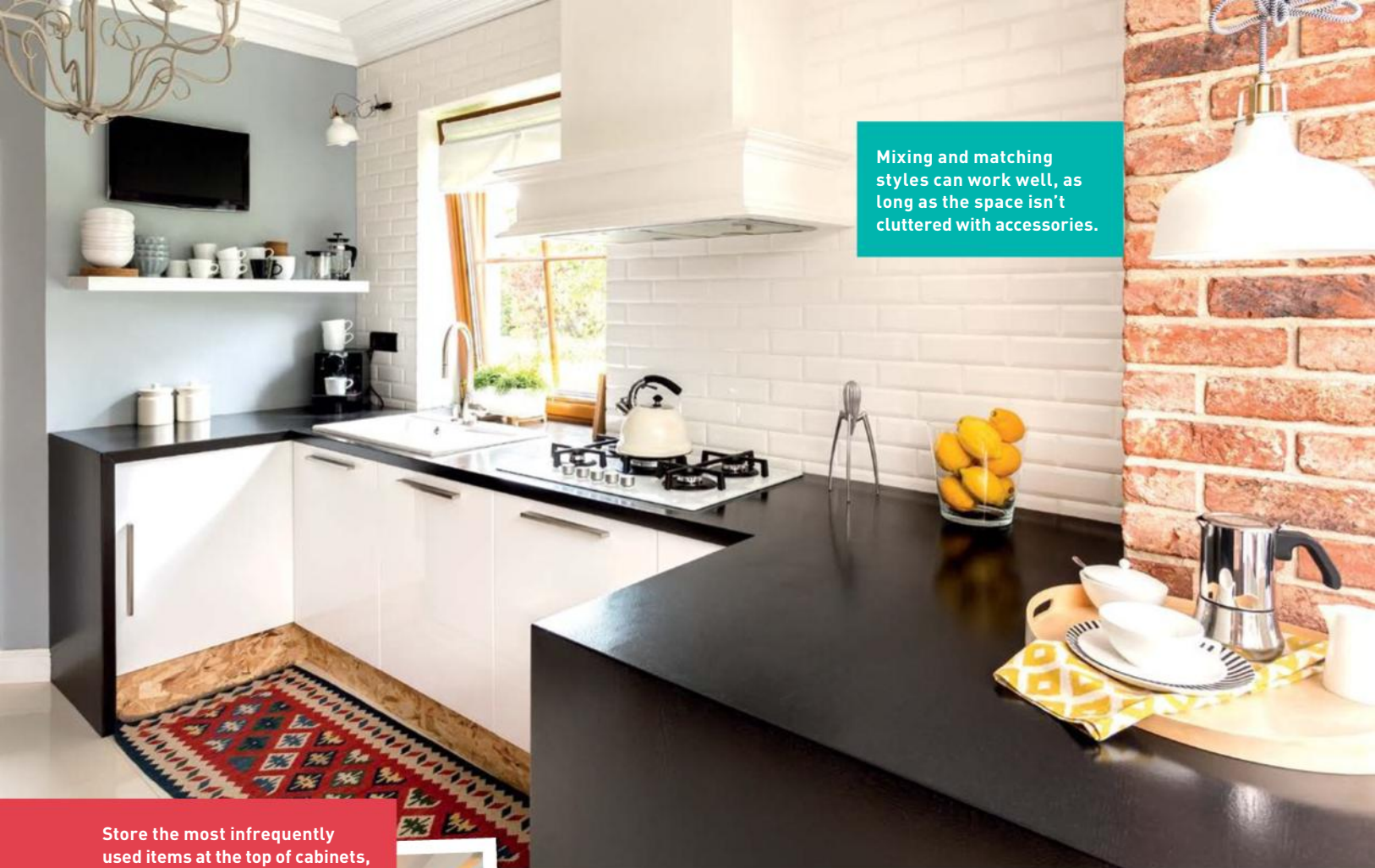
If storage can be maximised in an island bench, open shelving instead of wall cabinets will create a spacious feel.



DESIGN TIP

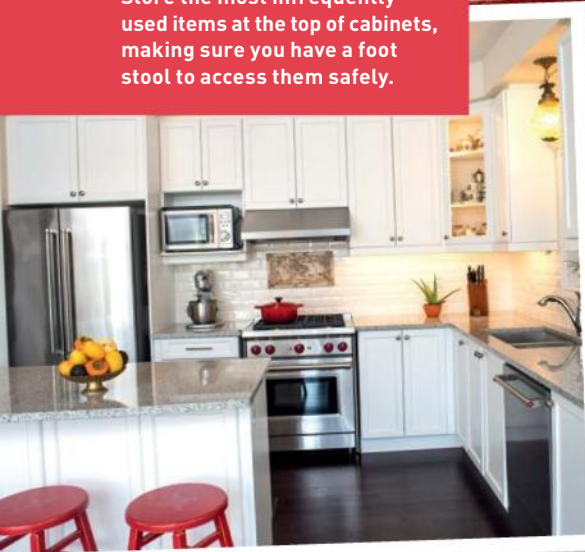
Use the window as the guide for the maximum height of wall cabinets to create overall balance and symmetry in the room.

When going with a matt finish overall, use shiny metallics as features and to add balance.



Mixing and matching styles can work well, as long as the space isn't cluttered with accessories.

Store the most infrequently used items at the top of cabinets, making sure you have a foot stool to access them safely.



◀ Mod country

The popularity of the country-style kitchen is near universal, and is recognisable by the use of panelled timbers and the signature narrow profile of cabinet doors.

Surfaces and cabinetry are always white or light coloured, and set in contrast to a dark timber floor. So go for a modern timber finish and allow the floor be a highlight.

Stick to traditional scone lighting but add a modern touch with a few well-chosen colourful accessories.

Space saver ▶

When space is at a premium and a galley kitchen is the style that fits, try working with clever touches that will make it appear bigger than it is.

If storage can be found elsewhere, resist the urge to build up on the walls, and further increase the sense of space by matching a bulky rangehood to the wall colour so it blends in.

A waterfall edge on benchtops in a contrasting colour to the cabinets is a great way to inject style, and gives inexpensive cabinetry a big boost. 🍋



Embrace the space you have and find ways to maximise the potential of the layout



Material world

You may think cork went by the wayside in the '70s, but this versatile and sustainable material is making a comeback.

Cork is waterproof, so it's suitable for wet areas such as kitchens and bathrooms, and it makes a great, lightweight sound insulator.

Another material that's making a comeback is terracotta, but not just in the familiar earthy orange. Look out for blues and greens that have become very popular in Europe.

Marble and natural stone continue to be favourites, with metallic accessories and accents still going strong.



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OSRAM

STYLE TIP

Select a few decorative items and appliances for the benchtop to provide just enough personality without overpowering the look.

After

The retro kitchen is transformed with extra bench space and updated fittings.



Before

FROM DREARY TO DELIGHTFUL

Fresh surfaces and new cabinets turn this dated kitchen into a tidy modern space

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERIE BARBER

 Small kitchens invariably pose big problems, as limited bench space has to be balanced with enough storage to make this important room functional.

As with many older homes, this one has an eat-in kitchen, so space was originally left to accommodate a dining table and chairs.

An option would be to add a breakfast bar or island bench in the void, but to keep costs down, I'll work with the existing layout and simply supplement what's there.

The reno plan

As they are all well past their prime, I'll need to remove and replace the cabinets, benchtop and appliances, creating extra work surfaces and increasing storage space.

Fortunately, the floor is in great condition and the large-format dark tiles suit a modern colour scheme, so being able to leave them in place is a fantastic saving.

Now it's up to the transformative power of paint to brighten up the space, turning it into a room that any homeowner would be proud of. ➤

FREE VIRTUAL MAKEOVER

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

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

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

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

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

SIX STEPS TO SUCCESS



Kaboodle 2400 x 900 x 50mm Bamboo Benchtop, \$813.
kaboodle.com.au

Extend the benchtop

Running a new benchtop all the way into the corner increases the work surface area, which is a bonus for any small kitchen.

I'll install a 50mm bamboo benchtop, which has sufficient bulk and scale to anchor it in the space.



Mondella Rococo Double Bowl Square Undermount Sink, \$368.
mondella.com.au

Move the sink

Extending the benchtop provides the opportunity to reposition the sink under the window.

This creates a long length of work surface and also makes room to fit in a dishwasher.

Installing a new double sink improves functionality.

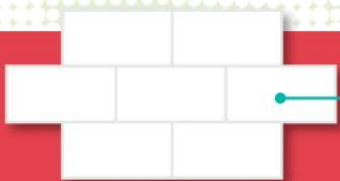


Prestige 192mm Polished Chrome Plated Slim Cabinet Handle.
itwproline.com.au

Replace the cabinets

The retro kitchen cabinets are too old to work with, so these will be scrapped in favour of new ones. I'm going for two different shades for the upper and lower cabinets.

Matching chrome handles help modernise the kitchen.



Johnson Tiles 200 x 100mm Gloss White Ceramic Wall Tile, about \$31 for 50.
johnsontiles.com.au

Tile the splashback

I'm using subway tiles, which are right on-trend, cheap and available in a wide range of colours.

I'll keep things neutral, but depending on the palette of the rest of the room, you could easily experiment with a pop of colour.



Brilliant Aubrey 140W Four-light Spotlight, \$85.
brilliantlighting.com.au

Add task lighting

In a kitchen, the lighting is very important, and with downlights, a feature light or under-cabinet lighting, you're spoilt for choice.

It's not hard to improve on the bare bulb that's there now, so I'll simply substitute it for practical track lighting.



Zone Interiors Dusk Aluminium Venetian Blind, 2100 x 1200 x 25mm, \$48.
zoneinteriors.com.au

Install new blinds

A micro venetian blind for the window completes the new look.

These blinds are a versatile choice because you can have them open for filtered light, fully up for maximum light or closed to provide privacy. ☼

WHITE FROM THE START

A brand new white tiled room delivers a modern, luxurious finish.

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★ READERS' DIY

Kitchen makeovers



Lisa's surface treatments

The original kitchen in Lisa Dashiell's rural property was functional, but the time had come to make a change.

'The cabinets had that dated orange sheen and I couldn't wait to do something about it,' says Lisa.

With just paint and a new tiled splashback, the room is transformed.

'Not being overly keen on hard preparation work, I opted for

a primer, sealer and undercoat in one and chose enamel paint in off-white for the cabinets.

'I had a lucky find with the tiles. They were a bargain, as there was a limited number left, so it's worth asking if you have a small area to tile.

'Together with the grey paint feature on the walls, the tiles make a striking difference.'



To revive this dated kitchen, all it took was paint, a new splashback and three days



Before





Before



Monique's revamp

Although she'd never tackled anything like it, mum of five Monique Jensen decided she'd do her kitchen reno herself.

'I planned everything very carefully. It's a small space so I wanted to maximise the potential. After finding a second-hand kitchen, I drove a ute to collect it and ripped it out myself,' she says.

Monique re-sheeted the walls and painted, factoring in plumbing points and electrics so everything was in the right spot, then retiled.

'I splashed out on the black sink and drainer, and a good tap. You have to have some feeling of luxury, even on a very small budget,' says Monique.

'It looks better than I imagined. I love spending time in there and having the family over, which is what it's all about really, isn't it?'

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All on a tight budget, Monique's efforts have resulted in a standout reno

REPLACE *AND* REFRESH

Revamp the laundry without the expense of a full reno by boosting storage and updating fittings

PROJECT DANIEL BUTKOVICH STYLING ARTEMIS GOUROS PICTURES SUE FERRIS

This laundry was a couple of decades overdue for a reno.

It had an awkward layout, little storage, old fittings and an unappealing colour scheme.

But as it was part of a dated extension that would need to be knocked down and rebuilt, it wasn't worth a complete overhaul.

Instead it was given a makeover to make it more user-friendly and easier on the eye. The work was done DIY and the plumbing not changed in order to keep costs down.

Paint transformed the space, then new fittings, storage solutions and design tricks were used to streamline and modernise the laundry. ➤



Use existing plumbing and make cosmetic changes to cut down on reno costs

GET THE LOOK



Mono Stripe Mat White & Black, \$5, from Kmart.



Tibetan Sandalwood Candle, \$9. kmart.com.au



Stick-A-Tile in Spice, 27.9 x 23.5cm, about \$18 for a pack of two. handihome.com.au





After

The neutral palette and added storage declutters the room.



Streamlined style

The laundry is no longer seen as just a utility room, and the best way to create a sleek space is to think of it in the same design terms as the kitchen.

Kaboodle has a range of kitchen cabinets and benchtops that work well in the laundry.

For help planning your renovation and choosing the materials, plus how-to videos, visit kaboodle.com.au.



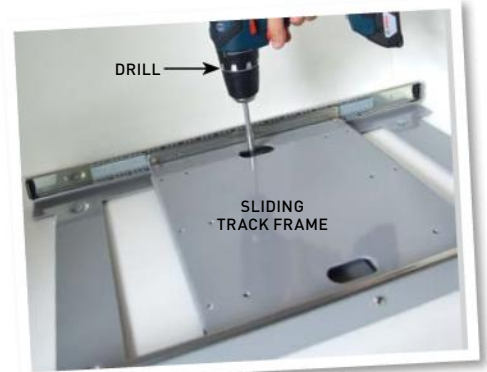
Corner cabinet

A big problem with the original layout was that the corner in between the sink and the washing machine was wasted space.

The sink had to stay in the same spot because of the plumbing, but the dryer was wall-mounted and the washing machine moved to the right.

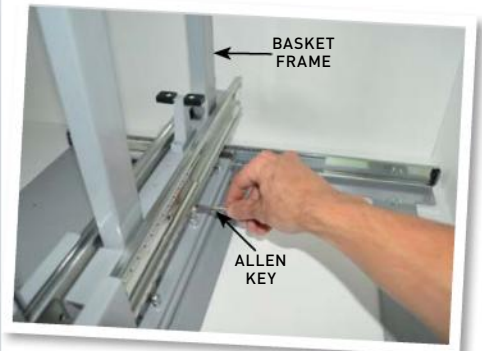
We installed a Kaboodle 1000mm Blind Corner Base Cabinet, \$150, with a door, panels and kickboard in Gloss White (kaboodle.com.au).

This easy-to-build flatpack is the ideal storage solution for tricky spaces, as the pull-out baskets mean you can utilise the whole cabinet.



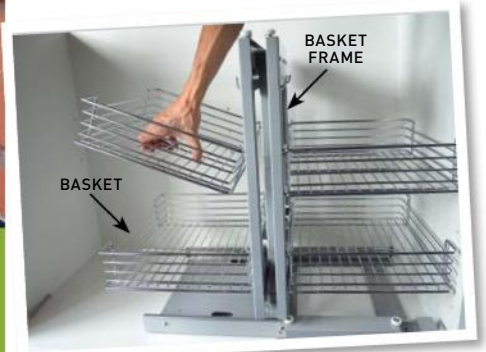
Secure the sliding track frame

Position the sliding track frame inside the cabinet according to the instructions, then drill pilot holes. Secure into the cabinet base using the supplied screws, then attach the front support rail.



Attach the basket frame

Position the basket frame on the sliding track frame and secure using the supplied hex screws and Allen key. Attach the front roller wheels at the front of the basket frame.



Install the baskets

Hang the baskets from the hooks on the basket frame, then attach the handles. Attach the blind corner base panel and hang the cabinet door.

TIP The door must be at least 450mm wide for the pullouts to work properly.

Bespoke bench

The rotting piece of melamine that served as a benchtop was ripped out to make room for the corner cabinet.

To create a large work surface and add warmth to the room, a Kaboodle Euro Oak timber benchtop was chosen.

The 38mm thick benchtop was cut into two pieces and installed on top of the cabinet and against the side panel to create a waterfall effect.

The timber was sealed with a clear hardwax oil to give it a natural finish and make it water repellent.

A quick and easy splashback was installed behind the benchtop using Stick-A-Tiles. These self-adhesive mosaic tile sheets are applied in minutes, don't need grouting and are simple to remove. ➤



Add affordable storage with a flatpack cabinet then customise it with a benchtop and splashback

Kaboodle Kitchen
2250 x 900mm Euro
Oak Benchtop, \$750.

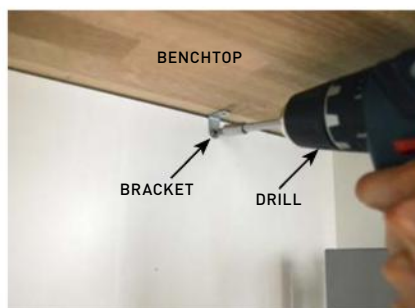
▶ How to cut a timber benchtop
Visit handyman.net.au/benchtop

1 2 3



1 Cut the timber

Support the benchtop on four offcuts, with the good side facing down. Mark the cutting line using a pencil. Clamp a cutting guide or straightedge to the timber, allowing for the offset, then cut the timber using a circular saw.



2 Install the benchtop

Position the benchtop on the cabinet, then attach two brackets to the back panel flush with the underside of the benchtop. Secure the benchtop with screws through the brackets and through the front brace.



3 Apply the finish

Sand the benchtop with 120-grit paper, then remove all dust from the surface with a vacuum cleaner. Apply hardwax oil using the applicator and allow to dry. Sand the surface with 240-grit paper, then apply a second coat.

After

The roller blind matches the new paint for a seamless look.

Pillar Elegance
90cm Blockout
Roller Blind, \$79.

Window blind

The window in the laundry faced west and had an old aluminium frame and security flyscreen.

To block the afternoon sun and hide the window, a blockout roller blind was installed DIY.

We chose a blind from Pillar that is part of a range featuring Dulux technology to match the fabric to popular paint colours. Here, it is in Hog Bristle Quarter.

Suitable for wet areas, the blind is resistant to mould and mildew and very easy to clean (pillarproducts.com.au).

Before



Paint the room

Mask off the room with painter's tape using plastic drop sheets to protect floors and doors. Cut in with a brush and use a roller to paint the walls.

TIP We used Dulux Super Hide, as it covers any colour in two coats.



Install the sink cabinet

Fit the cabinet panels together using the metal tabs, then insert the sink. Have a plumber connect the pipes to the existing plumbing, then apply a bead of silicone along the gap between the wall and the sink.



Mount the dryer

Locate the wall studs, then drill pilot holes and attach the bracket using coach screws. Attach the spacers to the back of the dryer, then lift it into position and insert the tabs on the bracket into the slots in the dryer.



Clark Utility 42L
Tub and Cabinet,
\$218. clark.com.au

After

New tapware and a stainless
steel sink modernise the room.



Before

Sink cabinet

After decades of use, the old sink cabinet was rusted and scratched. And the brown tub and plastic taps really dated the space.

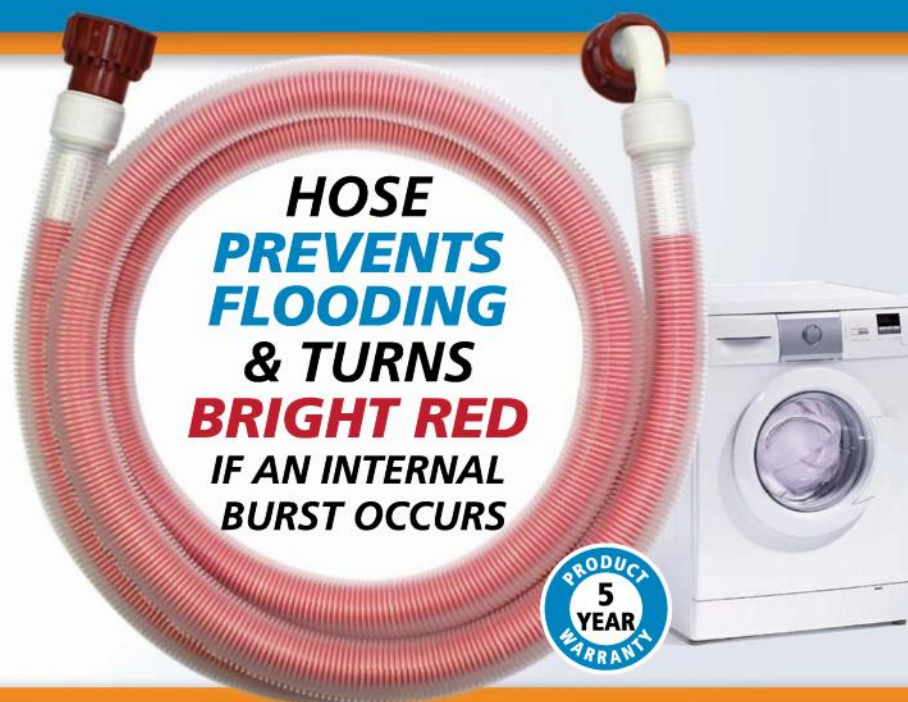
Replacing the cabinet with a new flatpack with stainless steel sink was simple. A plumber then connected the waste and the outflow from the washing machine, and installed new tapware.

The Dorf Maxum Chrome Bath Set, \$178, and Washing Machine Set, \$158, really help bring the laundry bang up to date (dorf.com.au). ➤

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After

A sleek new cupboard now stores cleaning supplies.

Bedford 600 x 1800mm
Pantry Cabinet, \$164.
bedfordfurniture.com.au

More storage

The only storage the laundry had was three old rickety kitchen cabinets with mismatched handles stacked on top of each other.

A basic white flatpack cabinet was chosen to replace them. At 1800mm high and with adjustable shelves, it offers flexible storage for a broom, mop and other gear.

To coordinate with the blind corner cabinet, the supplied handle was swapped for the same Kaboodle T-pull. ●

Before

TOP PICKS

Kaboodle 128mm Brushed
Stainless Steel T-Pull
Handle, about \$9.



Boston Burst Alert 2m
Washing Machine Hose, \$26.
fixatap.com.au



Dorf Maxum Chrome
Washing Machine Set, \$158.
dorf.com.au



Dulux Wash & Wear
Plus Super Hide, \$91 for 4L.
dulux.com.au



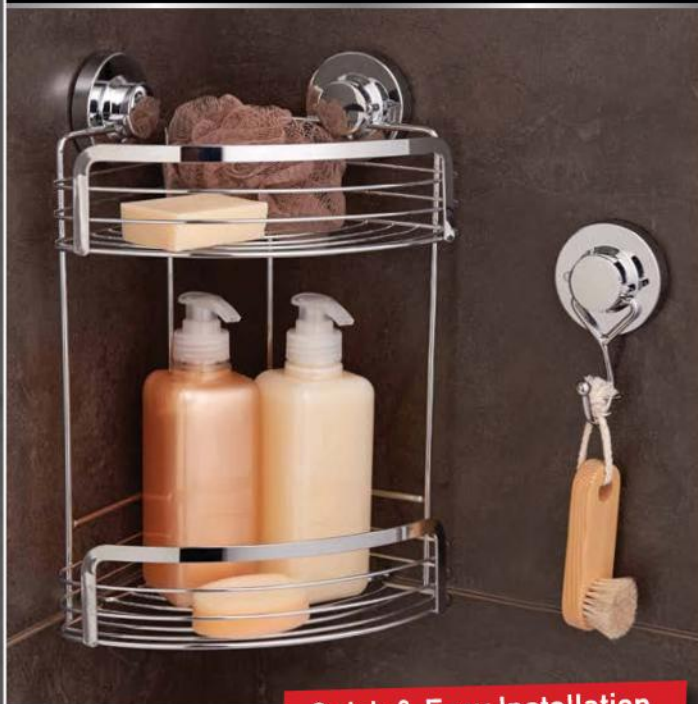
ScotchBlue 25mm Edge-Lock
Painter's Tape, about \$10.
scotchblue.com.au

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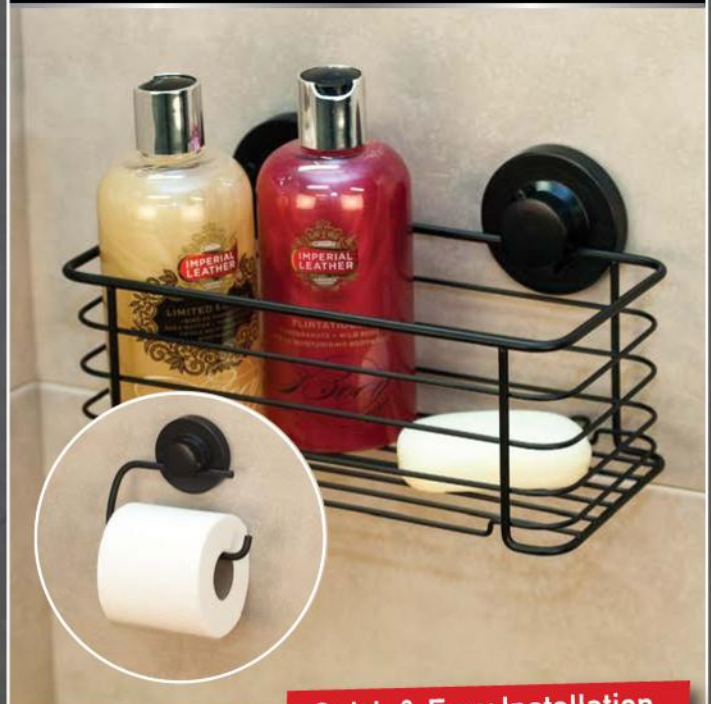
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INSTALL A SINK

Cut a benchtop hole DIY and add a tub to streamline the laundry

A sink in the laundry is essential for doing handwashing and housework, and also for the disposal of waste water.

In a new build or if renovating the laundry, swap the traditional all-in-one cabinet with a trough for a more modern kitchen-style sink.

Install a benchtop and cut out a hole for the laundry tub using a template and a jigsaw.

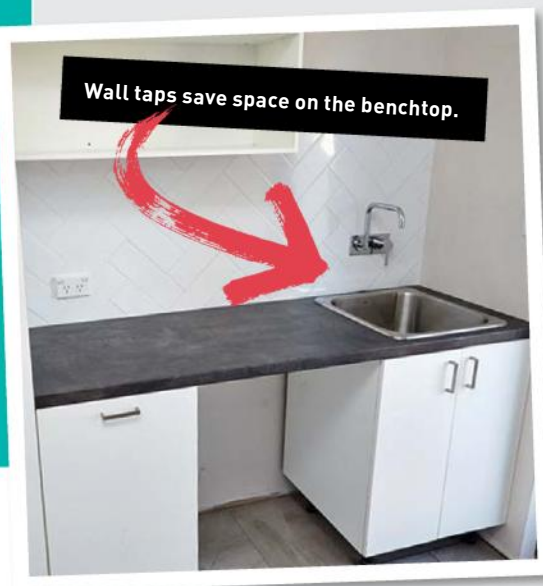
Add a base cabinet underneath the sink to double as storage and to conceal the pipework and plumbing.

What you need

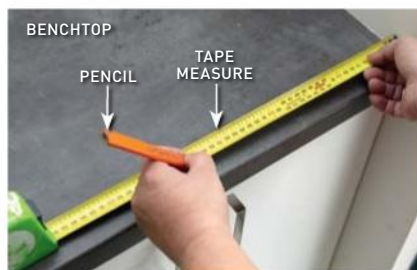
- Tape measure
- Tub template
- Stainless steel sink
- Drill/driver
- Jigsaw
- Holesaw
- Pencil

SAFETY TIP

Wear safety glasses, ear muffs and a dust mask for protection when using a jigsaw, drill and any other power tools.



A stainless steel sink is easy to clean and will handle harsh household chemicals



1 Mark the sink position

Measure across the top of the benchtop where the sink is to be located, marking the midpoint of the front edge. Draw a straight line from this mark to the back of the benchtop as a centre line.



2 Trace the template

Centre the sink template on the pencil mark, a little away from the front edge. Check the template is straight and leaves enough room for taps to be installed against the wall, if needed, then trace around the template.

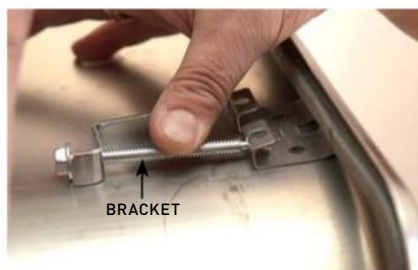


3 Cut the benchtop

Drill a large pilot hole on the template outline as a starting point, then cut the benchtop using a jigsaw. In the rear corner near the wall, drill a hole with a holesaw, to help the jigsaw cut around this corner.



Watch the video 'How to install a laundry trough' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



4 Attach the brackets

Attach the brackets into the locations under the lip of the sink. Different sinks have different brackets, so follow the instructions to make sure they are attached correctly and will keep the sink in place.



5 Insert the sink

Insert the laundry sink into the hole in the benchtop, making sure it is sitting straight. Tighten the brackets with a screwdriver so that the sink is secured underneath the benchtop. Repeat this until the sink is secure.



Laundry layout

A laundry should be designed for utility, but that doesn't mean you have to sacrifice form for function.

Easy ways to create a stylish space include integrating the appliances into the layout, and maximising storage to minimise clutter and conceal equipment.

Use full-length cabinets for tall items such as brooms. Wall-mount the clothes dryer to free up floorspace, and tuck a front loader under a benchtop.

Find it at Bunnings

Modern design

Update the layout and use storage solutions to turn the laundry into a multi-function room

The laundry is often the last room on the reno list, but with just a little design know-how, it can be made into so much more than just a place to wash clothes.

Layout is key when it comes to having a functional laundry, and both small and large rooms can offer

storage opportunities and an extra workspace for ironing and other jobs.

Choose cabinetry and storage options to suit the needs of the household. The use of sorting hampers, wall hooks and hanging rods in the laundry can help to eliminate clutter around the room.



Ezy Storage 37L Interlocking Sorting Hampers, \$14.99 each.



Creative storage

Make use of vertical surfaces, and even the ceiling, to maximise storage and functionality in the laundry.

Hanging rods and floating shelves create space to hang the ironing, dry delicates and keep much-used items to hand.

Use metal and timber to create a laundry with an industrial look.

① Mondella Resonance Washing Machine Taps, \$72.74.

② Coluson Silver Metallic Tile Sheet, \$18.45 each.

③ Marquee 25mm Modular Benchtop in White, \$99 each.

④ Senso Rustic Self Adhesive Vinyl Flooring in Pecan, \$63.20 for 2.2sqm.





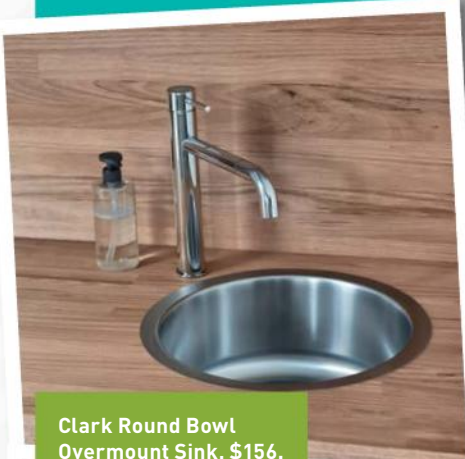
Mix and match

Use a combination of cabinetry in the laundry just as you would in the kitchen.

Use base and wall cabinets plus drawers to hold cleaning products and linen. Then add a pantry or broom closet for an ironing board and other tall items.

DESIGN TIP

To create a cohesive backdrop in a small space such as a laundry, run the benchtop material up the wall as a splashback.



Clark Round Bowl Overmount Sink, \$156.



Kaboodle 600mm Two-drawer Base Cabinet, \$183.



Alpine Oak 2100 x 600 x 26mm Laminated Panel, \$119.



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

- 1 Kaboodle 600mm Slimline Cabinet, \$65.88, Sugar Sorbet Door, \$23.31 each.
- 2 Sandleford 1200 x 19mm Chrome Tube Rod, \$5.46.
- 3 Kaboodle 600mm Pantry Cabinet, \$265, Sugar Sorbet Door, \$144 each.

- 4 Mondella Resonance Laundry Mixer Tap, \$109.
- 5 Kaboodle Discreet Chrome Grip Handle, \$11.66.
- 6 Kaboodle 600mm Two-drawer Sugar Sorbet Panels, 2-pack, \$40.82.



RACE TO THE FINISH

Supercar driver James Courtney shows that his skills aren't confined to the track with his first new-build home

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES MARK HORSBURGH

DIY TIP

Consider the direction of the prevailing wind when positioning a pool, as it can cause rapid cooling and overwork the pumps.



ABOVE A shaded outdoor area and a pool were essential inclusions.
RIGHT James and his wife Carys with children Cadel and Zara.



Racing car driver James Courtney lends a hand building his new home on Queensland's Gold Coast.

When one of Australia's premier racing car drivers sets his mind to something, you can be pretty sure nothing will stand in his way.

Former Holden V8 Supercar champion James Courtney turned his thoughts to building a house for his young family, and there was nothing off limits for him to try his hand at.

'I like a challenge, and I like to understand how everything works. It was natural for me to want to be involved in every aspect, from the planning to the labouring,' says James.

The block he found had all the hallmarks of potential he was looking for. An architect friend gave them a blueprint of everything they could achieve with the site, which is high on a hill with expansive views.

'This place was a total rebuild. Everything was gutted, and the entire profile of the site was changed. My dad did a lot of work on our house when I was young, so I've always had the attitude of doing it myself.'

With plans in place for a home with everything a family could want, the long building process began. ➤

Lending a hand

Being completely new to home building, James viewed every step of the process as a learning experience.

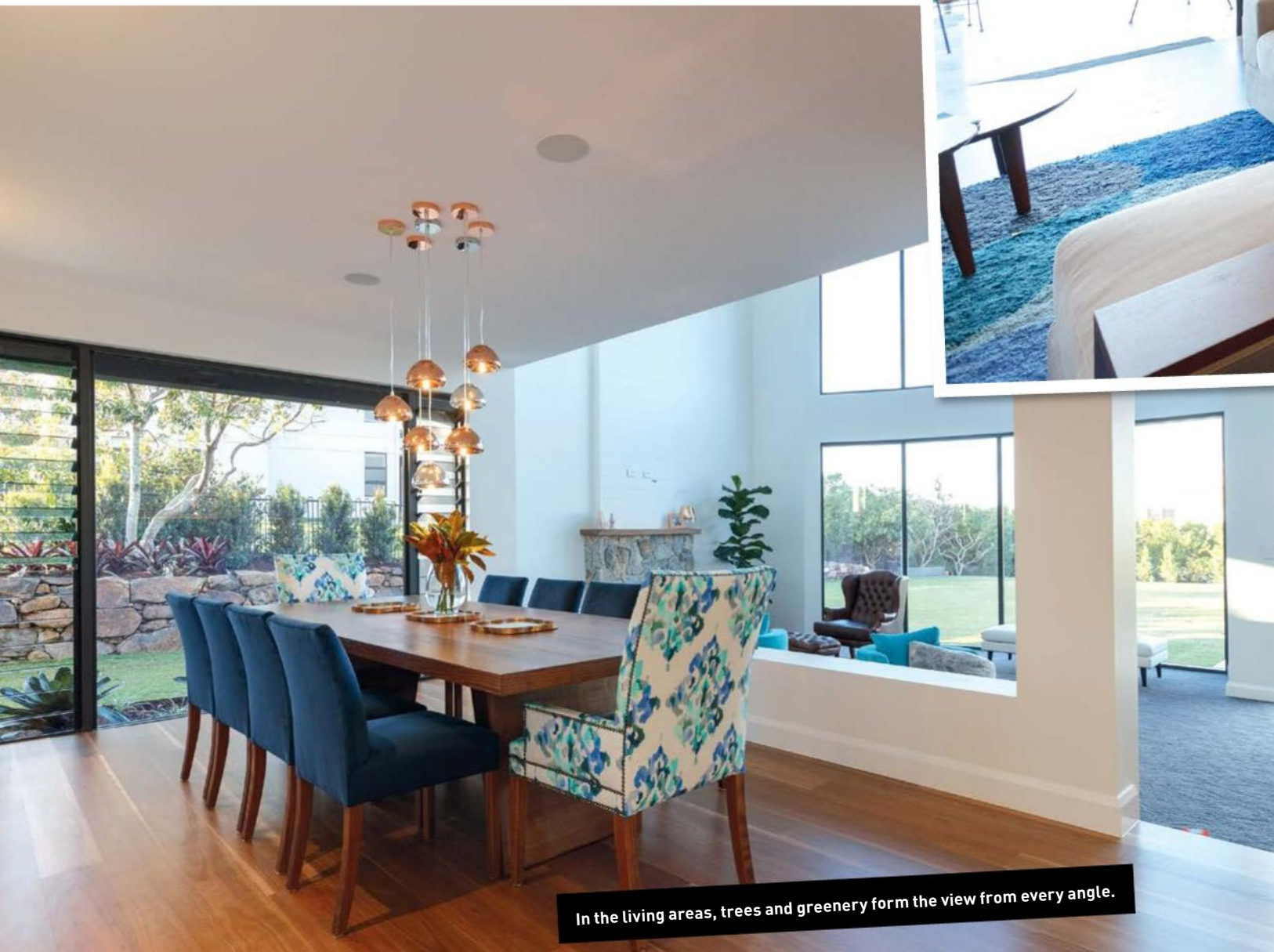
'I had a go at everything, from excavating and driving the Bobcats to pouring the concrete and painting. I carried bricks and mixed mortar, did the tiling and laid cables. I was very good value as a labourer,' he says.

Having an understanding of exactly how the house took shape and where everything is helps you form a connection with the space that makes every aspect feel complete.

'It's an achievement, and even small things such as knowing where the wall studs are located so all the pictures can be hung in the right place is invaluable information.'



Seeing the house take shape from the slab gave a unique perspective on living in the space



In the living areas, trees and greenery form the view from every angle.



The flooring timber was used to clad the kitchen island.

RIGHT The kitchen is designed so all the equipment is stored out of sight.
BELOW An oversized island provides plenty of space for family gatherings.



Keeping it cosy

The interior is spacious but feels warm and welcoming. High ceilings and oversized windows add volume and let in light, so the natural environment is integrated with the modern build.

Downstairs, the layout comprises an open-plan kitchen, dining and living space, and includes a rumpus room, bathroom and guest suite.

Upstairs is a master bedroom with a dressing room, an office, the main bathroom and the children's bedrooms.

James's wife Carys had a clear idea of what she wanted when it came to the overall style and decorating.

'I really wasn't interested in any particular trends, but I wanted it to feel cuddly. It's a big house, but I didn't want it to feel empty. And you can still put your feet on the sofa,' she says.

Natural materials lend an element of luxury, with warm timbers and marble featuring strongly. ➤



DESIGN TIP

Using timber framework outdoors emphasises the lines of the build while providing contrast and natural warmth.



A large lawn softens the hard materials of the home.

Enjoying the outdoors

With views down the coastline and a breeze all year round, owing to the elevated position, the Courtney family home is an ideal place for spending time outdoors.

'I love a lawn, it has to be said. I wanted to have as much lawn as possible, in part because we have dogs, but also because I wanted to connect the house to the surroundings as naturally as possible,' says James.

The previously scrubby and uneven site had to be extensively retained to make a level area. The lawn is irrigated by large rainwater tanks, as it requires regular maintenance.

Ultimately, this is a home for the family to grow in and there are no plans to move on the horizon.

'But, I'm not saying no to giving it all a crack again,' he says. 🌿



The outdoor kitchen and dining area are ideal for alfresco entertaining.



Maximising views and making the most of the hilltop breezes were top priorities

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Provide a place to display books and ornaments with box shelves that attach to the wall using hidden cleats

Installing floating shelves in a living space creates storage and display opportunities for books and ornaments without the need for bulky furniture.

You can buy ready-made shelves for about \$50 each and they are easy to install DIY, but they are often not the right size for the space.

For about the same cost, you can build shelves to suit the dimensions of the wall and the style of the room.

These shelves are built as boxes, with top and base panels supported by side rails and internal braces. The back edge is left open so the shelf can be attached to a cleat on the wall.

The box structure also means these custom-made shelves are more likely to be sturdier than many store-bought options, holding about 22kg each.

The top and base panels, braces and side and front rails for all four shelves were cut from two 1220 x 2440mm

sheets of 12mm hardwood plywood. Lengths of 90 x 45mm timber were used to create the cleats.

For an authentic timber-look finish, self-adhesive veneer was applied to the rails, then the top and base panels were sanded and the shelves were finished all over with a timber stain.

It took a couple of hours to build each shelf, including sanding and staining the surfaces and mounting the shelves on the cleats.

TOP PICKS



Feast Watson ProofTint Mahogany Interior Stain, \$23 for 250ml.
feastwatson.com.au



Ryobi 300W Random Orbital Sander, \$89.
ryobi.com.au



Ozito 360° Line Laser Level with Tripod, \$149.
ozito.com.au

What you need

Hardwood plywood
Peel-and-stick veneer
Structural pine
Timber screws
Stainable timber filler
Timber stain
Brad nails

TOOLS
CIRCULAR SAW,
RANDOM ORBITAL
SANDER, DRILL



The shelves are functional and also add character to the room



Cutting the pieces

Set a 1220 x 2440mm sheet of 12mm plywood across three sawhorses. Measure and mark the plywood for each of the shelf parts, using a circular saw and cutting guide to make the cuts.

To make a cutting guide DIY, cut a 150mm strip of plywood from the sheet you are using, then secure the strip to the sheet using adhesive.

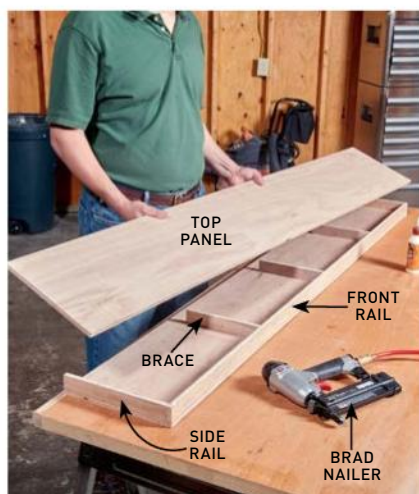
Align the cut edges so that the factory edge faces in.

Align the saw base plate with the factory edge, then cut the ply sheet to create the guide.

To make the cleats, rip a length of 90 x 45mm timber to 45 x 41mm, then crosscut it to 1805mm long.

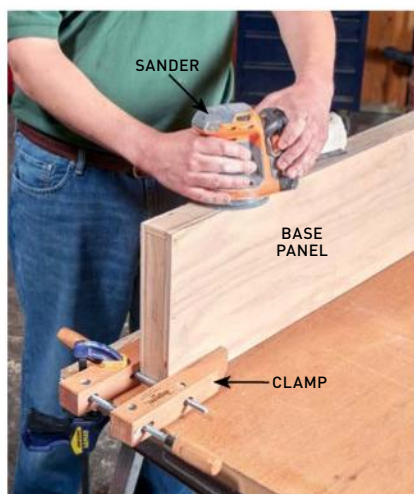
The cleat should then slip into the opening at the rear of the shelf with just a bit of spare room. ➤

BUILD THE SHELVES



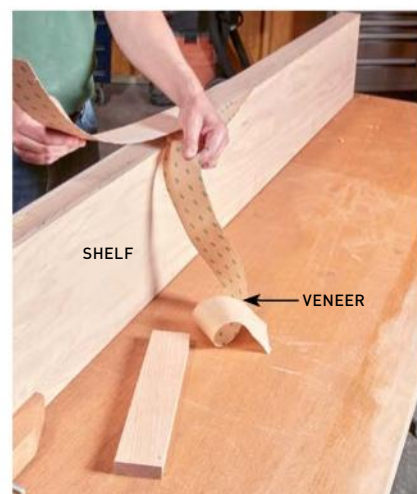
1 Make the frame

Attach the front rail and two side rails to the base panel of the shelf using adhesive and nails with a brad nailer. Secure the three braces to the panel, leaving space at the back edge for the cleat. Apply adhesive to the edges of the rails and braces, then flip it over and secure the top panel using nails.



2 Sand the rails

Clamp the shelf to the work surface, then use a random orbital sander with 100-grit paper to lightly sand the side and front rails, making sure the rails and panels are flush with one another at the edges. This will give you a completely flat, smooth surface on which to apply the veneer.



3 Add the veneer

Cut three pieces of adhesive-backed veneer to cover the front and sides of the shelf. Make the veneer 81mm wide to allow for a 6mm overhang on each side. Peel off the back and stick on the veneer. Press the veneer on firmly using a block of timber, then trim it flush with the edges of the shelf.



4 Secure the cleat

Drill countersunk pilot holes in the top of the shelf 20mm from the wall edge, spacing them about 300mm apart. Use a stud finder to locate the wall studs, then drill pilot holes in the cleat and wall, using a laser level for accurate marking. Secure the cleat to the wall with washer head screws.



5 Stain the shelf

Sand the panels and sides of the shelf using 100- and 150-grit paper. Remove all the dust after sanding with the 100-grit paper to prevent loose granules from scratching the plywood surface. Apply a stain evenly to the entire shelf, then allow to dry completely.



6 Attach the shelf

Hold the shelf firmly against the wall, then drive timber screws through the pilot holes of the shelf and into the wall cleat. Hide the screw heads with timber filler that matches the colour of your stain. **TIP** Use non-hardening filler to make the screws easier to remove later. 

FLOATING SHELVES

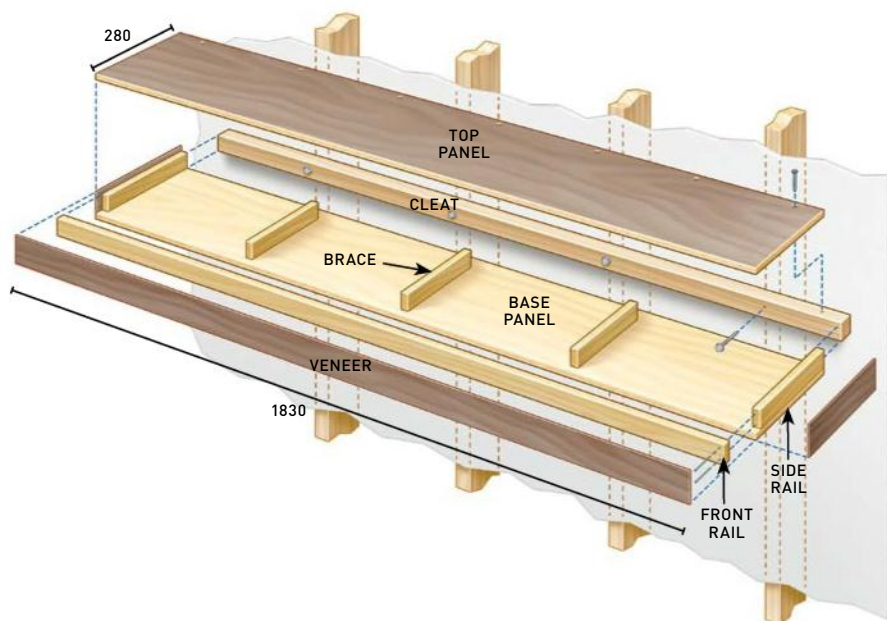
measurements in mm

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Plywood		
Top panels	1830 x 280 x 12	4
Base panels	1830 x 280 x 12	4
Front rails	1830 x 45 x 12	4
Side rails	268 x 45 x 12	8
Braces	225 x 45 x 12	12
Veneer		
Sides	292 x 81 x 1	8
Fronts	1842 x 81 x 1	4
Pine		
Wall cleats	1805 x 45 x 41	4

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
16g x 100mm washer head screws	Cleats
8g x 40mm timber screws	Shelves
Nails	Shelves



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USE FOR: Repairing wood rot effected exterior fences, decks, furniture, door frames, windows and so much more.



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Wax Touch Up Crayons

Waxstix are so easy to use and so handy for quick repairs to scratched or damaged timber.

USE FOR: Floating floor and furniture scratches.



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- Wood Putty • Edge Filler
- Crack Filler • Grain Filler

Water based interior filler with no latex, acrylic or solvent added.

Non-shrinking, non-sinking, non-cracking and won't fall out.

USE FOR: Timber flooring and all interior woodwork repairs.



Earl's MultiFill

Multi-Purpose Interior & Exterior Filler

- Pre-Mixed ready to use.
- Fine Filler, spreads easily.
- Long shelf life, no waste.
- Will not shrink, sink or fall out.
- Sands easily, will not clog sandpaper.
- No acrylic, latex or solvents, VOC free.
- Paintable for interior & exterior use.
- Australian made.

USE FOR: Repairing decking, fascia boards and plaster boards.



Agnew's Water Putty

Multi-Purpose Filler

- Simply mix with water to use.
- No waste.
- Dries hard - drill saw or sand.
- No shrinking or cracking.
- Australian made.

USE FOR: Floor leveling, patching and filling wood, plaster and concrete.



Earl's Powder Putty

Multi-Purpose Interior & Exterior Filler

- Just mix with water.
- No waste.
- No shrinking.
- Won't crack and fills to any depth.
- Australian made.

USE FOR: Repairing wood, concrete, masonry, steel, plasterboard and cement sheets.



Porion

Flexible Exterior Filler

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Porion is a flexible filler that can be used for repairs to decks, rotten timber and masonry.

USE FOR: Repairing wood, concrete, weather boards & patching render.



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GET RID OF GAPS

Hide any holes, dents or scratches with the best filler for the task

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Concealing open cavities and repairing unsightly damage to surfaces can be easy if you have the right product and know where to start.

There is a range of fillers available to hide cracks, notches and holes in timber, plaster and other materials.

Select the best one based on the surface to be repaired and whether the cover-up job is indoors or out. ➤

TIMBER FILLER

Water-based wood filler has an unlimited shelf life and can be sanded, sawn, drilled, painted and lacquered once set.

Most often used to fill knots or dents, it's available in a range of colours, making it easy to match to your timber.

TIP Water it down to use as a grain filler.

POWDER PUTTY

Ideal for interior and exterior repairs to timber, plaster and cement sheeting, powder putty is weather resistant and can be sawn, sanded, cut or carved.

TIP Powder putty can be used as a moulding medium.

TWO-PART FILLER

Best for holes bigger than a nail head, two-part fillers set hard without shrinkage, are tougher than other options and, while messy, can be shaped when dry.

The two main two-part fillers are epoxy resin, used mainly in wet or damp areas for large holes, and polyester resin, which is good for filling cracks and gaps.

Both resins need to be mixed with a hardener before use.

POWDER FILLER

Designed for use on cracks and holes in plasterboard, powder filler needs to be mixed with water before it can be applied.

It can also be used on MDF, timber, brick and concrete, and sanded, nailed or painted, but it isn't weather resistant or flexible.

TIP Always use a fresh container when mixing a new batch of filler.



TOP PICKS



Turbo Builder's Bog Filler, about \$35 for 1L.
bunnings.com.au



Davco Sanitized Superfine White Grout, about \$7 for 1.5kg.
parexdavco.com.au



Sika SikaSeal Acrylic 100 Gap Filler, \$4 for 310ml.
sikaretail.com.au



Uni-Pro Smooth Coat Filler, about \$11 for 500g.
unipro.com.au



Selley's Spakfilla One Shot, \$5 for 20g.
selleys.com.au

WATER-BASED ACRYLIC FILLER

A versatile all-rounder, water-based acrylic fillers often come pre-mixed and are suitable for use indoors and outdoors.

Suitable for a range of surfaces, these fillers are easy to clean up and can be blended with stain to match timber repairs.

TIMBER HARDENER

A water-based chemical cure for rotten wood, hardener revitalises timber by penetrating weak fibres to restore their structure.

TIP Use a wire brush to remove soft timber and flaking paint before applying hardener.

EXPANDING FOAM

Perfect for gaps around pipes or windows, this is a polyurethane filler that expands into solid foam.

Expanding foam can also be used to block out dust, draughts, noise and wildlife by filling large, irregular-shaped gaps, hollows and cavities around the home.

Once cured, it can be trimmed, sanded, plastered and painted.



CEMENT-BASED FILLER

Commonly available in powder or caulk form, cement-based filler is usually used to repair cracks or seal joints in stone, concrete, masonry and stucco.

TIP Try a self-levelling crack filler for a perfectly smooth joint.



Earl's Wood Hardener, \$53 for 1L.
timbermate.com.au



Selleys Knead It Multipurpose Epoxy Putty, \$16 for 110g.



Timbermate Water-based Woodfiller, about \$9 for 250g.



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

Make your own timber filler

Take a palm-sized portion of sawdust from the timber you are working with and add drops of PVA adhesive while mixing it into a workable consistency. Push the putty into the holes to be filled, then remove the excess. 🛠️

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Tile adhesives



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Choosing the right tile adhesive is essential to ensure a long-lasting installation. Tile adhesives are used to bond, or glue, tiles onto a surface or substrate. Because surfaces, substrates, tiles, areas and even tiling conditions don't share the same characteristics they have different adhesive requirements.

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CHOOSE THE RIGHT ADHESIVE

Skip a sticky situation by selecting the best product for each job in the home and garden

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

It is used for countless DIY tasks, but selecting the right adhesive for a particular job can be challenging, considering how many varieties there are to choose from.

The best way to select the right adhesive is to think about the type of surfaces that need to be bonded, the strength of the bond required, and whether it's for indoors or outdoors. ➤

Timber, metal

Polyvinyl acetate (PVA)

Water-based PVA adhesive is a good option for bonding porous materials such as timber, and is the adhesive most frequently used for woodworking and craft.

It's available in various sizes and is easily applied to surfaces by squeezing the adhesive through the nozzle on the bottle.

TIP Choose a specialist product for outdoor use or for bonding two different materials.

Superglue

This is the premium choice for repairing ornaments and ceramics, or for assembling models. Superglue forms a very strong waterproof bond between a wide variety of surfaces.

It can take a few minutes to cure and reaches full strength in about two hours.

TIP Use a blob of Blu-Tack to hold tricky pieces in position until the adhesive is fully cured.

Ceramic, timber, metal, glass, plastic

Hot melt glue

This versatile adhesive is applied using a hot glue gun, which melts solid cartridges into a fast-setting liquid. The adhesive solidifies in seconds, meaning clamping the pieces together isn't necessary.

TIP To remove or reposition hot melt glue, use a heat gun and a broad knife, then gently twist the joint to break the bond.

Ceramic, timber, rubber, metal, plastic, glass, cardboard

Construction adhesive

Usually used for larger projects, such as building a retaining wall or deck, construction adhesive forms a strong, permanent bond between a range of materials.

This versatile, heavy-duty adhesive is generally sold in 300ml cartridges and applied with a caulking gun.

TIP Use fast-curing polyurethane adhesive for waterproof bonds.

Timber, concrete, brick, metal



Ceramic, timber,
metal, brick, concrete

Epoxy

A two-part adhesive, epoxy is one of the strongest options available, consisting of a resin and hardener that react with each other to bond almost any two surfaces.

The two components are mixed together at the time of application, and are workable for a few minutes before bonding permanently in about an hour.

TIP Select a dual-tube product that has a self-mixing nozzle for ease of use.



Timber, laminate,
metal, plastic, vinyl

Contact adhesive

Ideal for benchtop or cabinet repairs, as well as craft and decorating jobs, using contact adhesive is the best way to form a strong bond between two large, flat surfaces.

Sprayed or brushed onto both surfaces, this adhesive soon becomes tacky and will adhere when the surfaces are pressed together. Once bonded, it is almost impossible to break.

TIP Use a gel product when applying to vertical surfaces. ➤



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BUILDING TRUST





Plasterboard, timber, fibre cement, metal

Stud adhesive

This specialist adhesive secures sheets of plasterboard or fibre cement to timber or metal wall frames. It is most commonly sold in tubs or tubes.

The adhesive is applied along the length of the wall studs in patches, then the sheets are secured to the studs with screws.

TIP Don't drive screws through the adhesive, as this will force the screws out of the holes.

Floor adhesives

A range of contact adhesives is available for bonding carpet, vinyl and cork tiles to timber, concrete or particleboard subfloors.

These strong adhesives are usually sold in tubs and applied using a trowel.

TIP Select a water-based adhesive for securing carpet and cork tiles to a substrate.



Timber, particleboard, vinyl, concrete, carpet, cork



Ceramic and stone tiles, timber, plasterboard, concrete

Tile adhesive

A strong, waterproof option designed for use in wet areas such as kitchens, bathrooms and laundries, tile adhesive is available in powder or pre-mixed forms for easy application.

Tile adhesive is applied to the wall with a notched trowel and the tiles are positioned on top. Grout can be applied to fill the gaps once the adhesive has cured.

TIP Use spacers between each of the tiles to ensure they are positioned evenly.

TOP PICKS



Gyprock Acrylic Stud Adhesive, \$26 for 5.5kg. gyprock.com.au



Sika Contact 4600, about \$23 for 1L. sikaretail.com.au



Selleys Ezi Press Liquid Nails, \$8 for 160g. selleys.com.au



Sika Flex 11FC Multipurpose Adhesive, \$19 for 310ml.



Loctite 60 Sec Universal Glue, \$19 for 20g. loctite.com.au



Parfix PVA Wood Glue, about \$5 for 250ml. bunnings.com.au



Uni-Pro Cornice Adhesive, \$18 for 2.5kg. unipro.com.au



Dunlop Wall & Floor Tile Adhesive, about \$24 for 2kg. dunlopdry.com

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Easy to use: Ultra-thick and flexible for vertical surfaces

Strong: Weight bearing up to 130kg/cm²

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LOCTITE

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BASIC SKILLS

Hot glue gun



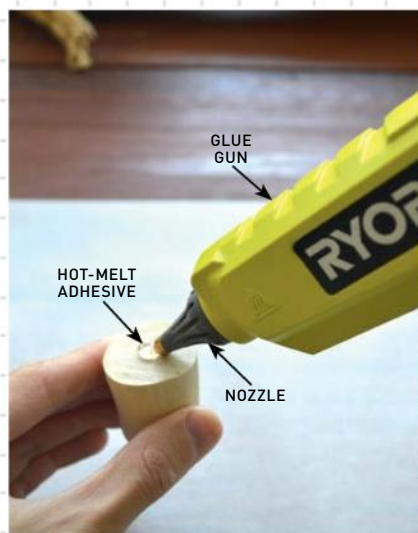
A crafty tool

The humble hot glue gun is a versatile favourite for craft projects, as it's simple to use and can bond a variety of materials together.

An electric element in the glue gun heats the cylindrical polymer-based adhesive cartridges. The hot adhesive is pushed through the gun using a trigger or thumb pressure.

The adhesive emerges from the nozzle in liquid form and is tacky while hot, but quickly solidifies in less than a minute, allowing it to form a quick bond between two surfaces.

Hot-melt adhesive is ideal for bonds that don't require a high degree of strength such as for small decorating projects. It also has several handy uses in the workshop, and is ideal for tricky repairs.



LESS IS MORE

To avoid getting messy, long strings of adhesive on your workpiece, squeeze the trigger gently to produce small dabs. As you pull the glue gun away from the surface, turn your wrist to roll the nozzle, cutting the string.

TIP Lay a sheet of baking paper to protect the work surface.



QUICK TEMPLATE CUTTING

To save time when cutting multiple identical shapes, temporarily secure the pieces of timber together with a small dab of hot glue. Cut the shape with a jigsaw, then gently twist the pieces apart to break the bond. If the bond is hard to break, use a putty knife or heat gun to loosen the adhesive.



HARD-TO-CLAMP REPAIRS

Superglue is ideal for fixing damaged toys or ornaments, but the downside is that the pieces must be clamped as the adhesive cures. Hot-melt adhesive sets in seconds, so it's ideal for tricky repairs where clamping isn't possible. Just hold the pieces in position until the adhesive solidifies.

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★ ORIGINS

Adhesive

Adhesive is one of the most common means of joining two surfaces, and there is a wide range of types for a variety of DIY uses.

Adhesives have been used for thousands of years, with early humans making stone tools using glues derived from tree sap and tar.

Ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and Chinese created wood furnishings and artwork with glue made from animal hides and bones.

In recent centuries, the use of synthetic adhesives has become widespread, although animal glues are still in use for furniture, musical instruments and bookbinding.

The most common synthetic adhesive used for woodwork is PVA, also known as wood glue.

DIY TIP

When using PVA adhesive, wear gloves to make cleaning up easy and keep a damp cloth handy to wipe away any excess.

ABOVE Use adhesive with dowels for strong butt joints. **BELOW** PVA adhesive is ideal for assembling indoor furniture.

Form a strong bond

Good contact between surfaces is essential for any adhesive to work.

Until the adhesive cures, it's important to clamp the joint or secure pieces with fasteners. Most joints can be secured with screws or brads. Dowels or biscuits are ideal for hidden joints.

Common types

- ❖ **PVA** stands for polyvinyl acetate and is a water-based adhesive that applies white and dries clear.
- ❖ **EPOXY** is a two-part system, featuring a resin and a hardener that react when combined to create a very strong bond.

- ❖ **CONSTRUCTION ADHESIVE** is a heavy-duty, multipurpose product for bonding a variety of interior and exterior surfaces.
- ❖ **CONTACT ADHESIVE** securely bonds flat surfaces and is ideal for laying floors or applying veneer.



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SUPPORTING PARTNERS & MEDIA PARTNERS INCLUDE



As the largest item in the room, the bed is a key focal point.



Cool spaces for kids

Transform your child's room into a fun place that's easy to update

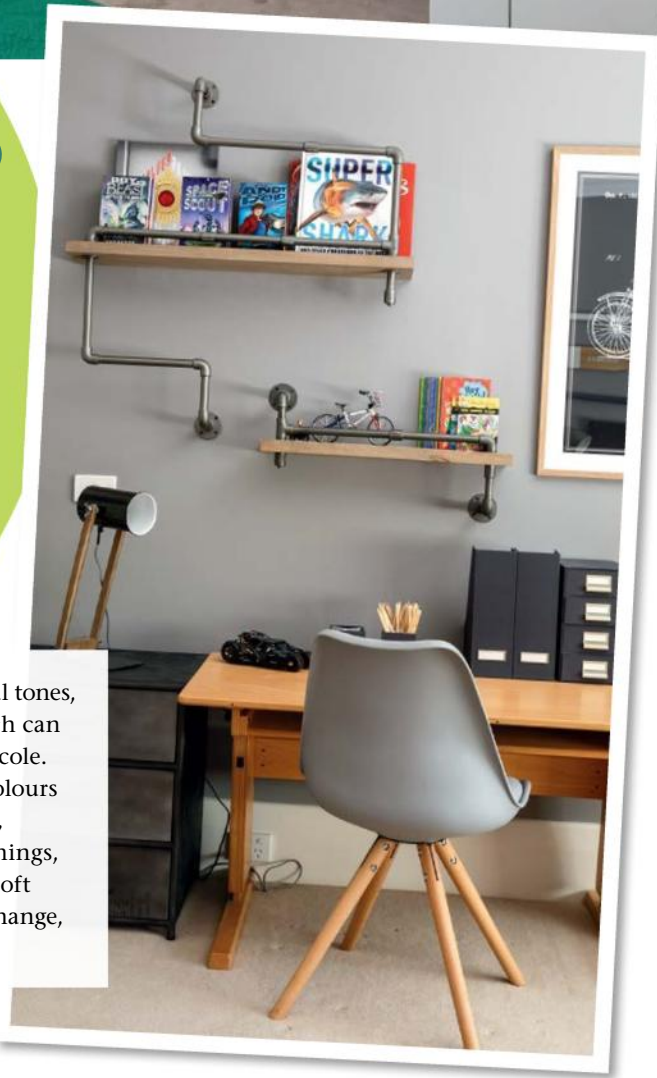
WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT PICTURES JEREMY BLODE

Creating a comfortable space for your child can often be a challenge, especially as their tastes evolve as they grow up.

Interior designer and founder of Little Liberty (littleliberty.com), Nicole Rosenberg, has a wealth of experience and shares her tips on how to go about it.

'Incorporate lots of neutral tones, such as grey and white, which can grow with the child,' says Nicole.

'If you stick with these colours for big items such as the bed, bedhead and window furnishings, you can then easily change soft furnishings, as their tastes change, without breaking the bank.'





GET THE LOOK



Osram Lightify 10W LED RGB Dim Lamp, \$70. osram.com.au



Minsk Cushioned Grey Dining Chair, \$259 for two. retrojan.com.au



Rouge 45cm Cascade Task Lamp, \$20. rougeliving.com.au



Amalfi Trennery Bookshelf, \$1099. zanui.com.au

Boys' barracks

In a boy's room, use dark colours such as moody blues and navy, advises Nicole, and choose chunky knits and throws for a rugged feel.

Include open-shelving for storage to help keep the room tidy and their toys visible.

'Removing clutter is key. Kids often accumulate so much junk and keep it in their rooms even though they never use it.' ➤



Before buying anything, create a mood board to ensure it all works



Include colour and interest with fun items.

Nursery nirvana

For furnishing your baby's oasis, Nicole recommends using good-quality furniture pieces for the cot and change tables.

'You can accessorise with less expensive items and easily paint the room to create personality in the space,' she says.



A mobile over the change table is a handy distraction for a baby

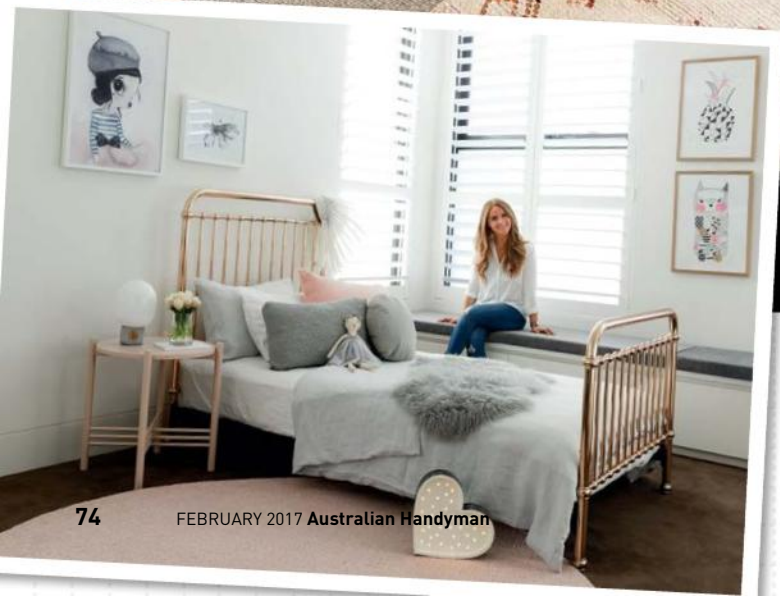
GET THE LOOK



Takeshi Sawada
Bambi chair, \$440.
top3.com.au



Ubabub Pod
Cot, \$1899.
ubabub.com



Mum of three Nicole
Rosenberg specialises in
decorating kids' rooms.

Painting the walls is an economical way to update a room.

Girls' havens

Ensure you don't go overboard on pink when transforming your little lady's room, advises Nicole.

Include colours such as mints, pale blues and soft greys that they won't get sick of as they grow up.

Use fun pillows with a variety of colours and textures on the bed to create a plush and inviting space. 🍷

H & G Designs Pink and Tan Suede Leather Strap Shelf, \$180. handgdesigns.com

HPM White Linea 1 Gang Light Switch, \$12, and Sunshine Coverplate, \$10. hpm.com.au

Add a bit of sparkle with gold or silver accessories.

SNEAKY STORAGE

Encourage kids to keep their bedrooms tidy with these fun double-duty furniture ideas

PROJECTS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT AND DANIEL BUTKOVICH PICTURES STEVE PERRIOTT



The desk is perfect for drawing and storage baskets under the bench seat keep kids' toys close at hand.

Creative corner

Set up a special zone where kids can draw and read by building a desk and matching bench seat with built-in storage for toys.

We used formaldehyde-free coloured MDF by Porta in blue to skip the hassle of painting. The bench seat slots perfectly inside the desk for a low-profile design that won't dominate a small room.

The storage cubbies were created by inserting two dividers into the hollow rectangular bench seat, which also strengthens the frame. Lightweight wicker baskets fit into the cubbies to keep toys tidy.



Design the cubbies around off-the-shelf cube storage baskets for a perfect fit



1 Cut the panels

Mark the cutting line, then position the MDF on four offcuts parallel to the line to support the panel. Secure a cutting guide to the panel, taking into account the offset of the saw, then cut using a circular saw.



2 Build the desk frame

Apply PVA adhesive along the back edge of one side panel. Hold the side panel upright and clamp it to the back. Drill pilot holes, then secure the panels using 6g x 30mm screws. Repeat on the other side to form the frame.



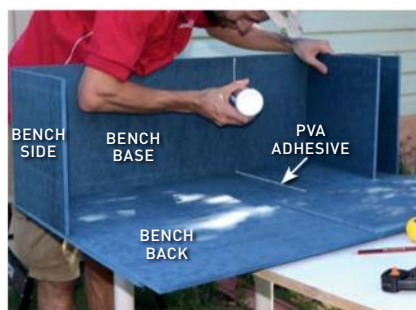
3 Attach the desktop

Apply adhesive to the top edge of the frame. Position the desktop on the frame and align the edges, then use clamps to hold it in position. Drill pilot holes through the desktop into the frame and secure with screws.



4 Make the bench frame

Use adhesive and screws to secure the bench back to the base, then attach the sides. Position two dividers between the sides and mark the base and back along either side of the dividers using a pencil.



5 Add the dividers

Apply adhesive between the marks on the bench back and base, then position the dividers and hold using clamps. Predrill holes and secure the dividers using screws through the back and base.



6 Secure the seat

Apply adhesive along the top edge of the bench sides and dividers, and the back edge of the seat. Clamp the seat to the bench frame, then secure with screws through the seat into the sides and dividers. ➤



Get creative with your decorating to personalise the house. We used quilting squares for the wallpaper.

Delightful doll's house

Encouraging kids to put their books away will be a little easier with this doll's house and bookshelf combo.

Using MDF board from Porta, the frame of the doll's house was built first, then the shelves, room dividers and roof were attached.

Self-adhesive paper in a marble and timber look was used for flooring, and quilting fabric was cut to size for fun wallpaper. Mats were made from twine and cardboard while balsa wood strips were added for skirting.

 Watch the video online
Visit handyman.net.au/kids-storage



1 Cut the panels

Lay the MDF flat and cut the pieces using a cutting guide for accuracy. For the angled cuts on the back panel, mark the line, then clamp a straightedge to the panel, taking into account the offset of the saw.



2 Assemble the frame

Use adhesive and 6g x 30mm screws to secure the back, middle and side panels to the base panel. Use clamps to hold the panels in position while applying adhesive, and predrill holes to minimise splitting.



3 Attach the shelves

Temporarily position the room dividers underneath the shelves to support them at the correct height. Clamp the shelves in position, then secure with adhesive and screws through the back and middle panels.



GET THE LOOK



Wellington Pink
Faux Fur Rug, \$19.
kmart.com.au



Adairs Kids Heidi's Doll's
House 22-piece Furniture Set,
about \$52. adairs.com.au



Glue Dots Repositionable
Dispenser, \$10.
timbermate.com.au



Clever Cube 330 x 330 x 360mm
Stained Water Hyacinth Natural
Insert, \$20. handy-storage.com.au



Paint-free panels

Skip tedious hours of applying paint to these builds by using Porta Forescolour Coloured MDF Sheets, from \$20 (porta.com.au).

Formaldehyde-free, they come in 5, 9 and 18mm thicknesses, nine colours and several sizes.



4 Install the floors

Position the floors in the front section, level with the shelves at the back and temporarily supported by the dividers. Clamp in position and secure with adhesive and screws through the middle and side panels.



5 Insert the dividers

Mark the divider position on the base panel, then apply adhesive. Use a clamp to gently lift the first floor by about 10mm. Slide the divider into position and secure with screws. Repeat for the remaining floor.

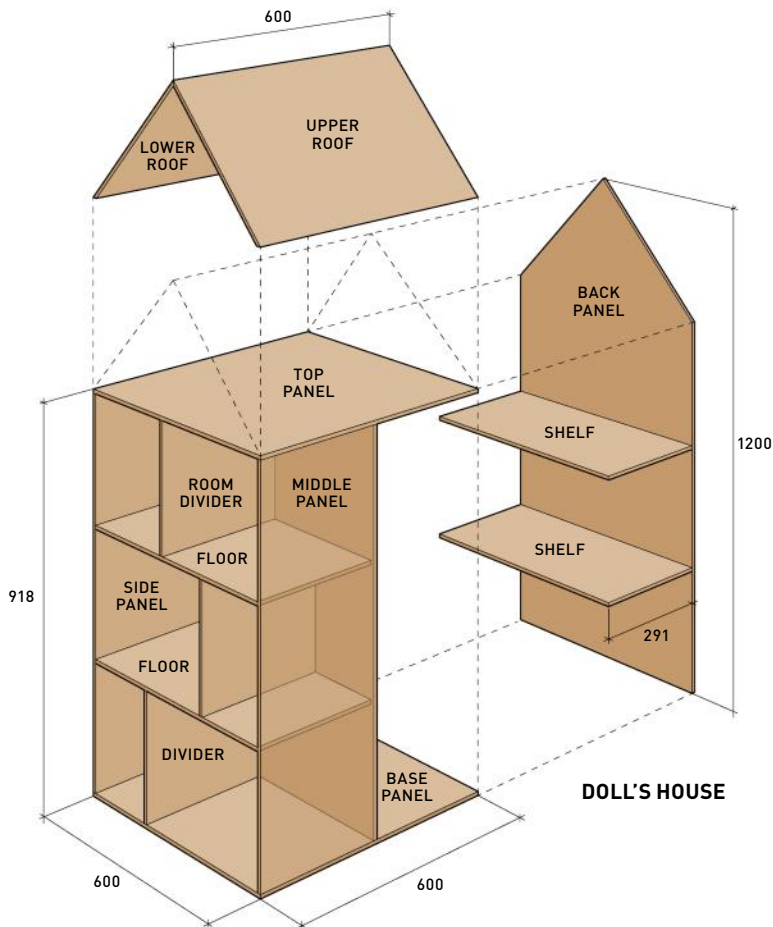


6 Add the roof

Apply adhesive along the sloped edges of the back panel. Attach the roof panels one at a time, securing them with adhesive and screws and butt-joining them along the ridge to create the roof. ➤

KIDS' FURNITURE

measurements in mm

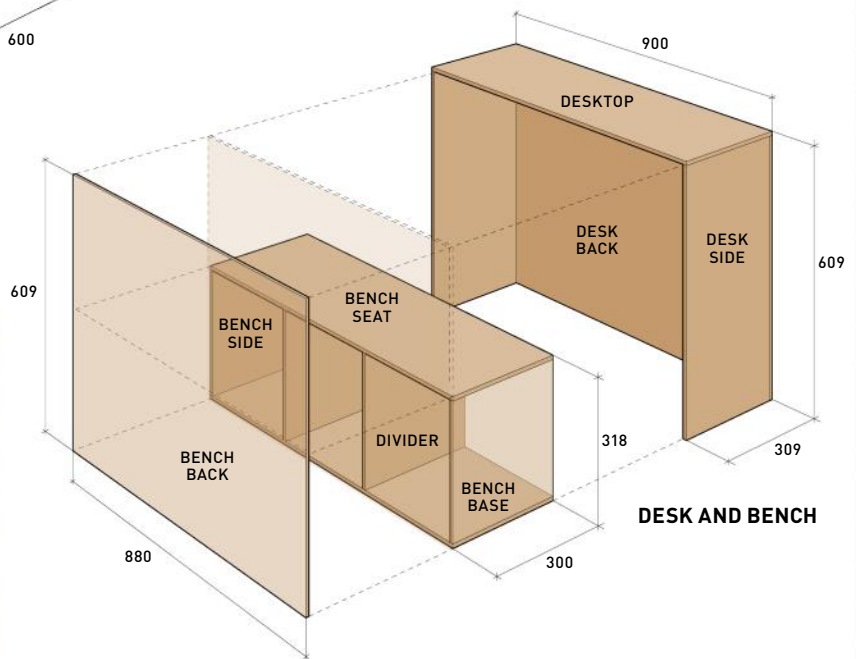


▼ DOLL'S HOUSE CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
MDF		
Top panel	600 x 591 x 9	1
Base panel	600 x 600 x 9	1
Side panels	900 x 300 x 9	2
Middle panel	900 x 600 x 9	1
Back panel	1200 x 600 x 9	1
Shelves	600 x 291 x 9	2
Floors	582 x 300 x 9	2
Dividers	300 x 294 x 9	3
Lower roof	600 x 424 x 9	1
Upper roof	600 x 433 x 9	1

DESK AND BENCH CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
MDF		
Desktop	900 x 309 x 9	1
Desk sides	600 x 300 x 9	2
Desk back	900 x 600 x 9	1
Bench seat	880 x 300 x 9	1
Bench sides	300 x 300 x 9	2
Bench back	880 x 609 x 9	1
Bench base	880 x 300 x 9	1
Dividers	300 x 300 x 9	2





Be a Quell kid and help Captain Quell spread the message of fire safety.

Captain Quell has some great advice for families to help protect your home and family.

www.quell.com.au



★ READERS' DIY

Kids' stuff



ABOVE The girls are delighted with the unique home Dad made for their Lego.



Shaun's play centre

Keeping Lego pieces all in one place and out of the way of bare feet is the eternal challenge. But Shaun Primmer found a way.

'I built this stand for my two girls. I found an old bookshelf and a table on the street in council clean-up week,' says Shaun.

'I cut the table legs to child height, then cut the bookshelf in half. I used the leftovers to make the box frame, which is attached at the base, to hold all the pieces.

'The girls picked out their favourite Lego colours and I had them matched at Bunnings, then I painted the whole stand.

'I painted the logo freehand, then applied a clear varnish all over to prevent scratches.'

David added a downlight in the top to display the girls' creations.

WIN \$300

Send us photos of your DIY project for your chance to win \$300 and have it published in *Australian Handyman*. Take high-resolution before and after photos, plus one of yourself, then submit them online at handyman.net.au/win.



David's display case

When a collection shows no sign of slowing down, a specific storage solution can save everyone's sanity, and look great, too.

David Rust tackled his son's heap of Hot Wheels and created a feature fix that makes the best use of the space available.

'Like many kids, my son has more cars than he knows what to do with. And, tired of finding them everywhere, I needed a place to store them,' says David.

'I saved myself a cutting job by using a 900 x 1200mm MDF sheet, then gluing and nailing pine rails to it at even intervals. I sprayed it red and bought a logo decal online for the finishing touch.'

The profile is thin enough to sit behind most bedroom doors, which is generally a dead space.



David's son shows off his cars in his cool display case.



Rob's baby sleeper

When Rob Middenway learned he was to become a grandad, he solved a space and sleep issue in one.

'Our son and his wife are expecting their first baby and have limited space in their flat,' he says.

'They asked if I could make a bed for the baby that butts up against the parents' bed to eliminate the need to get up in the night for a feed. These beds come in lots of different designs and can cost upwards of \$400.'

No screws, glue or hinges were used to build the plywood bed. Instead, small holes were drilled in the sides and back and they were then joined using red rope.

The ply was sanded smooth and painted with a clear varnish.

'To finish, I'll attach padding to the top, back and sides with Velcro. And I'll use straps to secure the baby sleeper to the bed so it doesn't move about,' says Rob.



When the baby is older, the bed can be used as a desk simply by removing the mattress

Q Find it at Bunnings

What's new

Pick up the latest products for the home and garden instore



Water while you're away with the Holman Bluetooth Smart Tap Timer, \$99.



Remove wrinkles from clothes with the help of the Sabco Compact Roll Ironing Mat, \$13.95.



Install the low-profile Deta Five-Outlet Powerpoint, \$49.95, to plug in all your tech at once.

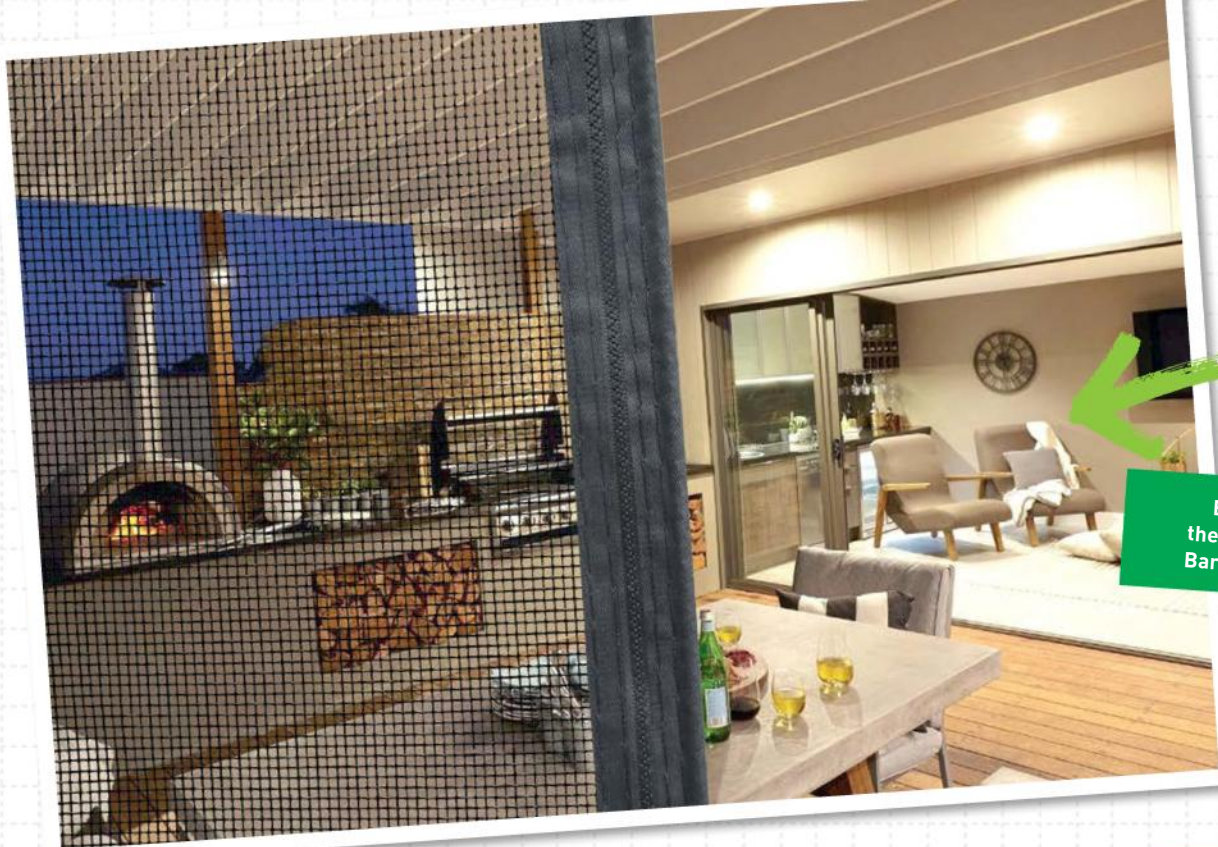


Clean dust and dirt from floors fast with the Oates Spin 'n' Go Mop, \$32.95.

Deal with dog poo from a distance with the Stand Up Pet Clean Up Set, \$9.98.



Strap in to stay safe with the Bailey Roof Workers Entry Level Fall Protection Kit, \$199.



Block insects with the easy-to-install Bug Barrier Flyscreen, \$89.

Loosen rusted parts with Selleys RP7 Lubricant, from \$4.49, available in three sizes with two including a no loss straw.



Brighten a balcony with the Fiesta Planter, \$19 each, available in three colours.



- ① Fiskars IsoCore 450g Claw Hammer, \$54.98.
- ② Fiskars IsoCore 560g Claw Hammer, \$59.98.
- ③ Fiskars IsoCore 624g Framing Hammer, \$64.98.
- ④ Fiskars IsoCore 1.35kg Club Hammer, \$49.

Find it at Bunnings

Summer staples

Head instore to pick up these garden and DIY essentials

PAINT



Cover up wear and tear with a coat of Dulux Weathershield, \$79.90 for 6L.



Fix faded decking and garden furniture with UV-resistant Cabot's Aquadeck, \$70.90 for 4L.



Protect internal walls with Dulux Wash & Wear, \$81.90 for 6L.



Refresh the finish on worn walls with Taubmans EasyCoat Anti-Bacterial, \$56 for 6L.



Paint and prime your home with British Paints 4 Seasons Exterior Paint, \$61 for 6L.

GARDEN



Grow veg with Organic Garden Co. Raised 200 x 100 x 41cm Garden Bed, \$99, available in Paperbark, Karaka and Pale Eucalypt.



Hide the hose out of the way with the Holman 15m Wall Mount Hose Reel, \$29.



Feed vegies and flowers with Seasol Ready To Use Garden Fertiliser, \$9 for 3L.

OUTDOOR



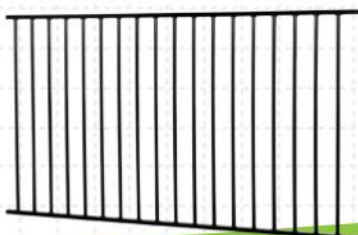
Water the garden with the easy to use Pope 12mm x 15m Bunyip Fitted Garden Hose, \$11.



Get rid of grime with a Gerni High Pressure Cleaner, \$199.



Cut grass quickly with the Victa Four-Stroke 18" Lawn Mower, \$399.



Replace rotted timber with Protector Aluminium 180 x 90cm Fence Panels, \$29 each.



Tidy the yard with the Ozito 18V Blower and Hedge Trimmer Kit, \$199.



Get extra height for jobs around the house with a Bailey 1.2m Step Ladder, \$89.

DIY



Cool off under the clever Arlec Ceiling Fan with Light and Remote, \$169.



Block bright lights with the Coolaroo Outdoor 240 x 210cm Roller Blind, \$94.



Set screws in place with the Ryobi One+ 18V Lithium-ion Drill Driver Kit, \$129.



Beat the heat with the help of Knauf Earth Wool 1160 x 430 x 175mm Insulation Batts, from \$66 for 21.



Tackle any task with a Bosch 18V Lithium-ion Three-piece Cordless Kit, \$199, including batteries.



Fill gaps easily with flexible Polyfilla Gap Filler Triple Pack, \$9.27.

Sustainable living

Adopt a few fixes in the home and garden to be more environmentally aware and to save money

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

This award-winning garden proves that thinking sustainably can produce beautiful results.

One of the most widely used yet perhaps most misunderstood buzzwords of the last few years has been sustainability.

Many services or products have made often tenuous claims to be sustainable, just as happened with the much misused term organic.

The main problem seems to be that sustainability is a slippery beast to define, as it tends to mean very different things to different people in different situations.

When most people think of sustainability, their minds jump to

environmental issues, but the fact is that true sustainability encompasses far more than just a single area.

The experts say that for a house or garden to be genuinely sustainable, it needs to tick three boxes, financial, social and environmental.

That is, it should help save money, improve the space in a particular way and lessen the wider impact of the household on the environment.

While that may seem confusing, living sustainably is actually pretty straightforward. Here are a few easy ways to go about it. ➤



ADAM'S PICKS

Eco Organic Slasher Weedkiller, \$30 for 1L.
ecoorganicgarden.com.au



Philips 9W BC A Shape LED Globe, \$10.
philips.com.au



Glitz Green Cleaning Vinegar, \$6 for 2L.
cleanwithglitz.com.au



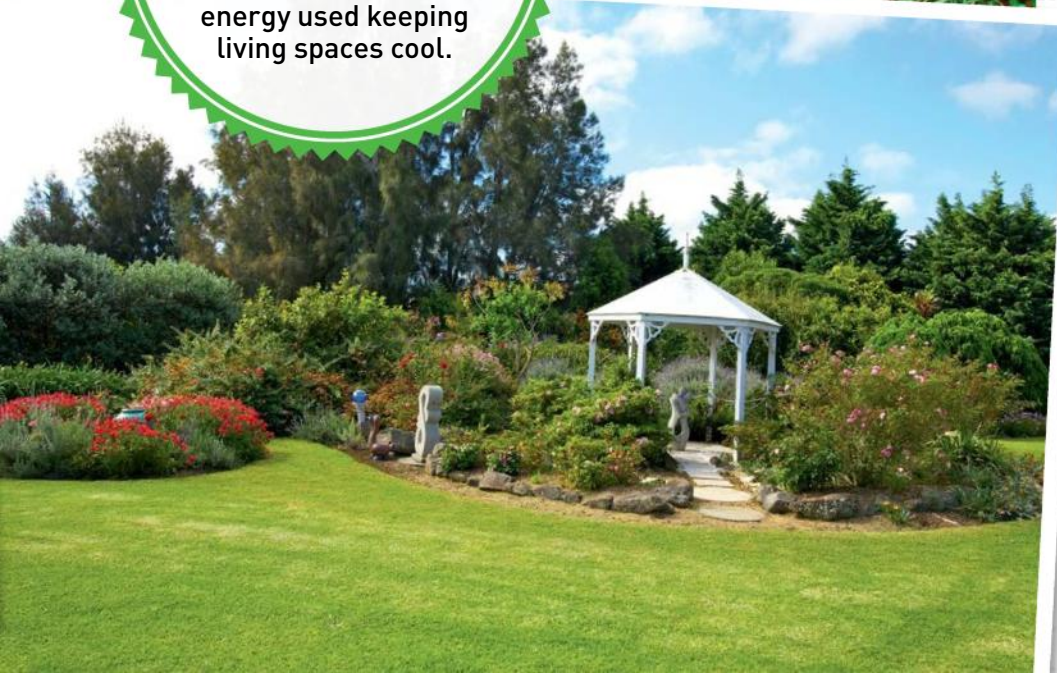
Scotts Osmocote Total All Purpose Fertiliser, \$9 for 500g.
scottsaustalia.com.au



Gardena MaxControl Electronic Tap Timer, \$99.
gardena.com.au

GROW TIP

Plant the backyard with bushy trees and shrubs that help shade the house to reduce the energy used keeping living spaces cool.



MAKING SUSTAINABLE CHANGES

Our generation is rediscovering many actions and activities that used to be standard household practice.

Taking sustainable steps is like creating a mosaic. Each one makes its own small impact, but it's when you start joining them all together that the effectiveness becomes much greater.

How big you make your sustainable picture is up to you, but remember, like a mosaic, every little part counts.

Here are a few ways to get you started in the home and garden.



Living sustainably is easier than you may think, and every single change makes a difference

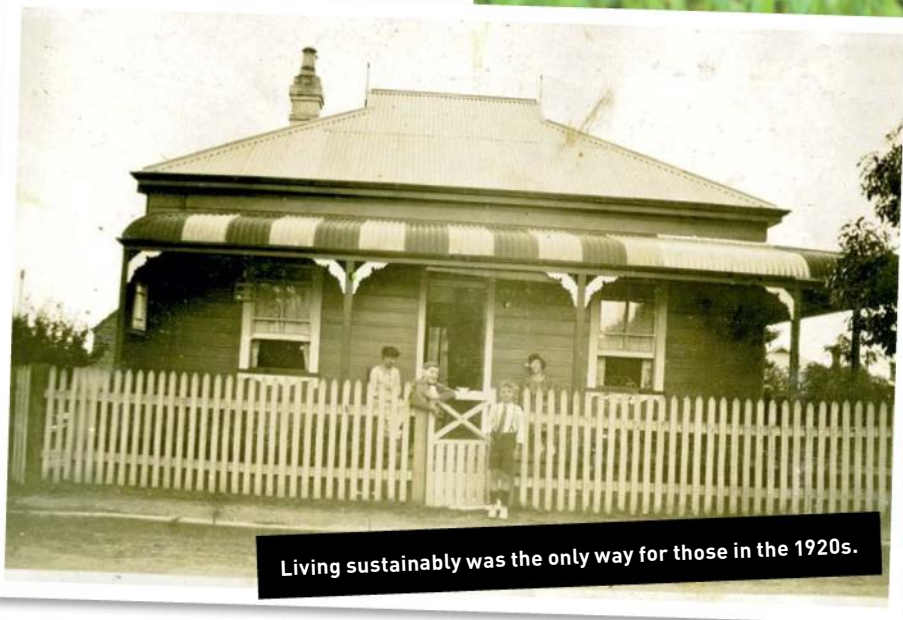


Traditional practices

Here are a few practices that were part of everyday life in a 1940s Australian home.

- **COMPOSTING** kitchen and garden scraps was essential.
- **CHOOKS** roamed free, picking grubs off plants, taking care of weeds with their pecking and scratching, and laying eggs.

- **MANURE** and waste bedding from the henhouse went into compost.
- **VEGIES** were always planted in succession to provide a rolling crop.
- **FRUIT** trees provided fruit for eating, as well as summer shade.
- **SHARING** was the norm. Families who had different fruit and vegies would swap what they produced.



Living sustainably was the only way for those in the 1920s.



Waste not, want not

Up until the 1950s, waste, which is in many ways the opposite of sustainability, was virtually non-existent.

Glass was collected, while tin and other materials were re-used.

Rainwater was harvested and used for doing the laundry, then poured on the garden.

This was all done for purely pragmatic reasons such as to save money and put food on the table.

AROUND THE HOME

Light saver

Rising energy costs have left many homes feeling the pinch, and they seem set to continue the same way.

A simple but effective way to help reduce your power bill is to change how you light your home.

Using LED lights and keeping power-hungry fittings such as lights and heaters on a timer will all help.

With easy-to-use switch panels, the Envirotouch Energy Timer range, from \$69, will help you conserve power use (envirotouch.com.au).

These energy-saving timer systems, which can be easily retrofitted, are suitable for use with lights, heated towel rails, fans, heaters and other small appliances.



Green clean

Many household cleaners can be harsh on you and the environment, so consider switching to more environmentally friendly options. Here are a few ideas.

➤ **SCRUB** mouldy bathroom surfaces and kitchen benchtops with bicarb soda made into a thick paste.

➤ **CLEAN** toilets by pouring in a cup of vinegar and leaving it to stand

overnight. The next morning, add half a cup of bicarb soda and scrub.

➤ **UNBLOCK** sinks by pouring down a quarter of a cup of bicarb soda, followed by four tablespoons of vinegar, then flush with boiling water once the fizzing stops.

➤ **USE** a cloth well dampened with vinegar to clean stainless steel. Rinse thoroughly, then dry.



Going solar

With recent advances, a domestic solar electricity generation system can now reduce external electricity consumption to near zero when a battery storage array is added to the system.

The Rainbow Power Company designs customised solar power systems that can be simply wired in by an electrician (rpc.com.au).

A Value Off-Grid System, starting at \$16,459, includes up to eight 260W solar panels, a 24V battery bank and a wall-mounted distribution board.



Panel pack

With solar energy becoming increasingly cost-effective, it is more common for panels to be installed at domestic properties.

Australian company Grand Solar offers a range of premium, inexpensive solar-electric packages (grandsolar.com.au).

A Single Phase Package, from \$6990, includes 17 Trina 290W solar panels, which have a module efficiency of more than 17%, and an SMA inverter. Installation is also included. ➤

IN THE GARDEN

A fully sustainable garden will in many ways look after itself without time or energy being wasted improving or correcting it. Here's how you can achieve this through mulching, fertilising and watering.



Fine fertiliser

Traditional fertilisers tended to dump a huge load of nutrients into the soil in the hope that plants would grab what they needed as it flushed through.

This can lead to all kinds of problems as excess nutrients run onto land and into waterways. The garden soil can become acidified and heavy metals can even build up in the soil.

So when you fertilise, use only a quality controlled-release or slow-release product and apply it at the recommended rates.

Mulch better

A great money saver, mulch helps reduce spending on water bills, as it cuts down water wastage.

It also improves the look of your home and garden, gives you more time to enjoy the garden, reduces risks of exposure to chemicals that

may otherwise be needed, and keeps away allergy-causing weeds.

Added to this, mulch goes some way to improving the soil, reducing fertiliser, chemical and weedkiller use, and decreasing the amount of maintenance needed in the garden.



Pine bark mulch will add nutrients to the soil as it breaks down.

 Get organic gardening ideas
Visit [pinterest.com/diy-handyman](https://www.pinterest.com/diy-handyman)



Targeting plants and their roots will help save water.

Water well

Efficient and effective watering will save you time and money and give you a more beautiful garden, all while helping to conserve one of our most vital resources.

Try these easy ways to improve your water usage.

➤ **WATER** when it's cool, particularly early in the morning. This reduces water loss through evaporation and can prevent a range of diseases that are caused by increased humidity.

➤ **TARGET** where you water instead of doing the full garden. Only water the plants and around their root zone.

➤ **USE** a trigger nozzle or hose fitting with a built-in tap to stop the water flow between plants or garden beds.

➤ **CONNECT** a programmable water computer to irrigation systems and a mechanical tap timer to hoses.

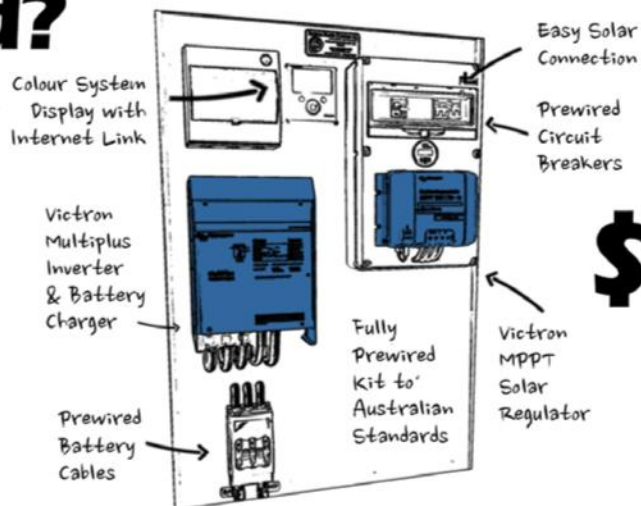
➤ **INSTALL** a drip-irrigation system. The long-term benefits to your garden are enormous. ➤



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CLIMATE CONTROL

On average, 40% of electricity used in any household goes towards keeping the temperature level, making it a costly and unsustainable pursuit.

Much of this problem is down to poor design, with open-plan spaces proving particularly inefficient for heating and cooling, as so much energy is wasted adjusting the temperature.



Passive cooling

Good for the environment and kind on the budget, passive cooling is undoubtedly the most sustainable way of keeping the temperature steady and comfortable in a household.

Methods for passive cooling include installing insulation, fitting a whirlybird on the roof and using outdoor blinds to block out UV rays from sunlight.

The only costs involved are purchasing and installing the items and materials. After that, passive cooling will happen by itself, saving energy and money.



Acting as a filter for harsh sunlight, the Coolaroo Montecito Outdoor Roller Blind with Pelmet, \$99, blocks about 90% of all UV rays (coolaroo.com).



Preventing built-up roof heat invading living areas, Earthwool Ceiling Insulation Batts, \$88 for 18, provide a passive cooling solution (knaufinsulation.com.au).



A traditional whirlybird, the CSR Edmonds Monument SupaVent Turbine Ventilator, \$138, helps remove the excess hot air from roof cavities (edmonds.com.au).



Designed to cover most major ceiling exhaust fans, the DraftStoppa, \$35, will open when the fan is on and close when it is switched off (draftstoppa.com.au).



Simple to install DIY, Dynabreeze Filtamat, \$30, is an effective replacement filter material for most air-conditioning systems (tradewaregroup.com.au).





Active cooling

Sometimes a more immediate solution is called for to beat the heat. That's when it's time to invest in an active cooling solution.

This could mean anything from setting up a ceiling or pedestal fan to installing an air-conditioning system.

When you take this path, shop sustainably and consider the energy star rating of the product, selecting the best you can afford.



Multiple speed settings, a timer option and a remote control make the Moretti 40cm Pedestal Fan, \$60, a great option for warm living areas (bunnings.com.au).



With a built-in Bluetooth speaker that allows you to stream music, the Arlec Black Rinzler Ceiling Fan, \$499, is the ideal choice for entertaining (arlec.com.au).



Fully remote controllable, the Mercator Black Three-blade Avia 120cm Ceiling Fan, \$410, has a stunning designer look and a useful in-built LED light (mercator.com.au).



The Mitsubishi Heavy Industries 2.5kw Reverse Split Air Conditioner, \$815, has a 4-4.5 star energy rating and an easy-to-use remote control (mhiaa.com.au). ☑



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MAKE USE *OF* WASTE WATER

Install a storage system at your place to harvest rainwater and reduce your environmental impact

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Australia is the driest inhabited continent on the planet, making water our most valuable and indispensable natural resource.

But modern homes are often designed without water conservation in mind. Stormwater is treated as something to be disposed of, even while gardens go thirsty in dry periods.

Thankfully, there have been gradual changes in the last decade as interest in conserving waste water has grown, so there's no better time to start saving, storing and using rainwater than now.



Why collect rainwater?

As the market for saving rainwater has grown, the cost of tanks and other equipment has fallen, making it more affordable to collect and re-use water.

There are many benefits to harvesting rainwater.

- + **REDUCE** your consumption of household mains water.
- + **LOWER** your water bill.
- + **WASH** cars, caravans and boats.
- + **PROVIDE** water for the garden and your irrigation system.
- + **SUPPLY** the washing machine and refill toilet cisterns.
- + **TOP UP** the swimming pool.



Adam

EXPERT SECRETS

Check your roof materials before deciding to harvest rainwater, as certain tiles can leach harmful chemicals and minerals.

ABOVE Harvested rainwater can be put to good use in the garden.

RIGHT Use plants to turn a rainwater tank into a feature.



Tank types

There are a number of options when it comes to storing the water you save, as tanks are made in a range of materials and come in different shapes and sizes.

Here is a rundown of the most common tanks available.

+ **METAL TANKS** come in a variety of sizes and, while traditionally seen in rural settings, are often now used in urban areas. They are usually installed on a metal frame or concrete slab.

+ **POLYETHYLENE TANKS** are lighter and more slimline than metal options. They are also immune to rust and modern tanks are often UV resistant.

+ **CONCRETE TANKS** are usually built on location, meaning they can be installed beneath the ground when building a new house.

+ **BLADDERS** are puncture-resistant, flexible PVC containers, often installed in the subfloor of a house. ➤



HARVEST CALCULATOR

All you need to know to get an idea of how much water you can capture is the approximate measurement of your roof in square metres and the average rainfall that occurs in your area.

Once you know this, the formula is as simple as $1 \times 1 \times 1$. That is, 1mm of rainwater falling on a 1sqm roof results in 1L of water.

So 1000mm of annual rainfall x 150sqm of roof area equals 150,000L of water saved. But as no roof plumbing works perfectly, reduce this estimate by 10% to allow for the rainwater that doesn't make it into your downpipes.



A 5000L rain tank will weigh over five tonnes when full



How does it work?

A rainwater harvesting system makes use of your existing guttering and downpipes, or it can be integrated into the roof plumbing in a newly built home.

Water is diverted to a tank where it is stored for later use. An overflow connects your tank to the stormwater or a dispersal system to prevent overspill when maximum capacity is reached.

A demand pump, which turns on when a tap is opened, is often connected to the tank to provide a normal level of water pressure to the connected taps.

Downpours will provide plenty of excess water to save and re-use.

H Install drip-line irrigation

Visit handyman.net.au/irrigation

System options

The way a tank is connected to your downpipes can vary with your block, the set-up of your downpipes and also whether it is an installation on a new dwelling rather than a retrofit.

➤ **DRY SYSTEM** Most often used in retrofitted set-ups, the pipes in a dry system run into the top of the tank directly from the downpipes, draining water until they run dry.

➤ **WET SYSTEM** The pipes in a wet system will run low, generally below ground, before rising up to the tank input. The lowest parts of the system

will remain full. When the downpipes fill, this pushes the water along.

➤ **TRANSFER SYSTEM** Popular for commercial situations, a transfer system collects water in a pit or sump underground before a transfer pump is used to move the water to the tank.

The big advantage of this system is that the tank can be uphill and a fair distance from the collection point.

On the downside, it can require a significant amount of engineering and may need expensive high-volume transfer pumps to be installed. ➤



EasyDRAIN™ Compact

Channel & Grate by Everhard

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EasyDRAIN™ Compact Black Polymer Channel with Black Polymer Heel Friendly Grate



1m Channel & Grate



Corner Channel & Grate

EasyDRAIN™ Compact Black Polymer Channel with Pressed Galvanised Steel Grate



1m Channel & Grate



Corner Channel & Grate

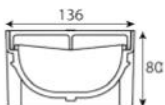
Components



End Cap



Leaf Dome



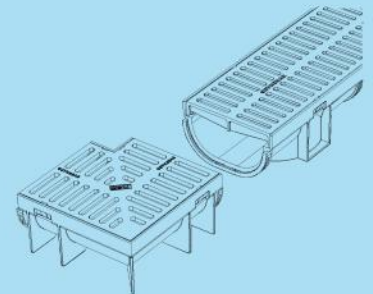
- ✓ Suitable for use across domestic driveways
- ✓ Connects to 75mm, 90mm & 100mm PVC pipe
- ✓ Additional components include the corner piece, end cap & leaf dome

Please note: Flat upper surface of metal grates may show signs of slight indentation over time if used in a driveway. Galvanised metal grates are not suitable around swimming pools or environments affected by salt water.

STEP 1: PREPARE

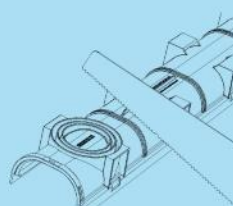
- ▶ Dig a trench that is 50mm deeper and wider than the Channel being installed (use a string line to ensure your trench is straight)
- ▶ Place compacted bedding sand or concrete slurry in the base of the trench
- ▶ Ensure the grate is securely attached to each Channel length

- ▶ To connect to PVC pipe, cut an outlet in the base of the Channel as required



STEP 2: INSTALL

- ▶ Lay the Channel in the trench, connecting each length as necessary, ensuring the joints 'click' together
- ▶ If required, use a saw to cut the Channel to the desired length
- ▶ Connect an End Cap to each Channel end and seal with silicone



STEP 3: FINISH

- ▶ Place a suitable expansion material along the top edge of the Channel
- ▶ Pour concrete around each side of the Channel, ensuring the base is completely immersed
- ▶ Lightly compact and finish the concrete slightly above the surface level of the grate (approx. 2-3mm) to promote run off from the surrounding area into the drain



TANKS

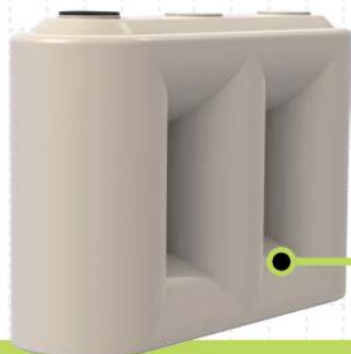
From the smallest 50-100L to large 15,000L storage systems, the range of available water tanks is huge.

When selecting the tank, plan for your possible future demands in water use, and consider the fact that a tank should have the surplus capacity to catch a big downpour.

Also bear in mind that for every 1000L of water you store, you'll need one cubic metre of space, and a surface that can support one tonne without collapsing, subsiding or cracking.



For those short on space who still want to harvest water, the Maze 100L Rainwater Mini Tank, \$69, is ideal for courtyard gardens (mazeproducts.com.au).



Offering plenty of storage capacity, the Clark Tanks 5000L Merino Slimline Tank, \$1695, is big enough to be connected to washing machines and toilets.



A versatile option for small spaces, the Maze 120L Water Storage Trolley, \$65, can be filled with a downpipe diverter and then wheeled to where you want to water.



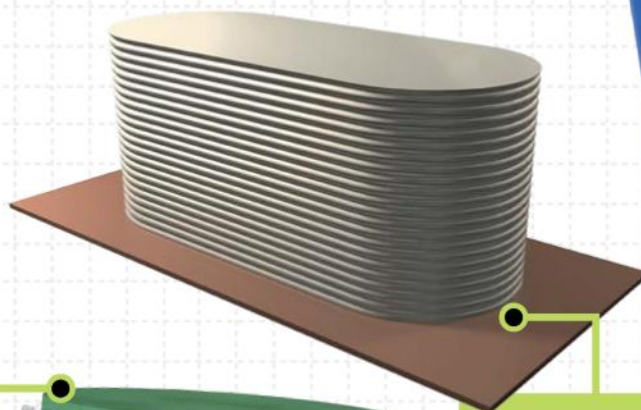
Sturdy and sizeable, the Clark Tanks 2000L Merino Round Poly Tank, \$656, comes in a range of colours to blend into different landscapes (clarktanks.com.au).



With an award-winning design, the GreenCo Water 1000L Pak Flat DIY Water Tank, \$369, takes only about 10 minutes to set up (greencowater.com).



Made of corrugated steel, Tankworks 4000L Paperback Steel Tank, \$1927, is ideal for a modern home. This model will fit under the eaves. (kingspanwater.com.au).



SCREENS

Screens are vitally important to prevent debris, from leaves to wildlife, entering your storage system.

Often described as pre-treatment devices, they should all be constructed of drinking water standard materials.

These tank screen systems should also include a fine gutter guard, downpipe head leaf catchers, tank inlet screens and an overflow pipe flap valve or fixed screen.



Using a super-fine filter, the Icon 300mm Leaf and Debris Control Rain Head, \$38, keeps out everything, from leaves to insects (iconplastics.com.au).



Good for all roof types, the Blue Mountain Mesh 2mm Corro Steel Gutter Guard, \$25 per lineal metre, will block out most debris (bluemountainmesh.com.au).



Preventing leaves, debris, animals and mosquitoes entering, the Rain Harvesting 400mm Tank Screen, \$13, can be easily fitted (rainharvesting.com.au).



FILTERS

Even if the environment seems pristine, there is still the risk of contamination of tank water, so filtration is not just recommended, but in fact insisted upon by many councils or health departments.

You can set up a filtration system that requires an individual filter to be installed for each drinking water point, although these are only really suitable for smaller applications.

The alternative is a whole-house system that will ensure every tap provides safe, clean drinking water.

It is also necessary to install a drinking-water-safe pump to ensure a constant flow to taps in your home.



For extensive filtration that will ensure quality water from all taps, the Stefani Whole House Filter System, \$209, can be installed by a plumber (stefani.com.au).

Designed to be installed just after the pump to improve water clarity, the Rain Harvesting Filter, \$99, will make water suitable for use in toilets and the laundry.



While not a filter, the Ozito Drinking Water Constant Pressure Pump, \$269, is safe to use with drinking water and will provide an even flow to taps (ozito.com.au).



INSTALL SOLAR LIGHTING

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Placing lights up the side of the path improves safety at night.



A great way to light the garden while avoiding electricity costs is to use solar-powered lighting.

These energy-saving lights can be easily assembled DIY and placed in the garden to illuminate the side of a path or walkway, making it safer in the dark.

You can install butterfly lights as well, which are also solar powered, to add a decorative look. Try to pick areas that are sheltered from strong winds.



The garden may need to be watered before you drive light stakes into the ground



Pathway lights

Remove the top of the light and pull out the safety tag that stops the battery from recharging.

Insert the support pole in the head of the light, then attach the stake to the base of the pole. Install the assembled light where you want it to go, making sure it is fully inserted in place.

Finally, peel off the sticker that covers the solar panel.



Butterfly lights

Insert the support pole in the base of the butterfly, then assemble the stake and attach it.

Flick the switch on the base of the solar panel so the battery will start charging.

Remove the sticker covering the solar panel, then firmly insert the stake in the ground. Make sure the light is secure and won't fall or be blown over.

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REPLACE A FLYSCREEN

Prevent insects invading your home by installing new mesh

WORDS LEE DASHIELL MAIN PICTURE GEOFF BECK

Pets, birds, kids and storms can all cause damage to flyscreens. And as soon as holes appear, insects can find their way into your home.

Ragged screens also make a house appear neglected, but it's an easy, inexpensive DIY job to replace the

mesh and the spline, which secures the mesh in the frame channel. And you only need simple hand tools.

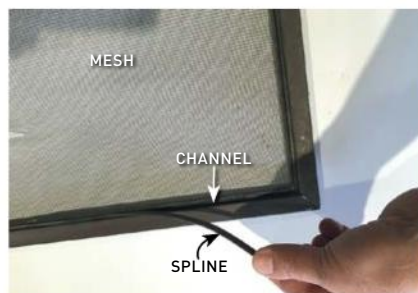
Mesh is available in fibreglass and aluminium. While the aluminium variety is sturdier, it is less flexible and more difficult to work with. Here, we used fibreglass for ease of installation.

Before

Fix any torn and tatty flyscreens to give your place an instant facelift

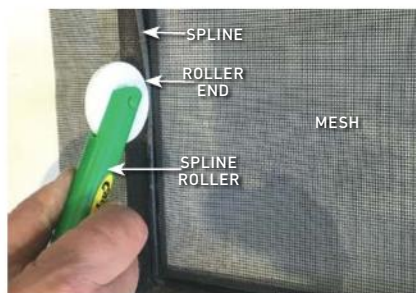
▶ Watch the video online
Visit handyman.net.au/flyscreen

1 2 3



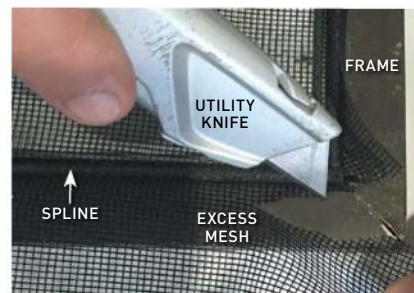
1 Remove the old mesh

Working on a flat and level surface, use a small screwdriver or letter opener to prise the spline out of the channel at one corner of the frame, then gently pull to remove the spline and mesh. Cut new mesh to size with a 50mm overhang.



2 Install new mesh

Lay the mesh evenly over the frame. Use the parrot-beak end of a spline roller to push in new spline at a corner, then push the remainder into the channel using the roller end. Complete one side, then pull the mesh tight as you complete the other three sides.



3 Cut the excess

Use a utility knife to trim the excess mesh. Cut the mesh at an angle at each corner of the frame, then carefully slide the knife along the sides of the frame close to the edge of the spline. Replace the flyscreen in the door or window frame.

After

The new flyscreen looks good and now keeps insects outdoors.

DIY TIP

Spline can be re-used if it's in good shape. If not, take a piece to the store when buying new spline, as it comes in various sizes.

LEE'S PICKS

Stanley FatMax Retractable Knife with Pouch, \$14.
stanleytools.com.au

Cyclone Plastic Spline Roller, \$6.
cyclone.com.au

Cyclone 1220mm x 2.05m Insect Guard Fibreglass Screen, about \$13.

Handyman

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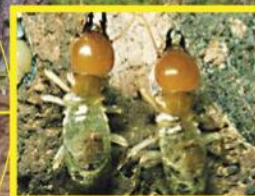
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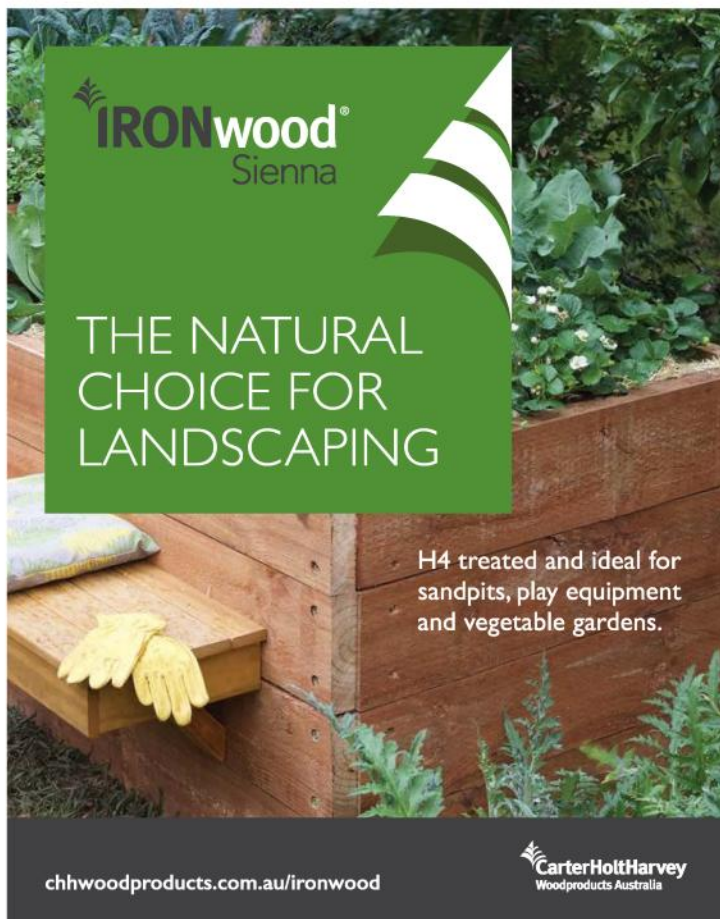
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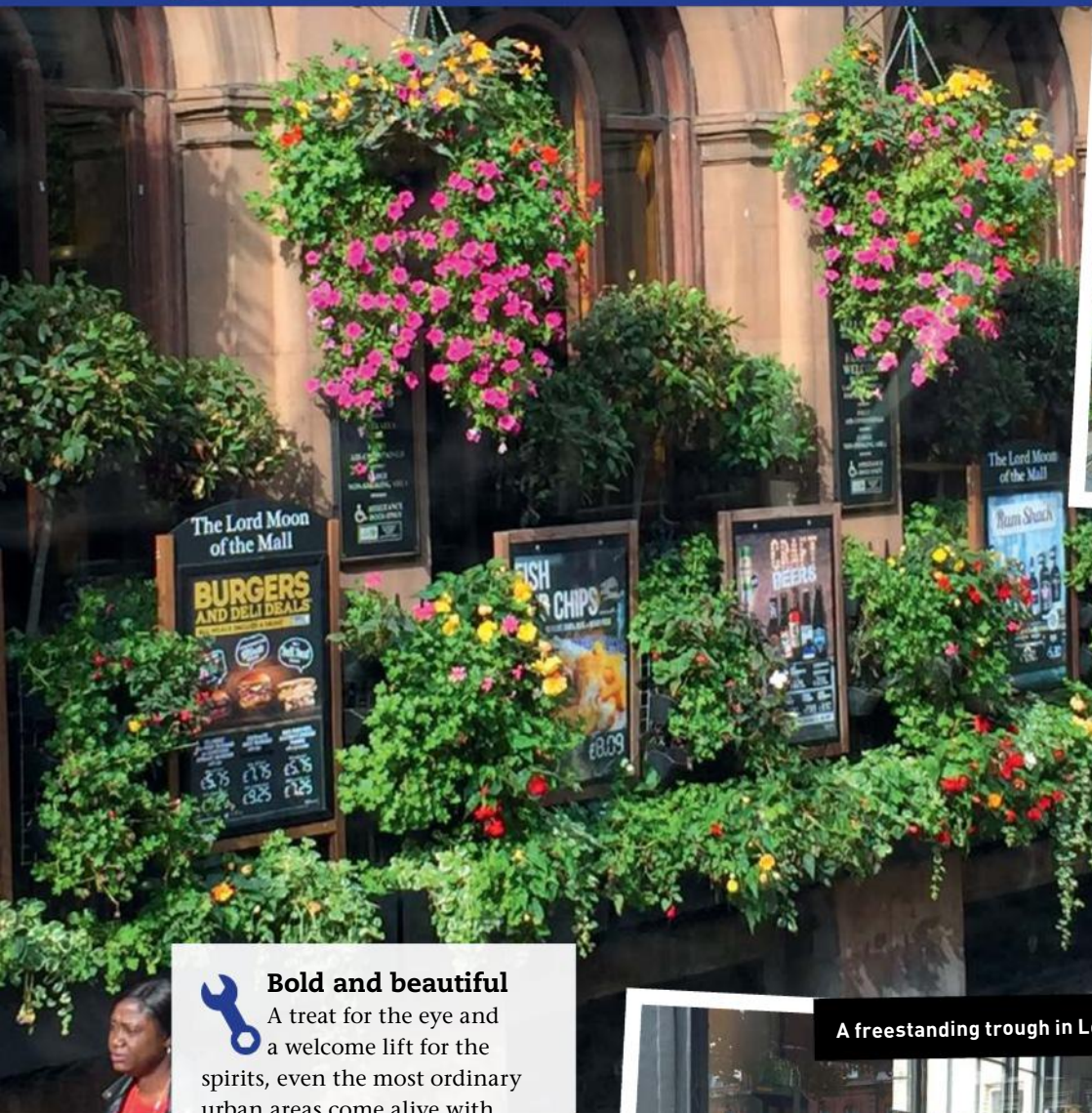
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SEE THE WORLD



European flower power



↑ Cascades of colour brighten London streets, especially on grey and rainy days.
 ↓ The dazzling mass plantings at this London pub are a welcoming sight. No shrinking violets here.



Bold and beautiful

A treat for the eye and a welcome lift for the spirits, even the most ordinary urban areas come alive with a display of flowers.

On the streets of London and Venice, hanging baskets and window boxes reign supreme.

The plants are often popular common varieties that are inexpensive, easy to find, flower heavily and for long periods, and are a breeze to maintain.

One of the most important aspects of these exuberant displays is the combination of colour (go crazy) and abundance (over-the-top masses). For once, more is definitely more.

A freestanding trough in London can be moved to catch the sun.





← This display of petunias on a thoroughfare in Venice thrives in full sun for many months of the year. Trailing plants, such as these, are particularly attractive.
 ↓ A flourishing window box softens the hard lines of the railings on this London street.



Fact check

In an urban environment, safety issues are paramount and, in the UK, councils have varying arrangements for installing and maintaining hanging baskets.

Westminster City Council, London, runs a sponsorship scheme and provides a list of approved contractors.

- ⊕ Summer baskets go up in May and come down towards the end of September/October, to be replaced by winter baskets.
- ⊕ There is one standard size of 550mm for a basket.
- ⊕ Good performers include sweet alyssum, begonia, petunia, geranium, jasmine, lobelia and ivy.
- ⊕ Bold colours predominate, such as reds, pinks and purples, with accents of white or yellow.



An arrangement of pots on a windowsill in Venice combines tropical and temperate plants, and the obligatory bright blooms.



This month

Plan ahead for the new season as summer draws to a close

Do now

- ✦ **ADD** vibrant blooming colour with pelargoniums, page 116.
- ✦ **GROW** low-maintenance waterwise plants in pots, page 120.
- ✦ **IDENTIFY** garden plants that have become weeds, page 126.

Flowers to sow

Plant these varieties now for blooms from early winter.

- ✦ **POLYANTHUS**
- ✦ **STRAWFLOWER**
- ✦ **WALLFLOWER**
- ✦ **VIOLA**
- ✦ **STOCK**

Strawflower



Vegies to grow

Add these plants to your patch for crops from eight weeks.

- ✦ **BEETROOT**
- ✦ **CABBAGE**
- ✦ **LETTUCE**
- ✦ **SILVERBEET**
- ✦ **TURNIP**

Beetroot



Escallonia 'Hedge with an Edge'

WHAT'S IN COLOUR

➤ **DWARF ESCALLONIA 'HEDGE WITH AN EDGE'** is an easy to grow shrub with glossy leaves that look good year-round. It spreads to 80cm and reaches 80cm high, and produces masses of gorgeous deep-pink blooms in summer.

Once established, it needs only occasional deep watering during long, hot periods. Give it a sunny position and feed with a slow-release fertiliser in early spring.

It grows well in large containers and is ideal for creating low borders and hedges, or trimming into ornamental shapes. If using as a small hedge, space about 50cm apart for the best effect.

Give Escallonia 'Hedge with an Edge' a light pruning after it has finished flowering to keep it tidy.

Information courtesy of Plants Management Australia (pma.com.au).

Water well



Improve the condition of your soil and make sure your plants are getting the water they need with Seasol Super Soil Wetter & Conditioner, \$20 for a hose-on 2L twin pack (seasol.com.au).

Fortified with Seasol and liquid compost, it increases water retention in all soils, saves water by minimising run-off, and also improves the intake of nutrients.

It's simple to apply using a hose or watering can.

To-do list

Prepare the garden for autumn with these late-summer jobs.

- ✓ **REPLACE** mulch that has been washed away.
- ✓ **KEEP** dahlias blooming by deadheading.
- ✓ **RE-POT** cyclamens with new potting mix and feed in temperate climates.
- ✓ **BUY** spring bulbs while there's still lots of choice.
- ✓ **SPRAY** roses to control pests and diseases.
- ✓ **LIFT** and divide lilies with yellowing leaves in tropical/subtropical areas.
- ✓ **PROTECT** cacti and other dry area plants from rain.
- ✓ **TREAT** moss in lawns using an iron sulphate solution and spike with a fork to aerate in temperate climates. ➤

TOP PICK

Add a touch of elegance to your outdoor entertaining area with the Tuscan Path Stone Art Collection, now available in a versatile white colour.

Suitable for outdoor or indoor use, the pots blend into white or neutral walls or contrast with greenery.

The modern stone composite planters are lightweight and have an intricate self-watering system with a reservoir, allowing plants to hydrate as they need.

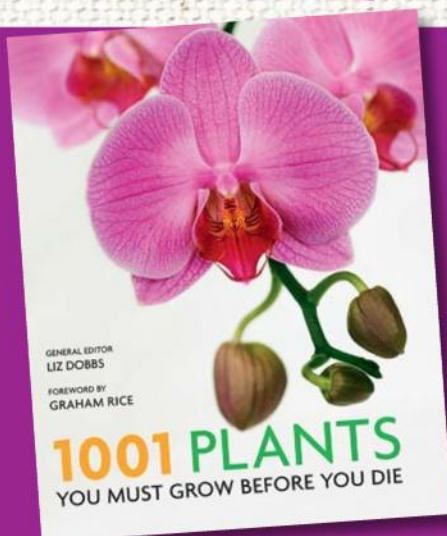


Tuscan Path Stone Art Collection, from \$22.
tuscanpath.com.au

BOOK CLUB

Whether you have a balcony or big backyard, *1001 Plants You Must Grow Before You Die*, edited by Liz Dobbs (Murdoch Books, \$50), is a must-have guide for novice and seasoned gardeners.

It will help you select the right plants and seeds for your needs when browsing in garden centres or searching online. There are also fabulous photos along with advice on the best growing conditions. ☺



Bougainvillea

Prune now

Get these plants into shape before autumn begins.

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Plant pelargoniums

Add a splash of colour to the late summer garden that will last for months

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



EXPERT SECRETS

Use the leaves of scented pelargoniums as a garnish, to add flavour to custards and fruit dishes or to make herbal teas.

The fabulous flowers, attractive foliage and hardy nature of pelargoniums place them among the top plants for growing in both sunny and semi-shaded spots.

Pelargoniums come in a great colour range, including red, orange, pink, lavender, white and even near black. In a number of species, the leaves are perfumed.

While they are often identified with the Mediterranean, most of the 250 species originate from South Africa, with a few coming from tropical Africa and the Middle East, and about 10 that are native to Australia.

Commonly called geraniums, pelargoniums are ideal for garden beds and groundcovers on sloping areas, and look wonderful cascading out of pots and hanging baskets.

THREE TYPES

There are three main pelargonium groups, zonal, ivy-leafed and regal, each of which has many different hybrids and cultivars.

➤ **ZONAL** These pelargoniums are loved for their heads of brightly coloured flowers that stand on upright stems above fabulous kidney-shaped green foliage. The leaves feature zones or circular bands of colour.

➤ **IVY-LEAFED** Sun-loving ivy-leafed pelargoniums have a semi-scrambling habit with eye-catching, fleshy leaves.

The flowers are often patterned with colours including white, pink, red and magenta. They're perfect for growing on trellises, cascading out of hanging baskets and window boxes or using as a groundcover on slopes.

➤ **REGAL** There are many different hybrids of regal pelargoniums in a variety of shades, from white to near black. The leaves have a serrated edge and are virtually hidden by masses of spectacular frilled flowers.

ABOVE With their trailing habit, ivy-leafed pelargoniums are ideal for hanging baskets. **RIGHT** Zonal types are distinguished by the striking bands of colour on their leaves.

DESIGN TIP

Team pelargoniums with potted rosemary, sage, lavender and a Meyer lemon tree to create a lush Mediterranean look.

SCENTED SPECIES

Scented-leafed pelargoniums are grown mainly for their fragrant leaves, which vary in shape and size, but their small flowers can also be showy.

Depending on the species, the leaves release a strong scent when touched, including aromas of apple, coconut, ginger, lemon, lime, nutmeg, peppermint and rose.

The majority of these hybrids form small shrubs, making them perfect for garden beds.

Grow them along paths, near walkways and in entertaining areas, where their perfumed leaves can be touched so you can enjoy the smell. ➤

The leaves of scented pelargoniums come in lots of fragrances.

GROW IN POTS

Pelargoniums love pot culture and look great tumbling from window boxes and hanging baskets.

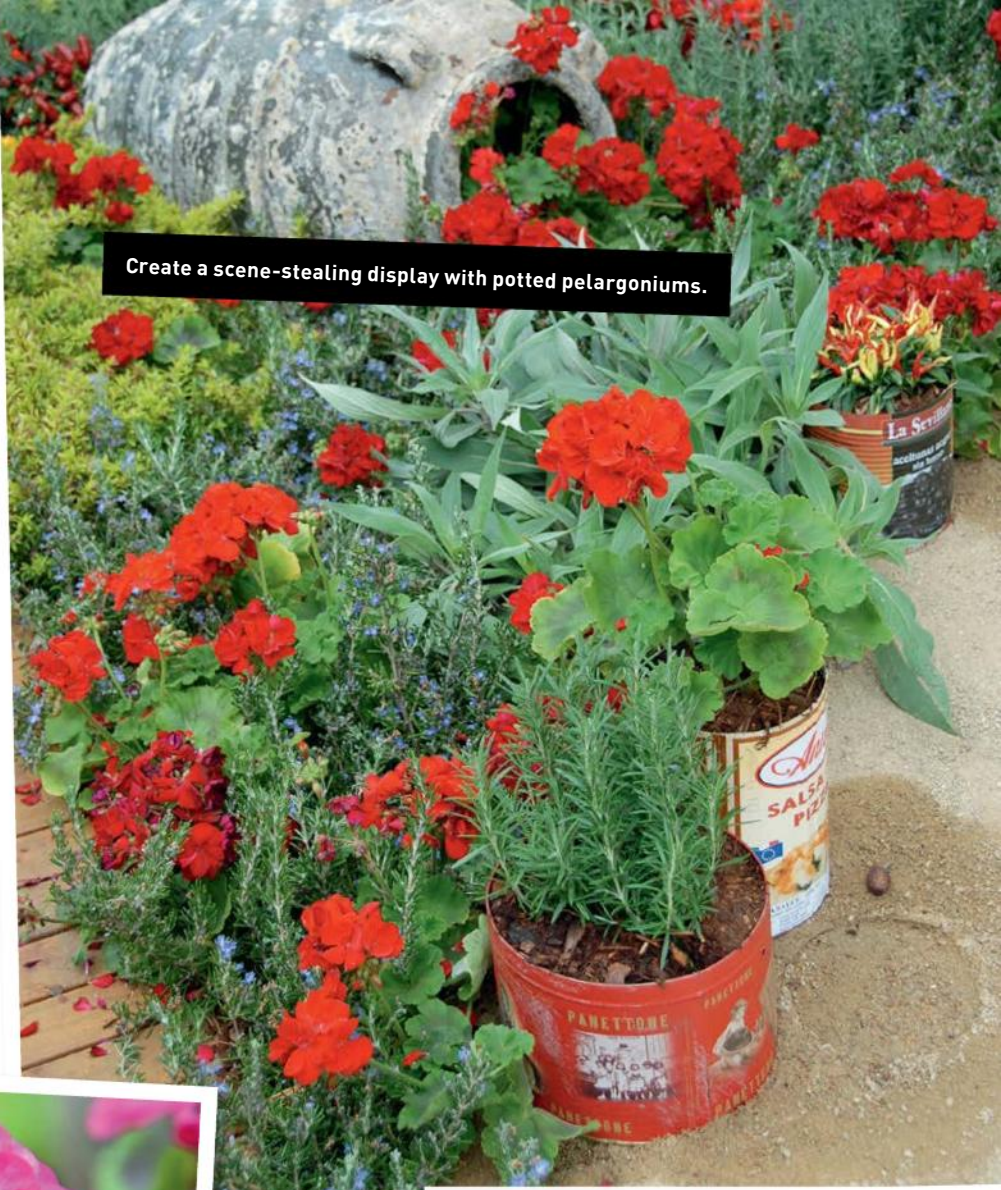
Or put containers filled with flowering pelargoniums on steps, around a courtyard or on a balcony.

➤ **POSITION** pots in a sunny spot that has shade from the hot afternoon sun. In cold climates, give the plants shelter from frost.

➤ **PLANT** in a premium potting mix that carries the Australian Standards ticks, which will contain sufficient food for a few months.

➤ **WATER** when the potting mix feels dry to the touch. Always water deeply, continuing until the water runs out of the drainage holes.

➤ **FEED** with a controlled-release fertiliser that will nourish the plants for three or six months. Or you can apply a complete soluble plant food every three weeks.



Create a scene-stealing display with potted pelargoniums.



Did you know?

Many people confuse pelargoniums with geraniums. They used to be called geraniums and are still commonly known as such. But the name was changed over a century ago, when it was recognised that the seed heads were different shapes. They are two different genera, both belonging to the Geraniaceae family.

GROW IN BEDS

In frost-free climates, pelargoniums are easy to grow in garden beds.

➤ **POSITION** in a spot that receives at least six hours of sun a day. While ivy-leaved pelargoniums can take full sun, most perform best if shaded from the hot afternoon sun.

➤ **PLANT** in free-draining soil, as pelargoniums don't like to have wet roots. Dig cow manure or compost into the soil before planting.

➤ **WATER** regularly in hot weather but wait until the soil is dry to the touch before watering again. During winter, water less frequently.

TIP These plants are more likely to die from overwatering than underwatering.

➤ **FEED** in spring with a six-month controlled-release fertiliser, or apply a soluble plant food for flowers monthly.



Keep in shape

Pruning is essential for healthy growth in all but ivy-leaved pelargoniums, which simply need the occasional tidying up.

In hot, humid climates, you can prune every three months, but in

other climates, prune in spring.

Cut back by a third to generate lots of new growth and tip-prune the new growth to keep the plants bushy.

Remove any finished flower stems to encourage more blooms.

TIP Use the prunings as cuttings.

WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

Leaves look pale

- ⚙ **CAUSE** Insufficient food.
- ⚙ **FIX IT** Feed every three weeks with a soluble plant food for flowers.

Small holes in buds

- ⚙ **CAUSE** Budworms are attacking the flower buds.
- ⚙ **FIX IT** Treat with Yates Nature's Way Derris Dust or Citrus & Ornamental Spray.

Lack of flowers

- ⚙ **CAUSE** The plant isn't getting enough light.
- ⚙ **FIX IT** Move the plant to a sunnier position.

Raised spots on leaves

- ⚙ **CAUSE** A fungal disease called rust results in raised yellow-orange spots on foliage.
- ⚙ **FIX IT** Spray with a fungicide. Air movement around plants helps prevent fungal diseases.

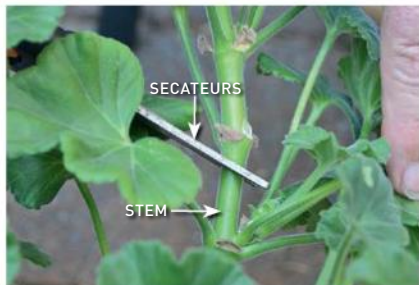
Holes in leaves

- ⚙ **CAUSE** Looper caterpillars feed on the underside of the leaves and cause a windowpane-like effect.
- ⚙ **FIX IT** Remove them by hand or use Derris Dust. 🐛



1 2

TAKE CUTTINGS It's very easy to grow pelargoniums from cuttings in propagating mix. You can also root the cuttings in a jar of water, if you like.



1 Take the cutting

Use secateurs to take a cutting from healthy new growth just below a node, leaving at least three nodes on the stem. Remove any flower buds and all the leaves except the upper ones.



2 Plant the cutting

Fill a small pot with propagating mix, then add the cutting. Put in a warm, shady spot and keep the mix moist. When roots form in about 5-6 weeks, re-pot in a larger pot, or plant in a bed.

WATERWISE WONDERS

Create a low-maintenance container garden with dry-tolerant plants that will look good all year

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Potted plants are fabulous decorating tools, and create opportunities to add flowers and greenery to any-sized outdoor space.

But if you don't want to spend a lot of time looking after plants, choose dry-tolerant or hardy varieties that won't mind if you forget the odd watering, and will look good all year round.

And there are beautiful waterwise plants that thrive in pots in shady or sunny areas.

So plant up a few pots to brighten up your backyard.



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Help them thrive

Follow these care tips to keep your potted plants in the best health.

➤ **USE** a premium potting mix that carries the Australian Standards ticks. These mixes meet strict standards for drainage, water retention, pH levels, and content of trace elements and minerals essential for growth.

This gives several months of growth before you need to add fertiliser.

➤ **CHOOSE** glazed pots, as unglazed ones lose moisture very quickly.

If you do use an unglazed pot, spray it with a sealer before planting, or use the unglazed container as a sleeve for a plastic pot.

➤ **MULCH** with sphagnum moss, sugar cane, pebbles or tumbled glass.

➤ **WATER** pots deeply. Don't just give them a quick sprinkle with the hose or a watering can. Keep up the water until it flows from the drainage holes.

On very hot days, it's best to water in the morning when it is cooler. ➤

Aspidistra elatior is ideal for low-light locations.

CHERYL'S PICKS



Bondall Pot & Ornament Sealer, \$15 for 300g. bondall.com



Scotts Pure Organic All Purpose Plant Food, \$16 for 4kg.



Scotts Osmocote Premium Potting Mix, \$15 for 50L. scottsaustralia.com.au



DIY TIP

Re-pot plants every three years even if the plant hasn't outgrown its pot, as the potting mix degenerates and needs renewing.

RIGHT Bromeliads bring a tropical touch to the garden. **BELOW** A bougainvillea looks striking growing against a wall.





TOP 10 WATERWISE PLANTS

Bambino Zulu



1 Bougainvillea
Plants in the Bambino Series of bougainvilleas have a shrubby habit and can be pruned to shape. In summer, you'll be rewarded with heaps of blooms.

✦ **POSITION** Sun.

✦ **GROW** Use a large pot. Don't overwater but never allow the mix to dry out. Feed in spring, summer and autumn with a three-month controlled-release fertiliser.

✦ **CLIMATE** These plants thrive in tropical and sub-tropical climates and, once established, will tolerate light frosts.

'Ghostly Princess'

2

Lavender

This plant is loved for its pretty scented foliage and heads of purple, blue, pink or white flowers. Newly released *Lavandula* 'Ghostly Princess' has striking silvery grey foliage.

➤ **POSITION** Sun.

➤ **GROW** Prune finished flowers to keep it compact and bushy.

Water regularly and apply blood and bone lightly after flowering, or use a three-month controlled-release fertiliser.

➤ **CLIMATE** It does best in cool or temperate climates.



3

Agave

A hardy succulent, *Agave attenuata* features a rosette of bluish green leaves that form a sculptural shape.

It's ideal for rooftop gardens and windy balconies.

➤ **POSITION** Sun.

➤ **GROW** Plant in a large pot.

Don't overwater during winter and feed in spring with a three-month controlled-release fertiliser.

➤ **CLIMATE** It grows well in all but frosty areas, unless protected.

4

Aspidistra

The common name of *Aspidistra elatior* is cast iron plant, which says it all, as far as hardiness goes. The broad dark-green, strap-like leaves of this evergreen look good all year.

➤ **POSITION** Shade.

➤ **GROW** It can be grown indoors or out. Water when the top of the mix feels dry and feed in spring and summer with a soluble plant food. Guard from snails and slugs.

➤ **CLIMATE** When grown outdoors in cold regions, this plant will need protection from frost.



5

Bromeliad

These waterwise plants provide a variety of foliage shape and colour all year.

➤ **POSITION** Most bromeliads prefer a spot that gets morning sun and afternoon shade.

➤ **GROW** They must have good drainage, so use half orchid mix and half potting mix.

Water when the top of the mix feels dry and feed with a soluble plant food in spring and summer.

➤ **CLIMATE** They grow in most areas of Australia, but protect from frost in cold climates. ➤

6

Yucca

Also called spineless or giant yucca, *Yucca elephantipes* is ideal for pots. It is a great accent plant for gardens with a Mediterranean look.

➤ **POSITION** Sun or shade.

➤ **GROW** Use a large pot. It can be grown indoors in a well-lit room. Water when the top of the mix feels dry and feed with a three-month controlled-release fertiliser in spring.

➤ **CLIMATE** *Yucca elephantipes* thrives in hot climates. In cool climates, provide frost protection.

7

Ponytail palm

When is a palm not a palm? When it is the ponytail palm (*Beaucarnea recurvata*). Closely related to the yucca plant, its strap-like leaves sit on the top of a bulbous trunk.

➤ **POSITION** Sun or semi-shade.

➤ **GROW** Water when the top of the mix is dry to the touch. Don't overwater, especially in winter. Feed in spring with a three-month controlled-release fertiliser.

➤ **CLIMATE** It can be grown throughout Australia but protect it from frost in cool climates.



9

Sansevieria

Commonly called mother-in-law's tongue, *Sansevieria trifasciata* features greenish white flowers that are mildly scented.

➤ **POSITION** Shade from the hot afternoon sun.

➤ **GROW** It can be grown indoors in a well-lit room. Allow the mix to nearly dry out before watering. Feed with a three-month controlled-release fertiliser in spring.

➤ **CLIMATE** *Sansevieria* likes a warm frost-free climate.



10

Rosemary

A spring-flowering hardy Mediterranean native, *Rosmarinus officinalis* grows well in coastal gardens. The cultivar 'Prostratus' is ideal for large hanging baskets.

➤ **POSITION** Sun.

➤ **GROW** Free-draining potting mix is essential. Don't overwater and feed with a three-month controlled-release fertiliser in spring. Tip-prune regularly to retain a compact shape.

➤ **CLIMATE** Rosemary will grow in all areas, except the hot tropics. ❖



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PLANTS ON THE RUN

Stop garden ornamentals jumping the fence and behaving like thugs in the bush

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

The Macquarie Dictionary describes a weed as a 'plant growing wild, especially in cultivated ground to the exclusion or injury of the desired crop'.

But this isn't always the case, as many weeds are actually attractive ornamental garden plants.

Commonly called garden escapes, these plants have broken out from the confines of the garden and taken over

bushland and roadside verges. And many are still available in nurseries in the areas where they've become environmental weeds.

Garden escapes compete with indigenous species for moisture, sunlight and space, and they can also choke the waterways.

Here, we take a look at a few of the common suspects and show how you can stop them in their tracks.

Capeweed has escaped from gardens onto roadside verges and rural properties around the country.

Why it happens

Garden escapes have a tendency to be adept at growth and reproduction.

They are very hard to remove and threaten the existence of other plants, or even whole plant communities.

Garden escapes, such as lantana, overgrow and stop the regeneration of natural vegetation, destroying the habitat of native animals and reducing the biodiversity of species.

And with the varied climate zones within Australia, it is difficult even for the experts to know whether or not an ornamental grown in one area will be invasive in another.

The capacity of certain ornamentals to get out of control often depends on the climate and soil type. One growing normally in a garden in one state may take over in a different state, or indeed in a different climate within that state.

Lantana is considered one of the worst weeds in Australia.

How they spread

Most weedy plants can reproduce both from seed and vegetatively from a piece of stem or root.

Garden prunings that are dumped in bushland can easily grow roots.

Seeds are eaten by birds, bats and possums, then spread through their droppings. You don't even have to live near bushland, as they can be carried over long distances.

Vehicles can transport seeds and people often carry them on clothing.

The seeds of many plants, such as capeweed (*Arctotheca calendula*), which is causing problems in most parts of the country, can be blown by the wind or washed down gutters into streams and waterways.

Willows have also become weeds along watercourses throughout Australia and they can be spread simply by a branch breaking off and floating downstream, where it will most likely catch on the bank and take root. ➤

Weed alert!

How do you know if a plant bought in good faith from a nursery will escape from the garden and spread into the surrounding bush? Check with your local council or contact the Department of Environment in your state or territory.

Control the damage

There are precautions you can take to help keep your garden under control.

- **GET** involved in bush care, as this will alert you to the types of plants causing problems in your area.
- **BE** wary if a local gardener gives you plants that grow easily and have multiplied quickly in their garden.
- **SUSPECT** any plant that self-seeds prolifically throughout your garden. Nip its weedy potential on the head by pruning before the seeds set, or remove it completely from your garden.

➤ **COMPOST** garden waste that may contain seeds. A compost heap must be working efficiently to kill seeds.

If unsure, put the seed heads from plants with a weedy tendency in a thick plastic bag and leave in the sun for a couple of weeks to destroy them. This will also work with tubers and bulbs.

➤ **REPLACE** invasive plants with native plants indigenous to your area. This will attract birds and provide food.

➤ **REPORT** any weed-infested vacant blocks to your local council.



The native umbrella tree has invasive qualities.

In most states, the native Cootamundra wattle is considered weedy.

ECO TIP

Inform your local nursery if you know of any ornamental garden plants that have become environmental weeds in your area.



Invasive natives

Not all invasive plants are imports, and even natives can turn weedy when taken to a different environment, as there is a lack of natural influences to control them.

And the new conditions can be so good that the plants become rampant and reproduce too freely.

Australia's floral emblem, the golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*),

is regarded as weedy in several areas, as is the Cootamundra wattle (*Acacia baileyana*).

Pittosporum and the umbrella tree (*Schefflera actinophylla*) have also established themselves in many areas outside their natural habitats.

Certain eucalyptus, melaleucas and hakeas are now also listed as environmental weeds.

COMMON CULPRITS

Here are just a few of the commonly grown garden ornamentals that are causing problems in the environment.

Butterfly bush

(*Buddleia davidii*)

The mauve flowers of this pretty shrub attract butterflies and it is easily spread by seed.

In Victoria and Tasmania, it is considered weedy.

Montbretia

(*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*)

This bulbous South African plant bears orange flowers in summer and many bulblets that spread quickly.

It is an environmental weed in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and WA.

Arum lily

(*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)

Popular for its glossy leaves and white flowers, the arum lily is an environmental weed in Victoria, SA, WA and Tasmania.

Busy lizzie

(*Impatiens walleriana*)

The common name of this plant describes it perfectly, as it spreads easily by seed.

It is causing problems in NSW and Queensland.

Cosmos

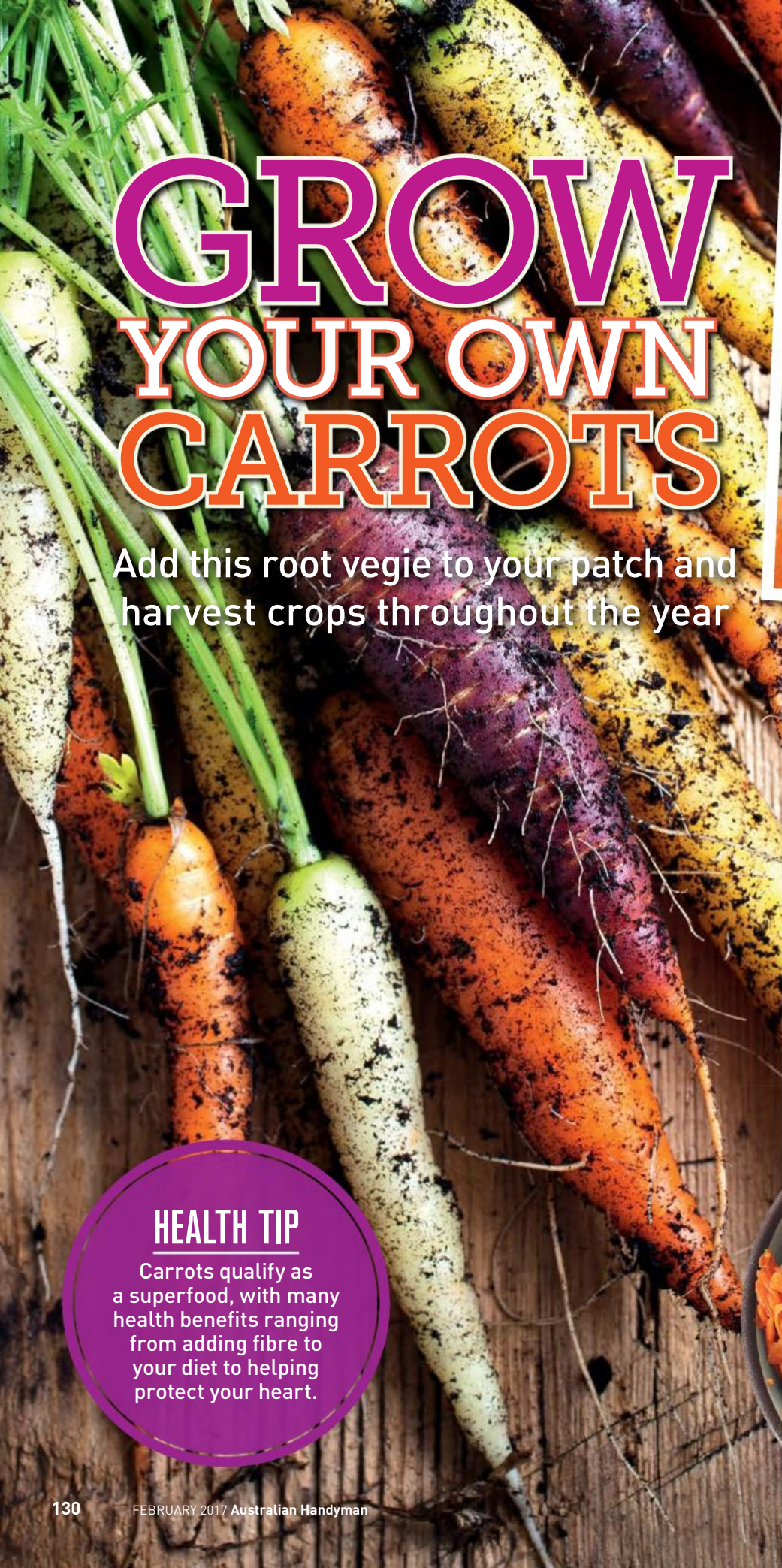
(*Cosmos bipinnatus*)

This dainty annual with fine ferny foliage seeds freely and has become a problem in Victoria and Queensland.

Glory lily

(*Gloriosa superba*)

A spectacular climbing plant featuring large red and yellow flowers, this lily has turned into a pest in Queensland and NSW.



GROW YOUR OWN CARROTS

Add this root vegie to your patch and harvest crops throughout the year

HEALTH TIP

Carrots qualify as a superfood, with many health benefits ranging from adding fibre to your diet to helping protect your heart.



The versatility of the humble carrot (*Daucus carota* subsp. *sativus*) makes it a must-have in your vegie patch.

In mild areas, you can sow seeds all year round, but in cooler regions, avoid growing them in winter.

Carrots sown in late summer will mature in winter and taste sweeter due to the sugars stored in the roots.

Usually thought of as the classic orange root vegetable, the surge of interest in heirloom vegetables has seen a rise in the popularity of other colours, including purple, yellow and white.

Seeds are available for short- and round-rooted orange carrots as well.





It's important to keep the bed free of weeds.

DIY TIP

Mix the seeds with damp sand in a jar. This makes it easier to sow lightly in the furrows so the seedlings will need less thinning.

HOW TO GROW

Give carrots a sunny position in well-drained, deep soil. Make sure it is free of rocks and clumps so they don't grow into odd shapes.

✚ **SOW** the seeds directly into shallow furrows in rows 300mm apart. Keep the soil moist until the seedlings emerge.

✚ **THIN** the seedlings to 25mm apart when about 50mm high and again to 50mm apart when about 150mm high.

Thinning the seedlings is essential for the carrots to develop properly. The carrots pulled out from this second thinning are sweet-tasting baby carrots.

Most carrot varieties take about 3-4 months to reach full size.

✚ **HARVEST** when the size suits you. You can spread the harvest by pulling smaller carrots earlier and allowing the remainder to grow bigger.

In cooler climates, carrots can be mulched with lucerne hay or pea straw and left in the ground until needed.

Did you know?

During World War II, British children were often given a carrot in place of the fruit that could no longer be obtained.

To encourage them to eat up, the British government issued posters with slogans such as, 'Carrots keep you healthy and help you see in the blackout' and 'Doctor Carrot guards your health'.

IN THE KITCHEN

Baby carrots taste sweetest raw and just need rinsing before eating. More mature carrots need to be peeled.

Juice carrots for a nutritious drink, grate for sandwiches and salads, cut into sticks as a snack, or use as an ingredient in cakes and muffins.

To cook, lightly steam, stir-fry or roast for a side dish, or add to soups, stews and casseroles. ➤



Serves 4



Chilled carrot soup

PREPARATION TIME 15 minutes

COOKING TIME 45 minutes

Ingredients

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 medium onion, coarsely chopped
1 garlic clove, crushed
3½ cups (830ml) chicken stock, preferably homemade
600g carrots, coarsely chopped
½ teaspoon dried thyme
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon white pepper
½ cup low-fat natural yoghurt, to serve
1 tablespoon finely chopped dill, to serve
Sesame flatbread, toasted, to serve

➊ **HEAT** the oil in a saucepan over a medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and sauté for 5 minutes or until softened. Add the chicken stock, carrot and thyme. Reduce the heat to low and simmer, uncovered, for 40 minutes or until the vegetables are very tender.

➋ **PUREE** the soup in batches in a blender or food processor. Season with salt and pepper.

➌ **COOL** to room temperature, then cover and refrigerate until cold.

➍ **LADLE** the soup into bowls. Add the yoghurt and sprinkle with the dill. Serve with the toasted sesame flatbread.

TIP This soup can also be served hot.

Roast carrot dip

Makes 2 cups



PREPARATION TIME 15 minutes

COOKING TIME 1-1½ hours

Ingredients

1kg carrots, coarsely chopped
1 garlic head, cloves separated
⅓ cup (80ml) olive oil, for drizzling
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper
½ cup (125g) natural yoghurt
Finely grated zest and juice of 1½ lemons
¾ cup (180ml) olive oil

➊ **PREHEAT** the oven to 200°C. Line a roasting pan with baking paper. Scatter the carrot and the garlic cloves in a single layer in the prepared pan.

➋ **DRIZZLE** over the ⅓ cup oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast for 1-1½ hours until golden and very tender. Allow to cool to room temperature.

➌ **SQUEEZE** the garlic flesh from the skins. Put the carrot and garlic in a food processor or blender. Add the yoghurt and lemon zest and juice. Season with salt and pepper, then process until smooth. Add the ¾ cup oil in a steady stream while processing. Store, covered, in the fridge until ready to serve.

Serves 8-10



Brazilian carrot cake with chocolate glaze

PREPARATION TIME 25 minutes, plus cooling

COOKING TIME 1 hour

Ingredients

Butter, for greasing
2 cups (300g) plain flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1½ cups (345g) caster sugar
2 cups (250g) grated carrot (about 3 carrots)
¾ cup (180ml) vegetable oil
3 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

GLAZE

1 tablespoon (20g) butter

⅓ cup (80g) caster sugar

⅓ cup (40g) unsweetened cocoa powder

¼ cup (60ml) milk

1 PREHEAT the oven to 180°C.

Lightly grease a 22cm round cake tin and line the base with baking paper.

2 SIFT the flour and baking powder into a large mixing bowl. Stir in the sugar and make a well in the centre.

3 PROCESS the carrot, oil, eggs and vanilla extract in a food processor or blender until smooth. Pour into the dry ingredients in the bowl and fold together lightly until just combined. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin.

4 BAKE for 40 minutes. Cover with foil and bake for a further 20 minutes or until springy to a gentle touch in the centre. Stand in the tin for 5 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

5 MAKE the glaze by combining the butter, sugar, cocoa powder and milk in a small saucepan. Stir over a low heat until melted and smooth. Increase the heat to medium, bring to the boil and cook for 2 minutes or until slightly thickened. Cool for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally to release the heat, then spread the glaze over the cooled cake to serve. 🍴

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NEXT ISSUE

RENOVATE

Get the ultimate guide to renovating the bathroom, from design ideas to planning tips.

PLUS Expert advice on what you can DIY.

BUILD

A step-by-step sliding door install and guide to choosing locks and latches for every home.

PLUS How to attach a new door handle.

GARDEN

Install a new pond liner, grow lemons at home, and plant dwarf and climbing peas.

PLUS Delicious recipes from the garden.

FEB

What's on this month

Head down to your local Bunnings this February to get some advice for your next D.I.Y. project



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D.I.Y.

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[SAT]

5
[SUN]

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work of art



KIDS
D.I.Y.

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GARDEN CRAFT WORKSHOPS

Make a masterpiece to
have in your backyard



KIDS
D.I.Y.

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WALL ART WORKSHOPS

Design something special
to hang in your home



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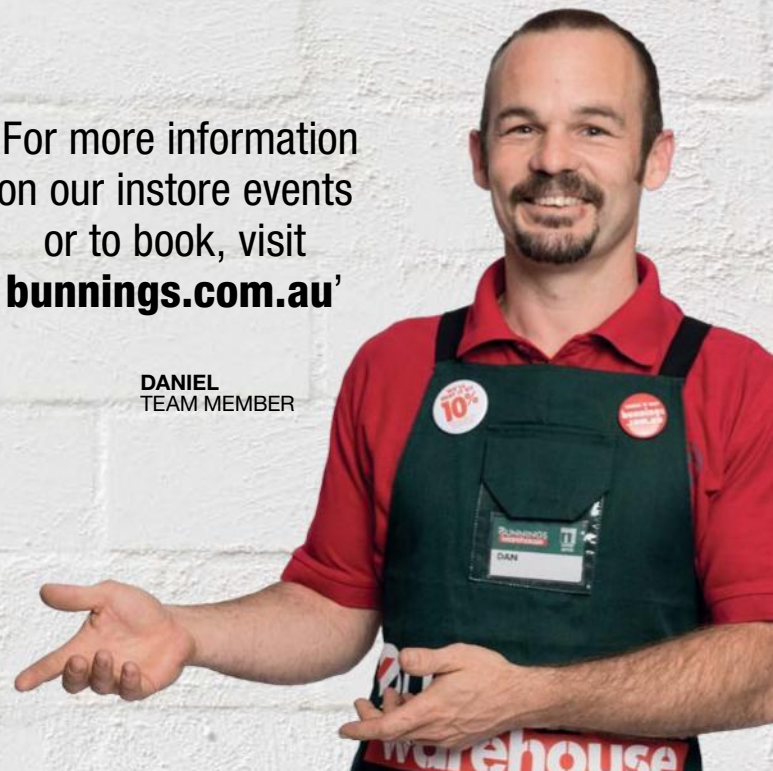


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Name that **WEED**

Can you identify these edible invaders? The answers are at the bottom of the page

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



ANSWERS 1 CLOVER 2 NASTURTIUM 3 WILD ONION 4 FENNEL 5 CHICKWEED 6 MILK THISTLE 7 DANDELION 8 PURSLANE

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