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Handyman

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BOOST WORKSHOP
& GARAGE STORAGE

RENOVATE

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AND SAVE CASH



Grow
gorgeous natives



Create
a balcony garden



Build a picket gate
page 104

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GET THE LOOK

LOVE THE COVER?

Revamp the exterior of the home and outdoor living spaces with paint



Bright white trim works well for most architectural styles.

Paint downpipes the same colour as walls for a seamless backdrop.

Choose accessories that tone with the house colours for a cohesive look.

Edge stairs in a dark colour to add definition in a neutral scene.

A new paint job is the easiest way to transform an outdoor area, as it can be applied to walls, trim and floors. This home features timber but metal, concrete and brickwork can also be painted. Choose a palette to suit the architectural style and surrounding landscape, adding furniture and accessories in tonal colours.



PHOTO: JACOBI/ISTOCK

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THIS ISSUE

EDITOR'S LETTER



Take your gardening to the next level and learn how to bonsai!

HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH



SAVE LEFTOVER PAINT IN A BOTTLE FOR TOUCH-UPS



Like Handyman Magazine on Facebook for more tips

August can feel like an in-between month, as it's not yet time for spring planting or spring-cleaning, but there is still lots to do around the home and garden.

I'm the most excited about our paint stories, as it's one of the easiest and fastest ways to transform your home. And painting doesn't call for extensive DIY skills or a huge budget, while delivering a big result.

Boost kerb appeal by revamping the exterior of your home, from page 24, or to give the interior a serious style injection, check out page 46.

We also have spray-painting tips, on page 40, and if you haven't given spraying a go, I really recommend it. It's not only a time-saver but is also heaps of fun and can be done on walls, furniture and more.

But if you're not looking to get out the drop sheets right now, we

have lots of other projects you can tackle both indoors and out.

Cut your energy bills by installing roof insulation, on page 57. Improve access with a new garden gate. Or learn how to create bonsai, on page 128.

Get ready for Father's Day

Instead of leaving Dad's present until the last minute this year, turn to page 14 for our fantastic round-up of gift ideas, whether he's a green thumb, DIY devotee or a gadget guy.

And if you want to get more hands on, check out our Father's Day section, from page 88. You can build Dad a new workbench or create clever tool storage for him in the garage.

Happy DIYing,

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**EXPERT IDEAS
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Winter gardening

FAST FACT

The traditional Father's Day flower is a rose. Red roses are for living fathers and white roses are for deceased dads.



PICTURE (RIGHT) THINKSTOCK

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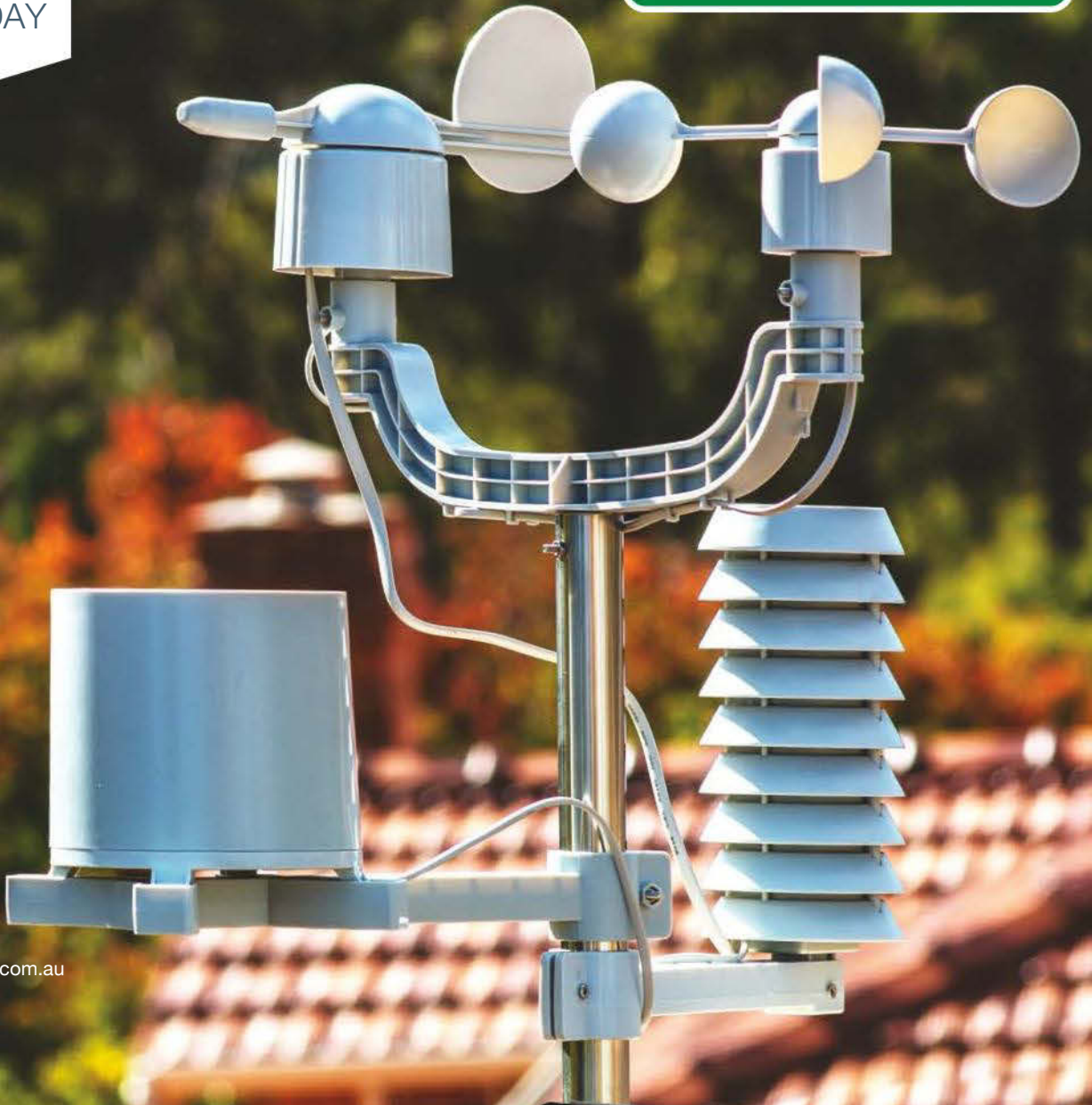
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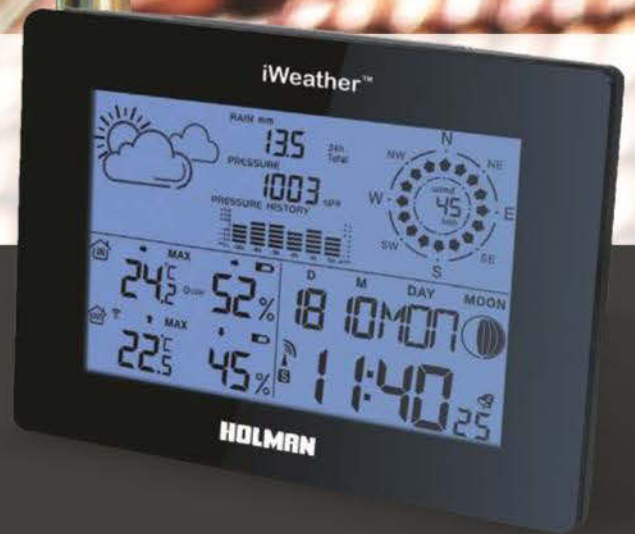


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HOW TO REMOVE LABEL RESIDUE FROM GLASS JARS

Try this handy trick to get rid of the sticky label residue on glass jars and bottles



GLASS JARS have dozens of uses in the home and garden, including sorting nails and screws, making garden lanterns, creating terrariums or storing spices, nuts and cereal.

Despite their many uses, it's often very tricky to get the label off a glass jar cleanly and easily.

Most labels are firmly glued to the jar, so they often tear when being peeled off.

Even if they are removed cleanly, they usually leave behind a sticky residue that's very difficult to clean off.

HOW TO REMOVE STICKY LABEL RESIDUE

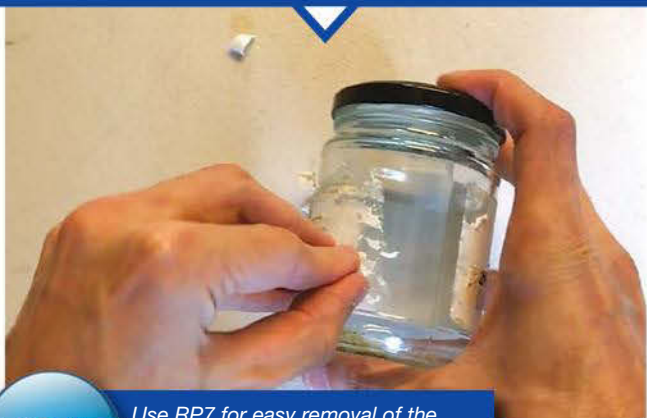
You can use Selleys® RP7® to clean sticky label residue off glass jars and bottles, leaving them clean and ready to reuse.

RP7® is a multipurpose lubricant, but it is also especially useful for cleaning grime and residue from surfaces.

To remove label residue from glass jars, simply spray the residue with RP7® and allow it to penetrate for 5 minutes.

Once it has penetrated, use a cloth to wipe the residue off the glass. It comes off quickly and easily, allowing you to reuse the jar for other purposes.

Use Selleys® RP7® to remove leftover residue on the glass



HINT

Use RP7 for easy removal of the adhesive residue left over from removing a sticker off a car window

STEP 1: Spray the residue with Selleys® RP7®



STEP 2: Allow it to penetrate for 5 minutes



STEP 3: Wipe off the residue with a cloth



The residue comes off quickly and easily



Next time you plan on reusing a glass jar, remove the label residue first using Selley's® RP7®.



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EXTERIOR PAINT STYLE

Make the most of your home with palettes that lift it from dull to dynamic

WORDS SITA SIMONS

Giving your house an exterior refresh is one of the most effective ways to boost the street appeal of a property and get it looking its best.

Paint technology has made great advances over recent years, meaning that both application and longevity are improved to meet the demands of the Australian climate.

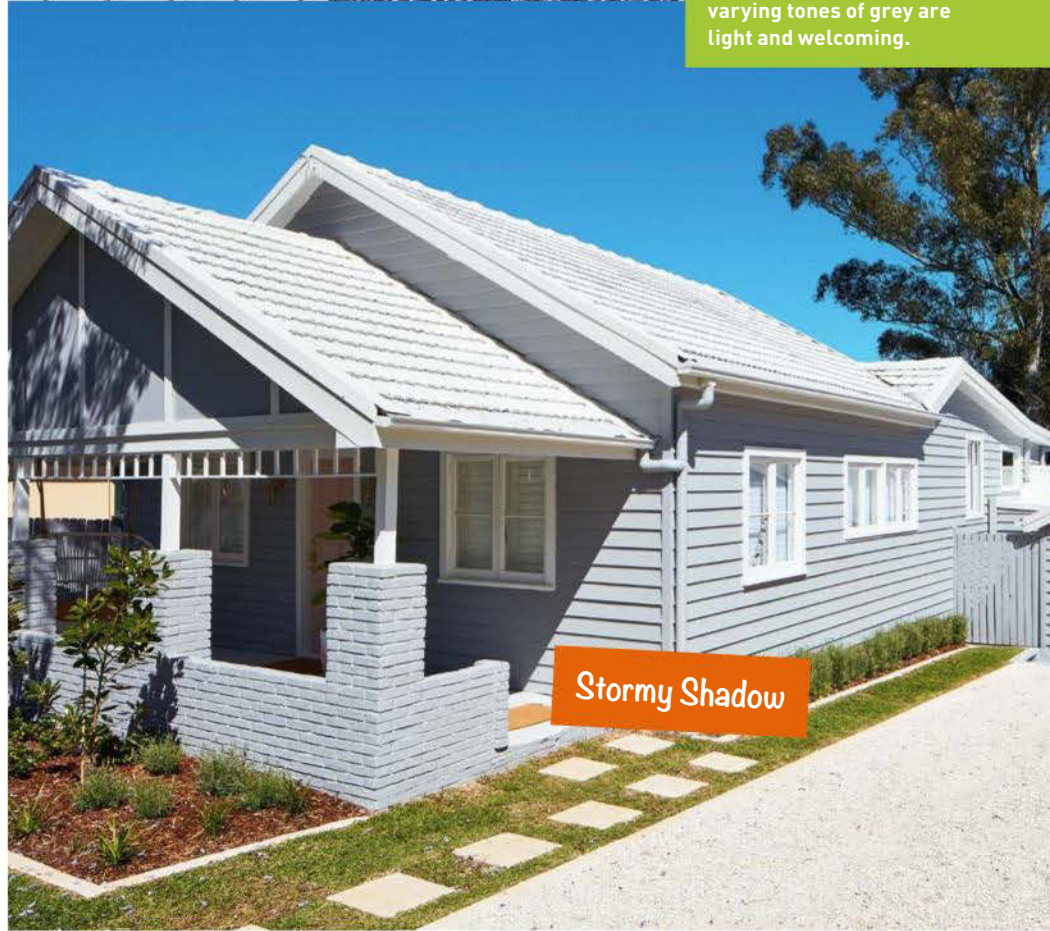
Choosing colours can be daunting, but seeking professional advice may save time and money overall. Many brands have existing arrangements with colour consultants.



Gravel

Stormy Shadow

At the front and the back, in a nice sunny spot, the varying tones of grey are light and welcoming.



Stormy Shadow

Brand ambassador for Taubmans, Shaynna Blaze, says there are two factors to consider before you go anywhere near the paint aisle.

'First think about the architecture of the building. The colours have to suit the style and be in balance with the architectural direction,' she says.

'This can be achieved by using a couple of tones of the same colour, and highlighting trims.'

'Street appeal is the other element, and this isn't just for sellers. Be guided by surrounding houses, and choose colours that will endure over time.' >

STYLE TIP

Bring a metal roof into the overall scheme by using the colour or material in an awning or a section of trim.

Burma Buff

Heritage homes

Your choices can be restricted if your home is heritage listed. Heritage paint schemes vary from area to area and can be very precise, with different options for windows, doors, ironwork and various decorative details.

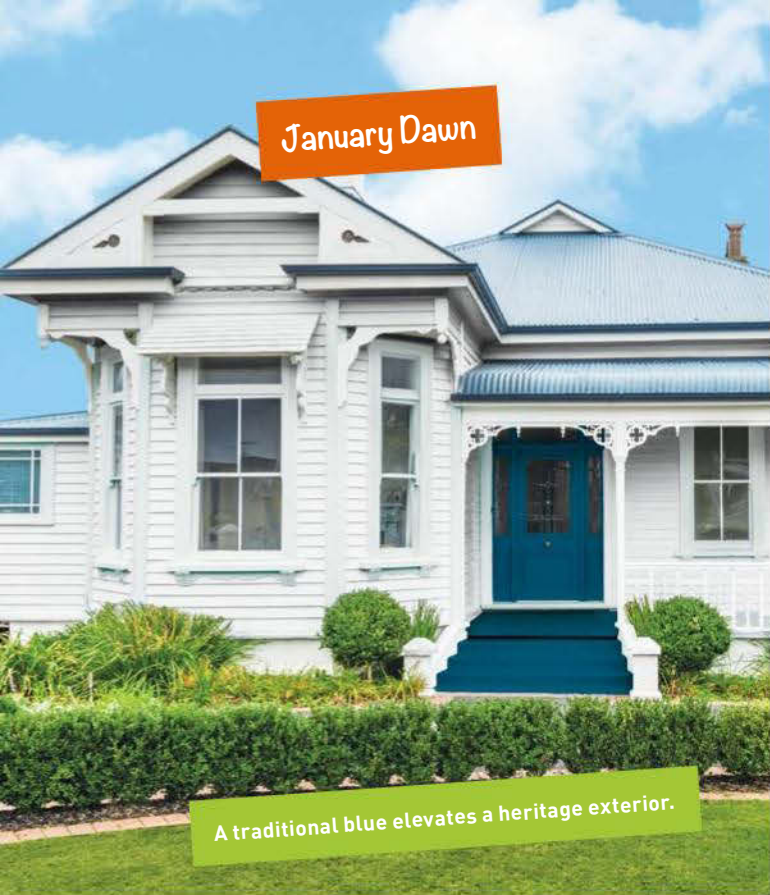
This doesn't mean that you can't make changes or inject your own personality into the property, but it is worth consulting local experts or council guides before starting work.

If your property has a heritage look, but it isn't governed by official council listings, then you can be a bit more adventurous, says Shaynna.

'While you are free to choose for yourself in this situation, there are still rules to follow for the best result.

'Opt for one colour for the main expanse of the building, a neutral or contrasting colour for the windows and eaves, and one more to pick out any details in the architecture.' >

January Dawn



A traditional blue elevates a heritage exterior.

Torte



Ornate details are highlighted in pristine white.

THE QUIETEST HAMMER



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Door appeal

If there's one place you can go bold on the exterior, it's the front door. No matter which period of home, a pop of colour or a luxuriously glossy finish can set the scene.

'It is the invitation into the house and creates a lasting impression. So if you've ever wanted to paint something turquoise or bubblegum pink, this is the place,' says Shaynna.

Take a look at a colour wheel to determine which colours make the best contrast to the hue on the surrounding walls. Opposites on the wheel work well together. ➤

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Green contrast

Going very dark on the exterior can create a dramatic impact, and is also fresh and modern looking.

A dark colour needs to have some contrast, and if the architecture is contemporary and doesn't feature decorative trim, look to nature.

'Good landscaping that combines a mix of greens pops against a dark colour. Without it, this palette can look very flat,' says Shaynna.

A powerful shade tends to be overbearing if not softened. So in addition to the much-needed greenery, introduce natural materials such as timber, stone or terracotta.

Fences and boundary lines also make statements when in contrast to lush landscaping.

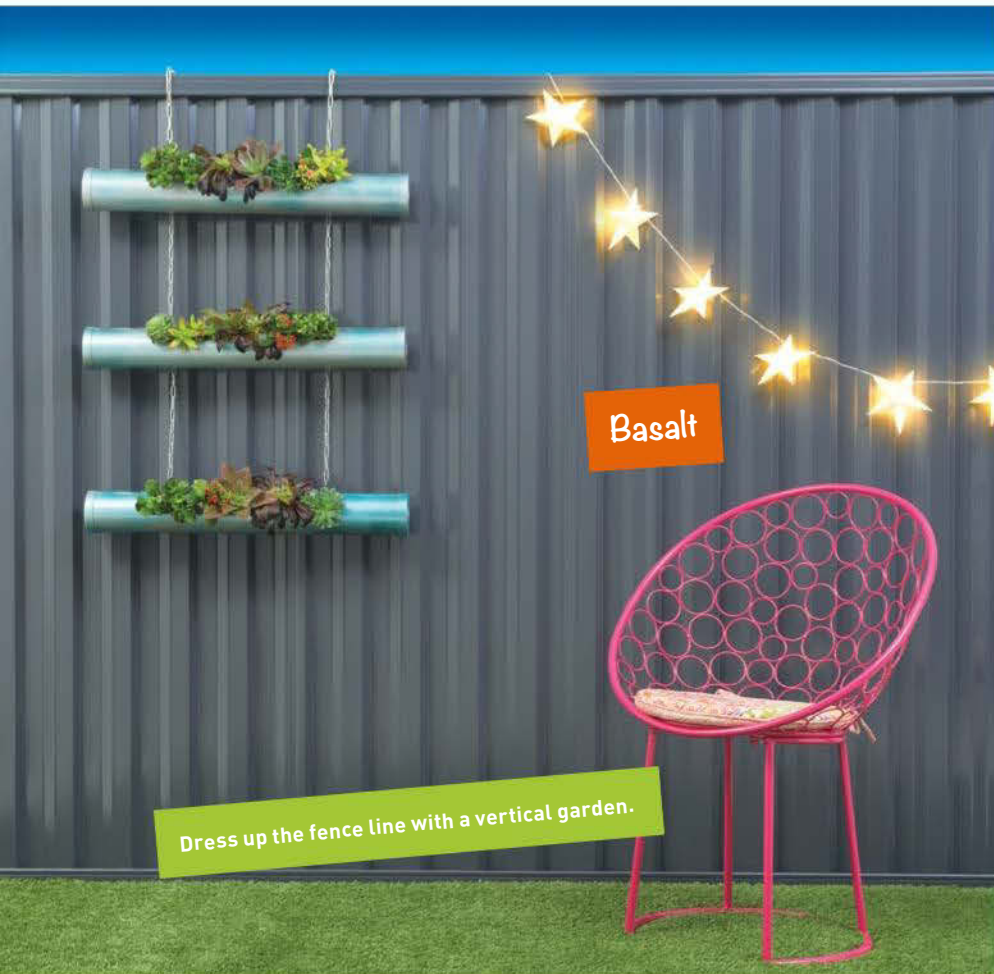
Make the most of a plain Colorbond fence by choosing a dark colour and adding a vertical garden and bright accessories. ➤



Private Jet



Light shades are as effective as dark when contrasted with greenery.



Basalt

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Green Shoot

BUDGET TIP

Pick up on the surrounding greenery and paint just one wall for impact, which can be achieved quickly and cost-effectively.

Playful elements encourage people to enjoy the outdoor room.



Outside treatment

Unlike the front of the house, which can be a standalone colour, the outdoor room needs to be connected to the interior design, and remember to factor in the colour of the roof.

‘The grey tones have been very popular, especially the blue bases, which make them quite strong, but new greys have a more yellow base, which tones down the contrast.

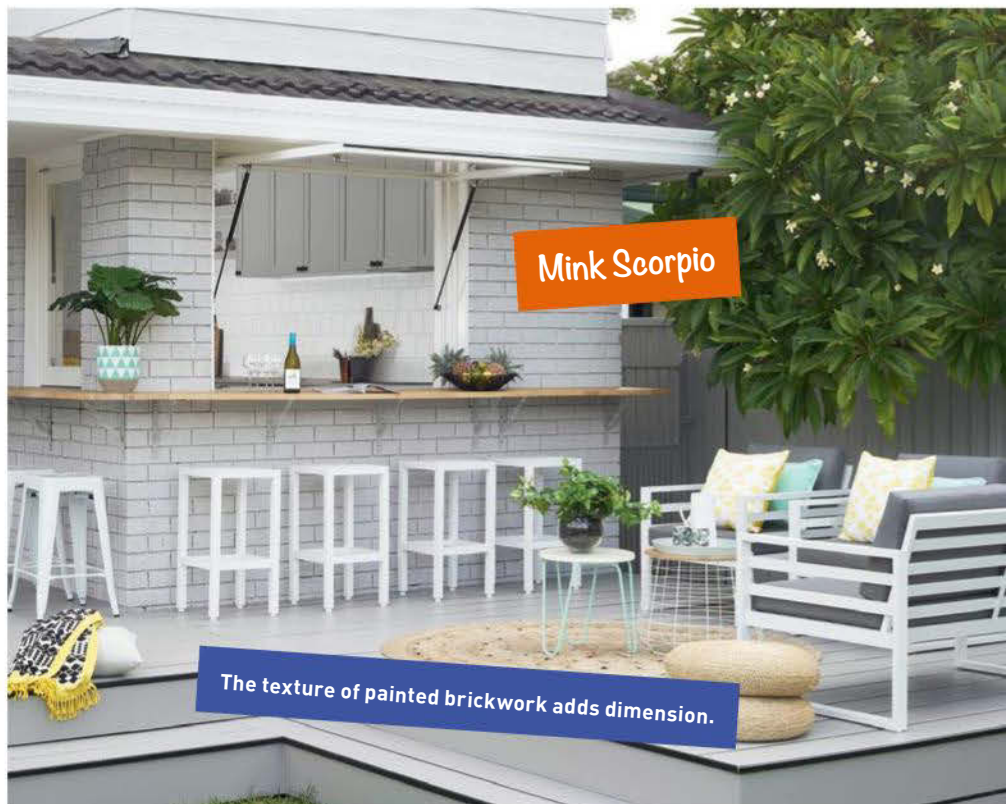
‘But bear in mind that blue-based colours won’t work well with a red terracotta roof,’ says Shayna. 🍷



Outdoor spaces that flow seamlessly from interiors create a unified design template

Mink Scorpio

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GRIT SELECTION CHART



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PAIN MAKEOVER

A shabby terrace is transformed with new colours for the fence, path, porch, walls and trim

WORDS SITA SIMONS

When a house is looking the worse for wear, give it the ultimate face lift by repainting the exterior and trims.

This is a job that can be done DIY, assuming you have a reasonable skill level and you have the time and commitment to do it well.

Painting professional Richard Zaiter says that after checking the structural integrity, examine the surfaces well, looking for water leaks, mould and dirt. Then check the weather forecast for a dry spell.

Winter is a great time for an exterior project, as paint is affected by the high temperatures of the warmer months. And the best painting hours are between 9am and 2pm. >



Treating mould

Before starting any exterior paint job, you must treat, clean and prepare the surfaces.

Look for any signs of mould, mildew, lichen or algae on the eaves, and timber and brickwork.

The spores need to be killed or they'll continue to grow in the paint film, which will ruin the surface.

Use a specialised product, and follow instructions carefully, to treat the specific issue. Always wear safety goggles, a mask and gloves when dealing with mould.



Before

After

Taubmans Akimbo on the walls provides the ideal contrast to White Knight Paints Glossy Black on the other surfaces.



The fence

To paint a wrought iron fence, lay a drop sheet to catch any metal chips, then use a small wire brush to tackle any rust spots and loose paint.

Wipe down the fence with a wet cloth, then a dry cloth. Always wear safety goggles and leather gloves when working with metal surfaces.

Rub down with a non-scratch pad, then wipe and dry the metal. Apply specialised primer and paint with a paintbrush. Or use a nook and cranny roller, which gives a smoother finish than a brush. ➤



A fresh coat of paint stands out against a backdrop of green.



3M SandBlaster 150 Grit/ Medium Ultra Flexible Sanding Sheets, about \$13. 3m.com.au



Josco 4 Row Long Brass Wire Brush, about \$12. bunnings.com.au



White Knight Rust Guard Quick Dry Advanced Enamel, \$109 for 4L. whiteknightpaints.com.au

3M

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PRO SERIES FEATURES

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7512 (Medium)



- ✓ A1P2
- ✓ AN/NZS 1716*

Available at
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This product meets the performance requirement of AS/NZS 1716, P2.*

WARNING: Workplace/Occupational Applications:
This respirator helps protect against certain airborne contaminants.
Misuse may result in sickness or death.
For correct use, consult 3M Australia on 1800 024 464.

The porch

To paint a concrete porch, clean it thoroughly and when dry, cut in with a brush, then go in with a roller.

Choose a deep paint tray that will hold a minimum of two litres of paint. And make sure to keep the roller wet without over-rolling. Trying to roll out the last bit of paint from the roller will quickly flatten the nap.

Apply the first coat, keeping even pressure on the roller, then apply a second coat with a light hand for an even, smooth finish. 🍷



Use an adjustable pole extension at the most comfortable length for you.



Scotch Blue 36mm x 41m Platinum Painter's Tape, \$20. scotchblue.com.au



White Knight Ultra Pave Quick Dry Formula, \$78 for 4L. whiteknightpaints.com.au



Monarch 0.6-1.2m Professional Extension Pole, about \$16. bunnings.com.au



A dark path and porch add drama to a facade without being overwhelming

MONARCH®

PROFESSIONAL PAINTING TIPS

TIP 1

Monarch Smart Lock Fabric Mini Roller (100mm \$8.98). Ideal for small areas and surfaces.



Monarch Walls Doors & Trim Brush (50mm \$18.50). Ideal for Walls, Doors & Trims around the house.



TIP 4



MONARCH Deck, Stain & Lime Wash Brush (125mm \$39.98). Ideal for applying paint, stain or oil to timber surfaces.

The **Monarch Fence, Deck & Pergola Kit (\$9.59)** is designed for rough surfaces and includes a quality 20mm nap roller cover for maximum coverage. **Shurline Deck Pad with Handle (230mm \$16.94)** is designed to prevent dripping and pooling for even coverage and accuracy.



TIP 5

For sealing gaps around roofs, gutters & skylights, use the **Monarch Mini Roof & Gutter Translucent Silicone (\$3.30)** & **Monarch Mini Compact Caulking Gun (\$5.98)**. To get a smooth finish, wipe off the excess silicone using the **Monarch 3 in 1 Caulking Tool (\$4.70)**.



TIP 2

Monarch Fence Brush (100mm \$5.00). Ideal for coarse timber application on decks, fence, pergolas & hand rails.



TIP 3

✓ The key to getting a professional finish is using quality paint with quality brushes and rollers.

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse





13 TIPS FOR SPRAY PAINTING

Use these tricks and techniques to achieve great results

Spray painting appears to be an easy task. Just press the nozzle and aim. What could go wrong? But using cans of spray paint requires skill if you want professional results.

Here we outline the best ways to use aerosol cans to help you get a smooth, consistent finish on your next painting project. We also give tips on setting up spray-painting jobs.

As with all painting, preparation is key, along with a little patience.

Hold the spray can the correct distance from the object you're painting.

1 Apply coats in different directions

To achieve the most even coverage, it's a good idea to apply subsequent coats in different directions.

Changing direction will help you get into all those nooks and crannies and reduce the chance of zebra stripes.



2 Take apart the piece

Before you start painting, examine your project. If you are able to take it apart without too much trouble, do it.

You'll have better luck getting even coverage, avoiding runs and seeing what you're doing. But don't dismantle willy-nilly. Mark parts for easy reassembly.



3 Clean the nozzle

Although nozzle-cleaning directions are on every can of spray paint, it's easy to skip them.

After use, hold the can upside down and press the nozzle until no more pigment shows in the

spray, then wipe the tip clean with a cloth or paper towel.

If you skip this step, you could end up with a partial clog that will affect the spray pattern next time. Or the nozzle could get completely clogged with dried paint.



4 Start with a tack coat

If you're spraying a vertical surface, it's always smart to apply a tack coat before you spray the first full coat.

A tack coat is a light mist that sets in five minutes. The texture of the tack coat will help hold the paint in place and reduce runs. ➤

Directions: Use outdoors, or in well-ventilated area, when temperature is above 50°F (10°C) and humidity is below 85% to ensure proper drying. Do not apply to surfaces that exceed 200°F. Avoid spraying in very windy, dusty conditions. Cover nearby objects to protect from spray mist. Remove loose paint and rust with a wire brush or sandpaper. Lightly sand glossy surfaces. Clean with soap and water, rinse and let dry. Shake can vigorously for one minute after mixing balls begin to rattle. Shake often during use. Hold can upright 12-16" from surface and spray in a steady back-and-forth motion, slightly overlapping each stroke. Keep the can at the same distance from the surface and in motion while spraying. Apply 2 or more light coats a few minutes apart. May recoat within 1 hour or after 48 hours. Dries to the touch in 2-4 hours, to handle in 5-9 hours, and is fully dry in 24 hours, at 70°F (21°C) - 50% relative humidity. Allow more time at cooler temperatures. When finished spraying, clear spray valve by turning can upside down and pushing spray button for 5 seconds. If valve clogs, twist and pull off spray tip and rinse it in a solvent such as mineral spirits. Do not stick a pin or other object into the stem. Throw away empty can in trash pickup.

5 Read the directions

This may sound obvious, but few people bother to read the directions on the can.

If the manufacturer says to apply a tack coat or start with a primer, there's probably a good reason for it. One of the most important pieces of information is the drying time between coats.

Often, you can apply a second coat soon after. But if you miss that window, you may have to wait a long time to apply the next coat.

6 Hang them up

If the project parts are small enough, you can suspend them for painting.

You'll be able to paint all the sides at the same time and have everything at eye level. You can use coat hangers, wires, drawing-pins or screws.

Wear a carbon respirator when spray painting, especially if you are painting indoors.

SAFETY TIP

Reduce clean-up time, avoid fumes and keep paint off your skin by wearing rubber gloves, safety glasses and a carbon respirator.

7 Protect against dust

For a flawless finish on small parts, spray them inside a cardboard box. If you have larger projects, create a poly booth.

In basements, dust will shake down from the floor joists, especially if someone is stomping around upstairs, so staple painter's

plastic to the ceiling. Damp-mopping the floor will also keep your feet from stirring up dust.

Avoid using a fan to speed up drying time. Wear clean clothes and a hat to keep hair out of the finish.

An hour before you paint, shut off the air-conditioner and ceiling fans to let any dust settle.





8

Avoid splatter

Spray nozzles can often spit out large droplets before you start spraying and also when you stop spraying.

To keep splatter off your project, press the nozzle before you're over the target and release it after you're past the edge.



9

Apply light coats

The only sure way to avoid runs on a vertical surface is to spray on a light coat and allow a little drying time before applying the next.

That's hard to do if you spray the surfaces in random order, but easy if you have a strategy.

Start by coating each vertical surface, spraying lightly to avoid runs. Next do the horizontal areas before starting the second round. Repeat each round in the same order.

That way, each surface will get maximum drying time before you return to it. An extra five minutes of drying time is better than sanding out runs and respraying later. >

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10 **Overlap by half**
 If you overlap just a little, you'll get stripes of heavy and light coverage. Aim for 50% overlap instead, with each pass overlapping the previous pass about halfway.

11 **Spin and spray**
 On some projects, you can spend time circling the item to spray all the surfaces. Instead, pick up a lazy Susan at a discount store and you'll be able to save yourself legwork.

DIY TIP
 Most nozzles have a universal fit. If you end up with a plugged one and have a can with a good nozzle, simply swap them over.



12 **Use two cans**
 Spray painting a large surface isn't just slow, it can also lead to texture trouble. In warm, dry conditions, spray paint dries almost instantly, so very light overspray may land on nearby paint that's almost dry. When that happens, you get inconsistencies in the surface texture. To get paint onto the project faster and get a consistent finish, hold a can in each hand. Don't move each hand separately or one will stray off course. Instead, hold the cans together to create a single spray pattern, and it will be easy to stay on track. Keep in mind that this method can lead to drips on vertical surfaces, so make faster passes and practise first on a scrap of cardboard.



13

Avoid swinging an arc

It's the most natural motion for your arm, but swinging gives you heavy coverage in the middle of the project and light coverage at the ends.

So move the can parallel to the surface, concentrating on using a straight, steady motion as you spray. ☑



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GRAPHIC DESIGNS

Create metallic and stone decorative effects with paint

WORDS SITA SIMONS



Pastels and metallics team well to create a space with glamour but not too much drama.

PICTURE: DULUX AUSTRALIA'S STYLING LITTLE LIBERTY FOR DULUX DESIGN EFFECTS COLLECTION

DIY TIP

For geometric wall patterns, start in the centre, remove the tape when the paint is dry and reapply to the edge of the just-painted area.



Style a small vignette with op-shop finds and metallic paint.



H 10 tips for choosing paint colours

Visit handyman.net.au/choose-paint

Touches of gold on a stunning mural wall add glamour and fun to a child's room.

Nicole Rosenberg of Little Liberty transformed a little girl's room into a more grown-up space by creating an eye-catching mural wall with Dulux Gold Effect in Gold Vintage and four coordinating Dulux colours.

'Gold is perfect for adding a touch of glamour. The key is to use small doses and balance it with soft colours and simple furnishings,' says Nicole.

Introduce metallics in small doses if you prefer and look for budget secondhand pots to transform with Dulux Metal Shimmer Effect.

The result is a subtle, refined colour that has a gentle shimmer that's best appreciated up close. Style with greenery for contrast. >



Add a grown-up element to a playful space with subtle metallic accents and simple decorating

DIY TIP

Paint a section of the wall with Concrete Effect, then use a steel trowel to add texture. Continue in sections for three coats.

A concrete feature wall and monochrome colour scheme provide an industrial look.

Appealing accents

In a modern space, create a graphic feature wall, which can be made as soft or as richly textured as you like.

With just a few coats of paint, you can have the look of a beautifully textured concrete wall that will lift any neutral decorating palette.

Give a simple arrangement in a stark white hallway a dramatic lift by adding fibre-clay pots painted in alternating layers of Dulux Copper and Copper Patina Effects. 🌿



Transform accessories with metal effect paints for a DIY style injection



PICTURE DULUX AUSTRALIA STYLING DESIGN TWINS FOR DULUX DESIGN EFFECTS COLLECTION

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AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTURE TIMELINE

Our best-loved home design styles tell the story of our history and environmental challenges

WORDS SITA SIMONS

When settlers first landed on Australian shores, they built homes in the European styles they were accustomed to, but slowly designs were adapted to the climate, conditions and materials. Today, Australia has a rich and diverse architectural landscape, with many distinct and much-loved styles.

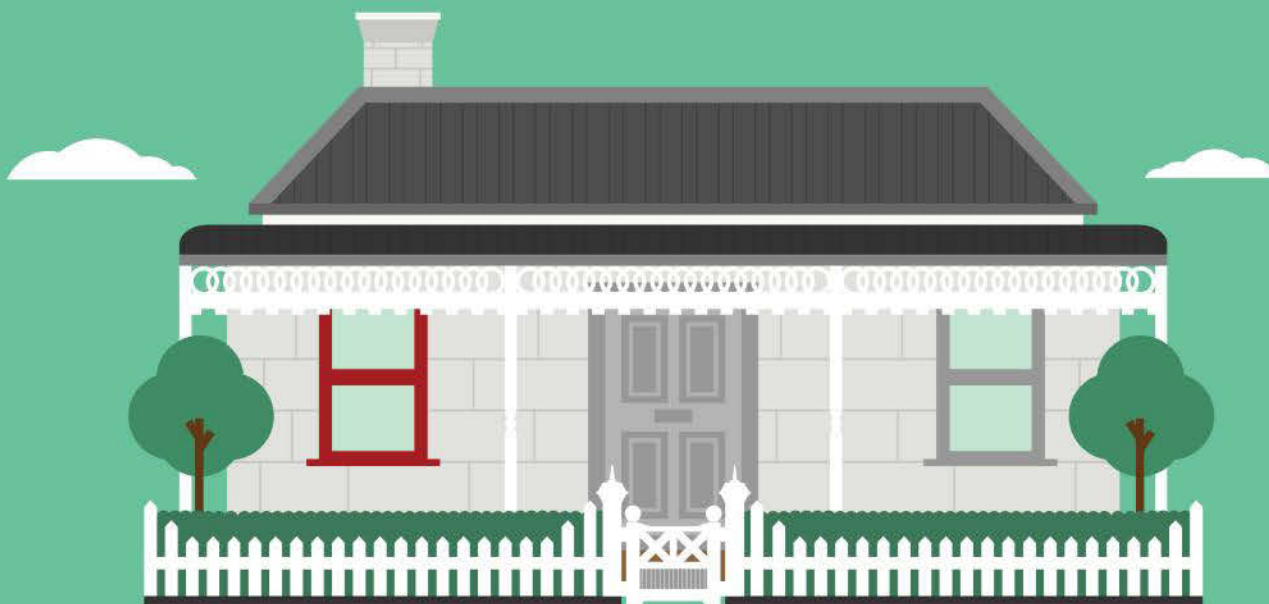
QUEENSLANDER 1840-1939

Stilts for breezes

The classic Queenslander was built high off the ground to capture breezes, and wide verandahs provided relief from lengthy and wet summer days.

Typically a single detached house made of timber and iron, the floorplan comprised four or six rooms that branched off a central corridor, each shaded by external verandahs.





MID-VICTORIAN 1860-1875

Decorative details

Built during the gold rushes, the Victorian style took on more ornate details, in particular the distinctive wrought and cast iron lacework.

Characterised by double-hung windows, picket or palisade fences and decorative brick outer walls, flourishes continued in the interior with elaborate skirtings, cornices and plasterwork.



QUEEN ANNE 1895-1910

Tudor replications

The Federation period went from 1890 to 1915 and included 12 styles, one of which was the Federation Queen Anne, which was very popular during this period.

This design favoured Tudor-style woodwork and elaborate fretwork over the Victorian taste for iron.

Images of the rising sun and Australian wildlife featured, as well as circular windows, turrets and towers with conical roofs. >





ARTS & CRAFTS 1895-1910

Unstructured style

With the aim of integrating art into everyday life, a preference for traditional craftsmanship resulted in a homely and unstructured style.

The roof was a dominant element, featuring gables with barges or parapets, and had a medium to steep pitch with prominent eaves.

Pebbledash stucco or roughcast was commonly used as an exterior wall finish in earthy natural colours and textures.



FEDERATION 1901-1914

New nation

Unification saw the emergence of an independent form of architecture that was almost a celebration of the new nation's character.

Federation houses were typically detached, featuring red terracotta tiled roofs and detailed fretwork in the roof gables and windows.

Red brick walls were often tuck pointed with white mortar and leadlight windows were prominent.





BUNGALOW 1910-1930

A nation's favourite

Affectionately known as the Cal Bung (for California), this style arrived from the US during the 1920s and quickly became very popular in Australia.

These homes featured low-pitched shingled or tiled roofs, supported by thick columns beneath the verandah.

Entry doors featured leadlight windows and brickwork was either rustic or distinctively red, depending on the location across the country.



ART DECO 1930-1950

Minimalist curves

Identified through clean lines and sleek, bold minimalism, this universal style penetrated not only architecture but fashion, visual arts and film.

The style featured flat roofs, porthole windows and handrails lining balconies. Curved glass, steel-framed windows and statement doorways reflected new manufacturing methods.

Black, cream and white were the favoured colour combinations. >





MODERN 1945-1970

Inside and out

The modern era began to experiment with open-plan living and ways to incorporate the outdoor living space into the overall design.

Many of the homes of this period look dated now, but this was the foundation for the modern homes found across Australia today, and the birth of sustainable principles.

Chic, classic and simple defined this much referenced mid-century style.



ULTRA-SUSTAINABLE PREFABRICATED 2020

Green future

As populations surge and pressures on housing and sustainability grow, the humble prefab takes on innovative design and high aesthetic value.

Affordability, low waste and build footprints, low energy consumption and easy mobility make prefab a solution to pressing environmental concerns. Expect to see big growth in this area. 🌱



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PLUS Grow plants for making curries.

DECORATE

Revamp furniture and learn techniques for upcycling and salvaging timber.

PLUS Spring-cleaning secrets for every home.

UNDER *THE* ROOF

Install ceiling insulation to make your home thermally efficient and save money

PROJECT AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

There are many ways to make a house cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

They include installing reverse cycle air-conditioning or renovating with a thermally efficient design, but these are quite expensive options.

A cheaper and more efficient method is to install insulation in the roof and wall spaces.

It's best to do this first in the roof, where heat can escape in winter and build up in summer, and where access is easier, although insulating walls is also important for thermal efficiency.

Buying insulation pays you back many times over in energy savings. ➤

Ceiling insulation is the first step towards thermal efficiency.



After

The roof space is now insulated with both batts and rolls.

What you need

- Insulation batts
- Insulation rolls
- Utility knife
- Straightedge
- Battery-operated light
- Flat board
- Non-conductive poker such as a broom handle
- Non-slip shoes
- Gloves
- Respirator or dust mask
- Safety glasses

Before



Thermal rating

Most homes have insulation in the roof space, but if it is the old fibreglass type, it may be ineffective. This was the case with the insulation material in the roof of this house in Bellingen on the mid-north coast of NSW.

The first step was to remove it, then give the roof space a thorough clean.

The area was then measured and the required thermal resistance, or R-value, of the insulation determined. To resist the region's frosts and hot summers, an R-6 rating was chosen.

SAFETY TIP

Roof spaces are hazardous areas in which to work. Turn off the mains power before starting work and lay all the wiring on top of the insulation.



Earthwool benefits

Knauf insulation uses Ecosse technology, which is more comfortable to handle than the old fibreglass types.

Made using recycled glass, it contains no added formaldehyde or petroleum-based chemicals, and is 70% more efficient to produce than other products.

Insulation batts are sold in compact packs that fit through typical ceiling manholes and come in R-values to suit any climate.

Knauf Earthwool is also fireproof and non-conductive. >



WE MAKE IT EASIER TO MAKE YOUR HOME A COMFORT ZONE

It's normal to feel out of your comfort zone when you're selecting insulation – which one to choose, how much will you need, what are the likely energy savings? That's why Earthwool® have created a simple online tool to help you out. Check out The Comfort Zone dial on our website and get all you need to know sent straight to your mobile, ready to go when you step into Bunnings – the home of The Comfort Zone from Earthwool.



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earthwool.com.au

EARTHWOOL
 the feel good glasswool insulation



▶ Watch the video online
Visit handyman.net.au/insulation

Fitting between rafters

To achieve the required R-6 rating, Earthwool 430mm R-4 batts and 580mm R-2 insulation rolls were used. The rolls were laid on top of the batts and rafters and under the wiring.

To calculate the quantity required, divide the area into rectangles and add up the measurements to get the total. The batts suit standard rafter spacings.

This roof space used 11 packs of insulation batts, which each covered 9sqm, and nine insulation rolls.

Some rafters were randomly spaced, but the batts were trimmed on a flat board using a straightedge and a utility knife. A non-conductive broom handle was used to push the insulation into tight spaces.

- 1
- 2
- 3



1 Prepare the area

Ensure the power is off. Use a tape or laser measure to create an area plan, identifying potential hazards such as lights and flues. Calculate the amount of insulation needed, then remove the old insulation and vacuum the area.



2 Install the batts

Use one pack at a time and start at the furthest point from the manhole. Lay batts between the rafters, ensuring a tight fit and cut batts to fill any voids. **TIP** Lay under wiring where possible, allowing 200mm around heat sources.



3 Lay the rolls

Starting at the furthest point from the manhole, lay rolls at right angles to the rafters, under the wiring. Butt the rolls against each other, cutting to length around obstacles and leaving 200mm around heat sources. 🟢

STUART'S PICKS



Knauf Earthwool 430mm R-4 Ceiling Insulation Batts, \$65 for an 18-pack. earthwool.com.au



Arlec 300 Lumen Rechargeable LED Spotlight Torch, \$60. arlec.com.au



UniSafe P2 Valved Disposable Respirator, \$30 for 10. bunnings.com.au

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Father's Day gift guide

DIY TIP
Fit shelving in the garden shed so dad has space for storing items other than tools and gardening equipment.

Pick up the best garden and DIY presents for dad instore



Protect tools from the weather in the Garden Pro Masterstore Shed, 3 x 3 x 2.06m, \$399.



Store work items on five shelves in the Pinnacle Garage Cabinet, 1830 x 760 x 380mm, \$128.



Build dad a vegie patch with an Organic Garden Co Monument, 200 x 130 X 41cm, \$129.



Tidy your lawn and garden with the Ozito Cordless Blower and Trimmer Kit, which includes 10 Trimmer Blades, 18V Battery and 1-hour Fast Charger, \$149.



Cancel outside noise while wearing Tactix Bluetooth Earmuffs Mk II, \$69.



Keep your lawns looking great with a Victa Rapid Mulcher 19" Lawn Mower, \$399.



Light up all your DIY tasks with Panther Caps, \$19.98 each, featuring four ultra-bright LEDs.



Reduce your workload using a Victa Thunder Self-propelled Lawn Mower, \$499. >



Seal and repair objects that need wrapping with Self-fusing Tommy Tape, \$13.80 for 3m.



Protect your work using Slipstick 13 x 70mm Bench Grippers, \$22.48 for an 8-pack.



Help dad get the workshop or garage organised with a Kincrome Bluesteel combo.
1 8-drawer Chest, \$229.
2 7-drawer Trolley, \$469.



Separate rubbish and recycling with the Ezy Storage 45L Enviro Bin, \$24.98.



Block glare with the Gummerson Calypso Black Eyelet Curtain, \$37.90.



Work on projects and store tools on a Compact Garage Workbench, 1100 x 1400 x 520mm, \$89.



Slice through metal and get 1000 plus cuts per disc using Lenox Metal Max Diamond Blades.

- 1 100 x 16 x 1.3mm, \$19.95
- 2 115 x 22.23 x 1.3mm, \$22.87.
- 3 125 x 22.23 x 1.3mm, \$23.95.



Utilise different sockets with the Trojan 8-in-1 Rotational Wrench, \$19.98.



Tighten nuts and bolts using a Trojan Ratching 11-piece Wrench Set, \$19.98.



Update dad's tool box with these three Stanley DIY essentials, for \$9.98 each.

- 1 Folding Utility Knife.
- 2 Aluminium Torpedo Level.
- 3 8m Rubber Grip Tape Measure.



Build your own toolkit with Sidchrome Custom Kit Modular System.

- 1 Portable Case, \$14.95.
- 2 8-piece Screwdriver Set, \$55.95.



Store hardware and other small items in a Tactix Double-sided Storage Box Organiser, \$25.



Carry tools and other items in the Tactix 535mm Heavy Duty Tool Box, \$35.

★ ORIGINS

Roof tiles



Tiles provide a waterproof barrier on the roof of buildings, with interlocking profiles and overlapping rows preventing any water penetration.

Terracotta tiles have been in use for at least 4000 years. Early roof tiles on ancient Greek temples replaced primitive thatched roofs due to their better fire resistance.

These tiles are made from clay that is baked at about 1000°C, which gives them their typical orange colour. Terracotta is still used today for tiles all over the world.

Many modern Australian homes feature concrete tiles, as they provide similar properties to terracotta at a more affordable price.

Slate tiles are a natural stone roofing option, and are made by splitting slate blocks into thin sheets and cutting them to size. These are more common in Europe and the Americas than in Australia.



Choose the tiles

➤ **TERRACOTTA** tiles are a timeless option and valued for their quality and colour retention. **COST \$66-\$81sqm.**

➤ **CONCRETE** tiles are more affordable than terracotta and come in a range of colours. **COST \$41-\$54sqm.**

➤ **SLATE** tiles suit older homes and classic architecture and are more expensive than terracotta and concrete. **COST \$84-\$149sqm.**



Terracotta tiles are long lasting and low maintenance.



Solar tiles

The latest development in roof tiles allows you to harness the sun's rays to power your home, while providing a durable, waterproof roofing solution.

Tesla solar roof tiles feature solar panels beneath tempered glass, and are designed to replace

your existing roof tiles, simulating popular styles such as slate and terracotta (tesla.com/au).

A solar roof costs almost four times as much as a roof using terracotta tiles, but it can cut your power consumption significantly, paying for itself over time.



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★ BASIC SKILLS

Nailgun



Fast fixer

Nailguns are a big time saver, as they drive nails with one hand instantly and accurately, and you don't need to drill pilot holes. They're especially useful when securing skirting or mouldings.

Framing nailers drive up to 90mm nails and are ideal for making wall frames. Finishing nailers are suitable for indoor trim, and drive up to 65mm nails. Brad nailers are ideal for smaller jobs and drive up to 50mm brads.

Pneumatic nailers use compressed air to drive nails, and they're cheaper, lighter and faster than cordless models. They need an air compressor and hose, which can add to their overall cost.

Cordless nailers run on batteries, but take a few seconds to spool up between rounds. Some models use gas cartridges that last about 2000 rounds.



➤ DRIVE THE NAILS

Wearing eye and ear protection, push the tip of the nailer against the surface, exerting pressure, then pull the trigger and release immediately. Hold the nailer away from your body and don't lean against it, as this can cause injuries.

TIP Practise on scrap timber to get a feel for the nailer before use.



➤ PIN BOX FRAMES

Assembling box frames can be tricky to keep aligned during assembly, as adhesive can cause the parts to slide about. To keep parts aligned when making box frames or securing cabinet sides together, pin the joints using a brad or finishing nailer, then drill pilot holes and secure using screws.



➤ HOLD DOWN SKIRTING

Securing skirting boards to walls, uneven floors or skirting can lead to gaps. Using a nailer frees up one hand to hold the skirting in position. To minimise gaps, push down the skirting using a block of timber as you drive the nails. The block allows you to exert more pressure to seal the gaps.

@timjeffries

Workshop Member Profile



Tim loves that his raised vegetable-bed front fence creates conversations.



'For me, designing and creating is a restorative process,' says Workshop member Tim Jeffries.

As a youth worker, Tim finds tackling DIY projects cathartic.

'Most of the work I do is with people. You don't always see results and too often it feels like things are going backwards rather than forwards for people,' he says.

'DIYing allows me to do some work that has concrete results and I'd like to think it's a pretty good coping mechanism.'

Tim believes the vegetable beds he built that form his front fence are his most successful project so far. They've been a big hit with his neighbours and the Workshop community.

'They're functional, beautiful and build a bridge between our house and the street, connecting us with people who walk past. Food is something that unites us all.'

Other projects Tim has shared on Workshop include a large chicken enclosure and hot composting bays.



'I think there's something wholesome and truly human about growing your own food'

Feel-good gardening

Tim spent 10 years at university studying theology, but he says he has probably learned more about spiritual things in the garden.

The youth worker also finds that tackling projects at his home

is good for his soul and great for his mental health.

If you plan to overhaul your own garden, you'll find step-by-step instructions at handyman.net.au/garden-planning-and-projects.

Join the discussion at Workshop, a fun online community where you can ask DIY questions, share your projects and get tips and inspiration for your home. Sign up now at workshop.com.au

workshopTM



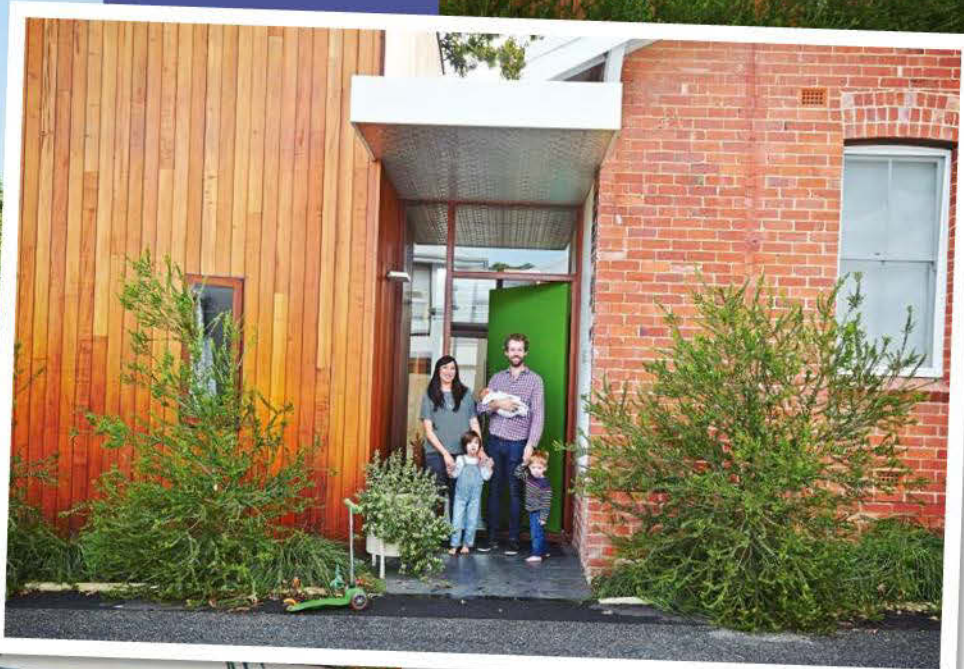
THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR

An architect creates a reflection of his childhood in a modern family home

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES JODY D'ARCY AND SCOTT HAWKINS



A concrete slab joins the old and new parts of the house, with the recent addition referencing an old lean-to.



A 10m swimming pool runs along the side of the house.

We may secretly yearn to have a piece of our childhood back, but few of us can make it happen quite so literally as architect Sam Klopper.

He was looking for a place to call home for his young family when the house next to the one he grew up in came up for sale in Shenton Park, Perth.

The 1920s worker's cottage was on a 560sqm block, which is not large for this area of Perth. But the sentimental link and building potential made it an easy purchase.

'The location is great, and there is definitely some appeal in thinking my sons will experience a lot of the things I did,' says Sam. ➤



A sense of fun and fluidity runs throughout the design, with mixed materials and vibrant colours.



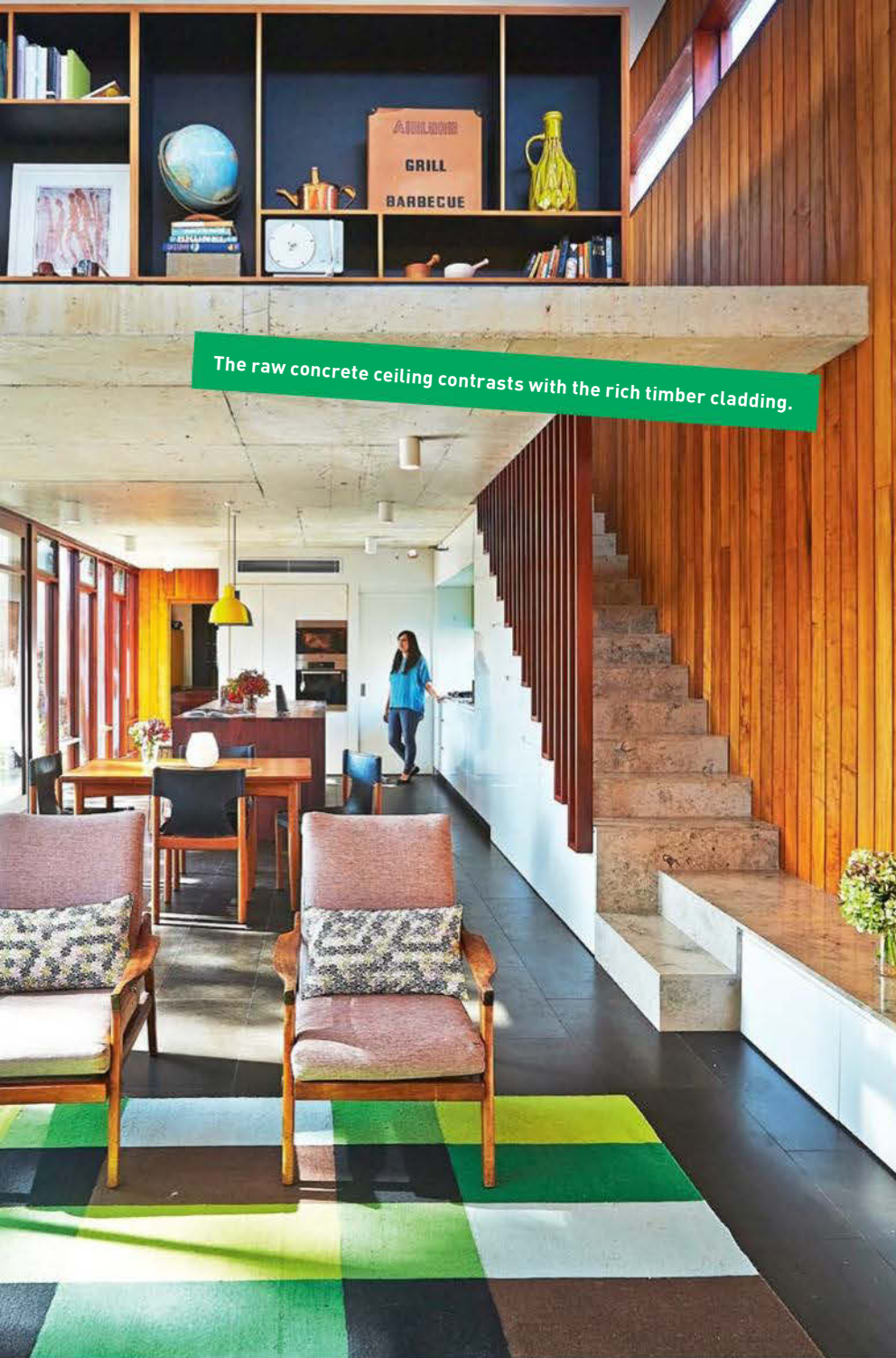
The ironbark island bench doubles as a bookcase.



Open-plan space

The living space in the new house is 260sqm, and comprises five bedrooms, one of which doubles as a kids' playroom for the three boys, two bathrooms, two living spaces, a study and a powder room.

The old part of the building is given over to the boys' bedrooms and a play area, but the new addition is a large open-plan space, flooded with northerly light.



The raw concrete ceiling contrasts with the rich timber cladding.

'You have to be careful with open-plan spaces to separate the working areas but still have a sense of connection throughout.

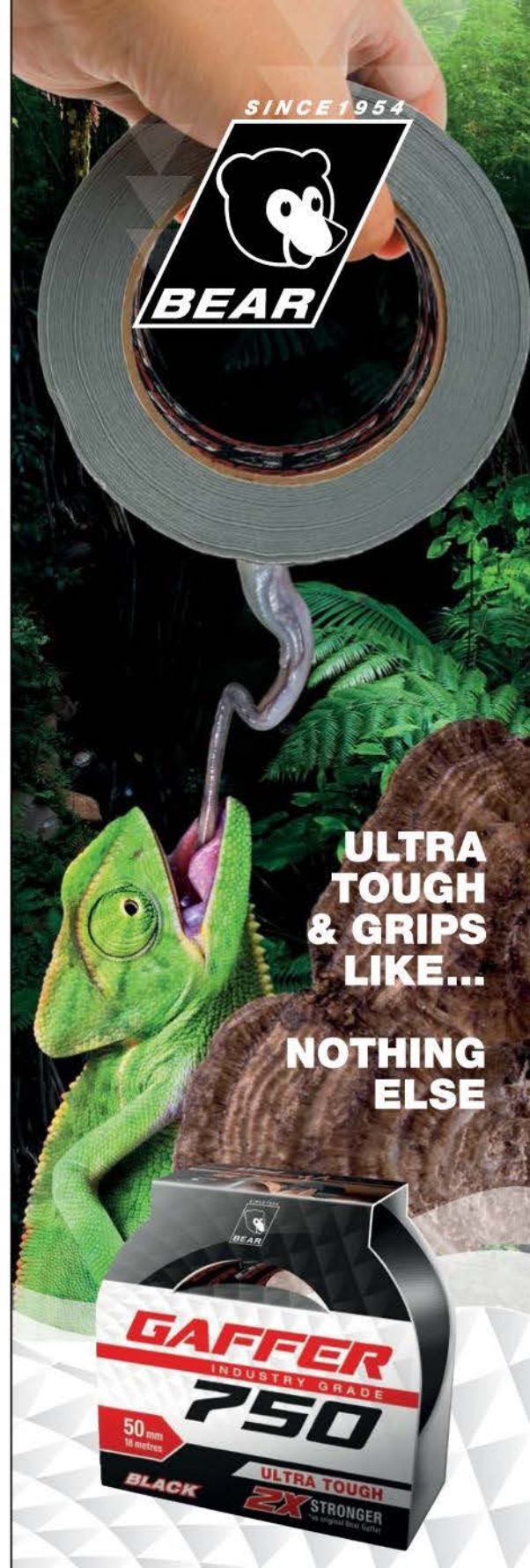
'Generating volume with the two-storey void creates delineation over the living space,' says Sam.

'The timber cladding is quite refined, so I wanted something to contrast with that. The concrete ceiling has a heaviness and rawness that works well in that application.'

This idea extends to the outside, where the timber formwork has left all the textures and imperfections of rough-sawn timber in the surface pattern of the concrete.

The themes of light and heavy are also adopted in the kitchen, with the middle space grounded by an ironbark island that includes a bookcase.

Unobtrusive cabinetry recedes into the walls, with a green panel breaking up the white. >

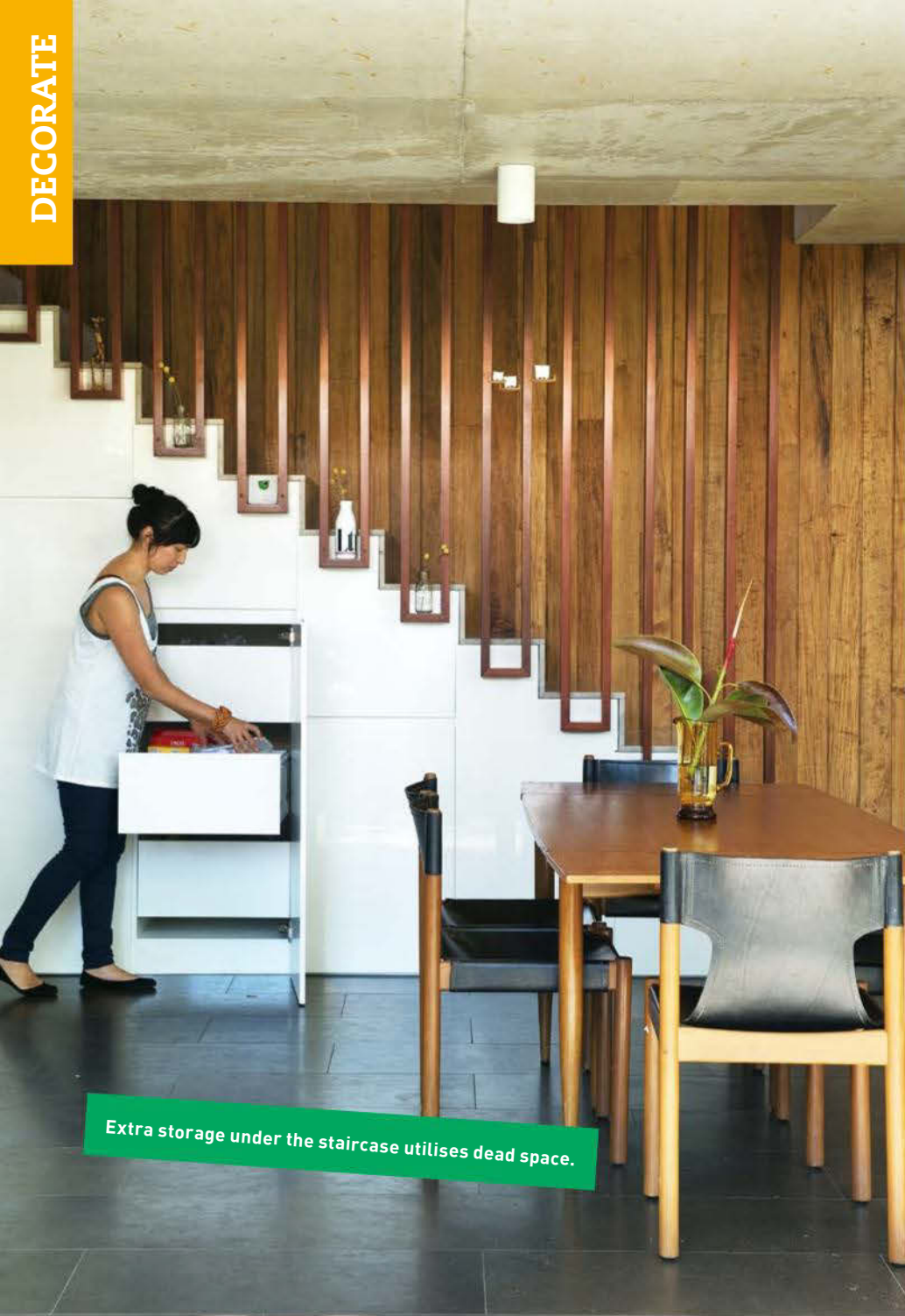


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Mid-century modernism is the prevalent design aesthetic throughout the interior.



Hidden features

Tucked neatly away in what would otherwise be dead space under the stairs are three cupboards, which conceal the pantry and extra storage, as well as a fridge.

The void that doubles the ceiling height over the lounge area and creates a mezzanine also leaves room for a study for Sam. Accustomed to working in open-plan offices, he enjoys the connection to the rest of the house.

The window is set at a height that gives him a view from his office chair that evokes his childhood, as it allows him to see the Moreton Bay fig trees in the park where he once played.

An eye-catching light installation places five Tom Dixon balls in the centre of the space.

‘The bronzed mirror surface reflects everything back, so you can look at them anytime and see more of what is around you,’ says Sam. ➤



A fifth bedroom serves as a kids' playroom.



Spaces for children follow the same design aesthetic while emphasising fun, colour and texture



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DESIGN TIP

The floating shelving set into the mirror has the effect of not breaking lines and creates a new form out of a practical element.

Parents' retreat

The entire second floor is a parents' sanctuary, containing the study that reaches into the void, and the master bedroom and bathroom over the old building.

A partial wall allows the space to be open during the day, and sliding doors on either side create complete privacy and containment at night.

The bathroom was a long, narrow shape, and Sam has a preferred way of dealing with this layout.

'Splitting the room into a wet space and a dry space works very well. The bath and shower are contained in one section, leaving the sink and vanity dry,' says Sam. >



Flexible layouts
and configurations
bring dynamism
and movement
into the home





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Slate

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HD1146	DOG LOUNGE - MEDIUM	\$99	
HD1146	DOG LOUNGE - LARGE	\$149	
HD1162	SOFA COVER - ARMCHAIR \$39.95		
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The northerly aspect means the living area enjoys maximum light.

Sustainable garden

As the house was located on a laneway, the access needed reorientating. To create a link with the lane, the front door was moved to the other side.

The outdoor space is filled with native plants and was awarded a Verge Award by the City of Subiaco for the most sustainable garden.

'The connection with the outdoors and the quality of light is the generator of the design,' says Sam.

The house wraps around an existing oak tree, which protects the house from the summer sun but lets in light during winter after its leaves fall.

A jarrah sunscreen plays the same role in the constant interplay between indoors and out, creating dynamic lighting and shadows across the timber cladding through the windows. 🍷

Klopper & Davis Architects,
kada.com.au



The lightweight construction allows the large build to sit comfortably on the site



Interior & Exterior Fillers

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Earl's Wood Hardener

- Water-based • Non Toxic

Earl's Wood Hardener penetrates into soft rotted wood fibres, restoring them to near original strength.

USE FOR: Repairing wood rot effected exterior fences, decks, furniture, door frames, windows and so much more.



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Waxstix are so easy to use and so handy for quick repairs to scratched or damaged timber.

USE FOR: Floating floor and furniture scratches.



Porion

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Porion is a flexible filler that can be used for repairs to decks, rotten timber and masonry.

USE FOR: Repairing wood, concrete, weather boards & patching render.



Timbermate

Woodfiller - 4 in 1

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- Crack Filler • Grain Filler

Water based interior filler with no latex, acrylic or solvent added.

Non-shrinking, non-sinking, non-cracking and won't fall out.

USE FOR: Timber flooring and all interior woodwork repairs.



Earl's MulFill

Multi-Purpose Interior & Exterior Filler

- Pre-Mixed ready to use.
- Fine Filler, spreads easily.
- Long shelf life, no waste.
- Will not shrink, sink or fall out.
- Sands easily, will not clog sandpaper.
- No acrylic, latex or solvents, VOC free.
- Paintable for interior & exterior use.
- Australian made.

USE FOR: Repairing decking, fascia boards and plaster boards.



Agnew's Water Putty

Multi-Purpose Filler

- Simply mix with water to use.
- No waste.
- Dries hard - drill saw or sand.
- No shrinking or cracking.
- Australian made.

USE FOR: Floor leveling, patching and filling wood, plaster and concrete.



Earl's Powder Putty

Multi-Purpose Interior & Exterior Filler

- Just mix with water.
- No waste.
- No shrinking.
- Won't crack and fills to any depth.
- Australian made.

USE FOR: Repairing wood, concrete, masonry, steel, plasterboard and cement sheets.



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USE FOR: Repairing cracks in driveways or embed items in brickwork, stone tiles, plaster, terrazzo and concrete.

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L-SHAPED KITCHENS

Install this convenient and efficient design in the hub of the home

One of the most efficient kitchen design layouts for the modern home is the L shape.

L-shaped kitchens offer an easy and efficient workspace and allow appliances and cabinets to be installed along right-angled walls with an open area in the centre.

Other advantages of this design are that it is great for a corner space, reduces through traffic, and especially suits small and medium kitchens.

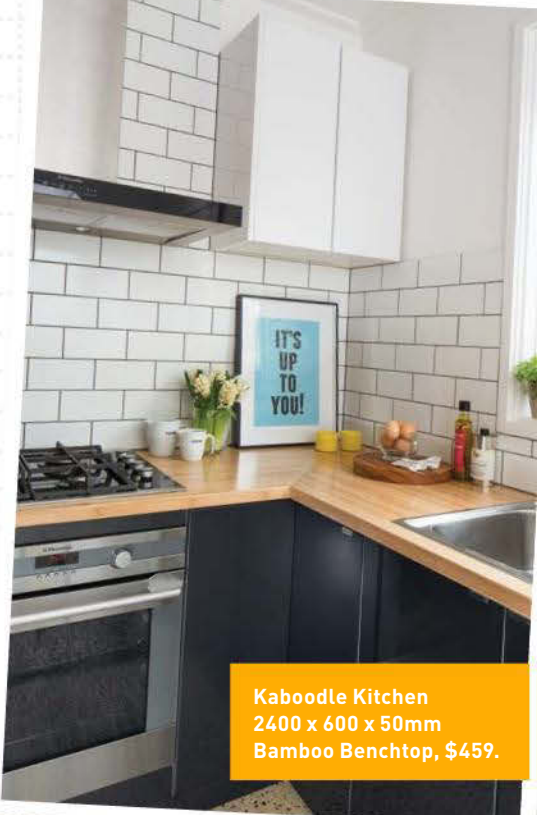
They also allow benchtops and cabinets to be adjusted to length.



Kaboodle Kitchen Luminess Metallic 600mm Oven Front panel pack, \$21.31 for two.

Watch the video 'How to build kitchen base cabinets' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

Appliances available in WA Bunbury and Armadale



Kaboodle Kitchen
2400 x 600 x 50mm
Bamboo Benchtop, \$459.

Multiple entrances
Tucked into corners, L-shaped kitchens usually have two open ends that allow for different entries and exits.
This means traffic can flow freely, which is beneficial when entertaining because less traffic jams means more room and less stress when preparing food.



Kaboodle Kitchen 450mm gloss white six-panel glass door, \$108.

Great working triangle

The most efficient kitchens are designed with the working triangle in mind.

The working triangle, set out along two walls, allows you to move easily between your sink, oven or cooktop and refrigerator.



Kaboodle Kitchen Pearlini
600mm 3-drawer panel pack, \$56.01.

Open-plan living

The hallmark of modern homes is open-plan living, and the L-shaped kitchen is perfect if you have an open layout or are designing an open-plan space for your next remodel.

L-shaped kitchens use only two walls, which means they open up

the space. This is ideal if you want your kitchen to flow into another room, typically a dining area, living space or family room.

Open-plan kitchens mean you don't miss out when entertaining, and they suit having a table and chairs, making mealtimes easy.

Some advertised products not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered

OLD WITH THE NEW

Revitalise vintage furniture and style the pieces to suit your home

WORDS TAHN SCOON PICTURES JOHN DOWNS



From hardwood French doors to a bone china teacup, vintage pieces can add history and beauty to a home in a socially responsible way.

Vintage encompasses coveted pieces that sit somewhere between everyday second-hand and genuine antique.

Many vintage pieces are perfect as they are, with their faded beauty enhancing their gentle appeal. Some, however, will need a bit of work.

Gorgeous, old, solid-timber pieces are easy to source affordably and to update with paint, stain or fabric, but always check the structure is sound. >

Star jasmine and butterfly plant enhance makeshift pieces.



This is an edited extract from *Luxe Vintage* by Tahn Scoon (New Holland, \$30). Pictures by John Downs.

A little summerhouse nestled at the bottom of a hinterland garden offers a welcome retreat from the heat.

DIY TIP

Paint is forgiving because you can sand it back, but don't paint over a genuine antique, as you may severely depreciate its value.



Natural materials

Use as many natural materials around the home as you can, as they're more tactile and we seem to prefer their feel, and sometimes even their smell.

Natural materials also tend to age more beautifully than their man-made counterparts. Pilling polyester has nothing on the softness of aged linen and MDF will never develop the coveted patina old timber does.

Finishes matter, too, so opt for low VOC (volatile organic compound) paints, glues and sealers.

And for natural timber floors, use a hardwax oil instead of an oil-based polyurethane.

Use rustic vintage finds to decorate exterior walls.

AGEING A TIMBER TABLE

Creating an aged paint finish on timber is a simple process that requires a base and top coat in two colours.

The top coat is rubbed back to reveal a little of the base colour, which makes it look worn over time.

For a more authentic look, rub back the top coat where it would naturally receive the most wear, such as the edges. We used chalk paint as its matt finish creates an aged effect.

What you need

Warm, damp cloth
Sandpaper
Chalk paint in base colour
Chalk paint in top colour
Beeswax
Clean, soft cloth



1 2 3



1 Prepare the surface

Lay down a drop sheet and position the table on top. Using a warm, damp cloth, thoroughly clean the table. Lightly sand any obvious bumps or flakes, then wipe clean.



2 Paint the piece

Using a suitable paintbrush, apply one or two coats of the base colour and allow to dry in between coats. Apply one coat of the top colour and allow it to dry thoroughly.



3 Sand selected areas

Lightly sand back the top coat in selected spots to reveal the base colour, then apply a small amount of beeswax using a clean, soft cloth, wiping off any excess as you go. ➤

PAINING A TIMBER CABINET



Most timber pieces can be made over quickly and easily with a couple of coats of paint. Generally, this is a simple three-step process.

Set yourself up in a nice spot in the house or garden, with a drop sheet and all your painting equipment.

For most furniture projects, a satin finish works well, as it gives a mid-level gloss, which is hardier than a matt finish but more forgiving of fingerprints than high gloss.

What you need

Warm, damp cloth
Sandpaper
Small paintbrush
Acrylic satin paint
Drop sheet

1 2 3



1 Prepare the timber

Remove any hardware such as handles and hinges if you don't want to paint over them. Clean the cabinet thoroughly with a warm, damp cloth, then allow to dry.



2 Sand the surface

Sand back using sandpaper until the surfaces are smooth, then wipe away any dust with a cloth.

TIP For most pieces, sanding is easier and less messy than stripping.



3 Paint the piece

Apply two coats of paint allowing for plenty of drying time in between coats. Ensure you use the right-sized brush.

TIP Small brushes work well for small pieces and large for large pieces. 🌟

DESIGN TIP

To tie vintage pieces in with existing new items, consider line and colour. Put fine with fine and chunky with chunky.

White upholstery with black piping and black-and-white striped cushions gives these metal chairs an Art Deco look.



GARAGE MAKEOVER

Try these easy ways to create storage space using a few basic materials

PROJECTS AND PICTURES SUE FERRIS

No-one expects your workshop area to be completely pristine, but there are smart ways to minimise clutter and make the overall space more efficient and user-friendly.

This garage had only a basic bench that was turned into a workstation with just a few DIY additions.

A lockable cabinet was built from plywood under the bench to conceal

bulky items and safely store away dangerous items out of reach of kids.

A pine shelf was also added under the window, which provided another useful storage area to help to free up space on the bench.

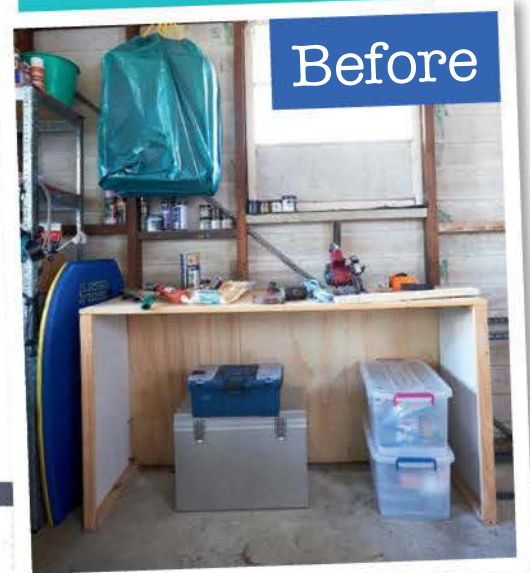
The wall behind the workbench was then clad in pegboard so hand tools and other items could be displayed within easy reach on hooks. >



Sue

EXPERT SECRETS

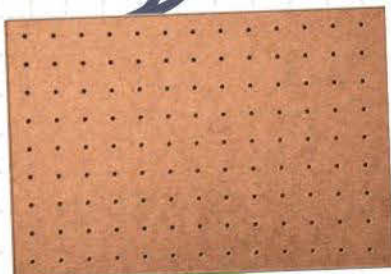
Install insulation before cladding the wall to improve the temperature in the garage.



Before



TOP PICKS



Masonite Pegboard,
1200 x 915 x 4.8mm, \$26.
bunnings.com.au



Bosch 14.4V Cordless
Drill Driver Kit, \$99.
bosch-pt.com.au



Stanley FatMax 400mm
Digital Spirit Level, \$90.
stanleytools.com.au



Selley's Aquadhere
Interior Adhesive, about
\$5. selleys.com.au

Father's Day

2
DAYS

\$314
COST



After

With a cabinet, shelf and pegboard wall for hanging tools, storage space is maximised.

Materials

7mm marine plywood	\$102
12mm plywood	\$64
12mm particleboard	\$11
Pegboard	\$52
Pine moulding	\$4
Pine DAR	\$30
Hinges	\$8
Brackets	\$10
Lock	\$15
Screws	\$7
PVA adhesive	\$5
Pegboard hooks	\$6
TOTAL	\$314

MAKE THE CABINET



Whatever the dimensions of your workbench, it's quick and easy to turn it into a storage cabinet to conceal power tools and other equipment.

For this project, two sheets of 1200 x 897 x 12mm plywood were cut to fit for the doors and 12mm particleboard was used to make the base of the cabinet.

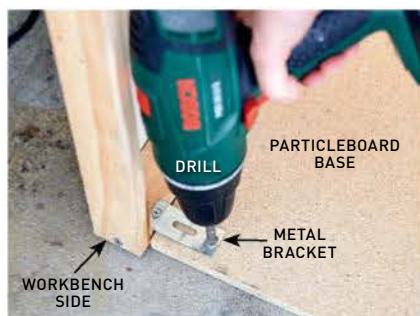
Metal brackets were used to secure the cabinet base to the workbench sides and pine moulding added for a door stopper.

As a finishing touch, the benchtop was given a coat of paint.



Take advantage of the space under a workbench to store bulky equipment

1 2 3



1 Secure the base

Measure the internal width and depth of the workbench, then cut a piece of 12mm particleboard to size. Position it at the base of the workbench, then secure to the sides using metal brackets and timber screws.



2 Attach the doors

Cut the doors to size from two 12mm plywood sheets, allowing for a 5mm gap all around. To hang, support the doors in the opening using spacers, then secure hinges to each door and the frame of the workbench.



3 Install the stopper

To provide a stopper for the doors, cut a length of 20 x 8mm pine moulding to the internal width of the bench. Drill pilot holes and secure to the underside of the workbench 12mm from the front edge. Attach a door lock.

BUILD THE SHELF

Space is always at a premium in the garage or workshop, so creating places to store items is a top priority. Simply adding a shelf under a window can make all the difference.

And if you want to add a little greenery and colour to your workspace, it's also the ideal spot for a pot plant.

Before the shelf was built and mounted, 7mm plywood was cut to fit under the window between the studs and secured using screws.



1 2 3



1 Install the shelf mounts

Cut a shelf brace to fit between the studs and two 100mm lengths for the shelf mounts from 42 x 19mm pine DAR. Secure the mounts to either side with timber screws, checking for level using the brace and a spirit level.



2 Make the shelf assembly

Cut a length of 89 x 19mm pine DAR the same length as the brace for the shelf. Apply PVA adhesive along one face of the brace, then clamp the brace to the shelf so the edges are flush. Secure using timber screws.



3 Attach the brackets

Position the shelf assembly on top of the mounts. Predrill pilot holes, then attach the shelf assembly to the mounts using angle brackets and timber screws drilled into the shelf brace and the mounts. ➤

ADD TOOL STORAGE

A great way to add extra storage for tools and to keep the workbench clutter-free is to make the best use of vertical surfaces.

Here, a stud wall was clad from floor to ceiling in 7mm plywood, then pegboard was secured to the area behind the bench.

Hooks were then added for hanging tools from the pegboard, making them easily accessible.



Make the most of vertical space by cladding the wall in pegboard to store tools close at hand



1 2 3



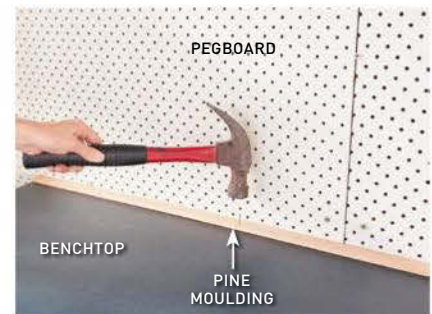
1 Clad the walls

Cut 7mm plywood to fit the wall, making sure the edges of the panels align with studs and noggins. Secure plywood to the studs using timber screws along the edges every 300mm, drilling countersunk pilot holes.



2 Mount the pegboard

Measure and cut the pegboard to size, then secure to the plywood cladding using timber screws positioned along the edges of the pegboard every 300mm. Attach hooks to the pegboard to create hanging tool storage.



3 Install edging

To create a neat edge and stop items falling behind the bench, measure and cut 20 x 8mm pine moulding the same length as the workbench. Secure to the workbench and the pegboard using nails every 300mm. 🛠️

STYLISH VERSATILE STORAGE SOLUTIONS



- 1. USSTC01**
I/N: 2760499
Stainless Steel Tall Cabinet
- 2. USSWB01**
I/N: 2760504
Stainless Steel Wall Cabinet
- 3. USSSH01**
I/N: 2760506
Stainless Steel Shelf
- 4. USSWB01**
I/N: 2760498
Stainless Steel Workbench

38mm Hardwood Benchtop

20mm Hardwood Benchtop



USSUB01 I/N: 2760500
Stainless Steel Underbench
With 5 Drawers



USSUB02 I/N: 2760501
Stainless Steel Underbench
With 2 Drawers



USSUB04 I/N: 2760503
Stainless Steel Underbench
With 1 Narrow Drawer



USSUB03 I/N: 2760502
Stainless Steel Underbench
With 2 Doors

Find it at Bunnings

BUILD A WORK BENCH

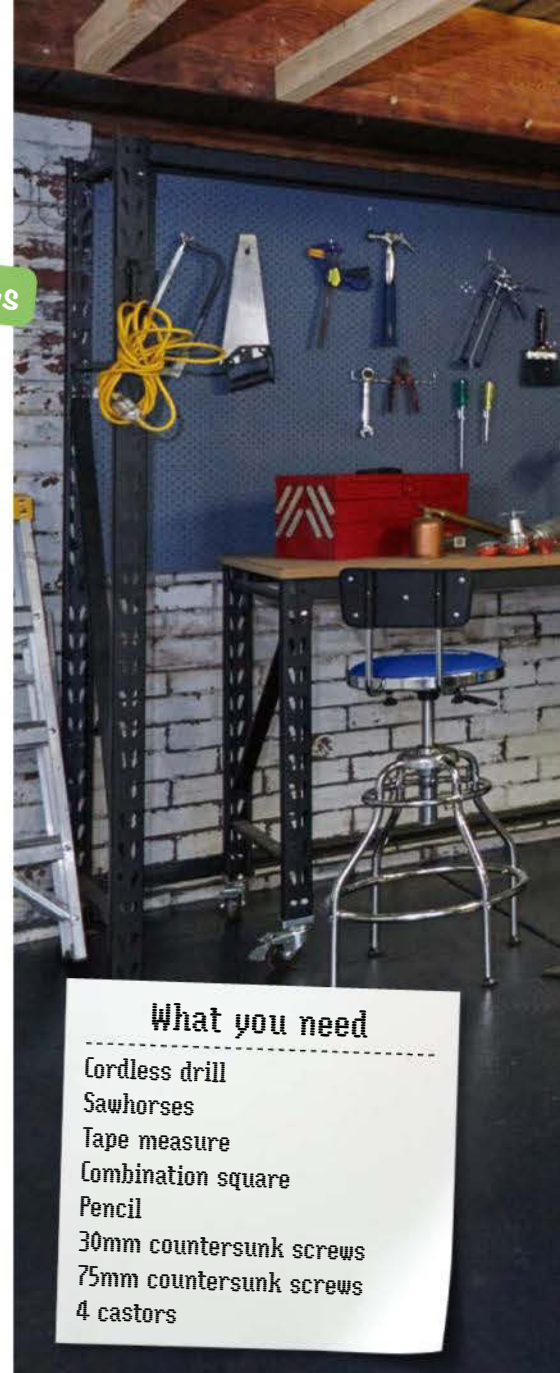
Make a sturdy, moveable platform for constructing your own projects

A solid workbench is a great place to start on any DIY project. Using just treated pine for the frame and plywood means you can easily build a sturdy workbench with storage space, and add castors for mobility.

Cut the timber using a circular saw or to make the job even easier, have it cut to size at your local Bunnings. When building, predrill all the screw holes to prevent the timber splitting.

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE IN MM	NO
Structural plywood		
Benchtop	2250 x 1080 x 30	1
Base shelf	1200 x 600 x 17	1
End panels	600 x 600 x 17	2
Treated pine		
Rails	1800 x 70 x 45	4
Cross braces	510 x 70 x 45	8
Legs	780 x 70 x 45	4
Leg braces	600 x 70 x 45	4
Bench supports	600 x 70 x 45	4



What you need

- Cordless drill
- Sawhorses
- Tape measure
- Combination square
- Pencil
- 30mm countersunk screws
- 75mm countersunk screws
- 4 castors

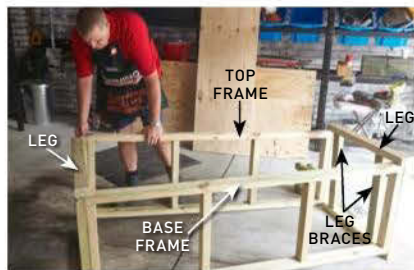


Add castors to a workbench so it can be wheeled out of the way when not in use



1 Make the frames

Lay the rails for the top frame on a flat surface, then mark the positions of the cross braces in pencil. Position the cross braces between the rails, securing with screws, then attach the bench supports. Repeat for the base frame.



2 Join the frames

Mark the position of the leg braces 17mm from the front edge of the legs. Secure the leg braces with screws, then attach the bench supports to the legs. Insert the top and base frames in the leg frames, securing with screws.



3 Attach the castors

Install castors with brakes so the bench won't move while in use. Turn the workbench frame upside down and mark the position of the castors in each corner on the bench supports, securing with screws.

Father's Day

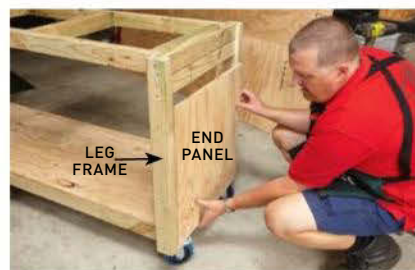


Watch the video 'D.I.Y. portable workbench' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



4 Add the base shelf

Turn the workbench frame the right way up. Make sure the castor brakes are engaged, then position the plywood base shelf on the base frame, securing with 30mm screws into the rails.



5 Secure the ends

Position the plywood end panels in the leg frames, securing with several screws to the leg braces. Because the plywood end panels are 17mm thick they should sit flush against the outside edges of the leg frames.



6 Install the top

Get help to position the plywood benchtop on the frame, checking it is square with an even overhang on all sides. Secure the benchtop to the frame. Paint the timber frame and stain the plywood to seal it.

10 TOOL TIPS

Try these clever shortcuts to create a safer, more effective workspace

Having the right tool for the job at hand is an essential part of DIY. But what may be less obvious are the ways you can use tools.

There are also various shortcuts you can adopt to make sure you always complete DIY projects on time and with the least effort.

Here, we offer storage ideas, show you ways to protect timber and how to improve safety in your workspace. >



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Father's Day



1 Avoid groove marks

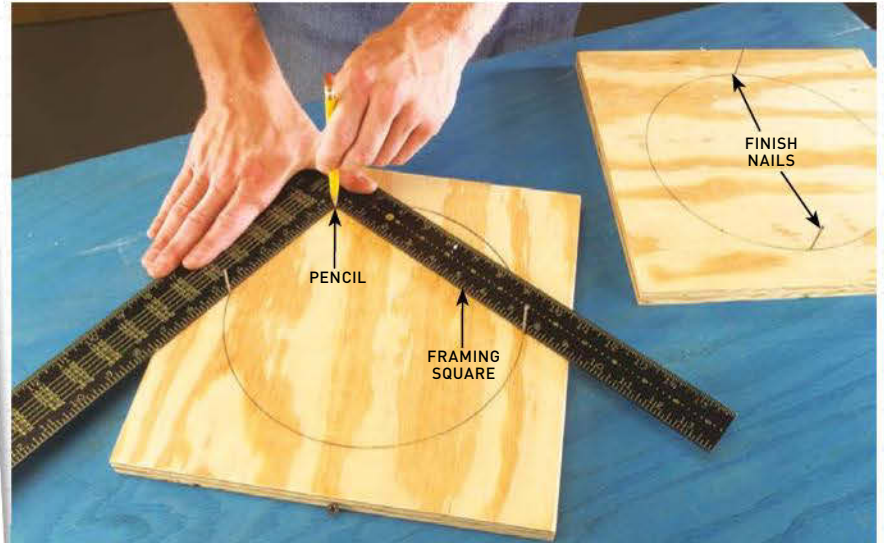
Nails are easier to drive if you take a full swing. But the downside is that if you miss the nail head, you'll leave a deep groove in timber boards.

You can avoid this by using a plywood cushion for protection. This means you can concentrate on hammering without worrying about denting the boards.

Simply tap in the nail, then slip a small square of 6mm plywood over the nail and swing away. Remove the piece of plywood for the final blow.

DIY TIP

If you're trying to pull out a nail and the head breaks off, grip the nail tightly with locking pliers, then pull it out.



2 Draw a perfect circle

Here's a great way to trace arcs and circles for project parts. Tap in two finish nails at the ends of a desired diameter, then rotate a framing square against the

nails while holding a pencil in the corner of the square. Spray the underside of the square with silicone or rub on a little paraffin so it will glide more smoothly. Practise to get the feel of the three-point contact.

3 Clean your shovel

When dealing with mucky soil on a shovel, a dose of spray lubricant will ensure the substance slips off easily.

Use a lubricant that contains silicone or Teflon and recoat the shovel occasionally.



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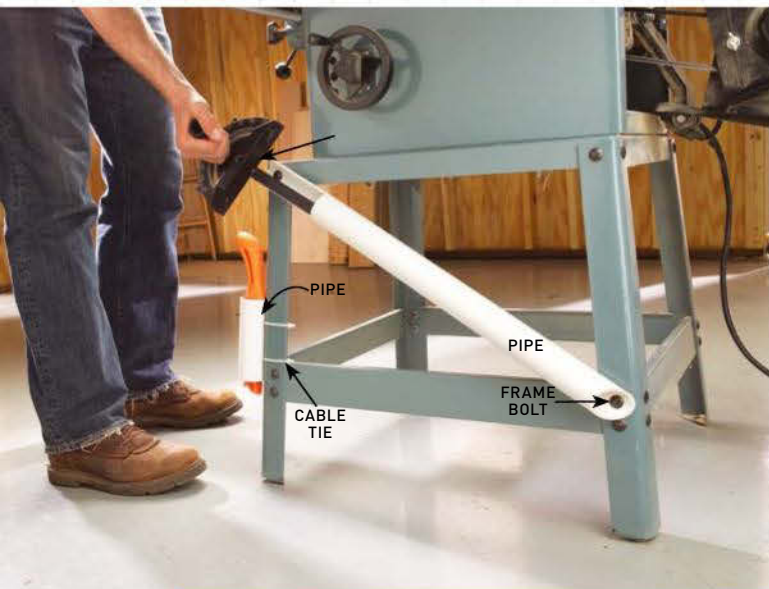
Load capacity:

100kg



4 Keep fingernails clean
If you're digging in the garden or working on your car, try scratching a bar of soap first.

The soap will stop grunge from lodging under your fingernails, and unlike soil or grease, it will dissolve when you wash your hands.



5 Create tool holsters

Keep the mitre gauge and push stick of your table saw within easy reach by bolting or tying a couple of sections of 40mm PVC pipe to a convenient spot on the frame under the table.

Attach the mitre gauge holster using the frame bolts, or drill holes in the legs for machine screws.

For the push stick holster, drill a couple of sets of matching holes about 25mm apart on the pipe and fix it to the leg with cable ties. >

Father's Day

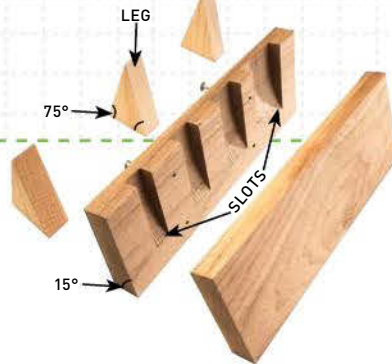


6 Nail without denting

If you hit the timber and not the nail when applying trim or moulding, try this tip.

Using a thin-bladed saw, cut a 5mm kerf into the end of a timber shim. Press a finish nail into the slot, hold the shim against the moulding, then drive in the nail.

The soft-wood shim lets you deliver a final firm blow to leave the nail head nearly flush with the surface. Set the nail just below the surface using a nail punch, then apply timber filler.



7 Make chisel pockets

This tabletop chisel storage idea is easy to build from scrap boards. It angles the handles towards you for easy reach.

Start with a 100mm wide board. Using a tablesaw, cut stopped slots to match the width and depth of each chisel, plus a little wiggle room. Screw or glue on a second

board to create the pockets, then run the lower edge of the two joined boards through a tablesaw with a blade set at a 15° angle.

Now cut three triangular legs with 75° bottom corners and glue them to the pocket board. If you like, drill a few holes through the boards for pegboard hooks so the holder can be mounted on the wall.



8 Paint in tight spots

To paint in a tight area, remove the pad from a paint edging tool. Hot-glue the pad to a stirring stick and you've got a painting tool that fits behind toilet cisterns and radiators.



9 Adapt a chuck key

You'll love this idea if you've ever scraped your finger when tightening a drill chuck.

Measure the diameter and length of the handle of the chuck key, then drill a matching hole in a 100 x 20mm timber dowel.

Hold the handle of the chuck key in a vise and tap the dowel onto the chuck using a hammer.

The advantages? Besides no longer scraping your fingers on the gears, you'll have increased leverage with less effort and a more comfortable grip when tightening the chuck key.



Store tools in a mobile chest

Always searching for your tools? The Ultimate Under Bench Storage Chest, \$568, will solve that problem (sandleford.com.au).

It comes with five drawers of varying depths for a range of items, including a large bottom drawer for bigger tools. Measuring 610 x 850 x 450mm, the chest is made from

430-grade stainless steel with a 20mm hardwood benchtop.

It has a key lock, aluminium handles and heavy-duty castors with two front locking brakes.

The castors make it a great platform for moving around your workspace or garage. The chest also has an anti-fingerprint finish. 🌟

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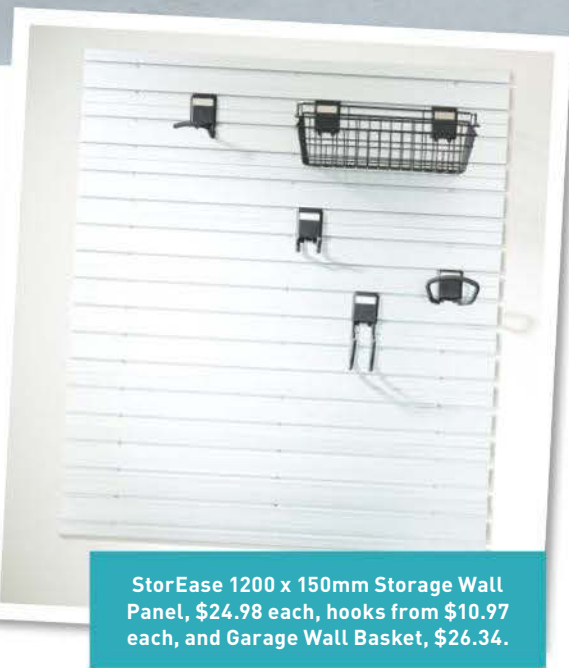
Watch the video 'How to build garage shelves' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice



Find it at Bunnings

TIDY THE GARAGE

Create a clutter-free workshop using simple shelving and storage solutions



StorEase 1200 x 150mm Storage Wall Panel, \$24.98 each, hooks from \$10.97 each, and Garage Wall Basket, \$26.34.

The garage stores more than the car. Tools, toys, sporting gear, gardening equipment, and even the Christmas tree, can end up there.

If your garage lacks storage space, an adjustable shelving system with free-standing or wall-mounted lockable cabinets is a good solution.

Shelving kits with a workbench provide areas where you can hang

tools and do small DIY projects. If preferred, you can also install moveable workbenches.

The position of each shelf can be changed to accommodate tools and other items of varying sizes.

Multi-drawer chests on castors are handy for storing smaller items and plastic tubs make useful places to keep many of your household goods.



Adjustable shelving allows you to arrange your storage in a way that suits your needs

Father's Day



- 1 Pinnacle 1830 x 860 x 410mm Lockable Garage Cabinet, \$189.
- 2 Pinnacle 1830 x 1200 x 410mm 5-shelf Shelving Unit, \$99.
- 3 Pinnacle 1830 x 730 x 730mm 5-tier Corner Adjustable Shelving Unit, \$169.
- 4 Pinnacle 830 x 665 x 465mm 4-drawer Mobile Storage Unit, \$310.
- 5 Pinnacle 1830 x 1200 x 410mm 5-shelf Shelving Unit, \$99.



- 1 Pinnacle 900 x 1500 x 540mm Heavy Duty Workbench, \$110.
- 2 Pinnacle 1830 x 1820 x 540mm Heavy Duty 4-tier Shelving Unit, \$229.



Store tools and small items in Rack It Drawer Kits, which can include multiple drawers.



- 1 Rack It 1345 x 675 x 940mm 1000kg Work Bench, \$199.
- 2 Rack It 150 x 900 x 600mm 1000kg Drawer Kit, \$69 a drawer.
- 3 Handy Storage 54L Blue Storage Crate, \$25, Clear Lid, \$9.49.

BUILD A NEW GATE

Revamp a side entrance by making a new fence and gate using pickets

PROJECT DANIEL BUTKOVICH PICTURES SUE FERRIS



The entrance gate to this property's backyard had deteriorated after years of use and needed replacing. The timber gate was sagging, while the adjoining fence needed repairing.

Luckily, the gate post and the fence frame were in good condition, so the entrance could be restored DIY for minimal effort and outlay.

As the opening was a non-standard size, a new gate was built to replace the old one using cypress pickets and treated pine rails. Longer pickets were used to provide added privacy.

To match the new gate, the deteriorated palings on the adjoining fence were removed and replaced. Federation-style pickets were chosen for both the gate and fence to match the rest of the property.

The new gate was mounted on the post using self-closing hinges, and a modern latch was installed, providing a convenient and secure lockable entry from both sides.

To create a cohesive look and brighten up the space, the gate and fence were painted the same colour as the house and adjoining garage.

Materials

Pickets	\$127
90 x 35mm treated pine	\$13
Screws	\$52
Hinges	\$38
Latch	\$72
Wood hardener	\$22
Timber filler	\$17
Exterior paint	\$31
TOTAL	\$372

DANIEL'S PICKS

Zenith 8-10 x 50mm Stainless Steel Decking Screws, \$44 for 250. itwproline.com.au



Bosch Blue 18V Cordless Drill Driver Kit, \$199. bosch-pt.com.au



Taubmans Sunproof Low Sheen Exterior Paint, \$31 for 1L. taubmans.com.au



TruClose Self-Closing Safety Gate Hinges, \$38. ddtechglobal.com

After

The newly built gate and restored fence have updated the entrance.

2
DAYS

\$372
COST



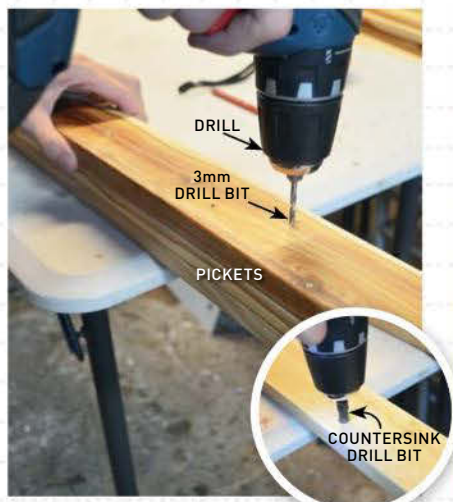
Calculate the width

Measure the width of the gate opening, then divide this figure by the width of the pickets to determine how many you will need. Allow for the latch and hinges.

This 1170mm wide gate was made using 18 pickets measuring 65mm wide each. ➤



MAKE THE GATE



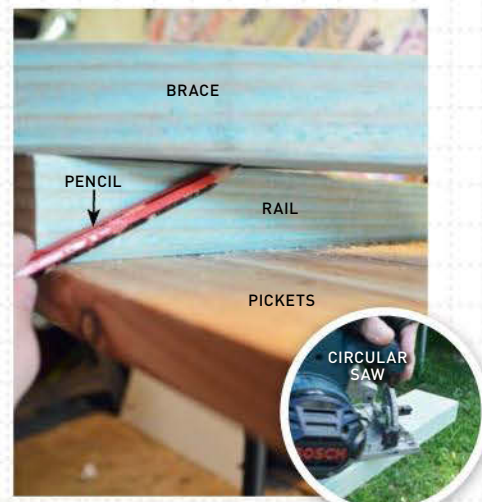
1 Prepare the pickets

Cut the pickets to size, then mark the rail positions on one picket 300mm from the top and base. Drill two 3mm holes 20mm from the edge, offsetting the holes to prevent twisting. Use this picket as a jig to drill pilot holes in the rest of the pickets, then countersink the holes.



2 Secure the pickets

Cut the rails to size. Secure one picket to the rails using 10g x 45mm stainless steel decking screws through the front. Butt the next picket against the first, clamp to minimise gaps, then secure. Continue securing pickets, checking the alignment. Trim any excess from the rails with a handsaw.



3 Cut the brace

Turn the gate over and position a length of treated pine on top of the rails diagonally from one edge of the gate to the other. Draw a pencil line along the underside of the treated pine, following the edge of the rails. Cut the mitres using a circular saw to create the brace.



4 Attach the brace

Position the brace flush with the rails, then secure to the rails using 14g x 100mm batten screws. Turn the gate over and mark the centre of the brace on the pickets, then secure the brace to each picket with decking screws. Apply two coats of exterior paint to each side of the gate.



5 Hang the gate

Mark the hinge positions on the gate rails and drill 3mm pilot holes, then secure the hinges to the gate using 10g x 45mm wafer head screws. Position the gate, supporting it at the correct height and checking for level. Drill 3mm pilot holes and secure the hinges to the post using screws.



6 Install the latch

Drill a 13mm clearance hole through the post, then insert the spindle and secure the latch front to the post with screws. Push the button out, trim the spindle with a hacksaw, then insert it into the latch back. Secure the latch back to the post, then attach the striker to the gate, aligning it with the latch.

DIY TIP

If the fence posts and rails are in good condition, just replace the old pickets with new ones to save time and effort.

Modern hardware on a classic gate upgrades the entrance.



LokkLatch Deluxe Gate Latch, \$72. ddtechglobal.com



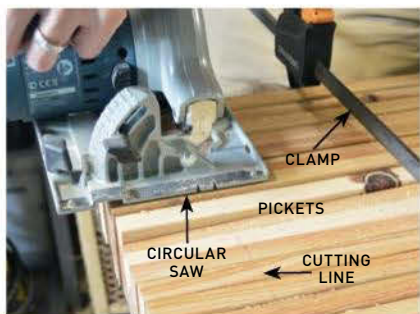
The latch can be easily operated from either side.



Self-closing hinges prevent the gate from being left open.

1 2 3

REPAIR THE FENCE The old pickets were removed and the small damaged sections of the rails were scraped away using a wire brush. Wood hardener was applied to strengthen the rails, and gaps were repaired using timber filler.



1 Cut the pickets

Hang the gate, then use a stringline to determine the height of the fence. To save time cutting the pickets, align the tops and clamp together, then mark a cutting line across the sides and cut them all at once using a circular saw.



2 Secure the first picket

Drill countersunk pilot holes into the fence pickets, then paint the ends to seal them. Butt the first picket against the post and clamp it in position. Drill pilot holes into the rail, then secure the picket using decking screws.



3 Attach remaining pickets

Continue securing pickets, using clamps to butt them tightly against each other to eliminate gaps. Once all the pickets have been installed, paint each side of the fence with two coats of exterior paint. >

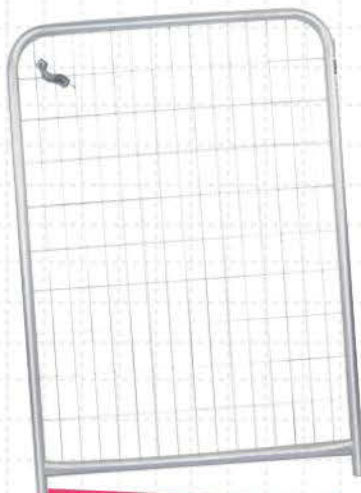
CHOOSE A STYLE

If your gate opening is a standard size, there are a variety of gates in a range of different styles and materials to suit your home.

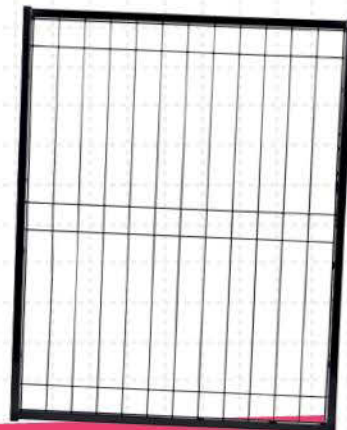
Timber picket gates are ideal for classic homes, with different picket profiles and shapes available. They can be stained to maintain the timber character, or painted to match your colour scheme.

Steel gates are durable and are normally powdercoated or galvanised, providing excellent corrosion protection.

Aluminium gates are lightweight but strong, with powdercoating available in a range of colours.



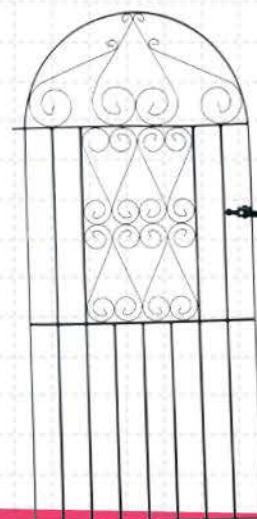
Pinnacle 1150 x 830mm Mesh Gate, \$76. pinnacle.net.au



ARC 1215 x 1000mm Banksia Powder Coated Single Gate, \$150. arcfences.com.au



Mr Pickets 1800 x 900mm Windsor Square Cypress Pine Gate, \$79. bunnings.com.au



The Grange 1830 x 853mm Mosman High Gate, \$119. grangegardenproducts.com.au



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 Protector Aluminium gates and fences have been upgraded and now feature the Ulti-M8 ultra-strength core system, with additional inner ribs to all pickets and rails.

Backed by a lifetime warranty, all Protector Aluminium fence and gate panels exceed the current Australian standard.

The 1200 x 975mm Ulti-M8 Flat Top Pool Gate, \$82, is ideal for providing safe access to pool areas and comes in four colours (protectoraluminium.com.au).



PICTURE (BOTTOM LEFT) SHUTTERSTOCK



What's trending

Workshop Talk & Tips

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Next DIY project

- 'I'm going to make a water feature using a garden pot'
@Mrevzy
- 'I'd love to get more of my fence painted'
@maknilsin
- 'I want to replace the front verandah'
@Cazzy
- 'Make a chicken coop and run'
@killermouse1974

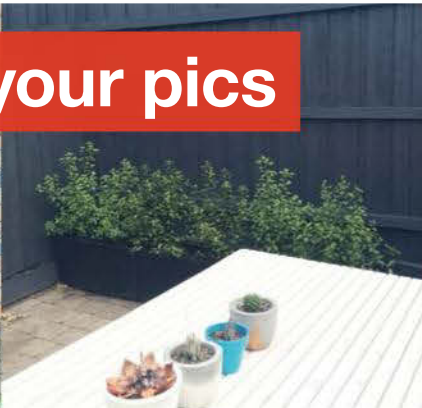


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PICTURE (TOP) ALAMY

DIY MINI HOMES

Building your own tiny house is a popular way to downsize

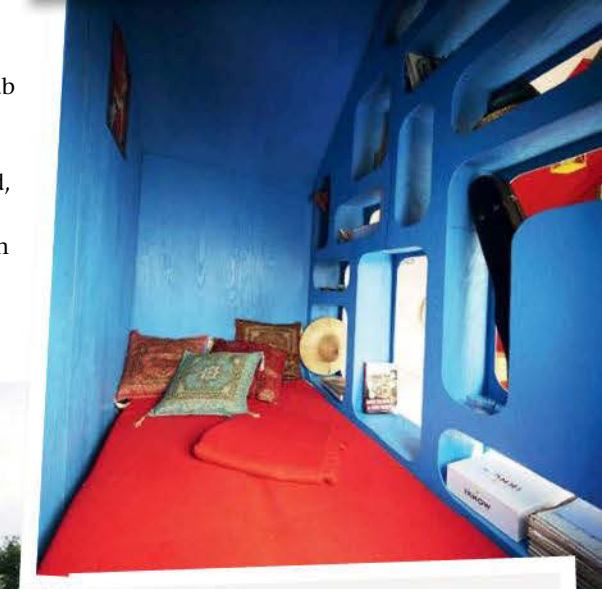
Thinking small may be the future of affordable housing. Czech architect Vojtech Valda has jumped on this idea by designing and building a tiny, flatpack house that costs less than \$1740. It can be constructed within a few hours.

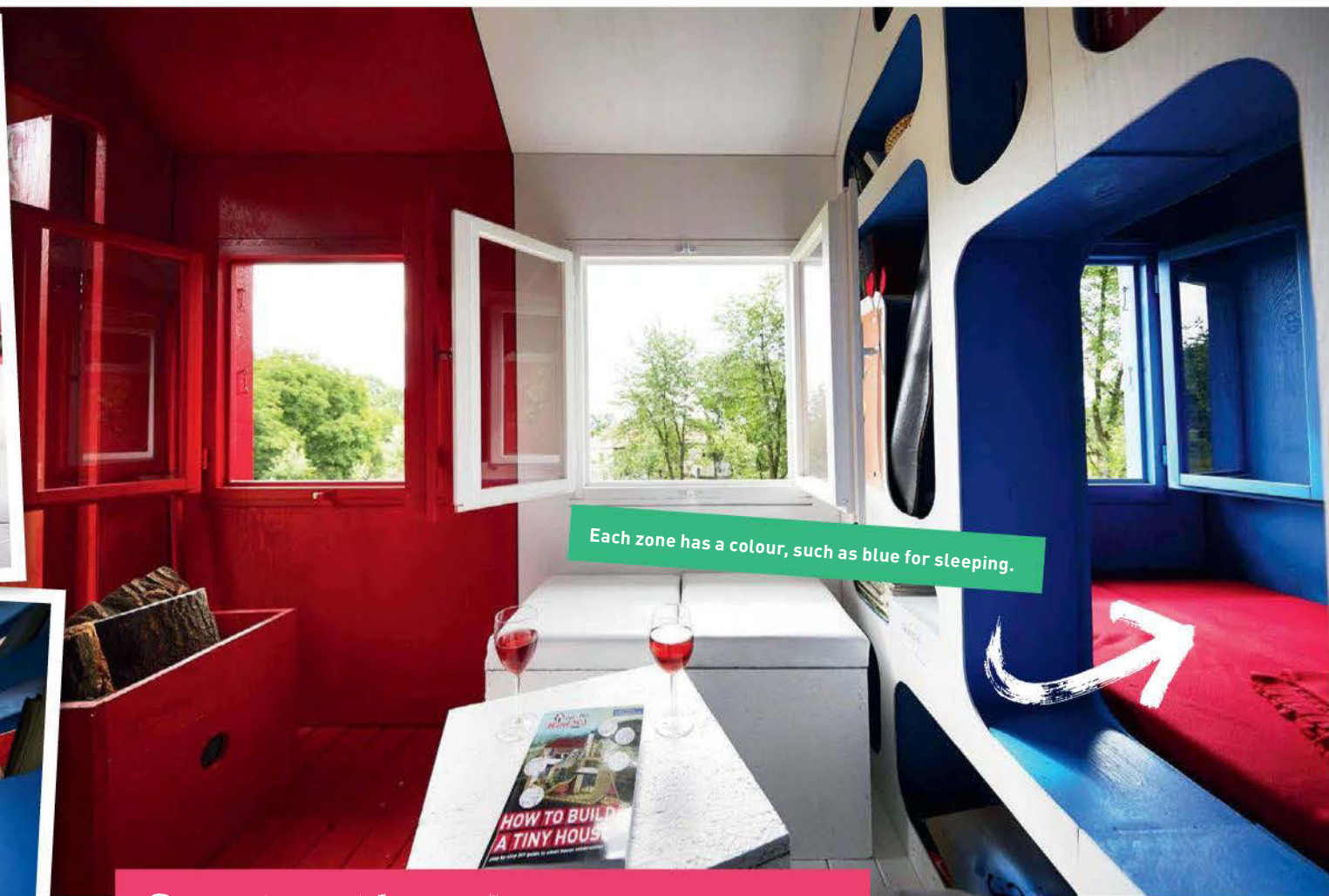
Vojtech came up with the concept for an experimental house, as he wanted to create a sustainable and cost-effective living space that could be easily put together by DIY builders.

The house has colour-coded areas for sleeping, living, storage and cooking. Vojtech says there is a growing appetite for his small prefab buildings in the United States.

Vojtech's design is part of his doctoral research into mass-produced, prefabricated tiny houses.

'It is based on our experience with tiny house construction, creating easy-to-follow plans and books for DIY constructors,' he says.





Each zone has a colour, such as blue for sleeping.

Construction phase

Vojtech Valda (vojtechvalda.cz) created the prototype of his tiny house in Trebesice, a Czech village south of Prague.

Made from 21 insulated, prefabricated panels, the tiny house has three distinct spaces.

They are a blue zone for sleeping, a white space for a day

room and a red area that incorporates a kitchenette.

Vojtech calls the house Tiny France, as it matches the tri-colour scheme of the French flag.

Tiny France is part of Vojtech's Pin-Up Houses project, which also includes little sheds, cabins, cottages and playhouses.





SEE THE WORLD



Port Arthur, Tasmania



Port Arthur Historic Site

As you wander around the landscaped grounds and buildings at Port Arthur Historic Site on a guided tour and hear the stories of life in the penal colony, it's hard not to be profoundly moved.

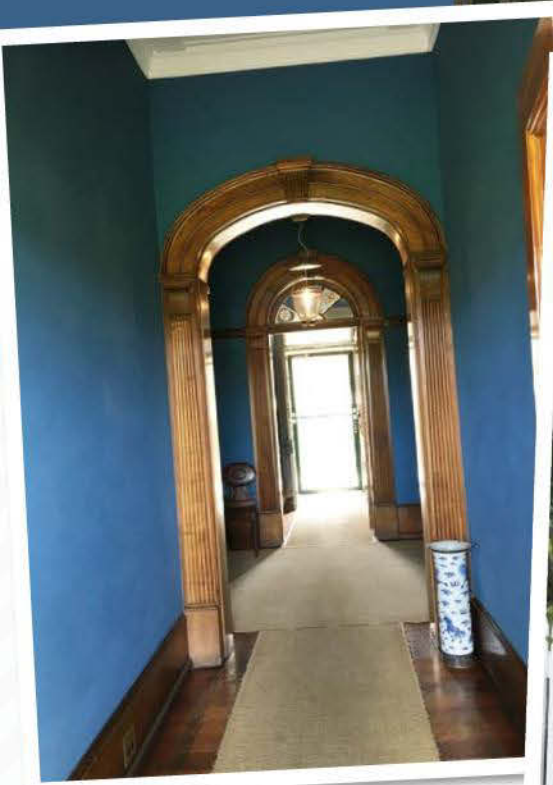
The colony was established in 1830 as a logging camp, employing convicts as workers. From 1833, it was used as a punishment station for repeat offenders from all the Australian colonies.

It was also home to military and civilian personnel and their families, whose lives were hugely different to those of the prisoners.

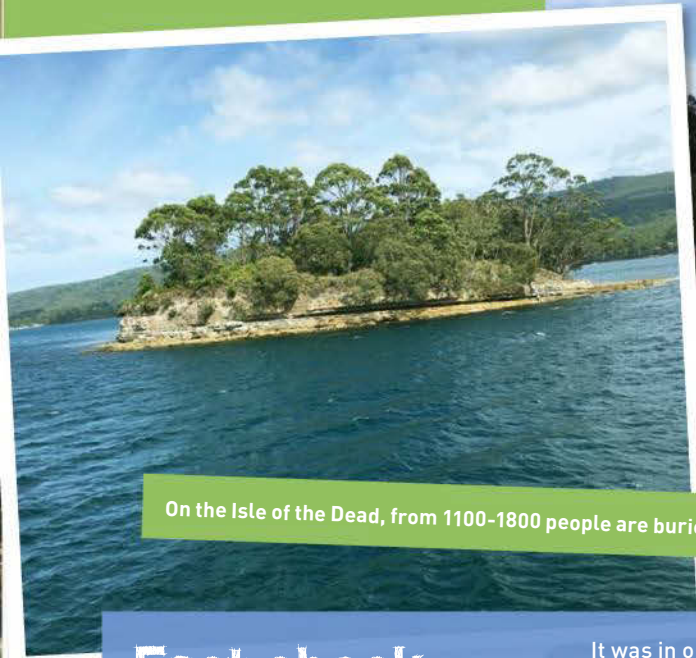
Parties and literary evenings were commonly held on the site and the children played in the beautiful gardens and went to school within the settlement.

Short ferry rides from the penal settlement take you to the Isle of the Dead cemetery and the Point Puer Boys' Prison.

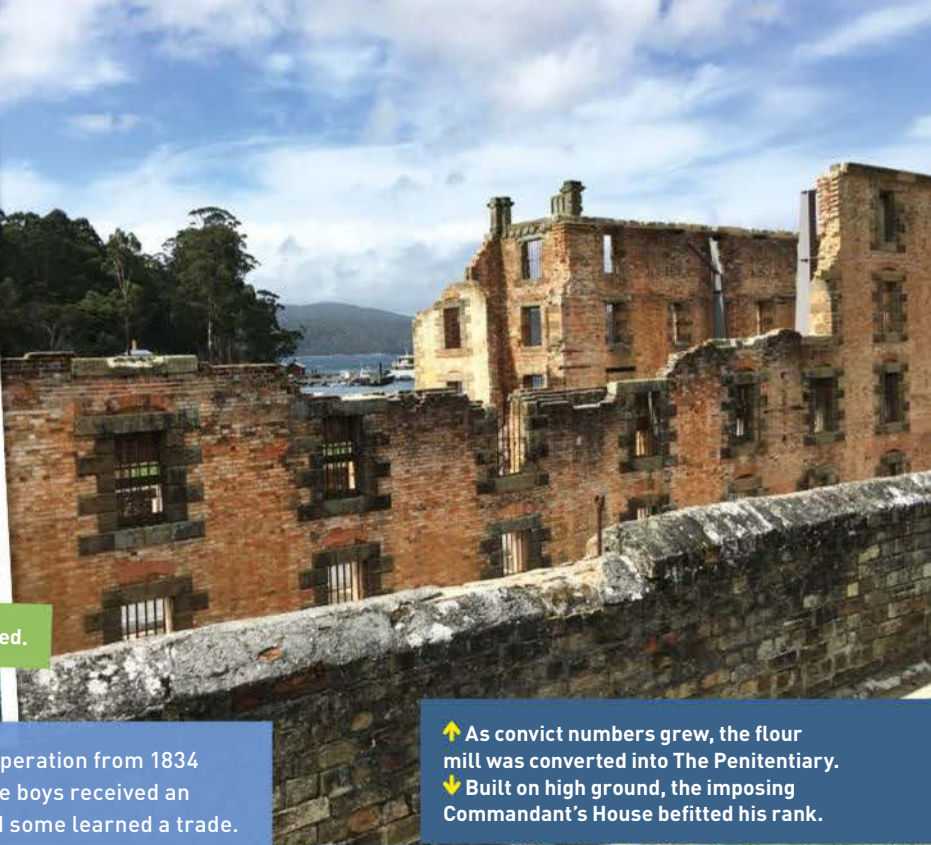
↓ In the Junior Medical Officer's House, Tasmanian blackwood was used for the architraves.



The Parsonage is reputedly one of Australia's most haunted houses.



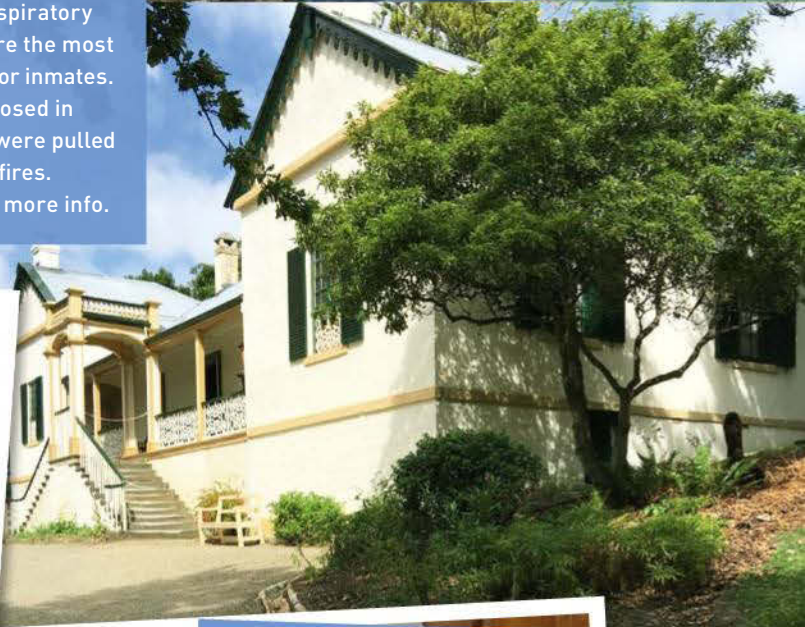
On the Isle of the Dead, from 1100-1800 people are buried.



As convict numbers grew, the flour mill was converted into The Penitentiary. Built on high ground, the imposing Commandant's House befitted his rank.

Fact check

- During its operation, 16 large vessels and about 150 small boats were built at the dockyard.
- For their protection from criminal influence, young offenders aged between just nine and 18 were held separately from adult inmates in the Point Puer Boys' Prison.
- It was in operation from 1834 to 1849. All the boys received an education and some learned a trade.
- Industrial accidents, respiratory disease and drowning were the most common causes of death for inmates.
- The penal settlement closed in 1877 and many buildings were pulled down or destroyed in bushfires. See portarthur.org.au for more info.



The Commandant's House was lavishly furnished.



A single cell in the Separate Prison, which was established with the aim of reforming inmates through isolation and silence.



WORDS AND PICTURES AMANDA SHAW EDITED INFORMATION FROM THE VISITOR GUIDE

Handyman

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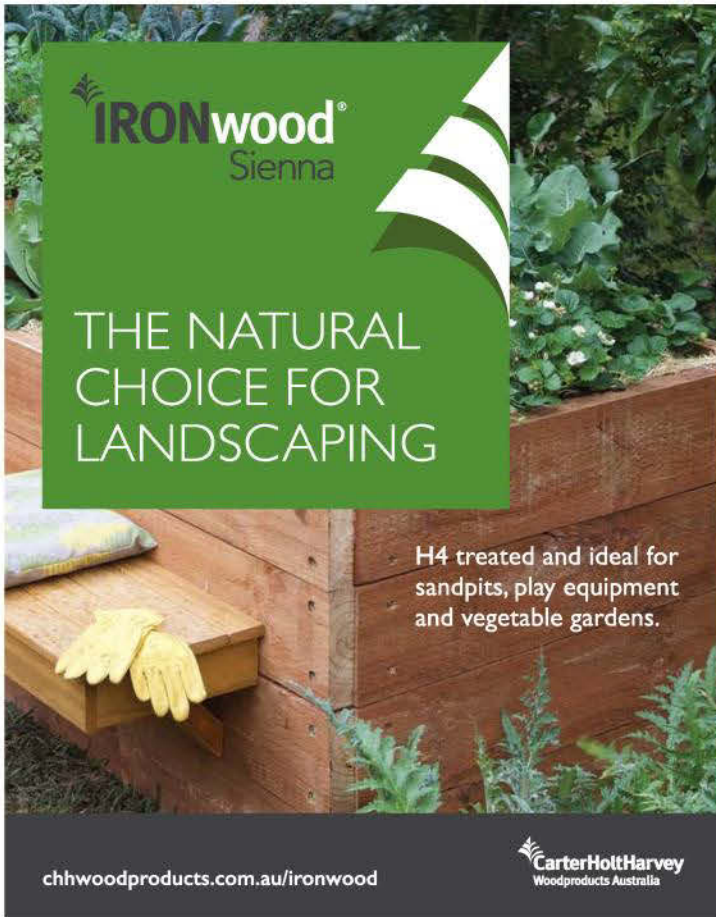


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This month

Get the garden ready for the new season with late-winter tasks



Do now

- ✦ **ADD** a few native plants to the backyard, page 122.
- ✦ **FIND** out how to grow beautiful bonsai, page 128.
- ✦ **TURN** a small balcony into a thriving garden, page 134.

Flowers to sow

Grow these, except in cold climates, to enjoy a spring display.

- ✦ CALIFORNIAN POPPY
- ✦ COLEUS
- ✦ IMPATIENS
- ✦ PETUNIA
- ✦ PHLOX



Vegies to grow

Plant these in the vegie patch for crops from eight weeks.

- ✦ CABBAGE
- ✦ CARROT
- ✦ LETTUCE
- ✦ RHUBARB CROWNS
- ✦ SPRING ONIONS



PICTURES: ISTOCK (BOTTOM LEFT: ALAMY BACKGROUND) THINKSTOCK

WHAT'S IN COLOUR

➤ **HELLEBORUS 'ANNA'S RED'** creates a dramatic impact with its elegant red blooms as they appear through the dark-green leathery foliage from early winter to early spring.

It will add colour to shady corners in garden beds and can be planted in containers for a stunning display.

A vigorous grower with a tidy habit, 'Anna's Red' grows to a height of 50cm and spreads up to 60cm.

Water requirements are medium once established, but it will benefit from the occasional deep soak during hot periods. If growing in a container, don't let the mix dry out completely.

Remove finished flower heads and feed in late autumn and spring with a slow-release fertiliser before and after flowering.

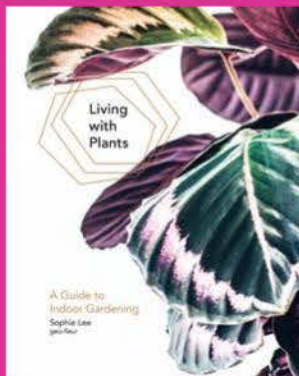
Information courtesy of Plants Management Australia (pma.com.au).



Helleborus 'Anna's Red'



BOOK CLUB



Living with Plants: A Guide to Indoor Gardening by Sophie Lee (Hardie Grant Books, \$30) is a must for those who struggle with maintaining plants, whether at home or in the office.

A botanical stylist and plant expert, Sophie advises which plant to place in a particular room and how to care for them to keep them thriving. The book is also packed with instructional photos and illustrations.

To-do list

Tackle these jobs before the start of the new season.

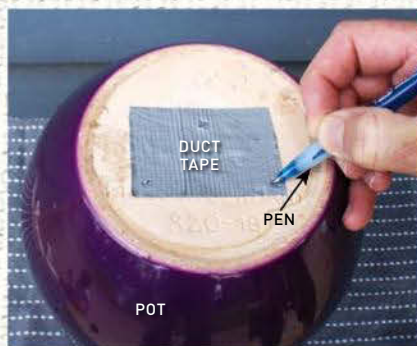
- ✓ **DIVIDE** agapanthus and daylilies in warm regions.
- ✓ **PROTECT** plants from late frosts or cold winds.
- ✓ **SAVE** the seeds of self-seeding flowers including poppies and primulas.
- ✓ **DISPLAY** ornamental chillies in pots in tropical/subtropical zones.
- ✓ **PLAN** and prepare a new vegie patch in cold climates.
- ✓ **KEEP** indoor plants away from chilly windowpanes.
- ✓ **TAKE** cuttings or pinch back any leggy plants in containers. ➤

MAKE DRAINAGE HOLES

The key to growing healthy plants is having well-drained soil, and pots also need drainage holes so the mix doesn't become waterlogged.

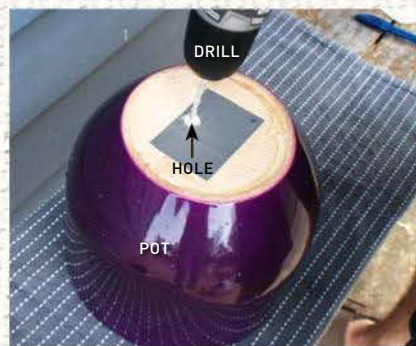
Use a drill to make drainage holes, making sure you use the right bit for the material. Terracotta and ceramic pots require a masonry bit; plastic and PVC a sharp twist bit; metal pots need a high-speed steel bit; and fibreglass containers require a glass and tile bit.

For a 150mm pot, drill three evenly spaced holes 5mm in diameter.



1 Mark the holes

Apply duct tape to the base of the pot, then mark the position for the holes on the tape using a pen. Wet the tape with water using a spray bottle to prevent the drill bit from overheating.



2 Drill the holes

Using a cordless drill and a suitable drill bit, drill three evenly spaced 5mm holes in the base of the container, applying gentle pressure. Remove the duct tape from the pot.

Food for plants and soil

Help plants flourish with the new range of granular Powerfeed Controlled Release Plant Food with Triforte Microbe Technology, about \$6 for 500g and \$12 for 1kg.

Effective for up to five months, it comes in three varieties, Tomatoes & Vegetables; Flowers, Fruit & Citrus; and All Purpose Including Natives (seasol.com.au).



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Give these a boost for new spring growth.

- + BANANA
- + LAWNS
- + VEGETABLES
- + CAMELLIA
- + CITRUS



Banana

Harvest now

Pick these winter vegetable and fruit crops.

- + LEEK
- + BRUSSELS SPROUT
- + SPINACH
- + MANDARIN
- + LEMON



Brussels sprout

Prune now

Cut back any trees that have finished fruiting.

- + APPLE
- + BERRIES
- + PEAR
- + PINEAPPLE
- + TAMARILLO



Pineapple

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Increase the lifespan of your tools and prevent drying, cracking and splintering with WD-40 Specialist Lawn & Garden General Use Lubricant. Keep exposed joints well lubricated so moving parts like telescopic loppers and hedge trimmer blades can operate smoothly. Also helps to prevent rust and corrosion from forming on metal surfaces.



STEP 3: PROTECT

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ADD NATIVES TO *THE* GARDEN

Brighten up the backyard and attract wildlife with these exotic plants

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

The large striking flowers of the waratah are great for indoor decoration.

Whatever your garden style, there is a native to suit. Flowering trees can be used in the upper canopy of the garden while shrubs and flowering perennials perform well close to ground level.

Bold, strappy plants make great accent plants and flowering annuals and perennials provide colour in garden beds or pots.

Caring for natives

Help native plants thrive with regular feeding, watering and mulching.

✦ **FEED** Use a fertiliser formulated for native plants and feed in spring.

✦ **MULCH** Use organic material such as composted leaf litter that will break down and gently feed the plants.

✦ **WATER** To encourage the roots to travel down in the soil and help them survive dry periods, young trees and shrubs need watering deeply 1-2 times a week, depending on the weather.

✦ **PRUNE** Native shrubs, especially flowering shrubs, require pruning to keep them bushy and encourage more flowers to grow.

After flowering, you can cut back up to one-third of the overall growth. Even just removing spent flower heads as they finish will be beneficial.

WHAT TO PLANT

Shrubs

These form the backbone of a garden, providing a permanent framework of leaf and flower forms and filling the spaces between trees and lower-growing annuals and perennials.

You can clip them for a formal look or use flowering shrubs as features.

Grevillea

There are many different cultivars of grevillea in a variety of colours, heights and shapes, so you can find one for just about any spot in the garden. Birds flock to the nectar-rich flowers.

☀️ **GROW** in a sunny position in well-drained soil.



Westringia

Ideal for clipped hedges, a shrub border or an accent plant, there are various westringia cultivars. They can also be grown in pots.

Popular cultivars include 'Mundi' with a low mounding habit, 'Grey Box' which has a natural ball shape and white flowers, 'Aussie Box' with green foliage and mauve flowers, and 'Naringa' that can grow up to 2m high.

☀️ **GROW** in a sunny position in any well-drained soil. Westringia are drought resistant and tolerant of coastal situations and cold. ➤

Banksia

Dwarf *Banksia* 'Birthday Candles' produces spikes of bright-orange candle-like flower heads during autumn and winter.

With its 500mm high and wide rounded habit, it works well in rockeries, large pots, courtyards, coastal gardens and garden beds.

☀️ **GROW** in a sunny position in well-drained soil. It is tolerant of frost and drought. Prune off finished flower heads.



Trees

Choose trees carefully when buying and research their mature height and growth habits. You may want a shade tree or a feature tree, or one that will block an unattractive view.

Gum

Corymbia 'Summer Beauty' and 'Summer Red' are grafted hybrids that produce masses of stunning bird- and bee-attracting flowers during summer.

They make pretty feature trees and can be grown in large tubs.

✦ **GROW** in a sunny position and protect young plants from frost. They will tolerate light frosts and drought when established.

✦ **HEIGHT** They grow to 3-5m but can be cut lower after flowering.

Ivory curl

Ideal as a screening or specimen plant, ivory curl (*Buckinghamia celsissima*) is native to the rainforests of Queensland.

It produces masses of creamy scented flowers in late summer and autumn that birds love.

✦ **GROW** in sun or semi-shade in moist, well-drained soil. It prefers a warm protected spot but will tolerate cool, frost-free conditions.

Prune initially to shape the framework of the tree.

✦ **HEIGHT** 6-9m.

Coast banksia

As its name suggests, coast banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) is the top pick for coastal plantings.

The leaves are dark green with a silvery white reverse and beautiful, large pale lime or yellow flower spikes appear from summer to winter. Birds love the nectar-rich blooms.

✦ **GROW** in a sunny position.

Coast banksia will tolerate clay or sandy soils and salt winds. It can be pruned for screening.

✦ **HEIGHT** 10-15m.



Weeping bottlebrush

Producing masses of long-lasting red flowers in spring, weeping bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis*) features light-green foliage and bronze new growth, and is a favourite with birds.

There are lots of different cultivars in a variety of heights.

☀ **GROW** in full sun. This hardy species will adapt to most soils and conditions, including wet and dry, and is tolerant of light frosts.

📏 **HEIGHT** 4-8m.



Native frangipani

With its layered horizontal branching pattern, slender habit and perfumed spring flowers, native frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*) is a striking tree.

It is ideal for screening and birds flock to the flowers.

☀ **GROW** in full sun or dappled shade in moist, well-drained neutral to alkaline soil.

This plant likes a frost-free climate and shelter from wind.

📏 **HEIGHT** 10-15m. ➤



Did you know?

When you grow bird-attracting plants in the backyard, you are making a positive contribution to the environment.

You may think that one garden is only a small part, but you are attracting birds, animals and insects that will find their way into other gardens. So you're doing your neighbourhood and the wildlife a favour.

PICTURES (TOP) ALAMY (BOTTOM) ISTOCK

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Structural style

There is a great range of impressive native structural plants that will add wow factor to your garden. Pot them up in large containers or use them as features in garden beds.



Grass tree

Architectural-looking grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea* spp) produce tufts of long, thin leaves atop a thick trunk. Birds love the tall spears.

☀️ **GROW** in sun or half shade in tubs, or group together in beds for a stunning display. Good drainage is essential.

Bird's nest fern

The wide leathery leaves of the bird's nest fern (*Asplenium* spp) look great all year round. These epiphytic ferns are especially suited to pots and dry beds.

☀️ **GROW** in morning or filtered sun. Plant in very free-draining soil and don't overwater. Give them protection from frost.



Gynea lily

With its long 1.5m strap-like green leaves and red flowers borne atop a 2.5m stem, the Gynea lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*) is a striking plant.

☀️ **GROW** in partial or full sun in well-drained soil. It likes a frost-free climate.



Lomandra

There are many different cultivars of lomandra that produce lovely grass-like effects when planted in garden beds and containers.

☀️ **GROW** in sun or shade and in most soil types.

Kangaroo paw

There are lots of colours and a variety of heights of kangaroo paws (*Anigozanthus* spp). They provide good vertical accents in pots, planter boxes and beds.

☀️ **GROW** in a sunny position in free-draining soil.





Colourful groundcovers

There are plenty of pretty native groundcovers that can be used for spilling over walls and rockeries, or for planting in cottage and wildflower gardens. They also give a stunning show in hanging baskets and pots.

Brachyscome

Cultivars come in shades of pink, blue, lemon, mauve and white and the flowers last for months. Brachyscome make great basket, container or rockery plants. **GROW** in a sunny spot in well-drained soil.



Fan flower

Different cultivars of the fan flower (*Scaevola*) come in shades of purple, mauve, blue, white and pink. It is ideal for spilling over the sides of baskets or tubs. **GROW** in a sunny position in well-drained soil.



Everlasting

Commonly called straw flowers and paper daisies, *Xerochrysum bracteatum* is not technically a groundcover, but it has the same effect when grown en masse.

The flowers are a favourite with butterflies and last for many weeks. Cultivars come in a variety of colours including yellow, rose, bronze and crimson.

GROW in pots and garden beds. They grow easily from seed sown in spring in a sunny spot. The flowers can be dried for indoor decoration.



PICTURES CHERYL MADDOCKS (TOP, BOTTOM) ALAMY

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Bonsai basics

Learn the techniques of this ancient art and grow your own tiny trees

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

GROW TIP

As they need lots of light, ventilation and water, bonsai are outdoor plants but can be displayed inside for a few days at a time.

Meaning 'tray planting', bonsai is the Japanese technique of growing miniature trees in pots.

It evolved from penjing, the Chinese art of potted landscapes, and has been practised in Japan for more than 800 years.

The main aim of bonsai is to create beautiful trees that resemble the mature trees or shrubs found in nature, albeit on a smaller scale.

Through a combination of pruning methods and the use of small, shallow pots to restrict root growth, the trees are kept tiny.

Wires can be used to train trees to form specific styles, and rocks and moss can also be incorporated.

Growing a bonsai involves more than just potting a tree in a container. It needs to be trained, shaped and styled over time to create a living and evolving work of art.

Where to find stock

The best place to source plants for bonsai is from bonsai nurseries, as these trees have been pruned to have tapered trunks, intricate branch structures and compact root systems.

You can train standard nursery plants to create bonsai stock, but the process can be slower, and these plants will need a lot of pruning to form the desired bonsai characteristics.

Some of the best bonsai stock may be found in your backyard. Young trees and mature shrubs are ideal for bonsai, as their trunks are already thick and they may have good branch structures.

These plants must be pruned back several months before they are dug up. Trees need to recover in large nursery pots for at least a year before further root pruning to fit into a bonsai pot.

Create an inexpensive starter bonsai before you attempt a mature tree.

1 2 3

MAKE A STARTER BONSAI Pots and starter stock are available at most nurseries, and these small plants are ideal for beginners to learn bonsai techniques. Once you have mastered the basics, you can move onto larger, more mature trees.



1 Prune the roots

Water the plant well and leave it to drain for about an hour. Carefully remove the plant from its pot and shake most of the soil loose. Prune the longest roots to create a compact rootball that fits in the bonsai pot.



2 Pot the tree

Cover the drainage hole with a piece of gauze. Position the plant in the pot, securing it with wires if needed. Backfill with bonsai soil mix to a few centimetres below the rim of the pot, then apply a top-dressing of pebbles.



3 Trim the branches

Prune the tips to leave only a few leaf pairs. Remove inward-growing branches to open up the centre of the tree, then remove the largest leaves. Continue pruning over the years to create the desired shape. ➤

RE-POT A BONSAI



1 Remove the tree

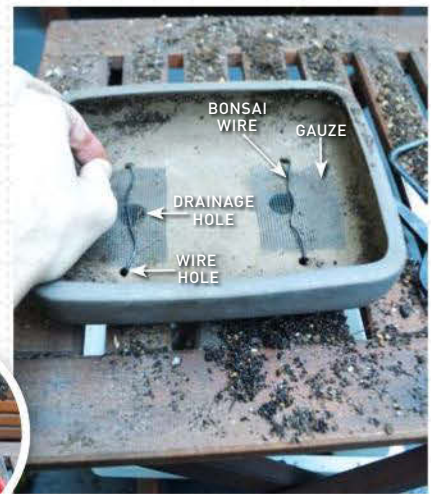
Brush away the top-dressing, then cut or loosen the wires holding the tree in the pot. Use a small trowel to loosen the tree, working it around the edges of the pot until the rootball begins to move, then carefully remove the tree.

TIP Most bonsai trees will need to be re-potted every 1-2 years.



2 Prune the roots

Use a hook to scrape excess soil away from the rootball and tease out the tangled roots. Inspect the rootball, looking for dead or decayed roots. Use root pruners to remove long and tangled roots, and cut back the rest of the roots slightly to encourage the tree to grow a more compact root system.



3 Replace the gauze

Most bonsai pots have one or two large holes for drainage, and several additional smaller holes for wires. Cover the drainage holes with gauze, then thread bonsai wire through the wiring holes in the pot and twist the ends together underneath the pot to secure the gauze.



4 Repot the tree

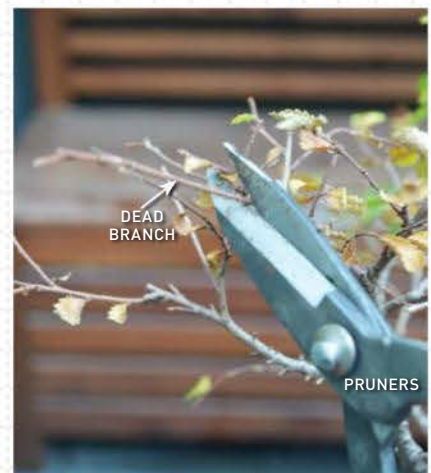
Position the tree in the pot on a small mound of soil so any buttress roots will remain visible above the rim of the pot. Secure the tree in the pot by threading wire through the rootball and securing it to the wiring holes or gauze wires. Backfill with a premium bonsai soil mix to just below the rim.



5 Add top-dressing

Arrange moss or rocks around the exposed root system to make the tree look old and firmly rooted in the pot if desired. Add a layer of pebbles or small stones on top of the soil to hold the tree in place, then water well.

TIP Add moist sphagnum moss around the trunk to encourage surface roots.



6 Prune the tree

Inspect the tree for dead branches and remove them with pruners. Remove any branches growing in the wrong position, and prune the tips of branches to encourage strong growth. Light pruning can be carried out year-round, but most structural pruning should be done in early spring.

Growing techniques

These core growing and pruning methods will develop a well-shaped and natural-looking bonsai.

- **RAMIFICATION** refers to the limbs of the tree splitting into smaller branches to create a dense and realistic-looking branch structure. It is achieved by regularly tip-pruning branches to encourage more shoots.
- **LEAF PRUNING** is also known as defoliation and involves removing some or all of the leaves to encourage smaller leaves and promote new shoots, improving branch structure.
- **ROOT PRUNING** is required to help develop a dense and compact system of mainly fine, fibrous roots. This should be done each time a tree is re-potted to minimise tangled roots.
- **BUTTRESSING** is also known as nebari, and refers to the spread of visible roots above the surface of the soil. This makes the tree look more mature and grounded in its pot.
- **TRUNK TAPERING** involves cutting the main trunk to encourage a new leader. The leader is allowed to grow, then pruned again to create a trunk that is wide at the base and narrow at the top. This process takes many years.



Share pictures of your bonsai

Post a pic to Instagram and tag @HandymanMagazine



ABOVE Gnarled, exposed roots make a tree look older. **RIGHT** Forming highly tapered trunks can take many years.



A bonsai constantly grows and changes over many years



Call of the wild

Yamadori, which literally means 'taken from the mountain', involves collecting mature wild trees that exhibit excellent bonsai characteristics.

Removing plants from the wild is illegal in Australia, but you can ask neighbours or friends if you can dig up unwanted plants that may be ideal for bonsai.

You can even try your luck at construction sites or rural properties where owners are clearing land and planning to remove plants. Just make sure you have permission first. >

SELECT A SPECIES

Almost any ordinary tree or woody shrub can be used for bonsai. The most popular species have been cultivated for centuries and respond well to bonsai pruning, resulting in stunningly beautiful trees.



1 Chinese elm
These small-leaved trees are ideal for beginners, as they are relatively undemanding, easy to prune and shape, and tolerate the Australian climate well.



2 Juniper
Suitable for a range of styles, juniper is one of the most common species used for bonsai, and small specimens are frequently given as gifts. Groundcover species are ideal for cascade-style trees.



3 Maple
Prized for their stunning colourful autumn foliage, maples make beautiful bonsai. Japanese maples feature lovely delicate-looking leaves, while trident maples respond well to aggressive pruning and styling.



4 Fig
Their impressive buttress roots and fast-growing nature make tropical Ficus species ideal for bonsai. They develop thick trunks and good branch structure very quickly, and native species are well suited to the Australian climate.

5 Azalea
To add an explosion of spring colour to your collection, choose an azalea. These flowering shrubs love acidic soil, but their brittle branches mean pruning rather than wiring is the best way to shape them. Small-leaved Satsuki species are ideal for bonsai.



6 Pine
Challenging to master due to their slow growth and tricky pruning requirements, pine bonsai are nonetheless highly prized, and create magnificent mature specimens. Gain plenty of experience on other species before attempting to grow a pine bonsai. 🌲



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Blooming balconies

Turn a small, outdoor space into a gorgeous high-rise garden

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Living in an apartment with just a balcony as your outdoor space doesn't mean you can't create a lush and relaxing green retreat.

Think of your balcony as an extension of your indoor space and decorate it accordingly.

Depending on the style of your apartment and your taste, it could be clipped formality, a tropical oasis filled with a variety of foliage, or an informal space brimming with flowering plants and vegetables.

Here's how you can transform your balcony using a variety of containers and plants.

Create an outdoor room with comfortable seating where you can relax on weekends.



PICTURES (MAIN) ALAMY (TOP) CHERYL MADDOCKS



Add colour to the balcony with pots of fuchsias.

POTTING UP

There's a fabulous selection of modern stone, plastic, timber, steel, and glazed and unglazed terracotta pots in a wide range of colours available.

On small balconies, stick to one material for uniformity and group tall pots and plants at the back and small ones at the front.

If you are time-poor, go for a few pots filled with structural plants with patterned foliage or shapely blooms.

For hot, exposed balconies, plastic pots are more water retentive than unglazed pots such as terracotta. If you don't like the look of plastic, you can use an attractive unglazed container as a sleeve.

TIP Choose large troughs for vegetables so they have space to grow.



Lean an old stepladder against the wall to display plants.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MIX

It's important to use the right growing medium when potting plants.

Premium mixes must conform to Australian standards regarding their content and quality, and have added controlled-release fertiliser.

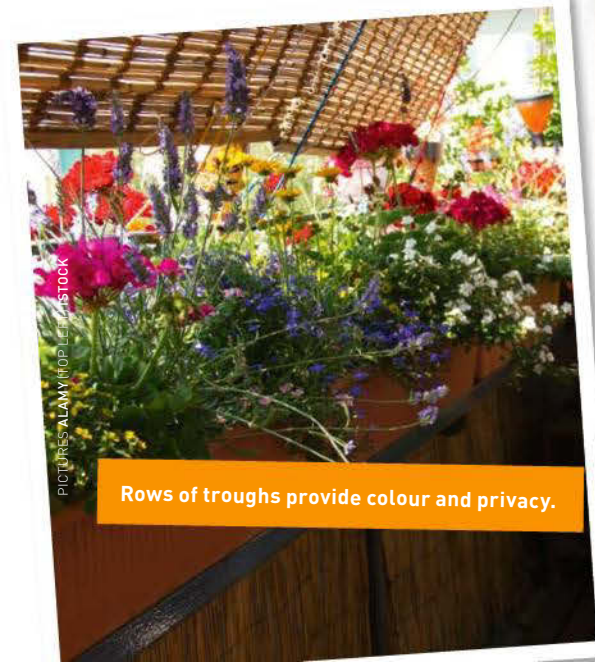
Regular mixes must also conform to Australian standards, but they are not required to include controlled-release fertiliser, so you need to start feeding a few weeks after planting.

Specialised mixes are available for plants with special requirements such

as succulents, cacti and orchids. You can also buy mixes that are especially suited to terracotta tubs and formulated mixes for herbs and vegetables.

Keep the mix healthy for plants in large containers that are difficult to transplant by regularly applying a seaweed product. This will promote beneficial microbes in the mix.

Mulch large pots lightly with cow manure in spring and summer to add organic matter to the mix, but keep it away from the stem of the plant. ➤



Rows of troughs provide colour and privacy.

Pot care

Help your plants thrive by giving them the right care.

- ✦ **FEED** potted plants in spring and summer, but reduce feeding when plant growth slows. Use a three-month controlled release fertiliser or regularly liquid feed. Water the pot before and after.
- ✦ **WATER** frequently and deeply, especially after windy weather.
- ✦ **MULCH** the pots with lucerne hay, sugar cane or pebbles.
- ✦ **USE** pot feet to avoid staining the floor. If runoff is a problem, place the pot on a tray and empty the tray regularly.
- ✦ **PRUNE** shrubby plants regularly to encourage dense new growth and provide the best privacy screen.

Keep the colour of the pots subtle if you want to highlight the plants.



MAKE THE MOST OF THE SPACE

Here are a few ways to create your own scheme in the available space.

- ✦ **CONSIDER** the view from inside. Do you need to block out something unsightly or improve privacy? Or would you like to create a focal point?
- ✦ **TAKE** advantage of vertical space. Use hooks or screws to hang baskets and wall pots. Mount epiphytic orchids on bark or wood on semi-shaded walls. Attach vertical garden kits to walls.
- ✦ **CREATE** a focal point with water. There are plenty of beautiful water features suited to balconies and all you need is a power source for the pump.
- ✦ **KEEP** it simple, as too many plants and different-coloured pots can make

a space look smaller. A couple of large planter boxes or troughs can be more effective than numerous small pots.

- ✦ **TRAIN** climbers such as Chinese star jasmine or mandevillas on trellis or wire to soften bare walls. Be creative and stretch the wire in patterns.
- ✦ **GROW** shrubs in large containers to provide privacy or shade or block out an unsightly view. Lilly pilly, murraya, *Metrosideros* cultivars, westringia and box can be clipped to create a screen.
- ✦ **GROUP** plants to create pretty scenes. Different foliage colours and textures can complement each other.
- ✦ **USE** your outdoor table to display seasonal colour or interesting plants.



Grow annuals in pots and hanging baskets to provide splashes of seasonal colour

Choose pots that match the colour scheme.



DIY TIP

If you are away from home for long periods, consider installing an automatic drip irrigation system on your balcony.

Windy issues

Balconies can be windy, which may damage plants, so use large, heavy pots and attach them to the railing with wire if needed.

Mulch pots with pebbles and water frequently, as dry potting mix becomes lighter. If possible, connect a tap on your balcony and attach a patio hose.

➤ **WHAT TO PLANT** Westringia, dwarf bougainvillea, rosemary, hebe, lavender, bird of paradise, oleander, dianella, lomandra, *Agave attenuata*, verbena and kangaroo paw.



Plant up a water bowl with water irises.

USE A WATER BOWL

Once planted, water bowls require virtually no maintenance. One large plant-filled bowl makes a stunning statement. But keep in mind that filled with water they are heavy to move.

There is a good choice of plants that will grow in bowls with their pot rims just above water level. You can gain the correct height for your pots by standing them on bricks.

➤ **WHAT TO PLANT** Water irises are a great choice and reeds such as the zebra rush (*Schoenoplectus 'Zebrinus'*) look stunning throughout the year.

The large, dramatic leaves of taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) create a lovely scene. The cultivar 'Black Magic' has deep-purple leaves and stems.

A single cyperus in a large water bowl makes an impressive sight. ➤

GROW VEGIES

While you won't be self-sufficient, you can certainly grow a range of vegetables on sunny balconies.

- + **GROW** in large troughs or containers in a mix such as Scotts Pure Organic Premium Potting & Planting Mix.
- + **FEED** fortnightly with a soluble plant food such as Powerfeed.
- + **WATER** regularly. During summer, daily watering is often necessary for container-grown salad leaves.

Don't let container-grown salad greens dry out.

GROW HERBS

As well as enhancing your food, herbs are endowed with sumptuous leaves and flowers that introduce delightful fragrances to your balcony.

Coriander, rocket, parsley and mint can tolerate a little shade, but give other herbs a sunny spot and use a premium potting mix.

+ **ANNUALS** Apply a soluble fertiliser fortnightly for annual herbs such as basil, chervil, coriander, parsley and dill to keep them producing leaves.

+ **PERENNIALS** Feed perennial herbs such as chives, marjoram, mint, sage, thyme, oregano and rosemary in spring and summer with a three-month controlled-release fertiliser.

Check regularly for pests, as they'll find their way onto the balcony.

 See more balcony garden ideas
Visit [pinterest.com/DIYHandyman](https://www.pinterest.com/DIYHandyman)

WHAT TO PLANT WHERE

Every balcony situation is different. It could be hot and sunny or it may be in shade for most of the day. But no matter how much light it gets, there is the right plant for the situation.

North-facing balconies get sun for most of the day, so you can grow a range of plants.

✦ **PLANT** flowering annuals, vegies, herbs, citrus, dwarf fruit trees, yucca, cordyline, flax, liriopse, roses, gardenia, *Dichondra* 'Silver Falls', brachyscome, geranium, hebe, succulents, fan flower, dwarf bougainvillea, kangaroo paw and *Metrosideros* cultivars.

East-facing balconies get some sun in the morning but are shaded for the rest of the day. Choose plants that like semi-shade.

✦ **PLANT** begonia, bird's nest fern, bromeliads, hydrangea, impatiens, dianella, liriopse, maranta, ctenanthe, nandina, ferns, fuchsia, daphne, lobelia and *Lomandra* 'Tanika'.

West-facing balconies need tough, heat-loving plants, as they can be scorching hot at the end of the day, especially in summer.

✦ **PLANT** succulents, dwarf bougainvillea, geranium, *Agave attenuata*, coral plant, Indian hawthorn, westringia, petunia, rosemary, lavender, flax, yucca, kangaroo paw, verbena, herbs, vegies and bay.

South-facing balconies or those shaded by the floor above receive little or no sun. Shade-loving and indoor plants work well.

✦ **PLANT** parlour palm, cast-iron plant, Zanzibar gem, liriopse, clivia, elephant's ears, mother-in-law's tongue, ferns, NZ rock lily, cane begonia, ctenanthe, justica, nandina and *Fatsia japonica*.

Find it at Bunnings

STORE GARDEN TOOLS

Watch the video 'How to store garden tools' at bunnings.com.au/diy-advice

What you need

Lengths of timber
Safety equipment
Drill
Hammer drill
Spirit level
Hammer
Chipboard screws
Spaghetti wall plugs
Pencil
Hangers



There is an easy way to organise and store gardening tools instead of searching for them in a dark corner of the shed.

Simply attach lengths of timber to a brick wall in the garage and install

hangers and hooks to hold a spade, rake, hammer, broom and more.

Hang one timber rail high and another lower down, positioning the hooks and hangers to fit the most tools for a tidy garage and accessible gear.

1 2 3



1 Prepare the timber

Measure the wall space and cut timber to length using a saw. Pre-drill a hole in one end of the timber rail and into the brick wall using a hammer drill. Insert a wall plug and tap in gently with a hammer.

TIP This project used treated pine.



2 Secure the rail

Pre-drill a second hole in the timber and brickwork with the hammer drill, checking the rail is level using a spirit level. Insert a wall plug in the second hole. Secure the rail to the wall with chipboard screws using a drill. Repeat to attach more rails to the wall.



3 Attach the hangers

Mark the positions of the hangers and hooks on the timber rails and attach them with screws. For extra-large hangers, attach another timber piece to create a double-width rail.

TIP Make sure the hangers are rated to take the weight of the tools.

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Head down to your local Bunnings this August to get some advice for your next D.I.Y. project



5
[SAT]

6
[SUN]

QUICK REFRESH, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Complete important projects



12
[SAT]

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BASIC D.I.Y. WORKSHOP SKILLS

Brush up on your knowledge to get your project done



19
[SAT]

20
[SUN]

STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Get advice on how to get the most out of your space



26
[SAT]

27
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POP QUIZ!

Name that **PURPLE BLOOM**

How many of these flowers
can you identify?
The answers are at the
bottom of the page



- ANSWERS 1 DIANELLA 2 DELPHINIUM
3 IRIS 4 BLUE GINGER 5 HYDRANGEA
6 CORNFLOWER 7 CAMPANULA 8 PLUMBAGO

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