

AUSTRALIAN

LATEST BATHROOM TECH ^{page 34}

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SEPTEMBER ISSUE

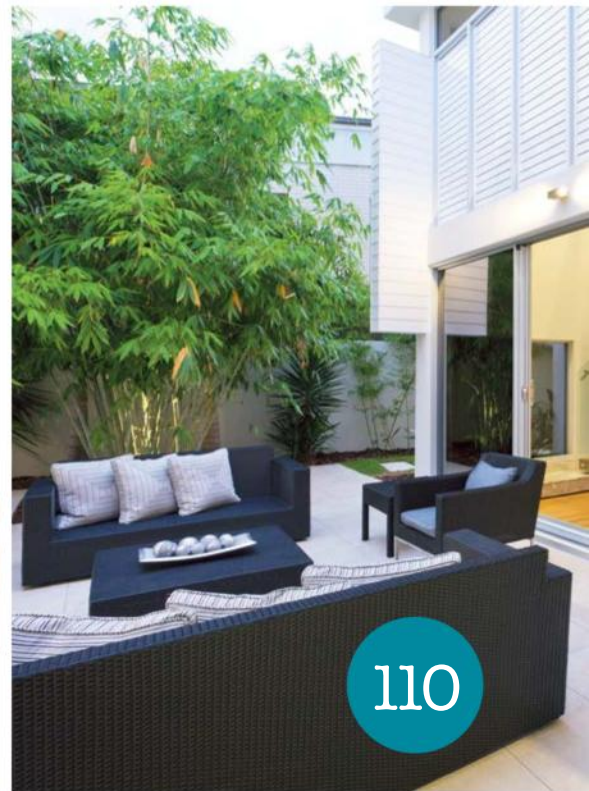
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GET THE LOOK

LOVE THE COVER?

Balance cool, clean colours with pastel pops and the warmth of natural materials

Take a fresh approach to designing the bathroom by selecting the elements you like most and making them work together.

Within a complementary palette, don't be afraid to mix patterns, materials and finishes. In this bathroom, tiles of different sizes add texture and depth.

Metallic tapware is still popular, bringing warmth and sophistication without breaking the bank.

Hide extra storage space behind a large over-sink mirror.

Classic subway tiles take on an update with a mid-grey gloss finish.

Add a soft element with a good-quality towel in an unexpected colour.

A vessel basin is a stand-out feature, but factor in the height.



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THIS ISSUE

HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH



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EDITOR'S LETTER



Boost bathroom storage with rustic floating shelves.

Spring is a fantastic time of the year, as the warm weather and longer days finally start to arrive. There's more time to get stuck into gardening, enjoy the outdoors, or to start planning the next upgrade.

The bathroom can stop most of us in our tracks. It's such an important room, but once you factor in the cost of tiles, tapware and fixtures, not to mention tradies, it tends to be one of the most expensive rooms to update.

That's why we've revealed expert design secrets on creating a luxurious bathroom without blowing the budget, on page 18. By carefully planning the space and shopping around, you'll be surprised at how much you can save.

If your bathroom just needs a few minor upgrades, check out our fixes and convenient additions, on page 41. Or, for the latest in bathroom gadgets and entertainment, head to page 34.

Spring-cleaning shortcuts

With the winter chill now over, it's the best time of year to give the home a proper clean. Get it done in no time with our top tips on page 71, or learn how to cut down clutter, on page 81.

Happy DIYing,

DAN

MANAGING EDITOR
DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Product of the month

One of the easiest ways to reduce the carbon footprint of your household is by composting.

The Can-O-Worms from Tumbleweed is a user-friendly worm farm that makes recycling kitchen waste easy (tumbleweed.com.au).

It employs composting worms to eat up to half their weight in organic household waste per day, rewarding gardeners with rich fertiliser.

Made from 100% recycled plastic, it features two large capacity collector trays, a ventilator collector tray, and a fly-proof lid.



Tumbleweed Can-O-Worms
Two-tier Composter, \$68.



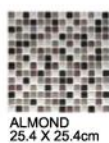
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MANAGING EDITOR **DANIEL BUTKOVICH**
ART DIRECTOR **KATE TIMMS**
DESIGNER **LEONID STEJKO**
CHIEF SUBEDITOR **AMANDA SHAW**
SENIOR SUBEDITOR **MARC MCEVOY**
PROJECT EDITORS **ADAM WOODHAMS, STUART SCOTT**
FEATURE WRITERS **SITA SIMONS, CHERYL MADDOCKS**

ADVERTISING

GROUP ADVERTISING DIRECTOR **SHERON WHITE** T: 0421 897 140
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER **KRISTINA FROHLICH** T: 0407 309 493
ACCOUNT MANAGER NSW **CRISTINA ARRATIA** T: 0412 949 244
CLASSIFIEDS **ALEK JOVANOSKI** T: 0451 030 355
NEW ZEALAND HAWKHURST MEDIA SERVICES **KERRY MCKENZIE**
T: 64 9 528 7103 E: kerry@hawkhurst.co.nz

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ENQUIRIES

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E: customerservice.au@readersdigest.com
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PUBLISHING

PUBLISHED UNDER LICENCE BY DIRECT PUBLISHING PTY LTD
GENERAL MANAGER **WALTER BEYLEVELDT**

Published by Direct Publishing Pty Ltd
(ABN 81000565471) 431 Warringah Rd, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2007
©2017 Direct Publishing Pty Ltd
Printed by PMP Limited
8 Priddle St, Warwick Farm, NSW, 2170
Distributed by Gordon and Gotch Pty Ltd



Australian Handyman magazine is printed on PEFC-certified paper, providing an assurance that the paper is produced from sustainably managed forest, recycled and controlled source.

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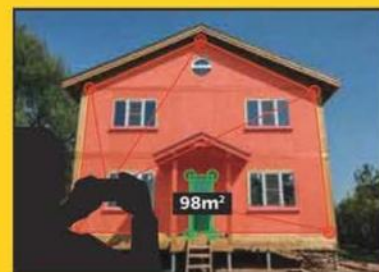
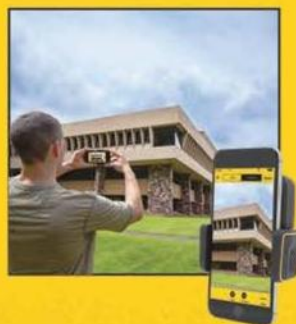
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masterlock.com.au

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samsung.com.au



Easy access

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gainsboroughhardware.com.au



Gate keeper

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au.ddtechglobal.com

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Use a traditional design to improve your home decor with a Prestige Brass Shell Cup Drawer Pull Handle, \$7. Made from brass and easy to clean and install, it will add a polished appearance to kitchen cabinets, sideboards, bedroom drawers and other suitable household items.

bunnings.com.au

Hot holder

Add a modern look to your furniture with the Delf Architectural Round Drop Handle, \$8. The elegant contemporary design with satin chrome finish will suit most cabinets and drawers.

delfarchitectural.com.au



Flower power

Divide rooms without wasting space with the Woodcraft Doors Cass 2040 x 820 x 35mm Bifold Internal Door with Creeping Flower Frosted Glass, \$704. The solid timber engineered door with maple veneer can be painted or stained.

woodcraftdoors.com.au



Subtle style

Adopt a sense of style to your entrance with the Corinthian Doors Blonde Oak Coastal Entrance Door, from \$359. Crafted from sustainable timber and finished in an American white oak veneer, it includes opaque glass panels and suits left- and right-hand installation.

corinthian.com.au



Bifold bonanza

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humedoors.com.au



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BATHED IN BEAUTY

Choose tiles and textures to create
a soothing ambience in the bathroom

WORDS SITA SIMONS **PICTURES** GIA BATHROOMS & KITCHENS

Colour tones of the natural environment work well in a bathroom.



With high demand for space and function, modern bathrooms integrate state-of-the-art fittings with the soothing luxury of a day spa. It creates a room that feels as good as it looks.

Illan Elberg, sales and marketing manager of GIA Renovations in Victoria, says a great bathroom offers respite in a fast-paced world.

'The bathroom is perhaps the only room in the house to have some alone time, so creating a space you really like allows you to start and end the day in a way that feels good,' he says.

This approach doesn't need to break the bank, but it does require thinking outside the white box. Inject personality into a room by adding bold tiles and feature lighting. >



Natural light and the right materials create a bathroom that stands out from the crowd



Warm tones can lift a neutral colour scheme.

Timber and tiles

Elements that warm and soften help balance the sense of cleanliness that is essential in a bathroom.

Solid timbers and timber veneers add an earthiness, while still being robust enough to stand up to the particular demands of a wet area.

Use timber in small areas, such as for the vanity or to line a partial wall, and combine it with natural stone or vibrantly patterned ceramic tiles.

'Feature tiles are very popular at the moment, and the emphasis is on finding something different and unique that suits you and your space. It's all about expressing your personality,' says Illan.

Don't be afraid to mix styles and sizes. The large format tile still has its place, making small spaces feel larger and minimising visual disruption with fewer grout lines, but small and intricate tiles are making a comeback.

'Discuss ways to lay tiles with your tiler, too. A plain, inexpensive tile can have an impact if laid in an interesting way, such as herringbone, fishbone or in a specified pattern,' says Illan.

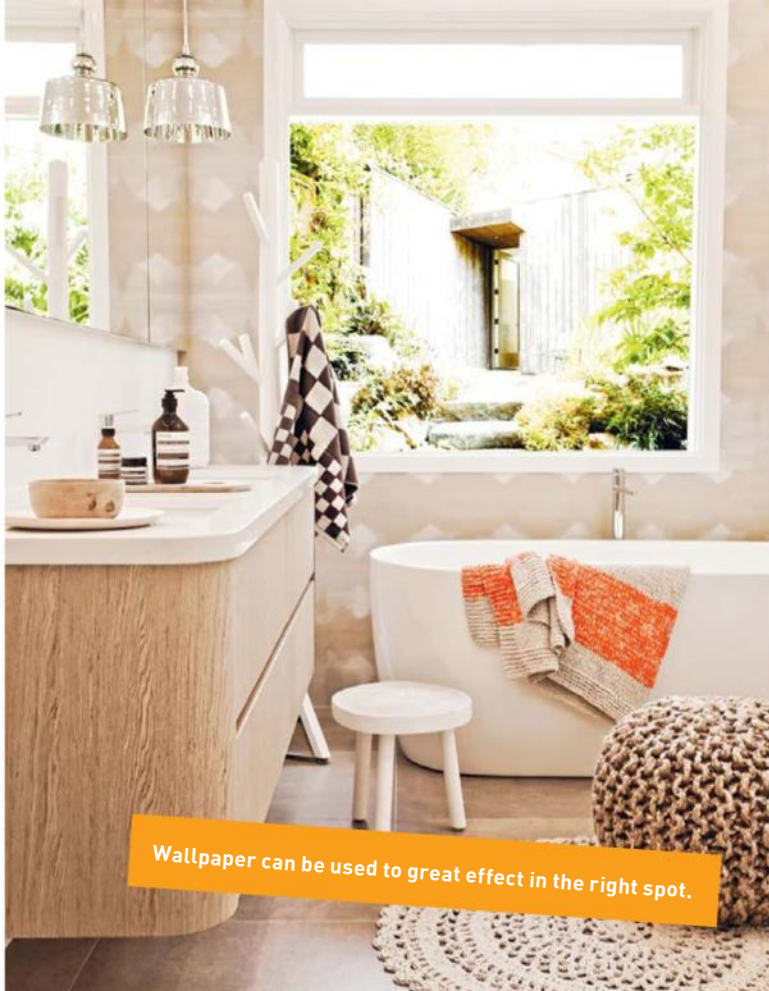
Wallpaper can also work well in a bathroom as a feature.

'You can achieve something really different and highly effective, just as long as it is kept out of direct contact with water. Good-quality papers are a must,' he says. ➤

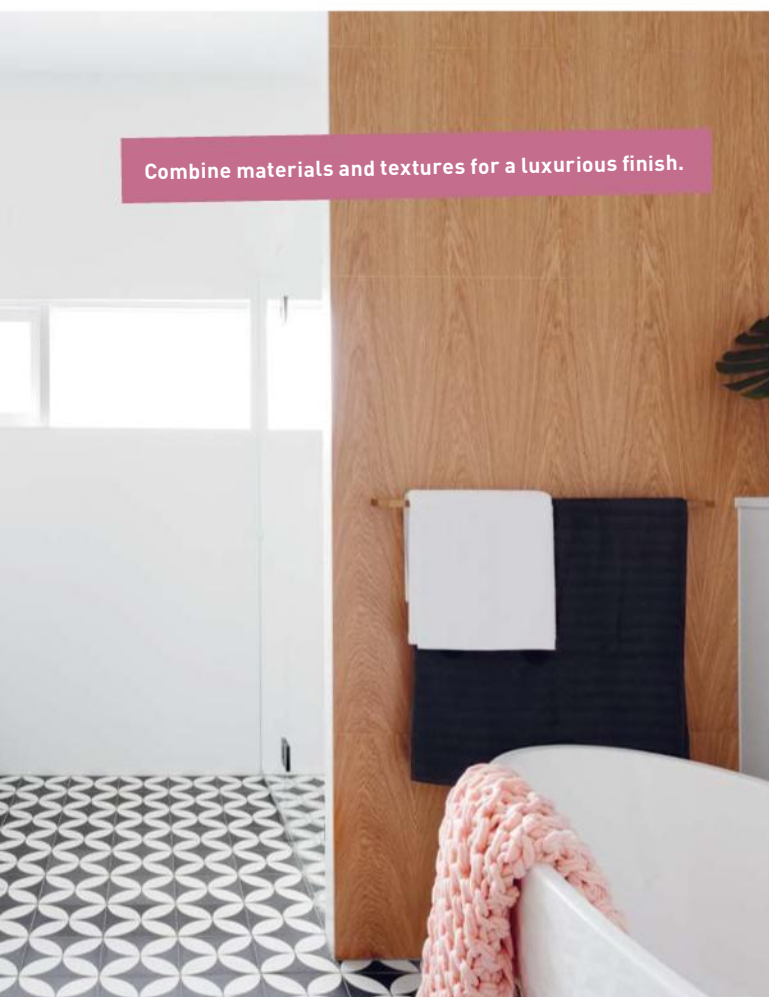
Round wall-mounted mirrors provide visual contrast.

★
Warm timber softens hard materials to create a welcoming space to spend quality time





Wallpaper can be used to great effect in the right spot.

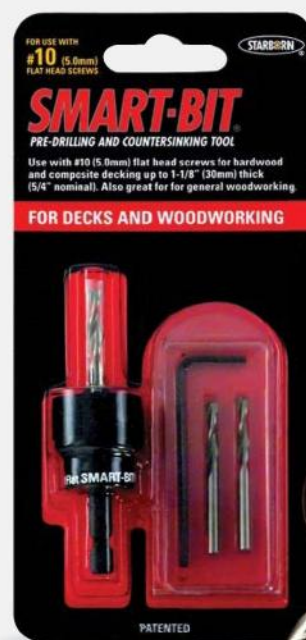


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Monochrome mood

It's hard to go wrong with the classic black and white combination. While simple, the look can vary greatly, depending on the emphasis.

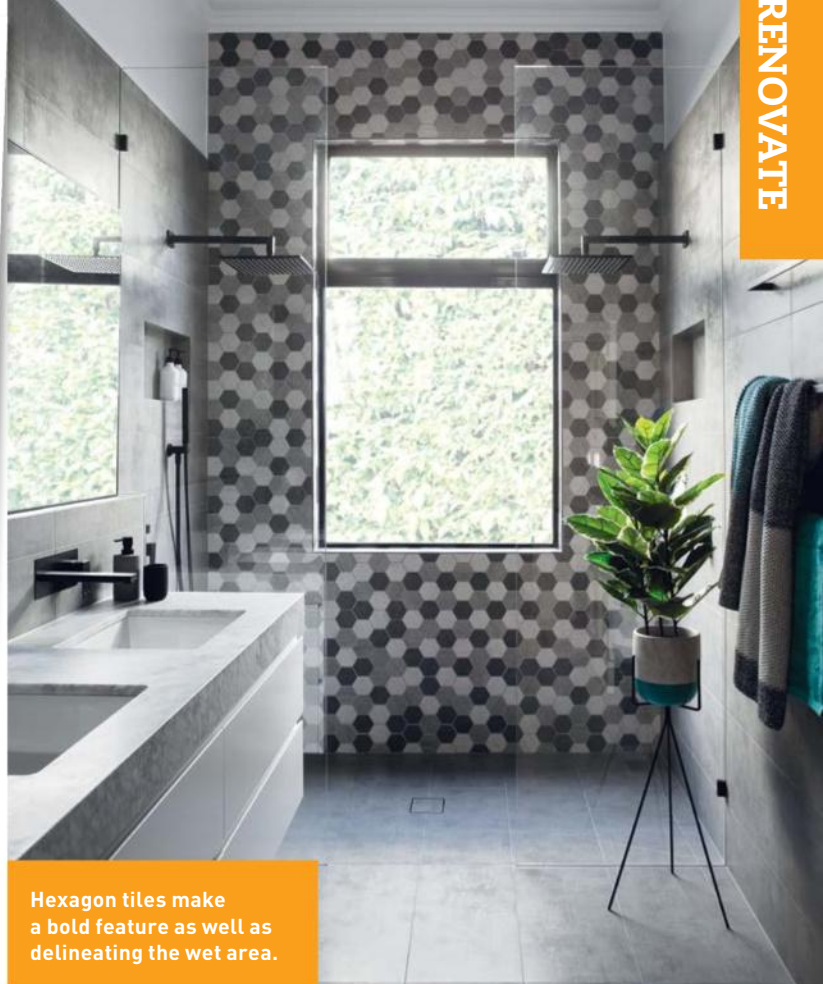
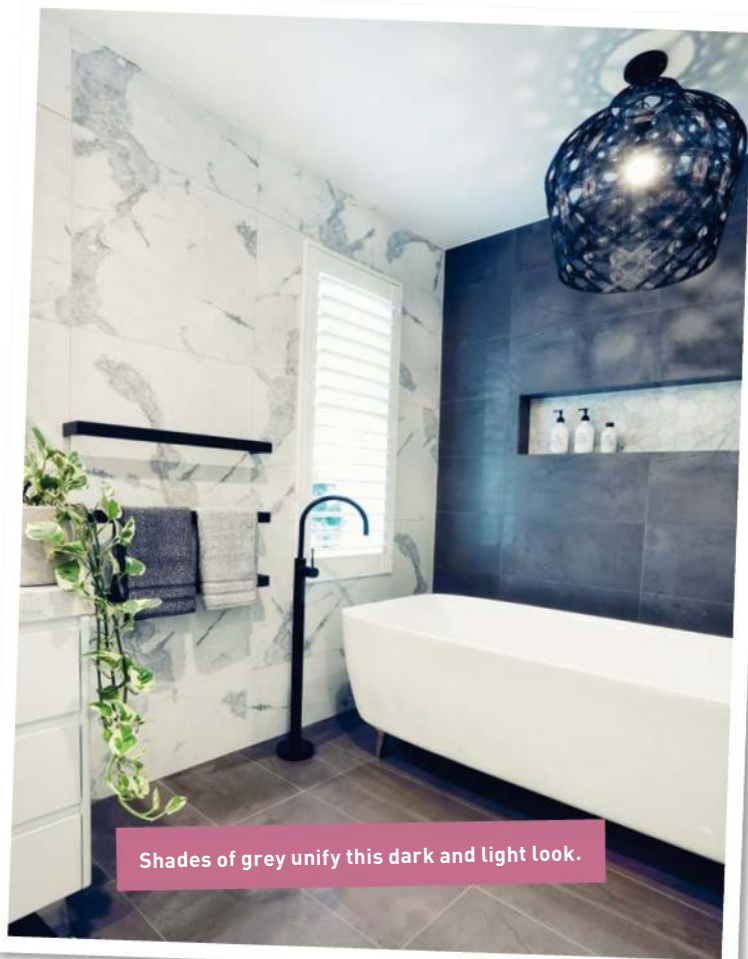
A character feature such as a stained glass window teams particularly well with a monochrome palette, and also references the architectural period.

'You can be aligned with the history without slavishly copying every detail,' says Illan.

'Small touches such as the panelled vanity and the tight subway tiles can be enough. Too much pushes the design over the top.'

A modern pendant that echoes the lines is a striking addition. ➤

Bold lines and patterns mix the classic with the modern.



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schlage.com.au



Open possibilities.





With metallic finishes the hardware pops.

Hard and soft

A feature tile can work as well on the floor as on a wall, and nib walls can make a style statement.

'Bathrooms need wall space, so creating an additional wall is always valuable where the design can accommodate it. Add a recess and you have even more function,' says Illan.

A bright tile is perfectly balanced with the raw grey of concrete, which is in turn softened by the use of timber and flashes of pink.

'Used well, concrete is very warm and grounding and can be worked into the design. The great thing about a bathroom is you need only a little to make a big impact,' he says. ✨

GIA Bathrooms & Kitchens
giarenovations.com.au



Provide extra storage space for toiletries or decorative items with a wall recess

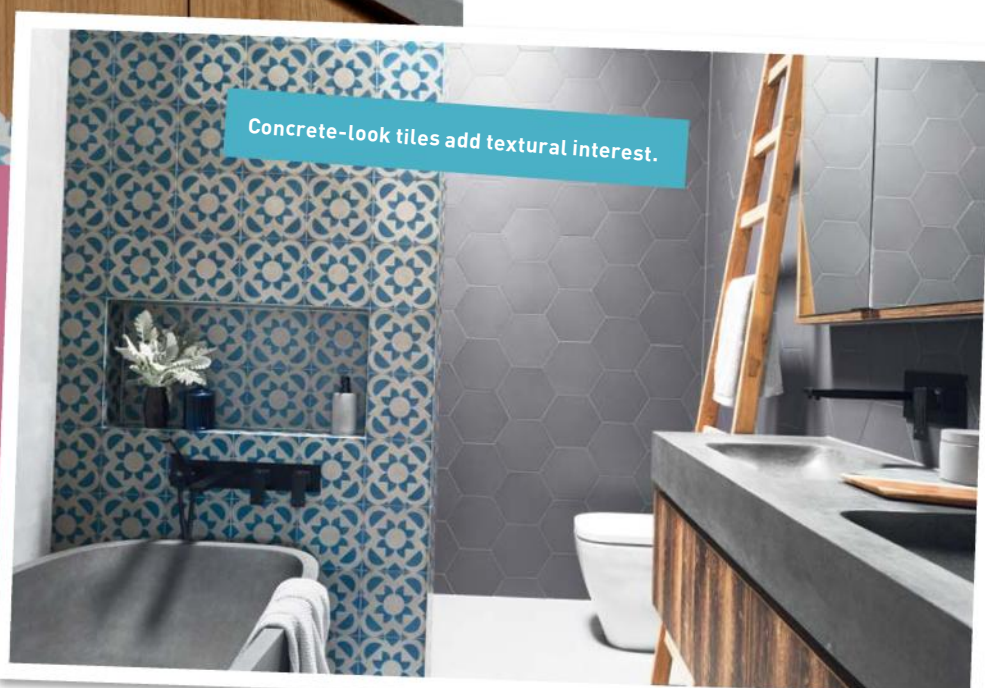


Concrete style

The look and feel of raw concrete is a strong trend at the moment, and there are many products to choose from, including custom options.

Concrete offers a seamless finish with no grout lines and excellent durability.

It can be very heavy, and this should be factored in before installing. Fibre-reinforced concrete is often preferred.



Concrete-look tiles add textural interest.

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BATHROOM MAKEOVER

Make this room an oasis of calm by banishing clutter and creating space

PROJECTS JESS COX PICTURES STUART SCOTT

To update this bathroom, tradies were used to demolish, tile and install the fittings, but the benchtop, shelves and mirror were built DIY.

The small 2 x 2.3m area needed careful planning. Instead of installing a bath, a walk-in shower with a glass panel and linear grate was installed to provide as much open space as possible.

Large 600mm grey tiles were used on the walls, with darker tiles on the floor and on one feature wall.

A bench and shelves were cut from a single slab of Australian red cedar. A curved above-counter basin was inset in the bench and the bench and shelves were then secured to the wall using angle brackets.

The mirror was mounted on the wall using two nested frames. The external frame was secured to the wall and the internal frame to the mirror and the internal frame to the wall. A concealed strip of LED lights was attached around the frame, which cast a relaxing, subtle glow. ➤



A new floating bench and shelves make the small bathroom appear much bigger

TOP PICKS



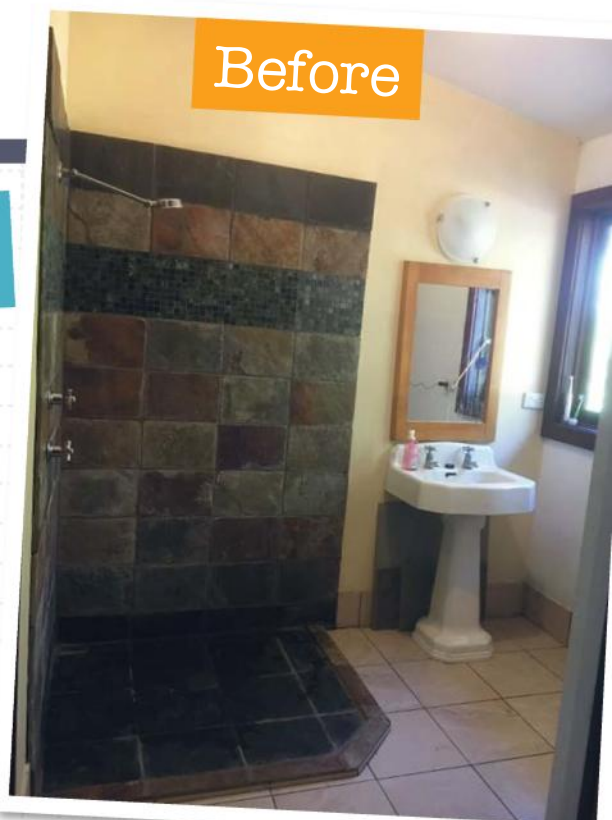
Feast Watson Prooftint Oak Interior Stain, \$23 for 250ml. feastwatson.com.au



Everton 600 x 900mm Polished Flat Edge Mirror, \$19. everton.com.au



Mondella White Rectangle Rumba Vitreous China Basin, \$149. mondella.com.au



After

Clean lines and rustic features turn this dated bathroom into a spa-like retreat.

DESIGN TIP

LED strip lighting around a hidden frame behind the mirror makes it appear to float on the wall, creating a high-end feel.

MAKE THE BENCH AND SHELVES



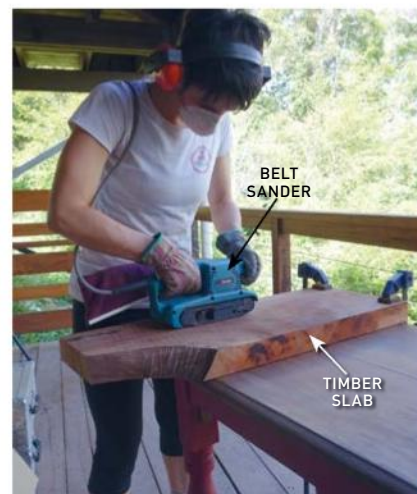
1 Prepare the slab

Measure the desired size for the bench and shelves, then source a slab from a timber yard. The bench and shelves all feature a natural, or live, edge, so consider the edges of the slab when choosing. Measure, mark and cut the slab to size using a circular saw and a cutting guide.



2 Seal the cracks

Use fibreglass resin to fill any cracks and knots in the timber. Seal the cracks with masking tape or use modelling clay for cracks on the soft edge of the timber. For a coloured finish, add a pigment, such as brown or black, before adding catalyst to the resin. Untinted resin has a blue tinge.



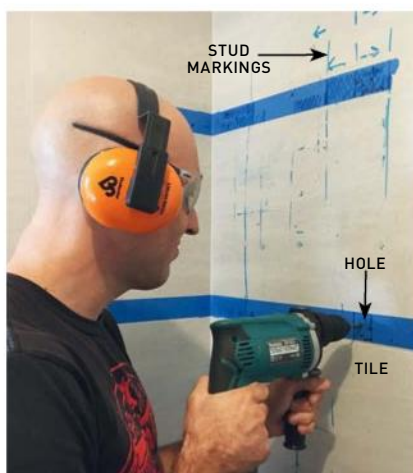
3 Sand the finish

When the resin is dry, sand the surface smooth using a belt sander. If the slab is warped or has deep grooves, you may need to hire a joiner to use a thicknesser or drum sander to achieve a smooth, flat finish. After sanding, finish with hemp or tung oil for a natural look.



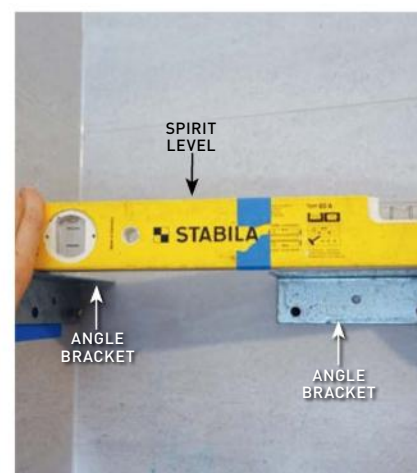
4 Add bench supports

If the plasterboard has been removed during demolition, add wide noggins between the studs to help support the weight of the bench and the shelves. If it has not been removed, use a stud finder to locate the wall studs behind the tiles. Mark the shelf positions on the wall using masking tape.



5 Position the angle brackets

Mark the bracket positions. Drill holes with a diamond-coated holesaw. For the bench, use M10 x 75mm stainless steel dome-head screws and washers to secure the first bracket to the noggins. For the shelves, use dome-head screws to secure to the studs or M4 x 8mm hollow wall anchors for plasterboard.



6 Secure bench and shelves

Secure the second angle brackets to the wall, using a spirit level to check they are level. Once all the angle brackets are secured, position the bench and the shelves on the brackets, then secure to the brackets with M10 x 40mm stainless steel dome-head screws and washers. ➤



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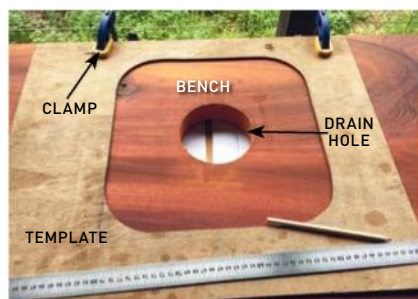
Basin inset

The new basin has rounded corners and was inset into the bench by 20mm.

To make the inset, a template was cut from a piece of plywood using a jigsaw. The template was traced onto the bench, then a router and a trammel were used to create the rounded corners.

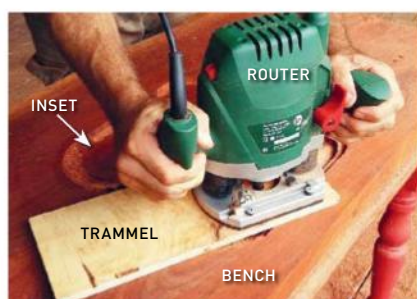


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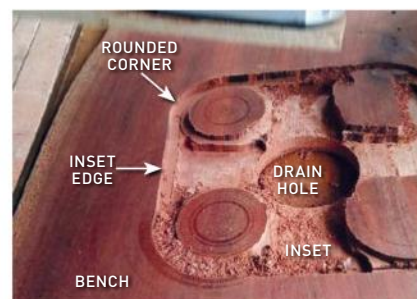
1 Cut out the template

Make a template from plywood, using a compass to create rounded corners. Cut out with a jigsaw. Check the fit on the basin, then clamp to the bench and mark the inset in pencil. Use the compass to mark the centre of four circles at each corner. Drill pilot holes.



2 Rout the circles

Make the trammel out of an offcut to rout the corners. Secure to the bench, with a nail in the hole so the distance between the nail and the bit is equal to the radius of the circle. Rout the circles, then remove the trammel and rout the inset edges using a straightedge.



3 Remove the waste

Replace the trammel and carve out the remaining material with the router from the centre to the edges, ensuring that one side of the router is always resting on the workpiece. After the waste is removed, sand with coarse paper to give a level surface. ➤



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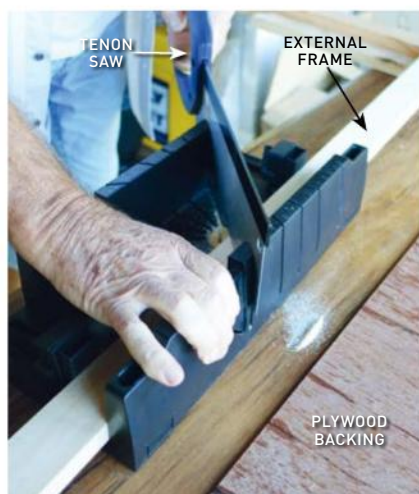
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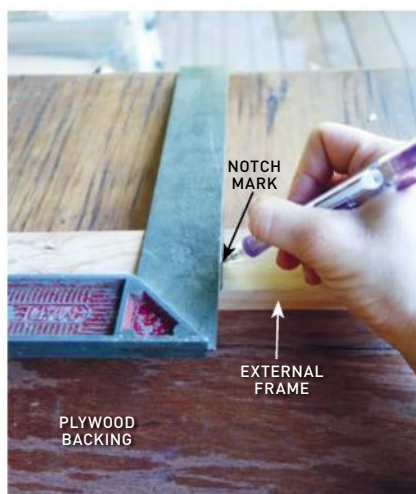
Create your dream bathroom for a stunning price with **ROCOCO**, one of seven unique and affordable styles from Mondella.

INSTALL THE MIRROR



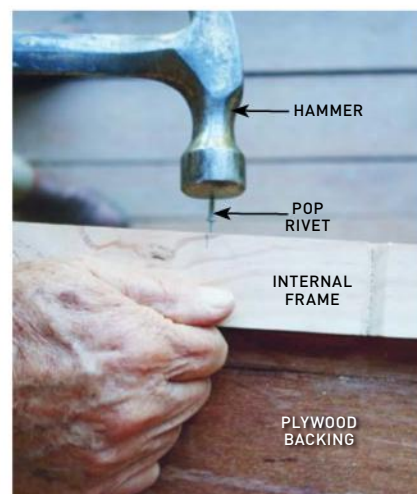
1 Make the external frame

Make the external frame by cutting a 400 x 700mm backing piece from 4mm hardwood ply. Using 42 x 19mm DAR pine, cut two 700mm pieces for frame sides and two 400mm pieces for the top and base. Mitre the corners. Arrange the pieces on the backing, then secure with PVA adhesive and nails.



2 Prepare the internal frame

Repeat to make the internal frame and backing, making the internal frame 20mm shorter in length and 2mm narrower than the inside measurements of the external frame. In the centre of the top edge of each frame, mark a 20mm notch for wiring. Cut out with a handsaw, then chisel out the waste.



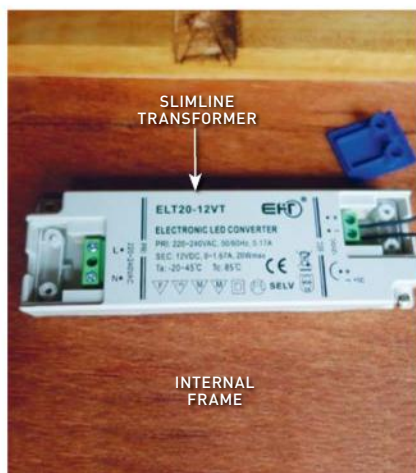
3 Add rivets

Drill pilot holes in the top of the internal frame at each side for two pop rivets. Hammer in the rivets. Tap the internal frame into the external frame to mark the position of the rivets, then drill holes in the external frame to house the rivets. Sand the frame edges, then seal with timber stain.



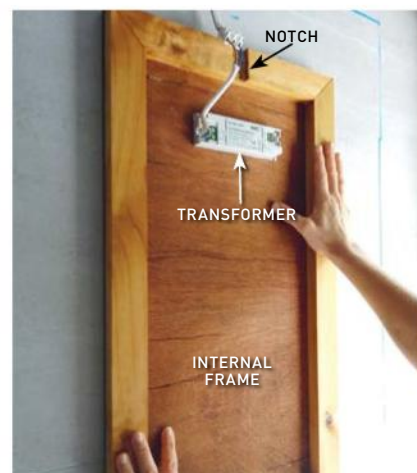
4 Attach LED lights

Starting and finishing at the notch, attach the LED strip to the external frame. Cut off excess. Mark the position for the external frame on the back of the mirror with a marker pen. Use double-sided tape and waterproof adhesive to attach the mirror to the frame. Weight down and allow to cure.



5 Connect the transformer

To connect the transformer to the mains wiring, it is necessary to hire a licensed electrician. Here, the existing transformer wall plug was replaced with a slimline transformer secured to the backing of the internal frame so it would fit between the external and internal frames.



6 Secure the frame

Mark the position of the internal frame on the wall with a whiteboard marker. Secure to the wall with double-sided tape and adhesive, checking it is level. Press firmly for 10 minutes and allow to cure. Assemble the frames by fitting the rivets on the internal frame into holes in the exterior frame. 🔩

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High-tech haven

Create a luxurious bathroom with the latest gadgets and gear designed for relaxation and comfort

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

New technologies are having a huge impact on how we live in our homes, and bathrooms are leading the charge.

Since bathrooms are one of the most frequently renovated rooms, it is no surprise that we expect more from this space, equipping it with

affordable smart products that make our lives easier and more comfortable.

The bathroom is no longer just a place to get clean or brush your teeth. It has become a hub of health and wellbeing in the home, with new products designed to create the feel of a modern day spa.

Innovations that make bathrooms easier to use, more hygienic and more relaxing are becoming commonplace.

These include systems run by control panels or apps on your tablet or smartphone that allow you to adjust lighting, stream music and turn on the shower at the perfect temperature.

PICTURE ALAMY

RECREATION



Bluetooth connectivity is making its way into bathroom products, with downlights, showerheads and even mirrors featuring in-built speakers.

In-ceiling speakers such as Yamaha NS-IC600 Speakers, \$449 for two (au.yamaha.com), feature sealed back covers to protect them against dust and moisture.



Although many people still enjoy catching the news on the radio as they get ready for work, others stream music and podcasts from smartphones or watch TV.

Splash-proof entertainment systems, such as the Ocea 180 18" Bathroom TV, \$1139 (levervue.com.au), allow you to

bathe or shower while watching your favourite show.

You can do the same with a cabinet mirror TV using LED technology to create a split screen. MP3 outlets allow users to play music through bathroom cabinets, too, as well as charging electronic items, mobile phones and tablets.

MIRRORS

How often have you stepped out of the shower to find the vanity mirror fogged up?

Mirrors with defogging technology, such as the backlit Arcisan Eneo 1400mm LED Mirror, \$599 (streamlineproducts.com.au), puts an end to grooming yourself in front of a steamed-up mirror.



Smart glass, which is insulated to diminish heat transfer, is becoming increasingly popular for windows, as is electrochromic glass, or switch glass, also used in screens.

Switch glass lets you bathe in privacy in front of a window or screen. At the push of a button, the glass changes from opaque to clear.



Weighing it up

Bathroom scales have come a long way. Smart scales, such as the Fitbit Aria Wi-fi Smart Scale, \$180 (fitbit.com/au/aria), measure your weight as well as your body mass index and body fat percentage.

You can track all your data wirelessly from your smartphone, computer or tablet. ➤

HEATING



Underfloor heating, such as the Thermonet Electric Underfloor Heating Mat, from \$523 (thermogroup.com.au), creates a warm, cosy environment.

It prevents cold floor tiles and has a programmable thermostat.



Heated towel rails, such as the Mondella 8-Bar Square Concerto Heated Towel Rail, \$272 (mondella.com.au), are popular in bathrooms. Warming drawers are also useful.



Digital mini hot-water systems, such as the 6.6kW-8.8kW Zip CEX9-U Hot Water Unit, \$730 (zip.com.au), provide instant hot water and reduce energy costs.

It has an electronic display to set the desired temperature.

LIGHTING



Sensor lights in the bathroom, such as the Magic Living 8 LED Sensor Nightlights, \$18 for two (bunnings.com.au), are ideal for those who make nocturnal toilet stops.

They eliminate stumbling around in the dark and save on electricity costs. They also turn off automatically when the bathroom becomes vacant.



The Caroma Luminous LED Drop Rail Shower with Overhead, \$949 (caroma.com.au), has lights that change colour depending on the water temperature.

LEDs are the most efficient and cost-effective form of lighting.

The Ledvance LED Superstar 8W 850lm Dimmable Downlight, \$25 (ledvance.com.au), is splashproof and ideal for bathrooms. It comes in white trim and satin chrome. ➤



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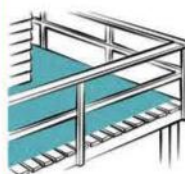
Green Slate



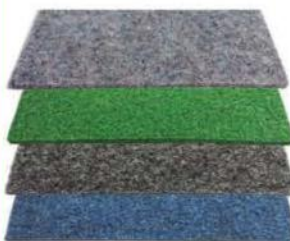
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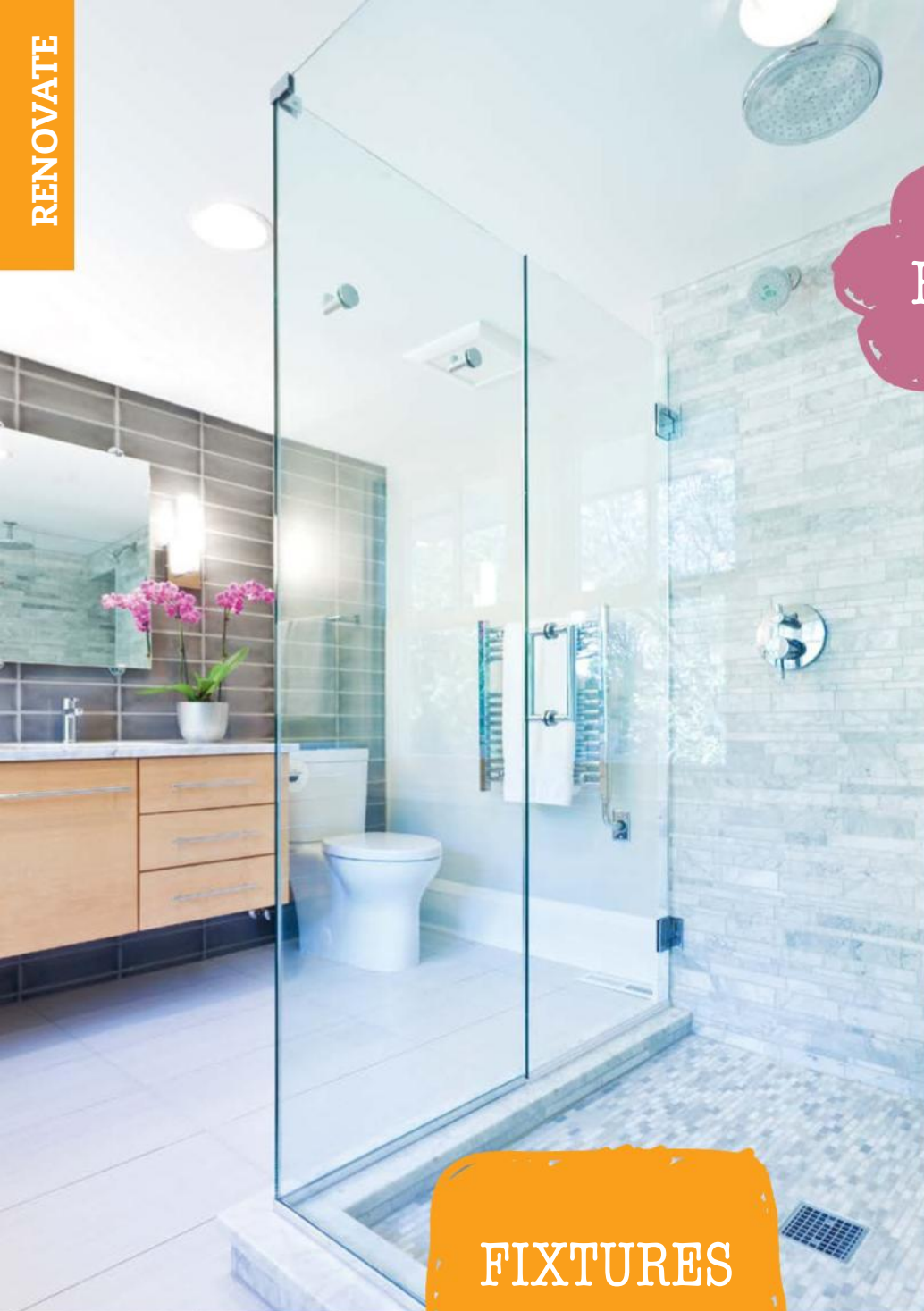


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FITTINGS



Digital LCD screens are a feature of electronic showerheads, such as the Flexispray Prince Digital Rail Shower, \$125 (flexispray.com.au).

It lets you set water temperature and even tells you how much water you're using.



Sensor taps are used in public bathrooms to improve hygiene, but this touchless technology is making its way into homes.

The Caroma Ecotron Electronic Wall Mounted Sensor Tap, about \$475 (caroma.com.au), runs for nine seconds with a swipe.

FIXTURES

A streamlined toilet that is easy to clean and saves space is a popular feature in bathroom renovations.

The Mondella Concerto Dual Flush In-Wall Cistern, \$270 (mondella.com.au), hides the cistern within the wall cavity behind the pan.



Toilets with motion-activated controls allow hygienic hands-free flushing, close lids and seats automatically, heat and deodorise seats, and have bidets with adjustable controls for temperature and water pressure.

The Kohler Veil Intelligent Wall Hung Toilet, \$5399 (kohler.com.au), has a remote control for setting preferences. ●

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UPGRADE THE BATHROOM

Transform the busiest area of the house with these smart additions



All of us at one time have thought about updating the bathroom, then crunching the numbers can make us reconsider.

But a bathroom makeover needn't be a huge expense. Simple adjustments and additions can transform this room.

Often, it's best to work with what you've got, such as repainting walls to complement existing tiles, or replacing

a small vanity with a larger mirrored cabinet to create a sense of space.

Other tricks include installing frameless showers or altering the position of lighting.

If storage is a problem, perhaps the solution is just a new shelving system. There are then the smaller upgrades: an adjustable showerhead or towel rack, or even just a soap holder. ➤



Recesses create space for shelving and storage.

Add extra storage

A busy bathroom needs plenty of storage for towels and accessories, especially for large families. A wall recess is a handy solution that boosts storage without taking up extra space.

Recesses occupy space in the internal wall cavity, providing storage in otherwise wasted space.

Usually installed as part of a major bathroom renovation, they can also be created when retiling and are especially useful in showers, as they provide a stable place to store shampoo and soap close at hand.

One of the most important considerations when making a recess is to use a water-resistant plasterboard, such as Gyprock Aquachek (gyprock.com.au).

Aquachek is treated to resist moisture and humidity, making it ideal for use in wet areas.



A shallow recess has function but also looks great.

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SikaBond® TechGrip is the super strength glue you'll want to stick with. This waterproof adhesive forms the perfect grip with most substrates and is paintable with water based and solvent based paints. Resistant to solvents and chemicals, this is the adhesive you will definitely bond with.



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



Cabinet makeover

Many older bathrooms include vanities that were deprived of mirrors and adequate storage. It was as if bathroom designers did not believe a vanity cabinet could have more than one function.

This cabinet, for instance, has been built into the wall with an extra shelf and its doors designed with two large mirrors that create a sense of space in a confined area.

It also has plenty of storage to cater for your needs at the sink.

If you plan to upgrade your cabinetry, consider the opportunity it provides to add useful shelving, larger mirrors and imaginative lighting arrangements. ➤



DIY TIP

Add variety to your showering routine by attaching an adjustable showerhead to an existing conventional shower.

Handy extras

Using the shower is one of our most frequent activities in the bathroom, so it pays to have a good shower set-up.

Replacing fittings and fixtures such as showerheads, taps and soap holders should be at the top of the list in your upgrade plans.

There is also a great range available to help you improve the function and look of your bathroom.

Adjustable showerhead

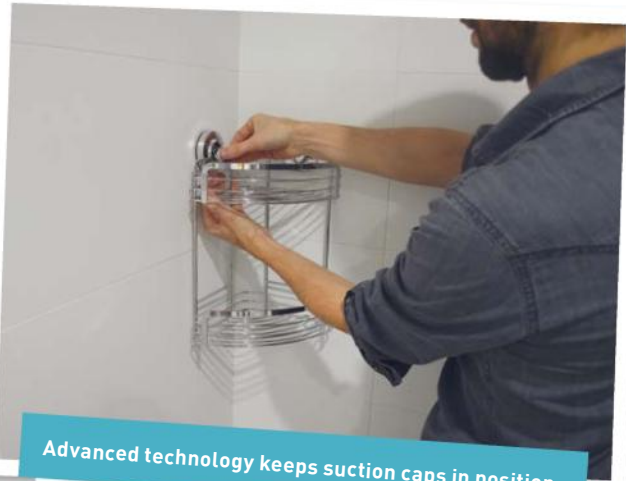
An adjustable showerhead is ideal for a family, as it makes it easier for people of different heights to use the shower.

This Ezyfix Air Shower on Revolution Rail, \$149 (ezyfix.com.au), is a great upgrade, as it's simple to install and requires no additional drilling.

The unit has a showerhead that slides along a rail and attaches to the existing pipe fitting. This means there are no brackets to secure to the wall, which makes installation quick and easy.



Adjustable showerheads cater for users of varying heights.



Advanced technology keeps suction caps in position.



Removable shower caddy

Having a place to put shampoo, soap and other accessories in the shower is essential, but if you're not confident about drilling into tiles, or if you rent, you'll need an alternative solution.

Suction storage devices, such as this Naleon Two-tier Ultimate Corner Basket, \$70 (naleon.com.au), make it easy to boost storage in the shower, and can be removed for cleaning.

To install the shelves, unscrew the buttons from the mounts, then position the top rail in the channel. Reattach the buttons to secure the mounts to the shelf.

Position the shelves in the corner in the shower, then push one button in to engage the suction cup. Turn one screw all the way to secure the mount, then repeat for the other mount, ensuring the shelf is level. ➤

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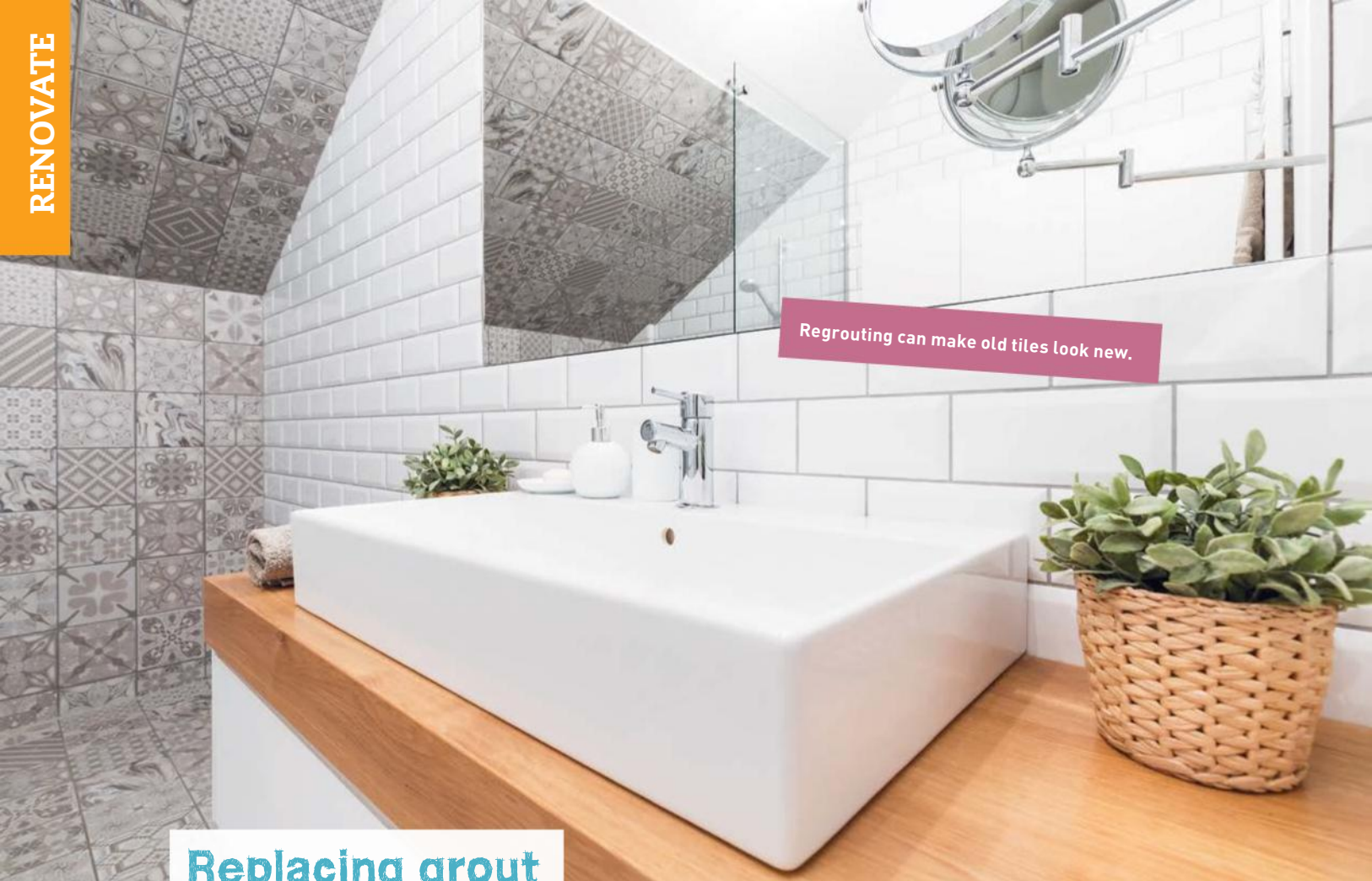
This superior silicone sealant is great for creating a perfectly watertight seal. SikaSeal® Aquarium Silicone Sealant is a one component vulcanising rubber that works swimmingly on aquariums, ponds and waterpumps. With extreme temperature resistant qualities, this sealant is ideal for your waterworks.



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Replacing grout

With constant wear and tear and exposure to moisture, bathrooms need regular maintenance to keep them looking their best and prevent damage.

Grout is one of the most common aspects in the bathroom that needs

repair, as it can degrade over time and become dislodged from the gaps between the tiles. This allows moisture to affect the subfloor.

Flaking, discoloured grout can detract from the look of a bathroom,

making an otherwise beautiful room look dingy and dated. But it is also an indicator that water might be causing structural damage.

Luckily, replacing grout is a simple DIY fix that can be done in a weekend.

1 2 3



1 Remove the old grout

Use a carbide grit grout saw to remove loose grout. The angled offset handle lets you apply heavy pressure as the blade is scraped over the gaps. Remove the dust with a vacuum cleaner, then wash the surface with a solution of water and white vinegar.



2 RegROUT the tiles

Mix the new grout to the consistency of toothpaste, then move a rubber float diagonally across the tiles to push the grout into the gaps. Leave it to set for 30 minutes, then use a damp sponge and clean water to wipe away the excess.



3 Seal the grout

Leave the grout to cure for two days. Apply grout sealer with a small paintbrush, using a cloth to clean the edges of the tiles as you go. The sealer protects the grout and prevents water, dirt and mould from penetrating and leaving stains.

Repairing silicone

Eventually, bathroom silicone can deteriorate. Cut away old silicone with a utility knife, rub off the residue with methylated spirits and let dry. Apply new silicone, such as SikaSeal Kitchen and Bathroom Silicone Sealant, about \$10 for 300ml (sikaretail.com.au).



1 Protect the surfaces

Apply strips of masking tape to either side of the gap, 4mm apart. Cut the nozzle at 45°. For control, keep the hole smaller than the gap.



2 Lay an even bead

Start at one end and continue to the other. Pull the trigger slowly, pushing the gun away from you. Release at the end of the gap.



3 Smooth the bead

Dip your finger in soapy water and run along the bead with enough pressure to create an even surface. Remove the tape and allow to dry. ☑

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★ ORIGINS

Glass



Insulated barrier

Windows and glass doors can add to energy costs, as they allow heat and cold to transfer through them.

The types of glass used to reduce this include double-glazed, laminated, toughened, tinted, reflective and insulated.

Today, a popular domestic and commercial choice is eco-glass, or low-emissivity glass.

This has a metallic layer applied to one surface that prevents heat passing through it. On hot days, less heat penetrates inside, and on cold days, less heat is lost to the outside.



Glass has been used for thousands of years. It is made by heating sand, which is mostly silicon dioxide, until it turns into a liquid at 1700°C.

For a long time, glass was used only in jewellery and to make drinking vessels, then demand grew for stained glass in churches.

Glass became popular in the windows of English homes in the 17th century and 200 years later was being mass-produced.

Today, glass can be a vanity mirror with a TV, an opaque privacy screen or a trap for solar energy.

Its chief use in our homes is to be a transparent barrier to the outside world. Windows and screens come in all shapes, sizes and types.

And DIYers can use glass to make their own windows and doors. Or, if they feel creative, they can pay to use a local furnace to make decorative pieces with a glass blower.

RIGHT Glass is often coloured by metal oxides or sulphides. **BELOW** A furnace is used to manufacture glass objects.



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STEP 1: CLEAN

The powerful, foaming action of WD-40 Specialist Lawn & Garden Powerful Foaming Cleaner cuts through dirt, grime, resin and sap; breaking down residue to leave your tools looking brand new. Ideal for your whipper snipper, mower body, hand tools and other metal, wood or plastic surfaces.



STEP 2: LUBRICATE

Increase the lifespan of your tools and prevent drying, cracking and splintering with WD-40 Specialist Lawn & Garden General Use Lubricant. Keep exposed joints well lubricated so moving parts like telescopic loppers and hedge trimmer blades can operate smoothly. Also helps to prevent rust and corrosion from forming on metal surfaces.



STEP 3: PROTECT

WD-40 Specialist Lawn & Garden Water Protective Silicone protects plastic, metal and wood surfaces with a clear, dry, weather-resistant film that repels grass and grime. Great for preventing residue from sticking to tools and stops dirt from building up on rubber wheels, metal blades and other surfaces. For long term protection against rust, use WD-40 Specialist Lawn & Garden Heavy Duty Grease.

Click on our website www.wd40lawnandgarden.com.au for further information on how you can use it on your lawn mowers, whipper snippers and hedge trimmers.

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★ EXPERT TIPS

Caulking gun



Smart sealing

Caulking guns are used to apply a variety of sealants and adhesives from cartridges.

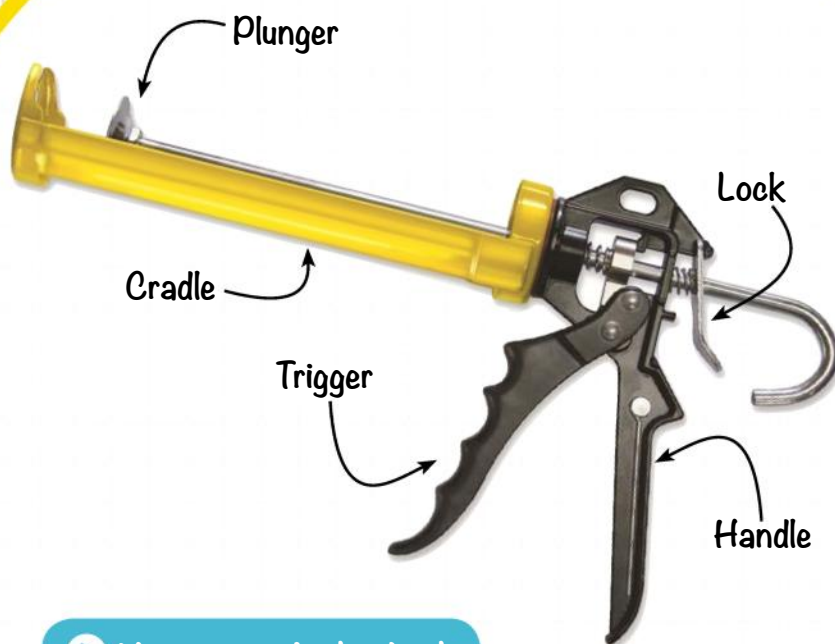
The gun comprises a cradle that holds the cartridge in position, and a plunger that pushes the base of the cartridge forwards, forcing the sealant or adhesive through the nozzle.

This allows the adhesive to be delivered in a steady and controlled manner to create an even bead.

Most caulking guns are manual, with the plunger controlled by the lever action of the trigger.

Cordless caulking guns have an electrical-powered plunger that is activated by the trigger, resulting in an even flow and less fatigue.

TIP Keep the screw-on cap for the cartridge nozzle so unused compound can be stored without hardening.



▶ How to seal a bathtub

Visit handyman.net.au/sealing



➤ PUSH THE NOZZLE FORWARDS

Position the nozzle at a 45° angle at the start of the gap, then gently squeeze the trigger while moving the nozzle forwards to fill the gap, keeping an even pressure on the trigger. Pushing the nozzle as you work forces the sealant into the gap so it adheres to both surfaces and creates a neat result.



➤ MEET IN THE MIDDLE

Long gaps can be tricky if they require more sealant than the gun can deliver in one run, as restarting where you finished the first run can create an uneven blob. Instead, start at one end, then start at the other end and meet in the middle, keeping the midpoint away from eye level so you can't see the join.



➤ SMOOTH THE BEAD

To smooth uneven beads, use a finger dipped in soapy water or a smoothing tool with rounded edges and drag it along the bead. When using silicone, apply masking tape 5mm from either side of the gap before applying the silicone. Smooth the bead and remove the tape before the silicone cures.

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A bougainvillea in full bloom provides striking contrast with the black and white facade of the build.

A light well allows the sun to bounce around the main living space.



ROW RENO

A rebuilt terrace makes use of limited space in a glamorous setting

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES JUSTIN ALEXANDER AND SEAN JOHNSON

The terrace, or row house, is returning as a medium-density balance between freestanding houses and apartments.

This would be done by building two- or three-storey dwellings adjoining each other on subdivided quarter-acre blocks.

When Luigi Rosselli Architects was commissioned to rebuild what Luigi called a flavourless row

house in Woollahra, Sydney, it was an opportunity to re-imagine.

Split levels between the front and back were adapted to the site slope.

To shorten the stairs, three storeys were built at the front of the house and two taller storeys with a living room and light well at the rear.

An elevated entry courtyard and a large bougainvillea now lie below tall windows and a Juliet balcony. ➤





The brass kitchen tap and sink synchronise with the adjacent fish-scale brass stairway balustrade.



Small-site solutions

This modern terrace demonstrates that a house built on a small site doesn't have to be devoid of amenities.

The build includes open-plan living areas, three bedrooms, three bathrooms, an office, a garage, a dining room and a kitchen.

But it also has a study, a dressing room, a laundry, a balcony, light wells and two courtyards.

Economy of space forced the architects to think creatively, and employ the most efficient home planning solutions.

The powder room under the stairs, for instance, might be smaller than an aircraft toilet, but it is

actually quite a voluptuous space. Designed for a film director, the house required not only good planning but also a particular emphasis on engaging imagery.

'The materials and the patterns used externally have also been embraced internally,' says Luigi.

'The routed aluminium stair balustrade is inspired by Prussian architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel's fish-scale palace, to become the protagonist of the living space.'

Luigi says the Eileen Gray-inspired bench seat, the brass details of the hardware and lights and the selection of furniture are a nod to the 1950s elements of the original house. ➤



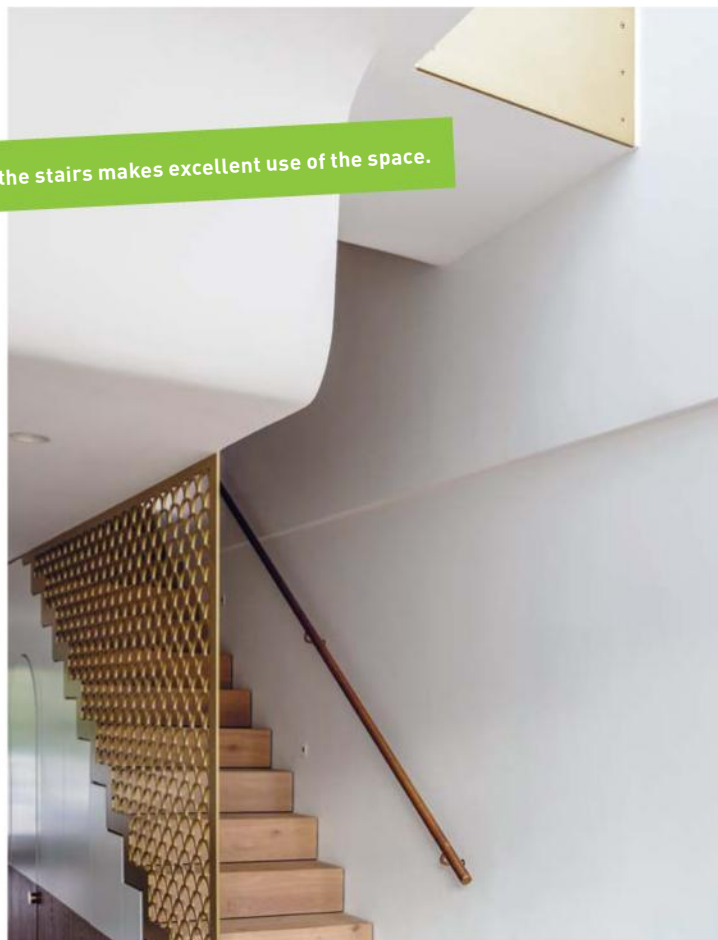
A thread of gold accents runs from one room to another, contrasting with timber and stone



The tubular design of the dining bench seat is anything but retiring in petrol blue.



A compact bathroom under the stairs makes excellent use of the space.





District views from the bedroom make this a relaxing room. Storage recesses are built into the walls.

Panoramic views

Wide windows frame a panorama that spans from Sydney Harbour to the leafy hills of the eastern suburbs.

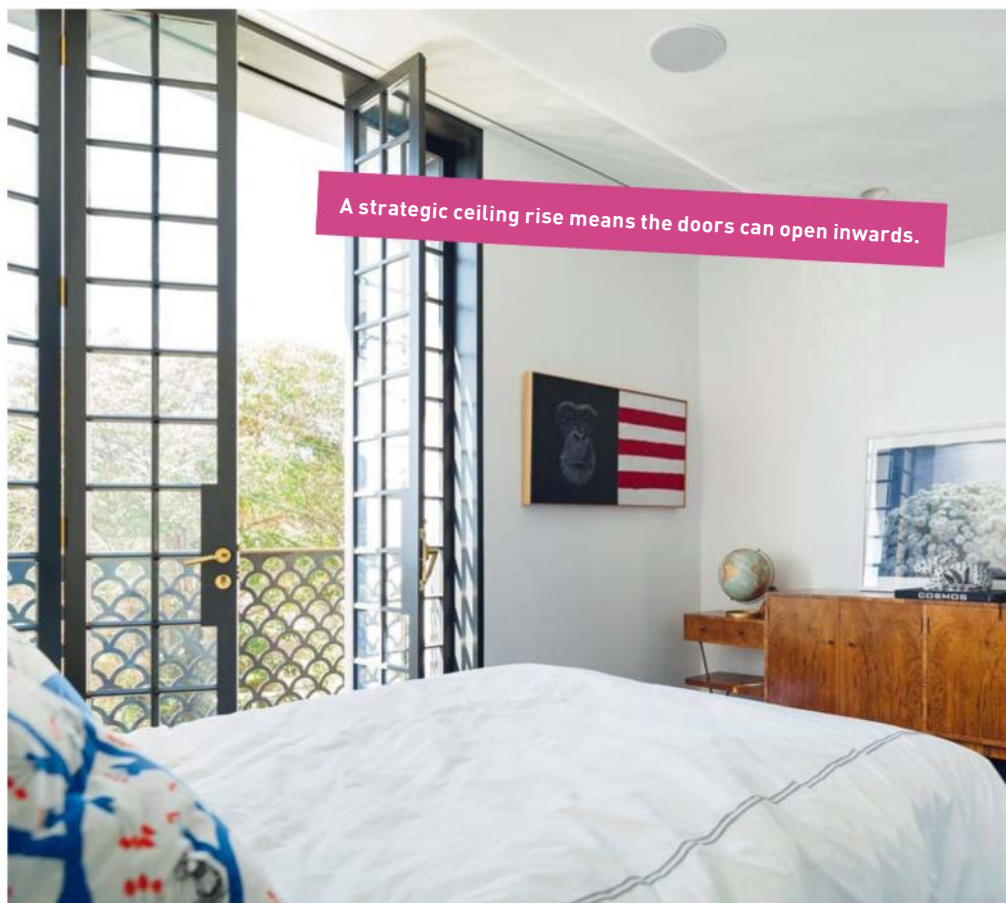
All the windows can be opened, outside shutters folded back and deep eaves provide ample sun protection.

The palette used for the main bathroom matches the interior design. The dark tiles and vanity top highlight the brass detail of the hardware and tapware, while the mirrors over the basins blend with the sky behind.

'The timber joinery enhances the overall feeling of warmth and tactile sensuality imbued into the house,' says Luigi. >



In each space, the design has capitalised on the availability of enjoyable views



A strategic ceiling rise means the doors can open inwards.



Split mirrors add another dimension to the bathroom window.



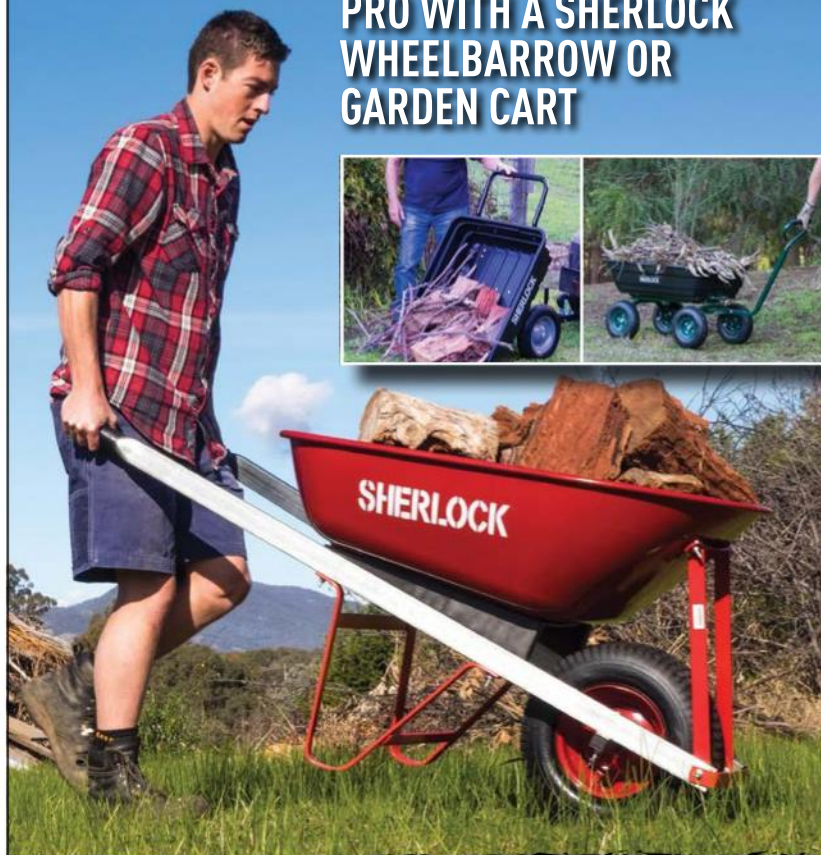
The shower in the master ensuite features a skylight and brass fittings.

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Outdoor entertaining

Between the main house and the studio/garage at the rear is a second courtyard where the family can meet.

This is an ideal area for the children to play, and to savour the fruits of the olive tree and enjoy the barbecue, along with the warmth of the wood-burning fireplace.

'The materials used for the outdoors reflect the language of the surrounding Victorian houses but with a contemporary twist,' says Luigi.

'The paved terrace at the rear is aligned with the intent of continuity between the interior and exterior spaces, becoming a fully equipped outdoor living area that connects with the garage and the study above it.'

The use of timber shutters and traditional windows aligns the new house with the spirit of the neighbourhood. It also combines classic designs with contemporary systems and technology. ➤



Connecting rooms

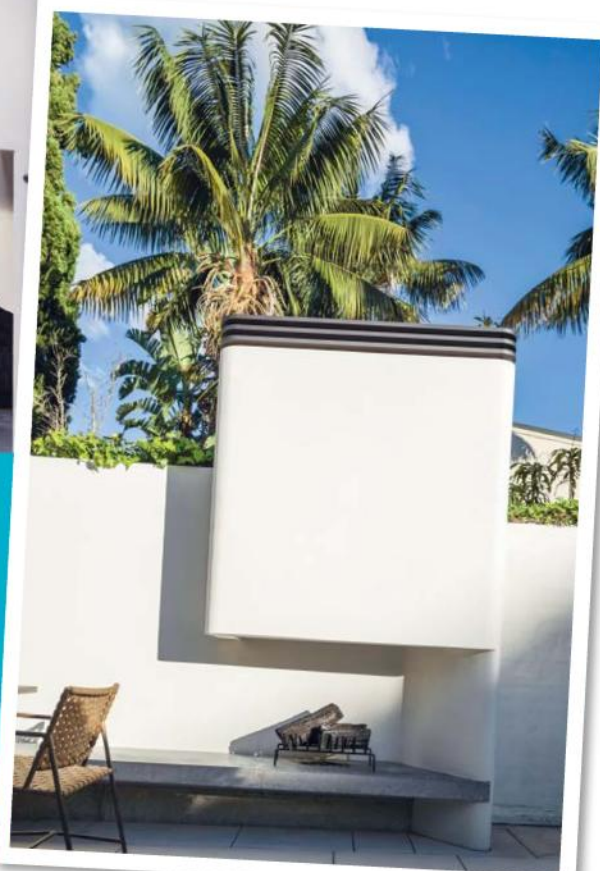
This home was designed with the concept of raumplan in mind. Attributed to Austrian architect Adolf Loos during the 1930s, it is the principle that each room be individually designed.

The raumplan generates a sequence of spaces that interlock between each other at different levels, creating a feeling of

fluidity that also optimises the usable space and provides unique solutions for each room.

Adolf Loos said his architecture was not conceived in plans, but in spaces. He did not design floor plans, facades or sections. Only spaces.

He said there was no ground floor or first floor. There were just contiguous, continual spaces that related to each other.





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LOUNGE

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Ceiling-high windows in an office over the garage let in plenty of light.



Double-duty space

Planning permission was granted in record time for the addition of an attic space above an existing garage. This enhanced the amenity of the house while respecting its space.

'An effective garage design should never just be a car-parking spot, especially if you live in the city where space is at a premium and you have the opportunity there to open it to a private outdoor space,' says Luigi.

'On the lower floor, the large glass door provides natural light for the kind of manual tasks one would undertake in a workshop.

'And on the upper level, we wanted to create a cave for a modern man, a place of escape and contemplation for working, creating and relaxing.'

Luigi Rosselli Architects
luigirosselli.com



A green view from the office is achieved with a tall topiary tree, which also provides interest from the main house





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PROJECTS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR



Melissa

EXPERT SECRETS

Use a stain-blocking primer to prevent existing varnish or timber stains from showing through.

Blogger Melissa Darr turned her hand to restoring a telephone table, a vintage desk and chair and a Queen Anne-style seat.

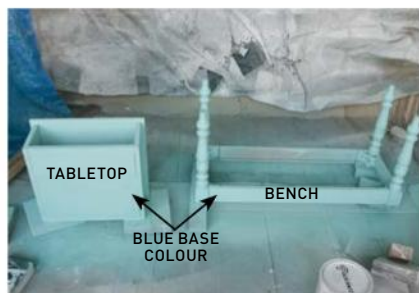
After returning home from one of her op-shop excursions with this telephone table, Melissa says that her husband thought it was the ugliest piece of furniture he'd ever seen.

'This didn't give me a vote of confidence, but I had a vision of what I wanted to do with it,' she says.

'I saw the lovely turned legs and the opportunity to paint and reupholster it in a French-themed fabric.'



1 2 3



1 Apply the paint

Remove the seat pad and unscrew the tabletop from the bench, then sand and prime. Apply two coats of a blue base colour and a white top coat. Let dry. Lightly sand the edges to reveal blue paint and give a distressed look.



2 Upholster the cushion

Pull out the staples to remove the old fabric using a screwdriver and pliers. Using the fabric as a template, cut out a piece from the new fabric. To create a design on the fabric, print off an image in reverse. Allow to dry slightly.



3 Add a design

Dab the image with Sticky Spot & Goo Remover, from supermarkets. Flip the image and secure to the fabric with pins. Firmly rub the base of a jar over the image. Let dry. Staple the fabric to the pad and attach to the bench. ➤

BENCH REVAMP

DIY TIP

Use a spray gun to apply the paint to make the task much quicker and easier and to give a smooth, even finish.

After

With a distressed look and new printed fabric, the bench is now a feature piece.



Get more DIY from Melissa
Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com

DESK & CHAIR MAKEOVER



After

Painted in crisp white, the old chair and desk pair well.

Melissa picked up this chair at a garage sale and decided to team it with the desk she'd had stored under the house.

The desk was in good condition, except for the garish pink paint showing through the top coat. So she applied two coats of a grey undercoat to cover the pink, then two coats of a white top coat.

She gave the chair a rough sand along the edges and corners to give it a worn look, then applied a grey undercoat and a white top coat. It was then lightly sanded along the edges and seat for a distressed finish. ➤



TOP PICKS



Ryobi One+ 18V Hot Glue Gun, \$69, skin only. ryobi.com.au



Arrow T55C Heavy Duty Staple Gun, \$45. bunnings.com.au



Rust-Oleum 2X Ultra Cover Gloss White Paint + Primer, \$12 for 340g. rustoleum.com.au



Sika Sikabond Spray Fix High Strength Contact Adhesive, \$20 for 575ml. sikaretail.com.au



Flexovit 115mm x 5m 120 grit Paint No Clog Sandpaper Roll, about \$12. flexovit.com/en-au

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SEAT SALVAGE

Melissa took on the job of restoring this elegant Queen Anne-style seat and drawer combination for her sister.

'Her vision was to add bling to the chair with diamanté buttons and by replacing the old drawer knob with a classy glass one,' says Melissa.

The plan was to paint it white and reupholster it in a complementary grey and white striped fabric.



Before



After

Reupholstered and repainted, the chair is totally transformed.



1 Paint the timber

Remove the staples, metal trim, fabric, arm pad and drawer. Sand the timber, then spray in gloss white paint. Using the old fabric as templates, cut pieces from the new fabric for the base, back and arm pad, with an extra 40mm all round.



2 Upholster the seat

Use contact adhesive to bond the fabric to the arm pad, then secure with staples. Upholster the seat cushion, stapling the fabric along one side and pulling the opposite side taut before stapling. Repeat for the other sides.



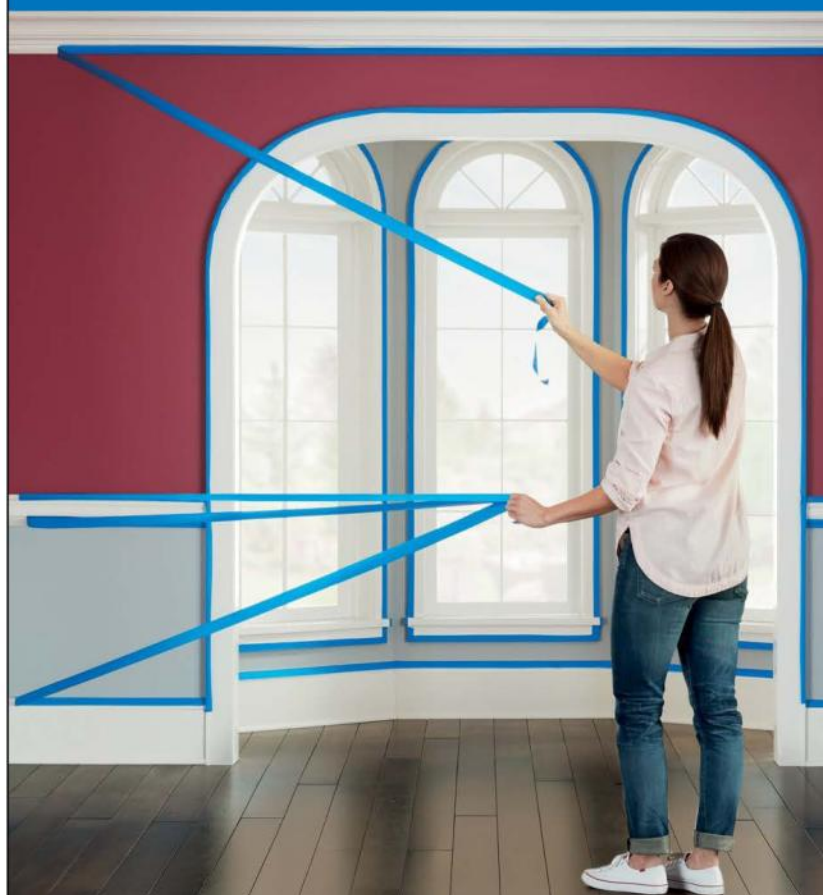
3 Add the details

Upholster the back, starting with the top row of buttons, pleating and tucking the fabric as you go. Staple the top edge after finishing two rows, then add the last row. Add braided trim around the fabric, securing with a hot glue gun. 🌟

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DIY IRONING STATION

Boost laundry storage and organisation with an industrial-style ironing board rack and shelf

The laundry can be one of the messiest rooms in the house, and can easily become cluttered and disorganised.

A wall-mounted ironing station keeps the room tidy, and houses the iron and board in a convenient place for quick access.

Made from galvanised pipes and plywood, this industrial-style rack is easy to build and will make a statement in any laundry.

To work out the design, sketch it on paper to determine how many lengths of pipe you will need.

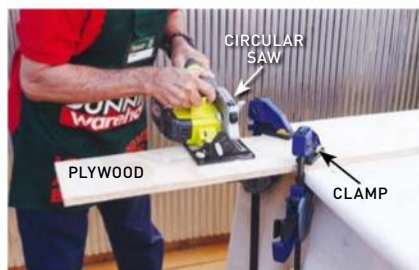
This frame uses threaded 15mm wide galvanised pipes, tee fittings, end caps and elbows, and is mounted to the wall using flanges. The shelf is secured to the frame with saddle clips.

The weight of the frame means the flanges will need to be secured to the wall studs. Use a stud finder to determine their positions.

What you need

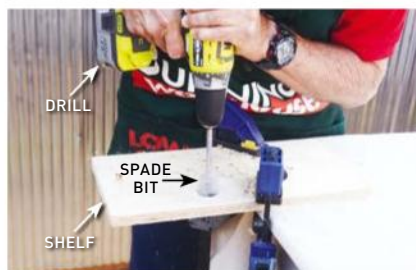
- 15mm plywood
- 15mm galvanised pipes and pipe fittings
- Saddle clips
- Spray paint
- Stud finder
- Drill and 32mm spade bit
- 20mm screws
- Circular saw
- Tape measure
- Clamps

Design the frame so that each flange can be secured to a wall stud



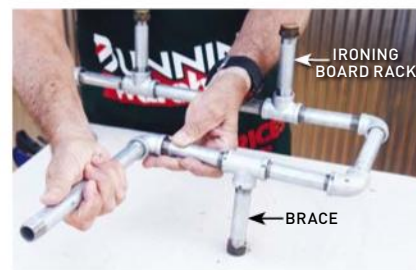
1 Make the shelf

Mark out a 400 x 170mm shelf on a piece of plywood, checking to ensure there is enough space for the iron. Use clamps to secure the plywood to the workbench, then cut the plywood using a circular saw.



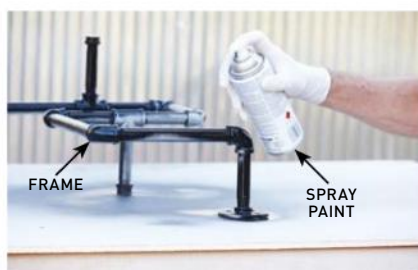
2 Drill the clearance hole

As the shelf is supported by the pipe, a hole will need to be drilled in the shelf to fit the pipe and elbow. Mark the hole centre, allowing enough space for the iron on one side, then drill the hole using a 32mm spade bit.



3 Assemble the frame

Attach pipes to elbows to create an S-shape. Use tee fittings and 100mm long pipes to create the ironing board rack on the lower section and a brace on the middle section. Attach elbows, 100mm pipes and flanges to each end.



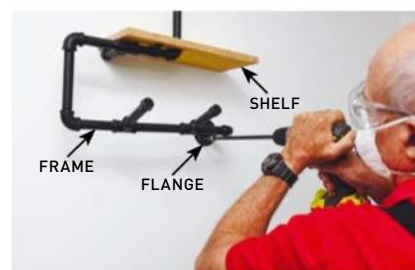
4 Paint the frame and shelf

Test that the shelf fits on the frame, then remove it. Apply your choice of spray paint to the frame, saddle clips and the shelf. Here, black was used for the frame and a brighter colour for the shelf to create an industrial look.



5 Secure the shelf

Once the paint is dry, slide the shelf into position on the frame. Position the saddle clips over the pipe underneath the shelf, then mark and drill pilot holes. Secure the clips to the shelf using 20mm screws.



6 Mount the frame

Use a stud finder to locate the position of the wall studs. Have a helper hold the frame in position against the wall, then secure the frame to the wall using 20mm screws through the flanges into the studs.



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Spring into action

Follow this easy guide to get your home looking spotless

WORDS MARC MCEVOY

Winter is over. Is dust covering the shelves, grime staining the tiles and cobwebs infesting the corners? It's time for a spring-clean.

Don your cleaning gear, gather your buckets, detergents, mops, dusters and sponges, and prepare your attack.

Approach this annual task with a clear strategy. Your home may have been closed up during winter, so start by opening your doors and windows and give it a breath of fresh air. ➤

 Find more cleaning tips

Visit facebook.com/HandymanMagazine



SAFETY TIP

As cleaning products may contain acid, bleach and abrasives, wear rubber gloves, safety glasses and a long-sleeved shirt.

Start with the bedrooms and living rooms. Leave the kitchen and laundry until last, as they will be your messy HQ until all the other rooms are done.

Dust the shelves, sweep and mop the floors, vacuum the carpet and clean the windows.

Don't forget to get behind bulky furniture such as lounges, sideboards, beds, and even that old piano. Dust just loves to hide there.

Watch out for remnants of those insidious daddy-long-legs. They'll set

up home wherever one wall meets another. Now you can tackle the kitchen, laundry and bathroom.

These places often require multipurpose household cleaners and bleaches that get into tight spaces such as the grout between bathroom and kitchen tiles.

And don't neglect the outdoor areas. Mop the deck, clean the mould off the daybed cushions and give the front door a good scrub. It's the first thing your guests see. ➤

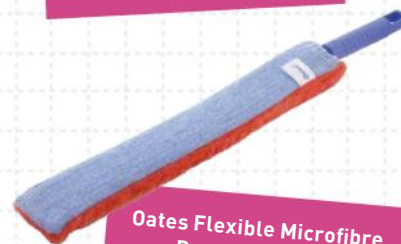
TOP PICKS



Sabco Premium Metal Dustpan Set, \$14.
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30 Seconds Outdoor Cleaner, \$12 for 1L.
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Oates Flexible Microfibre Dust Wand, \$14.
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WD-40 Specialist Fast Drying Contact Cleaner, \$17 for 290g.
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Life doesn't have to be sneezy



Dust, dust mites, pet hair and dander can trigger allergic reactions and even asthma attacks.

Cleaning regularly with the **Oates Triple Action Flat Mop** helps to keep your home dust-free and **reduce the allergens** that can trigger allergic reactions and even asthma attacks.

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Remove dust

The average home collects 18kg of dust a year. That dust film on the sideboard that your kids love to write their names in comprises particles from about 5000 materials. These include skin flakes, human hair, saliva, food, pollen, mould spores, fibres and insect parts.

There are elements in dust, such as mites, that can cause allergies, so it's important to be diligent when dusting.

Vacuuming is the key to dust removal, but follow up with a damp cloth on furniture to make sure your room is dust free for a while.

If you use a feather duster on blinds, ceiling fans and window frames, clean the duster later. Also, use microfibre dusting tools, as they attract and hold dust with a static charge.

TIPS FOR DUSTING

1 Give freshly dusted furniture a good sheen by mixing ½ teaspoon of light olive oil in 1L of water. Apply with a clean rag.



2 To get rid of dust trapped in a pleated lampshade, use a medium-bristled, small brush. This method also works well for delicate figurines that need dusting.





3

Clean blinds, which can get filmy with dust, by wiping the slats using a cloth dampened with vinegar. This sanitises as it cleans. It's also a good trick for cleaning dirty chandeliers.



4

To clean stained or natural-finish woodwork, put a tea bag in hot water, then allow it to cool. Dampen a cleaning rag or sponge with the cooled tea and run it over the woodwork.



5

Remove dust, lint or hair from furniture or clothing by wrapping masking tape around your hand, sticky side up, then press your hand over the surface of the item. Unwanted dust or fluff will stick to the tape. ➤



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How to get rid of stains

Most stains fall into one of four categories – protein, oil-based, tannin and dye. The rest are usually a combination of those.

By understanding what is in a stain, you can determine what will remove it from carpet or upholstery.

Grease



Cover the stain with a diluted solution of dishwashing liquid and rub it in gently. Wipe off with a damp cloth.

Blot up as much wine as possible with paper towel. Work a solution of 1L of water and ¼ teaspoon of dishwashing liquid into the area, then blot with paper towel.

Red wine



White wine



Apply a diluted solution of laundry detergent and water. Blot the stained area until it is clean. Don't scrub or rub, as you'll risk damaging the material.

Pet hair



Rub the affected area with dampened rubber gloves.

Lipstick



Dab with a solution of three parts water and one part cloudy ammonia.

Coffee and chocolate



Dissolve 2 tablespoons of borax in 500ml of water, then dab or soak with the solution.

Nail polish



Blot with a clean cloth moistened with acetone or nail polish remover. Or dab quickly with a damp cloth, then sponge off using methylated spirits.

Milk



Clean immediately with soapy water. Dab with, or soak in, diluted vinegar for 10 minutes, then rinse.

Berry juice



Wipe the area with vinegar or lemon juice. Leave for an hour or two, then wash.

Blood



Dab the affected material with cold salted water, then wash with warm soapy water.



Time-saving tips

- **ASSEMBLE** a caddy of commonly used cleaners and tools so they are ready to go. Store them in a bucket with a handle for portability.
- **TACKLE** big jobs while you are motivated to get them out of the way. If you run out of time, small jobs are easier to return to.
- **DRY-DUST** before applying liquid cleaning solutions so that airborne particles don't cling to wet surfaces.
- **WASH** windows on a cloudy day to minimise streaking. Cleaning solutions will dry out too fast on sunny days, leaving marks behind.
- **WORK** from the top down, dusting before sweeping and vacuuming to avoid covering the same area twice.
- **DRY** shower screens after use to minimise soap scum build-up, prevent the glass from becoming etched and avoid excess scrubbing.
- **USE** a doormat to leave dirt at the door, reducing the amount of time spent sweeping and vacuuming while keeping floors scratch-free.
- **SET** a deadline for your list of tasks. This will keep you on the move and make the job less daunting, as you know you have a time limit. ➤



Act fast to get rid of stains to improve your chances of removing them before they set

 The advertisement features a green and blue color scheme. On the left, the Sabco logo is prominently displayed in red and white, followed by 'SupaDry' in green and 'Spin Mop Bucket System' in large white letters with a green outline. Below this, two key features are listed: 'Premium Stainless Steel Basket' and 'Super Fast Pump Action'. The central image shows a green bucket with a stainless steel mop handle and a white microfiber mop head. A diagram illustrates the 'Easy Push spin action' with arrows. A red banner in the top right corner says 'NEW!'. At the bottom right, it says 'Premium Quality Microfibre' next to a blue starburst graphic.

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SupaDry
Spin Mop
Bucket System

Premium Stainless Steel Basket
Stronger, more efficient & rust resistant!

Super Fast Pump Action
Spins & removes more water for quicker drying, streak free floors!

NEW!

Easy Push spin action

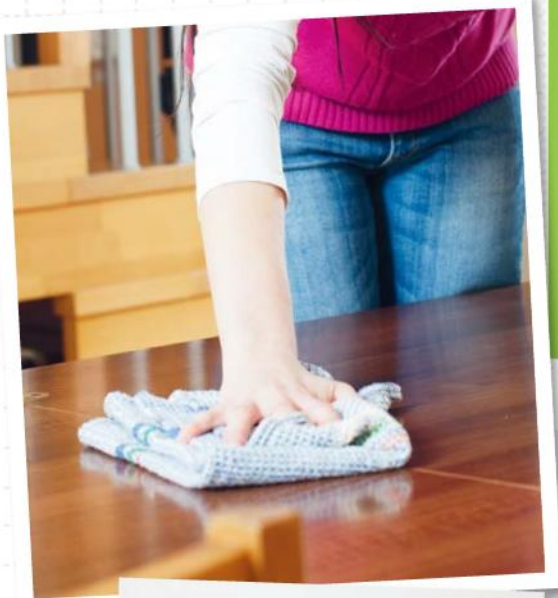
Premium Quality Microfibre

SAFE CLEANERS

It's safer for you, as well as for the environment, to use gentle, homemade cleaners when you can.

Commercial cleaners often use chemicals that can be dangerous to your family's health, especially young children and pets.

But you can make your own DIY cleaners using common household ingredients, and they will also save you money.



Timber polish

Ingredients

1 cup olive oil

¼ cup white vinegar

Spray onto a soft cloth and wipe onto timber surfaces in the direction of the grain. For detailed areas, work it in with a soft-bristled brush, then buff with a soft, dry cloth until shiny.



Mould killer

Ingredients

½ cup borax

½ cup vinegar

Combine the ingredients in a small bowl and mix to form a paste. Apply to mould or mildew on tiles using a sponge.

Scrub off with a stiff-bristled brush. For tough mould or mildew, leave on the paste for an hour before scrubbing off.

Glass shiner

Ingredients

2 cups water

½ cup white vinegar

¼ cup isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol

2 drops orange oil

Combine the ingredients in a spray bottle and shake. Spray onto a microfibre cloth and wipe over glass surfaces, then buff with the dry side of the cloth.



All-purpose

Ingredients

1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

½ teaspoon dishwashing liquid

2 tablespoons vinegar

2 drops eucalyptus oil

Mix the ingredients in a spray bottle and shake. Allow to settle and top up with water. Spray on surfaces, then wipe off with a clean cloth. For tough stains, leave for a minute before wiping. 🌀



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✓ Durability

✓ Strength

MAKE SPACE

Reduce your clutter room by room for a more comfortable home and even a happier life

WORDS SITA SIMONS



There have been many philosophical proponents of decluttering in recent times. The most famous is Japanese organising consultant Marie Kondo.

Her suggestion that we assess everything we own and keep or discard it based upon whether or not it brings joy resonated around the globe.

'It's not just a tidier home, but your mind will be more focused and your life happier,' she says.

Countless studies have proven the link between a neat and tidy environment and more organised thought, but the notion of having less as a way to feel more content is rapidly gaining traction.

Decluttering the home doesn't have to be an all-or-nothing event and it doesn't mean erasing personality. Take a slow and steady approach and work room by room to find pleasure in order and peace in your space. ➤

A clutter-free kitchen takes less time to clean.



Kitchen

As the heart of the home, the kitchen can quickly and easily become the general dumping ground for the entire family's daily life mess.

This constant accumulation can make keeping on top of cleaning and organising feel like a full-time job.

Adequate storage is absolutely key, but taking an annual audit of what you have, what you actually need and how the space is being used will go a long way to clearing space.

Remember that kitchen items may be of some monetary value, so consider online auction sites to see if decluttering might actually pay off.



Sell any unwanted belongings online so you can turn decluttering into a profitable exercise



Don't trash the treasure

Many people have treasured collections of items and things with great sentimental value.

There's no need to discard beloved items in the name of decluttering. Instead, create a dedicated space in which to store or display them.

Open shelving is inexpensive and can be an ideal solution. If the area needs to be fairly large, break it up into even components with structural supports.

Experiment with placement and be prepared to move things around, grouping like objects together.



Living spaces

We tend to spend a small fortune on large lounges, comfortable chairs and ultra high-definition televisions. But it's difficult to enjoy our creature comforts if we're climbing over and around mountains of stuff to get there.

Enjoy the lounge room for exactly the purpose for which it is intended and keep furnishings limited to only what you and your family need.

Think about where people enter and leave the room most frequently, then keep these walkways clear.



Home office

It may be your office or a study space for children, but most modern homes need an admin centre.

A place for everything and everything in its place applies nowhere more aptly than here.

Use drawers, boxes, files and furniture with doors to keep everything organised and neatly hidden. Setting aside one day a month to sort paperwork will prevent a descent into chaos. ➤



PICTURES: STOCK



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Cube storage is an excellent way to organise kids' belongings.



Kids' rooms

Who has the most stuff in the family? You can bet in most cases it's the kids, and anybody with children will be familiar with the battle to tidy up.

Large built-in wardrobes are a definite bonus, but with more hidden storage space comes the urge to fill it with more and more things.

With young minds, it can pay to introduce ideas early. And giving stuff away or donating it to charity, or applying the one-in, one-out principle are good starting points.

Studies show that children sleep better in a clutter-free bedroom, so even in a small room or a shared room, create a clear space and encourage tidy habits.





Organise the wardrobe to keep the bedroom clear of clothes.

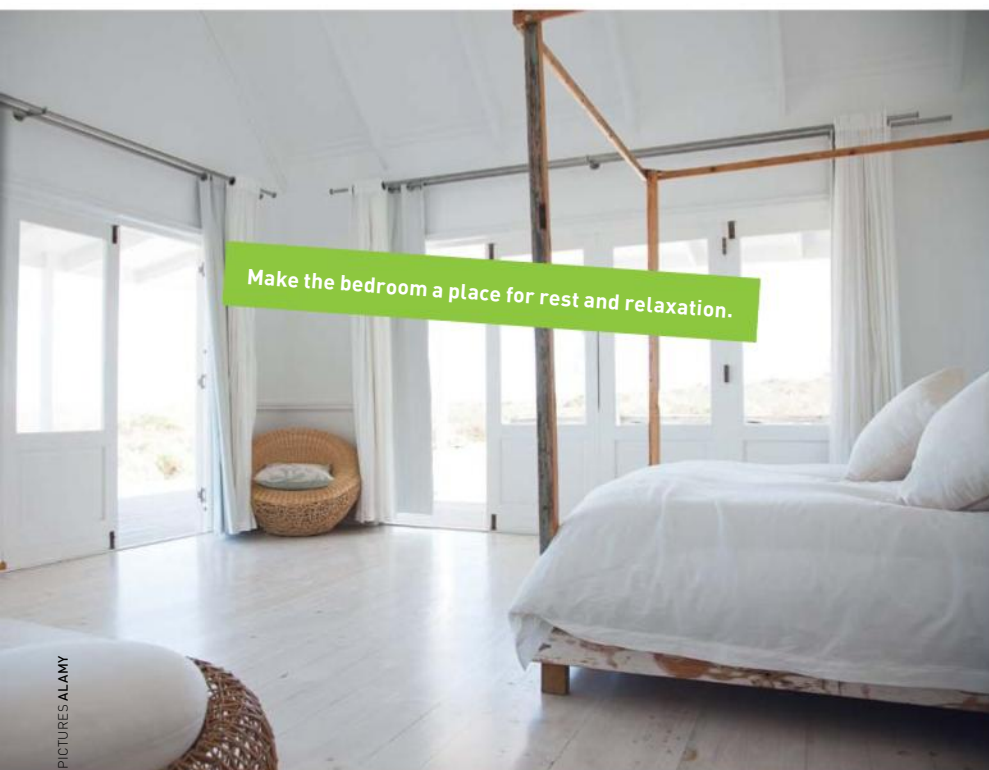
Bedroom

As the place where you spend one-third of your life, the bedroom should invite relaxation, and if you have one room on your list to start, it should be here.

Clothes can be the biggest mess generator, so tackling the wardrobe is an important step in promoting a clutter-free environment.

Experts advise putting every item on the bed and creating a 'keep', 'give away' and 'sell' pile.

A fundamental aspect of decluttering is paring back what you own and focusing on what you need. The bed is the main concern in a bedroom, so make it the centrepiece. Curate everything else carefully. ➤



Make the bedroom a place for rest and relaxation.

PICTURES ALAMY



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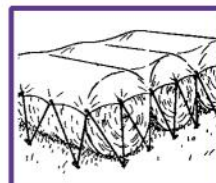
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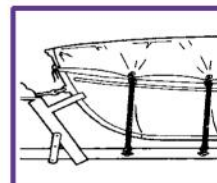
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Categorise shelves according to function to locate things easily.



Laundry

As the centre for washing, drying and ironing clothes, the laundry can be a seemingly endless mess, and often occupies a limited footprint.

But this is where you can assess the volume of items you own, as you notice the mountain of clothes and stack of bed linen waiting to be folded. Decluttering decreases the time you have to spend on domestic chores.

In a small room, make use of all the walls and install cupboards with shelves of varying heights, making sure to account for larger items such as the vacuum and mop.

Categorise shelves according to function, and get rid of anything that doesn't belong in there. Create bins to collect items for mending and for donating or discarding.



Linen closet

Even with the best of intentions, a well-organised linen closet can quickly fall into disarray. We actually use 20% of what we own 80% of the time, so ask yourself if you really need what you have.

Having a well considered order for each shelf and style of folding that remains consistent will help keep things tidy.

Divide linens into groups: bedding for each bedroom, towels for each bathroom, tablecloths, runners, placemats and serviettes.

Separate summer from winter items, and daily-use linens from those for special occasions.

Store linens for every day and the current season at eye level, and special-occasion and off-season linens at the top of the closet.





Bathroom

Too much clutter in the bathroom not only detracts from tranquillity, but can also be a safety hazard in this wet and often cramped space.

Installing maximum storage is essential and getting it right in the planning stages will save a lot of rearranging down the track. If you're renovating, carefully consider your needs before choosing your vanity.

If you need to add storage to an existing bathroom, consider a mirror that doubles as a cabinet and go as large as the space will allow.

If space is really at a premium, look up rather than down. Items on or close to the floor can be dangerous, so consider a high shelf, tops of cabinets or an over-toilet frame with shelves or a cupboard.



Doing a regular clear-out of your bathroom and medicine cabinet products is good hygiene



Bathroom cabinet

Most of the contents of your bathroom cabinet have a best-before date, so doing a regular clear-out is the best practice.

Take stock of make-up and medicines in particular, which can pose a health risk if used out of date. Don't throw medicines down the toilet or sink, but instead take them to a pharmacy to be disposed of.

Toiletries and make-up are often discounted in the supermarket, making it hard to resist two-for-one deals or buying in bulk. Save your money and space by saying no. 🚫



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Storage ideas

'Install a roof space ladder in the hallway so you can use the attic'

@Kermit

'Store off-season clothes in suitcases under the bed'

@KingStreetReno

'I'm a fan of the idea that if it hasn't been used in the past six months, it goes'

@ProjectPete



FAST FACT

56%

of Workshop members would like to install a fire pit at home.

Share your pics



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Most buildings feature timber pieces that can be re-used in many ways.

OUT OF THE WOODS

Salvage timber from old buildings and you will be rewarded with true treasures

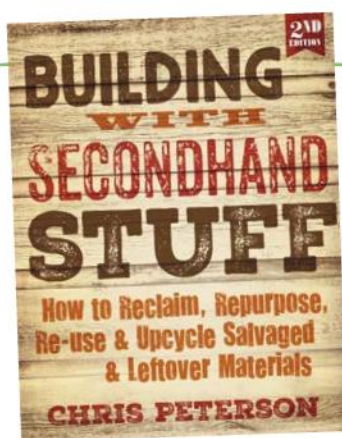
WORDS CHRIS PETERSON

Wood is the most commonly salvaged building material.

That should come as no surprise, as it is one of the most attractive materials used in a home. Wood is incredibly durable and forgiving, sturdy and easy to work with. This is why most buildings feature wood framing.

Start taking apart a building and you'll be rewarded with wood pieces that you can re-use in many ways.

Once you free it from its location, you only have to decide which new use will best exploit the size, grain, texture and colour of the wood.



This is an edited extract from *Building with Secondhand Stuff* by Chris Peterson [Cool Springs Press, \$25].

Removing wood finishes

Where you are certain of the surface coating on the wood, you can use the appropriate method for removing the material. Start by cleaning the surface with a dilute mixture of warm water and dishwashing soap to remove dirt.

Dry the surface thoroughly before assessing the condition of the remaining finish. Remove stubborn dirt, grease and wax with mineral oil.

Wipe the surface of the wood with a clean cloth dampened with the mineral oil, or use a mop to clean

floors. Methylated spirits on a cloth will remove shellac finishes and wax.

Use acetone or lacquer thinner to remove lacquer. You can remove varnish and polyurethane with special chemical strippers, but these products are toxic and should be handled using a respirator, eye protection and gloves.

In most cases, it's safer to strip varnish or polyurethane by sanding.

Clean it before you strip it. Simply mopping with mineral oil can reveal the true nature of a wood floor. ➤

Stripping paint

Aged paint can be a challenge to remove, but there are many ways to strip paint off wood. Before trying any, test a vintage painted surface for lead.

If the test is positive, remove the paint with a stripper formulated for use on lead paint. These usually soften and bond the paint to a fabric or paper strip so the paint can be removed without flaking or creating dust.



Scraping and sanding

Sometimes the quickest and most efficient method of removing paint is by sanding and scraping it off, especially on flat, unadorned surfaces.

Painted wood surfaces are usually scraped for repainting rather than removing all the paint. Scrapers come in many shapes and sizes, from wide flat types to tiny V-shaped scrapers for cleaning out grooves.

Sanding a painted surface down to bare wood means it can be repainted, stained or refinished natural. There are specialised sanding tools for the nooks and crannies of casework, cabinetry, furniture or moulding.



Applying heat

A heat gun can be a quick way to remove paint from flat wood surfaces.

Move the gun along the surface, heating the paint just enough to soften it and make it release from the wood. Follow along with a putty knife as wide as practical for the wood surface.

Using a heat gun takes practice, because if the paint isn't hard enough,

you'll have to put a lot of effort into scraping with the putty knife and you risk gouging the wood.

Too much heat, though, can make the paint overly sticky and gummy, making it difficult to gather and remove from the knife.

A heat gun should never be used on paint containing lead because it will release lead fumes.



Using chemicals

There are many chemical strippers, but most are toxic. Newer types, including soy-based formulas, are less so, but safer strippers tend to work more slowly and are less effective for stubborn paint.

Check the labels for the required safety precautions and ventilation

requirements. The strippers are either paste or liquids, although paste strippers are easier to handle and apply.

Most are brushed on, allowed to sit, then scraped off with a putty knife or other scraping tool. Wood covered in several layers of paint often requires more than one application of stripper.

Denailing reclaimed timber



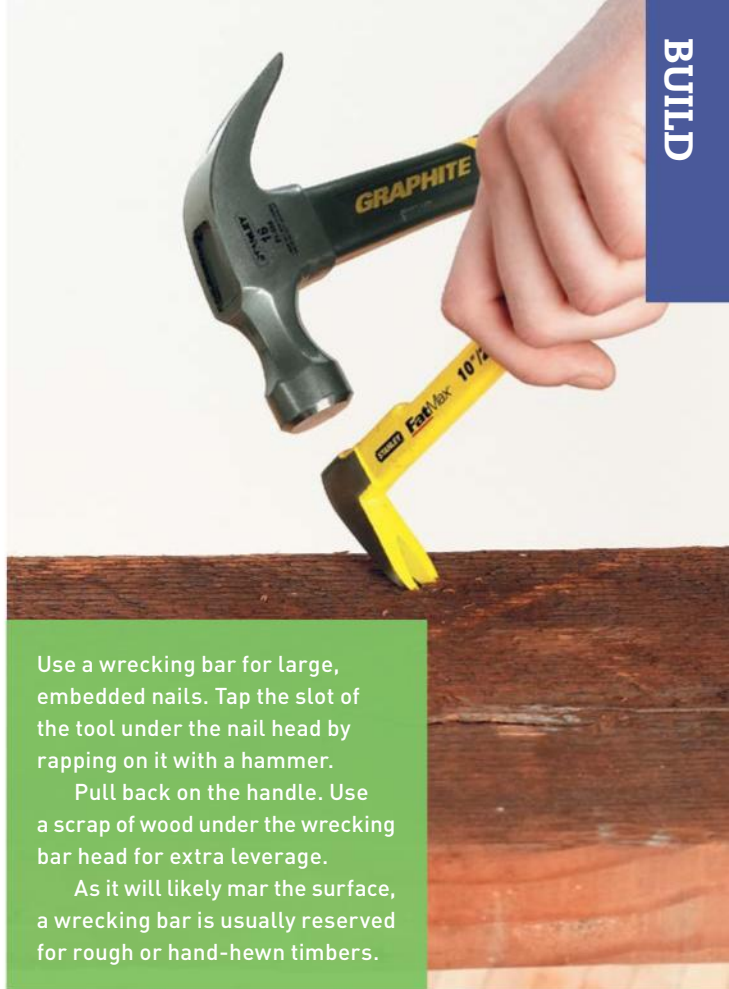
Finding the nail is the first step to removing it.

That's why a handheld metal detector is a must for checking reclaimed timber. A hidden nail or screw can destroy a saw blade and seriously injure the operator.



Nippers are good for removing nails carefully, to limit damage to the board face.

But they won't work on sunken nails or flush nail heads, as the pinchers need room to close over the nail body to pull it out.



Use a wrecking bar for large, embedded nails. Tap the slot of the tool under the nail head by rapping on it with a hammer.

Pull back on the handle. Use a scrap of wood under the wrecking bar head for extra leverage.

As it will likely mar the surface, a wrecking bar is usually reserved for rough or hand-hewn timbers.



The time-tested method of prying out nails with a claw hammer is as effective with reclaimed wood as it is with new timber.

Use a scrap of plywood or other soft pad under the head of the hammer to increase leverage and protect the face of the wood. ➤

Reclaiming wood doors

Wood doors are the low-hanging fruit of reclaimed building materials. Easy to get at and easy to remove.

Whether you're interested in a set of distressed doors for your kitchen cabinets, looking for a sturdy entrance with distinctive style, or just trying to match the interior six-panel doors in your three-bedroom Victorian terrace, you'll find spectacular alternatives through many sources.



Pocket

These space savers have been around since Victorian times. They are still fashionable and ideal for tight rooms.

Salvaged pocket doors include those that look like French doors, simple solid versions and panel doors.

If re-using a reclaimed pocket door, make sure the tracks are in good shape, and replace with new hardware if needed.

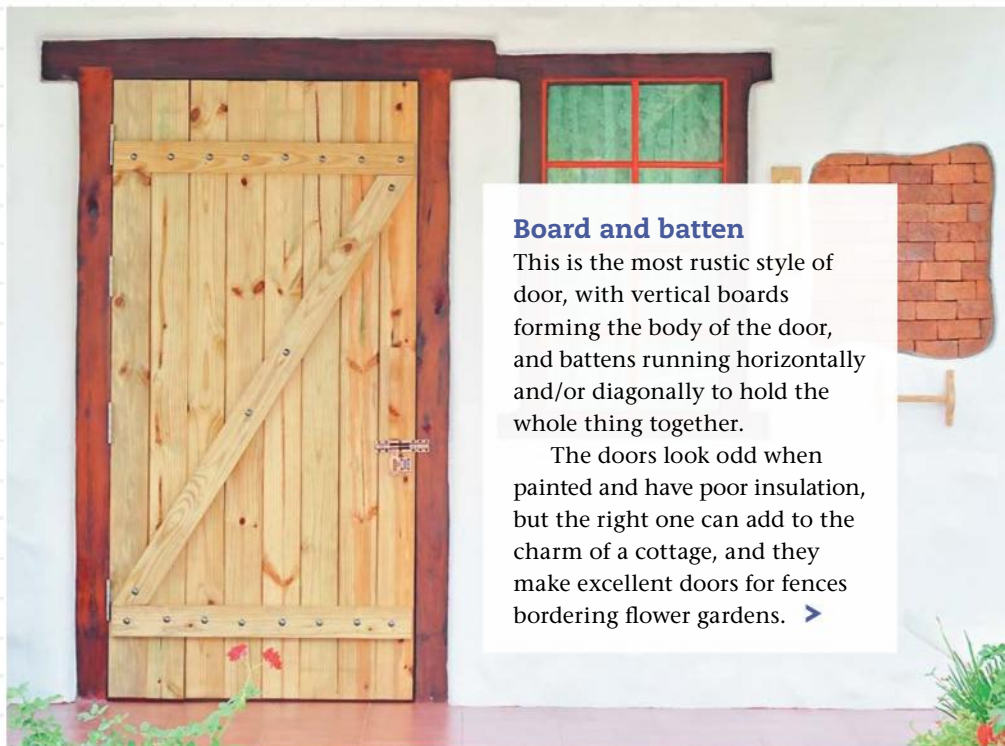


French

The original idea behind the French door is to let light pass freely through the living space.

You would be wise to use reclaimed French doors on the interior because the single panes don't have the insulation value of more solid doors.

All French doors feature top-to-bottom glass and, typically, the more panes, the more sophisticated the look.



Board and batten

This is the most rustic style of door, with vertical boards forming the body of the door, and battens running horizontally and/or diagonally to hold the whole thing together.

The doors look odd when painted and have poor insulation, but the right one can add to the charm of a cottage, and they make excellent doors for fences bordering flower gardens. ➤

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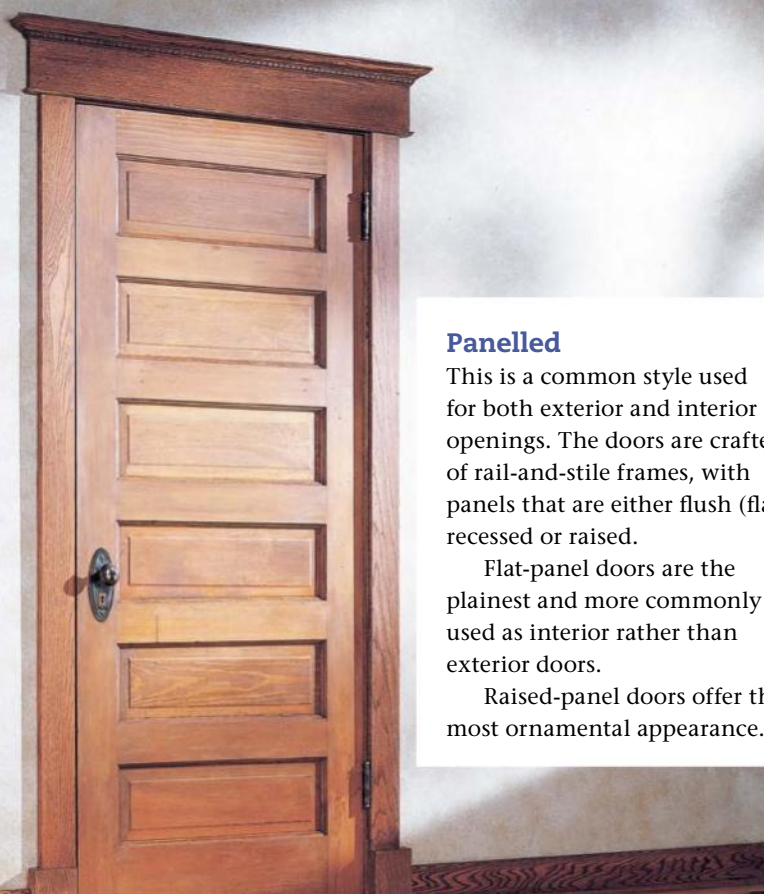
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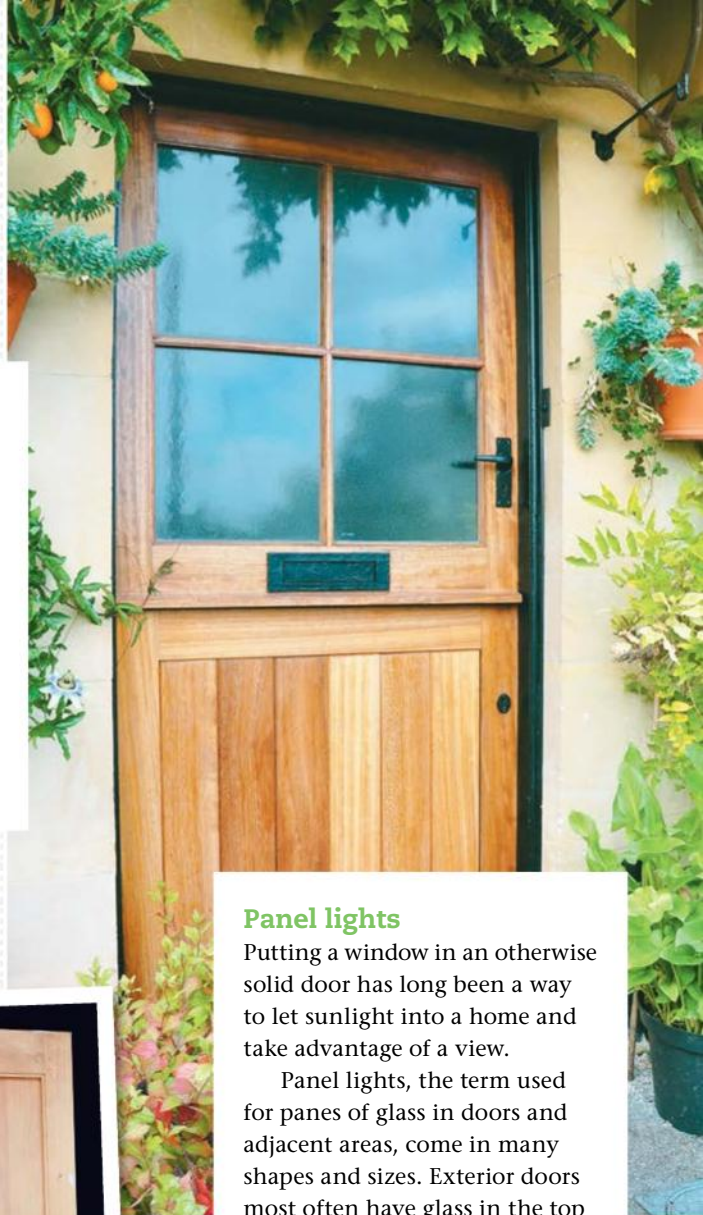


Panelled

This is a common style used for both exterior and interior openings. The doors are crafted of rail-and-stile frames, with panels that are either flush (flat), recessed or raised.

Flat-panel doors are the plainest and more commonly used as interior rather than exterior doors.

Raised-panel doors offer the most ornamental appearance.



Panel lights

Putting a window in an otherwise solid door has long been a way to let sunlight into a home and take advantage of a view.

Panel lights, the term used for panes of glass in doors and adjacent areas, come in many shapes and sizes. Exterior doors most often have glass in the top half of the door, and the light is frequently made of art glass.



Cabinet

New cabinet doors can give the kitchen a facelift. Reclaimed cabinet doors are an inexpensive alternative to replacing or refacing your existing cabinets.

Cabinet doors come in flat, raised-panel, and recessed-panel profiles, as well as versions with glass inserts either divided or undivided by mullions. Glass inserts can be frosted, bevelled, machined or plain glass.



Bifold and closet

Upgrade a room's look with a nice set of vintage closet doors, or make long bookshelves out of disassembled solid-wood bifold doors. Louvred, solid and glass folding doors are all commonly reclaimed from older homes.

Stripping and staining solid-wood closet doors can add style to a bedroom, while painting louvred doors can jazz up a boring area of any room. 🍷



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Outdoor blinds

Protect your entertainment areas from the elements to create a cosy space for year-round enjoyment



There is a wide range of easy to install DIY outdoor blinds that suit all spaces. An outdoor blind can convert a deck into a comfy entertainment area in any weather.

Blinds can help protect outdoor areas from wind and rain, and can also provide shade from afternoon sun.

Outdoor blinds come in a range of colours, textures and screen types, including opaque and transparent.



PVC cafe blinds can help keep out wind and rain without blocking the view, such as the Smart Home Products Outdoor PVC Bistro Blind, 2400 x 2400mm, \$129.



Outdoor screen roller blinds reduce the sun's heat and make your entertainment area more comfortable, such as the Windoware PVC Outdoor Roller Blind in Sand, 2400 x 2100mm, \$197.



Retractable blinds can be lowered or raised quickly and easily, such as the Windoware Deep Ocean Retractable Blind, 2400 x 2100mm, \$118.

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Safety first

Protect yourself with the right gear when tackling any home project

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS



DIY is a fun and enjoyable pastime for many people, but it's not without its risks, as hospital emergency staff will tell you.

Most DIY accidents can be avoided by using the correct safety equipment. And don't assume the most expensive gear is the best. The most important qualities are fit and durability.

While working on any project, the most essential things to protect are your hands, eyes, ears, feet and lungs. Look after those and you'll be one step ahead of hidden dangers.

Here's our guide to all the safety gear you'll need for most projects. ➤



Adam

EXPERT SECRETS

Uncoil extension leads before use, as power running through them can generate heat that can't disperse.

Hands

From the lightweight to the heavy-duty, gloves protect your hands from sun exposure, splinters, blisters, cuts and grazes, bites and stings, vibration, impact, exposure to contaminants or chemicals, and more.

There is a glove for almost any situation, so you may end up with a few pairs, each for different uses.

What to look for

TYPE Select gloves that suit your needs. If you require them for many

uses, look at a pair of medium- to heavy-duty leather gloves such as 'rigger' style.

FIT Gloves should be a snug fit, not tight or loose. Too tight and they'll restrict natural movement. Too loose and you'll find gripping difficult.

COMFORT Always try them on before you buy. Put your hand inside one and wriggle it about. You don't want to get home and find the gloves have protruding ridges or stitching inside that may rub.

Leather rigger-style gloves are ideal for general-purpose garden use with the ideal combination of comfort, protection and durability.



For situations where vibration can cause problems, such as extended periods on power tools, select gloves with gel padding on the palms and fingers. This dampens vibrations.

With their high-tech look, gloves with impact guards over areas such as the knuckles provide excellent protection when painful bumps and scrapes occur.



When handling or mixing household or garden chemicals, wear chemical-resistant gloves. After use and before taking them off, wash the outside to remove splashed chemicals.



Quality gloves will have extra layers or padding at major wear points, such as across the palms. This improves comfort and increases their durability.

Feet

Throwing on an old pair of trainers or thongs to DIY is asking for trouble, as they won't provide adequate protection. Always wear closed-toe shoes with a quality sole.

What to look for

TYPE Leather is a must, due to its durability and water-resistance. The soles should have a slip-resistant tread. With elastic-sided boots, make sure the tabs are a good size so they are easy to pull on. For safety boots, check the toecap complies with Australian Standards.

FIT As for any footwear, work footwear should fit well enough to wear all day. Many work boots cater for feet of different widths, so get the right fit.

COMFORT Look for quality boots with flexible, impact-absorbing soles and a moulded innersole. When climbing ladders or gardening, a quality pair of trainers or hiking shoes may suit.



Elastic-sided work boots are popular with many DIYers and tradies

A tread pattern to provide good grip and a flexible yet tough sole is an essential element of quality work boots.



The leather on the toe of steel or safety cap boots often wears out quickly. These Hercules boots from Aussie boot-makers Rossi feature an anti-abrasion cover to protect the toe leather.



For general DIY and gardening, non-safety work boots are durable and comfortable.

When using cutting equipment, mowers and chainsaws, or if there's a risk of falling material, choose boots that have a protective toecap. ➤



Harness protection

Working on roofs, scaffolding or high walls without protection can be a dangerous activity. Wearing a safety harness is a must for anyone working at height.

The Bailey Roof Workers Kit, \$299 (baileysfallprotection.com), includes an adjustable padded harness that has been designed for ergonomic all-day wear for trade workers as well as DIYers.

It comes with a 2m lanyard, 15m of rope, a 1.5m anchorage webbing sling and a steel karabiner.



Eyes

Some gardening and DIY jobs can be done without eye protection, but wear safety specs if there is a hint of danger.

What to look for

TYPE It is critical that glasses or goggles match the work you're doing. Check their impact rating and that they comply with Australian Standards.

There are three main lens types: grey or brown, yellow, and clear. Grey and brown are intended for full sun, yellow are light enhancing, so are ideal for indoors or on gloomy days, and clear are all-purpose. All types should have UVA and UVB protection.

FIT Glasses should sit close to your face, not slide around, and they need wrap-around protection. Goggles should form a good seal on your face.

COMFORT A good pair of safety glasses should be comfortable and have no lens distortion at any angle.



Safety goggles will keep out flying material and fine dust. Select goggles that have a soft rubber seal all around. This will provide the best dust seal without having to pull them too tight.



DeWalt Concealer safety goggles have been designed with enough room for you to still wear prescription glasses underneath.



When you're working with power equipment or using hammers, or are in dusty situations, safety glasses or goggles are a must.



Ear muffs offer the highest level of hearing protection, but make sure the level is suitable for your needs. These DeWalt Interceptor ear muffs will reduce sound by a significant 29dB.

Ears

With today's technology and materials, earmuffs and earplugs are comfortable, affordable and, most importantly, effective at reducing the risk of harm.

What to look for

TYPE Many earmuffs or plugs will tell you how much noise reduction they provide. If you're using a 90dB lawnmower then aim for gear that gives you a reduction of at least 15dB.



Bud-style hearing protection is an easy, convenient way to protect your hearing against mid-level noise, such as when using garden or power tools.

Always check that the equipment complies with Australian Standards.

FIT The cups of earmuffs should fit snugly around the ear and seal well on your head. Earplugs should seal well in the outer ear or ear canal.

COMFORT Earmuffs should be snug, not tight. The inside of the cups shouldn't rub against your ears. Don't push earplugs in too far. Scrunch expanding types adequately before inserting.



Most power equipment is labelled with its sound output level. It's wise to wear hearing protection from about 80dB, and it is essential from 85dB. For comfort, wear protection when using anything for an extended time that is more than 70dB. ➤



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- ▶ Easy breathing cartridges
- ▶ Soft facepiece for advanced comfort
- ▶ Use for certain paint spraying, solvents and pesticides

PRO SERIES FEATURES

- A Soft yet firm silicone face seal for comfort, durability and stability
- B Dual-mode head harness adjusts easily for standard or drop-down mode
- C Bayonet compatibility allows use with many 3M cartridges and filters
- D Proprietary Cool Flow™ Valve helps reduce heat and moisture build-up inside the respirator
7512 (Medium)



✓ A1P2

✓ AN/NZS 1716*

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

This product meets the performance requirement of AS/NZS 1716, P2.*

WARNING: Workplace/Occupational Applications:
This respirator helps protect against certain airborne contaminants.
Misuse may result in sickness or death.
For correct use, consult 3M Australia on 1800 024 464.

Breathing

Sanding or grinding dust causes more than sneezing. In the short term, it can cause allergic or asthmatic reactions and, over time, can even result in lung diseases.

If renovating an older home, there's also the risk of sanding lead-based paints and creating toxic dust. And don't forget that breathing vapours from some paints and garden or household chemicals can be harmful.

What to look for

TYPE With breathing protection, select the right class for your needs.

FIT Any breathing protection, from a simple dust mask to a cartridge respirator, needs to fit snugly and seal well to be effective. Most can be adjusted to ensure a good fit.

COMFORT If you're planning to wear protection for an extended period, try it on before buying if possible to ensure it is comfortable.



Cartridge respirators have interchangeable cartridges to protect against dust, gases and chemical fumes.

P1- and P2-rated respirator masks are designed for dusts, mists and fumes.

Nuisance dust masks are for protection from non-toxic household and garden dusts.



ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

Cut-resistant trousers, safety glasses, quality gloves and safety-toe boots are essential when using a chainsaw.

Chainsaw protection

Chainsaws are one of the most dangerous tools you can use.

Safety-training certification courses are held just in chainsaw use for good reason. Accidents can happen faster than you can blink and the results of a mistake can be horrendous.

When using a chainsaw, you need to make sure you know how to use the machine correctly and always wear full safety protection. ⚡



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P170

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CLEAN YOUR DECK

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

What you need

High-pressure cleaner
Soft broom
Stiff-bristled broom
Deck cleaner
Measuring cup
Bucket
Gloves
Safety glasses
Ear muffs



A deck is a great place to entertain family and friends, so it's important to make sure it's always looking its best.

Over time, timber decks can become dirty and stained from

weathering and general foot traffic, making them appear old and dull.

There's nothing like giving your deck a thorough clean to bring it back to life. With the right tools and equipment, it's a simple job.

1 2 3



1 Sweep away dirt

Sweep the deck with a soft broom to remove any dirt or leaves. Doing this regularly helps prevent particles from building up and damaging the deck. If the deck needs a more thorough clean, use a stronger bristled broom with water.



2 Scrub the boards

Wearing gloves, mix the required amount of deck cleaner with water in a bucket. Dip a stiff-bristled broom in the mixture and scrub all the timber boards lengthways to avoid spotting. Leave the cleaning mix on for 10-20 minutes. Avoid splashing it on plants.



3 Hose the surface

After leaving the cleaning mixture on for no more than 20 minutes, wash the deck with a high-pressure hose, wearing protective gear. Make sure you wash away all the cleaning mixture along with any dirt and grime. Leave the deck to dry.

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PLANTING FOR PRIVACY

Save valuable garden space by using quick-growing clumping bamboo to screen a view or provide shade

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS



Clumping bamboo will quickly screen an overlooking building.

As house blocks become smaller and garden areas follow suit, many of the things that were taken for granted, such as shade and privacy, become harder to add.

You can build a privacy screen, but this won't work in cases where a neighbouring two-storey house overlooks a yard or swimming pool.

The logical choice is to plant trees or shrubs to create the desired effect, but even with advanced plants, it can take years to get the screening needed.

You'll also be faced with a lifetime of pruning to keep the screen dense and, in most cases, will have plants that take up too much garden space.

The solution is simple. Plant clumping or 'escape-proof' bamboo.

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

Bamboo types

Bamboo is a grass, albeit a very big grass, and like lawn grasses, there are two groups, clumping and running.

➤ **CLUMPING** bamboos develop side shoots, or culms, close to the heart of the original plant. They have shallow roots and shoot back over themselves as they age, keeping the clump dense.

Propagation is hard and involves taking divisions from the central clump. It is these characteristics that give it the name 'escape-proof' bamboo.

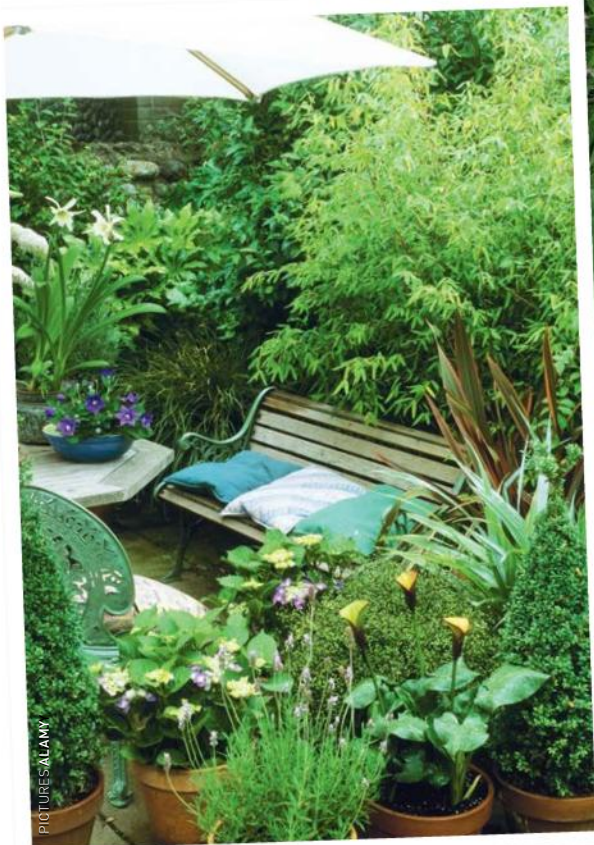
➤ **RUNNING** varieties of bamboo send out underground stems, or runners, from which culms pop up.

These can run under fences, paths and driveways, and the culms can punch through asphalt, dislodge pavers and even damage thin concrete.

Running varieties regrow quickly from even a small root section. It is the aggressive and invasive behaviour of this group of bamboos that has given all bamboos a bad name.



Use bamboo to hide a plain wall and create a living backdrop.



Screen or hedge?

These are often used interchangeably, but they are actually quite different.

➤ **HEDGE** This generally uses the same species or variety of plants that have been selected for their density, ability to grow together and pruning tolerance.

Most hedging varieties are kept well pruned and provide a very dense, if not complete, screen. They

are ideal for situations that require a high level of privacy.

➤ **SCREEN** This uses the same species or a mix of similar varieties that will interweave as they grow, providing partial screening that still lets in light and allows views through.

It is best used to soften a harsh view or to filter western sun. ➤

Buying bamboo

There are a couple of points to consider when buying potted clumping bamboo. The first is cost. For a range of reasons, it can be much more expensive than other shrubs in comparable pot sizes.

A murraya for hedging in a 20cm pot will cost less than \$20, while a clumping bamboo in the same pot size will likely cost from \$30 to \$40.

The biggest difference is that in five years, the murraya will just be thickening into a 1-1.5m hedge while the bamboo will be well established at its maximum height and density.

The other consideration is that clumping bamboos don't look good in pots. Being vigorous, they get hungry and thirsty, so the stock in nurseries may look spindly and sparse. But don't be put off. Once in the ground, they will send out shoots in just a month.



The new shoots of clumping bamboo are very vigorous and can grow up to 1m a day



PLANT A BAMBOO HEDGE The temptation is to just dig individual planting holes, but the tip from the pros is to cultivate a strip along the entire length you intend to plant. This allows for faster root development and more consistent water penetration.



1 Prepare the area

Spray with an organically certified, non-residual weedkiller two weeks before planting, then clear the area. For long areas, you can hire a rotary hoe to remove waste and turn the soil. For smaller areas, use a hoe or mattock.



2 Improve the soil

Blend through weed-free compost or well-composted manure. This feeds the plants for a short time, improves soil quality and moisture retention and boosts soil biological activity. Also add a premium slow-release fertiliser.



3 Measure planting holes

Starting from one end, open up planting holes twice the size of the pot. To keep the spacing accurate, use a 1.2m spirit level or a tape measure.

TIP Set up a stringline or measure from a fence to keep the planting straight.



Benefits of clumping bamboo

There are a multitude of reasons why clumping bamboo is the best choice.

➤ **SIZE** Screening or hedging shrubs or trees are often loosely described in height and width, and their size will then vary with location or climate.

Bamboo is very neat. So for a 3m screen, buy a 3m variety, and if you want a 10m screen, get a 10m variety.

➤ **SPEED** While shrubs or trees can take about 10 years or more to reach their described size, clumping bamboo will form a screen in under two years.

➤ **MAINTENANCE** Clumping bamboo is very hardy once established. Apart from reliable water, it just needs to be

fed once or twice a year. A premium slow-release lawn fertiliser, such as Scotts Lawn Builder, is ideal. The only pruning required is to remove older shoots. It's even self-mulching.

➤ **COVERAGE** Foliage density ranges from as thick as a hedge to light and open. Some varieties hold solid foliage from top to bottom, while others have bare stems for the first metre or so, making them ideal for underplanting.

➤ **CLIMATE** While bamboo is generally thought of as being a subtropical or tropical group of plants, there are species that will grow in cold, even freezing, conditions of -10°C or less.



4 Add the plants

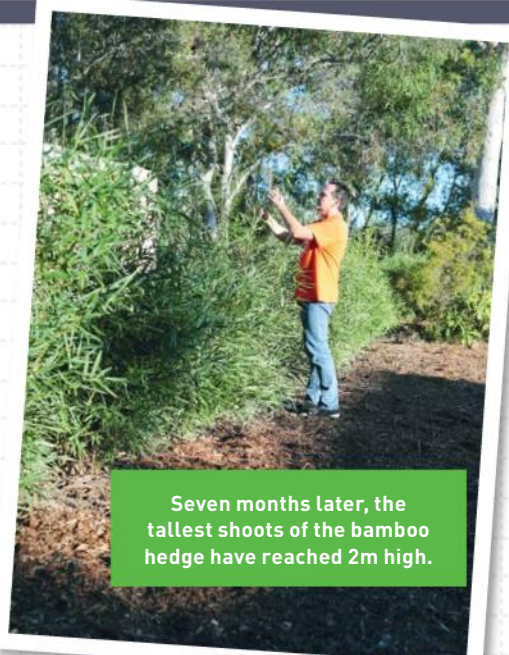
Position a plant in the hole and create a raised water dish, like a dam wall. Continue planting the plants, then water in well, filling up the water dish before moving on to the next. Repeat the watering process for all the plants.

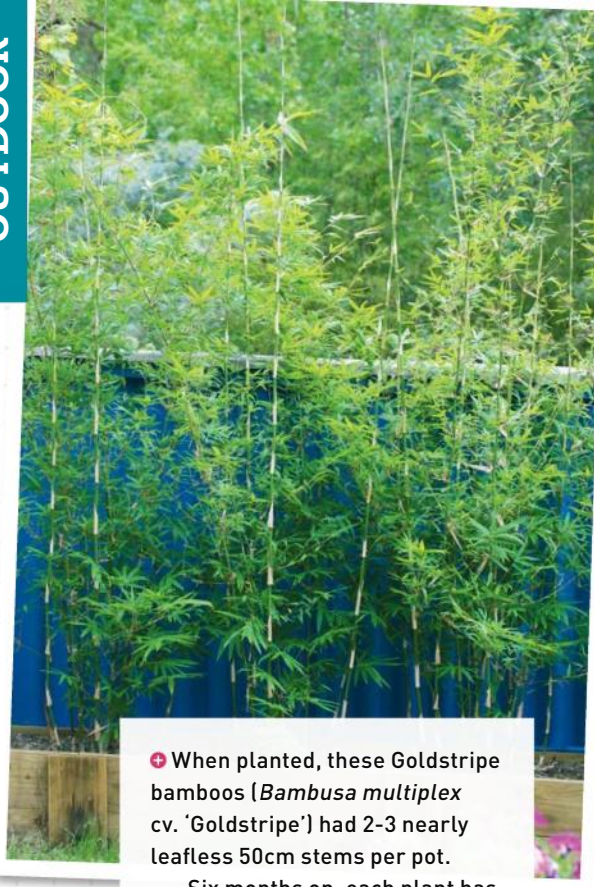


5 Apply mulch

Add a layer of mulch at least 50mm thick around the plants and water well. Keep the hedge well watered and new shoots should appear in about four weeks.

TIP Lay out a soaker hose and run it on a timer to make watering easier. ➤





➤ When planted, these Goldstripe bamboos (*Bambusa multiplex* cv. 'Goldstripe') had 2-3 nearly leafless 50cm stems per pot.

Six months on, each plant has about 10 bushy stems that are nearly double the fence height.



➤ Slender weaver's bamboo (*Bambusa textilis* var. 'Gracilis') is the most popular of the clumping forms. It tolerates cold and grows to 6-7m high. Here it has grown in 18 months from 1m high to screen a three-storey house. 🌱



➤ Clumping bamboo can be very useful for creating windbreaks.

In this sunny corner, Goldstripe (left) and variegated dwarf Malay (right) have created a microclimate, allowing bananas, which are easily wind damaged, to grow.



STYLE TIP

Turn a simple planting into a feature by making the stems and foliage of bamboo stand out against a painted backdrop.

SEP

What's on this month

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



2
[SAT]

3
[SUN]

FATHER'S DAY FAMILY FUN

Make Dad some cool gifts for an extra-special day



9
[SAT]

10
[SUN]

KITCHEN, BATHROOM AND LAUNDRY

Learn how to improve your most used rooms



16
[SAT]

17
[SUN]

DECKING WORKSHOP

Rejuvenate that old deck or get out there and build one with our expert advice



23
[SAT]

24
[SUN]

OUTDOOR PROJECTS

Be inspired with our improvement and maintenance tips

If you live in South Australia, speak to a team member or visit bunnings.com.au/yourstore for details about our great one-on-one D.I.Y. workshops. These workshops run from 10am to 4pm each Saturday and Sunday.



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SCOTT
TEAM MEMBER

SPRING D.I.Y. PROJECT

Follow our expert D.I.Y. advice to make the most of the new spring season.



30
[SAT]

1
[SUN]

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Light up the house

Install exterior lighting to make outdoor spaces more inviting

Smart use of lighting can help transform the exterior of your home, and add value. It can also boost kerb appeal by highlighting architectural features and making the home feel more secure.

In the front yard, path lights can give a sense of entry by guiding visitors to your front door.

In the backyard, lighting allows you to take advantage of exterior spaces for alfresco entertaining.

Wall lights cast a soft glow across large surfaces, illuminating the area without harsh direct light. Spotlights can highlight garden features such as trees or sculptures, creating a luxury feel in any outdoor space.



Brilliant 12V Bayview 50cm Bollard, \$89.90 each.



Brilliant 240V Chateaux Coach Light \$74.90.



Arlec 12V LED Stainless Steel Spotlight, \$114 for a pack of four.



Brilliant 240V LED Stainless Steel Guernsey Wall Light, \$37.90 each.

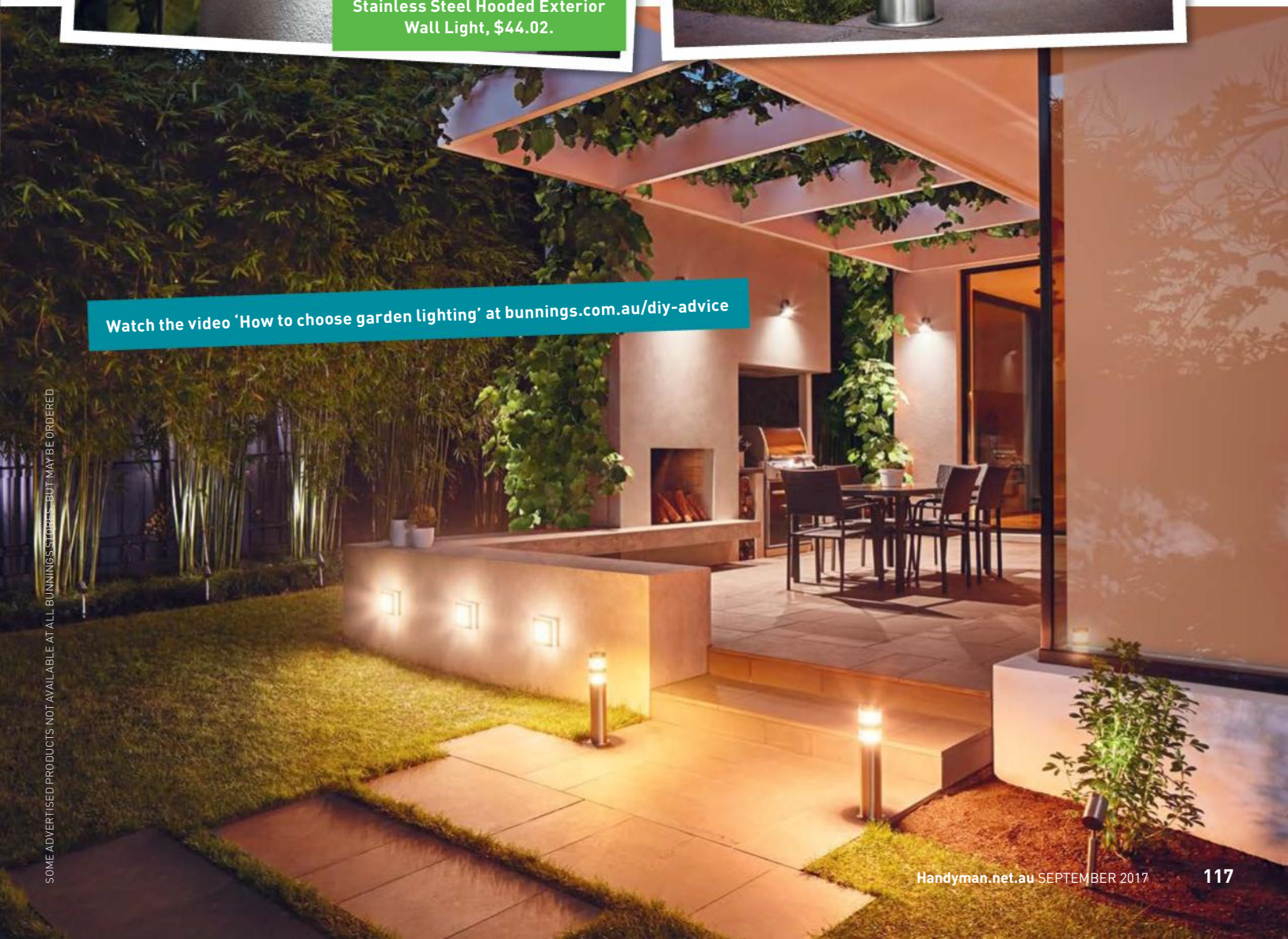


Brilliant 240V Kingston Stainless Steel Hooded Exterior Wall Light, \$44.02.



HPM Stargate 12V Stainless Steel 40cm Garden Bollard, \$69.45.

Watch the video 'How to choose garden lighting' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



Find it at Bunnings

What's new

GROW TIP

Fertilise all plants and lawns in spring as growth resumes, but first get rid of the weeds that have tried to take over during winter.

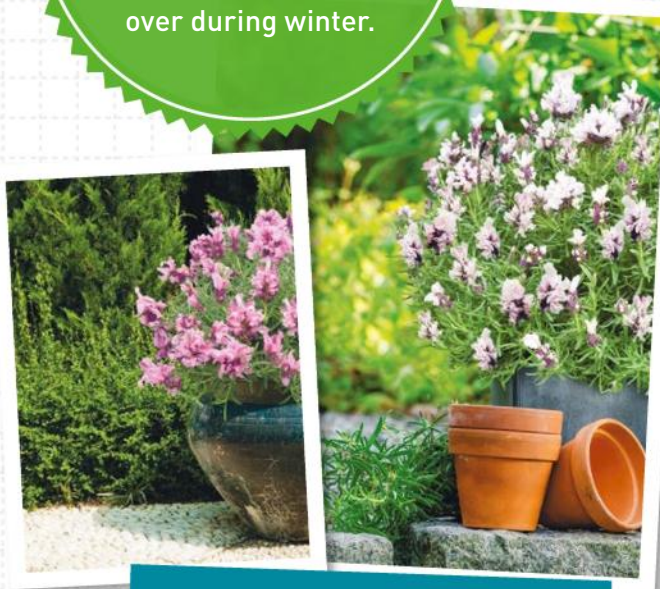
Pick up the best new products for home and garden instore



Grow tomatoes with Tomato Sweet Million F1 Seed Packet and Ferline F1 Seed Packet, \$4.32 each.



Enjoy growing tomatoes from seed in a pot with Tomato Cherry Falls Grow Pot, \$9.68.



Brighten your garden with Lavish Lavender flowerheads covered in beautiful purple or pink wings, from \$14.98.

- 1 Feed your plants with Yates Thrive Roses & Flowers Organic-Based Pelletised Plant Food, 7kg, \$27.12, and 1.5kg, \$9.26.
- 2 Yates Thrive Citrus & Fruit Organic-Based Pelletised Plant Food, 7kg, \$27.12, and 1.5kg, \$9.26.
- 3 Yates Thrive Vegie & Herb Organic-Based Pelletised Plant Food, 7kg, \$27.12, and 1.5kg, \$9.26.

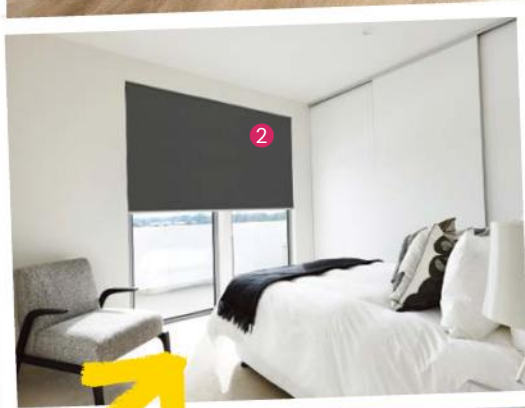


Be prepared with the Ryobi Flash Light and 10-in-1 Multi-tool Set, \$29.98.



Step up to the job with the Bailey Platform 0.85m P120 3-step Ladder, \$99.

Go even higher with the Bailey Platform 1.14m P120 4-step Ladder, \$119.



1 Reduce glare with the 2700 x 2400mm Elegance Roller Blind in Dune, \$59.
2 Elegance Roller Blind in Woodland Grey, \$59.



1 Simplify your bathroom vanity with a Hanging Strap Mirror in a white frame with white leather strap, 60cm, \$69, and 70cm, \$79.
2 White frame with tan strap.
3 Black frame with black strap.
4 Black frame with tan strap.

Deter intruders with the Sengled E27 Home Auto Smart Sense LED Floodlight, \$29.



Protect your home with the Sengled Home Auto Snap Security Camera and LED Floodlight, \$249.



Add sound to any room with the Sengled LED Globe with Bluetooth Speaker, \$69.



Find things in the dark with the Eveready Floating Lantern, \$9.94.

Handyman

BUYER'S GUIDE

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

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This month

Plan for the new season to enjoy lovely blooms and tasty vegies

Flowers to sow

Get these seeds in the ground in all climate zones.

- ✦ CALIFORNIAN POPPY
- ✦ ASTER
- ✦ PORTULACA
- ✦ NASTURTIUM
- ✦ AGERATUM

Aster



Vegies to grow

Plant these vegetables now to harvest crops from midspring.

- ✦ CARROT
- ✦ SILVERBEET
- ✦ BEETROOT
- ✦ TOMATO
- ✦ CABBAGE

Beetroot



Do now

- ✦ GROW plump and tasty tomatoes, page 128.
- ✦ GIVE potted plants a little TLC so they look their best, page 132.
- ✦ PLANT herbs and spices to add zing to cooking, page 138.
- ✦ DESIGN a cottage-style garden, page 144.



WHAT'S IN COLOUR

➤ **ARMERIA 'PRETTY PETITE'** is a long-flowering perennial featuring masses of ball-shaped pink blooms during spring and much of the year.

It forms an ornamental tight mound of grass-like foliage up to 15cm high and spreading to 40cm. While no pruning is necessary, removing spent flowers will promote further flushes.

Give 'Pretty Petite' a spot in full sun or part shade in most soil types with good drainage. It is a frost-hardy, low-maintenance plant and while dry tolerant once established, it will need watering regularly in long, hot periods.

Feed in spring with an application of a slow-release fertiliser.

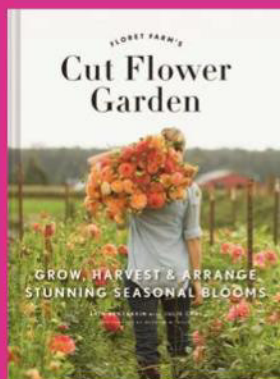
Ideal for small gardens, rockeries mixed borders and edging, 'Pretty Petite' also grows well in containers.

It gives fast results for new gardens and is suitable for coastal areas.

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

Armeria 'Pretty Petite'

BOOK CLUB



Floret farm's *Cut Flower Garden: Grow, Harvest & Arrange Stunning Seasonal Blooms* by flower farmer Erin Benzakein with Julie Chai (Chronicle Books, \$55) is an easy-to-follow guide to growing, harvesting and arranging blooms through the seasons.

With stunning photography by Michèle M. Waite and simple step-by-step instructions for creating bouquets, garlands and wreaths, the book is a must-have for all seasoned and aspiring gardeners and floral stylists.



To-do list

There's lots to do in the early spring garden.

- ✓ **GIVE** established fruit trees a feed in subtropical and tropical regions.
- ✓ **TRIM** and feed mint and thyme, plus prune any other herbs that look leggy.
- ✓ **PLANT** summer bulbs in cool and warm climates.
- ✓ **PRUNE** spring-flowering roses and shrubs after they have flowered in temperate zones.
- ✓ **MULCH** lemon trees, but keep it clear of the trunks.
- ✓ **HOSE** off any aphids from new rose shoots and check for other pests and diseases, then treat. ➤

PROPAGATE LAVENDER

Lavender is a hardy fragrant shrub. The English variety, known as true lavender, is the most popular and features grey-green foliage and purple flowers from winter to spring.

Give it a spot in part to full sun, with wind protection. Good drainage is essential. It will tolerate a light frost and grows well in pots.

Take softwood cuttings from non-flowering stems. Insert in a pot and put in a warm, shaded spot. Transplant in six weeks into well-drained soil.



1 Take cuttings

Pull side shoots 70-100mm long off the main stem, with a strip of bark, or heel, attached. This is where the roots of the new plant will develop. Strip the leaves from the base of the shoots by hand.



2 Make holes

Dip the cuttings in hormone powder. Fill a pot with seed-raising mix, then make holes around the pot with a stick. Insert the cuttings, then water. Cover with a clear plastic bag to create humidity.



Boost plant growth

To promote healthy growth in garden plants, they need a regular supply of fertiliser.

Amgrow Nitrosol Liquid Plant Food Enriched with Organic Blood & Bone, \$12 for 1L, is ideal for use on all indoor and outdoor plants.

In a concentrated, easy-to-use liquid form, Nitrosol provides an effective balance of nutrients and

minerals that can be absorbed through the leaves and roots.

It also improves the fertility of soil by encouraging beneficial microorganisms.

Apply to the foliage and soil and repeat every two weeks during the growing season (amgrow.com.au).



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- + CAMELLIA
- + IRIS
- + CITRUS
- + PAWPAW



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- + FENNEL
- + LEEKS
- + PEAS
- + BROAD BEANS



Fennel

Prune now

Tidy up plants after flowering. Wait until after the last frost in cold areas.

- + NATIVES
- + FRUIT TREES
- + PASSIONFRUIT
- + EVERGREEN HEDGES
- + POINSETTIA

Natives



PICTURES (TOP RIGHT, CENTRE RIGHT, BOTTOM RIGHT) ISTOCK (TOP LEFT) THINKSTOCK

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Back & Seat 180 x 117cm
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Back & Seat 180 x 172cm
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GROW THE BEST TOMATOES

Plant seeds or seedlings now in garden beds or large containers

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Everyone loves them, and loves growing them, so it's not hard to understand why tomatoes are the gardener's most popular vegetable.

The tomato is a fruit, but it is considered a vegetable for culinary reasons. And there are many varieties.

Spring is the ideal time to plant and if you don't have a vegetable garden, pop the odd tomato plant throughout your flowerbeds or in a large pot.

Tomatoes are warm-season, frost-susceptible plants that need a growing season of about three months. You can grow them from seed or buy seedlings from nurseries or farmers' markets.



Choose a type

There are two types of tomatoes, determinate and indeterminate, and there are also grafted tomatoes.

➤ **DETERMINATE CULTIVARS** Often called bush tomatoes, these are the best tomatoes for pots. They have a bushy habit and grow from 90-120cm high. The fruit ripens all at once, then

the plant dies. They include Roma, Tiny Tim and Patio Prize.

➤ **INDETERMINATE CULTIVARS** These are climbers and grow from 1.8-2.4m high. They need space and a stake, cage or trellis for support.

They set new fruit and ripen fruit through the season until it turns cold. They include most cherry and heirloom types, Beefsteak and Grosse Lisse.

➤ **GRAFTED TOMATOES** These are good for growing in small gardens, where crop rotation is difficult. They can be planted in the same spot each year, as the tomato plant is grafted onto disease-resistant stock.

Unlike other tomatoes, grafted tomatoes are not deep-stem planted. Plant the seedling at the same level in the soil as it was in the pot.

DIY TIP

To ripen green tomatoes at the end of the growing season, store them in a paper bag with bananas.

Tomatoes are easy to cultivate and provide a good yield.

Sow seeds

Tomatoes grow easily from seed that can be sown outdoors all year round in the tropics, in temperate areas from August to December and in cool areas from September to November.

➤ **FILL** any clean, small pot or seedling punnet with moist seed-raising mixture and make a 5mm deep dent in the surface of the mix. Add the seed and cover with seed-raising mixture.

➤ **WRAP** the pot or punnet in clear plastic to keep warm and encourage germination, but remove it when the seeds germinate. Place in a warm spot. Germination takes from 6-14 days, depending on the temperature.

➤ **KEEP** the potting mix slightly moist using a spray bottle and when the seedlings reach about 7.5cm high, they are ready to harden in a sunnier spot. Transplant to the garden when they are about 10cm high. ➤

Positioning

Growing the best tomatoes begins with finding the sunniest garden or balcony position.

Tomatoes need at least 6-7 hours of sun a day to produce lots of fruit. They also like protection from wind and need warm soil to flourish.

GROW TIP

Make use of the shade cast by tomato plants in your garden beds to grow salad greens such as lettuce and rocket.

Enrich the soil

Free-draining, warm soil is essential. Dig organic matter such as compost, aged cow manure or Dynamic Lifter Plus Vegetable Food into the soil before planting.

A sprinkling of sulphate of potash helps with flower and fruit development, and with disease resistance.

If your soil is acidic, which you can check with a pH kit, add liquid lime to the soil as a lime deficiency can cause blossom end rot.

Planting

Tomatoes, unlike other vegetables, need to be deep-stem planted, about 500-600mm apart.

Remove the lower set of leaves, then position the seedlings in the ground about halfway to two-thirds down the stem. Water with Seasol to prevent transplant shock.

Mulching

Apply a mulch of lucerne hay, pea straw or sugar cane when the soil has warmed up, which could be late spring or early summer in cold regions.

Mulch reduces weeds and helps to keep moisture in the soil. You can apply mulch right up to the stem of tomatoes.

WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

To help prevent disease, unless you're raising grafted tomatoes, don't grow tomatoes in the same spot as you planted them during the previous two years.

Bottom of fruit becomes sunken and blackened

- **CAUSE** Blossom end rot, because of a lack of lime together with irregular watering.
- **FIX IT** Add soluble lime and water regularly.

Holes in fruit and young growth eaten

- **CAUSE** Tomato fruit worm or tomato caterpillar.
- **FIX IT** Use Yates Tomato and Vegetable Dust.

Fruit splits as it begins to ripen

- **CAUSE** Over-watering or heavy rain after a dry period.
- **FIX IT** Water regularly, especially during dry periods.



Feeding

If the soil has been well prepared, your tomatoes won't need feeding until the first flower truss appears.

Use a soluble plant food such as PowerFeed for Tomatoes & Vegetables. Repeat fortnightly while the plants are fruiting.

Move the mulch aside when applying fertiliser and always water before and after fertilising.

Staking

Most tomatoes need staking, so position a 2m high stake 50mm from the stem at the planting stage to avoid damaging the root system.

As the tomatoes grow, tie the stems to the stake with soft cloth or twine. You can also grow and support tomatoes in homemade wire cages.

Try Whites Tomato Cage Plant Trainer, \$9. You simply drive the stakes into the soil and clip the supports in place.

Watering

Depending on the weather, water regularly and deeply at least twice a week, especially when the fruit starts appearing.

To help prevent disease, water around the plant base rather than from overhead. Erratic watering causes tomatoes to split.

Harvesting

Tomatoes are at their tastiest when they are left on the vine to mature. Cut the stalk but leave the calyx attached. 🍅

PICTURES: ISTOCK

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Pot plant revamp

Help these garden gems look their best with a new lease of life

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Gardens and balconies can be easily decorated with pots, which provide instant colour or make an interesting focal point.

You can place them on the ground or put them on a pedestal and use to brighten up indoor rooms.

Potted plants should always look their best whether brimming with flowers or foliage. So if they've started to look scraggly and aren't performing well, maybe they just need a revamp and a little TLC.



GROW TIP

Water newly re-potted plants using a seaweed solution, which will help to prevent transplant shock.

1 2 3



1 Remove the plant

Carefully remove the plant from its pot. If it doesn't slide out easily, squeeze the sides of the pot or tap them against a hard surface. Cut off any dead or dying stems. Always re-pot indoor plants in a shady area.



2 Check the roots

Loosen the roots and trim off any that are twisted or broken. Partially fill the new pot with a premium potting mix so the plant will sit at same level as in the original pot. Centre the plant in the pot.



3 Add potting mix

Backfill with potting mix, firming it around the roots, with the level of the potting mix about 25mm from the rim of the pot so it won't spill out when watering. Water in and top up the mix if it has sunk. ➤

When to re-pot

Regular re-potting helps keep indoor and outdoor plants healthy. This should be done about every two years, even if the plant hasn't outgrown its pot, as the potting mix degenerates over time and needs renewing.

When re-potting, move the plant into a larger pot so it has enough room to grow. A plant in a 20cm pot should be put in a 25cm pot.

Watch for these signs that mean a plant needs to be re-potted.

- **DIEBACK** of leaf tips, flower and leaf drop, and wilting.
- **ROOTS** growing out of the pot base.
- **POTTING** mix drying out quickly.
- **PLANT** is not growing.



Cheryl

EXPERT SECRETS

Trim the brown tips on indoor plant leaves with scissors, matching the natural shape of the leaf.

Rejuvenate large pots

Large pots with permanent plantings are difficult to re-pot, but it is still important to regularly improve the potting mix to keep the plants healthy.

In spring and summer, lightly loosen the top of the potting mix with a trowel and add a light mulch of cow manure or compost.

This adds organic matter that helps rejuvenate the mix. Avoid mulching near the trunk or stem of the plant.

Regular applications of a seaweed product will also promote beneficial microbes in the mix.



INDOOR PLANT PROBLEMS

Poor foliage colour and stunted growth

- ⊕ **CAUSE** Plant needs re-potting.
- ⊕ **SOLUTION** Re-pot into new mix and into a larger pot if root-bound.



Leaves with a dull yellowish sandblasted appearance

- ⊕ **CAUSE** Red spider mites.
- ⊕ **SOLUTION** Take the plant outside to a shady spot. Spray with Eco Organic Garden Hippo Enhanced Eco-oil.

Black sootiness on foliage

- ⊕ **CAUSE** Presence of scale or aphids.
- ⊕ **SOLUTION** Remove the pests by hand or spray with Yates Pest Oil.



Downy white patches under foliage or in stem junctions

- ⊕ **CAUSE** Mealy bugs, which are found on the leaves and stems.
- ⊕ **SOLUTION** Touch each mealy bug with a small cotton wool swab that has been moistened with methylated spirits, or spray with eco-oil.

Brown or dead leaf tips or margins

- ⊕ **CAUSE** The atmosphere or the potting mix is too dry.
- ⊕ **SOLUTION** Cut off the brown areas on the leaves, increase the humidity by misting the plants often, and water regularly.



Is the plant root-bound?

Plants that have been in pots for too long can become root-bound. The roots fill the pot and circle around inside and the plant will need re-potting.

- ⊕ Tease out the roots from the potting mix, cut off any damaged ones and 25-50mm of solid roots at the base. You can also cut two or three vertical slits 10mm deep in the rootball.
- ⊕ Re-pot the plant into a larger pot and water in with a seaweed solution. Place in a shaded spot for a week so it can re-establish, then return it to its original position.

HELP THEM THRIVE

Feed

Give potted plants a boost by feeding in spring, summer and autumn. The easiest way is to apply a three-month controlled-release plant food.

You can also use a complete soluble fertiliser that potted plants will easily absorb. Always water pots before and after applying fertiliser and use all fertilisers in accordance with the instructions on the packet.



Prune

Shrubby outdoor foliage plants such as box, murraya, some lilly pillies, and westringia need regular trimming to keep their growth dense and looking good.

Trim in spring, summer or autumn when they are growing.

Using shears, lightly trim growth from the plant top and sides. Many shrubs can be clipped into a ball or topiary shape.



Deadhead

Flowering annuals look fabulous in outdoor pots and you can have different flowers each season.

Remove finished blooms and leaves to encourage new growth and keep them looking their best.



Water

➤ **OUTDOORS** Water outdoor pots deeply, instead of giving them a quick sprinkle. Continue until the water starts to run out of the drainage holes.

When you get to know your plants, you will work out a watering routine based on the weather. In the warmer months, you will sometimes need to water every day.

➤ **INDOORS** Plants such as ferns love continually moist soil, but the general rule with most indoor plants is to give them a good soaking when the top 10mm of the mix is dry.

A light watering can with a thin spout makes it much easier to direct water onto a surface that is concealed by foliage. You can also immerse the plant and pot in a sink of water until the bubbles stop rising. ➤



After

Re-potting a bromeliad pup gives the pot a fresh new look.



Revive bromeliads

Bromeliads are pot favourites, but a year or two after the plant has flowered, it will start to slowly die and look tatty. But it will send up one or two new offsets, known as pups.

These pups can be easily detached from the mother plant and re-potted.



1 Remove the plant

Carefully remove the mother plant from the pot, then check around the plant to see if there are any pups growing out of the base.



2 Detach the pup

Use sharp secateurs to carefully cut off any pups as close to the mother plant as possible. As the mother plant is dying, it can be discarded at this stage.



3 Replant the pup

Replant the pup in a combination of half potting mix and half orchid mix. Make sure the mix does not come up more than 10mm above the base of the plant. 🌱

@CathM

Workshop Member Profile



Cath says her garden is her therapy space with all the elements she enjoys.



Workshop member CathM loves sharing her knowledge and passion for gardening. As a horticulturist, her most important advice is to feed your soil, not your plants.

‘A thriving garden comes from healthy soil, and plants access nutrients from the soil. So healthy soil equals healthy plants,’ she says.

After running a successful landscape business, Cath set up a venture five years ago to help people gain the skills they need to grow, harvest and cook their own

food. She now runs personalised gardening workshops.

Living on a 1.4-hectare property on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast, Cath’s garden design was influenced by the French potager garden.

‘I have perennial herbs growing among flowering shrubs and I’ve planted 15 fruit trees with pumpkins rambling throughout the area.

‘My kitchen garden is my favourite space, as it’s filled with food, flowers, birds, my chooks and seating areas to relax,’ says Cath.



‘I wanted to share my knowledge to inspire others to enjoy gardening and fresh food’

Enrich your garden soil

Healthier garden soil means you will have healthier plants. It is the foundation of successful gardening.

There are many ways to improve soil, from spreading grass clippings that add nutrients as they decompose

to applying a compost that you can make from kitchen scraps, which attracts worms and encourages a healthy root system.

Discover more ways to enrich soil at handyman.net.au/enrich-soil.



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A TOUCH *OF* SPICE

Plant herbs and spices now
to add zing to your cooking

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

For lovers of spicy Asian food, stir-fries, laksas and curries will be favourites on the menu. And certain herbs and spices are necessary ingredients for these cuisines.

Curry leaves, lemongrass, Kaffir lime leaves, chilli, galangal, ginger and turmeric are among the essentials, with different combinations imparting a fabulous zing to fish, meat and vegetable dishes.

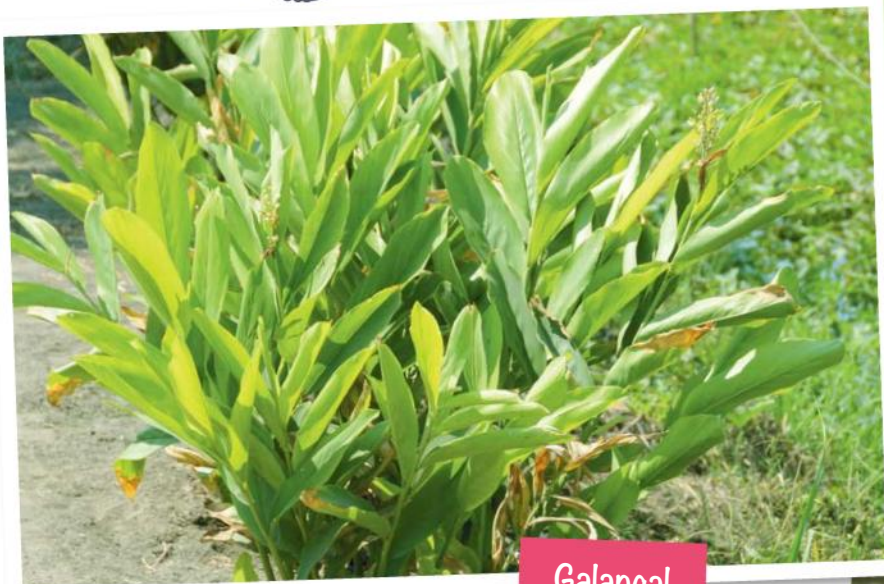
Add these plants to the vegie patch so you have them on hand and can enjoy them fresh and at their best.

Even if you have a courtyard or a balcony, you can still grow them, as most can be planted in containers.

ROOTS

Many great intense flavours come from underground from rhizomes, such as galangal, ginger and turmeric, adding spice to many dishes.

Belonging to the ginger family (Zingiberaceae), they all feature elegant tropical foliage that looks great planted among ornamentals.



Galangal

Galangal

Commonly called Thai ginger, galangal (*Alpinia galanga*) tastes like a cross between pepper and ginger.

A good understory plant among other tropical foliage, it can grow up to 2m high, depending on the variety.

➤ **GROW** Choose a semi-shaded or shaded spot in rich and moist but free-draining soil. Feed in spring and summer with Yates Dynamic Lifter and water regularly. A light frost won't kill the plant but will damage the leaves.

In spring, plant small rhizomes with at least two eyes 50-100mm deep.

➤ **HARVEST** Use about 10 months after planting. Dig carefully around the base and remove rhizomes as needed if you don't want to disturb the clump.

➤ **USE** Flavour Asian soups and curries with fresh galangal. The young shoots are edible and the leaves impart a slight perfume when used to wrap steamed fish. Teams well with lemongrass.



Ginger



Ginger

The pungent rhizome of ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) is an important spice in Japanese and Chinese cuisine. It has elegant, lance-shaped leaves and grows to about 1.2m high.

➤ **GROW** It likes a warm, frost-free climate and a semi-shaded position in rich and moist but well-drained soil.

Plant fresh store-bought rhizomes. Cut the rhizome so each piece has at least two eyes, let the

ends dry, then plant. Feed in spring and summer with Yates Dynamic Lifter and water regularly.

➤ **HARVEST** Use about 9-10 months after planting. Dig up the whole clump or dig carefully around the clump and remove rhizomes when needed. Replant some rhizomes to ensure a continuous supply.

➤ **USE** Add fresh to Asian soups, seafood and meat curries. ➤





Turmeric

Turmeric

The name turmeric (*Curcuma domestica*) is thought to originate from the Latin words *terra merita*, meaning 'merit of the earth'. It's popular for its healing properties and is delicious in curries.

With its tropical-looking foliage and white flower spikes, turmeric looks good planted with other foliage plants, in vegetable beds or large pots.

+ GROW Give turmeric a lightly shaded or sunny frost-free position in moist but well-drained soil that is enriched with compost.

In spring, plant small rhizomes with at least two eyes 50-70mm deep. Feed with Yates Dynamic Lifter in late spring and summer and water regularly.

+ HARVEST As the leaves start to yellow and die back in late autumn, harvest the rhizomes. Dig up the whole plant or carefully dig around the clump and remove the rhizomes as needed.

+ USE Grate or chop fresh rhizomes and add to dishes, or dry and use with other spices for curries. Wrap fish in the leaves before barbecuing or steaming.



LEAVES

Curry leaves, lemongrass and Kaffir lime are essential ingredients in many Asian dishes and they're easy to grow in garden beds or pots.



Curry leaves

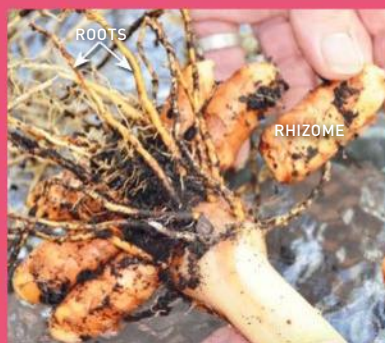
HARVEST TURMERIC

Follow these steps to harvest turmeric. The rhizomes can be kept in the fridge for about a month, wrapped in paper towel and placed in sealable plastic bags.



1 Dig up the plant

Use a fork to carefully dig around the roots to loosen the plant, then lift the rootball out of the soil. Shake the plant to remove the excess soil from the roots.



2 Remove the rhizomes

Gently wash the roots using a hose to remove the remaining soil and expose the rhizomes. Snap off the rhizomes, then wash thoroughly and allow to dry.

Curry leaves

A curry tree (*Murraya koenigii*) is a worthwhile investment for lovers of Indian food. The leaves are an essential ingredient of dhal and impart a strong curry-like aroma.

A small tree, it grows to about 5m high but can be clipped lower. Its long, slender leaves are dark green on top and a pale green underneath.

+ GROW Give a curry tree a sunny position in warm, frost-free regions. Feed in spring with a six-month controlled-release fertiliser.

It can be grown in a large pot in frosty areas and put under cover.

+ HARVEST Fresh leaves are best, as they lose some flavour when dried.

+ USE Curry leaves impart their best flavour if fried in oil when you begin making a curry, and add taste to many Indian dishes.



Lemongrass

Lemongrass

The young white stem and leaf base of perennial lemongrass (*Cymbopogon citratus*) is a common ingredient in spicy Asian dishes.

If you don't have room in the kitchen garden, it makes an attractive ornamental plant. But give it space, as it can reach a height and spread of 1.2m. It can be grown in a large pot.

➤ **GROW** Position in a sunny spot in well-drained soil in warm, frost-free climates. Feed in spring and summer with a soluble plant food.

In cool climates, plant in large pots and protect from frost.

➤ **HARVEST** Cut the stalk at ground level from the outside of the clump at any time of the year. Cut stalks can be chopped and frozen.

➤ **USE** The soft base of the stalk is used in soups and curries. The green older leaves make a refreshing herbal tea.



Kaffir lime

Kaffir lime

Called the makrut lime in Thailand, the Kaffir lime (*Citrus hystrix*) is an important ingredient in South-East Asian cooking. It grows to 1.5m high, but if the leaves are constantly being picked for cooking, the plant will usually remain small.

The strong taste of the leaves is more popular than the fruit. The fruit is knobbly, and while the flesh is not eaten, the zest is used in cooking.



➤ **GROW** Give it a sunny position in well-drained soil. In spring, summer and autumn, feed with a three-month controlled-release fertiliser. In cool climates, grow in a pot and place under cover in the sun in winter.

➤ **HARVEST** Pick leaves as needed.

The leaves can also be frozen whole.

➤ **USE** Kaffir lime leaves are used in green curries, fish and chicken dishes, laksa and soups. ➤

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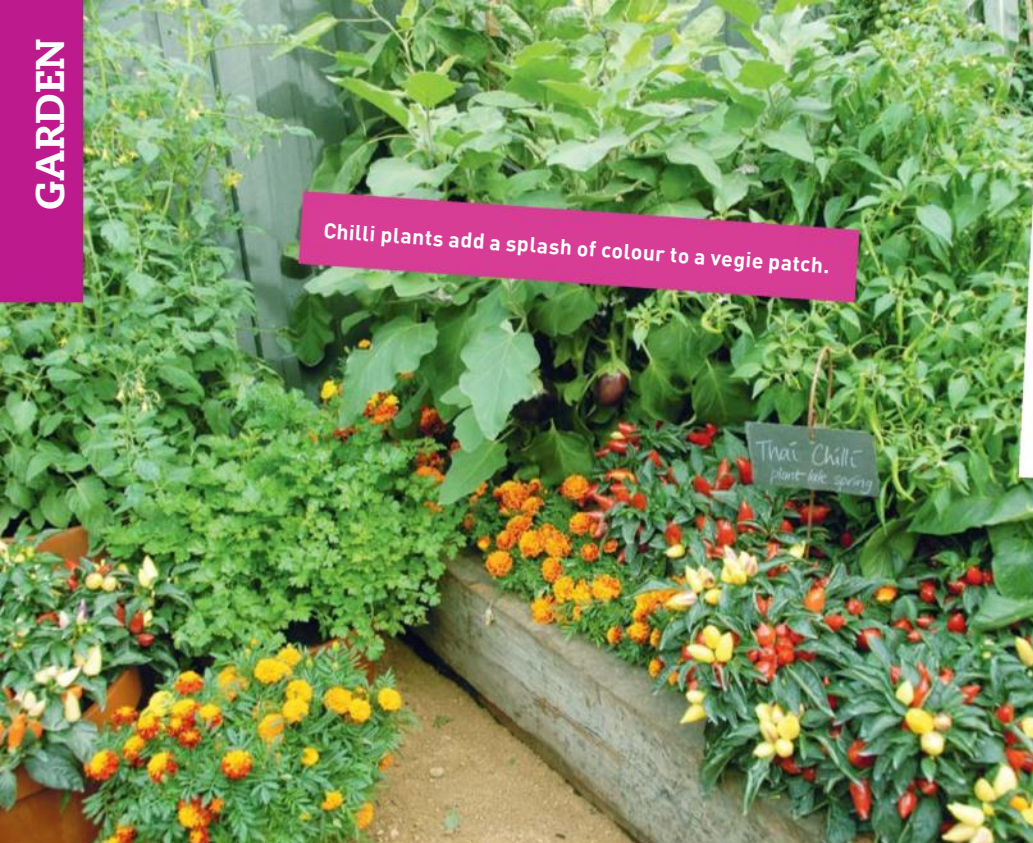
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organic garden

Chilli plants add a splash of colour to a vegie patch.



Add a little heat with chilli

The chilli (*Capsicum annuum*), an essential ingredient in many dishes, has been a popular spice for centuries.

The fruit follows star-shaped white flowers and comes in many different shapes and sizes. Depending on the variety, chillies ripen from green to shades of red, orange, yellow, brown or purple. They look great in pots.

➤ **GROW** Give chillies a sunny spot in rich, well-drained soil. Sow seeds or plant seedlings in spring and feed when flowers appear with

Yates Dynamic Lifter Plus Fruit Food. Water regularly.

➤ **HARVEST** Pick chillies fresh, dry the excess or freeze them whole for later.

Always wear gloves or scrub your hands thoroughly after handling chillies, as they can burn your skin. Also avoid rubbing your eyes or any other sensitive areas.

➤ **USE** Add zing to scrambled eggs and omelettes with a sprinkling of fresh chilli. Use in Asian dishes, stir-fries, laksa and Indian dishes.



Green curry paste

Use this paste with fish, seafood and vegie dishes.

COMBINE 2 tablespoons finely grated fresh galangal, 2 teaspoons finely chopped lemongrass, 4 shredded kaffir lime leaves, ½ cup finely chopped fresh coriander, 6 very finely chopped French shallots, 4 crushed garlic cloves, 1 teaspoon each ground coriander and cumin, 1 deseeded and finely chopped small red chilli and the finely grated zest of 1 lime. Stir in about ½ cup water to make a paste. Serves 4.



Serves 4



Creamy crab, ginger and coconut curry

PREPARATION TIME 15 minutes

COOKING TIME 10 minutes

Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive or canola oil
1 tablespoon brown mustard seeds
2 teaspoons fenugreek seeds
3 long green chillies, deseeded and finely sliced
2cm piece fresh turmeric, finely diced
2cm piece fresh ginger, finely diced
3 Asian red shallots (about 100g), finely chopped
10 fresh curry leaves
2 large tomatoes, diced into 1cm chunks
1 cup (250ml) coconut milk
2 cups (400g) cooked crabmeat
1 cup (120g) grated fresh coconut flesh
Pappadums, to serve

➊ **HEAT** the oil in a large non-stick frying pan and fry mustard seeds until popping. Add the fenugreek seeds and stir for about 30 seconds until fragrant. Reserve some sliced chilli for garnish, then add the remaining chilli, turmeric, ginger and shallots. Stir for 2 minutes. Add the curry leaves, tomato and coconut milk. Simmer for 5 minutes.

➋ **COMBINE** the crabmeat and grated coconut in a bowl using your hands until well mixed.

➌ **DIVIDE** the curry sauce between serving bowls, reserving a little to spoon on top. Add the crab mixture and top with reserved sauce. Garnish with the reserved chilli and serve with the pappadums. ●

AUSTRALIAN

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NEXT ISSUE

OUTDOOR

Grow a lush green lawn and get the backyard into shape.
PLUS Lay a new driveway and install a retaining wall.

DECORATE

Transform interior walls and revamp children's bedrooms.
PLUS Storage ideas and small space design solutions.

GARDEN

Plant a tree, create a salad garden and grow perfumed plants.
PLUS How to attract pollinating insects to the garden.



GROW TIP

Planting a cottage garden is an opportunity to exercise your artistic skills, but keep in mind that the plants need to suit your climate.

Cottage garden style

Create a space that is charming, useful and environmentally sound

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERYL MADDOCKS

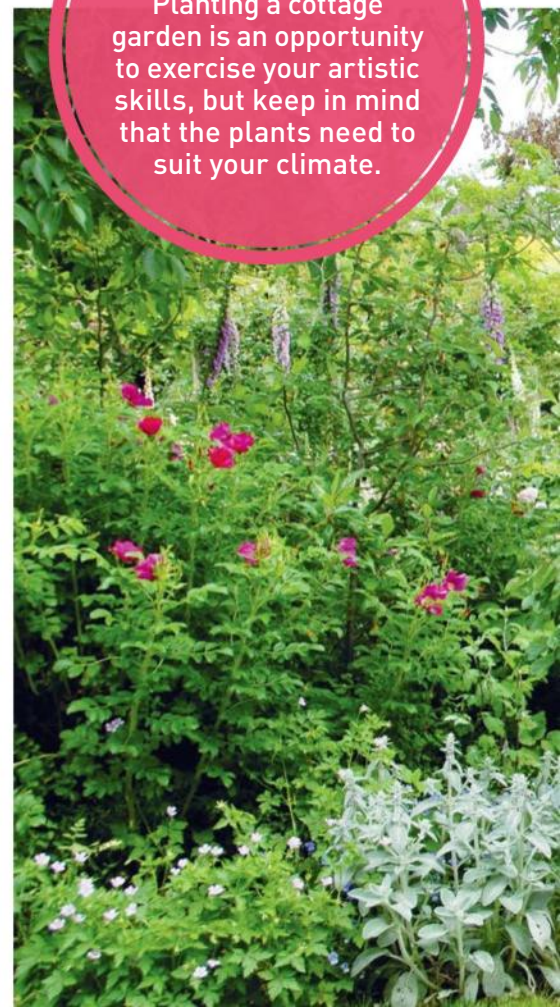
Based on centuries-old traditions, cottage gardens balance the beautiful and the practical.

In this style of garden, beds overflow with a seemingly chaotic mix of vegetables, fruit trees, roses, perennials, annuals, bulbs and herbs.

The flowers grown are simple old-fashioned varieties that attract bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects.

And because cottage gardens contain a diversity of plants, they tend to suffer far less from pests and diseases than others that are based on individual plantings.

It is a giving garden, and one that grows with you, the gardener. It's not a return to the past or an idyllic dream, but a practical way to garden that is healthy for us and the planet.





Get the Look

Meandering pathways, rose-covered arches and secluded seating areas are all features of the cottage garden.

➤ **PATHS** When made from materials that have a mellow quality, paths work well with the cottage garden look, and entice you to stroll around the garden.

Irregular pavers, paving bricks, old house bricks, sandstone and gravel are ideal. To create harmony, use the same material for the paths and steps.

Plants tumbling onto paths add to the charm. A straight path is softened and will even appear to curve if plants are left to grow over the sides. Suitable plants include Swan River daisy, catnip, snow-in-summer and alyssum.

➤ **SEATS** Brightly painted and natural timber or sandstone seats work well.

A seat beside a path tempts you to stop and sit, providing you with the opportunity to relax and enjoy the garden. Place perfumed plants such as lavender, rosemary, scented geraniums and roses near the seat.

➤ **ARCHES** Use these to lead you from one part of the garden to another.

To avoid having to squeeze through narrow arches, make sure they are at least 1.2m wide and cover them with thornless roses. Try 'Kathleen Harrop', 'Zephirine Drouhin' and 'Crepuscule'.

Climbing mandevilla, clematis or jasmine are good alternatives to roses.



Plan ahead

Before buying plants, you need to work out where they should be placed and how they can be arranged.

Think of the garden bed as a blank canvas where you can create the look you like. Make a rough sketch of the space and use this to position your plants. Research their mature width and height to see how many you need.

Your garden has many different microclimates, so take the position of the garden beds into account.

Certain sections may have full shade, some partial shade and others may receive full sun.

These microclimates can be fully utilised by planting the correct plant for the particular condition. ➤



GROW EDIBLES

Herbs

Plant herbs in your flowerbeds. The leaves of many are scented and the flowers of most will attract bees and butterflies.

Fragrant herbs include basil, bergamot, hyssop, lavender, mint, lemon verbena, rosemary, sage, southernwood, scented geraniums and sweet woodruff.

Trees

Choose fruit trees for the upper layer of the garden.

Apple, plum, pear, fig, peach, citrus and avocado are pretty trees for small and medium-sized gardens. If space is limited, you could consider growing dwarf or multi-grafted trees.

Hedges

Plant hedges comprising feijoa, citrus, guava and bay trees.

Drape fences with climbers such as passionfruit, grape and kiwifruit. You can also grow choko, cucumber, small pumpkin, peas and beans on chicken wire attached to fences.

Vegetables

Create a permanent vegie plot in your cottage garden, or if space is limited, grow vegetables among the flowers.

Tomatoes look good at the back of flowerbeds and the lace-like foliage of carrots and the large leaves of silverbeet can outdo some ornamental plants. Parsley and lettuce make great border plants.

Many perennial vegetables make great ornamentals. The silvery leaves of artichokes, the large leaves of rhubarb and the apple-green leaves of sorrel all make a statement.

Keep bugs at bay and your edibles looking their best the natural way by spraying with Richgro Beat-A Bug Naturally Based Insect Spray.



PLANT FLOWERS

Perennials

With their wonderful colours, textures and spreading habits, perennials are the backbone of the cottage garden, and will perform for many years.

You can have interesting groups of perennials flowering from spring through to autumn, and a few will also flower in winter.

They range from tall background plants to groundcovers and you can find one for every position, whether it is full sun or shade.

➤ **CONSIDER** the height and width of each plant, and plant them so they will touch one another upon reaching maturity. This helps to cover the earth and prevent weed growth.

➤ **CHECK** flower colour and flowering times for colour harmony and consider foliage colour and texture, as well as the structure of the plant.

A garden full of flowers of similar height and shape doesn't exude as much personality as one containing a variety of shapes, sizes and colours.

➤ **GROUP** plants for impact. The size of the group will vary according to the size of the bed. Don't make all the groups the same size and shape.

Repeat groups to unify the scheme, but not so it will dominate.

➤ **PLAN** one group to finish as another is starting to flower so all your flowers don't appear in one season.



Annuals

Growing annuals in a cottage garden allows you to experiment with colour and plant combinations, and you can change colour with the seasons.

They grow from seed, produce flowers and seeds, then die within a year. They're ideal for filling bare spaces while perennials are growing.

There are short-lived perennials such as pansies and verbena, which are treated as annuals. And there are biennials, such as foxgloves, that flower in their second year, then die.

Make sure you choose the right annual for the right spot.

➤ **PLANT** out seedlings in the cool of the evening and mulch around the plants to retain moisture in the soil.

➤ **FEED** monthly with a soluble complete plant food. Water regularly.

➤ **REMOVE** spent flowers to encourage more blooms to grow. ➤



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DIY TIP

Weave flowering climbers through the garden, drape on trees or over an arch, and train over fences and along verandahs.

How you place plants is the key to success in a cottage garden.

Choosing colours

Keep the impact of colour in mind when selecting flowering plants for your cottage garden.

Strong flower colours such as red, yellow and orange stand out, advance towards you and can enclose a space. Blues, purples and greys, on the other hand, tend to recede.

White flowers are ideal for small spaces, as they are not dominating.

If you are worried about the best way to use colour, try a few simple tricks. Opposites and neighbours on the colour wheel always work well.

Or, try tints and shades of the one colour, which go well in small gardens where many different colours can be overpowering.

Keep in mind that different foliage shapes and colours are just as visually appealing as those of flowers. 🌿



Add accessories

Decorative elements, such as birdbaths, statues and sundials, are an intrinsic part of the overall cottage garden setting, contributing to the charm.

Terracotta or stone pots overflowing with plants also look very effective when they appear unexpectedly in the garden.



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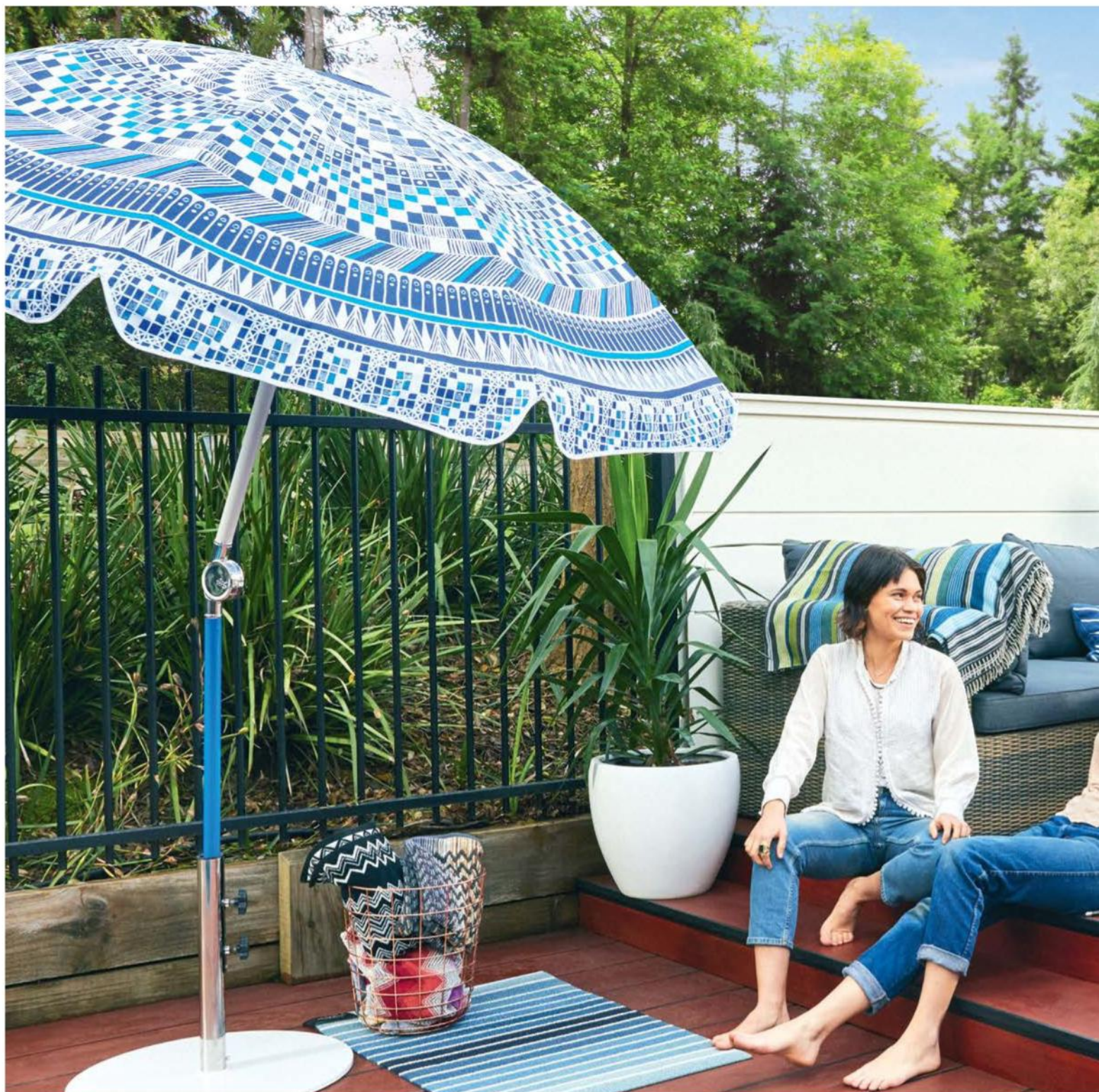
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POP QUIZ!

Name that FLOWERING TREE

How many of these colourful
trees can you name?
The answers are at the
bottom of the page



ANSWERS 1 CHERRY BLOSSOM 2 WATTLE
3 JACARANDA 4 CREPE MYRTLE
5 CALLISTEMON 6 FRANGIPANI 7 POINCIANA

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