

AUSTRALIAN

INSTALL A CLOTHES LINE

Handyman

STORAGE

TURN WASTED SPACE
INTO A HOME OFFICE

BUILD

FOLD-UP WORKSHOP
BENCH ON WHEELS

GARDEN

ESSENTIAL WINTER
SURVIVAL GUIDE

Revamp

SWAP OLD CARPET FOR
FLOATING FLOORBOARDS



Lay a new floor
see page 28



Grow
indoor plants

Easy window fixes

page 49



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Condensation



Mould



Peeling paint

Your **family** could benefit, if they suffer from:



Allergies



Respiratory problems



Damp musty odours

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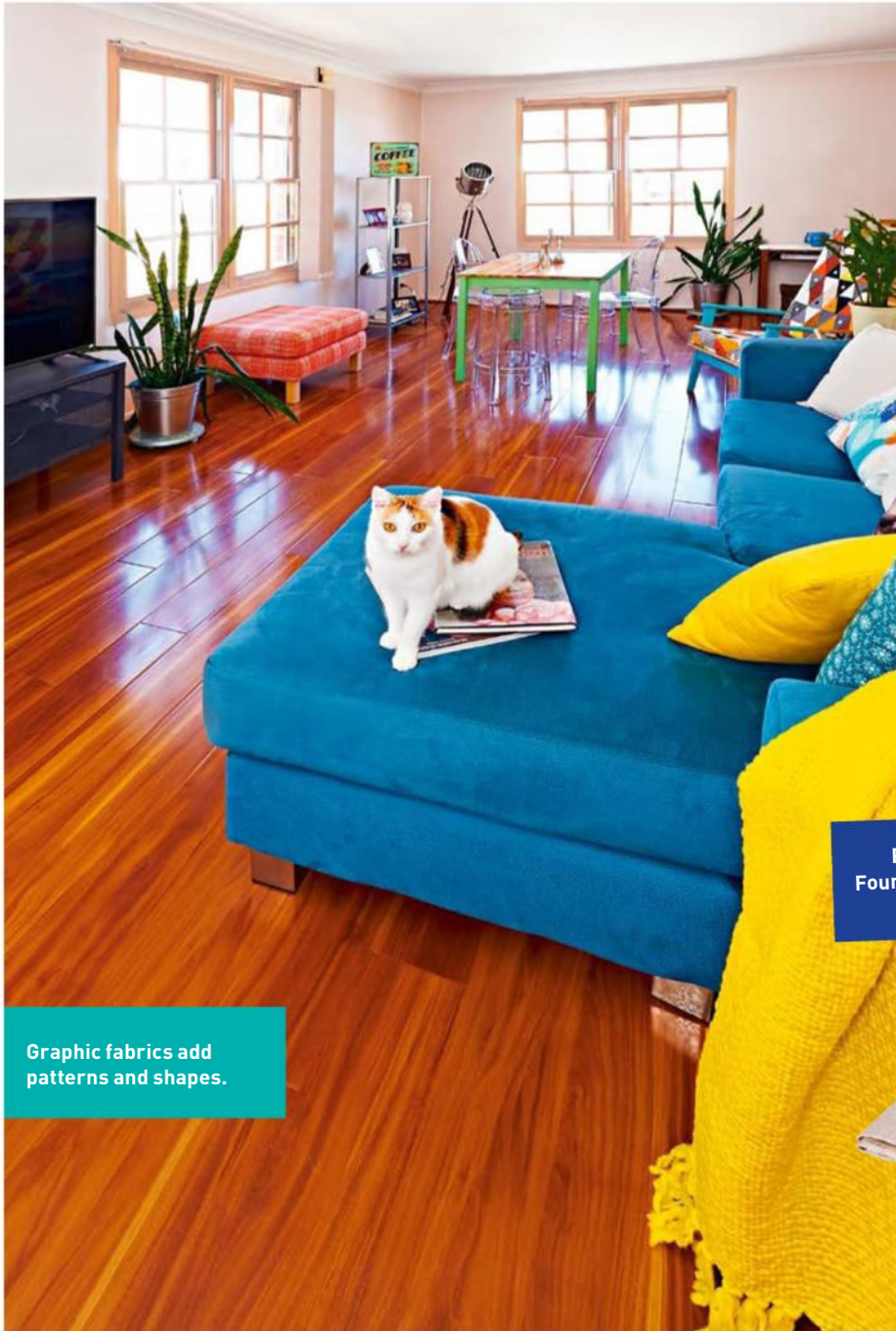
GET THE LOOK

LOVE THE COVER?

Update living spaces with floating floors and bold statement furniture

Easy-to-install timber-look floating floors transformed this living room in a day. The new floors were paired with boldly coloured and chrome pieces for a modern finish.

The warm tones of the neutral wall paint and timber balance the chrome and pops of colour to create a cosy feel. House plants with structural shapes and interesting leaves double as decorations.



Graphic fabrics add patterns and shapes.



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Four-tier Chrome Wire Shelving,
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Calathea Rufibarba,
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from nurseries.



Sparkled Silver Foiled
Reversible Throw, \$149.
vavoom.com.au



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PMOD9

TIMELESS STARTS WITH CORINTHIAN

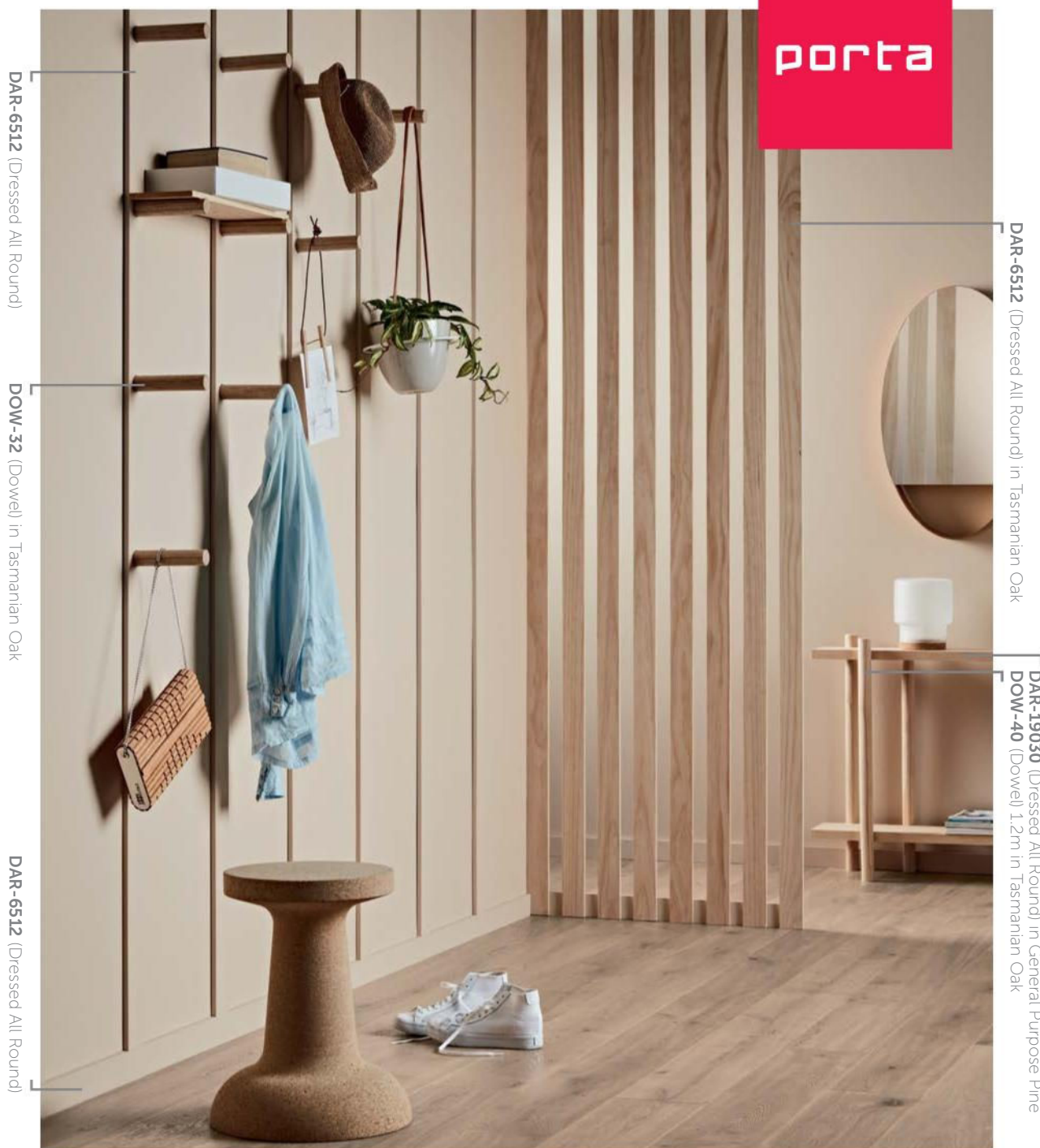
THE MODA COLLECTION

A door is a statement of what to expect as you enter a room. That's why Sally Klopper of Sally Caroline Interior Design starts with Corinthian's Moda Collection. With 24 timeless designs to choose from, a Moda door will be right at home in your home. To watch Sally talk about her timeless design principles, visit Corinthian.com.au

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DAR-6512 (Dressed All Round) in Tasmanian Oak

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THIS ISSUE

HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH

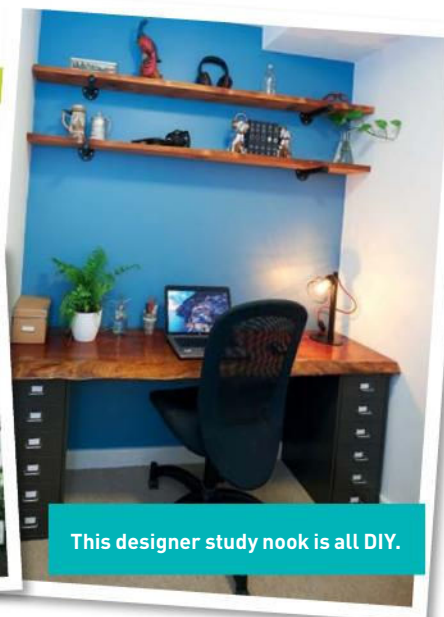


ERASE MARKS ON VINYL FLOORING USING A TENNIS BALL



Like Handyman Magazine on Facebook for more tips

EDITOR'S LETTER



This designer study nook is all DIY.

The floor is one of the most important surfaces in your home. I've lived with all carpet (not good with cat hair) and all tiles (a bit noisy) and definitely prefer the timber floorboards I have now.

Flooring is very much a personal choice and has to suit your household needs. But because it's seen as such a big job, many of us put off making any flooring changes.

It's not like you can walk on the walls while doing the floors, the way you can use a camping stove and the laundry sink while doing the kitchen.

Even so, it's much easier to update or replace flooring than you'd think, and there is lots you can DIY.

The first step is to choose the flooring that's right for you. For the latest trends and treatments, see page 18. And if you want to see a before and after makeover, turn to page 28.

Storage solutions

I have a lot of stuff, it's true. Although I declutter regularly, I admit I may have a teeny-tiny furniture problem.

I probably don't need a vintage sewing machine table or an old school desk or a ladies writing bureau. (Or the extra dining table in the garage.)

If you're the opposite of me and actually need furniture, senior editor Daniel turned a beautiful slab of timber into a desk and added floating shelves, on page 70. It looks designer but is surprisingly simple to do.

We also have off-the-shelf and DIY storage hacks for the kitchen, living spaces and wardrobe, on page 86, to help you get sorted and stay that way.

Happy DIYing,

Artemis

Product of the month

Say goodbye to brushes and rollers with the Flexio 990 Direct Feed Paint Sprayer from Wagner, \$369 (wagneraustralia.com.au).

Easy to use, it draws paint directly from the can, and you can spray vertically or horizontally, to get a smooth, professional finish on interior and exterior walls in half the time.

To quickly convert it into a handheld sprayer for smaller jobs, such as refinishing furniture, or for spraying lacquers, varnishes and stains, simply connect the second spray attachment.



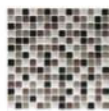
Tiling just got a whole lot easier!



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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this month

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10

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Growing citrus



**Bathroom
renovations**

FAST FACT

Pumpkins, tomatoes, avocados and cucumbers are all technically fruits and not vegetables, as they contain the seeds of the plants.

PICTURES (TOP LEFT, TOP RIGHT) ISTOCK

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\$6



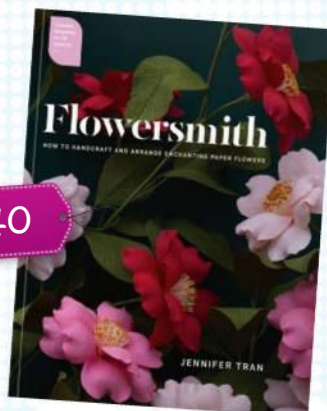
\$4

➤ **WRITE** colourful notes and lists with the extra-fine erasable Pilot Frixion Point Pen. officeworks.com.au ➤



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➤ **INSPIRE** Mum to DIY with the projects in the *Recycled Home* by Rebecca Proctor. upcyclestudio.com.au



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➤ **CUT** gardening time with the Ozito 18V Pruning Saw, with detachable clamping jaw. ozito.com.au



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➤ **GROW** herbs in the Holman GreenWall Freestanding Desktop Vertical Planting Kit. holmanindustries.com.au



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➤ **GROW** a garden for Mum in the textured slate-look Tuscan Path Slate Tri Planter Set. tuscanpath.com.au



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➤ **PLANT** up around plain posts with a Whites 40cm Charcoal Garden Pergola Pot. whitesgroup.com.au ➤

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✚ **PROVIDE** protection from spills and burns with the clever Silicone Oven Glove. innovations.com.au



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✚ **INDULGE** her passion for coffee by treating your mum to the Dedica Pump Espresso Machine. delonghi.com.au



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✚ **PREPARE** dinner and make smoothies with the Kambrook Soup 2 Simple Soup Maker. kambrook.com.au



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✚ **KEEP** the benchtop clean with the Joseph Joseph Spoonbase Vertical Utensil Rest. yellowoctopus.com.au



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BEAUTIFUL FLOORS

The right flooring will elevate the look of interior spaces and provide comfort underfoot for years to come

WORDS SITA SIMONS

Traditional herringbone patterns are very much back in fashion.

The flooring you choose for your home is one of the most important design decisions you'll make, and will define the overall look of the space.

Australia's leading online platform in home renovation and design, Houzz, undertakes extensive surveys to award the Best of Houzz each year.

The people's choice awards for the best of flooring have revealed what is most popular underfoot.

PICTURE KITCHENS BY PETER GILL



A dark timber floor adds to the sophistication of a space.

Classic timber

Over a third of the participants in the Best of Houzz 2017 survey liked timber as their top flooring choice.

There is good reason for the appeal of timber, whether laying new or refinishing existing floorboards.

With a natural warmth and range of colours that will suit any interior, timber is the classic choice for many homeowners.

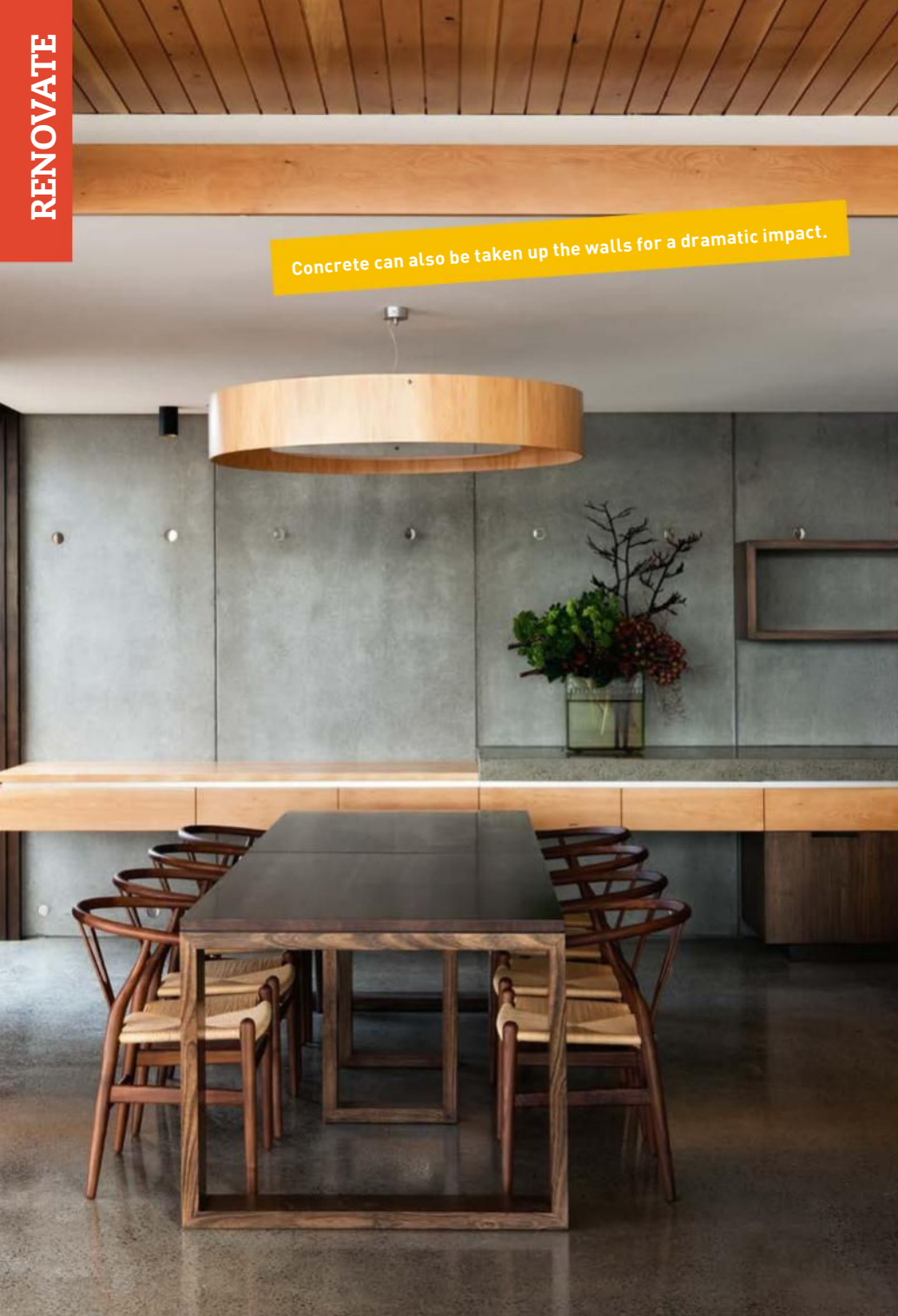
Modern stains and treatments mean that a wide range of colours and finishes are possible. Very light tones have been popular for several years, but darker stains are taking over as new interior trends emerge.

Unlike Baltic pine and Oregon soft timbers used in the past, hardwoods such as jarrah and blackbutt are now preferred for their durability. ➤



Laying a herringbone pattern or using wide-format boards are modern updates for a timber floor

Concrete can also be taken up the walls for a dramatic impact.



Concrete care

It's a low-maintenance option, but there are some things to bear in mind to keep your concrete floor looking its best.

Avoid coarse bristles and harsh cleaning products, and mop up spills as quickly as possible because concrete is porous. Use microfibre mops and pH neutral products.

Avoid wax products, as they can permanently damage the polished surface and void the warranty.

Degreasers should also be avoided because they are abrasive and can lead to losing the polished finish and dulling the whole floor.

When the floor has been installed and cured by an expert, concrete is generally very durable.



Cool concrete

Although concrete is much more of a niche option, in a new, modern build or extension, there are many reasons to love a concrete floor.

The Best of Houzz 2017 reveals that the top motivations for flooring purchases are look and feel, durability and ease of care. A concrete floor hits all of these targets.

The clean and expansive look of a polished concrete floor adds a sense of spaciousness to any room.

Quite the opposite of being a cold choice, concrete is a warm material that doesn't show the dirt and is easy to clean and care for. The finish feels very pleasant underfoot. ➤



With no cracks or joins, concrete is a smooth, seamless and highly durable choice for modern interiors



Filling in the divots in this pale concrete floor creates an interesting effect.



A concrete treatment makes the most of a large open space.

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Watch Brad & Lara's product demos at sikaretail.com.au



Versatile tiles

For bathrooms, always coming out on top are ceramic or porcelain tiles, with a resounding 75% of Best of Houzz survey participants ticking this box.

Graphic patterns add instant appeal to an otherwise simple space, and can be particularly effective in small areas where the pattern doesn't overwhelm the other elements.

Overall, trends are for large-format tiles that can help a small bathroom appear larger and have fewer grout lines to break up the look.

Pressed and natural stone tiles such as marble are still very popular bathroom options. ➤



Ceramic and porcelain

The most commonly used tile type is ceramic. These tiles can be either glazed or unglazed. This essentially means the pattern or glaze sits on top of the base, or the biscuit, as it is called.

The other common choice is a porcelain tile. Porcelain is a more refined material and fired at a higher temperature than ceramic tiles.

This process makes porcelain more durable and harder than ceramic, so it's often more expensive.

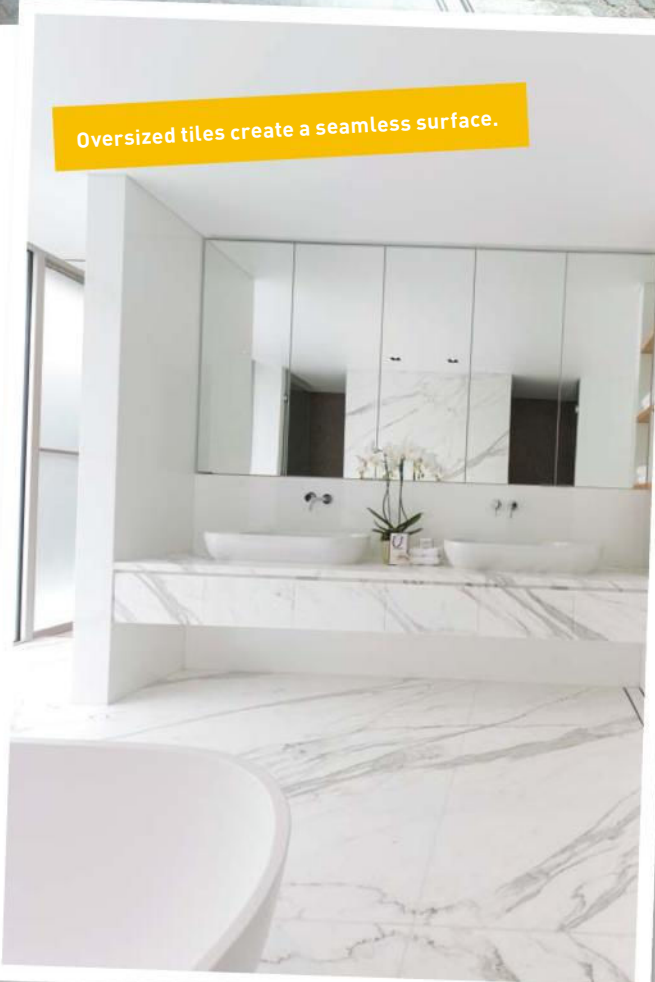
Unlike a ceramic tile, where the pattern sits on the top, the pattern in a porcelain tile goes the whole way through.

Porcelain is usually preferred for bathrooms, as it is a dense material, which makes it almost waterproof.



Stone tiles can be used indoors, giving a textured look that elevates the room.

Oversized tiles create a seamless surface.



PICTURE HORIZON HABITATS, PHOTOGRAPHER BRETT BOARDMAN, ARCHITECT MHN DESIGN UNION



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Suitable for
WET AREAS

SELF STICK
Easy Installation



Black Diamond



Beige Stone



Charcoal Stone



Finger Parquet



Black & White Cheq



Grey / Blue Stone



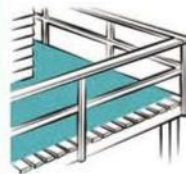
Green Slate



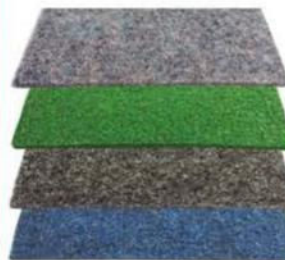
Strip Parquet

MARINE CARPET

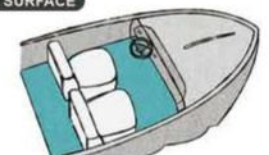
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Technological advances

Product research and development is delivering significant environmental, maintenance and aesthetic benefits to vinyl.

There is greater ability to custom design vinyl floors now by adding accent colours to standard lines.

Modern looks range from concrete, natural stone and timber to even distressed metals. This

new generation of surface finishes results in very realistic timber and ceramic design looks.

Performance has been improved in many ways, including wear and maintenance as well as acoustic and comfort underfoot.

There is a big push in the industry to use biodegradable plasticisers in the production of vinyl. These are renewable resources that make the material recyclable.



PICTURE INDIGO HOMES

Improved vinyl

Far from the garish and unpleasantly sticky linoleum of old, modern vinyl ranges have come a long way.

New and improved surface treatments and coatings, along with advanced laser technologies mean that both the quality and look of vinyl flooring is better than ever.

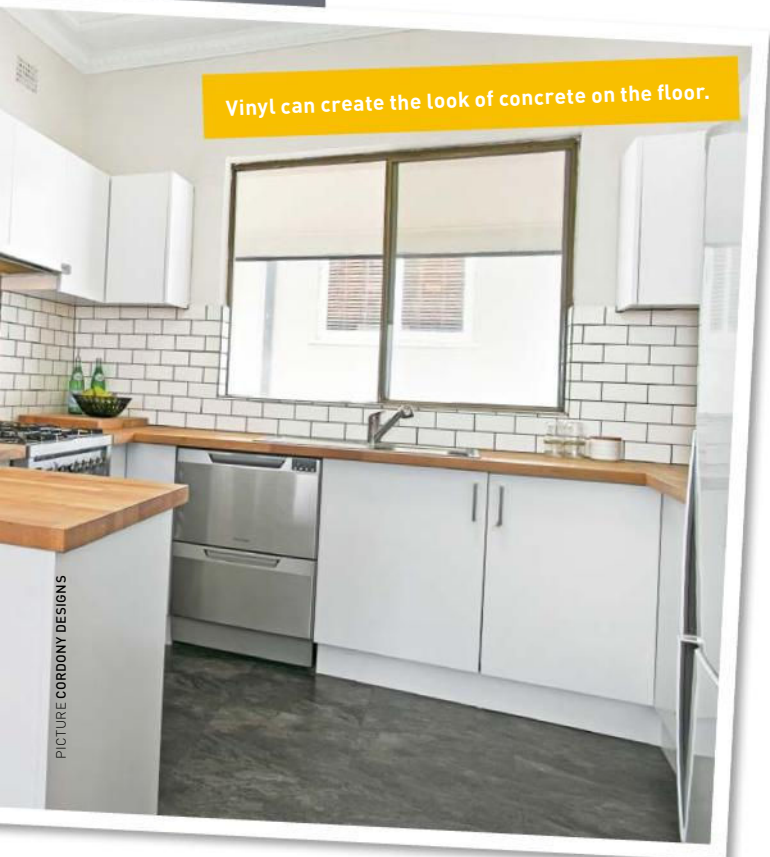
Available in sheet, plank and tile form, vinyl floors are excellent value for money and straightforward to DIY.

Particularly well suited to high traffic areas, vinyl is easy to clean, non-allergenic, chemical and fire resistant, and often recyclable. It's the flooring of the future for many. ➤



Any effect can be achieved with vinyl due to better materials and technologies

Vinyl can create the look of concrete on the floor.



PICTURE CORDONY DESIGNS



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Cosy carpet

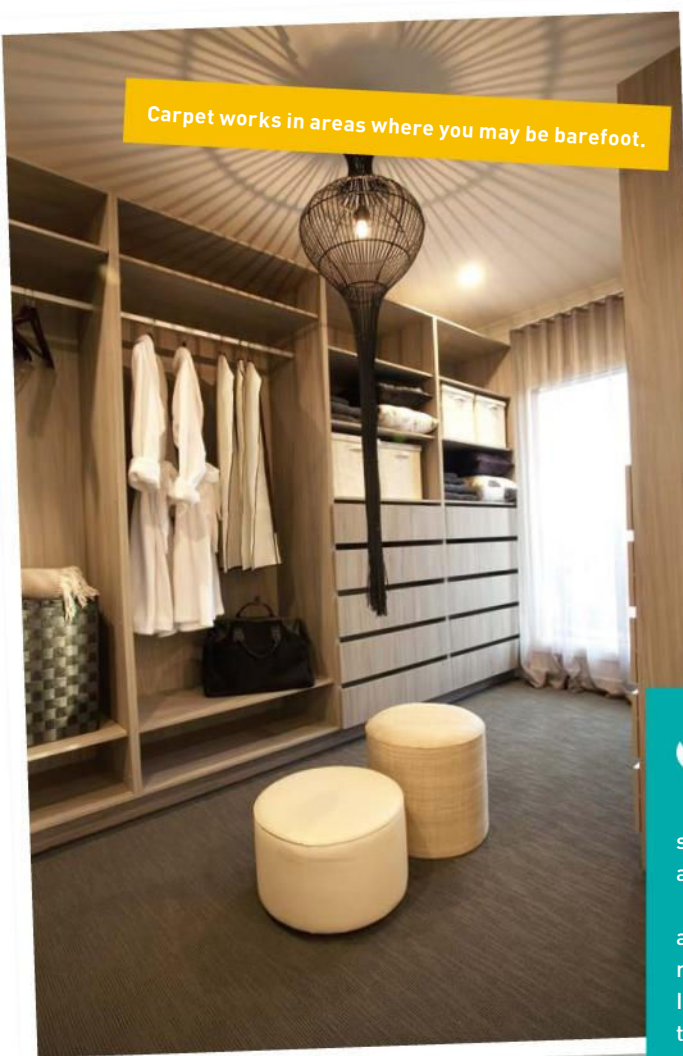
When the brief is for soft and luxurious underfoot, it has to be carpet. While we prefer hard flooring options in most areas, the Best of Houzz 2017 survey tells us that carpet is still number one in the bedroom.

Carpets are available in 100% wool, wool and nylon blends and many different synthetic fibres.

Wool is cool in summer and warm in winter, but it can be costly. Solution-dyed nylons are cheaper, but are also soft to touch and have good fade resistance.

For high-traffic areas, choose a yarn-dense carpet. The heavier the sample, the more yarn it's likely to have.

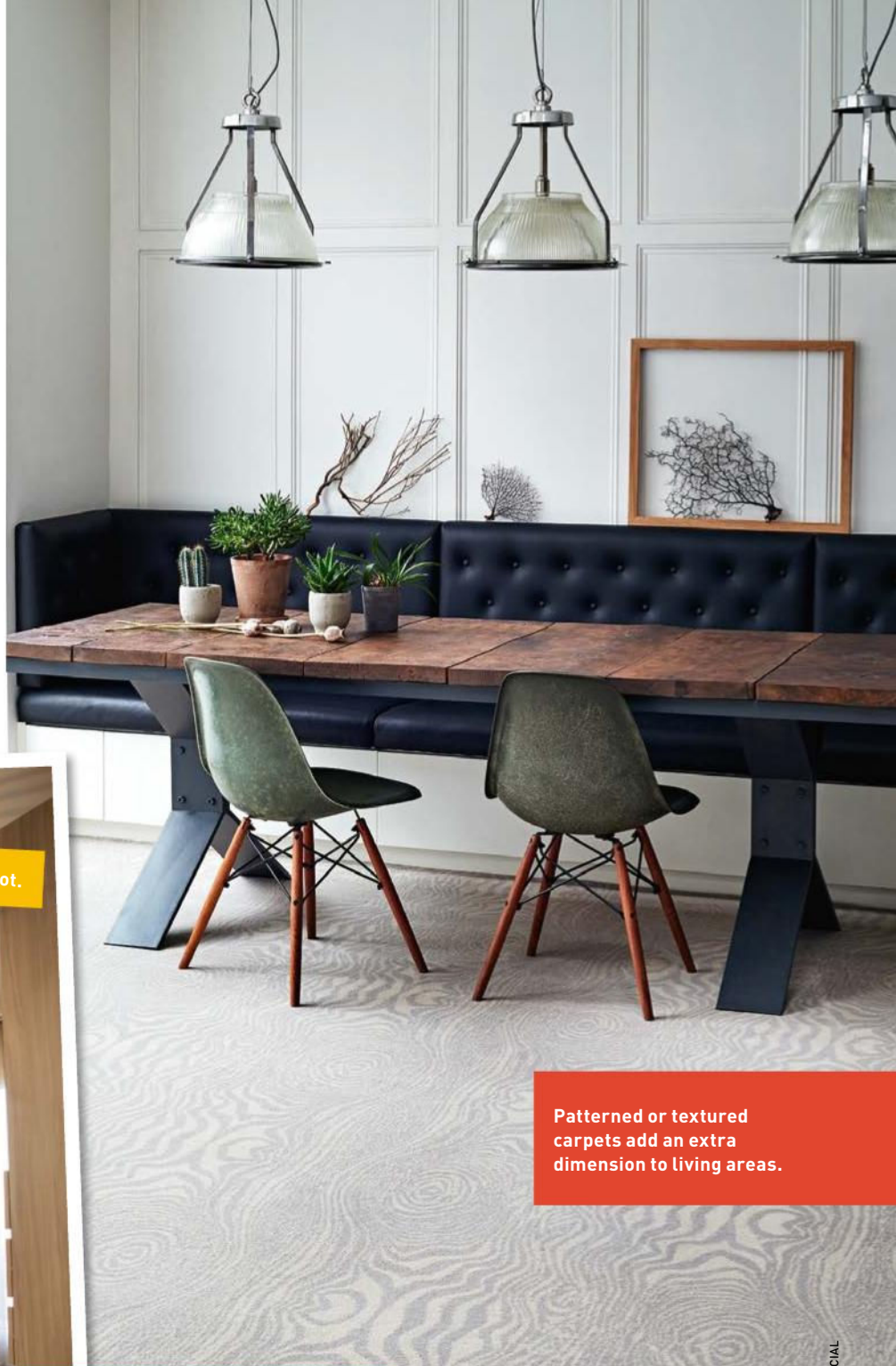
Carpet works in areas where you may be barefoot.



Carpet rating

The ratings system for Australian carpets awards stars for overall durability and ability to retain appearance.

Look for a carpet that has a yellow and blue residential rating label for home interiors. If you're carpeting stairs, ensure the product has a stairs rating.



Patterned or textured carpets add an extra dimension to living areas.

Houzz.com.au

All these images are category winners in the Best Of Houzz Design Awards 2017.

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TREAD *THE* BOARDS

A new laminate floor transforms a top-floor duplex in just one day

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES SUE FERRIS STYLING ARTEMIS GOUROS



The carpet in this home in Sydney's inner west had been in place for about two decades and was overdue for an upgrade.

Carpet has become less popular for high-traffic areas and living spaces and is mostly used in bedrooms, as it can cause issues for people who suffer from allergies and have pets, as it ages.

Underneath the old carpet in this three-bedroom top-floor duplex was a particleboard substrate floor, which is a good base for laminate boards, also called a floating floor.

Laminate boards usually come prefinished and are easy to lay DIY, as they have a tongue-and-groove system, or can be installed by the supplier. ➤



Swap old carpet for easy-to-clean laminate boards and get the designer look on a budget

GET THE LOOK



Lewis Velvet Square Cushion in Wattle, \$30. zanui.com.au



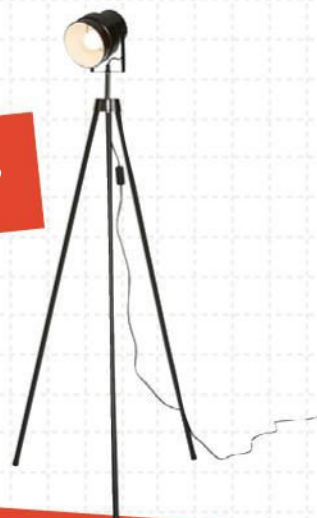
Replica Philippe Starck Louis Ghost Chair, \$59. target.com.au



Mother-in-law's Tongue, about \$29 from nurseries.



Jennifer Lia Low Tide Linen Cushion, \$85. jenniferlia.com



Spotlight Floor Lamp, \$45. target.com.au

After

The new flooring makes the house look bigger and reduces allergy issues.



DESIGN TIP

Lay floorboards lengthways using the longest wall, as laying them crossways can make a room appear much narrower.



Pets and allergies

A hard-surface floor can be much easier to keep free of dust and other possible allergens than carpet.

This was a main factor in choosing laminate boards, as this household featured a shedding cat and two adults with allergies, one of whom also had asthma.

Regular vacuuming, using doormats and wiping up spills with water are the basics of floating-floor care.

But there are also cleaning products that minimise scuffs and scratches and enhance shine.

TOP PICKS



Structaflor Yellow Tongue
1800 x 1900 x 19mm Sheet, from
\$25. chhwoodproducts.com.au



Electrostatic Cleaning Kit with
Broom, Squeegee Brush and
Compact Brush, \$25. oates.com.au

Skirting boards

Before floorboards are installed, it's necessary to remove all the skirting boards to ensure a proper fit.

When the floor has been laid, replace the skirting with 50mm brads, but never secure the skirting directly to the floor itself.

Make sure to leave a gap underneath the skirting to allow the floorboards to expand and contract due to seasonal variations in temperature and moisture.

Cover the expansion gap around the walls with toe beading to give the floors a neat and even finish. ➤



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How to install

Floating floorboards click into each other, which eliminates the need for fasteners or adhesives.

Lay the first row square to a side wall, then in a staggered pattern with overlaps of at least 250mm, checking for square every 5-6 rows.

Position each board to be laid at an angle of 20-30° to the boards that are already installed.

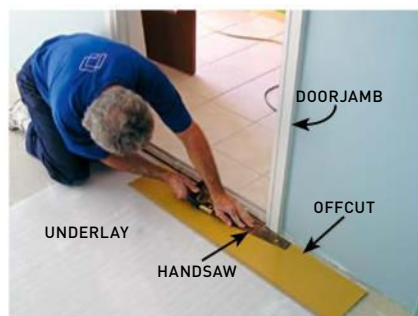
Insert the tongue into the groove, then move the board gently up and down while pushing forward and it will click into place.

To tighten the joint, gently tap the board along the side and ends.

Minimise gaps at the end joints by positioning end-to-end boards as close together as possible.

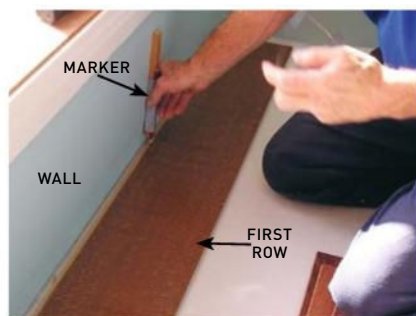


Laminate boards are designed to look like timber and are also very durable



1 Prepare the doorjamb

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



2 Scribe the first row

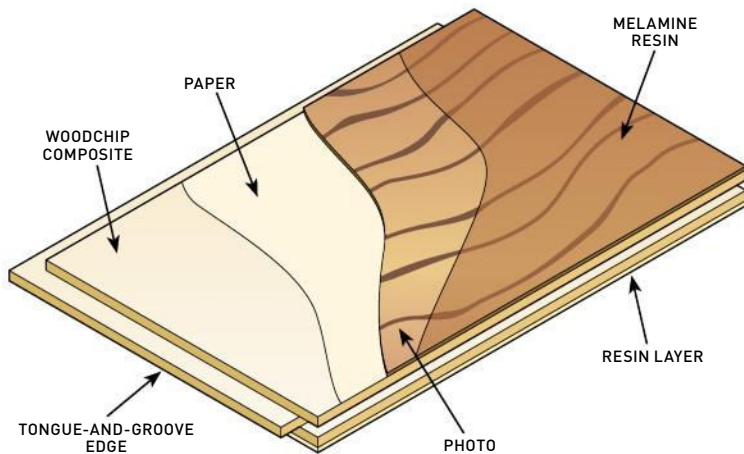
Trim the first row of boards to align with the wall. To scribe the boards, tape a permanent marker to a narrow timber block, sliding it along the wall above the flooring so the pen marks a corresponding line on the boards.



3 Position the boards

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

LAMINATE LAYERS



Laminate composition

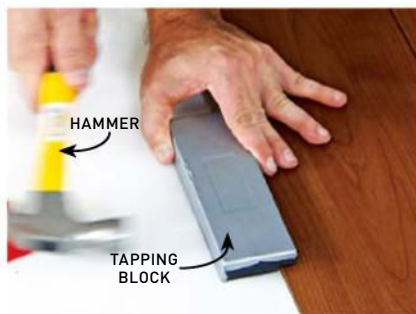
One of the most cost effective of all timber-look options, laminate flooring does not use any solid timber in its construction.

It consists of a base layer of moisture-resistant resins topped by a woodchip composite layer then a high-definition image of timber, ceramic or stone that's covered in tough melamine resin.

This type of flooring is installed floating on top of an existing floor without adhering to the substrate.

Laminate boards feature designs that resemble popular timber species or other textures such as stone.

The boards are made of MDF and have a melamine resin layer on either side, which covers and protects a photographic layer.



4 Tighten the joints

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



5 Position the end boards

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

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CLEAN TIMBER FLOORS



Timber boards are a popular flooring choice, as they are both attractive and durable.

To maintain timber floors and prevent staining or warping the boards, avoid using harsh chemicals or too much water, following these simple cleaning steps instead.

What you need

Vacuum cleaner
Mop
Bucket
Warm water
Six drops of dishwashing detergent or half a cup of white vinegar

Timber flooring is low maintenance.



1 2 3



1 Clear the area

Before you start cleaning, remove any furniture from the room that you can, being careful not to scratch the floor. Clearing the area will make cleaning the floor much easier. Vacuum the floor thoroughly to remove any dirt and dust.



2 Prepare the solution

To make a floor-cleaning solution, half-fill a mop bucket with warm water. Add six drops of dishwashing detergent or half a cup of white vinegar to the water. Give the water a thorough stir with the mop to mix the solution.



3 Mop the floorboards

Dip the bottom quarter of the mop into the solution, then wring out any excess water. Starting in the furthest corner from the door to avoid walking over cleaned sections, mop along the grain of the boards, rinsing and wringing the mop as needed.



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MAKE THE RIGHT DESIGN CHOICE

Find out how to match the type of windowpane with the style of frame that best suits your place

WORDS SITA SIMONS



Often covering more than half the surface area of the average house, the right window is an important choice for both the look and the thermal performance of your home.

With many options available, and various elements to consider ranging from the style, material and design of frames to the size and type of glass, the process can become overwhelming.

Good-quality windows will take up about 10% of the total build budget, but the right choices will mean they are an investment worth making, as ongoing power costs will be reduced and quality of living enhanced.

Clever solutions give your home character and appeal and suit specific purposes, but whatever your budget or needs, there is a window to suit. ➤

Think design

The architectural style of the home is the first factor when choosing windows. Big sash-less windows are the go-to for modern builds, with the philosophy being less frame, more glass.

This look isn't for everyone, and period homes in particular suit more character-appropriate solutions. But even an older-style window, such as a panelled sash type, can be built to much higher specifications today.

In new homes, floor-to-ceiling windows are used to maximise natural light and bring the views into direct relationship with the home.

Large square windows offer kerb appeal, while wide picture windows guide the eye across a landscape.

Large panels of glass benefit from colour-coordinated frames to provide visual coherence.



Showroom or online?

It can be difficult to imagine the impact window choices will have, so taking the time to visit showrooms can be helpful.

Talking to manufacturers and installers in person at showrooms will yield lots of useful information.

And being able to physically see and touch windows will give you a good idea of their quality.

If looking online, use sites that show windows in situ in homes. Check all the specification details to make sure the product fits your needs before buying.



**Do you have
bad looking
mouldy seals
in your
bathroom?**



Check quality

The material of the frame and the rating of the glass all define the quality of the window.

Timber frames look great and have a classic appeal, and offer good thermal efficiency, but they are costly and do require maintenance.

Aluminium frames can be among the cheapest and are also hardwearing and low maintenance, but they can degenerate over time.

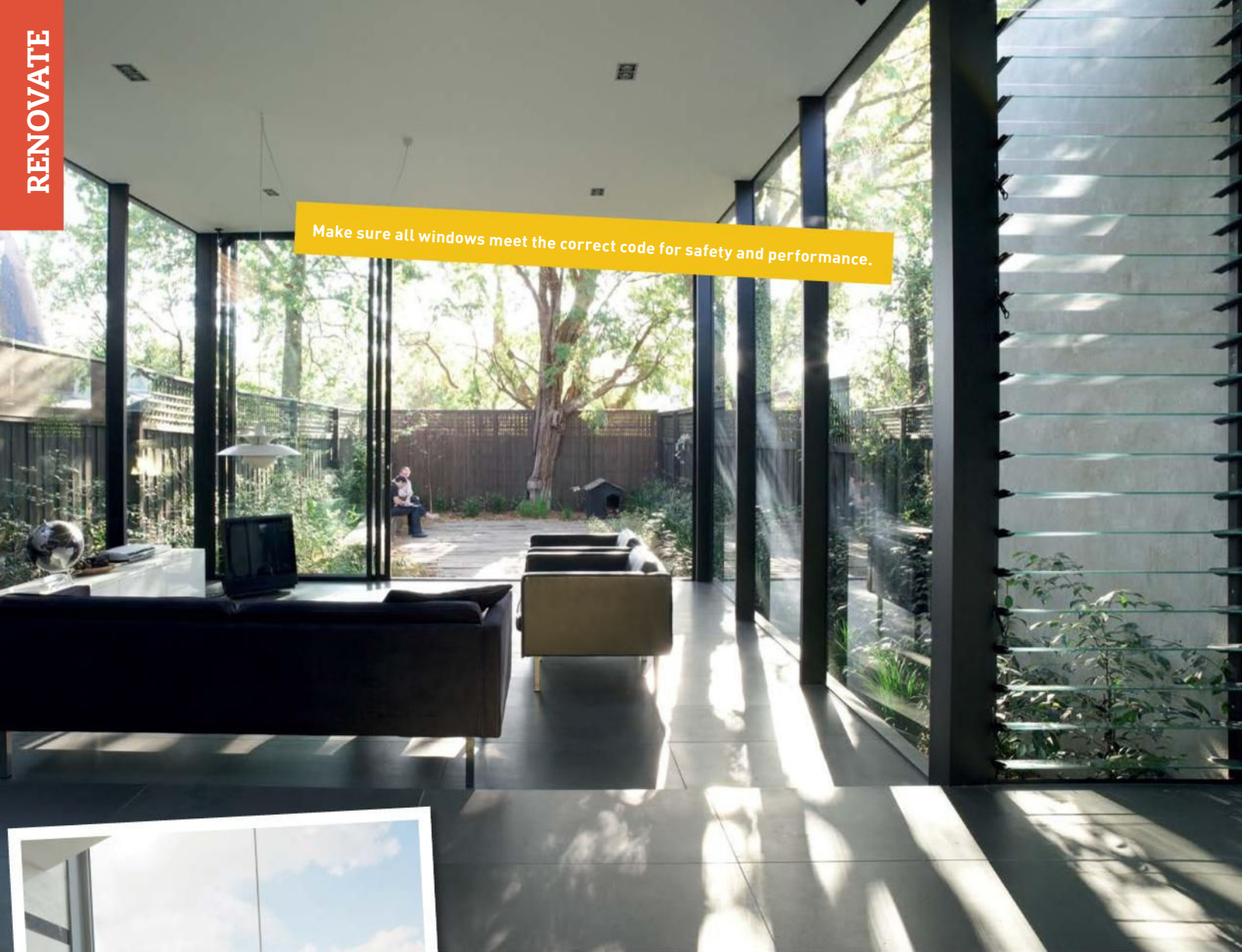
Steel, powdercoated and anodised aluminium frames are suitable for very large windows, as they're the strongest. They can also be custom-coloured to match the exterior of the home. ➤

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Make sure all windows meet the correct code for safety and performance.



Purpose specific

The windows and doors you select need to fulfil their intended purpose. If you want privacy in a ground-floor bathroom, then choose windows featuring obscure glass.

For maximum light or to showcase a fabulous view, glass sliding windows that come in large configurations are probably what you need.

If ventilation and cross breezes are what you're looking for, fixed windows will not be appropriate, while sliding, bifold, casement, louvre and awning windows will all fit the bill nicely.



Window compliance

Here are the basics of window compliance. For more info, visit the Australian Window Association at awa.org.au.

- ⊕ **SAFETY** Screening and other restrictions reduce the risk of children falling from windows.
- ⊕ **ENERGY** Windows must match or exceed the specified U-value, the measure of heat conduction, to meet thermal requirements.
- ⊕ **BUSHFIRE** Mandatory window and door requirements exist for locations in bushfire-prone areas.
- ⊕ **NOISE** Homes in a transport noise corridor must comply with minimum acoustic requirements.

Standards and regulations

All windows need to comply with various codes and regulations set out by The Building Code of Australia, most of which relate to the climate zone in which you live and the safety requirements of the property.

Non-compliance can cost dearly in the long run, with new builds or renovations failing to certify, as well as risking compromised safety and poor thermal performance.

All manufacturers are required to supply windows and doors with performance labels attached to them.

These labels confirm that the products are certified to comply with relevant standards and regulations.

In addition, all suppliers must be able to verify compliance by providing a Certificate of Compliance on request. Check your installer can and will supply all the paperwork. ➤



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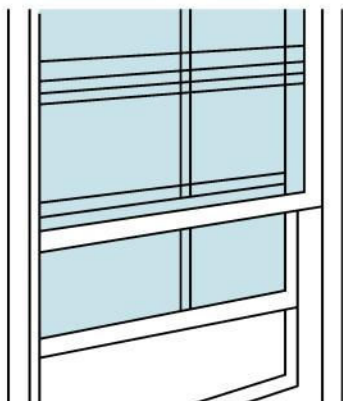


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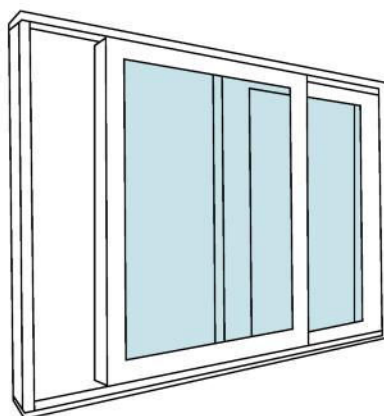
RE-NEW

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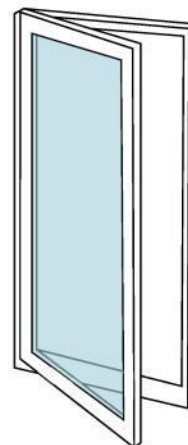
Styles and types of windows



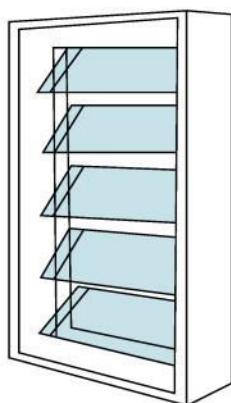
➤ **DOUBLE HUNG OR SASH** windows open vertically. Both sashes of the window usually slide, and screens can be installed outside the window frame.



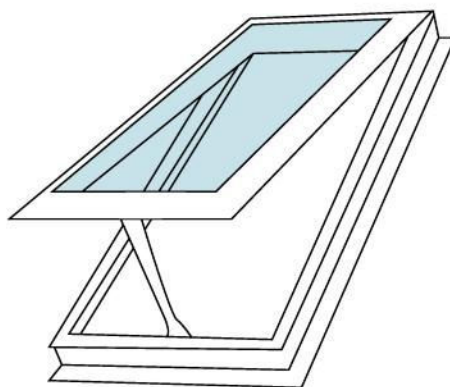
➤ **SLIDING** windows open horizontally, and can feature two or more sashes. They offer a clear opening and provide good ventilation.



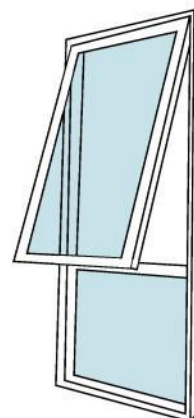
➤ **CASEMENT** windows are hinged at the sides and open outwards, with screens on the inside. They can offer some ventilation advantages in certain situations.



➤ **LOUVRE** windows feature a series of blades that tilt to open, which can be made of aluminium, glass or timber. They are opened by a handle, lever or remote control.



➤ **SKYLIGHTS AND ROOF LANTERNS** generally allow much more light into a room than windows, which is due to their access to direct sunlight.



➤ **AWNING** windows are hinged at the top, and open outwards. They come in a variety of different shapes and configurations and are ideal for wet weather.



Energy efficiency

Approximately 40% of all the energy consumed in homes in this country is used for cooling and heating the interior.

The vast majority of heat loss and heat gain comes from windows, so choosing energy-efficient windows

can have a real effect on power bills, as well as your comfort indoors.

The design, glass type, glazing, and seals determine how energy efficient the window is.

In many parts of the country, the priority is to keep solar heat out of the home, except during the

colder months, when free solar heat gain and retention of warmth in the house become important.

Ideally, this calls for strong solar protection on east and west windows, but deliberate use of free sunlight from northerly windows. Choose solutions depending on the orientation.

Skylights

Skylights can make a big contribution to energy efficiency, comfort and ventilation, and can be installed in both existing and new homes.

They are ideal for illuminating a low-light area, projecting up to three times more light than a standard window of the same size.

Another benefit of skylights is that they bring in new views. They also enhance the architectural design, adding a sense of drama and grandeur, and provide a focal point. 🌟



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WINDOW WOW

Control light and privacy with window treatments designed for contemporary interior spaces



Blinds are an easy way to give interiors a designer look on a budget.

Simple to install, versatile blinds come in a wide range of sizes, styles and colours, in timber and fabric, and are also low-maintenance.

Choose blackout blinds for maximum privacy or venetians for more control over light.

Energy saver

Add another layer of insulation with Cellular Boston Blinds.

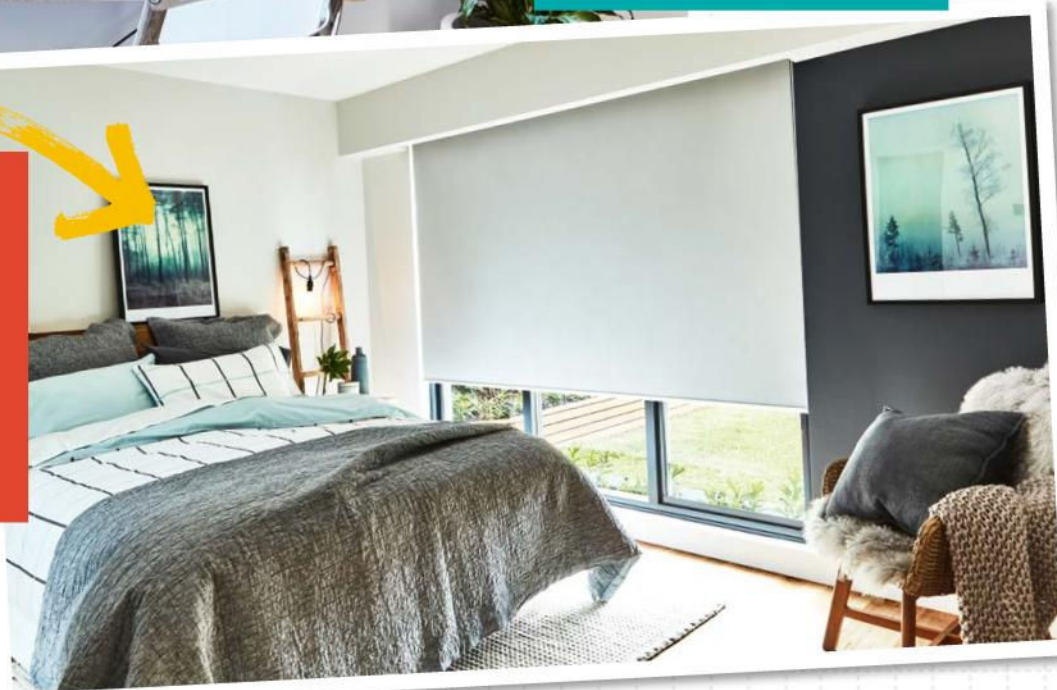
These fabric blinds have a honeycomb structure that helps keep cool air in during summer and warm air out during winter.

Get 100% light blackout and contemporary style for \$169 for a 180 x 210cm blind.

Colour match

Special technology matches Elegance Blockout Roller Blinds, \$178 for a 240 x 240cm blind, to the popular Dulux paint colours Tranquil Retreat, Natural White and Hog Bristle Quarter.

Featuring an extra-long drop, these easy-clean fabric blinds are also suitable for wet areas.





Blockout mode

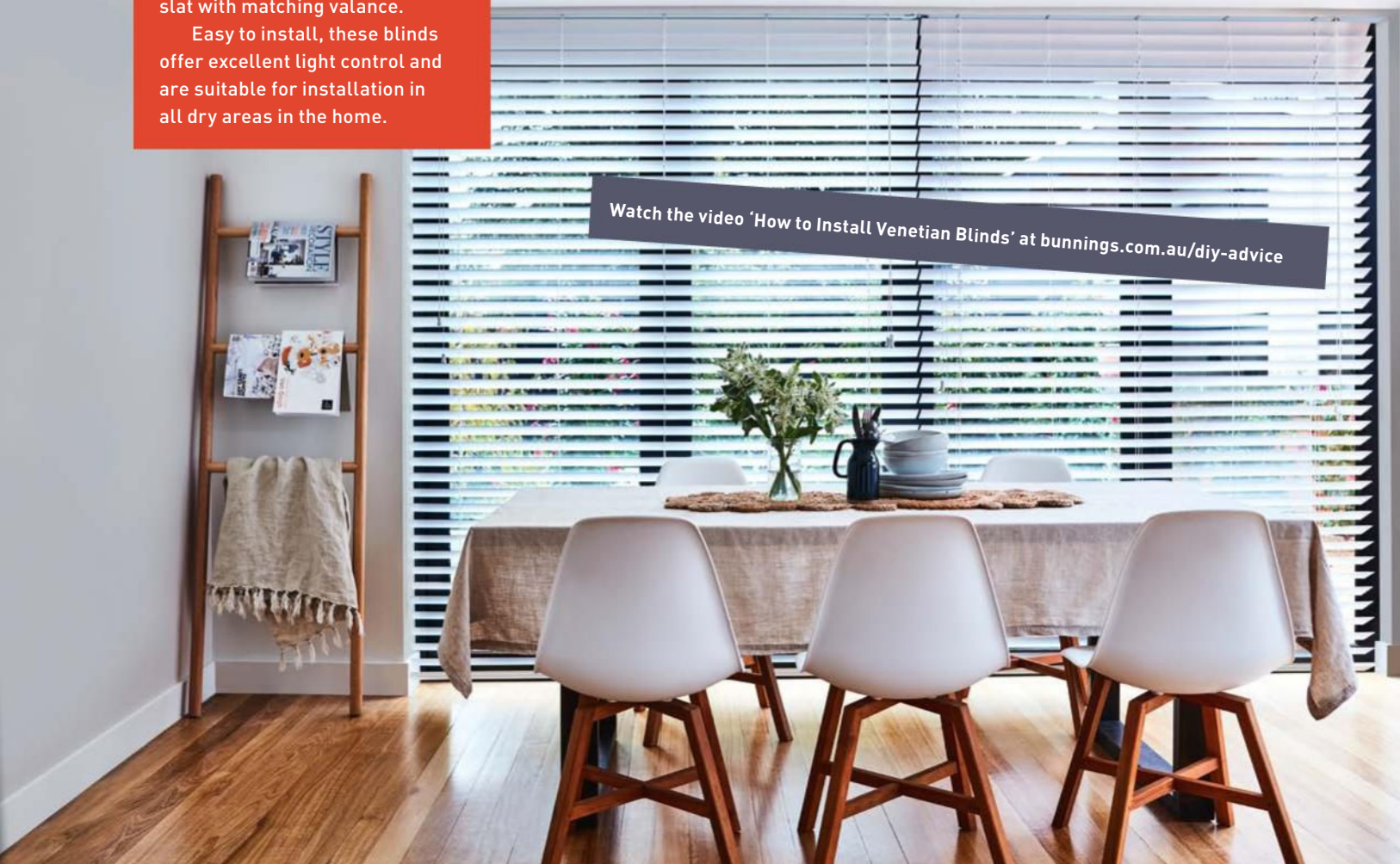
For a chic and modern window treatment, install 180 x 210cm Portofino Roller Blinds in on-trend charcoal, \$108.

Made from a specially woven textured fabric, they block sun, provide privacy and can be used in any room except wet areas, and have a three-year warranty.

Shutter style

Designed to look like shutters but without the price tag, Shutterview 180 x 150cm Venetian Blinds, \$130, have a wider 63mm timber slat with matching valance.

Easy to install, these blinds offer excellent light control and are suitable for installation in all dry areas in the home.



FRESH OUTLOOK

Replace old curtains with a modern venetian blind for an easy update

PROJECT LEE DASHIELL MAIN PICTURES GEOFF BECK

Hheavy curtains in a 1980s-style floral fabric, an outsized pelmet and walls painted in a dark colour made this bedroom feel small, dated and dimly lit.

Painting the walls in a light shade, leaving a feature wall to introduce

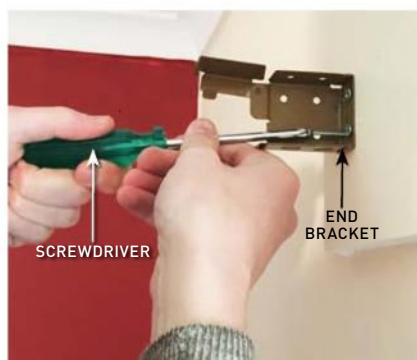
a shot of colour, and replacing the curtains with a timber venetian blind brightened up the room.

The timber blind adds a natural texture to the interior and the slats are highly effective at controlling how much sunlight gets into the room.



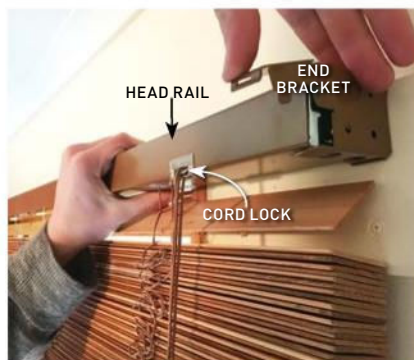
Bring a light and airy feel to a room with a coat of paint and a timber blind

1 2 3



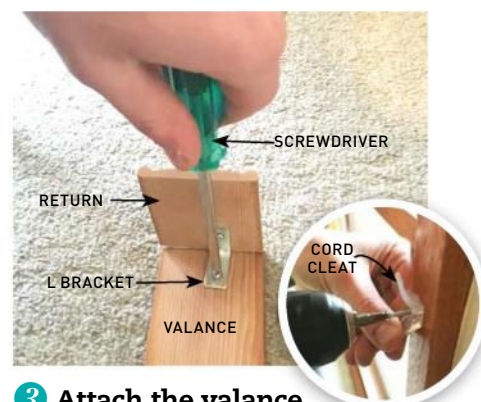
1 Secure the end brackets

Measure and mark the positions for the end brackets with a pencil. Drill pilot holes, then secure each bracket to the wall using the supplied screws, ensuring that the brackets both open at the front.



2 Install the head rail

Measure and mark the positions for the centre brackets, then secure to the wall using the supplied screws. Open the brackets and install the head rail, making sure the cord lock and tilt cord are facing to the front.



3 Attach the valance

Screw the L brackets to the valance returns, then attach the valance to the head rail. Install the cord cleat to the architrave or wall at least 1600mm above floor level to ensure the cord can be kept taut and secure.

Before



SAFETY TIP

Hanging cords on blinds present a hazard to small children, so get into the habit of wrapping excess cord around the cleat.



After

Timber blinds enhance the room and allow better control over privacy and light levels than curtains.

LEE'S PICKS



MAGNOLIA

Dulux Wash & Wear Low Sheen in Magnolia, \$72 for 4L. dulux.com.au



Zone Interiors 150 x 210cm Madison Western Red Cedar 45mm Venetian Blind, \$230. zoneinteriors.com.au



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DIY TIP

Use a soft cloth and a little extra-whitening toothpaste, not gel, to buff windowpanes and erase any shallow scratches.

WINDOW FIXES

Repair common problems with old timber windows to keep the classic charm of your home intact

H Install a timber window frame

Visit handyman.net.au/timber-frame

Keeping timber-framed windows looking like new requires a little TLC. But just following a few simple tips and tricks will ensure that yours stand the test of time.

A broken pane, neglected sill or signs of rot don't have to mean you need to break the bank replacing them. You can fix these issues DIY in a weekend with these easy steps.

TIP Windowsills and frames should be checked regularly, as flaking or peeling paint can be signs of rot. ➤

Simple solutions

It's important to keep silicone or putty in tiptop condition. In addition to preventing draughts, they both also prevent water from soaking into the frames and causing them to rot.

Replace cracked or brittle putty by carefully chipping it out with a chisel and spreading on a new coat. Knead the putty to soften it, then squeeze a bead into the frame with your thumb, using a putty knife to smooth it out.

Clean the windows by vacuuming up any dirt, then wipe over them with a soft cloth dipped in warm water and dishwashing liquid, adding a little vinegar if they're very dirty.

Finish by rubbing the windowpanes dry with scrunched-up newspaper.



Wash windows every few months, or more often if situated on a busy road

Replacing a pane is an easy DIY task you can complete in a day.

REPLACE A WINDOWPANE Use the old pane as a guide to buy a new pane of glass from a supplier, or measure the opening between the rebates, then deduct 3mm from either side to allow for clearance and simple installation.



1 Remove the old pane

Use a putty knife and a hammer to scrape out the old putty, then pull out the glazier's points or nails with pliers. Carefully remove the pane of glass.

TIP Remove the sash to work on a flat surface without obstruction.



2 Repair the frame

Use timber filler to repair any gaps or damaged areas on the window frame. Allow to dry, then sand flush with the timber. Paint the filled sections and any unfinished timber with primer, sealer and undercoat.



3 Position the new pane

Apply putty in the channel around the opening using a putty knife. Carefully position the new pane in the channel, pressing it firmly against the putty to form an even layer of filler underneath the edges of the glass.

TOP PICKS



Timbermate Water-based Woodfiller, about \$16. timbermate.com.au



Trojan 350mm Tenon Saw, \$10. trojantools.com.au



Stanley FatMax 25mm Sidestrike Chisel, about \$21. stanleytools.com.au



TIC Push Point Glazier Framing Pins, \$3 for 50. bunnings.com.au



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4 Secure the pane

Use a stiff putty knife or screwdriver to press glazier's points or nails into the frame and against the glass, using at least two a side and spacing them about 100mm apart. Scrape away excess product with the putty knife.



5 Seal the frame

Apply putty over the edges of the glass using a putty knife held at an angle and working from the corners to ensure it is not visible from inside. Allow to cure for at least a week before painting the timber frames. ➤



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Sticky windows

Weather conditions and house settling can cause timber casement windows to swell or stick, making them difficult to open or close.

Pinpoint any problem spots by slipping a piece of carbon paper, available from office supply stores, between the window and the frame around its perimeter, opening and closing the window as you go.

Carbon marks on the frame reveal where the window is binding. Sand or plane the high spots, then touch up the bare timber.

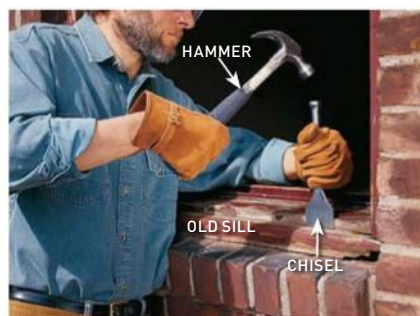
Lubricating the channels of a window that has become stiff with silicone spray or a bar of soap can also help them run smoothly.



Ensure windows are regularly maintained for ease of use and to prolong their life

Windowsills in wet areas can be prone to damage and may need replacing.

INSTALL A NEW SILL A window frame usually has a sill, a base, two stiles and a head. The corners of the frame are connected using housing joints that are primed and secured with galvanised hardware.



1 Remove the old sill

Use a chisel and a hammer to remove the old sill from under the window frame. Use a pinch bar to separate the sill from the other parts of the frame.

TIP Cut away any stubborn nails or hardware using a hacksaw.



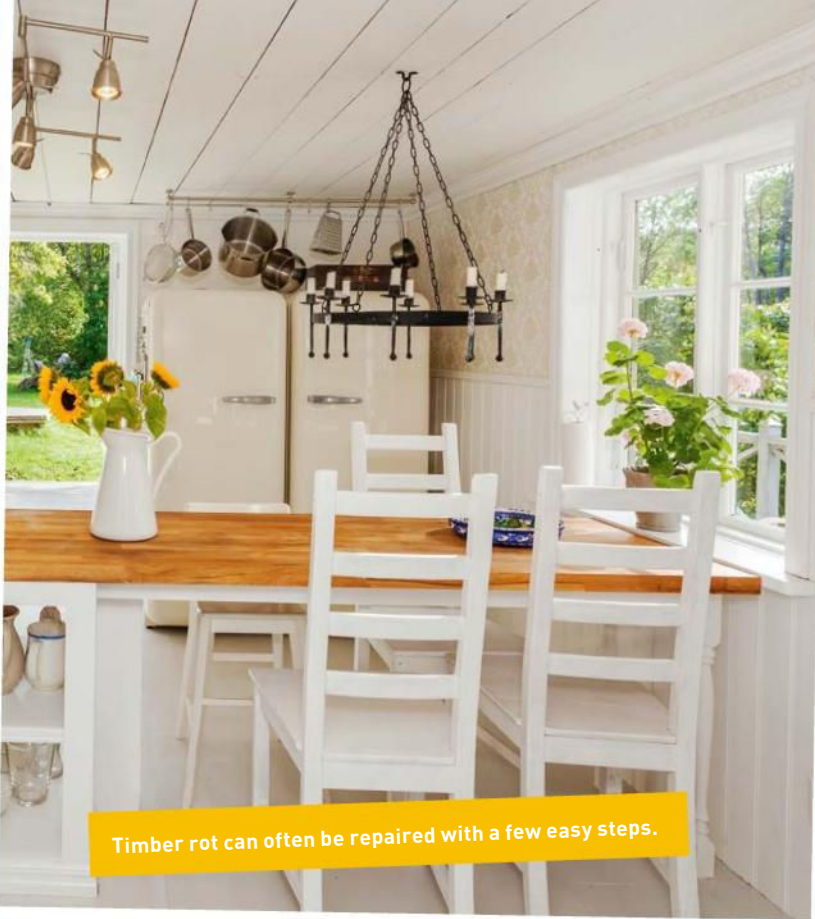
2 Cut a new sill

Using the old sill as a template, cut a new sill from timber of the same thickness. Sand with 180 grit paper, rounding over the edges slightly. Apply a coat of timber preservative to prevent rot or water damage.



3 Install the sill

Position the sill. Drill 2mm pilot holes and secure with 65 x 2.8mm galvanised nails. Punch in the nail heads, fill with timber putty, then sand smooth. Apply a paintable exterior sealant to fill any gaps, then sand, prime and paint.



Repair rotten timber

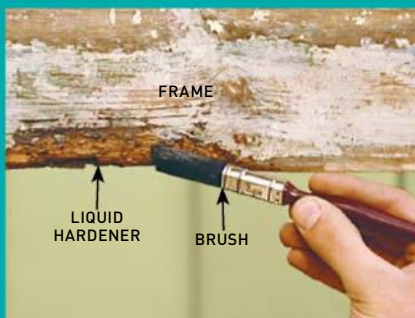
Rotten windowsills and frames can be rebuilt using liquid hardener and a two-part epoxy filler.

Ideal for filling rotten areas in timber, epoxy fillers can be shaped when they are partially dry.

They can be mixed to set quickly or slowly and, once dry, can be sanded, drilled and painted like the timber surrounding the repaired area.

Build up the rotten areas progressively, applying layers of epoxy if the damage is deep, and protect the rest of the timber with preservative before you repaint.

If you have to reconstruct a corner or a deep hole in a timber frame or sill, put in a couple of screws first so the filler will have something to hold onto for a longer-lasting finish.



1 Prepare the area

Strip the paint, then use a chisel or a wire brush to dig out the worst of the rot. Dry out wet timber with a hot-air gun. Apply liquid hardener to the area with a brush until it stops soaking in, then leave to harden overnight.



2 Fill with epoxy

Apply the epoxy filler with a scraper, mixing a little at a time to keep it workable, as it can harden quickly. Allow to cure, then coat the remaining timber in preservative to prevent rot. Sand and paint the repaired timber. ✎



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NO NEED TO DIG OUT ROT

IT'S AS SIMPLE AS 1, 2, 3

1. Simply apply, allow to dry
2. Fill with Earl's MultiFill or Earl's Powder Putty
3. Paint



BEFORE



AFTER*

* Area shown has been treated with Earl's® Wood Hardener and the filled with Earl's® MultiFill and painted.

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★ ORIGINS

Floorboards

DIY TIP

Hardwood floors can be sanded and resealed over and over again, whereas engineered boards can only be restored two to three times.

Timber is a timeless and elegant flooring option.

Floorboards are ideal for most areas of the home.

Until about the mid 15th century, the floors in many houses were made from dirt, stone or concrete.

Floorboards first saw widespread use when upper storeys in homes became more common. Early floorboards were hand-sawn and difficult to install, so wide planks were chosen to save time.

Floorboards became more widely used when Europeans colonised the Americas and took advantage of the abundance of available timber.

But they remained a flooring option mainly for the wealthy and weren't mass-produced until the late 19th century.

Hardwood floors, such as jarrah, blackbutt and oak, are very durable, and can last for decades when given the right care. Original floorboards can still be found in many period homes across the country.

Today, modern timber floors often feature tongue and groove profiled edges for easier DIY installation.

Alternative choices

- ❖ **LAMINATE** boards feature an MDF base that is printed with a high-definition image to resemble real timber.
- ❖ **ENGINEERED** boards have a plywood or an MDF base with a timber veneer on the top.
- ❖ **BAMBOO** boards are made by weaving strands together, then planing and sealing them.



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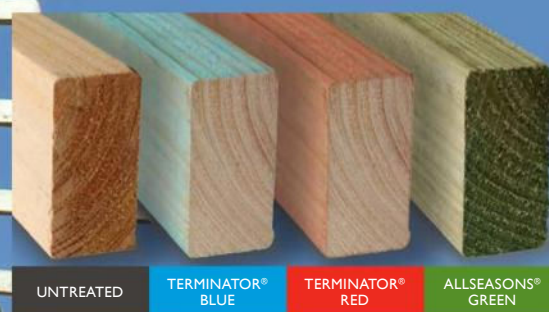
Laserframe Untreated – natural pine timber appearance suitable for indoor, above-ground use.

Laserframe Terminator Blue – H2-F treated for protection against borers and termites in areas south of the Tropic of Capricorn, for indoor, above-ground use.

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BASIC SKILLS

Angle grinder



Tough tool

Angle grinders are ideal for working with hard materials such as metal, tiles and masonry. They operate at high speeds and can be equipped with a variety of wheels for cutting, grinding and polishing.

Metal cutting wheels are used for rough cuts of pipe, angle and rods, while thicker grinding wheels are used for smoothing out cuts and welds.

Continuous rim diamond blades slice through ceramic tiles, stone and fibre cement, while multi-cutting blades can be used for aluminium, plastics, fibreglass and particleboard.

Angle grinders are a leading cause of DIY accidents, so always wear safety goggles, a dust mask, gloves and hearing protection, and ensure the wheel guard is always in place.



H Learn more about grinders
Visit handyman.net.au/grinders



MAKE CUT-OUTS IN TILES

Mark the cut-out on the front and back of the tile, then score the front with a continuous rim diamond tile-cutting blade. Turn over the tile and plunge cut from the back, stopping when the cut lines up with the marked corners. Avoid applying too much pressure, as this can cause the tile to crack.



CUT THROUGH METAL

Attach a metal cutting wheel to the grinder. Clamp the workpiece, then lower the grinder onto the metal without applying too much pressure, allowing the weight of the tool to do most of the work. Change to a reinforced metal grinding wheel to tidy up sharp burrs.



REMOVE OLD PAINT

To prepare metal surfaces such as gates or outdoor furniture for repainting, old paint needs to be removed first to prevent the new paint from flaking. Use a wire cup brush over broad, flat areas and a wire wheel in crevices and tight corners. Ensure the attachment spins away from the edges to avoid kickback.



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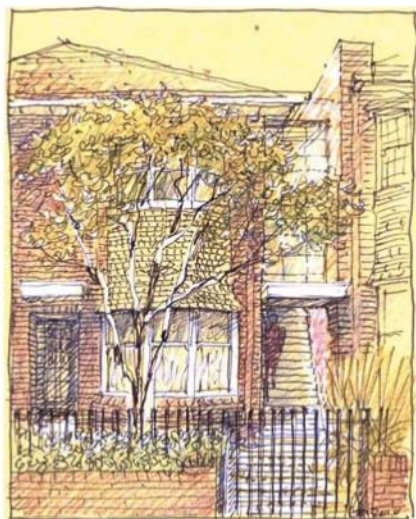
DUPLEX IN *THE* CITY

A heritage building in an urban area gets a very modern upgrade without losing any of its charm

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES JUSTIN ALEXANDER AND EDWARD BIRCH



The rear of the building was rebuilt to feature outdoor spaces.



As our cities grow, so does the demand for high-density housing, which translates into a need for more apartments and that other popular solution, the duplex.

This 1920s property on the fringe of the Sydney CBD was originally a two-storey, two-apartment duplex.

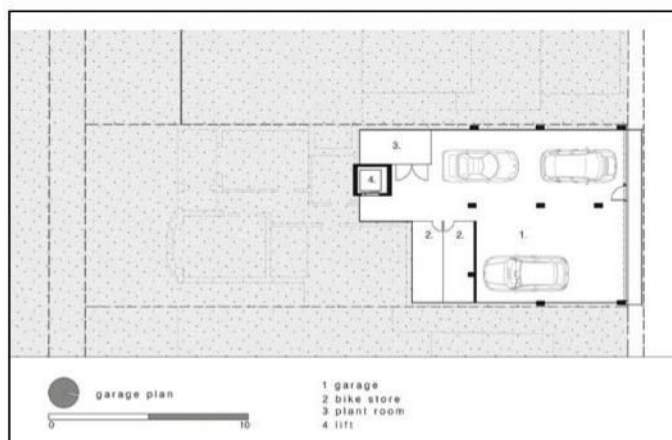
Architects Luigi Rosselli and Jane McNeill transformed it into a strikingly modern home without losing any of its heritage charm.

They demolished 40% of the original building, leaving the front intact and replacing the back, and in the process added two storeys.

The building now has a communal garage with storage, a 255sqm two-level penthouse with a rooftop garden and a 145sqm ground-floor apartment. An internal lift services all four levels. ➤

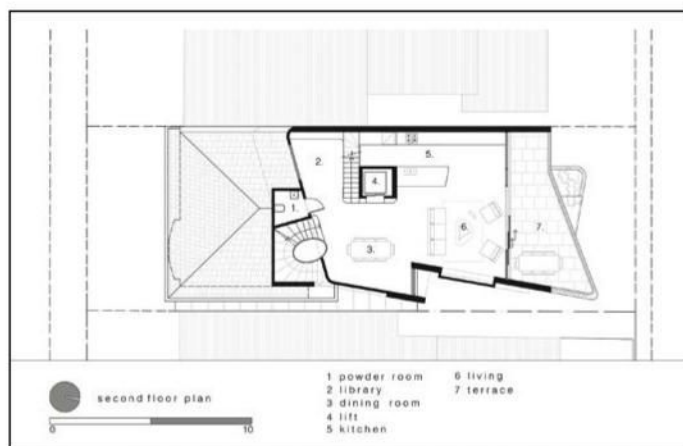
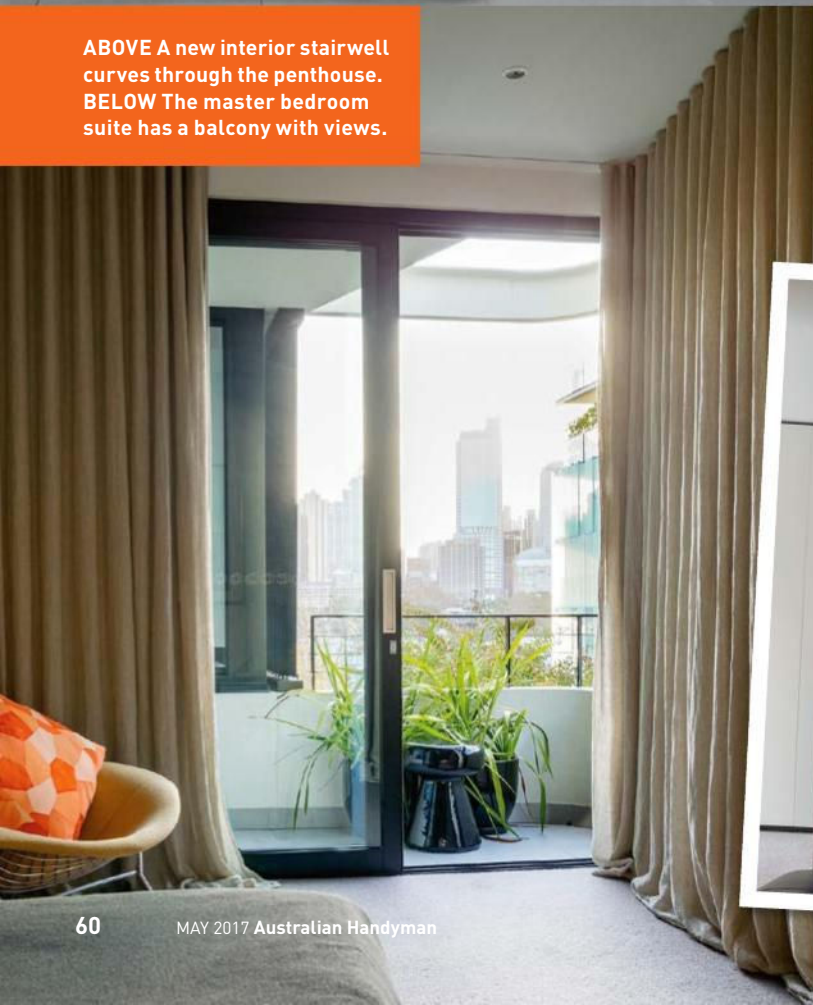


Timber shingles and original leadlight windows adorn the 1920s facade.





ABOVE A new interior stairwell curves through the penthouse.
BELOW The master bedroom suite has a balcony with views.



Use a refined palette of neutrals as a backdrop for dark timber joinery





Oversized mirrors and a sleek benchtop feature in the ensuite.

Penthouse appeal

In the penthouse, two bedrooms and a main bathroom are located in the original part of the building, with the master bedroom and generous ensuite in the new rear addition.

Locating the sleeping areas on the first floor and the kitchen and living areas on the second allowed Luigi and Jane to maximise privacy.

The position of walls, particularly common ones, and the position of rooms can both make a huge impact on living conditions.

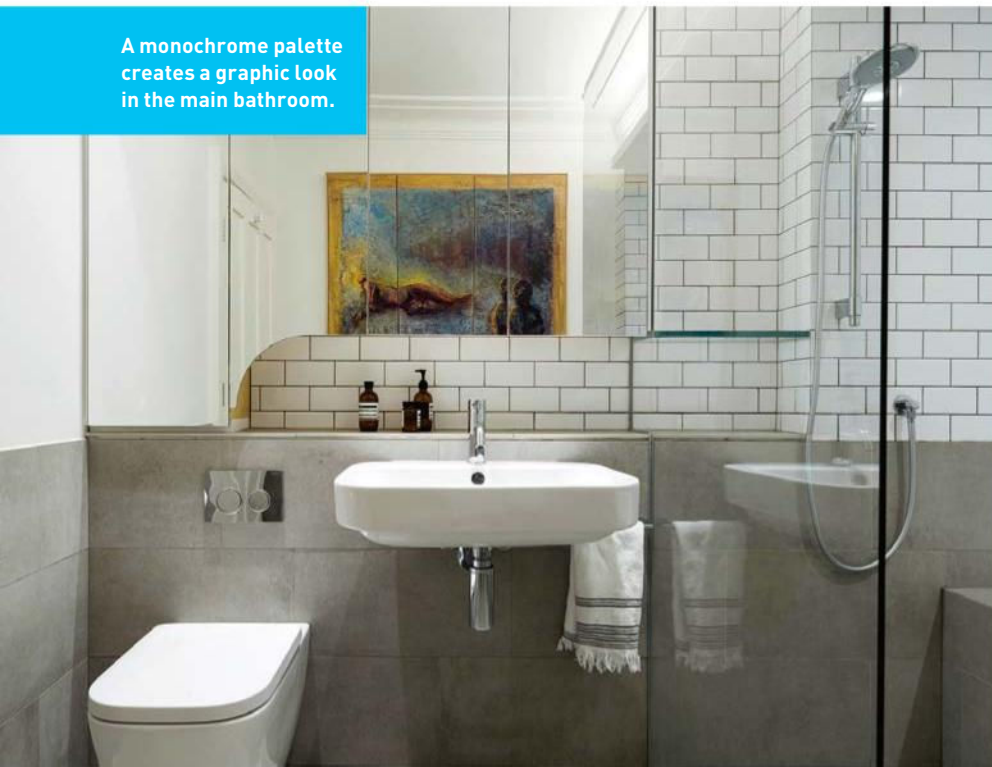
Working multiple well-appointed bathrooms into a limited floorplan also requires clever solutions.

The main bathroom features metro-style tiles with the tight grout lines characteristic of the period, while the ensuite has untiled walls for a more modern aesthetic.

An angular Corian benchtop appears to float in the space, and lines are kept clean with shelves built into one side for style and function.

A customised dressing table sits between the ensuite and bedroom. ➤

A monochrome palette creates a graphic look in the main bathroom.



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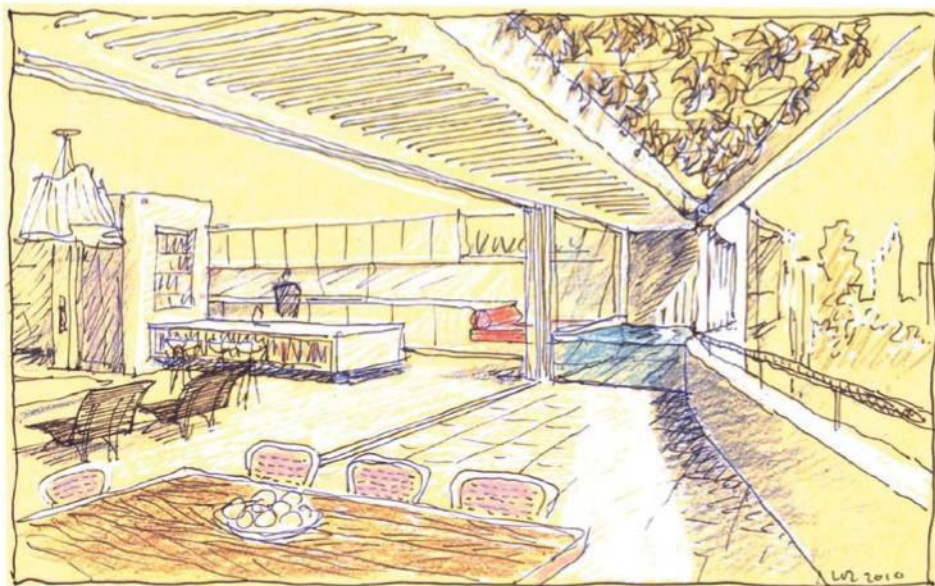
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*Based on vacuum pressure tests compared against everloc dual action suction cups



The galley kitchen teams gloss white with dark timber. RIGHT The terrace offers an outdoor dining space.



Communal areas

The open-plan kitchen, dining and living areas were located on the top floor of the penthouse to open onto the terrace and capitalise on the expansive views of the city.

A simple galley design, the kitchen also features the dark American oak used elsewhere in the house, which contrasts beautifully with the sleek white cabinetry. An extension to the island bench creates informal seating.

A custom-made glazed ceramic tile splashback lends a unique design element. It came as a fixed module, but Jane took it apart and reconfigured each tile to create a personalised artwork for the owner. ➤



The balcony off the kitchen takes in the northern aspect.

 For more design inspiration
Visit pinterest.com/DIYHandyman

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ABOVE The artworks direct the colour theme of the living room. BELOW A private reading nook features a porthole window.



Maximising space

Space is always at a premium in an apartment and every configuration was maximised, with no potential on the floorplan wasted.

A nook located next to a Jacob's ladder staircase leading to the rooftop garden was utilised as a library and quiet reading room.

Style-wise, Jane's deft touch is seen in the treatment of the interior. Fabrics create textural layers that give the modern shell warmth and personality.

While being careful not to mimic the period style of the original house, a mid-century modern aesthetic is clear, with nods to Art Deco in the lighting and decorative accents. ➤



Designing to suit individual needs creates spaces with lots of charm



Nick the Naturist pruning his Roses..
sausage anyone!



A rusty shed roof, long grass and
a broken washing line

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Balcony beauty

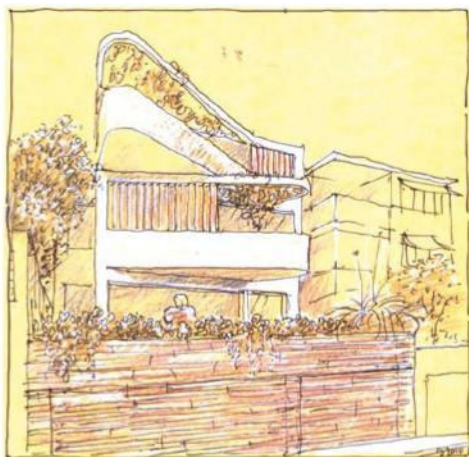
Luigi is renowned for incorporating curves in his designs, and the scissor balconies that extend to provide outdoor space also serve to create a distinctive form and presence.

The balconies are angled to offer side views while maintaining the rear alignment of the building with the neighbouring properties.

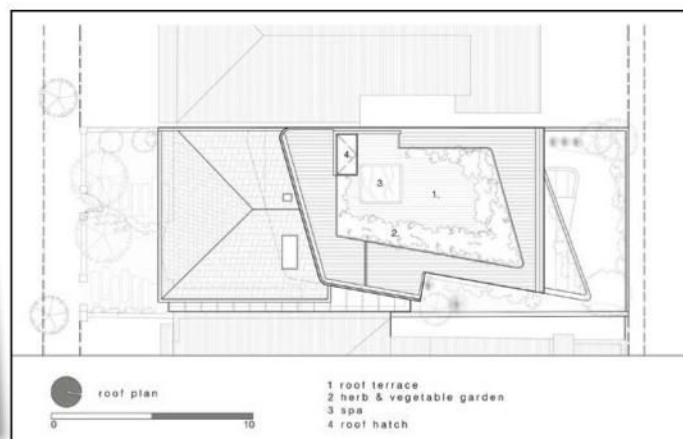
While the generous balconies all offer wonderful views, the rooftop garden boasts a full 360° vista, which takes in the city, the harbour and the famous Harbour Bridge.

Over time, the rooftop landscaping will grow and take shape to contribute to the architecture. 🌿

Luigi Rosselli Architects, Sydney.
luigirosselli.com



Louvred timber provides extra privacy on the bedroom level without restricting the views.



OUTDOOR HEATING
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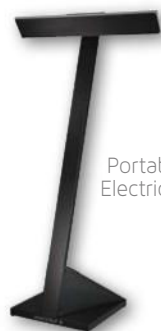
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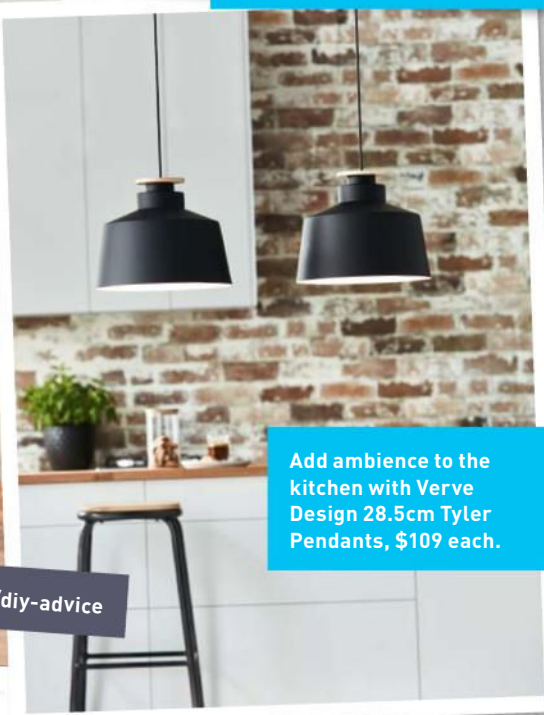
1 Home Design 32cm Ritmo Pendant Light, \$119.

2 Home Design 21.5cm Dondo Pendant Light, \$159.

3 Brilliant Derby Metal Pipe Table Lamp, \$59.90.



Use two or more pendant lights to revamp the style of a room or open-plan kitchen and dining space.



Add ambience to the kitchen with Verve Design 28.5cm Tyler Pendants, \$109 each.

Read 'How to choose the right space to hang your pendant light' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

Some advertised products not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.



Add a Scandi-style pendant light for on-trend style.

- 1 Brilliant 20cm Black Alexander, \$79.98.
- 2 Verve Design 13cm White Piper, \$89.90.
- 3 Verve Design 16cm Vale, \$49.
- 4 Rouge 18cm Roma Luxplroma, \$69.90.

- 5 Verve Design 40cm Black Argo, \$169.
- 6 Mercator 30cm Small White Monroe, \$187.
- 7 Home Design 44cm Gold Facet, \$99.
- 8 Verve Design 30cm Mustard Akia, \$79.99.
- 9 Home Design 17cm Cono Single, \$134.



Add a modern industrial style to living areas.

- 1 Home Design Rame Copper Table Lamp, \$99.
- 2 Brilliant 6 Light Rubix Cluster Cage Pendant, \$200.

Shine a light over your workspace or reading nook with one of these designer-style floor lamps.

- 1 Rouge 156cm Ibis, \$139.
- 2 Verve 180cm Cord Saigon Chrome, \$149.
- 3 Home Design 150cm White Trio, \$179.
- 4 Brilliant 166cm Copper Grange, \$150.
- 5 Brilliant Copper Derby Metal Pipe, \$79.90.



HOME OFFICE MAKEOVER

Transform a small study with a feature wall, floating shelves and a custom-cut desktop

PROJECT DANIEL BUTKOVICH PICTURES SUE FERRIS

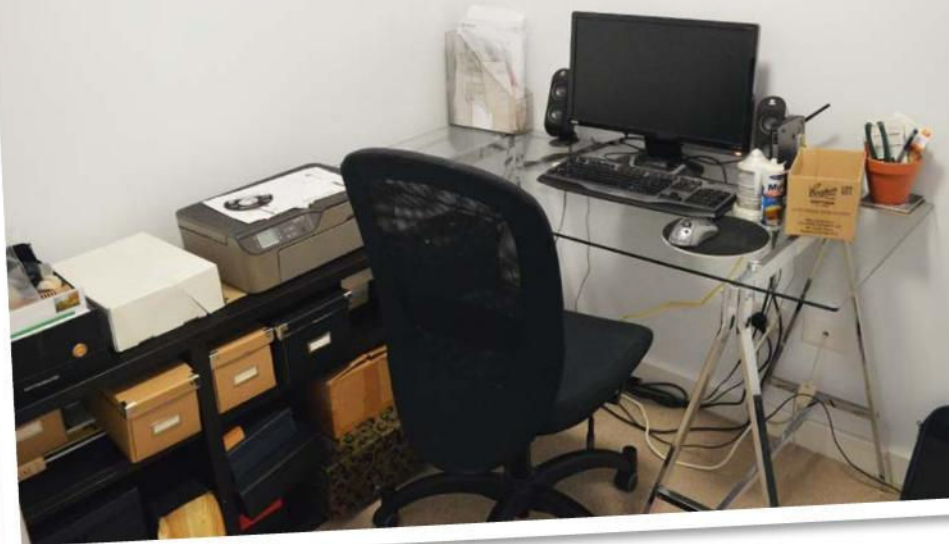
The tiny study nook in this apartment was plain and lacked adequate storage, limiting its suitability as a home office.

To make the space more appealing, a modern feature wall was created to form a backdrop for the workspace.

A large desktop was made out of a timber slab, which was positioned on top of two metal filing cabinets.

Rustic shelves built from recycled timber were then installed on the wall above the desk using brackets made from pipe fittings to create a more organised environment. ➤

Before



DANIEL'S PICKS



Bosch Blue 18V Cordless Drill Driver with 2 x 2.0Ah Batteries, \$199. bosch-pt.com.au



Ryobi 800W Variable Speed Belt Sander, \$99. ryobi.com.au



Ozito 450W 125mm Random Orbital Sander, \$65. ozito.com.au

After

The workspace is now streamlined and functional with added colour and texture.

Verve Design 34cm
Black Nixon Table Lamp,
\$36. bunnings.com.au

Scheurich 16 x 13cm
Alaska Glazed Indoor Pot,
\$14. tuscanpath.com.au

 Watch the video online
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Timber desk

A red cedar slab was sourced from a timber supplier, then cut to fit between two walls in the room.

It was then sanded, varnished and positioned on top of two filing cabinets at either side, which meant it didn't need to be secured to the wall.

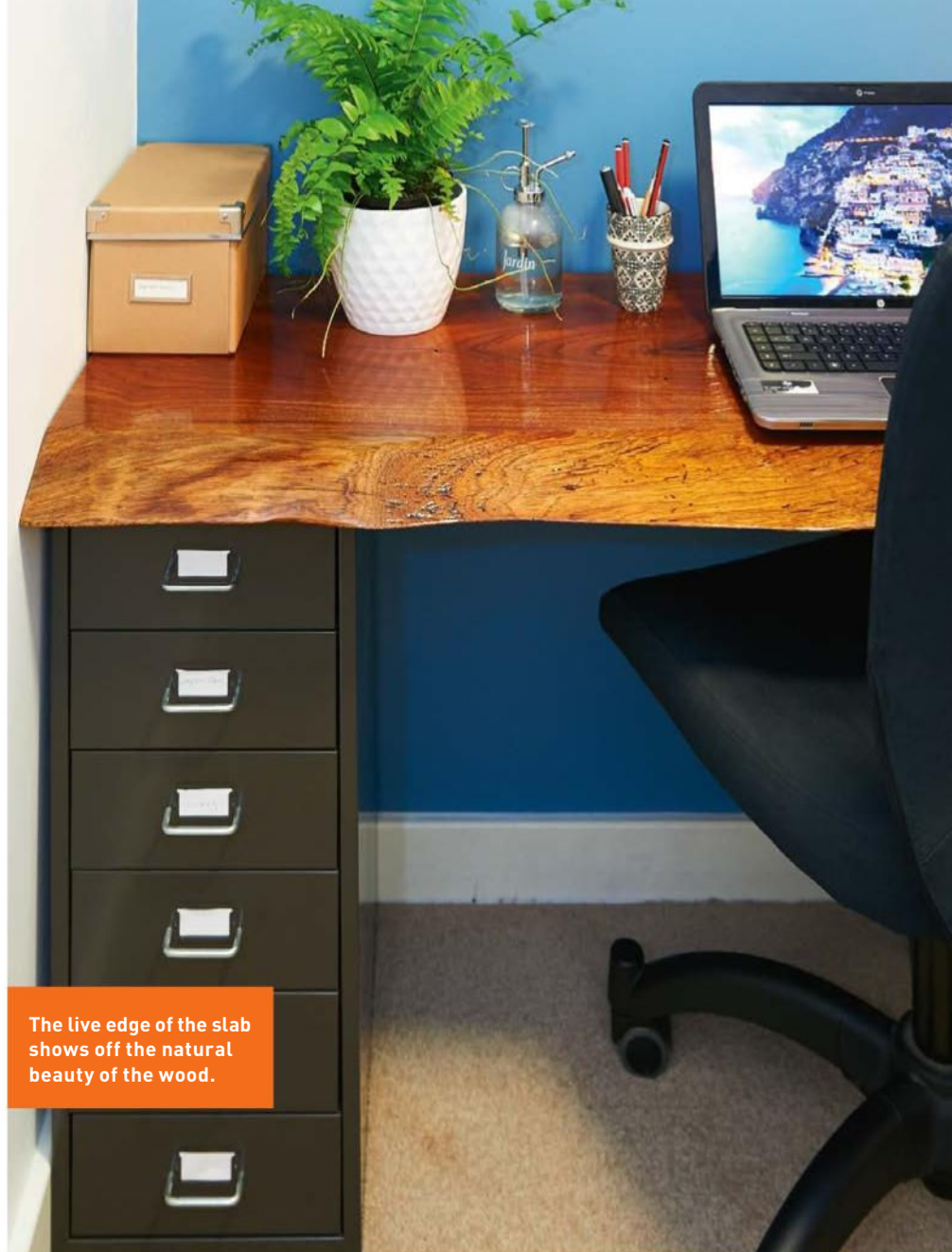
Rubber mats were placed on top of each of the metal cabinets to help protect the surface and also prevent the desktop from moving.

The slab featured two live edges that follow the profile of the tree. One edge was cut at the mill to allow the desk to sit flush against the wall.

The other edge of the desk was left natural, with the bark sanded smooth to reveal the contours of the timber. Natural imperfections were left unfilled to retain the character.



The key to a flawless finish is to ensure the surface is entirely free of dust before varnishing



The live edge of the slab shows off the natural beauty of the wood.

1 2 3



1 Cut the slab

Measure the width of the room, then deduct 10mm from this measurement. Use a combination square to mark the measurement on the slab. Clamp a straightedge to the timber, then cut it to size using a circular saw.



2 Sand the timber

Use a random orbital sander and an 80 grit pad to sand the slab to remove any saw marks. Change to a 120 grit pad and sand smooth before moving on to a 180 grit pad. Finally, hand sand using 240 grit paper.



3 Apply the finish

Wipe the surface clean using a tack cloth to remove all sanding dust. Use a paintbrush to apply three coats of an oil-based clear gloss varnish in long even strokes. Sand lightly with 240 grit paper in between coats.

Paint the feature wall



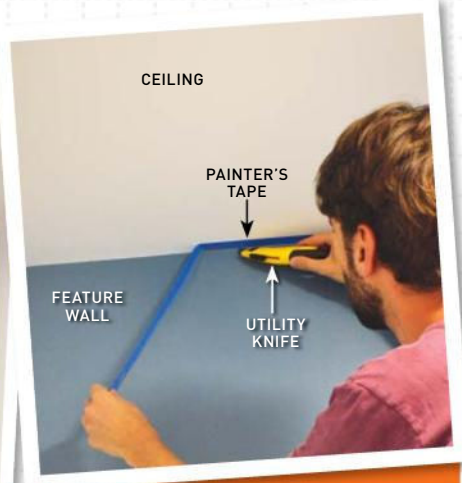
1 Cut in with a brush

Apply painter's tape along the adjoining walls, ceiling and skirting boards to protect them from paint. Use a paintbrush to cut in around the edges of the wall.



2 Paint the wall

Use a roller to apply two coats of paint to the wall. Start at the top corner and work in 1sqm sections at a time. Maintain a wet edge when painting the next section.



3 Remove the tape

After 24 hours, use a sharp utility knife to slice through the thin film of paint between the wall and the painter's tape, then carefully pull the tape away at a 45° angle. ➤



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Rustic shelves

To take advantage of vertical space in the small room, floating shelves were made from reclaimed timber.

Old cypress pine planks were sourced from a timber recycler, with bolt holes, dents and scratches from decades of use giving the timber a rustic look. The rough surfaces were sanded smooth to reveal the grain.

The planks were coated with Danish oil, which both protects the timber and enhances its aged grain to give it more character.

Shelf brackets were made from galvanised pipe fittings, which were painted matt black. The brackets were secured to the wall with screws and the shelves were positioned on top.



Pair recycled timber with matt black metal brackets for a modern industrial feel

GET THE LOOK



Antique Clear Plant Mister, \$5. kmart.com.au



Ledvance Superstar LED Downlight, \$25. ledvance.com.au



GRANITE FALLS
Taubmans Easycoat Low Sheen Interior Paint in Granite Falls, about \$34 for 1L. taubmans.com.au



Kinetic 200 x 20mm Galvanised Pipe, about \$6, End Cap, \$3, and Flange, \$6. bunnings.com.au



Rust-Oleum 2X Ultra Cover Flat Black Spray Paint, \$12 for 340g. rustoleum.com.au



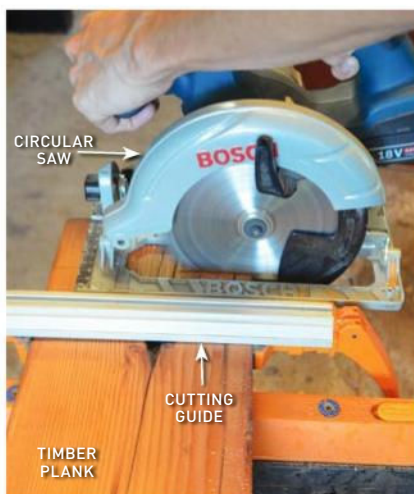
Pipes and fittings painted black make unusual brackets.

MAKE THE SHELVES



1 Sand the timber

Use a belt sander and a 120 grit belt to remove the rough surfaces of the planks. Switch to a random orbital sander with a 120 grit pad to remove the belt sander marks, then sand smooth using a 180 grit pad. Avoid sanding too deep to maintain the character of the recycled timber.



2 Cut the shelves

Create a neat edge by cutting 10mm off one end of each plank using a circular saw. Measure the width of the room, then deduct 10mm from this measurement. Mark the timber and cut the planks to size.

TIP Clamp a cutting guide to the planks for a straight cut.



3 Apply the finish

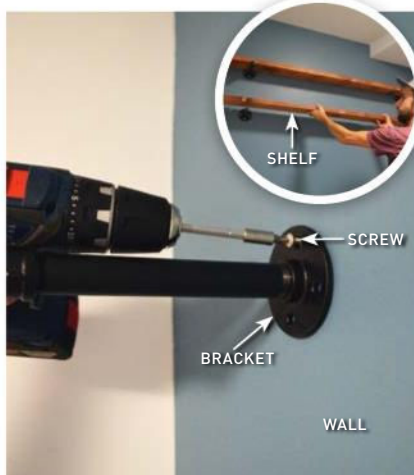
Wipe the surface clean using a tack cloth to remove all dust. Position the planks on two sawhorses, then apply two coats of Danish oil to each side of the timber planks using a paintbrush. Allow the first coat to dry for at least 12 hours before applying the second coat.



4 Assemble the brackets

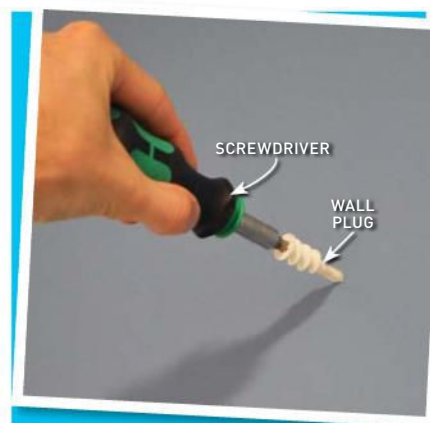
Screw the end cap onto one end of the pipe, then screw the other end of the pipe into the flange until tight. Position the brackets upright and spray with matt black paint, ensuring all sides are coated.

TIP Make a spray booth from an old cardboard box to prevent overspray.



5 Mount the shelves

Locate the wall studs, then drill pilot holes into the studs using a 3mm drill bit. Drive 10g x 45mm wafer-head screws through the holes in the flange into the wall studs to secure the brackets. Once the brackets are secure, position the planks on top to form the shelves.



Using wall plugs

If no studs are suitable, mark the hole locations on the wall, then drive wall plugs into the plasterboard using a Phillips head screwdriver.

Secure the brackets to the plugs using screws. Limit the weight of the shelf, brackets and contents to 10kg per plug.



STYLE TIP

Personalise an all-white home office space by adding items such as a favourite photograph or lamp and greenery.

SET UP A SMALL WORKSPACE

Convert a little-used space into a study area by adding a floating desk

PROJECT GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS



Natural light and neutral colours create a relaxing ambience.

Are you in need of a cosy area to check emails or pen a quick thank-you note, but believe you have no room for a home office? The trick is to look for an under-utilised spot and rework it.

Here, an old window seat was ripped out in a bedroom and a floating shelf installed as a desk.

This shelf was custom-made from MDF and finished in polyurethane, but you can use anything you like and cut it to size to suit the space.

A desk chair and rolling drawers complete the sleek workstation.

GET THE LOOK



Kaboodle 2400 x 600mm Coconut Ice Benchtop, \$238.
kaboodle.com.au



Horsens Three-drawer Pedestal in White, \$99.
officeworks.com.au



Milan Direct Eames Replica Mesh Aluminium Visitor Office Chair, \$269.
templeandwebster.com.au



Stay clutter-free

Go for slimline, compact technology and choose cordless keyboards, and file any paperwork as you go to keep the surface of the desk clear.

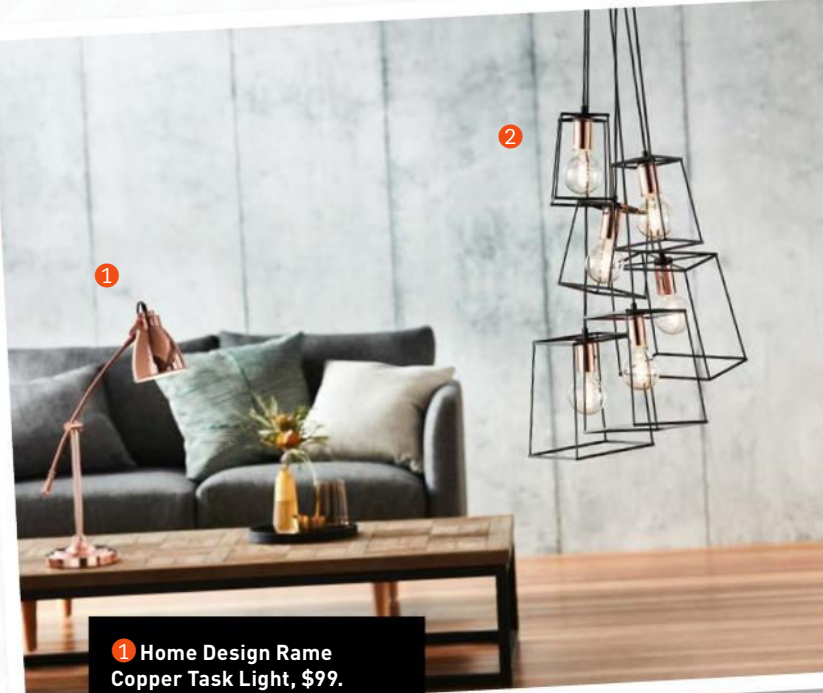
For writing daily lists or notes, have a diary or notebook to hand.

Find it at Bunnings

Mother's Day

gift guide

Head instore to pick the perfect present for Mum



1 Home Design Rame Copper Task Light, \$99.

2 Brilliant 6 Light Rubix Cluster Cage Pendant, \$200.

Let Mum choose her own gift with a Bunnings gift card or e-card, available in \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100.





Grow herbs in any space with Mr. Fothergill's Kitchen Herb Planter Kit, \$12.98.



Treat your handy mum to the easy-to-use Ozito 8-14mm Staple Nail Gun, \$39.



Frame special memories with the Kids Projects Plaster Handprint Kit, \$17.38.



Add ambience with a Rouge Living 29cm Muse Table Lamp, \$49.90.



Store small parts for DIY and craft in the Tactix Three-layer Cantilever Multifunction Tool Box, \$19.98.



Trim the garden in comfort with the ergonomic Fiskars Bypass Pruner, \$25.98.



Set up cafe-style morning or afternoon teas with a Boyle Timber Cupcake Stand, \$9.95.

TIDY TIP

Position timber stakes at either end of a hedge and tie a stringline, pulling it taut to create a cutting guide for an even trim every time.



Shape and sculpt hedges with the Ozito 550W 450mm Electric Hedge Trimmer, \$74. ➤



- ① Glow Aurora 900 x 900 x 670mm Rustic Fire Pit, \$239.
- ② Holman Mobile GreenWall Vertical Garden, \$79.
- ③ Northcote Pottery 47 x 57cm Terracotta Cottaseal Bird Bath, \$35.
- ④ Water Magic 46 x 75cm Brillo Water Fountain, \$239.



Style an outdoor room with Matrix 58 x 58cm Charcoal Lotus Wall Art panels, \$26.96 each.



Decorate outdoors with Northcote Pottery 51 x 51cm Newbury Fireworks Rust Panel Wall Art, \$42.

DIY TIP

To mount wall art to a brick wall, drill holes with a masonry bit, insert wall plugs and secure using screws for a stable design.



Create soothing sounds with a Gardman Butterfly Wind Dancer Windchime, \$9.78.



Welcome guests with the Madras Link 45 x 75cm Vinyl Backed Hello Outdoor Mat, \$17.90.



Frame a view or create a garden scene with the Gardman 2.3 x 1.2m Nature Arch, \$120.

DIY TIP

Use a 40-tooth tungsten-carbide blade or a sharp, fine-tooth handsaw for a smooth cut when cutting plywood.

TOOLS
TABLESAW,
CIRCULAR SAW,
DRILL

What you need

Plywood
Maple edging
75mm locking swivel castors
900 x 20mm galvanised
threaded pipe and flanges
20mm rubber feet
PVA adhesive
Piano hinges
Cam locks and catches
Brad nails
Bullethead nails
Coach screws
Cuphead bolts, nuts
and washers
Sandpaper
Paint

2
DAYS\$515
COST

MOVEABLE WORKBENCH

Save space with a rolling foldaway workstation featuring built-in storage

This mobile workbench is the ideal solution for when space is tight. It opens up to a solid 2100 x 1200mm surface when both wings are raised and folds to fit into a compact 1200 x 450mm space.

The exposed edges of the bench and the upper shelf are concealed with strips of hardwood edging.

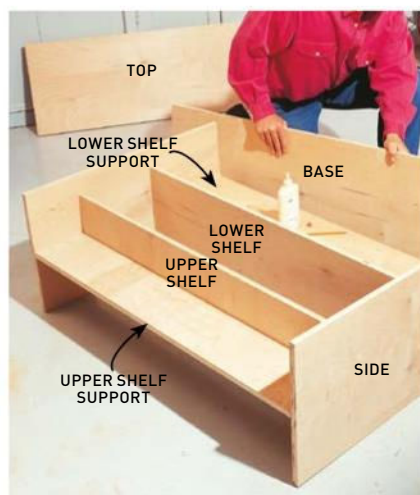
Building the bench is easy, using plywood, MDF or particleboard. All it takes is careful measuring, straight cuts, nailing and screwing, with no complex joint construction. ➤



Set up a portable workstation in the home, shed or garage

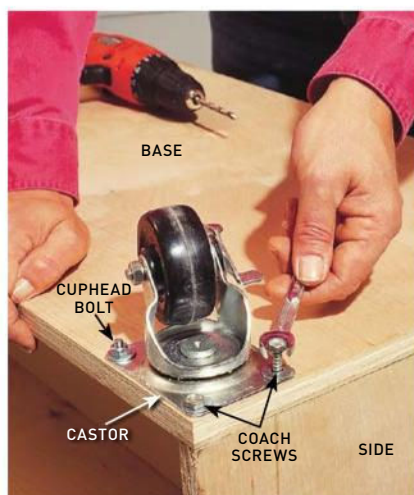


BUILD THE BENCH



1 Assemble the frame

Secure the upper and lower shelf supports to the sides using adhesive and bullethead nails, then secure the lower and upper shelves to the sides using adhesive and nails. Attach the base and top to the sides using adhesive and nails. Rip 19 x 6mm and 32 x 6mm edging on a tablesaw.



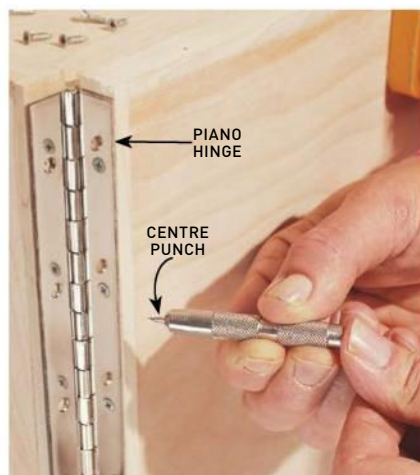
2 Secure the castors

Turn the assembly upside down and align the castor bases with the outer edges of the base. Drill 4mm pilot holes on the outer edge and secure the castors using coach screws, then drill 6mm pilot holes and secure with cuphead bolts and nuts and washers for the inner fasteners.



3 Attach the edging

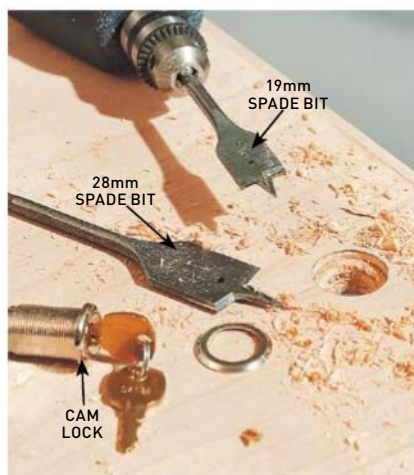
Cut the edging strips to length. Use adhesive and brad nails every 150mm to secure 19 x 6mm strips to the exposed ply edges and 32 x 6mm strips to the upper shelf. Sand the corners. Attach the pipe flanges to the blocks and secure under the folding tops 125mm in from the edge with screws.



4 Fit the hinges

Turn the bench onto its side, then align each folding top with the frame of the bench so the piano hinge fits. Align the screw holes using a centre punch. Secure the hinges in position with the screws provided.

TIP Use a self-centring drill bit to secure the hinge faster.



5 Install the cam locks

Use spade bits to drill holes for cam locks into each folding top on the outer edge. The 28mm diameter recess is 6mm deep and hides the lock. The second 19mm diameter hole goes through to the other side and supports the lock shaft. Follow the directions for mounting the lock and lock catch.



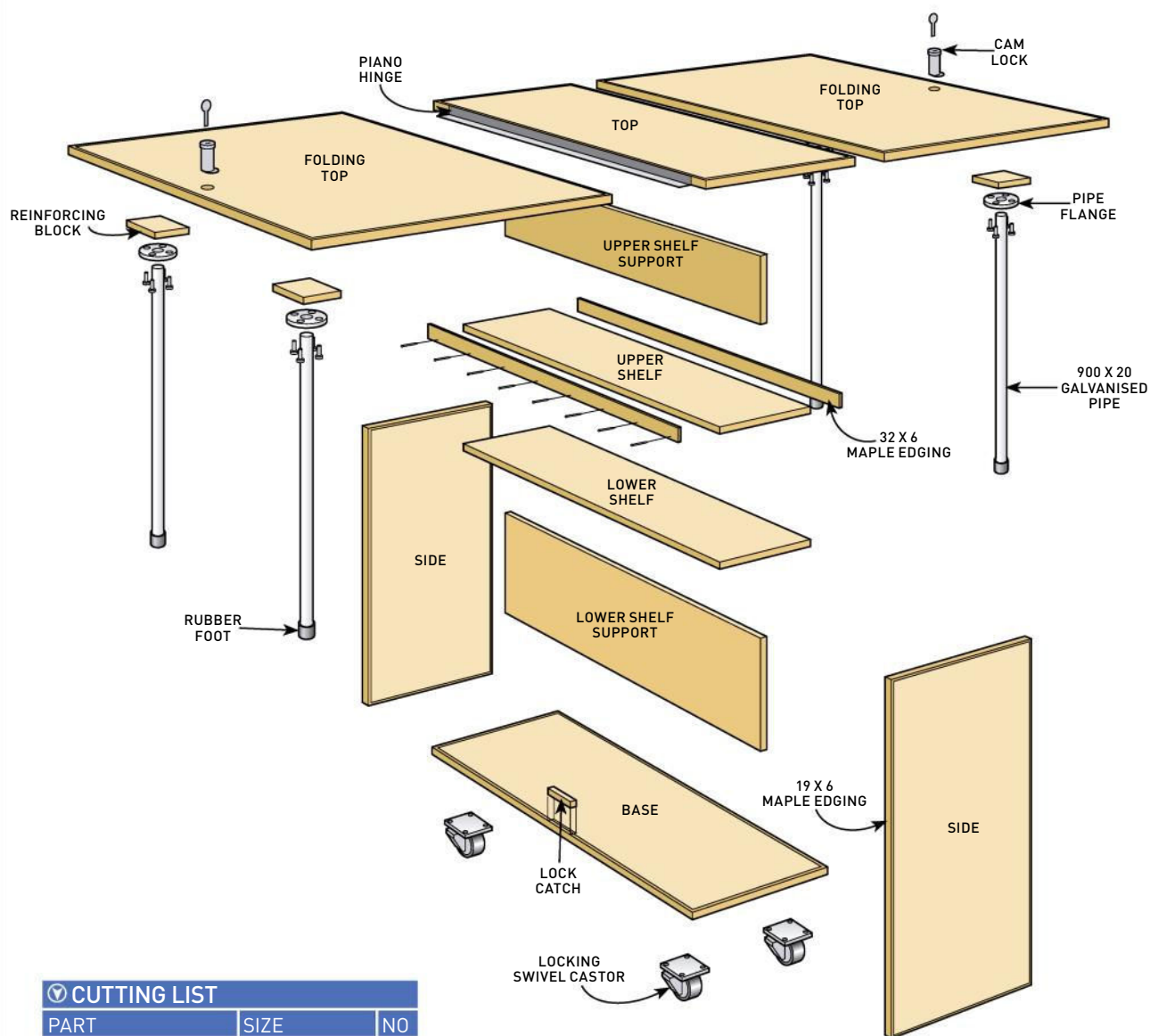
6 Attach the legs

With the castors locked in position, screw the pipe into the flanges in each folding top. Add the rubber stoppers to the base of each pipe to protect the floor. Sand the workbench, then apply a coat of clear polyurethane or paint.

TIP To pack away the workbench, unscrew the pipes and stow inside. 🛠️

FOLDING WORKBENCH

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Plywood		
Lower shelf support	1160 x 300 x 19	1
Lower shelf	1160 x 300 x 19	1
Upper shelf support	1160 x 185 x 19	1
Upper shelf	1160 x 300 x 19	1
Sides	810 x 445 x 19	2
Top	1200 x 445 x 19	1
Base	1200 x 445 x 19	1
Folding tops	1200 x 810 x 19	2
Reinforcing blocks	125 x 125 x 12	4

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
M6 x 40mm coach screws	Castors
M6 x 40mm cuphead bolts	Castors
50 x 2.8mm bullethead nails	Shelves, supports, sides, top and base
25mm brad nails	Edging

STORAGE HACKS

Get organised with these smart solutions to maximise wasted space for a clean and tidy home

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Normann Copenhagen
Pocket Organiser 4 in
Black, \$65. top3.com.au

Organising a family home can be a challenge, so the chaos of daily life often wins, with toys and discarded shoes left on the living room floor, the kitchen bench covered with old mail and cords, and your wardrobe a jumbled mess.

Get control once and for all with these inexpensive secrets to creating a storage system that will survive your busy daily schedule.

Living spaces

As one of the most popular rooms in the home, a lounge room can end up a dumping ground. Try these fast fixes.

- **SELECT** double-duty furniture, particularly with hidden storage for commonly used items such as books, to make the most of available space.
- **CREATE** a gadget station where you can hide and store charger cords and add wall pockets to organise mail.
- **HIDE** away school bags, shoes at the door and other items you don't want on display, such as game controllers, in categorised baskets.
- **STORE** occasionally used items such as camping gear in rolling containers in cupboards, so they're easy to see and ready to grab and go. ➤



Award Ezi Pack N' Stack
50L Storage Container with
Wheels, \$8. bunnings.com.au



Clever Cube Compact Natural Water
Hyacinth Insert, 270 x 280 x 270mm,
\$17. handy-storage.com.au



Mid-Century Pop-up
Storage Coffee Table,
\$999. westelm.com.au



All Dock Walnut 4 Port
Charging Station, \$240.
zanui.com.au

Kitchen cures

A cluttered kitchen can lead to a bug infestation, wasted food and uninspired dinners. Fix it with these easy ideas.

➤ **KEEP** the benchtops clear and store herbs in a magnetic rack, and utensils and other essentials on the wall in an easy-access caddy.

➤ **MAXIMISE** cupboard space with wire inserts that double shelf space for small items such as cans of sauce or beans.

➤ **MAKE** shelves easily accessible by installing swivel accessories or slide-out systems so you'll never forget what is stored in the back out of sight.

➤ **PRIORITISE** positioning so you can grab items in an instant. Store herbs and other dry goods in labelled clear glass jars so you take stock in seconds.

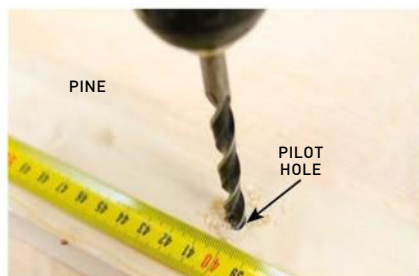


Sort kitchen items by need and best access points to prevent pulling extra pieces out every time

1 2 3

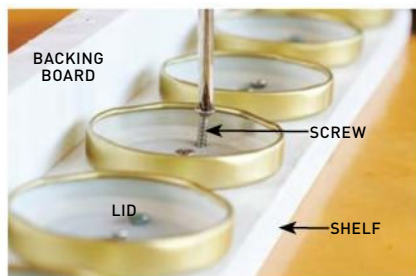


FLOATING SPICE JAR SHELF Attach jars to a purpose-built shelf mounted on a wall or pantry door. To hold six 65mm jars with 50mm diameter lids, use a 450mm long shelf cut from 65 x 12mm pine and a backing cut from 42 x 12mm pine.



1 Make the shelf

Measure, mark and cut the shelf and backing board to length from the pine. Drill 2mm pilot holes, then secure with adhesive and 30mm x 8g screws. Sand and paint.



2 Create the holes

Make two holes through each lid and into the underside of the shelf using a bradawl. Secure the lids to the shelf with two 12mm x 6g screws to stop the lids turning when unscrewing.



3 Attach the shelf

Secure the backing board to the wall with 50mm x 8g screws driven into wall studs. Screw the jars into the lids. **TIP** If attaching the shelf to a pantry door, use 25mm x 8g screws.



REstored 770mm Chrome Kitchen Tidy Set, \$43.
bunnings.com.au



Zone Interiors 900mm Kitchen Cabinet Left Swivel Shelf, \$320.
zoneinteriors.com.au



Kimberley Products 400mm Adjustable Sliding Shelf Pantry Unit, \$619.
kimprod.com.au



Eva Solo Knife Magnets, \$150 for four.
hardtofind.com.au



REstored 420mm Large White Shelf Stacker, \$12.
bunnings.com.au ➤

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BUNNINGS
warehouse

Flexi Storage 2.4m White Wardrobe Starter Kit, \$170.
flexistorage.com.au



Wardrobe wonders

Storage secrets for an easy-to-maintain wardrobe include tossing old clothes, seasonal switch-outs and a few handy hacks to reclaim wasted wall space.

➤ **CREATE** a custom shelving system to suit your needs. Wire sets are ideal, as they can be adjusted as your storage needs change over the years or seasons.

➤ **INCREASE** hanging space using accessories such as tie and belt hangers to prevent them crowding rail space.

➤ **HANG** a pegboard or hooks on the often-unused inside of the wardrobe door to store jewellery.

➤ **FREE** up room by storing clothes that are out of season in vacuum seal bags, or use slimline rolling containers in the top or bottom of the wardrobe. 🌀



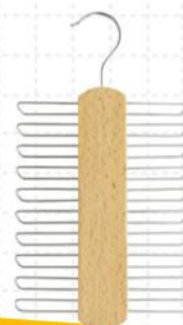
Command 225g Clear Mini Hooks, about \$5 for six.
commandbrand.com.au



Flexi Storage 572 x 200mm Pegboard Backing Plate, \$12.
flexistorage.com.au



All Set 34L Under Bed Storage Container with Wheels, \$10.
bunnings.com.au



LTW Beech Timber Tie and Belt Hanger, \$8.
bunnings.com.au

perfectly
bright
light.



Light is motivating

Choose daylight colour temperature for pure concentration and vitality

When working, reading and studying, to avoid fatigue and retain focus, the light should be bright, uniform and free of glare. The optimum choice for your home office is the OSRAM Superstar LED downlight and OSRAM LED STAR light globes in DAYLIGHT colour temperature.

5 TOOL STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Overhaul the garage to keep your gear accessible and organised

Not only is a messy and unorganised workshop uninspiring, it can also be a potential safety hazard.

Hand tools and chargers, drill bits and blades can be challenging to store and quickly create a cluttered workbench, leaving no room for projects.

Here are five easy storage solutions that you can put together in under an hour each to sort out your workspace.



PICTURE: ISTOCK



DIY TIP

Use different-sized hooks, available from hardware stores, to hang tools from your pegboard, and rearrange as needed.

2 Portable pegboard

Upgrade a roll-around tool cart by mounting a pegboard to the side or back.

Load it up with everything you need and relocate it to suit each new project. You'll have your tools to hand no matter where you are in the garage or yard.

1 Screwdriver sorter

Drill holes in a length of PVC pipe, screw it to the wall, then organise screwdrivers by their type and size.

They'll be easy to identify and access and your workbench will be kept clear and ready for use.



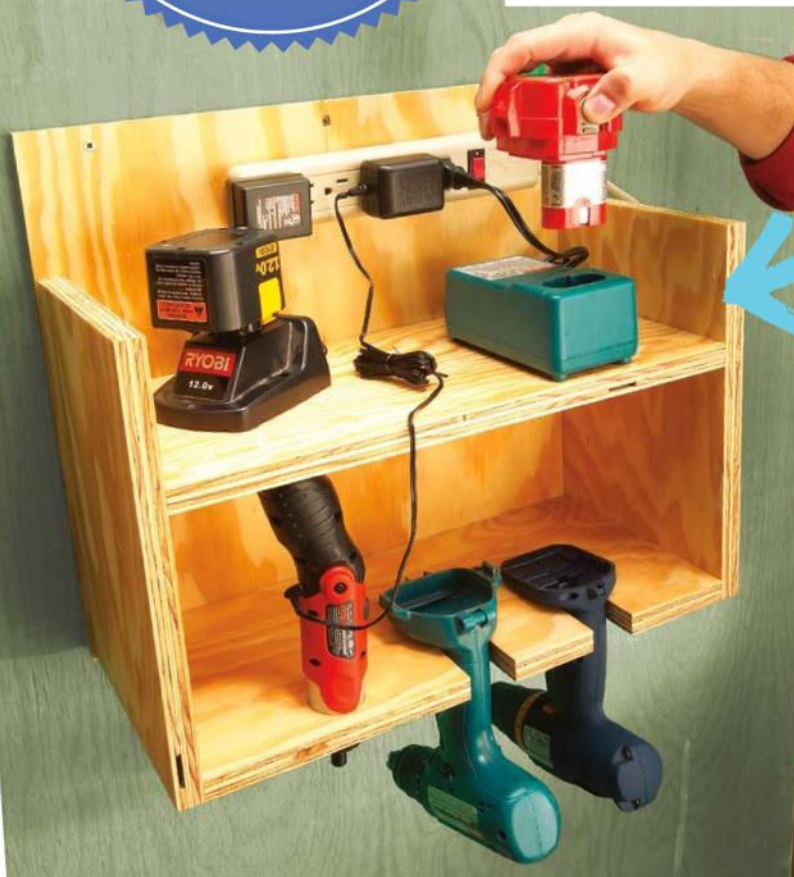
3 Drill depot

Store cordless tools, such as drills and drivers, with their chargers in a custom-built charging station, so you'll never forget to charge them again.

Rip 19mm plywood into pieces for the sides and shelves, then cut a backing board to fit.

Make cutouts in the lower shelf to hold the tools, then glue and nail the parts together.

Wall-mount the charging station near an electrical outlet, then attach a powerboard to the backing board. ➤



4 Taped-up tools

Never again waste time searching for drill bits. Simply use industrial strength hook-and-loop tape to attach your drill bit case to your drill case.

They'll be easy to transport to where you're working and the bits won't end up getting left behind when the job is done.



5 Blade buddy

Keep clutter at bay around your workbench by storing reciprocating saw blades in tubes.

Cut 32mm PVC pipe to length and pair with end caps. Glue a cap to one end of the tube, then use a permanent marker to label the tubes by blade type. The open end gets friction-fitted with the cap.

The blades will now be easy to identify at a glance.



STORAGE SOLUTIONS



Ryobi ToolBlox
Two-door Cabinet,
\$199. ryobi.com.au



Stanley FatMax 4 In 1
Folding Work Station,
\$169. stanleytools.com.au



Supatool Five-drawer
Tool Trolley, \$255.
kinchrome.com.au



Kinchrome Series One
Two-tray Tool Cart,
\$125. kinchrome.com.au



Rhino 600 x 550 x 400mm
Blue Cargo Case, \$159.
rhinoboxes.com.au

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FATMAX

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IN ONE WITH A

4-IN-1



4-IN-1 WORK STATION

The STANLEY FATMAX® Rolling Work Station covers 4 storage solutions in one - tool box, parts bin, portable tote and an oversized lower compartment for larger tools. Featuring ball bearing slides and durable structural foam construction, this is one tough tool box.

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



Member profile

@AndrewJones



Keen woodworker Andrew loves using traditional woodworking techniques.



Workshop member Andrew Jones is an avid DIYer, regularly fixing up his home, but he's also passionate about building quality furniture using tools and techniques from eras past.

His love for working with timber began at school, where he had access to a great woodworking shop and teachers to guide him. At home, he saw his dad complete DIY projects.

To expand his skills, he turned to YouTube, and learned expert tips from British woodworker Paul Sellers and other makers sharing their craft.

'Handmade, with its tool marks, blemishes and imperfections, has a charm beyond any mass-produced commercial product,' says Andrew.

'I love working with simple tools, and thinking about how a craftsman was using similar techniques and tools hundreds of years ago.'

A bench seat made using hand tools and featuring traditional tenon joints is one of his favourite projects.

Andrew is sharing his builds, instructional videos and advice with the online Workshop community.



'Handmade is built to last and has low transport miles, making it sustainable and eco-friendly'

Hand vs power tools

The complex joints and detailed features of handmade furniture often require the precise touch of hand tools for a high-quality result.

But it can be time-consuming using hand tools, so most woodworkers

today take a hybrid approach, using power tools such as circular saws for general cutting, and tenon and coping saws and chisels for precise joints.

Discover the different types of handsaws at handyman.net.au/saws.



Join the discussion at Workshop, a fun online community where you can ask DIY questions, share your projects and get tips and inspiration for your home. Sign up now at workshop.com.au

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Wax Touch Up Crayons

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

USE FOR: Floating floor and furniture scratches.



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

Multi-Purpose Interior & Exterior Filler

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

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



Agnew's Water Putty

Multi-Purpose Filler

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

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



Earl's Powder Putty

Multi-Purpose Interior & Exterior Filler

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

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



Porion

Flexible Exterior Filler

- Repairs • Patches • Fills

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

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



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Expanding Cement

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- 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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MAKE SIMPLE SHELVING

Use plywood offcuts to create storage space in just a few hours

PROJECT GUN ARVIDSSEN MAIN PICTURE SUE FERRIS STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ

This four-tier shelving unit is made from 12mm plywood offcuts, which are secured to lengths of aluminium angle.

The shelves measure 400 x 300mm and were given a coat of primer, sealer, undercoat, then finished in a blue semi-gloss, water-based paint.

Cut into four 750mm lengths, the aluminium angle is secured to the shelves using stainless steel screws, which won't react with the aluminium.

TIP Use leftover primer and paint or buy sample pots to keep costs down.

What you need

Plywood offcuts
3m aluminium angle,
20 x 20 x 1.5mm
Panhead stainless steel
screws, 8g x 18mm
Primer, sealer,
undercoat
Semi-gloss
water-based paint

DIY TIP

Adjust the size of the shelves to suit the space available or to make the most efficient use of any offcuts you have to hand.



Drilling into aluminium

It's good practice to drill a 2mm pilot hole in aluminium before enlarging the clearance holes with a 4mm bit.

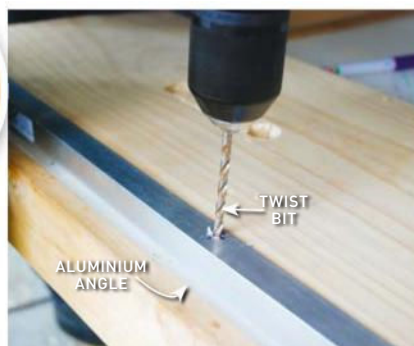
Use a centre punch to make an indentation before drilling to stop the bit skating off the mark. If you don't have a centre punch, use the point of a stainless steel screw, tapping it with a hammer.

1 2 3



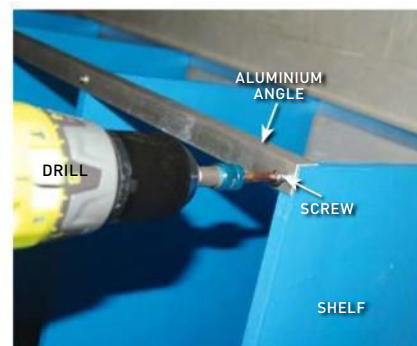
1 Cut the parts

Use a handsaw or jigsaw to cut the shelves, then sand with 180 grit paper. Mark the aluminium angle at 750, 1500 and 2250mm with a permanent marker. Clamp, cut with a hacksaw, then clean up the burr edge using a metal file.



2 Drill screw holes

Mark screw positions 5mm from one edge of the angle, centred at 5, 235, 465 and 695mm from an end. Using a 4mm twist bit, drill clearance holes in the angle. Mark and drill corresponding 2mm pilot holes in the shelf edges.



3 Assemble the shelves

Apply primer and allow to dry. Apply two coats of acrylic, letting it dry in between coats. Attach the angle to the shelves using screws, first securing two lengths to all four shelves, then securing the other two lengths.

Fun and functional, this shelving will suit any room.





PREP YOUR WINTER GARDEN

Protect your garden now before the chill sets in so it's looking glorious right through to spring

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Summer is often seen as being the toughest time on your garden, but it's winter that can actually be the worst.

Apart from the obvious problems such as frigid temperatures and lower levels of sunlight, it's not unusual for your garden to be more than a bit stressed after an arduous hot season.

This means your plants are going to be more susceptible to damage from the seasonal conditions. But there are a few simple things you can do now to winter-proof your garden, which will have it looking great until spring.

Feed plants

A big question people tend to ask at this time of year is whether it's okay to feed their plants. The answer is yes, but it's important to be selective with the products that are used.

At any time, when done properly, feeding plants is a two-part process.

The first part is nurturing the soil, looking after all of the good bacteria and creatures such as earthworms, which build quality soil while helping make nutrients for your plants.

The second is applying nutrients in a way that allows plants to make the most of them. The metabolic rate of most plants slows as they go into winter hibernation, so choosing the correct product is all the more critical.

Liquid products are the best choice for this time of year, as they can be absorbed through foliage and become more readily available in the soil.

The easiest way to apply them is as a pre-mixed hose-on product.

Give citrus a boost

If the leaves on your citrus trees lack colour, this will most likely be caused by a lack of nutrients, especially nitrogen.

The easiest way to fix this is with a liquid fertiliser for citrus.

When giving the garden a feed, don't forget potted plants.



Attack weeds

You may think weeds are a problem only in warm weather, but many species can grow well in the colder months. And some will positively thrive, as they are cool-season annuals.

So beat weeds now and you won't be faced with a major task in spring. ➤



Adam

EXPERT SECRETS

It's not too late to give lawns a light feed. Use only a quality slow-release fertiliser, applying it at half the recommended rate.

DIY TIP

Frosts can arrive early, late or not at all, so check weather reports and protect sensitive plants with frost cloth when they're forecast.

Mulch soil

In cold weather, mulch performs one of its most important roles of insulating soil against temperature extremes, which helps protect plant roots from freezing conditions.

Across the warmer months, mulch can break down very quickly, so by this time of year, the layer may be getting thin and will need topping up.

Mulch suppresses weeds too, keeping beds looking tidy.

ADAM'S PICKS

Seasol Liquid Fertiliser, \$9 for 3L. seasol.com.au



Richgro Natural Hard Wood Mulch, \$10 for 40L. richgro.com.au



Scotts Pure Organic Premium Seaweed Plant Food Hose-On, \$16 for 1L. scottsaustralia.com.au

 Get more gardening tips
Visit facebook.com/HandymanMagazine

Water wisely

The cooler months can be surprisingly dry, especially when you add windy conditions to the mix, when moisture can be quickly sucked from the soil.

Making sure your garden is well mulched is essential, but you may also need to water occasionally. Check first by pulling back mulch and feeling the soil to see if it's damp or dry.

Apply half as much water as you would in summer, as the soil and mulch will stay damp for longer.

If you have a watering system, adjust it to suit the conditions. If you watered twice a week in warm weather, once every two weeks should suffice.

Tidy up fallen leaves

At this time of year, leaves can build up on surfaces and end up as a slippery mess, so ensure you keep pathways and decks blown or swept clean. ➤



WD-40 Specialist Lawn & Garden General Use Lubricant, \$9 for 400g. wd40.com.au



Coolaroo 0.90 x 20m Frost Cloth Pre-Pack \$11. coolaroo.com



Scotts Osmocote Citrus Liquid Hose On, \$18 for 1L. scottsaustalia.com.au



Diggers Sprayable Linseed Oil, \$14 for 400g. diggers.com.au

CLEAN YOUR TOOLS

Putting tools away without cleaning them can result in rusty heads or even split handles. Here's how to get them ready for their winter hibernation.

You'll need a wire brush, steel file, bagged fine sand, steel wool, a bucket, rust protectant and linseed oil.



- 3 Clean the blade**
Fill a deep builder's bucket with clean, dry, fine sand, then drive the head of the tool into the sand repeatedly. This will work like fine sandpaper over the surfaces of the blade and remove muck and rust. Brush off any sand.



Fire alert

Take care when using cloths that have been soaked with linseed oil, as they can spontaneously catch fire, even hours after use.

To avoid this risk, rinse the cloth in soapy water or lay it flat

on a non-combustible surface and allow to dry before disposal.

Don't leave cloths that have been soaked in linseed oil lying around balled or crumpled up, as this encourages ignition.



- 1 Brush the tool**
With the tool lying on a firm surface, use a wire brush to remove large material from the blade or head, paying attention to the grooves and joins, especially where the head meets the handle.



- 4 Remove burrs**
Use a steel file to remove any burrs from the blade edge and to lightly sharpen it. Don't use an angle grinder, as this will heat the tool blade and affect the temper of the metal, making it more prone to bending, chipping or breaking.



- 2 Smooth the handle**
Using a trade-quality coarse steel wool, clean the handle by lightly sanding it down. This will remove old varnish and smooth over any splinters in the timber.



- 5 Treat the tool**
Spray the blade using a rust protectant, then use a cloth to ensure it is spread evenly over the metal surface. Use the cloth to remove any excess.

Treat the handle using a linseed oil preparation, then use a clean, lint-free cotton cloth to ensure it is spread evenly and no excess is left, as this can result in sticky spots on the handle.

TIP We used aerosol linseed oil formulated for timber treatment. You can also use a mix of one part oil and one part turps. 🌿

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@RenoQueen

'Number one priority is the exterior front, or kerb appeal'

@Andy_Mann



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TINY TABLETOP GARDENS

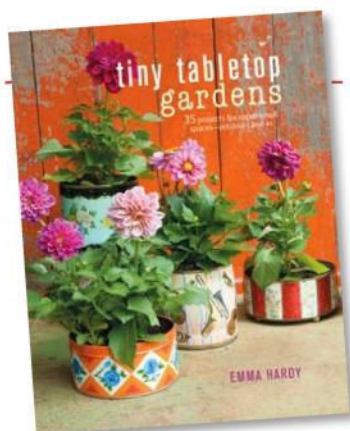
Green up any space with these small-scale projects

WORDS EMMA HARDY PICTURES DEBBIE PATTERSON

Gardening is one of life's great pleasures. The physical acts of digging, planting and caring for plants are hugely satisfying. As is being able to enjoy what grows.

If you're not lucky enough to have any outside space, don't let that put you off. You can grow plants indoors, on balconies and even on tabletops.

And one of the joys of gardening on a small scale is that you don't need special techniques or lots of tools.



This is an edited extract from *Tiny Tabletop Gardens* by Emma Hardy (CICO Books, \$40). Photography by Debbie Patterson ©CICO Books.

Salad baskets

Greens are so easy to grow and can be cultivated in a very small space.

These wire baskets make perfect containers, as they provide lots of drainage. Simply plant up as many as you can eat. They can be moved to a sunny spot in the garden or put on a table as a pick-your-own salad.



Edible plants can be decorative, too, so play with foliage colour, shape and texture

You will need

Wire baskets
Moss
Potting mix
Trowel
Seedlings such as bok choy, mustard, red lettuce, basil and sorrel
Tomato plant

1 2 3



1 Prepare the basket

Line the base of the basket with moss and press pieces against the sides, adding scoops of potting mix to hold it in position. Continue to line the basket, overlapping the pieces of moss slightly so there are no gaps.



2 Add the tomato

Fill the basket with potting mix and level off. Soak the tomato plant in water and remove it from its pot. Make a hole and plant the tomato in the middle of the basket, covering the top of the rootball with mix.



3 Plant the seedlings

Carefully take the first salad seedlings from their tray and plant a few at the front of the basket, positioning them about 20mm apart. Plant the rest of the seedlings to fill the remaining spaces. Water the basket well. ➤

GROW TIP

Water the baskets consistently to prevent the tomato fruit splitting, and support the plant with small stakes as it grows.

Pick salad leaves as you need them and add more seedlings if necessary.



A table planter can be used on a balcony or patio and is also a great way to grow edibles.

GROW TIP

Don't overwater the tray, as the plants won't like sitting in wet mix, and deadhead regularly to stimulate flower production.

Table planter

Search for an old wooden tray and a small table at secondhand stores or markets to upcycle into a planter.

Paint both in the same colour and attach the tray to the table, then fill it with bright flowers.

Deep trays work better for this project because you can plant them up without disturbing the roots of the plants too much.

TIP This planter uses common ivy, which is listed as a weed in some areas.

You will need

Small table
Serving tray
Drill
Screws
Black plastic sheeting
Staple gun and scissors
Potting mix
3 *Coreopsis grandiflora*
'Early Sunrise'
1 *Geum* 'Totally Tangerine'
3 *Hedera helix* (ivy)

Geum 'Totally Tangerine' can flower from midwinter.

1 2 3



1 Make the planter

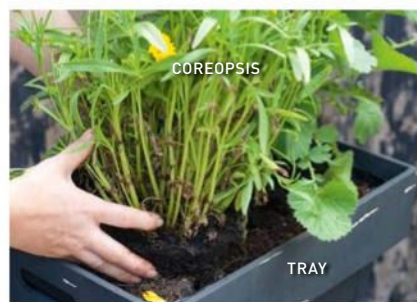
Paint the table and tray in two coats of exterior acrylic and leave to dry. Soak the rootballs of all the plants in water for about 20 minutes. Drill four holes in the tray base and position on the table, securing with screws.



2 Prepare the tray

Cut a piece of plastic sheeting to fit inside the tray and staple it in place using a staple gun, pushing the plastic neatly into the corners.

TIP Make sure the plastic sheeting can't be seen over the top of the tray.



3 Add the plants

Fill the tray with potting mix. Loosen the soil around the roots of the geum and plant it at the back. Plant the coreopsis, then plant the ivy at the front. Add more mix to fill any gaps around the plants. Water the tray. ➤

Enamel ladles

This lovely little display uses simple enamel ladles planted with pretty succulents to create a charming result.

Choose ladles with a large cup so that the roots of the plants will have enough room to grow and spread.

Break off pieces from the larger succulents and firm them into the potting mix well so they can take root and thrive. They are generally quite tough plants and can cope with a bit of rough handling.

You will need

Enamel ladles
Potting mix
Pebbles or gravel
Echeveria
Sedum
Sempervivum
Crassula ovata

Succulents are hardy and low-maintenance plants.

1 2 3



1 Prepare the ladle

Soak the rootballs of the plants in a tub of water for 10 minutes or so until the potting mix is wet. Put a handful of mix in the base of the ladle and add a little gravel or pebbles to improve drainage.



2 Plant the succulent

Take a large succulent from its pot and remove excess soil from the rootball. Plant it on one side of the ladle. Plant another large succulent at the back, firming it in place, then add the smaller succulents to the ladle.



3 Add the pebbles

Press down the potting mix. Fill any holes with more mix and firm it down. Sprinkle gravel on the surface as a decorative mulch, pushing it around the plants with your fingers. Water, letting the excess drain off. 🌱

GROW TIP

Succulents are able to withstand dry conditions, but check the potting mix regularly and water the ladles when very dry.

Succulents come in a surprisingly wide range of colours, sizes, shapes and forms.

INSTALL A ROTARY CLOTHES LINE

Dry washing the natural way to wind back your energy costs

PROJECT AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Is your clothes line so past its use-by date that it should be heritage listed? Or, maybe you just never got around to putting in a drying line.

You may think that installing a rotary hoist is a hard task, and in the days of the gigantic galvanised-steel

types, it was most likely a difficult undertaking. But now, modern clothes lines are simple to install.

All you need is a rotary clothes line kit, available from hardware stores, quick-set concrete and blue metal or similar drainage aggregate.



It's hard to beat the fresh-air smell and feel of washing straight off the line

ADAM'S PICKS



1 2 3



1 Dig the hole

Measure and mark the position for the post. Dig a hole 200mm wide and 600mm deep, then add about 200mm of aggregate to the hole.

TIP Use a post hole digger with 200mm blades to make the hole quickly.



2 Position the post

Put the sleeve of the post in the hole so the top lip will be just above ground level. Add aggregate until it is stable. Slip the post into the sleeve and lock. Check the post is plumb using a magnetic torpedo spirit level.



3 Secure the post

Pour 2L water in the hole. Add quick-set concrete until three-quarters full. Pour in a little water and use a stick to mix and tamp before filling with concrete. Smooth with a trowel. Allow to set for 24 hours, then add the line head.



ECO TIP

A rotary clothes line is a sustainable household addition, as you use sunlight and fresh air to dry your clothes instead of electricity.



Where to put the clothes line?

Consider the best spot for the rotary hoist before digging the hole.

➤ **INSTALL** away from overhanging trees or structures to avoid staining from leaves, sap or bird droppings.

➤ **ENSURE** the location will get at least half a day of sunlight, but avoid midday sun if possible, as too much harsh light can fade clothes fast.

➤ **CHOOSE** a spot that's convenient and close to the laundry without it becoming an eyesore.

➤ **CHECK** whether the location will receive winter sunlight.

➤ **AVOID** excessively windy spots. A little breeze is great for drying, but a howling gale is not.

➤ **ALLOW** 1m clearance from the perimeter of the head of the hoist.

Find it at Bunnings

HOW TO BUILD A GREENHOUSE

Make a timber frame, cover it in plastic and add a roof to create a mobile winter home for plants

A greenhouse gives you a place to start seedlings, propagate cuttings and grow plants at any time, including out of season.

This greenhouse is portable, as it is on wheels, so you can move it around to follow the sun, boosting the number of plants you can grow.

To make the project easier, get the timber pre-cut by the supplier, then group and label the pieces by section.

TIP Put the two castors with brakes on diagonally opposite corners of the base.

What you need

Jigsaw
Framing and nail gun
Cordless drill
Phillips head bit
5mm hex bit
Roofing and bugle screws
Gate hinges and pad bolt
4 large castors
Builder's plastic
21mm foil fixers
Polycarbonate sheets

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Hardwood sleepers		
Floor frame	1600 x 200 x 50	2
	1200 x 200 x 50	2
Pine		
Subfloor frame	1500 x 200 x 50	2
	1200 x 200 x 50	2
Floor joists	1200 x 200 x 50	2
Front and back frame rails	1600 x 70 x 35	4
Frame studs, brace	1150 x 70 x 35	16
Side frame rails	1200 x 200 x 50	4
Door rails	670 x 70 x 35	2
Door studs	1140 x 70 x 35	2
Door brace	1070 x 70 x 35	1
Door noggins	315 x 70 x 35	3
Roof battens	1600 x 70 x 45	1
	1600 x 70 x 35	1
	1600 x 50 x 25	1



Protect delicate plants from frost and start seedlings early in a greenhouse



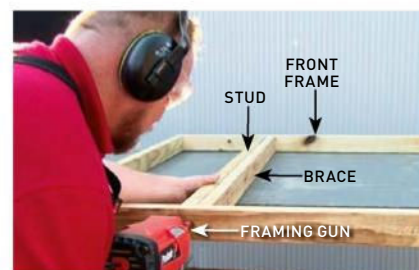
1 Make the floor frame

Position the short sides between the long sides for the floor frame, pre-drill holes with a 5mm bit and secure the butt joints with 125mm bugle screws. Attach the subfloor frame and two joists inside the floor frame using a nail gun.



2 Attach the flooring

Turn the frame over and attach castors in each corner using 125mm bugle screws. Turn the frame right side up and secure the floorboards with the nail gun. Use a timber offcut as a spacer to create drainage gaps in the floor.



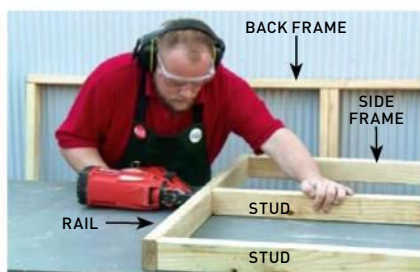
3 Build the front frame

Make the front frame using a framing gun. Work out the size of the door, then mark the two stud positions, adding a brace next to the stud on the hinge side of the door. Secure the studs and brace with the framing gun.

DIY TIP

Use 90mm treated pine decking boards as budget-friendly flooring for the greenhouse, leaving gaps in between boards for drainage.

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



4 Make the door and frames

Lay out the door pieces and secure with the framing gun. Build the back and side frames. Wrap all the frames in plastic, pull it taut and secure with foil fixers on the inside. Trim the excess. Secure the door hinges and pad bolt.



5 Attach the frames

Attach the side, back and front frames to the base and each other with 125mm bugle screws. Starting at the front, attach the roof battens in descending size to give the roof a slight fall for runoff, then secure the header.



6 Attach the roof

Mark the polycarbonate roof sheeting with a little overhang at the front and back, using masking tape. Clamp the sheet and cut with a jigsaw and metal blade on medium. Attach using roof screws into every second corrugation.



SEE THE WORLD

Chelsea Flower Show



Dazzling displays

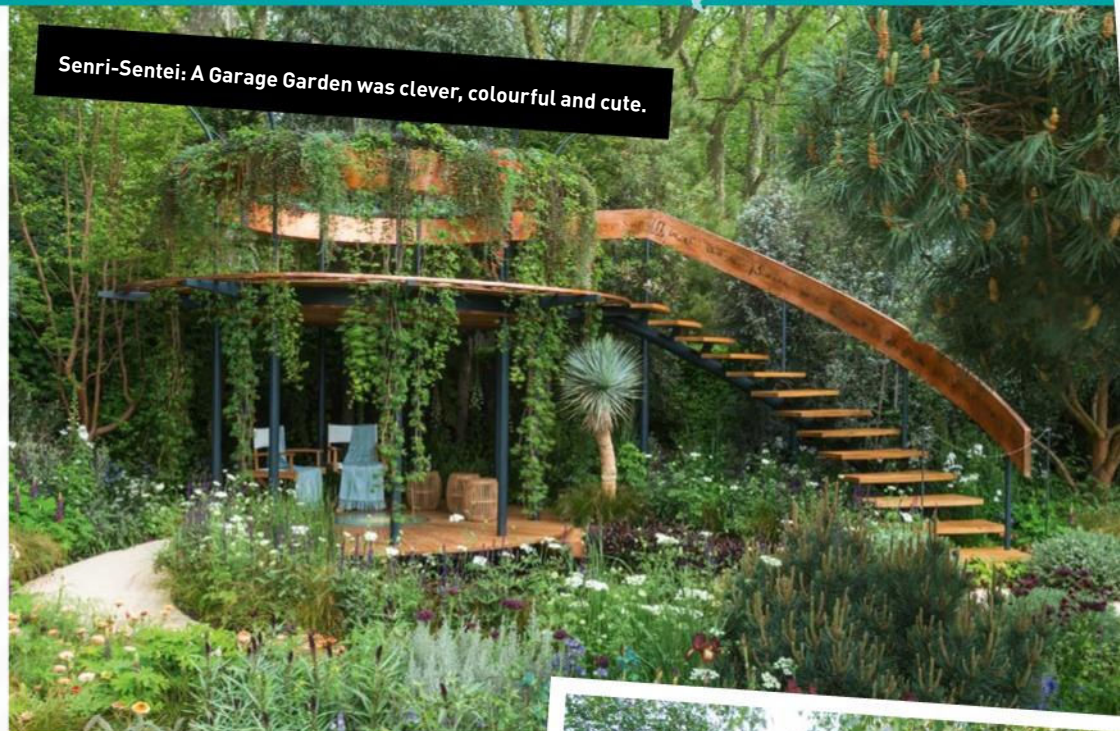
You know an event is the grandest of its type when global events are benchmarked against it. And so it is with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Chelsea Flower Show in England.

It has wowed garden lovers for over 100 years with floral displays and breathtaking landscape or show gardens.

The gardens are designed sometimes years ahead, built in 19 days and dismantled in five.

And it's not just about plants and gardens, you'll also be able to indulge in a little star spotting and shop for garden gifts and gadgets.

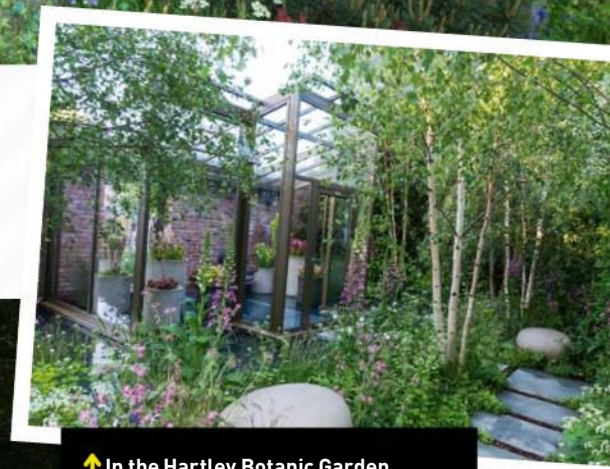
This year, the show runs from 23-27 May and is held at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, London.



Senri-Sentei: A Garage Garden was clever, colourful and cute.



Garden gnomes are banned, but cheeky designers have been known to hide one in their gardens



↑ In the Hartley Botanic Garden, the boundaries between indoors and out are sublimely blurred.

↩ Designed for the Papworth Trust charity to mimic the human ear, the Together We Can Garden was intended to raise awareness of disabilities.

↓ The Winton Beauty of Mathematics Garden is both organic and logical.



GARDENS (TOP) SENRI-SENTEI: A GARAGE GARDEN, DESIGNER KAZUYUKI ISHIHARA, SPONSOR HENRI-SENTEI PROJECT, PICTURE TIM SANDALL (BOTTOM LEFT) PAPWORTH TRUST, TOGETHER WE CAN, DESIGNER PETER EUSTANCE, PICTURE TIM SANDALL (CENTRE) THE HARTLEY BOTANIC GARDEN, DESIGNER CATHERINE MACDONALD, PICTURE NEIL HEPWORTH (BOTTOM RIGHT) THE WINTON BEAUTY OF MATHEMATICS GARDEN, DESIGNER NICK BAILEY, SPONSORED BY WINTON CAPITAL, PICTURE NEIL HEPWORTH. RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2016



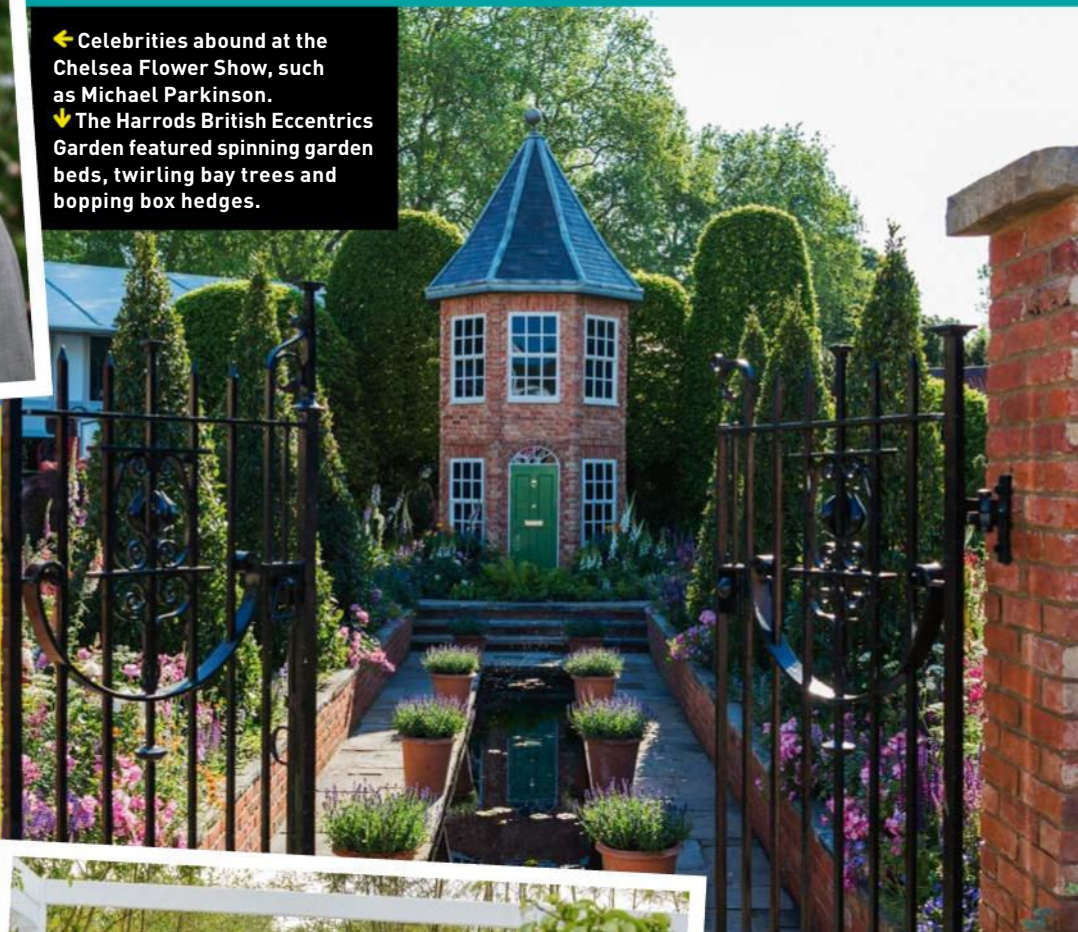


← Celebrities abound at the Chelsea Flower Show, such as Michael Parkinson.
 ↓ The Harrods British Eccentrics Garden featured spinning garden beds, twirling bay trees and bopping box hedges.

Fact check

The Chelsea Flower Show is a ticketed event that has been known to sell out well in advance, so book early online at rhs.org.uk.
 + The show is huge, so buy all-day tickets and take your time. An all-day ticket for non-RHS members will cost about AU\$100.
 + Don't take a brolly or backpack. With over 150,000 visitors a year, such items can be antisocial.
 + Children under five, even babes in arms, are not permitted.
 + If it's wet, there's no need to worry, as The Great Pavilion, a 12,000sqm marquee, houses truly stunning floral displays.
 + Most gardens cost in excess of \$500,000 to create, with elaborate displays costing over \$1.5 million.

The message with The Imperial Garden: Revive is about taking time to stop, think and observe.



← The very Zen Watahan East & West Garden was a gorgeous fusion of Asian and European styles.
 ↓ With its gentle but demanding lines that draw in the eye, The Chelsea Barracks Garden was a fascinating combination of hard and soft textures.



GARDENS (BOTTOM LEFT) THE IMPERIAL GARDEN: REVIVE, DESIGNER TATYANA GOLTSOVA, PICTURE SARAH CUTTLE (TOP RIGHT) THE HARRODS BRITISH ECCENTRICS GARDEN, DESIGNER DIARMUID GAVIN, PICTURE SARAH CUTTLE (CENTRE) THE WATAHAN EAST & WEST GARDEN, DESIGNER CHIHOIRI SHIBAYAMA AND YANO TEA, PICTURE NEIL HEPWORTH (BOTTOM RIGHT) THE CHELSEA BARRACKS GARDEN, DESIGNER JO THOMPSON, SPONSOR QATARI DIAR, PICTURE NEIL HEPWORTH. RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2016

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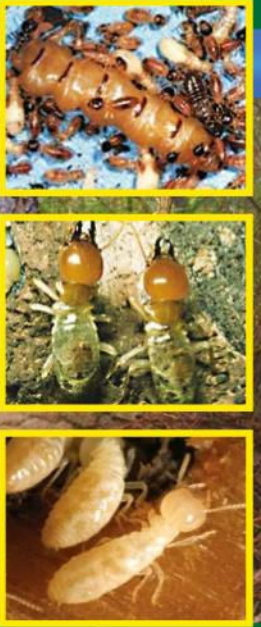
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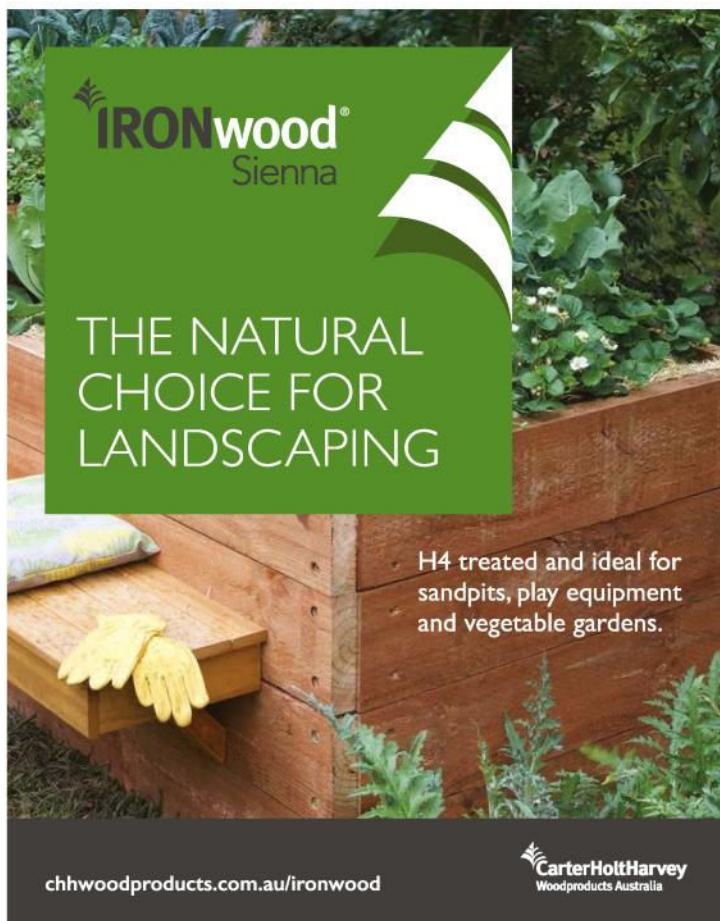
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This month

Get the garden set for winter and plan ahead for spring

Do now

- **CREATE** a vegetable patch for winter crops, page 128.
- **LIVEN** up the interior of your home with indoor plants, page 136.

Flowers to sow

Plant these seeds now for blooms in the warmer months.

- **DELPHINIUM**
- **POLYANTHUS**
- **CARNATION**
- **STATICE**
- **LOBELIA**

Polyanthus

Vegies to grow

Add these edibles to the garden for crops from winter to spring.

- **BROAD BEANS**
- **PEAS**
- **LETTUCES**
- **ONIONS**
- **KALE**

Broad beans

WHAT'S IN COLOUR



Teucrium 'Silver Box'



➤ **TEUCRIUM 'SILVER BOX'** features gorgeous silver foliage throughout the year, with tiny sky-blue flowers appearing from autumn to late spring.

This ornamental plant has an upright and compact form, reaching up to 1m high and spreading to 60cm.

Give it a spot in full sun and feed with a slow-release fertiliser after flowering has finished.

'Silver Box' likes free-draining soil, is very hardy and will tolerate dry conditions, once established.

It is ideal for use as dense low hedging, borders and edging, and works well in narrow spaces.

To encourage a dense growth habit, trim 'Silver Box' after flowering, and if you're using it as hedging, cut it back lightly but frequently to keep it in the desired shape.

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



TOP PICK

Every home should have one of these Gnome Family Garden Kits, \$99 (innovations.com.au).

The whole set is made from polyresin and the base measures 37cm in diameter. It comes with seven gnomes, a decorative bridge, a table and plants.

The kids will have hours of fun rearranging the pieces to create their own displays.

To-do list

Get the garden ready for the cold months.

- ✓ **POT** up basil plants to grow on a sunny windowsill indoors.
- ✓ **FINISH** planting any spring-flowering bulbs.
- ✓ **COLLECT** any fallen leaves to add to the compost bin or heap.
- ✓ **RAISE** mower blades to leave lawns a little longer.
- ✓ **FERTILISE** avocado trees with a plant food for citrus, then mulch in subtropical/tropical areas.
- ✓ **APPLY** plenty of mulch in cold climates over damp soil around trees, keeping it clear of the stems. ➤

Chrysanthemum



Gift a chrysanthemum

With Mother's Day on 14 May, what better way to celebrate than giving your mum a living gift of a chrysanthemum?

Available in vibrant autumnal shades of red, orange, rust, terracotta, pink, purple, yellow and white, they make long-lasting flowering pot plants that will bloom indoors or on a balcony or patio for 3-6 weeks.

All they need is a well-lit spot, water when dry, and for spent flowers to be removed. After flowering, they can be planted out in the garden, where they will bloom again next year.

✦ **TAKE CUTTINGS** Chrysanthemums can be grown from cuttings. In spring, take cuttings about 80mm long with several internodes from new shoots.

You can repeat this every 2-3 years to renew ageing clumps or to increase your range of flower colours and shapes.

✦ **CREATE MORE PLANTS** After the plant has finished flowering, cut it down to just above ground level.

In late winter or early spring when the plant begins to regrow, sending out suckers, you can lift the clump, divide it into several new plants and replant.

Feed now

Give these vegies a late-autumn feed and boost the lawn.

- ✦ LAWNS
- ✦ BROCCOLI
- ✦ CABBAGES
- ✦ SILVERBEET
- ✦ CELERY

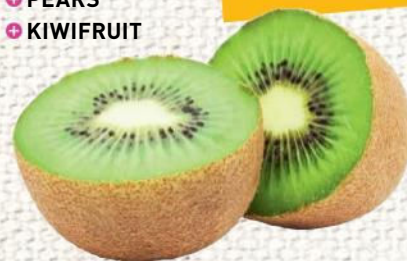


Celery

Harvest now

These fruits are ready to be picked around the country.

- ✦ APPLES
- ✦ CITRUS
- ✦ FIGS
- ✦ PEARS
- ✦ KIWIFRUIT



Kiwifruit

Prune now

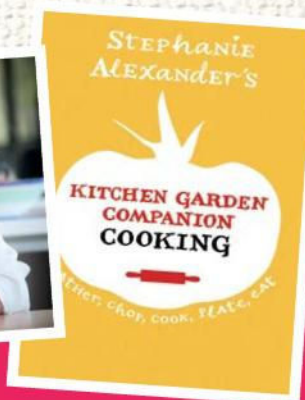
Cut back these flowering plants ready for winter.

- ✦ AGAPANTHUS
- ✦ ROSES
- ✦ SALVIA
- ✦ HEBE
- ✦ DAHLIA



Agapanthus

BOOK CLUB



Stephanie Alexander's Kitchen Garden Companion Cooking (\$50, Penguin Books) is a must-have if you grow your own vegies, herbs and fruit and want to make the most of your freshly picked produce.

In this essential guide, Stephanie Alexander shares more than 250 savoury and sweet recipes for every occasion and season. Whether you're a novice in the kitchen or a seasoned cook, this is the book for you. 🍷

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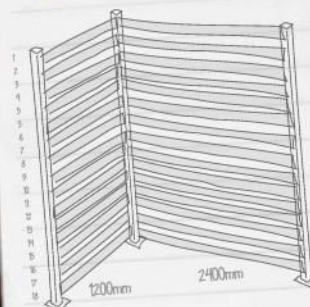
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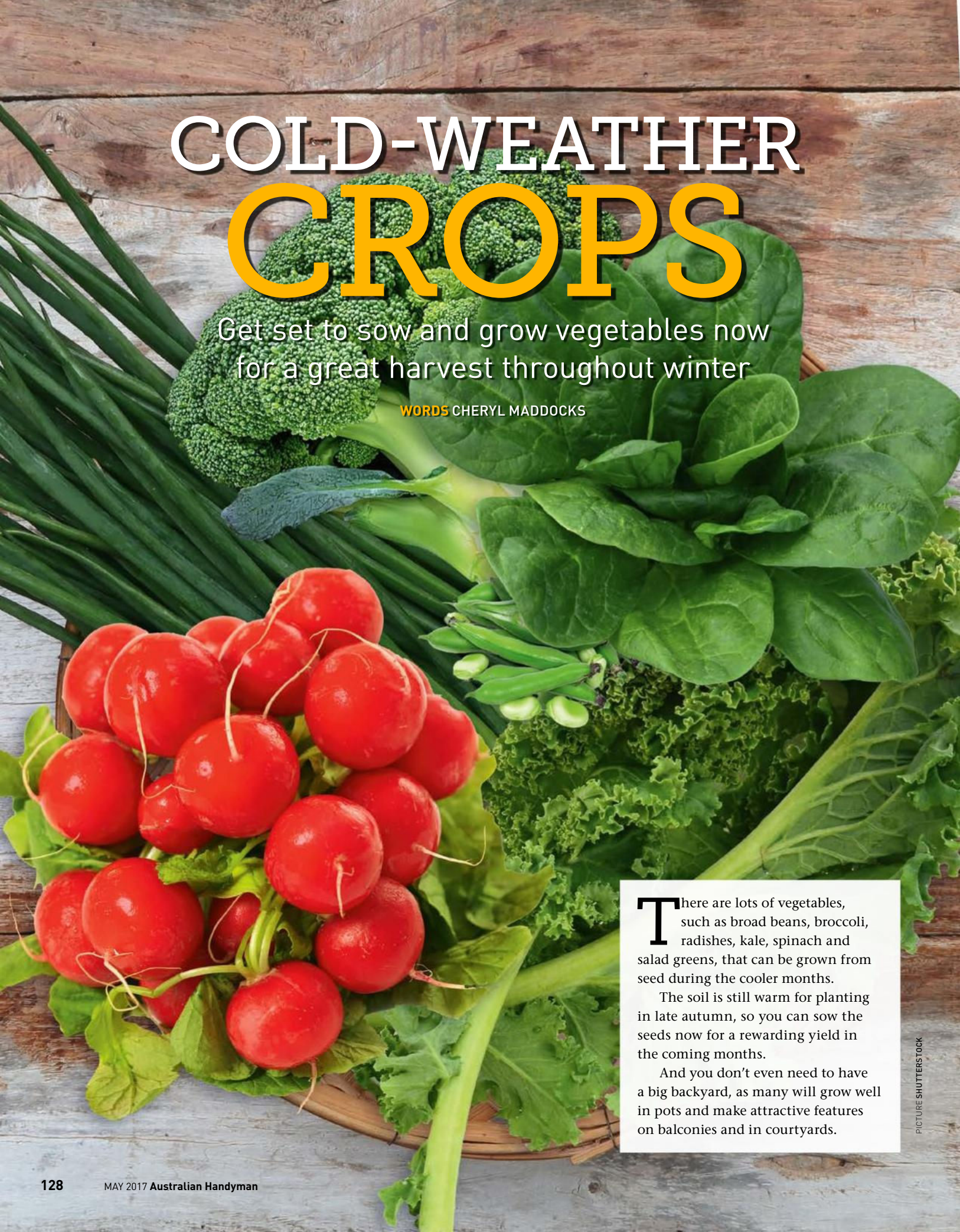
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32,400mm
14 x slats (2400)

Thinking Outside
think WHITES



COLD-WEATHER CROPS

Get set to sow and grow vegetables now
for a great harvest throughout winter

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

There are lots of vegetables, such as broad beans, broccoli, radishes, kale, spinach and salad greens, that can be grown from seed during the cooler months.

The soil is still warm for planting in late autumn, so you can sow the seeds now for a rewarding yield in the coming months.

And you don't even need to have a big backyard, as many will grow well in pots and make attractive features on balconies and in courtyards.

PICTURE SHUTTERSTOCK

Help them thrive

Vegetables like maximum sunshine throughout the year, and sheltered patches have been proven to increase yield by up to 50% compared to those subjected to windy conditions.

In a windy spot, you can make a simple windbreak with nylon netting or shade cloth and secure it to posts.

➤ **SOIL** Vegetables love free-draining, moist soil. Consider building raised beds if you have a drainage problem.

If the soil is sandy and drains too quickly, add lots of compost and cow or poultry manure regularly. Wetting agents also help retain water.

Test the pH of the soil every two years with a testing kit. Most vegetables like a soil with a pH of about 6.5. It can become acidic through continual fertilising. If it is too acidic, add garden lime, liquid lime or dolomite.

➤ **WATER** To keep vegetables succulent, they must be watered regularly. How often you water depends on the weather, but don't let the soil dry out.

➤ **FEED** Apply a soluble plant food at least monthly, watering the soil before and after adding fertiliser.

➤ **MULCH** Lucerne hay and pea straw are ideal for vegetable beds and pots.



Mulch conserves moisture in the soil.



Prepare the plot

Get a garden bed or vegetable plot ready for new plantings by removing the plants that have finished and adding them to the compost.

Dig up any weeds, making sure you get the roots as well. Weeds compete with plants for soil nutrition and leave them open to attack by insects and diseases.

Give the whole area a good dig with a fork or spade, incorporating any remaining mulch into the soil.

Condition the soil

It is important to condition your soil every season to keep plants healthy and ensure a good soil structure.

Compost and manure conditioners will disintegrate in the soil and supply it with beneficial organic matter.

They also encourage earthworms, which break down root mats and open up tunnels for oxygen and water to penetrate the soil. Plant roots rapidly take nutrition from the nitrate-rich mucus coating the tunnels.

➤ **COMPOST** helps regenerate the soil, and is free if you make your own.

You are returning carbon to the earth while increasing the soil's water-holding capacity by at least 30%. And by recycling organic waste, less rubbish ends up in landfill.

You can either dig compost into the soil or use it as a mulch.

➤ **MANURE** Excellent soil conditioners, cow or chicken manure and mushroom compost are dug into the soil. ➤

GROW FROM SEED

1 Broad beans

These beans require lots of space and may need staking as they grow. They are rich in protein, fibre and vitamin A.

✚ **SOW** the seeds directly where they are to grow in damp soil.

✚ **HARVEST** broad beans 18-20 weeks after planting.

You can pick them when very young, then cook and eat them pod and all. Or let them mature and remove the beans from the pod.

In the kitchen

✚ **BOIL** the beans lightly and eat with butter, pepper and salt.

✚ **TEAM** broad beans, crispy bacon, mint and pecorino for a warm winter salad.

✚ **MAKE** a dressing of olive oil, white wine vinegar, mint, chives and anchovies, then toss it through the warm cooked beans.

✚ **TOSS** broad beans, cucumber, red onion and goat's or feta cheese in a garlic dressing.

In the kitchen

✚ **USE** broccoli to make soup.

✚ **MAKE** a blue-vein cheese and broccoli quiche.

✚ **STIR-FRY** with beef and ginger, and season with soy sauce.

✚ **TOSS** a sauce of tomatoes, broccoli and garlic through pasta.

2 Broccoli

You can choose from large-headed varieties or sprouting types such as broccolini.

✚ **SOW** the seeds until the end of autumn directly where the plants are to grow, or plant seedlings.

✚ **HARVEST** 12-16 weeks after planting. Pick large-headed broccoli before the flower buds open. Take about 100mm of main stem, making the cut on a slant.

Harvest sprouting types with a long stem, which can be eaten.

3

Spring onions

Immature onions that have not yet made a bulb, spring onions are harvested for their mild flavour.

✚ **SOW** the seeds in well-drained soil directly where the plants are to grow. Make successive sowings every 4-6 weeks. You can also plant seedlings.

✚ **HARVEST** spring onions 8-12 weeks after planting.

In the kitchen

✚ **STIR-FRY** spring onions, green beans, scallops and ginger in a wok, and season with soy sauce.

✚ **COMBINE** with mushrooms and goat's cheese in a tart or quiche.

✚ **SAUTÉ** asparagus and spring onions, place on toast, top with Swiss cheese, then grill.

✚ **SLICE** potatoes thinly, arrange in a baking tray. Add spring onions, then cover with cream and cook slowly in the oven.

4 Spinach

One of nature's superfoods, spinach is rich in folate, calcium, potassium, magnesium, iron and zinc. It also contains vitamins A and C. You can cook spinach and also eat it raw.

✚ **SOW** the seeds directly where the plants are to grow.

✚ **HARVEST** spinach 8-10 weeks after planting. Picking the outside leaves rather than the plant will increase productivity.



In the kitchen

- ✚ **ADD** chopped baby spinach leaves to scrambled eggs.
- ✚ **STEAM** spinach lightly and serve with butter and pepper.
- ✚ **MAKE** a salad of baby spinach leaves, red onion and pine nuts. Crumble over goat's cheese and add a balsamic dressing.

5 Kale

This vegie likes the cold, which sweetens the leaves.

Often called the queen of greens, kale contains magnesium, antioxidants and calcium, as well as vitamins A, K, C and B6.

✚ **SOW** the seeds directly where the plants are to grow. Or sow in seed trays and transplant into beds when 75mm high.

✚ **HARVEST** kale 8-10 weeks after planting. The leaves have more flavour if picked just before use.

In the kitchen

- ✚ **BOIL** or steam the leaves and squeeze over lemon juice.
- ✚ **USE** kale, cheese and pine nuts to make a risotto.
- ✚ **BRAISE** with garlic and olive oil and toss through pasta. Serve with parmesan.
- ✚ **ADD** kale to vegetarian lasagne instead of silverbeet or spinach.



6 Radish

This fast-growing vegie contains cancer-protecting phytonutrients, as well as fibre, vitamins and minerals.

✚ **SOW** the seeds until the end of autumn directly where the plants are to grow.

✚ **HARVEST** 6-8 weeks after planting. Pick the roots while young, as old ones can be stringy.

TIP Allow a couple of plants to go to seed, as the flowers are very attractive to beneficial insects.

In the kitchen

- ✚ **DIP** radishes in ricotta cheese for a quick snack.
- ✚ **ADD** a few slices of radish to green salads.
- ✚ **USE** radishes to add crunch to salad sandwiches.
- ✚ **COMBINE** radishes with fennel, cucumber, tomatoes, feta cheese and salad leaves, and toss in a mustard dressing. ➤



Salad greens

Salad leaves will grow well during cool weather, so you will always have a plentiful supply. Sow the seeds directly where the plants are to grow.

✦ **LETTUCE** There are many different varieties of lettuce with a diversity of leaf shapes and colours. The leaves of loose-leaf types can be constantly picked for many weeks without cutting the whole plant.

✦ **ROCKET** This peppery salad green won't bolt to seed during winter. Wild rocket has deeply serrated leaves. Pick the young leaves as needed, as frequent picking encourages more to grow.

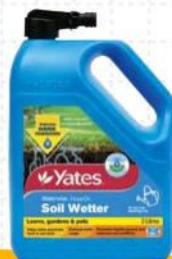
✦ **MIZUNA** The deeply serrated leaves of mizuna are mustard-flavoured. Pick frequently to encourage more to grow.

Rocket

Lettuces

Mizuna

CHERYL'S PICKS



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\$17 for 2L. yates.com.au



Seasol PowerFeed Plant Food
For Tomatoes & Vegetables,
about \$13 for 1.2L. seasol.com.au

Cyclone Stainless Steel
Garden Spade, \$60.
cyclone.com.au



Transplant seedlings

It may be too late to grow certain vegies from seed, but you can find seedlings in nurseries in winter.

Look out for Asian greens, beetroot, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, endive, golden shallots, kohlrabi, leeks, onions, shallots, silverbeet and peas.

Careful planting will ensure your seedlings stay healthy.

➤ **WATER** the punnet, then gently squeeze the sides of the punnet to make it easier to remove the seedlings.

➤ **REMOVE** each seedling from the punnet, taking care you don't damage too many of the roots.

➤ **PLANT** the seedlings at the same level as they were in the original container, then water in with an application of Seasol.



PEST CONTROL

Check for caterpillars on the vegie foliage.



Caterpillars

These pests will chew leaves on young and old growth. Small seedlings may be eaten.

➤ **FIX IT** Yates Nature's Way Caterpillar Killer controls most caterpillars, as it contains natural bacteria that kills the larvae once it is ingested.



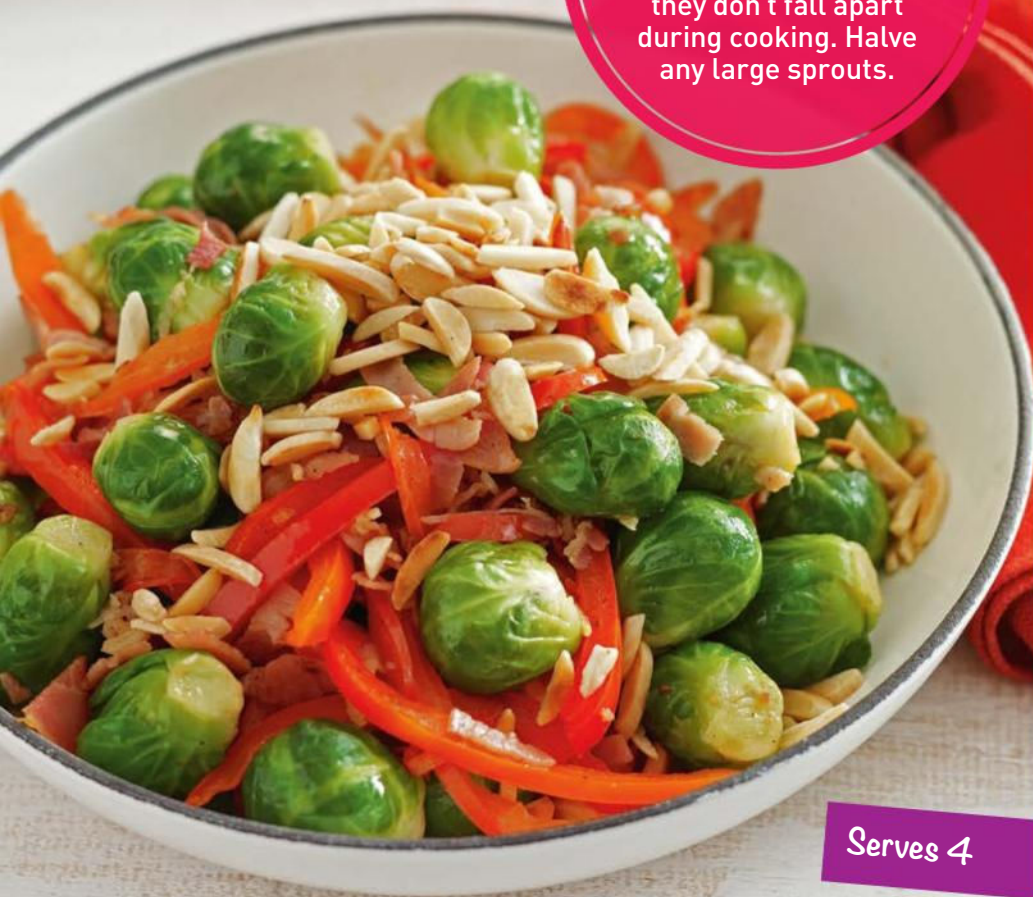
Snails and slugs

Watch for holes in leaves, shiny streaks on foliage and slime trails. Snails and slugs will munch on most vegetables.

➤ **FIX IT** Make traps by sinking a container into the ground and filling with beer, or use pellets that are environmentally friendly. ➤

RECIPE TIP

Leave a small amount of stalk attached to the brussels sprouts so they don't fall apart during cooking. Halve any large sprouts.



Serves 4

Brussels sprouts with pancetta

PREPARATION TIME 5 minutes

COOKING TIME 10 minutes

Ingredients

500g brussels sprouts
 ¼ cup (30g) slivered almonds
 1 tablespoon olive oil
 1 red capsicum, deseeded and thinly sliced
 75g pancetta, thinly sliced
 1 clove garlic, crushed
 Salt and freshly ground pepper

- 1 **ADD** the brussels sprouts to a large saucepan of boiling water and cook for 3 minutes. Carefully empty them into a colander and leave to drain.
- 2 **PUT** the almonds in a large, dry frying pan and toast over a medium heat for 2-3 minutes or until golden, stirring occasionally to prevent them burning. Tip the almonds into a bowl.
- 3 **INCREASE** the heat to medium-high and add the olive oil to the frying pan. Once the oil is hot, add the capsicum, pancetta and garlic, then cook, stirring occasionally, for 5-6 minutes or until the capsicum has softened and the pancetta is crisp.
- 4 **ADD** the brussels sprouts and toss to combine. Season with salt and black pepper and sprinkle with almonds to serve.

Serves 4



Spinach and white bean soup

PREPARATION TIME 15 minutes

COOKING TIME 10 minutes

Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive oil
 1 onion, chopped
 2 cloves garlic, crushed
 3½ cups (875ml) vegetable or chicken stock
 2 x 420g cans butter beans, rinsed and drained
 600g English spinach, trimmed
 ½ cup (90g) Greek-style yoghurt
 ¼ teaspoon paprika

- 1 **HEAT** the oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add the onion and cook for 4-5 minutes or until soft. Stir in the garlic and cook for 1 minute.
- 2 **STIR** in the stock and butter beans, then bring to a simmer. Add the spinach and cook until wilted.
- 3 **USE** a stick blender to puree the soup. Or, allow the soup to cool down slightly and puree it in batches in a food processor, then return it to the pan to gently reheat. Ladle into bowls and top with yoghurt and a dusting of paprika.



Serves 4

Satay vegetables

PREPARATION TIME 5-10 minutes

COOKING TIME 5 minutes

Ingredients

1 tablespoon peanut oil
300g broccoli, cut into florets
300g cauliflower, cut into florets
1 red capsicum, cut into 2.5cm squares
1 cup (250ml) ready-made satay sauce
Chopped fresh coriander, to garnish

① **HEAT** the oil in a large wok or frying pan over a medium-high heat. Add the broccoli, cauliflower and capsicum, then stir-fry for 2-3 minutes or until tender but still crisp.

② **POUR** the satay sauce over the vegetables and toss to combine. Cook for 1-2 minutes or until heated through. Serve immediately, sprinkled with fresh coriander. 🌱

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GREEN UP YOUR HOME

Use plants that will thrive indoors to decorate and add colour to any room

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

It's easy to bring the outdoors in with pots of greenery.



EXPERT SECRETS

Use a small watering can with a long spout to make it easier to aim water directly onto soil that is concealed by foliage.

Plants can be grown indoors to create striking decorative features. They can be used to brighten up large and small spaces and also make unusual room dividers.

No matter how much or how little light you have indoors, there is a pot plant to suit your situation. The key to success is to get the balance between water, light and humidity right.

Many indoor plants cost about the same as a large bunch of flowers that will only last for about a week, so they're also a budget-friendly option.

Caring for your indoor plants need not be a daunting task. Here's how to keep them flourishing, plus attractive varieties to grow, tips for re-potting and ways to troubleshoot pests and diseases.

Know when to water

The amount of water a plant requires varies with the species, the potting mix in which it is growing, and the light, temperature and humidity it's exposed to in your home.

Most indoor plants need more water during their spring and summer growing periods, but require less in winter when they're resting, especially in rooms that are unheated.

✦ **TEST** whether water is required by simply poking your finger into the top of the potting mix. If it is dry, the plant will need watering.

✦ **GET** to know each plant's water requirements to establish a routine.



Most indoor plants need less water in the colder months

Get the light right

The trick when buying an indoor plant is to pick the right plant for the right light, as you would in the garden.

Check the plant's label, as there is an indoor plant to suit any position.

✦ **TOO LITTLE** A plant that isn't getting enough light becomes elongated as it looks for light and loses the leaves that it can no longer support.

✦ **TOO MUCH** Wilting or scorched leaves and the colour fading indicate that the plant is getting too much light.



Clean the leaves

Fresh air is essential for plants and dusty leaves make it difficult for them to absorb carbon dioxide.

✦ **WASH** large leaves carefully with a clean, damp sponge or use a soft cloth.

✦ **TAKE** plants outside on a warm day, but not during winter. Lightly hose them down in a shady spot.

Check humidity

Many indoor plants come from rainforests and like high humidity, but winter heaters can dry the air.

With low humidity, the plants lose foliage lustre and their leaf tips and margins start to turn brown. Here's how you can increase humidity.

✦ **PUT** pebbles in a tray or saucer filled with water, then sit the pot on top. As the water evaporates, it produces moisture in the surrounding air.

✦ **GROUP** plants, as the evaporation from the soil combined with moisture lost from the foliage creates a damp microclimate around the plants.

✦ **MIST** your plants regularly. ➤

WHAT TO GROW

1 Palms

One of the most popular indoor plants, the parlour palm (*Chamaedorea elegans*) reaches about 1.5m high indoors.

➤ **WATER** When the soil surface appears dry, it's time to water. Underwatering and overwatering can make leaf tips turn brown.

➤ **LIGHT** Bright.

2 Ponytail palm

With the ponytail palm, or elephant's foot plant as it is also known, long strappy leaves sit on top of a bulbous trunk.

➤ **WATER** Add water when the potting mix is just about dry.

➤ **LIGHT** Bright.

3 Philodendron

The different cultivars of philodendron make striking feature plants with their handsome tropical-looking leaves.

➤ **WATER** Wait until the top 10mm of the potting mix dries out before watering.

➤ **LIGHT** Medium to bright.

4 Figs

There are many varieties with different leaf shapes to choose from.

➤ **WATER** When the soil surface appears dry, figs need watering.

➤ **LIGHT** Bright.

5 Ctenanthe

This bushy plant throws up bare stems topped with attractive foliage.

➤ **WATER** When the top 10mm of mix is dry, it needs watering.

➤ **LIGHT** Medium to bright.

6 Bromeliads

Available in a wide variety of sizes and leaf colours and shapes, exotic bromeliads are an excellent choice.

➤ **WATER** When the potting mix is just about dry, bromeliads need watering, but also keep the cup at the centre of the plant full.

➤ **LIGHT** Medium to bright.

7 Zanzibar gem

The handsome Zanzibar gem (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*) displays dark-green and shiny succulent-like foliage.

➤ **WATER** Add water when the top 25mm of the potting mix is dry. Don't overwater, as Zanzibar gem stores water in its rhizome.

➤ **LIGHT** Low to medium.





8

Dracaena

With its strap-like foliage, dracaena makes a striking indoor plant. Some cultivars and species have variegated leaves.

✦ **WATER** When the soil surface appears dry, it's time to water.

✦ **LIGHT** Medium to bright.

9

Dieffenbachia

Commonly called dumb cane, there are many different cultivars with beautifully marked leaves.

✦ **WATER** When the soil surface is dry, add water. Discard excess water left in the drainage saucer.

✦ **LIGHT** Medium to bright.



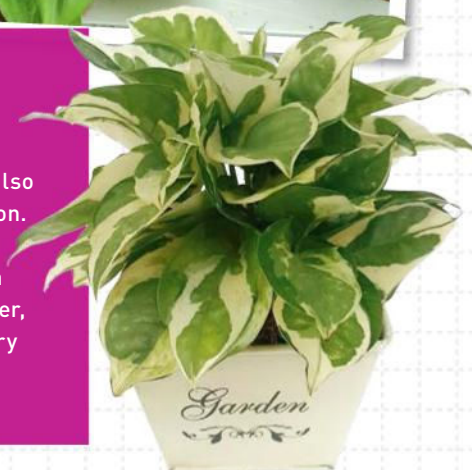
11

Devil's ivy

A hardy climbing plant, devil's ivy (*Epipremnum aureum*) will also trail without a host to climb on.

✦ **WATER** Keep the potting mix damp during summer. In unheated rooms during winter, allow the mix to just about dry out before watering.

✦ **LIGHT** Medium to bright.



10

Maranta

Commonly called prayer plant because at night it tends to close its attractive striped foliage.

✦ **WATER** When the soil surface appears dry, add water. Allowing the pot to stand in water or overwatering will cause root rot.

✦ **LIGHT** Medium to bright.



13

Mother-in-law's tongue

An easy-care hardy plant, it features dark-green, erect marbled leaves. Some varieties feature gold or silver bands on the foliage edges.

✦ **WATER** Don't let water sit in the saucer and water sparingly. During winter in unheated rooms, allow the mix to just about dry out.

✦ **LIGHT** Low to medium.



12

Aspidistra

With its large and leathery dark-green foliage, aspidistra is a tough plant.

✦ **WATER** When the top 20mm of the mix is dry, add water. For short periods, aspidistra will tolerate near complete dryness.

✦ **LIGHT** This plant will survive almost anywhere indoors and is tolerant of very low light.



14

Peace lilies

Elegant and tough, peace lilies make ideal indoor plants. They have lovely white flowers that sit above deep-green leaves.

✦ **WATER** When the top of the mix is dry, add water, but make sure you don't overwater in winter.

✦ **LIGHT** Low to medium. ➤



How to re-pot

Indoor plants benefit from being re-potted every couple of years.

Even if the plant hasn't outgrown its pot, the potting mix starts to degenerate and will need renewing.

If the plant is root-bound or has grown considerably, you need to re-pot it into a bigger pot.

Choose one that is 50-100mm larger in diameter than the original.

➤ **REMOVE** the plant from its container and tease out any root-bound roots.

➤ **ADD** potting mix to the new pot so the plant sits at about 25mm from the rim of the pot to prevent any potting mix or water from spilling over.

➤ **FILL** around the rootball with potting mix, avoiding packing it firmly around the roots, as this could impede drainage. Water in well.



Check your plants regularly to keep them pest-free

PROBLEM SOLVERS



Mealy bug

➤ **SPOT IT** Found on the leaves and stems, the bodies of these insects are covered in a white downy powder.

➤ **FIX IT** Spray with Yates Pest Oil.



Scale

➤ **SPOT IT** Look for raised bumps on the foliage or stems of the plant.

➤ **FIX IT** Remove small infestations with your fingertip or spray with white oil.



Aphids

➤ **SPOT IT** Check for distorted leaves or blistered new growth. A black sooty mould may also appear.

➤ **FIX IT** Spray with Yates Pyrethrum. 🌿

GROW TIP

Apply a soluble plant food monthly from spring until autumn or use a six-month controlled-release fertiliser in spring.



Did you know?

Indoor plants act like self-regulating biofilters and clean the air, research reveals. It is the symbiotic relationship between the potting mix and the plants that produces the biofilter effect.

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MAY

What's on this month

Head down to your local Bunnings this May to get some advice for your next D.I.Y. project



6
[SAT]

7
[SUN]

STORAGE WORKSHOPS

Maximise your space with helpful and handy tips



KIDS
D.I.Y.

13
[SAT]

14
[SUN]

MOTHER'S DAY WORKSHOPS

Create a special gift for Mum this Mother's Day



20
[SAT]

21
[SUN]

WINDOWS AND DOORS WORKSHOPS

Get more in the know on window and doors



KIDS
D.I.Y.

27
[SAT]

28
[SUN]

CRAFT WORKSHOPS

Create arts and crafts that you can take home

Workshops are held at warehouses only. If you live in South Australia, speak to a team member or visit bunnings.com.au/yourstore for details about our great one-on-one D.I.Y. workshops.

INDOOR WORKSHOPS

Our expert team members will give you the advice and information on how to kickstart your indoor projects at home.



13
[SAT]

14
[SUN]

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NEXT ISSUE

GARDEN

Grow winter herbs and colour up in the cold months with pansies.
PLUS How to protect your plants from frost.

OUTDOOR

How to keep the lawn green and healthy during winter.
PLUS Install a budget DIY greenhouse.

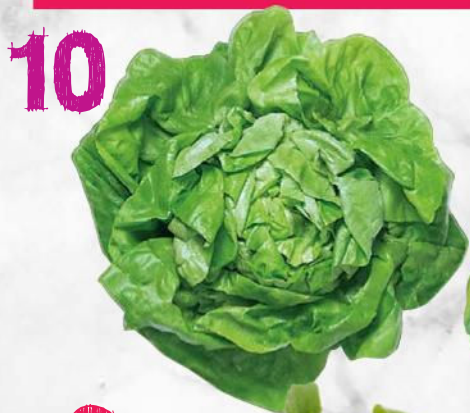
RENOVATE

Kitchen design ideas and tricks to maximise small spaces.
PLUS Easy-install cabinet storage.

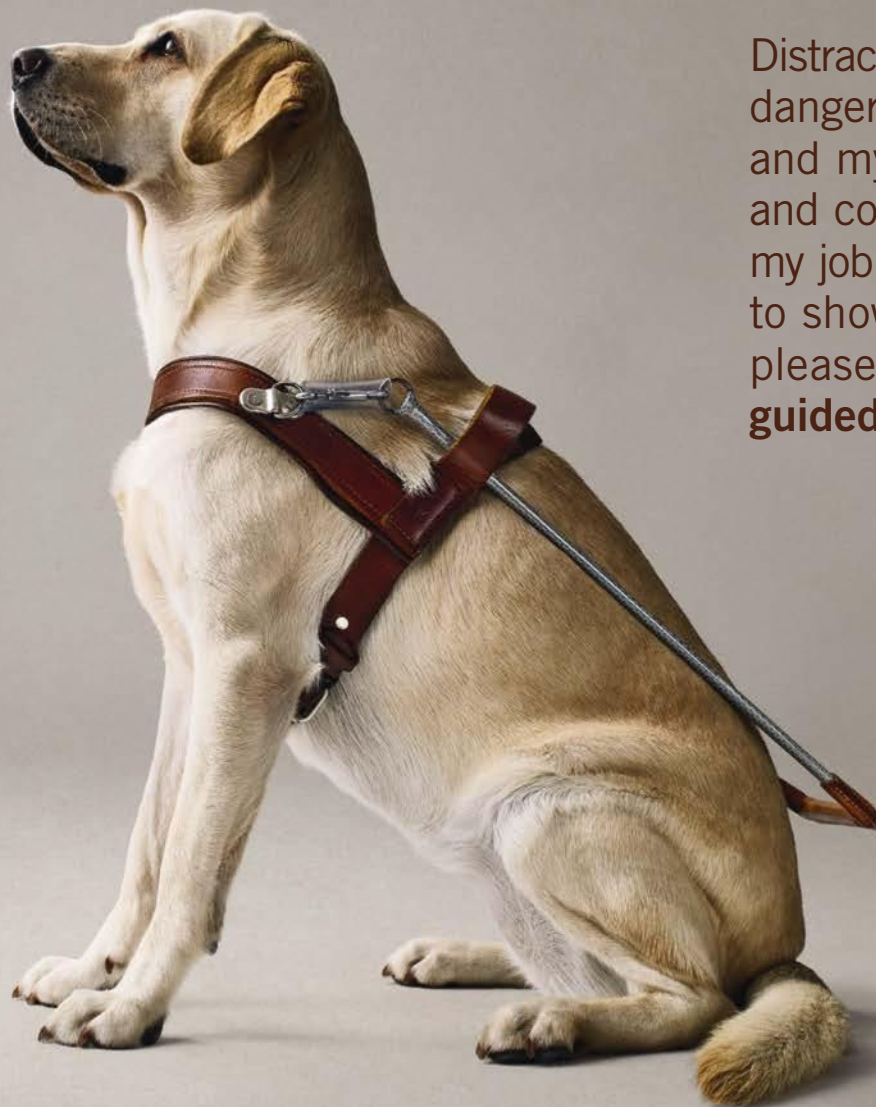
POP QUIZ!

Name that SALAD GREEN

How many of these leafy ingredients can you identify?
The answers are at the bottom of the page



ANSWERS 1 MIGNONETTE 2 ROCKET 3 WITLOF 4 BEETROOT LEAVES 5 COS LETTUCE 6 BABY SPINACH 7 RADICCHIO 8 LAMB'S LETTUCE 9 WATERCRESS 10 BUTTER LETTUCE 11 NASTURTIUM



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RESPECT
MY UNIFORM**

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