

YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO OUTDOOR LIVING

NEW ZEALAND

Handyman

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VEGIES EVER

DESIGN

THE GARDEN FOR
ENTERTAINING

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HOME-SECURITY
SOLUTIONS

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outdoor shower

Epic decks!

21

DESIGNER LOOKS, DIY FIXES
& STEP-BY-STEP MAKEOVERS



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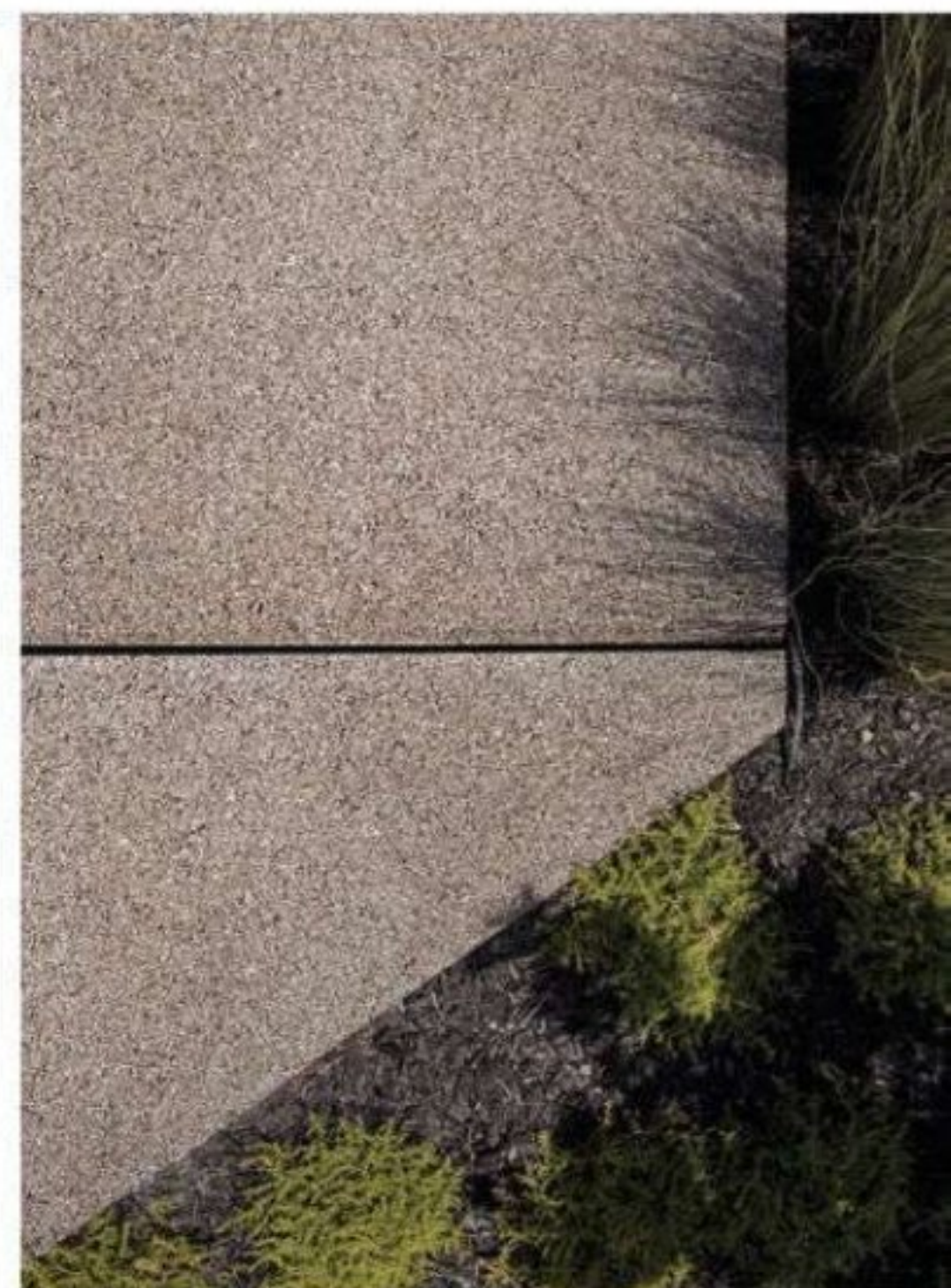
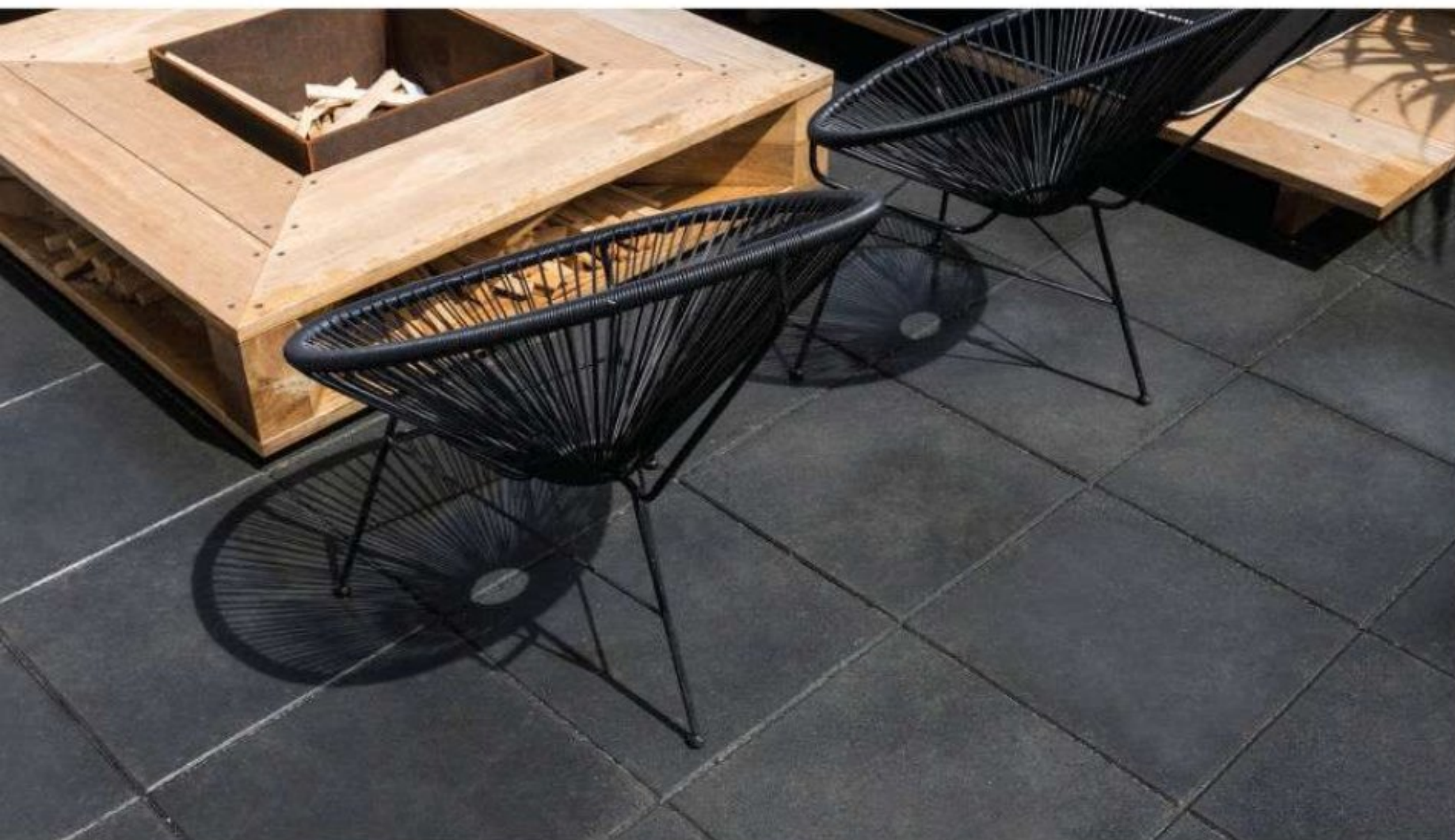
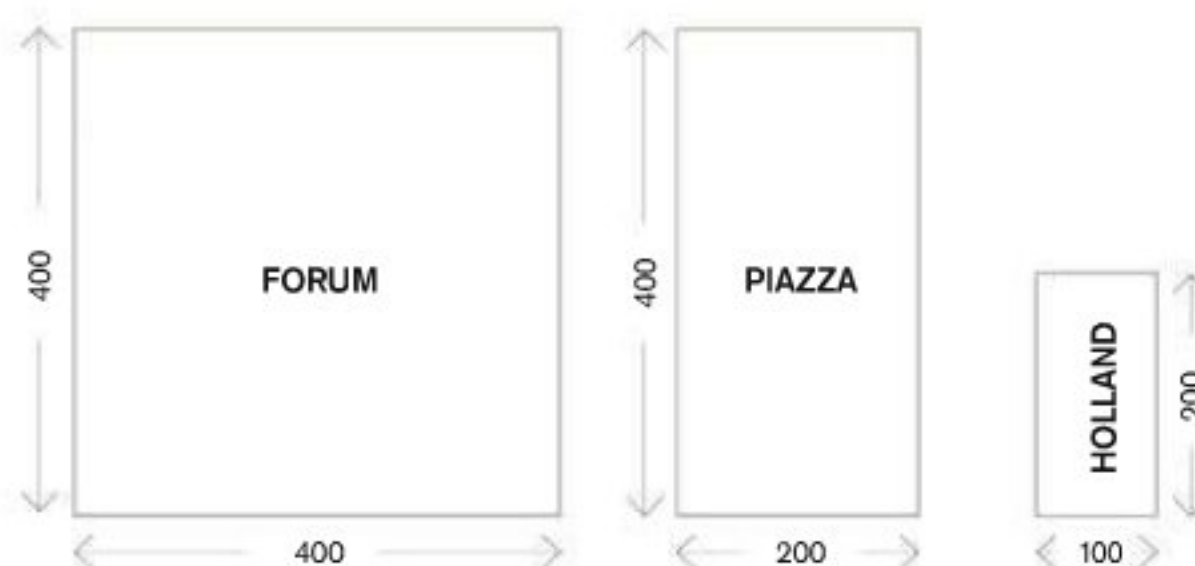


- 2 ANGLED EDGE**
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- 4 NEW STANDARD 50MM**
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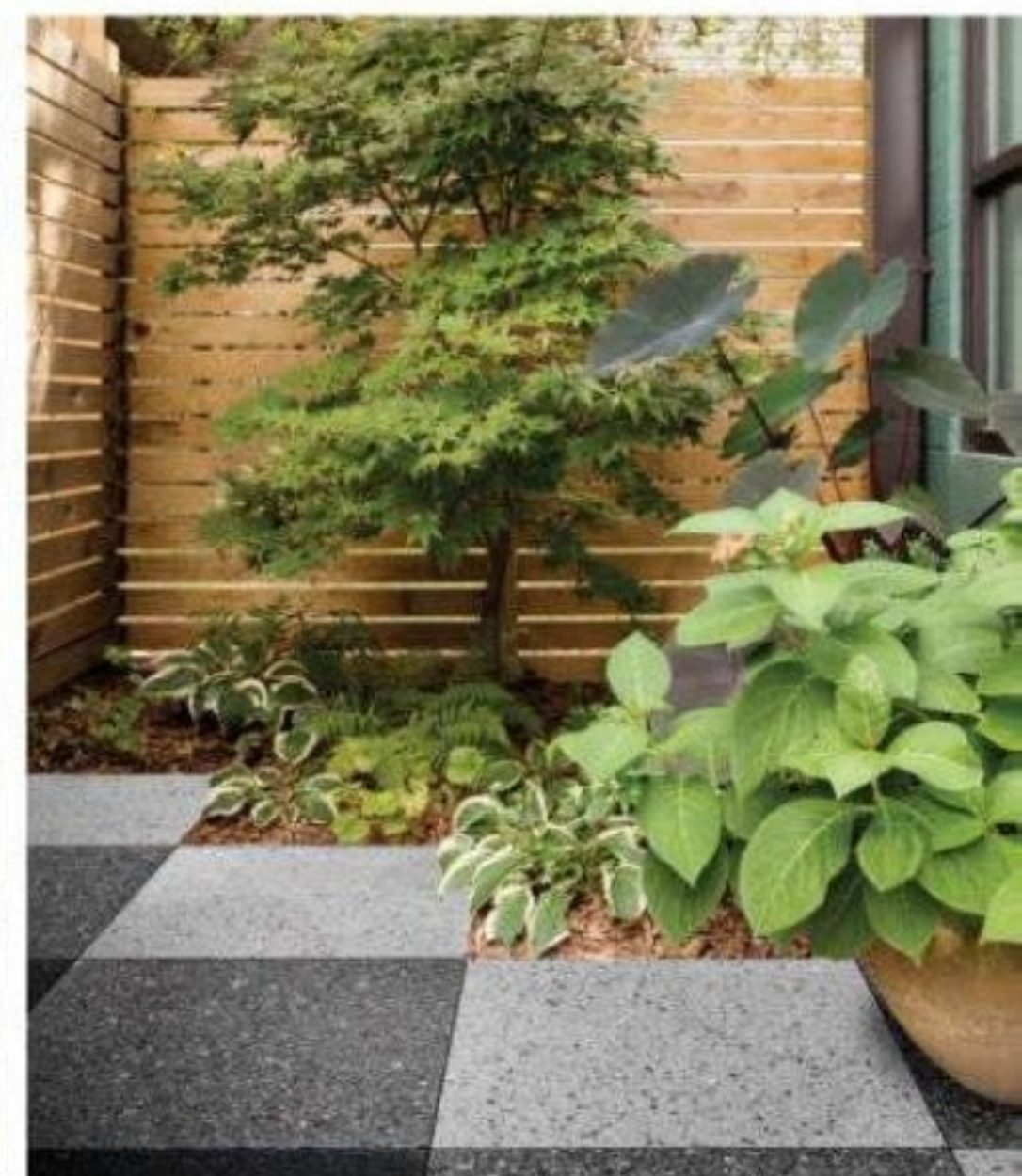
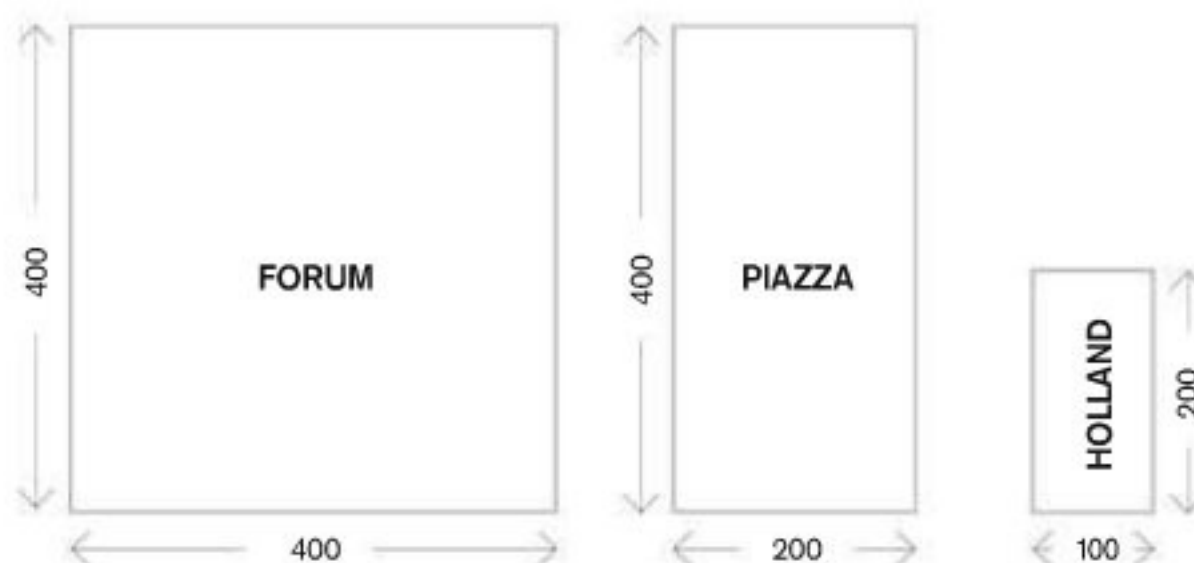
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FEBRUARY ISSUE



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STUART SCOTT

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HANDY STUFF



Taking it easy

Ideal for kids wanting somewhere to flop after a day's play, the Mojo MyMiniChair Outdoor Chair, \$119, is foam-filled and super comfy.

myhomewares.com



Clamming up

Treat the children to heaps of fun in the Fountain Clam Shell Sandpit, \$17 (bunnings.co.nz). When they tire of playing in it, the adults can fill it with ice and use it as a drinks cooler.

Rascal recliner

Perfect for children's parties, the Sommersault Kid's Sling Chair, \$20, is lightweight, stackable and available in four bright colours.

bunnings.co.nz



OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING

Embrace the extra hours of daylight and host a party in the backyard

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Give the kids a place to use up some of their energy.



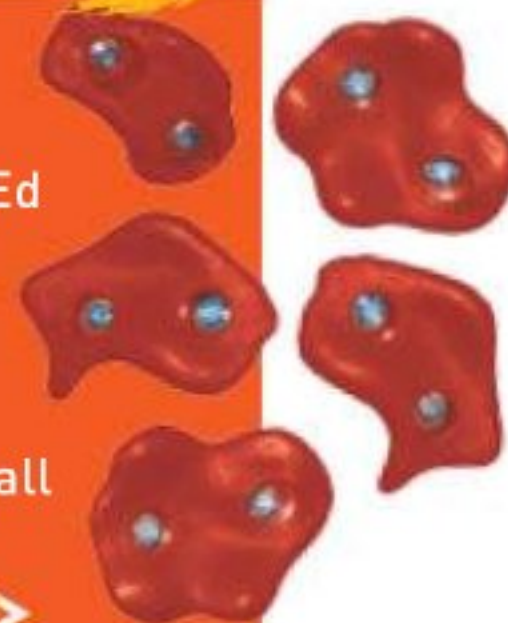
Bouncing babes

Get the kids to burn up excess energy together while playing on the Swing Slide Climb Rotating See Saw, \$69 (harco.co.nz). Made of powdercoated galvanised steel, it can rotate 360°.

Get a grip

Bring out the budding Sir Ed Hillary in your child with Swing Slide Climb Rock Climbing Grips, \$28 for a five-pack. Simple to install with the supplied fixings, they'll give hours of fun. >

harco.co.nz





TIP

Avoid the cost of a wood-fired pizza oven by using smart barbecue accessories.

Baker box

Make gourmet meals at home using the innovative BakerStone Pizza Oven Box, \$179 (bakerstonebox.co.nz). This clever accessory upgrades any three-burner or larger barbecue into a gourmet pizza oven by creating a unique airflow in and around the cooking chamber. It also roasts meat, fish and vegetables, and is excellent for baking breads, biscuits and more.

Kai time

For mouth-watering meals, try the Charmate Charcoal Smoker Oven, \$189. With two adjustable racks, it's ideal for smoking or slow cooking a variety of foods and features a water pan to keep the food from drying out.

gasmate.co.nz



Serve it

A 24cm wide stainless steel blade and heat-resistant wooden handle makes a BBQ Buddy Pizza Spatula, \$36, the ideal barbie tool.

mayohardware.co.nz



Make the cut

Prepare pizza from your barbie with the Matador Pizza Stone Tray and Cutter, \$63 (bunnings.co.nz). The broad-handled serving platter slips between the pizza and the stone, and the cutter slices effortlessly.



Feel the heat

For fast lighting and high heat, use Samba Hot Shots Barbecue Fuel, \$23 for 7kg. Made from brown charcoal that's 95% pure carbon, it cuts down on smoke and enhances the food flavour. ➤

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CREATING WAVES FOR POOL SAFETY



Gather round

Dine alfresco on the Mimosa Three-piece Timber Bench Setting, \$599, from Bunnings. Built from sustainable eucalyptus hardwood, it has a weight rating of 200kg.



Hang about

Relax back in a Two Trees Value Double Hammock, \$40. Available in two colours, it is 155cm wide and 220cm long and has a 150kg weight capacity. Made from a cotton polyester blend with colour-fast dyes, it comes in a PVC storage bag. mayohardware.co.nz



Warming glow

Keep evening chill at bay when entertaining outdoors with the Gasmate Stainless Steel Area Heater, \$398. Heat output is adjustable and a safety switch halts the gas supply should the unit be accidentally knocked over. gasmate.co.nz

Natural defence

Keep biting bugs at bay with the Waxworks Glazed Ceramic Table Top Oil Burner, about \$21. The sleek design makes it a stunning centrepiece, while the citronella oil discourages mosquitoes for an itch-free backyard barbecue. mayohardware.co.nz

Crowd pleaser

Fit the family on the Mimosa Fresco Four-piece Corner Sofa Setting, \$1749, from Bunnings. It adds a stylish, cosy atmosphere to an outdoor room.



TIP

Provide ambient table lighting and protection from mosquito bites with oil burners.



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Check out these great products that'll make all the difference to your summer projects.



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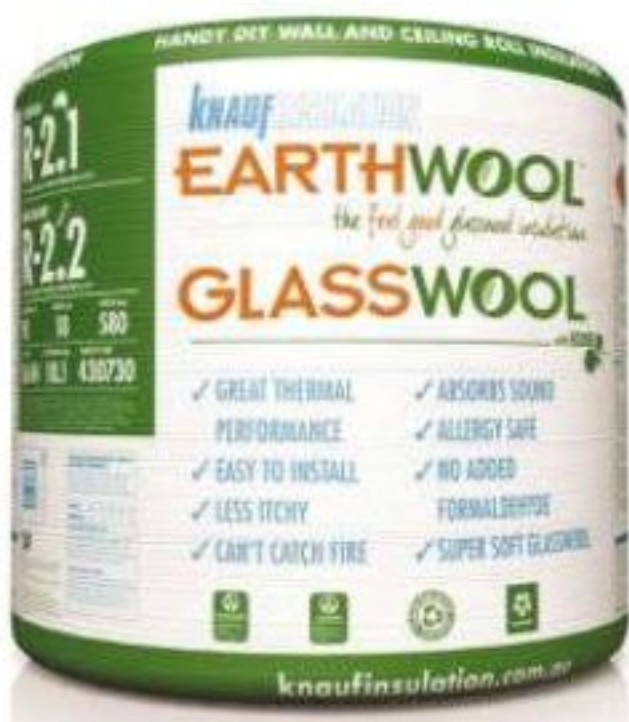


DECK ESSENTIAL

Take your deck to the next level with Cabots Aquadeck Decking Stain. This water based decking & timber oil lasts twice as long as traditional decking oils. It also repels water and offers UV protection. **\$83.**



VERSATILE PALINGS Whether you're building a new fence or maintaining an existing one, these Rough Sawn Pine H3.2 treated fence palings will get the job done – 100x19x1800. **\$0.99.**



KEEP COOL THIS SUMMER Insulation is not only good at keeping your home warm during winter, it is also great for keeping the heat out and your home cool during summer. Knauf's Earthwool Glasswool Handy 580mm thick roll is made from recycled glass and sand which means it is less itchy than traditional fibreglass. Now's the perfect time to insulate and make your home more thermally efficient so you can save more money on your energy bills. **\$66.04 (\$6.33/m2).**



GUN-LESS APPLICATION

Selleys Ezi Press fillers does away with the caulking gun, making it easy to hold for precision application. And when clean up is as simple as using water, it makes the job even faster. From **\$10.95.**



MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE

The Irwin 8M Tape Measure is a handy tool to have for all your D.I.Y. jobs. Its acrylic blade coating and three rivet end hook with reinforced metal backing makes this tool incredibly durable. Its sliding lock also makes for easy blade control. **\$9.98.**



MUST-HAVE FOR THE TOOL BOX

The Irwin 5 Piece Plier Set includes a 200mm Adjustable Wrench, 200mm Groove Joint Plier, 200mm Linesman Plier, 200mm Diagonal Plier, 150mm Long Nose Plier, and 1 roll bag. Each tool has hardened jaws for maximum gripping strength. **\$69.98.**



CHALK IT UP

The Irwin Chalk Line & Reel set is a D.I.Y. essential. It has a durable aluminium housing to keep it safe while on the job. It also has a robust steel handle for increased strength and torque. Plus, it features a wide door for a quick and easy chalk refill. **\$12.50.**



PULL THE TRIGGER ON DIRT & GRIME

With 1800psi at 6.3 litre/min, outdoor dirt and grime doesn't stand a chance. With its 1.7kW universal motor and, 8m high pressure hose, the Karcher T150 Hard Surface Cleaner will make short work of any job you've got lined up. It also has an on board detergent tank too. **\$299.**



GROW WHEREVER YOU GO

The Garden Up Mobile Grow Trolley will allow your plants to stay mobile and ready to transplant when your plants are ready. This trolley also features water-smart technology too. Made from recycled plastic, it's constructed from high quality steel and includes 6 planters – 495mm x 170mm. **\$179.**



BACK YARD BLITZ

Power through your backyard maintenance with the Ozito Line Trimmer/Blower combo. The Line Trimmer has a telescopic handle with tilting head to cut at various angles while the Cordless Blower has a speed of 210km/h. It also comes with a 3.0Ah battery with fast charger. **\$189.**

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2016 ANNUAL

DECK *living*

Create the ultimate outdoor space with DIY projects and quick fixes, plus inspiring designs from the experts



DESIGN THE OUTDOORS

Be inspired to create your ideal outside space with these innovative deck ideas from the experts

WORDS SITA SIMONS

A deck is more than a rectangle of boards. A well-considered design harmoniously extends living spaces from the indoors to the outdoors to create a functional space that can be used year-round.

Timber is visually appealing and a solid construction will last a long time with yearly maintenance. And advances in manufacturing have led to a boom in composite products, which look good and need even less upkeep.



INSIDE OUT

A back of house renovation turned a suburban bungalow into a space for a growing family.

Outdoor entertaining and cooking were key factors in the design for architect Ed Davis.

'There was a tiny deck, but nothing to connect the indoors with the outdoors, so we added this 12m blackbutt deck to extend the living spaces,' he says.

'Integral to the design was the roof extension. Over the dining area, it gives shelter and shade while also letting light through.

'At the kitchen end of the deck, the roof has an open void so the overhang doesn't block light from the house and allows the sunshine to bounce into the kitchen.' ➤



DESIGN TIP

To create a sense of resort-style luxury at home, it's important to keep the decor simple and not over-decorate.

RESORT FEEL

Landscape designer Monique Corah has done work for lots of resort properties, and when it came to designing this inner-city home, the outdoor areas took on those influences of comfort and calm.

'I wanted to create that feeling of easy luxury at home. It's not fussy, it's pared back and simple. The narrow space had to accommodate the pool,

so there wasn't much room left for decking,' says Monique.

'But having the small deck off the kitchen as a private space works really well, and looking back into the house from it is very pleasant.

'A space was also created at the end of the pool with a large daybed. Sitting there among the plantings, you feel like you could be in a resort.' ➤



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GOING UP

A cold and dilapidated terrace situated in a beautiful coastal location needed an extra floor to capture the views and provide much needed light and space.

But that meant that the long back garden at ground level would be hard to access, says architect Fredric Kakish.

'With the kitchen and living area opening up onto it, a simple but well-engineered deck was the outdoor solution that was needed,' says Fredric.

This timber deck, built on steel poles, connects the house to the outdoors and creates a layered view, making the ground-level lawn area much more accessible. ➤



PICTURE BLAKE BROCKDORFF, ARCHISHOT

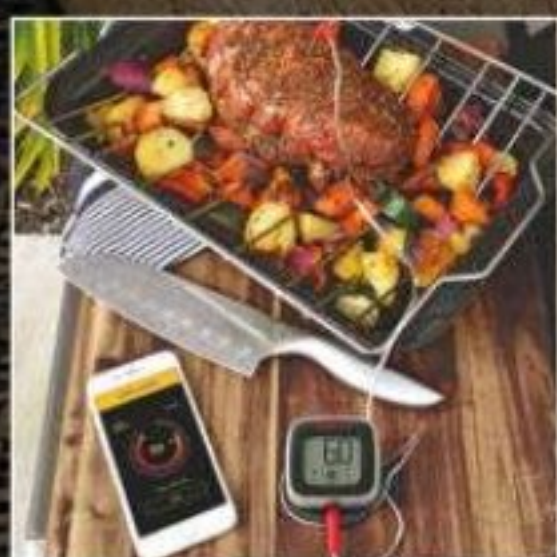


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PICTURE RED ZEBRA PHOTOGRAPHY

TIMBER TONES

Landscape designer Denise Staffa was briefed to create a stylish, low-maintenance outdoor living space in a high-end investment property.

She classifies timber as a soft material element in landscape design.

'It softens the hard elements and brings warmth to any outdoor space,' says Denise.

'In this garden, I wanted to create an easy transition from the residence to the backyard and the pool.

'The decking steps serve the function of directing you, as well as bringing another texture and tone into the space, layering and breaking up the hard surfaces,' she says.



'We used a composite timber product for the low-maintenance factor. But bear in mind that if these products get scratched or damaged they can't be repaired, only replaced.

'Researching the brand is also important as some have a major fade factor and can heat up and become too hot to walk on,' says Denise.





EASY STYLE

Although set on a picturesque property near the Tasman Sea, architect Tony Trobe calls this an English beach house.

Relaxed living needs practical and easily maintained outdoor spaces. This is achieved here with an engineered decking product.

'The material we used is a recycled timber composite, so it looks like timber but requires less maintenance,' says Tony.

'It's regular in appearance, as it is manufactured, and tends to have a long life span.

'It is also ideal for bushfire zones, where you wouldn't want to use lots of timber,' he says.

'The installation is a clip system, making it relatively easy to lay and avoids nail holes, which are an aesthetic concern.' ➤



PICTURE RONTAN



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ECO MODERN

A small kitchen extension on this property changed the whole planning of the house, and an even smaller jarrah deck became an outdoor feature.

Architect Bruce Townsend says the brief was to build the deck without disturbing or damaging any established trees.

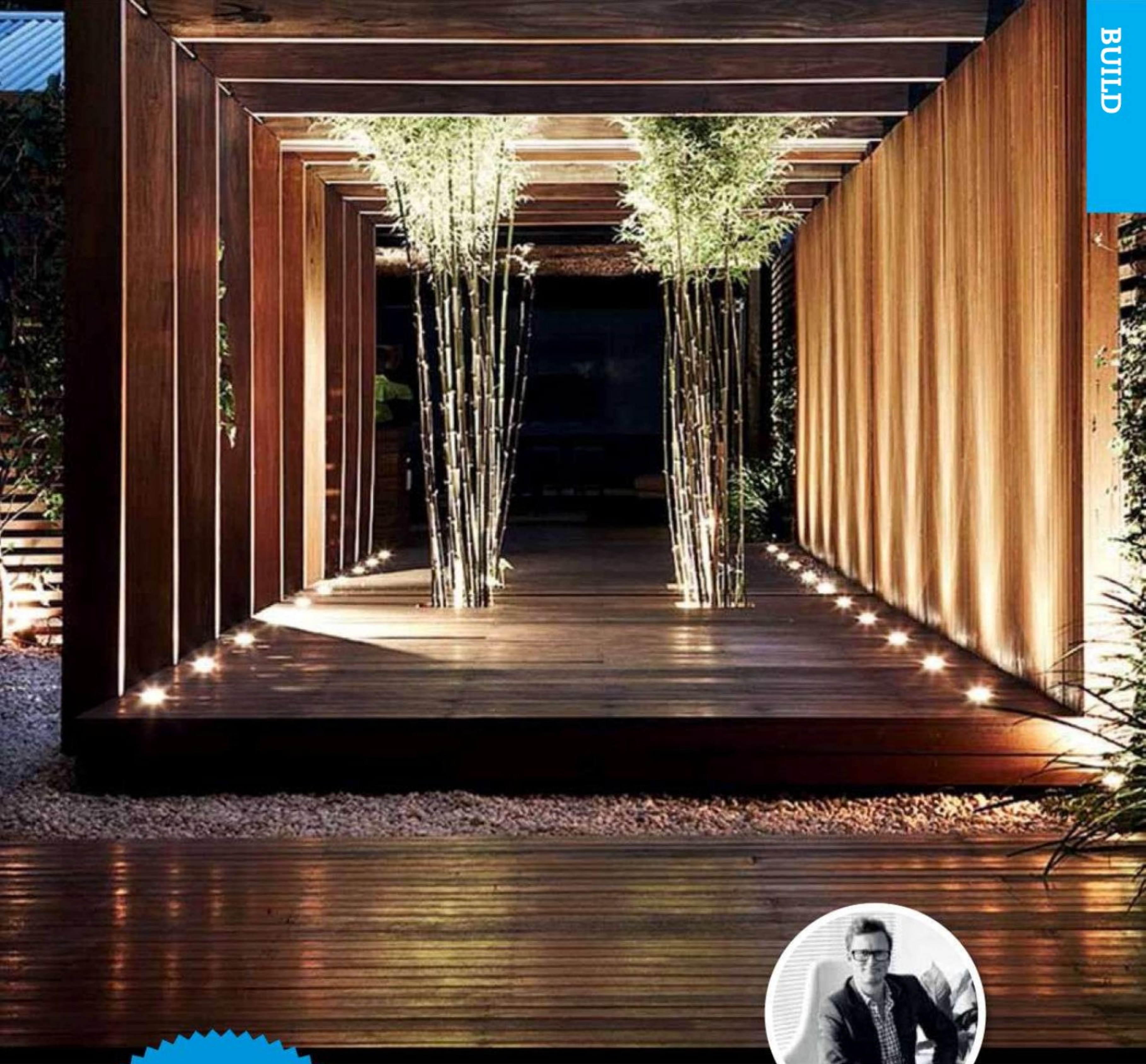
'We did this by using small pads to make the tiniest holes in the ground and use the least concrete. We also had to design a self-cleaning roof,' says Bruce.

'Hidden in the foliage like the world's biggest rainwater head is a piece of sculptured steel, which provides the deck cover and redirects rainwater off the roof.

'The self-cleaning method means no downpipes, with water dripping down the chain instead of directly into the garden,' he says.



PICTURE BEN WRIGLEY



DESIGN TIP

With thoughtful design, a pergola can transform a deck and create the impression of added space in a house.

PICTURE MATT GIBSON

CUBED CHARM

A renovation of this house saw the need for improved landscaping and outdoor spaces, and architect Matt Gibson provided some practical solutions in sculptural style.

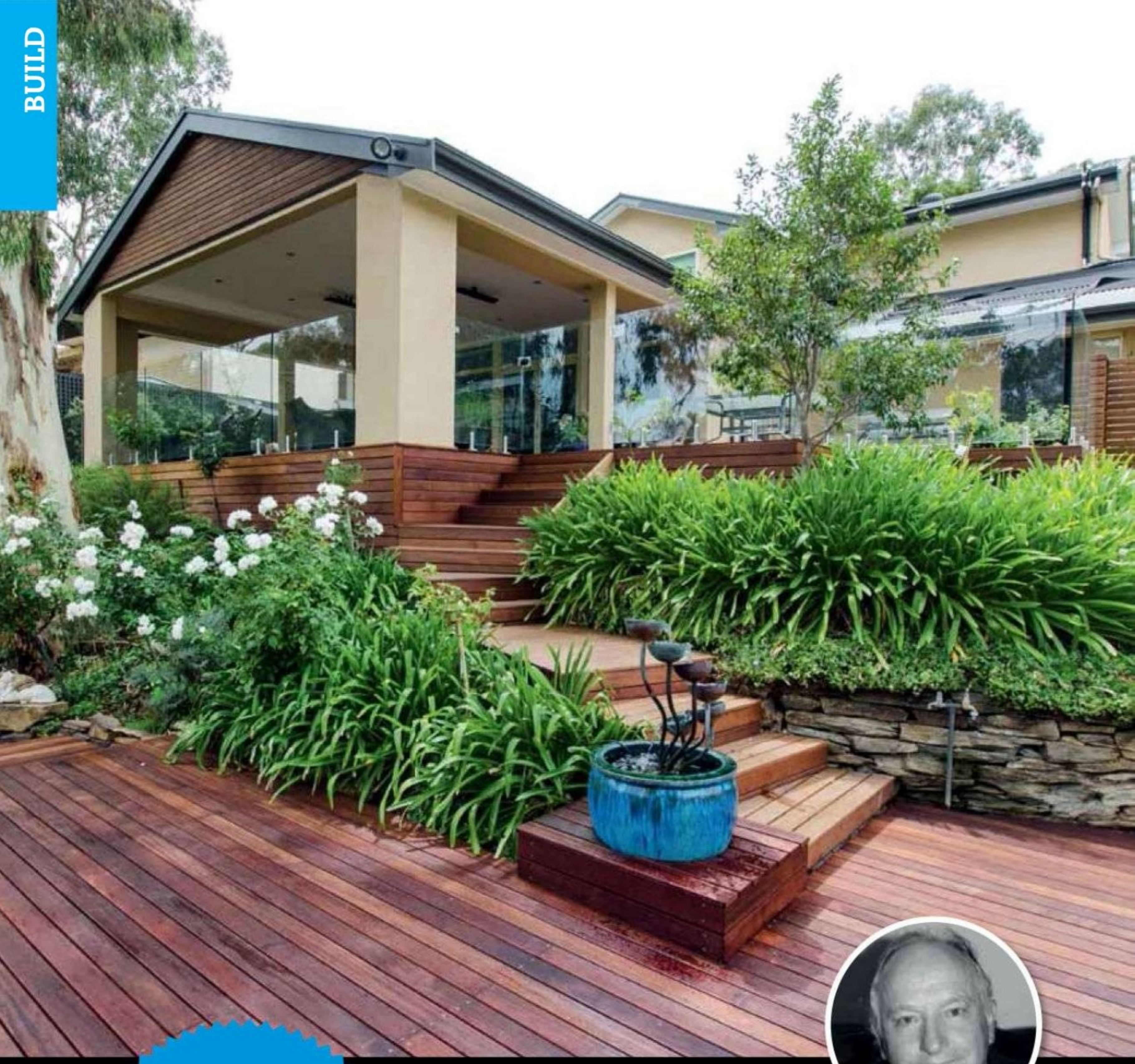
'A traditional pergola was built off the living spaces and featured a thatched roof to provide shade and protection from the elements. And to provide another outdoor room at



the rear of the garden, we designed this 3 x 7m deck,' says Matt.

'Because you look out onto it from the house, it needed to have more form and volume than a simple flat expanse of decking.

'It comes off the garage, and the extruded cube makes a point of interest in an area that would otherwise be quite utilitarian and bare.' ➤



DIY TIP

When building an expansive timber structure, real precision is required to keep the angles and lines right as you go.

NATURAL BLEND

This garden had been paved and needed a makeover. Builder Russell Wingard worked with the owner to create an expansive deck.

‘What was unusual about this job was it wasn’t planned to the nth degree. It grew and developed as we went.

‘The plants, vegie patch and trees were well established and a crucial

element of the brief was to work around what was there,’ says Russell.

‘We couldn’t get machinery in, so we had to pull up all the pavers and do a lot of excavating by hand.

‘We began at the top and built the 6 x 7m pergola at ceiling height with the house so it feels like a continuation and not an isolated structure.’ ➤



PICTURE MEAGHAN COLES



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LUSH ESCAPE

This new suburban house build gave landscape designer Jim Fogarty a clean palette to work with.

The challenges were screening the neighbour's house from the courtyard and meeting the council requirement to keep non-penetrable surfaces to 65% of land cover.

'In the front garden, I really wanted to create a large garden bed which I could fill with lots of green foliage plants,' says Jim.



'Not allowed to add more paving, and not wanting to have a small patch of lawn to mow, I incorporated a black stained floating timber deck to sit nicely among the foliage.'

'Two slatted stools make the area a peaceful place to sit and they fit well with the overall feel of the garden.'



Slatted stools create a private nook that works in harmony with the surrounds.

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CIRCULAR SAW



Stuart

EXPERT SECRETS

Choose modern finishes that can ward off the damaging effects of our harsh climate and extend the life of your deck.

After

With new boards installed and stained, the deck will stand the test of time.

DECK MAKEOVER

Replace timber boards and apply a stain to rejuvenate old decking

PROJECT AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

Before

A deck is a fantastic asset to the home. It extends living and recreation space and can provide utility areas to add functionality to the household.

On sloping blocks, they provide necessary level areas, or they can be nestled into a corner of the garden as a secluded oasis to relax in.

Many decks, particularly those exposed to the elements, can suffer the ravages of sun and rain.

While this old deck was in okay shape, it had been painted in the past and many of the narrow hardwood boards were showing signs of rot.

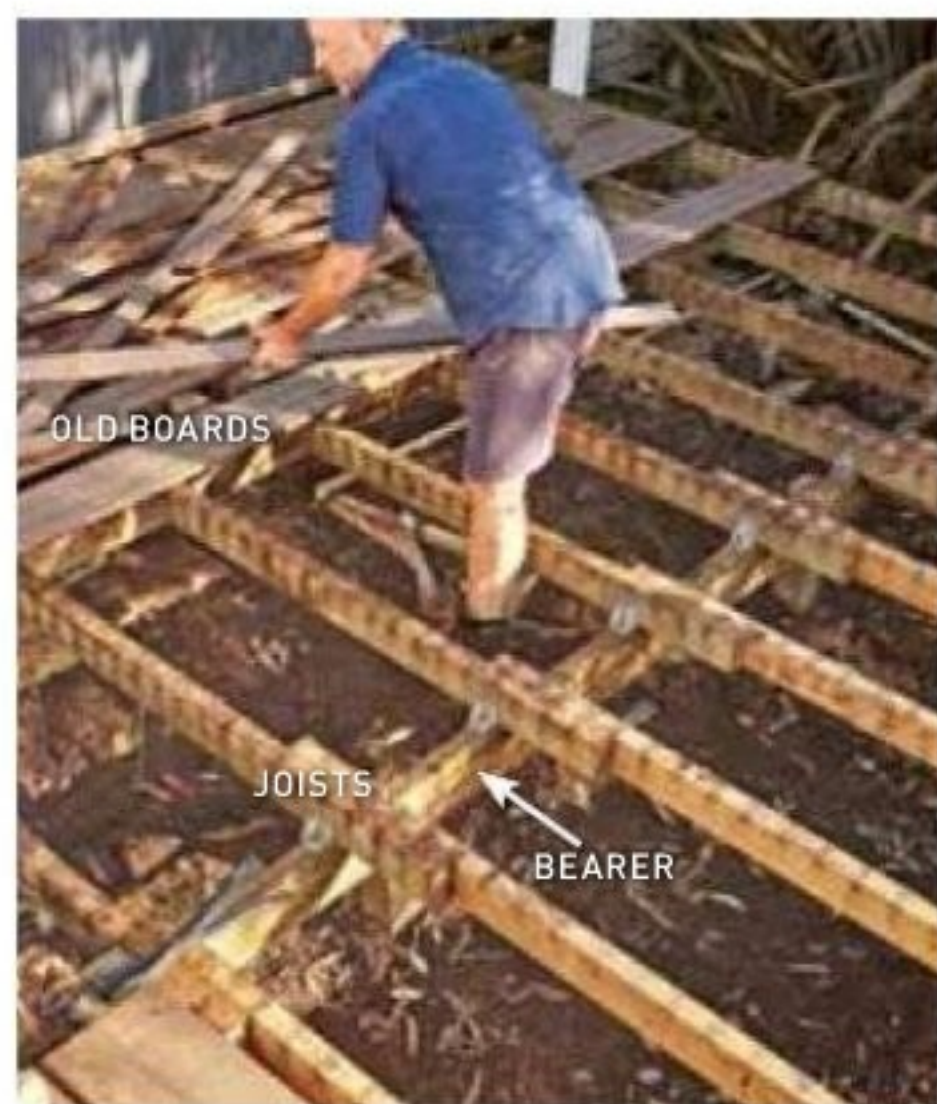
We ripped up all the old boards, reinforced the structure and then laid new 140 x 19mm kwila decking using a concealed fastening system.

The job took three days to complete and cost about \$2020. ➤



Good ventilation and drainage are essential considerations when laying a new deck

LAY THE BOARDS



1 Remove the old boards

Remove the old screws or use a pry bar to lift if nailed. Chisel around cammed out screws and grind any remaining screws or nails off flush with the joists. Check the posts, bearers, joists and connections for signs of rot and rust, correcting any issues as needed.



2 Protect the joists

Clear and prepare the ground below the deck, then spread 40-50mm of 20mm aggregate, making sure that it is clear of all the bearers. Roll out damp proof course (DPC) tape along the joists, then cut to fit. Tack with galvanised clouts to hold in position.



3 Position the boards

Start at the outside edge and position the boards so they overhang the last joist. To join, first dock the ends square, staggering the joints at least two joists apart and allowing the boards to span at least two joists. Flip and apply a coat of finish to the backs using a roller.



4 Attach the new boards

Secure the first board to the outer edge of the deck with the fastening tool. If overhanging, it may be necessary to secure the outer edge from underneath with angle brackets and screws. Butt joints and ends may need predrilling. Finish attaching the boards.



5 Cut the overhang

Use a saw and/or plane to adjust the width of the last board as needed to provide a neat fit. It may also be necessary to secure the outer edge of this last board to the bearer from underneath using brackets and screws. Trim the overhang using a saw.



6 Apply the stain

If possible, leave the deck to weather for 2-6 weeks, then thoroughly wash it. When dry, sand lightly with a fine-grit paper to remove any raised fibres. Following the manufacturer's instructions, apply two coats of finish with a brush or an applicator.



FINISH AND PROTECT

Decking timber, particularly wide boards, can cup if exposed to moisture from underneath. Low decks are even more prone to this due to poor ventilation.

Our two-step solution was to spread 20mm aggregate to let the water drain through and apply a coat of stain to the backs of the boards before securing them.

If you want to give the deck even more protection against water damage, put a damp proof course tape, such as Thermakraft Supercourse, along the tops of the joists. Available at Bunnings, it comes in a roll in several widths to suit different timber sizes.

The new boards were laid using a hidden fastening system. The Camo Marksman Pro tool clamps over the board, setting a 5mm space, and guides dedicated screws through the side. Use 7g x 48mm Camo Stainless Steel Deck Screws, from Bunnings.

For the finish, we suggest using Cabot's Water Based Deck & Exterior Stain in Hunter Grey for a contemporary-looking matt finish (cabots.co.nz). ➤



GET THE RIGHT START TO A PERFECT FINISH

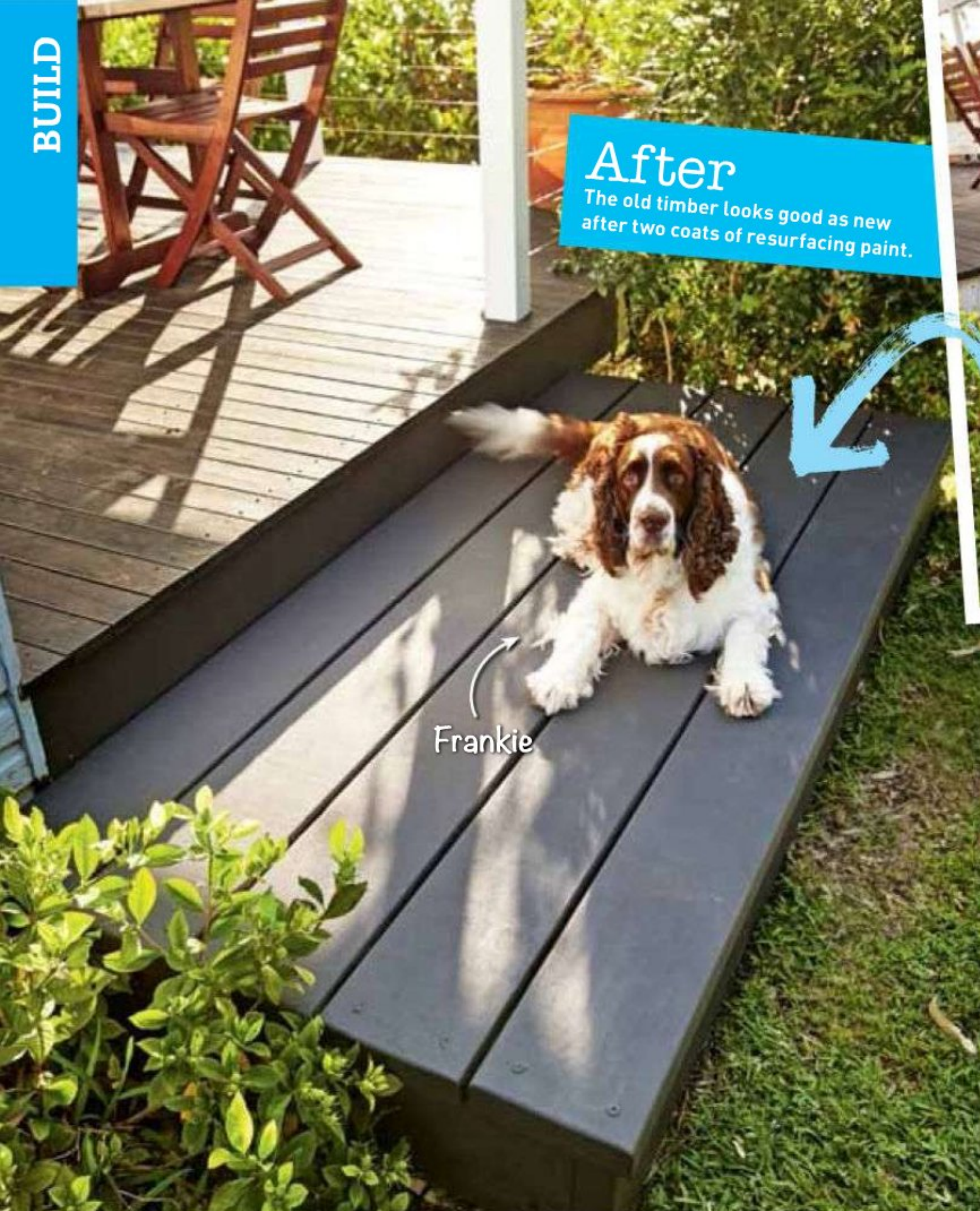
Polyfilla Exterior Timber 450g

A ready to use, acrylic based, flexible filler for filling cracks, holes, dents and splits in weatherboards and other exterior woodwork such as decking and fencing.

Features & Benefits

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- Sands to a smooth finish
- Saves time with no priming required before painting
- Minimal shrinkage on drying
- Can be tinted with paint tinters or stained
- Dries in 1-2 hours in 2-3mm layers





Renew old timber

It doesn't take long for outdoor timber to crack and fade in our harsh Kiwi climate but in less than a day, you can rejuvenate weathered surfaces.

The timber step platform leading to this deck was in need of TLC, so after a scrub with deck cleaner, it was ready to be refinished.

White Knight Renew It! Wood & Concrete Resurfacer, \$99 for 4L, is a water-based paint that can be applied directly to clean, sound surfaces (whiteknightpaints.co.nz).

It's designed to fill cracks up to 5mm deep and creates a non-slip matt surface that is durable. It can be tinted to a range of colours and is easy to apply with a brush and roller.

1 2 3



1 Clean the surface

Give the area to be painted a thorough wash by hosing and then scrubbing with a stiff brush. If particularly oily or affected by mould, use a deck cleaning product. Sand or scrape to remove any loose, flaking material.



2 Prepare the surface

Allow to dry, then mask off adjacent surfaces. Drive or punch down any raised fasteners. Fill any cracks deeper than 5mm with a suitable exterior and paintable filler. Allow to dry, then sand the whole area as necessary.



3 Apply the finish

Sweep the timber, then apply the resurfacing paint. Work a heavily loaded paintbrush into the cracks and joins until filled. Use a roller or brush to work first across the boards, then along them. Recoat after six hours. 🌀

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OPEN-AIR SHOWER

Screen off an area out on the deck to rinse off after a trip to the beach

PROJECT AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

This open deck off the side of the house had been recently renovated and the old shower also needed an upgrade.

The shower head and taps were removed, then a back wall installed and a timber screen built DIY.

Two battens were secured to the house at 1m and 2m, with a third secured to the deck on 5mm packers for drainage. Using a concealed

fastening system, 2m lengths of kwila were attached to the battens in line with the decking boards.

The timber wall was capped with 40 x 40mm kwila, then the shower head and taps reinstalled.

Whites 19mm Screen Up Corner Posts were secured to the deck and Rear Fix Wall Channels to the shower wall, then 140 x 19mm kwila slats were cut to length and slotted into place. ➤

DIY TIP

For a neat job and to avoid damaging the timber deck boards, drill pilot holes for the post fasteners.



Showering outdoors doesn't have to be reserved for luxury holidays

STUART'S PICKS



Ryobi One+ 18V 165mm Circular Saw, \$159, skin only. ryobi.co.nz

Whites Outdoor 19mm Slat 2m Rear Fix Screen Up, \$35. whitesgroup.com.au

Kwila 140 x 19mm Decking Boards, about \$12 per linear metre, from Bunnings.

Materials

Kwila boards	\$455
Screen posts, rear wall channels	\$635
Deck stain	\$44
M10 x 50mm coach screws, washers	\$18
8g x 16mm galvanised buttonhead screws	\$18
TOTAL	\$1170

1
DAY

\$1170
COST

TOOLS
CIRCULAR SAW, DRILL,
SCREWDRIVER

After

The shower facilities on this deck went from no-frills to luxe in a day.

BUDGET TIP

Recycle an old metal towel rail for an outdoor shower, securing it to timber with stainless steel decking screws.



A DIY shower screen completes the reno of this open-air deck.

1 2 3



1 Prepare the slats

Cut 36 kwila slats to 900mm long using a circular saw, allowing them to weather for up to six weeks if possible. Sand the slats lightly, then apply two coats of stain. Allow each slat to dry for at least two hours in between coats.



2 Secure the posts

Set out the channel and post positions using a slat for spacing, allowing 5mm for movement and drainage. Secure the channels to the wall with buttonhead screws and the posts to the deck with hex head coach screws.



3 Install the screen

Position four 20mm spacers in each channel and post for an 80mm clearance at the base of the screen, then slot in the slats using 20mm spacers. Plumb the posts and brace with the supplied brackets. 🛠️



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EASY FIXES

Check the deck for signs of wear and tear and give it a little TLC

Well-built decks last for decades, but if corners were cut when it was built, or it's more than 15 years old, look for these indicators that it needs some DIY maintenance.

Most fixes are fast and inexpensive, but if you're not sure the deck is safe, get it checked by a building inspector.



Spruce up the deck for safer outdoor living



Bouncy boards

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

The nail holes should be filled to stop the hangers pulling loose from the ledger board or outer joist. Builders sometimes use just a few nails to hold joist hangers and forget to add the rest later.

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





SAFETY TIP

While the deck may appear in good condition, the structure should be inspected every year to keep it safe and sound.

Strengthen the post and balustrade connection with cuphead bolts.



2 Loose posts

The posts should always sit directly under the outer joist. If they have been secured to the side of the deck, weight is put onto the fasteners and nails won't be strong enough to hold the load.

You can reinforce the post and balustrade connections using 10mm diameter galvanised cuphead bolts.

Measure the thickness of the posts and the surrounding outer joists and use bolts that are at least 25mm longer than the combined measurement.

Drill 10mm holes through the outer joist and post, tap in the bolts, adding a washer and nut on the other side.

For loose balustrade posts, drill two offset holes through the balustrade post and outer joist, tap in galvanised cuphead bolts and tighten.

TIP We used 200mm bolts for two 38mm joists and a 90mm post.



3 Unstable deck

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

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

Drill two 6mm pilot holes into the ledger board, offsetting them so the base hole is not aligned with the top hole.

Use a drill and impact socket, with a socket adaptor, to secure the coachscrews and washers. **TIP** Avoid countersinking screws, as it tends to weaken the ledger. ➤

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Prevent swaying by adding diagonal bracing under the deck.



4 Sideways movement

Lateral deck movement will put stress on the fasteners and connectors, which means the joists can pull away from the outer joist or ledger board and twist out of vertical position.

Adding angle bracing will stiffen it to prevent sway. Run 90 x 45mm treated timber underneath the deck from corner to corner, securing with

two 100 x 3.75mm galvanised nails through the brace into each joist.

If a single length of brace is too short, use two braces, making sure you overlap them by at least two joists. Cut the bracing flush with the outside of the deck.

Or, you can run galvanised hoop iron strapping from corner to corner as a cross brace, nailing it under or on top of the joists.

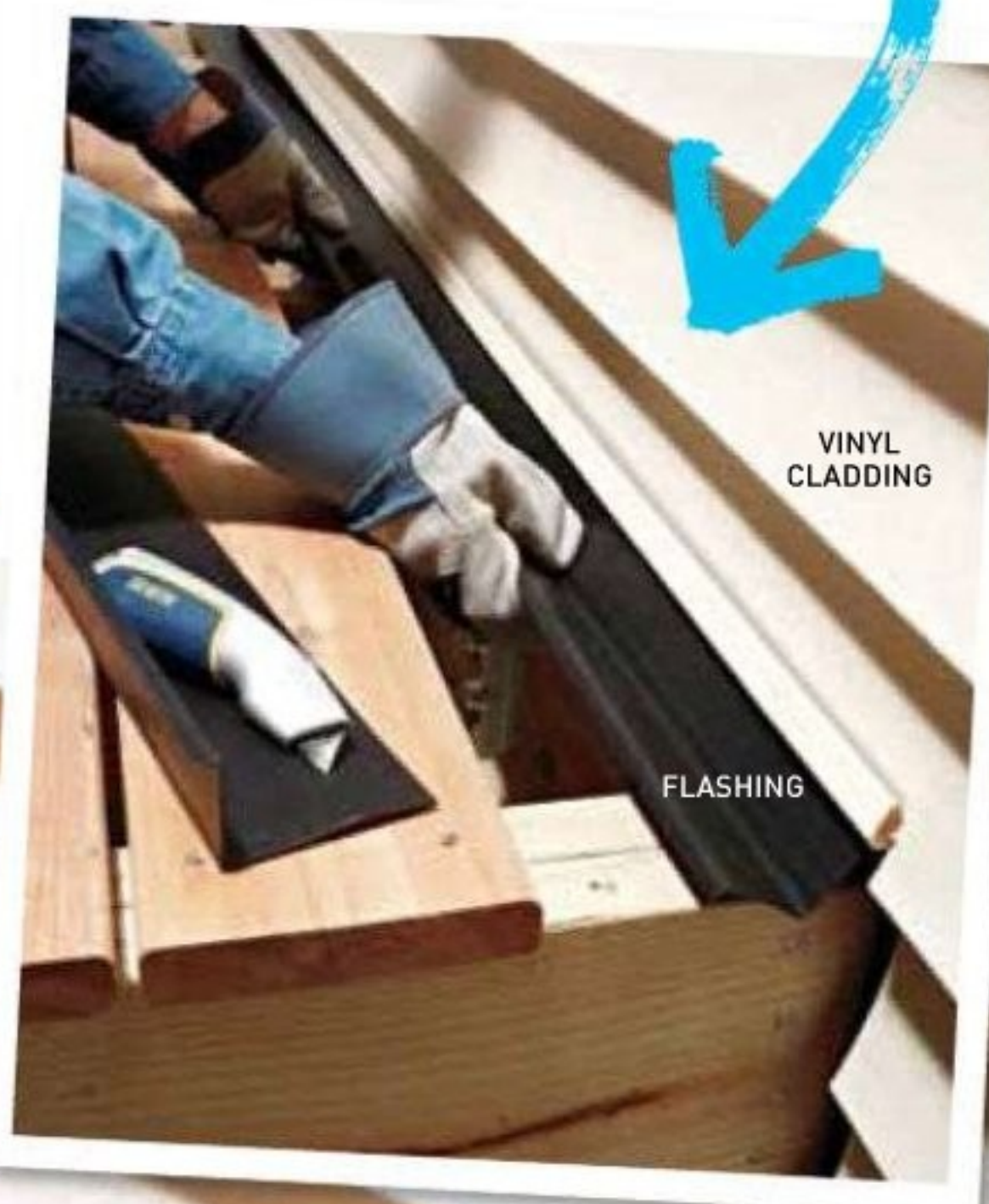
5 Mould prevention

Add flashing to make the area around the ledger board watertight, preventing mould causing rot inside the house or on the house outer joist, which supports the ledger.

Go under the deck to check the ledger board for a metal or plastic lip over the top of the board. If there isn't one, add flashing by removing the deck board nearest the house.

For vinyl, timber or other lap cladding, work a pry bar underneath the cladding to pull out the nails and insert the flashing.

TIP With brick and render, the flashing is rarely visible, as ledgers are often installed directly over the top.



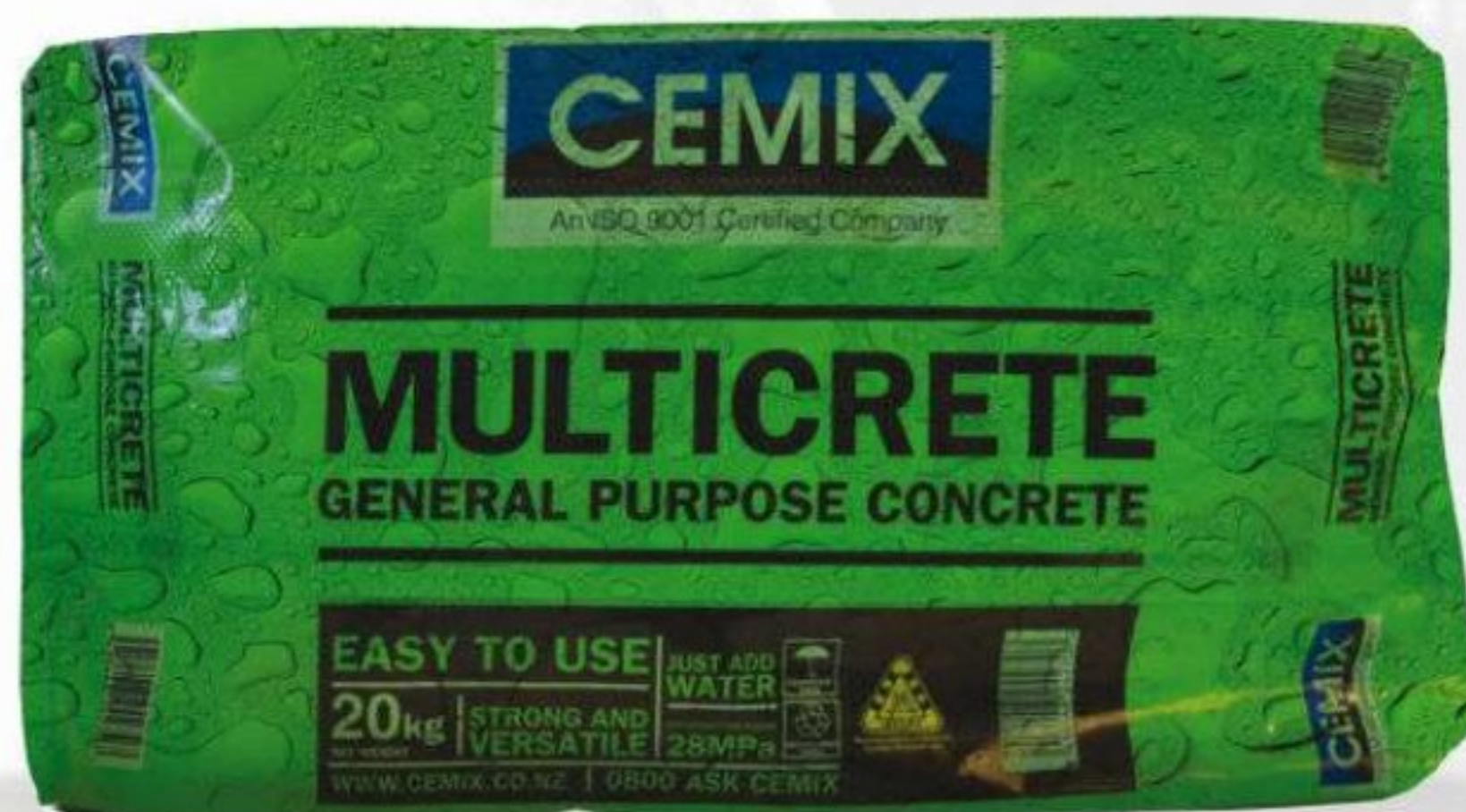
Add flashing to prevent mould and rot.



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STAIN A DECK

Keeping your deck looking its best creates an inviting outdoor area.

Timber stain enhances the look of new boards and can also make an old weathered deck look like new.

New decking boards must be left to weather for a few months and cleaned before staining.

Old boards should be thoroughly cleaned and sanded to remove any patches of old stain.

What you need

Paint tray
Paintbrush
Stain
Masking tape
Cloth
Lambswool applicator
Paint stirrer



1 2 3



1 Prepare the area

Ensure rain isn't forecast for at least 24 hours before applying stain. Use painter's tape to cover areas around the edge of the deck that you don't want coated, such as cladding, walls or painted surfaces.



2 Coat the edges

Stir the stain well using a paint stirrer, then cut in by applying stain to the edges of the deck with a paintbrush. Use long, even brush strokes and blend as you go. Remove the tape before the stain dries for a clean finish.

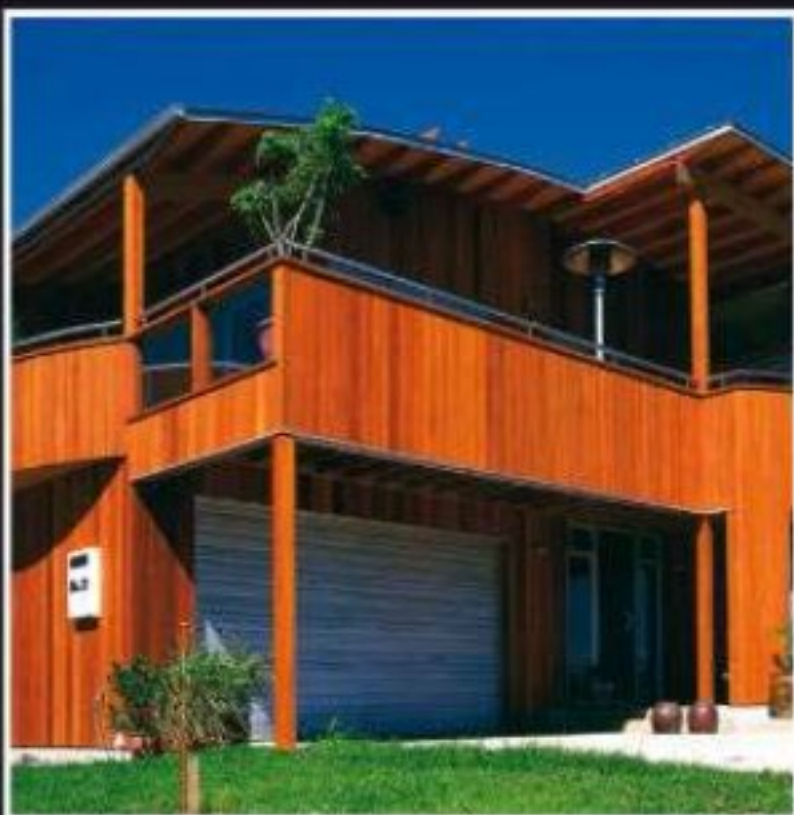


3 Apply the stain

Pour the stain into a paint tray, then use a lambswool applicator to apply the stain to the boards in long strokes. Maintain a wet edge by coating two or three boards at a time. Finish on an open edge to avoid getting trapped.

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TIMBER TABLE REVIVE

Give an outdoor setting a new finish for summer entertaining

PROJECT AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

A dining setting is essential for outdoor living, and timber has a timeless look that suits most backyards, decks or balconies.

But timber can age and weather quickly if left out in the open, leading to cracks and even rot.

To give an outdoor setting such as this seven-piece a makeover, clean

it with a water blaster to remove grime and mould, then revitalise the timber using Jac Jay Oxalic Acid, about \$17 for 500g (jacjay.co.nz).

Sand the timber and apply Sikkens Cetol HLSe, \$53 for 1L (sikkens.co.nz). It produces a transparent finish that protects timber from the elements while letting the grain show through.



Bring faded timber back to life
with a good scrub, sand and stain



Before

What you need

Water blaster
Garden furniture cleaner
Exterior timber finish
Paintbrushes
Sandpaper roll
Scourers

1 2 3



1 Wash the setting

Give the whole setting a thorough wash using a water blaster, taking care not to burnish the timber. Spray from a distance, using a fan pattern.

TIP If you don't own a water blaster, use a hose and a stiff brush or scourer.



2 Scrub the timber

Apply diluted oxalic acid to the table and chairs with a paintbrush while the timber is still wet, working it in with a nylon scourer. Rinse it off after 15 minutes, making sure the oxalic acid doesn't dry on the timber.



3 Apply the finish

Lightly sand the dry timber, wipe off, then apply three liberal coats of finish with a natural-bristle brush, leaving it to dry for 24 hours in between coats.

TIP Don't apply the finish in windy or extremely hot conditions.



SAFETY TIP

When applying heavy-duty outdoor timber cleaner or stain, watch for runoff, which can cause dieback in grass or plants.

After

Cleaned and refinished, the dining setting is ready for alfresco living.

COOLING THE DECK

Stay chilled under the summer sun with these easy outdoor upgrades

Long days and nights spent on the deck is one of the best things about summer, but the heat and humidity can quickly get too intense.

Instead of retreating indoors and turning on the air-conditioner, turn the deck into a cool sanctuary with a few budget-friendly additions, most of which you can DIY instantly.

The trick to turning down the heat is to create shade and cool the air. Installing a ceiling fan is the obvious solution, but a bit of landscaping also goes a long way to making the outdoors more comfortable.

Check out these cooling ideas and choose the ones that work for your deck.



HPM 120cm Stainless Steel Hang Sure Ceiling Fan, \$147.
hpm.co.nz

BREEZE MAKERS

If you have a covered deck or patio, you can install a ceiling fan to circulate air. If you don't, go for a freestanding electric fan designed for outdoor use. There are also misting systems that cool the air in the same way as an air-conditioner, but at a much lower cost.

Moretti 30cm High Velocity Floor Fan, \$45, from Bunnings.



Holman Misting System Kit, about \$69.
sims-distributing.co.nz



Trachelospermum
jasminoides, from \$13,
from Bunnings.

Water cooler

A water feature on the deck or in the backyard can make a big difference to your microclimate.

Simply seeing water can make you feel less hot and the air will benefit from the natural process of evaporative cooling.

Install a feature that has a fountain or add a pump to a pond so the water circulates continuously, as mosquitoes breed in still water.

LANDSCAPE MAKERS

Create an inviting deck area that feels fresh even in the scorching heat of summer with a bit of clever landscaping. Use plants to provide natural shade, growing climbers over decorative screens to further block the sun and add water wherever you can. ➤

Tiki Waterslide
Fountain, about \$320,
from Bunnings.



Protector Aluminium 94 x180cm
Riverstone Decorative Panel,
\$169. protectoraluminium.com.au



Bougainvillea 'Magnifica
Traillii', about \$13,
from nurseries.



Coolaroo Montecito 3m
Cantilever Umbrella, \$382.
coolaroo.com

SHADE MAKERS

The fastest and easiest way to shade the deck while maintaining airflow is to use an umbrella, shadesail or awning. If your deck is covered, installing bistro blinds will provide excellent protection against the elements, creating a cool and contained outdoor space. ●



Coolaroo 3.6m Extreme
Triangle Shade Sail, \$109.
coolaroo.com



Windowware 210 x 240cm
Charcoal Bistro Blind, \$258,
from Bunnings.

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What's new

Summer is now in full swing and it's a great time to get stuck in to your D.I.Y. projects. Install something new or breathe life into something that's lost its flare. Whatever you've got planned for your summer, you'll find everything you need at Bunnings Warehouse.



PURE STAND OUT

This little number will seriously set you apart from so many other homes. The Foreno Sprint black sink mixer will give your home a contemporary look, especially with its trendy matte black finish. It is also Watermark certified for quality assurance and suitable for all pressures. WELs Mains 3 Star/Low 5 Star **\$249**



ARM YOURSELF AGAINST THE HEAT

Keep cool on your side with this black Arlec 75cm diameter Industrial Wall Fan. Tame the summer heat with a powerful 280W motor, 3 speed settings, oscillating functionality and an adjustable tilt head. **\$199**



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This energy efficient and quiet Stainless Steel Dishwasher has 3 spray arms and a third cutlery tray. It comes complete with 14-place setting, 6 wash programs, LED display and anti-flood stop device, that will keep the kitchen humming in peace. **\$699**



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THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

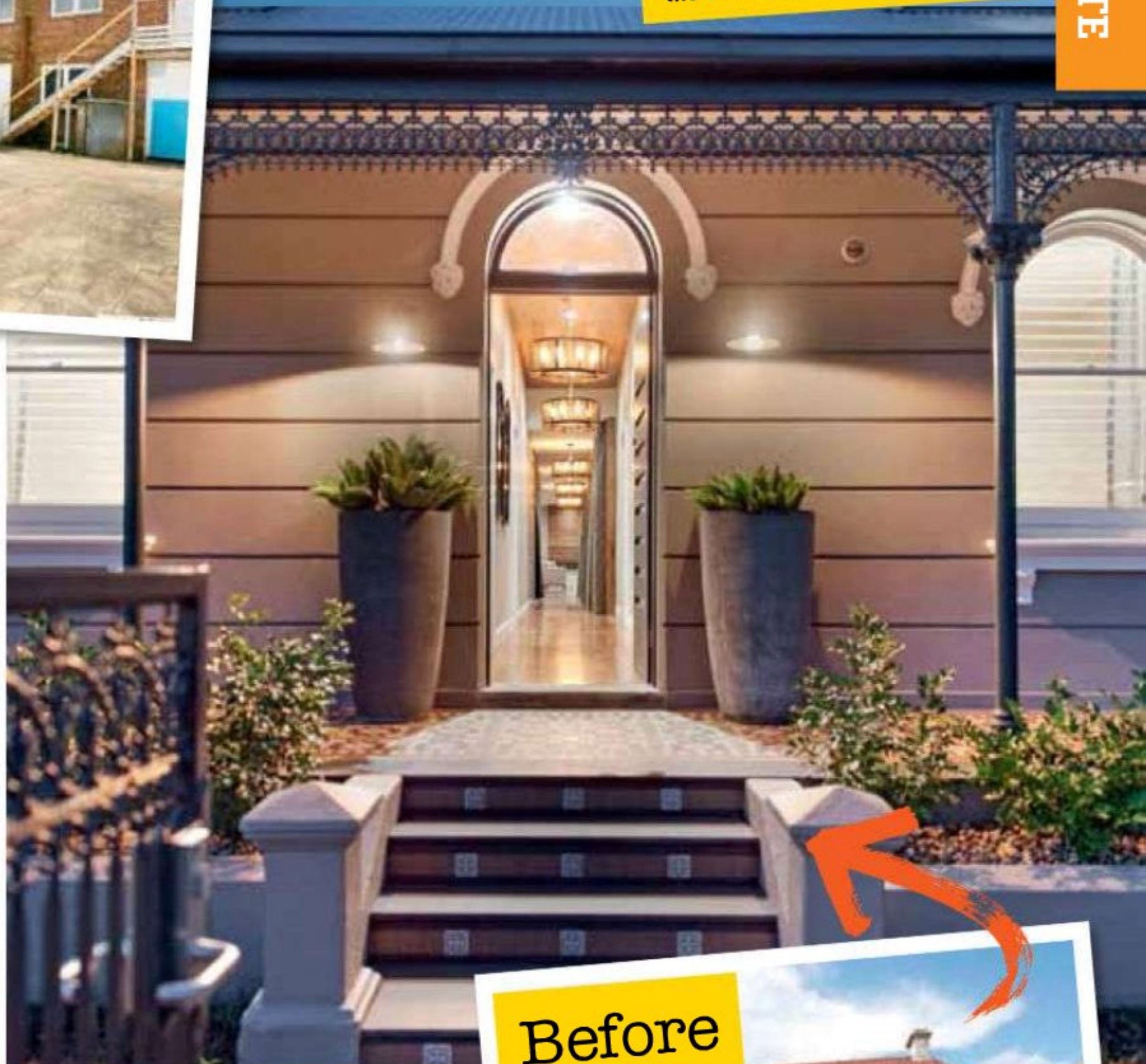
A sensitive balance of restoration and renovation creates this stunning residence from a rundown old house

WORDS **CHERIE BARBER**

Before

After

The renovation cleverly combines the old features with the new.



Before



Known for her pragmatic approach to renovating, this home, which set a suburb record when it sold for \$3,060,000, was as much a labour of love as a success story for Australian Cherie Barber of Renovating For Profit (renovatingforprofit.com.au).

Bought in April 2008 for \$950,000, it was barely liveable, but Cherie saw the potential to create a stunning home on the original 1890s bones.

Many elements made this house special. It was double-fronted and built on a generous 411m² block of land.

It was on a great street in a suburb that had been slated for high capital growth. In the 24 months before the sale, prices shot up more than 25%.

The facade had lots of original features intact, so the Victorian-era

character could be kept. The metal fretwork, tessellated tiles and render detail around the windows could all be restored to their former glory.

And, in keeping with the period of the house, the red brick fence could be replaced by a wrought iron one.

An old barn situated at the rear would easily convert to a self-contained studio-cum-home office.

The result is a fusion of Victorian charm with modern industrial style. ➤

After

A modern haven of indoor-outdoor living replaced the old extension.

Good bones

While the interior was a wreck and the wrong layout for a contemporary residence, the footprint of the original building provided a surprisingly practical framework to work with.

The final plans specified how the old and the new would meld in an innovative pavilion-style extension to create a cutting-edge five-bedroom, three-bathroom residence.

At the front of the house, the living spaces were all bunched in a series of dark rooms, so the pivotal layout change was shifting them to the rear

and spilling them around a central courtyard for indoor/outdoor living.

The open-plan kitchen features Carrara marble benchtops that contrast with the warmth of the recycled railway sleepers used on vertical surfaces.

This sleek combination of marble and salvaged timber was used extensively throughout the home and the new studio in the living areas, bedrooms and bathrooms.

The railway sleepers make reference to the industrial roots of the original old barn, which was used to make cane furniture. ➤



Recycled railway sleepers were used to create doors and a feature wall in the main living room of this Victorian-meets-industrial masterpiece



After

A long island bench clad in marble and timber is the main feature in the new kitchen.



Moving up

An attic conversion at the front of the house, complete with two new dormer windows, accommodates a lavish new parent's retreat upstairs.

It spans the entire footprint of the three bedrooms and bathroom below, and has a balcony overlooking the central courtyard.

A master bedroom, open-plan ensuite and separate shoe and handbag room are part of its luxury inclusions.

While the bathrooms combine luxurious tiles with state-of-the-art finishes, Cherie wishes she had been even more adventurous in her choices.

'In the main bathroom downstairs, I played it pretty safe with the black feature tiles behind the bath,' she says.

'In hindsight, I could have taken a bigger risk and brought in industrial elements, and I would have loved to have used more of the recycled railway sleepers in the bathroom.'

A freestanding tub on a timber platform and wall-mounted TV give the main bathroom a high-end hotel feel.

Master bedroom

The master bedroom is part of the attic conversion that created a fabulous parent's retreat. **BELOW** The original ornate fireplace has been retained in this downstairs bedroom in the main house.

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Private spaces

The new two-level studio at the rear comes with its own kitchen and bathroom, making it self-contained and private. The rustic, bare brick walls are a reminder of its heritage past.

The level of detail and designer finishes throughout the house and studio reflect the sophistication of Cherie's envisaged target buyer.

'I was renovating with a particular buyer in mind, a professional couple in their 40s who'd had their children later in life,' says Cherie.

'They have both worked and earned good money and like the

finer things in life. They are status-oriented, and this is the showpiece home that ticks all their boxes. It is for the style savvy.

'I saw the self-contained unit being used by the lady of the house to run her business from home while juggling family life, with a client on the phone and a baby on her hip,' she says.

And when the property sold, it was indeed a professional couple in their 40s with children who purchased it.

And the father, who works in IT, had his eye on the studio as an office. It was an almost perfect prediction on Cherie's behalf. ➤

Self-contained studio



The original old barn was demolished and turned into a two-storey studio-cum-office

The sumptuous curtains throughout are bespoke and the floorboards are grey ironbark.

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



Letting in light

The poor extension to the rear of the home was demolished, along with the front face of the barn.

A new wing connecting the original house front to the barn was built, creating one large multi-family home blending old and new design features. The gabled roof was replaced with a modern skillion roof.

The external staircase on the barn was removed and an internal staircase now connects the free-flowing kitchen and living areas of the main house with the two-level rear studio.

A bank of sliding glass doors open onto a large courtyard on two sides, flooding the new open-plan living spaces with natural light.

Decking all around provides ample outdoor entertaining space, with the 14-person spa an extra splash of luxury.

Ideal for keeping an eye on restless children or closing off as a reading room, a glass-enclosed media room forms part of the living areas. ●





STEAL THIS STYLE

Light is central to the new design of this home. Use lots of glass and add drama with eye-catching feature lights.

Cherie Barber,
Renovating For Profit

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P/N	DESCRIPTION
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21106	High Performance Wet PTFE Lubricant 318g/394mL
21107	Brake & Metal Parts Cleaner 300g/452mL
21101	High Performance Silicone Lubricant 300g/451mL
21103	Fast Acting Citrus Degreaser 400g/432mL
21102	High Performance White Lithium Grease 300g/454mL
21104	Fast Drying Contact Cleaner 290g/418mL

Anti Friction Dry PTFE Lubricant

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- Dry film that resists dirt, dust & oil
- For use on metal, plastic & glass

High Performance Wet PTFE Lubricant

- Long lasting wet lubrication
- Extends life of tools and equipment
- For use on metal, glass, vinyl, rubber & plastic

Brake & Metal Parts Cleaner

- Removes oil, grease, dirt and brake fluid
- Cleans without disassembling the unit
- Safe to use on brake linings, pads & drums

High Performance Silicone Lubricant

- Prevents parts from sticking
- Waterproofs & protects against moisture
- For use on metal, plastic, rubber & wood

Fast Acting Citrus Degreaser

- Removes grease, oil, fat, dirt, grime & soap scum
- Power foam works immediately on contact
- Easy to rinse with water

High Performance White Lithium Grease

- Water and heat resistant lubricant
- Long lasting protection against rust & corrosion
- For use on metal to metal connections

Fast Drying Contact Cleaner

- Fast acting, non conductive cleaner
- Penetrates quickly and leaves no residue
- For use on electrical equipment, contacts, plastic & rubber



HOME SECURITY

Thieves will take full advantage of your absence so take steps to keep them at bay

WORDS MONICA NYE AND SITA SIMONS

Knowing the house is properly locked up and protected is a critical part of enjoying a break and it pays to review security methods before going away.

A thief needs only seconds to decide if your place is an easy target and even people with alarms and watchful neighbours can get burgled.

Always lock up, whether you're away for five minutes or five weeks. Intruders can be in and out very quickly as they're after easy-to-grab items like laptops that are light to carry and simple to pawn.



LIGHTING THE WAY

According to experts, most home intrusions are opportunistic so any steps taken to make the house less inviting are positive. Good lighting is a simple yet powerful solution.

A well-lit entrance and pathway is convenient for the homeowner but is a big factor in deterring a would-be thief. Sensor security lights set to avoid activation by animals or passers-by are the best option.

➤ **FOR ENTRY DOORS** get lamps that use two bulbs so the light still works even if a bulb burns out. Two bulbs also provide a broader spread of light.

➤ **ON PATHS AND DRIVEWAYS** a post light at the end is probably enough, although for longer stretches consider low-voltage ground lighting at intervals along the path.

➤ **UNDER WINDOWS** install uplights or fixtures mounted in the ground to direct light up through trees and shrubs, choosing low-voltage lamps.

➤ **UNDER THE DECK** if you have a basement door or a window that opens, it should be lit. Use a standard fixture with a motion sensor.

➤ **ABOVE GARAGE DOORS** mount a motion detector floodlight. ➤

Keep records

Make sure household items are traceable or easily replaced.

- **ENGRAVE** valuables and major appliances with a name and phone number.
- **KEEP A RECORD** of the model number, serial number and value of each item.
- **PHOTOGRAPH** items such as watches and jewellery.
- **JOIN** the local Neighbourhood Watch group.

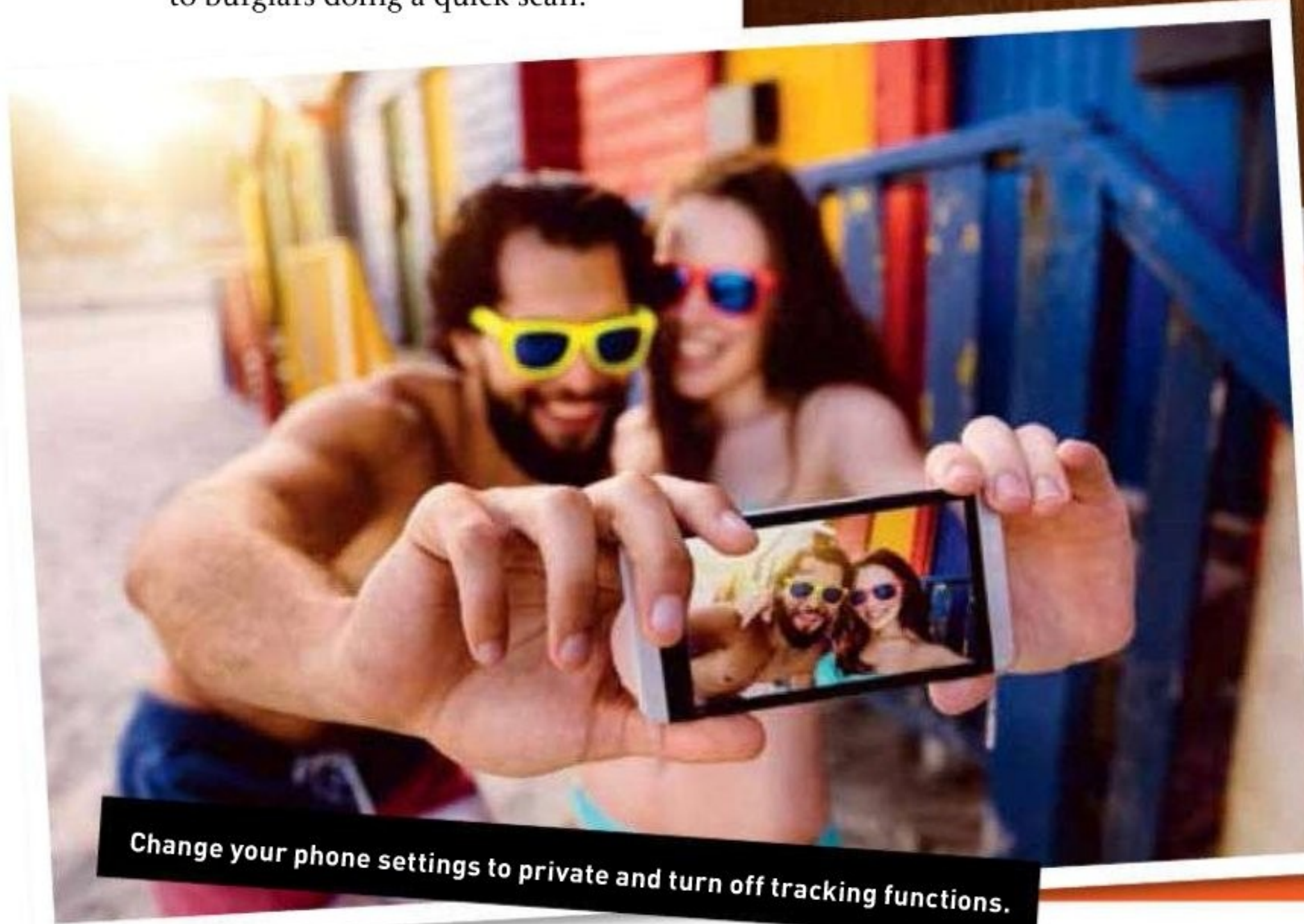
AVOIDING THE SIGNS

Many giveaway signs that a home is empty include an overflowing letterbox, unkempt lawn, closed curtains and an empty driveway.

Offenders need only do a quick drive-by at night to check if the house remains unlit to confirm if the owners are away. Use timers for lights so it looks like someone is always home.

Experts also recommend leaving your car or a friend's vehicle parked in the driveway while you're away to make the house appear occupied to burglars doing a quick scan.

Ask a neighbour to collect your mail or have it held at the post office.



Change your phone settings to private and turn off tracking functions.

Keep a low profile

Social networking is a great way to stay in touch but be careful with the information you give out.

Many users post online that they're at a resort or away for the weekend but they should be wary of thieves who can connect the dots about where they live and the fact they're away from home.

Be sensible with your tablet or smartphone while away and don't post your holiday status on sites like Facebook and Twitter.

TAKING OUT INSURANCE

Adequate insurance is essential. The security measures affect the premium, with most companies offering discounts for higher levels of home protection.

Premiums can be reduced if all accessible doors and windows are fitted with key-lockable deadlocks, security

doors or grilles. Alarms also have a positive impact on premiums.

The margin increases with the value of the home contents, so the higher the value of possessions insured, the more complex the security requirements.



PICTURES ISTOCK

GUARDING THE SHED

Burglars love backyard sheds because they're usually full of valuable gardening items and power tools.

Apart from housing great booty for thieves, they're also usually out of sight of neighbours and pedestrians who might otherwise notice and report any suspicious activity.

Always make sure your shed, as well as the house, is locked, especially if it contains useful tools like a crowbar for breaking open a lock or window into the home.

TIP Make sure your rubbish and recycling bins are put away out of sight rather than being left on the street for days. ➤

DIY TIP

If the shed isn't fully lockable or the lock isn't strong enough, install a proper padlock for extra security.

Expensive gardening and power tools are well worth the price of a padlock.

PICTURES ISTOCK



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ROADSIDE TELLTALES

Don't leave packaging for big-ticket items outside. Thieves are quick to notice when the boxes for electronic items like TVs or computers are sticking out of the rubbish bin or the kids' new bikes are left on the lawn.

Before taking off on holidays, mow the lawn and arrange to have it done if you're going to be gone a while.

Always check that sensor lights and alarm systems are working. 🍷



Man's best friend can be a great deterrent. Even if it's an old dog, the barking draws attention and is enough to put off a potential intruder



Xcel Digital Satin Chrome Entrance Lock, about \$107.
celawford.co.nz



Schlage Regent Jupiter Entrance Set, \$53.
schlage.co.nz.



HPM 80 LED Solar Security Sensor Light, \$118.
hpm.co.nz



Brilliant Lamy Twin 100W Security Light, \$48.
brilliantlighting.com.au



Sandleford Guard Digital Safe, about \$197, from Bunnings.



Eurotec Alset-2000 Alert Starter Set, \$551.
eurotec.co.nz

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Lighting Tips for Security

LED floodlights are a cost effective and easy security measure for your home. Keep your home well lit and follow these tips:

- Ensure your floodlights give you at least 35m of good visibility
- Use floodlights with sensors so they turn on automatically when movement is detected
- Have your electrician link your front perimeter lights to a timer so you can make your home look occupied at all times
- Use LED floodlights. They'll save you significant \$\$ compared with traditional halogen lights

Finally, great lighting also means a welcome homecoming. Something we all love.

**NEW FORTA LED
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EASY WAYS TO SECURE YOUR HOME

Follow this simple guide to keep your house safe while you are away this holiday season

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Most of us take some time off and head away for the holidays, leaving behind an empty house that can provide an attractive target for thieves.

The best way to keep your place safe is by being vigilant and making it as secure as possible. If a home looks difficult to break into, it is far more likely to deter any would-be burglars.

Here are a few tricks you can use to minimise the risk of a break-in, so you can relax on your break.

1

Bolt up securely

Replace flimsy door locks and keep tools and ladders locked up, as these can be used to break into the house and access second-storey windows.

Install a lock on the electrical meter box as well, as thieves may attempt to turn off the power to disable an alarm system.



Sylvan Single-Cylinder Stainless Steel Deadbolt, about \$34. sylvan.co.nz

2

Keep it tidy

An unwatered garden signals that you're away from home, so set up an automatic watering system using a tap timer.

Or, ask a neighbour to water the plants, and also have them put out your garbage bins and park in your driveway so your home will appear occupied. ➤



Gardena EasyControl Water Computer, \$85. gardena.com/nz

3 Set up deterrents
Install solar-powered sensor lights at various points around the property so thieves aren't able to use the cover of darkness.

Hang a 'beware of the dog' sign and get a water dish for the yard, even if you don't have a dog. Set a timer to turn on lamps and tune a radio to a talkback station.

HPM Slim Plug In 7-Day Digital Timer, \$14.
hpm.co.nz

4 Boost the defences
Stay extra-vigilant by installing a digital surveillance system.

It will allow you to monitor your property by smartphone or tablet from anywhere in the world.

High-definition cameras will capture clear mugshots of the thieves and recordings can be used as evidence in court.



Orion 4-channel 4-camera DVR Security System, \$499.
arlec.com.au

5 Add an alarm
There is now a huge range of affordable home security options available, from motion-activated alarms to multi-camera systems with live-access mobile feeds.

Whichever one you choose, make it highly visible so it will deter thieves from attempting to break into your home.



Doberman Security Window/Door Alarm Kit, \$35 for a four-pack.
dobermanproducts.co.nz



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BUDGET TIP

You can usually find pine cones sold by the bag in craft stores, or you can pick them up in the garden.

CRAFTY KIDS

Keep children entertained after school with fun outdoor projects

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Take craft time into the garden and let the kids put their stamp on outdoor spaces. Start them doing projects that fire their imagination and they will be at it all summer long.

Get them hooked with these three fun projects, then come up with some more of your own.

We show you how to make quirky critters like these pine cone animals and raid the recycling bin to create colourful garden decorations.

And let our fairy garden in a pot inspire the kids to design their own miniature landscape. They can choose their own theme and create it, then learn to care for their miniscape.

PINE CONE PETS



Imagination is the key to this project and it will cost next to nothing to make these wonderful creatures.

You'll be amazed at all the different looks you can create.

To start, you'll need pine cones, sheets of coloured felt, stick-on eyes, pipe cleaners, scissors, adhesive and a glue gun.

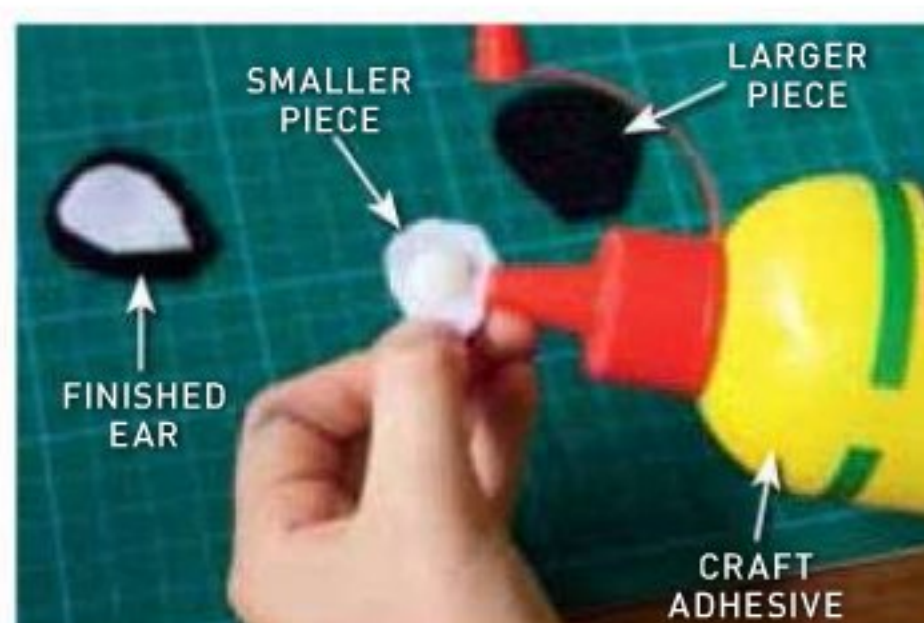
1 2 3



1 Cut out the shapes

Look for shapes online to use as templates for ears, tails and noses. Print them, then trace onto felt, cutting out the shapes with scissors.

TIP Kids may want to create their own shapes rather than find them online.



2 Create the ears

Make layered ears by cutting out pieces of felt that are smaller and a different colour than the pieces already cut for the ears. Apply craft adhesive to the smaller pieces and centre on the larger ear pieces.



3 Attach the felt pieces

Use a hot glue gun to attach felt tails, ears and noses, then pipe cleaner wings and whiskers, to the pine cones. Stick on the eyes and any other body parts it needs. Always supervise kids using a hot glue gun, or do it yourself. ➤

RAINBOW TWIRLERS

This craft project teaches kids about upcycling by turning plastic bottles into creative garden decorations.

All you need is a pack of permanent markers in different colours, empty plastic water bottles, a craft knife, garden twine and scissors.

If you're doing this project with young kids, make the cuts yourself with the craft knife and scissors.

1 2



1 Decorate the bottle

Remove the base of the bottle using a craft knife, then go wild colouring in with the markers. Draw anything you want, from patterns and shapes to straight lines or random blobs, experimenting with different designs.



2 Finish the twirlers

Carefully cut around the bottle in a spiral, working from base to top and aiming for a cut that is about 20mm wide. Tie garden twine around the bottle necks, then hang the twirlers in the backyard. ➤

Hang the twirlers in a sunny spot to catch the light.

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*local call costs from landlines only

FAIRY GARDEN



This pot garden project isn't just fun and easy for kids to do, it also creates a living landscape in miniature.

To make a fairy garden, fill a large garden pot with potting mix, leaving a hole for a bucket.

Drill a hole in a rock, and pump water through it and into the bucket, creating a waterfall.

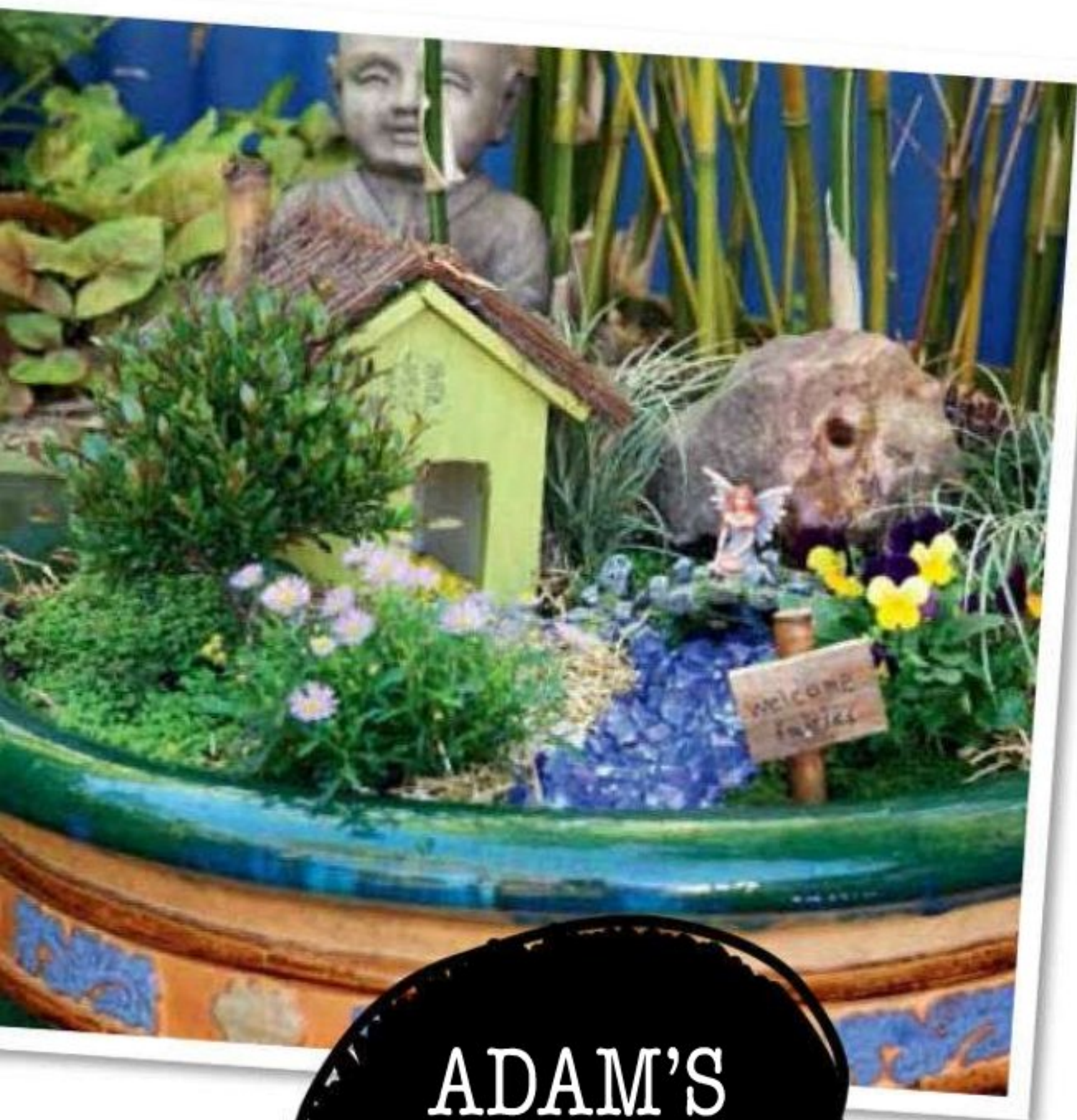
Plant grasses and flowers, and use baby's tears as a lawn. Add pebbles to create paths and streams, then build a miniature cottage from timber offcuts. 



EXPERT SECRETS

Decorative items for miniature gardens, like bridges, can be found in pet or aquarium stores.

Glass-look blue pebbles work beautifully as a stream.



ADAM'S PICKS



Sharpie Bullet Tip Markers, about \$4 each. sharpie.com



Selley's PVA Craftglue, \$10 for 100ml. selleys.co.nz



Trojan Two-piece Scissors Set, \$16. trojantools.com.au



Ozito 10W Trigger Flow Glue Gun, \$10. ozito.co.nz



Stanley FatMax Retractable Knife with Pouch, about \$22. stanleytools.com



guardians
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For more information about becoming an SPCA Guardian, please visit our website www.spcaauckland.org.nz email guardians@spca.org.nz or phone 09 256 7307

CLOCK FACE TABLE

Transform a recycled table into an eye-catching feature piece

PROJECT AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

The table now takes pride of place on the front porch.

Crafty blogger Melissa Darr knew she wanted to refashion this table, but it took her nearly a year to find the right look.

'The top was in good condition and the whole thing just really needed a good paint,' says Melissa.

After doing some online research, Melissa chose to transfer the graphic of a clock face onto the tabletop, having first spray-painted the legs and surface.

'I just love how it turned out in the end,' she says.

Get more DIY from Melissa
Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com

PAINT THE TABLE

Melissa cleaned the table and removed the top from the base before she began painting.

She decided to spray the top in a gloss white and the legs in hammered silver. Using spray paint meant she could easily get to the hard-to-reach parts.

'The paint is fast drying, so it was finished in an afternoon, which is just what an impatient DIYer likes,' says Melissa.



For a more rustic look, rub harder to remove the wet paper so the image appears worn

Melissa



EXPERT SECRETS

Use an all-in-one spray paint to avoid having to apply both an undercoat and a top coat.



Print the design you are using in mirror image.



Press your print face down onto the tabletop.

Leave the paper to dry for a day before removing.



DESIGN TIP

Allow a few days for the paint on the tabletop to dry completely before transferring the image onto it.

PRINT THE TOP

Having found a design she liked online, Melissa printed it off and transferred the clock face image onto the tabletop using Mod Podge.

This is an easy method that can be used on many different surfaces, such as timber, fabric and ceramics.

➤ **PRINT** your chosen design in mirror image so that it shows in reverse.

➤ **APPLY** a layer of Mod Podge evenly all over the image, then press it face down onto the tabletop.

➤ **SMOOTH** the paper to remove any air bubbles and allow to dry for a day.

➤ **WET** the paper thoroughly, then rub it off slowly, taking care not to rub too hard when working over the printed areas.

➤ **REMOVE** all the paper and allow the tabletop to dry properly.

➤ **SEAL** the surface with more Mod Podge to protect against damage. ✓

TAKING TECH OUTDOORS

Check out the great new gadgets that offer better light and sound options for your home and garden

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

Home technology has made huge advances in recent years, but it's not all about smartphones and TVs.

There is also an incredible range of cool gadgets available that make outdoor living more enjoyable.

From crystal-clear sound systems to multicoloured garden lights, here is our guide to the latest technology.

LIGHT SHOW

If you think outdoor lighting means installing an old-school strip light, it's time for a rethink. These days, there are many options, from brightly coloured uplights to portable worklights.

Garden highlights

- 1 **BAUBLE** For a continually changing display in the garden, choose the Lytworx 20 Coloured LED Solar Party Lights, \$30 (bunnings.co.nz).
- 2 **UPLIGHT** The Aquapro 18 Multicolour LED Pond/Garden Light, \$100, uplights trees and features, and works in ponds (sims-distributing.co.nz).



Decorative features

- 1 **LANTERN** High-tech but with old-world appeal, the solar-powered Eden 10 Timber Hexagonal String Lights, \$15, add ambience (bunnings.co.nz).
- 2 **GARLAND** Create an atmosphere with coloured fairy lights like the Arlec 375 Multicolour LED Solar-powered Budlights, \$36 (arlec.com.au).



Workshop helpers

- 1 **SHOPLIGHT** The Ryobi One+ Hybrid Shoplight, \$119, skin only, wins for versatility, thanks to multiple mounting, lighting and power options (ryobi.co.nz).
- 2 **WORKLIGHT** For serious portable area lighting, the Ryobi One+ 18V Hybrid Worklight, \$129, skin only, offers an astonishing 2100 lumens light output. ➤



SOUND GARDEN

Taking music into the great outdoors is no longer difficult or disappointing. Whether you want cabled speakers or wireless connectivity, there are great options available, offering you sound quality equal to an indoor set-up.

Wireless connections

1 SHOCK-PROOF Offering 12 hours of music, the waterproof, shock-absorbent Braven BRV-1, \$170, is a powerful palm-sized speaker (istorenz.com).

2 VERSATILE Ideal for the workshop or backyard, the Ryobi 18V One+ Compact Radio, \$99, has AM/FM radio, Bluetooth connectivity and a USB port (ryobi.co.nz).

3 COMPACT The sleek Bose SoundLink Mini II Bluetooth Speaker, \$359, provides rich, quality audio and deep bass, as well as a 10-hour battery life (bose.co.nz).



Cabled speakers

1 WEATHERPROOF Resistant to sunlight, water, heat and ice, and with a full 360° audio output, the Bose Free Space 51 Environmental Speakers, \$869 for a pair, are the gold standard in outdoor acoustics (bose.co.nz).

2 WALL-MOUNTED For a hardy design option, the Kef Ventura 5 Outdoor Speakers, \$349 for a pair, can be mounted on a wall to best distribute the sound and are even salt spray tested (jbhifi.co.nz).



WEATHER REPORT

Get accurate climate reports and stay up to date wirelessly with the Holman iWeather Digital Weather Station, \$199, which collects data via outdoor sensors.

Temperature, atmospheric pressure, rainfall, humidity, and wind speed and direction, are all displayed on the LCD screen (sims-distributing.co.nz).



Handyman

NEXT ISSUE

On sale 25 February

RENOVATE

Revamp the kitchen in the style and budget you want with five different design treatments of the most important room in the house.

BUILD

Transform trash into treasure by giving furniture and household items a new lease of life.
PLUS Create 80s-inspired furniture pieces.

GARDEN

Turn an ordinary dish into a culinary classic with must-have herbs grown in the backyard.
PLUS Make the perfect compost.

HOUSEHOLD INVADERS

Stop sneaky pests from taking over your home by unearthing their secret hiding places

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Open doors and outdoor entertaining during warm weather can be seen as an invitation for unwanted houseguests to join you inside.

Higher temperatures can cause creepy-crawly populations to spike and encourage others out of winter hiding spots. Knowing how insects enter your home and where they hide makes it easy to eradicate them.

MOTHS



Found lurking in your pantry, Indian meal moths eat everything from cereal to your chocolate stash.

They are difficult to wipe out because the eggs are microscopic and females lay up to 400 eggs in a season.

Larvae mature faster in the heat so populations boom during summer. Silk webbing in food or on cornices, as well as mature moths, signal an infestation.

Throw out food with webbing and set traps to collect adults. Kill eggs by freezing food for a week or heating briefly in the microwave or oven.



Easy Trap Pantry Moth Traps,
\$6 for a two-pack.
easytrap.co.nz



FLEAS

Surviving for months without food on fabric and in sand, fleas thrive in summer. Small black flecks on pet bedding or carpets and itchy pets are signs they're in your home.

To control fleas, use a topical treatment on your pet and comb their fur, vacuum regularly and set off a chemical bomb. If all else fails, call in a pest expert. ➤



Kiwicare No Fleas Bug Bomb,
\$13 for a two-pack.
kiwicare.co.nz



SPIDERS

There are about 2500 species of spiders in New Zealand, including some that are capable of biting humans.

To limit spiders in your home, clean it regularly, fill gaps in brickwork and timber, and keep insect numbers under control.

Ecosmart Spider Blaster,
\$17 for 255g.
eproducts.co.nz



The black house spider is found throughout much of New Zealand.



Flies can bring disease-causing organisms into your home.



FLIES

Entering homes through windows or doors that are left open, flies can occur in plague proportions during the summer.

Using physical barriers like screens is the best way to keep them out of indoor areas. Sprays, traps and restricting access to food will help keep numbers low outdoors.



McGregor's Bye Bye Bugs Fly Trap With Bait, \$7.
mcgregors.co.nz

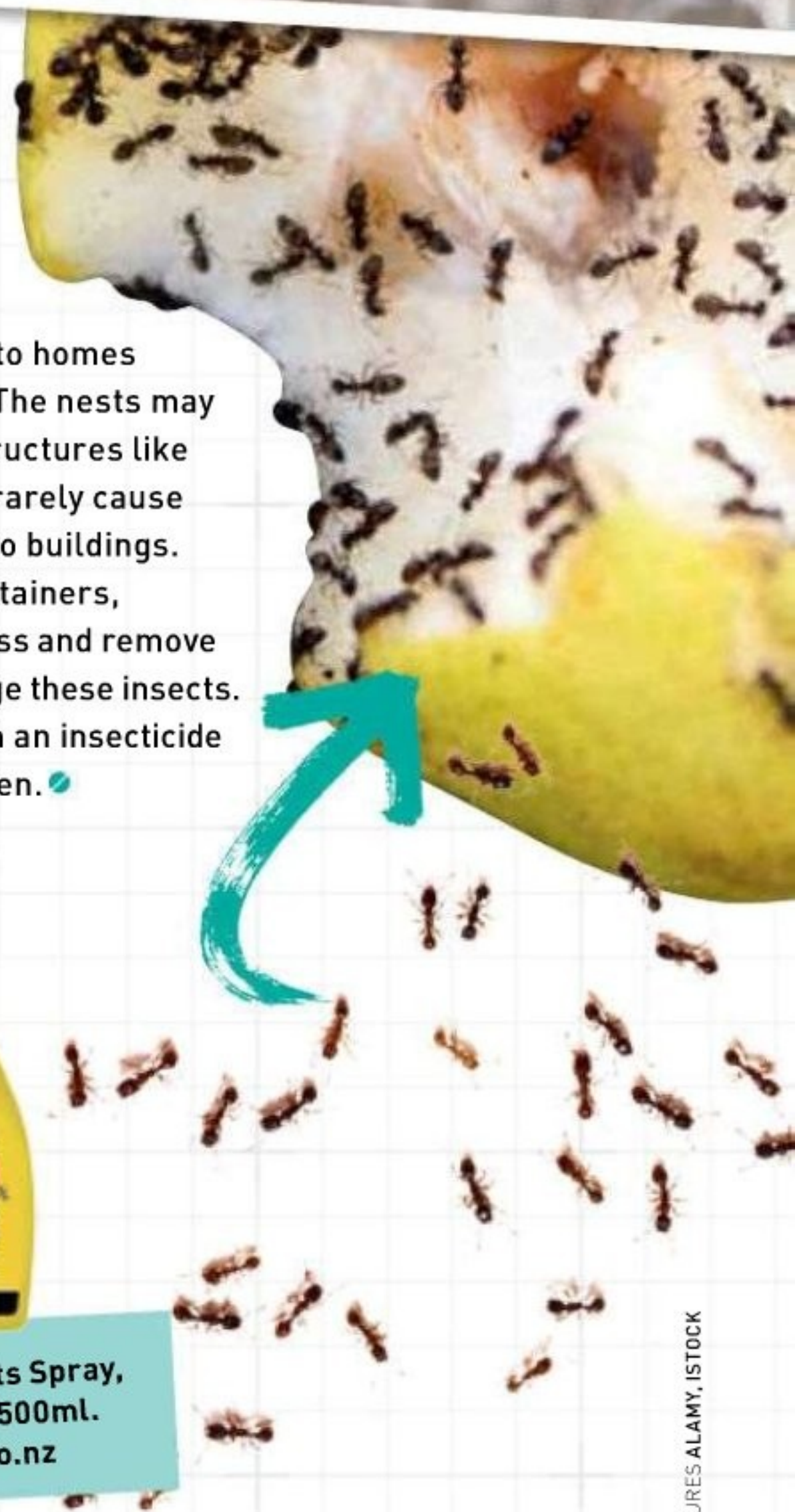
ANTS

Ants often march into homes searching for food. The nests may cause damage to structures like retaining walls but rarely cause structural damage to buildings.

Keep food in containers, benches clear of mess and remove pet food to discourage these insects. Kill off colonies with an insecticide that targets the queen.



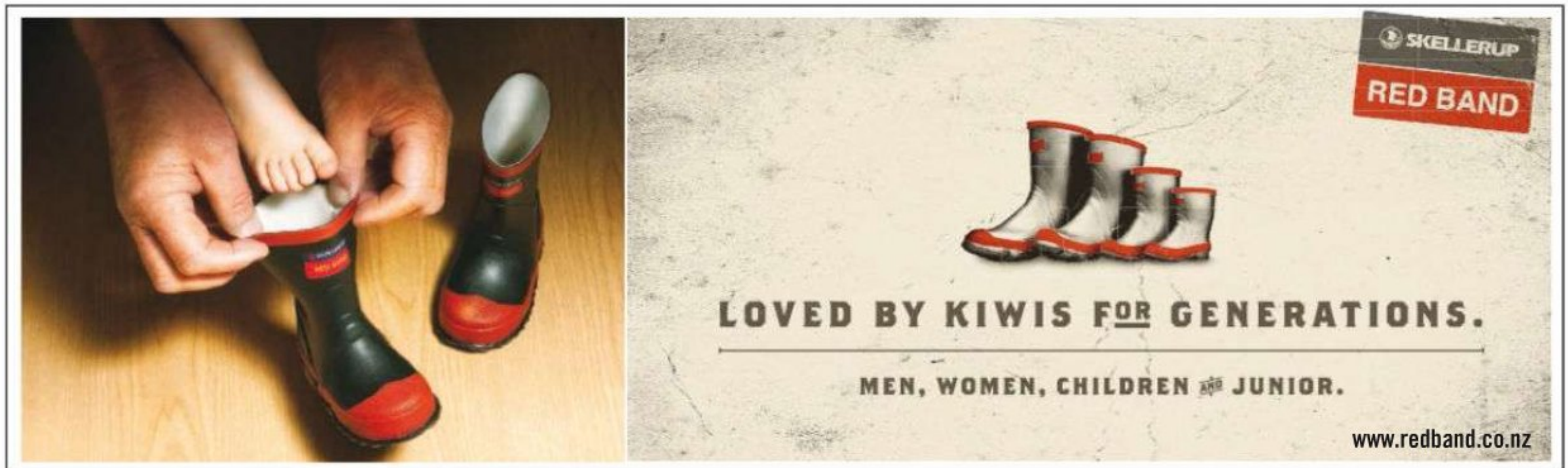
Kiwicare No Ants Spray,
about \$17 for 500ml.
kiwicare.co.nz



PICTURES ALAMY, ISTOCK

Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE

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



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Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE



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www.daltons.co.nz



ryobi.co.nz
Ryobi ANZ

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ZEN 1080 1080 x 500 x 200mm



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STANDOUT FRESH VEGIES

Enjoy a bumper crop of homegrown produce
with the help of this comprehensive guide

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

There's nothing that's more satisfying or rewarding than being able to pick vegetables straight from the garden.

If you plant seeds or seedlings in the ground in summer, you should be harvesting fresh produce all through summer and into autumn.

Get the kids involved so they can learn to connect with their food and discover that tending the garden is actually lots of fun. ➤

✿
Encourage the kids to help you in the vegie patch, as they are the gardeners of the future after all



Lettuces like shade from the afternoon sun in summer.



SELECT THE SITE

To achieve maximum results in your vegetable garden, picking the right spot is an important factor.

✚ **SUN** Vegetables require as much sun as possible, except for lettuce, which likes to be shaded from the afternoon sun during the hot months.

Planting lettuce on the south side of a taller crop, such as corn, will provide adequate shade.

✚ **WIND** Sheltered vegetable gardens have shown an increase in yield by up to 50% over those that are subject to windy conditions.

TIP You can easily make a windbreak with nylon netting or shade cloth battened to posts for little cost.

✚ **DRAINAGE** Vegetables love a moist but free-draining soil. If you have a drainage problem, the easiest way to deal with it is by using raised beds.

If you have a very sandy and free-draining soil, add lots of compost and poultry or cow manure regularly to help retain moisture.

Secret to success

Healthy soil that is regularly fed with compost and manures is full of essential worms and microscopic organisms that provide an excellent start for all vegetables. Dig in lots of organic matter like compost or cow or poultry manure before planting a new crop. It adds structure to the soil, helps retain water and slowly releases nutrients. You can also use Yates Dynamic Lifter.

GROW TIP

Mulch with lucerne hay, straw or sugar cane to retain moisture and keep the soil cool, plus help vegies grow steadily.

Good soil is key for achieving a high yield and the best results.

MAXIMISE YOUR SPACE

The size of your garden and the time you want to spend tending a vegie patch dictates its area. Try these ways to make the most of your space.

- ✦ **CONSIDER** the space/yield ratio if space is limited. Spinach, radishes, carrots, beetroots, shallots, silverbeet and lettuces require minimal room but give a high yield. Carrots and beetroots can be picked or thinned and eaten at the baby stage, allowing room for the rest of the crop to reach maturity.
- ✦ **USE** vertical space. Any existing fences and teepees can support climbing vegies like beans and peas.
- ✦ **INTERCROP** the plants so one type can be harvested before the other has matured. Lettuces can be grown between tomatoes and picked before the tomato plants have started bearing.
- ✦ **PLANT** vegies closer together than recommended, but ensure that they are fed and watered regularly. ➤



Entice helpful insects

Beneficial insects can do the work of insecticides and are worth encouraging into the garden.

Almost all plants offer shelter to pest-eating beneficial insects, but some have characteristics that make them particularly enticing.

Make sure you plant them near or among your vegetables.

Excellent sources of pollen and nectar, the flowers of the daisy family (Asteraceae) are favourites of lacewings, ladybirds, assassin bugs, hoverflies and parasitic wasps.

The plants in the mint family (Lamiaceae) attract hoverflies and bees while parasitic wasps, ladybirds, hoverflies and lacewings love plants in the carrot family (Apiaceae).



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COMPANION PLANTING

Companion planting is based on the idea that plants can benefit from others when planted in close proximity.

While the concept arose mainly from traditional belief, there is evidence to support it. This scientific evidence is found in biochemical pest suppression.

Certain compounds produced by plants have a regulatory or inhibitory effect, as in the case of the nematicide thiophen. Produced by marigolds, it helps discourage nematodes when they are planted in vegetable gardens.

Plants also complement each other, such as when the roots of some live close to the surface while those of others penetrate to greater depths.

Legumes, like peas and beans, are able to convert atmospheric nitrogen to benefit themselves and other plants.

Known as symbiotic nitrogen fixation, this process makes it advisable to grow legumes close to crops that require high levels of nitrogen, such as lettuces, cabbages and spinach.



Marigolds can help to deter nematodes when planted in vegie patches.

WHAT GOES WITH WHAT?



Beans

COMPATIBLE PLANTS Corn, radish, celery, cucumber, carrot, beetroot.

Potato



COMPATIBLE PLANTS Corn, beans, cabbage.

COMPATIBLE PLANTS Beans, lettuce.



Beetroot

COMPATIBLE PLANTS Carrot, radish, strawberry, beetroot, tomato.



Lettuce



Tomato

COMPATIBLE PLANTS Parsley, lettuce, chives, cabbage, marigold, carrot, basil.



Radish

COMPATIBLE PLANTS Carrot, lettuce, beans.

Plant vegetables at 3-4 weekly intervals to avoid a glut.

DIY TIP

With a big vegie patch, you may need to write a rotation plan so you know what you've planted where each year.

CROP ROTATION

The practice of rotating crops is a good means of pest and disease control, as it avoids the build-up of soil-dwelling pests and pathogens such as harmful nematodes and potato scab.

If you plant potatoes in one spot in the garden, follow it with a crop from a different family the next year.

Crop rotation also means that the nutrients in the soil can be used logically. Following leaf crops that require lots of nitrogen by root crops that don't is a good example of this.

What to rotate

- **SQUASH FAMILY** Cucumber, pumpkin and zucchini.
- **CABBAGE FAMILY** Cabbage, broccoli, kale, radish, turnip, mustard, mizuna, rocket, Brussels sprouts and kohlrabi.
- **POTATO FAMILY** Eggplant, chilli, capsicum and tomato.
- **ONION FAMILY** Onion, shallots, leek and garlic.
- **BEET FAMILY** Beetroot, spinach and silverbeet. ➤

COMPATIBLE PLANTS Beans, leek, tomato.

Celery



COMPATIBLE PLANTS Beetroot, celery, tomato, potato.

Cabbage



Carrot



COMPATIBLE PLANTS Leek, radish, lettuce.

Sweetcorn



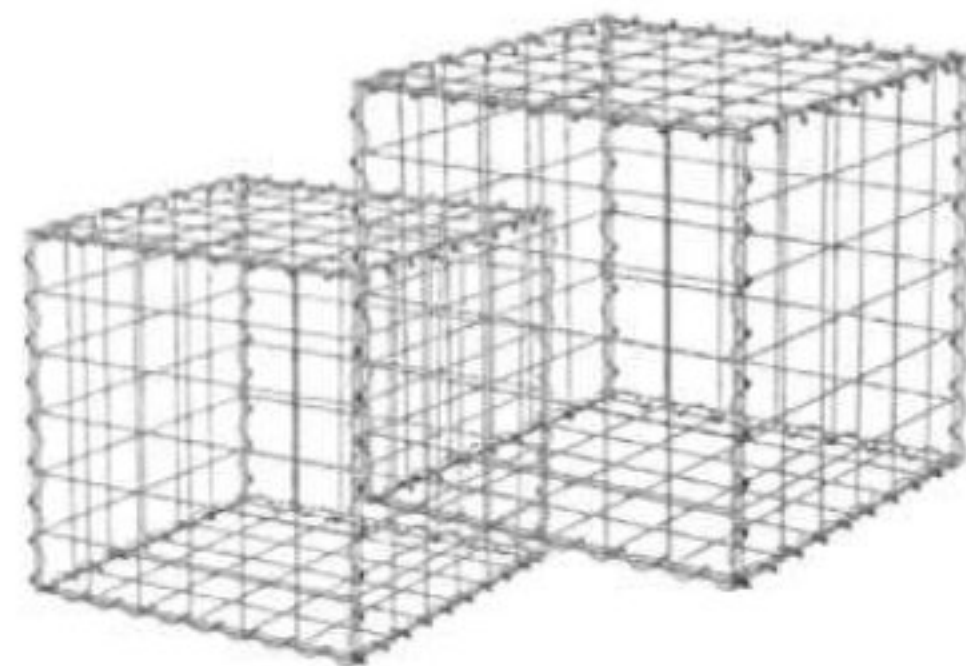
COMPATIBLE PLANTS Beans, parsnip, cucumber, potato, pumpkin, radish.

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WHAT TO PLANT

Beetroot

✦ **PLANT** Sow seeds where the plants are to grow and thin to 70mm apart, in garden beds or containers. Make two sowings, one for harvesting the baby leaves and the other for the roots.

✦ **GROW** For quality roots, apply a soluble plant food fortnightly.

✦ **HARVEST** Pull alternate roots early and those left in the soil will increase in size.

Young beets are delicious grated and eaten raw. Beetroot may also be baked, boiled or pickled.

Pickled beetroot

Boil 1.5kg beetroots with the skin on until tender. Set aside to cool slightly. Wearing disposable gloves, slice into rounds or wedges, then pack into sterilised jars.

Combine 400ml water, 400ml brown or apple cider vinegar, 240g brown sugar, 1 teaspoon whole black peppercorns and 1 teaspoon salt in a saucepan. Bring to the boil, cover and set aside to cool.

Cover the beetroot with the vinegar mixture and seal. Store in a cool, dark place.

Capsicum

✦ **PLANT** In northern regions, sow seeds, but in colder areas, plant seedlings so the fruit can mature before the cool weather arrives.

✦ **GROW** Fertilise with a complete plant food when the first flowers appear. Capsicums are green before they ripen and turn red, yellow or purple as they mature.

✦ **HARVEST** Pick capsicums with part of the stem attached. They can be eaten raw, roasted or chargrilled, and are delicious filled with your favourite stuffing, then baked.



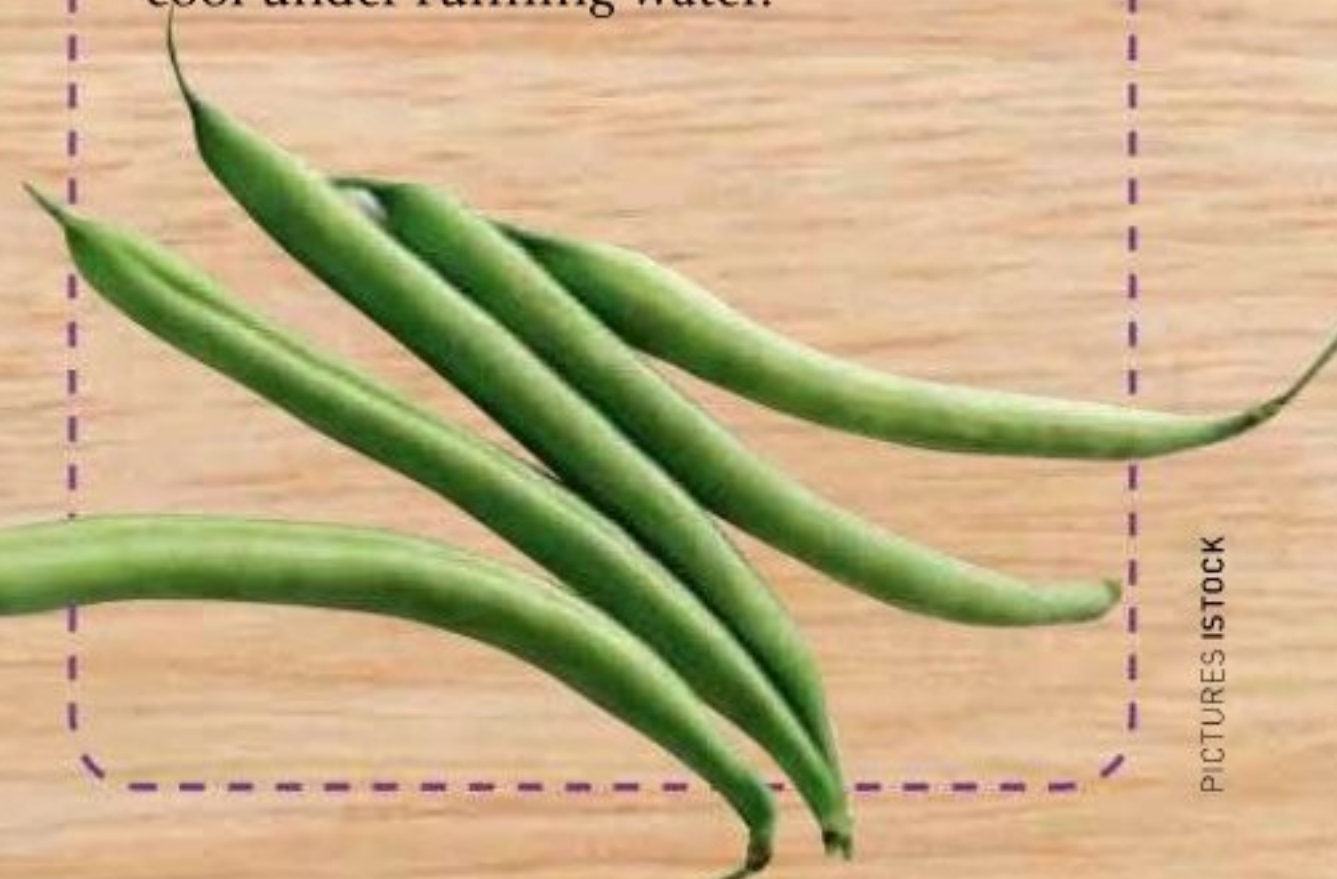
Beans

✦ **PLANT** Sow seeds into damp soil where the plants are to grow. Don't overwater while they are germinating.

✦ **GROW** Fertilise when flowers appear and water regularly as the pods begin to swell. You can grow dwarf beans or plant climbing beans on a sunny wall or fence with wire attached for support.

✦ **HARVEST** Pick fresh for the table. Excess may be frozen or pickled.

To prepare beans for freezing, blanch them in boiling water, then cool under running water.



Cucumber

- ✦ **PLANT** Sow the seeds where the plants are to grow.
- ✦ **GROW** Water regularly and feed fortnightly with a soluble plant food.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Cucumbers come in different shapes and sizes. Pick green varieties for salads when they are 150-200mm long and apple cucumbers when they reach the size of a tennis ball. Lebanese cucumbers are best picked when about 100mm long.

Pickled cucumber

Combine 5 Lebanese cucumbers cut into 5mm thick slices, 2 sliced red onions and 1 tablespoon coarse sea salt in a bowl. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Put in a colander and rinse off the salt. Pat dry with paper towel.

Put 375ml apple cider vinegar, 215g caster sugar, 2 teaspoons yellow mustard seeds, 1 teaspoon cumin seeds and 1 teaspoon black peppercorns in a saucepan. Stir over medium heat until the sugar dissolves. Bring to a simmer.

Fill sterilised jars with the cucumber and onion mixture and add the vinegar mixture. Seal and store in a cool place.

Radish

- ✦ **PLANT** Sow seeds where the plants are to grow. The seedlings will emerge in about 5-8 days.
- ✦ **GROW** Apply a liquid fertiliser for flowers and fruit fortnightly. The roots will be ready to harvest in 6-8 weeks.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Pick radishes while they are small to prevent them becoming tough and stringy. The young leaves are delicious in salads.

Carrot

- ✦ **PLANT** Sow seeds where the plants are to grow in deep, well-drained soil. The soil should be free from stones or lumpy organic matter to prevent the roots becoming misshapen.

The seedlings may take 2-3 weeks to emerge, so keep the bed damp. Thin seedlings to 50mm apart. Baby carrots can be grown in pots.

- ✦ **GROW** Apply a liquid plant food for fruit and vegetables every three weeks.
- ✦ **HARVEST** Pull up the carrots as needed. Any excess can be frozen. ➤

Eggplant

✦ **PLANT** In northern regions, sow the seeds in punnets and when they reach 75mm high, transplant to the garden. In colder areas, plant seedlings so the fruit can mature before the cold weather arrives. The silvery leaves look good in big pots.

✦ **GROW** When the flowers appear, feed with a complete soluble plant food. Regular watering is essential.

✦ **HARVEST** Pick eggplants when ripe using scissors or a sharp knife. They can be baked, boiled, fried or mashed.

Chargrilled eggplant

Cut an eggplant into 10mm thick slices. Blanch in boiling water for 2 minutes, then pat dry with paper towel. Heat a barbecue hot plate or chargrill pan on high. Cook the eggplant on each side until golden.

Put in sterilised jars, top with a bay leaf and fill the jar with extra virgin olive oil. Press down the eggplant with a wooden spoon to remove any air pockets, seal, then store in a cool place.



Lettuce

✦ **PLANT** Sow the seeds where the plants are to grow in garden beds or pots. Choose a spot that receives shade from the hot afternoon sun.

✦ **GROW** Regular watering and a fortnightly application of a soluble plant food will ensure there are enough leaves for the salad bowl.

Pick-and-come-again varieties are good for planting in pots.

✦ **HARVEST** Pick the leaves as needed.



Sweetcorn

✦ **PLANT** Sweetcorn grows better from seed than seedlings. Sow the seeds in a block rather than rows to ensure pollination.

✦ **GROW** Water regularly, especially when the cobs start forming. Feed every three weeks with a fertiliser for flowers and fruit. Sweetcorn may be grown in large tubs if space is limited.

✦ **HARVEST** Corncobs are ready to be harvested when the silk has turned brown. Pick them with a downward, twisting motion. Any excess can be frozen or pickled.





Pumpkin

✦ **PLANT** Sow the seeds where the plants are to grow in saucer-shaped troughs on mounded soil, so water is directed to the roots.

✦ **GROW** Water regularly and feed monthly with a soluble plant food. Many pumpkins grow on large running vines and can take up a lot of space.

'Butternut' is smaller growing and will grow on a trellis. 'Golden Nugget' is a non-running bush variety that can be grown in beds or a large tub.

✦ **HARVEST** Cut from the vine with a little of the stalk attached. Whole pumpkins will keep for up to two months in a cool, well-ventilated spot.

Zucchini

✦ **PLANT** Sow the seeds directly into a slight depression on top of a raised mound, allowing 1m between the plants. In cool areas, plant seedlings.

✦ **GROW** Apply a soluble fertiliser for flowers and fruit every three weeks.

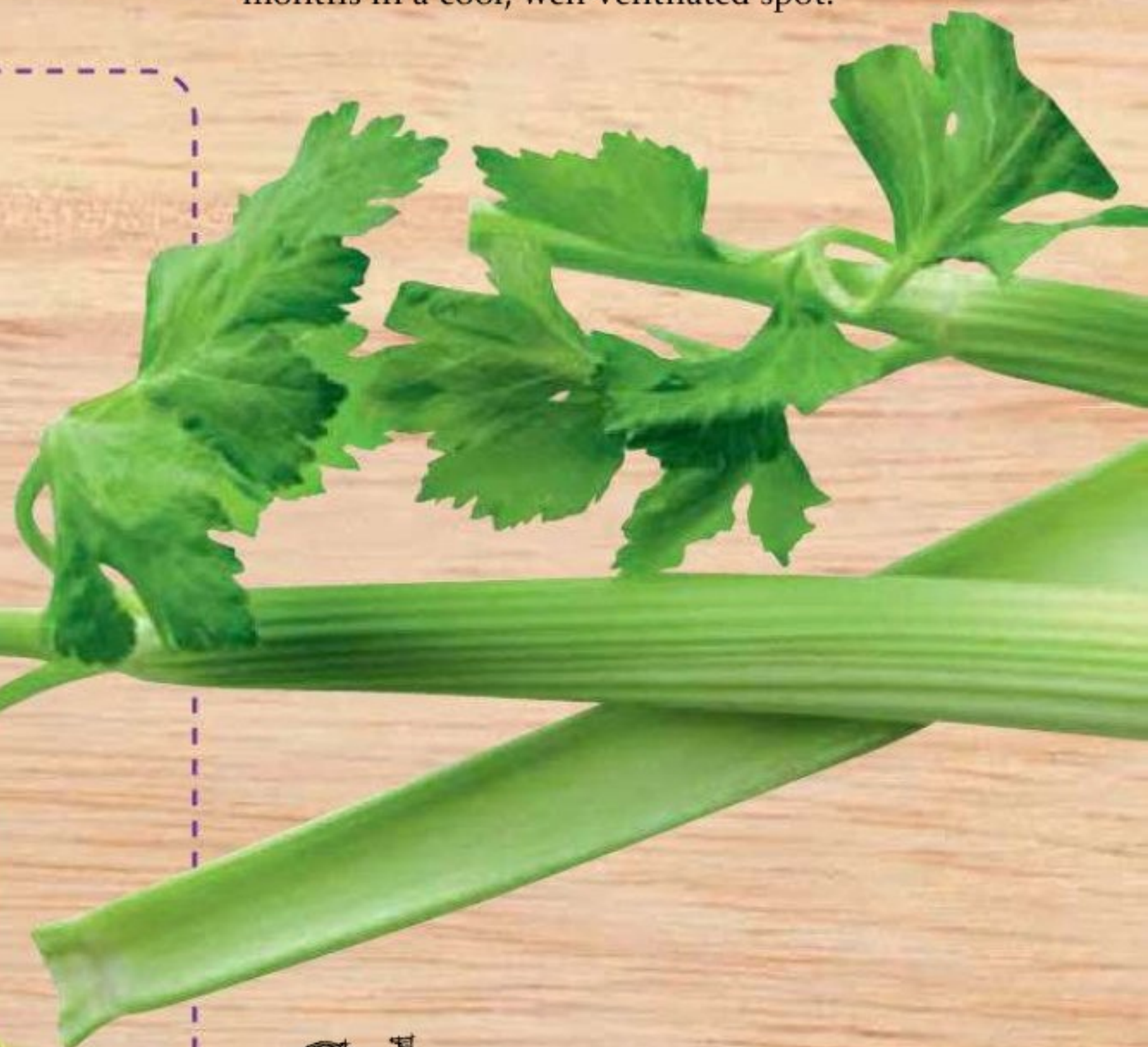
✦ **HARVEST** Zucchini crop quickly, so you'll be harvesting about 8-10 weeks from sowing. Pick them when they are 100-150mm long to encourage further crops. The male flowers can be picked and eaten.

Deep-fried zucchini flowers

Remove the stamens and wash the flowers. Put 150g sifted self-raising flour, 125ml cold beer, 125ml cold soda water, 2 crushed garlic cloves and a dash of pepper in a bowl, then mix lightly to combine.

Dip the flowers in the batter and deep-fry in very hot vegetable oil until golden, turning once. Drain on paper towel. Serve drizzled with tempura sauce.

TIP This recipe makes enough batter for about 20 flowers.



Celery

✦ **PLANT** Sow the seeds in punnets and transplant to the garden when they are 75mm high.

✦ **GROW** Celery is shallow-rooted so regular watering is essential. Feed every two weeks to prevent the stems from becoming coarse.

✦ **HARVEST** Break off the outside stems at the base with a downward, sideways action. Celery can be frozen and used in soups and stews.

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BUILD A GARDEN BED

Install a raised timber planter to grow vegetables and herbs in your backyard



Grow flowers, edibles and even small trees in raised garden beds. They're the best solution to poor soil and can be tailored to suit any space.

Hardwood timber sleepers make an ideal building material, as you can tailor the height of the bed. They're also durable and won't leach harmful chemicals.

Fill the bed with a premium garden soil mix, then water and fertilise plants regularly.



1 Set out the bed

Lay the sleepers for the long sides on the grass where the bed is to be built. Measure the distance between them at each end to get the length of the short sides and to make sure the sleepers for the long sides are square. Measure and mark the sleepers for the short sides.



2 Cut the sleepers

Use a circular saw to cut the sleepers for the short sides to length. If your garden bed is longer than one sleeper, halve the total length and use this figure to cut two sleepers to size for the long sides to ensure the joint between the sleepers is in the centre of the bed.



3 Assemble the frame

Position the short sleepers between the long sleepers at either end to form a rectangle. Check that all four corners are square, then drill pilot holes and secure the sleepers with two batten screws at each corner to create the frame.

GROW TIP

Consider the direction that the sun moves when positioning plants so that tall plants don't block the light.

What you need

Timber sleepers
Batten screws
Steel stakes
Circular saw
Cordless drill
Drill bits
Spirit level
Roofing square
Stringline
Mattock
Mallet
Tape measure



4 Remove the grass

Have a second person help you move the frame into position, then mark the outline on the grass with marking paint. Remove the frame, then use a mattock and shovel to remove the grass from the area, taking care not to disturb existing plants.



5 Install the frame

Dig a trench for the sleepers around the perimeter of the area so that the top of the garden sits 50mm above ground level. Check the depth using a sleeper offcut, then position the frame in the trench and use a stringline to check it is square.



6 Secure the sleepers

Drive stakes into the ground on the inside of the bed using a mallet, securing them to the sleepers with four galvanised screws. If joining two sleepers together for the long sides, position stakes at each joint, securing with two screws into each sleeper.



BACKYARD PROBLEMS SOLVED

Sort out your garden issues with some quick and easy techniques

When it comes to garden solutions, there's no substitute for practical, hands-on experience.

So we asked gardening experts to share their solutions to *Handyman* readers' outdoor problems, ranging from getting rid of invasive plants to fixing bare patches in the lawn.

BARE LAWN PATCHES

'I spilled fertiliser and killed a patch of grass. So I reseeded, but nothing happened. When I laid turf over it, the turf died. What can I do?'

SOLUTION It's contaminated soil you're up against, and this is a problem that's easy to remedy.

Turn the soil over, then dig deep and flip over clumps of soil. This buries the most contaminated top layer far down where the contaminants will dissipate before new roots grow.

Flood the area with water for at least 15 minutes to drive the contaminants deeper, then you're ready for seed or turf.



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GROW TIP

Seed any dead spots after you've turned the soil over to a good depth then soaked it well.



When using packing peanuts in pots, remember to water more regularly.



Heavy potted plants

'I move pots about so that I always have flowers in bloom on my deck, but some are too heavy. Can I lighten them?'

SOLUTION Fill the pot one-third to one-half full with foam packing peanuts, from office supply stores, and cover with landscape fabric. Then top up the pot with a good-quality potting mix.

While this planting method lessens the weight of the pot, it will need more frequent watering due to the reduced amount of soil. Cover the potting mix with bark mulch to help retain moisture. ➤

Lighten the load by breaking half the concrete off the footing.

ROTTEN FENCE POST

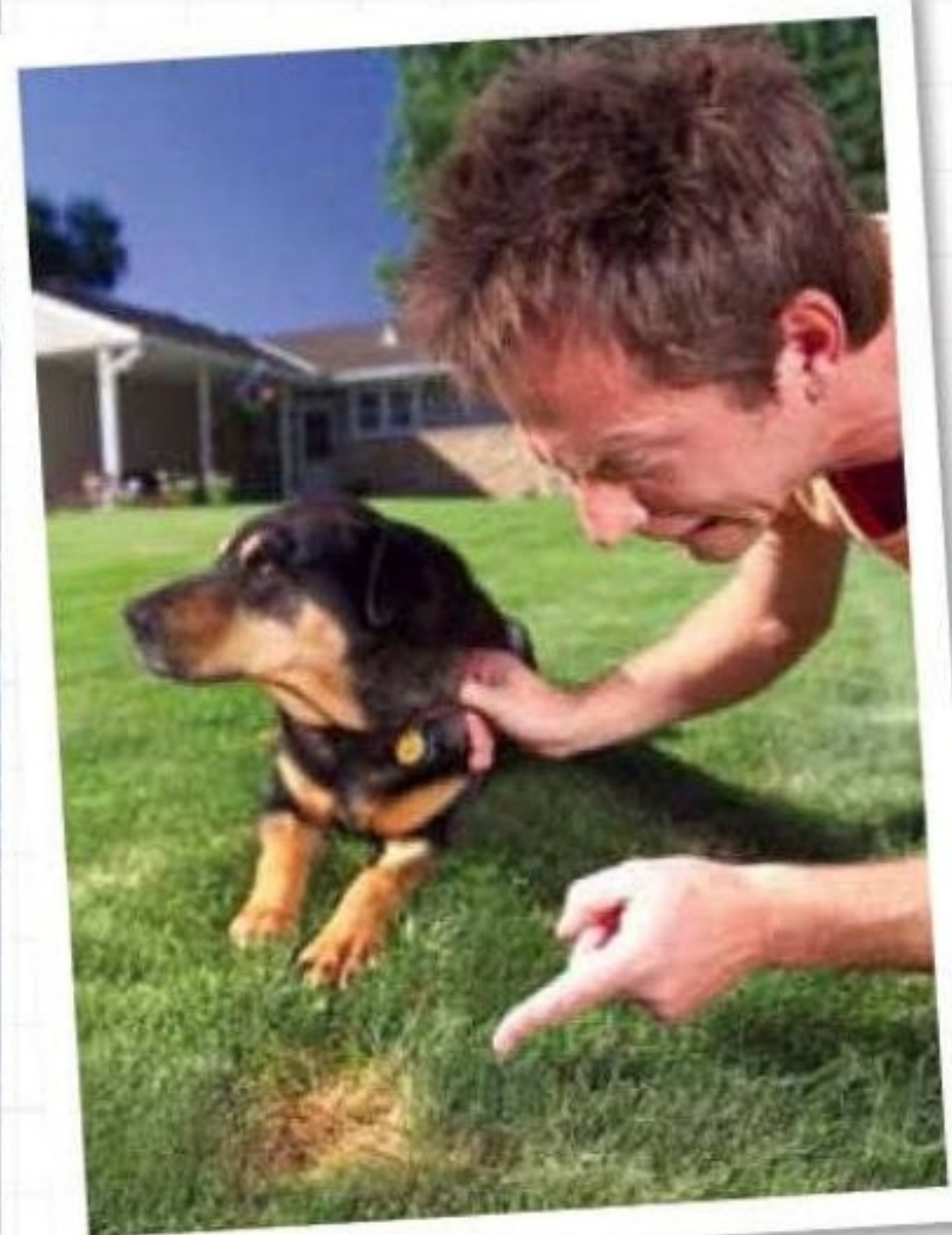
'One of my fence posts is rotting away and needs replacing, but I'm not sure how to get the concrete footing out of the ground.'

SOLUTION It's not complicated, but you'll work up a sweat. Dig a hole the same depth as the concrete around one side of the footing. Make it large

enough so you can get a good swing at the concrete with a sledgehammer.

When you've knocked off half the concrete, you and a helper should be able to lift the post out of the hole.

TIP The post may break off while it's being lifted. If it does, tie a rope around the footing to lift it out.



Spots of dead grass

'There are 100mm wide areas on the lawn with dead grass in the middle. I wonder if my dog could be causing them?'

SOLUTION You are right. They're called dog spots and occur when a dog wees in the same area and the urine burns the grass roots.

Give your pet lots of water and soak its favourite areas to flush out the salts. Also train it to wee in a special spot and mulch the area.

Dig out the dead spots and replant the affected area.

① **SOAK THE SPOT** to dilute the acids and salts from the urine and wash them deeper into the soil.

② **SCRAPE UP** the dead grass with a hand rake, then loosen the soil to 20mm deep.

③ **ADD A THIN LAYER** of topsoil, then grass seed, covering with another thin layer of soil. Keep the area moist until the new grass is about 50mm high.



RAKE THE DEAD GRASS

STUBBORN SHRUBS

'A few shrubs need removing from the yard, but the roots won't budge. How can I get them out?'

SOLUTION Use leverage. Dig around the base of the shrub, cut the roots you can get at, and lay pieces of plywood on either side of the roots.

Position a jack stand or concrete blocks on one side and the jack on the other. Lay a timber beam on top and tie the root to the beam with a chain. Use an 1800mm length of 140 x 75mm timber for the beam.

You'll be applying hundreds of kilograms of pulling force, so the beam and chain must be strong.

Wearing eye protection, raise the jack, then cut the roots as they are exposed, reducing the tension on the chain beforehand.

TIP If you max out the jack's height before all the roots are free, use blocks to increase the beam height.

Pulling out roots is easy with a jack, plywood and a few pieces of timber.



Invasive plants

'I love my black-eyed Susans and lilies, but they're taking over the garden and choking other plants. How can I stop the invasion?'

SOLUTION Many plants multiply by dropping seeds and sending out roots. A layer of mulch will prevent the seeds from taking root.

But a solid barrier is needed to stop those aggressive roots. The spreading plants can be replanted inside underground enclosures.

Use a plastic plant pot or bucket, making sure it is big enough to extend at least 250mm below ground so the roots can't sneak underneath.

Simply cut off the base of the container and position it in the ground, then add the plant. ●



5

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Make the most of used wrapping paper by cutting out your favourite parts of the design and turning them into cards. Simply paste them onto a blank card, or fold in half to use as gift tags.

FLOWER
HOLDERS

Use bright wrapping paper to turn cans into decorative vases. Wrap strips of paper around the cans and secure with double-sided tape. Add water and flowers, then arrange on the table as a centrepiece.

DRAWER
LINERS

Save old sheets of wrapping paper and use it to line drawers in kitchen cabinets, dressers and wardrobes. Cut the paper to size, then position it on the base of the drawer.

FANCY
BOWS

Turn wrapping paper into bows to attach to presents. Cut a piece of paper into thin strips and use this as ribbon to create a bow. Once you are happy with the shape, staple it together.

PARTY
PLACEMATS

Pick a decorative wrapping paper and cut it to suitable sizes for placemats. Or use different designs so everyone gets an individual setting. Laminate them or cover with clear contact paper.

D.I.Y. Workshops

Brush up your knowledge and gain new D.I.Y. skills with workshops in-store and online.

Our workshops are held every weekend from 11am – 1pm with kids' sessions from 10am – 2pm. They cover a wide range of topics, are heaps of fun and are suitable for all levels of experience.

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 on-line videos 24/7.



Here are just some of the handy on-line videos available at bunnings.co.nz

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