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Oakridge 1200 wall hung vanity (Light Oak). Emilio sliding 1200x900 shower, shown with Quicktile tray.



OAKRIDGE WALL HUNG VANITIES

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

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



EMILIO SLIDING

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



GEORGIA SQUARE

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



GEORGIA CURVED

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



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**NICO
VANITIES**

FEBRUARY ISSUE



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GET THE LOOK

LOVE THE COVER?

Create a welcoming space for summer entertaining with modern landscaping

Bamboo is a fast-growing screening plant with an upright habit. Here it follows the vertical lines of the timber posts and the direction of the decking.

This inviting backyard works particularly well because of the combination of materials, changing levels and greenery. Put this mix together and the result is warm and welcoming, while being functionally well planned.

The colour palette starts with the decking, which is rich and warm, and works in harmony with the copper in the fireplace and the greys in the stone paving and a brick planter box.

Pops of white at the pool and a glossy panel of black bricks that seems to disappear all break up the timber and add a contemporary element.

Hard areas need some soft features, so consider bringing in pillows, cushions and bean bags instead of solid furniture.

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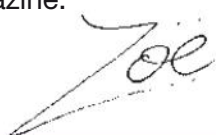
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We are interested in feedback about your reading and renovating habits, and your answers to our survey (which will of course remain confidential) will help us make Handyman even more interesting and relevant to your needs.

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Thank you in anticipation, and we hope you continue to enjoy Handyman magazine.



Zoe Meunier
Managing Editor



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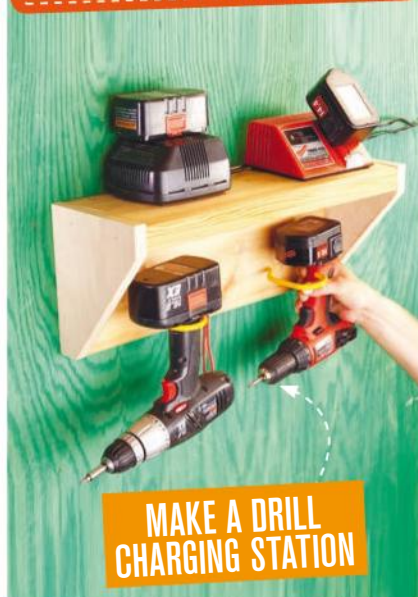
The survey closes on **28th of February 2018**. For competitions terms and conditions go to www.handymanmagazine.co.nz/terms-and-conditions

THIS ISSUE

EDITOR'S LETTER



HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH



MAKE A DRILL
CHARGING STATION



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There's no better way to make the most of the glorious weather than by relaxing and entertaining outdoors.

Decks, patios, terraces and courtyards all provide an ideal natural environment to spend time catching up with friends and family.

When an outdoor entertaining area has a strong connection to the rest of the house, it can add considerable value to your home.

This month, we explain how to extend your living space outdoors by creating a stunning entertaining area.

With clever techniques from expert designers, you can create an alfresco space that flows seamlessly from your home. Find out how, on page 40.

Decks are an integral part of a functional outdoor space, and there has never been a greater range of materials to choose from. Turn to page 50 to select the best products for your site and budget, or head to page 60 for advice on reviving a tired deck.

Outdoor upgrades

If your outdoor spaces just need a bit of TLC, now is the time to get stuck into DIY to prepare your home for summer entertaining. There are some stunning before and after exterior makeovers to give you plenty of inspiration, starting from page 26.

For some great outdoor seating projects, go to page 86. From easy chairs to a simple bench seat, these projects only require basic woodworking skills to make.

In our garden section, learn how to prepare your yard before heading on holidays (page 95), grow summer herbs (page 107) and propagate plants (page 100).

After all that hard work, fire up the barbie and enjoy our great recipes!

Zoe

MANAGING EDITOR
ZOE MEUNIER

For inspiration

Looking for more DIY inspiration? Pinterest lets you create and organise boards of your favourite pictures. It's a great way to find and share ideas for your next project.

Check out *Handyman* at pinterest.com/DIYHandyman for all things home and garden, from maintenance tips and storage solutions to decorating ideas, handy hacks and BBQ recipes.



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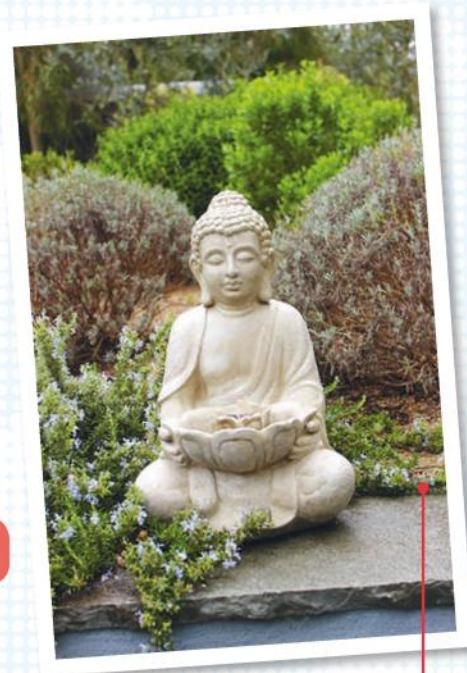
AFFORDABLE UPGRADES

Revamp the look of your home and garden with these great finds

Pot luck

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tuscanpath.com.au



Water course

The new Turbo Oscillating Sprinkler combines Pope's quality built materials with the efficient technology of an inbuilt turbine-driven oscillating sprinkler to ensure the best water coverage possible. \$73.

popeproducts.com.au



Fun fountain

Chill out to the soothing sound of trickling water with the 29.5 x 28 x 45cm Water Magic Lotus Buddha Water Fountain, \$130. Easy to install and operate, this garden feature comes with a low-voltage pump.

bunnings.co.nz

Sturdy storage

Store tools and other equipment in the Pinnacle Hardware 1.5 x 0.8 x 1.9m Zinc Garden Shed, \$199. Designed for small backyards, it includes bolt-down brackets and a mid-wall frame for extra strength.

pinnacle.net.au



Roof remedy

Remove unsightly lichen and stains using 30 Seconds Roof Treatment Concentrate, \$48 for 5L. It is effective on slate, tiles, steel and polycarbonate. ➤

30seconds.co.nz





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Footwear fix

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bunnings.co.nz



Cushy life

Lift the appearance of your couches and chairs, and add a bit of comfort with the Mimosa Throw Cushion in Summer Navy, \$15. Mix and match with other Mimosa cushions to create a complete look. Polyester fabric cover for use indoors and outdoors.

bunnings.co.nz



Mellow glow

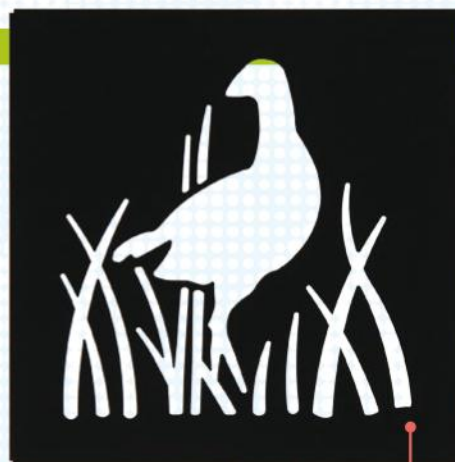
Create a soft ambient light in your home with the stylish Verve Design Abel Table Lamp, \$35. The grey concrete base with contrasting glass shade is ideal to feature a decorative globe.

bunnings.co.nz

Rugged up

The Natural Jute Bali Rug features a simplistic everyday classic jute weave. Handmade in Southern India from Jute, this 150 x 220cm rug is a highly sustainable, durable and rapidly renewable resource. \$139.

bunnings.co.nz



Panel artwork

Protector Aluminium's Wall Art will never rust, rot or need painting, so once fitted you can enjoy them for years to come both indoors and outdoors.

This custom Deco Screen is available up to 450 x 450mm in two styles across two different colour options – black and copper. \$29.

designflow.com.au



Hang around

Laze away summer afternoons in a large and comfortable hammock from Two Trees, from \$15. The new range of colours and designs add summer style to the backyard. ➤

twotreeshammocks.com.au



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Smart sprayer

Apply a professional paint job at a fraction of the cost with the Wagner Control Pro 250M, \$929. Designed for medium to large DIY projects, it comes with a 9m hose.
spraytech.co.nz



Roll play

Make your next paint job easy with the Monarch Razorback 160mm Microfibre Short Frame Mini Roller, \$6.60. It has a smart lock mechanism and a storage tube to prevent drying out.
austbrush.com.au



Winning number

Add street appeal with a Sandleford 75mm Brass Numeral, \$9.50. Made from solid brass and supplied with fixings, it is easy to attach to fences, walls or mailboxes and will withstand all weather conditions.
sandleford.com.au



Two-tone tap

Modernise your kitchen with the Dorf Vixen Retractable Sink Mixer, \$318. It has a pull-down retractable hand piece and comes in chrome or black and white with chrome accents.
caroma.co.nz



Gap control

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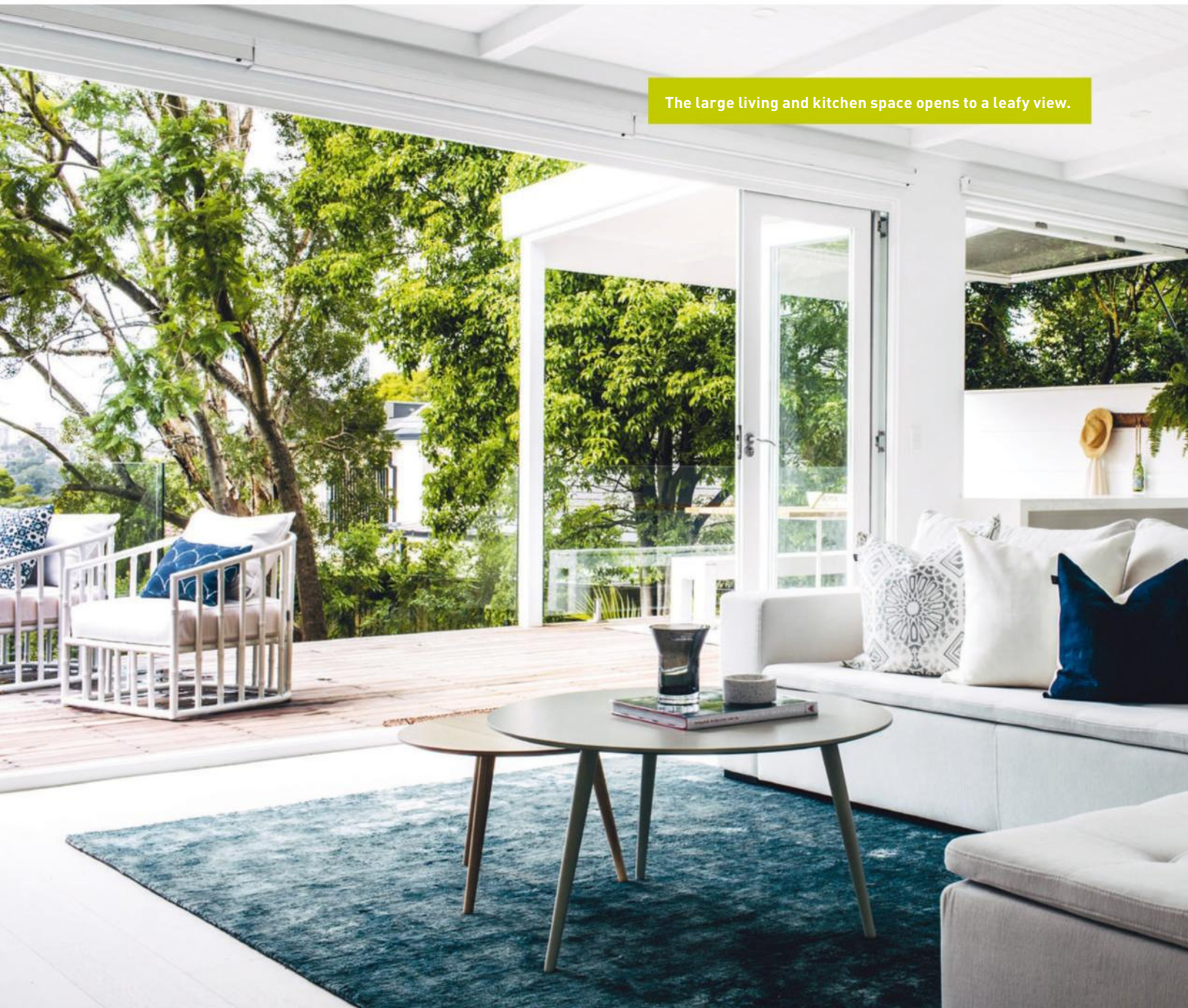
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GREEK CHIC

A Santorini-style renovation of a family house creates a luxurious feel for a modern lifestyle

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES THREE BIRDS RENOVATIONS

The large living and kitchen space opens to a leafy view.



When best friends Lana Taylor, Bonnie Hindmarsh and Erin Cayless quit their corporate jobs in 2014 and decided to set up a renovating business together, for at least one of them it came like a bolt out of the blue.

'I'd been doing the same gig for almost 15 years and wanted to do something for myself. So when Bonnie suggested we renovate houses together, I was all ears,' says Lana.

With their complementary skills and a steep learning curve, the women completed five glamorous renovations and documented it all on social media.

Lana's own home would be number six, and Three Birds Renovations created a stunning modern home, with a style made for comfort, glamour and Greek Island holidays. ➤

House plants punctuate the pure white spaces.



Large bifolds ensure a seamless flow from inside to out.



The main outdoor area makes a big statement.

Alfresco living

Apart from the primary outdoor space leading from the kitchen and lounge area, Lana's home has multiple alfresco spaces. These are treated thoughtfully and form an arc over the home to follow the trajectory of the sun.

Transforming dead space is a principle of the business, and making areas that may have been overlooked functional and beautiful.

'I had quite a large access down the side of my house, so I transformed it into a courtyard,' says Lana.

'When we have guests over, rather than everyone having to traipse through the house through the front door, I've got a side entrance with proper steps instead of the dirt and gravel that used to be there.' ➤





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Floor-to-ceiling
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the outdoors in.



After

A side passage is now a
relaxing alfresco space.



Light-filled void

The dramatic impact of the light and the stand-out statement of the staircase all come down to one thing – the void. After designing the third Three Birds Renovations house with a void, Lana immediately knew she wanted the feature in her home.

It forms the centrepiece, and Lana is so passionate about how this one design tenet can transform a home that she sacrificed the original master bedroom to fit in the void, taking the house from four to three bedrooms.

‘People can struggle with losing floor space. If we’d kept four bedrooms, the house would have been darker, not open, and the stairs would have had less impact,’ she says.

‘It’s just a different ball game and so, wherever possible, think about a void, even if you can only make it work at the entrance. It creates drama and floods the space with light.’ ➤

A dramatic chandelier draws attention to the void.



A void forms the literal and figurative centrepiece, even at the expense of floor space





The children have their own space in which to grow.

Style statement

The entire second floor is space for Lana and her husband, Jason, and two children.

The aesthetic remains very much the same, as Lana preferred not to create kids' rooms that would only be appropriate for certain ages, or use very bright colours or certain surfaces, just because they are kids.

'I didn't want to design a house for my kids in terms of getting dark floors and dark sofas just because they won't show the dirt, as I'm not going to be happy every day. I want to wake up feeling like I'm in Santorini,' says Lana.

'We have a shoes-off rule, but I'd rather get the couches steam cleaned a few times a year than sacrifice the overall look and feel I want at home as mother of the household.' ➤

The kids' bedrooms are linked by the void to the parents' level above.





After

The kids' bathroom is fresh in form and function after the reno.



Before

Even the hallways are tranquil spaces.



Adding detail

One of Lana's favourite details of the original house was a wall of pink bougainvillea, and her search for her signature style started there.

'I looked at houses with pink bougainvillea on Instagram and Pinterest and came across lots of Greek houses. My house was already a Tuscan villa style, so I thought, yes, my house can definitely take this,' she says.

'From there, it all became easy and I incorporated so much of the style, in the colour palette and the details, such as rendered bench seating.'

The children's bathroom also works within the Greek Island colour spectrum, and has a signature feature wall of glazed subway tiles. ➤



Take inspiration from something that already exists in the house and use this as a starting point



The box window doubles as a seat to take in the view.

Parents' domain

The top level is a private area for Lana and Jason, comprising the master bedroom, walk-in robe, bathroom, office and an outdoor terrace.

Each area is optimised to create the calm and luxurious feel Lana wanted. It's a home to feel good in, and she ensures each room achieves this end.

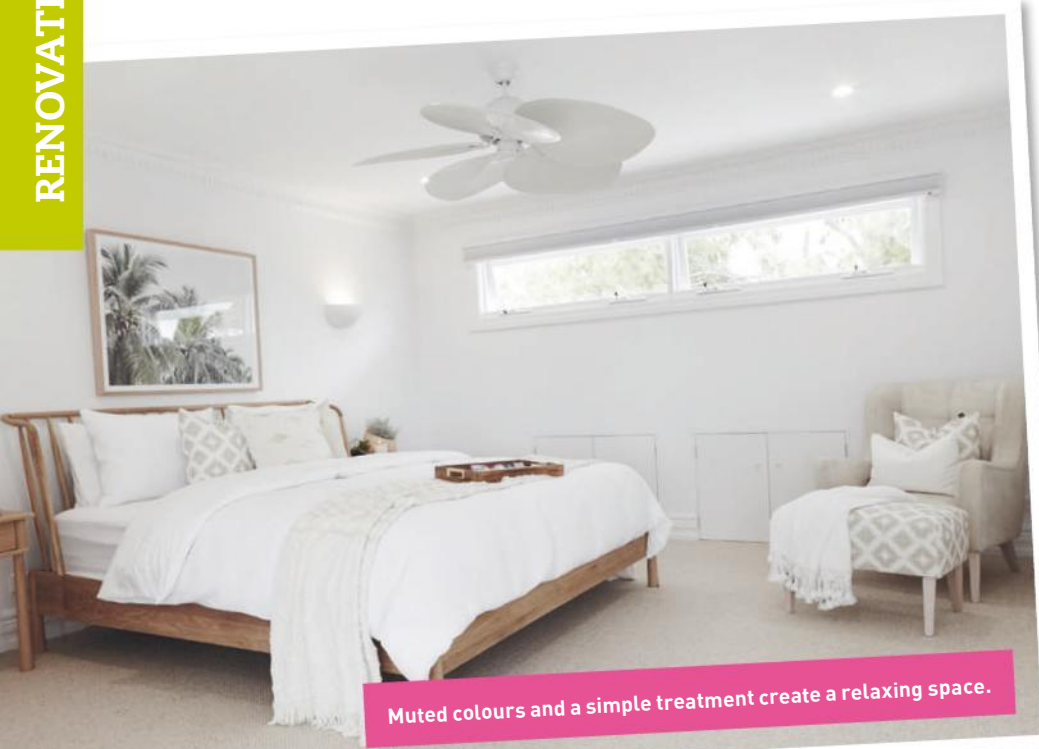
'The most beautiful spot in the home is my office, which is really a huge room with a beautiful table and chandelier,' she says.

'Many would have used it as a lounge room, but I work from home nearly every day and I didn't want to be spending all that time in a dingy study.'

'You have to ask yourself where you want to sit when everyone else has left for work or school. I wanted to sit in the best place in the house, so it became my office.' ➤

A private outdoor area brings maximum function to the parents' level.





Sleeping space

The master bedroom has the simple task of providing a comfortable place to sleep, with all other elements removed from the room and located elsewhere.

'It made sense to make the bedroom just for sleeping and walk around the corner on the carpeted landing to a walk-in robe and ensuite,' says Lana.

In the bathroom, the signature feature wall of tiles is a fish-scale mosaic that ties into the overall colour scheme and brings in an element of water.

'It's like being on holiday every day living in this house,' says Lana. 🌊

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TRANSFORM OUTDOOR SPACES

Celebrity renovator Cherie Barber reveals how to add value by improving entertaining areas and backyards

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERIE BARBER

Landscaping needs to be part of your plan from the get-go. The main reason to get started with the gardening is that it needs time to settle, which can happen while you get on with your interiors.

A lush lawn is the gold standard in real estate land, but don't let big-booted tradespeople trample on your hard-laid work. Get some do-not-cross tape and mark the areas not to be walked on.

Your plant selection should be tied to the style of your home. There are cottage plants and modern plants.

Cottages and weatherboard homes look great with soft heritage-style plants such as murrayas, rosemary bushes, lavenders and camellias. For modern places, think cordylines, succulents, yakkas and a whole lot more.

Timber sleepers are my number one landscaping go-to for garden

beds on a budget. Install them on their edge, not flat, to add bulk and scale to your property.

They come in treated pine, so you can spray-paint them the same colour as your house trims to make external colours work together beautifully.

If your budget allows, hardwood sleepers look a treat, especially if you've used hardwood timber elsewhere on your facade.



After

Rendered-brick garden beds with exotic plants add visual appeal.

Deck the front yard

This home was pretty cute already, but its awkward angles required some real strategic thought on my part. Best part of all, I had a big budget of A\$80,000 to play with. Jackpot! This meant I could move from budget to beautiful and take this facade to the next level.

This reno took me a month to complete, but what a transformation! It looks like a completely different house.

Raised, multi-tiered, rendered-brick garden beds featuring exotic tropical plants and hardwood decking edged with hardwood and wire balustrade make the

space inviting and visually appealing. I added a stone feature wall at the entry for wow factor, and a set of bifold doors encourages people to wander outside. This is one of my favourites.

Sometimes I amaze myself. Other days, not so much. ➤

After

A hardwood deck provides an outdoor entertaining area with wow factor.



Before



This is an edited extract from *Renovating For Profit* by Cherie Barber (Hardie Grant Books, A\$40), available online.

After

Bifold doors and steps from the deck link the indoors with the outdoors.



STYLE TIP

For house numbers, opt for 50mm ones for a letterbox and much larger for the house wall, in a shape and font to suit your home.



Before

Make a connection

A double deck on this house, what a bonus! While it's all structurally fine, everything screams dowdy and drab.

There is almost no connection between the inside and the outside, and all that green shade cloth isn't making me green with envy.

The alfresco sitting area is a comedy show in itself, and the lacklustre shade sail looks like it could fall down at any moment.

There was so much junk in this yard, it was incredible. It required

a lot of hard work to clear this mess, but the result was well worth it.

I removed one of the porch balustrades and got my carpenter to build some timber steps that now create an easy flow between the inside and the yard outside. Lush green grass and plants make this an inviting and usable space.

The biggest expense in this rear transformation was the addition of structural bifold doors. That zapped A\$15,000 out of my budget.

But there was very little expense for everything else. I simply dragged out my trusty spray gun and painted the pergola roof, balustrade and house exterior, then I painted the old brown pavers with a paint roller.

My carpenter added stairs to lead people down into the yard. My tenants now love this part of the house.

Never underestimate the power of good landscaping. This house shows just how an unkempt garden is a waste of prime real estate. ➤





After

A large lush lawn turns this backyard into a welcoming and functional space.

Waging war on weeds

Before your renovation starts, stockpile your newspapers. It's the poor man's, or as I like to call it, the soon-to-be-rich renovator's best gardening weapon for weed matting on a budget.

Once you've popped your plants into the garden beds, completely cover the soil with newspaper. Then put your woodchips, mulch or pebbles on top of your newspaper.

This stops weeds growing in your garden bed. There, you just got your weekends back.

Before



Backyard reno on a budget

A mangled lawn, a path to nowhere and a creepy old, rapidly dilapidating shed – who would want to spend time in this backyard?

Everything looks very neglected and in need of repair. It's certainly not somewhere I'd want to have a barbecue or let kids play.

This was a low-budget reno, so I added a simple timber deck to help people transition from the inside to the outside. It also creates a neat area for entertaining and relaxing outdoors.

We also demolished the shed out the back, which wasn't going to last too much longer anyway.

The backyard now looks so much bigger. New turf and the freshly spray-painted fences help make this home's outdoor area great again.



Before



After

Installing a deck, painting the fences and laying new turf transform this yard.



After

Modern and colourful outdoor furniture and accessories add instant warmth.



Before

Designer deck

If you've got a balcony, add a small table, a couple of chairs, cushions and a few decorative ornaments.

This is such a beautiful way to set the scene, especially if you're planning to sell.

It's a space that people can see themselves in and it also heightens the sanctuary element of your home, which helps people make that all-important emotional connection to your place.

Even something like a gorgeous potted urn by your front door can make a world of difference. 🌿

RETRO REVAMP

Add designer style to your interior by transforming vintage furniture

PROJECTS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR



Melissa

EXPERT SECRETS

Use a colour reducer with stain to give a lighter, more subtle shade when applying to bare wood.

Furniture from days gone by often ends up on the roadside as homeowners replace retro relics with modern pieces.

But with just a few DIY tricks, it's easy to turn a dated table or old chair into a stunning contemporary conversation starter in just a weekend.

Items that are in good condition can benefit from the transformative power of paint, which can also be used to conceal damaged or faded timber and give them a fresh new look.

Hall table transformation

Blogger Melissa Darr had this piece of furniture under her house for years and thought it time to give it a makeover.

'If you feel like a piece of furniture won't work in your home because of its design or colouring, revamping it to suit your current decor is a great way to recycle and relove it,' says Melissa.

Melissa restained the top in walnut and painted the base in blue using Dulux Harpoon. To finish, she installed new polished brass knobs.

1 2



1 Prepare the surface

Remove the knobs from the drawers. Using an orbital sander and 80 grit paper, sand the top back to bare wood. Smooth with 120 and 240 grit paper. Wipe off dust. Apply the stain and wipe with a lint-free rag after a few minutes.



2 Paint the base

Tape newspaper to the top to protect it. Lightly sand the base, then paint with a stain blocker undercoat. Apply two coats of the blue top coat, allowing to dry in between coats. Apply varnish. To finish, add new drawer knobs.



Before

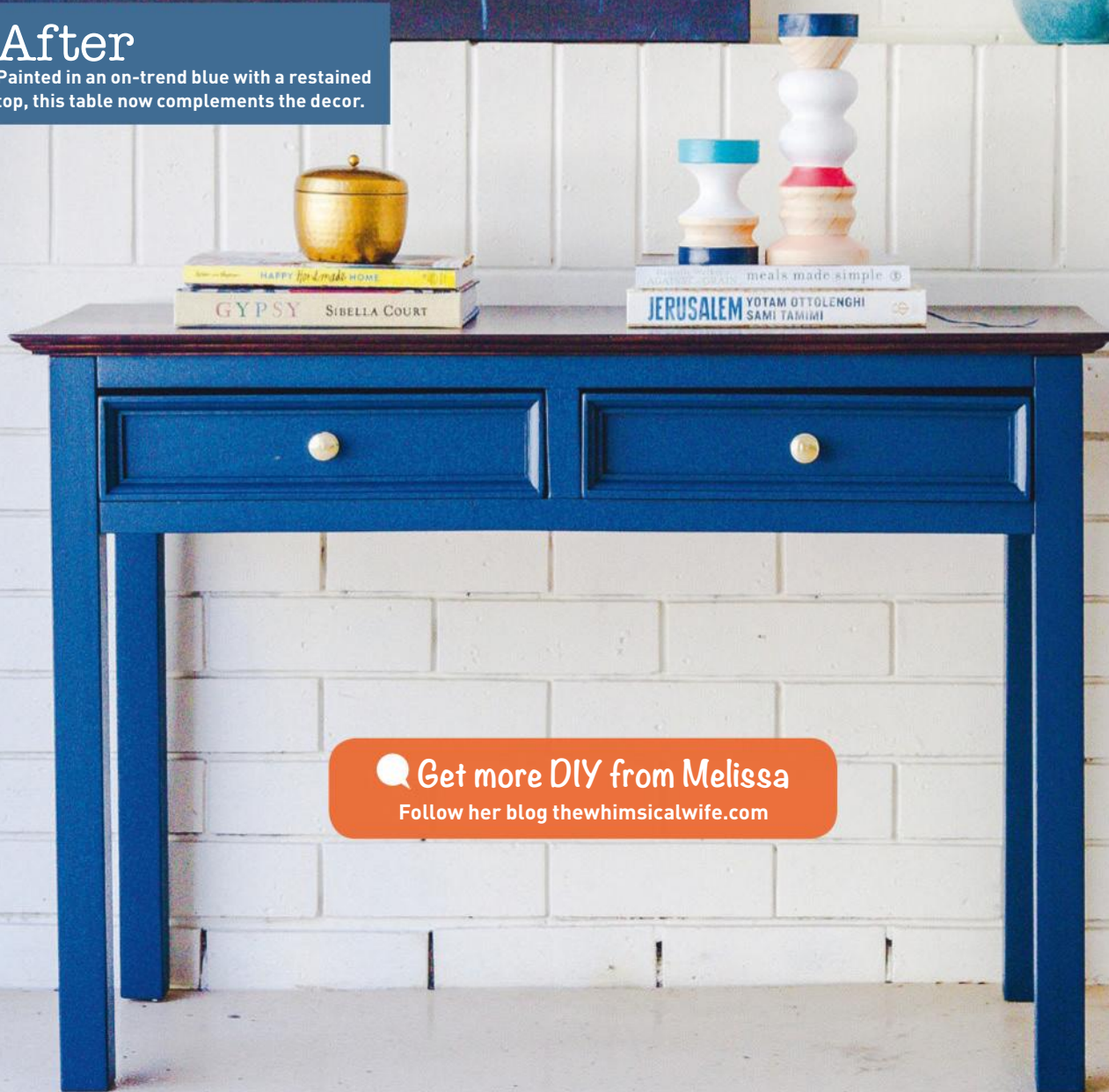
What you need

Timber stain
Stain blocker undercoat
Paint
Water-based clear varnish
Orbital sander
Sandpaper
Paintbrushes
Rags
Newspaper
Masking tape
Knobs

HALL TABLE TRANSFORMATION

After

Painted in an on-trend blue with a restained top, this table now complements the decor.



Get more DIY from Melissa
Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com

GO WITH THE FLOW

A dark and disconnected kitchen becomes a modern alfresco space

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES NICOLE ENGLAND

A functional and flowing alfresco area is top of the renovating hit list, and while there are standard inclusions, often the possibilities exceed your best hopes.

The owners of this older-style home found that their backyard was hugely underused, as it had little connection to the kitchen and dining area, and the laundry had pride of place.

Architect Justin Loe designed a space that worked right up to the boundary. While the addition is only 1.5 x 1.5m, the whole function, look and feel was transformed. ➤

DIY TIP

Your fence line is not necessarily your boundary line, so it's best to hire a surveyor to be sure where yours is.



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After

The kitchen now oozes light, comfort, style and practicality.





Modern mirror

The old galley kitchen was limited in function, cramped and dark.

'The owners have been really surprised at the transformation with the use of mirrors on the splashback and the cabinets,' says Justin.

'It not only helps increase and distribute the light but also expands the space because the greenery outside is reflected back in.'

The high thermal-rated glass withstands the heat of the stovetop and is tinted with a smokey film.

An LED strip light runs across the centre of the overhead cabinets, adding extra unique detailing. ➤

Before



Appliances are integrated or concealed to free up space and create a streamlined look

Material mixture

There is one school of thought that says materials should run on over junctions to create a seamless flow.

But there is another approach that uses whatever material is completely relevant for the particular place it inhabits and the function it serves.

This technique is one that Justin used to great effect in this space,

mixing hardwood, polished concrete, steel and glass, with polyurethane and Corian. One wall is raw fibre cement sheet and gets lots of compliments.

Another element that worked surprisingly well was the black ceiling over the dining area.

‘We added a black ceiling fan and strip lighting, and it’s become a standout feature,’ says Justin. ➤



Hidden storage

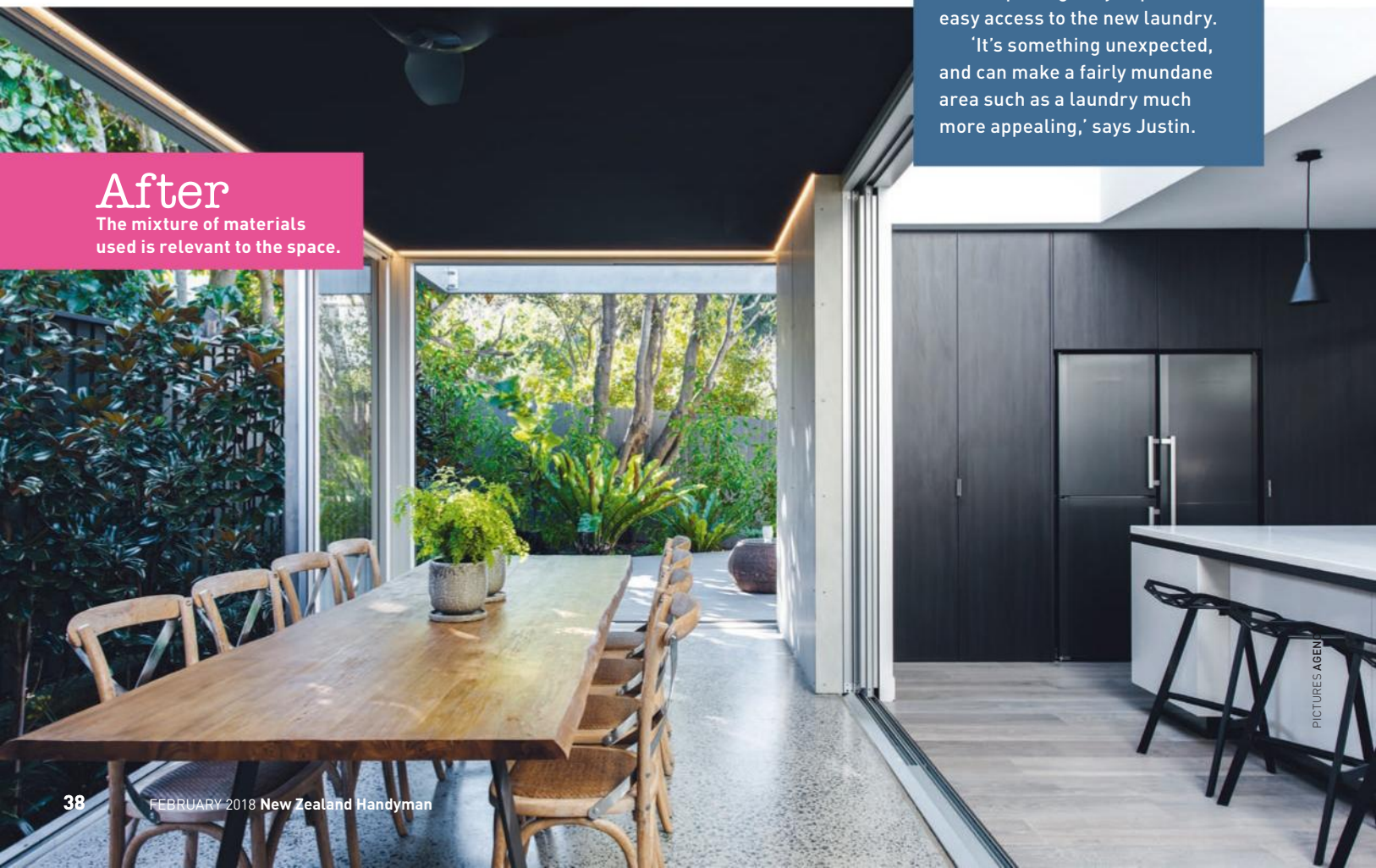
A pantry and an appliances cabinet with an inbuilt benchtop are concealed behind a wall of storage cupboards.

The laundry was relocated, as it was taking up prime space. On one side of the integrated fridge, a concealed door leads down a passageway to provide easy access to the new laundry.

‘It’s something unexpected, and can make a fairly mundane area such as a laundry much more appealing,’ says Justin.

After

The mixture of materials used is relevant to the space.



After

The new deck is seamlessly connected to the kitchen.



Refashioned deck

The old raised deck was never used and felt out of place.

'It had become a maintenance issue and was causing a lot more work than its use value. It had no connection to anything,' says Justin.

A new deck was laid, continuing the grey and black colour palette. Extending the steel framing further connects the two spaces, with the shift in zone determined by the flooring and the open space overhead.

'A modern addition should address how we live. This achieves that in terms of sustainability, open-plan living and alfresco entertaining,' he says. 🌿

Justin Loe Architects
studiojla.com.au

Before





OUTER SPACE

Our evolving alfresco areas aren't complete without a deck to add flow, function and form

WORDS SITA SIMONS

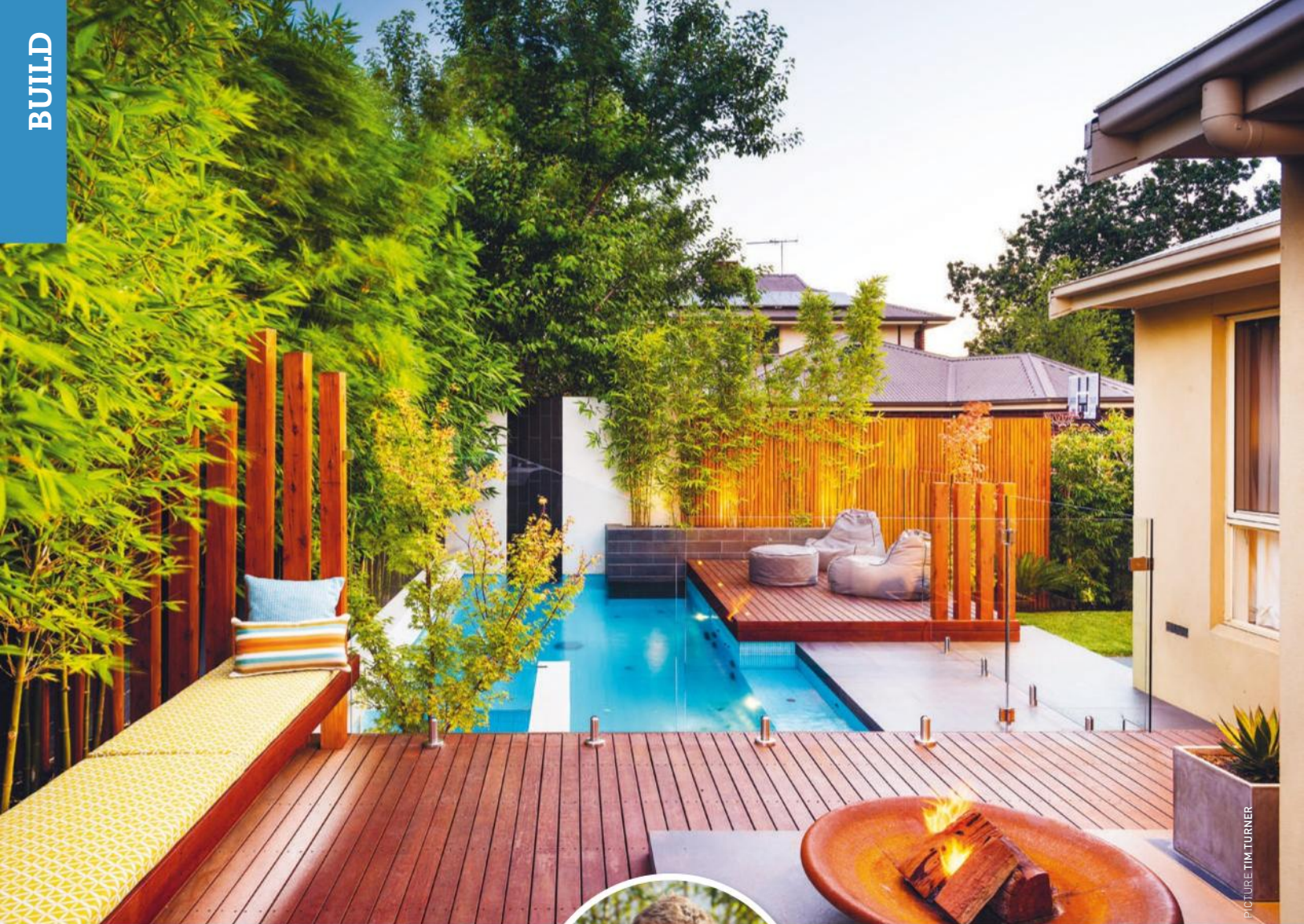


PICTURE TIM TURNER

There's no doubt the rest of the world looks to Australia and New Zealand for inspiring outdoor spaces. This is partly in response to the welcoming climate and endless views and vistas, as well as to the sociable national characters.

We have many talented architects, landscape designers, builders and stylists who create appealing spaces that define how we interact with our backyards.

And there's nothing more fitting in this role than a deck. ➤



PICTURE: TIM TURNER

Pool position

The elegant pool deck on page 40 embraces a new trend of separating the entertaining space from the house.

'The owners really wanted to focus everything around the pool, and the pool isn't directly off the house,' says landscaper Matt Seymour.

'It's a large block of land, so making a dedicated entertaining space, rather than having some people around the house and some at the pool, made sense to them.'

A floating deck at a water-side site requires extra engineering and the

timber will need more maintenance, but a multi-level deck like the one above is a more work-intensive project.

A pool right next to the house turns practical step elements into a visual aesthetic and adds dimension to the flat structure of the pool.

'You need to work out all the level changes very precisely in the planning for a well-resolved finish,' says Matt.

Matt Seymour
Apex Pools & Spas
apexpools.com.au



Small wonder

The backyard space in this inner-west home in Sydney was an almost unusable collection of broken rocks, scrubby soil and overgrown weeds.

Tasked with creating a usable and multifunctional backyard for the new owners, former interior designer Judith Treanor applied simple logic.

'It's quite a small space, and often this means ease of planning because of the natural limitations,' she says.

The property flanks a busy main road, so the feeling had to be

peaceful and tranquil to counteract it. Guided by one redeemable feature, a frangipani tree, a paved area leading from the back door was preferred.

A small deck replaced the former site of an old shed.

'The slab was there so we laid decking over the top of it and made another functional space.' >

Judith Treanor
Temples and Markets
templesandmarkets.com.au



An entertaining space separated from the house can still be linked by other elements



PICTURE: JUDITH TREANOR



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BEFORE



AFTER*

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Spa solution

Landscape designer Ben Kingsnorth faced a big challenge on a very steep site backing onto bushland. He had to create as much usable area as possible, where possible.

‘This is absolutely the place to use decking because you can cantilever it out as far as the site will allow, and ultimately maximise the flat space,’ says Ben.

The previous owners had bought the spa and set it on a concrete slab.

‘It looked very out of place, but the new owners wanted to keep it, because

if you are ever going to have a spa, the place to do it is on a hill overlooking bushland,’ says Ben.

‘I used the surrounding decking design to integrate it into the space and provide a flat surface from which to walk from the house and step down into the spa.’

A balustrade provides a safety element without blocking views. ➤

Ben Kingsnorth
Creative Nature Landscape Services
creativenaturelandscapes.com.au



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Ocean view

High up on a hill with spectacular ocean views on one side and over open country on the other, these outdoor areas have one important purpose – to provide spaces that meld into the surroundings.

‘In this design, both client and architect sought to acknowledge the special qualities of the land and its relationship to the new home,’ says architect Charissa Snijders.

‘It was important to the client that they create a home that sat quietly and sympathetically

with the land. They also wanted it to respond to its wildness, particularly the wind.’

Framing the view and protection from the elements drove the design of this stunning deck.

It can be open to the sea and sun during summer, but still act as a seamless extension of the house during the cooler months.

Charissa Snijders
Charissa Snijders Architect
csaarchitect.co.nz



Pool planning

In this project, designer Sue Coles used decking to start the transition to a pool that was in the planning stage.

'This was a renovation extension and the deck connects the indoors to the outdoors by running flush with the floor level,' says Sue.

It is one of two decks. It gets full sun while the deck on the western side captures afternoon sun.

Sue Coles
Baenziger Coles
baenzigercoles.com.au



Sunny villa

Architect Darren Jessop was tasked with doubling the internal space of this New Zealand villa and maximising the utility of the large outdoor areas.

'We installed a deck to make an outdoor room that links the bedrooms and the living spaces. It forms a kind of centre that is open to the north sun in summer and is shielded from the elements in winter,' he says. 🌱

Darren Jessop
Jessop Architects
jessoparchitects.co.nz



MATERIAL MATTERS

Go for products that suit your site and budget when building a deck

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

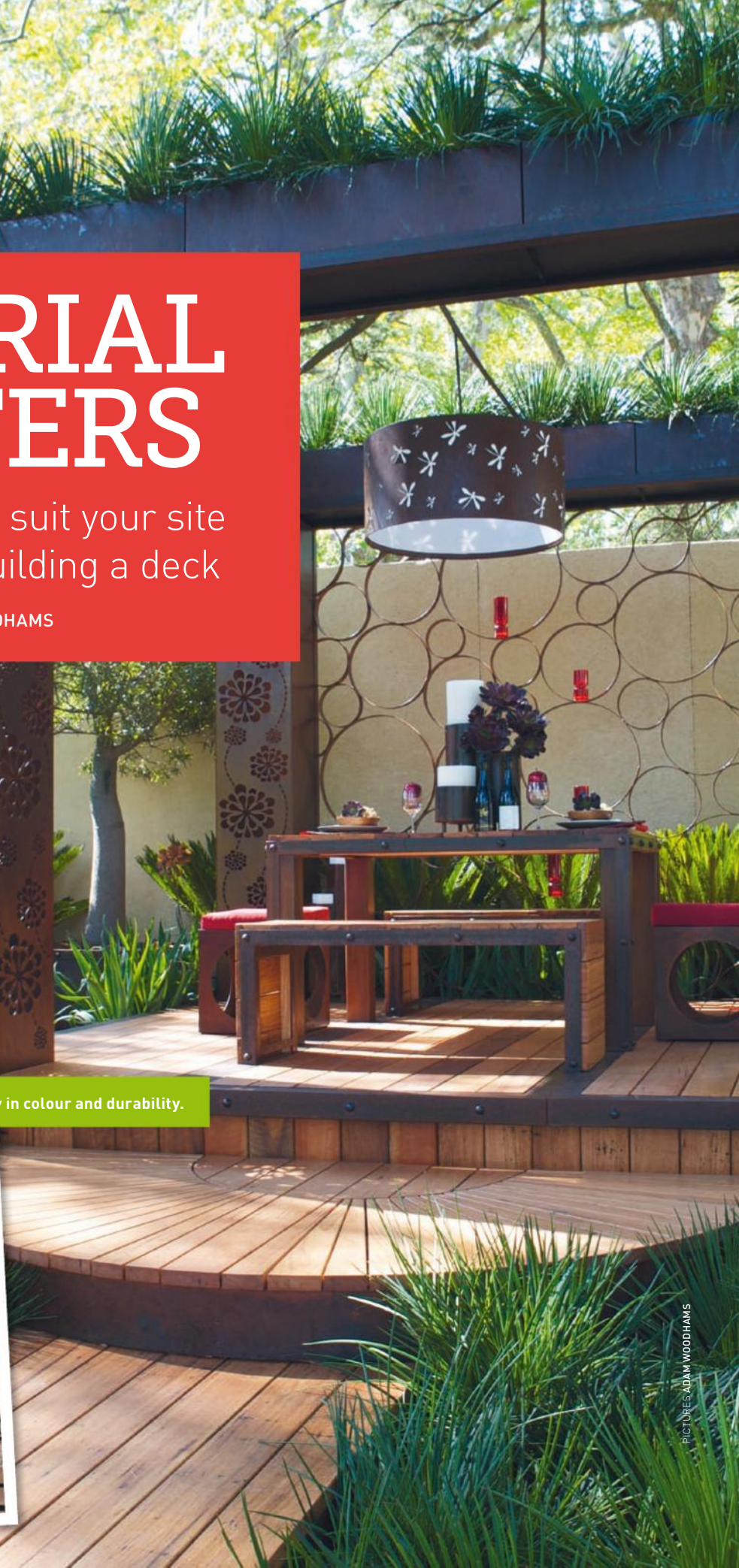
It wasn't too long ago that when you had to decide what to use to lay decking, the choice was between treated pine or hardwood.

There are now composite decking materials in a variety of colours that will give you further design options.

The choice isn't just limited to boards, with a thermoplastic product available that eliminates the need to dig holes for concrete footings. ➤



Types of decking surfaces vary in colour and durability.



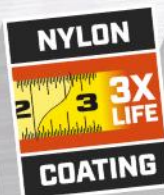
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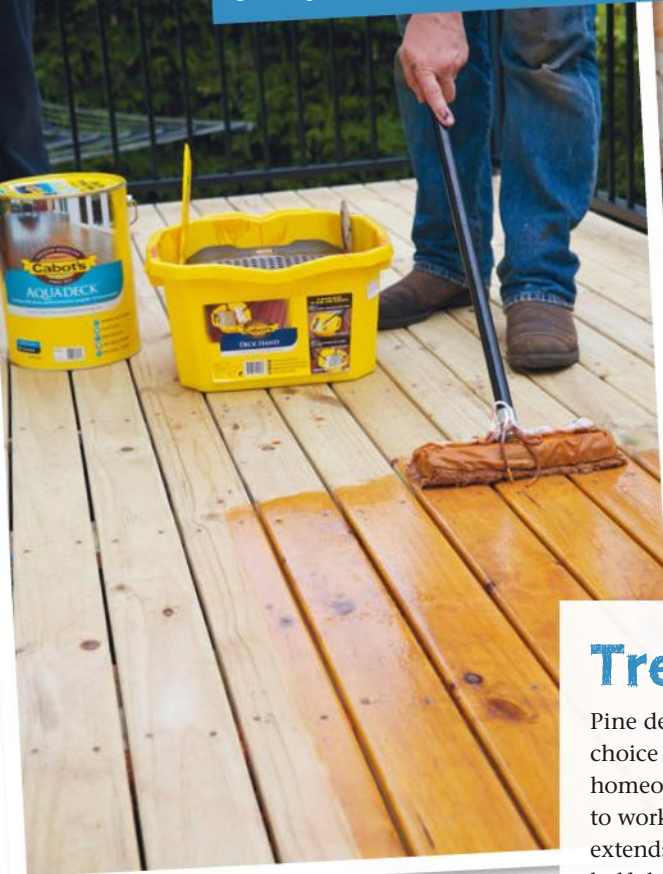
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TYPES OF BOARDS

Timber boards are the conventional decking choice. They range in size typically from narrow 88mm boards to wide 140mm boards.

Manufactured boards are a more modern choice, with technological advances making them very durable and resistant to rot.

New decks should be painted or oiled soon after laying to avoid discolouring or staining and to help preserve the timber.



DIY TIP

Predrill nail or screw holes that are located within 30mm of the end of the decking board to avoid splitting the timber.

Hardwood

Hardwood has a naturally long life when it is well maintained.

Kwila, with its warm orange-red hues, is usually oiled or sealed with clear products to accentuate its natural colour.

Hardwood is heavier and more difficult to work with than pine and usually requires predrilling before nailing or screwing. ➤

Treated pine

Pine decking has long been the go-to choice for decking among builders and homeowners. It's lightweight and easy to work with and the timber treatment extends the timber's life. It is also about half the price of hardwoods.

It can be stained or painted any colour of your choice.

 Hardwood is harder to cut, but will be long wearing and resist weathering



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Composite

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Durable with a wood-like texture, they don't need painting or sealing and come in a range of colours similar to traditional timbers or popular finishes.

Composite products are very easy to work with using conventional power tools, and are often secured with a hidden fastener system.

They are one of the more expensive options, but are cost-effective in the long-term due to their long life span and fewer maintenance needs. ➤

Composite boards come in a variety of colours. ekologix.co.nz



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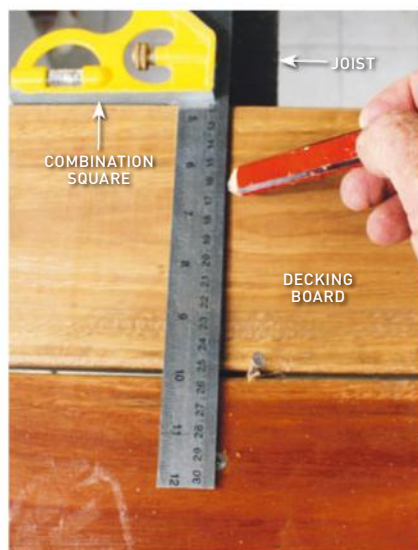


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LAY TIMBER DECKING BOARDS



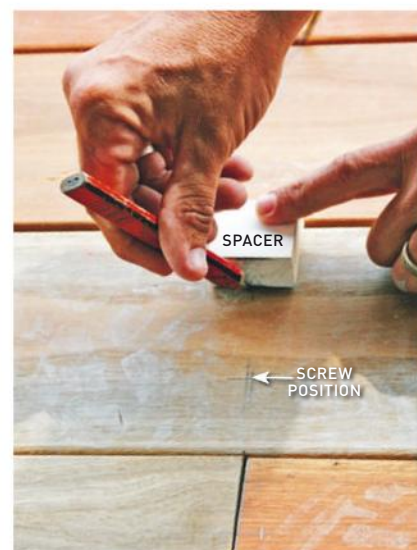
1 Position and cut boards

Lay five rows at a time with 50mm overhang at each end, overlapping the joints at the nearest joist. Use a combination square to mark a line on the boards showing the joist positions, then cut to length with a mitresaw.



2 Mark joist centrelines

Check the board joints are square and centred over the joists, then position a straightedge or spirit level across the boards at the centre of each joist. Mark centrelines across the decking boards using a pencil.



3 Mark screw positions

Use a 40mm square offcut as a spacer to mark across the line to show drilling points. Make narrow wedges 100mm long using a mitresaw, then tap them between the boards at every second joist to keep the gaps even.



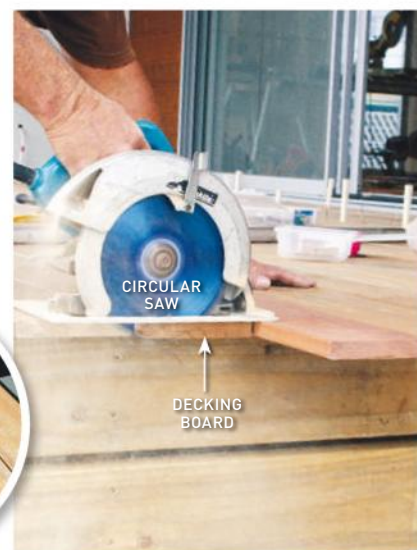
4 Secure the screws

Use a drill and 2mm combination countersink bit to make pilot holes at the marks, drilling only through the board if the joists are treated pine. Use a square drive bit to secure screws, adjusting the torque clutch as needed.



5 Check the alignment

Position a stringline along the complete length of a row every five rows to check the boards are straight, adjusting if needed and using a chisel to prise the gaps slightly further open or closed as needed for even spacing.



6 Trim the board ends

Mark a cut line on the end of the boards, leaving a 20mm overhang. Cut using a circular saw and round over with 120 grit sandpaper.
TIP Use a handsaw to cut the last board where the circular saw won't reach. ➤

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FASTER DECKS

There are options that can make building a deck fast and easy for even the DIY-challenged.

The most complex part of a deck is building the subframe – the bearers, joists and footings or posts. There are now systems available that remove that hassle, delivering a project that just screws together.



**TuffBlock 300 x 300 x 90mm
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Footings

An alternative to concrete footings is a thermoplastic product called TuffBlock. Designed to take a post or bearer, each TuffBlock can support up to 770kg.

They eliminate the need to dig holes for concrete footings, as they distribute weight over a wide surface area. This minimises the time and effort involved in excavation and waiting for concrete to set. 🚫



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REVIVE YOUR DECK

Follow these simple tips when cleaning and refinishing boards to make sure your deck lasts a lifetime

Decks take a beating during the year, meaning the boards need to be coated with finishes that protect the timber.

Decking finishes penetrate into the timber, preventing water ingress and also minimising the chances of rot and discolouration.

Although hardwood boards are naturally resistant to rot, applying a finish will help preserve the timber and enhance the look of the deck.

Exposure to the elements and ultraviolet rays can eventually degrade the coatings, so decks will need to be recoated regularly. ➤

Protect your investment with regular refinishing.

PICTURES (MAIN) ISTOCK (RIGHT) SIKKENS

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New Cabot's Aquadeck has a 1 hour re-coat time, so you can finish the deck in a day.



Season new timber

A natural weathering process, timber seasoning takes 3-6 months, during which time tannins are released.

If timber is coated before it is fully seasoned, the coating will break down prematurely and the boards will become discoloured and stained.

You can accelerate the weathering process in just a single day using Cabot's New Timber Prep, \$59 for 4L (cabots.co.nz).

It works by drawing tannins to the surface of the timber in 15-20 minutes to prepare for cleaning and coating.

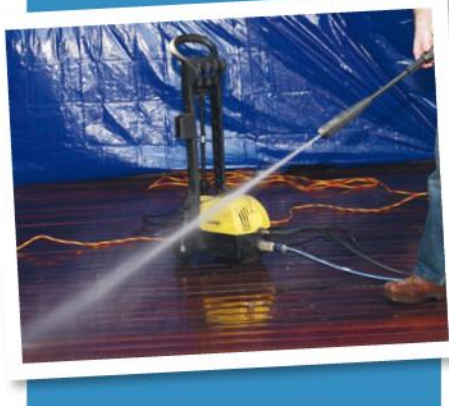


Clean before recoating

Before applying a new coating or reapplying an old finish to a deck, the timber boards need to be clean and free from dirt. This allows the new coating to penetrate the timber.

As well as removing grime, deck cleaners also brighten and rejuvenate weathered timber in preparation for being recoated.

Always hose down the deck thoroughly to remove surface dirt before applying a cleaner.



Timber suppliers may recommend certain finishes to suit different species

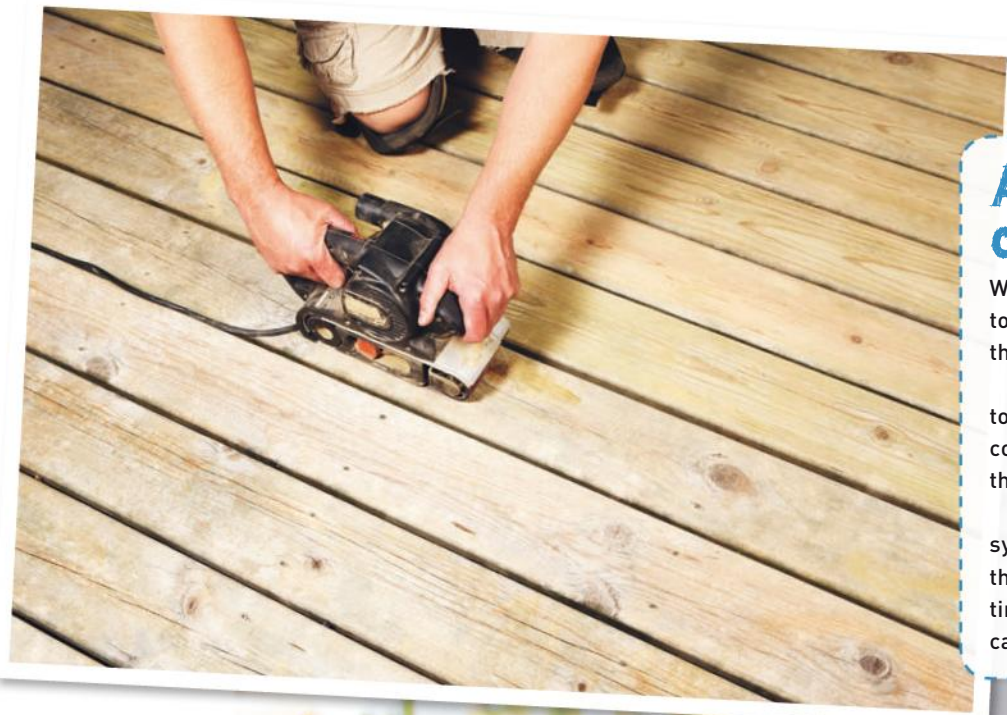
Choose the right coating

Stains and finishes can be water- or oil-based. What you select is largely a matter of personal preference.

Water-based finishes have good colour retention, are odour free, nonflammable and easy to clean. Try Cabot's Water Based Deck & Exterior Timber Stain, \$76 for 5L (cabots.co.nz).

Oil-based finishes highlight the grain of the timber and penetrate deeper into the timber, providing greater durability. Try Cabot's Deck & Exterior Stain Oil Based, \$74.50 for 5L.





Avoid mixing coatings

When recoating a deck, it's best to use the same type of coating that was most recently applied.

An oil-based coating applied to a deck with a water-based coating won't properly adhere to the timber, and vice versa.

If you want to change coating systems, you will need to strip the existing coating back to bare timber before recoating, which can be a time-consuming process.



Recoat every 12 months

A year of rain, beating sun and foot traffic can lead to wear and tear on your deck's protective coating.

Without this essential defence against the elements, boards can start to deteriorate.

To avoid having to replace damaged timber, it's best to clean and recoat your deck every year.

Choose a day when the weather is cool and overcast rather than hot, sunny or windy. ➤

DIY TIP

When cleaning the deck, treat any areas with algae, mildew or mould using a specialised product and a stiff brush.

Applying a stain

After years of withstanding heavy foot traffic and harsh elements, this timber deck had lost its sheen.

The boards were in need of a deep clean and a few coats of timber stain to give the deck a rich and glossy look.

First, the boards were sprayed with a pressure washer to remove any dirt, debris and leaves. While still wet, they were scrubbed using a mild detergent and a long-handled brush for a deep clean.

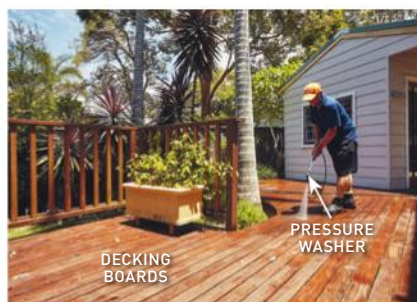
To finish, two coats of a teak timber decking stain were applied, revitalising the deck and protecting it from future wear and tear.

To ensure your stained deck stays in the best condition, refinish it every year.



Use a quality stain, which will withstand the elements and won't fade when exposed to sunlight

1 2 3



1 Spray the deck

Rinse the boards using a pressure washer to remove any surface dust and grime. Use a fan spray to clean the deck rather than blasting it, making sure not to be too aggressive with the pressure washer.



2 Scrub the boards

While the deck is still wet, scrub it thoroughly using a deck cleaner and a long-handled scrubbing brush, cleaning the boards of any stubborn patches of mud or dirt. Rinse off the cleaner, then allow to dry.



3 Apply the stain

Finish the boards with two coats of a timber stain, using a decking brush to spread the stain evenly all over the deck. Allow at least two hours between coats. Avoid staining the boards in hot and windy conditions. 🌧️

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Find it at Bunnings

COPPER BATHROOM LADDER

Add hanging space in the bathroom with this stylish metal rack for towels

Everyone could do with more hanging space in the bathroom, particularly for towels.

This easy-to-follow guide shows you all the steps and some handy hints to make your own stylish copper ladder for hanging your bath towels.

Once you've decided on the size of the copper ladder, mark out the lengths on the copper pipe.

For this project, we cut $\frac{3}{4}$ in straight copper pipe to make five 500mm ladder rungs, eight 300mm ladder verticals, four 150mm top and base ends, and four 80mm wall offsets.

The joins include four 19mm round flanges used for the wall fittings, 10 20mm copper tees to join the straight pieces, and four 20mm 90° copper elbows to attach the wall offsets.



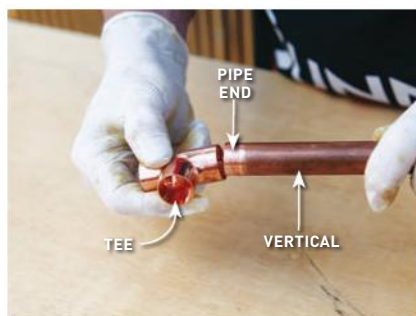
Brighten up unused wall space in the bathroom with a copper towel rail

Watch the video 'D.I.Y. copper ladder' at bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice



1 Cut the pipe

Measure and mark the pipe lengths, then cut with a pipe cutter, which gives a cleaner cut, or use a hacksaw. Clamp the pipe cutter onto the pipe. Rotate it around the pipe. Tighten the cutter and repeat until the pipe is cut.



2 Attach the tees

Sand the pipe ends smooth, then clean them using metal polish and a rag to ensure the fittings will attach securely. Secure the copper tees with epoxy adhesive to the ends of the eight ladder verticals. Wipe off excess glue.



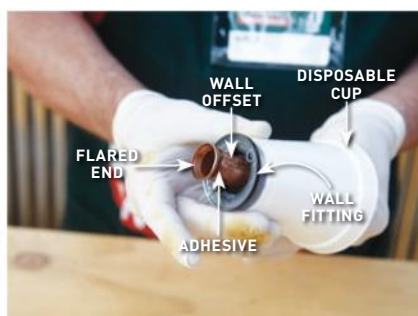
3 Prepare pipe ends

Make the pipes sit securely in the 19mm flange wall fittings by flaring the four ends of the 80mm wall offsets using a flaring tool and hammer. Paint the wall fittings with etch primer and black enamel paint for an industrial look.



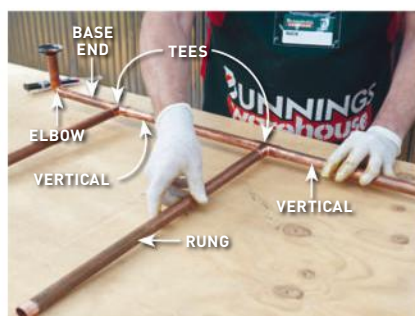
What you need

3/4in straight copper pipe
 20mm copper capillary tees
 20mm 90° copper capillary elbows
 19mm round flanges
 Flaring tool
 Tape measure and marker
 Combination square
 Pipe cutter or hacksaw
 240 grit sandpaper
 Drill and hammer
 Metal polish and rags
 Wall anchors and screws
 Epoxy adhesive
 Etch primer
 Black enamel paint



4 Attach wall fittings

Support the wall offset in an inverted disposable cup with a hole in its base. Apply adhesive to the flared pipe end and slide a wall fitting on the end. Let it rest on the cup. Allow adhesive to dry. Repeat for other fittings.



5 Join the rungs

Using epoxy adhesive, attach the four 150mm top and base ends to the verticals, then attach the elbow fittings. Insert rungs into the tees on both vertical sides, wiping off excess adhesive. Push together for a parallel fit.



6 Secure the ladder

Attach the four wall assemblies to the elbow pieces with adhesive, ensuring they are at a 90° angle to the verticals. Clean the pipes with metal polish and a soft rag. Secure the ladder using wall anchors and screws in the wall fittings.

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Make the most of your summer with a great range for your home and garden.



This Toplift Hand Trolley is tough, foldable, lightweight and easy to carry. \$39.98



Get a bit more height around the home with this foldable, three-step ladder. \$49



Control your lights remotely using your smart device with the Sengled Wi-Fi LED Kit. \$110

Create a beautiful natural finish for your deck, pergola or fence. 5L \$68, 10L \$134



This Ozito Power Exchange Cordless Mower is ideal for small to medium lawns. \$349



Keep your drain leaf and debris free with this Downpipe Diverter. \$69





Get your D.I.Y. projects done with the Ryobi One+ Drill Driver Kit. \$249



This pint-sized gadget is the perfect substitute for a tape measure. \$49.89



Build a deck that looks great and lasts with Kwila Decking. \$6.28 per metre



Lock and unlock your home using your smartphone with the Assure Keyless Lock. \$331.54



Power through all kinds of D.I.Y. projects with the versatile Ryobi One+ Multi-Tool. \$159



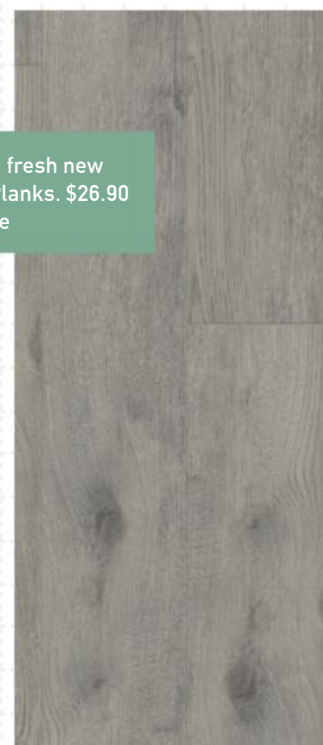
Create the ultimate entertainment system with lights that double as speakers. \$299



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Keep your garden looking neat and trim with this Victa Curved Line Trimmer. \$239



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SAFE *AND* SECURE

Defend your home from thieves during the holiday season using these simple tips

WORDS MARC MCEVOY



Holidays away should be a time for relaxing, but it can be hard if you're worrying about thieves breaking into your home.

More than 80,000 burglaries occur each year in New Zealand, many of them when home owners are absent for long periods.

Thieves are mostly after cash, laptops, jewellery, cameras, mobile phones, wallets, handbags, TVs,

computer games, watches, power tools, DVD players, stereo gear, credit cards and other ID documents.

There are many ways to protect your home against thieves, to make it less of a target for them and limit the damage if they do get inside.

These include installing grilles, screens, locks and alarms, as well as cameras that allow you to monitor your property on your smartphone. ➤



Beware of door knockers who are seeking information, as they may be thieves looking for a home to rob

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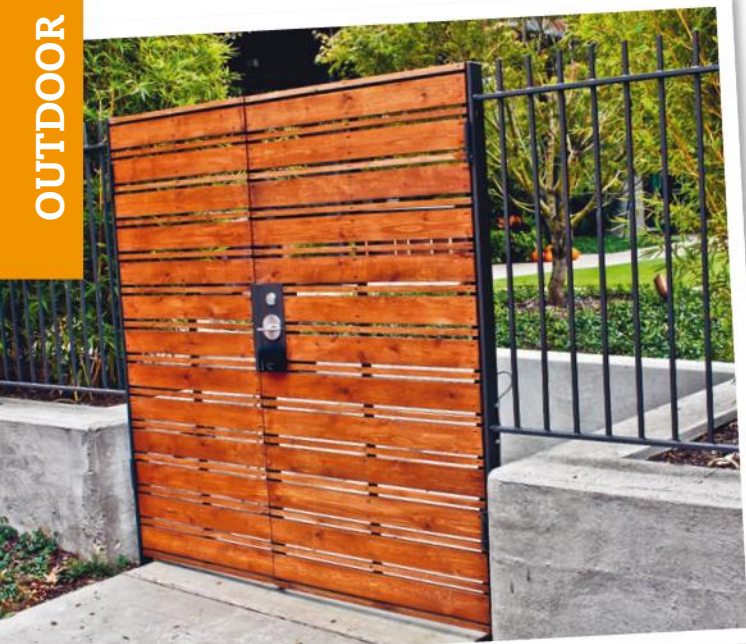


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Schlage Sense Smart Deadbolt, \$435.40. schlage.com

Locks

The first line of defence against robberies is installing strong locks on your doors and windows.

Deadlocks fitted to doors not only prevent thieves from getting in, but also stop them carrying off large items, such as flat screen TVs, if they enter through a window.

Deadlocks, or deadbolts, are operated either mechanically with a key or electronically with a code, or both. Bluetooth deadlocks can be operated by your mobile phone.

Most locks are easy to install on existing doors and windows.

You should also fit strong latches on side gates and install a lock on your meter box to stop thieves turning off the power to alarm systems. ➤



Secure Zone Mini Bolts – 2 Pack, \$40.32. bunnings.co.nz



Delf Satin Chrome Lock Keyed Window Sash, \$18.89. delfarchitectural.com.au



Samsung Keyless Voice Guided Deadbolt Digital Door Lock, \$412.90. digitaldoorlocks.com.au



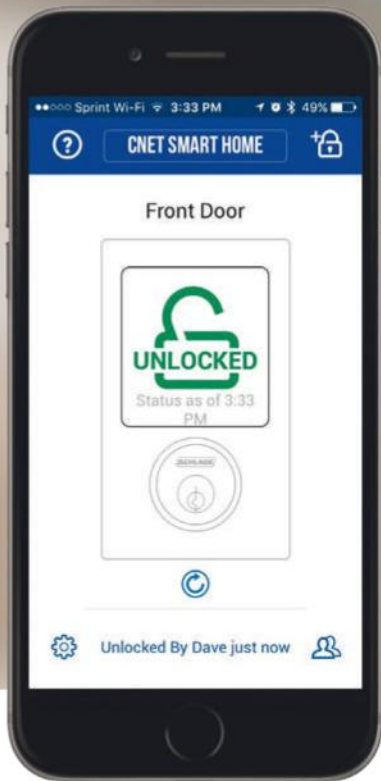
Schlage Sense Smart Deadbolt, \$435.40. schlage.co.nz

Holiday checklist

- ✓ Lock away cash, keys, valuables, tools and ladders.
- ✓ Cancel newspapers and mail delivery.
- ✓ Lock up the garage and shed.
- ✓ Mow the lawn before leaving.
- ✓ Make sure window and door locks and alarms are working.
- ✓ Avoid telling everyone your holiday plans, especially through social media.

A smarter way in.

Introducing the Schlage Sense™ Smart Deadbolt.



The Schlage Sense™ Smart Deadbolt uses Bluetooth® Smart technology to work with your iPhone®, iPad® and iPod touch®, the Schlage Sense™ app and Apple HomeKit™ to give you complete control of your home - including the ability to talk to unlock your door using Siri®. It's a smarter way in.



Open possibilities.

schlage.co.nz



Security cameras are a strong deterrent against thieves.

Cameras

Alarm systems often come with security cameras that let you monitor their video surveillance 24 hours a day.

These include a digital video recorder and an app so you can view your footage remotely from your smartphone or computer.

You can also install cheap fake cameras, but these won't fool seasoned burglars. Avoid fake cameras with a flashing red light as well, as real cameras don't have flashing lights.

Cameras should be positioned near vulnerable doors and windows.

Some systems include multiple cameras to cover your entire property, and can operate with 4K resolution, even in night vision. Different camera views can be monitored at the same time on your computer.



Samsung Wisenet Dome Camera, \$99. samsungcc.com.au



Samsung All-In-One 4 Camera 4 Channel CCTV Home Surveillance Security System, \$589. samsungcc.com.au



Samsung Wisenet Dome Bullet Camera, \$99. samsungcc.com.au



Alarms

Once your home has been robbed, statistics show that it is more likely to get burgled a second time.

This is because the thieves know the layout of your home and that you have to restock with new items to replace the ones they stole.

Installing alarms is a good back-up against this. Thieves hate noise. Alarms may not stop a smash-and-grab theft, but they'll deter a planned operation.

Alarms work by sensor and include wireless sirens as well as window and door alarms that work off any movement or breakage.

Battery-operated gate alarms also protect your yard from intruders. ➤



Arlec Window Security Alarm DIY Am120, \$16.
arlec.com.au



HPM Wireless Digital Door Chime White, \$21.50.
hpm.co.nz



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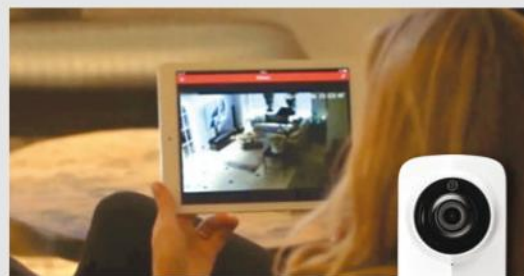
Alert Security Set, Bunnings in store price.

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Lights

An effective deterrent against intruders at night is motion-sensing lighting, which is cheap and easy to install.

You can buy individual LED spotlights with their own sensor or motion sensors that link up to your existing external lights and become inactive during daylight.

Sensor lights attached near entry points around your home will usually scare off intruders or, at least, alert neighbours to suspicious visitors.

A device that makes it appear you're home when you're not is a timer. Plug it into a power point and it will turn on a lamp at the times you set. ➤



Sensor lighting protects vulnerable areas of your home.



HPM Light Patrol Movement Sensor, \$36.40. hpm.co.nz



Excalibur 24 Hour Outdoor Heavy Duty Timer, \$20. bunnings.co.nz



Arlec Solar LED Floodlight with Movement Sensor, \$77. arlec.com.au



A brand of **legrand**



Lighting Tips for Security

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

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

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

**NEW FORTA LED
FLOODLIGHTS**



www.hpm.co.nz



Screens and grilles

Screen doors are an additional security barrier at entry points. They also let in fresh air so the main door can be left open when you're at home.

Many screen doors are made from aluminium, so they're light and easy to install. They come with various grades of mesh strength. Stronger barriers are built from stainless steel.

Security screen doors with a heavy-duty extruded aluminium frame can include deadlocks and triple locks that bolt shut at the top, centre and base.

Window grilles provide additional protection and are easy to install. Usually made from powdercoated steel, they come in various designs to suit the style of your home. ➤

Screen doors give you peace of mind if the main door is open.



Protector Aluminium Black Adjustable 800-840 x 1970-2010mm Grille Barrier Door, \$299. protectoraluminium.com.au



Protector Aluminium 860 x 1980mm White Fixed Security Grille Door, \$320. protectoraluminium.com.au



Faulkner 980 x 810mm Steel Contemporary Screen Door. \$139. bunnings.co.nz



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SHS-3321 Smart Deadbolt Lock

- Keyless entry
- Easy installation
- Capacity for up to 70 users
- Automatic locking



Full HD Video Security System

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- Expandable up to 8 cameras*



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Tap timers and thorny bushes can deter intruders.



Lawns and garden

Keep your lawns and garden well maintained so thieves don't think your property is unoccupied.

Mow your lawn before you leave for holidays and ask friends or neighbours to help out with watering the lawn and garden. If they can't,

you can set up an automatic watering system with a tap timer.

If your back garden has an access gate, keep it locked. Also, plant thorny bushes on boundaries. No intruder wants to climb over any rosebushes or a hawthorn hedge. 🚫



Holman Automatic Digital Tap Timer. \$59.80.
holmanindustries.com.au



Victa Super Mulcher 18" Mulch or Catch Lawn Mower, \$599.
victa.com.au



LekkLatch Deluxe Gate Latch, \$99.10.
au.ddtechglobal.com



Yates Thrive Granular Rose Food, \$19.70 for 5kg.
yates.co.nz



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- ✓ Two sizes available.
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SUMMER SIZZLERS

Fire up the barbie and cook up a feast with these barbecue recipes

For many New Zealanders, 'low and slow' is a new style of cooking, but it's a great opportunity to combine the things we already love, such as meat, seafood, vegies, socialising and barbecues, in a novel and rewarding way.

Ideally, it is carried out on a charcoal-burning barbie or smoker. The charcoal, smoke and leisurely pace of cooking combine to impart a flavour you can't quite get in any other way.

Equipment can be costly and complicated, but fear not. It's entirely

possible to cook this way using a kettle barbecue or even a gas burner.

These recipes have been designed to work in a variety of barbecues because most people already have one or the other at home.

Once you're hooked, you may want to explore and invest more.

You'll never find yourself short of options. A quick browse on the internet will uncover dozens of alternative cooking methods, tricks, and tips, as well as a vast array of specialised equipment.



With any type of meat, resting off the heat after cooking is desirable to ensure a tender meal



This is an edited extract from *The BBQ Cookbook* (ABC Books, A\$35). Inspired by the movie, *The BBQ*, it features more than 80 recipes and tips, including what gear you need and cooking to temperature, not time.

It also offers the latest in grilling trends and techniques, such as mastering the US-style 'low and slow' barbecuing method.

Moroccan butterflied lamb leg

PREP TIME 10 minutes, plus 1 hour marinating and 30 minutes standing
COOKING TIME 30 minutes

Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil,
plus extra for brushing
2 garlic cloves, crushed
2 teaspoons finely grated fresh ginger
3 teaspoons ground cumin
3 teaspoons ground coriander
1 teaspoon paprika
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
½ teaspoon ground allspice
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
1.8kg butterflied leg of lamb
Barbecued flatbread, to serve

① **COMBINE** the oil, garlic, ginger and spices in a shallow dish. Add the lamb and turn to coat in the marinade, rubbing it into the meat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour, or overnight. Remove from the fridge about 30 minutes before cooking and stand at room temperature.

② **PREPARE** the barbecue for two-zone cooking and preheat to 190°C. Place a drip tray on the side without coals and add water. Put the cooking grate in position and wipe with oil.

③ **SEAR** the lamb directly over the coals with the lid down for 5 minutes on each side, then move to the indirect cooking side. Cover the barbecue and reduce the heat to 160°C. Cook for 20 minutes or until the meat temperature reaches 55°C at the thickest part.

④ **TRANSFER** the meat to a board and cover with foil. Rest for 15 minutes. Slice and serve with the flatbread.

TIP Butterflying lamb makes it cook faster. As the thickness varies, some parts will be medium-rare, others well done, with plenty in between.

Serves 6

Char siu pork

PREP TIME 10 minutes, plus 1 hour marinating and 20 minutes standing

COOKING TIME 6 minutes

Ingredients

½ cup hoisin sauce
 ⅓ cup soy sauce
 2 tablespoons oyster sauce
 2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
 2 tablespoons brown sugar
 2 teaspoons sesame oil
 1½ teaspoons Chinese five-spice powder
 8 boneless pork spare ribs, about 1.3kg in total
 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 2 spring onions, finely sliced
 Steamed jasmine rice, to serve

1 COMBINE the hoisin sauce, soy sauce, oyster sauce, vinegar, sugar, sesame oil and five-spice in a shallow non-reactive dish. Add the pork and turn to coat. Cover and marinate in the fridge for 1 hour, or overnight.

2 TAKE the pork from the fridge about 20 minutes before cooking. Meanwhile, prepare the barbecue for direct cooking and preheat to medium.

3 REMOVE the pork from the marinade and pour the marinade into a small saucepan. Pat the pork dry with paper towel, then brush with the oil.

4 COOK the pork on the grill for 3 minutes on each side, then transfer to a plate to rest.

5 BRING the marinade to the boil. Reduce the heat slightly and cook for 5 minutes or until thick and glossy.

6 BRUSH the glaze over the pork and sprinkle with the spring onion. Serve with steamed jasmine rice.

TIP After raw meat has been sitting in it, a marinade is only safe to serve with cooked meat once it's been thoroughly boiled, to kill off any bacteria. ➤

Serves 4



Serves 4-6

BBQ buffalo chicken wings

PREP TIME 20 minutes, plus 4 hours marinating and 20 minutes standing
COOKING TIME About 40 minutes

Ingredients

1.5kg chicken wings
 125g butter, chopped
 2 tablespoons chilli sauce
 Vegetable oil, for brushing

DIPPING SAUCE

120g soft blue cheese
 ¼ cup sour cream
 ¼ cup buttermilk
 ¼ cup good-quality whole-egg mayonnaise
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 1 tablespoon chopped chives
 Salt and pepper

1 CUT the wing tip sections from the wings, if present, and discard. Cut the wings into two portions through the joint and place in a shallow non-reactive dish.

2 COMBINE the butter and chilli sauce in a small saucepan and stir over a medium heat until melted and combined. Cool slightly, then drizzle half the mixture over the wings and toss to coat thoroughly. Cover and marinate in the fridge for 4 hours, or overnight. Refrigerate the remaining butter mixture until needed.

3 TAKE the chicken from the fridge about 20 minutes before cooking.

4 PREPARE the barbecue for indirect cooking and preheat to 180°C. Add a few soaked woodchips to the coals and add water to the drip tray. Put the cooking grate in place and wipe with oil. Place the wings on the grill, over

the drip tray. Cover the barbecue and cook for 20 minutes.

5 RE-MELT the remaining butter mixture and brush over the wings. Cover and cook for another 15 minutes.

6 UNCOVER the barbecue and slide the wings over the coals for a few minutes to char slightly. Move and turn as needed so they colour evenly. Transfer the wings to a tray and cover loosely with foil. Rest for 10 minutes.

7 MAKE the dipping sauce by either combining all the ingredients, except the chives, in a small food processor, or mashing the cheese and adding the remaining ingredients a little at a time, mixing with a fork until almost smooth and evenly combined. Stir in the chives and season to taste.

TIP Use regular chilli sauce, not sweet chilli sauce, which will make the wings burn on the barbecue. 🍷



Get the **GRRRRR** out of the grill



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* Safe to be used on areas in contact with food. SELLEYS & BBQ Tough are registered trademarks.

Sitting pretty

Build a couple of chairs in a classic design for comfortable alfresco seating



This chair is hard to beat for comfort, economy and ease of building. It's comfortable to sit on for hours at a time, the arms are wide enough to hold a drink, and you're reclined for relaxation.

You can add outdoor cushions, it's lightweight to move around easily and it is also cheap to make.

Here, dressed pine was used, but you can try cedar, which weathers better. This is a project for beginners to intermediate-level DIYers with basic experience using common tools. ➤

What you need

Dressed pine or cedar
Orbital sander
F-clamps
Drill and hammer
18-gauge brad nailer
Bolts, nuts and washers
Nails and decking screws
Handsaw or mitresaw
Socket wrench
Exterior PVA adhesive



BUILD A TIMBER CHAIR



1 Assemble the seat base

Measure and cut the timber. For the seat base, secure the front piece to the sides, then attach the seat supports to the sides with adhesive and screws. If needed, raise or lower the seat supports slightly so that the space above them matches the 18mm thickness of the slats.



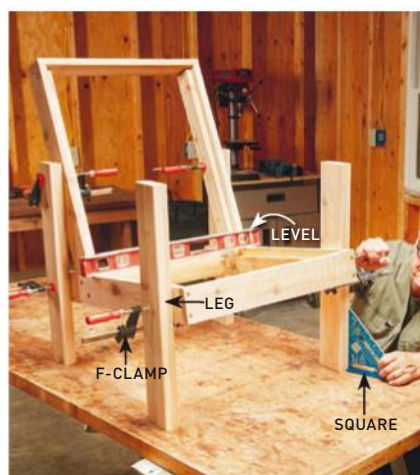
2 Prepare back supports

Secure the back supports to the back sides with adhesive and screws, keeping the square ends flush. The angles at the ends should be parallel. Position the back supports to match the thickness of the back slats. Position the sides and secure them with one screw each at the base into the seat sides.



3 Bolt on the back

Secure the back top to the top of the back sides using screws. Secure the back to the seat sides, then drill two bolt holes each through the seat sides and the back supports. Insert galvanised bolts and fit washers before tightening the nuts using a socket wrench.



4 Attach the legs

Turn the chair assembly on its side and clamp the legs to the seat and back. Repeat for the other two legs. Turn the chair right side up and check the legs for plumb and the seat for level. Drill clearance holes and secure the legs to the chair with bolts, avoiding the position of the slats.



5 Nail on the slats

Measure the inside width of the chair and cut a test slat for a good fit. Secure the end slats to the base edge of the seat supports using screws. Space the other slats 10mm apart and nail in position. Turn the chair over to secure the back slats, starting with the end slat.



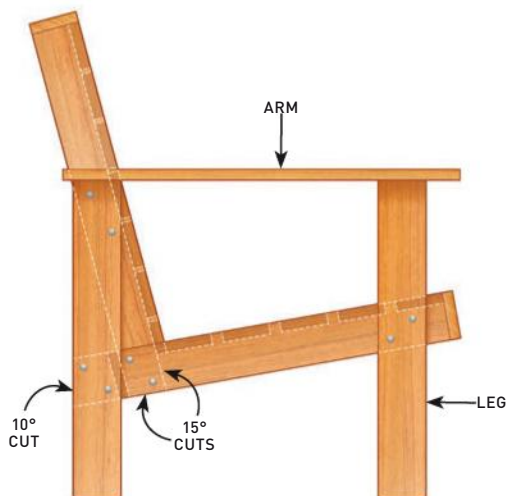
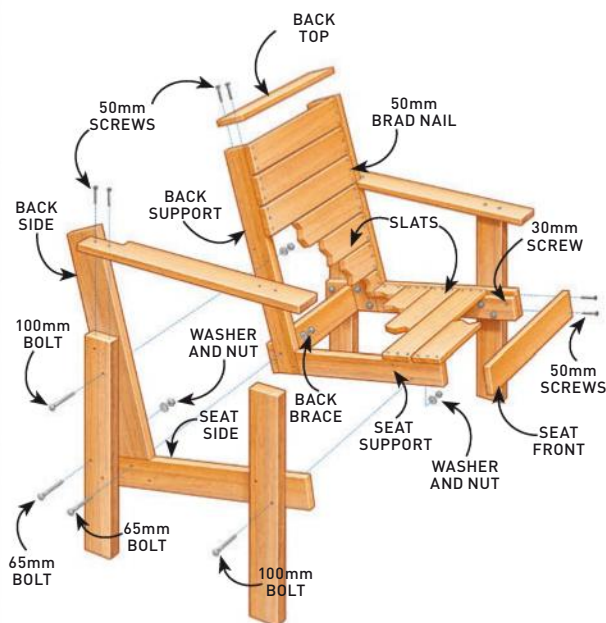
6 Attach the arms

Position one arm, mark the angle of the back on its edge and cut the rebate into the arm. Repeat for second arm, then secure both arms. Sand the corners and sharp edges to prevent splinters. Cover screw heads with timber filler. Sand the entire chair with 120 grit paper. Apply exterior finish. ●



TIMBER CHAIR

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
Dressed pine		
Seat sides	718 x 90 x 32	2
Seat front, back top	546 x 90 x 32	2
Seat supports	500 x 70 x 32	2
Back supports	698 x 70 x 32	2
Back sides	622 x 90 x 32	2
Legs	597 x 90 x 42	4
Slats, back brace	486 x 90 x 18	13
Arms	743 x 90 x 32	2

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OUTDOOR GARDEN BENCH

Watch the video 'Learn how to build an outdoor garden bench' at bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice

What you need

Cordless drill
35mm and 22mm spade bits
Bar and sash clamps
Measuring tape and pencil
Rubber mallet and square
4 450 x 15mm galvanised pipes
8 15mm brass threaded caps

Polyurethane adhesive
Orbital sander
80 grit and 120 grit sanding pads
Dust mask and earmuffs
Safety glasses
Paint, stain or resin
Paintbrush



A solid outdoor bench makes every garden look complete.

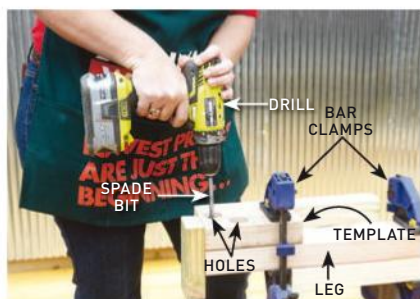
This treated pine bench is built without using nails or screws.

It measures 1890 x 500 x 420mm, but you can choose a size that suits you and have the timber pieces pre-cut.

CUTTING LIST

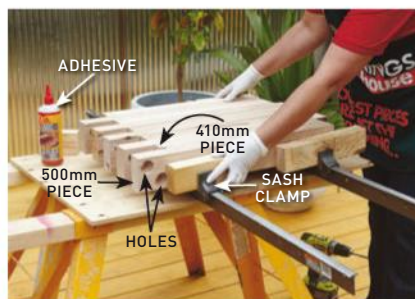
PART	SIZE (mm)	NO
Seat slats	1800 x 90 x 42	10
Short leg slats	410 x 90 x 42	10
Long leg slats	500 x 90 x 42	10

1 2 3



1 Cut the pieces

Cut the seat slats, short leg slats and long leg slats. On a long leg slat, clamp a 90 x 42mm template. Drill guide holes in it using a 35mm spade bit. Use the guide holes to drill two holes in the long leg slat, using a 22mm spade bit for a rod and a 35mm bit for a cap.



2 Make the legs

Use the template to make holes in all the long leg slats, then align leg slats for each leg, alternating long and short slats. Apply adhesive to the sides of the pieces and clamp them together. Insert rods in holes and leave to dry. Remove excess adhesive. Repeat for the seat top.



3 Assemble the bench

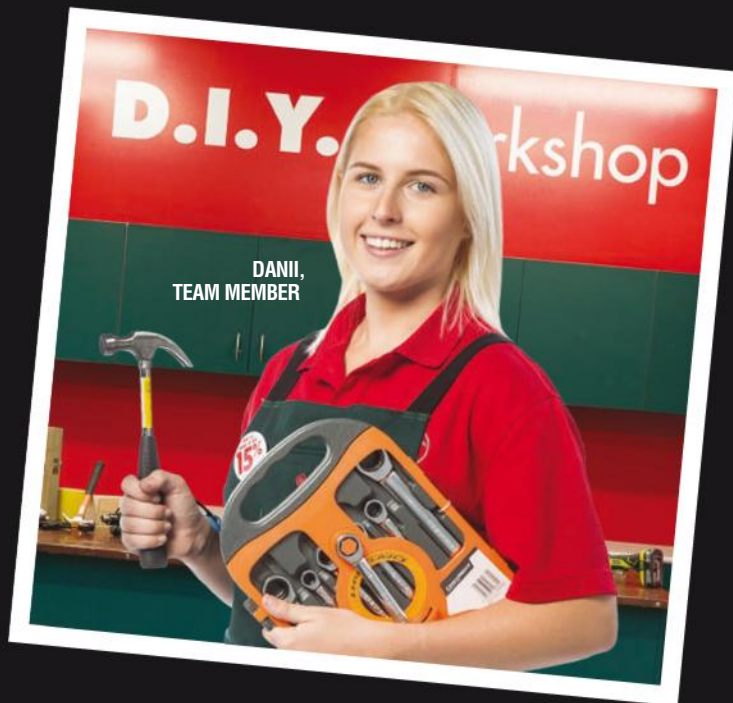
Lay the seat flat and insert the leg slats into the gaps in the seats. Use a rubber mallet to tap them into place. Cut the rods to length and insert them into the holes. Place caps on the rod ends. Sand the timber smooth and finish with paint, stain or fibreglass resin.

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If you can't make a session, don't worry - we have plenty of step by step guides and expert help in-store, plus handy online videos 24/7.



Here are just some of the handy online videos available at [bunnings.co.nz](https://www.bunnings.co.nz)

- **HOW TO TILE A SPLASHBACK**

Find out how this colourful addition can change the whole look of your kitchen.

- **D.I.Y. HAMMOCK STAND**

Kick back and relax this summer in your own D.I.Y. hammock. You'll be surprised how easy it is to make.

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Your very own pegboard can be a great way to declutter while giving your home office or study desk a brand new look.

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With the summer heat you will need to keep your plants well-watered. We'll show you how to efficiently keep your backyard healthy.

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BBQ season is just around the corner so we've got some great tips to make sure you enjoy years of outdoor cooking.

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Relax in your very own outdoor sanctuary with a D.I.Y. outdoor bed. You'll be surprised at how easy it is to make.

- **HOW TO INSTALL A FRAMELESS GLASS POOL FENCE**

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PRE-HOLIDAY PREPARATION

Give your garden the right care and attention so you can enjoy a relaxing break away

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

It's the summer holidays and a well-deserved vacation is on the horizon. The downside, though, is that this can be disastrous for your garden if there is no-one to take care of it while you're away.

But with some preparation, you can have a stress-free holiday and won't need to worry about what's happening back at home.

Here are a few simple tricks. ➤

Adequate garden preparation gives you peace of mind.





Proper maintenance will lift the vitality of a garden.

Attack weeds

Get rid of weeds in garden beds and on pathways before you leave. Weeds compete with plants for soil nutrition and leave them open to attack from insects and diseases.

- **PULL** up by hand, removing the roots as well. Remove weeds as soon as they appear, as one weed can turn into hundreds once it goes to seed.
- **SPRAY** weeds on pathways and in between pavers with vinegar. Take care that the spray doesn't drift onto plants.
- **PLACE** annual weeds that have not gone to seed back on the soil, where they'll break down and condition the soil. Leaving them in situ adds mulch.
- **PUT** hard-to-kill bulbous, perennial and seeded weeds in a plastic garbage bag. Tie the bag and leave it in the sun for a couple of months to rot, then toss on the compost heap.



Add mulch

Mulch is important. It keeps the soil cool and prevents weed growth so the garden won't look neglected.

If mulching for the first time or your mulch has finished, lightly rake the soil, then sprinkle with a soil wetting agent. This helps improve the penetration of water into the soil.

You can choose from inorganic or organic mulch. Organic mulches can include lucerne hay, bark and pea straw.

Inorganic mulches such as gravel, scoria and pebbles suit succulent beds.

➤ **WATER** the soil before adding mulch.

➤ **LAY** the mulch about 75mm thick.

If too thick, it will prevent water getting to the plant's roots if watering or rainfall has been inadequate.

Ensure that the mulch is clear of tree trunks to prevent fungus or rot developing.

➤ **WATER** again after mulch is laid.



Rejuvenate the soil

Not only is a healthy soil the key to good gardening, but it will also hold water for longer periods to help plants battle the heat while you're away.

To keep your soil in good shape, add conditioners such as organic matter at least once a year. Add a layer of compost or chicken or cow manure before adding mulch.

Install a watering system

Watering systems apply water directly into the soil and they can be installed easily DIY.

You can choose from the typical irrigation system that uses black poly pipe in which various sprinkler heads or nozzles are plugged, or a drip system that has a series of holes in the pipe that release a set volume of water every hour.



Fit digital timers

These timers are the ideal way to ensure your garden is watered regularly while you are on holiday.

Whether you're running a sprinkler or have an irrigation system, you simply attach them to your tap and program them to turn on and off on set days of the week for a determined length of time. ➤



Watering systems ensure your lawn and garden are regularly hydrated.



PLANT CARE



Indoor plants

If you're going away for less than a week, this won't be a problem for most house plants. Water them thoroughly before you leave and group in a cool room where light is not excessive.

For longer periods, there are some simple ways to keep them alive.

- ✦ **PLACE** pots in a tray or tub of wet sphagnum moss. This will supply moisture for about 1-2 weeks.
- ✦ **MULCH** the pots with wet sphagnum moss that will help water retention for

about a week. Don't add the moss too close to the stem.

- ✦ **SOAK** a towel in water and lay it in the bath or shower tray. Cover with water and stand the plants on it. This should keep them alive for 2-3 weeks.
- ✦ **WATER** the plant thoroughly and insert 3-4 bamboo stakes in the pot. Place a plastic bag over the plant. Tie the bag around the base of the pot, then put in a shady spot. This should keep the pot moist for 2-3 weeks.

Outdoor pot plants

If you have only a few pot plants, ask a friend to look after them. If that's not possible, follow these tips.

- ✦ **GROUP** plants in a cool, shady spot in the garden.
- ✦ **WATER** them thoroughly, then mulch with sphagnum moss or lucerne hay.
- ✦ **CONNECT** pot plants to an outdoor watering system.
- ✦ **SINK** containers partway into the soil in a semi-shaded spot in the garden. Water thoroughly, drench the surrounding soil and add mulch.
- ✦ **REMOVE** hanging baskets and store them in a cool spot until you return.
- ✦ **APPLY** a wetting agent.



PICTURES ISTOCK

Grow waterwise plants

If you spend summer trying to keep plants alive, maybe now is the time to rethink your garden by choosing plants with a good drought tolerance.

Check plant labels, as nurseries often mark plants as waterwise, but shrubs with small, hairy and silver or grey green leaves such as dusty miller (*Senecio cineraria*) and the curry plant (*Helichrysum italicum*) are water efficient, as are plants with waxy leaves such as bergenia. Others include:

➤ **ANNUALS** Portulaca, strawflower, cockscomb, alyssum, bedding begonia, dianthus, verbena, salvia and hollyhock.

➤ **PERENNIALS** Agapanthus, dietes, gazania, bird of paradise, catmint, red hot poker, kangaroo paw, liriopse, snow in summer, clivia, acanthus, erigeron, convolvulus, euphorbia, sedum, lamb's ear, lomandra, salvia and bergenia.

➤ **SHRUBS** Nandina, plumbago, grevillea, abelia, Japanese quince, Indian hawthorn cultivars, westringia, yucca, hebe, echium and callistemon.

➤ **POT PLANTS** Succulents, aspidistra, baby bougainvillea, bromeliad, lavender, rosemary, sansevieria, flax, ponytail palm, bird's nest fern, geranium and yucca. ❖



Red hot poker



Bird of paradise



Echium



Lomandra

PICTURES: CHERYL MADDOCKS

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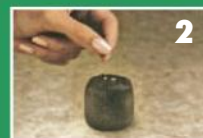
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PROPAGATE YOUR PLANTS

Boost your plant supply by taking cuttings and collecting seeds

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Plants aren't cheap and starting or improving a garden can be economically daunting. But unless you want an instant garden, there are certain tasks that you can undertake to help the budget.

Taking cuttings and collecting and saving seeds is an effective money-saving strategy and one that is carried out during summer.

Watching the cuttings you've lovingly nurtured and the seeds you've collected grow into mature plants will increase your gardening knowledge. Here, we show you how.



EXPERT SECRETS

Take more cuttings than needed to allow for the odd failure and give away surplus plants as gifts.



PICTURE CHERYL MADDOCKS

TAKING CUTTINGS

Summer and autumn are the seasons to take herbaceous and semi-ripe cuttings. Propagate immediately or store the cuttings in large polythene bags in the fridge or a cool, shady spot.

Did you know?

Cuttings are dipped in cutting or rooting powder to encourage the production and even distribution of roots. This also helps the cuttings form a callus and shortens the time taken by the plant to root.

You can use honey as an alternative to cutting powder, as it contains amino acids and growth factors. Simply take a small amount and smear the base of the cutting. ➤



SEMI-RIPE CUTTINGS

Semi-ripe, or semi-hardwood, cuttings are taken from hardened spring growth. Take cuttings in the morning when the stems are swollen with moisture.

These plants are all ideal, but you can give anything a go.

✚ **WHAT TO PROPAGATE** Abelia, azalea, bay, bottlebrush, begonia, box, fuchsia, camellia, gardenia, Geraldton wax, grevillea, hibiscus, lavender, lillypilly, mint bush, murraya, pelargonium, New Guinea impatiens, plumbago, photinia rosemary, roses and westringia.

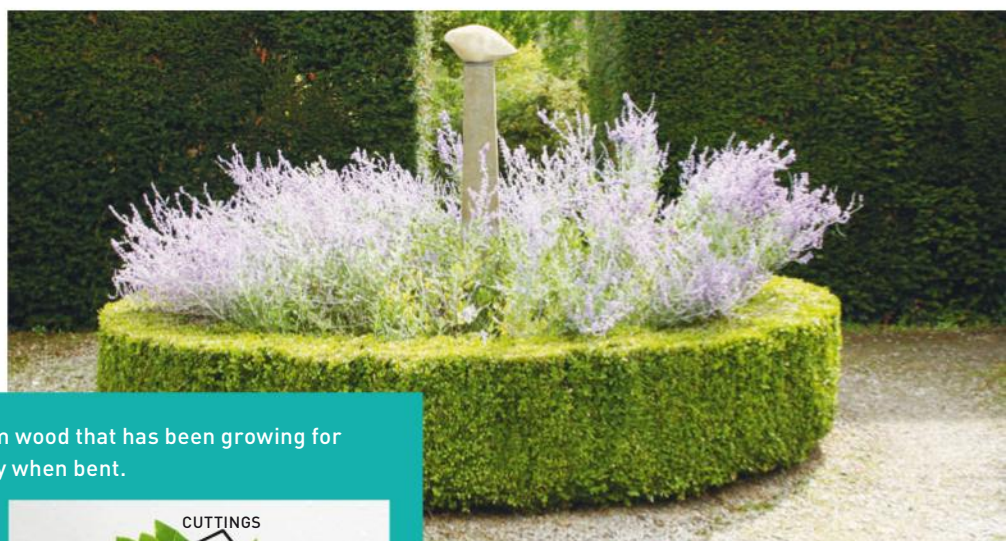
HERBACEOUS CUTTINGS

The soft new growth of herbaceous plants such as pelargonium, coleus and cane begonia grow roots in water. Roots usually appear in about 10-14 days.



1 **TAKE** 75-100mm long cuttings from new growth, with the base cut just below a node and with at least three nodes on the stem. A node is where the leaves join the stem.

2 **REMOVE** the leaves, leaving 2-3 at the top. Put in a glass of water, then pot up or plant in a bed when roots form. Water with a seaweed solution. Keep moist until new growth appears.



TAKE THE CUTTINGS Choose stems from wood that has been growing for a couple of months and that snaps easily when bent.



1 **FILL** a 100mm pot with a premium propagating mix. Using secateurs, cut 4-5 healthy stems 100-150mm long with at least three nodes, cutting just below a pair of nodes.

2 **REMOVE** the leaves, leaving 2-3 at the top. Dip into a cutting powder. Make holes, then insert the cuttings by at least half their length. Firm the mix around the stems.

GROW TIP

Always take cutting material in the early part of the day, when the stems have become swollen with moisture.



Potting up

Transplant rooted cuttings into individual 100-150mm pots filled with a premium potting mix.

Place in a warm shady spot and water regularly. Feed fortnightly with half-strength soluble plant food and keep in the pot until large enough to be transplanted into the garden.

Humidity help

Semi-ripe cuttings need humidity to root. You can make a mini greenhouse by inserting small bamboo stakes around the edge of the pot and covering it with clear plastic, ensuring the plastic doesn't touch the plants.

Or cut large, clear soft drink bottles in half and upend these over the cuttings.

You can buy mini greenhouses that provide perfect humidity for cuttings or make one by placing the pot of cuttings in a wooden or polystyrene foam box and covering the box with a piece of glass.



Caring for cuttings

Place potted cuttings in a well-lit, shady spot and check regularly that the mix is moist but not too wet. Use a mist sprayer to water.

In about eight weeks, test to see if the cuttings have taken root by gently pulling the stems. If they feel firm, roots have formed. Some plants take longer, especially roses, so don't give up on them. Strong new growth on a cutting will also indicate that roots have formed. ➤



SUCCULENT CUTTINGS

It's easy to increase your supply of succulents by taking leaf or stem cuttings, and planting offsets that are produced by the mother plant.

Leaf cuttings

Many succulents, such as gasteria, sedum, pachyphytum, graptopetalum and echeveria, can be grown easily from leaf cuttings.

➤ **REMOVE** the leaves from the stem so they come away cleanly with an almost-sealed end. Stand upright in a shallow tray filled with a coarse mix of one part potting mix to one part river sand. Place the tray in a warm, semi-shaded position.

➤ **WAIT** until young plants form at the base of each leaf in a few weeks. When they've used up the nutrients provided by the leaf, transplant into a potting mix formulated for succulents.



Stem cuttings

Aeoniums, cotyledons and kalanchoes propagate easily from stem cuttings.

➤ **REMOVE** the stem from the parent plant with secateurs and place in a shady spot for about a week so the stem can form a callus, which helps prevent rot.

➤ **PLANT** in a pot using a potting mix formulated for succulents or directly into the ground.



Plant offsets

Offsets are small plants that develop from the parent plant of echeverias, aloes, agaves and sempervivums. These can be detached and replanted.

➤ **REMOVE** the parent plant and offsets from the pot or ground. Pull the offsets from the parent plant or cut off with secateurs.

➤ **PLANT** the offsets in a pot using a new potting mix formulated for succulents. Or plant into the ground.



ROSE CUTTINGS

If you have a favourite rose or have been admiring a neighbour's, then you can easily replicate it with cuttings. Take the cuttings from April to July from the current season's growth.



1 TAKE 2-3 cuttings 250mm long with at least three leaf sets on the stem, cutting above a bud at the top and below a bud at the base. Remove the leaves, leaving 1-2 at the top. Dip into cutting powder.



2 PLANT in a 150mm pot filled with propagating mix. Keep moist in a shady spot. In late spring, pull the cuttings. If there is resistance, roots have formed. Transplant to a larger pot and plant next winter.



Save seeds

Collecting and saving seeds is a rewarding pastime and you'll be able to produce lots of free plants with very little effort.

Only collect seeds from open-pollinated, not hybrid, plants to produce the same crop the following year.

The time to collect seeds varies from plant to plant, but watch for the flower to die or the fruit to ripen. Store all harvested seeds in dark, airtight containers.



What to save

✦ Plants with dry receptacles such as a pod or husk, including lettuce, beetroot, beans, peas, radish and many annual and perennial flowers.

Seeds that mature in a dry receptacle can be left to ripen on the bush. Harvest them as they dry, then gently roll the receptacle to open it and remove the seeds.

✦ Plants with seeds that tend to fall to the ground should be harvested as they ripen. These include carrot, parsnip, lettuce and some annuals.

Pull the whole plant out before all the seeds are ripe and leave to ripen in the shade on top of a piece of cloth, or hang in a dry place with paper bags over the seed heads.



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PICTURES (MAIN) ISTOCK (BOTTOM) CHERYL MADDOCKS

GROW SUMMER HERBS

Plant these edibles in garden beds and pots to enhance your cooking

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Herbs are a cook's best friend and they're easy to grow during summer, so make sure you plant a few favourite varieties.

There is nothing better than having fresh herbs at hand to flavour summer barbecues and salads.

You can grow herbs in a garden of any size. Scatter them among other

plants, grow them in a vegie patch or give them their own bed near the kitchen door to make harvesting easy. Herbs also lend themselves particularly well to growing in pots.

Picking them regularly encourages branching and new autumn growth.

Here's a selection of annual and perennial herbs to plant. ➤



Most perennial herbs are evergreen, so you can harvest the leaves all year. It's worth preserving some to use in winter when growth is slow.

✦ **HOW TO GROW** Plant perennial herbs in full sun in well-drained soil that's enriched with compost or cow manure. Water regularly and feed with a three-month controlled-release fertiliser in spring and summer.



Chives

Plant seedlings or sow seeds in summer and early autumn. Chives grow in clumps, which can be divided every third year in early spring to avoid overcrowding.

Use the leaves fresh or chop and freeze them. The flowers make a great garnish and have a mild onion flavour.

- ✦ **ADD** the leaves to scrambled eggs, omelettes and quiches.
- ✦ **SPRINKLE** over barbecued fish.
- ✦ **USE** to flavour tomato sauces.

Marjoram

This herb likes more moisture than most other perennial herbs, and has small oval leaves and white flowers.

Prune off the flower heads as soon as they appear to maintain a good supply of leaves.

Pick the leaves as needed and use fresh, or freeze or dry them. Use the flowers as a garnish.

- ✦ **ADD** to meat and pasta dishes.
- ✦ **SPRINKLE** the leaves on pizzas.



Mint

There are many types of mint with a variety of flavours. Mint is a thirsty perennial herb, so plant it in a damp spot or grow in a pot standing in a saucer of water. It can be grown in semi-shade.

Use the leaves fresh, or freeze or dry them.

- ✦ **ADD** the leaves to potato salad.
- ✦ **USE** in Asian dishes.
- ✦ **SPRINKLE** on fruit salads and summer drinks.



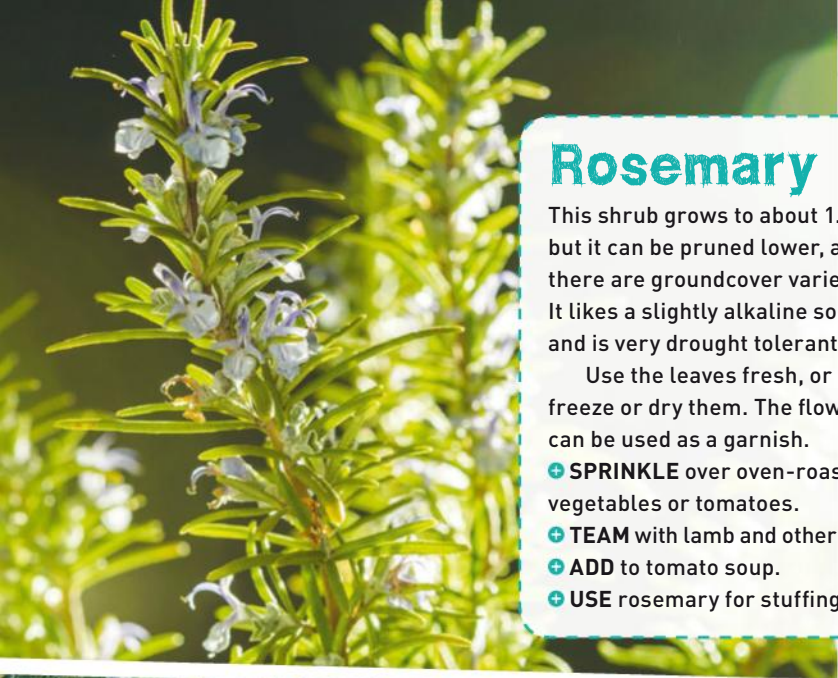
Oregano

The leaves of this spreading herb taste similar to marjoram.

Trim back spent flower heads to encourage more leaves. Pick the leaves in summer for drying and to promote growth in autumn.

Use the leaves fresh, or freeze or dry them and flavour food with the flowers or use as a garnish.

- ✦ **SPRINKLE** the leaves on pizzas.
- ✦ **ADD** to tomato and pasta dishes.
- ✦ **USE** in soups and stews.



Rosemary

This shrub grows to about 1.5m, but it can be pruned lower, and there are groundcover varieties. It likes a slightly alkaline soil and is very drought tolerant.

Use the leaves fresh, or freeze or dry them. The flowers can be used as a garnish.

- **SPRINKLE** over oven-roasted vegetables or tomatoes.
- **TEAM** with lamb and other meat.
- **ADD** to tomato soup.
- **USE** rosemary for stuffings.

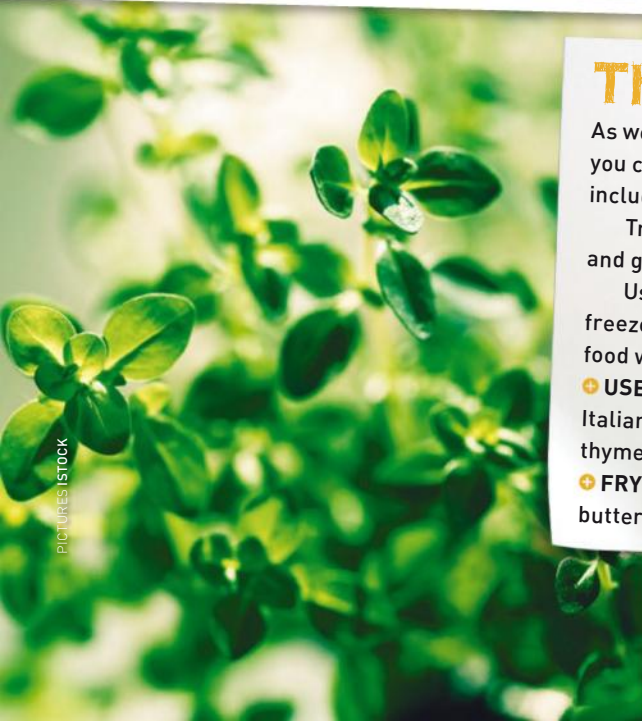


Sage

To perform well, sage must have well-drained soil, with good air movement around the plant. Prune the flowering stems when the blooms have finished.

Use the leaves fresh, or freeze or dry them. The purple flowers make a pretty garnish.

- **TEAM** sage with duck.
- **USE** the leaves in stuffings.
- **TOP** potato or pumpkin soup with crisp fried sage leaves.



Thyme

As well as common garden thyme, you can grow many other species, including lemon or 'Pizza' thyme.

Trim lightly after flowering and grow in well-drained soil.

Use the leaves fresh, or freeze or dry them and garnish food with the flowers.

- **USE** 'Pizza' thyme with cheesy Italian dishes and team lemon thyme with chicken and fish.
- **FRY** mushrooms in a little butter with the leaves. ➤

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ANNUALS

Plant annual herbs such as basil, dill and parsley to enhance salads.

➤ **HOW TO GROW** Treat annual herbs as you would salad vegetables and give them lots of food and water.

Before planting, dig in compost or cow manure to enrich the soil, then water regularly and feed fortnightly with a soluble complete plant food to encourage new leaves.



Basil

There are many types of basil available. Plant seedlings now in a sunny position for leaves until the cool weather arrives. Remove the flower heads to encourage more leaves.

Use the leaves fresh, or chop and freeze them.

- **ADD** to a goat's cheese frittata.
- **USE** Thai or lemon basil in Asian cooking.
- **COMBINE** with bocconcini and cherry tomatoes for a salad.



Dill

With its feathery leaves and yellow flower heads, dill attracts beneficial insects into the garden.

Sow from seed or plant seedlings in a sunny or lightly shaded position.

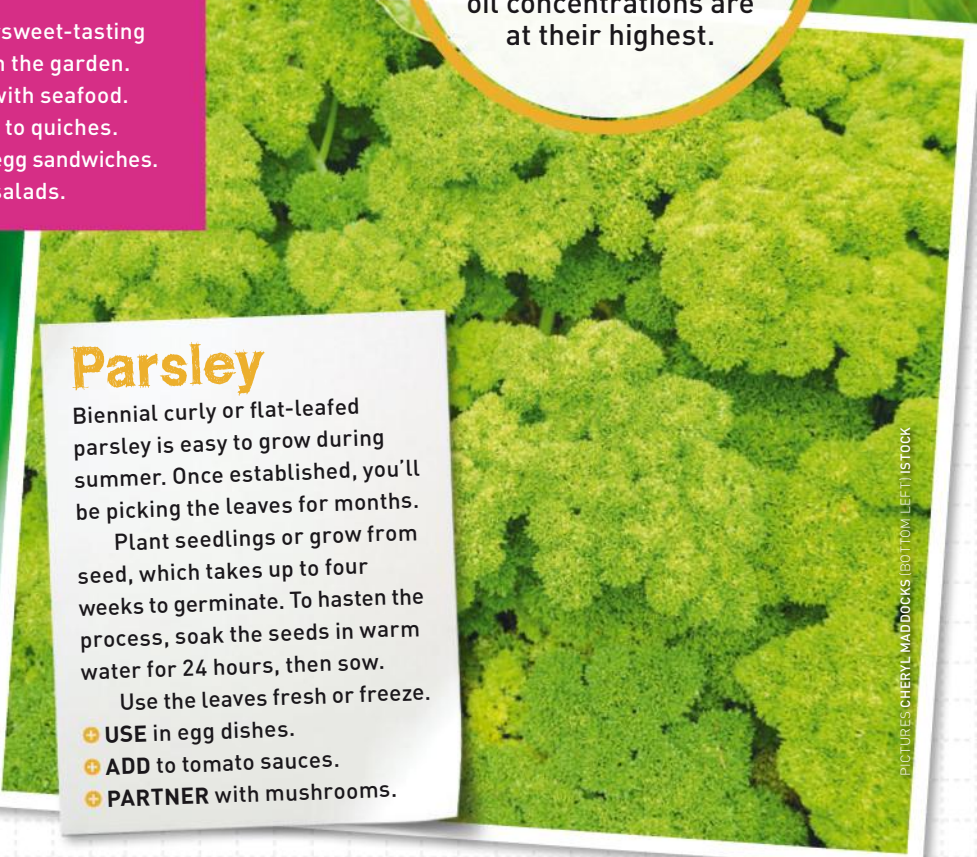
Use the bittersweet-tasting leaves fresh from the garden.

- **PARTNER** dill with seafood.
- **ADD** the leaves to quiches.
- **USE** to flavour egg sandwiches.
- **ADD** to potato salads.



DIY TIP

To get the best flavour from your herbs, harvest them in the morning when aromatic oil concentrations are at their highest.



Parsley

Biennial curly or flat-leafed parsley is easy to grow during summer. Once established, you'll be picking the leaves for months.

Plant seedlings or grow from seed, which takes up to four weeks to germinate. To hasten the process, soak the seeds in warm water for 24 hours, then sow.

Use the leaves fresh or freeze.

- **USE** in egg dishes.
- **ADD** to tomato sauces.
- **PARTNER** with mushrooms.



Drying techniques

Herbs can be simply air-dried in bunches, which will ensure they maintain their essential oils, or slowly dried in an oven. Dried herbs keep their taste for about a year.

✦ **AIR-DRYING** Pick the stems as long as possible, then strip the lower leaves. Gather 6-8 stems into a bundle and secure with a rubber band or twist ties.

Hang the bundles in a dry and well-ventilated position until the leaves are dry and crumbly. Remove

the leaves from the stems and store in an airtight tin or dark bottle.

✦ **DRYING IN AN OVEN** Strip the leaves from their stems and spread them out on an oven tray. Preheat the oven to the lowest temperature, add the tray and heat the leaves, leaving the door ajar so moisture can escape.

Turn over the leaves after about 30 minutes so they dry evenly. Once dry, remove from the oven to cool. Store in an airtight container.



Easy freezing

You can freeze herbs in water or oil for ease of use. Or freeze the leaves whole and place directly into freezer bags.

✦ **IN WATER** Pack chopped herbs, such as basil, parsley, chives and mint into ice cube trays, add water and freeze. To add to dishes, drop a cube into the pot.

TIP You can also use homemade stock.

✦ **IN OIL** Freezing herbs in oil is a great way to store herbs such as sage, thyme, rosemary, oregano and marjoram.

Chop the herbs and fill ice cube trays two-thirds full. Pour over extra virgin olive oil or melted butter.

When cooking a casserole or stew, cook the onions and garlic in the herb-infused oil.

TIP To free up the trays, transfer the ice cubes to freezer bags.

✦ **WHOLE LEAVES** Frozen leaves are handy to have. You can freeze your favourite combinations of herbs in the one bag or individually.

Pick stems of herbs and wash under cold water. Use a salad spinner to dry the herbs or pat dry with paper towel. Remove the leaves from the stems and place in freezer bags. ❧



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SIDE PASSAGE OVERHAUL

A low-budget revamp transforms a bare patch in the backyard

PROJECT AND PICTURES GREG BARTON



The ferns were easy to relocate with minimal fuss.



After

The transplanted ferns give the side passage a lush rainforest feel.

Before



A bare side passage at *Handyman* contributor Greg's home lacked character and needed a makeover. To revamp the site, Greg chose lush tropical-looking plants.

But rather than buy expensive mature specimens, he relocated plants from a different part of the yard that was getting an overhaul.

'A new deck was being built at the rear of the house, which meant dozens of plants were removed,' says Greg.

'The bird's nest ferns were really easy to dig up and replant.'

And in only a few weeks, the new plants were well established.

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Handyman

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Add colour to your garden with a bougainvillea.
PLUS How to protect your plants from the heat of summer.

RENOVATE

Get the designer look in your home with the latest kitchen styles.
PLUS Storage ideas and easy updates for under \$1000.

BUILD

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