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AUSTRALIAN

Handyman

Collector's edition

FAREWELL ISSUE

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DIY SUMMER LIVING

- Build an alfresco zone
- Banish flies and mozzies
- Secure your home for the holidays

SHADES OF 2019

The paint hues set to colour our world

78 GIFT IDEAS TO BUY OR MAKE

VINTAGE STYLE

Add character to your bedroom with wall panels

ten THE LIVINGROOM

Dream decks

DESIGN, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE FOR YOUR BEST DECK EVER



Create your ideal kitchen

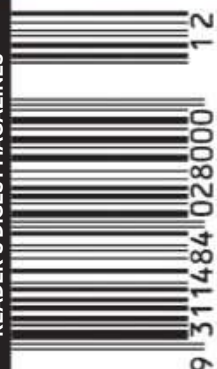


Grow sensational summer herbs



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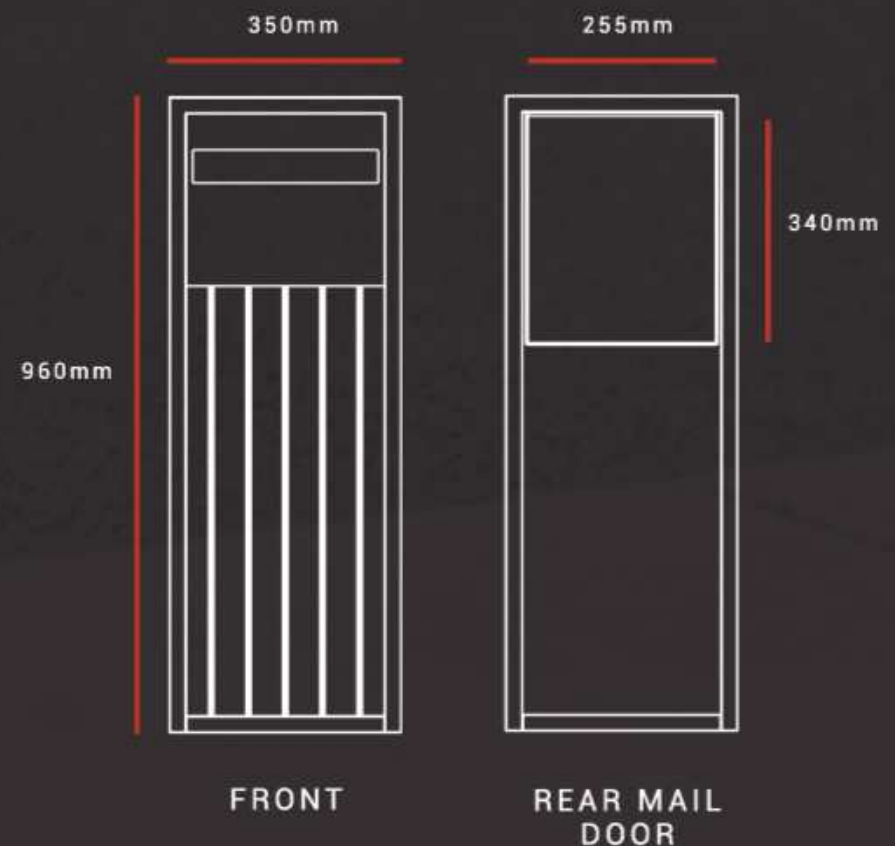
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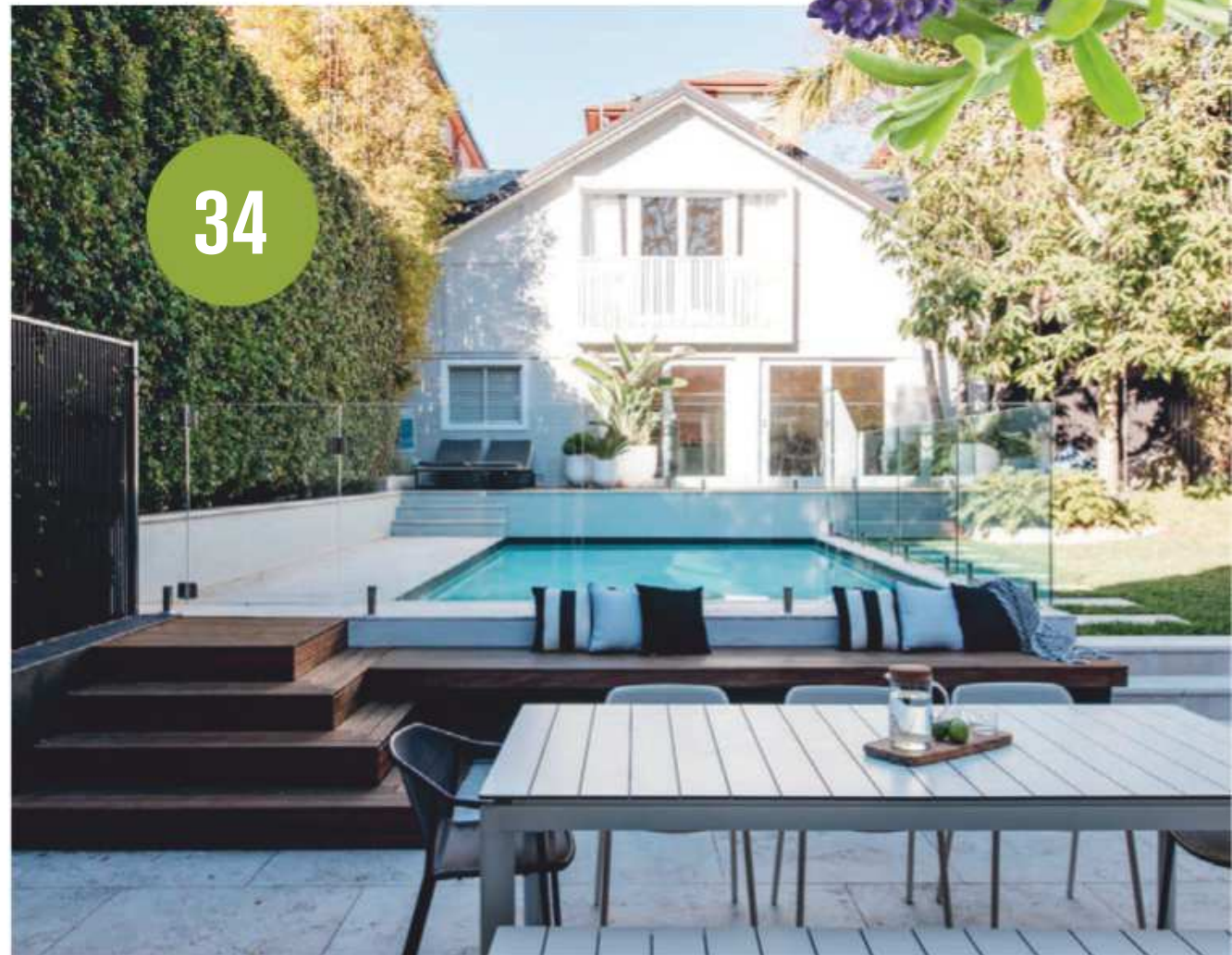
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Editor's LETTER



Welcome to this very special collector's edition of *Handyman* magazine. It's our bumper Christmas issue, crammed full of fantastic Christmas gift ideas to buy (page 10) and make (page 117) and festive decorations to create (page 106). It's also our annual deck special, featuring 30+ pages of deck inspiration, information and instruction (starting from page 34). And it's our jam-packed summer issue, bulging with more than 200 pages of great DIY and home improvement advice and projects both indoors and out for the holiday season and beyond.

***Handyman's* final issue**

But what makes this issue truly special – and yes, a little sad – is the fact that this is our last ever print edition. For over 15 years, in various forms, *Handyman* magazine has proudly staked its claim as the go-to source for everything DIY, home improvement and garden related.

In our first issue in June 2001, we wrote that our mission was to 'produce more detailed and accurate project and home

improvement information than any other DIY magazine on the market', and we've never wavered from our position.

A fond farewell

So on behalf of all the editors, project editors, staff and contributors of *Handyman*, past and present, I'd like to extend a huge thank you and bid a fond farewell to all the wonderfully creative, resourceful and adventurous handy-folk out there who have supported the magazine over the years.

We hope we've inspired and guided you through many a successful DIY project and allowed you to make your home, garden and everything in it just how you want it to be.

Keep on DIYing!

EDITOR
ZOË MEUNIER

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

The new Waxworks Tribal Traditions Range of citronella candles brings a sense of adventure to outdoor entertaining, allowing you to create stylish settings while keeping mosquitoes at bay this summer.

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@Bmorris

'Not a 'want to' but a 'have to' - the water tank is leaking around the socket so it's time for some Knead It Aqua as a hopefully easy fix.'

@Brad

'Last time I painted my eave and fascia boards was 22 years ago. My Colorbond gutter is still in good nick after 33 years but it looks old, and so do the eave and fascia boards.'

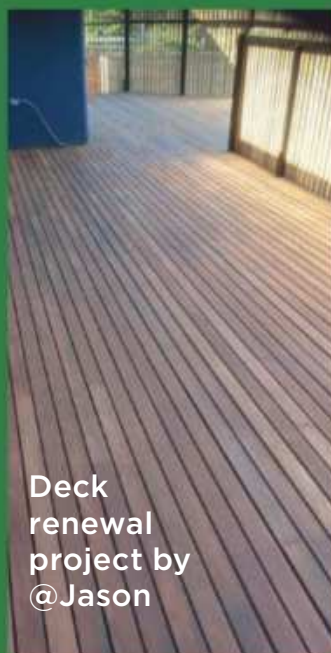
@tallpaul

TOP FIVE MOST POPULAR DECK PROJECTS

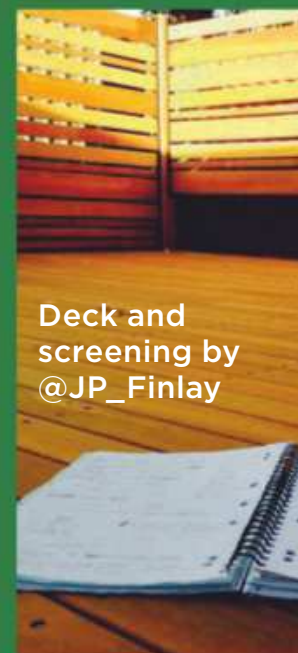
With the warmer weather now upon us, many of us are building a new deck or rejuvenating an existing deck. Here are the top five most popular deck projects by Workshop community members to inspire and inform you.



New timber deck by @jaga



Deck renewal project by @Jason



Deck and screening by @JP_Finlay



Spotted gum deck by @Darren



First deck from scratch by @Tara86

SHARE YOUR PICS



@bruceprince



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@AndrewJones

PICTURE (TOP) GETTY IMAGES

workshop

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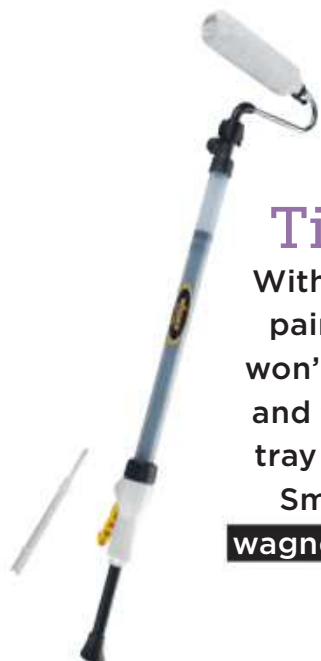
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SHADES OF GREY

It was meant to be just a quick cosmetic refresh, but this Californian bungalow was soon given the full Scandinavian treatment





PICTURES STU MORLEY (MAIN) LISA COHEN



The 1920s bungalow featured plenty of space and a workable floorplan.



WORDS JOHANNA LEGGATT

Nat Wheeler is, by her own admission, a glutton for punishment.

As one half of Norsu Interiors homewares, which she runs with her best friend Kristy Sadlier, Nat has plenty on her plate.

She is a mum of two children – six-year-old daughter Annabel and four-year-old son Harvey – and helps run the Scandinavian-inspired Norsu

online shop, as well as three bricks-and-mortar stores in Melbourne, full time.

‘You can write down in capital letters that I am a glutton for punishment. I just take more and more on,’ says Nat.

Which is why few who know her were surprised by Nat’s decision last year to turn her newly purchased house into a Norsu renovation project, dubbed NorsuHOME, that was filmed every step of the way and uploaded in a series of episodes on the Norsu website.

‘My husband, Dan, and I had pushed our budget to the extreme to buy the home, so we thought we would move in and just throw down some new carpet and give it a lick of paint,’ says Nat.

‘But pretty soon Kristy and I put our business hats on and started to think about doing up my home as a Norsu project,’ Nat continues.

‘We honestly thought we would just post a few shots on Instagram of what can be achieved with a couple of Scandi home renovation ideas.

‘And then it kept growing ...’ ►

Good bones

Nat and Dan bought the tired 1920s Californian bungalow in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs because it had a great floorplan and offered the family more space.

'It had good bones,' explains Nat. 'It had a living room at the back of the house which made open-plan living easy to achieve.'

Nat knocked down walls in the kitchen and living room to create a more open living space, and then set about widening the hallway.

'The hallway was so narrow you could only walk down it single-file. It also bent around and didn't flow through the centre of the house like I wanted,' she says.

'We gained extra width by reducing the size of the bedrooms slightly, as they were large to begin with.'

Nat also added a laundry with a separate toilet off the hallway, and remodelled the bathroom.

'The rest of the floorplan was great, and we didn't extend the footprint in any way,' says Nat.

'That will no doubt be the next project,' she adds with a laugh.

A blend of sympathetic period features and classic Scandi styling make for timeless appeal.



Framing the space

While the house was full of history, its period features were in a pretty precarious state.

'The floorboards were terrible, they even had holes in them. So we put in engineered timber floating floors, with a grey loop-pile carpet in the bedrooms,' says Nat. ►

PICTURES LISA COHEN



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‘Every door and every cornice was different, it was very higgledy-piggledy, so we replaced those with the look of period features.

‘We used tall skirting boards, cornices in the hallway, and replica ceiling roses so the look is very sympathetic,’ says Nat.

Plantation shutters were also installed to match the period of the home, and linen sheers on windows in the living area were used to create the feeling of expansiveness.

Norsu’s trademark Scandi look was also achieved with a well thought-out paint scheme, featuring plenty of shades of grey.

‘We take our greys very seriously,’ laughs Nat.

‘Every room in the house is a different colour. We used lots of tones of grey, but we made Annabel’s bedroom a blush ►



Blush pink and Spanish olive were chosen for the kids’ rooms.



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pink while Harvey's bedroom is a Spanish olive.'

Nat teamed up with Dulux to paint the cabinetry of the house, using Milton Moon and Flooded Gum in the hallway, Tranquil Retreat for the master bedroom and Vivid White for the rest of the cabinets in the house.

'We went with a matt finish with the cabinetry paints because I'm a fan of high-gloss on woodwork, but not when it comes to cabinetry,' says Nat.

Nat chose Milton Moon for the home's exterior because it was the perfect grey, without 'too much blue or too much green'. ►



A flatpack kitchen is brought to life with stylish tiles and fittings.

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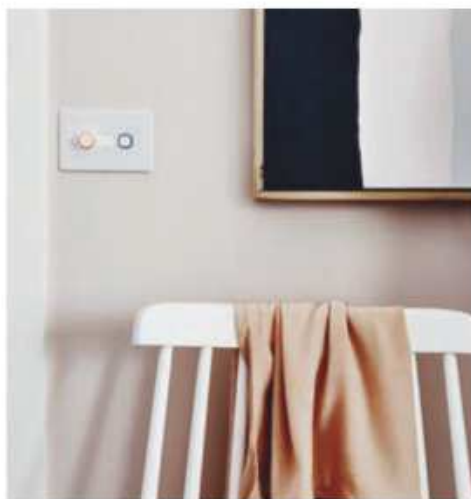
Nailing the kitchen and bathroom

Nat admits to not being much of a cook but she still wanted her kitchen to be functional and attractive.

‘This kitchen is small because we didn’t have a huge budget. The whole premise was to show people that you could do something great without making massive changes,’ she says.

Nat installed a flatpack kitchen with an island bench overlooking the living area. She chose Caesarstone for the benchtops in the new Cloudburst Concrete range with a matt finish.

‘It’s not a fancy kitchen and it’s quite compact but it’s really workable. People don’t believe it’s a flatpack,’ she says.



Wow factor is achieved courtesy of tiles, gold tapware and unique basins.

While the kitchen might have been an exercise in restraint, the bathroom was anything but.

Determined not to have a boring bathroom, Nat used a blush-coloured hexagon tile to create a feature wall and teamed it with gold tapware.

The bathroom also features individually laid marble tiles in a herringbone pattern, with a natural timber vanity completing the Scandinavian look. ►

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Pink marble tiles, for the record, were also used in the laundry.

'I think the tiling is my favourite part of the house,' says Nat. 'The tiles were probably not technically affordable, but they're what lifted this from being a standard renovation to something a bit more special.'

'You can save money by doing certain things like a flatpack kitchen and then team it with something more extravagant elsewhere.'

Grey tones were teamed with pinks and timber to add warmth.



Final touches

The rest of the house was brought to life with a series of finishing touches that were a combination of Scandi styling and modern comforts.

Smart lighting controlled through an iPhone app was installed, alongside pendants for aesthetic appeal.

'We love our pendant lights at Norsu, so we have gone crazy,' says Nat.

'I see lighting as artwork because it gives that immediate wow factor. ►



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PICTURES STU MORLEY (RIGHT) LISA COHEN



The entrance is a welcoming combo of calming colours and warm styling.



It's often an afterthought, but we selected our pendant lights at demolition phase.'

There is a different pendant light in every room, including a stunning feather light in Annabel's room and large statement lights in the hallway.

Nat and Kristy used their tried-and-true colour scheme of grey with the occasional pop of colour - usually blush pink - to stage the spaces, complemented by a full retinue of prints, rugs and lamps.

'Layers and texture do the rest of the work in the home styling through the use of throws and fabric,' says Nat.

Most importantly for Nat, not only is her home attractive, it's also relatable.

'A lot of people are out there doing extravagant renovations, which is great, but we hope that people who see the NorsuHOME online can pick up one or two ideas that they can do on their own.' Visit norsuhome.com ❖

TOP DECK

Australia's top landscape architects show off their innovative deck designs that you can bring to life in your own backyard

WORDS JOHANNA LEGGATT

MULTIPURPOSE MASTER

Steve Taylor, from Melbourne business Cos Design, was in his creative element when he was asked to landscape the very small courtyard of a classic inner-city Victorian terrace.

'They had rear access for off-street parking in their back courtyard because

there was no front garage,' says Steve.

'And levels were really tricky, because the block sloped at the rear.'

Steve built the alfresco deck area using stringybark timber with a slight tint, and integrated steps down to a paved courtyard, which doubles as the off-street parking. ►



PICTURE TIM TURNER

The warmth of stringybark timber and strategic lighting transform a small yard.

‘The car space was paved, the house rendered. There was very little garden space, so the timber deck adds the warmth,’ he says.

Steve also used stringybark timber on another inner-Melbourne home, and while that particular backyard offered more space, there was an equally challenging issue of a mature tree at the heart of the yard.

‘There was a beautiful Claret Ash tree right in the middle, so everything was designed around the tree,’ he says.

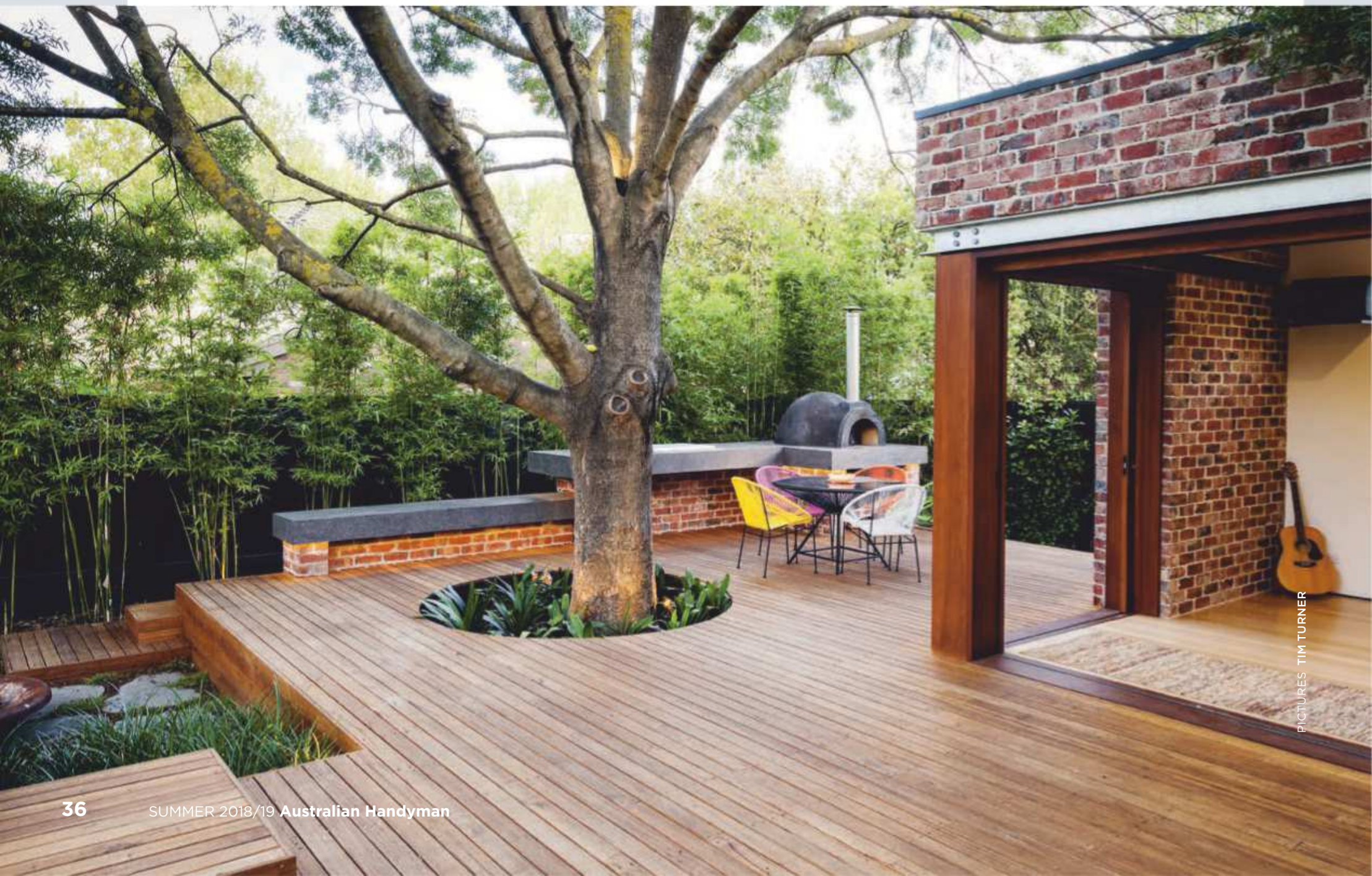
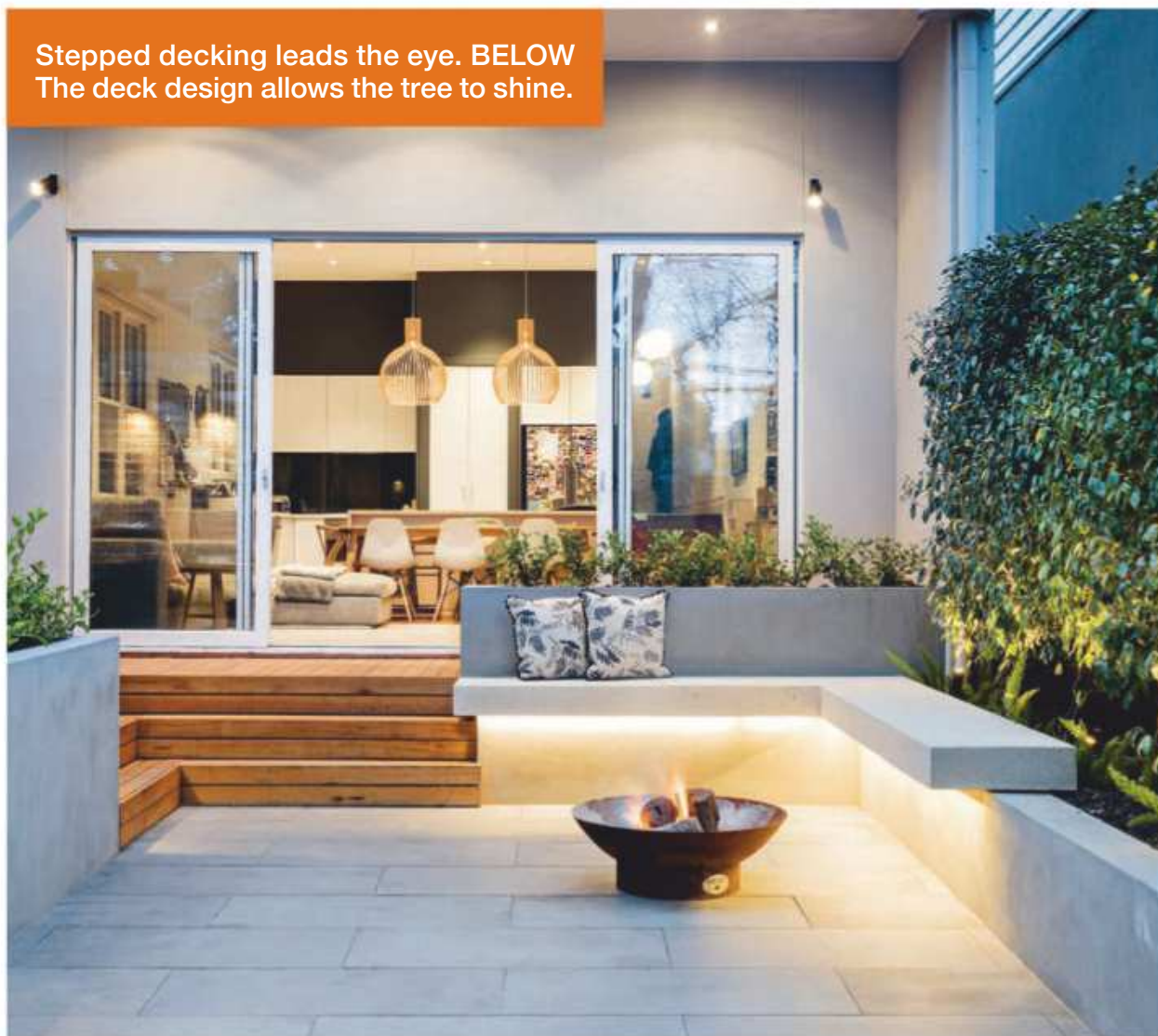
‘The pool was pushed over away from the tree to avoid the roots, and we went with a deck because paving wouldn’t have let the tree get the water it needs.’

The deck was also built around the tree so that the tree is slightly off-centre in the hole, while clivia plants were incorporated to add greenery.

‘I don’t like things perfectly in the middle, and the tree looks better off-centre,’ says Steve.

‘It’s the hero of the backyard.’ ►

Stepped decking leads the eye. BELOW
The deck design allows the tree to shine.



PICTURES TIM TURNER

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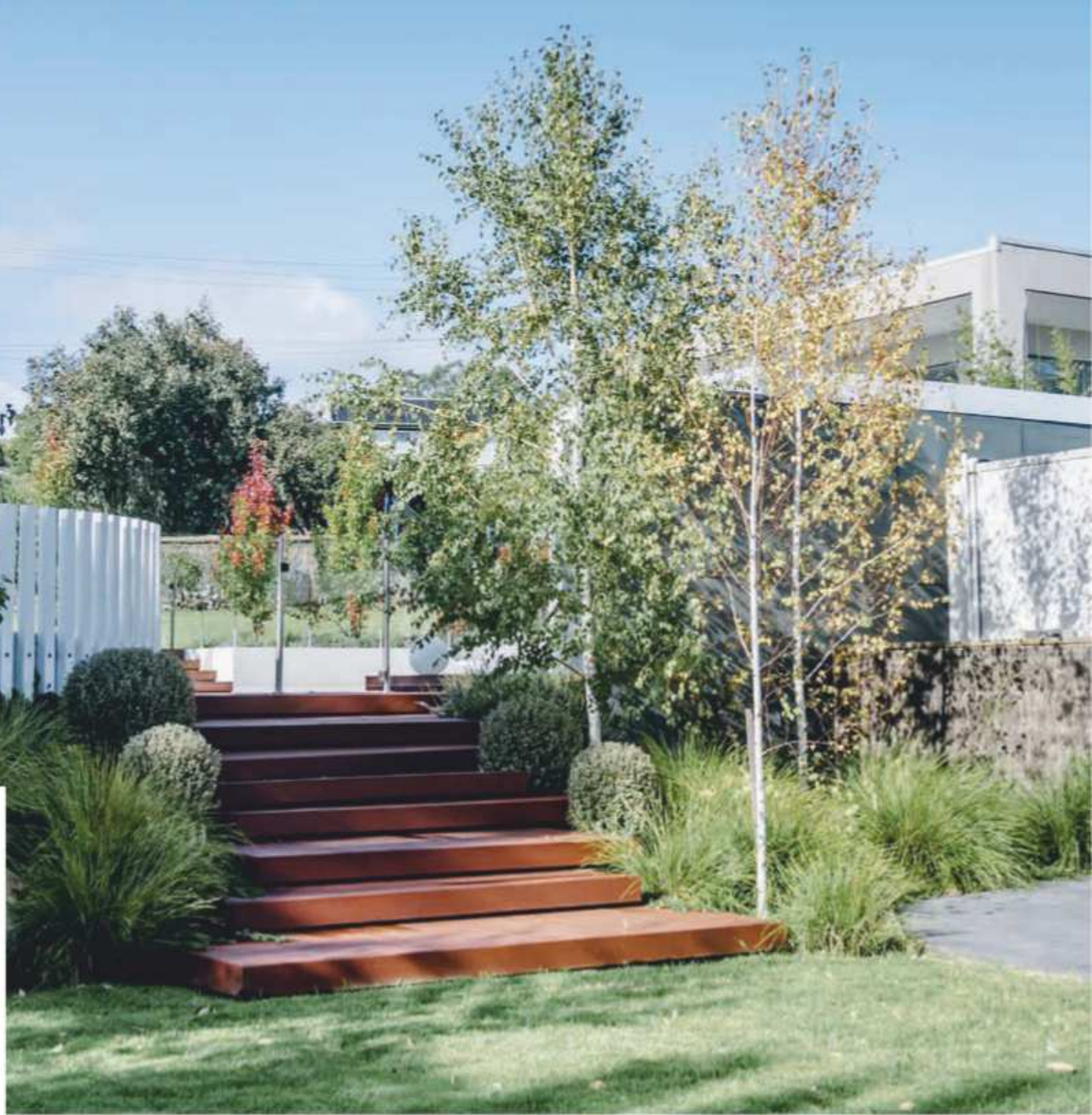
SLOPE SOLUTIONS

For many homeowners, sloping blocks are a pain, but for a landscape architect they can create dynamic points of interest in their designs.

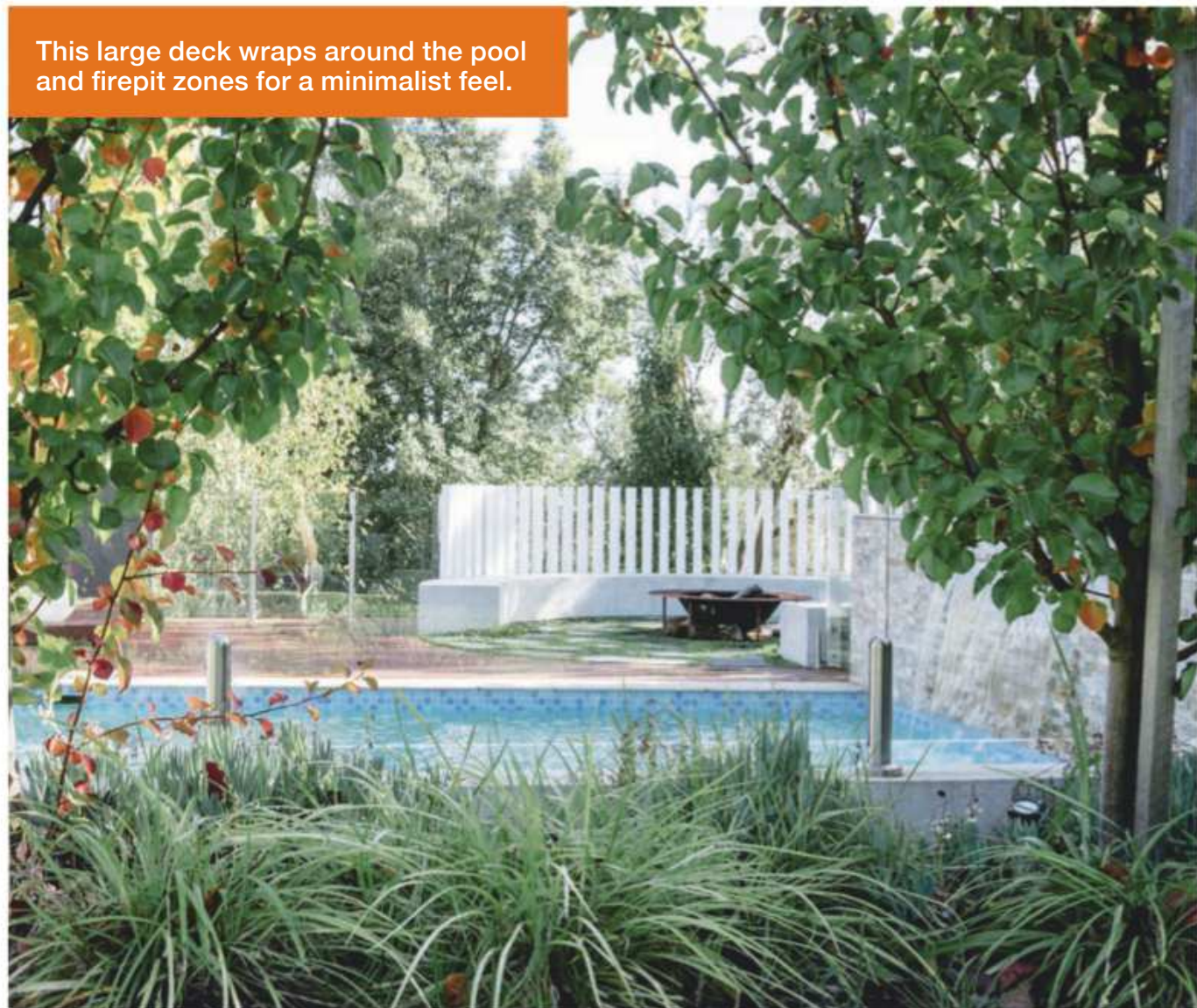
Take, as an example, this backyard in Mount Eliza on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, which landscape architect at MTLA, Mark Travers, turned into an attractive focal point.

'There was a 1.5-metre level change from the swimming pool area to the backyard so I set about creating a linkage between the deck and the disconnected space using large-format merbau timber,' he says.

'The pool was already built with decking, so we created an embankment garden bed and then used deck landings to not only line the areas, but to turn the embankment into a central feature.'



This large deck wraps around the pool and firepit zones for a minimalist feel.





Merbau decking creates cosiness in the outdoor kitchen of this cottage.

Another one of Mark's projects – a charming 1960s beach house in Sorrento, also on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula – required him to build a functional deck that acted as an extension of the small house.

'I created a large stepped deck which had a full kitchen and pizza oven. That allowed the family to free up indoor spaces and meant the adults could cook outside during the summer months while the kids could run around in the backyard,' he says.

Mark used merbau flooring and paired it with timber beams to complete the feeling of an outdoor room.

'Sometimes you need beams of timber and decking to feel like you're in an enclosed space outdoors,' says Mark.

'And it really does feel like that.' ►

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PAVE THE WAY

Most people use pavers to lead the way to their doorstep, but Grant Boyle, from Fig Landscapes, elected to use decking at the front of a client's weatherboard home in Sydney's Birchgrove.

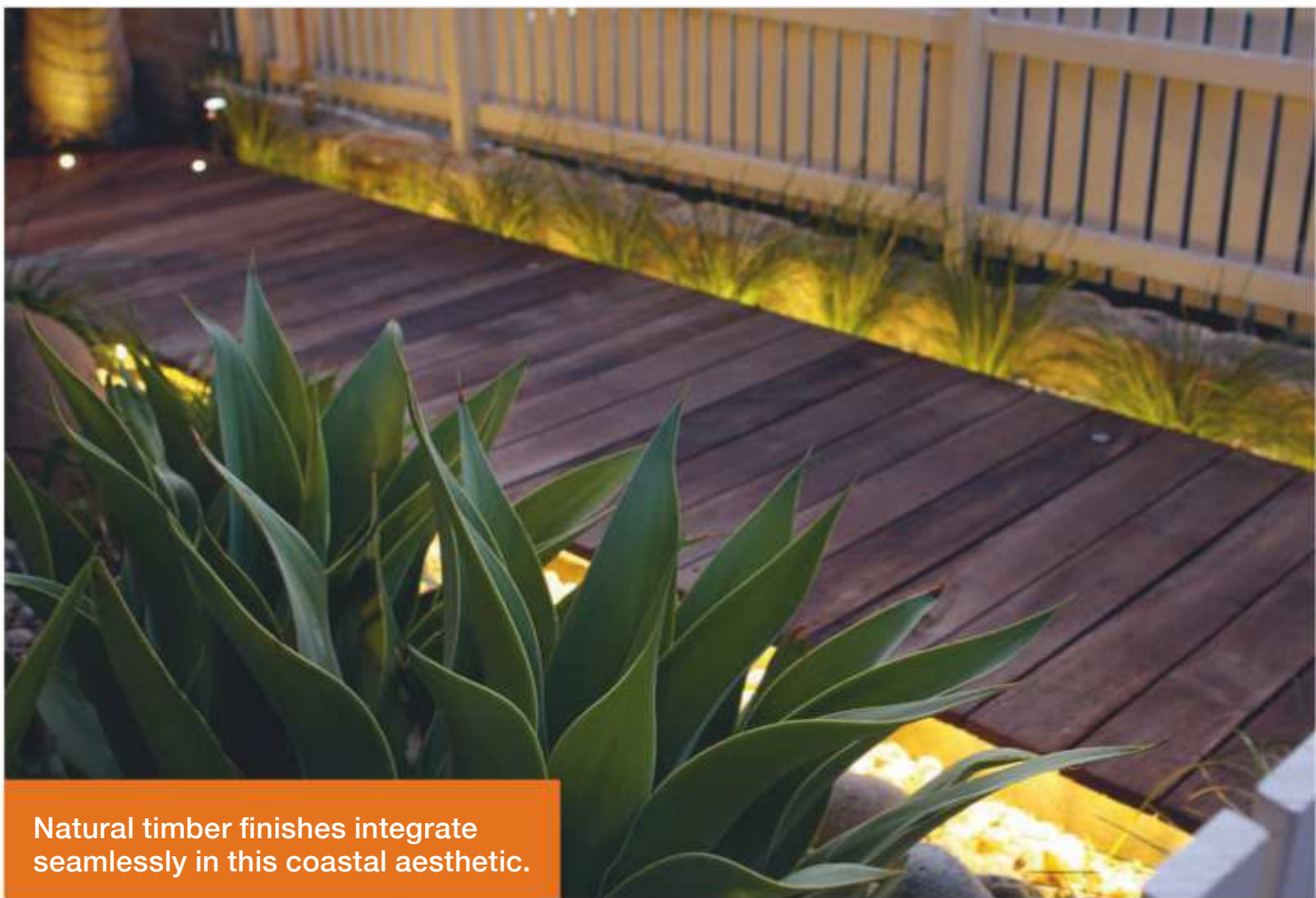
'The idea was to create a casual boardwalk feel with merbau timber using just a clear oil finish on it so it can grey off over time,' he says.

'It was quite an odd-shaped front garden so a standard pathway or paving didn't feel like it was going to suit.'

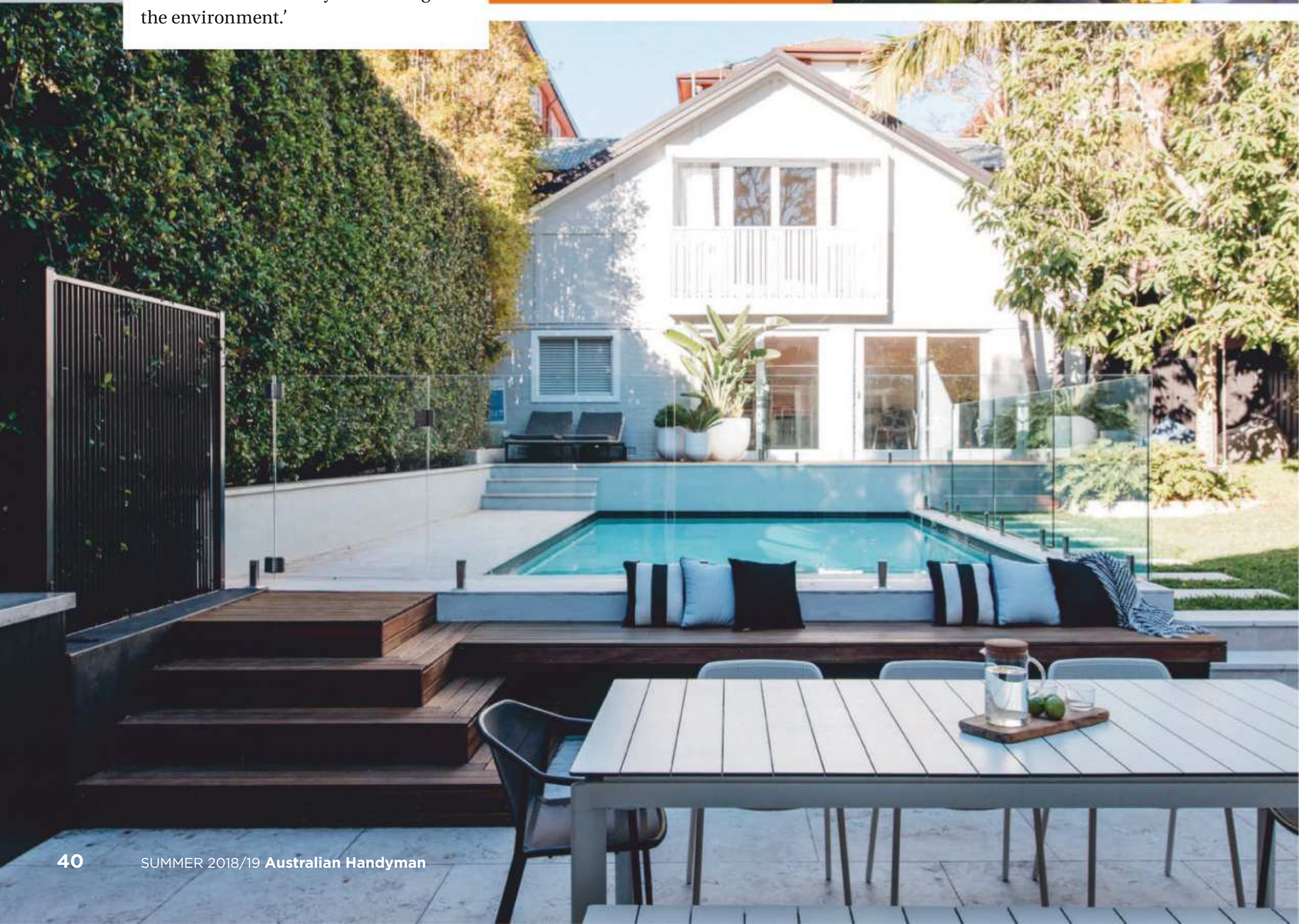
It's not the first time that Grant has chosen to go down this path.

'I've done a few of these because I like a boardwalk at the front of a house, especially on the waterfront suburbs of Sydney because it fits that coastal aesthetic,' says Grant.

'You have to match your decking to the environment.'



Natural timber finishes integrate seamlessly in this coastal aesthetic.





An elevated deck with simple lines creates a luxury boutique vibe.



PICTURES (LEFT, TOP RIGHT, RIGHT) JESSICA HARRIS

It was a different story at another Sydney house in Randwick in which the clients wanted a 'really slick, almost boutique resort feeling' in their yard.

'They were obsessed with The Atlantic resort in Byron Bay, which meant a black-and-white look with lots of timber giving a fairly minimalist and very private feeling to it,' says Grant.

It was rather a big space with lots of fairly different zones in the garden, Grant notes.

'Originally we spoke about paving, but there was already quite a large paved area off the back of the house,' says Grant.

'We wanted to soften that area and create a holiday vibe, so we went with a flat deck using spotted gum timber.' ►



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MATCHING UP

Sometimes the job of a good landscape architect is to artfully match the old with the new.

Lisa Ellis, from Lisa Ellis Gardens, did just that when she was called upon to unite an old deck with a new one in a rear garden in inner-city Melbourne.

‘My client had a small deck of spotted gum timber extending out to the two posts in the alfresco area, but the rest of the site was bare,’ says Lisa.

‘So we designed a larger deck to match the existing one, and even lifted some boards on the original deck and re-laid them to make it look like it was all done at the same time.’

A stone and water feature was also included to add some texture and a point of interest in the garden.

‘We brought in some beautiful materiality with a water bowl on top of a stone plinth to match the home’s stone wall areas,’ says Lisa.

The yard also features two white Crepe Myrtles on either side of the deck, which help create shading.

Organic materials and textures harmonise with the natural timber.





Connect zones with a tiered deck, creating drama and space for play.

At another inner-Melbourne home, Lisa used a spotted gum timber deck to transition from the back door to the bottom of the garden.

'We created an immediate entertaining zone with a deck straight outside the kitchen, and then we wanted a different zone at the back of the garden,' says Lisa.

'There was a big fall from the back door to the back fence so we used the deck as a transition zone, and the decking steps also became seating.

'The clients' boys have friends over to play so the steps are used to sit on, and they feel quite playful and quite dramatic.'

Trees on the upper deck were also planted into the deck to create a striking feature.

'The trees at night are lit as well and it's a really lovely way of adding gravitas,' says Lisa. ►



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LET IT BE

Landscape architect Matt Leacy, director of Sydney-based Landart, loves to let timber 'do its thing'.

'I wish it could stay as good as it looks when you first install the deck, but as soon as it rains it changes,' says Matt.

'But that's okay, because then it becomes part of its look.'

When it came time to build a deck for his own front yard, Matt was determined to keep the timber unstained.

'Staining is a problem for people as they fail to do it regularly,' he says.

'I also like the look of unstained wood, as long as it is one that is nice and dense and won't splinter.'

Matt used spotted gum in his amphitheatre-style decking, which takes up most of the front portion of his house on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

'The front yard faces north-west so this is where we all hang out and watch the sun set in the winter,' he says.

'In the summer months we are out the back in the pool.'

Meanwhile, when a client asked Matt to make their Northern Beaches L-shaped backyard look bigger than it was, he decided to opt for the textured timber look, with intersecting boards to make it feel more spacious.

Matt used spotted gum boards and teamed them with coastal shrubs, all of which run off to a different look-out.

'The house is right on the beach so highlighting the vista was really important,' says Matt.

'Having the angles running against each other in some board sections draws the eye to certain outlooks.' ♦

Long lines and intersecting angles create a sense of spaciousness.

DECK TIPS

- ◆ Ensure the deck is at least 500mm off the ground to allow airflow, or it will rot.
- ◆ Go for sustainably forested timber that has been grown in a designated timber forest. Landscape architects are very careful about using merbau these days, as much of it is logged illegally overseas.
- ◆ All natural timber needs to be conditioned so aim to do it in early to mid spring to nourish and ensure the longevity of the deck.
- ◆ Sanding and staining old decks is a great way to rejuvenate them.
- ◆ You can retrofit an existing deck with lighting to add a special, warm ambience.



PICTURES JASON BUSCH PHOTOGRAPHY

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WORDS JACKIE BRYGEL



PICTURE GIA BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS PHOTOGRAPHER MARTINA GEMMOLA



Ease of use and visual appeal are equal priorities in kitchen design.

PERFECT HARMONY

Trends come and go but a kitchen that is sympathetic in style to the entire home will have enduring appeal. As Petrina Turner, interior designer at Petrina Turner Design, sagely explains, 'The kitchen is a working room of the home but is also generally attached to a main living space. So, as well as taking practicality into consideration, you need to think about how it will work visually in the space.'

For this reason, when deciding on the style of your new kitchen, it's vital to ensure it does not appear out of place.

'I don't think it's so important to have an on-trend kitchen,' says GIA's Olivia. 'Sometimes trends are not appropriate for the style of your home.'

Adds Petrina, 'The biggest mistake people often make is deciding on something in isolation. This leads to regret later, when they realise it doesn't work well with anything else. Design well once.' ►

When it comes to the kitchen, we're all in agreement – it's the heart of every home. Whether it be large and luxe, petite and pared-back, sleek and minimalist or warm and traditional, one thing never changes – a kitchen that is practical and easy on the eye is a delight to spend time in for homeowners and their guests.

After all, as Olivia Cirocco, interior designer at GIA Bathrooms & Kitchens, says, 'A kitchen is where the majority of families gather, entertain and spend most of their time together.'

Best of all, many of the exciting new trends in kitchen design and decor deliver the two key items on many a renovator's wish list – form and

function. Here's our expert guide to the up-to-the-minute styles and ideas for kitchens sure to be appreciated and loved well into the future.



NEW

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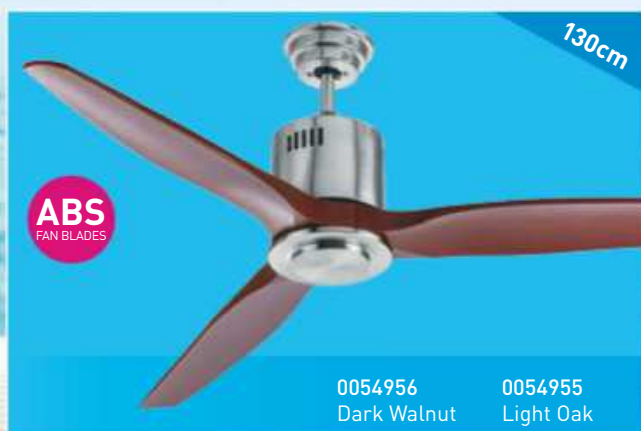
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IN THE ZONE

Balance is the key in what is arguably the hardest-working room of the house. When designing the kitchen, a free-flowing and easy-to-use layout, a roomy island or breakfast bar and a plethora of storage options tick boxes time and again.

‘Zoning your kitchen to add to the spatial flow is essential,’ advises Olivia. ‘You should have an area for cooking, a spot for preparing food, and a place where you keep all food items. This will help reduce the

movement required while in the kitchen area.’

The positioning of both concealed and open storage is also essential.

‘You don’t want to be walking from one side of the kitchen to another while you unpack items from the dishwasher. Your everyday cutlery and plates should be stored near the dishwasher so that it’s easy to put them away.

‘Another example is the location of your food products – a spice and oils pull-out cabinet is great when located near the cooktop,’ says Olivia. ►





Intelligent zoning complements natural workflow in a kitchen.



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Benchtops using organic materials are on-trend, in a variety of thicknesses.

BEAUTIFUL BENCHTOPS

Claiming prime real estate in the kitchen – and with good reason – are benchtops. They can transform a kitchen from dull and dated into positively gorgeous. And benchtops that are as durable as they are dramatic will always be well-received.

As is the case with other interiors at the moment, many kitchens are showcasing a more organic palette in benchtop design. ‘Materials such as marble and terrazzo have become increasingly popular this year with my clients,’ says Olivia.

‘If you’re not up for the maintenance of a natural material, another increasingly popular choice is porcelain – one of the most durable options for benchtops with little to no maintenance required. There is such great technology out now to produce porcelain benchtops in a great variety of colours and styles.’

The thickness of your benchtop comes down to personal preference.

‘Benchtops are now anything from a superfine 12mm to a heavier 60mm or even 100mm thick,’ says Petrina, adding, ‘A combination of the two in different areas is a great way to define your zones.’ ►



PICTURES (TOP) GIA BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS PHOTOGRAPHER PAUL CARLAND (BOTTOM LEFT, BOTTOM RIGHT) GETTY IMAGES



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MAKE A SPLASH

A stunning splashback can make a strong style statement all of its own in the kitchen.

According to Petrina, tiled splashbacks are currently making a resurgence. 'Tile selection is a great way to extend the mood and style of the rest of your home into the kitchen. Tile splashbacks in beautiful marble mosaics, handmade Moroccan tiles or fine Japanese textured tiles really give a kitchen character,' she says.

Alternatively, consider a blend of materials for your splashback for both aesthetics and practicality.

'Stone upstands with tiles above is an option where different materials meet on the same wall to create beautiful texture. This combination also makes it easy to have a little fun with your selection of tiles, while the stone will take the majority of the 'splash' from the cooking and is easier to clean,' suggests Olivia.



An elegant fan splashback can make a stunning style statement.



Appliances can seamlessly merge into the design, or take centre stage.



HERO APPLIANCES

Among the biggest and most important buys for your new kitchen are the appliances – which include everything from the fridge to the cooktop.

‘Induction cooktops have become more common,’ says Olivia. ‘Along

with wonderful technology, they’re also very easy to keep clean, which adds to their appeal.’

As for rangehoods, Petrina believes they are fast becoming a kitchen showpiece while, of course, also keeping grease, moisture and cooking

odours at bay. ‘They’re often clad in gorgeous materials like brass or marble,’ she says.

While an island rangehood can be a style hero in the centre of the food zone, a downdraft fan system, which sits flush in the benchtop when not in use, is a more inconspicuous – and perhaps lower-maintenance – option.

Integrated kitchen appliances are another growing trend in today’s homes.

‘I feel they’re the best way to make a kitchen appliance look like a piece of furniture. They enable you to effortlessly continue your joinery through to a living space,’ says Olivia.

‘We are seeing more and more integrated fridges being used, which creates a beautiful seamless effect in the cabinetry.’

And most of all, says Petrina, ‘There should always be a balance between form and function.’ ♦

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COLOUR YOUR WORLD

Just like clothing fashions, paint colours shift and change each year, as new hues and colour combinations reflect the evolving sentiments and style of the time. Colour experts comb the globe to get an understanding of the palettes, passions and patinas shaping our world today.

Following a visit to Milan Design Week, the Dulux colour team devised the 2019 Dulux Colour Forecast, Filter, in which organic shapes, frayed edges, contrasting textures and repurposed vintage pieces are set against a backdrop of earthy neutrals, saturated greens and citrus brights.

‘Filter speaks to our collective craving for individuality and personal expression,’ says Dulux colour expert, Andrea Lucena-Orr. ‘It helps us mindfully tap out all the distractions and focus on the things that move and inspire us.

‘Mindful consumption is a key theme for 2019 and we can expect to see a paring back of the unnecessary and a greater emphasis on repurposing and reimagining objects surrounding us. The result is a new kind of bespoke where the traditions of the past are celebrated in dynamic and modern ways.’

Filter is expressed through four carefully curated themes: Repair, Wholeself, Legacy and Identity. ►

From the Dulux Identity palette: wall (left) in Dulux Vivid White, wall (feature) in Mondrian Blue and Mitchell Blue, stair wall in Old Money.



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REPAIR

◆ **THEMES:** Vintage, sustainability, earthiness, warmth, repurposing and recycling.

REFLECTING OUR DESIRE to reconnect with nature and form a deeper understanding of our place in the world, the Repair palette is a collection of earthy neutrals, rich greens and spicy notes of cinnamon and sienna.

'Repair is my favourite palette of 2019,' says Andrea. 'I love its muted, tonal combinations and slightly off-beat, vintage feel. It sets a warm, nurturing mood in a space and creates the perfect backdrop for timber, leather and unusual collectibles.'



1

1 Wall in Dulux Plasticine, wall (background, far right) in Sea Creature.

2 Wall in Dulux Cornstalk.

3 Wall in Dulux Cinnamon Sand.

4 Wall (rear) in Dulux Hidden Depths, wall (right) in Sea Creature.



2



3



4

PICTURES LISA COHEN STYLING BREE LEECH (BOTTOM CENTRE) 'ANTARES'
ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY ANTOINETTE FERWERDA, ANTOINETTE FERWERDA

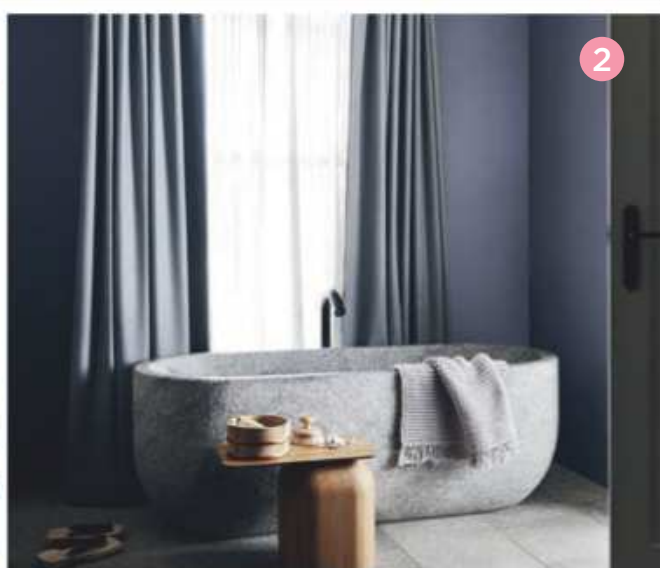
WHOLESELF

♦ **THEMES:** Paring back, digital detox, minimalism and simplicity. A DIRECT ANTIDOTE to the stream of information bombarding us wherever we turn, the Wholeself palette draws together gentle shades of mauve-grey, powdery pinks and touches of gold to create serene, calming interiors.

‘From our global research, it’s clear there will be an emphasis on

wellness and mindfulness in 2019 and the Wholeself palette really plugs into these themes,’ says Andrea.

‘With its soft, light tones and subtle layerings of texture, it’s a palette to ignite the senses and revive a tired spirit. It’s also easy to decorate with existing whites and cool neutrals, which I believe will make it a popular choice for home enthusiasts.’ ►



- 1 Wall in Dulux Shetland Lace Half, ceiling in Pinkham.
- 2 Wall in Dulux Modest Mauve.
- 3 Wall in Dulux New Life.
- 4 Wall in Dulux Silver Thaw, ceiling in Madame Mauve.

PICTURES LISA COHEN STYLING BREE LEECH (TOP LEFT) 'OVOID II' ORIGINAL
ARTWORK BY NICK HORAN, HUB FURNITURE



- 1 Wall (rear) in Dulux Shepherd's Warning, console in Federation Brown, wall (far right) in Pink Linen Half.
- 2 Wall in Dulux Deep Aqua.
- 3 Wall (left) in Dulux Legendary Lilac, wall (rear) in Purple Verbena.
- 4 Door in Dulux Indian Reed, exterior in Antique White USA.



PICTURES: LISA COHEN, STYLING: BREE LEECH (TOP), OF: MELIA RITUAL ONE ART PRINT, FIGGOT COPE CURTAINES

LEGACY

◆ **THEMES:** Craftsmanship, tradition and antiques rebuilt with a contemporary twist. EACH GENERATION BRINGS a new intelligence, taking the best from the past and reinventing it for the present, as we distance ourselves from damaging consumerist habits.

Legacy is a palette of intense, saturated hues such as deep purple, russet and aqua, offset by brown-based pinks, creating an

elegance and theatre of a bygone era moving into a modern age.

‘The Legacy palette is timeless yet thoroughly modern. Think rich colour, classic furniture and sumptuous textiles used in unexpected ways. For example, these colours may be set against a streamlined backdrop or styled with an industrial edge,’ says Andrea. ‘Purple has emerged as a base colour and is softened by paler shades of lilac and mauve.’ ►

Wall in Dulux Trustee, skirting boards in Lexicon Half.



PHOTOS: LISA COHEN STYLING BREE LEECH (RIGHT) 'SOMETIMES LEFT WANTING' ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY HELEN MCCULLAGH, FENTON & FENTON

IDENTITY

♦ **THEMES:** Non-conformity, fun, spontaneity, rejection of labels. **THE IDENTITY PALETTE** speaks to the rule breaker in all of us. No-holds-barred brights, clashing patterns and quirky combinations are the focus, along with a strong sense of optimism and cheer.

‘Featuring striking blues, purples and shades of citrus, this palette encourages you to incorporate a playful side into your decor,’ explains Andrea.

‘These colours command you to be brave and experiment with unique looks in the home. They translate particularly well in the bedroom – a nurturing space that’s all about you. Paint the door, a piece of furniture or a feature nook in a bright and invigorating shade and watch the room come to life.’ ♦



- 1 Wall (left) in Dulux Pelican Bill Half, wall (right) in Painted Clay.
- 2 Walls in Dulux Vivid White, feature wall (right) in Blue Bayou, column (left) in Red Clown, column (right) in Painted Clay.
- 3 Wall in Dulux Golden Sand.



PICTURES LISA COHEN STYLING BREE LEECH (TOP) 'IONISATION' ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY LIAM SNOOTLE, 'STUDIO GALLERY' (BOTTOM LEFT) 'THIS LIFE WE SHARE' ORIGINAL ARTWORK, BY JASMINE MANSBRIDGE, 'FENTON & FENTON', 'UNTITLED NO. 23' ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY MAX LAWRENCE WHITE 'MODERN TIMES', 'BLUE SAVANA' ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY MIM FANNING, 'STUDIO GALLERY' (BOTTOM RIGHT) 'MUSTARD' ORIGINAL PAINTING BY STACEY REES, 'MODERN TIMES', 'SCULPTURE 13' ORIGINAL SCULPTURE BY MARK ALSWEILER, 'MODERN TIMES'



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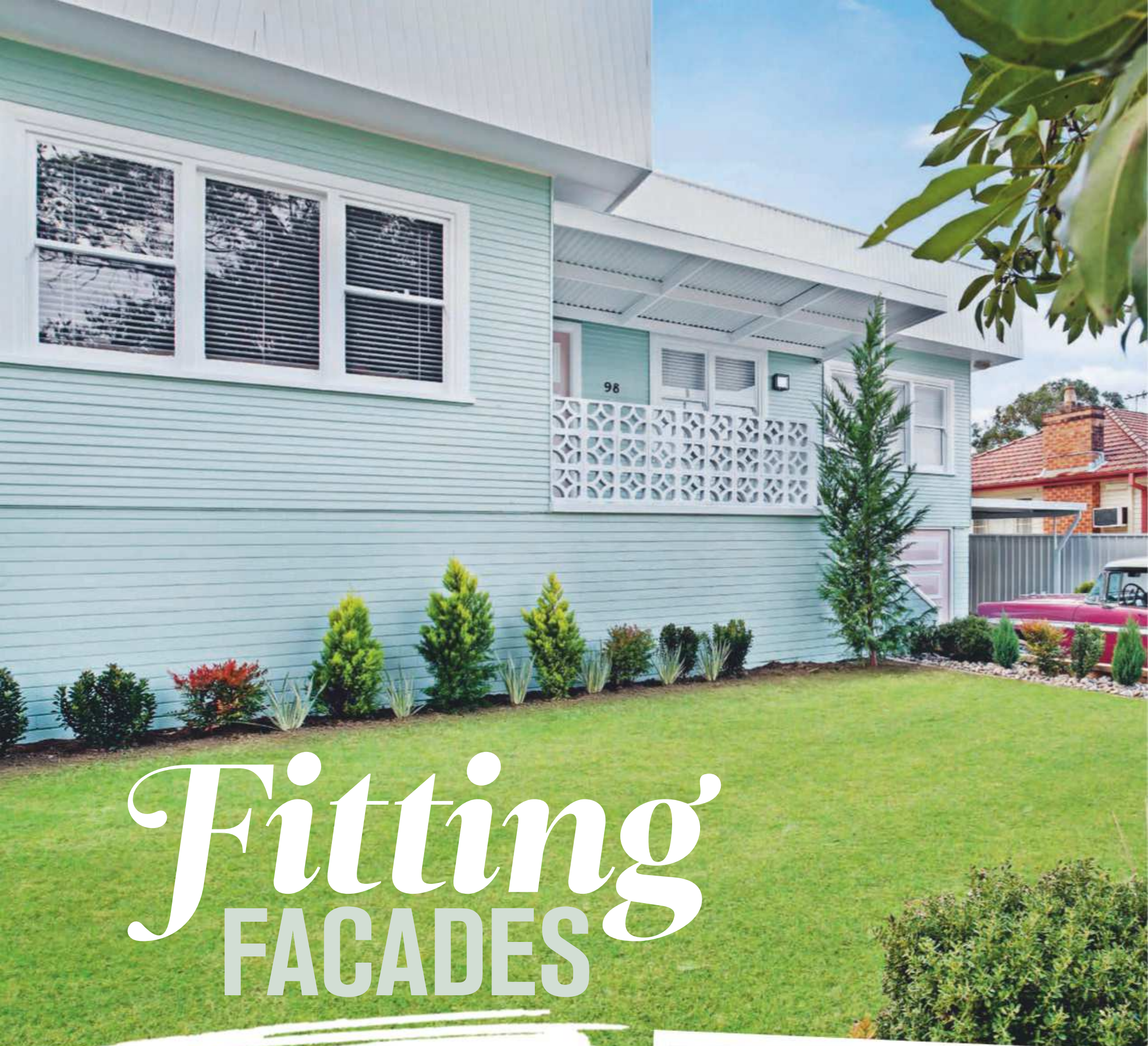
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Fitting FACADES

From pretty pastels to stylish neutrals – reno pro Cherie Barber shows how to choose a colour scheme to suit your home and your look

WORDS AND PICTURES
CHERIE BARBER



Before



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

As we know, trends come and go – when a Tuscan palette suddenly goes out of favour and the Hamptons look is all the rage, it can be expensive to update. Painting the exterior of a house is certainly not something you want to be doing every couple of years so it's important to start out well.

Choosing colours for a house facade is notoriously tricky, but it's a triumph when you pull it off. It's a matter of striking a careful balance between what's on trend and what suits the streetscape, as well as the fabric of the building. You ideally want that paint job to last around 10 years, so leave the art experiment for another time!

Vintage classic

This house in NSW's Hunter Valley had a most unusual roofline: weird and wacky some might say. It's actually art deco inspired, so I took my cue from that and worked it into a retro-themed scheme.

I chose a beautiful pastel blue for the exterior, Taubmans Sussex, and teamed



it with Crisp White for the fascia, eaves and new breeze blocks.

The front door was treated to a contrasting pale pink, Taubmans Dusty Pink, with white trims in Crisp White.

Before I tackled the paint job, however, I had to tidy up the garden beds and add a few decorative features to the house's facade.

The existing sandstone garden bed walls were repaired and extended up the driveway for a more cohesive look.

On the porch, I replaced the aluminium sheeting on the roof and swapped the old railing for breeze blocks. Then I painted the bare concrete with paving paint tinted to Winter Mist.

You have to admit, my beloved Chevrolet Bel Air 1956 parked in the driveway was the perfect accessory for this retro scene. A touch of Hollywood in the heart of the Hunter. ►

After

A distinctive pastel hue embraces the retro feel of the property.





Before

Charming cottage

This couldn't be a greater contrast to the art deco-inspired house in the Hunter. Located in the inner-Sydney suburb of Botany, this double-fronted timber worker's cottage typifies many found in this turn-of-the-century hot spot. The house had excellent bones but suffered from an uninspiring 1980s peachy-beige colour scheme and an

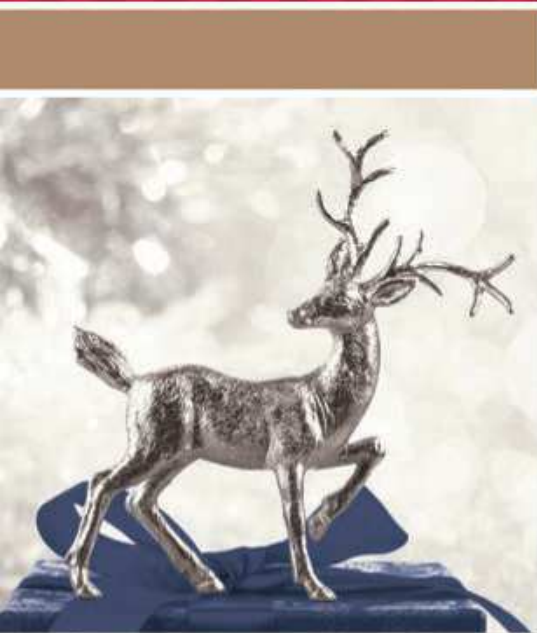
unkempt front yard. And finding a colour palette that would work with the terracotta roof was going to be an additional challenge.

Fortunately, I found Taubmans Wisecrack to be the perfect solution for painting the exterior weatherboards, with the trims in Cotton Ball and the front door in Red Emphasis.

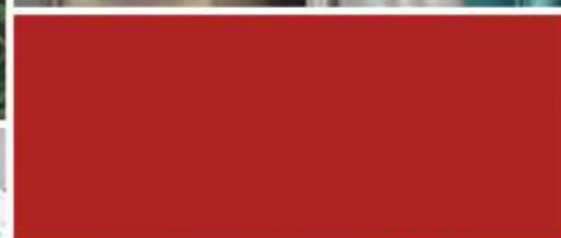
Beefing up the garden with extra

plants and sprinkling liberally with redwood chips was all that was needed to give the front an instant lift. The porch and concrete entry path were painted in White Knight Terracotta paving paint and I also gave the old furniture a hit of white paint.

Heritage appeal with a modern refresh – now there's something to last another 10 years, or more. ❖



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ALL *decked* OUT

Contemplating a major renovation to create the ultimate outdoor entertaining space? With clever design, planning and execution, here's how to create your dream alfresco zone

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

Adding an extension to the rear of your house can be a rewarding way to open up the home, achieve that enviable indoor/outdoor flow and, when done well, add

value. But undertaking such a major renovation shouldn't be taken lightly, as it can be a costly, lengthy and unpredictable process. Here's a stage-by-stage guide of what you can expect. ►





PICTURE GETTY IMAGES



DESIGN YOUR DREAM

In any build, but especially those altering the external dimensions, the first step is to find out what type of approvals you may need.

Always seek professional advice – even if your intended renovations or extensions are exempt from approval, you will still need to have proper plans

drawn by a suitably qualified person and submitted to your local council.

Find a reputable architect or designer who can discuss your dream design and put a plan together. Once the design concepts are done, the engineering plans can be prepared for submission and approval, and you are one big step closer to swinging a hammer.



PLAN YOUR BUILD

When planning a build, you need to decide if you will contract a builder to run the show or whether you'd prefer to take the owner-builder path.

To become an owner-builder, you will need to complete an approved course through an online registered training provider or TAFE, and it's also very important that you take out appropriate insurances.

There are many ways that you can operate as an owner-builder but be aware of your limitations – you will learn new skills but if you can't do it, call in the professionals.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

All building work must comply with the Building Code of Australia and various stages of your project will likely need to be signed off by a certifier – either from council or you can contract a private certifier.

You'll need to draw up a schedule of works. Start talking with tradies to get an idea of how long their stages will take and ascertain availability.

Ensure materials are organised well in advance as some, such as windows, doors, wall frames and roof trusses, can have a lead time of a month or more.

THAT BIG FIRST STEP

Before you even pick up a spade, you need to perform perhaps the trickiest part of your project – the set out. This involves accurately measuring and marking the position of all works, including the relationship to existing structures. The set out must be 100% accurate for a successful build.

In most cases, this is done with a tape measure, stringline, timber pegs and set-out paint. You will need to mark out the actual dimensions of the structure and then the location of footings or piers. Once this has been completed, excavation can begin.



BELOW RIGHT Once the floor framing is in place, you can add step stringers, such as these pre-fab galvanised stringer sets.

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

Secure footings are critical to the integrity of a major extension. For the project featured in this article, an integrated steel floor frame and post system from Steelmax Building Systems was used. Working from the building plans, Steelmax created a framing and post set-out plan with engineering certification, with the system delivered pre-cut and ready for assembly. The posts were then fixed into concrete footings.

Each post hole was dug 600mm wide by a minimum of 900mm deep. As more than 40 posts were needed for the job,

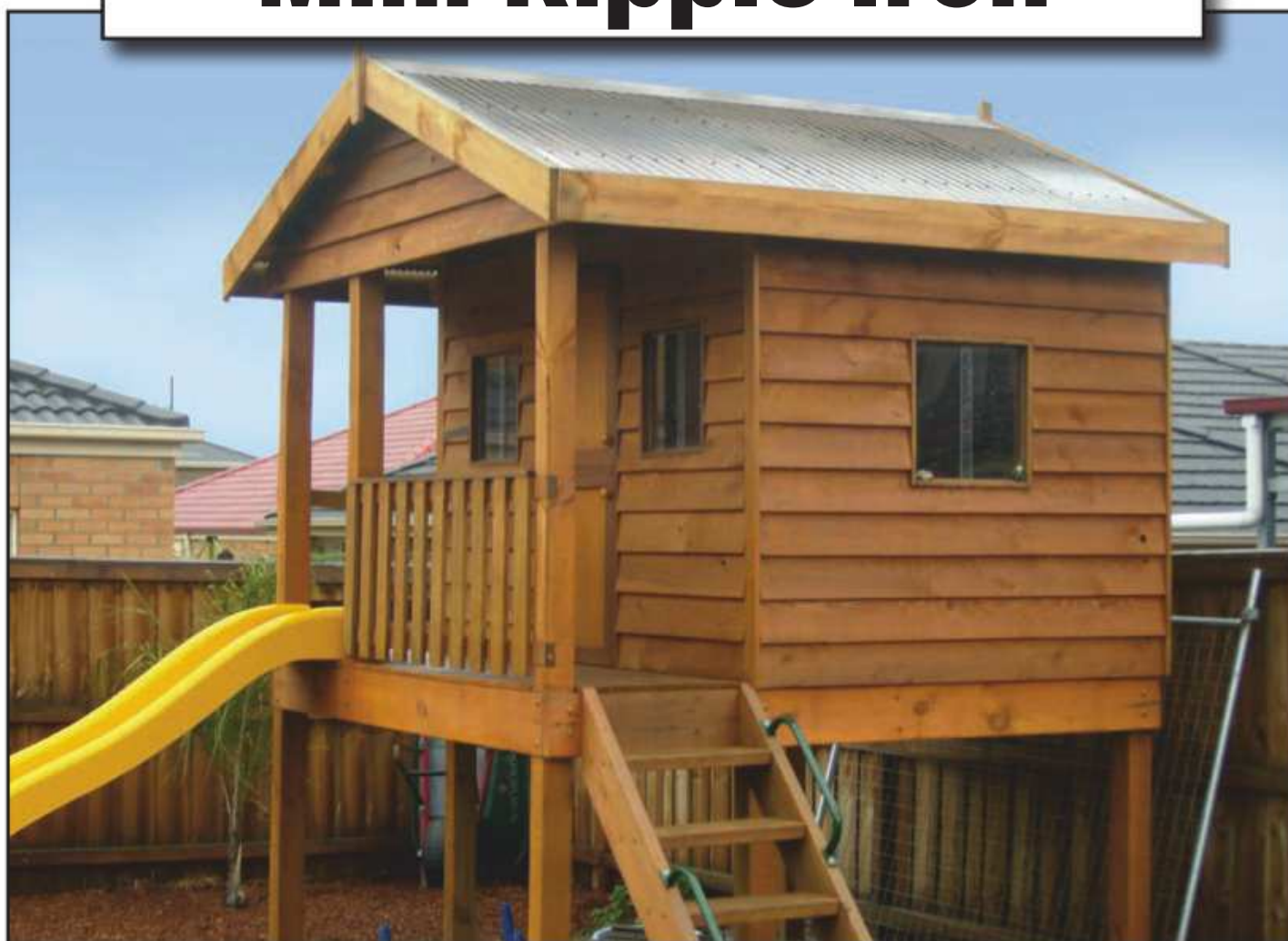
a light excavator with a 600mm auger attachment was used, which reduced the time to create the post holes to a couple of hours.

The most accurate way to get your posts right is to partially build your floor frame first. In this project, the external bearers were assembled and this part-frame was raised to the right height using adjustable Acrow props. The corner and middle posts were then suspended from the frame so that they dangled into the holes.

Concrete was poured around them, ensuring plumb. Once this had cured, the rest of the floor frame was assembled, posts added and then set in concrete. ►



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FLOORING AND DECKING

It's now time to lay your floor. For new room renovations, the most common floor laid today is particleboard flooring, an engineered product designed for load bearing.

For the featured project, 19mm yellow tongue boards were used – the standard domestic thickness. They were fixed by applying a thin bead of construction adhesive to the joists and then screwed down.

As this reno included a large outdoor area, HardieDeck was chosen for the main entertaining space. This decking system is quick and easy to install and has a range of advantages over conventional decking boards. It is constructed of a fibre-cement material primarily comprised of sustainably sourced cellulose fibre, cement and sand. This makes the boards very durable against wear and tear, highly resistant to warping, rotting and termite attack, and they even have a BAL-FZ fire rating, meaning they are suitable for use in the highest-risk bushfire zones.

The HardieDeck system is a modern take on old tongue-and-groove flooring systems. The joiner strip is a channel with two tongues which fit into the board's grooves. Screws are then used to secure this strip to the bearers, pulling the boards down tightly. Once painted, a capping strip is put on top to conceal the screws and close the gap so that you're not left with the draughty floor of conventional decking, which has gaps between the boards. ►



A stable, level platform is made from yellow tongue at the far end, and HardieDeck at the front.



The concealed fastening system of HardieDeck provides a sleek architectural finish on a deck.

PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS TOP GETTY IMAGES



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GOING UP – FRAMING

Once you have your floor down, the next stage generally happens very fast – the framing for walls and roof.

Decide early on whether to build your frames onsite from scratch or order them in as pre-fab frames and roof trusses. Manufactured frames and trusses will be a larger financial outlay, however you will likely make up the difference in labour costs and time saved – and they will come with appropriate engineering certification.

On this project, the majority of wall and floor frames were built onsite, but the new roof had to be stitched to the old roof line, so

saddle trusses were manufactured to fit. This ensured accurately sized trusses with consistent roof pitch angles and meant the section where the two roofs join was completed in hours, not days.

Framing both roof and walls also requires a lot of bracing. This ties everything together and creates diagonal connections to stop frames leaning over time.

Once completed and certified, frames are usually encased externally with building wrap or sarking, a heat reflecting material that provides a degree of insulation and helps to reduce moisture transfer from external walls or roofing to internal structures.

BUILD TIP

If you have large or heavy materials to position, call in a crane hire company – they can position a few very large beams in just a few hours.



Wall framing is built onsite, laying down on a level platform.



Completed frame sections are lifted upright, levelled and braced in place.

Saddle trusses are pre-fabricated to fix to the existing roof structure.



EXTEND YOUR REACH

Once you hit the stage of framing and roofing, you'll need safe and easy access via work platforms above floor level. If you need scaffolding, you can purchase modular units, however for most people, rental is the best option. For everything else, there's ladders, platforms and planks.



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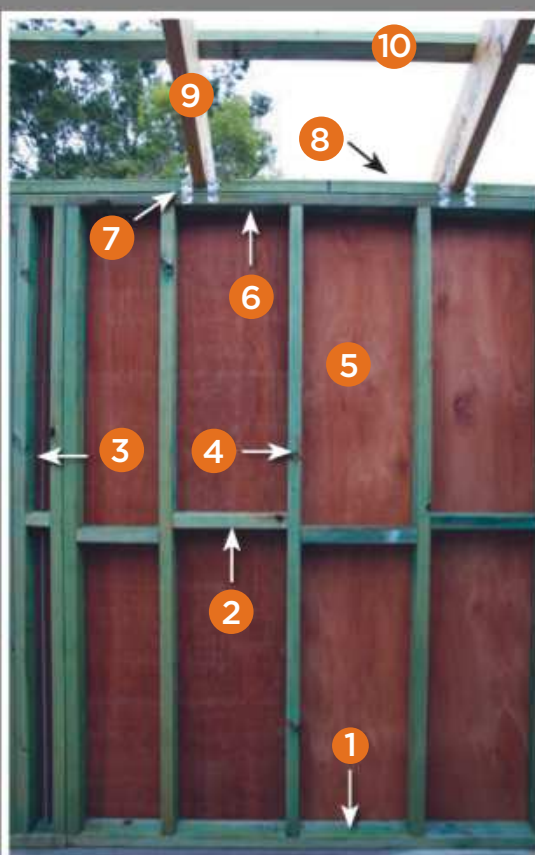


UNDERSTANDING FRAMING

- 1 BOTTOM PLATE** This generally runs to maximum lengths possible and is fixed to the floor, with the rest of the framing standing on it.
- 2 NOGGING** A short section of horizontal bracing between the studs, this stops the studs and frame overall from twisting.
- 3 CYCLONE ROD** A large, threaded rod extending from the top of the ribbon plate to the bottom of the bearers, this is required in some regions to tie the framing to the floor.
- 4 STUD** This is the main vertical section of the wall frame that connects to the plates at the top and bottom.
- 5 BRACING PLY** This ties all sections of the frame together for additional strength, although it is not used in all areas.
- 6 TOP PLATE** Running on top of all studs, this forms the top of the main frame section.
- 7 TIE DOWN** This secures the rafter to the framing.
- 8 RIBBON PLATE** Running to maximum possible lengths and

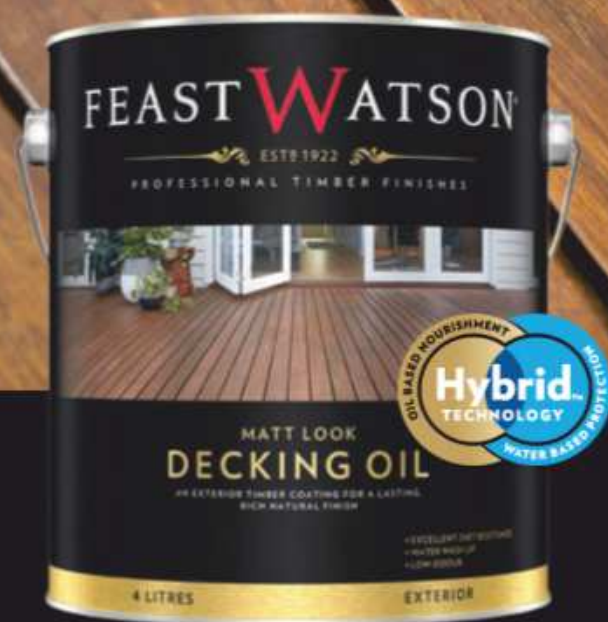
sitting above the top plate, this should run across as many frame sections as possible to tie them together. It also increases the overload capacity of the wall.

- 9 RAFTER** This carries the roof.
- 10 ROOF BATTEN** This provides cross-bracing for the roof frame and provides fix-down points for the roofing materials. ▶



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For roofing over internal rooms, use insulation blanket for heat efficiency.



Over more open areas, such as decks, lay silver-sided sarking.

THE COVER-UP – ROOFING

Once your wall and roof framing is up and approved, you can move on to roofing, which needs to be completed before a lot of other weather-sensitive stages can begin.

To lay any roofing material, a series of battens are run across the entire roof at right angles to the rafters, then sarking or insulation is laid on top. This project used sarking above the outdoor spaces and insulation blanket for the rooms.

The extension used a corrugated iron roof joining into the existing roof. Sheets were ordered as one full-length piece from gutter to ridge which ensured this stage was fast.

After the roof is complete, a lot of fiddly work needs to be done to finish it off, including adding ridge capping, barge or fascia boards, eaves and gutters. ►

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CLADDING

This is the point at which work starts on the face of your renovation – its external skin, whether it be brick or other cladding material such as weatherboard or sheeting.

Before any external layer is added, the walls need to be covered with the same type of sarking used underneath the roofing.

UNDERSTANDING WEATHERBOARD

Fast becoming a popular choice for both new home builds and renovations, weatherboard is easy to install, cost effective and durable, with good thermal values and high fire resistance. It is also very easy to maintain and redecorate. The profile of the boards comprises a number of different design aspects.

◆ **WIDTH** This is the top to bottom height of each board. Generally boards are fixed with a 30mm overlap, so a 200mm board will have 170mm of face visible, which influences the character of the finished project.

◆ **FINISH** Smooth, textured or moulded? Smooth boards suit today's most popular looks – Hamptons and Aussie coastal. Textured boards usually have a wood-grain finish, giving the appearance of timber with the durability of fibre cement. Moulded boards hint to a certain character, such as colonial.

◆ **THICKNESS** As the boards are overlaid, the thicker the board, the steeper the kick-out angle, giving a deeper shadow profile. Thicker boards also have better heat and sound insulation.

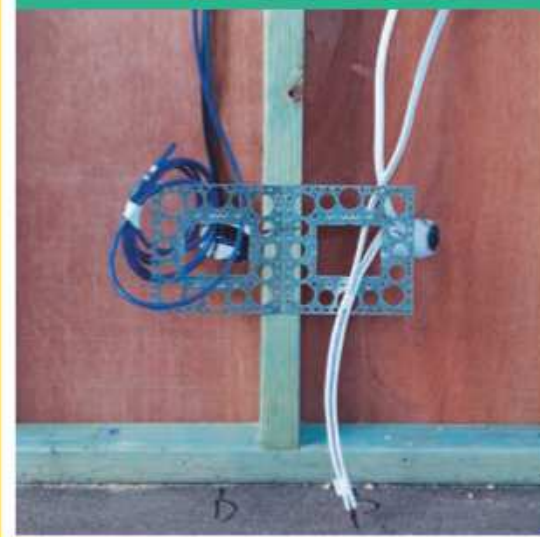


HIDDEN ELEMENTS

Inside nearly every wall and ceiling runs the lifeblood of your home – the electrics and plumbing.

These days, you need to also consider not just electrical but aerial and data cables. All of this needs to be installed, or at least positioned, prior to the final internal cladding taking place. Retro-fitting these elements is expensive, so err on the side of oversupply. Remember that electrical and plumbing work can only ever be conducted by a suitably licenced tradesperson. ►

Keep electricity cables distanced from data and TV cables to prevent interference.



PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS (TOP) THE DESIGNORY PHOTOGRAPHER JESSIE PRINCE



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Make detailed notes about the location of light fittings and cables so they can be easily located by an electrician later.



INTERNAL LAYERS

Once your structure has reached the fully covered stage, it's time to finish the inside, including cladding the internal walls. The most popular choice for this is plasterboard, which is quick and cost effective to install and provides a consistent surface for painting. Plasterboard is also available for areas with a degree of exposure to moisture, such as outdoor sheltered areas, to give you a clean, joint-free finish.

Installing plasterboard is a three-stage process – sheets are fitted to the wall with a special adhesive and nails or screws, then the sheets are set or plastered to conceal joints and then sanded to a smooth finish ready for painting. When fixing plasterboard to ceilings, first install battens at 450mm intervals.

WINDOWS AND DOORS

Windows and doors can be the most expensive component of a renovation or extension. Take the time to choose carefully because you will likely be looking out through those windows for many years, even decades, to come.

Today, most homeowners lean towards aluminium-framed windows and doors. They tend to be more durable and require very little maintenance. One thing to consider, however, is that the colour you buy will be with you for the life of the frames. When it comes to the design basics, white frames tend to disappear into the surrounding structure and walls, so are better where you want a seamless look. Black frames are very popular today and are brilliant for dramatically framing views.

There is also a wide selection of door styles. Stackable sliders are becoming a popular choice, as they are a fantastic way to really open your home up. Bi-fold doors can also achieve excellent opening spaces but it is difficult to have insect screening on them and they can be prone to problems.

When it comes to windows, louvre windows are surging in popularity. They have a host of advantages over conventional windows, such as giving a near total opening of the window space, not just 50% as with a slider. They can be left partially open in the rain without water coming in, and add a fantastic designer look. ♦

Louvre windows are in demand due to their style and versatility.





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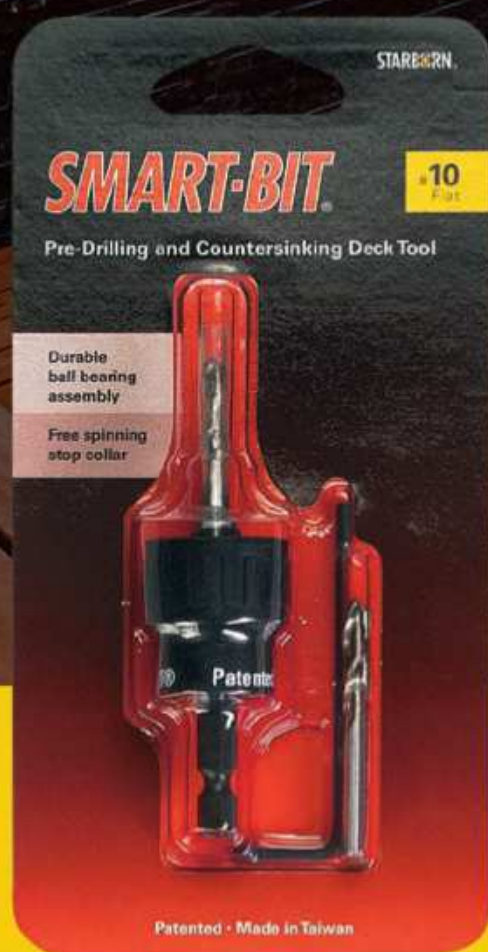


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When the heat of summer arrives, there's nothing better than sitting out on the back deck with a cold drink and tasty treats. While a deck makes getting outdoors convenient and enjoyable at any time of the day or year, a deck isn't just an outdoor extension of your house – it's a place to celebrate cherished moments with family and friends.

But this high-traffic space can be subject to hard wear and tear as well as the damaging effects of harsh weather conditions, leading to rough and potentially treacherous surfaces, and even dangerous structural problems.

If a long winter has made itself felt on your deck, it's time to give it a little tender loving care. We show you what you need to do to fix damaged areas and achieve a beautiful, long-lasting deck.

REPAIR A DECK

Timber structures such as decks, pergolas and balconies have a lot of enemies. Termites feed on timber, while corrosive elements, such as salt-laden coastal air, deteriorate nails, bolts, screws and fixing plates. Strong sun and pelting rain can cause discolouration from a build-up of dirt, wet leaves, algae and moss, as well as leading to splinters, cracks, and even wood rot.

The good news is a run-down deck, even one with rotten boards that looks like it needs to be demolished, may actually only have localised damage.



Safety is paramount for all decks, especially those with big falls.

You can fix minor issues to avoid total replacement, and still have a safe outdoor area.

It's critical to do an annual inspection of timber structures, looking for early warning signs such as rot, corrosion, excessive weathering or movement.

- ♦ **PROTECT** the base of posts against rot, and the timber against weathering, by painting, staining or using water-repellent preservatives.
- ♦ **SEAL** joints that have opened up with timber preservative or oil-based paint.
- ♦ **REPLACE** corroded bolts, popped or rusted nails or screws, using stainless

steel fixings for longevity.

- ♦ **TIGHTEN** loose balustrades.
- ♦ **CONSULT** a structural engineer if you have any doubts.

FIX BOUNCY BOARDS

If the deck moves when walked on, check the joist hangers underneath.

The nail holes should be filled to stop the hangers pulling loose from the ledger board or outer joist.

Use joist hanger nails to replace any missing or corroded nails. These short, fat galvanised clouts are specifically designed to support heavy loads and resist corrosion from treated timber.

DIY TIP

If your decking timber looks dull and absorbs water rather than repelling it, it's time to repair and restore it back to its former glory.

SECURE AN UNSTABLE DECK

A deck will wobble if the ledger board isn't properly fastened to the house.

Secure the ledger board with 90 x 10mm coach screws every 450mm. If there is sufficient access, use cuphead bolts and fasten the washers and nuts from the inside.

Drill two 6mm pilot holes into the ledger board, offsetting them so the base and top holes aren't aligned. Use a drill and impact socket, with a socket adaptor, to secure the coach screws and washers.

TIP Avoid countersinking screws, as it tends to weaken the ledger. ►

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Available at
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warehouse



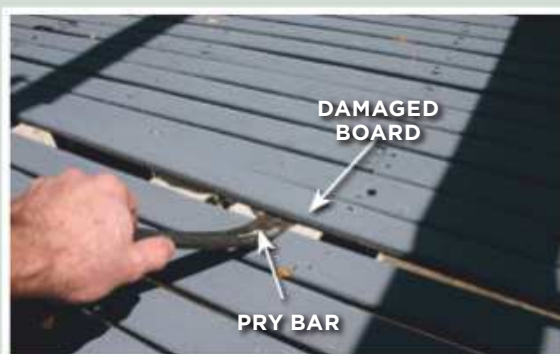
When bits of decking completely break off, it's time to repair it.

REPLACE OLD BOARDS

The nails in these boards were corroding, creating boards soft and spongy to walk on. Fortunately the boards closer to the house and under cover of the balcony were still in good condition and could be salvaged.

1 Remove old boards

Use a pry bar to lift and remove the section of old boards. Use a claw hammer to remove any nail gun-driven steel nails that have pulled through the deteriorated decking and remain in the joists.



2 Clean up the joists

Fill splits and nail holes in the top of the joists with a two-part filler. Once the filler has hardened, paint or seal the top of the joists to protect against water penetration and increase the longevity of the timber.



3 Lay out the boards

Loosely lay out the new decking boards in a staggered pattern and make sure that there are no butt joints side by side on adjacent boards. Mark the position of the cuts using a pencil and a try square.



4 Drill the pilot holes

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



5 Secure the boards

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



6 Tidy the end

Cut off any overhang so the ends of the decking boards are even. Sand or plane to round the edges and remove any splinters for safety. Apply oil, stain or paint to the new boards to match the original decking.



A well-maintained handrail will last a lifetime.

FIX A ROTTEN HANDRAIL

This handrail was decaying at the mitred corners and where it butted into the posts. The end grain hadn't been sealed with preservative or paint and no gap sealant had been used, allowing moisture to get in.



1 Recut the handrail

Remove the handrail with a pry bar and use it as a template or measure and mark out the new sections. Use a jigsaw to cut out around the posts and a sliding compound mitre saw for the mitres.



2 Reseal the end grain

To prevent decay, apply timber preservative or oil-based paint to the end grain. Apply construction adhesive to the top of the crossrail and exterior silicone compound along the meeting faces of timber to be butted together.



3 Secure the handrail

Drill pilot holes every 750mm and attach the handrail to the crossrail and posts with 10g x 65mm stainless steel square drive screws. Drive screw heads below the surface and cover them with exterior putty, then prime and paint. ►



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1. Simply apply, allow to dry
2. Fill with Earl's MulFill 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® MulFill and painted.

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or call us on 1800 354 811

Timbermate^{group}

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



REVIVE A DECK

By summer, most decks will need a little TLC to have them looking like new. A refreshed deck sets the backdrop for a beautiful entertaining space and will give your entire backyard a lift.

How often you need to refinish your deck depends on the type of timber and finish applied, as well as how much it gets used and the climate. A deck is a big investment so it's worth using a high-quality finish that will provide the best protection and ensure you only need to reapply every 12-18 months rather than several times a year.

Assess your deck to determine its condition and decide if you need to just clean and finish, or sand as well. If you want to remove the previous stain or paint layer, or smooth a rough surface, sand it back first.

To finish your deck, choose between deck oil, timber stain or paint.

- ◆ **OILS** protect timber and prevent weathering, penetrating into the wood to resist water damage and minimise UV damage. They enhance the colour and grain of quality hardwood.
- ◆ **STAINS** enhance the appearance of timber by deepening the shade to your preferred look while adding protection. They come in a range of rich colours.
- ◆ **PAINTS** offer endless colour choice, allowing you to make a bold statement or complement the colour of your home. Be aware that they don't penetrate into the timber to protect it and generally require more frequent maintenance.



After

The natural tone of the timber is revived, giving the entire area a lift.



Before



HOW TO REFINISH A DECK

◆ SAND THE SURFACE

Use an orbital sander with an 80-grit sanding disc to sand the surface of the deck, posts and railings, paying particular attention to flaking and peeling areas. Change to a 120-grit disc and sand again for a smooth finish.



◆ FILL THE GAPS

Timber can contract and expand, so look for any gappy joints on the railings.

Apply timber filler such as Earl's Multifill

all-purpose filler using a plastic spatula, sanding once dry. **TIP** Select a coloured filler that closely matches the tone of your timber.



Earl's Multifill Filler,
about \$6 for 140g.
timbermate.com.au



Sikkens Cetol BL Deck
& Wood Cleaner,
\$27 for 1L. tenaru.com.au

◆ SCRUB THE TIMBER

Clean the surface by applying a deck and timber cleaner such as Sikkens Cetol BL Deck & Wood Cleaner, using a sponge mop. Leave for 15 minutes, then scrub it off using a hard-bristled brush. Hose the deck thoroughly and allow it to dry completely.

◆ APPLY THE FINISH

Apply 2-3 coats of your desired finish to the boards in long strokes using a long-handled, soft-bristled brush, roller or applicator. Allow about two hours for the stain to dry in between coats. ►



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SHELLEY CRAFT'S TIMBER REVIVAL

DIY TV star Shelley Craft is no stranger to big renovation projects, so when she and her husband, Christian, bought a beautiful four-bedroom home in Byron Bay, they weren't daunted when it came time to tackle a major recoating of the deck just 18 months later.

'We had just finished a new build in the front yard – a studio and cabana, also in timber – so we decided to freshen up the whole exterior at the same time,' explains Shelley. 'This involved sanding down the large deck, the spotted gum wall cladding and all the timber features around the pool area.'

After trying a couple of samples in the range, Shelley and Christian opted for one coat of Sikkens Cetol HLSe Light Oak 006 and two coats of Sikkens Cetol Deck in a transparent finish.

'We loved the colour that these Sikkens finishes gave to the existing timber,' says Shelley.

'The Sikkens team ensured the product was the best fit for the job. We are so thrilled with the finished product. The main home now looks as new and fresh as the recently completed build.'



SHELLEY'S TOP THREE RECOATING TIPS

- 1** Be aware that all timber types will look different with the same timber treatment, so make sure you do a test panel first. Sikkens offers 100ml sample pots in every shade, so you can test what the colour will look like first.
- 2** Preparation is key to making sure you get a great finish.
- 3** Have a maintenance schedule or plan. It's such a big job to strip and start from scratch, so if you keep up the maintenance, the workload will never get out of hand. ♦



Sikkens Cetol BL Tannin & Oil Remover, about \$90 for 5L. tenaru.com.au

Sikkens Cetol BLX-Pro, \$186 for 5L. tenaru.com.au



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



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How to
build with
tuffblock

tuffblock

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NO CONCRETE TO POUR!



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Including Termites, Ants,
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Designed to prevent
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from 90-100mm



JOISTS + BEARERS
Accepts Joists & Bearers
from 35-47mm



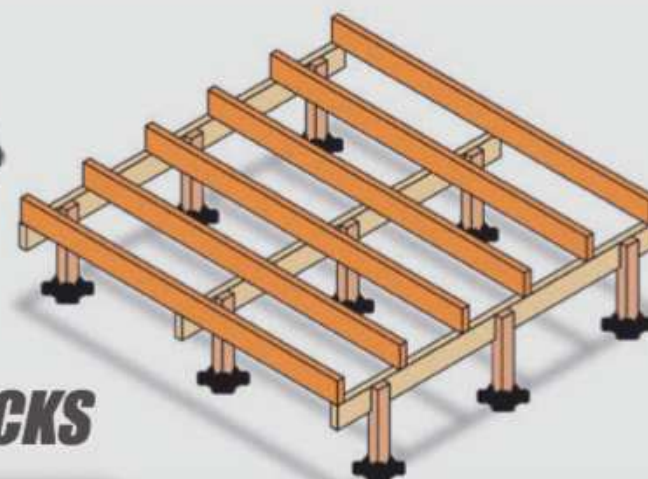
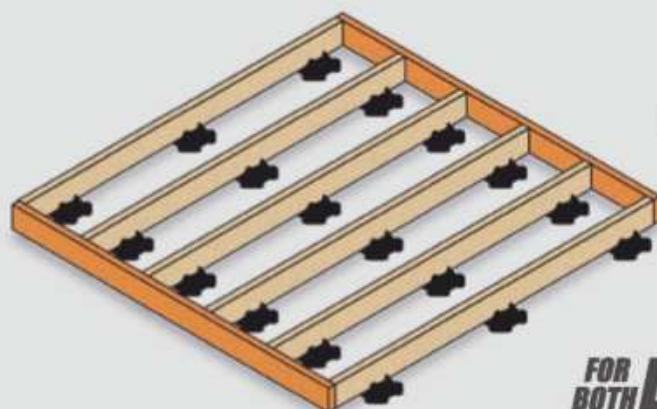
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Before



During (frames and supports)

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- ✓ EASY TO TRANSPORT
- ✓ BASIC TOOLS REQUIRED
- ✓ ADJUSTS TO UNLEVEL SURFACES

1 PLAN YOUR DECK ONLINE: goodtimesco.com.au/planner/

2 Fix frame
timbers together



3 Connect adjustable
supports to frame

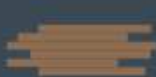


4 Attach decking



Pre-fab
decking

OR



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lengths

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▶ FIND OUT HOW ON YOUTUBE



TREAD THE BOARDS

Choose decking boards suited to your environment, lifestyle and budget for your ultimate deck

The biggest decision to make when building a deck is the choice of timber for the boards, as it affects everything from the cost to the look of your deck and future maintenance requirements.

Generally speaking, hardwoods are tough, dense and long lasting. Softwoods, such as treated pine, are easier to work with, are treated to be resistant to rot and termites and cost less. Composite boards are low maintenance, don't need finishing and come in a range of colours, while fibre-cement decking products are the longest lasting and require little maintenance.

HARDWOODS

Ranging in colour from deep brown to near blonde, hardwoods have a naturally long life when well maintained and some have excellent bushfire resistance.

Hardwoods are heavier and more difficult to work with than pine and usually require pre-drilling before nailing or screwing.

◆ **MERBAU** (as seen here) is a South-East Asian hardwood, known for its rich reddish-brown colour. It is highly durable with a class 1 rating and is suitable for bushfire zones. It costs about \$5.50 a metre for 90 x 19mm boards.

◆ **SPOTTED GUM** is a native hardwood known for its heavy, variable grain and ranges in colour

from pale to dark brown. Resistant to termites, it has a class 1 durability rating and costs about \$7 a metre for 86 x 19mm boards.

◆ **BLACKBUTT** is an Australian hardwood with a cream to pale brown colour and is termite resistant, durable and suitable for bushfire zones. It stains well and costs about \$7 a metre for 86 x 19mm boards. ►

MERBAU

SPOTTED GUM

BLACKBUTT



CEMENT-BASED

Modern fibre-cement decking products are expensive but have the longest life span of any decking and require little maintenance.

Extremely durable, they can be used in challenging spots such as wet areas around pools, close to the ground and bushfire- or termite-prone zones. They can be sealed for a polished-concrete look or painted in any colour you wish.

BOARD FASTENERS

The fasteners you choose to secure your deck also play a significant role in its longevity and safety. Make sure you choose the most suitable option for your conditions to secure the flooring on your new deck.

With a Vibe Defence Grip designed to reduce the vibration on each strike, the smooth face of the Irwin 24oz steel hammer, about \$60, helps to prevent marks on the surface of your decking. irwin.com.au

Editor's pick



COMPOSITE

Made from reclaimed timber, recycled plastic, bamboo and even rice husks, composite boards resist rot, mould and termites and are maintenance free. Easy to work with using conventional power tools, they're often secured with a hidden fastener system. While a more expensive option, they're cost effective in the long run due to their long life span and minimal maintenance needs.

COMPOSITE

TREATED PINE

The go-to choice for decking among builders and homeowners, treated pine is a lightweight softwood, making it easy to work with. Seasonably grown and chemically treated to resist rot, it can be stained easily and is budget friendly at about half the price of hardwoods.

TREATED PINE



PICTURES STUART SCOTT (CENTRE) GEOFF BECK



SCREWS

Galvanised or stainless steel decking screws are easier to remove than nails and won't shift over time. If your joist timber is treated pine, screws should be 65mm long for 19mm boards and 75mm long for 32mm boards.

Ideally, use 10-gauge screws, as the timber can snap the heads off anything smaller with expansion and contraction. When using countersunk screws, drill a pilot or countersunk hole first to prevent boards from splitting.



NAILS

The best nails for securing decking boards are galvanised or stainless steel nails with a helical shank, with the twisted thread increasing the nail's holding power. As with screws, opt for 10-gauge nails 65mm long for 19mm boards and 75mm long for 32mm boards.

Avoid missing a nailhead or driving the nail too far when hammering, as it will damage the timber. Nails may also come loose with the flexing of the timber and need to be hammered in again.



SPECIALTY

Achieve a fastener-free surface with a hidden deck-fastening system, suitable for most boards.

Many hidden fastener systems come with pre-grooved boards locked together with powdercoated metal clips or polypropylene plastic fasteners and stainless steel screws, attached to the side of each board and screwed to the joist so the boards lock together.

Others include jointers, or a tool to attach screws at an angle so the surface remains unmarked. ♦



Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

There's no deck that handles the heat quite like HardieDeck™ decking. That's because it's made from premium fibre cement so it's perfect for bushfire zones, backyard barbies and fire pits. Plus, it won't rot, warp or splinter. If you want to make sure your deck makes the grade, rethink timber and lesser decking options and ask for HardieDeck™ decking by name.

HardieDeck™ | 

DISCOVER MORE AT HARDIEDECK.COM.AU

SCREEN SAVERS

Got something to hide? Try a stylish screen solution

WORDS AND PICTURES
GREG BARTON

A new swimming pool, new balcony and a lot of new roofing all added up to one thing: excess drainage – and that meant water tanks. But how best to conceal them? The simplest, quickest and most attractive DIY solution was to install some tough-wearing, long-lasting aluminium screens, such as these Easy Screens from Protector Aluminium.

Assembling the screens is remarkably straightforward. Simply insert the slats into the side frames and secure them with screws inserted through pre-drilled holes, then lock it all together with Easy Screen brackets fixed to posts.

The best thing about this system is that if you want a custom size, shape

or colour not available in the Bunnings off-the-shelf range, you can just head to the Special Orders Desk and order up screens in the dimensions and colour of your choice.

For detailed information, installation guides and how-to videos, head to protectoraluminium.com.au. ♦



To assemble your Easy Screen, just slide the slats into the side frames one at a time, ensuring a nice tight fit; secure them in place via convenient pre-drilled holes; then attach each panel to your side posts with Easy Screen fixing brackets. Job done!

After

This slatted style also offers the option to install hanging planters.



Before





THE ARCHITECTS CHOICE



DIY Glass Pool Fencing Solutions The Choice is Simple

Safe, stylish and affordable. Bring your outdoor areas to life with clean lines and clear views you only get with glass. Choice of post systems, gate hardware and finishes. Getting started is easy, use our online calculator to estimate and plan your project. For further details visit thearchitectschoice.com.au

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Protector Premium
is an ISO9001
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PROJECT AND PICTURES
NATASHA DICKINS
AT LITTLE RED INDUSTRIES

Installing a cavity
sliding door adds
storage space and
transforms a room

WHAT YOU NEED

- **DOORWAY** Cavity unit, door, vertical jamb
- **CLADDING** 2400 x 1200 x 12mm plywood sheets x 2
- **FRAMING** 90 x 35mm x 2.7m treated pine x 3
- **FEATURE WALL** 30 x 12mm x 2.4m Porta Tasmanian oak half-round dowel x 45
- **EDGING** 12 x 12mm x 2.4m Porta Tasmanian oak quad moulding x 4
- **SHELVING** 110 x 18mm x 2.7m DAR primed finger-jointed pine x 5
- **SHELF SUPPORT** 22 x 22mm x 2.4m Porta Tasmanian oak dowel
- **SKIRTING** 42 x 11mm x 2.7m Bullnose architrave primed finger-jointed pine x 4

DOORWAY TO A NEW ROOM

The niche created by the cavity frame makes an ideal storage area.

Many Aussie homes have a spare room that's too small for a bed but a great size for a studio or office. And most of them have a door that swings inwards, taking up a lot of useful space.

Adding a cavity sliding door is a basic DIY project that increases usable floor space and makes a room more flexible and feel bigger. The cavity frame you create will need cladding, so why not make this a feature by adding Porta Tasmanian oak half-round dowel. The recess beside it is the perfect space for built-in shelving and a display area.

This project was based on a 3.5 x 2.5m room, so your materials and quantities may differ depending on your room size and project scope.

Before you start

Prior to commencing your reno, book an electrician to move any switches or power points, and check if you need to buy any additional fittings. In this

project, the light switch was moved to outside the room, which is fine for this office but wouldn't work so well for a bedroom. The hole left in the wall was covered by the new sliding door.

You'll also need to mark where the wall studs are for attaching the door frame, new skirting boards and the shelving. To locate them, use a stud finder or ask your electrician to help you when they pop in to move the electricals – sparkies have a knack for knowing where they are!

Ready-made door assembly

The ready-to-assemble Evolution Premium cavity unit by Hume Doors and Timber is designed to fit a 70mm or a standard 90mm stud wall. For additional ease of use, opt for Hume's Evolution Touch release system, where you simply tap the door and it springs from the cavity. Get it early on, though, because it needs installing before the cavity is covered. ►

TOOLS

- Drill, drill bits
- Drop saw, hand saw
- Utility knife
- Hammer, mallet
- Impact driver, screwdriver
- 25, 40, 60, 75mm timber screws
- Metal L brackets x 12
- Tape measure, spirit level
- Chisel, crowbar
- PVA adhesive, crack filler
- Paint scraper, paint equipment
- 180-grit sandpaper, sanding block
- Ceiling and wall paint
- Clear varnish
- Brad nailer with air compressor, small brads
- Ladder
- Vacuum cleaner



1 Remove existing door

Use a drill to unscrew the hinges, removing the lower hinge first so the door doesn't fall. If the hinges have been painted, score around the edges with a utility knife to loosen them from the jamb. **TIP** Start filling the hinge rebates now as you'll need to do it in stages, layer by layer as the filler dries.



2 Remove trim and skirting

Score along the join at the wall to prevent pulling off paint, then tap a chisel or crowbar into the gap. Release the skirting boards from the wall by using a pull-down motion so the tip of the chisel pushes into the wall near the floor, rather than higher up which can leave a mark.



3 Prepare for painting

Run a scraper around the base to remove built-up paint, then fill dents and holes with fast-drying crack filler. Use a sanding block with 180-grit sandpaper to smooth the filler and along the paint line. **TIP** Begin at the doorway, working around the room in one direction.



4 Paint the room

If the ceiling needs refreshing, apply a coat or two of ceiling paint with a long-handled roller, then paint the cornices with a brush while cutting into the ceiling, walls and corners. Apply your choice of wall paint using a roller, repeating the coats as necessary for an even coverage.



5 Assemble the cavity

Buy the cavity kit with the jamb in a standard 90mm depth and follow the manufacturer's instructions to assemble. You'll also need to buy the door and one vertical jamb to fit into the door opening opposite the cavity. **TIP** Use a 22mm spade bit with a drill to install the Evolution Touch spring-release system.



6 Build the framework

Use a drop saw to cut the pine lengths. Assemble a frame for the feature wall that fits around the cavity, using 60mm timber screws to secure it to the cavity jamb. Then secure the frame to the wall studs using metal L brackets. **TIP** You'll need about 2.7m of pine per side, 1.8m for the top, plus offcuts. ►

THE *"The dishes can wait"* DECK



There's no deck that handles the heat quite like HardieDeck™ decking. That's because it's made from premium fibre cement so it's perfect for bushfire zones, backyard barbies and fire pits. Plus, it won't rot, warp or splinter. If you want to make sure your deck makes the grade, rethink timber and lesser decking options and ask for HardieDeck™ decking by name.

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DISCOVER MORE AT [HARDIEDECK.COM.AU](https://hardiedeck.com.au)

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Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse



7 Cover the framework

Using a hand saw, cut 12mm plywood to fit the pine frame. Secure the plywood to the pine frame using an impact driver with 25mm timber screws, making sure the screws are flush with the surface but don't worry about neat joints here as they will be hidden behind the dowel feature cladding.



8 Attach the dowel

Measure and cut the dowel to length. If your ceiling has a fall, set the drop saw to the same angle to make the top cut. Apply adhesive along each dowel piece, then pin in place with a brad nailer. Lightly sand with 180-grit sandpaper and coat with clear varnish using a mini roller. Allow to dry.



9 Add the dowel frame

To frame around the dowel feature wall, cut pre-painted 12mm quad moulding to fit. Secure in place using 75mm screws, covering the holes with timber filler. Leave to dry, sand, then touch up with paint. **TIP** If your ceiling slopes, cut the ends of the moulding at the same angle to sit neatly against the wall.



10 Build the recessed shelf

Measure and cut DAR pine to fit the shelf frame space. Assemble the shelf frame with 40mm timber screws and secure to the door frame and wall with 60mm timber screws. **TIP** For a frame 900mm+ wide, use a 22mm spade bit to create indents in the shelf for dowel supports. Secure from above with 40mm screws.



11 Replace the skirting

Measure and cut the ends of the new skirting boards at 45° using a drop saw. Work your way around the room, measuring from inside the mitre cuts, and using a brad nailer to secure into the wall studs. **TIP** Set up a table outside to apply a coat of paint to skirting boards using a mini roller, before installing.



12 Hang the new door

Use a drill to screw the door hardware, including the rollers and base plate, into the top edge of new door. Using a ladder, lift it into place and tighten the rollers using the supplied spanner to ensure it closes plumb. **TIP** Paint the door outside while painting the skirting boards, then paint the door trims. ♦

people who know & love timber



HR3012TOSL 30x12mm Half Round Dowel in Tasmanian Oak

BNA4211PIFP 42x11mm Bullnose Architrave in Primed Finger Jointed Pine

DAR11018PIFP 110x18mm Dressed All Round in Primed Finger Jointed Pine

DOW22TOSL 22mm Dowel in Tasmanian Oak



Take your project to the next level with timber mouldings.

Available from Bunnings Warehouse
and major timber & hardware outlets.

porta.com.au



Create an artistic hub
by giving the kids a place
to show their creativity

HOW TO MAKE A TODDLER'S ACTIVITY BOARD

Find it at Bunnings

Easy to put together, this framed chalkboard with ledge will keep the kids entertained for hours outside in the fresh air. All you need are some basic tools, plywood, cement sheeting and some chalkboard paint. To make the job even easier, you can have the timber pre-cut at Bunnings.

Then just buy some coloured chalks and paints and you have an instant mini artist studio for your little ones.

WATCH THE VIDEO
D.I.Y. toddler activity board
at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

CUTTING LIST

MATERIAL	SIZE mm	No	USE
Blackbutt timber decking	1840 x 85 x 19	3	Top, bottom, ledge
Blackbutt timber decking	750 x 85 x 19	3	Divider, each end
Structural CD plywood	1800 x 900 x 12	1	Backing

WHAT YOU NEED

- Blackbutt timber decking (about 7.7m)
- Ecoply 2400 x 1200 x 12mm structural CD plywood
- BGC 1800 x 900 x 6mm cement sheet underlay
- PVA adhesive
- Nails, hammer
- Paintbrush or roller, tray
- Paint stirrer
- Primer
- Chalkboard paint
- Nail gun
- Clamps
- 85 x 10mm screws x 6

1 2 3



1 Attach plywood to the cement sheeting

To ensure the chalkboard is durable, attach the cement sheeting to the plywood by applying PVA adhesive to the plywood and placing the sheeting on top. Line it up so the edges are flush. Press the sheeting onto the plywood. You may need another pair of hands to help lift the cement sheeting.



2 Secure the attachment

With the cement sheeting on the top side, use a hammer and nails to secure the cement sheeting to the plywood. Make sure the nails don't go all the way through to the other side. Work your way around the perimeter, securing the two pieces together at regular intervals. The nails will be hidden by the timber frame later on.



3 Paint the chalkboard

Stir the primer thoroughly and use it to paint the cement-sheeting side of the chalkboard. Let the primer dry, turn it over and paint the other side and the edges. Once dry, turn the board back over so the cement-sheeting side is facing upwards. Use a roller to apply two or three coats of chalkboard paint to the cement sheeting.



4 Assemble the frame

Lay out the pre-cut timber around the edges of the chalkboard. It should overhang a little on each side. You can divide the chalkboard in half with a piece of timber, or leave it as one large space. Clamp the timber to the frame. Use the nail gun to secure the outside edges of the frame to the chalkboard.



5 Attach the shelf

Apply PVA adhesive to the timber shelf piece and position it along the bottom frame piece at a 90° angle. Make sure the edges are flush. Clamp the shelf to the chalkboard, then use the nail gun to secure the shelf to the board. If you're going ahead with a divider, secure it to the chalkboard now, using the nail gun.



6 Hang the chalkboard

Choose a place outside to hang the chalkboard that is not too high or too low for the kids to easily reach it. Use screws to secure the chalkboard to the wall, making sure it's level. Buy the kids some coloured chalk so they can let their imaginations run wild on their very own chalkboard. ♦

4 DIY

Christmas Decorations

PROJECTS AND PICTURES
MELISSA DARR

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Living Christmas Centrepiece



Rustic Christmas Tree

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A photograph of a living Christmas centrepiece in a bush setting. The centrepiece is a rectangular planter box filled with greenery, pink and white ornaments, and a small Christmas tree. It sits on a table covered with a white tablecloth, surrounded by two wooden chairs. The background is a dense bush with tall grass and trees.

CRAFT A

Living Christmas Centrepiece

WHAT YOU NEED

- 64 x 19mm x 2.4m Claymark standard-grade dressed pine x 1
- 900 x 600 x 9mm premium-grade radiata plywood piece x 1
- Antique bronze decorative corner protectors with screws x 8
- C-32mm galvanised brads
- Upholstery staple gun, or hot glue gun
- Pneumatic brad nailer
- Detail sander
- 120-grit sandpaper
- Jigsaw
- Circular drop saw
- Tape measure, pencil
- Dulux Vivid White paint
- Paintbrush
- Clear furniture wax
- Grunt Heavy Duty Builders film
- Potting mix
- Sphagnum moss
- Assortment of seedlings
- Feature tree (we used Payne's Thryptomene)

Bring joy to your festive table with a stunning green centrepiece

CUTTING LIST		
PART	SIZE (in mm)	No
Standard-grade dressed pine		
Sides	600 x 64 x 19	2
Ends	310 x 64 x 19	2
Premium-grade radiata plywood		
Base	600 x 350 x 9	1



1 Measure and cut

Measure and mark the dressed pine for the sides and ends of the timber box. Cut to length using the circular drop saw. **TIP** If you don't have the tools at home to create this box, get your timber pre-cut at Bunnings in the trade section.



2 Assemble the frame

Build the frame so the two shorter end pieces sit within the longer side pieces. Secure together using the pneumatic brad nailer. Trace the frame onto the plywood, cut out using the jigsaw, and secure to the board edges with brads.



3 Paint and wax

Apply a coat of Dulux Vivid White to the entire box. Once dried, lightly distress the sides and top edges using the detail sander with 120-grit sandpaper. Wipe with a damp cloth. Apply a coat of clear wax to the outside. Buff with a cloth.



4 Attach elements

Secure two protectors to the top and bottom of each outside corner with the supplied screws. Cut a piece of Builders Film or clear plastic to fit the inside base and sides, and secure in place using the upholstery staple gun or a hot glue gun.



5 Plant the box

Break apart the sphagnum moss into a bowl and rehydrate with water. Fill the box with potting mix to about 2cm from the top. Plant the tree in the centre and the seedlings around it. Cover potting mix with the moist sphagnum moss.



6 Style and finish

Place your centrepiece onto your festive table and enjoy your Christmas feast. Give the plants a small watering every second day, then plant out the seedlings into the garden after 7-10 days and enjoy happy memories for years to come. ►

BUILD A Rustic Christmas Tree

Upcycle a pallet for a bespoke decoration for your entrance



1 Disassemble the pallet

Take the timber pallet apart by prising off each board with a crowbar. You may need a sledgehammer for extra power. Use a hammer to tap the nails out from the underside of each board to remove them easily.



2 Prepare the surface

Lightly sand the top side of each of the boards with the belt sander and 120-grit sandpaper. The boards don't need to be entirely smooth, just smooth enough not to give you splinters as you are handling them.



3 Cut the branches

Measure and mark the length of each branch. Use a circular drop saw to cut each board to length and each end at a 45° angle, making sure the cut angles inwards at each end. Measure and cut the back support.



4 Paint and distress

Lay the branches on a raised surface and paint the third and sixth boards using Dulux Aerobus, and the top, fourth and seventh board in Vivid White. Once dry, lightly distress with a detail sander using 120-grit sandpaper.



5 Assemble the tree

Lay down the back support and arrange the branches starting from the top of the tree, making sure each piece is centered. Attach by securing to the centre of each board using the pneumatic brad nailer and C-40mm galvanised brads.



6 Finishing details

Pre-drill a hole in the timber craft Christmas star all the way through to the tree and nail it into place. Place the tree near your front door and style with pine tree foliage and Christmas accessories for a truly festive entry. ►

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1200 x 1200mm untreated pine pallet x 1, to give 1200 x 100 x 20mm boards x 6
- Dulux Vivid White paint
- Dulux Aerobus paint
- Timber craft star
- Crowbar
- Hammer, sledgehammer
- Belt sander, 120-grit sanding belts
- Circular drop saw
- Pneumatic brad nailer
- C-40mm galvanised brads
- Detail sander, 120-grit sandpaper
- Tape measure, pencil
- Drill, nail
- Paintbrush

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE (in mm)	No
Tree branches		
Top	195 x 100 x 20	1
Second	300 x 100 x 20	1
Third	390 x 100 x 20	1
Fourth	480 x 100 x 20	1
Fifth	570 x 100 x 20	1
Sixth	660 x 100 x 20	1
Seventh	750 x 100 x 20	1
Eighth	840 x 100 x 20	1
Trunk		
Back support	910 x 100 x 20	1





CREATE A

Scandi Advent Wreath

Count down the days until Santa arrives with a simple hanging calendar

WHAT YOU NEED

- 450mm quilting hoop
- Faux hanging foliage
- 25 brown paper bags
- Printed numbers from 1-25
- Advent story cards
- Small treats
- Jute string
- Tools
- Hot glue gun
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Hole punch



1 Affix the foliage

Position the faux hanging foliage on the hoop starting from the centre bottom, working outwards and up on each side. Secure in place using a hot glue gun, applying hot glue liberally.



2 Prepare the parcels

Cut out the numbers and stick them to the front of the paper bags. Place a treat or small gift inside, along with the corresponding advent story card. Fold each bag into a small parcel and hold in place with sticky tape.



3 Attach the parcels

Use a hole punch to make a hole in the top corner of the parcels. Cut 25 pieces of jute string to varying lengths. Thread the jute string through the hole and tie neatly with a knot. Snip off any overhanging string.



4 Hang the wreath

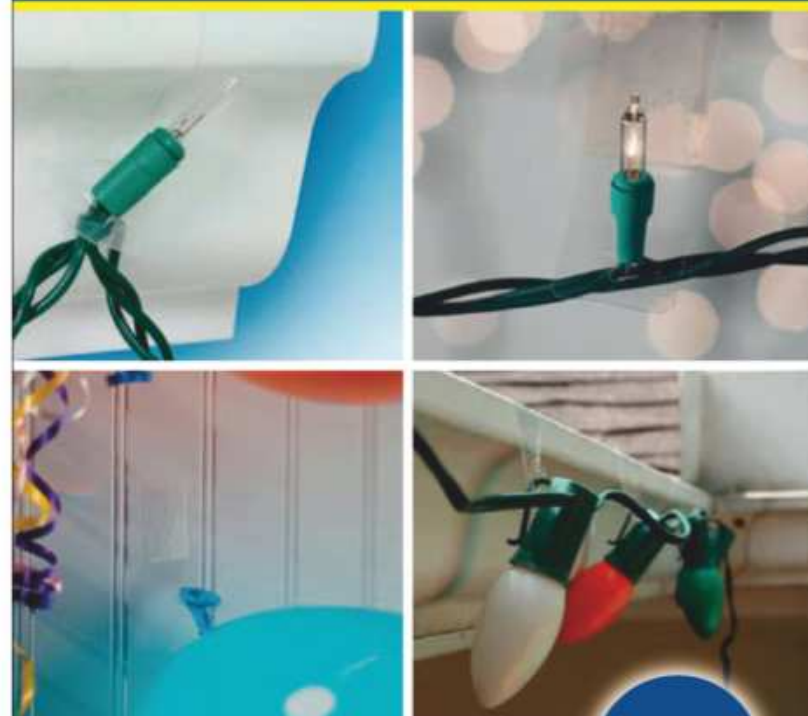
Tie the string neatly to the hoop, starting at the bottom and working part-way up the sides. Carefully move the wreath to the wall location and hang it on a removable hook or nail. Arrange the parcels so that they overlap slightly when hanging. ►



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

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WHAT YOU NEED

- 35cm twine wreath
- 25cm twine wreath
- 10m battery-operated light sets x 2
- Black scrapbooking cardboard
- 60mm x 60cm red satin ribbon
- White gloss spray paint
- Faux Christmas foliage
- Hot glue gun
- Scissors
- Pencil

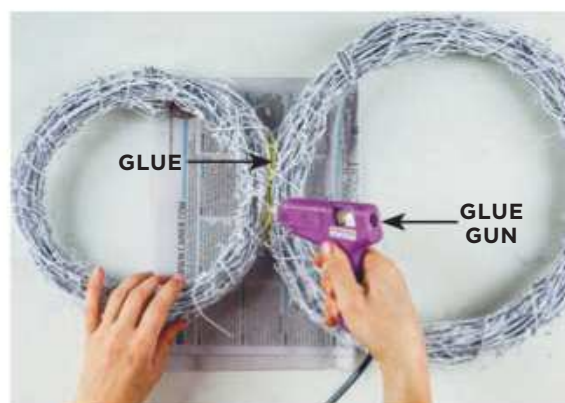
MAKE A Snowman Door Hanging

Turn a handful of craft items into a shining decoration to welcome your guests



1 Paint the wreaths

Place both twine wreaths in a protected and well-ventilated area and paint with white gloss spray paint. Let dry for an hour before applying a second and third coat if necessary. Let dry for four hours or until completely dry.



2 Construct the shape

Heat the hot glue gun and secure the small wreath to the large wreath by applying a generous amount of hot glue. Hold in place until the glue is dry. This will create the head and body of the snowman.



3 Add the lights

Wrap a set of lights around the small wreath, positioning the battery box at the top, slightly to the right, securing in place using the hot glue gun. Repeat for the large wreath, positioning the battery box near the top left of the body.



4 Make the hat

On the black cardboard, trace out the shape of a top hat and another thin, rectangular piece for the brim. Glue the two pieces together and then glue them onto the small wreath to cover the top battery pack.



5 Position the foliage

Carefully tie the red satin ribbon around the neck of the snowman and cut the ends on an angle. Use hot glue to secure some faux foliage and decorations to the larger wreath, making sure it completely covers the second battery pack.



6 Finishing touches

Add additional pieces of faux foliage and Christmas decorations to the bottom right side of the wreath for visual balance. Add batteries to the light sets and switch on. Hang in pride of place on your front door. ♦



Get more DIY from Melissa
Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com

THE LIVING ROOM



7.30 FRIDAY



MISSED AN EPISODE, CATCH UP ON [tenplay](#) 



Gift giving is one of life's pleasures, especially when the gifts are crafted by hand. Spoil loved ones with these DIY presents



ROPE WALL ART

The time-honoured tradition of rope decor is making a comeback, reimagined in more creative ways than ever. Bring a modern twist to this bohemian textile craft with a strong pop of bright colour.

PROJECT AND PICTURES
SUE FERRIS



WHAT YOU NEED

- 10 x 1mm x 1m aluminium round tube x 6
- 4mm x 20m multipurpose rope x 2
- 100m kitchen twine ball x 4
- 12.5mm x 1.2m Tasmanian oak dowel
- British Paints Metallic Gold spray paint
- Pipe cutter
- Tape measure
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Hot glue gun

CUTTING LIST

PART	LENGTH	No
Aluminium round tube 10 x 1mm x 1m	20cm	30
Kitchen twine	40cm	30
Multipurpose rope	1m	30



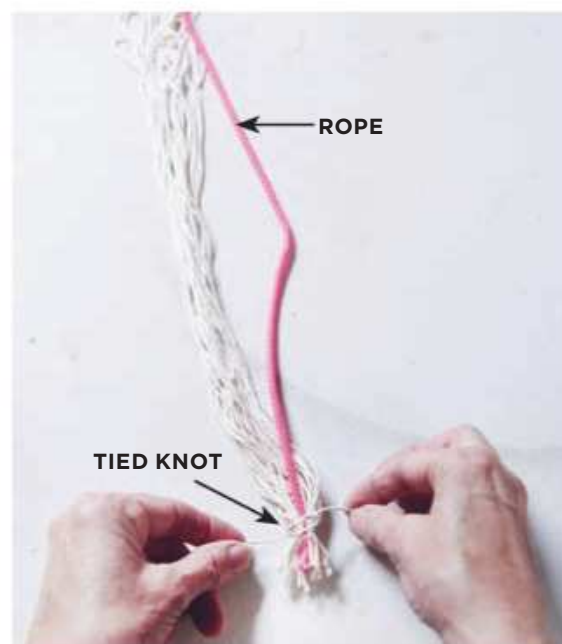
1 Prepare the tubes

Measure and mark thirty 20cm lengths of aluminium tube and cut using a pipe cutter. Lay the tubes on a tarp and spray with metallic gold paint. Allow to dry, then turn over the tubes and spray the other side. Allow to dry.



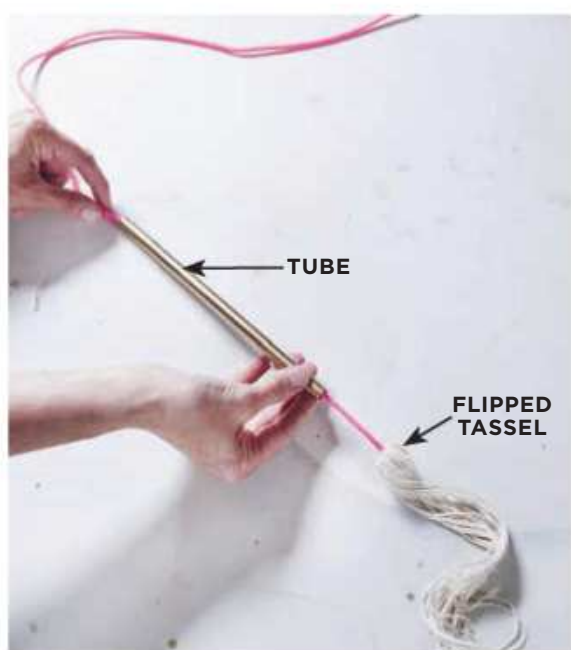
2 Make the tassels

Measure one 40cm length of kitchen twine and double it over until there are 30 lengths in each bundle. These will be the tassels. Repeat to make 30 tassels in total. Be careful not to tangle the twine strands.



3 Attach the tassels

Cut thirty 1m lengths of rope. Cut the looped ends off one end of a twine tassel, and position the rope in the centre of the strands, ends aligned. Use extra kitchen twine to firmly tie all strands together. Repeat for all tassels.



4 Position the tubes

Flip over the tassel so that the twine falls down from the rope. From the other end of the rope, thread through a tube until it reaches the start of the twine. Cut the loops off the bottom end of the twine strands. Repeat for all lengths.



5 Design a pattern

Loosely tie the tops of the rope to the dowel at even intervals and hang the work on the wall. Using masking tape, mark out your design on the wall so that the tape sits underneath where the tubes will fall.



6 Style and refine

Adjust the rope lengths and re-tie to the dowel so the tube ends correspond with the tape placement. Use a hot glue gun to secure the rope and knots to the dowel. Separate the tassel strands and trim to match the tubing pattern. ►

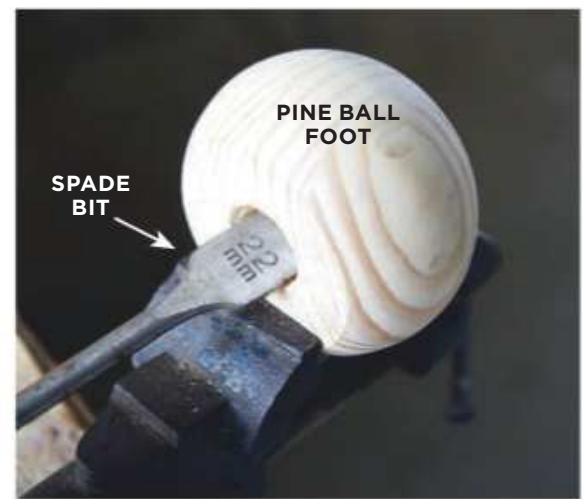
METALLIC CANDLESTICKS

Give your room a subtle gleam with these chic candlesticks featuring a metallic shine and repurposed fixtures and fittings.

PROJECT AND PICTURES
SUE FERRIS

WHAT YOU NEED

- Leggz 48mm Pine Ball Foot x 2
- Fiddly Bits Flat Black spray paint
- 15mm brass hex socket
- 20 x 15mm reducing copper capillary coupling
- Drill, 22mm spade bit
- Bostik Blu-Tack
- Candles
- Rubber mallet



1 Enlarge one hole

On one ball foot, use a 22mm spade bit to drill a larger opening suitable for holding a 15mm hex socket. The candle using the reducing capillary coupling will not need an enlarged hole.



2 Paint the bases

Place both Leggz ball feet on a tarp or in a small cardboard spray box and spray evenly with black paint. Allow to dry and apply a second coat of black spray paint in the same way.



3 Insert the holders

In the base with the enlarged hole, insert the brass hex socket. Gently tap with a rubber mallet if needed. In the other, line the hole wall with some Blu-Tack to provide grip, and insert the copper capillary coupling small end down, large end up to hold the candle.

FRAMED DRIFTWOOD

Salvage a tired frame and preserve memories of long seaside walks with this easy project featuring found treasures from the beach.

PROJECT AND PICTURES
SUE FERRIS

WHAT YOU NEED

- Old timber frame
- Driftwood
- Fine grit sandpaper
- Drill
- 6G x 20mm timber screws
- British Paints Metallic Gold spray paint
- Dulux Vivid White paint
- Bostik Blu-Tack
- Screwdriver
- Garden twine
- Small paintbrush
- Ribbon
- Wire



1 Prepare the frame

Remove the backing board and glass and lightly sand the timber frame with fine grit sandpaper. Brush off the dust and spray all over with metallic gold paint. Allow to dry. Use a paintbrush to apply white paint to the frame, being careful to leave the inner edge gold. Apply a second coat of white paint.



2 Attach the driftwood

Lay out the driftwood pieces on top of the backing board and arrange in your preferred composition. Use Blu-Tack to keep each piece in position and pre-drill through the back of the board into the driftwood, being careful not to go all the way through. Secure with timber screws and replace the backing in the frame.



3 Weave the twine

Tie a knot around one end piece of driftwood and hide it at the back. Working across the pieces, loop the twine two or three times around each piece of driftwood and tie off at the last piece, hiding the knot behind. Repeat with any other twine, wire or ribbon to achieve the desired effect. ►

REINDEER CHAIR

PROJECT AND PICTURES
SUE FERRIS

Made by upcycling an old stool seat, your little one will love this fun chair all year round, not just at Christmas.

The cute antlers, made from versatile and cost-effective dowel, double as the chair's back and give it oodles of character and charm, turning a plain stool into something special. For extra cosiness, add a faux fur cushion and wind a favourite scarf around an antler.

Having furniture their own size is great for kids. Set it up in their bedroom or reading nook, add some books and toys and let their imagination run free.

DIY CUSHION

WHAT YOU NEED

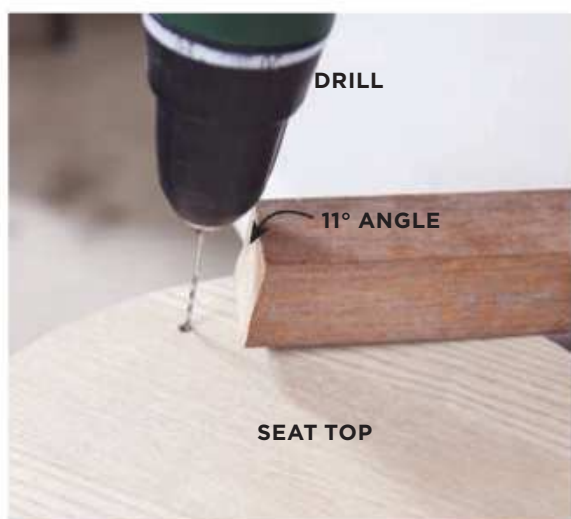
- 35 x 35cm faux fur fabric
- 24 x 21.5cm wadding
- Sewing machine, thread, scissors, needle

Create a paper template to fit your stool seat. Place on the wrong side of the faux fur and cut out two pieces. With right sides facing, stitch them together with a 2cm seam allowance, leaving the straight back edge open. Turn right side out, insert wadding and hand stitch closed.



WHAT YOU NEED

- Timber offcut (for a jig)
- 30cm stool seat
- Circular saw
- 19mm x 1.2m Tasmanian oak dowel
- 25mm x 1.8m Tasmanian oak dowel
- 6mm dowel (for joiners)
- Fine grit sandpaper
- PVA adhesive
- Drill, countersink drill bit
- 19mm spade bit
- 6G x 40mm timber screws
- Masking tape
- Black paint, paintbrush



1 Drill the leg holes

Set the circular saw to an 11° angle and cut the timber offcut – this will serve as the angle template for the chair legs and antlers. Place the jig on the stool seat top and use it as an angle guide, facing outward, to pre-drill four screw holes for the chair legs from the top to the underside.



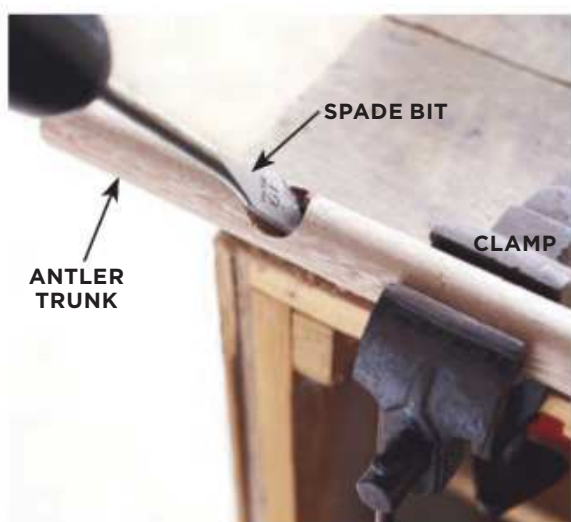
2 Cut the dowel

From the 25mm dowel, cut five 26cm lengths for the four legs and one antler trunk, and one 20cm length for the second antler trunk. From the 19mm dowel, cut two 12cm lengths and two 8cm lengths for the antler branches. Cut one end of all of the dowel pieces using the circular saw set to an 11° angle.



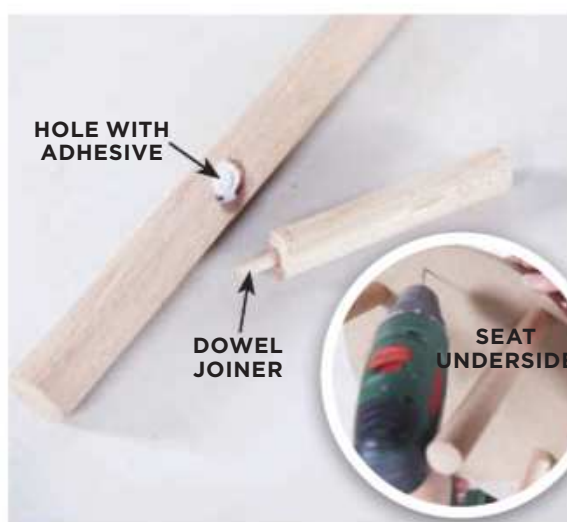
3 Attach the legs

Use a countersink drill bit on the seat top deep enough for dowel plugs to cover the exposed screws when positioned. Pre-drill holes into the legs at 11°. Turn the seat on its side and position a leg in place with the angle facing outward. Secure the legs to the seat using adhesive and 40mm screws.



4 Prepare the antlers

Securely clamp the antler trunks. Using a 19mm spade bit angled slightly, drill two holes on either side of each trunk, being sure not to drill all the way through. To accommodate 6mm dowel joiners, use a 6mm drill bit angled slightly to drill further into the holes in the antler trunks, then into the angled ends of each of the antler branches.



5 Assemble the antlers

Apply adhesive to the holes in the trunks and branches. Insert dowel joiners and join the trunks and branches together, ensuring the angled ends sit at the same angle. Invert the chair. From the underside, pre-drill two screw holes at 11°. Pre-drill a matching hole in each antler's angled end. Apply adhesive. Secure together with 40mm screws.



6 Finishing details

Use fine grit sandpaper to lightly sand all the legs and antlers, giving the ends a really good sanding. Cut dowel plugs large enough to cover the exposed screws on the seat top and use adhesive to position into place. To paint the hooves, use tape to make a straight top line around each leg and use black paint to make a hoof shape. ►

SUSHI TRAY

A chic timber sushi tray makes an ideal Christmas gift for family and friends.

These wooden trays were developed in Japan and are traditionally used to serve sushi and other Asian delicacies.

Because sushi is such a visual, edible artform, it makes sense to serve it beautifully. This truly flavoursome cold entree or main is perfect for hot summer nights, so get your creativity on and make some chic timber trays for your loved ones – and yourself!

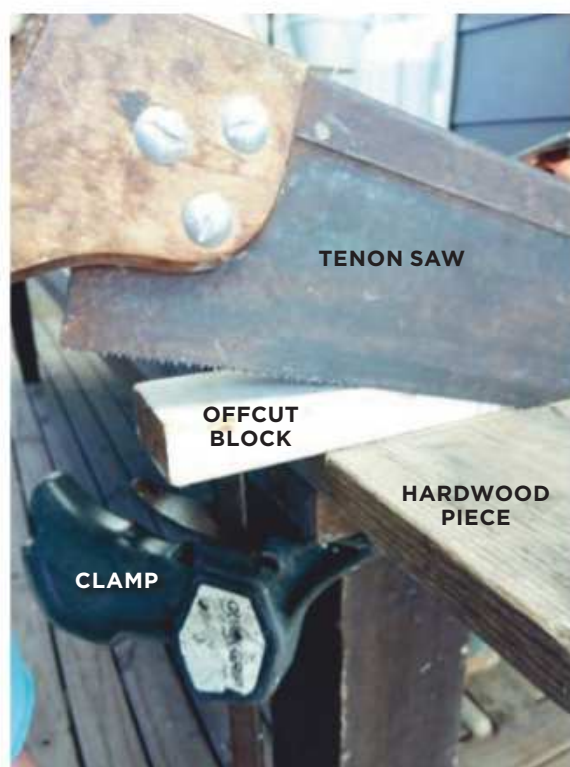
PROJECT JARRAH TWIDLE

PICTURES LYDIA TWIDLE

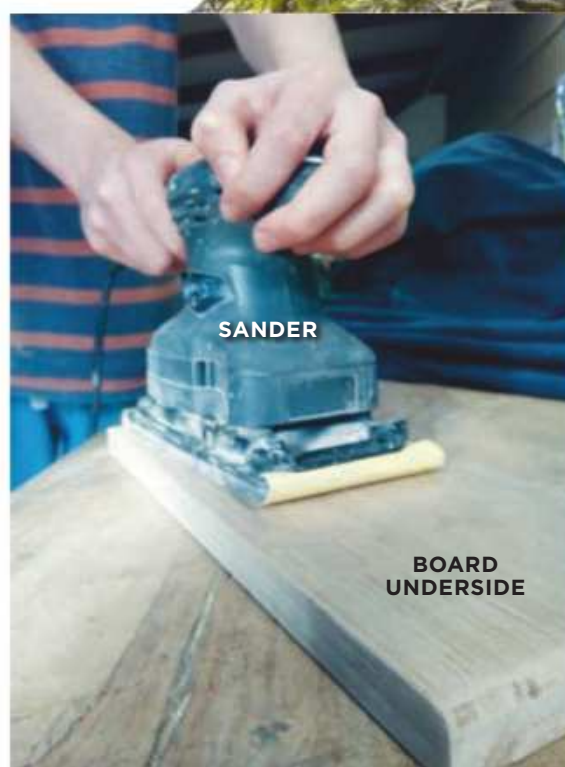
WHAT YOU NEED

- Hardwood, cut to 335 x 135mm for the tray board
- Merbau, cut to 135 x 35 x 18mm for the tray feet x 2
- 16mm dowel, cut to the thickness of the hardwood x 3
- Drill, 16mm hole saw bit
- PVA adhesive
- Food-safe furniture oil
- Lint-free buffing cloth
- Orbital sander
- 80-grit sandpaper
- Router with concave bit
- Tenon saw, carpenter's square
- Clamps x 2





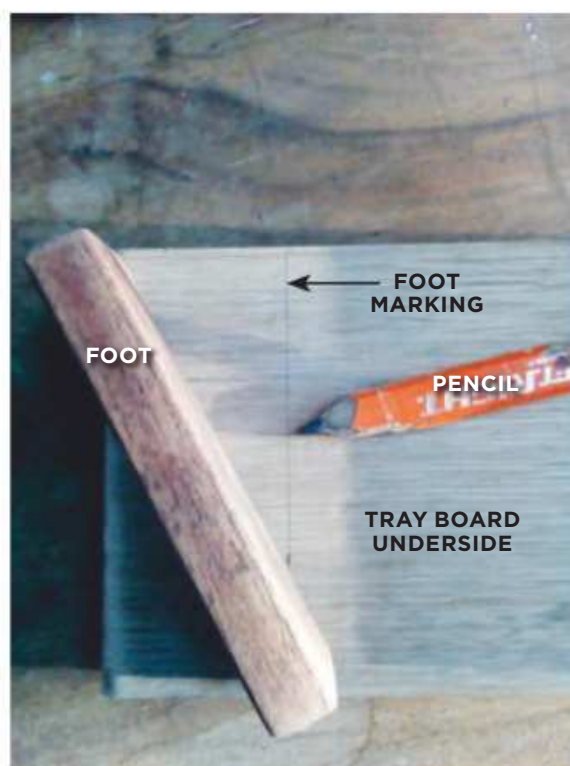
1 Cut tray board to size
On the hardwood, measure the length of the tray board from the square end and mark the line at 335mm. Clamp securely to a sturdy surface using offcuts as a block to protect the timber and as a cutting guide. Cut the timber using a tenon saw.



2 Round edges and sand
Use a concave router bit to round the short edges of the tray board underside. Sand the whole piece of timber with the orbital sander, following the grain. Clamp it on its side and sand down the edges, making sure to keep a sharp edge.



3 Cut tray feet to size
Cut two pieces of merbau to length. To add an angled edge, use a ruler to draw a line on each end at 30° and angling inwards. Tightly clamp the timber to the table to prevent movement, then carefully cut with a tenon saw.



4 Secure feet to board
On the underside of the tray board, measure 50mm in from each end and mark a line using a pencil and ruler. Apply adhesive along the tray feet pieces and clamp in place along the line on the tray board. Allow the adhesive to completely dry.



5 Add decorative dowels
On the top side of the tray board, mark the very centre of the board and 20mm in and centred from each end. Drill through the timber at each marking with the hole saw. Apply adhesive inside the holes and press the dowels into the board. Wipe away any excess.



6 Finishing details
Once the adhesive has dried, apply food-safe furniture oil to the tray board with the dry, lint-free cloth, making sure to rub thoroughly and evenly. Repeat for each of the feet pieces. You can use your new timber sushi tray straightaway. ♦





AS SEEN ON
THE LIVING ROOM
FRIDAY, 7.30PM

After

V-joint cladding panels and a dado rail give this bedroom vintage class.

BRICK BEDROOM *Rescue*

From the ugliest room to the best transformation yet, *The Living Room's* Barry Du Bois works his magic

When Jess and Matt bought their first home, they had big plans for it. They looked forward to doing some renos to make a lovely, inviting family home. But when Jess fell pregnant with their second child, they had to put their dreams on hold for a while.

Fast forward two years and they have managed to brighten and freshen up their children's bedrooms, but the ugly brick walls remain in their master bedroom, making it a very cold and uninviting place to be.

Storage posed another problem

– without enough functional space within the room, they had to keep their wardrobe in the hallway. The couple found it really frustrating to get dressed in the hall, especially in winter.

Luckily Barry Du Bois from *The Living Room* arrived on the scene, ready to give this busy young family the makeover they so desperately needed.

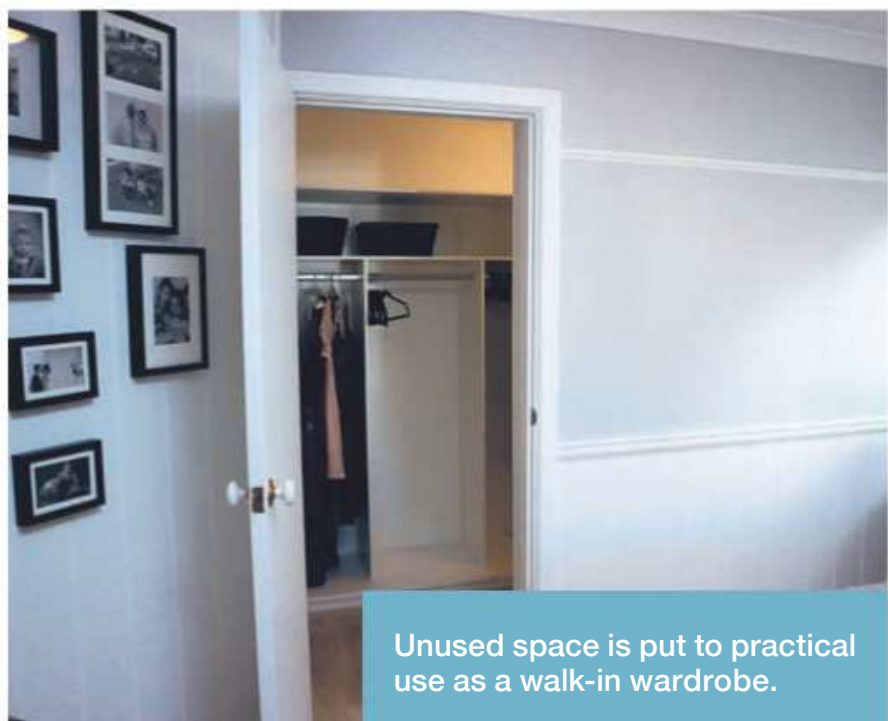
NEW WALLS

The first thing Barry decided to tackle was the unsightly brick walls. He lined V-joint cladding panels a third of the way up the walls, adding plasterboard

Before



to the rest of the walls for a softer look. Painted in neutral white and accented with Taubmans Silver Blaze, the room is instantly lifted and welcoming.



Unused space is put to practical use as a walk-in wardrobe.

A small detail that gives the room major wow factor is the new dado rail Barry installed around the perimeter of the room. A feature in period homes, a dado rail adds interest and a touch of vintage style to the room. It also provides a structure from which Jess and Matt can hang as many family photos as they like as they personalise the room and make it their own.

Barry installed the rail at a height of 900mm and used mouldings with a tongue-and-groove edging system, which helps the hooks slide into place and keeps the rail level.

To do this, he first washed the wall, making sure it was thoroughly clean. Then he marked the heights at each corner and along the walls and applied a quality adhesive to attach the rail. Once it was dry, Barry knocked in some panel pins underneath the bottom edge so the rail won't drop down and become unlevel.

WARDROBE WONDER

How do you create a wardrobe out of thin air? Get Barry onto it, of course.

With not enough space in the room for a closet, Barry realised it was a simple matter to reclaim some unused space from the garage to magic up a walk-in robe. With a connecting door to the bedroom already in place, the job was as easy as constructing a stud dividing wall and installing wardrobe fixtures, including hanging rails, shelves and drawers, solving Jess and Matt's clothes-storage problem.



And to finish off the room, Barry swapped the old carpet for contemporary oak laminate flooring, and added a useful study nook with a strategically placed desk and comfy reading chair.

TOOL BOARD

Last but not least, Barry came up with the creative idea of building a custom tool storage board on the garage side of the new wardrobe wall as a surprise for Matt, who is a cabinetmaker and has lots of equipment.

Stepping in to manage this easy DIY build, reno star Kyle Demmrich began by cutting a sheet of MDF pegboard to size, then creating a mitred frame and screwing it all together. For a backing he simply used some leftover V-joint cladding, secured using a nail gun.

To make it extra special, he attached some LED strip lighting around the frame by securing six brackets to the back panel and feeding the lights through to the front. Pretty fancy! ♦



Before

A study nook and reading desk make this one multitasking space.



Find it at Bunnings

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

There's something for everyone in this round up of festive season goodies



Create privacy in style with the 1800 x 900mm Luminer Screen, \$99.



Protect leather furniture old and new with the Oakwood Leather Cleaner Complete Protection Pack, \$29.98.

Kiss vacuuming goodbye with the Ecovacs Deebot-900 Floor Cleaning Robot, \$799.



Achieve a rustic barn look with Hume Frontier Barn Doors, \$249.



Secure your home the smart way with Kwikset Obsidian Touchscreen Electronic Deadbolt with Halifax Handle, \$299.

Cater for a crowd with the Jumbuck Comet Plus 6-burner Hooded BBQ, \$499.





Shelter your feathered friends in The Manor Chicken Coop with separate egg laying box, \$239.



Create delicious flavours with the Pit Boss Pellet Grill & Smoker BBQ, \$699.



Handle a hot barbecue with care using the Matador 3-piece BBQ tool set, \$34.95.



Get precise hedges with Gardena Premium Gear Hedge Clippers, \$94.98.



Make cutting flowers and stems a snip with (left) Gardena Bypass Aluminium Secateurs, \$49.98. For woody branches, use Gardena Anvil M Secateurs, \$29.98.



Cook up a storm on the Matador Radiant Pro Kettle BBQ, \$499.



Deliver smoky sensations with the Forno Basso Vertical BBQ Smoker, \$399.



Give your chooks a safe home in a 1.5 x 1.4 x 1.8m Fowl House with Gabled Roof, \$265. ►

House your animals
in comfort in the Loft
Animal Enclosure, \$199.



Enjoy leak- and kink-free watering with
the Gardena 30m x 13mm SuperFlex
Brass-fitted Garden Hose, \$125.

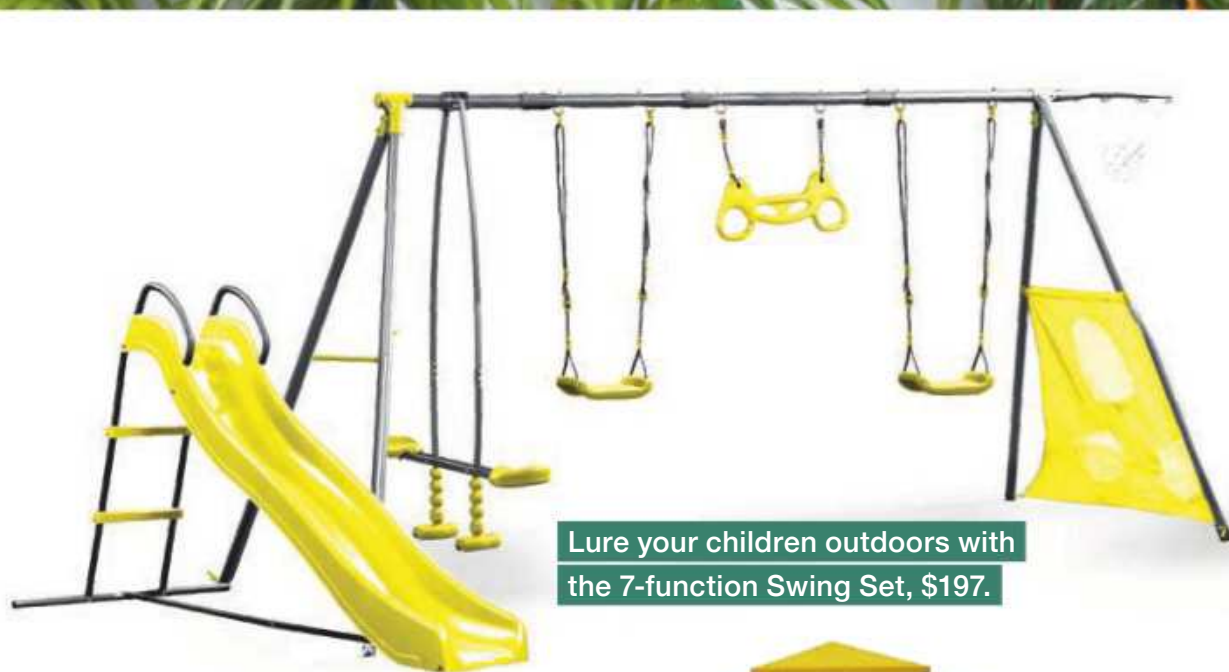


Make hosing a breeze with (from left) the Gardena Water Smart
Flow Meter, \$39.99; Gardena Comfort Trigger Gun Nozzle, \$24.99;
and Gardena Comfort Multi Sprayer, \$39.99.

Easily store and transport your
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Keep the kids amused for hours on the 1m Round Mat Swing, \$69.

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Unleash kids' creativity with Kids Projects Paint & Bake a Mug or Paint a Terracotta Pot, \$4.98 each.



Create your own bird feeder with the Kids Projects Wooden Bird Feeder Kit (Kookaburra and Lorikeet), \$22.55.



Entertain the kids with Wood Worx kits (from left) Dangerous Animals Collection, \$22.55, and Stationery Holder Kits (Princess Castle and Car), \$6.98 each.



Outdoor play will be full of fun with the Swing Slide Climb Flinders Playset, \$699.



Enthral your kids with the Cuckoo Cubby, \$499. ♦



DIY

Luxury

OUTDOOR
SHOWER

Create a resort-style retreat
in your backyard with a timber
outdoor shower complete
with hot water

PROJECT AND PICTURES
NATASHA DICKINS AT LITTLE RED INDUSTRIES

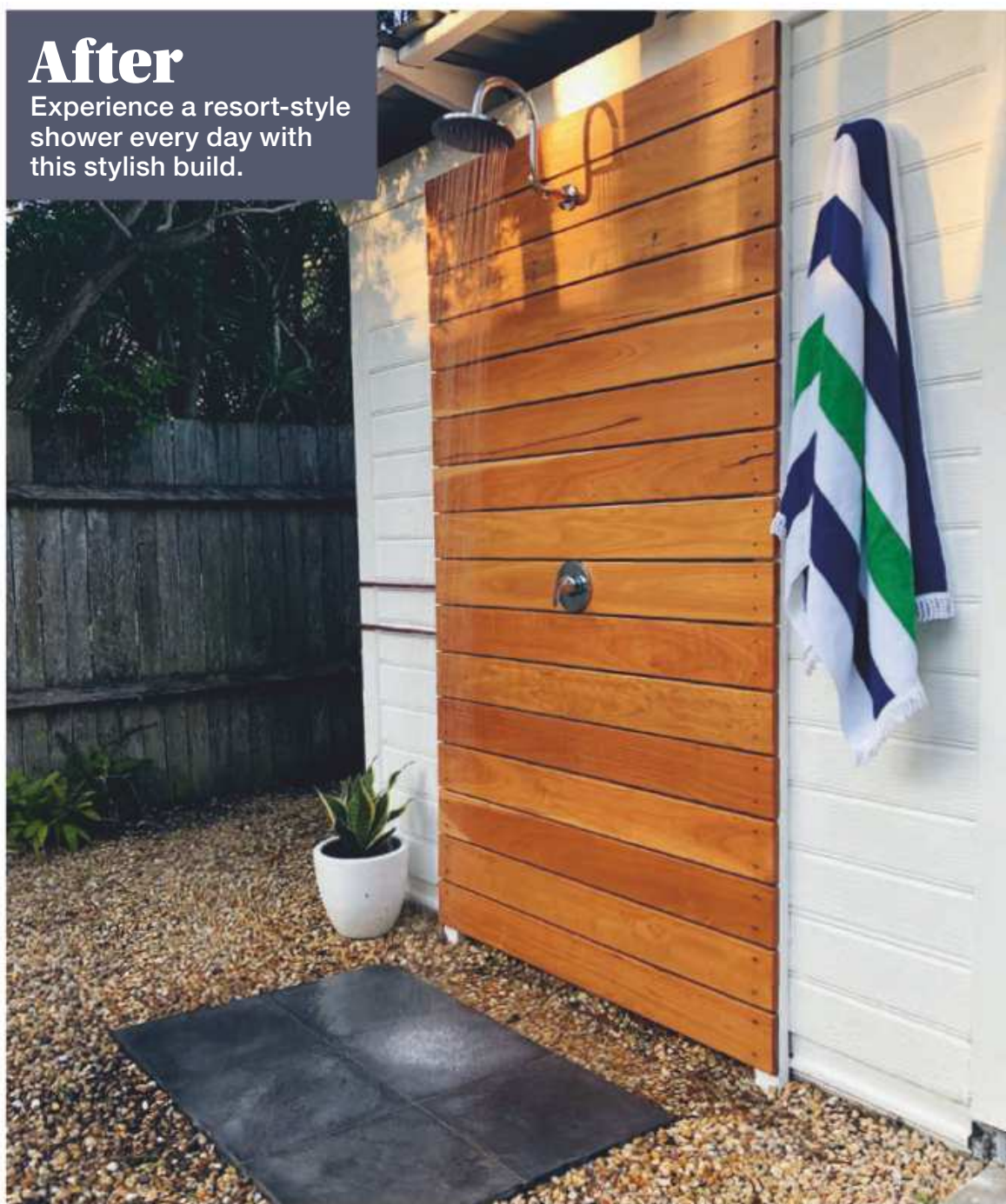
Nothing quite compares to the feeling of showering outdoors. Whether it's to cool off on a hot day, or hooked up to hot water for the ultimate in alfresco luxury, today's outdoor showers are an extension of the indoor bathroom.

Waterproofing the wall, building the timber splashback and laying the pavers are all simple DIY projects. All up, this project cost about \$1000 including paving, although you need a plumber to install the tapware and hook up the hot water for an extra \$400.

In this instance, it's fine for the water to wash off from the pavers onto the surrounding pebbles and sandy soil, however it's best to choose a spot against the house that has good drainage and where pooling water won't cause moisture damage.

After

Experience a resort-style shower every day with this stylish build.



MAKING THE splashback

The splashback consists of two treated-pine posts set into the ground then attached to the wall. The decking boards are cut to 1350mm and secured directly onto the posts using stainless steel decking screws. This project also required a window to be removed and the cavity sealed with fibre-cement sheeting.

It's best to install the splashback first but be prepared to remove some of the boards for the plumber later on – this way you'll be able to centre the tapware and hide the pipes behind the boards. ►

Before



WHAT YOU NEED

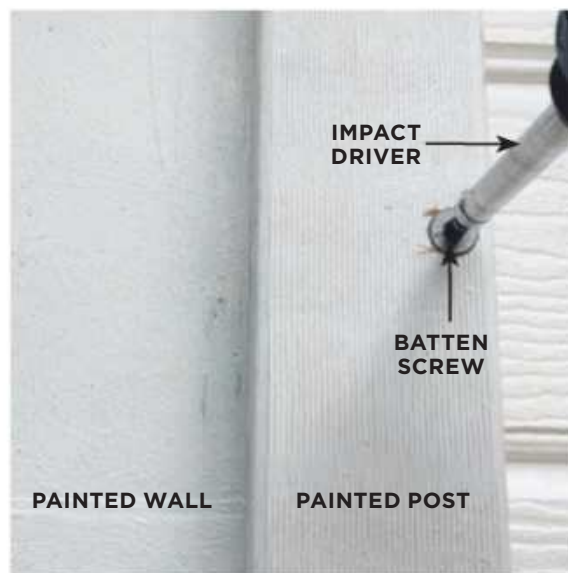
- 70 x 35mm x 2.4m treated pine x 2
- 135 x 19mm spotted gum hardwood decking (we made 15 splashback boards cut to 1350mm)
- Drop saw
- Drill, 10mm countersinking bit
- Impact driver
- 50mm stainless steel decking screws
- 75mm galvanised batten screws
- Random orbital sander
- Hand-sanding block with 120- and 180-grit sandpaper
- Gripset Betta Weather Seal
- Bondall In Ground Timber Protector
- Bondall Monocel Gold Exterior Timber Varnish in Satin
- Paint, paintbrush
- Microfibre mini roller, tray
- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Showerhead, arm, mixer

1 2 3



1 Measure the position

Use a drop saw to cut two posts from treated pine to length, adding an extra 100mm for setting them into the ground. Locate the studs on your wall and position the posts over the wall studs. Measure the distance between the outside edges of the posts so that the decking boards will sit flush. Cut the boards to length with a drop saw.



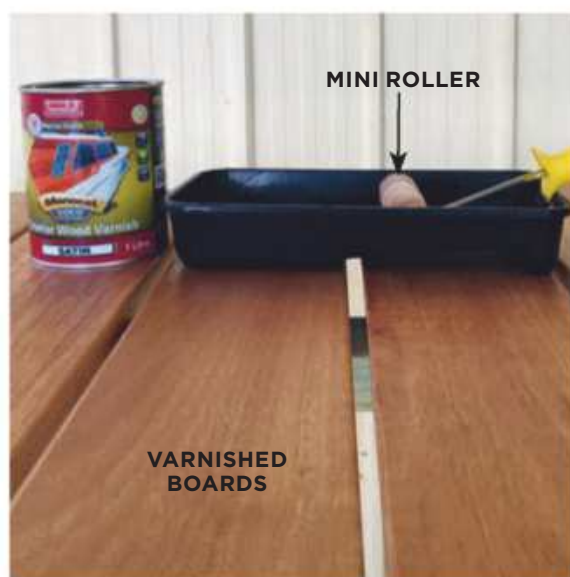
2 Seal wall and install posts

Apply two coats of sealant to the wall using a roller, leaving to dry between coats. Apply two coats of paint to the wall and posts, leaving to dry between coats. Seal the bottom 100mm of each post with timber protector. Using an impact driver, secure the posts to the wall studs with 75mm batten screws. Paint over the timber protector and batten screws.



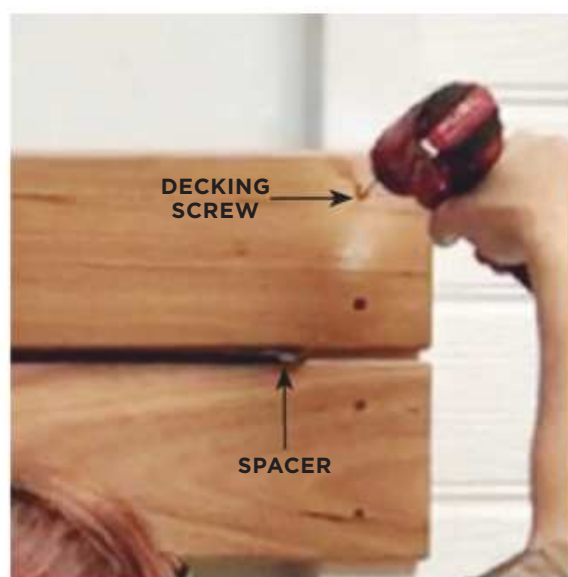
3 Prepare the boards

Measure and mark two holes in both ends of each board, 50mm from the ends and 30mm from the top and bottom edges. Countersink holes using a 10mm countersinking bit with a drill. Sand each board with 120-grit sandpaper, rounding over the ends and corners of the boards. Finish with 180-grit sandpaper on the front and sides.



4 Seal the boards

To make the splashback weatherproof, apply a coat of exterior timber varnish with a microfibre roller to each board. Once dry, give them a light sand with 120-grit sandpaper. Repeat for a second and third coat of varnish. **TIP** Set out the boards so that you can coat one face and one edge, leave to dry then turn them to complete the remaining surfaces.



5 Install the splashback

Secure the boards onto the posts using an impact driver and 50mm stainless steel decking screws drilled through the countersunk holes. Begin with the lowest board a little way up from ground level. Use a spirit level to check that it is completely straight. Install the remainder of the boards, working upwards and using spacers as you go.



6 Fit the tapware

Remove boards to allow the plumber access to fit the shower, mixer and pipes. For the plumber to install copper piping, use a spade bit to drill holes for each pipe through one post, making sure the pipes will sit level from the tap. Drill holes in the centre of two boards for the shower and mixer, and have the plumber plumb the fittings. ►

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LAYING THE *pavers*

To finish off the shower, lay out a solid platform underfoot with simple paving. Lay and seal the pavers after installing the shower to ensure they're in the best spot for standing directly under the showerhead.

Simply set out the pavers on a base of quick-set concrete and add water. You can use the same technique to pave other areas of your yard.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 20kg bag of quick-set or ready-mix concrete x 3
- 400 x 400 x 40mm concrete pavers x 6
- Bondall TileGuard Tile & Grout Cleaner
- Bondall TileGuard Natural Look Sealer
- Spirit level
- Straightedge
- Stakes, stringline
- Mallet, shovel
- Safety gear including mask and gloves
- Broom
- Watering can
- Scourer
- Roller and tray



It cost about \$100 to lay and seal these six pavers.

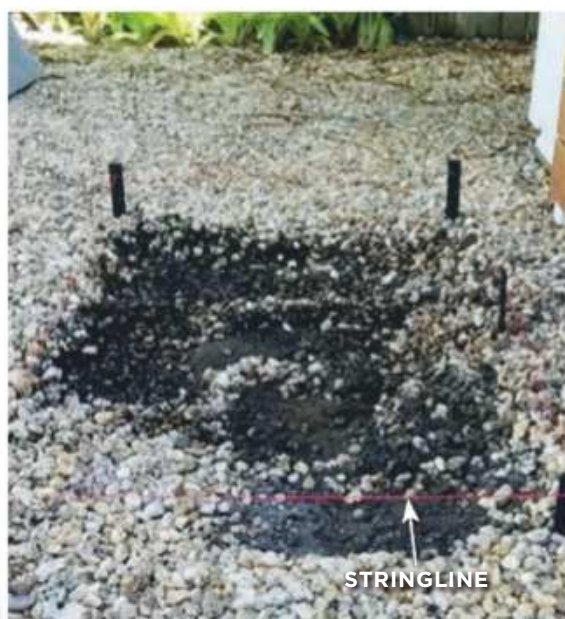


1 2 3



1 Mark the position

Lay out the pavers to establish the pattern and where to best position them. These are laid centred under the shower, about 240mm from the wall. Tap metal stakes into the corners using a mallet then run a stringline around the perimeter.



2 Prepare and fill the base

Remove the pavers and use a shovel to clear the base. Dig down to make a recess about 60mm deep. Wearing a safety mask, pour in enough quick-set concrete to half-fill the base, about 30mm deep. Reserve some concrete for Step 4. Use a straightedge to spread the concrete and smooth the surface.



3 Lay the pavers

Carefully position the pavers over the dry concrete mix, beginning with a paver at the end of the row closest to the wall. Lay the second row starting with the centre paver, ensuring the gaps match and are straight. Use a mallet to tap down the pavers and shift them into position.



4 Fill the gaps

Sprinkle extra dry concrete mix over the pavers so that the gaps are completely filled. Use a broom to brush over the gaps, being careful to avoid flicking powder onto the surrounding areas. You may need to do a few applications while the concrete mix settles for a firm filler.



5 Add water

To activate the cement, use a full watering can to pour water over the pavers. Make sure the edges are well soaked, but avoid pouring directly onto the gap lines. Leave to cure and dry completely for a solid platform, overnight is good.



6 Seal the pavers

Use a scourer with tile cleaner to prepare the surface for the sealer, washing away residue thoroughly with water. Use a roller to apply the tile sealer, working quickly to apply two coats without letting the surface dry out, then leave to dry. Your outdoor shower is ready to go! ❖

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STANLEY 500mm 7 TPI Hand Saw, \$9.98.



STANLEY 24T x 12" Carbon Steel D-shape Hacksaw, \$9.98.



STANLEY 180mm Dynagrip Combination Pliers, \$16.

STANLEY 6-piece 5002 Series Chisel Set, \$36.



STANLEY 300mm Metric Combination Square*, \$29.90.



STANLEY 50L Rolling Tool Chest, \$69.



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* NOTE: AUSTRALIAN VERSION OF THE COMBINATION SQUARE HAS MM ONLY.



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AS SEEN ON
THE LIVINGROOM
FRIDAY, 7.30PM

After

From drab concrete slab to festive, funky, dining and dancing zone!



ENTERTAINER'S *DELIGHT*

Gardening guru Jamie Durie doesn't skip a beat in this tropical transformation

Audrey and Troy met through their love of salsa dancing. Two years later they were celebrating getting married. But their excitement was cut short when Audrey was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Luckily, the cancer was caught early and was able to be treated successfully. However, Audrey and Troy took a hit financially and their dreams of renovating their garden took a back seat.

Once Audrey was given the all clear,

the couple got some landscapers in to help get the garden started, including laying a concrete patio. Troy also did a lot of work himself but confesses he is 'clueless and YouTube trained'.

When it comes to plants, however, both Audrey and Troy had absolutely no idea where to start and felt overwhelmed every time they went to a nursery.

Enter Jamie Durie, ready to guide the way choosing plants and bring some salsa magic to their concrete slab. ►

Before





With a built-in barbie and timber bar, entertaining en masse is easy.

LATIN-LOVING LIVING

With the couple's love of salsa dancing in mind, Jamie set about covering the concrete slab with outdoor porcelain tiles which are durable and perfect for lots of use. He chose 600 x 300mm non-slip, gritted tiles to keep the grout lines to a minimum and prevent potential trip hazards.

To make the space more intimate, Jamie then built a pergola overhead. This helped to define the area and also provide shelter from strong afternoon sun. The black pendant lighting and Linton wall lights with in-built wireless speakers amped up the nightclub feel. With a backdrop of tropical plants set

all the way along the fence, the space is perfect for Audrey and Troy to enjoy many a long balmy evening.

Hand-in-hand with a home dancefloor comes lots of entertaining. To give guests a spot to sit between salsa tracks, Jamie designed plenty of bench seating along the side, using strong timbers to ensure a sturdy construction and cladding in smart merbau deck boards. He then added an L-shaped outdoor bar and built-in barbecue underneath the kitchen window, so they could easily feed their hungry visitors.

With imagination and hard work, this alfresco area was transformed into a user-friendly entertainer's dream. ►



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The Living Room team get to work creating beds for the gourmet garden.



Before



GARDEN REVAMP

The garden space had been largely neglected, with little more than a lawn and clothesline. There had been drainage problems, and an easement sat in the far corner that Audrey and Troy were unsure what to do with.

To add life and character to the garden area, Jamie brought in lots of tropical plants, succulents and hedge shrubs and placed them right along the fence line. Their bright green, vivid red and deep burgundy colours really stood out, while some annuals gave a few pops of vibrant colour. The plants were also selected for their varying heights, which add depth and interest to the garden bed while providing privacy from neighbours as they grow.

To help with the drainage problem, Jamie installed a low timber retaining wall and raised garden beds. In the easement corner, he built the edging on the diagonal and planted trees with non-invasive roots to be completely safe, which also skillfully enhanced what was once a plain corner.

After

Raised garden beds full of tropical plants create a welcoming oasis.





An abundant vegie patch is now a constant source of healthy produce.



The real star of the revamped garden is the new vegie patch that runs around the corner of the property. With lots of fresh fruit, veg and herbs, including spinach, strawberries and parsley, Audrey and Troy can be assured of a nutritious diet for years to come.

FINISHING TOUCHES

For a final splash of colour, Jamie painted the fence in Taubmans Endure Fresh Lavender and added bench cushions covered in a luscious fern pattern. To round out the garden as a functional space, a strong double-door garden shed made of high tensile steel was erected for Audrey and Troy to store all the gardening tools they will now need.

With these few last stylings, the once-boring outdoor area was reconceived as a latin-inspired luxurious retreat where Audrey, Troy and their family and friends can dance the night away. ❖



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For further information please contact Sheron White
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AUSTRALIA
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SAFE & SECURE

Follow these tips and tricks to protect your home from a break-in this holiday season



Many of us enjoy a very much-needed holiday escape over summer, but often we leave behind an empty house that can provide an easy target for thieves, intent on relieving you of your newly acquired Christmas gifts and other treasured possessions.

However, there are simple steps you can take to ensure your home is as secure as possible, so you can enjoy a relaxing, stress-free break. ►



DIY TIP

When installing multiple window locks, buy them keyed alike so that one key works for every lock. Look for the key number on the pack.



A well-maintained lawn gives the illusion of an occupied property.

UNDER LOCK AND KEY

Installing good quality locks on all doors and windows is the most crucial step to improving home security.

To make sure a door is truly secure, install a lock with a deadbolt that can only be opened with a key or code, while windows and sliding doors should be fitted with a locking bolt. These come with a selection of screws and bolts for either metal or timber frames, so be careful to choose the right ones.

Fit a burglar-proof screen door on your front and back doors, as well as on any easily accessible windows.

In addition, lock up tools and ladders securely, as these can be used to break into the house and access second-storey windows. Consider placing a lock on the electrical meter box as well, as thieves may attempt to turn off the power to disable an alarm system.

A lockable letterbox will help protect personal information from criminals. Choose one large enough for packages, to prevent anyone stealing your online shopping goodies from your doorstep.



Kwikset Kevo 2nd Gen Connected Electronic Deadbolt, \$289.
kwikset.com



Delf Satin Chrome Keyed Window Sash Lock, \$17.
delfarchitectural.com.au



LokkLatch General Purpose Gate Latch, \$36. au.ddtechglobal.com



Schlage Sense Black Century Smart Deadbolt, \$313. allegion.com.au



Samsung Bluetooth and Biometric Push-Pull Smart Door lock, \$820.
samsungdigitallife.com

PICTURES GETTY IMAGES

LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING

The easiest way to make your home look occupied while you're away is to create the appearance of your life continuing as usual.

◆ **ASK NEIGHBOURS** or nearby friends to bring in your bins and clear your letterbox regularly – or pay Australia Post to hold your mail if you'll be gone for a while.

◆ **ATTACH SENSOR LIGHTS** near potential points of entry, which does the double duty of scaring off thieves who were planning to use the cover of darkness as well as alerting neighbours to suspicious visitors.

◆ **MOW THE LAWN** before you leave – an overgrown lawn can be a telling sign that your house is empty. If you'll be away for more than two weeks, especially in the warmer months, arrange to have it cut again.

◆ **SET TIMERS** to turn on your appliances and lights. Sequence bedroom lights to turn on after the lounge room lights go off.

◆ **CHECK VOICEMAIL** remotely and don't change your voicemail greeting to announce that you are away on holidays.

◆ **ADD SOLAR LIGHTING.** Try ones with motion-sensor switches. Put an auto-twilight switch on wired outdoor lighting to turn on at sunset.

◆ **WATER THE GARDEN** using a programmable timer attached to an irrigation system in your absence.

◆ **CHANGE SECURITY SETTINGS** on your social media accounts to allow material to be viewed only by known and trusted friends while you're away, to avoid advertising that your home is empty. ►



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SOUND THE ALARM

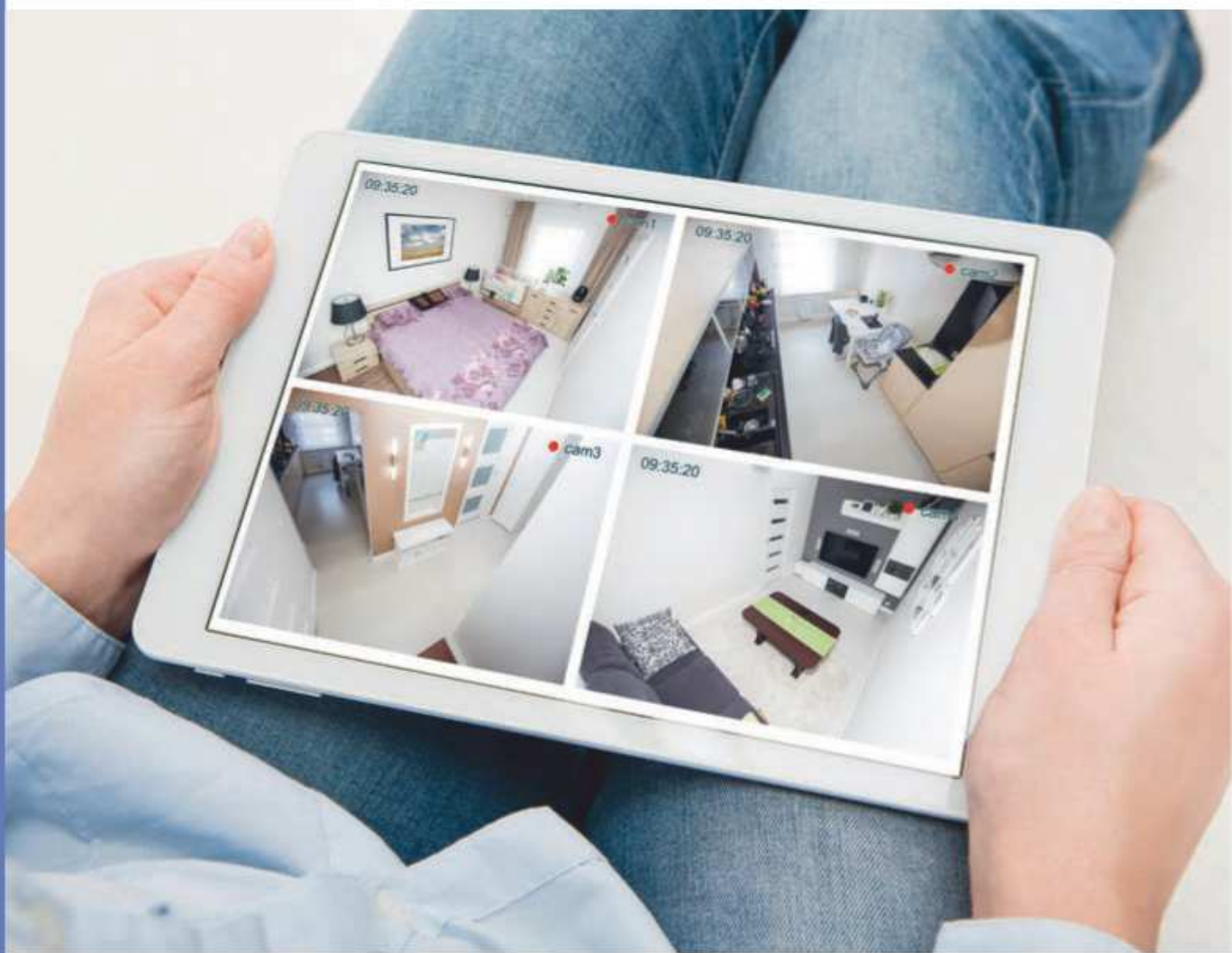
There is a huge range of affordable home security options available, from motion-activated alarms to multi-camera systems with access to mobile feeds in real time.

When considering purchasing a CCTV system, features to look out for include motion activation, night vision, multiple channels and a live link to a smartphone app.

Not only can this type of system act as a great deterrent to burglars, it can help police catch guilty parties – the footage can even be used in court as evidence to prosecute the offenders.

Keep the following points in mind when choosing an alarm system.

- ◆ **INSTALL** a wireless setup, which avoids expensive cabling, is more difficult to disarm, and can be taken with you if you move.
- ◆ **CONSIDER** a back-to-base monitored alarm system to ensure your home is protected 24/7.
- ◆ **CHOOSE** a system that can be expanded DIY as your needs change.
- ◆ **DESIGN** your system with different zones so at night you can move around bedrooms and bathrooms while the rest of the home is on alarm mode.
- ◆ **FIT** a battery as a backup in case of a blackout or someone cutting the power.
- ◆ **ADD** additional protection by connecting your monitored alarm system to your smoke alarms. ►



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\$25. arlec.com.au



Swann Wireless Alarm
Gate Alert Kit,
\$60. swann.com.au



Samsung All-In-One 4-camera 4-channel CCTV
Home Surveillance Security System, \$499.
samsungdigitallife.com



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\$255. swann.com.au





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DIGITAL SECURITY

These days, many of our treasured memories such as family photographs, music and videos, are stored digitally on our computers.

Theft or damage through fire or storms while you are away can mean you lose precious records that can't be replaced. The smart solution is to make data backups of essential material, such as photos and music, or better still, clone your entire hard drive so that you effectively have a duplicate copy of your computer.

When you make a backup copy, it's important to keep it updated and stored securely at home or at another safe offsite location.

Follow this advice from the experts to keep your online valuables safe and still easily accessible.

◆ **ORGANISE** your data in specific folders from the beginning so it will be easier to find what you need as your material builds up over time.

◆ **HAVE** a backup plan. Always double your backup by having another copy of your files saved onto a different drive.

◆ **ENSURE** that every year you spring-clean your digital library just as you would your home, and delete any versions of the same document you no longer need.

TIP There are apps to help you locate and clean out any duplicate files.

◆ **CHOOSE** when and how you want to back up your files. Setting it up automatically is a good way to ensure you don't forget.

◆ **SELECT** good-quality hard drives because data such as photos are priceless and irreplaceable.

Consider leaving your pet at home and arranging for someone to visit.



HOLIDAY SECURITY TIPS

◆ **TELL THE COMPANY** that monitors your alarm system about your holiday plans.

◆ **LEAVE A CAR** parked in the driveway to make the house look occupied while you're away.

◆ **LOCK AWAY VALUABLES** such as laptops and cameras, which are easy to pawn, and hide keys.

◆ **ENSURE PACKAGING FROM** boxes of gifts such as bikes or TVs aren't poking out of the bin.

◆ **ARRANGE FOR SOMEONE** to come and feed, water and walk your pets, rather than send them to a boarding kennel – as long as they have secure and protected outdoor spaces or will be safe indoors. ♦

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LIVING WALL FROM GUTTERING

Designer and upcycling expert Max McMurdo shows how to make a hanging planter out of roof gutters

When you have limited outdoor space it's great to create as many planting opportunities as you can. Vertical planting, intended to produce the effect of a 'living' wall, has been the hot feature in a lot of great garden design recently, especially for urban yards and patios.

This design uses basic plastic guttering, which is really easy to source from any hardware store. This is a really affordable way of creating a living wall that is great to look at but also practical – the whole thing weighs a lot less than alternative living wall structures and can be positioned anywhere, even on a balcony or roof terrace.

I have opted for four lengths of guttering, but you can use as many as you wish, cut to length to suit your space. You could, of course, paint the guttering in bright colours, but I was after a sleek contemporary look to complement my houseboat. Grey is also a nice neutral tone to allow the plants to stand out. The combination of the glossy grey plastic, natural rope and the different shades of succulents is incredible.



1 Cut guttering

Lay out the guttering, measure, mark and cut to the length you want using a hacksaw, holding the piece steady as you do. File the sawn ends smooth with a half-moon file or sandpaper.



2 Fit caps

If you need drainage holes, drill through the base of each length in several places. Attach some end caps to the guttering.

DIY TIP

Heat the cut ends of the rope with a lighter to seal and prevent fraying.



3 Measure and knot ropes

Measure out enough rope to create a loop for your desired length and then cut two of these

lengths using a knife. Tie a

knot at the halfway point in each piece of rope – this will sit centrally on the underside of the bottom piece of guttering. Fold the ropes at the central knot. Measure and mark every 25cm and knot the rope at each marked point. Repeat for both ropes.



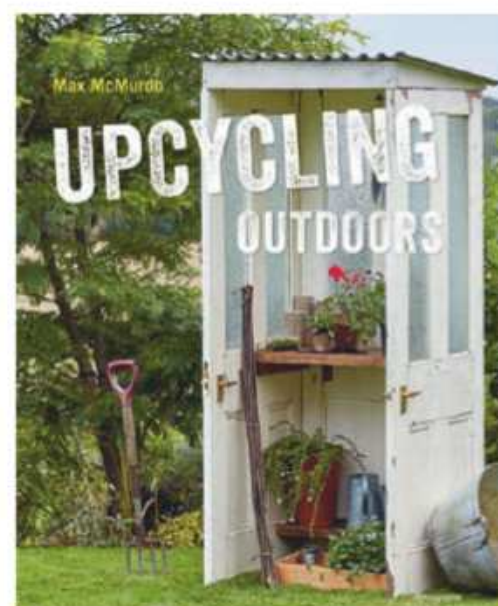
4 Fix to bench and check

To create tension for the ropes, secure two screws into a workbench and then loop the ropes around them. Check that the knots align on both ropes (so that the guttering will sit level). Make any adjustments to the position of the knots if necessary.



5 Position guttering

Tie the open ends of the rope fixings to two solid points. Slot the guttering through each knotted section, pushing the rope snugly against the end caps. Plant up – this planter works beautifully for plants that don't require too much soil, such as the succulents I've chosen. ♦



This is an edited extract from *Upcycling Outdoors* by Max McMurdo (Murdoch Books, \$40). Photography by Brent Darby.

PREPARE FOR *BUSHFIRE* *SEASON*

Protecting your property is the first line
of defence against the snap, crack and
pop of burning summers

Bushfires are a fact of life in Australia and with urban areas expanding, more of us are now living in, or close to, bushfire-prone areas. Coming off the back of what was a very warm, dry winter for most of the country, the threat of bushfires for the summer ahead is greater than ever. Upgrading your home to withstand a fire and keeping it well maintained can mean the difference between

your house surviving a bushfire and being destroyed.

Even if your property doesn't back onto bushland, it's still wise to take basic measures to protect your home. Houses 100 metres or more from the fire front can be impacted by ember attack – which is when smouldering leaves and ash are carried by heatwaves ahead of a fire – while burning bark can be blown kilometres ahead of the fire.



SURVIVAL PLAN

Having an up-to-date survival plan ensures you and your family know what to do in the event of a bushfire. Review your plan with your family every year and be ready to act when necessary.

On hot, dry or windy days, stay informed by paying attention to local TV and radio broadcasts so you know if your area is at risk. If a fire breaks out in your area, enact your bushfire survival plan immediately. Deciding whether to leave early or stay and defend your home depends on how prepared your home is and whether you are physically and emotionally ready to defend it. If in doubt, leave early and head to the nearest safe place. ►

Know exactly what actions you'll take should a bushfire strike.





Avoid hazardous branches located near the roof of your house.



Keep lawns freshly mown and remove any dried or dead grass.

MAINTENANCE & PREPARATION

Follow these simple guidelines to help keep your property safe.

- ◆ **MOW** your lawns regularly and keep them free from dried or dead grass.
- ◆ **TRIM** dead branches from vegetation.
- ◆ **PRUNE** back branches that are growing near the roof of your house.
- ◆ **KEEP** roof gutters, gardens, paths and driveway drains free of leaves.
- ◆ **RAISE** the tree canopy to at least two metres above ground level.
- ◆ **STORE** potentially explosive items such as fuel, gas bottles, petrol-driven tools, paints or bulk chemicals away from your home.
- ◆ **MOVE** flammable items, such as firewood, hanging baskets, garden furniture, dog kennels and doormats, well away from the house.
- ◆ **ATTACH** quality fittings to garden taps and have hoses long enough to reach every corner of your property.
- ◆ **INSTALL** a 'static water supply' sign or similar to alert fire services to water sources such as a tank, dam or pool.
- ◆ **INVEST** in a small transfer pump and suitable fire hoses and nozzles to use with a fixed water supply, such as a pool or dam, as mains water can be unreliable in times of emergency.



Roof gutters full of twigs and leaves are fuel for bushfires.

DIY TIP

Reduce the effect of flying embers by filling roof gutters with water after blocking all the downpipes with rags.





BUILDING & RENOVATING

If you're renovating or building in a designated bushfire-prone area, you need to integrate fire-resistant materials into your plans.

Much of what you can build is now covered by appropriate design guidelines in the Australian Standard AS 3959-2009. You have a legal obligation to comply with these rules.

That doesn't mean you have to compromise on your design aesthetic though. There are many high-quality, low-flammability materials that satisfy the criteria and still look great. Consult with your builder, engineer or architect about the options available.

- ◆ **BE AWARE** of the relevance and impact of fire zoning for your area.
- ◆ **OPT FOR** timbers with natural fire resistance such as merbau, blackbutt and spotted gum.
- ◆ **PUT IN** fine metal mesh gutter guards classed for ember resistance.
- ◆ **INSTALL** metal mesh ember guards in gaps or cracks where embers may settle.
- ◆ **INCLUDE** quality metal mesh flyscreens on doors and windows.

FIREDOORS

Doors can be danger zones when it comes to fire, so choose carefully.

Hume (humedoors.com.au) has a range of doors built to meet BAL12.5, BAL19 and BAL29 regulatory requirements, made from either tempered hardboard or veneer-finished solicore doors with 6mm tempered safety glass, while Corinthian Doors (corinthian.com.au) BAL40 entry door system is designed to withstand fires in high-risk areas. ►

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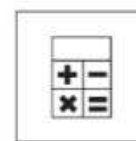
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kingspanwater.com.au





GET TANKED

Have water on hand for when you need it most by harvesting rainwater in a tank, such as the Kingspan Modline tank, \$1631 for 3000L capacity, or the Kingspan Rhino tank, which is specially fitted for firefighting in rural environments. kingspan.com.au



FIRE-PROOF GARDENS

If you live in a fire-prone area, take that into consideration when planning or designing your garden.

- ◆ **AVOID** using any wood- or plant-based mulches close to your property. Instead, opt for non-flammable material such as pebbles.
- ◆ **DON'T** grow any plants or shrubs right up against your home.
- ◆ **SELECT** plant and tree species with low flammability. Your local fire service may have a list, or you could do a quick search online for fire-resistant trees in Australia.
- ◆ **RECOGNISE** which plants are considered more flammable and if you want to include them, position them well away from your home.
- ◆ **USE** landscaping materials with low or no flammability. ♦

TOP PICKS

Cyclone 910mm x 2.1m
Stainless Steel Insect Screen,
\$50. cyclone.com.au



Protector 101-piece
First Aid Kit, \$49.
bunnings.com.au



Family First 1.8m Extra
Large Fire Blanket, \$33.
family-first.com.au



Ozito Power X Change 18V
Workshop Radio (skin only),
\$50. ozito.com.au



Silvan Selecta 400L
Fire Fighting Unit, \$2139.
silvan.com.au

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ALFRESCO *DINING*

Turn your outdoor space into a summer entertaining area with an outdoor setting and a barbecue

Cooking and eating a meal outdoors is one of summer's greatest pleasures. And with the vast range of gas, charcoal and electric barbies available, it's easier than ever to create gourmet delights from the comfort of your own yard, balcony or patio.

To create the best entertaining hub in your outdoor spaces, the perfect furniture is crucial. When choosing, consider the number of people in the

household and how frequently you entertain to ensure you invest in the right size for your needs.

For those with large families or who entertain often, a six- or eight-seater table is ideal. For small gatherings, choose a four-burner barbecue and a classic four-seater table, or even a lounge setting to relax and spread out on.

Opt for furniture designed for the outdoors that is made from durable materials, such as timber and aluminium.

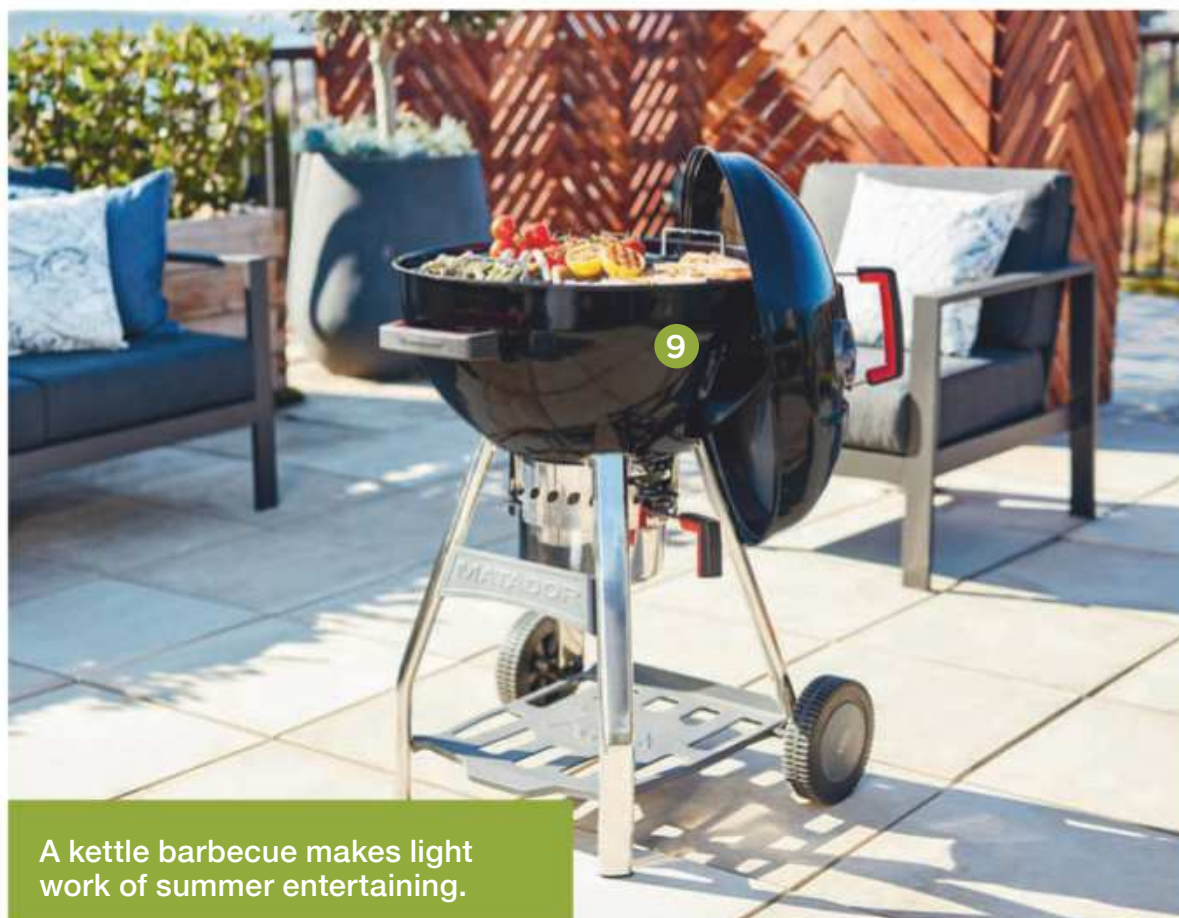
SOME ADVERTISED PRODUCTS NOT AVAILABLE AT ALL BUNNINGS STORES, BUT MAY BE ORDERED.



TIMELESS TIMBER

Bring all the comforts of the living room outdoors with stylish timber armchairs, sofas and tables for relaxing and dining, plus a kitchen oven for alfresco cooking.

- 1 Mimosa Infinity Teak Timber Table, \$1499.
- 2 Mimosa Rope Dining Chair, \$69 each.
- 3 Mimosa Honolulu 3-seater Sofa Chair with Cushion, \$349.
- 4 Mimosa Honolulu Coffee Table, \$99.
- 5 Mimosa Honolulu 2-seater Sofa Chair with Cushion, \$249.
- 6 Mimosa Honolulu Dining Table, \$349.
- 7 Mimosa Honolulu Dining Chair with Cushion, \$99 each.
- 8 Jumbuck 4-burner Stardom Kitchen BBQ, \$599.
- 9 Matador Radiant Kettle BBQ, \$299. ►



A kettle barbecue makes light work of summer entertaining.

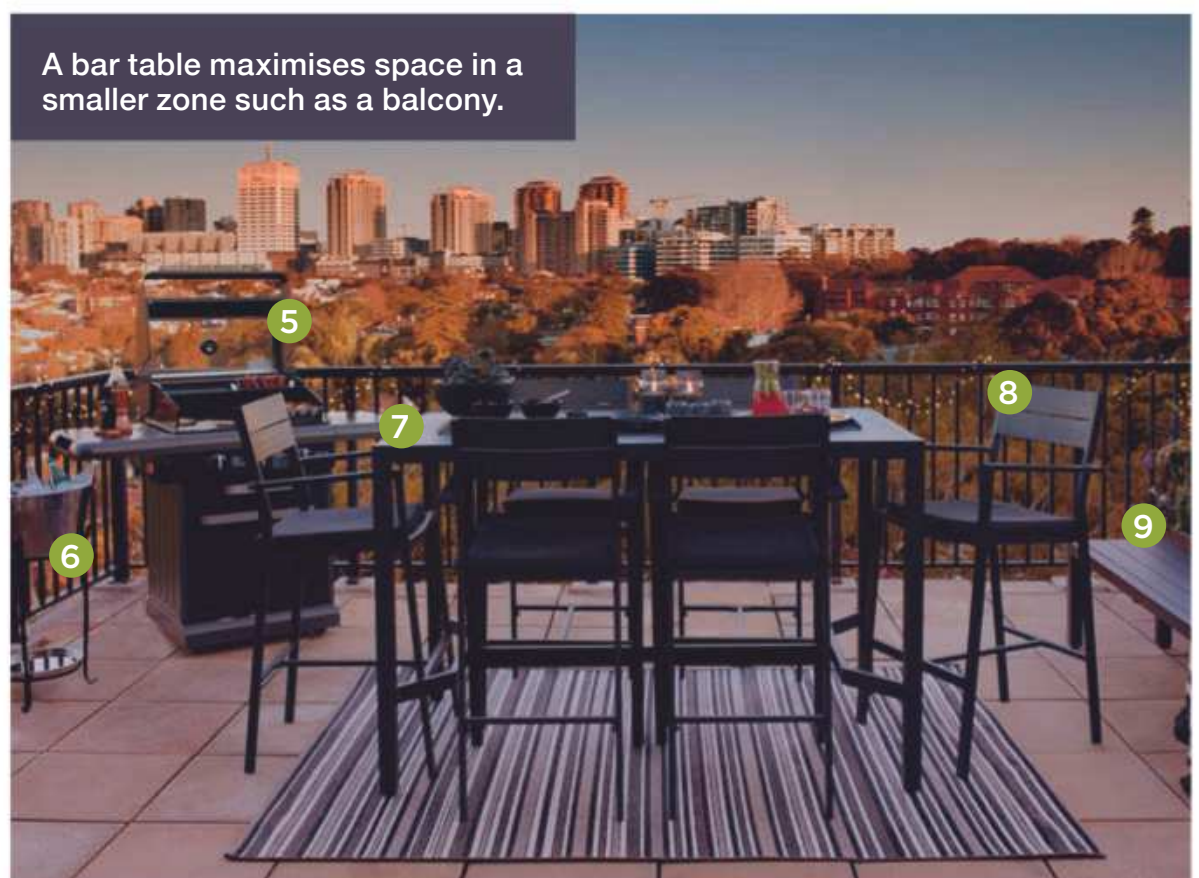


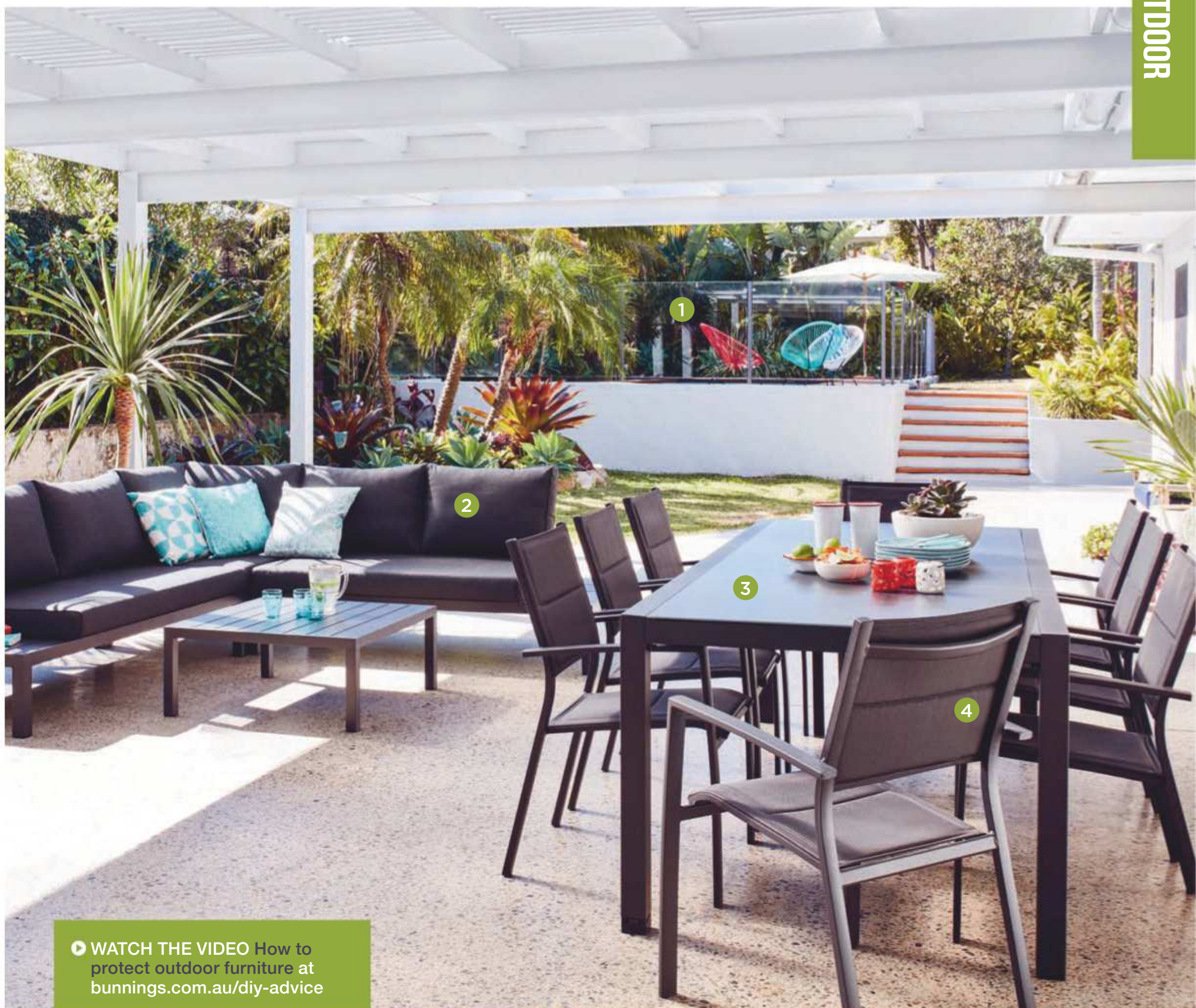
CONTEMPORARY COOL

For a resort-style look and feel, opt for a lounge setting to create a relaxed vibe. Add fun and convenience with a drinks cooler, and a stylish cantilever umbrella to provide shade to your outdoor space.

- 1 Mimosa Koko Cantilever Umbrella, \$349.
- 2 Mimosa Lava 3-seater Sofa, \$499.
- 3 Mimosa Lava Coffee Table, \$149.
- 4 Mimosa Lava Single Seat Sofa Chair, \$269.
- 5 Matador 3-burner Hooded Boss BBQ, \$699.
- 6 Mimosa 20L Drinks Cooler with Stand, \$34.95.
- 7 Mimosa Lava 6-seater Bar Table, \$399.
- 8 Mimosa Lava Bar Chair with Cushion, \$139 each.
- 9 Mimosa Lava Bench, \$199.

A bar table maximises space in a smaller zone such as a balcony.





▶ **WATCH THE VIDEO** How to protect outdoor furniture at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

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

- 1 Marquee Verna Acapulco Chair, \$38 each.
- 2 Mimosa Lava Corner Lounge with Side Table, \$1399.
- 3 Mimosa Lava 220 x 100cm Dining Table, \$327.
- 4 Mimosa Lava Sling Dining Chair, \$59 each.
- 5 Jumbuck 6-burner Hooded BBQ with Side Burner, \$499.
- 6 Matador Titan 4-burner In-Built BBQ, \$899. ♦





FRONT DOOR *finesse*

Give your entrance lashings of
kerb appeal with some simple painting and planting

WORDS AND PICTURES REBECCA SENYARD

Kerb-side appeal gives your home character and sets it apart from other houses in your street. How you style the entrance to your home can give your guests a friendly welcome before they set foot through the door. If the front of your home needs a little bit of sprucing up, this transformation

may give you the inspiration you need to update your place.

The plan was to use paint and plants to transform the entrance from drab to fab. Pot plants with dark green foliage were layered in the corner of the space and sweet succulents were potted up and placed on the other side. As a finishing

touch, a stylish doormat was added to make guests feel welcome.

Restraint was needed to ensure the front entrance didn't look cluttered. The rule of thumb when clustering pot plants is to go with an odd number, so three pots were chosen for the right side and one larger pot on the left.

**Before****DESIGN TIP**

For a double-door entrance, choose a longer welcome mat rather than a standard mat which measures just 60cm.

**Styling details**

Given that half of this entrance receives partial shade while the other side receives full sun, plant choices needed to be carefully considered to suit the outdoor conditions.

Pressure clean the surfaces

One of the easiest ways to update the front of your home is by pressure cleaning it. By all means use a broom to remove dead leaves and other debris, but a pressure cleaner will also remove the grime set into the pavers and all the dust that has settled on the roof, eaves, walls and columns. Usually, pressure cleaning is an annual job and the warmer months are the ideal time to get it done as surfaces will dry quickly.

**Re-stain the timber step**

The front door's timber tread was also looking worn and needed a sand and re-stain to get it looking new. The area was first prepped with tape and a plastic drop sheet. Next, the step was sanded down. A coat of Feast and Watson Timber and Deck Stain in Swan River Jarrah was applied with a paintbrush and left to dry for 12 hours before recoating.

Paint the columns

The columns to this front entrance hadn't been painted for 10 years and were in dire need of a refresh. If you're trying to colour match and don't know the name of the original paint, test a few colour swatches and sample pots to see how they look in different lights. In this case, Dulux Weathershield low-sheen paint in Teahouse proved to be a near exact match of the previous colour.

When painting render, check for chips or cracks as these will need to be fixed before you paint. The exterior was painted with a Monarch 20mm nap roller, which suits

painting rough surfaces like render.

The timber feature between the columns needed an update too, and was painted in Dulux Weathershield low-sheen paint in Black to match the new plant pots. ►



Plant pots

There is a range of choices available when choosing pots for your plants. Here, three different pots in various sizes were selected to suit different plant heights. Fibreglass pots were chosen for the large plants to ensure they weren't too heavy to be moved, and glazed pots for the smaller plants.



After

Attention to small details can really refresh a tired space.



Plant choices

Choosing the right plants is crucial, especially if there is shade at your front door.

IN THE SHADE

For the shade-side of the entrance, we chose a large fiddle leaf fig, a Zanzibar gem and jade plant.

Emily Hagan, landscaper and owner of OttoScapes, says there are a lot of plants that suit partial shade and can be planted in pots.

Something with height

- ◆ Raphis palm
- ◆ Cordyline
- ◆ Dracaena
- ◆ Fiddle leaf fig
- ◆ Magnolia

Glossy and green

- ◆ Spathiphyllum
- ◆ Birds nest fern
- ◆ Zanzibar gem

Colourful flowers

- ◆ Assorted shade bromeliads
- ◆ Bird of paradise

- ◆ Petunias
 - ◆ Androsace
 - ◆ Chrysanthemums
- Ground cover or cascading**
- ◆ Dichondra
 - ◆ Native violet
 - ◆ String of pearls
 - ◆ Herbs
 - ◆ Rosemary
 - ◆ Mint

TIP A Moisture Matic self-watering system is the perfect solution for giving the right water amount to fiddle leaf figs and all potted plants, from \$10. moisturematic.com.au

IN THE SUN

The left side of the entrance receives full sun so a low-maintenance succulent pot was the ideal choice. We chose to plant a mix of colours, textures and shapes, and hanging varieties such as string of pearls and jelly beans for character. A succulent bowl was an obvious choice, and they're easy to make yourself.

HOW TO CREATE A SUCCULENT POT

Succulents thrive in the sun so ensure the pot is kept outside.

- Choose a pot with a drainage hole and add pebbles to allow for extra drainage.
- Fill the pot with Cacti and Succulent potting mix.
- Plant a variety of succulents and cacti in the pot.
- Water and add pebbles to layer around the succulents. ♦



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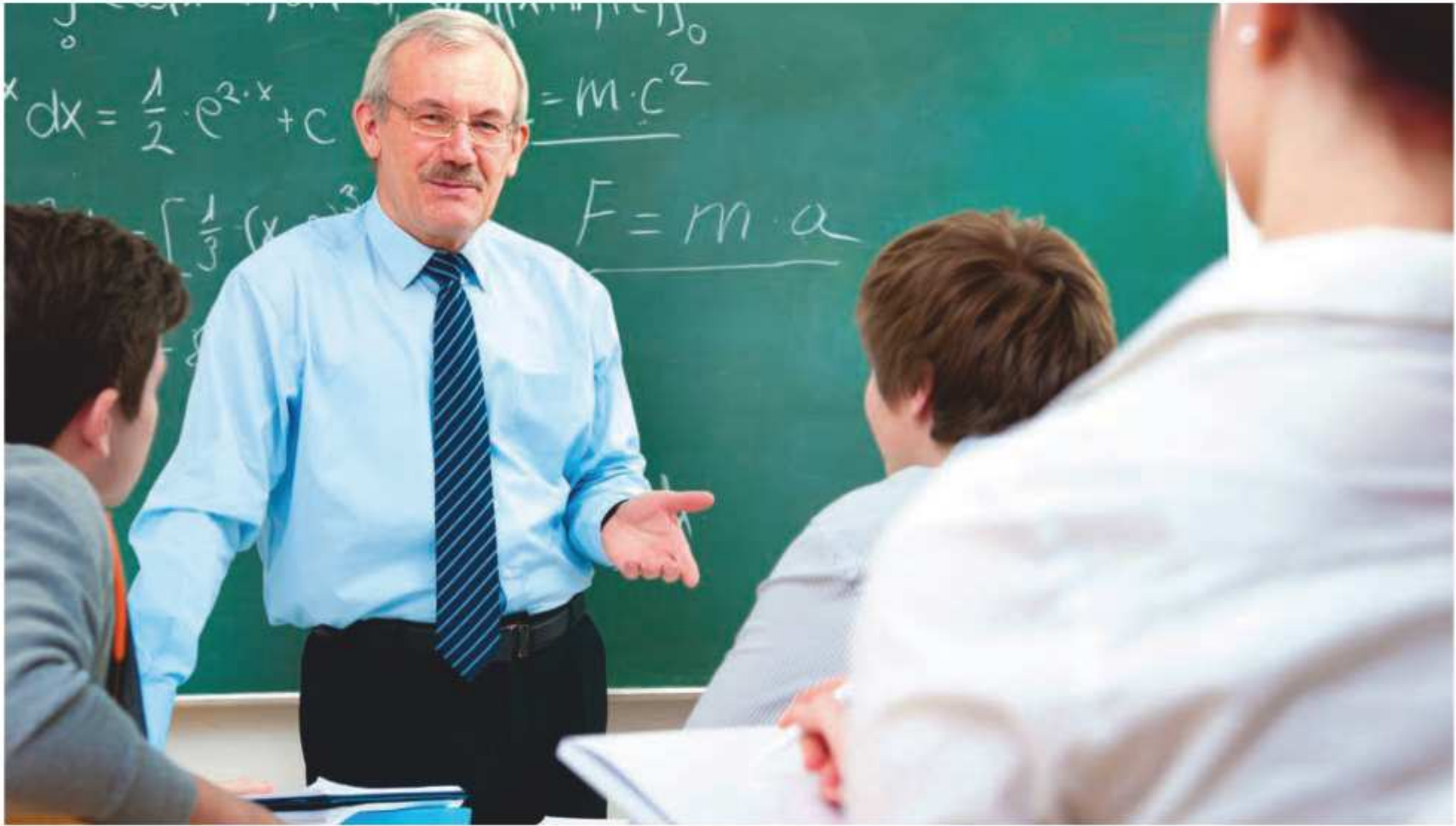
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HOW TO INSTALL A PET DOOR

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Give your furry friend the freedom to come in or go outside at will

Instead of constantly opening doors to allow your pet outside, install a pet door to give them free rein. You can fit one while your door is still attached to its frame, or take it off its hinges to make it easier. If you do this, rest your door on some timber offcuts to avoid cutting your workbench.

To determine the correct height for your pet to get in and out, measure the distance from the underside of their stomach to the floor. Mark that distance up from the bottom of the door at two points so that the pet door is square.

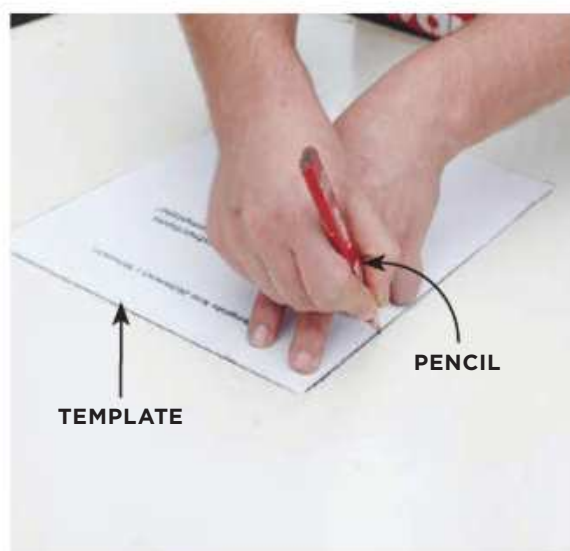


▶ WATCH THE VIDEO
How to install a pet door
at [bunnings.com.au/diy-advice](https://www.bunnings.com.au/diy-advice)

WHAT YOU NEED

- Pet door kit
- Drill, drill bits
- Jigsaw
- Measuring tape
- Screwdriver
- Utility knife
- Workbench (optional)
- Masking tape or painter's tape
- Safety glasses with side shields
- Earmuffs or earplugs
- Dust mask
- Pencil
- Ruler

1 2 3



1 Mark the template on your door

Cut out the template for the pet door which is supplied in the kit. Line it up with the two marks you've made on your door and trace around it. Place masking tape around the edges of the template lines to protect your door when you cut it.



2 Cut out the opening

Use a drill and a large drill bit to drill four holes in the corners of the template tracing. Wearing safety glasses, a dust mask and ear muffs, insert the jigsaw into one of the holes and carefully cut around the template to create the opening for the pet door.



3 Attach the pet door

Place the sides of the pet door into the hole on either side of your door. Secure it to your door with the screws provided in the kit. Re-hang your door in its frame. Now, all you need to do is train your pet to use its new door and enjoy not having to let your pet in and out all the time. ♦

SQUASH SUMMER PESTS

Say farewell to unwelcome residents who have taken over your home this summer



With the weather warming up and the sunny season underway, the conditions are perfect for a range of pests to start plaguing your home as they emerge from their winter hideouts.

Higher temperatures and rain favour mosquitoes, flies, bed bugs, wasps, ants, termites and more, leading to a rapid rise in their numbers. Be prepared and you'll remove the risk of these roaming raiders setting up residence in your home, potentially bringing disease and leaving costly damage in their wake.

FLIES

Rapidly reproducing in warm weather, flies feed on faeces and garbage before spreading bacteria where they land.

To avoid flies, put food scraps in a lidded bin, add sawdust to your compost pile, fit windows with flyscreens and try sticky paper traps, low-toxicity sprays or fly attractants.



EnviroSafe Fly Attractant Refill Tub, \$62 for 36 baits. envirosafeaustralia.com.au



Cyclone 1220mm Miniweave Insect Screen, \$21 per metre. cyclone.com.au

ANTS

Controlling an ant infestation in your home can be tricky as ants can detect common insecticides, avoiding sprayed areas, and nests can be hard to find.

To solve an ant problem, use an insecticide formulated to target the queen, and remove access to water and sources of food such as dead insects or scraps. ▶



Richgro Ready to Use Ant, Spider & Cockroach Killer, \$7 for 1L. richgro.com.au

PICTURE (MAIN) GETTY IMAGES



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MOSQUITOES

The scourge of backyard barbecues, mosquitoes thrive in summer and are most active at dawn and dusk.

Their bite causes an itchy bump on the skin, but in tropical areas they can spread serious diseases, such as dengue fever.

To prevent a plague at your place, remove still water sources, such as pots and

puddles, where they breed. Fill plant saucers with sand to stop water pooling, or non-toxic mosquito drops, which kill larvae in the water.

Install screen doors and window screens, use citronella candles and wear DEET-based repellent. A repeller is also a great way to deter mosquitoes in outdoor entertaining areas.



EnviroSafe Mosquito Drops, \$12 for 45ml.
envirosafeaustralia.com.au



Thermacell Mini Halo
Tabletop Repeller, \$48.
thermacellrepellents.com.au

WASPS

While most wasp species are solitary, non-stinging garden pest controllers, a few clash with humans and have a painful sting.

Wasps usually build new nests in summer, with workers dying off in autumn while the queens hibernate through winter. They may build nests in roof or wall cavities around the home, or in sheds or garages.



**EnviroSafe Wasp
Trap Attractant Refills,
\$8 for three baits.
envirosafeaustralia.com.au**



**PestXpert Wasp
Jet Long Reach
Spray \$17 for 400g.
pestxpert.com.au**

BED BUGS

These flat, oval bugs grow to 4-7mm as adults and feed on blood, biting people as they sleep.

Signs of an infestation include a sickly sweet smell, dark stains or blood spots on sheets and mattresses, and live insects or shed skins.

Eradication is a DIY job but try to spot them early to avoid having to call in the professionals.



Hovex Germgard Bed Bug & Flea Killer, \$10 for 350g. hovex.com.au

COCKROACHES

Hiding in subfloors, roofing or wall cavities during the day, these nocturnal lurkers carry disease, and their discarded skin can trigger asthma attacks.

To hinder cockroaches' nightly scrabble around your home, dispose of scraps and keep food sealed in containers to limit their access and wipe down sinks in the kitchen,

**bathroom and living areas,
as they need water to survive.**

There's a wide range of products on the market to wipe out cockroaches.

These include baits containing poison, sticky traps, aerosols that let you kill them on sight and bombs that provide up to three months of protection. ►



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



Raid Cockroach Bait, about \$9 for pack of 12. raid.com



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www.envirosafeaustralia.com.au



MICE



Eradicating a mice infestation can be tricky, as they're often only active at night and nest in walls and roof spaces.

While it's hard to pin down the exact number roaming your home, persistence is key in addressing the problem.

There is a variety of removal solutions, such as classic snap traps, radar rodent repellers, poisoned bait or, for the soft-hearted, cage traps to catch them alive.

Set up your chosen method on pathways the mice use, which can be identified by droppings, and by entry points in the walls. Or lay traps near food sources such as the dog's bowl, keeping your pet safely away.

It's also a good idea to place traps next to vertical surfaces, such as skirting boards, as they travel close to walls.

Repair damaged seals and doors to prevent future infestations.



The Big Cheese Ultra Power Mouse Kill Bait Station, \$12 for 20g block. the-bigcheese.com.au



GoTrap Traditional Mouse Trap, \$1.50 for pack of two. bunnings.com.au

RATS

Having these common household pests move in can pose a health risk to your family, not to mention the smelly urine trails they leave behind.

Rats chew through food packaging and electrical wiring, increasing the risk of household fires.

Prevention is the best protection, so block any potential entry points to your home, clear leaf litter and debris from the garden and keep rubbish bins firmly closed. Trim branches away from the roof and install wire mesh over compost bin vents.



The Big Cheese Rodent Bait Station, \$17. the-bigcheese.com.au

If they've already settled in, lay down poisoned baits, set out traps, or use an ultrasonic machine, which emits high frequency sound waves inaudible to humans and non-rodent pets, to send them packing. You may need to re-treat every six months to prevent them returning.

TERMITES

With timber their primary food source, certain termite species can cause potentially expensive damage to decks, houses and trees on a property.

They thrive in high humidity and will often eat their way inside through submerged timber, such as deck posts or footings, making them hard to spot until well established.

Use structural timber treated to deter termites and prevent damp.

Or, avoid using timber when it will be in direct contact with the soil and try alternative building materials or lay a concrete slab for foundations. If this isn't possible, schedule an annual check with a pest specialist or spray at-risk areas with insecticide. ♦



Carlray 1800 x 170mm Half Termite Shield, \$12. carlray.com.au

Termite-treated Blue Pine Timber Framing 70 x 35mm, about \$3 per metre. bunnings.com.au



Richgro Termite & Ant Killer Concentrate, \$15 for 500ml. richgro.com.au

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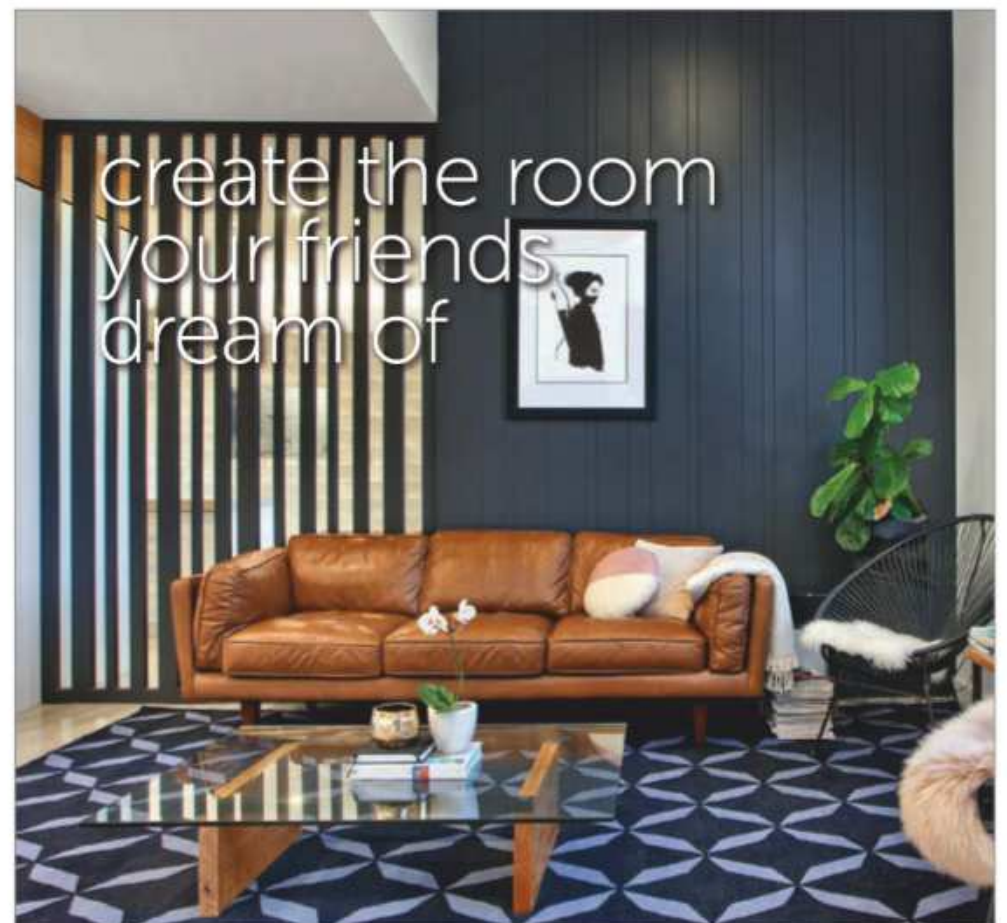
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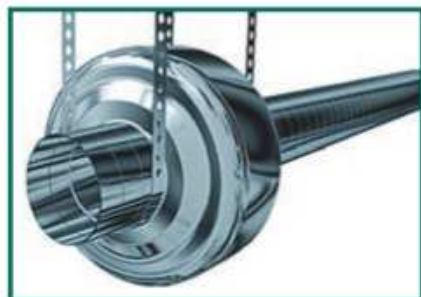
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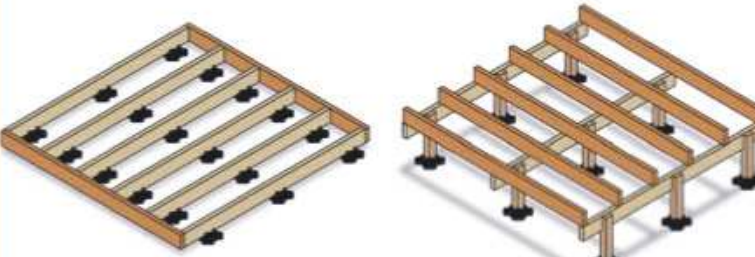
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This Month

Feed, weed and water
to beat the heat and
green the garden
this summer

202



Do now

- ◆ **PLANT** herbs for delicious, fresh flavours in your healthy summer fare, page 190.
- ◆ **PROPAGATE** plants from cuttings to increase your supply, page 196.
- ◆ **GROW** aloe vera and benefit from its healing powers, page 199.
- ◆ **CHOOSE** waterwise plants to thwart the ravages of summer, page 202.

190



199



Celosia

FLOWERS TO SOW

For a late summer and early autumn display, get these flower seeds in now.

- ◆ **AGERATUM**
- ◆ **ASTER**
- ◆ **CELOSIA**
- ◆ **TORENIA**
- ◆ **ZINNIA**



Zinnia



Radishes

VEGIES TO GROW

Plant these edibles now for crops from eight weeks.

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- ◆ **BEANS**
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Sweetcorn




 Agapanthus 'Baby Pete'

WHAT'S IN COLOUR

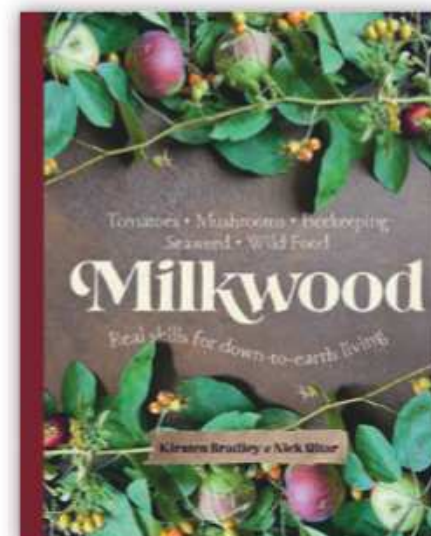
One of Australia's best dwarf forms of agapanthus, 'Baby Pete' is the ideal low-growing plant to plant down the side of a path or driveway, or for mass planting as a ground cover. Famed for its compact nature, low maintenance and hardy performance, it puts on a bright show of bold blue flowers throughout the warmer months.

Extending to a maximum height of just 40-45cm in full flower and with a foliage height of only 20cm, 'Baby Pete' is perfect for smaller gardens and unlike other agapanthus, it is not known to set seed.



Easy to grow in most well-draining soil types, once established 'Baby Pete' requires only occasional deep watering during extended periods of heat. Apply a slow-release fertiliser in spring. No pruning is generally required although removing spent flowering stems will encourage further flushes.

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



BOOK CLUB

Milkwood (Murdoch Books, \$45) has more than 300 pages of environmentally friendly ideas for anyone serious about getting back to nature.

Australian authors Kirsten Bradley and Nick Ritar explore beyond the standard garden – such as their guide to harvesting seaweed, including how to prepare and dry it.

They make a great case for this food from the sea as a source of nutrition and offer resourceful recipes on how to make ginger seaweed salad, seaweed butter and more.

For budding beekeepers, there's information on bee biology, becoming a backyard beekeeper, harvesting honeycomb and how to process beeswax.

There are also clever tips and how-to pics for growing tomatoes, including seed saving and improving soil preparation, plus how to safely forage for food in the wild.

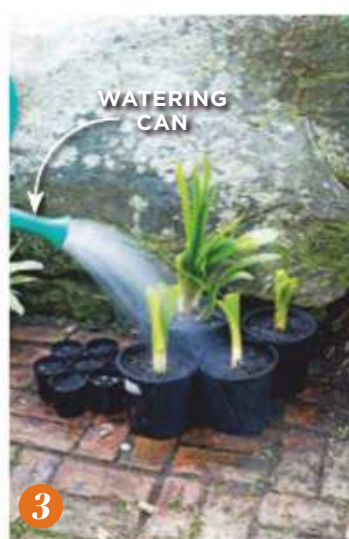
All in all, it's a DIY roadmap on getting back to nature from these permaculture communicators who have created a self-reliance manual for natural nourishment. ►

TO-DO LIST

Keep on top of essential summer garden maintenance.

- ◆ HARVEST ripe fruit and destroy rotten fruit.
- ◆ WATER in either the morning or evening to reduce evaporation.
- ◆ DEADHEAD flowers regularly for more blooms.
- ◆ CHECK for and control pests such as aphids, thrips and scale.
- ◆ REMOVE suckers coming from below the graft on roses.
- ◆ GROUP pot plants in the shade and, if going away on holidays, arrange watering.
- ◆ FOLLOW a control or prevention program for fruit fly.
- ◆ KEEP the pond topped up and remove weeds.





DIVIDING CLIVIAS

To lift a clivia from the garden, drive in a spade from the edge at 45°, working your way around the plant until the entire clump comes loose, then remove most of the soil from the roots.

1 Cut the roots for plants with 100mm of rhizome and a leaf set. Remove any soil and damaged roots, and trim the leaves by a third. Put in a cool, dry spot until the cuts seal.

2 Part-fill a pot with potting mix, add a plant, hold it upright and backfill around the roots and rhizome, firming the mix down. **TIP** Use the same method in beds.

3 Position the pots in a shady spot and water in the plants well. Don't keep clivias too moist while they establish, as this can lead to fungal problems and rot.



Lavender

FEED NOW

Give natives and fruiting trees a boost up.

- ◆ BOTTLEBRUSH
- ◆ LAVENDER
- ◆ TOMATO
- ◆ FRUIT TREES
- ◆ AVOCADO

Tomato



PRUNE NOW

Trim flowering shoots and keep hedges and standards tidy.

- ◆ FLOWERING PEACH
- ◆ TOPIARY
- ◆ LILAC
- ◆ LAVENDER
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Topiary



Lilac

HARVEST NOW

Pick summer vegies and the fruit from trees and vines.

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- ◆ EGGPLANT
- ◆ CHILLI
- ◆ BERRIES
- ◆ GRAPES

Berries



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WAR ON WASTE CAN-O-WORMS PACKS TO BE WON



Our top 10

Summer herbs

Fresh means flavour so grow
your own herbs and treat your
tastebuds to the results

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

COOKING TIP

The flowers of all
herbs are edible as
well as beautiful so use
them to garnish your
culinary creations
in the kitchen.

What's your favourite herb? Basil? Rosemary? Sage? Whichever herb tops your list, it's sure to taste better when you grow it yourself.

When using herbs in cooking, fresh is most definitely best. What's more, when you grow a selection,

you can experiment with new flavour combinations to produce some stunning culinary creations.

And, because most herbs thrive in containers, space is not an issue. You can place containers as close to the kitchen as possible (access to sun permitting) to make dinnertime harvesting easy.

GROWING GUIDE

To grow herbs successfully, give them the sunniest position available in the garden in well-draining soil – except for mint, which will grow in moist soil and partial shade. Add old manure or compost to the soil before planting.

While not heavy feeders, monthly applications of a soluble complete plant food will keep annual herbs producing new leaves. Feed perennial herbs with a three-month slow-release plant food.

Treat annual herbs as you would salad vegetables and water them frequently. Perennial herbs do not require as much water.

TIPS FOR CONTAINERS

A large terracotta pot or trough full of a variety of herbs looks fabulous.

For best results, choose a premium potting mix that carries the Australian Standards logo. A quality mix will drain more efficiently and hold moisture better than a cheaper mix, and will contain added nutrients for plant growth.

SUMMER CUTS

Pick herbs regularly throughout summer to encourage branching and new autumn growth. Remove flowers when they appear to encourage new usable leaves for the kitchen. ►►

1. Basil

An essential summer herb, there is a range of basil varieties to suit different cooking styles. Lemon and Thai varieties are ideal for Asian cooking. Purple-leafed basil is great in salads.

◆ **GROW** Basil is an annual so sow seed in spring or plant seedlings now. Water frequently to keep plants growing quickly. Prune flower heads regularly to promote bushiness and more usable leaves.

◆ **FOOD PARTNERS** Try basil in Asian curries, or with fish, prawns, salads, pasta and also on pizza.



Dig up the roots then gently divide chive clumps with your hands.

2. Chives

One of the easiest herbs to grow, perennial chives have grass-like, hollow leaves with a mild onion flavour. Mauve-pink flowers appear in late spring/summer. Garlic chives (*Allium tuberosum*) differ from ordinary chives in that the leaves are flat and solid and have white star-shaped summer flowers.

◆ **GROW** Sow seed in spring, summer or early autumn. Divide clumps every second year during winter.

◆ **FOOD PARTNERS** Add chives just prior to serving hot foods. Chives combine well with beetroot, soft white cheeses, chicken, eggs, fish, potato, cucumber, mayonnaise and soups.

3. Dill

This attractive, fast-growing annual plant with feathery leaves has flowers that attract beneficial predators such as ladybirds, hoverflies and lacewings into the garden.

◆ **GROW** Sow seed in spring or early summer. Pinch out flower stems as they appear in order to promote more leaves.

◆ **FOOD PARTNERS** Combine dill with seafood, eggs, cucumber, zucchini, cabbage and green beans.



Did you know?

The flowers of herbs attract bees and beneficial predators to the garden.



4. Mint

There are many mints other than garden mint, including spearmint, peppermint, apple mint and eau de cologne mint.

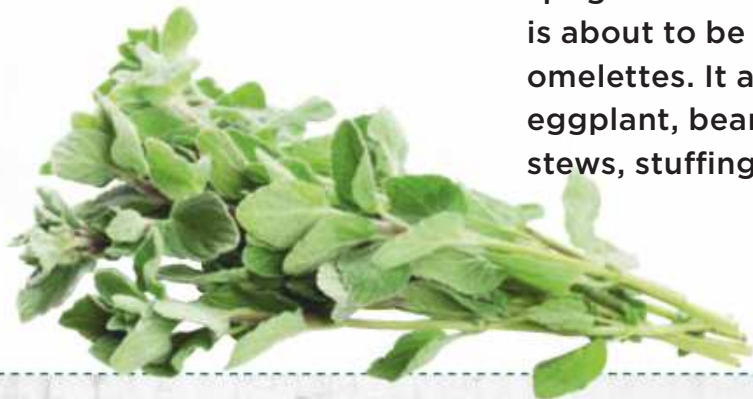
◆ **GROW** Mint can become rapacious but is easily confined when grown in a pot. Stand the

pot in a saucer of water as mint loves moisture and a partly shaded situation. It propagates easily from division.

◆ **FOOD PARTNERS** Mint is great in tea and cold drinks, or with yoghurt, lamb, potatoes or peas.

5. Oregano

This spreading perennial plant with oval-shaped aromatic green leaves and purple-pink flowers is an essential herb for many dishes. Pick the leaves as required and use them fresh. Leaves don't lose their flavour when dried.



◆ **GROW** Sow seed in spring and autumn or plant seedlings. Snip spent flower heads in autumn.

◆ **FOOD PARTNERS** Oregano loves anything to do with tomatoes and garlic. Slip a few sprigs into fish or chicken that is about to be baked or add to omelettes. It also partners with eggplant, beans, meat sauces, stews, stuffing, pasta and pizza.

6. Parsley

Biennial curly or flat-leaved parsley are easy to grow during summer, providing leaves for many months. Regular picking ensures more growth.

◆ **GROW** Plant seedlings or sow seed in spring, summer and autumn. Fortnightly applications of a soluble plant food will ensure this frost-hardy biennial will keep producing fresh leaves.

◆ **FOOD PARTNERS** It goes well with potatoes, fish and eggs, and in sauces, salads and soups. ►



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7. Rosemary

An attractive, waterwise shrub that likes a slightly alkaline soil, it can be grown in pots or as a hedge around the herb garden. Prostrate cultivars are available.

◆ **GROW** Rosemary needs well-draining, alkaline soil. It is easily propagated from cuttings taken in spring, summer and autumn.

◆ **FOOD PARTNERS** Sprinkle over roast potatoes, pumpkin, grilled chicken and oven-baked tomatoes. You can also strip the stems of leaves, soak them in water for an hour and use as skewers for prawns or kebabs.



8. Sage

A pretty, 90cm high shrub with aromatic grey-green leaves and purple-blue flowers, sage grows well in pots and garden beds.

◆ **GROW** Plant a seedling or sow seed in spring and summer. Sage likes well-draining soil and needs good air movement around it to perform well. Prune back flowering stems after blooming.

◆ **FOOD PARTNERS** Add crisp-fried leaves on top of sweet potato or chicken soup. It is also delicious with duck, potatoes and pumpkin, and in stuffing.



9. Tarragon

Choose French tarragon *Artemisia dracunculus* as Mexican and Russian tarragon do not taste as good. The leaves of perennial tarragon have an aniseed flavour and are best used fresh as the flavour dissipates very quickly after picking.

◆ **GROW** Plant seedlings or sow seed in spring or early summer.

◆ **FOOD PARTNERS** Tarragon goes well with grilled fish, chicken, eggs and mushrooms. Try chopped tarragon in mashed potatoes, or add to green bean salads.



10. Thyme

While common thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*) is the most widely grown variety for the table, you can also grow lemon thyme (*T. x citriodorus*) and pizza thyme.

◆ **GROW** Plant seedlings or sow seed in spring, summer or early autumn. Thyme likes well-draining, gravelly soil and should not be overwatered. Trim lightly after flowering to encourage more leaves and to extend its life span. The pruned flower heads make a pretty garnish.

◆ **FOOD PARTNERS** Lemon thyme partners well with fish and chicken. Pizza thyme is a good partner for cheesy Italian dishes, anchovies and tomatoes.

PRESERVE THE CROP

Herbs are plentiful during the summer months so dry or freeze them for winter dishes. Harvest herbs for storing in the morning, when aromatic oil concentrations are at their highest.



Air-drying herbs

LEAVES

The leaves of herbs can be dried in dehydrators or simply air-dried in hanging bunches. Air-drying ensures that they maintain their essential oils.

◆ **METHOD** Harvest herbs with as long a stem as possible. Strip the lower leaves from the stem, gather about 6-8 stems

together and secure with a rubber band or twist ties.

Hang in a dry, well-ventilated position until the leaves are dry and crumbly. Remove the leaves from the stems and store in an airtight tin or bottle away from bright light. Dried herbs keep their taste for about a year.

SEEDS

The seeds of caraway, fennel, coriander and dill are delicious in many dishes and are easily air-dried to prolong their taste.

◆ **METHOD** Cut the stem when the seed heads start to turn brown. Bundle 3-4 stems together, place them in a paper bag and hang it upside down. When dry, separate the seeds from any leaves and store in airtight containers.



Freezing herbs

CHOPPED LEAVES

Freeze herbs in ice cubes and then transfer the cubes to freezer bags, to free up your trays. During winter when you want to add the herbs to soups, pasta sauces, risottos or stews, simply pop a cube into the pot.

◆ **METHOD** Pack freshly chopped herbs into ice cube trays, add water and freeze. **TIP** You can

also freeze the herbs in olive oil or homemade stock.

WHOLE LEAVES

You can simply freeze whole leaves in freezer bags. Assemble your favourite combinations in the one bag or use individual herbs.

◆ **METHOD** Pick stems of herbs and wash under cold water. Place them in a salad spinner or pat dry with a paper towel. Remove the leaves from the stems and place the leaves in freezer bags. ♦



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NEW PLANTS FOR FREE

Propagate plants for an easy, rewarding supply

PROJECT LEE DASHIELL

You can create new plants from existing bushes in your own yard, or pick up trimmings from a neighbour's garden and add those to the mix. Here, we took successful cuttings of weigelia, daphne, camellia, hydrangea and plumbago.

Depending on the time of the year you take cuttings, and the plant's growing cycle, you must choose between softwood, semi-hardwood and hardwood cuttings, and select the correct powder for your propagation, or use a rooting hormone gel or powder.

A good rule of thumb is to take many more cuttings than you want as not all will survive. If you end up with too many, cuttings make excellent presents – and Christmas is almost upon us!

TYPES OF CUTTINGS

◆ **SOFTWOOD** cuttings usually grow roots relatively quickly as they are taken in spring when there are a lot of growth hormones in the plant system. Select firmer pieces of the plant for taking softwood cuttings.

◆ **SEMI-HARDWOOD** cuttings are taken in mid-summer with new growth starting to harden. These also tend to strike quickly.

◆ **HARDWOOD** cuttings are taken in autumn, which is the perfect time to trim the bushes and use those trimmings for your cuttings.



SECATEURS MAINTENANCE

To give your cuttings the best advantage to thrive and to avoid transfer of disease, start off by cleaning your secateurs. Wipe them with warm soapy water, dry

and rub them over with vegetable oil to reduce rust build up.

Cuttings also have a greater chance of surviving if you use a very sharp set of secateurs to achieve a clean cut. Rub a sharpening stone back and forth over the blade until it is sharp.

HOW TO PLANT A CUTTING



1 Fill the peat pots

These small Jiffy peat pots are made of compressed potting mix and will break down once planted in the soil, meaning the transition to planting it out can be done without disturbing the roots. Fill them up with potting mix and place in a tray with drainage holes.



2 Water the pots

Use a watering can to completely saturate the pots in the tray. As you will next be placing rooting hormone on the cuttings, you want to do most of the watering now so that you don't wash off the rooting hormone product later on.



3 Make a space for the cutting

Press a dibber, such as a pen, into the centre of each pot about 45mm deep to create a depression to insert the cuttings into. This will prevent damaging the wounded plant tissue, as well as keep the hormone rooting product in place.



SUITABLE PLANTS

- Azalea
- Begonia
- Camellia
- Correa
- Daphne
- Fuchsia
- Gardenia
- Grevillea
- Hibiscus
- Hydrangea
- Lavender
- Murraya
- Plumbago
- Rosemary
- Salvia
- Weigelia

Our
picks



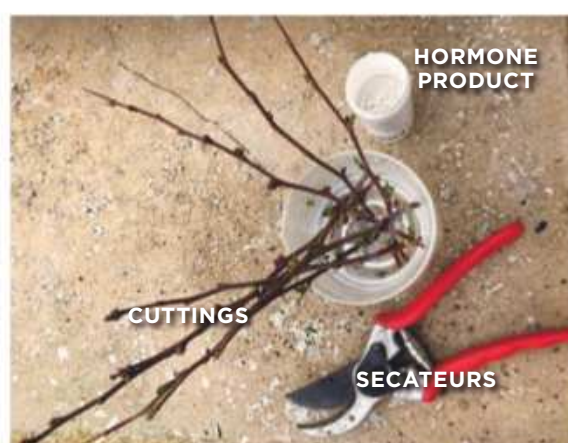
Jiffy 60mm Round Peat Pot,
about \$7 for pack of 26.
mrfothergills.com.au



Yates Clonex Red Root
Hormone Gel, \$11 for
50ml. yates.com.au



Osmocote Professional
Seed Raising & Cutting
Mix, about \$7 for 10L.
scottsaustralia.com.au



4 Trim the cuttings

Cut the stems to a length about 10cm from the tip, being careful to make the cut just below a node (where a leaf or bud came out from the stem). Remove all the leaves except the top two or three, and place the cuttings in a container of water.



5 Apply hormone product

Using a sharp, clean blade, lightly scrape the end 10mm of the cutting on two sides to create a wound, which encourages root growth. Dip each cutting into rooting hormone product to around 20mm deep and carefully place the cutting into the hole.



6 Position the cutting

Keep the cutting upright, firm it down in the mix and gently water it in. Place in a greenhouse for added protection, if you have one. Once roots are visible through the bottom of the pot, or you see growth, transplant into a larger pot or directly into the ground. ♦

HEIRLOOM SELECTIONS

PREFERRED BY GENERATIONS OF GARDENERS



ENJOY THE FLAVOUR OF HEIRLOOMS

DIGGERS STORY

Clive and Penny Blazey founded The Diggers Club in 1978 to create an independent garden club supplying rare plants, seeds and bulbs to passionate gardeners. From these small beginnings, The Diggers Club pioneered the heirloom vegetable revival and now has Australia's largest range of heirloom seeds.

We trial our plants and seeds, to give accurate growing, flavour and yield advice for everything we offer.

We tackle the big gardening ideas, climate change, organics and how GMOs and hybrids transfer the ownership of seeds into the hands of corporations.

The Diggers Club and our gardens are owned by the not-for-profit Diggers Foundation, ensuring that our mission will continue for generations of gardeners.

WHY HEIRLOOMS?

- ♦ Flavour selected over generations by home gardeners.
- ♦ Long harvest. Heirlooms do not crop all at once.
- ♦ Homegrown vegetables have nutrients, flavour and texture that is lost in supermarkets and storage.
- ♦ Huge range to choose from — colours, flavours and heritage to suit all gardeners.
- ♦ We have trialled and selected all varieties to ensure both productivity and flavour.
- ♦ Offering a wide range of diverse vegetables means that everyone can find something they like, and it's better for biodiversity.

Download your free vegie garden planting plan at [DIGGERS.COM.AU/heirlooms](https://diggers.com.au/heirlooms)



AMAZING ALOE VERA

Dramatic lines and soothing powers unite in this easy-grow garden marvel

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Aloe vera is one of the hardiest, handiest and most useful plants you can have in the garden. It is popular in both garden beds and pots because it is so easy to grow. What's more, its thick leaves store water in the form of a gel that can be used straight from the leaf on a variety of minor skin complaints including sunburn, rashes and mosquito or other itchy bites.

Referred to as 'the wonder plant', it is used by the cosmetic industry

in hair and skin preparations, and also by the pharmaceutical and food industries for its medicinal and healthful potential.

There are over 300 species in the *Aloe* genus, ranging in height from clump-forming perennials to shrubs, trees and climbers. Many have striking architectural forms as well as brilliant flowers. Aloes are also popular in low water-use gardens. However, not all aloes contain healing gel and the gel of some are poisonous. ►



Apply aloe vera gel directly from the plant as a soothing salve for injuries.

HEALING GEL

You don't have to buy an aloe vera preparation for your skin – grow the plant yourself so that you have it on hand throughout the year for any emergencies.

HOW TO HARVEST THE GEL

To use the natural gel from the plant on your skin, simply remove a leaf and cut it lengthwise to release the gel inside. Rub this gel onto the affected area or use it as a beauty treatment on your face and hands.

ALLERGY TEST

Very few people are allergic to aloe vera when used externally but, as with any substance applied topically, you should do a patch test first.

Smear a small amount on the inside of your wrist or inner forearm and wait 24 hours to make sure you don't have an allergic reaction.



A WORD ON JUICE

Commercially produced aloe vera juice is sold to relieve a variety of digestive and bowel problems. The fresh juice, however, should never be ingested.

The Royal Horticultural Society *Encyclopedia of Herbs* states that the 'juice extracted from aloe vera contains aloin, which is highly irritant to the digestive system. Further processing reduces aloin to safe levels.'

Pregnant women particularly should not ingest aloe vera.



PICTURES GETTY IMAGES (INSET) CHERYL MADDOCKS

HOW TO PROPAGATE

Aloe vera is easily propagated by removing the offsets growing at the base of the mother plant.



1 Remove the plant from its pot to expose all the offsets growing at the base of the mother plant.



2 Gently separate the offsets, being careful that you don't damage any roots in the process.



3 Replant offsets into terracotta pots in a potting mix formulated for succulents and cacti.

HELP THEM THRIVE

Aloe vera is very easy to grow and is the perfect plant for both waterwise garden beds and pots. Give it a little care and attention and your plant will produce leaves for years to come.

GARDEN BEDS

- ◆ **POSITION** your plant in a sunny, frost-free area.
- ◆ **PLANT** in well-draining soil as badly draining soil will cause the roots and the base of the leaves to rot. Sloping banks and sunny areas under eaves are good spots for aloe vera.
- ◆ **FEED** in spring with a soluble plant food.
- ◆ **WATER** sparingly as aloe vera will virtually survive on rainwater.



Aloe vera flourishes in the ground in well-draining soil.



POTS

Aloe vera grows well in pots on balconies and courtyards or in gardens where drainage is poor. In cold climates, move the pot to a sunny, protected position during winter. A terracotta pot is preferable as it is porous.

Plants in pots can often become crowded with offsets growing from the side of the mother plant. These should be divided and repotted so there is room for further growth.

- ◆ **PLANT** in a potting mix for succulents and cacti.
- ◆ **WATER** when the potting mix or soil dries out. Be careful not to overwater.
- ◆ **FEED** in spring with a soluble plant food.

MEALY BUG ALERT

Mealy bug can attack potted plants. To remove mealy bugs, dab them with a cotton wool bud that has been dipped in methylated spirits. ❖





DROUGHT-PROOF *gardening*

Australia's long dry summers create a challenge for gardeners – choose drought-resistant plants so your garden can thrive in even the toughest conditions

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Choosing the right plant for the right spot is key to minimising water usage.



together plants that have similar watering needs avoids the overwatering that can occur if they are dispersed among other plants.

- ◆ **CHOOSE** plants that are suited to the local environment.
- ◆ **KNOW** the microclimate of your garden, as some areas tend to be more damp than others. Even within a single garden bed, one spot may be more damp than another. Plant water-dependent plants in naturally damp areas and waterwise plants in dry areas.

LAWN LOAD

Lawns use the most water in the garden. One way to save water is to think about reducing the size of your lawn area.

- ◆ **REPLACE** front lawns with drought-tolerant native grasses such as lomandra, poa and pennisetum, and back lawns with pavers surrounded by garden beds filled with water-efficient plants and ground covers. Doing this will save both water as well as the time it takes to mow a lawn.
- ◆ **WATER ONLY WHEN** your lawn shows signs of stress, such as wilting or losing colour. If it springs back when you tread on it, your lawn doesn't need water. If the lawn stays flat, it needs a good soak.
- ◆ **WHEN YOU DO** water your lawn, water it for longer but less often, which will encourage deeper roots and improve drought tolerance. Aerate the lawn occasionally with a garden fork to help the water soak in.
- ◆ **MOW** only the top third of the grass blades, leaving 75mm or more. Don't cut your lawn too short. Save grass clippings and age them to use as mulch or add them to your compost heap. ►

MULCH MAGIC

Mulching is at the forefront of waterwise gardening. It reduces the amount of moisture lost from the soil through evaporation, modifies the soil temperature by cooling or warming it, and it suppresses weed growth. Mulch can save 25–30 per cent of water usage.

Organic mulches are biodegradable and continue to be of benefit even when they break down. Earthworms accelerate the decay process as they thrive in the layer of mulch below the surface, increasing the amount of humus around the roots.

- ◆ **LAY** mulch to a depth of around 5–7.5cm. Don't spread it too thick or it will stop water reaching the soil. Simply top up the mulch when it looks like it needs it.
- ◆ **APPLY** mulch after heavy rain or a deep watering, and never lay mulch on dry soil. Water the soil again after applying the mulch.
- ◆ **KEEP** trunks and stems clear of mulch to prevent fungus or rot developing.
- ◆ **INCLUDE** some manure or a sprinkle of slow-release fertiliser over the soil before laying the mulch.
- ◆ **SPREAD** permanent mulches such as gravel or pebbles on succulent beds, fire-prone areas or slow-growing plants.

RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE

Choosing the right plant for the right place will ensure your plants grow and help you save water in the garden.

- ◆ **GROUP** plants according to their water requirements. Placing

Did you know Australia is the driest inhabited continent on earth? It is no surprise that saving water in the garden is an essential goal for Australian gardeners for both economic as well as environmental reasons.

Water is one of this country's most precious resources. Our weather patterns ensure that we experience long dry periods and, consequently, water shortages. But few people are aware that more than one third of all domestic water is used on the garden.

We need to do everything possible to reduce the amount of water we use. Fortunately, there are several ways to be a waterwise gardener.



WATERWISE POTS

Potted plants need more water than those in garden beds. As a general rule, the bigger the pot, the more water it holds and the better the plants in it will survive hot weather. Follow a few tips so that your potted plants will breeze through the summer heat.

♦ **CHOOSE** plants that look good but require little water. Cast-iron plant (*Aspidistra*), cultivars of New Zealand flax, bromeliads, succulents and mother-in-laws tongue provide foliage throughout the year. Geraniums, bedding begonias, lavender, alyssum, strawflower, cockscomb, Bambino bougainvilleas, kangaroo paws and sage will flower through summer.



Group potted plants by their watering requirements to simplify the task.

♦ **USE** a quality potting mix as it will contain water-storing granules and slow-release fertiliser.

♦ **SEAL** or line terracotta and sandstone pots, which are more porous than plastic pots and require more watering. To reduce moisture loss, seal terracotta pots with Yates Pot-a-Seal or line the insides with black plastic, but not the bottom as it will impede drainage.

Alternatively, plant into a plastic pot and use the porous pot as a sleeve.

♦ **GROUP** pots together according to common watering needs to reduce the workload of watering them.

♦ **COVER** the surface of pots with sugar cane mulch or lucerne hay, or permanent mulches such as gravel or pebbles.

♦ **REPLACE** water-hungry pot plants with drought-hardy succulents.

BEST WATER-SAVING TIPS

1. Water your garden using a trigger nozzle in the early morning or evening. Water deeply once or twice a week – this encourages the roots of plants to go deeper into the soil. A good watering allows water to soak into the top 15cm of your soil.

2. Apply the water where needed. Some plants, even if grouped correctly, need less water than others. If one plant is wilting in the bed, just apply water directly to the roots of that particular plant instead of the whole bed.

3. Water the highest part of the garden first so that if there is any water run-off, it will soak into lower, drier areas.

4. Try to avoid water run-off, which carries soil and dissolved nutrients into storm water and river systems.

5. Consider installing a drip irrigation system as it will deliver water where it is needed – at the roots – and you do not lose water from wind, evaporation or run-off.

6. Don't just water routinely. Check your soil before watering by putting your finger into the soil beyond the top two centimetres to see if it is already damp.

7. Toughen your plants by allowing the soil to dry out before watering. Slowly decreasing the amount of water applied will result in leaf tissue becoming a little more hardy. Many plants are tougher than you may think.

8. Remove weeds, as they compete with plants for water. Weeds that have not gone to seed can be cut up and placed directly back onto the garden as mulch.

9. The less water you use, the less fertiliser you need. Slow-release fertilisers are ideal.

10. Design your driveways and paved areas to slope slightly towards a lawn or garden bed, so rainwater will drain onto these areas.

11. Make your own compost – compost builds up soil structure and helps it to retain moisture. Apply it as you would mulch. Compost won't prevent weed growth, however, so top it with lucerne hay or sugar cane mulch.

12. Apply a soil-wetting agent such as Seasol Super Soil Wetter or Amgrow's Wettasol that is available in granular or soluble form. Wetting agents help moisture absorption in soil and potting mixes. ►

Help protect your garden from the stresses of summer!

- ✓ Seasol promotes healthy, strong growth in all plants.
- ✓ Seasol increases tolerance to heat & drought.



www.seasol.com.au

TOUGH PLANTS

There are many plants that look good but are not always thirsty. Here are some of the best.

Annuals

Whether in pots, hanging baskets or flower beds, annuals provide lots of colour, so why not surround yourself with these beautiful blooms.

◆ **GROW** Ageratum, alyssum, bedding begonias, cosmos, dianthus, cleome, hollyhock, impatiens, petunia, salvia and verbena flower during summer.

Perennials

Garden favourites because of their wonderful colours, textures and spreading habits, perennials combine hardiness with ease of growth, and many of them are not water hungry.

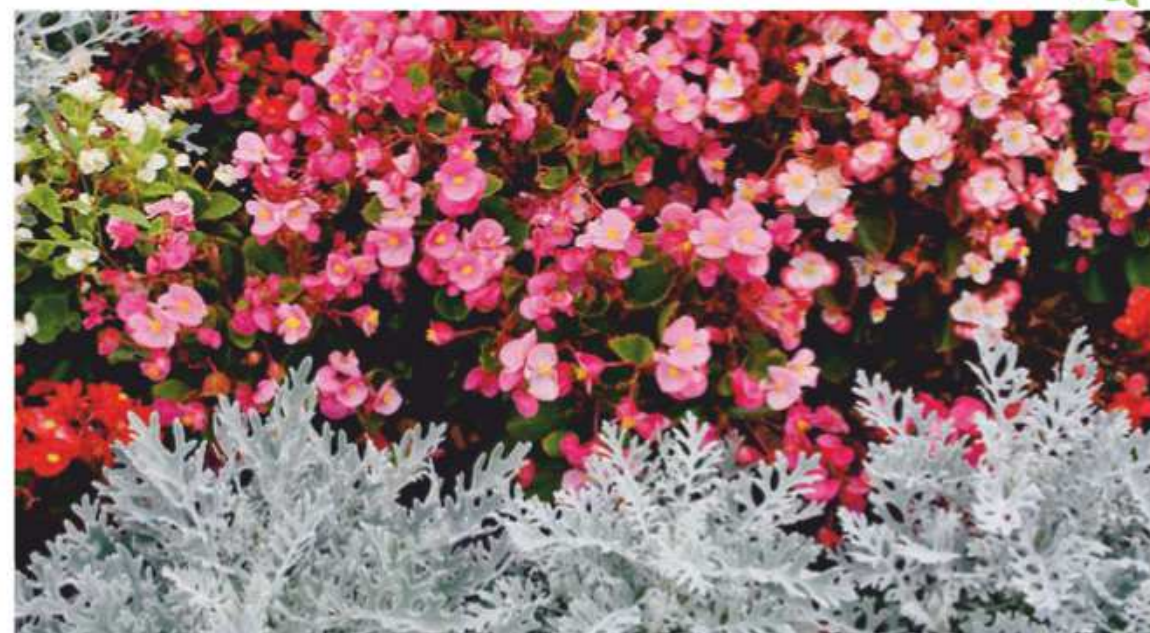
◆ **GROW SUN-LOVING PERENNIALS** Agapanthus, alstroemeria, brachyscome, catmint, dietes, erigeron, gaura, gazania, gymea lily, kangaroo paws, lamb's ear, liriopse, mondo grass, pigface, red hot poker, pelargoniums, Russian sage, sage, succulents (aeonium, sedum, agave, echeveria), wormwood.

◆ **GROW SHADE-LOVING PERENNIALS** Aspidistra, bergenia, clivia, euphorbia (*Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii*), impatiens, dracaena, lomandra and plectranthus.

Position euphorbias in the shade and they'll flourish with little water.

Bromeliads and bedding begonias (below) are water-savvy saviours.

Petunia



Waterwise shrubs

The cohesive quality of shrubs forms the backbone of a garden. Shrubs provide permanent frameworks of wonderful hedges, sight and sound barriers and interesting leaf and flower forms that unify the garden design throughout the year. And there are some good waterwise choices.

◆ **GROW** Abelia, buxus, cushion bush (*Calocephalus brownii*), cordyline, duranta, echium, grevillea, Indian hawthorn, Japanese flowering quince, lavender, nandina, oleander, plumbago, protea, leucadendron, rosemary, sasanqua camellias, strelitzia, westringia, winter honeysuckle and yucca. ♦

Kangaroo paw



Shrubs such as grevilleas make great waterwise framing choices.

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