

**44** PAGES OF BATHROOM DESIGN + DIY FIXES

AUSTRALIAN

INSTALL A SLIDING DOOR <sup>page 70</sup>

**STORAGE**  
SOLUTIONS FOR  
EVERY GARAGE

**DESIGN**

PLAN THE RENO TO  
MAXIMISE SPACE

**TECH**

SMART HOMES  
ON A BUDGET

**DREAM  
BATHROOMS**

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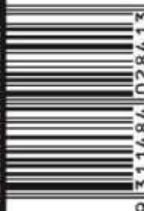
Grow a lemon tree

page 144

Revamp an urban garden

page 118

READER'S DIGEST MAGAZINES



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# G8SAFE

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CREATING WAVES FOR POOL SAFETY



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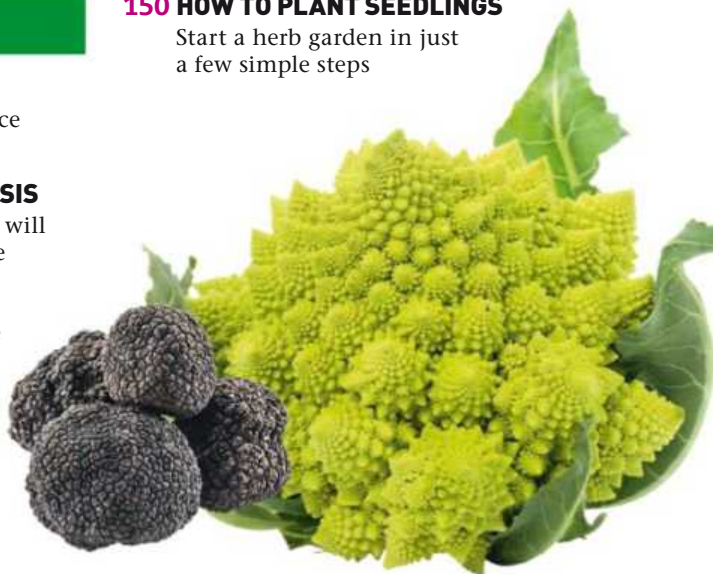
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## GET THE LOOK

# LOVE THE COVER?

Turn an all-white bathroom into a feature with simple ideas and affordable styling

Varying the tile sizes balances the proportions of the room.

This bathroom renovation saved time and money by limiting choices. Going for white meant decisions were simple to make and good deals and sale prices easy to come by.

Mixing materials within the colour palette and adding accents through accessories results in a fresh, modern space that can be rearranged and updated as the mood strikes.

Peyton Vases in Gold and Copper, \$20 for two. [emporiumhome.com.au](http://emporiumhome.com.au)



Marquee Verna Acapulco Chair, \$38. [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au)

Mondella Rococo Square Shower Head, \$164. [mondella.com.au](http://mondella.com.au)



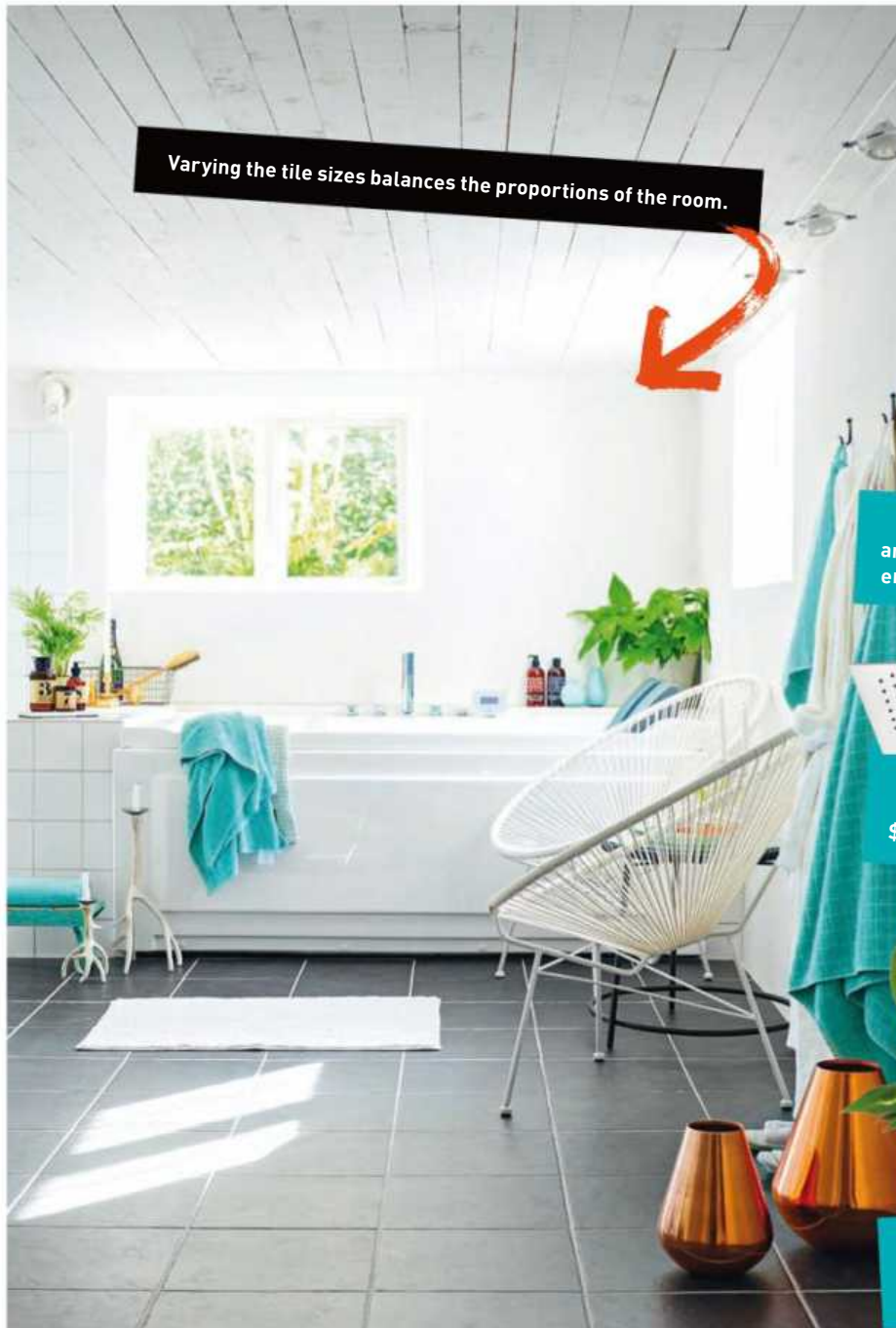
HPM MR16 90mm Retrofit Downlight, about \$37. [hpm.com.au](http://hpm.com.au)



Dumb Cane Plant, 130mm, about \$8, from nurseries.



Acapulco Replica Side Table in Black, \$29. [kmart.com.au](http://kmart.com.au)





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## Waxstix

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## Porion

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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.



## Timbermate

Woodfiller - 4 in 1

- 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

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- Pre-Mixed ready to use.
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- 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.



## Concremate

Expanding Cement

- Sets in 30 minutes.
- Harder than concrete in 28 days.
- Expands and grips.

**USE FOR:** Repairing cracks in driveways or embed items in brickwork, stone tiles, plaster, terrazzo and concrete.

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## THIS ISSUE

## EDITOR'S LETTER



Got a messy garage like mine? Then sort it out once and for all in 2017. (Note: Cats technically aren't clutter.)

## HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH

### BUILD AN UNDER-JOIST SHELF



Like Handyman Magazine on Facebook for more tips

Summer is officially over and as the weather cools down it's a good time to tackle those jobs you didn't want to do in the middle of a heatwave. Like taking on the biggest clutter hotspot, also called the garage.

Mine is a magnet for junk. Other people's. Just when I think I have the garage sorted, someone will ask if they can leave something in there, 'for a few days', as they don't have room.

It has never once been a few days. It always turns into a few years. I've had electric typewriters, stage props, vintage sewing machines, sets of encyclopedias, crates of vinyl records, weight benches and mystery boxes.

Well no more, I'm reclaiming my garage in 2017. From now on, it's only for the people, and cats, who live in the house. No more dumping ground!

If you also want to take back your garage and be able to use it use for storage and still have room for the car, check out how to build shelves and

a cupboard, plus choose off-the-shelf solutions, from page 82.

### Blitz the bathroom

In this issue of *Handyman* we also take a good look at the bathroom. It's often one of the smallest rooms in the home and also the busiest, which can make renovating a challenge both in terms of design and time.

But upgrading a dated bathroom is about efficiency not just luxury. Modern bathrooms are easier to use, faster to clean and are also more energy and water efficient.

To plan the reno and stay within budget, just follow our checklist, on page 19. Then get style inspiration, on page 24, and find out what you can DIY to save money, from page 40.

Happy DIYing,

*Artemis*

## Product of the month

If you need to make mitre cuts in timber for picture frames, mouldings, framework or furniture, the job just got easier with the Ozito 1800W 210mm Double Bevel Slide Compound Mitre Saw, \$149, with three-year replacement warranty [ozito.com.au].

Ideal for DIY, it can make mitre cuts from -45° to 45°, bevel cuts 45° left and right, and compound mitre cuts. The easy depth of cut adjustment, support bars, material clamp and laser guide allow for quick and precise cutting.





# Tiling just got a whole lot easier!



You can add a splash of elegance to your kitchen, bathroom or laundry with these beautiful self-stick wall tiles in a fraction of the normal tiling time. Apply over smooth, dry painted walls or over existing tiles.

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# Australian Handyman

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## HANDY STUFF

# OUTDOOR ESSENTIALS

Get the latest high-tech gadgets, tools and storage gear for the garden



### Storm spotter

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[holmanindustries.com.au](http://holmanindustries.com.au)



### Solo set-up

Plant up the lightweight and durable Eden 28cm Plastic Self Watering Trough Pot, \$15. Available in four colours and designed for indoor and outdoor use, it has a water level indicator feature for a low-maintenance routine.

[bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au)

### Garden guard

Keep animal pests away from fruit and vegies with the 30 x 24cm Whites Garden Sentinel, \$55. Its motion-activated infrared sensor shoots water up to 10m at garden invaders to protect up to 90sqm.

[whitesgroup.com.au](http://whitesgroup.com.au)



### Plant parent

Take the guesswork out of gardening with the GreenIQ 3G Cellular Smart Garden Hub, \$389. The easy-to-use device manages irrigation and lighting scheduling, from anywhere at any time, via an app on your smartphone.

[gstore.com.au](http://gstore.com.au)



### Auto aqua

Water the garden using one system with the clever Gardena Automatic Water Distributor, \$90. It provides automatic irrigation for up to six different areas and can be wall mounted.

[gardena.com.au](http://gardena.com.au)







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GREEN





## Rigid room

Slip the Absco Sheds Space Saver 1.52 x 2.08 x 1.52m Woodland Grey Single Door Shed, \$427, into the yard. It has a 30-year warranty and is simple to install with its Snaptite assembly that requires few screws. [abscosheds.com.au](http://abscosheds.com.au)



## Roaming roll

Keep your hose kink-free and easy to relocate with the Pope Cart Away Hose Cart, \$114. It neatly stores up to 20m of hose onto the reel in layers, while the tough wheels and a fold-down handle ensure that watering even the largest garden is strain-free. [popeproducts.com.au](http://popeproducts.com.au)

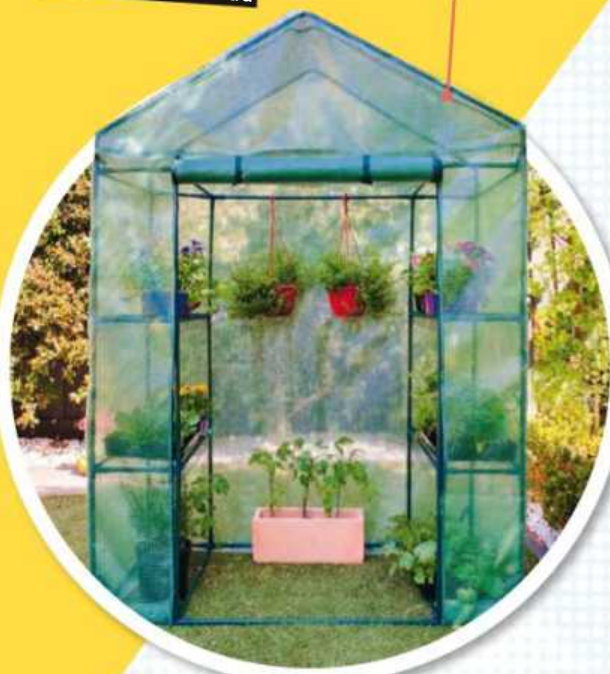
## Healthy haven

Create the perfect conditions for plants to thrive with the NaturalLife Walk In Greenhouse, \$70. Measuring 170 x 70 x 200cm, it's ideal for home propagation. The flexible design will allow you to set it up anywhere and add shelves or hanging plants inside the polyethylene mesh cover. [tuscanpath.com.au](http://tuscanpath.com.au)



## Tidy trolley

Clear garden debris and keep the yard tidy with the Ozito 160L Garden Collection Cart, \$45. It features an integrated scoop and tool holders, a collapsible collection bag and a folding handle, making it easy to store in the shed or garage. [ozito.com.au](http://ozito.com.au)



## Double duty

Protect cushions and pool toys from weathering using the Keter Rockwood Deck Box, \$249. The 570L weather-resistant storage box is UV stabilised and well ventilated to keep items in prime condition. Available in three colours, it also serves as a sturdy seat. [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au)



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## Power pruner

Take the pain out of pruning using the Fiskars PowerGear X Small Bypass Lopper, \$65. Designed for cutting through young and green wood, the lopper features PowerGear technology, making cutting up to three times easier than with standard mechanisms.

[fiskars.com.au](http://fiskars.com.au)



## Canopy cutter

Skip a sore back while tidying trees with the Ozito Power X Change 18V Cordless Pole Pruner, \$149, skin only. Its pivoting head can be locked into seven positions and the main handle into four positions for maximum comfort while cutting.

[ozito.com.au](http://ozito.com.au)

## Bough breaker

Leave behind hours of hacking wood to size with the Masport Five-tonne Electric Log Splitter, \$499. It has a four-way splitting attachment and can cut most logs in 12 seconds, while it produces no fumes and little noise.

[masport.com.au](http://masport.com.au)



## Mix master

Cover your garden quickly with the Hortex 450ml Insecticide & Fertiliser Hose Sprayer, about \$20. There's no need for messy pre-mixing as the device dilutes the solution for you. Just pour it into the bottle, set the dial and spray away.

[bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au)



## Mute mulcher

Chip trees using the Ryobi 2400W Silent Electric Shredder, \$399. It boasts an in-built 55L collection container, a 45mm cutting capacity and tool-less blade adjustment for a superior experience. The 30kg machine also has a two-year warranty.

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# BATHROOM RENO CHECKLIST

Use our eight-point guide to overhaul this important room within the timeframe and on budget

WORDS SITA SIMONS

**I**t's usually one of the smallest rooms in the home, but a bathroom reno can be a big deal, as well as costly.

First decide if a complete overhaul is needed, or if a refresh and repaint would suffice. There are many great products on the market to paint tiles and enamel, which can serve as a good interim solution if the budget is tight.

Improvements such as re-grouting tiles, deep-cleaning and replacing fixtures can give a tired bathroom a facelift, but if it's time for a full reno, plan ahead with this checklist. ➤

**HIO** bathroom design rules

Visit [handyman.net.au/bathroom-design](http://handyman.net.au/bathroom-design)



# 1 Draw up plans

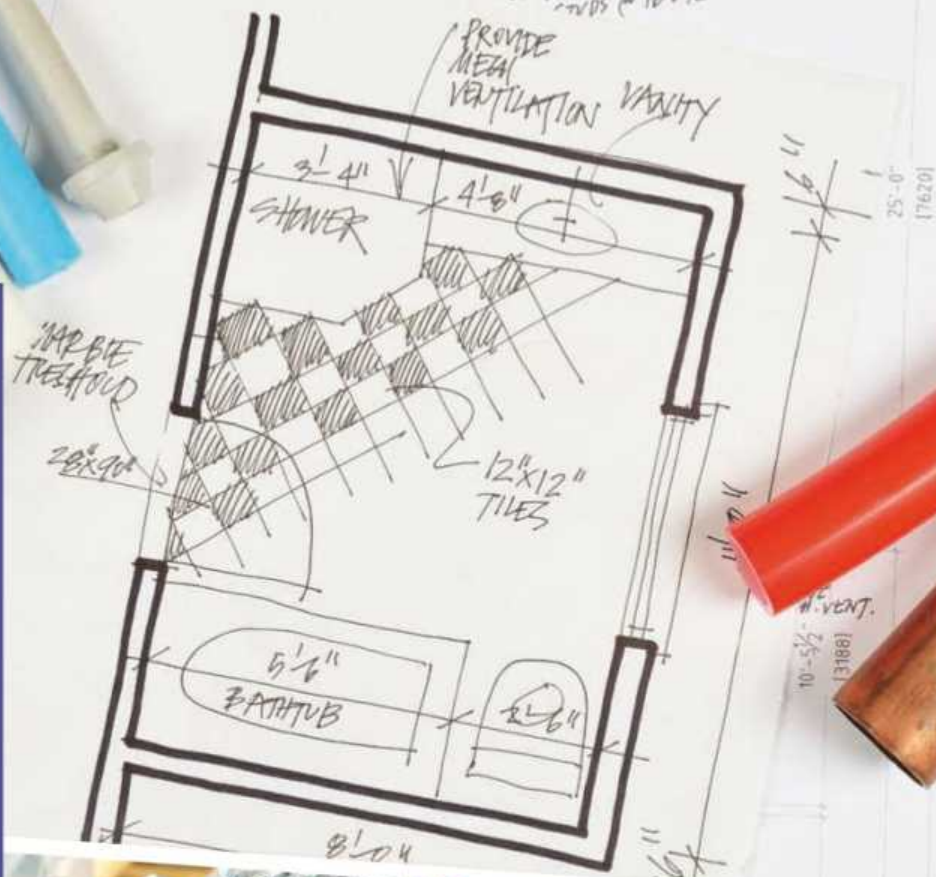
Ensure you take the time to research what is achievable and what kind of bathroom is going to work best for you.

The internet is a great source of inspiration, and most of the big bathroom suppliers have online galleries and catalogues.

Draw up initial plans, as this helps you get your ideas onto paper. It also makes it easier for the tradies and contractors to submit detailed cost proposals and avoids confusion on site when it comes to executing the works.

You can pay to have plans drawn up or try an app such as SketchUp, which is designed to make the planning process easy.

If structural work is involved, you'll need a licensed builder or architect to draw up plans.



# 2 Work out costs

Now you know what you want, you need to shop around and work out how much it's going to cost.

The costs fall into two groups. One is fixtures, fittings and materials, and the other is tradies and contractors.

Don't underestimate the time you will need to choose all the elements.

Even tile selection alone can take the best part of a weekend.

Call the tradies you're going to need and obtain initial quotes.

A plumber, electrician and waterproofer are essential, and depending on what you plan to DIY, you may need to factor in a tiler, plasterer, builder and painter.







**3**

### Set a schedule

The order of the works, supplies and deliveries needs to be properly arranged to keep costs under control.

This will also prevent expensive mistakes and ensure the project is completed within the timeline.

The easiest way to draw up a comprehensive schedule is by using a computer spreadsheet.

Get firm dates from your tradies and suppliers about timeframes. You could consider getting them to sign contracts to guarantee the works will be completed within these dates.



**4**

### Remove the bathroom

After all the services have been properly disconnected, demolishing the old bathroom is something you can DIY to save money.

Hire a skip for the waste and make arrangements for alternative bathroom use. You should have an idea of the time the reno will take

from your schedule, but in general terms, allow at least two weeks.

If your home was built pre-1984, there is a high likelihood of there being asbestos in bathroom walls.

This is especially dangerous because it can be waterlogged and decayed. It is essential asbestos is removed by a licensed specialist. ➤

**DUNLOP**

## Complete WATERPROOFING & TILING SOLUTIONS

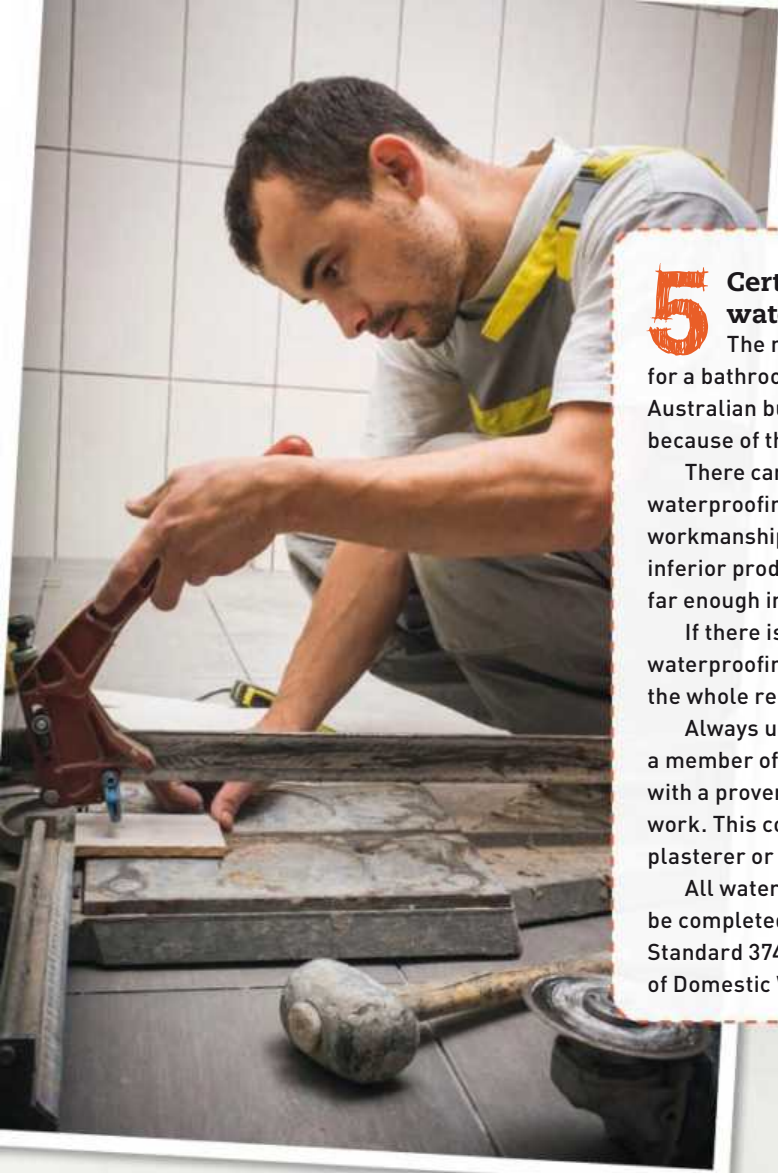


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## 5 Certify the waterproofing

The most common reason for a bathroom failing to meet Australian building standards is because of the waterproofing.

There can be many reasons that waterproofing fails, such as poor workmanship, not enough coats, an inferior product and not extending far enough into the wet area.

If there is a problem with the waterproofing, it can undermine the whole renovation.

Always use an expert who is a member of an industry body, with a proven record of accredited work. This could be your tiler, plasterer or builder.

All waterproofing should be completed to the Australian Standard 3740-2010 Waterproofing of Domestic Wet Areas.



## DESIGN TIP

If replacing the toilet, be aware that not all suites will be compatible with the current outlet. Ask your plumber before choosing a new model.



## 6 Plan the tiling

Buy a selection of sample tiles and lay them out on the floor to see how they look.

Many tiles are sold in European sizes, and this can often include a grout joint, so you'll need to factor this in when calculating the quantity and finalising the layout.

A good tiler will set up a job beforehand, and decide where cuts should go to avoid small cuts, or will allocate them to inconspicuous areas.

They'll also work out details such as tiles lining up with vanity features.

If tiles are to go to ceiling height, the wall substrate has to be fixed off according to Australian standards.







8

### Prep and paint

Choose a water-based, semi-gloss paint that is mould and mildew resistant to stand up to the wet and steamy conditions in the bathroom.

Cover the fittings and surfaces and apply painter's tape where necessary. Cut into the edges and apply two coats. For the ceiling, use a long-handled roller.

7

### Install the bathroom

After the tiling has cured, it's time for the cabinets and new fixtures to be installed.

The plumbing and electrical elements, such as the bath, toilet, shower, sink and lights need to

be fitted by licensed tradies, then tested. New doors and windows are next, including the shower screen.

If there are unavoidable delays, such as a sick contractor or delayed delivery, communicate it down the line as quickly as possible.



PICTURES iSTOCK



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## DIY TIP

Keep grout lines thin and invest in a high quality, anti-moulding formulation to keep white tiles looking clean and fresh.

A gradient in the floor around the shower helps with good drainage.



# LIGHT *AND* BRIGHT

Go for simple white in the bathroom for a timeless theme that can be easily adapted to your style

WORDS SITA SIMONS

**C**olour preferences come and go, but a white bathroom never falls out of style. It's timeless in its appeal and is the ideal blank canvas for any decorating preferences and changes of mood.

White works well in rooms with low light and makes smaller spaces feel bigger. If there is plenty of natural light, getting the right white is key.

Generally, the sunnier the room, the cooler the white should be. Cool whites have a blue/black base, while warm whites have yellow or red undertones and give a cosy feel.

Opting for white can save time and money as well. Choosing the elements becomes easier when the palette is white, as stock is usually available in store or can be quickly ordered in. ➤



Inexpensive styling items such as small vases and a metallic tray add interest.

The minimalist design of the double showers prevents them from dominating the space.

## Tile texture

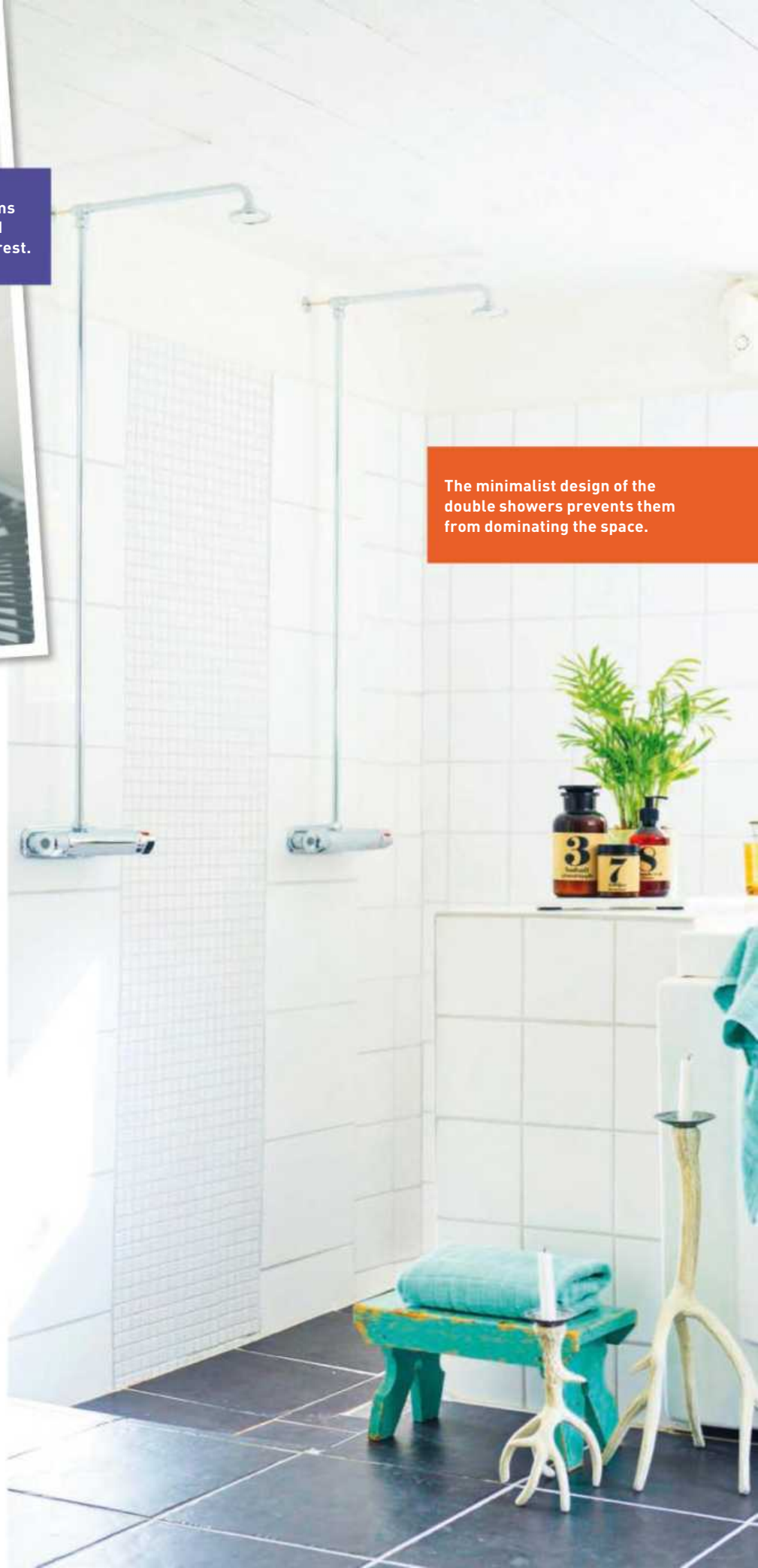
Using different-sized tiles within the same colour scheme is a good way to add texture and detail to an all-white bathroom. Here, the larger format in combination with the micro-tile panel delineates the shower area.

The tile layout creates a feature of the double showers, but also works for the room as a whole. When the ceilings are low, experimenting with proportions can provide balance.

Choosing a large floor tile and smaller wall tiles can help give the illusion of height, but keep tiles the same shape for an easy way to tie all the elements together. ➤



Add colour with accessories and towels, but keep it simple by sticking to just one shade





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## Style notes

An all-white background means the styling elements can come to the fore. A strong feature colour, such as the turquoise blue in this bathroom, adds instant style and a reference point for accessories.

Stick to simple ideas and create small collections. Gather similar items of varying heights in groups of three for a well-curated effect.

Keeping clutter to a minimum helps with cleaning and creating a tranquil place in which to linger.

### GROW TIP

There are plants that thrive in a moist environment. Look for tropical plants that have slow growing habits, such as ferns.



Complement the greenery of potted plants with objects in earthy colours.



A seating area provides a relaxing ambience and adds to the inviting design.



### Rainfall range

Create a luxury spa-like feel inside by installing the Methven WELS Three-star 7.5L/min Easy-Click Three-Function Telescopic Rail Shower, \$179 ([methven.com](http://methven.com)).

Mixing air with water, it creates a softer, voluminous spray and the three-function adjustable handset has an easy-click press button. >

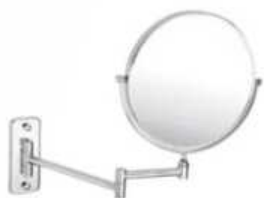




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# RUSTIC CHARMER

A new bathroom in an old dairy bales blends heritage with handmade style

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES STUART SCOTT

**T**urning a cottage situated on a rural property into a self-contained one-bedroom studio required lateral thinking.

The 100-year-old building was originally used as a dairy bales, but its latest incarnation was a makeshift stable, complete with French doors.

After a lot of cleaning, a corner position was chosen for the bathroom, giving access to a tap for plumbing and a view of the mountain beyond.

To maintain privacy while still keeping the room flooded with light, the French doors were removed and the space framed for walls and a main window, which was set low to allow for a clear view from the bath.

The original floor in the dairy was an accumulation of three uneven concrete slabs. New drainage was installed and a new concrete slab with exposed aggregate was laid and polished to suit the rustic theme. ➤



Stuart

## EXPERT SECRETS

Wherever timber is used in a wet area, protect the surface and junction areas well with a good-quality sealant.

### Before



## TOP PICKS



Crommelin Shower Waterproofing Membrane, \$74 for 4L. [crommelin.com.au](http://crommelin.com.au)



Selleys White For Life Powder Grout, \$25 for 2kg. [selleys.com.au](http://selleys.com.au)



Glitz Beeswax Polish, \$12. [cleanwithglitz.com.au](http://cleanwithglitz.com.au)





## After

The room is almost unrecognisable as a full bathroom, with a new concrete floor.





## Tile the wall

The section behind the sink is the original exterior wall, clad in timber weatherboards milled on the property when it was built. But as the space is now a wet area, a tiled splashback was created behind the sink.

Designed to be seven tiles wide by seven tiles high to eliminate the need for cutting tiles, it's a simple and practical feature that also adds to the aesthetic when the mirror is installed.



History is the theme that unifies the overall look in this bathroom. LEFT The bath caddy was a flea market find and provides storage.

1 2 3



### 1 Lay the first row

Mix tile adhesive powder in a bucket of water to toothpaste consistency using a power drill and mixing paddle. Apply to the wall using a notched trowel. Position the first tile on the rail and continue in one line, inserting spacers.



### 2 Apply the grout

Mix grout powder in a bucket of water to toothpaste consistency. Use a squeegee to apply the grout to the tiles at a 45° angle so it fills the gaps, removing excess grout with a damp sponge as you go. Allow to dry.



### 3 Seal the joints

Use a silicone sealant to seal all the gaps where two surfaces meet, such as between the tiles and the vanity top. Apply a bead of silicone at a 45° angle, then spray with water and smooth using a silicone spatula.





## Original features

This area of NSW is famous for its red cedar forests, which used to be cut and floated down the river to Sydney to meet demand. Now, as few trees remain, red cedar is very valuable.

This red cedar door had been painted many times over the years, and rather than paint it again, it was sanded back to reveal its history.

Leaving fragments of the colours makes it a unique feature that anchors the design theme. ➤



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Easy Installation



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Travertine Stone



Black Marble



Natural Wood Plank



Mocha Parquet



White Marble

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Domestic Warranty

They are suitable for  
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Black Diamond



Beige Stone



Charcoal Stone



Finger Parquet



Black & White Cheq



Grey / Blue Stone



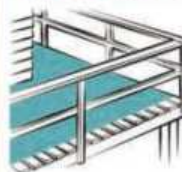
Green Slate



Strip Parquet

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The mirror reflects the window, making a visually pleasing frame within a frame.

Welded-on rivets decorate the antique sink.

## Customise the vanity

Keeping the design very simple, a tallow wood frame of reclaimed fence posts found on the property was built to hold the sink. The plumbing was left exposed to enhance the look.

The back is saddled directly to the wall and the two legs are 5mm off the floor on packers, so the timber isn't in direct contact with water. The whole frame is finished with beeswax to protect it from moisture.

Formed in the same materials as the floor, the vanity top is a mixture of off-white cement, white brickie's sand and 10mm quartz aggregate to create a terrazzo look.

The antique copper laundry sink is a stand-out feature that speaks to all the elements of this eclectic and inviting space. ➤

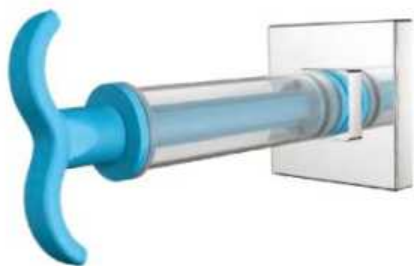
**LEFT** Earthy materials combine to generate a rustic colour palette.

### DIY TIP

When buying aggregate, wash a handful in water to get an idea of how it will look when cut, polished and sealed.



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30 seconds

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Available mid March 2017

\*Based on vacuum pressure tests compared against Everloc dual action suction cups

## Frame the tub

A timber frame was made for the bath with a view, with an 1800mm stainless steel strip drain running alongside to ensure good drainage.

Some tubs will need extra support underneath, so check manufacturers' guidelines before installing.



### 1 Build the frame

Mark the frame height on the wall. Install noggins between the studs. Use 90 x 35mm H2 structural pine to build the frame. Seal all cuts, insert the bath and check for level. Clad with fibre cement sheets.



### 2 Apply the waterproofing

Prime the wall and frame, then allow to dry. Apply waterproofing membrane. Lay reinforcing fabric, then apply two more coats of membrane, checking the thickness using a wet film gauge. ➤



Copper pipe was bent on-site to form a simple and sculptural rustic shower with brass garden taps.

Check the regulations for waterproofing in your state or territory



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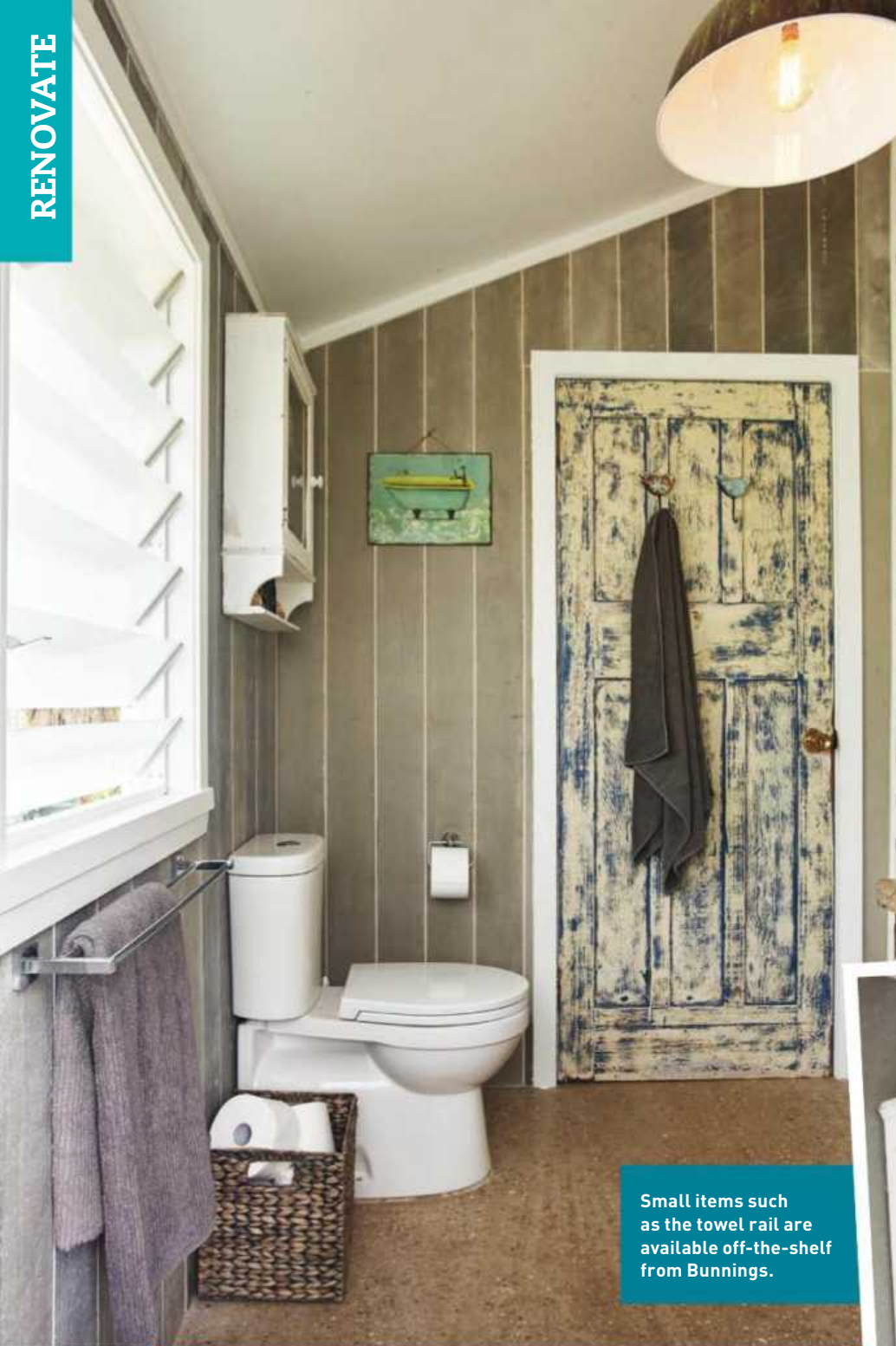


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Small items such as the towel rail are available off-the-shelf from Bunnings.

## Old and new

If there was a challenge with this bathroom, it was the line between deferring to practicality and safety, while preserving the rustic integrity.

The owners wanted to install an old concrete cistern and chain toilet, but a new toilet was infinitely more practical and affordable.

Modern techniques and materials work in the space when choices are restrained. Frosted glass louvers replace traditional windows to regulate breeze and provide privacy.



The past blends harmoniously with the present to create a functional but practical bathroom

## Salvaging and repurposing

In keeping with the character of the cottage, the preference was to look for materials to be re-used and furniture items to be repurposed.

Flea markets, bric-a-brac stores and online sites such as Gumtree are good sources for items that may otherwise be difficult to come by.

If this is the look that you want to achieve, the key is to take your time to find what suits.

Concessions may have to be made, but too many can alter or redirect the theme too much, making for a confused rather than cohesive space. 🛠️







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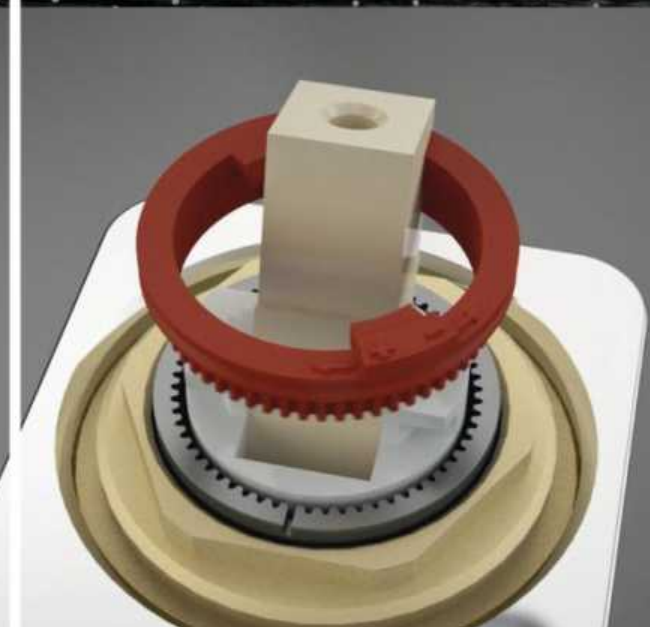
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# Plumbing fixes you can DIY

Save money by tackling these simple repairs that don't require a tradie

WORDS DARREN CLANCY

**F**or the most part, plumbing is one area of home maintenance that is best left to the experts, as the majority of repairs legally require a licensed plumber.

Making changes to plumbing can lead to potentially expensive repairs if the job isn't done right.

But there are jobs you can DIY, and they're easy to diagnose and fix with off-the-shelf parts from a local supplier.



## SAFETY TIP

Before servicing any plumbing fixtures, check with your local water authority to make sure it's legal to carry out the repairs DIY.



A leaking tap is one of the most common plumbing issues.

## Stop that leaky tap

If a tap is hard to shut off, or water still comes out when it's closed, it could be the sign of a faulty washer, O-ring or jumper valve.

Washers are the removable rings that sit under the tap bonnet, and tend to wear out quickly. A faulty washer often indicates an ageing tap.

An O-ring prevents water from entering the tap spindle, and can cause it to leak when the part wears out.

A jumper valve controls the opening and closing of the tap, and if it breaks or is not set correctly, you won't be able to turn off the tap.

The only way to find the cause of the problem is to open up the tap.

You could also consider giving the whole tap a service once you have it disassembled.

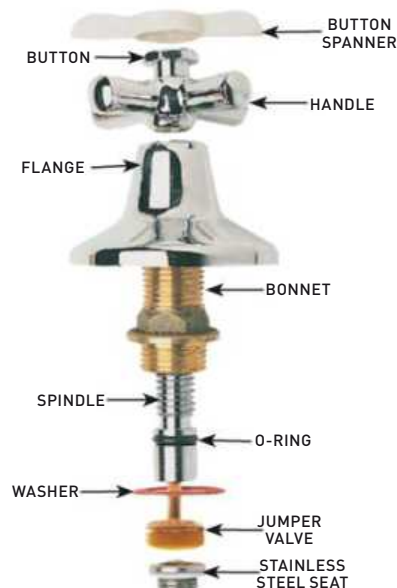
## SERVICE A TAP

① **SHUT OFF** the mains water supply, then open the tap and let it drain.

Block the plughole in the sink or tub to prevent small parts from falling down the drainpipe. Remove the button from the tap.

② **DISASSEMBLE** the tap by removing the handle and unscrewing the bonnet. If either the washer or O-ring is cracked or worn, replace it by reassembling the tap with new parts in reverse order.

③ **REPLACE** the jumper valve with the highest-quality product available. Metal valves last longer than plastic ones, so are worth the money. ➤





## Repair a mixer tap

Mixer taps have a single lever handle and contain hot and cold streams in the same unit. Mixers don't have washers, but feature a cartridge, ball or disc that directs water through the spout.

If you're unable to close off the tap completely or there is water leaking

where the handle meets the body of the spout, it means the ball, cartridge or disc needs replacing.

Mixer parts can be quite expensive, and often become damaged during disassembly, so replacing the whole tap may be more cost-effective.

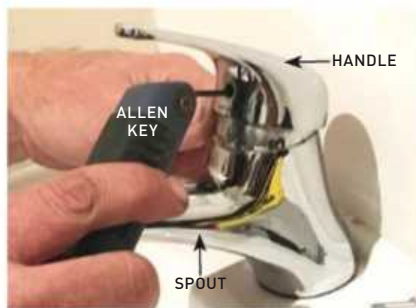


**1 2 3**



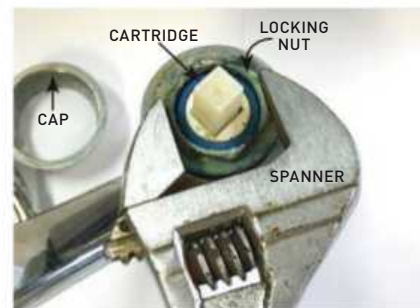
### 1 Shut off the water

Turn off the water supply at the mains, then locate the water supply valve underneath the sink and close it by turning the handle on the valve. Open the tap to drain out any remaining water.



### 2 Disassemble the tap

Block the plughole to prevent any small parts from falling down the drainpipe. Remove the screw cap and loosen the screw on the mixer tap handle using an Allen key, then remove the handle.



### 3 Replace the cartridge

Use a spanner to remove the locking nut and expose the cartridge. Remove the damaged part and take it to a hardware store or plumbing supplier to buy the correct part. Replace the part, then reassemble the tap.



## BUDGET TIP

It's cheaper to have all your taps serviced by a plumber at the same time to avoid any extra expense and multiple call-outs.



PICTURES ISTOCK

## Check the water pressure

If multiple taps leak in your home, it could mean your water pressure is too high. High water pressure can cause leaks by pushing more water through outlets than the taps can cope with.

If the water pressure is more than 350 kilopascals (kPa) above the recommended 500kPa, the warranties of many manufacturers are void.

To adjust the water pressure, attach a water pressure gauge to your hose bib and open it all the way. Adjust the mains tap to reset it to the optimum pressure. ➤

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## Silence tap screeching

If a tap screeches when turned, even when it is new, it could be a sign that the spindle thread needs lubrication.

The best time to lubricate tap components is when the tap is disassembled during servicing. Rub silicone lubricant along the spindle thread, then reassemble the tap.



## Plumbing professional

Darren Clancy has been in the plumbing business for more than 30 years and founded Pipe Perfection Plumbers in 2004 ([pipeperfection.com.au](http://pipeperfection.com.au)).

He's a member of the Master Plumbers Association of NSW and Strata Community Australia.

## TOP PICKS

Mondella Cadenza Swivel Basin Mixer, \$78.  
[mondella.com.au](http://mondella.com.au)

Fix-A-Tap 13mm Soft Turn Tap Valve, \$6 for two.  
[fixatap.com.au](http://fixatap.com.au)



### Check the regulations

Plumbing laws exist to prevent accidents and any damage to property or infrastructure.

It can be tempting to try and save a few dollars by carrying out plumbing repairs DIY, but illegal repairs are risky and dangerous.

Plus, having a plumber fix a bad DIY job will cost more in the long run.

Plumbing laws vary from state to state. So the best way to stay on the right side of the law is to contact your local water authority to check what plumbing work homeowners are legally allowed to do.

When hiring a plumber, always check they are licensed to carry out the work required, and that relevant insurances are up to date. ➤



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## DIY vs tradie

Knowing what you can and can't do when it comes to plumbing can save you hundreds of dollars in repairs if something goes wrong. When in doubt, the safest option is always to call a licensed plumber.

Water-saving showerheads can be installed DIY.

### DIY

- REPLACE A WASHER
- REPLACE AN O-RING
- REPLACE A JUMPER VALVE
- REPLACE TAP HANDLES
- REPLACE A SHOWERHEAD

### TRADIE

- INSTALL NEW TAPS
- INSTALL NEW PIPEWORK
- MOVE OR REPLACE PIPES
- MOVE OR REPLACE SEWERAGE
- CONNECT NEW SERVICES





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SUPPORTING PARTNERS & MEDIA PARTNERS INCLUDE



# MAKE OVER A VANITY

Quick cosmetic updates transform a tired guest bathroom into a fresh, modern space

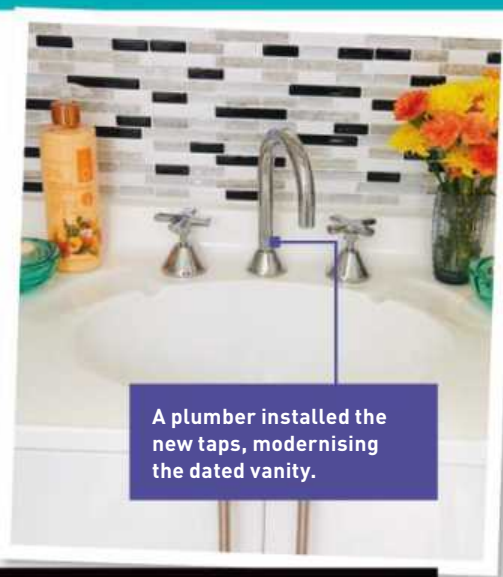
PROJECT DANIEL BUTKOVICH STYLING ARTEMIS GOUROS PICTURES SUE FERRIS

**T**his powder room was gloomy and uninviting, with a dark colour scheme and an outdated vanity. Luckily, the sink and cabinet carcass were in good condition, so it just needed a cosmetic revamp.

A paint job in a warm neutral tone refreshed the room, and the vanity was

updated with new doors and handles as well as modern chrome tap fittings.

A decorative splashback was created using self-adhesive tiles, and the medicine cabinet was replaced with a slimline mirror. A new towel rail, robe hook and toilet-roll holder completed the transformation.

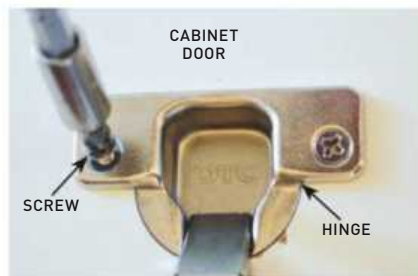


A plumber installed the new taps, modernising the dated vanity.

 Focus on simple and easy DIY changes to get the most bang for your buck

## 1 2 3

**CABINET REVAMP** The vanity was a non-standard size and had been modified to fit, so the sink and cabinet were left in position and the doors, handles and kickboard were replaced with new items from Kaboodle ([kaboodle.com.au](http://kaboodle.com.au)).



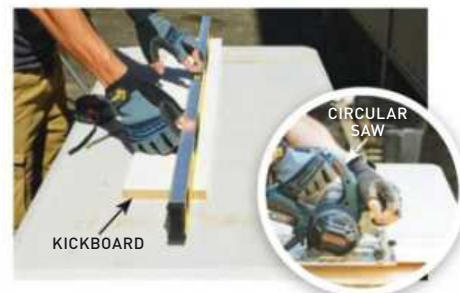
### 1 Replace the doors

Separate the new hinges, then insert the door side into the recess in the door and attach using screws. Secure the hinge plate to the cabinet, then click the two sides of the hinge together to mount the door.



### 2 Attach new handles

Measure and mark the handle hole centres on the door, or use a handle mounting template. Drill clearance holes and attach the handles using the supplied screws, trimming them to fit using nippers or a hacksaw.



### 3 Install the kickboard

Measure from the base of the cabinet to the floor every 200mm to account for uneven floors. Mark the cutting line on the kickboard and rip it to size with a circular saw. Secure with screws through the cabinet base. ➤





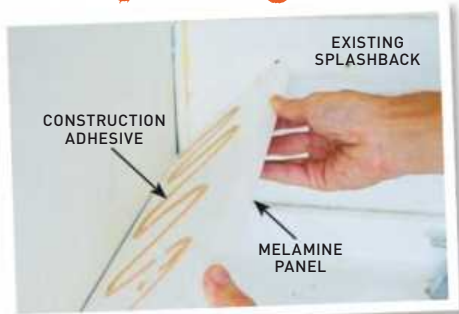
Before



After

The room was transformed with affordable cosmetic changes.

# Easy tiling



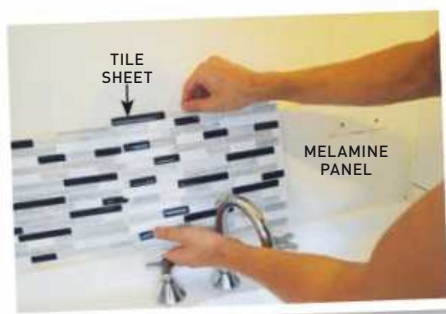
## Install the backing

To create an even surface for the tile sheets, the existing melamine splashback was upgraded by adding extra melamine panels on the sides, which were cut to size and secured to the wall with construction adhesive.



## Seal the gaps

To seal the splashback joints, apply masking tape 5mm from the joint on either surface, then apply beads of silicone in the joints with a caulking gun. Smooth the sealant with a silicone spatula dipped in soapy water.



## Apply the tiles

Starting in a corner, cut the tabs off the edge of the first tile sheet. Peel off the backing and apply it to the splashback. Apply the next tile sheet, aligning the tabs. Cut tiles to fit as required. Apply silicone where the tiles meet the wall.

The splashback was made using self-adhesive tiles on a melamine backing.

## Install a new mirror

The dated medicine cabinet provided minimal storage, so it was replaced with a large mirror.

The modern, flat-edged mirror creates a sense of space and brightens the small room by reflecting natural light.

To install a mirror, apply double-sided tape and dabs of a neutral-cure silicone, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Supporting the mirror from below, position it against the wall, and press firmly. Brace for 24 hours while the adhesive cures. ➤







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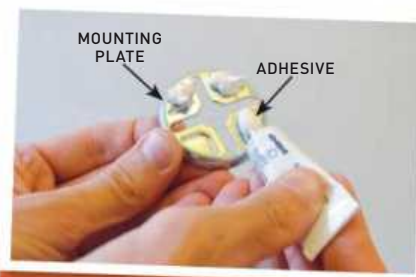
Sleek new accessories make a big impact in the small bathroom.



## New fittings

The retro robe hook, towel rail and toilet-roll holder were past their prime, so they were replaced with chrome versions, making a big difference in the compact bathroom.

The new FlexiFix fittings match the tapware and cabinet handles to create a streamlined, modern look. The universal mounting plates make the accessories quick and easy to install on virtually any surface.



### Install hooks and rails

The mounting plate can be attached to most existing fixings, but if they aren't suitable, or if you'd prefer not to drill holes, secure the plate using adhesive.

Attach the self-adhesive alignment guide, then apply adhesive to the plate. Position the plate over the guide and tighten the locking nut. Wait 24 hours before mounting the bracket. ●

## GET THE LOOK



Stick-A-Tile in Spice, 27.9 x 23.5cm, about \$18 for a pack of two. [handihome.com.au](http://handihome.com.au)



FlexiFix Esher Bathroom Towel Rail, \$73. [evolvelifewares.com.au](http://evolvelifewares.com.au)



Dorf Maxum Chrome Basin Set, \$218. [dorf.com.au](http://dorf.com.au)



Everton 900 x 750mm Polished Flat Edge Mirror, \$30. [everton.com.au](http://everton.com.au)





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# TOUCH *OF* LUXE

Design a beautiful bathroom with upscale appeal without breaking the budget

Watch the video 'How to install a tile niche' at [bunnings.com.au/diy-advice](http://bunnings.com.au/diy-advice)



**M**odern bathrooms have evolved from places of pure functionality to spaces in which precious time can be taken to relax and rejuvenate.

From family bathrooms to private ensuites and guest powder rooms, bathrooms are high on homeowners' renovation wishlists.

Whether you have a large space or small room, make the most of the footprint to create a sanctuary at home the whole family can enjoy.

Focus on clean lines and cool colour palettes, bringing in natural materials such as stone and timber, and accessorise with on-trend metallics and delicate plants. ➤



Clean lines and natural materials speak for themselves, allowing styling to be simple and restrained



### Contemporary story

The cool and calming look and feel of natural stone is perfectly suited to a modern bathroom environment.

Create a spa-like space using large-format tiles that have fewer grout lines and combine natural materials with metallics for sophisticated style.

1 Mondella 400mm Matt Black Vivace Basin, \$169.

2 Phoenix Vivid WELS 6-star Matt Black Slimline Wall Basin Tap, \$209.

3 Coulson Tiles 600 x 600mm Nitro Granite Concrete Tiles, \$44.90 per sqm.

4 Phoenix Vivid WELS 4-star Matt Black Shower Head, \$170.

5 Phoenix Vivid Matt Black Ceiling Shower Arm, \$143.

6 Phoenix Vivid Matt Black Slimline Wall Mixer, \$302.

7 Mondella WELS 4-star Toilet Suite, \$299.

## A classic theme

The key to creating a bathroom with enduring appeal that won't date is to use quality materials and a simple, streamlined design and layout.

Sticking to a theme helps guide shopping choices and allows you to generate a look in which all elements will work harmoniously together.

Recessed areas such as a tiled niche add decorative storage, and the same effect can be achieved with a timber box wall-mounted near the bath.



## Sanctuary style

A mix of textures and layering of materials work together to elevate simple surfaces and classic shapes to the next level.

Black accessories are still very much on-trend, and work particularly well in combination with natural stone and timber.

Rather than focusing on all matching elements, combine colours and shapes and look for ways to make subtle contrasts.

Glossy surfaces are taking a backseat to soft and tactile matt finishes for that day-spa feel.

- ❶ Decorium Matt White Elliptic Above Counter Basin, \$179.
- ❷ Forme Logan 1200 x 750 x 150mm Three-door Shaving Cabinet, \$449.
- ❸ Verve Design Matt Black Tyler Pendant, \$109.
- ❹ Phoenix Vivid WELS 3-star Matt Black Twin Rail Shower, \$734.
- ❺ Phoenix Vivid Matt Black Slimline Floor Mounted Bath Spout, \$1999.
- ❻ Decorium White Freestanding Nest Bathtub, \$2300.
- ❼ Coulson Tiles 300 x 600mm Regal Anthracite Nitro Granite Floor Tiles, \$44.90 per sqm. 🌀





6



Matt finishes are luxuriously tactile and easy to keep clean

7

# ★ READERS' DIY

## Bathroom makeovers



### Kathryn's ensuite

When Paul Lucas asked his wife Kathryn what she would like for Christmas, she surprised him by requesting an upgraded ensuite.

He felt reluctant at first, but when Kathryn laid down a \$5000 challenge, he took her up on it.

'The ensuite was dated and really needed sprucing up. As replacing the entire bathroom would be too costly, I decided to improve upon what we already had,' says Paul.

'Removing the wall tiles was the biggest problem and needed a jackhammer. I replaced the toilet and vanity, then tackled the old floor.

'I found vinyl planks in Bunnings and stuck them on over the top of the existing tiles,' he says.

The bonus? The final tally came in well under Kathryn's budget.

'All in all, we spent just over \$3000, and it has spurred us on to carry out more projects,' he says.





Before

## Helen's renovation

When Helen Stenson bought her house, she hadn't planned on an extensive renovation. But once she'd started, she didn't stop for three years. The bathroom was her first task.

'The vanity had to go, as it was almost completely rotten. I put in a false ceiling, spent two days filling cracks, then sanded and painted the walls,' says Helen.

As Helen was on a tight budget, she had to decide what had to be done and what she could leave.

'After two years, and with the shower falling to bits on me, it was time for the big bathroom reno.

'The tiles came off, taking half the wall with them, then the cast iron bath was replaced. I did most of the work myself but hired a tiler to get a really good finish.

'I just can't believe what I've achieved,' she says.



As the budget was tight, Helen did the reno in stages



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Hang a flat or bevel-edged mirror above the vanity.

Find it at Bunnings

# BATHROOM MIRROR



A large and frameless glass mirror above the vanity is a more streamlined option than a wall-mounted medicine cabinet, especially in a small bathroom.

A mirror also helps reflect light and creates the illusion of more space.

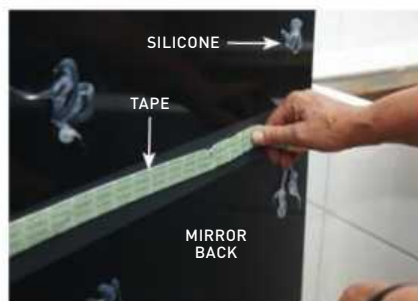
Hanging a bathroom mirror is an easy do-it-yourself job, requiring no special tools or skills, only double-sided mounting tape and silicone.

Make sure to wear safety gear and use enough tape and silicone to support the weight of the mirror.

## Tools

- Spirit level
- Packing blocks
- Silicone
- Caulking gun
- Double-sided mounting tape
- Safety glasses
- Gloves
- Pencil
- Measuring tape
- Masking tape

## 1 2 3



### 1 Prepare the back

Before you begin, remove any dirt and grime from the wall with cleaning fluid and a soft cloth. Attach strips of double-sided mounting tape in rows to the back of the mirror. Add a few beads of silicone between the rows of tape for added strength.



### 2 Mark the position

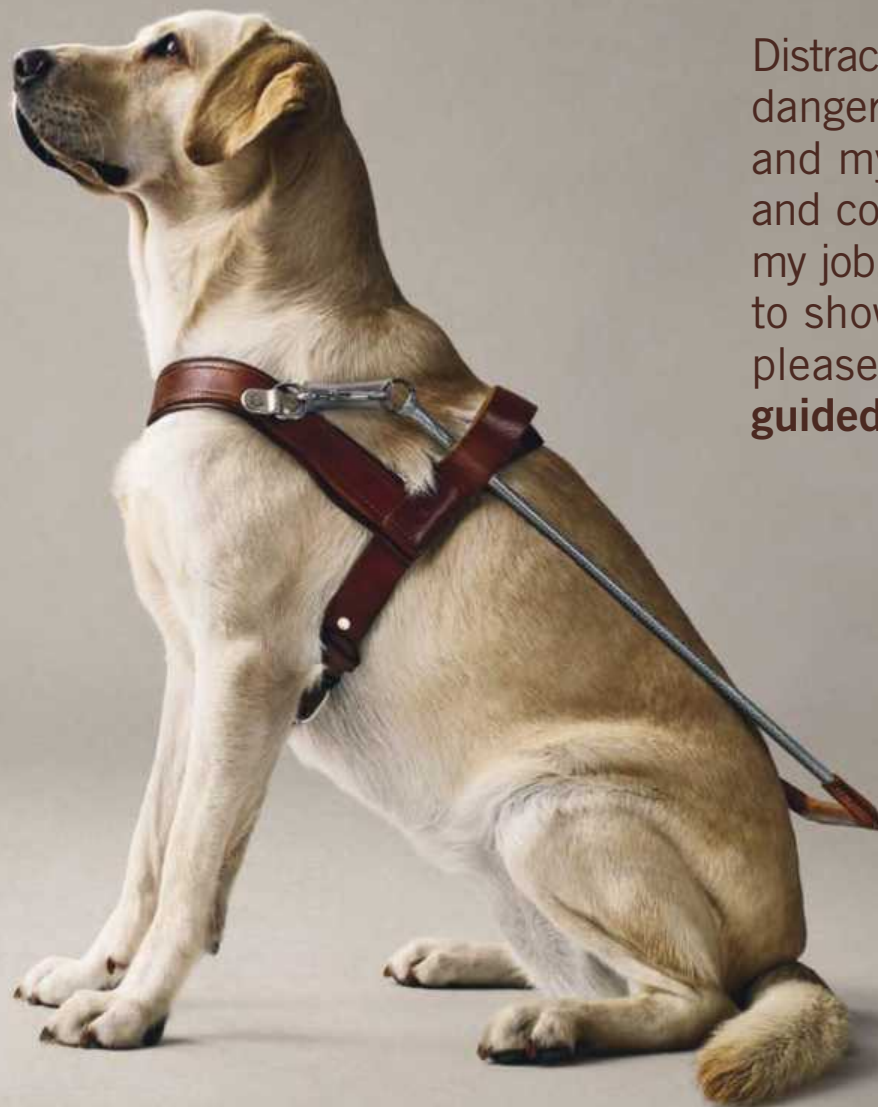
Use a pencil and spirit level to mark the side and base edges of the mirror on the wall. Here, the outside edge was lined up with the side of the vanity. Position packing blocks level with the marked base edge, securing to the wall with masking tape.



### 3 Install the mirror

Remove the tape backing, position the mirror on the blocks and push gently against the glass, starting in the centre and working out to the edges. This will spread the silicone and improve the bond. Attach tape in the corners, and leave the silicone to set for 24 hours.





Distractions can be dangerous to me and my handler, and could cost me my job. If you want to show me love, please do it at [guidedogs.com.au](http://guidedogs.com.au)

**I'M WORKING**  
**RESPECT**  
**MY UNIFORM**

**Guide Dogs**  
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# TOP KITCHEN TRENDS IN 2017

Contrasts of light and dark colours are still leading the way and technology continues to maximise function



Natural materials  
combine with  
colour for warmth

Kaboodle Kitchen 1200mm  
Island Back Panel in Black  
Olive, \$288.



**T**rend forecasting comes out of the design shows in Europe, which lead the way in innovation and have a global influence.

From the cutting edge, themes and directions filter through and we see new colours and ideas in interior design.

When it comes to designing a kitchen, take inspiration from these trends and ideas and use them to create a stylish room of your own on a DIY budget.

Kaboodle Kitchen 900mm, Yamaroo Custom Benchtop, \$303 per linear metre.

## STYLE TIP

Matching the grout and benchtop colour creates a graphic look that elevates simple materials without any additional cost.

### Modern makeover

The enduring appeal of a farmhouse kitchen gets a modern update that retains all the charm.

Traditional heritage cabinetry is replaced with cleaner lines and white is replaced with matt black.

Key style elements retain warmth and texture, with exposed brick walls, patterned tiles and timber benchtops a feature.

Standalone appliances, stone and terracotta accessories, and greenery work well with the theme.

### Living colour

Green is a strong trend in interiors this year, with jewel-like tones bringing vibrant freshness and liveliness to indoor spaces.

Deep green is a colour to watch when it comes to cabinets, and jade greens pair particularly well with a marble or timber benchtop and gold accessories.

Take cues without going all the way and introduce natural greens into the kitchen with displays of plants and herbs. ➤

## BUDGET TIP

Continuing the use of the kitchen materials into the rest of the living space can result in savings by buying in greater quantities.

Kaboodle Kitchen  
600mm Rangehood  
Cabinet, \$65.34.

## Future technology

Having fully automated appliances and devices isn't a futuristic dream, it's happening now.

Motion-detection lighting, tapware and cooking appliances have become commonplace.

Central control panels are getting more sophisticated, but mobile phones are the future, with apps that put you in control of your home, no matter where you are.



## Social influence

As the central hub of the home and a gathering place for family and guests, the open-plan kitchen is no longer confined to a separate style but guides the design direction.

When it comes to planning the renovation and making interior design choices, more and more homeowners are starting with the kitchen and using it to set the tone for the rest of the home.

Kaboodle Kitchen  
600mm Three-drawer  
Base Cabinet, \$232.





### Tile trends

This year, more textured tiles are being seen in kitchen design and there is set to be more stand-out laying patterns than ever before.

Subway tiles have been very popular for a number of years and are still a key design feature.

Very versatile, they are ideal for laying in different ways, including a herringbone pattern, and are a cost-effective way to get the latest looks in tiling.

### Hideaway appliances

Clean and clutter-free is always the goal in the kitchen, and hiding appliances is the next step forward.

Whether it is dishwashers hidden behind cabinet doors, or integrated fridges, microwaves and

cooking stations, clever solutions serve to make the kitchen look less like a kitchen and more like an extension of the living space.

A flatpack kitchen can include many hideaway features, from the waste bin to various appliances. 🌱



Tiles with texture create a backdrop with personality, movement and style



Watch the video 'How to design a kitchen' at [bunnings.com.au/diy-advice](https://bunnings.com.au/diy-advice)

# BASIC SKILLS

## Oscillating tool



### Multi-functional mate

An oscillating tool is arguably one of the most versatile power tools for DIY renovators.

As the name implies, it features a head that oscillates at a high speed, moving from side to side in a small arc.

You can attach various blades, scrapers and sanding pads to the head, allowing it to replace many tools in your kit.

One of the main advantages of an oscillating tool is its ability to cut in tight areas, making it suitable for flush-cutting pipes, screw heads or packers, and undercutting doorjams when installing laminate floors.

This tool is also ideal for making neat plunge cuts, and in combination with a carbide segment blade, it can be used to easily remove tile grout.



▶ Watch the video online  
Visit [handyman.net.au/oscillating-tool](http://handyman.net.au/oscillating-tool)



### ✦ SAND IN TIGHT CORNERS

A compact sanding pad attachment allows an oscillating tool to be used for removing surface material in tight areas that need repainting, such as windowsills. The slender head means it is also useful for sanding tight corners or small flat areas when restoring furniture.



### ✦ SLICE THROUGH SILICONE

Most of the time, a silicone scraper is ideal for removing old silicone. But for tight spots, such as behind a vanity or bathtub, an oscillating tool with a scraper attachment is the best choice. Slide the scraper between the wall and the silicone, moving along slowly to break the bond.



### ✦ MAKE NEAT FLUSH CUTS

To cut small pieces of timber flush with the surface, such as when trimming dowels or cutting packers around a new doorjamb, use an oscillating tool with a flush-cutting blade. The precise blade is ideal for hard-to-reach spots, or where a hammer and chisel could knock components out of alignment.



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**GO YOUR OWN WAY**

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# ★ ORIGINS

## Marble

### DIY TIP

When buying marble for a benchtop, it's best to visit the supplier in person to check the exact slab you are getting, as each one is unique.

The Taj Mahal in India is entirely clad in marble.

Marble is a metamorphic rock, which is formed over millions of years from the deposited remains of marine organisms, such as coral and molluscs, on the ocean floor.

As this layer is compacted over time, it becomes limestone.

When limestone is subjected to high pressures and temperatures deep within the Earth's crust, it transforms to marble.

It is the presence of various impurities that gives marble its characteristic colours and patterns.

Since classical times, marble has been used for construction. Its popularity continues today, with homeowners choosing it for kitchen benchtops and splashbacks, tiles, mantelpieces, and more.

Today, Italy is the world's largest producer of marble, with prized white and grey Carrara and Calacatta marbles considered a design staple.

### Counting the cost

One of the most expensive materials available for kitchen and bathroom renovations, the cost of marble ranges from about \$800 to more than \$2000 per square metre, depending on the colour and type.

Cutting and installing marble benchtops and splashbacks is best left to the professionals.

## Caring for marble

Once you've installed your marble benchtops, they will need a little care and attention to keep them looking their best.

★ **TREAT** the marble with a protective sealer during installation to prevent any stains or damage.

★ **PROTECT** the surface where possible using coasters, trivets and cutting boards.

★ **CLEAN** day-to-day with hot water and a non-abrasive sponge.

★ **MAINTAIN** the surface using only a specialty marble cleaner.

Use marble to create a luxurious bathroom.





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#### 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

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

#### 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

*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.*



# REPLACE SLIDING DOOR

Give your home a modern and clean new look by updating an entrance

WORDS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

**B**logger Melissa Darr has been working alongside her husband, Bevan, on revamping their home for the past couple of years.

'When you're trying to renovate your home, you quickly notice all the things that let down the new look you're going for,' says Melissa.

The couple recently turned their attention to updating the external components of the house. And first on the list was the dated sliding door

and security screen that led from the kitchen out onto the deck.

The rollers on the old door had collapsed, making it hard to use.

Melissa ordered a kit from a local supplier, which included everything needed for installation, such as the frame, screen, glass and hardware.

'Updating the sliding door and security screen has lightened up the kitchen and created a better-looking entry and exit point,' she says.

## 1 Remove the old doors

Lift the old doors from the frame, then remove any screws and fixings that hold the frame to the doorjamb.

Clean the area thoroughly, then carefully remove any trim or skirting, setting them aside to reinstall once the new doors are in. ➤

 Installing a new sliding door is an easy way to give your home a facelift



Melissa

## EXPERT SECRETS

Make sure you accurately measure the old door or get the professionals to come out and do it for you.



Before



## SAFETY TIP

It is a two-person job to replace sliding doors, so call on a friend or family member to help you put them in correctly and safely.



## After

The new sliding door improves the flow between the indoor and outdoor living areas.

Get more DIY from Melissa  
Follow her blog [thewhimsicalwife.com](http://thewhimsicalwife.com)



## 2 Release the frame

Run a utility knife around the door frame where paint may have bonded to allow for a clean removal and prevent paint from being ripped off.

Release the top of the door frame by gently hitting it using a block of wood and hammer. Once the frame has been released, slowly remove it from the doorjamb.

## BUDGET TIP

Make your DIY project more cost-effective by carefully removing and retaining the old sliding door to sell online.

## 3 Insert the new doors

Slide the new frame into the doorjamb. Use spacers to hold it in position and check it is square with a spirit level. Secure with screws, then seal any gaps using an exterior gap filler.

Install the stationary door in the frame, securing with screws, then position the sliding door in the frame.

Replace any trim or skirting and touch up any paintwork or damaged areas around the doorjamb. 🛠️



Replacing a sliding door  
DIY will keep costs down



## DIY door fixes

Looking to keep your doors in tiptop condition? Go online to [handyman.net.au/diy-door-basics](http://handyman.net.au/diy-door-basics) and check out the DIY Door Basics story.

There are maintenance and cleaning tips to help reduce wear and tear and get them functioning smoothly.

You'll learn how to replace worn-out rollers on a sliding door, service a sticking door, carry out a number of basic repairs and more.



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# UPDATE A DOOR

Replace old handles, hinges and locks to transform your home and upgrade your security measures

**A**s the entry point to every home and room, doors set the tone for the space. They are also subjected to constant wear and tear in busy households.

Replacing worn, damaged or dated door hardware is a simple and quick project any DIYer can do to improve the look of their home in just an afternoon.

Replace the handle on the front door for a refreshed entrance.

PICTURE: CORINTHIAN DOORS



# HANDLES

Door hardware plays a bigger role in your home than just the function of helping you open or close a door.

It can also be used as a design element to complement the style or architecture of a room or the house.

Whether it's for the front door or the bathroom, here's a round-up of door handles with everything from the most basic styles to the most multi-functional for you to include in your next renovation. ➤



**TIC Chrome Door Lever Latch, \$20.**  
bunnings.com.au



**Lemaar 600mm Stainless Steel Entry Handle Set, \$120.**  
lemaar.com.au



**Ikonic Chrome Plated Passage Set, \$11.**  
romak.com.au



**Lemaar Satin Chrome Calida Passage Set, \$40.**



**Lane Security Matte Black Oxford Passage Leverset, \$45.**  
itwproline.com.au



**Lemaar Satin Chrome Square Edge Door Pull, \$12.**

**Gainsborough First Impressions Stronghold Entrance Set, \$195.**  
gainsboroughhardware.com.au



**A stainless steel pull handle adds a modern edge.**



## Install a new door handle

When installing a new door, you will need to create the housing for the latch and spindle. Door handle sets normally include instructions and a template that can be used to neatly mark and drill the holes required.

Most door handles are installed 1050mm from the floor. Check the height of the other door handles in your house to make sure the height of the new handle is a match.

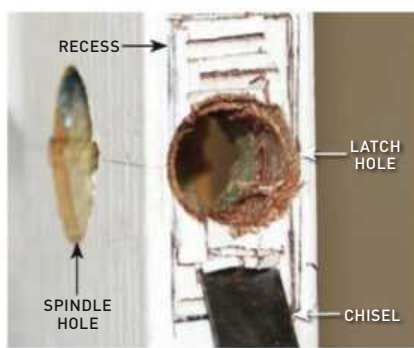


1 2 3



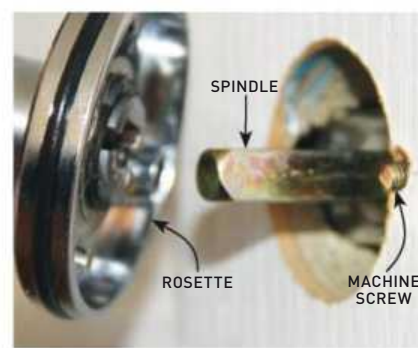
### 1 Drill the holes

Fold the template around the edge of the door to mark the hole locations. Use a spade bit to drill the 25mm latch hole, a twist bit for the 6mm rosette holes and a holesaw to bore the 35mm spindle hole.



### 2 Install the latch

Insert the latch and mark around the faceplate, then chisel out a recess so it sits flush. Secure the latch and mark where it strikes the jamb. Drill a 25mm hole in the jamb, then chisel out a recess for the strike plate.



### 3 Attach the handle

Install the strike plate, then insert the spindle through the door. Put the handles on the spindle, attach the rosettes using machine screws, then tighten the grub screws in the handles. Replace the rosette covers.



## Replace a handle

Old door handles can make a room feel dated, but replacing them with modern ones can instantly update a room for minimal outlay.

To replace the door handle, remove the rosette covers, then loosen the screws and remove the old spindle and latch. Check the existing lockset to make sure the replacement matches the hole already drilled, which may suit either 54mm cylinder locks or 35mm tubular locks.

Also measure the backset, which is the distance from the door edge to the centre of the hole.



### Secure the latch

Position the latch in the door recess and secure the faceplate in position using the supplied screws. **TIP** Use a chisel to enlarge the door recess if needed.



### Install the handles

Insert the spindle through the latch hole and position the handles, then secure with the screws. Tighten the grub screws to secure the handles, then install the rosette covers. ➤

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range in stores or online  
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Available at  
**BUNNINGS**  
warehouse

# HINGES

The length of the hinge you choose for hanging a door is determined by the width, thickness and height of the door you've selected.

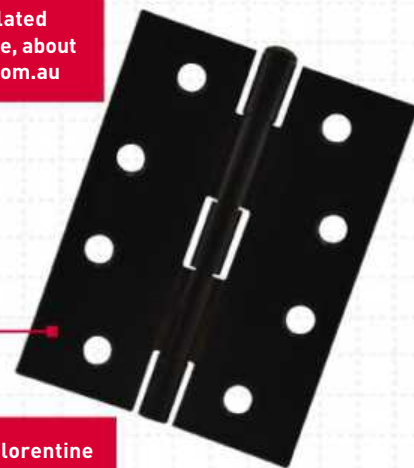
For the average 2040 x 820mm internal door up 35mm thick, use two 85mm long loose-pin butt hinges or two 90mm long non-mortise hinges.

For a 2040 x 820mm entrance door up to 40mm thick, use three 100mm fixed-pin butt hinges.

Select a hinge based on door type and handle choice.



**Zenith 75mm Nickel Plated Double Action Spring Hinge, about \$31 for two. [itwproline.com.au](http://itwproline.com.au)**



**Zenith 100mm Florentine Bronze Loose Pin Butt Hinge, about \$2.**

**Lane Security 100mm Architectural Fixed Pin Butt Hinge, \$7, [itwproline.com.au](http://itwproline.com.au)**



**Lane Security 100mm Fixed Pin Hirline Hinge, \$19 for two.**

**Lane Security 100mm Fixed Pin Easy Fit Hinge, \$8.**



**Lane Security 180mm Double Action Fixed Pin Hinge, \$62.**



**Lane Security 100mm Gravity Hinge, \$51 for two.**





## Hang a new door

Most interior hollow-core doors are 35mm thick while solid doors are usually 40mm thick. For non-standard openings, custom doors can be ordered directly from a supplier.

When installing butt hinges, you will need to cut rebates in the new door to ensure the hinge sits flush with the surface. When working on a door, stand it up on its side using a door stand or clamps.

If the door needs to be trimmed, use a plane to trim a few millimetres. For larger amounts, clamp a straightedge and cut the door with a circular saw.



### Create the rebate

Mark the hinge outline 150mm from the top and base of the door. Chisel out the waste, then position the hinge in the rebate, drill pilot holes and secure with screws.



### Secure the hinges

Hang the door using wedges to support it, then mark the hinges on the jamb to chisel out the rebates. Secure the hinges with screws, ensuring the door swings freely. ➤

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Auto air release point ensures full door closure.

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**ROLLTRAK**

# SECURITY

As the point of entry to your home and the frontline defence against intruders, it's essential that the lock on your front door is in good working order.

It is also a good idea to change all the locks when you move into a new property so that no strangers will have access with any old keys.

While not essential, a lock on an internal door can provide a little privacy in a busy household. 🏡

Update your front door lock as an extra safety measure.



Kwikset Kevo 925mm Deadbolt, \$269. [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au)

Samsung Smart Mortise Lock Biometric, \$649. [samsung.com.au](http://samsung.com.au)



Gainsborough Precise Contemporart Tri-Lock, \$218. [gainsboroughhardware.com.au](http://gainsboroughhardware.com.au)



Lane Security Private Square Cavity Lock, about \$28. [itwproline.com.au](http://itwproline.com.au)



Lane Security Sliding Cavity Door Lock, about \$38.

Gainsborough Gold Traditional Tri-Lock, \$180.



Lockwood 001 Double Cylinder Deadlatch, \$99. [lockweb.com.au](http://lockweb.com.au)





**PRESTIGE** Square D Handle 192mm and Flat Round Knob 32mm

**ZENITH** Round Robe Hook

## BRING A TOUCH OF INTEREST TO YOUR HOME WITH BRUSHED COPPER

While silver, chrome and stainless steel are three metallics commonly used in the home, warmer metals like copper, are having their moment to shine. The texture and gleaming finish of copper provides a sophisticated warmth to most palette choices.

# CREATE EXTRA STORAGE SPACE

Put a blank wall to good use in the garage by building a large cupboard to stash your stuff

WORDS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

**I**s your storage space full up and you're in dire need of more? DIY blogger Melissa Darr found herself in this position when she welcomed a new addition to her family and her old workspace became the baby's room.

'As a freelance photographer and stylist, I have lots of props that need to be stored, so my husband Bevan and I came up with the solution to create extra storage by building a cupboard in the garage,' says Melissa.

To make the most out of a standard 2440 x 1220 plywood sheet, they opted to build three 2440 x 825 x 395mm cupboard sections with reinforced fixed shelves out of 12mm plywood.

The finished sections were painted and mounted side by side on the wall using plywood battens, then secured to a plywood plinth for support.

Doors with vertical and horizontal trim, all made from 9mm plywood, were installed to give a panelled look.



There are shelves of varying heights to hold different-sized items.

**You can have this plywood storage cupboard finished in just a weekend**



## 1 Cut the plywood

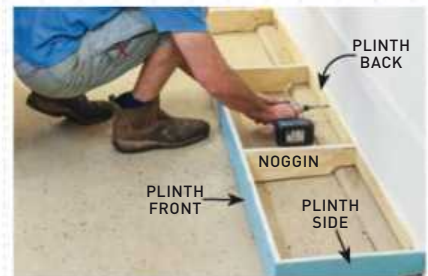
Use a circular saw to cut the 12mm plywood for the sides, tops, bases, shelves, reinforcers and spacers. Cut 100 x 16mm notches in each side 600mm from the top for the mounting battens. Cut the 16mm plywood for the mounting battens and plinth, and the 9mm plywood for the doors and trim. Sand lightly.



## 2 Assemble the sections

For each section, secure the sides to the tops and bases using adhesive and screws. Attach the reinforcers to the shelves, then install the shelves using dowels for extra strength and to make the shelves easier to align. Secure the mounting battens in the notches.

**TIP** Drill pilot holes to prevent splitting.



## 3 Build the plinth

Fill visible screw holes with putty, then prime and paint the cupboard sections and the plinth front and sides. Assemble the plinth using adhesive and screws, ensuring it is level, then secure the back to the wall.

**TIP** Cut notches in the plinth sides and noggins to fit over any skirting.



## DIY TIP

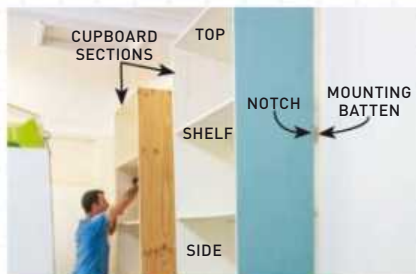
Trim about 5mm off the factory edge of the plywood before you start cutting the various parts to remove any imperfections.



Get more DIY from Melissa  
Follow her blog [thewhimsicalwife.com](http://thewhimsicalwife.com)



Everything is hidden from view behind closed doors.



#### 4 Secure to the wall

Attach the right cupboard section to the plinth, then secure the mounting batten to a wall stud using screws. Attach the left cupboard section to the wall and plinth, adding the spacers to the side to allow the door to swing freely. Secure the centre cupboard section to the plinth and wall.



#### 5 Install the doors

Assemble the doors by attaching the trim with adhesive, then weigh down, or clamp, the trim to the doors to form a strong bond. Paint the doors and trim. Secure the doors in position using hinges, adding magnetic door closers at the top and base to help prevent bowing. Attach the doorknobs.

#### CUTTING LIST

| PART                                | SIZE            | NO |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----|
| <b>Plywood (measurements in mm)</b> |                 |    |
| Cabinet sides                       | 2440 x 395 x 12 | 6  |
| Tops                                | 800 x 395 x 12  | 3  |
| Bases                               | 800 x 395 x 12  | 3  |
| Shelves                             | 800 x 395 x 12  | 13 |
| Shelf reinforcers, front and back   | 800 x 90 x 12   | 26 |
| Spacers                             | 2440 x 100 x 12 | 2  |
| Mounting battens                    | 824 x 100 x 16  | 3  |
| Plinth front                        | 2395 x 100 x 16 | 1  |
| Plinth back                         | 2395 x 100 x 16 | 1  |
| Plinth sides                        | 355 x 100 x 16  | 2  |
| Plinth noggins                      | 355 x 100 x 16  | 3  |
| Doors                               | 2440 x 820 x 9  | 3  |
| Door trim                           | 2440 x 70 x 9   | 6  |
|                                     | 680 x 70 x 9    | 9  |

# Quick & easy garage shelves

\$158  
COST

1  
DAY

Take advantage of vertical space with this double-decker storage solution

**K**eeping odds and ends organised in a garage can be challenging, especially when bulky items such as bikes or gardening gear are taking up all your floorspace.

This two-tier storage shelf allows you to store garage equipment on handy hooks secured under the bottom shelf, and stash paint and chemicals out of reach of children.

The shelves are made out of plywood and pine, with the dividers on the lower shelf supporting the upper level, which houses bulky stuff.

Mount the shelves directly to wall studs, ensuring that enough space is left between the shelf and the ceiling joists to hold your equipment.

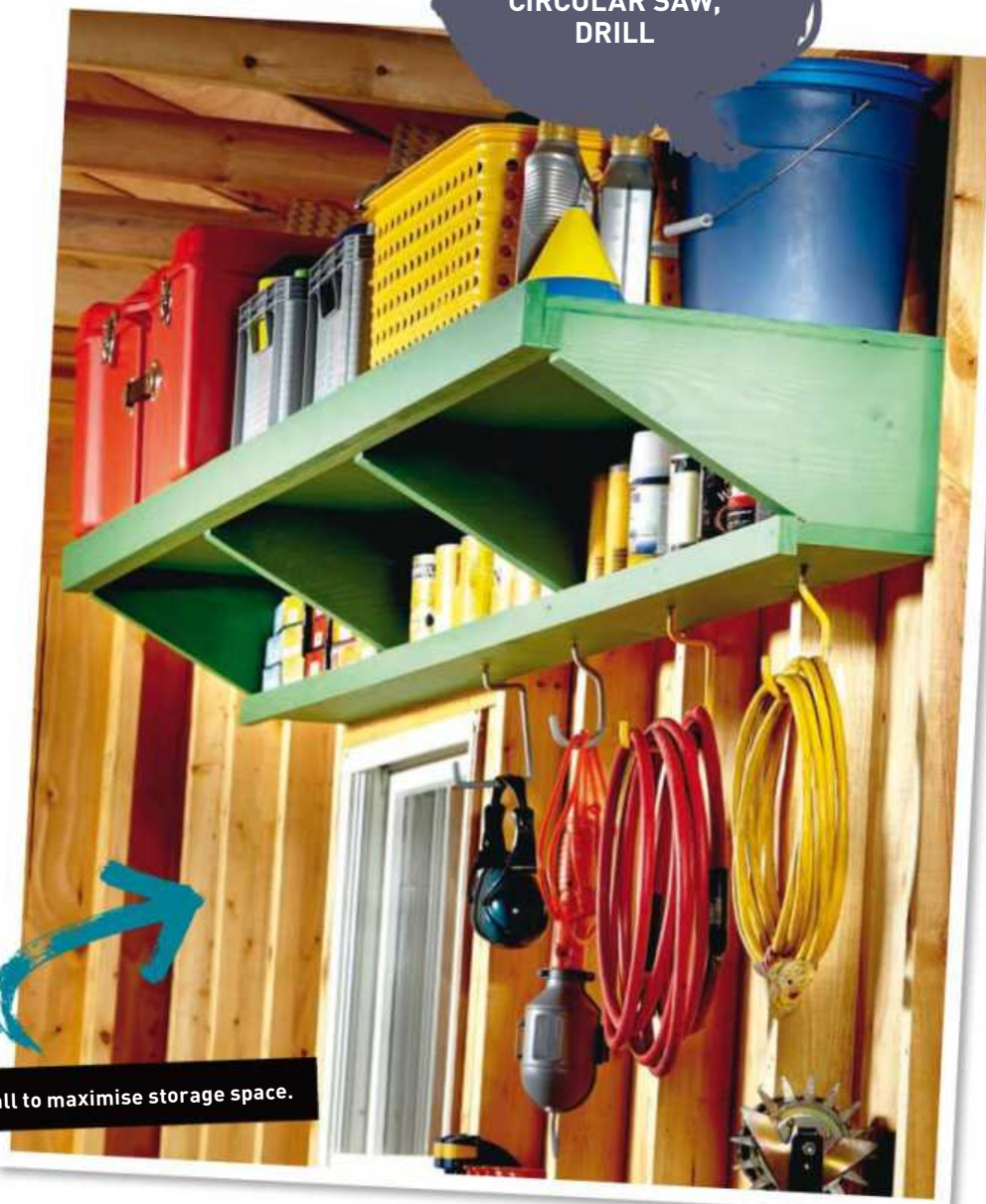


Run out of floorspace  
in the garage?  
It's easy to install  
these practical  
shelves on the wall



Position the shelf high on a wall to maximise storage space.

TOOLS  
CIRCULAR SAW,  
DRILL





Store infrequently used bulky items on the top shelf.

Keep chemicals or paint out of reach on the lower shelf.

Attach hooks under the lower shelf for easy access.

Store gardening tools between the wall studs.

Mount small tins and clamps on the wall noggins.

## DIY TIP

Making the most of wall studs and noggins to store frequently used household and gardening gear is a great space-saving solution.

## TOP PICKS

### What you need

Structural plywood  
Pine  
Paint  
Timber screws  
Coach screws  
Threaded hooks  
Construction adhesive



Ryobi One+ 18V  
Compact Drill Kit,  
\$169. [ryobi.com.au](http://ryobi.com.au)



Sika MaxTack Construction  
Adhesive, \$11 for 300ml.  
[sikaretail.com.au](http://sikaretail.com.au)



Ozito Power X Change  
18V Circular Saw Kit,  
\$129. [ozito.com.au](http://ozito.com.au)



# BUILD THE SHELVES



CIRCULAR SAW

CUTTING GUIDE

PLYWOOD

## 1 Cut the plywood

Rip a plywood sheet using a circular saw to create the shelves. To neatly rip timber, make a DIY cutting guide using the factory edge of the plywood sheet, cutting the bottom panel to match the offset of your saw.



DRILL

BACK PANEL

SHELF SUPPORT

FRONT RAIL

## 2 Build the frame

Mark the diagonal cuts on the shelf supports, then clamp a straightedge to the timber and make the cuts. Butt-join the supports to the back panel, then secure the front rail flush with the top edge of the supports.



CONSTRUCTION ADHESIVE

TOP LIP

FRONT RAIL

TOP SHELF

SHELF SUPPORT

## 3 Attach the shelves

Secure the top shelf using adhesive and screws, then attach the top lip flush with the base of the front rail. Secure the lower shelf to the base of the supports, then attach the lower lip flush with the diagonal edge of the supports.



WALL

TOP LIP

BACK PANEL

SCREW

SHELF SUPPORT

DRILL

## 4 Secure to the wall

Mark stud positions on the back panel and drill two clearance holes per stud. Drill pilot holes in the studs, then secure the shelf using screws. Paint the shelf and attach threaded hooks underneath for hanging storage.





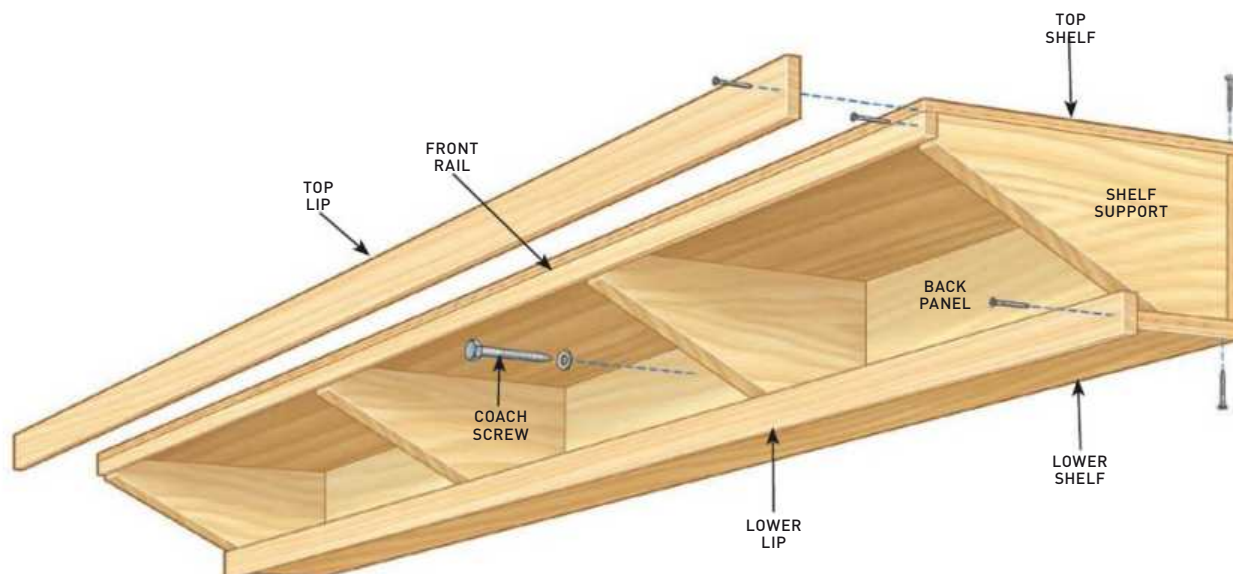
# GARAGE SHELVES

measurements in mm



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## Choosing materials

Sturdy timber is required for the back panel and the shelf supports, as they hold all the weight. Adequate strength is provided by 30mm pine.

The top and lower shelves are made from 12mm plywood. Structural plywood is strong but lightweight and relatively inexpensive, making it ideal for this application.

To adapt the shelves for outdoor installation, it's best to opt for exterior or marine ply for added moisture resistance. 🌧️

## CUTTING LIST

| PART           | SIZE            | NO |
|----------------|-----------------|----|
| <b>Plywood</b> |                 |    |
| Top shelf      | 2400 x 400 x 12 | 1  |
| Lower shelf    | 2400 x 150 x 12 | 1  |
| <b>Pine</b>    |                 |    |
| Back panel     | 2400 x 190 x 30 | 1  |
| Supports       | 340 x 190 x 30  | 4  |
| Front rail     | 2400 x 70 x 30  | 1  |
| Lower lip      | 2400 x 70 x 30  | 1  |
| Top lip        | 2400 x 90 x 30  | 1  |

## FASTENERS

| TYPE                          | USE        |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 10g x 50mm countersunk screws | Shelves    |
| M10 x 100mm coach screws      | Wall studs |

Find it at Bunnings

# DECLUTTER THE GARAGE

Keep your workshop space tidy and organised with shelving and storage

The average garage doesn't have room for much more than a car, but keeping it clutter-free can free up space for a workshop.

Installing adjustable shelves that can be customised to suit the needs of the space will provide plenty of storage for tools and equipment.

Freestanding or wall-mounted lockable cabinets keep power tools and chemicals secure and out of reach.

A workbench offers a dedicated area for small DIY projects and a tidy space to keep handheld tools, while hanging hooks from the ceiling is another great storage solution.



Adding a pegboard to a workbench provides accessible storage space for smaller tools







- ❶ Handy Storage Six-tier Tote System, \$88.
- ❷ Handy Storage Size 30 Plastic Storage Tote, \$6.95 each.
- ❸ Pinnacle Hardware Five-tier Heavy-duty Shelving, \$269.
- ❹ Pinnacle 2 in 1 Jumbo Garage Wall Hook, \$5.
- ❺ Pinnacle Hardware Slimline Cabinet, \$105.
- ❻ Pinnacle Hardware Heavy-duty Workbench, \$279.



### Maximise space

Going vertical is the best way of maximising the available floorspace when it comes to storing away equipment in a garage.

Adding tall shelves and cabinets around the edges and on the walls of the garage allows it to be used as both a parking space and workshop.

Installing a corner unit to link shelving will utilise tricky areas and ensure there is no wasted space.

- ❶ Pinnacle Hardware Wall-mounted Wire Shelf, \$59.
- ❷ Pinnacle Hardware Workbench, \$89.
- ❸ Pinnacle Hardware 1500mm Six-tier Shelving Unit, \$199.
- ❹ Pinnacle Hardware Six-tier Corner Unit, \$199.
- ❺ Pinnacle Hardware 1200mm Six-tier Shelving, \$179.
- ❻ Pinnacle Hardware Metal Cabinet, \$349.

# *CURVES AHEAD*

A turn of the century terrace gets a modern makeover where warmth and character take centrestage

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES JUSTIN ALEXANDER







## DESIGN TIP

Use a retractable awning to complement the colour palette and provide shelter when you don't want to install a permanent fixture.



Homeowner Heidi Carter at the front entrance of her renovated terrace.



The rear living and dining zone is now airy and inviting.

Once city-centre solutions for the population boom caused by the gold rush in New South Wales and Victoria around 1850, terrace houses pose particular design challenges.

Crammed into narrow blocks that often utilised height over width and gave over little room to outdoor space, these properties didn't become of interest to buyers until the 1980s.

Today, Paddington is one of the most sought-after suburbs in Sydney with its multitude of classic terraces, now highly valuable real estate that has all the benefits of proximity to the city.

Architect Luigi Rosselli was briefed with turning a decidedly plain and dark mid-row terrace into a light-filled family home that makes a successful connection to the outdoors. ➤



All eyes are drawn to the lush landscaping that forms part of the living space

Pops of colour are introduced with furnishings, accessories and artworks.



### Corners and curves

With heritage listing protecting the facade, most of the work took place at the rear of the home.

Homeowner Heidi Carter of fashion and homewares company Paddo to Palmy ([paddotopalmy.com.au](http://paddotopalmy.com.au)) wanted to bring in as much light as possible.

‘For me, the light in Australia is everything. It makes me happy to be in bright and airy spaces, so that forms the background palette,’ she says.

The large, open-plan living area to the rear of the home was designed with family life and entertaining in mind.

In combination with the pale floorboards, the utilitarian kitchen design both disappears into the space and creates an ambient calm.

‘The kitchen island bench really is the centrepiece. I was absolutely set on the tongue-and-groove cabinetry and I wanted the workmanship to speak for itself,’ says Heidi.

‘Luigi suggested having a curved edge on the island benchtop, and it finishes off the kitchen perfectly.’

Storage is cleverly worked out to effectively conceal everything while being accessible when needed. ➤



The built-in bookcase under the kitchen island bench reflects the curved theme



**NEW**



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\*Keep tube tightly closed in cool / dry place (17°C - 23°C)

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warehouse



Feature lighting is used throughout the house.

### Colour and character

The interior was very much Heidi's domain. She is heavily influenced by Moroccan style and says that it fits well with her eclectic aesthetic.

'I think my style is a little of everything, a bit chinoiserie, a bit modernist and a bit coastal. Morocco is where lots of influences all form a harmonious blend,' says Heidi.

The style features a strong use of colour and texture, with lots of natural materials and hand finishes.

French, Arabic and African cultures combine in an accessible approach to decorating that infuses spaces with character and life.

'It's always said, but once you have some broad themes, making an interior work is really about choosing pieces you love and things that have meaning to you,' she says.

Using classic furniture, such as the bentwood chairs and Eero Saarinen Tulip Table, works well in a modern setting with a traditional twist.



## DIY TIP

Try your hand at making or repurposing cushions or a bedhead for a unique take on Moroccan style. Opt for vintage materials in natural fibres.

### Pattern and texture

Colour is seen in abundance in this house, set against the pure white backdrop used throughout most of the space.

'It's an automatic choice for me to have white walls, trim and finishes, then add colour through furniture and accessories. I love being able to select a bright yellow chair because the backdrop allows it,' says Heidi.

The one room that can suit colour on the walls is the bedroom, where the focus on light is less. For this tactile environment, Heidi opted for mixed fabrics and materials, which create texture and depth. ➤



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- Ideal for laminate, tile, vinyl & slate floors.



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#### Set of 8, Slipstick 25mm Slider Feet

Ideal for dining chairs with straight legs on polished wood floors.

- Glides easily without scratching.
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- Recommended for 25mm to 32mm diameter legs.

### Slipstick Castor Cups

Are ideal to stop furniture with castor wheels from rolling.



SS84

#### Set of 4, Slipstick Small Castor Cups

Ideal for piano style wheels.

- Provides maximum grip and floor protection.
- Will support up to 250kg per cup.
- Recommended to hold a wheel no larger than 45mm.

### Slipstick Grippers

Are ideal for lounge and sitting area type furniture, they stop furniture from sliding and protect hard floor surfaces.



SS32

#### Set of 8, Slipstick 32mm Gripper Feet

Ideal for stools, tables & medium weight furniture.

- Provides medium grip and floor protection.
- Optional Stick On or Screw On attachment.
- Recommended for 32mm to 50mm diameter legs.



SS50

#### Set of 4, Slipstick 50mm Gripper Feet

Ideal for wooden legged couches, armchair & heavy tables.

- Provides strong grip and floor protection, with Tilt n Slide®.
- Optional Stick On or Screw On attachment.
- Recommended for 50mm to 66mm diameter legs.



SS82

#### Set of 4, Slipstick 82mm Gripper Feet

Ideal for wooden bun feet, couches, armchairs & heavy tables.

- Provides strong grip and floor protection, with Tilt n Slide®.
- Optional Stick On or Screw On attachment.
- Recommended for 82mm to 120mm diameter legs.

### Slipstick Furniture Coasters

Are a quick easy solution to stop furniture with unusual feet from moving around and scratching hard floor surfaces.



SS52

#### Set of 4, Slipstick Leg Coasters

Universal cup for use under washing machines, refrigerators, etc.

- Provides maximum grip and floor protection.
- Recommended to hold a leg no larger than 45mm.



SS75

#### Set of 4, Slipstick Small Glide Cups

Ideal for Bed style Leg Glides.

- Provides maximum grip and floor protection.
- Will support up to 250kg per cup.
- Recommended to hold a glide no larger than 65mm.

For more information visit our website  
[www.slipstick.com.au](http://www.slipstick.com.au) or call us on 1800 354 811

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### Tiles and timber

Evocative of a Moroccan hammam, traditionally a stone cavern where people took massages and steam baths, the bathrooms are finished in a multitude of mixed materials.

'I'm always going to go with the choice of natural materials where I can. When I spotted these marble fish-scale tiles, I instantly had my heart set on having them,' says Heidi.

In keeping with Heidi's assertion to choose what you love, the tiles fully cover the bathroom walls and complement the terracotta floor tiles, which are laid in a herringbone pattern.

A solid oak vanity adds to the earthy raw look of the room and also feels luxurious. The skylight installed over the shower creates an invigorating light well and does the job of casting ambient light around the room. ➤



Stone and timber combine to create a solid and bold bathroom.





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## After

The interior now flows seamlessly to the outdoor entertaining space.





## Garden and pool

The property had an existing garden and, somewhat of a rarity in the inner-city suburb, a swimming pool.

But as is typical of the era, the internal connection to the outdoor space was poor, with the old laundry actually claiming the best view.

To enhance the family home, the architect's design ensured that maximum utility was formed between the house and outdoors.

Space was reclaimed from the pool to create a more even shape that is reflected back in the symmetrical layout of the lawn and verandah.

The north-facing garden draws in sunshine and light all day, while gaining shade from the mature trees.

In widening the house, the garden becomes more functional, avoiding the typically long, narrow shape that can often be overshadowed by neighbours and rendered unusable. 🌞

Before

A curved corner extends to create a contained dining area.



# LIVING SCULPTURES

Kick-start your creativity and bring the beauty of nature into your home with these inspiring botanical projects

WORDS AND PROJECTS WONA BAE AND CHARLIE LAWLER PICTURES BROOKE HOLM



**L**oose Leaf is a botanical design studio and retail space owned by Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler, located in a converted warehouse in the heart of Melbourne, Australia.

The studio resembles an indoor jungle and specialises in permanent and temporary interior landscape design and botanical installations, while the retail space specialises in indoor plants and fresh cut flowers.

## Nature's way

Wona and Charlie's philosophy centres around getting creative and reconnecting with nature.

Having grown up outside of cities, they both strongly believe in the therapeutic benefits of connecting with nature.

And when they are not creating with nature, they are doing their best to get out and explore it.

On a constant search to be surprised, Wona and Charlie's motto is, 'Observe nature, be inspired by it and start experimenting.'

Their studio is a living testament to their shared journey of looking out to nature to be inspired within.

With their book *Loose Leaf*, Wona and Charlie hope to encourage creativity with nature by sharing their approach and some of their designs.





### Healthy practice

'Inviting nature into our lives is an essential part of our design philosophy,' says Charlie.

'But this is not only a fun design practice. We believe that bringing nature inside does us and others some good too. Having plants in your home or office actually improves the air quality (it's true, even NASA says so).

'And, in addition to this, there is a wealth of evidence that access to green spaces and greenery improves mental health and wellbeing.' ➤

Charlie and Wona

### Common ground

When you spend as much time together as Wona and Charlie do, you hope to have a lot in common.

In their case, it's safe to say they both enjoy being creative with greenery. They both appreciate having found someone who enjoys ogling leaves and ranting about how they might better collect this or that material next season.

'It is also positive to have found someone who doesn't mind bringing the outdoors in,' says Wona.

'We're not just talking about decorating with plants, either. Sometimes our studio looks like a giant bowerbird's nest, with sticks lining the walls.'



This story is an edited extract from *Loose Leaf* by Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler (Hardie Grant Books, \$45), available in stores nationally.

A stunningly illustrated book that aims to encourage creativity with nature, it features how-to projects for wreaths, natural sculptures, and flower and foliage arrangements for the home.

Plus it provides information on which kinds of vegetation work together.



# CREATE A STICK VESSEL

This project shows how you can take one natural material, such as sticks, to repurpose as a vessel for a kokozi, which is the name for a Korean-style traditional floristry arrangement.

The sticks should be readily available from your local flower shop, or you can forage them from urban forests and roadsides in your local neighbourhood or parkland.



Use natural materials to design a vase for a floral arrangement



## Types of flowers

When you are selecting flowers to create an arrangement, try to choose four different types.

✦ **LINE FLOWERS** These are generally taller and slimmer flowers that give an arrangement height and width.

✦ **FORM FLOWERS** These are feature flowers or foliage and

they give the design an interesting focal point or colour.

✦ **MASS FLOWERS** These give your floral design volume.

✦ **FILLER FLOWERS** These are often smaller blooms. They provide support for the form or focal flowers, and help show the scale and depth in your design.

## FOLIAGE & FLOWERS

Here are three plants that make a great starting point for creating your own kokozi-inspired floral arrangements.



### Magnolia

Magnolia branches often grow in interesting shapes and forms. They make great form flowers in arrangements, offering structure and support for other plants.



### Conifer

There are over 500 species of conifer found all over the world. Most of these make great, long-lasting evergreens when used as cut foliage.



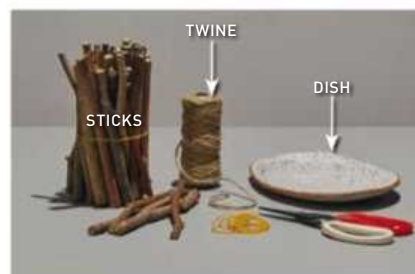
### Star jasmine

Jasmine and other evergreen vines, such as ivy, work well as fillers in a floral arrangement, adding both movement and texture to a design.





1 2



### 1 Arrange the sticks

Cut the sticks into equal lengths of about 15cm. Bunch the sticks together to form a cylinder that fits firmly between your hands, securing with an elastic band. Position the stick bundle on the shallow tray or dish.



### 2 Add the flowers

Start adding freshly cut flowers and foliage, ensuring all stems reach to the tray. Once you're happy with the arrangement, cover the elastic band with twine or string, then add water to the tray. Check the tray daily and top up the water as needed. ➤

#### What you need

30 sticks (about 20cm long and 1cm thick)  
 Selection of flowers and foliage, varied heights and sizes  
 Pruners  
 Florist scissors  
 Elastic bands  
 Shallow dish or tray  
 Roll of twine or string

# PROPAGATE A VINE

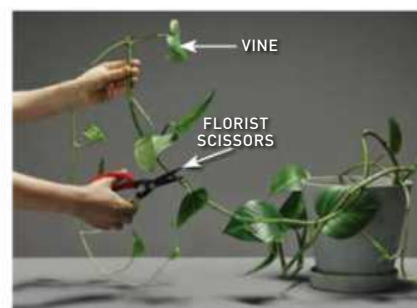
Vines are remarkable plants that either submit to gravity by simply spreading out along the ground or start an upward journey by climbing trees or vertical surfaces, stopping only when high enough to be out of the shade.

Commonly called pothos or devil's ivy, *Epipremnum aureum* is a popular indoor plant and a prolific grower.

As the vine grows longer, you can take cuttings and propagate them to produce new plants.

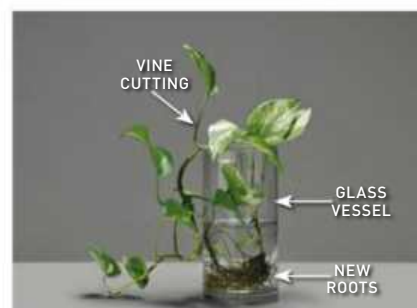
The vines will probably grow roots quicker if planted in a dark vase or vessel, but it is nice to see the process evolve through glass.

1 2



## 1 Cut the vine

Identify the vine you would like to prune. You will need to cut a section at least 10cm in length. Using a pair of florist scissors or pruners, cut the vine at least a couple of centimetres above the last leaf you wish to retain on the mother plant.



## 2 Put into water

Place the vine in a vase or vessel filled with a few centimetres of water. From here, it is important to ensure the water does not evaporate. It is best to keep the new cutting in a moderate to bright location with no direct sun. Top up the water every few days. 🌱

### What you need

1 *Epipremnum aureum* plant  
Florist scissors or pruners  
Small transparent or opaque glass vase or vessel



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### DESIGN TIP

Install ethernet networking cable to a data point in every room for a versatile smart home now and into the future.

# Smart home tech

Make everyday tasks easier by turning your phone into a universal remote for household fixtures and fittings

**WORDS** ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

**T**echnology today plays an integral part in our everyday lives. And as we pack more and more into our busy schedules, setting up a smart home will save money, effort and time.

While the initial upgrade may seem a bit much when replacing old items for smart ones, the savings you make by cutting such things as food waste, energy expenses and time will make the set-up costs a small price to pay.

Selecting which devices to invest in depends on your lifestyle, budget and priorities. Once you've established that, you can get ready to be obsessed with controlling everything from lights to the fridge with the tip of a finger.



## HOUSEHOLD HELPERS

The modern family home can be a cluttered, chaotic space full of tangled cords and gadgets.

But streamlining your system is simple when you substitute out-dated items for these multi-functional marvels, which will enable you to reclaim your space.

### Power point

As you add controlling your home to the many tasks you ask of your smartphone, keeping it charged is more crucial than ever.

So replace old benchtops with the DuPont Corian 50mm Charging Surface, from \$450 per linear metre, and charging points \$250 each (cast.com.au).

This will allow you to charge phones and tablets with induction technology when they're sitting over the charging spot.

### Cool cleaner

Keep tabs on the internal climate and allergen levels in your home with the Dyson Pure Hot + Cool Link Purifier, \$749 (dyson.com.au).

Ideal for managing allergies and asthma, it removes 99.95% of allergens from the air, as well as cools or heats the room.

It sends reports on allergen, temperature and humidity levels to the Dyson Link app.

### Wi-fi wonder

A strong wi-fi signal is essential in a connected home.

So if you have got a large house, or weak wi-fi zones in your home, swap an ordinary light globe with the Sengled E27 Home Automation Wi-fi Boost LED Globe, \$99 (sengled.com.au).

Available in GU10, Bayonet and Edison Screw models, it extends wi-fi signals up to 30m.

### Cord cure

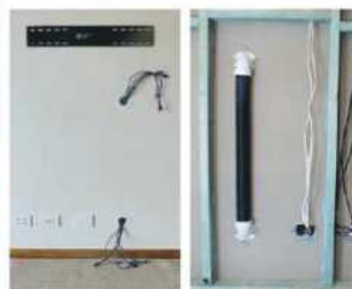
For the average household, upgrading the whole home to smart, wireless tech all at once just isn't realistic.

To remove the mess of cables from items such as the TV in the interim, install CableClear, \$60 (cableclear.net). The affordable solution is easy-to-install and hides wires inside the wall cavity. ➤

### Switched-on sound

Swap a standard speaker and light for the Sengled E27 Home Automation Solo Speaker Globe, \$69 (sengled.com.au).

It connects to a smartphone via Bluetooth. The wireless system allows you to adjust light and sound levels from an easy-to-use app and is also available in lamp-sized globes.



## KITCHEN CURATORS

Foodies and families alike will love the upgraded offerings from LG and AEG in the kitchen. But as with any new appliance for the hub of the home, these items aren't cheap.

But for frazzled working parents, these innovative products will help cut weekly expenses and the time spent cleaning, planning and food shopping each week, freeing up quality time with the kids.



### Household hub

While the innovative Samsung 671L Family Hub Refrigerator, \$7499 ([samsung.com.au](http://samsung.com.au)), is at the high end of a budget, it'll save you time and money food shopping.

Busy professionals with kids will love the wi-fi enabled screen. It allows you to browse recipes, shop with Woolworths and keep a family diary. You can also see images via the app of the fridge contents when at the shops.

### Baker's backup

Never burn a meal with the AEG MaxiKlasse ProCombiPlus 60cm Steam Oven with ProSight Control, \$5499 ([aegaustralia.com.au](http://aegaustralia.com.au)).

It has a core temperature sensor that closely monitors the internal temperature of your food and switches the oven off when it's done to perfection.

It also has cutting-edge steam technology, a sous-vide cooking function foodies will love, and a cool-to-the-touch door.



## SECURITY SWAPS

Keeping your home and family safe is getting simpler every day with the latest technology. You no longer need to rely on security companies while away or peer through a peephole to check who's at the front door.

New security devices enable you to see what's happening in and around your home from your smartphone any time, anywhere.

### Secret spy

Stay safe with the wireless Sengled Home Automation Snap Security Camera and LED Floodlight, \$299 ([sengled.com.au](http://sengled.com.au)).

It features two-way voice communication, infrared night vision, light scheduling, live playback and a 1080p HD video.

It connects to a smartphone, allowing you to watch over your home from anywhere in the world.



### Guest guard

Keep an eye on your home with the Ring Video Doorbell, \$276 ([harveynorman.com.au](http://harveynorman.com.au)), featuring a 720p video camera with a 180° view that works day and night.

It links to an app that provides alerts when someone rings your bell, and has a microphone and speakers so you can talk to visitors at your door from anywhere. ➤





cable  
clear

NEW

## AN INNOVATIVE NEW PRODUCT TO HIDE UNSIGHTLY, HAZARDOUS HANGING CABLES FROM WALL MOUNTED TVS.



CableClear is really quick and easy to install, creating a continuous duct inside the drywall of the home or office, so cables can be gravity fed through and be completely hidden from view.

### FEATURES & BENEFITS

- Hides those hazardous, ugly cables from wall mounted TV's
- Quick and easy to install in minutes
- Designed for all stud walls 70mm and thicker
- Fits plasterboard / drywall up to 13mm
- Suitable for almost all TV heights; hose length is adjustable
- Cables are gravity fed through the CableClear easily
- AUS/NZ, USA and Euro plugs fit through the 50mm (2") hose
- Additional cables can be added later until conduit reaches capacity
- Creates a sealed duct so no insect or dust ingress into the walls
- Components comply with UL 94 V-0 plastics flammability standards
- Cross bracing or wall insulation, if encountered, is easily overcome



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UGLY CABLES

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Turn food scraps into compost in just a week.

## WATCH THIS SPACE

While there isn't a huge variety of options available in Australia yet, expanding your range of smart products to incorporate every part of your life isn't far away.

This year, at the CES, a global consumer electronics and technology tradeshow, many multinationals such as LG, Samsung, Sony and Philips unveiled innovative new devices.

It won't be long before you can lock your doors, turn off lights and activate the dishwasher by saying goodnight. You'll also be able to wake to your blinds opening and freshly made coffee.

## Top 5 devices from CES 2017

**1** **INIRV REACT SMART STOVE**  
KNOBS turn off your gas stove automatically when you leave the house, or can be operated remotely via your phone.

**2** **SYMANTEC NORTON CORE**, which protects all your smart home devices from viruses, is a must have in the new connected household era.

**3** **SEVENHUGS SMART REMOTE** is the universal remote of the future, and is able to manage over 25,000 connected devices.

**4** **SLEEP NUMBER 360 SMART BED** features a foot warmer and adjusts support when you shift position or snore, making cricked necks a thing of the past.

It is also able to track your heart rate, motion and breathing to assess sleep quality.

**5** **WHIRLPOOL ZERA FOOD RECYCLER** turns food waste into fertiliser in a week with minimal odour inside your kitchen. Designed to be at benchtop height, you can sweep scraps straight in. It composts everything except pips and bones. ♻️



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# What's new

Pick up the latest products for the home and garden instore

## DIY TIP

Get the look of timber flooring for less with vinyl planks. They're quick and easy to install and come in a range of styles.



- 1 Glue Dots Repositionable Dispenser, \$9.70.
- 2 Glue Dots Advanced Strength Dispenser, \$9.70.
- 3 Glue Dots Craft Dispenser, \$9.70.



Give your window treatments flair with Decorative Curtain Rods that expand from 175-305cm, \$65.90 each.



Glue Dots double-sided sheets, \$8.70 a pack, are a peel-and-stick solution for big and small projects.





Lay Floor Select Vinyl Planks with built-in underlay for a timber-look finish, \$32.90 per sqm.



- ① Flexovit Multi Material 100mm Diamond Blade, \$19.95.
- ② Flexovit Multi Material 125mm Diamond Blade, \$24.95.



Illuminate your outdoor space in style using the Solar LED Motion Sensor Wall Light, \$44.



- ① Irwin Extension Multi Bit Screwdriver, \$29.98.
- ② Irwin 8-in-1 Ratcheting Screwdriver, \$29.98.
- ③ Irwin 6-in-1 Nut Driver Screwdriver, \$29.98.



Improve security at your place with the Gardenglo Solar LED Security Sensor Lights, \$64.

# RE-LINE A POND

Create a safe home for aquatic plants and fish by replacing an old, torn liner

PROJECT LEE DASHIELL MAIN PICTURE GEOFF BECK

**T**he liner in this old garden pond had developed a hole over time, causing a leak.

As a result of the leak, the water level in the pond had lowered significantly, exposing the liner around the sides and revealing the tops of the pots containing the waterlilies.

Two buckets were used to bail out the water, and the fish were kept in one of the buckets while the liner was

being changed. You can also siphon off the pond water if needed.

The old liner was removed, then the shape of the pond was altered by digging the hole deeper and wider than before. A new liner was added and the pond was refilled with water.

If you are changing the shape of the pond as we did, check the allowable maximum depth with the local council before you begin digging.

Before



## What you need

2 buckets  
Garden hose  
Clean sand or carpet  
underlay  
Pond liner

## LEE'S PICKS



Aquapro 4 x 3m 0.35mm  
PVC Pond Liner, \$95.  
[aquatecequipment.com](http://aquatecequipment.com)



Scotts Osmocote Water Gardens  
& Aquatic Plants, \$7 for 250g.  
[scottsaustralia.com.au](http://scottsaustralia.com.au)

Cyclone PDH Short  
Handle Garden Spade,  
\$39. [cyclone.com.au](http://cyclone.com.au)



Goldfish thrive in  
backyard ponds.

PICTURES (BEFORE) LEE DASHIELL (BOTTOM) SHUTTERSTOCK



## After

The new pond has space for waterlilies, which provide a place for fish to hide from predatory birds.

### DIY TIP

Install a pump in the pond if you don't already have one to help deter mosquitoes, which breed in stagnant water.

★  
Prune overhanging trees or shrubs to keep the pond clear of foliage



### Siphon the water

Consider removing the water from the pond with a hose.

- **CHOOSE** a hose that's long enough to reach from the pond to the area where you want to deposit the water.
- **ATTACH** the hose to the tap and fit a nozzle to the other end. Tighten the nozzle to keep the water in the hose.
- **FILL** the hose, then remove it from the tap, holding up the end so water doesn't escape. Pick up the nozzle

end and take the hose to where you want the water to go, then lay the nozzle end on the ground.

- **CARRY** the open end of the hose back to the pond, making sure no water runs out. Submerge the tip in the deepest part of the pond and hold it down with a rock.
- **KEEP** the hose on the ground, then remove the nozzle from the other end. Water will gush from it as it begins to drain the pond. ➤



# REPLACE THE LINER



## 1 Bail out the pond

Remove the water from the pond using two buckets, keeping one bucket of water to temporarily hold the fish. Take out the pots of aquatic plants, then catch the fish and put them in the reserved bucket of water. Trim the plants and clean the outside of the pots.



## 2 Remove the old liner

Roll all the rocks away from the edge of the pond, so you can take hold of the liner. Peel it back from the sides and fold it up in the middle, then remove it and dispose of it.

**TIP** Take care with your footing, as the soil under the liner will be slippery.



## 3 Reshape the pond

Dig the pond about 200mm deeper using a spade, so the rims of the pot plants won't be too close to the surface of the water. Excavate the sides straight down from top to base to help reduce the visibility of the new pond liner once the pond is filled with water.



## 4 Add a protective layer

Line the base of the pond with a layer of clean sand or carpet underlay to protect the new pond liner from being punctured by roots, rocks or other sharp objects when it is laid.

**TIP** We spread out pieces of salvaged foam matting over the entire surface.



## 5 Install the new liner

Drape the new liner loosely over the hole and use rocks to hold it in place. Add the pot plants. Fill the pond gradually to ensure a neat finish, as the weight of the water will push the liner to the sides. Return the fish and allow the pond to settle overnight.



## 6 Edge the pond

Position the rocks closely together around the pond so that they slightly overhang the edge. Add a layer of mulch around the perimeter, filling any gaps in between the rocks so the liner is completely hidden from view. Trim off any excess liner with scissors. 🍀



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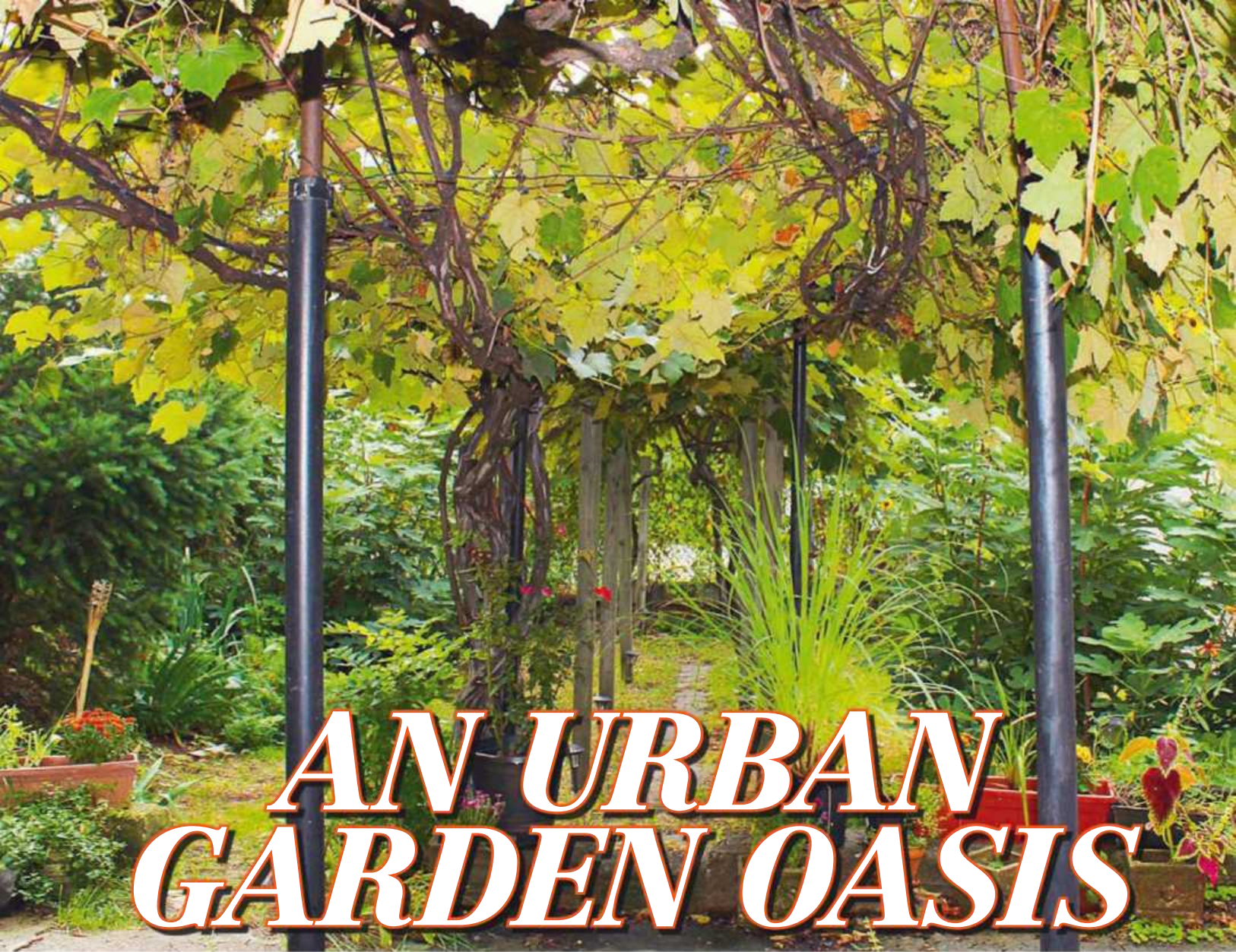


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# AN URBAN GARDEN OASIS

In this New Jersey backyard, an Aussie-grown gardener has come up with new landscaping tricks and techniques

WORDS AND PICTURES HELENA GOUROS

**O**n a global scale, different climates produce different gardens. From Australia to America, when creating an urban garden, climate, size and environment are all factors to be considered.

But with just a little planning and know-how, you can tackle the ever-changing demands of seasonal perils wherever you are.

Living in Manhattan, then moving to New Jersey, I have learned that the winters here are long and brutal and the summers are short, hot and rainy.

The fauna is different and, apart from the mozzies, the insects are, too. But, the fundamentals of garden design are the same.

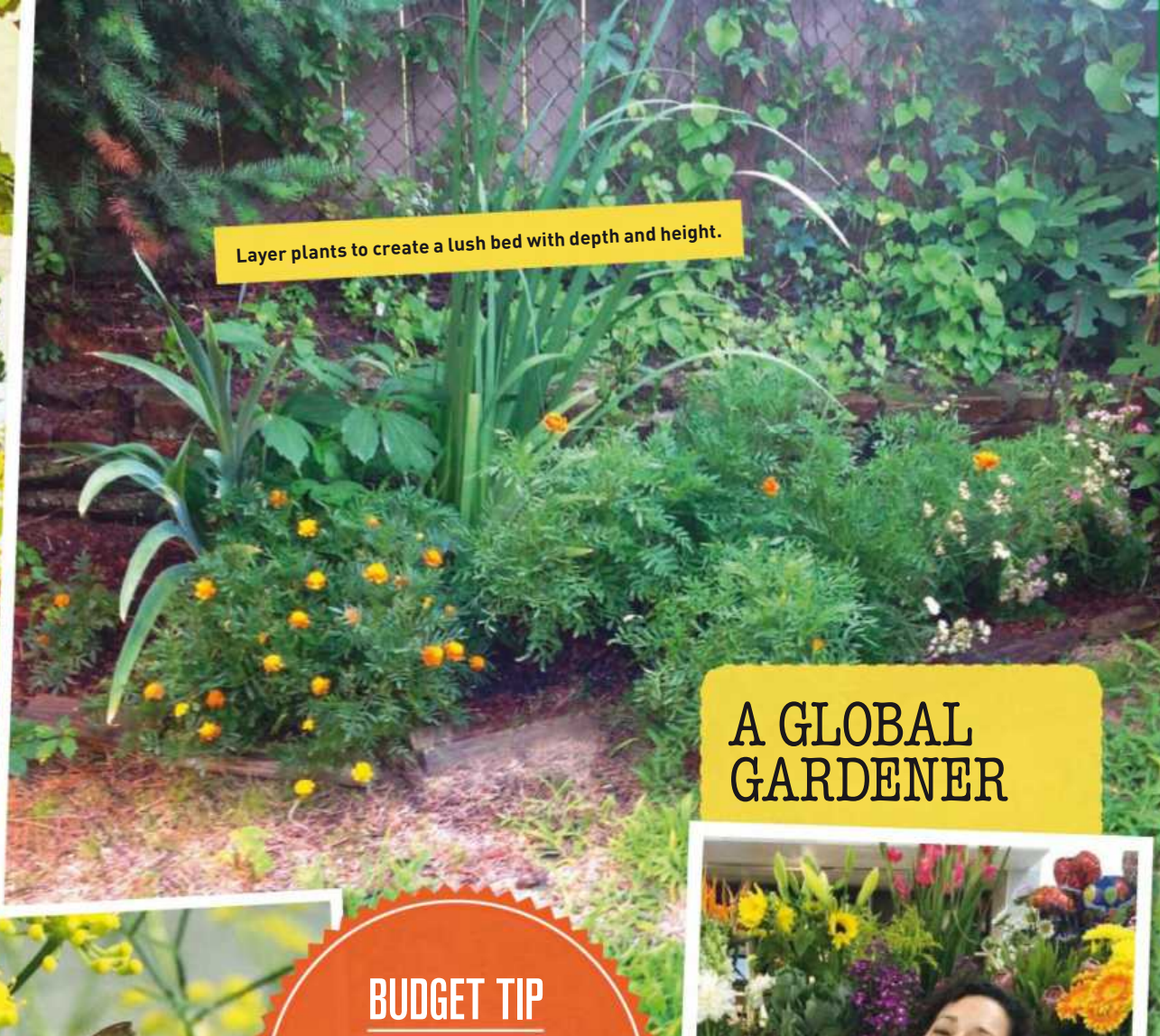
I do most of my urban gardening, commercial and residential, in New York City. Fast becoming very verde, the city is bursting with indoor and outdoor green spaces.

When my work is done, there is nothing better than escaping the mania of the Big Apple by crossing the Hudson River to my alluring, out of sight, back garden in Jersey City.



Sunflowers look great in front of walls or fences.





Layer plants to create a lush bed with depth and height.

## A GLOBAL GARDENER



### BUDGET TIP

Grow perennials from seed or cuttings, swap plants with other gardeners and buy a few annuals for seasonal colour.

### An enchanted space

The garden, located in the historical Italian Quarter, had an untouched sanctuary-like feel with established trees and vines, including a 70-year-old enchanted Concorde grapevine, when I moved in a few years ago.

Used to make wine back in the day, the grapevine runs lengthways down the centre of the garden and creates a stunning canopy from April until November, providing shade for humans and shelter and food for welcomed birds and insects.

Morning glory and ivy creep up the fences, giving the garden privacy. Two figs and a pine tree make up a dense middle layer.

To add a much-needed bottom layer, smaller flowering perennial plants were added to six garden beds.

The four corners of the yard and the space running along the side fences were turned into garden beds.

To prepare the beds for planting, compost, manure and fresh top soil were added. Borders were created with recycled wood, seashells and bricks.



PICTURE NICOLE ANDERSON

Helena Gouros is an Australian who lived in Europe for years and is now an urban gardener in New York City and its surrounds. To promote the fun and pleasure of urban gardening she is launching an interactive vlog in 2017.

For more information, visit [handyman.net.au/urban-garden](http://handyman.net.au/urban-garden). ➤



## Bountiful bulbs

All of the bulbs in my backyard, such as lilies, irises and gladioli were from the community garden in my area.

Growing easily in my climate zone and naturally multiplying, they are planted in five of the six garden beds.

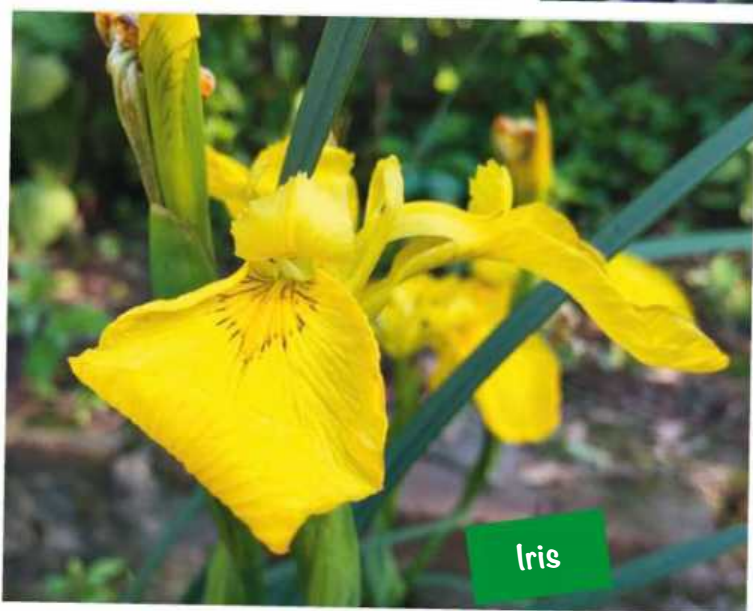
They are remarkably easy to divide and replant, giving you new plants for next spring at no extra cost. I like to do this in early fall, giving the bulbs time to settle in over winter.

Columbines, with their long stems and star-like flowers were an obvious choice. Easy to care for, they work best in part shade, but don't overwater. In summer, once a week is sufficient.

I grew mine from seed and have divided and replanted them over the last several years up to three times. I picked up yellow columbine seeds from a friend last year and I'm looking forward to adding them to the garden.



Columbine



Iris



Yarrow



### Seasonal annuals

To keep the garden looking current and suited to the weather conditions, add annuals at the start of each season.

Last summer I grew basil, sunflowers, marigolds and nasturtiums from seed. Here are my top picks for any garden.

☛ **IN SPRING** plant pansies, as they don't mind a light frost and a cooler temperature.

☛ **IN SUMMER** add geraniums and wax begonias for classic blooms.

☛ **IN FALL** add chrysanthemums and ornamental kale for warm autumn colour.

## Companion gardening

I grow yarrow in bunches in beds and pots. I grew mine from seed and they took two years to flower but were worth the wait, as they attract beneficial insects into the garden.

The fennel and blackberry bushes in the back corner are adored by bumblebees and butterflies, while the nearby sunflowers attract birds, too.

Marigolds have a strong scent which keeps critters away. Grow them like a floral guard around the perimeter of beds or scatter through.

Nasturtiums have long stems that creep easily, and bountiful flowers which help camouflage ground beetles and ladybugs. They are also decoys who lure pests from other plants.



Use Genovese basil in the vegie patch to enhance the flavour of tomatoes



## Starting out from seed

To avoid frosts and a cooler lead-up to the warmer months, start seeds inside 6-10 weeks prior to spring.

Use a seed-growing kit, small pots or eggshells. Plant seeds according to the packet instructions, covering with peat moss instead of soil.

Peat moss is a lighter medium and for most seeds makes it easier to germinate successfully.

Not all seeds like to be started inside or to be moved once sown, but starting indoors gives you a good head start on the growing season to come.

Eggshells make excellent and economical seed pots.

## PROPAGATE CHOCOLATE MINT

Chocolate mint self-sowed one year and spread from stems that reached from a pot to the ground, so I propagated it in late summer. I used it to fill an empty spot that needed a low bunchy creeper but made sure it was contained in the bed.



**1 CUT** older growth of fleshy stems about the length of a pencil using secateurs. Cut more than you think you will actually need.



**2 SOAK** the cuttings in a clear glass jar of water and leave inside until they strike roots. Check the water level regularly and top up when needed.



**3 PLANT** into soil improved with compost. Make a hole twice the size of the bunch, plant and fill around with soil. Pat down lightly and water in. ➤



## Easy upcycling

On a quest to keep the urban garden theme alive, I have taken cinder blocks that were lying around the backyard, filled them with soil and used them as planters.

The cinder block planters line the back fence and act as pots along the low wall left over from the old house, which over a century ago sat where the garden is today.



**TEA TRICK** Add tea to compost or throw leaves onto garden beds for a nitrogen hit and soil conditioner, and to promote worm activity.



An aerial view of the snow-covered winter yard.



### Cold weather bloomers

These plants grow well in well-drained, slightly acidic soil.

#### CHINESE WITCH HAZEL

The cultivar 'Jelena' flowers in mid to late winter and bears yellow to orange flowers.

#### CYCLAMEN HEDERIFOLIUM

is a species of hardy cyclamen with dusty pink to white flowers that grows and blooms in winter. Grow under a tree or in a shady spot.

## Winter landscape

With temperatures dropping below zero degrees Celsius here in the winter, plants were chosen for their hardiness, flowers and capabilities as companion plants.

While I've lived here, the garden has sat in a state of winter dormancy. With plenty of snow cover, there hasn't been much to do outside.

But I have learned that there are trees and shrubs that thrive in the colder months and it is in fact possible to have a winter garden.

I've already started making plans for a winter garden next year and started looking for the perfect outdoor fireplace, making my garden a four-seasons backyard.





### Backyard wildlife

Australia is known for its unique animals, but I have seen more wildlife in my garden in the USA than ever before.

There is a resident woodchuck that likes to eat my seedlings in spring, making it a good reason to start them indoors.

Susie, a black garden snake, sighted of a morning on a good day, likes to feast on slugs. This keeps their numbers down and saves my plants. What a friend to have in the garden. Scary, but good. 🐍



Get more urban gardening ideas

Visit [pinterest.com/diyhandyman](https://pinterest.com/diyhandyman)



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# ★ READERS' DIY

## Outdoor projects



Before

### Jason and Malien's steps

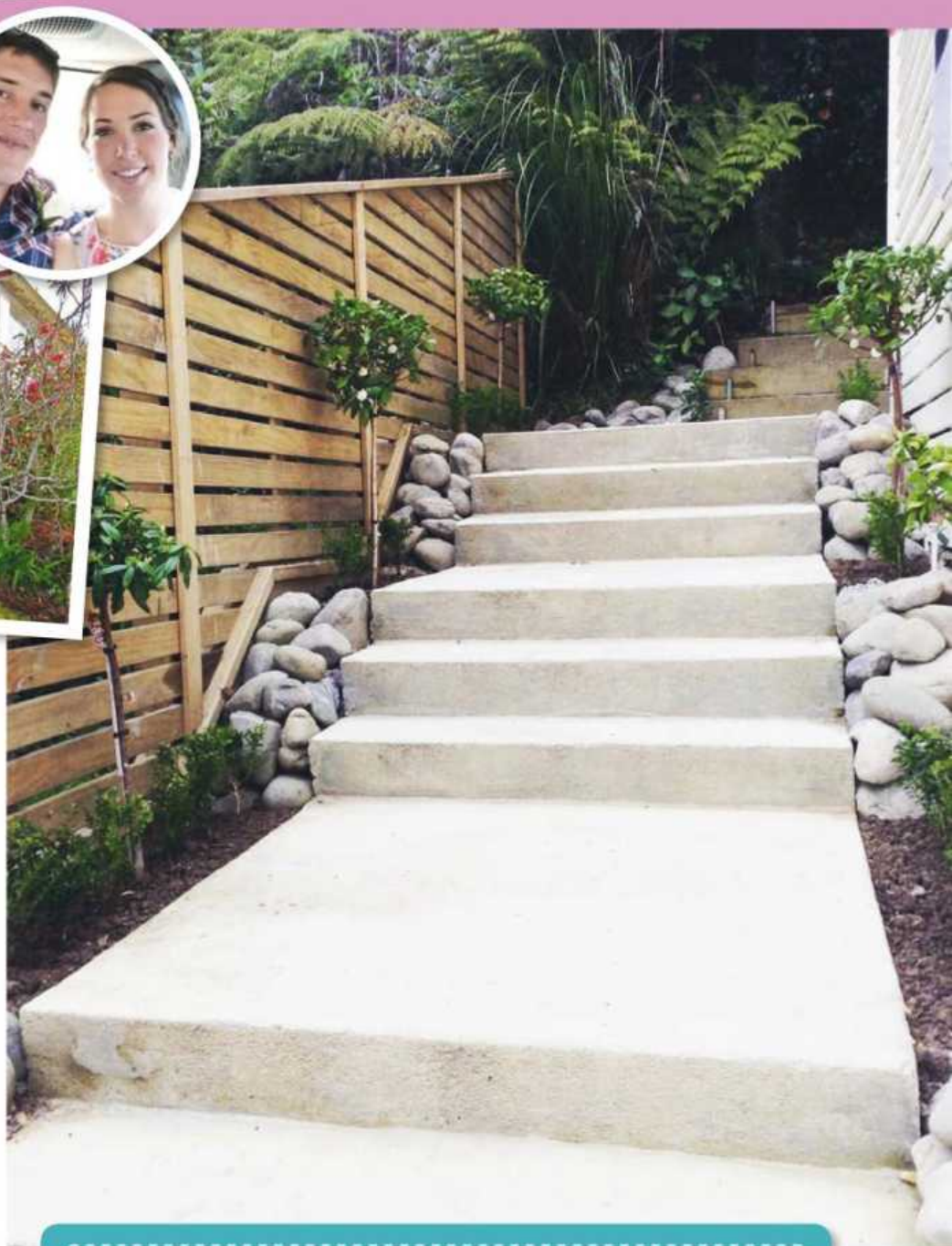
When Jason and Malien de Vries bought their first house in 2009, it was in a terrible state and needed a lot of work.

It's been a labour of love over the past five years, and now with three kids in tow, they tackled a landscaping issue.

'Our house is on a steep hill and we have many steps to climb to reach the front door. They were very steep, uneven and falling away, so it was tough going for our grandparents to come and see us,' says Malien.

'We decided to widen the path and space out the steps. My husband and I poured all the concrete ourselves and built a retaining wall so we could add a strip of garden along the path.

'To finish it off, we installed a fence and planted buxus hedging and standard daphne plants. We're so happy with the results.'



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## Peter's screen

One side of Peter Lloyd's property overlooked the neighbour's living space, so after deciding to create a Japanese-style garden, the idea for a screen started to form.

'To go with the garden theme, I researched building a traditional Japanese Torii gate,' says Peter.

'It's a simple design and I wanted it to be good quality, so I used Australian hardwood and bamboo, then finished it off with a marine-grade varnish.

'These gates are usually frames at the entrance to a shrine, but I installed a door to create an effective screen. I just painted and varnished a cheap interior door.

'I completed the look with slate-look concrete pavers, river pebbles and stone ornaments.

'Both sides of the screen are finished neatly and we planted clumping bamboo either side.'



## Joy and Michael's deck

As there was very little shade in the backyard at Joy and Michael Williams' new home, it was underused. So the couple decided a deck and pergola extension was what they needed.

'I wasn't convinced our space was big enough for an undercover entertaining area, but we weren't able to enjoy the garden throughout the summer,' says Joy.

'We bought an outdoor kitchen for \$250 and a four-burner barbecue for

\$169 on clearance. We added a sink, power point, fan and lighting, with the tradies costing \$1000.

'Michael worked very hard in the evenings and on weekends for five weeks. I love building stuff, too, and helped to nail down the merbau decking boards using a measuring tool Michael made to ensure the boards were evenly spaced.'

They now have a great outdoor space for parties and family barbies.



Adding a deck and pergola turned the backyard into an alfresco entertaining area





# ★ SEE THE WORLD ✈️

## Designer destination



↑ Garden designs can be traditional like this Japanese tea house display.

↓ This award-winning design Cube, by Darin Bradbury, is bold and contemporary.



### Inspiring show

Every year, as the first hints of autumn colour the trees, travellers from around the globe head to Victoria, Australia for the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show (MIFGS).

Considered to be one of the top five garden shows in the world, it attracts over 100,000 visitors annually to the World Heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens ([melbflowershow.com.au](http://melbflowershow.com.au)).

Within walking distance from the CBD, this is a show for everyone, young and old.

This year, the show runs from 29 March to 2 April.

Sometimes, whimsy is the order of the day.







Prepare to be transported to another world by some of the exotic designs.

There's loads to keep the kids entertained.

## Blooms and beyond

MIFGS really has something for everyone. The Royal Exhibition Building plays host to a mind-blowing selection of floral displays from some of Australia's finest florists, both established and upcoming.

You can catch talks by garden specialists and celebrities and take a look at the art exhibitions.

In Carlton Gardens, you'll find lots of incredible display gardens, ranging from tiny student-designed plots to massive million-dollar professional landscapes.

There are also masses of stalls selling all manner of plants and outdoor lifestyle gear and, of course, a mouth-watering selection of food.

- ↑ Find innovative ideas for modern settings.
- ➔ See the Gardens by Twilight with the displays revealed in all their glory at dusk.



Keen to have your outdoor living spaces on-trend? Then you can't miss MIFGS



# Handyman

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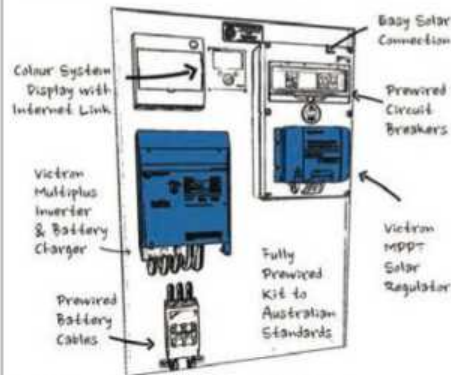
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# This month

Now the weather's cooling down, get ready for autumn gardening

## Do now

- **ADD** nutritious peas to your vegie patch for a late-autumn crop, page 136.
- **PLANT** a lemon tree in a garden bed or pot for its tangy fruit and fragrant flowers, page 144.

## Flowers to sow

Plant these seeds now for a display of blooms in midwinter.

- **CINERARIA**
- **DIANTHUS**
- **GAILLARDIA**
- **PANSY**
- **STATICE**



Gaillardia

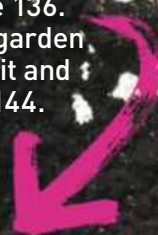
## Vegies to grow

Start sowing these vegetables for crops from late autumn to early winter.

- **CABBAGE**
- **LEEK**
- **LETTUCE**
- **SHALLOTS**
- **TURNIP**



Lettuce





## WHAT'S IN COLOUR

### ♦ ALYOGYNE 'DELIGHTFULLY DOUBLE'

is the world's first double-flowering variety of Alyogyne. From early summer to late autumn, it is covered in masses of lovely soft mauve-pink blooms.

It is fast growing, reaching 1.8m in height and spreading to 1.8m, so it is ideal for use in new gardens. And as it responds well to pruning, it is also a great choice for an informal screen.

Give it a position in full sun or part shade in free-draining soil, and use a controlled-release fertiliser for natives.

Extremely tolerant of drought, heat and humidity, 'Delightfully Double' has low water requirements.

Prune this easy-care shrub after flowering for more blooms next season.

Information courtesy of Plants Management Australia ([pma.com.au](http://pma.com.au)).

Alyogyne 'Delightfully Double'

### To-do list

Tackle these early-autumn jobs in the garden.

- ✓ **TAKE** hardwood cuttings of roses in subtropical and tropical zones.
- ✓ **SPRAY** grass with insecticide to control lawn grubs and other root-eating pests.
- ✓ **WATER** established roses regularly and check for pests and diseases.
- ✓ **BUY** trees and shrubs for autumn foliage while they are in colour in temperate zones.
- ✓ **APPLY** an autumn fertiliser to lawns.
- ✓ **RE-POT** indoor plants in subtropical/tropical areas.
- ✓ **LIFT** and divide chives in cool climates.
- ✓ **LIME** lawns and beds in gardens with acid soils. ➤



# MAKE VEGIE STAMPS

You can create wrapping paper, gift tags and greeting cards using vegies and fruit such as celery, radicchio, star fruit, capsicum, brussels sprouts and okra.

All you need for this project are stamping ink pads, plain wrapping paper, art paper and blank cards.



## 1 Cut the stamp

To make the stamp, cut the vegetable crossways to reveal the cross-section. Stand the vegetable cut-side down on paper towel to blot the excess liquid. Cover the cut side of the vegetable with stamping ink, then make a few practice stamps on scrap paper.



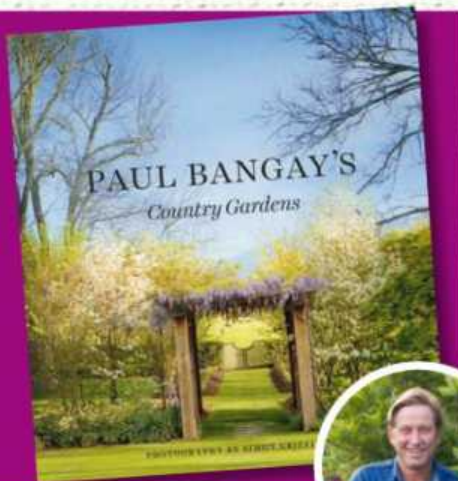
## 2 Create the pattern

Lay a folded tea towel under the paper or card to soften the surface. On paper, stamp a repeat pattern and for a card, use a single stamp. On cards, radicchio and celery form striking single motifs. On paper, celery makes a rose-shaped stamp and okra tiny round shapes.

## BOOK CLUB

In his latest book, *Paul Bangay's Country Gardens* (Lantern, \$80), this renowned landscape designer takes us on an exclusive tour of 20 of his favourite country estates.

Beautifully photographed by Simon Griffiths, Paul gives us an insight into the planning process behind each garden and describes how he created the gardens to reflect the changing seasons. 🌿



## Prune now

Get these plants into shape after flowering and fruiting.

- ✦ BUXUS
- ✦ WESTRINGIA
- ✦ MURRAYA
- ✦ STONE FRUIT
- ✦ HYDRANGEA

Hydrangea



## Harvest now

These vegetables and fruits are ready to be picked.

- ✦ BANANA
- ✦ FIG
- ✦ POTATO
- ✦ TOMATO
- ✦ ZUCCHINI

Fig



## Feed now

Give grass and flowering plants an autumn boost.

- ✦ LAWNS
- ✦ ROSES
- ✦ CITRUS
- ✦ GARDENIA
- ✦ HIBISCUS

Rose





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# GROW YOUR OWN PEAS

Forget the frozen variety when you can pick this veggie straight from the vine

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

**N**ext time you grab a packet of peas from the supermarket freezer, imagine you're picking your own homegrown peas instead.

You can grow peas that you shell and eat the seed or those that you eat pod and all, and they are available in climbing or dwarf varieties.

Climbing peas need support and dwarf varieties will also yield more if given a climbing aid. You can use homemade teepees or a light support made from wire or stakes and string.



## HELP THEM THRIVE

Sow seeds in autumn and winter, as peas like cool weather. In frosty areas, sow from late June until September.

➤ **POSITION** peas in full sun, with protection from wind.

➤ **SOIL** needs to be free-draining. Enrich with compost or cow manure. If acidic, add dolomite or soluble lime.

➤ **SOW** seeds directly where the plants are to grow instead of planting seedlings, to prevent transplant shock. Water the ground well an hour before sowing.

Make a 50mm furrow and sow the seeds 50mm apart. Cover with soil and gently firm down. Keep the soil damp but don't overwater or the seeds will rot. The seeds should germinate in about 7-10 days.

➤ **WATER** regularly to keep the soil moist, once germinated.

➤ **FEED** with a soluble plant food when the flowers appear.

➤ **MULCH** lightly with sugarcane or lucerne hay to prevent weed growth.

Harvest peas every few days for the sweetest pods.



### Petite powerhouses

Peas are high in fibre and bursting with nutrients.

They contain vitamins B1, C and K, as well as folic acid and vitamin B6, which are good for your heart. Peas are also rich in magnesium, iron and potassium.

If your kids aren't keen on store-bought peas, encourage them to help you grow them, then pick and eat them raw.



Cheryl

## EXPERT SECRETS

You can keep peas in the fridge crisper for about a week, but they're much tastier picked fresh from the garden.

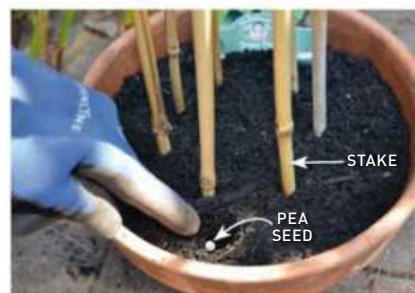
**1 2**

**PLANT IN POTS** If you have a sunny balcony or courtyard, you can grow peas in a large pot supported by a teepee made from 2m high bamboo stakes.



### **1 Add the stakes**

Fill a 300mm pot with a premium potting mix. Insert the bamboo stakes in the mix about 50mm apart and 50mm from the edge of the pot. Tie the stakes together at the top with string or wire. Put the pot in a sunny position and lightly water the mix.



### **2 Plant the seeds**

Plant one pea seed 50mm deep at the base of each stake. Keep the mix moist but not overwet to prevent the seeds rotting. Once the seeds have germinated, water regularly and you will be picking fresh peas in about 10 weeks. ➤



## WHAT TO PLANT

### Sugar snap peas

A cross between a garden pea and snow pea, the sugar snap pea is eaten pod and all. The pod is thick and sweet and picked when the seeds are well developed.

Add to salads, stir-fries and Asian soups, or lightly steam.

### Snow peas

This climber is harvested before the seeds have properly formed and when the pods are still flat.

Eat them raw in salads, add to Asian dishes and stir-fries, or lightly boil or steam.

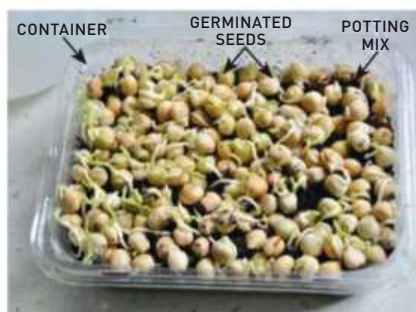
**1** **2** **3**

**GROW PEA SHOOTS** You can grow pea shoots indoors in seed trays, punnets or any shallow container that is at least 50mm deep and has drainage holes. Young pea shoots are delicious eaten raw in salads and sandwiches or added to stir-fries.



### 1 Soak the seeds

Place the seeds in a bowl, cover with water and soak for at least 8-24 hours. Add 50mm of potting mix to a container and water lightly with a mist spray. Arrange the seeds close together on top of the mix.



### 2 Germinate the seeds

Cover the container with a lid or aluminium foil to provide darkness, keeping it covered until the seeds germinate after about 3-4 days. Remove the cover and place the container in a well-lit position.



### 3 Harvest the shoots

Water regularly with a mist spray for about a week until the shoots are ready to harvest. Pick as microgreens after the first two true leaves appear or when about 150mm high, cutting off at the base with kitchen shears.





### Garden peas

This pea is available in climbing and dwarf varieties. Only the pea is edible, so they need shelling.

Eat raw in salads, add to soups, or lightly steam or boil.

**TIP** The climbing varieties take up less ground space than the dwarf.

### PEST TIP

Make sure you protect pea seedlings from snails, slugs and birds, which all like to munch on the young growth.

### Did you know?

Peas have been part of the human diet for thousands of years. Archaeologists have discovered evidence of pea consumption in a cave on the Thailand-Burmese border dating back to 9750 BC.

Peas were originally eaten dried, but over the centuries, the fresh green seeds have become popular. ➤



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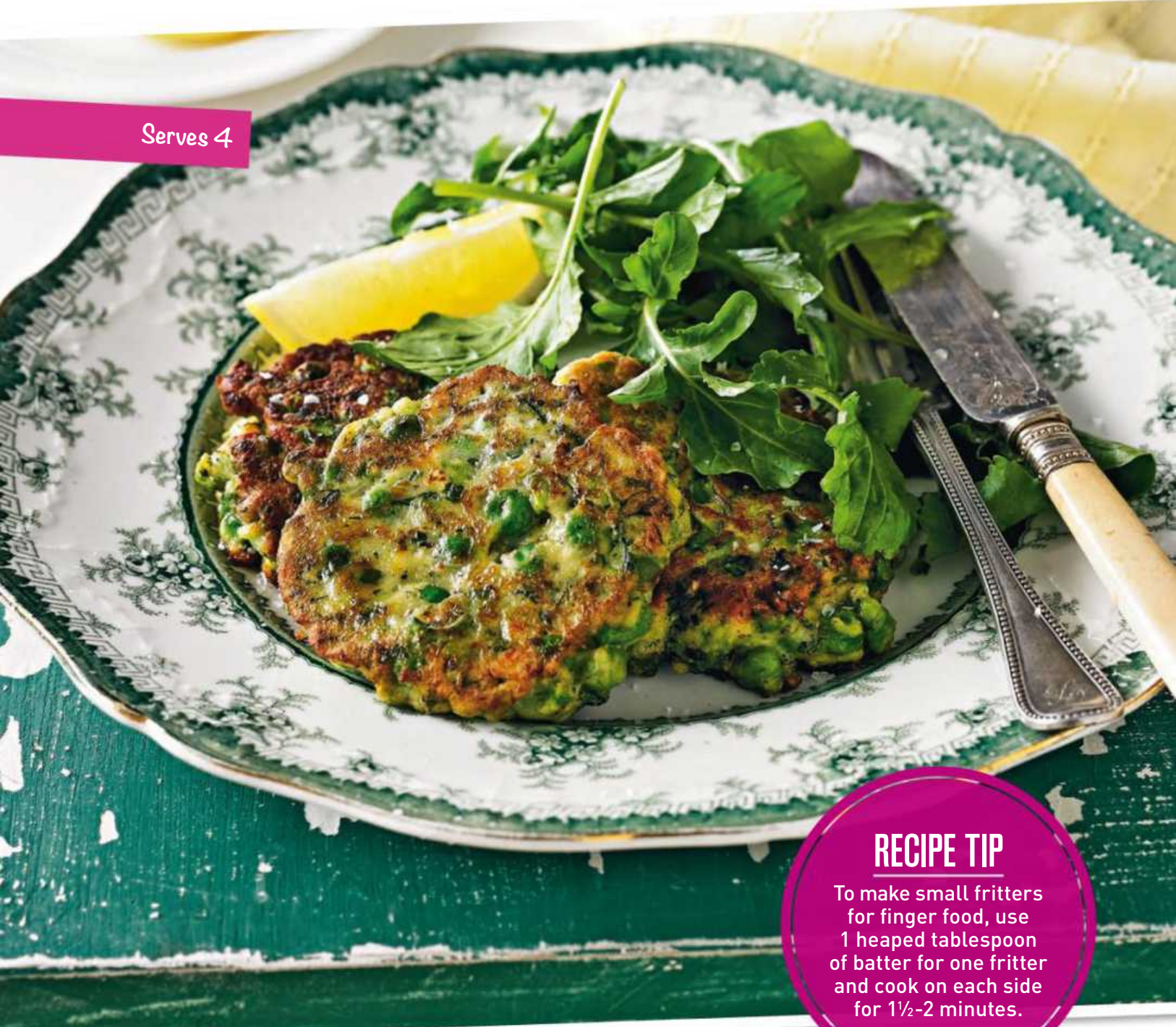


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Serves 4



### RECIPE TIP

To make small fritters for finger food, use 1 heaped tablespoon of batter for one fritter and cook on each side for 1½-2 minutes.

## Pea and ricotta fritters

**PREPARATION TIME** 10 minutes

**COOKING TIME** 25-30 minutes

### Ingredients

2 cups (300g) fresh peas

1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint leaves

2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill

Finely grated zest of 1 lemon

2 eggs, lightly beaten

150g fresh ricotta

3 tablespoons plain flour

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons olive oil

Lemon wedges, to serve

Rocket leaves, to serve

**1 COOK** the peas in a large saucepan of boiling water for 4-5 minutes or until tender. Drain and roughly mash.

**2 ADD** the mint, dill, lemon zest, eggs, ricotta and flour to the peas. Season with salt and pepper. Stir to combine.

**3 HEAT** 1-2 teaspoons of the oil in a large non-stick frying pan over a medium heat. Put 2 heaped tablespoons batter in the pan and spread out to form a fritter. Cook in batches for 3 minutes on each side or until golden and cooked through, adding more oil in between batches. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towel and keep warm. Serve the fritters with lemon wedges and rocket leaves.



## Snow pea stir-fry

**PREPARATION TIME** 10 minutes

**COOKING TIME** 10 minutes

### Ingredients

1 tablespoon soy sauce  
1 tablespoon sesame oil  
1 teaspoon cornflour  
¼ teaspoon sambal oelek or chilli paste  
1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
1 red onion, sliced  
1 yellow capsicum, sliced  
1 cup (150g) raw unsalted cashews or almonds  
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger  
500g snow peas  
3 spring onions, sliced on the diagonal

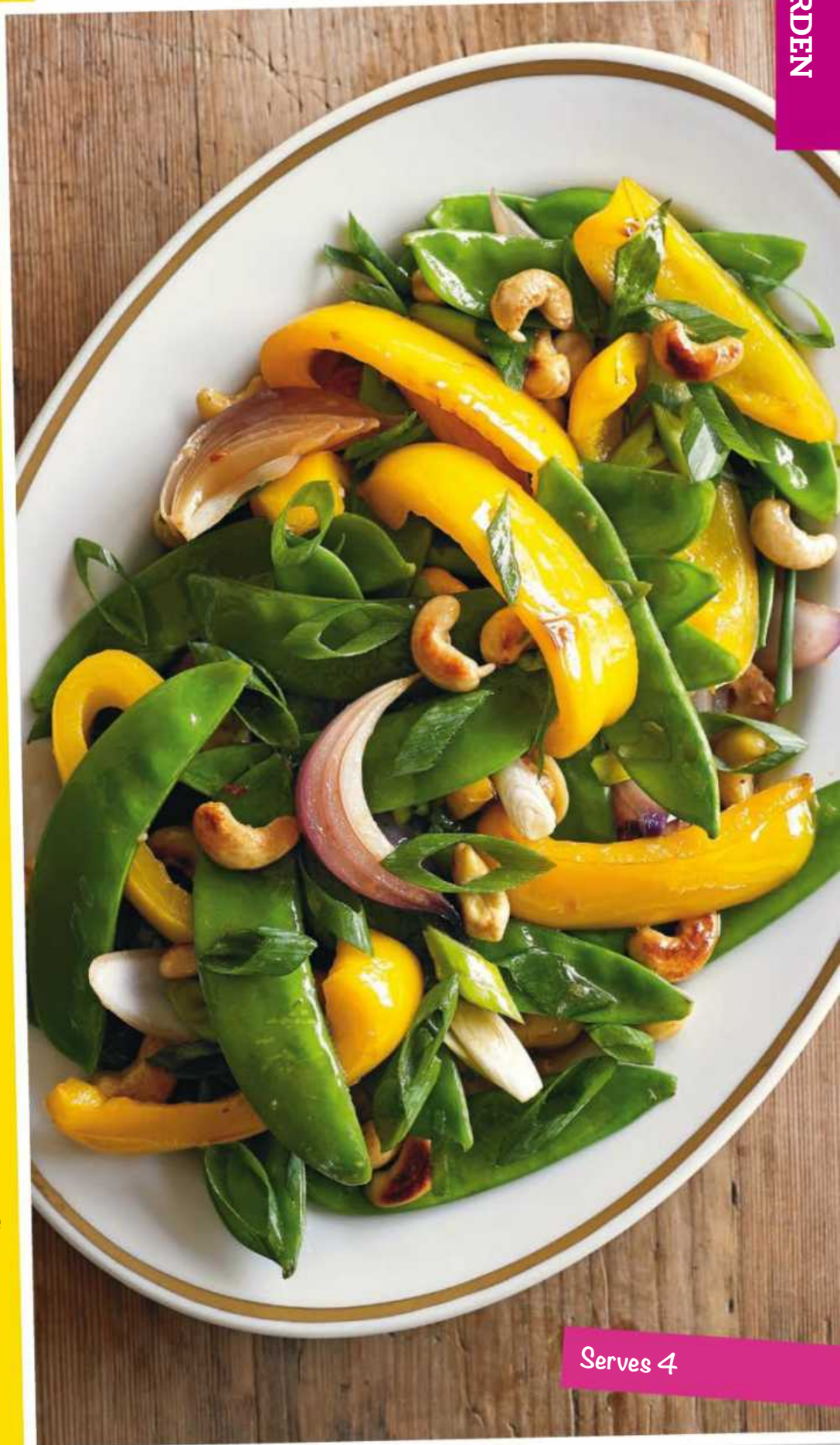
**1 WHISK** together the soy sauce, sesame oil, cornflour, sambal oelek or chilli paste and ½ cup (125ml) water in a small bowl. Set aside.

**2 HEAT** the vegetable oil in a wok or large frying pan over a high heat. Add the red onion, capsicum, cashews or almonds and ginger. Stir-fry for 2-3 minutes or until the nuts begin to brown. Add the snow peas and spring onion and stir-fry for 2-3 minutes.

**3 ADD** the soy sauce mixture to the pan and cook, stirring continuously, for 1-2 minutes or until the sauce thickens. Serve immediately. ➤



To cook snow peas, sauté in olive oil, add salt-reduced vegetable stock and simmer until tender-crisp



Serves 4



# Bean, pea and mixed leaf salad

**PREPARATION TIME** 25 minutes

**COOKING TIME** 10 minutes

## Ingredients

150g snow peas, trimmed  
200g green beans, trimmed  
300g fresh peas in the pod, shelled  
1 cup (50g) mixed salad leaves  
4 slices prosciutto or pancetta, cut or torn into bite-sized pieces  
3 radishes, trimmed and thinly sliced  
200g goat's cheese, crumbled  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

## Dressing

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

**1 BRING** a medium saucepan of water to the boil, then prepare a bowl of iced water. Add the snow peas to the pan, return to the boil and cook for 1 minute. Lift out with a slotted spoon or tongs, allowing the water to drain off, then plunge into the iced water. Lift out and drain on paper towel.

**2 RETURN** the water to the boil and replenish the iced water. Add the beans to the pan, return to the boil and cook for 2 minutes. Lift out, allowing the water to drain off, then

plunge into the iced water. Lift out and drain on paper towel.

**3 RETURN** the water to the boil and replenish the iced water. Add the peas to the pan and cook for 3 minutes. Drain in a sieve, refresh in the iced water, then drain.

**4 MAKE** the dressing by whisking the oil and vinegar in a small jug. Season with salt and pepper.

**5 ARRANGE** the snow peas, beans, peas and mixed leaves on a platter. Scatter over the prosciutto, radish and goat's cheese. Drizzle with the dressing and season with salt and pepper and serve immediately. ♦



Serves 6-8



AUSTRALIAN

# Handyman

On sale 23 March

## NEXT ISSUE

### RENOVATE

How to transform the interior and exterior of your home with paint. **PLUS** DIY painting tips and techniques to get a professional finish.

### OUTDOOR

Power up the blower, shredder and trimmer to tidy up the garden for autumn. **PLUS** Build a picnic table for the kids.

### GARDEN

Plant bulbs for a spectacular spring showcase and grow backyard blueberries. **PLUS** Build a bug hotel for beneficial insects.



# PLANT A LEMON TREE

Add this essential citrus to your garden so you can pick the tangy fruit fresh on demand

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

## GROW TIP

Wait at least six weeks, or until new growth reveals the roots have become established, before feeding a newly planted lemon tree.

**I**t's hard to imagine what we would do without lemons. While they can't be eaten whole in the same way as other fruit, such as apples, pears and oranges, lemons occupy a central place in our cuisine.

Fish certainly wouldn't taste the same without a squeeze of lemon and a Moroccan tagine without salted preserved lemons would lack zing.

Gin and tonic requires a dash of lemon, and if you overindulge, you'll need an early morning glass of warm water with a dash of lemon juice to refresh your liver.

Lemon trees also offer exceptional landscaping possibilities. They can be planted in beds or pots and have lovely glossy foliage and aromatic flowers followed by attractive ripening fruit.







## Caring for citrus

Plant citrus in a sunny spot with shelter from wind, especially coastal winds.

✦ **SOIL** Free-draining soil is essential. If it doesn't drain easily, make a 500mm high raised bed and dig in compost or well-rotted manure before planting.

✦ **PLANT** Water the pot and allow to drain. Dig a hole twice as wide as the pot and position the tree so the soil level is the same as it was in the pot. Backfill and water in with Seasol.

✦ **WATER** Until established, water thoroughly for six weeks, then water well 1-2 times a week, especially while

the fruit is ripening. Apply to the outer perimeter of the branches.

✦ **FEED** Lemons need to be fed in early spring, early summer and late summer.

Add fertiliser to damp soil and water in. Use a complete citrus food, cow manure or blood and bone, applying to the outer perimeter of the branches.

✦ **MULCH** Lemon trees have shallow root systems and a mulch of lucerne hay, sugarcane or pea straw will keep the soil moist and prevent weeds.

Leave at least a hand's span clear around the trunk to prevent collar rot.



Remove half the developing fruit in the first year so the tree can establish itself.

## Grow in a pot

Potted lemon trees require regular watering, often daily in summer, and need feeding with a three-month controlled-release fertiliser in spring, summer and autumn.

Choose a large pot with a diameter of at least 40cm. Water thoroughly an hour or two before removing the tree from its original container.

✦ **ADD** a specialty premium potting mix, then position the tree in the new pot so that the soil level is the same as it was in the original pot.

✦ **BACKFILL** with potting mix, gently firming down the mix, then water in. Top up the potting mix if it sinks. ➤





## WHAT TO GROW

There are three main varieties of lemons grown in Australia, 'Lisbon', 'Eureka' and 'Meyer'.

What lemon tree you choose to grow will depend on your climate.

### Meyer

Not as bitter as other lemons, 'Meyer' produces an abundance of juicy, thin-skinned fruit.

It grows up to about 2.5m high, making it suitable for small spaces and large containers.

✦ **CLIMATE** The most cold-hardy lemon, 'Meyer' tolerates extremes of both heat and cold.

✦ **HARVEST** Its main cropping time is winter, but fruit may be found on it throughout the year.

### Eureka

These lemons are large and thick skinned, which makes them ideal for preserving. The tree has few thorns and can grow to 3-4m high, but it can be pruned to shape.

✦ **CLIMATE** It likes a frost-free climate and grows well in coastal districts, if protected from wind.

✦ **HARVEST** 'Eureka' produces delicious acidic fruit for most of the year, with its heaviest crop being during winter.

### Lisbon

The very prolific 'Lisbon' produces good-quality juicy and highly acidic lemons. A vigorous, thorny tree that can reach 8m high, it lends itself well to screening and makes a lovely feature tree.

✦ **CLIMATE** This tree will tolerate light frost once established, but it needs protection while young.

✦ **HARVEST** The main crop of fruit is produced from midwinter through to early spring.

### Dwarf varieties

Ideal for pots, balcony gardens and courtyards, dwarf lemon trees are grafted onto 'Flying Dragon' rootstock, which limits the growth of the tree to under 2m, but the fruit is still the normal size.

You can choose from dwarf 'Meyer', which reaches a height of 1.5m, dwarf 'Eureka', which is great for small backyards, as it only reaches a height of 2-3m, and dwarf 'Lisbon' which grows to 1-2m high.

## CHERYL'S PICKS



Eco-Organic Garden  
Eco-Naturalure, \$24 for 150ml.  
[ecoorganicgarden.com.au](http://ecoorganicgarden.com.au)



Richgro All Purpose Rose  
& Citrus Fertiliser, \$10 for  
5kg. [richgro.com.au](http://richgro.com.au)



Scotts Osmocote Professional Fruit  
& Citrus Potting & Planting Mix, \$11  
for 25L. [scottsaustalia.com.au](http://scottsaustalia.com.au)





### Pruning

Citrus trees don't need annual pruning for fruit production, but they can be pruned into any shape you like after fruiting has finished.

If the branches become crowded, thin them out to allow in more light and increase airflow.

Old, neglected lemon trees can be rejuvenated in late winter by cutting them back to a framework of branches 1m from the trunk.

The ensuing new growth may be excessive. If so, remove all except a well-spaced selection of strong branches.



Citrus leaf miner



Scale insect

## PROBLEM SOLVER

Organically grown lemon trees are more resistant to insects and disease when healthy and well-maintained. Here's how to help prevent problems.

### Citrus leaf miner

Silver trails on new foliage is the first sign of the larvae of this little moth tunnelling into the leaves.

• **SOLUTION** Spray with Pest Oil or remove the infected leaves.

### Fruit fly

The larvae of these tiny flies feed their way to the centre of the fruit, causing it to rot.

• **SOLUTION** Use an organic fruit fly bait to protect the tree.

### Scale insect

Sap-sucking scale gather on stems and can cause stunted growth.

• **SOLUTION** Scratch them off with your fingernail, or spray with Pest Oil if there are lots of them.

### Citrus gall wasp

These wasps lay their eggs in young twigs, causing swollen areas on the branches as the larvae develop.

• **SOLUTION** Prune the infected limbs while the pupating wasps are inside.

### Lack of nourishment

Insufficient water causes the fruit to drop or fail to develop, and yellowing leaves mean the tree needs feeding.

• **SOLUTION** Water regularly and feed with a plant food for citrus.

### Bronze orange bug

The nymphs and adults suck on the stems, causing flower and fruit fall.

• **SOLUTION** Wear protective eyewear and gloves and remove the bugs. Spray in winter with Yates Success. ➤





Serves 6

## Lemon delicious

PREPARATION TIME 15 minutes

COOKING TIME 20 minutes

### Ingredients

50g butter, at room temperature  
 ¾ cup (170g) caster sugar  
 1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest  
 3 eggs, separated  
 1½ cups (330ml) milk  
 ⅓ cup (80ml) lemon juice  
 ¼ cup (35g) self-raising flour  
 Sifted icing sugar, to dust  
 Cream or ice-cream, to serve

- 1 **PREHEAT** the oven to 180°C (350°F/Gas 4). Lightly grease six 1-cup (250ml) ovenproof dishes.
- 2 **BEAT** the butter, sugar, lemon zest and egg yolks using electric beaters for 3-4 minutes or until light and creamy.
- 3 **ADD** the milk gradually, stirring with a wire whisk. Stir in the lemon juice. Sift the flour over and gently mix to combine.
- 4 **USE** very clean beaters to beat the eggwhites in a bowl until soft peaks form. Fold into the batter using a large metal spoon, taking care not to lose any volume.
- 5 **SPOON** the mixture into the prepared dishes and put them in a baking dish. Transfer to the oven and carefully pour enough boiling water into the baking dish to come halfway up the side of the dishes.
- 6 **BAKE** for 20 minutes or until the puddings spring back when gently touched (they will still be pale). Dust with icing sugar and serve with cream or ice-cream. 🍋



### SWEET COURSE

This luscious lemony recipe is taken from *Desserts: 150 Fabulous Recipes* (Reader's Digest, \$40, plus postage and handling).

To order a copy, visit [shopreadersdigest.com.au](http://shopreadersdigest.com.au)



# MAR What's on this month

Head down to your local Bunnings this March to get some advice for your next D.I.Y. project



11  
[SAT]

12  
[SUN]

## TILING & PLASTERING WORKSHOPS

Learn the skills needed to tackle your next job



KIDS  
D.I.Y.

18  
[SAT]

19  
[SUN]

## WOODWORK WORKSHOPS

Get creative and build your own D.I.Y. project



18  
[SAT]

19  
[SUN]

## OUTDOOR PROJECT WORKSHOPS

Head outside and start building with our tips



KIDS  
D.I.Y.

25  
[SAT]

26  
[SUN]

## GROW YOUR OWN WORKSHOPS

Learn to grow your own edible plants

If you live in South Australia, speak to a team member or visit [bunnings.com.au/yourstore](http://bunnings.com.au/yourstore) for details about our great one-on-one D.I.Y. workshops. These workshops run from 10am to 4pm each Saturday and Sunday.

## GARDENING WORKSHOPS

Find out how to start your new garden with helpful advice from our expert team members

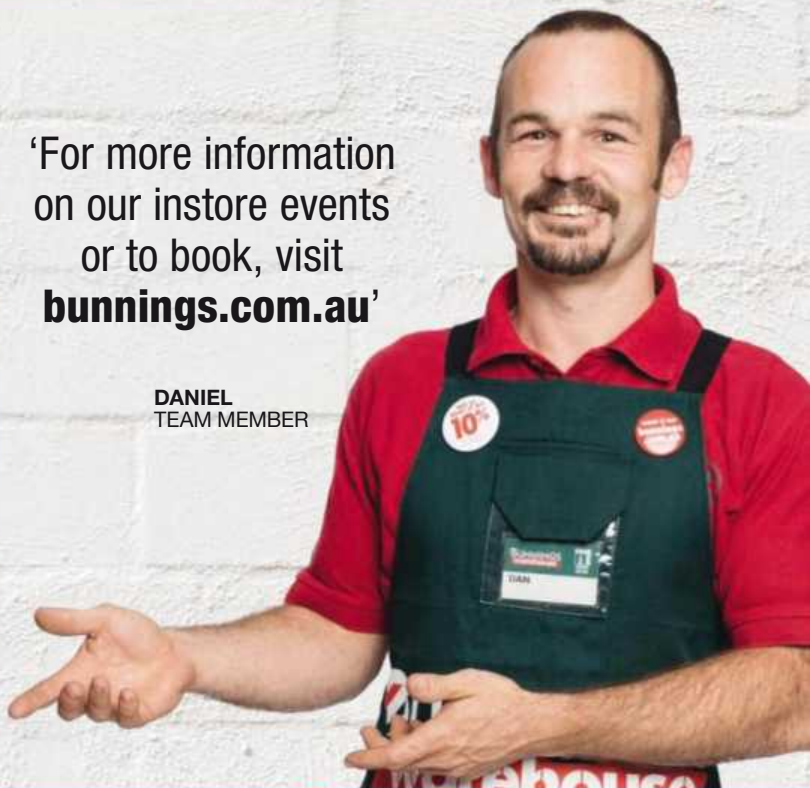


25  
[SAT]

26  
[SUN]

'For more information on our instore events or to book, visit [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au)'

DANIEL  
TEAM MEMBER



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# BATHROOM MIRROR



A large and frameless glass mirror above the vanity is a more streamlined option than a wall-mounted medicine cabinet, especially in a small bathroom.

A mirror also helps reflect light and creates the illusion of more space.

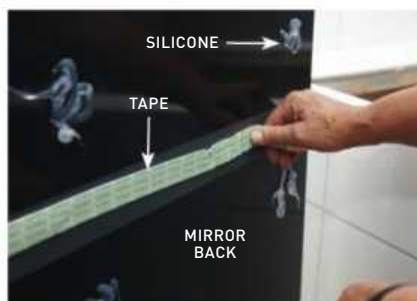
Hanging a bathroom mirror is an easy do-it-yourself job, requiring no special tools or skills, only double-sided mounting tape and silicone.

Make sure to wear safety gear and use enough tape and silicone to support the weight of the mirror.

## Tools

- Spirit level
- Packing blocks
- Silicone
- Caulking gun
- Double-sided mounting tape
- Safety glasses
- Gloves
- Pencil
- Measuring tape
- Masking tape

## 1 2 3



### 1 Prepare the back

Before you begin, remove any dirt and grime from the wall with cleaning fluid and a soft cloth. Attach strips of double-sided mounting tape in rows to the back of the mirror. Add a few beads of silicone between the rows of tape for added strength.



### 2 Mark the position

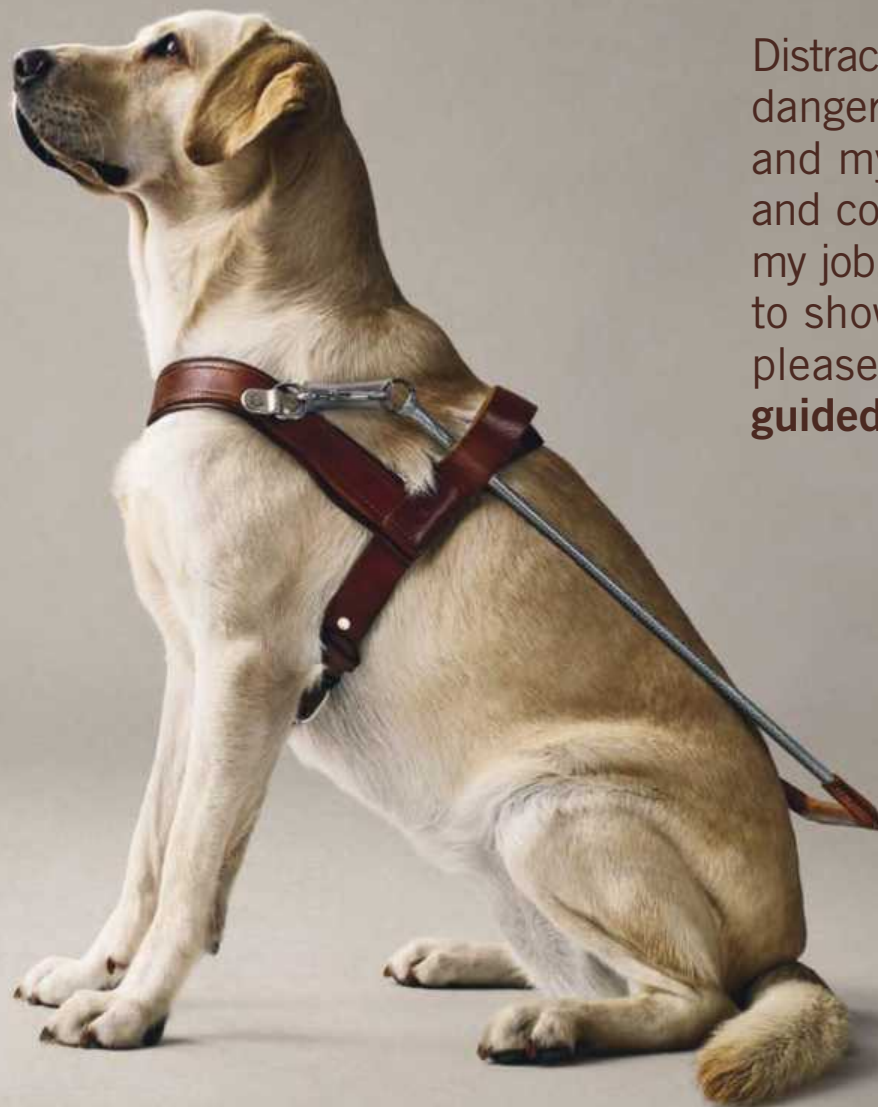
Use a pencil and spirit level to mark the side and base edges of the mirror on the wall. Here, the outside edge was lined up with the side of the vanity. Position packing blocks level with the marked base edge, securing to the wall with masking tape.



### 3 Install the mirror

Remove the tape backing, position the mirror on the blocks and push gently against the glass, starting in the centre and working out to the edges. This will spread the silicone and improve the bond. Attach tape in the corners, and leave the silicone to set for 24 hours.





Distractions can be dangerous to me and my handler, and could cost me my job. If you want to show me love, please do it at [guidedogs.com.au](http://guidedogs.com.au)

**I'M WORKING**  
**RESPECT**  
**MY UNIFORM**

**Guide Dogs**  
NSW/ACT



# Name that VEGIE

How many of these edible  
oddities can you identify?  
The answers are at the  
bottom of the page



1



2

3



4



5



6



7



8



9



ANSWERS 1 MANGEL-WURZEL 2 BITTER MELON 3 OCA YAM 4 PURPLE KONIG 5 TRUFFLE 6 KOHLRABI 7 ROMANESCO 8 ENOKI MUSHROOM 9 BLACK RUSSIAN TOMATO



# Self-Closing Safety Gate Hinges



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