

AUSTRALIAN

HOME ENTERTAINMENT ^{page 12}

Handyman

RENOVATE

GET DESIGNER WALLS
ON A DIY BUDGET

DECORATE

LIGHTING SOLUTIONS
FOR INSIDE AND OUT

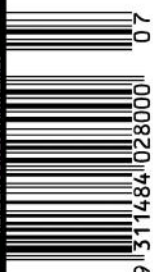
**THE WINTER
GARDEN**

GROW BOLD BLOOMS
AND TASTY FRUIT

*Revamp
the deck*

Get the look
page 30

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Plant
bare-root roses



Heat
the backyard



Reality TV stars Kyal & Kara
share their dream reno

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SUE FERRIS



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Grow this veggie in bags or beds in any-sized backyard



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GET THE LOOK

LOVE THE COVER?

Enjoy the deck with lush plantings and simple weatherproof accessories

This refreshed deck gives the outdoor area a great facelift and also adds extra utility.

Rather than just a walkway to the back door, the space has been transformed by layering plants around the wall to create an oasis feel.

Simple foldaway furniture and accessories, from Bunnings, add pops of colour while maximising flexibility.

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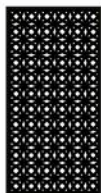
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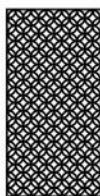
WOODLAND



ORBIT



RIVERBANK



HALO



TANGLE

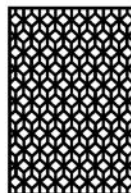


JUNGLE

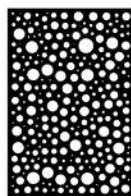
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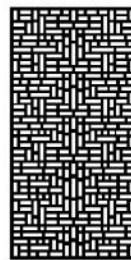
AUTUMN



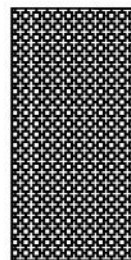
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THIS ISSUE

HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH



SORT SPRAY PAINT CANS WITH A SHOE ORGANISER



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EDITOR'S LETTER



Kerryne and I had lots of fun styling her new and improved deck.



Here at *Handyman* magazine we don't believe that winter is an excuse to hole up indoors. With a few clever upgrades, you can adapt an outdoor space for use even in the coldest months.

I certainly need to make changes. My pergola has a fluorescent light, which is great if I want to read alone out there at night but doesn't provide ambience when entertaining.

And while the floodlight on the side of the garage is useful when I have to get something off the clothes line in the dark, I think solar path lights will create a nicer journey. Check out page 46 for more ideas.

Just as important as light is heat, as no-one wants to shiver their way through a party or barbie. There are so many DIY solutions to warming up outdoors that you'll wonder why you waited so long, see page 38.

Simple seasonal style

If you have a deck, winter is the time to give it a little TLC or even revamp it altogether, as was the case with our office manager, Kerryne Lavery.

Built 16 years ago by a handy friend, her deck was showing its age, plus the boards had originally been laid upside down and stayed that way.

New timber boards were laid by a professional, then DIY landscape and styling solutions completed the transformation. Turn to page 30 to see how it was done.

For more inspiration when it comes to deck design and outdoor living in winter, architects and landscapers share their expert secrets, on page 18.

Happy DIYing,

Artemis

Product of the month

Designed for both indoor and outdoor use, Protector Aluminium Deco Screens are a great way to get the designer look on a budget.

Use them in open-plan living spaces to create zoned areas but retain an airy feel, or on decks and patios to increase privacy while keeping the area open to views.

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



Protector Aluminium Deco Screens in Palm, \$159 each.

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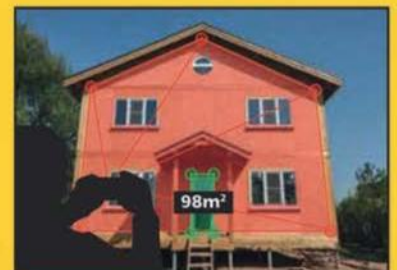
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Kitchen hacks



Furniture makeovers



FAST FACT

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PICTURES ISTOCK (BOTTOM LEFT) SUE FERRIS

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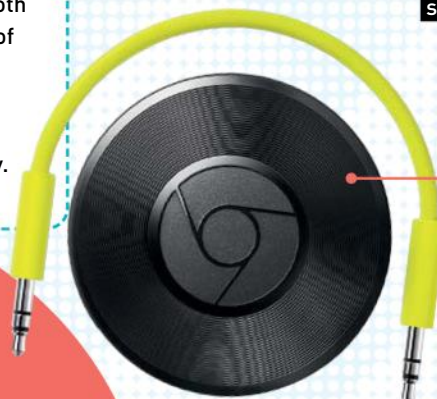
Wash while listening to music with the Bluetooth Wireless Shower Speaker, \$40. The waterproof speaker also allows you to take calls and can connect to your phone from up to 10m away. Designed for use with any Bluetooth-enabled device, it has an internal rechargeable battery. yellowoctopus.com.au



Roof rhythm

Light and sound combine into one stylish whole with the Sengled Home Automation Pulse LED Globe and Bluetooth Speaker E27 Starter Kit, \$299. It comes with a satellite and a master light that controls up to seven satellites.

sengled.com.au



Audio adapter

Make use of old speakers with the Google Chromecast Audio, \$59. It enables your speakers to play music from your phone, computer or tablet wirelessly. Easy to use, it simply plugs into the AUX input.

google.com/chromecast



Movie master

Transform your living room into a cinematic experience with the Philips Fidelio Soundbar, \$1200. It features two wireless detachable rear speakers and a subwoofer for surround sound.

philips.com.au

Cordless chords

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goos-e.com.au



Device defence

Prop and protect your iPad in one go with the Happytab iPad Cushion Beanbag Pillow by Tabcoosh City Jeans, \$43. Made from durable cotton, it's filled with beanbag beans and has zipped storage for mobiles or headphones.

gyrofish.com.au



Flexible frame

Mount a television on your wall with the Linden Easy-glide Full Motion TV Wall Bracket, \$128. It's easy to install and allows for both vertical and horizontal adjustment, so you can see the screen from anywhere.

thegoodguys.com.au

Supple seat

Sink into the Ovela Faux Leather Recliner Chair with Ottoman, \$279. Inspired by Nordic designs, the timber-legged ergonomic chair is able to fully recline with a tilt adjustment and lock function.

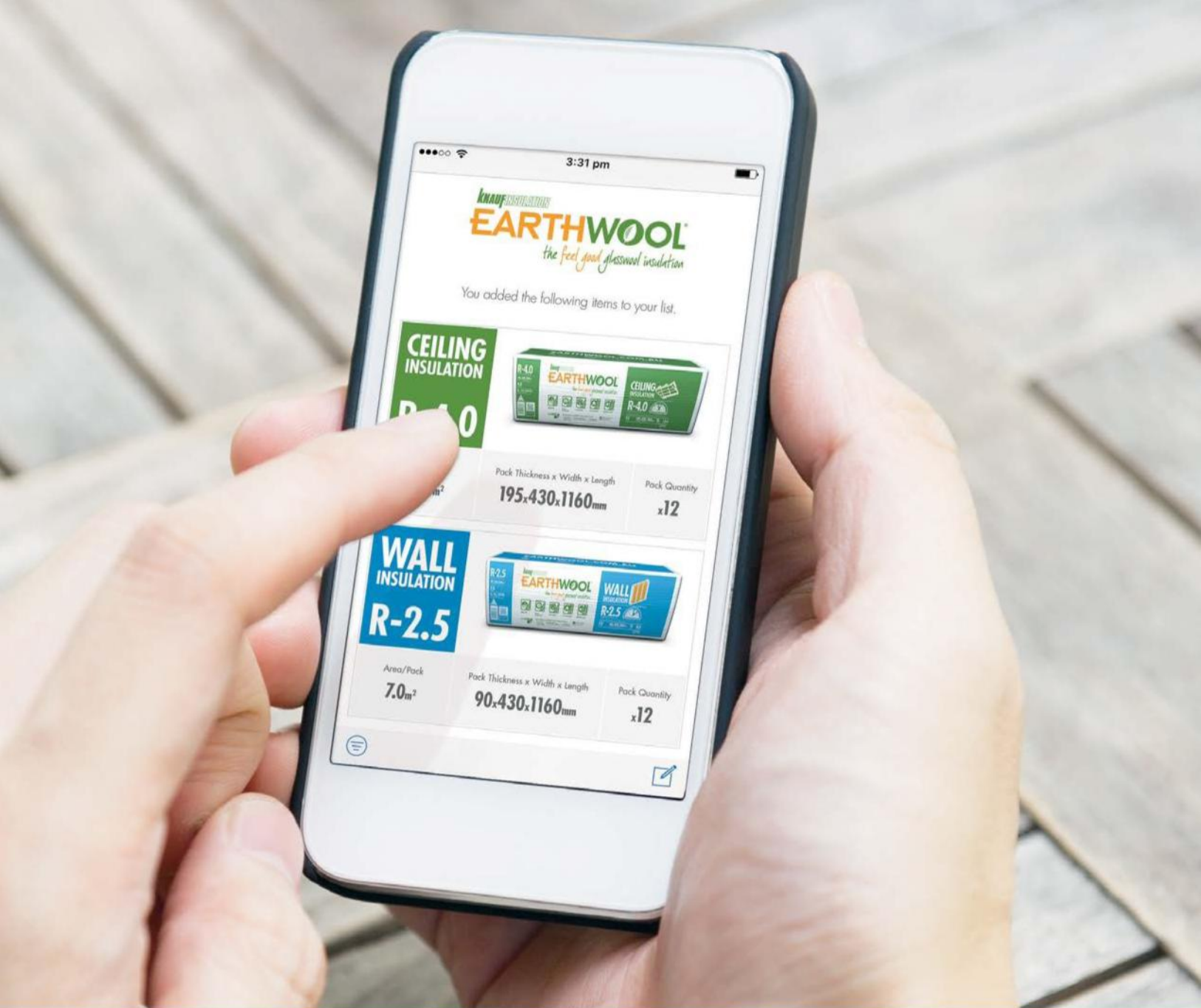
kogan.com



Back buddy

Find your zen in complete comfort with the Chi Meditation Seat, \$500. It relieves pressure on your neck, lower back, knees and ankles while seated in a meditation pose. Featuring a luxe leather-look finish and available in three colours, it comes with a three-year warranty. ➤

chimeditationseat.com.au



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Reality review

Change your perspective with the Samsung Gear VR, \$159. Designed to use with the Samsung Galaxy, it explores 360° panoramic views on its crystal-clear display and features precise head-tracking captured via the use of simple head movements.

samsung.com.au



Dynamic display

Perfect for both home and business use, the Acer Full HD Projector, \$856, is ideal to take anywhere, thanks to it weighing a slight 2.4kg. The projector boasts a 3200 lumens brightness level for crisp high-def viewing.

acerstore.com.au

Smart switch

Connect an old TV to your phone or computer with the Google Chromecast Ultra, \$99. It works with both Apple and Android devices to stream up to 4K Ultra HD video from any app, with low buffering for smoother viewing.

google.com/chromecast



Handheld



Tabletop



TV



Super screen

Get the most out of movies with the LG OLED C7 65" TV, \$6899. The display is true black and uses over one billion colours for the clearest image yet, and is paired with a superior Dolby Atmos sound system.

lg.com.au



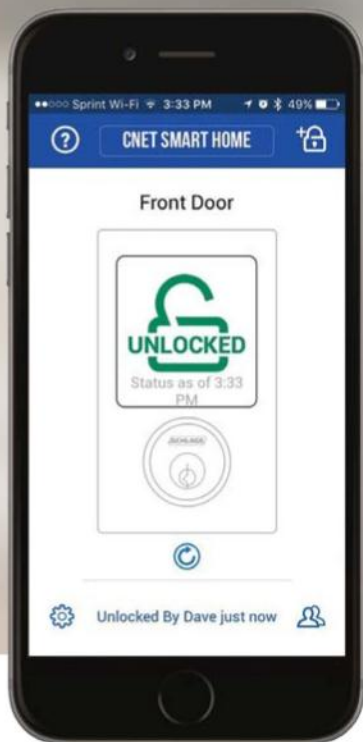
Gaming guru

Toss out your old gaming consoles for the Nintendo Switch, \$469, with TV, tabletop and handheld play modes. The flexible device is like three consoles in one compact solution, allowing you to play solo or with a group of friends. Each pack comes with a console, dock, two Joy-Con controllers, two straps and a Joy-Con grip.

nintendo.com.au

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schlage.com.au



Open possibilities.

WINTER ON *THE* DECK

With clever design and warming features, there's no need to abandon outdoor decks when the cool weather sets in

WORDS SITA SIMONS

The deck has become a popular fixture in many Australian homes, yet these lifestyle spaces can often lose their usability once the temperature drops during the colder months.

Considering year-round use when designing is the ideal way to solve the problem, and clever planning will maximise access to winter sun.

Making the most of the area's landscaping and design will ensure the deck is a welcoming, functional space for all the seasons.



PICTURE SPACE CRAFT ARCHITECTS



Space smart

Making use of what would otherwise be a dead space, this deck boosts the functionality of the void created by the overhang of the bedrooms situated directly above.

Architect Tim Gittos says this area was orientated correctly to capture the sun all the way to the back in winter, while keeping out rain.

'You have to come through this space to access the house, so it made perfect sense to make it usable and central to how the house operates,' he says.

'We created an informal hub, with a large wood-burning fireplace and a contrasting timber finish.

'Large-scale furniture, in-built joinery and soft furnishings attract everyone to the space.'

spacecraftarchitects.co.nz



Introducing elements associated with camping, such as partial cover and roaring fires, makes an outdoor area work throughout the year

Fire focus

There were a number of competing elements in this backyard space, so creating a lounge area relied on clever ideas and planning.

Landscape designer Dean Herald says the architectural treatment of the interior can easily inform the exterior.

'Sunken areas draw people in and create a defined zone, so we used that idea here. Altering the level gives it a separate identity and means large furniture sits in the space rather than on it, which can be jarring.

'Fires naturally draw people together, and a wood-burning fire has an intense heat that makes the outdoor space appealing,' says Dean.

rollingstonelandscapes.com ➤



Peter



Adding cover,
whether man-made or
from nature, invites
people to use the
outdoor space

Climate control

A fixed structure over the deck, such as a pergola or an awning, can mean that not enough light is received into the space, which makes it cold and uninviting in winter.

A flexible opening and closing louvre structure, such as those from Vergola, provides the ability to let in the winter sun and keep out the rain.

Vergola general manager Peter Rust says there is nothing better suited to the Australian climate for continuous comfort on the deck.

‘Making a product adjustable for year-round conditions means that not only is the deck area a fully functional space, but it also helps control the heat and light inside the house,’ he says.

vergolansw.com.au



PICTURE: BRIJ STEPHENWOOD/ENOUGH



Plant power

This Christchurch home was designed in an L-shape around an east-facing courtyard, which is the direction of the prevailing cold winds in the city.

Architect Cymon Allfrey took full advantage of the established garden to create a protected courtyard deck that can be used even in the cool months.

'The trees and plants make an effective windbreak, but then there is the issue of blocking the western afternoon light and warmth,' he says.

The solution was to leave the west side of the house clear to let light and heat through, and make the deck wider on the east side to extend out of the shadow of the house and allow the area to catch more sun.

caarc.co.nz ➤



Say hello to Matt.



For more information on achieving a matt look on your deck, visit feastwatson.com.au



Feast Watson is a registered trade mark.

Clever cover

Creating cover is the obvious solution to weather protection and enjoyment on the deck, but how you tackle it doesn't have to be generic.

Landscape architect Steve Taylor took a multi-layered approach to soften the dominance of this house, which wrapped around the backyard in an L-shape.

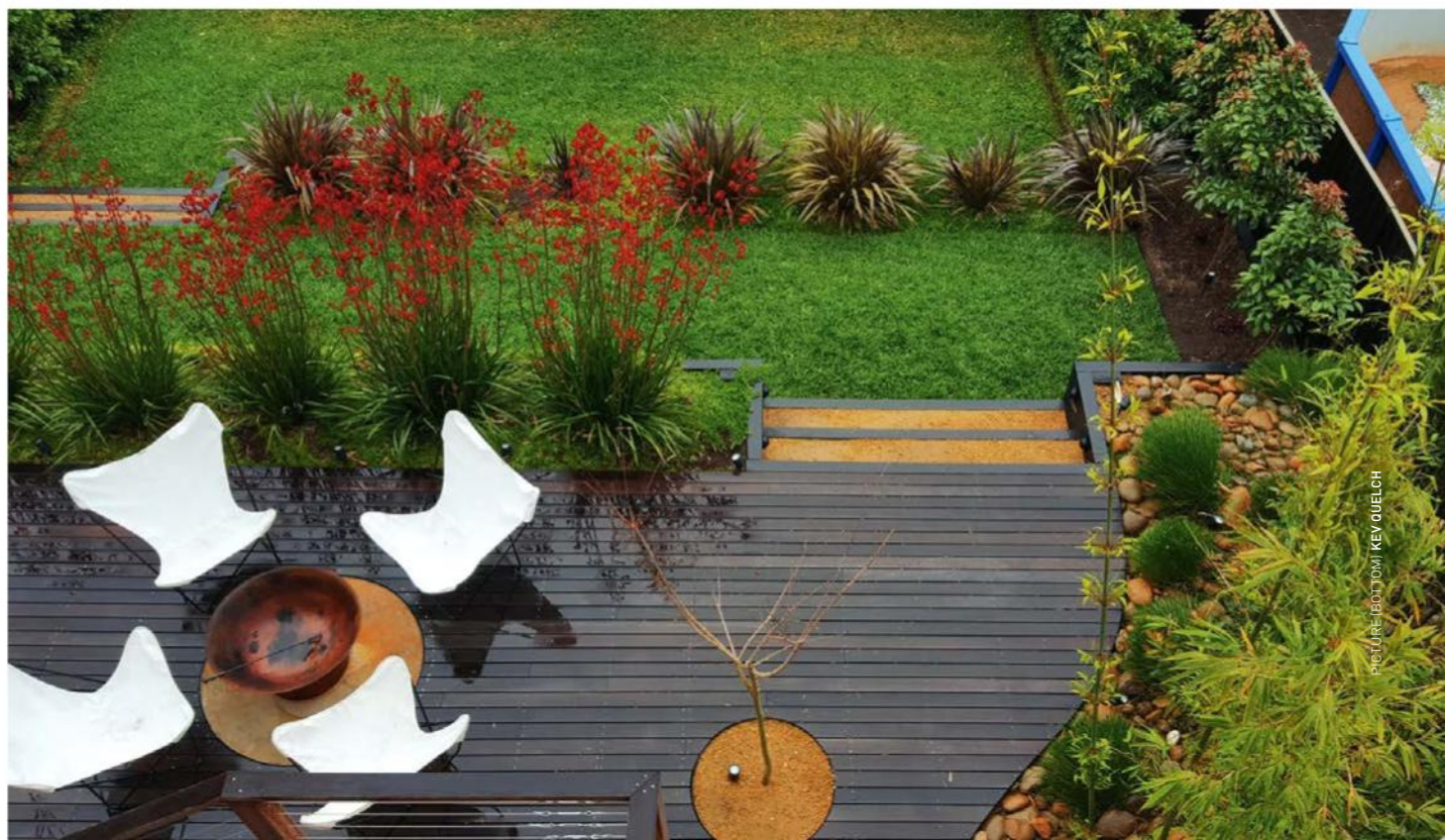
'We could have covered the whole area in the rendered roof, but the addition of lasercut screens backed in green Perspex to make it completely waterproof, interspersed with open areas, totally transformed it,' he says.

Complementing the architectural features of the home works to bring the two elements together.

cosdesign.com.au



Balancing elements and materials allows overhead structures to integrate rather than dominate



PICTURE (BOTTOM) KEV QUELCH



Tree tip

This heavily sloped backyard fell away to a collapsing 4m drop, rendering it largely unusable.

A sloping driveway to the side also meant that rainwater cascaded into the garden.

Landscape designer Kev Quelch created terraces.

'The deck was carefully positioned to provide a platform from which to enjoy the garden, and focusing the seating around a fire pit encourages everyone outdoors,' he says.

Kev also planted deciduous trees into the deck to create shade in summer yet still allow in sunlight during winter.

inovasisdesign.com.au

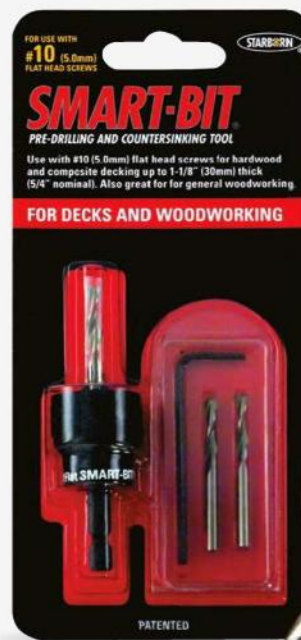


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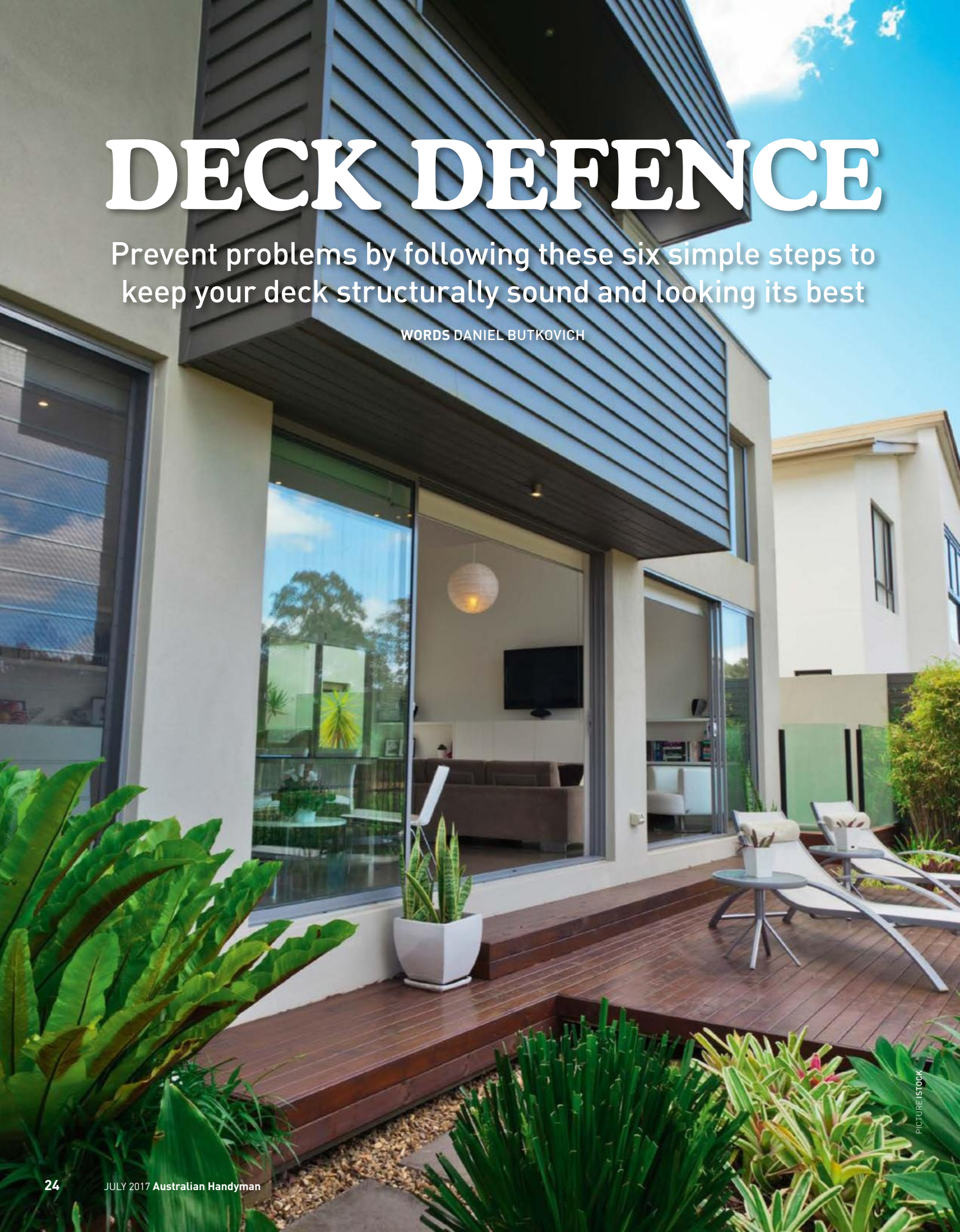
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DECK DEFENCE

Prevent problems by following these six simple steps to keep your deck structurally sound and looking its best

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH



A well-maintained deck can provide a fantastic space for outdoor entertaining while at the same time adding value to your home.

But decks do require ongoing maintenance to keep them in good condition, as timber exposed to the elements can degrade over time.

Luckily, it's easy to keep your deck in tiptop shape by regularly cleaning and refinishing the timber, inspecting for damage and making repairs as soon as possible.

With a good deck maintenance schedule, you can protect your investment and keep it looking like new for years to come.



Set aside one weekend each year to inspect, clean and refinish your deck



Clear away leaves to improve air circulation and help prevent staining.

Keep it clean

Although your deck is an outdoor surface, paying it as much attention as you would your indoor flooring will maximise its life span.

That means cleaning up any food spills, washing off mud or dirt from shoes, hosing off bird droppings and removing tree sap as soon as possible to prevent permanent stains.

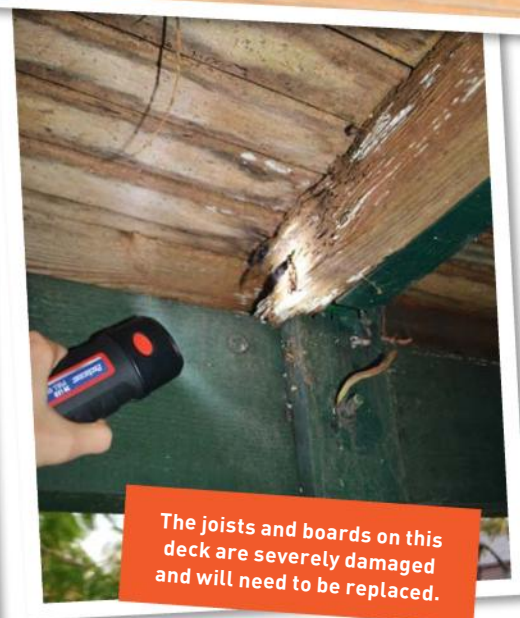
Sweep your deck regularly throughout the year, especially during the cooler months when leaf litter can quickly build up.



A build-up of wet leaves can cause mould and mildew, which damages timber.



Boards can degrade quickly if they are not properly maintained.



The joists and boards on this deck are severely damaged and will need to be replaced.

Inspect for problems

Your deck may look fine on the surface, but hidden damage could be lurking beneath. Once a year, inspect the entire structure thoroughly, looking for damaged timber and fasteners that need to be repaired.

Start underneath, checking posts for decay, especially where timber is in contact with the ground. Inspect the ledger, bearers and joists, checking for timber rot, excessive movement and corroded fasteners.

Carefully inspect each board, looking out for soft and spongy timber and movement or creaks.

Also inspect handrails and balustrades to check they are not rotten and are secured properly. ➤

Fix damaged timber

To keep your deck structurally sound and safe, rotten timber needs to be repaired as soon as it is noticed.

Replacing damaged boards is the most common decking repair, and it's relatively simple to remove old boards and lay new ones.

If joists have signs of rot, you may be able to repair them by scraping away the rotten timber, then applying timber preservative and filler.

Depending on the damage, the joist may need to be reinforced by installing a new joist next to it. If the damage is severe, the joist will need to be replaced entirely.

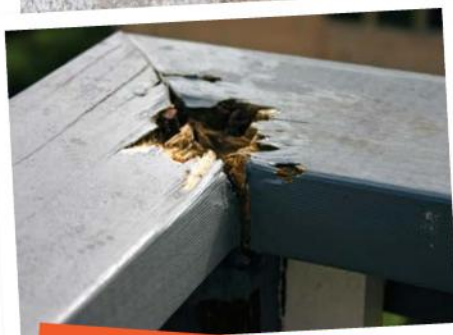


Minor damage can be repaired, but bigger problems require replacement



This post is in contact with the ground, allowing it to absorb water and accelerating rot.

H Repair split deck posts
Visit handyman.net.au/deck-posts



If the cut ends of handrails are not sealed, water can seep in and cause damage.



Painted boards won't last as long as oiled boards, as paint doesn't penetrate the timber to protect it.

1 2 3

REPAIR SPLITTING BOARDS To prevent accidents and injuries, replace a damaged section rather than the whole board. Simply cut out the damaged section and replace it with a board that spans at least three joists for a cost-effective repair.



1 Cut out the damage

Draw square lines to one side of the joist beneath, then use a jigsaw to cut away the damaged section of the board. Carefully remove the board using a pinch bar.



2 Attach cleats

Drill clearance holes in two 400mm long timber cleats. Apply construction adhesive, hold the cleats up to the boards and secure one to the joist at each end of the repair.



3 Install the new board

Cut the new board to fit and tap it in position using an offcut to protect the timber. Drill pilot holes, then secure using two 65mm x 10g deck screws into the cleat and joists.

Lay new boards

If decking boards are damaged or rotten along their whole length, they will need to be removed and replaced with new boards.

If you aren't replacing all the boards, select the same timber size and species as the remaining boards.



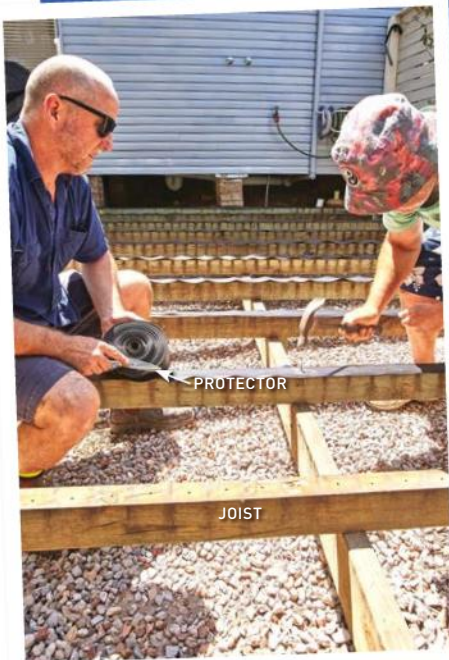
Stainless steel fasteners are essential for decks in coastal areas



Protect the joists

To help prevent water damage to the deck frame, lay PVC decking protector over joists before installing boards.

Roll out the decking protector over the joists, then cut it to fit. Secure it using galvanised clouts.



1 Remove the old boards

Lift and remove the damaged section of old boards with a pry bar. Use a claw hammer to remove any nailgun-driven steel nails that have pulled through the deteriorated decking and remained in the joists.



2 Position the new boards

Use a mitresaw to cut the decking boards to length so all the joints fall on the centre of a joist. Over the centre of each joist, drill two pilot holes with a 2mm twist drill bit through each board.



3 Secure the boards

Drive in 50 x 2.8mm stainless steel twist nails to secure each board. Check the alignment of the boards with a stringline, using a chisel to space and flex the boards straight before driving in the nails. ➤



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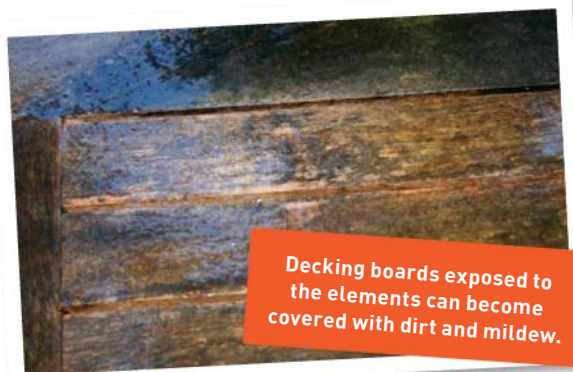
DIY TIP

Composite boards are a low-maintenance alternative to timber, as they come in a range of colours and don't need regular refinishing.

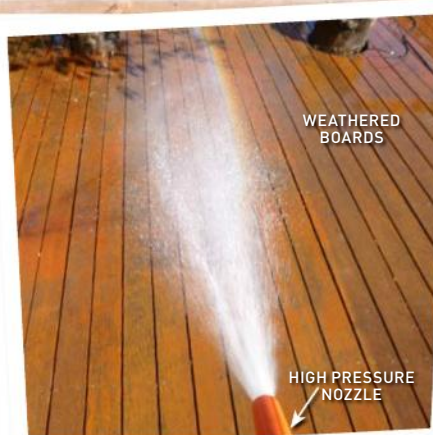
Wash the boards

Decking boards need to be cleaned thoroughly before they can be refinished to allow the boards to properly absorb the decking oil.

Specialised deck cleaning solutions not only get rid of dirt and mildew, but also remove the previous finish.



Decking boards exposed to the elements can become covered with dirt and mildew.



1 Rinse the deck

Remove all furniture and pot plants from the deck. Sweep away dirt and debris, then wash off the deck using a high pressure nozzle on the hose. Ensure any dried leaves or bird droppings have been removed.



2 Apply deck cleaner

Dilute one part deck cleaning solution with four parts water. Apply to the deck using a stiff scrubbing brush. Allow to sit for 20 minutes, then scrub it one last time before rinsing with a hose and leaving to dry.



Use a lamb's wool applicator when applying deck finish.

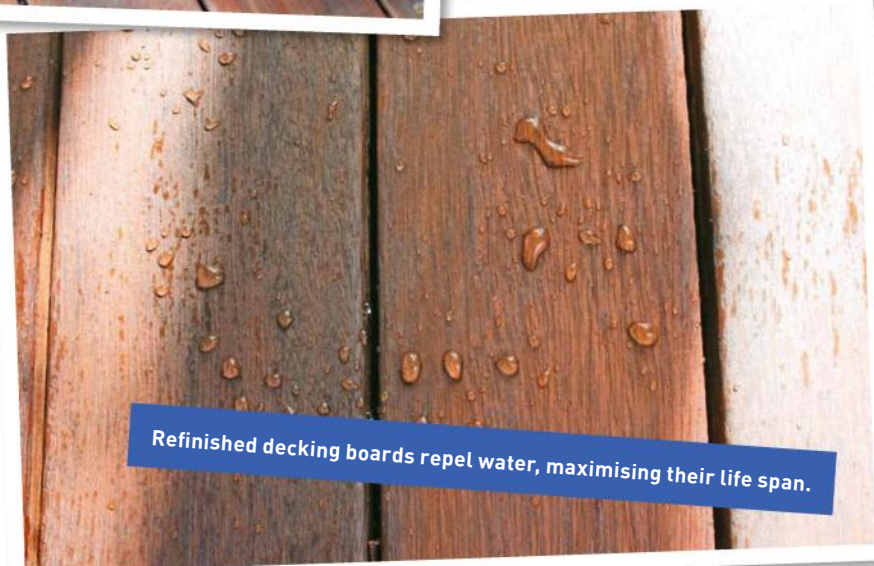
Refinish the timber

Decking oil enhances the look of the timber to make old boards appear new, and protects timber by repelling water and minimising UV damage.

To apply decking oil, stir the finish, then pour it into a paint tray. Dip a lamb's wool applicator into the finish and drag it along the length of the deck, a few boards at a time.

Allow the finish to dry for four hours, then apply two more coats.

TIP Leave new boards to weather for 4-6 weeks before oiling. 🟢



Refinished decking boards repel water, maximising their life span.



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1. Simply apply, allow to dry
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3. Paint



BEFORE



AFTER*

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

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DECKED OUT

Turn a tired courtyard into an alfresco entertaining space

WORDS AND STYLING ARTEMIS GOUROS PICTURES SUE FERRIS



This townhouse deck was laid 16 years ago by a handy friend of the homeowner, Kerryne Lavery.

'It only cost two cases of beer and took two days, and lasted an impressive amount of time, especially as the boards had been laid upside down,' she says.

Over time, Kerryne noticed more and more loose and lifting boards and saw timber rot, so decided to revamp the deck for safety and aesthetics.

The deck previously ran the entire length of the outdoor area, right up to the Colorbond fence. But when the new boards were laid, it was shortened to 5m long, largely to save money.

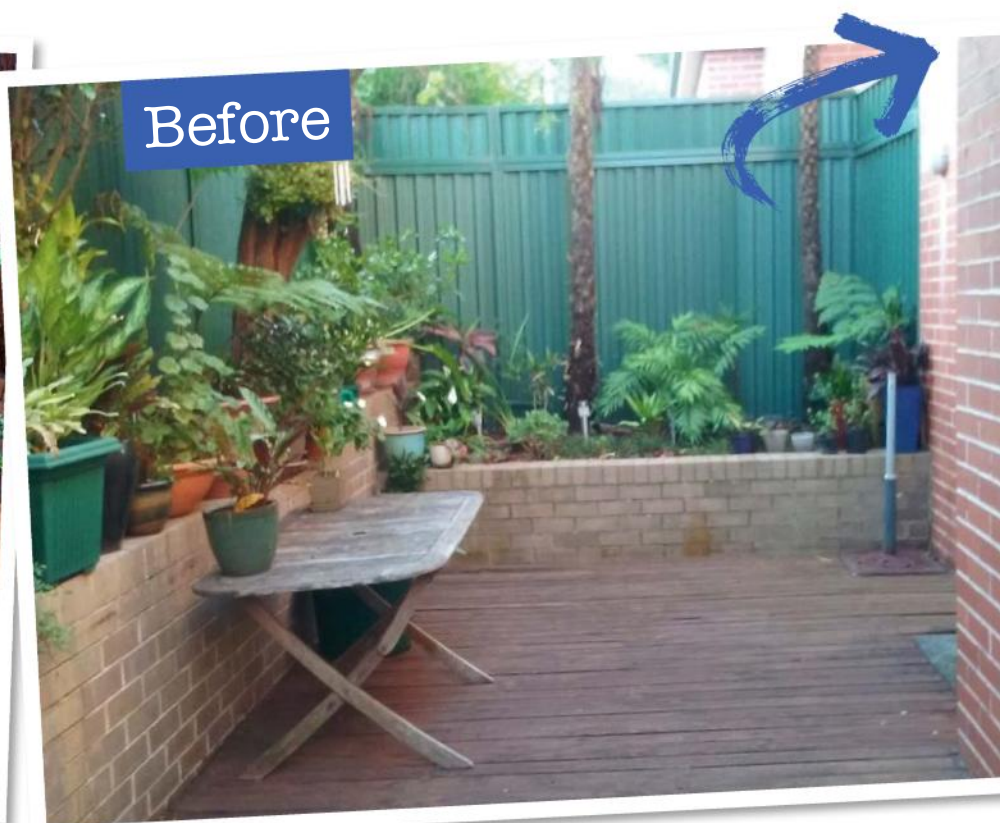
Another reason was so the clothes line could be more easily accessed and not sit at neck height when extended, which made it difficult and dangerous to use. A step was built into the deck to incorporate the new level change. ➤



A timber deck is a classic landscaping option that can be built to fit an outdoor area of any size



The new deck is 5m long and has a built-in step to access the area at the end.



Before

After

The new deck and a few affordable accessories transform the space.



Changing direction

Kerryne wanted to do part of the work herself, not only to save costs but also to contribute to the reno.

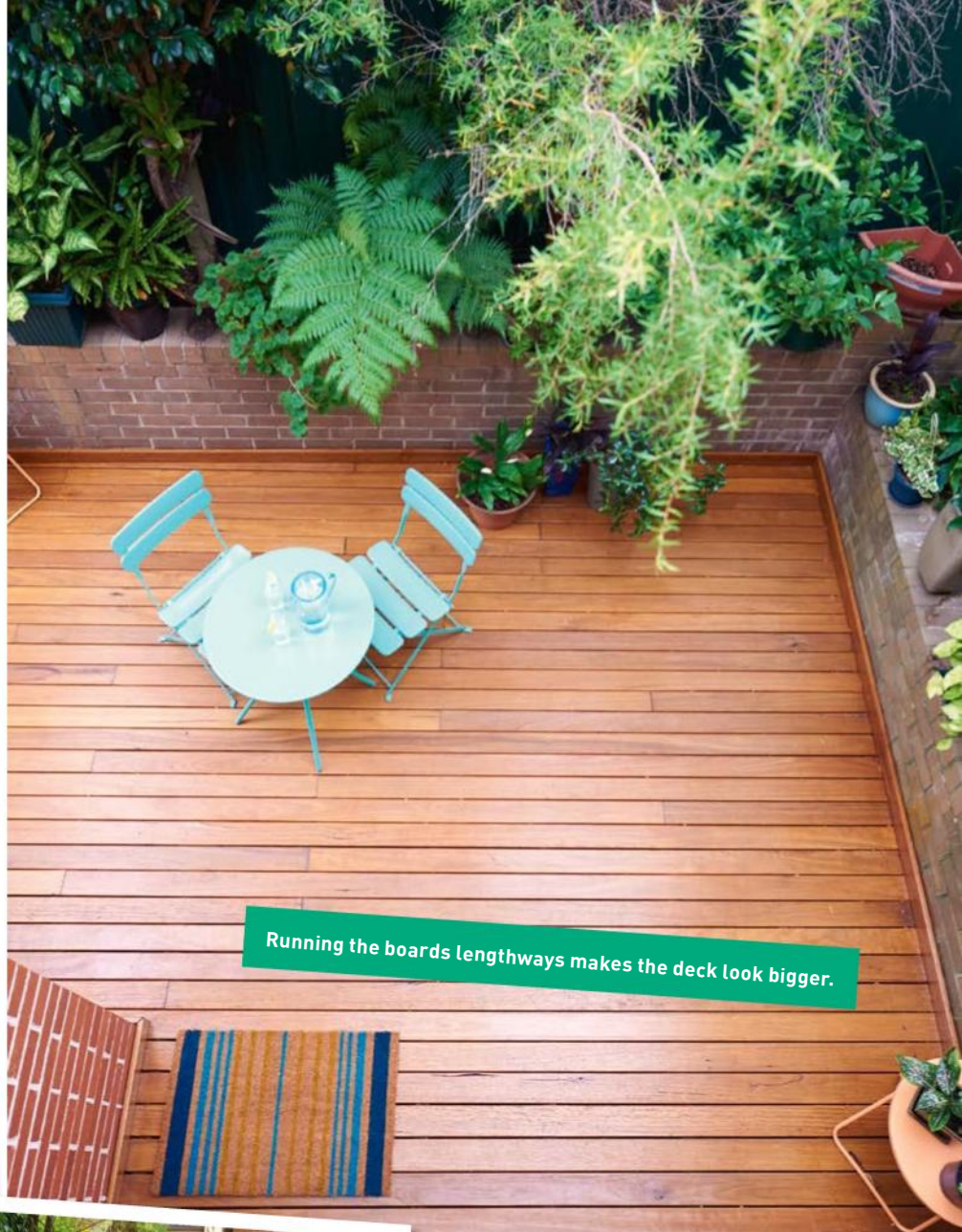
She hired handyman Wayne Hicking (hicking.com.au), who'd been recommended by two neighbours, but she ripped up the old decking boards herself with the help of a friend.

The initial quote was for a one-day job, but bad weather meant the work had to happen over three days. The timber and labour cost \$2784 all up.

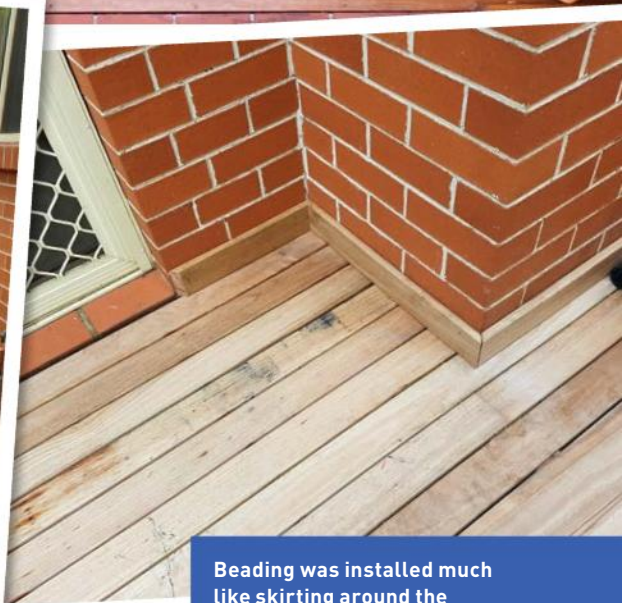
Wayne turned the joists on the first day, so the boards could be laid lengthways. On the second day, he finished the boards and did the skirting as he went along. The last thing he did was build the step.



ABOVE The joists were relaid lengthways, as the direction of the boards was changed. **RIGHT** The new deck ends at a corner of the house.



Running the boards lengthways makes the deck look bigger.



Beading was installed much like skirting around the entire deck for a neat finish.

Lifestyle upgrade

Opening off the open-plan living and dining area, and overlooked by the kitchen window, this deck is a place to relax, entertain and garden. The trees and well-tended pot plants create a lush backdrop and lots of greenery.

Enclosed by a Colorbond fence, the courtyard is private and leafy. A deck is a better alternative than lawn for this type of home, as it doesn't need constant maintenance.

Kerryne finished the decking boards DIY over a weekend, using an Intergrain timber stain.

The area left undecked needed a new surface. Kerryne had been gifted a load of pebbles, so she laid weedmat, then washed and spread them across the area with the help of a friend. A few pavers were added as stepping stones.

'I'm delighted with the result. The deck looks amazing and I didn't blow the budget,' says Kerryne. 🍋

A step can double as extra seating when entertaining.

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CRAFTY PAINTWORK

Use easy paint effects to transform plant pots and an old wicker chair

PROJECTS AND PICTURES SUE FERRIS

Liven up your deck or courtyard by painting plain white plant pots and give a tatty old wicker chair a new lease of life.

All you need for the projects are exterior paint, paintbrushes, painter's tape and a few basic craft supplies.

For the first pot, we made templates out of contact paper to give a mirror image in gold and blue around the pot.

An interesting textured look was created for the second pot using solid flat ribbon, wooden skewers and blue and white paint.



Sue

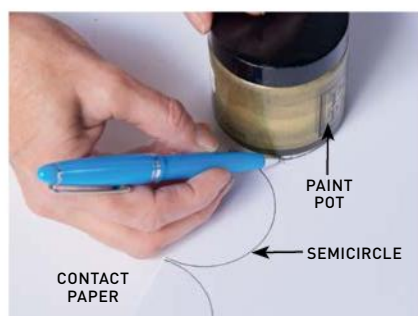
EXPERT SECRETS

Buy small sample pots of paint at your local hardware store to avoid wastage and save money.



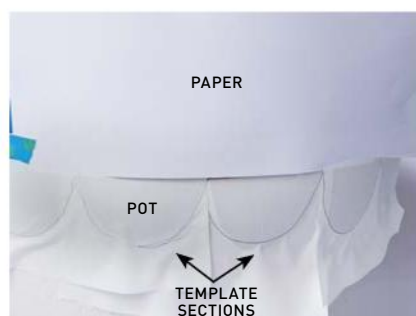
Give your outdoor entertaining area a new designer look with handpainted containers

1 2 3



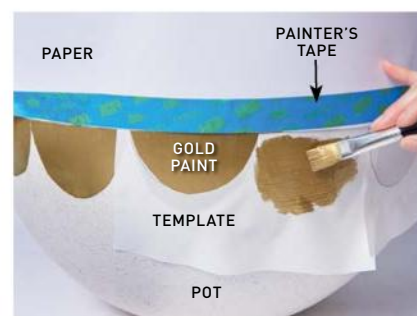
1 Make the template

Lay contact paper on a flat surface and put a small paint pot on top. Use a pen to draw halfway around the base of the pot and repeat to create a semicircle template to fit around the pot. Cut out the template, then cut into sections.



2 Attach the template

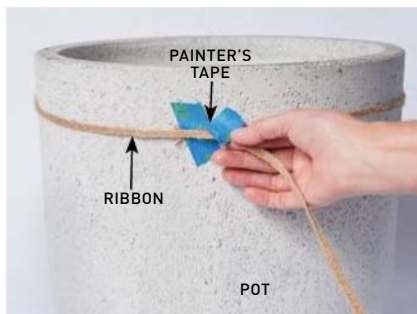
Apply painter's tape around the middle of the pot, then stick the template sections around the lower half of the pot, pressing down to remove any air bubbles. Cut paper to fit around the top half of the pot and secure with tape.



3 Apply the paint

Use a paintbrush to apply a coat of gold paint inside each semicircle around the pot, then allow to dry. Apply a second coat of paint and allow to dry. Remove the tape, then repeat the process for the top half of the pot, using blue paint.

1 2 3



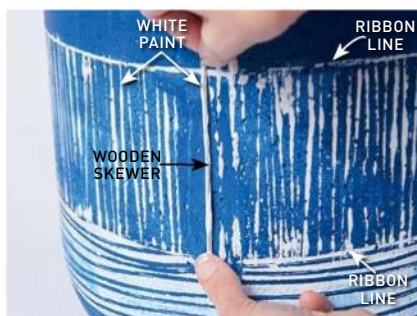
1 Attach the ribbon

Wind a length of ribbon around the top of the pot to leave an unpainted strip around the circumference, then secure with tape. Wind more ribbon several times around the base of the pot and secure with tape.



2 Paint the pot

Apply two coats of a blue base paint all over the outside of the pot using a paintbrush. Allow to dry thoroughly in between coats. Carefully unwind the ribbon from around the top half and lower half of the pot.



3 Create the pattern

Coat a wooden skewer in white paint the same colour as the pot. To apply the paint, hold the skewer and press it vertically onto the pot between the ribbon lines. Work around the pot, adding more paint as needed. ➤



CHAIR FACELIFT

After

Painted in deep blue, the chair complements the rich timber.



Before

Is your favourite wicker chair looking a bit tired and faded? Give it a modern look with a paint makeover.

Use a soft brush to remove any dust or dirt on the underside and top of the chair, then wipe it over with a clean, damp cloth. Allow to dry.

Turn the chair upside down and apply a coat of paint to the underside using a paintbrush.

Flip the chair the right way up and paint the top, back, sides and legs, stippling the paintbrush to ensure the paint gets into the gaps in the wicker and between the layers. Allow to dry.

Apply a second coat to the whole chair and allow to dry. 🌀



Stipple the brush to ensure the best coverage.

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WINTER WARMTH

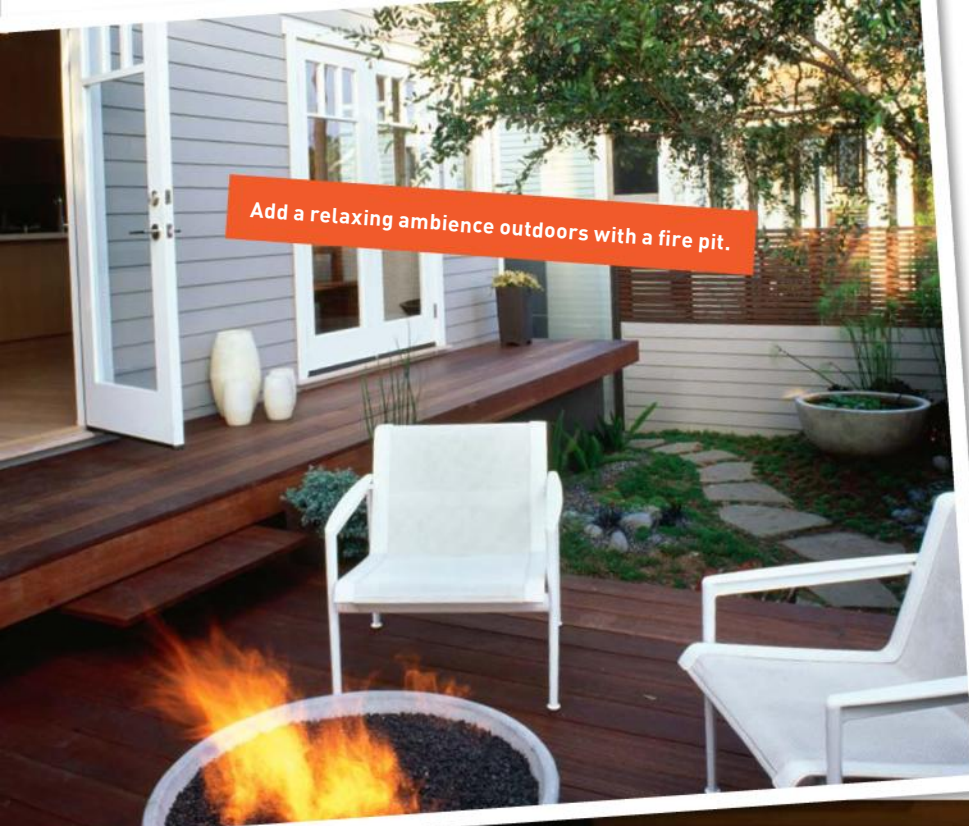
Make heating a priority so you can enjoy alfresco entertaining over the chilly season

WORDS SITA SIMONS

SAFETY TIP

Visit the website of your state fire service to check for guidelines and restrictions before lighting a fire, including campfires or a fire pit.

Add a relaxing ambience outdoors with a fire pit.



Create a cosy and welcoming atmosphere in your outdoor space when the sun is low and the temperature drops by making heat a top priority.

There are many options to choose from when it comes to elements that provide heat and comfort outside, from fire pits to mobile heatstrips that radiate over large areas.

Technology always catches up to trends and there has been an increase in the products available. ➤



Outdoor heating is the perfect way to get year-round use from decks and patios

A fire source provides the pull to draw people outside.





Huracán Fire Pit, \$349.



BUDGET TIP

A removable grill can be added to certain types of fire pits, transforming them into effective barbecues to cook or spit-roast food.

Double duty

There's no shortage of innovative ideas in this arena, as more people look for ways to make extra use of outdoor areas year-round.

Multifunctional pieces will work well in any environment, but they are especially useful in small courtyards and on decks and balconies.

These fire pits from Décofire (decofireheating.com.au) are refined in design and function as a table with the optional addition of a bamboo top.

Consider the space you have available before selecting the right product. A cylindrical shape takes up less floorspace, but a large bowl will heat a wider area. ➤

Orbis Fire Pit, \$239.





ADD WINTER WARMTH
WITH STYLE



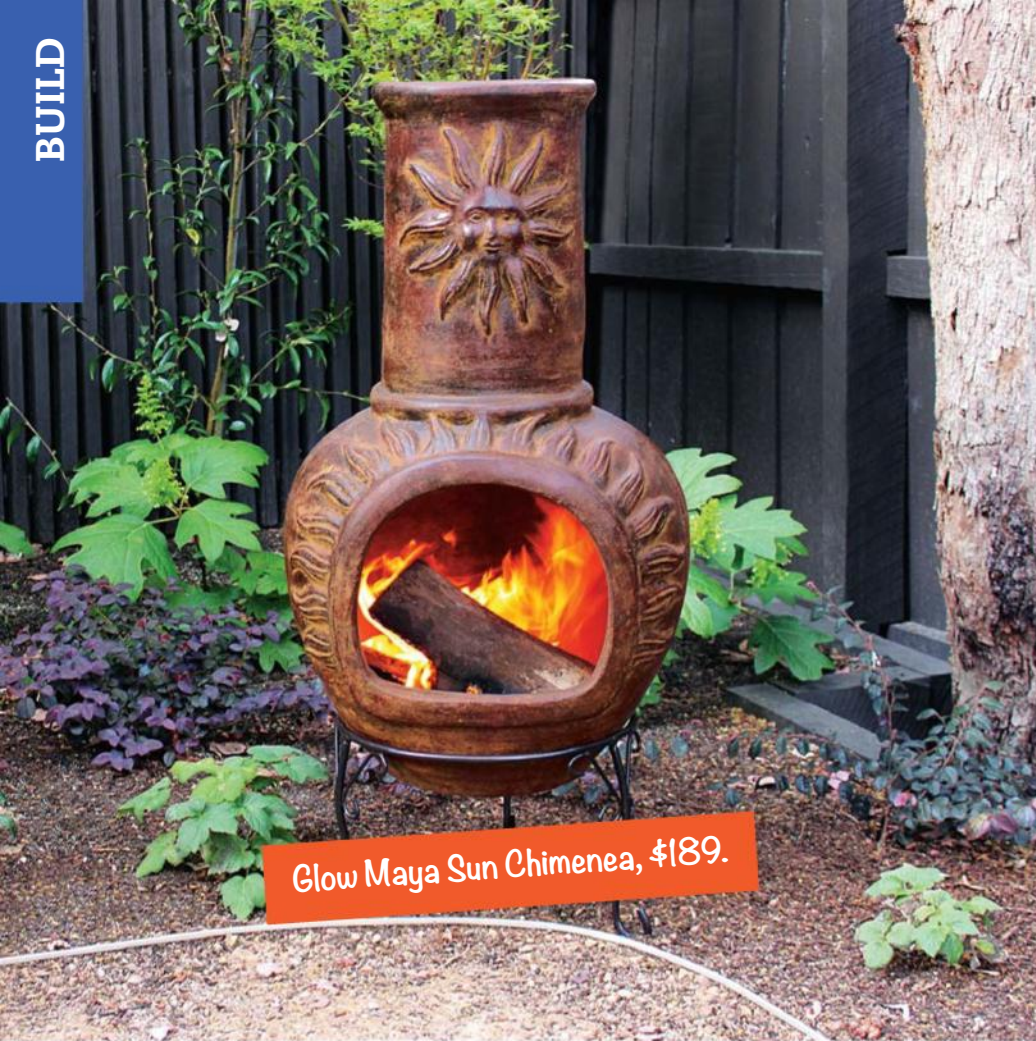
Turn your backyard into a warm entertaining area for family and friends. Simply light up a Glow fire pit and watch people migrate to the heart and soul of the garden.



Follow us on
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View our complete range at
www.northcotepottery.com/glow/

Available at
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warehouse



Glow Maya Sun Chimenea, \$189.



Glow Rustic Fire Pit, \$239.

Heat heroes

An open fireplace may be the ideal solution in terms of direct heat, but there are council regulations and neighbours to bear in mind.

Great alternatives are chimeneas and fire pits, such as these from the Glow range from Northcote Pottery (northcotepottery.com), which can be moved about as needed. Shaped like a light bulb, chimeneas have a tall top that acts like a chimney.

Simply stack with dry kindling and scrunched up newspaper as you would a regular fireplace, then light.

Chimeneas and fire pits do get very hot to the touch, so these options may not be ideal if you have young children or pets. ➤



Décofire Fire Drum, \$99.
decofireheating.com.au



Glow Machu Fire Pit, \$369.
northcotepottery.com

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NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD



Elegance



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HEALTH TIP

Infra-red technology in radiant heaters doesn't distribute allergens like forced-air systems can, making them suitable for allergy sufferers.

Heatstrip Portable Electric Heater, \$749.



Fiammetta Silver Hammered Patio Heater, \$169. bunnings.com.au



Fiammetta Silver Outdoor Patio Heater, \$179. bunnings.com.au

Radiant reward

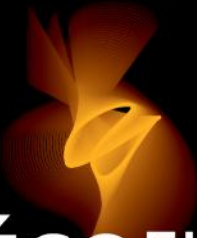
This Heatstrip Portable 1800W Electric Heater from Thermofilm (thermofilm.com.au) provides a quick, constant and radiant heat that is well balanced over large areas. And with no direct heat source, this is also a safe option if you have kids or pets.

Portable gas heaters are an easy and cost-effective option, with the distinct advantage of being easy to move about and position wherever needed.

A gas heater provides good ambient heat but in a limited radius, making them best suited to small spaces. 🌟



Radiant heating systems can be gas-fired or electric



DÉCOFIRE

THE HEAT IS ON

This winter, there is no need to huddle indoors to stay warm. Instead, make the most of the outdoors with the new range of fire pits from DÉCOFIRE.

Made from quality durable materials and available in a variety of styles, DÉCOFIRE fire pits provide comfort and style to any outdoor area.

To view the full range visit

www.decofireheating.com.au



For year round use, optional bamboo table top available and sold separately.

Huracán model shown

Available at
BUNNINGS
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Light up the night

Set the mood, make the most of the landscaping and enhance safety outdoors with the right lighting choices

WORDS SITA SIMONS

As the cooler months set in, adding warmth and ambience outdoors with good lighting provides the invitation to spend more time in the backyard.

Careful selection of outdoor lights in all the relevant positions sets the tone for the welcome your home offers for the whole family and your guests.

Now is also a good time to review your home security, as the nights are darker, and boosting your lighting is a powerful deterrent to burglars.

There are many options for each and every lighting need and there is nothing more effective for creating cheer and elevating safety than a well-thought out lighting plan.

SAFETY TIP

Ensure any light cables or leads are not a trip hazard by pegging them into the ground every metre using stainless steel pegs.

Outdoor room

In modern Australian home design, the outdoor space is a legitimate room and as much thought should be put into planning the lighting as inside.

Lighting may be needed for tasks such as cooking outdoors or serving food and drinks, as well as providing good illumination for safety after the sun goes down and creating ambience.

Make a list of things you regularly enjoy doing outdoors and plan your lighting needs accordingly.

Too many light sources will be overwhelming and possibly annoy neighbours, so choose carefully. ➤



HPM 12V LED Deck Light, about \$67 for four. hpm.com.au



Mercator 240V Bronte E27 Brass Wall Light, \$65. mercator.com.au



Brilliant 12V Denbury Step Light, \$79 for six. brilliantlighting.com.au



Paths & drives

Good path lighting is important for safety, especially for the edges, where there is a change in level between the hard surface and the garden.

For front paths, bulbs hung on poles or embedded into the ground work well. Check the light intensity to make sure you have sufficient brightness where you need it.

Wall-mounted lights are suitable for narrow driveways or can be installed on the house facade or above the garage door for extra guidance and security on dark nights.



HPM 12V Black Garden Spotlight, \$19. hpm.com.au



Arlec 12V Stainless Steel Accent Tier Garden Path Light, \$20. arlec.com.au



Sengled Home Automation Snap Security Camera and LED Floodlight, \$299. sengled.com.au



Garden beds

Illuminating planted areas not only serves to highlight for safety, but also to create a new aesthetic of the landscaping and make a very appealing feature in the evening.

The contrast of light and shadow through the foliage adds a feeling of tranquillity and depth to the garden.

By using LED spiked garden lights you can easily position the fittings to get the light just right, and allow for flexibility as the plants grow. ➤

PICTURE iSTOCK

EXTERIOR

verve
design

Looking for an exterior light?
You can decide to illuminate
your outdoor space with either
a bright or soft relaxing glow.

Select from a huge range of
decorative Verve Design
exterior wall lights.



LED
Bolton



LED
Croft



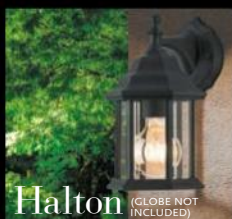
LED
Dalton



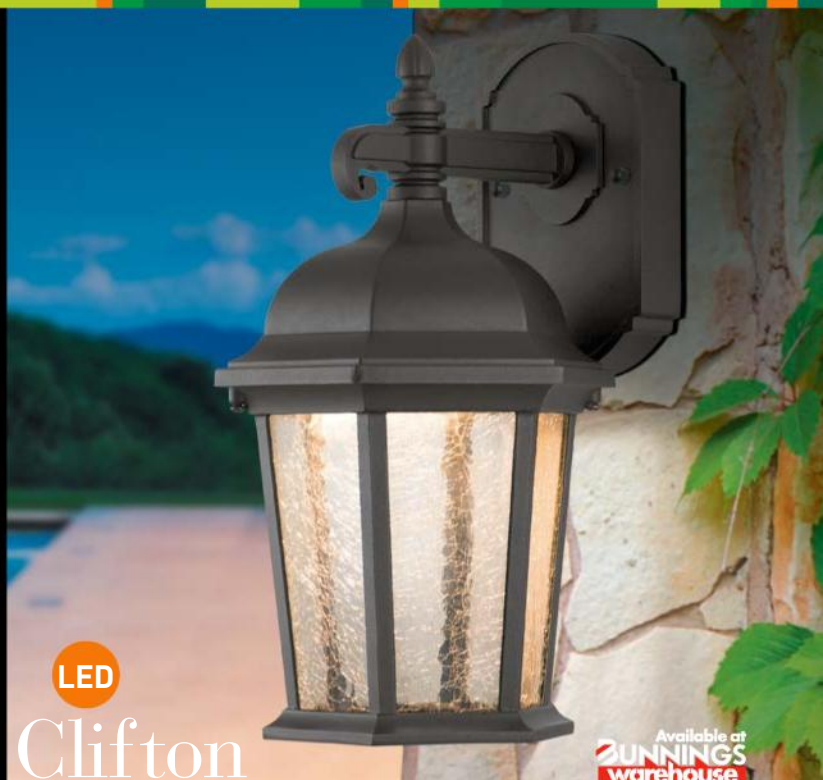
LED
Chester



LED
Witton



LED
Halton
(GLOBE NOT INCLUDED)



LED
Clifton

Available at
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Mood setting

Lighting has a major impact on the mood of any space, and the outdoors is no different. Too much feels harsh and uncomfortable, and too little is impractical and discourages activity.

Striking the right balance in entertaining areas relies on softer lighting from multiple sources.

Install direct lighting over barbecues and other task areas, but use string lights, lanterns and candles over and around seating and gathering areas. Position them to avoid glare. 🚫



Euro Design 37 x 37 x 29cm Coastal Lantern, \$50.
tuscanpath.com.au



Haven 23cm Pure Reflections White Arc Lantern, \$21.
haveninspired.com.au



Yale 6m LED Light String, \$1.
bunnings.com.au



10 Grey LED Decorative String Lights, \$8.
bunnings.com.au

PICTURES ISTOCK



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LEDVANCE.COM.AU

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★ BASIC SKILLS

Pressure washer



Power cleaning

Pressure washers pump water from a garden tap, rainwater tank or even a bucket, at more than 30 times the pressure of an ordinary hose, while using up to 80% less water. The pressure output is measured in pounds per square inch (psi).

This makes them useful for tough outdoor cleaning jobs, such as blasting dirt, weeds and moss from pavers or preparing decks for refinishing.

The high-pressure spray is directed through a handheld lance and nozzle, and is controlled by a trigger. Some models have a detergent inlet tube.

Petrol models are more powerful than electric units, delivering up to 3000psi. Electric models are cheaper and lighter, but need to be plugged into an electrical outlet. They operate at between 1300 and 2000psi.



➤ REJUVENATE PAVERS

Clear the area by removing large debris such as leaves and twigs using a broom, rake or blower. Mix an outdoor cleaner with water and apply to the entire area using a hand sprayer. Working downhill or towards drains, spray the entire area using a pressure washer to clean the pavers.



➤ RESTORE DECKING

Exposure to the elements means decks should be cleaned and refinished every year. To quickly remove dirt, mildew or moss, blast the deck using a pressure washer, then scrub with a deck cleaner and refinish. Avoid using pressure washers on damaged boards, as the spray can cause them to splinter.



➤ CLEAN WALLS

Exterior walls can accumulate dirt over time, detracting from the look of your home. Walls should also be cleaned before painting. Use a pressure washer to blast cobwebs, mildew and dirt from walls, starting at the top and working your way down. Don't exceed 2000psi, as this can damage the surface.

sikkens

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★ ORIGINS

Steel

DIY TIP

Galvanised and stainless steel fasteners are both suitable for outdoors, and while stainless steel is more expensive, it's more resistant to corrosion.



Steel is an alloy of iron, carbon and other elements. First created about 3000 years ago, it is one of the most common materials used for construction today.

Early smelting techniques involved heating abundant iron ore to extract pure iron. By adding carbon in the form of charcoal, stronger and more malleable steel could be created.

Today, steel is made by heating iron ore, limestone and coke in a blast furnace. Blowing oxygen through the molten metal removes impurities, making it usable as steel.

Other elements are added to create different types of steel for specific purposes. The molten steel is cast into slabs or rods, which are milled into various shapes for use in manufacturing.



Over 60% of steel is made from recycled scrap

Stainless steel benchtops are durable and hygienic.



Types of steel

⚙️ **MILD STEEL** contains a small amount of carbon and is the most common form of steel.

Strong and malleable, it is commonly used for construction, manufacturing and furniture. It has poor corrosion resistance unless painted or coated.

⚙️ **STAINLESS STEEL** contains up to 20% chromium, with low amounts

of other metals, giving it strong corrosion resistance. It is used for cutlery, sinks, benchtops, car parts and exterior cladding and fasteners.

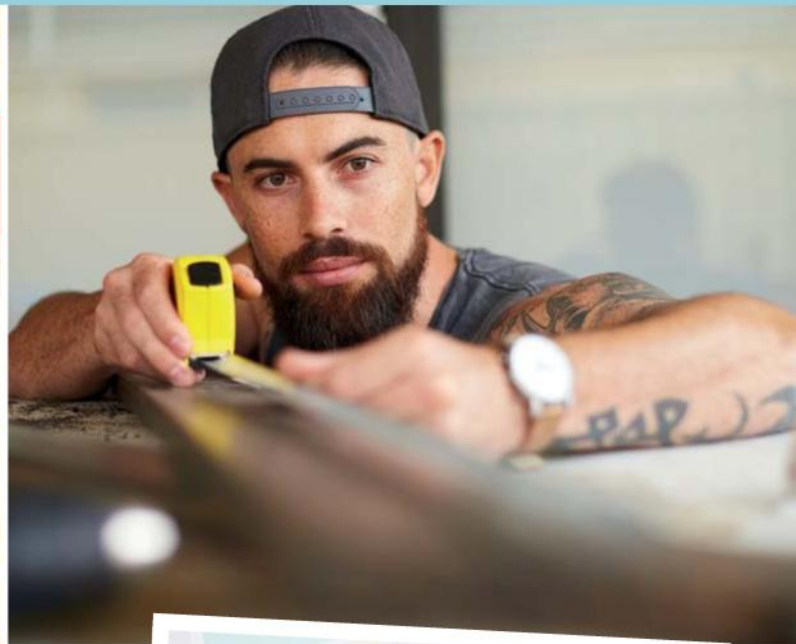
⚙️ **TOOL STEEL** contains tungsten, vanadium, cobalt and molybdenum to increase its heat and abrasion resistance, hardness and durability. This makes it useful for hand tools, drill bits and saw blades.

@ProjectPete

Workshop Member Profile



Pete isn't afraid to tackle any DIY project around the house, big or small.



'I'm a fairly handy kind of guy and will try to tackle basically any job,' says Workshop member ProjectPete.

Pete loves the challenge and the satisfaction of DIYing.

'It feels so good to look at new paving, a painted house or furniture I've built knowing I did it rather than pay someone else to do it.'

Projects that Pete has shared with the Workshop community include a recycled sleeper garden bed, a cubbyhouse, a vertical plant display and a laundry reno.

He was fortunate to have had a great mentor as a youngster.

'I learned most things from my old man while growing up. Now I'm a dad myself to twin girls, who certainly keep me on my toes.'

Pete was immediately excited by the concept of the Workshop community, and keen to be a community founder.

'I love digital, social media, online community, talking, learning, DIY and Bunnings, so it's the best place for all of that.'



'Once you get the foundation, it's pretty easy to build on, as long as you're confident'

Set up a home workshop

Pete's next plan is to transform his garage into a proper home workshop for his projects.

'At the moment, it's ad hoc. I aim to have it a bit more established in the next few months.'

If you plan to turn your garage into a workshop, a workbench with storage for tools and equipment is essential.

You'll find step-by-step instructions to build four different workbenches at handyman.net.au/workbenches.

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

workshopTM

COASTAL CHARM

Reality TV stars Kyal and Kara Demmrich take us through their latest stunning renovation

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES ROSE JANE PHOTO

Famous for their renovations on television, where they scooped over half a million dollars for their efforts, Kyal and Kara Demmrich honed their considerable skills well before they made it to reality TV.

The couple, who have recently welcomed a baby boy, started saving for a house when Kara was a student and Kyal was an apprentice.

Determination and dedication paid off when they bought their first place on Sydney's Central Coast, and the rest, as Kara says, is history.

Their latest renovation project was the waterfront home they always wanted. From a totally dilapidated red-brick eyesore that they saw and settled on within a week, a stylish and sophisticated beach house was born.

Relocating the garage from under the house to the side made space for another bedroom and bathroom inside the property.





Living upstairs

To capitalise on the lovely views and capture the ocean breezes, the kitchen, and living and dining rooms, are all on the top floor, as well as three bedrooms and a study.

While the ceilings are a standard 2.4m high, Kara wanted to bring in as much light as possible and opted for Velux skylights. This meant she could then be dramatic with colour.

‘As the kitchen is the first thing you see when you walk up the stairs, the skylights were definitely worth the outlay for the wow factor they give on first impression.

‘Not to mention all the natural light they provide,’ says Kara. ➤



Skylights over an island bench make it a focal point and flood the kitchen with natural light



Special details

A bank of full-length cabinet doors in the kitchen makes a bold colour statement but also has a multitude of practical purposes.

The fridge is completely integrated and the centre doors open to reveal a deep butler's pantry behind.

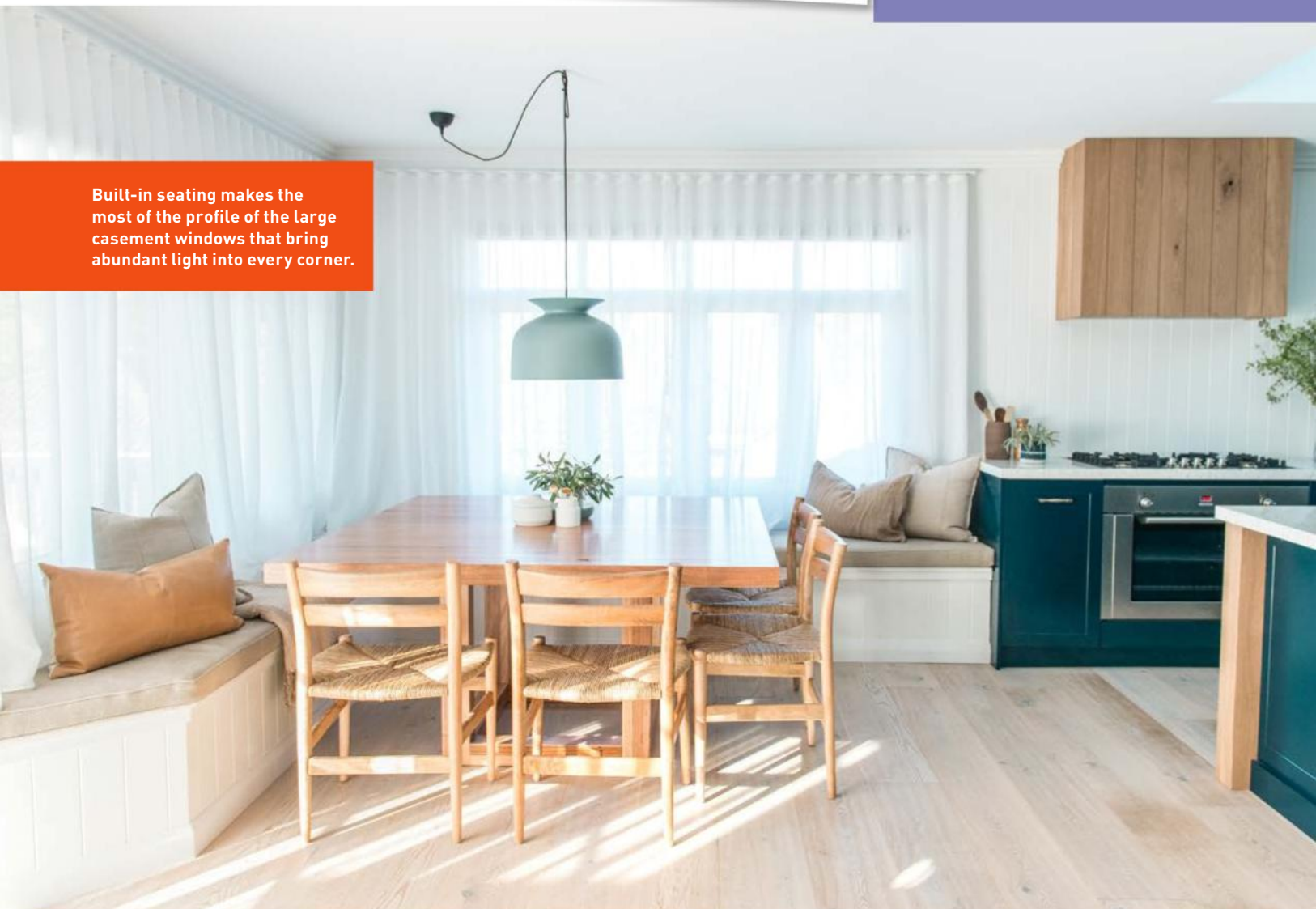
'Originally, we planned a large study that would sit along the side of the kitchen, but we decided to halve it to create this hidden space,' says Kara.

The dining area naturally flows on from the kitchen and is positioned in a bright and sunny spot to take advantage of the morning light.



Classic Shaker-style kitchen cabinetry in Taubmans Midnight Hour contrasts with beachy timbers.

Built-in seating makes the most of the profile of the large casement windows that bring abundant light into every corner.





Featuring white walls and limewashed floors, Kara introduced pops of coastal colour to the neutral scheme.



Adding colour

The backdrop of the house is white walls and ceilings and limewashed floors throughout, but Kara says that there is nothing she likes less than a boring space.

Her trick is to introduce texture and pops of colour wherever possible.

She stuck to a coastal palette of blues, greens and greys mixed with the varying patinas, grains and warmth of natural timbers.

Taubmans Cotton Ball is used on all the walls in the living area, but Kara wanted just the one surface behind the TV to be dark.

'We chose Taubmans Timbrell Grey, which has a green hue that picks up on the colour in the kitchen.

'I love these colours with the oak in both the kitchen and the entertainment unit,' says Kara. ➤

Mixing materials

Getting the main bathroom designed and installed was a priority for the couple, who were living in the space while renovating and shifting from room to room as progress was made.

Kyal says that per square metre, the bathroom is the most time consuming, complex and expensive area to renovate, with a lot of time dedicated to the initial planning.

'I love that when you look down the corridor, what you see first is the bath under the window. On initial viewing, you might think it's a simple white bathroom, but no,' says Kara.

Scale, colour and material are all at play in the bathroom.

'When the tiler saw the mix, he thought I was crazy, but the effect in the end is exactly what I wanted.' ➤



Louvred shutters are a stylish and simple way to control light and airflow in the bathroom

Layers of colour and texture were used to create a luxurious bathroom with a calming ambience.



The subtle pattern of the floor tile is carried through to the shower, while an oak vanity grounds the design.



All the main living spaces open onto the upstairs balcony, and the master bedroom takes its own corner, with a door.







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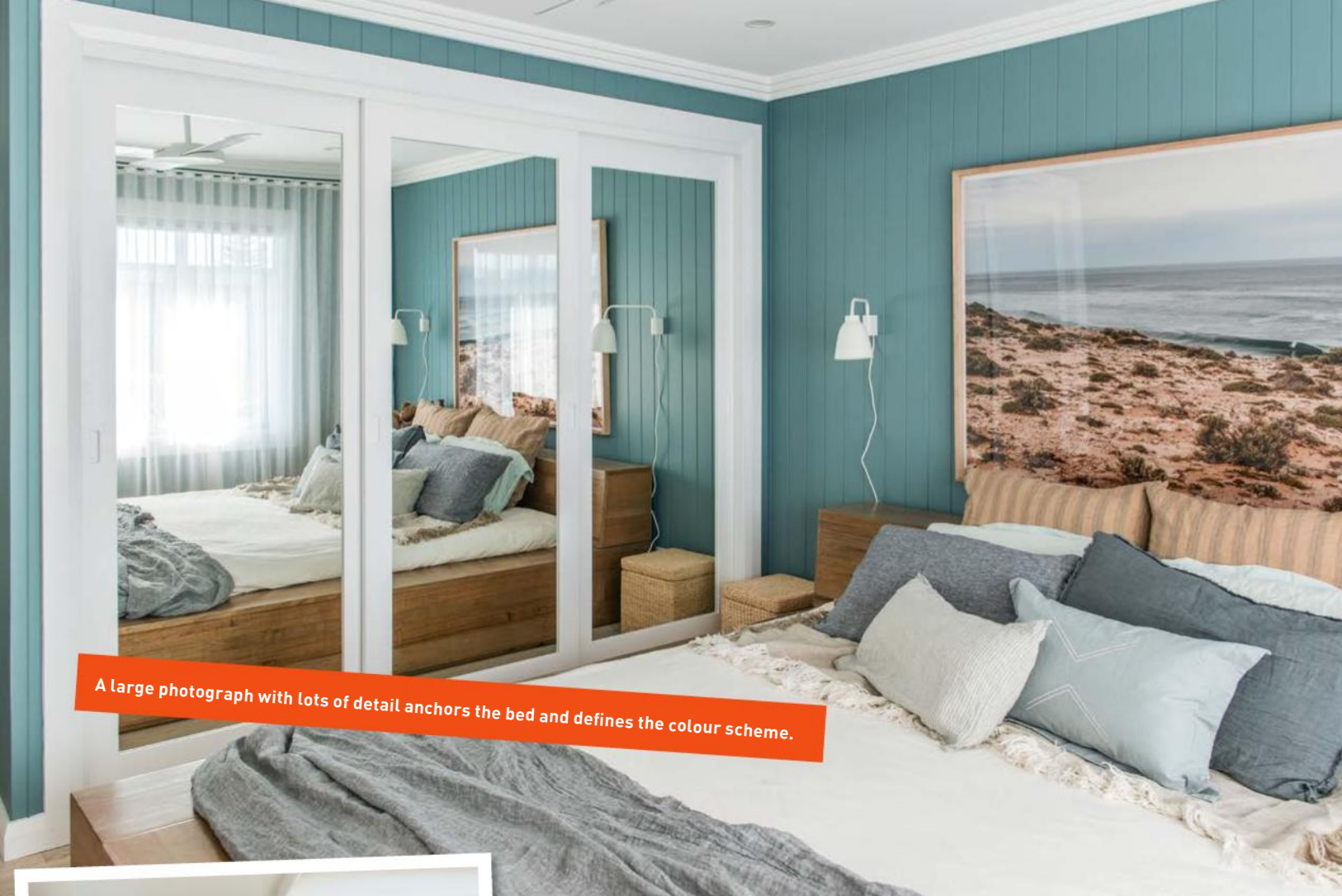


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A large photograph with lots of detail anchors the bed and defines the colour scheme.



Beachy beds

With the north-east sun filtering into the bedroom, Kara wanted to create a restful haven that would provide more than just a place to sleep.

A wall of custom-built wardrobes feature mirror doors to reflect and bounce the light around the room.

The colour palette was elevated again by the use of textures, from the walls to the print behind the bed.

'The bed was always going to be the main feature, so the bedding really plays into the overall feel.

'I love all the soft linens in this room and the floaty curtains, which make it a calming and inviting place to be,' says Kara.

A door instead of bifolds connects the room to the balcony, to signal privacy and containment.

Low-allergy design

Kyal and Kara prioritised using low-allergy and safe materials, as they were welcoming a new baby.

Gyprock Sensitive plasterboard was used throughout the main house and studio to line the walls and create sweeping ceilings.

Gyprock hypoallergenic plasterboard is the first and only

residential plasterboard to be approved by the National Asthma Council Australia's Sensitive Choice program as a better choice for asthma and allergy sufferers.

Treated with a powerful but gentle anti-fungal agent, Gyprock Sensitive is designed to resist mould growth, which enhances the quality of living for all residents.

A photograph of a modern outdoor deck. The deck is made of light-colored wood and features a white table with green chairs. A large potted tree stands on the right side of the deck. The background wall is dark blue with horizontal siding. A green lamp is mounted on the wall. The deck is bordered by a low wooden wall.

Decked out

Casual and easy-care outdoor spaces are also a feature of the renovation, and Kara chose a theme but didn't labour it or go off on tangents.

'When I think of a classic beach house, I see traditional finishes such as weatherboard, timber decking, white window frames and hammocks.

'When we purchased this property, our goal was to create a classic,' says Kara.

'This is a style and design that will last. If anything, these homes get better with age, as charm is added with styling, gardens growing and decks greying off.' ➤

When it came to design and finishing, the studio was given as much care and attention as the main house.

Studio style

The block had a large side driveway space and a decent-sized back garden, and the couple immediately saw the potential for extra living space.

A two-bedroom studio sits separate from the main house and operates as a holiday rental for others to enjoy the coastal lifestyle.

'With only 60sqm to work with, there wasn't enough space for both an island bench and dining table, so we combined the two,' says Kara.

'To avoid this looking too bulky, we used custom-steel framing that we had powdercoated white.'

Raked ceilings and the inclusion of Velux windows over the island increase the sense of volume.

For more renovation details and lots of design inspiration, head over to kyalandkara.com.au. 📍



Sandblasted oak is a design feature used throughout.



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- An adult's breath and perspiration creates around 1.25 litres of moisture per day
- 35% of Australian households surveyed have experienced mould
- Australians spend 90% of their time indoors
- The air in homes contains a range of pollutants – often much more concentrated than outside air
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What's trending

Workshop Talk & Tips

Join the discussion

Kitchen wishlist

'With two teenagers and a raft of electronic devices, I would add a hidden charging station'

@Jason

'A rangehood that doesn't sound like a 747 engine'

@Kim

'Stone benchtops rather than timber, as timber upkeep is a bit annoying'

@Darren

FAST FACT

31%

of Workshop members use their spare room as a home office.

Share your pics



@handyumum



@ProjectPete



@Fergus



@Christos

Workshop is a fun online space where you can ask DIY and gardening questions, share photos and videos of your projects, get tips and inspiration for your home and much more.

To join the discussion, sign up at workshop.com.au

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LUXE LIGHTING

Transform your home with custom lighting into a designer oasis you'll never want to leave

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Most people are concerned more about their lighting bill and less about lighting design. But picking the right style of lighting and globe can have a huge impact on the feel of a home.

Choosing appropriately means you can tailor an area or room to suit your individual style and create a specific mood.

From bulb base, brightness and energy consumption to the shape and size of the fitting, each choice has an impact not only on the overall look, but also on electricity costs.

From downlights, pendants and lamps to LEDs and CFLs, choosing the right fitting and globe for each room in your home is easy to achieve by taking a few basics into consideration.

Light levels

By now, we've all heard about how the light our computer screens and phones emit can adversely affect our sleep, but you may not realise all forms of light play a role in setting or disrupting our body clock.

The increase and decrease in sunlight each day sends signals to the body that trigger hormones to wake us up or send us to sleep. Within the confines of our home, we can miss these signals, which disrupts sleep.

New innovations in lighting systems and smart technology mean

we can control lighting to better suit our natural rhythm without being a slave to sunlight levels.

A system such as Philips Hue allows you to automatically schedule your lighting, from a faux sunrise instead of an alarm clock to get you going in the morning to setting up optimal conditions for a good night's rest.

Another simple mood enhancer is to change your globes to ones that can be switched between whiter cool lighting during the day and yellowish warm lighting for night-time. ➤



The style of light fitting and type of bulb has a big impact on the mood of a room or space

TOP PICKS

Philips Hue White and Color Ambiance Extension Bulb A19 E27, \$90.



Jedi 5.5W E14 2 in 1 LED Bulb, \$15. jedi-light.com



Jedi iDual Chrome LED Performa Downlight with Remote Control, \$169 for three.



Philips Hue HomeKit Upgrade Bridge, \$90. philips.com.au

Types & styles

Overhead ambient and task lighting can blend in or act as a design feature.

Wall or ceiling mounted, or freestanding, fitting and fixture styles can be combined for different effects.



Lamps

A great way to add atmosphere, lamps are also ideal for zoning open-plan living spaces.

Position next to an armchair or couch to create a reading nook, or next to a bed for ease of use and warm ambient lighting.



Pendant lights

Popular over kitchen benchtops and islands, and dining tables, pendant lights are a bold stylistic choice that add texture, colour and a focal point.

In living areas, a low pendant light can function the same way as a lamp, or in a kitchen can provide task lighting.

TOP PICKS



Cafe Lighting Oak Panda Table Lamp, \$40.
cafelighting.com.au



Verve Design 40cm Black Argo Pendant, \$169.
bunnings.com.au



Rouge 156cm 40W Ibis Floor Lamp, \$139.
rougeliving.com.au



Crompton Soho Pendant, \$149.
crompton.com.au

Downlights

Downlights can be used in any room or space, from the kitchen and bathroom to the hallway. They can also be used as task lighting above workspaces such as kitchen benchtops or in a study.

Wall lights

Often fitted either side of a bedhead for a high-end hotel effect, wall lights are used as an accent or for a softer lighting option instead of downlights in living spaces. ➤

 See more lighting ideas
Visit pinterest.com/DIYHandyman



Brilliant 24cm Clementine Wall Sconce, \$23.
brilliantlighting.com.au



Brilliant 20W Sellar Brushed Chrome Sconce Wall Light, about \$19.



HPM 12V 7W 550lm Warm White Fixed LED Downlight, \$37. hpm.com.au



Arlec 5W LED Warm White Gimbal Downlight Kit, \$17. arlec.com.au

Osram 10.5W LED Dimmable Warm White Fixed Downlight, \$25. osram.com.au



Buying bulbs

Choosing a replacement bulb used to be about clear versus frosted and screw-in versus bayonet, but now there are more choices to consider.

Historically, incandescent bulbs were the go-to, but a move towards energy-efficient products meant halogen lights eventually took over.

Low-voltage halogen downlights are now the most commonly used in Australia. While they last longer and use less energy than standard bulbs, they have been eclipsed by LED bulbs.

Although more expensive, LEDs can last up to 20 years and are up to 85% more efficient than traditional globes. Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) are also an energy-efficient option, but only last up to five years.

LEDs come in cool and warm colour temperatures. Measured in Kelvins (K), look for bulbs close to 2700K for a warm light similar to incandescent lights. Cool lights are 4000K and above and are similar to natural daylight. ❌



DIY TIP

Choose an 800 lumens LED light to replace a 60W incandescent bulb, as they offer the same brightness but use less energy.

TOP PICKS

Sengled E27 Home Automation Wifi Boost LED Globe, \$99. sengled.com.au



Jedi iDual LED 7W E14 RGB Bulb, \$47. jedi-light.com



Osram 12V Dimmable Warm White LED Globe, \$9. osram.com.au



Philips 6W Cool Daylight ES A Shape LED Globe, \$7. philips.com.au



Luce Bella 7W 470L GU10 Warm White LED Globe, \$26 for four. bunnings.com.au





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Whether you simply want a straight replacement of existing halogen downlights without the bells and whistles, the DLI non-dimmable range is recommended. If you are looking to add a little wow into your home and create some ambiance, DLI dimmable options with Flex & Plug included is the best option – whatever your need, you can expect the same quality and performance.

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Light fixtures are one of the easiest ways to add a designer look to a room, and pendant lights are both sophisticated and functional at the same time.

There are pendant lights available to suit any space, including warm and organic timber styles, modern geometric designs, and metal and concrete pieces for the industrial look.

Install pendant lights over dining and bedside tables and kitchen benches to create stylish ambience.



Warm it up with Home Design Timber Grove Pendant, \$119, and Mesen Pendant, \$149.

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

DIY TIP

During installation, have your electrician hold the pendant light at different heights to ensure you are happy with its position.



Go modern with Home Design 26cm Bazzano, Teramo and Castelli Pendants, \$59 each.



Add an industrial edge with Home Design 12cm Factory Pendant, \$99 each.



Inject geometric style with Brilliant 28.5cm Matrix Black Pendant, \$158 each.



Pendant lights work well as both task lighting and statement pieces

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Create high-impact spaces with bold painted shapes and patterns that are simple to DIY

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES TIM ROBINSON STYLING GRACE GARRETT

The feature wall has evolved from just one injection of contrasting colour in a room to special paint effects that lift the look and feel to a whole new level.

Taubmans Brand Ambassador and interior design expert, Shaynna Blaze, has a few handy tips for making paint effects work well without the look overwhelming the space.

'Be aware of the intensity of the colour and how many shapes and angles you put in a room, as less is more,' says Shaynna.

'Simple is best for bedrooms, nurseries and main areas, so two or three colours is perfect. Keep the shapes to a basic repetitive pattern if using stencils, and one or two major angles if you are doing linear shapes.' ➤



Use your eye as a guide for the right angle and number of shapes, stepping back often to take in the whole picture.





BEDROOM WALL

Inspire creativity and design a bedroom your kids will love with this mountain pattern, which is fun without being overwhelming.

The striking motif is equally at home in a girl or boy's room, and the shades of grey used here work well as a background for colourful accessories.

Prepare the walls using Taubmans Pure Performance, 3 in 1, or Easycoat Prep, choosing a light colour that will complement the design.

When applying the tape, decrease the gap between each layer as you go up the wall to create the illusion of distance and a 3D effect.

DIY TIP

For a standard wall height of 2.4m, use four layers of mountains and for a room with a 3m high ceiling, use five layers.

CYBERPUNK
QUARTER

CYBERPUNK
HALF

CYBERPUNK



Brightness factor

Stylist Grace Garrett says that, traditionally, warm colours advance and cool colours recede, but studies have found it's brightness not warmth that is the significant factor.

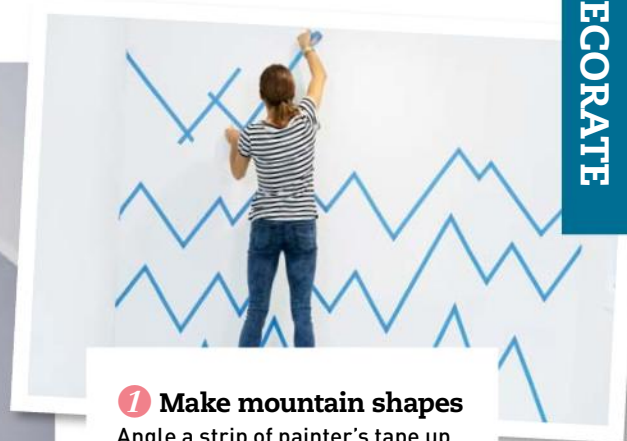
A cool greyed-off yellow will recede, while a bright yellow will advance, making the space appear smaller.





Share your paint projects

Post a pic to Instagram and tag @HandymanMagazine



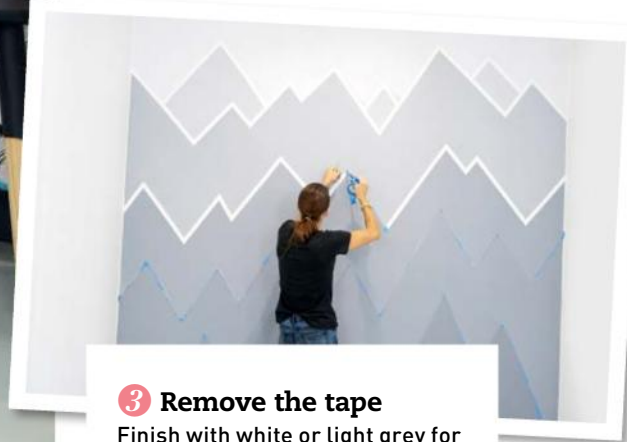
1 Make mountain shapes

Angle a strip of painter's tape up from the left side of the wall, then add another strip in the opposite direction, crossing at the top and leaving excess on both sides. Stand back and adjust as needed.



2 Paint the layers

Trim excess tape. Use separate paint trays and a small roller for each colour. Start at the base of the wall and work up, making sure to touch the tape without going over too much.



3 Remove the tape

Finish with white or light grey for the top section. After two hours, recoat, then wait another two hours before carefully removing the tape. Touch up the edges with a small brush if needed. ➤

DINING WALL

If there's one room in the house that can handle a dramatic treatment, it's the dining room.

As a space specifically designed for entertaining and special occasions, use black or dark colours to create intimacy and impact.

A combination of matt and gloss paint makes for a fun and original wallpaper look, where you control the outcome with the colour, size of the shapes and repetition of the pattern.

This is ideal for dining rooms, as it's bold without overwhelming a space where you traditionally socialise and gather around food.

Bring the pattern to life using soft, indirect lighting or even candlelight that will reflect in the gloss finish.



Contrasting accessories

When the walls are dramatic and defining, accessorising can be a real challenge.

Introduce a strong element of contrast by bringing natural materials into the aesthetic.

Timber softens dark walls, and woven fabrics and shells add extra contrast that highlights the walls without the dark being oppressive.

A lush hit of greenery in the form of a fiddle leaf fig plant in a corner can also bring the room to life.



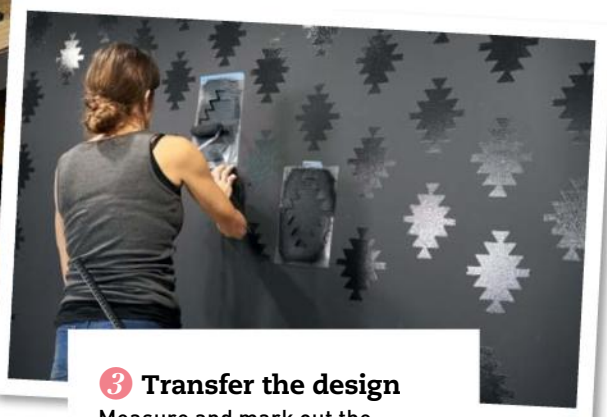
1 Paint the walls

Prepare the walls using Taubmans Pure Performance, Easycoat Prep or 3 in 1. Paint the walls using a matt sheen in Black Fox. Leave to dry for two hours and apply a second coat.



2 Make the stencil

Print the chosen design onto thick paper or card, cover with a plastic A4 pocket, then tape securely in position on a cutting board. Trace carefully using a sharp blade, making sure you have a clean cut.



3 Transfer the design

Measure and mark out the position for the stencils on your wall. Using painter's tape, secure 4-5 stencils in position. Apply a gloss paint finish using a small roller. Repeat across the wall. ➤

BLACK FOX
GLOSS

BLACK FOX
MATT

OFFICE WALL



Working with colour and shapes in the study can help enhance effectiveness, focus and creativity.

Taubmans recently partnered with leading author and neuroscientist Dr Stan Rodski to explore the positive benefits of patterns and colours.

Different patterns can stimulate certain behaviours. Circles represent comfort, completeness and continuity. Squares equal power, balance, and reliability, while triangles can encourage change, progress and balance.

Selecting colours that are either calming or stimulating, depending on your needs, is the final step in creating the perfect office environment.



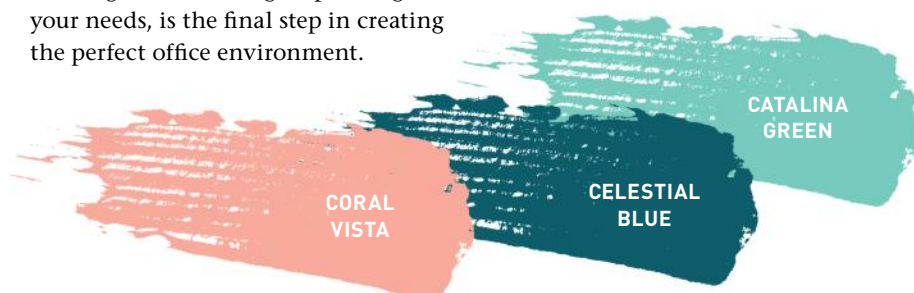
1 Tape the pattern

Mark a straight edge from floor to ceiling, then experiment with the angles you want to complete the design, keeping the tape slightly raised before securing firmly once the pattern is decided.



2 Paint each section

Paint a section at a time. Apply two coats, allowing two hours drying time in between. Remove and reapply tape, being careful to line up exactly against the painted edge. Repeat with all sections. ➤



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Gorilla 120kg 2 Step Household Step Ladder, \$69. gorillaladders.com.au



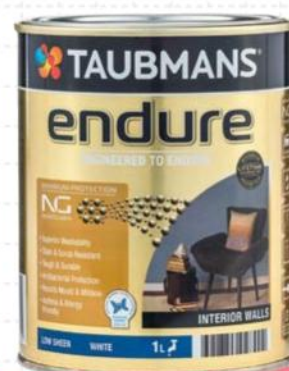
Monarch 100mm Razorback Smart Lock Mini Roller Fabric Long Frame, \$10. austbrush.com.au



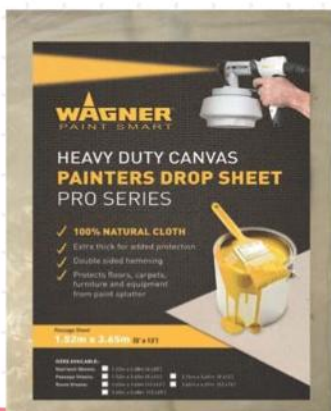
Uni-Pro 230mm Paint Tray With Brush Holders, \$8. unipro.com.au



Bear 24mm x 50m Painters Gold Masking Tape, \$7. saint-gobain.com.au



Taubmans Endure White Low Sheen Interior Walls, \$41 for 1L. taubmans.com.au



Wagner 1.52 x 3.65m Heavy Duty Canvas Painters Drop Sheet, \$20. wagneraustralia.com.au



Staedtler Hard Carpenters Pencil, about \$2. staedtler.com.au

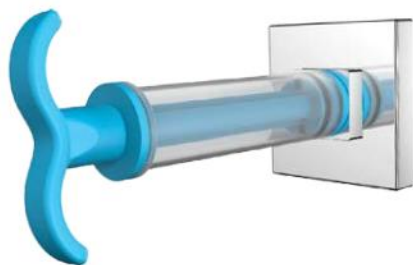


CraftRight 600 and 300mm Stainless Steel Ruler Pack, \$5. bunnings.com.au



Lufkin 5m Fluorolok Tape Measure, \$16. lufkin.com.au

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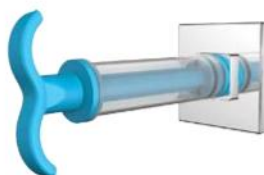
It's as easy as...



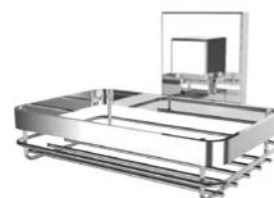
1 **PREPARE** the surface
by cleaning and allow
to air dry



2 **PRESS** the cover
against the surface
with arrow facing down



3 **PUMP** 6 times
(pump included)



4 **ENJOY** in under
30 seconds

Don't put up with suction cups that keep falling off



STYLE BATHROOM ACCESSORIES powered by Vacuum Fusion Technology



NO TOOLS
required



Can be installed
100's of times



Over 50% stronger
than suction*



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Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse
bunnings.com.au

Available mid March 2017

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

WOW-FACTOR WALLS

Think beyond skirting and picture rails and use timber mouldings to create decorative features in your home

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Arrange mouldings diagonally on walls to add drama to an interior.

Mouldings traditionally serve both functional and aesthetic purposes, covering the gaps between surfaces and also adding visual interest.

While they are normally used for skirting boards, picture and dado rails or architraves, they can be used to provide dramatic wall treatments.

Made from timber milled to a variety of profiles, mouldings can be applied creatively to walls to add depth and structure, as the intricate shapes of the timber cast appealing shadows.

ABOVE Use mouldings and dowels for wall storage.
BELOW Clad bare surfaces with half-round dowels.

Install wall panelling

Panelled walls are traditionally seen in older homes, but impressive features can be created using mouldings with modern profiles.

Arranging mouldings in geometric shapes suits contemporary interiors, and different sections can be painted with complementary pastel shades, channelling the Scandinavian look.

To install mouldings on the wall, mark out the design first using a pencil and spirit level. Butt the pieces against each other at a 90° angle to minimise complex cuts.

TIP Keep any diagonal lines at a 45° angle to make mitres easier. ➤

GET THE DESIGNER LOOK using the range of timber mouldings from Porta. They come in 1.2, 1.8, 2.4 and 3m lengths, costing from about \$3 to \$10 per metre (porta.com.au).

Half-round dowel

Rounded edging

Ribbed edging

Quad

Restore period features

Over the decades, older homes can lose their character, as damaged timber mouldings are replaced with modern items, or removed entirely during unsympathetic renovations.

Preserving existing period features or restoring those that have been lost can help retain the character of the home, creating a more coherent space.

When adding period details, work from the features that are already there, selecting mouldings that match existing elements to maintain a consistent style. 🛠️



Securing mouldings

To attach mouldings to a wall, apply a bead of adhesive along the back of the moulding, then position it against the wall. Use a brad nailer to secure it to the wall.

DIY TIP

Calculate the total length of mouldings you'll need, then add about 10-15% extra to allow for wastage and any mistakes.

▶ **How to install a picture rail**
Visit handyman.net.au/picture-rail

Classic wall panelling enhances period homes.

TOP PICKS



Ozito 250mm 2100W Sliding Compound Mitre Saw, \$189. ozito.com.au



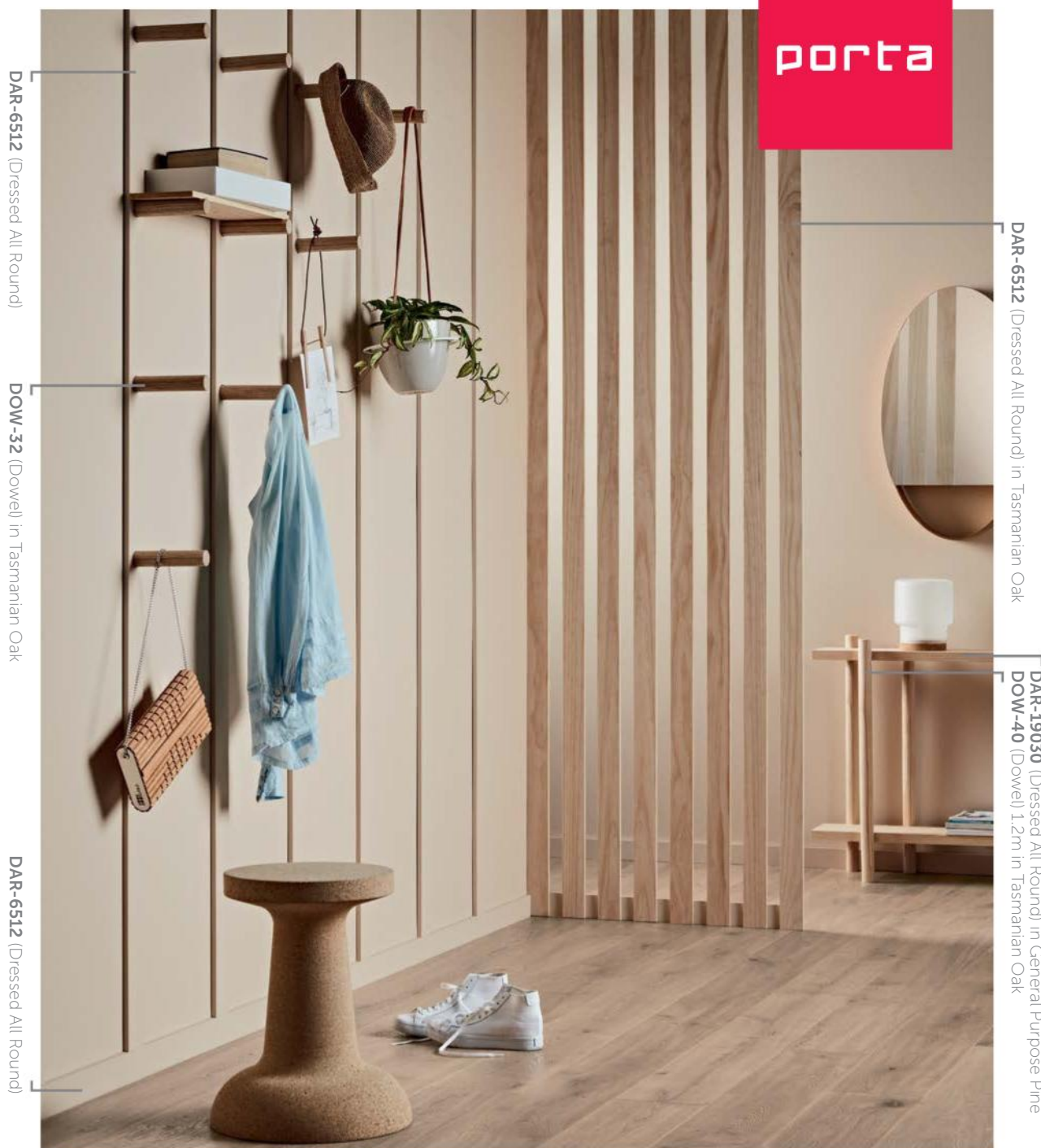
Ryobi One+ 18V Airstrike Cordless Brad Nailer, \$239, skin only. ryobi.com.au



Sika MaxTack Construction Adhesive, \$11 for 300ml. sikaretail.com.au

people who know & love timber

porta



Take your project to the next level with timber mouldings.

Available from Bunnings Warehouse
and major timber & hardware outlets.

porta.com.au

Find it at Bunnings

HOW TO MAKE A WINE RACK

Turn basic formply into a deluxe display for your collection of wine

A wine rack is essential in any entertainer's home, as it provides a handy way to store and display bottles.

This compact and portable rack doesn't take up excess bench space and can be moved out of the way when preparing food.

The face of the rack is secured at an angle, which prevents it from toppling over. Bottles are inserted into the holes in the face, which are cut to size to hold them securely.

The angle of the face tilts the bottles downward, which stops corks from drying out, preserving the wine and preventing it from spoiling.

To create the angle, cut a 30° mitre along the edge of the base using a sliding compound mitresaw. If you don't have one, you can also make the cut using a circular saw or jigsaw with an adjustable base plate.

Sand the edges of the wine rack with 120 grit abrasive paper, leaving them raw for an industrial look.

What you need

- 1800 x 1200 x 17mm formply
- PVA adhesive
- 40mm timber screws
- Cordless drill
- 38mm hole saw
- 3mm countersink drill bit
- Nailgun and brads
- 120 grit sandpaper
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Combination square
- Sliding compound mitresaw
- Safety glasses
- Ear muffs
- Gloves
- Dust mask



Keep wine on display with a streamlined rack that holds up to six bottles



1 Cut the formply

Use a circular saw and a straightedge to cut a 435 x 290mm piece for the face and a 290 x 200mm piece for the base. Cut with the good side facing down and set the blade depth 5mm more than the thickness of the timber.



2 Make the supports

On a piece of formply, mark 150mm from the corner on one edge and 85mm from the corner on the other edge. Draw a line between these points to form a triangle. Cut the triangle using a sliding compound mitresaw.



3 Cut a mitre on the base

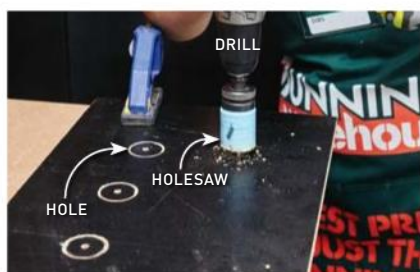
The face of the wine rack is tilted at an angle to prevent it from toppling over when full of wine bottles. To create the angle, tilt the blade of the sliding compound mitresaw 30°, then make the cut along the edge of the face.

STYLE TIP

Paint the front of your rack with chalkboard paint and write the name of a recipe under each bottle that pairs well with the wine.

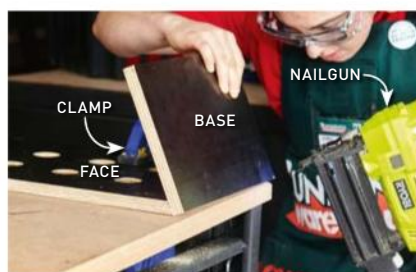


Watch the video 'How to make a D.I.Y. wine rack' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



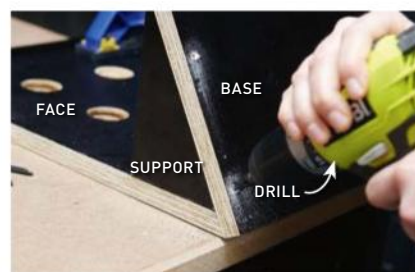
4 Make the holes

Mark the centres of six holes, with the lowest two 120mm from the base of the rack and each hole centre spaced 100mm apart. Use a 38mm hole saw to cut out the holes, drilling halfway before continuing from the other side.



5 Secure the base

Clamp the face to the workbench, then apply PVA adhesive along the mitred edge of the face. Position the base against the mitred edge and secure the two pieces together using a nailgun. Wipe away excess adhesive.



6 Attach the supports

Position the supports between the face and the base on either side and secure with a nailgun. Drill pilot holes with a 3mm countersink bit through the base into the face and supports, then secure using 40mm timber screws.

Child's play

Teach your kids hopscotch, a timeless game you can play anywhere, anytime

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

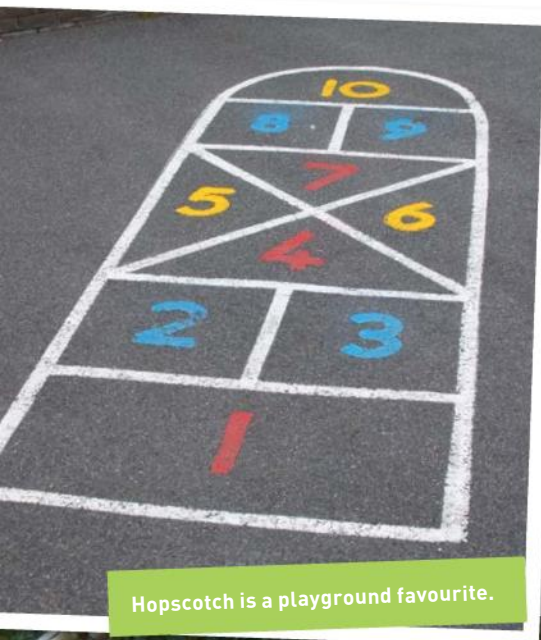
Traditionally played on any flat surface that can be drawn on, hopscotch is a favourite game passed down to each new generation.

Dating as far back as the Roman Empire, its modern English name comes from the aim of the game to hop over the line, known as the scotch line.

An all-inclusive game, it has no limit on the number of players and in its most basic form requires a patch of concrete, chalk and a stone to throw.

Have a go at these versions with your kids in the school holidays.





Hopscotch is a playground favourite.

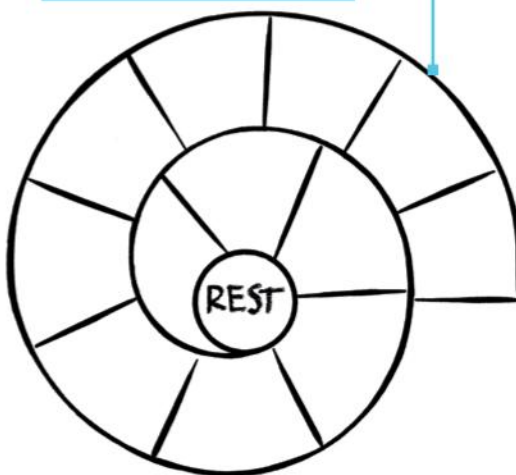
How to hop

Hopscotch has many variations, but all involve marking out compartments on a court. A stone or puck is then thrown as a player hops through the course.

In the classic version, players throw a puck and jump into the first square, then back to the start, aiming to progress a square further each time.

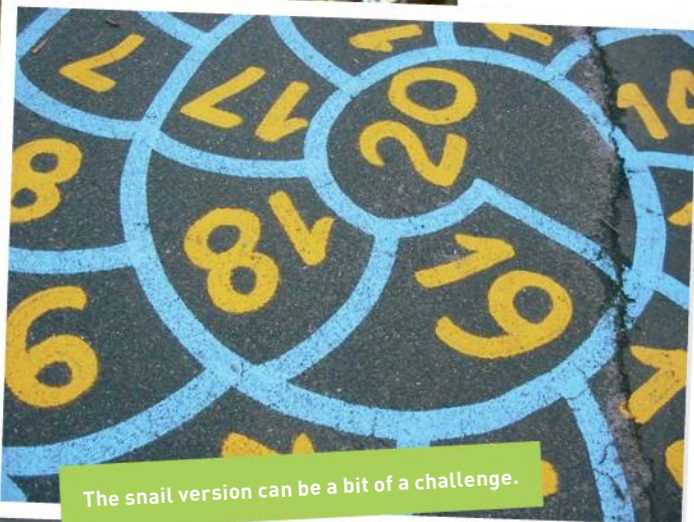
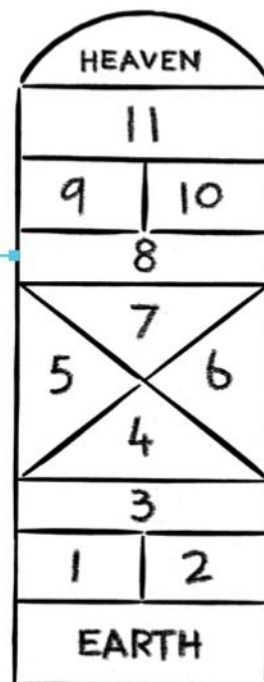
A player is out if the puck or their feet touch a line, a puck lands in the wrong square or the player falls or rests their raised leg on the ground.

The snail design is played without a puck. Players hop from the end to the centre and back again, then put their initials in a space that the next player has to hop over.



The Monday-to-Tuesday court is one of the simplest designs. Players continue their turn until they either land the puck outside the court or on the lines, or step outside them.

This style of court is also fairly popular. Its design symbolises a journey from Earth to Heaven. The rules are similar to the classic style, but it requires the use of both feet. >



The snail version can be a bit of a challenge.



Portable play

A simple carpet kit to take anywhere can be made in a day, which is ideal for rainy days when you can't draw a chalk outline to play on outside.

Choose a length of carpet as the base of your portable kit, ensuring you pick one with a low pile.

Select some brightly coloured felt pieces and cut your desired shapes and numbers for the playing area.

Thoroughly coat the back of each section of felt with adhesive and secure it to the length of carpet.

To remove the risk of the carpet slipping in the midst of a game, attach lengths of carpet gripper to the underside with adhesive.



Sew a scrap of fabric to make a pocket on the portable playing mat as a holder for the throwing pebbles

TOP PICKS

Ideal DIY 1m Velour
Venise Grey Car Carpet, \$20.
ideal-diy-floors.com.au



Roberts 76.2mm x 18.28m
Carpet Gripper Roll, \$33.
bunnings.com.au



Sika Sikabond PVA
Woodworking Glue, about
\$28 for 1L. sikaretail.com.au



Boyle 21 x 29cm Assorted
Felt Sheets, \$9 for 10.
boyleindustries.com.au



Watch the video 'How to make a hopscotch court' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

SAFETY TIP

Rent a compactor to compress the layer of sand to give the court a stable base before laying the hopscotch pavers.

Backyard build

If you want to keep the kids busy at home, this beautiful hopscotch court made of pavers is a great option.

Designed by Bunnings, it has the sophisticated style of professional-look landscaping without sacrificing the fun and nostalgic charm.

Simple to do, this build takes just a day and involves a little heavy lifting.

Lay a base of brickie's sand, secure the pavers in position using concrete, then mark the numbers with crayon. The space is completed by adding mulch, pebbles and small plants. 🌱



Dy-Mark Spray & Mark Fluoro Orange Marking Out Paint, \$6 for 350g. dymark.com.au



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

CraftRight Builders Crayons, about \$1 for three. bunnings.com.au



Tuscan Path Bluestone 600 x 300 x 20mm Paver, \$10. tuscanpath.com.au

CEMENT MATTERS

Get the lowdown on this versatile material and lay a concrete slab

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

It's the most basic of building materials, literally the foundation of many projects, yet it's also an incredibly versatile product.

It's worthwhile every keen DIYer becoming more familiar with cement in all its applications, as getting selection and use right can make for the perfect project, while getting it wrong can have unwanted results.

Here's our guide to selecting and using cement, plus how to lay a small concrete slab at your place.



Cement

Concrete is often called cement, but cement is just a small part of it. Cement is a powdered glue or binding agent.

When water is added, a chemical reaction takes place, which makes the powdered cement sticky. This allows it to bind firmly with other ingredients such as sand and gravel, or aggregate as it is also known.

Cement is never used on its own, but is always part of a blended product. When it cures, it has varying degrees of hardness, depending on a range of factors but primarily the amount of water added to the mix.





Exposed aggregate concrete is decorative and very durable.

Concrete

Concrete is a mixture of cement, sand and gravel. Products may be added to speed up or slow down curing, or to waterproof the concrete.

Concrete is used in larger construction work, where higher degrees of strength are required.

The strength of concrete is rated in MPa (megapascal), a measure of pressure. Strength is improved by including reinforcing steel.

➤ **SLABS** Concrete used for footings, foundations and most slabs at home, including driveways, will be 20-25MPa.

➤ **BLOCKS** When filling inside block walls for retaining, concrete up to 40MPa will be used.

➤ **POOLS** Spray mixes commonly used for swimming pools will generally be 30-50MPa.

Quick-set concrete

These generally premixed bagged products contain additives that accelerate the curing time considerably. In most situations, they'll be solid and ready to go in under 15 minutes.

Most have limited structural strength and are intended for situations where you need to secure objects, such as fence posts, a clothes line or the posts of a non-structural retaining wall.

Most mixes are added to the hole dry and mixed in situ.



Sand & cement

As the name implies, sand and cement is just that. It is a non-structural product used when the strength or appearance of aggregate isn't needed.

Sand and cement is ideal for uses such as bedding shower bases and toilet pans, making garden edging, filling around pipes and creating concrete artwork in moulds.

It can be used to create garden features, such as a pond, with the addition of chicken wire as mouldable reinforcing, and is also available as a quick-set product. ➤





DIY TIP

Coloured oxide powders can be added to dry mix before water to add permanent colour to mortar, concrete or render.

Mortar

A sand and cement blend with hydrated lime added, mortar is used for bedding and joining bricks and blocks. The lime gives the mix more workability and makes it stickier.

Brickie's sand is often used in place of washed sand, as it contains a small amount of clay, which makes the mix more plastic and more waterproof, and reduces the risk of cracking.

In non-retaining situations, the idea with mortar is not to add structural strength but to create a bed and binder for bricks and blocks.

It is also described as 'sacrificial' because it is intended to be weaker than the bricks or blocks. The mortar will crack instead of the bricks, as it's easier to repair and replace than the bricks or blocks.

Render

This is used for surface coating brick or block walls to provide a consistent finish. Render will also improve the thermal value and waterproofing of surfaces.

It has ratios of sand, cement and lime very similar to mortar but will often have other additives to improve waterproofing and binding to vertical surfaces. Old-school renderers often add special powdered clays to the mix.

Which product where?

Here's a quick guide to which material to use where.

- ✚ **CONCRETE** Paths, driveways, large and small slabs, footings and foundations.
- ✚ **QUICK-SET CONCRETE** Fence posts, clothes lines, letterboxes, non-load bearing retaining walls and pergola posts.
- ✚ **SAND AND CEMENT** Patching around pipes in concrete or brickwork, bedding shower bases and toilet pans, garden edging, moulded products and fish ponds.
- ✚ **MORTAR** Laying bricks and blocks and securing paving edges.
- ✚ **RENDER** Finishing interior and exterior brick and block walls.

KEY ADDITIVES

Powdered cement is only one part of the recipe for the various cement-based products. Here are the key substances.

➤ **GRAVEL OR AGGREGATE** Mainly used in concrete, this improves the structural integrity, lowers costs by increasing volume, reduces the amount of water required and reduces shrinkage.

➤ **SAND** Used in all types of mixes as a cheap bulking agent to increase volume, it also reduces shrinking and cracking risk and improves strength.

For a strong finished product, sand should always be washed sand or specialised, such as brickie's sand.

➤ **LIME** Hydrated lime is added to mortar and render, making a mix more flexible, less crumbly and stickier, which is ideal for vertical applications. It also improves durability and water resistance.

➤ **WATER** If it's not clean enough to drink, then it shouldn't be used in any cement mix, as contaminants can affect the strength, durability and even the colour of the finished project. ➤

Decorative finished concrete is ideal for high-traffic areas.



Extra additives

Specialised additives are part of what makes cement-based products so versatile, as they can be customised for many applications.

➤ **CLAY** Used in mortar or render to improve workability and stickiness, clay gives different results depending on the type of sand used. It is not usually added if using brickie's sand.

➤ **WHITE OR OFF-WHITE CEMENT** Only generally used in mortar or render to get a finished product that isn't grey. These are also useful for moulded concrete art or improving the colour strength of products tinted with oxides.

➤ **BRICKIE'S SAND** Used in mortar to make the mix more workable. White sand is used with white or off-white cement for a light-coloured finish.

➤ **DECORATIVE AGGREGATE** Added to concrete to give an exposed aggregate finish. Pebbles can also be used.

➤ **WATERPROOFING ADMIX** These liquids are added to a mix at set ratios to make the final product waterproof. Ideal for ponds and render or concrete in wet areas.

➤ **BONDING AGENTS** These liquids make any mix bind more firmly to another surface and are added to render and patching mixes.



Coloured pebbles can be added to concrete.

DIY CONCRETE MIXES

For larger projects, premixed bags of concrete will be too expensive and you'll need to make your own blends.

The different ingredients and their ratios in a mix will give the finished product different properties in its use and durability.

You should always make sure that the ratios you choose are appropriate for your particular situation. Here's a list of typical mixing ratios.

When blending ingredients, it's critical that you first dry-mix them to a consistent state before adding water.

➤ HIGH STRENGTH AND WATERTIGHT

1 part cement, 2 parts sand and 3 parts gravel.

➤ **GENERAL PURPOSE** 1 part cement, 2.5 parts sand and 4 parts gravel.

➤ **FOUNDATIONS AND FOOTINGS** 1 part cement, 3 parts sand and 5 parts gravel.



Estimating volume

To calculate bulk concrete, you just need to estimate the cubic volume. This is done by measuring the thickness x width x length. A small driveway would be 100mm thick x 3.5m wide x 10m long. That's $0.1 \times 3.5 \times 10 = 3.5$ cubic metres.

LAY A SMALL CONCRETE SLAB All you need is a suitable bagged concrete mix, timber formwork to match the slab depth, reinforcing steel, bar chair supports, a wheelbarrow and, ideally, a screed long enough to rest either side of the formwork.



1 Clear the site

Clear the area where the slab will be positioned and level it off, ensuring the surface is free from protrusions such as rocks or tree roots. Allow a little extra room on all sides of the cleared area for laying the formwork.



2 Lay the formwork

Position the formwork, using a spirit level to check it is level. Secure in position using stakes, screwing the formwork to the stakes.

TIP The finished size will be the inside measurement of the formwork.



3 Add the reinforcing steel

Cut the reinforcing steel to size and position inside the formwork, 30mm in from all sides. Position the bar chair supports under the steel in the centre of the slab depth, so if the slab is to be 80mm deep, put the steel at 40mm.



Staying safe

As cement products usually come in 20kg bags, you need to take care when lifting and handling them.

➤ **DRY** Cement dust is very fine, abrasive and alkaline, meaning it can cause damage to your lungs, eyes, nose and skin through burning and irritation. Always wear gloves, long sleeves and eye and breathing protection.

➤ **WET** Once wet-mixed, the main issue with cement products is the pH. The pH scale runs from 0, very acid, to 14, very alkaline. Cement sits at about 12.

Extended exposure can lead to chemical burns and even limited exposure may cause dermatitis. Wear suitable footwear and gloves and avoid unnecessary contact. Wash well after skin exposure.

ADAM'S PICKS



Dunlop Concrete Groover, \$32.
dunlopdry.com



Master Finish 1800mm Screed, \$52.
agpulie.com.au



Sherlock 72L Slimline Poly Tray Specialty Wheelbarrow, \$149.
sherlocklastslonger.com.au



Ozito 125L 550W Cement Mixer, \$349.
ozito.com.au



Hyde Concrete Spreader with Pole, \$39.
wallboardtools.com.au



Whites 25-40mm Plastic Reinforcing Bar Chair, about \$10 for a pack of 20. whitesgroup.com.au



4 Mix the concrete

Dry-mix all of the ingredients in a wheelbarrow, then add water slowly in batches until it is just a pourable consistency. Pour into the formwork.

TIP Dry-mixing before wet-mixing will make it easier to get a consistent mix.



5 Level the concrete

Level using a screed, then finish the edges with an edging tool. Remove the formwork after 12 hours and allow at least five days before using the slab.

TIP Never work the surface of concrete when bleed water is present. ➤



An angle grinder is the easiest way to cut reinforcing steel. Just ensure you wear appropriate safety gear.



After

The concrete driveway is more functional and boosts kerb appeal.



Before

Call in the concrete experts

Projects, such as laying this 50m long driveway, are often too big to DIY. That's when it's time to call in the professionals to do the job.

It's always best to get three quotes for the work before going ahead, but here's a look at how a big concreting project runs.



The area where the drive is to be laid is cleared of unneeded material. It is then levelled using a specialist machine.



Formwork, drains and steel reinforcing are added, and the drains are sealed off to prevent accidental filling.



Now the concrete trucks arrive and the team levels the concrete as it is poured in, working quickly to stay ahead of the pouring.



The surface is smoothed using a float and broomed for texture and grip. Before the formwork is removed, the edges are grooved.

Tips from a pro

Zak Dickey, from Queensland-based CreteWize Concreting, shares his tips.

He says that quality concreting is a great investment, as it can be easily rejuvenated with a product such as 30 Seconds and a pressure washer.

✚ **RESEARCH** the finishes available. There is classic grey with a smooth or broomed finish, coloured, exposed aggregate or decorative stamped.

✚ **CHECK** out the range of sealing treatments available to change the colour and texture of old concrete.

✚ **HIRE** a licensed professional when using a concreter. Check with the trades licensing body in your state.

✚ **ADVISE** your professional what the new concrete is required for to make sure the correct strength MPa is poured for the job. 🛑

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PEST CONTROL

Evict these common household invaders from your home this winter so they don't run riot and cause damage

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Hot, humid summers are the perfect storm for a plague of bugs to breed inside homes. Winter is the time of year that rodents join the pest party, as they seek shelter from the cold outside.

Take the time to eradicate ants, cockroaches, mice and rats now before they completely take over, leaving disease and damage in their wake.

With a bit of know-how and a trip to the hardware store, you can evict them from your home in no time.

MEDDLING MICE

Mice can multiply quickly and do significant damage to your home.

They nest in walls, ceilings and floors or behind heavy furniture, and will leave behind between 50 and 80 droppings a night.

While some people may find them cute, they can cause fires from chewing electrical cables and carry disease.

Often nocturnal, the signs that you have a mice problem include grease smears along walls or next to holes and corners, droppings in cupboards, scratching noises and piles of shredded materials such as newspaper or fabric.

A strong ammonia smell and footprints in dust can also be an indication. If you spot mice during the day, chances are you have got a significant infestation and should call a pest control company.

For those with just the early signs of activity, a process of setting baits or traps, then removing food sources and nesting materials is recommended.

Cutting tree branches close to roof lines and sealing gaps around windows or pipework will also ensure you discourage other mice from entering your property. ➤



The *Antechinus*, a small carnivorous native marsupial, is sometimes mistaken for a mouse



The Big Cheese Revolver Mouse Trap, \$5.
the-bigcheese.com.au



GoTrap Plastic Clean Touch Mouse Trap, \$3 for two.
bunnings.com.au



Nooski Mouse Trap, about \$10.
nooski.com



If you're failing to control pest problems yourself, call in expert assistance.



Australia has a native water rat that can kill cane toads without being poisoned

Bait traps with strong-smelling foods such as anchovies.



Chewing through food packets, walls, furniture, timber and wires, rats are unwanted house guests that can harbour disease and spike allergies.

There are many protected native species and most are shy creatures that prefer to avoid contact with humans.

The two main species of rats that enter households are the black rat and the brown rat, which were introduced to this country.

Often mistaken for a bush rat or ringtail possum, black rats are 16-20cm in length and black or deep grey with

large, thin ears. They are active day and night, fearless of humans, agile climbers, build nests of shredded materials and will eat anything.

Brown rats can grow up to 25cm in length, have a blunt nose, small ears and can be cream or light brown. They tend to burrow instead of climb, and while they have a preference for grains, they are omnivores.

As with mice, getting rid of rats from your property requires removal of food sources, closing access points and setting baits or traps.



Ratsak Reusable Rodent Trap Station, \$27. ratsak.com.au



The Big Cheese Rat Cage Trap, about \$34. the-bigcheese.com.au



Ratsak Fast Action Wax Block, about \$6 for six.

CRAFTY COCKROACHES

Much like ants, cockroaches feast on a variety of things, including pet food, food scraps and other waste, as well as paper, plastics and a huge range of other materials.

Able to enter the home through even the tiniest of gaps, they hide in wall cavities, appliances and cupboards. Potential carriers of disease, their discarded skin can trigger an attack in asthma sufferers.

Usually nocturnal, signs of their activity include a dust of fine black droppings, brown and irregular smears on horizontal surfaces, shed skins, damage to food packaging or books, and a musty odour.

Winter is the ideal time to tackle a problem population, as they are less active and tend to hibernate, making it easier to eradicate them with a DIY bomb, spray or trap from the hardware store. ➤



There are more than 400 native species of cockroaches, but they don't plague households. Six introduced species are the culprits

Well-sealed containers protect food from cockroaches.



PICTURES SHUTTERSTOCK

Roachkill Cockroach Gel Bait, \$8 for 5g. roachkill.com.au



The Buzz Cockroach Traps, \$4 for six. bunnings.com.au



Amgrow Chemspray Ant, Spider & Cockroach Killer Concentrate, \$26 for 500ml. amgrow.com.au



ABOVE Keep the kitchen clean to discourage ants.
BELOW Ants are drawn to sources of sugar.



ANT ANTICS

Typically attracted to sweet or sticky deposits, ants aren't picky about what they eat. Food scraps, pet food, insects and meat are all on the menu, as is pet poo with some species. To survive, a colony also needs access to water.

Always cover food, clean up spills and crumbs straightaway, make sure your rubbish bin is sealed tight, cover compost and keep pet food in the fridge after dinnertime.

It's also essential to seal entry points such as cracks or crevices around door frames and windows.

While colonies of the most common species won't cause any structural damage to your home or landscaping, they can give a painful bite or sting and contaminate food stored in your cupboards.

Removing a colony that has set up shop in your home often requires a pesticide, such as a sand or gel bait, as opposed to a spray.

Ants are clever and can smell common pesticides, so if all else fails, call in a pest service to sort out an ongoing or severe infestation. 🟢

Native to Africa, the yellow crazy ant is an introduced species causing ecological damage in Queensland and on Christmas Island



Raid DIY Expert Ant Killer, about \$9 for 300g.
raidkillsbugs.com.au



Hovex Ant Granules Insecticide, \$14 for 1kg.
hovex.com.au



Bayer Ant & Wasp Dust, about \$19 for 350g.
yates.com.au

Luxurious MATTRESS TOPPER

IT'S LIKE
SLEEPING ON
A CLOUD!

Special low
delivery
of only
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WORM FARM

Improve soil quality and dispose of scraps with this simple solution

PROJECT AND PICTURES SUE FERRIS



An in-ground worm farm is an easy-to-make and useful addition to the garden that not only improves soil quality, but also provides an eco-friendly way to get rid of kitchen scraps.

This DIY worm farm is made out of PVC pipe, with holes drilled into the submerged half to allow worms to enter and exit. They eat the organic matter, which they turn into castings full of plant-friendly nutrients.

Ideal for flowers or vegetables, the farm should be positioned in a garden bed.

You can put one or more worm farms around the garden in different beds, depending on the amount of food scraps you have.

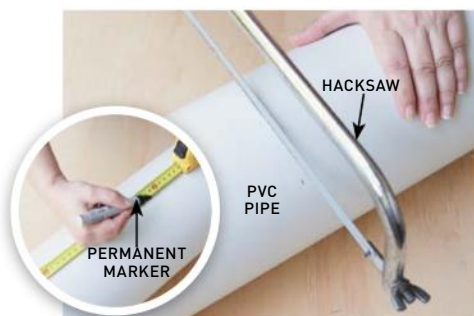
Worms like a moist environment, so during hot weather you can add a little water to keep them moist.

To avoid the farm becoming too soggy, add some shredded newspaper.



Worms are essential to soil quality, as they improve the structure and increase air supply

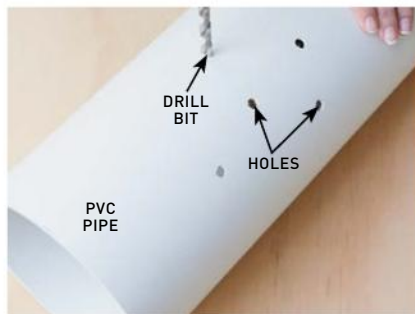
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1 Cut the pipe

Use a tape measure and permanent marker to measure and mark a 500mm length of PVC pipe. Use a hacksaw to carefully cut the pipe in half.

TIP You can buy a metre length of 150mm PVC pipe for \$23.



2 Drill the holes

Drill multiple holes all around the pipe using a bit no smaller than 5mm. Start drilling at the base of the pipe and finish 200mm from the top. The undrilled section of pipe will remain above ground.



3 Install the farm

Dig a 300mm hole, insert the pipe and backfill, firming down the soil. Put a 150mm layer of lucerne hay or straw in the pipe, then a 150mm layer of wet newspaper. Add the worms and cover with a 50mm layer of wet newspaper.

DIY TIP

Place an upturned plant pot over the top of the worm farm tower, as this will keep out unwelcome pests and rainwater.

What you need

- Compost worms
- 150mm PVC pipe
- Drill and drill bit
- Hacksaw
- Newspaper
- Straw
- Plant pot

Feed your worms every couple of days with vegie scraps or other compostable matter.

Find it at Bunnings

What's new

Pick up the best new products for home and garden instore

GROW TIP

Install a drip-irrigation system in the garden to avoid wasting water while ensuring even distribution to all the plants in the bed.



Stay warm gathered around the stylish Jumbuck Round Steel Fire Pit, \$84.98.



Set up a bountiful bed of flowers with the termite-resistant and easy-to-assemble Heritage Modular Garden Bed, \$69.



Protect your back by planting vegetables in the Heritage Elevated Garden Bed, \$99.



Add a splash of colour to any project with the Millefiori Assorted Smurf Pebbles, \$9.98.



Light up kids' bedrooms with the Max Anywhere Light, \$19, including a smoke and carbon-monoxide alarm.

Fix leaks fast with the Selley's Roof & Gutter Spray Seal, \$15.98 for 315g, for a rain-ready roof in two hours.



Coat the kitchen with Cabot's Benchtop Clear, \$45.20 for 1L, for a food-safe varnished finish.



Make light work of felling and pruning with the AEG 18V 12" Brushless Chainsaw Kit, \$399.



Keep the lawn tidy with the AEG 18V Brushless Line Trimmer Kit, \$399.



Clear clutter from gardens and pathways with the AEG 18V Axial Fan Blower Kit, \$299.

- 1 Scotch Humibond Masking Tape, \$16.10.
- 2 ScotchBlue Platinum Painter's Tape, \$19.80.
- 3 ScotchBlue Heavy Duty Tape Applicator, \$49.70.



SEE THE WORLD



The Greek islands



Timeless beauty

From dramatic coastlines, brilliant blue water and pristine beaches to great food and wine, it's hard to beat the old-world charm and magic of the majestic Greek islands.

In the southeastern Aegean Sea lies a group of islands known as the Dodecanese. These islands are renowned for their medieval castles, Byzantine churches and archaeological sites.

Seen here, Symi with its pastel-coloured houses covering the steep hillsides above the bay, and the much larger Rhodes are both popular tourist destinations.

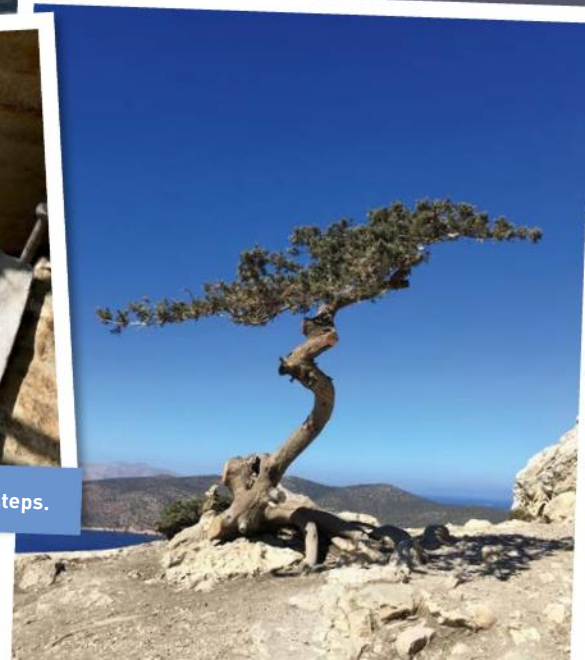


Rich in culture and history, Greece has 18 UNESCO World Heritage listed sites

↑ On Symi, the colourful houses rise up the steep hillsides.
↓ A solitary tree growing straight out of rocky ground looks surreal.



Floating flowers in pots are used to decorate steps.





- ↑ The spectacular view over Main Bay in Lindos on Rhodes.
- ↓ Gourdes growing from vines in a taverna in St Paul's Bay, Lindos.



Stray cats rely on tourists, locals and scavenging for food.

Fact check

The Dodecanese group of islands consists of 15 larger islands and 150 smaller ones. Rhodes is the largest in terms of land mass.

⬆ Rhodes is located southeast of Athens, just off the Anatolian coast of Turkey and, after Crete, is the most visited destination in Greece.

⬆ Symi island has a population of about 2500 that increases greatly during the tourist season.

⬆ The annual Symi Festival runs from July to September and features free open-air concerts.

⬆ On many islands, the cats have become so numerous and popular that they are featured on tourist items such as carrier bags.



- ➔ In an alley in Symi, the residents get creative with planters.
- ➔ Brightly painted doors covered with bougainvillea abound.



This month

Colour up your garden with the best and brightest plants and vegies

Do now

- ✦ **COLOUR** the winter garden with annuals, page 124.
- ✦ **GET** bare-rooted roses in the ground for spring blooms, page 126.
- ✦ **GROW** fruit trees for a summer harvest, page 132.
- ✦ **PLANT** potatoes in small or big backyards, page 136.



Flowers to sow

Plan for blooms throughout spring except in cold climates.

- ✦ **AFRICAN MARIGOLD**
- ✦ **CLEOME**
- ✦ **GLOXINIA**
- ✦ **MIGNONETTE**
- ✦ **STATICE**

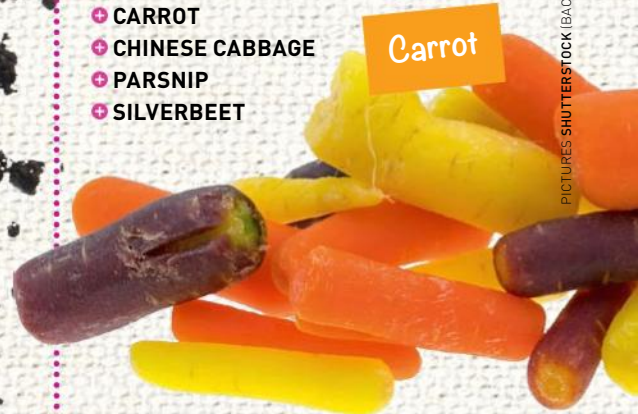


African marigold

Vegies to grow

Plant these vegetables in temperate and subtropical/tropical zones.

- ✦ **BEETROOT**
- ✦ **CARROT**
- ✦ **CHINESE CABBAGE**
- ✦ **PARSNIP**
- ✦ **SILVERBEET**



PICTURES SHUTTERSTOCK (BACKGROUND) THINKSTOCK

WHAT'S IN COLOUR

✦ GREVILLEA 'WINTER DELIGHT'

is, as its name clearly suggests, an aesthetically pleasing plant that flourishes in the colder months.

Compact and easy to grow, 'Winter Delight' is a low mounding shrub or groundcover that transcends its soft grey foliage by blossoming with stunning reddish-pink and cream flowers from midwinter to early spring.

Spreading to 1.2m and growing to 30cm high, it is ideal for native-style gardens, rockeries and low borders, and makes a stunning display in containers.

'Winter Delight' is very hardy, tolerant of frosts and suited to most soil types. For the best results, give it an open sunny position.

For those fond of wildlife, it is also a great food source for native birds.

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

Grevillea 'Winter Delight'

BOOK CLUB



In *The Thoughtful Gardener* (Murdoch Books, \$70), landscape and garden designer Jinny Blom draws on the creative process she developed in the design of more than 250 gardens.

For Jinny, it is more about considering what is appropriate in a particular situation rather than imposing a particular style.

She shows how her design principles can be applied to any garden, whatever its size.

To-do list

Here are a few jobs to be getting on with this month.

- ✓ **PROTECT** outdoor furniture by staining or painting it.
- ✓ **TAKE** hardwood hibiscus cuttings in subtropical/tropical regions.
- ✓ **GIVE** winter-growing vegetables a feed.
- ✓ **REMOVE** bindii from lawns in temperate zones before it takes over.
- ✓ **CONTROL** juvenile bronze orange bugs by spraying them with a mild solution of white oil.
- ✓ **GET** rid of weeds on paths and driveways by spraying on dry days. ➤

GROW PETUNIAS INDOORS

Petunias are ideal for adding winter colour, but if sown outdoors, the emerging seedlings can be killed by frost. Growing them indoors in a mini greenhouse, which features a tray and lid with airflow vents, is a great option.

The temperature needs to be 16°C, so check with a thermometer.

Petunias like a damp, well-drained growing medium and the seeds only require a light layer of propagating mix, so we removed the cell tray and used the base for sowing.



1 Sow the seeds

Add seed-raising mix to the base, then make four 10mm grooves with a ruler. Scatter the seeds in the rows and cover with a thin layer of mix. Water in the seeds by misting with a spray bottle.



2 Position the greenhouse

Add the lid to raise humidity and put near a window that gets morning sun. Rotate every few days so the seedlings grow upright. Keep the mix damp, but not wet. Seedlings should emerge within a week.

Sow seeds anywhere

Reap the benefits of greenhouse growing, whatever the size of your living space, using the compact Saxon Mini Green House with Seed Tray, \$10.

It features vents for controlling the temperature, which you can check with the Gardman Soil Propagation Thermometer, \$10 (bunnings.com.au).



Feed now

Give these plants a boost with a midwinter feed.

- + FLOWERING CLIMBERS
- + CITRUS
- + CURRANT
- + GOOSEBERRY
- + PASSIONFRUIT



Passionfruit

Harvest now

Pick these fruits around most of the country.

- + BANANA
- + KIWIFRUIT
- + LEMON
- + MANDARIN
- + NAVEL ORANGE

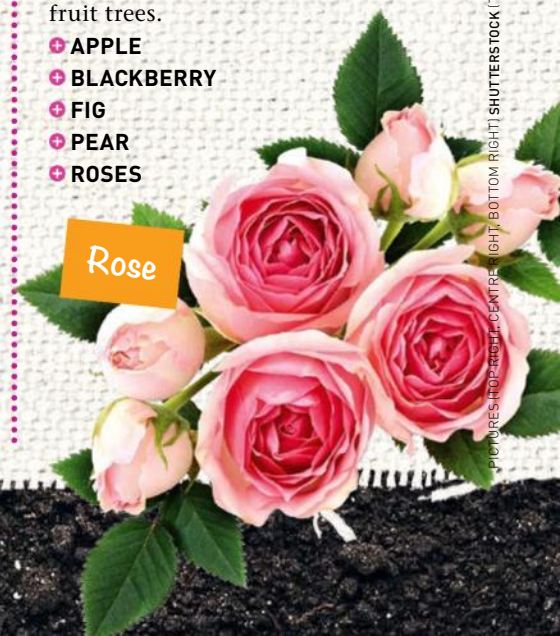


Lemon

Prune now

Cut back roses and dormant fruit trees.

- + APPLE
- + BLACKBERRY
- + FIG
- + PEAR
- + ROSES



Rose

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THE
MAG

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*local call costs from landlines only

TOP 10 COOL-SEASON STARS



1 Cineraria

A small bush covered with masses of bright blooms, cineraria is a delight in the winter garden. It will also thrive in pots and prefers filtered light and needs protection from frost.



4 Primula

This pretty cool-season annual bears spikes of sweet-smelling flowers in pinks, mauves and pure white. Primula is best mass-planted but will do well in pots. It will tolerate a little shade but needs protection from wind.



5 Pansy and viola

The dainty pansy and its smaller close cousin, the viola, feature an abundance of blooms in a variety of colours for months on end. They can be grown in beds, pots or hanging baskets.



2 Osteospermum

Also called Cape daisy, this hardy perennial blooms well into winter in a sunny, warm position. Prune back hard after its main flowering to bring on a new flush of blooms. There's a flower colour to suit any outdoor style.

3 Hellebore

The beautiful hellebore, or winter rose, is a fantastic perennial for the shady winter garden. It thrives under trees and other sheltered spots and will produce nodding flowers across the cooler months.



6

Bromeliad

Many bromeliads flower across the cooler months but need protection from frost. They will happily grow in dry, shady spots and look striking year-round with their textural and often colourful foliage.

10

Camellia

With varieties flowering from autumn until spring in pinks, reds and whites, the camellia comes in small hedging varieties through to large shrubs that can grow to more than 2m high.

7

Lilly pillly

For bright, eye-catching winter colour, the native small-leaved lilly pillly (*Syzygium smithii* 'Minor') has masses of pinky-purple berries in winter, which provide a food source for many native animals and birds.

8

Hardenbergia

This native climber is ideal for training across fences and can also be grown as a clumping shrub. In winter, it bears lots of tiny flowers in white, purple and mauves.

9

Magnolia

Not generally in bloom until August, the flowers of the deciduous magnolia appear before the new season's foliage, creating a dramatic effect on bare branches. Give magnolias shelter from strong winds.



RAISE THE BEST ROSES

Grow bare-rooted plants in winter
for a wonderful spring display

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

The rose is one of the world's oldest cultivated plants and has earned its reputation as the Queen of Flowers.

In the eyes of many people, the rose has no equal. It has inspired eloquent offerings from poets and writers over the centuries, and it

is just as popular today as it was hundreds of years ago.

Winter is the time when you'll find a wide variety of bare-rooted roses available in nurseries.

Here's how to plant, prune and care for your roses so you can grow the best on the block.

STYLE TIP

Rose petals are edible and can be used to make a pretty garnish for desserts and are ideal for decorating cakes.

Make the right choice

Roses come in a variety of shapes and sizes and have many different uses.

➤ **CLIMBING** roses can be grown over a trellis or against a wall, draped over fences and pergolas or grown on pillars or teepees to provide focal points in an otherwise flat garden.

➤ **SHRUB** roses such as Hybrid Teas, Floribunda, Bourbon and David Austin add height to garden beds and look their best when planted among annuals and perennials.

➤ **GROUNDCOVER** roses are ideal for growing over banks, cascading out of containers or even as low hedges.

➤ **STANDARD** roses add height to garden beds and are ideal for pots.

Climbing roses are ideal for brightening up a bare wall.



Caring for your roses

Regular watering, feeding and mulching will keep roses healthy.

➤ **WATER** A newly planted rose needs to be watered deeply every 3-4 days for two months to establish the roots.

Once established, give deep weekly soakings to encourage the roots to go deeper. Water early morning at ground level to help prevent fungal disease.

➤ **FEED** After their winter pruning, feed established plants with a layer of cow manure or compost to help produce a mass of blooms.

In spring, feed again with a rose or citrus fertiliser, then every 6-8 weeks during the growing season. Always water before and after feeding.

Don't feed a newly planted rose until new growth begins and use a controlled-release fertiliser.

➤ **MULCH** After feeding, mulch with a 50mm layer of lucerne hay, keeping it a hand's span clear of the stem.

Mulch helps keep the roots cool, holds the moisture in the soil and suppresses weed growth.



Help them thrive

Roses love a sunny, sheltered position and need at least six hours of sun for their blooms to look their best.

They will grow in sandy or free-draining clay soil.

As roses live a long time and are heavy feeders, it's worthwhile spending time improving the soil before you start planting.

Dig in some compost or cow manure and, if your soil is acidic, add liquid lime. ➤

Pruning

Roses flower on new wood, so yearly pruning is necessary to produce an abundance of blooms, invigorate the plant and remove any pests or diseases.

Prune repeat-flowering roses in frost-free climates in June and July, and in August in cold climates.

A light summer pruning of repeat-flowering roses encourages new growth and an autumn flush of flowers. Remove about one-third of the growth just above a bud.

Species roses that bloom only in spring and once-flowering climbers, such as the Banksias, need pruning after flowering and not during winter.



HOW TO PRUNE

Shrub roses

✦ **MAKE** the cut 10mm above the bud at a 45° angle, pointing away from the bud so rainwater will run off the cut. Select buds that point away from the centre of the bush.

✦ **REMOVE** all the dead wood and then the old, unproductive wood.

Cut old grey wood back to a strong young branch, or if there isn't one, back to the bud union.

✦ **CUT** out any twiggy growth, then shorten the retained branches by about one-third to an outward-facing bud.

Repeat-flowering climbers

✦ **CUT** old wood back to a strong young cane. Shorten the strong laterals that bore last year's flowers and remove the thin tips of the new canes.

TIP Wash your tools between pruning plants using a Dettol or bleach solution. This helps prevent the transfer of diseases.



How to plant

Roses are available bare-rooted in winter when they are dormant. They should be planted as soon as possible.

✦ **UNPACK** the rose and shake the roots free of the packing material. Soak in water with a seaweed solution.

✦ **DIG** a hole about 500mm wide, or wider for large plants, and deep enough for the bud union to be 25-50mm above the soil level when planted.

✦ **MAKE** a mound of soil in the centre of the hole and position the rose on top. Spread the roots carefully over the mound, then backfill.

✦ **FIRM** the soil around the rose with your hands. Use a 9L watering can to water in, adding more soil if needed.

✦ **FORM** a saucer-shaped depression in the soil around the stem to direct water to the roots.

✦ **FEED** with a controlled-release fertiliser for flowers and fruit when new growth appears.

Taking proper care of bare-rooted roses will ensure healthier plants.



Two-spotted mite

PEST BUSTERS

Check your roses regularly to keep pests and diseases under control.

INSECTS

Aphids

These small sap-sucking insects distort soft new growth and a black sooty mould may appear on the leaves.

✚ **FIX IT** Hose them off, squash with your fingers or spray with an insecticide such as Yates Pyrethrum Insect Pest Gun.

Thrips

Thrips

Just visible to the naked eye, these insects suck the sap of flowers and buds, causing browning of the petals.

✚ **FIX IT** Spray regularly with Eco Organic Garden Hippo Enhanced Eco-oil. It also contains compounds that attract beneficial insects.

Aphids

Scale

Sap-sucking scale appear as tiny white or brown lumps on the stems and they can cause stunted growth.

✚ **FIX IT** Spray with white oil or scrape off with your fingernail.

Two-spotted mite

Mites are almost invisible to the naked eye. They suck the sap from leaves, causing them to look grey and mottled.

✚ **FIX IT** Spray with an insecticide such as Yates Rose Gun Advanced.

DISEASES

Black spot

Look for black spots on the leaves, yellowing leaves and premature leaf fall.

✚ **FIX IT** Collect fallen leaves and dispose of in the bin. Spray with a fungicide such as Eco Organic Garden Eco-fungicide.

Powdery mildew

White powdery growth will be evident on leaves, stems and buds.

✚ **FIX IT** Spray with Yates Rose Gun Advanced that will also kill insects, or use a fungicide such as Eco Organic Garden Eco-fungicide. ➤

Disease prevention

After winter pruning, spray plants with lime sulphur to get rid of any fungi.

To stop disease spreading, put clippings and leaves in the rubbish bin instead of the compost.

Adding sulphate of potash around roses in spring instead of rose food will thicken the cell walls of foliage and help guard against fungal attack.

Spraying leaves fortnightly with a seaweed solution will improve disease resistance.

You can attract beneficial insects by planting sweet Alice, coriander, gypsophila, dill and lavender near your roses.

It's easy to transplant any roses that are in the wrong position.

Transplanting

Winter is the best time to move roses that are growing in the wrong spot.

- **DRIVE** a sharp spade as deep as possible into the soil about 350mm from the trunk, continuing around the rose until it lifts easily from the ground.
- **PRUNE** off any dead wood and cut the branches back by two-thirds.
- **REPLANT** and water with a seaweed solution. Water deeply and regularly until new growth appears, then feed with a controlled-release fertiliser.

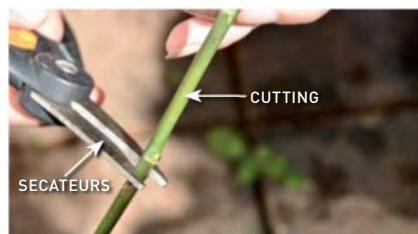
Pot up a rose

Use potted miniature roses, small bush roses and standard roses to decorate sunny balconies and courtyards.

- **UNPACK** the rose and shake the roots free of the packing material. Use a premium potting mix and partially fill the new pot with the mix.
- **FORM** a mound of mix in the centre of the pot and carefully spread the roots over the mound.
- **FILL** around the roots with mix. Water, adding more mix if needed. The level of the mix should be about 25mm from the rim so that when you water, the mix and water won't spill over.
- **FEED** every six weeks from spring to summer with a soluble plant food for flowers and fruit.
- **WATER** regularly. Daily watering is often needed during summer.

1 2 3

PROPAGATE YOUR OWN ROSE You can grow roses easily from cuttings taken from April to July. Always take cuttings from the current season's growth that have at least three leaf sets on the stem.



1 Take the cuttings

Use secateurs to take 2-3 cuttings 250mm long, making the cut above a bud at the top and below a bud at the base of the stem. Leave one leaf at the top and remove all the lower leaves.



2 Dip the bases

Dip the base of the cuttings into rooting hormone powder, shaking off any excess powder.

TIP Honey, which contains amino acids and growth factors, can also be used.



3 Plant the cuttings

Add propagating mix to a 150mm wide pot and insert the cuttings. Put in a shady spot and keep moist. In late spring, pull the cuttings and if there is slight resistance, roots have formed. 🌹

PRUNING ROSES

Find it at Bunnings

Watch the video 'How to prune roses' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



Pruning roses encourages new growth and more flowers. Shape and structure are important when pruning, so the plant will grow well and look great in bloom. Don't be afraid to heavily prune a bush, as you can safely cut roses back by two-thirds of their size.

What you need

Secateurs
Pruning saw
Gardening gloves
Safety glasses
Mulch
Watering can

1 2 3



1 Check the bush

Before you start, stand back from the bush and look for dead heads, crossing branches, branches congesting the centre and dead wood. Use a pruning saw to remove dead branches and very old brown or grey wood, or thick stems, cutting on an angle.



2 Cut the branches

Use secateurs to remove any lingering flowers and leaves, and any suckers from the roots. Select 3-5 green, healthy branches as the framework, removing any unwanted stems. Cut the stems just above an outward facing bud and on an angle so water runs off.



3 Mulch and water

Apply pea straw around the bush to help the soil retain moisture as the weather warms up. Leave space between the stem and mulch to reduce the risk of rot or mould. After mulching, water the bush. Established roses can also be fertilised at this time.

GROW YOUR OWN FRUIT

Plant trees during winter and you'll be picking your own succulent fruits through summer

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



EXPERT SECRETS

When pruning fruit trees, cut them back so they are at a convenient height for harvesting.

Winter is the time to plant fruit trees, including apple, apricot, pear, nectarine, cherry, and peach.

These deciduous trees flower prolifically before setting fruit, make pretty shade trees in summer and lose their leaves in winter to allow sunshine into the garden.

You can buy deciduous, bare-rooted fruit trees in abundance in nurseries during winter when they are dormant.

They make ideal small trees for the average-sized garden. Dwarf varieties are also available and can be planted in containers, making them suitable to grow in very small courtyards or even on balconies.

How to grow

Certain fruit trees, such as apples, pears, cherries and plums, require a pollinator, so check when buying.

✦ **PLANT** in a sunny spot sheltered from high winds.

✦ **SOIL** needs to be rich in organic matter, so dig in compost or cow manure before planting.

✦ **WATER** newly planted trees deeply at least twice a week for three months until established, then water deeply at least once a week, especially when in flower and the fruit is ripening.

✦ **FEED** in late winter, early summer and autumn with a complete plant food for fruiting plants. Add manure or compost around the base of the tree in spring to keep the soil healthy.

✦ **MULCH** after feeding with lucerne hay or pea straw, leaving at least a hand's span clear around the trunk.

DIY TIP

Make sure you protect your fruit from being eaten by birds by using a netting that is wildlife friendly.

BELOW To bear fruit, certain fruit trees need a pollinator.
RIGHT Always water in newly planted trees thoroughly.



Plant a bare-rooted tree

Most deciduous fruit trees are sold bare-rooted in winter and should be planted soon after purchase.

✦ **PRUNE** the tree by at least a third, or according to the instructions. This helps restore the balance between the top of the tree and the root system, a proportion of which was lost when the tree was dug up in the nursery.

✦ **DIG** a hole about 600mm wide and deeper than the root system of the tree. Mix compost into the excavated

soil and create a mound using some of this mix in the base of the hole.

✦ **POSITION** the plant in the hole.

Drape the roots over the mound and ensure the graft will be 75mm above the soil level when planted.

✦ **BACKFILL** with the remaining soil and compost mix, packing it firmly around the roots.

✦ **WATER** and top up the soil if needed. Make a depression around the tree, so water is directed to the root zone. ➤



APPLES & PEARS



1 Apples

Typically growing to about 4m high and wide, apple trees can be pruned lower.

✚ **GROW** apple trees in temperate and cold zones, as they require a chilling period to produce fruit.

Most need a pollinator, so if your neighbours don't have a tree, you

will need two trees to receive fruit. If you choose different varieties, check they flower at the same time.

✚ **DWARF CULTIVARS** The Trixie series includes 'Gala' and the 'Pink Lady' cv 'Cripp's Pink'.

The Ballerina series of trees has a columnar habit, so they're ideal for narrow spaces and along fence lines.

2 Pears

There are two types of pears commonly grown, the Asian or Nashi pear (*Pyrus pyrifolia*) and European pear (*Pyrus communis*).

Medium-sized European pear trees can be pruned to shape. The fruit is best picked slightly under-ripe, kept in the fridge for two weeks, then allowed to ripen.

Nashi pears have the crispness of an apple and the fruit is left to ripen on the tree.

✚ **GROW** pears in temperate or cool zones and provide a pollinator. Nashi pears are self-fertile, so they don't need a pollinator.

✚ **DWARF CULTIVARS** Trixie 'Pyvert' is self-pollinating and grows up to 1.5m high and wide.



Train a tree to grow along a bare wall.

Space-saving techniques

If you're short on space, you can still grow your own fruit.

✚ **PLANT A DUO** Fleming's Nurseries (flemings.com.au) advocates planting a duo or trio of fruit trees 150mm apart in the same hole. This will extend the harvest and also fulfills cross-pollination requirements.

If you plant a Jonathan and a Granny Smith, the Jonathan will mature in March and the Granny Smith in April.

✚ **ESPALIER A TREE** This is the art of cultivating a tree on a flat surface. You

can espalier on walls, fences or even on freestanding structures. Apples and pears are ideal for espalier, but you can use the technique on apricots and plums.

✚ **GROW IN POTS** Dwarf cultivars thrive in pots. Choose a container about the same size as a wine barrel and use pot feet so drainage isn't inhibited.

Use a premium potting mix and water regularly, especially in summer.

Mulch with lucerne hay or pea straw, keeping it away from the trunk. Feed every six weeks in spring and summer with a plant food for flowers and fruit.

STONE FRUIT



4 Peaches and nectarines

There are many different cultivars of nectarines and peaches, some with yellow flesh and some with white.

✦ **GROW** them in cool to warm temperate climates, depending on the variety.

These self-pollinating stone fruit trees reach a height and width of about 4m.

✦ **DWARF CULTIVARS** The 'Nectazee' nectarine and the 'Pixzee' peach are available in the Trixie series of miniature fruiting trees and grow to a height of about 1.5m.

3 Cherries

White or red fleshed, cherries have beautiful spring blossoms and handsome leaves. Most varieties reach a height and width of about 4m.

✦ **GROW** in regions with cool winters. Some varieties are self-fertile, so check the label when purchasing.

✦ **DWARF CULTIVARS** The Trixie series includes dark red-fleshed 'Black Cherree' or white-fleshed 'White Cherree'. Both of these are self-fertile and reach a height and width of 2.5m.



Peach

5 Plums

These easy to grow multi-branched fruit trees produce a mass of spring blossoms. The flesh can be red, blood red or yellow.

✦ **GROW** Plums prefer climates with cool winters and most varieties need a pollinator.

Prune the branches to a vase shape to allow air and sunlight into the centre of the tree.

Plum trees grow to a height and width of about 4m, but they can be pruned lower.



6 Apricots

Apricot trees grow to about 3.5m high and wide.

When ripened on the tree, apricots have a distinct aroma and flavour. You can also grow

interspecific apricots, which are a cross between a plum and apricot.

✦ **GROW** These trees prefer cool to temperate climates and low humidity. Some are self-fertile, so check the label before purchasing. 🍷





PLANT POTATOES

Cultivate your own bumper crop of this super-versatile veggie

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Among the easiest of vegetables to cultivate in big or small backyards, potatoes are also a good first crop in new vegie gardens, as they break up the soil.

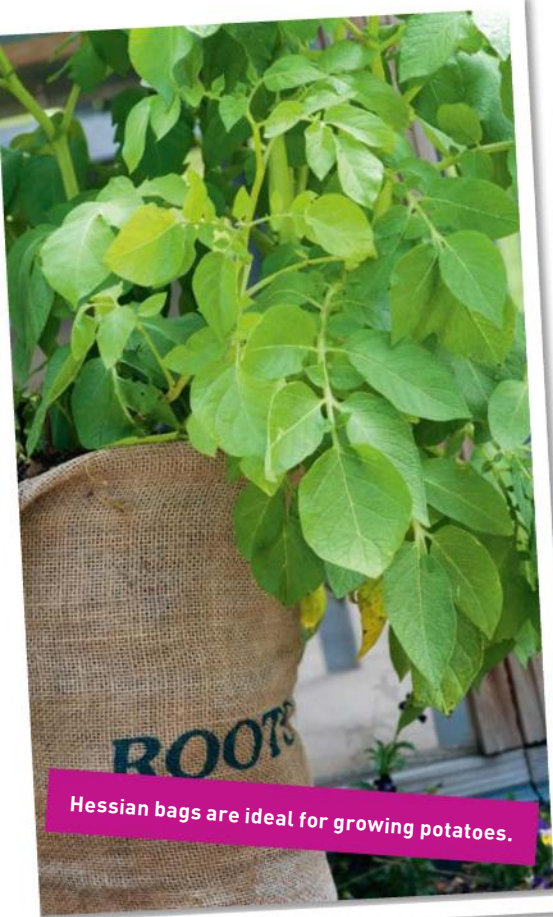
They're grown from seed potatoes, as these tubers are guaranteed to be disease-free. A range of seed potatoes can be bought from nurseries.

In frost-free areas, plant from July to October for a spring crop and in January and February for an autumn crop. In frosty areas, the planting season is from August to December.

You can grow potatoes in bins, sacks and potato bags, as well as garden beds.

DIY TIP

Large seed potatoes can be cut into pieces. Ensure each piece has an eye or sprout and dry in a shady spot for a week before planting.



Grow in beds

Choose a sunny spot in well-drained soil and avoid planting in recently limed soil to prevent the potatoes developing scab, a fungal disease.

➤ **ADD** lots of compost and well-rotted manure 2-3 weeks prior to planting.

➤ **DIG** over the soil to 300mm deep just before planting and make furrows 150mm deep and 750mm apart.

➤ **SCATTER** complete fertiliser along the furrows, then cover the fertiliser with a 50mm layer of soil.

➤ **PLANT** the tubers about 300mm apart in the furrows and cover with soil. Growth will appear in 3-4 weeks.

➤ **MOUND** the soil around the potatoes as they grow to support the plants and protect the potatoes from exposure to light. Use the soil between the rows, as this will create a furrow between the rows, which can be used for irrigating.

➤ **MULCH** with lucerne hay or pea straw.

➤ **WATER** the plants regularly to ensure well-developed potatoes.

➤ **FEED** with a complete soluble plant food every three weeks if you haven't added fertiliser to the furrow.

➤ **HARVEST** about a month after the flowers finish for new potatoes. Wait until the leaves die for mature ones. ➤

Grow in bags

Potatoes can be planted in growing bags or hessian bags. Heavy-duty garbage bags also work, but you will need to make holes for drainage.

➤ **FILL** the bag or container with 150mm of premium potting mix. If using a hessian or plastic bag, roll down the sides until it is about 400mm high.

➤ **SOW** six seed potatoes on top of the mix and cover with 100mm of potting mix, plus a 25mm layer of lucerne hay or pea straw.

➤ **WATER** regularly and, when the leafy stems rise about 200mm above the hay, add more potting mix and hay, leaving the tops of the leaves exposed. This ensures each potato plant will keep making tubers up the stem.

➤ **ROLL** up the sides of the bag until it is full. The leafy tops will grow and eventually flower and die. This means they are now ready to harvest.

TIP You can also grow potatoes in old dustbins and half wine barrels with drainage holes.

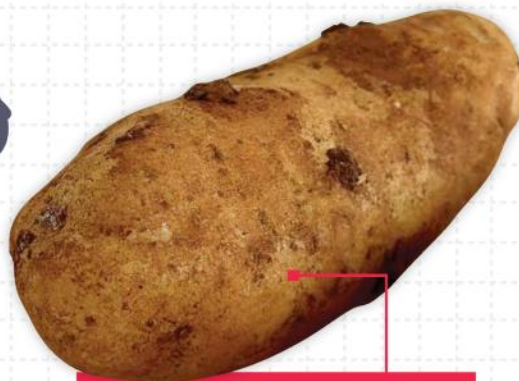


TYPES OF POTATOES

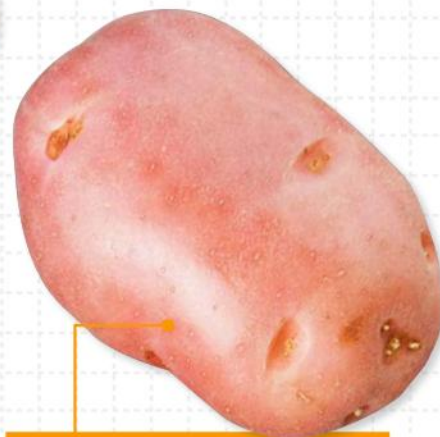
There are lots of delicious varieties available for the home gardener.

Yellow-fleshed potatoes are sought after by potato lovers and gourmet cooks, and you can even grow bright-purple potatoes.

There are different cooking techniques for different varieties.



Kipfler has an elongated shape and its yellow, dry texture is great in salads. It can be baked or boiled.



Desiree has pink skin and yellow flesh and is a favourite for roasting, mashing or boiling.



Nicola has yellow flesh and a buttery taste. It can be mashed, boiled or baked.



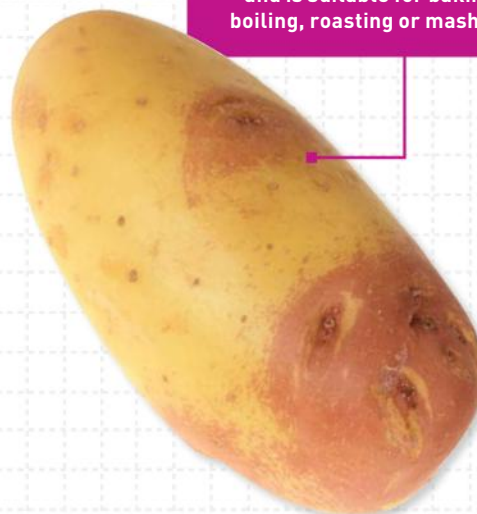
Bintje has pale yellow, waxy flesh and is best boiled or mashed, and is ideal for potato salad.

Did you know?

It's no surprise that the potato is among the top 10 vegetables found in the modern Australian kitchen, as they pack a big health punch.

The mineral-dense spud offers substantial nutrition for very few kilojoules. A plain, boiled 100g potato only contains about 260kJ.

Potatoes are also a good source of vitamin C and vitamin B6, folate, niacin, iodine, thiamin, potassium, phosphorous, calcium and zinc.



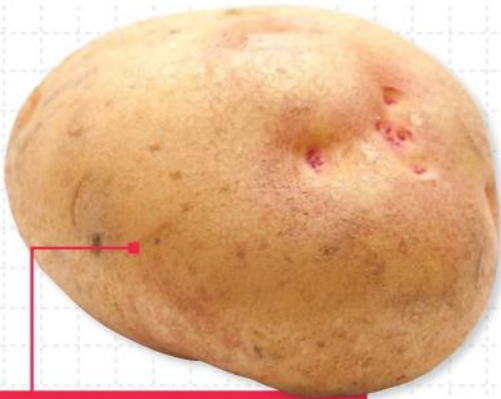
King Edward has cream flesh and is suitable for baking, boiling, roasting or mashing.

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Toolangi Delight has purple skin and white flesh. It is particularly useful for making chips or mashing.



Pink Eye has purple/pink flushes on its skin and waxy cream flesh. It's suitable for steaming, boiling and baking.



Purple Congo has purple flesh and makes a colourful gnocchi or potato salad. It can be baked, mashed or used for chips. ➤

PICTURES (TOP) SHUTTERSTOCK (CENTRE, BOTTOM) ALAMY



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Potato, egg and bacon salad

PREPARATION TIME 10 minutes

COOKING TIME 20 minutes

Ingredients

12-14 small new potatoes, cut in half
4 eggs
2 teaspoons olive oil
4 small slices rindless bacon, chopped
2 tablespoons sour cream
4 tablespoons good-quality mayonnaise
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
2 teaspoons white wine vinegar
2 spring onions
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 PUT the potatoes in a large saucepan, cover with water, bring to the boil and cook for 10-15 minutes or until tender. Drain well and put in a serving bowl.

2 PLACE the eggs in a small saucepan, cover with cold water, bring to the boil and cook for 10 minutes, timing from when the water starts to boil. Cool under running water, peel and quarter.

3 HEAT the oil in a small non-stick frying pan over a medium heat. Cook the bacon for 5 minutes or until crisp. Drain on paper towel and allow to cool.

4 PUT the sour cream, mayonnaise, mustard and vinegar in a bowl and mix until smooth. Add to the potatoes, along with most of the spring onions and most of the bacon. Season to taste and toss gently to combine.

5 TOP with the egg quarters and the remaining bacon and spring onions. Serve at room temperature, or cover and refrigerate until required.



Serves 6

Potato latkes

PREPARATION TIME 15 minutes

COOKING TIME 20 minutes

Ingredients

1kg floury potatoes such as Coliban, Russet Burbank or Sebago
1 small onion, finely chopped
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1/3 cup (50g) plain flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
Vegetable oil, for frying

1 PEEL and grate the potatoes and combine with the onion. Squeeze a handful of the potato and onion mixture over a bowl to remove as much liquid as possible. Transfer to a clean bowl, then repeat with the remaining mixture.

2 ADD the beaten eggs. Sift the flour and baking powder together and add to the bowl. Stir until well combined.

3 POUR the oil into a large frying pan to a depth of about 6mm, then place over a medium heat. Add 1/3 cup of the mixture to the pan, flattening with a spatula to about 7.5cm in diameter.

4 COOK about four at a time but don't overcrowd the pan. Cook for 3 minutes on each side or until golden brown and crisp. Drain on paper towel and keep warm while cooking the remaining latkes.

Serves 4



f See more potato recipes
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Colcannon

PREPARATION TIME 10 minutes

COOKING TIME 20 minutes

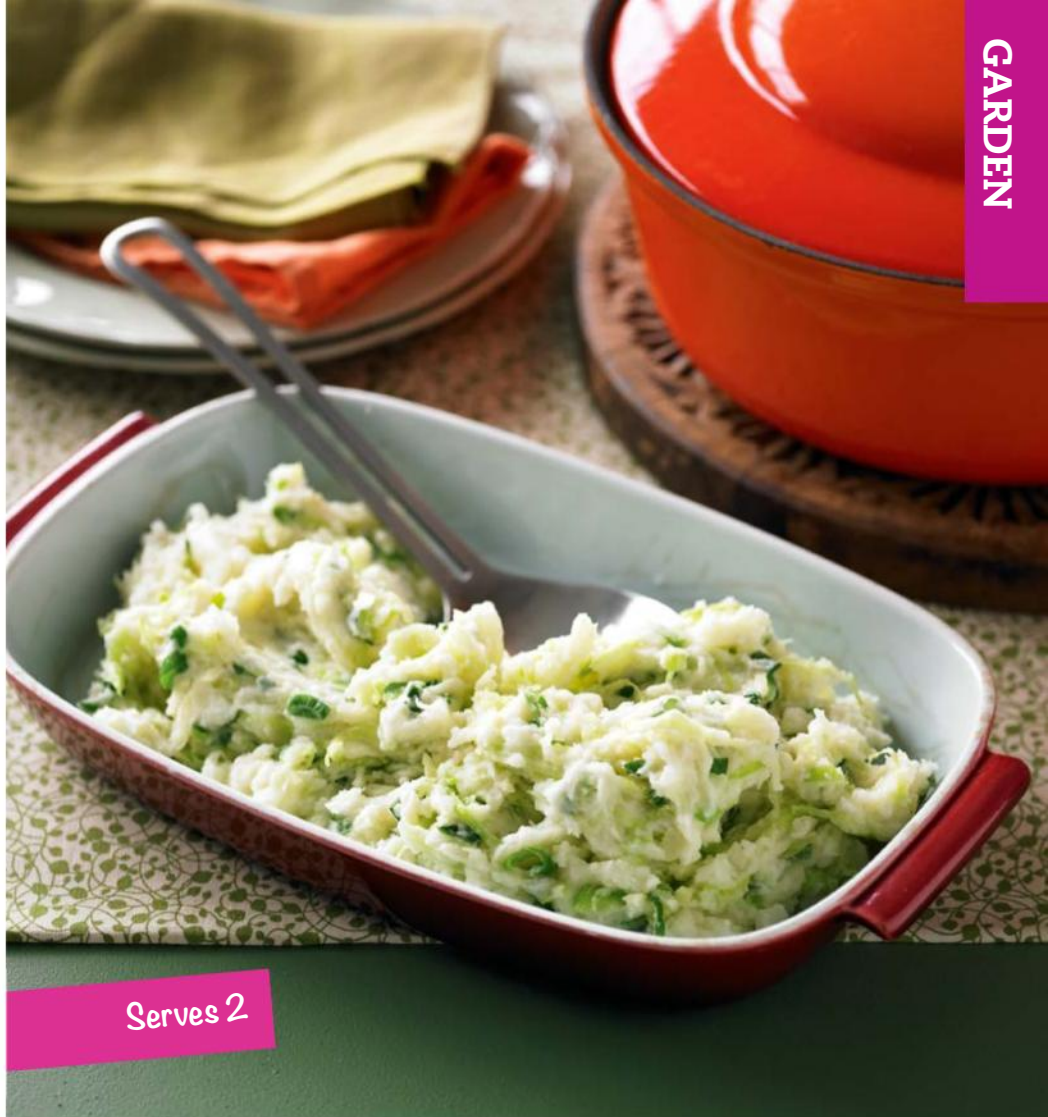
Ingredients

2 large (about 350g) mashing potatoes
such as Sebago, Pontiac or Coliban
⅓ cup (80ml) milk
2 tablespoons butter, cubed
1 cup (75g) shredded savoy cabbage
2 spring onions, chopped
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

❶ **PEEL** the potatoes and cut into 4cm chunks. Put in a large saucepan, cover with water, bring to the boil and cook for 12-15 minutes or until tender but not falling apart. Drain, return to the pan and mash roughly. Add the milk and half the butter. Beat with a wooden spoon until fluffy. Keep warm.

❷ **MELT** the remaining butter in a small non-stick frying pan over a medium-high heat. Add the cabbage and spring onion and cook, stirring, for 1-2 minutes.

❸ **STIR** the vegetable mixture through the potato and season to serve.



Serves 2

Spinach and potato frittata

PREPARATION TIME 15 minutes

COOKING TIME 25 minutes

Ingredients

500g potatoes, such as Bintje or Ruby Lou, scrubbed and chopped
5 cups (225g) baby spinach leaves, trimmed
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
1 red capsicum, thinly sliced
6 spring onions, thinly sliced
5 eggs
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
¼ cup (25g) grated parmesan

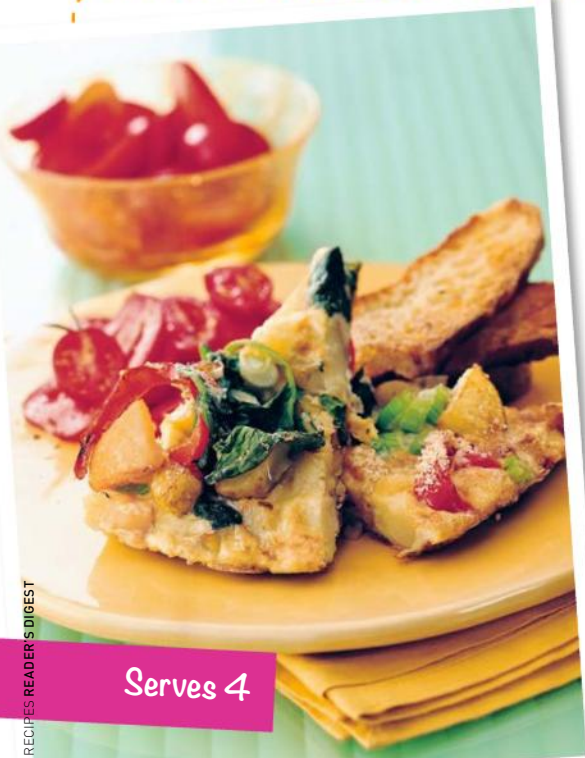
❶ **PUT** the potatoes in a large saucepan of water, bring to the boil and cook for 6 minutes or until almost tender. Put the spinach in a colander over the potatoes and cook for 5 minutes.

Drain the potatoes. Press the spinach with the back of a spoon to extract the moisture, then roughly chop.

❷ **HEAT** the oil in a 25cm non-stick frying pan, then sauté the capsicum over a medium heat for 2 minutes. Stir in the potatoes and spring onion and cook for 2 minutes.

❸ **BEAT** the eggs in a bowl, season, then mix in the spinach. Scoop out half the vegetables from the pan and add to the egg mixture. Stir to combine, then pour into the pan with the remaining vegetables. Cover and cook, without stirring, for 6 minutes or until almost set. Preheat the grill.

❹ **SPRINKLE** over the parmesan, then grill for 3-4 minutes or until browned and puffed around the edges. Cut into wedges to serve. 🍴



Serves 4

JUL

What's on this month

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



1
[SAT]

2
[SUN]

INDOOR PROJECT WORKSHOPS

Stay out of the cold with D.I.Y. for inside the home



8
[SAT]

9
[SUN]

KITCHEN, BATHROOM AND LAUNDRY

Learn how to improve your most-used rooms



15
[SAT]

16
[SUN]

PAINTING AND PLASTERING

Hints and tips to get the job done



22
[SAT]

23
[SUN]

WINDOWS AND DOORS WORKSHOPS

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29
[SAT]

30
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GARDEN

Learn the ancient technique of bonsai and create living works of art.
PLUS The best plants for balconies.

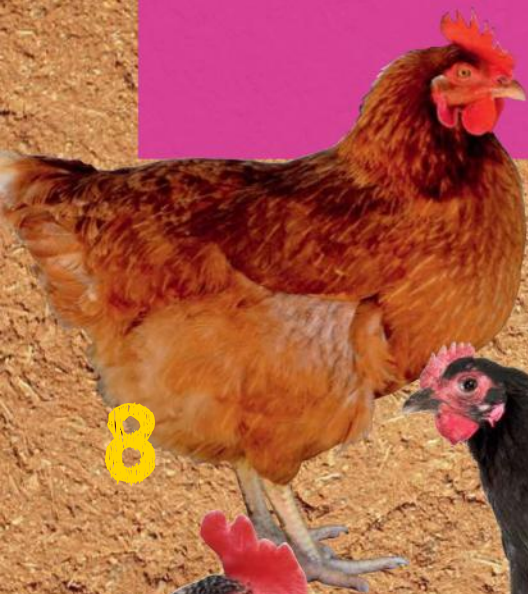
OUTDOOR

Tips and techniques for revamping the exterior of your home with paint.
PLUS Build and hang a timber garden gate.

POP QUIZ!

Name that CHICKEN

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



8



1



2



9



3



7



10



4

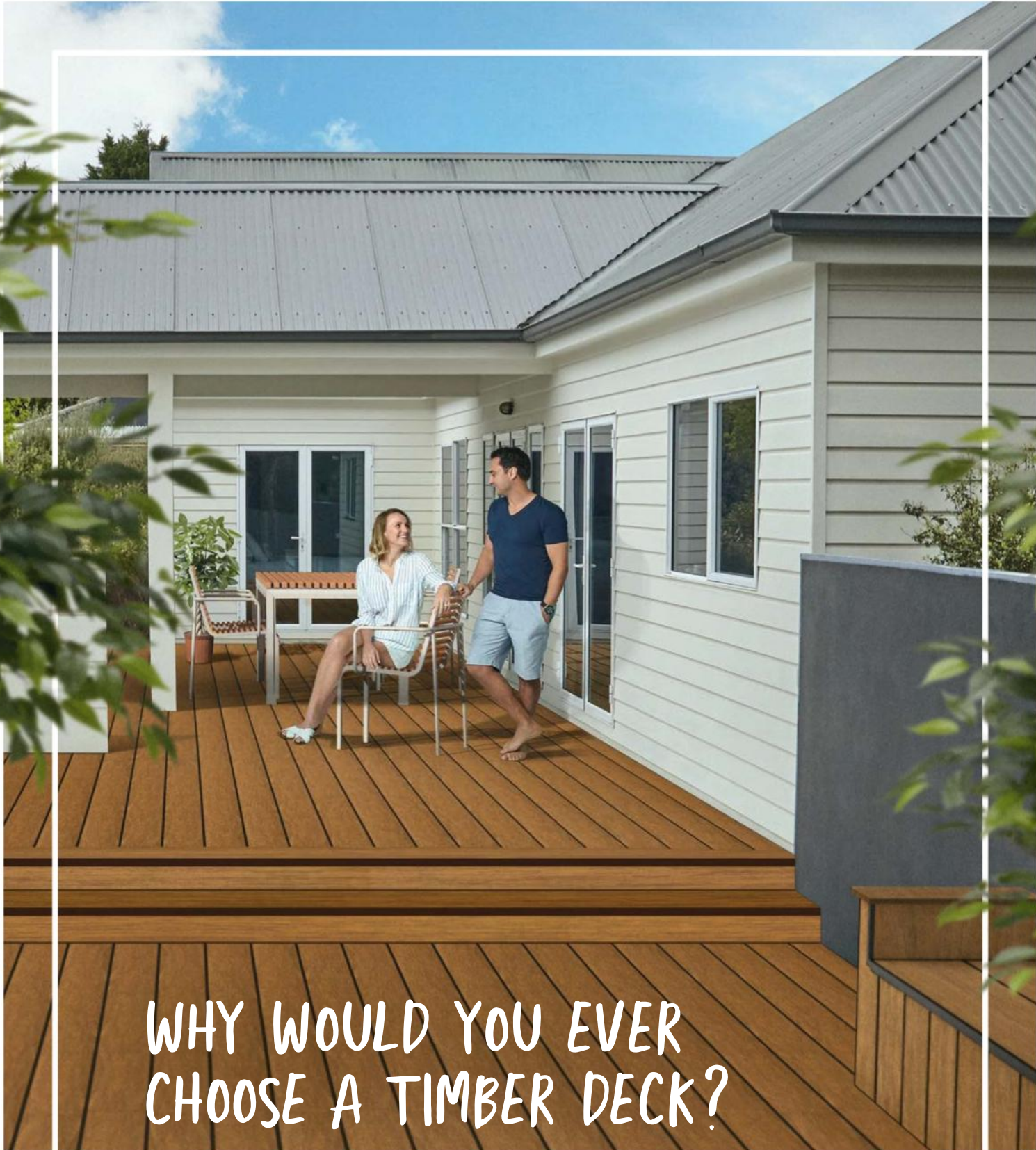


6



5

ANSWERS 1 POLISH 2 RHODE ISLAND RED
3 COCHIN 4 BARNEVELDER 5 SUSSEX
6 SILKIE 7 PLYMOUTH ROCK 8 ISA BROWN
9 NAKED NECK 10 AUSTRALORP



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