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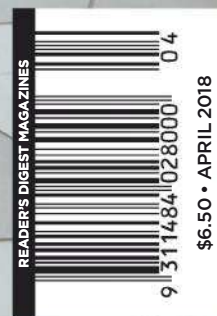
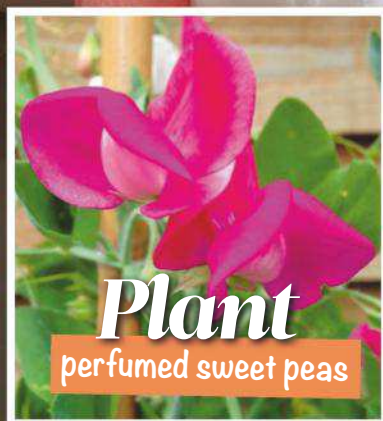
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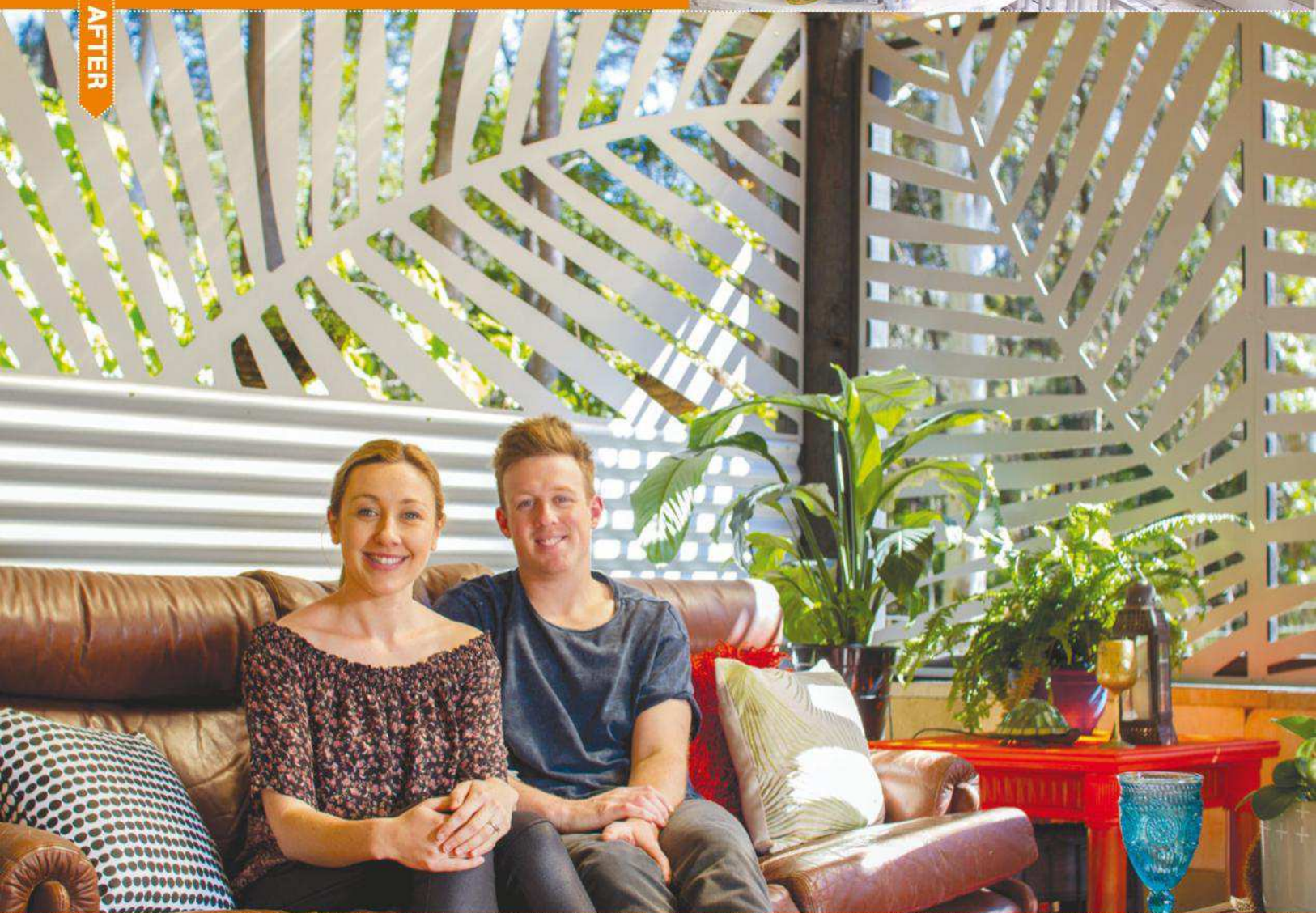


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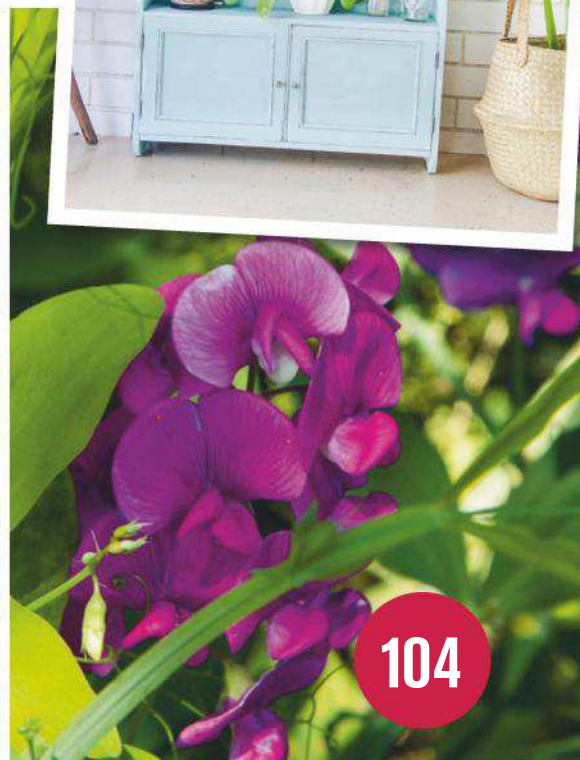


MAKE IT :EASY
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EDITOR'S LETTER

Designing or renovating a bathroom can be one of life's greatest challenges – having lived through a reno while six months pregnant and with only a dusty outdoor loo to call on while our bathroom was out of action, I can say this with some certainty!

From getting the layout right to ensuring quality waterproofing and plumbing to achieving the desired aesthetic, there are many potential pitfalls – and mistakes can be costly.

Starting on page 26, we share the latest looks in bathroom design, the critical factors to consider when renovating and before-and-after transformations at every budget.

Glorious garage storage

Of all the spaces in your home, the garage is probably the most likely to turn into a dumping ground for random bits and bobs. Head to page 90 for some

fantastic ideas on how to stash your tools and other stuff away – who knows, you may even create enough space to fit in your car! On the subject of storage, we also have some great tips for organising your laundry, starting on page 70.

Garden know-how

We all want a healthy garden, and the first place to start to achieve that is to examine the health of your soil. We show you how on page 98.

Happy DIYing!

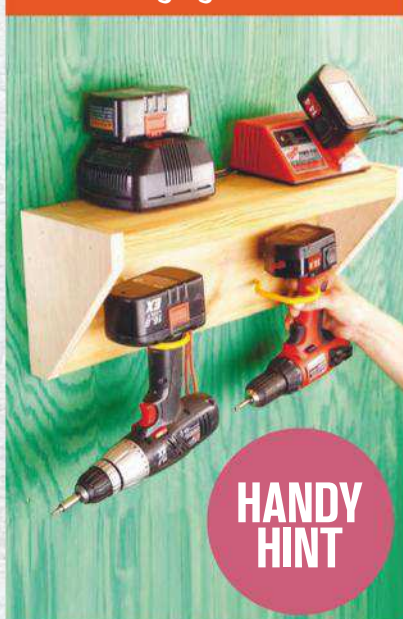


MANAGING EDITOR
ZOE MEUNIER

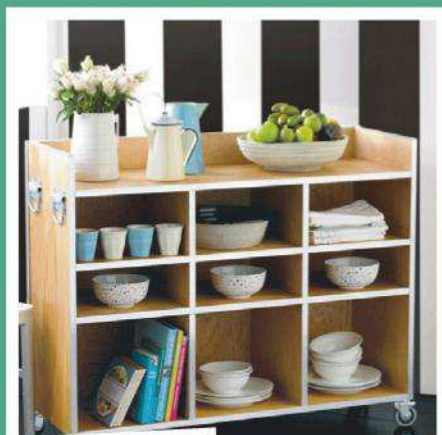


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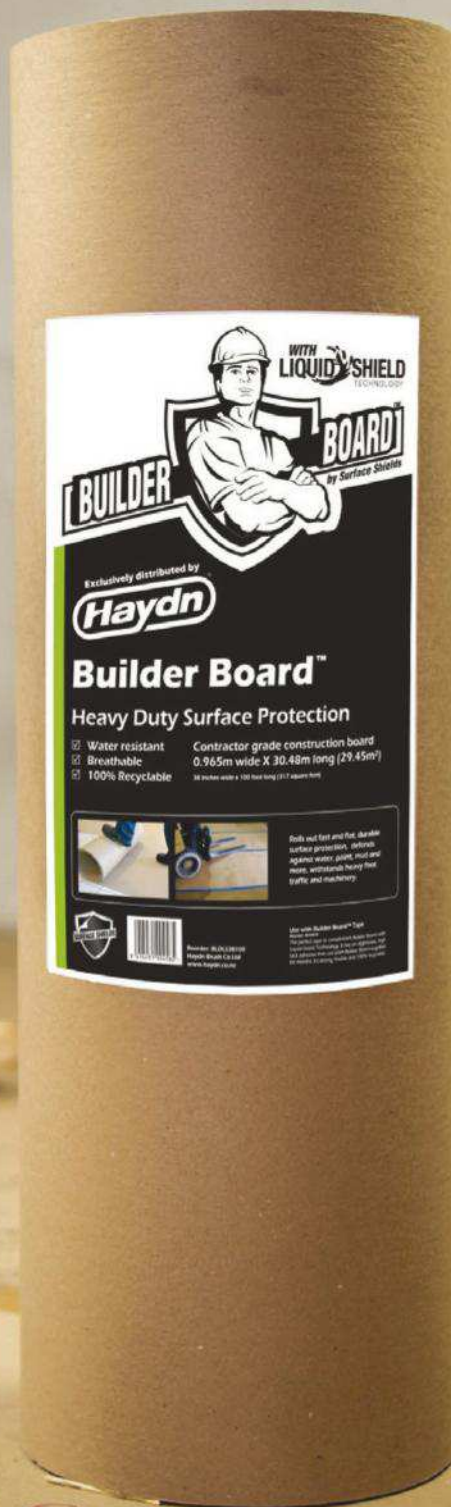


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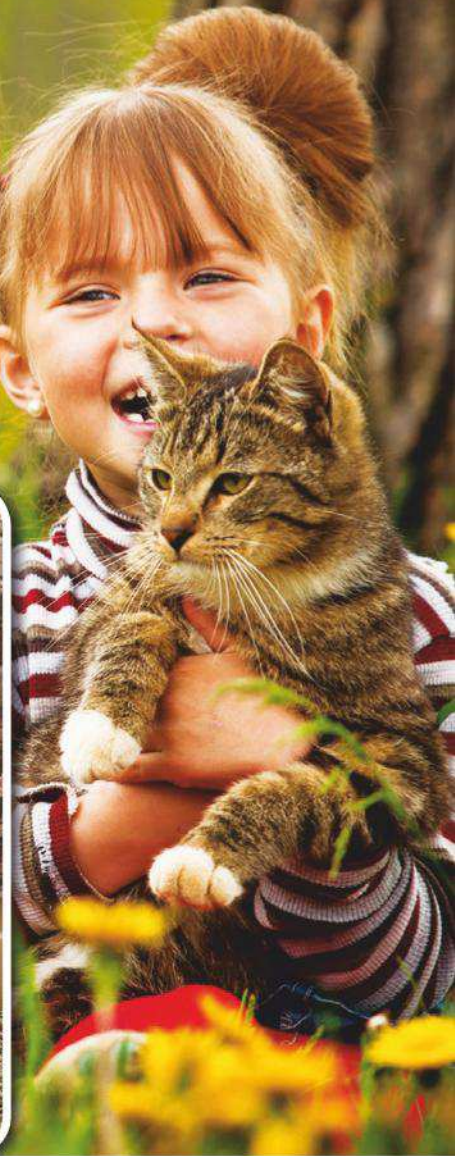
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pinnacle.net.au



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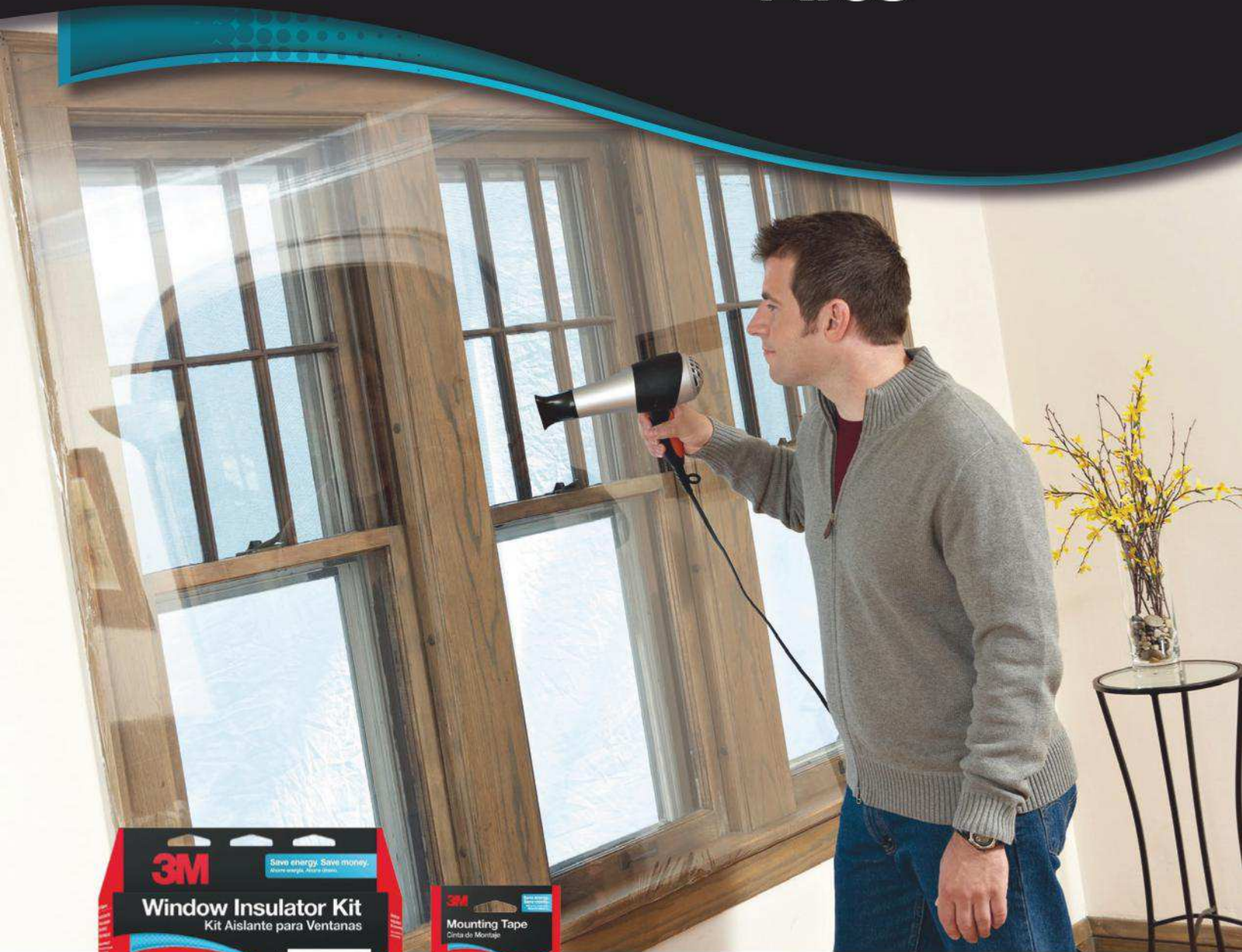
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LET THE LIGHT IN

A beach-side shack is given new life with a generous renovation that transforms it into a sophisticated family home

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES GRACE PICOT

Taking inspiration from the Canary Island date palm in the front garden, TV super renovators Kyal and Kara Demmrich have brought a piece of Palm Springs, USA to the stretch of coastline past Palm Beach, NSW, Australia.

With 28 project-managed, designed or complete renovations done in just three years, it's fair to say the new

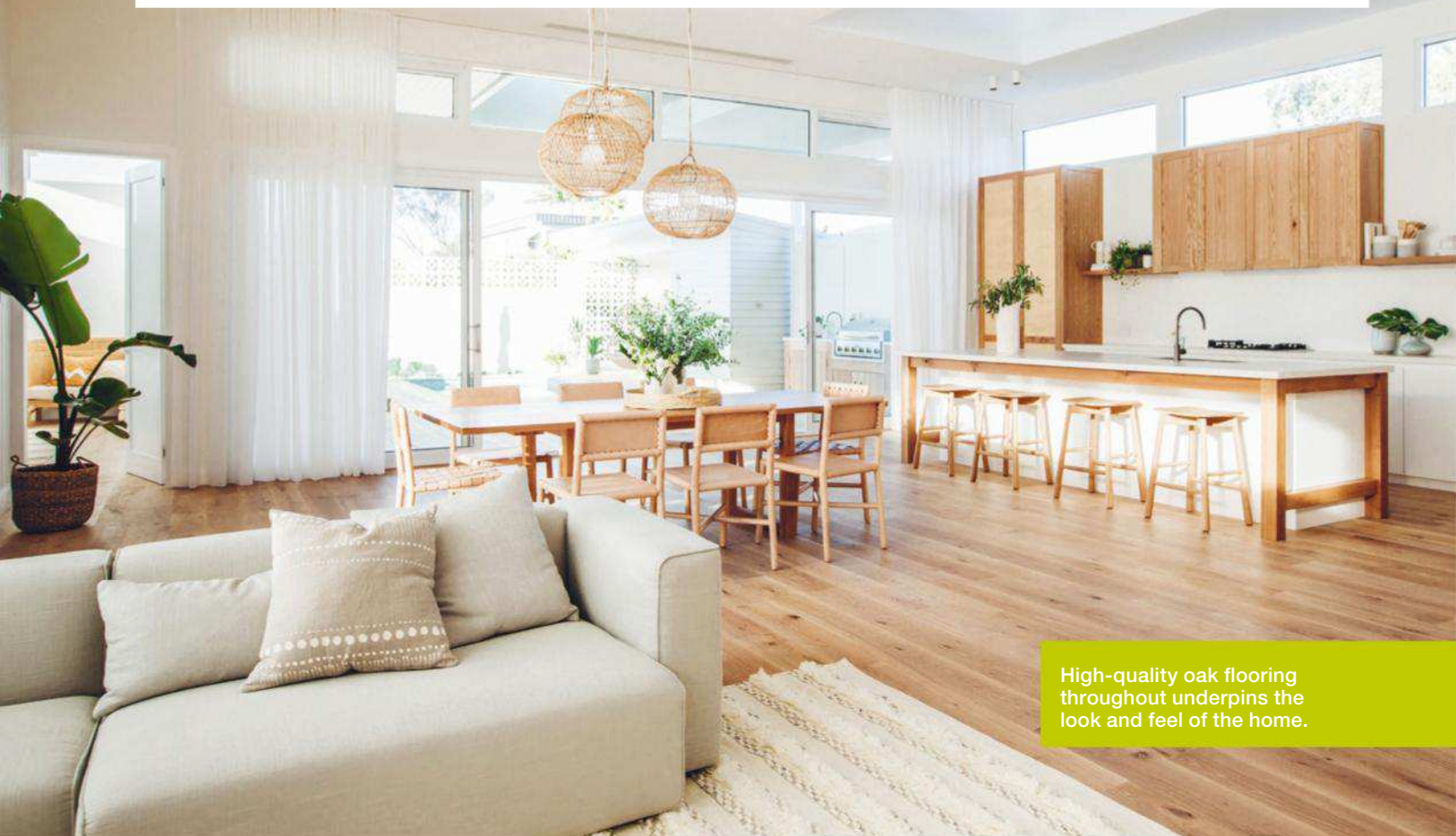
parents are on a roll, and their latest addition is a testament to all they've learned along the way.

Choosing to see the inevitable pitfalls and frustrations of renovating as setbacks rather than problems, Kyal and Kara completed this full transformation in just nine months.

To make best use of the large, flat block, the renovation goals were to

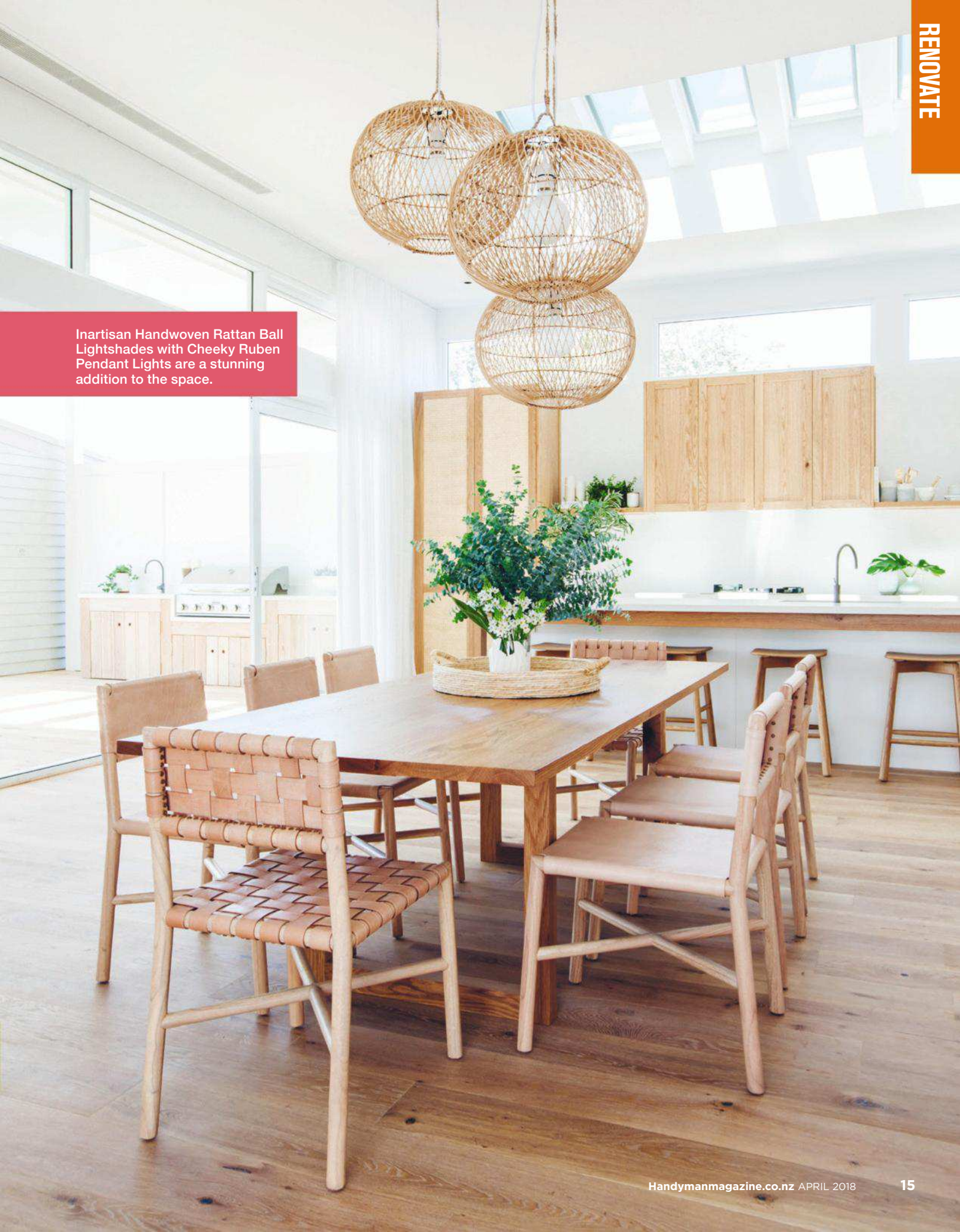
build a grand family home with four bedrooms, large open-plan entertaining areas and an outdoor space to provide a family with all they'd need.

Resisting the temptation to add another storey, and also to save time and money, the couple decided to stick with a traditional gable roofline at the front, and transition to the flat skillion roofline toward the rear of the home. ►



High-quality oak flooring throughout underpins the look and feel of the home.

Artisan Handwoven Rattan Ball Lightshades with Cheeky Ruben Pendant Lights are a stunning addition to the space.



Integrated appliances keep the kitchen contained and streamlined.





Soft colours
and rich textures
invite comfort
and relaxation



A media unit steps down into a bench seat in a clever use of space and function.



Understated kitchen

'For us, we love nothing more than enjoying the company of friends and family over a good meal. We're relaxed entertainers, so preparing food together is always time well spent. Island benches are so great for this,' says Kara.

'The vault of Velux skylights above this island bench is such an architectural statement and the timber detailing around the bench adds another level of character.'

Fully integrated appliances give a streamlined look, and one of the couple's favourite features are the stacking doors that open up this space to the deck and pool area.

The ceiling height gives a sense of grandeur, but the sheer curtains help to soften the look and create an intimate feel. No dining room is complete without a place to eat and the American oak timber table works perfectly with the pale leather chairs.

To break up the solid nature of timber furniture, Kara selected some pieces with inlaid rattan for a lighter take on a retro idea. The buffet complements a couple of cupboards in the kitchen to tie the look together.

On a large expanse of wall, one large artwork is often better than multiple pieces, unless it's a properly curated collection.

'A good artwork will really lift the space,' says Kara. ►



Large-format tiles are a perfect natural tone and work beautifully with the custom American oak vanity, mirrors and beam.

Spa treatment

One of the most impressive design elements of the home is the day spa inspired bathroom. It features a shower separated by a walk-around wall with his-and-hers showerheads, Velux skylights positioned over the shower area and a custom-made American oak double vanity.

More importantly, it features a 180kg freestanding limestone bathtub that was so heavy Kyal had to install it from underneath the house.

'We've done a lot of bathrooms, but I think this one is our favourite. I'm certainly envious of it! We wanted the ultimate calming and relaxing space, and to do this we did give it a lot of room,' says Kara.

'Kitchens and bathrooms sell houses, so we always invest in these areas, and in this bathroom the giant stone bath takes centre stage. When people come in, they immediately want to come and touch it and that luxurious, tactile finish is exactly what you want in a bathroom.' ►



Tapware in the powder room matches the master bathroom.



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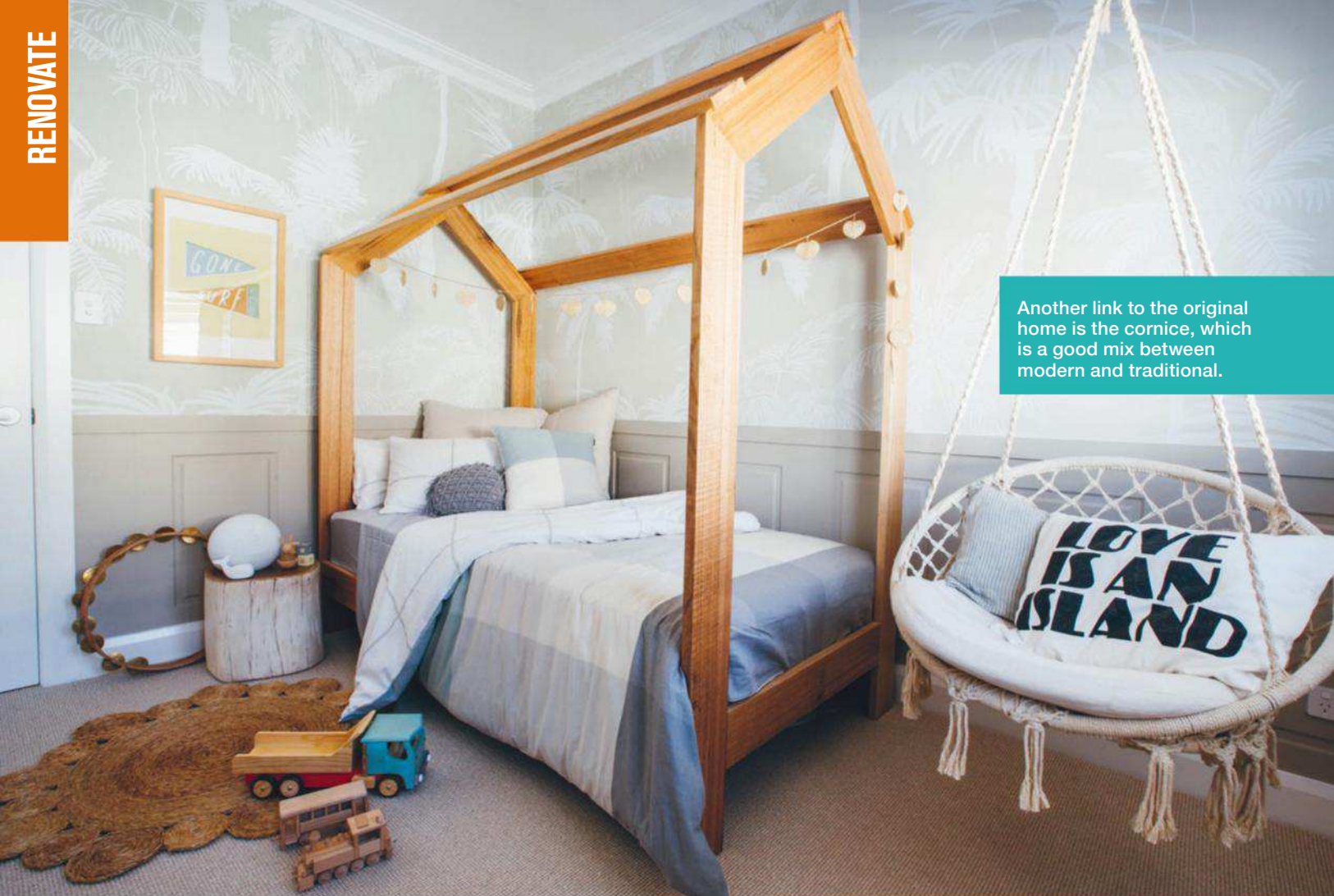
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Another link to the original home is the cornice, which is a good mix between modern and traditional.



Furnishings are simple and light in colour, but bedding is bold and textural.



Soft and comfortable

Of the four bedrooms in the house, two are in the original front half of the home. As a nod to the traditional period, the front bedrooms and media room all feature Easycraft Easyascot panels, which are an excellent DIY project and a great opportunity to add personality to any space.

The kids' bedroom is a fun and relaxing space with scope to evolve.

'Our focus is always on crafting a space with great bones that can be adapted as the kids grow,' says Kara.

'This was particularly important, as we'll be selling this home. This room can easily be styled for a teenager, home office or a more formal guest bedroom.'

Though the original part of the house featured timber floorboards, the executive decision was made to keep everything consistent and carpet the bedrooms in a textured loop-pile carpet in an oatmeal colour. ►



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All the doors are higher and wider than standard in the home, adding to the feeling of scale.

Master with a view

In the new part of the house, with no existing floor plan, Kyal and Kara designed a huge master suite with the ultimate parents' retreat in mind.

This flexible space can be opened up to the backyard or concealed to create a place to escape the hustle and bustle of the rest of the home.

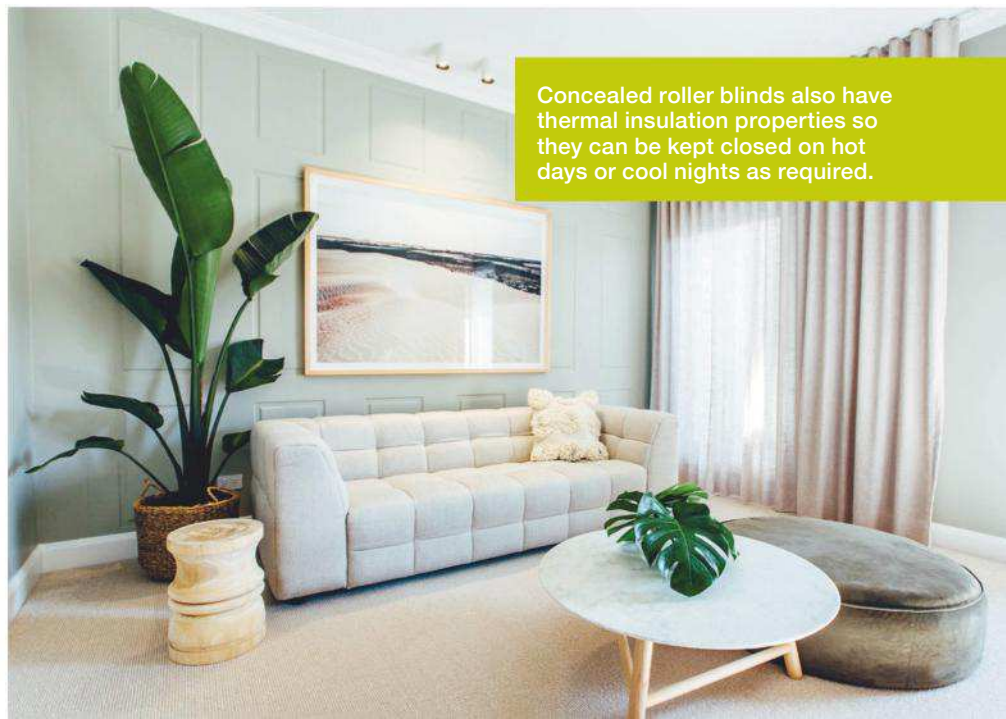
To take the room from light and open to dark and contained for sleeping, the ceiling height was dropped to conceal block-out blinds and the track for the full-length curtains.

'Small details like this make a world of difference, and it's amazing being able to control the window dressing with the touch of a button,' says Kara.

'This is the kind of thing you will always be glad you did.'

The colour palette is muted throughout. Soft olives, sage and barely there pinks complement soft furniture fabrics and shapes.

There's nothing fussy or overdone. Each room has a feeling of invitation and relaxation. ►



Concealed roller blinds also have thermal insulation properties so they can be kept closed on hot days or cool nights as required.

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A pool will increase the costs, but it's an essential element in getting the Palm Springs look.





The old breezeblocks reference traditional pool surrounds found in the area, while plants in pots add colour.



Opulent outdoors

The way this renovation was designed, the pool needed to be poured first, before the house was built.

'A pool adds a whole other expense to the mix, but where would a Palm Springs-inspired renovation be without one?' says Kara.

When building a concrete and tile pool, you need to lock in your design before formwork is complete, to ensure all measurements can be planned to tile size. Such was the case with this build, which featured 200 x 200mm patterned tiles around the waterline.

The pool is surrounded by an blackbutt timber deck, which has been treated to remove dirt and tannins, leaving it with a soft, sandy look. The white and breezeblock walls offset the turquoise of the pool perfectly, and landscaping is typically Palm Springs with a selection of cacti and succulents.

'We approach a renovation from the position of what we love and how we want to live in the most comfortable and achievable ways. We've created a retreat we would be more than happy to spend our days in,' says Kara. ❖

kyalandkara.com.au

BEAUTIFUL BATHROOMS

Think outside the white box with design inspiration to create a space you'll love

WORDS SITA SIMONS





PICTURE TOM ROE DESIGNER SMARTER BATHROOMS.COM.AU



Natural and earthy materials such as timber and stone are always appealing in a bathroom.

PICTURE URBAN ANGLES

Statement tiles

The all-white bathroom is a distant memory as homeowners spend increasing amounts on bathroom renovations. Even the perception of the space has changed.

Bathroom design expert Alan Nasrallah from Smarter Bathrooms (smarterbathrooms.com.au) in Melbourne says it's all about a luxury feel and creative design.

'Why stick with white when you can go for it and add some colour? The bathroom used to be seen as an extension of the overall house design, but these days it's regarded as a space in which you can go bold, or experiment with texture and perspective,' says Alan.

'It's a private room that should reflect exactly how you want to feel and the smaller area means you can afford to add a little luxury, either in a material or a fitting.' ►

A wall of statement tiles instantly updates the space and adds texture. Choose matt over gloss for a very modern treatment.





Wow-factor wallpaper

While the choice of tiles grows year on year, for a really personalised statement, nothing says it quite like wallpaper. For instant and dramatic visual appeal, a bold wallpaper choice will immediately distinguish the space.

Though common in bathrooms in Europe and the USA, we are only just beginning to embrace the trend. The availability of European papers and number of local suppliers is increasing.

Prices vary widely, but a good quality paper is needed for a wet area and the paper should be kept away from direct contact with the bath or shower.

Try wallpaper on a feature wall, or above tiles. A powder room or guest bathroom is a great option.

Unlike tiles, wallpaper is easily removed and quick to replace, so when the mood strikes, you can change the look and feel within a day. ►



PICTURES (LEFT) NATHAN LANHAM DESIGNER BUILD PROFESSIONAL (RIGHT) SMARTER BATHROOMS.COM.AU

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Pastels are continuing to be on-trend this year and the small tiles used in this bathroom prevent the room from looking too overbearing.

Small spaces

A smaller bathroom is no impediment to design flair, says Alan. A classic black and white colour scheme works well to keep lines simple and creates the illusion of more space. But don't necessarily buy into all the old 'rules'.

'Traditionally, you might say very small tiles such as penny rounds or mosaics would be too much for a small bathroom because it looks more fussy. But in this pink bathroom, for instance, tiling floor to ceiling in pastel pink penny rounds looks absolutely amazing,' says Alan.

Keep the fittings simple and float the vanity to create more visual space, which then translates into a more expansive feeling. If space is really tight, floating shelves and built-in recesses and niches are good ways to add utility without creating bulk. ►



Classic black and white is updated with a concrete sink mount and timber shelf.

PICTURES: SMARTER BATHROOMS.COM/AU

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FOR THE DOER®

Integrate a bath into even a small space by continuing the tiling along the bath facade, or invest in a freestanding model for impact.



Top tubs

Renovating wisdom has it that if you can fit in a bath, you should. Even a very small floor plan can be cleverly adapted to accommodate a bath, and if you are thinking ahead to sell, a bath is most often on the must-have list for families.

A freestanding bath creates impact and sets the tone for the look and feel of the room. While this can make for a dramatic space that you want to spend time in, a freestanding bath is generally more expensive, more laborious to clean and may be impractical for the elderly or young children.

Many bathrooms in Australia and New Zealand feature a built-in bath, installed against a wall on two or three sides, with perhaps a showerhead and sheet of glass or shower curtain suspended above. This is a practical and cost-effective choice, which also makes the most of any available space.

To create a point of difference, choose interesting tiles around the bath, making sure that the silicone sealant is expertly applied for a quality edge. ❖

PICTURES (LEFT) TATJANA PLITT DESIGNER MIHALY SLOCOMBE (TOP) DEREK SWALWELL DESIGNER AUSTIN DESIGN ASSOCIATES



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BATHROOM REVIVAL

Take the time to plan your renovation and you'll enjoy the rewards for years to come

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

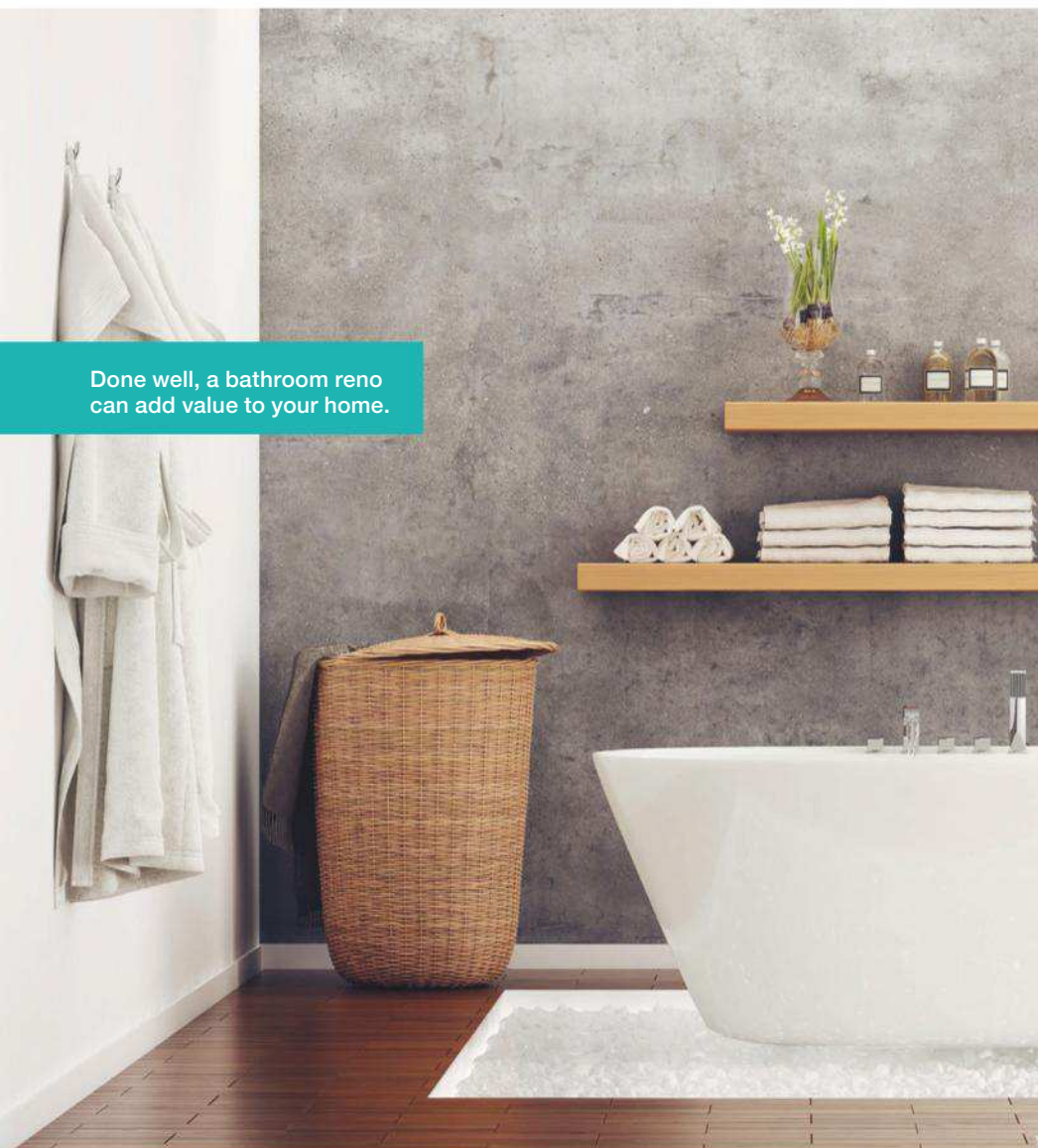
Done well, a bathroom reno can add value to your home.

Bathrooms. They've changed a lot in just a generation or two, evolving from the minimalist and functional to spaces of spa-like indulgence and sanctuary.

When well executed, a bathroom reno can provide a major boost to your lifestyle and the value of your home.

It's not a task that should be undertaken lightly, as it's a complex space to work with and can be the most expensive per square metre of any renovation project you undertake.

Here are some ideas to help you plan a painless and perfect project. ►





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WHY IS IT SO EXPENSIVE?

The simple fact is that for any renovation or construction project there can be no set cost per square metre as so many variables are involved.

These include the age of the home, the materials it's constructed from and a whole host of constraints from access to heritage considerations.

For a ballpark comparison, and this assumes that you will be undertaking some of the work yourself, a regular room such as a lounge or bedroom may cost about A\$750 to A\$1000 per square metre to renovate.

But a bathroom is likely to cost at least three times that amount. So, we arrive back at why it is so expensive.

A bathroom is a multi-layered construction that needs access to all of the home services such as power and grey and black water.

Also, a lot of the cost is in the parts you never see, such as waterproofing, but which need to be flawlessly installed.



Tiles should not be laid until all waterproofing is undertaken.

WHAT LIES BENEATH

A bathroom requires special treatment to prevent water penetrating into the house frame. Effectively, the space needs to be isolated so that water only travels out through the drains installed.

Multiple layers are required to achieve a seal. It needs to be very robust in construction and materials used.

All of the floor and much of the walls need to be constructed from a suitable water-resistant substrate – the panels beneath your floor and wall tiles. You'll often find this sheeting described as wet area board.

After this is installed, the surfaces are waterproofed with a brushable sealant or membrane. It's only once the waterproofing is in place that the tiles can be applied.

You only get one chance to get the waterproofing right. If in doubt call in a specialist installer.



Employ a professional for all plumbing and electrical work.

SERVICES

Like waterproofing, the relocation of services – hot and cold water, waste outlets and electricity – is a major cost for a finish you'll never see.

One of the best ways to rein in a bathroom renovation budget is to keep all of the services in roughly the same locations. Updating some sections will still be cheaper than a complete relocation.

Remember that any electrical or plumbing work undertaken, including replacement, termination or removal work, must be conducted by a suitably licensed tradesperson. ►



A reno is the perfect time to install smart products such as this Fluidmaster Bottom Entry Cistern Inlet Valve, \$39.90, the ideal fix for noisy cisterns (bunnings.co.nz).



PICTURES ISTOCK

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Light and privacy are two big issues to consider.

LIGHT

The best option for quality light in a bathroom is natural light let in through windows or skylights. Even then, you'll want suitable lighting installed.

Light in a bathroom should be balanced and evenly distributed. You may want to add suitable lighting above or around the vanity mirror if it is used for things such as applying make-up.

Privacy can often be an issue with bathroom windows. The best way to achieve this and avoid reducing the level of natural light is to use windows with heavily frosted glass.

If you're retaining existing windows, you don't need to have them reglazed. Simply install frosted privacy window film for a fraction of the cost.



Solve lighting and ventilation problems while keeping warm in winter with an IXL Tastic Neo Dual 3 In 1 Bathroom Fan Heater, \$898 (bunnings.co.nz).

AIR

Quality airflow is a must. Even if natural air is available through windows, you'll want to add an exhaust fan to create cross flow and extract steam. Consider having the fan hard-wired into the light switch circuit so it runs when the light is on.

Alternatively, in bathrooms with an abundance of natural light a separate switch may be a better option.

It is important that fans are correctly vented, whether into a suitable ceiling cavity or ducted to outdoors. If ducting into the ceiling cavity, either install a fan that has inbuilt backflow prevention or add a one-way self-opening cover on the outlet side to stop hot or cold air entering your home. ►

To avoid corrosion, ensure that all light fittings are suitable for humid conditions.



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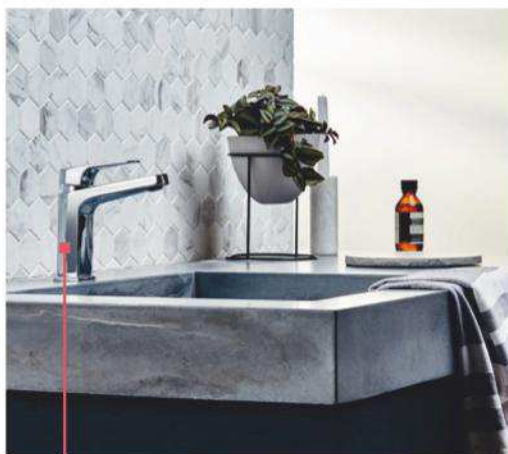
To learn more and to view step by step relining videos visit gib.co.nz/homeowner or call the GIB® Helpline on 0800 100 442

TILES

Tiles serve a multitude of purposes in your bathroom. They provide the final layer of waterproofing, the main area of colour and decor, and the design element that sets the mood of the space.

There are a number of critical considerations when selecting tiles and these go well beyond the aesthetic ones of colour, pattern and size.

You'll need to discuss your needs with a tile professional, but areas to consider include suitability for use in wet areas, slip resistance of floor tiles, durability and ease of cleaning.



Your tapware should enhance the design features of your bathroom, as do the soft geometric lines of this Methven Waipori Basin Mixer, \$349 (methven.com).



For a streamlined look, choose matching fittings.

FIXTURES

One tip from the design experts is to buy taps, heads and outlets, and even towel rails and other accessories, that are all within the same style collection. This avoids that often mismatched look of older bathrooms.

Also take a look at the most appropriate water-saving fittings

available. Today's choices are extensive and a far cry from the earlier generations of flow-restricting tap heads where a shower output would be reduced to a miserly trickle.

Modern heads will provide a luxurious flow and fall pattern while still saving water.

STYLES TO SUIT

From dual showerheads in oversized stalls to frameless glass screens, there are many design elements to consider.

The best place to start is by thinking about the bathroom's main purpose. Is it used as a rough-and-tumble family bathroom, the guest's space, or your ensuite sanctuary?

The main use of this space will determine a lot about its design. Here are some points to consider.

♦ **DOUBLE SINK** While very popular in ensuites, a double sink installation will double the cost of the vanity thanks to the extra hardware, fittings, cabinetry and plumbing.

♦ **SEPARATE TOILET** Although it means sacrificing a little floor space, at least one separate toilet is a great inclusion for a family home. Only having a toilet in the family bathroom can cause a morning traffic jam.

♦ **TWO OR THREE-WAY BATHROOM** This old-school style leads to doors with limited opening space, not to mention anxious bathroom users worried about people entering from multiple directions.

♦ **FREESTANDING BATH** While a gorgeous-looking element, this is best reserved for rooms with adequate floor space, as it takes up extra square metres that can't be used for any other purpose. ♦

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BATHROOM RENO ON A BUDGET

Cherie Barber shows how to transform this hardworking space on the cheap

WORDS AND PICTURES **CHERIE BARBER**

Renovating old bathrooms can be extraordinarily challenging and expensive, as you're inevitably peeling back decades of old plumbing and wiring, possibly dealing with asbestos, and addressing waterproofing issues.

Of course you'll save money by not moving around plumbing and electricals on a whim, but sometimes

it justifies the additional cost if you get a much smarter layout or can add a toilet into the family bathroom.

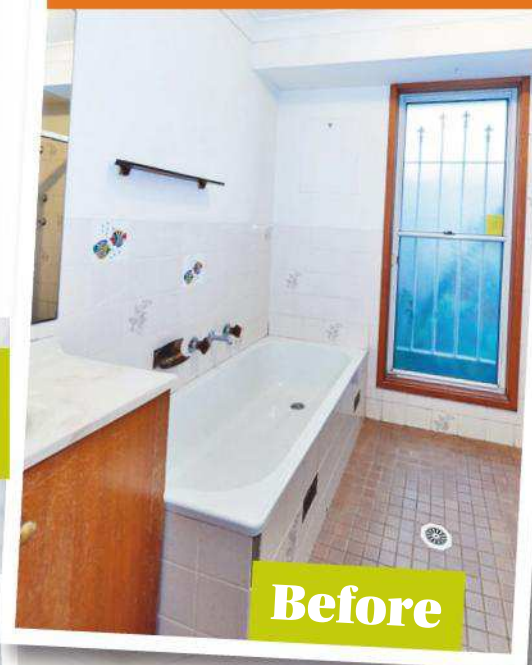
The cheapest way to spruce up any bathroom is to neatly sidestep all intrusive work and just skim over the surface with creative paint and maybe a few hardware updates. Let's look at three different approaches to bathroom renovating, all on tight budgets.

After

A creative paint job makes the world of difference.



Cherie Barber is the reno expert and owner of Renovating For Profit.



Before



Before



\$1000
FACELIFT

COSMETIC REVAMP

A purely cosmetic renovation, this is the kind of transformation you can achieve in one day almost entirely with the power of the paintbrush – it's a matter of rejuvenating all the tired surfaces with specialty products.

I resurfaced the wall tiles with White Knight Primer and Tile Paint,

painted the vanity with White Knight Laminate Paint and installed a new pivoting shower screen.

The taps and towel rail were installed, as well as a micro venetian blind. The bathroom was painted and Gerflor Senso vinyl flooring installed over tiles. ►

After

A welcome revitalisation for a very modest outlay.



After

His-and-hers basins add a contemporary touch.



Before



Before



\$8000
REDESIGN

COMPLETE BATHROOM RECONFIGURATION

This renovation was for the main bathroom of a large family home with eight occupants. All of them were forced to share the one toilet, thus one of the aims of this renovation was to build a much-needed second loo.

It was a generous-sized space, so my main challenge was to reconfigure the bathroom on a tight budget. I had to move the bath to accommodate the toilet, so I capitalised on the opportunity to install a modern freestanding bath, which I picked up for \$700.

I removed the mouldy shower stall and replaced it with a modern open shower, and modified the vanity by

changing the profile of the vanity doors to a Shaker style by adding MDF architrave, then painting it in White Knight Laminate paint, tinted to Iron Age.

A new laminate benchtop with his-and-hers basins was added, as well as new lighting, and the old yellow and blue tiles were removed.

New floor sheeting was installed and waterproofed, while a feature wall in hexagonal Nova Hex Carrara Blend Bianco tiles from Beaumont Tiles created the wow factor. For the remaining walls, we chose neutral, large-format tiles, which complemented our choice of floor tiles. ►

After

A modern, open shower replaces the old stall.



BUDGET REJIG

This budget makeover is somewhere between a full-blown bathroom renovation and a simple paint job.

An old basin dated it, but the floor tiles were a real feature and saved us the added expense of a rip and replace and the inevitable cost of waterproofing.

The bath was resurfaced using White Knight Tub & Basin and tiles primed and painted with White Knight

Tile & Laminate Primer. I then installed a new vanity and shower screen and updated the taps and towel rail.

The worn-looking shelves under the window were removed and replaced with a large mirror.

Sleek slimline venetian blinds replaced the drab curtain, while the bathroom was painted and the light fitting replaced. ♦



Before



Before



\$2000
DO-OVER

After

The bath tub dazzles with a new surface.

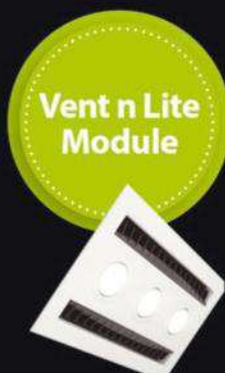


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WARRANTY

WALK THIS WAY

Get off on the right foot when choosing your floor and you'll see, feel and hear the benefits for years to come

WORDS SITA SIMONS



Timber floorboards are popular and have an enduring appeal. ►



TIMBER

Whether laying new or re-finishing existing boards, timber is the most popular choice for flooring.

With a natural warmth and range of colours that will suit any interior, timber is the classic choice for many homeowners. Modern stains and treatments mean that a wide range of finishes are possible.

Very light tones have been prevalent in recent years, and darker stains began to surge in popularity over the past couple of years. Now, varying the way the boards are laid is an emerging trend.

Timber inlay is also making a comeback as homeowners look for ways to make a point of difference and embrace traditional craftsmanship.

Where native soft timbers were used in the past, hardwoods sourced from many parts of the world are now preferred for their durability.

New, engineered timber products such as good-quality laminates are barely distinguishable from real timber. You get what you pay for, so it's worth choosing the best for your budget. ►

Opting to lay the boards lengthways down the room leads the eye to the outdoor space and connects the two zones.



SUSTAINABLE CORK

Environmentally friendly, cork is manufactured from the bark of the cork oak tree. Its production is a sustainable process where only the bark is stripped off at intervals of about nine years, while the tree grows on for centuries.

A cork floor is typically warm, comfortable and quiet underfoot. It reduces noise, is hypoallergenic, low on emissions and easy to clean. Durability is dependent on use.



A herringbone pattern makes the most of the colour variations in natural timber, for a very fresh look.



CARPET AND RUGS

An ideal choice for areas where you want to create a comfortable, soft surface, a carpet is often preferred in bedrooms.

Carpets are available in 100% wool, wool and nylon blends, and different synthetic fibres. Wool is cool in summer and warm in winter, but can be costly. Dyed nylons are cheaper, soft to touch and have good fade resistance.

For high-traffic areas, choose a yarn-dense carpet. The heavier the sample, the more yarn it's likely to have.

Choosing the right carpet is a particular consideration in the case of allergies, and can also play a role in sound insulation, making it a better choice for apartments.

A rug can provide the qualities of carpet with the advantage of being completely mobile and interchangeable, as desired. Whether you opt for a runner in a long hallway or an inlay detail in stairs, a well-chosen rug can serve to highlight an architectural feature and add personality. ►



Choose a large rug for living areas and ensure the sofa and chairs are touching the rug to anchor the furniture in the space.



A horizontal stripe creates width in a long hallway.



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CONCRETE

In a new, modern build or extension, there are many reasons to love a concrete floor. The clean and expansive look of a polished concrete floor adds a sense of spaciousness to any room.

Quite the opposite of being a cold choice, concrete is a warm material that doesn't show the dirt and is easy to clean and care for. The finish feels very pleasant underfoot.

A polished concrete slab exposes the aggregate below and is then sealed with a clear gloss, matt or penetrating sealer to ensure the slab maintains its integrity over a long period of time.

A burnished finish is achieved when the slab is trowelled to the point where it becomes very smooth and glossy, and requires at least three passes with a trowel after the concrete has been screed flat and level.

Concrete is modern and practical, and can be tinted to any specification. The natural material works well with timber.

MODERN MARBLE

In the case of this very modern treatment, less is more. As a finite resource, too much marble is not only eye-wateringly expensive, it can also be reminiscent of hotel lobbies. But when used judiciously, marble conveys light and luxury.

This natural stone is very porous and can stain easily, so either choose a very high quality Italian stone, or go with a porcelain tile that looks like marble.



Marble is a twist on all white, but use sparingly for best effect.



TILES

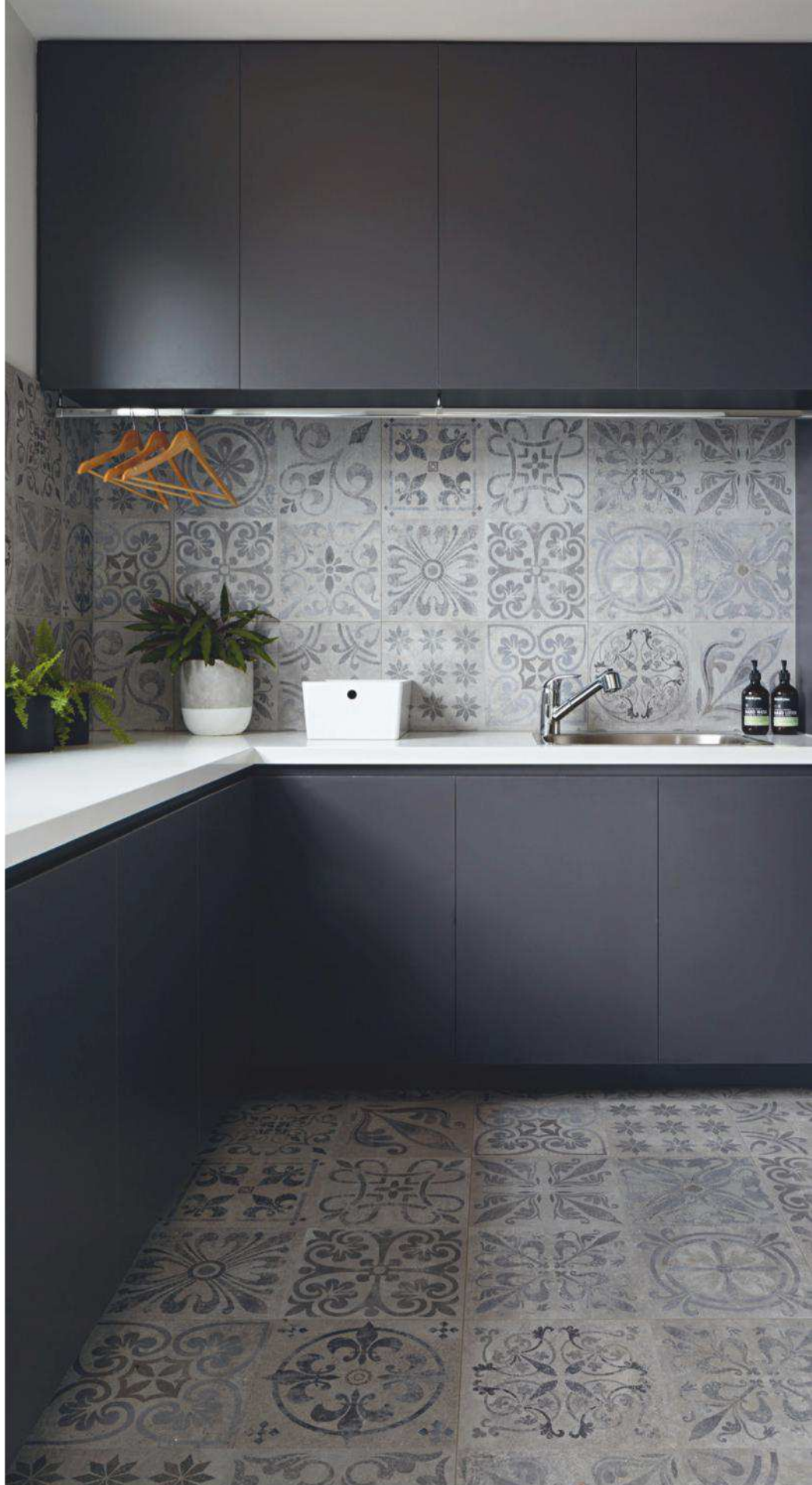
Texture and subtle patterns are the design themes for tile trends. Highly durable and hypoallergenic, tiles are still the favourites for bathrooms, laundries and kitchen splashbacks.

The most commonly used tile type is ceramic. These tiles can be either glazed or unglazed. This essentially means the pattern or glaze sits on top of the base, or the biscuit as it is called.

The other common choice is a porcelain tile. Porcelain is a more refined material and fired at a higher temperature than ceramic tiles. This process makes porcelain more durable and harder than ceramic, so it's often more expensive.

Unlike a ceramic tile, the pattern in a porcelain tile goes the whole way through. Porcelain is usually preferred for bathrooms, as it is a dense material, which makes it almost waterproof. ►

RIGHT Subtle tile patterns create a visually engaging feature without being too overwhelming. **BELOW** Even very plain tiles can pop when laid in interesting ways.



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DIY DESIGNER FLOORING

Transform your decor from the ground up with these stunning Gerflor Senso designer planks.

Practical, beautiful and affordable, Senso vinyl planks make it so easy to inject contemporary design flair into any room in your home, including wet areas, provided a suitable underlay is used.

Available in hues to complement the latest design trends, these natural timber looks allow you to enjoy the beauty of natural timber without the expense. Add a rich depth to your decor with traditional tones or funk it up

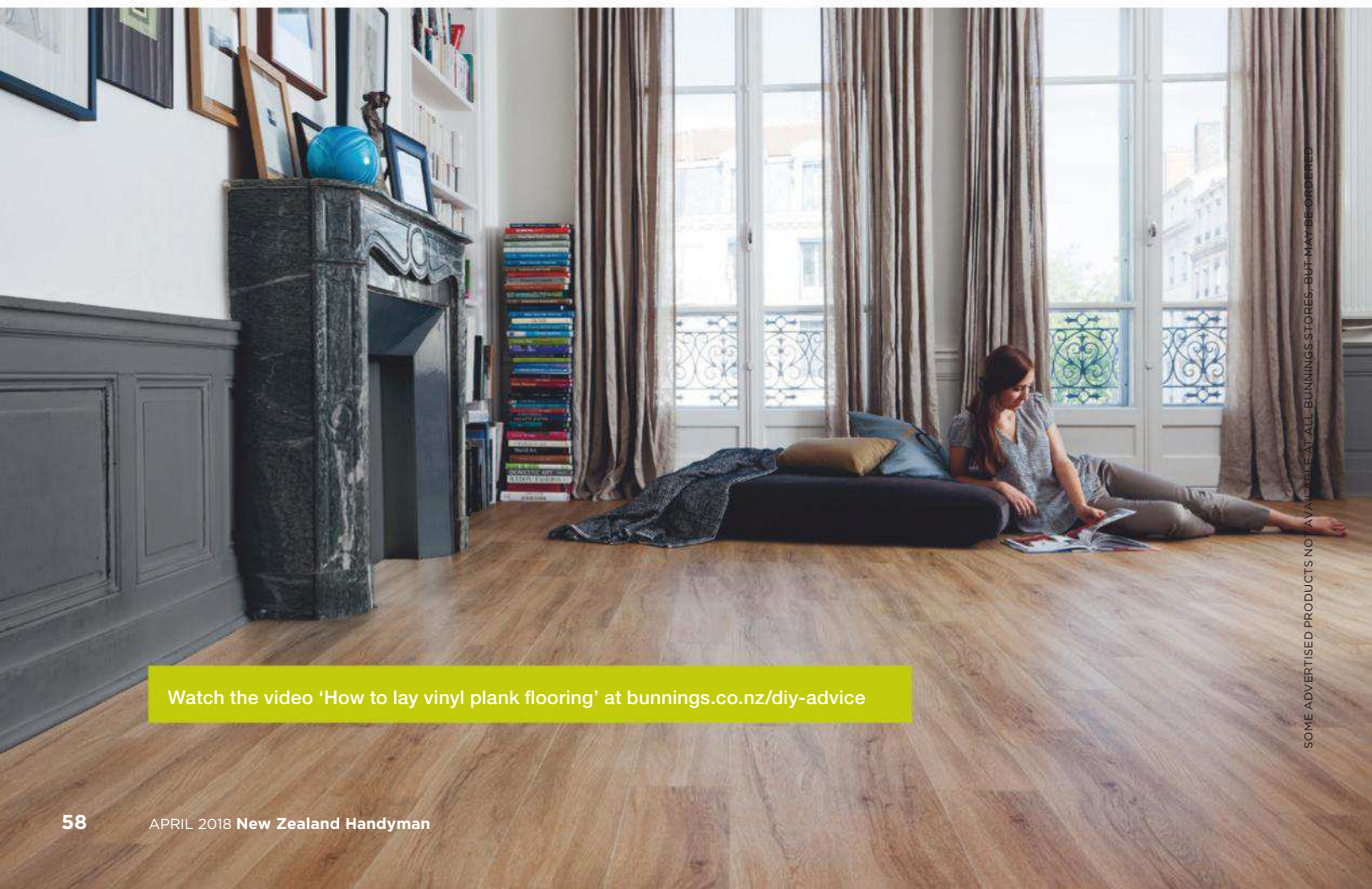
with bleached and natural options.

Light to handle and easy to install, Senso vinyl planks are also incredibly hard wearing. Warm and quiet underfoot, any of these self-adhesive planks will provide year-round barefoot comfort.

All of the Senso self-adhesive vinyl planks featured here can be installed simply without any specialty tools. The subfloor must be flat, hard, dry and smooth and it is important to follow the manufacturer's directions.

Vinyl revival

The luxurious and wide 914 x 184 x 2mm Senso Natural Lord vinyl planks bring elegance and warmth to a room. Easy on the eye and hard wearing, these self-adhesive planks are just \$72.36 for 2.69sqm – affordable beauty in a box.



Watch the video 'How to lay vinyl plank flooring' at bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice

SOME ADVERTISED PRODUCTS NOT AVAILABLE AT ALL BUNNINGS STORES, BUT MAY BE ORDERED

Bleached beauty

Pare it back and lay the foundations for a truly beautiful space with Senso Rustic White Pecan self-adhesive vinyl planks. The rustic texture adds depth and intrigue and provides the perfect backdrop for cool accents or rich contrasts, depending where the mood takes you. The planks measure 914 x 152 x 2mm and are priced at \$59.18 per 2.2sqm pack.



Back to nature

Senso Natural Pure Oak Gris self-adhesive vinyl planks combine the noble beauty of oak with the very latest colour and design influences. Warm brown tones provide a base on which to create the room of your dreams. Realistic oak characteristics add authenticity to this economical DIY alternative to solid timber. Generous 914 x 184 x 2mm planks add further appeal to this classic choice of flooring for just \$72.36 per pack, equal to 2.69sqm.

Urban living

Capture the unparalleled natural beauty of Senso Urban Ceruse Blanc self-adhesive vinyl planks. Classic 914 x 152 x 2mm planks combine simplicity with sophistication to provide the perfect canvas for contemporary furnishings.

Warm and quiet underfoot, Senso Urban Ceruse Blanc is also durable and easy to maintain even in busy living spaces. Affordably priced at \$59.18 per 2.2sqm pack.



LAY A FLOATING FLOOR

An alternative to nailing or adhering materials to a subfloor, floating boards are joined with a tongue-and-groove system that clicks into position.

The boards come in different sizes and are usually supplied with a finished surface, so there's no need to sand or seal. They can be installed over tiles, concrete, vinyl or timber.

You'll need a floor-laying insulation kit and use a quality moisture-resistant underlay for impact cushioning and sound insulation. Butt-join the underlay, then apply duct tape to the joints.



Let the boards acclimatise to the room's moisture content, then decide on the laying direction and pattern.

1 2 3



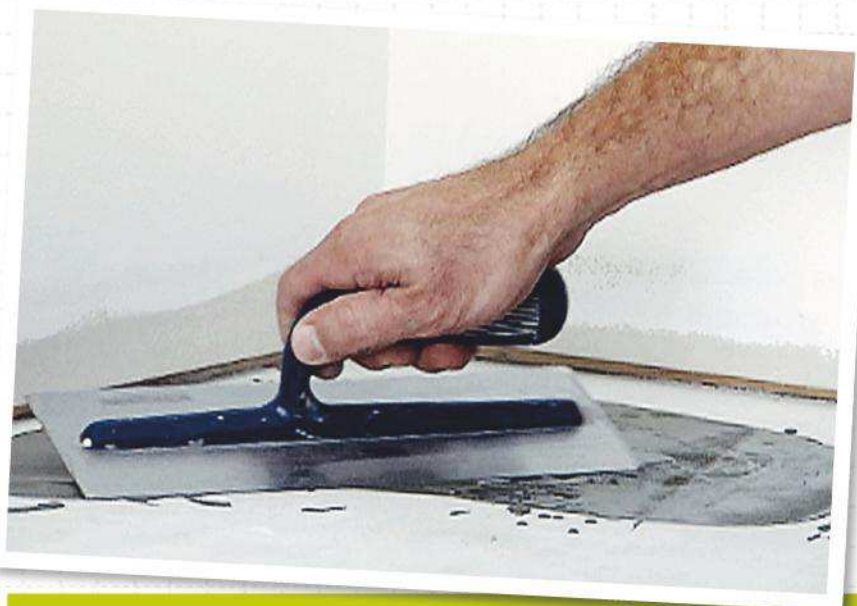
1 CLEAR the room, remove skirting boards and vacuum. Prepare the doorjamb by trimming the bases so the new boards will fit underneath. Position an offcut of flooring and underlay next to the door jamb to get the height of the cut, then saw off the base of the jamb.



2 LAY the boards in sequence, keeping the tongue against the wall. Join or click long sides together first, leaving a small gap at the end. Use a tapping block to close the long sides and tighten the joints, leaving a 10mm gap around the outside for expansion.



3 FINISH each row by positioning the end board and hooking a pulling bar over the edge against the wall. Tap the upturned edge of the pulling bar with a hammer to close the gap between the boards. Finish laying the floor and replace the skirting boards.



PREPARING THE SURFACE

Floating floorboards can be laid over a variety of subfloors after a little levelling and preparation.

♦ **CONCRETE** Grind off any high spots and fill low areas with a self-levelling compound mixed to a slurry, spreading it lightly with a steel float.

TIP If laying over a new slab, leave for one month per 25mm thickness so the concrete cures.

♦ **VINYL** Most sheet vinyl floors provide a relatively level surface and they are likely to have a hardboard underlay, making them a good laying surface.

♦ **TIMBER** Particleboard and tongue-and-groove strip flooring needs little to no preparation. Use a power planer to level any raised edges flush and punch in all nail heads. ♦

TOP PICKS



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MAKE A WOODEN PEG RAIL SHELF

Watch the video 'D.I.Y. Wooden Peg Shelf' at bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice

A wooden peg rail shelf is a great place to hang your coats, hats and scarves. For this DIY project, you can have the timber pre-cut at your local Bunnings store.

You'll need two 900 x 90 x 19mm pieces of timber for the shelf and mounting board, and five 100mm pegs cut from 35mm dowel. Each dowel needs an end cut with a mitresaw set at 10 degrees so it angles up when attached.

WHAT YOU NEED

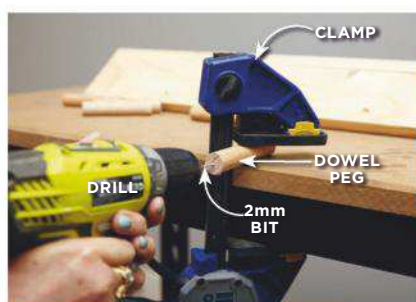
- Tape measure and pencil
- PVA timber adhesive
- Bar clamp
- Orbital sander
- 120 and 240 grit sanding pads
- 180 grit sandpaper
- 8g x 40mm countersunk screws
- 8g x 50mm countersunk screws
- Cordless drill
- Phillips head drill bit
- 3mm and 2mm drill bits
- 3mm countersink bit
- Stud finder
- Spirit level
- Nail gun and brad nails
- Paint and paintbrush

1 2 3



1 Join the pieces

Mark peg positions on the back of the mounting board 150mm from each end, 20mm from the base and 150mm apart. Predrill pilot holes with the countersink bit. Secure the mounting board to the shelf, keeping it square, with adhesive and a nail gun. Wipe off excess adhesive.



2 Prepare the pegs

Clamp a peg to the workbench, with the angled end facing out. Use a 2mm bit to drill 20mm into the centre of the peg. Repeat for all pegs. Sand the shelf with an orbital sander using a 120-grit pad, then 240-grit. Sand the pegs with 180-grit sandpaper for a smooth finish.



3 Attach the shelf

Drill 40mm screws until they poke through the backing board. Apply adhesive to pegs and align them with the screws, secure them so they face upwards. Putty holes, sand and paint. Find wall studs. Position the shelf and attach it to the wall with 50mm screws.

MADE TO LAST

Learn from master artisans how to make heirloom quality objects

Inspired by a growing interest in the provenance of things and a deep dissatisfaction with the disposable nature of the world we live in, Melbourne-based culture writer Vanessa Murray has compiled *Made to Last: A compendium of artisans, trades & projects*, featuring 50 artisans from around the world.

This beautiful book details the products they create, the tools they use and the secrets of their crafts, exploring everything from leathersmithing, woodworking and welding to craft sewing, vinyl pressing, distilling, baking and fermenting.

Here are just three of the projects that can be found inside.



This is an edited extract from *Made to Last* by Vanessa Murray published by Hardie Grant Travel, A\$55. It is available online.

MAKE A SHIGEKI YAMAMOTO FLOWER VASE

Create this simple yet stunning vase devised by Japanese born, Berlin-dwelling designer and maker Shigeki Yamamoto.

METHOD

- 1 Align the test tube lengthways along the piece of wood, then use the pencil to mark the length of the test tube on the wood.
- 2 Saw through the piece of wood at the marked position using a hand saw or circular saw.
- 3 Take the pencil and mark the centre of each end.
- 4 Using the measuring tape or ruler, measure the diameter of the test tube and add 2mm to the figure.
- 5 Next, use the drilling machine or hand drill to drill a hole within and to the edges of the marked area. The hole should be the same diameter as the measurement you took in step 4.
- 6 Carefully trim the edges at the top using the router.
- 7 Sand the surface with sandpaper.
- 8 Apply decor wax with a brush or a cloth.
- 9 Insert the test tube into the drill hole.
- 10 Insert a flower and present the vase to the one you love. Or just put it somewhere nice. ►



WHAT YOU NEED

- Test tube
- A piece of beechwood or other wood of your choice measuring approximately 7 x 7cm – the length must be slightly longer than the test tube
- Decor wax
- Pencil
- Hand saw or circular saw
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Drilling machine or hand drill
- Router
- 240 grit sandpaper
- Brush
- Cloth

MAKE A COPPER SNAIL COIL

Plants and soil love copper, but slugs and snails? They hate it. These easy-to-make copper snail coils devised by Melbourne coppersmith Travis Blandford will protect your seedlings from slimy garden pests.

METHOD

- 1 You'll need a decent bench space to work on for this project; 1sqm is ideal.
- 2 Use the pliers to cut the wire to lengths 30-40cm long.
- 3 Start bending the wire 10cm along and wrap it around a cylindrical object a couple of times to create a coil 5cm in diameter. Leave enough excess wire so there is a 4cm overhang at the end. This will take a bit of trial and error to get right in the beginning.
- 4 Bend the original 10cm length sharply, so that it intersects the

diameter of the copper circle that you have created.

- 5 Use a hammer to flatten the two ends (this step is optional, but it makes handling safer).
- 6 Use the metal file to clean up the ends so there are no burrs.
- 7 To use the coil in the garden, bend the 10cm section out at right angles so it's perpendicular to the circle and will pierce the soil. This fixes it in the soil and means the coil can sit around a seedling to protect it from snails.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2-2.5mm solid core copper wire (available from metal recyclers and electrical wholesalers)
- Pliers
- Hammer (optional)
- Metal file
- Bench vice
- Rigid cylindrical object 50mm in diameter – a tool handle will suit



MAKE A BICYCLE PANNIER

Industrial sewer Cathy Parry, from Castlemaine, Australia, explains how to easily repurpose a simple canvas bag as a handy bicycle pannier. You'll need a pannier rack attached to your bike.



METHOD

1 Measure the length for your belts. They will be attached to your pannier, and be used to attach the pannier to your bike. You can work out how long to make them by threading them through the hanging system and holding them roughly where they will attach to the pannier. This will show you how long they need to be.

2 Use the snap-off blade knife to cut your belts to length.

3 Cut the plywood (or other material) to fit inside the back of your bag. This will keep the back of the bag stiff, which stops it from catching in your wheel.

4 Working with the bag inside out, use the awl to push through the fabric at each of the four corners.

5 Now use rivets to attach the plywood to the bag through the holes you have just made.

6 Next, attach the belts to the top of the back of the bag. Place them as wide apart as is practical (this will help balance the pannier when it's on the bike), then drill a hole through the belts, the back of the bag and the board.

7 Working from the outside in, push the bolt through the hole you just drilled and add a washer and nut on the inside of the bag. Add the hook and loop tape or extra belt at the bottom of the bag in the same way so the bag doesn't swing out at the bottom when you go around a corner.

8 Attach to the rack at the three points, and away you go. ♦

WHAT YOU NEED

- A simple canvas bag
- 2 old leather belts
- Thin piece of plywood, MDF or plastic sheet (no more than 3mm)
- 2 old belt rivets
- Bolts and nuts
- Hook and loop tape or extra belt
- Knife for cutting leather (such as a snap-off blade)
- Awl
- Drill

VINTAGE MAKEOVERS

Bring outdated cabinets back to life with these simple restoration tricks and a little TLC

PROJECTS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

Beauty was certainly in the eye of the beholder when blogger Melissa Darr bought this rickety sideboard. It had been pulled out of an old house being prepared for sale.

'I saw potential in it, as it had good bones but needed a little TLC to bring it back to its former glory,' says Melissa.

There were several stages needed to restore it, including sanding it back, attaching a backing board, painting with a stain blocker undercoat and two top coats, before creating a vintage look with more sanding and waxing.

Sanding

The first step was to remove the hinges and doors on the front of the sideboard in preparation for sanding.

Using an orbital sander with 120 grit sandpaper, Melissa sanded the entire sideboard to remove the stain on the shelves, sides and doors. Any hard-to-reach areas she sanded by hand with 120 grit sandpaper. A damp cloth was then used to remove the dust.

Melissa applied two coats of a stain blocker undercoat, allowing to dry for at least an hour between coats. ►

WHAT YOU NEED

- Orbital sander
- 120 grit sandpaper
- PVA adhesive
- MDF and nails
- Timber putty
- Clamps
- Stain blocker undercoat
- Foam roller and paint
- Furniture wax
- Soft cloth



EXPERT SECRETS

You can use any paint you like, but for this sideboard I chose a chalk paint for its appealing matt finish.



DIY TIP

Always stick to the three Ps when restoring furniture – prep, prime and paint. Following these steps will give you a successful restoration.

SIDEBOARD REVAMP

**After**

With a fresh beachy style, this old sideboard is transformed.

Get more DIY from Melissa
Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com

Painting

Melissa cut pieces of timber the same thickness as the shelf to patch the small cut-outs that had been made previously. They were secured with adhesive and held in place with clamps. When dry, putty was applied in the gaps and allowed to dry for an hour.

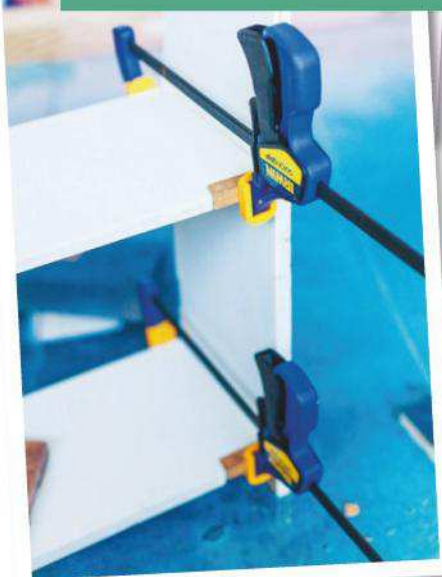
The patched areas were then sanded back with 120 grit sandpaper and a stain blocker undercoat applied.

A piece of MDF was cut to fit behind the sideboard for a backing and to help stabilise the piece. A stain blocker undercoat was applied and 20mm nails used to secure the backing.

Two top coats were applied, allowing an hour to dry between coats and the doors were then reattached.



ABOVE MDF was attached to the sideboard to create a backing. BELOW Patched cut-outs were clamped while the adhesive dried.



FINISHING TOUCHES

To give a vintage effect to the sideboard, an orbital sander with 120 grit sandpaper was used.

Melissa concentrated on areas that would normally receive wear, such as corners and edges, and along parts she wanted to highlight, such as the bevelled edge of the doors.

Excess sanding dust was then removed using a damp cloth.

A coat of clear furniture wax was applied using a soft cloth to help protect the sideboard. It was left for about five minutes before buffing to a nice sheen with a clean, soft cloth.

Position the sideboard against a wall and secure with brackets and screws if needed. Style with pot plants and your favourite knick-knacks.

CABINET FACELIFT

This little cabinet jumped out at Melissa when she was doing her op-shop rounds.

'I loved the shuttered front of the door, and I thought the legs had a cute mid-century feel to them,' says Melissa.

The downside was that it had an awful red knob and needed a bit of a facelift to give it a new lease of life.

'After my daughter saw me doing up this cabinet in this gorgeous colour, using British Paints Forever Pink, she claimed it instantly for her room.'

WHAT YOU NEED

- 120 grit sandpaper
- ESP Easy Surface Prep
- Undercoat
- Foam roller and paint
- Ceramic bird doorknob

After

Peachy pink paint and a bird knob add pizzazz to this bedside cabinet.

Prep, prime and paint

The door, hinges and doorknob were removed and the bedside cabinet was given a light sand with 120 grit sandpaper.

As the top of the cabinet was made out of laminate, Melissa prepared this by applying two coats of Easy Surface Prep with a paintbrush, allowing an hour

for drying after each coat. The cabinet was then painted with an undercoat, followed by two top coats, again giving each coat an hour to dry.

The hinges and door were reattached and a fun, ceramic bird knob used to replace the ugly, old doorknob. ♦

Before





LAUNDRY 15c

Pleasing yet efficient, this space shows practicality and aesthetics can co-exist. RIGHT Use a pegboard to keep your items ordered, out of the way, but easy to reach.

LOVE YOUR LAUNDRY

Turn this boring utility room into a beautiful space

We often give little thought to the design and organisation of our laundries, probably because we want to get in and out of there as quickly as possible.

But with a little planning, some smart storage solutions and a bit of creative flair, we can transform this space into a functional, tidy and harmonious room where we actually enjoy spending time.

For a little while, anyway.

CHARM AND PRACTICALITY

Like most of us, DIY expert, blogger and mum of three Christina Dennis (thediymommy.com) doesn't relish doing laundry, but that hasn't stopped her from giving her laundry room a dose of signature style and functionality.

Her stylish and practical update was also partly inspired by necessity.

'I didn't have enough storage in my cabinets for all my cleaning tools, plus I wanted a system where things were really easy to take out and put away. Pegboard was the answer,' she says.

To make a small space extra hardworking, Christina recommends

using it for a while before launching into renovating.

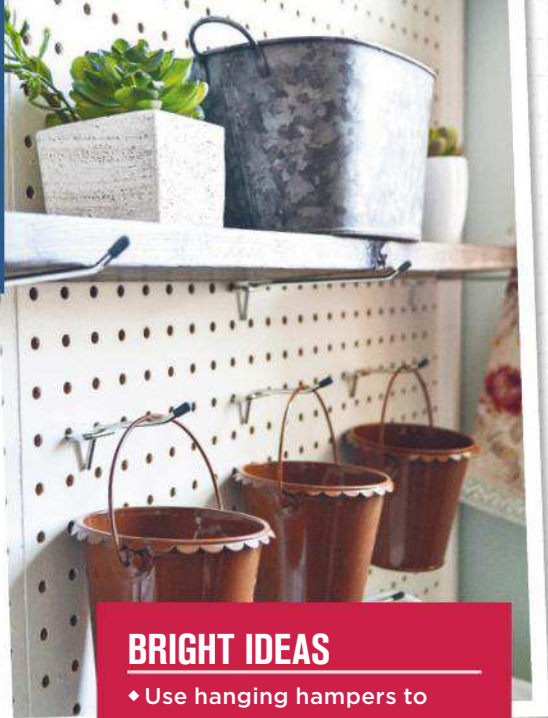
'Sort out what doesn't work and what does work in the room,' she says.

Coordinated colours and plenty of homemade accents tie the whole look together. Christina sewed her own ironing board cover and cafe curtains out of a floral fabric she loves. For a personal touch, she mounted her family initial over a vintage washboard that she found at a local antiques shop.

'It's important to make utility rooms beautiful. You spend a lot of time in them, so why not?' Christina says. ►



It's important to make your utility rooms beautiful, as you spend a lot of time in them



BRIGHT IDEAS

- ◆ Use hanging hampers to keep your clothes tidy and out of sight.
- ◆ Create a folding station over the space you already have. Christina mounted an old door over her appliances.
- ◆ Don't forget closed storage options such as cabinets, perfect for stashing less-than-attractive supplies and detergents. (See page 74 for a great DIY project.)
- ◆ Toss spare change in buckets within reach of your washer.
- ◆ Hang brooms and dustpans on the pegboard so they're out of the way but easy to grab for quick clean-ups. ►

Editor's pick



Selleys All Clear is a clear neutral cure (non-corrosive) co-polymer multipurpose sealant that provides long-lasting protection by forming a clear flexible film on top of a surface that won't crack or dry out. selleys.co.nz

TOP PICKS



Twin Laundry Hamper, Kmart, \$16. kmart.co.nz



Marble Look Pot with Plant, Kmart, \$10.



Laundry Powder Tin with Bamboo Handle, Kmart, \$10.



Airer with Bamboo Frame, Kmart, \$29.



Nesting Seagrass Basket, Kmart, \$10.



Square Woven Storage Basket, Kmart, \$12.



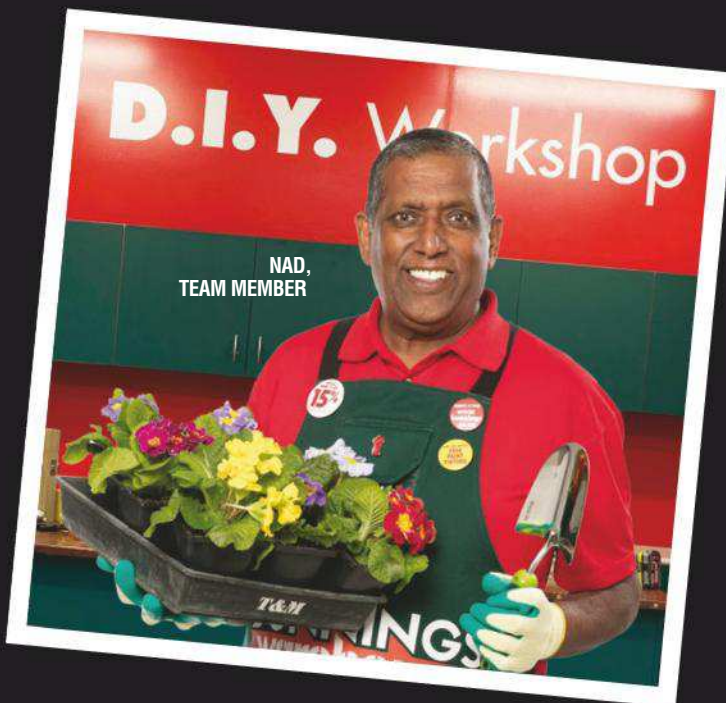
Wire Basket with Message Sheet, Kmart, \$6.

D.I.Y. Workshops

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Our workshops are held every weekend on Saturday and Sunday from 11am - 1pm for Adults and Kids sessions from 10am - 2pm. Covering a wide range of topics, these workshops are heaps of fun, suitable for all levels of experience and a great way to learn new tips and tricks.

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)

- **SEVEN AUTUMN GARDENING TIPS**

Autumn gardening is all about preparing for the winter months. We'll show you what you need to do.

- **NINE AUTUMN OUTDOOR D.I.Y. PROJECTS**

Before the winter months hit, now's a great time to get outdoors and work on your D.I.Y. projects.

- **HOW TO PAINT A KABOODLE DOOR**

You don't have to spend much time or money on transforming the look of your kitchen and we'll show you how.

- **HOW TO INSTALL A SHOWER BASE**

Learn how to install an acrylic shower base for your bathroom. We can give you tips on how to prepare the floor, mix the cement and lay down the base.

- **HOW TO BUILD A D.I.Y. BOOKCASE**

If you need a little extra storage, then build your own bookcase. It's easy to put together and it also looks great.

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Now's a great time to clear out your gutters to prevent major problems down the line. We'll show you which gutter guard would be best for your roof.

- **HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT SHED**

Choosing the right shed depends on how you want to use it. We'll show you what you need to consider before purchasing yours.

- **HOW TO MAKE A PLAY TENT**

With a little imagination, you can set up a whole world of fun and adventure for the kids.

- **HOW TO CHOOSE A KITCHEN SINK**

Renovating your kitchen is a long-term investment. We can show you what you need to think about to ensure your kitchen sink is both functional and looks great.

- **HOW TO FIT OUT A LINEN CLOSET**

Storage space is important in your linen closet and a corner unit is a great way to separate clothes and stay organised.

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BUILD A LAUNDRY CUPBOARD

Make this clever cupboard to conceal your washing machine and supplies and allow for easy removal of clothes. It has 25mm holes that serve as both handles and ventilation, and a plinth on which the machine sits inside the cupboard.

Putting it together

- 1 **CONSTRUCT** the plinth for the machine by securing the plinth top to one of the plinth sides using adhesive and screws. Repeat for the other side to create a square U-shape.
- 2 **BUILD** the shelf section by laying down the cupboard top and shelf so you can mark measurements on both of them.

On a 680mm side, mark 210mm in from the end, then 16mm along from that, then 198mm on from this, followed by another 16mm further on. Use the try square to mark lines across each piece.

- 3 **PLACE** the two shelf dividers on the 16mm marks running across the shelf. Drill 3mm pilot holes, then secure using adhesive and screws.

Position the cupboard top and place it on top of the shelf dividers and secure with adhesive and screws.

- 4 **LAY** the shelf assembly on a flat surface with the shelf openings facing upwards, then secure the two sides with adhesive and screws.

Leave the cupboard on its back and insert the plinth's assembly at the base between the two sides. Secure with adhesive and screws.

Secure the strut between the two sides, level with the base. Turn the cupboard over facing downwards and

Project notes

- ♦ Have the MDF cut to size at your local store.
- ♦ Predrill 3mm pilot holes for the screws to prevent damaging the MDF.
- ♦ Sink screw heads, cover with timber filler and allow to dry.
- ♦ Make sure all corners are precisely 90 degrees, or your cupboard will be uneven.
- ♦ If you prefer, build the cupboard without doors or replace them with a curtain.

spread adhesive along the back of the frame. Position the backing sheet on top and secure with panel pin nails.

- 5 **DRILL** two 50mm holes with a jigsaw in the masonite just above the plinth for the hoses and power cable of the machine.

Measure and mark 11 holes 50mm from the side and 100mm apart, lengthwise down the opposite side of the door, with the last hole mark just above the plinth shelf.

Clamp the door to the workbench, then drill a hole through each mark using a sharp 25mm bit to avoid damaging the MDF. Repeat for the second door.

- 6 **SECURE** the hinges with the 16mm screws and adjust until the doors mirror each other and close smoothly.

Lightly sand the cupboard to smooth any sharp edges. Remove all dust and paint the cupboard. ♦



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
16mm MDF		
Sides	1600 x 680	2
Cupboard top and shelf	680 x 650	2
Shelf dividers	680 x 300	2
Plinth sides	600 x 350	2
Plinth top	650 x 600	1
Strut	618 x 100	1
Cupboard doors	1595 x 338	2
4.8mm masonite		
Backing sheet	1590 x 682	1

WHAT YOU NEED

- Try square
- Tape measure and pencil
- 30mm timber screws
- 6 cabinet hinges
- 16mm hinge screws
- Hammer
- Panel pin nails
- PVA adhesive
- Timber putty
- Orbital sander
- 120 grit sanding pad
- Cordless drill
- 3mm and 25mm bits
- Jigsaw
- Paint roller and tray
- Paint and paintbrush



HOW TO BUILD AN OUTDOOR SHOWER

Install a simple outdoor shower connected to your garden hose

An outdoor shower is a useful addition to your outdoor living area during the warmer months, especially if you've been gardening all day or just returned from the beach.

Here we show you how to build a shower DIY that attaches to your

garden hose using copper pipe and simple push-fit connectors.

We've attached this shower to a stud behind a feature wall made from corrugated iron sheeting secured to a timber frame. The hose is concealed behind the base of the wall.

WHAT YOU NEED

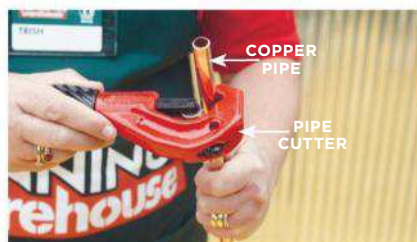
- ½in copper pipe
- 2 ½in copper male connectors
- 1 ½in copper elbow
- 2 ½in copper female lugged elbows
- 20mm brass gate valve (tap)
- Brass garden hose connector
- Thread seal tape
- Tape measure, pencil
- Drill and 16mm spade bit
- Pipe cutter
- 3 saddle clips
- 30mm galvanised screws
- Hand shower
- Garden hose
- Safety glasses

1 2 3



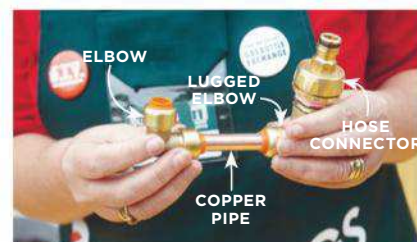
1 Seal fitting threads

Seal all the fittings using waterproof thread seal tape. Wrap the tape around the fitting thread at least three times to help seal the joints, stop leaks and make it easier to tighten the attachments. Drill a hole with a 16mm spade bit through the base of your wall for the hose fitting.



2 Cut copper pipe

Measure and mark a length of copper pipe to fit through the base of the wall, leaving several centimetres at either end to secure the attachments. Attach the pipe cutter on that mark, rotate it around the pipe, then tighten the cutter. Repeat this process until the pipe is cut.



3 Join hose fitting

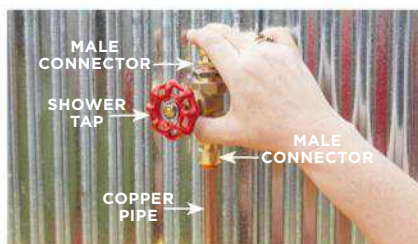
Secure one end of this short copper pipe to a female lugged elbow joined to the garden hose connector. Insert the pipe through the hole at the base of the wall. Secure the elbow to the other end of the copper pipe. Attach the fitting to the wall with a saddle clip.





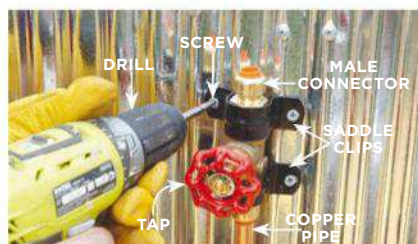
Watch the video 'D.I.Y. outdoor shower' at bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice

4 5 6



4 Position shower tap

Measure and mark the position of the shower tap on the wall and fit male connectors either side. Mark a length of copper pipe at this height and cut it with the pipe cutter. Insert the pipe into the elbow at the base and attach it to the base of the shower tap.



5 Secure saddle clips

Position two saddle clips around the two male connectors on either side of the tap and secure them to the wall with screws. Mark the copper pipe at the height you want for the shower head. Cut it with the pipe cutter. Attach it to the top male connector joining the tap.



6 Attach the showerhead

Attach a female lugged elbow to the top end of the copper pipe. Secure it to the wall using screws. Attach the end of the shower hose to the elbow and secure the showerhead into its holder. Now you're ready to enjoy showering in the great outdoors.

Find it at Bunnings

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GRAND ENTRANCE

Upgrade your doors, locks, pulls and handles to create an inviting but secure look for your home

WORDS MARC MCEVOY

Doors cop a beating in most households. Interior doors get knocked, scraped and slammed, and exterior doors are exposed to wind, rain and harsh sunlight.

If you plan to upgrade your doors, it will pay to install quality products and maintain them well. It will prolong the life of your doors and keep them in good working order.

Here we look at different types of doors and how to look after them. We also offer you some tips on the latest locks and handles. ►

A front door should look welcoming as it's the first thing visitors see.





DOOR TYPES

Doors are gateways that affect the look, style and function of your home. For this reason it's important to choose the right door when upgrading.

The entrance door is the first thing your visitors see, so it should be well maintained and look inviting. They are stronger than interior doors and usually made from solid timber, which improves security and insulation.

Hinged timber doors are the most common type within the home. Interior doors come in standard sizes and many have a honeycomb core.

Variations of interior doors include French doors, which have two doors with glass panels, and sliding doors, also called pocket doors, which save space and can be hidden in a wall.

Sliding and folding doors are popular exterior doors leading to outdoor entertainment areas. Their glass panels let in light and views.

Security doors and screen doors, which include mesh to keep out insects, act as a barrier in front of an exterior door. Security doors are tougher yet still allow air flow. ►



Parkwood Fibreglass
1980 x 760mm Woodgrain Door,
\$555.50. parkwooddoors.co.nz



Hume Doors 1980 x 860 x 40mm
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doors.co.nz



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INSTALL A DOOR

If you're replacing an internal door or hanging a new one, mounting it to the jamb is an easy DIY job.

First, test that the door fits in the frame and check that there is at least 2mm clearance at the top and sides.

If the door is too wide or too tall, trim it on the hinge side or from the base, using a power planer.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Internal door
- Drill and drill bits
- Tape measure and pencil
- Wedges and hammer
- Utility knife and chisel
- Hinges and screws



1 2 3



1 Attach the hinges

Mark the position of the hinges on the edge of the door 200mm from the top and 300mm from the base. Drill pilot holes and attach the hinge with screws.

TIP If the hinges need to be recessed, score the outline with a utility knife, then use a chisel to remove the waste.



2 Fit the door

Position the door perpendicular to the frame. Level the door using wedges, ensuring there is 2mm clearance at the top and the hinges are sitting square on the jamb. Drive the top screw into the top hinge, check the door is level and adjust the wedges as required.



3 Hang the door

Once the door is level, drive the top screw into the lower hinge. Remove the wedges and check the door shuts properly. If it doesn't, remove the screw, adjust the wedges, then reattach. Secure the hinges with the remaining screws when the door hangs flush.

PICTURE (MAIN) ISTOCK

REPAIR A LEANING DOOR

Doors need to be cleaned and maintained to keep them working well. Check hinges, hinge pins and handle assemblies every 12 months or so, and clean and lubricate them with WD-40 or a similar product.

If a door sticks when closing or opening it may be slightly off its hinges. You can tell by checking the gap at

the top of the door. If it's wider at the doorknob side, the top hinge screws are probably loose.

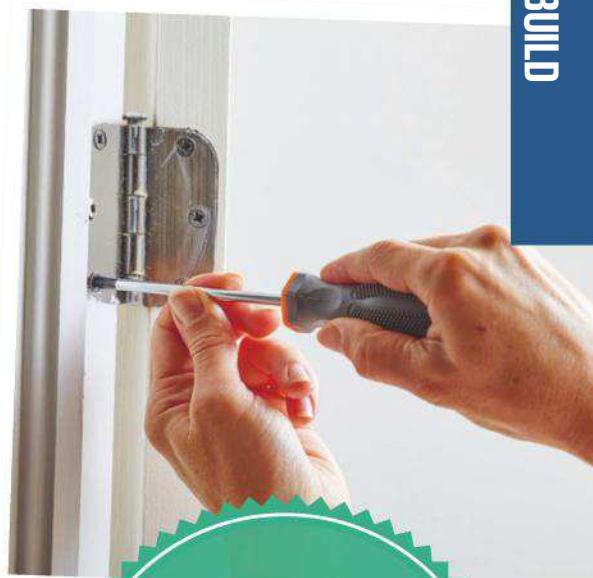
Door hinges aren't really adjustable, but by driving a 75mm screw through the centre hole of the top hinge into the jamb and wall framing, you can draw the hinge and jamb towards the framing and slightly reposition the door. ►



Zenith 85mm Durasmooth Butt Hinge, \$2.80. bunnings.co.nz



Stanley 16-piece Cushion Grip Screwdriver Set, \$49. stanleytools.co.nz



DIY TIP

Silence squeaky door hinges by pushing up the pin with a screwdriver and putting a few drops of oil onto the shaft.

PICTURE (MAIN) ISTOCK

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schlage.co.nz



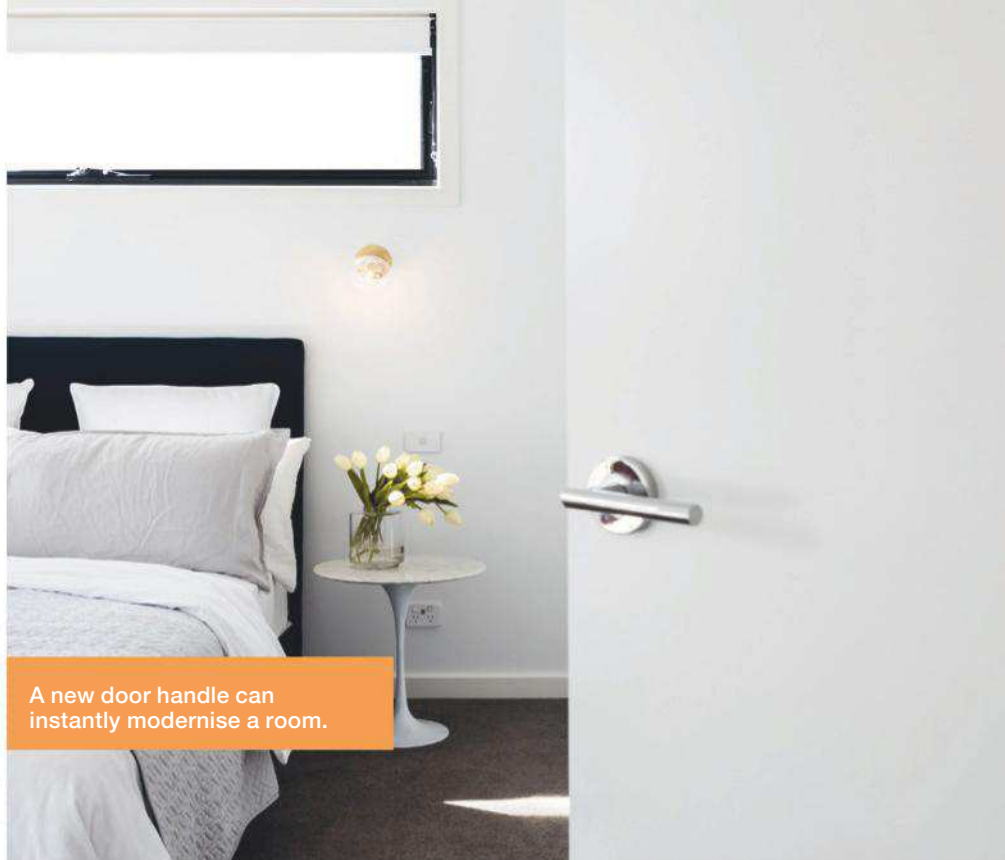
Open possibilities.

HANDLES AND PULLS

Interior doors that look drab usually need little more than a paint job and replacing the handle. In fact a new handle on a door might be all that is needed to modernise a room.

Handles and pulls are design elements and will complement the architecture of a room or the house.

Replacing handles and pulls is a simple DIY project. ►



A new door handle can instantly modernise a room.



Schlage Stella Entrance Pull Solid Handles SSS, \$209.50. bunnings.co.nz



Gainsborough Satin Chrome Olive Privacy Lever Set, \$68.60. bunnings.co.nz



Yale Sliding Door Lock Lockable Black, \$107.50. bunnings.co.nz



Ikonic Passage Leverset Satin Nickel Plated, \$17.50. bunnings.co.nz



Schlage Black F Series Century/Latitude Passage Lever, \$99. allegion.co.nz



Ikonic Passage Knobset Stainless Steel, \$9. bunnings.co.nz



Delf 100mm Stainless Steel Concealed Fix Oval Flush Pull, \$7.30. delfarchitectural.com.au



Sylvan 103mm Satin Chrome Plated Door Knocker, \$41. delfarchitectural.com.au



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LOCKS AND DEADBOLTS

The locks on your front door and other exterior doors are the main defence against intruders and should be checked regularly to make sure they are in good working order.

If you're moving into a new property, change all your locks to prevent strangers from entering with old keys. Front door locks include mechanical deadbolts and smart digital versions. ♦



Sometimes all you need to revamp a dreary-looking door is a nice handle or lock



Xcel Digital Entrance Lock, \$99. celawford.co.nz



Sylvan Deadbolt Double Cylinder Stainless Steel, \$31.50. bunnings.co.nz



Gainsborough Satin Chrome Digital Entry Lever Lock Set, \$395. bunnings.co.nz



Schlage Sense Century Smart Deadbolt, \$435.40. allegion.co.nz



Samsung Smart Keyless Deadbolt Digital Door Lock, \$343.90. bunnings.co.nz



Yale Nightlatch Chrome Plated, \$37.50. bunnings.co.nz



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- Smart Cam app



HD Wide Angle Smart Cam

- HD stream & record
- 130° wide angle
- Easy to mount
- Two-way talk
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SHS-3321 Smart Deadbolt Lock

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GARAGE STORAGE

Follow these tips to get rid of clutter and organise a space for your tools

WORDS MARC MCEVOY

Is your garage a mess, with used paint tins stacked next to a pile of tools, tangled extension cords and timber offcuts?

You're not alone. It's the nature of a workshop garage to end up this way without proper organisation.

Not everyone can afford the luxury of a custom-made workshop in the garage, but there are ways to pack away

tools and create an orderly environment in which to work on home projects.

The key is finding space for storage. Most storage comes as shelves, but you can also add cabinets, lockers and pegboards for hanging tools and mobile cabinets that double as a workbench.

Here, we list options for garage and tool storage and show you how to make a handy garage shelf.

DIY TIP

Make sure you install adequate lighting in your garage that is easy to turn on at night or when the door is closed.



Mixing storage methods frees up valuable garage space. LEFT Steel cabinets and mobile trolleys are safe and secure.



LOCKERS AND CABINETS

Stainless steel cabinets and lockers are a great storage solution for organising equipment and household items.

Because they are strong and sturdy, they need little maintenance and do not get damaged easily.

Another benefit is that they suit items that you may need to store safely or lock away securely.

Under-bench mobile storage cabinets are a great way to store equipment in a small garage.

Made from stainless steel, they usually have multiple drawers and move around on castors.

Some also come with hardwood benchtops and cabinets, so you have a mobile workshop on wheels.

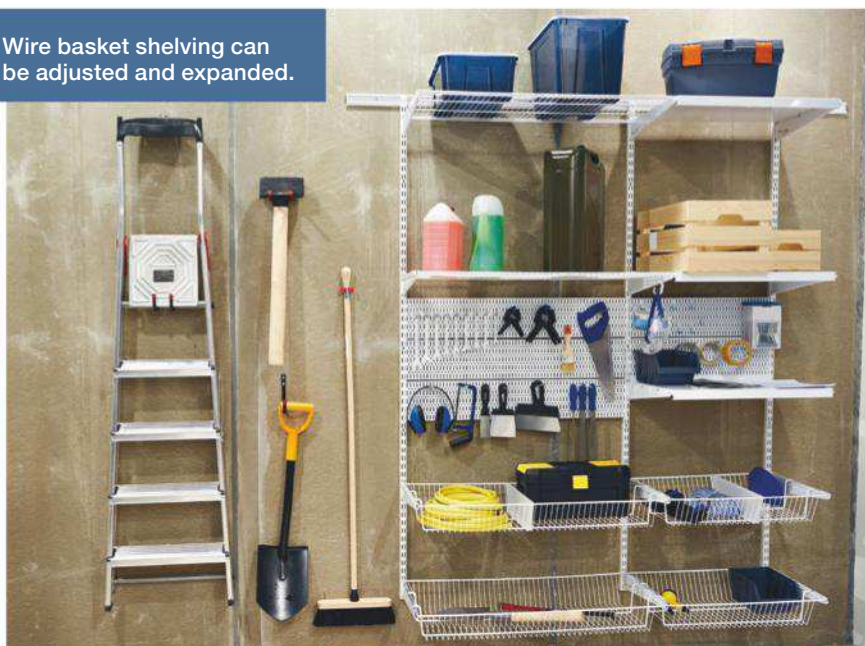
PICTURES ISTOCK



H 16 workshop storage solutions you've never thought of

Visit handymanmagazine.co.nz/workshop-storage

Wire basket shelving can be adjusted and expanded.



PICTURE (BOTTOM) ISTOCK

SHELVING

Sturdy shelving that can handle the weight of power tools is another useful storage solution in your garage.

If you have timber shelves already installed, you only need to buy wire baskets or plastic bins and tubs of varying sizes to organise your tools and garden equipment.

Many bins and tubs are designed to be stackable, which also saves you valuable space in small garages.

Wire baskets and shelves that come with an expanding system of brackets and frames can be installed quickly on your garage wall.

You can also purchase heavy-duty multi-tier garage storage units that are easy to assemble.

They usually have adjustable shelves with a high load capacity that can be put together in many configurations.

These shelves suit a mix of large and small items that you want to keep organised and out of the way. ►



Pegboards are a great way to store tools with easy access. BELOW Compartment storage organises washers and screws.



Mobile trolleys have varying drawer sizes to fit most tools. RIGHT Tool bags allow you to transport your gear to any job.



PICTURESTOCK (MAIN) ALAMY

TOOL STORAGE

Knowing the location of every tool should be a priority of any serious DIY enthusiast. It is annoying to learn half way through a project that your Phillips head screwdriver is missing.

Organising your tools so you can see where they all are at any given time is not that difficult.

You can organise them in categories by placing them in small tubs on shelves or you can keep them in mobile tool cabinets with multiple drawers to suit different-sized tools.

Metal tool chests and tool trolleys do a similar job, keeping the tools you need for a project within easy reach.

Another way of doing this is to attach a pegboard with hooks to the wall over your workbench.

Pegboards are often made from masonite, which you can cut easily to suit the size you want, or powder-coated stainless steel, which offers a stronger surface for supporting tools. ►



Store similar items together by separating tools from leisure gear and garden equipment



TOP PICKS



Handy Storage 54L Crate Black, \$17.50. bunnings.co.nz



Ultimate 10-drawer Tool Trolley, \$799. bunnings.co.nz



Kincrome 10 Drawer Combo Tool Chest With Trolley, \$749. bunnings.co.nz



Pinnacle Lockable Cabinet 2-Door Powder, \$220. harknessandyoung.co.nz



Pinnacle Compact Garage Workbench, \$98.50. harknessandyoung.co.nz



Crawford Super Hook Double Arm Grey, \$11.80. bunnings.co.nz



Pinnacle 5-tier Adjustable Shelf, \$129. harknessandyoung.co.nz

GARAGE STORAGE SYSTEM

This space-saving garage storage system (see page 91) comprises pegboards, adjustable shelves and a workbench. There is also hanging space for tools and equipment.

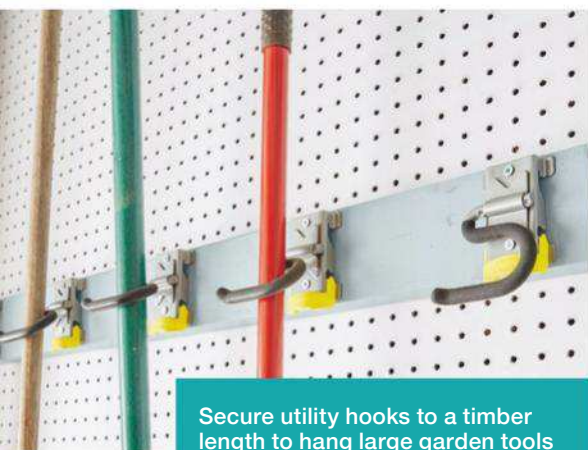
It is made from a timber frame and pegboards attached to timber studs that are secured to the existing garage wall.

You can rearrange shelves, add or substitute pegboard accessories, and even mount hanging systems that are designed for ordinary walls.

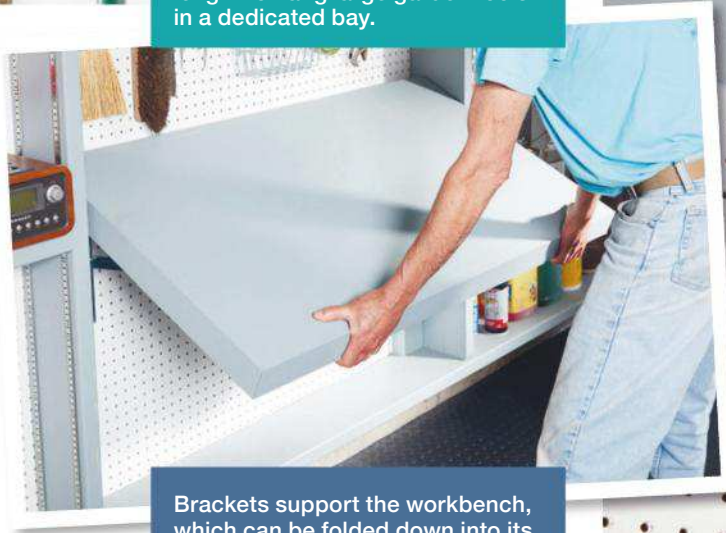
The cutting list for the materials you need depends on the size of your wall. For more details on how to build it, check out our website link on page 91.



Install masonite pegboards cut to length, after painting them white, by securing them with timber screws to the studs.



Secure utility hooks to a timber length to hang large garden tools in a dedicated bay.



Brackets support the workbench, which can be folded down into its own bay when not in use.



Reposition shelves as your needs change by installing them on adjustable shelf supports. ❖

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

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SB900 Sink Bench
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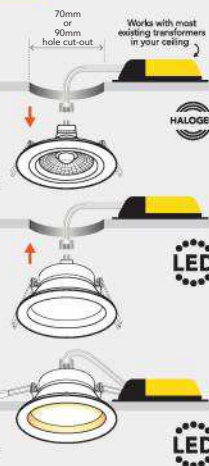
MR16 downlights are 12V. This means they are safe to install yourself.

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SOIL HEALTH

Get to the heart of growing with this easy guide to determining and treating the health of your soil

WORDS DONYALE HARRISON



DIY tests can ascertain the state of your soil for planting.

PICTURE ALAMY

At the heart of growing healthy plants is soil. A few simple diagnostics you can do at home can tell you a lot about the condition of your soil and what will most successfully grow there.

THE SAUSAGE TEST

1. Take a large handful of soil, minus stones or mulch. Add enough water to hold it together, like pizza dough.
2. Roll it into a sausage shape and try to bend it into a circle.
3. If it bends easily without breaking, your soil is mostly clay. If it won't bend without breaking, it's mostly sand. If it bends partway, then breaks, it's loam.

SOIL LIFE

There are three general types of soil: sandy, loam and clay, with most soils somewhere on a spectrum between these points. But more important than the structure of your soil is the amount of life in it.

Dig up a spadeful of soil and drop it on a sheet of plastic or cardboard. If you include weeds or unwanted plants, so much the better. Take a look at what's in the soil. Can you see worms, tiny bugs, traces of fungus on the roots and a good amount of moisture and structure in the soil? That's healthy soil.

If there's little or no life and the soil is dusty, waxy or sticky clay, then there's work to be done.

What to do

No matter which soil type you have, it can be made healthier by improving its structure with carbon-rich organic matter, including compost, manures, green manures and mulches.

You don't even need to dig, just pile them on and worms and insects will do the work for you, especially in clay soils.

Organic matter attracts worms and beneficial microbes, fungi and insects, all of which add more carbon.

Every gram of carbon you add to the soil can retain up to eight grams of water, which further increases the life in your soil. ►

ABOVE The presence of worms is a sign of healthy soil.
BELOW Make compost from organic matter to improve structure.



WormCafe[®]
\$99.00

Can-O-Worms[™]
\$99.00
Pictured

Worm Farm Conditioner
\$14.90

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Worm Farm Conditioner

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www.tumbleweed.com.au

WATER HOLDING

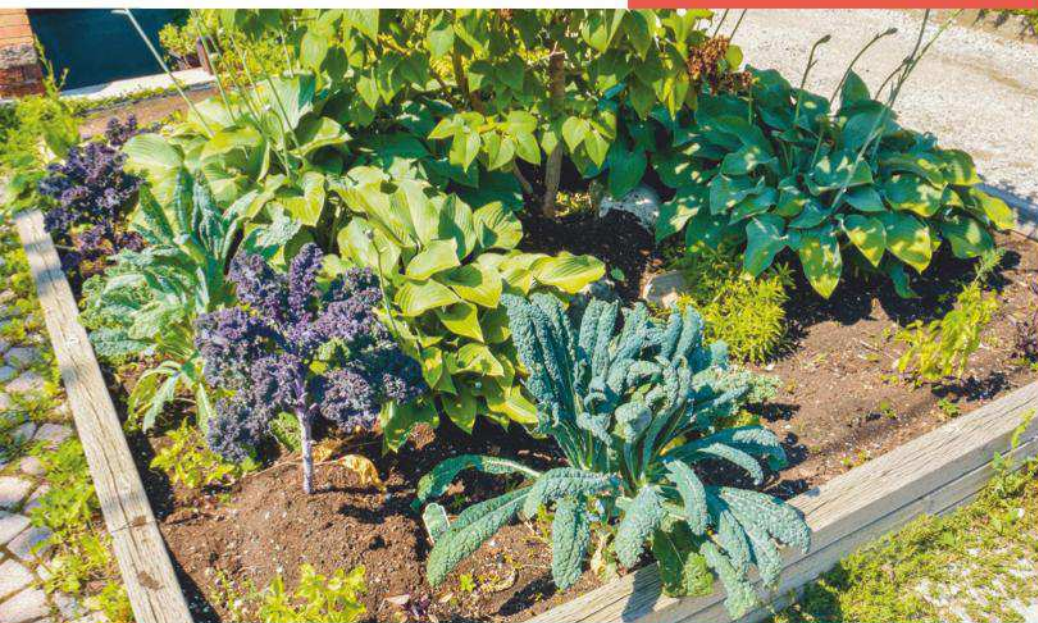
To grow well, plants need a good mix of air and moisture in the soil. Too little water and most plants won't survive. Too much water with too little air, and they will rot.

Dig a hole about 500mm deep in your soil and pour in a bucket of water. If it drains straight through, your soil doesn't hold enough water for most plants. If it pools and drains very slowly, it holds too much.

If it forms a pool and then drains smoothly, it indicates a good balance. If water starts to fill the hole before you pour any in, the soil may be waterlogged.



ABOVE How water pools in your soil is a key indicator of its health.
BELOW A good water/air balance leads to a better range of plants.



Winstone Clay Breaker & Soil Conditioner, \$29.90 for 25kg.
gypsum.co.nz



Seasol PowerFeed Concentrate Fertiliser, \$37.70 for 4L. seasol.com.au

What to do

You can expand the range of what will grow in your garden by creating a better balance of water and air.

Adding organic matter is a good start, as it helps dry soil retain moisture and wet soil gain better airflow.

You can even make raised beds to plant into and leave the soil below to improve over time. If your soil is waterlogged and you can't improve your drainage, this is your best option.

Clay is often the reason for wet soil. Its super-fine particles stick together and hold moisture so plant roots can't easily push through to access the nutrients.

A range of claybreakers, mostly gypsum-based products, is readily available. These work with some types of clay soil.

Drop a small amount of soil into a glass of water and leave for a day. If the water goes cloudy, then gypsum-based claybreaker will help. Liquid or hose-on types

are easiest to apply. If it doesn't go cloudy, add organic matter, mulching with thick layers.

Dry soils can also be hydrophobic, where water sits on the surface without soaking into the soil and then runs off quickly. You can counter this with a soil-wetting agent.

Look for organic varieties based on polysaccharides and seaweed. Seasol's version comes in a concentrate or a hose-on pack for large gardens.



Groundcover plants will help your soil retain water.



Gardman Soil pH Testing Kit, \$21.50.
horticom.co.nz



Yates Thrive Certified Organic Natural Garden Lime, 10kg for \$11.50. yates.co.nz

SOIL pH

This measures the acidity or alkalinity of soil. Most plants grow in a range of 5.5–7 (slightly acid to neutral) on the pH scale, and outside this range some nutrients can be ‘locked up’ in the soil.

Soil pH kits are readily available and cheap. Take several samples from around your garden and mix with the liquid and powder testing materials in the kit, then match the colour your sample turns to a chart in the package.

Outside the 5.5–7 range, you can choose to either adjust the pH or plant acid- or alkali-loving plants.

What to do

Acid (low pH) soils are the most common. You can raise the pH of the soil by adding garden lime. Most come as powders that can be scattered over the soil and hosed in.

Wear a mask and protective clothing, as it can irritate skin. If your garden bed is bare, you can dig the lime in to the depth of a spade. Leave for a fortnight before sowing or planting.

If your too-acid soil is also low in magnesium (see Soil nutrients, page 106), dolomite is a type of lime that contains magnesium.

Use it the same way as lime, or in a soluble form that can be watered in.

If your soil is alkaline, you’re probably on limestone and are best off growing alkali-loving plants, with acid-lovers in pots.

You can lower the pH slowly by adding organic matter such as compost and manures, especially leaf mould and pine needles.

You can also use elemental sulphur, which will provide a more dramatic effect, but it is slow-acting as well.

For all types, cover your soil with mulch or with groundcover plants to hold in water. Organic mulch will add carbon to the soil, but for dry gardens or if you don’t want to have to re-mulch regularly, gravel will do the job. ►



220L Tumbler
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Pictured

150L Compost
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Compost Cage
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Gardener's Favourite

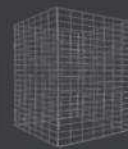
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SOIL NUTRIENTS

Many New Zealand soils are naturally low in nutrients, especially phosphorus. Native plants have adapted to this, but food crops and exotics need fertile soil to thrive.

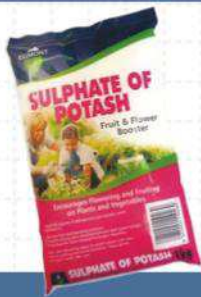
The main nutrients are nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus. A lack of nitrogen shows in pale leaves and poor plant growth. Low potassium shows as older leaves wilting or looking scorched, and all leaves yellowing between the veins from the base. Low phosphorus is harder to spot but can show in poor plant growth or leaf tips that look burnt.

Calcium, magnesium and sulphur are also key. A lack of calcium can show in distorted new leaves, while low magnesium sees older leaves turn yellow at the edges, and low sulphur has younger leaves turn yellow first.

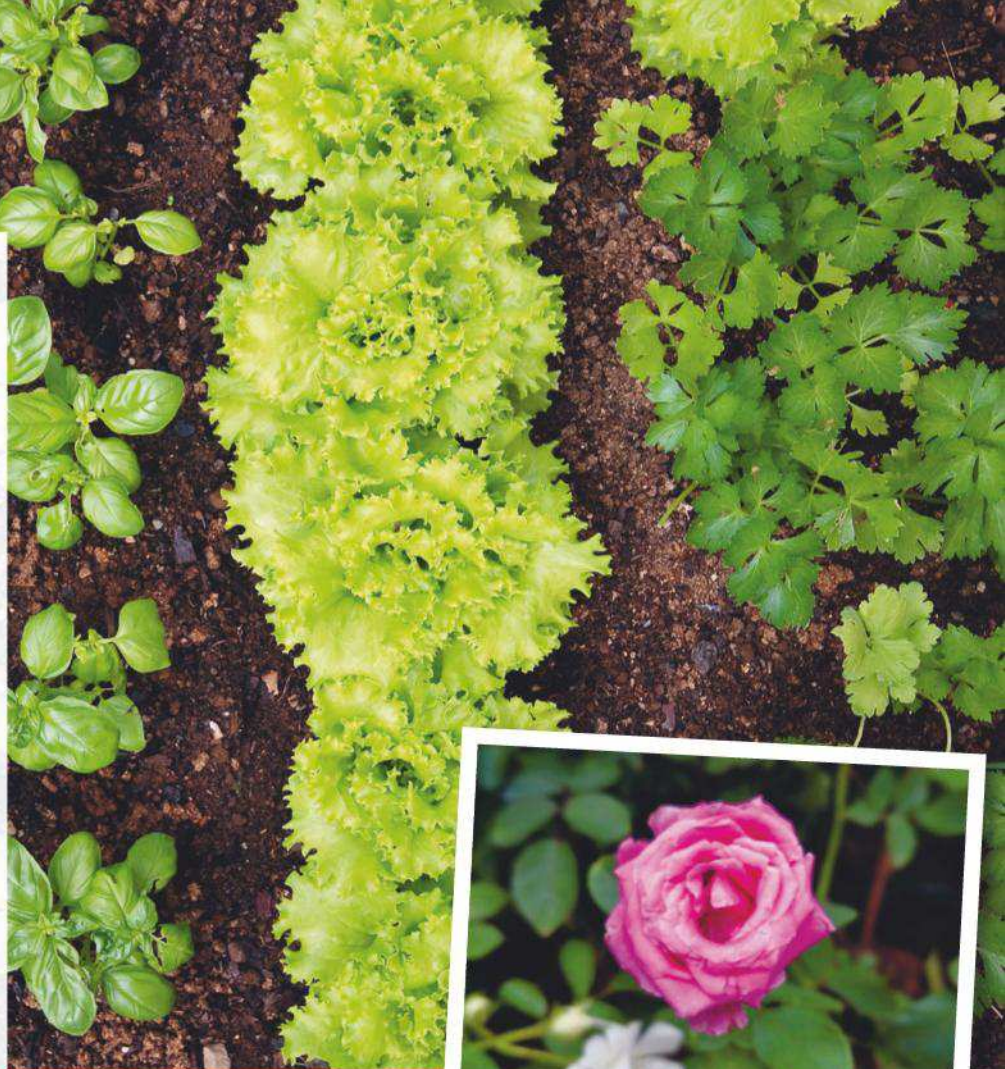
A number of trace elements, including iron and boron, make up the remaining diet for most plants and their lack can be seen in discoloured and distorted foliage. Talk with your local garden centre about specific worries.



Yates Dynamic Lifter Organic Plant Food \$10 for 2.5kg.
yates.co.nz



Egmont Magnesium Sulphate of Potash, \$9 for 1kg.
bunnings.co.nz



ABOVE Leafy greens such as basil thrive on an additional foliar feed. RIGHT Roses may require a fortified organic fertiliser to assist growth.



What to do

A good organic fertiliser such as Yates Dynamic Lifter, or a slow-release option, contains a wide cross-section of nutrients.

For hungry plants such as roses and fruit, or lawns, a fortified option such as the PowerFeed will do the trick, while leafy greens love an additional foliar feed with Seasol, or similar.

If you have specific problems, blood and bone is high in nitrogen, phosphorus and calcium. A scatter of sulphate of potash will raise potassium levels, or you can

spray with a liquid potash.

Dolomite, lime and gypsum will all add calcium, while lime and Epsom salts will both raise magnesium levels.

Sulphur is available as dust or powder. Add powdered sulphur directly to the soil. If you need to control mites and fungus in your garden, grab the dusting variety, as it's a great general remedy over leaves.

Look for a trace element supplement if you suspect one is needed. Yates and Egmont make them, as do several organic manufacturers. ♦

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SWEET SCENTS

Prepare now for a springtime garden filled with the delicate perfume and gorgeous colour of the sweet pea

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



EXPERT SECRETS

Plant dwarf varieties in garden beds to provide a perfumed groundcover.

Whether in the garden or in a vase indoors, sweet peas delight the senses with their beautiful perfume and romantically ruffled pea-shaped blooms. It's no wonder they are one of the most popular spring-flowering annuals.

This old-fashioned favourite arrived in the United Kingdom from Sicily in 1699 and quickly became all the rage. From that time, the sweet pea was bred continuously and hundreds of cultivars have since poured onto the market.

While sweet peas are loved for their perfume, keep in mind that not all modern cultivars are fragrant, so check the seed packet for the magic word when purchasing.

Sweet peas are easy to grow in pots and garden beds. We show you how. ►



Sweet peas provide a veritable canvas of colour in the garden.

Did you know?

Sweet peas were such popular blooms with the Victorians that, in 1901, the National Sweet Pea Society was formed and the flower became established as the symbol of Victorian England.

BLOOMING IDEAS

- ♦ **CASCADE** dwarf cultivars out of hanging baskets and pots.
- ♦ **GROW** climbing varieties on teepees in garden beds and pots.
- ♦ **CREATE** a fragrant covering on a wire fence.
- ♦ **PLANT** them in pots on the balcony and tie to rails.
- ♦ **COVER** a trellis with sweet peas.



Avoid fertilisers high in nitrogen, which will promote lush leaf growth but fewer flowers.

Get growing

Planting is traditionally carried out on March 17, Saint Patrick's Day, although they can be sown until the end of autumn, and even in spring in cold districts. A support for climbing varieties should be erected before seeds are planted to avoid disturbing them.

♦ **POSITION** is vital, as sweet peas need full sun with shelter from the wind.

♦ **SOIL** should be free-draining, dug to a depth of 100-150mm, and enriched with compost or manure and fertiliser formulated for flowers and fruit. Add

one cup of lime per square metre if the soil is not alkaline. You can check soil with a pH kit.

♦ **SOW** seeds directly where the plants are to grow into damp soil. Make drills 20-30mm deep and press the seeds into the soil 50-70mm apart. Don't water too much during the germination period, as overwatering can cause seed failure.

When the seedlings are about 150-200mm high, place twigs along the length of the row to help the tendrils reach the support.

♦ **WATER** every couple of days once the seedlings have germinated. To prevent powdery mildew, water at the roots rather than the foliage. Keep the soil damp but not overwet.

♦ **MULCH** lightly with pea straw or lucerne hay.

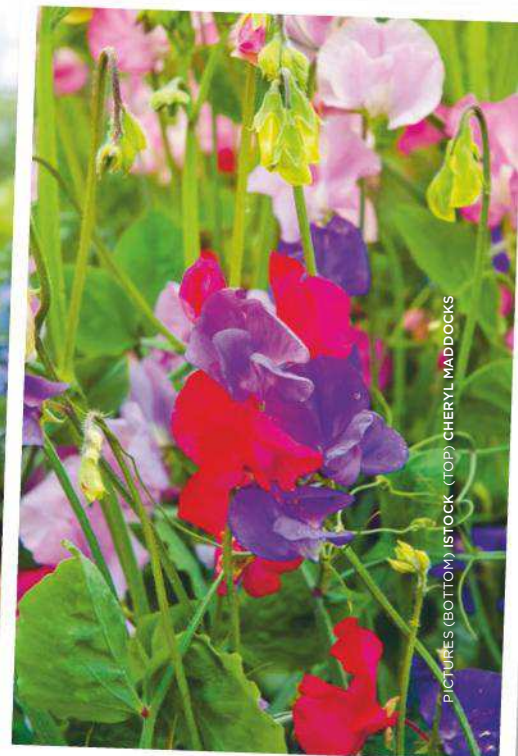
♦ **FEED** with a fertiliser for flowers and fruit when the buds appear.

Watch for snails, slugs and birds that love the young growth. Pick the flowers frequently – the more you pick, the more you get.



Keep sweet pea seedlings in full sun but away from wind.

SEEDLINGS

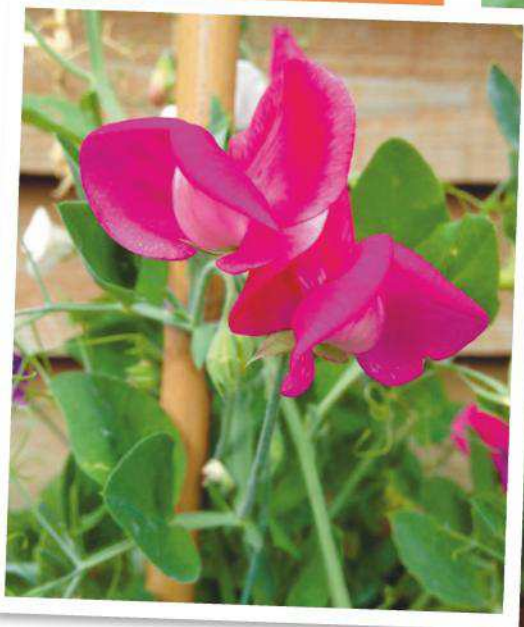


PICTURES (BOTTOM) ISTOCK (TOP) CHERYL MADDOCKS

SWEET SUCCESS

Did you know that sweet peas, like all members of the legume family, have the ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen in a plant-usable form? This is thanks to bacteria that live in their root nodules. Some goes directly into the plant to help growth and some is transferred into the soil for use by following crops.

Smaller varieties, such as the dwarf sweet pea, are an attractive option.



Going potty

Dwarf sweet pea cultivars are available for pots and window boxes, or you can grow climbing sweet peas on a teepee in a large pot. Here's how.



1 FILL a 300mm pot with a premium potting mix. Position several 2m high bamboo stakes in the potting mix about 50mm apart and about 50mm from the edge of the pot.



2 PULL together the tops of the stakes and tie them securely using string or wire. Place the pot in a sheltered, sunny position and lightly water the potting mix.

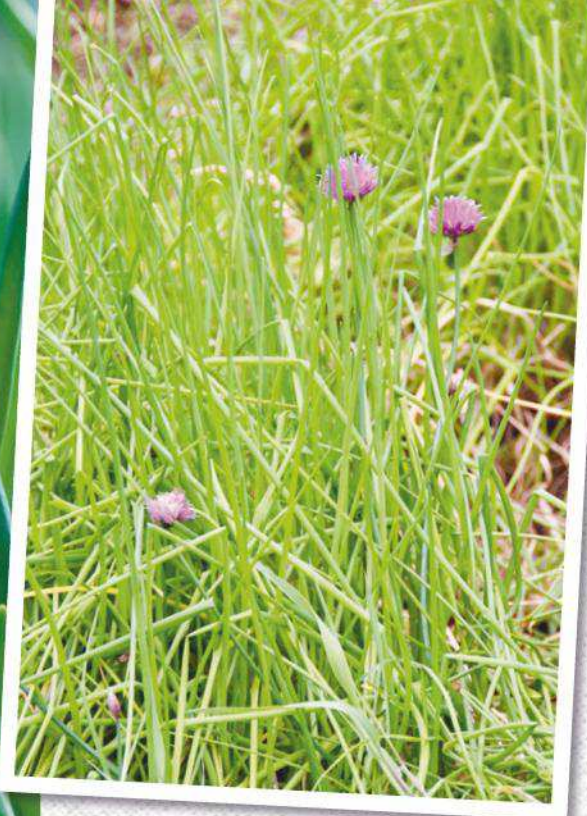


3 MAKE a 50mm deep hole at the base of the stakes and plant a seed in each. Keep the mix moist but not overwet to prevent the seeds from rotting. Once germinated, water the seeds regularly. ♦

KNOW YOUR ONIONS

Plant these vegies this autumn for winter growing and a spring harvest

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS



The humble onion is one of the cook's most reliable friends. Delicious raw, baked, sautéed or steamed, onions are a versatile vegetable and form the basis of many New Zealand and international dishes.

But their benefits are not only culinary. Onions are a good source of potassium, iron, fibre and vitamins A, B6, C and E, and have been highly regarded throughout the centuries for their antiseptic properties.

And if that wasn't enough, the onion family, including shallots, leeks and chives, are said to be outstanding performers in the realm of disease prevention. If eaten regularly, they may help to prevent stomach cancer, prostate cancer and heart disease.

PEELING BACK THE LAYERS

Onions are a vegetable of antiquity. They were cultivated for food by the Ancient Egyptians but also used in spiritual traditions. Onions were placed in the thorax, pelvis or near the eyes during mummification as a symbol of eternity.

Onions are healthy and add to the taste of many dishes.

PICTURES (MAIN) ISTOCK (RIGHT) CHERYL MADDOCKS

Be soil ready

All members of the onion family like a well-drained soil that has been enriched with organic matter such as compost or Dynamic Lifter.

Too much manure can cause onions to rot and produce excess leaf growth. Rotate crops yearly to prevent the build-up of soil fungal diseases.

Onions thrive in well-drained soil with not too much manure.

Planting tip

It's easy to grow onions from seed, or you can buy seedlings. There are early, mid-season and late-maturing varieties, which will be indicated on the seed packet. Planting the right onion at the right time will prevent plants bolting to seed.

PICTURES CHERYL MADDOCKS

In the kitchen

- ♦ Red and white onions are delicious in salads.
- ♦ Use brown onions in French onion soup.
- ♦ Leeks marry well with chicken in many dishes.
- ♦ Use shallots in French and Asian cooking.
- ♦ Shallots are great simply baked whole.
- ♦ Add green onions to salads.
- ♦ Combine and add green and spring onions to scrambled eggs.
- ♦ Make a mixed onion quiche.
- ♦ Leek and potato soup makes a hearty lunch.
- ♦ Onions are delicious in muffins.
- ♦ Brown onions and bacon make a tasty tart.
- ♦ Add chives to salads, egg dishes and soups. ►

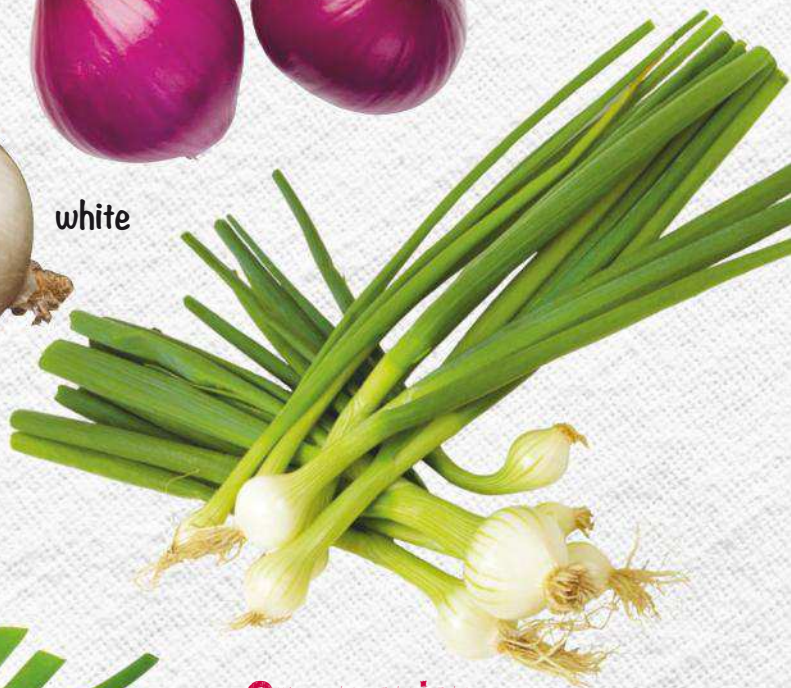
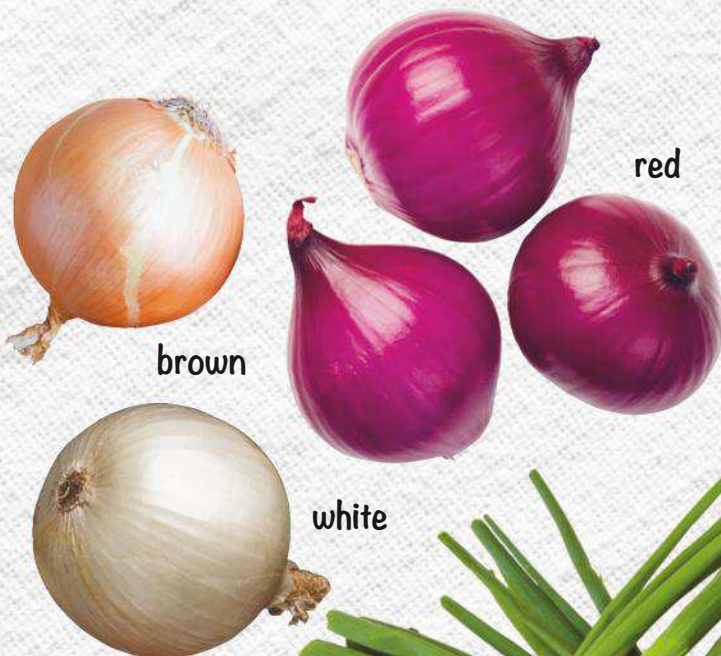
Onions

You can choose from bulbous red-, white- or brown-skinned onions, used in many cooking styles.

- ♦ **PLANT** Sow the seeds directly where they are to grow. Thin the seedlings to 70-100mm apart when 100mm high. Don't plant seedlings too deeply, just cover the roots and the base of the stem.

- ♦ **GROW** Don't mound the soil around the plants, as the bulbs sit on the surface of the soil, not below it. When bulbs start to form, feed with a complete fertiliser. Keep the area around the plants weed free.

- ♦ **HARVEST** Onions will be ready for eating about 6-8 months after planting, when the leaves dry and fall over. Pull from the ground and leave in the sun for a few days to cure. Store in a cool, dry place with lots of ventilation.



Green onions

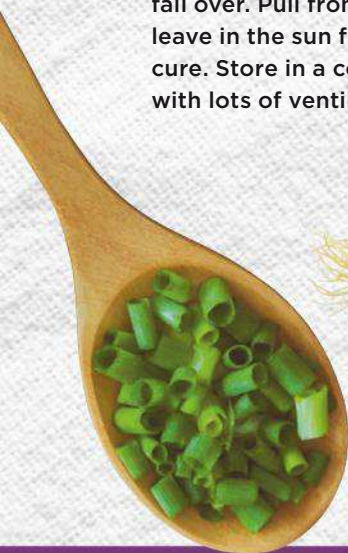
Not to be confused with spring onions, green onions are onions that have been picked at an immature stage when the bulb is small.

Both the bulb and long green stems are used raw in the kitchen and impart a rich onion taste.

- ♦ **PLANT** Sow the seeds directly where they are to grow.

- ♦ **GROW** Water regularly and feed monthly with a soluble liquid fertiliser.

- ♦ **HARVEST** Pull from the ground in spring when the small white round bulb has formed.



Shoots should be bright green and firm.

Spring onions

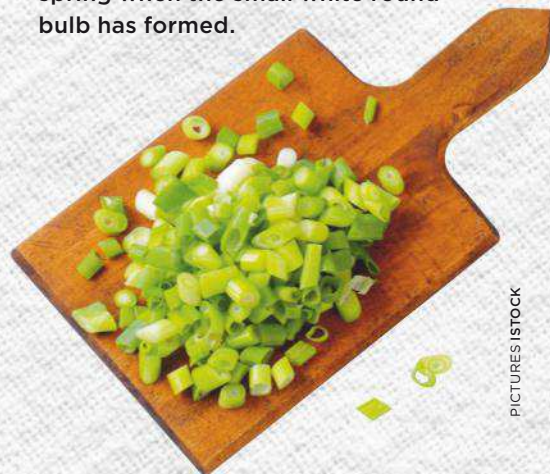
While spring onions are often confusingly called eschalots, green onions, scallions or shallots, a spring onion is simply an immature onion that hasn't yet made a bulb. It is harvested for its green shoots.

Any onion can be picked immaturely as a spring onion, but it is best to buy seeds labelled as spring onions. They are ideal for growing in containers.

- ♦ **PLANT** Seeds can be sown directly where they are to grow at almost any time of the year. Make successive sowings every 4-6 weeks for a continuous supply.

- ♦ **GROW** Water regularly and feed fortnightly with a soluble liquid fertiliser.

- ♦ **HARVEST** Plants are ready to be pulled from the ground about 8-12 weeks after sowing the seeds.



Shallots

Also called eschallots, shallots have a milder, sweeter flavour than onions.

Their brown- or red-skinned bulbs develop underground.

♦ **PLANT** Shallots are grown from bulblets or cloves like garlic, and are available from nurseries in autumn and winter.

Space the bulbs 150-200mm apart with just the tops showing above the soil. More bulbs will multiply around the mother plant.

♦ **GROW** Fertilise monthly with a complete soluble fertiliser.

♦ **HARVEST** Shallots are ready when the tops start to fall over and before flowering. Save and replant small bulblets for your next crop.

Leeks

With a subtle onion taste, leeks are an asset to many dishes, especially soups and casseroles.

♦ **PLANT** Sow the seeds in punnets, then transplant to the garden bed when 120mm high, or you can buy seedlings.

♦ **GROW** Make a 200mm deep trench and add the seedlings. Cover them with a little soil to hold them upright and slowly fill in the trench as the seedlings grow. This will blanch the stems.

Water regularly and feed monthly with a fertiliser that is high in nitrogen.

♦ **HARVEST** Start the harvest when the stems are about 20mm thick. You can harvest each week for several weeks.

Chives

Chives are very easy to grow in containers and garden beds. They have round hollow leaves, while garlic chives have flat, solid leaves. Their flowers make a pretty garnish.

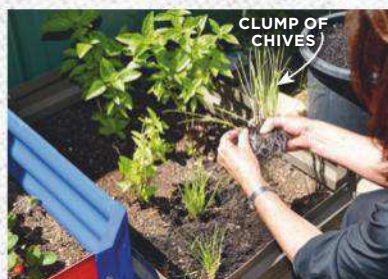
♦ **PLANT** Seeds can be sown in spring, summer and early autumn or you can plant seedlings. New

plants can also be started by dividing overcrowded clumps.

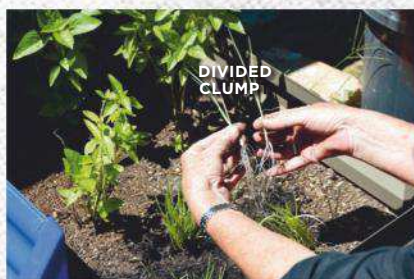
♦ **GROW** Sow the seeds or plant seedlings in clumps. Fertilise monthly with a soluble plant food.

♦ **HARVEST** Cut the leaves at the base when needed. Chives may also be frozen in ice cubes.

HOW TO DIVIDE CHIVES



1 Dig up the clump of chives using a trowel or fork.



2 Separate the plants carefully, so as not to damage the roots.



3 Replant the chives in small clumps, then water in well. ♦



ABOVE This Little Free Library in Mount Martha, Victoria, is getting a lot of love. BELOW A Street Library in Enmore, NSW.

MAKE A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Books piling up on your shelves? Fancy a new read? Want to feel good about the world? Then consider joining a cool movement that's taking off globally by contributing to – or even building – a Little Free Library.

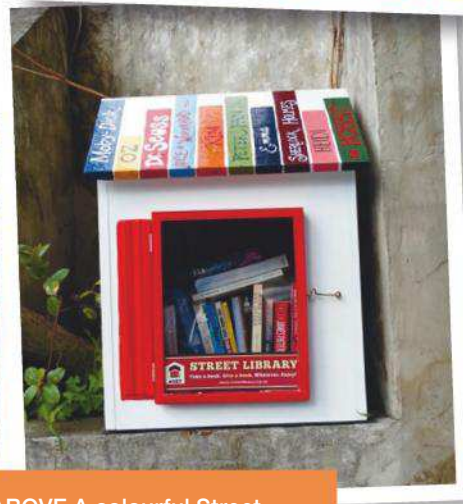
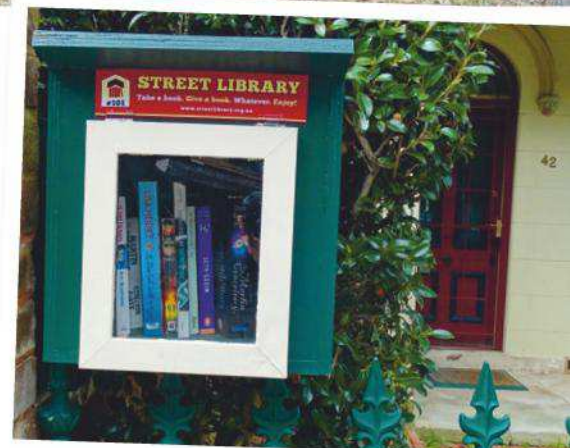
Book lovers worldwide are building miniature houses, filling them with books and placing them around their neighbourhoods, encouraging people to take a book, leave a book, or both!

Little Free Library was started in 2009 by American Todd Bol in the hope of spreading the joy of reading

and making books accessible to as many people as possible. There are now more than 60,000 set up, according to the organisation's non-profit website, including a number in New Zealand.

Visit littlefreelibrary.org and use the interactive map to find your nearest one. Or if you want to build your own, you can find blueprints or a kit to DIY, or buy a ready-made library.

You'll also find instructions on how to register your library on the worldwide map so others can find you. Late library fees will become a distant memory. ♦



ABOVE A colourful Street Library in Woollahra, NSW. LEFT Little Free Libraries are now found across the world.



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