

HOW TO HEATPROOF YOUR HOUSE INSIDE & OUT

NEW ZEALAND

INSTALL POOL FENCING ^{page 24}

Handyman

10 SUPER EASY
XMAS
HACKS

PAINT
THE FLOORS FOR A NEW
LOOK ON A BUDGET

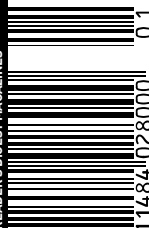
BUILD
A BBQ BENCH WITH
STORAGE FOR JUST \$780

GROW
THE BEST PLANTS FOR
ALLERGY SUFFERERS

Get the look
page 16

Outdoor living
STYLE THE DECK FOR SUMMER

READER'S DIGEST MAGAZINES



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Plant
a salad garden



Tidy
the backyard



Hang a new gate

page 82

PAVING

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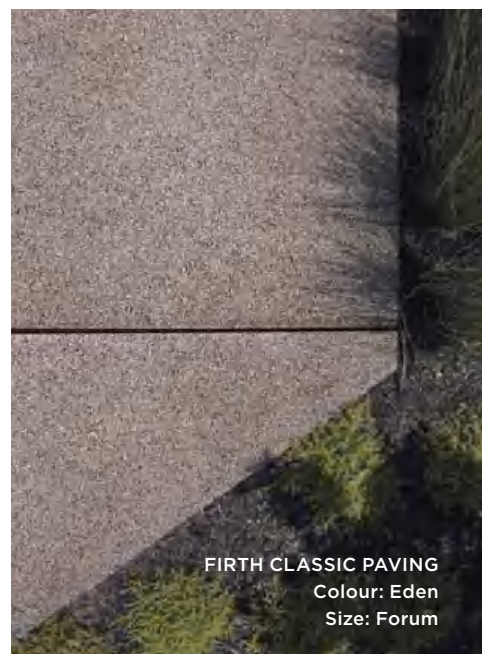
- 3 SPACING LUGS**
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SEE OVER FOR A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO PAVING



5

EASY STEPS TO PAVING

1

EXCAVATE &
PREPARE THE
SUB-GRADE



2

PREPARE
THE BASE
COURSE



3

PREPARE
THE SAND
BASE



4

LAY
THE
PAVERS



5

COMPACT
THE
PAVERS



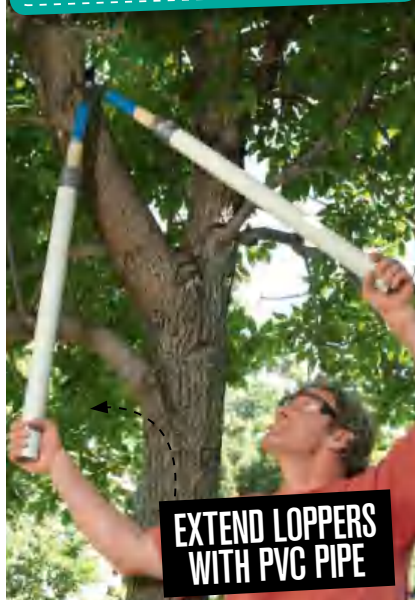
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THIS ISSUE

HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH



EXTEND LOPPERS WITH PVC PIPE



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PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Designed for indoor or outdoor use, Protector Aluminium Deco Screens are a great way to increase privacy and create zoned areas.

Made from a powdercoated composite material, they won't rot or rust, don't need painting, and are easily installed DIY using brackets (protectoraluminium.com.au).

EDITOR'S LETTER



Happy holidays from the *Handyman* team. Back row (L-R): Cristian, Dan, Nick, Thomas, Alek, Leon, Curtis. Front row: Nori, Lynn, Artemis, Ashleigh, Sheron, Kate.

Summer is finally here and the whole team at *Handyman* has been getting ready for outdoor living and entertaining.

Features editor Ashleigh kicked things off with the fabulous circular deck on the cover. Turn to page 16 to see how it was built and get the look.

Senior editor Daniel had great fun building a barbecue bench for cooking alfresco. With plywood cabinets and a hardwood top, it looks designer but is easy and inexpensive to build. Check out his handiwork on page 32.

I added a practical project to the mix. Last month I mentioned replacing a rotten gate and this issue has the before and after pics. Turn to page 82 to see the difference hanging a picket gate and painting it white makes to the side passage of the house.

The hanging baskets of flowers on the fence really spruce up the area and look great from the bedroom windows.

Celebrate the holidays

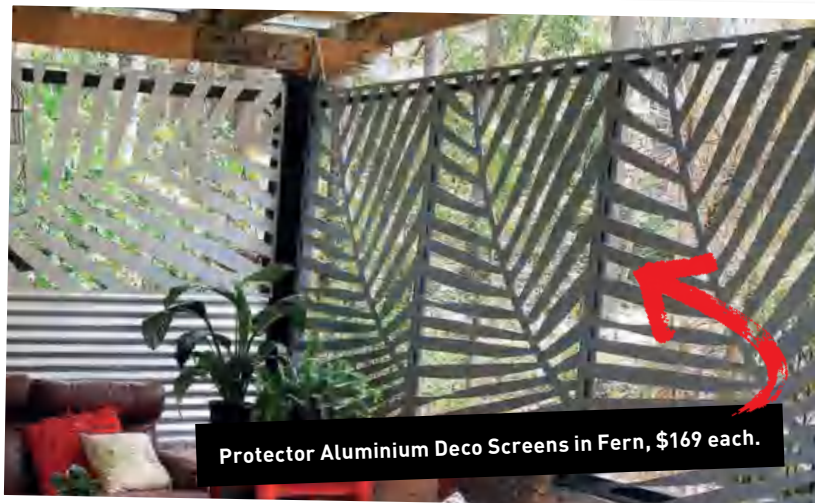
Get into the silly season with our 10 Christmas hacks, on page 40. We share festive tips and tricks for food, decorations and gifts.

And to create a rustic-themed Christmas this year, check out the projects from craft blogger Melissa Darr, on page 44.

Make budget-friendly baubles, trinkets and a wreath using items you can find around the house.

Happy DIYing,

Artemis



Protector Aluminium Deco Screens in Fern, \$169 each.



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY
STEVE PERRIOTT

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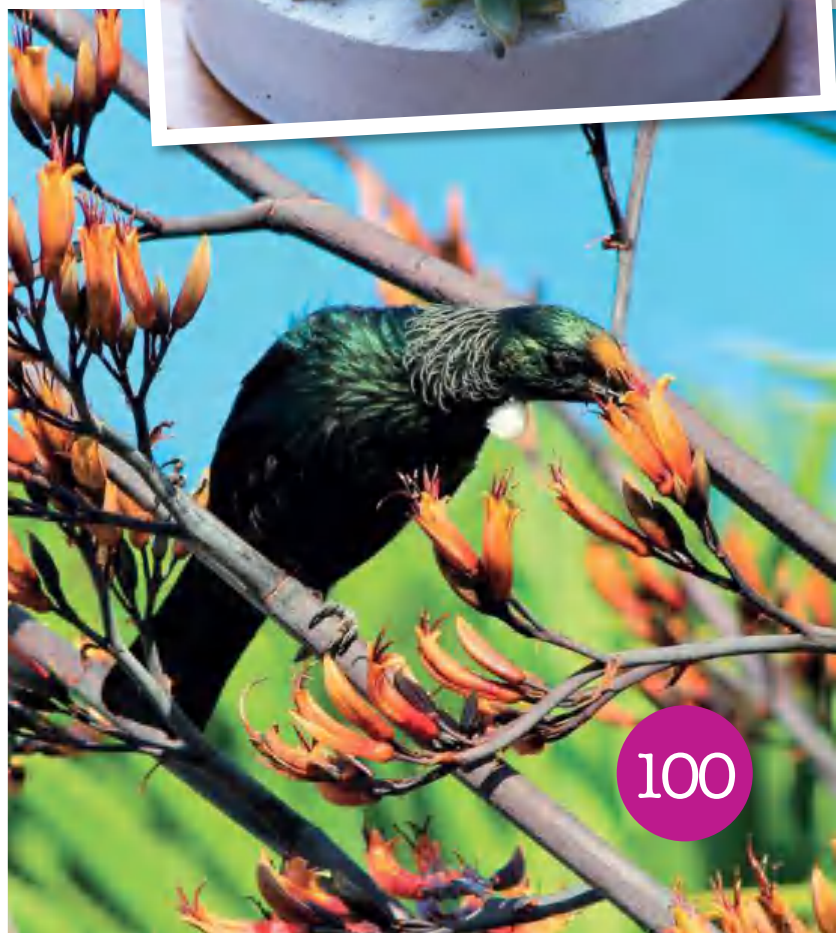
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Subscribe
to *Handyman* p71

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NEW ZEALAND Handyman

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HANDY STUFF

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WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

For her

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✦ **TRADE** up to the iPad Pro to complete every task with the tap of a finger. Available in two sizes. apple.com/nz

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✦ **FIX** it using the Ryobi 4V Li-ion Cordless Screwdriver with LED light for working in dimly lit areas. ryobi.co.nz

\$40



✦ **GET** creative around the house with the Ozito Glue Gun, which is not restricted by a clumsy cord. ozito.co.nz

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✦ **CHALLENGE** your mind with the Magical Gardens Collection Jigsaw Puzzles. shop.readersdigest.co.nz



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For him

\$33

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✦ **MAKE** flavour-packed meals using *Cooking with Herbs & Spices*. shop.readersdigest.co.nz

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✦ **STORE** gear safely inside the Kincrome Contour Tool Chest, with eight drawers. kincrome.com.au

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✦ **STEP** outside reality with the Sony Playstation VR Headset, for use with the PS4. sony.co.nz

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✦ **CUT** through reos and repairs fast with the Ryobi ONE+ 18V 165mm Circular Saw, skin only. ryobi.co.nz



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What's new

Now's a great time to get stuck into your D.I.Y. projects before the holiday season really kicks in. Spruce up the garden and get your indoors ready for the season festivities.



HYDRATE YOUR GARDEN

Wetta's Hose Trolley with Kink Free Hose is made to last. The trolley is rust and corrosion resistant. With a 25m hose, it also includes a spray gun and fittings. **\$99**



LIGHT UP YOUR WORKSPACE

Click's Bat Light is an ultra-bright rechargeable floodlight – perfect for use outside or in tight dim lit areas. It also features a built in spotlight and strong magnets for secure stable contact with metal. **\$39.97**



SING ALONG ON SITE

Stay entertained while you get your D.I.Y. jobs done. Connect your smart device via Bluetooth to play your favourite songs. It also includes a USB charging port so you'll never run out of playing power. **\$199**



KEEP COOL ON THE JOB

Ryobi's ONE+ Hybrid Portable Fan features 2 speed settings and adjustable positioning. Its hybrid technology allows you to use mains power for continuous use and battery power for portability. **\$99**

STOCK UP

Powerfit's Pneumatic Nail Range have a galvanised finish for indoor and outdoor use. This range has durable packaging for safe storage. Range from **\$6.49 to \$59.98**



CLEAR AS DAY

With an impressive 2100 lumens, Ryobi's ONE+ Hybrid Work Light can illuminate large work areas. It features a 360 degree rotating head and hybrid technology which lets you use mains power for continuous use and battery power for portability. **\$139**



DURABLE DOORS

These Aluminium Screen Doors by Protector Aluminium are incredibly easy to install and constructed with powder coated aluminium. These doors have great quality Doric latches and hinges. The hinging can be installed on the left or the right. Adjustable and security doors are also available. From **\$230**



LOOK AFTER YOUR LAWNS

Ozito's Power Exchange Grass Trimmer Kit includes a 2.0Ah battery, has a rotating head and an adjustable secondary handle. It's lightweight which makes getting around the garden easy. It also has a cutting width of 240mm. **\$129**

GET YOUR GARDEN IN SHAPE

Ozito's Power Exchange Hedge Trimmer can mold your garden in to something special. It comes with a 2.0Ah battery and charger kit. It also has a cutting length of 460mm and has an 11mm cutting capacity. 5-year replacement warranty included. **\$147**

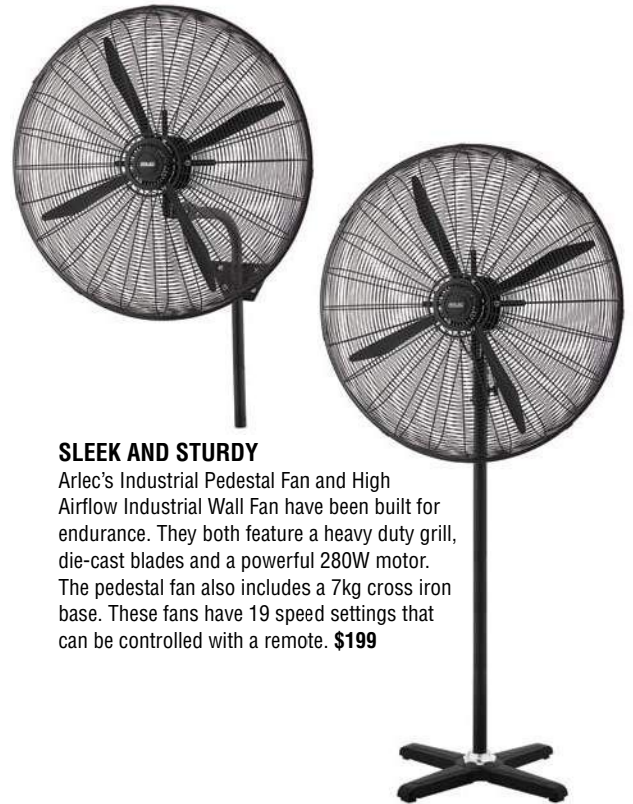


ADD MORE SPACE TO YOUR WARDROBE

This Smart Wardrobe System, made by Hume Doors, has powder coated aluminium top and bottom tracks and heavy duty nylon wheels encased in steel assemblies for smooth operation. This easy to install system is also available in two, three or four unit doors. Tracks from **\$59**. Doors from **\$79.98**

EXCLUSIVE TO BUNNINGS

The Westinghouse Waste Disposal boasts an incredible ultra-grinding $\frac{3}{4}$ horse power coupled with a high quality stainless steel grinder wheel. Easy to install with the quick fit metal mounting flange, this product is exclusive to Bunnings Warehouse and includes a generous 5-year warranty. **\$147**



SLEEK AND STURDY

Arlec's Industrial Pedestal Fan and High Airflow Industrial Wall Fan have been built for endurance. They both feature a heavy duty grill, die-cast blades and a powerful 280W motor. The pedestal fan also includes a 7kg cross iron base. These fans have 19 speed settings that can be controlled with a remote. **\$199**



QUICK FIT

The Wing Nut & Eye Bolt Adaptor is designed for quick change and secure fitment when driving or removing wing nuts and eye bolts. It features a $\frac{1}{4}$ Hex fitment for easy bit removal. **\$9.98**



EVERYDAY CLASSIC RUG

This Rug Jute Bali is handmade in Southern India from Jute, a highly sustainable, durable and renewable resource. Also available in stripe. From **\$69**



DECK WITH A VIEW

Transform an unused area into a fabulous entertaining space with a custom-designed circular deck

PROJECT SCOTT MANUELLE PICTURES STEVE PERRIOTT





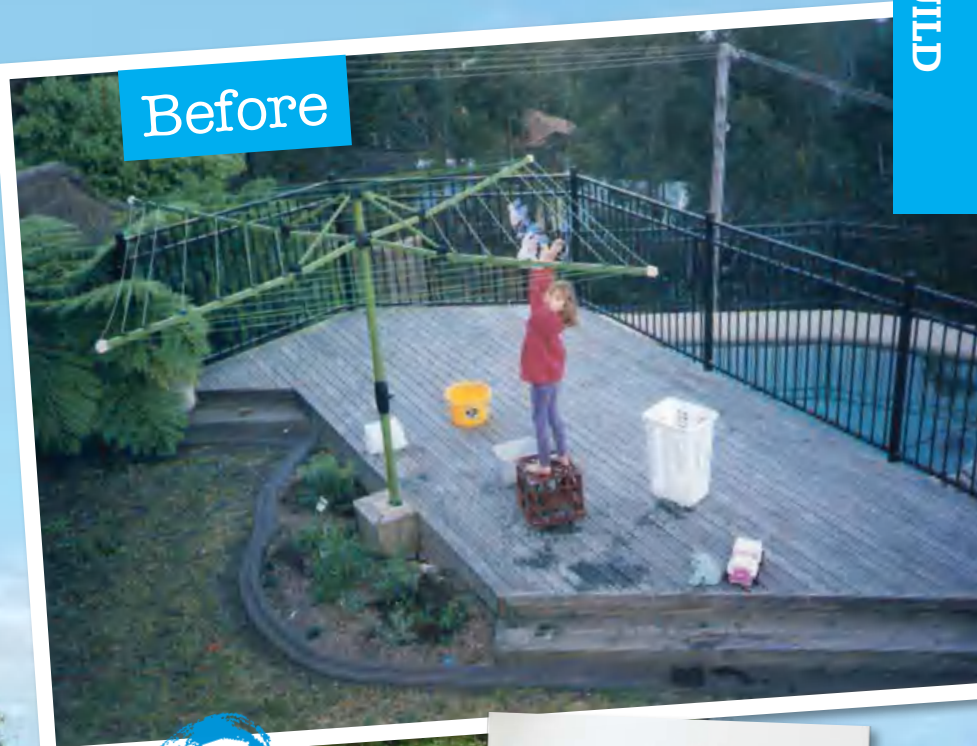
Timber decks are a great way to create an outdoor living area that's perfect for entertaining guests. They're an ideal alternative to grass in shaded yards and areas prone to harsh weather conditions.

This unique circle design was built for Chris and Frances Manuelle for about \$2800. The top level of their sloping block only sees sun during the middle of the day, and leads to a slippery site full of moss and weeds.

Uninviting, they rarely used the area, despite a stunning panoramic view of the ocean and nearby parkland.

The couple wanted to reclaim the space for entertaining and enjoy the area with a design that would suit the bush setting. They chose a cascading design of three circular kwila decks broken up with artificial grass. ➤

Before



What you need

Timber framework
Kwila decking
Aluminium flat bar
Stirrups
Fasteners
Concrete
Deck cleaner
Decking oil

After

The new design links the entire area together with more space for entertaining.



LAY A CIRCULAR DECK

1 Build the frame

Drive a timber stake into the centre of the area and hammer in a nail. Tie a stringline to the nail and attach the other end to a spray paint can 1950mm from the centre. Pull the stringline taut and mark out the circle.

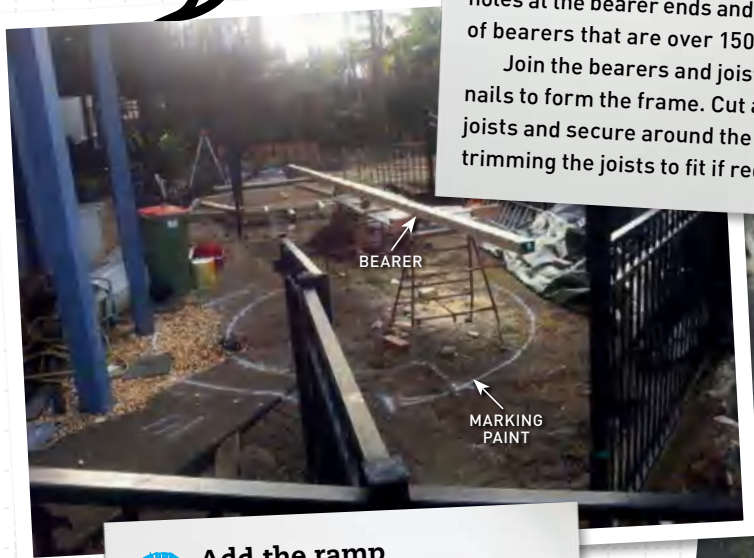
Mark the location of the bearers and joists, then dig 300mm deep footing holes at the bearer ends and in the centre of bearers that are over 1500mm long.

Join the bearers and joists using nails to form the frame. Cut angled rim joists and secure around the perimeter, trimming the joists to fit if required.

2 Set the bearers

Use offcuts to support the bearers at the correct height and check for level. Secure the stirrups to the bearers over each hole using screws.

Mix up the concrete and pour it into the footing holes, ensuring the stirrups are centred. Prod the concrete in the hole to remove any air pockets, then smooth to finish. Allow the concrete to set, then remove the offcuts.



3 Add the ramp

The three decks are connected to each other and the existing patio with ramps. To make a ramp, cut the end joist at the ramp position, then butt join the ramp frame joists to the outer joist and secure to the ramp bearer.

Cut ramp joists at a 9° angle at both ends, then secure between the ramp bearer and the outer joist. Reinforce the ramp joists with noggins if required, then secure decking boards to the ramp joists.

TIP To attach a new bearer, secure the stirrups to footings using Dynabolts.

4 Lay the boards

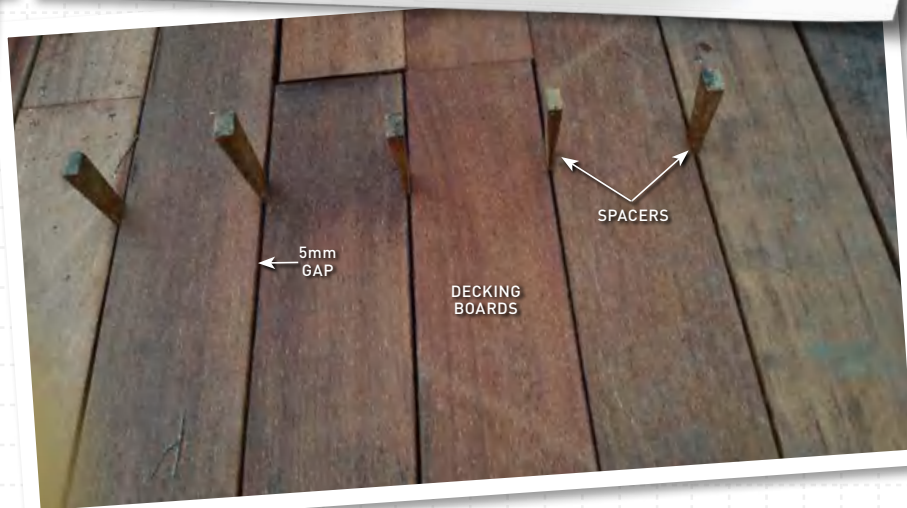
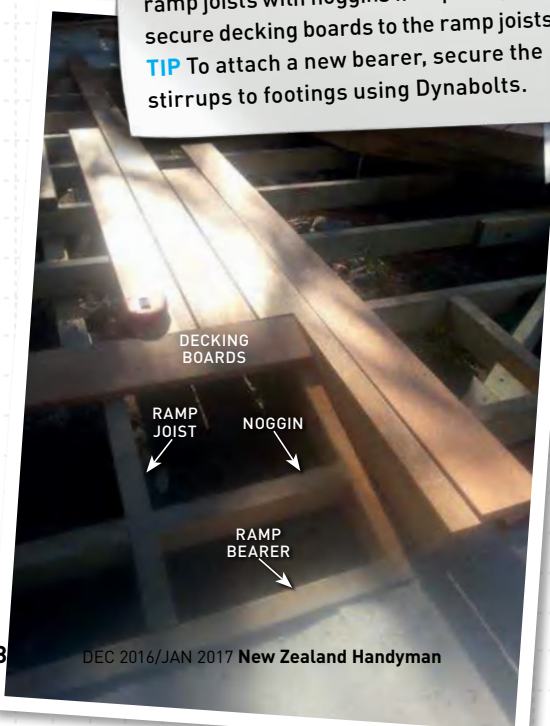
Secure the centre board first, using a stringline as a guide. Work outwards, laying every sixth board and use spacers between each board to give a 5mm gap.

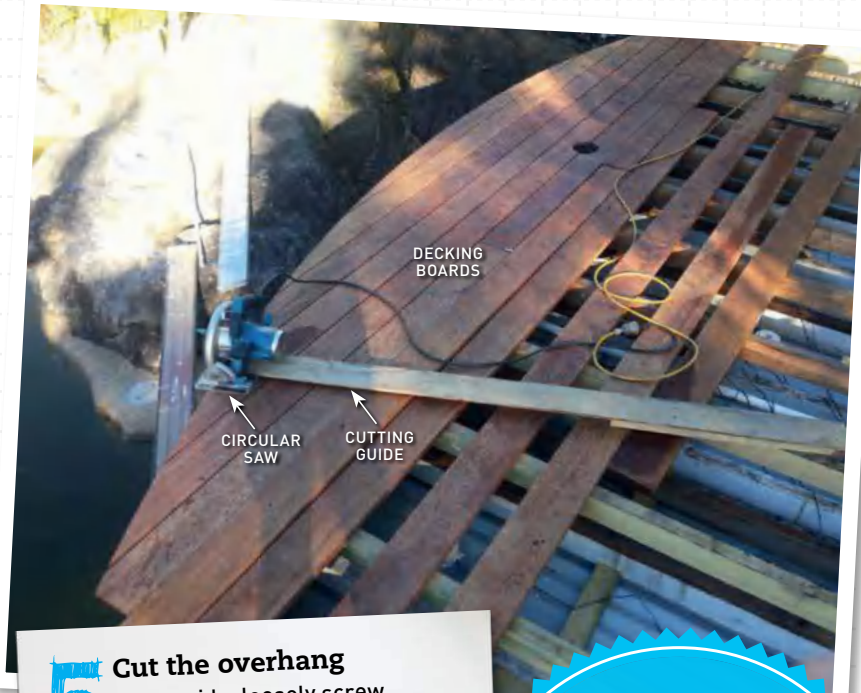
Drill countersunk holes and secure the boards to the joists using

two decking screws for each joist. Lay the remaining boards, ensuring there is an overhang at each end.

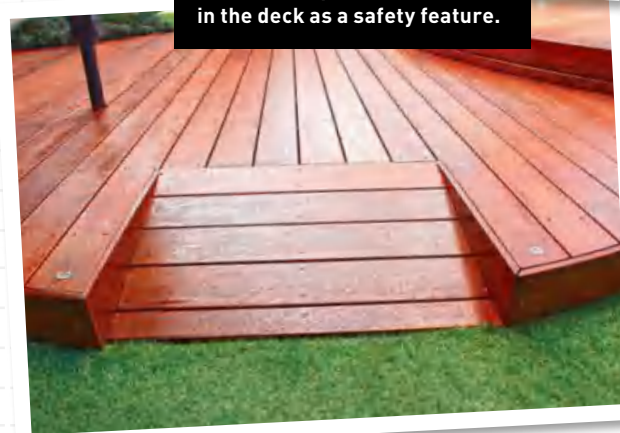
Butt join the boards over the joist centres, cutting them at a 2° angle using a mitresaw to minimise gaps.

TIP Including wastage, this deck used 120m of 140 x 25mm kwila boards.





ABOVE The deck is bordered by mondo grass and proteas.
BELOW Ramps were included in the deck as a safety feature.



Style the space

To complete the low-maintenance makeover of this entertaining area and ensure the slippery moss stayed at bay, the couple chose artificial turf.

As the base for the turf, a concrete slab was poured with a high centre point to allow for water to drain to the edges. Strips of glue were then applied to the concrete before the grass was laid from left to right.

It was pulled tight and secured with lengths of aluminium flat bar. Washed river sand was pushed against the pile with a stiff broom, to support the strands of faux grass.

The edges of the area were softened with mondo grass and proteas. ➤



Built-in LED lights
 add ambience and
 highlight the rounded
 profile of the deck

5 Cut the overhang

For a guide, loosely screw a board to the centre of the deck, ensuring the board can pivot.

Attach the board to the top of the base plate of a jigsaw or circular saw, ensuring the blade clears the frame.

Cut the boards along the perimeter of the deck to create a neat circle, then remove the guide.

Secure lengths of aluminium flat bar to the edge of the deck with countersunk screws every 600mm, predrilling holes in the timber and the aluminium.

DIY TIP

Allow decking boards to season for up to six weeks before finishing, or clean with a tannin remover to coat them immediately.



6 Finish the deck

Sand the boards using fine grit abrasive paper, then sweep the surface clean.

To allow immediate coating of the boards, wet them with water, then apply tannin remover, scrubbing with a stiff bristled brush. Leave to soak

in for 15 minutes, then thoroughly hose away using a water blaster.

Wash the boards with timber cleaner, then rinse with water and allow to dry completely. Apply two coats of decking oil, using an applicator to coat three boards at once in long, even strokes.



A trapdoor fits seamlessly into the deck, but provides easy access to the pool equipment below.



Hidden hatch

On the second level of the backyard, a matching kwila poolside deck links the two entertaining areas.

The deck conceals the pool pump and equipment, with a discreet trapdoor built in to allow access.

To make the hatch, a hole the size of the pump was cut out of the deck, including the joist. The cut joists were reinforced using two 140 x 45mm noggins to create the frame.

The door is constructed from 70 x 45mm treated pine, with the cut decking boards secured to the frame so they align with the rest of the boards.

Four 100mm stainless steel hinges were secured to the back side of the hatch frame into a decking joist.

The handle cutout was created by boring two 25mm holes in the middle board 100mm apart using a spade bit, then joining the holes with a jigsaw. ➤



Smooth the cutout handle for a finger-friendly grip by routing the edge with a round-over bit

TOP PICKS



Ryobi One+ 18V Cordless Jigsaw, \$129, skin only. ryobi.co.nz



Cabot's Aquadeck Kwila Exterior Decking Oil, \$77 for 5L. cabots.co.nz



Buildex 12-11 x 65mm Stainless Steel Type 17 Decking Screws, \$146 for 250. bunnings.co.nz



Intergrain Reviva Timber Cleaner, \$40 for 4L. intergrain.co.nz

tuffblock

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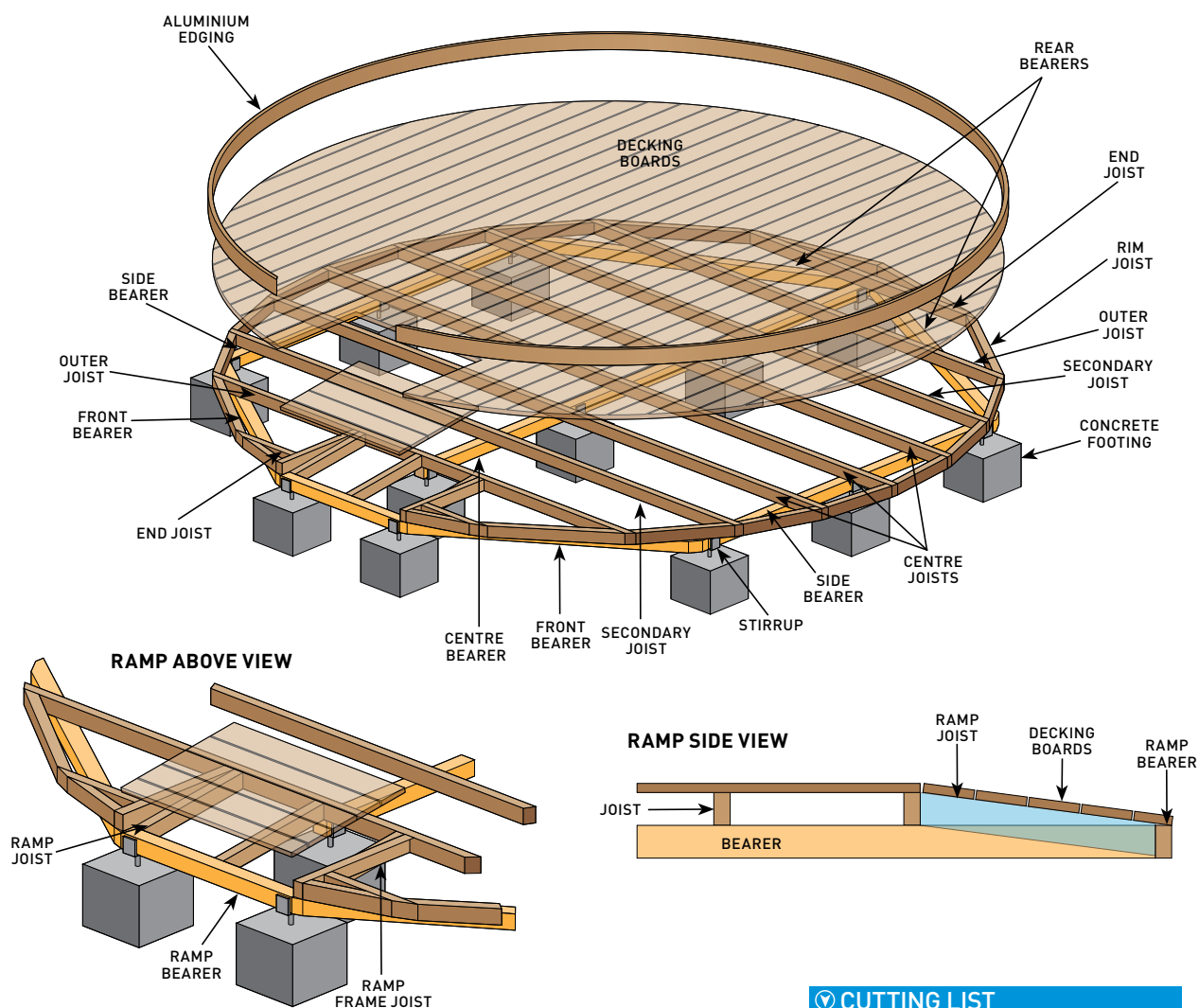
djm

Email: enquiries@djm.co.nz

Web: www.djm.co.nz/tuffblock

CIRCULAR DECK

measurements in mm



Cutting the rim joists

This deck needed 12m of 90 x 45mm treated pine for the rim joists. For a perfect fit, use the joists as a guide to mark each cut. 🛠️

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
10 x 75mm Dynabolts	Ramp stirrups
12g x 65mm stainless steel screws	Decking boards
75 x 3.75mm galvanised nails	Joists
14g x 75mm bugle batten screws	Stirrups
8g x 50mm stainless steel countersunk screws	Aluminium flat bar

CUTTING LIST

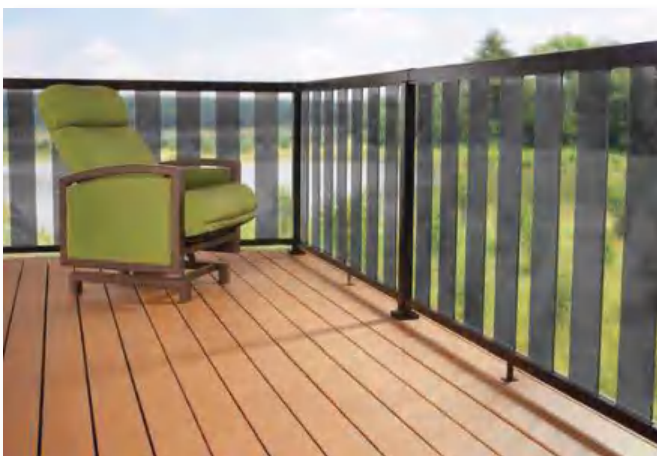
PART	SIZE	NO
Treated pine		
Centre joists	4200 x 90 x 45	3
Secondary joists	3600 x 90 x 45	2
Outer joists	3000 x 90 x 45	2
End joists	1500 x 90 x 45	2
Centre bearer	3600 x 90 x 70	1
Side bearers	2400 x 90 x 70	2
Front bearers	1500 x 90 x 70	2
Rear bearers	1800 x 90 x 70	2
Ramp bearer	900 x 90 x 70	1
Ramp joists	560 x 90 x 45	3
Ramp frame joists	620 x 90 x 45	2



Standard Balusters



Wide Balusters



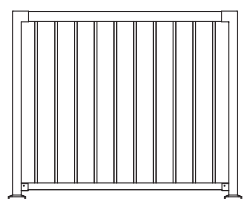
**1.8 m Sectional Glass Kit
- Clear or Tinted**



**Toughened Glass Panel - 1025 mm
with Wide Balusters and Decorative Spacers**

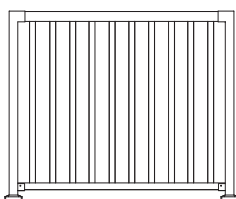
Aluminium Balustrade Price Guide - note components sold separately

Standard Balusters



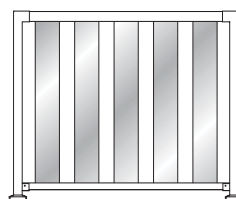
Starting at
\$172 per metre

Wide Balusters



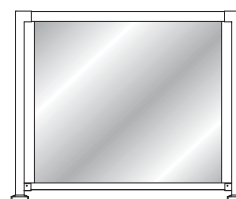
Starting at
\$197 per metre

Sectional Glass Kit



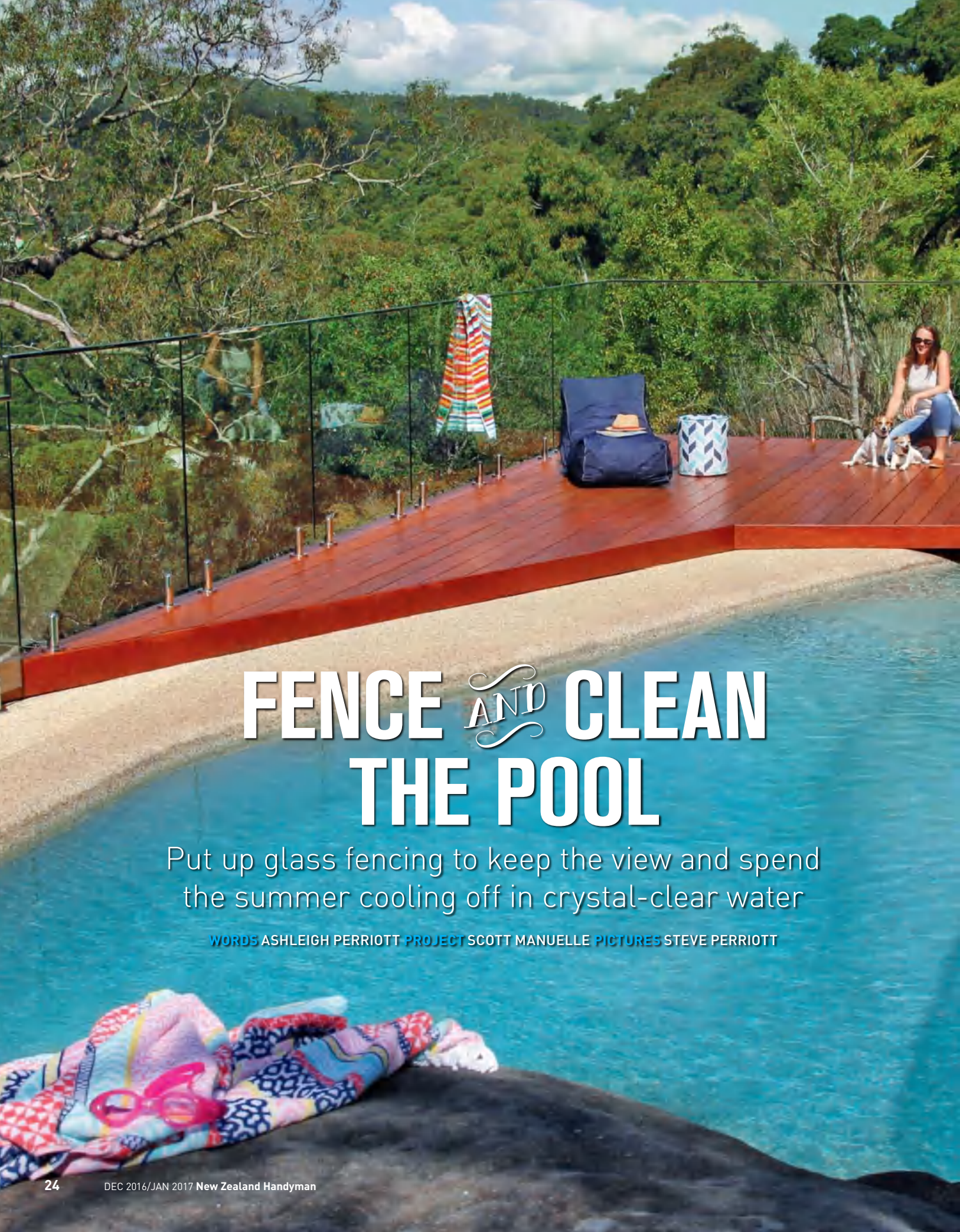
Starting at
\$214 per metre

Toughened Glass Panel



Starting at
\$217 per metre

New at BUNNINGS



FENCE *AND* CLEAN THE POOL

Put up glass fencing to keep the view and spend the summer cooling off in crystal-clear water

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT PROJECT SCOTT MANUELLE PICTURES STEVE PERRIOTT

DIY TIP

To help work out what components you need for your fence, measure the perimeter and send the dimensions to the fence supplier.

Glass panels won't block out a beautiful view.

To prepare this pool area for the sunny season, we replaced an old fence with new glass panels to make the most of the great panoramic views.

The pool required a little cleaning and a basic chemical check after the winter months spent shaded by trees, to ensure it was safe for swimming.

A neglected pool can be a source of infection and a pH that's too high or too low can cause damage to pool surfaces and equipment, as well as skin irritation. So it's key to check it's safe to dive into after the off season. ➤



Visit your local council's website to ensure your pool area meets the safety standards required by law

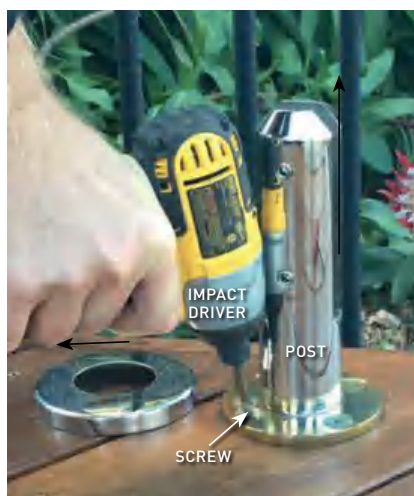
INSTALL GLASS PANELS



1 Reinforce the deck

Mark the post positions on the underside of the decking boards, then cut noggins from 140 x 45mm treated pine to fit snugly between the joists. Secure the noggins at the post positions using 100mm bugle screws.

TIP The noggins prevent the boards from splitting under lateral load.



2 Attach the posts

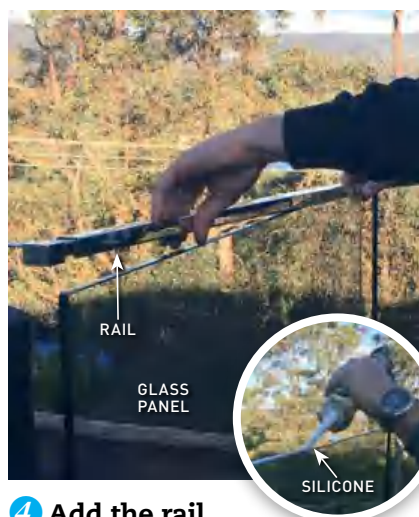
Position the posts 70mm from the edge of the deck. Use 14g x 75mm stainless steel bugle screws to secure the posts to the decking boards and noggins. Insert the plastic sleeve into the post with the stainless steel plate on the grub screw side, then slide the cover plate over the post.



3 Secure the panels

Working with a helper and wearing glass-gripping gloves, lift the glass panels into the posts, ensuring each plastic sleeve insert remains in position. Tighten the grub screws using an Allen key to secure the glass.

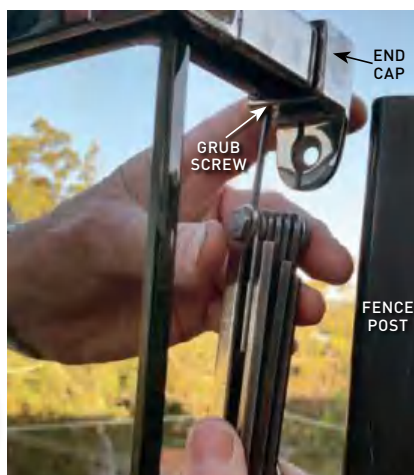
TIP Slip lengths of pool noodle over panel edges to prevent chipping.



4 Add the rail

Apply a bead of silicone along the top edge of each panel with a caulking gun. Position the handrail on the top of the panel, lowering it from right to left and pressing firmly to spread the silicone evenly, wiping away any excess.

TIP Use a silicone that is applied white and dries clear.



5 Secure the end cap

Once the silicone has cured, attach the end cap to cover each end of the handrail using the supplied grub screws, tightening with an Allen key. For panels adjoining a fence, secure the cap to the post with screws. To secure to a wall, drill holes and insert wall anchors, then attach with screws.



6 Clean the fence

Use methylated spirits and a microfibre cloth to clean away excess silicone sealant, as well as dirt or fingerprints, from the rails and the glass panels. Ensure the cloth is clean before use to avoid scratching the steel or glass.

TIP Avoid water marks by cleaning panels regularly with diluted vinegar.

DESIGN TIP

Avoid planting large, flowering or deciduous trees near pools, as the lining can be cracked by roots, and leaf or flower drop creates work.

Empty the leaf basket at least once a week.

Top cleaning tips

Maintaining your pool requires a lot less work than having to clean it after neglect. To save time and cash, try these easy tricks to keep the water perfect all year round.

Invest in an automatic pool pump or a robotic cleaner to remove the majority of the debris that falls in.

To protect your pool during spring and autumn when plants are dropping large amounts of leaves and flowers, use a pool cover to keep them out.

A cover will also come in handy during summer, as it can combat evaporation, assisting with keeping the chemical balance in check.

Keeping pool water clear can be time-consuming, but a basic floating chlorine dispenser can save you time and prevent problems such as algae, unpleasant odours, eye irritation, slippery surfaces and discoloured water.

If it becomes too much work, call a professional service to sort it for you.



Don't neglect a pool or restoring the water to safe swimming conditions may take weeks



Test the water

As a result of rain, use and debris, the pH and chemical levels of a pool are in constant fluctuation. To avoid issues such as eye irritation, you'll need to regularly test your water.

DIY test kits measure the levels of each key chemical element and provide a chart to achieve perfect swimming conditions. >

Compare the test stick to the chart.

PROBLEM SOLVERS



Hy-Clor Poseidon MK2 Automatic Pool Cleaner, \$239.

POOL SURFACE stains are from rusted metal fixtures or algae and leaf build-up. To fix, dissolve spots with an acid-based remover.



Hy-Clor Zero Stain Remover, \$34 for 1kg.



Hy-Clor Pool Cloud Out, about \$17 for 1L. hyclor.com.au

DIRTY OR CLOUDY water is caused by a high pH, heavy rain or heavy use and poor filtration. To fix, lower the pH, add a clarifier and filter.



Hy-Clor Soft Pack Soda Ash pH Increaser, \$14 for 2.5kg.

EYE IRRITATION is caused by a low pH, low chlorine levels and the presence of chloramines. To fix, add chlorine and raise the pH.



Keeping it clean

⚙️ **FILTERS** clear the water of contaminants such as pollen, leaves, sunscreen and hair.

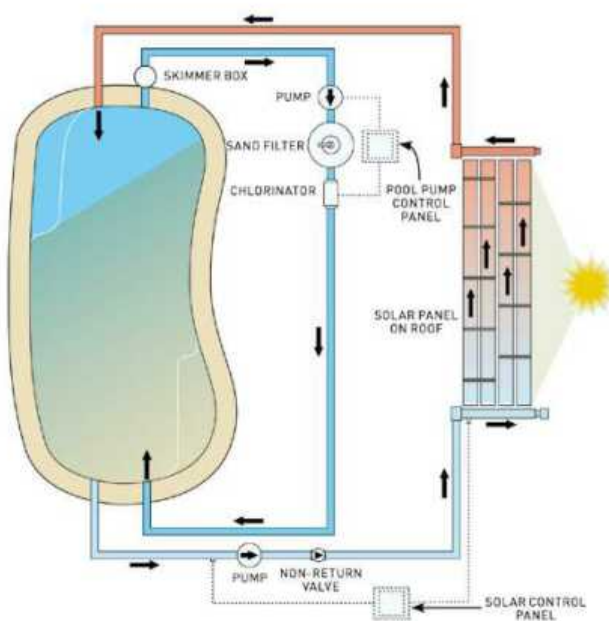
Filters use sand or fine diatomaceous earth to trap debris. ⚙️ **PUMPS** keep the water circulating through the filtration system to disperse chemical treatments and prevent any debris build-up with a constant flow.

They're usually powered by an electric motor. It should be run for about six hours a day, so install a timer to turn it on and off. ⚙️ **CLEANERS** work in tandem with the filter, sucking up debris from the pool floor and walls.

Manual and auto-pulse action pool vacuums are run on suction from the pump. Robotic cleaners are powered independently. ➤



KEEPING IT CLEAN



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Available at Bunnings Warehouse.



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Josh and Jenna show you how at
www.protectoraluminium.com.au



Certificate of
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CMA-CM40019 (AUS)
CMA-CM40105 (NZ)



It's important to comply with safety regulations around a pool.

Stay safe

New Zealand pool safety regulations require a pool fence be at least 1200mm high with gaps of 100mm or less and nothing climbable nearby.

The gate must swing away from the pool and be self-closing, with latches fitted on the pool side, 300mm from the top of glass gates or 1500mm from the ground for metal. [🔗](#)

GET THE LOOK



Protector Aluminium 2.4 x 1.2m Black Flat Top Pool Fence Panel, \$67. protectoraluminium.com.au



Mojo MyChair Red Outdoor Cushion, \$189. bunnings.co.nz



Assorted Leucospermum, \$21. bunnings.co.nz



Everton Stainless Steel Mini Post, \$119. evertonglass.co.nz

DIY glass, clearly all class.

Whether you're building new, or just looking to update, there's nothing quite like an Everton glass pool fence to transform the ordinary into extraordinary.

Everton's range of DIY pool fences are safe, stylish and budget friendly. You can install them with the help of a mate in as little as a weekend.

Visit evertonglass.co.nz or discover the entire range at Bunnings.


Everton
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MAKE A BBQ BENCH

Top plywood cabinetry with hardwood beams to create an outdoor prep area

PROJECT DANIEL BUTKOVICH PICTURES SUE FERRIS

The entrance area of this inner city townhouse was bare and unused. A more private rear courtyard was used as a garden, but the covered front verandah was ideal for an outdoor entertaining area.

A cabinet was designed to fit across a 2200mm wall and be used as a food prep area for an existing gas barbie.

Featuring ample storage, it was built high enough for the edge of the barbie to tuck underneath one end.

Hardwood beams were used for the benchtop. The cabinet was built from formply. Used for concrete formwork, it's strong and moisture-resistant.

The bench cost \$780 to build and took two days to complete.



Don't toss an old barbecue, give it a new setting with a custom-made bench instead

DANIEL'S PICKS



Cabot's Danish Oil, \$33 for 500ml. cabots.co.nz



Bosch 18V-LI 165mm Cordless Circular Saw, \$248, skin only. bosch-pt.co.nz



Zenith 65mm Easy Fit Hinge, \$8 for two. itwproline.com.au



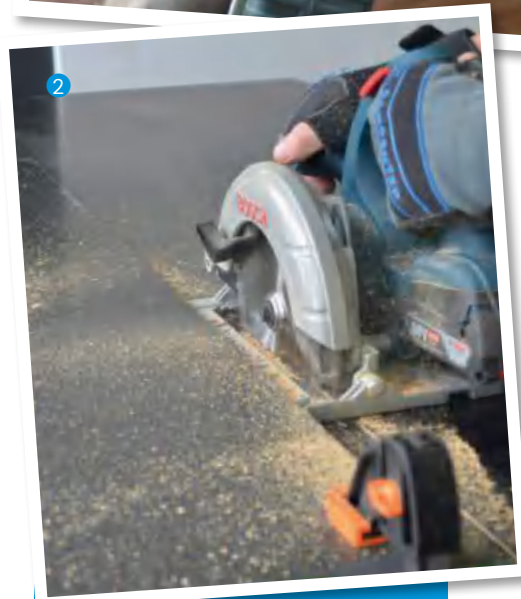
Ozito 125mm Random Orbital Sander, \$74. ozito.co.nz



TIC Black 125mm Rubber Heavy Duty Swivel Castor, \$49. bunnings.co.nz



1



2



Make straight cuts

Accurate cuts are essential when making cabinets, as small deviations can leave doors misaligned. It's also important to avoid splintering on ply edges.

1 SET THE BLADE DEPTH

Adjust the base plate so the blade protrudes only half a sawtooth more than the thickness of the timber to reduce splintering.

Circular saws cut on the upstroke, so always cut with the good side facing down.

2 USE A CUTTING GUIDE

To cut a ply sheet lengthways, clamp another sheet to it and use the factory edge as a guide, allowing for the offset of the saw blade. For smaller cuts, use a cutting guide. >

TOOLS
CIRCULAR SAW, DRILL,
RANDOM ORBITAL
SANDER

BUDGET TIP

Formply is strong, durable and affordable, and the hard resin surface doesn't need to be painted, saving time and money.

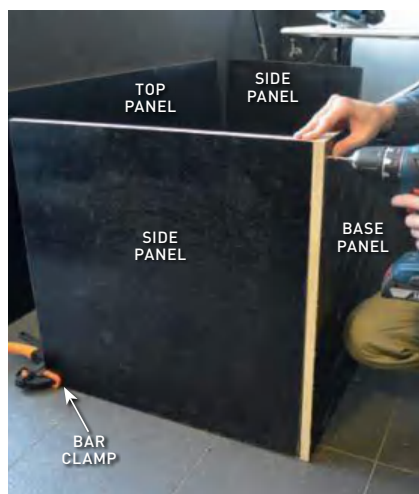
What you need

Hardwood beams
Plywood
Castors
Bolts and screws
Door hardware
Danish oil

▶ Watch the video online

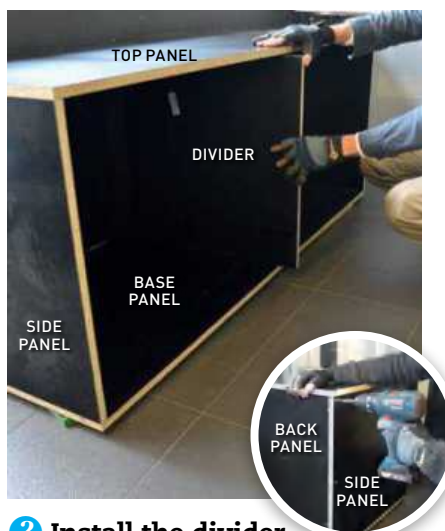
Visit handymanmagazine.co.nz/bbq-bench

BUILD THE BENCH



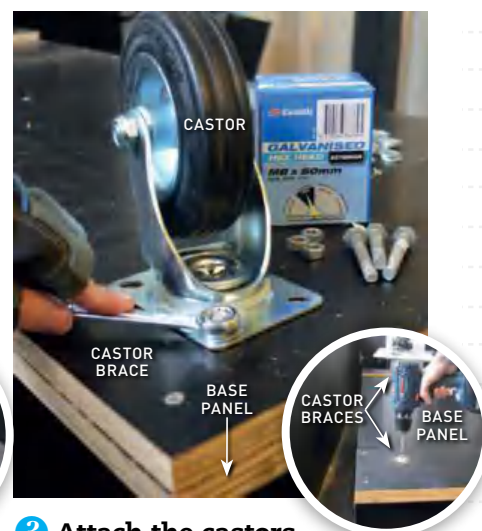
1 Assemble the frame

Position the side panels upright and use bar clamps to support them, then position the base panel against the edges of the side panels. Predrill holes in the base panel, then secure to the side panels with screws. Position the top panel against the side panels, predrill and secure with screws.



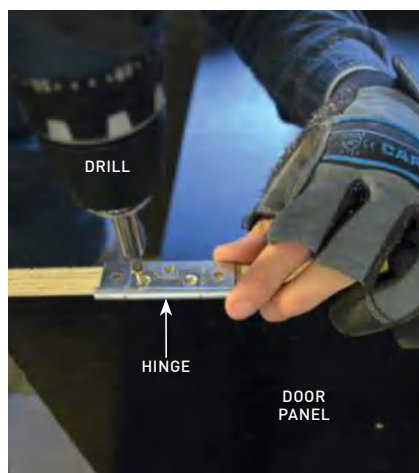
2 Install the divider

Turn the cabinet upright. Mark the midpoint on the front of the cabinet and insert the divider panel, clamping in position. Secure the divider through the top and base panels using screws, so it is flush with the cabinet front. Position the back panel and secure with screws into the top, base and sides.



3 Attach the castors

Turn the cabinet upside down, position the castor braces on the base panel and align with the side, front and back edges, securing with screws. Mark the position of the castors on the braces, then drill 8mm clearance holes and secure the castors with bolts, tightening with a spanner.



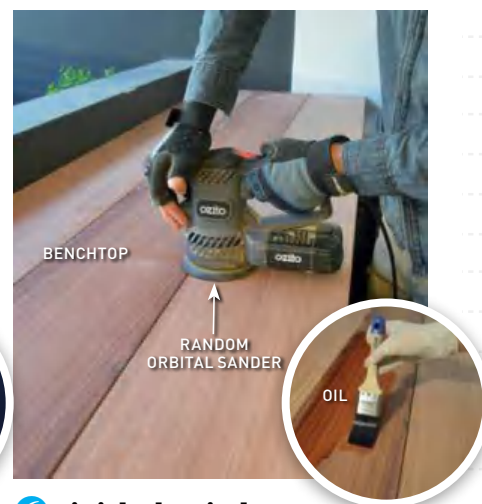
4 Hang the doors

Secure two hinges to each door 65mm from the top and base. Position the door in the cabinet and support with wedges, then mark the location of the hinges on the cabinet frame. Predrill the top holes of each hinge and secure with screws, test the hinge, then drive the remaining screws.



5 Install the benchtop

Move the cabinet into position flush against the wall. Position the beams on top and clamp in place, then mark the cutting line across all the beams and cut using a circular saw. Predrill holes, then secure through the underside of the top panel using four screws for each beam.

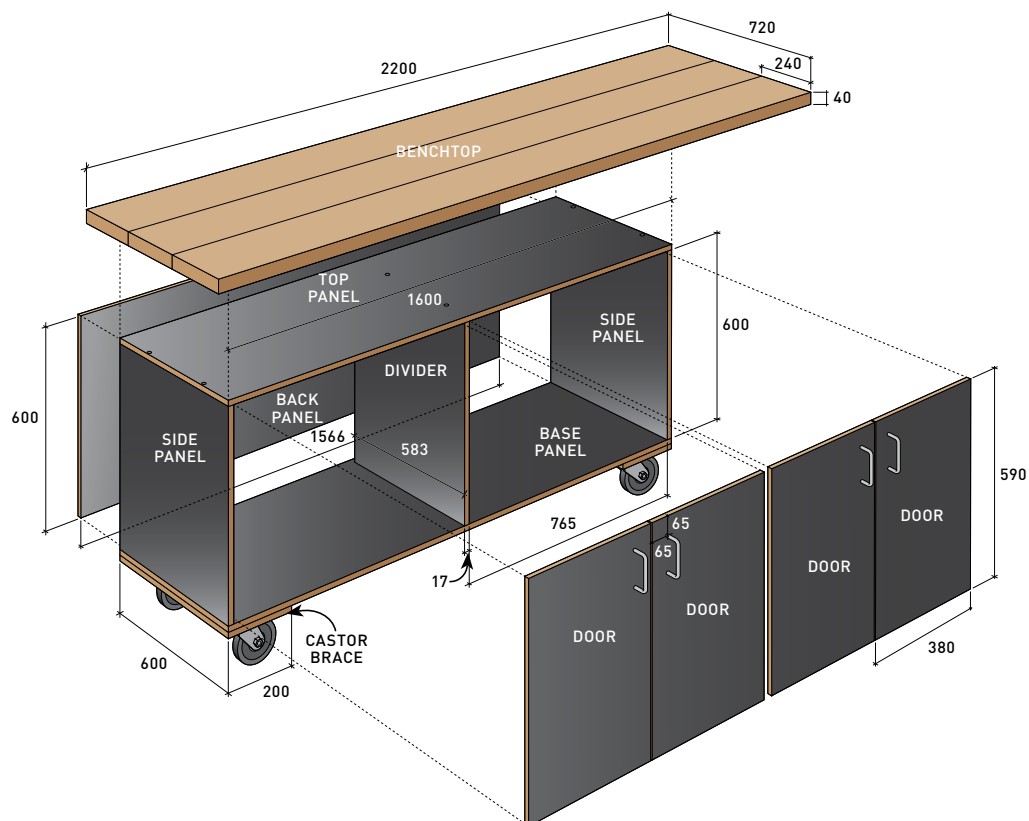


6 Finish the timber

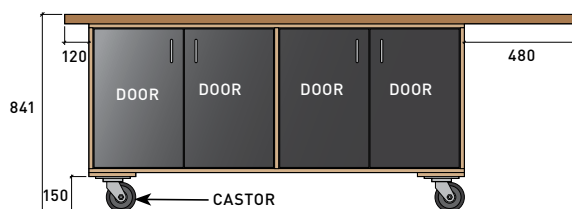
Sand the benchtop using a random orbital sander and 150 grit abrasive paper, then sand with 240 grit paper. Wipe the benchtop with a tack cloth to remove any dust and debris, then apply two coats of Danish oil using a paintbrush, following the grain of the timber. Attach the doorhandles. 🛠️

BBQ BENCH

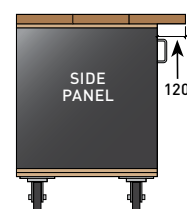
measurements in mm



FRONT VIEW



SIDE VIEW



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Formply		
Top panel	1600 x 600 x 17	1
Base panel	1600 x 600 x 17	1
Side panels	600 x 600 x 17	2
Back panel	1566 x 600 x 17	1
Divider	600 x 583 x 17	1
Cabinet doors	590 x 380 x 17	4
Castor braces	600 x 200 x 17	2
Hardwood		
Benchtop beams	2200 x 240 x 40	3

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
10g x 50mm galvanised timber screws	Cabinet, castor braces, benchtop
5g x 15mm zinc-plated timber screws	Hinges
M8 x 50mm galvanised hex head bolts	Castors

BASIC SKILLS

Random orbital sander

 Random orbital sanders are ideal for DIY. The powerful motor makes them capable of quick surface removal, and they can also be used for fine sanding.

Unlike a standard orbital sander, the base disc moves in a random orbital pattern, allowing the sander to remove surface material without leaving circular marks on the timber.

They feature abrasive paper discs that attach using hook-and-loop pads or pressure-sensitive adhesive. The discs have holes that align with those in the base plate for dust extraction.

Keep a random orbital sander moving at all times for an even finish, guiding it along the workpiece at a rate of about 25mm per second.

TIP Wear safety goggles, a respirator and hearing protection when sanding.

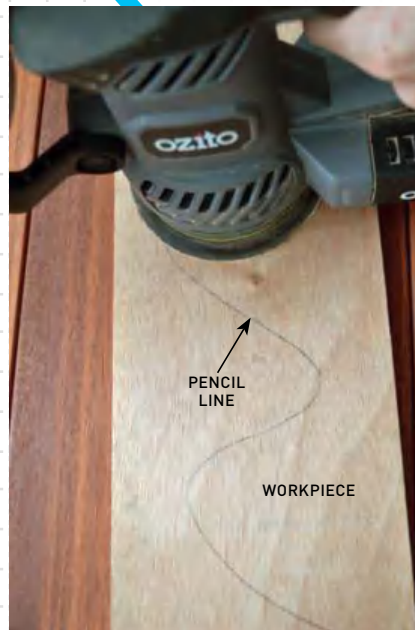


 Watch the video online
Visit handymanmagazine.co.nz/sander



+ APPLY LIGHT PRESSURE

Don't press too hard on the surface when sanding, as this will slow down the sander, resulting in scratches on the timber. Grip the handles gently but firmly and let the sander do the work.



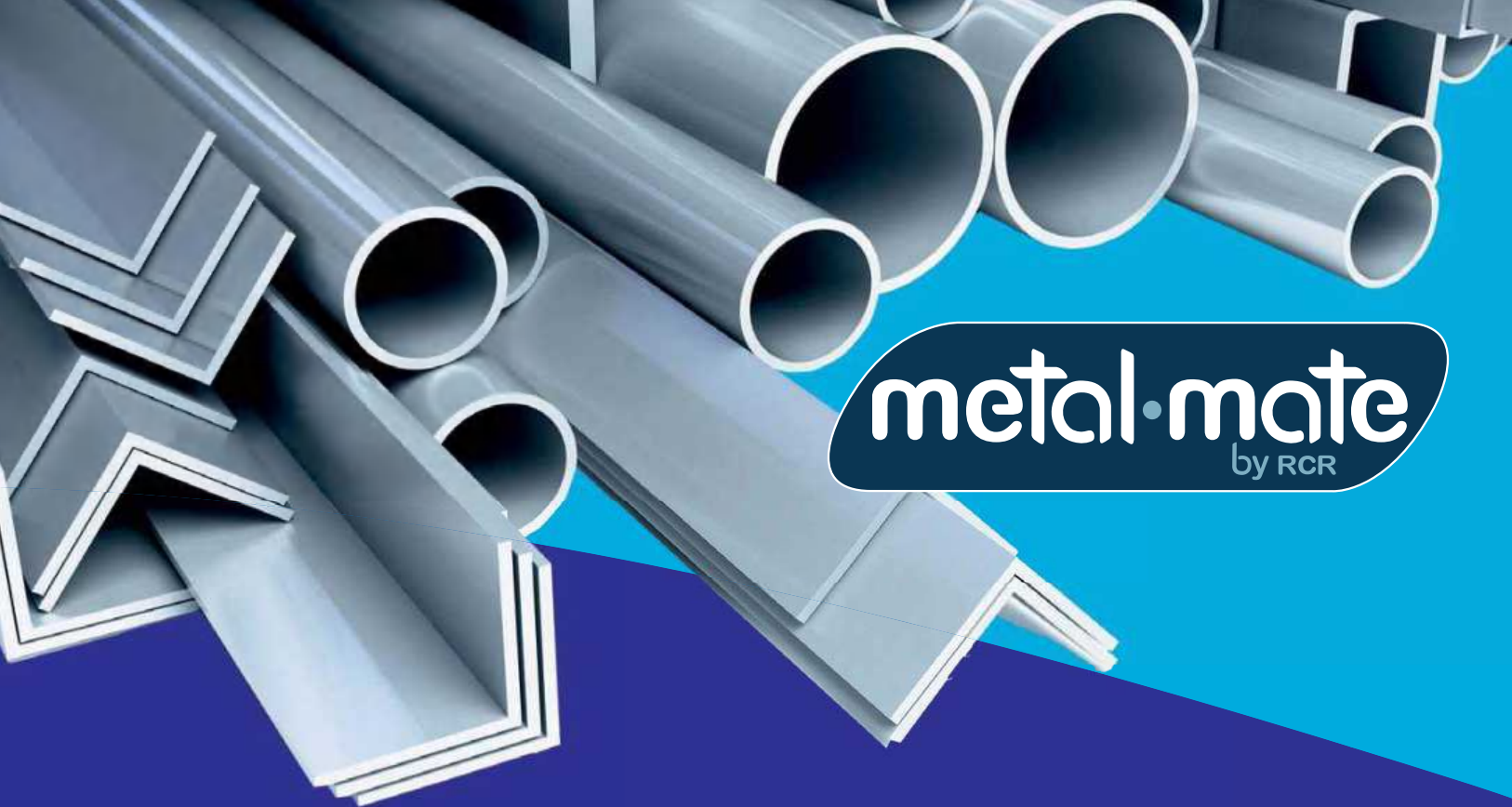
+ MARK THE SURFACE

For an even sanding job, draw a squiggle across the timber using a pencil, then sand until the mark is removed. Repeat for each grit, applying lighter pressure with the pencil for finer grit papers.



+ CHANGE THE DISC

Sanding discs clog and deteriorate quickly, after which point they no longer remove surface material. If you're doing a lot of sanding, change discs every 30 minutes.



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10 CHRISTMAS HACKS

Try these super-simple storage ideas and festive tricks to get organised

PROJECTS LEE DASHIELL PICTURES GEOFF BECK



1

Light hanger

If you hate untangling fairy lights every year, try the simple trick of wrapping them around a coathanger. This makes them easy to store and saves time when putting them up.

3

Can lantern

Make evenly spaced cuts in a soft drink can from top to base with a utility knife, pull out each section and spray with gold or silver paint. Use the lantern as a tree ornament or tealight candle holder.



2

Tree tubes

Use packing tubes to hold each section of an artificial Christmas tree. They will protect the branches while compressing them into a small space and make the tree stack easily for storage.





FESTIVE

4

Fairy-light fastener

It's often difficult to find ways to attach lights to gutters, roofs or even trees. Bulldog clips are a great fastening solution, as they are very secure, easy to attach and quick to remove.



5

Snowman fridge

Turn your whitegoods into iconic festive characters.

To make a snowman, cut out shapes from orange and black cardboard and wrapping paper, then attach to the fridge with Blu-Tack.



6

Giftwrap bag

Keep wrapping paper tidy and protected by storing it in a plastic clothing protector bag. You can just hang it in the closet for no more rips, folds or reams of unruly paper.





FESTIVE



7

Ribbon roller

Giftwrap ribbons can easily come off the spool or get tangled into a complete mess. Arrange them in a plastic storage basket and push the ribbon ends through the holes in the side.



8

Bauble tray

Protect fragile ornaments from breakage and store them safely by putting them in egg cartons. With individual cells and a lockable lid, they make ideal storage boxes and are also stackable.

9

Festive snacks

For food that doubles as decoration, slice flatbread into triangular tree shapes and spread with guacamole. Decorate with diced red capsicum or tomato, then use a cracker to create the tree trunk.



10

Candy sleighs

For a fun and edible gift, make a stack of chocolate bars, from the largest to the smallest. Add a candy cane either side to create a sleigh and tie with decorative ribbon.





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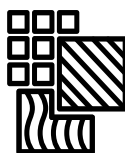
*ONLY AVAILABLE AT WAREHOUSE STORES

4_{IN}1

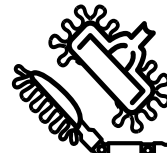
STICK VAC



CYCLONIC
FILTRATION



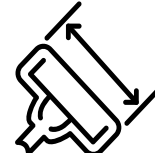
MULTI-SURFACE
CLEANING



VAC+DUST
TOOLS



QUICK RINSE
FILTER



DIRECTPATH
CLEANING



DIY CHRISTMAS

Get more bang for your buck this year with these festive decorating ideas

WORDS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

To celebrate the season and decorate your home this Christmas without breaking the budget, you can design and make your own ornaments.

DIY blogger Melissa Darr created a rustic wreath and two types of tree baubles for next to nothing using basic materials and simple techniques.

'My theme this year is a rustic Christmas, so that includes wooden branches, white clay decorations and pine cones,' says Melissa.

The wreath was made of 30 twigs, cardboard and twine, then a bow made from 70mm wide hessian and 40mm wide ribbon was attached to the wreath with glue. Hessian was used to hang it.



EXPERT SECRETS

To get the rustic look when using new materials, choose coarse twines and fabrics like hessian.



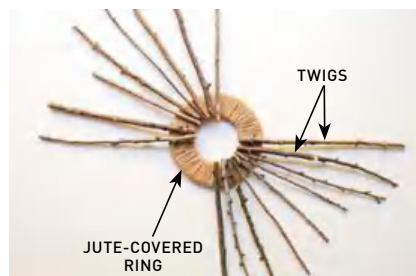
Create a consistent style by choosing a decorating theme that will work in every room

1 2 3



1 Make the ring

Cut two circles with a diameter of about 180mm from cardboard, cutting out the centres to form two rings. Join the two rings using adhesive, leave to dry, then wrap jute twine around the ring to cover it completely.



2 Secure the twigs

Space four of the straightest twigs at even intervals around the jute-covered ring, positioning the ends flush with the cutout edge and securing with PVA adhesive. Attach the remaining sticks, working in one quadrant at a time.



3 Add the bow

Cut and glue 450 and 600mm lengths of ribbon and hessian. Fold over ends and glue to form two bows, tying with twine and hessian. Cut and glue 250mm ribbon and hessian, cut tail ends and glue to the bow. Attach to the wreath. ➤



FESTIVE

RUSTIC WREATH

\$11

TIDY TIP

Hang a decorative object on a door using strong fabric and a self-adhesive hook to avoid making a nail hole.

DIY TIP

If you don't have space in the house for a traditional Christmas tree, create something unique like a decorative tree branch.

BRANCH BAUBLES



Melissa created wooden branch decorations using just a stencil set and string for hanging.

As a personal touch, she stencilled words fitting to the festive season on them such as hope and peace.

The baubles were cut from strong wooden branches in good condition.

'These ornaments cost me nothing to make, as I found the materials in my yard or craft cupboard,' says Melissa.

✚ **CUT** the wooden branches into discs, about 20-30mm thick.

✚ **DRILL** a hole near the edge of each wooden disc. If a piece breaks off, glue it back on with adhesive.

✚ **THREAD** string through the holes in the ornaments, using a colour that contrasts with the wood.

✚ **STAMP** words or decorations onto the wooden discs using a stencil set.

✚ **HANG** the finished branch baubles on a tree, along with other organic materials, such as pine cones decorated with bows and attached to the tree branches using string.

\$5



Use a stencil set to add words to wooden discs.



FESTIVE

TREE TRINKETS



To make clay-look decorations, Melissa found a dough recipe of 1½ cups cornflour, 3 cups baking soda and 2¼ cups water that gave the ideal consistency and white colour.

➤ **COMBINE** the cornflour, baking soda and water, then put in a pan over medium heat and bring to the boil.

➤ **ALLOW** the mixture to simmer slowly, stirring constantly.

➤ **REMOVE** from the heat and transfer to a ceramic or stainless steel bowl.

➤ **COVER** the bowl with plastic wrap and set aside to cool completely.

➤ **TAKE** the dough from the bowl and knead, then roll out to 6mm thick.

➤ **CUT** shapes with cookie cutters and poke holes in the tops for hanging.

➤ **PREHEAT** the oven to no hotter than 70-80°C and bake the shapes on trays for 60-90 minutes.

➤ **REMOVE** from the oven and cool on a rack, then thread the holes with twine. Hang the ornaments. ✓

\$3

Make and bake a range of festive shapes.

DESIGN TIP

Give your decorations a shiny finish with metallic paint in gold or silver, or attach glitter or glass beads using craft glue.



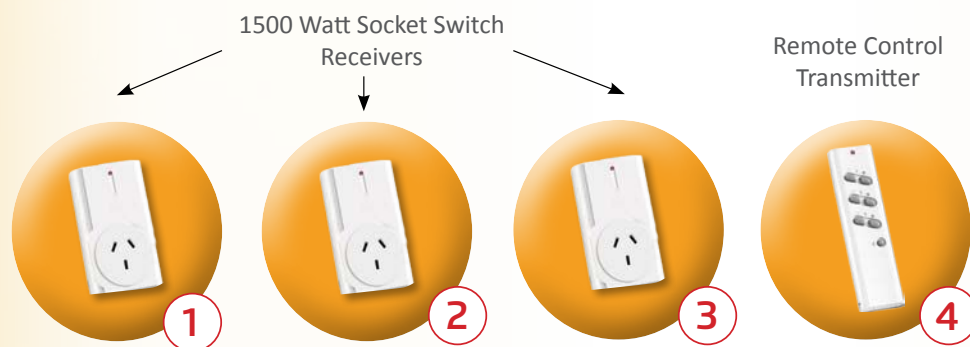
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Next, plug the power cord of your light or device into the receiver (max. 1500 Watt per receiver). Use the included **Remote Control (4)** (or a Trust Smart Home Transmitter of your choice and pair to the receivers for wireless control (max. 6 transmitters per receiver).

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Summer's here, and with it, those sweltering days and nights that can make life uncomfortable.

Air conditioning is an effective solution, but it's not the only way to cool down the house. There are many simple methods that will suit any home and any budget.

Each house is different, so look around your place and make note of where you think improvements could be made. Combining a few strategies will improve the overall cooling effect and keep your bills down. ➤

STAY COOL IN SUMMER

Combine a few simple, cost-effective strategies to cool your home and help the garden survive the hot season

WORDS SITA SIMONS

Install insulation

Home insulation not only helps keep the heat in during winter, but also keeps a house cooler in summer.

It creates a thermal barrier that reduces heat transferring into the house from roof spaces and walls baked by the summer sun.

Installing insulation between the ceiling joists is a straightforward

DIY job, and the key is to measure and cut precisely. Keep all the offcuts to seal any gaps at the end.

A small gap can greatly reduce the insulating value, so fit the insulation snugly, avoiding gaps around ducts and pipes, and tape up holes and joins.

The priority is to insulate the ceiling first before tackling the walls and underfloor spaces.



Wear protective gear when installing insulation.



Draw hot air and moisture out of the ceiling space with a roof vent.



Create ventilation

Roof ventilation prevents heat build-up in the cavity, which in turn reduces the room temperature. Whirly birds, and vents in gables and eaves, direct moist and hot air from the roof.

Create a vacuum that draws in cool air and expels hot air by opening a small window on the cool side of the house and a larger window on the hot side.

Keep the windows and doors closed during the hottest part of the day and open at night once the temperature has dropped.

Circulate air

There's no doubt that on the hottest days, nothing beats the chill of an air conditioner and smart use can make it efficient and economical.

Newer units will generally be quieter, more energy efficient and economical to run, so it can be worth the investment to replace old systems.

Ceiling fans and standing fans are low cost and draw minimal energy. They work by circulating the air, making temperatures more even.

Position standing fans near an open window at night. Using a ceiling fan with an air conditioner can allow the thermostat to go down by as much as four degrees, saving energy and money.

 Get more tips for keeping cool
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Smart windows

Double-glazed windows provide an effective heat barrier, increasing the number of surfaces from two to four.

The glass can be coated with a low-emissivity treatment that reflects infrared and UV radiation. Tinting the windows can also provide heat-blocking, and is easy to DIY.

Shading the windows with insulated curtains or good-quality blackout blinds keeps sunlight out.

Team with awnings or umbrellas outdoors and you will develop a good heat barrier that will help the temperature to drop inside. ➤

Focus on the windows to reduce the temperature indoors.

 Installing energy-efficient windows is one of the best ways of improving thermal performance

Clever landscaping

Garden landscaping should serve double duty by working to shade the house and also to protect the plants so the garden flourishes and survives throughout the summer.

Avoid planting trees haphazardly and carefully plan to gain maximum shade properties. Deciduous trees planted on the northern and western side of the house will provide shade in summer without impeding sunshine in winter.

Vines are quick growers and they can be grown over screens and used to cover windows, shielding the inside of your home from direct sunlight.



Outdoor shade

Awnings over windows help keep the heat out, and a well-positioned umbrella can serve the same purpose.

Use shade structures such as pergolas or shadesails over concrete or paved areas, as hard surfaces can reflect and radiate heat towards the house.

Solid walls can also provide shade to create a cool and relaxing spot in the backyard.

Shade structures help protect plants and the lawn.



A covered entertaining area also serves to shade the house.



Water features

Incorporating a water feature can help make the immediate area more comfortable through evaporative cooling.

Choose one with a circulating function or a running fountain to discourage mosquitoes.

Installing a small pool also increases the evaporative efficiency, and there's the added bonus of having a spot to dip your feet in on a hot day. ➤



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Water Magic Waterslide Fountain Water Feature, \$345.
northcotepottery.com



Ezylite 510mm Static DIY Roof Vent, \$89.



HPM 1200mm Hang Sure Stainless Steel Ceiling Fan, about \$157. hpm.co.nz



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PAIN^T THE FLOOR

Give timber and concrete a colour treatment for a new look without spending big bucks

WORDS SITA SIMONS

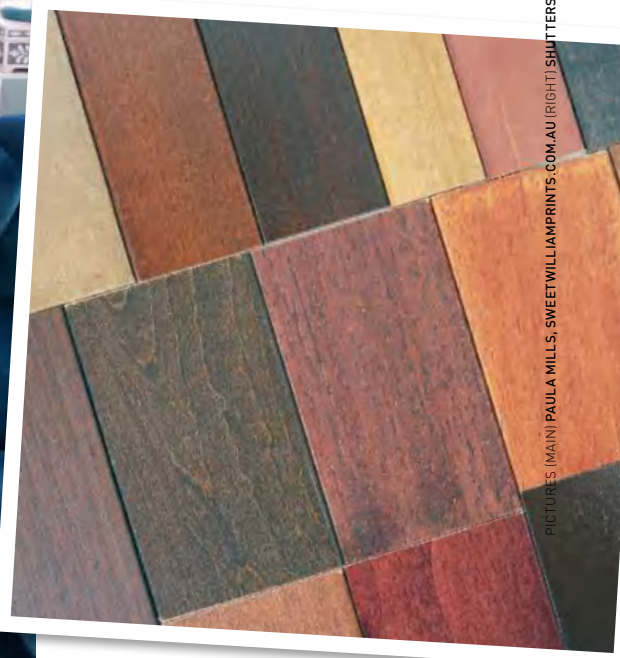
Once the decorative mainstay of many residences, painted floors took a back seat with the advent of timber treatments and stains that let the grain and colour of the boards take centrestage.

Over the past few years, the look has made a big comeback in everyday interiors, particularly as Scandinavian and industrial looks continue to be the strongest interior design trends.

Whether you want to prepare the house for sale or simply update your interior, painting the floor is a great way to give any room a quick and cost-effective makeover.

Modern looks are achieved with either very pale colours, ranging from white to eggshell greens and blues, to the other end of the spectrum, starting from the very current preference for grey tones to sheer blacks.

A painted floor lends a very different feel to a room.



PICTURES (MAIN) PAULA MILLS, SWEETWILLAMPRINTS.COM.AU (RIGHT) SHUTTERSTOCK

DIY TIP

Avoid painting yourself in by starting off in the corner furthest away from an exit point, then working your way towards it.



Assemble the tools for the job in advance.

Ensure the timber is clean, level and smooth for paint adhesion.



Oil and water

Remember the golden rule of using a water-based top coat with a water-based paint, and an oil-based finish with an oil-based paint.

An oil-based polyurethane will have a slight honey tone, so be aware of how the colour may change if this type is chosen.

Application tips

Every floor needs to be resistant to scratching and scuffing, and also able to withstand foot traffic.

And painting a floor comes with its own set of rules to achieve a long-lasting and resilient finish.

Remember that it's very hard to return a painted floor to a natural timber look because the paint soaks into the grain, so be sure you want to go ahead with it before committing.

One steadfast rule for painting floors is to apply thin layers of paint, allowing each to dry thoroughly before applying the next. The longer

each coat is left to cure, the more durable the end result will be.

Take care to load the paint evenly and work quickly, making even, long strokes. While a roller is the quickest method to apply paint, a paintbrush is best for uneven timber floors.

In theory, any type of paint can be used, but specialist formulations are designed to be more hardwearing.

Finish with a coat of polyurethane, using satin for a more matt finish, and gloss for a high-shine look.

As with all painting projects, a professional-looking end result is dependent on the preparation. ➤



Prepping and painting

On coated timber, punch in any protruding nail heads, then fill the holes. Sand the floor evenly using an orbital sander and 120 grit sandpaper.

Previously painted or clear-sealed floors only require a light sanding for the paint to adhere well.

Old lining boards with carpet laid over the top may need a heavier sanding to create an even surface.

Vacuum well and clean the floor, allowing it to dry thoroughly, then mask off the skirtings and doorframes.

Working from the furthest corner, apply primer, then at least two thin coats of paint, allowing each to dry as per the directions.

Finish with a clear polyurethane and allow to harden for at least 48 hours before walking on it or putting furniture back in the room. ➤



An imperfect paint finish can be part of the appeal, but sealing well is key



An orbital sander collects the dust for a quicker job.



Thin layers of paint are easier and quicker to apply, and create a tougher finish.

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SAFETY TIP

Solvent-based sealants are versatile and easy to use, but also highly flammable, so be aware of anything that could ignite while working.



Coloured concrete

In most cases, dyes and aggregates are mixed into the concrete to create the desired colour, but you can also finish plain concrete using paving paint.

The way the concrete is sealed will affect the final look. Applying sealant can be a DIY job and needs minimal drying time to produce a hard, durable finish.

Driveways and paths

To give paths and driveways a facelift, use paving paint. Old and tired paths and driveways can detract from that all-important kerb appeal, especially if you are planning to sell.

Painting is a low-cost option that is easy to DIY. Dark-coloured paint will hide cracks and imperfections, but the preparation work is important for a professional finish.

Sweep well and clean the area with a water blaster. Mask the edges and mix the paint. For an even first coat, you can thin the paint with 100ml of mineral turps per litre.

Allow the first coat to dry overnight, then apply another coat, letting that cure for up to seven days. 🍷



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CEMENT DESIGN

Make industrial-look homewares using plastic containers as moulds

PROJECTS AND PICTURES SUE FERRIS STYLING GEMA BENEITEZ

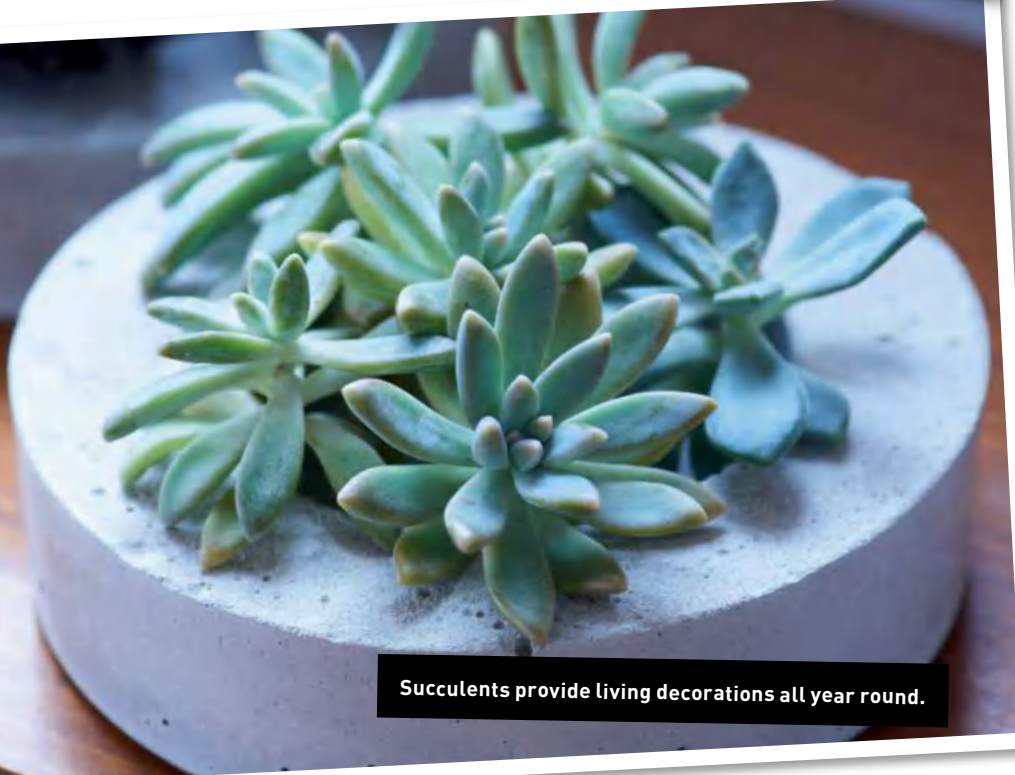
Fast becoming a staple of chic modern interiors, cement is no longer simply seen as the ugly, utilitarian building material it was in the past.

As it is so easy to mould, it is used increasingly as a material to make industrial-look, designer homewares.

Here, we show you how to create succulent planters, a wine cooler and drink coasters DIY, using a simple cement and sand mix and a variety of basic plastic moulds.

What you need

- Cement and sand mix
- Cement plasticiser
- Plastic moulds
- Plastic bottle
- Thick plastic sheet
- Cardboard sheet
- Polystyrene foam sheet
- Sticky tape
- Concrete paving sealer



Succulents provide living decorations all year round.

1 2 3



1 Pour the cement

Pour a thin layer of a sand and cement mix into a wide plastic mould. Centre a narrow mould in the mix and tape in position. Fill the mould to 10mm below the rim, then tap to remove air bubbles.



2 Remove the mould

Allow the cement to set completely, then carefully remove the narrow plastic mould and dispose of it. The mould should come out easily but, if not, cut it away with a utility knife.



3 Finish the planter

Cut away the wide plastic mould from the cement using a utility knife to release the planter. Drill a hole for drainage through the base of the planter using a diamond core bit. ➤

SUCCULENT PLANTERS

The grey concrete contrasts well with the varied tones of foliage.



GROW TIP

Select the right succulent for the planter. Here, echeverias were used, which have short-root systems suited to shallow but wide containers.



Sue & Gema

EXPERT SECRETS

The cement mix shouldn't be too watery when made, as it is likely to crack when set.



WINE COOLER



Sharp, geometric lines and a raw, unpolished finish give this cement wine cooler a contemporary edge.

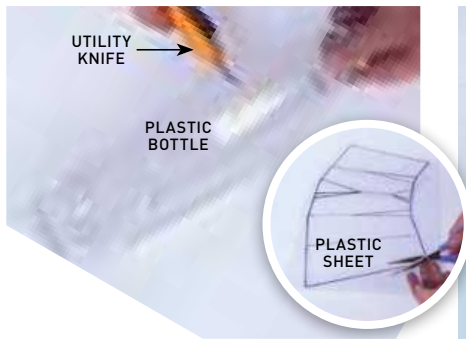
For this project, a template was created on a thick plastic sheet, its sides folded and taped together, then used with a plastic bottle as a mould.

A plasticiser was added to the cement mix to make it easier to work into the shape of the mould.

For the template to make this cement wine cooler, visit handymanmagazine.co.nz/wine-cooler

CEMIX**MORE THAN CONCRETE**

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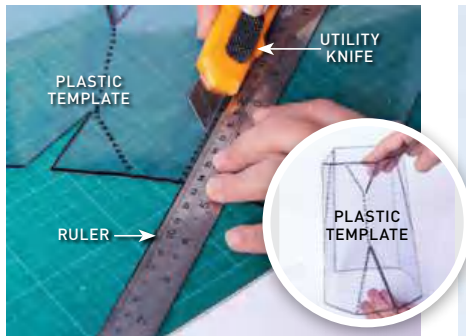
1 Create the templates

Mark and cut out the template on the plastic sheet, then repeat this for the cardboard sheet. Cut the top off the plastic bottle, leaving 50mm extra than the height of the wine cooler.



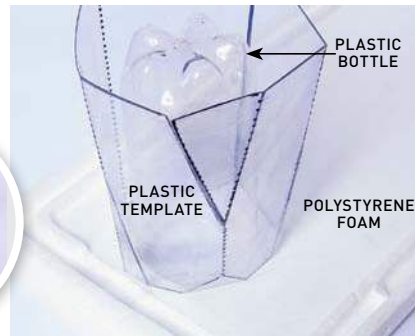
2 Secure the bottle

Cut a hole in the polystyrene foam to snugly fit the circumference of the plastic bottle. Position the bottle in the hole in the polystyrene foam, with the cut end facing downwards.



3 Cut the templates

Put the plastic template on a cutting mat. Cut along the solid lines and score and fold along the dotted lines. Tape the template securely together, then repeat for the cardboard template.



4 Add the template

Put the template on the polystyrene foam over the bottle, with the top of the template facing down. Make sure the top edges are equidistant to give a symmetrical opening.



5 Add the cement

Secure the template to the polystyrene foam with tape. Add the cement using a trowel, tapping the sides to remove air bubbles. Tape the cardboard template around the plastic to stop it bulging.



6 Remove the templates

Once the concrete is completely set, remove the templates using a utility knife. Turn the cooler the right way up and cut the excess plastic from the bottle in the centre of the cooler. ➤



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DRINK COASTERS

Durable and on trend, these coasters work for indoor and outdoor spaces.

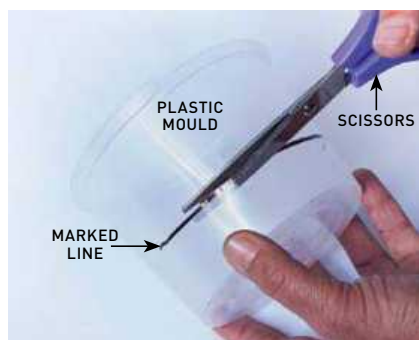


These drink coasters are ideal for a lounge or dining setting indoors or out.

Easy and quick to make, the coasters were moulded in basic plastic containers, cut to size.

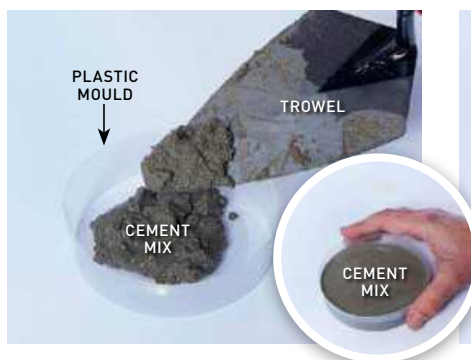
To give the coasters a slight sheen and provide protection from moisture, they were finished off with a concrete paving sealer.

1 2 3



1 Cut the mould

Mark the height of the coaster around a plastic container with a marker pen. Cut along the line, leaving a little extra height at the top to make the mould easier to remove.



2 Add the cement

Fill the plastic mould with a sand and cement mix using a trowel, ensuring it is evenly spread. Gently tap the side of the mould to remove any air bubbles.



3 Remove the mould

Once the concrete is completely set, carefully remove the coaster from the plastic mould. Use a small paintbrush to apply concrete sealer to the coaster. 🖌️

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SOLID FORM

Take concrete indoors with these innovative ideas for surfaces and furniture

WORDS SITA SIMONS

The word may conjure images of dense cityscapes and austere architecture, but concrete is having its moment in the sun.

An affordable material with many applications, concrete is integral to the building industry, and has become very popular for interiors as well.

Concrete finishes suit an industrial look and have long been favoured by designers for modern residences and repurposed commercial buildings, but it's not limited to one style.

It's labour and cost effective to use and, as it's renewable and sustainable, concrete has green credentials, too.

The raw quality of concrete makes it ideal for all kinds of interiors, and it works well with other natural materials such as timber and stone.

In an industrial-style setting, concrete pairs well with stainless steel.

DIY TIP

Keep concrete benchtops clean and free of stains with non-acidic cleaners formulated for natural stone finishes.

**Installing a benchtop**

A concrete benchtop is most often poured in situ using steel-reinforced formwork, to support the weight of the cured material and to protect it from cracking and damage over time.

Sealing the benchtop is of prime importance when using concrete in a kitchen or bathroom.

Depending on the desired finish, you can choose between penetrative sealants, which seal the concrete from the inside out for a matt result, or a surface finish that enhances shine.

While it can be an expensive option, a cleverly engineered and well-finished concrete benchtop will last indefinitely.

A concrete benchtop suits a kitchen with an ultra-modern aesthetic.

Kitchens and bathrooms

Incorporating concrete into kitchen and bathroom design has really taken off in the last 10 years, due to its practical nature and versatility.

The look of concrete is endlessly variable, depending on the aggregates that create texture, which can be anything from quartz to seashells, and the oxides and dyes used to generate different colours.

There are different types of concrete and varying classes of finish. Although it is possible to DIY, getting the best results is a specialised job which is best left to the professionals.

All concrete is going to need some level of grinding back to make it even and smooth, but polishing can be done to different degrees to produce anything from a very raw look to a highly mirrored finish. ➤



Concrete is not only for industrial-style interiors. It suits many different looks, depending on the application

In a bathroom, polished concrete creates smooth, seamless lines that are pleasing to the eye.



Concrete interiors work well when contrasted with timber.

DESIGN TIP

When using concrete on walls, there is less need for sealants. The natural ageing of the material adds to its aesthetic appeal.

Concrete vs cement

Although the two terms are often used interchangeably, concrete and cement are not the same thing. Concrete contains cement, sand, aggregate and water.

The aggregate includes materials such as gravel or crushed stone.

The most common type of cement used today is Portland. A British

cement manufacturer, Joseph Aspdin, developed the material in the 1800s and gave it this name, as it resembled Portland stone, a type of limestone.

He discovered that adding clay to limestone and superheating it allowed the resulting mixture to set into a rock-like material.

Portland is a type of hydraulic cement, which means that when

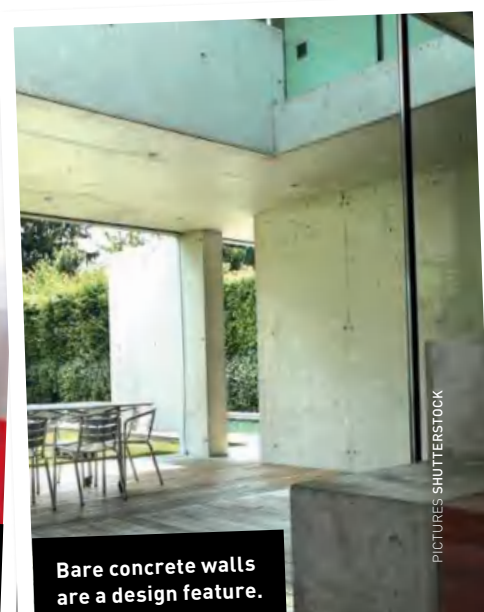
water is added, it starts the chemical reaction that causes the cement to set, holding the aggregate and sand together to form concrete.

Before the concrete is allowed to cure, the mixture needs to be poured into a mould so that it will harden into the desired shape.

The longer the mixture is kept damp, the stronger it becomes. 🍷



The concrete changes colour with the light.



Bare concrete walls are a design feature.

PICTURES SHUTTERSTOCK

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CHOOSE THE RIGHT LADDER

Stay safe at home by getting the ladder to suit your DIY needs

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

If asked to consider what are the most potentially dangerous tools you have in your garage, your mind may jump straight to drills, chainsaws and power saws.

But the truth is that a ladder is one of the most hazardous pieces of equipment you can use.

And you may also think that most accidents involving a ladder occur in the workplace but, surprisingly, 80% are home-based DIY accidents.

Perhaps the most alarming statistic is the height required for a fall to be serious, with accidents from as low as a metre recording significant numbers of serious injuries and even fatalities.

Here are our tips on selecting the right ladder and how to use it safely.



Suitable footwear is a must on a ladder.



For extra height, use an extension ladder.



Watch your step

The vast majority of ladder accidents occur from the simplest of things, such as going up and down incorrectly, the ladder moving, or overbalancing.

To avoid injuring yourself, follow this handy guide to ladder safety.

- **WEAR** closed-toe, non-slip footwear.
- **KEEP** the treads and rails of the ladder clean and free of any dirt.
- **REPLACE** a bent or damaged ladder.
- **ENSURE** the ladder is standing and resting on a stable and solid surface.

- **USE** a 1:4 ratio to avoid slippage. For every 4m in height, the ladder feet should be 1m away from the surface it is resting on.
- **STAY** at least 3m from power lines.
- **DON'T** use items such as loose bricks to prop up or level ladder legs.
- **TAKE** care when leaning against poles or tree trunks, or use a ladder with a pole or trunk support.
- **CHECK** that any locks or braces are secured before climbing.
- **MAINTAIN** three points of contact while climbing and working.

- **AIM** to keep your shoulders inside the line of the rails when extending your arms, to avoid overreaching.
- **FACE** inwards, towards the rungs.
- **DON'T** stand any higher than the third rung from the top.
- **AVOID** work that requires vigorous pushing or pulling while on a ladder.
- **DON'T** work on anything directly above you that may fall on you. Set the ladder to one side and a little higher.
- **CLIMB** down to change the position of a ladder rather than attempting to move it while you're still on it. ➤



Use a ladder fitted with a tree guard for safety.

DIY TIP

Select a ladder with a maximum length of at least 1m greater than the height you need to reach for a specific job.

STEP OR A-FRAME

Useful for both indoors and out, stepladders are easy to handle and store. There are a few variations on the A-frame type.



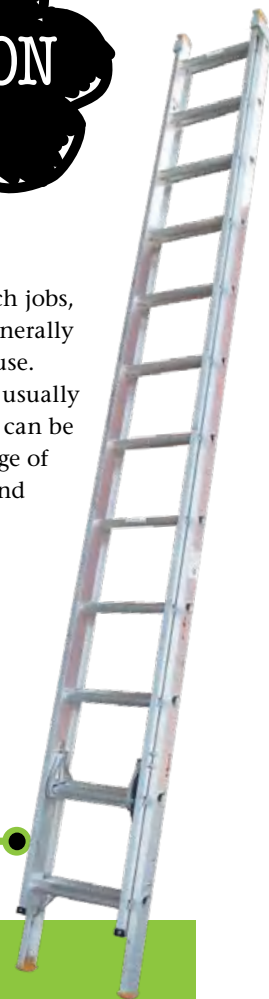
With a fold-out shelf to hold paint or tools, the Rhino 1.2m Single-sided Step Ladder, \$115, is a versatile option for many indoor jobs (rhinoladders.co.nz).



EXTENSION

Intended for higher-reach jobs, extension ladders are generally considered for outdoor use.

An extension ladder usually works in two stages and can be easily extended to a range of heights using a pulley and locking mechanism.



WORK PLATFORMS

Although not technically ladders, work platforms are useful for elevated jobs such as painting indoors and out.

Look for models with legs that can be independently height adjusted, which are ideal for use on steps.



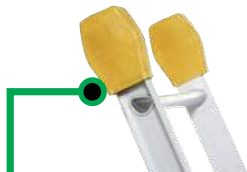
Perfect for DIY jobs, the aluminium Rhino Work Platform, \$80, has folding legs, a load rating of 120kg and can be raised from 580mm to 870mm in height.



Ideal for tall tasks, the Rhino 3.7-6.5m Aluminium Extension Ladder, \$398, has a single-rope pull and release system, and a 150kg load capacity.

SAFETY ACCESSORIES

No less important than the ladders themselves are the accessories that help to add height, improve safety, and make certain jobs easier to do.



Simple to fit onto the end of most extension ladders, Rhino Ladder Bumpers, \$14 a pair, reduce the risk of the ladder slipping and protect the surface.

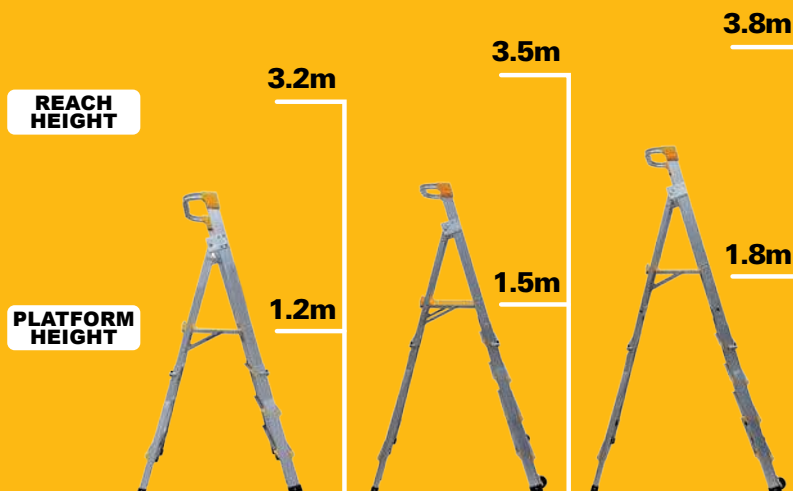


The Rhino Outrigger Ladder Stabiliser, \$69, is designed to be easily fitted to almost any ladder and provides additional stability against walls. 🍷

CLIMB SAFE.



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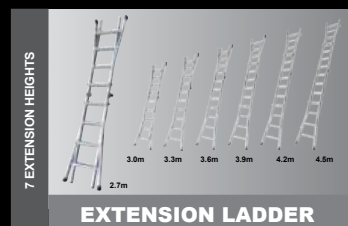
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PATHWAY PAVING

Lay pavers DIY to create a durable and modern garden walkway

For a timeless and durable pathway solution, it's hard to look past pavers. They come in a range of materials including concrete, clay, brick and stone, and they are easy to lay DIY.

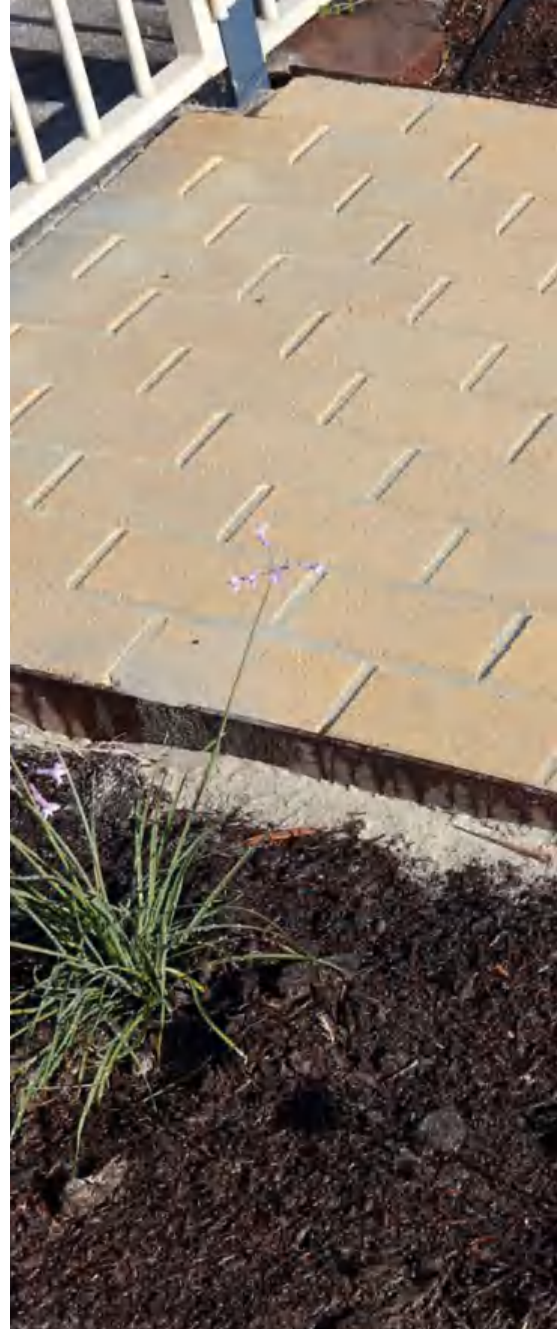
Prepare the area by excavating the pathway to a depth of 200mm and removing any rocks and debris before laying the foundation.



Laying a solid foundation is the key to a long-lasting path

What you need

- Pavers
- Paving sand
- Cement
- Timber edging
- Shovel
- Wheelbarrow
- Stringline
- Spirit level
- Rubber mallet
- Angle grinder
- Straightedge
- Measuring tape
- Broom
- Safety glasses
- Dust mask and gloves



1 Prepare the area

Lay a 50mm bed of crushed rock and compact it to create a level base. Position timber edging along the path sides, securing with stakes. The edging should rise above the gravel by the height of the pavers plus 20mm.



2 Add the sand

Pour three bags of paving sand onto the crushed rock base and thoroughly mix in a handful of cement with your hands, wearing work gloves and a dust mask. Smooth the sand across the path base to about 20mm deep.



3 Make a straightedge

Cut a piece of timber to the width of the path and use the height of one paver to mark a level line along one side. Drive in a nail at the marked line on each end and use the nails to position the straightedge on the timber edging.

DIY TIP

Installing timber edging along a paved pathway means you don't have to haunch the edges with mortar, and it creates a tidy border.

Allow the grout to set completely before walking on the pathway.

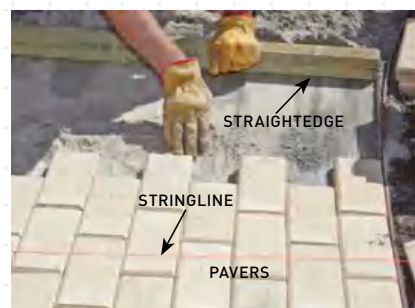
Watch the video 'How To Prepare For Paving' at bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice

**4 Screed the base**

Working from the start of the path, pull the straightedge towards you to screed the base and create a level section, then start laying pavers. This path uses a stretcher bond pattern, where the joints are offset by half the length of a paver.

**5 Lay the pavers**

Lay two rows of pavers, gently tapping into position with a rubber mallet, then set a stringline across the path. Check for level, adding or removing sand as needed. Mix more sand and cement on the base and screed it level.

**6 Finish the paving**

Lay the path using the stringline to check for level, cutting end pavers with an angle grinder. Mix sand and cement in a 4:1 ratio, sweep into the joints and spray with water to harden the mix. Repeat until all the gaps are filled.

OUTDOOR OVERHAUL

Turn an unused backyard into an alfresco dining and entertaining area

Kiwi backyards used to cater to the basic needs of a family with space for kids to play and a place to hang washing up to dry.

But our lifestyles have evolved and outdoor areas are now places to garden, relax, dine and entertain.

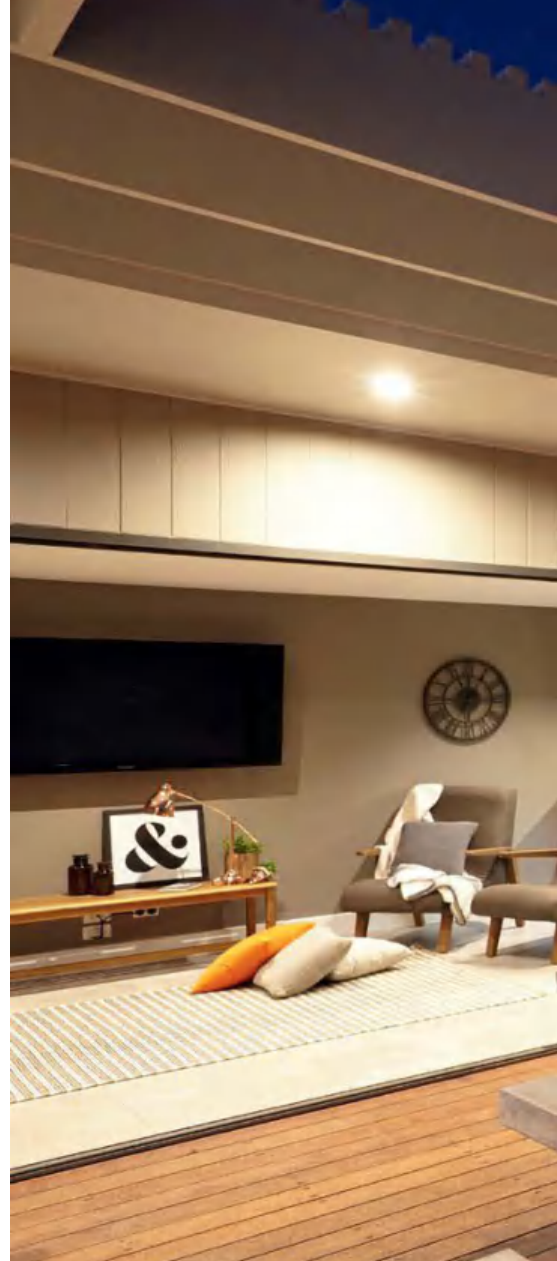
The layout of this home was dated and needed rejigging. A new deck took

the place of the concrete patio, and the covered pergola was swapped for a modern roof with an open design to maximise the natural light.

Bifold doors replaced the back wall of the house and the garage was converted into an outdoor room. The two are linked by the new deck, which was styled as an alfresco dining area.



A bar table is a great way to fit more seating on a deck that already has a dining setting



Timber, stone, concrete and steel combine to create an outdoor area with both warmth and texture.

LEFT Cater for large groups with an oversized table and bench seats.



Before



DIY TIP

Use glass sliding or bifold doors to create a seamless transition between indoor and outdoor living spaces.

After

The deck features a wood-fired oven and barbecue for the outdoor chef.

Before

Easy entertaining

To overhaul the backyard, the concrete patio and paths were replaced with timber decking at the back and side of the house.

The back deck was turned into an alfresco dining area with a deluxe bench featuring a wood-fired oven and barbecue. The converted garage has a sink, fridge and dishwasher for easy outdoor entertaining.

As a final touch, a spa was built into the deck for an all-season luxury escape in the backyard. ➤



Fresh food

The neglected garden had just one tree and patchy grass.

The new deck left enough space for a small lawn, and raised beds were added and planted up.

A vertical garden saves space and doubles as a design feature, plus it is very handy for growing vegies and herbs for cooking.

Watch 'How to Build a Vertical Garden' at bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice

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INSTALL A NEW GATE

Patch up and replace old posts to hang a timber garden gate

PROJECT DANIEL BUTKOVICH STYLING ARTEMIS GOUROS
PICTURES SUE FERRIS

The gate in the side passage of this suburban home was broken and needed replacing. A timber post had rotted and was no longer structurally sound, causing the gate to fall off its hinges.

The old gate was easily replaced with an off-the-shelf product, saving all the time and effort it would have taken to build a new gate.

While the post on the house side supporting the gate was completely degraded and had to be replaced, the other post needed only minor repairs.

The damaged surface of the fence post was scraped away, and wood hardener applied to the bare timber. Wood hardener stops rot and preserves timber, and filler can be applied over it for a complete repair. ➤



What you need

Gate
Post
Paint
Hinges
Latch
Fasteners
Wood hardener
Filler

Use a paint sprayer to make painting large surfaces quicker and easier

TOP PICKS



Ryobi ONE+ 18V Brushless Cordless Drill Driver, \$169, skin only. ryobi.co.nz



Wagner Flexio 585 Paint Sprayer, \$346. wagneraustralia.com.au



Josco Stainless Steel Four-Row Wire Brush, \$11. josco.com.au



Earl's Wood Hardener, \$41 for 250ml. jacjay.co.nz



Motueka Pickets Round Top Gate, 1800 x 900mm, about \$158. motuekapickets.co.nz



After

The new gate is a landscape upgrade that improves security.

DESIGN TIP

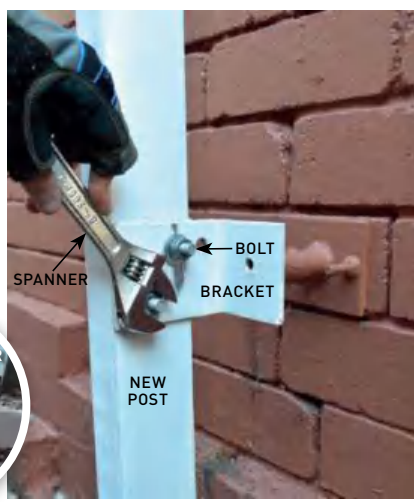
To maximise privacy and conceal unsightly features, such as water heaters, choose a gate with a closed picket design.

REPLACE THE GATE



1 Repair damaged timber

Use a wire brush to remove soft, rotten timber and flaking paint. Apply wood hardener to the timber, drilling small holes first to allow it to penetrate. Apply flexible exterior filler, then shape it with a spatula and allow it to cure. Sand and paint the post with two coats of exterior paint.



2 Replace the post

Measure the old post, then remove it by loosening the bolts securing it to the bracket. If the bolts are rusted, cut them using an angle grinder. Cut the new post to size, then paint it with two coats of exterior paint. Secure the post to the brackets using M8 x 75mm bolts.



3 Paint the gate

Lay the gate flat and sand both sides using a random orbital sander and 150 grit abrasive paper. Use bar clamps to support the gate upright, then paint both sides of the gate using a paint sprayer and water-based exterior paint, diluting with water up to 10% if required.



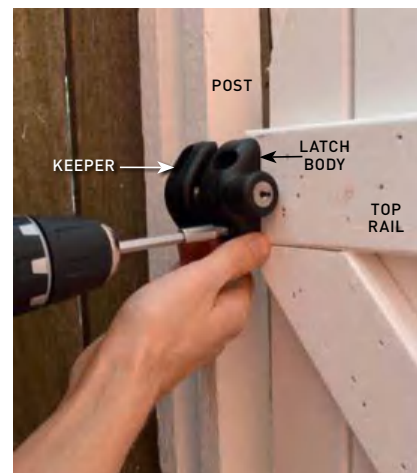
4 Secure the hinges

Align the tab on the top hinge with the edge of the gate top rail. Mark the hole positions and drill pilot holes using a 3mm drill bit, then secure the hinge using 10g x 35mm wafer head screws. Repeat for the lower rail. **TIP** Ensure hinges are positioned at least 900mm apart.



5 Hang the gate

Position the gate, supporting it at the correct height. Check for level, then mark the hinge hole positions on the post. Drill pilot holes using a 3mm drill bit, then secure the hinges to the post using 10g x 35mm screws. Check that the gate opens and closes properly, adjusting the tension if required.



6 Install the latch

With the gate closed, hold both sides of the latch in position and use a square to mark the location of the tops. Secure the keeper using the supplied screws, then align the latch body and secure, ensuring the gap between the keeper and the body is less than 10mm. Check that the latch closes automatically.

Choosing gate hardware

Gates that allow access to the backyard need to provide adequate security, especially if there are small children or pets in the family.

Self-closing hinges ensure that the gate won't ever be left open, as the adjustable tension mechanism means the gate always swings closed.

Installing a lockable magnetic latch further improves security, and means a padlock isn't required to keep the gate locked.

Designed for use on pool fences, these latches can be used on any gate and attach on the rear with no visible fasteners for a streamlined look. 🌱



Maximise security by installing self-closing hinges and lockable gate latches



For added security, fit a lockable latch to the gate.



Accessing the concealed latch from the outside is easy.

DIY TIP

Use galvanised or stainless steel screws when securing gate hinges and latches to prevent corrosion and ensure longevity.

H Refinish a garden gate
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Handyman

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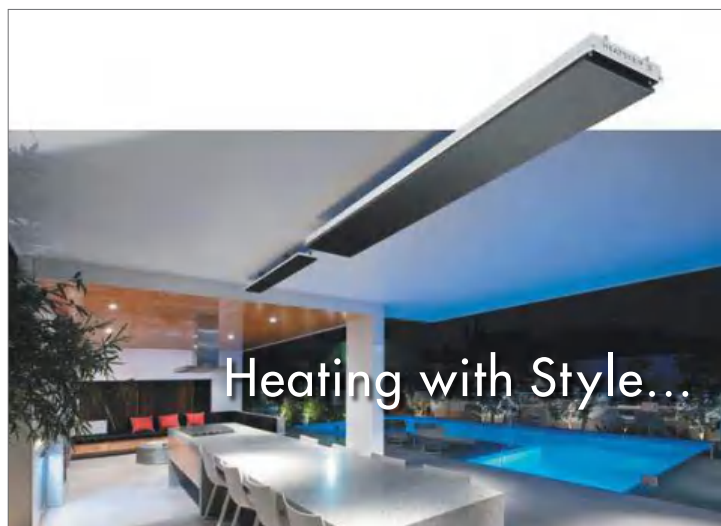


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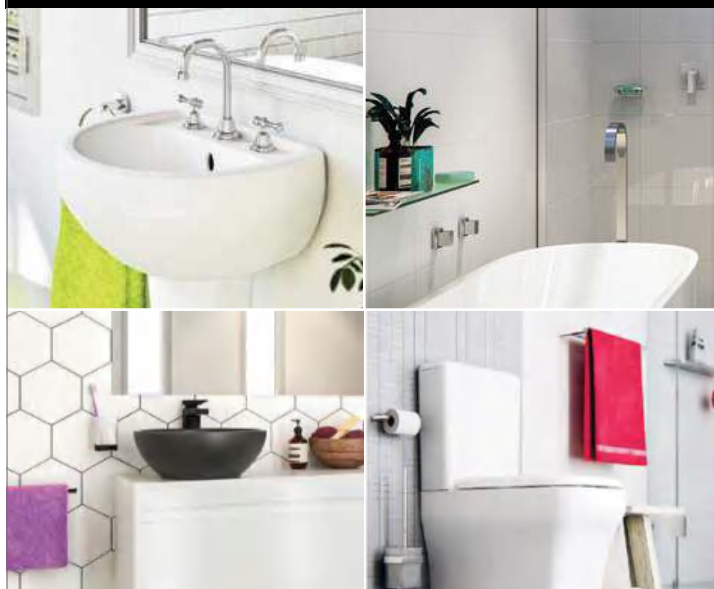
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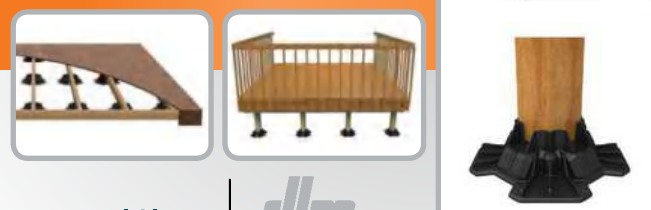
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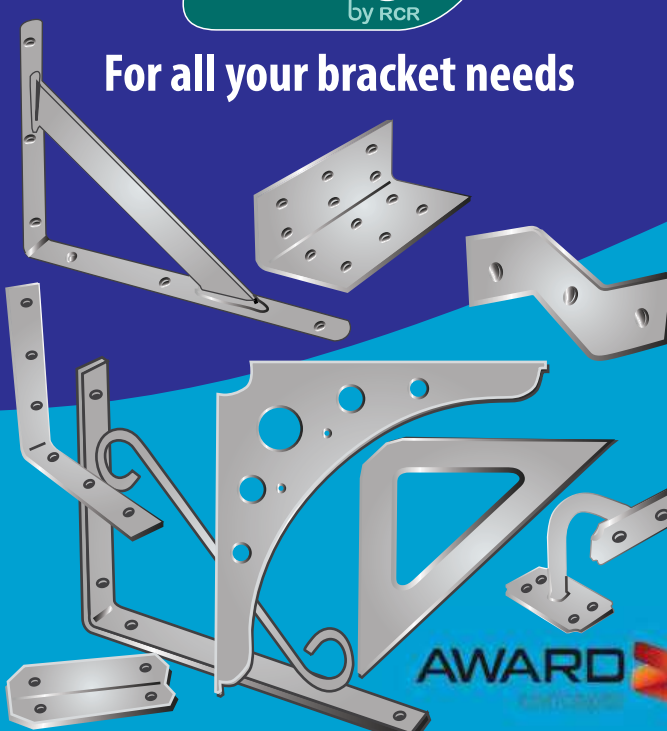


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An easy to follow guide to landscaping your garden with pavers.

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GET SET FOR THE HEAT

Prepare your garden so it's able to survive the hot summer sun

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

As flowers unfurl and scents abound, summer is a magical season in the garden. It is the time for relaxing and entertaining outdoors, so you want your backyard to be looking its best.

If you tackle a little groundwork now by weeding, conditioning the soil, fertilising and mulching, you will see plants growing by leaps and bounds. And it's also the perfect time to make your own compost.



Never add weeds that have gone to seed to the compost heap. Bag them up and allow them to rot.



Rejuvenate the soil

Healthy soil is the key to good gardening and it will also hold water for longer to help your plants withstand the heat.

Soil needs to be reconditioned regularly for plants to perform well, and the end or start of each season is the ideal time to add conditioners.

Organic matter conditions your soil and keeps your plants healthy by supplying nutrients.

✚ **ADD** a layer of compost, mushroom compost, or cow or chicken manure to the surface of the soil.

✚ **APPLY** a seaweed product to help promote beneficial microorganisms.



Eliminate weeds

It is important to get rid of weeds when they first appear, as they compete with plants for the nutrients in the soil and leave them vulnerable to diseases and attack by insects. Here's how to win the war on weeds.

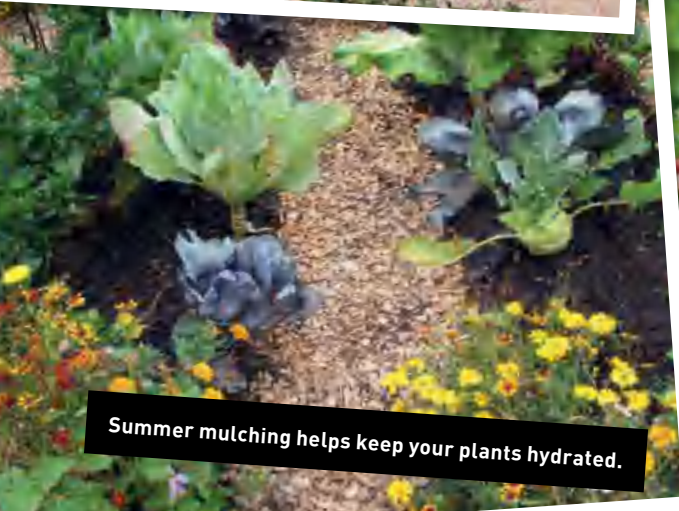
✚ **PULL** them up by hand as soon as you see them, removing the roots as well.

✚ **LEAVE** annual weeds that haven't gone to seed on the surface of the soil, where they'll break down, conditioning the soil. Leaving them in the original spot adds mulch and saves you the trouble of taking them to the compost.

✚ **PUT** weeds that have gone to seed, perennial weeds and hard-to-kill

bulbous weeds in a plastic garbage bag. Tie up the bag and leave it in the sun for 4-6 weeks to rot, then toss the rotted weeds onto the compost heap.

✚ **SPRAY** weeds on pathways and between pavers with vinegar. Take care the spray doesn't drift onto any plants you don't want to kill. ➤



Summer mulching helps keep your plants hydrated.

Add mulch

Spreading a good layer of mulch on garden beds is essential in summer, as it helps retain moisture in the soil, keeps the soil cooler and suppresses weeds.

Water the soil well before and after applying mulch.

✚ **FLOWERS AND VEGIES** Add a 75mm layer of lucerne hay, seaweed or pea straw mulch to flower and vegetable gardens. Ensure it is clear of stems to prevent fungus or rot developing.

✚ **SHRUBS** Spread coarse woody materials, such as untreated timber shavings or wood chips, on shrub beds.

Always add manure or apply Yates Dynamic Lifter under the mulch, as these materials can draw nutrients out of the soil to the detriment of plants as they break down.

✚ **POT PLANTS** For pot plants, mulch with lucerne hay or pea straw.

TIP Use inorganic mulches such as gravel, scoria and pebbles on succulent beds and gardens in fire-prone areas.



Get the kids to join in and help with the watering.



Well watered

At this time of year, watering is a top priority to prevent the garden suffering from the heat.

Give the garden a good soaking the evening before a day of unusually high temperatures has been forecast. If that's not possible, water early in the morning.

Water deeply around the roots of plants, shrubs and trees, as that's where the water is needed most.

Worm farming

A worm farm is a self-contained system of trays where the worms live and is an alternative to traditional composting, especially in small gardens.

Compost worms are the ultimate recyclers, and your reward will be fertile compost, which can be used on garden beds and pot plants, and worm juice.

You simply add all your vegetable scraps to the tray and the worms do all the work, producing a rich, black concentrate packed with nutrients.

Worms produce a concentrated compost from kitchen scraps.

DIY TIP

Give worms a handful of food scraps twice weekly for a few weeks, then gradually increase the amount as they multiply.

Caring for worms

Place the bin in a cool area that doesn't receive direct sunlight and keep the contents of the bin moist, taking care not to overwater.

Feed the worms coffee grounds, tea leaves, crushed eggshells, fruit (except citrus), cooked grains, bread, pasta, chopped fresh and cooked vegetable scraps and newspaper.

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

If lots of worms are on the sides or lid of the bin, this indicates its contents are too soggy. Mix in dry shredded newspaper to dry it out.

After about two months, the rich castings build up and worm juice accumulates. Dig the castings into moist soil or add to potting mix.

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



Find a semi-shaded spot for your farm, as worms don't like excessive heat



Chop food finely so it's easier for your worms to digest.

Make your own compost

Compost is nature's way of building soil fertility. It conditions the soil, provides food for soil microorganisms and improves the structure of the soil and its water-holding capacity. It is also a convenient way to dispose of organic matter.

There are various ways to make compost. You can create a traditional heap on the ground, use one of the various compost bins or tumblers, or make compost in a worm farm.



A spadeful for each plant a few times a year is ideal.



PEST TIP

Don't add diseased plant material or fruit infected with fruit fly to the compost. Put it into plastic bags and discard.

Don't add dog and cat excrement to the heap, as it can spread disease.



How it works

The ingredients you add to your compost heap will determine how it functions, so it's important to get them right.

Too much carbon slows decomposition, while too much nitrogen will make the heap smell.

A ratio of 30 parts carbon to one part nitrogen is ideal.

✚ **NITROGEN MATERIALS** Grass clippings, vegetable food scraps, garden refuse, animal manures and green garden clippings.

✚ **CARBON MATERIALS** Leaves, sawdust, straw, chipped wood products and shredded paper.

How to make a heap

Ideally, there should be two piles of compost going at once, the completed pile that is decomposing and one in the process of being built.

A heap can be made on the ground, but using an enclosure makes it easier to maintain and prevents any loose materials from being blown about.

Wood, bricks, concrete blocks or even chicken wire wrapped around stakes are suitable for enclosures.

You can throw the compost ingredients on the heap, ensuring you have the carbon/nitrogen ratio right, but the traditional way to make a heap is to layer it.

✚ **START** with a 300mm layer of plant waste, then add a thin layer of blood and bone, manure, organic topsoil, or compost from a finished heap, which breaks down the compost material. You can also buy compost activators.

✚ **CONTINUE** adding to the heap in layers until it is about 1m high.

✚ **KEEP** the heap damp, not mushy, and don't mat it down, as this impedes aeration. Water with a seaweed product to provide micronutrients.

✚ **TURN** the heap regularly, turning the outer parts into the middle where the heat is. The more often you turn it, the quicker your compost will be ready.

WHAT CAN GO WRONG?



Heap is too dry

- ➔ **CAUSE** This is a sign that there is too much carbon in the heap.
- ➔ **REMEDY** Add manure and other nitrogen-rich ingredients to the compost.



Doesn't heat up

- ➔ **CAUSE** If the pile does not heat up, this is a sign that it is lacking in nitrogen.
- ➔ **REMEDY** Add high-nitrogen materials such as grass clippings, manure or blood and bone. Turn the heap regularly. Cover with insulating material in winter.



Rodents in the heap

- ➔ **CAUSE** Rodents search for food in the compost and like the warmth of the heap.
- ➔ **REMEDY** Turn the heap regularly to discourage habitation. Don't put any dairy products, seafood or meat in the heap.



Heap is too wet

- ➔ **CAUSE** Too many nitrogen materials in the heap.
- ➔ **REMEDY** Add dry shredded newspaper, leaves or straw to the compost.



Seedlings appear

- ➔ **CAUSE** When the heap has not been hot enough to kill seeds, seedlings will grow in the heap.
- ➔ **REMEDY** Add material high in nitrogen, turn the heap more regularly and cover with punctured black plastic or a compost blanket to retain heat, especially during winter. ⚡



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COOL SUMMER CROP

Juicy and crisp, cucumbers are a must-have in your vegie patch



The cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) is a widely cultivated plant belonging to the gourd family Cucurbitaceae.

It is a creeping vine that bears cylindrical fruit in various shapes and sizes, ranging in colour from dark green to creamy white, gold and brown.

Many varieties tend to spread, but there are also compact types that have been bred for small spaces.

A refreshing salad staple, the plant fruits easily and abundantly in summer and through into autumn.



The pretty yellow flowers can be eaten or used as a garnish

GROW TIP

Use a raised garden bed if you have a drainage problem in your garden, as vegies love a moist but free-draining soil.



PICTURES SHUTTERSTOCK



How to grow

While some types of cucumber are best as groundcovers, others are ideal climbers. Common types include telegraph, Lebanese and white apple.

➤ **SOW** the seeds directly where the plants are to grow in a sunny, protected position in well-drained soil that has been generously enriched with compost or well-rotted manure.

➤ **WATER** regularly, especially during the growing season and mulch well with lucerne hay or pea straw to help prevent the soil drying out.

➤ **FEED** cucumbers fortnightly with a soluble plant food.

➤ **HARVEST** the green varieties for salads when they are 150-200mm long and apple cucumbers when they are the size of a tennis ball. Lebanese cucumbers are best harvested when about 100mm long.

Cucumbers should be ready to harvest about 10-12 weeks after sowing.



Use secateurs to harvest cucumbers to avoid damaging the vine.



PICTURES SHUTTERSTOCK



Provide protection

Elevating the vine over a trellis decreases humidity around the foliage. This helps to reduce fungal problems, prevent blemishes forming and protect against insect damage.

Mites can attack in hot, dry climates, so reduce the risk by hosing underneath the foliage. ➤

Healthy facts

Adding cucumbers to your salad can have important health benefits.

Made up of about 95% water, cucumbers help ward off dehydration. They contain B vitamins, including B1, B5 and B7, and are rich in fibre, essential for healthy digestion.

They contain polyphenols called lignans, which may help reduce the risk of heart and blood vessel disease.

Research carried out also reveals that a group of compounds found in cucumbers, called cucurbitacins, may block the transmission of signals inside cancer cells, discouraging the growth of tumours.

Pick the fruit regularly to encourage flowering and cropping.

SUMMER REFRESHER

Serves 3



Peel and seed 1 cucumber (600g), reserving a few ribbons.

Put the cucumber, the juice of 1 lime, 1 tablespoon honey, a 4cm piece of grated ginger and ¼ cup (10g) torn fresh mint leaves in a food processor or blender, then process until smooth.

Fill glasses with ice, pour over the cucumber mixture and garnish with the cucumber ribbons. 🍷

Did you know?

Putting slices of cucumber over your eyes may help to reduce under-eye puffiness and relieve tension and headaches.

Like a cool, wet cloth, the cold slices shrink blood vessels slightly, reducing blood flow in the area and easing the pressure and puffiness.

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CREATE A LOW-ALLERGY GARDEN

Find out which plants to grow and which to avoid to combat hay fever

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



Avoid wattle, as it has been known to cause hay fever.

GROW TIP

If a plant looks like a daisy, avoid growing it in the garden, as most plants in the daisy family (Asteraceae) cause hay fever.

In spring and summer, the garden bursts into feverish activity with sensational flower displays and scintillating fragrances.

But for many people, this time of the year can bring with it a different type of fever when outdoors. They're plagued with a runny nose, sneezing, coughing and burning eyes.

In New Zealand, allergies are among the most common medical

conditions that we face, ranging from hay fever and dermatitis to asthma.

New Zealand has one of the highest asthma rates in the world.

It is estimated that one in 10 Kiwis, about 470,000, have asthma, with about 33% of these people reporting that the disease interferes with their daily living.

Rightly or wrongly, many sufferers blame plants for their woes.



PICTURES SHUTTERSTOCK

Laying blame

Not all plants are to blame and some of the worst offenders are those that are overlooked by most people.

The pollen that is carried on the wind from lots of deciduous trees is guaranteed to make noses run, but many people don't realise it because the pollen-producing flowers are often not very noticeable.

Grasses, such as rye-grass and other pasture grasses, are also culprits. And daisies, which are members of the Asteraceae family, should be avoided.



Choose plants that are pollinated by nectar-feeding birds.



Kangaroo paw is a nose-friendly option.



Guard against allergies

Fortunately, asthma and allergy sufferers don't have to rip up their plants and replace them with concrete. It is possible to live in harmony with many plants.

As a rough guide, most brightly coloured flowers are pollinated by birds or insects, so their pollen does not float about in the air and trigger allergic reactions.

Other plants on the safe list include most New Zealand natives, which are pollinated by birds. ➤

WHAT TO PLANT?

To help reduce your risk of allergies so you can enjoy gardening or simply spending time outdoors, here's a guide on what plants are good to grow and those that are best avoided.

Trees

For creating privacy and shade, trees are important inclusions in the garden, and there are plenty of suitable choices.

✚ **GROW** *Eugenia*, *Agonis flexuosa*, banksia, cabbage palm, eucalyptus, melaleuca, bottlebrush, prunus, magnolia, pawpaw, *Nyssa sylvatica*, citrus and flowering crab apple.

✚ **AVOID** Oak, liquidambar, maple, ash, hazel, elm, willow, birch, plane tree, mulberry, cypress, olive and white cedar (*Melia azedarach*).



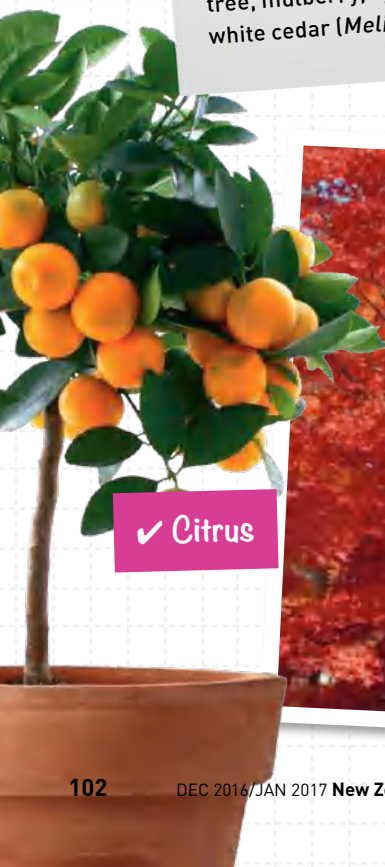
✓ Magnolia



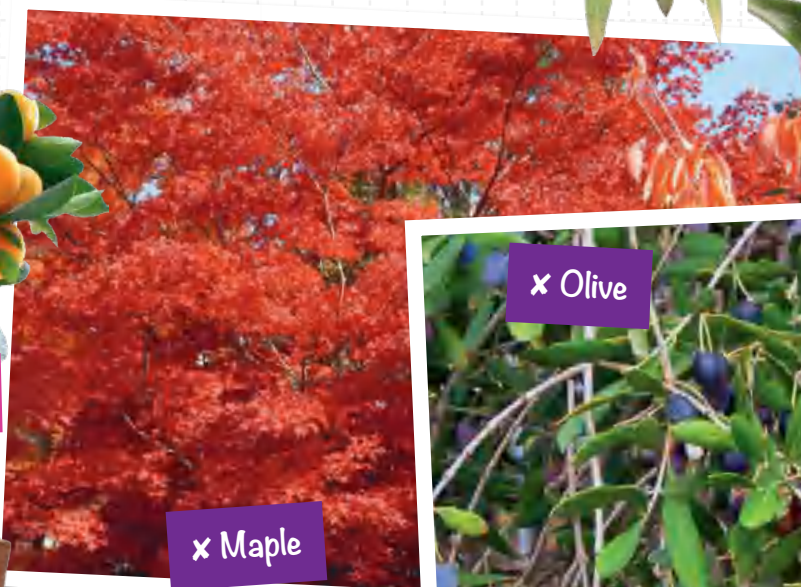
✓ Cabbage palm



✓ Eugenia



✓ Citrus



✗ Maple



✗ Olive

✓ Rhododendron

✗ Grevillea

Climbers

Useful for adding greenery in small spaces, climbers can be trained over trellises or walls to block out ugly views or increase privacy.

✚ **GROW** Passionfruit, kiwifruit, mandevilla, ivy leaf geranium, crimson passionfruit, banksia rose, clematis, climbing roses, star jasmine and passionfruit.

✚ **AVOID** English ivy.

✓ Kiwifruit

Shrubs

Ideal for use as hedges, shrubs also form the middle storey of the garden.

✚ **GROW** Banksia, bottlebrush, gardenia, French lavender, abelia, rosemary, weigela, rhododendron, leptospermum, tibouchina, roses, yucca, camellia, azalea, plumbago, westringia and flax.

✚ **AVOID** Privet, grevillea, wattle, albizia and hazelnut.

✓ Banksia

Herbs

Grow the herbs you use for cooking, but make sure their flowers won't aggravate your allergies.

✚ **GROW** Chives, dill, basil, thyme, horseradish, fennel, mint, sage, marjoram, oregano, parsley, rosemary and tarragon.

✚ **AVOID** Chamomile, wormwood and dandelion. ➤

✓ Basil

✓ Clematis

✗ Chamomile

✓ Thyme

✗ English ivy



✓ Anemone

Perennials

Plant hardy perennials to provide form and structure to garden beds.

✚ **GROW** Anemone, bromeliad, columbine, coleus, impatiens, verbena, bulbs, snow-in-summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*), begonia, pelargonium and *Viola hederacea*.

✚ **AVOID** Chrysanthemum, English daisy and anthemis.

✓ Verbena

✗ Chrysanthemum

Annuals

They bring seasonal colour to garden beds and pots, and there are plenty of nose-friendly annuals.

✚ **GROW** Ageratum, lobelia, pansy, phlox, verbena, alyssum, foxglove, snapdragon, larkspur, cornflower, nemesia, petunia, sweet William and nasturtium.

✚ **AVOID** Marigold, calendula and aster.



✓ Foxglove



✗ Marigold

✓ Lobelia

Golden rules

A visit to the Asthma Foundation's website (asthmafoundation.org.nz) can assist those with respiratory problems, but here are some simple guidelines for asthma relief.

- ✦ **CHOOSE** plants pollinated by birds and insects rather than by the wind.
- ✦ **GROW** grass that produces little pollen and doesn't need frequent mowing.
- ✦ **REDUCE** weeds by using inorganic mulches, such as pebbles and gravel, and weed the garden often.
- ✦ **CARRY** your reliever medication with you at all times, especially when working in the garden.
- ✦ **SELECT** low-maintenance plants.
- ✦ **LOOK** for lightly scented plants that don't produce lots of pollen.
- ✦ **AVOID** making compost heaps and use a closed tumbler or bin.
- ✦ **GARDEN** when the weather is cooler and it's not windy.
- ✦ **WEAR** gloves, as some plants can cause an allergic reaction if touched.

Lose the lawn?

While most people like to have grass in the backyard, it is possible to have a great-looking garden without a lawn.

Paving stones interplanted with baby's tears (*Soleirolia soleirolia*), dwarf mondo grass or kidney weed (*Dichondra repens*) look very attractive. Bricks and gravel can also be used and are low maintenance.

MAKE WAR ON WEEDS

No-one likes weeds, and there are certain types that can cause more trouble than others. These are the worst offenders.



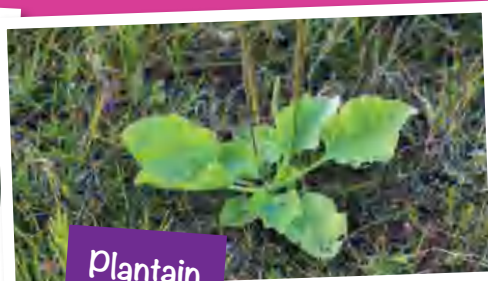
Ragweed

✦ **RAGWEED** A fast-growing, fern-like plant with green flowers, ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) has green flowers. The pollen can cause hay fever and may aggravate asthma and dermatitis if touched. Remove it using a herbicide.



Privet

✦ **PRIVET** This evergreen pest is found in four varieties in New Zealand. Its pollen can contribute to hay fever and asthma, and its leaves and berries are poisonous to humans and animals. Dig it out completely or use a herbicide.



Plantain

✦ **PLANTAIN** Found in lawns and garden beds, a plantain (*Plantago* spp.) can flower for up to nine months of the year and causes hay fever. Remove the rosette of leaves before flower spikes form. Dig out the taproot or apply a herbicide. ✂

GROW salad greens

Create summer salads using your own home-grown mix of leaves

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Fresh salad greens are eaten more regularly and ritually than any other vegetable, and they are very easy to grow.

You can produce a feast of greens in a 2sqm area. And they thrive in pots, large bowls or troughs, so you can still grow your own even if you live in an apartment and only have a balcony.

Raised vegetable beds designed for small spaces are also available.

If you plant a combination of different lettuce leaves and a selection of other leafy greens, you can create your own mix to suit your tastes.



Cheryl

EXPERT SECRETS

Give a living salad bowl as a gift. Plant seedlings in early December and they'll be ready for picking by Christmas.

Grow a variety of greens in one pot for a ready-made salad mix.



Lettuces

There is a huge range of lettuces available as seeds or seedlings. Popular varieties, especially for pots, are the loose-leaf lettuces, such as 'Multileaf' or 'Oakleaf', that can be continuously picked.

If you have the space, try firm, crisphead types such as 'Great Lakes' and 'Iceberg', which have a dense, cabbage-like heart, and love the summer heat.

Lettuces form the base of most salads.



RIGHT Greens such as radish leaves give a mustard taste to salads.



HOW TO GROW

For an abundant, healthy crop, simply follow a few simple rules.

➤ **SOW** seeds or seedlings successively to extend the harvest. The seeds can be sown directly in the ground where they are to grow.

➤ **POSITION** in a sunny spot with protection from the hot afternoon sun, especially during the summer months.

➤ **SOIL** should be free draining and enriched with organic matter, such as compost, poultry manure, Yates Dynamic Lifter or cow manure, before planting. Organic matter helps retain water and slowly releases nutrients.

➤ **FEED** greens fortnightly using a complete soluble plant food.

➤ **WATER** regularly for steady growth and to ensure the leaves stay succulent and tasty. Keep the soil or potting mix damp but not wet.

You'll most likely need to water your greens every day or two, but this can become a pleasant early morning or evening task. And you will soon work out a watering routine based on the weather.

➤ **MULCH** with lucerne hay, pea straw or seaweed to help retain moisture in the soil and prevent weeds. ➤

LEAFY GREENS

A selection of peppery-flavoured greens, such as radish, mustard or watercress, are ideal for dressing up the milder flavour of lettuce leaves.

1 Radish

The mustard-tasting leaves of radish are popular in salad mixes.

Sow the seeds directly where the plants are to grow.

They can be planted close together, as you will only be harvesting the leaves. Pick the leaves when about 40mm high.



2 Mizuna

The young and deeply serrated leaves of mizuna are milder than the mature ones.

They can be harvested for as many weeks as needed by cutting them just above the crown. New leaves will keep on appearing.

Mizuna grows easily from seeds sown directly where the plants are to grow.



3 Nasturtium

The young leaves of nasturtium add a spicy taste to salads. The flowers make pretty garnishes and can also be eaten.

Sow the seeds directly where the plants are to grow.



4 Rocket

Give rocket shade from the hot afternoon sun to help prevent it bolting to seed.

The leaves are at their best when picked young. Wild rocket has deeply serrated leaves.

Rocket grows easily from seeds sown directly where the plants are to grow.



 **Share your vegie garden photos**
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5

Sorrel

The lemon-flavoured leaves of perennial red-veined sorrel brighten up green salads and are high in vitamin C and iron.

Use only the young leaves in salads and cook the older leaves.

Sorrel is easily sown from seed or you can buy potted plants.

6

Mustard

The young leaves of mustard greens have a zesty, peppery taste.

Cultivars with serrated leaves are best for salads and you can choose from red or green leaves. Mustard greens are easily grown from seed.

7

Leaf celery

A form of wild celery, this plant has a parsley-like habit and the leaves can be harvested for many weeks.

Once the young leaves are picked new ones quickly appear. Grow from seedlings or seed.

8

Spinach

Baby spinach leaves are sweet and high in iron. Try perpetual spinach, which can be harvested repeatedly.

Spinach grows easily from seeds sown directly where the plants are to grow. ➤

Watercress

With its peppery taste, watercress is popular in salads and sandwiches. It is very easy to grow your own, so you can harvest the leaves when needed.

It can be grown in garden beds from seed sown directly where the plants are to grow, or from cuttings.

Plant in a garden bed in soil that is kept moist, or in a pot placed in a deep saucer constantly filled with water.

GROW TIP

As it is an aquatic plant, watercress can be grown in a pond. Immerse the pot so that the rim is just above the water.

Did you know?

Watercress is one of the oldest leaf vegies consumed by human beings and it has recently been claimed as a superfood.

Research shows that it may help to prevent the risk of cancer, especially prostate cancer, and it is a good source of vitamins C, K and E, calcium, iron, zinc, manganese and folate.

Salad bowl

Choose your favourite lettuces and salad greens and pot them in a bowl.

You can plant seedlings or buy semi-advanced plants if you want to start picking earlier.

1 2 3



1 Add the mix

Select a plastic or terracotta bowl about 400mm wide. Fill the bowl using a premium potting mix for vegetables and herbs so that the mix comes to about 25mm below the rim.



2 Plant the greens

Remove the salad greens carefully from their containers and position them in the mix. They can be planted close together, as you will be picking and feeding them frequently.



3 Water in well

Water in and position the bowl in a sunny spot with shade from the afternoon sun. Feed fortnightly with a soluble plant food and water regularly, daily in hot weather.

Microgreens

Smaller than baby leaves but larger than sprouts, microgreens are nutritional powerhouses, full of vitamins, minerals and protein.

Microgreens can be grown outdoors and you can even produce a good harvest on a balcony. They can also be grown inside on a windowsill.

➤ **FILL** a seed tray or punnet, or a shallow bowl, with 25-50mm of an organic potting mix.

➤ **SOW** the seeds evenly over the surface. They can be sown close together, as they won't grow to full size. Cover with a thin layer of mix.

➤ **POSITION** the container in a spot that gets good indirect light.

➤ **WATER** daily using a mist sprayer.

➤ **HARVEST** by cutting them off at soil level using scissors when they are about 30-50mm high.

Get two or more trays so you can resow for a continuous supply.

What to plant

Good choices include basil, beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, celery, chervil, Chinese greens, cress, dill, endive, fennel, kohlrabi, mizuna, radish, rocket, silverbeet, snow peas and spinach.

In salads, microgreens pack a flavoursome punch.

CHERYL'S PICKS



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



Mr Fothergill's Oregon Dwarf Snow Pea Seeds, \$5. mrfothergills.co.nz



Mr Fothergill's Fine Curled Cress Seeds, about \$4.



Seasol PowerFeed For Veggies, \$13 for 600ml. tuigarden.co.nz



Fiskars Cuts+More Scissors, \$21. fiskars.co.nz



Tiki 360mm Italian Low Terracotta Bowl, \$20. bunnings.co.nz

1



2



3



POP QUIZ!

Name that Cat

Test your knowledge by identifying these felines. The answers are at the bottom of the page

4



7



6



5



8



9



10



ANSWERS 1 ABYSSINIAN 2 AMERICAN BOBTAIL 3 BENGAL 4 SCOTTISH FOLD 5 HIMALAYAN 6 BURMESE 7 BRITISH SHORTHAIR 8 MANX 9 MAINE COON 10 DEVON REX

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