



THE LIVING ROOM

STUNNING VERANDAH AND RUMPUS ROOM REVIVAL

DIY JOBS THAT WILL SELL YOUR HOME

AUSTRALIAN

Handyman

We show you how!

Winter warmth

Install this fire pit
in your backyard

ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO
RETAINING WALLS
PLUS Build your own in a day

CREATIVE KITCHENS

- Fresh finishes
- Personal touches
- Storage projects

DECK UPKEEP MADE EASY

Small effort,
big reward



Grow
delicious citrus



Choose
the perfect outdoor heater



Make
a Scandi-style ladder

READER'S DIGEST MAGAZINES



9 311484 028000 06
\$6.50 • JUNE 2018



pearlina
doors and panels



frosted oak
benchtops

built *by you*

There are so many reasons to consider a DIY kitchen. Not only can you design it just the way you want, you can also save heaps by doing it all yourself. A kaboodle kitchen comes with all of the high-quality features we know you expect, and more! So there's no way you'll be compromising on quality. Now that's how you DIY!

[kaboodle.com.au](https://www.kaboodle.com.au)

Discover a kitchen
that's built for you.





kaboodle®
KITCHEN



mayonella
splashback



square knob
handles and knobs



Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

JUNE ISSUE



page 88



26



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY
STUART SCOTT

REGULARS

8

HANDY STUFF

Essential extras for your next painting project

13

FOLLOW US ONLINE

Join the cyber club on the *Handyman* website

144

NEXT MONTH

See what's ahead in our brimming July issue

RENOVATE

14 MODERN MONOCHROME

A classic Queenslander gets a bold contemporary extension

26 YOUR KITCHEN RULES

Today's kitchen is less about the lab look and more about the home base

36 RENO RECIPES

Cherie Barber cooks up three budget kitchen renovations

43 SALE AWAY

Our property experts show how to spruce your home to get the best price

49 HOME SWEET HOME

Barry Du Bois and *The Living Room* team revitalise this family home's deck, yard and rumpus room

page
130



page
137

GET
THE
MAG

SUBSCRIBE
AND SAVE
UP TO 49% OFF



page 142

WIN

an eco-friendly worm farm pack

6
PACKS
TO BE WON



DECORATE

59 KITCHEN STORAGE BUILDS

DIY this moveable storage unit and attractive plate rack

66 MAKE A STYLISH STORAGE LADDER

Reno star Kara Demmrich shows how you can build a practical display ladder with a Scandi twist

page 124



BUILD

69 WINTER WARMERS

Winter needn't curtail alfresco living with these smart outdoor heating solutions

76 A NEW FLAME

DIY your own fire pit zone and BYO marshmallows

84 HOW TO MAKE A COPPER CLOTHES RAIL

Create more space in your wardrobe with this clever hanging idea

OUTDOOR

88 REFINISH YOUR DECK

Keep your decking looking its best

98 GREAT WALLS

Be inspired to install your own retaining wall

104 THE RIGHT STUFF

Own the most useful garden tools

109 DRAIN BRAINS

With a bit of know-how, you can fix your drainage problems

115 HOW TO BUILD OUTDOOR STEPS

Step up to this DIY challenge

GARDEN

120 THIS MONTH

Prep your garden for winter

124 BEST IN SHOW

Take a tour of Australia's finest modern gardens at the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show

131 WORM MAGIC

Farm worms and help save the planet

137 COOL CITRUS

Beautiful trees bear zesty fruit

Top of the line.

Stylish features, ergonomic design and robust construction ensure TopDry is perfectly suited to your backyard.

Backed by a 15-year warranty, you'll find an innovative and versatile clothesline to suit your lifestyle, **priced from \$260.**



Ergonomic features

Designed to look good and be easy to use.



Unique hanging brackets

Each arm has a hanging bracket for 3 coat hangers.



Reinforced durable frame

The entire range is backed by a 15-year warranty.



High tensile line

Able to withstand heavy loads on each line.

TopDry®

topdry.com.au

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

EDITOR'S LETTER

Preparing your home for sale can be a stressful time, but it's important to do it right. Dedicating a few months to smart reno jobs and properly staging your interior and exterior spaces can make a huge difference to your sale price.

In the first of a three-part series leading up to the peak selling period in September, we chat to property experts to find out which home improvements are essential – and which aren't worth spending your money on (page 43).

Staying snug this winter

Winter may be upon us, but with such a great range of outdoor heating options available, there's no reason we can't still enjoy our alfresco areas throughout the chilly months. Check out our outdoor heating guide on page 69, and DIY fire pit project on page 76. Just add toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate!

Winter is also the ideal time to address other outdoor maintenance jobs. We show you how to refinish your deck (page 88), build a retaining wall (page 98) and install three different drainage systems (page 109).

What's cooking in kitchens

Finally, don't miss our kitchen special from page 26. We showcase the latest designs and innovations in splashbacks, benchtops and hardware, stunning kitchen makeovers, plus some awesome builds to increase your kitchen storage.

Happy DIYing!



MANAGING EDITOR
ZOË MEUNIER



Like Handyman Magazine
on Facebook for more tips

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Phone 1300 300 030 or visit
handyman.net.au/subscribe

1 YEAR \$39 2 YEARS \$72

SAVE 45%*
(ORDER CODE: HMMAG)

SAVE 49%*
(ORDER CODE: HMMAG22)

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Look no further than Sikaflex Pro Multipurpose Sealant for all your sealing requirements.

This versatile product is highly flexible, and stays flexible, while offering excellent adhesion to all common construction materials, including metals and timbers, all cement-based materials, polyurethane, epoxy and most polyester.

Available in 11 different colours, its environmentally friendly formulation has been approved for use in contact with drinking water.

Cuttable, sandable, paintable, highly durable and with good weathering resistance, it's ready for immediate use and requires no mixing, saving you both time and potential wastage.

The versatile Sikaflex Pro Multipurpose Sealant, \$17.18, is your one-stop sealant solution.
sikaretail.com.au





FOR INSPIRATION

Looking for more DIY inspiration? Pinterest lets you create and organise boards of your favourite pictures. It's a great way to find and share ideas for your next project.

Check out *Handyman* magazine's boards by going to pinterest.com/DIYHandyman for all things home and garden, from maintenance tips and storage solutions to decorating ideas, handy hacks and BBQ recipes.



Follow Handyman
on Pinterest for more tips

Handyman

EDITORIAL

MANAGING EDITOR **ZOË MEUNIER**

ART DIRECTOR **ADELE BURLEY**

DEPUTY ART DIRECTOR **GERALDINE LANZARONE**

SENIOR EDITOR **AMANDA SHAW**

CHIEF SUBEDITOR **GRAEM SIMS**

CONTENT EDITOR **MARC MCEVOY**

DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER **GREG BARTON**

DIGITAL EDITOR **MICHAEL CRAWFORD**

PROJECT EDITORS **ADAM WOODHAMS, STUART SCOTT**

CONTRIBUTORS **FLEUR ANSON, CHERIE BARBER, SARAH HADNAM, DONYLE HARRISON, JOHANNA LEGGATT, CHERYL MADDOCKS, SITA SIMONS, ELEANOR WATSON**

ADVERTISING

GROUP ADVERTISING DIRECTOR **SHERON WHITE** T: 02 9004 4407

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER **KRISTINA FROHLICH** T: 0407 309 493

ACCOUNT MANAGER NSW **ALEK JOVANOSKI** T: 02 9004 4461

MEDIA SUPPORT MANAGER **CONOR HILLIS** T: 02 9004 4835

NEW ZEALAND HAWKHURST MEDIA SERVICES **KERRY MCKENZIE**

T: 64 9 528 7103 E: kerry@hawkhurst.co.nz

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ENQUIRIES

T: 1300 300 030

E: customerservice.au@readersdigest.com

www.handyman.net.au/subscribe

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 assurance that the paper is produced from sustainably managed forest, recycled and controlled source.

All content ©2018 Direct Publishing Pty Ltd, all rights reserved.
Reproduction without permission is prohibited. All prices and information are correct at the time of printing. Prices quoted are recommended retail prices and may vary. All material sent to *Handyman* (whether solicited or not) will not be returned.

All do-it-yourself activities involve a degree of risk. Skills, materials, tools and site conditions vary widely. The editors have made every effort to ensure accuracy but the reader remains responsible for the selection and use of tools, materials and methods. Always obey local codes and laws, follow manufacturers' operating instructions and observe safety precautions.

MOVING? Please notify us of your change of address six weeks before you move.
MAIL PREFERENCE We value you as a customer and trust that you enjoy our products. Occasionally, we make our mailing list available to carefully screened companies whose products we believe may be of interest to you. If you prefer not to receive these mailings, please write to: Privacy Officer, Direct Publishing Pty Ltd, 431 Warringah Rd, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2086.

HANDYMAN 2018 TUMBLEWEED WORM CAFE PACK GIVEAWAY Open to residents of Australia and New Zealand aged 18 years or over. Starts 24/05/2018. Ends 11.59pm AEST 20/06/2018. Draw held at the Promoter's office, 431 Warringah Rd, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2086 at 10.30am AEST on 21/06/2018. Winners will be notified and published on www.handyman.net.au/winners. Prize: 2 X Pet Poo Worm Farm Packs worth \$359 each, 4 X Worm Cafe Packs worth \$191 each. Total prize pool \$1482. The promoter is Direct Publishing Pty Ltd, (ABN 81000565471), 431 Warringah Road, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2086 Australia. See www.handyman.net.au for full Terms and Conditions.

STANLEY
FATMAX

NEW

PERFORMANCE YOU CAN MEASURE

Made in the USA with
global components.

A more compact and ergonomic design
makes it easier and more comfortable to
hold whilst taking up less space on your
tool belt.

An advanced metal dual return spring
allows for a reduction in overall size,
while retaining maximum strength
and performance.

A thicker and stiffer blade
for stronger, straighter
standout

ERGONOMIC AND LONG LASTING



Abrasion resistant
MAXSHIELD™ blade
coating provides
the longest lasting
protective blade
coating ever applied
to a STANLEY®
FATMAX® tape
measure.



15cm of Blade
Armor™ providing
extra reinforcement to
the most vulnerable
part of the blade.



A thicker and
stiffer blade for 4M
worth of stronger,
straighter standout



Drop tested to survive
a 15M drop and
designed to survive
extreme job-site
environments.

* Compared to STANLEY® FATMAX® 33-894

** Usable after 15M drop onto packed soil

STANLEYTOOLS.com.au

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

HANDY STUFF

PAINTING ACCESSORIES

Choose from these great items for your next painting project

Top gun

Spray-paint household objects such as furniture and toys with the Ozito 400W Power Paint Spray Gun, \$42.

ozito.com.au



Lead roll

Paint garage floors, paving and paths effectively with the Uni-Pro 230mm Nap Concrete & Paving Roller Cover, \$10.

unipro.com.au



Brush up

Apply paint smoothly using the Monarch Razorback 75mm Lasergrip Sash Paintbrush, about \$27.

monarchpainting.com.au



Stop gap

Avoid wasting silicone and sealant when filling gaps with the Dripless 300ml Heavy Duty Caulking Gun, \$25.

tradewaregroup.com.au



Fun stuff

Create a great finish for fun displays using Dulux Duramax Magnetic Chalkboard Spray Paint, \$21 for 300g.

dulux.com.au



Big shot

Get through big paint jobs with ease using the Titan Performance 460e Airless Paint Sprayer, \$1995. ▶

titanpumps.com.au



UNI-PRO

PAINT LIKE A PRO



QUALITY, VALUE FOR MONEY PAINT BRUSHES FOR EVERY JOB

1 ROUND EASY CUTTER BRUSHES

Ideal brush for all trim work requiring high detail. Superior comfort and ease of use. Suitable for use with all paints.

Sizes: 18 & 25mm

2 WALL BRUSHES

'You Can Do It' Range
Ideal brush for walls, ceilings, and cupboards. Designed for interior and exterior. Suitable for use with all paints.

Sizes: 12, 25, 38, 50, 63, 75, 88mm

3 ANGLED SASH CUTTER BRUSHES

'You Can Do It' Range
Ideal brush for use where enhanced cutting-in precision is required. Suitable for all paints.

Sizes: 38 & 50mm

4 SASH CUTTER BRUSHES

'You Can Do It' Range
Ideal brush for cutting-in on walls, ceilings and floorboards. Suitable for use with all paints.

Sizes: 38, 50, 63, 75mm

5 GLOSS & SATIN BRUSHES

'You Can Do It' Range
Ideal brush for all trim and frame works. Suitable for use with all enamel and acrylic paints.

Sizes: 25, 38, 50, 63, 75mm

6 CONCRETE & PAVING BRUSHES

Ideal brush for painting on concrete and paving surfaces. Suitable for use with most hard-wearing paints and coatings.

Sizes: 50 & 75mm

7 WATERPROOFING BRUSHES

Ideal brush for waterproofing multiple surfaces. Suitable for use with most hard-wearing paints, coatings and bonding agents.

Sizes: 75 & 100mm

www.unipro.com.au

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



High climb

Reach those high spots on a Gorilla 1.8m 150kg Single Side Aluminium Step Ladder with Tray, \$144.

gorillaladders.com.au



Breathe easy

Safeguard against paint fumes with the twin-filter half-face Protector Respirator Kit, \$45.

bunnings.com.au

Close protection

Keep your clothes and hair free of paint stains with the Protector Large Blue Disposable Overalls, \$7.

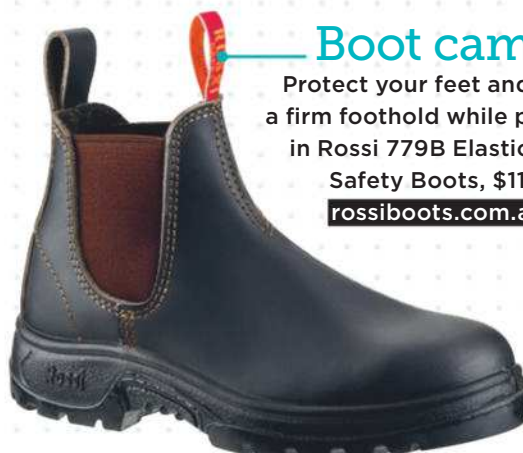
bunnings.com.au



Boot camp

Protect your feet and keep a firm foothold while painting in Rossi 779B Elastic-side Safety Boots, \$119.

rossiboosts.com.au



Clean air

Ensure you don't inhale dust or fumes when painting by using Paint Partner Dust Masks, \$1 for pack of 10.

bunnings.com.au



Handy work

Stop paint getting on your hands by wearing Ansell Workmates Rubber Gloves, about \$6 for a pack of six.

ppe.ansell.com.au



WARNING

WET PAINT

UNI-PRO

Safe space

Maintain a safe painting area by displaying a Uni-Pro Caution Wet Paint Warning Sign, \$16. ▶

unipro.com.au



ETS3000

TRADE TOUGH



NEW STRONGER AND LIGHTER

PROFESSIONAL CAULKING GUN

 300ml Cartridge

Nylon reinforced barrel for extra strength.

Compact design for the toolbox with cut away front for easy loading. Features ladder hook, rotating barrel, engineered ergonomic grip, extra long clean out, and super sharp nozzle cutter. Thrust Ratio - 18:1



PATENTED
DRIPLESS



40%
LIGHTER



SUPER
STRONG



ERGONOMIC
TRIGGER



ROTATING
BARREL



LADDER
HOOK



NOZZLE
CUTTER



CLEAN OUT
PROBE



DRIPLESS®

The Professional Caulking Guns - That Don't Make a Mess

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



Soft scrape

Scrape off old paint and fill holes and cracks with a RotaCota 75mm Soft Grip Paint Scraper, about \$8.

rotacota.com.au



Tiny sander

Smooth any surface, including tight corners, using the handheld Rocket Mouse Sander, about \$10.

bunnings.com.au



Paint bin

Make painting with rollers up to 270mm simple and easy with a Uni-Pro 16L Painter's Bucket, \$22.

unipro.com.au

Fine edge

Produce super-sharp paint lines using ScotchBlue Edge-Lock 25mm Painter's Tape, \$8.

scotchblue.com.au



Hot stuff

Remove old paint safely and effectively using a Wagner Furno 300 Heat Gun, \$50.

wagneraustralia.com.au

Cork grip

Prepare flat surfaces for painting with the Uni-Pro Cork Sanding Block, about \$3.

unipro.com.au



Strip off

Lift all paints easily with the low-odour, biodegradable Diggers Paint Stripper Plus, \$23 for 1L. ♦ bunnings.com.au

follow us online
handyman.net.au

f Most popular on Facebook



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK
OVER 54,000
DIYERS AND GROWING!



We show you how!

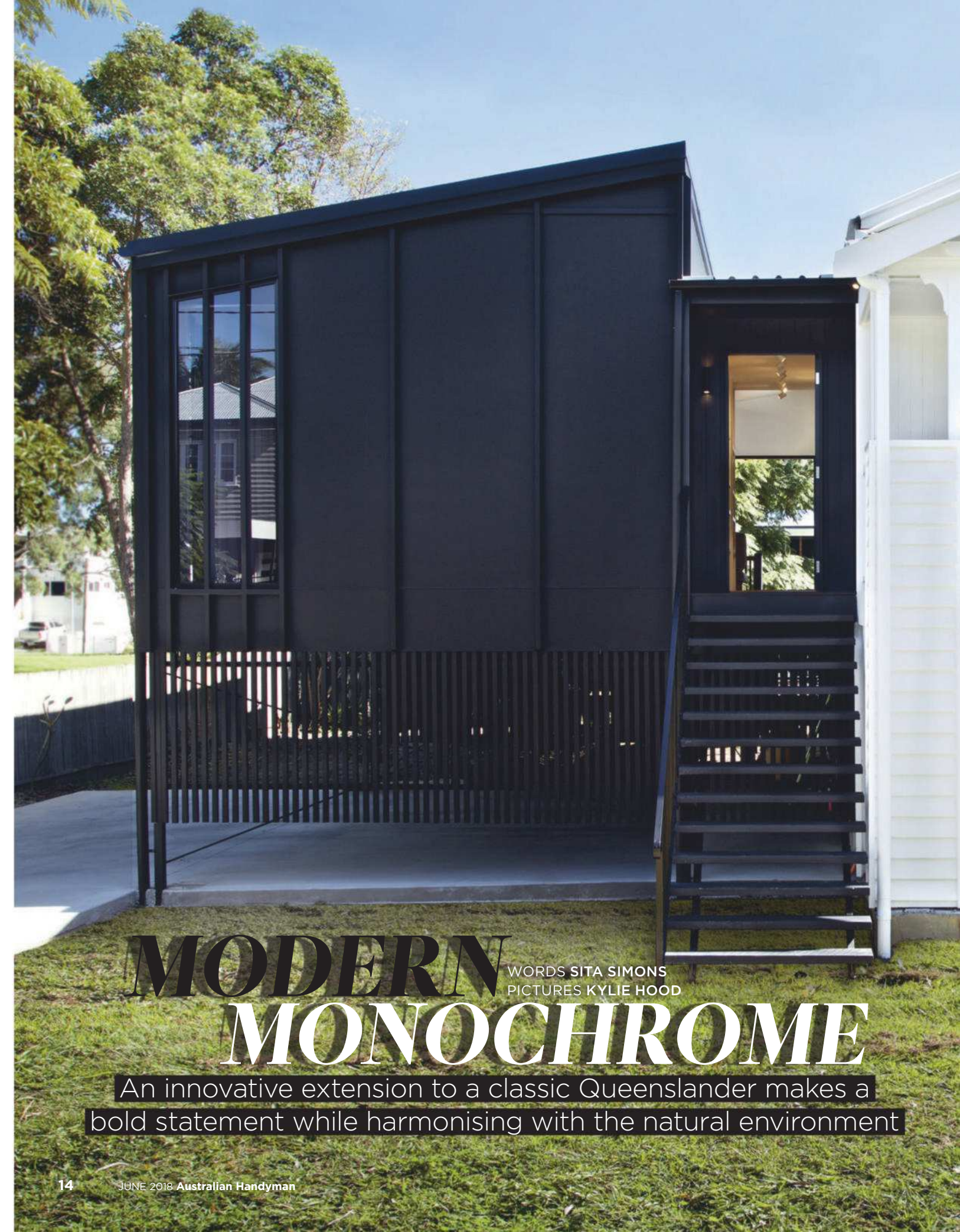
SUBSCRIBE TODAY via 1300 300 030 or handyman.net.au/subscribe

1 YEAR \$39
2 YEARS \$72

SAVE UP TO 49%*

f facebook.com/HandymanMagazine **y** youtube.com/HandymanMagazineAU **i** [@HandymanMagazine](https://www.instagram.com/HandymanMagazine)
p pinterest.com/DIYHandyman **g** plus.google.com/+HandymanMagazineAU **t** [@HandymanMag](https://www.twitter.com/HandymanMag)

*SAVINGS BASED ON 11 ISSUES PER YEAR AT THE RETAIL PRICE OF \$6.50 PER ISSUE



MODERN MONOCHROME

WORDS SITA SIMONS
PICTURES KYLIE HOOD

An innovative extension to a classic Queenslander makes a bold statement while harmonising with the natural environment



One of our most beloved heritage homes is the Queenslander, instantly recognisable with its weatherboard exterior, wide verandahs and signature stilts.

Found all over Queensland and Northern NSW, but particularly associated with Brisbane and its suburbs, the style was developed to

capture the breeze, stand high to avoid flooding and, with its iron roofing, withstand tropical rains.

Although highly valued by today's homeowners for its timber flooring, timber windows and era-specific details such as Art Deco door handles, stained-glass windows, French doors, fretwork and pressed-metal ceilings, the

Queenslander's appearance of grandeur can be deceiving. Commonly, there is limited space and little temperature control. Internal rooms can be dark and lacking in storage options, as well as deficient in many key design areas.

Renovating to suit modern tastes is a smart move, while this Brisbane family's vision also paid off in the style stakes. ►



BOLD BRIEF

After living in their home for 10 years and with two children approaching their teens, the owners decided the time had come to extend and renovate. A few changes had been made to the property in the 1980s, but this family had been living in an original space that was largely untouched.

Seeking the help of Brisbane-based design studio Wrightson Stewart (wrightsonstewart.com.au), the family was looking for an extension to the original building that would provide an extra four rooms plus an additional bathroom.

Ian Wrightson relished the idea of doing something a little different.

‘The standard way of renovating a Queenslander is to lift it up and build underneath, but that was a complicated proposition here, so we had to be creative,’ says Ian.

‘The clients are real design enthusiasts and they wanted something that pushed the boundaries, even if it happened to be potentially quite polarising. They wanted to create something that people would be really

The black industrial-style extension enhances the traditional Queenslander.



interested in – something that people either really loved, or that at least caused a reaction.’

The qualities of the site dictated a lot of the design initiative, which was to make best use of the double-sized block.

‘A standard plan for a modern

extension would be to leave the original facade at the front and build something new at the rear. But in this case, it didn’t make sense to do that because we wanted to showcase the site and bring views of the adjacent parkland into the home environment.’

STREET APPEAL

With a clear idea to build on to the side rather than the rear, the focus turned to how best to join the two parts together in a cohesive way, while still asserting the difference between old and new.

It was important to the designers not to relegate the original home, but also not to produce a carbon copy, which would feel inauthentic. This idea of mirroring led to a definitive design choice.

'We had interesting conversations about colours, in which we said we wanted to paint the new extension black

and keep the original part of the house white. It's a pretty brave client who agrees!' says Ian.

'To my mind, there's nothing more beautiful than a traditional white house, and we didn't want to detract from the beautiful Queenslander, which is so detailed and feminine.

'We wanted to enhance that aspect and so it just seemed natural that the extension, which is quite an industrial shape, was painted black.

'It is a balance of masculine and feminine. That was the decision which really drove the project from then on.' ►





NEW PLAN

The exterior of the original house remains almost entirely intact, but for a couple of aluminium windows that were replaced with timber sashes to match the original. The interior of the old house was the typical configuration of the classic Queenslander, comprising two bedrooms, a living area, kitchen and bathroom.

The new layout avoids major structural works but reconfigures the



The family wanted to involve everyone in the idea of communal space

floor plan to accommodate a master bedroom with a walk-in wardrobe and ensuite, an office and a living room.

The new extension contains a further two bedrooms for the children, a bathroom and separate toilet, and features an expansive open-plan living, kitchen and dining space, as well as a new deck that connects the inside living area to the abundant natural surroundings. ►

Traditional shelving doubles as a dividing wall. ABOVE The kitchen is a welcoming space for gatherings.





INTERIOR DESIGN

Once the light and vistas were brought in, and a simple palette of authentic materials was chosen, the decoration needed only a light hand. Ian is most concerned with the emotional response to the space.

‘A successful home functions at the highest level of liveability. Projects can get carried away with the latest thing, whether it’s the fanciest knobs for the kitchen cabinets or new gadgets. In the end it comes down to how much you enjoy living here,’ says Ian.

‘All my experience tells me that it’s about flow, light and spaciousness, whether real or perceived. Our job is to first understand how the people living here want to function and feel.’

In the new kitchen, for example, the family wanted to involve everyone in the idea of communal space. It’s welcoming and relaxed, a social environment. It’s not over-designed.

‘It’s rarely about the cabinets or the exact colour on the walls. It’s about doing the things you enjoy in an environment that makes it easy and comfortable,’ says Ian. ►



Brisbane’s natural beauty is invited into every room.
LEFT A simple palette throughout allows the outside to shine.



KEEP OUT UNWANTED GUESTS FIT A DIY SECURITY OR BARRIER DOOR

Super strong Security and Barrier Doors available now, range of colours and grille types, plus fixed and adjustable sizes that make it easy to fit just about any opening. Plus Quality Doric locks and hardware all backed by manufacturers warranty. Visit website for more details or to view the installation video.



Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



Josh and Jenna

MAKE IT : SECURE
Protector^{AI}

show you how at www.protectoraluminium.com.au

BUILT IN

Given the home's modest footprint, its feeling of expansiveness comes down to clever planning and tailored solutions. Customised joinery is a signature feature that serves multiple purposes.

'When you build in furniture and storage, it makes it feel like you are living in a larger space,' says Ian.

'We do a lot of flow diagrams to establish how to best move through the space and how it works for each family member. We look at all the things you might want to do during the day and how things might change on the weekend. Then we create a shape to match those diagrams.'



Finding creative solutions to display the family's book collection was key.



'When you build in furniture, it makes it feel like a larger space'

'This allows us to get the essential furniture elements right in terms of function and, just as importantly, size.'

Part of the initial brief was to find creative solutions to display the family's many books. Traditional shelving does double duty as a dividing wall in one area of the living room. For the rest of the library, the design team turned things on its head.

'When you are dealing with a house that is half white and half black, you have some space to suggest more left-of-centre design ideas! We had the notion to ground all the open sky and space by having solid timber furniture and then solid departments of books that go around the floorspace. It creates detail and weight for the whole design.'

The sofa banquette, entertainment unit and dining area focus the room. The dining table, a family treasure, adds to the archaeology of the home.

'If you start with a full appreciation of the environment, you are always going to create space that works,' says Ian. ►

— THE TOP OF THE RANGE — FULLY LOADED — ISUZU D-MAX —



GO YOUR OWN WAY IN THE 3-LITRE, 430Nm, 6-SPEED ISUZU D-MAX

The Isuzu D-MAX LS-T is a stand out performer on or off-road. With a restyled interior, enhanced rear suspension and Terrain Command 4WD system, the D-MAX has everything you need for a fully loaded adventure. Discover the Isuzu D-MAX LS-T at your Isuzu UTE Dealer or isuzuute.com.au



GO YOUR OWN WAY

*Only on 4x4 models. *Seats have leather touches or accents, but are not wholly leather. 5-star ANCAP safety rating on 4x4 D-MAX Crew Cab models built from November 2013 onwards and 4x2 D-MAX Crew Cab High Ride models built from November 2014 onwards. +3.5 tonne braked towing capacity on D-MAX 4x4 and 4x2 High Ride models when fitted with an optional genuine Isuzu UTE tow bar kit. *5 years/130,000km whichever occurs first, for eligible customers. Excludes trays and accessories. >The Capped Price Servicing Program ("CPS Program") applies to Eligible Vehicles with a Warranty Start Date on or after 1/1/15 at Participating Isuzu UTE Dealers only. The 5 years Capped Price Servicing covers the first 5 Scheduled Services for 18MY and later vehicle models for up to 5 years/75,000km (whichever occurs first) and for 16.5MY and 17MY for up to 5 years/50,000km (whichever occurs first). CPS Program is subject to change. For full terms & conditions and current pricing visit isuzuute.com.au/service-plus.

BLOCK PARTY

Connection to the environment is the other prevailing design theme in this project. The site itself runs adjacent to heritage parkland that dominates the landscape to the back. The whole side of the extension opens up with louvres, inviting the view into the space and flooding the home with light.

‘This house is such a celebration of Brisbane’s beauty. What defines us here is the expansive blue sky, the lush subtropical greenery, and the vibrant

jacarandas. We were really adamant that we capture those views – not only the actual view, but also the *feeling* of the view. The jacarandas are introduced into the home through the kitchen window and then again through the picture window splashback, which also captures a glimpse of the Queenslander next door.

‘There are elements of Brisbane in all the vistas, which I find wonderfully exciting,’ says Ian. ♦

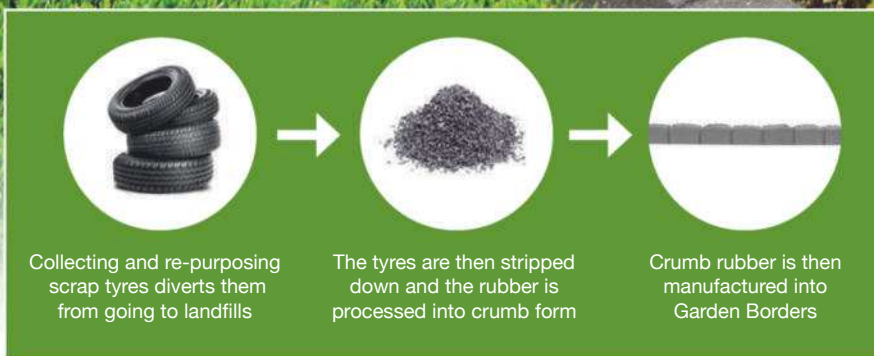
RENOVATING RESTRICTIONS

Before renovations of any classic Queenslander can begin, it is important to check if the home is in a Character Protection Area or listed on the Heritage Register. If it is, you will need to talk to

a renovation builder and obtain permission from the council to carry out any works. In some areas of Queensland, homes built prior to 1911, and even before 1946 in Brisbane, are subject to special

protections. Fines can be incurred and reversals of work ordered, so be sure you know the status of the property before work begins. Avoid costly mistakes: check with your local council first.

Yesterday's landfill, *Today's landscaping*



Car and truck rubber tyres otherwise bound for landfill are collected, crumbed and created into EZ Border, a revolutionary range of decorative garden borders.

The result is an environmentally friendly, extremely durable, easy to use, ever elegant and flexible landscaping solution!

Perfect for flower beds, gardens, pathways and driveway borders and available in assorted designs at a Bunnings Warehouse near you.

EZBorder™



tuscanpath.com.au

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

YOUR KITCHEN RULES

WORDS SITA SIMONS

Kitchen design is moving away from the high-tech, glossy finish of the past five years and into a more personal expression of those who inhabit it



It's the living, beating heart of a home, the place where family and friends congregate. It's where childhood memories are made, teenage angst is vented and grown-up dreams fulfilled. No other space in the home carries as much emotional weight and creates as much history as the kitchen.

The latest evolution of its design has come to reflect these kinds of human interactions rather than straight-up function. Modern kitchen spaces are egalitarian and take in the needs of all family members, creating a sense of cooperation and inclusion.

Steph O'Donohue is a kitchen design expert from SmarterBATHROOMS+ in Melbourne (smarterkitchens.com.au). For her, good design always mirrors social norms and helps inform progress.

'People who are looking for something for their forever home really want to put their stamp on their kitchen and have a place that is inviting and warm,' she says.

'It is really taking over the feel of how we want to interact in our interior spaces. Current trends see the concept of relaxation being sold as essential for our mental health. It's about self-care, and this translates to our interior spaces – in particular our kitchens, because we spend so much time there.

'We're seeing a move away from the high-tech, glossy finishes to a much more artisan feel. There are a lot more matt finishes – something more crafted, more furnished. It's less slick and perfect, more subtle and soft. It's braver, too, with more colour and texture and less homogeneity.' ►



PICTURE SMARTER BATHROOMS+/TOM ROE



Setting the tone

'The key is creating a beautiful kitchen,' says Steph. 'Though function may have been the main touchstone in the past, the approach I take is that function is inherent anyway – it's a part of the equation. The difference lies in focusing on the mood and feel you want to create.'

Steph analyses the room's use, then hones in on a hero element.

'The kitchen is where you invite your friends and family so you can entertain, where you are the host,' says Steph.

'It's an intimate zone within the home, but it's actually a very open space too. The kitchen most definitely sets the tone for the rest of the home, so it's important to get that tone right.'

'The way I work with clients is to establish what their 'hero' is going to be. It may be someone they've been tracking on social media. Or it might be a tile they've already bought and are in love with. They could be excited about a certain finish in tapware. We can use any of these elements to drive the subsequent tone of design,' says Steph.

'This approach results in a cohesive brief in which everything works in harmony, instead of choosing things that catch your eye at random.'

'To narrow down your style, use magazines, blogs and social media apps such as Pinterest and Instagram to determine a few options that would suit your home. Everything is a clue to what your story is.' ►

Today's kitchen designs take function as a given. The more engaging design elements are the personal touches.



'The kitchen sets the tone for the rest of the home'





Saniflo grey water pumps can be discreetly installed under the sink

Renovating your kitchen? With a Saniflo pump, having an island bench is no longer a dream!

Make the most of your kitchen space with Saniflo! The **Sanivite** grey water unit allows you to easily install an island bench in your kitchen with all the appliances you need, such as a sink and a dishwasher, without breaking the floor.

- ✓ Non-invasive plumbing.
- ✓ Enables the installation of a sink, dishwasher, washing machine, shower or bath anywhere.
- ✓ Pushes waste water up to 5m upward or 50m horizontally to mains.
- ✓ Compact design for tight spaces (373w x 275h x 185d mm).

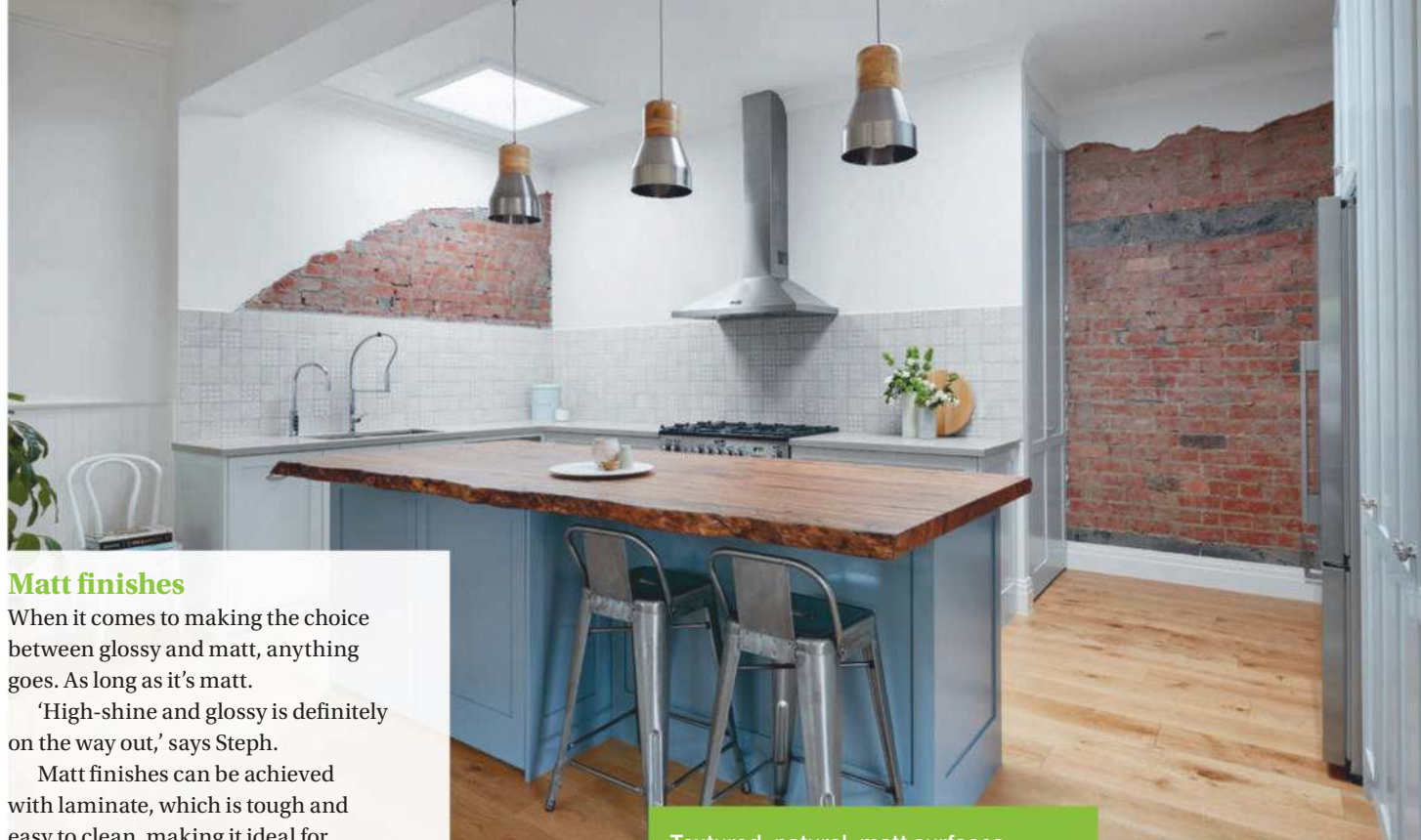


For over 60 years, Saniflo has been helping home and business owners easily install bathroom fixtures, laundry rooms and kitchens anywhere and without any major work.

Synonymous with quality and technical expertise, Saniflo pumps can turn your dream bathroom, kitchen, laundry or alfresco area into a reality.

Contact us to find a Saniflo certified installer.





Matt finishes

When it comes to making the choice between glossy and matt, anything goes. As long as it's matt.

'High-shine and glossy is definitely on the way out,' says Steph.

Matt finishes can be achieved with laminate, which is tough and easy to clean, making it ideal for families. Two-pack painted surfaces are a little more delicate and need more care, but very appealing matt finishes can still be achieved.

'Colour in kitchen joinery is also coming back in a big way. It's difficult to convince people to go with colour if they are in a home they only plan to be in for five years or so. But if we're talking about a forever home, I find that people are really excited about introducing colour and making brave choices,' says Steph.

Textured, natural, matt surfaces are replacing the shiny, glossy look popular in the last decade.





Subway tiles add geometry to this Kaboodle kitchen. ABOVE Penny rounds give texture.



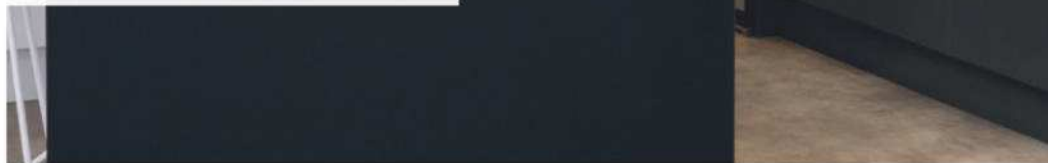
Splashing back

Natural and reconstituted stone is still popular in splashbacks, but trends have swung back to tiles.

‘Glass is part of the very shiny, very hard, very lab-like aesthetic that was popular five to 10 years ago,’ says Steph. ‘It was a rejection of the bitsy finishes that were prevalent in the 1970s and ’80s. The move back towards tiles is to reclaim some of that softness we lost along the way, and texture plays a huge part in that.’

Trends in tile choices range from mosaics to penny rounds, which are having a definite resurgence and benefitting also from vast improvements in grouts. But the big story is the large terrazzo tiles that are sweeping the industry at present.

Terrazzo is traditionally a flooring material made by exposing marble chips in concrete. New style tiles are typically large format and come in a wide range of colours to suit a more textured and unique interior. ►



Handle this

Handles are back. The handle-less finishes that have been so popular over the past five years are on the wane, and again it goes back to creating that artisan look – moving away from the clean and slick to something more crafted and unique, handmade or local.

‘We have a range of hand-turned timber handles made by a small Tasmanian company and they are running out of the door,’ says Steph.

Metallic finishes are still popular, and the long-held love for rose gold, gunmetal grey and brass shows no signs of waning.

‘You might think a handle is a small, insignificant thing, but a thoughtful choice is a way to express ourselves. Just like wearing a great piece of jewellery can set off a dress, a fabulous handle can really make a kitchen pop,’ says Steph. ►

Handles make a comeback: even better if crafted, unique or local.

PICTURE SMARTER BATHROOMS+/TOM ROE (BOTTOM) KABOODLE

OODLES OF KABOODLES

A wide range of handles is available to match the many door colours and profiles available in the Kaboodle Kitchen range. For more information and inspiration, visit kaboodle.com.au.

Kaboodle 96mm
Classic Bow

Kaboodle 64mm Cup
Handle (Brushed Nickel)

Kaboodle Grip
Knob

Kaboodle 27mm
Mushroom Knob

Kaboodle 128mm
Bar

Kaboodle 38mm
Square Knob

Kaboodle 128mm
T Pull

Kaboodle 128mm
Square Slim Bar

Kaboodle 64mm Cup
Handle (Matt Black)

REFRESH YOUR TILES WITH NEW GROUT!

GROUT SHIELD
ANTI MOULD • ANTI BACTERIA
TECHNOLOGY



Easy Clean **EPOXY GROUT**

Superior durable grout where resistance to stains and chemicals is required.



Flexible **COLOURED GROUT**

Ideal for any grouting project around the home.



Ready-to-Go **COLOURED GROUT**

Ready mixed for your convenience to renew or rejuvenate grout.



GROUT PAINT

Revives grout without removing old or discoloured grout by refreshing the colour.

Visit our website to visualise which grout colour suits your tiles



www.dunlopdiiy.com

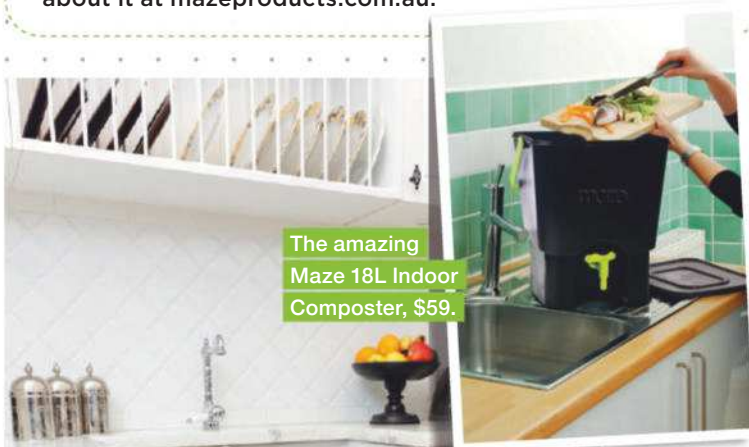
Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse
bunnings.com.au

OUT OF SIGHT

Not all your kitchen's clever design features need to be on display, but they can be just as important in creating a space that functions the best way for you.

Saniflo's Sanivite is a great solution for installing a complete kitchen or laundry in your home or business. Sanivite is specially designed to deal with the hot soapy waste water from a domestic dishwasher or washing machine, making it ideal to help achieve your new space without the need to break the floor for expensive plumbing. At just 373 x 275 x 185mm, it fits easily inside a cupboard or in a small wall cavity. Check it out at saniflo.com.au.

The Maze Indoor Composter is a 21st century solution to an age-old problem - how to turn organic kitchen waste into fabulous fertiliser. It works through fermentation utilising an airtight container, which sounds smelly, but truly isn't. It's amazing. Read all about it at mazeproducts.com.au.



The amazing
Maze 18L Indoor
Composter, \$59.



Kitchen connection made
easy with Saniflo's
Sanivite, \$920.



PICTURES SMARTER BATHROOMS+/TOM ROE



ABOVE Porcelain benchtops are a popular choice for performance and appearance. BELOW Stone and reconstituted stone are still going strong.



On the bench

Stone and reconstituted stone continue to be popular choices for benchtops. But the biggest growth area is porcelain, which can be formed into a very thin profile. Thin benchtops, or a floating thin top on a thicker element, is a look that has come straight from the design fairs in Europe. Steph says it's a material that's very well-suited here, too.

'It's extraordinarily durable and performs a lot better with heat than reconstituted stone. It's almost totally non-porous, which makes it supremely resistant to stains,' she says.

'There is endless choice. It can be made to look like marble, or something tougher and more industrial like concrete, and any colour in between.'

One drawback is its tendency to be brittle. Edges may need to be reinforced with steel. The material itself is on par cost-wise with stone, but the reinforcement and special needs for transport do add to the expense.

'Technology will catch up, though. I predict porcelain will be a go-to choice for many homeowners in the near future,' says Steph. ♦

RENO RECIPES



Celebrity renovator Cherie Barber cooks up a kitchen renovation storm that's easy on the budget

WORDS AND PICTURES
CHERIE BARBER

One of the smartest ways to save money on a renovation is to retain as much as possible and simply update the rest, especially when you're dealing with older properties. Once you start ripping up floors, gutting kitchens and bathrooms, and taking the sledgehammer to fixtures and fittings, you risk uncovering decades of remedial works that need immediate attention.

But sometimes your reno calls for a brand spanking new kitchen. Let's look at three different approaches that won't break the bank.

Before



After

This kitchen had good bones, so its renovation was all about the surfaces.



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

\$10,000

THE SPRUCE

This kitchen was central to the renovation of a sprawling house in Sydney's semi-rural suburb of Dural, where houses typically fetch upwards of \$1.5 million since the city's massive property boom.

With an entire five-bedroom house to renovate on a \$60,000 budget, there was no possibility to spend up big on a new kitchen. However, I needed the look of a brand-new kitchen. The answer? Modern new door fronts throughout.

By retaining the carcasses and updating the facade in bold charcoal grey laminate doors, I was able to pull off this kitchen transformation for under \$10,000. I saved on demolition and skip costs, and the expense of buying and installing a complete new kitchen.

A new laminate benchtop and plain white splashback tiles were a conservative choice that fitted the classic look of the finished renovation. On a bigger budget, you could upgrade to a Caesarstone benchtop for that extra touch of luxe. ►

Before



LOOK 2





\$14,000

THE CHERIE LOOK

When I finally knuckled down and bought a commercial space for our Renovating For Profit office (after years of renting), I was determined it was going to be a bit special. It was part of an old converted biscuit factory in Balmain, Sydney, with high vaulted ceilings and exposed brick walls.

For the kitchen, a real focal point of the upstairs open-plan office, I decided to marry vivid teal-coloured cabinetry with moody charcoal-coloured walls and ceiling. The carcass is Kaboodle, with custom-made shaker doors from Timtrad Kitchens. Long brass handles provide some luxury detailing, while the crackle-glazed subway tiles from Royal Tiles provide a textured contrast to all the smooth surfaces.

I had my chippies knock up the shelving from the same hardwood panels I used for the benchtop, mounted on plumbing pipes sprayed gold. A great find was the old concrete laundry tub, just \$120 on Gumtree. ►

After

Cherie's bespoke touches show what can be done with some imagination.



Before



After

An off-the-shelf Kaboodle kitchen made shorter work of this renewal.



Before

\$9,000

THE BRIGHT IDEA

When in doubt, you can't beat the timeless appeal of a white kitchen, especially for a rental property that you don't want to be updating every few years. The skeleton of an old kitchen in this investment property would have posed more problems to work around than simply ditching it and putting in a new off-the-shelf Kaboodle kitchen from Bunnings.

The appliances were fairly new and didn't need replacing, and none of the electricals and plumbing were moved, making a major cost saving. So it was out with the old and in with the new!

The new install was an opportunity to extend the footprint of the original kitchen with additional floor and overhead cabinets.

For some contemporary detailing, I added a waterfall edge on the new timber benchtop, made from hardwood panels (\$99 each from Bunnings), which tied in neatly with the new timber-look laminate flooring throughout the open-plan space. ♦

#LIVING ROOM



7.30 FRIDAY



tenplay

SNAP AND SAVE ON YOUR HOME LOAN WITH MORTGAGE CHOICE



Are you paying too much for your home loan? Snap a picture of a recent statement and we'll help you determine if you're still in the right product.

Contact us on 13 77 62 to arrange your FREE home loan health check today or find out more at MortgageChoice.com.au/save

SALE AWAY



Know the top reno tips that cost very little but add a lot in value to your home come sale time

WORDS JOHANNA LEGGATT

When it comes time to putting your home on the market, there is no point sinking a ton of money into gadgets and upgrades that you will never get to enjoy.

That doesn't mean you shouldn't add a splash of paint, complete a few minor overhauls and change a few fixtures and fittings come sale time.

But how do you know what weak spots to spend money on and which faults to simply cover up with a pot plant or strategically placed vase?

Greville Pabst, CEO of Property Duo, recommends considering the market before undertaking renovations. Who are the buyers? Are they first-timers or upgraders? Retirees or big families?

'Once you have established who your potential buyer is, it's important that the style of the home appeals to that audience,' says Greville.

'Modern, white, neutral tones with a simple decor is often the way to go.'

According to the CEO of buyers' agency Your Empire, Chris Gray,

overcapitalising on upgrades is the number one mistake people make when renovating for sale.

'Spending \$40,000 on a new bathroom renovation will not necessarily add \$40,000 to your home's value,' says Chris.

'It's worth getting a number of opinions from different real estate agents who understand the local demographic, and then hiring an independent valuer to double-check the numbers.' ►



Before

After

Cement render, roof spray and a pathway transform this home.

The first impression

Let's start at the front door.

Professional renovator and regular *Handyman* contributor, Cherie Barber, lists a facade makeover as one of the most important jobs in preparing a house for sale.

'You have to be enticed to enter the home and you won't want to do that with a dull, drab exterior,' says Cherie.

'People buy homes because they fall in love with them, so creating an inviting exterior that gives a positive first impression is extremely important.'

Many Australian homes still feature that classic red or brown brick exterior which, unlike period homes, have not aged well. Cherie recommends cement-rendering the exterior of these homes, which costs roughly between \$9000 and \$15,000.

'If that is too much money, then you can do a partial render, whereby you just do the front of the house and one metre on each side,' says Cherie.

Roof spraying and other exterior painting will also dramatically improve the look of a home.

'It's fine for people to save money and paint the exterior by themselves, but I recommend getting in a professional painter to do anything high up on a ladder. It may cost you between \$900 and \$1500, but it's best to leave the gutters and eaves to the professionals,' she says.

Street cred

It's important not to neglect the little jobs either.

Buyers' agent for EPS Property Search, Patrick Bright, says sellers should make sure their fences are freshly painted and that the letterbox is in good nick – and if it's not, get a new one.

'It seems minor, but these things count. Spend a couple of hundred dollars and get a nice one,' he says.

Create paths with attractive pavers, and don't just go for the cheapest ones at the hardware store.

'If you lay down stepping stones, be sure you do it properly and make it look professional,' says Patrick.

Chris of Your Empire agrees, noting that untidy gardens, peeling paint and

broken fences can devalue a home and be an instant turn-off for buyers.

'Spending some time refreshing your home's exterior and garden can make a big difference to its value,' he says.

Kerbside appeal is so important that Chris recommends you focus on your neighbours' yards as well.

'Offering to tidy the neighbour's garden yourself, or paying to have it cleaned up, is a good way to improve the appearance of your property,' he says.

'It may cost a couple of thousand dollars to freshen their yard and property, but it can help maximise the value of your own home.'

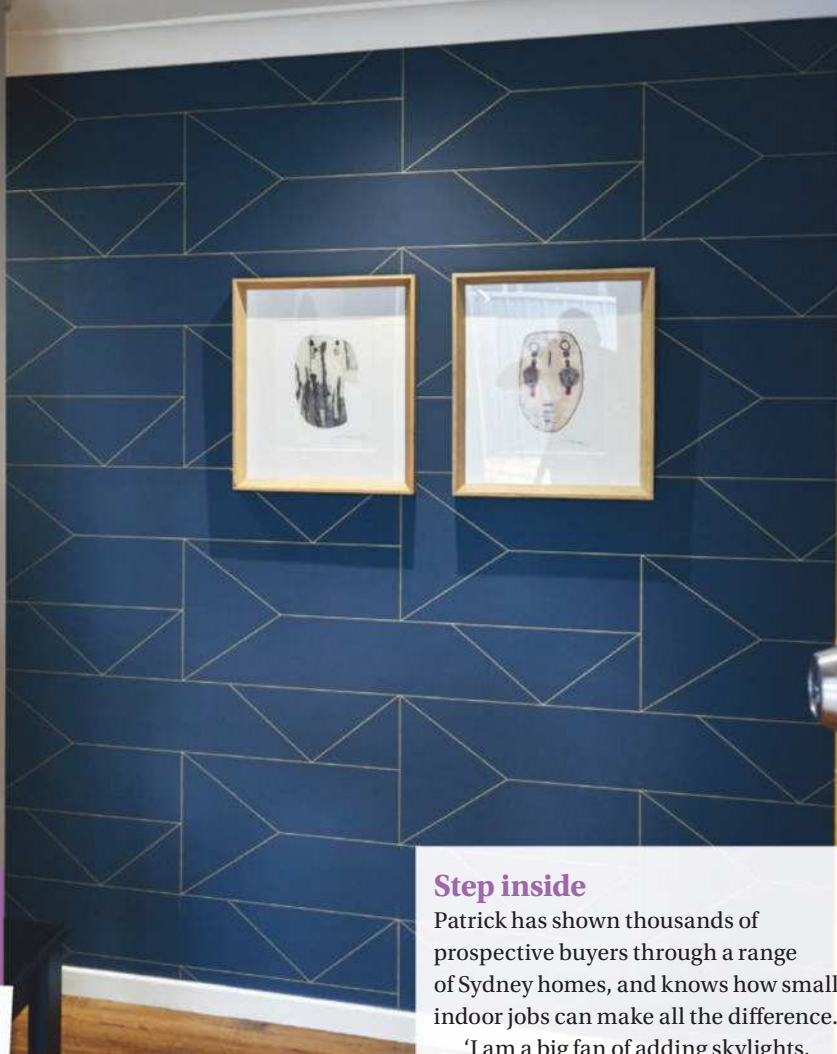
'It sounds like a stupid thing to do but don't concentrate on what you spend. Instead, try to focus on the net return you are likely to get from a higher sale price.'

When it comes to the rear of the house, Patrick recommends defining a large area with a path or new deck, and keeping it neat and low maintenance.

'Add in a great built-in barbecue or pizza oven, as they are big selling points with buyers,' says Patrick.



Create that all-important first impression by making the most of the entrance.



Step inside

Patrick has shown thousands of prospective buyers through a range of Sydney homes, and knows how small indoor jobs can make all the difference.

'I am a big fan of adding skylights, as they really lighten up a dark room,' says Patrick.

'I also like the new Solatube skylights, as they are very easy to install and you can get ones that have ventilation, which is a great solution for the bathroom.'

Patrick also likes the look of fresh window treatments in the form of curtains and good-quality blinds.

'Some nice curtains with tiebacks can look really inviting,' he says.

If there is a room that looks on to a brick wall or an unattractive vista, Patrick recommends sellers erect a lattice with some greenery.

But remember, there is no need to go overboard.

'Sometimes a fresh coat of white paint or new tapware and fixtures can make all the difference,' says Greville of Property Duo.

Cherie also recommends a fresh coat of paint indoors, with a couple of carefully chosen feature walls.

'The key is not to go crazy with too many bold colours, because you ►

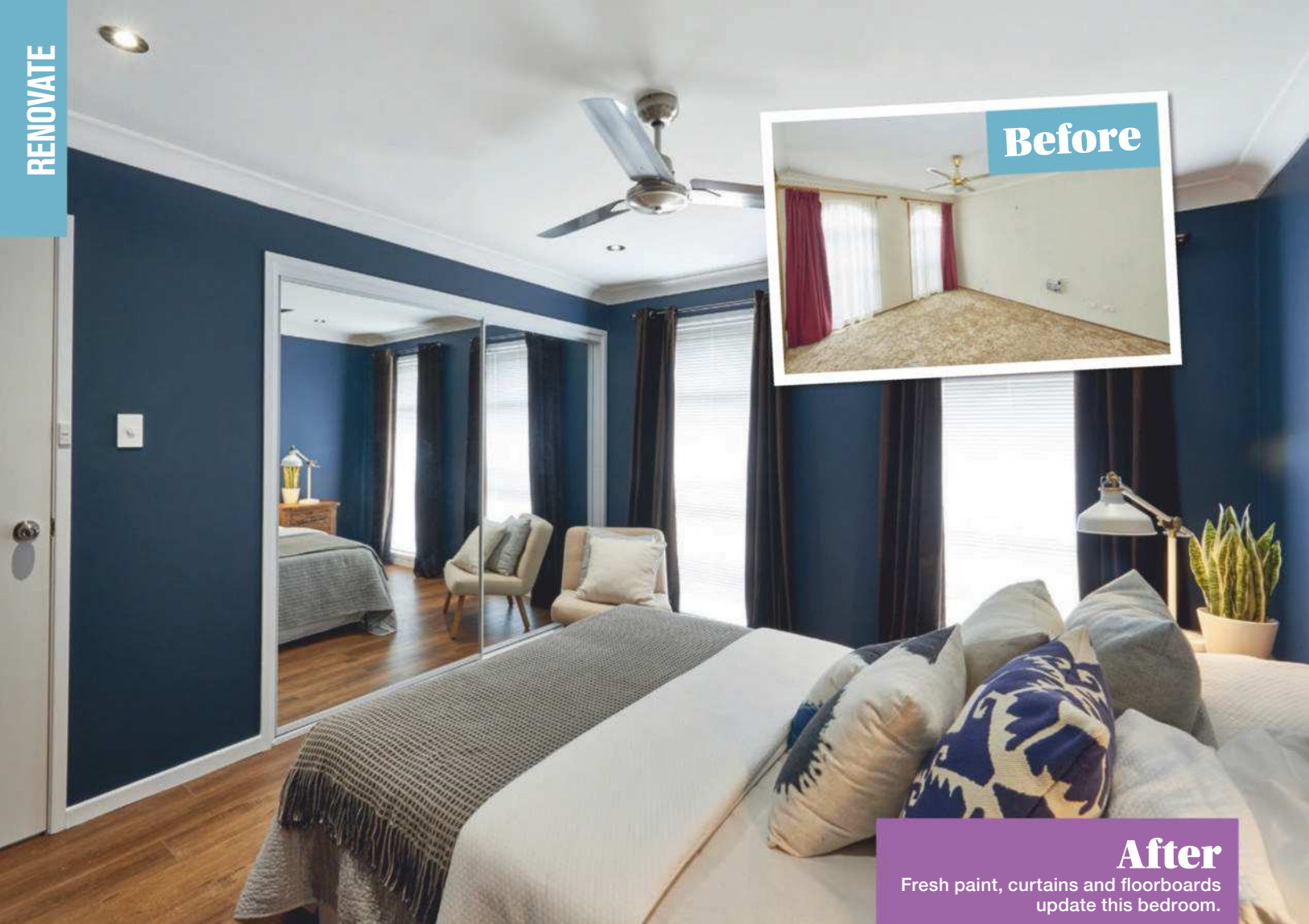


Before



After

Colour, light and connecting doors make all the difference to a deck.



Before

After

Fresh paint, curtains and floorboards update this bedroom.

want to appeal to as many people as possible,' she says.

'You can save money by painting the rooms yourself, but the ceiling can be tricky so you may want to get the professionals in for that.'

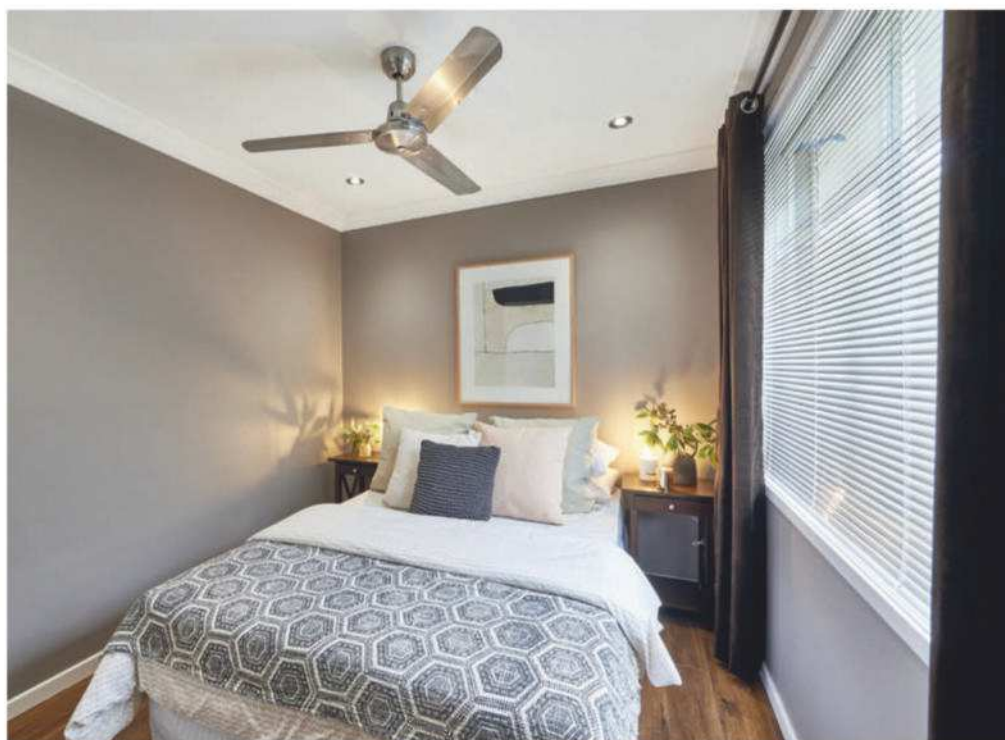
Adding new flooring can make a massive difference, too.

'The most popular floors are the hardwood boards,' says Cherie.

'What you want is consistency throughout your entire home so, ideally, floorboards in all rooms, with the exception of tiles in the bathroom or laundry. Some people like to add carpet to bedrooms, too.'

And don't forget the built-in robes!

'Banks actually look at whether homes have built-in robes when assessing a loan. They add considerable value to your home, but make sure you get mirrored doors, as they add a sense of space,' says Cherie.



After

This hub of the home benefits from a substantial upgrade.



Kitchen and bathroom

No-one is going to deny the importance of a good-looking kitchen and bathroom when selling a home.

'I always say that kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor living areas sell houses, as these are the areas where most people spend their time,' says Greville of Property Duo.

'Keep that in mind before starting your renovation, but remember that many updates can be made to these spaces without blowing your budget.'

Cherie agrees, and says unless you're selling to the fussiest of buyers in the top tier of the market, you can do a basic kitchen makeover on the cheap.

'You can do a quick cosmetic refresh with some laminate paint and tile paint,' says Cherie.

'A benchtop resurfacing kit can also make a big difference, and there are

some great stainless steel-look paints.'

If you've got a little bit more money, you can freshen up the kitchen by replacing the kitchen sink tapware and the cabinet doors which, while small things, will make your kitchen look dramatically different.

A similar principle applies to another key room: the bathroom.

'If your home is valued in the less-than-\$800,000 range, you don't need to replace the tiles. Simply grab some tile paint and do a surface improvement,' says Cherie.

You may be tempted to paint that bathtub, but Cherie recommends treading carefully.

'It can be a messy job, so I would avoid it unless absolutely necessary. Painting the bathtub is one of those jobs I love to avoid,' she says. ♦



After

Simple cosmetic surface treatments lift this bathroom.



Interior & Exterior Fillers

For all repair, patch or filling jobs around the home, big or small



Earl's Wood Hardener

- Water-based • Non Toxic

Earl's Wood Hardener penetrates into soft rotted wood fibres, restoring them to near original strength.

USE FOR: Repairing wood rot effected exterior fences, decks, furniture, door frames, windows and so much more.



Waxstix

Wax Touch Up Crayons

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

USE FOR: Floating floor and furniture scratches.



Timbermate

Woodfiller - 4 in 1

- Wood Putty • Edge Filler
- Crack Filler • Grain Filler

Water based interior filler with no latex, acrylic or solvent added.

Non-shrinking, non-sinking, non-cracking and won't fall out.

USE FOR: Timber flooring and all interior woodwork repairs.



Earl's MultiFill

Multi-Purpose Interior & Exterior Filler

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

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



Agnew's Water Putty

Multi-Purpose Filler

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

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



Earl's Powder Putty

Multi-Purpose Interior & Exterior Filler

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

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



Porion

Flexible Exterior Filler

- Repairs • Patches • Fills

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

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



Concremate

Expanding Cement

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

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

Timbermate[®]group

100% Australian Owned Family Business Since 1991

For more information visit our website www.timbermate.com.au or call us on 1800 354 811

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



AS SEEN ON
THE **LIVING ROOM**
FRIDAY, 7.30PM

After

New paint, stain and furniture make for a new start.

HOME SWEET HOME

The Living Room's Barry Du Bois gives this much-loved family house a makeover

The Bonnay family deserved a break after recent events. Thanks to *The Living Room*, they got one.



You couldn't find a more loving family than Marianne Bonnay and her six kids. Two years ago their world turned upside down when Marianne's husband, Stephen, drowned after saving two of the boys when they were caught in a rip.

Despite the tragedy, the family has found comfort in each other's company. They love hanging out together at home, but the places where they spend most time, the rumpus room and the deck, need serious maintenance, and the stairs to the backyard are in bad shape.

The Living Room's Barry Du Bois and his team have offered to give the Bonnays' house a makeover, which they hope will raise the family's spirits. ►



After

New furniture from the Mimosa range raises comfort levels.

THE BALCONY

The Bonnays love hanging out on the balcony, which links the rumpus room and the backyard. It really is the hub of their activities, but it needs a spruce up.

The deck is cleaned with a pressure washer before it's stained to protect it from the elements and activity.

Years of wear and tear have taken their toll on the walls so, along with the balusters and roof joists, they're painted in Taubmans Cotton Ball white. The handrails and posts are freshened up with a light colour called Blue Willow.

A couple of adjustable spotlights are installed in the roof joists for night-time dining, which will complement gas flame heaters used when it's chilly.

The eclectic mix of old furniture on the balcony is replaced by the Mimosa range of outdoor furniture, which adds to the makeover with a timber dining table, benches and chairs.

A steel wicker egg chair and lounge are a stylish place for relaxation, while a new Matador barbecue is big enough to cook snags for all. Hanging baskets and terracotta pots with succulents and flowers soften and enliven what is now a special area. ►



Barry Du Bois and a tin of Taubmans make for a very productive combination.



After

The Bonnay family's beloved living space gets a new breath of life.



Before



Matador Artiste
6-burner BBQ, \$890.
matadorbbqs.com.au



Mimosa Mareeba Timber
Dining Table, \$299.
mimosaoutdoors.com.au

Ryobi 36V Pressure
Washer Console, \$349.
ryobi.com.au





After

Storage in the ceiling and a shapely new desk add dynamic lines.



Before

THE RUMPUS ROOM

The rumpus room is a space for the family to watch movies, play video games, exercise, study, paint and accommodate guests.

First, the room is cleared out of all fixtures and fittings. The walls, ceilings and dark timber joists are painted in Taubmans Crisp White to create a feeling of light and space. A fold-down bed for visitors is moved to the other side of the room behind a new easel where one of the boys, Louis, can paint.

Barry has come up with an innovative way to create more storage by attaching plywood sheets to the ceiling joists with adhesive and nails.

He cuts them to size with a circular saw and gives them a wave shape with a jigsaw, making them appear to flow around the room. They provide storage for books and tubs, but look great and also house new downlights.

A desk is built from the same plywood used for the ceiling storage and cut in the same wave pattern. A router is used to smooth the edges of the plywood, which is then sanded and varnished.

A new L-shaped couch creates separate zones in the room. At one end is the TV and video games area, while the other end has the study nook, artist's easel, fold-down bed and sliding glass doors opening to a gym area. ►



Turn anywhere into... Somewhere!

BEFORE



AFTER



Use Make it Easy Decorative Screens to define a space and form a stunning backdrop. Fitting is quick and easy, and the screens will never fade, rust or rot. Available in a range of profiles and colours at Bunnings Warehouse, off the shelf or custom made. Visit website for details.

Decorative Screening – Josh and Jenna show you how at www.protectoraluminium.com.au



Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

MAKE IT :EASY
Protector^{AI}



After

A very thankful Bonnay family can now get to their backyard safely.



THE GARDEN STAIRS

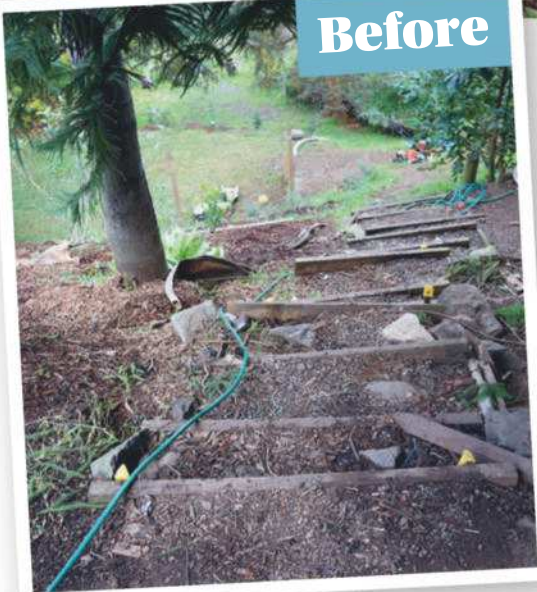
The Bonnays' backyard is extremely steep. Marianne partly renovated the garden, including cutting a terrace into the hill to create a play area for the kids. Some rudimentary stairs were in place, but it has still been a perilous journey.

A new set of stairs is built from pine sleepers and filled in with road base topped with decorative crushed gravel to blend in with the natural surrounds.

Not only do the new stairs have shorter risers between each step, they now wind their way down the slope with several large landings along the way, making the passage easier and safer.

One landing, outside the chicken coop, has a timber seat built into the rise. To make the journey even safer, two small balustrades are attached to two of the landings. Mulching and planting completes the job. ♦

Before



Ironwood Classic
200 x 50mm x 3m
Treated Pine Sleeper, \$17.
bunnings.com.au



Ryobi One+ Soft
Tool Bag, \$32.
ryobi.com.au



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



Ryobi 2000W 254mm Slide
Compound Mitresaw with
Laser, \$299. ryobi.com.au





After

Barry creates a cool gym area off the end of the rumpus room.

The trip down to the much-loved yard was a perilous one, until Barry and *The Living Room* team turn up and refashion the stairs.



Before

DEWALT

GET A GRIP

SERIOUS JOBS NEED THE TOUGHEST PROTECTION

DEWALT Performance Mechanic Work Gloves are engineered to withstand the harshest conditions. Designed to protect your most valuable tool, your hands. Whatever the demand, DEWALT Performance Mechanic Work Gloves are made to meet it.

To find out more visit: www.DEWALT.com.au

GUARANTEED TOUGH.™

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

Find it at Bunnings

BATHROOM BEAUTY

Transform your bathroom with these stylish fittings

Giving your bathroom a makeover will add value and appeal to your home.

The bathroom is one of the busiest rooms used by the whole family, so it's wise to give it special attention when updating.

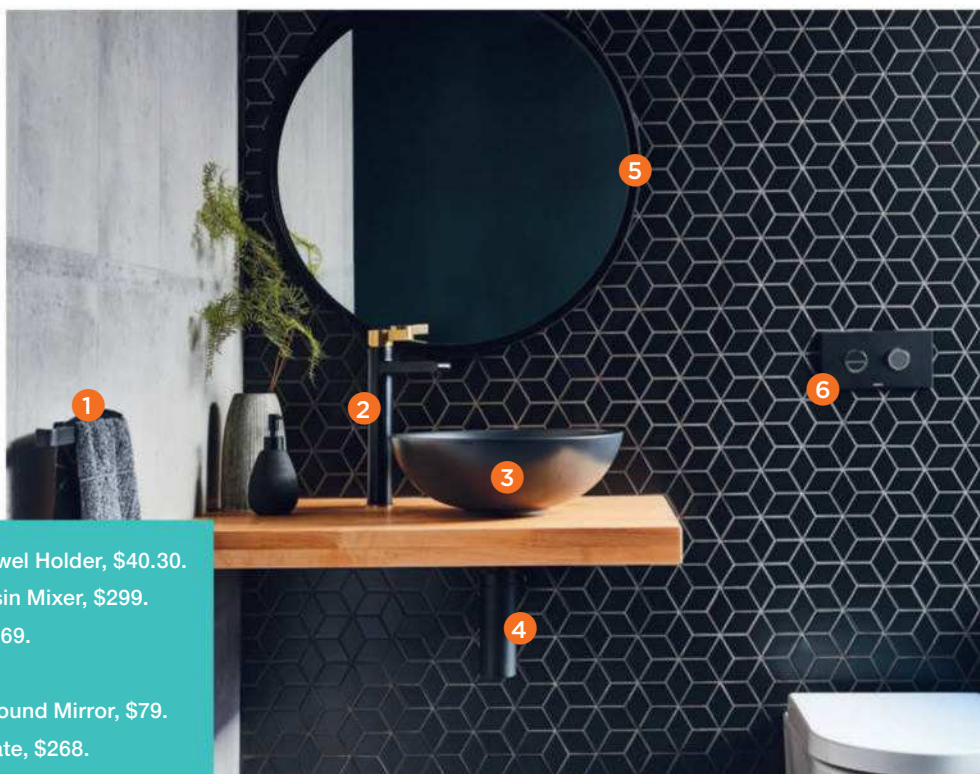
And it needn't be hugely expensive. Simple additions can transform this room. The trick is to select elegant fittings that complement the sort of style you want to create.

Here we display a range of products that can be used in a makeover even if space is tight.

The largest additions include baths, shower units and vanities, but you'll create an impact just with small changes like a tap or a mirror that are functional as well as beautiful. ♦

WATCH THE VIDEO
[How To Remove A Bathroom at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice](https://www.bunnings.com.au/diy-advice)

- 1 Mondella 235mm Vivace Bathroom Towel Holder, \$40.30.
- 2 Dorf Black and Copper Ren Tower Basin Mixer, \$299.
- 3 Mondella Vivace Matte Black Basin, \$169.
- 4 Mondella Rococo Bottle Trap, \$89.
- 5 Wet by Home Design 70cm Hanging Round Mirror, \$79.
- 6 Caroma Black Invisi II Round Flush Plate, \$268.

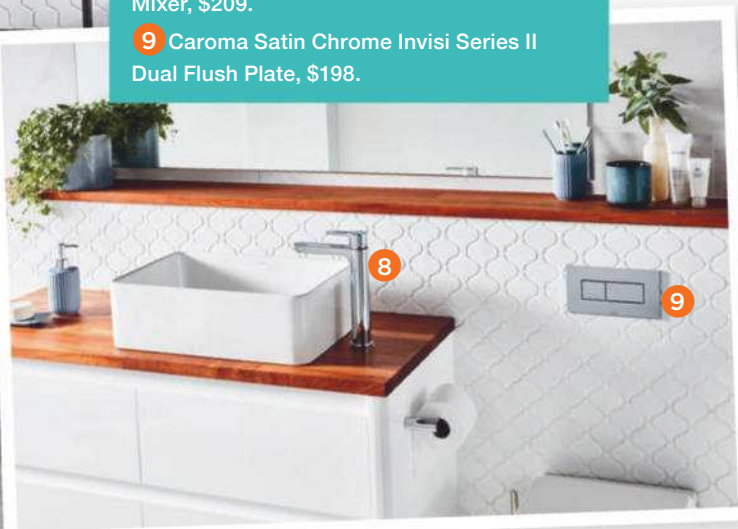


DIY TIP

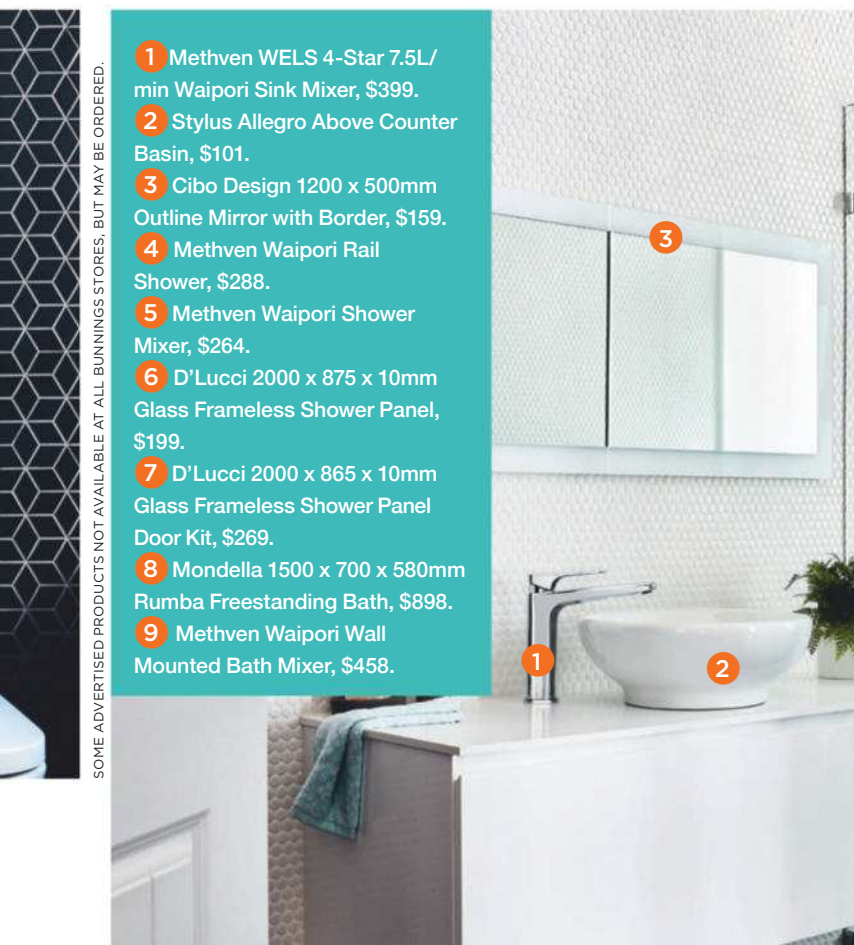
Choose fittings that have a consistent shape and design, so they all blend smoothly in the bathroom's overall style.



- 1 Dorf WELS 2-Star Liano Nexus Overhead Rain Shower, \$333.
- 2 Methven WELS 3-Star 9L/min Three Function Rail Shower, \$259.
- 3 Methven Glide Matte Black Shower Mixer, \$169.
- 4 Cibo 1200mm Oslo Vanity Unit, \$1200.
- 5 Methven WELS 5-Star 6L/min Glide Wall-Mounted Basin Mixer, \$299.
- 6 Cibo 1200 x 600mm Ledge Mirror with Cabinet, \$339.
- 7 Caroma Sahara II Toilet Suite, \$449.
- 8 Caroma Jade Tower Chrome Basin Mixer, \$209.
- 9 Caroma Satin Chrome Invisi Series II Dual Flush Plate, \$198.



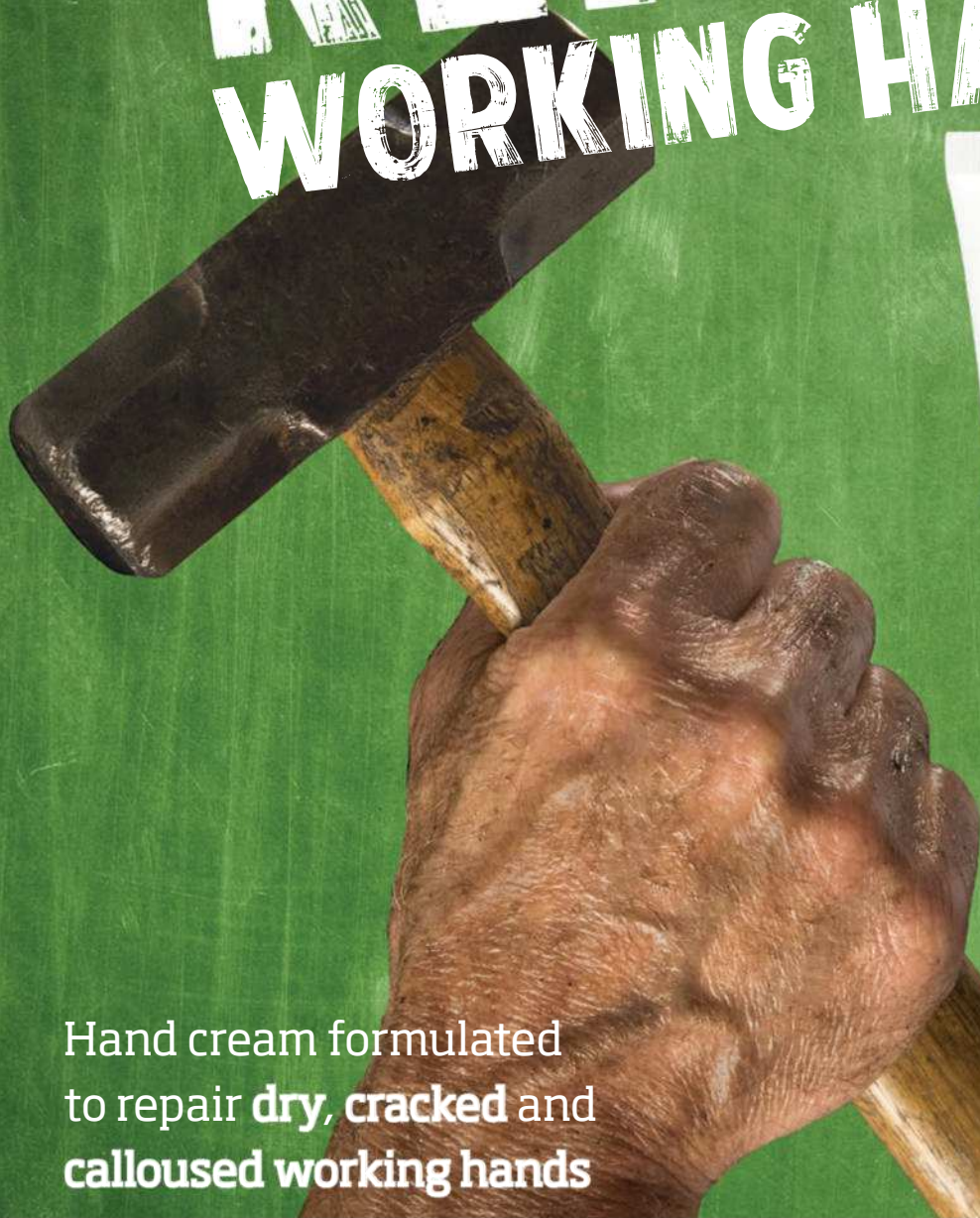
- 1 Methven WELS 4-Star 7.5L/min Waipori Sink Mixer, \$399.
- 2 Stylus Allegro Above Counter Basin, \$101.
- 3 Cibo Design 1200 x 500mm Outline Mirror with Border, \$159.
- 4 Methven Waipori Rail Shower, \$288.
- 5 Methven Waipori Shower Mixer, \$264.
- 6 D'Lucci 2000 x 875 x 10mm Glass Frameless Shower Panel, \$199.
- 7 D'Lucci 2000 x 865 x 10mm Glass Frameless Shower Panel Door Kit, \$269.
- 8 Mondella 1500 x 700 x 580mm Rumba Freestanding Bath, \$898.
- 9 Methven Waipori Wall Mounted Bath Mixer, \$458.



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

GUARANTEED TO

REPAIR WORKING HANDS



Hand cream formulated
to repair **dry, cracked** and
calloused working hands



**NON-SLIP, NON-GREASY
FAST ABSORBING**

Available at pharmacies nationally
www.nsWorkingHands.com.au

KITCHEN STORAGE BUILDS

Add decorative storage space in the hub of the home with these easy projects

Create a moveable storage unit over the weekend using plywood and give it a contemporary edge by trimming it with aluminium. It's ideal for use as a dining servery.

And if you need a place to display your favourite plates, you can make a slimline five-tiered rack in a day. It can be stood on a sideboard or table and leant against the wall. ►



Aluminium flat bar attached to the edges using construction adhesive hides the joins for a professional finish.

MOVEABLE TROLLEY

This storage unit comprises nine individual boxes made from 9mm marine plywood, butt joined with PVA adhesive and a brad nailer using 15mm brads. An outside joining panel of the same plywood thickens the walls, adding strength and stability.

Heavy-duty castors, two swivel and two lockable at the front, keep the trolley in position when it is loaded up, and a pair of galvanised trunk handles installed either side control trolley movement.

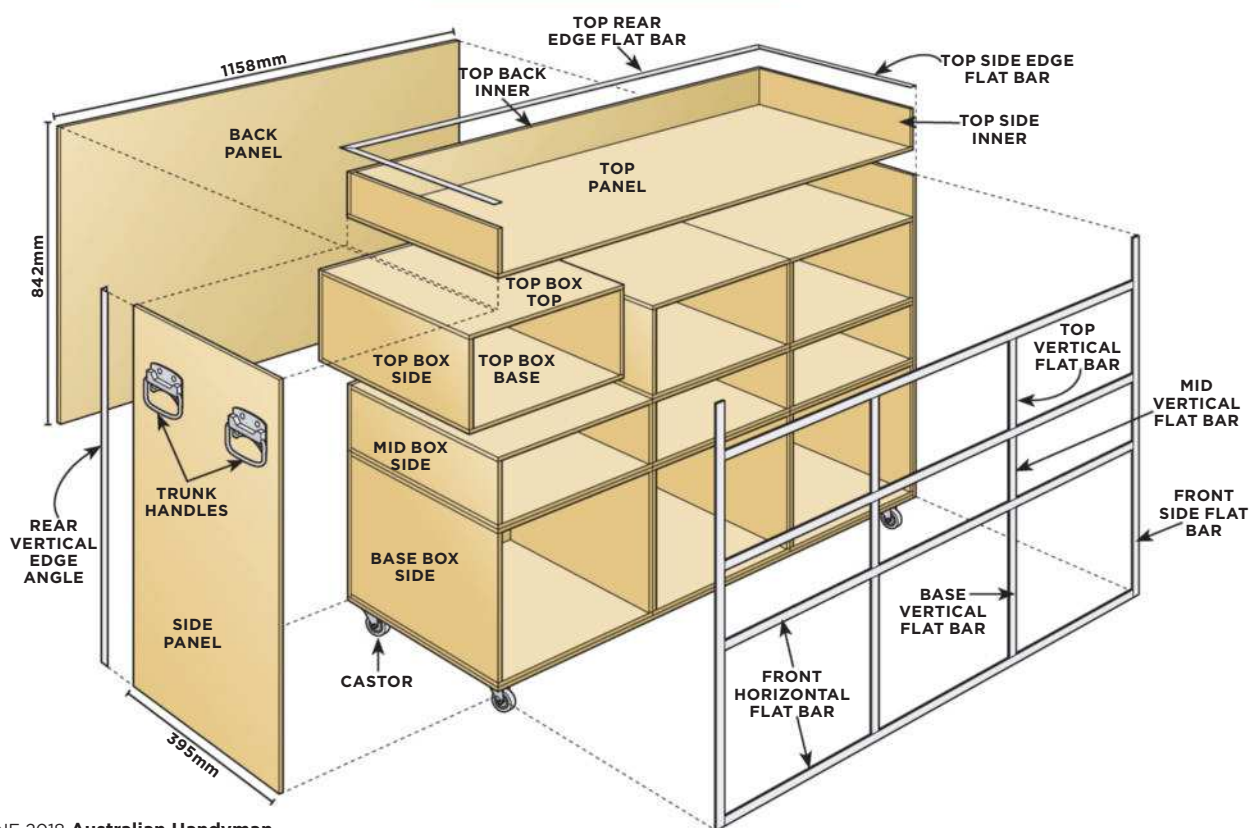
Aluminium flat bar positioned along the joined edges and aluminium angle along the vertical edges contrasts with the plywood and disguises the joins. It can be cut using a mitresaw with a metal cutting blade, or you can use a timber cutting blade lubricated with a spray of WD-40. ►

WHAT YOU NEED

- Mitresaw, metal cutting blade
- Belt sander
- Brad nailer, 15mm brads
- Clamps
- 9mm marine plywood
- Aluminium flat bar, angle
- Coloured timber putty
- PVA adhesive
- Construction adhesive
- Shellac finish
- Paintbrush
- Beeswax furniture polish
- 4 75mm heavy-duty castors, two swivel and two lockable
- 2 pairs trunk handles
- Masking tape

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE (mm)	No
Marine plywood		
Box tops and bases	386 x 380 x 9	18
Base box sides	386 x 330 x 9	6
Mid box sides	386 x 140 x 9	6
Top box sides	386 x 200 x 9	6
Base box backs	380 x 348 x 9	3
Mid box backs	380 x 158 x 9	3
Top box backs	380 x 218 x 9	3
Top and base panels	1140 x 395 x 9	2
Side panels	842 x 395 x 9	2
Back panel	1158 x 842 x 9	1
Top back inner	1140 x 100 x 9	1
Top side inners	386 x 100 x 9	2
Aluminium flat bar		
Front sides	842 x 20	2
Front horizontals	1118 x 20	4
Base verticals	330 x 20	2
Mid verticals	140 x 20	2
Top verticals	200 x 20	2
Top rear edge	1158 x 20	1
Top side edges	406 x 20	2
Aluminium angle		
Rear vertical edges	845 x 20 x 20	2





CUTS

5 KM OF STEEL



THE WORLD'S BEST SNIPS
but don't just take our word for it...

**20% FORCE TO
LESS CUT**

**6X LONGEST
LIFE PIVOT BOLT**

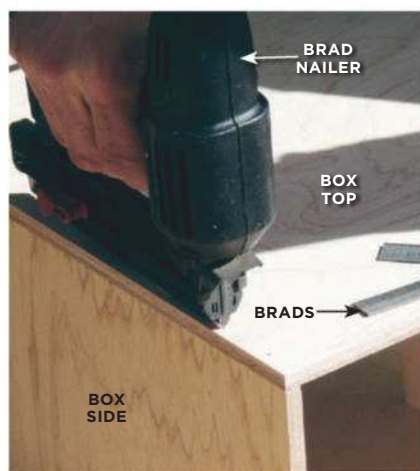
**4X SPRING
LIFE**



Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

1 2 3 4 5

MAKE THE MOVEABLE TROLLEY



1 Assemble the boxes

To make the base, mid and top boxes, position the sides of each box between a top and a base, securing with PVA adhesive and a brad nailer using 15mm brads. Position and secure the base, mid and top box backs to the outside edges of each box.



2 Join the boxes

Begin the assembly by joining the centre column, stacking a base, mid and top box, then applying adhesive between each, clamping and securing with five brads along each joint.

TIP Angle the gun slightly to avoid driving the brads all the way through.



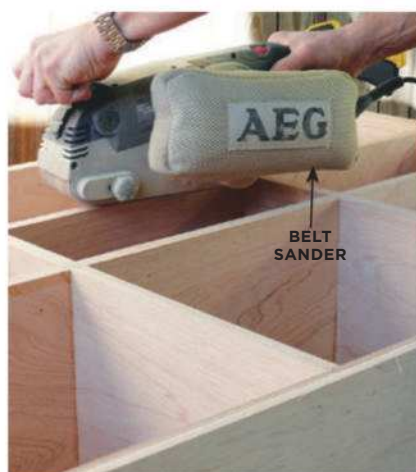
3 Attach the outer panels

Position the base and top panels, securing with adhesive and brads, clamping until dry. Secure the side and then back panels, then secure the top back and top side inner panels.

TIP Drive the brads from the inside into the outer panels.

ADD THE FINISH

Apply two coats of shellac to the plywood with a fine natural brush. It dries quickly, so avoid drips or blotches, as there's no time to wipe up errors. Add a protective layer of beeswax furniture polish.



4 Smooth the edges

Cover the brad heads with coloured timber putty, then use a belt sander along the joins to make sure the edges are flush. Attach two trunk handles to each side and secure four 75mm castors underneath the trolley, using lockable castors at the front.



5 Attach the trim

Position the flat bar flush to the top or outside edge, applying construction adhesive to each, starting with the side verticals, then the front horizontals and centre verticals, mitring the corners of the top edge, then adding the rear edge angle. Hold with masking tape until dry.



PLATE RACK

Leftover boards and architrave were used to make this rack to display plates.

The frame and shelves are made from 19mm pine, secured with 8g x 50mm timber screws, and backed with five 180 x 18mm lap-jointed boards. The front is clad with mitred pine finger-jointed architrave. Dowel keeps the plates secure. Backing and trim are secured using 50 x 2.8mm bullet-head nails; a 9mm drill bit was used to make 10mm deep dowel holes.

Grooves were made in the shelves using a router and retaining strips were secured with 15 x 1.2mm panel pins. ►



Showcase your plates in this rack and keep them close at hand

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE (mm)	No
Pine		
Base	1050 x 140 x 19	1
Sides	1216 x 94 x 19	2
3 shelves, top	820 x 94 x 19	4
Dowel	840 x 9	4
Square moulding		
Retaining strips	820 x 8 x 8	4
Architrave		
Sides	1312 x 115 x 28	2
Top	1050 x 115 x 28	1
Lap-jointed pine		
Backing boards	1235 x 180 x 18	5



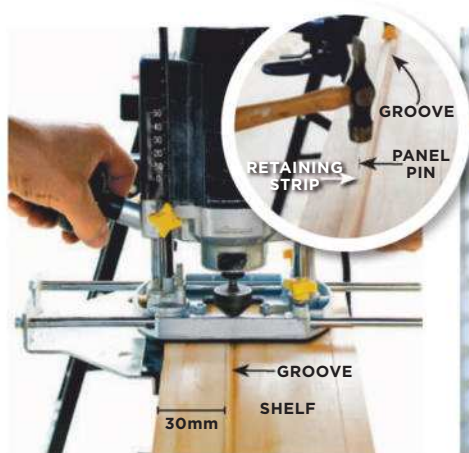
This slimline rack measures just over 1.3m high and a metre wide.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Circular saw
- Router, drill
- 8g x 50mm timber screws
- 50 x 2.8mm bullet-head nails
- 19mm pine
- 5 lap-jointed boards
- Pine finger-jointed architrave
- 9mm dowel
- Square moulding
- 15 x 1.2mm panel pins
- Timber putty
- PVA adhesive
- Nail punch
- Acrylic primer undercoat
- Semi-gloss acrylic paint
- 180, 220 grit sandpaper

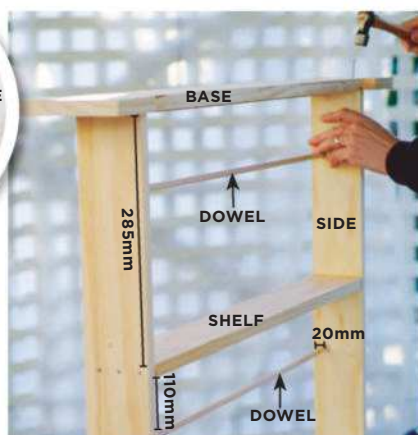
1 2 3

MAKE THE PLATE RACK



1 Cut the grooves

Use a router to make a 6mm groove on the shelves 30mm from the front edge, and on the base 60mm from the front and 115mm from the ends. Secure a retaining strip in front of each long groove with panel pins. On the base's back edge, cut 820 x 18mm, centred, to slot in the backing boards.



2 Assemble the frame

On the sides, mark 285, 589 and 893mm up from the base for the shelves; mark 110mm above each of these and 20mm from the edge for dowel holes. Drill three pilot holes for each shelf joint. Use screws to assemble one side with shelves, top and dowel, then the other side and base.



3 Secure the boards

Lay the assembled shelving frame face down to secure the five backing boards. Position the first board in the centre of the frame, add two more boards, then clamp in place. Drill pilot holes and secure the boards using bullet-head nails. Secure the remaining two boards.

FINISH THE RACK

Mitre the architrave using a circular saw or handsaw, then position it around the front edge, securing with adhesive and nails. Set the nails below the surface using a nail punch and hammer, then fill the holes with timber putty. Sand with 180 grit sandpaper.

Apply an acrylic primer undercoat and allow to dry. Sand lightly using 220 grit sandpaper, then apply two coats of semi-gloss acrylic paint and allow to dry. ♦





THE QUIETEST HAMMER

Save your thumbs and use a construction grade adhesive strong enough to hold polystyrene panels; loose tiles, skirting boards, architraves and trims. SikaBond® Instant Nails Fast will even bond particleboard, plywood, fibre cement and strip flooring to joists. Repositionable for up to 60 minutes after application, it'll fill gaps up to 9mm with no fumes and no worries!



BUILDING TRUST



Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

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

MAKE A STYLISH STORAGE LADDER

Reno star Kara Demmrich builds a simple and practical display ladder

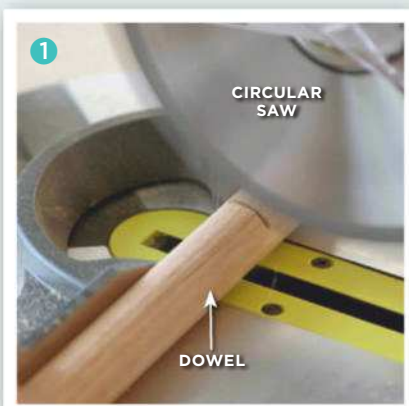
For functional storage with a stylish touch, a display ladder will add character to any room of your home. They are perfect for when you want to introduce height and keep floor space free.

In just a few simple steps, *The Living Room* renovator Kara Demmrich shows how easy it is to build your own stylish storage ladder. And because it is made using dowel, it's lightweight and mobile, making it easy to move around your home or to take with you when moving house.

Before you start, decide on the size of your ladder and mark the spacing for the rungs. Kara cut hers 2m high and 750mm wide, allowing a 50mm overhang at each end. She opted for rungs 400mm apart, starting 200mm down from the top, giving her four rungs to use.

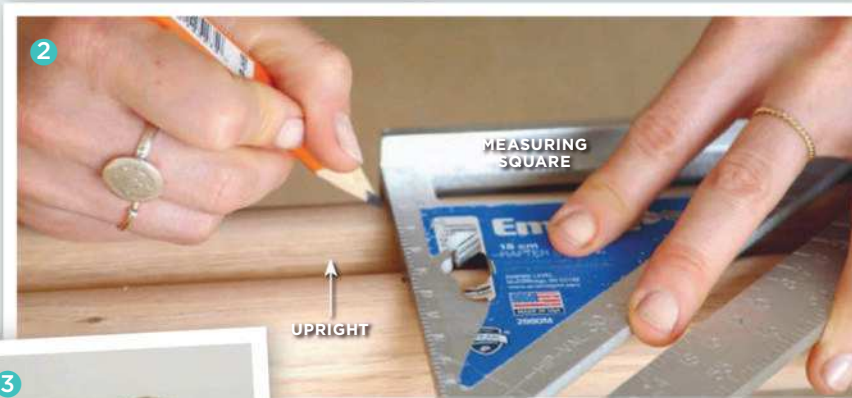
The rungs are secured in place using 8g x 30mm countersunk, ribbed-head chipboard screws, inserted from the rear of the ladder.





1. Cut the dowels For the uprights, cut two lengths of 40mm dowel, each 2m high. For the rungs, cut four pieces of 22mm dowel, each 750mm long. Be sure to use thicker dowel for the uprights than the rungs.

2. Mark the spacings Measure and mark the position of the rungs on each of the uprights, in this case 400mm apart. Use a square to make sure the rungs will be level across both uprights.



3. Drill holes and sand Using a 22mm spade bit, drill holes through the dowel uprights until the spade bit just shows through on the other side, then stop. Drill through from the opposite side. This prevents the dowel from splintering. Lightly sand each of the holes.

4. Fix the rungs Slide the rungs through the holes, allowing 50mm overhang at each end. Predrill holes for the screws from the rear side of the ladder, making sure to drill into the rungs but not all the way through to the front. Secure with 30mm screws.

5. Finishing touches Sand the base of each upright to form a slight angle so that your ladder leans evenly and sturdily against the wall. To finish, apply clear oil or varnish, paint, or leave as natural wood if you prefer. ♦



DISCOVER ALL THE SIGNS OF A GREAT BBQ



TITAN
4 BURNER
\$1,150

5 YEAR WARRANTY

Set up for a legendary feast with the new Matador Titan 4 Burner. Packed with premium features like a sear burner, built-in chopping board and ice bucket, all the signs of an epic BBQ are here.

MATADORBBQS.COM.AU

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



SEAR BURNER



ZONED COOKING & SATIN
ENAMEL COOKING SURFACE



SIDE CHOPPING BOARD
& ICE BUCKET



WOK BURNER



MATADOR

**THE SIGN OF A
GREAT BBQ**

WINTER *warmers*

Revive alfresco entertaining during the chilly season with the right outdoor heating

WORDS MARC MCEVOY

A blue-sky winter's day with the sun on your back can be a glorious experience, so it's a shame we let the colder months drive us indoors.

The solution, taken up long ago by cafes and alfresco restaurants, is to install outdoor heating. It allows you to use your outdoor entertainment area and recapture the enjoyment you shared around the barbecue during summer.

The most effective and efficient outdoor heaters emit radiant heat, as opposed to convection appliances, such as oil heaters. Choose the right heater to suit your needs and you can make the most of the great outdoors this winter. ►





Heatstrip 2200W Intense
Infrared Electric Outdoor
Heater, \$499. heatstrip.com.au

ELECTRIC HEATERS

Electric radiant heaters are one of the best options for heating outdoor spaces where there is a lot of air movement. They produce even warmth and transfer heat almost instantly, with no time spent waiting for them to warm up.

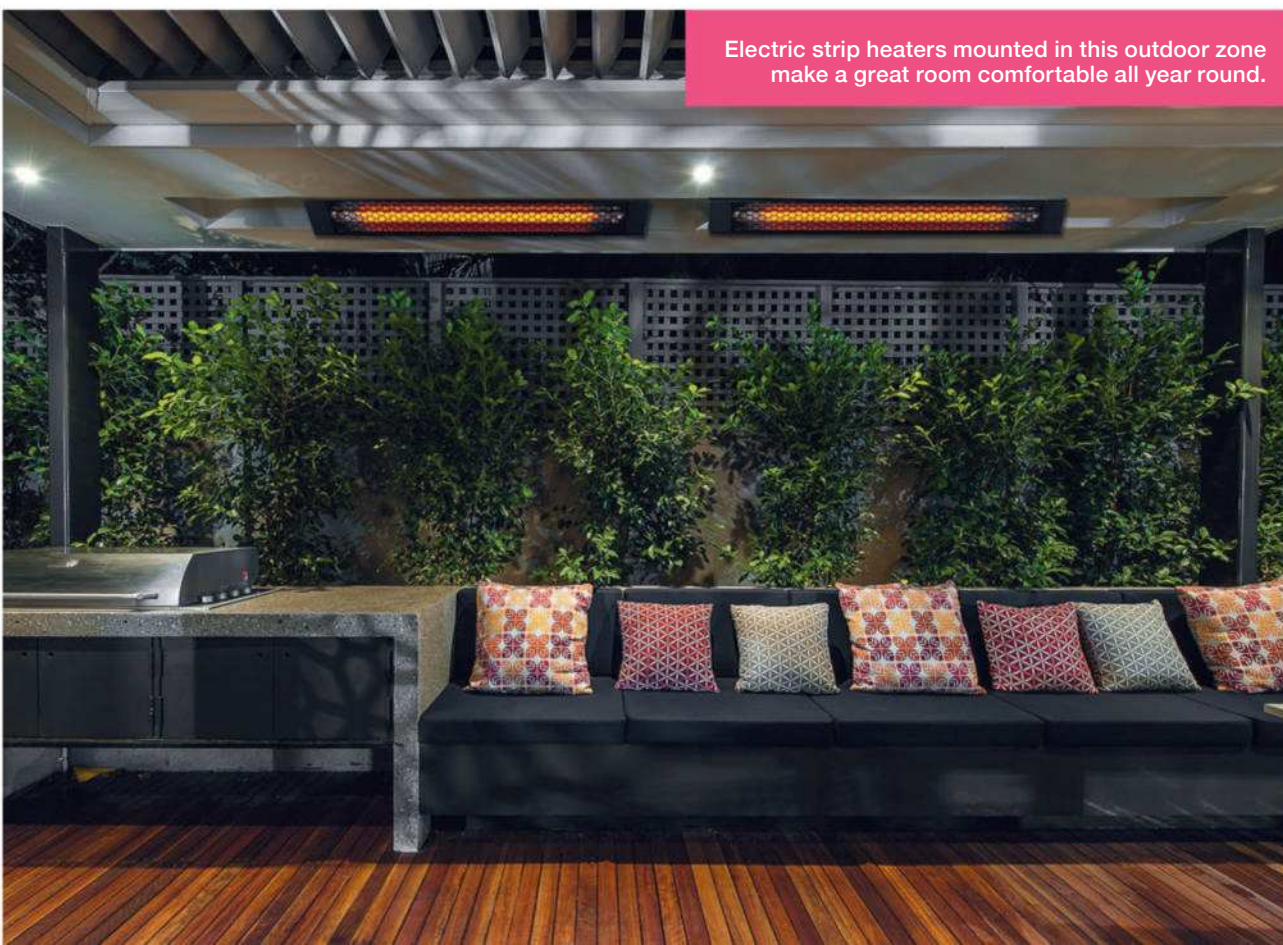
Run on mains power, these appliances are very effective at heating targeted zones such as a table setting or lounge area, with little heat lost on unused spaces.

They can be freestanding appliances that you can move around, or they can be fixed appliances such as strip heaters, which can be mounted on a wall or on the ceiling of an alfresco area.

Electric heaters mounted overhead provide more coverage than angled mounting, with a 2400W appliance warming about 5sqm.



Heatstrip 2200W Outdoor
Portable Electric Infrared
Heater, \$699. heatstrip.com.au



Electric strip heaters mounted in this outdoor zone
make a great room comfortable all year round.



Jumbuck 110cm
Electric Bar Table
Heater, \$249.
jumbuckbbqs.com.au

A freestanding electric outdoor heater is ideal for targeting a specific zone, like a dining area.



Electric radiant heaters are more efficient than gas heaters

GAS OR ELECTRIC?

♦ **GAS HEATERS** create almost instant warmth. Appliances that run on LPG cylinders are portable, simple and convenient. Those that connect to mains natural gas via a spigot eliminate fussing about with cylinders when you run out of gas.

They expend a lot of energy heating the air around them through convection, meaning they feel warm when close, but the heat drops off as you move further away.

♦ **ELECTRIC HEATERS** create instant heat with the flick of a switch and are more efficient than gas heaters because they radiate heat directly at you, not just heat the air around you.

They are cheaper to run than natural gas if you want to heat a targeted area, costing about 50 cents an hour. Portable LPG gas heaters cost the most to run at more than \$2 an hour, depending on how high you run the appliance.

GAS HEATERS

Gas heaters come in a range of styles and designs, but the most popular are freestanding portable floor and tabletop appliances. Often called patio heaters, they run on LPG, but fixed installations can be hooked up to mains natural gas.

Made from stainless steel, portable patio heaters can be moved to different locations as they are needed and then stored away during summer. Small appliances can be positioned on tabletops and can heat areas up to 3sqm.

Larger appliances often have a round disc at the top to direct heat downwards. These have a high heat output that can warm more than 10sqm.

For safety reasons, gas heaters must be positioned away from low ceilings and have plenty of air circulating around them. ►

Fiammetta 223cm
Outdoor Gas
Heater, \$399.
bunnings.com.au



Fiammetta Table
Top Gas Outdoor
Heater, \$179.
bunnings.com.au

FIRE PITS

Open fire creates a wonderful ambience in any outdoor entertainment area. Fire transfers heat energy through radiation, convection and conduction, warming surfaces and the surrounding air.

Your council may have restrictions on installing an outdoor fireplace, especially in bushfire-prone areas. A safer alternative might be a fire pit.

'Fire pits provide a functional, stylish way to warm your outdoor spaces and keep them suitable for entertaining and relaxation alike,' says Matt Leacy, founder of Landart Landscapes.

'You can sit by the fire and chat with friends and family, cook food – and they're great for disposing of branches that may have fallen from your trees.'

'The warmth and light generated by the pit means you can continue to make use of all your beautiful outdoor furniture pieces in the cooler months.'

Fire pits come in a variety of stone and metal designs to suit outdoor spaces, and include tabletop and ground-based versions.

'You could have a built-in fire pit that doubles as a coffee table beyond the cooler months, or just a basic iron or steel bowl. The important thing is to look at your outdoor space and consider what will work best for you in terms of functionality, budget and look,' says Matt.

Wood, briquettes or gas can be used to fuel the fire. For wood burners, care should be taken when children are present and when windy conditions produce flying embers.

Hotshots 10kg Heat
Briquettes, \$13.
bunnings.com.au



Jumbuck Round
Steel Fire Pit, \$85.
jumbuckbbqs.com.au



Nothing brings a family together on a winter's evening quite like an open fire.



Decofire Accendo
Fire Pit, \$169.
decofireheating.com.au



Decofire Huracan Fire Pit,
\$289 (optional table top, \$159).
decofireheating.com.au

Fire pits are generally safer than open fires set in the ground. And don't scar the earth.



Fiammetta Cast Stone Fire Pit, \$219.
bunnings.com.au

FIRED UP

Outdoor fire pit specialists, Glow, share their favourite ways to add ambience and warmth to your outdoor area.

1 Burn eucalyptus or fruit tree logs to add a fresh, modern scent to the traditional log fire smell.

2 Add some simple home and garden ingredients for extra aroma, such as cinnamon sticks for spicy warmth (ideal for Christmas in July), or dried oranges for a citrus twist.

3 Keep mozzies away naturally by burning sage or rosemary in your fire pit, while adding a delicious fragrance to the surrounding area. ►

DIY TIP

Install bistro blinds in outdoor areas to keep in heat and block out chilly breezes, but ensure there is adequate airflow when using gas or wood burners.



This fire pit doubles as a stylish coffee table during the warmer months.



Glow 900 x 900 x 660 Aurora Rustic Fire Pit, \$239.
northcotepottery.com/glow



Decofire Contemporary
Chimenea with Metal
Frame, \$499.
decofireheating.com.au

Chimeneas are great outdoor heating solutions for confined spaces.

CHIMENEAS

Chimeneas are a great alternative to an open fireplace or fire pit. Often made of terracotta or cast iron, a chimenea is a small fireplace shaped like a lightbulb with an open cavity at the

base for burning wood or briquettes and a tall top acting as a chimney.

To get them going, just stack dry kindling on top of scrunched-up paper, as you would with a regular fireplace, then light it. They burn wood effectively, can be moved around and, because they take up little room, they suit small spaces.

Chimeneas are supported by a metal stand, but they get very hot to touch, so it's wise not to use them around children and pets.

Chapala Small
Flamma Chimenea,
\$209. chapala.com.au



A woodfired
pizza oven can
help reduce your
household's carbon
footprint

PIZZA OVENS

Outdoor pizza ovens make an ideal combination of cooking appliance and heater. Made from clay, stainless steel or stone, pizza ovens are designed to stay hot once fired up.

This creates a cosy ambience, like an open fire, in your entertainment area as you cook pizzas. Even after you finish cooking, the oven can still be used to generate heat.

Woodfired ovens do produce smoke as a result of burning wood, but they are remarkably energy-efficient and operate without using electricity or gas. If you're looking for a way



Pizza ovens serve up warmth as well as crowd-pleasing fare.

to reduce your household's energy consumption and lead a greener lifestyle, a woodfired pizza oven can help reduce your household's carbon footprint. ♦

OUTDOOR HEATING
NEVER LOOKED
SO GOOD



Elegance

Classic

Intense

Max

HEATSTRIP® available in electric and gas models, DIY, portable or mains connected.

heatstrip.com.au



Portable
Intense



Portable
LPG



Wall Mounted
Natural Gas

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



Stuart

EXPERT SECRETS

Hiring or buying an inexpensive concrete mixer like our Ozito one will make your life much easier.

A NEW FLAME

Build a fire pit and reignite your love of the outdoors this winter

PROJECT AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

A fire pit is a wonderful asset for any home. As a social hub for friends and family, they provide a warm atmosphere where relaxed conversations ebb and flow easily. Even children will love the ambience created, and may willingly take time out from phones, computer games and social media in order to join gatherings around the crackling flames.

You won't need to spend a fortune to

create a stylish and valuable space. The Glow Machu fire pit (northcotepottery.com, \$369) is easily transported by car and can be stored away during warmer months so that your new space can be used for summer socialising as well.

We took advantage of an existing corner of our property that was bounded by a low stone wall, which we used to form one side of a new dedicated space to make the most of our fire pit. ►



After excavating a level square area, we built a concrete and steel-reinforced Besser block retaining wall to form a 3 x 3m square area bordered by a 400mm high wall.

Forming up foundations and reinforcing walls was made simple with Whites wire products. We also used their Oxy-Shield interlocking edging strips to add stylish accents to the whole design.

Two low steps were integrated into the build to provide easy access. The area was then levelled with a 50mm layer of compacted road base before being covered with another 25-50mm of 20mm aggregate. This provides good drainage and secure footings.

It's important to consider drainage, particularly with a sunken area such as this. Water accumulating behind retaining walls can cause structural failure, so we installed a simple and effective drainage system.

Finally, we capped the walls with hardwood decking to create comfortable bench-style seating all around. The seating has a fascia on the front for a solid look and a raised lip on the fascia at the back to help retain a cushion for a bit of extra padding.

The newly created space is perfect for the addition of our Glow Machu fire pit. It allows approximately one metre clear space all around the fire, which is ample to allow people to move easily and safely and still sit close enough to feel snug.



BUILD THE FIRE PIT

MATERIALS

- Glow Machu Fire Pit
- 40 Brighton Masonry 390 x 190 x 140mm Besser blocks
- 16 Brighton Masonry 190 x 190 x 140mm Besser blocks
- 1 Whites On-Site 600mm reinforcing mesh roll
- 4 Whites On-Site 1800mm x 12mm ribbed reinforcing bars
- 1 Whites On-Site 300 x 12mm ribbed reinforcing bar
- 15 Whites Oxy-Shield interlocking edging strips
- 65 x 19mm hardwood decking
- 50 x 42mm hardwood battens
- 10g x 100mm galvanised batten screws
- 10g x 40mm square-drive stainless decking screws
- 38mm galvanised angled brad nails
- 50mm blue wall plugs, bar chairs
- Concrete, brickie's mortar, exterior tile adhesive, road base
- Aggregate, 65mm ag pipe, builder's plastic, drainage fabric
- Whites decorative pebble clear glass crystals, timber finish



Before

WHAT YOU NEED

- Drop saw, hand saw, mitre box
- Nail gun/hammer
- Tape measure, screwdrivers
- Compressor
- Shovels, spades, mattocks
- Stringlines, spirit levels, 5mm packers
- Trowels, buckets
- Hammer drill, impact driver
- Angle grinder with 1mm cutting disc

CALCULATING QUANTITIES

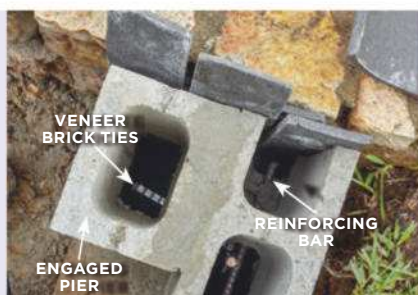
- In this construction we used our own decking and battens. A suitable alternative would be SpecRite 90 x 19mm KD Select Grade Merbau for decking and SpecRite 42 x 28mm KD Select Grade Screening Merbau for the battens.
- We also used about half a cubic metre of concrete to create the footings and reinforce the retaining wall. It can be bought in bulk and mixed on site at a ratio of 3:2:1, being 3 parts blue metal, 2 parts sand and 1 part cement. Or buy it premixed.
- Use brickie's mortar to lay the Besser blocks. The mortar can be mixed from sand and cement at a ratio of 5:1, being 5 parts sand to 1 part cement. Or buy premixed mortar. Four bags will do the job.



1 Form and pour the footings

Set out a 3.5 x 3.5m area and excavate level to a depth of 500mm below the desired finished height. Form footings by setting an edging strip at 3.35m and another at 3m to create a 350mm trench. Level the bottom with road base to achieve a 65mm deep trench and line with builder's plastic. Cut reinforcing mesh to 300mm and set in place on bar chairs. Fill with concrete, agitate well and float level. Allow to cure.

TIP The Whites On-Site reinforcing rod tying tool and galvanised rod ties make the job efficient, safe and easy.



2 Build the retaining wall

Spring two chalk-lines at 3.175m to form the inside edge of main wall. Mark position of engaged piers (each wall has four). The first is adjacent to existing wall and last adjacent to step at 2.26m. Use a block as a template and drill a 50 x 14mm hole for each block. Set a 300mm reinforcing bar into each hole with concrete. Starting in the corner and working toward the existing wall, lay first course of wall on 10mm bed of mortar with a 10mm mortar joint. Lay half blocks with 10mm mortar joint to create engaged piers. Lay reinforcing bar on this course and tie to vertical reinforcing with wire. Lay veneer brick ties between wall and piers. Lay second course and fill wall with concrete.

TIP It's important to fill all the voids in the block wall. Mix the concrete a bit wetter so it slumps easily.

FOR THE STEPS At 2.26m on each wall, adjacent to the engaged pier, lay a single course of block at 45° to the walls to form the bottom step. The ends should butt to both the side of the engaged pier and the wall. The outside edge should be about 840mm from the outside corner of the main wall. Repeat with two courses to form the top step. Each travel should be about 420mm. Backfill with road base to 100mm below top, cut mesh to fit and fill with concrete.

TIP Apply a moist mortar to the top of wall and steps for a smooth finish. ►



3 Install the drainage

Drape the back of the new wall with builder's plastic. Drape the excavated face with drainage fabric. Place 50mm of 20mm aggregate into the base and create a fall to the ends. Insert ag pipe. Backfill with more aggregate to near ground level and cover with remaining drainage fabric. Backfill the wall and drainage to ground level and consolidate.



4 Secure the edging strips

Measure distance between engaged piers and step fronts, then cut individual edging strips to length with an angle grinder and 1mm cutting disc. Laminate in position with rubberised exterior tile adhesive. Spread mixed adhesive with a 10mm notched trowel and bed strips. Align top strip with the top of the wall, no higher, and clamp until firm.



5 Fix the battens

Cut 20 battens 340mm long. Cut 3 corner battens 495mm long with an inside notch at one end and outside mitre at the other. Measure and cut battens for the steps. Fix corner battens with a 25mm overhang on the inside and 10mm outside with two batten screws each into blue plugs. Drill a 6mm clearance hole through batten and an 8mm hole into masonry for the plug. Run stringlines between corners and align all other



battens at no more than 600mm apart and secure. Pack each batten to ensure they are aligned. Ensure all screws are at least 40mm off the outside of the masonry to avoid cracking.

TIP When fixing the decking to the upper step, leave a ragged edge. Once all the boards are secured, mark a pencil line allowing a 10mm overhang and trim them all in one go with a power saw.



6 Secure the decking

Cut and secure the rear timber fascia with nails ensuring it finishes 40mm above the batten. Cut and secure the front fascia with nails flush with the batten. Starting at the rear of the bench, cut decking to length, mitring corners. Predrill and countersink holes and secure with screws. Use



5mm packers to create even gaps between boards. Butt join decking on battens where necessary.

TIP Apply at least one coat of your chosen finish to both sides of all timber before installing. Keep a jar and brush handy to coat cuts as they go in.

TIP The Starborn Smart-Bit allows you to drill an appropriate pilot hole and countersink at the same time. ►



DÉCOFIRE

3 STYLES

ONE FIRE PIT

Featuring an innovative 3-way decorative mesh surround, you can style the Caldera fire pit how you like, to suit your outdoor space and mood. With so many design choices, staying warm in style this winter, has never been easier!



decofireheating.com.au

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

DIY TIP

Add sparkle with Whites decorative pebble clear glass crystals, which provide extra depth and glow to the ambience. Just add wood!



★
The newly created space is perfect for the addition of the Glow Machu fire pit



What's trending

Workshop Talk & Tips

Join the discussion



WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOUR KITCHEN?

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

@Jason

'Install a rangehood that doesn't sound like a 747 engine.'

@Kim

'Choose stone benchtops rather than timber. As much as I love the look, the upkeep is a bit annoying.'

@Darren

WORKSHOP MEMBER PROFILE

@LePallet



Even as a youngster, Rylie Mayfosh was always busy in the backyard building something.

More recently, the 29-year-old father of two has found his DIY projects have helped him navigate what he calls his darkest days – dealing with depression after a serious back injury at work.

Rylie has shared many recycled wood projects with the Workshop community, including a rustic table,

a kids' sand pit, drink dispensers and a stylish breakfast bench. He is also justifiably proud of his timber pallet bench seat, which has built-in storage and a planter box on each side. It has been one of the most popular Workshop projects of the past year.

Rylie started building with pallets after his partner, Elise, requested a herb garden.

'After looking on the net, I noticed how popular they were. From there, I was hooked on what else could be made from recycled pallets,' he says.



SHARE YOUR PICS



@AndrewJones



@Oldfart



@ProjectPete

PICTURE (TOP) ISTOCK



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.

Find it at Bunnings

HOW TO MAKE A COPPER CLOTHES RAIL

Create more space in your wardrobe with this industrial-style hanging rail

Finding new storage space is a common challenge for most households. Adding wardrobe space is particularly in demand.

Here we show how to create more storage space in your wardrobe by installing an industrial-style hanging rail. All you need is some copper pipe and a little bit of know-how.

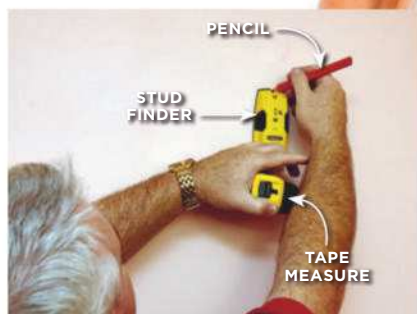
To give your copper clothes hanger a fantastic finish, clean and shine it with metal polish and a soft cloth.

Then you can hang your clothes and enjoy that extra storage space.

WHAT YOU NEED

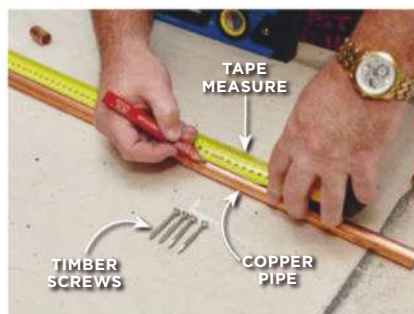
- $\frac{3}{4}$ in copper pipe
- 20mm copper elbow
- 2 19mm chrome flanges
- Silicone, caulking gun
- 8g x 35mm timber screws
- Wall anchors, if needed
- Crimping tool
- Flaring tool
- Pencil and level
- Measuring tape
- Cordless drill
- Pipe cutter
- Hammer, stud finder

1 2 3



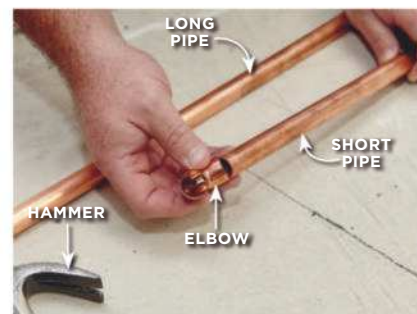
1 Mark stud and joist

The clothes rail will carry weight, so it should be attached to a wall stud and a ceiling joist. Locate them with a stud finder. Using a pencil, mark the centre of the stud on the wall and the centre of the joist on the ceiling. Remember to position the clothes rail far enough from the wall to fit a coat hanger.



2 Cut the copper pipe

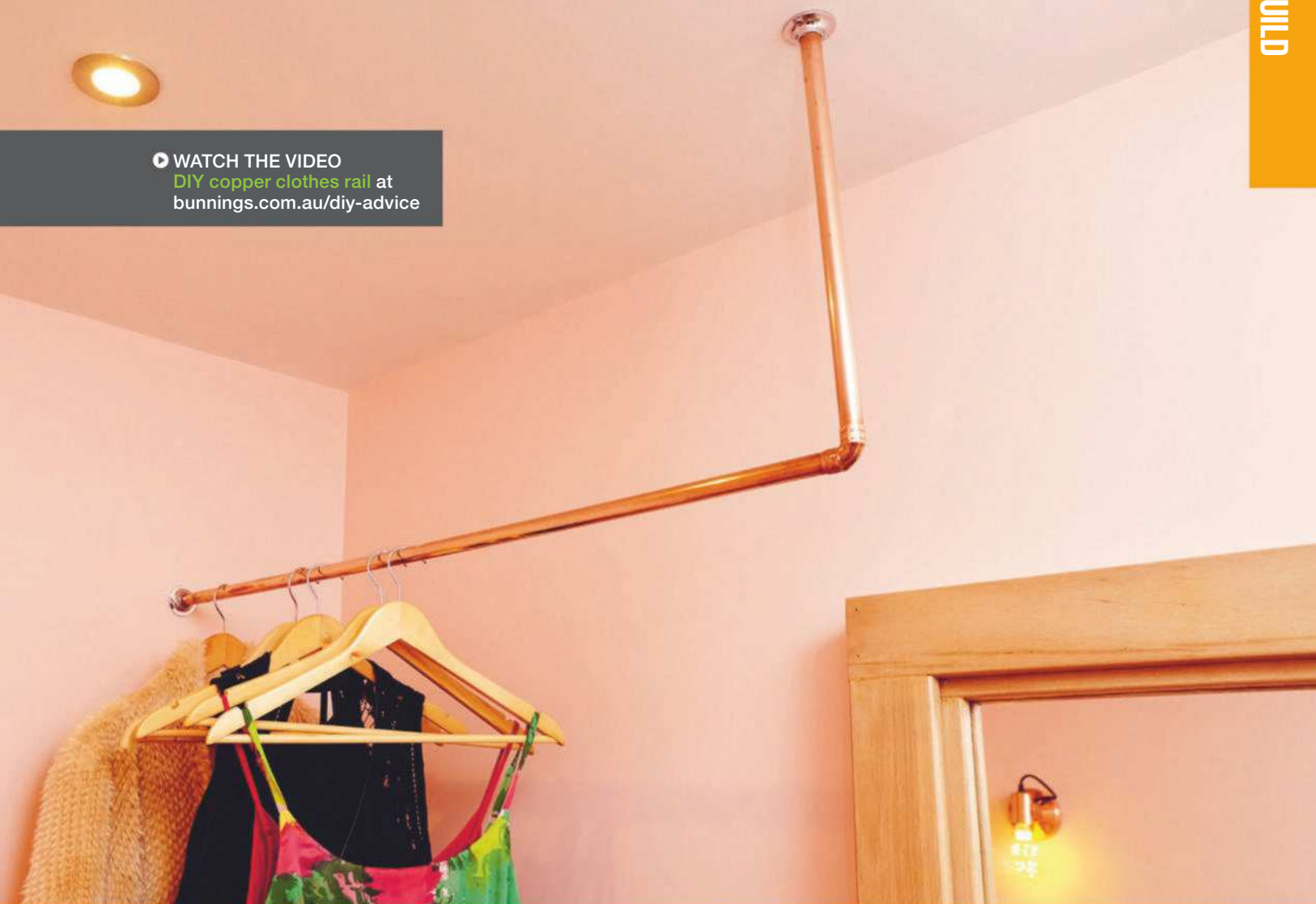
The measurements for the copper pipe will depend on where your hanger will fit and the drop you want. Here the drop is 400mm and the hanging pipe is 700mm. Measure the two pipe lengths and cut them with a pipe cutter. Tighten the cutter a bit after every revolution for a clean cut. Never overtighten.



3 Attach the elbow

Join the short copper pipe, the drop, to the elbow and crimp into place. Join the hanging pipe to the other side of the elbow and crimp that into place. When crimping, lean the pieces on a pipe offcut so you have clearance from the workbench. If you don't have a crimping tool, use adhesive.

▶ WATCH THE VIDEO
DIY copper clothes rail at
bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



4 5 6



4 Flare the pipe ends

Flare the pipe ends to ensure the flanges remain secured. First, slide a flange on one pipe end. Attach the flaring tool to that pipe end and hit it several times with a hammer. Check the flange won't come off. If it needs more flare, reattach the flaring tool and hit it a few more times. Repeat for the other end.



5 Apply the silicone

To ensure the flange doesn't move, run a bead of silicone around the underside of the flare and press the flange into it. Add more silicone over and around the end of the pipe, then wipe off excess silicone with a dry cloth. Repeat for the other flare and flange. Allow them to dry for 24 hours.



6 Secure the railing

Once the silicone is dry, use the cordless drill and 35mm timber screws to secure one end of the clothes hanger to the ceiling joist. Secure the other end to the wall. If you can't attach the railing to a stud wall or ceiling joist, use wall anchors to secure it. Clean and shine the pipe with metal polish and a cloth. ♦

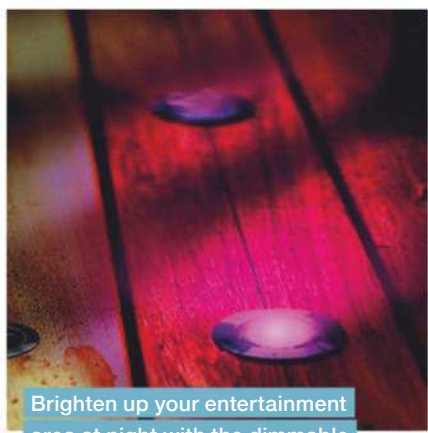
Find it at Bunnings

What's new

Choose from these latest items for home and garden instore



Add stylish window coverings to your home with EasyAS Adjustable Shutters. Available in 25 sizes, from \$155.



Brighten up your entertainment area at night with the dimmable Holman 45mm RGB Colour Deck Light, \$69.98 for kit.



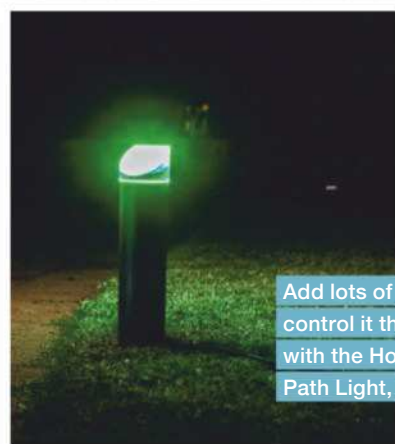
Control your garden lights through your smartphone using the Holman Warm White Bluetooth Garden Light Controller, \$99.



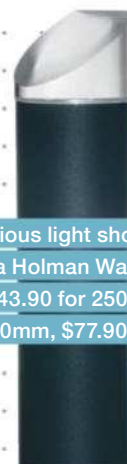
Install a lighting system operated through wi-fi starting with a Sengled Element Smart LED Downlight, \$49.99, kit, \$199.



Make a style statement in your home with the the Holman 75mm RGB Colour Spot Light, \$39.98.



Add lots of colour to your paths and control it through your smartphone with the Holman 250mm RGB Colour Path Light, \$49.98.



Create a glorious light show in your garden with a Holman Warm White Path Light, \$43.90 for 250mm, \$59.98 for 450mm, \$77.90 for 550mm.



Give a designer edge to your walls using Boutique 52cm Grasscloth Natural Wallpaper, \$119 for 10m.



Reduce painting time with British Paints Doors, Windows & Trim Paint & Prime Water Based Gloss, \$79.90 for 4L.

Secure building materials firmly together with Selleys Instant Hold Liquid Nails, \$15.95 for 290ml.



Program a wide range of watering options for your garden using the Holman Waterwhiz 400, \$149.



Set up a fully automated irrigation system that covers any shaped garden with the Gardena AquaContour, \$299.



Protect your hands and wrists while tending your roses with Wells Lamont Rose Tender Leather Pruning Gloves, \$19.98.



Enjoy the protection of leather while working with your hands using Wells Lamont HydraHyde Water-Resistant Leather Garden Gloves, \$24.98.



Guard against injury in the garden by wearing Wells Lamont Women's HydraHyde Water-Resistant Leather Spandex Garden Gloves, \$19.98.



Feel safe landscaping or gardening by wearing Wells Lamont Men's HydraHyde Water-Resistant Leather Spandex Garden Gloves, \$19.98.

REFINISH YOUR DECK

Keep your deck looking its best all year round with these DIY tips for maintaining tiptop timber

A great place to relax or entertain, a timber deck adds beauty and value to your home at any time of year. But leaving your deck untended and unloved in these colder months won't do it – or you – any good. Exposure to harsh outdoor elements can take its toll and fast-track deterioration.

Luckily, deck maintenance is easy when done properly and regularly. And there's no better time than now to give your deck the care it deserves to last a lifetime. ►

DISCOVER ALL THE SIGNS OF A GREAT BBQ



BOSS
4 BURNER
\$890

5 YEAR WARRANTY

Let them know who's in charge with the new Matador Boss 4 burner. Premium features put you in total control and the bold contemporary design is a sure sign you're ready for the main event.

MATADORBBQS.COM.AU

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



SELF CLEANING
HOOD



POWDERCOATED FINISH



ENAMEL CAST IRON BURNERS



WOK BURNER



MATADOR

**THE SIGN OF A
GREAT BBQ**

ASSESS AND REPAIR

The first place to start with a deck renovation is to check the condition of the existing timbers. Inspect the entire structure, looking out for rotten, spongy, split or damaged boards and corroded and loosening fasteners.

Look for any mould or mildew, as this can indicate where moisture has seeped into the timber and may cause structural damage, as well as creating a dangerously slippery surface. This will need to be removed in the cleaning process before treating.

If you can get underneath, check the joists, bearers, ledgers and posts, particularly any in contact with the ground where water can be absorbed and start to rot the timber.

It is important to repair or replace timber at the first sign of damage. This may be a relatively simple job of cutting away the rotten decking board and laying a replacement board. If joists start to show signs of decay, you may be able to simply scrape away the damage and apply timber preservative and filler.

If bearers or posts are decayed, you may have safety issues. Depending on the extent of the damage, sections may need to be replaced. ►



Timber posts and pergolas need treatment too.



Raised fasteners need hammering back into place.

DIY TIP

Be sure to change the positions of pot plants every six months or so. Their weight and moisture can stain or damage timber.



A pressure washer may remove flaking stain. But sanding may be required.

TOP PICKS

Put these products on your shopping list and get the deck reno done properly.

Earl's All-Purpose Multfill, \$24 for 1kg. bunnings.com.au



Ryobi 800W Belt Sander, \$119. ryobi.com.au



Gerni 1.4kW Classic 120.5PC High Pressure Cleaner, \$199. gerni.com.au



Sikkens Cetol BL Deck & Wood Cleaner, \$25.50 for 1L. tenaru.com.au



Uni-Pro Floor & Decking Applicator, \$26. unipro.com.au

Cabot's Timbercolour Deck & Exterior Paint, \$60 for 4L. cabots.com.au



Stanley Fatmax 8m Tape Measure, \$36.95. stanleytools.com.au



Uni-Pro Sheepskin Deck & Trim Pad, \$11.50. unipro.com.au



Decor Speed 450mm Outdoor Broom, \$25. decor.com.au



Earl's Wood Hardener, \$23 for 250ml. bunnings.com.au



WOOD HARDENER

PRE-MIXED • WATER-BASED • NON TOXIC



SAVE ON
COSTLY
REPAIRS

Earl's® Wood Hardener penetrates into soft rotted wood fibres, restoring them to near original strength. This means you can repair even the most damaged wood, ready for full restoration.

NO NEED TO DIG OUT ROT

IT'S AS SIMPLE AS 1, 2, 3

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



BEFORE



AFTER*

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

Use Earl's® Wood Hardener on:

Fences • Weatherboards • Window sill/sashes
Playground Equipment • Door Frames • Posts
Decks • Panelling • Fence Palings • Furniture
Outdoor Tables/Chairs • Decorative beams

For more information visit our website www.timbermate.com.au or call us on 1800 354 811

Timbermate^{group}

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

PREPARE AND CLEAN

For the deck to absorb its new finishing treatment, it's important to remove all traces of dirt, grime, stains and mould. If you want to remove the previous stain or layer of paint back to the natural wood colour, or if you want to smooth a rough surface, sand it back with a belt or palm sander.

Make sure to check all nails and screws before you do. If the wood has dried out, or is starting to deteriorate, nails may be protruding above the level of the timber, which can tear your sandpaper – or worse, catch the bottom of someone's foot and cause an injury. They should be hammered back level, sunk with a nail punch, or screwed firmly back into place.

If the surface is smooth but only dirty, you can go straight to washing the boards.

To thoroughly clean the surface, first use a pressure washer set to the minimum level. Don't hold it too close to the surface, as this can actually damage the wood by splintering it.

Next, apply a deck cleaner with a stiff-bristled broom. This is an important step. A household detergent won't do, and it may cause problems by reacting with the new finish, causing it to need sanding back again.

Specially formulated deck cleaner contains a type of acid that reacts with the natural oils in wood, and has a bleaching effect. This prepares the surface for its finish. Scrub the timber surface thoroughly, leave for around 20 minutes, then hose it off.

Allow the deck to dry completely before applying any further treatments. How long you need to wait will depend on the temperature and humidity.



1 Wash the deck

Thoroughly wash the surface with a pressure washer set to minimum level.



2 Clean the timber

Scrub the surface using deck cleaner applied with a stiff-bristled broom.



DIY TIP

Grease stains from barbecues may need extra treatment. Rub down with mineral turps and remove residue with a clean cloth.



3 Rinse the surface

Hose off the deck cleaner and allow to thoroughly dry.



4 Sand rough areas

Smooth any rough or marked areas and remove dust. ►



Earl's

Multi-Purpose

MULTIFILL®

Interior & Exterior Filler

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

**NO WASTE
SETS HARD**



Ideal for Decking

Comes in white and a range of popular decking colours...

**ONE TUB
DOES IT ALL**

Use on Brick, Plasterboard, Wood, Steel, Plywood, Concrete, Cement Sheets & More



For more information visit our website

www.timbermate.com.au

or call us on **1800 354 811**

Timbermategroup

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

DECIDE WHICH FINISH

Once your timber surface is prepared, decide whether you are going to use deck oil, timber stain or paint.

♦ **OILS** protect timber and prevent weathering. They penetrate into the wood, resisting water damage while minimising UV damage. Oils never flake or peel, are resistant to mould and fungus, and some have anti-slip properties. They enhance the colour and grain of quality hardwood and are the preferred choice for a lot of hardwood decks. They are easy to apply with a lambswool applicator, giving a low sheen and smooth finish. But oils usually require reapplication at least every 12 months, and more often, depending on the level of exposure to direct sun and weather.

♦ **STAINS** enhance the appearance of the timber by deepening the colour to your preferred look and protect the timber. They highlight the natural grain and come in a range of rich colours. A water-based stain is quick and convenient to apply, while an

oil-based stain is durable and seals the surface of the wood. Stains also shouldn't fade in direct sunlight, but some stains need to be applied with brush and roller, which usually means it takes more time than applying oil.

♦ **PAINTS** offer limitless colour choice, so you can make a bold statement or complement the colour of your house. However, they don't penetrate into the timber to protect it and need more frequent maintenance. Paint finishes are best reserved for decks that have not previously been treated with a stain or oil.

HOW TO APPLY THE FINISH

Before applying your finish, the first step is to check the weather. Make sure rain isn't forecast for at least the next 24 hours. Also avoid very hot and windy conditions, and when the temperature drops below 10°C, as this can affect the treatment.

Always apply going in the direction of the grain, and in sections of two or three boards at a time. ►



1 Mask the deck

Use painter's tape to cover areas around the edge of the deck that you don't want touched, such as other painted surfaces.



2 Cut in the edges

Cut in, applying the finish to the edges of the deck using a paintbrush. Long even strokes give the best result.



3 Apply the finish

Apply the oil, stain or paint according to manufacturers' instructions. In most cases, a second coat will be needed.

WHAT'S IN A DECK?

Decking boards come in softwood or hardwood timber, which offer different strengths, colours, grain, flexibility, durability and prices. The material that your deck is made of will figure in your choice of finish.

SOFTWOOD

Pine timber is a very popular choice for its availability, cost-effectiveness and ease of installation. Made from quick-growing trees, this timber is undoubtedly cheaper than hardwood alternatives, and is treated with preservatives to a high quality to protect it from decay and deterioration. It can have a grooved surface to help with slip resistance, but it won't last as long as hardwood and lacks distinctive grain, making stain or paint finishes the best options, both of which it takes well.

HARDWOOD

More durable, dense and resilient than softwood, hardwood makes excellent decking material. And Australia is spoilt for choice when it comes to native hardwood timbers. Commonly used timbers are blackbutt, spotted gum and jarrah. An oil finish enhances the natural grain, but hardwoods also take stain well and are easy to strip back.

TREATED PINE

is easy to work with and usually cheapest to buy.

MERBAU is imported and has a natural deep red colour.

SPOTTED GUM has a distinctive grain and is suitable for bushfire zones.

BLACKBUTT varies from pale brown to cream and has a natural fire resistance.



PICTURES GERALDINE LANZARONE

OVER ACHIEVER



Talk about a true jack-of-all-trades! Sikaflex® PRO Multipurpose Sealant shares its excellent adhesion properties on cement, brick, polyurethane, epoxy, metal or timber. Plus you can use it inside or outside the home too. Sikaflex® PRO gets a big tick of approval for all those weekend sealing jobs.



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

A little effort in upkeep should have at least a year's rewards.

★
If your deck absorbs water rather than repels it, it's time to give it a bit of love and care

DECK UPKEEP

To keep your deck in tiptop condition, it's a good idea to implement a regular maintenance schedule. Set aside one weekend a year to inspect, clean and refinish your deck, but there are small things you can do regularly to extend its life and keep it looking great.

◆ **SWEEP AND CLEAN** Treat your deck as you would an indoor floor. Clean up food spills, sweep away leaves, wash off mud and tree sap, and keep it free of bird poop.

◆ **CLEAR THE PERIMETER** Prune overhanging tree branches, as leaf litter can build up quickly and holds moisture, which causes staining.

◆ **MAINTAIN FLOW** Some decks may have been constructed to conceal

problem areas without addressing the original issues. Check that the area underneath the deck is clear of any moisture build-up and is well-ventilated.

◆ MOVE THINGS AROUND

Rearrange pieces of furniture or move pot plants to avoid staining or discolouration.

FINISH FREQUENCY

How often you need to refinish your deck depends on a number of factors, including the timber used, whether a water- or oil-based finish was applied, how much it gets used, and the climate.

If your deck looks dull and absorbs water rather than repels it, it's time to give it a bit of love and care.



WARM UP FOR WINTER

There's no need to retreat inside as the cold rolls in. Warm up your deck with these five clever weatherproofing ideas.

♦ INVEST IN AN OUTDOOR HEATER OR FIRE PIT

What nicer way to stay warm than around a modern-day camp fire?

♦ **PROVIDE SHELTER** A fixed pergola or awning gives cover, which invites people to use outdoor space. It also traps warmth if you install an outdoor heat source.

♦ **TAKE COOKING OUTSIDE** Alfresco eating isn't just for summer. A barbecue or pizza oven will warm you and your companions inside and out.

♦ **INSTALL AMBIENT LIGHTING** Low-level light creates a welcoming, intimate outdoor room.

♦ **CREATE A COSY NOOK** A screen or hedge windbreak can make a comfy corner. To maximise access to winter sun, consider deciduous trees. ♦

NO LEAKS. IT'S A SEALED DEAL.



SikaSeal® Kitchen and Bathroom is the fast curing sealant help you need. Designed to work on ceramics; tiles, aluminium, steel, copper, plastic laminates, rubber, stainless steel plus concrete and grouts - it's the one-component, mould resistant fix for those DIY jobs in your bathroom and kitchen.



BUILDING TRUST

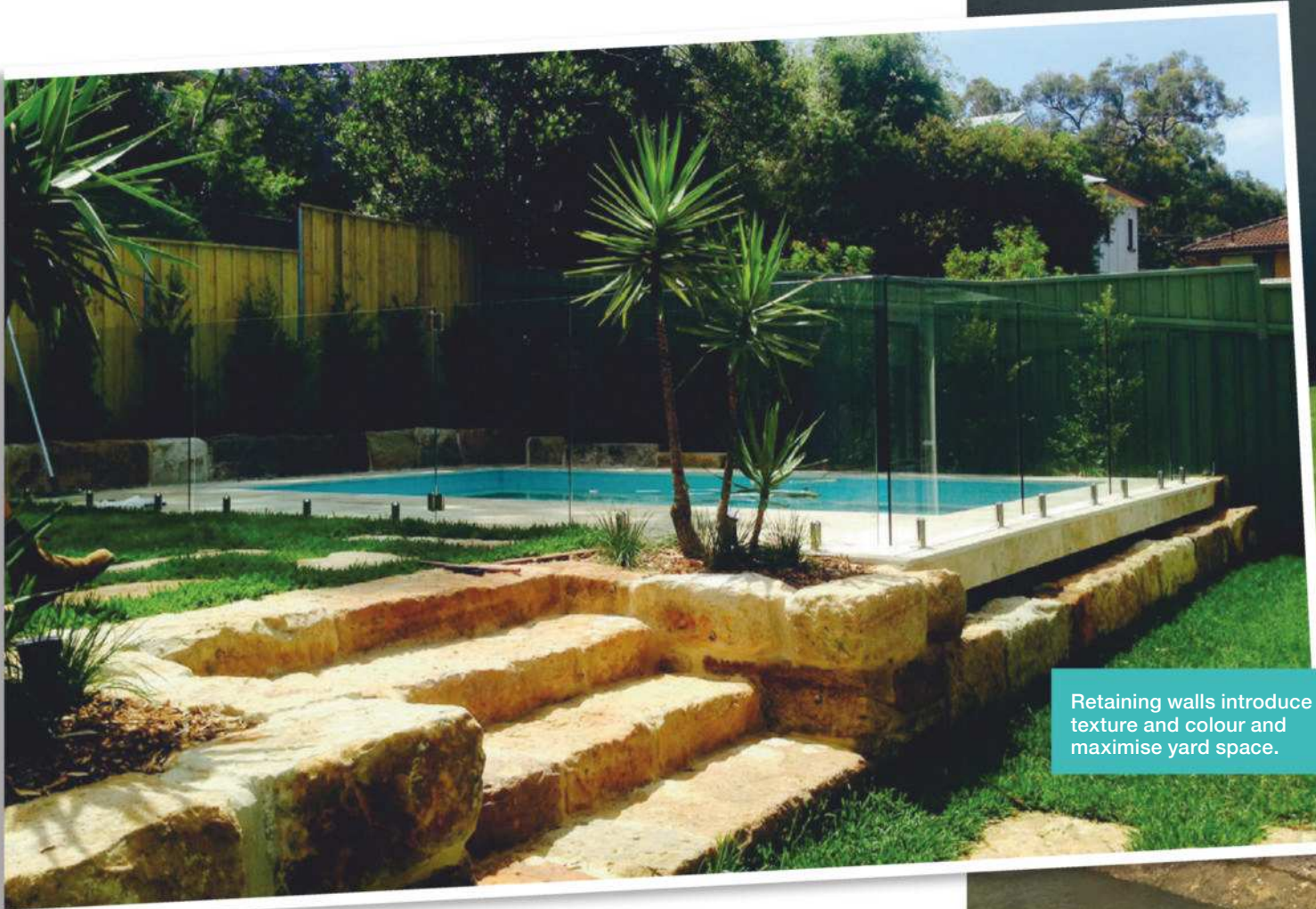
Watch Brad & Lara's product demos at sikaretail.com.au

GREAT WALLS

A well-constructed retaining wall can be a thing of beauty, and a great way to enhance the functionality of your outdoor area



PICTURES BMS LANDSCAPES



Retaining walls introduce texture and colour and maximise yard space.



If you are looking to maximise the utility and visual appeal of every square metre of your outdoor space, you are probably going to consider installing some form of retaining wall.

In flat, open areas, carefully conceived and properly installed walls lay the groundwork for grand garden designs that are pleasing to the eye and practical for your needs. By delineating particular zones in your yard, you can create visual borders or divisions that suggest their desired purposes – even as simple a concept as separating a garden bed from a lawn area.

Retaining walls alter the perception of space. They can be used to conceal unsightly views, or they can highlight zones for relaxing and entertaining.

On sloping or hilly blocks, retaining walls come into their own by creating tiers where uneven ground may have rendered an area otherwise unusable. These levelled areas can become garden beds, paved entertainment areas or turfed play zones.

Importantly, the construction of a retaining wall allows for the introduction of attractive textures and shapes into your outdoor zone. Materials for their construction can vary from bush rock, stone, bricks and blocks to treated pine sleepers. Their look and feel can introduce aesthetically pleasing features and turn a drab yard into an alluring landscape that invites exploration and admiration. ►



ABOVE Timber cladding softens the look of this border. BELOW Render introduces colour.

No sensible discussion of retaining walls can overlook the importance of their proper construction – and the perils of poor planning. Just add water, like a sudden downpour of rain, and any wall that is being built to retain something (usually soil), will likely become a dangerous hazard if the first principles of drainage and footings are not followed. Water is the great leveller, and has potentially disastrous consequences if not taken into account.

This is why strict regulations govern their construction, and most councils forbid DIY walls over a certain height without proper engineering certification. Even a solidly constructed wall may breach council regulations if its drainage system diverts water thoughtlessly. Always check with

your council before building any wall, especially one over knee height, and always if it is near a fence or on a steeply sloping area.

But do your homework and a DIY retaining wall can be one of the most satisfying additions a home handyman can put their energy into.

The images presented on these pages from BNS Landscapes of Sydney (bnslandscapes.com.au) showcase the various styles of construction and materials that can be used – and what a professional landscaper can do. On the next page we show you how to turn a patch of rough dirt adjoining a home into a section of lush lawn abutting a courtyard, all with the simple installation of a treated pine sleeper retaining wall. ►



INSTALL A RETAINING WALL

Build a low retaining wall using a galvanised post system for pine sleepers



PICTURE STUART SCOTT

The Retain-iT system is designed to hold pine sleepers, which look great after treatment with a merbau stain.



DIY TIP

Check with your local council regarding regulations. Most councils forbid walls over a certain height being built without certification.

For this garden, a simple system was required for installing a retaining wall. The Retain-iT Post System from Whites was ideal, as the galvanised posts are made to accommodate treated pine sleepers.

Pine capping and a set of wide steps were added and the timber was finished with a merbau stain for a rich look.

Drainage was installed behind the wall, using drainage fabric, 100mm ag pipe and gravel.

To start, establish the line of the wall, excavating 200mm behind it, then use a laser level to set the finished height of the wall either end, setting out a stringline as a guide.

Calculating the materials

For this wall, the sleepers were stacked three high, and a sleeper thickness of 75mm was chosen for strength and less timber flexibility.

The posts were concreted into the ground at a maximum of 2400mm apart on the sandy site.

Measure the length of the wall, setting the posts to match the sleeper sizes. Multiply the spacings between the posts by the number of vertical sleepers to find how many you need. Here, we used 15 sleepers 2400mm long, plus six each of 1200 and 1800mm for about 16m of wall, with steps set in one panel.

Simple post system

The Retain-iT posts are made from high-tensile galvanised steel and are a simple system for building treated pine walls.

After the posts are concreted into position, the treated pine sleepers are dropped into the 40mm deep recesses, with no fasteners required.

The posts come in three heights for walls, 200, 400 and 600mm high, to fit 50 and 75mm thick sleepers.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Whites Retain-iT end posts, joiner posts, corner posts
- Treated pine sleepers
- Concrete
- Builder's square
- Spirit level
- Stringline
- Drainage fabric
- 100mm ag pipe
- Pine lengths for capping
- 14g x 75mm bugle-head screws, drill
- Router with roundover bit

1 2 3



1 Concrete the end posts

Excavate two 550mm deep holes and insert the end posts. Pour in concrete to 600mm from the top. Use a spirit level to check for plumb in both directions, then check the post is the right height.

TIP A 20kg bag of cement, mixed with gravel and sand, fills three holes.



2 Install the joiner posts

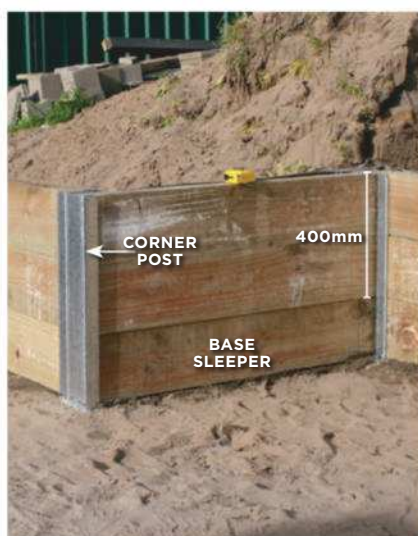
Set up a stringline to use as a guide, then position a base sleeper in each end post. Position the joiner posts, then dig 550mm deep holes and concrete them into position using a spirit level to plumb, aligning them with the stringline and leaving to dry.



3 Build the corners

Position and concrete the corner posts, using a builder's square to install the sleepers at 90° to the wall.

TIP To build the steps later, a 1200mm deep and 2400mm wide recessed area was added, which incorporated four corner posts.



4 Slot in the sleepers

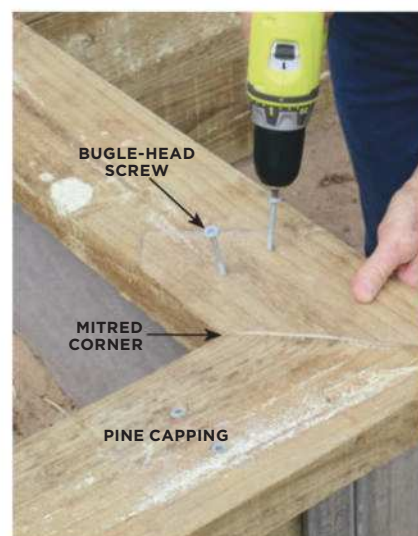
Position the base sleepers, levelling and packing them to leave exactly enough space above to accommodate the middle and top rows.

TIP Check the height of the top sleeper matches the post so the capping sits flush along the wall.



5 Install the drainage

Position drainage fabric behind the wall and fold it over the sleepers. Install 100mm ag pipe with clear exits at the ends, then cover with 20mm gravel to 300mm deep, folding the cloth back to separate the drainage, and backfill with soil.



6 Add the capping

Square cut and mitre the capping. Apply construction adhesive to the ends and secure to the sleepers with 14g x 75mm galvanised bugle-head screws. Use a router with a roundover bit to remove splinters and trim the edges. Apply two coats of decking stain. ♦

THE RIGHT STUFF

Find out which
garden tools you
really need

WORDS DONYALE HARRISON

For new gardeners, it can be hard to know which tools you'll use and which will mostly live in the shed. For an average courtyard or suburban garden, this set of essentials will get you going, and you can add in a few useful extras as you need them.

SMALL JOBS

The essential

♦ **HAND TROWEL** This can be used to do most small jobs around the garden, from planting seedlings to removing weeds. Buy one that fits comfortably in your hand. A bright colour will help you find it if you leave it in a garden bed.



Trojan Stainless Steel Hand Weeder, \$5. trojantools.com.au

Trojan Stainless Steel Trowel, \$5. trojantools.com.au

Handy extras

♦ **WEEDER** The handheld, pronged type is perfect for digging up weeds with taproots, including dandelions.

♦ **ASIAN HOE** Shaped like a small steel scythe, it works to break up soil, dig up weeds, make holes and create drills. It is sold under names such as Asian hand cultivator and ho-mi.

♦ **BULB TROWEL** A narrow, long trowel, this is perfect for planting tube stock and removing perennial pests such as onion weed.



DIGGING

The essential

◆ SQUARE-BLADED SPADE

With a well-fitted and comfortable handle, this tool will manage almost all your digging jobs. Look for a sharp stainless steel or other rustproof blade that's directly in line with the handle and has a good-sized flat tread on the top for you to push down with your boot. Keep it sharp with a hand file or grinding wheel.

Cyclone Short Handle Garden Spade, \$60.
bunnings.com.au

Handy extras

◆ **SHOVEL** If you move a lot of soil or compost around, a shovel will do the job faster than a spade, but it's less useful for cutting into soil.

◆ **MATTOCK** For breaking up dry or hard soils, a heavy mattock blade will do much of the work for you. Choose one you can lift and swing easily and make sure to keep the handle in good condition, replacing it if damaged.

Trojan Cutter End Mattock, \$45. trojantools.com.au

Dewalt Performance Mechanic Gloves, \$35. Dewalt.com.au

PROTECT YOURSELF

The best garden tools in the world need someone to make them work, so make sure you care for yourself.

◆ **HANDS** Always wear gloves, even if it's just for sun protection and cleanliness. Spiny and thorny plants need gloves that have extra-strong palms and fingers. If they don't have gauntlets, wear a sturdy, long-sleeved jacket.

◆ **HEAD** Put your hat on. Sunscreen aside, it will keep your hair from catching in branches and protect your head from nasties falling from above, be they leaves, spiders or bird poo.

◆ **FEET** Always wear sturdy shoes when digging or mowing.

◆ **EYES** Sunglasses will protect your eyes from flung soil as well as UV rays.

◆ **KNEES AND BACK** Stools and kneeling pads aren't just for oldies. They help prevent injuries as well as making things more comfortable. Ergonomic tools are also worthwhile.

◆ **LUNGS** Wear a mask when using potting mix, manures and compost or turning over soil. ►





CULTIVATING AND CLEAN-UP

The essential

◆ **GARDEN FORK** Use one of these to loosen soil, turn compost, lift plants, spread organic matter and aerate lawns. Choose a size that fits your body, keeping in mind that your handle-arm elbow shouldn't need to lift above your shoulder as you fork. Look for a D-handle, as well as a forged head, where the tines and tread are all made in one piece.

Handy extras

- ◆ **HOE** Use a stirrup hoe for removing weeds, or choose a classic 6in hoe to handle light digging as well.
- ◆ **EDGER** A crescent-shaped lawn edger, or step edger, easily cuts a nice clean edge along garden beds. If you need to trim back grass from paving, a rotary turf edger does the job quickly.
- ◆ **RAKE** The rigid head of a landscape rake lets you smooth soil, spread compost and manures, tidy gravel and clean up leaves. If you only need to gather leaf litter, an adjustable steel rake does a fine job.
- ◆ **PLASTIC TUB** Ideal for everything from mixing extras into your potting mix to soaking pot plants in seaweed solution, or carting seedlings and trowels around the yard and garden waste to the compost.



Editor's
pick



For large area clean-ups, the Ozito 18V Brushless Blower Vac and Mulcher (\$169, ozito.com.au) is the answer. Blow away leaves and clippings or vacuum them up and turn to mulch.



CUTTING

The essential

♦ **SECATEURS** It's worth spending a bit on secateurs, as you're likely to use them more often than most tools. Look for a style that fits your hand comfortably and comes with replaceable parts. Bypass secateurs are best for general use on stems up to about 1cm thick. Bright-coloured handles will help you avoid losing them.

Handy extras

♦ **SHEARS** Hedge shears are designed for trimming shrubs and the leaves of trees to keep plants tidy in your yard. Hedging plants, in particular, respond well to regular shaping. Some models of shears have extendable handles.

♦ **LOPPERS** Like secateurs for giants, these long-handled and long-bladed tools can cut branches up to 5cm thick with ease. Choose a weight you can manage and look for models with replaceable blades.



Cyclone Telescopic Hedge Shears, \$60.
bunnings.com.au



♦ **SAW** For thicker branches, a pruning saw will cut cleanly. Make sure you begin with an undercut on the base of the branch so the bark doesn't tear as you saw from above. Look for models with either high-quality steel or replaceable blades, as it's a fussy job to sharpen these.

Cyclone 350mm Fixed Pruning Saw, \$25.
bunnings.com.au

Ozito 18V Pole Pruner, \$149.
ozito.com.au



TAKE IT EASY

If you have a large garden, it's worth looking at electric edgers and pruners, as the time they save you will more than cover their expense.

Ergonomic tools are a lot cheaper than the powered variety, and also make it easier for you to operate than the standard versions. Many have handles at more comfortable angles, or come in standing versions such as weeders and trowels, or with

gears and ratchets that help those lacking a strong grip.

Many tools are available with longer handles and specially crafted shafts and with handles for those who need help lifting. Even if your back is strong, these are a great buy if your garden has hard-to-reach areas.

Telescopic handles on saws, pruners and loppers make it easy to cut high branches without breaking out the ladder, making it safer as well as faster. ♦

Are you ready for your next challenge?



If you enjoy talking to people about topical questions and would embrace a little walking, a career as an interviewer for one of Australia's most respected research agencies may be just what you've been looking for.

Join our wonderful team of weekend interviewers who go out each Saturday and Sunday to Interview everyday Australians and give them an opportunity to share their opinions on all the important things that make this country tick. We offer full training with no experience necessary and can offer continuous weekend employment in your local area.

What would you do with the extra money? Perhaps enjoy a European trip each year? Or just follow your dream?

Visit www.roymorgan.com or call toll free 1800 011 819 today.

You can send your CV to hr@roymorgan.com



ROY
MORGAN

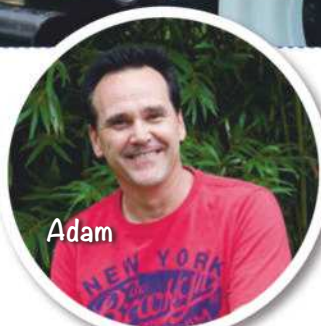
Roy Morgan Research Ltd - ABN 91 007 092 944 -

Certified to ISO 20252 Market, Opinion & Social Research and AS/NZS ISO 9001 Quality Systems Standards

DRAINBRAINS

Poor drainage can be a soggy nuisance. Or worse, the cause of serious structural problems in the home or garden. But with the right plan, drainage headaches can be an easy DIY fix

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS



Adam

EXPERT SECRETS

If you suspect that drainage problems are causing cracks in brickwork or concrete or contributing to the subsidence of structures, paths or driveways, call in the experts for advice before undertaking any work.

Drainage – or, more correctly, a lack of drainage – can cause major problems around the home and garden. You may end up with temporary flooding during heavy downpours, or have perpetually boggy spots in

your yard. The good news is that in many cases the fixes are quite straightforward.

Each situation will usually require a different solution, but the first step is to work out the cause of your problem. ►



INCOMING WATER

Obviously, any drainage problem is caused by water arriving at a given point. But your solution might involve different approaches.

Perhaps the answer is to install drainage in your problem area. Or it may mean stopping some of the water from arriving there in the first place.

Take a driveway that slopes down towards your home, as an example. The solution might be to install a drain at your wet point and a drain at the top to prevent water flowing in from the road.

This is where your detective work will pay off. You may need to slip on the gumboots and raincoat and investigate during heavy rain, as the source may not be as obvious as you think.

COLLECTED WATER

If water starts collecting because it can't escape, you have a drainage problem. It could be that your situation

is simply caused by run-off from another area, and the water has nowhere to go. This requires the most straightforward solution – a simple drain to divert the water.

DRAINAGE TYPES

Once you have determined the cause of your problem, you can plan your solution. Before you start digging, however, you'll need to understand the different types of drainage and their uses. There are two main drainage groups.

Surface drainage is the conspicuous type of drain system that you'll see running across driveways, along the edge of paved areas or in courtyards. Basically, a channel allows water to flow into a buried drainage pit or pipe.

It is usually covered by a grate so it's not a trip hazard. The underground section will then be connected to a stormwater pipe to carry away the

water. This system is primarily used when excess surface water is the issue.

Sub-surface drainage systems are buried out of sight. These will divert water as it soaks through the soil from above or as the water level within the soil rises.

The most common type of sub-surface drainage usually involves installing slotted agricultural drainage pipe (ag pipe in tradie-talk) behind retaining walls.

In most situations these will be connected to a suitable stormwater drainage system. In some cases, however, they may be output into a large garden area where the water can be dispersed without creating any further problems.

This system is used primarily where waterlogging needs to be avoided, to fix areas that are waterlogged, or where accumulation of water needs to be avoided, such as behind a wall.

DIY TIP

Never run a drain so that it flows into a neighbour's property. You have a responsibility to deal with stormwater within your block.

INSTALL A SURFACE DRAIN

This area beside a pathway pooled with water after rain. It's an ideal spot for a simple surface drain.

As the area was small and the water was more of a nuisance than a major issue, we installed a shallow or low-profile drainage channel, as you can see in the inset photo.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Drainage channel modules
- Pre-mixed sand and cement, or concrete
- Unslotted agricultural drainage pipe of a suitable diameter for pick-up pipe
- Pipe connectors as required



1 2 3



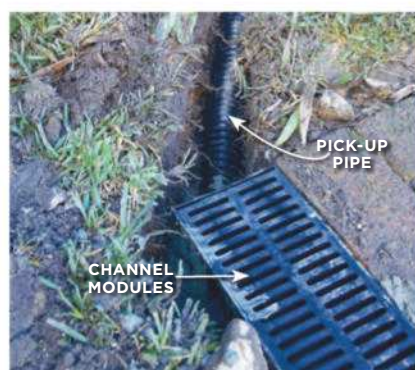
1 Excavate the drain

Dig out a channel the required length of the drain. The trench should be about 50% wider and 25% deeper than the drainage channel module to allow for the laying of concrete. A trenching shovel will make this task easier, but a spade will handle the job.



2 Lay the base

Mix concrete or a bagged sand and cement mix (not quickset products) and ladle this into the base and up the side of the trench. Cap the end of the channel module if needed and place in the trench into the wet concrete. Use a level to check it falls towards the output end.



3 Connect to outlet

At the output end of the drain, dig a trench for the pick-up pipe, ensuring there is adequate fall. This pipe will take water away to a point where you can connect to the stormwater system, or on to another suitable location. Connect the pipes and cover with soil. ►

INSTALL A SUB-SURFACE DRAIN

1 2 3



1 Excavate the area

Dig a hole in the problem area and a trench for the output pipe. The main hole should be at least 100mm deeper than the height of your trench liner. Line the bottom with drainage fabric, add a layer of drainage gravel about 40mm thick, then position the trench liner with its end caps fitted.



2 Lay the pipe

Position the output pipe, ensuring that it has adequate fall to take the water away. Create a hole in the trench liner end cap and connect the pipe. Cover trench liner with drainage fabric and lap this up the trench sides before covering with drainage gravel. Bring the drainage gravel to soil level.

An area at the bottom of a rock terrace received a lot of run-off from a paved area above. The quick and easy fix was to install high-volume trench liner or a half barrel drain. We used trench liner.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Trench liner of a size to suit your needs and end caps
- Drainage fabric
- Drainage gravel
- Output pipe (we used rigid PVC stormwater pipe but you can use unslotted ag pipe)
- Optional: decorative gravel (we used washed 20mm river pebbles)
- Optional: 100mm treated pine timber garden edging



3 Cover the drain

To add a finished look to our drain (optional), we used treated pine timber edging to create a box frame. The drainage gravel was then covered with a layer of drainage fabric and then the box frame was filled to the top with decorative river pebbles.

PIPE LOWDOWN

Slotted ag pipe is a cost-effective and easy way to add drainage. The corrugated surface is perforated to allow water to enter. These corrugations serve multiple purposes.

- They allow the pipe to be

very flexible without kinking.

- They increase the strength of the pipe so it won't crush under normal loads.
- They create natural agitation in the flowing water. This prevents silt from settling in the pipe, which may otherwise clog it.

GO WITH THE FLOW

This ag pipe is being installed to move water away from a sleeper retaining frame. As it won't be in contact with soil, drainage fabric isn't essential.



RETAINING A WALL

A wall in a landscape can quickly become a dam. Most of the time it is holding back soil to prevent it going downhill, but when it rains it also holds back water.

Some of this water may drain out underneath the wall or through weep holes or cracks, but first it will saturate the soil, doubling the soil's weight.

This places huge levels of stress on your wall and its footings, and it soaks the wall components for extended periods. This can lead to rot in a timber wall and accelerate the corrosion of metal components.

In short, good drainage is key to preventing the collapse of any retaining wall. The good news: it is a straightforward task to add drainage behind a retaining wall.

See the cross-section diagram on the right. It depicts a retaining wall constructed of sleepers, set in concrete to a reasonable depth.

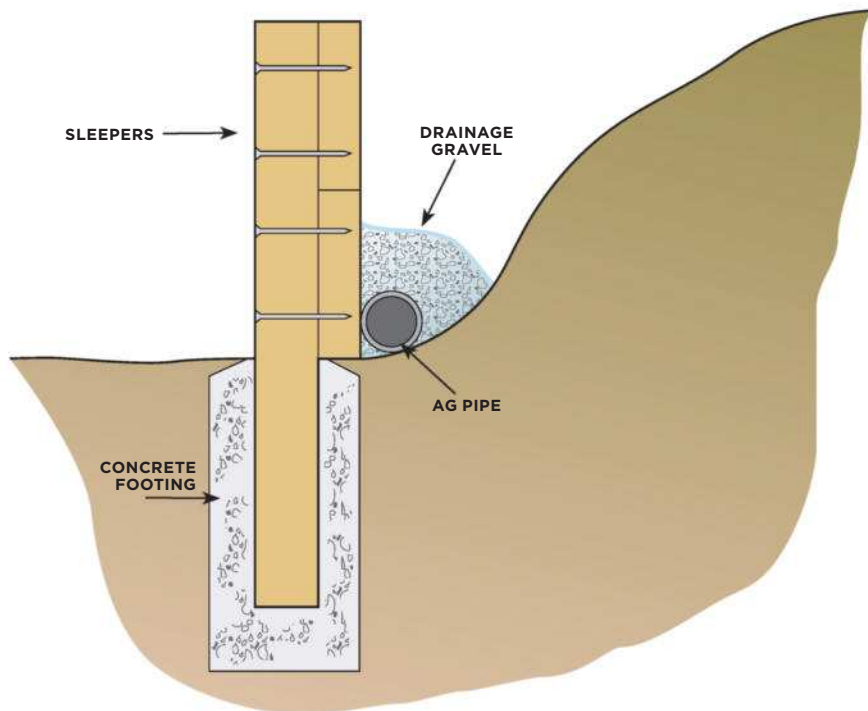
But it's still going to require the diversion of water so that pressure doesn't build up behind it and weaken it. Here's how to construct an effective drainage system behind it.

- ◆ **ADD A LAYER** of drainage gravel, about 20mm deep, to the back of the base of the wall.
- ◆ **LAY AG PIPE** along the length of the wall and direct the output appropriately. The pipe should have a degree of fall, but the gravel bed itself can provide this, so adjust as needed.
- ◆ **COVER PIPE** with at least 50mm of drainage gravel and then lay drainage fabric over this before backfilling with soil. The water will then be diverted around the wall.

PREVENTION IS BETTER

Sometimes drainage may be added to avoid future problems. An example of this is a drainage pan underneath a deck that is close to the ground.

A drainage pan (see next page) will prevent the decking materials from contact with the soil and ensure water can run away when heavy rains occur. ►



DIY TIP

Only connect drains to an appropriate stormwater outlet that is capable of handling a downpour, never to a sewer.



BUILD A DRAINAGE PAN

1 2 3

This sub-deck drainage pan was installed under a low deck beside a pool.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Excavating and levelling tools (we rented a skid-steer mini excavator for a day)
- Large roll of drainage fabric
- Bulk quantity of drainage gravel from a landscape supplier

THE PITS

Drainage pits can either be used as a surface collection point or as a junction box for drains to act as silt-traps. In the latter case, incoming and outwards drains are connected reasonably high up the pit wall. As water flows through the pit, sediment will drop into the bottom. They are fitted with a top grate and should be cleaned out regularly.



EXCAVATOR



DRAINAGE FABRIC

DECK FRAME

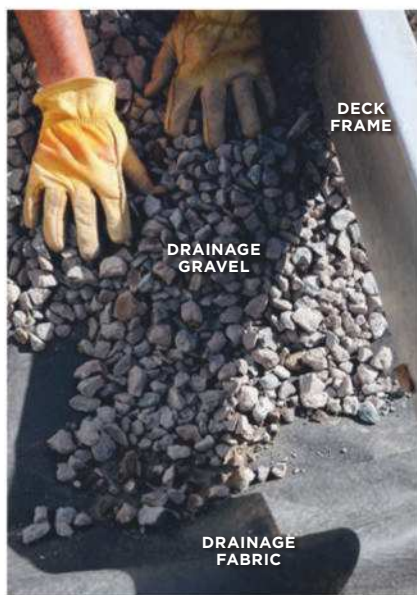
DRAINAGE GRAVEL

1 Prepare the ground

Clear the area for the sub-deck drainage. Profile the soil so that it has a fall in the desired direction. Dig post holes and secure deck posts with concrete.

2 Lay the gravel

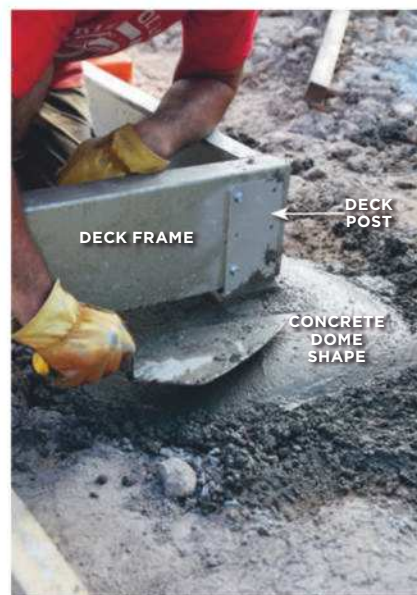
Lay drainage fabric over the area and then distribute drainage gravel over the fabric. It should be to a depth of at least 40mm.



DECK FRAME

DRAINAGE GRAVEL

DRAINAGE FABRIC



DECK FRAME

DECK POST

CONCRETE DOME SHAPE

3 Buffer the frame

Once the frame is in place, ensure the gravel is evenly spread, covering all areas of drainage fabric. Having the frame in place makes it easier to check clearances. You can now lay your deck. ♦

TIP When adding the concrete to post heads, always shape the concrete to a domed top so that water cannot pool against the supporting posts.

▶ WATCH THE VIDEO [How to build outdoor steps at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice](https://www.bunnings.com.au/diy-advice)

HOW TO BUILD OUTDOOR STEPS

Find it at Bunnings

A DIY step kit is an easy way to add outdoor steps to a raised deck or verandah. All you need are a few basic tools.

The Wilmaplex Treated Pine Ezistep kits come in a number of steps (or treads). This is a one-step kit.

The step has grooves on the top to prevent slipping and is easily assembled, as the stringers (sides) are already routed for a secure fit.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Ezistep 1 Tread Stringer Kit, which includes 6 bugle-head screws
- Pencil, measuring tape
- Combination square
- Exterior PVA adhesive
- Drill driver
- 8g countersink bit
- No. 2 square drive bit
- Impact driver
- 15mm countersink bit
- Hex-head driver bit
- 85mm bugle-head screws

1 2 3



1 Mark drill holes

To attach the step to the stringer, use the square to mark a centre line from the rebate around to the other side of the stringer. Measure the rebate length and mark it on the other side of the stringer to locate the position for drill holes. Mark three holes along this length, one in the centre and one close to each end. Repeat this process for the second stringer.



2 Assemble the step

Wearing safety gear, drill the three pilot holes in the stringer using an 8g countersink bit. Apply PVA adhesive into the rebate. Slide the steps into the rebate, ensuring that the grooves face up. Using the drill driver and square drive bit, attach the stringer to the step with the supplied screws. Repeat this process for the other stringer.



3 Secure to the deck

Position the step on the deck. Mark the centre in the top of each stringer and predrill holes using a countersink bit. Secure the stringers to the deck using 85mm screws with the impact driver and hex-head bit. Sand out pencil marks and paint or stain to match your deck.

TIP If the ground is uneven, pour concrete to make a flat base. ♦

Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE

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



built to organise

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

Our new kaboodle cutlery and utensil inserts are a fantastic way to organise your drawers and give everything its own place. Mix and match kaboodle inserts to maximise space in your kitchen. Find a kitchen that's built for you at kaboodle.com.au



**BOLD
DECORATIVE
LININGS
TO IMPRESS**

Easycraft's new Expression Series offers a range of decorative finishes which provide the latest in contemporary styling, offering stunning and versatile aesthetics to enhance any space.

Create your desired atmosphere and bold design features with patterns that will suit a variety of spaces.

Find your style at easycraft.com.au

easycraft.
stylish solutions for walls and ceilings



Hills. With you then...
With you now.

Discover the all new Hills Indoor Laundry Collection at a Bunnings Warehouse near you.

www.hillshome.com.au

Available at **BUNNINGS warehouse**

Winner of the 2017 Readers' Choice Award for Australian Iconic Brands



UNI-PRO

THE EASY WAY TO PAINT ALL GLOSS & SATIN .. LIKE A PRO!

SUITABLE FOR USE WITH ALL:

- HIGH GLOSS & AQUA GLOSS
- SATIN OIL BASED PAINTS
- VARNISHES, CLEARS & URETHANES

Available in 25, 38, 50, 63 & 75mm

www.unipro.com.au

Available at **BUNNINGS warehouse**



Tastic NEO

HEAT, VENTILATE & ILLUMINATE

AUSTRALIAN MADE

5 YEAR IN HOME* WARRANTY

DUCTING + INLINE FAN INCLUDED

***WE COME TO YOU**

What's Included: Ducting, inline fan, external grille plate, wall switch, template cut out, LED bulb and heat lamps.

IXL since 1858 ixlappliances.com.au

Available at **BUNNINGS warehouse**



STANLEY.

THREE STORAGE SOLUTIONS IN ONE

STANLEY® ROLLING WORKSHOP

- Integrated organiser to separate power tool accessories and store hand tools
- Removeable tote to carry the tools you need for the job
- Storage bin for power tools and larger items

www.STANLEYTOOLS.com.au

Available at **BUNNINGS warehouse**

Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE

ozito X POWER XCHANGE

18V 2 PIECE KIT

ONE BATTERY POWERS THE RANGE

Perfect starter pack for DIY projects.

Kit includes 18V Drill Driver, 18V Impact Driver, tool bag, 2 x 18V lithium ion batteries & Fast Charger.

5 YEAR REPLACEMENT WARRANTY

Available at **BUNNINGS warehouse**



TOMMY TAPE

Self Fusing Silicone Tape

Use on Automotive, Hardware, Plumbing, Electrical, Landscaping & Marine repairs

- Adhesive-Free
- Self Fusing
- Watertight & Airtight
- Will not crack or unravel
- Excellent insulator
- Withstands pressures in excess of 700psi

THE ULTIMATE HOUSEHOLD REPAIR TAPE

For more information visit our website
www.timbermate.com.au or call us on 1800 354 811

Timbermate[®] group

Available at **BUNNINGS warehouse**



KILL TERMITES THE EASY WAY!

FROM THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE CHEMICALS FOR THE PEST CONTROL INDUSTRY

"DIY" Termite Baiting System and White Ant Termite Bait

NEW!

Finally, a complete "DIY" TERMITE treatment. No more pest controllers needed. As easy as 1-2-3.

- 1 Install Superway Termite Baiting Stations around your property & inspect for activity every 2-3 weeks.
- 2 As soon as the Baiting Stations become active, apply the Termite treatment to the station. (Superway owned & APVMA approved)
- 3 Termite colony destroyed – re-use Baiting Station

FOR A FREE INFORMATION PACK, SEE CONTACT DETAILS BELOW:

We have lots of products to help you with weeds and pests. Check out our whole range on our website.

www.superway.com.au **1300 302 938**

SUPERWAY
GARDEN AG & PEST PRODUCTS P/L
TERMITE BAITING SOLUTIONS P/L



Scheurich
When only the best will do.



    Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



GL^{OW}

Bring your outdoor area to life with
the Glow Outdoor Heating Collection.



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

 Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



Ensure The Water Gets Through To
Where Your Plants Need It! Use
SUPER SOIL WETTER
& CONDITIONER

The Only Soil Wetter
with
Seasol
THE SEAWEED SOLUTION
www.seasol.com.au

Market your products
today with the

Handyman

BUYER'S GUIDE

Reach one of the most
receptive purchasing
audiences available.

For bookings or enquiries contact Alek Jovanoski
on (02) 9004 4461 or email
alek.jov@handyman.net.au

THIS MONTH

Winter's here, but there is still plenty to do around the garden

Do now

- ♦ **TAKE** inspiration from some of this year's finest exhibits at the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show, page 124.
- ♦ **KEEP** your garden healthy with earthworms, page 131.
- ♦ **GROW** citrus trees and enjoy the fresh fruit and fragrant flowers, page 137.



Gypsophila

FLOWERS TO SOW

Get planting now, except in cold regions, for blooms from 10 weeks.

- ♦ CANDYTUFT
- ♦ GODETIA
- ♦ GYPSOPHILA
- ♦ LINARIA
- ♦ MALOPE



Lettuce

VEGIES TO GROW

Sow these now in all climates for crops from midwinter to early spring.

- ♦ ASPARAGUS CROWNS
- ♦ PEAS
- ♦ SPINACH
- ♦ CRESS
- ♦ LETTUCE





Helleborus 'Cinderella'



WHAT'S IN COLOUR

Add colour with the exotic *Helleborus* 'Cinderella', which is covered with multi-petalled flowers with speckled pink features throughout winter.

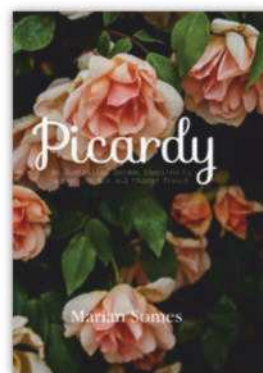
This vigorous evergreen perennial reaches up to 50cm high and spreads to 60cm and has a neat growth habit.

'Cinderella' is ideal for brightening up any shady corners of the garden and for planting under established tree canopies. It looks effective planted en masse and performs well in garden beds and containers.

Plant in full or part shade in any well-draining soil. After flowering, tidy by removing any finished flower heads. For best results, feed in late autumn and spring with a slow-release fertiliser before and after flowering.

'Cinderella' can be enjoyed indoors, depending on the environment, for up to three months before being planted in a garden bed, and the blooms make excellent cut-flower displays.

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



BOOK CLUB

You'll be transported to another place by Marian Somes' *Picardy* (Echo, \$50). It's an uplifting tale of creating a fabulous French-inspired house and garden in an Australian landscape.

When Francophile and keen gardener Marian and her husband, Bryce, toured France in 1986, little did they know it would lead them to buy 10ha of bare land in Victoria's Gippsland in 1992 and create what Bryce refers to as a French folly.

The ever-growing garden comprises a vineyard, an olive grove, orchard and extensive perennial and picking gardens inspired by Monet's Giverny, and surrounds a French provincial-style rammed earth farmhouse and barn. ►

TO-DO LIST

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

- ◆ **DIG** over beds for a winter crop, removing weeds and roughly levelling the surface. Add a layer of compost, ready to be dug in before planting.
- ◆ **REPAIR** gaps in hedges and prune lightly to encourage thick growth in spring.
- ◆ **PROTECT** vulnerable plants from frost in cold regions.
- ◆ **TRANSPLANT** shrubs, trees and roses in temperate zones.
- ◆ **CLEAR** leaves, debris and weeds from garden ponds.
- ◆ **REMOVE** bindii from the lawn before they seed.
- ◆ **SERVICE** the lawnmower and clean and sharpen your garden tools.



PICTURES ISTOCK (TOP LEFT, TOP RIGHT) PMA

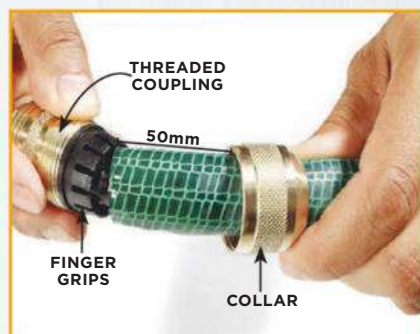
REPLACE A HOSE FITTING

If you find a metal or plastic hose fitting has been squashed or cracked, it's easy to replace and will only take about 15 minutes.

Before going to the hardware store or garden centre, measure the inside of the hose to determine the size of the fitting needed.



1 CUT through the hose about 25mm from the damaged fitting using a sharp utility knife and keeping the cut square.



2 SLIDE the new collar about 50mm down the hose, then push on the threaded coupling, wrapping the finger grips around the outside.



3 SECURE the new fitting by sliding the collar over the finger grips and screwing it onto the coupling. **TIP** Use liquid soap as a lubricant.

PICK OF THE POTS

Brighten up balconies, courtyards, bare walls and windowsills with winter colour and treat yourself to some new stylish pots.

Designed to suit Australian conditions, Northcote Pottery's Villa range of plastic pots, planters and wall and hanging baskets are ideal for the task and won't break the budget.

Made from recyclable synthetics, they provide optimum drainage and are durable, UV- and frost-resistant and lightweight.

Available in various styles and four colours (Terracotta, Graphite, White and Taupe), the Villa range costs from \$8 (northcotepottery.com/villa).



Sasanqua
camellia

FEED NOW

Give flowering plants a growth burst by applying fertiliser.

- ♦ BULBS
- ♦ HELLEBORE
- ♦ MAGNOLIA
- ♦ WINTER VEGETABLES
- ♦ SASANQUA CAMELLIA

Plum



PRUNE NOW

Cut back fruiting trees to encourage new spring growth.

- ♦ APPLE
- ♦ APRICOT
- ♦ CHERRY
- ♦ PEACH
- ♦ PLUM



Parsnip

HARVEST NOW

Pick vegetables to make warming winter meals.

- ♦ BRUSSELS SPROUTS
- ♦ SPRING ONIONS
- ♦ PARSNIP
- ♦ POTATO
- ♦ BROCCOLI

Easy composting for every
home and garden!



WormCafe
\$84.⁹⁰

Can-O-Worms™
\$68 Pictured

WormFeast®
\$29.⁹⁰



220L Gedye
\$54.⁹⁰ Pictured

200L Flat Pack
\$39.⁹⁵

150L Compost
\$39.⁹⁰

Australia's Favourite Composting and Worm Farming Solutions

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

Consider the many benefits
that worm farming has to
offer, from enriching your
garden to diverting organic
matter from landfill.

www.tumbleweed.com.au



Can-O-Worms™



200L Gedye

Proudly Australian owned, designed and
manufactured from 100% recycled plastic.



The garden features a bench seat near the pool and fireplace, but two single seaters hidden away behind mounds of greenery provide a more private space.

BEST IN SHOW

For serious garden inspiration, go no further than the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show

WORDS AND PICTURES
ADAM WOODHAMS

Every autumn in the grounds of Melbourne's historic Carlton Gardens, Australia's best and brightest garden designers set out to wow the world. Their gardens may take years to plan and conceive but are built, amazingly, in just a week. They are then on display for only five days before being broken down again.

The logistics of these constructions are astounding – but it's the gardens themselves that are the showstoppers. It's hard to believe that they haven't been there for years, such is the quality and feeling of permanence. They are judged, too, potentially receiving awards that carry great cachet for the winners.

Here's a tour of this year's best.



There is nothing fussy or complicated about the plantings. Many of the plants are in fact old-fashioned favourites and superbly layered with distinct bands of texture and colour.



Low-growing dichondra provide a belt of soft texture between granite crazy paving and recycled brick steppers.





AND THE WINNER IS...

The aptly named Australian Case Study Garden, designed by Eckersley Garden Architecture, swept the awards pool, including the Award of Excellence for Best in Show.

Contemporary in design, it still pays homage to many classic Aussie garden elements with the exposed sandstock bricks around the outdoor fireplace-come-barbecue, galvanised steel sheeting around the pond, and mixed materials and textures hinting at found and re-used materials.

It also features a classic clothes hoist, a gum tree or two and a patch of lawn for a game of cricket.



The pond doubles as a natural plunge pool. It provides a perfect mirror of its surrounds, including a classic esky. ►



WHITE NOISE

You can see why this garden is called Harmony. Beautiful, natural and earthy hues are the order of the day from this design by Meg Geary and Ben Harris (and sponsored by Aquascape).

Even though it won a Bronze Show Garden Award, it was probably my personal favourite – a garden that draws you in and invites you to lay on the lawn with your feet dangling in the gurgling creek, as the beautiful white noise created by the waterfall cascade washes over you.

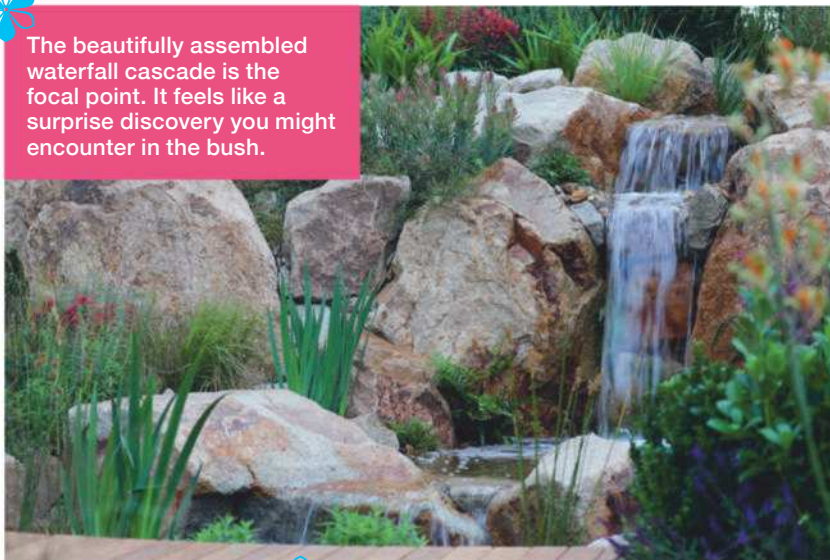
This garden is naturalistic escapism at its most sublime. Best of all, it can be achieved in even a small area.



Timber boardwalks wind their way through the garden, with a delicately arched bridge over the creek.



The beautifully assembled waterfall cascade is the focal point. It feels like a surprise discovery you might encounter in the bush.



The choice of plants used throughout the garden is superb. There are loads of classic Aussie natives such as kangaroo paws, but these are mixed with splashes of cottage garden colour from plants such as salvias, hydrangeas and hostas.



TIME OUT

With its traditional Asian colours, textures and inclusions, it comes as little surprise to find that this striking garden, called Inspired By Time, was designed by Chinese company Orisis.

Despite the strong traditional themes, the garden blends many contemporary materials and elements, such as the cantilevered pergola. The extensive use of water is also a feature.

The landscape creates an awesome sense of place, clearly impressing the judges who gave it a Gold Show Garden award, and the viewers who gave it the People's Choice Award.



Water is a major element in the garden both visually and audibly. The source of the interconnected water features is the multi-cascade and backlit water wall. The rusty hues of the water wall are then repeated in other features such as the modern take on a traditional moon gate.



Traditional elements are mixed superbly with contemporary style and materials. The bold combinations of colourful plants add serious drama and impact. ▶



HEALTHY HABITAT



The domed pergola provides dappled shade for the oversized hammock while the living space is beautifully embraced by the wildlife-friendly native gardens.

This glorious sustainable Living Garden, as it was called by Stem Landscape Architecture & Design, was conceived as a habitat for humans *and* animals.

A mixture of native plants ranging from ground covers to trees, and materials and zones from gravel to waterways, ensure that everything from birds to amphibians can find a haven.

People are well catered for, too: the outdoor room drew lots of positive comments from viewers and earned the design a Silver Show Garden Award.



BALANCING TRICKS

Blending starkly contrasting design styles can be risky but worked wonderfully in the hands of Landscape Design Group and RnR Outdoor Living, who created Finding Your Balance. The overarching theme was Asian, with pools, a gentle water cascade, ancient-looking materials and Japanese maples.

The large living space is a dramatic contrast with its angular lines, yet the use of both traditional and connecting colours pulls it together. Visitors had to cross over a reflecting pool, creating a distinct feeling of departing one space for another.



ABOVE The seating space is next to a shallow pond, which is surrounded by a walled garden.

LEFT The minimalist water feature pours a perfect, soothing cascade.

BELOW The combination of weathered features with natural and faux finishes creates an aged yet contemporary feel. ❖



GET
THE
MAG

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE

JUST \$39 FOR ONE YEAR!

1 YEAR	\$39	SAVE 45%* (ORDER CODE: HMMAG)
2 YEARS	\$72	SAVE 49%* (ORDER CODE: HMMAG22)

*SAVINGS BASED ON 11 ISSUES PER YEAR AT THE RETAIL PRICE OF \$6.50 PER ISSUE

SAVE
UP TO
49%
OFF THE COVER
PRICE*

AUSTRALIAN

Handyman

DIY made easy

We show you how!

VISIT HANDYMAN.NET.AU/SUBSCRIBE OR
CALL 1300 300 030† MON-FRI 6AM TO 8PM
AND SAT-SUN 6AM TO 6PM (AEST)



†local call costs from landlines only



WORM MAGIC

It's time to recognise the wonders of worms

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Earthworms are essential for the health of your garden. As they burrow into the soil they break down root mats and open up tunnels for oxygen and water to penetrate. The roots of plants take advantage of this wriggle room, while the increased air supply also makes it possible

for bacteria, fungi, viruses, insects and microorganisms to survive. The worms' tunnels are also coated with a nitrate-rich mucus secreted from the surface of their bodies, which is a rich source of nutrition for your prized plantings. It's win-win, but the benefits don't stop there. ►

Earthworms eat the equivalent of their own body weight each day and produce the same amount of vermicast, called castings. These castings are even richer in minerals than the earth the worms ingest, and act as fabulous fertiliser. The worms' deposits are our rewards, boosting the nutritional value of the soil.

As organic gardeners know, soil without earthworms isn't alive. It holds less moisture and requires constant applications of fertiliser to maintain productivity. That's why they refer to

earthworms as your garden's heroes.

But worm magic isn't restricted to the underground varieties of these amazing creatures. Compost worms, different to earthworms, eat fresh organic materials and live close to the surface. Housed in a worm farm, they can devour the organic leftovers from your kitchen while producing the best-quality fertiliser for recycling in your garden. Win win win.

Worm farms are ideal for city living, offering a real alternative to traditional composting.

The secret to a bountiful garden lies just below the surface.



Nurture the soil

A well-mulched garden will usually support a host of worms, but you can make their home more comfortable.

◆ GARDEN ORGANICALLY

Earthworms don't like chemicals.

◆ **CHECK YOUR pH** Worms prefer a soil pH between 5.5 and 8.5, with 6.5 being the most suitable (7 is neutral).

◆ IMPROVE SOIL DRAINAGE

Worms don't like badly drained clay soil, so add some gypsum and lots of organic matter to help drainage.

◆ **FEED REGULARLY** Worms won't live in dry sandy soil, so it's essential to regularly build up these types of garden beds with lots of organic matter.

Feed your earthworms

If your garden is lacking in earthworms, it simply means that you're not providing them with enough food.



Feeding worms is as simple as adding organic matter to your soil

Feeding encourages them to multiply. You don't have to be a master chef, because feeding worms is as simple as adding organic matter such as manure, leaf mould, organic mulches and compost regularly to your soil. The result is twofold: organic matter not only keeps these workhorses happy, it also conditions your soil as it breaks down.

When you harvest flowers or vegies, don't uproot them. Just cut them off at ground level and leave the roots to decay. The worms will do the rest. ►



Earthworm facts

- ◆ There are about 6000 species of earthworms. About 1000 are native to Australia and 171 species native to New Zealand.
- ◆ Worms don't have lungs – they breathe through their skin.
- ◆ A worm's skin exudes a lubricating fluid that helps with burrowing and keeps them moist.
- ◆ Earthworms are hermaphrodite (male and female), producing both eggs and sperm. But it takes two earthworms to reproduce.
- ◆ Baby worms emerge from eggs and reach full size in about a year.
- ◆ Worms are able to repair their bodies. If a worm loses its head end in a mishap, for instance, it can regenerate.

WormCafe®

\$84.⁹⁰

Can-O-Worms™

\$68 Pictured

WormFeast®

\$29.⁹⁰

Australia's Favourite Composting and Worm Farming Solutions



Worm Feast®



Can-O-Worms™



Worm Cafe®

Consider the many benefits that worm farming has to offer, from enriching your garden to diverting organic matter from landfill.

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

www.tumbleweed.com.au



START A WORM FARM

If you don't have room for traditional composting in your garden, worm farms offer a great alternative. You'll also be doing the environment a favour, as you'll reduce waste going to landfill.

Compost worms are the ultimate recyclers. They transform your organic kitchen waste into rich fertiliser for your plants.

Compost worms devour organic waste and turn it into liquid fertiliser and castings. Both can be used on your garden and on your pot plants.

Simply add your vegetable scraps to the worm farm bins and let the compost worms do all the work. They produce a rich, black concentrate oozing with nutrients.

You can make your own worm farm, but tidy units can be bought that are easy to assemble.



The Worm Cafe is a simple design for small spaces.



Add a soaked coir brick, your packet of worms and fresh vegie scraps, and hey presto!



What to feed them

- ♦ **DO** feed them coffee grounds, tea leaves, crushed eggshells, fruit (except citrus), cooked grains, bread, pasta, chopped fresh and cooked vegetable scraps, shredded egg cartons, cardboard (uncoated) and newspaper.
- ♦ **DO** chop up their food as small as possible so the worms can eat it faster.
- ♦ **DON'T** feed them citrus, onions, garlic, meat, cheese, oil, fish, bones or too much dairy.



Keep compost worms happy

Compost worms will thrive if given the right food and conditions.

- ♦ **PLACE** the bin in a cool area away from direct sunlight.
- ♦ **KEEP** the contents of the bin moist, but don't overwater.
- ♦ **MIX IN** some dry shredded newspaper to help dry it out. If lots of worms are hanging out on the sides or lid of the bin, its contents are too soggy.

Did you know?

Unlike earthworms, compost worms don't live deep in the soil but thrive in the surface litter. Only when it's really hot or cold do they burrow deeper down and form a ball, covering themselves with slime to protect themselves from drying out.

Reap the rewards

After about two months, the rich castings will be building up and worm juice will accumulate.

Mix the worm juice with nine parts of water and use to water pot plants, flowers and vegetables.

Carefully remove the castings and dig into moist soil or add to potting mix.

Make a compost 'tea' by stirring a trowel of castings into a full watering can. Use it on your vegetables or pot plants. It's perfect nutrition.

TIP You can bottle your excess juice and give it away as a present with instructions on how to use it. ❖



220L Gedye

\$54.⁹⁰ Pictured

200L Flat Pack

\$39.⁹⁵

150L Compost

\$39.⁹⁰

Australia's Favourite Composting and Worm Farming Solutions



150L Compost



200L Flat Pack



200L Gedye

Consider the many benefits that worm farming has to offer, from enriching your garden to diverting organic matter from landfill.

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

www.tumbleweed.com.au

JUNE

What's on this month

Head down to your local Bunnings this June for expert advice on your next D.I.Y. project



2
[SAT]

3
[SUN]

SUSTAINABLE D.I.Y. WORKSHOPS

Ideas on recycling and other smart ways to reduce your eco footprint.



9
[SAT]

10
[SUN]

HOME ORGANISATION D.I.Y. WORKSHOPS

Great practical advice to get your house and its contents well ordered.



16
[SAT]

17
[SUN]

INDOOR D.I.Y. PROJECTS

Clever ways to improve the look and functionality of the interior of your home.



23
[SAT]

24
[SUN]

BASIC D.I.Y. WORKSHOP SKILLS

Expert advice on a range of not-so-odd jobs around the house.

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

FLOORING D.I.Y. WORKSHOPS



30
[SAT]

1 JULY
[SUN]

'For more information on our instore events or to book, visit bunnings.com.au/yourstore'

DAN
TEAM MEMBER



BUNNINGS
warehouse



COOL CITRUS

Enjoy delicious juicy fruit picked straight from your garden

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Thank goodness for citrus. Not only high in vitamin C and ready in winter when colds and flu are rife, citrus are easy to grow. No wonder they are the most popular homegrown fruit: all citrus trees have beautiful,

glossy foliage and aromatic flowers, followed by tasty fruit. They're the perfect size for growing in today's shrinking gardens and also perform well in pots. Choose from lemon, lime, mandarin, orange and grapefruit. ►



Citrus trees, like this orange, provide a rich bounty and look great. **BELOW RIGHT** Planted in pots, lemon trees are ideal in small spaces.

How to grow

♦ **POSITION** All citrus like a sunny location sheltered from wind. The majority prefer a frost-free climate and free-draining soil is essential. Before planting, loosen the ground and dig copious amounts of compost or cow manure into the soil.

♦ **PLANT** Water the potted tree and allow it to drain. Dig the planting hole twice as wide as the pot and position the tree so that the soil level is the same as it was in the pot. Backfill the hole and water in with Seasol, to help prevent transplant shock.

♦ **WATER** Newly planted trees need a thorough watering twice a week for six weeks until they are established. Once they have safely taken hold, water the trees well every week, especially while the fruit is ripening.

♦ **MULCH** Citrus have shallow root systems (a reason why they suit potting). A mulch of sugar cane, lucerne hay or pea straw will keep the soil around them moist and prevent weeds growing and competing for nutrients. Leave at least a hand's span clear around the trunk to prevent collar rot.

♦ **FEED** Citrus are heavy feeders and need a complete citrus food, cow manure or blood and bone applied under the mulch in early spring, early summer and again in early autumn. Always remember to water before and after applying fertiliser.

The roots of citrus trees spread to the outer perimeter of the branches, so apply water and fertiliser this distance away from the trunk. Do not feed newly planted trees for at least six weeks or until new growth reveals that the roots have become established.

HOW TO POT



1 HALF FILL the pot with a premium potting mix for citrus. Carefully remove the tree from its container.



2 PLACE the tree in the pot so the soil level will remain the same as in the new pot. Fill around the tree with more potting mix.



3 WATER in the plant with a seaweed solution such as Seasol, and top up the potting mix if it has sunk.

Pruning

Citrus don't need annual pruning for fruit production but, on young trees in their first and second years, prune half the developing fruit to prevent the tree exhausting itself.

Trees can be pruned into any desired shape after fruiting has finished. If branches become crowded, thin them out to allow in more light and airflow.

Old, neglected trees can be rejuvenated in late winter by cutting them back to a framework of branches just 1m from the trunk. If the ensuing new growth is excessive, remove all except a well-spaced selection of strong branches.

Grow in pots

Dwarf citrus are ideal for growing in pots in tiny backyards and on balconies.

Choose a pot with a diameter of at least 40cm, remembering that you can increase the size of the pot as the tree grows. Water the tree thoroughly an hour or two before removing it from its container.

Feed in spring, summer and autumn with a three-month controlled-release

fertiliser designed for citrus. Check the soil moisture regularly and water often, daily during the hot summer months. ►

BOOST GROWTH

Remove any fruit on small citrus trees in the first year so that the tree's energy will go into making new growth.





WHAT TO GROW

Lisbon

'Lisbon' produces a prolific amount of juicy, highly acidic lemons. A vigorous, thorny tree, it can reach 8m high, so also lends itself well to screening or as a pretty feature tree. Its main crop of fruit is produced from midwinter to early spring.

- ♦ CLIMATE Tolerates light frost but needs protection while young.

LEMONS

There are three main varieties of lemon grown in Australia and New Zealand: 'Lisbon', 'Eureka' and 'Meyer'. Choose according to your climate.

Meyer

Not as bitter as other lemons, 'Meyer' trees produce plenty of juicy, thin-skinned fruit. Thorn free and growing to just 2.5m high, the tree is ideal for small spaces and large containers. Its main cropping time is winter, but it produces fruit throughout the year.

- ♦ CLIMATE 'Meyer' is cold hardy but also withstands heat.

Eureka

These trees can grow to 3-4m but can be pruned to shape. 'Eureka' has few thorns and produces an abundance of large, thick-skinned fruit throughout the year, with its heaviest crop in winter.

- ♦ CLIMATE It likes frost-free areas and will grow well in coastal districts, as long as it is protected from wind.



LIMES

By weight, limes contain about 1.5 times more acid than lemons, making them an excellent source of vitamin C. They are usually smaller trees than lemons.

Finger lime

Chefs love the Australian native finger lime (*Citrus australasica*). Its fruit contains a mass of juicy, strongly flavoured citrus pearls, or juice vesicles, that look like caviar. When the skin is cut, these burst out staying as one piece. In the kitchen, they can be used to garnish chicken and seafood. The tree reaches 2-5m in the garden but lower when grown in a large pot.

- ♦ CLIMATE Grows wild as an understorey rainforest tree. Keep it free of frost and wind.

Kaffir lime

The Kaffir lime (*Citrus hystrix*) is an essential ingredient in many Thai recipes, including green curries, fish dishes and soups. The leaves are used for flavour and the zest is also delicious, but the flesh of the knobbly fruit is not eaten. The tree reaches a height of 1.5m, but it usually remains small in size, as the leaves are constantly picked for cooking.

- ♦ CLIMATE Kaffir limes prefer hot summers and mild winters.

Tahitian lime

The widely grown Tahitian lime (*Citrus latifolia*) produces green, thin-skinned fruit 5cm in diameter. It ripens over a five-week period in autumn and early winter and is at its juiciest when the skin is just turning light yellow.

- ♦ CLIMATE It thrives in the heat but will grow in cool areas if given frost protection.



RECIPE TIP

Use limes in seafood, chicken and meat dishes, as well as in drinks, desserts, cakes, biscuits and marmalade. Substitute for lemon in a gin and tonic.

MANDARINS

Mandarins are low in calories and bursting with vitamins A and C. They contain calcium, magnesium and potassium and are also a good source of dietary fibre.

- ♦ 'Imperial' is a favourite as its tasty fruit has few seeds, is easy to peel and ripens over autumn and winter.
- ♦ 'Emperor' has puffy skin that makes it easy to peel. The fruit ripens in midwinter after 'Imperial' has finished.

ORANGES

Orange trees are one of the most beautiful small trees, especially when covered in ripening fruit.

- ♦ 'Washington Navel' is the most popular variety and produces sweet, seedless fruit in midwinter.
- ♦ 'Lanes Late Navel' has identical fruit to 'Washington Navel' and ripens in late winter and early spring.
- ♦ 'Valencia' fruits from midwinter until late spring.

GRAPEFRUIT

Grapefruit are loved for their succulent but sweet and sour taste. Picking one fresh from the tree for breakfast is always a treat.

- ♦ 'Marsh' has nearly seedless fruit with a sweet but tangy taste. It ripens over winter and early spring.
- ♦ 'Rio Red' has red flesh and sweeter fruit than other grapefruit. It ripens in winter and spring.

WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

Healthy, well-maintained, organically grown citrus trees are largely resistant to insects and disease. But issues can arise.

- **DROPPED OR FAILING FRUIT** indicates a lack of water, while too much water causes the fruit to split.
- **YELLOWING LEAVES** mean the tree needs feeding with a plant food designed for citrus.
- **DAMAGE ON THE LOWER TRUNK** and yellowing foliage is a sign of collar rot, a fungal disease that attacks the trunk just below soil

level. Scrape back the bark to healthy growth, and keep the trunk free from weeds and other plants. Do not overwater.

- **FLOWER AND FRUIT FALL** are caused by bronze orange bug. Manually remove the bugs from the tree, wearing gloves and eyewear. Spray during winter with Yates Success Ultra Insect Control.
- **SMALL BUMPS ON STEMS** are scale insects. Remove manually with your fingernail or spray with Yates PestOil if there are a lot.

- **SWOLLEN AND MISSHAPEN AREAS** on branches are due to the developing larvae of the citrus gall wasp. Prune and dispose of the infected limbs.

- **SILVER TRAILS ON NEW FOLIAGE** signal the presence of the citrus leaf miner. Spray with Yates PestOil or remove infected leaves.

- **ROTTEN FRUIT** is caused by fruit fly. Use Eco Organic Eco-Naturalure bait spray to prevent fruit fly and protect the tree. ♦

WIN

**TOTAL
\$1482
IN PRIZES**

an eco-friendly worm farm pack

Handyman is giving away 2 Tumbleweed Pet Poo Worm Farm prize packs and 4 Tumbleweed Worm Cafe prize packs to 6 LUCKY READERS

**2
TO WIN**



PET POO WORM FARM PACKS

The **Pet Poo Worm Farm**, \$179, turns pet droppings into organic fertiliser that helps promote plant growth. By allowing worms to process pet poo and take the castings into the soil, it enriches the soil with minerals and nutrients.

**4
TO WIN**



WORM CAFE PACKS

Designed for both indoor and outdoor use, the three-tier **Worm Cafe**, \$84.90, with its sleek new design and easy to use, no-mess features, is a classy way to recycle organic waste into rich worm tea for your garden.

ENTER AT HANDYMAN.NET.AU/TUMBLEWEED BY 20 JUNE 2018

Get all you need to start up a worm farm by entering our competition to win one of four Tumbleweed Worm Cafe prize packs, worth \$191 each, or one of two Tumbleweed Pet Poo Worm Farm prize packs, worth \$359 each.

Each Tumbleweed Worm Cafe prize pack contains a Worm Cafe, Worm Farm Bedding Block, Tube-O-Worms 1000 Worms, Worm Farm & Compost Conditioner and Worm Blanket.

Each Tumbleweed Pet Poo Worm Farm prize pack contains a Pet Poo Worm Farm, Worm Farm Bedding Block, Tube-O-Worms 2000 Worms, Worm Farm & Compost Conditioner and a Compost Mate.

For your chance to win, go to handyman.net.au/tumbleweed and come up with a fun slogan in 10 words or less about composting or worm farming.

Entries close 20 June 2018. Winners will be notified and announced on our website, handyman.net.au. For the full terms and conditions, visit the website.

Using the **Compost Mate**, \$19.98, is the clean, convenient and effective way to operate your compost bin. With just a few minutes of light work each week, you'll create the ideal conditions to encourage rapid decomposition.

This tool can also be used to quickly bring rich, finished compost from the base of your bin to the top.



The **Tube-O-Worms 1000 Worms**, \$84, and **2000 Worms**, \$149, contain healthy and happy composting worms to start up your worm farm.



Made from 100% natural coconut fibre, this **Worm Farm Bedding Block**, \$7.95*, will expand up to 10 times its original size in water. It contains no nasty chemicals or salts, and creates the ideal bedding to start your own worm farm.



By creating the dark, moist, aerated environment in which compost worms thrive, the **Worm Blanket Rectangle**, \$10.95, increases activity in your farm. It is thicker than a hessian bag, made from breathable 100% natural fibres and comes with a convenient handle.

The **Worm Farm & Compost Conditioner**, \$11.96, helps neutralise acidity and balance pH levels so that worms can digest larger amounts of food waste faster.

Made from a specially selected blend of natural minerals, it helps soil bacteria preserve nutrients and increases their availability for plants. It also helps to reduce odours and pest infestations.



AUSTRALIAN

On sale 21 June

Handyman

NEXT ISSUE

DECORATE

Unique kids' projects guaranteed to thrill the little people in your life.
PLUS How to stage your home to achieve the optimum sale price.

RENOVATE

The essential elements needed to create an inviting living room.
PLUS How to upgrade a period home without losing any of its charm.

GARDEN

Everything you need to know about growing beautiful roses.
PLUS Our guide to establishing plants in difficult areas.

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



TROJAN®

POWERSTEP™

TROJAN'S **POWERSTEP™** SHOVEL IS DESIGNED WITH A WIDER FOOT TREAD TO POWER THROUGH DIRT, WITHOUT DIGGING INTO YOUR FOOT OR SLIPPING. WITH A STEEL CORE FOR ADDED STRENGTH AND NON-SLIP GRIPS FOR COMFORT, WHETHER YOU'RE A GREEN THUMB, LANDSCAPER OR MR. FIX IT, YOU CAN GET THE JOB DONE!

TOUGH TOOLS YOU CAN TRUST.





GL^{OW}

Bring your outdoor area to life with the Glow Outdoor Heating Collection. Quintessential garden statements that add utmost style and atmosphere, creating the perfect setting to gather with family and friends on those chilly winter nights, and throughout the year. From clay and weathering steel to contemporary powder coated steel, there is a stunning Glow fire pit that will bring character, warmth and ambience to your home.



View our complete range at
www.northcotepottery.com/glow/



Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse