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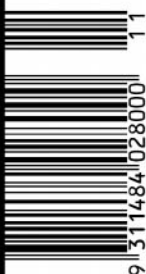
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NOVEMBER ISSUE



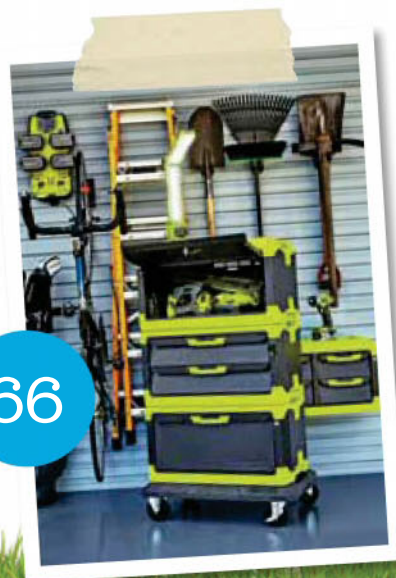
COVER PHOTOGRAPHY
STUART SCOTT

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to *Handyman* p34

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THIS ISSUE

EDITOR'S LETTER



Check out our line
trimming guide,
on page 84.

Christmas is approaching, so it's time to start thinking about summer holidays and how we will enjoy our leisure time.

Swimming pools are one of life's luxuries, providing many hours of entertainment for the whole family, especially in the warmer months.

Water safety regulations are very strict so, this month, we look at a few ways to install safety barriers around your pool, starting with a glass-panel fence which offers both security and good looks, on page 56.

We also show you how to install and update metal fencing, and share some gate latch technology that will ensure extra safety, on page 60.

Passion for the fruit

A very popular story on our website, handymanmagazine.co.nz, is about passionfruit. These unusual, slightly tart, slightly sweet, seedy, pulpy balls of deliciousness seem to capture everyone's imagination.

Cheryl Maddocks shows how you can grow them at home and harvest a great crop every year, on page 92.

If you follow her advice, it's very likely you will have an abundance, so we've included plenty of recipes and ways you can preserve them as well.

Luscious lawns

Want your lawn to be the envy of the neighbourhood? Garden guru Adam Woodhams gives you the know-how to lift your game, on page 72.

He solves problems such as weeds and bald spots, and shows how to lay new turf. To finish the job like a pro, there are also guides to buying and using mowers and line trimmers.

Enjoy the issue,

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL

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HANDY STUFF

GET INTO THE GARDEN

Fix up the backyard so it's in great shape for the start of summer

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Prolific posies

Turn your garden into an ocean of bright blooms right through summer by planting a mix of *Hydrangea* 'Leuchtfleur', \$17, and *Hemerocallis* 'Day Lilies' Outdoor Design Range, \$16. Both varieties are easy to grow at home.

bunnings.co.nz

Ground work



Maintain moisture and suppress weed growth in garden beds and tubs with Daltons Pine Bark Mini-Chip, \$10 for 40L (daltons.co.nz). Each bag covers an area of 1sqm to a depth of 40mm.

Go native

Gardeners wanting to know about native plants in a seashore setting should read *The Coastal Garden* by Isobel Gabites, \$50. It gives tips on irrigation, nutrients and pests.

pottonandburton.co.nz



Poppin' pebbles

Add shiny patches of colour to your garden, potted plants or even a vase with Greenscape Pebbles, about \$10 for 1kg (sims-distributing.co.nz).

The polished stone pieces measure 38-40mm across and are available in a translucent or aqua finish.



Bio boost

Provide sustenance for your soil and create a lush-looking garden with Osmocote Plus Trace Elements Total All-Purpose Fertiliser, \$10 for 500g. It feeds plants for a year, slowly releasing vital nutrients. >

tuigarden.co.nz



Grow your own vivid floral displays during the warm seasons.



Luxe letterbox

Switch your plain old mailbox with the smart Sandleford Stone Shale Pillar Letterbox, \$297. Made from baked ceramic, it takes A4 mail, is 1130cm high and has a locking door and chrome-plated fittings.

harknessyoung.co.nz



Polished panel

Add style and privacy to the garden or backyard with a Protector Aluminium Fern Designer Screen in Black, \$169 (protectoraluminium.com.au). The panels measure 1840 x 940 x 4mm and will never rust, rot or need painting. They're available in several designs including Aztec, Bamboo, Riverstone and Zebra.

TIP

Add a shadesail or umbrella to provide a cool space to relax and just pack it away in winter.

Sturdy screen

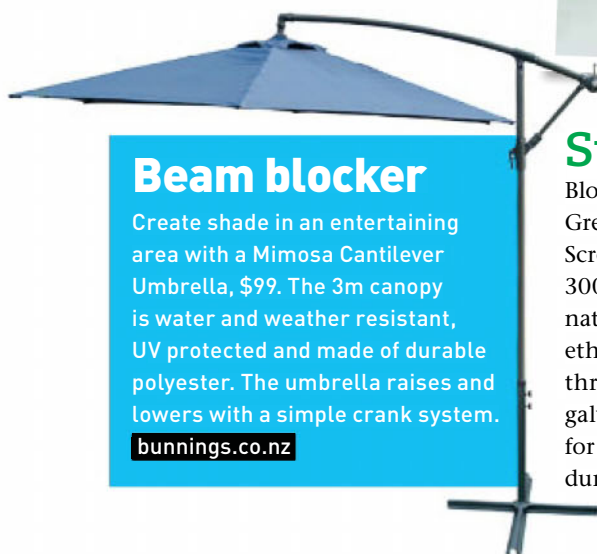
Block out nosy neighbours with the Greenscape Premium Black Bamboo Screen, \$70, from Bunnings. The 3000mm wide by 1800mm high naturally black bamboo is ethically sourced and threaded with galvanised wire for a flexible, durable finish.



Beam blocker

Create shade in an entertaining area with a Mimosa Cantilever Umbrella, \$99. The 3m canopy is water and weather resistant, UV protected and made of durable polyester. The umbrella raises and lowers with a simple crank system.

bunnings.co.nz



Wine taste

Trade in tired planters for a Tiki Wine Barrel Planter, \$60. Suitable for use both indoors and out, it measures 370mm tall and 520mm wide. Made from high-density resin, it's lightweight, strong, durable and weather resistant.

bunnings.co.nz





Wide coverage

Save heaps of time on large paint jobs with the Wagner Flexio 990 Direct Feed Paint Sprayer, \$689. This new design draws paint straight from the can so you can continue spraying for prolonged periods.

wagner.co.nz

Power pruner

Tackle towering hedges with ease using the Ozito 10.8V Li-ion Grass Trimmer & Shear, \$139 (ozito.co.nz). It weighs 1.65kg and has a tool-free, quick blade change.



Speed snip

Garden pruning is a breeze with McGregor's Stainless Steel Bypass Secateurs, \$20. Soft-grip handles will help your hands cope with the hard work and the blades can chop through 19mm-thick wet wood.

mcgregors.co.nz

Invest in power garden tools to save time maintaining the garden.



Double act

You can do away with the need for a lawnmower with the Ryobi 25.4cc Field Trimmer, \$349 (ryobi.co.nz). It allows you to trim garden edges and cut the lawn at the same time. The two-stroke engine is easy to start and trimmer-line reloading is simple.



Full blast

Power through any cleaning job with a Karcher K5.700 T-300 Water Blaster, \$823. This grunty machine features a corrosion-free-for-life pump, water-cooled induction motor, quick-connect fittings and a selection of accessories. ●

karcher.co.nz

TIP

For a fuller hedge next year, prune branches just above the bud to promote denser growth.

Available at Bunnings

What's new

With the festive season almost upon us, now's the perfect time to freshen up your home and garden. Whether it's a lick of paint, finishing a project or the addition of something new, Bunnings has everything you need at the lowest price.



LET'S TORQUE POWER The Ryobi ONE+ 18V Impact Wrench Kit boasts 360Nm of torque, three speed settings and a tri-beam LED light, which helps in dimly lit areas like under the car. It includes 5.0Ah & 2.5Ah Lithium+ Batteries, a charger and a carry bag. **\$349.**



POWER CLEAN With a cord length of 7.5m and 1300w of superior cleaning power, the Vax Wash 'n' Dry Multifunction Vacuum will get your house ready for summer entertaining. It includes a wash tool to easily clean spills off floors or carpet, a crevice tool, dusting brush and an upholstery tool too. No part of your home will be off limits. **\$299.**



THE PERFECT FINISH FOR YOUR FLOORS Selleys Timber Flooring Gap Fillers come in a range of different colours to suit your type of floor. They're also designed to be flexible so they can move naturally with the timber floor boards. Whether you're sanding, staining or painting, Selleys will give your floors a seamless finish. **\$14.95.**

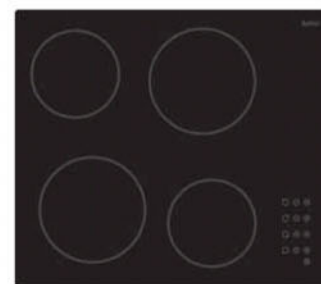
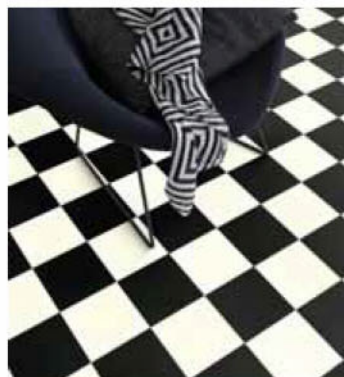


FAST AND FRESH These PPG paints will make your painting project quick and easy. PPG Paint and Prime will cut your job in half with no sanding or undercoats required. The PPG Ultimate Enamel is an oil based paint that cleans up with water, is low in odour and dries incredibly fast. PPG Paint and Prime **\$79**, PPG Ultimate Enamel **\$89.**



TRANSFORM YOUR FLOORS

Whether it's the kitchen or the bathroom, Senso D.I.X. Vinyl flooring will lift the look of any room with brilliant colours and designs to suit any budget. You'll be spoilt for choice. From **\$19.90/LM.**



KID SAFE KITCHEN The Bellini Ceramic Touch Hob features a child safety lock that gives you ease of mind away from the kitchen. A sleek, ceramic cooktop that offers 4 cooking zones and simple touch control operation. It boasts 6000W of power with 9 stage power settings, a 99-minute timer and a safety cut-off feature. **\$399.**

Prepare to entertain over summer



LUXURIOUS LIVING

Enjoy long summer days in the Marquee Hanging Lounger. The durable powder coated frame canopy, polyester mattress and cushions all make a welcoming retreat, especially with a refreshing beverage or two. The lounge is rated 120kgs and is UV protected. **\$299.**



GET READY FOR A SIZZLING SUMMER

With a stainless steel body, an enamel firebox and a cast iron grill, the Jumbuck 4 Burner Forum BBQ will help you create some sensational dishes. It also includes a temperature gauge for precise cooking and an additional side burner. **\$499.**



KEEP THE ELEMENTS AT BAY

Marquee Bistro Blinds are perfect for protecting your pergolas, verandas and other entertaining areas from the risk of four seasons in one day. The pulley system makes it easy to lower and hoist. Fittings are included. From **\$78.**



GIVE YOUR OUTDOOR AREA A FACELIFT

The Mimosa Timber Aluminium Bench Set, with FSC eucalyptus tops and brushed aluminium legs will add charm to your living area. It also has a natural oil and rust resistant finish. Table: 180 x 80 x 75cm. Benches: 160 x 35 x 45cm. **\$1,249.**



RESISTANT TO THE ELEMENTS

Designed to withstand the tests of nature, the British Paints Four Seasons range is highly durable and suited to New Zealand's unique climate. It's resistant to mould and shields against harmful UV rays. It's self priming too, making it easier to apply. 10L **\$135.**



A SMART CHOICE FOR A SMART NEW LOOK

FomeStone's synthetic feature stone is incredibly strong and super lightweight. Its unique finger joint design allows for easy installation on walls and around corners. A lick of exterior grade paint will give it the perfect finish. Also comes with a 10 year warranty. **\$49.98.**



LIGHT UP THE OUTDOORS Whether you're camping, boating or under the bonnet, the multifunction Eiger LED torch will definitely come in handy. With 3 light settings: spotlight, worklight, and flash light, you'll be prepared for anything. It also has a USB charger and a red flash light, great for emergencies. **\$29.98.**



BACK TO BEAUTY

After a four-year renovation, a crumbling old property is transformed into a sensational 21st-century home

WORDS SITA SIMONS



The facade has been freshened up, with the fascia and roof tiles painted and new hedging planted.

Not everyone can spot the potential in a property, but Christy Simitzis and Scott Smith saw it straight away when they inspected this house.

The block was over 400sqm, and the location good, but on inspection day most people were walking straight out before making it down the hall.

'It was dark and dingy and nothing made sense in terms of the layout. It certainly wasn't what people want in a modern home,' says Christy.

But what put others off convinced the couple to bid on what would be their first full-scale renovation project.

Over a period of four years, using weekends, holidays, evenings and occasional mornings, they restored a dilapidated shell into an airy gem.

First impressions

The same family had lived in the property for decades and they had chosen to dispense with the original features of the house.

Leadlight windows were replaced with casements, decorative plasterwork had been left to crumble, and outside, Travertine tiles had been covered up.

'I could see the old house almost busting to get out,' says Christy.

'The great thing is, once you start, the smallest recoveries make such a huge difference.'

Christy and Scott undertook all the work themselves, save the electrics and plumbing. Using a mix of thorough research, precise planning and hard work, they kept their costs in check to complete a remarkable renovation. ➤

After

A stunning redesign has made the yard both functional and inviting.



Before



Christy and Chynna the dog, and Scott with daughter Rachel celebrate the house sale.





Light and open

Three small rooms housed the kitchen, dining and living areas, with the main bathroom off the living space. The old kitchen was tucked into a corner with insufficient bench space and storage.

'For what people want today, it was all wrong,' says Christy.

'Not only was it dark and cramped, but it didn't work logistically and there was no sense that the outside area was connected to the house at all.'

The partition walls came down and the area was opened up into a spacious and light-filled living and eating hub.

An island between the kitchen and dining area was installed to act as a casual seating area, while a red-tiled splashback was added, bringing a large slice of warmth and personality.

'Renovating a kitchen is one of the most satisfying parts,' she says.

'It's amazing how much better you can make the area function just with better use of the space, more cabinets, benchtops and built-in appliances.' ➤



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After

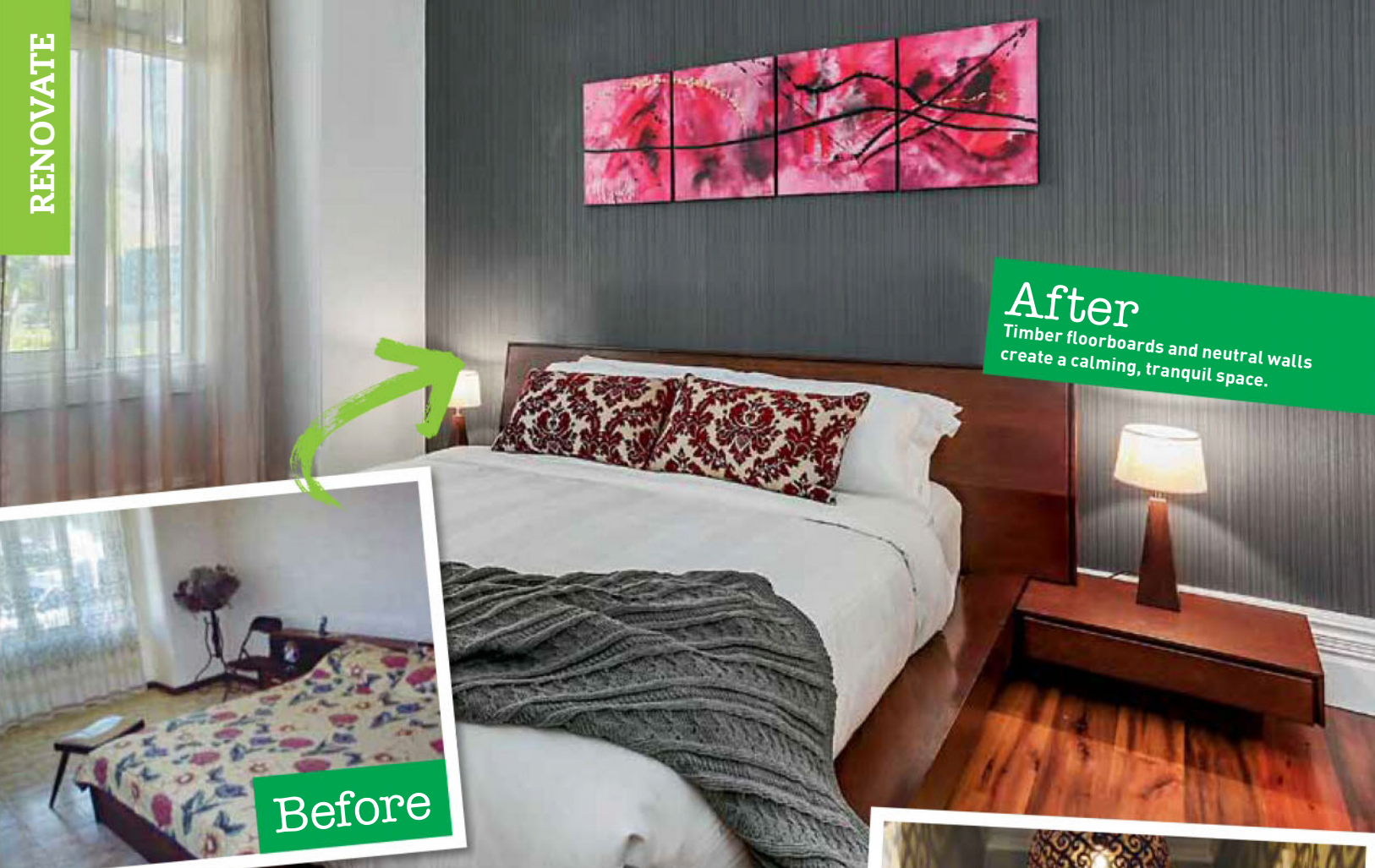
A fireplace keeps the open-plan living spaces cosy in winter.



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FOR THE DOER™



After

Timber floorboards and neutral walls create a calming, tranquil space.



Before

Sleeping beauties

The original three-bedroom layout has remained the same, but the treatment of the space is dramatically different.

All extra large, the bedrooms had no storage at all. Each bedroom now has floor-to-ceiling built-in wardrobes.

'There was so much empty space, but just a small timber wardrobe in each room,' says Christy.

'The possibilities for brilliant storage were endless, and we did plan the built-ins carefully so they have well-considered solutions inside.'

In the master bedroom, a large ensuite has also been added.



Textured wallpaper helps to bring the space inwards, making the rooms feel more cosy

Entrance impact

Grand proportions, like wide hallways, high ceilings and large rooms, are a feature of homes built around the turn of the 20th century.

The hallway was painted in a soft grey, so the decorative trim and architraves really stand out. An archway has been added to reflect back to the decorative preferences of the period.

'Before we renovated, this hall just looked long and cold,' says Christy.

'All the features were gone or boarded over and it just didn't invite you in at all. But that impact you can make on people entering is really easy to achieve once you take it back to how it would have originally been.'

The flooring adds to the dramatic effect, with old telegraph poles used instead of the more usual boards. ➤



Graceful features, such as the arch in the hallway, were added or restored.

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Spa appeal

When redesigning the space, the couple had to work out ways to incorporate existing features into the new layout.

One of these was a light well, which was in the centre of the home.

'This was empty space, and while it served a purpose, I looked at it and immediately knew we had to do something with it,' says Christy.

'When I saw that the bathroom in the old house was accessed through the living space, it was clear that we

had to move it and the light well area was the obvious choice.'

Taking some floorspace from the second bedroom, Christy and Scott decided to create a large family bathroom with luxury finishes.

'Scott saw this stone bath and said we had to have it. I wasn't convinced at first, but I have to say it's definitely a feature that people love,' she says.

'I'm really happy we didn't skimp on space, as it's now a luxury retreat, not just a functional bathroom.' >



Working out ways to incorporate existing features into a renovation can stimulate the imagination and produce striking results



Before



After

The skylight allows natural light to flood through the spacious bathroom.



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Garden redesign

Christy and Scott built a new deck off the back of the house, to replace the concrete suntrap they found there.

An old washing line dominated the outlook and there was nowhere with any shade. Retro purple paint and masses of plantings made the backyard feel small and undefined.

To make the most of the area, they created a covered deck with a built-in barbecue and plenty of room to sit out and eat in the warmer months.

Below this, a patio area has been defined with a low border wall, which also doubles as seating. A pizza oven has been installed for entertaining.

Finishing touches

A large purple-painted shed ran down the side of the garden, and Christy and Scott first thought to tear it down. But it had storage space and a laundry, so they changed their minds.

'I like a proper laundry, not one in the bathroom or just a cupboard, so we kept the shed and reconfigured the layout to include a toilet and study.

'Scott and I are really happy with how this all turned out. It took four years and cost \$200,000, but we made \$600,000 on the sale,' says Christy.

'We're already onto our next reno, another old fixer-upper that we hope to do in two years this time around.' 🌱



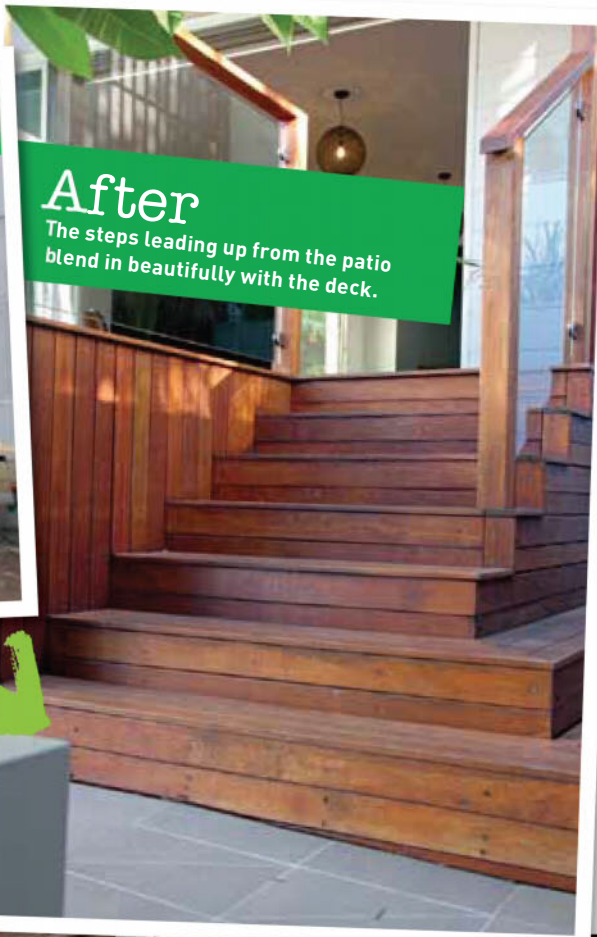
The deck flows out from the living area, creating a seamless space ideal for year-round entertaining

BELOW A large space for outdoor entertaining includes a dining setting as well as a built-in fridge and barbecue.





Before



After

The steps leading up from the patio blend in beautifully with the deck.



STEAL THIS STYLE

Where once original features were not valued, there has been a change in perception, so there was no doubt in my mind we had to restore the house and work with its charms, not against them.

Christy Simitzis

Find it at Bunnings

REFRESH YOUR SPACE

Select the best colour to make your home pop with these expert tips to get it right the first time around

A fresh coat of paint is a quick and cost-effective way to give your home a dramatic facelift, making it the talk of the whole neighbourhood.

To revitalise your house, just follow these handy hints from Bunnings.

Find inspiration

Put together a folder of photos and magazine cutouts including colours you like and inspirational spaces that have the look you want to replicate.

Create a mood board from the folder's contents, discarding what doesn't work for the project.

Stuck for ideas? Pick your favourite shade from an artwork or furnishings to use as a main colour or as an accent. Or choose a mood you'd like to create and select tones that inspire it.



WHAT YOU NEED



Monarch Razorback
100mm Nylon Wall
Paint Brush, \$28.98.



British Paints White
Interior Low Sheen
Paint & Prime, \$99 for 4L.



Flexovit 230 x 280mm
Paint No-Clog Sanding
Sheet, \$1.43.


 Natural daylight shows the truest colour, while incandescent lighting brings out warm tones and fluorescents cast a sharp blue tone

DESIGN TIP

Consider how a room connects to others when selecting a colour, as open-plan areas need a link through colour.

Calculate your paint

Once you have picked the colour scheme, it's time to get started.

The Bunnings Paint Calculator helps you plan the new look for your home, saving you time and money by calculating the volume of paint you require for each room.

Simply enter the room dimensions and the number of doors and windows to calculate how much paint you need.

Choose the finish

While low-sheen is the most popular finish for walls, matt finishes are increasing in popularity as they can add differing depths of interest to a space.

Flat paint hides flaws in old walls while a semi- or high-gloss paint works best on woodwork, such as door and window frames or skirtings.

Many companies now offer 'one coat wonders', so it's worth asking an expert about the different options available.

TEST IT OUT

Buying samples can be a messy process to trial your colour choices. A great way to test colours is to use an online tool such as the Bunnings Paint Colour Planner (bunnings.co.nz).

It lets you upload photos of a room to see how different paint colours will work before making a decision.



The Wagner logo, featuring a stylized black triangle above the word "WAGNER" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters.

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See it in Action



HOUSE CLEANING SECRETS

Whip your home into shape with these hints and tips for keeping it spotless

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Keeping the house clean can be a challenge, especially when you have a big family, busy job or pets.

Working smarter not harder is the key to getting the cleaning done quickly so you can have more time to relax and enjoy your leisure pursuits.

Splitting the cleaning into small jobs and knowing a few tricks and shortcuts will let you devote more energy to getting a great result, making your home look like new in no time. ➤

KITCHEN

With constant use, the kitchen can quickly become the dirtiest room in the house, but given it's where we prepare food, it has to be the cleanest.

To minimise grime, bacteria and stains, get in the habit of wiping the benchtop and sink after every meal, and giving them a good scrub weekly.

For a big clean, focus on the hotspots like cabinet doors, the rangehood and splashback, using a grease-cutting cleaner, then it's time for the oven and microwave.

Clean the microwave

Microwave a cup of water and a slice of lemon on high for five minutes to steam-clean the inside.

Once the cup has cooled a bit, remove it and wipe away the grime with a damp cloth to leave the microwave lemony fresh.

Remove oven grime

Make an oven cleaner by combining half a cup of baking soda and one teaspoon of salt with enough water to form a paste. Apply to the oven walls with a sponge, then scrub to remove the grime.

DIY TIP

Zap a damp sponge in the microwave for two minutes on high to kill bacteria, but never microwave metal scourers.

GRIME BUSTERS

Microfibre cloths are more efficient at cleaning surfaces than cotton cloths or paper towel.

They're also great for picking up dust when dry, plus they're machine-washable



Glitz Green Borax, about \$10 for 1kg, from Bunnings.

Raven Commercial 400mm Squeegee, \$12. icbclean.co.nz

Oates Wizard Microfibre Duster, \$10. icbclean.co.nz



Lynn River Ultra Optimum Flocklined Gloves, \$2. lynnriver.co.nz



Long Life Grout Cleaner, \$20 for 2L, from Bunnings.



Selleys Professional Sugar Soap, \$6 for 1L. selleys.co.nz

BATHROOM

This room requires special attention, as moist environments create ideal conditions for mould and mildew.

You can make a multipurpose cleaner from three parts water, one part vinegar, the juice of one lemon and a few drops of eucalyptus oil.

For grout, deep-clean with oxygen bleach to make sure your bathroom stays a sanctuary, not a biohazard. ➤

Wipe off moisture

Keep a squeegee in the bathroom to remove moisture from the tiles and screen after every shower.

This helps prevent mould and unsightly soap scum stains and makes a deep-clean much easier.



Protect tile grout

Clean the tiles and then, using a grout brush, scrub the grout. Apply two coats of sealant to stop water penetrating and causing mould.

TIP RegROUT using a product that contains antimicrobial protection.



To help prevent mildew growth in the bathroom, get air circulating by using a fan or opening the windows



You can also clean soap scum with a solution of white vinegar and water. Use sparingly and rinse well afterwards.

PETS

Our furry friends aren't the tidiest of housemates, shedding their hair on furniture, tracking dirt through the house and leaving nasty surprises on the carpet for us to clean up.

Keeping certain parts of the house pet-free will minimise their impact, as will regular grooming to remove any loose fur. Invest in a powerful vacuum cleaner and sprinkle baking soda on carpets to kill odours.



1 2 3

AVOID CARPET DAMAGE Act fast after toilet accidents to prevent stains. The longer you wait before cleaning, the greater the risk of long-term damage.

Prevent clogged drains
Most dogs prefer a warm shower over a cold hose in the backyard any day, but the downside is excess hair clogging up the drain. Simply cover the hole with a scourer and the water will go down while the hair gets caught.



1 Blot the mess

Soak up the urine with white paper towel, avoiding printed patterns that can bleed colour. Press hard to soak up as much as possible, then add about a quarter of a teaspoon of dishwashing liquid to a cup of lukewarm water.



2 Apply soapy water

Soak the area thoroughly using the detergent solution and paper towel, then blot with dry paper towel. Repeat this process at least once. Rinse out the detergent using clear water and blot the carpet dry again.



3 Dry the carpet

Mix one part white vinegar and two parts water, then blot the carpet one last time. Cover the damp area with 20 layers of paper towel and a heavy stack of books. Change the towels until they no longer absorb moisture. ➤



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STAIN ZAPPERS

Life can be messy, and it's inevitable that we'll have spills or accidents on clothing, carpets and other fabrics.

By preparing a handy stain removal kit and having a plan of attack, you can prevent them setting in.



Top stain-stopping tips

Avoid permanent damage by following these essential rules.

- ☀️ **TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION** as the less time the stain has to penetrate, the better your chances are of removing it before it sets.
- ☀️ **BLOT UP** as much of a spill as possible using a cloth or paper towel. Lift off solids with a knife.
- ☀️ **KEEP IT MOIST** if you can't clean it immediately, as it's easier to remove a stain when it's still damp. Sponge it with cold water, spray it with soda water and then cover it with a damp towel.



30 Seconds Outdoor Cleaner Concentrate, \$14 for 2L.
30seconds.co.nz



Elmer's Sticky Out, about \$22 for 118ml.
jasco.com.au

Don't scrub at a stain. Place an absorbent pad underneath and dab it with the remover, working from the outside in to avoid leaving a ring

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS



Milk

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

Beer



Coffee

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

Chocolate



Berries



Dab with vinegar or lemon juice, leave for an hour or two, then wash.

Red wine



White wine

Apply soda water immediately, then wash as normal.

Turmeric



Dab the stain with neat hydrogen peroxide.

Beetroot



Apply soda water at once and, if the stain persists, soak in a solution of two tablespoons borax per 500ml water.

1 2

REMOVE MILDEW AND MOULD Thriving in cold, damp and dark places, like inside wardrobes or behind furniture, mould and mildew leave an ugly stain behind even after removal, so repaint to cover the stain.



1 SCRUB THE WALL using a sponge and a solution of one part bleach and three parts water. Don't worry if the stain doesn't totally disappear.



2 PRIME THE STAIN and surrounding area using a stain-blocking primer. Allow to dry, then apply the top coat to match the original wall colour. 🟢



Get more house-cleaning tips
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Grease

Cosmetics

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

Sprinkle cornflour on the spot, put the fabric between five layers of paper towel, then iron. Soak tough stains in a bucket of water with one tablespoon washing soda and one teaspoon eucalyptus oil.

Vomit

Scrape up solids, then dab or soak in two tablespoons borax per 500ml water with a dash of eucalyptus oil.

Rust

Make a paste out of salt and lemon juice, rub it into the stain, leave for 10-20 minutes, then rinse out.

Nail polish

Dab quickly with a damp cloth, then sponge off using methylated spirits.

Soak in cold water. Add a handful of salt to shift really stubborn stains.

Blood

What ever you want to repair or create, we've got it covered

Quick TIP



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LIVING AFLOAT

A retired couple take a punt and turn a houseboat into a fantastic home

WORDS SITA SIMONS

These empty nesters had not envisioned a houseboat as a retirement home, but a trip to Europe inspired Tineke and Hans to explore the idea. A year later, they saw one for sale on a permanent mooring.

'It was in very poor shape, but its location and simplicity was something we couldn't go past,' says Tineke.

An offer was made and against stiff competition, the couple secured the sale. They didn't intend to set sail, but they saw the potential for a downsized home with a very different twist. ➤

Permanently moored on the riverbank, the old houseboat was totally transformed.

SAFETY TIP

Check with your local council regarding any building codes for deck construction in unusual environments.



High ceilings and lots of glass allow the light to flood in.



After years of living in a regular home, this was a chance for the owners to simplify. It was an exercise in taking away, not adding

Light fantastic

The key to the design of the single storey, 129sqm rectangular houseboat was a light hand. Large floor-to-ceiling windows and bifolds dominate the kitchen and dining end, leading onto a small deck that floats on the water.

Clean white walls and limewashed oak floorboards, as well as a modern industrial approach to decorating, make the most of the limited space, allowing nothing to visually dominate.

Simple stainless steel kitchen cabinetry is functional and suitably restrained, but the surfaces also serve to reflect the light and water, always referencing the position and history of the structure. ➤

LEFT The concrete and steel kitchen is minimalism in practice.

BELOW The living room fireplace keeps the whole place warm in winter.

TIDY TIP

Minimise clutter in open-plan spaces by adding built-in storage such as lowline wall shelving into the design.





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On solid ground

The patch of level ground on the land side of the houseboat provides a lawn and patio area. A shed has been converted into a second bedroom, which also has storage space above to keep the main living areas uncluttered.

'I wanted a cosy and colourful place to sit outside, and having this more usual patio setting as well as the deck over the water makes me feel we have the best of both worlds,' says Tineke.

'The houseboat has only one bedroom, so the guestroom in the old shed gives us the opportunity to have our children or guests to stay.'

Keen to keep the style rustic and in tune with the original structure, Tineke used reclaimed materials.

'I saw this couch in a magazine and decided to make one. I found the pallets on the internet and made the mattresses from foam and pillowcases,' says Tineke. ➤



The houseboat is accessed via a neatly planted garden.

A converted shed provides a second bedroom for visitors, complete with a relaxing outdoor seating area

DIY TIP

To make a couch like this one, you'll find new or used pallets online for about \$20 or even free.

The couch base and cushions are made from recycled pallets, foam and pillowcases.





WRECKING KNIFE



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the ultimate multi-purpose tool**



DESIGN TIP

Maximise on covered outdoor living and dining areas for entertaining when the interior is short on space.



The table in the outdoor dining area was homemade and the bench an internet find.



See more unusual homes

Visit handymanmagazine.co.nz/10-wacky-houses

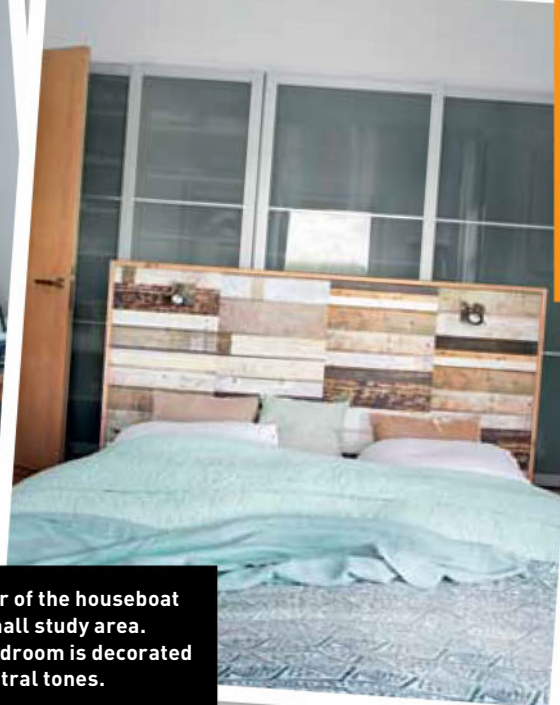


The couple love to furnish their home with beautiful items they find on their travels



LEFT A corner of the houseboat features a small study area.

RIGHT The bedroom is decorated in restful neutral tones.



Flexible spaces

The simple and compact interior of the home is easy to maintain and ideal for the retired couple.

'After having a busy household for so long, this is a peaceful, easy place to live. But what has been a revelation is how much the outdoor areas function as extra rooms,' says Tineke.

When entertaining, the back patio comes into its own. Positioned under a timber pergola, the dining setting is protected from the sun and rain.

Inside, a small study has been created in a corner of the houseboat.

Positioned at the back end of the boat, with no corner windows, is the bedroom. It is restrained in colour to

promote restful sleep, and minimally furnished. The headboard has been covered in timber-look wallpaper to tie in with the rest of the decor.

'Not a day passes that we are not surprised by nature. The sunlight, birds, and everything else that lives on the water make you feel at one with nature and the seasons,' says Tineke. ●

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ALL-IN-ONE BARBIE BENCH

This mobile workspace has room for all the barbecue cooking essentials

From its solid meranti legs to its generous storage drawers, this mobile bench is built to stand the test of time.

As part of the clever design, the top rack for condiments and paper towel is lifted and secured with timber locking pins but drops down to be set flush with the benchtop when not in use.

Meranti and cabinet-grade BB hoop pine exterior plywood were used for this project, but you could reduce the cost by using pine and CD plywood that has one good face and one rough face.

Have the supplier cut it or use a circular saw with a straightedge guide.

To finish the bench, use an orbital sander all over with 120 then 180 grit abrasive paper. Use a brush to apply two coats of clear polyurethane. ➤



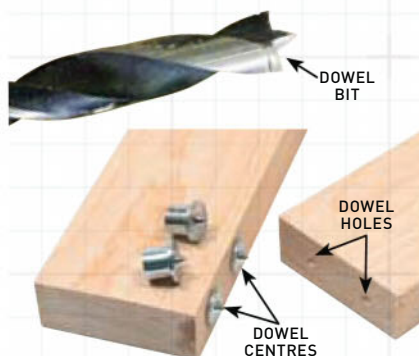
Secure all joints with an exterior-grade adhesive for good weatherproofing

MAKING DOWEL JOINTS

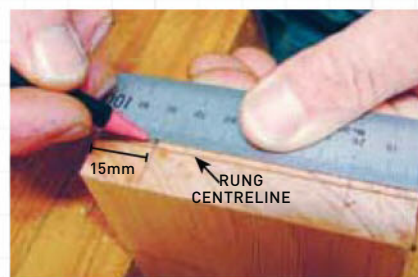
Cut two lengths of 19mm dowel for the towel rails at 348mm long, locking pins at 100mm and axles at 75mm. Cut four lengths of 12mm dowel at 274mm for the holding rails

TIP Add pine knobs to the pins.

Transfer the position of the dowel holes using dowel centres and drill the corresponding holes with a dowel bit. Wrap a piece of masking tape around the bit as a depth guide.



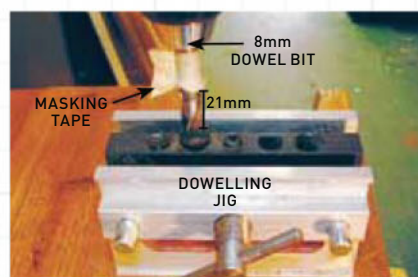
1 2 3



1 Mark dowel positions

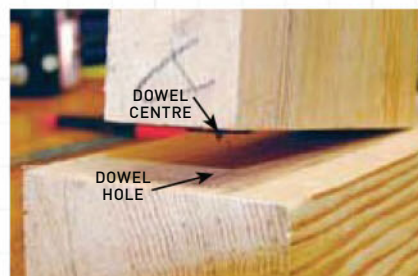
Set out the dowels, marking the centres 15mm from the edge for the rungs, sides, back and drawer shelf.

TIP The rungs have two dowels at the ends, the sides have four, the back and shelf have three on each end.



2 Use a jig to drill holes

Drill the dowel holes by using a dowelling jig with an 8mm dowel bit for holes 21mm deep on the rungs, back, sides and drawer shelf. For the top rack and drawers, cut dowels to 20mm, drilling holes 12mm deep.



3 Match up the holes

Transfer the dowels by marking matching holes on the legs, on the sides flush with inside the legs, the back flush with the outside and the rungs centred. The drawer shelf base is level with the sides.

DIY TIP

Using dowels for the drawer joints gives them a clean finish with no unsightly screw heads.

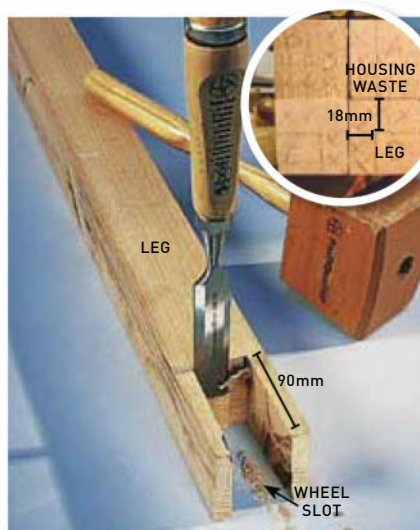
FASTENERS

Use exterior adhesive with 8mm dowel and 50mm x 8g timber screws to secure skirting rails. Use 20mm x 6g timber screws to secure support rails for the lower shelf. Apply timber filler over screw heads then smooth with 180 grit abrasive paper.



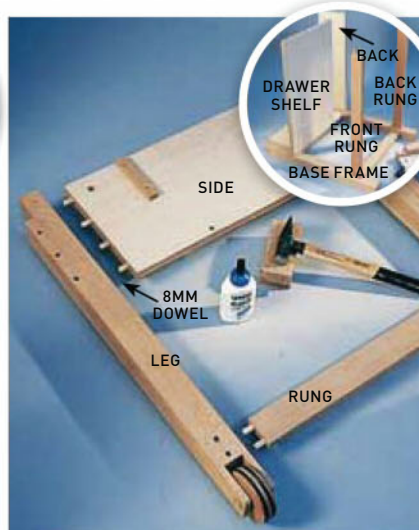
On one side of the bench install 100mm diameter wheels using 19mm pine dowel.

BUILD AN ALL-IN-ONE BENCH



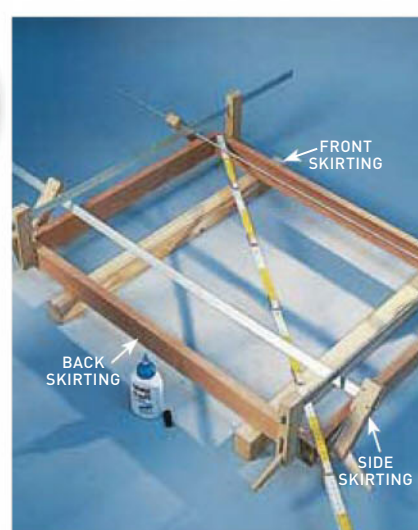
1 Make the leg housings

Mark the leg tops 18mm from the edges, square down 66mm then use a circular saw with the blade at 18mm to make relief cuts, cleaning out with a chisel. On the short legs, cut wheel slots 90 x 21mm, making relief cuts and cleaning out with a chisel.



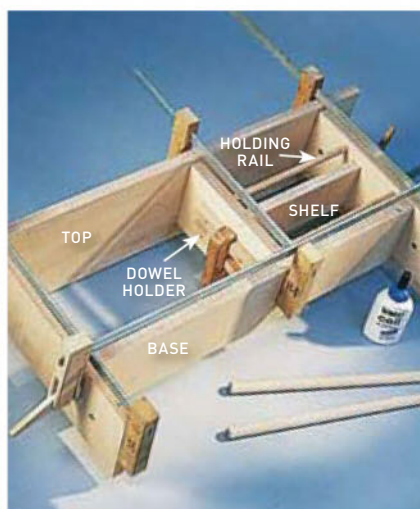
2 Assemble the side frames

Position the legs and drill dowel holes in the sides, rungs, back, legs and drawer shelf. Secure both side frames with adhesive and clamp until dry. Dowel and glue both ends of the front and back rungs, the drawer shelf and back, then secure to the side frames.



3 Add the skirting

Stand the base frame up and check the measurements from leg top to leg top, adjusting the skirting frame to suit, then securing with adhesive and screws, checking diagonals for square. Secure the skirting frame in the leg housings with adhesive.



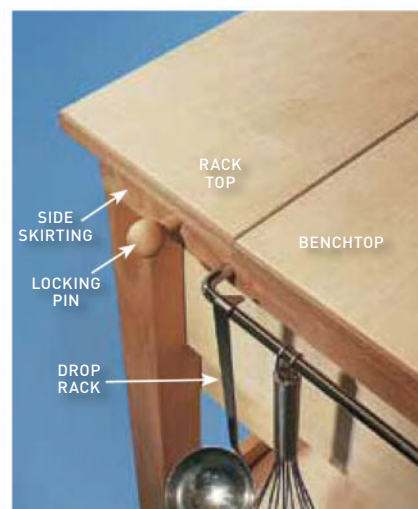
4 Prepare the rack

Drill dowel holes 12mm deep in the shelf and 12mm holes 10mm deep for holding rails. Cut U-shaped holders for the paper roll dowel, securing with adhesive. Secure the divider to the base, then the shelf, rails, sides and top. Secure locking cleats, clamp until dry.



5 Assemble the drawers

Use a router with a 4mm cutting bit to make a 4mm wide, 5mm deep groove along the inside of the drawer sides, front and back. Use a 30mm holesaw to cut finger holes. Drill dowel holes, secure with adhesive and slot the base into the grooves.



6 Add the shelf and top

Secure the supports using adhesive and screws, then cut 28mm square notches from the corners of the lower shelf. Secure top cleats under the benchtop and fit the drop rack then drill 20mm holes in the raised and lowered position for locking pins. ➤

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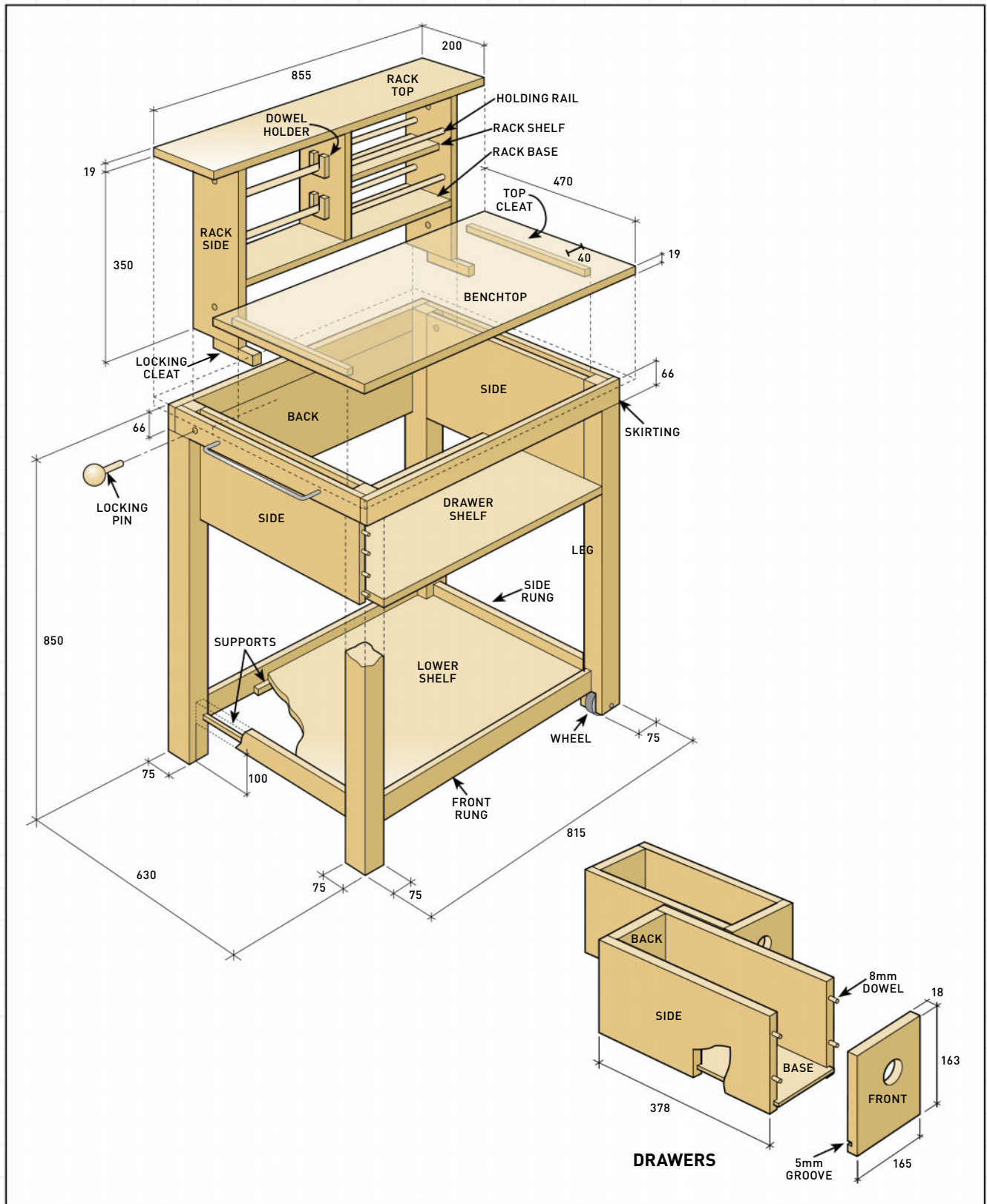
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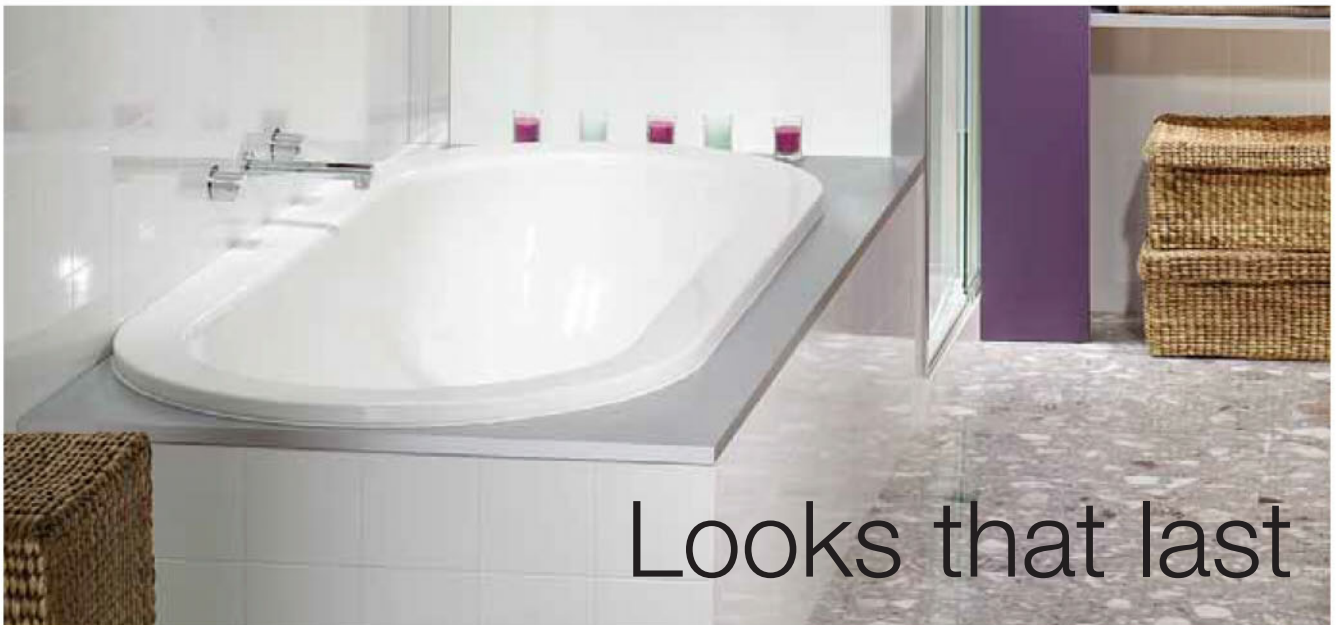
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OUTDOOR DECOR

Cheer up an alfresco entertaining area with DIY hanging decorations

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH PROJECTS GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS



EXPERT SECRETS

Hanging centrepieces add charm to an outdoor area without taking up extra table space, and can even be used to display candles or plants. Just be sure to take them down during high winds.

Sprucing up an outdoor area can be as easy as hanging a centrepiece above a table or from a tree or pergola.

You can make a colourful and vibrant chandelier using a hanging basket, wire and bead necklaces, and with a couple of coats of spray paint, you can match it to your space.

Bead necklaces are available from party or discount stores. Ensure you have enough necklaces so the wire basket underneath doesn't show. ➤



Bright and colourful decorations will turn a plain outdoor space into a whimsical and unique family entertaining area

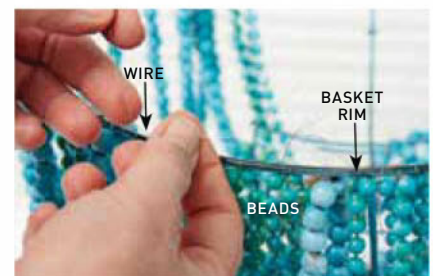


1 2



1 Prepare the beads

Spray-paint the bead strands in two shades of a bright colour. Remove the lining from a wire hanging basket, then unclip the hanger and reattach to a large curtain rod ring. Secure three equal lengths of chain to the curtain ring and add chain clips to the ends.



2 Attach the beads

Use tie-wire to attach a strand of beads to the basket rim, then take the beads under the basket and attach to the opposite side, cutting to length if needed. Repeat to cover the basket. Clip the chains to the rim. Wire bead strands to the rim and the curtain ring.

DIY TIP

To mount the chandelier, drill a pilot hole and secure a threaded hook, twisting by hand and tightening with vice grips.

BEADED CHANDELIER

Hang a beaded pendant over an outdoor dining setting.

A hanging candle tray is the central focus, suspended by a bright yellow plastic chain. The tray is a rectangular metal plate with a perforated edge, holding several white candles of various sizes, some of which are lit. Small potted plants with green leaves and trailing vines are also on the tray. The background is a dense wall of green foliage. In the bottom left, a blue lantern with a lit candle is visible. In the bottom right, there are some yellow lemons.

SAFETY TIP

Make sure that both the chain and the rope can support the total weight of the tray, potted plants and candles.

Use coloured plastic chain to contrast with the greenery.

CANDLE TRAY

 Candles and plants are an easy way to add ambience outdoors. Group different-sized candles and pot plants on a hanging tray to create a display of light and greenery.

This tray is made from 19mm pine board and is suspended by two loops of chain. Each chain runs through a shackle attached to a length of 8mm rope secured overhead.

The timber board is edged with punched-metal strapping to create a lip for the tray and give it a touch of industrial chic. ➤

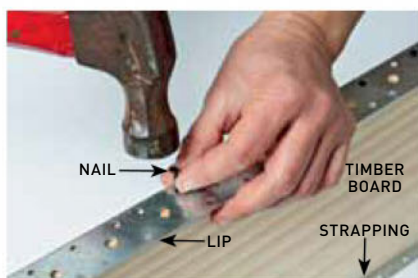


 Use citronella candles to keep pesky mosquitoes and insects away

 Finger-tighten the shackle to allow easy removal.

 Discover more outdoor ideas
Follow us at [pinterest.com/DIYhandyman](https://www.pinterest.com/DIYhandyman)

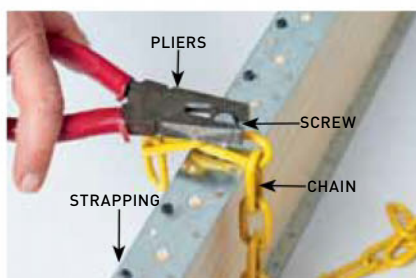
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1 Secure the strapping

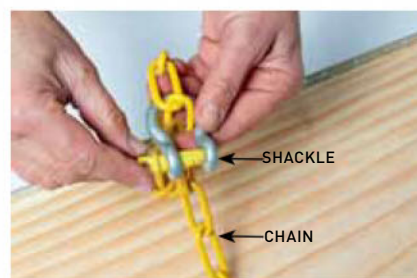
Cut a 19mm pine board to size, wrap 30mm metal strapping around the edges and cut to length. Position the strapping flush with the board base to create a lip for the top, securing with 25mm flathead nails every 100mm.

TIP Seal the timber with clear varnish.



2 Attach the chain

Measure 15mm in from the ends, mark the strapping and drill 25mm deep pilot holes into the edge of the board. Position the third link from the end of the chain over each hole, securing with M8 x 50mm coach screws and washers. Tighten with pliers.



3 Hang the tray

Attach a shackle to each chain, then thread a piece of rope through the shackles. Secure the rope to a branch, awning or pergola using S-hooks. Add pot plants and a variety of candles.

TIP Use a spirit level when hanging the tray to get a flat, level surface.

TEALIGHT TERRARIUMS

 Decorate outdoors with mini hanging terrariums. They are easy to create using coloured sand, tealight candles, bead necklaces and succulent cuttings.

Spread a 20mm layer of sand in each terrarium, then add a tealight and a succulent. Thread a necklace through the hole in the terrarium and hang it from a branch.

Succulents can survive for a long time without water, and will send out roots eventually. Mist with a spray bottle but don't overwater. 



Spray-paint the bead necklaces before hanging.



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POOL FENCING

Blend good looks with safety by installing a run of clear glass panels poolside

PROJECT AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT STYLING MINDY BAILEY



Before

After

With a frameless fence, the pool is integrated into the rest of the yard.

Glass fence panels

Everton has several glass pool fencing systems that are easily installed DIY (evertonglass.co.nz).

For this site, we used fully frameless glass panels slotted into stainless steel mini posts.

The glass panels are 1200mm high and come in widths ranging from 300-1300mm.

You'll need to buy the hinges and a gate latch separately.

A backyard pool provides hours of summer fun, but it is worth remembering that you have a legal obligation to keep it safe and secure.

The main way to do this is to install a pool fence, preventing kids from having unsupervised access.

But many fences can make a yard feel smaller, splitting the space into two, as the old fence did here.

We chose to replace the old pool fence with frameless glass panels from Everton, which slot into stainless steel mini posts for a streamlined effect.

We secured the posts to new concrete footings using galvanised anchor studs and chemical adhesive.

It took three days to install the new fence, including pouring the concrete and installing the panels, and cost just over \$4000. ➤

SAFETY TIP

Glass panels are heavy, so avoid damaging yourself, or the panels, by ensuring you have an extra pair of hands to help.



Clean and clear, the glass border allows for unrestricted views of the pool.
LEFT You may need to excavate an area of the yard to lay concrete footings.

Preparing the site

Concrete can be expensive if bought by the bag, so it's best to buy a ready-to-pour mix that can be delivered to the site by truck.

Order more than you think you will need before you start the job so you don't end up running out before finishing. Use the remaining concrete to fix up any other DIY jobs that need doing.

Before digging the trench for the footings, be sure to prepare properly.

Consider where plumbing and electrical pipes or other obstructions may be buried, and call the relevant utility company to check the location of any pipes and cables for power, water, gas and telecommunications.

Check with your local council to guarantee compliance for the pool fence, and take the necessary steps to ensure the site remains safe and secure throughout the build.

DIY TIP

Slip a few lengths of pool noodle or pipe insulation over the edges of the glass panels to protect them during installation.

Laying the tiles

The concrete was left to cure for a week then Travertine tiles were laid on a waterproof mortar screed to prevent them cracking.

Apply a 10:1 Cemix Multibond and water mix to the concrete to create a waterproof membrane.

While still wet, apply a mortar slurry made using a 10:1 water and Multibond mix. Let it cure for a day, then lay the tiles.

STUART'S PICKS



Ramset Chemset M8 x 110mm Anchor Studs, \$8 for a four pack. ramset.co.nz



Ramset Ultrafix Plus Polyester Anchoring Adhesive, \$44 for 300ml.



Cemix Floor Tile Adhesive, about \$38 for 5kg. cemix.co.nz

INSTALL THE FENCE



1 Prepare the trench

Set a level stringline using stakes or pegs to mark the fence line and excavate a 400 x 400mm trench. Position reinforcing mesh on bar chairs in the trench. Overlap lengths of mesh and tie together with wire.



2 Make the footings

Pour the concrete, agitating the mix so it settles well. Trowel the surface to an even finish, use the stringline to check for level, then let it cure for a week. To determine the best tile layout, mark the fence and gate panels on the concrete.



3 Lay the tiles

Flick a chalkline to mark the edge of the tiles. Mix the tile adhesive and spread over the concrete with a 10mm notched trowel. Lay the tiles, using a spirit level and straightedge to get them straight and level.



4 Set out the posts

Mark the ends of the fence line, flick a chalkline in between, then set out the panel positions with equal gaps. Mark the post positions 150mm in from the panel edges and use a mini post at each position to mark the hole centres.



5 Drill the post holes

Use a masonry bit to drill 6mm holes to 80mm deep for the post holes, then a 10mm masonry bit to widen the holes to 10mm by 100mm. Drill into the tiles with the hammer action off, turning it back on to drill into the concrete.



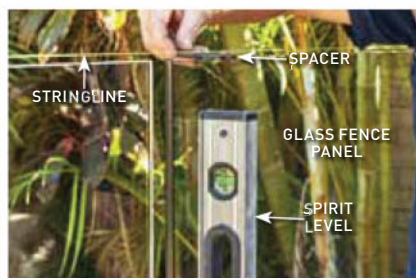
6 Set the anchor studs

Clean the holes using a bottle brush and compressed air. Position a post, inject Ramset UltraFix Plus and wind in each anchor stud, leaving 10mm protruding. Remove the post and clean if needed. Repeat for each post.



7 Install the panels

After an hour, secure the posts using washers and nuts. Set the panels in the posts, align with the marked positions and check the spacing. Ensure the rubber insert is seated correctly. Use the Allen key to clamp the panels securely.



8 Level the panels

Set a stringline to check the alignment of each panel using a 5mm spacer. To adjust, loosen the bolts in the post and insert packers underneath to align the panel with the stringline. Check each panel for plumb and level.



9 Fit the latch

Attach the hinges to the hinge panel and release the spring tension. Position the gate, pack underneath to align the hinges, then secure. Re-tension the springs so the gate shuts firmly. Attach the latch on the pool side of the gate. 🛠️

POOL SAFETY

Having a swimming pool is a fantastic luxury, but along with the enjoyment you receive comes the responsibility of ensuring your friends and family remain safe.

Aluminium fencing is a popular choice for pool surrounds, as it is low maintenance and quick to install.

Latches must also be fitted to secure the area. Check with your local council for their requirements, as they may do inspections to see what fencing and latches have been installed.

When designing the area, consider ways to incorporate the fencing so it doesn't restrict your entertaining space. Also take into account what you'll add, such as seating, a barbecue and plants.

Look at the direction of the sun to plan where light and shade will fall. ➤

Install a new fence to suit the surrounds and provide privacy

DIY TIP

It is a legal requirement in New Zealand for every pool to be surrounded by a safe, properly installed fence.

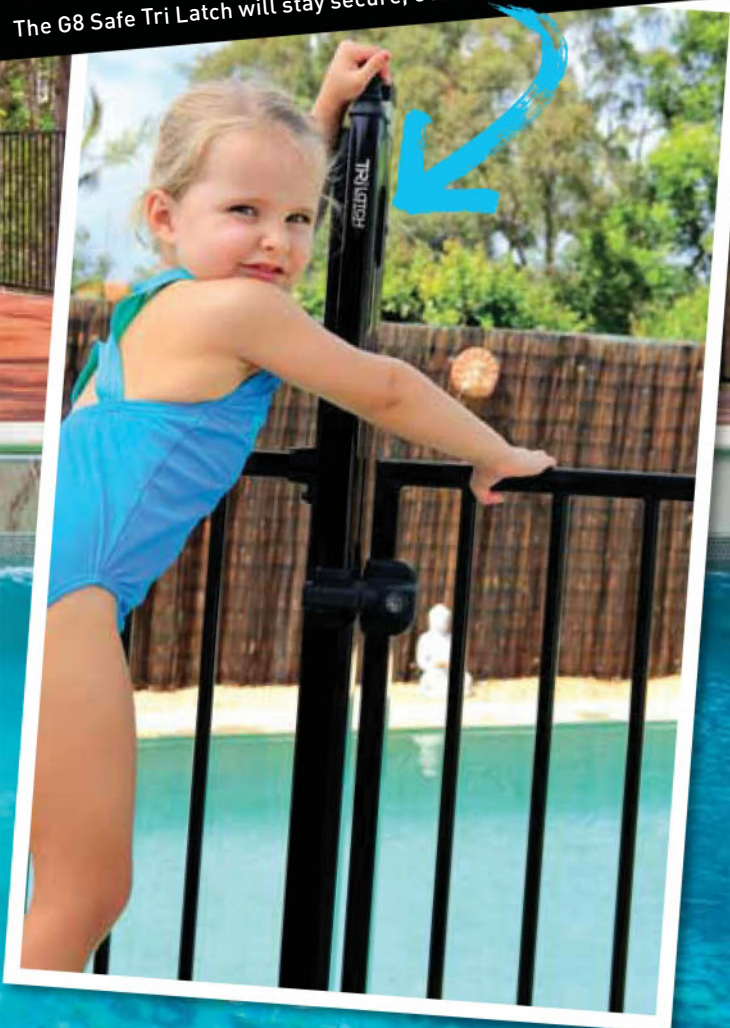
SAFE LATCH

Keep children secure around the pool by installing the G8 Safe Lockable Pool Gate Tri Latch, \$95 (protectoraluminium.com.au).

This award-winning latch has a dual-action safety button that prevents children from using implements to open it.

It also has a self-latching mechanism and hooked striker that ensure the latch is secure each time it is closed.

The G8 Safe Tri Latch will stay secure, even if the gate is slammed.



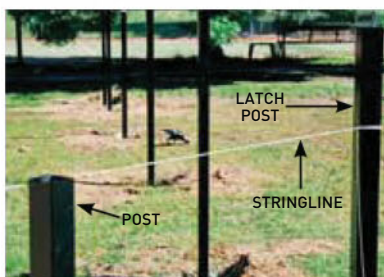
Make sure children are supervised at all times when playing in the pool

INSTALL THE FENCE



1 Excavate the post holes

Clear the area and run a stringline low to the ground, using a fence panel as a spacer to mark the post holes at 2500mm centres. Excavate the holes with a power auger, 600mm deep and 200mm in diameter.



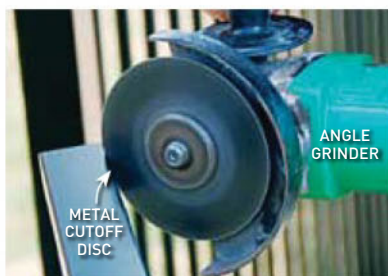
2 Position the posts

Set a stringline for the post tops. Allow a gap of up to 100mm below and 50mm above each panel, with the latch post 300mm above the gate. Position the posts in the holes and fill with concrete, sloping for runoff.



3 Secure the panels

Slide the panel brackets over the top and base rails, raising them into position on temporary blocks. Use a spirit level to check the panels are level, then secure the brackets to the posts with self-drilling Tek screws.



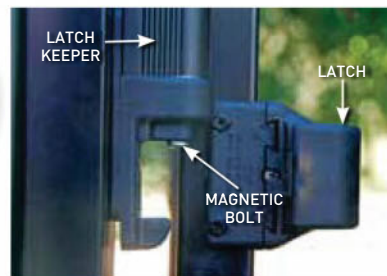
4 Cut the panels

If the fence needs to negotiate an angle other than 90°, change the direction of the fencing by cutting the ends of the panel rails using an angle grinder with a cutoff wheel. Touch up the ends with spray paint.



5 Hang the gate

Attach the self-closing hinges to the outside of the gate using Tek screws, 80mm from the top rails and level with the base rail. Space the gate evenly, using a torpedo level to check the gate is level.



6 Attach the gate latch

Secure the latch at least 1500mm above ground level, closing the gate with it in position. Tap in the post caps, then adjust the springs on the hinges so the gate will automatically close from any open position. ➤



Life vests help kids gain confidence in the water while keeping them safe.



The DIY pool fence that's ready for summer.

Whether you're updating your old pool or finishing off a new one, you can't go past Everton's range of DIY glass pool fences. Stylish, safe and budget friendly, Everton glass pool fences are ready for you to install in a weekend.

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DESIGN TIP

Creating a shaded area by the pool provides additional space to relax and enjoy the surrounds, while avoiding sunburn.

GET THE LOOK



Ozito 800W Swimming Pool Pump, \$259.
ozito.co.nz



Mimosa Newport Three-piece Outdoor Furniture Setting, \$699, from Bunnings.



Diggers DIY 0.25m² Fibreglass Repair Kit 1, \$37. recochem.com.au



English Garden 1830 x 900mm Framed European Pine Trellis, \$100, from Bunnings.



Hy-Clor Granular Pool Chlorine, \$22 for 2kg.
hyclor.com.au



Sika Transparent Pool Silicone, about \$26 for 300ml. nzl.sika.com

A PLANET FIRST FOR POOL SAFETY



THE ONLY LATCH ON THE PLANET WITH CHILD PROOF SAFETY BUTTON

Award winning Tri Latch from G8Safe – the world's first pool gate latch with dual action safety button that prevents children using implements to push up the button. No other latch offers the level of safety and quality you get from a trilatch.

MAKE IT SAFE, MAKE IT G8SAFE

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G8Safe offers a range of high quality hinges and latches to suit many applications, including our best selling Mega Value Kit, containing everything you need for a child safe pool gate. All available exclusively at Bunnings Warehouse. Scan QR code or visit g8safe.com.au to view our range.



G8SAFE

.com.au

CREATING WAVES FOR POOL SAFETY

GARAGE DECLUTTER

Hook, hang and hide away your tools to tidy up the workshop and keep things in good order

WORDS AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

Are you spending more time finding your tools than actually using them? If so, maybe you need to grab the bull by the horns and get organised. It may be easier than you imagined.

We overhauled this garage in just one day using a range of quick solutions.

To tidy up the bigger items, such as ladders and bikes, we used heavy-duty Zenith SureHooks that are designed to hold just about anything.

A versatile Ryobi Tool Blox modular storage system that can be stacked or wall-mounted was ideal for storing many of the tools.

And with everything in its place, we finished off the space by giving the concrete a coat of floor paint. ➤



Group similar items together so they're easier to find when reorganising your garage workshop

SAFETY TIP

Installing hooks makes it safe and easy to corral awkward items like bikes, ladders, wheelbarrows and garden tools.

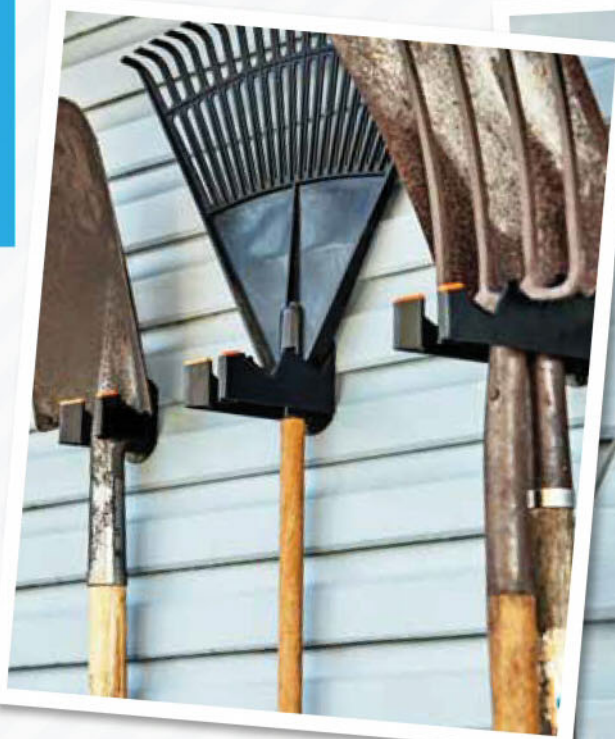
Before





After

This messy garage space now looks clean, tidy and organised.



HANG UP

Tools and other items can cause damage if they fall off the wall, so you need to use high-strength hooks that guarantee security.

Zenith SureHooks, from about \$10 to \$21 each, are inexpensive, look good and can be used to safely hold anything from ladders to bikes (itwproline.com.au).

The notched prongs on the holders flex open to take the tools before snapping closed to safely retain them for as long as needed.

LIGHT ON

Grab the Ryobi One+ 18V Hybrid Shop Light, \$119, skin only, for the ultimate in workshop lighting (ryobi.co.nz).

Powered by a Ryobi One+ battery or 240V extension lead, the two folding LED lights can be set up in various ways.

There are lots of mounting and hanging options, so hands- and cord-free lighting can be provided wherever it is needed.



Check the weight rating when buying hooks, as they will differ depending on their size and shape



STORE IT

The Ryobi Tool Blox storage system, with stackable cabinets that start from \$99, provides flexible space for all your tools.

Ideal for stowing tools in the extensive One+ range, the cabinets are made from steel and plastic. The doors have gas

lifts, while the drawers are on steel roller mechanisms.

Individual modules can be added separately to expand the size of the storage space.

Teamed with the dedicated Roller Base with lockable castors, \$69, it all becomes mobile. ➤



Reclaim your space... with safe storage solutions

**WEIGHT
RATED HOOK
& FASTENING
SOLUTION**



 30KG	 25KG	 20KG	 25KG	 25KG	 30KG
Single tool holder	Double tool holder	Triple tool holder	Bike hook	Wheelbarrow & ladder hook	Heavy duty utility hook

Providing safe solutions that will store your items out of harm's way
and put you back in control of your space.



SureHook™

Available at
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APPLYING THE PAINT

Follow these easy steps for painting the garage floor.

- **SCRAPE** off any loose and flaking paint with a wire brush and sand any glossy surfaces.
- **CLEAN** the floor with a pressure washer and allow to dry for a day.
- **TEST** the paint on a small area of the floor to check it's compatible with the old coating. Allow to dry for 24 hours and if it does not adhere, remove the old paint.
- **APPLY** the first coat of paint using a paintbrush or roller.
- **LEAVE** to dry for 16 hours, then apply a second coat.
- **ALLOW** a week to fully dry.

Refresh the floor

To finish off and freshen up the space, the floor was given a coat of White Knight Ultra Pave Garage Floor Paint, \$100 for 4L (whiteknightpaints.co.nz).

This oil-based paint has been specifically designed to withstand the wear and tear a garage floor suffers and will keep looking great for many years to come.

It has great adhesion to bare concrete and previously painted surfaces, excellent coverage and resists general scuffing and marking. 🟢



If you have a new concrete garage floor, allow 12 weeks for it to cure before painting



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EASY TO HANDLE



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- For wood, metal or PVC posts
- Sets in just 3 minutes
- **Full strength in 2 hours**

EASY TO MIX



- Mix in the bag
- Mixes in just 20 seconds
- **Ideal hole diameter for a 100 x 100mm post is 200mm. No wider than 250mm**
- 1/3 of post in the ground, 2/3 of post above ground
- For best results, brace the post before you start

EASY TO USE



- **Not for structural posts** (piles, retaining walls, etc), or **posts that get a lot of sideways load** (clotheslines, flag poles, large gate posts, etc)
- If in doubt as to whether Post Fix is right for your DIY job, use concrete

Sika 1289



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BUILDING TRUST





LUSH LAWN TILC

If your grass is suffering from wear and tear, there's plenty you can do to get it in shape

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

A cool, shady winter can take quite a toll on even well-maintained lawns so, if yours is still suffering from a case of the post-winter blues, don't feel that you've dropped the ball.

If you understand the underlying problems and apply the right remedies, your lawn will thank you for it.

A little work now will see your patch of grass looking fabulous in next to no time and will set it up well for the warmer months ahead.

Here's our easy guide to getting it lush, green and healthy.



Adam

EXPERT SECRETS

Fertilise your lawn about a week before you apply a topdressing to prime your grass for quality growth.



To aerate smaller lawns, use a garden fork.

AERATING

For soil to support quality plant growth, it needs to have spaces that air, water and nutrients can be transferred through.

This can be hard to achieve in lawns, as the soil is constantly being compacted, so the simple way to fix this is through aeration.

➤ **SPIKED LAWN ROLLERS** are an easy and efficient way to aerate large lawns. Pick up a roller from your local hire shop, fill it with water, then pull it around the lawn.

➤ **GARDEN FORKS** are ideal for small areas. Drive the fork about 50mm into the soil and gently rock it back and forth. Repeat every 50mm across the compacted area.

Work backwards to avoid walking on the aerated parts.



Use the back of a landscape rake to evenly spread the topdressing mix over small areas. For larger areas, use a soil levelling tool.

TOPDRESSING

It wasn't that long ago that the must-do spring chore for the lawn lover was topdressing.

Today, topdressing is really just done to fix lumps and bumps. But that's not to say that giving your lawn a full topdress isn't an option, as the results are well worth the effort.

If you do decide to topdress, feed the lawn about a week beforehand

and only use a specialist mix, which is available in bags from your local landscape supplier.

This mix is generally made up of 70-80% very fine organic matter with river sand.

Apply only a light covering and don't water in the mix until the new growth punches through, as a hard crust may form. ➤



EASY WEEDING

It's easy to overlook weeds, but they can cause the biggest problems with your lawn by creating dead patches when they suck out nutrients and overshadow your grass.

Many weeds can be adequately controlled through feeding your lawn and regular mowing, but sometimes you need a more direct approach.

MANUAL REMOVAL

This is still the most reliable way to weed the lawn. A variety of modern tools are available to help you weed, or you can use an old-fashioned daisy grubber.

- **WEAR** gloves while weeding, as some have prickles and others have mildly caustic sap.
- **PULL** up the weeds, roots and all, to prevent them growing back.
- **AVOID** shaking the weeds to prevent the spread of seeds.
- **KEEP** a bucket on hand to toss the weeds into, then dispose of them in your green waste.

SPOT-WEEDING

You can use selective weedkillers to spot-spray lawn weeds or use diluted all-purpose herbicide.

The important thing to remember is that non-selective herbicides will kill or damage all plants, so any overspray onto the lawn will cause harm.

If not using a ready-to-use pack, then there are two easy ways

of applying herbicide to the lawn when spot-weeding.

➤ **BRUSH** on using an old paintbrush or a special-purpose device such as the Yates Zero Weeding Brush.

➤ **SPRAY** on to spot-treat the weeds. There are hooded spray heads available for many spray units, but remember that you're still likely to get a certain amount of overspray.



Try to avoid overspraying when using herbicides.

DIY TIP

You can mow over large weeds but avoid doing so if they've gone to seed, as you'll likely spread the seeds all over the lawn.

SELECTIVE HERBICIDES

The most popular way to deal with weeds in the lawn is by using selective herbicide products, particularly the weed-and-feed type.

- **ENSURE** they are applied at the correct rate or you will damage the lawn.
- **AVOID** putting treated lawn clippings on the compost pile if the compost is to be used on vegie or fruit plants.



PICTURES (BOTTOM, BOTTOM LEFT, TOP) THINKSTOCK

FOOD FOR HEALTH

Want to take the easiest option for caring for your lawn? Simply fertilise with a quality lawn food.

A healthy lawn can often out-compete weeds, killing them naturally, and is more able to repair its own scrappy patches.

If you use a fertiliser with an organic component, you'll also be feeding the soil, not just the grass.

This gradually improves the quality of the soil, which will aid aeration and drainage.

KILLER GRUBS

If you're finding dead areas in your lawn for no reason, then grass grubs could be the culprits.

These are the larvae of a brown beetle that feeds on a wide range of plants including vine fruit and brassicas.

The giveaway that you have grass grubs is when you can grab the dead-looking grass and it comes away from the soil easily.

Use Kiwicare LawnPro Lawnguard to solve the problem.



Take care with trees

If they are growing in the lawn, trees can suck up moisture and lots of the nutrients that you are directing at the lawn.

Their roots can also push through the surface and they can cast unwanted shade or drop their leaves on the grass.

It can cause problems from the tree's perspective, too, as the trunk can be damaged by mower bumps and line trimmers.

If you do want to grow a tree in your lawn, create a border that's at least 500mm out from the trunk and mulch this area well.

Keep off the grass!

Dog urine is a great spot-killer of lawns. Urine is high in nutrients, but as it is delivered in a concentrated form, it will scorch the grass and cause dead spots.

This can be avoided by training your dog to keep off the grass altogether or to only use one or two spots in the garden. ➤



REPLACE THE LAWN

Sometimes a lawn reaches a tipping point where it has become too badly worn and you need to do serious work to get it looking good again.

You can try to refresh a seriously degraded lawn, but you'll likely end up investing more time and money without ever getting a quality result.

The simple fact is that if your lawn has more weeds and bare patches than grass, then it's time to lay new turf to restore it to health.

This lawn has reached the point where it needs replacing.



Did you know?

Here are a few facts and figures that might just make you love your lawn even more.

- Well-managed turf works effectively as a carbon sink, capturing carbon emissions.
- A healthy 450sqm lawn can absorb more than 11,000L or 25mm of rain without significant runoff. This reduces erosion and the burden on stormwater systems.

The root mass of a lawn acts like a filtration system, trapping excess nutrients and other substances, and stops them reaching waterways.

Lawns absorb CO₂ and generate oxygen. A standard 15 x 15m lawn will produce enough oxygen to sustain a family of four.

In summer, a healthy lawn will maintain a surface temperature at least 10°C lower than bare soil and other hard surfaces.

ADAM'S PICKS

Cyclone Top Soil Spreader, about \$63.
cyclone.com.au

Pope Turbo Oscillating Sprinkler, about \$77.
popewatering.co.nz

Daltons Premium Lawn Fertiliser, \$44 for 8kg.
daltons.co.nz

1 2 3



1 Prepare the ground

Remove the existing lawn and weeds, then turn over the soil. Use a landscape rake to collect the waste material and roughly level the entire area.

TIP Get the job done fast by hiring a rotary hoe for about \$85 a day.



2 Lay the turf

Spread underlay mix over the area with a soil spreader. Starting from one end and working along a straight edge, lay the turf in a brick-like pattern to help the turf knit together faster. On a slope, lay the rolls across the slope.



3 Apply a fertiliser

Straight after laying the turf, apply a high-quality lawn fertiliser, then use a sprinkler for enough time to evenly water the lawn thoroughly.

TIP We used an oscillating sprinkler so the water covered the whole lawn.

A CUT ABOVE 

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 Ryobi ANZ



RYOBI 36V GARDEN RANGE. POWER MADE EASY.



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Representations of products shown in this advertisement are for illustrative purposes only, and actual product may differ. FSA/TECH0409

CHOOSE A MOWER

Get the lawn into great shape with a grass cutter suited to your needs

WORDS ADAM WOODHAM

After your old mower spent all winter hibernating in the shed, you might have experienced a few problems starting it up again when the lawn began its warm-weather growth spurt.

If you spent half an hour or more wrestling with it until it spluttered into life, only for it to go and die again soon after, then maybe it's time to get hold of a new model.

Your local hardware store will have an aisle of choices, so here's our guide to making mower selection simple.



Pick a mower that allows you to adjust the height of the cut.

SELECTION TIPS

1 Size matters

The surface area of your grass can determine which fuel source you choose, and the mower's cutting or deck width.

Lawns of more than 300sqm in size need a longer run time and a wider cut, so think about a petrol model. More than 800sqm of lawn will require a ride-on mower.

2 Easy access

How wide are your gates? Will you need to lift and carry the mower about?

Consider the weight and bulk of the machine if you have to lift it any distance to access your lawn.

3 Storage space

Make sure your new mower will actually fit in the shed or the back of the garage. Models with handles that easily fold down can be real space savers.

4 Tough terrain

If you have a lot of uphill mowing to do, then take a look at self-propelled models. Available in two- or four-wheel drive, these are a great option.

And, if you have lots of bumps in your lawn, select a mower with a larger range of cutting height adjustments to give you clearance and avoid scalped spots.

5 Fine finish

Mow and mulch? Cut and catch? To get the finish you want all year round, use a mower that can be switched from catch to mulch as the need demands.

Mulching models multi-cut the grass clippings and blow them back into the lawn thatch, giving your lawn a constant supply of organic nutrients. ➤

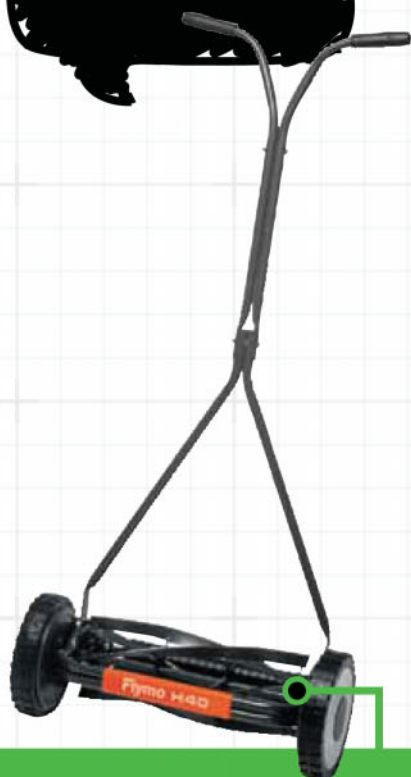
SELECT THE POWER SOURCE

Battery-powered and corded electric mowers are ideal for small spaces, as they are quieter and less polluting, while the old-fashioned push mower is the most environmentally friendly.

Petrol power is still the best option for large surface areas of lawn.

Here is a selection of some of the best mowers on the market. ➤

MANUAL



With fully adjustable height and a 40cm cutting width, the Flymo H40 Push Mower, \$168, may be old-fashioned, but it is ideal for small lawns (flymo.com/nz).



The Ryobi 190cc Four-stroke Mower, \$499, has a powerful Subaru engine, generous 460mm cutting width, with plenty of torque to tackle dense grass (ryobi.co.nz).



The Victa Mustang 150cc Four-stroke Mower, \$749, uses an efficient engine and clever no-prime, no-choke starting technology to get it going (victa.com/nz).



A two-stroke engine requires a fuel-oil mix, while the quieter and more powerful four-stroke engine uses straight petrol



For a large lawn, opt for the Victa 500cc Ride-on Mower, \$3498. It has a 17.5hp Briggs & Stratton engine, 106cm cutting width and 130cm turning radius. ➤



40V PERFORMANCE



Chainsaw + Hedge Trimmer + Blower + Trimmer + 16" Lawn Mower + 18" Lawn Mower

The new Victa V-Force+ range of Lithium-ion garden equipment packs the power of 40V. It's the single battery solution that delivers winning performance. Every time.
www.victa.com/nz

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LITHIUM[™]

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse
bunnings.co.nz

BATTERY



The Victa V-Force+ Mower Kit with 40V Lithium-Ion Battery, \$799, is ideal for serious mowing as it has the capacity to cut a huge 360sqm lawn (victa.com/nz).



This Ozito Cordless 18V Lithium-Ion Lawn Mower Kit, \$449, is great for small to medium lawns and comes with two batteries and quick chargers (ozito.co.nz).

ELECTRIC



Cleaner and greener, battery-powered mowers are great for suburban spaces, but only the more advanced models have the run time to tackle large lawn areas



The Ryobi 36V Mower Kit, \$749, comes with a 5.0Ah Lithium-Ion Battery, offering an impressive run time and 46cm cutting width to handle big lawns (ryobi.co.nz).



For clean, green power, the Ozito EcoMow 1400W, \$179, is the electric model to go for. A quiet motor and a large 35L catcher makes it great for small yards. ●

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A man wearing a red t-shirt, blue jeans, and red ear protection is using a line trimmer to edge a lawn. He is standing on the grass, and the trimmer is cutting the edge of the lawn near some garden beds. A wooden fence is in the background.

DIY TIP

Make sure you always use clean fuel in your trimmer and have it serviced on a regular basis.

LINE TRIMMER BUYER'S GUIDE

Take the hard work out of tidying up the lawn by choosing the right edger for your needs

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Back when Dad did the lawn, the edges were laboriously finished off with a spade, and trimming around tricky spots was done with hand shears. Today, we just reach for our trusty line trimmer.

Whether battery, electric or petrol driven, line trimmers have in many respects revolutionised lawn care.

Simple to use and available for a variety of prices, from budget to top shelf, there's a trimmer to suit your needs whether you have a tiny lawn or an acreage.

Here we look at a selection of the range on offer and provide a few tips on using a trimmer. ➤

USING A TRIMMER

1 Best technique
A trimmer cuts with the last few millimetres of the line, so don't push the head into the area you're trimming, just let the ends do all the work.

2 Spindle check
Check the trimmer before every use to make sure everything is tight and clean, and that there is no material trapped around the head spindle.

5 Head rotation
Know the direction of rotation of the head. If yours spins anticlockwise, it will cut best on the right-hand side, and vice versa.

3 Long grass
With long grass, swing the trimmer in a pendulum-like motion and don't cut too much at once. Reduce the height and depth progressively with a few passes.

4 Line thickness
Refill the head with quality line of the recommended diameter. If it's too thin, it will snap easily. If it's too thick, it may not feed correctly in auto-feed or tap-and-feed heads.

PICK THE POWER SOURCE

With electric trimmers, you just plug them into the mains and off you go. Efficient, quiet, lightweight and easy to handle, they're ideal for small lawns.

Battery-powered trimmers are quiet, convenient and lightweight, and have many of the benefits of electric models with the added bonus of being cordless.

Modern battery technology means these models are more than up to trimming small- and medium-sized lawns. But when it comes to cutting power and run time, petrol wins out.

Nowadays, petrol-driven line trimmers are much quieter and more efficient than those of the past, and they also have much lower emissions.

Petrol trimmers are available in two-stroke and the more powerful four-stroke models.

ELECTRIC

The Ozito 500W Electric Line Trimmer, \$60, has a unique cutting wheel to enable even trimming and a rotating head that lets you quickly switch from trimming to edging.

Powerful yet quiet, the Ryobi 1000W 380mm Electric Line Trimmer, \$129, uses the Expand-It connection system, so you can swap in optional attachments (ryobi.co.nz).

BATTERY

The Ryobi One+ 18V 305mm Line Trimmer Kit, \$229, uses the versatile One+ battery system and has a telescopic shaft that can be set up for maximum comfort in use.

Featuring a five-position tilting head, the Ozito Power X Change 18V Line Trimmer Kit, \$129, comes complete with a battery, charger and blades (ozito.co.nz).

There are no concerns about storing and mixing fuel with battery-powered trimmers

For serious trimming, the Victa 40V V-Force+ Trimmer, \$499, is your go-to tool. It has a 350mm cutting path and turbo-boost feature for extra grunt (victa.com/nz).

PETROL



With a low-vibration 33.5cc four-stroke engine, the Ozito Petrol Line Trimmer & Brush Cutter, \$299, also features Easy Start technology and a centrifugal clutch.



Two-stroke models require a fuel and oil mix, whereas the four-stroke types use straight petrol



With a 432mm cutting path and Reel Easy bump-feed head, the Ryobi Two-stroke 26cc Line Trimmer, \$199, is fast and efficient. It also uses the Expand-It system.



The Victa Tornado Plus 26cc Trimmer, \$259, with a grunty full-crank two-stroke engine, has an Easy Change head for fast line changes, and optional tool attachments. >



WHAT YOU NEED

1 VISOR COMBO For a higher level of protection from flying material that may be kicked up, consider investing in this professional-grade earmuff and medium-impact polycarbonate full-face visor combo.

2 SAFETY KIT To get you going, the basic kit from Gardwell has all the protection you need. It includes earmuffs, safety goggles and a disposable dust mask, which is useful when trimming in dry conditions.

3 GARDEN LEAD You'll need an outdoor-grade extension lead. If using a corded electric trimmer, plug it into a powerpoint that is protected with a safety cut-off. ⚡

Ryobi Protective Helmet and Ear Muff Set, \$65.
ryobi.co.nz

Gardwell Three-piece Safety Set, \$10.
safetysource.co.nz

HPM 25m Garden Extension Lead, \$40.
hpm.co.nz

STAYING SAFE

There are a few safety rules to bear in mind when using a line trimmer.

Always wear ear and eye protection, and you may also find that wearing gloves makes it more comfortable.

Keep animals and other people, especially children, at least 10m away to avoid injury from flying material.

To reduce fatigue, make sure you take a break every 15 minutes.

Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE

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Held on either 17th, 18th or 19th November.

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A tablet with a black bezel is shown. The screen is red and features a white play button icon at the top. Below the icon, the text reads: "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." At the bottom of the screen, there are small white icons for back, home, and recent apps.

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**LOWEST PRICES
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Passionate about PASSIONFRUIT

Give this popular fruit the right growing conditions and you'll be rewarded with a bountiful harvest

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

An extremely vigorous vine, passionfruit (*Passiflora edulis*) is native to South America, and is the national flower of Paraguay.

It has striking white and purple flowers that are produced before the fruit, and the vine climbs by means of tendrils that twine around a support.

The fruit is full of goodness and low in kilojoules. It contains vitamin C, B vitamins riboflavin and niacin, plus fibre, iron, phosphorus and potassium.

It is delicious whether used to top a pavlova, served with ice-cream or added to salad dressings or fruit salad.



Cheryl

EXPERT SECRETS

Passionfruit vines only perform well for about five years and then they have to be replaced, so have another one growing to take over the space when you remove the existing one.

The predominant passionfruit variety in New Zealand has a purply-black skin and is commonly called Black Beauty.

Where to grow

Passionfruit grow best in temperate to subtropical areas and, while adaptable to cooler zones, they need protection from frost. Plant new vines in spring in a sunny, sheltered spot such as against a wall. Don't be too disappointed if your vine doesn't fruit in the first year. It's likely the plant will put its energy first into growing and then flower and form fruit in the second year.

PROVIDING SUPPORT

Fast-growing passionfruit vines are great for creating quick screening on post and rail fences.

Existing sunny fences, chicken coops and sheds in the garden can be transformed by draping them with a vine. Attach wire or trellis to fences to help them climb.

Make your own trellis by putting up two posts, each 2m high and about 2m apart, in a north-south direction. Run three wires between the posts at the top, centre and base.

When first planted, you may have to train it up the support by tying the vine to the base wire.

Once the vine has reached a height of about 1m, you can nip out the centre shoot, which will encourage side branching.

Look forward to a harvest period that can stretch through the first seven months of the year.

If any greenish fruit drops to the ground, it's worth tasting to see if it's ripe.

CARING FOR YOUR VINE

Given the right growing conditions, a passionfruit vine is easy to grow.

- ❖ **POSITION** the vine in full sun with protection from the wind.
- ❖ **SOIL** must have good drainage to prevent root rot, as passionfruit is very susceptible to this. It is a heavy feeder, so add well-rotted manure or compost to the soil before planting.
- ❖ **FEED** in early spring and autumn with a controlled-release plant food for flowers, or a citrus food. Water the soil thoroughly before and after.

❖ **MULCH** around the plant, as this helps retain moisture in the soil, avoiding the area near the stem.

❖ **WATER** regularly and deeply, especially in dry weather. The passionfruit vine has an extensive and shallow root system, so soak a wide area surrounding the vine.

❖ **PRUNE** in early spring by about one-third. Remove any dead wood and cut back wayward shoots to promote new growth. Prune so air can circulate through the foliage. ➤

TIME TO HARVEST

About 12 months after planting passionfruit, the fruit starts appearing. Let it ripen on the vine to fully develop its sweet flavour.

When ready, the fruit will drop off, or it can be picked when it's fully coloured and easily pulls free from the vine.

You can freeze the pulp in ice trays or place the fruit in a bag and refrigerate it for a month.

Instead of chopping the fruit in half, cut off the top and eat it like you would a boiled egg with a spoon. This will ensure you don't lose any of that delicious juice.



Locally grown

The purple passionfruit (*Passiflora edulis*) is the only variety grown commercially in New Zealand. It is self-fertile which means you need just one vine if planting space is an issue.

The yellow variety (*Passiflora flavicarpa*) has a tendency to look diseased, contributing to its lack of popularity. It produces small but very sweet fruit.

The banana passionfruit (*Passiflora mollissima*) grows rampant in bush areas and so has been declared a noxious plant in many parts of the country.

In the kitchen

There are lots of ways you can include passionfruit in your everyday eating.

- ✦ **SQUEEZE** the pulp onto cereal or yoghurt.
- ✦ **MIX** it into smoothies.
- ✦ **ADD** the pulp to an olive oil and balsamic dressing to enhance green salads.
- ✦ **FREEZE** in popsicle moulds to make a healthy treat.
- ✦ **TEAM** passionfruit with pork and seafood.
- ✦ **ADD** it to an apple or mango crumble.
- ✦ **USE** it to make jams.



PROBLEM SOLVER

Tiny holes in the fruit

CAUSE Fruit flies lay their eggs underneath the skin of the fruit and the hatching larvae then feed their way to the centre, causing the fruit to rot.

FIX IT Use a fruit fly bait early in the season to detect fruit flies. Destroy the infested fruit immediately, but don't put it in the compost.

Flowers but no fruit

CAUSE This can be the result of a lack of pollinating bees or the weather being very hot, very cold or raining at flowering time.

FIX IT Pollinate flowers by hand using a dry paintbrush to transfer pollen to the female parts. Prune excessive growth to expose the flowers and plant bee-attracting plants such as borage nearby.

Wilting shoots

CAUSE Fusarium wilt.

FIX IT Remove the vine and do not add it to the compost.

Passionvine hopper

CAUSE This insect sucks sap from the plant, causing the leaves to wilt and the flowers or fruit to drop.

FIX IT Hose them off, or you can use a pyrethrum-based spray.

Flowers and fruit drop and leaves fall at the vine base

CAUSE Lack of water.

FIX IT Water regularly and deeply.

Small bumps on the stems

CAUSE Scale.

FIX IT Scrape off with your nail or spray with horticultural oil.

Serves 8

This light, almost fat-free whisked sponge is ideal for late summer, when raspberries are particularly sweet. The kids will love it.

Raspberry and passionfruit sponge roll

Ingredients

340g fresh raspberries
30g icing sugar, sifted
4 passionfruit
3 large eggs
115g raw caster sugar
110g plain flour
1 tablespoon tepid water
Extra 24 (about 100g)
fresh raspberries
Sprigs of fresh mint

Method

1 SET aside half the raspberries. Put the remaining raspberries and icing sugar in a bowl and crush lightly with a fork. Cut the passionfruit in half, scoop out the pulp and stir into the crushed raspberry mixture.

2 PREHEAT the oven to 200°C. Grease a 23 x 33cm Swiss roll tin and line with baking paper. Put the eggs and caster sugar in a large bowl. Beat with an electric mixer until very thick and pale, and the mixture leaves a trail on the surface when the beaters are lifted out.

TIP If using a hand whisk or rotary beater, set the bowl over a pan of almost boiling water, ensuring the water doesn't touch the bowl.

3 SIFT half the flour over the egg mixture and gently fold in with a large metal spoon. Sift over the remaining flour and fold in with the tepid water.

4 POUR the mixture into the prepared tin and shake it gently so it spreads evenly into the corners.

Bake for 10-12 minutes or until the sponge is risen and golden, and springs back when pressed gently.

5 TURN out onto a sheet of baking paper that is slightly larger than the sponge. Peel off the lining paper. Trim the crusty edges of the sponge with a sharp knife and make a score mark 25mm from one of the shorter edges to make the sponge easier to roll up.

6 SPREAD the crushed raspberry mixture over the hot sponge, leaving a 10mm border all round. Scatter over the reserved raspberries. Roll up the sponge from one short edge and place, seam side down, on a serving plate.

7 SERVE warm or cold, cut into slices. Decorate each serving with extra raspberries and a sprig of mint. ➤

Passionfruit and honey zabaglione

Ingredients

4 ripe passionfruit
1 tablespoon boiling water
90g honey
4 large egg yolks
2 teaspoons lemon juice

Method

1 CUT each passionfruit in half and scoop the pulp and seeds into a sieve over a large heatproof bowl. Sieve the fruit thoroughly, then trickle the boiling water over the seed mixture in the sieve and scrape again with a spoon. Scrape any pulp from underneath the sieve into the bowl. Discard the seeds.
2 HALF-FILL a saucepan with boiling water and bring to a simmer. Add the

honey, egg yolks and lemon juice to the bowl with the passionfruit juice, then whisk well with electric beaters. Set the bowl over the pan of simmering water and continue to whisk until the mixture is pale and thick, and leaves a trail when the beaters are lifted out. This will take about 10 minutes and the mixture will look like a slightly soft, whisked sponge mixture when ready. Keep the water barely simmering, don't allow it to bubble too fiercely or the eggs will cook and separate.

3 REMOVE the bowl from the pan and continue to whisk for 1 minute. Spoon, ladle or pour the zabaglione into four small glasses and serve immediately.

Serves 4



Serve this dessert with whole fresh strawberries and Savoirdi or sponge finger biscuits as they are also known.



Passionfruit jam

Ingredients

24 passionfruit
1 cup water
Juice of 1 lemon
1.1kg sugar

Method

1 WASH the passionfruit, cut in half, scoop out the pulp and set aside. Put half the shells in a bowl, cover with water and leave overnight.

2 TRANSFER the soaked shells and water to a pan and boil for about 30 minutes or until the insides of the shells are tender. Drain the water, scoop out the soft pulp inside and discard the shells. Chop up the pulp.

3 PUT the soft pulp, reserved pulp and cup of water in a pan and bring to the boil. Add the lemon juice and sugar, stir until the sugar dissolves and boil rapidly to setting point. ❖



Transfer the finished jam to sterilised, warm jars with airtight lids using a jug or wide-necked heatproof funnel to minimise drips.



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GROWING UP

Add a vertical dimension to your garden to increase the available space

Creating a vertical wall garden is a great option if you have limited space but still want to grow herbs, vegetables, flowers, vines or even succulents in the backyard.

You can build your own or you can buy a commercial kit.

Plan the purpose of the wall, decorative or edible, then choose the plants to get the look and the result you want.

A wall garden acts as a lush decorative feature and offers shade for an outdoor area.



ABOVE Salad vegetables, like climbing tomatoes, will thrive against a vertical backdrop.
BELOW Surrounding a doorway with greenery softens the look and gives it an air of mystery.



Train Malabar spinach up a trellis and pick off the flowerbuds to keep the shoots producing.

Climbing plants

In a small space, train productive climbers over frames, trellises or poles, or create a wall garden, to increase the growing area and maximise your harvest.

Tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, peas and small pumpkins can all climb and are ideal for tiny yards.

Frames and trellises for growing can be easily made from wire mesh,

timber, lattice or even wire stretched between two upright posts.

The climbing frame can also have multiple purposes. You can curve two frames together to form an arch that doubles as a shaded seating area and provides protection to nearby plants.

Supports range from hardwood or bamboo stakes to a purpose-built metal climbing frame. ➤



Plants can be grown in pots and arranged in rows on a wall-mounted frame.

GROW TIP

Position larger, leafy varieties at the base so they don't block the sunlight from reaching the plants underneath.

Wall gardens

There are a number of commercially available systems for making wall gardens. You can also attach plastic pots or troughs to a wall-mounted frame and plant each pot individually.

Make sure you keep each pot moist and fertilise with a liquid foliar feed.

Many vegetables will grow well in a wall garden, but how successfully depends on where it is located and the level of care it is given.

Edible wall plantings can include loose-leaf lettuces, leafy greens, Asian greens, trailing herbs like marjoram, oregano, rosemary and thyme, and hanging crops such as strawberries. ➤



When space is limited in your garden and you're looking for a spot to grow vegetables and herbs, go up



Remember to keep each plant moist and fertilised when growing in pots.



LEFT Different chilli plants in this garden help to establish a bank of lush colour.

RIGHT Flowers, herbs and leafy vegetables combine to great effect.



Landscape aggregates



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Pea Metal
Ivory Stone
Stone Medley
Rocky Grey
Seam Stone

Sizes available
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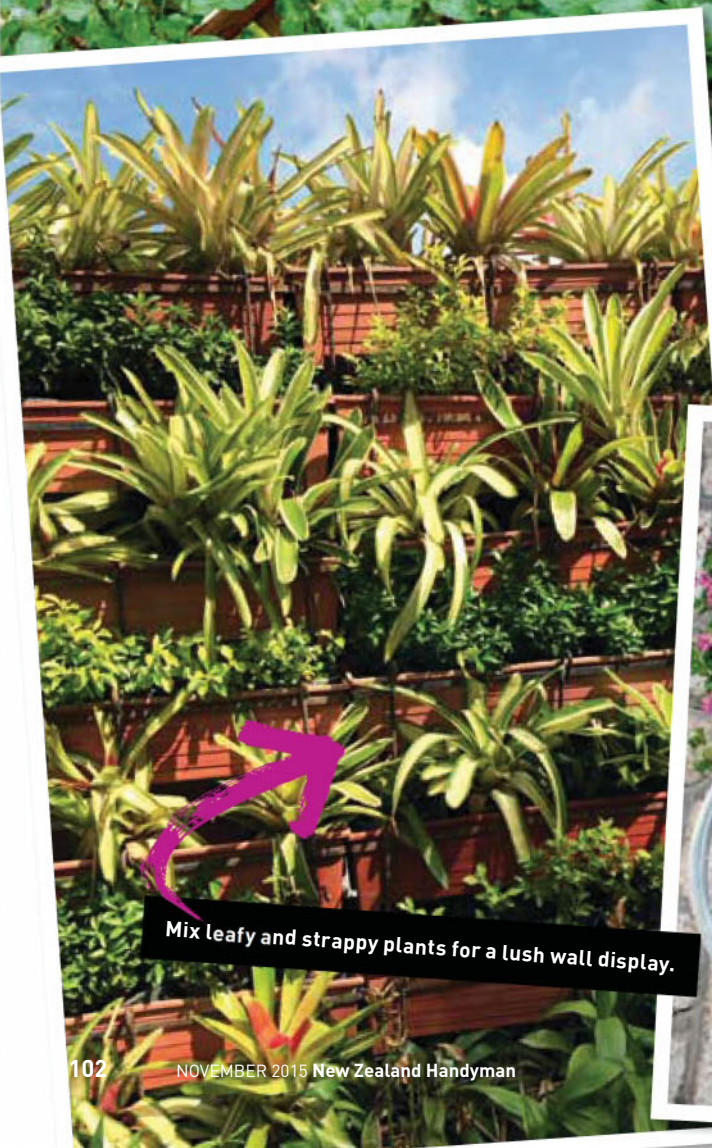
Design ideas

Your imagination is the limit when it comes to vertical gardening. Arrange matching pots in geometric patterns, or suspend hanging baskets from wall hooks instead of from overhead.

Use lengths of bamboo as organic planters, or drill drainage holes in PVC guttering to use it the same way.

Identical troughs stacked in rows make a wonderful wall display, or use a bike as a combination plant holder and art installation. You can also build plant towers from rings of wire mesh lined with weedmat.

TOP RIGHT Similar pots arranged in columns make an effective wall display.
ABOVE Bamboo offcuts can be used as organic planting troughs.
BELOW A preloved bike is a quirky plant holder.



PICTURES: ALDOBE STOCK

Mix leafy and strappy plants for a lush wall display.



Line pallets with weedmat to hold the soil then plant them up.

Build a pallet planter

A timber pallet is easily upcycled into a vertical garden. Just use 2-3 sheets of weedmat to line two sides and the base, leaving the top open and folding over the edges to prevent fraying.

Secure the lining using nails or a staple gun then position the pallet upright, securing to a vertical surface with the appropriate fasteners.

If you're positioning it against a wall or fence, add a waterproof barrier in between so the moisture

from the pallet garden doesn't cause any damage.

Fill with a good quality potting mix and add compost to boost its water-holding capacity, as the pallet planter will dry out quickly.

Water the mix well and top up until the soil level is stable. Plant with a combination of trailing and upright varieties for the best effect.

TIP Build a fence of pallets and paint to suit your outdoor decor. 🌱



Water and feed a pallet planter regularly, adding a slow-release fertiliser at the top so the nutrients will flow down

Hang troughs from a pallet attached to a wall.



The wonder of worms

You may want to run a mile when you spot a slimy earthworm, but they're essential to our existence

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



How they work their magic

Worms improve the structure of the soil and increase the air supply in it. This makes it possible for bacteria, fungi, viruses, insects and micro- and macro-organisms to survive.

Earthworms burrow into the soil and break down root mats, opening up tunnels for oxygen and water to penetrate the soil.

Coated with nitrate-rich mucus, the roots of plants quickly take advantage of these tunnels, getting nutrition from the mucus.

PICTURE ALAMY

There are about 195 species of earthworms in New Zealand and, as unappealing as they may be to some, they are a necessary part of the soil and play a vital role in the health of plants.

They work tirelessly beneath our feet to produce rich castings, called vermicast, which are the essential building blocks of soil.

We rely on them to mine the soil and recycle nutrients to provide the right environment for plants to grow.

Compost worms can also be used to recycle kitchen scraps, and farming worms is an ideal method of recycling.

This type of worm is different to an earthworm as it lives closer to the surface, eats fresher organic materials and likes wetter conditions. ➤



Earthworm castings
are far richer in
minerals than the
earth they ingest
and, when deposited
into the soil, act
as a fertiliser

Did you know?

Aristotle called earthworms the intestines of the soil and Charles Darwin wrote, 'Of all animals, few have contributed so much to the development of the world, as we know it, as earthworms.'



Encouraging earthworms

It's easy to naturally attract worms into your garden.

❶ **ENSURE** the soil is moist but free-draining.

❷ **GARDEN** organically and always use organic mulches like leaf mould, lucerne hay or pea straw.

You get a twofold result, as organic matter not only keeps these workhorses happy, it also conditions your soil as it breaks down.

❸ **ADD** compost and manure regularly to the soil.



FARMING WORMS

Compost worms are the ultimate recyclers, and even apartment dwellers can make good use of their capabilities and receive fertile compost for their pot plants in return.

Just add all your vegie scraps to the bins and the worms do all the work, producing a rich concentrate oozing with nutrients that can be used as a fertiliser on pot plants and garden beds.

DIY TIP

Add a trowel full of castings to a watering can, fill it with water and stir, then use it on your vegetables or pot plants.



WHAT YOU NEED



Care for your compost worms

Place the bin in a cool area that doesn't receive direct sunlight and keep the contents of the bin moist.

Worms eat crushed eggshells, tea leaves, coffee grounds, all fruit except citrus, cooked grains, bread, pasta, chopped fresh and cooked vegetable scraps and newspaper.

Don't feed them citrus, onions, meat, cheese, oil or too much dairy.

If lots of worms are hanging out of the sides or lid of the bin, it means the contents are too soggy. Mix in some dry shredded newspaper to help dry it out.

The rich castings will build up and worm juice accumulates in the base of the box. It can be dug into moist soil or added to potting mix.

Mix the worm juice with nine parts water and use to water pot plants, flowers and vegetables.



Wormsrus Live Composting Worms,
\$42 for 250g.
wormsrus.co.nz



Can-O-Worms Two-Tray Worm Farm, \$120.
tuigarden.co.nz



Feed your worms a handful of scraps twice a week for the first few weeks, then increase the quantity gradually as they multiply



SETTING UP A WORM FARM

Worm farms offer a genuine alternative to traditional composting, especially if you have a small garden.

You can buy a readymade farm and set it up yourself. After a few months, you can harvest the castings.



1 2 3



1 Assemble the farm

Attach the legs to the base of the collector tray and screw in the tap. Insert a working tray into the top of the collector tray and add a piece of cardboard. Hydrate a coir brick and spread it evenly over the cardboard.



2 Add the worms

Gently spread the worms over the coir with a trowel and cover with a worm farm blanket or hessian. Close the lid and let them settle for a few days, then feed, keeping the farm moist. Use the tap to extract the worm juice.



3 Harvest the castings

After 2-3 months, the tray will be full of castings. Add the next tray and half fill with compost, shredded newspaper and a handful of scraps. The worms will move to the new tray and the castings can be removed from the lower tray. 🌱

CRAFTY CONTAINERS

Boost colour in the garden by transforming everyday items into novelty plant holders

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Gardening in containers is a very rewarding way to get growing. It also has many advantages over planting in garden beds.

You have a lot more control over the growing conditions and you can place them in handier locations, such as close to the kitchen door, which is especially useful for herbs and vegies.

And your garden is portable, so if you move house, it can go with you.

There is a huge range of off-the-shelf choices for pots and container garden systems but, sometimes, you just can't find that special something.

Here are a few ideas to get your creative juices flowing and help you assemble your own designer planters.



1 2 3



1 Drill drainage holes

Clean the boots thoroughly in slightly soapy water using a scrubbing brush, then rinse and allow to dry. Carefully drill two drainage holes in the sole of each boot using a drill fitted with at least a 10mm bit.



2 Spray the boots

Apply painter's tape to the tags, side panels and sole edges. Wearing gloves, apply stain blocker to each boot. Allow to dry, then spray one boot in orange. Apply another coat, if needed. Spray the other boot in lime.



3 Add the plants

Carefully remove the painter's tape and half-fill each boot with potting mix, pushing the mix right down into the toe areas. Add the plants and backfill with potting mix. Water in and add more mix, if needed.

POTTED BOOTS

It's easy to get attached to your old gardening boots and saying goodbye can be hard once they're worn out.

But with this project, you get to keep your boots for years to come by converting them into planters.

We sprayed them in orange and lime, but you can choose any colour. ➤

DIY TIP

When spraying, move the can in a smooth sweeping motion and be careful you don't overapply the paint.

You can use any suitably sized plants you like for this project.

ADAM'S PICKS



3M ScotchBlue 36mm x 55m Painter's Tape, \$16.
3mnz.co.nz



Zinsser Cover Stain Primer-Sealer Stain Killer, about \$18 for 369g. haydn.co.nz



Rust-Oleum 340g 2X Ultra Cover Paint + Primer in Gloss Real Orange and Key Lime, \$13 each. haydn.co.nz

GROW TIP

Water in new plantings with a diluted seaweed tonic to reduce transplant shock and help them establish faster.

FLOWER TOWER

To make a three-tier planter, like ours, you'll need five different-sized pots. The top two visible pots are glued to support pots positioned upside down.

Each visible pot should be a size or two smaller than the one it sits on and the decrease in sizes should be even.

The pots that sit inside are hidden by potting mix and allow the bases of the visible pots to be positioned 20-30mm into the potting mix.

1 2



1 Attach the pots

Apply adhesive to the base of the first support pot. Position the second-tier visible pot upside down and secure the first support pot to it, with the drainage holes aligned. Repeat for the next tier of pots. Allow the adhesive to dry.



2 Add the plants

Position the second-tier glued pot arrangement in the base pot and add potting mix. Repeat for the top tier of glued pots. Add the plants to each tier.

TIP For larger towers, assemble them where they are to be positioned.

What you need

- Five different-sized pots
- Exterior grade landscape construction adhesive
- Quality potting mix
- Plants

MUG PLANTER

Ideal for beautiful bloomers by the front door to greet guests, this project uses mugs mounted on a timber board to form a series of small planters.

The top third of each mug needs to have a straight surface so they can be mounted on the back board.

Our board measures 140 x 20mm and we left a half-cup width between each mug, with the handles to the side, and a mug width at each end.

To make it stand out, we used Dulux Weatherboard Gloss tinted in Peep-O-Day to paint the board.

Drilling porcelain
The only way to safely drill into porcelain is with a diamond core bit.

The drill must be run at a low speed and should never be set to hammer mode. Apply only moderate pressure, letting the bit do the work. Keep it wet by dipping it in cool water at least every 20 seconds.

It's important when using a diamond core bit to wear gloves and eye and ear protection.



What you need

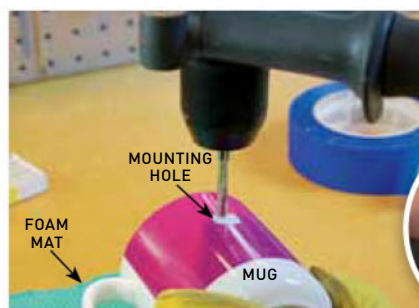
- ✦ Mugs
- ✦ Exterior-grade timber board
- ✦ 6 and 8mm diamond core drill bits
- ✦ Socket wrench and driver bit
- ✦ 20mm galvanised timber buttonhead screws
- ✦ Screws suitable for mounting
- ✦ Dome EPDM roofing washers
- ✦ 20mm galvanised washers >

1 2 3



1 Cut the back board

Measure and cut the back board to length using a circular saw, then mark the mug positions, drilling screw holes. At each end, drill and countersink screw holes for mounting. Sand, undercoat and paint the board.



2 Attach the mugs

Mark the position for a mounting hole a third of the way down the back of the mugs. On a stable, shock-absorbing surface, such as a firm foam mat, drill a 6mm mounting hole, then an 8mm drainage hole in the base of each mug.



3 Secure the board

Attach the mugs to the board using buttonhead screws and washers, then tighten with a socket wrench and driver bit or right-angled screwdriver. Add potting mix and the plants. Mount the board, securing with screws. ✨

5

EXTRAORDINARY USES FOR
COFFEE
GROUNDSFREEZER
REFRESHER

Get rid of the smell of food after a freezer failure. Fill bowls with used or fresh coffee grounds and put them in the freezer overnight. For a flavoured-coffee scent, add a couple of drops of vanilla.

KITTY
REPELLENT

Cats won't think your garden is a toilet anymore if you spread a pungent mixture of used coffee grounds and orange peel around your plants. This combination acts as a great fertiliser as well.

CARROT
BOOSTER

Mix carrot seeds with freshly ground coffee before sowing. The extra bulk makes the tiny seeds easier to sow and the aroma may repel cutworms and other pests. They also add nutrients as they decompose.

PLANT
FERTILISER

Put old coffee grounds to good use as plant food. They're packed with nutrients that acid-loving plants like. Save them to fertilise rosebushes, azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons and evergreens.

WORM
FEEDER

Keep bait worms wriggling all day long with used coffee grounds. Mix a cup into the soil in your bait box before adding the worms. They love coffee, and the nutrients in the grounds helps them live longer.



Handyman

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