

28

PAGES OF BATHROOM FIXES & INSPIRATION

NEW ZEALAND

GREEN UP THE BALCONY ^{page 90}

Handyman

RENOVATE

EXPERT TRICKS TO GET
TOP DOLLAR AT AUCTION

PLANT

LIME TREES FOR
ZEST AND COLOUR

BUILD

CLASSIC LAP-AND-CAP
TIMBER FENCE

Check out
this reno
p38

Design

HOW TO GET YOUR DREAM
BATHROOM ON A DIY BUDGET



Moving
made easy



Growing
spring annuals



Secrets to a
spotless home

page 54

READER'S DIGEST MAGAZINES



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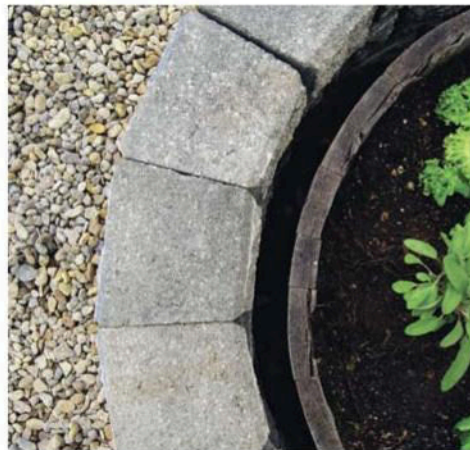
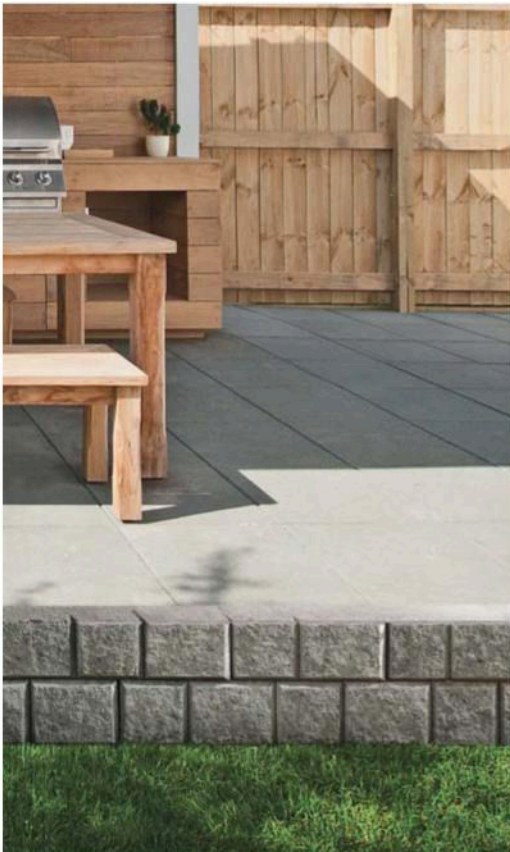


VISIT [FIRTH.CO.NZ/EZIWALL](https://firth.co.nz/eziwall) TO WATCH THE HOW TO VIDEO



RETAINING

MADE EZI



Firth's Ezi Wall™ masonry blocks let you get creative in your own backyard. With our modular masonry system you can easily transform your garden by creating raised herb gardens, flower beds, fire pits, mowing strips or low garden walls - the options are excitingly endless!

No footings. No mixing concrete/mortar. No Excuses!

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SEE OVER FOR A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO INSTALL EZI WALL RETAINING



six

STEPS TO MAKE AN EZI WALL™

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Firth



Starting at the lowest point of the wall, dig a trench 300mm wide x 100mm deep.



Shovel GAP20 or GAP7 into the trench to make your base course. Make sure this is at least 50mm deep. Level it off and hand tamp.



Place your first layer of EziWall blocks. Make sure the channel groove is on the bottom and the raised nib is on the top.



This first layer must be level. Use a straight edge and level, and take time to check the blocks are level front to back (vertical) and side to side (horizontal). **NOTE:** If you're building a curved wall, open a gap at the rear of each block. Make sure the front of the blocks are firmly abutted.



Construct subsequent layers by placing the middle of each block over the joint line of the two blocks in the layer below. Repeat until you reach the wall height you're wanting. Maximum of four layers including the cap.



The final layer is the capping. These blocks have a channel on the bottom and no nib on the top - it's flat. Place these the same way you've placed the blocks below. It's a good idea to use a construction glue on the base of each capping block to prevent them moving over time.

FAQ

HOW HIGH CAN YOU GO?

Ezi Wall™ retaining walls can be built up to 500mm high - a maximum of 3 layers of blocks + 1 layer of capping

CAN WALLS BE BUILT ON UNEVEN OR SLOPING GROUND?

Yes, Firth Ezi Wall™ adapts easily to a sloping base. Starting at the lowest area, step the footing up as the wall advances up the slope.

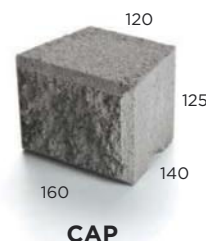
CAN I USE HEAVY CLAY FOR BACKFILL?

We don't recommend using heavy clays as backfill, any organic matter in which plants will grow well are best.

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM RADIUS CURVE THAT CAN BE CREATED?

Convex or concave curves with a minimum radius of 400mm can be achieved.

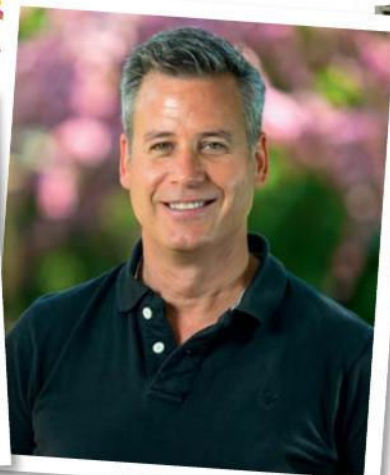
		WALL LENGTH						
		1M	2M	3M	4M	5M	10M	20M
# of blocks	layer 1	6.25	12.5	18.8	25	31.3	62.5	125
	layer 2	12.5	25	37.5	50	62.5	125	250
	layer 3	18.8	37.5	56.3	75	93.8	188	375
	caps required	6.25	12.5	18.8	24	31.2	62.5	125



Goodbye Lee

This month, the team at *Handyman* says a fond but sad goodbye to our Managing editor Lee Dashiell.

After nine years with the magazine he'll be missed, so join us in wishing him all the best.



THIS ISSUE

The bathroom is probably the most important room in the home after the kitchen, and can be as costly to renovate, so this month we've put together a special section.

For design inspiration, check out the beautiful bathrooms featuring the latest trends, from page 17.

But if you want to give a bathroom with good bones but little style a new

look for less than \$1300, the story on page 26 is for you. The trick is to change the taps and towel rails, then add colour with towels and plants.

And check out the real-life reno featured on our cover. It's a great example of how you can turn a tired bathroom into a modern oasis.

Spring is sprung

To celebrate spring, we have lots of ways to get into gardening, whether you have a big yard or tiny balcony.

If you want greenery but don't have much room, see our urban garden ideas to make high-rise horticulture simple, on page 90.

For instant colour after the cold of winter, fill beds and pots with annuals. We have design ideas and lists of what to plant, on page 102.

Moving house made easy

Handyman project editor Adam Woodhams recently went through all the dramas of moving house.

And he used the experience to write a foolproof guide to relocating. See page 50 for Adam's top tips to make your next move stress-free.

Enjoy the issue,

THE HANDYMAN TEAM



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Forget about unwieldy extension cords and petrol refills with an Ozito Power X Change Lawn Mower.

This lightweight, cordless machine is ideal for mowing small to medium lawns and will cut up to 300sqm on one charge.

The cutting height can be adjusted between six positions.

Its 40-litre grass catcher features a capacity indicator and the folding handle allows for easy storage.

A dual safety mechanism helps to avoid accidental start-ups.

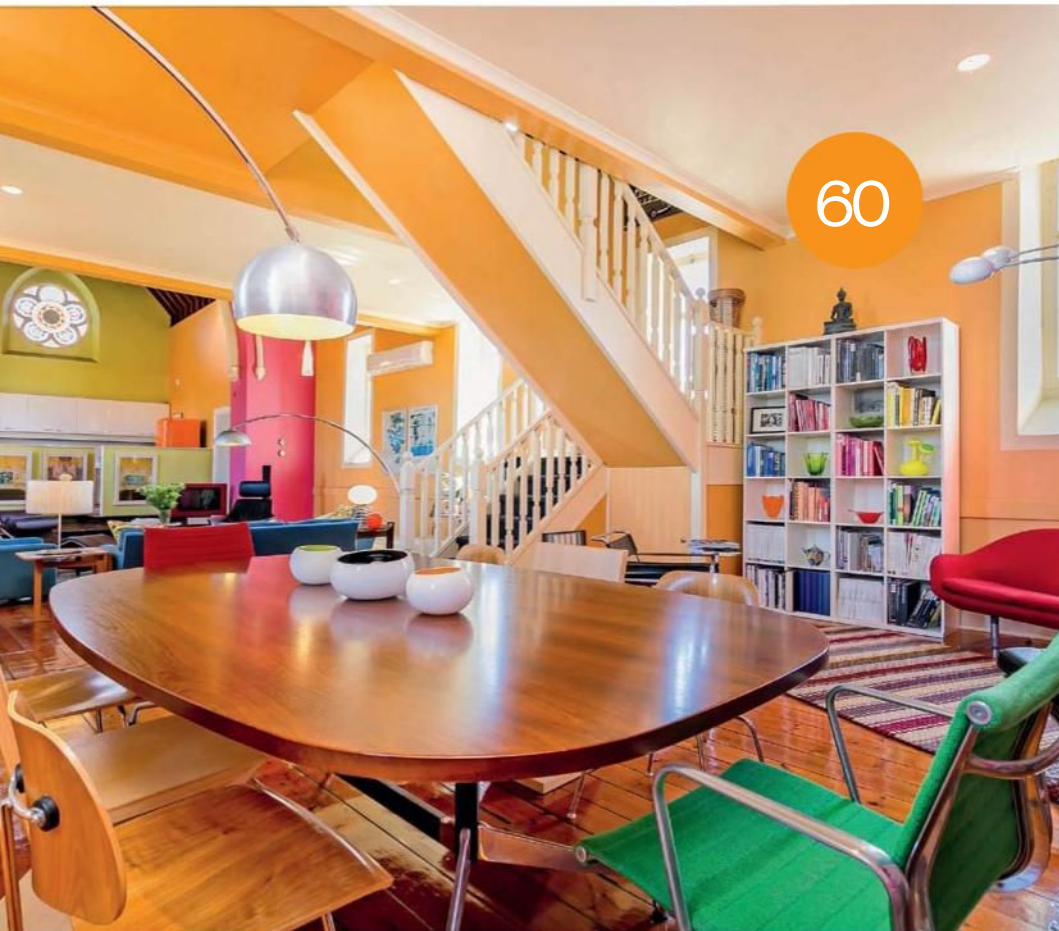
The complete kit includes two 18V li-ion batteries and two fast chargers, providing the advantage of simultaneous charging.

And you'll always know when the batteries are ready to use with the handy LED state-of-charge indicator (ozito.co.nz).



Ozito Power X Change Mower, \$499.

OCTOBER ISSUE

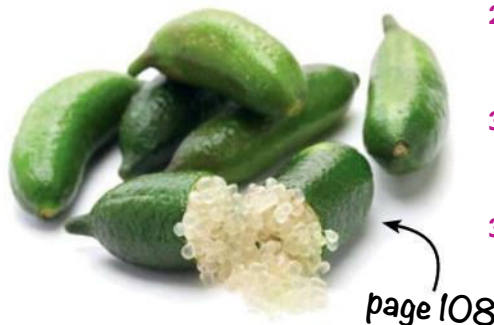


COVER PHOTOGRAPHY
STEVE PERRIOTT

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Get the garden ready for spring with these great buys



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Bathroom special

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Test your knowledge of these red-flowered plants



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bunnings.co.nz



Functional fit

Put on the RB Sellars Carmen Vintage Workshirt, \$30. It's 100% cotton and is available in Cornflower, Navy and Camel.

rbsellars.co.nz

SPRING GARDENING

Prep the garden for the growing season with these clever products

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Risk remover

Protect your eyes from stray objects and glare with Gardwell Safety Glasses, \$17. The plastic frames house shatterproof, polycarbonate lenses and the nose pads and temple tips are rubberised for extra comfort.

safetysource.co.nz



Mud muckers

Troopers Women's Rubber Gumboots, \$35, are great for mucking about in the garden when the weather is wet. They're lightweight with fabric lining and have foam-padded inner soles.

bunnings.co.nz



Digit defender

Slip on a pair of Lynn River Showa 370 Garden Gloves, \$16. Made of tear-resistant rubber latex and nylon in a variety of colours, the tight-fitting design allows easy movement of your fingers for wet and dry tasks. ➤

lynnriver.co.nz

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

MAKE IT SAFE, MAKE IT G8SAFE

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



G8SAFE
.com.au

CREATING WAVES FOR POOL SAFETY



Power pair

Tidy the yard with the Bosch ALB 18V Cordless Leaf Blower, \$199, and keep plants trimmed with the Bosch Keo Cordless Pruning Saw, \$199. The leaf blower produces a 200kmh jet of air and the saw has a precision Swiss blade.

bosch-garden.co.nz



Root remover

Dig out those deep-rooted plants and weeds using the McGregor's Cushion Grip Trowel, \$8. It's designed for grip comfort, is made of long-life carbon steel and the enamelled blade has a hammer finish that makes cleaning easy.

mcgregors.co.nz



Careful clipper

Use Cyclone Floral Snips, \$15, for all your light trimming jobs. They feature a handle lock for safety and comfortable polypropylene grips. Weighing just 110g, the snips have durable steel blades and 120mm handles.

cyclone.com.au

Hedge honer

Tidy up in the garden with the Ozito Power X Change 18V Grass Trimmer and Shear, \$79, skin only. Ideal for edging lawns and trimming shrubs, it has a tool-free, quick-change system.

ozito.co.nz



Super stamina

Make short work of cutting large areas of grass with the Ryobi 600W Line Trimmer, \$99. A guide wheel gives a neat edging finish and the telescopic shaft helps avoid back strain. >

ryobi.co.nz



A CUT ABOVE 

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36V**

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Balcony buddy

With its bright terracotta colour and chic styling, the Tuscan Edge 40cm Plastic Garden Pot, about \$50, is ideal for apartment living. It's self-watering, so no need for messy saucers that can collect grubby water and harbour pests.

yates.co.nz



Paper process

Create your own biodegradable seedling starters from recycled newspaper using the Burgon & Ball Eco Pot Maker, \$45. It makes three pot sizes and is made from sustainable wood.

gubba.co.nz



Worm waste

Turn scraps into soil with the Tumbleweed Can-O-Worms Worm Farm, \$99. Made of recycled plastic, it comes with an instruction manual and is very easy to set up.

tuigarden.co.nz

Carry cart

Get rid of leaves, twigs and other backyard waste fast with the Ozito Garden Collection Cart, \$55. It will carry a hefty 160-litre load and has a built-in scoop to make the job easier. It also has integrated holders for your garden tools.

ozito.co.nz



Copious compost

Transform kitchen and garden waste into nutritious compost with the Earthmaker Perroplas Compost Bin, \$196, which uses an efficient aerobic process.

perroplas.co.nz



Trust | SMART Home

Trust, turning a house into a smart home.

Wireless Home Automation

Smart Home Technology can improve safety, security, convenience, comfort and add value not to mention peace of mind in and around your home. Low cost wireless Trust products can be added into any home, no rewiring required!

Easy as 1,2,3! The Trust Smart Home system is divided into three simple steps.

Step one: Ask yourself 'What do I want to control?' Floor lamps, ceiling lights, blinds, gates, shutters or electrical devices.

Step two: Choose a **Transmitter** 'How do I want to control?' Via remote control, motion sensor, wall switch, via App with Smart phone.

Step Three: Do you simply want to turn lights on/off or dim? Choose the right **Receiver** for the job whether it be a plug and play option or built in.

Voila! Now you have the beginnings of your own wireless system. You will always need at least 1 Transmitter and 1 Receiver for wireless control, the combinations are endless!



ICS-2000
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Expand the system:

The (ICS-2000) Internet control station is the HUB of the system. The ICS allows remote access via the Free App on your Smart phone or tablet; allowing you to control your Trust Smart Home system from anywhere in the world.

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- ✓ NO EXTRA WIRING REQUIRED
- ✓ ENDLESS COMBINATIONS

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What's new

Whether you're adding something new or giving your home a much needed tidy up, you'll find what you need at Bunnings. From outdoor maintenance to indoor projects, we've got you covered.



CUT ON THE GO

The Ozito 18V Power Exchange Circular Saw (skin only) has a 150mm blade, an aluminium base plate and a soft start motor. Without cables you can stay mobile and get jobs done anywhere. 5 year warranty included. **\$119**

D.I.Y. MUST HAVE

Ozito's 18V Drill Driver Kit, perfect for D.I.Y. projects, is part of the Ozito's power exchange system. It has a 13mm chuck, a 2 speed gearbox and 2.0AH battery with a fast charger. 5 year warranty included. **\$119**



BE IN CONTROL

The Ryobi ONE+ Brushless Impact Driver offers more control through 3 speed settings and a deck drive feature, which prevents overdriving screws by reducing speed just before the screw hits the work piece. Brushless motor technology means increased durability, runtime and power compared to a standard brushed motor. This unit also features a tri-beam LED work light for increased visibility. **\$199**

SUPERFAST CHARGING

The Ryobi ONE+ Superfast Charger will charge a Ryobi 5.0Ah battery in just 60 minutes. The charger also monitors your battery and allows you to see the charge status through the battery status indicator. The convenient USB charging port allows for charging of electronic devices. **\$119**



TOOLBOX ESSENTIAL

This 3.6V Screwdriver, made by Ozito, is compact and features an LED torch for use in tight dark spaces. It also has a rotating rear handle and a docking station which includes a USB port for charging. 3 year warranty included. **\$39.95**



REACH NEW HEIGHTS

Ozito's 18V Power Exchange Pole Pruner (skin only) has an adjustable head and handle for ergonomic cutting. Its safety switch and telescopic extension pole, which extends up to 2.5m, makes cutting at heights easy and safe. **\$169**

CUT WITH CONFIDENCE

Thanks to Ryobi, you can give your lawn the care it deserves with its Subaru 175cc 4 stroke engine. It has a huge 18" steel deck and cuts between the heights of 10mm – 75mm. Its 10.5Nm of torque will cut through even the toughest grass. **\$499**



CLEAN WITH KARCHER

This Karcher K1 Battery Waterblaster gives you loads of mobile cleaning power with 36V of lithium-ion battery power. It has a suction hose for drawing water from buckets and tanks in case you don't have a hose handy. Without cables or running water, you can clean practically anywhere you want. **\$399**



SMOKEY AND SLEEK

Give your kitchen a sleek new look with this Black Smoked Glass Canopy Rangehood from Everdure. It has a powerful 750m³/h extraction rate, efficient energy LED lighting, LED touch control and a premium easy clean baffle slat filter. **\$429**



A MODERN MIX

Add a touch of elegance to your home with the Mondella Maestro range of mixers and slide showers. These designs are timeless, finished with chrome plating and WELS rated. From **\$139**

A QUICK CLEAN

The Vax Vacuum Stick offers plenty of mobility. With its powerful 25.2V lithium battery you'll be ready to clean carpets and hard floors anytime. It's extremely light, easy to steer and has a run time of 55 minutes. The battery can be fully charged in 5 hours. **\$239**



BE BOLD IN THE LAUNDRY

Make a bold statement with Dissco's Elite colourful laundry tubs, available with mix and match splashbacks. Made in New Zealand, they feature a full width twin-drawer, integrated handles, a pressed stainless tub and the new Dissco gooseneck mixer with concealed washing machine isolator taps. **\$899**



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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.

There is a style and accessory to compliment every bathroom design.

barelli



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



BATHROOM SPECIAL

BATHING BEAUTIES

Whether as a pit-stop destination or a place to linger longer, a bathroom should deliver on form and function

WORDS LYNN LEWIS

PICTURE ALAMY



BATHROOM SPECIAL



A light-filled room with a view brings the outdoors in.

All the design elements, from basins to mirrors and windows, are generous in scale, suiting the size and aspect of the room.



Mood magic

A bathroom, like most other rooms in your home, can very quickly go from tidy to messy in the general hurly-burly of the day.

So, working out a layout that can cope with the traffic and makes maximum use of the space is top priority, along with choosing design elements that comfort and cosset.

For a small room, wall-hung vanities and toilets, and wall recesses for storage of toiletries, maximise space, while mirrored cabinet doors, frameless shower screens and carefully placed lighting trick the eye size-wise.

If you have a great outdoor view, make it a focal point. When natural light and a view are limited, play up the drama of a darker, cocoon-like space and it will be a pleasure to relax in. ➤

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BATHROOM SPECIAL



Reflective surfaces add depth and the illusion of space.



High-impact gloss and warm-coloured textures are a great match

Think colours and what you are happy to live with for a long period of time in your bathroom.

A combination of black and white is always neat as a button, spelling sparkling and contemporary, and provides a backdrop to just about any colour you love for towels, bath mats and decorative touches.

Or, stick with the black-and-white theme and keep everything in the family for a more streamlined look.

Team white fixtures and fittings with golden or dark chocolate-hued timber for a warmer vibe. ➤



Soft lighting creates a warmth and intimacy in a room where comfort and pampering are key.

PICTURES ALAMY

SELLEYS®

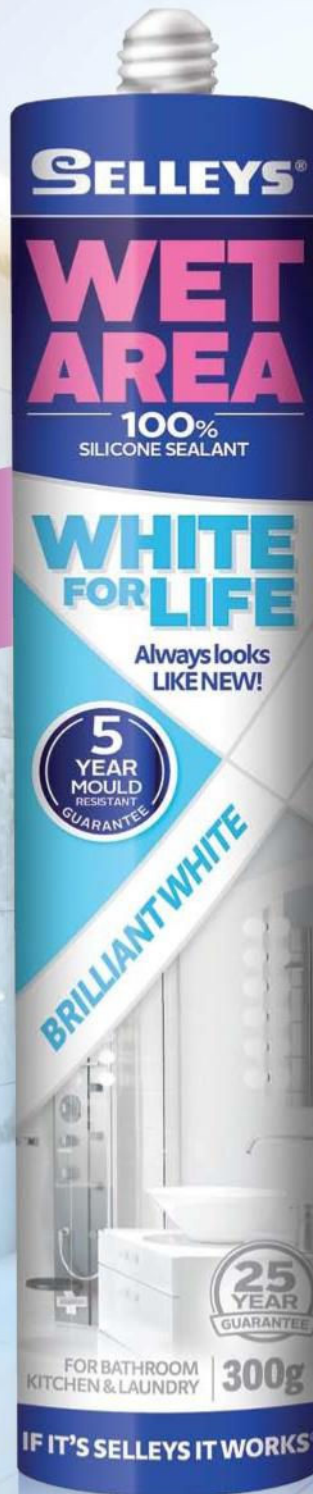
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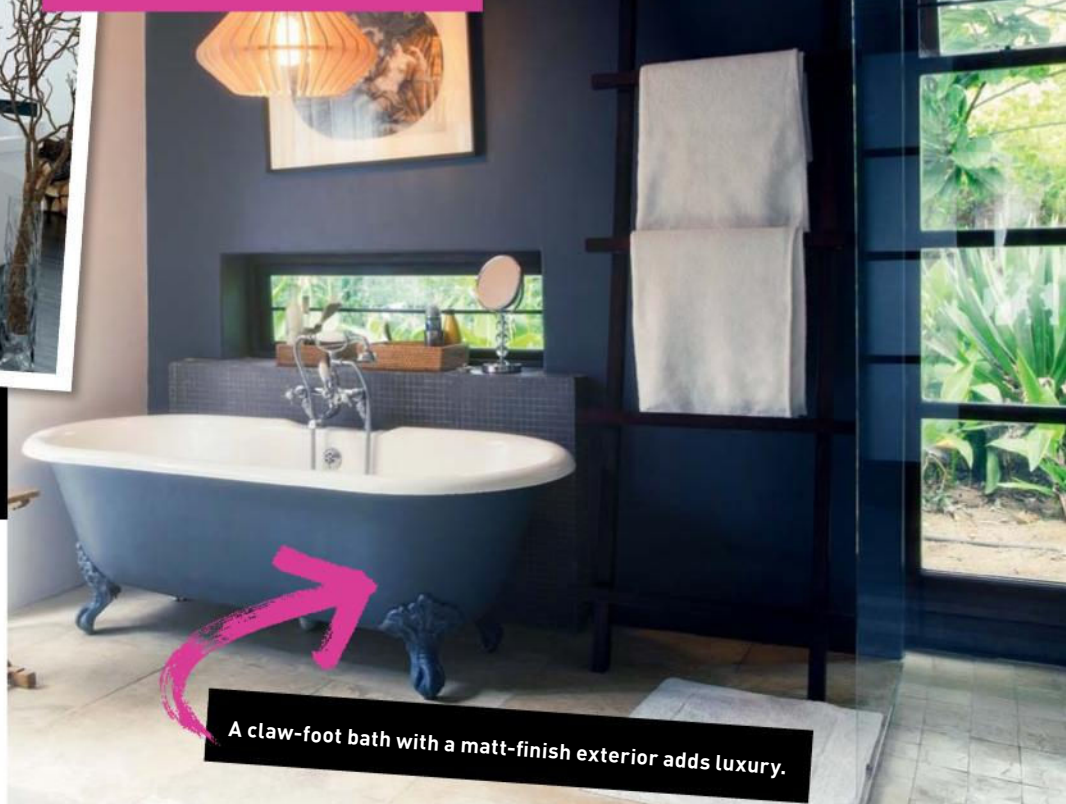
**SILICONE
SEALANT**
**FOR BATHROOM,
KITCHEN & LAUNDRY**





ABOVE A black pedestal basin and floor are dramatically offset by the bright, white features, gleaming mirror and chrome finishes.

BATHROOM SPECIAL



A claw-foot bath with a matt-finish exterior adds luxury.

★
Soften the impact of a light and dark look with a bright lampshade

PICTURES ALAMY

GET THE LOOK



Arlec 5-bar 40W Curved Heated Towel Rail, \$147.
arlec.com.au



Phalaenopsis Orchid in Ceramic Pot, \$29, from Bunnings.



Brilliant Lighting Timber Axiom Pendant, \$499.
brilliantlighting.com.au



Foreno Sprint Black All-pressure Sink Mixer, \$259.
foreno.co.nz



Caroma Blanc 1700mm Freestanding Bath, \$1560.
caroma.co.nz



DISCOVER THE BLACK VOGUE OF **VIVACE**



BASIN \$169



SHOWER RAIL SET \$349



SHOWER SHELF \$85



TOWEL RING \$49



BASIN MIXER \$220

Create your dream bathroom for a stunning price with **VIVACE**, one of seven unique and affordable styles from Mondella.

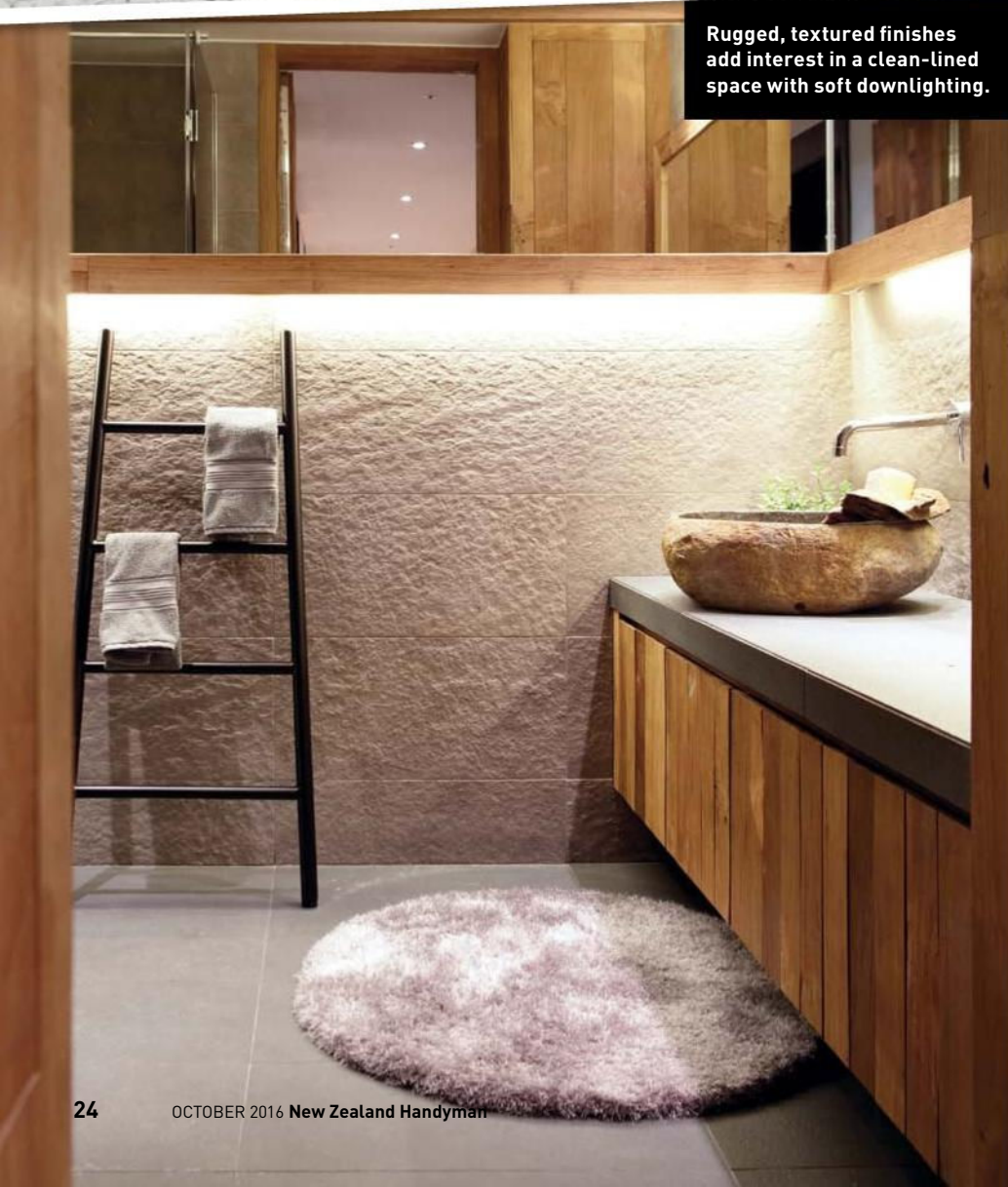


BATHROOM SPECIAL



Bring in warmth with gold-hued timber, wicker and towelling.

Rugged, textured finishes add interest in a clean-lined space with soft downlighting.



Texture mix

Consider the materials you'd like around you, and mix up textures.

A rough-hewn wall contrasts with sleek timber and a shag-pile rug, while a matt-finish bath looks glamorous against glossy paintwork and shiny chrome tapware.

Whether it's timber, metal, ceramic or glass, the material you choose must be able to withstand moisture, as no matter how effective your ventilation, there are going to be splashes and spills, and damp towels draped about.

A cold room is a definite no-no, so if the budget can extend to under-floor heating, so much the better. If not, consider a combination heat, light and exhaust fan system.

And including a heated towel rail is a worthwhile splurge. After all, creating a bathroom that's a soothing comfort zone should be every renovator's prime objective. ✨



Practicalities and pampering are ideal teammates in a bathroom



Natural light and access to fresh air are ideal in a steamy, damp bathroom environment.



A patterned floor echoes the squared texture of the glass panelling.



The perfect bathroom is a sanctuary that caters to our busy lifestyles



A deep bathtub set against rich timber creates a warm and welcoming cocoon.



QUICK FIXES

Make an old bathroom look like new with these simple and easy solutions

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH STYLING ARTEMIS GOUROS
MAIN PICTURES SUE FERRIS

Everyone dreams of a brand-new bathroom, but once you add up the cost of new fixtures and tradies to handle the plumbing, the bill can easily run into the thousands.

If the budget won't stretch that far, you can refresh the bathroom by

installing new towel rails, shelves and hooks DIY, and resealing fixtures to prevent further problems.

A new showerhead and basin set will make a big impact for minimal outlay, and a plumber will charge about \$200 to install both.



Get the feel of a new bathroom by replacing small items and handling maintenance DIY

VANITY MAKEOVER

After a couple of decades of constant use, this vanity was showing its age.

The tapware was chipped and scratched and the silicone sealing the gap between the vanity and the wall was flaking off, allowing moisture to get behind and cause mould.

To update the vanity, a plumber removed the old basin set and installed a new chrome model. The old silicone was replaced DIY with Sikasil Specialist Silicone Sealant, \$24 for 300ml (nzl.sika.com).

COSTS

\$700 FIXES
\$200 TRADIES
\$355 EXTRAS
\$1255 TOTAL



After

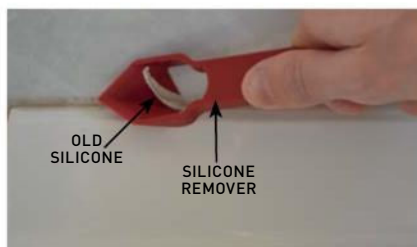
The vanity is transformed with new taps and sealant.



Before



1 2 3



1 Remove old silicone

Use a plastic silicone remover to peel off silicone by pulling the angled blade towards you and scraping residue with the flat blade. Carefully cut away deeper silicone using a utility knife, then wipe the surface clean.



2 Apply new sealant

Tape either side of the joint, 5mm from the edge. Cut the nozzle at a 45° angle, then apply using a caulking gun, pushing the nozzle forward as you squeeze the trigger to push the silicone into the gap.



3 Smooth the bead

Dip a rounded silicone spatula in soapy water, then smooth the bead by drawing the spatula towards you, wiping off excess silicone frequently. Remove the tape immediately to create a neat edge. ➤

BATHROOM SPECIAL



Before

REFRESH THE SHOWER

To match the new basin tapware, a chrome showerhead and taps were installed. The rusty shelf was replaced with a glass shelf. Available from Bunnings, a Mondella Concerto Glass Shelf, \$53, is an ideal option.

The soap dish mount had rusted, making the screws hard to remove.

The old screws were cut using a rotary tool and then extracted with pliers, and new wall plugs and a soap dish installed.

1 2 3



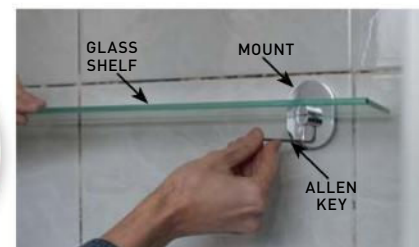
1 Remove the old shelf

Undo the grub screws underneath the mounts to remove the old shelf, then extract the old screws and remove the old mounting plates. Replace damaged wall plugs by tapping new ones into the holes and trimming to size.



2 Attach the mounting plates

Position the plate over the wall plugs, attaching with the screws. Check for level and reposition by loosening the screws. If the existing holes aren't suitable, apply masking tape and drill new holes using a tile bit.



3 Install the new shelf

Position the mounts over the mounting plate and tighten the grub screws. Slide the shelf into the mounts and use a tape measure to check it is centred, then tighten the grub screws using the supplied Allen key.

PAINT THE WINDOWSILL

Over time, the moisture in the air can cause paint in the bathroom to peel or become mouldy, detracting from the look of the room.

This window sill hadn't been repainted in years. A fresh coat in gloss white brightens up the space, and PPG Easycoat Anti-Bacterial Doors & Trim, \$25 for 1L, helps to prevent mould (ppgpaints.co.nz).

Before painting, prepare the surface by cleaning thoroughly to inspect the condition. Repair damage using filler before sanding and priming to prepare for paint.

After
With a fresh coat of paint, the windowsill looks like new.

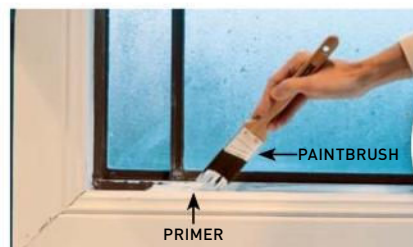
Before

1 2 3



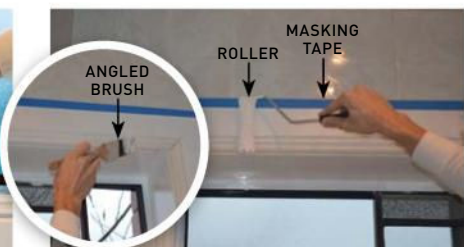
1 Remove old paint

Scrape away flaking paint with a paint scraper and fill any holes or cracks with timber filler. Sand the surface using a power sander and medium grit paper for flat surfaces, using a flexible sanding pad for details.



2 Prepare the surface

Clear away any dust and debris with a handheld vacuum cleaner and sugar soap wipes. Mask off the edges and hang a drop sheet to protect the wall and fixtures. Apply primer to the windowsill and allow to dry.



3 Apply new paint

Apply two coats of gloss paint to the windowsill, using an angled brush for details and to cut in at the edges, and a roller for flat surfaces.

TIP Remove the window pane to make the frame easier to paint. 🌸



Oakridge 1200 wall hung vanity (Light Oak). Emilio sliding 1200x900 shower, shown with EZI-LAY tile tray.



◀ OAKRIDGE WALL HUNG VANITIES

Take your bathroom to the next level with the Oakridge wall hung vanity. This contemporary styled bathroom vanity range comes in four sizes to accommodate nearly any bathroom space.

The Oakridge vanity features soft close draws, a chrome satin handle, hard-wearing composite stone top and overflow. Tapware not included.



EMILIO SLIDING

A modern sliding shower with stylish frameless glass. This enclosure is a practical solution for when space is limited. Package options includes the Ezi-Lay tile tray or an acrylic tray with one piece seamless acrylic wall liner.

GEORGIA SQUARE

A modern pivoting shower with a stylish low profile frame. A great option for an alcove or as a standard two sided shower enclosure. Options include an acrylic tray with one piece seamless acrylic wall liner.

GEORGIA CURVED

The Georgia Curved shower enclosure is a modern corner shower with a double sliding door. This is the perfect solution to maximise space in tight bathroom spaces. Package options include an acrylic tray and a one piece seamless acrylic wall liner .



**SABANA
BENCH MOUNT**



**DEVON
WALL FACED**



**NICO
VANITIES**

Renovate on a budget

Give a bathroom a style injection with modern fixtures and a few clever fixes

WORDS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

When DIY blogger Melissa Darr moved into her house five years ago, the bathroom wasn't unbearable, but it wasn't entirely what she wanted either.

'The wall and floor tiles were pretty new, the vanity wasn't too daggy and it had newish feature tiles around the shower and bathtub,' says Melissa.

'But the gold edging on the shower screen and mirror was not to my taste and neither were the feature tiles.'

'The finish of the entire bathroom was kind of wanting.'

Melissa and her husband Bevan chose to give the walls a fresh coat of paint, leaving it at that until they had the time and money for a full reno.

In the meantime, they decided on what they wanted to overhaul and came up with a plan, which included replacing the toilet and vanity unit, installing a new shower screen and re-grouting the tiles.

Armed with a \$5000 budget and aiming to complete the work in just a couple of weeks, it was time to give the bathroom a fresh new look.



Melissa

EXPERT SECRETS

Use the money you've saved by DIYing to splurge on accessories and fittings.

Before





BATHROOM SPECIAL

BUDGET TIP

Sell any unwanted items from the reno, such as mirrors and vanities, and use the money to buy items for the new bathroom.

After

A cosmetic renovation makes the bathroom brighter, cleaner and more spacious.

Get more DIY from Melissa

Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com

THE RENO PLAN

- + INSTALL a new shower screen.
- + ADD new feature tiles above the bathtub and in the shower.
- + RE-GROUT the floor tiles.
- + FIX the cracked tiles in the shower.
- + REPLACE the toilet, vanity unit, towel rails and mirror.
- + CHANGE the tapware and accessories.
- + SEAL around the bathtub.
- + REPAINT the walls.
- + CREATE a feature piece. ➤

Add greenery anywhere with a DIY terrarium.



BATHROOM SPECIAL



After

The oak-look vanity provides everyday luxury on a budget.



Before

Replace the vanity

For the vanity, Melissa wanted something a bit different than the standard white floor cabinet.

She initially chose a wall-mounted vanity but had to compromise, as the drainage from the original vanity went through the floor and they didn't want to spend too much on plumbing.

They settled on an oak-look one with a white ceramic top.

'Choosing a coloured vanity was way out of my comfort zone, but I can honestly say I really am happy with our selection,' says Melissa.

Once the vanity was installed and a mirror attached to the wall, new tapware and towel rails were added.



Adding feature tiles

Knowing the existing neutral white and grey marble look would work well with just about any new colour scheme, Melissa and Bevan kept the original wall and floor tiles in place, removing only the blue and green feature tiles.

'Not stripping everything back to the bare bones saved us lots of money,' says Melissa.

To remove the feature tiles without damaging the surrounding wall, Bevan removed the grout along

the top and base of the feature tiles using the blade of a multi-tool.

He then gently hammered out the old feature tiles with a chisel and hammer, slowly working his way around the shower and other areas of the bathroom, before replacing them with a mosaic-design tile.

'I love these tiles in the shower. They really add a nice modern edge to the bathroom,' says Melissa.

'Although they weren't the cheapest tiles, they were definitely worth the investment.'



Mosaic tiles were installed in the shower recess.

Overhaul the shower

After replacing the feature tiles in the shower, Bevan also removed a number of cracked wall tiles in the recess, replacing them with new tiles.

'Sourcing the correct shade of white tiles for the shower was actually the most difficult part of the whole renovation,' says Melissa.

'We ended up buying three versions of the same tile to get the right shade. It still wasn't perfect, but we matched it the best we could.'

Once the tiling in the recess was done, a shower screen was installed by a window and door company.

'To give the feel of a frameless screen without the price tag, we chose a semi-frameless one,' says Melissa.

'We decided on a matt-silver edging around the screen, which flowed seamlessly with the rest of the bathroom. No more ugly gold.'

Adding a new showerhead and tapware completed the shower.



Before



After

A modern screen brings the shower up to date.

When retiling a bathroom, it's important to add new waterproofing



Create a feature

The toilet suite was replaced with a new model, then Melissa decided to add visual interest to the bare alcove with a feature piece.

'We thought of adding a canvas print or a framed picture, but then we saw the idea of hanging plants on the internet, and I couldn't resist,' she says.

Melissa found three hanging pots, added plants, then hung them. ➤

TOP PICKS



Newport Bath Towel in Aqua, \$30.
linenhouse.co.nz



Stein 900 x 900mm Bevelled Edge Mirror, \$89. stein.co.nz



Dulux Wash & Wear Low Sheen, \$89 for 4L.
dulux.co.nz



Cemix Flexible Coloured Grout in White, \$41 for 5kg.
cemix.co.nz



BATHROOM SPECIAL



New feature tiles and stainless steel tapware bring a modern edge.

DIY TIP

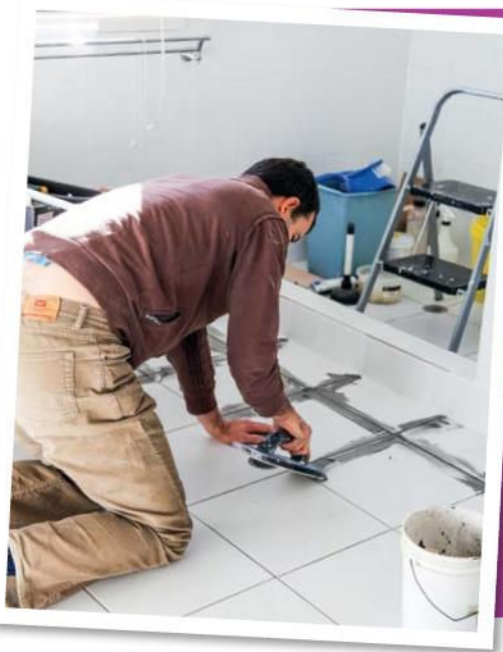
Use a frameless flat-profile mirror over the vanity instead of a medicine cabinet to give a streamlined look.

Revamp the bath

As with the other areas of the bathroom, the feature tiles were replaced in the wall above the bath.

New tapware was installed and a double towel rail was added. Bevan then sealed around the edge of the bath using silicone.

'Doing these little things refreshed the whole space and made it look as good as new again,' says Melissa.



Repaint and re-grout

Having originally painted the bathroom the same colour as the rest of the house, Melissa now wanted to try something a little bit different on the walls.

'I was after a bit of a cooler colour in the bathroom to suit the grey and white marble floor tiles and the new marble mosaic feature tiles,' she says.

'After three or four test pots, we settled on a white with a really lovely soft grey tone to it.'

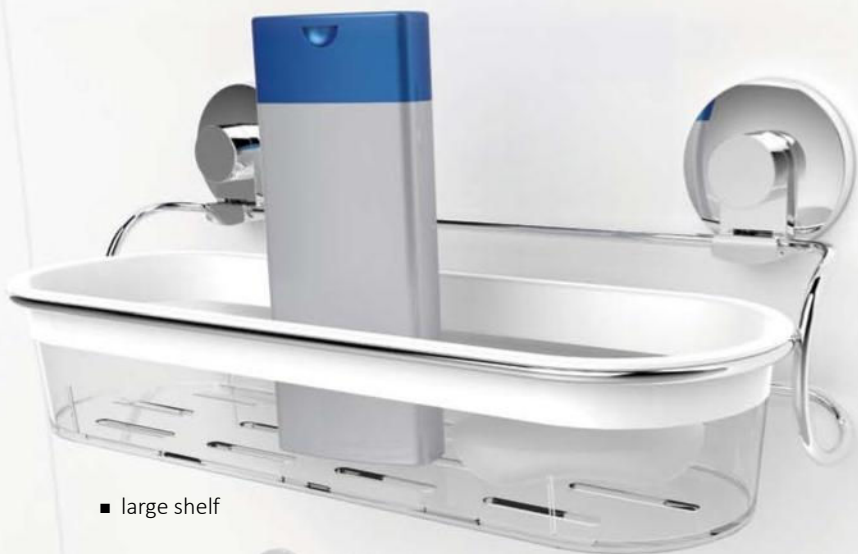
The paint job helped brighten up the areas of the bathroom, such as the toilet recess, that didn't get a lot of natural light.

Bevan decided to re-grout the floor and wall tiles, as they weren't being replaced, to bring them back to a near-new condition. 🛠️

Re-grout tiles in a bathroom to refresh the look and save money

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■ double corner basket



■ medium shelf



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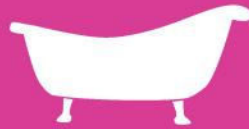
DESIGN TIP

A tiled nib wall adds a different dimension and provides a shelf in the shower and splashback for the freestanding tub.

MODERN MAKEOVER

Rebuild a rundown bathroom with marble, timber and contemporary black finishes

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT PICTURES STEVE PERRIOTT



BATHROOM SPECIAL

After

Sleek and modern, the 2.3 x 2.95m room now features a freestanding bath and shower.

The bathroom in this family home was poorly planned and had seen better days. A dated pastel green bath dominated the room and mould had taken hold in the grout.

Before they moved in, builder Scott Manuelle and his wife Alison spent \$10,000 and two weeks transforming it.

To keep costs down, the couple sourced a lot of the materials online and Scott was able to complete most of the work with Alison's help.

Alison settled on a contemporary design and chose a black bathtub, tapware and fittings.

Marble tiles and a floating timber vanity completed the look. ➤



A bath with a dark exterior creates a focal point without absorbing all the light

Before





BATHROOM SPECIAL



To mount the elegant floating taps on the mirror, the plumbing had to be rejigged.



Careful planning will prevent delays or expensive mistakes during a renovation



Floating timber top

With plans to expand the house and use this room as a guest bathroom, Alison chose not to install a vanity with storage.

Having sourced a slab of spotted gum for a floating vanity, she coated the timber with a clear polyurethane finish to protect it from water damage.

To streamline the basin area, Alison decided to extend the mirror to meet the vanity top and mount the taps through it. ➤



A black decorative waste pipe matches the tapware for a cohesive look.



Classic design lines



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Large panels allow for easier installation - perfect for your DIYer.

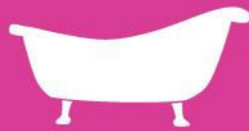
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HardieGroove™
LINING



BATHROOM SPECIAL

Floor overhaul

As Scott began work, he discovered the original floor was poorly built, with the joists positioned too far apart.

To fix the problem, he had to reinforce it and put down compressed fibro before he could start installing the waterproofing and tiles.

Scott lay the in-floor heating coil himself, then had an electrician connect it to the mains power.

'I love the heating and it is very efficient. We only use it for an hour and a half in the morning and two hours at night, and it stays warm after you turn it off,' says Alison. 🌸

GET THE LOOK



Caroma Noir 1700
Freestanding Bath,
\$1899. caroma.co.nz



Stein Sabana Bench-mount
Oval Vessel Basin, \$105.
stein.co.nz



Johnson Tiles 400 x 400mm Sorrento
Olive Ceramic Floor Tile, about \$51
for nine. johnsontiles.com.au



The old green bath with shower was replaced with a frameless glass screen and separate tub.

The marble tile feature wall doubles as a shelf.

Lifting the lid on choosing a toilet

While they often look similar, many toilet suites don't deliver on what you actually need: ease-of-use combined with quality that lasts.

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SELL FOR TOP DOLLAR

Maximise profits on auction day with these makeover tips from an expert

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES GRANT NELSON

Getting the best price for your place at auction is the number one goal of any homeowner.

But in today's housing market, it is no longer enough to mow the lawn, give the interior a clean and hope for top dollar says property makeover expert Grant Nelson.

'Even if you have a great location, the best agent and a sunny day for auction, nothing works better than carefully considered renovations before listing for sale,' he says.

According to Grant, most buyers are stretched to capacity these days and don't have extra funds for a big reno.

Instead, the onus is on the seller to make improvements that will generate the most interest at auction.

'It's about getting buyers interested so the auction will result in you getting the true value of your home,' he says.



Make a good impression

The importance of kerb appeal is well known and, when it comes to selling, this is a vital element to get right.

Creating an expectation, then meeting it, is the key to getting offers and confirming buyers at auction.

'The driveway to the door is your red carpet. It sets the standard for the property and gets the buyers excited for what's inside,' says Grant.

'Buyers have already been primed by the agent's online photos, which are often digitally enhanced, so they already have an expectation. If they get there and their expectations aren't met, there's no getting them back.

'Once your prospective buyer is disappointed at the door, that negative feeling will pick up speed and they'll ask themselves what else is wrong. You only get one chance at a first impression, so make it a good one.'

Grant suggests three main jobs for the exterior. A front garden tidy-up, backyard makeover, and pressure clean.

'Cleaning the driveway, courtyard pavers and around pools makes a huge, instant difference. It is a relatively low-cost application that is worth much more on return,' he says.

'A neat, easily maintained garden creates the impression that it is a well-cared-for home.' ➤

DIY TIP

A general clean-up of the garden is one of the most important ways to meet the expectations of potential buyers.

Before

After

A clean driveway, neat lawn and tidy yard set a good standard.

Concentrate on essentials

Getting the basics right is key before selling, and Grant says there is huge value in clever, targeted improvements, with painting and flooring the most effective jobs you can do.

'A fresh paint job is going to bring attention to the flooring, which is likely to be as tired as the paintwork, so don't do one without the other,' he says.

'Together, these two elements make a big difference, and if you can only stretch to the minimum, just do these.'

If you can spend more, kitchens and bathrooms are the big-ticket items.

'Buyers love a renovated kitchen and bathroom, but it doesn't need to be high end. Try to improve what's already there,' says Grant.

'Painting cabinets, adding new handles and resurfacing benchtops can make a huge difference.' ➤

After

Repainting and refinishing the floor transforms this bedroom.



Before



Before



After

Bright walls, a new carpet and modern furniture give this room fresh appeal.





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Avoid an average job

It can be tempting to do a surface job for as little money as possible, and do as much as you can yourself.

While this is understandable, says Grant, it comes with a warning.

'Something is not always better than nothing. A mega-budget job is easy to spot and can backfire if buyers think it won't last,' he says.

'If you can't afford renovations, it may be best not to do them at all. Just clean and tidy up, including outdoors.'

Also don't attempt work you're not confident or proficient enough to do, such as installing a deck.

'Decks can be a common pitfall. If a builder's report highlights a badly put-together effort, it creates a poor impression and gives buyers an in to start bargaining down,' he says.



**Limit the ways
a buyer can negotiate
you down so the ball
is in your court**



Be wary of bad advice

You may well receive advice from agents that you don't have to do anything before you sell, as properties like yours are selling like hotcakes.

It's important to be informed before making any decision.

'You have more to gain from a makeover than an agent does, because they always have a vested interest in a quick sale. Their

commission isn't going to budge too much after a renovation,' says Grant.

'Also, if a house is going on the market, but the sale is delayed by doing improvement work, there's always the potential for another agent to make a better pitch, then the first agent misses the sale.'

It is important to remember, though, that your time is money, so the length of time spent on a reno should be factored into the cost. 🛠️



After

Resurfacing and replacing appliances, tiles and door handles reinvigorates this kitchen.



Before



After

Completely revamped, this bathroom is a real drawcard for a potential buyer.

Where does all the steam go?

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A moving experience

Plan ahead when changing location to guarantee a smooth, stress-free move

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

BUDGET TIP

If you're purchasing boxes, ask the supplier if they have a buy-back scheme so you can return them once you've unpacked.

It's inevitable that at one time or another you have to move home. Maybe you're downsizing or upsizing, or just want a sea change or tree change.

And whether you're going inter-island, overseas or only across town, the process of packing up all your belongings and repeating the process in reverse at the other end is pretty much the same.

According to research, many people say they'd like to move to a new home but are afraid of the upheaval. Yet it doesn't have to be a traumatic experience.

Here, *Handyman* project editor Adam Woodhams, who has just relocated to a new home, shares his personal tips and advice from the experts, to make your move as painless as possible.

Dedicate a room for storing boxes as they're packed.



Before the big day

The best way to ensure your move runs smoothly is to start the ball rolling as early as you possibly can.

It makes sense to have a declutter before getting quotes from removalists, as you should try to seriously reduce the amount of stuff you're moving.

Use online market places or hold a garage sale to get rid of anything from furniture to clothing.

Remember you can give unwanted items and clothing to charity shops.

Once you are down to just the essentials, get a removalist quote and begin packing up your belongings.

The best approach is to pack up one room that's close to the entry of your home and dedicate this as your box room. This way, as you gradually fill boxes, they can be neatly stacked without creating a mess.

This will make the job easier and faster for the removalists and help to keep your stress levels down. ➤

Boxing clever

The main aim is to get everything from point A to point B undamaged, leaving nothing to chance.

Items such as books and crockery need heavy-duty, medium-sized boxes, while large, thin-walled boxes are great for light, bulky things such as pillows, Doonas and stuffed toys.

There are also portable wardrobes with hanging racks available, as well as specialised boxes for wide-screen TVs.

Butcher's paper is the best choice for wrapping plates and glassware. Bubblewrap, which comes in a range of sizes, is ideal for unusual-shaped, large fragile items.

Use a good-quality packing tape to seal the boxes and seal the base of each box with a double run of tape.

Consider buying padded moving blankets, lounge and chair covers, and mattress-protection bags if you are planning to move DIY.



Packing hacks

Here are tips on taking some of the stress out of moving.

- + **GIVE** yourself plenty of time to pack, as rushing things is likely to increase the risk of breakages.
- + **USE** good-quality boxes for packing your belongings and label every box clearly with the room the

contents live in so it's easy to identify where it needs to go.

- + **PACK** fragile kitchenware just as you would in the dishwasher, with plates standing on edge and glasses facing rim-down.
- + **PUT** bedding and toiletries in suitcases so they're easily accessible when you come to unpack.



Moving pets

Packing up and moving can be a stressful time for your four-legged friends, so here's some pre-move advice.

- **STICK** to regular routines with meals, walks and playtime.
- **AVOID** washing bedding, as pets are reassured by their own smell.
- **KEEP** your pet in a safe room with their bedding, toys and water when the removalists arrive and empty this room last. Or you could put them in a boarding kennel during the move.
- **GET** them used to a carrier by putting their bedding, toys and treats inside.
- **CHECK** their ID tag is up to date, legible and securely attached.

Check all items are securely strapped down before setting off.

Doing it DIY

If you decide to do the moving yourself, don't underestimate the time it can take and the difficulty you may face, especially when it comes to shifting large items such as whitegoods.

For this task, a multi-wheeled stair-climbing trolley, which can be rented or bought, is a necessity.

A small, rented light removalist's truck that can be driven on a standard driver's licence may be all you need.

They generally have a hydraulic tailgate lift, so heavy items can be easily lifted on board.

Renting or buying a trailer is another good option, as large items can be easily moved on an open trailer.

When you are filling any truck or trailer, make sure the weight is evenly distributed, that everything is securely strapped down and covered, and that you don't overfill it.

ADAM'S CHECKLIST

- ✓ **DECLUTTER** as early as possible.
- ✓ **ARRANGE** disconnection for the utilities, phone, internet and cable TV for the day you move out.

- ✓ **SET** a date for a garage sale or sell items online as you go.
- ✓ **SEEK** a removal quote as early as practicable or rent a truck or trailer if you are moving DIY.
- ✓ **TALK** with your vet about moving your pet and obtain any records you may need in your new location.
- ✓ **BUY** cardboard boxes in a range of appropriate sizes.
- ✓ **CONTACT** the Post Office about redirecting your mail.

- ✓ **MAKE** a list of people you need to advise on your change of address, including the Electoral Commission and the Inland Revenue Department.
- ✓ **ORGANISE** all the same utilities and services to be active at your new home on the day you arrive.
- ✓ **BOOK** a cleaner and a gardener for the lawn, garden and pool so that everything is neat when you leave. Using contractors lets you focus on the move and will save you stress. 🌱



BUDGET TIP

Microfibre cloths are re-usable and don't need cleaning products, so are more cost-effective than disposable wipes or other types of cloths.

THE BIG CLEAN

Get the house spotless when moving with this cleaning guide

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

If you're moving house, you'll need to leave your old place looking immaculate for the new owners. And this can mean cleaning years of built-up grime.

For renters as well, a detailed clean can often mean the difference between having the bond returned or withheld.

It can also be a good idea to plan a deep scrub for the house you're moving into, as cleaning it while it's empty will be easier than doing it after the furniture has been added.

But even the most diligent scrubber can miss those hidden dirty areas, so follow these tips for a spotless finish.

DITCH THE DIRT

When giving the home a thorough final clean, there are several key areas that are still often overlooked.

In the kitchen, check for grease on cabinets and crusted-on oven grime. Clean away any food scraps and dust caught behind appliances.

In the bathroom, get rid of grout mould and ensure there is no hair left

in the drawers and the drains. The shower screen also needs to be left free of soap scum.

Living areas require fans and light features to be wiped down for dust.

Outside, the roof and pergolas should be checked and cobwebs swept away. Outdoor areas should also be free of moss and lichen build-up. ➤

Brush off dirt from the exhaust fan using a duster.

Clean away grease built up on the top of the cabinets.

Remove any food waste left in the dishwasher filter.

Use a degreaser to get rid of juices stuck on the oven.



Selleys Professional Sugar Soap, about \$5 for 1L. selleys.co.nz



Oomph Goo & Stain Remover, \$10 for 250ml. bunnings.co.nz



Raven Telescopic Perfect Duster, \$10. raven.co.nz



30 Seconds One Step Spray And Walk Away, about \$36 for 5L. 30seconds.co.nz



A professional uses industrial-grade products.

HIRE HELP

If you're short on time or the task of cleaning your home to the highest possible standard is too much for you to handle, it may be best to hire a professional.

In addition to being efficient, cleaners use industrial-grade equipment and chemicals that will make short work of mess.

Just do your research and select an individual or company that is insured, so your property and possessions are protected.

If you're not keen on going down this route, you can rent the equipment yourself and do it DIY.

Ask your local hardware store if they hire out equipment, or try a company such as Hirepool (hirepool.co.nz) or Kennards Hire (kennardshire.co.nz). ➤



PICTURES: ISTOCK



**Quick fix
for that
awkward
spill**



Clothing



Disposing of waste

The final step in the house clean-up is to remove bulky garden waste, unwanted furniture and belongings, and any other accumulated rubbish.

There are lots of ways you can dispose of this stuff.

- **HIRE** a skip bin from a hardware store or specialist company.
- **TOW** it to the local tip in a trailer. You can find the closest one by contacting your council.
- **BOOK** a council clean-up. Homeowners are generally entitled to several a year.
- **DROP** old paints and chemicals at the collection centre.
- **DONATE** furniture, clothes, homewares and other items you don't want to a charity such as the SPCA or the Salvos.
- **SELL** any belongings of value on the internet on websites such as Trade Me or eBay.



Contact the council for information on chemical waste, and tips or kerbside pick-ups in your area



Remember to wipe down dusty shelves and surfaces.

Furniture



Paints



Rubbish



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CONVERSION BY DESIGN

Lots of space and bold colours inspired an architect to turn an old church into a modern, comfortable home

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES ANDREW WATERS

Although he'd never had the desire to live in a church, architect Stewart Kirby rapidly warmed to the idea after seeing this 150-year-old one.

'I'm not religious, but there was something about the feeling in this building. I felt at ease and loved the grandiosity of the features,' he says.

Given the choice, Stewart says he would have gone for a 60s A-frame home, having always lived in sleek, modern spaces, but he was drawn to the chunky nature of this structure.

He knew there would be particular challenges with living in such a unique space, but also benefits that may not be found in any other type of building.

Groups of cacti create sculptural landscape art.



Colour is used to create warmth in the cavernous space.

Respecting space

The vast, open space is one of the main charms of a church conversion, but it is also a tricky template to turn into a multi-roomed residence.

The original mission church, dating back to 1863, was first converted into a private residence more than 20 years ago, and the two previous owners had both undertaken various parts of the renovation.

'I wish I'd seen the first round of work, and I don't know how far they took it before the second owners came along and added their ideas. When I bought the property, much of the basic work had been done,' says Stewart.

Church conversions can easily be over-divided. There are many examples of trading the valuable asset of space for multiple pokey areas, in a building designed to have one internal space.

But the best renovations respect height and light, and work with natural dividing lines, such as running the kitchen from the pulpit step.

'When you have space at your disposal, less is more. This house is quite a study in paring back, with the basics forming the backbone of the design for best form and function.

'It's really one bedroom, with an office, a kitchen, open-plan living and dining, and two bathrooms.' ➤



Think about shape and colour when mixing furniture from different eras and styles

FLOORPLAN



AREAS (approx)	m ²
GROUND FLOOR	136
FIRST FLOOR	66
VERANDAH	10
TOTAL	242



An oversized dining table is a bold decorating statement.

BUDGET TIP

Watch for office or business relocation sales to pick up furniture bargains such as a boardroom table and chairs.

Making improvements

The property didn't need renovating from the ground up, but it did require a lot of maintenance work.

With old buildings, typical problem spots include the windows, roof, a lack of plumbing, insufficient heating and cooling, and draughts.

As he was working with a limited budget, Stewart completed only the most essential and effective repairs.

'The gutters were overflowing, the trim was dropping off and hadn't

been painted for ages. I re-roofed the back section over the verandah, as it had completely disintegrated,' he says.

Keeping the feel of the church and respecting the original features was important to Stewart.

'I enjoy the fact you can look down the length of the building, without feeling it's cut off and segmented.

'It is stereotypical, quaint church architecture, including the leadlight and stained-glass windows, and that's the way it should be.'

Embracing colour

The interior colours were already in place when Stewart moved in and rather than rebel against the scheme, he decided to take it to a new level.

A bit of repainting in the same colours deepened the saturation on the walls and refreshed the overall look.

'The height of the ceilings is what saves these very bright colours from being overwhelming and, instead, it just makes the whole place feel happy and welcoming,' says Stewart.



Reclaiming storage

The kitchen is orientated in an elevated position where the pulpit was once located. It overlooks the rest of the house, as the priest would have overlooked the congregation.

The existing cabinetry had worn well, but the layout was unworkable.

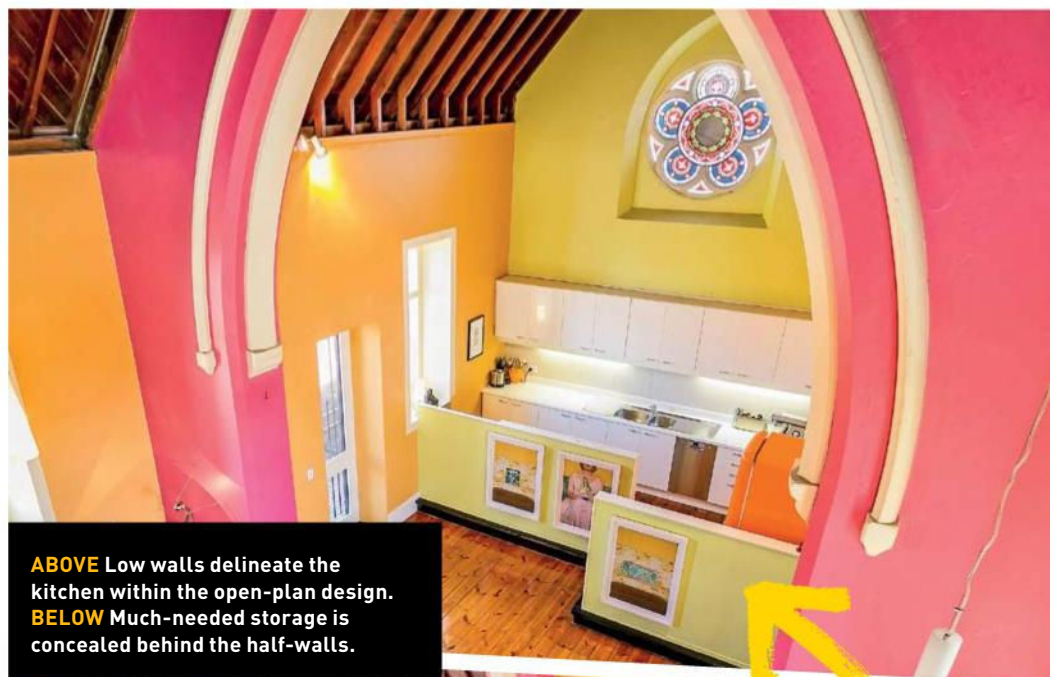
'There was no room to install a dishwasher and an old enamel

oven that was barely functioning dominated the space. Its awkward positioning also prevented easy access to the cabinets near it,' say Stewart.

'As storage is at a premium in a large open space, I had to reclaim as much as I could. Reorientating solved these problems and made it more functional. A half-wall shields open shelving from view and keeps the kitchen neat.' ➤



Fill the space with the things you love
and the design direction will become clear



ABOVE Low walls delineate the kitchen within the open-plan design.
BELOW Much-needed storage is concealed behind the half-walls.



'I rarely have anyone over who doesn't comment on how uplifting it is, whether they like the colours or not.'

No restraint has been shown in the furnishings either, with jewel tones complementing the classic mid-century lines, adding to a feeling of extravagance and comfort.

'I think each new owner will just come along and add something to what exists. Nothing needs to be changed, as it's such a lovely place.'

Creating zones

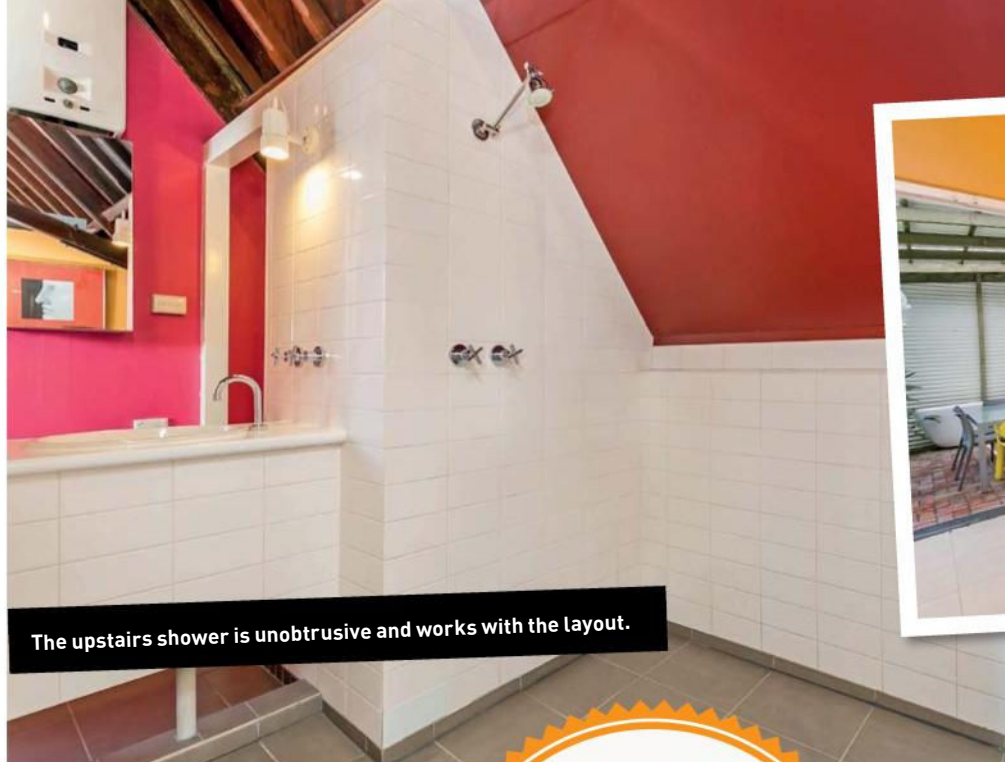
In the central nave of the church, where the congregation would have sat, Stewart positioned the living area.

Using his collection of mid-century furniture, he created functional zoned areas around colourful rugs.

An oversized dining table reflects the scale of the building and doesn't get lost in the room.

A seating area, library nook and dining area are defined spaces, but are unified by style and design.

The original church had two outhouses. One was turned into a full bathroom and laundry and the other used for valuable storage.



DESIGN TIP

Use a circular rug in a large and open living area to create a cosy and harmonious gathering place and add warmth.



 See more great house conversions
Visit pinterest.com/DIYHandyman



ABOVE The downstairs bathroom doubles as a laundry, with access to the verandah. **RIGHT** The striking, uncurtained upstairs windows maximise available natural light.



Designing outdoors

A large part of the work Stewart did was in the grounds of the residence.

'The garden was a mass of weeds, so I stripped it back to create a blank canvas for my garden designer,' he says.

Mark Ellis, the designer, had to turn the southern garden into a shady summer haven that would attract birds.

He took the bold colour scheme outside after seeing various creative approaches to home decor in the area,

which quashed his reservations about upsetting the neighbours.

Banksia and crepe myrtles were planted, which would provide great contrast with the orange fence until they reached full height.

'The front door and the masonry wall in the garden were an off-beige and the carport was a real eyesore.

'Being bold with them has elevated the whole space. It makes people smile and feel happy, and I love that.' 🍷



Q Find it at Bunnings

LAY NEW FLOORING

Choose and install the best surfaces for high-traffic areas in your home

You can avoid costly mistakes by measuring up carefully before you buy. Check and recheck your measurements.

Measure rooms as rectangles. If there's an odd-shaped recess or curve, measure it as a separate rectangle.

Draw a simple diagram of the space and write in the dimensions of the rectangle sides in metres.

Factor in an extra 10% for waste and use the handy flooring calculator at bunnings.co.nz to work out how much you need to buy.



Laying carpet

Carpet provides warmth and softness as well as noise-reducing qualities, making it a popular option for flooring.

➕ **DIY INSTALLATION** This saves on labour costs and with the right tools an average room can be done in hours. Bunnings sell a carpet-laying kit, \$91.49, that comes with a knee kicker, utility knife and tucking tool.

You'll also need underlay, a gripper and gripper strip, double-sided seam tape, gloves, measuring tape and kneepads.

➕ **COST** Carpet is priced by the square metre, but as it comes in 2 or 3.66m wide rolls, the cost is calculated by the linear metre or converted into square metres.

Installing vinyl

Vinyl is soft underfoot and offers warmth and noise reduction.

Suitable for wet areas such as kitchens, bathrooms, toilets and laundries, new finishes are also being used in living spaces as they have a more realistic timber appearance.

A wear layer on the surface makes it easy to clean.

➕ **DIY INSTALLATION** This takes just a few hours with minimum fuss. Prepare the subfloor to the manufacturer's instructions.

Use a sharp utility knife to cut the vinyl to fit. Press down the vinyl using a floor roller or heavy rolling pin.

➕ **COST** Vinyl flooring usually comes in tiles, planks or sheets, from \$19.60 a square metre.



Senso Rustic Planks in Pecan, \$26.90 a square metre.

Harris Wood 13mm Bamboo Flooring in Natural, \$75 a square metre.

Visit bunnings.co.nz for installation instructions and videos.

DIY TIP

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

Laying timber boards

The coolness and natural beauty of timber wears and ages well. Environmentally sustainable, it's still the most popular choice for homeowners and it can work in any room except wet areas.

✚ **DIY INSTALLATION** This can be done for a timber floating floor. The surface beneath must be smooth and even and the boards laid parallel to the longest wall.

Any natural light should fall along the length of the boards.

Use a handsaw or circular saw to cut any end boards to size then use a pinch bar to lay boards next to walls.

✚ **COST** At \$75 a square metre for a bamboo floor, it can be a more expensive choice but will retain its good looks for years.



Hanwood 10mm Laminate Flooring, \$29 a square metre.

Choosing laminate

Laminate can be laid on almost any surface and, while it's not recommended for wet areas, it can be used in many rooms.

Like engineered flooring, it's made up of several layers with special moisture and stain-resistant additives.

It is available in 7-12mm thicknesses and there are many finishes to choose from.

✚ **DIY INSTALLATION** This is a simple one-step process of clicking the boards into place.

✚ **COST** Laminate will cost about \$14.50 a square metre.

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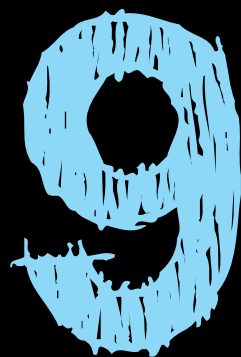
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SEALING TIPS

Get a professional finish when using sealant to fill gaps DIY

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Sealant is one of the most versatile products around. It's relatively inexpensive, and the amount of money it saves you in energy costs and leak repairs more than makes up for what you pay for it.

You can buy a speciality sealant to fix everything from a leaky gutter to gaps around a window.

It can be used for easy DIY fixes on everything from plasterboard, plastic, glass and timber to metal, concrete, stone and brick. ➤

1 Check the seal

In early spring and autumn, test the points around the exterior of your home where water could get inside, such as door and window frames or cladding.

Make sure that all joints are watertight and undamaged.

To check for damage, poke the sealant with a screwdriver. It should have some give. If it cracks or tears, it needs replacing.

2 Prepare the area

Clean the surfaces you are going to seal to ensure the sealant will adhere firmly.

Wipe off any dust or dirt, remove oils and deposits, as well as any existing, damaged sealant.

If you're sealing around a door or window frame, make sure the paint is sound. Sand, prime and repaint it first, if necessary.



3 Plug the tube

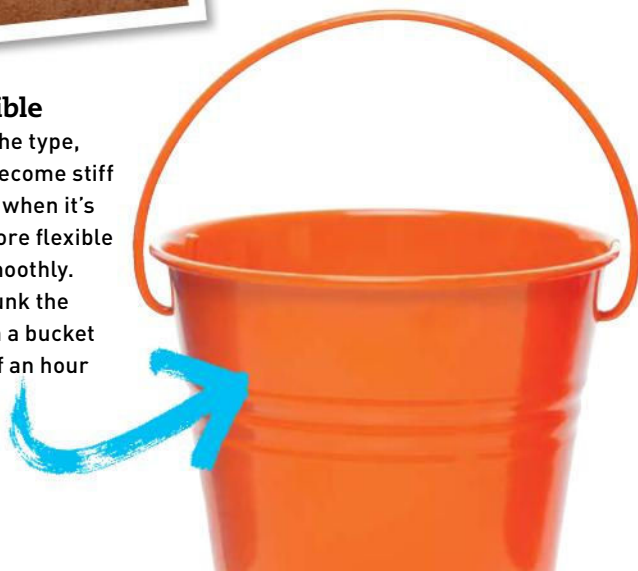
To keep leftover sealant in good condition for the next job, clean the nozzle after use and plug it with a rustproof, 50mm screw or nail.

You can also invert the cap to fit into the nozzle or cover the end in plastic wrap to help prevent the sealant from hardening. Buying a spare nozzle is another option.

4 Keep it flexible

Depending on the type, a sealant can become stiff and hard to work with when it's cold. Heat makes it more flexible and easier to apply smoothly.

In cold weather, dunk the cartridge of sealant in a bucket of warm water for half an hour before you use it.



5 Cut the nozzle

The nozzle can often be cut too far down, meaning it will dispense excess sealant.

For best results, the hole should be about half as wide as the space you're filling.

Cut the tube at a 45° angle and to make applying sealant easier around corners, you can make a V-notch cut in the tip.

**6 Tool the bead**

Sealant needs to be tooled, or compressed, into the seam. It should be thick where it adheres to both sides of the joint but thinner in the middle.

Use the cut end of the nozzle or a wet finger, but wear latex gloves to avoid irritation. An ice cube will also do the job.

**7 Keep it steady**

Squeeze the trigger of the caulking gun to start the sealant flowing. Begin at one end of the gap and move slowly, keeping a firm, steady squeeze on the trigger as sealant is dispensed.

To stop the flow at the end, release the locking bar on the piston, located where your thumb is when you're holding the gun.

**8 Guide with tape**

To get a straight, neat line of sealant, stick a strip of masking tape on either side of the seam.

Apply about 1m of sealant at a time, smooth the finish, then slowly remove the tape.

**9 Fill big gaps**

Using just sealant on gaps wider than 5mm or deeper than 10mm can be wasteful.

For deep cracks, press backer rods into the gaps before applying.

Fill wide gaps, such as where a pipe comes out through a wall, using expanding foam filler. Once dry, cut off any excess with a sharp knife or hacksaw. ➤



DIY TIP

Sealant can degrade over time, so test an old tube by leaving a little on a non-porous surface. If it doesn't harden in 24 hours, discard it.

HOUSEHOLD SEALANTS

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Polyfilla Expanding Foam, about \$14 for 390g.
poly.com.au



Selley's Ezi Press White No More Gaps, \$11 for 170g. selleys.co.nz



Everton Neutral Cure Glazing Silicone, \$10 for 300ml. evertonglass.co.nz



Selley's All Clear Multipurpose Co-Polymer Sealant, about \$16 for 260g.



Parfix Black Polyurethane Sealant & Adhesive, \$17 for 400g. bunnings.co.nz



Sika Sikasil NG Specialist Silicone Sealant, \$24 for 300ml. nzl.sika.com



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TOP TRENDS FOR KITCHENS

Use the latest design concepts and ideas to create an up-to-date space

Kaboodle Kitchen 2250 x 900mm Flint Stone Benchtop, \$524 (kaboodle.co.nz).

Tactile textures

Kitchens don't have to be either matt or glossy, and you don't have to stick to laminate. Texture is big and works across different styles.

From rough earthy timbers to patterned metals and bare concrete, everything goes.

Minimalist themes

Handle-less kitchens, neutral tones, and clever simplistic designs are all elements that fall under the minimalist kitchen category.

Minimalism doesn't stop at the design. Stretch this concept even further and part ways with any unused items in your cabinets, drawers and pantry, for a fuss-free space that is devoid of clutter.



ABOVE For sleek but affordable kitchen style, choose a Kaboodle Kitchen 2250 x 600mm Euro Beech Benchtop, \$709.

+ **THIN BENCHTOPS** are definitely in, with marble the most popular look of all. This type of benchtop works particularly well in minimalist kitchens where simplicity is key.



Pair a monochrome colour scheme with minimalist style for contemporary chic

PICTURES (LEFT, TOP) KABOODLE

Watch the video 'How to Design a Kitchen' at bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice

Warm timbers

From benchtops and flooring to accessories and floating shelves, timber can easily be worked into a kitchen in a number of ways. You can even choose to have timber-look cabinet doors.

Using timber is a great way to add warmth to the kitchen, especially when darker colours are predominantly used. It's the perfect neutraliser.

Pastel shades

Soft chalky pastels are taking over from the more traditional off-white shades in kitchens.

First seen in Scandinavian kitchens, these unique shades, ranging from light greys to pinks, are now being used in other styles.

ABOVE For contemporary chic, mix white cabinetry with a Kaboodle Kitchen 300mm Salted Caramel Modern Door, about \$41.

BELOW Plug in with a Brilliant Benchtop Popup Powerboard, \$215, with three outlets and two USB ports (brilliantlighting.com.au).

Smart solutions

Kitchens are getting smarter this year. Homeowners are installing smart appliances to help with automated cooking, as well as powerpoint outlets featuring USB ports to charge their devices.

Modern technology reinforces the kitchen as the hub of the home for everyday living.

Kaboodle Kitchen 600mm Pearlini Three-drawer Panels, about \$79.



Watch the video 'How to Install Handles on Kitchen Cabinets' at bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice

INSTALL HANDLES

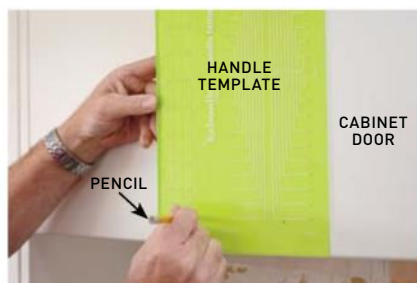
Cabinet and drawer handles can have a surprisingly big impact on the overall look of a kitchen.

Fitting handles is the final stage of a kitchen reno, and is easy to do using a template. Simply mark and drill the holes, then attach them with the supplied screws.

Materials

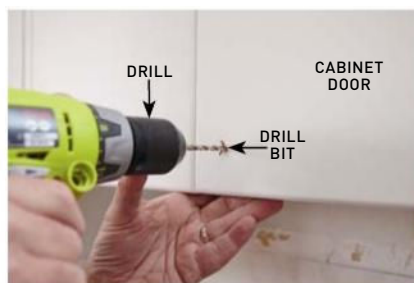
Handle template
Power drill
Handles
Pencil
Phillips head screwdriver
Cutting nippers

1 2 3



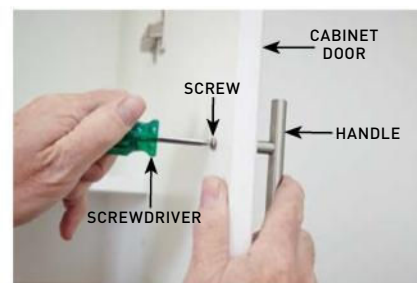
1 Mark the screw holes

Position the template on the lower corner of the door opposite the hinges. Locate the holes in the template that match your handle, then mark the screw holes on the door using a pencil.



2 Drill the holes

Position the handle next to the pencil marks to check that the holes are marked accurately. Make the holes using a cordless drill, selecting a drill bit that is slightly wider than the supplied screws.



3 Attach the handles

If the supplied screws are too long, trim them using nippers so they protrude 5mm. Attach the top screw first using a screwdriver, keeping it slightly loose. Attach the lower screw and tighten, then tighten the top.



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FENCE THE YARD

Create a classic lap-and-cap backyard boundary using treated pine palings

PROJECT AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

TOOLS
POWER SAW,
NAIL GUN

DIY TIP

For a professional look and finish when building your new fence, use a spirit level to regularly check that the palings are plumb.

A fence defines the boundary of a property and keeps children and pets safe and secure.

The backyard of this property had never had a boundary fence and, while the hedge provided a natural screen, a permanent and low-maintenance solution was needed.

To fence the yard, a classic 1.8m high post-and-rail fence was built using a lap-and-cap design with 100mm palings. Treated pine was used, as it's durable and inexpensive.

Once completed, the timber was allowed to season for four weeks, then painted with British Paints Fence Finish.

It took five days to build the fence and cost about \$920.

After

With a sturdy timber fence, the boundary line is now well defined.

Plan the fence

Before beginning construction, you will need to discuss options with your neighbour as they have a say on the type of dividing fence.

Both owners are usually required to equally share the cost of a fence that is considered sufficient and appropriate for the site.

If only one party wants extra features or a premium fence, they may have to pay the additional costs.

Your council will also have regulations regarding the height or style of the fence to be installed, and these can be found on their website or at their local office.

Before digging post holes, check with your utility companies about the location of any underground water or gas pipes and electricity lines. ➤

Stuart



EXPERT SECRETS

Add 50mm of coarse sand or gravel to post holes to allow water to drain away from the base of the posts.



Have a surveyor mark disputed or vague boundaries to establish their precise location

Before



Ryobi Airwave Clipped Head Air Framing Nailer, \$199. ryobi.co.nz



Cemix Fastcrete Concrete, about \$12 for 20kg. cemix.co.nz



British Paints Fence Finish, about \$45 for 10L. britishpaints.co.nz

What you need

Fence palings
Posts
Rails
Capping
Concrete
Paint
Nails

BUILD THE FENCE



1 Set out the fence

Run a stringline between the start and end points for the fence. Mark post holes at 2400mm intervals along the stringline with line-marking paint. Transfer the marks to the ground using a spirit level or plumb bob. Dig 250mm wide by 600mm deep holes at each position using a post hole digger.



2 Install the posts

Insert a post in each hole and brace in position, plumb against the stringline. Trim the posts at the base to create a smooth top to the fence if the ground undulates. Fill each post hole to ground level with concrete, using a float to slope it away from the posts to drain water. Let the concrete set overnight.



3 Add the rails

Insert the rails through the post mortises, joining the rails with scarf joints at the posts and securing with nails through the post and both rails. Stagger the joints from one post to the next to increase the strength of the finished fence.

TIP One rail will span three posts.



4 Secure the palings

Run a stringline 10mm above the post tops. Using a nail gun and starting at the first post, secure a paling with two nails on each rail, so the tops are above the stringline and the bases touch the ground. Secure the remaining palings using a rail offcut to space 50mm apart. Attach palings to cover the gaps.



5 Trim the palings

As the palings follow ground level, there will likely be a ragged top line once they have been secured to the rails. At each post position, mark the front face of the paling 10mm above the post and spring chalklines between these marks. Cut the palings along this line using a power saw.



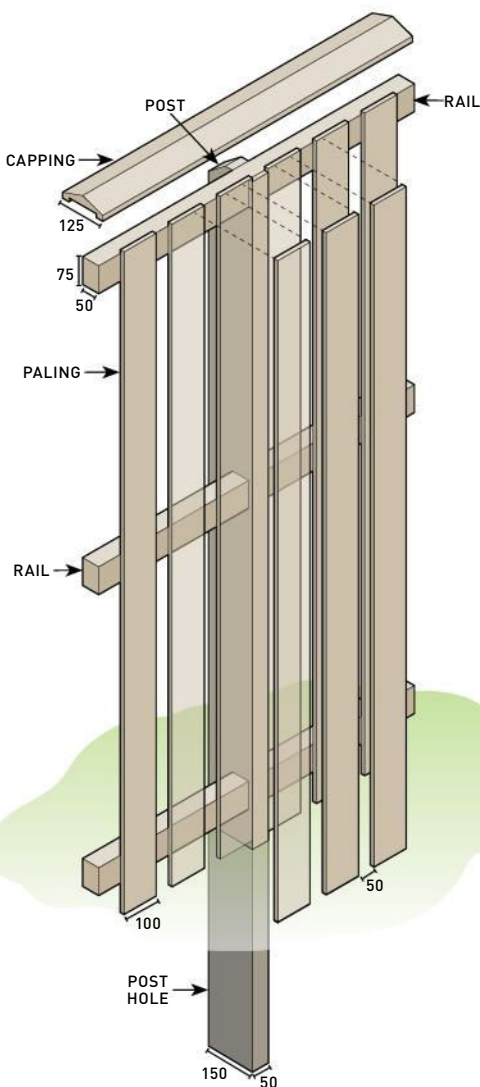
6 Attach the capping

Make a 45° cut at the back edge of each post to allow the capping to overhang by 10mm and for water to drain off. Cut the capping to length and secure with nails, joining the capping with scarf joints.

TIP For sloping sections, use capping offcuts to test the angled cuts. 🍋

PALING FENCE

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Treated pine		
Palings	1800 x 100 x 12	220
Posts	2400 x 150 x 50	7
Rails	4800 x 75 x 50	9
Capping	6000 x 125 x 38	3

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
100 x 4.5mm galvanised flathead nails	Posts, rails and capping
50 x 2.8mm galvanised flathead nails	Palings

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SIMPLE SCREENING

Boost privacy and create shade in an entryway with a slatted screen

PROJECT AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Adding an outdoor screen is one of the easiest and most practical ways to solve a variety of landscape challenges around the average property.

A screen can be used to improve both privacy and security, block out an undesirable view or create filtered shade in an exposed spot.

The main entrance to this home was open on all sides and was hit by afternoon sun, so a screen was installed on one side using decking boards and aluminium channel.

A slatted timber screen is easy to install DIY, very budget-friendly and can be customised to fit any space.

For a low-maintenance screen that will last, we used composite board instead of timber.

The screening took just one day to install and cost about \$210. ➤

What you need

- Screening slats
- Aluminium channel
- Rectangular aluminium tube
- Buttonhead stitching
- timber screws
- Stainless steel countersunk decking screws
- Pop rivets

DIY TIP

Always secure a screen to at least three fixed points, such as two posts and a centre support, to prevent the slats from bowing.



EXPERT SECRETS

Composite timber is not only resistant to fading, rot, decay, termites and mould, but it will never need oiling or painting.

Before



TOOLS
CIRCULAR SAW,
DRILL

After

The screen has improved the look of the entrance while adding protection.

H Learn how to tile a porch

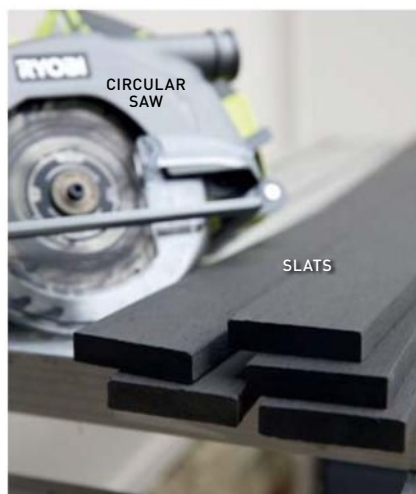
Visit handymanmagazine.co.nz/entrance-tiles

BUILD THE SCREEN



1 Attach the half-slats

Measure the height of the posts on both sides of the opening. Cut a slat to length, then rip saw it in half vertically. Clamp one of the half-slats flush with the exterior side of one of the posts. Predrill, countersink and secure to the post with 40mm screws. Secure the remaining half-slat to the other post.



2 Cut the screen slats

Measure the opening and calculate the number of slats needed, with 15mm gaps in between. Cut the slats to length using a circular saw. Lay a slat flat on the surface as a spacer. Position the base slat, predrill and countersink, then secure the base slat using screws, checking for level with a spirit level.



3 Add a centre support

Cut aluminium tube to length to use as a centre support, then cut pieces of aluminium channel as saddles. Secure the saddles at the top and base of the opening. Predrill the saddles and tube, then join using a pop rivet gun.

TIP Paint the saddles and centre support before securing, then touch up.



4 Install the slats

Using a slat as a spacer, position the second slat above the base slat. Predrill and countersink the slat at each end, securing it to each post with two screws. Install the remaining slats, checking for level as you go.

TIP The centre support is located on the outside or rear of the screen.



5 Secure the centre support

Mark screw holes along the centre support, with the marks centred on each slat and running in a straight line up the support. Predrill, taking care not to drill through the slats. Pull each slat firmly against the centre support from the front while securing buttonhead screws using a drill.



6 Cover the slat ends

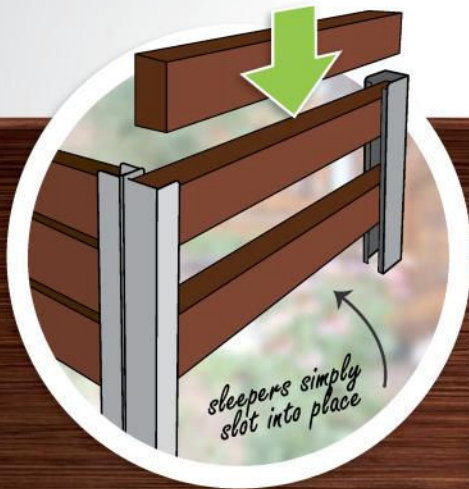
Measure and cut two slats to cover the slat ends. Make a 45° cut on the base of the cover slats, if required. Predrill and countersink the slat covers, securing at the top, base and centre with two screws.

TIP We offset the slat covers about 10mm in from the screen edges. 🍋



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End Post



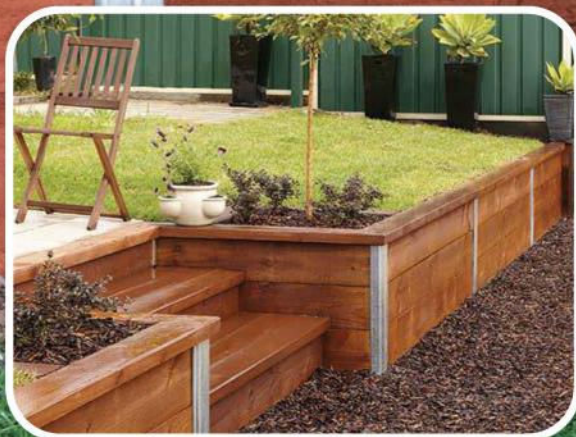
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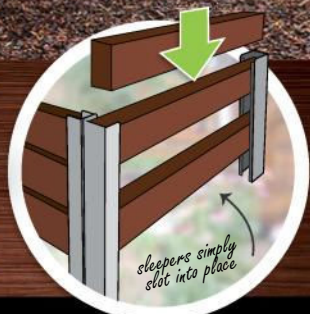
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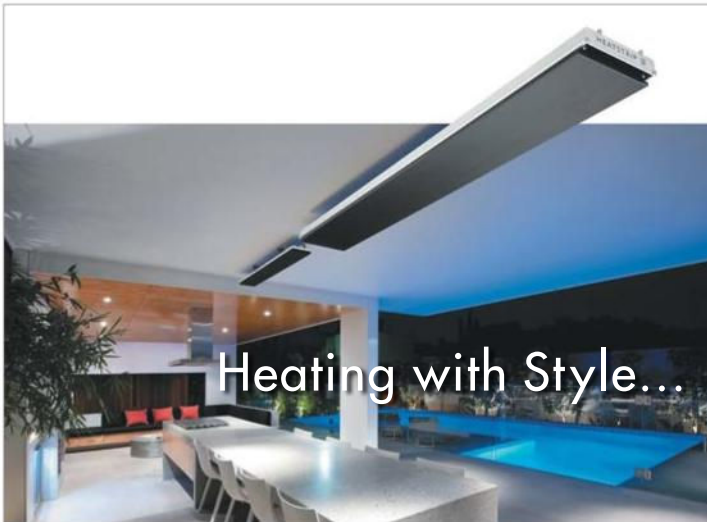
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Be a balcony gardener

Transform a bare outdoor space into a high-rise green retreat that will give you hours of pleasure

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



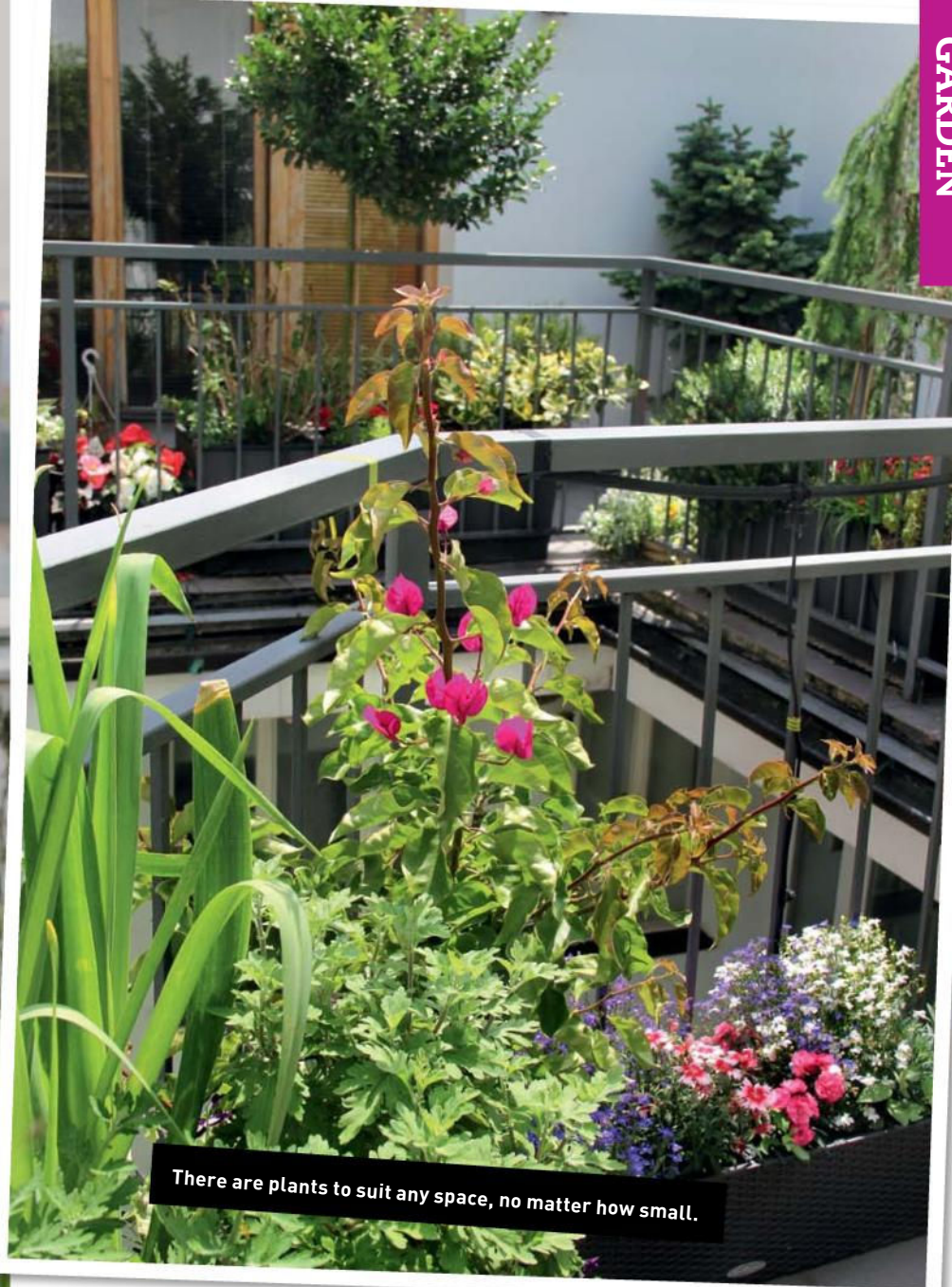
PICTURE/ISTOCK

As inner-city apartment living becomes increasingly popular, boutique balcony gardening is rapidly growing.

Modern 'balcony-scaping' means that lush outdoor spaces are turning bland blocks into green buildings.

While it may not be big, a balcony is the closest thing many of us have to the great outdoors. And spring is the perfect time to give it a boost.

Here's how to practice high-rise horticulture and turn your lacklustre balcony into a gorgeous green space.



There are plants to suit any space, no matter how small.

Ways to landscape

There are lots of great timber, stone, plastic, terracotta and steel pots available in a wide range of colours.

- ✦ **SELECT** pots that will reflect and enhance the mood of your balcony.
- ✦ **GROUP** pots to create a feature and use leaves of different shapes to create interest. Bold pots and planting styles look striking if you have the space, but simplicity can also be effective.
- ✦ **FILL** tall troughs with clipped plants for a sculptural presence and to provide privacy. Try box, eugenia or murraya.
- ✦ **PLANT** large pots with shrubs and underplant with flowering

annuals. Change colour with the seasons and have twice the value in the pot.

- ✦ **DISPLAY** seasonal colour or special plants on your outdoor table.
- ✦ **UTILISE** wall space with vertical gardens and hanging baskets.

Or train climbers on trellis or wire stretched diagonally or in patterns.

Perfumed Chinese star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) and *Hardenbergia violacea* are great choices. Mandevilla blooms from spring through autumn in shades of white, pink or red. ➤



Re-potting rules

If your existing plants are looking scraggly and not growing well, they may simply need to be re-potted.

It's a good idea to re-pot plants every 2-3 years, even if they haven't outgrown their pots, as the potting mix degenerates over time.

Check the mixes in your pots have not become water-repellent and hard to re-wet. This will be obvious if the level of the mix has dropped and the water doesn't drain away quickly.

Old potting mixes can also become compacted, reducing the access of the roots to their supply of oxygen.

Re-pot in the same container if the plant isn't root-bound. If it is, or it has grown considerably, use a pot about 5cm bigger to give it room to grow.

New plants brought home from a nursery usually need to be re-potted into a larger pot, or one of your choice.

Pick the pot

Large pots work well on balconies, as they hold moisture better than small ones. Self-watering pots are also ideal.

If you have to carry them upstairs, plastic pots are a good choice, as they're light. They also retain water well and some look like terracotta.

Select plastic pots that are large and heavy enough to withstand wind when filled with potting mix.

For vegetables, choose large troughs so the plants have enough space.

Spray unglazed terracotta and concrete pots with Yates Pot A Seal to prevent moisture loss, or line the sides of the pot with black plastic.

Use pot feet to avoid staining the balcony floor. If run-off is a problem, put the pot on a tray to catch water and empty the tray regularly.

ECO TIP

Grow your own vegetables to save on grocery bills and avoid any wastage. It will also help reduce food miles.



1 2 3

HOW TO RE-POT To help keep your plants performing at their best, they will need re-potting every couple of years into larger pots.



1 Add potting mix

Water the plant about an hour before re-potting, then partially fill the new pot with a premium potting mix. Remove the plant from the old pot, taking care not to damage the roots.



2 Trim the roots

Check the root system carefully and if the plant is root-bound, lightly loosen the roots with your fingers, then trim off any twisted or broken pieces using secateurs.



3 Pot the plant

Position the plant in the centre of the pot so it is at the same level as it was in its original pot. Top up with potting mix to about 25mm from the rim, firming it down, then water in lightly.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLANTS

Every balcony situation is different, so your plant choices will be affected by conditions such as the amount of light the balcony receives.



❖ **SOUTH-FACING** balconies receive little or no sun, so choose shade-loving or indoor plants.

❖ **WHAT TO GROW** Cast-iron plant, mother-in-law's tongue, clivia, liriope, elephant's ears, justica, cane begonia, ctenanthe, nandina and bird's nest fern.

For height, try *Fatsia japonica* and the parlour palm.



❖ **EAST-FACING** balconies get some sun in the morning but are shady for the rest of the day.

❖ **WHAT TO GROW** Begonia, small camellia cultivars such as 'Fairy Wand', bromeliad, hydrangea, impatiens, dianella, liriope, orchid, maranta, ctenanthe, nandina, ferns, fuchsia, daphne, cyclamen, lobelia and *Lomandra* 'Tanika'.



❖ **WEST-FACING** balconies can be scorchingly hot at the end of the day, especially in summer, so tough, heat-loving plants are the best choice.

❖ **WHAT TO GROW** *Agave attenuata*, geranium, petunia, flax, yucca, bougainvillea, verbena, petunia, lavender, herbs and bay.

Mix and match different succulents in large pots for an interesting look.



❖ **NORTH-FACING** balconies are drenched in sun during the day. You can grow a range of plants, including vegetables and herbs.

❖ **WHAT TO GROW** Yucca, cordyline, flax, roses, gardenia, geranium, hebe, bougainvillea, citrus and dwarf fruit trees.

For a colourful display, fill large pots with a mix of seasonal annuals such as cosmos, bedding begonias and stocks. ➤



DIY TIP

Consider having a tap installed on your balcony and connect it to a patio hose to make watering your plants an easier task.

WINDY SOLUTIONS

Don't put all pot plants in the too-hard basket because you have a hot, windy balcony. The simple answer is to opt for those that can weather the wind.

➤ **WHAT TO GROW** Coastal rosemary (*Westringia fruticosa*), dwarf bougainvillea, rosemary, coral plant (*Russelia equisetiformis*), hebe, kangaroo paw, lavender, oleander, bird of paradise, verbena, Japanese pittosporum (*Pittosporum tobira*), looking-glass plant (*Coprosma repens*), lomandra and *Agave attenuata*.

Give protection

In apartments, wind can be a problem, as it batters plants, dries them out quickly and can blow pots over. If your balcony faces the sea, wind problems will be compounded by salt.

- **USE** large, heavy pots and water frequently, even daily in hot weather, as dry potting mix becomes lighter.
- **CHOOSE** mounded and small-leaved plants, which are more wind-tolerant.
- **MULCH** pots with pebbles to help retain the moisture.
- **SECURE** pots to the balcony railing, using wire for an unobtrusive look.
- **ATTACH** clear Perspex to the inside of the balustrade to prevent wind hitting plants below railing height.
- **GROW** wind-affected plants in the lee of the balcony railing or use larger, more established plants as shelter.
- **CHECK** what is growing beside the road or on roundabouts in your area, as these plants will be tough varieties.
- **BUY** large plastic pots, as they have better water retention than terracotta, and use a larger, heavier terracotta container as a sleeve.
- **ADD** water-holding crystals to the potting mix when re-potting.



Oleander

Kangaroo paw



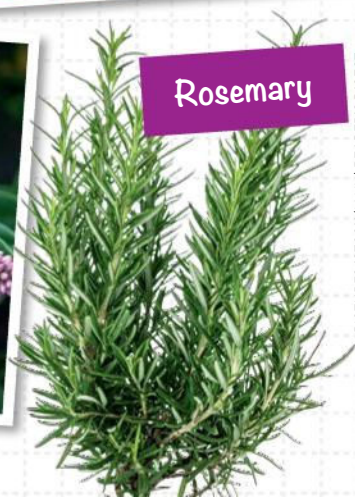
Coral plant



Lavender



Hebe



Rosemary



Check your plants for pests, such as caterpillars.

Help them thrive

- ✦ **USE** a top-quality premium potting mix and add Seasol Planting Gel to promote moisture retention.
- ✦ **MULCH** the pots with sphagnum moss or pebbles.
- ✦ **FEED** potted plants in the growing and flowering season, but cut down when plant growth slows. Use a three-month controlled-release fertiliser or regularly liquid-feed. Water before and after applications.
- ✦ **MAKE** watering a relaxing part of your morning or evening routine, as potted plants need frequent watering, especially after windy weather.
- ✦ **CONSIDER** installing an automatic drip-irrigation system if you are away for long periods of time. ➤



PICTURE CHERYL MADDOCKS



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Grow up the wall

The entrance to this ground-level apartment had an empty wall that was the ideal location for a vertical garden.

The frame was mounted on the concrete wall using wall plugs and

screws, and pots were hung using the supplied brackets.

Parsley, mint and lettuce create an edible garden, while chrysanthemum and polyanthus provide colour and also attract beneficial insects.

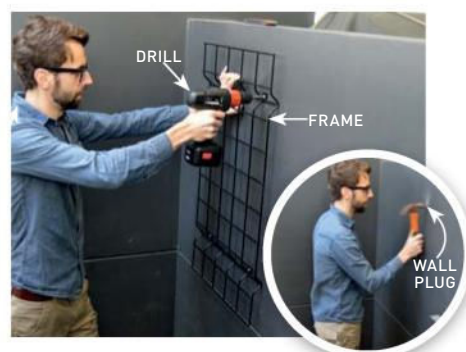


1 2 3



1 Drill mounting holes

Hold the frame against the wall and check for level, then mark mounting holes with a pencil. Use a hammer drill and a 6mm masonry bit to drill 35mm deep holes.



2 Attach the frame

Tap green wall plugs into the wall using a hammer, then align the mounting holes with the wall plugs and drive in 32mm buttonhead screws to secure the frame.

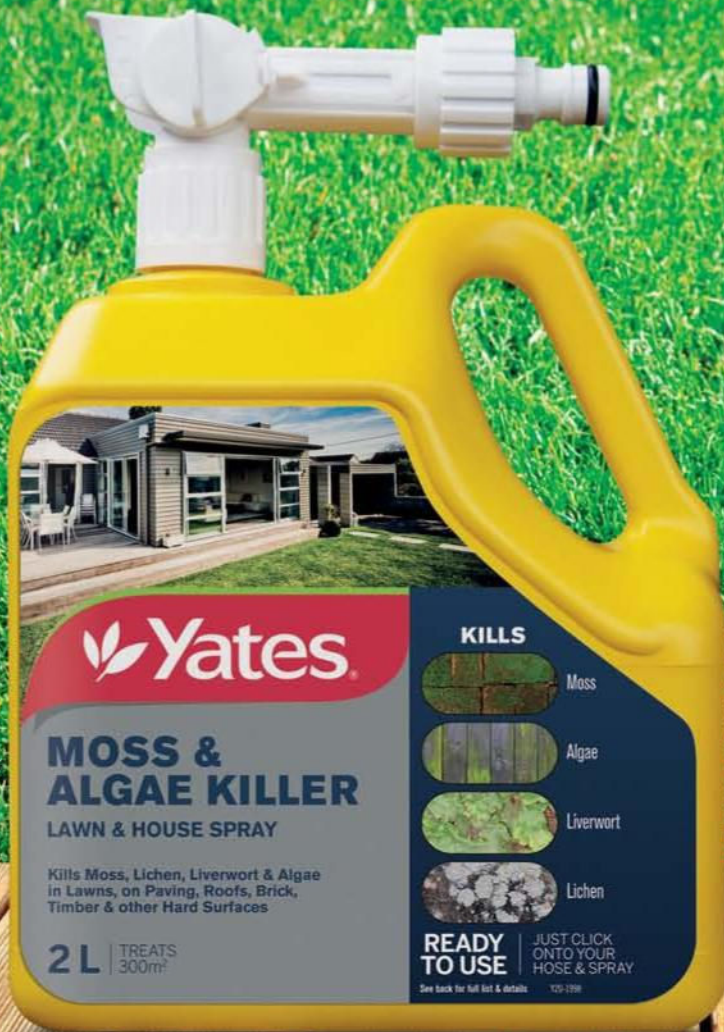


3 Install the pots

Position the plants in the pots, then backfill with a premium potting mix and water in well. Attach the brackets to the pots, then hang on the frame, spacing them evenly.

The Yates logo, featuring a stylized leaf icon to the left of the brand name "Yates" in a white, sans-serif font, all contained within a red, curved banner.

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Worm farms made easy

Recycle kitchen scraps in the garden to make free fertiliser

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Eating fresh food at home keeps the family healthy, but the scraps from your kitchen can also help improve your garden, and the planet.

Composting is a simple way to turn food waste into rich fertiliser that promotes healthy plant growth.

Plus, it keeps organic matter out of landfill, where nutrients are locked away and it would otherwise generate greenhouse gases such as methane.

At home, composting is easy with a worm farm. They're compact, easy to set up and ideal for small backyards.

Earthworms work underground, digesting organic matter and leaving behind castings, which are full of nutrients that plants require.

Worms burrow through the soil, opening up tunnels that allow oxygen and water to penetrate.

These tunnels are coated with nitrate-rich mucus that plants absorb through their root system.

Most worm farms use compost worms, which are slightly different to earthworms, as they live closer to the surface and eat fresher organic matter.

Setting up a kit

Composting with worms couldn't be simpler, with a range of worm farms available to suit the size of your garden and household.

Most tiered worm farms consist of one or more working trays, where the worms live. This is also where worms are fed and process their food.

Holes in the base of the trays allow worms to migrate to the upper levels, as they fill the lower trays with castings.

Once the worms have migrated, the castings can be collected and mixed into the soil of a new garden bed, or diluted with water to create nutrient-rich liquid plant food.

The lowest level is called the collector tray, and this is where worm juice accumulates. This liquid can be extracted using the tap and diluted with nine parts water before being used on the garden or pot plants. ➤



Add a compost conditioner to help neutralise acidity and minimise pests

Worms R Us Worm Farm Bin, \$105. wormsrus.co.nz



DIY TIP

Keep a small container for food scraps in the kitchen to feed worms daily, chopping pieces finely to make it easier for them to digest.



Worms can't digest garden refuse, so add it to a compost bin.



Watch the video online

Visit handymanmagazine.co.nz/worm-farm

Caring for your worms

Worms like to be kept moist, but not wet, so give them a light spray of water every few feedings and drain the lower tray frequently to avoid excessive water build-up. Pour in 5L of water weekly to keep them moist.

A healthy worm farm should have an earthy smell, but if it smells like rotting food, you might be feeding them too much. Reduce the amount of scraps and mix in hay or shredded newspaper to absorb excess moisture.

TIP Position your worm farm out of direct sunlight and heavy rain.



Free-range farms

In-ground farms consist of a chamber submerged in the soil where food scraps are deposited. They have a lid to keep smells in and vermin out.

The walls of the chamber are dotted with holes and the base is open, allowing worms to enter and exit to feed on the food inside. 🌱

FEEDING WORMS

Once established, worms can eat about half their body weight in food in a day, so feed them a small handful of food scraps daily. Let worms eat 80% of their last meal before feeding.

Ok to eat



Newspaper



Fruit



Tea leaves



Coffee grounds



Bread



Eggshells



Vegetables



Pasta



Citrus

Not ok to eat



Onion



Chilli



Glossy paper



Garlic



Oil



Meat



Dairy

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SPRING STANDOUTS

Fill your garden with annuals to make
a colourful impact after the winter months

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

The bright and beautiful blooms of spring annuals allow you to experiment in the garden with colour combinations and planting options in a way that isn't possible with shrubs.

An annual is a plant that grows from seed, produces flowers and seeds, then dies within a year.

In new gardens, they're ideal for filling bare spaces in garden beds while more permanent plants are growing.

And containers bursting with annuals will instantly transform a verandah, balcony or courtyard.

So head to the nursery to check out the spring-flowering annuals and the array of pots to suit every type of plant.

PICTURE: ISTOCK



Growing from seed is a thrifty way to produce a garden full of spring colour.

And after thinning out seedlings that you've grown from seeds sown directly into the ground, you can use them to plant up pots and save money.

Direct sowing

Annuals such as cosmos and poppies are so easy to cultivate that you can sow the seeds directly where you want them to grow in beds or pots instead of using seed-raising trays.

❶ **PREPARE** the bed before planting by pulling out any weeds, then rake the soil to remove any clumps.

❷ **SOW** the seeds according to the packet directions and keep the bed moist while the seedlings germinate.

❸ **THIN** out the seedlings when they reach a height of 50-75mm.



Plant seedlings

Water the punnet before transplanting and plant out in the cool of the evening.

❶ **REMOVE** the plant carefully from its punnet.

❷ **DIG** a hole and position the plant, making sure the roots are not crowded. Backfill with soil.

❸ **WATER** in with a seaweed solution to prevent transplant shock and mulch with lucerne hay.



Non-direct sowing

Annuals that do not like to be sown directly, such as stocks, bedding begonias and English daisies, can be sown in seed trays.

❶ **FILL** the tray with a seed-raising mix, then sow the seeds according to the packet directions.

❷ **WATER** lightly with a mist spray and cover the tray in plastic wrap. Place in a warm, shady spot.

❸ **REMOVE** the plastic wrap when the seedlings emerge. Water regularly with a mist spray, then transplant into a pot or garden bed when 50-75mm high. ➤

Design ideas

There are many ways to plant annuals to the best effect in the garden.

- ✦ **GROW** plants with different leaf and flower shapes together, such as snapdragons and gypsophila, to emphasise their diversity.
- ✦ **GROUP** the same type of annual, such as ageratum, or blend this with a different group, such as cosmos, to create a strong visual look.
- ✦ **PLANT** annuals of different heights in a pot, positioning tall ones, such as stock, in the centre and low-growing ones, such as bedding begonias and trailing lobelia, around the sides.

COLOUR COORDINATE



Colour sets the tone of a garden, so is very important when choosing annuals.

The colours in your home reflect your taste and can work well outdoors, too. The easiest way to plan a scheme is to use a colour wheel.

TIP As a shortcut or to get you started designing with colour, seed suppliers offer carefully selected flower mixes.



✦ **HARMONIOUS** Colours that are adjacent or close neighbours on a colour wheel, such as red, orange and yellow, will give a harmonious scheme when used together.



✦ **COMPLEMENTARY** Using colours from opposite sides of a colour wheel creates a complementary scheme.

The most intense contrasts are formed by using colours that lie directly opposite each other, such as red and green, yellow and violet and blue and orange.



✦ **TINTS AND SHADES** You can also use tints and shades of the same colour for a themed look. This adds interest and depth when using mainly one colour in landscaping, and when done in small gardens, it isn't overpowering.



Help them thrive

It's important to choose the right plant for the right spot. You can buy annuals for sun, shade or part shade.

Mulch around the plants to keep moisture in the soil and water regularly. Annuals in pots may need watering daily in hot weather.

Feed annuals fortnightly with a soluble complete plant food and remove spent flowers to encourage more blooms.

Did you know?

English daisies, nasturtiums, pansies and violas are edible. Add the petals to salads, or use as a garnish or for cake decoration.

They should be blemish-free and unsprayed, so it's best if they can be picked from your own garden. Wash them in cool water to remove dust and pick early in the morning or at dusk. ➤



PICTURE: ISTOCK

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WHAT TO PLANT

Impatiens

Also called busy Lizzie, this plant produces a nonstop display of flowers in white, pink and purple. **POSITION** Full sun in cold climates, part shade or shade.

Bedding begonia

This hardy annual produces pink, white or red flowers from spring to autumn. It's ideal for edging flowerbeds and growing in pots. **POSITION** Full sun or shade.

Begonia

Impatiens

Cosmos

Tall-growing cosmos comes in shades of white, pink or crimson and is easily grown from seed. It features fine feathery foliage. **POSITION** Full sun.

Cosmos

Gypsophila

Gypsophila

A popular bloom for use in flower arranging, gypsophila, or baby's breath, bears sprays of delicate white, pink or red blooms. **POSITION** Full sun.

English daisy

Also called bellis, this short-lived perennial is usually treated as an annual. It carries its daisy-like flowers on 15cm high stems. **POSITION** Full sun or part shade.

English daisy

Poppy

Shirley poppies come in shades of red and pink. Pick the flowers regularly to encourage more. **POSITION** Full sun, with shelter from the wind.

Poppy

Lobelia

Ideal for pots and edging garden beds, this low-growing plant has tiny, dainty flowers in shades of blue, pink, mauve and white. **POSITION** Full sun or part shade.

Lobelia

Nasturtium

Great for beds, rockeries, hanging baskets and pots, colours include yellow, orange and red. Some varieties have semi-double blooms. **POSITION** Full sun or part shade.

Nasturtium

Stock

Borne on tall stems in a variety of shades, the perfumed blooms of stock make ideal cut flowers. Dwarf varieties are also available.
POSITION Full sun.



Stock

Alyssum

**Alyssum**

Commonly called sweet Alice, this low-growing annual is covered in white or deep-violet flowers that will attract bees to the garden.
POSITION Full sun.

Snapdragon

This short-lived perennial is usually grown as an annual and comes in a wide range of colours. It makes an excellent cut flower.
POSITION Full sun.



Snapdragon

Pansy and viola

These plants flower from winter into spring and are ideal for pots, hanging baskets and beds.
POSITION Full sun, with afternoon shade in hot climates.

Pansy

**Sweet pea**

This climber has delicate fragrant flowers. There are dwarf varieties available that grow well in pots.
POSITION Full sun, with shelter from the wind. ☼



Sweet pea

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



Mr. Fothergill's Nasturtium, Gypsophila and Alyssum Seeds, from \$3 a packet. mrfothergills.co.nz



Yates Thrive Natural Seaweed Plant Tonic Concentrate, \$18 for 1L. yates.co.nz

ZEST FOR LIMES

Grow this citrus to enjoy its fragrant flowers and flavoursome fruit

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



DIY TIP

If you have fruit left over after harvesting, you can simply freeze the juice in ice-cube trays and use as needed.



Classified as citrus, limes are mostly warm-climate trees. The fruit is generally smaller than other commonly grown citrus such as oranges, lemons and mandarins.

The three most common varieties grown in New Zealand backyards are Tahitian, Kaffir and Mexican. And the bonus with growing limes, as with all citrus, are the fragrant flowers.

Limes are an excellent source of vitamin C and a great alternative to lemons. And if you like acidic tastes, this fruit is for you, as it contains one and a half times more acid, weight for weight, than a lemon.

They can be used in seafood dishes, with chicken and other meats, in cakes, drinks, desserts, biscuits, marmalade and, of course, as a substitute for the lemon in gin and tonic.



PICTURES ISTOCK

HOW TO GROW

The cultivation requirements of all lime trees are the same.

- **POSITION** in a sunny spot with protection from the wind.
- **SOIL** must be free-draining. Limes dislike badly drained clay soils or those with heavy subsoil. Dig in copious amounts of compost before planting. Water in with a solution of Seasol to help prevent transplant shock.
- **WATER** newly planted trees twice a week for six weeks until established, then water well once or twice a week, especially while the fruit is ripening.
- **FEED** with a complete citrus fertiliser in spring and late summer.

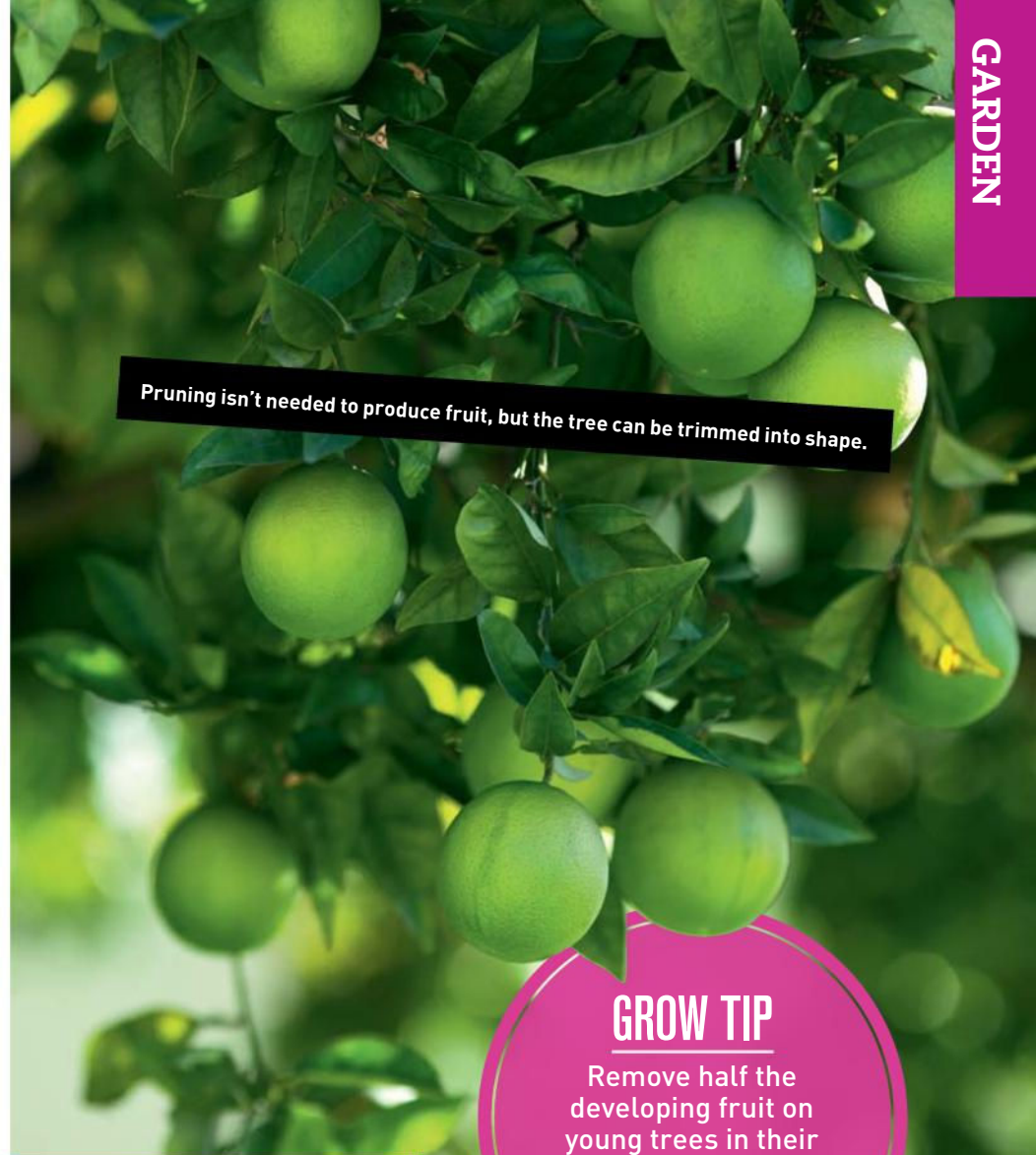
Or alternate a complete citrus fertiliser with Yates Dynamic Lifter, cow manure or blood and bone. Apply to damp soil under the mulch in early spring, early summer and late summer.

The roots spread to the outer perimeter of the branches, so water and feed there. Wait at least six weeks or until the roots have established before feeding newly planted trees.

- **MULCH** with lucerne hay or pea straw to keep the soil moist and prevent weeds growing and competing for the nutrients. Leave at least a hand's span clear around the trunk.



Bees love the sweetly scented blossoms.



Pruning isn't needed to produce fruit, but the tree can be trimmed into shape.

GROW TIP

Remove half the developing fruit on young trees in their first and second years to prevent the tree exhausting itself.



Cheryl

EXPERT SECRETS

Roll a lime firmly on the work surface before cutting to get the maximum amount of juice.

Did you know?

British sailors in the 19th century had lime juice added to their daily ration of watered-down rum to stave off scurvy. This practice resulted in Americans giving the English the nickname limey. ➤

WHAT TO GROW

Kaffir lime



Kaffir lime

The Kaffir lime (*Citrus hystrix*) grows to about 1.5m. As the leaves are constantly picked for cooking, the plant usually remains small, and will grow well in a pot.

The strong lime-tasting leaf is 'waisted', resembling two leaves joined together. It is an essential ingredient in many Thai recipes, including green curries, fish dishes and soups.

Before use, the leaves are generally shredded or cut, and they can also be frozen in a plastic freezer bag.

While the flesh of the knobbly fruit is not eaten, the zest is delicious in cooking.

Tahitian lime



Tahitian lime

The most popular homegrown lime, Tahitian lime (*Citrus x latifolia*) is thought to be a hybrid of the West Indian lime and the citron.

It reaches about 3m high and does well in the garden or in a pot.

This citrus tree produces green thin-skinned fruit that are about 50mm in diameter and ripen

over a five-week period in autumn and early winter.

They are at their juiciest when the skin is just turning light yellow.

The lime tree is more sensitive to cold weather than the lemon tree. It is frost tender and thrives in a warm, moist climate. In cooler areas you could plant a lime in a container but move it indoors in winter.

Finger lime



Finger lime

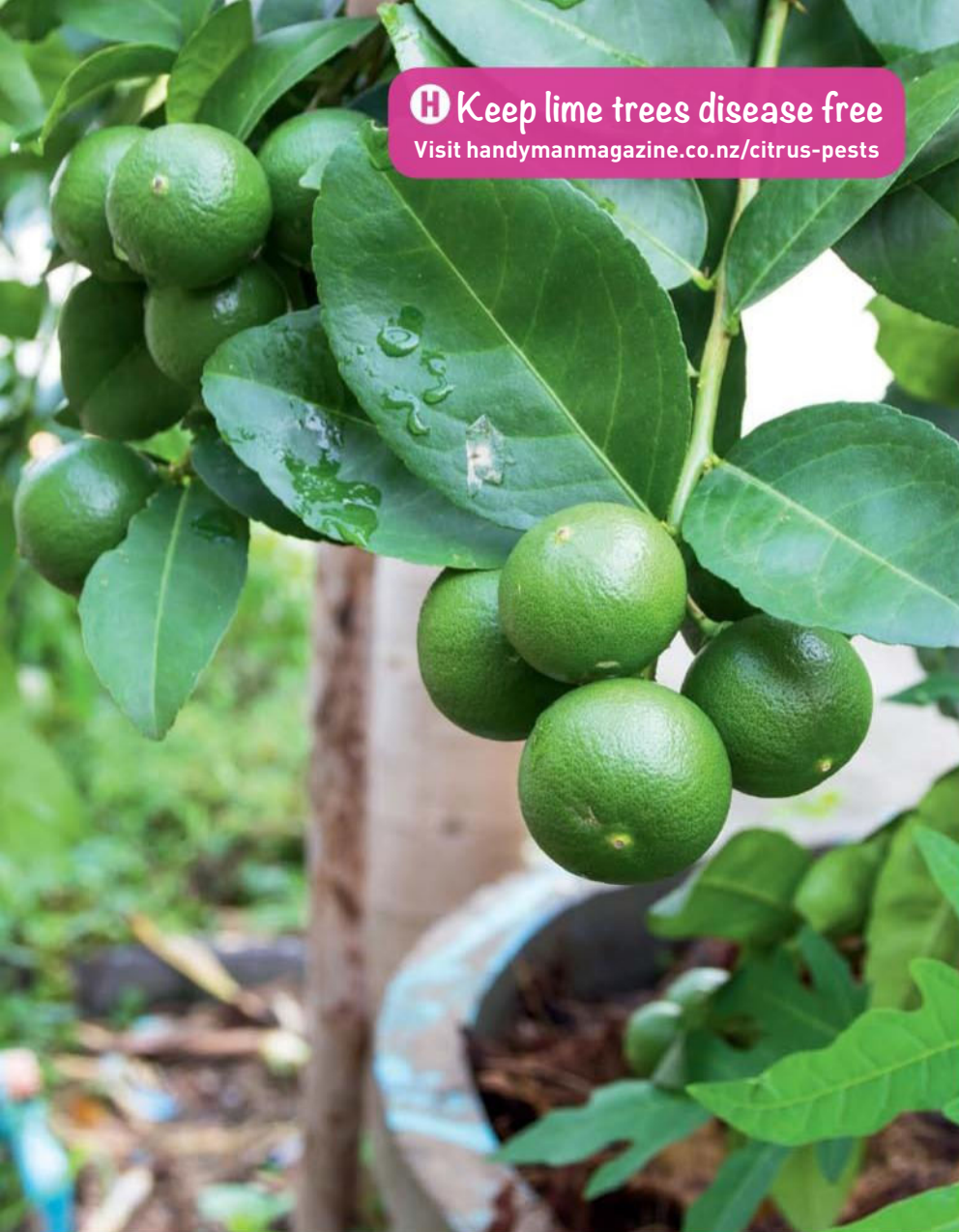
Many top chefs and gourmet cooks like to use the native Australian finger lime (*Citrus australasica*) because of its superior lime taste.

Finger lime is an under-storey rainforest tree that reaches a height of 2-5m when planted in the garden, but lower when grown in a large pot.



The fruit contains a mass of juicy, strongly lime-flavoured citrus pearls or juice vesicles that resemble caviar. Cultivars are available with green or pinkish-red pearls.

They can be used to garnish chicken, seafood and oysters, and also make interesting jams, chutneys and savoury sauces.



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Plant in a pot

Lime trees grow well in containers and dwarf varieties are available.

Choose a pot that is 40-50cm in diameter with good drainage, using pot feet so drainage is unhindered.

Use a specialised potting mix for citrus and add about 10% soil or, even better, homemade compost. The tree will be in the pot for a long time, so these additions will help prevent the mix from slumping.

Feed frequently, especially from late winter to mid-autumn. Apply a complete citrus food every six weeks.

Or you can use a six-month controlled-release fertiliser such as Scotts Osmocote Fruit, Citrus, Trees & Shrubs. Always water the pot well before and after applying fertiliser.

Water regularly, especially during summer when you may need to water daily, and mulch with lucerne hay. 🌱



If space is limited, choose a dwarf variety or grow a lime tree in a pot

1

2

3

POP QUIZ!

Name that *redhead*

Can you identify these red-flowered plants?
The answers are at the bottom of the page

4

7

6

5

ANSWERS 1 POHUTUKAWA 2 KAKA BEAK 3 BOTTLEBRUSH
4 WARATAH 5 BANKSIA 6 NEW ZEALAND FLAX 7 GREVILLEA

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