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28 PAGE SPECIAL

BATHROOM BLISS

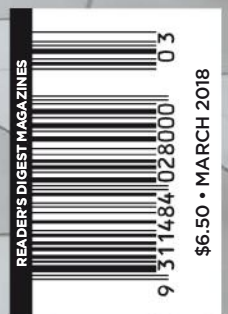
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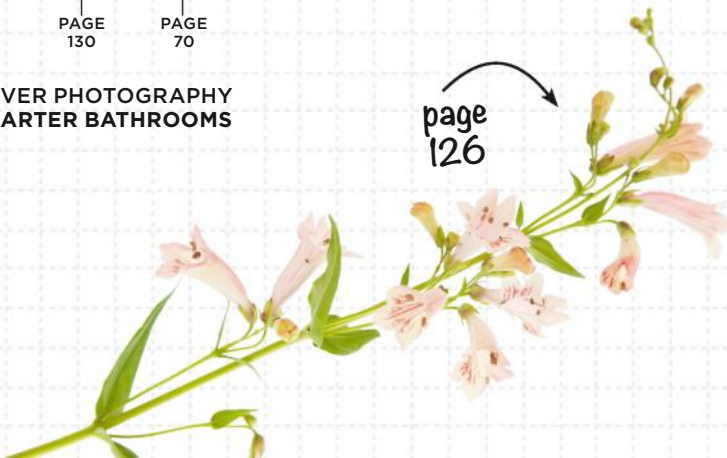
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EDITOR'S LETTER

Designing or renovating a bathroom can be one of life's greatest challenges – having lived through a reno while six months pregnant and with only a dusty outdoor loo to call on while our bathroom was out of action, I can say this with some certainty!

From getting the layout right to ensuring quality waterproofing and plumbing to achieving the desired aesthetic, there are many potential pitfalls – and mistakes can be costly.

Starting on page 26, we share the latest looks in bathroom design, the critical factors to consider when renovating and before-and-after transformations at every budget.

Glorious garage storage

Of all the spaces in your home, the garage is probably the most likely to turn into a dumping ground for random bits and bobs. Head to page 110 for some

fantastic ideas on how to stash your tools and other stuff away – who knows, you may even create enough space to fit in your car! On the subject of storage, we also have some great tips for organising your laundry, starting on page 82.

Get festive!

Easter is almost upon us, so we've come up with some fun DIY projects on page 76 that are guaranteed to get the whole family in the festive spirit.

Happy DIYing!

MANAGING EDITOR
ZOE MEUNIER



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PUBLISHING

PUBLISHED UNDER LICENCE BY DIRECT PUBLISHING PTY LTD

Published by Direct Publishing Pty Ltd
(ABN 81000565471) 431 Warringah Rd, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2086
©2018 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
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from sustainably managed forest,
recycled and controlled source.

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Comfort zone

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fidoandfletch.com.au



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bunnings.com.au



Safety collar

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kmart.com.au



Fun run

Provide your furry friends with their own protected enclosure using a Rapidmesh Galvanised Steel 2-in-1 Dog Run and Kennel, \$369, which ensures a safe environment.

bunnings.com.au





Tunnel vision

Let your moggy play hide and seek inside the All For Paws Cat Toy Lamb Cat Tunnel, \$31. Made from soft plush wool, it's tailor-made for cats that love to dash through tunnels and roll around.

mypetwarehouse.com.au



Feather fun

Amuse your cat with the Kong Wild Tails Cat Toy, \$10. This stylish toy is available in a variety of colours and comes with an extra-long feather tail, and a soft ball and rattle to keep your feline friend stimulated.

petspalace.com.au

Cool carrier

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bunnings.com.au



Cat cave

Give your cat its own secret hideaway with a Woven Cat Cave, \$25. Made from rush material with a polyester cushion, it is a great place for your pet to spend time lazing around and sleeping.

kmart.com.au



Mess free

Provide your cat with a clean and hygienic place where it can do its business using a Petmate Rimmed Assorted Litter Pan, \$25, designed with easy cleaning in mind.

petcircle.com.au



Home stretch

Use a scratching post with multiple levels to entertain your cat with a Cat Tower, \$49. Made with a sisal post, climbing ladder and secret hidey-hole, it's the perfect spot for a cat to stretch and keep itself amused. ►

kmart.com.au



Pet shelter

Shelter small pets, including rabbits and chickens, in a Pinnacle Pet Cabin Animal Enclosure, 1040 x 920 x 520mm, \$165. Its hinged roof and doors make cleaning easy.

pinnacle.net.au



Door flap

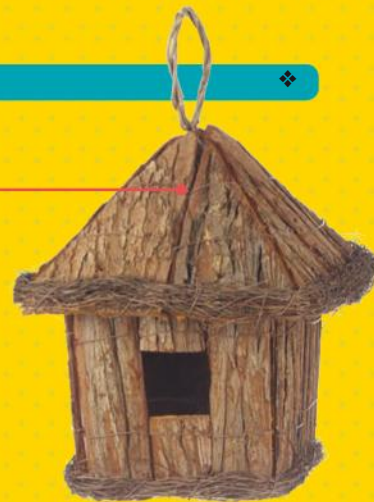
Give your pets the freedom to come and go with the Hakuna Pets White Medium Super Tough Pet Door, \$69. Featuring a weatherproof seal, it includes a magnetic strip to ensure it closes.

hakunapets.com

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Encourage native birds to take up residence in your garden with a Garden Trend Bark Bird House, \$20. Made from bark and rattan, it will blend easily into any natural setting.

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THE LIVING ROOM



7.30 FRIDAY



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LET THE LIGHT IN

A beach-side shack is given new life with a generous renovation that transforms it into a sophisticated family home

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES GRACE PICOT

Taking inspiration from the Canary Island date palm in the front garden, TV super renovators Kyal and Kara Demmerich have brought a piece of Palm Springs, USA to the stretch of coastline past Palm Beach, NSW.

With 28 project-managed, designed or complete renovations done in just three years, it's fair to say the new

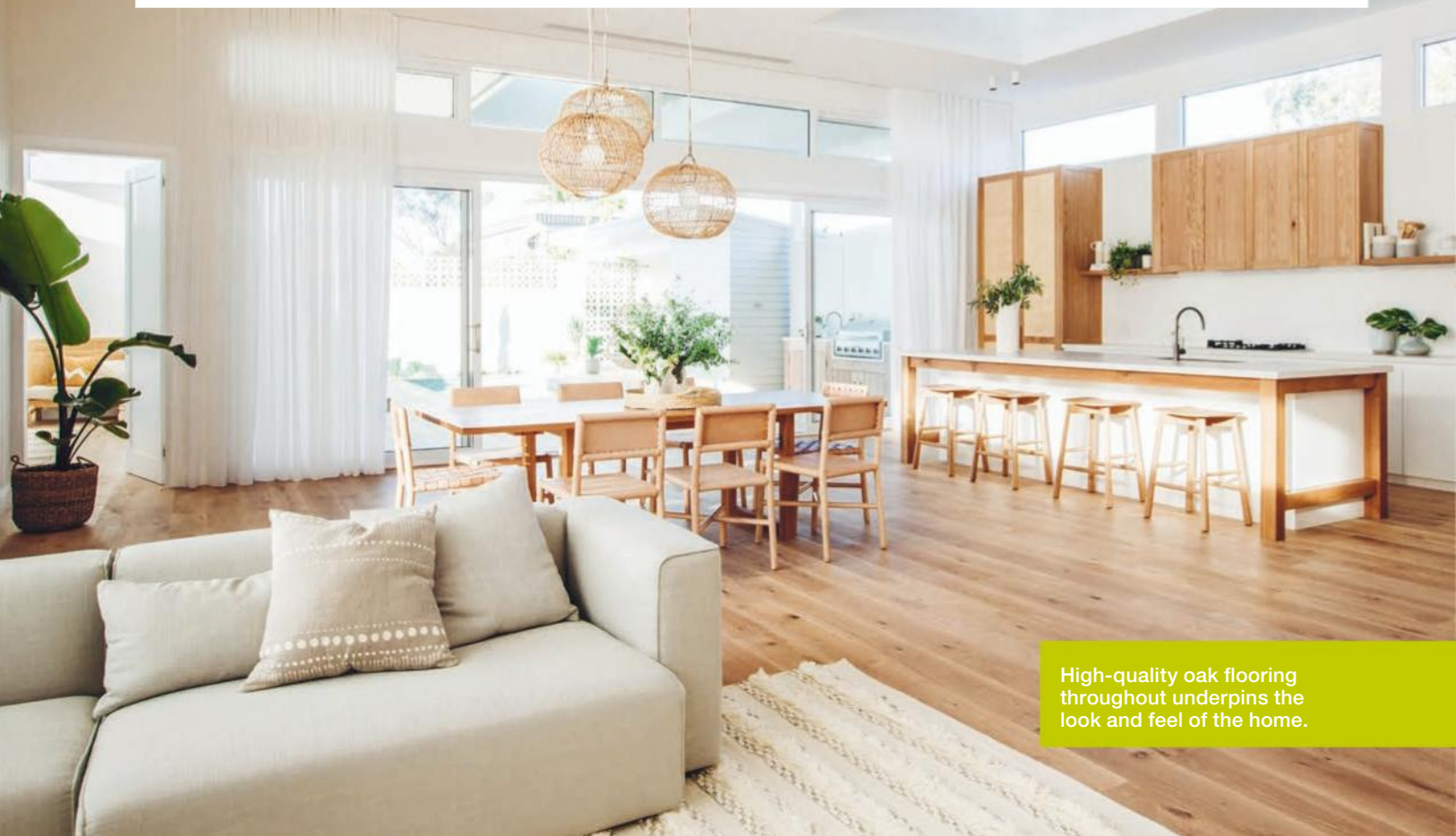
parents are on a roll, and their latest addition is a testament to all they've learned along the way.

Choosing to see the inevitable pitfalls and frustrations of renovating as setbacks rather than problems, Kyal and Kara completed this full transformation in just nine months.

To make best use of the large, flat block, the renovation goals were to

build a grand family home with four bedrooms, large open-plan entertaining areas and an outdoor space to provide a family with all they'd need.

Resisting the temptation to add another storey, and also to save time and money, the couple decided to stick with a traditional gable roofline at the front, and transition to the flat skillion roofline toward the rear of the home. ►



High-quality oak flooring throughout underpins the look and feel of the home.

Handcrafted Handwoven Rattan Ball Lightshades with Cheeky Ruben Pendant Lights are a stunning addition to the space.

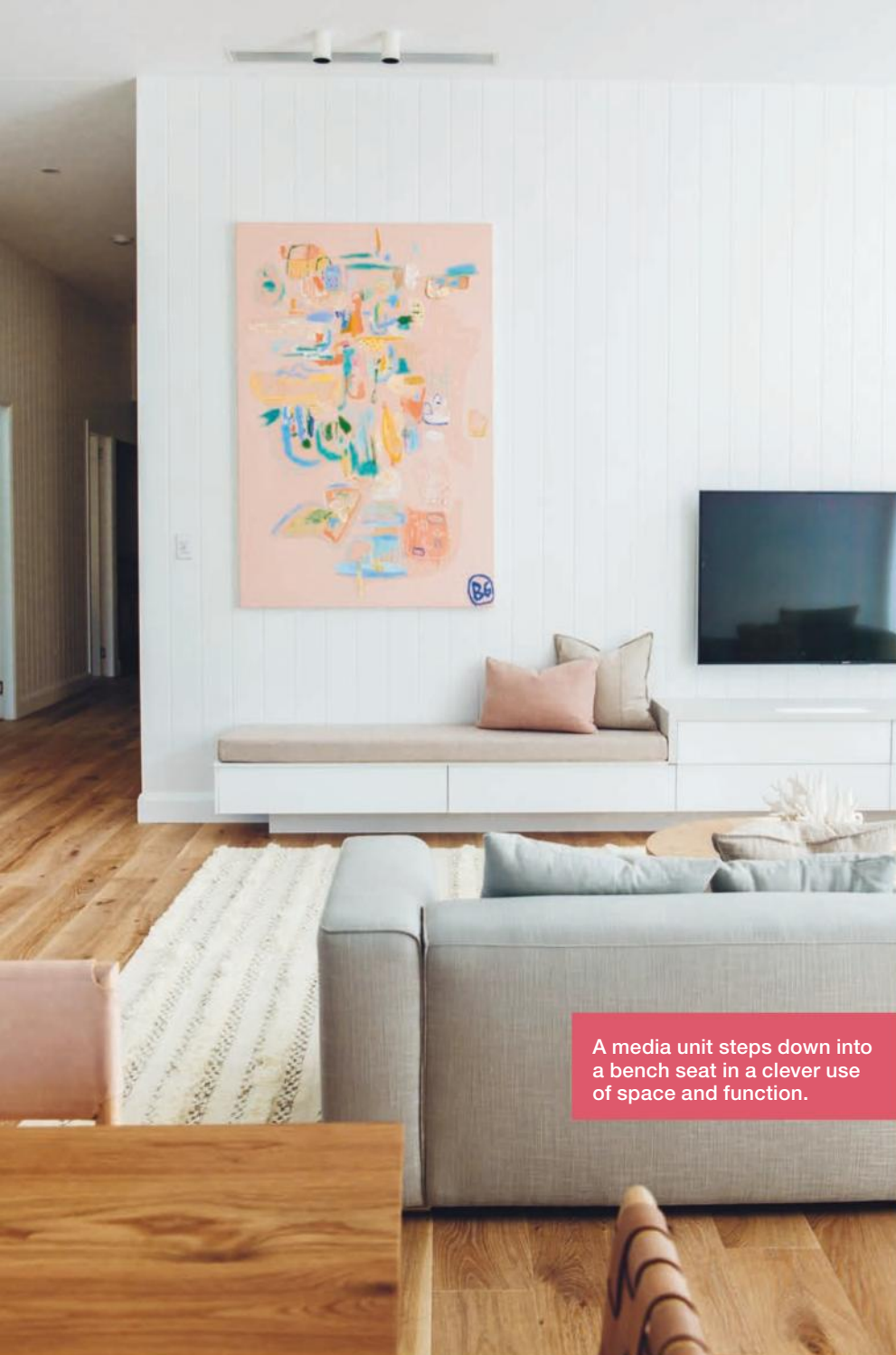


Integrated appliances keep the kitchen contained and streamlined.





Soft colours
and rich textures
invite comfort
and relaxation



A media unit steps down into a bench seat in a clever use of space and function.



Understated kitchen

'For us, we love nothing more than enjoying the company of friends and family over a good meal. We're relaxed entertainers, so preparing food together is always time well spent. Island benches are so great for this,' says Kara.

'The vault of Velux skylights above this island bench is such an architectural statement and the timber detailing around the bench adds another level of character.'

Fully integrated appliances give a streamlined look, and one of the couple's favourite features are the stacking doors that open up this space to the deck and pool area.

The ceiling height gives a sense of grandeur, but the sheer curtains help to soften the look and create an intimate feel. No dining room is complete without a place to eat and the American Oak timber table works perfectly with the pale leather chairs.

To break up the solid nature of timber furniture, Kara selected some pieces with inlaid rattan for a lighter take on a retro idea. The buffet complements a couple of cupboards in the kitchen to tie the look together.

On a large expanse of wall, one large artwork is often better than multiple pieces, unless it's a properly curated collection.

'A good artwork will really lift the space,' says Kara. ►



Large-format tiles are a perfect natural tone and work beautifully with the custom American oak vanity, mirrors and beam.

Spa treatment

One of the most impressive design elements of the home is the day spa inspired bathroom. It features a shower separated by a walk-around wall with his-and-hers showerheads, Velux skylights positioned over the shower area and a custom-made American oak double vanity.

More importantly, it features a 180kg freestanding limestone bathtub that was so heavy Kyal had to install it from underneath the house.

'We've done a lot of bathrooms, but I think this one is our favourite. I'm certainly envious of it! We wanted the ultimate calming and relaxing space, and to do this we did give it a lot of room,' says Kara.

'Kitchens and bathrooms sell houses, so we always invest in these areas, and in this bathroom the giant stone bath takes centre stage. When people come in, they immediately want to come and touch it and that luxurious, tactile finish is exactly what you want in a bathroom.' ►



Tapware in the powder room matches the master bathroom.





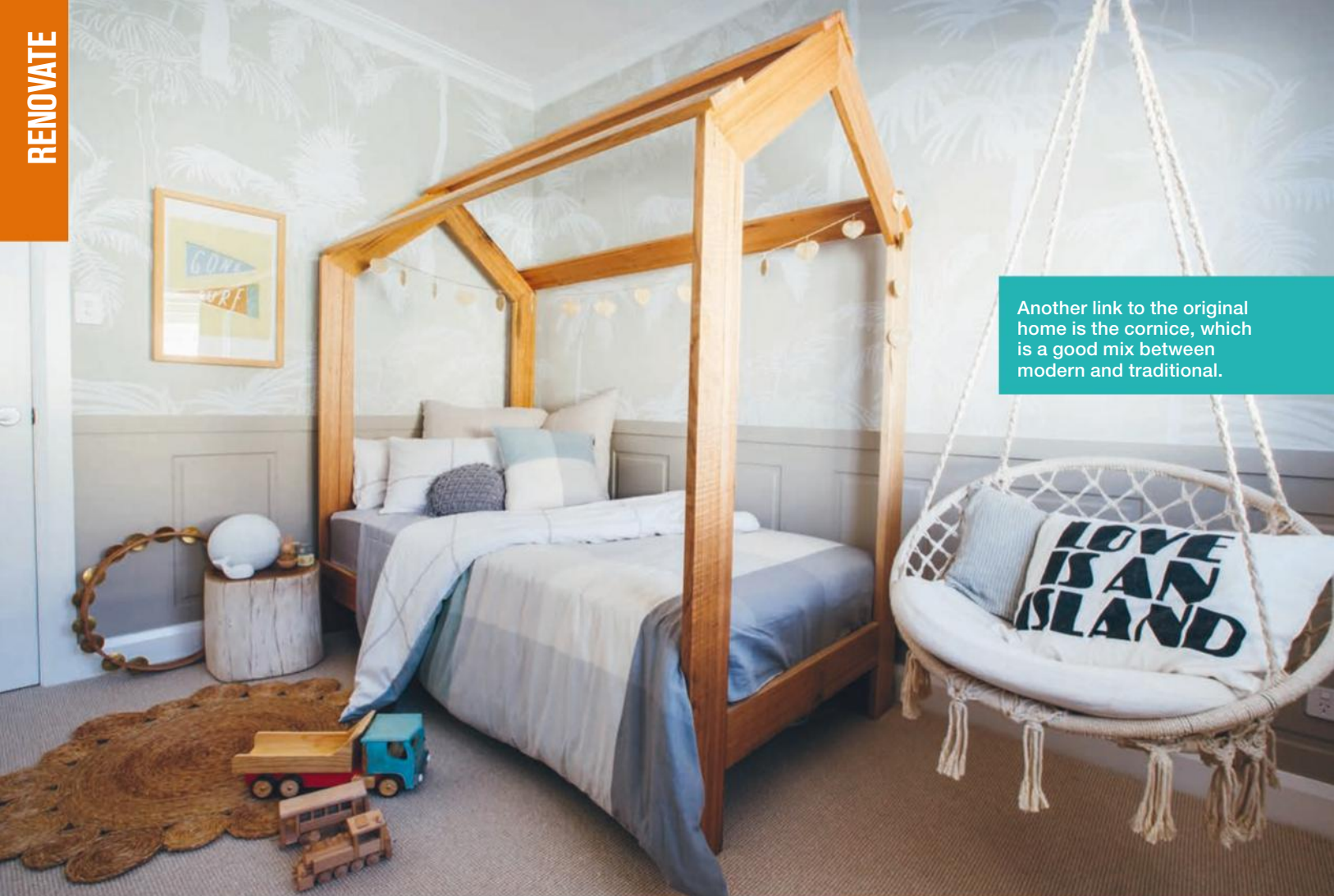
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Another link to the original home is the cornice, which is a good mix between modern and traditional.



Furnishings are simple and light in colour, but bedding is bold and textural.



Soft and comfortable

Of the four bedrooms in the house, two are in the original front half of the home. As a nod to the traditional period, the front bedrooms and media room all feature Easycraft Easyascot panels, which are an excellent DIY project and a great opportunity to add personality to any space.

The kids' bedroom is a fun and relaxing space with scope to evolve.

'Our focus is always on crafting a space with great bones that can be adapted as the kids grow,' says Kara.

'This was particularly important, as we'll be selling this home. This room can easily be styled for a teenager, home office or a more formal guest bedroom.'

Though the original part of the house featured timber floorboards, the executive decision was made to keep everything consistent and carpet the bedrooms in a textured loop-pile carpet in an oatmeal colour. ►



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Josh and Jenna

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All the doors are higher and wider than standard in the home, adding to the feeling of scale.

Master with a view

In the new part of the house, with no existing floor plan, Kyal and Kara designed a huge master suite with the ultimate parents' retreat in mind.

This flexible space can be opened up to the backyard or concealed to create a place to escape the hustle and bustle of the rest of the home.

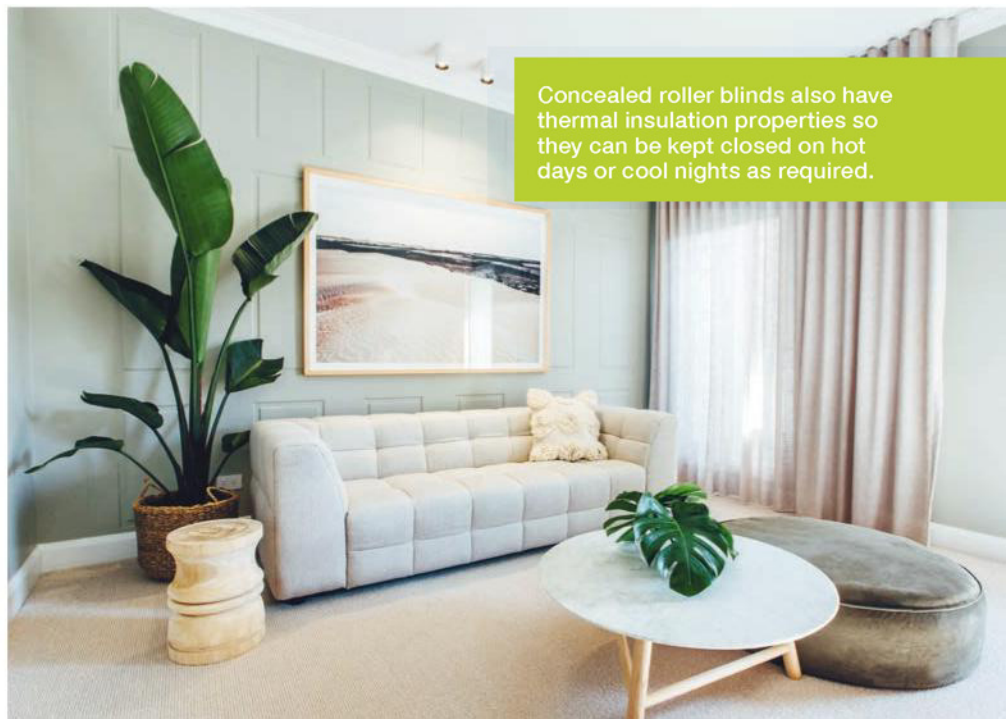
To take the room from light and open to dark and contained for sleeping, the ceiling height was dropped to conceal block-out blinds and the track for the full-length curtains.

'Small details like this make a world of difference, and it's amazing being able to control the window dressing with the touch of a button,' says Kara.

'This is the kind of thing you will always be glad you did.'

The colour palette is muted throughout. Soft olives, sage and barely there pinks complement soft furniture fabrics and shapes.

There's nothing fussy or overdone. Each room has a feeling of invitation and relaxation. ►



Concealed roller blinds also have thermal insulation properties so they can be kept closed on hot days or cool nights as required.



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A pool will increase the costs, but it's an essential element in getting the Palm Springs look.





The old breezeblocks reference traditional pool surrounds found in the area, while plants in pots add colour.



Opulent outdoors

The way this renovation was designed, the pool needed to be poured first, before the house was built.

‘A pool adds a whole other expense to the mix, but where would a Palm Springs-inspired renovation be without one?’ says Kara.

When building a concrete and tile pool, you need to lock in your design before formwork is complete, to ensure all measurements can be planned to tile size. Such was the case with this build, which featured 200 x 200mm patterned tiles around the waterline.

The pool is surrounded by an Australian blackbutt timber deck, which has been treated to remove dirt and tannins, leaving it with a soft, sandy look. The white and breezeblock walls offset the turquoise of the pool perfectly, and landscaping is typically Palm Springs with a selection of cacti and succulents.

‘We approach a renovation from the position of what we love and how we want to live in the most comfortable and achievable ways. We’ve created a retreat we would be more than happy to spend our days in,’ says Kara. ❖

kyalandkara.com.au



BEAUTIFUL BATHROOMS

Think outside the white box with design
inspiration to create a space you'll love

WORDS SITA SIMONS



PICTURE TOM ROE DESIGNER BATHROOMS.COM.AU



Natural and earthy materials such as timber and stone are always appealing in a bathroom.

PICTURE URBAN ANGLES

Statement tiles

The all-white bathroom is a distant memory as homeowners spend increasing amounts on bathroom renovations. Even the perception of the space has changed.

Bathroom design expert Alan Nasrallah from Smarter Bathrooms (smarterbathrooms.com.au) in Melbourne says it's all about a luxury feel and creative design.

'Why stick with white when you can go for it and add some colour? The bathroom used to be seen as an extension of the overall house design, but these days it's regarded as a space in which you can go bold, or experiment with texture and perspective,' says Alan.

'It's a private room that should reflect exactly how you want to feel and the smaller area means you can afford to add a little luxury, either in a material or a fitting.' ►

A wall of statement tiles instantly updates the space and adds texture. Choose matt over gloss for a very modern treatment.



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Wow-factor wallpaper

While the choice of tiles grows year on year, for a really personalised statement, nothing says it quite like wallpaper. For instant and dramatic visual appeal, a bold wallpaper choice will immediately distinguish the space.

Though common in bathrooms in Europe and the USA, Australians are only just beginning to embrace the trend. The availability of European papers and number of local suppliers is increasing.

Prices vary widely, but a good quality paper is needed for a wet area and the paper should be kept away from direct contact with the bath or shower.

Try wallpaper on a feature wall, or above tiles. A powder room or guest bathroom is a great option.

Unlike tiles, wallpaper is easily removed and quick to replace, so when the mood strikes, you can change the look and feel within a day. ►



PICTURES (LEFT) NATHAN LANHAM DESIGNER BUILD PROFESSIONAL (RIGHT) SMARTER BATHROOMS.COM.AU



Pastels are continuing to be on-trend this year and the small tiles used in this bathroom prevent the room from looking too overbearing.

Small spaces

A smaller bathroom is no impediment to design flair, says Alan. A classic black and white colour scheme works well to keep lines simple and creates the illusion of more space. But don't necessarily buy into all the old 'rules'.

'Traditionally, you might say very small tiles such as penny rounds or mosaics would be too much for a small bathroom because it looks more fussy. But in this pink bathroom, for instance, tiling floor to ceiling in pastel pink penny rounds looks absolutely amazing,' says Alan.

Keep the fittings simple and float the vanity to create more visual space, which then translates into a more expansive feeling. If space is really tight, floating shelves and built-in recesses and niches are good ways to add utility without creating bulk. ►



Classic black and white is updated with a concrete sink mount and timber shelf.

PICTURES: SMARTERBATHROOMS.COM/AU

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Integrate a bath into even a small space by continuing the tiling along the bath facade, or invest in a freestanding model for impact.



Top tubs

Renovating wisdom has it that if you can fit in a bath, you should. Even a very small floor plan can be cleverly adapted to accommodate a bath, and if you are thinking ahead to sell, a bath is most often on the must-have list for families.

A freestanding bath creates impact and sets the tone for the look and feel of the room. While this can make for a dramatic space that you want to spend time in, a freestanding bath is generally more expensive, more laborious to clean and may be impractical for the elderly or young children.

Most Australian bathrooms feature a built-in bath, installed against a wall on two or three sides, with perhaps a showerhead and sheet of glass or shower curtain suspended above. This is a practical and cost-effective choice, which also makes the most of any available space.

To create a point of difference, choose interesting tiles around the bath, making sure that the silicone sealant is expertly applied for a quality edge. ❖

PICTURES (LEFT) TATJANA PLITT DESIGNER MIHALY SLOCOMBE (TOP) DEREK SWALWELL DESIGNER AUSTIN DESIGN ASSOCIATES



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The recently released Methven Independent Living collection will not only make bathing easier, but it will complement your bathroom design. A full family of products featuring stainless steel grab rails, extended handles and Methven's patented Satinjet® shower spray technology, bathing becomes luxuriously easy.

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BATHROOM REVIVAL

Take the time to plan your renovation and you'll enjoy the rewards for years to come

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

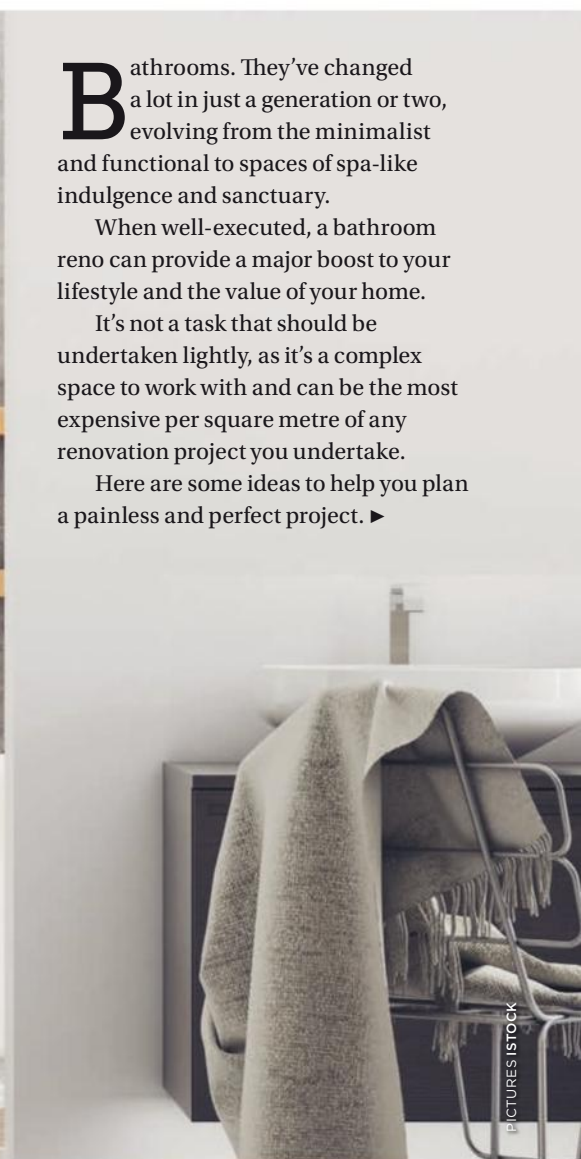
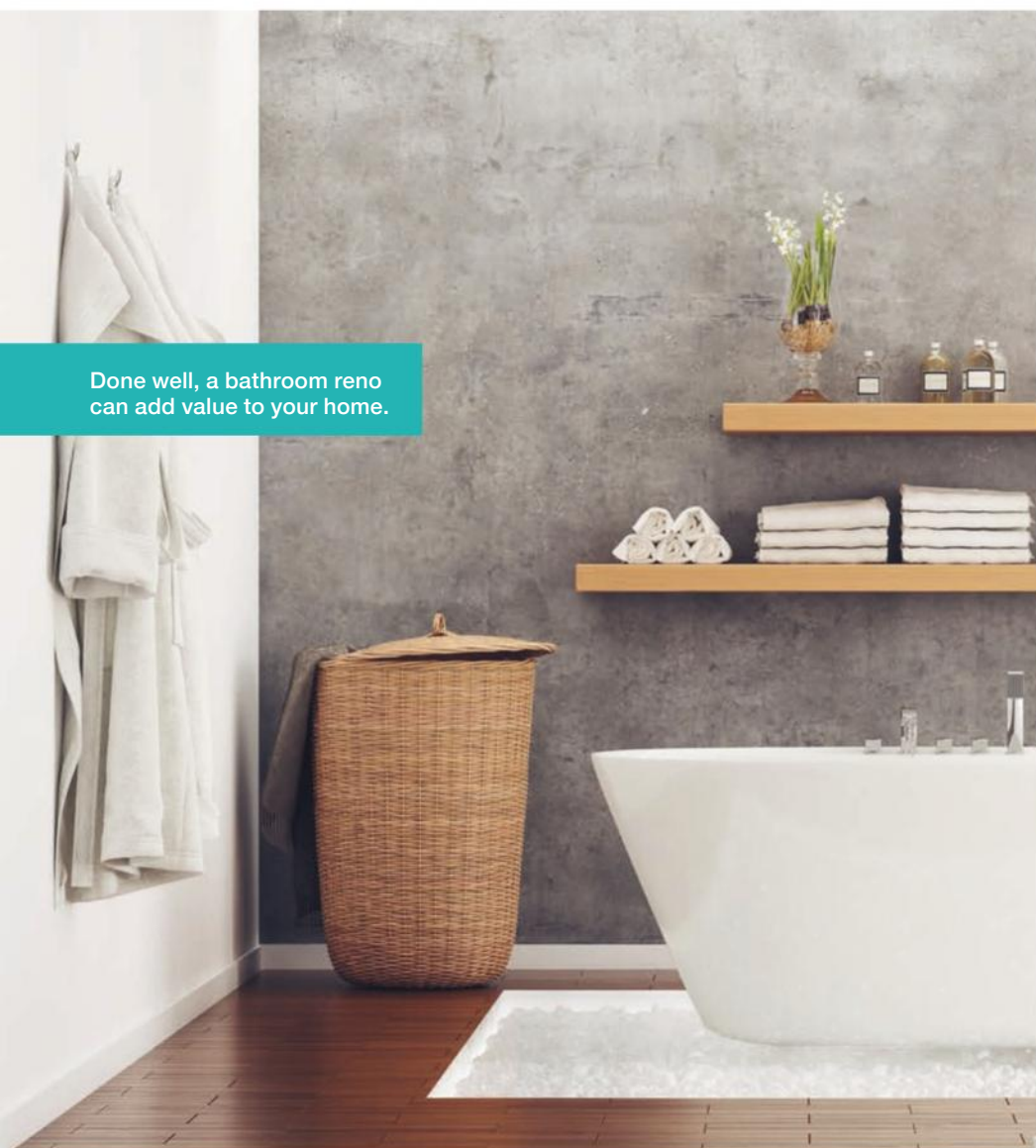
Done well, a bathroom reno can add value to your home.

Bathrooms. They've changed a lot in just a generation or two, evolving from the minimalist and functional to spaces of spa-like indulgence and sanctuary.

When well-executed, a bathroom reno can provide a major boost to your lifestyle and the value of your home.

It's not a task that should be undertaken lightly, as it's a complex space to work with and can be the most expensive per square metre of any renovation project you undertake.

Here are some ideas to help you plan a painless and perfect project. ►



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WHY IS IT SO EXPENSIVE?

The simple fact is that for any renovation or construction project there can be no set cost per square metre as so many variables are involved.

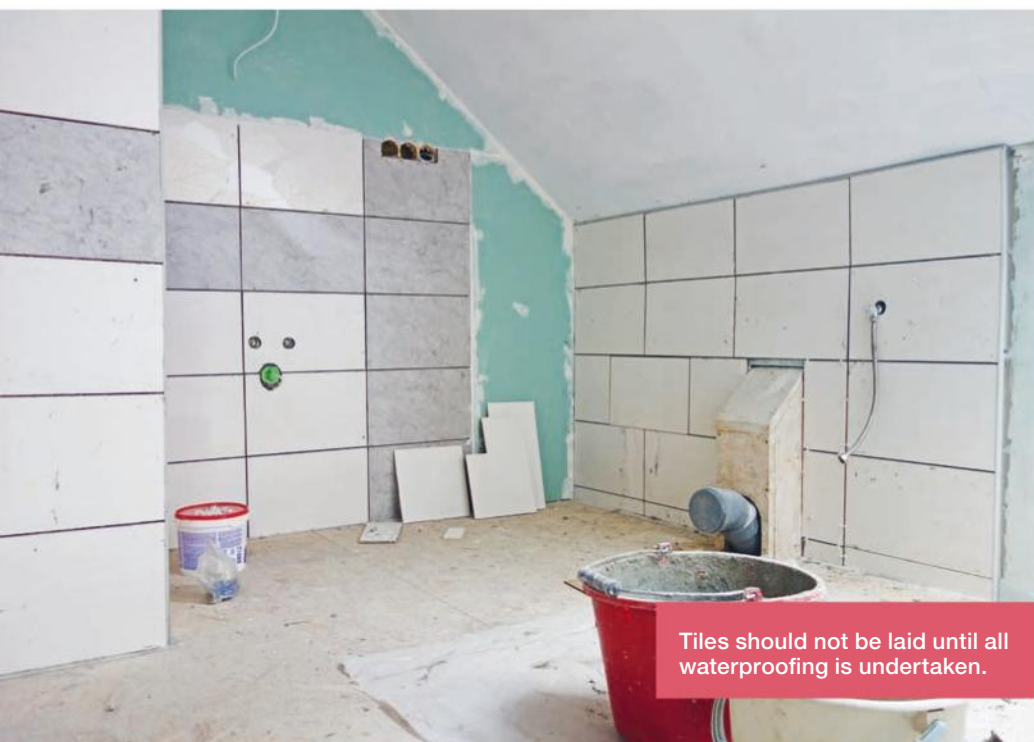
These include the age of the home, the materials it's constructed from and a whole host of constraints from access to heritage considerations.

For a ballpark comparison, and this assumes that you will be undertaking some of the work yourself, a regular room such as a lounge or bedroom may cost about \$750 to \$1000 per square metre to renovate.

But a bathroom is likely to cost at least three times that amount. So, we arrive back at why it is so expensive.

A bathroom is a multi-layered construction that needs access to all of the home services such as power and grey and black water.

Also, a lot of the cost is in the parts you never see, such as waterproofing, but which need to be flawlessly installed.



Tiles should not be laid until all waterproofing is undertaken.

WHAT LIES BENEATH

A bathroom requires special treatment to prevent water penetrating into the house frame. Effectively, the space needs to be isolated so that water only travels out through the drains installed.

Multiple layers are required to achieve a seal. It needs to be very robust in construction and materials used.

All of the floor and much of the walls need to be constructed from a suitable water-resistant substrate – the panels beneath your floor and wall tiles. You'll often find this sheeting described as wet area board.

After this is installed, the surfaces are waterproofed with a brushable sealant or membrane. It's only once the waterproofing is in place that the tiles can be applied.

You only get one chance to get the waterproofing right. If in doubt call in a specialist installer. ►



Employ a professional for all plumbing and electrical work.

SERVICES

Like waterproofing, the relocation of services – hot and cold water, waste outlets and electricity – is a major cost for a finish you'll never see.

One of the best ways to rein in a bathroom renovation budget is to keep all of the services in roughly the

same locations. Updating some sections will still be cheaper than a complete relocation.

Remember that any electrical or plumbing work undertaken, including replacement, termination or removal work, must be conducted by a suitably licensed tradesperson. ►

A reno is the perfect time to install smart products such as this Fluidmaster Bottom Entry Cistern Inlet Valve, \$20, the ideal fix for noisy cisterns. fluidmaster.com.au



PICTURES ISTOCK

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Light and privacy are two big issues to consider.

LIGHT

The best option for quality light in a bathroom is natural light let in through windows or skylights. Even then, you'll want suitable lighting installed.

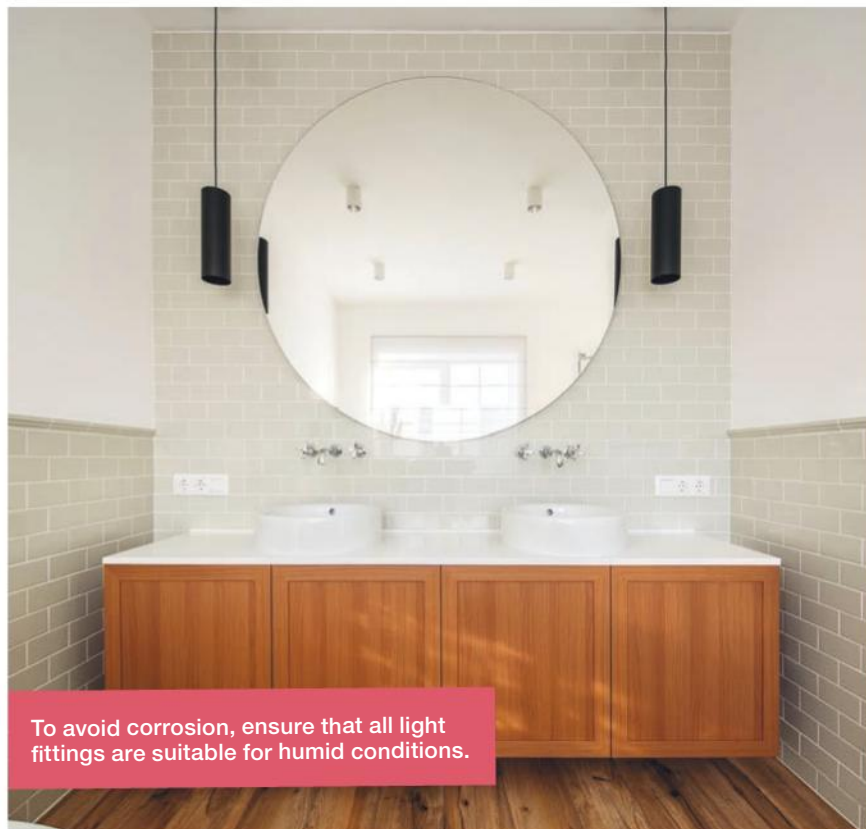
Light in a bathroom should be balanced and evenly distributed. You may want to add suitable lighting above or around the vanity mirror if it is used for things such as applying make-up.

Privacy can often be an issue with bathroom windows. The best way to achieve this and avoid reducing the level of natural light is to use windows with heavily frosted glass.

If you're retaining existing windows, you don't need to have them reglazed. Simply install frosted privacy window film for a fraction of the cost.



Solve lighting and ventilation problems while keeping warm in winter with an IXL Tastic Neo Bathroom Fan Heater with Dual Light, \$644. bunnings.com.au



To avoid corrosion, ensure that all light fittings are suitable for humid conditions.

AIR

Quality airflow is a must. Even if natural air is available through windows, you'll want to add an exhaust fan to create cross flow and extract steam. Consider having the fan hard-wired into the light switch circuit so it runs when the light is on.

Alternatively, in bathrooms with an abundance of natural light a separate switch may be a better option.

It is important that fans are correctly vented, whether into a suitable ceiling cavity or ducted to outdoors. If ducting into the ceiling cavity, either install a fan that has inbuilt backflow prevention or add a one-way self-opening cover on the outlet side to stop hot or cold air entering your home. ►

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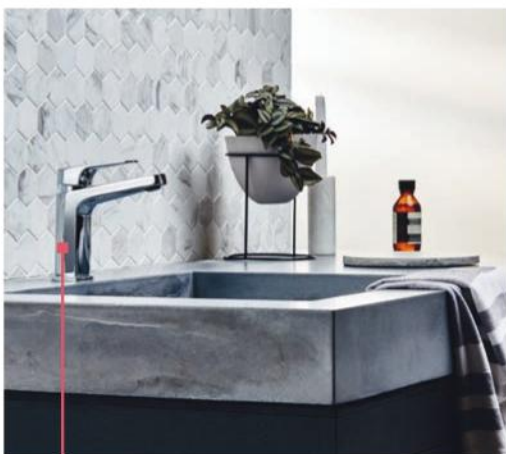
RUST-OLEUM
THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

TILES

Tiles serve a multitude of purposes in your bathroom. They provide the final layer of waterproofing, the main area of colour and decor, and the design element that sets the mood of the space.

There are a number of critical considerations when selecting tiles and these go well beyond the aesthetic ones of colour, pattern and size.

You'll need to discuss your needs with a tile professional, but areas to consider include suitability for use in wet areas, slip resistance of floor tiles, durability and ease of cleaning.



Your tapware should enhance the design features of your bathroom, as do the soft geometric lines of this Methven Waipori tapware, \$285. methven.com/au



For a streamlined look, choose matching fittings.

FIXTURES

One tip from the design experts is to buy taps, heads and outlets, and even towel rails and other accessories, that are all within the same style collection. This avoids that often mismatched look of older bathrooms.

Also take a look at the most appropriate water-saving fittings

available. Today's choices are extensive and a far cry from the earlier generations of flow-restricting tap heads where a shower output would be reduced to a miserly trickle.

Modern heads will provide a luxurious flow and fall pattern while still saving water.

STYLES TO SUIT

From dual showerheads in over-sized stalls to frameless glass screens, there are many design elements to consider.

The best place to start is by thinking about the bathroom's main purpose. Is it used as a rough-and-tumble family bathroom, the guest's space, or your ensuite sanctuary?

The main use of this space will determine a lot about its design. Here are some points to consider.

- ♦ **DOUBLE SINK** While very popular in ensuites, a double sink installation will double the cost of the vanity thanks to the extra hardware, fittings, cabinetry and plumbing.
- ♦ **SEPARATE TOILET** Although it means sacrificing a little floor space, at least one separate toilet is a great inclusion for a family home. Only having a toilet in the family bathroom can cause a morning traffic jam.

- ♦ **TWO OR THREE-WAY BATHROOM** This old-school style leads to doors with limited opening space, not to mention anxious bathroom users worried about people entering from multiple directions.
- ♦ **FREESTANDING BATH** While a gorgeous-looking element, this is best reserved for rooms with adequate floor space, as it takes up extra square metres that can't be used for any other purpose. ♦

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4000K
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Warm White

PLUG AND
PLAY

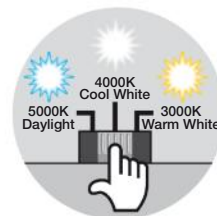
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BATHROOM RENO ON A BUDGET

Cherie Barber shows how to transform this hardworking space on the cheap

WORDS AND PICTURES **CHERIE BARBER**

Renovating old bathrooms can be extraordinarily challenging and expensive, as you're inevitably peeling back decades of old plumbing and wiring, possibly dealing with asbestos, and addressing waterproofing issues.

Of course you'll save money by not moving around plumbing and electricals on a whim, but sometimes

it justifies the additional cost if you get a much smarter layout or can add a toilet into the family bathroom.

The cheapest way to spruce up any bathroom is to neatly sidestep all intrusive work and just skim over the surface with creative paint and maybe a few hardware updates. Let's look at three different approaches to bathroom renovating, all on tight budgets.

After

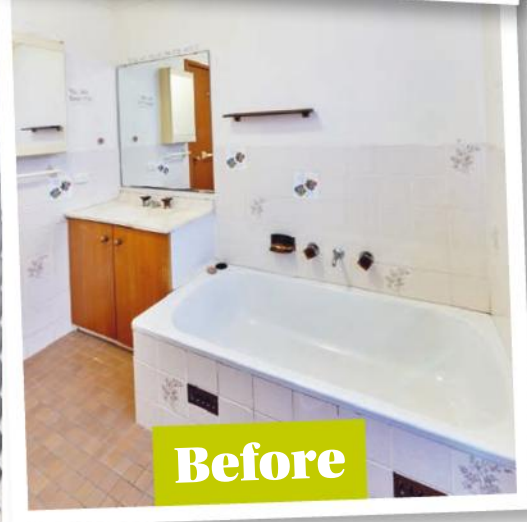
A creative paint job makes the world of difference.



Cherie Barber is the reno expert on Ten's *The Living Room* and owner of Renovating For Profit.



Before



Before





\$1000
FACELIFT

COSMETIC REVAMP

A purely cosmetic renovation, this is the kind of transformation you can achieve in one day almost entirely with the power of the paintbrush – it's a matter of rejuvenating all the tired surfaces with specialty products.

I resurfaced the wall tiles with White Knight Primer and Tile Paint,

painted the vanity with White Knight Laminate Paint and installed a new pivoting shower screen.

The taps and towel rail were installed, as well as a micro venetian blind. The bathroom was painted and Gerflor Senso vinyl flooring installed over tiles. ►

After

A welcome revitalisation for a very modest outlay.



After

His-and-hers basins add a contemporary touch.



Before



Before



\$8000
REDESIGN

COMPLETE BATHROOM RECONFIGURATION

This renovation was for the main bathroom of a large family home with eight occupants. All of them were forced to share the one toilet, thus one of the aims of this renovation was to build a much-needed second loo.

It was a generous-sized space, so my main challenge was to reconfigure the bathroom on a tight budget. I had to move the bath to accommodate the toilet, so I capitalised on the opportunity to install a modern freestanding bath, which I picked up for \$700.

I removed the mouldy shower stall and replaced it with a modern open shower, and modified the vanity by

changing the profile of the vanity doors to a Shaker style by adding MDF architrave, then painting it in White Knight Laminate paint, tinted to Iron Age.

A new laminate benchtop with his-and-hers basins was added, as well as new lighting, and the old yellow and blue tiles were removed.

New floor sheeting was installed and waterproofed, while a feature wall in hexagonal Nova Hex Carrara Blend Bianco tiles from Beaumont Tiles created the wow factor. For the remaining walls, we chose neutral, large-format tiles, which complemented our choice of floor tiles. ►

After

A modern, open shower replaces the old stall.



BUDGET REJIG

This budget makeover is somewhere between a full-blown bathroom renovation and a simple paint job.

An old basin dated it, but the floor tiles were a real feature and saved us the added expense of a rip and replace and the inevitable cost of waterproofing.

The bath was resurfaced using White Knight Tub & Basin and tiles primed and painted with White Knight

Tile & Laminate Primer. I then installed a new vanity and shower screen and updated the taps and towel rail.

The worn-looking shelves under the window were removed and replaced with a large mirror.

Sleek slimline venetian blinds replaced the drab curtain, while the bathroom was painted and the light fitting replaced. ♦



Before



Before



\$2000
DO-OVER

After

The bath tub dazzles with a new surface.





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BATHE IN BEAUTY

Turn your bathroom into a relaxing sanctuary with a few simple changes

Modern bathrooms are no longer places where we just clean ourselves. They have become sanctuaries for recovering, relaxing and rejuvenating.

To create this space, it helps to have a design that takes advantage of clean lines, geometric shapes, modern fittings and cool colour palettes.

Renovating a bathroom can be expensive if it involves ripping up the

floor, installing new plumbing and retiling the walls. But if you have a limited budget, you can easily transform a bathroom with a few simple changes.

Here, we look at the options available among contemporary bathroom components, including baths, taps, mixers, vanities and basins. Choosing the right accessories will help turn your bathroom into a haven of beauty.



Acrylic baths are more resistant to scratches and stains than steel baths

FREESTANDING BATHS

When furnishing any room on a limited budget, it's a good idea to invest in at least one quality item. In bathrooms, it pays to have a nice bath.

The most popular types of baths include claw baths, pedestal baths, recessed baths, freestanding baths and corner baths. Freestanding baths, which usually don't connect to any walls

for support, are regarded as a luxury item in a bathroom, yet they don't have to cost the earth.

A big bathroom best accommodates a freestanding bath, but modern bath designs give you more choice when fitting a bath in a small space. Take measurements and consider different configurations before you buy. ►



1 Mondella Chrome Maestro Lever Bath Set, \$85.

2 Mondella WELS 4-Star 7.5L/min Maestro Lever Basin Set, \$99.

3 Mondella WELS 3-Star 9L/min Maestro Lever Shower Set, \$149.

4 Rick McLean's 1700mm Acrylic Freestanding Bath, \$1126.

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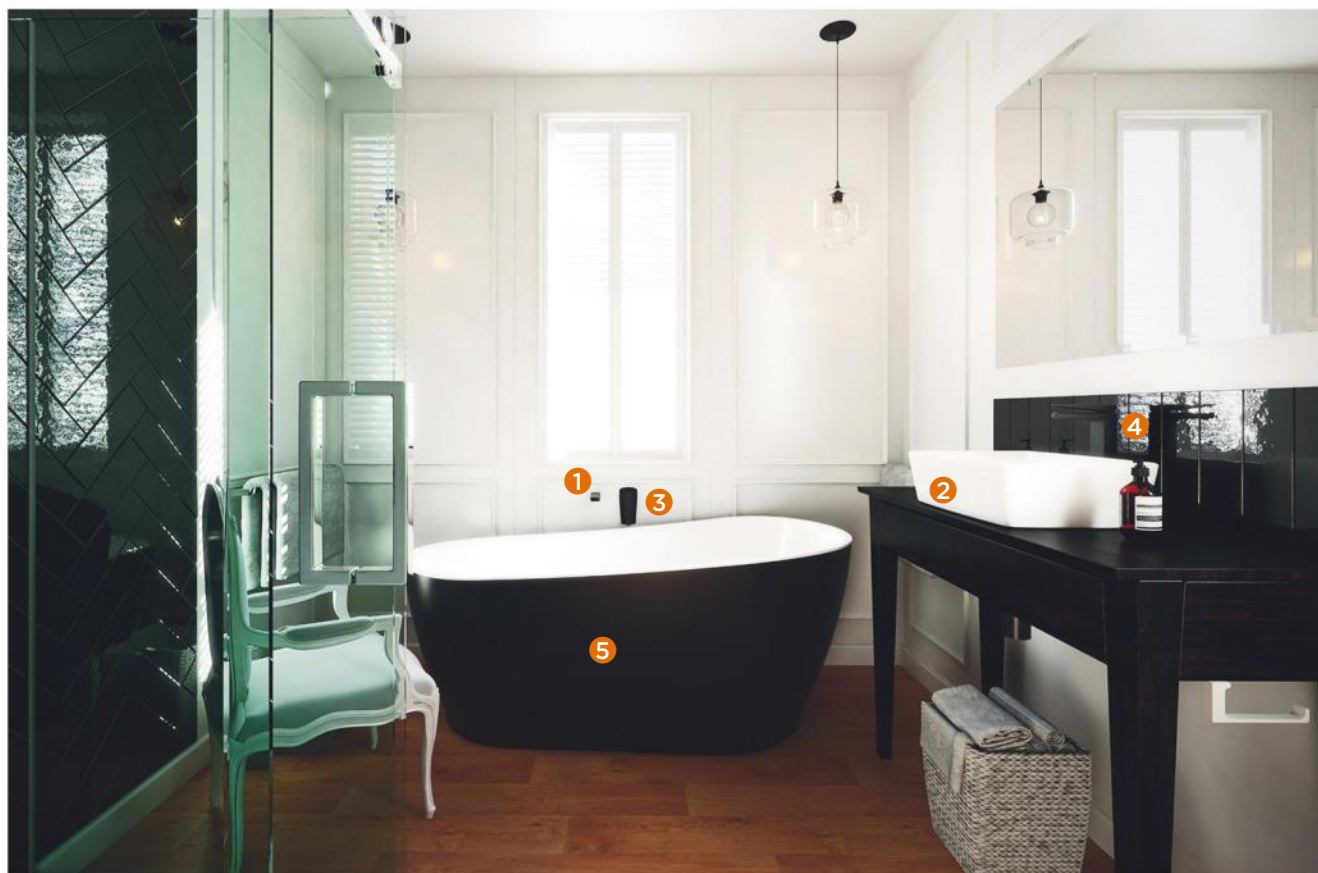
Watch the video 'How to plan a bathroom renovation' at [bunnings.com.au/diy-advice](https://www.bunnings.com.au/diy-advice)

ELEGANT SIMPLICITY

A rule of thumb for modern bathroom design is to keep things simple. The less clutter, the better. By minimising what's on display with clever storage such as vanities and shaving cabinets, your attention will be drawn to the beautiful fixtures and fittings.

For a quick and easy on-trend facelift to your bathroom, change taps or mixers to brass or matt black. These tones add a classic element to a modern design and will complement the cool grey and white colour palettes that have become popular recently.

- 1 Mondella Matte Black Vivace Wall-mounted Bath Spout, \$64.90.
- 2 Mondella Concerto Ceramic Basin Counter, \$114.
- 3 Mondella Black Vivace Mixer, \$117.
- 4 Mondella WELS 5-Star Black Vivace Basin Mixer, \$179.
- 5 Caroma 1700mm Black/White Noir Freestanding Bath, \$2289.



Mondella Signature Black with Rose Gold Shower Mixer, \$129.



Mondella Signature WELS 4-Star 7.5L/min Basin Mixer, \$169.



Mondella Signature WELS 4-Star 7.5L/min Basin Set, \$259.



Mondella Signature WELS 3-Star 9L/min Hand Shower, \$99.02.





UNIFIED THEME

A bathroom that has been designed and decorated around a single theme will have enduring appeal.

The style of vanity, basin, bath and fixtures should complement the colour, texture and pattern of the floor and walls, which are usually tiled.

This allows all the elements of the room to work harmoniously together.

With that in mind, it's also worth considering that darker colour palettes and bold accents are on-trend in bathrooms for 2018.

Other features to consider are a functional but beautiful freestanding bath, floating vanity, contemporary taps and mixers, and handheld dual showerheads. ♦

- ❶ Caroma WELS 5-Star 6L/min Chrome Cirrus Basin Mixer, \$110.
- ❷ Caroma Cirrus Polished Chrome Shower Mixer, \$119.
- ❸ Methven WELS 3-Star 9L/min Krome Rail Shower, \$195 each.
- ❹ Forme 1200mm Grey Ash Cabin Wall Hung Vanity, \$909.
- ❺ Rick McLean's 1800mm Acrylic Freestanding Bath, \$1692.

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WALK THIS WAY

Get off on the right foot when choosing your floor and you'll see, feel and hear the benefits for years to come

WORDS SITA SIMONS

Timber floorboards are popular and have an enduring appeal. ►

A herringbone pattern makes the most of the colour variations in natural timber, for a very fresh look.



TIMBER

Whether laying new or re-finishing existing boards, timber is the most popular choice for flooring.

With a natural warmth and range of colours that will suit any interior, timber is the classic choice for many homeowners. Modern stains and treatments mean that a wide range of finishes are possible.

Very light tones have been prevalent in recent years, and darker stains began to surge in popularity over the past couple of years. Now, varying the way the boards are laid is an emerging trend.

Timber inlay is also making a comeback as homeowners look for ways to make a point of difference and embrace traditional craftsmanship.

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

New, engineered timber products such as good-quality laminates are barely distinguishable from real timber. You get what you pay for, so it's worth choosing the best for your budget. ►

PICTURES (LEFT) JOHN WHEATLEY DESIGNER URBAN ANGLES (BOTTOM) MURRAY FREDERICKS DESIGNER ROTH ARCHITECTURE





Opting to lay the boards lengthways down the room leads the eye to the outdoor space and connects the two zones.



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CARPET AND RUGS

An ideal choice for areas where you want to create a comfortable, soft surface, a carpet is often preferred in bedrooms.

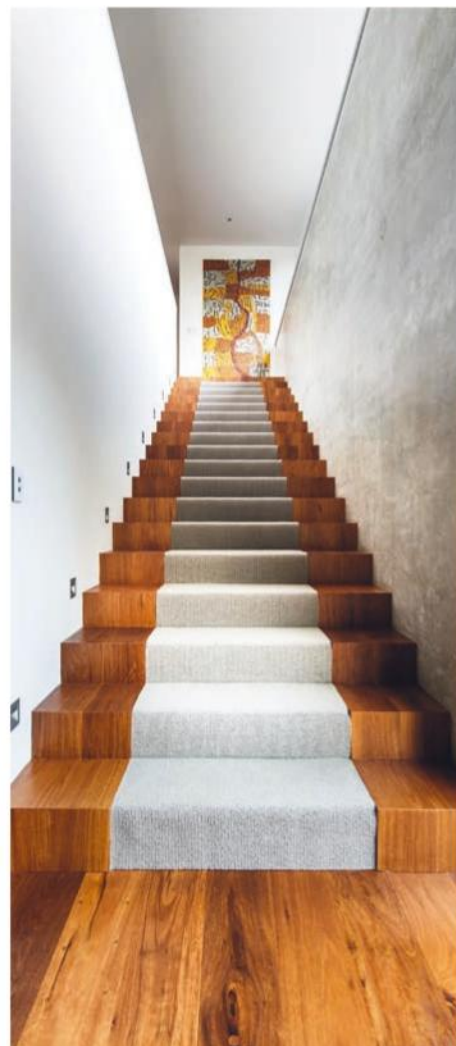
Carpets are available in 100% wool, wool and nylon blends, and different synthetic fibres. Wool is cool in summer and warm in winter, but can be costly. Dyed nylons are cheaper, soft to touch and have good fade resistance.

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

Choosing the right carpet is a particular consideration in the case of allergies, and can also play a role in sound insulation, making it a better choice for apartments.

A rug can provide the qualities of carpet with the advantage of being completely mobile and interchangeable, as desired. Whether you opt for a runner in a long hallway or an inlay detail in stairs, a well-chosen rug can serve to highlight an architectural feature and add personality. ►

Choose a large rug for living areas and ensure the sofa and chairs are touching the rug to anchor the furniture in the space.



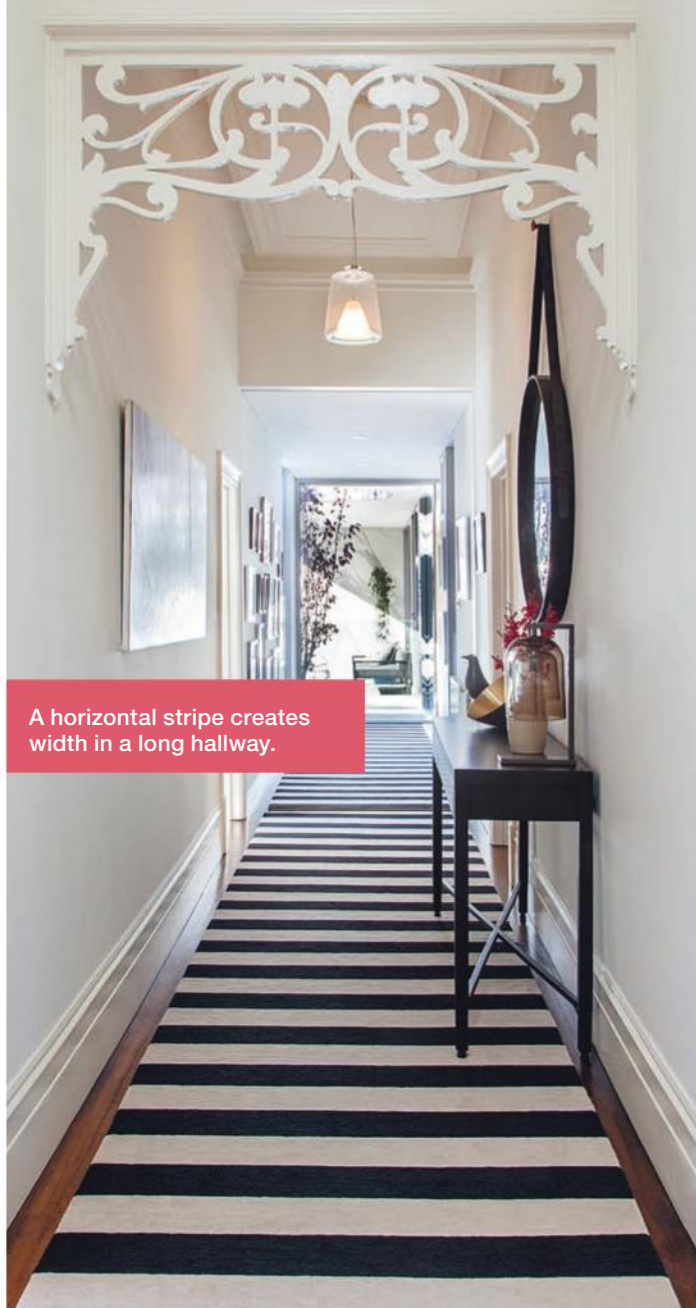
PICTURES (LEFT) SUZIE APEL DESIGNER THE DEN INTERIORS (RIGHT) JOEL BARBITTA DESIGNER ADRIAN ZORZI

SUSTAINABLE CORK

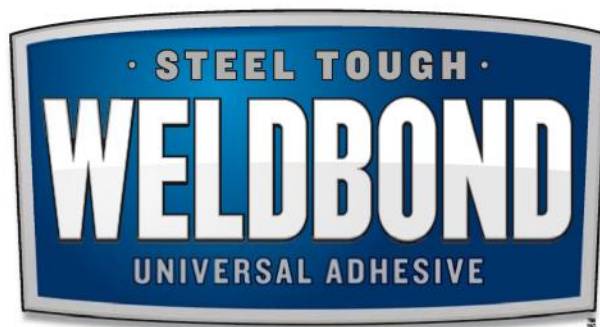
Environmentally friendly, cork is manufactured from the bark of the cork oak tree. Its production is a sustainable process where only the bark is stripped off at intervals of about nine years, while the tree grows on for centuries.

A cork floor is typically warm, comfortable and quiet underfoot. It reduces noise, is hypoallergenic, low on emissions and easy to clean. Durability is dependent on use.





A horizontal stripe creates width in a long hallway.



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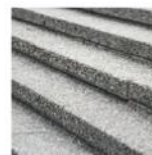


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Concrete is modern and practical, and can be tinted to any specification. The natural material works well with timber.

CONCRETE

In a new, modern build or extension, there are many reasons to love a concrete floor. The clean and expansive look of a polished concrete floor adds a sense of spaciousness to any room.

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

A polished concrete slab exposes the aggregate below and is then sealed with a clear gloss, matt or penetrating sealer to ensure the slab maintains its integrity over a long period of time.

A burnished finish is achieved when the slab is trowelled to the point where it becomes very smooth and glossy, and requires at least three passes with a trowel after the concrete has been screed flat and level.



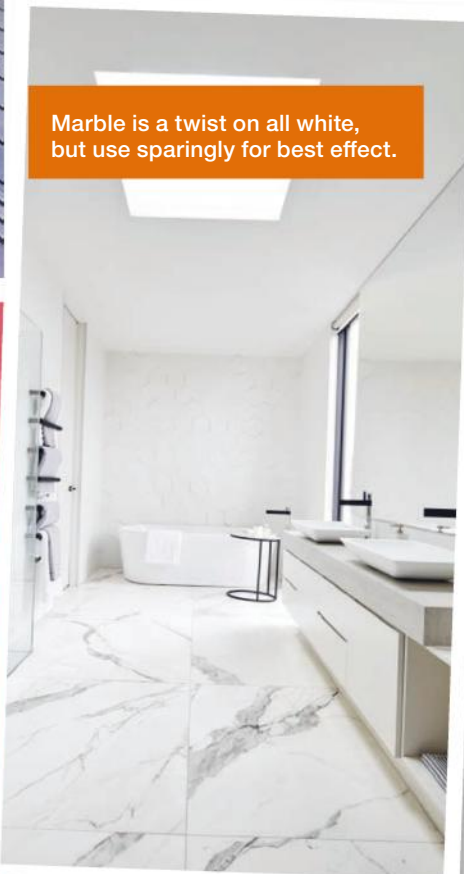
MODERN MARBLE

In the case of this very modern treatment, less is more. As a finite resource, too much marble is not only eye-wateringly expensive, it can also be reminiscent of hotel lobbies. But when used judiciously, marble conveys light and luxury.

This natural stone is very porous and can stain easily, so either choose a very high quality Italian or Greek stone, or go with a porcelain tile that looks like marble.



Marble is a twist on all white, but use sparingly for best effect.





ABOVE Subtle tile patterns create a visually engaging feature without being too overwhelming. BELOW Even very plain tiles can pop when laid in interesting ways.

TILES

Texture and subtle patterns are the design themes for tile trends. Highly durable and hypoallergenic, tiles are still the favourites for bathrooms, laundries and kitchen splashbacks.

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

The other common choice is a porcelain tile. Porcelain is a more refined material and fired at a higher temperature than ceramic tiles. This process makes porcelain more durable and harder than ceramic, so it's often more expensive.

Unlike a ceramic tile, the pattern in a porcelain tile goes the whole way through. Porcelain is usually preferred for bathrooms, as it is a dense material, which makes it almost waterproof. ►



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NAIL HOLES



JOINTS



SCRATCHES

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

For most scratches rub the stick over the damaged area. For larger, deeper indentations where Timbermate Water-based Woodfiller cannot be used, heat a knife blade with a flame and fill damaged area with hot wax.



There is no beeswax in WAXSTIX® which means they will readily accept coatings.

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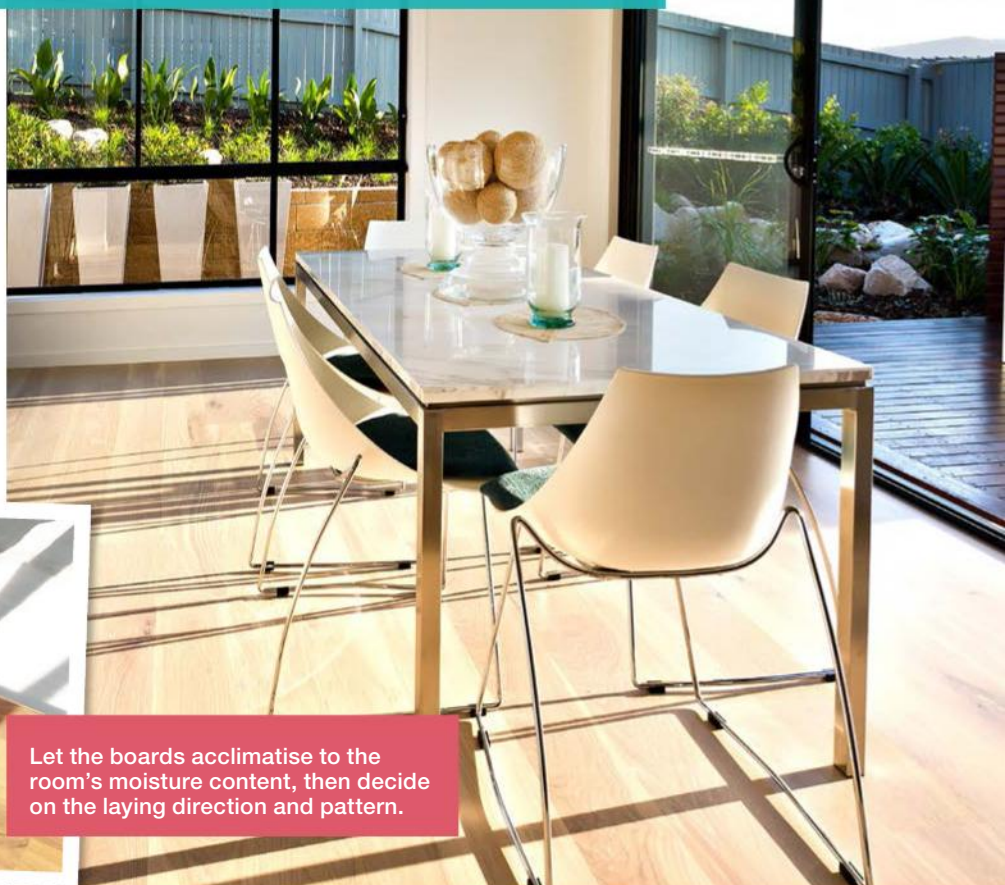
Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

LAY A FLOATING FLOOR

An alternative to nailing or adhering materials to a subfloor, floating boards are joined with a tongue-and-groove system that clicks into position.

The boards come in different sizes and are usually supplied with a finished surface, so there's no need to sand or seal. They can be installed over tiles, concrete, vinyl or timber.

You'll need a floor-laying insulation kit and use a quality moisture-resistant underlay for impact cushioning and sound insulation. Butt-join the underlay, then apply duct tape to the joints.



Let the boards acclimatise to the room's moisture content, then decide on the laying direction and pattern.

1 2 3



1 CLEAR the room, remove skirting boards and vacuum. Prepare the doorjamb by trimming the bases so the new boards will fit underneath. Position an offcut of flooring and underlay next to the door jamb to get the height of the cut, then saw off the base of the jamb.



2 LAY the boards in sequence, keeping the tongue against the wall. Join or click long sides together first, leaving a small gap at the end. Use a tapping block to close the long sides and tighten the joints, leaving a 10mm gap around the outside for expansion.



3 FINISH each row by positioning the end board and hooking a pulling bar over the edge against the wall. Tap the upturned edge of the pulling bar with a hammer to close the gap between the boards. Finish laying the floor and replace the skirting boards.

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PREPARING THE SURFACE

Floating floorboards can be laid over a variety of subfloors after a little levelling and preparation.

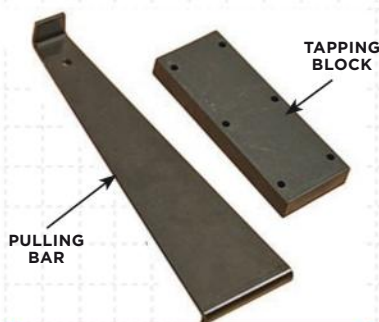
♦ **CONCRETE** Grind off any high spots and fill low areas with a self-levelling compound mixed to a slurry, spreading it lightly with a steel float.

TIP If laying over a new slab, leave for one month per 25mm thickness so the concrete cures.

♦ **VINYL** Most sheet vinyl floors provide a relatively level surface and they are likely to have a hardboard underlay, making them a good laying surface.

♦ **TIMBER** Particleboard and tongue-and-groove strip flooring needs little to no preparation. Use a power planer to level any raised edges flush and punch in all nail heads. ♦

TOP PICKS



Capitol Laminate Floor DIY Installation Kit, about \$24, bunnings.com.au



Dunlop Floor Leveller,
\$24 for 5kg. dunlopdii.com

Timbermate^{group}

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

Find it at Bunnings

FLOOR STYLES

Elevate the look of interior spaces using this selection of laminate timber flooring, vinyl planks and rugs

One of the most effective ways to transform a home is to install new flooring. Laminated timber, vinyl planks and rugs are stylish ways to restore life into tired old rooms.

Laminated or vinyl flooring is an affordable option when you want to change the look and feel of the floor of

your home on a limited budget, as it is much cheaper than solid timber.

Laminate boards usually come prefinished and are easy to lay DIY, as they have a tongue-and-groove system, or get help to install.

Contemporary rugs laid over new flooring help achieve a smart look.

Vinyl revival

Vinyl flooring such as Senso Natural Lord 914 x 184 x 2mm Vinyl Planks, \$68.60 for 2.69sqm, is made from polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, which gives the material a firm but elastic feel.

Easy to install, these self-adhesive planks are warm underfoot and suitable for wet areas such as kitchens and bathrooms.



Watch the video 'How to lay vinyl plank flooring' at [bunnings.com.au/diy-advice](https://www.bunnings.com.au/diy-advice)

SOME ADVERTISED PRODUCTS NOT AVAILABLE AT ALL BUNNINGS STORES, BUT MAY BE ORDERED

Kitchen comfort

Vinyl plank laminate flooring is easy to install DIY and requires no heavy tools or adhesive. It is also hygienic and easy to maintain.

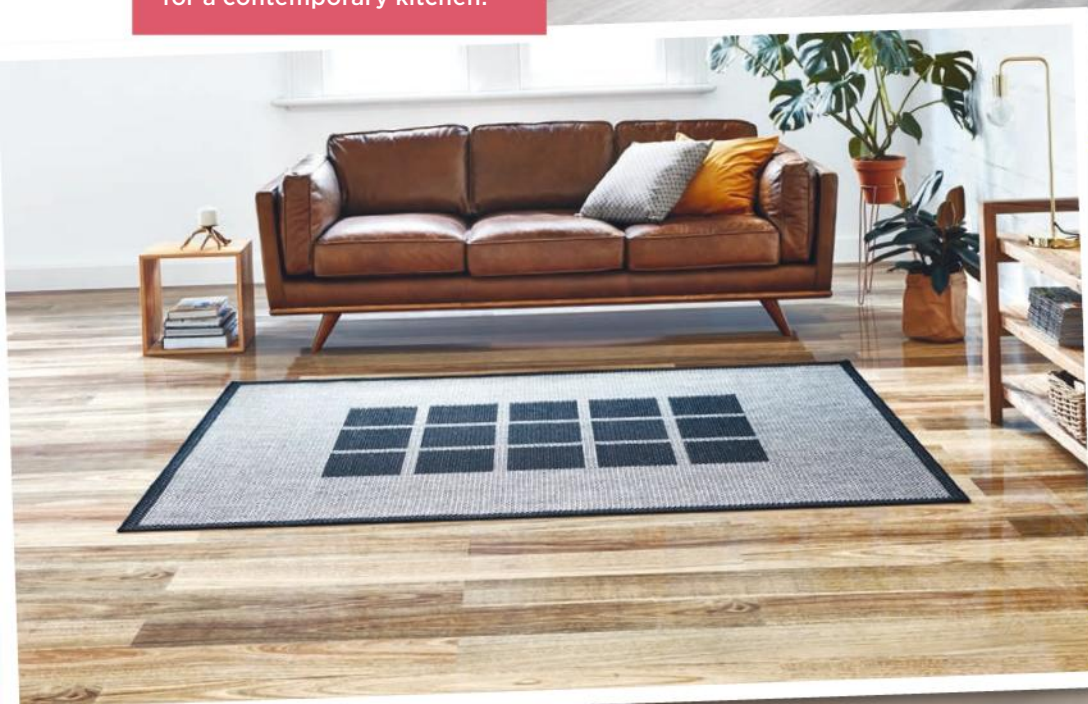
This Senso Antique White Pecan Vinyl Plank, \$60.49 for 2.2sqm, captures the beauty of real wood. Each plank measures 914 x 152mm and it makes comfortable flooring for a contemporary kitchen.



Natural look

This Formica 8mm Spotted Gum Laminate Flooring, \$64 for 2.2sqm, combines the beauty of a natural-wood appearance with durability and sustainability.

It is extremely resistant to wear, scratches and stains and looks great under a Hufflett 230 x 160cm Windows Grey Ceduna Polypropylene Flat Weave Rug, \$89.50.



Peaceful living

With a durable finish, this Tarkett Soft Cumin Oak Soundlogic Laminate Flooring, \$52.55 for 1.754sqm, is great for everyday use.

Because it has acoustic underlay incorporated in the laminate, it adds peace and quiet to a living space.

Here it complements a Hufflett 230 x 160cm Blue Bricks Rug, \$219.



Find it at Bunnings

MAKE A WOODEN PEG RAIL SHELF

Watch the video 'D.I.Y. Wooden Peg Shelf' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

A wooden peg rail shelf is a great place to hang your coats, hats and scarves. For this DIY project, you can have the timber pre-cut at your local Bunnings store.

You'll need two 900 x 90 x 19mm Tasmanian oak pieces for the shelf and mounting board, and five 100mm pegs cut from 35mm oak dowel. Each dowel needs an end cut with a mitre saw set at 10 degrees so it angles up when attached.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Tape measure and pencil
- PVA timber adhesive
- Bar clamp
- Orbital sander
- 120 and 240 grit sanding pads
- 180 grit sandpaper
- 8g x 40mm countersunk screws
- 8g x 50mm countersunk screws
- Cordless drill
- Phillips head drill bit
- 3mm and 2mm drill bits
- 3mm countersink bit
- Stud finder
- Spirit level
- Nail gun and brad nails
- Paint and paintbrush

1 2 3



1 Join the pieces

Mark peg positions on the back of the mounting board 150mm from each end, 20mm from the base and 150mm apart. Predrill pilot holes with the countersink bit. Secure the mounting board to the shelf, keeping it square, with adhesive and a nail gun. Wipe off excess adhesive.



2 Prepare the pegs

Clamp a peg to the workbench, with the angled end facing out. Use a 2mm bit to drill 20mm into the centre of the peg. Repeat for all pegs. Sand the shelf with an orbital sander using a 120-grit pad, then 240-grit. Sand the pegs with 180-grit sandpaper for a smooth finish.



3 Attach the shelf

Drill 40mm screws until they poke through the backing board. Apply adhesive to pegs and align them with the screws, secure them so they face upwards. Putty holes, sand and paint. Find wall studs. Position the shelf and attach it to the wall with 50mm screws.

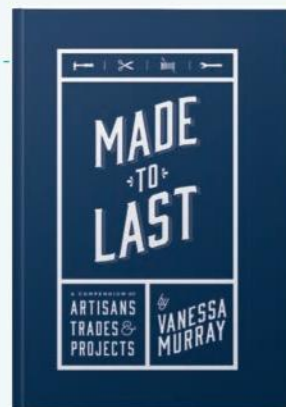
MADE TO LAST

Learn from master artisans how to make heirloom quality objects

Inspired by a growing interest in the provenance of things and a deep dissatisfaction with the disposable nature of the world we live in, Melbourne-based culture writer Vanessa Murray has compiled *Made to Last: A compendium of artisans, trades & projects*, featuring 50 artisans from around the world.

This beautiful book details the products they create, the tools they use and the secrets of their crafts, exploring everything from leathersmithing, woodworking and welding to craft sewing, vinyl pressing, distilling, baking and fermenting.

Here are just three of the projects that can be found inside.



This is an edited extract from *Made to Last* by Vanessa Murray published by Hardie Grant Travel, \$60. It is available in stores nationally.

MAKE A SHIGEKI YAMAMOTO FLOWER VASE

Create this simple yet stunning vase devised by Japanese born, Berlin-dwelling designer and maker Shigeki Yamamoto.

METHOD

- 1 Align the test tube lengthways along the piece of wood, then use the pencil to mark the length of the test tube on the wood.
- 2 Saw through the piece of wood at the marked position using a hand saw or circular saw.
- 3 Take the pencil and mark the centre of each end.
- 4 Using the measuring tape or ruler, measure the diameter of the test tube and add 2mm to the figure.
- 5 Next, use the drilling machine or hand drill to drill a hole within and to the edges of the marked area. The hole should be the same diameter as the measurement you took in step 4.
- 6 Carefully trim the edges at the top using the router.
- 7 Sand the surface with sandpaper.
- 8 Apply decor wax with a brush or a cloth.
- 9 Insert the test tube into the drill hole.
- 10 Insert a flower and present the vase to the one you love. Or just put it somewhere nice. ►



WHAT YOU NEED

- Test tube
- A piece of beechwood or other wood of your choice measuring approximately 7 x 7cm – the length must be slightly longer than the test tube
- Decor wax
- Pencil
- Hand saw or circular saw
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Drilling machine or hand drill
- Router
- 240 grit sandpaper
- Brush
- Cloth

MAKE A COPPER SNAIL COIL

Plants and soil love copper, but slugs and snails? They hate it. These easy-to-make copper snail coils devised by Melbourne coppersmith Travis Blandford will protect your seedlings from slimy garden pests.

METHOD

- 1 You'll need a decent bench space to work on for this project; 1sqm is ideal.
- 2 Use the pliers to cut the wire to lengths approximately 30-40cm long.
- 3 Start bending the wire 10cm along and wrap it around a cylindrical object a couple of times to create a coil 5cm in diameter. Leave enough excess wire so there is a 4cm overhang at the end. This will take a bit of trial and error to get right in the beginning.
- 4 Bend the original 10cm length sharply, so that it intersects the

diameter of the copper circle that you have created.

- 5 Use a hammer to flatten the two ends (this step is optional, but it makes handling safer).
- 6 Use the metal file to clean up the ends so there are no burrs.
- 7 To use the coil in the garden, bend the 10cm section out at right angles so it's perpendicular to the circle and will pierce the soil. This fixes it in the soil and means the coil can sit around a seedling to protect it from snails.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2-2.5mm solid core copper wire (available from metal recyclers and electrical wholesalers)
- Pliers
- Hammer (optional)
- Metal file
- Bench vice
- Rigid cylindrical object 50mm in diameter – a tool handle will suit



MAKE A BICYCLE PANNIER

Industrial sewer Cathy Parry, from Castlemaine, Australia, explains how to easily repurpose a simple canvas bag as a handy bicycle pannier. You'll need a pannier rack attached to your bike.



METHOD

1 Measure the length for your belts. They will be attached to your pannier, and be used to attach the pannier to your bike. You can work out how long to make them by threading them through the hanging system and holding them roughly where they will attach to the pannier. This will show you how long they need to be.

2 Use the snap-off blade to cut your belts to length.

3 Cut the plywood (or other material) to fit inside the back of your bag. This will keep the back of the bag stiff, which stops it from fouling your wheel.

4 Working with the bag inside out, use the awl to push through the fabric at each of the four corners.

5 Now use rivets to attach the plywood to the bag through the holes you have already made.

6 Next, attach the belts to the top of the back of the bag. Place them as wide apart as is practical (this will help balance the pannier when it's on the bike), then drill a hole through the belts, the back of the bag and the board.

7 Working from the outside in, push the bolt through the hole you just drilled and add a washer and nut on the inside of the bag. Add the hook and loop tape or extra belt at the bottom of the bag in the same way so the bag doesn't swing out at the bottom when you go around a corner.

8 Attach to the rack at the three points, and away you go. ♦

WHAT YOU NEED

- A simple canvas bag
- 2 old leather belts
- Thin piece of plywood, MDF or plastic sheet (no more than 3mm)
- 2 old belt rivets
- Bolts and nuts
- Hook and loop tape or extra belt
- Knife for cutting leather (such as a snap-off blade)
- Awl
- Drill

VINTAGE MAKEOVERS

Bring outdated cabinets back to life with these simple restoration tricks and a little TLC

PROJECTS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

Beauty was certainly in the eye of the beholder when blogger Melissa Darr bought this rickety sideboard. It had been pulled out of an old house being prepared for sale.

'I saw potential in it, as it had good bones but needed a little TLC to bring it back to its former glory,' says Melissa.

There were several stages needed to restore it, including sanding it back, attaching a backing board, painting with a stain blocker undercoat and two top coats, before creating a vintage look with more sanding and waxing.

Sanding

The first step was to remove the hinges and doors on the front of the sideboard in preparation for sanding.

Using an orbital sander with 120 grit sandpaper, Melissa sanded the entire sideboard to remove the stain on the shelves, sides and doors. Any hard-to-reach areas she sanded by hand with 120 grit sandpaper. A damp cloth was then used to remove the dust.

Melissa applied two coats of a stain blocker undercoat, allowing to dry for at least an hour between coats. ►

WHAT YOU NEED

- Orbital sander
- 120 grit sandpaper
- PVA adhesive
- MDF and nails
- Timber putty
- Clamps
- Stain blocker undercoat
- Foam roller and paint
- Furniture wax
- Soft cloth

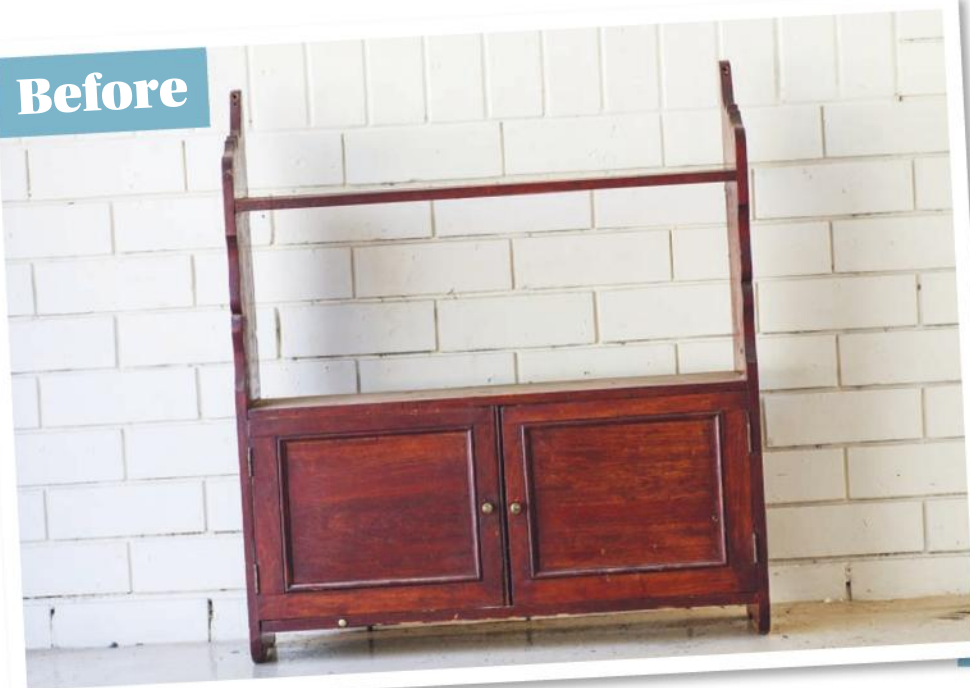


Melissa

EXPERT SECRETS

You can use any paint you like, but for this sideboard I chose a chalk paint for its appealing matt finish.

Before



DIY TIP

Always stick to the three Ps when restoring furniture – prep, prime and paint. Following these steps will give you a successful restoration.

SIDEBOARD REVAMP

**After**

With a fresh beachy style, this old sideboard is transformed.

Get more DIY from Melissa
Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com

Painting

Melissa cut pieces of timber the same thickness as the shelf to patch the small cut-outs that had been made previously. They were secured with adhesive and held in place with clamps. When dry, putty was applied in the gaps and allowed to dry for an hour.

The patched areas were then sanded back with 120 grit sandpaper and a stain blocker undercoat applied.

A piece of MDF was cut to fit behind the sideboard for a backing and to help stabilise the piece. A stain blocker undercoat was applied and 20mm nails used to secure the backing.

Two top coats were applied, allowing an hour to dry between coats and the doors were then reattached.



ABOVE MDF was attached to the sideboard to create a backing. BELOW Patched cut-outs were clamped while the adhesive dried.



FINISHING TOUCHES

To give a vintage effect to the sideboard, an orbital sander with 120 grit sandpaper was used.

Melissa concentrated on areas that would normally receive wear, such as corners and edges, and along parts she wanted to highlight, such as the bevelled edge of the doors.

Excess sanding dust was then removed using a damp cloth.

A coat of clear furniture wax was applied using a soft cloth to help protect the sideboard. It was left for about five minutes before buffing to a nice sheen with a clean soft cloth.

Position the sideboard against a wall and secure with brackets and screws if needed. Style with pot plants and your favourite knick-knacks.

CABINET FACELIFT

This little cabinet jumped out at Melissa when she was doing her op-shop rounds.

'I loved the shuttered front of the door, and I thought the legs had a cute mid-century feel to them,' says Melissa.

The downside was that it had an awful red knob and needed a bit of a facelift to give it a new lease of life.

'After my daughter saw me doing up this cabinet in this gorgeous colour, using British Paints Forever Pink, she claimed it instantly for her room.'

WHAT YOU NEED

- 120 grit sandpaper
- ESP Easy Surface Prep
- Undercoat
- Foam roller and paint
- Ceramic bird doorknob

After

Peachy pink paint and a bird knob add pizzazz to this bedside cabinet.

Prep, prime and paint

The door, hinges and doorknob were removed and the bedside cabinet was given a light sand with 120 grit sandpaper.

As the top of the cabinet was made out of laminate, Melissa prepared this by applying two coats of Easy Surface Prep with a paintbrush, allowing it to dry

for an hour between coats. The cabinet was then painted with an undercoat, followed by two top coats, allowing to dry for an hour between coats.

The hinges and door were reattached and a fun, ceramic bird knob used to replace the ugly old doorknob. ♦

Before



Find it at Bunnings

What's new

Pick up the latest products for the home and garden instore



Inflating or deflating both high-volume and high-pressure items is easy with an Ozito Power X Change Hybrid Inflator/Deflator, \$99. Battery and charger sold separately.



Keep track of temperature, time and date using a Lennox LED Desk Lamp, \$29.98. Available in Black or White.



Prime, seal, undercoat and stain block with British Paints Prep 4-in-1, \$57.50 for 4L.



Secure roof tiles with the XKalibre 2-in-1 Roof Bedding and Pointing, \$26, available in Black, Terracotta and Grey.



1 Dulux Aquanamel Low Gloss Vivid White, \$89.50 for 4L.

2 Dulux Weathershield Plus Super Hide, \$95.90 for 4L.

3 Dulux 1 Step Prep Multi Surface Undercoat, \$72.80 for 4L.



Improve safety with a Builders Edge Parking Kerb Wheel Stop, \$49.90.



Program garden watering with the Twin Pack Holman BTX1 Bluetooth Smart Valve, \$99.



Store tools and garden equipment in an Absco Sheds Ultra Matt Monument Fortress Shed with BND roller door. Available in 3 sizes: 3 x 0.77 x 2.4m, \$1999; 3 x 1.52 x 2.4m, \$2999; and 3 x 3 x 2.4m, \$3499.



Get your mail delivered to a Northcote Pottery Gladstone Pillar Letterbox, \$99.



Clean hard floors with a Karcher FC5 Floor Cleaner, \$349, a 2-in-1 mop and vacuum.



Tackle many cleaning tasks with an Ozito Power X Change Wet & Dry Vacuum Kit, \$149.



Cook, roast, fry, bake and barbecue with a Wooshka Wood Fired Outdoor Stove, \$290. Accessories sold separately.

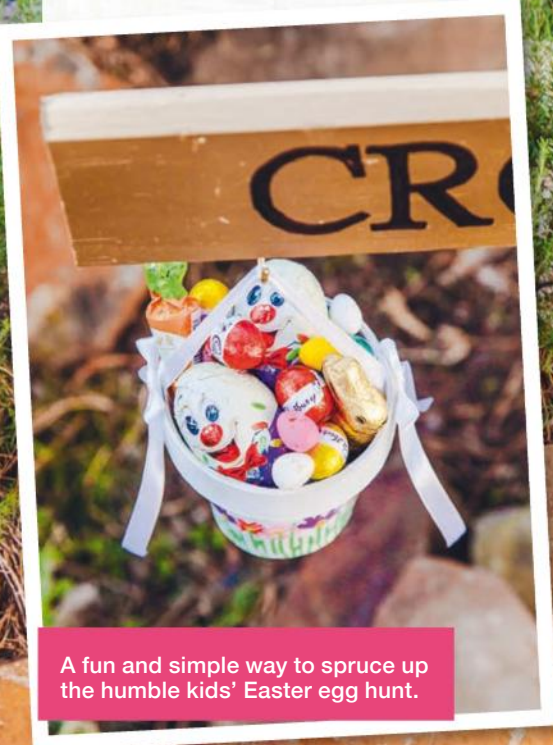
EASTER DIY PROJECTS

Get into the spirit of Easter with these three festive pieces you can create yourself

PROJECTS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

There's nothing like a few strategically placed decorations to build the excitement and anticipation of Easter and get the family and surrounding community into the festive spirit. Blogger Melissa's three projects are fun and simple to build. You can get the kids to help out, too.

We're sure you'll find something here to please every bunny.



A fun and simple way to spruce up the humble kids' Easter egg hunt.



BUNNY SIGN

Add charm to your backyard for the annual Easter egg hunt by creating a bunny crossing sign. It doubles as a basket hanger where participants can pick up their baskets ready for the hunt.

Look online to find a template for a bunny face. You can even have the kids customise it with their favourite colours and accessories.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Pink acrylic paint
- White acrylic paint
- White primer and paint spray
- Gold spray paint
- Bunny face template
- White ribbon

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Premium grade dressed pine		
Pole	1400 x 42 x 19mm	1
Bunny face board	340 x 235 x 19mm	1
Bunny sign	400 x 89 x 19mm	1
Crossing sign	460 x 89 x 19mm	1

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
10g x 40mm galvanised countersunk self-embedding screws	Bunny face board, bunny sign and crossing sign
32mm cup hooks	Crossing sign



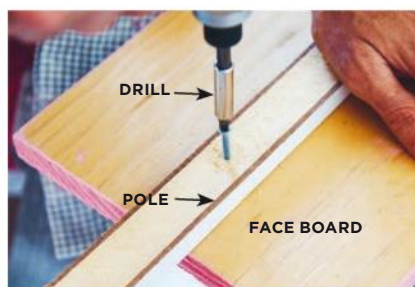
1 Cut the pieces

Cut the lengths of timber required for the sign using a drop saw. Make sure to cut the bottom end of the pole into a point to help insertion into the ground. Paint the pole using the white spray paint and let it dry. Two coats may be required for even coverage.



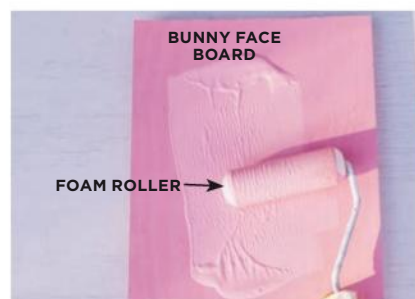
3 Create the signs

Print off the word 'bunny' on paper in a size and font that fits the sign. Shade the back with pencil. Turn over, centre on the bunny sign and outline the letters with biro. Remove the paper and fill in the outline with permanent marker. Repeat for the crossing sign.



5 Assemble the pieces

Attach the bunny face board to the pole by drilling two pilot holes through the pole and board. Secure with the drill using two countersunk self-embedding screws. Attach the bunny sign, leave a 50mm gap between the sign and the board. Repeat for crossing sign.



2 Paint the face board

Paint the bunny face board using the pink acrylic paint and foam roller. Apply two coats of the paint, letting it dry for at least two hours between each coat. Spray the bunny crossing signs with the gold spray paint, applying two coats for even coverage.



4 Paint the face

Trace the bunny face onto the board in the same way. Paint the face with 2-3 coats of white acrylic paint, letting it dry completely between coats. Draw face details with the permanent marker. Tie a bow with the ribbon and attach between the ears using the craft glue.



6 Add final touches

Attach two cup hooks to each end on the underside of the crossing sign, then use a hammer to drive your finished sign into soft ground. Use ribbon to attach pots or baskets to the hooks on the crossing sign ready for the kids to go Easter egg hunting. ►

BUNNY HANGING

Decorate your home with this cute Easter-themed hessian bunny hanging. It will look great on the front door. You can get the kids involved and let them put their own special touches to the design.

While Melissa used a lovely rustic hessian fabric, you can keep this project simple and low budget by using whatever spare fabric you may have lying around at home.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Bunny template sketched onto newspaper (ears 120mm long, head 120mm diameter, body 200mm diameter)
- 1m long x 110cm wide hessian fabric
- 1m blue gingham ribbon
- Hobby fill stuffing
- White wool
- 200mm 18-gauge craft wire
- Needle-nose pliers
- Hot glue gun



1 Glue and stuff

Fold the fabric in half and pin the bunny template on top, then cut out. Run a bead of glue around the head of one template, then glue the second on top. Stuff the ears and head. Repeat with the body, leaving a gap at the base to insert the stuffing. Secure shut with the glue gun.



2 Make the tail

Form a thick loop of wool around your fingers, then remove and press the middle of the loop together to create a bow look. Tie in the centre with a piece of the wool. Cut each end and tease apart to create a round ball. Secure the tail to the bunny using hot glue.



3 Attach the wire hanger

Tie the blue ribbon in a neat bow around the neck. Fold the craft wire into a V-shape. Bend the wire ends outwards to create coils using the needle-nose pliers. Attach the coils to the back of each ear using the hot glue gun. Let it dry before hanging.

RUSTIC LOG BUNNY



Delight the kids at Easter by constructing this rustic bunny from a hardwood log, to nestle among the shrubs in the front garden.

There's no need for costly materials, as most of it can be found in your woodpile or backyard, while the simple construction method means the kids can be involved in the assembly.

Let them have a go at personalising each bunny, or keep them minimalistic – it's up to you.

Melissa cut the hardwood logs to make the body (300mm diameter), face (200mm), feet (100mm), and ears (160mm long, cut at a 55° angle).

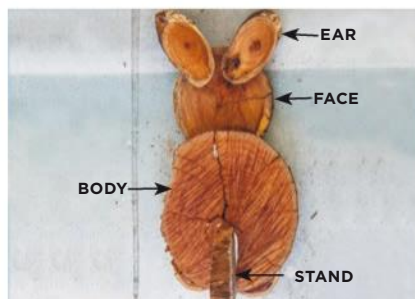
WHAT YOU NEED

- Hardwood logs
- PVA adhesive
- Black pipe cleaners
- Hot glue gun



1 Cut the pieces

Use a drop saw or chainsaw to cut the pieces for the body, face, feet and ears of the bunny, plus the support stand, from the logs. When cutting the ears for the bunny, make sure you cut them at a 55° diagonal angle to allow for long ears.



2 Assemble the pieces

Secure the feet and the head to the body with adhesive and press together. Apply adhesive to the base of the ears and press into the back of the head. Turn over the bunny and secure the stand to the base of the body with adhesive. Allow to dry overnight.



3 Attach the whiskers

Twist the three pipe cleaners together at the centre of the face so that each side splays out to create your bunny's whiskers. Secure the whiskers firmly to the middle of the bunny's face using the glue gun. Press firmly and hold until the glue dries completely. ❖



Energy saver

Keep your entertainment area cooler in summer, warmer in winter, and reduce energy costs with the Coolaroo Charcoal Outdoor Roller Blind with Pelmet and Handcrank, 2.4 x 2.4m, \$167.

Find it at Bunnings

SHADE & SCREEN

Control privacy, light and heat with a range of blinds and curtains for contemporary spaces



Sun protector

Cool your home and protect your furnishings from sun damage with the Windoware Deep Ocean 2.4 x 2.1m Retractable Blind, \$118. It blocks out 90% of UV light and comes in three colours.

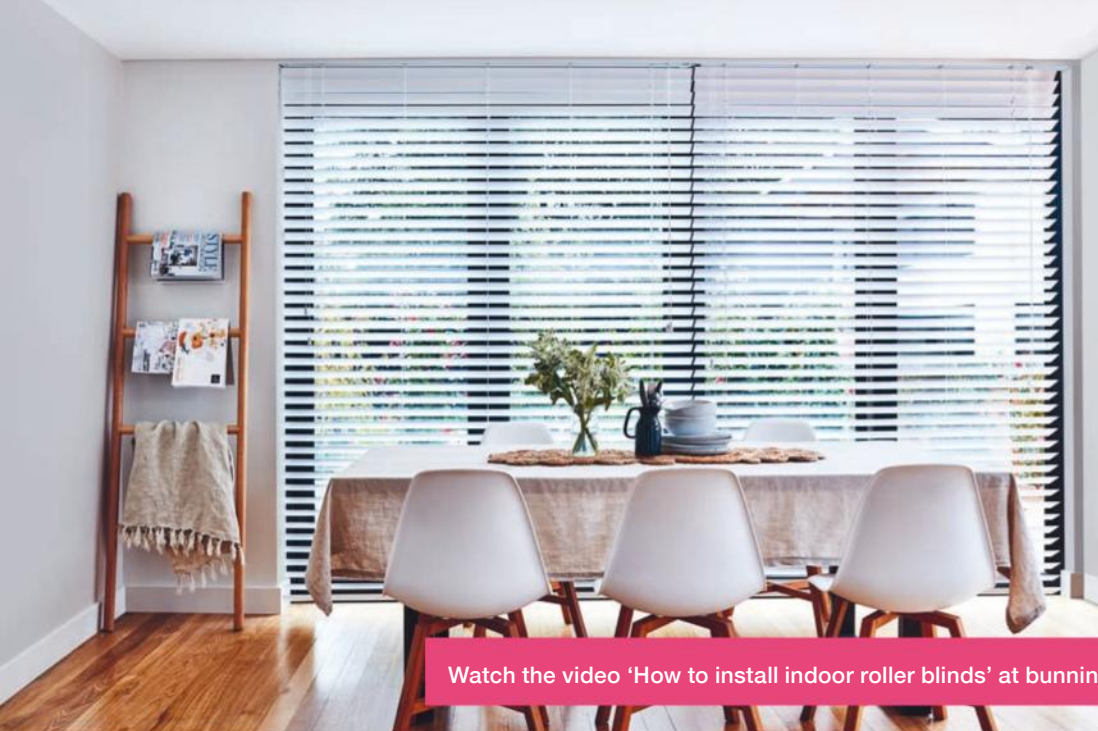
Almost every home has blinds or curtains. They are an easy and efficient way to add privacy while allowing control of the light and heat entering windows and glass doors.

Blinds can also be used to protect outdoor entertainment areas from harsh sunlight as well as provide shade to exterior window surfaces.

Simple to install, blinds come in a wide range of styles, sizes, colours, fabrics and textures. They are also easy to maintain. The styles of blinds shown here include venetian blinds, roller blinds and block-out blinds.

When choosing a blind or curtain, consider its visual impact and how much light it lets into a room.

SOME ADVERTISED PRODUCTS NOT AVAILABLE AT ALL BUNNINGS STORES. BUT MAY BE ORDERED. AVAILABLE IN WA BUNBURY AND ARMADALE



Shutter style

Easy to install and designed to look like shutters, Zone Interiors Shutterview 63mm Vivid White Venetian Blind, 1.8 x 1.5m, \$130, helps control light and creates a stylish ambience in a room.

Watch the video 'How to install indoor roller blinds' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



Curtain call

Eyelet curtains come in a range of fabrics, colours and textures. Combined with roller blinds, they make a stylish impact on a room and can block out all UV light while providing privacy.



Cool retreat

Honeycomb blinds with a cellular structure, such as Zone Interiors Boston Cellular Blind, 2.1 x 1.8m, \$169, help retain cool air during summer and warm air during winter. It can also block out all light.





LAUNDRY 15c

Pleasing yet efficient, this space shows practicality and aesthetics can co-exist. RIGHT Use a pegboard to keep your items ordered, out of the way, but easy to reach.

LOVE YOUR LAUNDRY

Turn this boring utility room into a beautiful space

We often give little thought to the design and organisation of our laundries, probably because we want to get in and out of there as quickly as possible.

But with a little planning, some smart storage solutions and a bit of creative flair, we can transform this space into a functional, tidy and harmonious room where we actually enjoy spending time.

For a little while, anyway.

CHARM AND PRACTICALITY

Like most of us, DIY expert, blogger and mum of three Christina Dennis (thediymommy.com) doesn't relish doing laundry, but that hasn't stopped her from giving her laundry room a dose of signature style and functionality.

Her stylish and practical update was also partly inspired by necessity.

'I didn't have enough storage in my cabinets for all my cleaning tools, plus I wanted a system where things were really easy to take out and put away. Pegboard was the answer,' she says.

To make a small space extra hardworking, Christina recommends

using it for a while before launching into renovating.

'Sort out what doesn't work and what does work in the room,' she says.

Coordinated colours and plenty of homemade accents tie the whole look together. Christina sewed her own ironing board cover and cafe curtains out of a floral fabric she loves. For a personal touch, she mounted her family initial over a vintage washboard that she found at a local antiques shop.

'It's important to make utility rooms beautiful. You spend a lot of time in them, so why not?' Christina says. ►



It's important to make your utility rooms beautiful, as you spend a lot of time in them



BRIGHT IDEAS

- ◆ Use hanging hampers to keep your clothes tidy and out of sight.
- ◆ Create a folding station over the space you already have. Christina mounted an old door over her appliances.
- ◆ Don't forget closed storage options such as cabinets, perfect for stashing less-than-attractive supplies and detergents. (See page 86 for a great DIY project.)
- ◆ Toss spare change in buckets within reach of your washer.
- ◆ Hang brooms and dustpans on the pegboard so they're out of the way but easy to grab for quick clean-ups. ►

Editor's pick



Lift the look of your room by refreshing your silicone joints. Apply Loctite Re-New, \$14.95, over old joints. No prep or tools required. loctite-consumer.com.au

TOP PICKS



Twin Laundry Hamper, Kmart, \$15. kmart.com.au



Marble Look Pot with Plant, Kmart, \$9.



Laundry Powder Tin with Bamboo Handle, Kmart, \$9.



Airer with Bamboo Frame, Kmart, \$29.



Nesting Seagrass Basket, Kmart, \$9.



Square Woven Storage Basket, Kmart, \$10.



Wire Basket with Message Sheet, Kmart, \$5.

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on clothes



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BUILD A LAUNDRY CUPBOARD

Make this clever cupboard to conceal your washing machine and supplies and allow for easy removal of clothes. It has 25mm holes that serve as both handles and ventilation, and a plinth on which the machine sits inside the cupboard.

Putting it together

- 1 **CONSTRUCT** the plinth for the machine by securing the plinth top to one of the plinth sides using adhesive and screws. Repeat for the other side to create a square U-shape.
- 2 **BUILD** the shelf section by laying down the cupboard top and shelf so you can mark measurements on both of them.

On a 680mm side, mark 210mm in from the end, then 16mm along from that, then 198mm on from this, followed by another 16mm further on. Use the try square to mark lines across each piece.

- 3 **PLACE** the two shelf dividers on the 16mm marks running across the shelf. Drill 3mm pilot holes, then secure using adhesive and screws.

Position the cupboard top and place it on top of the shelf dividers and secure with adhesive and screws.

- 4 **LAY** the shelf assembly on a flat surface with the shelf openings facing upwards, then secure the two sides with adhesive and screws.

Leave the cupboard on its back and insert the plinth's assembly at the base between the two sides. Secure with adhesive and screws.

Secure the strut between the two sides, level with the base. Turn the cupboard over facing downwards and

Project notes

- ♦ Have the MDF cut to size at your local store.
- ♦ Sink screw heads, cover with wood filler and allow to dry.
- ♦ Predrill 3mm pilot holes for the screws to prevent damaging the MDF.
- ♦ Make sure all corners are precisely 90 degrees, or your cupboard will be uneven.
- ♦ If you prefer, build the cupboard without doors or replace them with a curtain.

spread adhesive along the back of the frame. Position the backing sheet on top and secure with panel pin nails.

- 5 **DRILL** two 50mm holes with a jigsaw in the masonite just above the plinth for the hoses and power cable of the machine.

Measure and mark 11 holes 50mm from the side and 100mm apart, lengthwise down the opposite side of the door, with the last hole mark just above the plinth shelf.

Clamp the door to the workbench, then drill a hole through each mark using a sharp 25mm bit to avoid damaging the MDF. Repeat for the second door.

- 6 **SECURE** the hinges with the 16mm screws and adjust until the doors mirror each other and close smoothly.

Lightly sand the cupboard to smooth any sharp edges. Remove all dust and paint the cupboard. ♦



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
16mm MDF		
Sides	1600 x 680	2
Cupboard top and shelf	680 x 650	2
Shelf dividers	680 x 300	2
Plinth sides	600 x 350	2
Plinth top	650 x 600	1
Strut	618 x 100	1
Cupboard doors	1595 x 338	2
4.8mm masonite		
Backing sheet	1590 x 682	1

WHAT YOU NEED

- Try square
- Tape measure and pencil
- 30mm timber screws
- 6 cabinet hinges
- 16mm hinge screws
- Hammer
- Panel pin nails
- PVA adhesive
- Timber putty
- Orbital sander
- 120 grit sanding pad
- Cordless drill
- 3mm and 25mm bits
- Jigsaw
- Paint roller and tray
- Paint and paintbrush



Find it at Bunnings

CLEAN UP

Try these flexible storage ideas to give your laundry a modern makeover

Laundries are often messy little rooms, where dirty clothes pile up next to soap containers and the ironing board blocks the clothes rack.

It doesn't have to be that way. With the right storage solutions, the laundry can also be an enjoyable and pleasant place – all it takes is a bit of imagination to eliminate that annoying clutter.

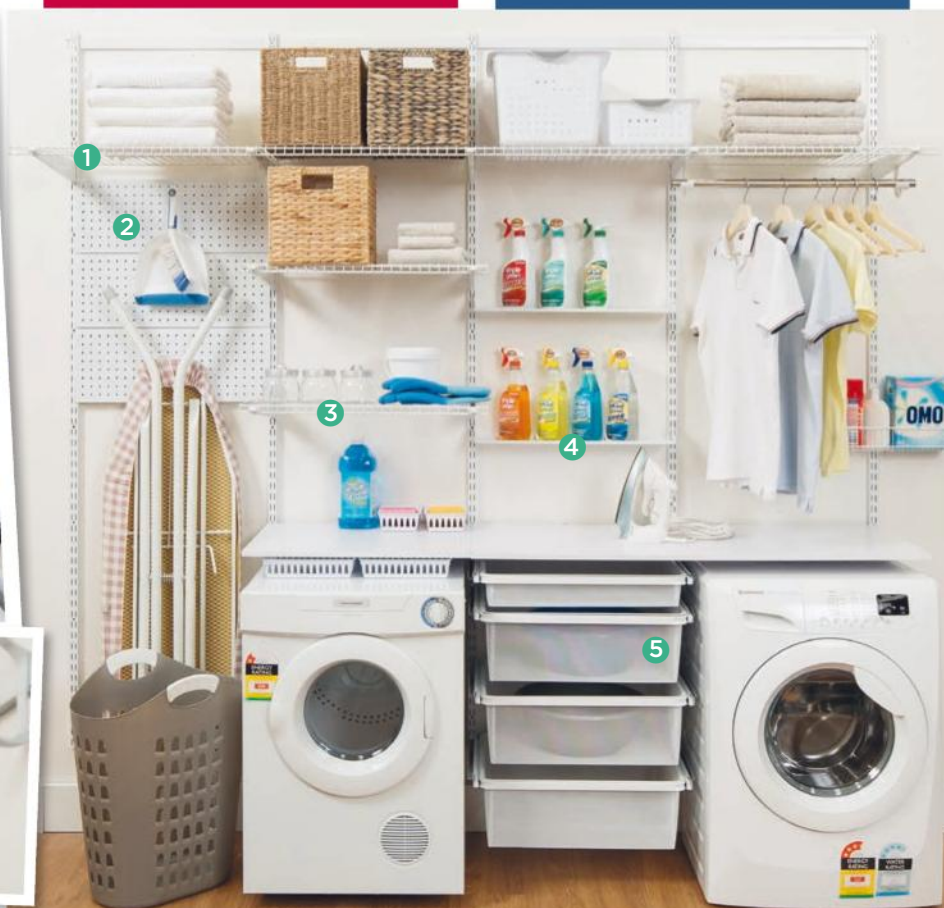
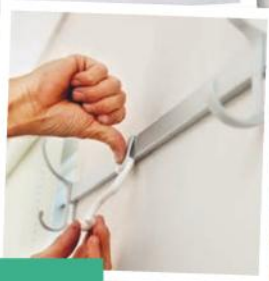
Simple shelving

Make the most of your available wall space by installing adjustable shelving systems. These create spaces to hang the ironing, keep much-used items to hand and store cleaning products.

- 1 Flexi Storage 1206mm White Double Slot Wall Strip, \$7.
- 2 Flexi Storage 572 x 200mm Pegboard Backing Plate, \$11.99.
- 3 Flexi Storage 1225 x 335mm White Wire Shelf, \$26.90.
- 4 Flexi Storage 596 x 430 x 16mm White Melamine Shelf, \$10.98.
- 5 Flexi Storage 185mm White 2-runner Mesh Basket, \$18 each.



StorEase Mini Rail Hook, \$5 each.



Watch the video 'How to rejuvenate an old laundry' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

SOME ADVERTISED PRODUCTS NOT AVAILABLE AT ALL BUNNINGS STORES. BUT MAY BE ORDERED



Wall cabinet

Cabinetry can be installed in laundries in the same way it is used in kitchens. Base and wall cabinets with drawers can hold cleaning products and linen, and a broom closet can store tall items.

- 1 Flatpax Utility 600mm 1-door Broom Cupboard, \$376.
- 2 Kaboodle 600mm Taranade Benchtop, \$164 per linear metre.
- 3 Abey Leichardt 45L Skinny Inset Laundry Sink, \$624.
- 4 Robinhood Deluxe Ironing Centre (iron not included), \$357.

Flatpax Utility 900mm Drying Cabinet, \$351.

Flatpax Utility 450mm Linen Chute, \$187.



What's trending

Workshop Talk & Tips

Join the discussion

HOW TO REDUCE YOUR POWER BILL

'I'm a big fan of the humble draught stopper. Also make sure your doors and windows are well sealed.'

@CathD

'Use energy saving powerboards that turn all devices off at the wall rather than keep them in stand-by mode.'

@Mick

'We've used Solargain for two houses now. They were great both times.'

@Dale

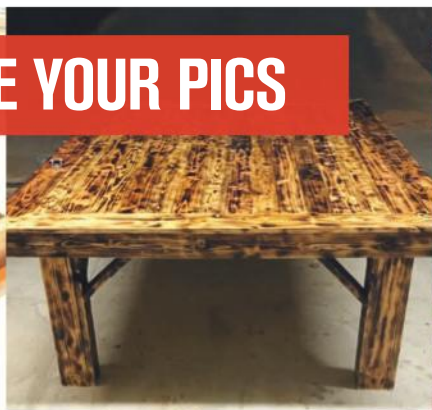
FAST FACT

A decisive **71%** of workshop members agreed that rendering a brick home is a good idea, while 29% believed that bricks are beautiful and maintenance free.

SHARE YOUR PICS



@Bizebod



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@Shannon



@ponting72

workshop™

Workshop is a fun online space where you can ask DIY and gardening questions, share photos and videos of your projects, get tips and inspiration for your home and much more. To join the discussion, sign up at workshop.com.au.

PICTURE (TOP) ISTOCK

@YORKY88

Workshop Member Profile



Projects that Marty has shared on Workshop include cubbyhouses, privacy screens and tables.

Marty's backyard pallet wood projects have become both his creative outlet and his form of relaxation.

His creations are becoming so popular they might also move from hobby to full-time enterprise.

Marty, 29, works at a school for at-risk youth. Part of his role includes teaching woodwork, which was one of the subjects at school he says he most enjoyed.

'I didn't really do very well at school when it came to sitting behind a desk. But when it came to the

practical subjects such as woodwork, metalwork, tech drawing and art, I excelled,' says Marty.

'I have always been very handy and so watching my family building stuff inspired me to give it a go and now I'm addicted.'

Marty first started building items out of wooden pallets after seeing a shipping crate listed on Gumtree, which he turned into planter boxes.

'Workshop is pretty cool. I love seeing what other people are up to and being able to share my work.'



'I love being able to put my own creative flair on the products I build'

USING RECLA MED TIMBER

Reclaimed timber can come from old houses in the form of frames, panelling, flooring and furniture.

Using reclaimed timber rather than other materials means fewer substances being sent to landfill.

Also, reclaimed wood has more strength and durability.

Learn how to build wall shelves using old timber by going to handyman.net.au/industrial-style-wall-shelves.



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

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GRAND ENTRANCE

Upgrade your doors, locks, pulls and handles to create an inviting but secure look for your home

WORDS MARC MCEVOY

Doors cop a beating in most households. Interior doors get knocked, scraped and slammed, and exterior doors are exposed to wind, rain and harsh sunlight.

If you plan to upgrade your doors, it will pay to install quality products and maintain them well. It will prolong the life of your doors and keep them in good working order.

Here we look at different types of doors and how to look after them. We also offer you some tips on the latest locks and handles. ►

A front door should look welcoming as it's the first thing visitors see.





Hume Doors & Timber Evolution Premium Cavity Unit, from \$1661. humedoors.com.au



Cowdroy Federation Custom-Made Barrier Screen Door, \$535. cowdroy.com.au

DOOR TYPES

Doors are gateways that affect the look, style and function of your home. For this reason it's important to choose the right door when upgrading.

The entrance door is the first thing your visitors see, so it should be well maintained and look inviting. They are stronger than interior doors and usually made from solid timber, which improves security and insulation.

Hinged timber doors are the most common type within the home. Interior doors come in standard sizes and many have a honeycomb core.

Variations of interior doors include French doors, which have two doors with glass panels, and sliding doors, also called pocket doors, which save space and can be hidden in a wall.

Sliding and folding doors are popular exterior doors leading to outdoor entertainment areas. Their glass panels let in light and views.

Security doors and screen doors, which include mesh to keep out insects, act as a barrier in front of an exterior door. Security doors are tougher yet still allow air flow. ►



Woodcraft Doors 2040 x 820 x 40mm Tulip Triple Glaze Entrance Door, \$1010. woodcraftdoors.com.au



Hume Doors & Timber Al Fresco 2535 x 2154 x 820mm External Bifold Doors, \$2623. humedoors.com.au



Hume Doors & Timber Lincoln 10 2040 x 820 x 35mm Internal Door, \$426. humedoors.com.au



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INSTALL A DOOR

If you're replacing an internal door or hanging a new one, mounting it to the jamb is an easy DIY job.

First, test that the door fits in the frame and check that there is at least 2mm clearance at the top and sides.

If the door is too wide or too tall, trim it on the hinge side or from the base, using a power planer.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Internal door
- Drill and drill bits
- Tape measure and pencil
- Wedges and hammer
- Utility knife and chisel
- Hinges and screws



1 2 3



1 Attach the hinges

Mark the position of the hinges on the edge of the door 200mm from the top and 300mm from the base. Drill pilot holes and attach the hinge with screws.

TIP If the hinges need to be recessed, score the outline with a utility knife, then use a chisel to remove the waste.



2 Fit the door

Position the door perpendicular to the frame. Level the door using wedges, ensuring there is 2mm clearance at the top and the hinges are sitting square on the jamb. Drive the top screw into the top hinge, check the door is level and adjust the wedges as required.



3 Hang the door

Once the door is level, drive the top screw into the lower hinge. Remove the wedges and check the door shuts properly. If it doesn't, remove the screw, adjust the wedges, then reattach. Secure the hinges with the remaining screws when the door hangs flush.

REPAIR A LEANING DOOR

Doors need to be cleaned and maintained to keep them working well. Check hinges, hinge pins and handle assemblies every 12 months or so, and clean and lubricate them with WD-40 or a similar product.

If a door sticks when closing or opening it may be slightly off its hinges. You can tell by checking the gap at

the top of the door. If it's wider at the doorknob side, the top hinge screws are probably loose.

Door hinges aren't really adjustable, but by driving a 75mm screw through the centre hole of the top hinge into the jamb and wall framing, you can draw the hinge and jamb towards the framing and slightly reposition the door. ►



Zenith 85mm Durasmooth Butt Hinge, about \$2. bunnings.com.au



Stanley 16-piece Cushion Grip Screwdriver Set, \$35. stanleytools.com.au



DIY TIP

Silence squeaky door hinges by pushing up the pin with a screwdriver and putting a few drops of oil onto the shaft.

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Introducing the Schlage Sense™ Smart Deadbolt.

The Schlage Sense™ Smart Deadbolt uses Bluetooth® Smart technology to work with your iPhone®, iPad® and iPod touch®, the Schlage Sense™ app and Apple HomeKit™ to give you complete control of your home – including the ability to talk to unlock your door using Siri®. Now also compatible with Android phones. It's a smarter way in.



schlage.com.au



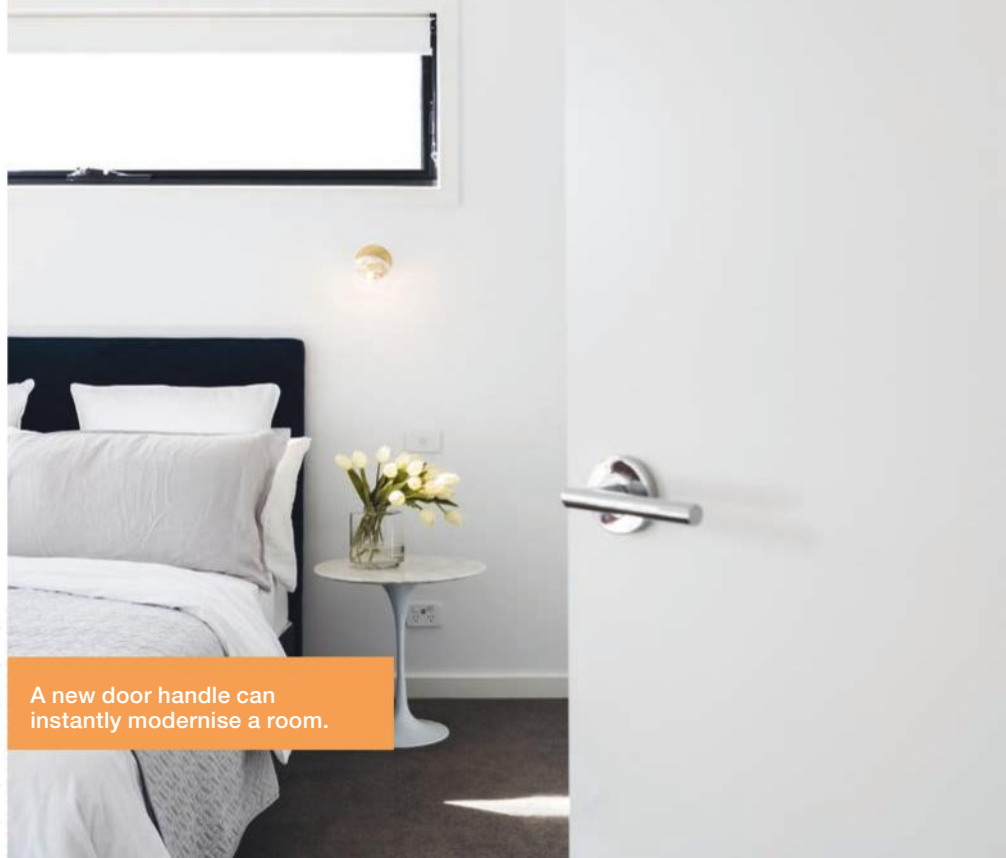
Open possibilities.

HANDLES AND PULLS

Interior doors that look drab usually need little more than a paint job and replacing the handle. In fact a new handle on a door might be all that is needed to modernise a room.

Handles and pulls are design elements and will complement the architecture of a room or the house.

Replacing handles and pulls is a simple DIY project. ►



A new door handle can instantly modernise a room.



Lemaar 504 x 25mm Entry Handle Set, \$59. bunnings.com.au



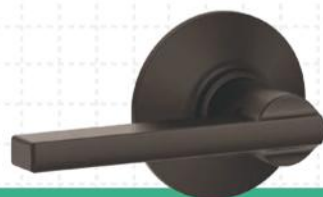
Lemaar Elda Satin Chrome Privacy Set, about \$36. bunnings.com.au



Ikonik Double Cylinder Keyed Sliding Door Lock, \$66. bunnings.com.au



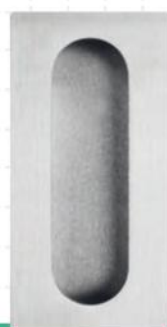
Ikonik Lever Contempo Passage Set, \$27. bunnings.com.au



Schlage Black F Series Latitude Passage Lever, \$99. allegion.com.au



Gainsborough Passage Knob Set Edge, \$35. gainsboroughhardware.com.au



Delf 100 x 50mm Oval Flush Pull, \$6. delfarchitectural.com.au



Delf Lion Head Door Knocker, about \$41. delfarchitectural.com.au

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LOCKS AND DEADBOLTS

The locks on your front door and other exterior doors are the main defence against intruders and should be checked regularly to make sure they are in good working order.

If you're moving into a new property, change all your locks to prevent strangers from entering with old keys. Front door locks include mechanical deadbolts and smart digital versions. ♦



Sometimes all you need to revamp a dreary-looking door is a nice handle or lock



Deadbolts provide extra security for entrance doors.



Lane Electronic Deadbolt Touch Pad, \$189. bunnings.com.au



Delf Stainless Steel Double Cylinder Deadbolt, \$27. bunnings.com.au



Gainsborough Bright Chrome Digital Entry Lever Lock Set, \$289. bunnings.com.au



Schlage Sense Century Smart Deadbolt, \$368. allegion.com.au



Samsung Smart Push Pull Digital Door Lock, \$679. digitaldoorlocks.com.au



Ikonic Brown Rim Night Latch, about \$22. bunnings.com.au

PICTURE (MAIN) ISTOCK



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- Fingerprint entry (SHS-P718)
- Mechanical key and RFID key tag entry

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HOW TO MAKE A TRESTLE DESK

Create this stylish trestle desk and add a bespoke touch to your home or office space

Don't have a lot of space at home? This stylish trestle desk could be the ideal solution. It looks great in any compact workspace such as a study nook, a hallway, child's bedroom or corner of the room.

Just follow the steps below for this great DIY project. The tabletop can be cut from a piece of hardwood such

as an 1800 x 600 x 26mm merbau FJ laminated panel.

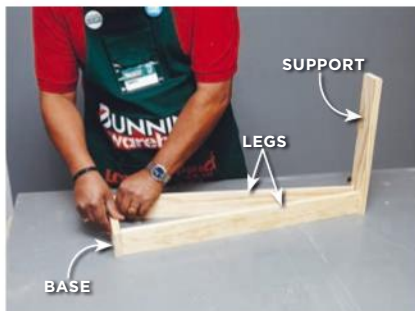
And to make this project easier, have your timber pre-cut to size at your local Bunnings store (see cutting list).

The ends of the legs should be cut using a compound mitresaw set to 5°, so that the legs join the supports and leg bases at an angle.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Tape measure and pencil
- Drill and Phillips head bit
- 3mm and 6.5mm drill bits
- Orbital sander
- 240 grit sanding pads
- PVA timber adhesive
- 8g x 40mm timber screws
- Two 1200 x 6mm galvanised threaded rods, two 6mm nuts
- Bolt cutters or hacksaw
- Wax and spray paint
- Safety gear

Waxing the tabletop will protect the surface and bring out the natural timber grain



1 Prepare the legs

Lay out two leg pieces, a leg base and a support to create a triangle on your workbench. Predrill pilot holes with a 3mm bit for the 40mm screws that will secure the legs to the base and the support. Apply adhesive and join the pieces. Repeat for the other legs.



2 Attach the supports

Using the drill, attach the bases to the legs with 40mm screws. Then assemble one trestle by attaching a support to the four legs. Predrill four pilot holes in the ends of each support, then secure to the legs with adhesive and 40mm screws. Repeat for other trestle.



3 Paint the legs

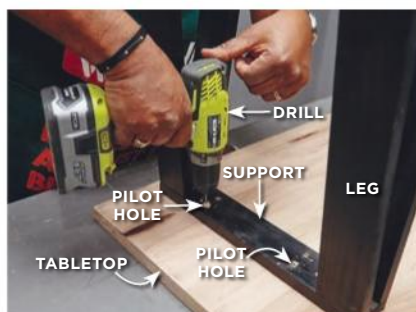
Paint or spray the trestles in the colour of your choice. Apply several coats, allowing to dry between coats. Lightly sand the painted surfaces with 240 grit sandpaper between coats. Sand the tabletop using an orbital sander with 240 grit sandpaper for a smooth finish.



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Radiata pine DAR		
Legs	670 x 64 x 19mm	8
Leg bases	205 x 64 x 19mm	4
Supports	390 x 64 x 19mm	2
Hardwood timber panel		
Tabletop	1200 x 450 x 26mm	1

Watch the video 'D.I.Y. trestle desk' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



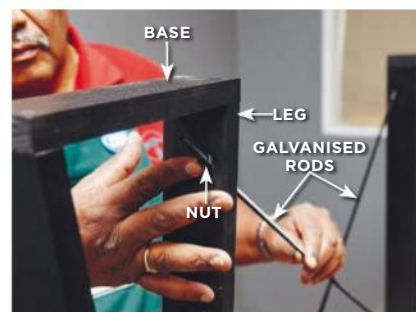
4 Attach the trestles

Position the trestles under the tabletop by marking the side of each support 110mm from the end of the tabletop, with a 30mm overhang at each end of the supports. Predrill 3mm pilot holes through each support. Attach the trestles to the top with 40mm screws.



5 Cut the rods

Use two galvanised rods to brace the table. Position the rods diagonally between the inside back legs on both sides 80mm from the base of the legs and 50mm from the top of the legs. Cut the rods to length with bolt cutters or a hacksaw.



6 Secure the rods

Paint the rods to match the trestles. When the paint is dry, predrill pilot holes for the rods on an angle using a 6.5mm drill bit. Thread each rod through the holes and secure with 6mm nuts. Apply several coats of wax to the tabletop for a final finish.



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HOME OFFICE HEAVEN

Make working from home productive and rewarding by creating the right space for your needs

WORDS ADAM WOODHAM

More workplaces are recognising the benefits in both productivity and staff happiness associated with working from home for at least part of the week. Or perhaps you run a micro or small business part or full time from home.

Creating a home office space can improve your working enjoyment and make a stronger case to your boss if you're looking to do home-based work.

So, what does a modern home office need to make it fit and functional? We look at what you need to get it right. ►

BE DEDICATED

Clearing some suitable space on the dining table and hoping to catch a signal from your patchy wi-fi just won't cut it if you're serious about working at home and being productive.

Create a dedicated space in a quiet spot that becomes your office zone. And this doesn't necessarily mean a whole room. It could be in the guest room, a sitting room or even in the shed.

LIGHTING

A well-lit workspace will have both the level and type of light evenly diffused, with no – or very limited – shadows.

It will have an abundance of natural light, but not an excess of light falling directly onto any work areas or screens from one direction. Think filtered or diffused light all round.

Select daylight globes for any artificial lighting, which have a natural colour range that reduces eyestrain and ensures a natural colour balance.

The easiest way to get balanced light is to have multiple light sources, as this tends to create a more balanced light fall. If you are likely to have lights running all day, switch to LED as they are massively more energy efficient.



A more permanent comfort option is to have a ceiling fan installed. Look for remote-controlled options for ease of use. This Arlec 4-blade Sweep Ceiling Fan, \$269, has an onboard light offering a broad spread of diffused light as well.



AIR

A good flow of fresh air and quality ventilation are critical for a comfortable workspace. Ideally, you want at least one opening window and the ability to have cross-ventilation, where air flows in from one point and out through another creating gentle movement of fresh air.

This may not always be achievable, especially if you live in a high-rise, so that's where fans and reverse cycle air-conditioning come in.

Running the air-con can become rather expensive, so either run it on fan-only mode or use a traditional fan. Ceiling fans are a very efficient way of cooling an office.

SCREEN SET-UP

For the vast majority of us, working from home will mean screen-based work. It's a very important part of office ergonomics to have your screen set up in the right location to help reduce eyestrain.

- ♦ **MAKE SURE** no light falls directly onto the computer screen.
- ♦ **AVOID** light sources from behind you that may reflect off the screen.

- ♦ **ENSURE** there aren't any strong light sources behind the screen by placing your computer away from any windows.
- ♦ **CHECK** there are no distracting or busy views behind your screen.

With a laptop, it may be more comfortable to create a docking station so you can plug your laptop into a larger monitor and use an external keyboard and mouse.

Install a reverse-cycle air-conditioning system that is energy efficient and has an appropriate power rating for your room size and climate. This Mitsubishi 7.1kW Complete Unit, \$1434, is ideal for even large office spaces.



This column fan is a high-tech and efficient way to improve your home office air flow and comfort levels. This Arlec Rialto Tower Fan with remote control, \$129, would make a stylish and practical addition.

GET CONNECTED

E-mail, internet and device-to-device communication are all an essential part of getting your job done.

Wi-fi and other wireless connection methods have been the greatest areas of growth, allowing access from anywhere to virtually anything. But every IT geek will tell you one thing – if the option is there, plug it in.

Wireless connections can be variable in speed and signal strength, which leads to delays or failures.

If you need more ethernet connections, they are easy to add by connecting an ethernet switch or hub, such as this D-Link 5-port Gigabit Switch, \$24. When selecting, remember that a five-port hub only has four outlets, as one port will be taken up by the input lead.



The neatest way to get cables where you need them through desks is by installing a cable duct. Use a hole saw to drill through, then pop in a duct, such as this Kia Ora 60mm Cable Duct, \$3. Look for ducts with spring-loaded shutters.



Ethernet cables, such as this Antsig 20m CAT6 Ethernet Network Cable, about \$30, are the key to making home office networking easy.

The best way to have ethernet added to your home office is to run cables through the walls. The outlets are then available through neat wall plates like this Deta Cat 6 Ethernet Outlet, about \$22.



Cables can be messy and dangerous. Keep them tidy and safe with a cable cover. They're available in a range of sizes, shapes and colours to suit all situations. Try a D-Line 1m Cable Cover, \$30.



If your wi-fi signal isn't ranging far enough around your home office or home, you'll need a wi-fi repeater or range extender.

The Sengled Boost Smart LED Light and Wi-Fi Repeater Extender E27, \$89, is a practical solution – just screw it in, connect, and your network is extended by 30m.

POWER ON!

When you're setting up your new home office, you'll likely realise just how many things will need to be plugged into a power outlet.

Don't panic, as the issue you'll find is purely the number of items needing outlets, not the actual power use, as many devices, such as printers, will only be running occasionally.

You may find it useful to have an electrician come in and switch some single wall plates over to double outlets or to have them add an extra one or two. If you still need extra outlets, look at quality multiple outlet power boards with inbuilt surge-guard protection. ►



Smart power points, such as this Deta X6 Double Power Point with Dual USB charger, \$37, have inbuilt charging ports so there are no plug-in USB adapters hogging outlets.

Perfect for power on demand, this Brilliant Pop Up Powerboard, \$90, hides discreetly in the desk and then rises up with a gentle touch to give you multiple power points and USB charging ports.



YOUR WORKSTATION

It may sound obvious, but your workspace's two main components – the desk and chair – need to be carefully considered and selected together, with ergonomics being a key factor.



DESK

- ◆ Do you need a fixed height desk to match your typical work or is an adjustable one to suit varying work demands more appropriate?
- ◆ Make sure there will be adequate workspace left for whatever tasks you may have after space is taken up by fixed items such as a computer, keyboard and mouse, a monitor, printer, an in-tray, speakers and any other extras.
- ◆ Rolled-edge desks will be more comfortable on your arms than those sharp angles.
- ◆ Look for an easily washable desk with a matt surface that won't create reflections or glare.
- ◆ Consider a corner desk as they make excellent use of wasted space – things such as power boards and external hard drives can be positioned behind your screen, hidden but easily accessible.

CHAIR

- ◆ Don't scrimp on a chair. It needs to be comfortable, multi-adjustable (height, angle of tilt, even backrest) and suitably ergonomic.
- ◆ What type of surface will the chair be on? Carpet, tiles, timber? Make sure the castors are suitable for the surface.
- ◆ Consider the material. In warm weather, a chair can get uncomfortable. Look at mesh backs for breathability. If the actual seat section is leather it will be more expensive, but it will be more comfortable than vinyl in hot weather.
- ◆ Do you opt for an armrest or no armrest? This will depend entirely on your desk, the nature of your work and, of course, personal preference.

ADAM'S PICKS

Here's a selection of must-haves for the home office.



Use a back-up hard drive regularly to clone your computer hard drive, or selected files and folders. That way, if your main system crashes you have a clean copy.

Seagate 4TB Backup Plus Hub Desktop Drive, \$189.



Quality speakers can make working alone a very pleasurable experience.

These new speakers from Logitech can be plugged directly into your computer or stream music via Bluetooth. **Logitech MX Black Sound Bluetooth Speakers, \$150.**



This multi-device keyboard from Logitech can pair with multiple devices and you can switch between them at the touch of a button.

It has a built-in stand to support smartphones and tablets, too. **K780 Multi-Device Wireless Keyboard, \$100.**



Another back-up option is a NAS device – Network Attached Storage.

These can be configured in a range of ways and are connected to your network, not just one computer.

This means that work files can be easily accessed by other users on your network.
Western Digital 4TB My Cloud EX2 Ultra 2-Bay NAS, \$569.



A quality colour printer is a must-have and the most efficient and cost-effective are laser printers. With a small footprint, this printer is capable of double-sided printing and has built-in wireless connectivity so you can print on the fly.
Brother Wireless Colour Laser Printer, \$259.



This Sengled LED light has an integrated JBL speaker and it has a smartphone app so you can stream and control music as well as adjust brightness in your space.
Sengled Pulse Solo Smart LED Light, \$69.



Every office needs a quality mouse. This one from Logitech can run for up to 70 days on one charge and has a 10m cordless range. It can even connect to three different devices at a time.
Logitech MX Master 2S Wireless Mouse, \$108.



Protect office equipment and charge devices with the Belkin surge-guard protected power board. It has six power outlets and two built-in USB charging ports.
Belkin Surge Protector Powerboard, \$47. ❖



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GARAGE STORAGE

Follow these tips to get rid of clutter and organise a space for your tools

WORDS MARC MCEVOY

Is your garage a mess, with used paint tins stacked next to a pile of tools, tangled extension cords and timber offcuts?

You're not alone. It's the nature of a workshop garage to end up this way without proper organisation.

Not everyone can afford the luxury of a custom-made workshop in the garage, but there are ways to pack away

tools and create an orderly environment in which to work on home projects.

The key is finding space for storage. Most storage comes as shelves, but you can also add cabinets, lockers and pegboards for hanging tools and mobile cabinets that double as a workbench.

Here, we list options for garage and tool storage and show you how to make a handy garage shelf.

DIY TIP

Make sure you install adequate lighting in your garage that is easy to turn on at night or when the door is closed.



Mixing storage methods frees up valuable garage space. LEFT Steel cabinets and mobile trolleys are safe and secure.



LOCKERS AND CABINETS

Stainless steel cabinets and lockers are a great storage solution for organising equipment and household items.

Because they are strong and sturdy, they need little maintenance and do not get damaged easily.

Another benefit is that they suit items that you may need to store safely or lock away securely.

Under-bench mobile storage cabinets are a great way to store equipment in a small garage.

Made from stainless steel, they usually have multiple drawers and move around on castors.

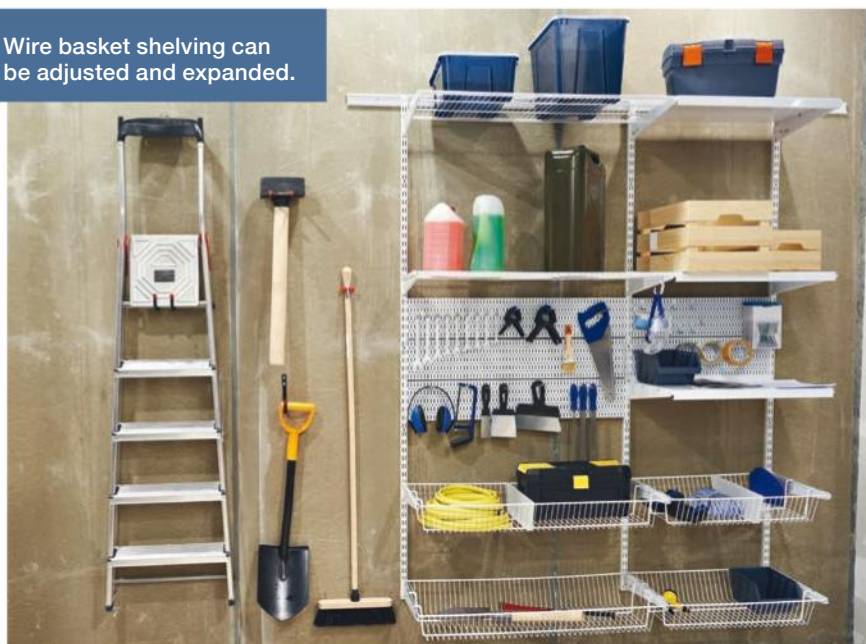
Some also come with hardwood benchtops and cabinets, so you have a mobile workshop on wheels.



H 16 workshop storage solutions you've never thought of

Visit handyman.net.au/workshop-storage

Wire basket shelving can be adjusted and expanded.



PICTURE (BOTTOM) ISTOCK

SHELVING

Sturdy shelving that can handle the weight of power tools is another useful storage solution in your garage.

If you have timber shelves already installed, you only need to buy wire baskets or plastic bins and tubs of varying sizes to organise your tools and garden equipment.

Many bins and tubs are designed to be stackable, which also saves you valuable space in small garages.

Wire baskets and shelves that come with an expanding system of brackets and frames can be installed quickly on your garage wall.

You can also purchase heavy-duty multi-tier garage storage units that are easy to assemble.

They usually have adjustable shelves with a high load capacity that can be put together in many configurations.

These shelves suit a mix of large and small items that you want to keep organised and out of the way. ►



Pegboards are a great way to store tools with easy access. BELOW Compartment storage organises washers and screws.



Mobile trolleys have varying drawer sizes to fit most tools. RIGHT Tool bags allow you to transport your gear to any job.



PICTURES/ISTOCK (MAIN) ALAMY

TOOL STORAGE

Knowing the location of every tool should be a priority of any serious DIY enthusiast. It is annoying to learn half way through a project that your Phillips head screwdriver is missing.

Organising your tools so you can see where they all are at any given time is not that difficult.

You can organise them in categories by placing them in small tubs on shelves or you can keep them in mobile tool cabinets with multiple drawers to suit different-sized tools.

Metal tool chests and tool trolleys do a similar job, keeping the tools you need for a project within easy reach.

Another way of doing this is to attach a pegboard with hooks to the wall over your workbench.

Pegboards are often made from masonite, which you can cut easily to suit the size you want, or powder-coated stainless steel, which offers a stronger surface for supporting tools. ►



Store similar items together by separating tools from leisure gear and garden equipment



TOP PICKS



Handy Storage 54L Green Storage Crate, \$25. bunnings.com.au



Ultimate 10-drawer Tool Trolley, \$799. ultimatestorage.com.au



Sidchrome 13-drawer Tool Trolley, \$1094. sidchrome.com.au



Pinnacle 2-door Metal Garage Cabinet, \$349. pinnacle.net.au



Pinnacle Compact Garage Workbench, \$70. pinnacle.net.au



Pinnacle 5-tier Adjustable Shelf, \$99. pinnacle.net.au



StorEase 20cm Double Hook, \$15. bunnings.com.au

GARAGE STORAGE SYSTEM

This space-saving garage storage system (see page 111) comprises pegboards, adjustable shelves and a workbench. There is also hanging space for tools and equipment.

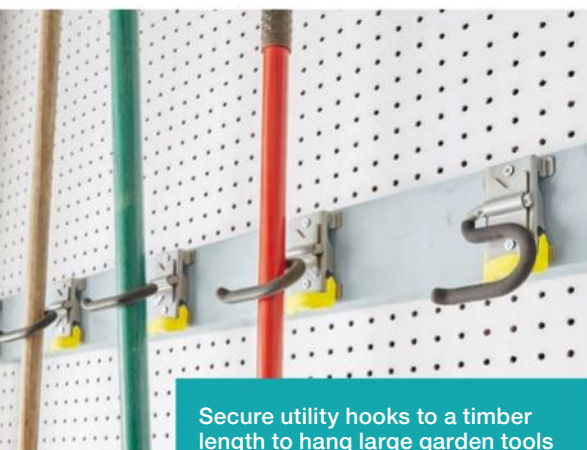
It is made from a timber frame and pegboards attached to timber studs that are secured to the existing garage wall.

You can rearrange shelves, add or substitute pegboard accessories, and even mount hanging systems that are designed for ordinary walls.

The cutting list for the materials you need depends on the size of your wall. For more details on how to build it, check out our website link on page 111.



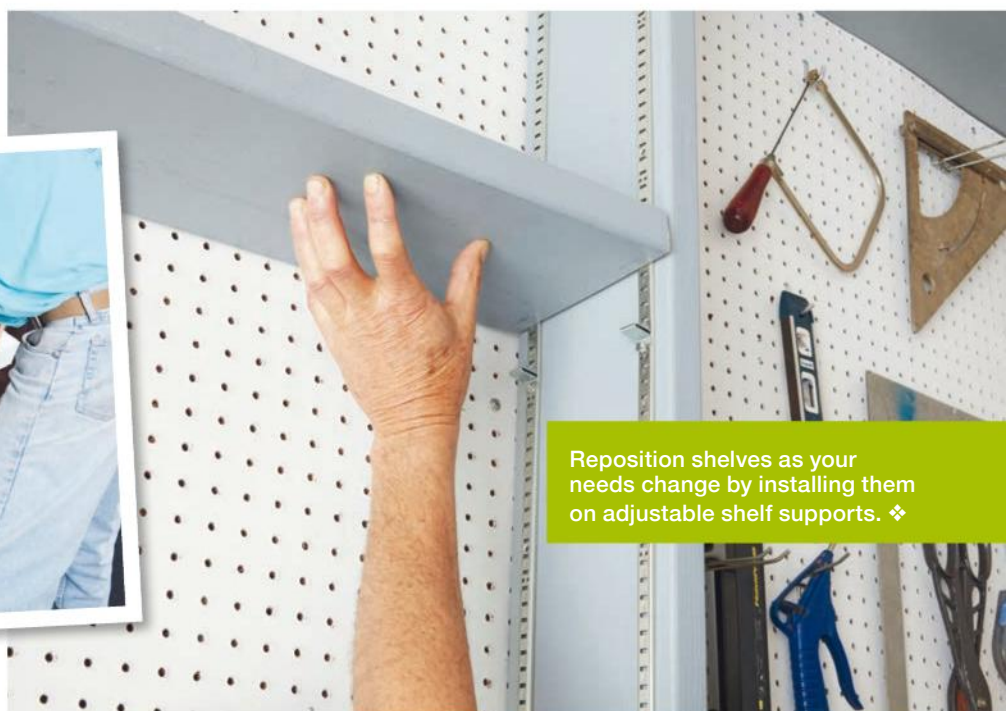
Install masonite pegboards cut to length, after painting them white, by securing them with timber screws to the studs.



Secure utility hooks to a timber length to hang large garden tools in a dedicated bay.



Brackets support the workbench, which can be folded down into its own bay when not in use.



Reposition shelves as your needs change by installing them on adjustable shelf supports. ❖

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SOIL HEALTH

Get to the heart of growing with this easy guide to determining and treating the health of your soil

WORDS DONYALE HARRISON



DIY tests can ascertain the state of your soil for planting.

At the heart of growing healthy plants is soil. A few simple diagnostics you can do at home can tell you a lot about the condition of your soil and what will most successfully grow there.

THE SAUSAGE TEST

1. Take a large handful of soil, minus stones or mulch. Add enough water to hold it together, like pizza dough.
2. Roll it into a sausage shape and try to bend it into a circle.
3. If it bends easily without breaking, your soil is mostly clay. If it won't bend without breaking, it's mostly sand. If it bends partway, then breaks, it's loam.

SOIL LIFE

There are three general types of soil: sandy, loam and clay, with most soils somewhere on a spectrum between these points. But more important than the structure of your soil is the amount of life in it.

Dig up a spadeful of soil and drop it on a sheet of plastic or cardboard. If you include weeds or unwanted plants, so much the better. Take a look at what's in the soil. Can you see worms, tiny bugs, traces of fungus on the roots and a good amount of moisture and structure in the soil? That's healthy soil.

If there's little or no life and the soil is dusty, waxy or sticky clay, then there's work to be done.



ABOVE The presence of worms is a sign of healthy soil.
BELOW Make compost from organic matter to improve structure.



What to do

No matter which soil type you have, it can be made healthier by improving its structure with carbon-rich organic matter, including compost, manures, green manures and mulches.

You don't even need to dig, just pile them on and worms and insects will do the work for you, especially in clay soils.

Organic matter attracts worms and beneficial microbes, fungi and insects, all of which add even more carbon.

Every gram of carbon you add to the soil can retain up to eight grams of water, which further increases the life in your soil. ►

WATER HOLDING

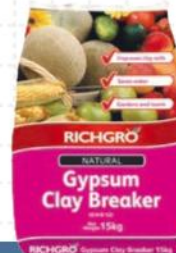
To grow well, plants need a good mix of air and moisture in the soil. Too little water and most plants won't survive. Too much water with too little air, and they will rot.

Dig a hole about 500mm deep in your soil and pour in a bucket of water. If it drains straight through, your soil doesn't hold enough water for most plants. If it pools and drains very slowly, it holds too much.

If it forms a pool and then drains smoothly, it indicates a good balance. If water starts to fill the hole before you pour any in, the soil may be waterlogged.



ABOVE How water pools in your soil is a key indicator of its health. BELOW A good water/air balance leads to a better range of plants.



Richgro Natural Gypsum Clay Breaker, \$10 for 15kg. richgro.com.au



Seasol Super Soil Wetter & Conditioner, \$20 for 2.5L. seasol.com.au

What to do

You can expand the range of what will grow in your garden by creating a better balance of water and air.

Adding organic matter is a good start, as it helps dry soil retain moisture and wet soil gain better airflow.

You can even make raised beds to plant into and leave the soil below to improve over time. If your soil is waterlogged and you can't improve your drainage, this is your best option.

Clay is often the reason for wet soil. Its super-fine particles stick together and hold moisture so plant roots can't easily push through to access the nutrients.

A range of claybreakers, mostly gypsum-based products, is readily available. These work with some types of clay soil.

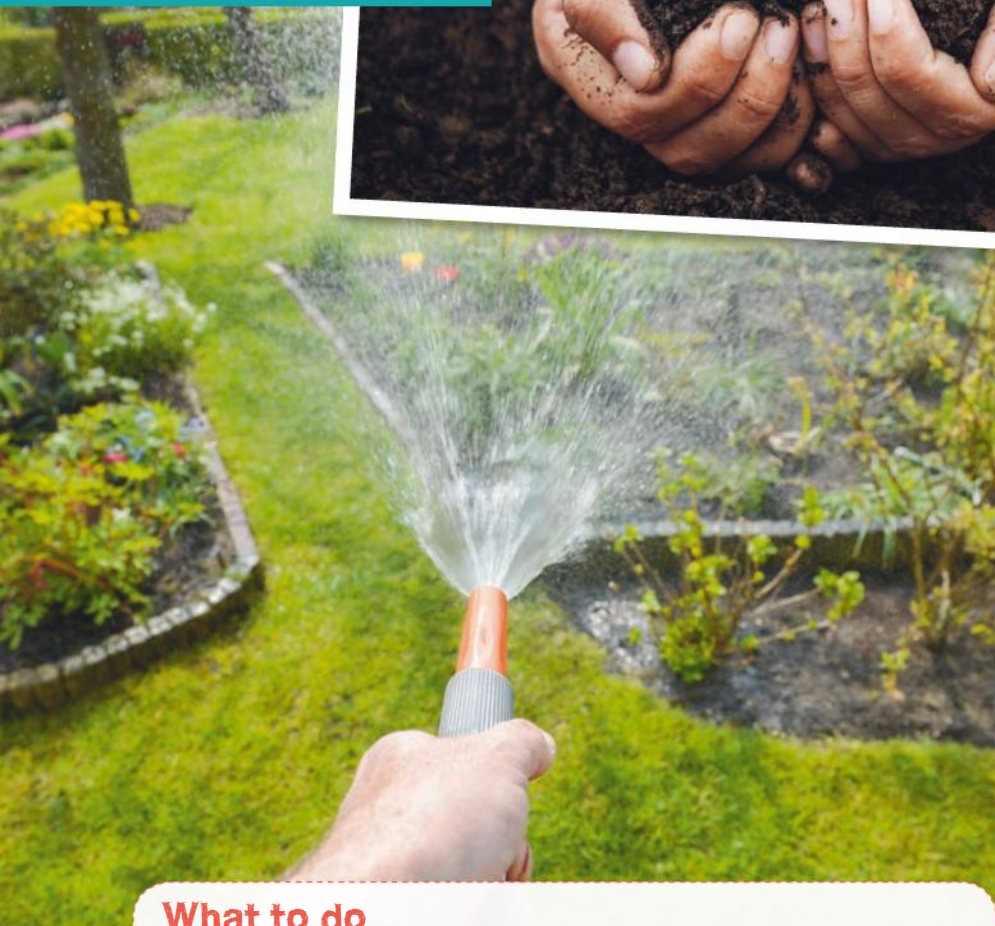
Drop a small amount of soil into a glass of water and leave for a day. If the water goes cloudy, then gypsum-based claybreaker will help. Liquid or hose-on types

are easiest to apply. If it doesn't go cloudy, add organic matter, mulching with thick layers.

Dry soils can also be hydrophobic, where water sits on the surface without soaking into the soil and then runs off quickly. You can counter this with a soil-wetting agent.

Look for organic varieties based on polysaccharides and seaweed. Seasol's version comes in a concentrate or a hose-on pack for large gardens.

RIGHT There are practical ways to raise the pH level of soil. **BELOW** Groundcover plants will help your soil hold water.



What to do

Acid (low pH) soils are the most common. You can raise the pH of the soil by adding garden lime. Most come as powders that can be scattered over the soil and hosed in.

Wear a mask and protective clothing, as it can irritate skin. If your garden bed is bare, you can dig the lime in to the depth of a spade. Leave for a fortnight before sowing or planting.

If your too-acid soil is also low in magnesium (see Soil nutrients, page 120), dolomite is a type of lime that contains magnesium.

Use it the same way as lime, or in a soluble form that can be watered in.

If your soil is alkaline, you're probably on limestone and are best off growing alkali-loving plants, with acid-lovers in pots.

You can lower the pH slowly by adding organic matter such as compost and manures, especially leaf mould and pine needles.

You can also use elemental sulphur, which will provide a more dramatic effect, but it is slow-acting as well.

For all types, cover your soil with mulch or with groundcover plants to hold in water. Organic mulch will add carbon to the soil, but for dry gardens or if you don't want to have to re-mulch regularly, gravel will do the job. ►

SOIL pH

This measures the acidity or alkalinity of soil. Most plants grow in a range of 5.5–7 (slightly acid to neutral) on the pH scale, and outside this range some nutrients can be 'locked up' in the soil.

Soil pH kits are readily available and cheap. Take several samples from around your garden and mix with the liquid and powder testing materials in the kit, then match the colour your sample turns to a chart in the package.

Outside the 5.5–7 range, you can choose to either adjust the pH or plant acid- or alkali-loving plants.



Manutec Garden Care Products Soil PH Test Kit, about \$17. manutec.com.au



Richgro Natural Garden Lime, 10kg for \$12. richgro.com.au

SOIL NUTRIENTS

Many Australian soils are naturally low in nutrients, especially phosphorus. Native plants have adapted to this, but food crops and exotics need fertile soil to thrive.

The main nutrients are nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus. A lack of nitrogen shows in pale leaves and poor plant growth. Low potassium shows as older leaves wilting or looking scorched, and all leaves yellowing between the veins from the base. Low phosphorus is harder to spot but can show in poor plant growth or leaf tips that look burnt.

Calcium, magnesium and sulphur are also key. A lack of calcium can show in distorted new leaves, while low magnesium sees older leaves turn yellow at the edges, and low sulphur has younger leaves turn yellow first.

A number of trace elements, including iron and boron, make up the remaining diet for most plants and their lack can be seen in discoloured and distorted foliage. Talk with your local garden centre about specific worries.



ABOVE Leafy greens such as basil thrive on an additional foliar feed. RIGHT Roses may require a fortified organic fertiliser to assist growth.



Yates Organic Dynamic Lifter, \$11 for 3kg. yates.com.au



Manutec Dusting Sulphur, \$11 for 700g. manutec.com.au

What to do

A good organic fertiliser such as Yates Dynamic Lifter, or a slow-release option, contains a wide cross-section of nutrients.

For hungry plants such as roses and fruit, or lawns, a fortified option such as the Neutrog specialist range will do the trick, while leafy greens love an additional foliar feed with Charlie Carp, or similar.

If you have specific problems, blood and bone is high in nitrogen, phosphorus and calcium. A scatter of sulphate of potash will raise potassium levels, or you can spray with a liquid potash.

Dolomite, lime and gypsum will all add calcium, while lime and Epsom salts will both raise magnesium levels.

Sulphur is available as dust or powder. Add powdered sulphur directly to the soil. If you need to control mites and fungus in your garden, grab the dusting variety, as it's a great general remedy over leaves.

Look for a trace element supplement if you suspect one is needed. Yates and Manutec make them, as do several organic manufacturers.

If you're planning to grow food and are worried your soil may be contaminated, check with Vegesafe (research.science.mq.edu.au/vegesafe). This initiative from Macquarie University costs \$20 and tests five samples from any Australian garden for metal contamination including lead and arsenic. ♦

MAR What's on this month

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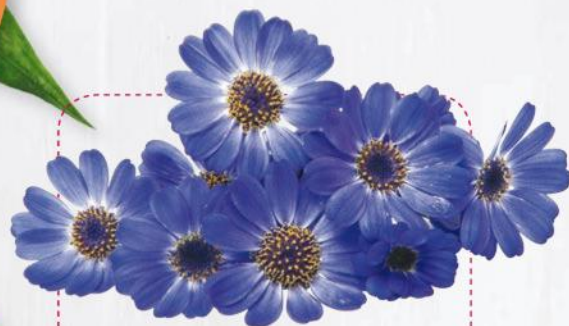
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THIS MONTH

With autumn off to a flying start, give your garden a little TLC

Do now

- ◆ **POT** up and hang a basket or two for lots of brilliant colour on high, page 130.
- ◆ **ENJOY** a perfumed garden by planting sweet peas in garden beds and pots, page 136.
- ◆ **DISCOVER** all you need to know about onions, page 140.



Cineraria

FLOWERS TO SOW

Get these seeds in the ground for midwinter colour.

- ◆ CINERARIA
- ◆ DELPHINIUM
- ◆ DIANTHUS
- ◆ GAILLARDIA
- ◆ STRAWFLOWER



Cabbage

VEGIES TO GROW

Start sowing these vegetables for crops from eight weeks.

- ◆ CABBAGE
- ◆ LETTUCE
- ◆ LEEK
- ◆ SPRING ONION
- ◆ TURNIP





Correa 'Canberra Bells'



WHAT'S IN COLOUR

Correa 'Canberra Bells' is a hardy Australian native that provides long-lasting colour through autumn.

With masses of two-tone red and cream bell-like flowers, this striking plant grows to 1m high and spreads to 1m wide.

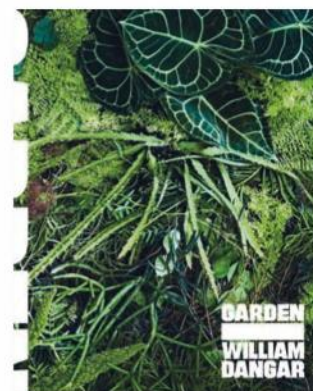
Give Canberra Bells a position in full sun or part shade. Once established, this plant is frost and dry tolerant but

needs the occasional deep soaking in extended periods of drought.

Keep the soil damp during flowering for the best colour displays and prune lightly after flowering has finished.

This plant is ideal for growing in native and water-wise gardens and also in mixed garden beds.

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



BOOK CLUB

Garden by William Dangar (Murdoch Books, \$60) celebrates the work of one of Australia's foremost garden designers.

William has designed and built some of the country's most revered residential landscapes over the past 25 years. An instinctive collaborator, he works with a team who have introduced a bucolic beauty to about 1000 gardens in our cities.

Garden portrays the grand sweep of William's vision and deconstructs the elements that make up a garden's design and planting.

Accompanied by Prue Ruscoe's superb images, the book was written with the help of design writer and curator Karen McCartney. ►

TO-DO LIST

Here are a few early autumn jobs to be getting on with.

- ♦ **DEADHEAD** flowering shrubs to encourage more blooms to grow.
- ♦ **PLANT** citrus trees in all zones, except cold regions.
- ♦ **GIVE** lawns a boost by applying an autumn fertiliser.
- ♦ **REDUCE** watering of any indoor plants as the weather cools down.
- ♦ **SPRAY** fruit trees to protect against diseases and pests.
- ♦ **TAKE** hardwood cuttings of roses for propagation.
- ♦ **PLANT** bulbs for spring.



PICTURES ISTOCK (TOP LEFT) PMA

TRANSPLANT A TREE

Autumn is a good time to move trees, as they suffer less from heat stress, but the soil is still warm enough for the roots to recover and establish.

- ♦ **DIG** a new planting hole and enrich the soil with organic matter that is low in nitrogen, such as sheep manure.
- ♦ **PRUNE** the tree to a manageable size, then dig a moat around the tree trunk. Give the roots a good soaking.
- ♦ **MARK** the north side of the tree so that it can be planted in the new hole in the same orientation. This will help to

avoid the bark on a shade-facing side getting sunburnt.

- ♦ **CUT** the surface roots, then use a shovel to lift the root ball, severing any deeper roots. Ease the root ball onto plastic or hessian to retain as much soil as possible.
- ♦ **LOWER** the tree into the new hole and backfill with soil. Water in well to remove any air pockets around the roots.
- ♦ **APPLY** a slow-release fertiliser and water every day in dry weather for two months or until established.



Transplanting a tree can be a traumatic experience for the plant so it's important to follow the right steps.

COMPOST COMPANION

Allow your worms to digest food scraps faster by neutralising acidity and balancing pH levels in your worm farm or compost bin using the Reln Garden Worm Farm & Compost Conditioner, \$12 for 850g (relingarden.com.au).

This conditioner is made from a special blend of natural minerals and, when used in compost and tumbling bins, it helps the bacteria in soil preserve essential nutrients and give plants a boost. It also reduces any odours and guards against pest infestations. ♦



Citrus

FEED NOW

Give flowering plants a boost for good autumn growth.

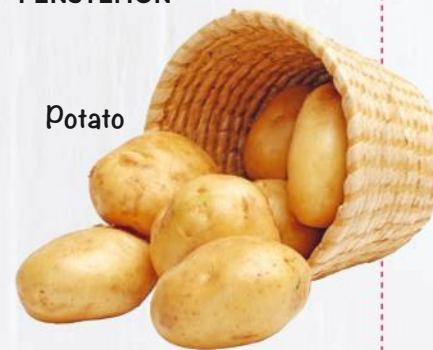
- ♦ **LAWNS**
- ♦ **NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS**
- ♦ **GARDENIA**
- ♦ **CITRUS**
- ♦ **HIBISCUS**

Penstemon

PRUNE NOW

Cut back hedge plants and perennials that have finished flowering.

- ♦ **MURRAYA**
- ♦ **BUXUS**
- ♦ **SALVIA**
- ♦ **WESTRINGIA**
- ♦ **PENSTEMON**



Potato

HARVEST NOW

Pick these vegetables to use in autumn dishes.

- ♦ **POTATO**
- ♦ **ZUCCHINI**
- ♦ **PUMPKIN**
- ♦ **SQUASH**
- ♦ **MUSHROOMS**

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FLYING COLOURS

Hit some stunning high notes with a hanging basket or two, or three or four

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

With green walls and green roofs very much in vogue, why not add your own bit of airborne greenery to your garden or balcony? Hanging baskets are a fast, easy and awesome way to add splashes of colour to difficult spots.

They can even be used for growing some varieties of herbs and vegies. It's time to revisit this old favourite and see what they can bring to your place.

Bring life to dull corners with instant, eye-catching colour. **RIGHT** You can display baskets on your wall space too.



PICTURES (LEFT) ISTOCK (RIGHT) ALAMY

DESIGN WITH BASKETS

More often than not, hanging baskets are used to grow a single plant variety, effectively making it a feature plant.

This can be an excellent way to display abundantly blooming annuals and is still a popular way to put baskets to use. But there are several other ways you can style hanging baskets.



Foundation planting

Using this technique, a central plant or foundation plant is effectively a permanent planting.

You then surround this foundation plant with tumbling plants, blooming annuals or other varieties that have shorter

life spans, which are replaced as required.

An advantage of this design is that the potting mix is regularly replenished and the inevitable root pruning of the foundation plant keeps its growth in check.

Flower falls

This is the ultimate way to create an awesome display of flowering annuals and perennials. Use one variety or mix things up for an awesome flowering feature.

Airborne edibles

There are several herbs and vegies that will grow well in hanging baskets. Growing them this way means you can have them right where you need them – at the kitchen door or near the barbecue.

Look for varieties that are compact, prostrate or cascading in form, such as prostrate rosemary, oregano, Greek or perennial basil, tumbling tomato varieties or compact chillies. ►

MAXIMISE RESULTS

When you're growing plants in hanging baskets, you'll need to consider a few extra things that you may not normally think about with regular potted plants. One of the major points to keep in

mind is that a basket is a very unnatural environment for most plants. As a result, allowances need to be made to maximise their growth and performance.



Check your basket is getting a suitable amount of sun. **BELOW RIGHT** Many bromeliads will thrive in hanging baskets.



The sunny side

If baskets are kept on a balcony, it's not unusual for them to be in a spot where they receive sun all morning and shade all afternoon, or vice versa.

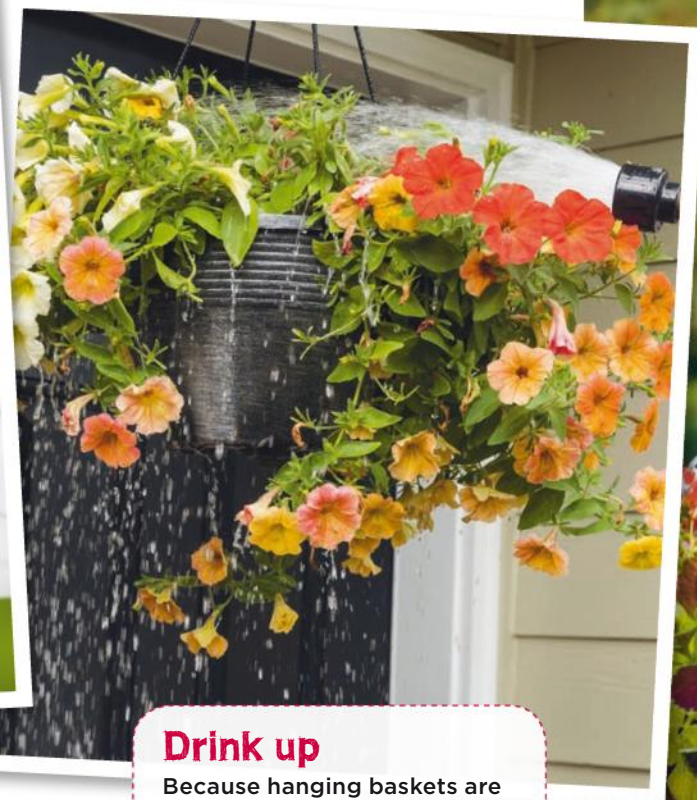
Be familiar with the amount of sun in your location and select plants accordingly.



Well fed

It's not unusual for hanging baskets to have higher fertiliser requirements, as nutrients are flushed through by the regular watering.

When you put your basket together, add a little extra controlled-release fertiliser, then supplement this with regular liquid feeds.



Drink up

Because hanging baskets are exposed to more sun and wind than a regular pot, they can dry out very quickly.

It's important to use a top-quality potting mix. You should also think about adding extra water crystals and water regularly. If your situation allows, it may be possible to discreetly run a dripper from your irrigation system.



Staying airborne

A dry basket may not feel too heavy, but once it's watered the weight can double. Your basket may also have to contend with being pushed around by heavy winds.

This means you'll need to provide robust support to avoid it crashing down. ►



Gardena 90cm Comfort Hanging Basket Spray Wand, \$45. gardena.com.au

ADAM'S PICKS



Northcote Pottery 380mm Grey Neo Hanging Basket, about \$21. northcotepottery.com



Whites Blacksmith 70mm Black Hanging Basket Hook, \$6. whitesgroup.com.au



Osmocote Plus Trace Elements: Pots, Planters & Indoors, \$7 for 500g. scottsaustalia.com.au

HOW TO PLANT A FLOWER FALL HANGING BASKET



WHAT YOU NEED

- Lined hanging basket
- Premium potting mix
- Water crystals
- Controlled-release fertiliser
- Suitable plants
- 2 plastic buckets
- Hanging hooks and fasteners to suit your situation

Tie up long leaves to prevent damage while planting.



Good to know

- ♦ Many natural fibre pots with plastic liners don't have drainage holes. Punch at least one good-sized hole through the liner before planting.
- ♦ When potting plants with long foliage, use budding tape to gently tie the leaves in a ponytail. This stops them getting damaged or buried in the potting mix.
- ♦ To avoid your basket becoming awkwardly heavy during planting, water it only after you have moved it to its new location and hung it securely from a hook.
- ♦ Plastic pots are a great choice for hanging baskets as they are more resistant to drying out.



1 ADD a little less than one level teaspoon to about 500ml of water to pre-soak the water crystals. Around the liner, mark four evenly spaced points halfway down using a marker pen. Remove the liner, fold at marks and cut out four holes 40-50mm in diameter.



2 REPLACE the liner and position on top of one bucket. Nearly fill the second bucket with potting mix, a handful of expanded water crystals and two teaspoons of controlled-release fertiliser. Blend well. Add to the basket up to the line of holes, pressing down gently.



3 PUSH the root balls of the seedlings through the holes and cover the roots with potting mix. Fill the basket to 30mm below the liner lip, then plant the centre plant, firming down and topping up the mix if needed. Hang from a hook, then water with a diluted seaweed solution. ❖

AUSTRALIAN

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Handyman

NEXT ISSUE

RENOVATE

Don't miss our paint issue to discover how to transform your house for minimum spend.

PLUS The latest looks in wallpaper.

BUILD

Create a concrete bathroom vanity and portable chook house.

PLUS How to install wardrobes, architraves and skirting DIY.

GARDEN

Short on space? Learn how to create the perfect small garden.

PLUS Grow your own kale, cauliflower, cabbage and broccoli.

SWEET SCENTS

Prepare now for a springtime garden filled with the delicate perfume and gorgeous colour of the sweet pea

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



EXPERT SECRETS

Plant dwarf varieties in garden beds to provide a perfumed groundcover.

Whether in the garden or in a vase indoors, sweet peas delight the senses with their beautiful perfume and romantically ruffled pea-shaped blooms. It's no wonder they are one of the most popular spring-flowering annuals.

This old-fashioned favourite arrived in the United Kingdom from Sicily in 1699 and quickly became all the rage. From that time, the sweet pea was bred continuously and hundreds of cultivars have since poured onto the market.

While sweet peas are loved for their perfume, keep in mind that not all modern cultivars are fragrant, so check the seed packet for the magic word when purchasing.

Sweet peas are easy to grow in pots and garden beds. We show you how. ►



Sweet peas provide a veritable canvas of colour in the garden.

Did you know?

Sweet peas were such popular blooms with the Victorians that, in 1901, the National Sweet Pea Society was formed and the flower became established as the symbol of Victorian England.

BLOOMING IDEAS

- ◆ **CASCADE** dwarf cultivars out of hanging baskets and pots.
- ◆ **GROW** climbing varieties on teepees in garden beds and pots.
- ◆ **CREATE** a fragrant covering on a wire fence.
- ◆ **PLANT** them in pots on the balcony and tie to rails.
- ◆ **COVER** a trellis with sweet peas.



Avoid fertilisers high in nitrogen, which will promote lush leaf growth but fewer flowers.

Get growing

Planting is traditionally carried out on March 17, Saint Patrick's Day, although they can be sown until the end of autumn, and even in spring in cold districts. A support for climbing varieties should be erected before seeds are planted to avoid disturbing them.

♦ **POSITION** is vital, as sweet peas need full sun with shelter from the wind.

♦ **SOIL** should be free-draining, dug to a depth of 100-150mm, and enriched with compost or manure and fertiliser formulated for flowers and fruit. Add

one cup of lime per square metre if the soil is not alkaline. You can check soil with a pH kit.

♦ **SOW** seeds directly where the plants are to grow into damp soil. Make drills 20-30mm deep and press the seeds into the soil 50-70mm apart. Don't water too much during the germination period, as overwatering can cause seed failure.

When the seedlings are about 150-200mm high, place twigs along the length of the row to help the tendrils reach the support.

♦ **WATER** every couple of days once the seedlings have germinated. To prevent powdery mildew, water at the roots rather than the foliage. Keep the soil damp but not overwet.

♦ **MULCH** lightly with sugar cane or lucerne hay.

♦ **FEED** with a fertiliser for flowers and fruit when the buds appear.

Watch for snails, slugs and birds that love the young growth. And pick the flowers frequently – the more you pick, the more you get.



Keep sweet pea seedlings in full sun but away from wind.

SEEDLINGS



PICTURES (BOTTOM) ISTOCK (TOP) CHERYL MADDOCKS

SWEET SUCCESS

Did you know that sweet peas, like all members of the legume family, have the ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen in a plant-usable form? This is thanks to bacteria that live in their root nodules. Some goes directly into the plant to help growth and some is transferred into the soil for use by following crops.

Smaller varieties, such as the dwarf sweet pea, are an attractive option.



Going potty

Dwarf sweet pea cultivars are available for pots and window boxes, or you can grow climbing sweet peas on a teepee in a large pot. Here's how.



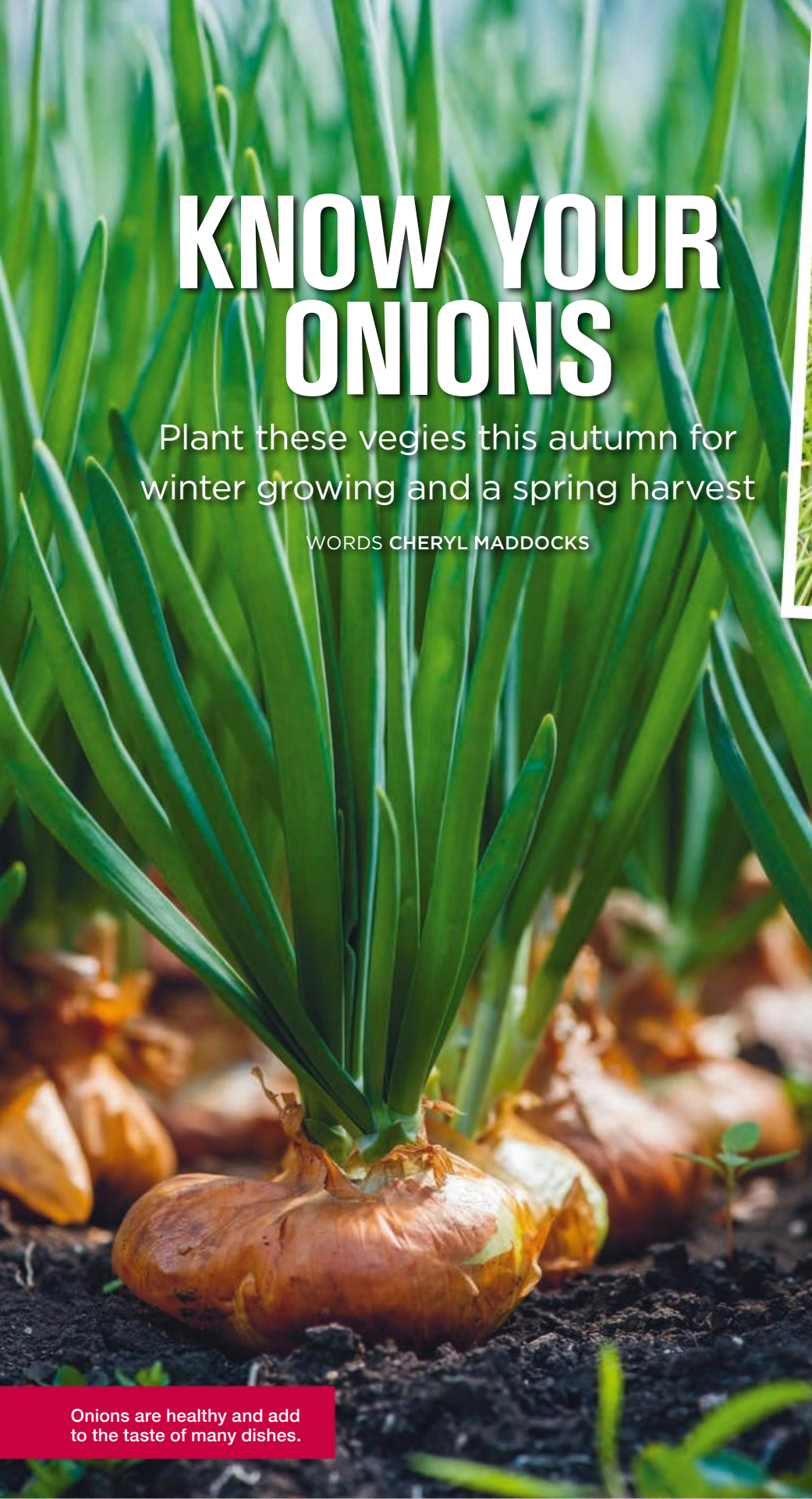
1 FILL a 300mm pot with a premium potting mix. Position several 2m high bamboo stakes in the potting mix about 50mm apart and about 50mm from the edge of the pot.



2 PULL together the tops of the stakes and tie them securely using string or wire. Place the pot in a sheltered, sunny position and lightly water the potting mix.



3 MAKE a 50mm deep hole at the base of the stakes and plant a seed in each. Keep the mix moist but not overwet to prevent the seeds from rotting. Once germinated, water the seeds regularly. ♦



KNOW YOUR ONIONS

Plant these vegies this autumn for winter growing and a spring harvest

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Onions are healthy and add to the taste of many dishes.



The humble onion is one of the cook's most reliable friends. Delicious raw, baked, sautéed or steamed, onions are a versatile vegetable and form the basis of many Australian and international dishes.

But their benefits are not only culinary. Onions are a good source of potassium, iron, fibre and vitamins A, B6, C and E, and have been highly regarded throughout the centuries for their antiseptic properties.

And if that wasn't enough, the onion family, including shallots, leeks and chives, are said to be outstanding performers in the realm of disease prevention. If eaten regularly, they may help to prevent stomach cancer, prostate cancer and heart disease.

PEELING BACK THE LAYERS

Onions are a vegetable of antiquity. They were cultivated for food by the Ancient Egyptians but also used in spiritual traditions. Onions were placed in the thorax, pelvis or near the eyes during mummification as a symbol of eternity.

PICTURES (MAIN) ISTOCK (RIGHT) CHERYL MADDOCKS

Be soil ready

All members of the onion family like a well-drained soil that has been enriched with organic matter such as compost or Dynamic Lifter.

Too much manure can cause onions to rot and produce excess leaf growth. Rotate crops yearly to prevent the build-up of soil fungal diseases.

Onions thrive in well-drained soil with not too much manure.

Planting tip

It's easy to grow onions from seed, or you can buy seedlings. There are early, mid-season and late-maturing varieties, which will be indicated on the seed packet. Planting the right onion at the right time will prevent plants bolting to seed.

In the kitchen

- ♦ Red and white onions are delicious in salads.
- ♦ Use brown onions in French onion soup.
- ♦ Leeks marry well with chicken in many dishes.
- ♦ Use shallots in French and Asian cooking.
- ♦ Shallots are great simply baked whole.
- ♦ Add green onions to salads.
- ♦ Combine and add green and spring onions to scrambled eggs.
- ♦ Make a mixed onion quiche.
- ♦ Leek and potato soup makes a hearty lunch.
- ♦ Onions are delicious in muffins.
- ♦ Brown onions and bacon make a tasty tart.
- ♦ Add chives to salads, egg dishes and soups. ►

Onions

You can choose from bulbous red-, white- or brown-skinned onions, used in many cooking styles.

♦ **PLANT** Sow the seeds directly where they are to grow. Thin the seedlings to 70-100mm apart when 100mm high. Don't plant seedlings too deeply, just cover the roots and the base of the stem.

♦ **GROW** Don't mound the soil around the plants, as the bulbs sit on the surface of the soil, not below it. When bulbs start to form, feed with a complete fertiliser. Keep the area around the plants weed free.

♦ **HARVEST** Onions will be ready for eating about 6-8 months after planting, when the leaves dry and fall over. Pull from the ground and leave in the sun for a few days to cure. Store in a cool, dry place with lots of ventilation.



Green onions

Not to be confused with spring onions, green onions are onions that have been picked at an immature stage when the bulb is small.

Both the bulb and long green stems are used raw in the kitchen and impart a rich onion taste.

♦ **PLANT** Sow the seeds directly where they are to grow.

♦ **GROW** Water regularly and feed monthly with a soluble liquid fertiliser.

♦ **HARVEST** Pull from the ground in spring when the small white round bulb has formed.



Shoots should be bright green and firm.

Spring onions

While spring onions are often confusingly called eschalots, green onions, scallions or shallots, a spring onion is simply an immature onion that hasn't yet made a bulb. It is harvested for its green shoots.

Any onion can be picked immaturesly as a spring onion, but it is best to buy seeds labelled as spring onions. They are ideal for growing in containers.

♦ **PLANT** Seeds can be sown directly where they are to grow at almost any time of the year. Make successive sowings every 4-6 weeks for a continuous supply.

♦ **GROW** Water regularly and feed fortnightly with a soluble liquid fertiliser.

♦ **HARVEST** Plants are ready to be pulled from the ground about 8-12 weeks after sowing the seeds.



Shallots

Also called eschallots, shallots have a milder, sweeter flavour than onions.

Their brown- or red-skinned bulbs develop underground.

♦ **PLANT** Shallots are grown from bulblets or cloves like garlic, and are available from nurseries in autumn and winter.

Space the bulbs 150-200mm apart with just the tops showing above the soil. More bulbs will multiply around the mother plant.

♦ **GROW** Fertilise monthly with a complete soluble fertiliser.

♦ **HARVEST** Shallots are ready when the tops start to fall over and before flowering. Save and replant small bulblets for your next crop.

Leeks

With a subtle onion taste, leeks are an asset to many dishes, especially soups and casseroles.

♦ **PLANT** Sow the seeds in punnets, then transplant to the garden bed when 120mm high, or you can buy seedlings.

♦ **GROW** Make a 200mm deep trench and add the seedlings. Cover them with a little soil to hold them upright and slowly fill in the trench as the seedlings grow. This will blanch the stems.

Water regularly and feed monthly with a fertiliser that is high in nitrogen.

♦ **HARVEST** Start the harvest when the stems are about 20mm thick. You can harvest each week for several weeks.

Chives

Chives are very easy to grow in containers and garden beds. They have round hollow leaves, while garlic chives have flat, solid leaves. Their flowers make a pretty garnish.

♦ **PLANT** Seeds can be sown in spring, summer and early autumn or you can plant seedlings. New

plants can also be started by dividing overcrowded clumps.

♦ **GROW** Sow the seeds or plant seedlings in clumps. Fertilise monthly with a soluble plant food.

♦ **HARVEST** Cut the leaves at the base when needed. Chives may also be frozen in ice cubes.

HOW TO DIVIDE CHIVES



1 Dig up the clump of chives using a trowel or fork.



2 Separate the plants carefully, so as not to damage the roots.



3 Replant the chives in small clumps, then water in well. ♦



ABOVE This Little Free Library in Mount Martha, Victoria, is getting a lot of love. BELOW A Street Library in Enmore, NSW.

MAKE A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Books piling up on your shelves? Fancy a new read? Want to feel good about the world? Then consider joining a cool movement that's taking off globally by contributing to – or even building – a Little Free Library or Street Library.

Book lovers worldwide are building miniature houses, filling them with books and placing them around their neighbourhoods, encouraging people to take a book, leave a book, or both!

Started in 2009 by a man named Todd H. Bol in the hope of spreading the joy of reading and making books

accessible to as many people as possible, there are now more than 60,000 open for business, according to Little Free Library's non-profit website.

Visit littlefreelibrary.org or streetlibrary.org.au and use the interactive map to find your nearest one. Or if you want to build your own, you can find blueprints or a kit to DIY, or buy a ready-made library.

You'll also find instructions on how to register your library on the worldwide map so others can find you. Late library fees will become a distant memory. ♦



ABOVE A colourful Street Library in Woollahra, NSW. LEFT Little Free Libraries are now found across the world.



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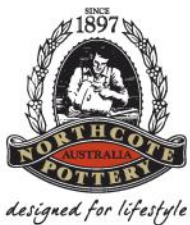
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