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NEW ZEALAND

# Handyman

**GROW**  
YOUR OWN  
GARLIC

**REVAMP**  
THE LAUNDRY  
FOR LESS

HOW TO

**BUILD  
THIS  
GREEN  
HOUSE**  
IT'S EASY

*create*

READER'S DIGEST MAGAZINES



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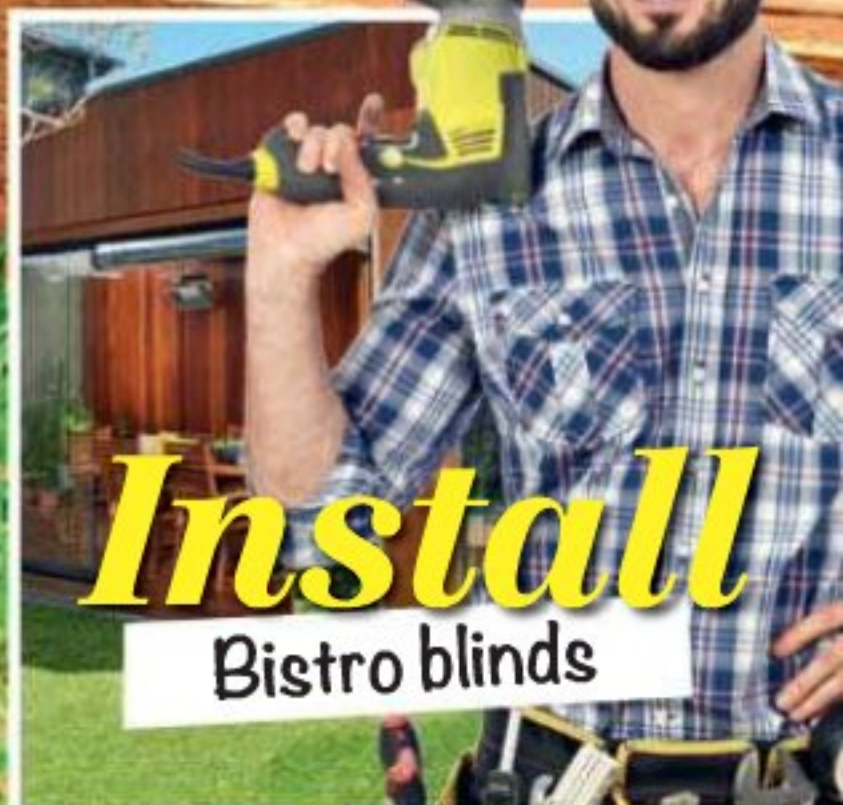
**Design**  
Luxe spaces



**Make**  
Industrial furniture



**Plant**  
Winter flowers



**Install**  
Bistro blinds



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The winners will be published in the September issue of **Handyman**.

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# JUNE ISSUE



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY  
ADAM WOODHAMS

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to *Handyman* p87

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Make taking care of your pet easy with these great buys



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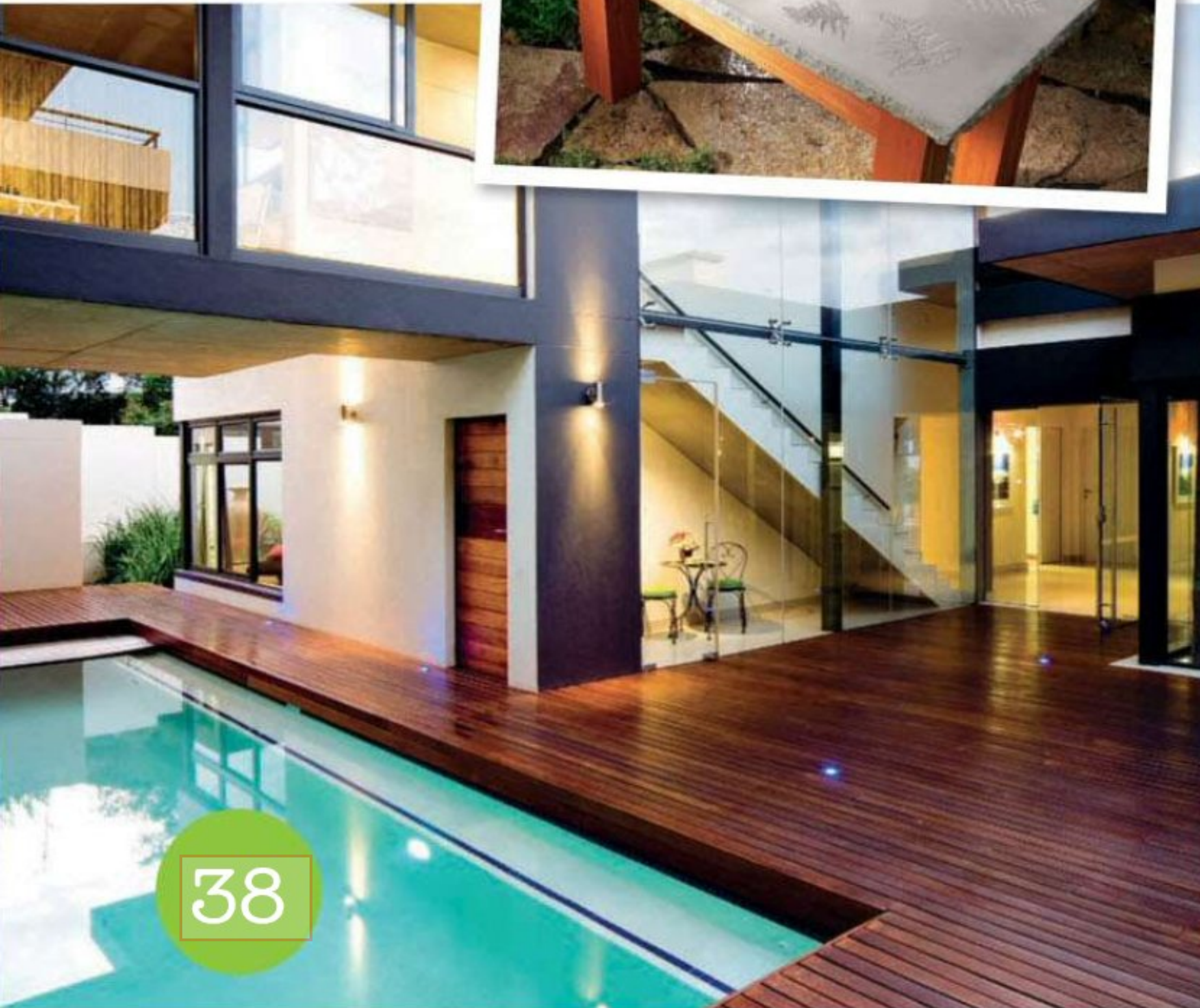
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# Be inspired

Simple projects for your home



## COMPOST BIN

Reduce waste and fertilize your garden this spring!



## RAIN STATION

Keep outdoor essentials at-the-ready.



## STYLISH BOOKSHELF

Bookshelf made of wood and metal. Hanging bookshelf is a real eye catcher.



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## THIS ISSUE

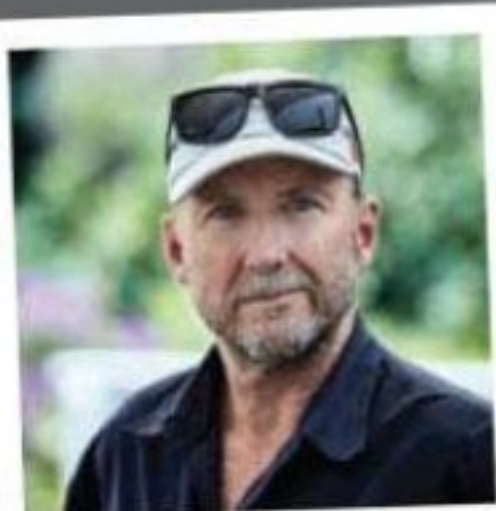
### ★ MEET THE TEAM

Welcome to the newest members of the *Handyman* team, our project editors, Adam and Stuart.



Adam Woodhams

Lifelong gardener and keen home renovator Adam has worked in the fields of horticulture, lifestyle magazines and landscape gardening for over two decades, and is deeply passionate about sustainability in all its forms.



Stuart Scott

With 25 years of photography experience, plus one house build, three renovations, a restored boat and countless more projects under his belt, Stuart proves that if you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life.

## EDITOR'S LETTER



**N**ew look, new attitude! *Handyman* has gone under the microscope and we want to help inspire you, our readers, to DIY more than ever.

Art director Kate Timms and designer Connie Leung have done a brilliant job making the pages livelier and brighter, but still keeping the depth of detail you expect from *Handyman*.

With extra hints, tips and expert advice, every story delivers even more to you. We also want to get more connected with you, so we've amped up our presence on social media.

There is more Facebook and Twitter content, where we announce the new issue on sale, as well as competitions you can enter.

Our Pinterest profile is bursting with inspirational boards. Check them out and pin your favourite pics to get a look together for your own home.

And for more pictures to drool over, visit our Instagram page. Share and get involved, we want to hear from you!

### Winter solution

The chill in the air may be a sure sign of winter and, in the cooler areas, it limits what you can grow outdoors. But if you build a greenhouse like the

one on the cover, you can almost certainly grow anything you want.

Simply put sensitive plants in the greenhouse to avoid frost and get them safely through winter, plus establish spring and summer crops ahead of time for an early start to harvesting.

The greenhouse kit on [page 16](#) is easy to assemble. See Adam Woodhams' video on how he put it all together at [handymanmagazine.co.nz/greenhouse](http://handymanmagazine.co.nz/greenhouse).

### Blogging DIYer

This issue, we also welcome Melissa Darr, whose motto is to 'cook, create and decorate'. Her blog, The Whimsical Wife, is full of furniture restorations, renovation projects and tasty recipes.

We're sharing her renovations, beginning with her laundry on [page 44](#). She transformed this average run-down room into a French-inspired laundry with plenty of hidden storage and useful bench space.

Enjoy the issue,

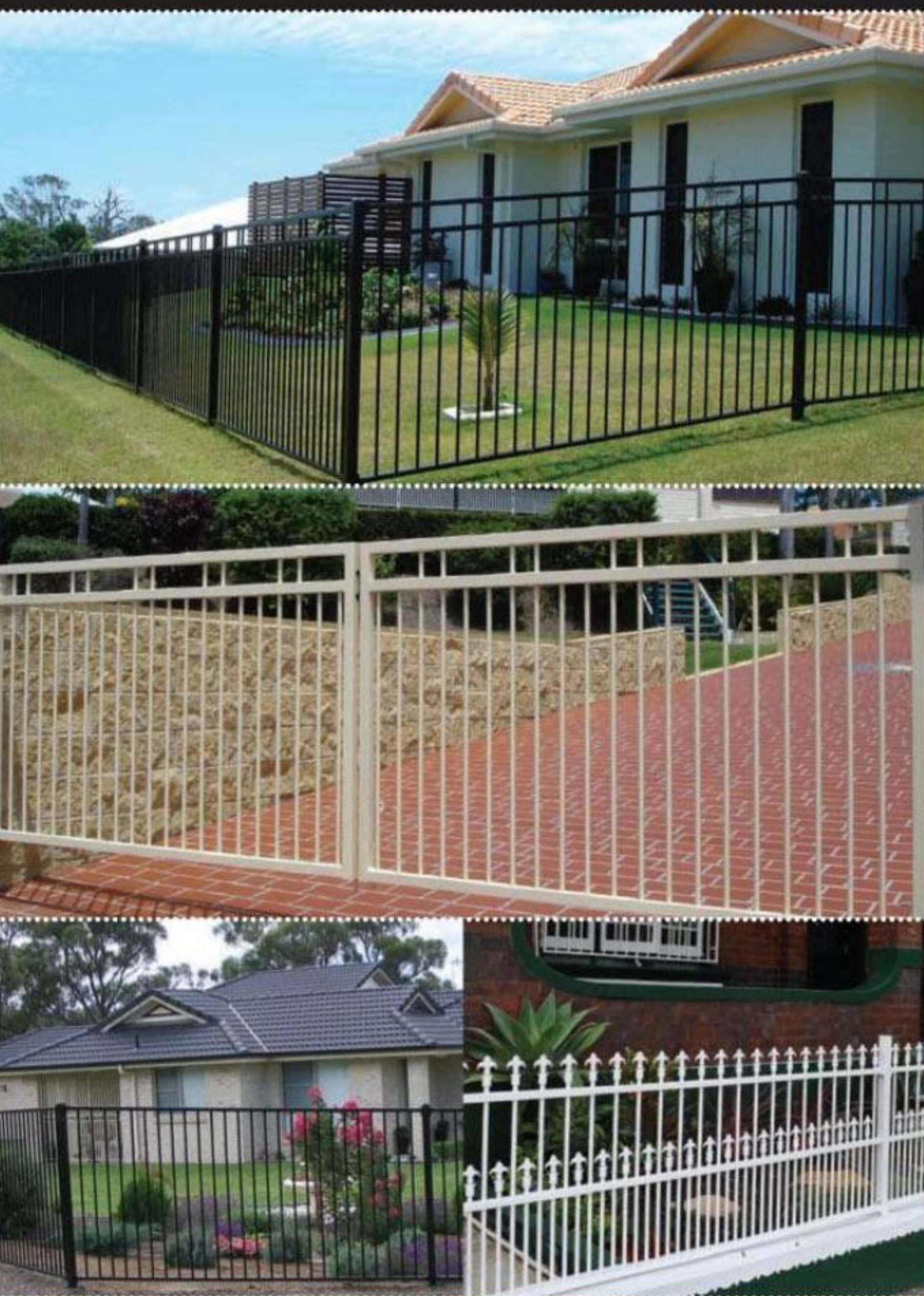
MANAGING EDITOR  
LEE DASHIELL

## Share your projects and win cash!

Send us photos of your DIY project for your chance to win \$300 and be published in *Handyman*. Submit them online at [handymanmagazine.co.nz](http://handymanmagazine.co.nz)



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# WE SHOW YOU HOW! Handyman

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF **SUE CARNEY**  
MANAGING EDITOR **LEE DASHIELL**  
DEPUTY EDITOR **ARTEMIS GOUROS**  
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CHIEF SUBEDITOR **AMANDA SHAW**  
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SENIOR EDITOR **DANIEL BUTKOVICH**  
SENIOR SUBEDITOR **NICK BANKS**  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER **CONNIE LEUNG**  
EDITORIAL COORDINATOR **ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT**  
DIAGRAMS **STEPHEN POLLITT**  
NEW ZEALAND EDITOR **BRUCE SCOTT**  
T: 64 9 488 0862 E: [bruce@regatta.co.nz](mailto:bruce@regatta.co.nz)

## ADVERTISING

GROUP ADVERTISING DIRECTOR (ANZSA) **SHERON WHITE** T: 61 2 9018 6280  
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER **KRISTINA FROHLICH** T: 61 3 8844 5542  
ADVERTISING MANAGER NEW ZEALAND **KERRY MCKENZIE**  
T: 64 9 589 1054 E: [kerry@hawkhurst.co.nz](mailto:kerry@hawkhurst.co.nz)

## MARKETING

MAGAZINE MARKETING MANAGER **GALA MECHKAUSKAYTE**  
WEBSITE MANAGER **BRONWYN POVOLNY**

## PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER **BALAJI PARTHSARATHY** T: 61 2 9018 6115

## PUBLISHING

DIRECTORS **WALTER BEYLEVELDT, LANCE CHRISTIE**  
PUBLISHER, MANAGING DIRECTOR **WALTER BEYLEVELDT**  
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR ASIA PACIFIC **ADINA GHERMAN**

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## NEW ZEALAND OFFICE

HANDYMAN MAGAZINE  
PO BOX 25679, ST HELIERS, AUCKLAND 1740

## SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES

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AUSTRALIA

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## HANDY STUFF

# PET-CARE ACCESSORIES

Make caring for your furry friends fuss-free with these smart buys

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

### Feline fun

Keep your kitten happy and active with the Frolicat Flik Interactive Cat Teaser Toy, \$70. The automatic teaser string will satisfy their chase-and-hunt instincts when you're short on time. Easy-to-use, it has a two-year warranty.

[animates.co.nz](http://animates.co.nz)



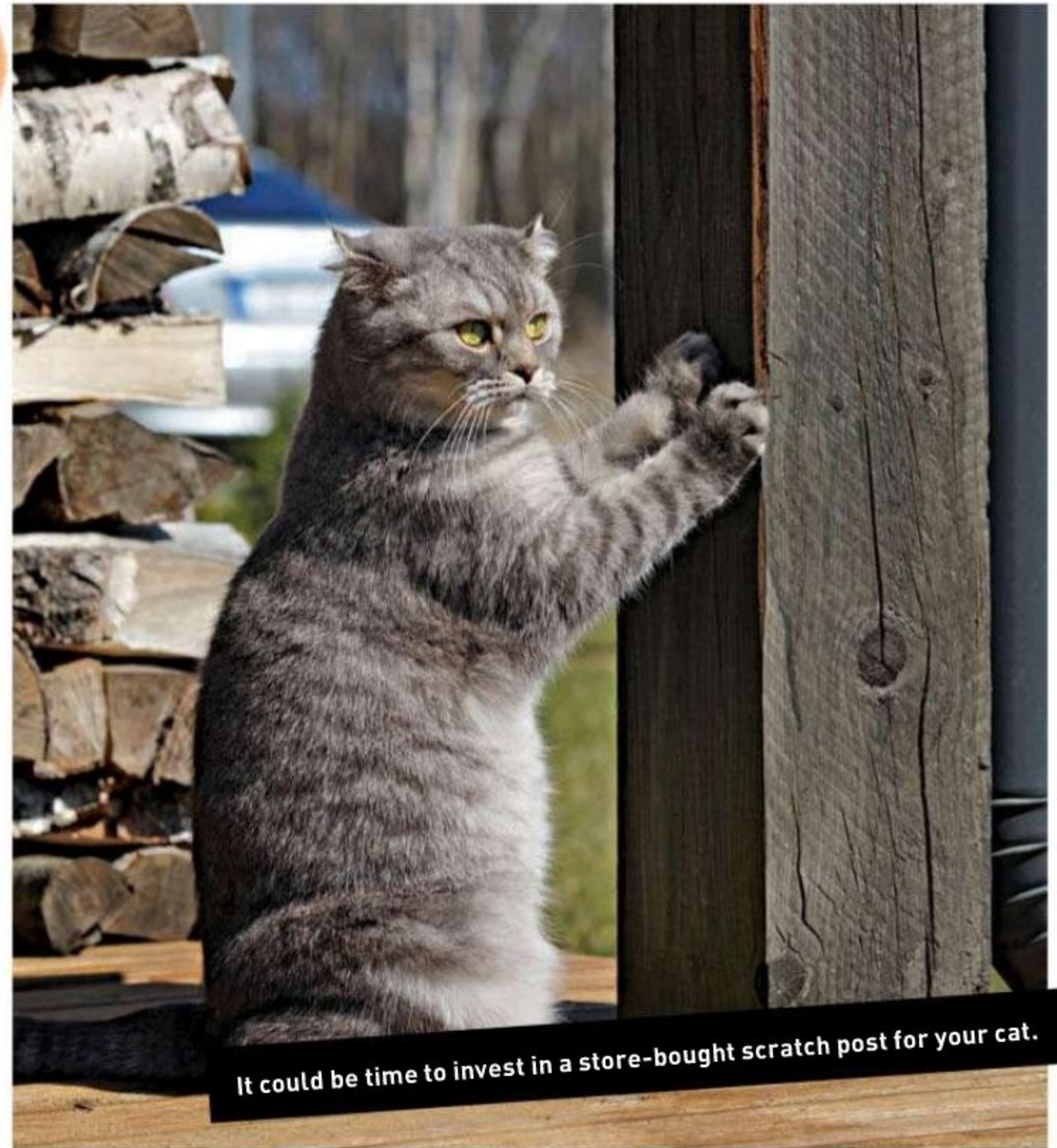
### Pooch pouch

Feel guilty about your dog's sad face when you run without them? Take a Trixie Dog Activity & Snack Bag, about \$22 ([petpost.co.nz](http://petpost.co.nz)). There's room for everything you need when out with your pooch and a velcro flap attaches it to your belt, leaving your hands free.

### Perch 'n' peck

Draw feathered friends to the garden with the Gardman Mini Glazed Seed Feeder For Wild Birds, \$25. Hang it in the backyard using the metal chain and hook, add seed, then watch birds flock in for a meal.

[horticom.co.nz](http://horticom.co.nz)



It could be time to invest in a store-bought scratch post for your cat.

PICTURE (MAIN) THINKSTOCK

### Scratch the itch

Let the cat exercise its desire to use its claws but save the furniture at the same time with the Comfypet Kat Attack Wanaka Cat Scratch Post, about \$180 ([animates.co.nz](http://animates.co.nz)). Made in New Zealand, it's 1m tall and has a 10-year structural guarantee.



### Porta water

Quench your dog's thirst while out and about with the Doog Water Rover, about \$20. Specially designed to prevent wastage, the BPA-free bottle allows water to flow into the attached bowl when on its side. The excess flows back in when you pick it up.

[gertrudes.co.nz](http://gertrudes.co.nz)





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If you own a pet, you know how frustrating it can be opening the door ***again and again and again and again*** – all while they try to make up their mind about whether they'd like to come in or stay outside!

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of pet doors are available in a wide variety of sizes so you can find the one that's just right for your animal companion. They're also available in a range of manual and automatic options, all the way from simple magnetic locking systems through to smart doors.

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[www.petsafe.net](http://www.petsafe.net)







Pampering your pet is easy with a few key accessories.

## Pet proof

Ensure even the smartest pooch won't escape with a Safetech K-9 Latch, \$60. Key lockable, the latch can be installed either vertically or horizontally and won't disengage by shaking or pulling.

[protectoraluminium.com.au](http://protectoraluminium.com.au)



## Track it

Make losing your furry family member a thing of the past with the Tile and its app, \$25 ([thetileapp.com](http://thetileapp.com)). It casts a bluetooth signal up to 30m, which becomes stronger the closer your phone gets to it, to make finding the rogue pet quick and easy. The app can track up to eight tiles, so you can pop one on each pet and on your keys.



## Feline comfort

Pamper your four-legged friend with the Trouble and Trix Tartan Bucket Bed, about \$68. Perfect for catnaps and as a warm winter den, it's crafted from durable materials.

[animates.co.nz](http://animates.co.nz)



## Roam free

Skip the midnight wake-up woof to take your dog to the loo with the Staywell Original Pet Door, \$206 ([celawford.co.nz](http://celawford.co.nz)). Weather-resistant, the door has an internal lockable barrier, a see-through magnetic flap and will fit most doors.



## Snuggle in

Create a comfy canine refuge with the Qiq Fix Wooden Dog Kennel, \$169. Measuring 780 x 830 x 880mm and sitting clear of the ground, this is just the hideaway your dog might dream about. The roof is covered with asphalt tiles for waterproofed protection, and assembly is simple.

[harknessyoung.co.nz](http://harknessyoung.co.nz)





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## Breathe easy

Love cuddling up on the couch with the dog but hate how the fabric absorbs odours? Freshen up the place with No Vac Professional Foam Carpet Sanitiser & Deodoriser, \$14 for 418g.

[eproducts.co.nz](http://eproducts.co.nz)



## Chow time

Make sure your cat has all its meals to itself with the Surefeed Microchip Feeder, about \$297 ([animates.co.nz](http://animates.co.nz)). The electronic feeder recognises your pet's microchip or collar tag and opens the food cover only for them. This stops the neighbour's cat getting a free meal and also deters flies. It is available with accessories in a variety of colours, from about \$14 each.

## Clean up

Keeping pets means having to clean up those little accidents. Use Lynn River Ultra Gloves, \$2, to keep your hands free of germs. They even have a soft cotton lining.

[lynnriver.co.nz](http://lynnriver.co.nz)



Keeping the household clean when you have pets doesn't have to be a challenge.

PICTURE (MAIN) THINKSTOCK

## Safety first

Control where the dog and your baby can get to in the house with the Perma Child Safety Gate, \$54, from Bunnings. Just twist the extender screws and it sits firmly between any openings of 73-82cm or up to 282cm with optional add-ons.



## Hair raiser

Skip the sneezing with the Dirt Devil Rebel Pet Vacuum Cleaner, \$179. The HEPA media filter gets rid of pollen, dust and allergens while the TurboTool gathers pet hair.

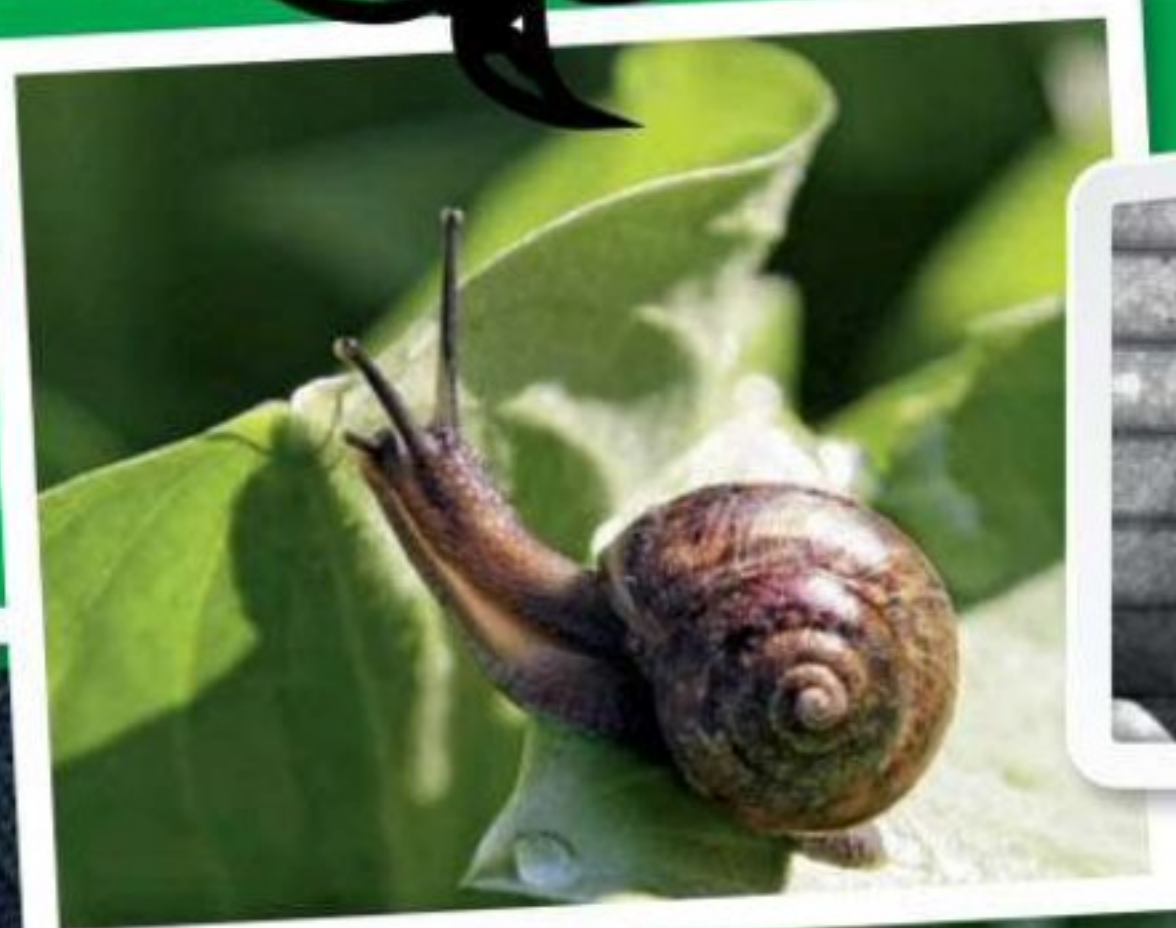
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# What's new

Check out our winter collection of products that will help you get set for the cooler months ahead.



**LIGHT FANTASTIC** The Suntuf Roofing Poly Diffused has 85% light transmission for more light all year round. It blocks out 99.9% of harmful UV rays and it comes with a 25 years loss of light transmission warranty and 15 years hail and breakage warranty. Ideal for outdoor play and family areas. 1800 x 860mm. \$60.84.



**A BRILLIANT IDEA** The LED security lighting range from Brilliant is great for dark winter days. They save power and maximise visibility with energy saving and ultra long life bright LED bulbs. Available in single or twin head, with sensor or no sensor and in various colours to suit your home. Must be installed by a licensed electrician. IP44 Weather resistance rating. From \$69.98 - \$147.



**CLEAN UP** Ryobi ONE+ Blower Console has a 245km/h air velocity and comes with a removable speed nozzle and a centrifugal fan design for just \$99 (battery not included). A combo kit with a 5.0Ah battery is available to provide a longer running time for \$249.



**NAILED IT** Ryobi ONE+ 15 Gauge DA Nailer is compatible with 25 – 65mm 15 Ga DA finish nails. It comes with a handy tool-free depth-of-drive adjustment, plus it's oil-free and requires no gas cartridges, compressor or hoses making it maintenance free. \$349 (battery not included).



**SMART WATER** Dissco CT Eco Smart Tub is an economic water saving tub with a WELs rated all pressure sink mixer and concealed washing machine valves. 565mm W x 560mm D x 900mm H. \$349.



## Heat up your outdoors this winter

Great for heating and cooking, our range of outdoor fire pits and chimeneas will add style and function to every outdoor entertaining area.



**TRADITIONAL CHOICE** With a traditional design and cast iron stand, the Villa Life Clay Chimenea is strong and durable. Handmade, it stands at 36 x 36 x 85cm and is suitable for outdoor use only. \$69.



**SITTING STRONG** Suitable for a large range of chimeneas, this fire base protects the base of all clay heating and cooking products. Clay construction, 9 tiles included. Also comes in a larger 17 tile size. \$34.29.



**WORTH WORSHIPPING** The Chapala Sungod Fire Pit is hand made in Mexico from volcanic clay with an authentic design. Complete with stand, this is a great ambient outdoor only heater. 55cm D x 58cm H. \$169.



**OPEN FLAME** The Jumbuck Rustic Fire Pit is great for outdoor heating this winter. Measuring 76cm in diameter, the cast iron bowl comes with a stand and weighs 11kg. It is recommended for outdoor use only away from any timber decking or combustible surface. \$179.



### HEAVY-DUTY HEATER

With a cast iron and steel construction and powder coated steel mesh screen, the Jumbuck Cast Iron Chimenea is a hard wearing choice. Cap and poker included, outdoor use only. 145cm H x 53cm D. \$179.

**BUNNINGS**  
warehouse



# BACKYARD GREENHOUSE

Use a kit to create a place to enjoy year-round gardening whatever the weather

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

## BUDGET TIP

To save money, raise vegie and flower seedlings for the next season and grow plants from cuttings.

Put up an affordable greenhouse in the backyard using a DIY kit, and take your gardening to the next level.





Adam

**N**o longer just for gardeners with a big property or deep pockets, new materials mean a greenhouse can be yours at home in a size to suit.

Featuring strong yet lightweight aluminium frames and clear, virtually unbreakable polycarbonate panels, they can now be packed into kits.

For this project, we built a Hybrid 6 x 10' Greenhouse, \$1165, with a finished size of 3.1m long, 1.85m wide and 2.09m tall (psp.co.nz). It comes in two easy-to-handle boxes and can be assembled in a morning.

An automatic vent opener, \$104, is a handy optional extra. It lets heat out when the greenhouse gets too hot and closes when it gets too cold. ➤



Position your greenhouse north to south, so one side gets the morning sun and the other afternoon sun



Automatic vent opener.



Watch Adam build this

Like it at [facebook.com/HandymanMagazine](https://facebook.com/HandymanMagazine)





Build a simple timber platform for a greenhouse.



### Prepare the site

The starting point for installing a greenhouse is to create a level area with a well-drained floor.

If you already have a level area, you can build a box frame with timber or metal garden edging, lay weedmat and fill it with gravel to 50mm deep.

For this slightly sloping site, a simple jetty-style floor was built. Use Pinex 200 x 50mm x 2.4m H4 treated pine boards, about \$7 a metre, from Bunnings.

Let the timber floor settle for two weeks before adding the greenhouse so it can move as the timber dries out.



Select a sunny site for your greenhouse that's protected from heavy winds



## MAKE THE TIMBER FLOOR



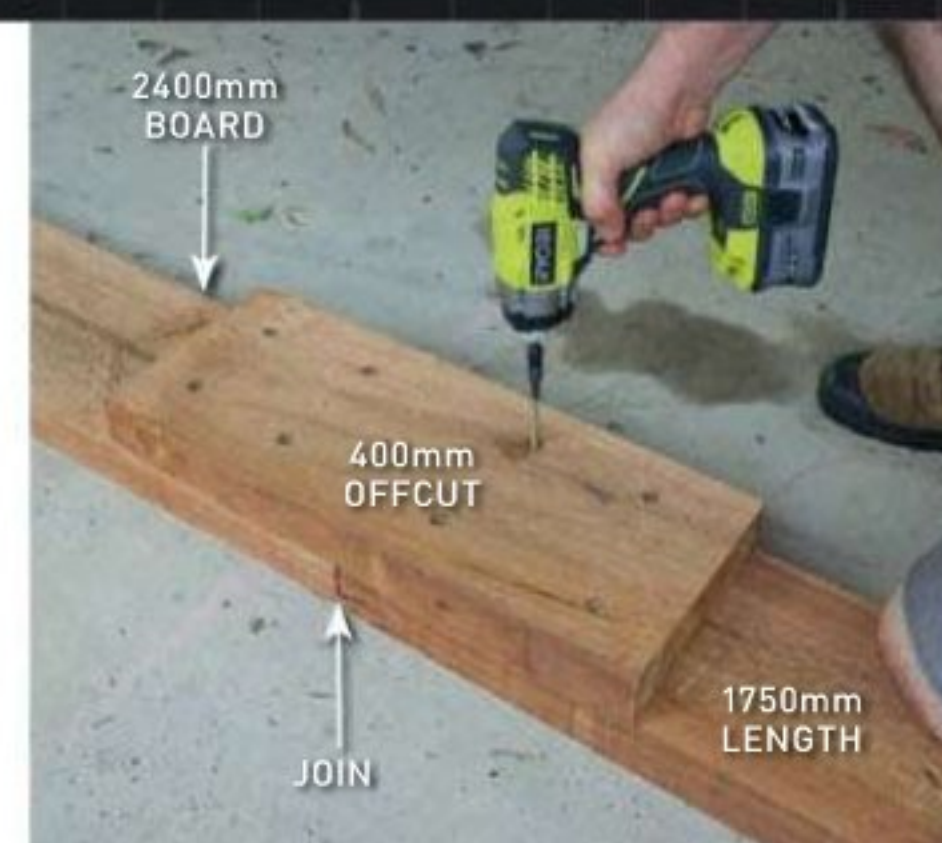
### 1 Mark the location

Use grass-marking paint to set out the area of the timber floor at the site of the greenhouse. For this project, the floor measures 4200 x 2400mm to allow for a landing at the front and a walkway down one side. To get the setout square and accurate, use a carpenter's square for the corners.



### 2 Dig the trenches

Mark the location of two side and one centre bearer parallel to the setout. Locate the bearers at 300mm, 1200mm and 2100mm from one long side. Excavate shallow trenches to level along the line of the bearers, making them a bit longer and wider than the bearers for easy positioning.



### 3 Make the bearers

For a 50mm overhang at the front of the floor, make three 4150mm long bearers using 2400m boards. Cut a 1750mm length, lay it end to end with a board and position a 400mm offcut evenly over the join. Align and secure with three 75mm bugle batten screws on either side of the join.





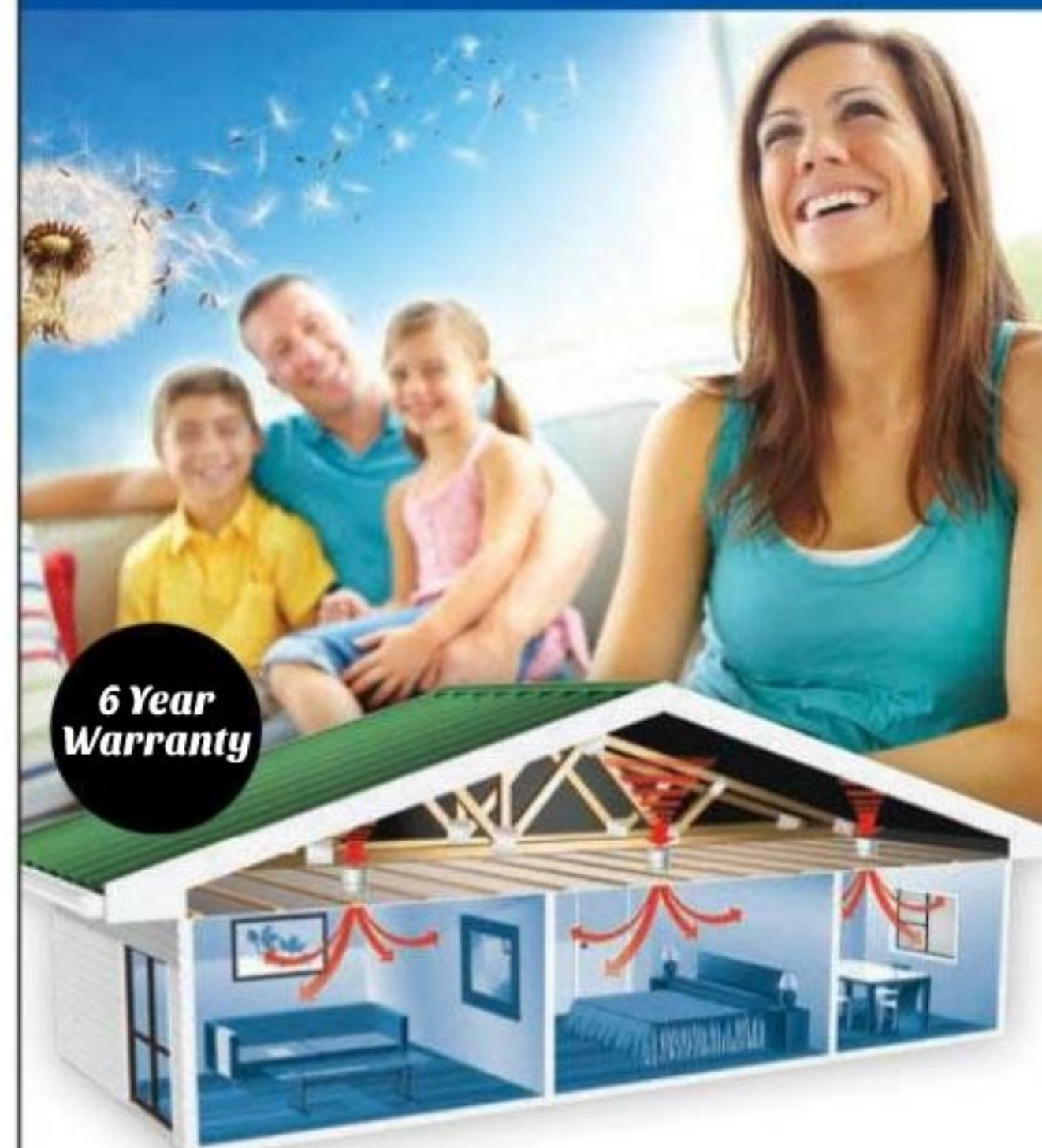
## CREATE A WORK SPACE

A greenhouse provides the ideal place to pot up seedlings and propagate cuttings.

- **ADD A BENCH** with a lower shelf to store tools and equipment, including potting mix and a hand trowel.
- **INSTALL SHELVES** to hold small pots and seedling trays. Attach at the same height as the bench to make potting up easier.
- **HANG SHADECLOTH** to give more sensitive plants a sheltered environment.

**New**

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### 4 Position the bearers

Lay the bearers parallel with the setout of the sides with the joint face up, check for level front to back and side to side, excavating more if needed. To level, add gravel to the trench or use 300mm long timber blocks as risers. Position the blocks every 500mm or so as needed.



### 5 Attach the boards

Position the first board across the bearers with 50mm overhang at the front. Check for square and secure to each bearer with at least two 75mm bugle batten screws towards the edges of the board to prevent cupping. Lay each board hard up against the one before, check alignment and secure. ➤

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**[www.unovent.co.nz](http://www.unovent.co.nz)**



# BUILD THE GREENHOUSE



## 1 Position the base

Assemble the base frame, position it on the floor and check it is square by measuring the diagonals. The distance from the internal rear right to the internal front left corner, then the internal rear left to the internal front right corner, should be equal. Adjust the frame, if needed.



## 2 Add the wall panels

Build the aluminium wall frames, checking that each of the uprights is plumb as you work along a wall, then add the polycarbonate wall panels. The greenhouse is mostly built with sliding bolts and nuts that are easily tightened using the supplied pipe spanner.



## 3 Check for square

When all the wall panels are in place, check the frame is correctly positioned and square by using a large carpenter's square in the corners and measuring the diagonals again. Reposition, if required.

**TIP** All parts are either clearly stamped or marked with a numbered sticker.



## 4 Secure to the floor

Once you have confirmed that the base frame of the greenhouse is correctly positioned and square, use bugle batten screws to secure it to the floor, here a timber deck.

**TIP** If the greenhouse is positioned on the ground, use tent pegs to secure it in position through weedmat.



## 5 Install the roof

Add the included or optional roof window or vent first, then the polycarbonate roof panels. Assemble and install the door. When adding a roof window, consider airflow and cross-ventilation, positioning it near the centre or front to keep the rear corner of the greenhouse warmer.

## WHAT YOU NEED

- ✦ Spirit level
- ✦ Tape measure
- ✦ Large carpenter's square
- ✦ 75mm stainless steel or Climacoat bugle batten screws
- ✦ Cordless drill-driver
- ✦ Phillips head screwdriver
- ✦ Large tent pegs (optional)



Climacoat bugle batten screws.



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## DIY TIP

If the temperature is 10° or lower, don't oil the boards. If it's too cold to stand on the deck bare foot, it's too cold to coat.

# PROTECT THE DECK

Give timber boards a little TLC and a new coat of oil in winter to keep them looking their best

Cleaning and oiling a deck is an easy DIY job.



**K**iwis use their decks all year, so keeping them in good nick is essential. Even covered decks are exposed to the elements, taking a beating from sun and rain.

Cabot's Brand Manager Amelia Lutz says it's important to protect your deck from the heavy rain and moisture over the cooler months.

'Applying a water-resistant timber coating this winter will mean it stays looking good for longer,' says Amelia.

In just two easy steps, you can rejuvenate your deck without sanding, then sit back, relax and enjoy it.

➤ **WASH** the boards with deck cleaner and a stiff-bristled broom, then let dry.

➤ **COAT** the deck along the length, covering 2-3 boards at a time.

'In cooler temperatures, the coating will take more time to dry, so wait longer before applying the next coat or using the deck,' says Amelia.



Use a lambswool applicator to apply decking oil.

Before

After

Take a weathered timber deck from grey to gleaming with a coat of oil.

Wait one or two days after rain to coat a deck, checking the weather will stay dry for at least 12 hours

PICTURE (TOP RIGHT) ADAM WOODHAMS

## TOP PICKS



Cabot's Deck Clean,  
\$30 for 4L.  
cabots.co.nz



Cabot's Aquadeck  
Water-based Oil,  
\$78 for 5L.



# Install blinds

Turn the deck into an outdoor room for winter entertaining

**A**dd bistro blinds to a covered deck and it can be used as an entertaining space year-round even when the weather turns nasty.

They protect against wind and rain but are easy to unzip and roll up on days when they're not needed.

Bistro blinds come in a wide range of ready-to-hang sizes, and accessories like zip joiners mean several of them can be joined for large areas.

Awning-style blinds are another way to help keep spaces cosy in winter and cool in summer by blocking out heat or keeping in warmth.

Folding-arm awnings can be used on both windows and doors while fixed-arm awnings are only suitable for use on windows.



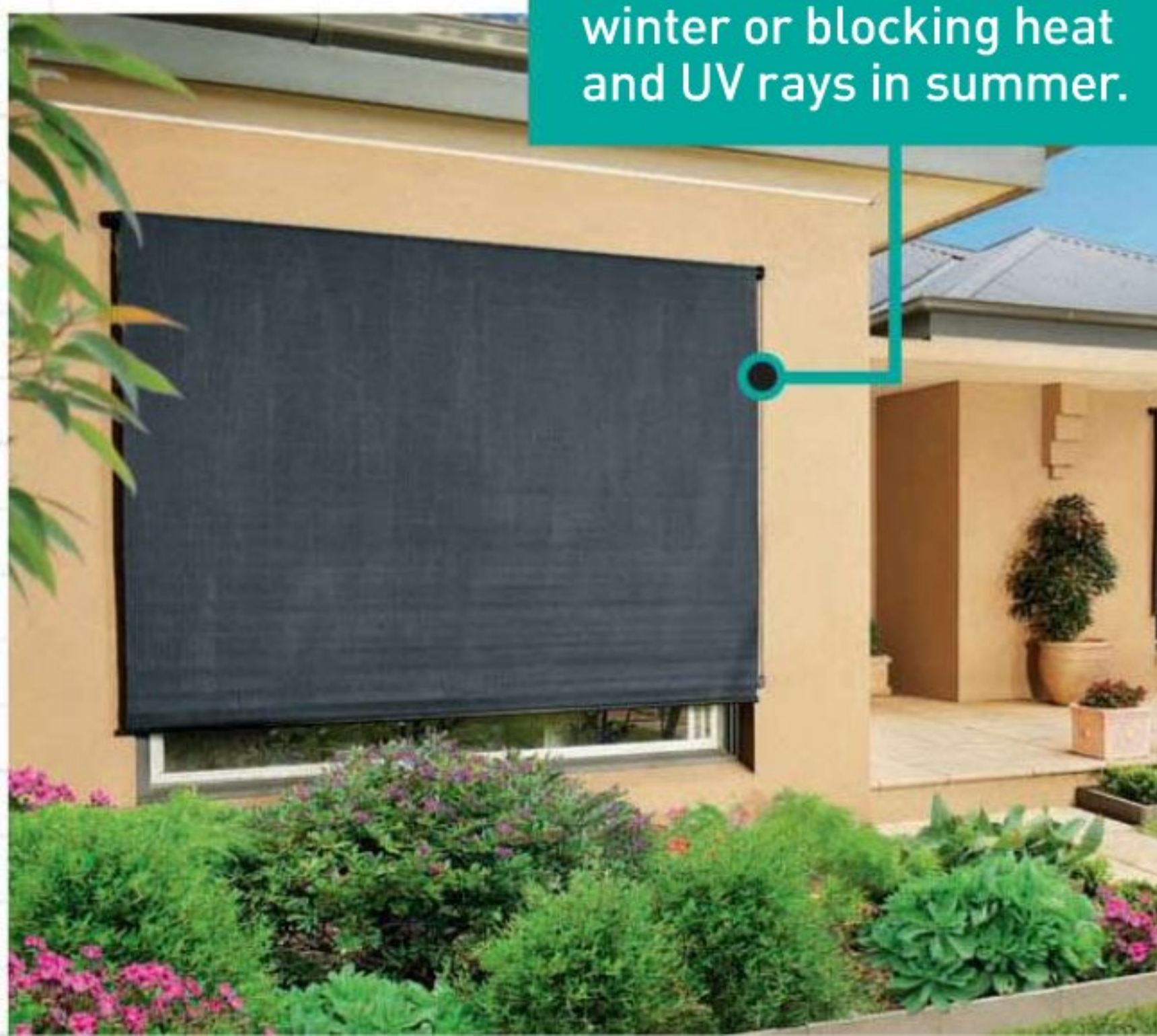
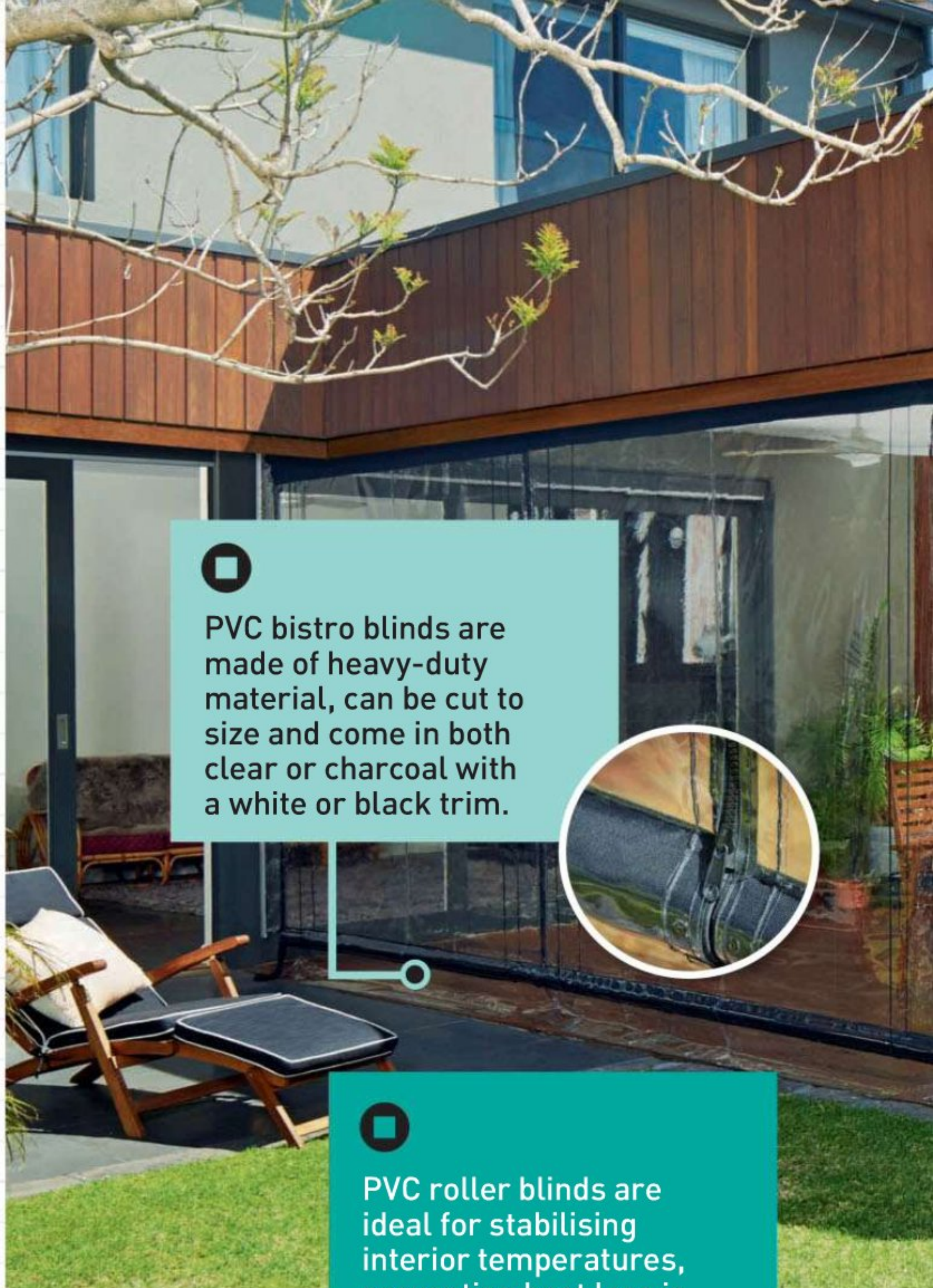
Protect your home from the elements all year round



PVC bistro blinds are made of heavy-duty material, can be cut to size and come in both clear or charcoal with a white or black trim.



PVC roller blinds are ideal for stabilising interior temperatures, preventing heat loss in winter or blocking heat and UV rays in summer.







Fixed-arm awnings are compact and retractable, and great for retaining heat inside the home and also protecting furniture and fabrics from fading.



Folding-arm awnings shield doors or decks from excessive sun or rain and make a useful temporary cover, as they are easily folded back.





# WINTER OUTDOOR WARMERS

Beat the chill on cooler nights  
with these backyard heaters

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

## DESIGN TIP

Go for an open fire  
in a rustic landscape  
and sleeker options  
in contemporary  
outdoor rooms.

Classic style

A clay chimenea produces a cosy, comforting glow.



## Sleek form

Now the warmer months are a thing of the past and winter is upon us, the cold can quickly bring an enjoyable evening outdoors to a grinding halt.

So, how can you guarantee that your outdoor entertaining space is welcoming in all kinds of weather without having to hand out rugs and ugg boots to your guests?

Easy, just install outdoor heating. There are a multitude of choices available to keep you cosy. ➤



Exterior heaters range from traditional stoves to new-tech thermal panels



Heatstrip Classic 1800W Electric Outdoor Heater, \$599.

## Key design

A fire pit makes an outdoor area feel inviting.





# WHICH FUEL?

Every outdoor heating solution will use fuel or energy of one sort or another.

There are three main options when it comes to the energy source. You can choose gas from a bottle or mains, electricity or traditional solid fuels such as wood or briquettes.

The advantage of gas and electric is that you can flick a switch and have instant heat without any fuss, while solid fuel requires a bit of effort to get going and the heat can be inconsistent.

But let's face it, a marshmallow toasted in the glow of an electric heater is just not quite right.

Gasmate Stainless Steel Area Heater, \$398. [gasmate.co.nz](http://gasmate.co.nz)



## SAFETY TIP

Keep a heater head at least 500mm away from surfaces, as the heat can bubble paint, melt plastic and crack glass.

**GAS** There's no arguing that gas heaters will bring near-instant warmth and, with bottles that can easily be replaced, a degree of simplicity and convenience.

The majority of gas heaters are portable, so you can move them to where the action is.

Some of these heaters can also be connected to the mains gas, if you have an outdoor spigot.

But one drawback with gas heaters is they work by convection, heating only the air around them.

This means they will feel warm up close, but the heat will drop rapidly as you move further away.

Jumbuck Hammer Tone Patio Heater, \$169, from Bunnings.

**ELECTRIC** Very easy to use, as there's no messing around with fuel or switching gas bottles, electric heaters allow you to just flick a switch for instant heat.

The running costs of quality, modern radiant heaters is also far lower than gas options.

A gas heater can cost about \$3 an hour to run, whereas a quality radiant electric heater can cost as little as 30 cents an hour.

One reason for their efficiency is that this type of heater aims to warm you up directly, not to simply heat the air around you, in the way that fuel heaters do. ➤

Jumbuck 2000W Outdoor Electric Heater, \$85, from Bunnings.





# Warmth with Style

Heat your entertaining area for 75% less than bottled gas with 100% more style.

Heatstrip® by Thermofilm is the cost effective electric radiant heater that unites efficiency with style. Ideal for your al-fresco and outdoor entertaining area, pergola, patio, balcony. Even your garage, shed or hard-to-heat indoor space.

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address: 27 Rosalie Street, Springvale Victoria, Australia 3171  
phone: +613 9562 3455 email: [sales@heatstrip.com.au](mailto:sales@heatstrip.com.au)



**SOLID FUEL** Traditional, fun to use and attractive, solid fuel heaters are still a great option.

While a little more planning is needed to light it in advance, there is something so comforting about being warmed by an open fire.

There are also more options in the style of solid fuel heaters you can buy, than with gas or electric.

But you must remember to observe local fire restrictions and to keep the kids well supervised.

Also, only use solid fuel in well-ventilated areas, avoid burning treated pine and ensure the fire is completely extinguished at the end of the evening.

- 1 Chapala Medium Tibor Cast Iron Chimenea, \$279. [aber.co.nz](http://aber.co.nz)
- 2 Cast Stone Fire Pit, \$249, from Bunnings.
- 3 Jumbuck Outdoor Brazier, \$45, from Bunnings.
- 4 La Hacienda Malmo Steel Fireplace, \$229. [riverleagroup.co.nz](http://riverleagroup.co.nz)



A well-structured fire using quality fuel should provide heat for most of the evening and will be reduced to embers as your night wraps up



## ADAM'S PICKS



+ Solid Energy Kindling, about \$9, from Bunnings, will get your fire off to a quick start.

It's a kiln-dried, 100% renewable fuel made of timber waste from sustainably managed pine forests.



+ When you need wood for burning, you'll need an axe for cutting the logs.

The Fiskars 91cm X27 Splitting Axe, \$129, has a long shaft and tough FiberComp handle to soak up the impact of hardwoods ([fiskars.co.nz](http://fiskars.co.nz)).



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# BUILT-IN BARBECUE

Install an outdoor cooking area using lightweight concrete blocks

PROJECT DAVID RYAN PICTURES GEOFF BECK

2  
DAYS

\$480  
COST

TOOLS  
CIRCULAR SAW,  
ROUTER, DRILL

**T**his barbecue originally sat on a wobbly cart, which made cooking difficult and caused the oil to pool in a corner.

The new built-in bench is made from special autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC) blocks that have been topped with tiles, with meranti doors added to conceal the gas bottle underneath.

## Using AAC blocks

AAC is a lightweight, heat-resistant material. The blocks and panels are easy to lay and after the first course is levelled, the rest are secured with a 3mm bed of adhesive.

To cut AAC, use a handsaw and wear a respirator, safety glasses, long sleeves and gloves.

Tile the panel and side blocks by spreading tile adhesive and laying the tiles. Mix grout and push it into the joints with a squeegee, then wipe clean when dry. ➤



With a sturdy new bench and storage space underneath, this barbie is ready to fire up.

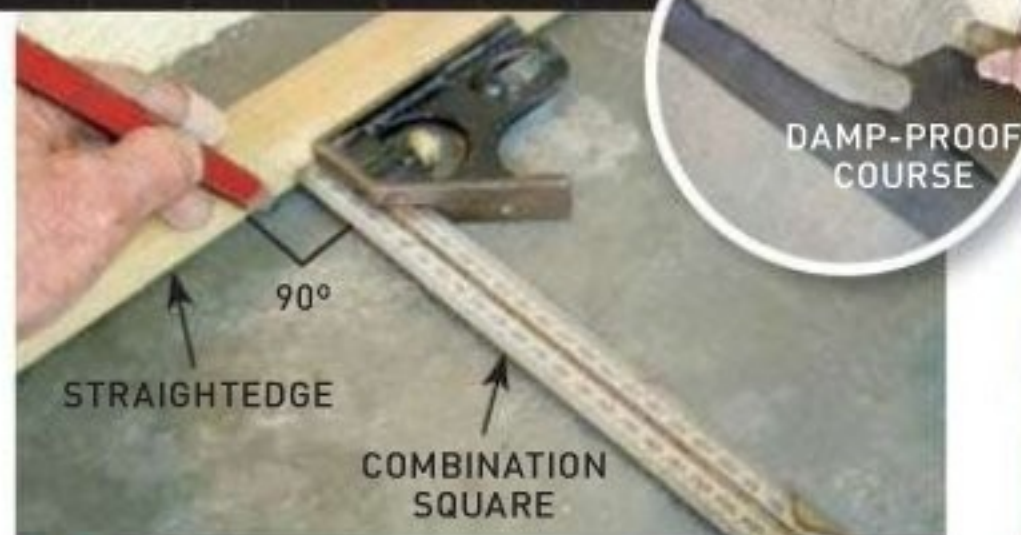


# BUILD THE BENCH



## 1 Pour a concrete slab

Excavate the area to 100mm deep and position the formwork. Mix quickset concrete and pour the slab, screeding the surface with a sawing action across the formwork. Follow with a steel float to create a smooth finish and leave to dry.



## 2 Add the damp-proof course

Use a combination square and straightedge to mark out the bench. Roll out a layer of aluminium damp-proof course (DPC) where the AAC block courses will be laid, creating a slip joint between the blocks and the concrete.



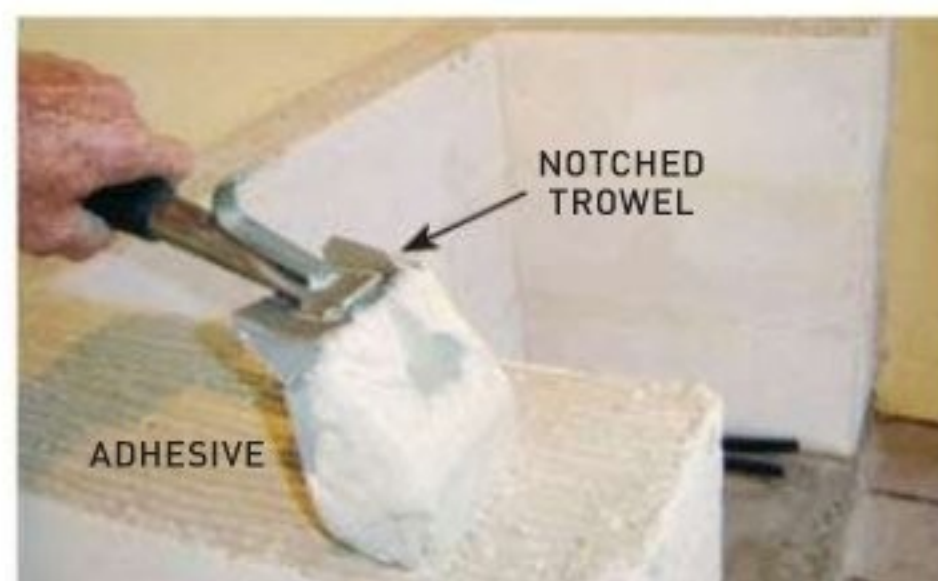
## 3 Lay the first course

Use a brickie's trowel to spread mortar 10mm thick over the DPC, then tap the end blocks of the first course into position. Apply adhesive to the butting ends of the back blocks using a notched trowel, lay them in position and check with a spirit level.



## 4 Lay the remaining courses

Position the blocks of the second course mirroring the first course, staggering the vertical joints between the blocks. Apply adhesive to all joints, tapping the blocks to close the vertical joints to 2mm. Lay the third course to match the first course.



## 5 Bed the burner panel

Check the 75mm thick panel against the blocks of the third course and adjust if necessary so the panel fits neatly. Use a notched trowel to apply adhesive over the third course, then bed the panel on the adhesive, tapping to make it level.



## 6 Add the side benchtops

Apply adhesive to the panel and two 600 x 200 x 200mm blocks, then secure them to one end of the panel, forming the serving area. Use adhesive to secure a 600 x 200 x 100mm block at the other end of the panel, leaving a 700mm gap for the barbecue.



## 7 Attach the door frame

Use a router to cut an 18mm wide x 5mm deep rebate on each end of the door head, then secure it to the stiles using adhesive and screws. Drill clearance holes through each stile and secure the frame to the blocks using 100mm x 14g galvanised bugle screws.



## 8 Make and hang the doors

Use a circular saw to cut the end slats so the doors fit with a 3mm gap on the sides and a 2mm gap between. Edge-laminate the slats using clamps and adhesive. Use screws to secure the rails and braces, then align the hinges with the rails and hang the doors.



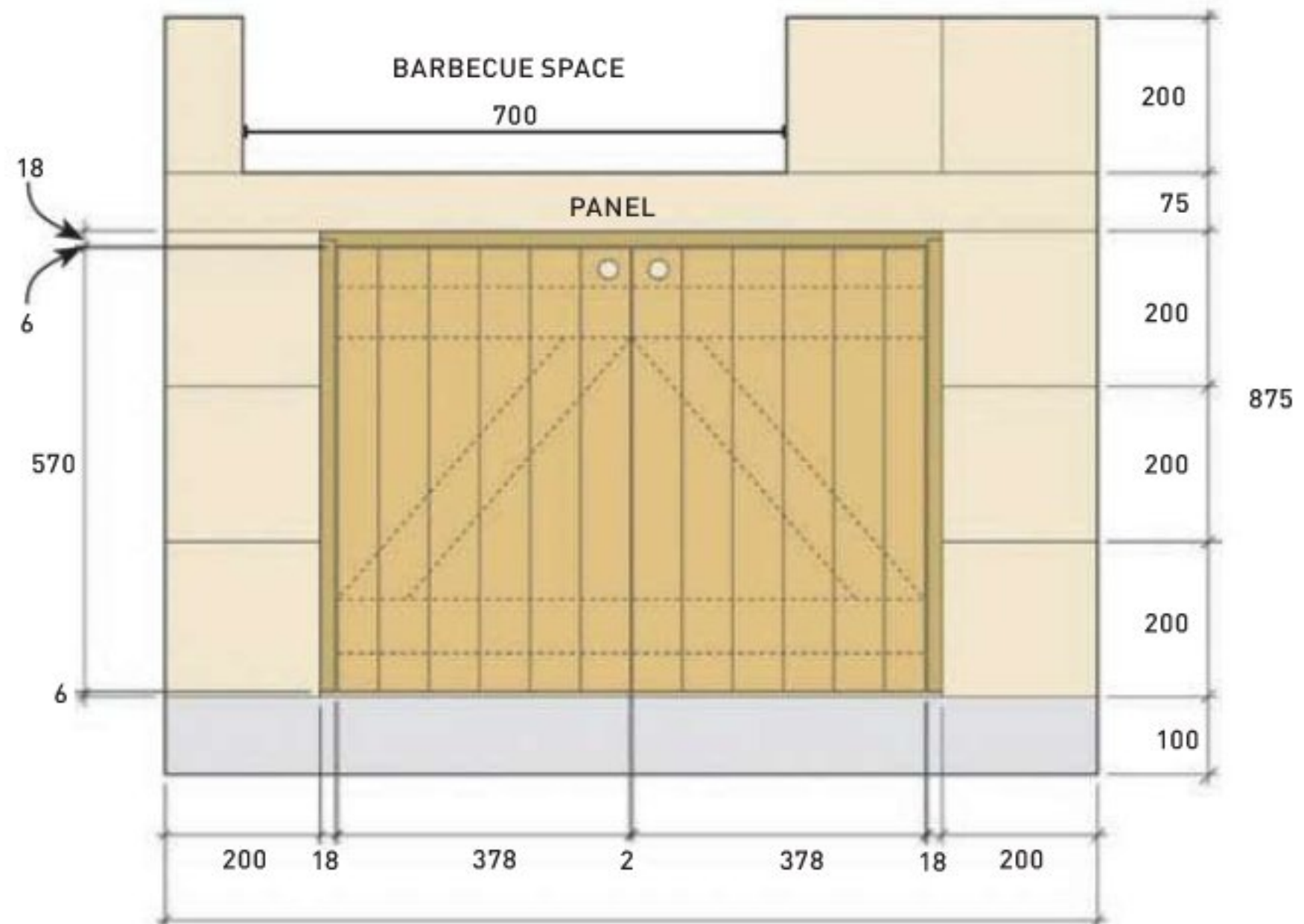
## 9 Apply the render and tiles

Scrape down the blocks, mix a batch of plaster to a creamy consistency, apply 3mm thick, sponge for a bagged finish and leave to dry. Apply sealer and two coats of exterior acrylic, then tile the top, including the panel under the barbecue. ➤

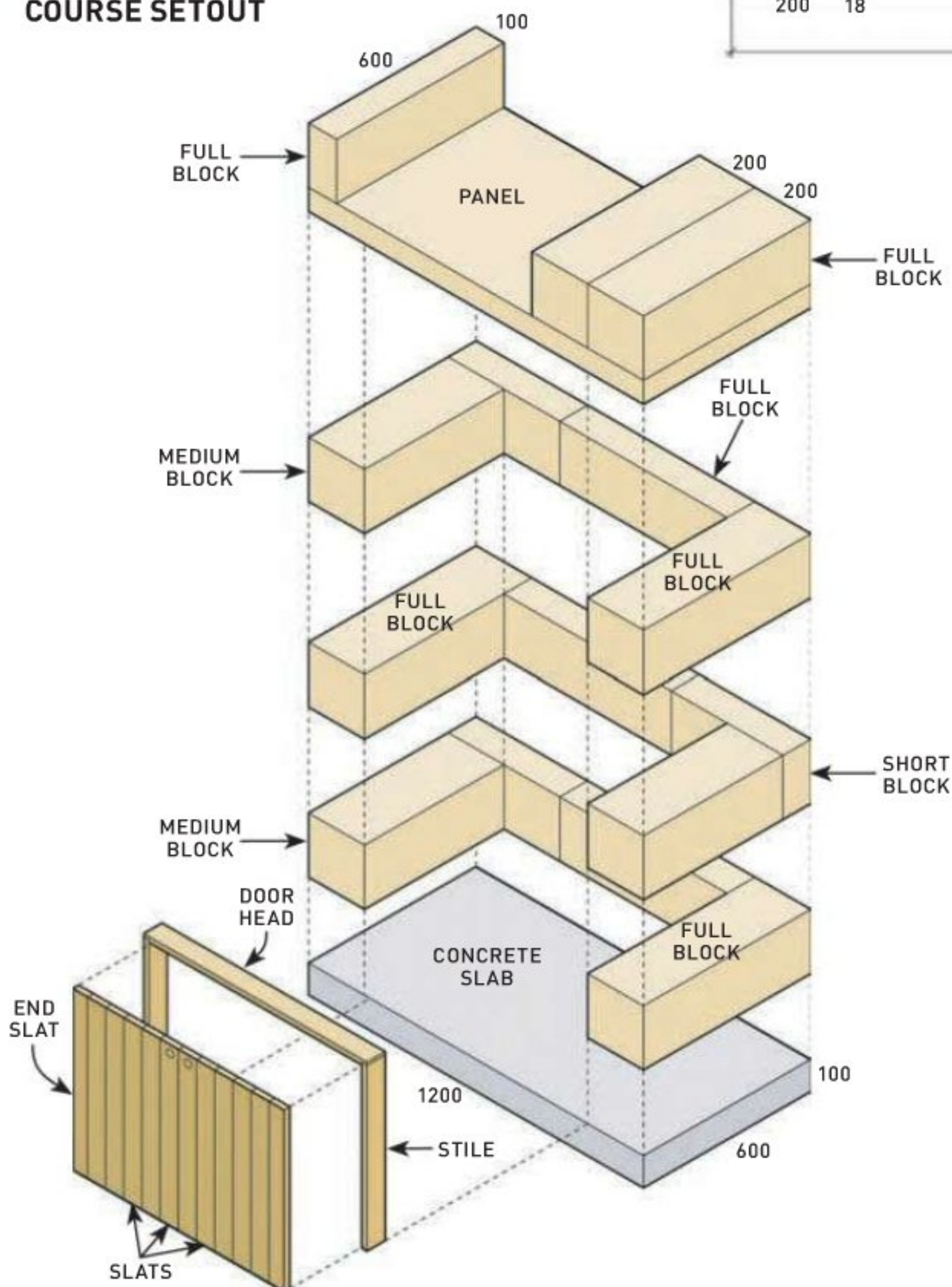


# BUILT-IN BARBECUE

measurements in mm



## COURSE SETOUT



## FASTENERS

| TYPE                                 | USE        |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Galvanised bugle screws, 100mm x 14g | Door frame |
| Galvanised screws, 30mm x 8g         | Stiles     |
| Supplied screws                      | Hinges     |

## CUTTING LIST

| PART           | SIZE            | NO. |
|----------------|-----------------|-----|
| <b>AAC</b>     |                 |     |
| Full blocks    | 600 x 200 x 200 | 5   |
|                | 600 x 200 x 100 | 4   |
| Medium blocks  | 500 x 200 x 200 | 3   |
| Short blocks   | 400 x 200 x 100 | 3   |
| Panel          | 1200 x 600 x 75 | 1   |
| <b>Meranti</b> |                 |     |
| Stiles         | 900 x 65 x 18   | 2   |
| Head           | 900 x 65 x 18   | 1   |
| Slats          | 881 x 65 x 18   | 10  |
| End slats      | 575 x 53 x 18   | 2   |
| Rails          | 370 x 65 x 18   | 4   |
| Braces         | 500 x 65 x 18   | 2   |



## GROW TIP

Plant fast-growing shrubs in garden beds to give a new outdoor space an established look within a year or two.

## After

Paved and tidy, the new courtyard is designed for easy outdoor living.

# UPGRADE TO A COURTYARD

Make the most of every part of your garden with simple DIY improvements to transform unused spaces





Before

## THE PLAN

- **CREATE** a courtyard space by digging up the grass to lay paving, plant garden beds and put up two sheds.
- **POUR** a slab for the sheds using a stringline to set out the area and scrap timber to build the formwork.
- **BUILD** the sheds using flat-packed kits, which are easy to assemble, then fix them both to the new slab.
- **INSTALL** a polypropylene sink for doing washing up outdoors and filling up watering cans.
- **ADD** a water tank and install a leaf diverter in the pipe that runs to the tank so you can harvest rainwater.

**M**ost gardens have at least one unsightly corner filled with a decrepit shed or stacks of old, forgotten pots and other junk.

It may be tucked away at the back of the yard or hidden from sight with screens and plants, or it could be the passage along one side of the house like this neglected patch of ground.

This side garden was littered with old buckets, broken furniture and tools that had no home. Exposed plumbing on the side of the house was concealed with latticed cages.

At first glance, the space didn't look very useful, but it was a decent size, and with a little planning almost any unused area can be turned into a valuable part of the garden.

All it took to turn this grassy area into a garden and entertaining courtyard was a certain amount of planning, shopping and hard work.

The landscaping and building were done DIY using easy-to-assemble products and simple techniques, with new plants and outdoor furniture completing the makeover.

### 1 2 3

**LAY THE PAVERS** For this paving pattern, you'll need a selection of full, half and quarter size pavers, plus river sand, cement, a stringline, straightedge, rubber mallet, spirit level and broom.



**1 MARK OUT THE AREA** to be paved using a stringline and pegs, then cover it with a 30mm layer of river sand. Compact the sand, screed to level and start laying the pavers.



**2 LAY THE PAVERS** using the set stringline as a guide, leaving 3mm gaps in between. Tap the pavers to settle with a rubber mallet, checking for level as you go.



**3 GROUT THE PAVING** with a 6:1 mix of river sand and cement, using a long broom to get it in the gaps. Brush off any excess sand, then spray the pavers with water to harden the grout.



FOR YOUR INSPIRATION ▶▶▶

# DREAM HOME

After many years living abroad, this family returns home to a house in the country that suits all their needs

WORDS SITA SIMONS

Laying low and flat like the landscape, this contemporary dwelling forms a horseshoe shape on the edge of a golf course.

It was a big change for the owners, Jonathan and Sheree, who had lived in the very urban setting of Robertson Quay in Singapore for the last 10 years.

'We enjoyed the lifestyle but always knew we'd return home,' says Jonathan.

Having both grown up on farms, each was surprisingly reluctant to fully embrace country living.

'You get used to having people around and I didn't like the thought of being in the middle of nowhere. A golf estate seemed a great compromise.' >

The landscape of the house flows seamlessly into the golf course green.





PICTURES AUSTRAL

Large expanses of glass take in the views and make the most of the natural light.





**ABOVE** While still part of the living space, the dining room has its own identity.  
**BELOW** The neutral expanses in the kitchen are punctuated by artworks and ornaments.



## Everything about the design of the house was to reflect the brief of generously sized, light spaces, with optimum function and minimal fuss

### Best of both worlds

The kitchen was positioned just off the main living space.

'We had the idea for completely open-plan living, an antidote, if you like, to our apartment in Singapore, which was a series of small rooms.

'But due to the scale of the house, our architect explained that functions can compete, leaving you with a large

expanse that has no clear identity. So she suggested placing the kitchen off the living area and installing bifold doors that can be opened up or closed for privacy,' says Sheree.

Glossy surfaces and integrated appliances look luxurious, while large-format floor tiles and seamless cabinetry make the space appear spacious and streamlined.







**ABOVE** Lighting has been used creatively to illuminate spaces and add character and ambience.  
**LEFT** Even the guest ensuite has more than ample storage.  
**BELOW** The main bathroom boasts an oversized spa.



### Polished but practical

Comfort is everything in the main living area, and just like the rest of the house, nothing is stingy or small.

Leather sofas can accommodate the whole family with ease and the marble-tiled floors are given warmth underfoot with a large tufted rug.

The soft neutrals are picked up in the cushions. It's a study in contrasts, with the hard surfaces softened using velvet and chenille.

'I wanted a polished look, but it needed to be practical. I don't want to be always running around with a cloth.'

'Leather is so durable, and while I was hesitant to go for white initially, it's surprisingly easy to keep clean and looks incredibly chic,' says Sheree. ➤



## Warm and welcoming

The bedrooms embrace warmth and softness with wool carpets and a palette of earthy colours. Again a mix of materials offers contrast, with the timber one-piece bed, headboard and bedside tables offset by a leather panel.

A gas fire adds to the notion of the bedroom as a haven for the grown-ups.

'It gets cold in winter, so it's a real luxury to put on the fire and read or watch television,' says Sheree.

Throughout the home, clever use is made of awkward spaces, and a large lounging sofa fits neatly under the stairs. Framed vintage movie posters add a quirky touch of personality to the expanses of white walls.

'We collected things from around the world and now it all has a place. I wouldn't change a thing,' says Sheree.



In the main bedroom, the gas fire is a luxurious addition for chilly nights. **BELOW** The furnishings all complement the architecture and finishes.



A large modular sofa tucked against the stairs offers another place to relax and take in the tranquil surroundings





## STEAL THIS STYLE

Glossy surfaces and integrated appliances look luxurious, while large-format floor tiles and seamless cabinetry make this home appear spacious and streamlined.

**Sita Simons**



 **Designing your own home?**  
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ALSO AVAILABLE FROM





# Laundry refresh

A crafty blogger renovates an old 70s wet room on a DIY budget with amazing results

PROJECT AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

## SAFETY CHECK

- **ARRANGE** for an asbestos check, which is essential for homes built before the mid-1980s with fibro sheeting walls.
- **FIND** a laboratory on the International Accreditation New Zealand website ([ianz.govt.nz](http://ianz.govt.nz)), to have the walls tested.

For more DIY from Melissa, follow her blog [thewhimsicalwife.com](http://thewhimsicalwife.com)



The laundry in this home was left to last on the renovation plan for DIY blogger Melissa and her handy husband.

'We decided to wait until we had time to do it properly,' says Melissa.

The room was a good size, but it needed a complete overhaul to bring it into line with the rest of the house.

'I wanted to keep it in the French country style I have been decorating the entire house in,' she says. ➤

## Before



PICTURE (MAIN) ALAMY



Melissa



## EXPERT SECRETS

When you're looking for styling ideas for any room in your home, check out Pinterest for inspiration.

## MEL'S PLAN

Putting in a French door allows lots more light into the hallway

## After

Designer additions like a timber benchtop and chrome light give this laundry a high-end finish.

## BUDGET TIP

Cut costs by doing jobs such as painting and tiling DIY instead of using a tradie.

- **REMOVE** everything from the room, pull up the floor tiles and tear out the splashback.
- **DEMOLISH** part of a wall so that the washing machine taps can be moved.
- **LAY** large-format floor tiles and repair the damaged wall.
- **REPLACE** the sliding door before painting the room and adding decorative features.



## DESIGN TIP

Attach timber panels to the base half of a wall and add decorative trim for a DIY wainscot.



### Prepare and paint

With original 1970s floor tiles and splashback, the laundry was accessed by an inconvenient sliding door.

'First, we replaced the sliding door with a French door, which is more aesthetically pleasing. We paid nothing for this door as it had been left underneath the house, and I knew I had to incorporate it into the design of the laundry,' says Melissa.

The room was then ready to be prepped for painting. The whole room, including the trim, was undercoated.

It was time to change the drab wall colour with Dulux Waiau Bay, which has been used at half strength through the entire house. For the trim in the laundry, Dulux Collingwood adds an accent.

Melissa's husband then installed timber panelling to create a wainscot on the opposite wall to where the appliances and cabinetry were to go. ➤

**ABOVE** Timber panels were installed to create a wainscot. **LEFT** With the sliding door removed, a benchtop could be put in.

## CUT COSTS

For the cabinetry, Melissa got a quote from the joiner who did the kitchen for it to be custom made for the laundry.

The quote was \$1500-\$1800, which was more than the budget allowed, so Melissa had to figure out a few clever cost-cutting solutions.

➤ **FLATPACK** cabinets and doorknobs were sourced online for half the price.

A single base cabinet, double base cabinet and double wall cabinet were bought and fitted DIY.

➤ **A BENCHTOP** in a rich dark timber, which cost \$99, was installed next to the washing machine.

To overhaul an outdated laundry, paint the room, add storage and a benchtop, then accessorise

## GET THE LOOK

Kaboodle 600mm Wall Cabinet, about \$112. [kaboodle.co.nz](http://kaboodle.co.nz)

WAIU BAY HALF

Dulux Wash & Wear Kitchen & Bathroom, about \$69 for 2L. [dulux.co.nz](http://dulux.co.nz)

Sylvan Selden 32mm Antique Black Cupboard Knob, about \$4. [sylvan.co.nz](http://sylvan.co.nz)

Italo Hip Hugger Laundry Basket, about \$7, from Bunnings.



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**ABOVE** Plain wall tiles were used for a splashback. **RIGHT** To make the room appear more spacious large-format tiles were used.



## DIY TILES

➤ **SPLASHBACK** After installing the cabinetry, cream tiles were chosen for a splashback to keep it simple.

'It looks a million times better than the retro laminate board that was on the wall,' says Melissa.

➤ **FLOOR** Large-format tiles in a neutral colour were laid before the wall was repaired and the room painted.

The cut tiles were positioned along the wall where the cabinetry and fittings would conceal them.



### Style and sort

The last fixture that needed to be installed was a new light fitting.

'I agonised over this for ages. I wanted something special but not over the top. Each time we went to Bunnings, I'd make a beeline for the light section and walk up and down the aisles trying to figure out what I wanted.

'I ended up seeing this light in a cafe. It's probably too showy for a laundry, but I don't care. It's visible through the front door, so it's a feature that will be seen often,' says Melissa.

After decorating, Melissa turned her attention to organising the room.

She left the shelves out of the single base cabinet so she could add a laundry basket to keep dirty clothes out of sight, while the wall cabinet was used to store cleaning products.

'I love my new laundry. Doing the washing is so much more fun now,' she says.

## TIDY TIP

Use baskets to keep cleaning supplies for different rooms in order and easily accessible.



Leave out the base cabinet shelves to store the linen basket.





# Meet Wardrobe Solutions

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Find it at Bunnings

# WARDROBE STORAGE

Sort out the bedroom with affordable solutions to organise clothes and reduce clutter

## DESIGN TIP

To add a dash of visual interest to your space, choose a coloured glass door option.



**FREESTANDING** Create a very clean and contemporary look that suits any bedroom with an easily customisable Flatpax wardrobe system.

Install mirror doors to make the wardrobe more functional. Add hanging storage, shelving and shoe racks to help keep clothing and footwear tidy.

① Hanging Rail, 900mm, \$20

② Sliding Shoe Rack, \$212

③ Mirror Doors, \$1199, pack of two

④ Sliding Trouser Rack, \$179





**WALK-IN** Bedford Modular is the easy DIY solution for creating your ideal walk-in wardrobe.

Install a wardrobe tailored to the space with open hanging storage to keep clothing and accessories on display.

Incorporate slide-out racks to save space and add baskets to keep small items organised.

- ① Deep Drawer, \$65
- ② Shelf Pack, \$45, pack of two
- ③ Slide Out Basket, \$89
- ④ Door Pack, \$99, pack of two



**STANDALONE** Add simple and versatile storage in your bedroom by installing standalone wardrobes from Bedford.

Customise the interior by fitting shelves, drawers and hanging racks in almost any configuration.

Fit multiple wardrobes in one room for 'his and her' storage or to give kids their own space.

- ① Two Door Wardrobe, \$698
- ② Narrow Drawer, \$39
- ③ Sliding Mirror Door, \$229
- ④ Wardrobe Shelf, \$49, pack of two



**MIX AND MATCH** Turn a wall into an open wardrobe or revamp an existing one with a Clever Closet System.

Mount brackets to the wall and fit shelves and hanging racks.

Add wire mesh baskets to allow ventilation and include extra

accessories such as trouser racks. Install shelves and drawers for added storage.

- ① Trouser Rack, \$65
- ② Wardrobe System, \$182
- ③ Sliding Basket Frame, \$45.98
- ④ Standing Basket Frame, from \$72





# INDUSTRIAL CHIC

Mix steel pipes with timber to make affordable designer furniture

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH PROJECTS GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS

**M**aking furniture out of industrial materials and salvaged or repurposed items is a hot decorating trend, and these creations can command high prices.

Our table cost a total of \$207 to build, with the pipes and fittings costing between \$3 and \$12 each.

Metal and timber are the hallmarks of this style, so threaded steel pipes make an ideal frame for a coffee table, as they're easy to assemble.

Calculate the number of pieces needed and their lengths, then use connectors to assemble the frame.

Spray the frame with paint and attach a plywood top. You can leave this raw or apply a clear varnish. ➤

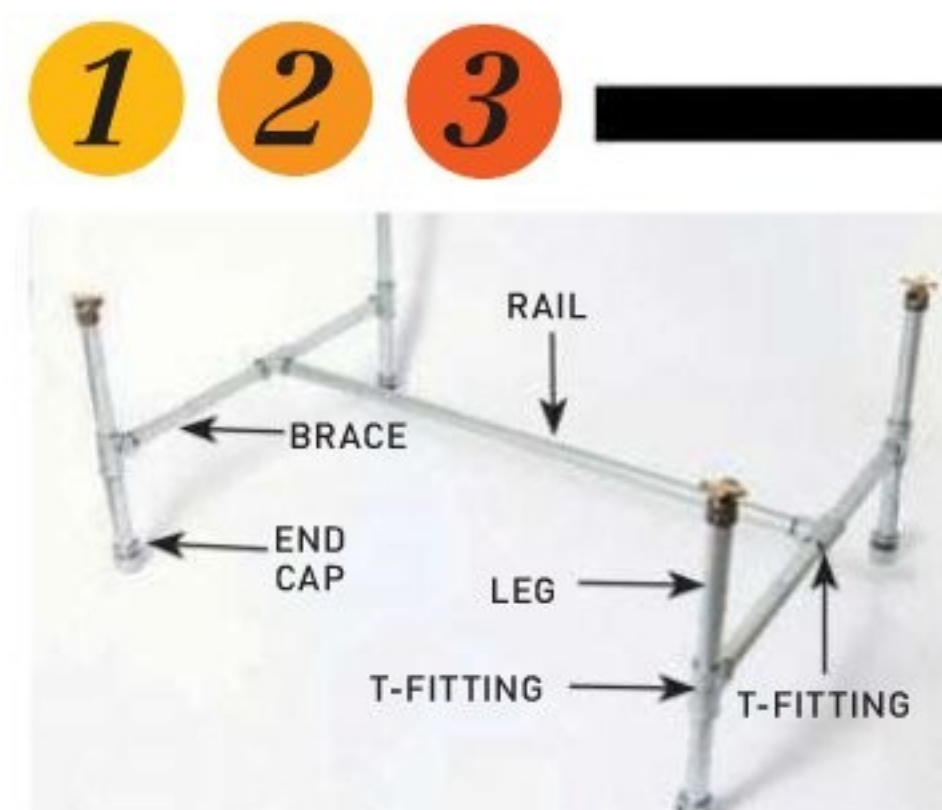


Create a designer table with a few basic materials from the hardware store



## EXPERT SECRETS

This style can work in both retro spaces and modern homes if used sparingly. The trick is to make feature pieces that don't dominate the whole room.



### 1 Assemble the base

Join two 20 x 200mm pipes using T-fittings to make the legs. Repeat with two 250mm pipes to make the braces, then screw to the leg T-fittings. Use a 900mm pipe as a rail to connect the legs. Attach end caps to the leg bases and lugged capillary elbows to the tops.



### 2 Paint the metal

Lay a drop sheet and apply etch primer to the base frame, then apply 2-3 coats of spray paint. We used White Knight Rust Guard Epoxy Enamel, about \$17 for a 310g can.

**TIP** When spraying, wear a safety mask and work in a well-ventilated area.



### 3 Attach the tabletop

Cut a 1000 x 750mm piece of 19mm plywood using a circular saw. Lay the top face down, centre the frame on it and attach it with 6g x 20mm timber screws through the lugged capillary elbows. Sand the top with 180 grit paper and apply a coat of clear varnish.



## BUDGET TIP

Plywood is the best choice for the top as it's more affordable than timber panels.

Get the latest looks on a DIY budget by building your own furniture.



# PIPE SHELF

## DIY TIP

Mount the shelf to the studs or use hollow wall anchors through plasterboard.



This eye-catching wall-mounted shelf is made out of a salvaged timber floorboard and recycled pipes and fittings. It gives the impression that the shelf has been installed around the plumbing.

When mounting the shelf to a plasterboard wall, find the studs and mark them on the wall using masking tape, then use the distance between the studs to determine the length of the lower pipe. >

## GEMA'S TOOLKIT



Loctite 243 Threadlocker, about \$20 for 10ml. [loctite.co.nz](http://loctite.co.nz)



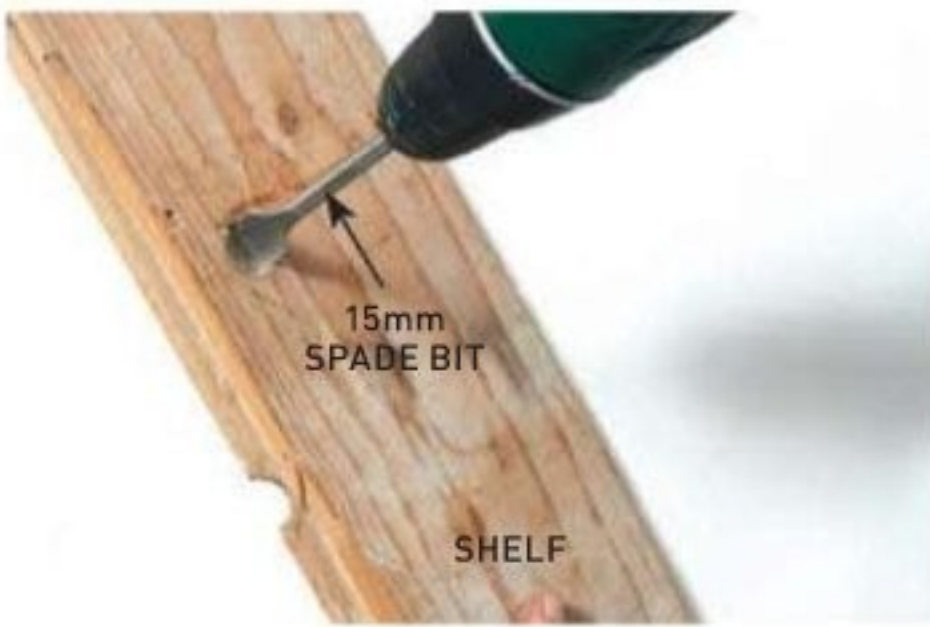
Dulux Metalshield Etch Primer, \$15 for 300g. [dulux.co.nz](http://dulux.co.nz)



Irwin 15-piece Speedbor Spade Bit Set, \$20. [irwintools.co.nz](http://irwintools.co.nz)

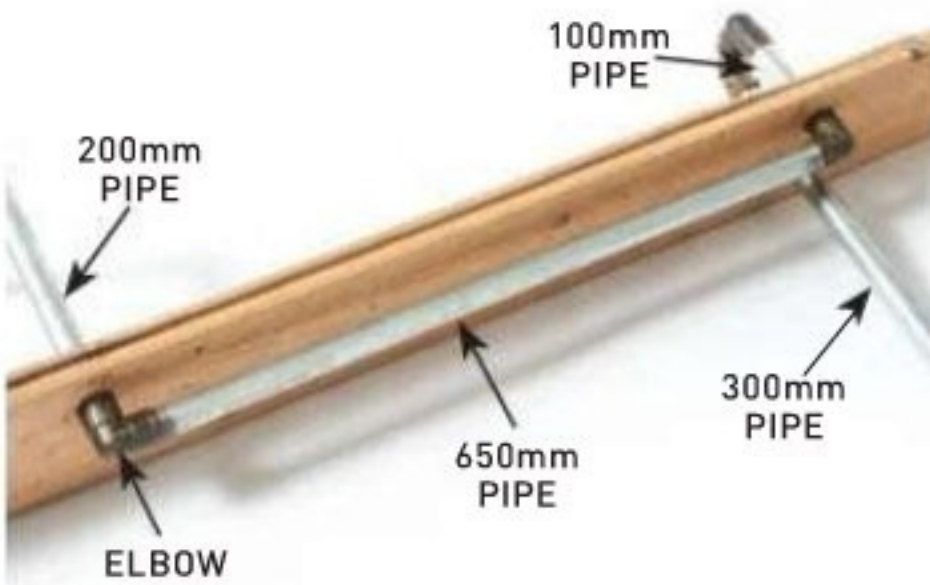


1 2 3



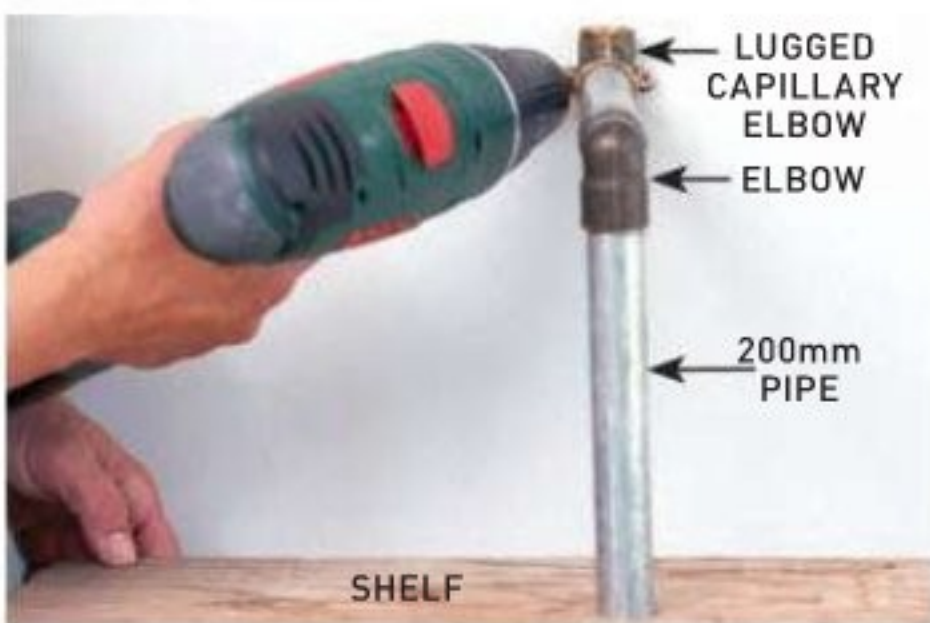
### 1 Drill the holes

Mark two pipe holes on the shelf with the centres spaced the same distance apart as the stud centres, and 40mm from the front edge. Drill the holes using a 15mm spade bit. Make a third hole in line with the first hole on the right, 90mm from the front edge.



### 2 Assemble the pipes

Attach a 200 and 100mm long 15mm pipe to each end of a 650mm pipe with 90° elbows and feed through the front holes from underneath. Add an elbow to the 200mm pipe and two joined elbows to the 100mm, feed a 300mm pipe through the back hole and attach.



### 3 Mount the shelf

Join a 150mm pipe to the left vertical pipe and a 100mm to the right one with 90° elbows, then attach a lugged capillary elbow to the end of each horizontal pipe. Mark the screw holes on the wall, securing the shelf to the studs with 10g x 75mm timber screws.

The shelf is made from a recycled floorboard that sits on elbow fittings.



Use recycled materials to make a rustic shelf that looks like it's been there for decades

 Making your own furniture?  
Get inspired at [pinterest.com/DIYhandyman](https://pinterest.com/DIYhandyman)



# STEEL STOOL

## DESIGN TIP

Add a touch of texture to a modern all-white kitchen by introducing industrial-style seating.

This unique stool has galvanised steel pipes for the frame and features a timber seat that was reclaimed and recycled from an old broken stool.

The legs on the frame have been splayed wider at the base to provide more stability, and they're also braced using a length of pipe.

Use thread adhesive on all fittings for a tight connection and secure hex fittings using a spanner and pipe wrench so they don't become loose.



Galvanised steel pipes make the ideal frame for a one-of-a-kind bar stool

1 2 3



### 1 Assemble the feet

Join two 20 x 100mm pipes at right angles using 90° elbows to make four feet. Add an elbow to one pipe and an end cap to the other. Attach the elbow to a T-fitting using a hex nipple. Join two feet using hex nipples and a T-fitting to make two pairs.

Felt protectors on the feet keep the floors scratch and damage free.



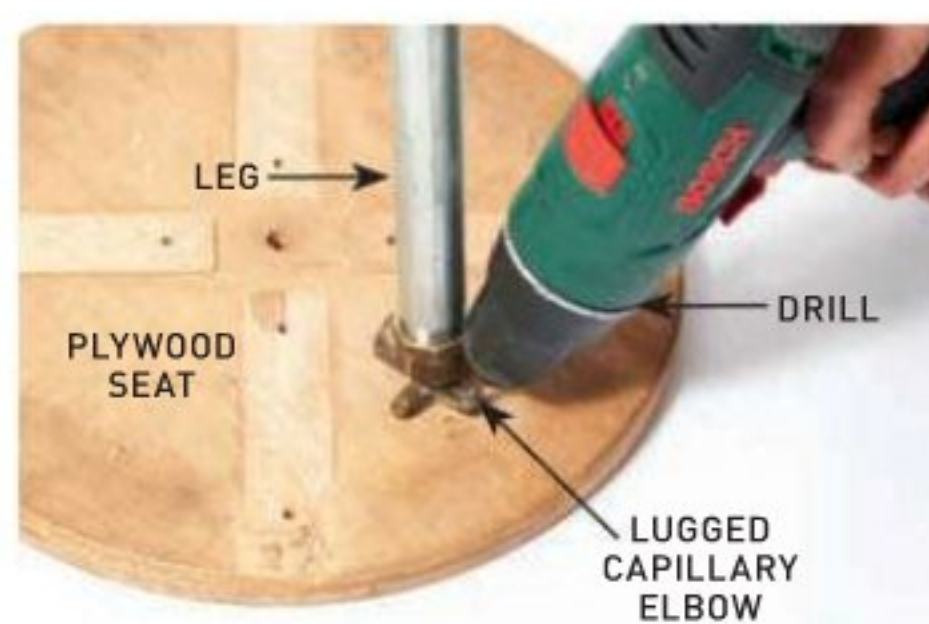


Recycled plywood gives the seat a weathered look.



## 2 Finish the base

Connect each pair of feet to the two horizontal T-fittings with a 200mm pipe to make the base. Attach a 450mm pipe to each of the four vertical T-fittings to form the legs, then add a lugged capillary elbow to the top of each leg.



## 3 Attach the seat

Draw a 350mm diameter circle on 19mm plywood using a compass. Cut out the circle with a jigsaw, then sand the edges with 120 grit paper. Attach the seat to the lugged capillary elbows using 6g x 20mm screws, then seal with two coats of clear varnish.

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# DESIGNS ON CONCRETE

Build decorative outdoor furniture with the look and durability of natural stone for a fraction of the cost

2  
DAYS

\$195  
COST

**T**his garden table features fern imprints on a concrete top, which is supported on a solid timber base and assembled using dowel joints.

The top costs about \$110 to DIY, which includes the formwork and reinforcement, but the total cost will vary with the timber used for the base.

It needs to be exterior grade and the type has to suit the finish. Go for clear treated pine if staining and finger-jointed H3 LOSP pine if painting.

Melamine-coated particleboard used for the formwork is easy to remove once the concrete has cured.

A tabletop slab needs strength, a low shrinkage rate and a long cure time. Use a high-strength concrete, such as Cemix Maxcrete, \$12 for 20kg (cemix.co.nz), add a layer of galvanised light gauge steel mesh and reinforce it with three 8mm galvanised threaded rods.

Shrinkage and cracking is usually caused by excess water, so keep the mix as dry as possible but still workable.

Allow the concrete slab to harden for at least two days, keeping it moist and covered in plastic. To prevent staining, and to give a glossy finish, apply 2-3 coats of an acrylic sealer. ➤

 **Fern-leaf imprints on the concrete make the tabletop look like a modern fossil record**

**1 2 3**

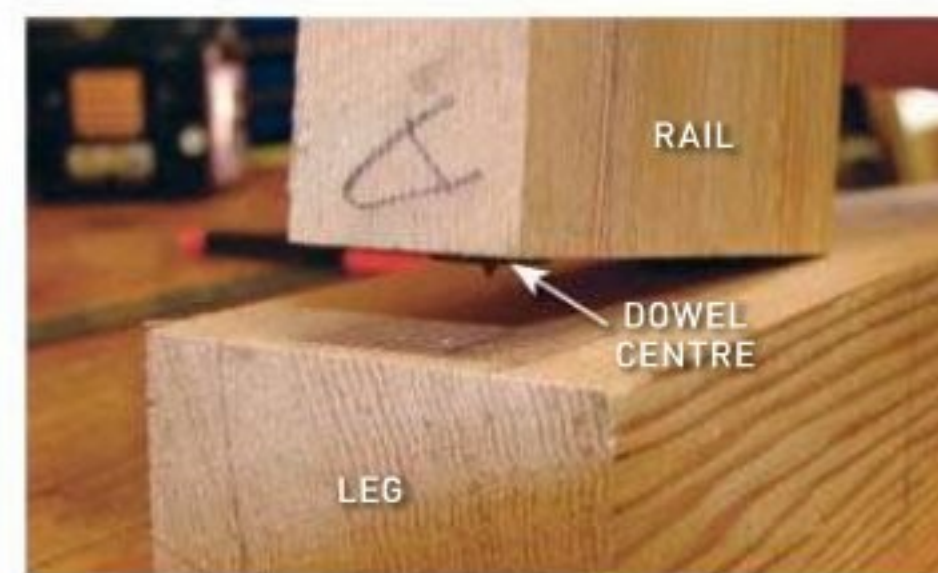
**BUILD THE BASE** Cut the legs and rails to length with a mitresaw, then drill dowel holes and assemble the frame using 50 x 10mm dowels and exterior PVA adhesive, pulling it tight with sash clamps. **TIP** Use masking tape around the drill bit as a depth guide.



**1 SET OUT THE RAIL CENTRES** on the ends of all four rails, marking vertical centrelines and hole locations for the dowels 15mm in from each edge along the marked lines.



**2 DRILL THE DOWEL HOLES** by clamping the rails in a vice and using a dowelling jig with a 10mm diameter brad point bit to drill holes 27mm deep at each marked position.



**3 TRANSFER THE HOLE LOCATIONS** to the legs using dowel centres so the rails are set 12mm down from the top edge. Drill the holes, then test-fit. Apply adhesive and tap in the dowels.



# TOOLS

MITRESAW, DRILL,  
TABLESAW

## DESIGN TIP

Try inlaying decorative objects like seashells, coloured glass, tiles or even coins in the top.

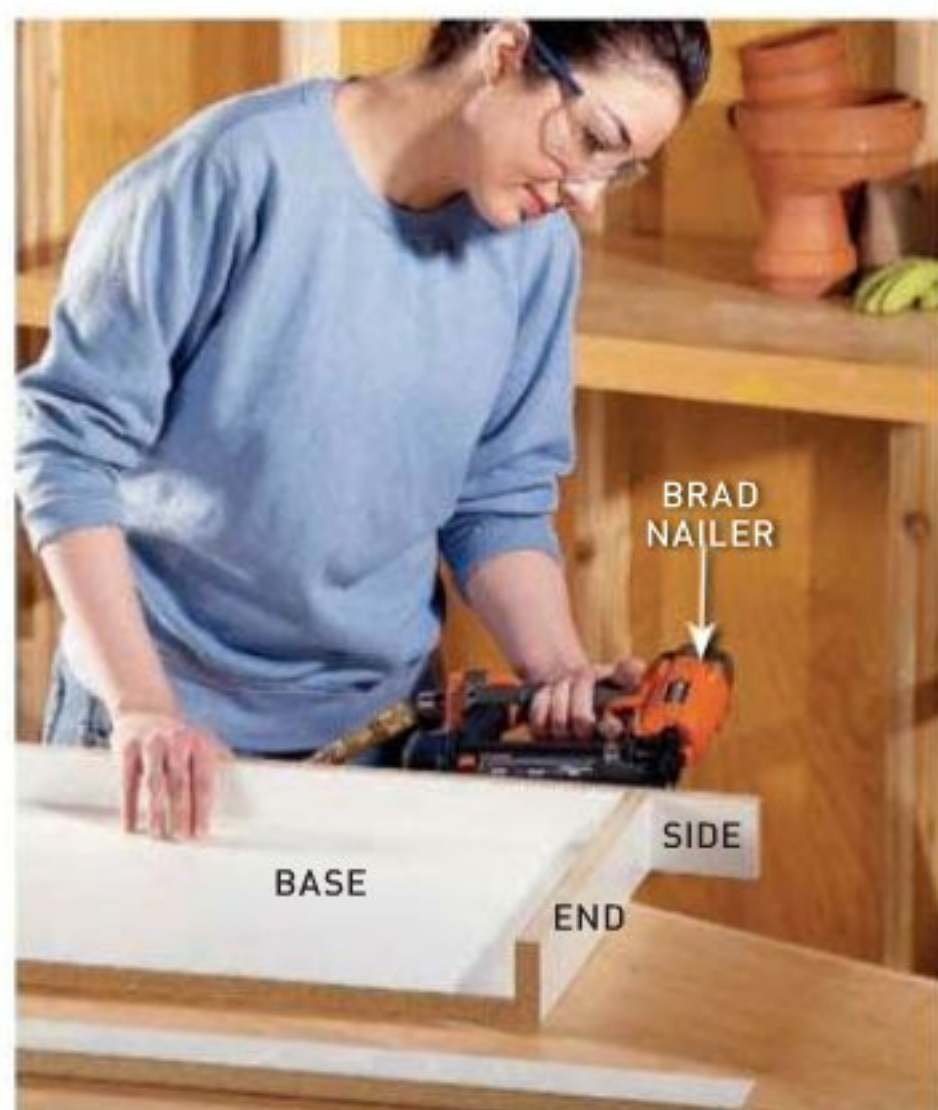
### Materials

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Melamine-coated particleboard | \$62         |
| Pine                          | \$37         |
| Galvanised mesh               | \$18         |
| Galvanised rod                | \$11         |
| Silicone                      | \$5          |
| Adhesive                      | \$20         |
| Acrylic sealer                | \$20         |
| Concrete                      | \$12         |
| Dowels                        | \$10         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>\$195</b> |

The top is attached to the base using silicone, so hold the table under the rails if moving it.



# MAKE THE TOP



## 1 Assemble the formwork

Secure the formwork ends to the base then attach the sides using a brad nailer, spacing the fasteners 150mm apart. Rub wax over the surface of the formwork to help release the concrete later.

**TIP** The sides of the formwork extend 170mm beyond each end.



## 2 Prepare the cast

Create even edges by applying masking tape along the formwork ends and sides 5mm in from the corners and edges. Apply a bead of silicone, smooth it with a wet finger, then remove the tape. Lay the fern leaves on newspaper and spray with adhesive, then press them onto the formwork base.



## 3 Pour the concrete

Use a spirit level to check the formwork is level in both directions, raising one side with shims, if needed. Pour the concrete around the perimeter to 25mm deep, then position the wire mesh with three lengths of reinforcing rod tied on. Pour in the remaining concrete to 40mm deep.



## 4 Settle the concrete

Wearing plastic gloves, carefully work the concrete mix into the edges and corners of the formwork and around the leaves. To drive out air bubbles, lightly tap the sides of the formwork with a hammer. When the concrete has settled, smooth out the surface using a steel float.



## 5 Clean the tabletop

Leave the concrete to dry and cure for at least 2-3 days, then carefully turn the slab over and remove the formwork, starting with the overlapping sides. Use a stiff brush and awl, if needed, to work the leaves out of the concrete top, then scrub the whole surface to remove wax and clean up any melamine residue.



## 6 Finish the table

To give the illusion of natural stone, chip around the edges of the tabletop using a club hammer and cold chisel. Turn the top over and chip from the other side, then hone down any remaining sharp edges using an angle grinder. Build the base, then attach the top using silicone. ➤





# RAINPROOF BAGGED CONCRETE

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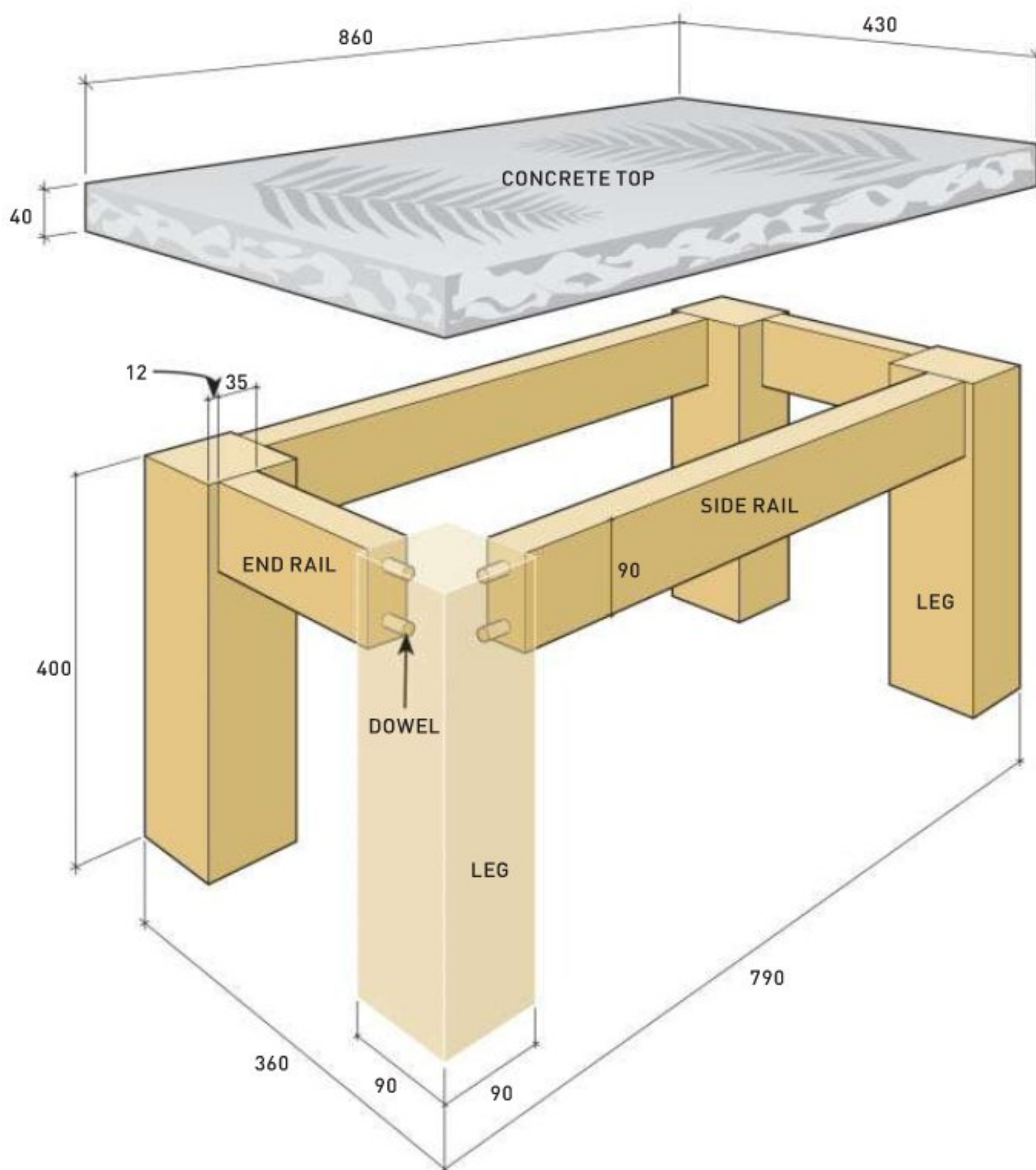
A New Zealand first, we are proud to bring you our concrete products in new innovative rainproof bags. Our Multicrete General Purpose Concrete and Fastcrete Fast Setting Concrete are now in rainproof bags which you can store outside making DIY construction that much easier! For more information on our new bags and full range of products, visit [www.cemix.co.nz](http://www.cemix.co.nz).





# CONCRETE TABLE

measurements in mm



## CUTTING LIST

| PART            | SIZE           | NO. |
|-----------------|----------------|-----|
| <b>Melamine</b> |                |     |
| Formwork base   | 860 x 430 x 16 | 1   |
| Formwork sides  | 1200 x 65 x 16 | 2   |
| Formwork ends   | 430 x 65 x 16  | 2   |
| <b>Pine</b>     |                |     |
| Legs            | 400 x 90 x 90  | 4   |
| Side rails      | 610 x 90 x 35  | 2   |
| End rails       | 180 x 90 x 35  | 2   |

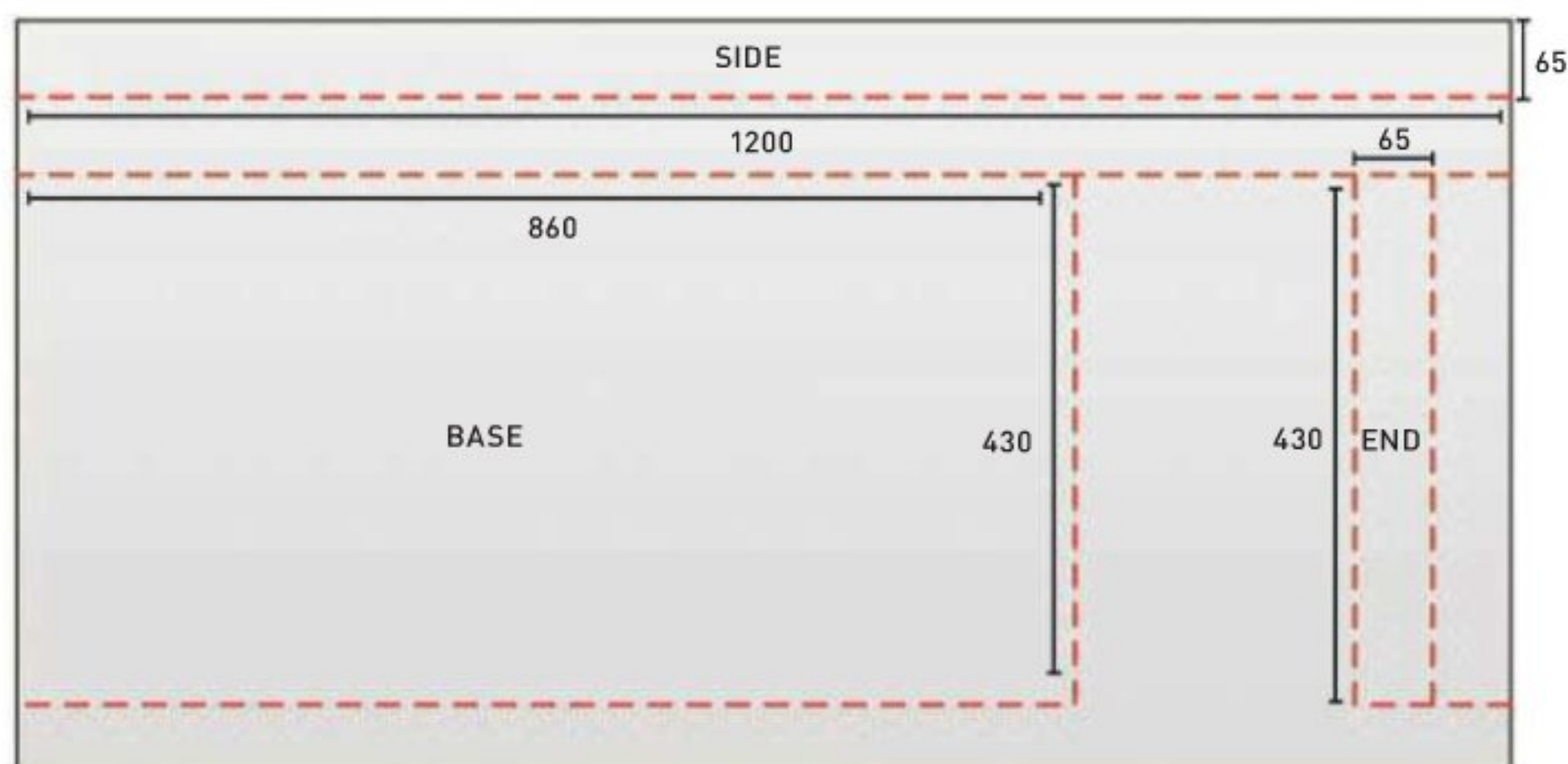
## BUILDING THE FORMWORK

Melamine-coated particleboard is an ideal material for formwork as it's smooth and water-resistant.

Cut the formwork pieces using a tablesaw or circular saw with a straightedge guide. The two sides are cut to extend beyond the ends for easy removal.

Use a brad nailer or drive screws by hand, drilling pilot holes. Seal the inside corners using silicone to give the cast rounded edges.

**TIP** To spot smudges during the clean-up, use dark silicone.



FORMWORK CUTTING DIAGRAM





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# *DIY* *in paradise*

Building on Norfolk Island is a creative process, as hardware is pricey and materials are scarce

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS



#### DISCOVER THE TERRITORY

Rich in natural beauty, the island has a year-round comfortable climate, and it's also a history lover's haven with its Polynesian and European settlers, the convicts and the descendants of the famous HMS Bounty mutineers.

➤ **SIZE** 8km long by 5km wide.

➤ **LOCATION** About 1460km to the north-west of New Zealand.

➤ **POPULATION** About 1800 permanent residents.

➤ **INFO** Norfolk Island Tourism Office ([norfolkisland.com.au](http://norfolkisland.com.au)).



**T**wo of Kiwis' favourite pastimes have to be DIY and home renovation.

It's fairly simple to get into DIY. Read a good magazine or surf the web for ideas, get the materials you need, and you're on your way.

But what if the range of materials available was cut by 50%? And what if the price, even for a pack of nails, was double what you normally pay?

Or, what if specially ordered items took six months or even longer to arrive and cost \$500 or more a cubic metre to freight?

Well, this is the reality for those DIYers and tradesmen who live and work on isolated Norfolk Island, perched out in the South Pacific.

Getting that dishwasher, box of tiles or bundle of timber is expensive and can take months.

Bulky goods all come from the mainland by freighter, which moors about a kilometre offshore, safely outside the reefs. The unloading is done by craning into and out of lighters or whaleboats.

A big load, like a car, comes ashore on top of two lighters tied together. ➤



Spectacular views abound on the island, all dominated by the iconic Norfolk Island pine. **TOP RIGHT** Getting goods to the island is a costly and complicated exercise.



## Using Norfolk pine

If you've visited any seaside area in much of New Zealand, you're most likely familiar with *Araucaria heterophylla* or Norfolk Island pine.

This species of pine tree was one of the main reasons the island was settled by Europeans in 1788.

When Captain James Cook discovered and named the island in 1774, he saw the pines as significant enough to record them in his journal.

'The chief produce of the isle is the spruce pine ... Here then is another isle where masts for the largest ships may be had,' he wrote.

But the first settlers found they were too knotty to be suitable for structural uses such as masts. Despite this, the timber is useful in many other ways. ➤



**DECKING** When rough-sawn, the pine is ideal for an exterior deck.



**FLOORING** Fully dressed and milled, it makes a superb timber for floors.



**CABINETS** With its beautiful grain and colour, it is great for use in fine cabinetry.



Properties like the elegant Bishop's Court, constructed from Norfolk Island and kauri pine in the 1880s, have stood the test of time.





This modern home, built by Paul Crookwell, has Norfolk Island pine decking, doors and cladding. **RIGHT** Planted in the mid-1830s and standing 40m high, this pine is a relative youngster on the island.







**ABOVE** Remnants from World War II, rust-resistant Marsden steel mats are still used for fencing.  
**BELOW** This wall-hanging made of beach finds is a character-filled piece of 'make do' artwork.



With their aged texture and long life span, Marsden mats can be cut into unique garden decor.



## Because of their high manganese content, Marsden steel mats are super-resistant to rust

### Making do

When conversing with local tradies, artisans and DIYers, one thing that really comes across is sustainability.

To them, it's about being sensible in the usage and disposal of materials and resources. Cost and scarcity creates a greater respect for materials.

Then there's waste disposal. On an island, you don't put waste in a bin and send it off to be buried. Waste is a communal and environmental issue, so again this creates a greater level of what we'd call sustainable behaviour, but to an islander is just commonsense.

The level of recycling and upcycling on the island is huge because it makes sense to reduce wastage and increase the range of available materials.

A great catch-all phrase you keep running across is 'make do', which covers this re-use of materials. One of the best examples of 'make do' is the World War II era Marsden mats.

During the war, these steel mats were used by the military to build the island's first airport. Many are still in good condition today, and you'll see them used for fencing, livestock pens and even reinforcing concrete.



The local experts are more than happy to share their DIY tips and tricks, which inevitably come with a South Pacific twist.

### Paul Crookwell

A relative newcomer as he's only been on the island for about 15 years, Paul is a builder who still takes on odd building jobs, even in semi-retirement.

Moving to Norfolk Island from Australia was a shock for Paul, as he suddenly went from a position of having easy and cheap access to an abundance of materials to finding them expensive and also difficult to get hold of.

Paul loves working with the local timbers, and much of his family home is built from locally sourced timber. Here he shares a few handy tips.

➤ **BUILD MODULAR** Shape the dimensions of a project around the size of the available materials. Base

the lengths of walls on plasterboard sheet sizes. This reduces wastage and costs, but also speeds up the job as there's no fiddling around with cuts.

➤ **PREPARE WELL** When it comes to preparation, take the time to ensure surfaces are appropriately sanded and cleaned of dirt, dust and oil, and you'll extend the life of paintwork by years, even in harsh coastal situations.

➤ **SALVAGE MATERIALS** Use demolition materials when you can. Long, sound lengths of timber from walls or roofs can often be re-used for framing once the nails have been removed.

➤ **SAVE LEFTOVERS** Keep any offcuts, as you never know when they may come in handy for future projects or for making patch repairs.

➤ **DO YOUR RESEARCH** Use the internet to find how-to videos to watch before you start a project. Paul says to check the videos are locally relevant and from a reputable source. ➤

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### Roy Nobbs

Norfolk Island born and bred, Roy Nobbs is a builder by trade and runs Rocky Point Joinery.

This is also where you'll find the island's Tahitian ukulele workshop, a spin-off that developed from a visit to a craft show in Noumea.

Roy has a wealth of wisdom, the sort that comes from a lifetime of working with timber and having a passion and respect for the material.

And what is the difference between a Tahitian ukulele and a regular one, you may wonder. Tahitian ukuleles have the port on the back so the player can regulate the sound by moving the ukulele closer or further away.



Proper sanding is the key to giving your product a superior finish, says Roy



**ABOVE** Mixing a variety of timbers makes every piece unique.  
**LEFT** Milled in Roy's joinery, Norfolk Island pine is left to season naturally.  
**RIGHT** Roy's great wall of clamps is an impressive sight.







**LEFT** Made from driftwood, this chair endures the elements, as the salt water acts as a preservative.  
**TOP** A tile inlay adds character to this bedside table.  
**RIGHT** Sections of an old oar handle are used as shelf supports.



### Brendon King

Although he has a trade background, Brendon King's passion today is in creating furniture and other objects from salvaged and recycled timber.

Fishing is his other passion, which oddly enough aligns with his furniture work, as he finds lots of great pieces of driftwood while dropping a line.

His work is so well recognised on the island that people now come to him with pieces of timber and ask what he can make with it for them, or to let him know when good timber may become available.

He'll often design furniture around a particular piece of salvaged timber and sometimes waits months to finish a project until he finds the right bit.



# WORKSHOP STORAGE

Organise your garage with drawers designed to hold all your tools and equipment



Shelves and drawers are a good way to add storage space to a workshop, but they must be sturdy if they're to handle the weight of power tools.

It costs about \$370 to build one of these boxes and four drawers, plus a plinth.

You'll need two sheets of 2400 x 1200 x 19mm plywood and one 1200 x 600 x 12mm sheet, as well as pine for the plinth.

For a wall of storage, build more boxes and a full-length plinth. Separate them with open shelving and add a worktop. ➤



Cut the shelves from 19mm ply. Position the base shelf on the plinth and attach cleats to the outer box sides to install the rest without screws.

## DIY TIP

Use a tablesaw to cut the parts to width and a circular saw with a straightedge guide to cut them to length.



These tough drawers and the boxes they are housed in are built from plywood. The drawers come in three sizes to hold a range of tools and materials.



# TOOLS

DRILL, TABLESAW,  
CIRCULAR SAW,  
BRAD NAILER



The length of the worktop depends on the number of boxes, while the depth will be 590mm. We cut a sheet of 2400 x 1200 x 19mm ply in two to make the top.



Lay the box sides next to each other with the most flawed surfaces face up. These will be on the inside of the box. Arrange so the best edges face the front.



Countersink all screw holes on the outside of the boxes and fill all screw and brad holes before staining. Seal the drawer faces with polyurethane.



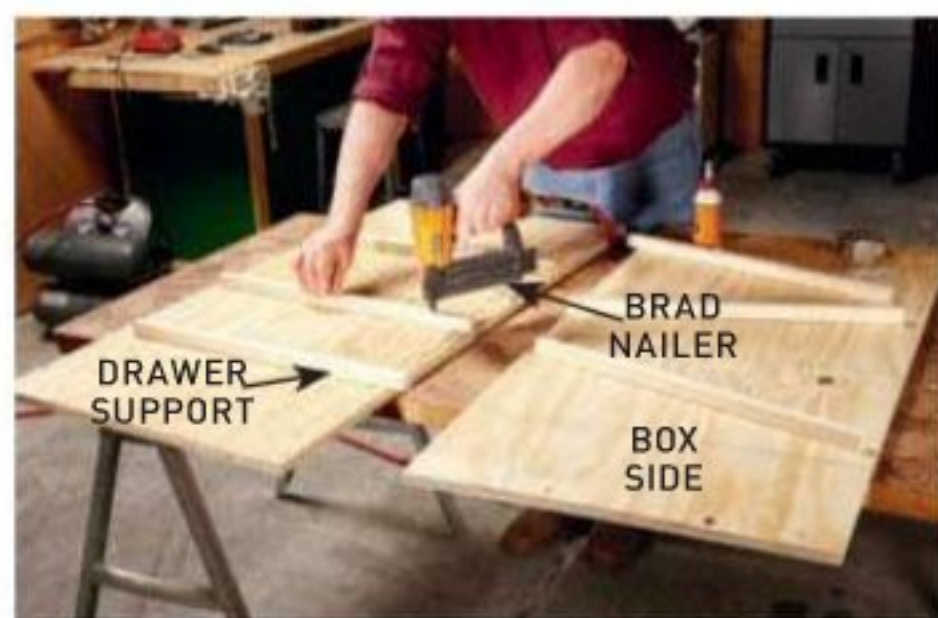
If you build several boxes, you'll need to make one big plinth to stand them on. Create a toe space by making the plinth 60mm shallower than the boxes.

## Materials

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| CD plywood                         | \$292        |
| Pine                               | \$4          |
| 2.4m treated pine                  | \$9          |
| Pine dowel                         | \$7          |
| Timber screws                      | \$12         |
| Cuphead bolts, nuts<br>and washers | \$12         |
| 500ml paint                        | \$17         |
| 1L clear polyurethane              | \$18         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>\$371</b> |

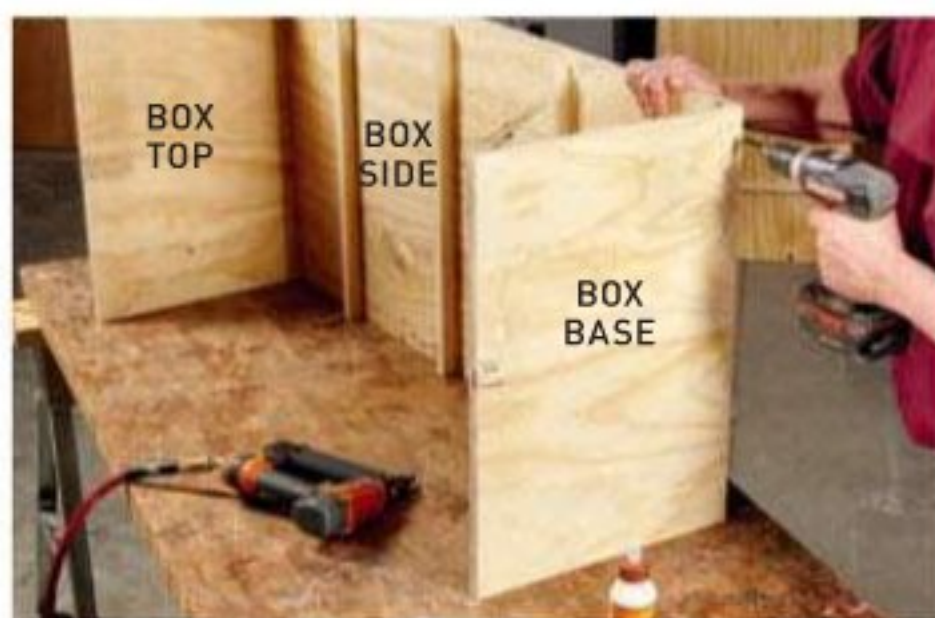


# MAKE THE BOX AND DRAWERS



## 1 Secure the supports

Mark the top of the drawer supports on the sides of the boxes 355, 660 and 965mm from the base. Apply adhesive and position the supports on the lines 12mm from the front edges. Tack in place with brads, securing with screws.



## 2 Assemble the box

Apply PVA adhesive, then tack the top and base to one box side with brads. Drill 2mm pilot holes and secure with screws set at least 40mm from the edges. Add the other side and secure using adhesive and screws.



## 3 Secure the back

Use a builder's square to check the box back is cut square. Apply adhesive, then position the back and use brads to tack down one side only. Use the back to square up the box, securing with screws spaced 300mm apart.



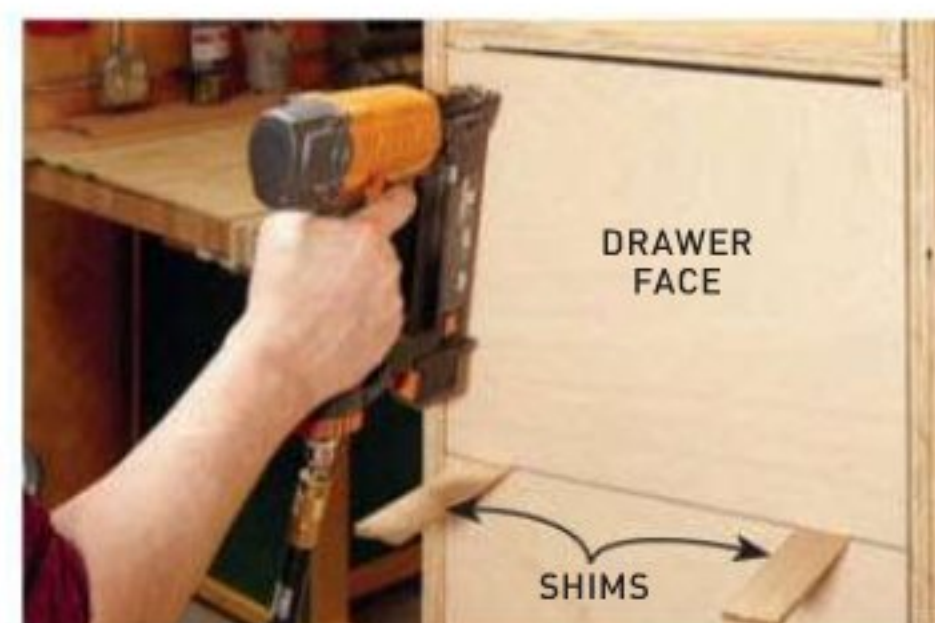
## 4 Attach the brace

Measure the distance between the centre drawer supports, then cut the brace to fit exactly between them. Clamp it 100mm from the front and 1mm below the top of the supports, securing with adhesive and screws.



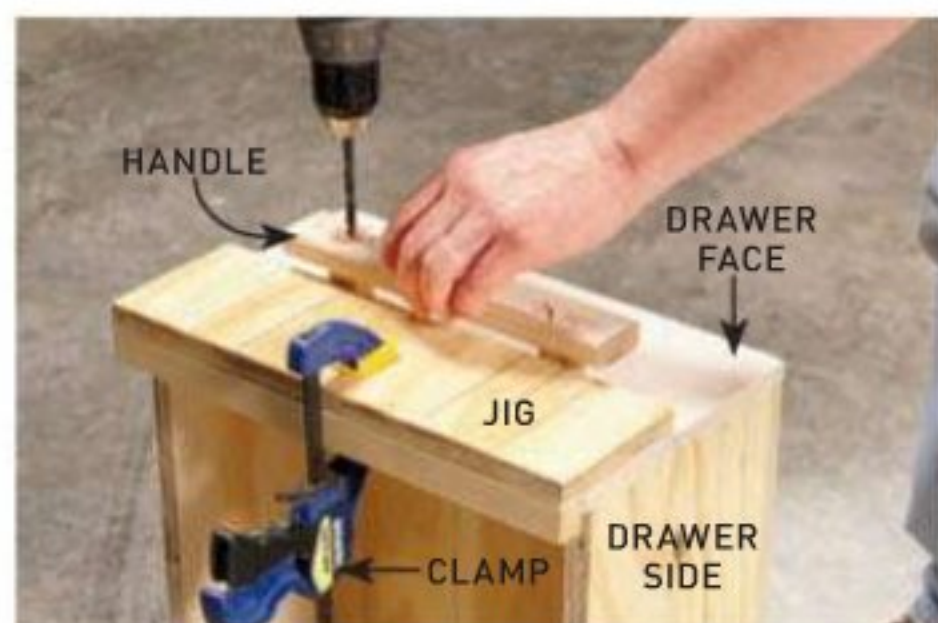
## 5 Build the drawers

Lay out the pieces for each drawer with the best edges face up, assembling with adhesive and three screws at each joint. Cut the bases to the exact size and use them to square up each drawer, securing with screws.



## 6 Add the drawer faces

Starting with the base drawer, cut the faces to size, with 3mm side gaps and 5mm in between the drawers. Shim the drawer faces to ensure the gaps are even, then secure with adhesive and brads in each corner.



## 7 Install the handles

Round off the edges of the handles and cut the posts to length. Clamp the handle jig to the drawer face and attach the dowels. Hold the handle in position and drill 8mm clearance holes, then secure with bolts, washers and nuts.



## 8 Build the plinth

If assembling more than one box, measure the space and calculate the number of boxes and shelves needed. Cut the plinth to match. Secure the sides and add a brace every 1200mm. Paint the plinth to match the boxes.



## 9 Hang the shelves

Secure each box to the wall studs and the plinth with screws. Install the base shelf on the plinth, then secure 550mm cleats to the box sides for extra shelves. Cut the top to fit over the boxes and shelves. Secure with screws.





When all the boxes are in position, secure to the plinth and to the wall studs with 75mm x 8g screws. Add the shelves and attach the worktop with screws.



## SHORTCUT

Make a simple handle jig.

**CUT** 19mm ply to 110mm wide and the length of the drawer faces.

**SECURE** a 40 x 19mm ply scrap flush with the top edge of a face, marking the handle ends and post hole centres 80mm and 50mm from each end.

**CLAMP** the jig and glue the dowels to hold them in position until the handles are bolted on. ➤



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### 32mm Right Angle Cobra Blade



### 63mm Wide Japanese Tooth

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Blade width: 63mm  
Depth of cut: 42mm



### 44mm Bi-Metal Blade Nail Buster Extreme

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Blade width: 44mm  
Depth of cut: 54mm



A first amongst multi-tool blades, a bi-metal right angle blade with a 25mm depth of cut. Set at right angles, an excellent blade for cutting flooring underneath cabinets and many awkward places. Suitable for cutting wood with nails.

Cutting depth: 25mm  
Blade width: 63mm  
Depth of cut: 42mm



measurements in mm

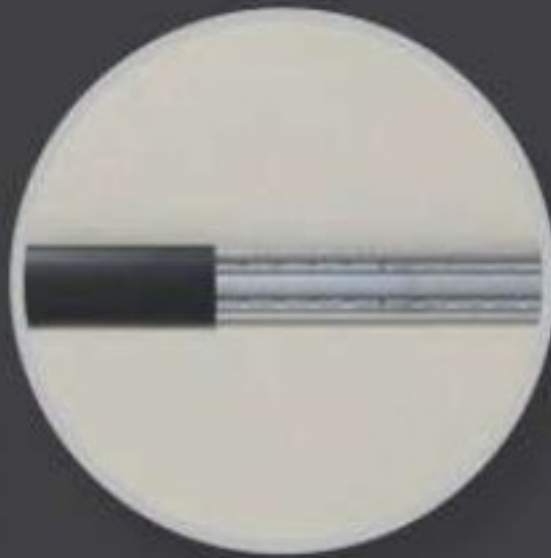


| TYPE                     | USE                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Timber screws, 35mm x 8g | Drawer supports, shelf cleats |
| Timber screws, 40mm x 8g | Box, drawers                  |
| Timber screws, 75mm x 8g | Centre brace, plinth          |
| Cuphead bolts, M8 x 90mm | Handles                       |
| Brads, 32mm x 18g        | Supports, boxes, drawers      |





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# HANGING PLASTERBOARD

Learn the skills to finish stud walls DIY and save money on your renovation



Plasterboard, known to most Kiwis simply as GIB, is a sheet material that is commonly used to line internal stud walls.

The strong sheets are made up of a gypsum plaster core encased in a heavy-duty lining paper.

Hanging plasterboard isn't hard to do DIY, relying mostly on accurate cutting, but getting the joints smooth is a skilled job. A rough finish on the joints will show through even when the walls are painted.

We show you how to cut and hang plasterboard sheets step by step and also finish the joints.

If you want to call in a plasterer for the joints, it will take them a day and cost about \$400 for an average-sized room.

## DIY TIP

Use a utility knife to score the paper and the gypsum will break along the line of the cut.

## WHAT YOU NEED



Stanley FatMax 8m Tape Measure, \$32. [stanleytools.co.nz](http://stanleytools.co.nz)



Irwin Folding Utility Knife, \$25. [irwintools.co.nz](http://irwintools.co.nz)



Bahco ProfCut 160mm Jab Saw, \$20. [bahco.co.nz](http://bahco.co.nz)



Another pair of hands is helpful to support the plasterboard sheet while you're cutting



## LINE IT

Here are the basics of hanging plasterboard on a stud wall.

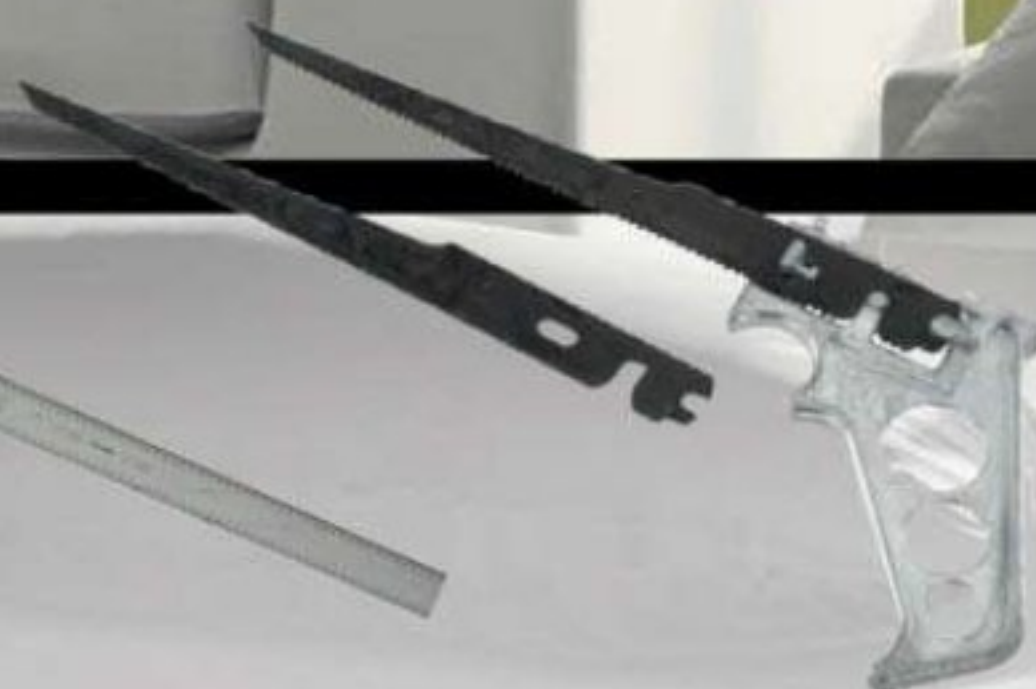
- **SCORE** the front paper, then snap and fold open the sheet.
- **CUT** through the paper on the back. Use a keyhole saw for short cuts, like a switch plate hole, and a coarse-tooth saw for cuts around doors.
- **LAY** the sheets flat on the floor to do intricate layouts so it is easier to use chalklines and straightedges.
- **MAKE** openings for existing doors and windows before hanging other sheets. Jamb and insulation will prevent cutting sheets in position, so cut these on the floor.
- **SAVE** waste by cutting to length before cutting to width.
- **USE** 3600 or 4200mm long sheets for horizontal fixing and 2400mm sheets for vertical fixing. The leftover pieces will be longer and more useful, with fewer joints to tape.
- **POSITION** the cut sheets to minimise the number of joints, especially hard-to-tape butt joints. ➤



Irwin Strait-Line Chalkline Reel, \$24.



Kapro 1200mm T Square, \$35, from Bunnings.



Stanley 4-Way Keyhole Saw, \$17.



# CUT THE PLASTERBOARD



## 1 Set up the plasterboard

Lean the stack of plasterboard sheets at a slight angle against the last wall to be covered. Make sure the top edges of the sheets are evenly supported by the stud framing to prevent them from warping.



## 2 Cut to length

Mark the length along the top and base of the sheet, then line up the right side of the square with the marks. Starting at the top, score two-thirds of the way down with a utility knife, then finish scoring from the base up.



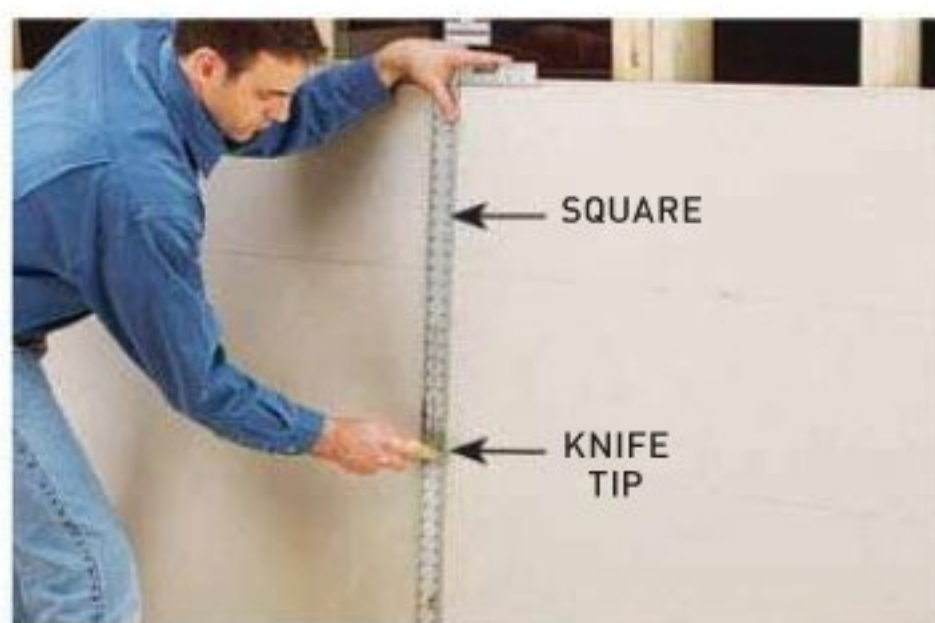
## 3 Snap the sheet

Lift the sheet away from the stack and position yourself with the scored side facing away. Ensuring the sheet is resting on the floor, knock your knee on the scored line to break the gypsum core so you can fold the sheet open.



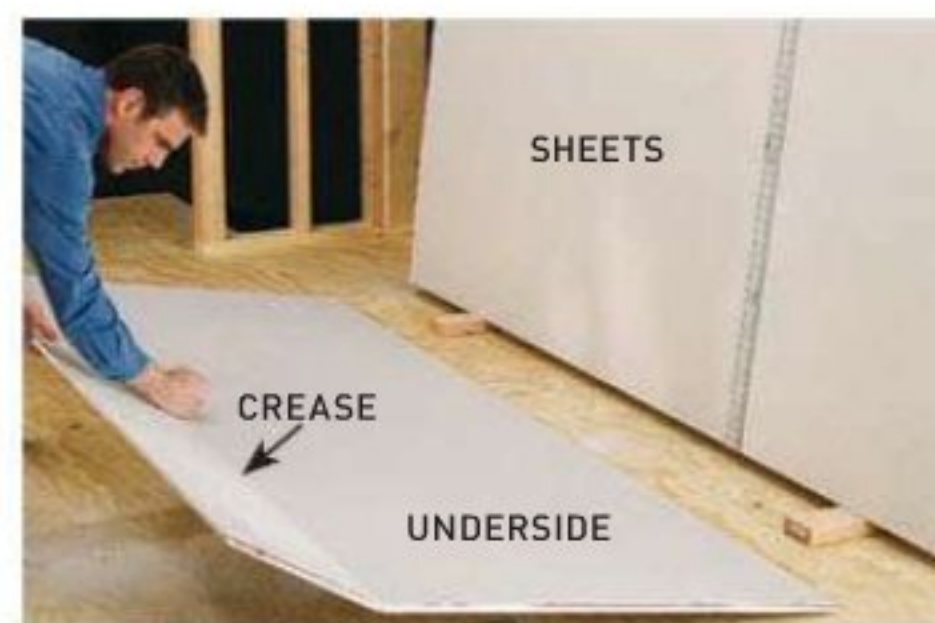
## 4 Finish the cut

Using the utility knife, cut halfway down through the crease on the reverse side of the sheet facing you, finishing the cut from the base up. Steady the top of the sheet with your free hand to hold the two halves together.



## 5 Cut to width

Pull the utility knife behind the square to cut sheets to width. Hold the blade against the aluminium tongue, then pierce the lining paper with the tip. Slide the top of the square and the knife along the length of the sheet.



## 6 Snap the cut

Clear the floor of scraps and screws so you don't dent the sheet. Lower the sheet close to the floor and snap each cut open with a soft karate punch. Slice through the lining paper along the crease on the underside to finish.



## 7 Make the wall openings

Screw the plasterboard sheets over wall openings when possible, leaving the area above the opening unfastened until you finish cutting. Cut upwards using a saw until the blade hits the timber at the top.



## 8 Cut out the openings

Score the underside of the plasterboard sheet along the top of the door framing. Snap the flap up, then cut through the front lining paper of the plasterboard sheet, following the crease line carefully. ➤

## HANG THE SHEETS

➤ **SECURE PLASTERBOARD** by applying stud adhesive to the wall framework in daubs 30mm wide and 12mm thick, spaced 250mm apart and 250mm away from any screwed edge. Position each sheet and secure along the recessed edges at each stud, then at the ends every 150mm using plasterboard screws.



# DIY Tools and Resources

TO KEEP YOUR INTERIOR WALLS LOOKING GOOD FOR LONGER

Need to renovate or refresh outdated walls? Or have to repair minor damage to walls? Most homes will suffer some sort of damage to the wallboard linings – scrapes and scratches when furniture is moved, holes caused by door handles or unexplained damage after leaving the teenagers at home for the weekend. Repairing this damage can be easy...

Visit [gib.co.nz/homeowner](http://gib.co.nz/homeowner) to view step-by-step video tutorials and downloadable worksheets to help you:

- Repair small and large holes
- Fix dings, cracks and scratches
- Skim coat, repair framing
- Remove and replace old wall linings







# FINISH INTERNAL CORNERS

Rest one end of a broad knife on the tape in the corner and the other end on the plasterboard for an even taper.



**1 CUT THE TAPE** to length and fold in half lengthways. Apply the first coat of compound with a 100mm broad knife.

**TIP** The crease stiffens the tape and helps keep the corner straight.



**2 POSITION THE TAPE** near the ceiling, lightly pulling the knife down to bed the tape in the compound. Apply two more coats 150mm either side of the joint, feathering the edges.

## Taping recessed joints

Paper tape is bedded into the plasterboard joints, using three layers of compound, to help strengthen them and make them look seamless.

Use a base coat compound for the first two layers, then a finishing compound for the last layer.

Or you can use a ready-mixed, air-drying, all-purpose compound, such as GIB Plus 4, for all three coats.

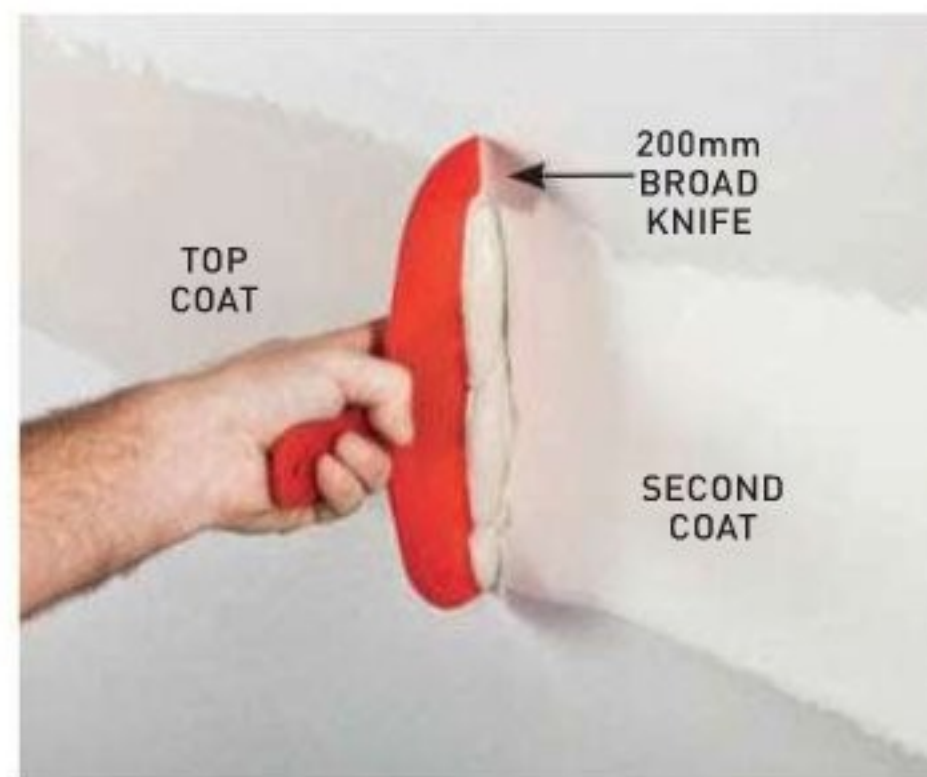


**GIB Plus 4 Jointing Compound**, about \$19 for 4kg. [gib.co.nz](http://gib.co.nz)



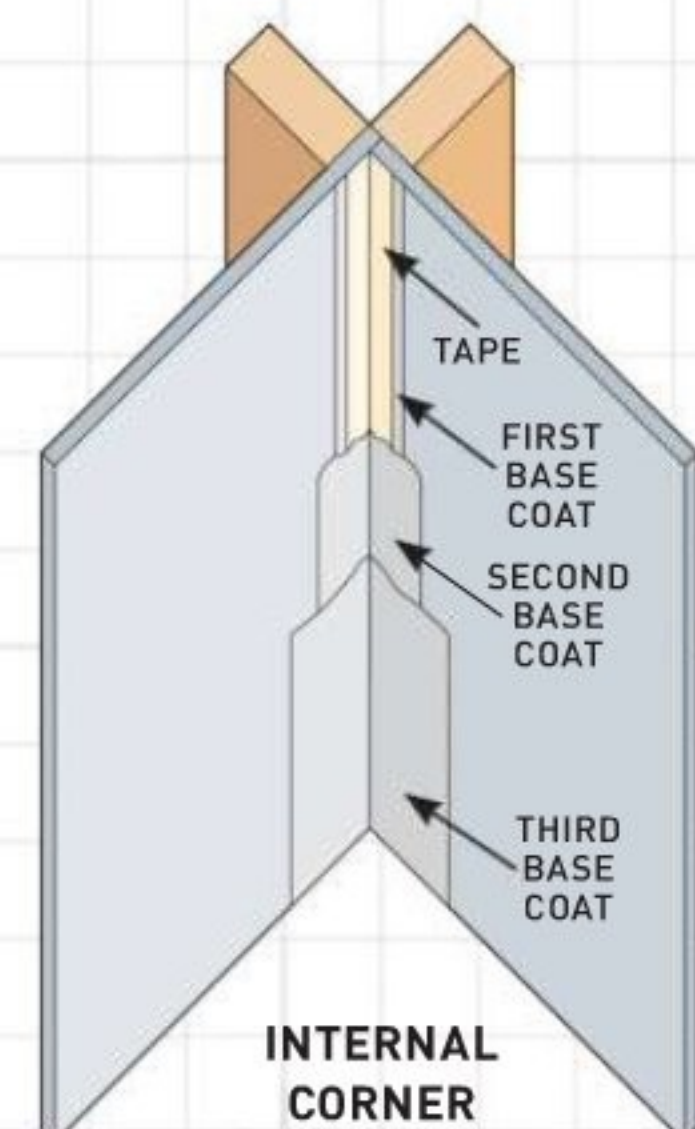
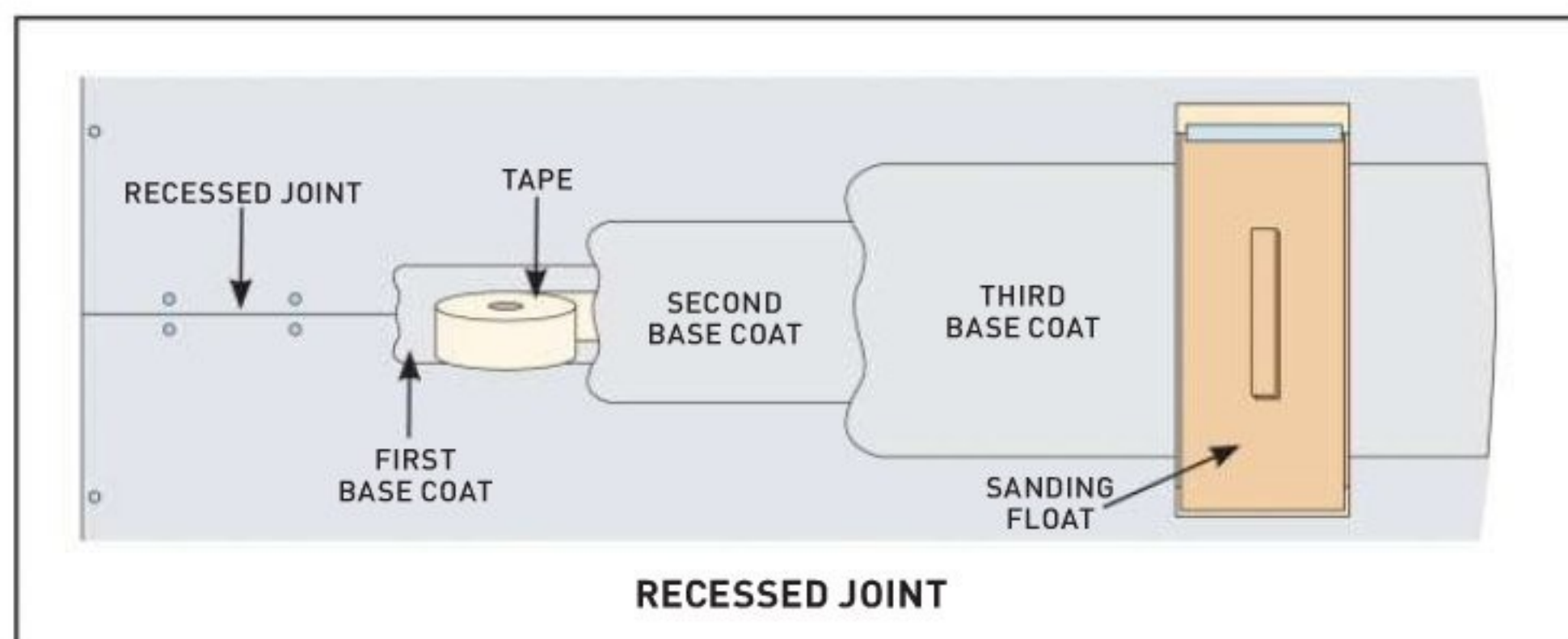
### 1 Bed in the tape

Use a 100mm broad knife to fill the recessed joint with compound. Roll out the tape over the joint, then gently press along the tape using the broad knife to bed it in. Allow to dry.



### 2 Add the finishing coats

Apply a second coat using a 150mm broad knife. Allow to dry. Apply a third coat with a 200mm broad knife. Allow to dry, then sand flush with the board surface using a sanding float.





# FINISH EXTERNAL CORNERS

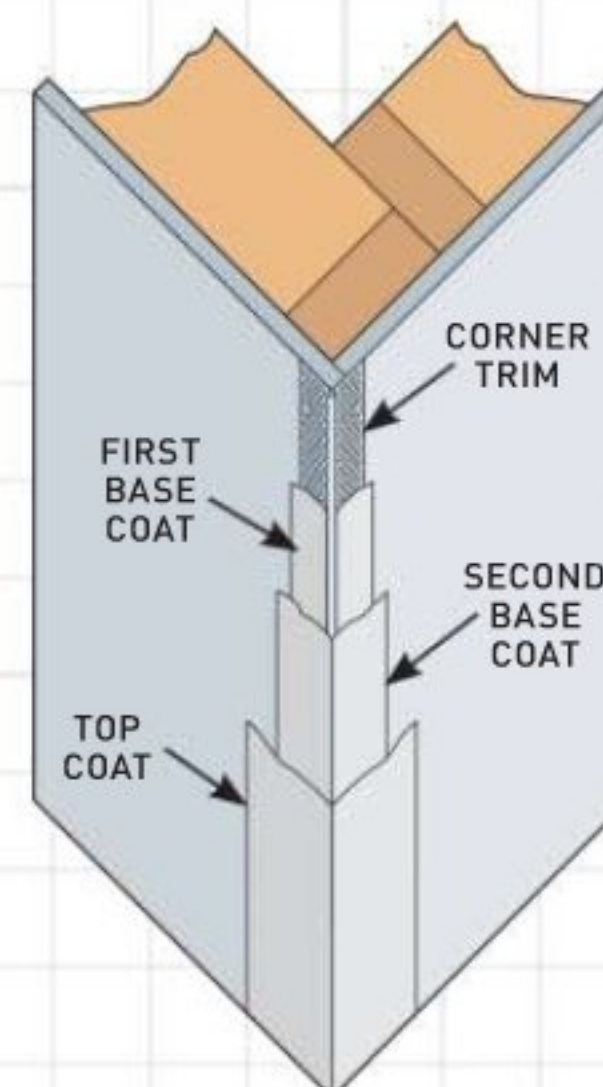
Secure corner trims on all external angles, such as large openings, then apply three coats of compound.



**1 ATTACH THE CORNER TRIM** to the doorway or corner, securing every 300mm with ring shank nails, screws or staples, ensuring the corner trim isn't misaligned.



**2 APPLY THE COMPOUND** over the corner trim with a broad knife, using two base coats and one top coat. Feather the edges, allow the compound to dry, then sand smooth.



EXTERNAL CORNER



Air drying compounds are premixed and ready to use straight from the pail, saving time and effort when finishing joints and corners.



## Covering butt joints

Butt joints are where two non-tapered edges of the plasterboard meet. They are difficult to hide because the tape protrudes above the surface of the plasterboard.

You can avoid butt joints by using long sheets of plasterboard to span the walls and ceilings, but you will still end up with a few.

The key to hiding a butt joint is to keep the tape coat thin. Build up a layer of compound over the tape that's thin and wide enough to blend into the surrounding surface.



## 1 Tidy up the joint

Once the plasterboard is secured to the studs, use a sharp utility knife to trim the edges of each sheet at an angle to remove loose or torn paper and create a shallow recess for the compound.



## 2 Bed in the tape

Fill the recess with a 100mm wide, 2mm thick coat of compound using a broad knife. Roll out the tape, then lightly press along it with the blade, so 1mm of compound is left underneath.



## 3 Add the finishing coats

Apply a thin second coat of compound 200-300mm wide over the tape. Allow to dry, then apply a third coat, tapering out the edges 300-500mm to conceal the bump left by the tape.





1

### Dust catcher

To drill a hole without making a mess, use masking tape to attach an open envelope to the wall underneath where you're drilling. The envelope will catch any dust and keep the floor clean.

Jonathan Heathcote

# HANDY HINTS

Make common DIY jobs easier with these tips from *Handyman* readers

Ticking items off the to-do list is very satisfying but when it comes to DIY, working smarter, not harder, is the best plan of attack.

Tried-and-tested tips from those who have done it before can help you work more efficiently, so you can get the job done faster and with less chance of disaster.

That's why we love to hear our readers' Handy Hints and have put together these 15 DIY shortcuts to help you with home maintenance, gardening and more. ➤

2

### Clever clips

Attach bulldog clips to electrical cords, then hang them on hooks to eliminate trip hazards. The clips are also a good way to keep multiple cords organised.

Philippa Clapham



3

### Colour code

Secure a cable tie at the top and plug end of a power tool cable. Use a different colour for each tool so that when working with multiple power tools, you'll easily know which plug belongs to which.

Ryan Johnstone



4

### Rustic solution

To make a budget and effective rustic timber stain, add one ream of plain steel wool to a cup of white vinegar and use it to give timber an aged and weathered look instantly.

Nicole Tapp



PICTURES THINKSTOCK



5

**Top down**

Always start painting furniture from the top and work your way down. That way, if any paint drips get on the base of the piece, they will be covered by the final coat.

Catherine Brauer

6

**Leak prevention**

If you have a habit of forgetting to turn the hose off at the tap, there's a way to avoid burst connectors flooding the backyard. Drill a tiny hole in the hose near the tap and the small spray of water when it's left on will remind you to turn off the water.

Patricia Comer



7

**Oil slick**

When nailing into hardwood, rub the nail in your hair first. The natural oils and sweat will make the nail much easier to knock in without bending it, and the timber absorbs the oils so the nail stays stuck fast.

James Sizer



8

**Nail holder**

Use a blob of Blu-Tack to hold small nails in place before hammering them in. This keeps your fingers clear of danger and the Blu-Tack can be re-used over and over again.

Carrol Ham

**Photo finish**

When you need to disassemble something to repair it, take digital photos of each stage so you can use them for reference when you reassemble it. You can enlarge the photos on a computer for clarity.

Joyce Hall

9

10

**Hot dog**

To stop your dog digging up your new plants, sprinkle chilli powder around them. This natural method repels dogs and also works as a pest deterrent.

Kristopher Evans







11

**Odour away**

Place a cotton ball soaked in an essential oil inside the vacuum cleaner bag and it will leave a nice scent while vacuuming, so your home smells fresh and clean.

Tanya James

12

**Battery band**

Put a rubber band around batteries that are fully charged and remove it when it's been used, so you'll always know which ones are ready to go. Add a label to track how many times it has been recharged and how often.

Lorraine Stacey



13

**Dent defence**

To get furniture pressure marks out of wool carpet, cover with a tea towel and lightly iron over the spot. The fibres will quickly spring back into shape.

Clare Willis



14

**Upside down**

When you've finished using gloss paint, put the lid back on firmly, then turn the tin upside down to store it. That way the skin forms on the base and not the top.

Alasdair Hirst

15

**Magnet magic**

Put a large magnet inside your pocket and attach screws, nails and other metal fasteners to the magnet from the outside of your pocket for easy retrieval while you work.

Ben Kimpton



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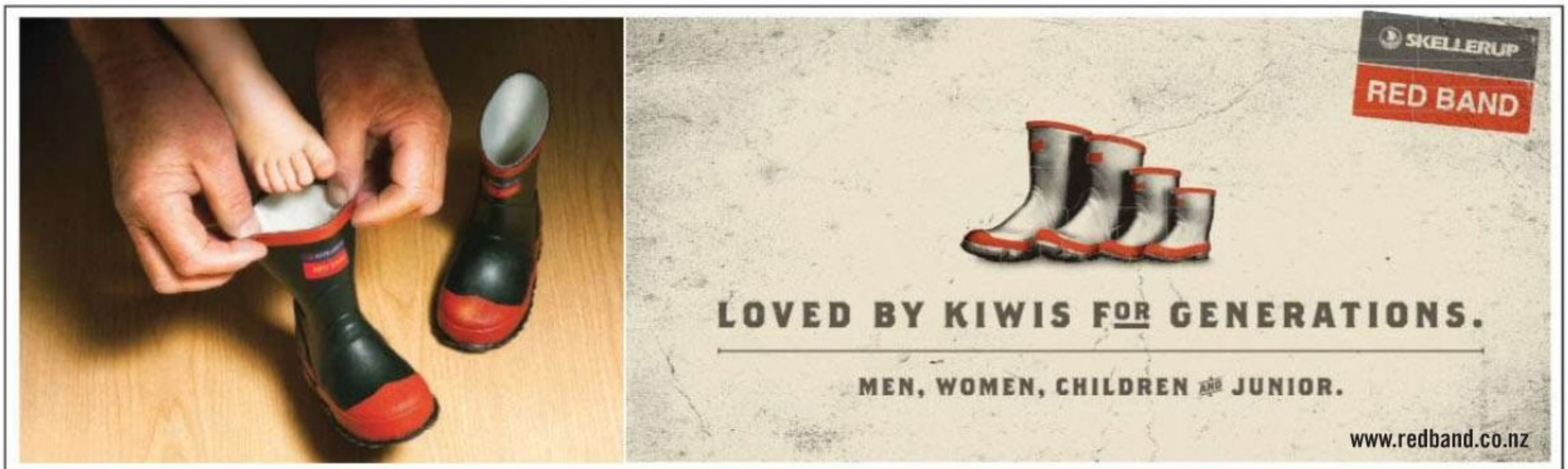
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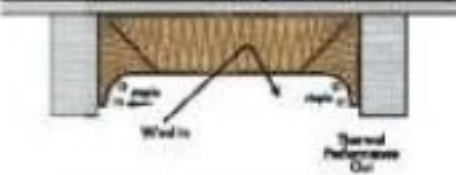
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**Workshops 11am – 1pm  
every Saturday and Sunday.**

If you can't make a session, don't worry – we have heaps of step-by-step guides and expert help in-store, plus handy online videos 24/7.



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Keep little hands busy on the weekend with our special kids' craft workshops. They'll get a real buzz out of learning to make all sorts of things and will enjoy taking their projects home.

**Workshops 10am  
every Saturday and Sunday.**

\*Bookings essential. Contact your local store for details.

**Bookings  
Essential**



Here are just some of the D.I.Y. videos available at [bunnings.co.nz](https://www.bunnings.co.nz)

### How to build a raised garden bed

A step by step guide to enhance your garden.

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A simple project with the right tools and instructions.

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Create an ideal environment for your home and garden.

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Protect your child from hazards at home.

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Gardening advice designed to help you save time, effort and money.

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### LINARIA

- ✦ **POSITION** Sun
- ✦ **CULTIVATION** Sow seeds where they are to grow. Good for mixed planting in pots.

### VIOLA

- ✦ **POSITION** Sun, semi-shade
- ✦ **CULTIVATION** Picking the small pansy-like flowers encourages further blooms.

### CINERARIA

- ✦ **POSITION** Semi-shade, shade
- ✦ **CULTIVATION** Grow in pots and bring indoors when the plant begins to flower.

# Winter wonders

Fill the garden with fabulous plants that work their magic at this time of the year

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

### PRIMULA

- ✦ **POSITION** Sun, semi-shade
- ✦ **CULTIVATION** Grow in pots and garden beds.

### ICELAND POPPY

- ✦ **POSITION** Sun
- ✦ **CULTIVATION** Shelter from wind and plant in soil with excellent drainage.

### PANSY

- ✦ **POSITION** Sun, afternoon shade in hot climates
- ✦ **CULTIVATION** Picking flowers encourages more blooms.



## Easy-care blooms

- ✦ Remove the plant carefully from its punnet so you don't disturb the roots.
- ✦ Plant it into damp soil or potting mix and water in well.
- ✦ Feed it monthly with a soluble complete plant food.
- ✦ Deadhead flowers on a regular basis.



The garden doesn't have to be dull just because winter is here. Annuals are a quick colour fix for beds or pots

## GROW TIP

Always water annuals in seedling trays before you transplant them into garden beds or pots.

### CALENDULA

- ✦ **POSITION** Sun
- ✦ **CULTIVATION** Remove spent blooms to prolong flowering. Petals are edible.

### POLYANTHUS

- ✦ **POSITION** Sun, semi-shade
- ✦ **CULTIVATION** A perennial, often grown as an annual. Don't allow the potting mix to dry out.

### NEMESIA

- ✦ **POSITION** Sun
- ✦ **CULTIVATION** Pinch out the growing tips while young to encourage bushiness. ➤



## PLANT IN POTS

Containers and pots filled with flowering annuals can transform any courtyard or patio from insipid to inspired in no time.

You can mix annuals in different sizes and colours in a pot or stick to just the one colour theme.

Use a high-quality premium mix to get your plants off to a good start.

And while planting in plastic pots is best for water retention, you could use an attractive terracotta pot as a sleeve.



### TOP PICKS

‘Annuals are good value at a few dollars a punnet, so you won’t break the bank trying different looks each winter.’

- CHERYL MADDOCKS, HORTICULTURIST



Assorted Pansy Seedlings,  
\$1 a punnet, from Bunnings.



Polyanthus ‘Pacific Giants’ Yellow,  
about \$1, from Bunnings.



## SEASONAL SCENTS

Fragrance need not be missing from the garden during the cooler months.

*Daphne odora* shows off at this time of the year with pink flowers that have a heady scent. It needs good drainage, slightly acidic soil and morning sun only.

Another plant that likes morning sun is *Luculia gratissima*. It grows 3m high and has equally sweet-smelling flowers.

Other great fragrant winter shrubs include *Buddleia salvifolia*, *Boronia megastigma* and *Viburnum farreri*.

## Flowering climbers

The orange flowers of the evergreen flame vine, *Pyrostegia venusta*, will brighten the garden from winter into spring in frost-free climates. It is best used for screening purposes. Depending on the cultivar, you could also choose purple, white or pink flowering hardenbergia. Another evergreen, this native is ideal for metal fences. ➤



✚ **FUCHSIAS** Honey-eating birds flock to the flowers of the tree fuchsia (*fuchsia excorticata*). This plant is a popular source of nectar for birds throughout the winter.



## WHAT TO PLANT

## FOOD FOR BIRDS

It's hard for birds to find nectar in winter and you can help them by planting winter-flowering species. Introducing these plants will also have a good impact on the overall environment, as the birds, animals and insects they attract will find their way into other neighbourhood gardens.



✚ **KOWHAI** The low-spreading Dragons Gold's flowers appear in winter providing food for birds. Frost-hardy, this plant will tolerate most conditions, but doesn't like having wet feet.



✚ **NEW ZEALAND FLAX** Sweet nectar from the flowers of this native plant is a popular food source for tui, bellbirds and kereru. It prefers full sun, but will grow in part shade.

✚ **GREVILLEAS** Best used as a screening or feature plant, the grevillea flowers in cooler weather, attracting many honeyeaters. You can choose from a variety of colours.



PICTURES: THINKSTOCK



## WINTER BULBS

The dark-green strappy leaves of *Clivia miniata* look good throughout the year and its orange-scarlet flowers lift the tone of the garden during late winter.

Ideal for planting in dry, shady positions, this flowering plant comes in cream, pale yellow, salmon pink and bright-red cultivars.

Snowflakes and early jonquils also begin to make an appearance during the last month of winter to add another burst of colour to the garden.



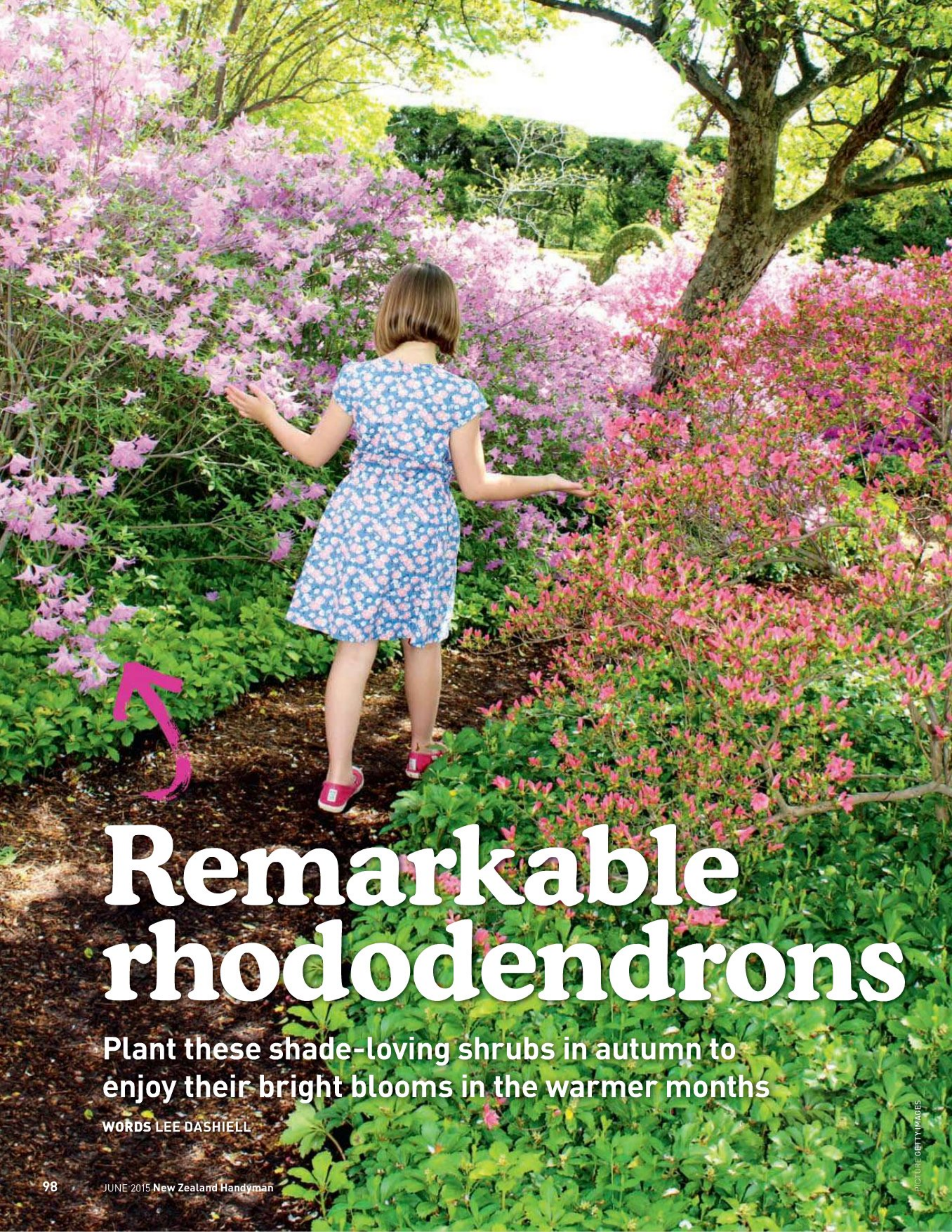
Daltons Premium Bulb Mix, about \$9 for 15L.  
daltons.co.nz

## DESIGN TIP

Bring brightly coloured potted cyclamen indoors during winter to use as living decorations.







# Remarkable rhododendrons

Plant these shade-loving shrubs in autumn to  
enjoy their bright blooms in the warmer months

WORDS LEE DASHIELL



**S**tealing the show in spring, rhododendrons are covered with large clusters of flowers, and many keep their foliage year-round.

Autumn is the best time to plant them so the roots develop before winter sets in. Avoid planting in midsummer.

Most varieties prefer lightly shaded areas sheltered from the wind.

The soil should be well-drained, so if it is heavy, loosen it and dig in organic matter like leaf mould or pine needles and a generous amount of potting mix.

Plant the rootball just below the surface, taking care not to stamp on it when firming up the soil.

If the plant is looking unhappy after a year or so, it can be moved to another spot. Ensure the rootball is moist, dig it out and replant, then water in and add mulch. ➤



## TEST THE SOIL

Rhododendrons like an acidic soil with a pH level of 4.5-5.5. If it's too alkaline, growth will be stunted and the leaves will turn yellowish.

## PLANT IN POTS

If the soil in your garden is high in lime, don't plant rhododendrons in the ground, grow them in large pots.

- **USE** a potting mix with a high acidity to provide the correct soil conditions.
- **MAKE** a hole twice the size of the rootball and tease out the roots.
- **WATER** the shrub in well to remove air pockets and keep the roots moist.

### TOP PICK

**'If you need to increase acid in the soil, use liquid sulfur.'**

- LEE DASHIELL, MANAGING EDITOR



Yates Soil Acidifier Liquid Sulfur, \$17 for 500ml. [yates.co.nz](http://yates.co.nz)





## KEEP THEM FLOURISHING

Rhododendrons are shallow-rooted and don't like the ground beneath them to be overly raked or dug over.

In prolonged dry periods, water regularly and mulch with pea straw.

To prepare them for the cooler weather, water well in late autumn if there hasn't been much rain.

They generally don't freeze in winter, but they will dry out if the leaves lose water through evaporation and the roots are in frozen ground.

For healthy growth, cut off dead flowers in late spring and spread a thick layer of bark mulch.

They don't need regular pruning, but tip pruning while the plant is still small encourages bushy growth.

### EASY SHRUB CARE



✿ **DEADHEAD** after spring flowering to promote stronger growth.



✿ **PROTECT** the roots by spreading a thick layer of bark mulch.

The blooms range in colour from white to pink, yellow and mauve.

### Feed it

Apply an acidifying fertiliser in spring or add a 50mm layer of half-rotted compost, taking care not to disturb the roots of the rhododendrons.



**Share your fave flower**  
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## DIY PEST SPRAY

Garlic has insecticidal qualities when used in an all-purpose spray. You can buy a pre-mixed formula for the garden or make your own. It is best sprayed directly onto pests.

- ✦ **COMBINE** 4 large crushed garlic cloves and 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, then leave to soak for 2 days.
- ✦ **STRAIN** and add 1 teaspoon pure liquid soap and 1 litre water to the oil.
- ✦ **POUR** into a spray bottle and use within two weeks. Store in the fridge.

# Grow organic garlic

Plant your own cloves to enjoy a delicious fresh flavour

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

## DID YOU KNOW?

A study in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* found that men who consumed more than 10g a day of vegies from the *Allium* genus, which includes garlic, spring onions, chives, onions and leeks, were about 50% less likely to get prostate cancer.



When grown with tomatoes, eggplants, cabbages and roses, garlic acts as an insect-repelling plant

### Homegrown for health

To get rid of bugs, all imported garlic is fumigated with the toxic chemical methyl bromide, and some have been treated with growth-inhibiting chemicals. Garlic is easy to grow and good for you, so it makes sense to grow your own.



Garlic has a rich history of being used for its healing qualities. There is evidence to suggest it was given to the pyramid workers in ancient Egypt to keep them strong and protect them from illness.

It was regarded as a panacea by Chinese, Greek and Roman physicians, who prescribed it for everything from infections, cancer and leprosy to tapeworm and heart problems.

In the late 1850s, French chemist Louis Pasteur noted its antibacterial effects, and garlic juice was used during World War I to treat wounds.

With the later discovery of the chemical alliin in the vegetable, it is now known that this is responsible for garlic's beneficial qualities. ➤



## IN THE KITCHEN

To get the strongest taste, add garlic to dishes when they are nearly cooked.

- ✦ Roast whole garlic bulbs and serve with other baked vegetables.
- ✦ Stuff a chicken with 40 garlic cloves and roast to make garlic chicken.
- ✦ Make a garlic and parsley sauce for fish, called a persillade. Finely chop four cloves of garlic and one bunch of parsley, and blend with a little olive oil.

✦ To make garlic bread, rub raw garlic cloves on both sides of hot, toasted Italian bread or a sliced French bread stick. Drizzle with olive oil and serve.

You can easily turn the garlic bread into bruschetta by topping it with tomatoes, mozzarella and basil. Or use it as a base for toppings such as olive tapenade with goat's cheese, or tomatoes and anchovies.

### HEALTH TIP

When raw garlic is chewed or crushed, the chemical alliin is converted into allicin, which has antibiotic properties.



Use garlic bread as a base for a range of toppings.

## CURES FOR GARLIC BREATH

There are no prizes for guessing why garlic is called the stinking rose, but this doesn't put off garlic lovers. Cures for smelly breath include chewing parsley or fennel seeds. Better still, the odour is reportedly reduced when garlic is eaten with a glass of red.





# HOW TO GROW

You can buy garlic to sow from the nursery or use store-bought organic bulbs that have sprouted in the pantry.

Plant cloves in autumn in a sunny position in a garden bed or pot. They will produce leaves in winter, which supply nutrients to the maturing bulbs and stimulate growth during spring.

The bulbs will be ready to harvest in about 6-8 months after sowing.

## PLANT THE CLOVES



**1 REMOVE** individual cloves from the bulb. Don't remove the papery covering around the clove. Fill a pot with potting mix.



**2 PLANT** each clove about 50mm deep and spaced 120mm apart with the flat base pointing down. Cover the exposed tips with mix.



**3 WATER** in lightly. The mix must be free-draining or the cloves will rot. Feed monthly with an organic fertiliser like Powerfeed.



You can eat the young bulb and leaves of garlic. Young, or green, garlic is harvested in spring



Share your garlic recipe  
Post a pic on Instagram and tag it #HMCookit



# All about avocados

Grow a tree in the garden or in a pot for your own supply of this tasty and versatile fruit

**WORDS** CHERYL MADDOCKS



Weight for weight, avocados contain more potassium than bananas and are also packed with vitamins, meaning they're full of both goodness and flavour.

Very easy to grow, avocados, *Persea americana*, are great evergreen shade or feature trees. Native to Central and South America, they grow up to 20m.

Grafted cultivars vary in size, but some have a spreading habit and reach 10-12m high, so they're only suited to big backyards. Smaller cultivars reach 4-6m and are ideal trees for small gardens and even large tubs. ➤



## DID YOU KNOW?

The avocado has been considered an aphrodisiac for centuries. The Aztecs called it the testicle tree, no doubt because of its dangling pear-shaped fruit. Californian growers ran an ad campaign in the 1920s, deliberately denying the fruit was an aphrodisiac. This bit of reverse psychology worked well and since then the 'avodisiac' has never looked back.



Cheryl

## EXPERT SECRETS

To hasten ripening, put avocados in a paper bag with an apple or banana.



## HOW TO GROW

You can buy potted avocado trees to plant from nurseries for \$40 to \$80.

- ✦ **POSITION** in a sunny spot, protected from strong and salt-laden winds.
- ✦ **SOIL** must be well-drained, rich, deep and friable with a pH of 6-7.
- ✦ **DIG** the planting hole twice as wide as the rootball. Add organic matter like cow manure or compost to the soil from the hole before backfilling. Don't

disturb the roots, and plant so the soil level is the same as it was in the pot.

- ✦ **WATER** regularly, especially during summer, to produce more fruit.
- ✦ **MULCH** with lucerne hay or pea straw, keeping it clear from the trunk.
- ✦ **FEED** young trees three times a year with a fertiliser with added nitrogen. Feed mature trees yearly in spring with a fertiliser for flowers and fruit.

## TREE TYPES

If an A and a B group tree are planted, they'll cross-pollinate and each produce more fruit. But most grafted cultivars self-pollinate, so in a small yard you can get fruit from one tree, especially in a temperate climate.

✦ **REED, A GROUP**  
With a mild to rich flavour, it produces large, round fruit with smooth, green skin.

✦ **HASS, A GROUP**  
Bears black-skinned fruit that stores on the tree for months. A tall spreading tree, this popular cultivar likes frost-free climates.

✦ **FUERTE, B GROUP**  
Suits cool climates and makes a great shade tree for a large garden. Bears small to medium green-skinned fruit.

✦ **BACON, B GROUP**  
Upright and vigorous, it bears a medium fruit with light-green skin. Good for cool climates.

### Gender bender

This fruit has an interesting sex life. Split into two categories, the flowers of Group A open as female in the morning, then close and re-open as male the next afternoon, while Group B's flowers open as female in the afternoon, then close and re-open the next morning as male.



## PLANT IN POTS

The Reed variety can be grown in a large pot at least the size of a wine barrel. Choose a premium potting mix to plant it in. Stand the pot on feet so that drainage is not impeded and water the tree regularly, especially during hot summer days when pots can dry out quickly.



## HARVESTING THE FRUIT

Avocados don't ripen until picked, so you don't have to harvest them all at once. When the fruit is fully formed, pick one and, if it ripens indoors within 7-10 days without shrivelling, they're ready to be picked off the tree. ➤





# RAISE A TREE

While avocados grow easily from seed, don't expect any fruit for 7-15 years.

Even if you don't get fruit, an avocado tree makes a pretty pot plant for a sunny patio and growing one from seed is a great project for kids.

Remove the seed, called a pit, from an avocado without cutting it and

wash it thoroughly to get rid of the flesh, taking care not to remove the brown skin or seed cover, then put it in water to form roots and a shoot.

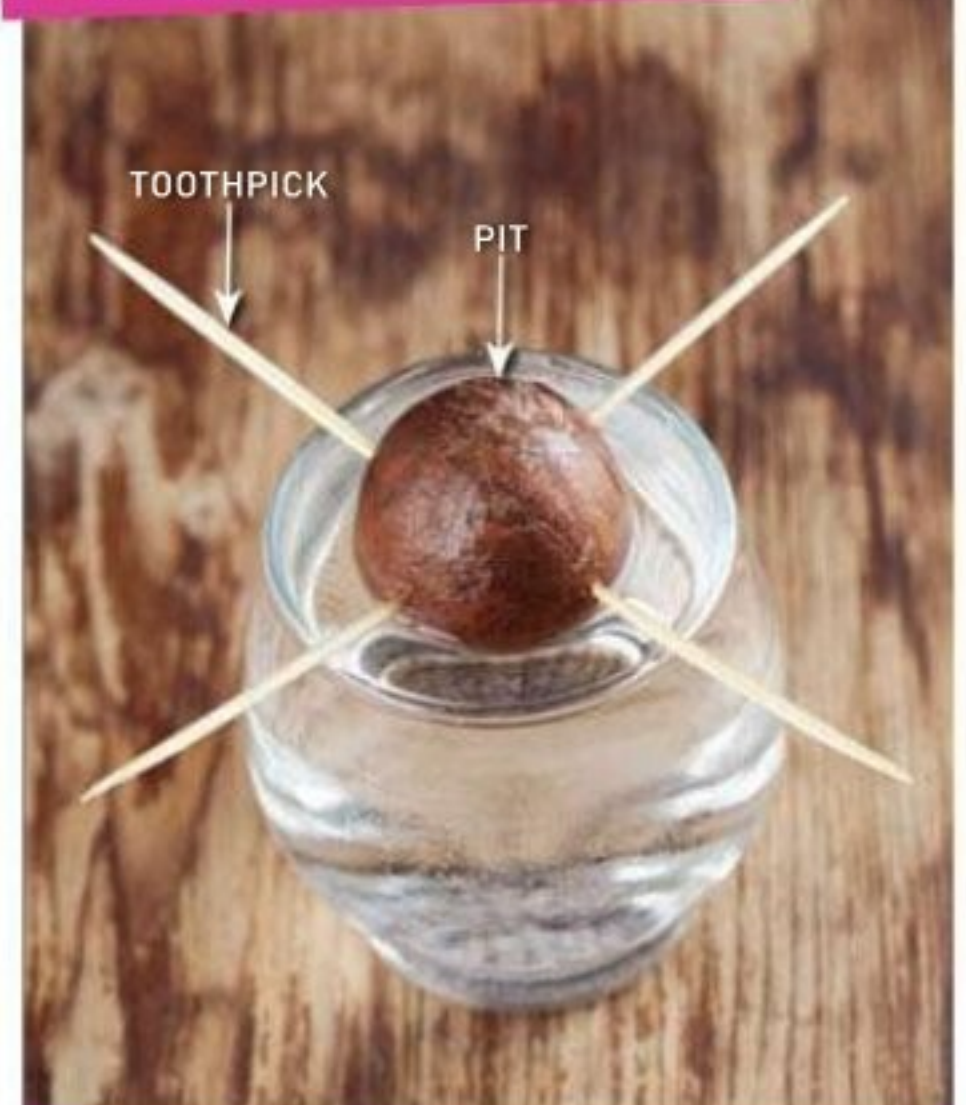
When the stem reaches 150mm high, transplant it into a 150mm pot, leaving the top half of the pit exposed. Water regularly, but don't overwater.

## GROW TIP

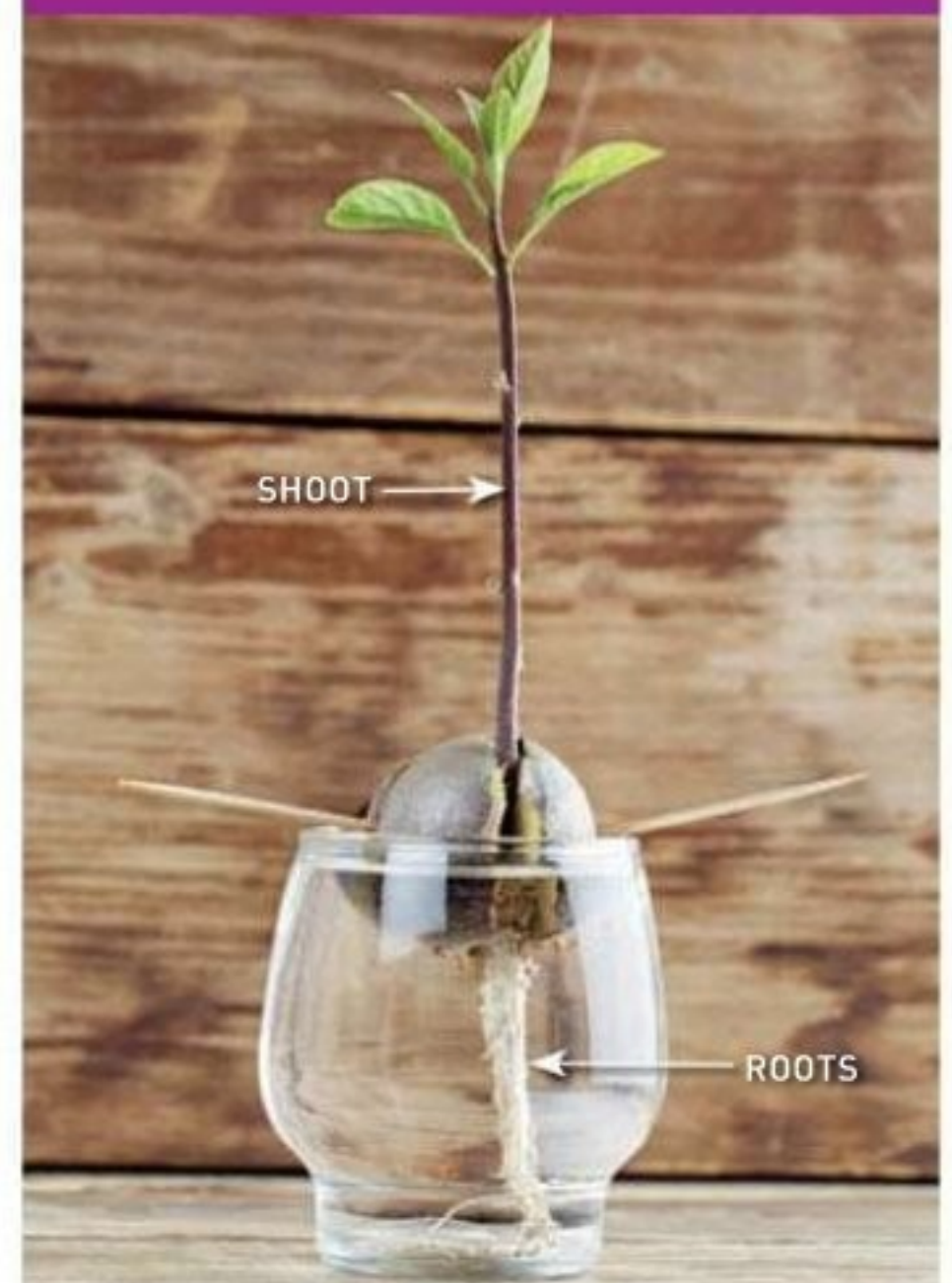
Pinch out the top two sets of leaves so side shoots will grow and form a bushy plant.



## PREPARE THE PIT



**1 SPACE** 3-4 toothpicks at a slight angle evenly around the circumference of the pit. Put in a glass of water, flat-end down. Position the glass on a sunny windowsill and change the water every 4-5 days to keep it clean.



**2 MAKE** sure the water always covers the base of the pit. The top of the pit will dry out and form a crack that will extend to the base. Roots will then grow from the base and new shoots emerge from the top after 3-4 weeks.



## IN THE KITCHEN

Great to eat fresh or cooked, avocados are a versatile food to have on hand.

✦ **MAKE** guacamole by mashing 2 ripe avocados. Add 1 finely chopped medium tomato, 1 finely chopped small red onion, 2 crushed garlic cloves and 1 tablespoon lemon juice. Mix well and season to taste. Serve with corn chips.

✦ **STUFF** halved avocados with chopped chicken, a chopped spring onion, goat's cheese and a pinch of cayenne pepper. Top with a slice of tomato and bake in a hot oven for about 10 minutes.

✦ **MASH** a boiled egg with mayonnaise, chopped parsley or coriander, and avocado, and use as a sandwich filling.





## COVER UP SEEDS

When sowing seeds in rows, dig a small trench at the right depth, add the seeds, then gently brush soil over them with a large paintbrush. This allows you to distribute the exact amount of soil needed.

# 5 extraordinary uses for paintbrushes

## BRUSH OFF SAND

Keep a paintbrush in your bag for return trips from the beach. Remove sand from chairs, toys, the kids and yourself before opening the car door. You'll have a lot less to vacuum next time you clean up.

## CLEAN UP SCREENS

Give dirty mesh window screens a thorough brush and shake off the dust. Pour a little kerosene into a dish, dip the brush into it, then paint both sides of the screen. Dry off the mesh with a clean cloth.

## DUST EVERY NOOK

Get into hard-to-reach places in wicker furniture, baskets, intricate statues and knick-knacks with a small natural-bristle brush. It's also great to use for dusting all your delicate items.

## BASTE AND GLAZE

Use a small synthetic paintbrush to glaze pies, or brush on marinades and sauces while roasting or baking, or spread sauces on meat. They are easier to clean than most pastry brushes.



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