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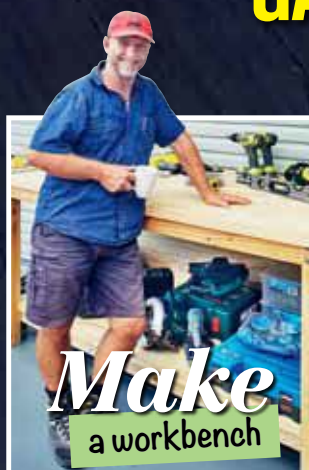
REVAMP

FURNITURE TO
SAVE CASH

MAKE THIS
**SUITCASE
PLANTER**

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winter
GARDEN SPRUCE-UPS



Make
a workbench



Grow
winter colour



Lay
a floating floor



No-bake cheesecake

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READER'S DIGEST MAGAZINES



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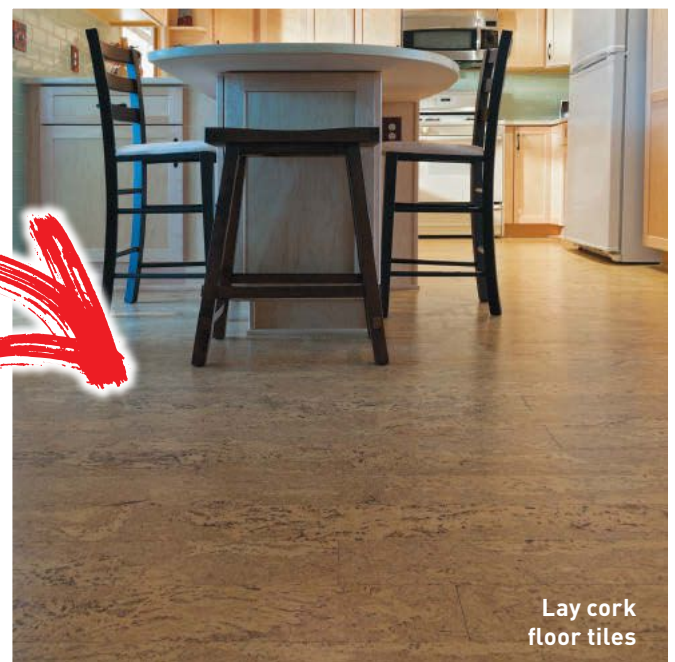
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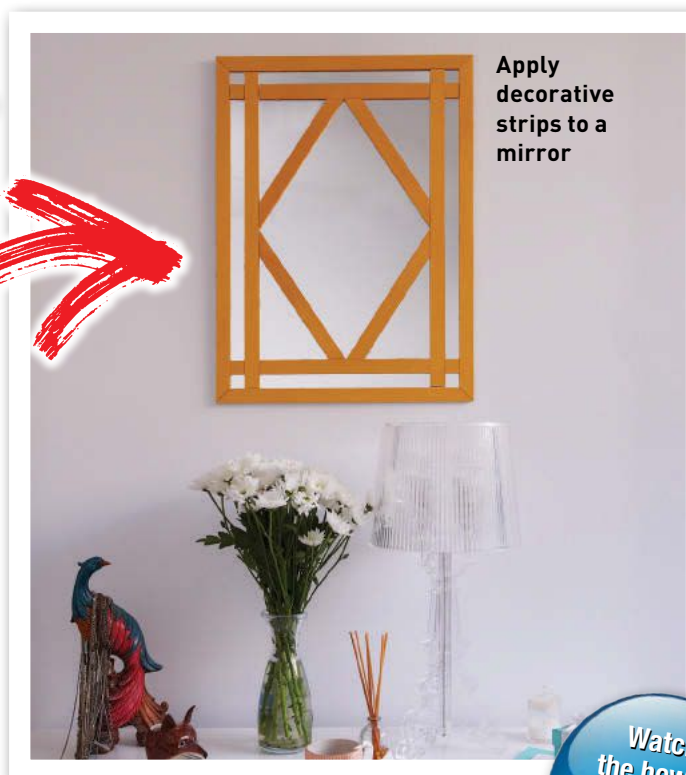
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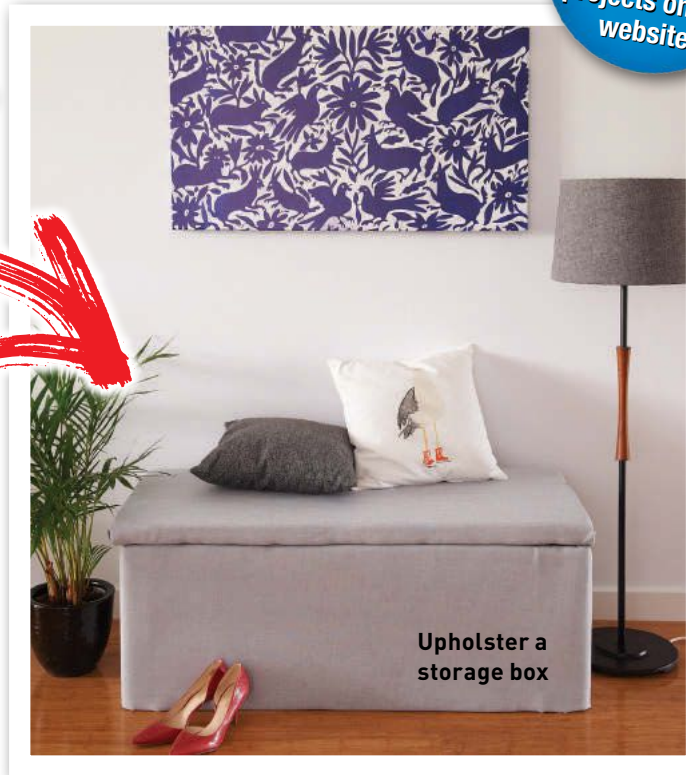


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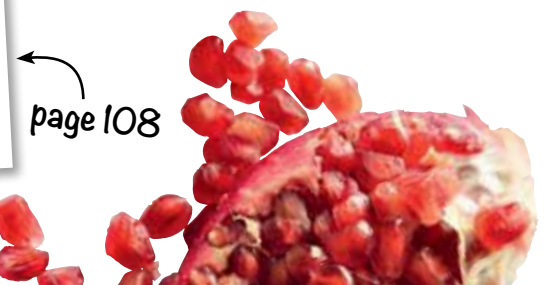
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THIS ISSUE

HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH



DOOR-MOUNTED TOOL STORAGE



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EDITOR'S LETTER



The herb garden in a suitcase on this month's cover was created by chief subeditor Amanda Shaw and her friend Tracy Maryon.

They've also taken other old household items and show you how easy it is to give them a new lease of life. Check them out, on page 54.

Backyard chooks

Chickens provide fresh and delicious free-range eggs as well as use up kitchen scraps and fertilise the soil.

Our chickens wander free in the orchard at my home, so we put them away at night to protect them from foxes. As a result, we've developed fine chicken-wrangling skills.

The chicken house project in this month's issue is ideal for creating a space for them to enjoy the day in the open and move about, plus an area for them to sleep at night, protected from predators.

It also includes easy access for egg collection. See page 84.

Winter maintenance

With winter hanging in the air, growth in the garden slows down but there's still plenty to do outdoors.

Now's an opportune time to take care of your gardening tools.

I soak hand tools and secateurs in diluted household cleaner with a splash of bleach, then scrub them with steel wool or a stiff wire brush.

With larger tools, I like to take the time to scrape the soil from any metal surfaces, wipe them over with a cloth dipped in cleaner and sharpen cutting edges using a broad file.

For more garden jobs you can do throughout the winter, see page 77.

Enjoy the issue,

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

New Zealand's unpredictable weather can make it difficult to choose a suitable glove for the changing conditions.

The Showa 306 (lynnriver.co.nz) is a revolutionary grip glove which overcomes this challenge with water repellent coating and breathability to ensure maximum comfort.

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www.handymanmagazine.co.nz

Reader's
digest
AUSTRALIA

PUBLISHED BY READER'S DIGEST (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD
(ABN 81000565471) 80 BAY ST, ULTIMO, NSW 2007
© 2016 READER'S DIGEST (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD
PREPRESS BY SINNOTT BROS
UNIT 7, 108-120 SILVERWATER ROAD, SILVERWATER NSW 2128
PRINTED BY TIMES PRINTERS PTE LTD, 16 TUAS AVE 5, SINGAPORE 639340
DISTRIBUTED BY GORDON & GOTCH



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HANDY STUFF



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Dust off

Keep your clothes tidy and free of dust in the Qiq Living Romak Chrome Wire Wardrobe, \$299. Its four shelves and hanging rod are encased in a fabric dust jacket measuring 1800 x 1220 x 460mm. harknessyoung.co.nz

STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Keep your place clutter free and maximise space with these products

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Loafer loader

Organise your footwear collection with a Qiq Living Three-Tier Shoe Rack, \$59. The lightweight metal tube unit will hold up to 12 pairs of shoes. harknessyoung.co.nz



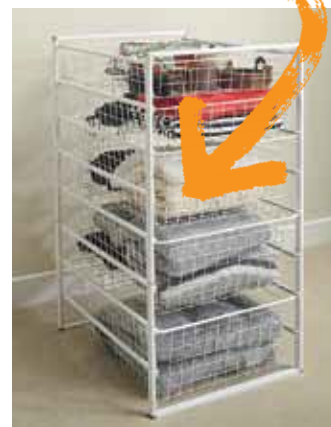
Slide time

Create order in your home with the Clever Closet 8-Runner Basket Kit, \$115. The four baskets slide out smoothly for easy access to the contents. > bunnings.co.nz



Full swing

The Zone Hardware Swing Out Bin, about \$79, fits on a cupboard door and swings toward you as the door opens. The hinged lid helps control odours. galepacific.co.nz





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Treasure trove

Have a place to display your treasured items in Clever Cube Wall Mount Storage Units, about \$46 for three. They measure 250 x 250 x 100mm and the supplied fixings are hidden to create a floating effect.

handy-storage.co.nz

Store with style

The stylish and contemporary Clever Cube 4x4 Storage System, \$249, proves that shelving doesn't have to look dull. It measures 1460 x 1460 x 390mm and holds up to 15kg on each shelf unit.

handy-storage.co.nz



Tidy tubs

Sort out your long-term storage for fiddly bits and pieces with Ezy Storage Solutions Small Hanging Tubs, about \$6 for a pack of four. They're designed to hang in Ezy Storage large plastic bins to keep fragile items safely separated. ➤

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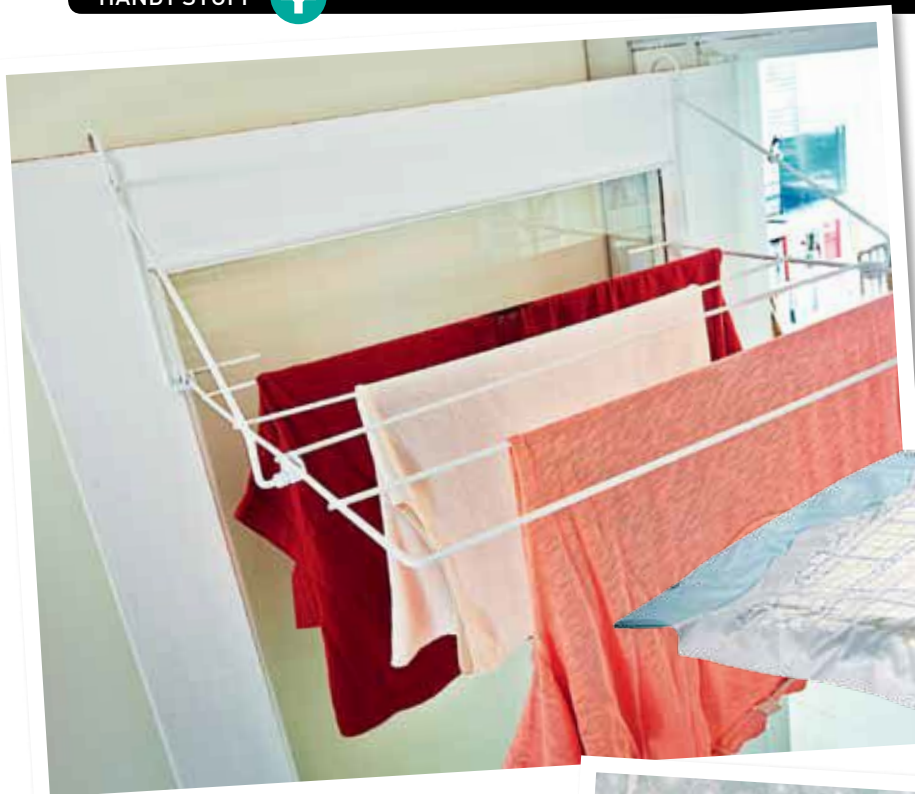
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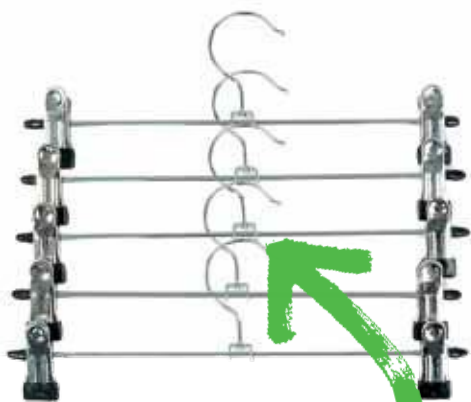
makes a difference



Ready rail

Free up floorspace on laundry day with the LTW Over Door Clothes Airer, \$11. It has five rails and folds up flat when not in use. The durable poly coating is kind on clothes.

bunnings.co.nz



Hook 'n' hang

Make the most of vertical storage by hanging skirts and trousers on LTW Skirt Coathangers, \$9 for a pack of five. They're chrome plated and the soft plastic clip ends won't leave marks on clothing.

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Tight squeeze

Stack spare clothes in an Award Space Saving Vacuum Bag, \$18. For a compact storage solution, simply tuck your clothes inside the large 900 x 1200mm plastic bag and seal it, then suck out the air with a vacuum cleaner.

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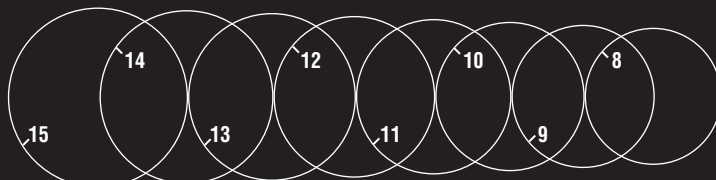
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What's new

Now's the perfect time to batten down the hatches and get your home ready for winter. Whether you're still in autumn clean up mode or in the middle of winter-proofing your home, you can find what you need at Bunnings.



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With a powerful 1800W motor, this Ryobi Table Saw with extension table gives you serious cutting power. Its folding stand with wheels gives you the freedom to work almost anywhere. And with so much power at hand, safety is paramount – that's why it also features a soft start and a premium blade guard. **\$535**



CLEAN CUTS

With a 165mm blade, this Ryobi Circular Saw cuts to a depth of 52mm. It features a bevel angle adjustable to 56 degrees, which gives you a tidy bevel cut for a clean edge. It also features a dust port for an even cleaner work station. **\$169**

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

The ONE+ Cordless Trim Router (Skin Only) made by Ryobi features a transparent base. With the visibility of the cutting surface, you can enjoy a more precise finish. You can also adjust the base which allows you to change the cutting depth. Plus, this can be powered by an 18V ONE+ battery, which is used by over 40 other tools in the range. **\$109**



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Zircon Stud Finders locate the edges of wood or metal studs up to 19mm deep. Simple to use, the stud finder illuminates when a stud is found. **From \$34.50**



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INSPIRATIONAL DISHES

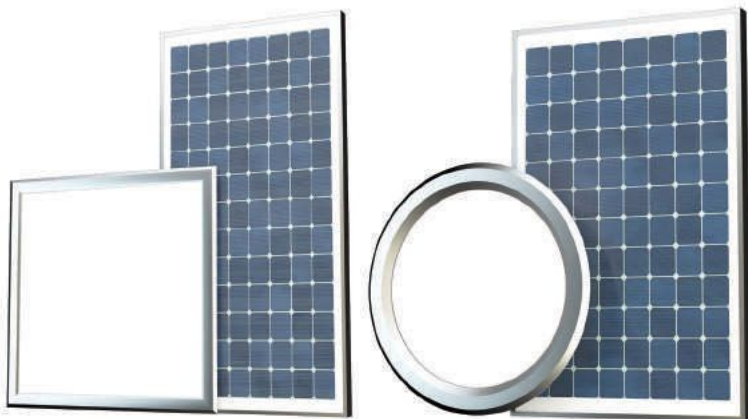
Create an inspiring dish with this 70L Oven, made by Everdure. Any recipe is possible with its 9 functions and triple glazed door. It also features catalytic self cleaning liners. **\$899**

SEE YOUR HOME IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT



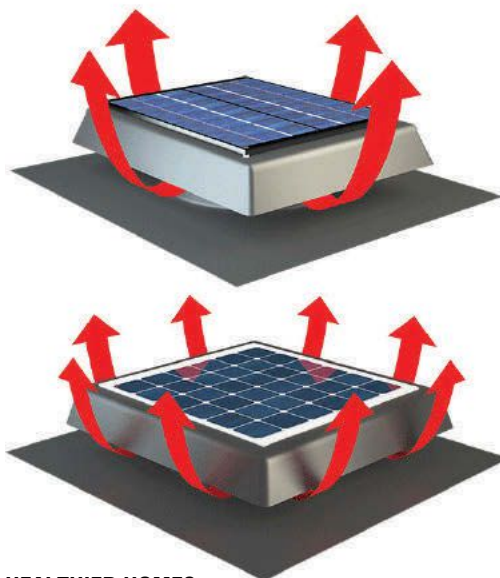
REMOTE LIGHTING

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EzyLite's Solar Roof Vent provides a healthier environment for your family to enjoy. There's no power consumption as this vent is 100% solar powered. It provides ongoing ventilation which eliminates moisture and reduces heat build-up, keeping your home cool in the summer and dry in the winter. **From \$180**



WINTER-PROOF WINDOWS

With the cooler seasons finally here, prepare your windows with 3M's Window Insulator Kit. This kit, which insulates 5 windows, helps to reduce condensation, stops cold drafts and saves on heating costs. Application couldn't be easier, with a tape measure, scissors and blow dryer being the only tools needed. **\$47**



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FOR YOUR INSPIRATION ►►►

OUTSIDE *THE* BOX

An architect comes up with unexpected solutions to create a family sanctuary in a small space

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES SIMON KENNY

The courtyard is the focal viewpoint for the whole house.

Squeezed into a cluster of houses and bordered on one side by a warehouse, this dark and dingy property was easy to pass by.

While others viewed the property and turned right around, architect Alex Roth immediately saw potential.

'It is a case of experience and perspective. There are always layers of thinking, and this is why you should hire an architect,' says Alex.

'All builds have limitations, but it's how you approach and transcend those limitations that is key,' he says.

Raising foundations

The old house was totally demolished and, as Alex anticipated, there were issues with the surrounding warehouse wall, which stood 5.5m high.

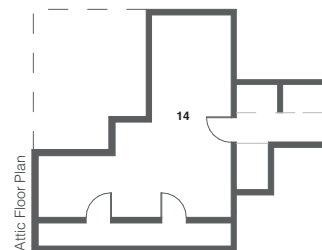
Many older buildings are built on a layer of bricks, so if you do any work near it, you undermine the existing structures, in this case, the walls.

Alex raised the level of the foundations of his house and used a thick waffle slab to provide the same strength and reduce the concrete used.

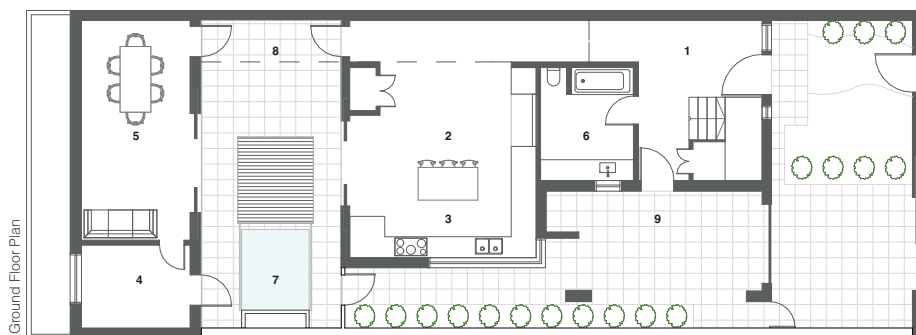
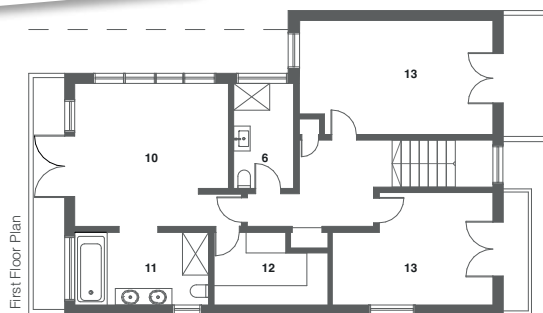
'Raising the level meant less structural impact on the surrounding walls, saving time and money without compromising the integrity,' he says.



Many old buildings don't have foundations and are literally built on a layer of bricks



- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1 Entry | 8 Courtyard |
| 2 Living | 9 Garage |
| 3 Kitchen | 10 Master Bed |
| 4 Study | 11 Ensuite |
| 5 Dining | 12 Robe |
| 6 Bath | 13 Bed |
| 7 Pool | 14 Attic |



Exaggerating elements

While the block is only 10 x 21m, with about 320sqm of internal living space, nothing about this house feels small.

Utilising oversized elements exaggerates the perception of space, and a huge front door sets the scene.

'The entrance is also important. A wide and roomy entrance creates a landing area and avoids that feeling of having to jostle past people. >

Behind the unassuming exterior lies a light and spacious interior. **RIGHT** Comfortable transition areas such as a roomy entrance add value to interiors.





Integrating walls

The high warehouse wall reduced the light inside. But making it disappear wasn't an option, so Alex looked for ways to integrate it into the house.

'Enclosing with cathedral skylights provides a sense of volume, which always makes a house feel spacious and luxurious,' says Alex.

'The wall was also damp as it got no sun, so bringing it inside helped resolve this issue as well. I took advantage of

the height and the feel of containment to create an inward-looking space with its own sense of outlook.

'The vertical line draws you down the building and this emphasis plays with the rest of the house.'

Bringing it in instead of building up against it balanced the light, avoiding the silhouette factor that occurs when light comes from only one direction.

'This silhouette effect is what makes a space feel dark and enclosed,' he says.

The high boundary wall was made to work as integral feature. **ABOVE** All the living spaces spill seamlessly onto the light-filled central courtyard.



The separate dining room is ideal for entertaining.



Share photos of your reno

Post a pic to Instagram and tag @HandymanMagazine

Choosing colour

It may appear that the use of strong colours on walls is a matter of taste and personality, but there's more to it than that, according to Alex.

'It wasn't necessarily my goal to use feature colours, but they serve a real practical purpose. To detract from the wall being the dominating feature, I actually drew attention to it,' he says.

'Choosing the strong colour for the entire expanse means the eye registers



Casual and comfortable living spaces add to the sanctuary feel of the home

the red, but then diverts to the blue sky. It invites the sky in, adding to the feeling of openness and space.'

The paint was waxed using a high-grade buffing machine, resulting in an amazing depth, similar to looking into something translucent.

'It was done painstakingly by hand, but the effort elevates it from a simple red wall to something different and purposeful. It's also incredibly tactile and has a life of its own,' says Alex. ➤

Doubling up

The inward-focus of the home centres around the courtyard, and the relatively small area is maximised in function.

The paved space is cool, light reflective and practical for entertaining, lending a Mediterranean feel, coupled with the coral-coloured walls.

'I wanted to add water. It was too small for a full pool and, not willing to compromise the flow with fencing, I flipped the process and made a sliding deck double as a pool gate,' says Alex.

'A lot of work went into getting the gauge just right on the wheels to provide adequate resistance so only an adult can open it,' he says.

An oversized spa in the winter and a 3.5 x 3.5m plunge pool in summer, the deck slides and locks to cover it.

It keeps leaves out and heat in, and reduces the amount of chemicals needed, as it's not exposed to UV rays.

When closed, it sits flush with the internal floors, creating a seamless outdoor entertaining area. >

Courtyard

The courtyard is both an outdoor entertaining space and pool area.
RIGHT The timber deck serves as a sliding cover for the plunge pool.

Pool



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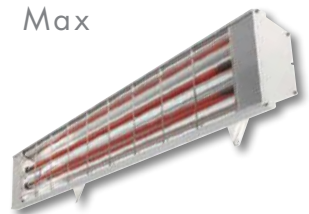
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Maximising spaces

The kitchen floorspace is relatively small, but many tricks have been used to make it feel expansive. The island bench is in excess of 1.2 x 3m and the back bench 8.5m long.

'I'm a big fan of a kitchen party, so I want room for everyone,' says Alex.

A large sliding window above the sink brings in a green aspect and takes advantage of the neighbouring trees. It was cantilevered for support and so the eye travels across and out.

The floor plate is smaller than the ceiling plate so, again, you perceive the space to be larger than it is.

Massive sliding glass doors off the kitchen recede into the walls, so the courtyard is integrated and accessible.



The oversized kitchen island bench is designed to accommodate the whole family. **ABOVE** A small but functional dining room is set across the courtyard from the living area.

Casual living

The living room is casual and understated, with relaxation and comfort being the primary objectives.

In an additional pavilion situated at the other side of the courtyard from the kitchen and living area, there is a small and intimate dining room, as well as a separate study.

'These look into the central space and back at the house, so everything works to focus and contain, like your own private world,' says Alex. ➤



Choose larger and fewer pieces of furniture for a small room to avoid cramping the space



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Gaining height

On the first floor, there are three bedrooms and the family bathroom.

The master bedroom follows the extended roof line inside, and the internal timber ceiling adds warmth.

It is spacious, featuring an ensuite with bath and a full-length balcony that provides a private viewing point.

'Design is making decisions about all the variables and ordering them into a solution,' says Alex.

'What my training and experience offer is an aptitude for thinking outside of the box and the scientific rigour for knowing how things go together, then testing how that can vary.

'This house was an experiment in many ways and it works,' he says. 🌱



If floorspace is limited, look to gain height for a spacious feel



The master bedroom ensuite looks out over the sunny courtyard. **ABOVE** A cathedral window lets in more light without sacrificing privacy in the bedroom.



STEAL THIS STYLE

Create an outlook or point of interest in each space for maximum enjoyment.

Alex Roth
architect



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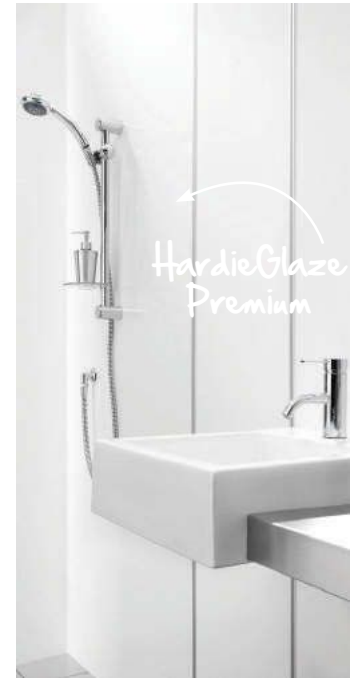


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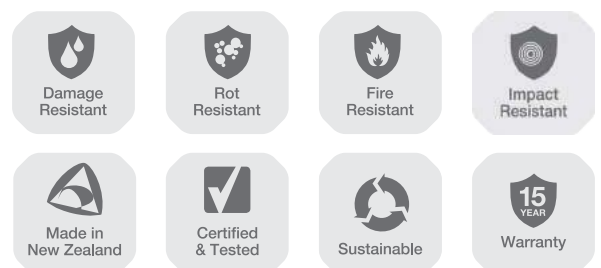
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Vitara LTD two tone pictured from \$33,790 plus orc.



HardieGlaze™ Lining is a strong and easy to clean coated interior lining. Ideal for use on bathroom walls, in showers and laundries, it works beautifully with modern tapware and fittings.



DIY TIP

Replacing old fixtures and fittings is a quick and easy DIY update and can make a big impact on a tired-looking bathroom.

Beautiful budget BATHROOM UPGRADES

Two run-down spaces get two different luxury looks without breaking the bank

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

The bathroom is one of the busiest rooms in the house, and renovating it to remove a clunky layout will add value and simplify the morning rush.

Practical storage options and a combination of natural and fitted lighting should be included in any new design, while the needs of your family have to be considered as well.

The average cost of a bathroom renovation is \$16,000, but you can create a new look for much less. ➤

Use light-coloured tiles and a white vanity unit to achieve a bright, airy feel.



Before

Ensuite overhaul

As an extension of the master bedroom, an ensuite may be viewed as a luxury, as it doesn't play a large role in the daily routine of a busy family.

It can be neglected until the main bathroom has been done, by which time there is often little budget left over.

Transforming an old ensuite into a private haven for parents to escape and unwind at the end of a day doesn't require a large infusion of cash.

This dingy 1970s ensuite was redesigned twice to show that, even on two modest budgets, it can be transformed into a relaxing retreat.



Forward planning is always vital for a bathroom reno to avoid costly mistakes in the layout of the space

GET THE
LOOK



Brilliant 42W Flinders
Pendant Light, \$139.
brilliantlighting.com.au



Arlec 70W Stainless Steel
7-bar Heated Towel Rail,
\$199. arlec.com.au



Mondella WELS 3-star
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\$359, from Bunnings.



Satara Peg Stool,
about \$569.
sagelifestyle.co.nz



UNDER
\$4000
COST

Look 1

The change in layout has made the most of this compact ensuite.

Low-cost luxury

The clever redesign of this ensuite pairs practical solutions with beautiful design.

A reshuffle of the floorplan created extra room and allowed for a larger shower to be installed.

The glazed porcelain floor tiles offer a quality finish and have water-resistant qualities to help prevent water build-up.

A clear glass shower screen gives the illusion of space, while recessed shelving and a mounted multi-towel rail add plenty of compact storage. >

2 Sleek retreat

Putting together a functional bathroom with a high-end, contemporary finish is achievable, even on a minimal budget.

White textured tiles contrast with a luxurious black shower splashback for a classic monochrome colour scheme that won't date.

A frameless shower screen and in-built accessories create clean lines and keep clutter out of sight, while modern chrome fixtures and fittings update the space and create a polished final look that's easy to maintain.



Improve functionality
by adding mood
and task lighting



Look 2

This ensuite shouts high-end luxury
with streamlined functionality.



UNDER
\$7000
COST

GET THE
LOOK



Dulux Wash & Wear Plus
Anti-Bac Low Sheen Vivid White,
\$119 for 4L. dulux.co.nz



Stein 900 x 900mm
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Look 1

Style and functionality blend to fit in with a busy family routine.

UNDER
\$5000
COST

Main makeover

As one of the most-used rooms in a family home, a dated or run-down main bathroom would be high on the list of essential renovations, but it can also be one of the most expensive.

This bathroom had an awkward layout, with an off-centre mirror, an oversized vanity and a separate toilet.

Whether you're looking to start from scratch or just update a few key features, you'll be inspired by these two budget-friendly makeovers that transformed this awkward bathroom.



Adding clever storage
is the best way to
free up floorspace

Before



1 Family refit

Redesigned with a busy family in mind, this bathroom has been set up for a smooth daily routine.

For young family members, a built-in bath was added, which takes up less floorspace than a freestanding tub, allowing room for a full shower to be included.

A little creativity was needed to add functional elements to the space. These include a vanity with compartmentalised storage and a shelf by the tub for beauty products and accessories. >

GET THE
LOOK



Foreno WELS 3-star
Chrome Muro Basin Mixer,
\$219. foreno.co.nz



Stein Boston Square
Basin, \$120.
stein.co.nz



Mercator 240V Large
Soprano Pendant, \$119.
monacocorp.co.nz



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1675 Bath, about
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UNDER
\$10,000
COST

2 Modern haven

Creating a day spa-like oasis in your own home isn't hard. Simply team sandstone tiles and timber accessories with chrome tapware and towel rails.

Plan the area around clean lines and a minimalist aesthetic for a sophisticated, elegant room.

Pairing all-white walls and bathware with a frameless shower screen gives the illusion of space.

A freestanding bathtub under the window also helps to create a luxurious focal point as you walk into the room. >



A glass pendant light over the tub adds wow factor

Look 2
Minimalism and clean lines combine to create a day spa haven at home.

FINISH WITH STYLE

The perfect Bathroom Accessories by

Enzo Barelli



This simple yet stylish Bathroom Accessory range by **Enzo Barelli** is perfect to finish off the decor in any modern bathroom.

All our accessories feature polished Chrome or Stainless Steel finish with an easy mount system perfect for the DIY'er.

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See the full Enzo Barelli Bathroom Accessories range in-store at Bunnings Warehouse or visit the Bunnings Warehouse website

BUDGET TIP
 Make any necessary changes to your original design early on in the renovation, as this will save you money in the long run.

Chrome fittings offer a contemporary look.



GET THE LOOK



Foreno WELS 6-star Mains 4-star Low Chrome Sprint Basin Mixer, \$159. foreno.co.nz



Brilliant 20cm LED Hubble Pendant Light, \$99. brilliantlighting.com.au



Caroma 1600 Back To Wall Freestanding Cube Bath, \$1659. caroma.co.nz



Mimosa 45cm Timber Side Table, \$95, from Bunnings. ☺

f 7 bathroom design tricks
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Vixen Retractable Sink Mixer (I/N 316308) available now at Bunnings.





Before

After

The bathroom is now a light and inviting place to use each day.

READER'S PROJECT

Bathroom revival

Accessing the shower in this tiny bathroom was a challenge, and the original layout and fittings weren't working. This inspired *Handyman* reader Nathan Congram to transform it for his parents.

'The room was old, decrepit and impractical. The renovation gave me the opportunity to implement my ideas and create a warm and inviting place for them,' he says.

By using two mirrors, installing a corner-opening shower and laying new white wall tiles, he was able to make the 1900 x 2600mm bathroom appear spacious and well lit.

Completing the makeover himself kept the budget down to just \$1800, including all new fixtures and fittings.



Install two mirrors to add depth to a tiny room, as they create the illusion of more space and reflect light



Nathan





ABOVE White, large-format tiles help make this small space appear bigger.
LEFT A shower that opens at the corner makes access easier.

Win
\$300

CASH FOR DIY

We love to share what our readers are working on, whether it's building a deck, revamping a room, landscaping the yard or making furniture.

No project is too big or too small, and the more unusual it is, the better.

Send us photos of your DIY project for your chance to win \$300 and have it published in *New Zealand Handyman*.

Take high-resolution before and after photos, plus one of yourself, then submit them at handymanmagazine.co.nz/win

BATH MAT

To make a cool bath mat in just a couple of hours all you need are a few pieces of timber, a handsaw and a power drill.

Cut 70 x 19mm kwila into slats and join them with cleats using 30mm galvanised screws. Finish the mat with a timber stain, varnish or oil to give it a waterproof barrier.

Materials

Measuring tape
Combination square
Handsaw
Sandpaper
Clamps
Drill and countersink bit
Small paintbrush
Pencil

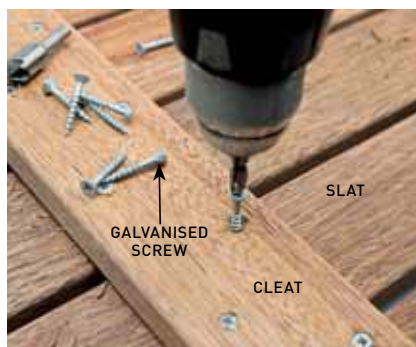
Make a designer bath accessory DIY using kwila.

1 2 3



1 Cut the timber

Cut six 800mm long timber slats and three 440mm long cleats using a handsaw. Line up the slats on a flat surface spaced with 5mm even gaps. Position the cleats across the slats at least 50mm from each end and clamp.



2 Secure the cleats

Mark two screw holes for each slat on the cleats. Use a countersink bit to predrill the holes, then secure the slats through the cleats with galvanised screws but don't drive them in too hard, as this could split the timber.



3 Apply the stain

Round off any sharp edges and sand the surface using 180 grit paper, then apply 2-3 coats of decking oil. It will cause the timber fibres to swell, making the surface feel rough, so sand lightly in between coats for a smooth finish. 🌿

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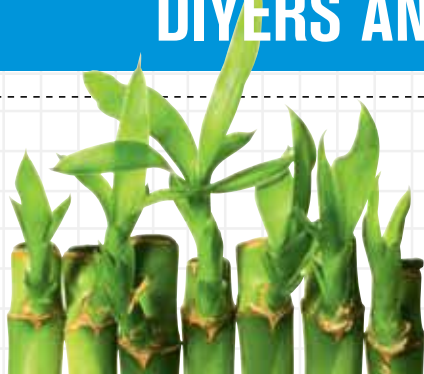
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BACK IN BLACK

Transform tired timber into a dramatic floorspace using a striking dark stain

WORDS AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

There are few people who don't love the look and feel of timber floorboards underfoot.

Cool and clean in summer, warm and comforting in winter, they'll always have a huge influence on how the rest of the interior looks.

After a recent reno, the new colour scheme in this beach cottage left the white painted floor looking scratched and dull, so it was time for an update.

We hired a drum sander and edge sander for the floor, using two each of the 40, 80 and 120 grit sanding belts and one sanding disc of each grit.

Once this was done, we applied the Black Japan finish. ➤



Before



After

A gleaming black finish adds a luxurious feel and enhances the flow through to the deck.

DESIGN TIP

To check the strength of the finish, test the depth of colour on an offcut or a small part of the flooring before starting.



Stuart



EXPERT SECRETS

To keep a little of the grain and colour of your boards, use only one coat of Black Japan with two coats of a clear floor finish.

REVAMP THE FLOORBOARDS



1 Prepare the space

Measure the width and length of the space to calculate the amount of stain needed. Clear everything from the area you're going to work in, tape up sockets and switches and cover doors and windows with drop sheets.



2 Smooth the surface

Check the floorboards for protruding nails and punch them 2-3mm below the surface. Remove any staples and dispose of anything else that could clog or rip the sandpaper. Fill any cracks or holes with appropriate filler.



3 Do a rough sand

Use a drum sander and 40 grit belts to do a rough sand to remove any old paint and level any variations in the boards. Ease the machine down while it's in motion and lift it before stopping to avoid gouging the boards.



4 Sand the edges

Use an edge sander and a 40 grit disc to sand areas near the skirting boards, easing the machine onto the floor to avoid gouging. Use a multi-tool or scraper and sanding sponge to get into corners. Vacuum away any dust.



5 Do a second sand

Punch any nail heads that may have been turned up in the initial sanding, and fill any cracks. Give the floor a sand with both the drum sander and edge sander using 80 grit belts and a disc to give a smooth finish.



6 Finish the sanding

For a silky-smooth finish, use 120 grit sanding belts and a disc, blending the work of the edge and drum sanders to ensure an even result. Thoroughly clean up any remaining dust and remove the drop sheets and tape.



7 Apply the first coat

Tape up skirting boards and doorways. Stir the Black Japan well, then apply using an applicator or short nap roller, working the full length of 3-4 boards at a time and maintaining a wet edge. Use a small brush for awkward areas.



8 Vacuum the floor

Allow the first coat to dry for up to 12 hours. When dry, give the floor a light sand, then vacuum thoroughly to remove the remaining dust. **TIP** Wrap up applicators, rollers and brushes in plastic wrap between coats.



9 Apply the final coats

If satisfied with the strength of the stain, apply two coats of a clear floor finish, using a clean applicator sock. **TIP** For a darker look, apply two coats of Black Japan and one of clear, or three coats of the stain only.

DIY TIP

Grab extra sanding belts and discs so you won't run out, and just return the unused ones with the hire equipment.

What you need

- Drum sander hire
- Edge sander hire
- Sanding belts
- Sanding discs
- Timber stain
- Varnish
- Applicator and spare sock
- Timber filler
- Sanding sponge
- Masking tape
- Mineral turpentine

STUART'S PICKS



Feast Watson Black Japan Floor Finish, \$145 for 4L, and Floorseal Oil, \$107 for 4L. feastwatson.co.nz

Feast Watson Floor Finish Applicator Sock, \$29.



Ryobi One+ 18V Buffer, skin only, \$90, and Buffing Bonnets, \$20 each. ryobi.co.nz



Polyfilla Timber Filler, \$16 for 330ml. selleys.co.nz



Bear 48mm Painters Green Masking Tape, about \$14, from Bunnings.



Diggers Mineral Turpentine, about \$4 for 1L, from Bunnings. ☺

Regular buffing will keep the floor looking its best.



Self-adhesive vinyl boards are super simple to lay DIY.

Natural - Lord

Find it at Bunnings

EASY-FIT FLOORING

Lay a budget-friendly new floor with this versatile range of vinyl tiles

Durable, inexpensive and available in a variety of styles and sizes, vinyl is an ideal material for new flooring.

Having shed its old-fashioned image thanks to new designs and technology, vinyl has reclaimed its place as a popular flooring option.

These self-adhesive tiles from Senso Flooring are easy and quick to install,

and can be laid on a smooth, sound, dry, clean concrete or timber subfloor.

Timber floors need to be covered with a masonite or plywood underlay. A water-based primer must be applied to both concrete subfloors and timber floors before laying tiles or planks.

To lay the Senso tiles, you simply peel off the backing and apply, using a roller for maximum bond.



Vinyl floors are quiet to walk on and are second only to carpet for underfoot warmth

SENSO STYLES

Natural

SPRINGFIELD

LORD

FIGARI SAND

FIGARI GREY

DIY TIP

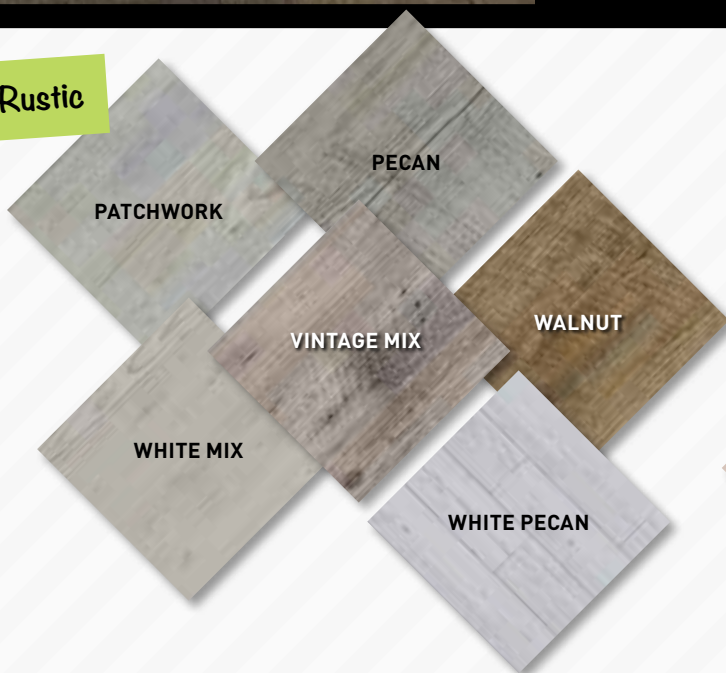
Apply a water-based primer to your subfloor before laying vinyl self-adhesive tiles to improve product performance.

Rustic - Vintage Mix

Urban - Ceruse Blanc

LEFT The durability of vinyl flooring makes it ideal for a kitchen.
RIGHT Go for a more urban look with light-coloured vinyl boards.

Rustic



Urban





DIY TIP

When laying a fresh slab for a floating floor, leave it to cure for one month per 25mm thickness before installing the new boards.



DIY flooring

Modernise your interior by choosing the right surface for each room

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

There are many different flooring options when laying a new surface, and the right one will depend on the look, feel and size of the space in question.

Laminate boards feature designs that resemble popular timbers or other textures such as stone. They are

made from MDF and have a melamine resin layer on either side of the board.

Engineered flooring, made from a thin layer of natural timber glued to a plywood base, is also popular.

Carpet is another option if you would prefer a surface that is quieter and more comfortable to walk on.



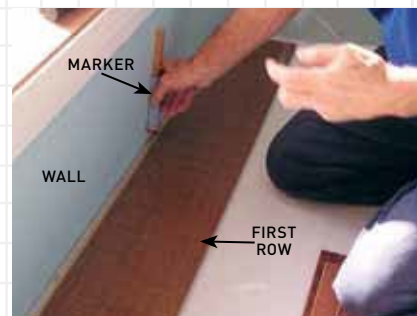
1 Level the subfloor

When laying over concrete, run a spirit level across the subfloor to find peaks and valleys of more than 3mm. Use an angle grinder to remove high spots and spread self-levelling compound over low areas with a steel float.



2 Prepare the doorjamb

To trim the base of the doorjamb to allow the new floor to fit underneath, position an offcut of the flooring and underlay next to the jamb to determine the height. Carefully trim the base of the doorjamb using a handsaw.



3 Scribe the first row

Trim the first row of boards to align with the wall. To scribe the boards, tape a permanent marker to a narrow timber block, sliding it along the wall above the flooring so the pen marks a corresponding line on the boards.

Fitting new floorboards

Boards are designed to respond to moisture, so leave the packs in the room for a few days before laying them so they can acclimatise.

If the base of a door sits close to the existing floor, shorten the door using a plane, removing enough material so it doesn't scrape.

➤ **NOISE-PROOF** the floor by laying foam underlay beneath the boards, which also provides cushioning. To buy underlay, multiply the length of the room by the width and add 10% to allow for miscalculations.

➤ **REMOVE SKIRTING** and replace it when all the boards have been laid, leaving a gap underneath the skirting to allow the floorboards to expand and contract due to variations in temperature and moisture.

Floorboards are the ideal choice for a modern living area.



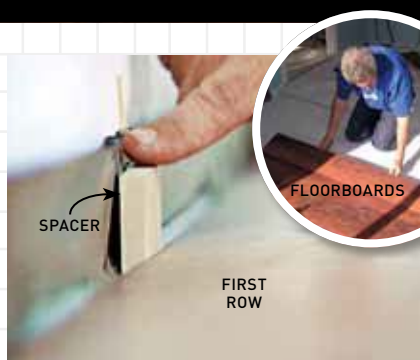
Price a floating floor

To lay boards DIY, you will need to buy a floor-laying installation kit, \$30, underlay, from \$45, duct tape, \$5, and the boards themselves, from about \$15 per sqm for laminate boards.

➤ **LAY IT DIY** for about \$670 for a 20sqm room, at about \$30 per sqm.

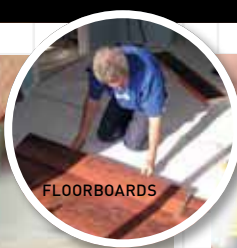
➤ **CALL A TRADIE** to lay it for you for about \$400 a day, plus materials.

➤ **HAVE IT DONE** by a floor company for about \$1400 for a 20sqm room, including materials and labour.



4 Position the boards

Use spacers to keep the boards away from the wall for an expansion gap of up to 15mm. Lay the floorboards in sequence, keeping the tongue against the wall, joining long sides first and leaving a small gap at the end.



5 Tighten the joints

Tap the long sides of the boards together using a tapping block and hammer. Reposition the block at the open end of the board, tapping until the end join butts tightly and working across to complete one row at a time.



6 Position the end boards

To install the last board, hook a pulling bar over the end of the board, then tap the upturned edge with a hammer to pull the board into position. When all the boards are laid in position, replace the skirting boards. ➤

SAFETY TIP

Laying floorboards or carpet will mean several hours of working on your knees, so invest in a pair of kneepads to prevent injury.

CHOOSING A WEAVE

Carpet comes in various weaves, each designed to suit different amounts of wear and tear.

For high-traffic areas such as hallways or living rooms, denser weave such as loop pile is ideal as it's more durable. For low-traffic areas such as bedrooms, twist pile is a better choice.

There are also products that mix loop and twist pile, so ask your carpet retailer for advice on your specific application.

➤ **LOOP PILE** is created by looping the yarn into a dense, durable, level surface that doesn't show traffic marks created by walking or vacuuming. It's a favourite in many homes for living areas.

➤ **TWIST PILE** is soft to touch and is created by twisting the fibres, creating a plumper texture. The pile lies in varying directions, which creates a great overall textured appearance in a room.

Soft carpet is comfortable and luxurious underfoot.

Laying a carpet

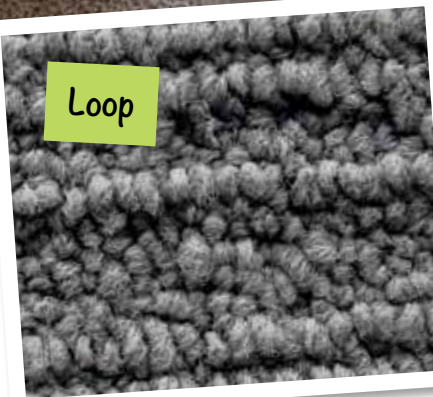
Well suited to low-traffic spaces such as bedrooms, carpet provides sound insulation and warmth underfoot while adding a touch of luxury.

Carpet can be laid over most surfaces using underlay to extend the life of the product, giving it better resilience and comfort underfoot.

To choose the best carpet for the room, consider its intended use and your budget as it comes in a variety of materials and weaves, with costs ranging from premium prices for pure wool to the less expensive synthetics.

TIP Colour choice depends on the decorating scheme but, generally, light colours make a room look larger while darker shades hide the dirt.

Loop



Twist



Cost a new carpet

To lay carpet DIY, you'll need to buy a carpet-laying kit, about \$91, seam tape, about \$17 for 5m, underlay, from \$10 per sqm, a carpet gripper, \$1 a metre, and the carpet itself.

Carpet is priced by the square metre, but as it comes in a roll of 3.66 or 4m wide, the cost is

calculated by the linear metre or converted into square metres.

To work out how much you need, multiply the width and length of a square or rectangular room to find the number of square metres.

A professional carpet layer will charge from \$20-\$40 per sqm for installation and materials, based on the quality of the carpet. ⚡



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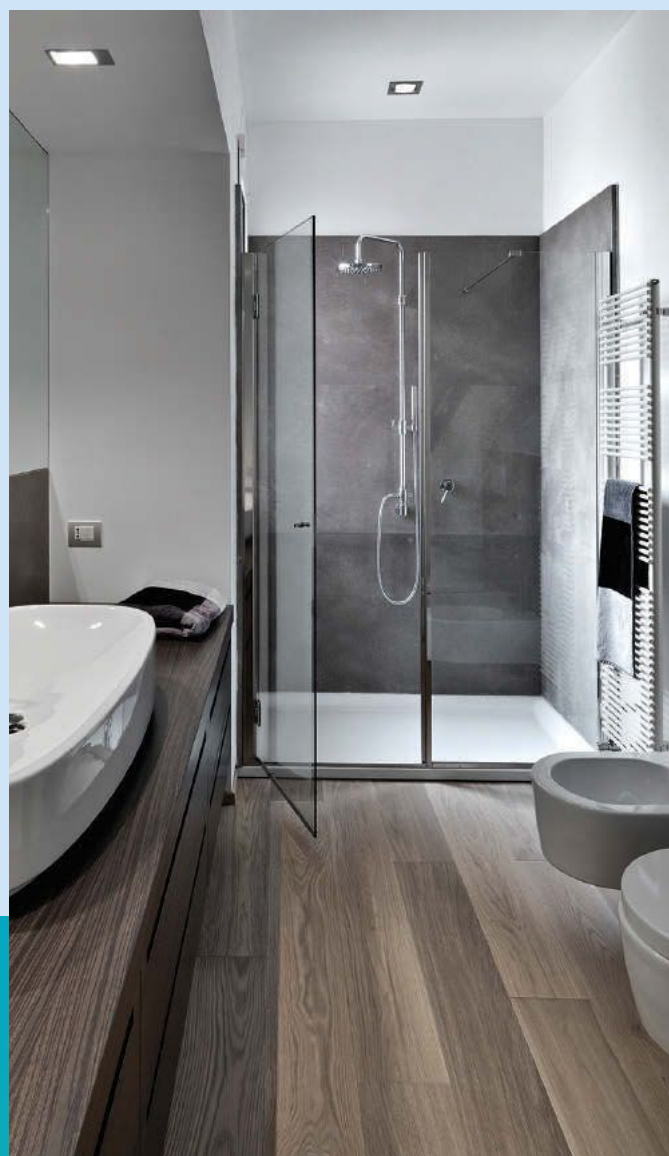
HanWood Quality Laminate for living spaces is available in:

- 8mm x 1216mm x 196mm – 8 planks per pack
- 10mm x 1218mm x 129mm – 12 planks per pack
- 12mm x 1218mm x 129mm – 10 planks per pack

HanWood Waterproof PVC Environmental Laminate Flooring for the bathroom is available in:

- 5.5mm x 1217mm x 146mm – 12 planks per pack

Lamilay Underlay is available in 4 grades, from the 2mm thick Lamilay White through to the 4mm Lamilay Superfelt, which provides optimum sound absorption, heat regulation plus mould and mildew resistance.



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4 DIY STARTER PACKS TO GIVE AWAY

VALUED AT
\$754
EACH



Power through gardening and home-improvement jobs with a DIY starter pack from Ozito, valued at \$754. This fantastic prize pack features six tools from the Power X Change range, plus two battery packs, a fast charger, a USB power station and a tool bag.

- 1 Large Tool Bag, \$45. 2 18V Lithium Ion 1.5Ah & 3.0Ah Battery Packs and Fast Charger, \$165.
- 3 Cordless Jigsaw, \$89. 4 Brushless Drill Driver, \$129. 5 Cordless USB Power Station, \$30.
- 6 Cordless Detail Sander, \$59. 7 Cordless Grass Trimmer, \$79. 8 Cordless Blower, \$79.
- 9 Cordless Grass Trimmer & Shear, \$79.



Competition commences 26/05/16 and ends 22/06/16. Open to New Zealand residents aged 18 years or over. Drawn at the Promoter's office at 10am on 23/06/16. Winner's name published on the Promoter's website. Prizes: 4 kits, valued at \$754 each, containing: 1 x Brushless Drill Driver, \$129; 1 x Cordless Detail Sander, \$59; 1 x Cordless Jigsaw, \$89; 1 x 18V Lithium Ion 1.5Ah & 3.0Ah Battery Packs and Fast Charger, \$165; 1 x Cordless USB Power Station, \$30; 1 x Cordless Grass Trimmer & Shear, \$79; 1 x Cordless Grass Trimmer, \$79; 1 x Cordless Blower, \$79; 1 x Large Tool Bag, \$45. Promoter: Reader's Digest (Australia) Pty Ltd (ABN 81 000 565 471), 80 Bay St, Ultimo NSW 2007 Australia. See readersdigest.co.nz for full Terms and Conditions.

GIVE IT A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Revamp those old homewares you have lying around and reap the style rewards

PROJECTS TRACY MARYON AND AMANDA SHAW PICTURES SUE FERRIS STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ

Are you just about to throw out furniture that looks well past its prime? Before you do, take another look with an eye to upgrading DIY.

That vinyl suitcase you've been using to store paperwork can be given a new purpose as a novel planter.

Those plastic-topped stools and that outdated footstool are easy to spruce up, while the timber stepladder that's been gathering dust in the garage can become a bedside table.

You'll keep them out of landfill, save money on replacements, and give your home designer chic.



You'll see that heap of stuff in the garage in a totally new light after doing just one upcycling project

TRACY'S PICKS



Osteospermum Daisies, about \$9, from Bunnings.

Grunt 2 x 5m Heavy Duty Black Builder's Film, about \$11. usegrunt.com



Rapid Handy Aluminium Staple Gun, about \$49, from Bunnings.



3M Scotch 18.2m Tough Duct Tape, \$16. 3mnz.co.nz



Dulux DuraMax Granite Effect, \$28 for 300g, Stainless Steel Finish, \$25 for 300g, and 2-pack Clear Coat, \$35 for 125g. dulux.com.au

Before



Amanda & Tracy

EXPERT SECRETS

Bargaining isn't just for markets, it's worth asking for a discount at garage sales and secondhand stores.

PICTURE (BEFORE) AMANDA SHAW

LADDER TABLE

After

Fixed and painted, the ladder is now his-and-hers bedroom storage.

Knick-knack display

A kerbside find, this paint-spattered ladder was in poor condition. It was very rickety and the timber support bracket needed replacing.

To make it more functional for decorative display, the top was replaced with a length of timber 30mm wider than the original.

The ladder was primed, then a coat of black paint was applied, followed by an off-white shade.

It was sanded back with medium-grit paper to reveal the black paint, and the edges rubbed lightly to show a little bare timber.

The worn rope was replaced with black-and-white cord. ➤

SUITCASE PLANTER

DESIGN TIP

Layer textures to create visual interest in an outdoor area, using finishes such as timber, terracotta, stone and metal.



 See more upcycling ideas
Visit pinterest.com/diyhandyman

Before



This vinyl suitcase was picked up at a vintage market for \$15 and turned into a novelty planter with just a bit of paint and potting mix.

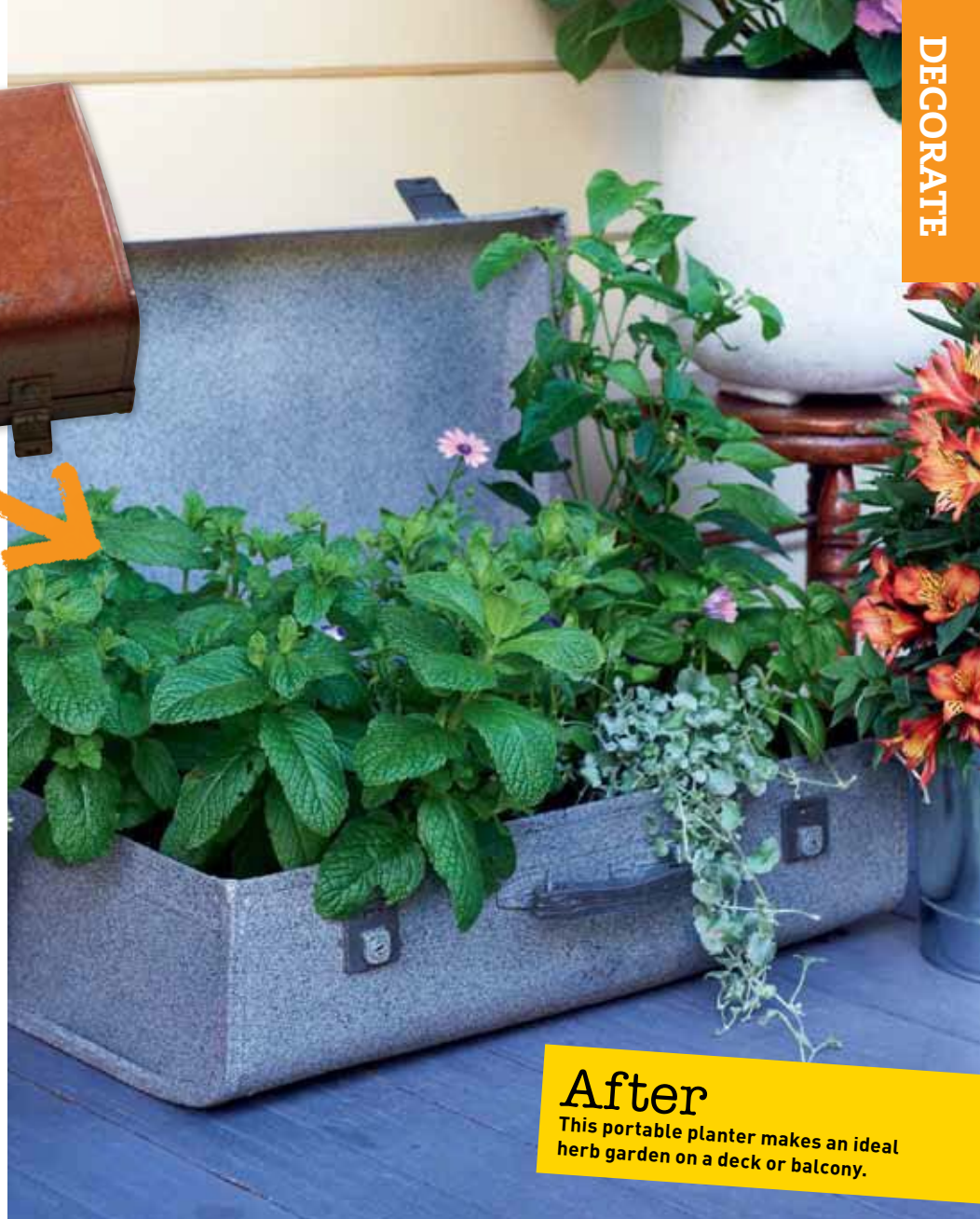
The suitcase was sprayed inside and out in a dark-grey granite-effect specialty paint to give it a stone look.

It was then given a protective durable finish using a two-part gloss clear coat spray paint from Dulux.

Adding drainage holes and a liner turned it from luggage into a planter.



Team basil and mint with flowers for a herb planter with colour



DECORATE

After

This portable planter makes an ideal herb garden on a deck or balcony.

1 2 3



1 Spray the suitcase

Drill drainage holes in the base of the suitcase. Spray inside and out with two coats of special-effect paint using even strokes, then leave to dry. Paint the hardware in a contrasting colour. Apply an exterior clear spray paint to the outside of the case to protect the finish.



2 Line the inside

Use black builder's film to line the inside of the base half of the case, then trim to fit, leaving a 30mm overhang. Make holes in the liner to align with the drainage holes in the case. Add a layer of fine aggregate to cover the lined base.



3 Add the plants

Position the plants and when happy with the arrangement, remove and add a layer of potting mix. Return the plants, fill the planter to 50mm below the rim and firm down the mix. Fold and secure the liner using waterproof duct tape. Water in the plants. ➤

VINTAGE FOOTREST

This old footstool was a family hand-me-down in need of new upholstery, and the old-fashioned dark stain on the legs had to go.

To give it a facelift, the legs were primed and painted white. Medium grit sandpaper was used to give the painted timber an aged look.

The top was unscrewed from the legs and the old upholstery removed. A new piece of foam and fabric were cut to fit, then secured to the original seat base using adhesive and a staple gun.

The fabric was bought at a market for a few cents.

After
New upholstery and a distressed finish give the dated footstool a shabby-chic look.

Before



STONE-LOOK STOOLS

Found at a car boot sale for a \$1 each, these stools with plastic tops and metal legs were worse for wear.

The faded seats were given the look of granite using a specialty spray paint in a light grey, while the badly scratched legs were easily revived with a stainless steel-effect spray paint.

Salvaged on council clean-up day, the table was a great match for the revamped stools. The glass top was cleaned and the stand sprayed with the same stainless steel-effect paint.

To protect the finish, a gloss clear coat spray was applied to all the newly painted surfaces. ✨



Spray light coats and let the paint dry fully in between.



Before



After

The plastic tops now have the look of high-end designer stone.

DESIGN TIP

Basswood and white pine are the easiest woods to carve for beginners, and both of them offer a fine grain.

Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* was the inspiration for this piece.

Paintbrush art

Be inspired to make your own upcycled artworks by these amazing re-creations of famous paintings

WORDS NICK BANKS

Carved in intricate detail, with brush hairs serving as long gowns, these quirky copies of old works of art are actually made from recycled paintbrushes.

They've been produced by artist Rebecca Szeto, who was motivated to copy female figures from paintings by Old Masters Johannes Vermeer and Diego Velázquez, among others.

Rebecca carves and paints her own used brushes to produce these one-offs.

'I use mass-produced, end-of-life materials, inspired by my experience as a faux finisher,' she says. 🎨

These Paintbrush Portraits pay homage to the works of the Old Masters.



Turning old paintbrushes into works of art is the ultimate in upcycling.





Find it at Bunnings

SPACE SOLVER

Boost clothes storage in the bedroom by installing a walk-in wardrobe

Efficient storage solutions keep the bedroom tidy and make it easier to organise clothing, accessories and shoes.

Walk-in wardrobes provide ample storage and are simple to install DIY.

Modular designs can be set up in any space, making it easy to create

a walk-in wardrobe along an unused wall or in an awkward corner.

You can also convert a spare room into a walk-in wardrobe to free up floorspace in the bedroom.

TIP When stacking cabinets, be safety conscious and get another person to help lift them into position.

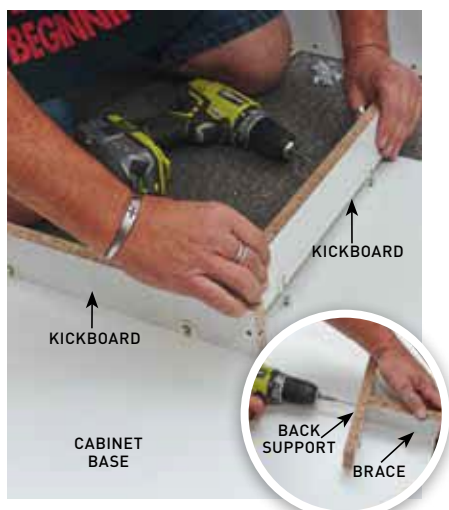
DESIGN TIP

Select components based on what clothing needs to be stored, combining cabinets and drawers with hanging storage.

What you need

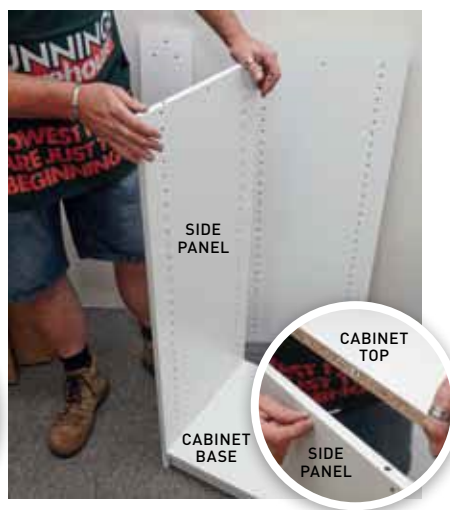
Drill
Spirit level
Hammer
Screwdriver
Pencil
Hacksaw
Sawhorse

BUILD A WALK-IN WARDROBE



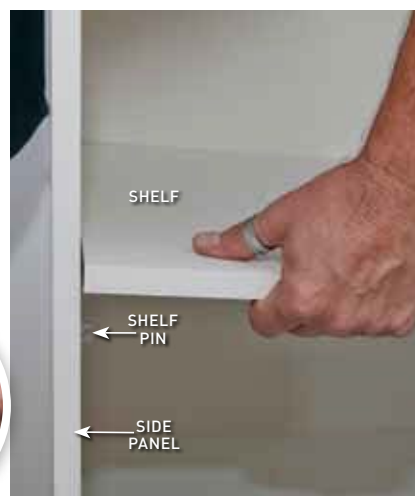
1 Assemble the base

Tap the cams into the kickboard holes, then insert the locking pins into the holes in the base shelf. Insert the locking pins into the cams on the kickboard, then turn the cam to lock in place. Repeat for the back support, then position the brace perpendicular to it, securing with screws.



2 Add the sides and back

Assemble the corner cabinet by securing the side and back panels to the base with screws, ensuring the finished edge is at the front. Stack the shelves on top of the base to make it easier to position them later, then secure the top shelf to the cabinet sides and back with screws.



3 Install the shelves

Finish the corner cabinet by lifting each shelf to the desired height, then insert the shelf pins into the holes in the side panels to support each shelf. Assemble the side cabinets by joining the sides to the base, kickboard and top using screws to create the frame, securing the back with nails.



4 Attach the top cabinets

Assemble the top cabinets in the same way as the base cabinets. Insert the dowels into the holes at the top of the base cabinet, tapping them in gently with a hammer. Lift the top cabinet onto the base cabinet and align the holes with the dowels to lock it into position.



5 Make the drawers

Slide the drawer base into the grooves in the drawer sides. Fold over the drawer front, align the holes with the dowels and tap into position, then secure the handles. Attach runners to the base of the drawer and the inside of the side cabinets by aligning the pins and securing with screws.



6 Secure the rods

Cut the hanger rod 10mm shorter than the distance between the cabinets. Secure a flange to a wall or side panel with screws, slide another flange over the rod and insert into the mounted flange. Level the rod and secure the other flange on the opposite wall or panel. Screw in the top shelf. 🛠️

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sliding doors



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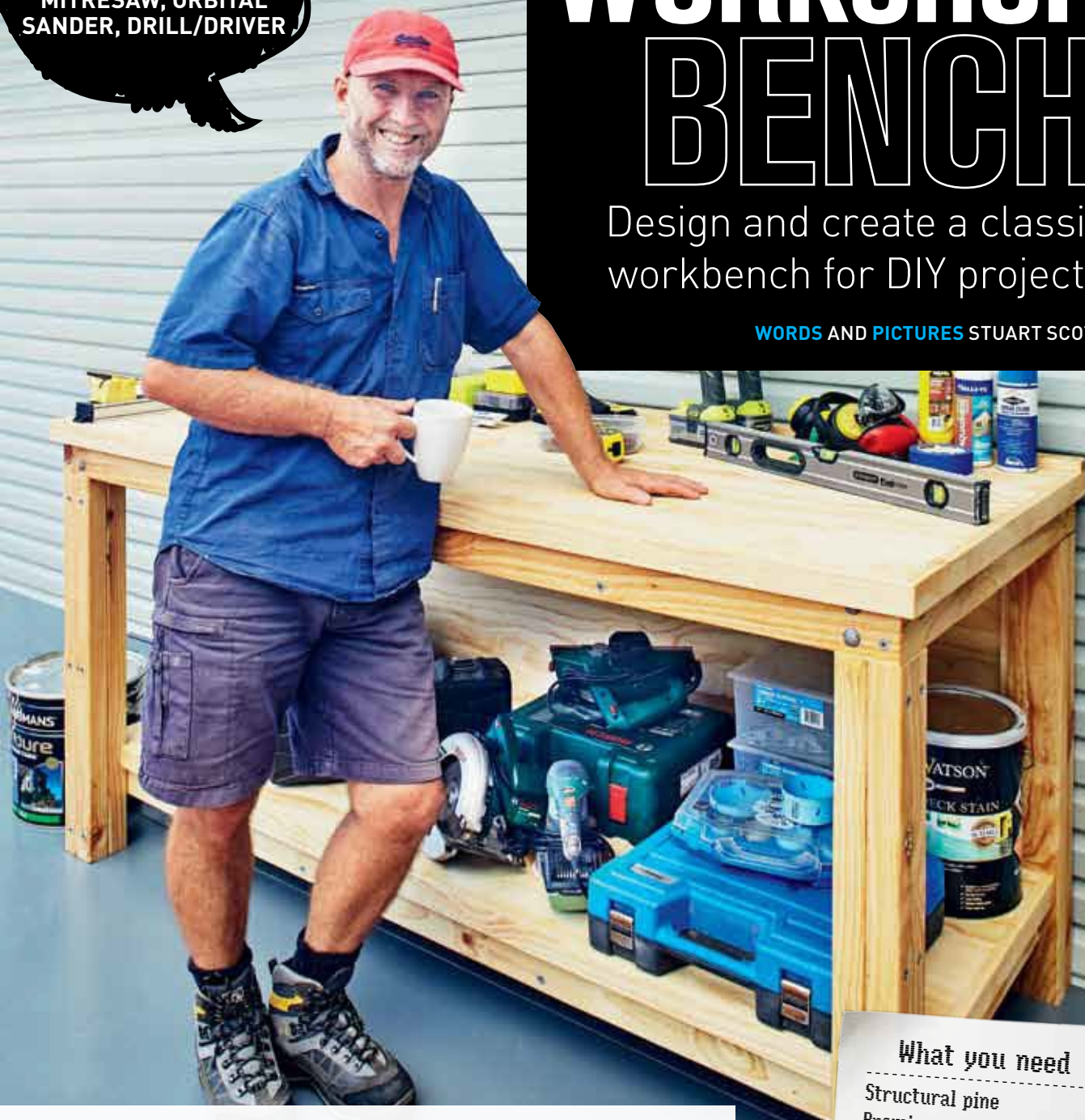
bunnings.co.nz

TOOLS
MITRESAW, ORBITAL
SANDER, DRILL/DRIVER

WORKSHOP BENCH

Design and create a classic workbench for DIY projects

WORDS AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT



Every DIYer needs a dedicated space to work and keep tools, whether it's a shed or a bench tucked into the garage.

Featuring a large work surface and a shelf for storage, this sturdy, classic 1800 x 800mm bench was made using pine and plywood, easily adjusts to fit any space and cost about \$340.

The design is simple, with a top and a base frame for the bench and shelf. Both butt and mitre joints are used, with notches cut into the legs and shelf for easy assembly.

Dressed pine is used to trim the frames for a neat finish and tung oil applied to the raw timber to nourish it and give it a natural matt finish. ➤

What you need

Structural pine
Premium grade
dressed pine
CD plywood
Tung oil
Wood glue
Galvanised screws
Galvanised nails
Cuphead bolts

MAKE THE BENCH



1 Make the legs

Cut four 790 and four 880mm lengths of 90 x 45mm pine. Mark 90 x 45mm notches on the tops of the 880mm lengths and cut out with a compound mitresaw. Apply adhesive and clamp the 790 and 880mm lengths in pairs, aligning the ends. Drill 4.5mm pilot holes, securing with six batten screws.



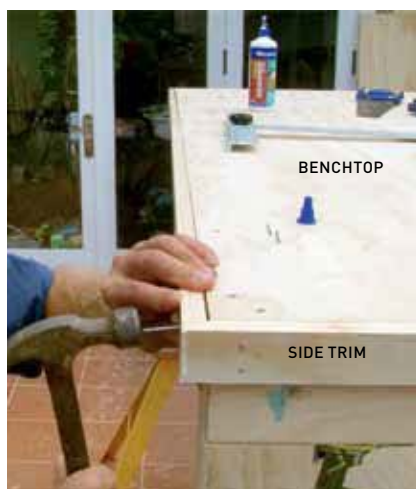
4 Attach the benchtop

Mark the benchtop and shelf on plywood, then clamp a straightedge, cutting them with a power saw using a fine tooth blade. Cut the notches out of the shelf with a jigsaw. Drill 3mm pilot holes in the bench and shelf, securing with adhesive and 40mm screws into the frame and rails.



2 Build the top frame

Make 45° mitre cuts at each end of the top rails with a mitresaw. Build the top frame, securing the mitre joints with adhesive and batten screws. Attach the legs using coach bolts and batten screws. Position the three top cross rails between the front and back rails, securing with batten screws.



5 Secure the trim

Attach the front and side trims to the bench and shelf flush with the tops, using adhesive and nails. Attach the top back edge to the bench and the shelf back support flush with the shelf. Attach the side back supports to the inside of the back legs. Clamp and screw the back to the supports.



3 Assemble the shelf frame

Position the front and back shelf rails between the side rails, drill 4.5mm pilot holes at each joint, securing with batten screws. Position the shelf cross rails between the front and back rails and secure with screws. Mark 230mm up each leg and attach the shelf frame from the inside using batten screws.

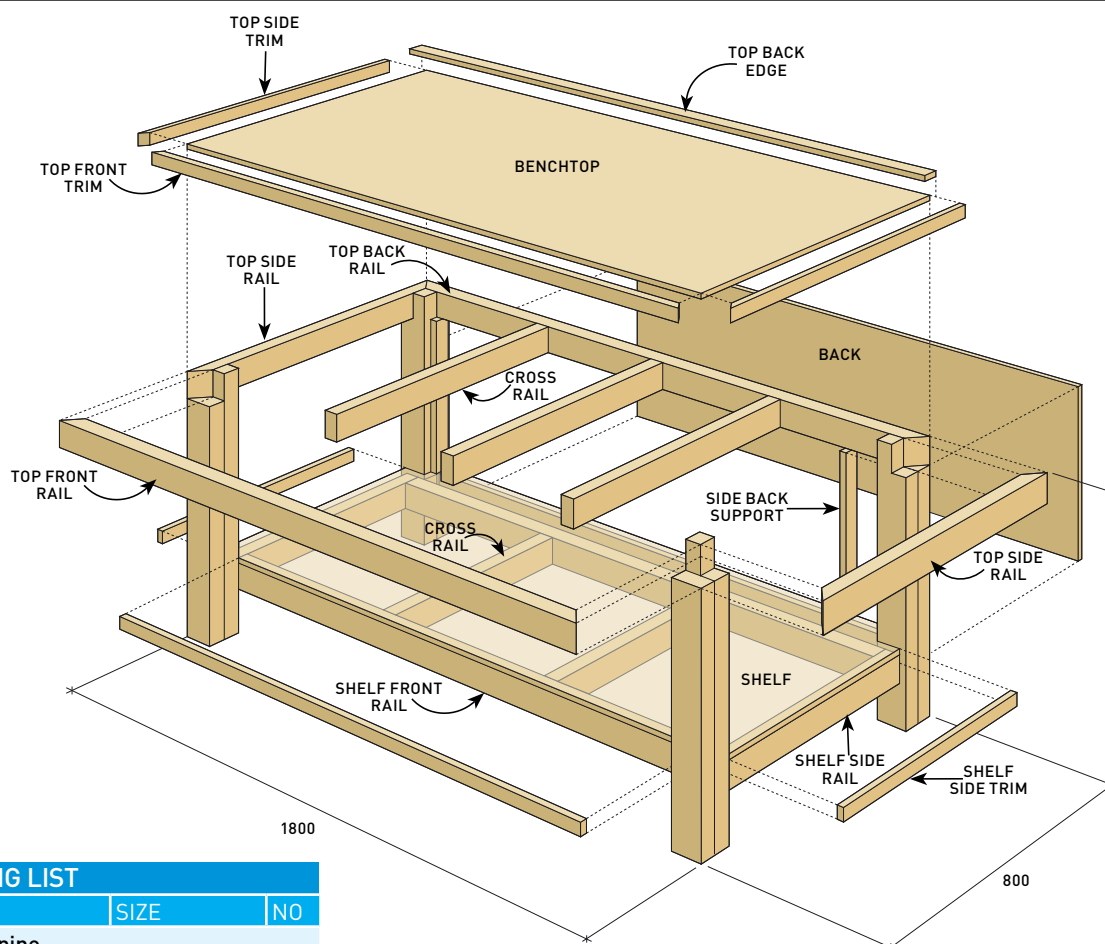


6 Apply the finish

Punch all nail heads 1-2mm below the surface and fill all nail holes and other imperfections in the timber as needed. Let the filler dry, then sand the whole bench to a smooth finish using 80 grit, then 120 grit paper and an orbital sander. Dust the entire bench and apply two coats of tung oil.

WORKBENCH

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Structural pine		
Legs	790 x 90 x 45	4
	880 x 90 x 45	4
Top front/back rails	1800 x 90 x 45	2
Top side rails	800 x 90 x 45	2
Top cross rails	710 x 90 x 45	3
Shelf front/back rails	1660 x 90 x 45	2
Shelf side rails	620 x 90 x 45	2
Shelf cross rails	530 x 90 x 45	2
Dressed pine		
Top front trim	1840 x 42 x 19	1
Top back edge	1840 x 42 x 19	1
Top side trim	820 x 42 x 19	2
Shelf front trim	1710 x 42 x 19	1
Shelf side trim	620 x 42 x 19	2
Shelf back support	1620 x 42 x 19	1
Side back supports	540 x 42 x 19	2
CD plywood		
Benchtop	1800 x 800 x 17	1
Shelf	1750 x 690 x 17	1
Back	1620 x 510 x 17	1

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
100mm x M10 cuphead bolts	Legs
14-10 x 85mm type 17 galvanised batten screws	Legs, top frame, shelf frame, shelf and top cross rails
40mm x 8g galvanised wood screws	Bench, shelf, top back edge, back supports
40 x 2mm galvanised bullethead nails	Trim >

Scraps and offcuts

Taking a waste not, want not approach after he had laid a floating floor, *Handyman* contributor Gun Arvidssen built a workbench entirely from scrap timber.

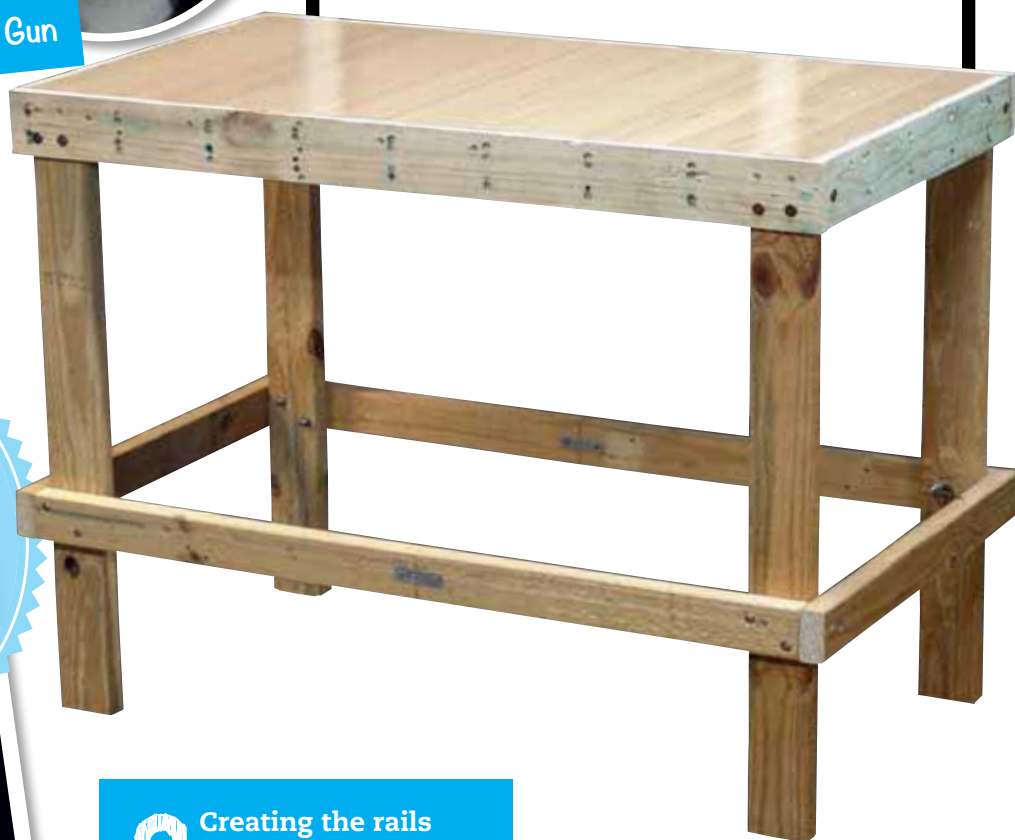
'I decided the floorboards would make a great benchtop, as they are pre-finished and simply click together,' says Gun.

The only expense was for a pack of 100mm bugle screws for the butt joints, which set him back just \$6.



Gun

SIX-DOLLAR WORKBENCH



DESIGN TIP

Give a workbench built from recycled timber a thorough sand to smooth rough edges and splinters, but otherwise leave it unfinished.



1 Re-using old timber

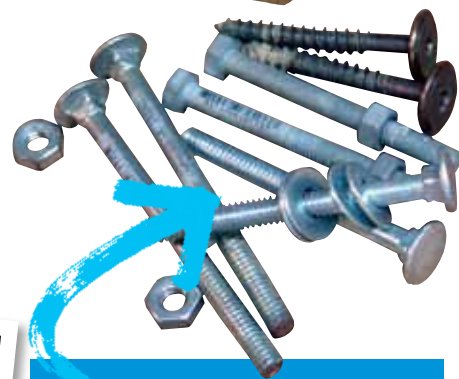
Gun clad the benchtop in 14mm thick engineered Tasmanian oak floorboards for durability and a smooth surface.

The benchtop trim was made from what had been a shelving system, while the legs were cut from 90 x 45mm salvaged pine.

2 Creating the rails

To make the long rails for the base frame, Gun joined two lengths of timber with biscuits, PVA adhesive and metal straps.

'The pieces were great for the side rails but too short for much else, so the most obvious thing was to join them,' he says.



3 Free fasteners

Aside from the bugle screws, Gun had all the other fasteners he needed for the project left over from other jobs.

'The bugle screws were only \$6 anyway, so I still got a good deal for such a great-looking and functional workbench,' he says.

TOP PICKS



Feast Watson Tung Oil, \$48 for 1L.
feastwatson.co.nz



Ozito 18V Cordless Drill Driver, \$95.
ozito.co.nz



Ryobi 1200W 210mm Compound Mitre Saw,
\$179. ryobi.co.nz



Selleys Durabond Aquadhere Polyurethane Glue, \$39 for 460ml. selleys.co.nz



Zenith 10 x 40mm Galvanised Timber Screws, about \$5 for 18. itwproline.com.au



Bosch 350W 125mm Random Orbital Sander, \$167.
bosch-do-it.co.nz



Irwin Quick-Grip Bar Clamps XP600, from \$50. irwintools.co.nz

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WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

DESIGN TIP

Uninsulated flooring can account for up to 10% of heat loss in the home, so use rugs if you have floorboards and seal any gaps with filler.

Heating and cooling a home makes an obvious impact on energy bills, but just how much it affects them may come as a shock.

On average, 40% of home energy use is for heating and cooling and that doesn't even account for hot water.

To save money this winter, get energy smart. The key is to have good insulation and ventilation, and there are lots of changes you can make DIY.



You can waste up to 30% in energy use through having inadequate insulation

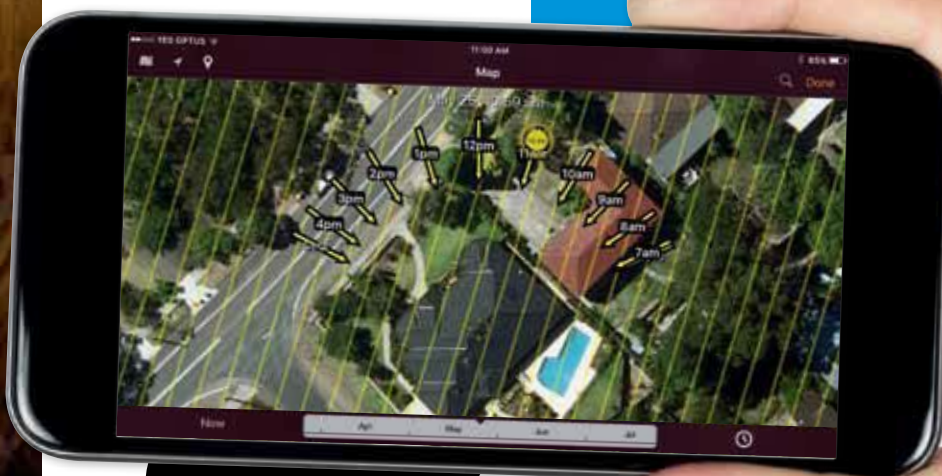


Solar solution

How much sun your home gets, or solar access as it is known, is an important part of understanding the heating and cooling needs of your property.

The easiest way to discover your solar access and plan how to heat and cool your home is to use the Sun Seeker app (available on iOS, \$22, and Android, \$16).

It tells you which direction the sun comes from at different times of the year and uses augmented reality to view the path of the sun across the sky. It's an invaluable landscape-planning tool as well.



GET PASSIVE

When it comes to heating and cooling, passive measures will incur little or no ongoing costs after installation, but they do have a positive effect on your home and wallet.

These measures, which include ventilation and insulation, are a great example of the simple and effective sustainable steps you can take.

When most people think about sustainability, they generally only

think of the environment, but balanced sustainability also takes into account other factors such as economic and human impacts.

Taking a passive approach to cutting back your heating costs ticks all these sustainability boxes.

Most passive measures are easy to install and will save you money, while making your home more comfortable and reducing your carbon output. ➤

Ceilings and attics

Whether you have a large attic or just a thin layer between a flat roof and the ceiling, the roof cavity is a critical area for keeping your house warm in winter and cool in summer.

Heat can be very easily and quickly lost through a plasterboard ceiling as it rises. One of the best ways to retain heat is with good insulation.



R-value requirement

The R-value of insulation relates to its ability to resist the movement of heat in or out of a structure. As a general rule of thumb, the cooler the climate, the higher the R-value required.

In those parts of New Zealand where retaining heat is a priority, ceiling insulation rated at R-5.2 would be the minimum needed.

In regions of the country where keeping heat out is key, a minimum value would be R-4.1.

Talk with a local insulation supplier for advice for your region.



1 2 3

INSTALL ROOF INSULATION To prepare for laying insulation, evenly distribute the packs around the ceiling space, cutting them open with a utility knife around the sides from top to base, then fluff up the segments to their full thickness.



1 Prepare the area

Gently sweep the area, removing any debris. Measure the surface area in square metres to calculate how many insulation packs are needed, buying segments with the correct R-value and width for the area.



2 Install the segments

Position the segments between ceiling joists. Slide them under any pipes as necessary. Electrical cables can lie over the insulation. Trim the segments to size with a utility knife, using a piece of timber as a cutting board.



3 Fill the gaps

Butt the segments as closely together as possible to avoid heat leakage. Cover all areas, saving offcuts to fill smaller gaps and odd spots. Remove any waste from the roof space, such as the insulation packaging, before finishing up.

Always wear safety gear when installing insulation.

SAFETY TIP

Avoid positioning insulation segments against or over any light fittings, vents or ducting, chimney parts or plumbing.

Walls and floors

Although the energy loss through walls and floors is not as great as that of ceilings, insulation can make a significant difference.

In most cases, you'll really only be able to retrofit wall or underfloor insulation during renovations. If you're building a new home, insist on the maximum insulation for all spaces.

The additional cost during the building process is minimal, but the long-term savings and improvements in sustainability are enormous.



Building and renovating

If you're designing a new home or renovating, talk with your architect or builder about passive design features.

These can be as simple as maximising any insulation and extending the eaves to offer more sun protection during summer.

You can also avoid using dark materials and create closed-off living areas that can be heated and cooled independently. >

ADAM'S PICKS



Earthwool R-3.6 175 x 430mm Ceiling Insulation, covers 10.47sqm, \$92. knaufinsulation.co.nz



HPM 100mm Ducted Ceiling White Exhaust Fan, \$89. hpm.co.nz



This will floodlight an entire roof space, giving you plenty of light to safely insulate a cavity.

Ryobi One+ 18V LED Hybrid Worklight, skin only, \$139. ryobi.co.nz

Windows and doors

Take a close look at all of your doors and windows when they're shut and you'll find that many of them don't actually close with a snug fit.

These gaps, small as they may be, create draughts and leak heat. Glass in windows and doors is also a major area of heat loss, so consider double glazing as a passive measure. 

ADAM'S PICKS



Moroday 915mm Automatic Hinged Door Seal, about \$19, from Bunnings.



Holdfast 5m No More Draughts Draught Stop, \$16. holdfast.co.nz



3M Scotch Patio Door Insulator Kit, \$38. 3mnz.co.nz



Stormguard Insulator Glazing Film, \$25, from Bunnings.

Curtains with blackout lining insulate glass windows.

DIY TIP

Window furnishings act as insulation, so make curtains more efficient by adding a pelmet and ensuring they fall all the way to the floor.





Love your ceiling and the savings.

You'll love Earthwool® glasswool insulation because it's so easy to install in your ceiling and it will help you **save up to \$400*** on your power bill.

This is because Earthwool glasswool is made using recycled glass and features high R-values, which is the measure of their thermal performance. The higher the R-value, the better for you and your wallet.

For more information, visit thinkinsulation.co.nz



*smarterhomes.org.nz/smarter-home-guide

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- The blade is re-sharpenable.
- Comes with rust protection sleeve.



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Backyard tidy-up

Do these jobs in the garden now so it looks wonderful throughout winter

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



Cheryl

EXPERT SECRETS

If you don't have a compost heap, cut up any weeds that haven't gone to seed and spread directly on the soil as mulch.

As the year heads into winter, it's the ideal time to roll up your sleeves and tackle those chores that have been building up in the backyard over recent months.

At this time of year the soil retains some warmth, so anything planted or moved will have a chance to settle in before the worst of winter hits.

It's also a good time to clean up fallen leaves, start a compost heap, condition your soil and divide perennials to get plants for free. ➤

Remove the weeds

Weeds compete with plants for soil nutrition and leave them open to attack by insects and diseases. So start the backyard tidy-up by removing weeds in beds and pots.

They grow in every season and it's best to attack them as soon as they appear. Dig them up if necessary, making sure you get the roots as well.

Put any hard-to-kill bulbous, perennial and seeded weeds into a plastic bag. Tie the top and leave the bag in the sun until the weeds rot, then add them to the compost bin.



Water the bed first to make weeds easier to pull.



Put tough weeds in a bag to rot before composting.

Top up mulch

After weeding and conditioning the soil, mulch will need topping up.

➤ **WATER** the soil well before applying mulch, or apply after it has rained.

➤ **USE** an organic mulch such as lucerne hay or pea straw because they add organic matter to the soil as they break down.

➤ **SPREAD** a light layer of mulch to only about 25mm thick for winter, so the warmth of the winter sun can penetrate through to the soil. Water it in well after laying.

➤ **ENSURE** the mulch is clear of tree trunks and plant stems to prevent fungus or rot developing.

Prep the soil

For plants to stay healthy, soil needs to be reconditioned at the end or start of each season.

Add cow or chicken manure, compost or mushroom compost to the surface of the soil.

Organic matter breaks down and supplies nutrients to plants and builds soil structure.

You can also use a seaweed product to promote beneficial micro-organisms in the soil and help plants thrive.

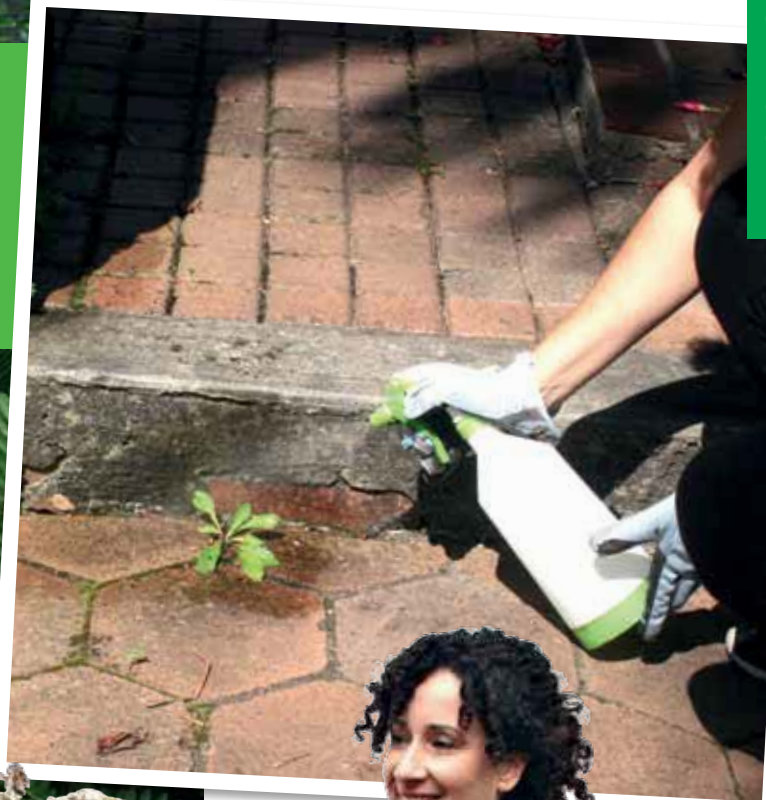




Natural weedkiller

Keep paths and pavers weed-free by spraying them with a DIY herbicide.

Simply pour white vinegar into a spray bottle and apply directly to weeds, taking care the spray doesn't drift onto plants.



Turn the compost

Compost is full of goodness, but heaps need regular turning and forking to assist aeration and speed up decomposition, making composting a bit of a chore.

To get the benefits of compost without the hard work, try a tumbler. Choose a size to suit your space, put it in an easily accessible spot and add to it regularly.

Tumblers are very easy to use, as you just turn the barrel every few days for rich compost in as little as six weeks. ➤



Rake up lawn leaves to add to compost



Tumbleweed 220L Compost Tumbler, \$277. tuigarden.co.nz



GROW TIP

Consider planting a winter-flowering native such as a grevillea, as birds will flock to the nectar, adding fauna to your winter landscape.

Plant trees and shrubs

This is a good time to plant new trees and shrubs, as the soil is still warm enough in most climate zones, and the plantings have a chance to settle in during winter.

When choosing a tree or shrub from the nursery, make sure it is appropriate for your climate and suited to the planting position and will receive the requisite light.

And check the mature height and width so it won't outgrow its position.



Add evergreen shrubs to make the winter yard lush.

1 2 3

HOW TO PLANT Don't simply dig a hole and plonk in the tree or shrub, as a little preparation of the soil and simple measures will help your transplant thrive. **TIP** Water the tree or shrub several hours before you plant it out.



1 DIG A HOLE twice the width of the pot containing the new shrub, making sure it is also a little deeper. Use a hand trowel or spade if needed. Gently remove the plant from the pot.



2 MIX COMPOST into the excavated soil and add a layer in the base of the planting hole. Position the shrub so it is at the same level in the soil as it was in the pot.



3 BACKFILL THE HOLE with the soil and compost mix, then gently firm it down by hand. Water in well, using a seaweed solution to help prevent transplant shock, then mulch.



Falling leaves

Don't discard fallen leaves.

Check out these ways to create free soil conditioner.

- **ADD** them to the compost heap.
- **PUT** leaves in large plastic garbage bags and add a little water and Yates Dynamic Lifter.

Make a few holes in the bag, tie the tops and leave them for several months. Your reward will be nutrient-rich humus.

- **SPREAD** leaves directly on beds to act as mulch and add Dynamic Lifter or cow manure to help break them down.

Green up the grass

A lawn looks good and also has the practical value of consuming carbon dioxide and trapping dust.

Lawns need to be aerated, as the soil can become compacted. Aerate small lawns by making

holes with a garden fork every 100mm. For larger areas, you can hire a spiked roller.

Treat the soil with a hose-on seaweed solution to increase the biological activity in the soil and help keep grass green and healthy. ➤

Divide plants

At this time of year divide perennials for replanting, and this can be done every three to four years.

If a particular plant looks good in one area, consider using it more widely, as repeat plantings can visually unify the garden.

Perennials that have multiple stems arising from the base of the plant can be divided. Plants that are flowering less freely, have become

congested or are dying back in the centre benefit from division.

Perennials ideal for dividing include ajuga, achillea, agapanthus, astilbe, bergenia, canna, catnip, flax, helianthus, hosta, red hot pokers, liriope, penstemon, phlox and phlox.

TIP To give you more variety, swap divided perennials with your gardening friends.



BUDGET TIP

Division will keep perennials vigorous and provide you with new plants for free, as you can turn one plant into three or four.



How to divide

Here's how to divide and replant perennials.

- 1 **DIG** up the plant carefully with a fork. Shake away soil so the roots can be easily seen.
- 2 **PULL** apart the rootball into sections using your hands, or cut with a pair of secateurs or a sharp knife. You may need to use a spade with plants such as agapanthus.
- 3 **MAKE** holes for the divisions and add a layer of well-rotted compost. Plant at the same depth as the mother plant and backfill with the removed soil. Water in well, then water the plants frequently until established.



Sow seeds

Clear beds or troughs of summer greens that have bolted to seed for a winter crop such as silverbeet.

- **REMOVE** the old crop, getting all the roots and any weeds.
- **ADD** compost to the soil and fork it in well, then make rows for sowing using a fork or trowel.
- **SPRINKLE** the seeds to the depth and spacing indicated on the packet. Cover seeds with soil and water in well.

Sow seeds of everlasting daisies for a spring showcase.

June checklist

- ✓ **PLANT** snowpeas and sugar snap peas, except in cold zones. Add lime to soil if it is on the slightly acid side. Climbing cultivars bear higher yields.
- ✓ **GET** any spring bulbs you haven't planted yet in the ground.
- ✓ **REMOVE** and destroy any rose leaves covered in black spot.
- ✓ **FEED** flowering bulbs.
- ✓ **MOVE** evergreen trees and shrubs planted in the wrong position.
- ✓ **PLANT** citrus, choosing a sunny spot in well-drained soil.
- ✓ **SOW** everlasting daisies in well-drained soil in sunny beds or grow with ornamental grasses.
- ✓ **PLANT** globe artichokes in ornamental or kitchen gardens for their handsome grey leaves. 🌿

CHERYL'S PICKS



McGregor's Plastic Leaf Rake, \$9.
mcgregors.co.nz



Yates Dynamic Lifter Organic Plant Food, about \$20 for 7kg. yates.co.nz



Seasol Seaweed Concentrate, about \$21 for 1.25L. seasol.com.au



Garden Galore Pea Straw Mulch, \$20 for 90L, from Bunnings.



Bahco 15mm Bypass Secateurs, \$28.
bahco.co.nz



Saxon D-Handle Garden Fork, about \$14, from Bunnings.

HOME *TO* ROOST

Give your chooks a place to call their own with a spacious backyard coop and run made from reclaimed hardwood

PROJECT ADAM WOODHAMS **PICTURES** ADAM WOODHAMS AND CHARLIE BACON

Keeping chooks in the backyard has become popular again in recent years as more and more of us have rediscovered the benefits of owning these feathered friends.

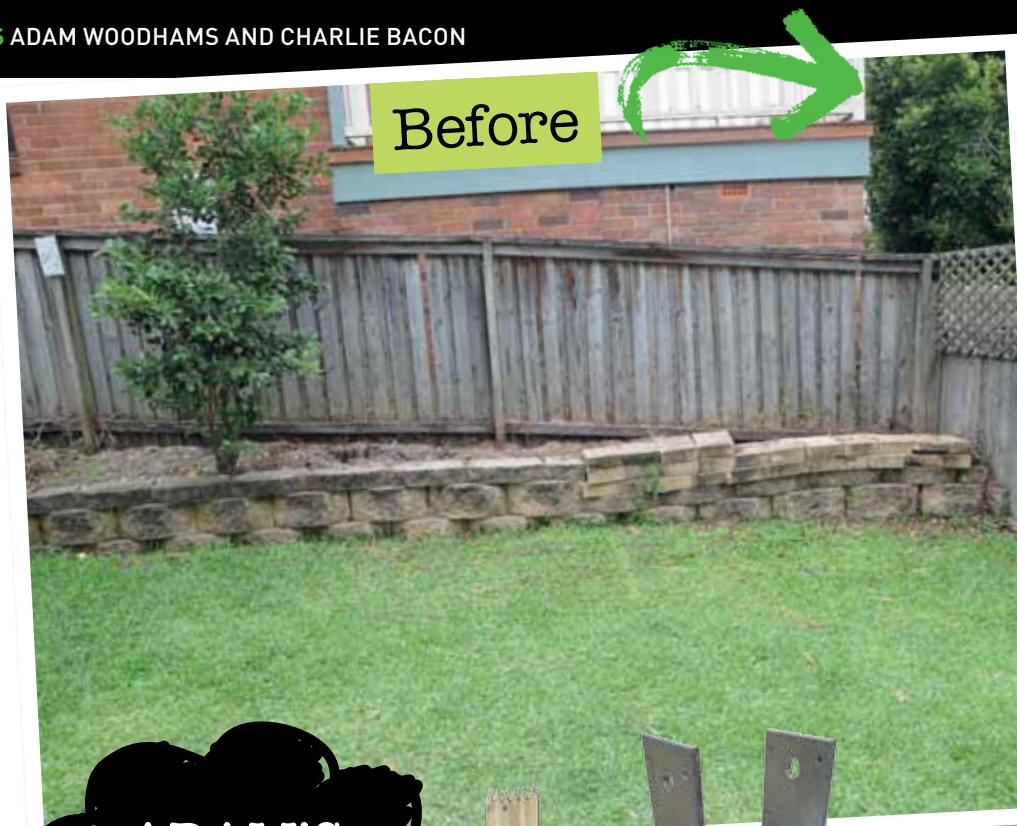
Chickens are great fun to have at home and they are fantastically sustainable. Not only do they lay eggs and produce manure, which can be used for composting, they also gobble up pests and snails in the garden.

Every chook needs a place they can call home, so we called up sustainability expert Charlie Bacon from Ecolicious to help us build a chicken house (ecolicious.com.au).



EXPERT SECRETS

Placid Faverolles are a French breed of chicken that make ideal pets and don't make much noise.



Before

ADAM'S PICKS

Egmont 19 x 19 x 1200mm Hardwood Garden Stakes, \$14 for six. egmontseeds.co.nz

Eurosteel 900mm x 5m Large Bird Square Weld Mesh, \$25. eurocorp.co.nz

Bowmac 178 x 92mm Post And Bearer Bracket, about \$25, from Bunnings.

Pinex 90 x 45mm H3.2 Treated Pine, about \$5 per linear metre, from Bunnings.

DIY TIP

Always check with your local council for any regulations on keeping chickens and the permitted size and position of coops.

After

The coop sits in an unused corner of the yard and gives the chooks plenty of space.



Building the house

We built a coop and a run for up to six chooks from reclaimed hardwood. Both parts can be adjusted for size.

The structure has a large sheltered roosting area, nesting and laying box, and storage space.

Its elevated design creates a shady cool zone underneath. The flooring and the nesting box can be pulled out for cleaning. >



H See how to build this coop

Visit handymanmagazine.co.nz/chook-house



There is easy access for feeding and cleaning through the main gate.



Chickens like to scratch the ground to look for food.

CARING FOR CHOOKS

Keeping chickens is a fully rewarding experience, but they do need plenty of TLC. Here's what Fionna Appleton from chooks.co.nz advises.

- + **GET** three or more birds to create a new flock, never just one.
- + **BUY** good-quality chook food and provide clean drinking water.
- + **GIVE** new chickens a week or so to learn they have a new home before allowing them to roam free.
- + **TALK** to your chickens when giving them a treat feed so they associate humans with good things.
- + **POSITION** branches in the run and perches in the hen house to allow the chooks to exercise their feet and keep agile and busy. Hang a bunch of silverbeet just above their head height so they have to jump up for it.
- + **REPLACE** dirty floor litter from under their roosts regularly and ensure laying boxes are always clean.
- + **TREAT** the chooks for worms two or three times a year and ensure they have an area to dust-bathe to help smother mites. If needed, also treat the hen house with products such as Smite or Poultry Shield.
- + **ENSURE** a constant supply of shell grit to provide the calcium they need to make good strong eggshells.
- + **TRIM** the flight feathers of one wing of flighty birds so they can't escape to neighbours over low fences.
- + **SOW** Appletons Chook Edibles in seed trays and offer them weekly as a treat. Chooks love nutritious greens.
- + **PROVIDE** a shade cover. Chooks will feel protected from aerial predators.



Check out Fionna's choice of three breeds of chicken.



+ **LIGHT SUSSEX** are a heritage breed. Striking to look at in their black and white plumage, they are easy to handle and have a friendly temperament.



+ **PEKIN BANTAMS** are small, round and cute with feathered feet. They make great pets and are great brooders, but don't expect vast quantities of eggs.



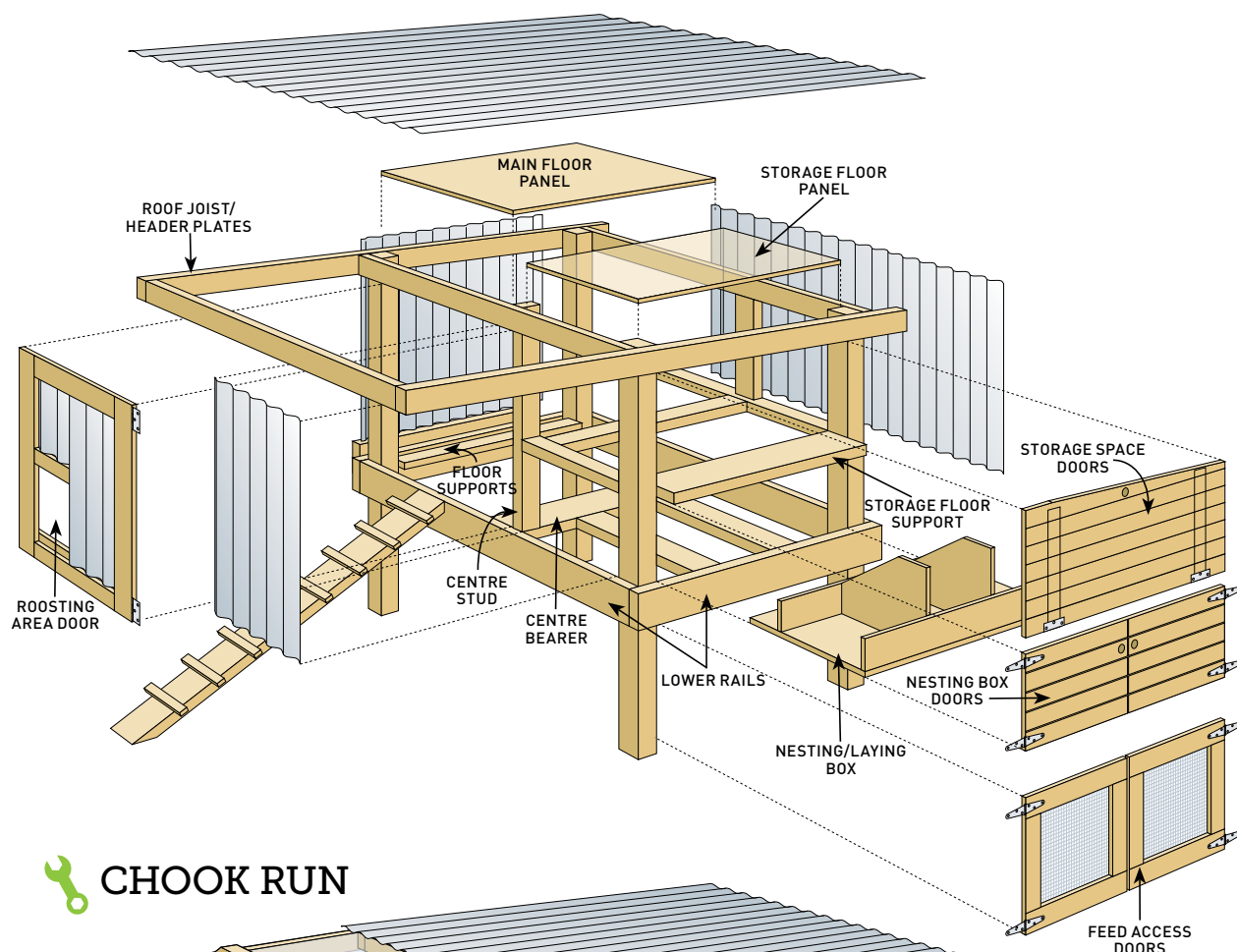
+ **BROWN SHAVERS** are laying machines. These mostly reddish brown birds, like other hybrid commercial chooks, provide about 300 large brown eggs a year. They also rarely go broody, which can sometimes halt egg production. ➤

As well as providing eggs, hens make great pets.

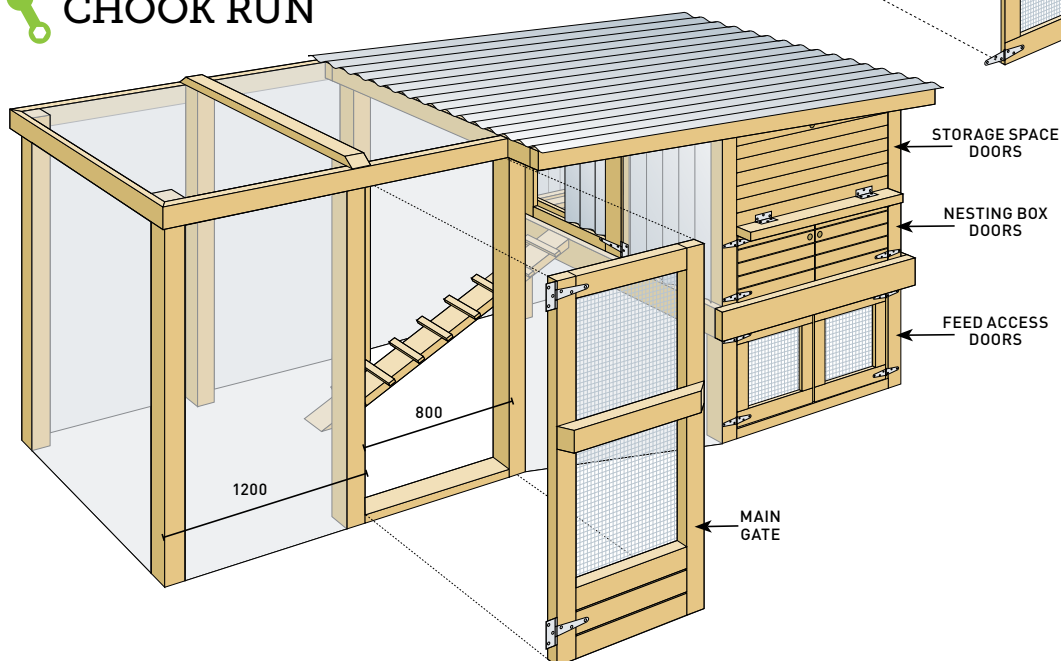


CHOOK HOUSE

measurements in mm



CHOOK RUN





guardians
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- 🐾 Seek justice

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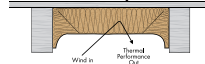
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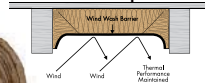
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WHEN TO PLANT IN NEW ZEALAND

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

Pot up a herb garden

Grow your own flavourings and garnishes in any outdoor space

Fresh herbs are garden all-stars. They're easy to grow and care for, look good, smell great and save you money at the supermarket. No matter where you live, you can grow herbs in every season.

Whether it's in a courtyard, on a balcony or in a small garden or big backyard, herbs will thrive in hanging baskets, planters, pots and other containers.

Grow all your favourite herbs for cooking in containers.

Group herb pots in a decorative planter for a lush display.



Select the position

Herbs love growing in pots and many varieties, such as mint and oregano, can take over a garden bed, so it's best to contain them. Give potted herbs the right location in good-quality potting mix and they'll thrive.

☀ **SUN AND SHADE** Many herbs, such as marjoram, fennel and thyme, like full sun, while others, such as catmint and coriander, prefer partial shade.

Determine how much sun your outdoor space gets during the year, and choose your plants accordingly.

☀ **INTENSE HEAT** In hot climates, give plants shade protection, as the heat can be too intense even if they like full sun in cooler zones.

🌬 **AIR CIRCULATION** Good air flow is essential, as humid conditions can create fungal problems. Avoid positions open to strong winds.



The right pot

The shape and size of herb pots or containers plays an important part in the success of the plant as both a crop and a landscape feature.

⊕ **AVOID** using lots of little pots, as they tend to make small spaces look cluttered and get lost in big areas.

The same pot in different sizes will give an area a unified look.

⊕ **MATCH** the habit and form of the herb to the container. Peppermint and thyme will spill over pot rims, while rosemary grows over a metre tall.

⊕ **CHOOSE** containers in textures and colours to complement the location.

TIP Go for the biggest practical pot, as the roots of herbs need space. ➤



H 10 essential cooking herbs

Visit handymanmagazine.co.nz/top-10-herbs



GROW TIP

It's worth investing in a good-quality potting mix for herbs as, over time, you'll have healthier and happier plants.

Choose the material

The type of material a pot is made of will affect both the look and the portability of your herb garden.

✚ **TERRACOTTA** containers are popular, as they're practical, affordable and attractive, but they do dry out much faster than plastic pots.

✚ **LIMESTONE** and concrete pots make a big impact visually but are heavy and hard to move when planted up.

✚ **PLASTIC** pots are lightweight and come in a huge range of colours. As they're not porous, they hold moisture longer than concrete or terracotta.

Pots made from polyethylene and fibreglass are long lasting and waterproof, and they can also be frost-, UV- and scratch-resistant.



Firm potting mix around the roots of herbs with your hands.

PICK THE MIX

Using the right growing medium is vital when it comes to herbs.

Potting mix is better than garden soil, as it's designed for containers and provides just the right balance between holding water and giving good drainage.

At the nursery, you'll find various organic mixes that are

tailored to different situations, such as hanging baskets, and to different varieties, such as herbs and vegetables.

Pick a high-quality mix and look on the bag to identify various ingredients.

These can include a wetting agent to stop the mix drying out too fast, vermiculite to keep it lightweight, and a slow-release fertiliser.





Watering

Most herbs like to be kept moist, but they also need to be allowed to dry out between waterings so they're not left standing with damp roots.

A quality potting mix provides good drainage, while drainage holes in the base of a pot allow excess water to escape.

To make watering easy, buy a colourful watering can that's easy to find, fill and carry. Keep it out of direct sun so it lasts longer.

Give them food

Herbs in pots should be planted in a mix containing a soluble, slow-release fertiliser and also fed regularly.

The fertiliser will contain all the necessary nutrients to promote healthy roots, flowers and leaves, while helping herbs grow into vigorous, sturdy plants.

It's also a good idea to use a liquid seaweed product at planting to lessen transplant shock, and then add it to your watering regimen. ➤



DESIGN TIP

Experiment with unusual containers such as old colanders, buckets and wicker baskets, adding drainage holes if needed.

Herbs will grow more quickly if fertilised.

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Potted perennials

Give herbs a check once a year and if they have outgrown their container, repot them into a bigger one. For annuals, discard and start again.

✦ **REMOVE** the plant from the pot carefully, and put the old potting mix in the compost. Fill the base of a larger pot with fresh potting mix.

✦ **TRIM** the roots of the plants if they look congested, and cut off any old stems to give the plant a tidier shape. This light trimming will also help to promote new growth.

✦ **REPLANT** the herb in the new pot and backfill with potting mix, gently firming it down with your hands as you go. Water in well.



Create a vertical kitchen garden with herb baskets.



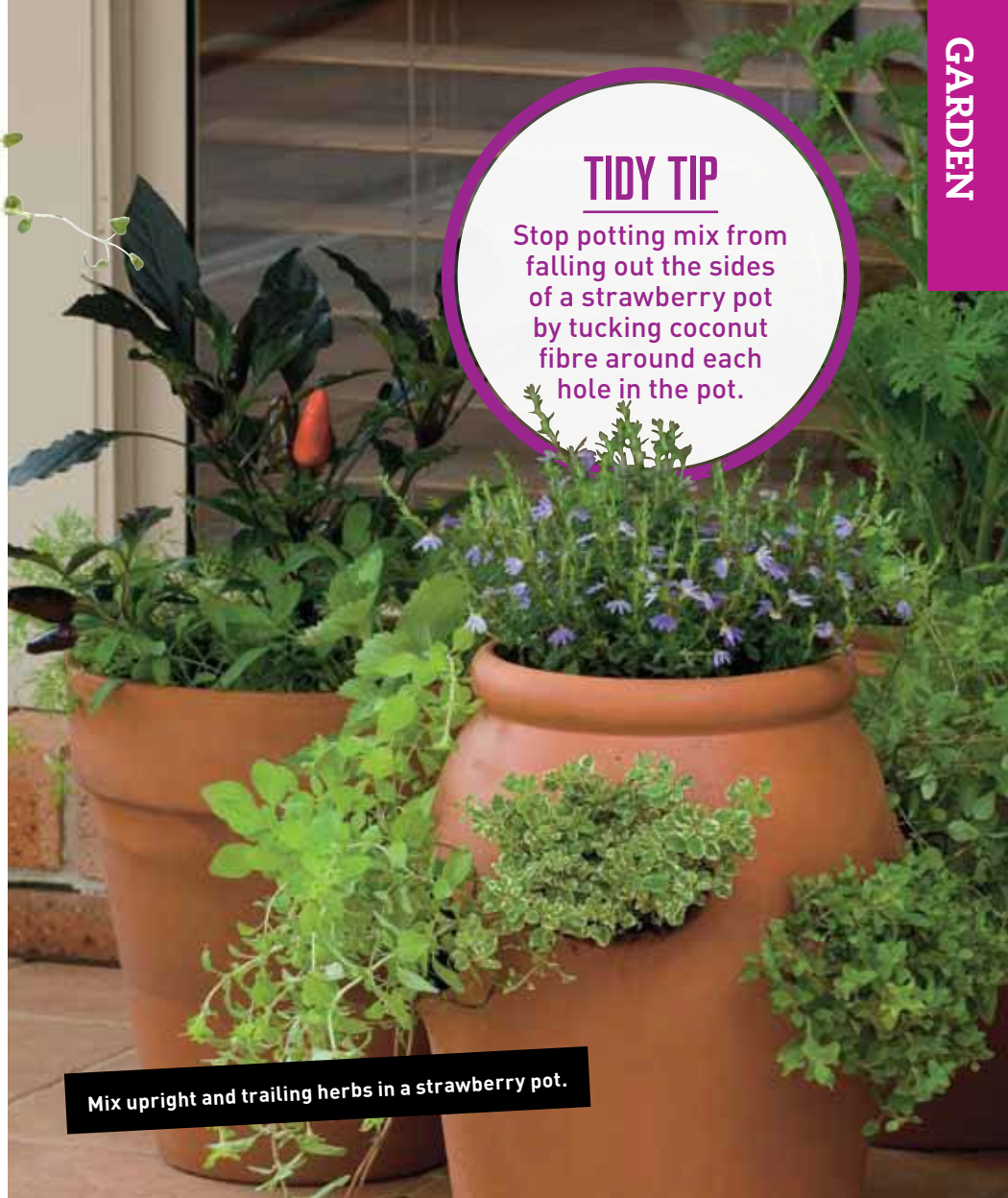
MIXED HERB PLANTER

A strawberry pot makes a great mixed herb planter. Experiment with the combination of herbs and their positioning to get a look you like.

Use trailing varieties such as thyme and variegated and common oregano in the side holes, and a flowering plant with an upright habit in the top.

What you need

Large terracotta strawberry pot
Potting mix
Hand trowel
Trailing herbs
Flowering plant



TIDY TIP

Stop potting mix from falling out the sides of a strawberry pot by tucking coconut fibre around each hole in the pot.

Mix upright and trailing herbs in a strawberry pot.

1 2 3



1 Add the mix

Use a hand trowel or scoop to fill the strawberry pot with potting mix until it comes to just beneath the level of the first hole. Remove the first herb from its container and tease out the roots to loosen the mix. Gently ease the roots into the lowest hole in the pot.



2 Position the plants

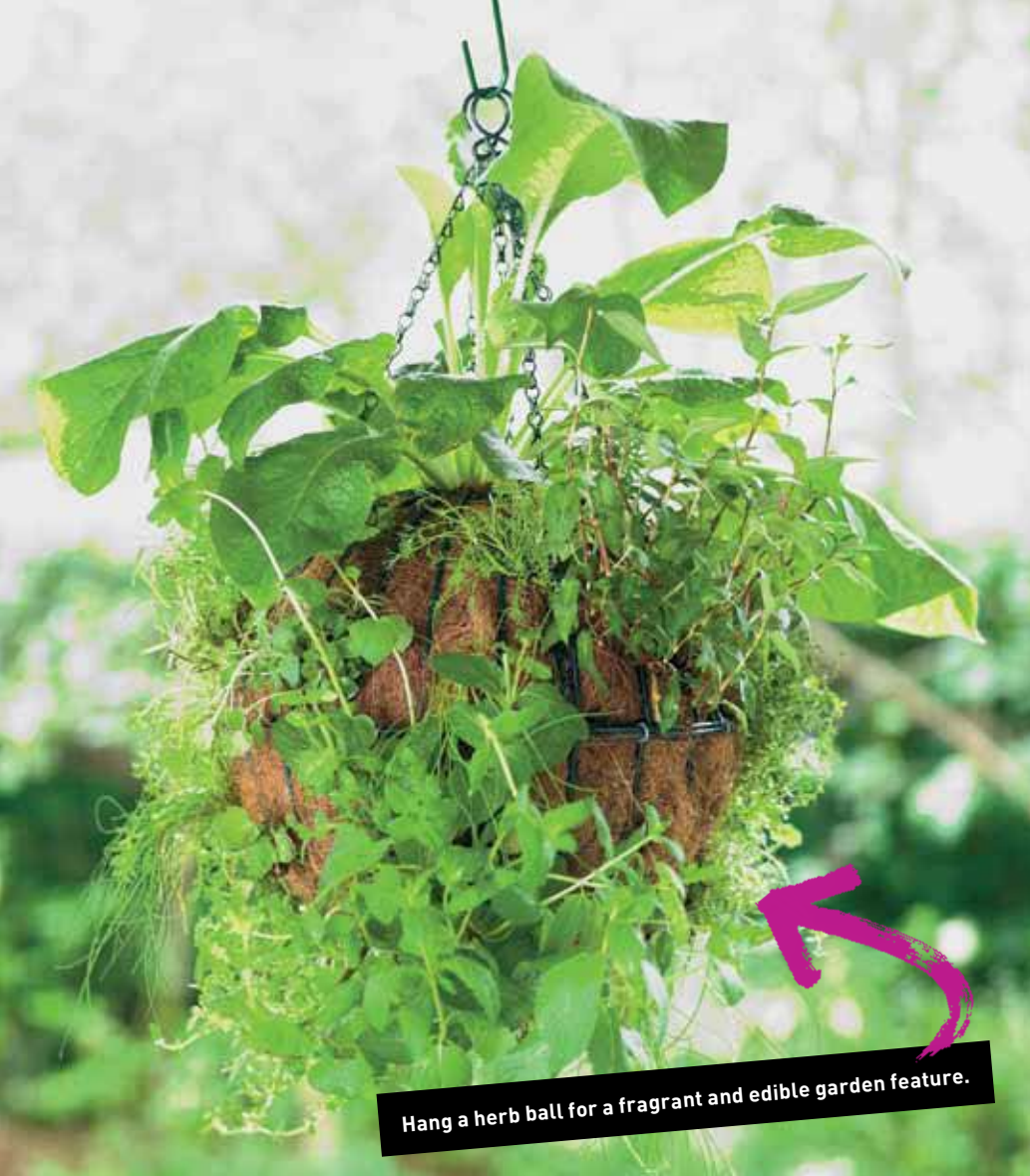
Add more potting mix to the pot, firming it with your hand to cover the roots of the first herb. Fill to the level of the next hole with potting mix and add another herb. Repeat to plant the rest of the holes, leaving enough space for a plant at the top.



3 Plant the centrepiece

Add an upright flowering annual or perennial at the top of the planter as a centrepiece. Position the pot in a sunny spot, then water in well.

TIP We used fanflower (*Scaevola aemula*), but any plant with an upright habit will work. ➤



HANGING HERB BALL

This mini hanging kitchen garden looks impressive but is easy to create DIY. You just join two baskets to make a ball and plant through the sides.

When choosing the herbs for the ball, think about their leaf shapes, colours and growing habits.

For this ball, a mixture of trailing and upright varieties were used, with broad-leaved herbs contrasting with plants featuring feathery foliage.

Add plants for their scent as well as form and colour, and consider using flowers for a pop of colour. Include easy-grow herbs like basil, parsley and chives for their versatile culinary value.



Combine form and function in a culinary masterpiece and hang it on a deck, patio or verandah

KEEP IT HEALTHY

- **SELECT** a secure position to hang the ball, as it will become heavy once it has been watered.
- **HANG** the ball in a position that receives only morning sun for 1-2 weeks until the roots are established, then move it to a sunny spot away from drying winds, as herbs love the sun.
- **FEED** the ball fortnightly with a soluble all-purpose fertiliser to help it grow quickly.
- **WATER** daily at the top and use a spray bottle to mist the foliage so the herb ball gets a good drink every day.

1 2 3



1 Prepare the baskets

Support a wire basket on a stand with the basket liner in position. Wet the liner so it expands, then make a series of holes with a piercing tool, forcing the fibre outwards. Protect each herb with plastic wrap, pushing them into the holes. Repeat for the second basket.



2 Cut the cardboard

Blend potting mix with perlite and vermiculite, then part-fill each basket. Press the mix around the roots, then position a plant through the base of the top basket. Cut out a cardboard cover for the top basket, pierce several holes in it and secure with wire.

Go for a mix of colour, taste and scent in the ball.

STEPS TO SUCCESS



➤ **APPLY** a seal to porous pots to reduce moisture loss, or buy glazed ceramic pots, which are not as porous as untreated concrete, terracotta or limestone.

➤ **BUY** lightweight fibreglass or polyethylene containers so you can move the pots around a deck or patio.

➤ **USE** static or movable stands on castors to raise pots and make moving them or sweeping the floor easier. Ensure the pots are secure and won't move around on windy days.

➤ **CHOOSE** heavy or large pots in areas regularly exposed to strong winds, such as rooftop gardens and balconies.

➤ **CONSIDER** the scale of the container, as a huge pot will look totally out of place squeezed onto a tiny balcony.



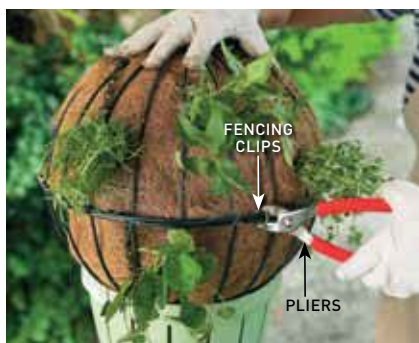
➤ **STAND** pots on saucers to hold any excess water and stop surface staining on tiles or decking, but make sure you give the roots a chance to dry out. ❖

SAFETY TIP

Never attach the hooks or brackets for hanging planters or baskets to crumbling brickwork or rotting timber posts or beams.

What you need

2 metal hanging baskets
2 coconut fibre basket liners
Perlite
Vermiculite
Potting mix
Plastic wrap
Wire
Corrugated cardboard
Hanging chain set
Selection of herbs



3 Assemble the ball

Position the top basket on the base basket on the stand, aligning the rims to create the ball. Use wire fencing clips and pliers or twisted wire to join the baskets. For maximum strength, attach the hanging chains to the rims of both baskets.



COLOUR — IN THE — COOL MONTHS

Enjoy beautiful blooms in your
backyard, even in autumn and winter

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

You don't have to wait until the warm weather returns to bring colour to the garden, as there are many flowers that bloom in autumn and winter.

A trip to your local nursery could be the first step towards adding colour in the cold seasons.

Whether you want to cheer up a sunny spot or a shady corner, you'll find plants that will do the job.

Camellia

The flowering queen of autumn and winter, you can find a camellia cultivar to fit almost every niche in the garden.

They are tough, undemanding plants, but give them a little TLC and you'll be rewarded with lots of blooms.

✚ **PLANT** The soil should be slightly acidic, friable and well-drained. Fork in cow manure and compost to improve it. Dig a planting hole twice as wide and as deep as the rootball.

✚ **GROW** Water regularly, especially when hot and dry. Feed in early spring to boost growth and again in summer to encourage more flowers.

Water the ground thoroughly around a camellia before and after applying fertiliser.

✚ **MULCH** Use pea straw, lucerne hay or composted autumn leaves. Spread a 75-100mm thick layer of mulch, keeping it clear of the trunk.



If you're short on
space, you can grow
a camellia in a big pot



PICTURES (MAIN) ALAMY (BOTTOM) CHERYL MADDOCKS



Feed the birds

Do feathered visitors a favour by growing plants that will provide food throughout the winter.

Good choices are climbing rata, grevillea, heath banksia, kohekohe, mapou, puriri and whauwhaupaku.

Grevillea



Puriri



Add colour and attract birds with winter-flowering grevillea.

BRIGHT IDEAS

A well-planned garden has a number of seasonal layers of flowers. Without these layers, there will be a blaze of spring or summer colour but nothing much for the rest of the year.

Every garden has its peak period, but it is possible to plant so that one clump of perennials or annuals

finishes flowering as a nearby clump is coming into bloom.

Different garden beds can also be used to emphasise each season. This creates perpetually shifting garden scenes as the seasons progress, and the result is a sense of movement in the garden. ➤

Winter-flowering shrubs

There are some pretty shrubs that brighten up the winter garden.

Shrubs are essential plants, as they form the skeletal structure of a garden design and provide a permanent framework of leaf and flower forms.

They can also be used to fill the spaces between trees and low-growing annuals and perennials.

Choose shrubs that flower in different seasons so you have colour throughout the year.

WHAT TO PLANT

Marguerite daisy



Winter daphne



Diosma



Winter daphne

Daphne odora bears clusters of sweet-smelling, pink-tinged flowers.

❖ **GROW** Plant in an east-facing spot in well-drained, slightly acidic soil. Give it a monthly tonic of seaweed extract and regularly apply Yates anti-rot. It can be grown in a pot.

❖ **HEIGHT** 1.5m

Marguerite daisy

Small, shrubby *Argyranthemum* hybrids are a welcome sight in July with their colourful flowers.

❖ **GROW** Good drainage and a sunny spot is essential. Ideal for coastal gardens and can be grown in a pot. Prune lightly after flowering.

❖ **HEIGHT** 600-900mm

Diosma

The tiny pink flowers of diosma (*Coleonema pulchellum*) are borne from late winter to early spring amid narrow aromatic foliage.

❖ **GROW** Give it free-draining soil in full sun. It can be grown as a hedge and dwarf cultivars are available.

❖ **HEIGHT** 900mm-1.2m

Winter honeysuckle

Luculia

GROW TIP

Bring bright red flowers to a winter garden by planting the frost-hardy Erica Can Can (*Erica cerinthoides*).

Viburnum

Luculia

Luculia gratissima is valued for its large and perfumed pink midwinter flowerheads.

❖ **GROW** Plant in a frost-free, east-facing position. In cool climates, grow luculia under the eaves of the house.

❖ **HEIGHT** 3m

Winter honeysuckle

The small, strongly scented cream flowers of winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) appear from winter to spring.

❖ **GROW** A tough plant, it thrives in a sunny spot if given regular applications of water and fertiliser.

❖ **HEIGHT** 2m

Viburnum

Viburnum farreri bears clusters of pale-pink fragrant flowers on leafless branches during winter.

❖ **GROW** This deciduous shrub likes well-drained soil and a sunny position. Plant near a window or door to appreciate its scent.

❖ **HEIGHT** 3m ➤

Pot up colour

Growing flowering annuals in pots is a quick colour fix for winter and will certainly brighten up cold days.

Plant in window boxes and hanging baskets or fill your garden with pots of colour. And positioned by the front door, they'll be a welcoming sight.

You can mix and match annuals for bright colour combinations, and change colours with the seasons.

If you plant seedlings in autumn or winter, they flower in a few weeks.

1 REMOVE the seedling carefully from its punnet so you don't disturb the roots. Use a high-quality premium mix.

2 WATER the punnet of annuals before transplanting, then water regularly. Feed monthly with a soluble plant food.

TIP Use a plastic pot for good water retention, then use a larger, more attractive terracotta or glazed container as a sleeve.

Linaria

DESIGN TIP

Lift the tone of a dry, shady spot with a winter-flowering bulb such as *Clivia miniata*, which bears brilliant orange flowers.

WHAT TO PLANT

Iceland poppy

Calendula

Cineraria

Cineraria

Brighten up dark corners with pots of colourful cineraria. They are easily grown as annuals for temperate climates.

✦ **POSITION** Semi-shade

Viola

Free-flowering violas with their small pansy-like flowers come in various shades. Pick the flowers to encourage more to grow.

✚ **POSITION** Sun or semi-shade

Linaria

Bears masses of flowers in a variety of colours in winter.

Linaria is easily grown from seed or you can buy advanced seedlings and pot them up.

✚ **POSITION** Sun

Iceland poppy

This pretty annual bears winter and spring flowers in shades of salmon, apricot, yellow and cream.

Protect from wind and pick for indoors just before bud burst.

✚ **POSITION** Sun

Calendula

These orange or yellow daisies brighten up winter days. Remove spent blooms to prolong flowering.

The flowers are edible so add them to salads or use as a garnish.

✚ **POSITION** Sun

Polyanthus

A perennial that is usually grown as an annual, polyanthus comes in a variety of colours.

Pot up in shallow bowls for an enchanting look.

✚ **POSITION** Sun or semi-shade

Pansy

These reliable winter flowers provide a great choice of colours. Picking the flowers encourages more blooms to grow.

✚ **POSITION** Sun, but tolerates afternoon shade in hot climates

Primula

Ideal for mixed plantings, choose from a variety of shades, including pink, lavender, purple or white.

Pick the finished blooms of primula to extend the show.

✚ **POSITION** Sun or semi-shade

Did you know?

Pansies became popular in England around the early 1800s when gardeners started to experiment with hybridising. And by 1845, there were 354 different types.

Polyanthus

Viola

Pansy

Primula

— THE POMEGRANATE — POWERHOUSE

Bearing gorgeous scarlet flowers and delicious juicy fruit, this tree is a garden must-have

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

PICTURES ALAMY, ISTOCK

Scoop out

You can eat a pomegranate simply by cutting the fruit in half and scooping out the seeds with a spoon.

Roll them around in your mouth, sucking the surrounding juice sac, or aril, while you chew the seeds to release the juice.



Drink up

Rich in fibre, folate, potassium and vitamins C and K, pomegranate juice is very high in antioxidants, especially polyphenols, which help protect against free radicals.

Research shows it may also reduce plaque build-up on artery walls, working in a similar way to aspirin. And studies suggest that it may help lower blood pressure.

DESIGN TIP

Pomegranate can be used as a feature tree or grown as a hedge, depending on the space, or even planted in a large container.

The fruit has a crown-like calyx and is about 50-120mm in diameter.

Thought to be one of the oldest fruit trees under cultivation, the pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) is native to Iran and Afghanistan and has naturalised throughout the Mediterranean region.

It's a showy plant, featuring glossy green leaves that turn yellow in the autumn and bearing large scarlet flowers in spring and summer.

The beautiful red-skinned fruit ripens in autumn and remains on the tree after the leaves have fallen.

Cut a fruit in half and you'll see the membranous white-walled sections, each filled with seeds surrounded by juice sacs, known as arils.

HOW TO GROW

A long-lived small deciduous tree or large shrub, pomegranate grows to about 4-5m high. It has an untidy habit but judicious pruning when young will give the tree a good shape.

✦ **PLANT** Give it well-drained soil and add compost or well-rotted manure before planting. Pomegranate loves heat, so position it in a sunny spot.

It tolerates frost but not humidity, so it won't grow well near the coast.

✦ **GROW** Pomegranate is drought tolerant but trees yield better-quality

fruit if watered regularly. Feed in late winter and early summer with a complete plant food for fruit. Mulch with lucerne hay or pea straw.

✦ **PRUNE** Cut back in winter to remove overcrowded or dead wood. Don't prune the whole tree, as fruit is borne on wood that's 2-3 years old.

✦ **HARVEST** Pick when the fruit is plump and the skin red. If unsure, tap the fruit with your finger and, if it sounds metallic, it's ripe. Cut the fruit from the tree with secateurs. ➤

Ornamental and hardy, a pomegranate tree is easy to grow.

Release the seeds

It may be a bit tricky to open and enjoy this fruit, but it's well worth the effort. A medium-sized fruit yields about one cup of seeds. They can be kept in the fridge for about a week or frozen.

1 2 3



1 HOLD the pomegranate in your hand, then use a sharp knife to make 4-6 cuts all around the fruit from the stem to the other end, making sure you only cut through the skin.



2 SLICE off the top to reveal the bright red seeds. Hold the fruit in both hands over a small bowl to catch any juice, then pull apart the sections using your hands.



3 TAKE a section in both hands, then push out the seeds into the bowl. Peel off any pieces of membrane that are still covering the seeds. Discard the peel and membrane.

IN THE KITCHEN

With their sweet-tart flavour, pomegranate seeds can be used in both sweet and savoury dishes.

- ✦ **SPRINKLE** on cereal.
- ✦ **TOP** pancakes or waffles with maple syrup and seeds.
- ✦ **USE** to make bruschetta. Spread goat's cheese on toasted bread, then top with pomegranate seeds and a little parsley.

- ✦ **MAKE** a salsa with pomegranate seeds, avocado, kiwifruit, chilli and coriander, and serve on meat or fish.
- ✦ **TEAM** with duck, chicken and lamb.
- ✦ **MIX** with other fruit for a smoothie.
- ✦ **SPRINKLE** over vanilla ice-cream, sorbet or yoghurt.
- ✦ **TOSS** into a mixed-berry fruit salad.
- ✦ **ADD** a few arils to a glass of your favourite sparkling wine.



Roasted cauliflower with pomegranate



Tuna with parsley and pomegranate salad



H See these recipes online

Visit handymanmagazine.co.nz/pomegranate-recipes

Chilled lime cheesecake

PREPARATION TIME 30 minutes,
plus 3 hours setting

COOKING TIME 5 minutes

Ingredients

2 tablespoons canola oil
2 tablespoons brown sugar
½ cup wholemeal plain flour
½ cup almond meal
600g silken tofu, drained
⅔ cup low-fat natural yoghurt
⅓ cup icing sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 tablespoon finely grated
lime zest
2 tablespoons lime juice
1 tablespoon powdered
clear gelatin
1 pomegranate

1 COMBINE the oil, brown sugar, flour and almond meal in a non-stick frying pan. Stir over medium heat for 5 minutes until golden brown. Transfer the mixture to a plate and put in the fridge to cool.

2 PUT the tofu, yoghurt, icing sugar, vanilla extract, lime zest and lime juice in a food processor, and process until smooth.

3 POUR 2½ tablespoons cold water into a small heatproof bowl. Sprinkle with the gelatin. Leave for 1 minute until softened. Sit the bowl in a larger bowl of boiling water, then whisk until the gelatin dissolves. Stir a spoonful of the tofu mixture into the gelatin, then add to the tofu mixture. Process briefly to combine.

4 LAY a large sheet of baking paper over the base of an 18cm springform cake tin, then clip the side into place, leaving the excess paper sticking out of the side of the tin. Lightly oil the side. Pour in the tofu mixture, then sprinkle over the almond mixture. Refrigerate for 3 hours until set.

5 REMOVE the seeds from half the pomegranate. Extract the juice from the other half with a citrus squeezer.

6 RUN a non-serrated knife around the tin to loosen the cheesecake. Invert onto a serving plate, remove the side of the tin and peel off the paper. Spoon the pomegranate seeds over the cheesecake and drizzle with the pomegranate juice. Cut into wedges and serve immediately. ✨

Serves 8-10

RECIPE TIP

This no-bake cheesecake doesn't actually contain any cheese. Instead, silken tofu makes a light and creamy filling.

1



2



3



POP QUIZ!

Name these trees

With their colourful autumn foliage, can you identify these trees? The answers are at the bottom of the page

4



5



7



6



8



Why leaves change colour

Foliage colour is determined by pigments, which are naturally produced by leaf cells.

The three pigments that colour foliage are chlorophyll, carotenoid and anthocyanin.

In summer, trees use sunlight to convert water and carbon dioxide into sugar, known as photosynthesis.

Chlorophyll is what makes the leaves green and, as the days shorten, the trees respond to the decreasing sunlight by stopping production of it.

The carotenoid pigment then shows through, giving the leaves their yellow and orange shades.

Protective anthocyanins are also produced so the tree can recover nutrients before the leaves fall off.

PICTURES: ISTOCK (BACKGROUND) THINKSTOCK

ANSWERS 1 SUGAR MAPLE 2 OAK 3 JAPANESE MAPLE 4 CREPE MYRTLE 5 LIQUIDAMBAR 6 CHERRY 7 SMOKE BUSH 8 POPLAR

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Handyman

NEXT ISSUE

RENOVATE

Repair and replace kitchen surfaces for an easy DIY makeover.

PLUS Clever storage ideas to create space.

BUILD

Make over the garage or workshop with handy storage solutions.

PLUS Install a new back deck step-by-step.

GARDEN

Plant lilliums now for a show-stopping floral display next summer.

PLUS How to grow African violets.

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