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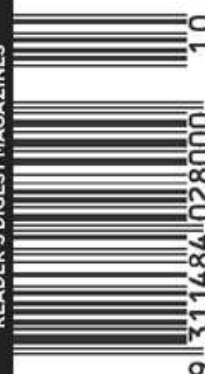


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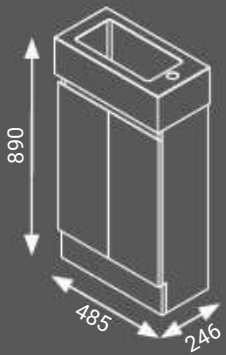


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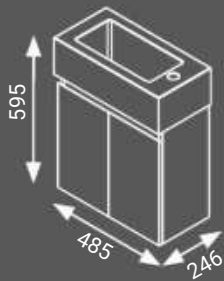
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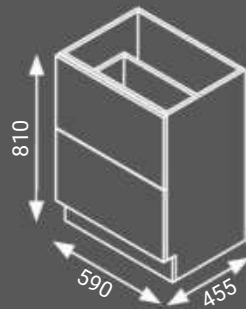
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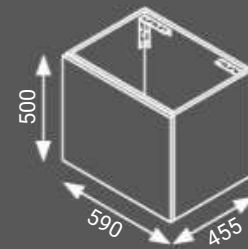
Wall Hung

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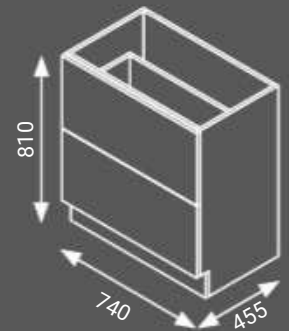
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Floor Standing



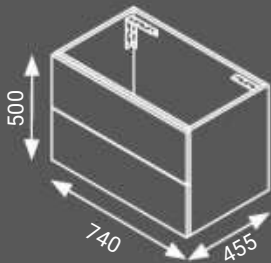
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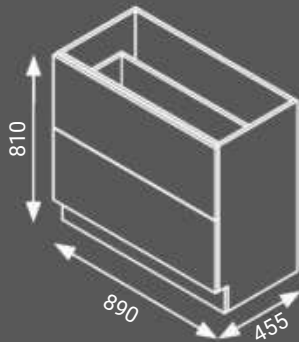
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Floor Standing



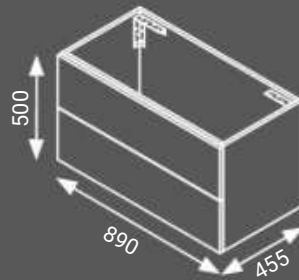
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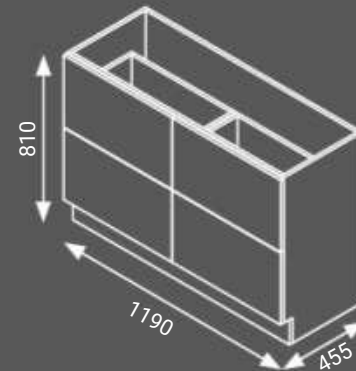
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Floor Standing



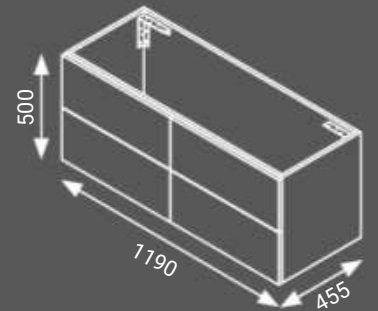
900

Wall Hung



1200

Floor Standing



1200

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SELECT YOUR TOP



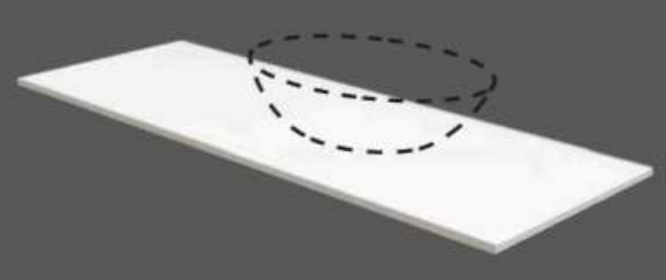
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OCTOBER ISSUE



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Editor's LETTER

Living with a dysfunctional, outdated and crumbling bathroom can be a real drain – pardon the pun – but there's so much to consider when planning a reno that getting started is half the battle!

Starting from page 24, we have loads of DIY tips, advice and inspo to help you create your dream bathroom – from advice on what NOT to do, to budget makeovers, to fixing up those fiddly odd jobs you've been putting off.

Storage salvation

They say you can never have too much storage, and WE say if you're going to have loads of storage, why not make it as stylish as possible? Head to page 52 to find out how to incorporate chic, practical storage throughout the home.

Lush lawns

As the warmer weather sends us outside, it's the perfect time to address the state of our lawns after the ravages of winter. On page 84, check out our expert tips for transforming your patch of green from straggly and patchy to full and fluffy.

Before you do, though, head to page 100 to find out how to keep your garden tools in tip-top shape.

Happy DIYing!



EDITOR
ZOË MEUNIER



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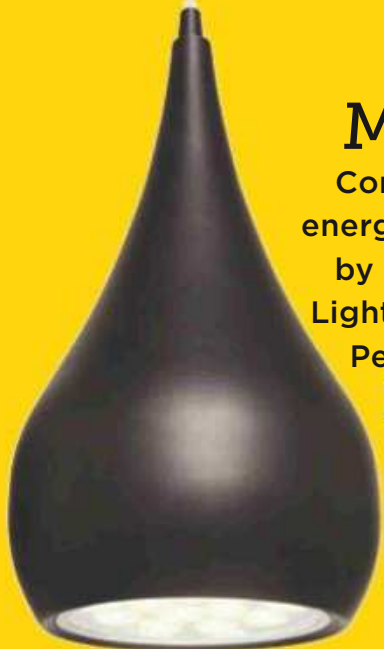


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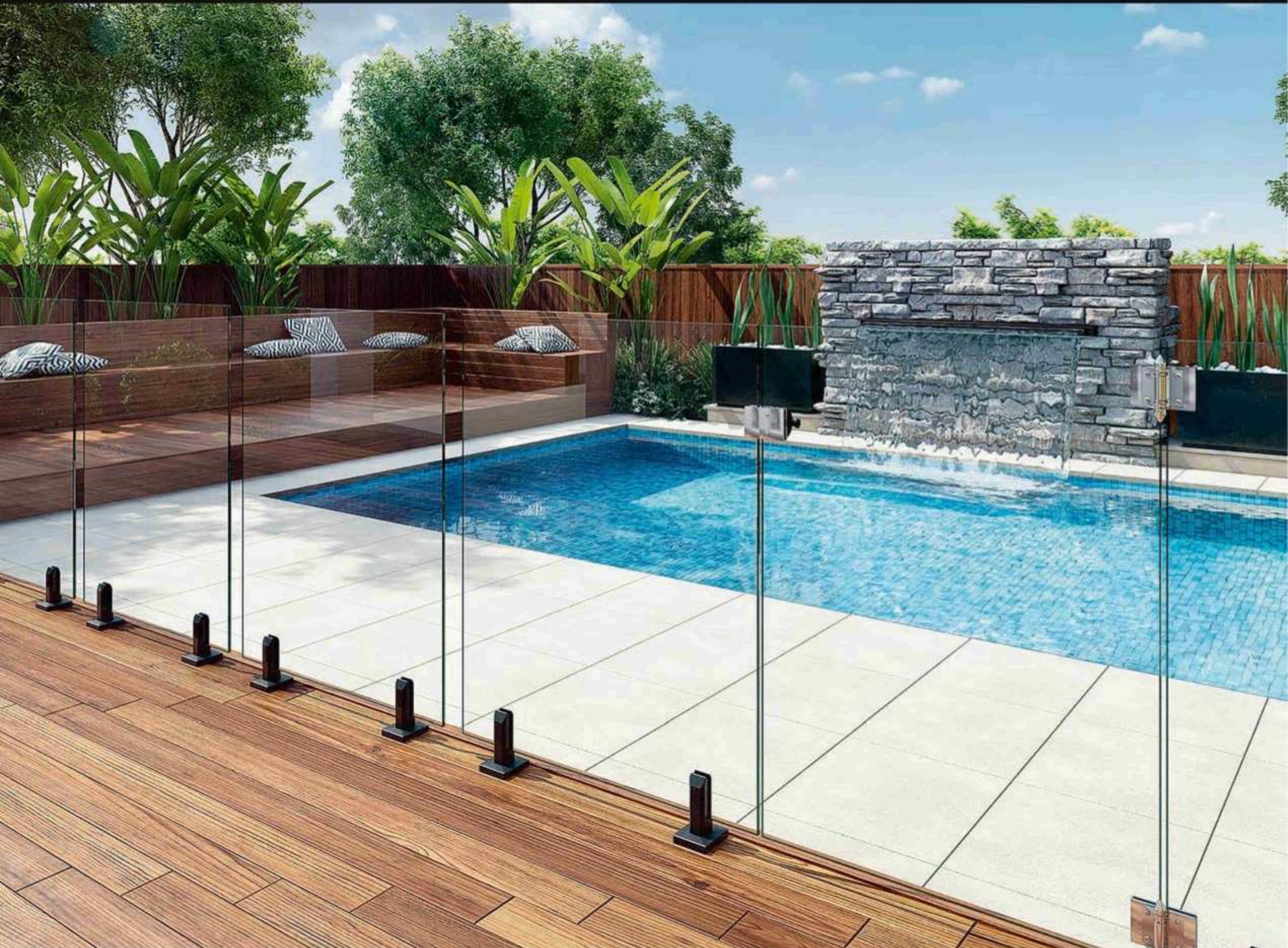
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BEACH POISE

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES PRUE ROSCOE

A redesigned home in an iconic location creates a vision of bygone beach style, with a very modern edge

Along the vast and beguiling coastlines of New Zealand and Australia, there is an architectural narrative that has been honed over the past 100 years – a story about how we interact with the beach, the water and the light.

In Tamarama, a Sydney suburb geographically characterised by steep escarpments surrounding the beach in the city's eastern suburbs, the homes that cling to the hillsides are a mishmash of changing fortunes. Some of the most expensive real estate in the city, represented in dramatic new architectural builds, sits alongside other houses that were cheaply constructed in the 1960s and '70s and are poorly suited to the location.

Luigi Rosselli Architects were tasked with taking a small structure that was ill-suited to its site, and creating a family home where new and old would seamlessly blend. Tama's Tee Home was constructed on what was solid and reusable from the previous house.

About 50% of the previous structure was kept, including the street-level garage and the large sandstone retaining wall to the front of the home.

'The wall as an original element really grounds the whole build,' says project architect Raffaello Rosselli. 'It adds warmth and allowed us to succeed with the contrast of the concrete and strong, sculptural shape of the new building.' ►





The T-shape design sets the building apart

The sandstone wall was retained,
but the home re-imagined.



Shutters and curtains soften the harsh light and the hard concrete.

Making the old new

‘Where possible we looked to retain rather than discard and start again,’ says Raffaello. ‘There had been probably three generations of building on the site, each layer added over time. The bones were well constructed – it only needed to be brought together and made cohesive.

‘Sustainability is something we take seriously. The embodied energy that goes into a new build, just in materials, is often more than the energy used by a building throughout its lifetime, so there are huge environmental benefits in maintaining as much of the original structure as possible.’

Most of the demolition was to the front, with the aim of providing new living areas that make the most of the

iconic views. The new concrete ‘T’ structure to the front of the house was designed so that the extra levels could be built without having to stack onto the existing garage, which they suspected wasn’t structurally sound enough to bear the weight.

This creative solution provides both a practical answer and a sculptural element that sets the build apart. The additions balance on the T-shaped concrete pillar that is splayed out to carry the main living level of the house.

The seamless junction between the pillar and beam, similar to the junction of the nose to the eyebrows on a human face, helps to frame the views down to Tamarama and the beach.

Less is more

Raffaello provided his own detailing and material palette for a refined but robust beach house, embracing natural materials, exposed roof framing and finishes that are washed by dappled and ever-changing light filtered through custom-designed shutters.

‘Many modern builds with views will succumb to the idea of having great expanses of glass walls and glass balustrades, which then in turn come to define the materiality. I like to think more is not necessarily better in this regard, so we work to preserve and enhance views, and custom-design screens to work with the light. Inside you get filtered and not blinding light, and outside, the facade is interesting, textured and layered. The plywood shutters contrast with the hard concrete.’

This concept of restraint is also applied to the garden, where a simple lawn and low shrubs maintain clear sight lines to the horizon and the Norfolk Island pine trees that characterise the locality. ►

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Warming the interior

Inside, the coolness of the exterior meets warm timbers and softer detailing, but still with a nod to the raw elements of the exterior. The lower floor of the house is a teenager's pad with rumpus room and a covered terrace. The concrete roof and pillar is reflected in a cement-coloured vitrified ceramic tile. Timber boards are exposed and painted in different settings, giving reference to the lightweight timber beach shacks of the past.

American oak timber joinery and brass features are the threads throughout the interior and serve to bring tactile and warming features to the white walls.

The graceful curves of the fireplace sit at the key intersection in the home.

A pendant hovers over the dining area, adding drama.



The signature Luigi Rosselli curves play with form in graceful ways. This is exemplified by a freeform gas fireplace that is the pivot point at the intersection of the dining room, TV room and kitchen, with the main staircase spinning out tangentially and dramatically.

‘Fireplaces and stairs can be really fun to work on,’ says Raffaello. ‘A fireplace is such a traditional item so it’s great to work that design and make it new. The suspended, timber-clad top section sits above the heavier base; the installation’s curves not only form an aesthetic dynamic but also make

it possible to get up very close to the fire, so you can interact with it.’

The terms ‘open plan’, ‘flow’ and ‘seamless design’ are all buzzwords in contemporary architecture, and particularly suitable for the Sydney coastal climate. However, such concepts require a layering of filters, ►



A gentle green palette diffuses glare in the bathroom and kitchen.



in the form of doors, curtains and shutters. The dining area of the open-plan living space features an Oracle pendant by Christopher Boots.

‘The reason that a building looks good in the end is the attention given to resolving all the details, right down to the smallest element, both indoors and out,’ says Raffaello.

The right combinations of materials let a facade age gracefully while inside,

the feeling of flow and simplicity is all down to those fine details. The finishes need to harmonise with the forms.

‘I like the intricate but simplistic nature of penny round tiles in the bathroom. They diffuse light well, so glare is minimised in the mirrors. They are a practical choice, too, as tiling curved surfaces can be very difficult, so it makes sense to use small tiles that don’t have to be cut,’ says Raffaello.

The colour choice is modern and soft, and has texture that is harder to achieve with large-format tiles. The gentle green is a break from the vast whiteness of the walls and the light that floods each space.

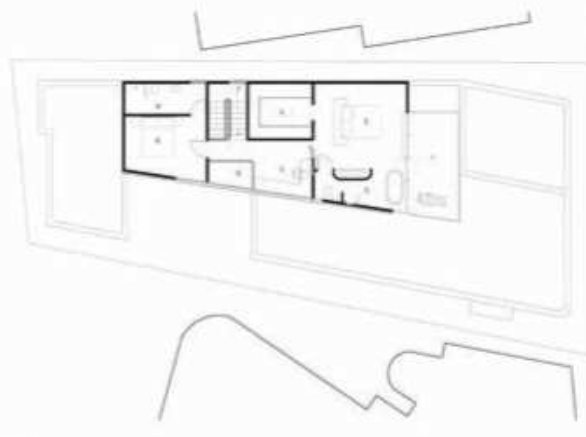
Carried on in the kitchen in a light sage green, the softness of the palette tempers the large swathes of full-height cupboards and the imposing timber island topped with black porcelain.



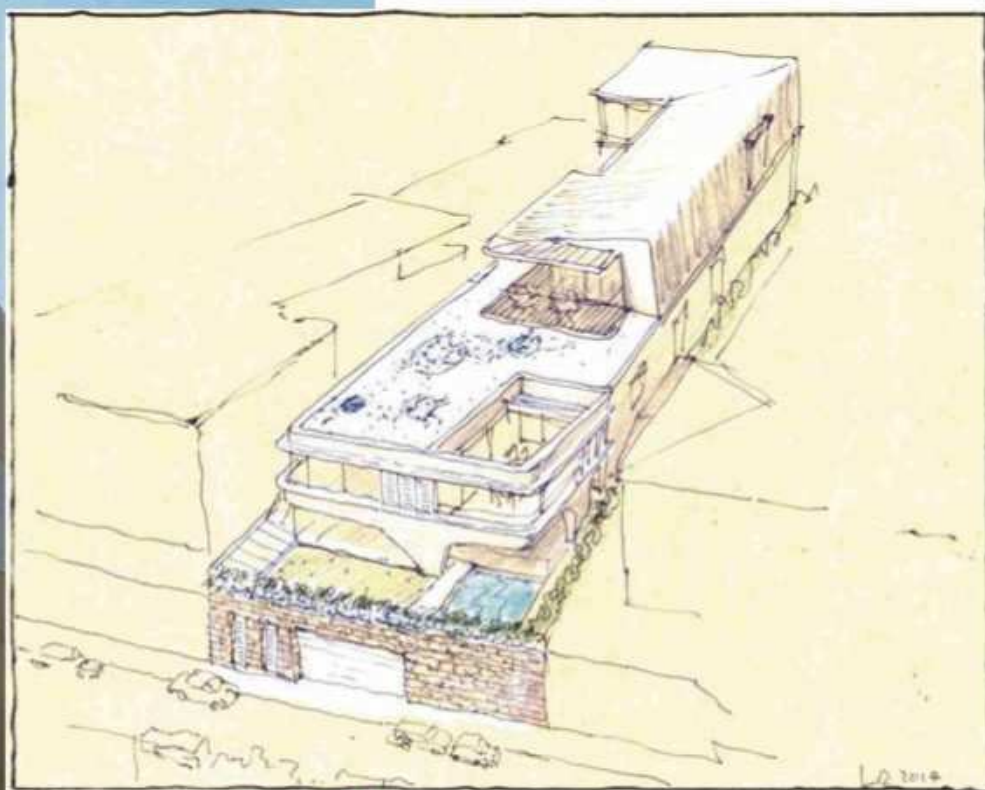
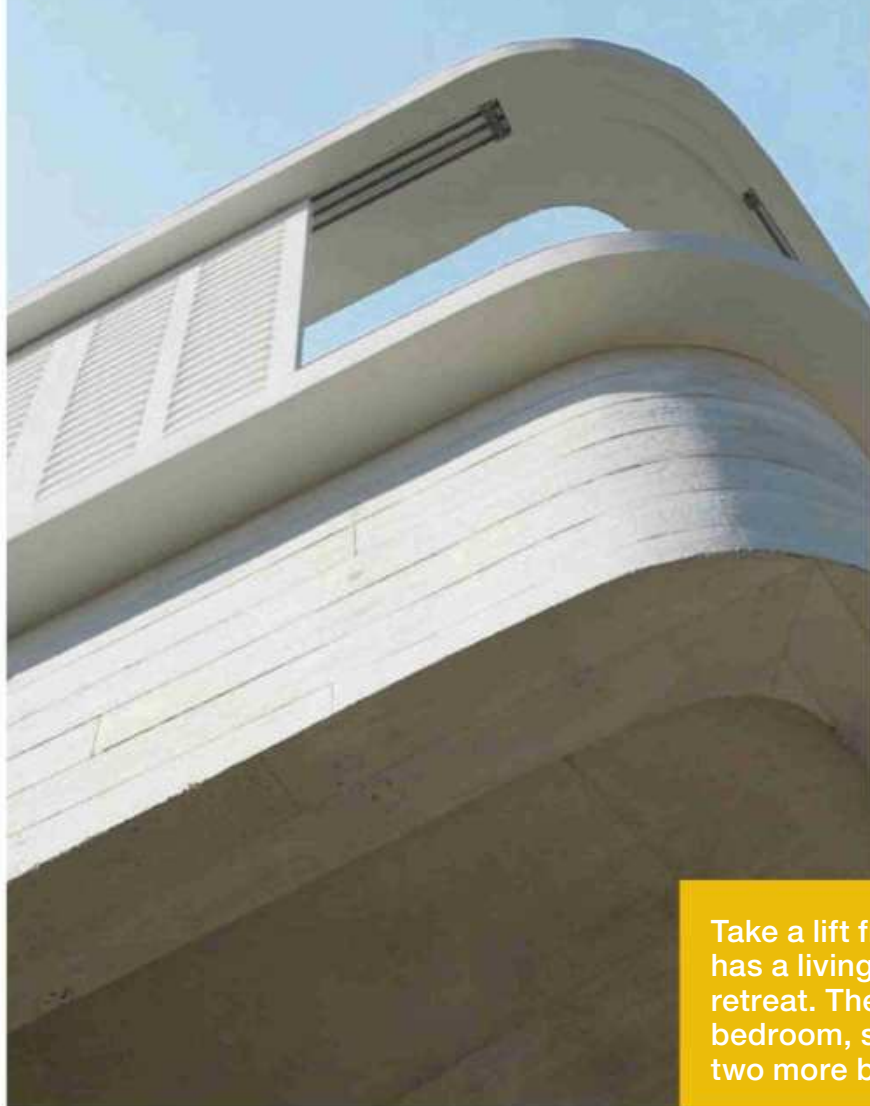
lower-ground floor



ground floor



first floor



Take a lift from the basement car park to the lower-ground floor, which has a living area and terrace flowing onto the lawn, plus teenager's retreat. The ground floor features the kitchen and dining areas, plus bedroom, study alcove and piano room. The first floor accommodates two more bedrooms and a terrace.

Responding to location

Marine-grade roofing materials and stainless steel fixings were necessary in this oceanside location to combat the decaying elements of the salt, humidity and wind. Concrete, when used well, can be quite resistant to the elements and has a raw quality that suits a coastal environment.

In this build, an off-white cement used in the concrete delivers a beachy, luminous glow that will take on the weather over time and blend into the surroundings. The concrete was formed with wood-grained boards that were

skilfully curved at the corners to give its texture and patterning.

To adapt to the hillside, the house was built over four storeys. On the ground floor, the main living area flows onto a terrace on the north side that catches the winter sun and summer sea breezes. Access had been a problem in the existing house, with three flights of steep outdoor steps the only way to reach the living area. The steps remain but are now undercover, and a small internal lift operates from the garage at street level. ♦



Less is more in the home's design. But its 'T' shape is key.

Follow these
guidelines and
make your new
bathroom a
special domain

WORDS REBECCA SENYARD

Brilliant BATHROOMS



Did you know?

The bathroom is the most expensive room in the home per square metre. So plan carefully!

The bathroom has evolved. No longer is it merely a practical room for personal use – it's now seen as a space to escape and unwind.

It's also one of the hardest-working rooms in the home, and one of the most difficult to get right when renovating. Careful planning is required to create a space that is both functional and done in a style that won't date quickly.

These on-trend tips will help you turn your bathroom into a zone that will have you feeling relaxed upon entry and revitalised upon exit.

Style

Before any decisions are made about materials, colours and fixtures, it's important to decide on the style of bathroom you wish to achieve. Is it to feel like a moody grotto, an open resort oasis or luxurious high-end abode? Settling on a style clarifies those other decisions that will have to be made.

These days there is a strong trend towards bathrooms that evoke the impression of a day spa or resort, like the stunning feature bathroom pictured here, designed by Vanessa Cribb from Indigo Jungle in Brisbane.

'The brief was to create a relaxing, resort-style space, including the use of timber and concrete and a feature wall tile,' says Vanessa. 'Another important factor was to bring the garden inside as close as possible, hence using the large-scale windows. The overall effect is one of harmony and relaxation. It's a mini home retreat.' ►

DIY TIP

If renovating from scratch, mark out all the components' shapes in tape on the floor, to visualise how they work in the space.

Layout

The layout of the components can be the undoing of many bathroom designs. Detailed planning needs to be locked down right from the outset.

The placement of fixtures for ease of movement and use within the space itself is paramount for functionality and design.

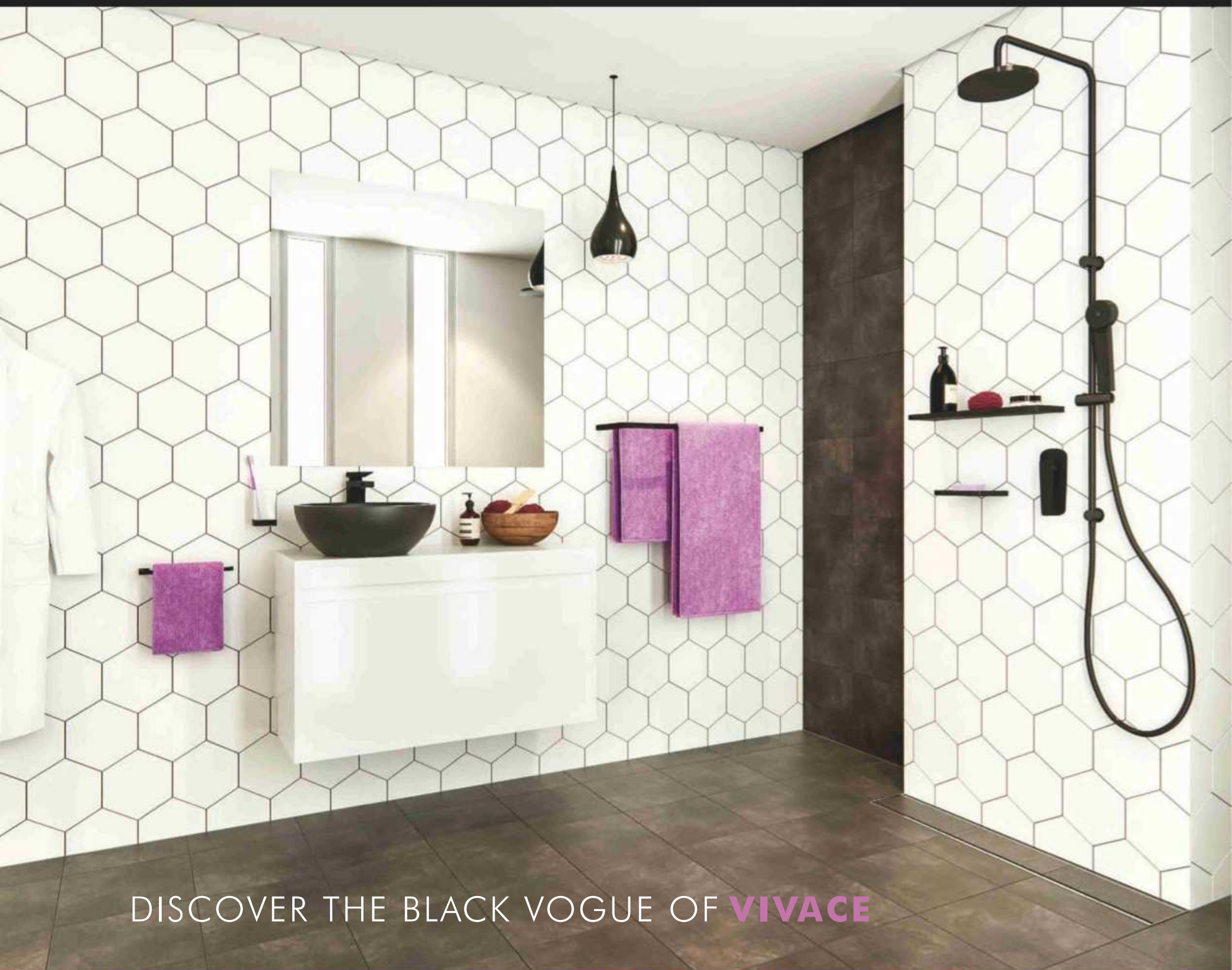
The wet bathroom layout, with its roots in Japan, has become a firm favourite, as it brings together the essential components of the bathroom without the need for glass divisions.

Darryl Van Der Kley, a builder from Smith & Sons in Toowoomba, Queensland, confirms the popularity of this trend.

'Many clients are requesting walk-in showers, and a growing trend is the wet room, with a combined bath and shower area. Most people are choosing this option to avoid bath spillage and to save space,' says Darryl.

This design works particularly well for bathrooms where space is limited. If it's not possible to fit a freestanding bath, consider maximising the space for a double shower or his-and-her vanity, which Darryl says is becoming increasingly popular in ensuites. ►

The sleek lines of the wet bathroom layout are very popular.



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Vanities and basins

The wall-hung or floating vanity is the first choice when it comes to bathrooms. It's visually appealing and best for cleaning, although it does limit the storage options. To compensate, consider creating extra storage behind the mirror or by positioning shelving on adjacent walls.

Stone benchtops are retaining their popularity, as they alleviate potential water damage worries that clients have when using laminate benchtops.

Bench-mounted basins are also still on-trend, as they allow the stone benchtop to become a prominent feature in the bathroom. These types of vessel basins, which are over-mounted on the vanity bench, also allow for more space in the vanity cupboard underneath. Bear in mind, though, that these basins tend to be heavier, so the vanity needs to be a strong construction.

Taps and fixtures

In the right colour, tapware can be a feature in a bathroom. Bold-coloured taps can be the solution for that eye-catching statement, particularly in smaller areas.

Matt black, white and gold taps are the most common contenders against chrome when it comes to trending colours in tapware.

While mixer taps are a popular all-in-one solution, in-wall taps free up vanity bench space.

Colleen Silvester, general manager of Divine Renovations in Queensland, recommends choosing a tap that is boldly coloured, as it is the one feature in the bathroom that can be replaced inexpensively in the future if the tap colour dates or fades.

'Black tapware is on-trend now and harmonises with many design genres,' she says.



DESIGN TIP

Be bold with your choice of tapware. It's one bathroom item that can always be changed without great expense if it dates or fades.



Mount the basin on the floating vanity to increase storage below.



Contemporary palettes are favouring soft shades of pink.

Tiles and grout

Tiles are still the most common choice for wall and floor coverings in bathrooms, and always a great way to introduce colours and patterns.

Hexagonal tiles are back in a big way, but the other trend is for large tiles, as these require less grout and therefore lessens the opportunity for mould to grow. But you may have to opt for smaller tiles in older bathrooms, as larger tiles can be hard to lay on existing floors and walls when uneven levels come into play.

For a budget tile option, Colleen recommends subway tiles.

‘They are one of the cheapest and most flexible tiles to work with in terms of lay patterns,’ she says. ‘Clients are opting for the herringbone lay to add a point of interest without the hefty price tag of a pre-set mosaic. Be aware the herringbone lay does attract an increase in labour costs for the tiler, but it’s worth every penny.’

Dark grout always makes a bold impact. It can make light tiles stand out and is a great choice for areas where a lot of grout will be seen – with penny tiles, for example.

While tiles will remain a popular choice for walls, solid surfaces that require less grout can be just as competitively priced as tiles and are becoming a more sought-after style to minimise the likelihood of mould developing in the bathroom.

Porcelain and laminate slabs are ideal for whole wall coverings. But if tiles are still your preferred wall and floor choice, consider a smaller grout line of 1.5mm.

Colours

Black, white and grey are considered to be safe colour combinations to choose when designing a bathroom, but don’t hesitate to go against the grain and introduce some colour.

Two on-trend colour combinations are in the softer shades of green and pink. Both hues offer the feeling of freshness and vitality, yet reflect peace and tranquility.

Greens and pinks are known to have a calming, restful and renewing effect, which make them perfect for a bathroom interior that is designed to be a relaxing escape. ►





Lighting

Natural light is a winner in any bathroom, making skylights and large windows ideal and much desired. For bathrooms that have little natural light available, LED lighting strategically placed as strips in wall niches, concealed under mirrors or underneath above-counter joinery offers light for functional zones in the bathroom.

A pendant light can also stand out as a feature, offering ambient light to add mood and character.

Strategic lighting helps transform a bathroom from bleak to beautiful.

Fittings and storage

Storage is essential in a main bathroom. But it is often compromised by the selection of slimline or wall-hung vanities, which reduce storage space underneath. Concealed storage behind mirrors and shower niches are good solutions, but they need to be factored in during the design process.

Don't underestimate the usefulness of fittings such as hooks and towel rails that can provide wall-hanging solutions, without the need of concealment. Choose fittings in matt black for a bold and on-trend look.

Fusion-Loc is a range of bathroom accessories (exclusive to Bunnings) that can be installed in the bathroom with no need for drilling into tile walls. ►



A Fusion-Loc bathroom shelf requires no drilling into tiles.

Don't underestimate the usefulness of hooks, rails and shelves



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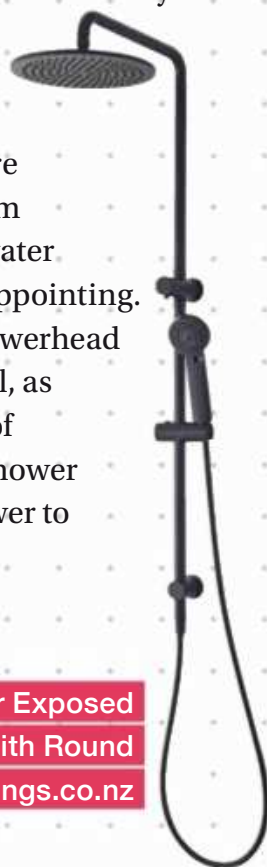
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NEXT LEVEL

These innovative fixtures rewrite the book on design and functionality.

Shower power

Rain showerheads are becoming a bathroom must-have, but the water pressure can be disappointing. A combined rain showerhead with wall arm is ideal, as it gives you the best of both worlds: a rain shower and a handheld shower to give instant pressure when needed.



Mondella Vivace Shower Exposed Rail & Hand Set with Round Head, \$349. bunnings.co.nz

In vanity

The Stein Select Vanity Range covers several size, top, colour and handle options. This 1200mm base unit features large internal storage with four soft-close drawers. It has been carefully constructed from durable materials for bathroom conditions, and is covered by a 5-year warranty. The handles are sold separately.



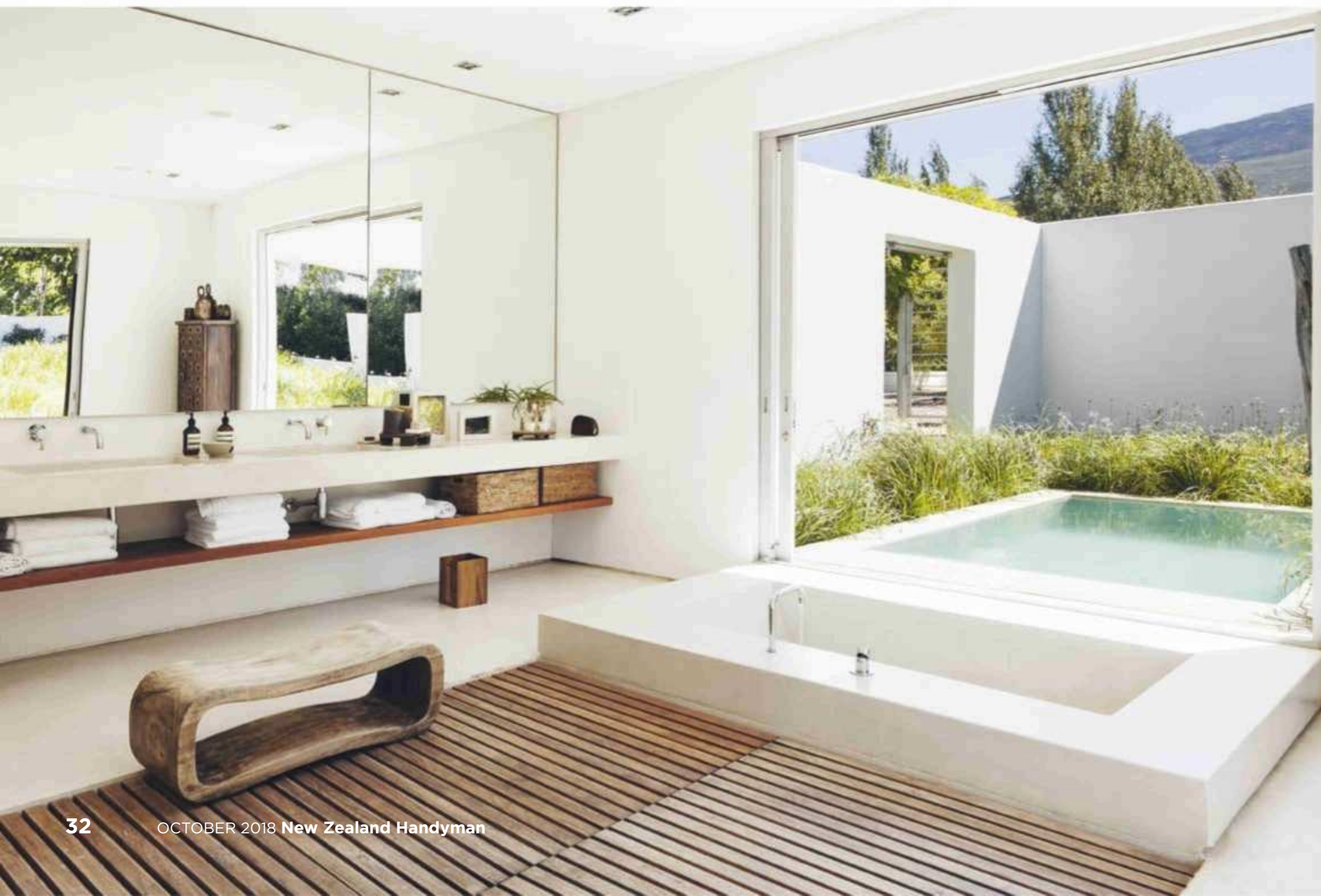
Stein 1200mm Light Select Wall Hung Handle Vanity – cabinet only, \$619. bunnings.co.nz

Access all areas

Whether you're renovating your bathroom or building new, choosing a toilet suite that looks good and is well constructed is a must. This model features a heavy duty soft-close seat and a dual in-wall flush panel. With a WELS 4-star rating, this toilet is great for the environment and reduces your water bill. ♦



Stein WELS 4-star 4.5-3L/min Delta In-Wall Toilet Suite, \$799. bunnings.co.nz



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HOW TO AVOID A... BATHROOM BLUNDER

When creating your dream bathroom, plan before you install

WORDS REBECCA SENYARD

Planning a bathroom renovation is not for the faint-hearted. Whether you're a seasoned renovator or a newbie about to embark on a fixer-upper project, the bathroom is probably the area where most people come unstuck.

While we all get excited about the process of planning the ultimate dream renovation, before you make emotional decisions on what you want in your bathroom, it's important to consider what will *work* in your bathroom. Logistical considerations need to be confronted before heart-over-head decisions are made.

Here, we list the biggest bathroom reno pitfalls that can be avoided with the right preparation and research. ►



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LACK OF PLANNING

The saying goes, 'If you fail to plan, you plan to fail', and nothing could be more accurate when undertaking a bathroom renovation. Some of the questions you need to ask during your planning process are:

- What is the size of your existing bathroom?
- Can you extend walls to make the bathroom bigger?
- How are the existing plumbing and electrical services run in the bathroom?
- Are you able to work with these existing service positions for your chosen fixtures?
- Do you have enough budget to

reconfigure the bathroom if the existing design could be improved?

- Is the toilet in the best position?
- Can a freestanding bath fit?
- Is the floor able to support a freestanding bath?

Your builder will be able to answer these and other questions for you. They will then give you guidance on what you can hope for when planning your bathroom renovation. While they may charge a fee for this, the initial outlay will probably save you dollars and heartache later, as an experienced builder can prevent many of the common bathroom pitfalls and usually suggest improvements to your plans.

Colleen Silvester, general manager of Queensland's Divine Renovations, says choosing the right builder comes down to reading client reviews and asking their clients about the builder's work.

'A realistic timeframe for planning a bathroom renovation is three months, as this allows time for product selections, plans, preparation of contract pricing and tradie scheduling,' she says.

During the initial planning stage, you will need to determine if you can project manage the bathroom renovation yourself or need to employ your builder for the role, in which case they will do this as part of their fee.





Bathroom tiles are a major installation, so plan thoroughly.

OUT ON THE TILES

It is a massive mistake to have your tiler run out of tiles before they've finished the job. It can be stressful and costly to be waiting for them to be restocked or, horror of horrors, be told the tiles you ordered were the last of the lot.

When choosing your tiles, check on the supply. If you do choose to go with a tile that has been discontinued, make sure the leftover stock will cover your bathroom reno.

Make definite decisions on which walls will be tiled and whether they will reach the ceiling or go three-quarters of the way up the wall.

When ordering tiles, consider the width of the grout and the pattern they will be laid in (straight, pin wheel, herringbone or diagonal). It's a rule of thumb to order 15% more than you require to ensure you have tiles for breakages, cuts and waste. The unused tiles can then be stored for future use or sold on TradeMe or similar websites – it might even give you some cash to put towards styling the bathroom.

TILE CALCULATIONS

To work out how many tiles you need to order for your bathroom renovation, follow this four-step process.

- 1** Measure the area to be tiled. You will need to measure the length and width of the floor and then the walls that need to be tiled. Use a measuring tape and write down the distances in metres.
- 2** Multiply the length and width measurements of each surface to calculate how many square metres need to be covered. As an example, a bathroom with a wall that is 4 x 3m will calculate to 12sqm. Do this same calculation for the floor and other walls to be tiled. Then add each measurement together to get an area that is the total, measured in square metres.
- 3** Allow for extra tiles by adding 15% onto the total area. These spare tiles will accommodate breakages, waste and cuts to tiles to fit into the lay of the bathroom.
- 4** Find out how many square metres a box of tiles will cover. Divide this figure into the total area, plus 15%, to calculate how many boxes of tiles to order. If the combined total is 150sqm and the box of tiles covers 10sqm, you will require 15 boxes of tiles. ►



PLUMBING PROBLEMS

If you've decided to project manage the bathroom renovation yourself, be realistic about your timeframe and space constraints. There are some bathroom trends that may not work within your existing space. Here are some of the common design problems, and some practical solutions.

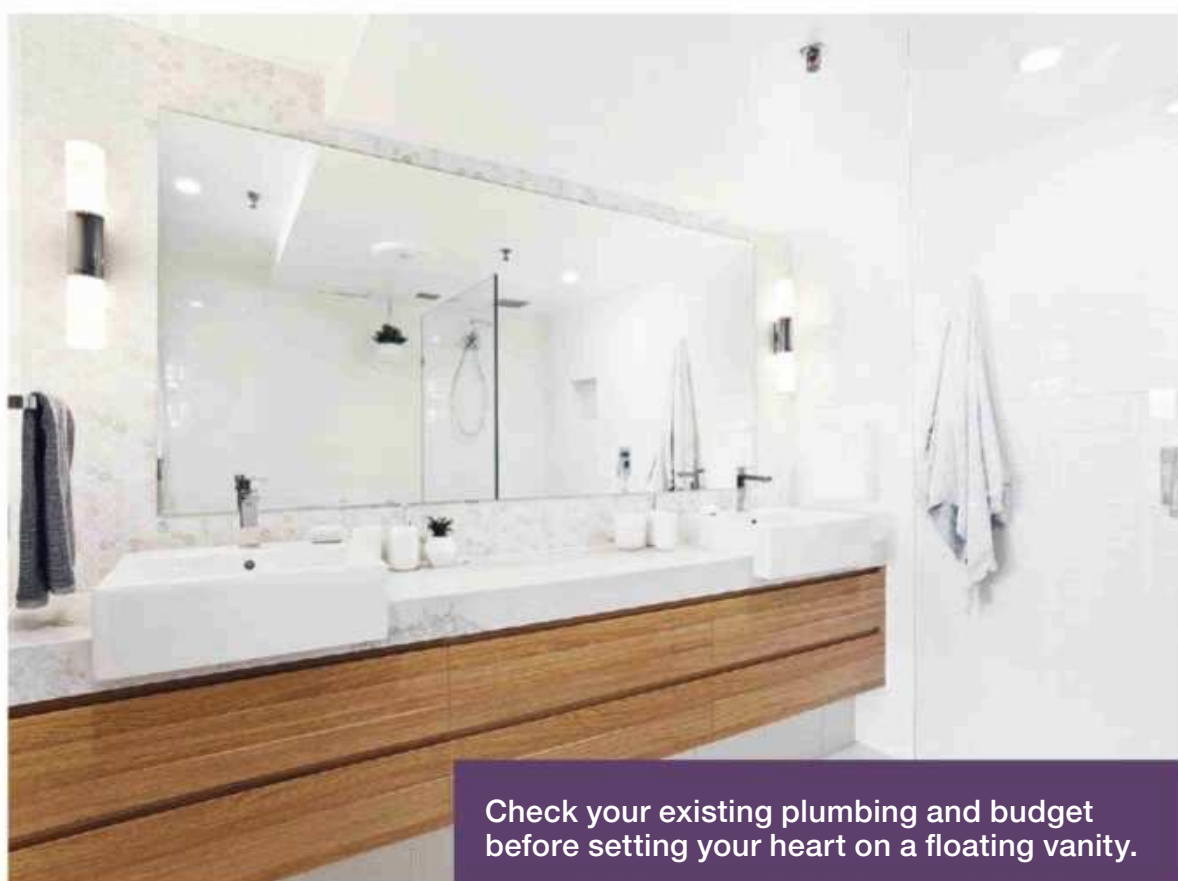
Wall-mounted vanities

The wall-mounted vanity is sleek and minimalistic and looks oh-so-chic floating off the wall. But one pitfall that can make this vanity look like an eyesore is the plumbing configuration.

Typically, the waste and water points need to come through the wall for a wall-mounted vanity. If the existing services penetrate through the floor, your wall-mounted vanity is not going to 'float' with protruding pipes below it. If there is no way to hide the pipes or if the budget is too tight to get them chased under the floor and up through the stud wall, you may need to consider getting them boxed in or painted. If that's not ideal, reconsider your choice of vanity. A floor-standing vanity may be better.

Consider the height of the wall vanity from the floor as well. There should be at least 300mm clearance to allow for easy cleaning. Less than this has the potential to conceal the pipes, but it will accumulate dirt and be frustrating to clean in the future.

Wall-mounted vanities look great and make for easy floor cleaning.



Check your existing plumbing and budget before setting your heart on a floating vanity.

HOW TO UNBLOCK A U-BEND

Slow water drainage in a bathroom sink can be caused by a build-up of grit, hair and soap in the U-bend under the sink. If the pipe isn't totally blocked, try a homemade drain cleaner: ½ cup of bi-carb soda, 1 cup of white vinegar and 4L of boiling water. Pour down the drain and repeat if necessary. This should take care of any greasy build-up, but solid blockages need to be removed using these steps.

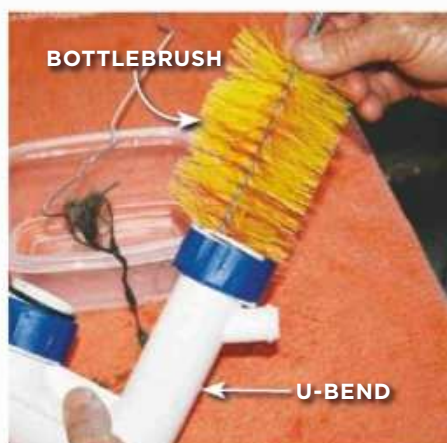
USE a plunger if water is backed up into the basin. Bail out water until there is just enough to cover the plunger cup. Place the plunger cup over the drain and pump vigorously, straight up and down, to remove blockages. Wear gloves to remove the waste.



DISMANTLE the U-bend if the basin remains blocked. Place a container under the U-bend, then wrap masking tape around the nuts on both sides of the U-bend and drain excess water into the container as you unscrew the U-bend.



REMOVE gunk from the U-bend using a coathanger. Clean thoroughly with detergent and a bottlebrush. Smear petroleum jelly around the threads of the screws to make removing them easier next time, before reassembling the U-bend. ►



REPLACE A CRACKED TILE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Grout scraper or oscillating multi-tool
- Grout removal blade
- Drill, ideally with hammer function
- 6mm tile bit
- Cold chisel
- Hammer
- Scraper
- Replacement tile
- Tile adhesive
- Grout

REMOVE the existing grout using a hand scraper or an oscillating multi-tool fitted with a grout removal blade. An angle grinder could be used, but there is a risk of damaging the adjoining tiles. This method is far safer.



DRILL into the tile, perforating it with multiple holes 9-10mm deep and a few centimetres apart. Use a 6mm tile bit for this task – and a hammer drill will speed up the process. The holes will loosen the tile's bond. Wear safety glasses.



CHISEL out the tile pieces using a hammer and a cold chisel. Begin by aiming into the crack to lift a portion. Then angle the chisel at 45° and chisel towards the edges. Scrape out remaining material and install the replacement tile. ►



Taps and basins

Choosing the right tap to suit your basin is crucial to prevent blunders – the positioning of the spout is particularly important. If you've opted for a pop-up plug and waste, for example, you don't want the stream of water to hit the plug when the tap is turned on, or you'll be forever mopping up your benchtop, your floor, and probably your lap.

This may sound like an easy task to get right, but mistakes like this happen too often. Spouts that don't meet the basin can be fixed by choosing a longer spout or taller basin mixer. For bench-mounted vessel basins, opt for a taller basin mixer, as a standard basin mixer won't clear the rim.

If you've opted for wall-mounted mixers with a semi-recessed basin, make sure the spout will reach the bowl and the water flow won't target the pop-up plug. These design flaws can be avoided at planning stage when choosing your taps and basins from your supplier.

Make sure your tap suits your basin, and water flows to the right area.



DIY TIP

It's important to consider an access panel for a concealed cistern so that if any of the parts ever need to be replaced, it will be a seamless job.

Concealed cisterns look clean and tidy but require a wall cavity.



Concealed cistern toilets

Modern bathrooms have been having a love affair with concealed cistern toilets for their cleanliness and minimalistic look. But this type of concealed cistern may not work in your bathroom if there isn't enough space in the wall cavity. Also, some concealed cisterns require an access panel for future maintenance.

An in-wall concealed cistern needs to be mounted inside the wall cavity. If there is no space directly behind the toilet, consider an in-duct concealed cistern in the ceiling or a cabinet.

As Colleen from Divine Renovations advises, 'The in-duct concealed cistern is for rooms where there is limited wall cavity space. This way you have the option to be more creative with mounting behind a wall, in a ceiling or inside vanity cabinets, for example. The flush plate and button can be installed on a nearby countertop and can be remotely flushed. An allowance for access panels has to be planned ahead.'



PICTURES (TOP) SMITH & SONS (BOTTOM) DIVINE RENOVATIONS

REGROUT TILES

GROUT in a shower area is inevitably going to break down. Large cracks and crumbly chunks are alarming, but smaller fractures can be trouble, too. Fractures and stains that won't wash out may indicate spots where water is wicking in and working its way behind the tiles.

The good news is that if you catch it in time, before moisture penetrates and damages the tiles' bond, you can quickly and easily give tiled surfaces a new lease on life – and a fresh look – by applying a new layer of grout. Here's how.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Utility knife, grout saw or multi-tool fitted with carbide grit segment blade
- Stiff brush, vacuum cleaner
- Paint-mixing paddle
- Grout (choose unsanded for joints up to 3mm, or sanded for wider joints)
- Rubber-soled grout float
- Grout sponge
- Silicone
- 2 buckets



1 SLICE along each edge of the silicone/wall joints with a sharp utility knife. Pull out the old silicone, then scratch out or grind away at least 3mm of grout from all the horizontal and vertical lines with a utility knife, grout saw or oscillating multi-function tool that has been fitted with a carbide grit segment blade.



2 CLEAN out all the dust and loose debris from the grout joints using a stiff brush and vacuum. Mix the grout with water in a bucket using a paint-mixing paddle until it becomes a thick paste. Rest for 10 minutes to allow it to absorb moisture, then give one last stir. Work in small batches so you're not racing the clock before the grout dries.



3 SPREAD grout at a 45° angle to the grout lines with a rubber float – the aim is to get as much grout as you can into the joints. Press hard and work the float in several directions. Immediately after filling the joints, rake off the excess grout by tipping the float on its edge and pushing it diagonally across the tile. Work quickly.



4 WIPE away the unwanted grout with gentle, circular strokes as soon as the grout feels firm (5-20 minutes), using a well-wrung sponge. Use a clean edge with each pass. Rinse and wring out your sponge in one bucket of water, then dip it into a second bucket and wring it out over the first to keep your sponge clean.



5 SCRAPE out any grout that has got into the joints where you intend to add silicone. After the grout has dried for an hour or two, buff off any residual haze with a soft towel. Let the grout dry overnight before applying silicone along any joints and corners. Your shower/bath should be ready for use in 24 hours. ►

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Why choose between shower and bath when you can have both?

Freestanding baths

A freestanding bath is a popular feature in many bathroom designs, but what can look like a gorgeous feature in a brochure can turn into a pain in the butt to clean.

Don't squeeze in a freestanding bath without at least 150mm clearance around the bath for easy access. Space may also be needed to allow for a floor-mounted mixer tap. If space is a big limitation in your bathroom, a back-to-wall freestanding bath may be the way to go.

Combined wet space

No-one wants to be forced to choose between a bath and shower when they really want both. So renovators are often combining the shower and bath in the one space.

This can be an ideal solution, but there needs to be consideration about keeping a larger wet area clean, and also if adequate drainage has been allowed to prevent water pooling around the bath. A simple panel of glass can segregate the two areas to keep the wet zones separate.

Jackie Hawke, project consultant for Smith & Sons in Ashgrove, Queensland,

says, 'The shower over a bath is also very popular with clients. Some bath designs combine a good depth for bathing with a flat base that makes it ideal for showering. Couple it with a shower screen that folds back when you are relaxing in the bath and you have a great addition. This is an

ideal way to save space if you don't have the room to separate the shower and the bath.'

As with most problems, a compromise is often the best way to find a resolution. And sometimes the compromise works more in your favour when designing your dream bathroom.

A simple panel of glass can segregate wet zones.



PICTURES (TOP) GETTY IMAGES (BOTTOM) SMITH & SONS

APPLY SILICONE

Gaps and cracks in silicone can make a bathroom space look a little worse for wear. While it can indicate a moisture issue in the bathroom, silicone will peel and crack over time due to age, movement and sometimes the incorrect product being used when it was first applied. The only way to fix a gap in the silicone join is to remove the existing strip of silicone and apply it again with the right product.

When choosing your silicone, make sure you choose a suitable product for the job. There are silicones for roofs and gutters and silicones for use in kitchens and bathrooms. In the bathroom, an anti-mould or sanitary grade silicone is the best choice. There is also a variety of colours to choose from.

WHAT YOU NEED

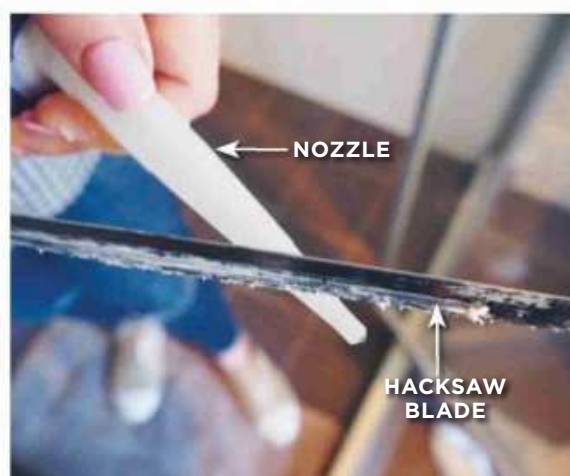
- Painter's tape
- Hacksaw
- Silicone for kitchens and bathrooms
- Old rag or lint-free cloth
- Paddle-pop sticks
- Caps for silicone (to cap silicone after use)
- Utility knife and spare blades
- Caulking gun
- Water spray bottle
- Mineral turpentine



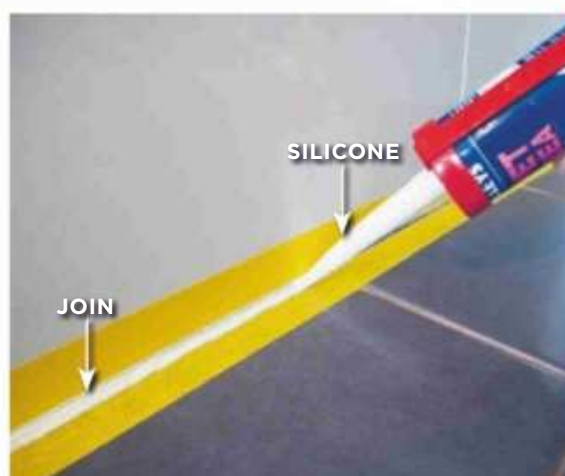
1 REMOVE the old silicone using a utility knife or blade and run it along the edges of the join so that the silicone peels away. A blade can be used from the knife to scrape away any excess silicone attached to the tiles. Dust away all silicone residue.



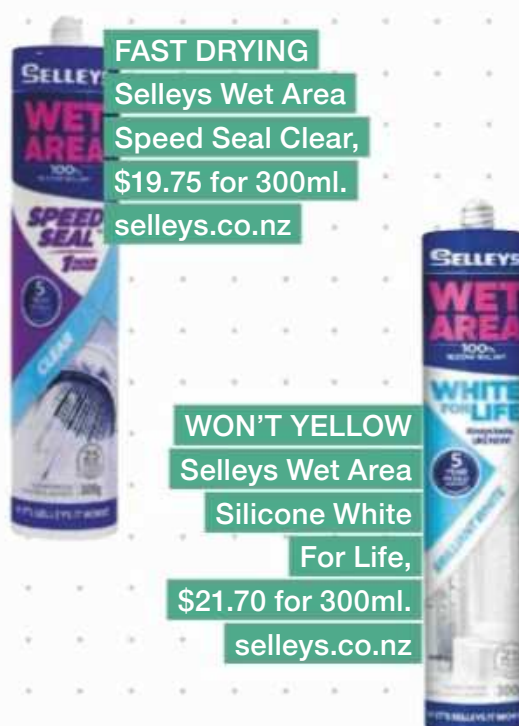
2 CLEAN the open join using a rag and mineral turpentine. To get an even edge and to prevent silicone being smeared on all the tiled surfaces, use painter's tape to mask the join, running it along the top and bottom edges of your join.



3 USE the utility knife or a hacksaw blade to cut the silicone bottle. Be sure to only cut the top nib, as you need to screw the nozzle onto the bottle. Use a hacksaw to cut the end of the nozzle on a 5° angle. This will help you when you apply the silicone to the join. Insert the bottle into your caulking gun.



4 CAULK the join by running the tip of the nozzle from one corner until you reach the end of the join. Apply in an even flow. Use a paddle-pop stick to run along the silicone to create a neat finish, then remove any excess. You can also spray water onto your finger and run the tip of your finger along the join.



5 REMOVE the tape and let the job dry once you're happy with the finish. Depending on how well you have masked the job, you may need to wipe away some excess silicone using mineral turpentine and a rag. Allow the silicone to cure for at least 24 hours before using the shower. ♦

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BATHROOM BEAUTY

Transform your bathroom with these stylish fittings featuring bold black

- 1 Mondella Matte Black Vivace Vitreous China Basin, \$169.
- 2 Mondella Black Vivace Tall Basin Mixer, \$147.
- 3 Mondella Matte Black Vivace Towel Holder, \$49.
- 4 Mondella Matte Black Vivace Shower Shelf, \$85.
- 5 Mondella Vivace Shower Exposed Rail & Hand Set with Round Head, \$349.

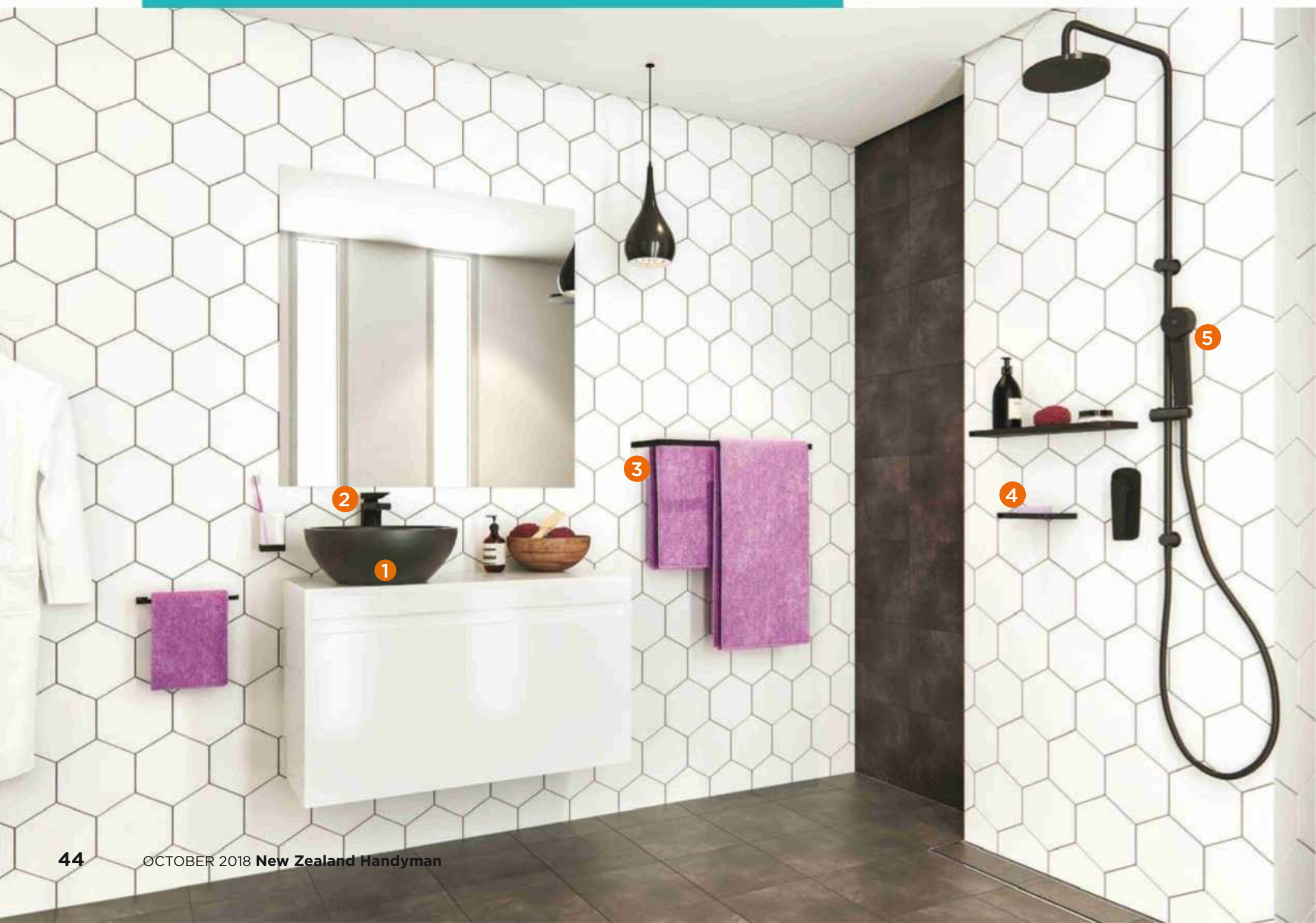
Giving your bathroom a makeover will add value and appeal to your home.

The bathroom is one of the busiest rooms used by the whole family, so it's wise to give it special attention when updating.

And it needn't be hugely expensive. Simple additions can transform this room. The trick is to select elegant fittings that complement the sort of style you want to create.

Here we display a range of products that can be used in a makeover even if space is tight.

The largest additions include baths, shower units and vanities, but you'll create an impact even with small changes such as a tap or a mirror, that are functional as well as beautiful.



ELEGANT SIMPLICITY

A rule of thumb for modern bathroom design is to keep things simple. The less clutter, the better. By minimising what's on display with clever storage such as vanities and shaving cabinets, your attention will be drawn to the beautiful fixtures and fittings.

For a quick and easy on-trend facelift to your bathroom, change taps or mixers to brass or matt black. These tones add a classic element to a modern design and will complement the cool grey and white colour palettes that have become popular recently.



- 1 Mondella Vivace Wall Mounted Bath Spout in Matte Black, \$69.
- 2 Mondella Matte Black Vivace Mixer, \$139.
- 3 Mondella Concerto Vitreous China Square Basin, \$129.
- 4 Mondella Vivace Extended Basin Mixer, \$147.
- 5 Caroma Noir Freestanding Bath 1700mm Black and White, \$1975.

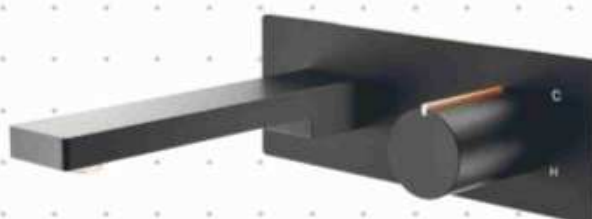
- 1 Mondella Matte Black Vivace Bathroom Towel Holder, \$49.
- 2 Dorf Black and Copper Ren Tower Basin Mixer, \$299.
- 3 Mondella Matte Black Vivace Vitreous China Basin, \$169. ♦



Mondella Signature Black with Rose Gold Shower Mixer, \$99.



Mondella Signature WELS 4-star 7.5L/min Basin Mixer, \$129.



Mondella WELS 4-star 7.5L/min Matte Black and Rose Gold Signature Wall Basin Mixer, \$189.



Mondella Black Vivace Tall Basin Mixer, \$147.



BATHROOM REVAMPS *for any budget*

Renovation expert Cherie Barber demonstrates how easily pattern and texture can transform the everyday into the wow

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERIE BARBER

Even for the most budget of bathroom renovations, the plain, all-white look is giving way to more trend-driven styles and colours. Pattern is making a comeback!

Decorative floor tiles can really transform a room and there are designs to appeal to every audience. Bathroom fittings in matt black, nickel and rose gold provide a stylish departure from safe chrome. Textural surfaces, such as timber veneers, add warmth and make interesting features.

However, the key to a successful bathroom makeover is restraint. Keeping the backdrop neutral is essential. As one of the most expensive rooms in the house to renovate, you certainly don't want your new bathroom to be out of date even before the paint has dried. Taps and other fittings are not difficult to change down the track if you choose to. And, of course, paint colours can be changed in a day.

Here are three bathrooms that show what you can do on a modest budget. ►



Cherie Barber is the reno expert on *The Living Room* and owner of Renovating For Profit (renovatingforprofit.com.au).



MORE THAN CONCRETE

TILING PRODUCTS

1 PREPARATION



TILE BOND LATEX

Formulated ready to use as a primer to enhance bond between substrates and to increase the flexural & compressive strengths when used as an additive.

1L 4L 20L



FLOOR REPAIRER

Floor Repairer is a one component, polymer modified, cementitious high strength mortar specifically designed for the patching & repair of cracks and imperfections in floors before applying floor coverings such as carpet & tiles.

5Kg 10Kg



RUBBERGUARD

Rubberguard is an elastomeric one component waterproofing membrane that has been designed for a range of under-tile waterproofing applications.

4L 15L



2 ADHESIVE



PRE-MIXED PASTE ADHESIVE - TILES

DIY friendly pre-mixed, white, flexible, anti-slump ceramic tile adhesive recommended for most internal thin bed wall & floor applications over concrete.

500 ML 1L 4L 10L



WALL & FLOOR TILE ADHESIVE

A highly flexible, polymer modified, white cement based adhesive used for most internal external wall and floor tiling applications including bathrooms, toilets, etc.

5Kg 10Kg



SUPER RIGID SET

A cement based economical adhesive for interior or exterior fixing of tiles on rigid concrete surfaces by professionals.

BEST VALUE

3 FINISHING

COLOURED TILE GROUT



Flexible smooth finish cementitious grout designed for use with most types of mosaic, ceramic tiles and natural stone applications in internal or external wall and floor grouting applications for joints between 1mm - 8mm.

Available in 7 colours

White | Light Grey | Dark Grey | Black | Beige | Vanilla | Ivory

2Kg 5Kg

TILING SEALANT



COLOURED SILICONE.

A flexible sealant for use in joints such as wall and floor tile joints, bath edges, etc. It has great adhesion for ceramic tiles, glass and also can be used in a shower recess.

Available in 8 colours
White | Light Grey | Dark Grey | Mid Grey | Black | Beige | Vanilla Ivory

310ml

GROUT SEALER



Stain resistant water based penetrating clear waterproofing sealer that can be used for impregnating and sealing of the grout that resists water, oil and acid based contaminants.

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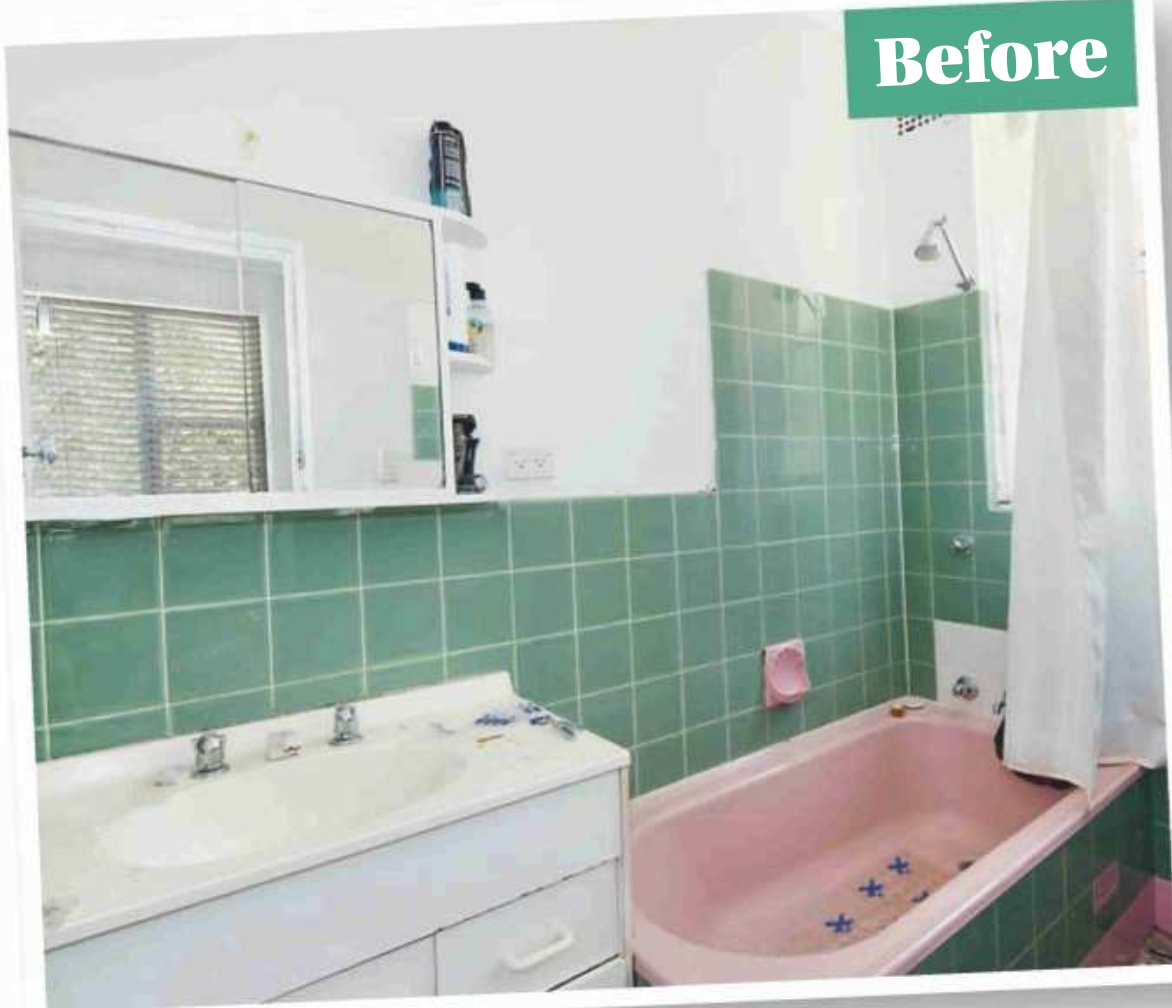
After

Old features are blended with new to brighten this bathroom.



\$1700 spruce-up

Before



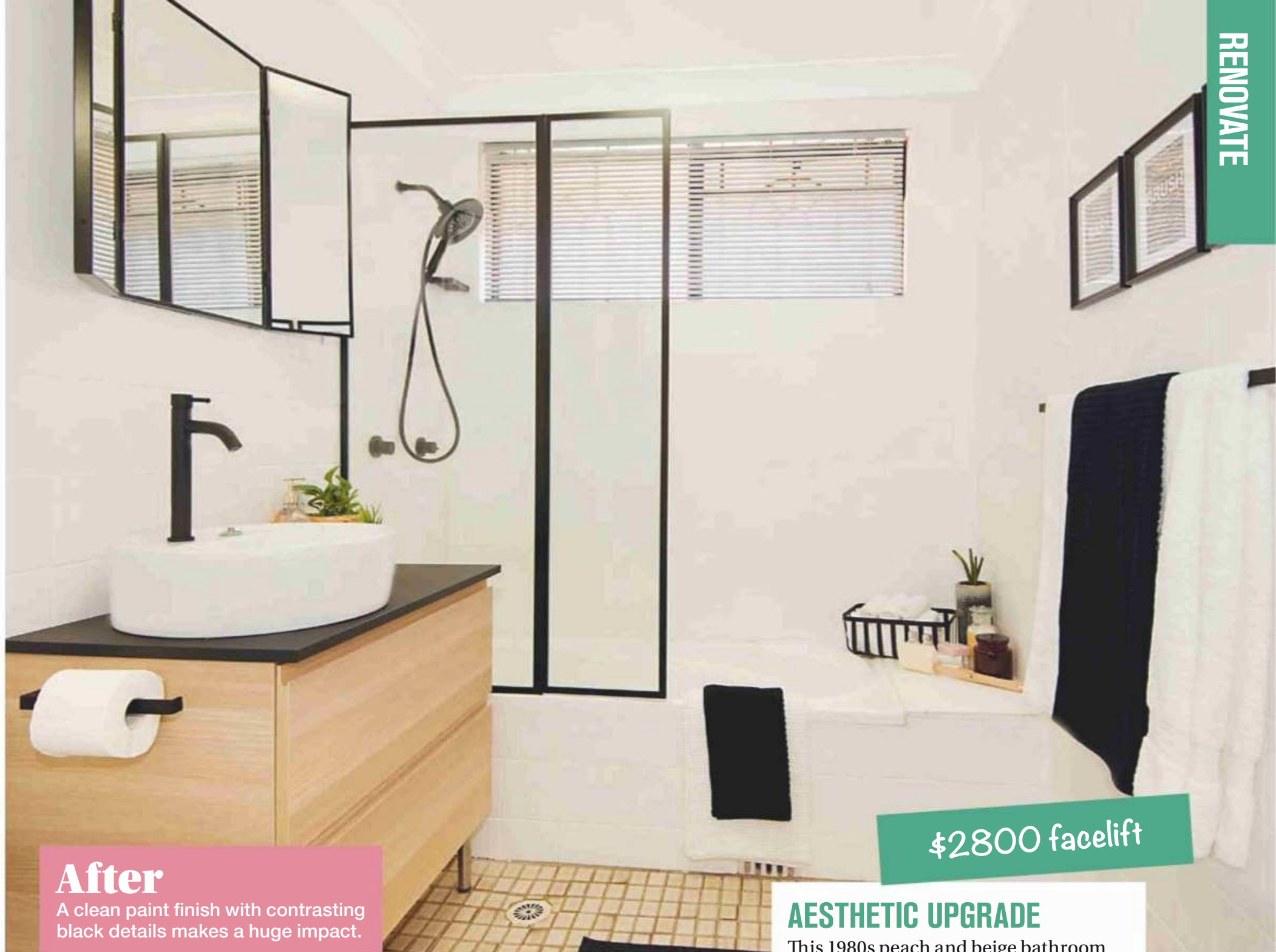
RETRO REFRESH

Sometimes it's actually much more interesting to work with an old-style vintage element than to ditch it. And you also save money!

Here, I decided to embrace the retro pink bath and make it a feature, and choose complementary fixtures and fittings to round out the chic look.

The bathroom walls were painted to match in pale pink and I lashed out almost \$650 on matt black tapware from Bunnings for contrast. The old eyesore of a vanity was replaced with an inexpensive new one, and the new round basin was chosen to echo the glam look of the circular mirrored cabinet above.

The new colour scheme actually now works really well with the existing mosaic floor tiles, and helps to make the final look a happy marriage of retro and contemporary.



\$2800 facelift

After

A clean paint finish with contrasting black details makes a huge impact.

AESTHETIC UPGRADE

This 1980s peach and beige bathroom was crying out for a modern palette. Discoloured grout, cracked sealant and mould-ridden creases didn't help the overall appearance.

But on a tiny budget that didn't allow for new tiles or waterproofing, it became a matter of targeting cosmetic changes that would pack the biggest punch.

First up was White Knight tile primer and paint which dramatically smartened up the dated wall tiles.

A new flatpack vanity and budget basin were \$600, and I organised to have supplied and installed the black-framed, pivoting glass screen for \$600. That had a huge impact and helped to open up the space, as the old sliding screen closed in the bathroom.

I was able to paint the existing wall cabinet beside the door to match the new colour palette, which trimmed the budget, leaving room for some modern matt black bathroom hardware from Bunnings to finish the look. ►



Before

\$13,500 overhaul

RECONFIGURED FOOTPRINT

This was a complete gut and refit of a bathroom in one of my investment properties. There wasn't much to recommend in this old bathroom, so it was out with the old and in with the new. I took the opportunity to move a wall out 400mm to widen the space. This meant I could fit the bath, toilet and vanity in one line for a cleaner look.

One of my favourite features of this bathroom is the floor – these Majorca petal glazed porcelain tiles add a heap of character and make the room really stand out. The black Dorf tapware, with its hint of the rich tones of copper, works beautifully with these patterned tiles. The plain bevelled-edge subway tiles for the walls, with light-grey grout, provide that essential subtle backdrop to top off the effect.

Another creative detail is the liberal use of timber – for the shelves and for trim around the mirrored cabinet and vanity. Using natural timber features is a classic way to modernise a room while creating a warmer, organic feel, and customises these plain-white, off-the-shelf items from Bunnings for a completely contemporary luxe look. ♦



Before

After

A bold floor pattern complemented the striking notes of sleek black fixtures.





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Curated display items personalise a space. Drawers secrete items.

Love STORAGE

Take control of your surroundings
with these nifty design ideas

WORDS JACKIE BRYGEL

A place for everything and everything in its place – so the saying goes. These words resonate in our homes of today, with clean, sparse design themes considered the ideal.

But for some of us, it sounds like wishful thinking.

It needn't be. Keeping clutter at bay through effective storage can not only create a visual sense of order and neatness, but also reduce stress levels. Finding what you need exactly when you need it can be a revelation.

Returning each day to a harmonious home free of mess is calming to the soul.

As stylist and decorator Michelle Hart of Melbourne-based Bask Interiors says, 'When your house is full of clutter and disorganised, your mind can reflect this. Everyone tends to function better when a house is clutter free.'

Take control of your home by making every inch of storage space count. While you're at it, incorporate solutions that are stylish as well as functional. Use storage as an opportunity to inject individuality into your house.



Concealed storage solutions reduce clutter and lower stress levels.

PICTURES JASMINE MCCLELLAND DESIGN/JONATHAN TABENSKY



Concealed or open storage?

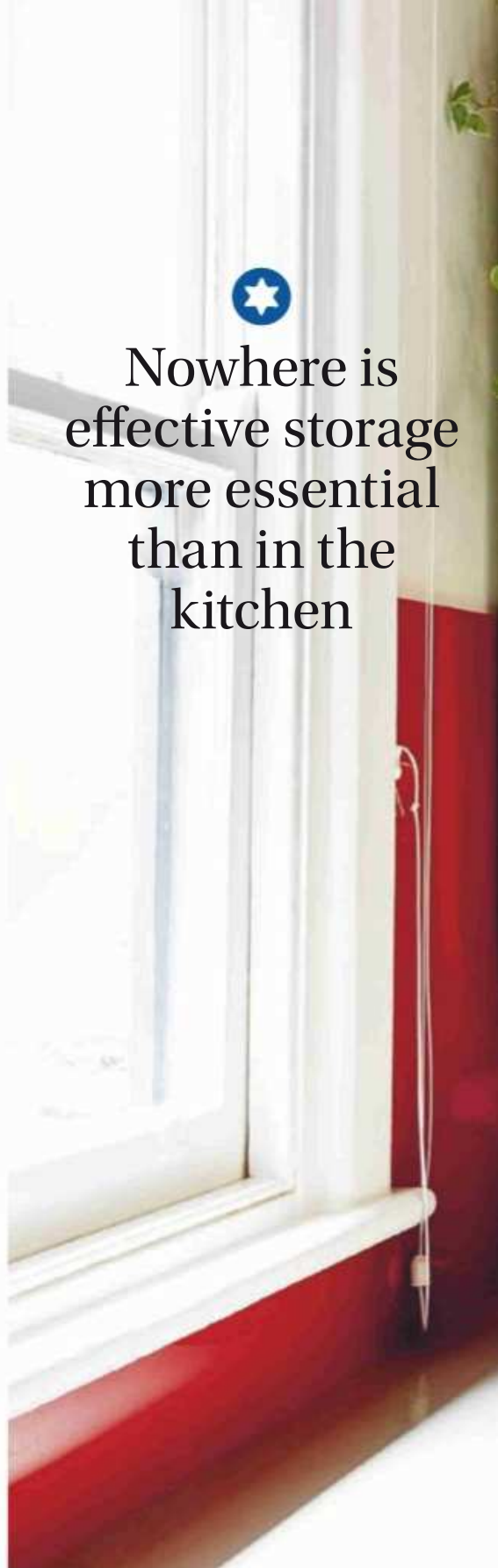
Is your vision of a dream home on the sleek and minimalist side? If so, storage behind closed doors will suit you to a neat and tidy tee. Whether you prefer it integrated into a space or via standalone furniture, concealed storage can hide a plethora of household items, from clothing and appliances to bathroom necessities, in well-assigned and easy-to-locate places.

Conversely, open storage, such as floating shelves or a unit featuring open-fronted boxes, can showcase books and collectables in pleasing displays. This provides a means of expressing yourself in the home, while still keeping everyday pieces within easy reach. ►





The pantry needs adequate shelving so items can be seen.



Nowhere is
effective storage
more essential
than in the
kitchen

Curate your shelves, grouping objects by colour or style for a sense of unity. Just leave some empty space between items.

Lauren Li, creative director of Sisalla Interior Design in Melbourne, believes a home that is well organised and presented will feature a combination of both storage styles.

‘Too much concealed storage can feel closed in, while balancing the area with some open storage allows for breathing space,’ she says. ‘On the other hand, we want to use clever storage to conceal shoes at the front door, and things like sports equipment.’

Even storage units themselves can inject style and interest.

‘We’re seeing some clever storage ideas for the home in gorgeous colours,’ says Lauren.

Roomy solutions

Room by room, drawer by drawer, take time to identify the particular storage needs of each zone in the house.

Pay extra attention to the kitchen: nowhere is effective storage more essential than in the heart of the home.

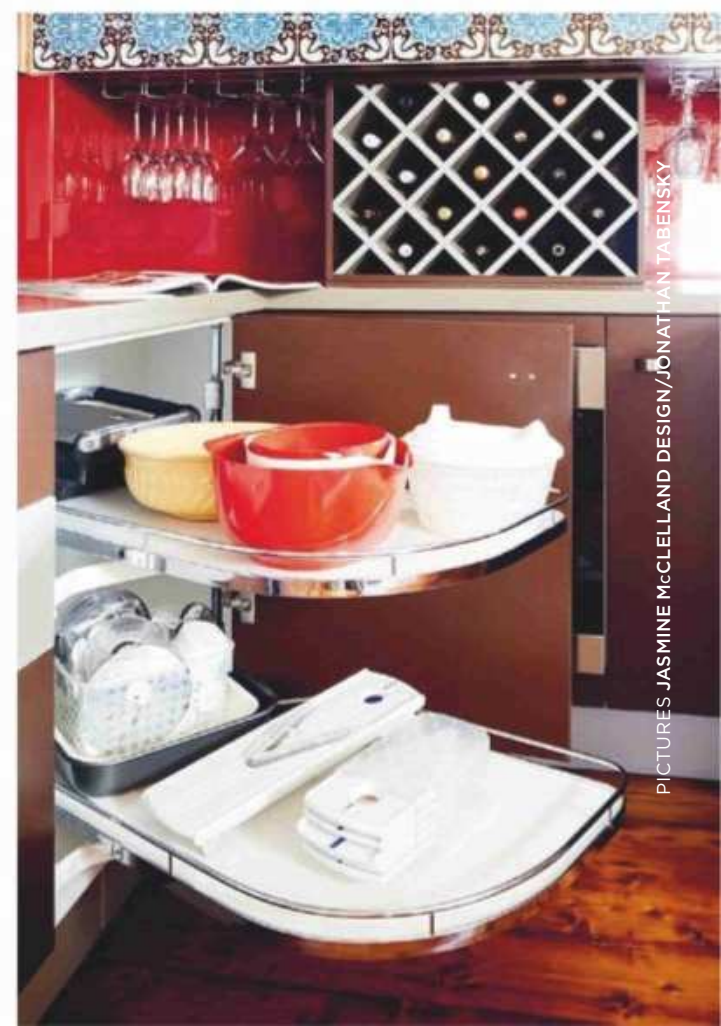
‘The kitchen really needs to be logical

and orderly,’ says stylist Michelle. ‘The pantry needs adequate shelving so you can see everything. Small appliances should be out of sight, if possible in an appliance cupboard or butler’s pantry.’

Wide and deep drawers can provide considerably more storage space and are easier to access than cupboards. Always store heavy items low down and infrequently used items up high.

‘Large drawers for pots can be fitted with dividers for the lids, so everything has its place,’ says Lauren. ‘Consider designing a tall drawer for oil next to the cooktop for convenience when cooking.’

Storage is also key in the bedroom, helping to infuse the sleep zone with





Combinations of concealed and open storage personalise and organise.

a sense of order and tranquility.

'Floor-to-ceiling built-in wardrobes with adjustable shelving make the best use of vertical space,' says Michelle.

Storage under the bed may be an option. Use double-duty furniture, such as a bedside table with drawers, to optimise functionality.

In bathrooms and laundries, vanity units or cupboards can provide effective holding space for supplies. Colourful or natural woven baskets can be used to make a feature out of storing necessities such as towels or separated washing loads. Consider installing a mini clothesline above the laundry trough for a space-savvy drying solution.

To prevent a play area or family room becoming overrun with toys, invest in child-friendly shelving units.

'Make it as easy as possible for children to neatly pack away their own stuff,' says Lauren.

'Big tall baskets with fitted lids are also great for soft toys or random pieces,' adds Michelle.

The power of decluttering

Regardless of storage options, a house filled to the brim with possessions is unlikely to provide a sense of sanctuary from a busy world. If you feel as though you're drowning in 'stuff' – whether it be excess clothing, crockery or paperwork – it's time to declutter.

Try making a list of the areas in your home that need the most attention, and then a list of the items in those areas that you do and don't need. Find permanent storage for any unhomed items, rather than leaving them on tables, benchtops or simply on the floor.

Lauren advises that you tackle one bite-size area at a time.

'Just think about one drawer or one bench,' she says. 'Try to be systematic, and grab a garbage bag and a plastic tub. Fill the bag with rubbish and the plastic tub with the things you want to keep. Then go through the items in the tub and put them away one by one.'

A place for everything? It can be done. And you *can* do it. ♦



Wide and deep drawers provide easier access than cupboards.



PRO

A floating staircase needs a professional's expertise.

GO PRO?

Call in a tradie or complete the project yourself? Make the right call and save time and trouble

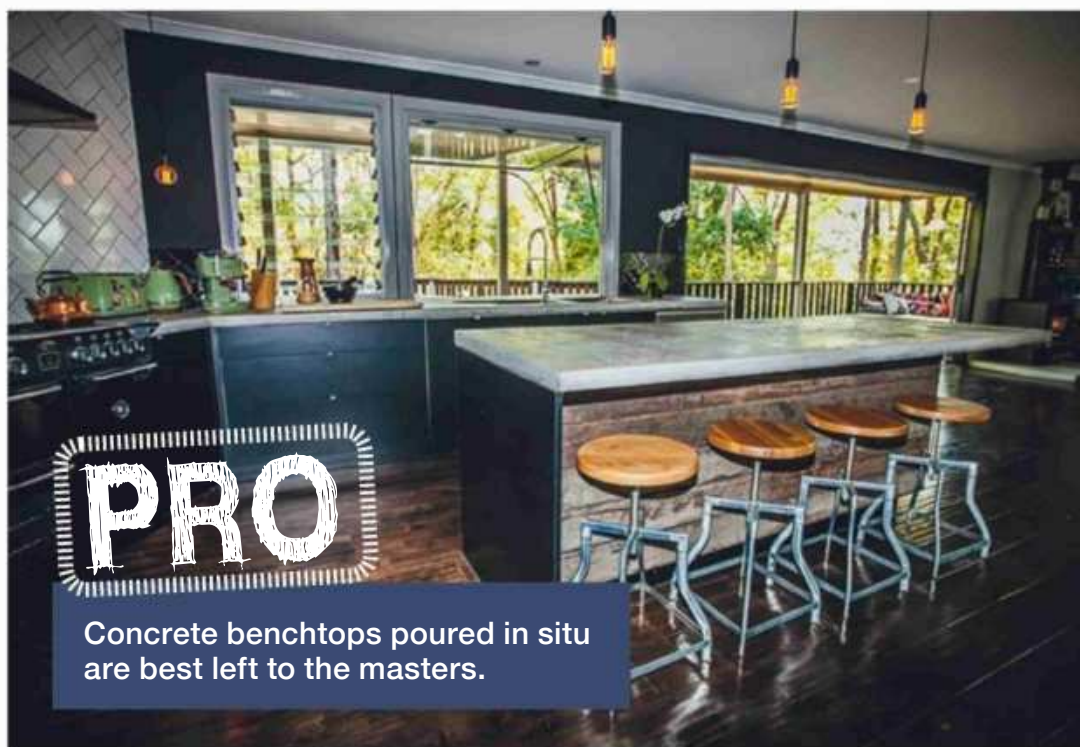
WORDS JOHANNA LEGGATT

We are a nation of can-doers, fixers and DIY warriors. If there is a letterbox to knock up, a shelf to erect or a back deck to stain, Kiwis are renowned for mucking in and getting the job done.

There is enormous satisfaction in rolling up the sleeves and wading into a project. But let's be realistic: we all have our limits. And some projects need to meet building or council regulations – and that means enlisting a professional with recognised qualifications to complete the task.

Some jobs require specialist tools of the trade that are too expensive or impractical to get hold of. Others are perhaps once-in-a-lifetime challenges where there's simply no value in mastering the job when a tradie's expertise can save you hours, if not days, of struggle.

So how can you tell what's safe to do on your own and what needs a call for back-up? It's a fine line for a dedicated DIYer to know when to fold and call in a pro. Here are a few guidelines.



PRO

Concrete benchtops poured in situ are best left to the masters.

DIY

Updating kitchen handles is a simple DIY job that can transform a room.



KITCHEN CAN-DO

Let's start with kitchen renovations, by way of example.

Seasoned Australian property flippers Jo Yates and her partner, Ben Adams, believe there are plenty of jobs that people think are beyond their reach, but are perfectly doable. One such job they recommend DIYers take on is kitchen tiling.

'Tiling a kitchen wall is often straightforward and you can do it in half a day,' says Jo. 'But go for larger tiles, as subway tiles can be a nightmare to lay out.'

Queenslander Adrian Ramsay from Adrian Ramsay Design House agrees kitchen tiling is relatively straightforward, as long as novices stick with large tiles.

'Try to avoid small glass mosaic splashbacks for your first job,' he says. 'Check out YouTube tiling videos if you're not sure.'

One of the easiest kitchen jobs is changing the cabinet handles and repainting the cabinetry – something you won't need the pros for.

'Just make sure that you measure the new cabinetry handles so they will fit the existing holes,' says Adrian.

'Like everything in DIY, it's all about research and preparation. The process should be two-thirds research and one-third work but, unfortunately, too often it's the other way around.' ►

Before



DIY

After

Refreshing surfaces, including wall and floor tiles, was an easy DIY job.





KEEP IT SIMPLE

The key to DIY success is to focus on projects that are simple and easy to pick up as you go.

Changing kitchen fixtures and fittings, for example, is great for beginners. But when it comes time to upgrade the benchtop, it's best to outsource to those in the know.

'If you're going for a nice marble benchtop, then you don't want to be cutting your own stone,' says Jo.

Adrian agrees, especially if the benchtop happens to be concrete.

'Never pour the concrete in situ for your benchtop yourself,' says Adrian.

'It's a really difficult job to get right, yet people still attempt it. I've managed to do it myself and I was very nervous – and I'm handy.'

Installing floating floorboards can also be straightforward if you take your time and conduct a lot of online research beforehand, says Jo.

Painting, both inside and outside, is another obvious DIY cost-saver.

'I certainly can't do a better job than a professional, but it's not something that anyone else would notice,' says Jo.

'I also use a spray gun, which is much faster than a brush.'

NO-GO ZONES

In order to keep costs down, Jo and Ben take on a lot of the work themselves, but there are three areas they won't touch: electrical, plumbing and knocking down walls, which may be load-bearing.

'Those jobs are best left to the professionals, for safety as much as anything,' says Jo.

She also doesn't attempt to waterproof bathrooms or tile bathroom floors or walls.

'You need to get a good angle on the bathroom floors so that the water doesn't pool but is directed to run down the drain,' says Jo.



A dab hand can make light work of painted feature walls.

'And waterproofing in bathrooms is best left to the professionals, too, especially if you're in a unit,' she adds. 'You don't want any leakage into downstairs residences.'

Adrian is a big fan of giving DIY a go – aside from electrical and plumbing work. But he advises people to tread really carefully with large jobs.

'I wouldn't recommend laying your own broadloom carpet,' says Adrian.

'If you cut the carpet incorrectly or you don't lay a patterned carpet down straight, it can look terrible.'

And while painting the exterior of a house is doable with the right preparation and equipment, don't attempt your own exterior cladding.

'That is a very difficult job,' says Adrian, 'but people still try it.'

TIME FACTOR

Then there are the DIY jobs that are simple and easy to do, but which still make more sense to hire a tradie. Jo and Ben, for example, have installed a number of flatpack kitchens, but on their most recent renovation they hired a professional to do it.

'It would normally take us about a week, but the professional did it for

us in two days and it cost something like \$1200,' says Jo.

'I work as a freelancer, so sometimes it's more practical for me to go to work and earn money to pay for someone else to do a job like that.

'These are the things you have to weigh up. If you're taking unpaid leave to renovate, then sometimes it's better if you pay to get things done faster.'

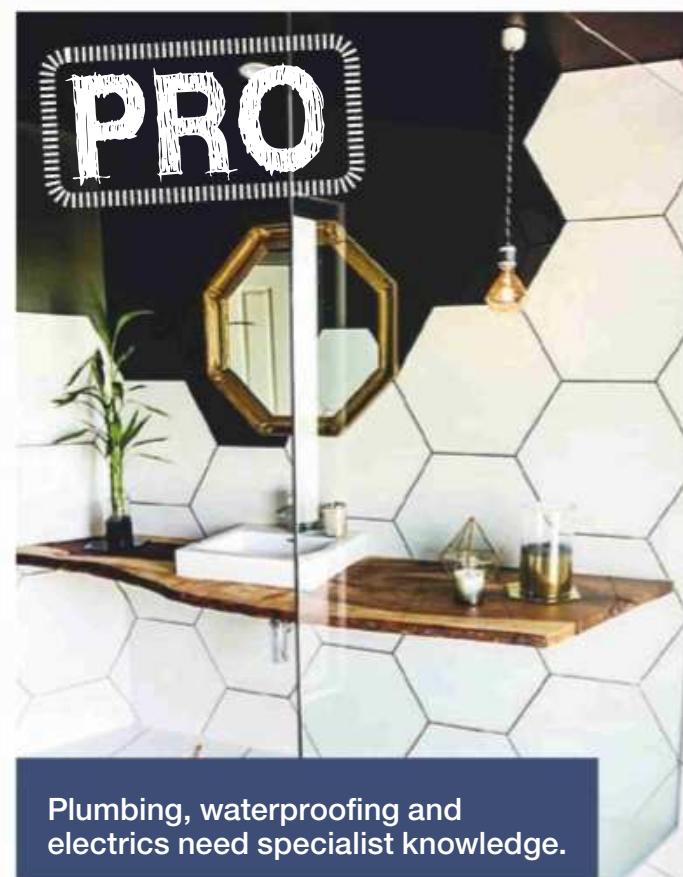


You can do lots of jobs DIY but leave anything difficult to the professionals

Painting, too, can be a painstaking task, and occasionally it's more sensible to hire a professional even if it costs more, or if there are awkward and dangerous areas to get to.

'You could do the big sections yourself and hire a professional to do the trims and under the eaves,' says Jo.

'It's a lot safer that way.'



Plumbing, waterproofing and electrics need specialist knowledge.

QUALITY CONTROL

Finally, there is the issue of the end result. You need to be honest about whether you can pull off a professional look or whether your DIY ambitions are a mere pipedream.

If you've worked in a trade or you're handy or have had previous experience, then you'll find it easier than others, but be honest about your strengths.

If you do want to learn, ask the tradie that you hire if you can watch what they're doing. Or take a training course and practise first.

Adrian sums up the philosophy.

'You need to pick your battles,' he says. 'Do the basic things DIY, but for anything difficult or hard to fix if it goes wrong, get in a tradie.' ♦

FAST FLOORING *fixes*

Lay floating floorboards DIY, or follow these simple floor repair strategies

DIY TIP

Floating floors expand and contract after installation, so leave a 12-15mm gap around the perimeter and use toe beading to cover the gap for a neat finish.

PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

Installing or repairing flooring can seem like an expensive and arduous task, but with a few tricks of the tradies it is actually easy and affordable.

Floating floorboards come in a range of colours and materials, such as natural timber glued to plywood and laminated

melamine. Pre-finished, the boards simply click together and provide good insulation when used with an underlay.

Before laying the floor, check the clearance under the doors. Mark at least an 8mm clearance, then remove and trim the door.

Lay floorboards in a staggered pattern, checking every 5-6 rows that the boards are still square. After clicking the boards into place, gently tap the board along the side and ends. Minimise gaps at the end joints by positioning end-to-end boards as close together as possible.



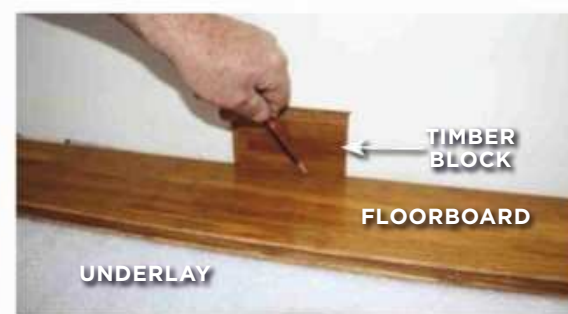
1 Trim the architrave

Remove old skirting boards with a chisel levered off a block, removing protruding nails. As a height guide, place flooring and an underlay offcut against architrave and trim the base using a multi-tool saw.



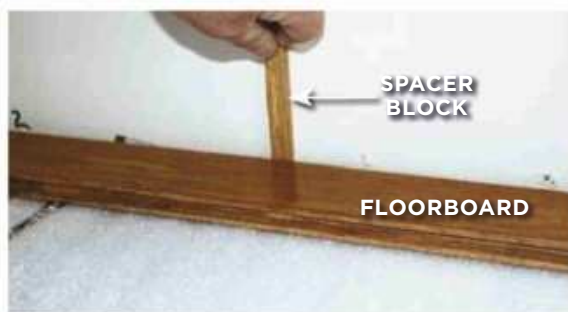
2 Tape the underlay

Unroll the underlay foil-side down and tape edge by the wall. Peel off cover strip and secure to the floor. Secure other edge with duct tape and trim with a utility knife. Overlap the join with the next strip.



3 Square off the first row

Use a pencil and small block to scribe a line on the first row of boards, allowing for a 12-15mm expansion gap. Check the corners for square, then use a small circular saw to cut along the line.



4 Add the space blocks

Place 12-15mm spacers behind the starter boards and at the ends for an expansion gap. Ensure the first row is square to the wall. Click in the second row to keep the boards in position.



5 Lay the boards

Place boards in a staggered pattern with the joins at least 250mm apart. Angle the boards at 25° and click into place, then tap together. Cut the ends square to the walls and secure with a pull bar.



6 Cut out the doorjamb

Click the door board into place, then use a pull bar to help slide it under the cut architrave. Position the next board and mark the cut for the jamb, with 12mm for expansion. Cut with a jigsaw.



7 Install the last row

Measure the gap for the last board row, allowing for the expansion joint. Clamp the board across two saw stools and rip to width using a circular saw. Click in position and tap together with a pull bar.



8 Fit the skirting boards

Remove the spacers at the starter boards, then secure the skirting with 50mm brads, starting at the door architraves. Create scribe joints at internal corners and mitre joints on external corners.



9 Fix transition strips

Rip a 25mm wide strip from a board. Plane the top edge at an angle to create an easing transition at the doorway. Apply a protective coat and use clear silicone to hold in place. Rehang the doors. ►



REFINISH SLATE

Slate is a dense but soft material that is easily scratched and should be protected from furniture and harsh traffic.

Protect and revive your slate by sealing it with a quality penetrating sealer, such as Cemix Tile & Slate Sealer, \$90.80 for 4L, having first thoroughly cleaned and prepared the slate.

1 REPLACE any loose grout, taking care to colour match with oxides, then leave to dry. Sweep and vacuum the floor to remove dirt, grime and debris, then apply masking tape to skirting boards if necessary.

2 CLEAN the slate using a slate cleaner diluted in hot water to the manufacturer's ratio, usually 1:50, and a scrubbing brush. Mop the floor and rinse twice with hot water, leaving it to dry for 24 hours before sealing.

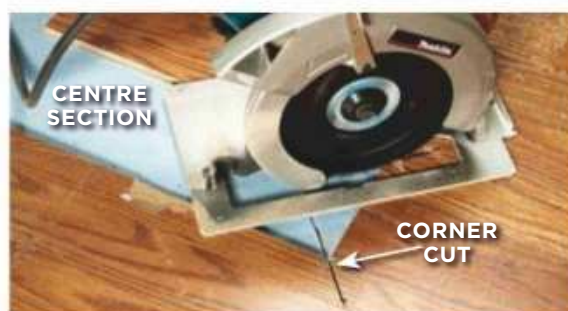
3 STIR the sealer well. Seal the floor, applying a coat over the slate with a quality paintbrush or applicator pad. Leave it to dry for the specified time before applying extra coats if required.



FIX LAMINATED TIMBER

Minor chips and scratches on laminated timber flooring can be fixed with filler products from a hardware store. If the damage runs deeper than a scratch, a plank may need replacing.

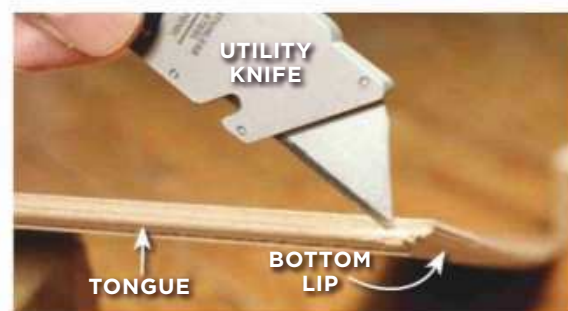
- ◆ **MARK A CUTTING LINE** around the board about 30mm in from the edges.
- ◆ **DRILL RELIEF HOLES** using a 10mm bit at the corners of the mark-up and 6mm from the corners of the board.



1 REMOVE the damaged board, setting the depth of a circular saw to just deeper than the thickness of the floor. Cut away the centre section, then cut on an angle to the corner holes, using a chisel to break out the remainder.



2 SMOOTH the edges by slipping a dowel under the cut, then grab the section with pliers and tilt it down until the glued seam cracks apart. Snap it upwards to break the adhesive, then use a screwdriver to scrape off old adhesive.



3 LAY the new board, trimming the bottom lip of the side tongue and both grooves, applying timber adhesive to all edges. Position the tongue in the adjacent board groove, drop in place, wipe off excess and weight it until dry. ♦

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FLOOR CONSTRUCTION

Be inspired by this creative
woodwork to fill in any
awkward gaps in your floor

Woodworker Andrea Brugi and his Danish wife Samina Langholz live and work together in Montemerano, a hilltop village in Tuscany, Italy. Inspired by the rustic lifestyle and the spectacular views over the olive groves, they create wonderful carpentry pieces by hand.

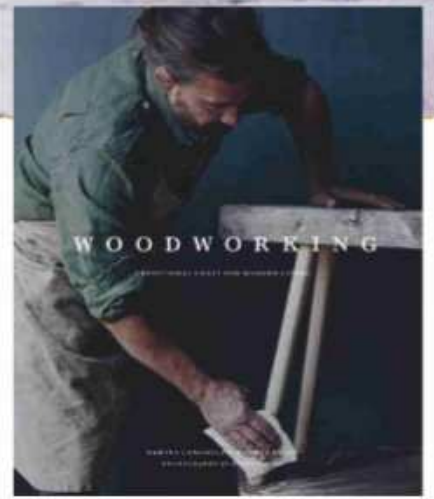
‘Wood is such a huge part of our lives. I would almost say, wood is our life, it has become our partner in life, and we have such a passion and respect for all its vagaries and complexities. We like to keep things simple and we don’t like to overdo an idea,’ says Samina.

‘Andrea has always felt that our work should be something every person needs in their home. A piece you enjoy using and that gets more beautiful the more you use it.

‘Without doubt, each finished item has its own distinctive character. As you work with natural wood, you will never achieve a polished, perfect result. Every piece is unique in its own way.’

This is how Andrea describes his work and collaboration with Samina.

‘I just do what the wood tells me to do. Perhaps it also has something to do with the close relation with my Danish wife. She definitely has a great influence on my work – her Scandinavian touch with my organic rustic roots. Perhaps this is our secret. All our designs come from the heart and have a story. They are simple ideas, which we execute as honestly and cleanly as possible.’



This is an edited extract from
*Woodworking: Traditional
Craft For Modern Living* by
Samina Langholz and Andrea
Brugi (Quarto UK, \$40).
Photography by Ditte Isager.



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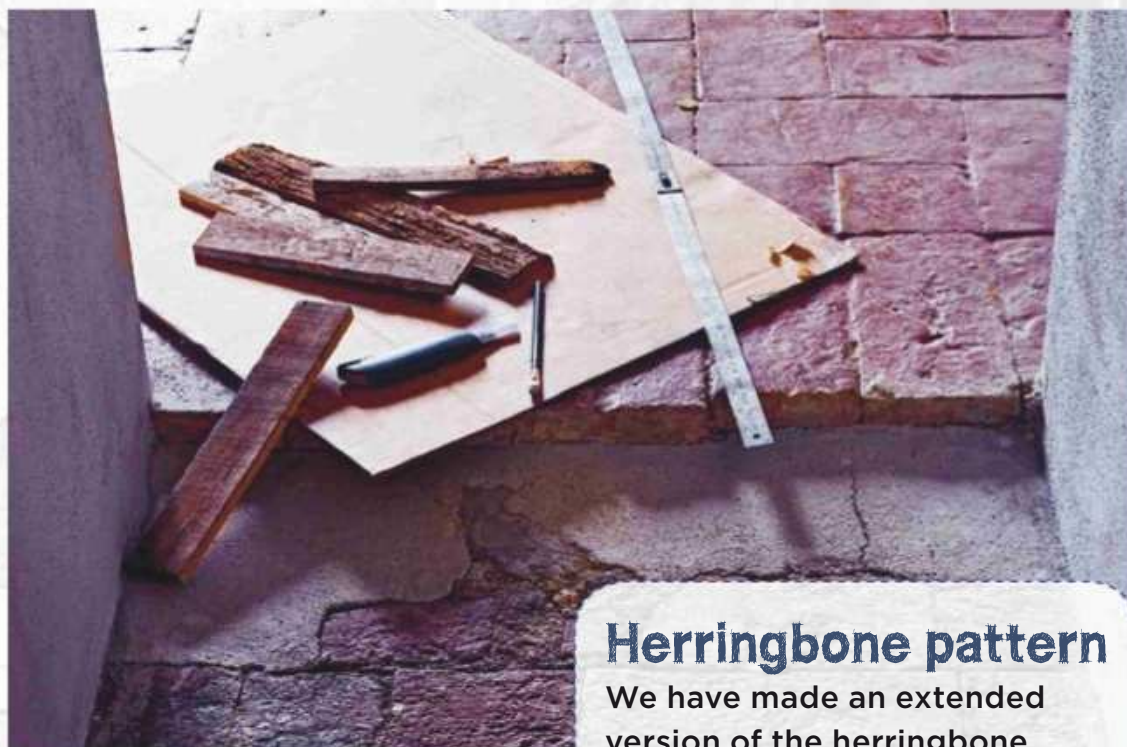
Everyone knows it is almost impossible to fill or extend a missing piece of floor without it looking like an afterthought.

Once it was about camouflaging the change from one type of floor to another. Now it is about doing the opposite – seeking out the differences and highlighting them rather than trying to hide them, making a virtue of the contrasts.

So instead of spending time trying to find the same materials, search for the timbers, colours and patinas that inspire you the most.

Really there are no limits to what you can do if you embrace the flaws in timbers and use them in your creation – it's all about appreciating the difference. You can even play around with laying the grains in different directions.

Now, a small renovation of your own floor can end up as a piece of art.



Herringbone pattern

We have made an extended version of the herringbone parquet, but anything is possible. Herringbone floors are typically installed piece by piece in various constructions, either parallel to the wall or diagonally, as in our design. Diagonal installation visually expands the space, but it requires more material.

1 MEASURE the area of floor you need to customise. Use the utility knife to cut out a template in cardboard. Place the boards on the template, then make any designs you want, making sure the boards are the same height. Cut out the shapes as per the template using a circular saw.



WHAT YOU NEED

- Recycled floorboards of oak, chestnut, or any kind of timber
- Circular saw
- PVA adhesive
- Ruler
- Soft wire brush
- Utility knife
- Pencil
- Cardboard
- Try square



2 PREPARE the boards by giving them a gentle scrub with a soft wire brush. You don't want to use sandpaper, as you will remove the patina of the wood.



3 ARRANGE the boards in the desired pattern, then secure all the pieces in position using adhesive. Allow to dry thoroughly before walking on the flooring. ❖



DRIVING FORCE

Choose the best power drill and bits to suit your DIY needs

WORDS MARC MCEVOY

A drill is the most popular power tool in the DIY arsenal, for good reason. It has many uses, from boring holes in timber, plastic, metal or masonry to driving screws. The features of your drill will determine its suitability for each task and material. In this article, we guide you through the process of choosing the right type of drill for your DIY needs.

CORD OR CORDLESS?

The first decision: choose between a corded drill, which must be connected

to the mains power supply, and a cordless drill, which is powered by a rechargeable battery.

Every DIYer will want at least one cordless drill in their tool kit. Once charged and untethered from the mains power supply, it can be used anywhere, safely and conveniently. Cordless drills are ideal for projects requiring the drilling of holes and fastening of screws in tricky or distant locations.

Corded drills, connected to mains power, do not rely on a battery. That makes them generally less expensive,

and obviously they don't need recharging. This makes them suitable for tasks requiring power for extended periods, or for use in a workshop. With the right attachment, these are great for disc sanding, buffing, and some types of grinding.

Until recently, the choice was fairly simple: cordless for convenience and portability, corded for power and endurance. But recent advances in battery technology mean that cordless drills now match corded varieties in most aspects of performance.

PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

BRUSHED OR BRUSHLESS?

If you've chosen to go cordless, now decide whether to spend a bit more to acquire a 'brushless' drill. This refers to the electrical motor, which provides superior power than a motor *with* brushes.

Put simply, due to the reduced friction in its mechanism, it draws less energy. This significantly extends battery life, as well as the life of the drill itself. But brushless drills are more expensive.

Once you have decided on corded or cordless, and brushed or brushless, it is time to decide which drill action best suits your DIY needs. Power drills fall into three categories.

DRILL/DRIVER

The basic drill/driver will have a variable speed mechanism, usually controlled by the trigger, and an adjustable clutch, necessary for fastening screws into a range of materials without it slipping. They are capable of drilling holes into most materials, but cordless versions will struggle drilling multiple holes or

driving lots of screws into hard surfaces without frequent recharging.

IMPACT DRIVER

For fastening screws, an impact driver is the best choice. While a drill/driver has to be gripped tightly to sink a long screw deep into hardwood, causing it to possibly stall, an impact driver detects the screw's resistance, then applies a percussive action during the rotation, tapping the screw forward, requiring far less effort from the user.

Impact drivers don't twist in your hand under pressure. This makes them ideal for big fastening projects, such as a timber deck.

HAMMER DRILL

A hammer drill is designed for drilling into rock-hard surfaces such as concrete or brickwork. The hammer refers to a tapping pressure on the bit that is delivered in a chiselling action – like a jackhammer. (A rotary hammer drill is a more powerful version of this device.) The hammer action can be turned off so

DIY TIP

Most serious DIYers will have at least two matching batteries, so they can always have one on the go while the other is charging.

they can be used for fastening. But the hammer mechanism makes them heavier than a basic drill/driver.

PICK A BRAND

A drill brand's batteries can be swapped between the tools in their range. Once you buy your first cordless tool, stick with that brand for future purchases. It means you can buy your next tool 'skin only' – saving the expense of the battery.

Most brands bundle an impact driver and hammer drill together in a kit, with batteries. This should cover almost all of your drilling tasks.

DRILL BASICS

- ◆ Insert your chosen drill bit and check that it remains centred while twisting the chuck closed, or tightening the chuck key.
- ◆ Squeeze the trigger slightly to make sure the bit is spinning straight and the drill, if cordless, is charged.
- ◆ Start drilling or driving slowly, using the variable speed control on the trigger for greater precision.



1 Select the speed range
Choose low speed for more power when drilling into metal and plastic or driving screws, or high speed for drilling holes into timber surfaces.



2 Choose the clutch setting
Select a lower setting for small screws and less dense materials. Use higher torque for fastening into decking boards, and the drill setting for boring holes.



3 Set forward or reverse
Push the switch to control the direction of the chuck: forward for drilling and driving and reverse to remove a screw or extract the bit. ►

DRILL BUYING GUIDE

Take your pick from this range to tackle any home project

DRILL/DRIVERS

A drill/driver will drill with the clutch mechanism turned off and drive screws with the adjustable clutch switched on.

LIGHT USE

Efficient tool for screw-driving and general purpose drilling in the home.



Ozito Power X Change 18V Drill/Driver Kit, \$99, including battery.

REGULAR USE

Brushless technology delivering up to 40% more run time and 20% more power. Battery not included.



Ryobi ONE+ 18V Brushless Drill/Driver, \$169, excluding battery.

HEAVY USE

Capable of virtually any task at home or the job site, this drill/driver features a high-performance brushless motor.



Makita LXT 18V Brushless Drill/Driver, \$189, excluding battery.

IMPACT DRIVERS

Impact drivers are suitable for hard, repetitive screw-driving jobs such as laying decking boards.

LIGHT USE

Compact design makes short work of driving and removing screws and bolts around the home.



Ozito Power X Change 18V Impact Driver, \$89, excluding battery.

REGULAR USE

Tailor-made for the DIY enthusiast, this is an easily controlled device with plenty of power and tough performance.



Ryobi 18V One+ Impact Driver, \$119, excluding battery.

HEAVY USE

This brushless impact driver features a lightweight compact design with a comfortable grip for more control. Has 170Nm of maximum fastening torque.



Makita 18V Brushless Cordless Impact Driver, \$177, excluding battery.

HAMMER DRILLS

Hammer drills are designed for boring holes in masonry surfaces such as brick, block, concrete, render or stone.

LIGHT USE

Value corded model features a keyless chuck, variable speed, all metal gears and ample power.



Ozito 13mm 710W Corded Hammer Drill, \$45.

REGULAR USE

Comfortable tool with keyless chuck, and easy switching from drilling to hammer mode for prolonged use.



Ryobi 500W 13mm Corded Hammer Drill, \$60.

HEAVY USE

Heavy-duty yet compact model with brushless motor suitable for the onsite DIYer or pro. Will drive screws as well as drill masonry.



Makita 18V Brushless Hammer Drill, \$208, excluding battery.

CORDLESS SCREWDRIVERS

Using a cordless screwdriver takes the effort out of securing or removing screws by hand. Ideal for working in small spaces, they're lightweight for doing small jobs such as assembling a shelf or fixing a chair. They have the least amount of power among drills (from 2.4-12 volts) but some can drive 100 screws on one charge. They're very handy devices, but they won't drill holes. ►



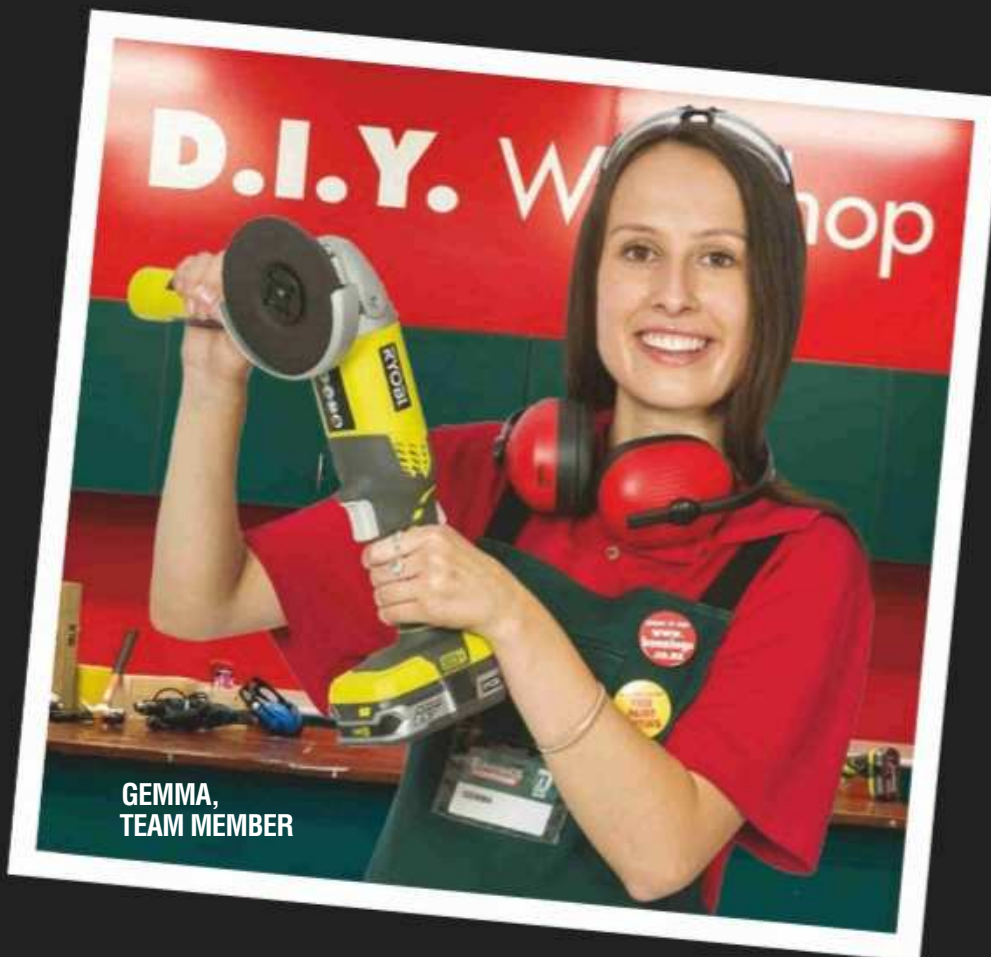
PICTURE (BOTTOM) GETTY IMAGES

D.I.Y. Workshops

Brush up your knowledge and gain new D.I.Y. skills with workshops in-store and online.

Our workshops are held every weekend on Saturday and Sunday from 11am – 1pm for Adults, and Kids sessions from 10am – 12pm. 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)

HOW TO INSTALL JOISTS FOR A DECK

A deck is the perfect place for entertaining, so it's important to make sure it's safe and secure. It all starts with a strong foundation and we can show you how to do it.

D.I.Y. SLATTED COFFEE TABLE

Stylish and practical, a slatted coffee table will look great in your living area. We can show you how to make one with easy-to-follow instructions.

HOW TO REDESIGN AND UPDATE A KITCHEN

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

CREATE YOUR OWN PLAYGROUND AT HOME

No matter the size of your backyard, you can set up a whole world of fun and adventure for the kids.

HOW TO SECURE YOUR HOME

We can show you how easy it is to secure your home to give your family some peace of mind.

HOW TO CHOOSE A GARDEN SCREEN

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

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.

D.I.Y. SHADOW BOX FRAME

Display your favourite items in a D.I.Y. shadow box frame. It's easy to put together and it also looks great.

WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN OCTOBER

With the winter chill gone your garden is about to burst into life, so check out our great ideas to get your garden looking great.

HOW TO SAND WALLS

Sanding is easy but it's important to know a few techniques to get a great result every time.

BUNNINGS
warehouse

OUR
POLICY
**LOWEST PRICES
ARE JUST THE
BEGINNING...**

CHOOSING THE BIT

PLASTERBOARD

Both plasterboard and the timber studs behind it are relatively easy materials to drill into, requiring only a basic drill.

◆ **THE BEST BIT** to use is a twist bit, which has a conical point and a spiral shaft to remove waste.

Use a diameter to match the screw gauge if securing to the studs, or an appropriate diameter for the fastener if using a hollow wall anchor such as a toggle bolt.

◆ **DRILL THE HOLE** using the faster gear, if available, and select the drill setting on the torque clutch.



TIP Use a stud/live wire detector before drilling into plasterboard walls to avoid damage or injury.



METAL

The key to drilling into metal is to use low revs and cool the bit with oil.

◆ **THE BEST BIT** is a HSS (high speed steel) twist bit for aluminium and steel, or a cobalt bit for stainless steel.

◆ **DRILL THE HOLE** by using a centre punch to make a dimple in the surface, then apply a bead of putty around it and fill with oil to prevent overheating. If the hole diameter is bigger than 6mm, then drill pilot holes, starting with a 2mm hole and working your way up in bit sizes.



TIP Wear safety glasses when drilling metal to prevent metal fragments injuring your eyes.

TYPES OF DRILL BATTERIES

◆ LITHIUM-ION

Also called Li-ion, these batteries cost more but only lose up to 5% of charge a month if not being used, so they're usually ready to go on weekends. They provide constant full power right to the end of a charge. The battery is best put on the charger when it's used 65% of its power.

◆ NICKEL-CADMIUM

Known as Ni-Cd, these batteries lose about 20% of power a month when not in use and take a couple of hours to charge. Their output dwindles as they run out of power, but use them up fully before charging, as they can be prone to memory effect, reducing their ability to reach full charge.

GLASS

A mirror is just glass with a reflective backing, so the same method is used for drilling holes in both.

◆ **THE BEST BIT** is a diamond core bit, as glass and tile bits have a tendency to grab and may leave conspicuous chips.

◆ **DRILL THE HOLE** by positioning the glass flat on a piece of plywood. To stop the bit wandering, tape cardboard over the hole position and begin drilling very slowly. Remove the cardboard to finish drilling at medium speed, applying light pressure to avoid cracking the glass.



TIP Test the drill trigger first to know the sound and feel of the slow speed level required.

TILES

The bathroom and laundry often need a towel rail, mirror or soap holder attached to a tiled wall.

◆ **THE BEST BIT** for the job is a carbide-tipped glass and tile bit, as normal twist bits won't penetrate the glaze on ceramic tiles.

◆ **DRILL THE HOLE** using masking tape to mark the location and to prevent the bit from sliding off the mark on the tile. Switch off any hammer function and use the auxiliary handle to hold the drill with both hands, slowing down as the bit exits the back of the tile.



TIP Use a carbide-grit holesaw for creating holes that are large enough for plumbing fixtures.

SPECIALISED BITS

SPADE BITS are traditionally large and flat with a centring point. They are used for drilling wide holes in timber.



AUGER BITS have a single spur, radial cutting edge and spiral flute for making extra-deep holes and mortises.



PLUG CUTTER BIT makes timber plugs that can then be used to conceal fasteners such as screw heads.



DOWELLING BIT has a point at the tip to prevent it moving off the mark, aligning dowel holes precisely.



COMBINATION BIT drills and countersinks at the same time so the screw sits flush with the surface.



FORSTNER BIT makes shallow, flat-bottomed holes and has a centre spur for positioning accurately.



HOLESAWS have a 6mm centring bit and hardened steel teeth to cut larger holes through timber and plastic. ❖



MASONRY

Drilling into concrete and brick, called masonry, requires a hammer drill to break the aggregate or brick, and drilling action to remove the waste.

- ◆ **THE BEST BIT** to use is a masonry or multi-construction bit. Both have a tungsten-carbide cutting point.
- ◆ **DRILL THE HOLE** by selecting the hammer function and holding both handles. Use short bursts at low speed to start, then high speed.



TIP Apply force and move the bit in and out as you go.

DIY TIP

Avoid breakages by using sharp bits. A break usually occurs when you lean too heavily on a blunt bit to make it penetrate quicker.

DECKING

Whether you're using screws, nails or a hidden fastening system to secure hardwood decking boards, making pilot holes is essential.

- ◆ **THE BEST BIT** for the job is a 2.5mm diameter twist bit for 10g decking screws.
- ◆ **DRILL THE HOLE** with an electric drill because of the volume of work, then use an impact driver to secure the screws. For nails, make holes one-third less than the diameter of the nail.



TIP Pilot holes are not required for treated pine decking.

BUILD A

Find it at Bunnings

PALLET HERB PLANTER

DIY TIP

Make sure you use a pallet that has been heat treated so it will be safe for growing food.

Here's how to recycle an old wooden pallet into a rustic planter, perfect for growing herbs in any outdoor space.

Your herb planter can be built to any size. In this case, one pallet supplied

enough timber to make a top box, base box, feet, supports and spacers.

Use a tape measure, pencil and square to measure and mark the timber, then use a drop saw or handsaw to cut the timber to size.

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE mm	No
Top box front and back	750 x 90	2
Top box sides	300 x 90	2
Top box base	750 x 90	2
Bottom box front and back	750 x 145	2
Bottom box sides	300 x 145	2
Bottom box base	750 x 145	2
Feet	300 x 90 x 50	2
Supports	500 x 90	2
Spacers	150 x 90	2

WHAT YOU NEED

- Pallet
- Herbs, potting mix, weed mat
- Hammer, pliers
- Nails, screws, nail gun
- Drop saw, handsaw
- Measuring tape, pencil
- Wrecking bar
- Set square
- Dust mask, ear muffs, safety glasses

1 2 3



1 Dismantle the pallet

Use a wrecking bar to lever the timber slats from the frame of the pallet and cut the pieces to size. Remove any nails with a hammer and pliers.



2 Assemble the box frames

Put on your ear muffs and safety glasses. Line up the fronts, backs and sides of each box so that the edges are flush, and secure with the nail gun.



3 Put on the base

Line up the base pieces on each box frame, leaving a gap between the timber so that the soil drains well. Use the nail gun to attach the base to each box.

▶ WATCH THE VIDEO
D.I.Y. pallet herb planter
at bunnings.co.nz/diy-advice



DIY TIP

The feet will elevate the planter, help with drainage and keep the base dry so it doesn't rot.



4 Attach the feet

Use the heavy rail from the pallet for the feet. Line up the cut pieces on the base of the bottom box and secure in position using the nail gun.



5 Secure the supports

Attach a support to the bottom box sides and secure. Attach a spacer to each support to sit on top of the bottom box side, to take the weight of the top box.



6 Insert the top box

Slide the top box between the supports and secure with a nail gun. Line both boxes with weed mat, add potting mix and plant your favourite herbs. ♦

Find it at Bunnings

What's new

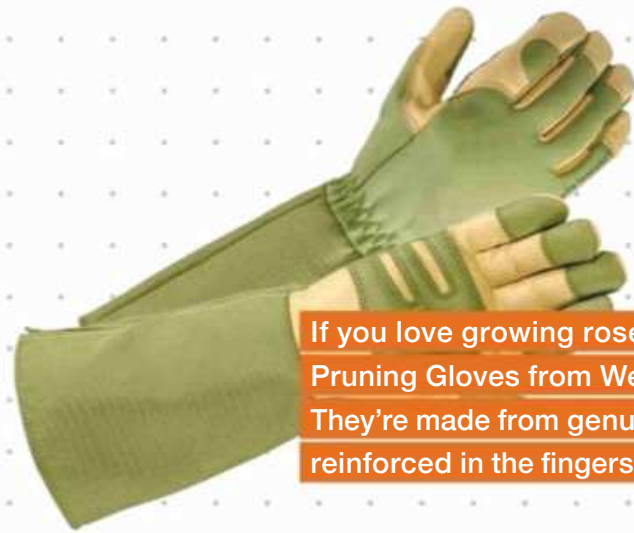
Set up your place for the entertaining season with some help from your local Bunnings



Light up your home in style with the Verve Akia Mustard Pendant. Its modern, industrial design and wood effect is sure to impress, \$89.



Fiskars Pruners are ideal for cutting through branches both thick and thin. Featuring soft grip handles, you'll love their ergonomic design, \$32.89.



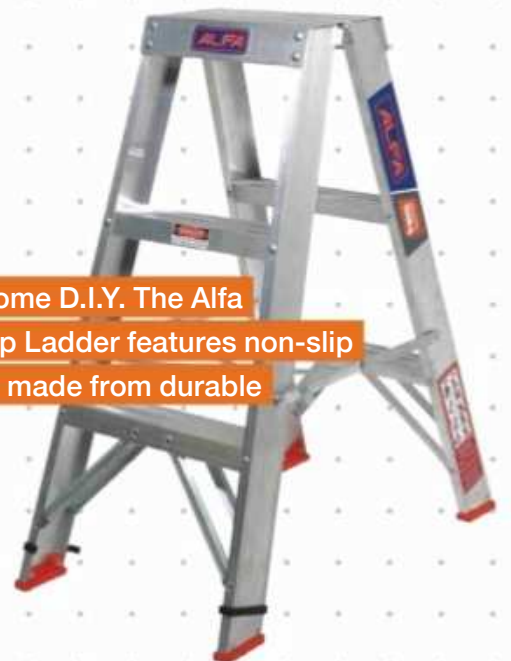
If you love growing roses, then the Pruning Gloves from Wells Lamont are for you. They're made from genuine leather and are reinforced in the fingers, \$24.98.



Set up your outdoors like an island resort with the Mimosa Corner Lounge Setting. It's perfect for relaxing with padded cushions and a sturdy design, \$1398.



If you take barbecuing seriously, the Matador Pro Kettle BBQ is ideal. It features a smart air control unit, an LCD screen and Bluetooth connectivity, \$499.



Perfect for your home D.I.Y. The Alfa Double-Sided Step Ladder features non-slip step treads and is made from durable aluminium, \$69.



The Ryobi Hanging Workstation made with steel construction will help you to protect your power tools and keep them out of reach, \$89.99.



Fire up your next party with the Jumbuck 4 Burner BBQ. It has a stainless-steel hood, wok side-burner and warming rack, \$599.



Illuminate your home with the Sengled Lifetime Smart LED Floodlight. It will last for years to come, \$35.



Bring the industrial look to your home with the Nebraska Cement Table from Mimosa. Whether it's for your dining room or outside on your deck, it's sure to make an impression, \$1999.



If you're looking to add a touch of style to your bathroom, the Mondella Matte Black and Rose Gold Basin Mixer is for you, \$189.



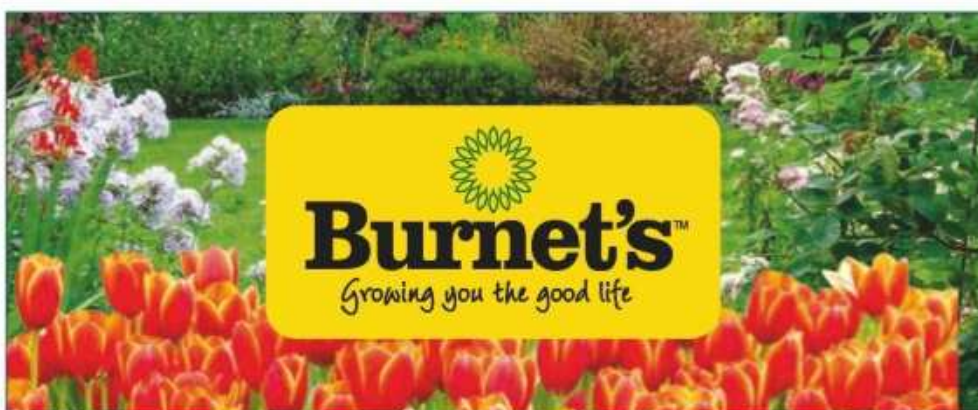
The Cabot's Deck Coat Applicator makes it easy to give your deck a new coat. You'll love the swivel head feature to get around tricky angles, \$39.97.



Cabot's Aquadeck will help you to get your deck looking its best. Exceptionally durable, it will last twice as long as traditional decking oils, \$76.

Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE

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



*For the best garden
in the street*



Create garden envy in your neighbourhood with Burnet's premium range of garden & lawn care products.

burnets.co.nz

grow vegetables
with Dalton's
Keeping New Zealand Growing

VEGETABLE FERTILISER
VEGETABLE MIX
Garden Mix
Enriched Compost

Available at BUNNINGS warehouse

www.daltons.co.nz

The advertisement for Dalton's features a large, vibrant image of a hand holding a bunch of fresh, orange carrots. The text 'grow vegetables with Dalton's' is written in a green, cursive font, with 'Dalton's' in a bold, black font. Below this, the tagline 'Keeping New Zealand Growing' is written in a smaller font. At the bottom of the ad, there are four bags of Dalton's products: 'VEGETABLE FERTILISER', 'VEGETABLE MIX', 'Garden Mix', and 'Enriched Compost'. The 'Enriched Compost' bag is labeled '30L'. The Bunnings Warehouse logo is in the bottom right corner, and the website 'www.daltons.co.nz' is in the bottom left corner.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF WATER BLASTERS

The Full Control range is packed with innovative features for power, performance & convenience.



CONTROL AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



KÄRCHER

makes a difference

Here's what Mike had to say...

"An extraction unit was having trouble getting rid of condensation from consecutive showers and it was affecting the paintwork. The Showerdome has put paid to those issues beautifully. It's a must-have".



showerdome

For a drier, warmer, healthier home, insist on Showerdome®

0800 541 223 or buy online at: www.showerdome.co.nz

Endorsed by:

Water Safety
NEW ZEALAND



A PLANET FIRST FOR POOL SAFETY

Tri Latch from G8Safe – the world's first pool gate latch with dual action safety button that prevents children using implements to push up the button.



G8SAFE
.com.au

CREATING WAVES FOR POOL SAFETY

STANLEY FATMAX



4-IN-1 WORK STATION

The STANLEY FATMAX® Rolling Work Station covers 4 storage solutions in one - tool box, parts bin, portable tote and an oversized lower compartment for larger tools. Other features include ball bearing slides and durable structural foam construction.

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

GARDEN FURNITURE *revamp*

Forget throwing out old alfresco furniture, give it a fresh new look

PROJECTS LEE DASHIELL
MAIN PICTURES GEOFF BECK

TABLETOP *transformation*

Over the years, this table had weathered and been stained by food and drinks, giving it a very grubby appearance. And due to its uneven surface, mould had grown on it after a rainy season.

To create a barrier from the elements and to protect the surface, a few coats of paving paint and a glossy finishing coat were applied. A pattern was also painted on it by creating a stencil, with a striking Moroccan design as the influence.

WHAT YOU NEED

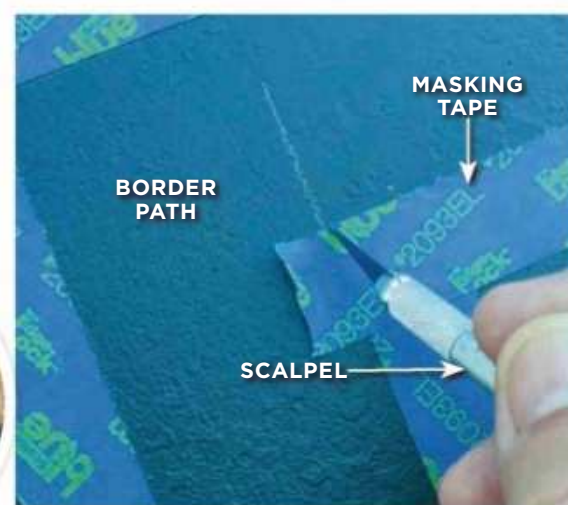
- Bleach
- Scrubbing brush
- Masking tape, scalpel
- Tape measure, pencil
- Paper, thick cardboard
- Paintbrushes
- Grey and white paving paint
- Clear gloss sealant

1 2 3



1 Clean the tabletop

Dilute bleach in warm water and, using a scrubbing brush, clean the top of the table to remove any dirt and mould. Wipe with a towel, then allow to dry completely. Apply a coat of grey paving paint to the tabletop, making sure all parts are coated including the edges and sides. Allow to dry. Apply a second coat and allow to dry.



2 Create the pattern border

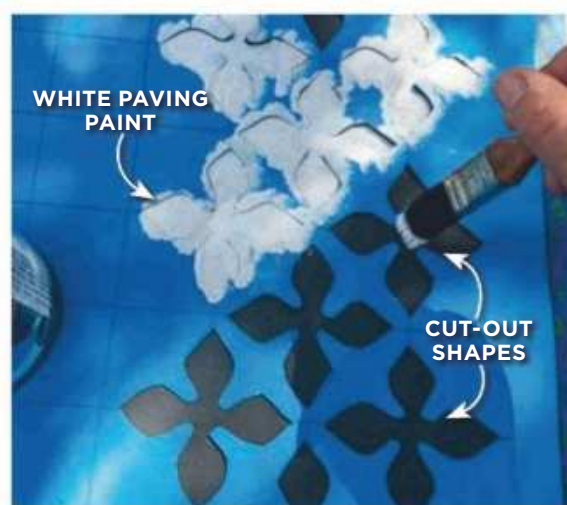
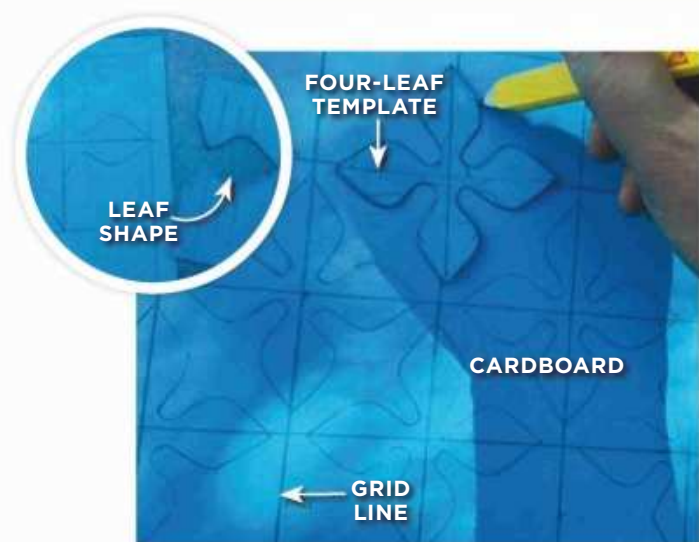
Using a pencil, draw lines to mark the desired distance for the white border from the edges of the table, then mark the desired width of the border. Apply masking tape on the outside of the lines all around the tabletop to form a path for painting the border. Trim the tape at a 45° angle in the corners where the tape intersects.





After

With an exotic patterned top, this table adds interest to the backyard.



3 Make the stencil

Decide the size of your four-leaf shape. To ensure the curves are identical, draw one leaf shape on paper and cut it out. Make a four-square grid on paper and trace the leaf shape four times around the centre point. Cut out the four-leaf template. Make a grid on cardboard and trace around the template in an even pattern. Cut out the pieces to create a stencil.

4 Paint the pattern

Lay the stencil on a section of the table. Using a paintbrush, dab white paving paint in a stabbing motion over the stencil, ensuring there is not too much paint on the brush to avoid it bleeding under the stencil. Carefully remove the stencil and allow it to dry before painting the next section. Touch up any uneven paintwork as needed.

5 Paint the border

Using a paintbrush, paint the taped path for the border with the white paving paint, then carefully remove the tape while the paint is still slightly wet, ensuring it is removed entirely and doesn't drip on the surface of the table. To protect the surface and give a clean glossy finish, apply two coats of a clear gloss sealant. ►



After

Paint and a protective coating extend the life of these metal chairs.

Before

METAL CHAIR *makeover*

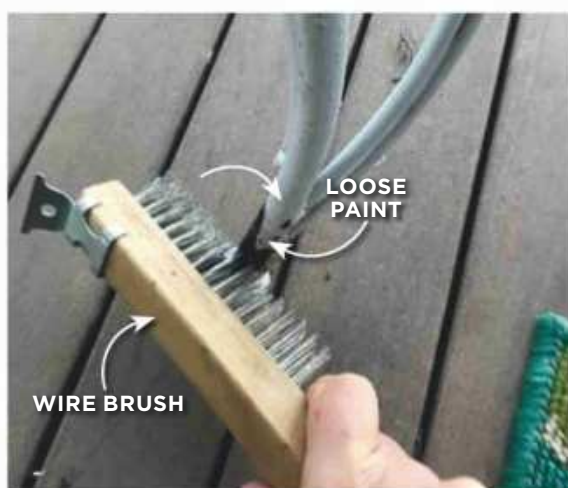
Left out in the rain, sun and cold, metal outdoor furniture takes a beating and can develop rust. Treated using a surface conditioner and painted in rust-proof gloss enamel, these chairs were brought up to date.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Wire brush, scraper
- Scrubbing brush
- Flood Penetrol Penetrating Primer Oil and Surface Conditioner
- Gloss enamel paint, paintbrush

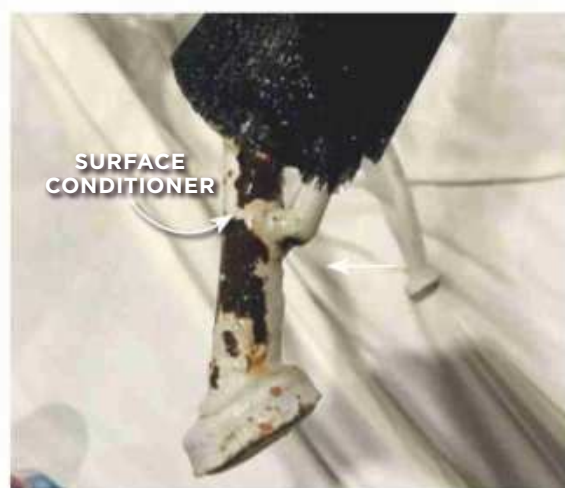


1 2 3



1 Scrape off flaking paint

Remove all loose paint and rust from the chairs using a wire brush and a scraper. Wash the chairs using hot soapy water and a scrubbing brush to remove any dirt, then allow to dry.



2 Apply surface conditioner

Using a paintbrush, apply a coat of surface conditioner, making sure it gets in every nook and cranny. This penetrates the rust to create a solid base surface. Allow to dry.



3 Paint the chairs

Turn the chairs upside down and apply a coat of gloss enamel paint to the underside. Turn the chairs upright and paint the backs, seats and legs. Allow to dry, then apply a second coat.

WICKER *refresh*

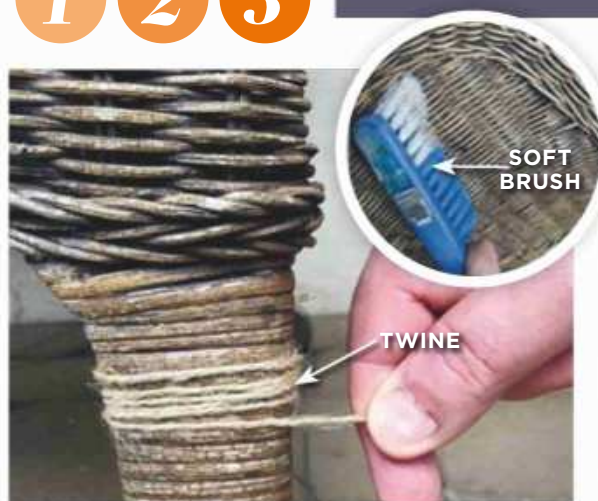
WHAT YOU NEED

- Twine
- Scissors
- Stain and varnish in one
- Paintbrush
- Soft brush



Over time, wicker furniture sitting outside loses its lustre and the wicker itself becomes brittle and can break off. But you can easily revitalise wicker and give it a rich new tone, which will also protect and extend the life of your furniture.

1 2 3



1 Repair any damage

Cut pieces of twine of suitable lengths, then wind each piece around any bald or damaged sections. Tie off the ends behind a leg or in a hidden area, then trim the loose ends. Brush off any dust, loose leaves or dirt, which may have got caught in the wicker.

Wicker kits are available to replace broken and missing areas, but to save money, twine was used to camouflage the damaged sections of these chairs.

They were finished with Bondall Monocel Jarrah Stain & Varnish and new cushions replaced the old ones.



2 Apply the finish

Using a paintbrush, apply the stain and varnish finish to the entire surface of the wicker chairs, making sure it gets into all the gaps in the wicker. Allow to dry and apply another coat if necessary. To complete the look, add new cushions. ►



After

Repaired and stained, the wicker has a rich and glossy sheen.

SUNLOUNGER

cover-up

Outdoor sunlounger cushions are made to withstand sun and rain, but they can eventually become discoloured.

The existing cushions on these sunloungers were structurally still in good condition, so slip-on covers were made to update the look – at a fraction of the cost of buying new ones.

Hard-wearing synthetic fabrics are more suitable for outdoor furniture that is exposed to bright sunlight and, when not in use, the cushions can be stored in the shade to retain their vibrant colours for longer.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Sewing machine
- Hard-wearing fabric
- Cloth tape measure
- Scissors
- Needle, thread



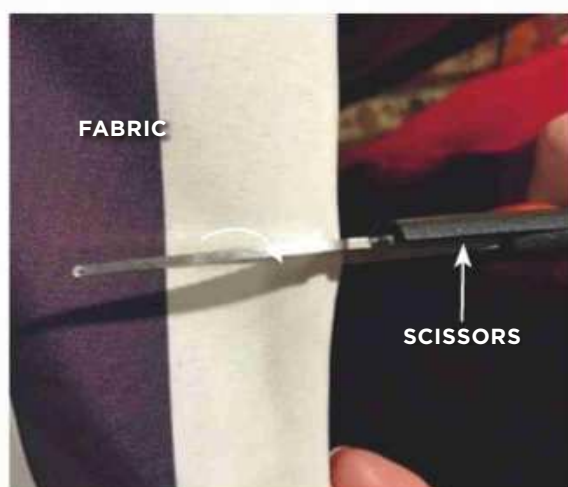
Before



After

Simple slip-on covers give these sunloungers a new look for less.

1 2 3



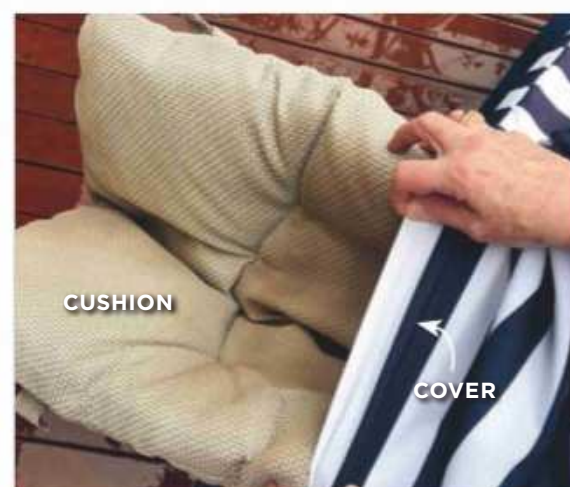
1 Cut the fabric

Use a cloth measuring tape to measure the height, width and length of the cushion that is to be covered. Cut the rectangular top piece of fabric to the width and length dimensions, adding 30mm to the sides, top and base for a seam allowance.



2 Sew the cover

Cut the base piece the same as the top but add twice the height measurement to the width measurement, plus 30mm on each side for a seam allowance. This piece will cover the base and sides of the cushion. With the right sides of the fabric pieces facing, sew the side seams.



3 Insert the cushion

For the ends, cut two fabric pieces to the height and width dimensions, adding seam allowances on all sides. Sew the ends to the main cover, leaving a long seam at the top open. Turn right side out and insert the cushion. Hand-stitch the top closed or use velcro patches. ♦



FOR INSPIRATION



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

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

Follow Handyman on Pinterest for more tips



We love our lawns. They are the venue for much of our outdoor recreation. We use them to play with the kids or pets, for relaxation, and as living welcome mats.

As suburban land blocks have become smaller, our outdoor space has becoming even more valuable to us. Which means making the most of our grassed areas.

There are a few misconceptions about lawns: that they take too much time to look after, or that you need to be a fanatic to have a beautiful grassed surface. In fact, caring for a lawn is simple. A small effort invested now to get your lawn up to scratch will reap rewards all the way through summer.

LAWN LIFE

A lush lawn can be a feature of any home – and spring is the time to get it sorted

WORDS AND PICTURES
ADAM WOODHAMS

SPRING LAWN CARE

There are three main objectives when it comes to spring lawn care: repairing winter damage, getting it into condition as fast as possible, and preparing it for the long hot summer ahead.

1 Damage control

No matter where you live there's one simple fact – winter takes a toll on your lawn. The combination of cold, perhaps even frosty, conditions, short daylight hours and winter weeds can leave your lawn looking very lacklustre.

♦ **TIDY UP** Give the lawn a vigorous raking with a spring-tined leaf rake. This will collect loose material like leaves and twigs and it will also strip out dead grass from the turf thatch. You'll be surprised how fresh the lawn will look afterwards.

♦ **TRIM BACK** Prune plants that are reducing the amount of sunlight falling on your lawn. Overhanging greenery is the most common cause of dead or thin areas around the edges of the lawn.

♦ **REJUVENATE** If there are bare patches in high-wear areas, such as at the bottom of stairs, use a garden fork to open up the soil to air and water penetration. Bare patches in the middle of the lawn are probably caused by winter weeds that have now died back, so again, open the soil up gently. A lawn that is thin all over has probably reacted to a chilly winter. In all of these situations you can over-sow with a suitable lawn-seed blend to thicken up your lawn. But make sure you mow first or you will suck up all the seed!

♦ **PATCH IT** If a bare spot is beyond over-sowing, then simply replace it with a roll or two of new turf. ►



PATCH A BARE SPOT



1 Prepare the area

Define the area with a spade and remove the remains of the grass. Use a fork to break up any compacted soil to a depth of at least 5cm. Remove the top 2cm layer of soil, including any roots or rocks, and level off with a rake.



2 Condition the soil

Spread a layer of bagged lawn soil. If the area is high in clay, add some gypsum and coarse washed sand. Bring this to level with the surrounding soil, pressing down to remove any air pockets, and smooth off with a rake.



3 Position the new grass

Lay the new turf, gently walking on it to maximise root contact with the soil. Water in well with a seaweed solution. Keep the area moist, not wet, until new grass starts to knit with the surrounding area. Avoid foot traffic until it's established.

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The Ryobi 36V Brushless Chainsaw Console is designed with durability, reliability and efficiency in mind. Its brushless technology makes it lightweight but powerful enough for trimming back your garden trees, \$399. ryobi.co.nz





2 Fast fixes

Get your lawn looking fab fast with these simple fixes.

♦ **MOW** Raking the lawn will give it a good tidy-up, but the first mow of spring takes it one step further. It will remove the grass tips browned off from cold conditions and stimulate new growth.

♦ **FEED** Fertiliser is essential. Lawns are often very nutrient depleted at this time of year, but a slow-release lawn fertiliser will keep them greening for several months. The average lawn will only take around 10 minutes to feed.

Some hose-on formulations and even fast green-up options will have your lawn looking green in days, not weeks.

♦ **SOIL** Don't forget your soil! It is packed full of beneficial microorganisms – everything from earthworms to microbes – that help convert the nutrients from fertiliser into elements which are more easily taken up by the grass. Soil needs feeding, too, so apply an organically fortified product when you feed the lawn or use a hose-on seaweed solution every few weeks.

3 Summer-proofing

Let's face it – you want to spend the summer *enjoying* your lawn, not working on it. Well, that's easy to do if you follow a few simple guidelines now and into the warmer weather.

♦ **FEED, FEED, FEED** Fertilising doesn't just green up the lawn, it builds a healthy root system that is better able to tolerate hot conditions, especially if you're feeding the soil as well. So as things warm up and dry out, your lawn looks better for longer.

♦ **WATER WISELY – PART 1** A quick sprinkle can actually do your lawn more harm than good, as it can become shallow-rooted and more vulnerable to damage from hot, dry conditions. It is better to water less frequently but more deeply. Use a quality sprinkler with a timer on your tap, and run it slowly to allow water to penetrate to a greater depth. Look for a sprinkler that has a large droplet size, as this will provide better distribution and less loss to wind.

♦ **WATER WISELY – PART 2** When soil becomes very dry it can actually repel water. This means that rain and water from sprinklers may just run off and not penetrate into the soil. Luckily, this is easy to overcome. Apply a quality soil wetter over your lawn and water will easily penetrate deep into the soil. This encourages deeper roots, saves water and reduces run-off. It also makes fertilising more efficient as nutrients aren't lost with run-off water. ►



Fertilising your lawn builds a healthy root system that can better handle hot weather



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MOWING TIPS

As spring rolls around, your lawn may not look like it needs a mow but you'll be surprised how much a quick go-over with the mower will freshen it up.

♦ **FIRST TIME, TWO TIMES** To clean the last of the winter debris from your lawn, first run the mower over with the catcher fitted and the height set one or two clicks higher than usual. Follow this with a mower set to mulching mode at the regular height. Think of it as a spring clean.

♦ **DON'T MOW LOW** Longer grass blades can better insulate the roots and the soil. If you scalp your lawn by mowing too low you'll end up with dead patches and give weeds an open door to invade. So what's the right height? Go for 'foot feel'. Take off your shoes and walk around barefoot. You want a lawn that's a little soft but not too springy with grass blades between your toes.

♦ **MOW TO GROW** Mulch-mow over spring and summer. This will help keep your lawn well insulated from temperature extremes and work to retain moisture. Mulch-mowing is also like lightly organically fertilising every time you mow.

DIY TIP

It is better to mow long grass in two or three passes taking a little at a time, with the last pass in mulch-mowing mode.

HOW TO OVER-SOW A THIN LAWN

If your lawn is looking thin all over then the easiest repair technique is to over-sow with a quality lawn seed.

- Select seed that is suitable for your region and situation.
- Look for seed that is blended with starter fertiliser or add a suitable starter fertiliser.
- Don't try to disperse the seed by hand – use a suitable seed spreader.
- Spread seed evenly over the lawn. Walk backwards to keep an eye on coverage as you go.
- Water in immediately and keep the lawn moist, but not wet, until the new seed establishes. In spring this will take between 3–5 weeks.
- Minimise use of the area until the seed is established.
- Mow lightly once the new shoots are clearly above the existing lawn.

A NEW LAWN

When it comes to a major lawn repair, you might find it's more sensible to replace rather than repair. Selecting the right lawn variety is the difference between a good lawn and a great one, so here are a few questions to ask yourself before you begin.

What is your lawn used for? Is it for kids and dogs and backyard footy, or the occasional stroll around? Different lawns tolerate different levels of wear, so it's important that the variety suits your lifestyle.

What are your local conditions?

Do you get frost? Are you near the coast and get salt spray? Are your summers long, hot and dry or your winters cold and wet? These climatic factors need to be considered from the start.

What are your garden conditions?

Is your garden sunny, shady or a bit in-between? Is your soil clay-based, sandy or very shallow? Is the area sloping or flat? How is the drainage? Again, these are deciding issues for selecting a suitable lawn variety and are also indicators of any preparation that may be required before laying new turf.

TIP Remember that the conditions can vary even within your property. Just because a variety performs well out the front, there's no guarantee that it will do the same at the back.



Lawn varieties

New Zealand grass seeds are generally available as blends designed to work better in certain situations than others. Turf-type ryegrass, sometimes mixed with fescue, is the most common blend for our urban lawns.

- A blend of fine American turf rye and fine fescue will give you a rich, green lawn suitable in both full sun and dappled shade areas.
- A rye, fescue and browntop blend quickly establishes a lawn that is easy-care, and able to withstand vigorous wear and tear.
- Tall fescue is often used by landscapers and will result in a thick, durable lawn able to resist heat and disease once established. It is best kept mown longer, not scalped.
- A rye and clover blend is uncoated and suited to more rural properties, or for utility areas. It germinates quickly to give rapid cover and will give you a hardy lawn.

All lawns benefit from slow-release fertilisers. Soil wetting products, combined with sensible watering, will make your fertiliser more effective and keep your lawn green and healthy. ►



PICTURE (TOP RIGHT, BOTTOM RIGHT) LAWN SOLUTIONS



Did you know?

Grass clippings left on your lawn after mowing act as a natural fertiliser.

Just make sure the pieces are small so they can readily decompose.

MOWER POWER

It wasn't so long ago that the only way to power your lawnmower was with a noisy, smoky two-stroke engine. Today you'll be hard-pushed to find one, as most now feature a more efficient and powerful four-stroke engine, or a super-quiet electric motor paired with a battery.



Today's electric mowers compare in price and power to petrol-driven machines

Why go for battery?

Electric mowers are now comparable in price, and in some cases power, to petrol-driven machines. This means that for the average homeowner they are now a viable and smart option. So what are some of the other benefits of a battery-powered mower?

- No flammable fuel is required to run or store it.
- It starts at the flick of a switch or press of a button.
- It's generally lighter in weight so easier to manoeuvre, handle and store.
- Storage is more convenient – you can stand it on end, lay it sideways, even hang it up as you don't have to worry about fuel leakage.
- Maintenance requirements are much lower – no spark plugs, air or fuel filters that need regular replacement. Just keep them clean and replace the blades.
- Lower emissions all-round – most are quieter, making them more

comfortable to use and less annoying for neighbours. Plus there's no smoke or fumes.

- It has massively lower levels of vibration so it's not as tiring.
- Some are available as 'skin' only so you can use your existing compatible batteries or only buy the batteries that you require. ►



PICTURE (TOP) GETTY IMAGES



ADAM'S PICKS



To keep your mower in top condition, clean it thoroughly at least twice a year

This Ozito mower kit is lightweight and portable, making it ideal for mowing small size lawns. It features 36V of power, a 330mm cutting width, five height adjustment positions, and a 30L grass catcher.

Ozito Power X Change 2 x 18V Cordless Mower Kit, \$799. ozito.co.nz



The Ryobi 36V mower delivers clean, reliable, exhaust-free performance to get the job done quickly and quietly. It features a 400mm cutting path, ergonomic handles for user comfort, and offers five cutting height positions.

Ryobi Cordless 36V 4.0AH Li-ion Lawn Mower Kit, \$599. ryobi.co.nz



This mower kit comes with two 18V 4.0AH lithium ion batteries with fast chargers. It features a 360mm cutting width, with six cutting heights from 25mm to 75mm. It comes with a 40L grass catcher with capacity indicator.

Ozito Power X Change 2 x 18V Cordless Lawn Mower Kit, \$499. ozito.co.nz



The Ryobi 36V Brushless Lawn Mower delivers petrol equivalent power instantly at the push of a button. It features a large 460mm cutting path and load-sensing technology so it adapts to cutting conditions.

Ryobi 36V 5.0AH 18" Brushless Lawn Mower, \$699. ryobi.co.nz



The AEG mower kit comes with two 4.0AH batteries and a 58V charger. It has a brushless motor for optimal performance, and features load sensing technology to provide more power in tough conditions.

AEG 58V Brushless Lawn Mower Kit, \$899. aegpowertools.co.nz



The Victa VForce has a durable 18-inch solid steel chassis with dual swing-back blades, and a brushless motor paired with a 40V 4AH battery. It starts with a simple push of a button and squeeze of the safety bar.

Victa VForce+ 18" 40V Lawn Mower, \$799. victa.com



With the features and power of a petrol motor, this Victa is perfect for even larger lawns. The 21" cut gets through the grass fast. It comes with two batteries, which take 30 minutes to charge, so you can mow non-stop. ♦

Victa 82V 21" Wide Cut, Mulch Or Catch Lawn Mower Kit, \$844. victa.com





Did you know?

Tomatoes are a good source of vitamins A and C, betacarotene, potassium and the antioxidant lycopene. They are also a good source of fibre.

Juicy, plump TOMATOES

Experience the delicious difference
of home-grown tomatoes

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

If you want to appreciate the perfect tomato taste, you have to grow your own. The good news is that now is the perfect time to plant them. Garden centres are full of tomato seedlings and there's an even greater choice of varieties if you grow from seed. Tomatoes produce a high yield for the space they occupy and grow equally well in containers and garden beds. Here's how. ►

DIY TIP

In temperate climates you can increase your harvest by sowing an early crop in August and a late crop in November, meaning you'll be picking tomatoes for about five months.

HOW TO GROW

Tomatoes are easy to grow but prone to disease. The best way to avoid this is not to plant them in the same spot you used last year. If you don't have a dedicated vegetable garden, simply pop the odd tomato plant throughout your flowerbeds or grow them in pots.

♦ **POSITION** tomatoes in the sunniest spot available in your garden, as full sun is essential for a good crop. Protection from wind is also essential.

♦ **PREPARE** the soil by adding organic matter such as compost, old chicken manure or Yates Dynamic Lifter to the soil and dig one-third of a cup of complete plant food per square metre into the garden bed one week before planting. Use a pH kit to determine if your soil is acidic, and add some dolomite or liquid lime to the soil prior to planting if so. An alkaline soil also helps prevent blossom end rot.

♦ **PLANT** the seedlings 50-60cm apart. Tomatoes, unlike other vegetables, like to have their stems planted deeply.



Pinch or cut off the lower set of leaves and place the seedling in the ground about halfway down the stem. The plant will put roots out all down its stem, giving it a more developed root system so it can absorb more water and nutrients. To prevent transplant shock, water in newly planted seedlings with Seasol Seaweed.

♦ **STAKE** when you plant the seedling and not later on, when you might damage the root system. Place the stake 10cm away from the stem and, as the tomatoes grow, tie them to the stake for support. The soft and stretchy texture of old pantyhose make perfect

plant ties. Tomato cages can also be used for support.

♦ **MULCH** around the seedlings with straw, lucerne hay or sugar cane mulch to help retain soil moisture.

♦ **WATER** regularly and deeply as erratic watering causes tomatoes to split. To prevent disease, water around the base of the plants rather than overhead.

♦ **FEED** when the first flower truss appears with a soluble plant food such as Yates Thrive Tomato Food or a high-potash fertiliser.

♦ **PICK** tomatoes from the vine when they are ripe. Cut the stalk but leave the green calyx attached.

DIY TIP

At the end of the season as the leaves die, whole plants can be removed from the soil and hung on a warm wall to allow the remaining green fruits to ripen.

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SOW SEED

Growing from seed gives you a much larger choice of tomato varieties. If you sow seed successively from now until December you will have an abundance of tomatoes ripening at different times for a longer harvest.

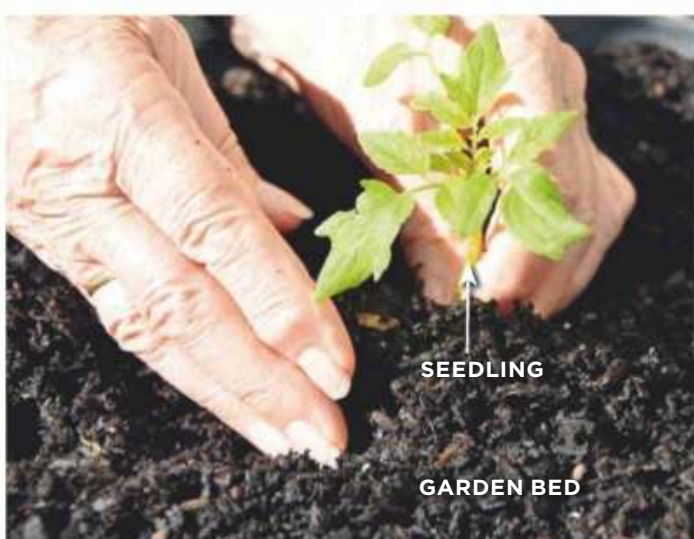
1 Sow the seeds

Fill any small pot or Jiffy Peat Pot with potting mix. Add a seed and cover with a layer of mix. Place the pot in a warm, well-lit position. Wrap in clear plastic to provide warmth but take it off as soon as the seeds germinate. Water with a mist spray.



2 Harden the seedlings

When the seedlings are about 75mm high, put the pot in a sunnier spot to harden up. Transplant to the garden or a larger pot when they are about 100mm high.



GARDEN TIP

Tomato plants grafted onto disease-resistant stock can be planted in the same spot each year, making them good choices for small areas. They also do not need to be planted deeply, but at the same level as the soil.

COMMON PROBLEMS

The best way to prevent disease, unless you are growing grafted tomatoes, is not to plant tomatoes in the same spot you planted them last year. If you do find your plant shows any of these symptoms, here's how to fix it.



SYMPTOM Fruit splits as it begins to ripen.

CAUSE Too much watering or heavy rain after a dry period.

FIX IT Water regularly and deeply, especially during dry periods, at ground level.



SYMPTOM The bottom of fruit becomes sunken and turns black.

CAUSE Blossom end rot, a common environmental problem, caused by lack of calcium together with irregular watering.

FIX IT Add soluble lime and water regularly and deeply.



SYMPTOM Holes appear in fruit and young growth has been eaten.

CAUSE Fruit worm or tomato caterpillar.

FIX IT Apply Yates Tomato Dust when you first notice them.



KITCHEN TIP

Tomatoes are versatile for cooks: use them in pastas, curries, stews, pizzas, risottos, soups, salads and sauces.

Did you know

The darker the colour of tomatoes the lower they are in acidity and the more antioxidants they contain.

TOMATOES IN POTS

If you live in an apartment or have a small garden, it is easy to grow tomatoes in large pots or raised planters which can also protect against crop damage from pests.

Cherry tomatoes grow especially well in containers and produce good yields of small fruit. You can also cascade them out of hanging baskets.

Small bushy tomatoes like Tumbling Tom Red (or Yellow), Tiny Tim, Patio and Container Choice Red are perfect for pots.

♦ **CHOOSE** a large pot that is around 400-500mm with good drainage. A plastic pot is a good choice as it retains more moisture than a terracotta pot.

♦ **FILL** the pot with a good quality potting mix.

♦ **INSERT** a stake or tomato cage in the pot if you are growing a tall tomato.

♦ **MAKE** a hole in the potting mix and plant your seedling. Firm the mix gently around the seedling and water in with a seaweed solution.

♦ **ADD** lucerne hay as mulch around the seedling.

♦ **WATER** regularly as pots dry out faster than garden beds. Daily watering is often needed during summer.

♦ **FEED** regularly with a fertiliser formulated for flowers and fruit. ♦



SYMPTOM Lower green leaves turn a dull grey and eventually become brown and papery.

CAUSE Yellowish tomato russet mites that are small and difficult to see.

FIX IT Apply a broad spectrum insecticide such as Yates Nature's Way Vegie Insect Spray.



SYMPTOM Lower leaves wilt and dry out and eventually the whole plant dies.

CAUSE Verticillium Wilt, a soil-inhabiting fungus that enters through the root hairs.

FIX IT Remove and destroy infected plants. Do not plant members of the Solanaceae family in the same spot for at least three years.



SYMPTOM Tiny holes appear in fruit.

CAUSE Fruit flies lay eggs under the fruit skin and the hatching larvae feed their way to the centre, causing the fruit to rot.

FIX IT Use a fruit fly bait early in the season to detect fruit fly. Destroy infested fruit and do not add them to compost.



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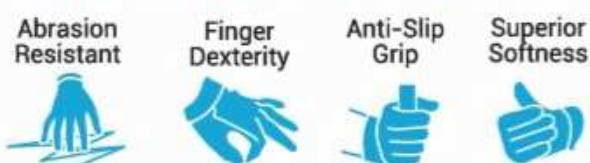
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TEND YOUR TOOLS

WORDS DONYALE HARRISON

Keep your garden tools going for years with a little care

Clean, sharp tools are a gardener's best friend. They will make the job much easier and help prevent the spread of plant diseases. Good-quality tools are an expensive investment, too. But after heavy use, garden tools can look the worse for wear. The good news is that it's the work of just a single afternoon to get them back to tiptop condition.

CLEANING

WASH AND DE-GRIME

The first thing to do is to give all of your tools a thorough clean. Good old soapy water and a stiff brush works a treat for most grime. You may need to apply some isopropyl alcohol, eucalyptus or tea-tree oil on a cloth if your tool has sticky sap on it. Use alcohol rather than oil on plastic handles.

DEALING WITH RUST

To remove rust, rub your tool with a heavy-duty nylon scourer or some medium-grit sandpaper and wipe away any residue. Avoid cutting edges at this stage, as you'll repair them when you come to sharpening your tool.

For lots of rust, use a wire brush or a wire brush fitting on an angle grinder, wearing a mask and safety glasses and clamping your tool to a stable surface. Don't be too vigorous or you risk removing too much metal.



SCOUR WITH SAND

To remove surface grime and rust, an easy way to scour tools is to fill a bucket with sand and a generous quantity of oil – leftover cooking oil is fine – to moisten the sand. Plunge your tools into the sand repeatedly. If you are not going to sharpen your tools, just wipe away the sand to leave behind a thin layer of protective oil. For rustier tools, follow with steel wool or sandpaper.

Keep the oil-sand mix in the shed for future use, as it lasts for years.

SAFETY TIP

Before long a pile of linseed oil-soaked rags can combust, so make sure you always wash and dry them flat after use.

PICTURES (LEFT) GETTY IMAGES (INSET) DONYALE HARRISON



CARE FOR HANDLES

Tending the handle is best done after sharpening your tool, but it can be carried out as a standalone job, too. For composite handles, a good clean is enough.

For rusty steel handles and dry or rough timber handles, rub them with medium-grit sandpaper until they are smooth again, then wipe them down with a clean cloth. Soak another clean cloth with linseed oil and rub it all over the handle.

A timber handle will require a more generous coat. Let it soak in for 15 minutes or more until the handle feels dry. Apply a second coat for timber handles.

Remember to dry cloths soaked in linseed oil flat on the grass or concrete, as they can combust if left scrunched up.

If your tools are sharp, rub the same oil over the blade or tines. If they need sharpening, read on. ►



MEDIUM-GRIT
SANDPAPER



LINSEED
OIL



RUB LINSEED
OIL OVER
HANDLE

SHARPENING

SPADES AND SHOVELS

Sharpening the cutting edge on a spade or shovel makes it much more effective.

Before you start, clean the spade and pop on gloves and eye protection. While most filing removes only minute specks of metal, even these can damage your eyes.

Clamp the spade to a solid surface with the cutting edge (usually the front) facing up. Look closely at the tip of the spade to find the angle of the bevel – the bit that forms the sharp cutting edge. Hold a medium-sized flat mill file or coarse sharpening stone at an angle to match the original. If your spade is too blunt to see the original, 45° is a good option.

Run the file or stone in long strokes at that angle pushing forward and away from the edge. A shiny new edge will start to appear.

Some of the metal pushed away by the file will form a burr on the back edge. Run the file lightly over this side to remove it, then another light stroke on the cutting edge. Wipe over with a cloth to remove any residue.

When you're finished, rub the blade with an oily cloth – linseed oil is fine.



FORKS, RAKES, HOES AND OTHER HAND TOOLS

Treat these tools as for spades, but you may need a smaller flat file to match the angles on the tool. You may also need to sharpen the cutting edge from more than one side: the existing angles on the tool will tell you. Don't sharpen your fork tines too much, as you don't want them going through your boots in an accident.



SECATEURS, LOPPERS, SHEARS AND SNIPS

While some of these tools come apart for sharpening, a sharpening stone or a specialist diamond sharpener works well for fiddly angles in those that don't disassemble. Some sharpening stones

require oil or water for use and some don't, so be sure to read the instructions.

Before you start, take a close look at the blade on your tool to match the cutting angle. A good tip is to colour in the blade angle with a marker pen – it will be removed as you sharpen so you can see where you have been. However, for any deep notches, you'll need to replace rather than repair the blade.

For bypass secateurs and loppers, start on the back edge of the blade and give a few almost-flat strokes with the sharpener to remove any dings. Move to the front edge and, matching the angle, follow the sharpener instructions for straight, sweeping or circular motions along the blade, moving evenly from the bottom to the tip. If you've coloured in with a marker pen, this is easy to see.

Once you've re-established the edge, turn the secateurs or loppers over and rub the back of the blade at a 5° angle to remove the sharpening burr.

For anvil secateurs, modify the steps above to allow for the fact that the cutting blade has a sharp edge on both sides, so keep the angle on each.

For shears and snips, treat as for secateurs but repeat the process for the second blade and keep the angle flat on the back edge.

To finish, check the alignment of the blades by cutting some paper. Apply oil over the moving parts and blades, then wipe away excess with a clean cloth.



CLAMP TOOLS TO BENCH



Even the best garden tools, like the Cyclone Extendable Wavy Hedge Shears, \$59, will need regular sharpening with consistent use. bunnings.co.nz



A diamond stone sharpens very quickly and retains its flat edge longer, such as this Eze-Lap Fine Diamond Hone & Stone Sharpener, \$19.90. bunnings.co.nz



PRUNING SAWS, AXES AND LAWNMOWER BLADES

The teeth on pruning saws come in several different patterns. Those with two sets of opposing teeth, sometimes with a top edge also, cut on the push and the pull and are designed to cut quickly, but they will leave a rougher finish than those that cut in one direction. Familiarise yourself with the angles of your pruning saw, and do a thorough clean – a small steel brush will get into every crevice.

Clamp your saw in a vice with the blade facing up, then, using a triangular cant file and matching the

angle, file the main edge of every tooth. Give each one an equal number of filing strokes – eight at medium pressure is a good start. Reposition the saw in the vice as you move along the blade to keep it from shifting.

On a push-pull pruning saw, sharpen the main edge on every second tooth on one set of teeth, then do the same for the opposing set. Do the same thing with the small top edges, which often require fewer strokes. You should be able to see the clean edge, but use the secateur marker pen trick if you are unsure.

Axes are usually bevelled on both

sides of the blade. While a flat file will work to keep an edge, if it has become blunt you will need to use an angle grinder to put an edge back on. It may be worth having a professional sharpener restore the edge, and you can then keep it sharp.

Once you've removed your lawnmower blades, sharpen them as you would a spade. Clamp them carefully to a stable surface to keep control on this fiddly job.

Oil will help protect your blades. ♦



Growing

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

POTTED FRUIT

Get going on your very own potted orchard now and you will soon be picking your own chemical-free fresh fruit

There's nothing better than picking and eating fruit straight from the tree, and a shortage of space at home need not deny you this pleasure. There are lots of dwarf varieties of citrus, stone fruits, apples and pears, even avocados, that thrive in pots on balconies and in courtyards.

And although their size has been scaled down, these new-generation dwarf fruit trees actually produce full-sized fruit. While you're at it, you can grow your own juicy berries, too.

WHEN TO PLANT

This depends on whether the roots of your tree are bare or already in a pot.

♦ **DECIDUOUS** bare-rooted fruit trees, such as apples, pears, nectarines and peaches, should be planted during winter. Plant potted trees in winter and spring.

♦ **EVERGREEN** fruit trees can be planted at any time of the year, but in frosty areas wait until the weather warms to plant citrus.

CHOOSE YOUR POT

Potted fruit trees do best in plastic pots, as they have better water retention than terracotta pots. So, to give your tree its best start, plant into a plastic pot and use a larger, more attractive terracotta pot as a sleeve.

Choose a pot with a diameter of at least 40cm – you can always increase the size of the pot as the tree grows. Remember, the bigger the pot, the more fruit the tree will bear. ►

HOW TO TRANSPLANT

After you've brought your new fruit tree home from the nursery, you'll need to transplant it into a larger pot. Choose a premium potting mix.



1 **Water** the tree thoroughly an hour or two before it is to be transplanted, then gently remove it from its container or bag. Half-fill the new pot with potting mix.



2 **Place** the tree in the new pot, making sure that the soil level will remain the same in the new pot and that the graft will be 50-75mm above the soil level.



3 **Backfill** with more potting mix and firm down. Water in well to remove any air pockets and top up mix if it has sunk. Remove any fruit to direct energy into new growth.



Plastic pots produce prolific apples and pears.

MAKE THE MOST OF WALLS

If space is short, make use of fences and walls. Simply attach wire mesh to the surface and drape with grapes, passionfruit or kiwifruit. You can also use walls to espalier a fruit tree, which means training it to grow against a flat surface. You can espalier your own pear, apple and citrus trees on a trellis in a pot, or buy espaliered citrus ready-made from a nursery.



HOW TO GROW

Productive plants are easy to grow with the right care.

♦ **FEED** your tree regularly to ensure healthy growth.

While premium potting mixes contain enough food for a short time, you'll still need to apply a three-month controlled-release nutrient in

spring, summer and autumn, or soluble fertiliser formulated for

flowers and fruit every six weeks from spring to autumn.

♦ **WATER** potted fruit trees deeply. Don't just give them a quick sprinkle with the hose or watering can. Keep dousing until the water runs out the drainage holes.



Northcote Pottery
55 x 47cm Lime
Primolite Lily Pot, \$59.
northcotepottery.com

As you get to know your potted plants, you will be able to work out

a routine based on the weather. In the warmer months you

will sometimes need to water every day. Be sure to place containers on pot feet for good drainage.

♦ **MULCH** with sphagnum moss or lucerne hay. This helps to retain moisture in pots; as the mulch breaks down, it provides structure and beneficial organic matter to the soil. Don't add mulch near the stem of the tree, as fungal disease could develop.

♦ **MAINTAIN** healthy microbes and essential bacteria in the potting mix, as it begins to slump during the year.

Add a light covering of cow manure or compost on top of the mix but don't change the height of the original level. Also apply a seaweed extract such as Seasol on a monthly basis, which adds beneficial microorganisms to the mix.



Yates Thrive
Granular Citrus Food,
\$19.50 for 5kg.
yates.co.nz

WHAT'S GREAT TO GROW

Lemons and limes

Dwarf lemon varieties and the Tahitian lime are perfect for pots. They can also be espaliered against a trellis.

Meyer is not as bitter as other lemons and produces an abundance of juicy, thin-skinned fruit. It is the most cold-hardy lemon but also tolerates heat.

Lisbon lemons are zesty, with up to 6% citric acid in their juice.

Eureka has very acidic lemons all year with the heaviest crop in winter.

Tahitian Lime produces green, juicy fruit in autumn and early winter.

Mandarins

Mandarins are favourites for children, as they peel easily and fit into lunch boxes.

Burgess Scarlet is a medium-sized, rich flavoured mandarin that is easy to peel.

Corsica No.2 Dwarf ripens around June-July. It peels easily and cleanly.

Apricots, nectarines and peaches

The dwarf apricot varieties such as **Aprigold** are best grown in the colder regions of the South Island.

Flavourzee, **Garden Delight** and **Nectar Babe** are delicious, yellow-fleshed nectarines you can grow in pots.

Pixzee peaches ripen early and have a luscious, tasty yellow flesh.

Pears and apples

Garden Belle pear trees grow to around 2m tall and 1m wide, but aren't self-fertile so need a different pear variety nearby.

Columnar apples such as the

Ballerina range **Waltz**, **Bolero** and **Polka** are ideal for pots.

The range of dwarf **KiwiApples** comprises four varieties which all grow into small trees no taller than 1.5m.



Mandarins look stunning and taste delicious.

Avocados

Feed young potted avocado trees about three times a year with cow manure, compost or a fertiliser with added nitrogen. Once mature, feed in spring with a fertiliser for flowers and fruit.

Wurtz is a dark-skinned avocado ideal for planting in pots. Grow Wurtz in a pot at least the size of a wine barrel. Stand it on pot feet so that drainage is not impeded. Water regularly, especially on hot summer days when pots can dry out quickly.

Strawberries

Strawberries are easy to grow and like a sunny spot. Use a quality organic potting mix tailored for vegetables and herbs and that ideally contains a three-month controlled-release fertiliser. Water regularly, especially when the fruit is ripening. When the flowers appear, feed with a fertiliser for flowers and fruit.

Blueberries

Blueberries like an acidic soil, so use a potting mix tailored for roses, gardenias, azaleas and camellias. In spring, feed with the same type of controlled-release plant food. Or apply a soluble plant food for flowers and fruits monthly from spring until winter.

Make sure you grow the right blueberry for your climate, as some need a winter chill period to stimulate flowering and then fruiting.

Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) varieties are ideal in cool regions. **Rabbit-eye** blueberry (*Vaccinium ashei*) varieties do well in warm climates. ♦



It's all about the roots!



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www.mrfothergills.co.nz

Susciuous LEAVES

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Farm a feast of fresh salad greens in a small, sunny space in just a few weeks

Spring is here and the weather is warming, so now is the ideal time to get into the garden and sow some fresh leafy greens. Salad greens, annual herbs and Asian greens all thrive in this warmer weather and can be picked in a matter of a few weeks, so you'll soon be munching on your own homegrown harvest.

Leafy greens are good for you, too. Most are high in antioxidants and low in kilojoules, and are full of vitamin C, which helps to keep colds at bay.

Last but not least, growing your own greens is both cheaper and more convenient than making continual trips to the greengrocer. Lucky for us, they're incredibly easy to grow.



5 STEPS TO GROWING SALAD LEAVES

◆ **POSITION** Sun, sun and lots of sun will guarantee success for salad leaves, Asian greens and annual herbs, except for lettuce and rocket, which appreciate shade from the afternoon summer sun in hot climates. Protection from wind is also necessary.

◆ **SOIL** Good soil is the essence of organic gardening and is crucial for high yields of leafy greens and herbs. A healthy soil regularly fed with compost and manure is full of essential worms and microscopic

organisms that provide an excellent start for all vegetables.

Dig in lots of organic matter such as compost, poultry manure, Yates Dynamic Lifter or cow manure before planting. Do this on a seasonal basis before planting a new crop. Organic matter adds structure to the soil, helps to retain water and slowly releases beneficial nutrients.

◆ **FEED** Even though you have already added manure or compost to your garden bed, spring greens need extra fertiliser as they grow. The quicker leafy greens and annual herbs grow, the more tender and sweet they are. Feed at least

monthly with an organic complete soluble plant food. Always water the soil before and after adding fertiliser.

◆ **MULCH** Lucerne hay, straw or pea straw are ideal mulches for vegetable beds and pots. Mulch conserves moisture in the soil, keeps the soil cool and will ensure your vegetables grow steadily even in hot weather.

◆ **WATER** Leafy greens and annual herbs must be watered regularly to keep them succulent and tasty. How often you water depends on the weather, but don't let the soil dry out. Water in the morning at ground level to prevent fungal diseases from developing. ►

WHAT TO GROW

SALAD LEAVES

- ◆ **CELERY LEAF**, also called Chinese or cutting celery, adds a refreshing celery taste to dishes. Pick the young leaves for salads and the older leaves for stir-fries.
- ◆ **LETTUCE** likes regular watering and a fortnightly application of a soluble plant food to ensure there are enough leaves for the salad bowl. Pick-and-come-again varieties are good for pots.
- ◆ **ROCKET** grows well in spring and will not bolt to seed. The leaves are at their best when picked young. Wild rocket has deeply serrated leaves.
- ◆ **SALAD BEET** leaves have a slight beetroot taste and are high in antioxidants. Harvest the young leaves frequently to encourage more leaves, and use in delicious salads and sandwiches.
- ◆ **MIZUNA** has a mustardy taste and deeply serrated leaves. You can also buy red-leaf mizuna. Frequent picking encourages more leaves. It goes well with Asian foods and fish.
- ◆ **SPINACH** is a great source of vitamins and minerals, whether eaten raw or cooked. Harvest frequently, and pick outside leaves individually in the same way as you pick silverbeet.
- ◆ **WATERCRESS** grows easily from cuttings, about 10cm long, placed in a jar of water. After about five days, roots will appear. Plant the cuttings in a self-watering pot and keep the potting mix damp. Pick as required.

Spinach

Salad beet leaves

Coriander

GREEN HERBS

- ◆ **BASIL** marries well with tomatoes and loves warm weather. Plant the seeds or seedlings now and enjoy the leaves until the cool weather arrives.
- ◆ **CHERVIL LEAVES** have a mild aniseed flavour. Add chopped leaves to dishes just before serving, as the flavour diminishes with the heat. Grow chervil in a semi-shaded position and moist soil. Let one plant go to seed and chervil will reappear every year in the same place.
- ◆ **DILL** has feathery leaves and flowers that attract beneficial predators into the garden. Its bittersweet leaves

marry well with seafood and egg salads. Plant dill in a sunny or lightly shaded position.

- ◆ **CORIANDER** leaves, stems, seeds and roots are used in Asian recipes. It is also delicious in potato, tomato or egg salads. Coriander does not run to seed as quickly in spring as it does in hot weather.

- ◆ **PARSLEY**, whether the biennial curly or flat-leaf variety, is great for summer salads and barbecues. Parsley is very greedy, so regular feeding is essential to keep it producing its scrumptious leaves.

Celery leaf

Mizuna

PEST ALERT

Snails and slugs will love your greens as much as you do. Look for holes in leaves, shiny streaks on foliage and slime trails.

- ◆ **FIX IT** Protect your greens with snail and slug pellets. Or, make a beer trap by sinking a small container of beer into the ground. **Caterpillars** will chew leaves on young and old growth. Small seedlings may even be eaten.

- ◆ **FIX IT** Remove by hand. Kiwicare Organic Caterpillar Bio Control keeps most caterpillar numbers down as it contains natural bacteria that kill the larvae. Alternatively, use Yates Natures Way. ►



What's trending

Workshop Talk & Tips

Join the discussion



WHAT PLANTS DO YOU RECOMMEND FOR SCREENING AT 2-3m?

'A lot of people would recommend a pittosporum, as they are fast growing - up to a metre a year. For screening you just want one that is sturdy and grows upright as well as bushing out.' @Kermit

'There are a large number of plants that you could use for screening around that 2-3m mark: magnolias (Little Gem or Teddy Bears), pittosporums, camellias, viburnums, lilly pillies, photinias.' @Branchy249

'I've been recommended murraya. Apparently it is a great screening plant - very fast growing, fragrant white flowers and nice and clean.' @Kellie

WORKSHOP MEMBER PROFILE

Roy Quinsey describes himself as just a 'young Aussie bloke living the dream on the south coast of NSW'. But the 24-year-old is anything but average. He has experience in a wide variety of trades and has tackled many different projects.

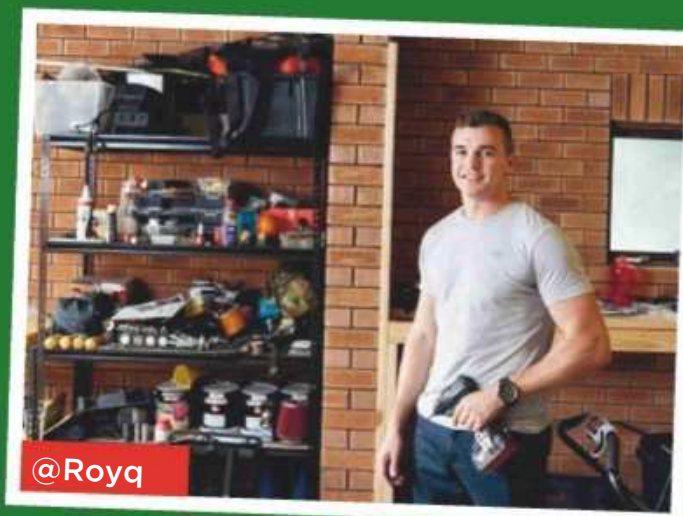
Roy says most of his skills come from exposure to the building industry.

'Dad taught me a lot,' he says. 'I also worked for my uncles doing plumbing, then did a lot of landscaping.'

Now Roy enjoys sharing his knowledge with Workshop members. One of his most popular projects is a cable trellis for a climbing vine hedge to cover an otherwise boring Colorbond fence.

'The cool thing about landscaping jobs is that they become more successful every time you see them,' says Roy. 'Things are always growing and changing.'

Roy loves the satisfaction that DIY provides, not to mention the cost savings he makes.



@Royq

'But one of the greatest things about DIY for me is learning something new. I'm always hungry for new building skills.'

Roy recently bought his first house and is renovating it before moving in. He has tackled the home gym, the garage and ripped out a heap of messy jungle gardens. The to-do list includes a new kitchen floor, moving some living room walls, and installing a new staircase. Join Workshop to follow his progress.

SHARE YOUR PICS



@TimJeffries



@WoodenGregsWood



@Rodney

PICTURE (TOP) GETTY IMAGES



Workshop is a fun online space where you can ask DIY and gardening questions, share photos and videos of your projects, get tips and inspiration for your home and much more. To join the discussion, sign up at workshop.com.au.

ASIAN GREENS

Like broccoli and brussels sprouts, Asian greens belong to the Brassicaceae family. Research has shown that all brassicas are potentially anti-inflammatory and reputed to reduce the risk of cancer. Add them fresh to salads or lightly stir-fry with soy sauce and ginger and serve as a side dish.

- ◆ **PLANT** Choose bok choy, tatsoi, choy sum, Chinese broccoli, Chinese cabbage and mustard greens.
- ◆ **GROW** Sow Asian greens from seed directly where they are to grow. They will be ready in a matter of weeks.
- ◆ **PESTS** Watch out for the caterpillars of the cabbage white butterfly on the leaves. Spray with a caterpillar bio-control product or sprinkle with derris dust. Snails and slugs will also munch on your Asian greens so use environmentally friendly snail bait.

Bok Choy



GROW TIP

Coriander and rocket will take a little shade, but give other herbs the sunniest position available where they will flourish.



Add herbs to fresh salad leaves to spice up the mix.

POTTED GREENS

Leafy greens are the perfect balcony plants, as they all grow well in small containers. For larger options, they also grow well in big pots and troughs, or you can try a modular vegie bed. These are made from steel, timber or blocks, and are available in different heights and shapes to suit your space. They are particularly great for renters, as you can take the bed with you when you move.



To grow potted greens, fill containers with a good-quality potting mix and feed every two weeks with a soluble fertiliser. Mulch the pots with lucerne hay or pea straw, and water regularly.

HOW TO PLANT A BOWL OF GREENS

Plant a bowl or trough with your favourite leaves. We chose beet leaves, green mizuna, red mizuna, parsley, coriander and lettuce. Plant seedlings or purchase semi-advanced plants if you want to start picking earlier.



● **WATER** the seedlings an hour before they are to be potted. Fill a 40cm wide bowl or large trough to about 25mm from the rim with a premium potting mix.



● **SQUEEZE** the sides of the container to loosen the seedlings. Gently slide them out of the container, one at a time, being careful not to damage the roots.



● **MAKE** a hole in the mix with a trowel and plant a seedling. You can plant several closer together than in garden beds, as you will be picking them frequently. ♦

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Handyman

NEXT ISSUE

GARDEN

Bring your yard to life by establishing a stunning foliage garden.

PLUS Our trimmers and edgers guide will ensure a well-manicured yard.

RENOVATE

Landscaping experts reveal how to make the most of your exteriors.

PLUS Create the ultimate outdoor room with our guide.

BUILD

Construct an awesome suspended day bed for your alfresco area.

PLUS We show you how to make furniture from recycled pallets.