

SUMMER LIVING & ENTERTAINING MADE SIMPLE

NEW ZEALAND

We show you how!

Handyman

DIY Outdoor KITCHEN

BUILD THIS BBQ CABINET IN A WEEKEND FOR \$500

BLITZ THE YARD

The newest tools to tidy up your garden

GARDEN IRRIGATION

Install a drip-line watering system



Easy hanging baskets



Quick salad greens



Fun DIY projects

Perfect equipment - perfect cleanliness

Who wants to spend a lot of time cleaning when you have better things to do, although water blasters can even make cleaning work fun. Kärcher water blasters make cleaning a simple pleasure. These high quality, convenient and powerful machines eliminate even the most stubborn dirt and encrustations within seconds – quickly, easily and effortlessly.

But did you know that Kärcher water blasters can operate even more effectively with accessories specifically designed for various cleaning applications, ultimately saving you even more time and effort whilst providing a superb cleaning result.

Hard Surface Cleaners, including T-Racers and Power Scrubbers, are the new generation of cleaning. The T Racer surface cleaner simply attaches to the end of the Kärcher Waterblaster gun and is brilliant for cleaning flat surfaces such as driveways, timber decks and patios without splash back, whilst saving you



time by cleaning up to four times faster than a standard lance. This is achieved by the use of two rotating nozzles contained within the T Racer head which enables it to clean a wider surface area whilst eliminating streaky, uneven cleaning therefore providing a professional result.

An alternative to the T-Racer is the Power Scrubber, a high pressure broom that is



especially well suited for cleaning smaller areas like patios, entrance ways, and stairs. The unit incorporates three high pressure nozzles that effectively and quickly remove even stubborn dirt from surfaces.

For effective yet gentle cleaning of other outdoor surfaces such as vehicle paintwork, garage doors, windows and even the boat, use a Kärcher Delta Racer. The revolutionary brush cleans with high pressure, saving energy, water and up to 30% less time. With its practical triangular form, in built rotating jet nozzles and soft bristles, it has no problem cleaning corners and edges whilst being ideal for use on delicate surfaces – the ideal solution for brilliant results all round.

Cleaning those high, hard to reach areas can be difficult, particularly if you want to clean with pressure. The Kärcher high



pressure telescopic lance extends up to 4m long gives you the ability to effectively clean those difficult to reach areas such as high walls and facades in a safe manner. The removable nozzle at the end of the lance also has the ability to take other Kärcher attachments like brushes to aid in the cleaning process.

For other difficult to access areas, there is the angled spray lance, ideal for cleaning hard to reach areas like gutters, tanks or vehicle chassis.



If you've ever wondered how to clean drains and downpipes, then try the Kärcher pipe cleaning hose accessory. This also attaches to your Kärcher water blaster gun and allows the effective cleaning of pipes, drains, downpipes and toilet blockages. Four reverse



high pressure jets forward propel the hose down the pipe which help clear blockages in the process. Consecutive marks and marker rings help to show how far the hose has travelled down the pipe.

With the wide variety of Kärcher water blasting accessories that simply attach to your Kärcher water blaster, the cleaning applications are numerous and make for faster and more effective cleaning.



Kärcher water blasters are brilliantly effective at tackling any dirty surface.

Grimy driveways, mouldy decking? Try the new Kärcher Deck and Patio Cleaner accessory for faster and easier cleaning of driveways, paths and decks.

Whatever you're faced with, wherever the dirt is, Kärcher water blasters are easy to use but hard on dirt.



 **KÄRCHER®**

makes a difference

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CHRIS L JONES

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No matter what your needs, from the smallest repair job to creating custom furniture. It's never been easier to select the right adhesive for the job than with Selley's Repair and Create range of products. Everything you need all under one roof, see in-store at your local DIY centre today.

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selleys.co.nz

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Entertaining outdoors is part of the New Zealand lifestyle, and what better way to enjoy it than by installing a built-in barbecue like the one on the cover?

It's easy to DIY and has storage space for all those cooking utensils, serving dishes, condiments and the gas connection. And with its generous bench space, you'll have an outdoor kitchen your friends will envy.

Once you've installed the barbie, it's time to get cooking. So we have a selection of mouth-watering recipes for you to try on [page 23](#).

Backyard tidy-up

Does the garden need tidying up? This is a good time of the year to get it back into shape.

Water-blast surfaces, trim edges, prune shrubs and turn clippings into mulch. On [page 77](#), we show you some great products to make the job easy.

Ladder safety

According to hospitals, ladders are responsible for the highest number of DIY casualties in emergency every year, and the majority of these accidents actually happen at home, not in the workplace.

So if you plan to clean the gutters, trim branches off a tree or paint the house, take the time to brush up on ladder safety, starting on [page 90](#). It may save you from serious injury.

In the garden

Summer is here, and while watering the garden is an enjoyable task, surprisingly it isn't as straightforward as you may think.

Have you ever had oranges split on the tree or tomatoes suddenly become invaded by pests? These, plus lots of other problems, are the result of inconsistent watering, which leads to plants becoming vulnerable.

The easiest way to give the garden an even amount of water and keep plants healthy is to install a drip-line watering system and timer. Find out how on [page 98](#).

Enjoy the issue,

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL



Get set with great accessories to have fun outdoors.

More inspiration

Are you planning on revamping the garden and need some more inspiration?

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

Check out *Handyman* at pinterest.com/diyhandyman or scan this code with your phone.



Pinterest

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Get handy tips and DIY ideas every day



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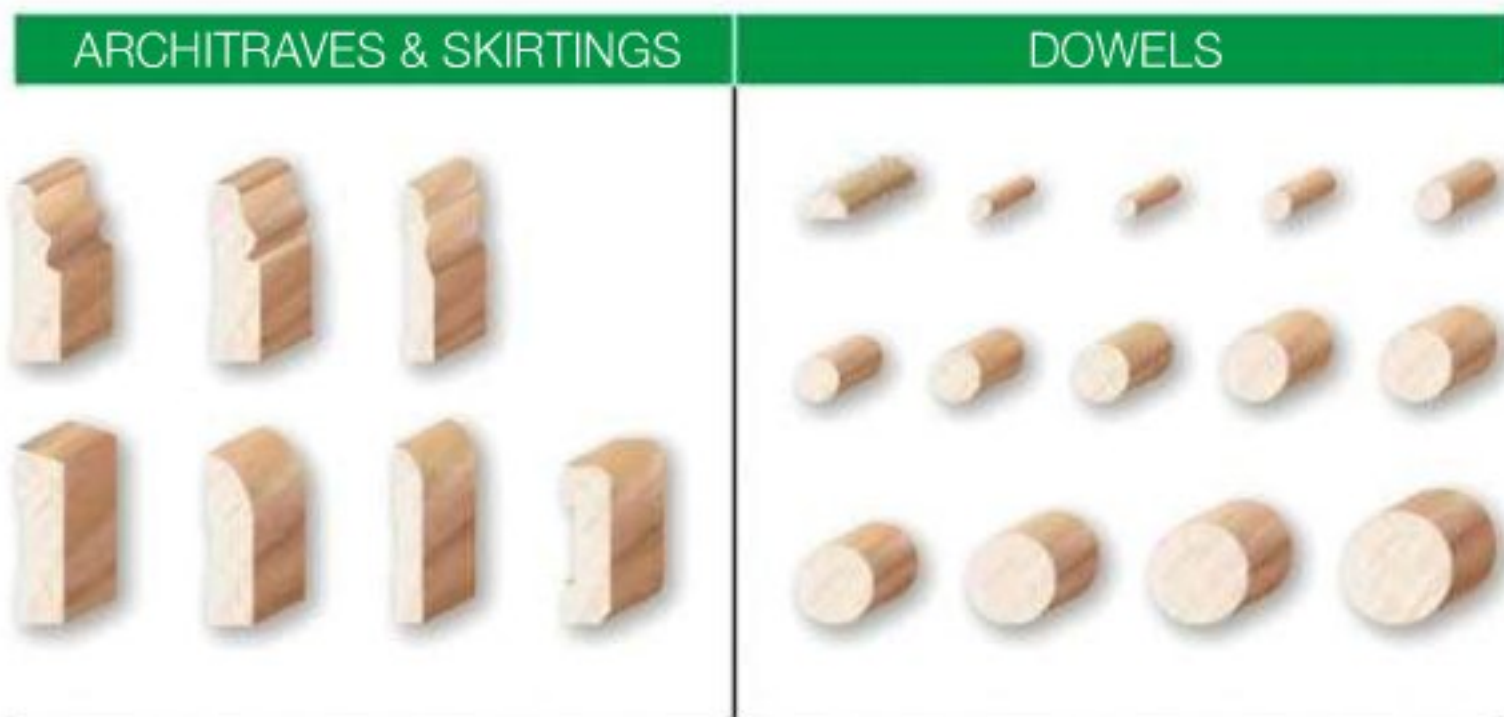


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Put your DIY skills to work with Porta Pine Panels, timber mouldings and dowels available from any Bunnings store.

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Handyman

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EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF **SUE CARNEY**
 MANAGING EDITOR **LEE DASHIELL**
 DEPUTY EDITOR **ARTEMIS GOUROS**
 ART DIRECTOR **KATE TIMMS**
 CHIEF SUBEDITOR **AMANDA SHAW**
 TECHNICAL EDITOR **FRANK GARDNER**
 TECHNICAL SUBEDITOR **GUN ARVIDSSEN**
 SENIOR WRITER **DANIEL BUTKOVICH**
 GRAPHIC DESIGNER **CONNIE LEUNG**
 EDITORIAL COORDINATOR **ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT**
 DIAGRAMS **STEPHEN POLLITT**
 NEW ZEALAND EDITOR **BRUCE SCOTT**
 T: 64 9 488 0862 E: bruce@regatta.co.nz

ADVERTISING

GROUP ADVERTISING DIRECTOR (ANZSA) **SHERON WHITE** T: 61 2 9018 6280
 ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER **KRISTINA FROHLICH** T: 61 3 8844 5542
 ADVERTISING MANAGER NEW ZEALAND **KERRY MCKENZIE**
 T: 64 9 589 1054 E: kerry@hawkhurst.co.nz

MARKETING

MAGAZINE MARKETING MANAGER **GALA MECHKAUSKAYTE**
 WEBSITE MANAGER **BRONWYN POVOLNY**

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER **BALAJI PARTHSARATHY** T: 61 2 9018 6115

PUBLISHING

DIRECTORS **WALTER BEYLEVELDT, LANCE CHRISTIE**
 PUBLISHER, MANAGING DIRECTOR **WALTER BEYLEVELDT**
 OPERATIONS DIRECTOR ASIA PACIFIC **ADINA GHERMAN**

READER'S DIGEST ASSOC. INC.

PRESIDENT & CEO **BONNIE KINTZER**
 VICE PRESIDENT & COO INTERNATIONAL **BRIAN KENNEDY**
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINES **RAIMO MOYSA**
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF *THE FAMILY HANDYMAN* **KEN COLLIER**

NEW ZEALAND OFFICE

HANDYMAN MAGAZINE
 PO BOX 90059, VICTORIA ST WEST, AUCKLAND 1142
 T: 64 9 589 1054

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ENQUIRIES

T: 0800 400 060 E: customerservice@readersdigest.co.nz
www.handymanmagazine.co.nz



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HANDY STUFF

Streamline your morning and skip the fuss with these instant bathroom upgrades

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Make your bathroom work for you with easy-to-remove accessories.

Treat feet

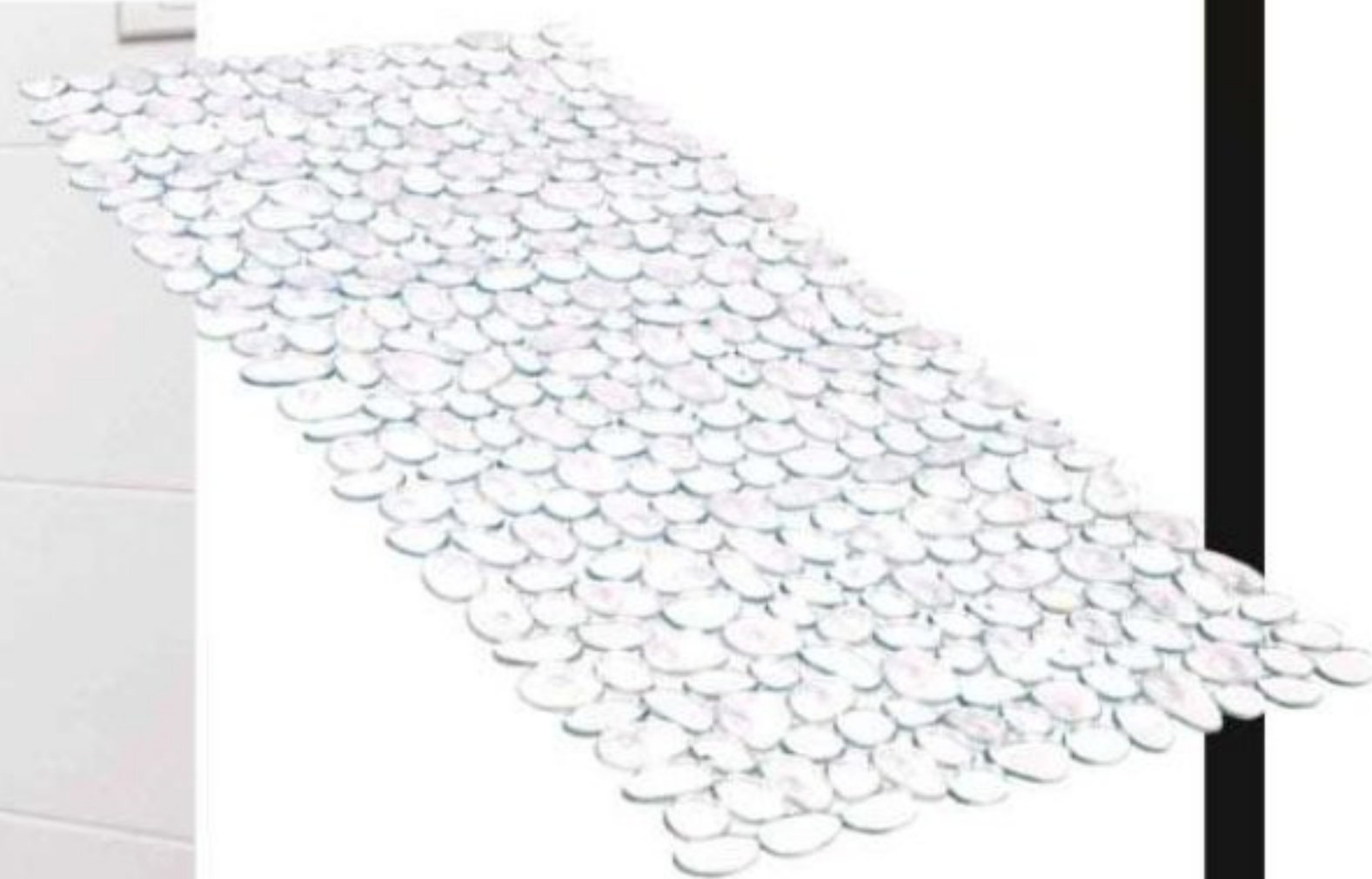
Sink your toes into the plush Zone Hardware Resort Bathmat, about \$20. The mat will suit any bathroom style, as it's available in a range of four lush colours, latte, mocca, chocolate and charcoal. Crafted from slip-resistant cotton, it's perfect to cushion and dry your feet fresh from a shower. Wash by hand, not machine, for the best results.

galepacific.co.nz

Air a pair

For a fuss-free space to dry your towels, try the Everloc Solutions 35cm Twin Towel Rail, \$35. It holds up to 8kg with space for two towels and comes in a chrome finish. Dual-action suction cups make it easy to set up this rail on any non-porous surface without using tools, and just as easy to relocate.

everloc.com.au



Slip-proof suckers

Avoid slipping on the tiles in the bath or the shower with the Zone Hardware Pebble Bathmat, about \$15. Featuring a natural pebble design, the 700 x 350mm plastic mat has suction cups on its base for a very firm grip. It's easy to clean in the washing machine.

galepacific.co.nz



Dish it up

Put your soap within easy reach using the Everloc Endure Soap Holder, \$20. A dual-action suction cup secures the holder to your shower wall. With an 8kg weight capacity, it'll handle holding a face washer or loofah as well. Available in a chrome finish, use it in wet or dry areas.

everloc.com.au

Remodel your rest room for a relaxing resort-style feel with easy upgrades.



All eyes on loo

Spice up the bathroom with a novelty toilet seat, from \$96 each. Take your pick from the creative choices on offer, from the mouse and Swiss cheese or ladybug options, displayed above, to the 3D cow or dolphin designs. They fit most toilet suites and are fully adjustable.

bunnings.co.nz

Silent seat

Trash your tired old toilet and put an Estilo Dual Flush Toilet Suite, \$189, in its place. Made from vitreous white china, this toilet has a WELS three-star rating. Wall facing, it also features a silent, soft-closing seat so you won't have to wake up to the sound of your kids slamming the seat after late-night loo visits.

bunnings.co.nz

On a roll

Enjoy a sense of style when on your porcelain throne with the Everloc Solutions Chrome Toilet Roll Holder, \$50. Its minimalist design fits well with the latest in bathroom decor and it is simple to attach to the wall with its suction cup system.

everloc.com.au



Flush suite

Make cleaning the bathroom trick-free by choosing the Mondella Concerto Toilet Suite. With a fully integrated, wall-facing toilet suite and concealed fittings, you won't have any nooks to nudge dirt from. It features a soft-close seat, dual flush, three-star WELS rating and a five-year warranty.

bunnings.co.nz



PICTURE [MAIN] THINKSTOCK



Keep your hair-styling tool at your fingertips by hanging it on the wall.

Stock 'n' lock

Keep curious fingers away from your pharmaceuticals with a Stein Bathroom Cabinet, \$84. Key lockable, it's made from stainless steel with a frosted glass front and an internal height-adjustable shelf. It includes screws for quick at-home installation, high out of reach. There's plenty of room inside to fit your entire stash of scripts and emergency first-aid kit for convenient access.

stein.co.nz



Hot holder

Remove the risk of burning your benchtop by adding an Everloc Solutions Hair Straightener Holder, \$35, to your bathroom wall. Secure the chrome, rust-resistant holder with Everloc's push and lock suction cup system to save you the hassle of drilling holes. It has a handy plug holder and holds up to 15kg.

everloc.com.au



State the stats

Tackle the task of weighing in from the privacy of your own home with the Proport 150kg Black Glass Digital Scale, \$20. Receive your reading in kilograms, pounds or stones on a digital LCD screen. It's easy to use, just tap the centre of the tempered glass platform with your foot to get the read-out started.

bunnings.co.nz



Toasty dry

Ditch damp-towel days by installing a Goldair 5-bar Ladder Heated Towel Rail, \$198. This stainless steel rail puts out even, consistent heat for toasty towels in no time. It can be wired from either side and the wiring can be either concealed or exposed. It's cheap to run, too.

cdb.co.nz

Great ideas for the holiday season

With so much to be done and so little time to do it in time for Christmas, we've put together this handy collection of gifts and holiday essentials to help make your life easier...so you can sit back and make the most of your holiday break.

NEATER HEDGES

The Ozito Electric Hedge Trimmer with its powerful 550W motor and 16mm cutting capacity makes quick work of hedges and shrubs. Its dual action cut provides a cleaner and more consistent cut and features a dual handed safety switch and blade brake. A great gift for green thumbs. \$64.95.



THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON OUTDOOR

Whether you need to highlight foliage, feature plants and sculptures or accent paths, ponds or water features, the HPM and Arlec ranges of energy efficient, 12V LED garden lights are guaranteed to make a statement outdoors this festive season. From \$18.64.



WATCH YOUR WEEDS WILT

The Yates Zero Rapid range kills weeds fast. Simply mix with water, spray and watch the weeds start to die within an hour. Perfect for use in large garden areas, it is non-active and non-residual in soil so you can plant surrounding areas once the spray is dry. 500mL \$23.83, 1L \$38.86 and 3L \$64.94.



PERFECTLY ORGANISED

The Tactix Organiser Clipboard with powerbank charges two devices at the same time. It has enough battery to charge a smartphone four times and can be used with either phone or tablet. Devices are fully charged in 8-10 hours via its USB and an LED battery indicates when it's ready. Great Christmas gift (tablet not included). \$59.98.



SAFE BET FOR THE HANDYPERSON

The Gerber Evo multi-tool has an easy thumb-stud opening and features needle nose pliers, pincher style wire cutter, saw blade, cross driver, fine edge blade, scissors, small and medium flat drivers, bottle opener, can opener, serrated knife and lanyard all in one stylish anodized aluminium package. Each component locks in, making this multi-tool one of the safest available. \$49.98.



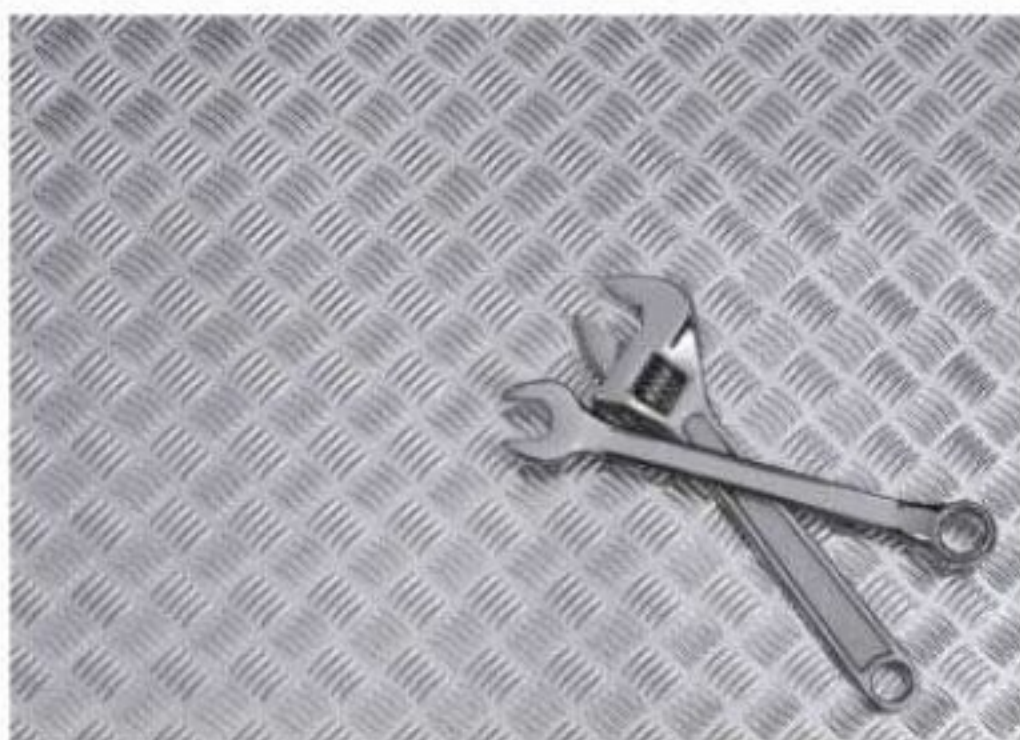
ENOUGH FOR ALL

The new Click range solves your "never enough" power point and USB port problems with a huge range of power boards that combine USB outlets. These are surge protected to protect your technology and they are all competitively priced from \$14.98.



FAST CHARGE

The compact Black & Decker 18V Dustbuster Flexi Hand Vac charges 4 times faster than other cordless hand vacs and automatically shuts off when fully charged. The lithium battery gives you 15 minutes of full non-fade power and it comes complete with a soft brush, two crevice tools and a 1.5m flexible hose that allows you to reach high places, low spaces and awkward areas. \$199.



QUICK AND EASY FLOOR COVERING

Protect floors in your garage, workshop or home gym with these stylish QFloor water-resistant vinyl tiles. In stylish Checker Plate design, they are loose lay with no adhesive required and will handle the heaviest traffic areas. \$49 per square metre.



A REALLY HANDY GIFT

The Dremel Micro Rotary Tool is perfect for small detail projects and tight spaces. It sits in a compact docking station to keep it ready for action and features new LED smart features such as front-end lighting, variable speed indicator and fuel gauge. Fully compatible with all Dremel rotary tool accessories, it is powered by a lightweight 7.2V Max lithium-ion battery. \$119.



PURE GENIUS

Enjoy fresh clean filtered water at home with the Stefani 8 Litre Ceramic Water Purifier. It is a stylish-looking, gravity-fed bench top filtration system that removes 99.99% of bacteria from drinking water. With no plumbing or installation required, you simply set up and enjoy. It holds 14 litres and filters 8 litres at a time. \$141.



TIME 2 DAYS
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TOOLS CIRCULAR SAW,
CORDLESS DRILL,
ANGLE GRINDER



Custom-design a cabinet to suit the size of your drop-in barbecue.

Protect the plywood ▼

Built-in barbecues have to sit at set distances from combustible surfaces, which includes any that are made of an organic material like timber or plasterboard.

Inorganic materials such as concrete, brick, steel, stone and ceramics are non-combustible.

The interior of this plywood cabinet was lined with 4.5mm fibre cement (FC) sheet cut to size and attached under the barbecue and side burner.

Built-in BBQ bench

Create an outdoor kitchen DIY with a custom-made cabinet for a hooded barbie, side burner and bar fridge

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER MAIN PICTURES CHRIS L JONES

The covered verandah on the back of this home was built as part of a major renovation, where half the house was demolished to make way for a new open-plan living, dining and kitchen space.

Connected to the indoors by two sets of triple sliding glass doors, the tiled verandah was designed for outdoor living, with a gas outlet and powerpoint installed at one end for a built-in barbecue.

To go with the new extension, the homeowner wanted a modern kitchen-cabinet style design.

Made to fit across the available 2120mm long wall, the cabinet had to be high enough for the bar fridge.

It also had to be deep enough to allow a hooded barbecue fitted with a side burner to be housed in the benchtop.

The cabinet was designed using the barbecue specifications and the

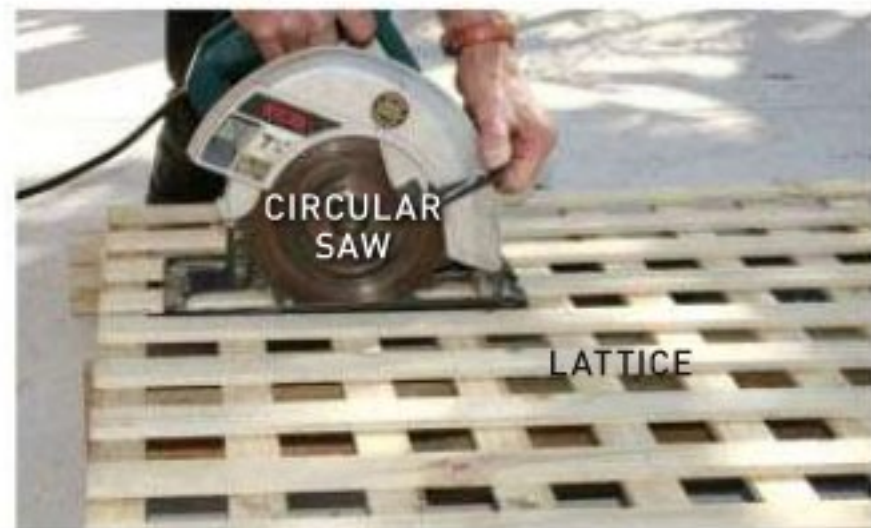
manufacturer's installation manual to ensure all safety standards were met.

Built from marine grade plywood to protect it from the elements, the cabinet was lined with fibre cement sheet, as it is non-combustible, and the benchtop made of compressed FC.

The cabinet isn't suitable for use with a gas bottle as it was made for use with natural gas. A plumber changed the injectors and connected the barbecue to the outlet. ➤

Screening the verandah

A privacy screen was added behind the barbecue to meet council regulations. A 2400 x 1200mm treated pine lattice panel, about \$75, was cut to size and framed, then installed using plastic plugs and 65mm x 12g galvanised screws.



1 TRIM THE LATTICE panel to size using a circular saw with the blade depth set to 30mm.

TIP Position it on sawhorses to cut.



2 MARK THE FRAME pieces and clamp to a sawhorse to cut to length, making square cuts using a circular saw.

Test-fit the frame around the lattice.



3 MAKE THE SCREEN by drilling 2mm countersunk pilot holes and securing each butt-joined corner with 65mm x 8g screws.

Design basics

The cabinet is 2120mm long and was made from two 2400 x 1200 x 18mm panels of marine grade plywood, costing about \$120 each, cut to size with a circular saw. It has three doors and an opening for a bar fridge.

A divider supports two shelves and the cabinet is reinforced with 70 x 35mm treated pine rails at the back, with a front rail and extra support cut from plywood.

Beneath the side-burner shelf is a 500mm deep drawer on runners.

The plywood cabinet and lattice screen were finished with two coats of Dulux Weathershield in black.

The cabinet stands on adjustable furniture legs and the doors feature brushed stainless steel door pulls.

TIP You could use Syneco Furniture Legs, about \$15 for four, from Bunnings, and Sylvan 96mm door pulls, about \$16 each (sylvan.co.nz). ➤



Matador 118L Stainless Steel Single Door Bar Fridge, \$899, from Bunnings.

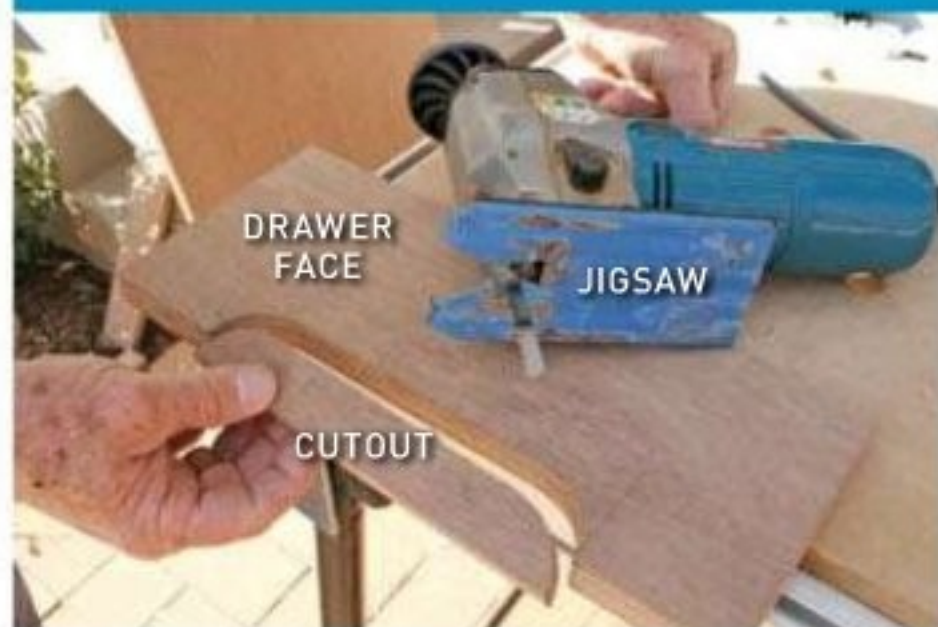


After

Painting the plywood turns the cabinet into a designer piece.

Before

Make a drawer ▼



1 Prepare the face

Mark a 195 x 30mm cutout for a hand slot on the top edge of the plywood drawer face, curving the edges at both ends. Use a jigsaw to cut out the hand slot, sanding the edges with 180 grit abrasive paper.



2 Make the box

Secure the drawer back between the sides with screws then add the base, securing one corner only. Square up the box to align with the base and secure with three screws on each side, then attach the drawer runners.

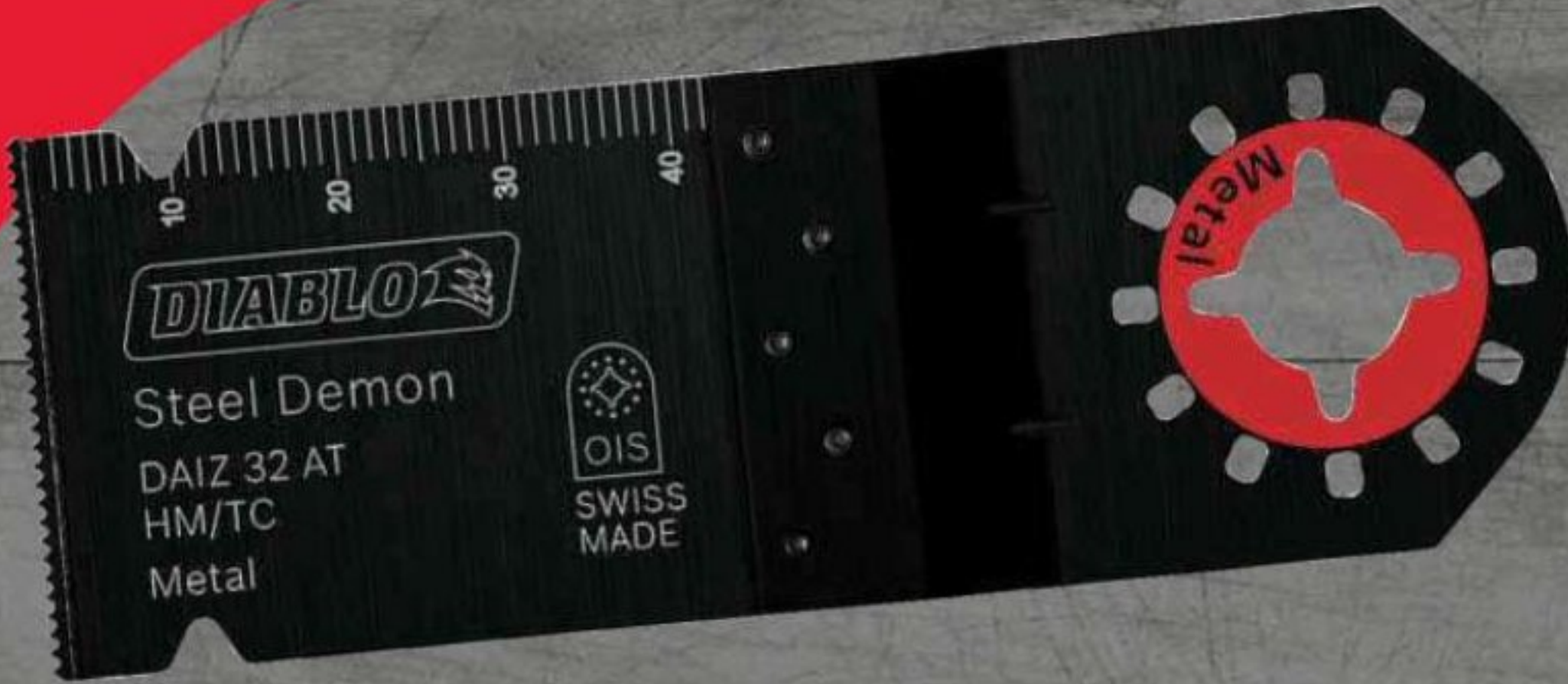


3 Finish the drawer

Stand the drawer on its back and position the drawer face, drilling 1.5mm pilot holes before securing with PVA adhesive and nails. Attach the remaining runner halves to the cabinet sides, then insert the drawer.



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*Internal Diablo tests show 30x longer life in Stainless Steel applications VS. Diablo Bi-Metal multi tool blades

Build the cabinet



1 Cut the panels to size

Mark the plywood panels to size using a builder's square. Measure the offset distance from blade to base plate edge and clamp a straightedge to guide the circular saw as the panels are cut, allowing for the offset distance.



2 Make the rail notches

At the top and base on the back edge of the divider and left panel, cut 70 x 35mm notches with a jigsaw, and 30 x 18mm notches 25mm back from the top front edges. Cut a 580 x 18mm notch 25mm back on the divider base.



3 Add the base

Position the base between the side panels and mark lines 9mm up from the base to drill four 2mm countersunk pilot holes, securing with screws. Mark the divider on the base and secure with four screws from underneath.



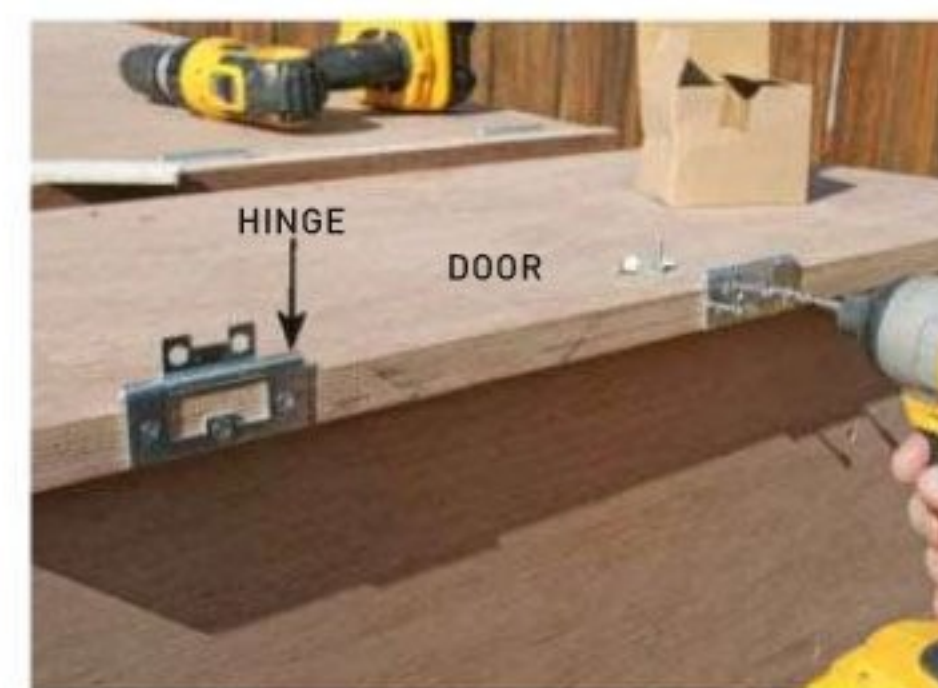
4 Secure the back rails

Position one back rail on the top back notches hard against the right end panel and clamp. Drill pilot holes, securing with two screws to the end panel first, then to the notched panels. Secure the other back rail at the base.



5 Install the shelves

Mark the position of the long shelf 365mm up from the base on the side panel and divider, and the short shelf 515mm up. Drill four 2mm pilot holes then prop the shelves on offcuts at the marked setout, securing with screws.



6 Hang the doors

Secure three hinges to a door edge, one centred and two 65mm from the top and base. Lay the cabinet flat and position the doors with equal spacing. Mark the hinge positions on adjacent inside panels, securing with screws.



7 Attach the front rails

Position the front rail hard against the end panel and in the notches and drill pilot holes, securing with screws. Apply PVA adhesive to the support top edges and clamp with the inside edges flush, securing with screws from above.



8 Line with FC sheet

Use a fibre-cement cutter to cut 4.5mm FC sheet to size to line the plywood below the barbecue and side burner sections. Secure the lining to the shelf tops, panel sides, doors and rail faces with buttonhead screws.



9 Position the cabinet

Secure three furniture glides to the end panel base, then attach the panel to the rails. Attach six legs to the cabinet base with the supplied screws, then use two spirit levels to adjust the legs to set it level.

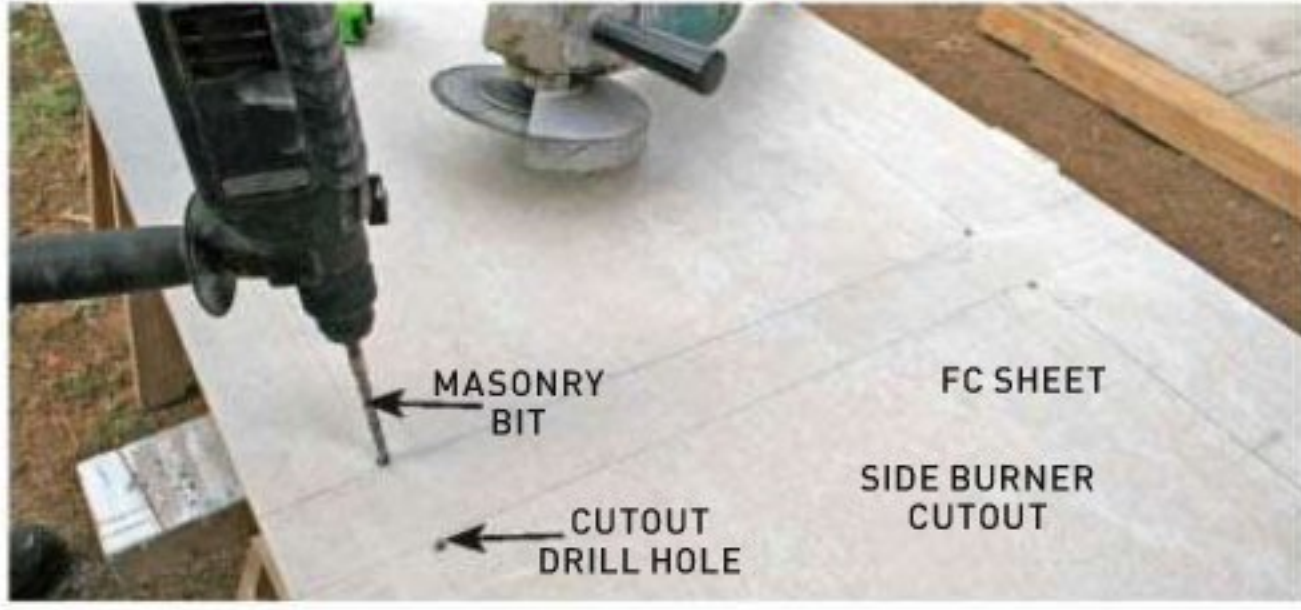


H3 Treated Pine

by porta

www.porta.co.nz

Adding the benchtop



1 MARK THE CUTOUTS on the FC sheet, positioning it on two timber rails across sawhorses. Cut the sheet to 2120 x 750mm with a circular saw and fibre cement blade. Set the cutout lines square with a builder's square, drilling 8mm holes in each corner so the two cutouts are easily removed. Use a masonry bit and turn off the hammer function to avoid breakout on the back.



2 PREPARE THE BENCHTOP by using a small angle grinder fitted with a continuous diamond blade wheel. Remove the waste from the small cutout for the side burner, then the larger barbecue cutout. Use a flat file to remove any fibre burrs and to square up the corners of the cutouts.



3 SECURE THE BENCHTOP to the barbecue cabinet, supporting it on two rails and sliding it into position. Align the benchtop, then drill countersunk clearance holes at 300mm centres through the benchtop only. Drill 2mm pilot holes into the cabinet rails, secure with screws, then cover the holes with two-part filler. ➤



Porta's Treated Pine Mouldings are designed for long-term protection against borer, rot, decay and weather.

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 - **Solid Timber** – suitable to stain or paint to match any outdoor colour scheme.
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 - Increase longevity above-ground for 30+ years.
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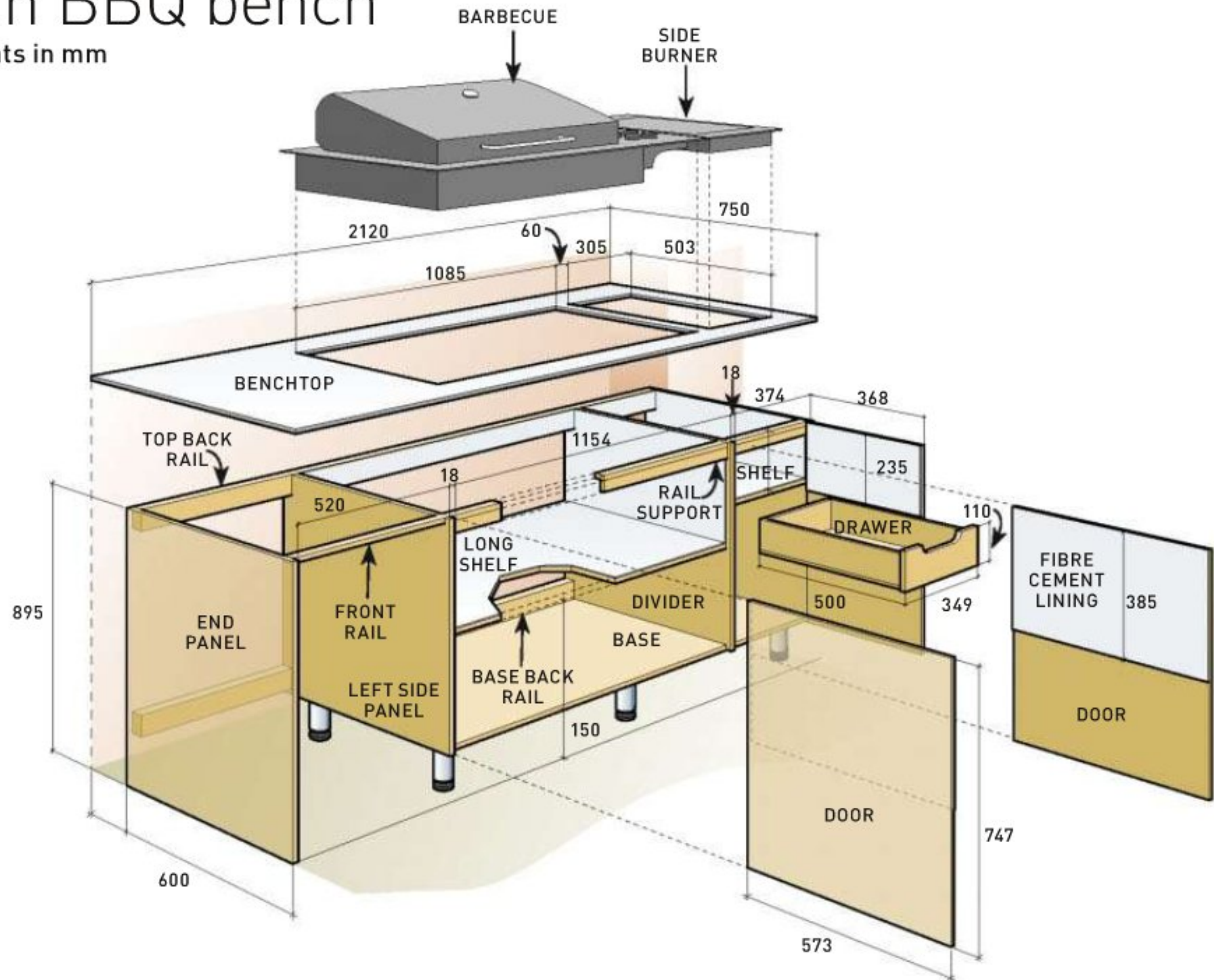


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Built-in BBQ bench

measurements in mm



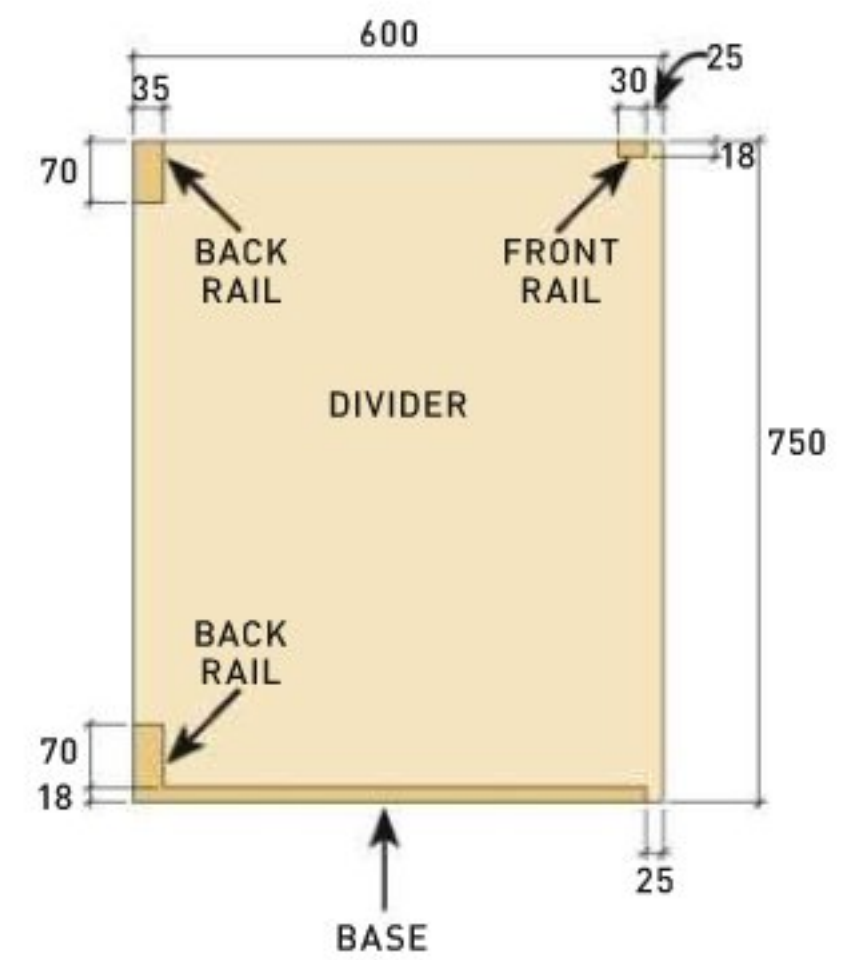
RAIL SETOUT

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
Marine grade plywood		
Base	1546 x 580 x 18	1
Cabinet sides	750 x 600 x 18	2
Divider	750 x 600 x 18	1
End panel	895 x 600 x 18	1
Long shelf	1154 x 575 x 18	1
Short shelf	374 x 575 x 18	1
Drawer face	364 x 138 x 18	1
Drawer sides	500 x 110 x 18	2
Drawer back	313 x 110 x 18	1
Drawer base	500 x 349 x 12	1
Doors	747 x 573 x 18	2
	747 x 368 x 18	1
Front rail	2084 x 30 x 18	1
Front rail supports	1154 x 40 x 18	1
	374 x 40 x 18	1
Treated pine		
Back rails	2084 x 70 x 35	2
Compressed FC sheet		
Benchtop	2120 x 750 x 15	1

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Galvanised timber screws, 40mm x 8g	Side panels, divider, front rail, shelves, benchtop, front rail support
Galvanised timber screws, 50mm x 8g	End panel
Galvanised timber screws, 65mm x 8g	Back rails
Buttonhead screws, 15mm x 8g	4.5mm FC lining
Bullethead nails, 40 x 2mm	Drawer face



Handymanmagazine.co.nz
Download the tools, materials and costs to make this project.



Designing an outdoor kitchen

If you want to create an outdoor kitchen with a new or existing barbecue, Kaboodle has a flexible DIY solution (kaboodle.co.nz).

The cabinets, benchtops and frosted glass doors from the Kaboodle range, available at Bunnings, can be used in a covered outdoor area to create a cooking station to suit your space.

As an alternative, you can buy an outdoor kitchen suite complete with six-burner barbie, cabinets, granite benchtops and even a sink.



Matador Entertainer 6 Burner Outdoor Kitchen, \$2599, from Bunnings.

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Best barbie recipes

Top off a perfect day with a juicy seafood barbecue in the backyard



Summer has arrived and so it's time to fire up the barbecue and move the kitchen outdoors.

There's no better way to make the most of the warmer weather and enjoy the company of your close mates than with a delicious feast straight off the barbie.

To get you into the swing of it, we've put together a selection of seafood dishes that guarantee your dinners are set to sizzle. ➤



Barbecued fish parcels



PREPARATION TIME 20 mins

COOKING TIME 20 mins

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon olive oil, plus extra for brushing
- 250g cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- ½ cup (75g) pitted kalamata olives, halved
- 2 tablespoons capers
- 2 teaspoons finely grated lemon zest
- 2 teaspoons fresh thyme leaves
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 cod fillets or other thick firm white fillets
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, to garnish

1 PREHEAT a covered barbecue, or kettle barbecue, to 200°C, keeping the hood closed.

2 COMBINE the oil, tomato, garlic, olives, capers, lemon zest and thyme in a bowl. Season with pepper.

3 TEAR eight pieces of baking paper and divide into four lots of two layers, or use two layers of foil. Brush lightly with oil and place a fish fillet on each sheet. Top with the tomato mixture.

4 FOLD the baking paper or foil around the fish and topping, then seal the edges to enclose.

TIP If using baking paper, put the parcels on a tray before adding to the barbecue so the paper won't burn.

5 PLACE the parcels on the hotplate or grill rack over indirect heat and close the hood. Cook for 20 minutes or until the fish flakes when tested with a fork.

6 OPEN the parcels, watching for steam, then carefully lift the fish and toppings onto serving plates. Drizzle with cooking juices and sprinkle with parsley.



Barbecued fish steaks with salsa

PREPARATION TIME 10 mins

COOKING TIME 10 mins

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

4 firm-fleshed fish steaks, such as kingfish, about 150g each

3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Juice of 1 small orange

1 clove garlic, finely chopped or crushed

Freshly ground black pepper

1 orange, cut into wedges, to serve

Rice of your choice and green salad, to serve

SALSA

200g roma tomatoes, diced

½ red capsicum, seeded, diced

½ red onion, finely chopped

Juice of 1 small orange

½ cup (15g) fresh basil, chopped

1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

1 teaspoon caster sugar

Freshly ground black pepper

1 PLACE the fish steaks in a shallow non-metallic dish.

Whisk together the oil, orange juice and garlic. Season with a little pepper. Spoon the marinade over the fish and turn to coat evenly. Set aside.

2 MAKE the salsa by combining the tomato, capsicum, onion, orange juice, basil, vinegar and sugar. Season with pepper, then spoon into a serving bowl.

3 PREHEAT a barbecue hotplate or grill rack to medium-high. Remove the fish steaks from the marinade and cook on the hotplate or grill rack over direct heat, basting occasionally with the remaining marinade, for 4-5 minutes on each side or until the fish is cooked through.

4 TRANSFER the fish to serving plates and grind over a little pepper. Top the fish with the orange wedges and serve with the salsa, the rice of your choice and a green salad. ➤



Spiced prawns with mustard dipping sauce

PREPARATION TIME 10 mins
COOKING TIME 6 mins
SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

24 large raw prawns,
 peeled and deveined,
 tails intact

1 tablespoon olive oil,
 for cooking

MUSTARD DIPPING SAUCE

2½ tablespoons Dijon mustard
 1½ tablespoons lemon juice
 ½ teaspoon ground coriander
 ½ teaspoon ground cumin
 ¼ teaspoon freshly ground
 black pepper

SPICY SEASONING

1½ teaspoons ground coriander
 1½ teaspoons ground cumin
 ¼ teaspoon freshly ground
 black pepper

1 MAKE the dipping sauce by combining the mustard, lemon juice, coriander, cumin and pepper.

2 MAKE the seasoning by combining the spices in a large bowl. Add the prawns, tossing to coat.

3 LIGHTLY oil a barbecue hotplate and preheat to high. Thread the prawns onto eight metal skewers, or use wooden skewers, soaking them in cold water for 30 minutes before use.

4 COOK the skewers over direct heat for 2-3 minutes on each side or until cooked through.

5 REMOVE the prawns from the skewers and serve at room temperature with the mustard dipping sauce. Or allow the prawns to cool, then put in the fridge and serve them chilled.



BBQ Buddy Two-piece Spatula and Long Tong Set, \$14. mayohardware.co.nz

Tuna & cherry tomato kebabs



PREPARATION TIME 10 mins
plus 30 mins marinating
COOKING TIME 6 mins
SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

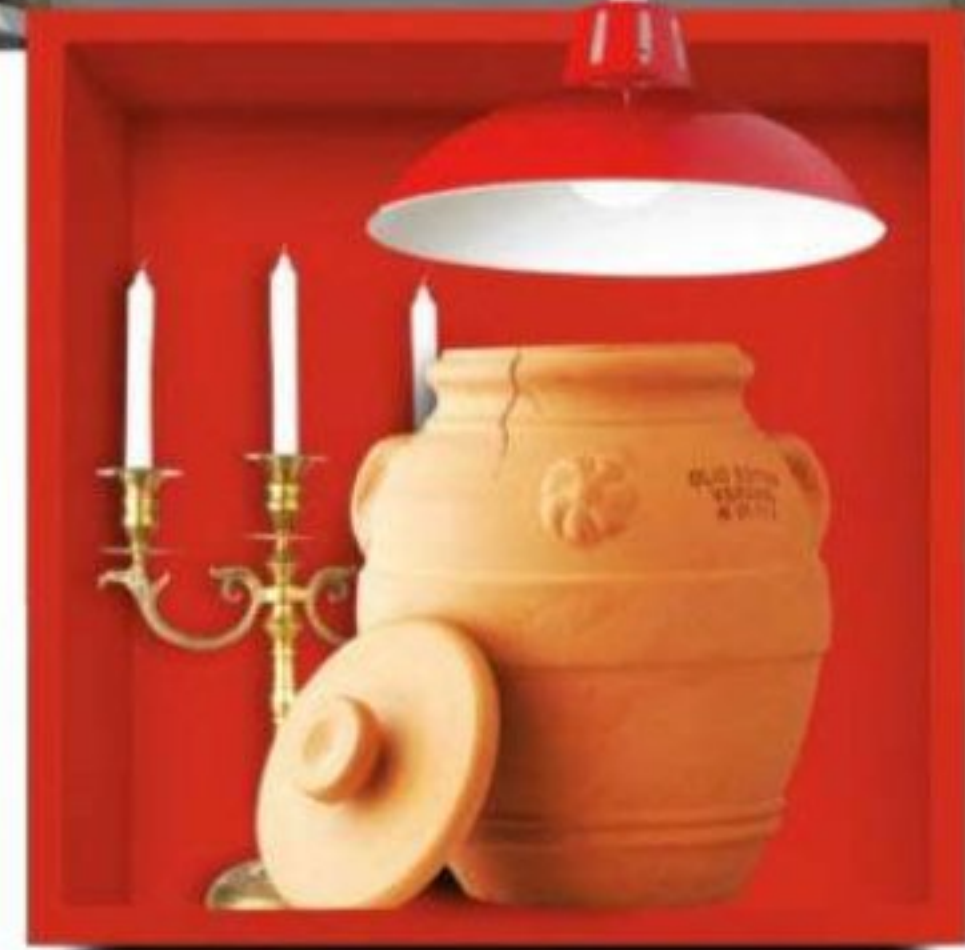
1 tablespoon chopped rosemary
1 clove garlic, crushed
2 tablespoons olive oil
4 tuna steaks
1 small lemon, cut into 16 thin wedges
16 cherry tomatoes

- 1 COMBINE** the rosemary with the garlic and oil in a non-metallic shallow dish.
- 2 CUT** each tuna steak into eight chunks, then add to the rosemary marinade, turning to coat. Chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.
- 3 PREHEAT** a barbecue hotplate or grill rack to medium-high. Thread the tuna chunks, lemon wedges and tomatoes onto eight metal skewers, or use wooden skewers, soaking them in cold water for 30 minutes before use.
- 4 COOK** the kebabs on the hotplate or grill rack over direct heat, turning occasionally, for about 6 minutes or until cooked to your liking. ➤



Matador Stainless Steel Skewers,
\$12 for six, from Bunnings.

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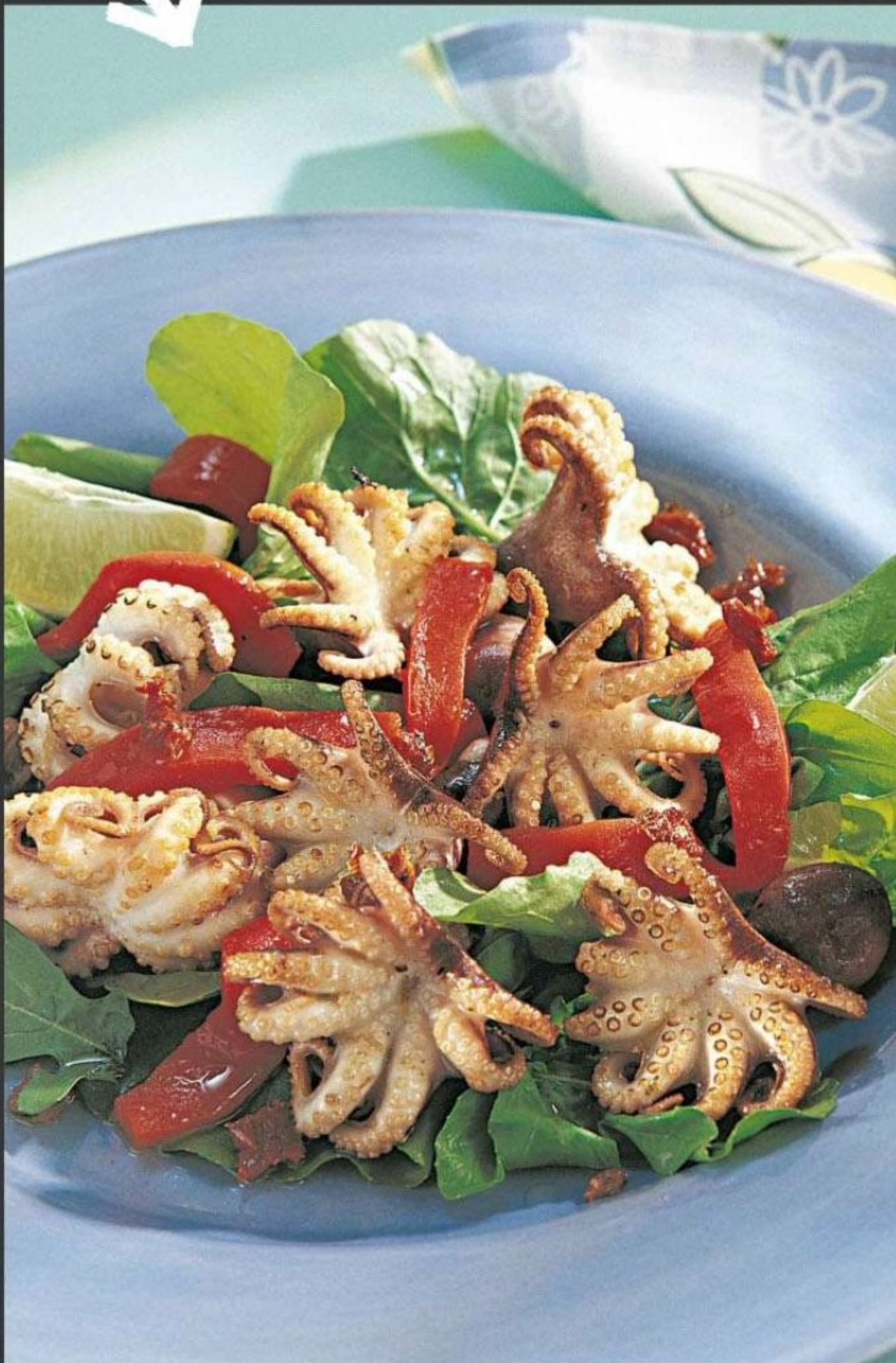
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you need and helpful DIY hints at

selleys.co.nz

Chargrilled baby octopus



PREPARATION TIME 15 mins
plus 10-15 mins marinating
COOKING TIME 18 mins
SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

2 red capsicums
½ cup (75g) sun-dried tomatoes
Zest and juice of 1 lemon
Zest and juice of 1 lime
2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
1kg baby octopus, cleaned and
debeaked by the fishmonger
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 bunch rocket
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper
Lime or lemon wedges, to serve

- 1 PREHEAT** a barbecue hotplate or grill rack to very hot. Slice off the base of each capsicum at the stem end, then remove the seeds.
 - 2 COOK** the capsicums on the hotplate or grill rack over direct heat, turning often, for 10-12 minutes or until the skin is charred. Set aside to cool. When cool, peel off the skins, then slice the flesh into wide strips.
 - 3 MEANWHILE**, finely chop the tomatoes and put into a large bowl. Combine with the lemon and lime zest and juice, and the thyme. Add the octopus and olive oil to the bowl, tossing to coat the octopus well. Leave to marinate for 10-15 minutes.
 - 4 COOK** the octopus over direct heat for 5-6 minutes, spooning over the marinade regularly and turning once or twice until cooked through and curled.
 - 5 ARRANGE** the rocket, capsicum and octopus on serving plates. Drizzle each plate with 2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil, then season. Serve with lime or lemon wedges.
- TIP** Be careful not to overcook the octopus or it will be tough.



Barbecued calamari with tomato vinaigrette

PREPARATION TIME 30 mins
plus 2 hours marinating
COOKING TIME 3 mins
SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

500g calamari or
squid rings
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1/3 cup (10g) finely chopped
fresh flat-leaf parsley
2 tablespoons olive oil
4 tablespoons dry
white wine
Salt and pepper
1 small head cos lettuce

TOMATO VINAIGRETTE

2 large tomatoes
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon Champagne
vinegar
2 tablespoons
lemon juice
4 fresh thyme sprigs,
finely chopped
Salt and pepper

1 PUT calamari, garlic and parsley in a bowl. Add the oil and wine, and season with salt and pepper. Stir to combine, cover and put in the fridge to marinate for about 2 hours.

2 TEAR the lettuce into pieces and arrange on individual serving plates.
3 MAKE the vinaigrette by halving the tomatoes, removing the seeds and finely dicing the flesh. Whisk the oil, vinegar, lemon juice and thyme in a bowl until combined. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Add the diced tomato to the bowl and mix together. Spoon the tomato vinaigrette over the lettuce leaves.
4 PREHEAT a barbecue hotplate to medium. Cook the calamari on the hotplate, turning occasionally, for about 3 minutes. Arrange on the salad and serve while hot. ➤



Summer vegetable medley

PREPARATION TIME 10 mins

COOKING TIME 8 mins

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

2 small fennel bulbs, about 225g each, cleaned and trimmed
1 large eggplant, about 500g, cut lengthways into 1cm thick slices
4 roma tomatoes, halved
1 large green capsicum, cut into thick strips
1 large red capsicum, cut into thick strips
1 large yellow capsicum, cut into thick strips
2 red onions, cut into quarters
Olive oil cooking oil spray
Salt and pepper

2 tablespoons orange juice
8 basil leaves, thinly sliced
1 clove garlic, crushed or finely chopped
1 teaspoon grated orange zest

1 LIGHTLY oil a barbecue hotplate or grill rack and preheat to medium. Cut the stalks and the fronds off the fennel, reserving the fronds. Peel the bulbs and cut vertically into thick slices.

2 SPRAY the fennel, eggplant, tomato, capsicum and onion with cooking oil spray. Season with salt and pepper.

3 COOK the vegetables on the hotplate or grill rack over direct heat, for 4 minutes on each side or

until tender and evenly browned. Transfer to a serving platter and sprinkle with the orange juice.

4 FINELY chop 1 tablespoon of the reserved fennel fronds and mix in a small bowl with the basil, garlic and orange zest. Sprinkle over the vegetables. Serve the vegetables warm or at room temperature.



Matador Barbecue Stainless Steel Grill Brush, \$13, from Bunnings.

PREPARATION TIME 5 mins

COOKING TIME 10 mins

SERVES 2

INGREDIENTS

1 banana, skin left on
 1 yellow peach or nectarine
 3 tablespoons orange juice
 1 tablespoon rum
 2 teaspoons soft brown sugar
 1 tablespoon (20g) butter
 2 cinnamon sticks
 2 scoops ice-cream, to serve

1 SPLIT the banana lengthways through the skin, without removing the flesh. Cut the peach or nectarine in half and discard the stone. Place, skin side down, on a piece of foil.

2 MIX the orange juice, rum and sugar together in a bowl, then sprinkle the mixture evenly over the banana and peach or nectarine. Dot the flesh with butter and top with the cinnamon sticks. Sandwich the fruit back together and wrap up in the foil.

3 PREHEAT a covered barbecue, or kettle barbecue, to medium, keeping the hood closed. Place the fruit on the hotplate or grill rack over indirect heat and close the hood. Cook for 5-10 minutes or until the fruit has softened and started to caramelize, turning the parcel over carefully about halfway through cooking.

4 DIVIDE the banana and peach or nectarine between serving plates and top each with ice-cream.

Barbecued fruit parcels





CLEAN UP THE BARBIE

Keep your outdoor cooker in pristine condition so it's always ready to be fired up

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

There's nothing worse than opening up the barbecue to find the hotplate and grill are still encrusted with the greasy remnants of last summer's meals.

Barbies should be cleaned after every use and deep-cleaned yearly.

To thoroughly clean it, first disconnect the gas and remove the grill and hotplate, then lay them on

newspaper. Spray with barbecue or oven cleaner and leave for 10 minutes.

Use a wire brush and scraper to remove the debris, rinse with a hose, then dry off. Apply a coating of cooking oil to protect against rust.

While the grill and hotplate are off, take the time to clean the inside and inspect the burners, removing any debris blocking the jets. Empty

the drip tray and refill it with grease absorber to prevent flare-ups.

Now if all this sounds like too much hard work, you could consider investing in a robotic cleaner.

The Grill Cleaning Robot, about \$153, from Hammacher Schlemmer (hammacher.com), features three motor-driven brushes that propel it across the grill, cleaning as it goes.

Tools of the trade ▼

The best way to make sure the barbecue is always fit to cook on is to give it a quick clean after every meal, not before. Cleaning when the hotplate is warm makes it easier to remove grime and helps maximise the life of your barbie.



SCRAPE THE HOTPLATE

After the barbecue has been switched off, use a scraper to remove fat and food particles from the hotplate. Scrub with a wire brush and warm soapy water to remove as much residue as possible, then dry with paper towel and spray with vegetable oil.



BBQ Buddy Grill Brush, Scrubber and Scraper, \$7. mayohardware.co.nz



RAKE THE GRILL

It takes a lot of time and elbow grease to effectively remove all particles from the grill with a brush or scraper, so make it easier by using a grill rake. The teeth are designed to fit perfectly between the grill bars, dislodging debris that other tools can't reach.



Matador Stainless Steel BBQ Grill Rake, about \$13, from Bunnings.



WIPE IT DOWN

If the hotplate isn't very dirty, a once-over with barbecue wipes may be all that's required. They're quick and easy to use, and the nodules and grease-cutting formula work surprisingly well to clean the surface, making it simple to ensure the barbecue is ready for the next meal.



Selley's BBQ Tough Wipes, \$6 for 12. selleys.co.nz



CLEAN THE EXTERIOR

Smoke and spitting fat can make the outside filthy, with dirt and grease forming a thick layer that's tough to remove with ordinary cleaners. Spray barbecue exterior cleaner over the dirty surfaces, then wipe with a cloth to restore the original shine of stainless steel and painted surfaces.



Selley's BBQ Exterior Clean & Shine, \$10 for 250ml.



GRILL-CLEANING ROBOT

Simply switch off the burners, pop the robot on the warm grill, then kick back as it glides over the surface, tirelessly cleaning for up to 30 minutes.

PICTURES (MAIN) ALAMY (INSET) AUSTRAL

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The living spaces all open onto the large terrace with breathtaking views over the Mediterranean Sea.

French fusion

Perched on a Mediterranean clifftop, this villa is in perfect tune with its surrounds

WORDS SITA SIMONS



PICTURES AUSTRAL

When the plot overlooks the sparkling Mediterranean, getting the design of a new home just right is paramount.

Local architect Vincent Coste was asked to take on the challenge of building a house on a clifftop.

The brief he was given was for something decidedly understated, with a Scandinavian aesthetic and every modern inclusion.

It needed to be a large home for a family of five, making the most

of the panoramic sea views while not imposing on the landscape.

A dedication to simplicity and functionality allows Vincent's design to achieve perfect harmony in its position while never overshadowing the main attraction, and from all aspects of the home, the sea forms the moving picture.

Equal emphasis is given to indoor and outdoor living, with a seamless interaction between the two, designed for comfort and pleasure. ➤



Floor-to-ceiling glazing blurs the division between the interior and exterior of the home.



The bedrooms are built as boxes linked by glass corridors full of luminous globes.



Open to the sky

The villa cascades down the steep cliff face over five stepped levels, complete with viewing platforms to sit and enjoy peaceful moments.

At the top sits the house, a series of offset cubes covering 200sqm and providing 120sqm of living space.

On the ground level, two rectangles form the living, dining and kitchen areas, with a bedroom, bathroom, laundry and storage space housed in the second rectangle at the back.

On the upper storey, three cubes encompass four bedrooms and two bathrooms, including the ensuite of the master bedroom.

Light wells and balconies join the cubes, giving them the appearance of floating, which softens the solid structure and provides private spaces.

A louvred timber framework also adds warmth to the concrete facade and serves as a sunscreen, creating a sequence of shaded outdoor areas.

Floor-to-ceiling windows offer an uninterrupted view of the sea and flood the home with light. ➤



Easy on the eye

Nordic-inspired, featuring cool whites offset with earthy shades, everything about this house has been designed not to be intrusive.

Inside, the pristine kitchen seems to recede into the walls. The surfaces, corners and proportions all align perfectly with the terrace and the horizon, so nothing distracts the eye and nothing feels like it's in the way.

The concrete tiles on the expansive terrace continue inside, so each space seamlessly blends into the other.

In contrast to the heavy materials, the bar stools are made of delicate metal, the shades are woven and the sofa frame is rattan. Even the coffee table is slatted timber.

This is a deliberate approach to convey the fluid nature of both the pool and the sea, and the light that passes through every area.

In winter, the doors and windows can all be closed off to the elements, and the floors are heated to create an ambient temperature throughout. ➤



A central island is the hub of the kitchen, where food can be both prepared and enjoyed.



The pool on the edge of the terrace seems to overflow straight into ocean below.



In the living space, concrete and metal mix harmoniously with natural materials.



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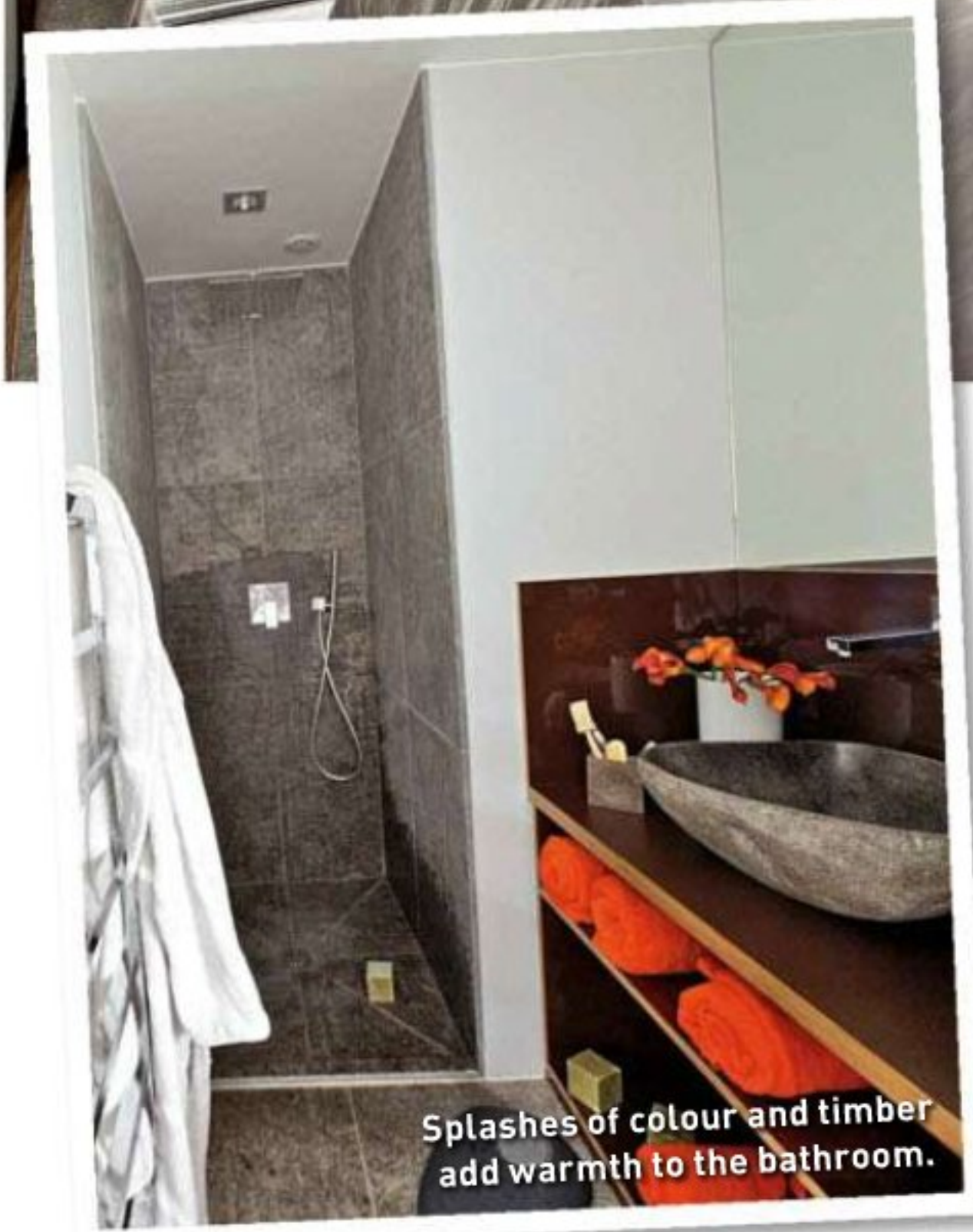
Beige Bravado 12 W

* Refer to www.britishpaints.co.nz for warranty information

For more information contact *British Paints* Customer Service on 0800 800 424 or visit: www.britishpaints.co.nz



The four bedrooms on the top floor reflect the simplicity of the rest of the design.



Splashes of colour and timber add warmth to the bathroom.

View from the top

All the bedrooms have floor to ceiling bifolds to connect the space to the breathtaking panorama and every accessory is recessed or integrated.

At the push of a button, blackout shades prepare the room for sleep, reading lights are built into the wall and instead of a bedhead, the same tiles as in the living areas downstairs are used to connect the spaces.

These tiles are continued into the narrow bathroom, teamed with a touch of timber to warm up the look.

Styling the Scandinavian way

While IKEA may have flatpacked Nordic sensibility to the world, Scandinavian design has stood the test of time.

From the decorative flourishes of the Gustavian era to the pared-back mid-century aesthetic pioneered by Alvar Aalto, Arne Jacobsen and Hans Wegner, it is still popular.

The enduring appeal is down to quality, restraint, simplicity and functionality. It can work in any style of home, just follow these ground rules, then make it your own.

1 MATERIALS ARE NATURAL and unadorned, and light timber floors and plastered walls form the base.

Incorporate other natural materials such as brick, marble, metal, stone and glass to add texture.

2 COLOURS ARE PALE and muted or earthy, like those seen in a typically Swedish landscape. Stormy greys and blues work as accent colours, but not for an entire room. Lots of white is essential to keep a sense of light.

3 FURNITURE IS SIMPLE and elegant, but a dedication to form and function makes it much more sophisticated than utilitarian.

Timbers, clean shapes and lines, and quality craftsmanship has made the furniture of the mid-century era very valuable and endlessly copied.

4 SOFT FURNISHINGS are unfussy, but can be bold, with vibrant pops of yellow, orange, red, pink and black.

Designs can be either geometric and graphic or nature-inspired and rustic. Look to Josef Frank and Marimekko for inspiration.

5 CONNECTION TO NATURE is important, which is perhaps one of the reasons why this style is popular in New Zealand.

Create an indoor to outdoor flow where possible, opening living spaces onto gardens or terraces. Indoor plants are also an essential feature.

For more ideas, check out fromscandinaviawithlove.com.



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Before

After

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SAVE THE DECK

Fix crumbling boards, posts and rails DIY to bring a deck back to life

WORDS FRANK GARDNER MAIN PICTURES CHRIS L JONES

After

Targeted repairs made the damaged deck look like new.



A run-down deck with rotten boards might look like it needs to be demolished, but if the damage is localised, you can fix minor issues to avoid total replacement, and still have a safe outdoor area.

This deck had seen better days, but was still structurally sound. A few simple repairs brought it back to life.

Timber structures like decks, pergolas and balconies have a lot of enemies. Moisture rots timber, while corrosive elements, such as salt-laden coastal air, deteriorate nails, bolts, screws and fixing plates.

Do an annual inspection of timber structures, looking for early warning signs such as corrosion, excessive weathering or movement.

PROTECT the base of posts against rot, and the timber against weathering, by painting, staining or using water-repellent preservatives.

SEAL joints that have opened up.

REPLACE corroded bolts, popped or rusted nails or screws, using stainless steel fixings for longevity.

TIGHTEN loose balustrades.

CONSULT a structural engineer if you have any doubts. ➤

Replace the decking boards



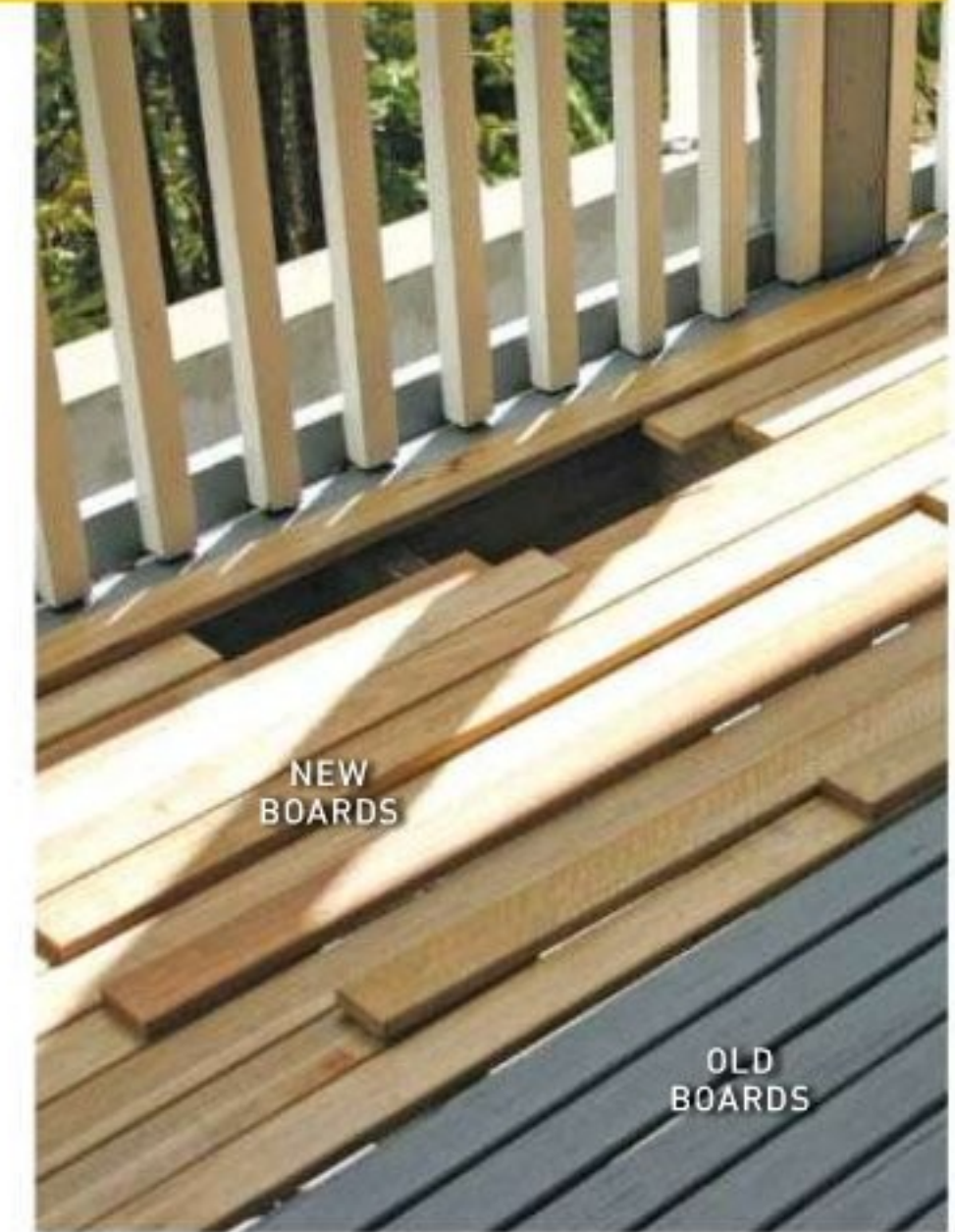
1 Remove old boards

Use a pry bar to lift and remove the section of old boards. Remove any nailgun-driven steel nails that have pulled through the deteriorated decking and remained in the joists using a claw hammer.



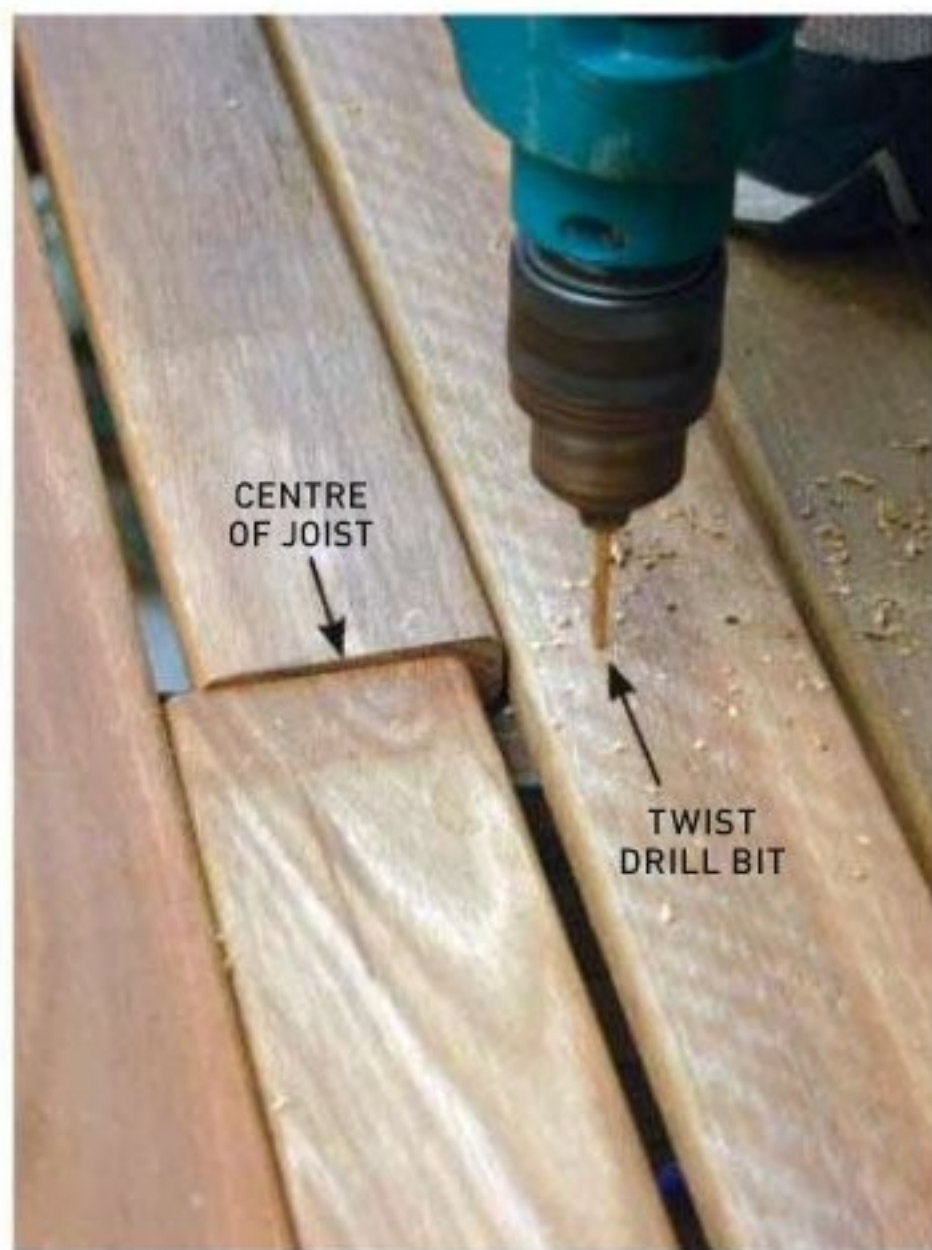
2 Clean up the joists

Fill splits and nail holes in the top of the joists with a two-part filler. Once the filler has hardened, paint or seal the top of the joists to protect against water penetration and increase the longevity of the timber.



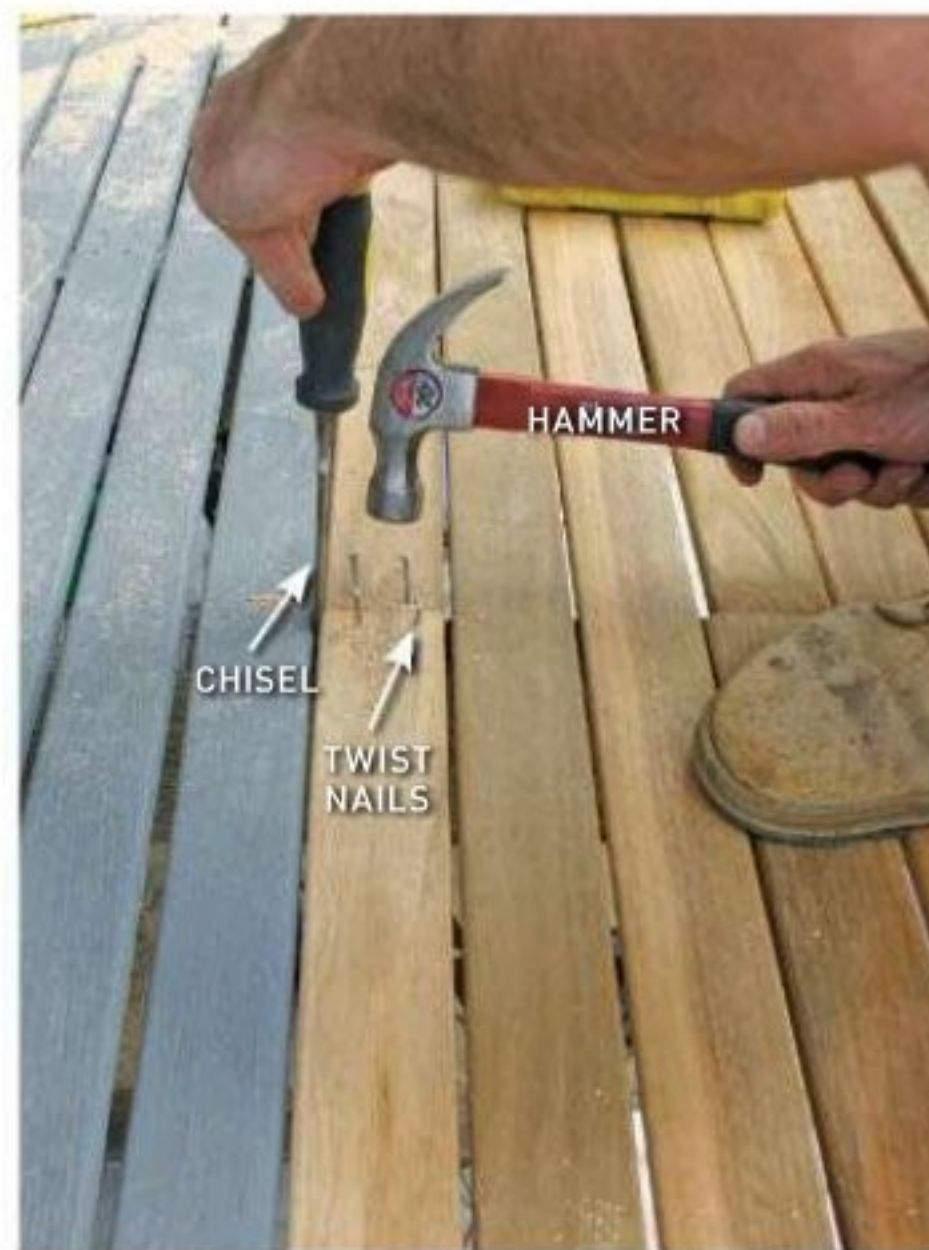
3 Lay out the boards

Loosely lay out the new decking boards in a staggered pattern and make sure there are no butt joints side by side on adjacent boards. Mark the position of the cuts using a pencil and try square.



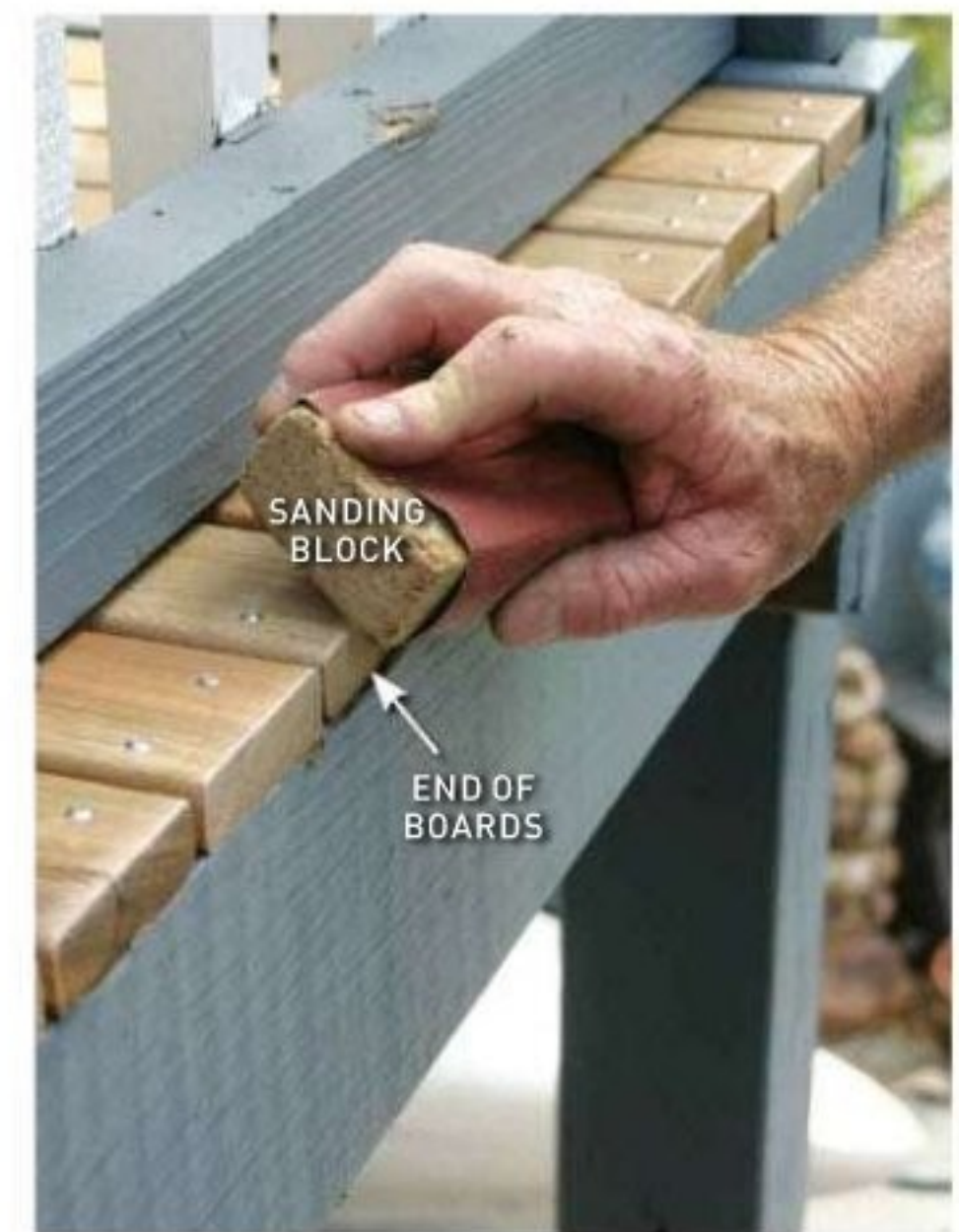
4 Drill the pilot holes

Use a mitresaw to cut the decking boards to length so all the joints fall on the centre of a joist. Over the centre of each joist, drill two pilot holes with a 2mm twist drill bit through each board.



5 Secure the boards

Drive in 50 x 2.8mm stainless steel twist nails to secure each board. Check the alignment of the boards with a stringline, using a chisel to space and flex the boards straight before driving in the nails.



6 Tidy the ends

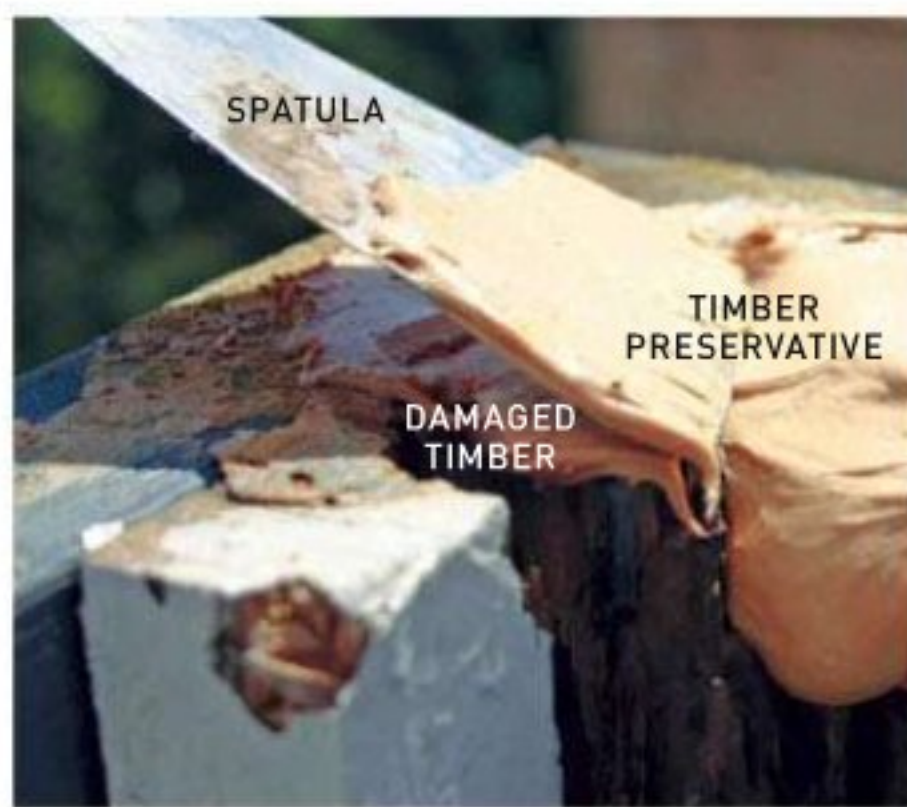
Cut off any overhang so the ends of the decking boards are even. Sand or plane to round the edges and remove any splinters for safety. Apply oil, stain or paint to the new boards to match the original decking.

Repairing a post

The top of the corner post on this deck beneath the damaged mitred corner of the handrail was decayed due to an ant infestation in the moist timber.

The base of the post had been encased by a newer concrete slab, making it impossible for the timber to dry. This resulted in excess moisture, which accelerated decay and caused the galvanised saddle to corrode.

Treating these minor problems avoids an expensive post replacement.



1 SEAL THE TOP of the post with timber preservative after dusting to eradicate the ants. Use a two-part exterior filler, scraping it into the damaged area using a spatula. This seals the area from water penetration and discourages pests.



2 CUT A SQUARE in the concrete around the base of the post using an angle grinder with a diamond cutting disc. Leave about 30mm between the cuts and the base of the post.

TIP Wear safety glasses, ear muffs and a dust mask when cutting concrete.



3 CHISEL OUT THE WASTE using a lump hammer and cold chisel until the base of the post and saddle are exposed and the concrete is no longer touching the timber. Cut a drainage line in the concrete so water doesn't pool and damage the end grain. ➤

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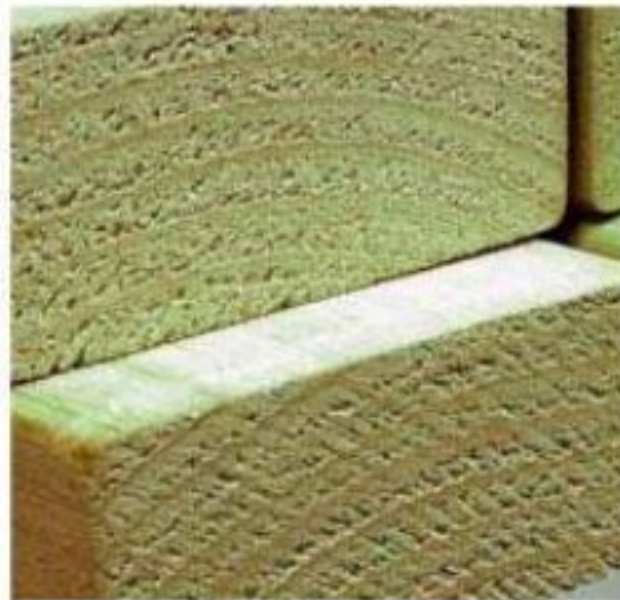
ESPREE
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warehouse

Go with the flo

Rotten crossrail

The crossrail beneath the handrail had also decayed and at one corner the end was no longer attached to the post. The last 400mm of crossrail was removed and replaced with a new piece, joined to the intact section.



H3 Treated Pine, 90 x 45mm, about \$4 per metre, from Bunnings.



After
The deck balustrade will last much longer after the repairs.



1 Cut the crossrail
Mark a 45° line just before a picket across the old crossrail with a pencil, then cut along the line using a handsaw to remove the damaged section of crossrail. Sand the cut edges to remove any splinters.



2 Attach the new section
Measure the new section length and cut a new piece to size, square-cutting one end to butt into the post and matching the mitre on the other end. Apply construction adhesive to the ends and secure with screws.



3 Attach the pickets
Reposition the pickets and check they are plumb. Drill pilot holes and attach the pickets to the crossrail with 75mm x 8g stainless steel screws. Drive the screw heads below the surface and fill holes with putty, then apply paint.

Decayed handrail



The handrail was decaying at the mitred corners and where it butted into the posts. The end grain hadn't been sealed with timber preservative or paint and no silicone or gap sealant was used, allowing moisture to get in.



Ryobi One+ 18V Cordless Jigsaw, \$119, skin only. ryobi.co.nz

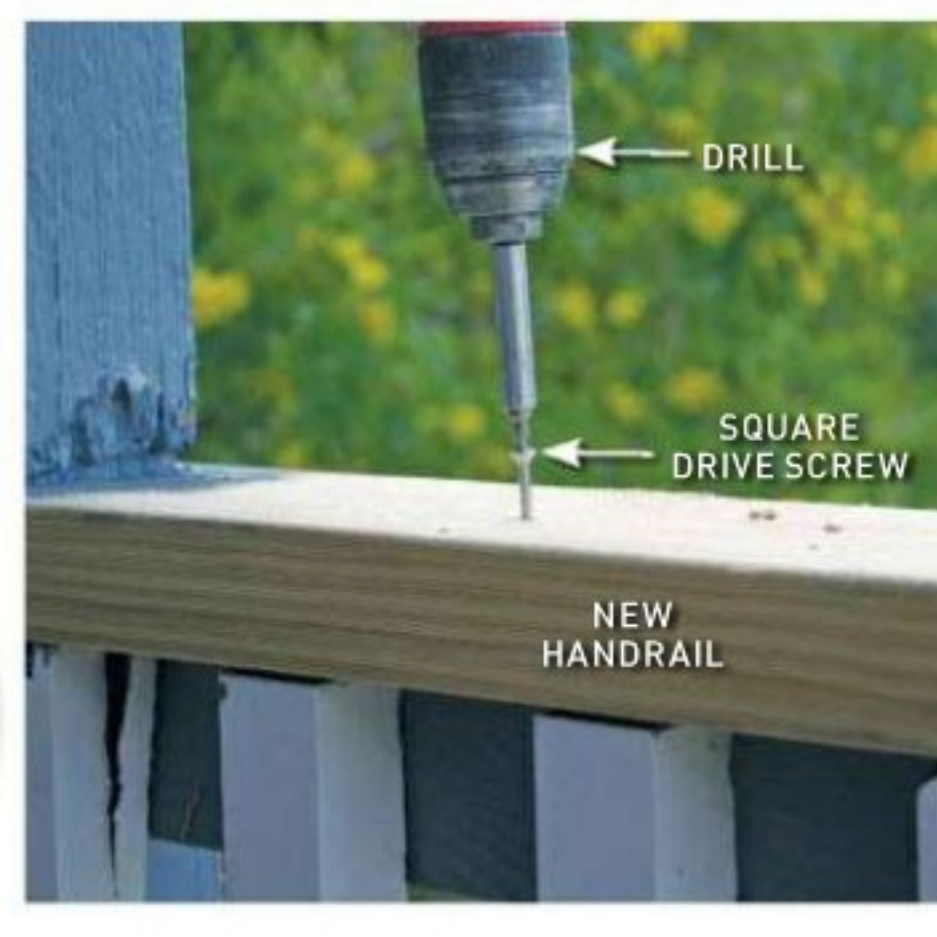
Replacing the damaged handrail makes the deck look well maintained.



1 Recut the handrail
Remove the old handrail with a pry bar and use it as a template or measure and mark out the new sections of handrail. Use a jigsaw to cut out around the posts, and a sliding compound mitresaw for the mitres.



2 Reseal the end grain
To prevent decay, apply timber preservative or oil-based paint to the end grain. Apply construction adhesive to the top of the crossrail and exterior silicone compound along the meeting faces of timber to be butted together.



3 Secure the handrail
Drill pilot holes every 750mm and attach the handrail to the crossrail and posts with 75mm x 10g stainless steel square drive screws. Drive screw heads below the surface and cover them with exterior putty, then prime and paint.

EASY-INSTALL BALUSTRADE

Add a decorative finish to a new verandah with a powdercoated aluminium safety feature

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER **MAIN PICTURES** CHRIS L JONES

Renovations can be a hefty blow to the wallet, so it makes sense to contribute some DIY labour to tasks that do not legally have to be done by professionals.

As part of a major renovation and extension to this home, an open-plan living space and elevated covered verandah were added.

The family had small children and as the verandah stood 1000mm above ground, it was necessary to install a balustrade to meet safety regulations.

The balustrade panels would need to be secured to the masonry columns supporting the roof, one house wall and the tiled concrete verandah, and extend down either side of the steps.

Order the balustrade

The range of options for deck and balcony balustrades include glass, timber and powdercoated aluminium.

For this site, a black balustrade from Protector Aluminium was installed DIY to give the verandah a modern and streamlined look.

They have a variety of designs, including the double top rail style of fence panels used here.

For this project, specific sizes were required to fit between the columns and for raking down the steps.

To order custom sizes, visit the Protector Aluminium website (protectoraluminium.com) and select your preferred design. Then submit the panel sizes you'll require at a Bunnings Special Orders desk.

You'll need to measure the landing height, and also the step dimensions, in order to fill out the calculation sheet for raked balustrades.

Once the paperwork is done you'll receive a quote from Protector Aluminium, followed by detailed drawings for each panel.

You will have to sign off on the drawings after checking their accuracy and pay for the product before it can be manufactured.

TIP Standard fencing available off the shelf at Bunnings does not comply with New Zealand balustrade standards. ➤

Seating the posts

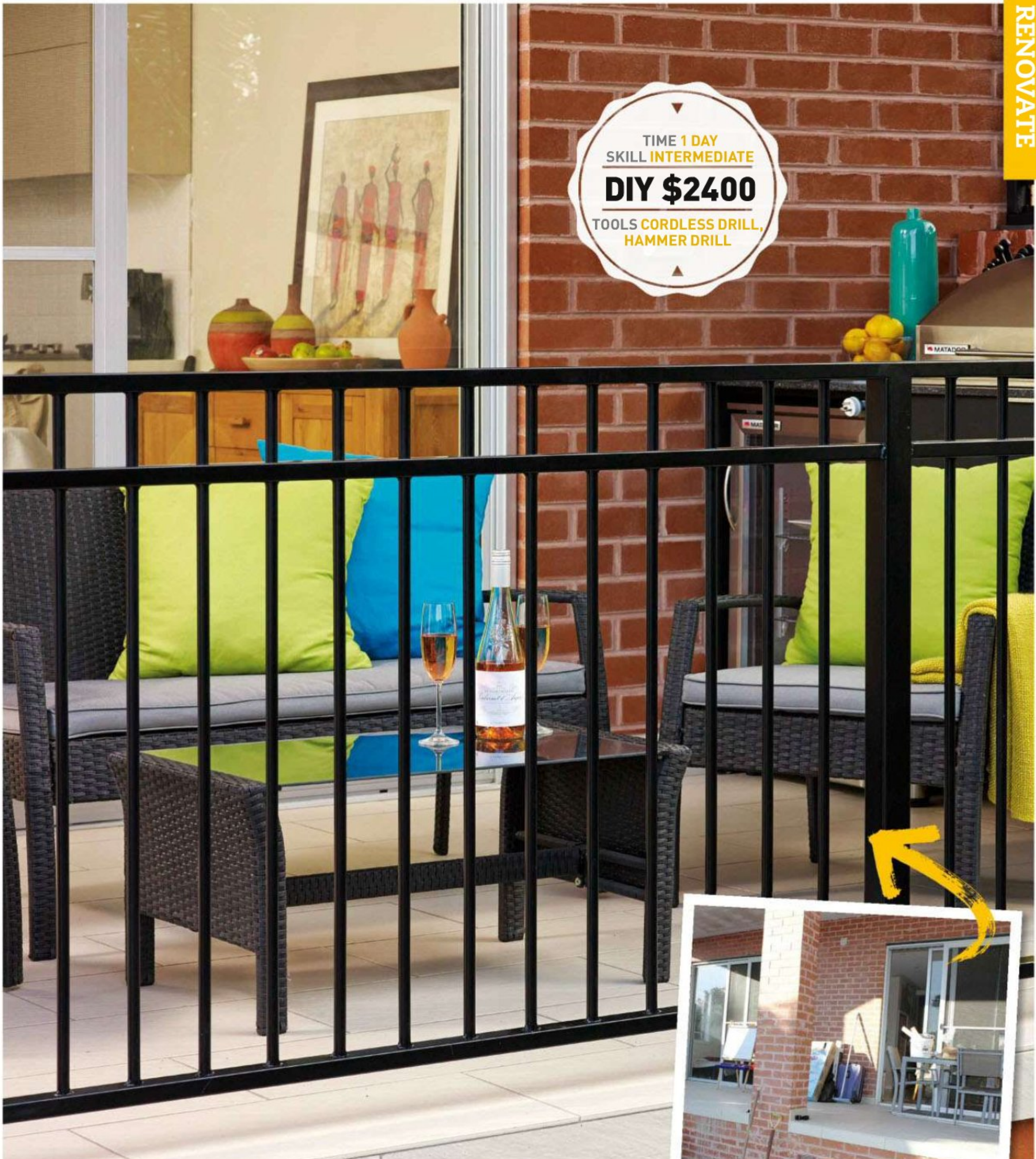
The method of securing the post bases depends on the substrate. If securing the balustrade to concrete, drill 10mm diameter holes and secure using 50 x 10mm stainless steel Dynabolts, or chemset 10mm threaded rod in position.

On a timber deck, secure the base plates to the joists using 50 x 10mm coachscrews or attach blocking between the joists and secure with coachscrews or bolts, nuts and washers.



Ramset 50 x 10mm Stainless Steel Dynabolt, about \$10. ramset.co.nz

TIME 1 DAY
SKILL INTERMEDIATE
DIY \$2400
TOOLS CORDLESS DRILL,
HAMMER DRILL



After
The new verandah has a sleek black balustrade for streamlined safety.

Before

Installation basics ▾



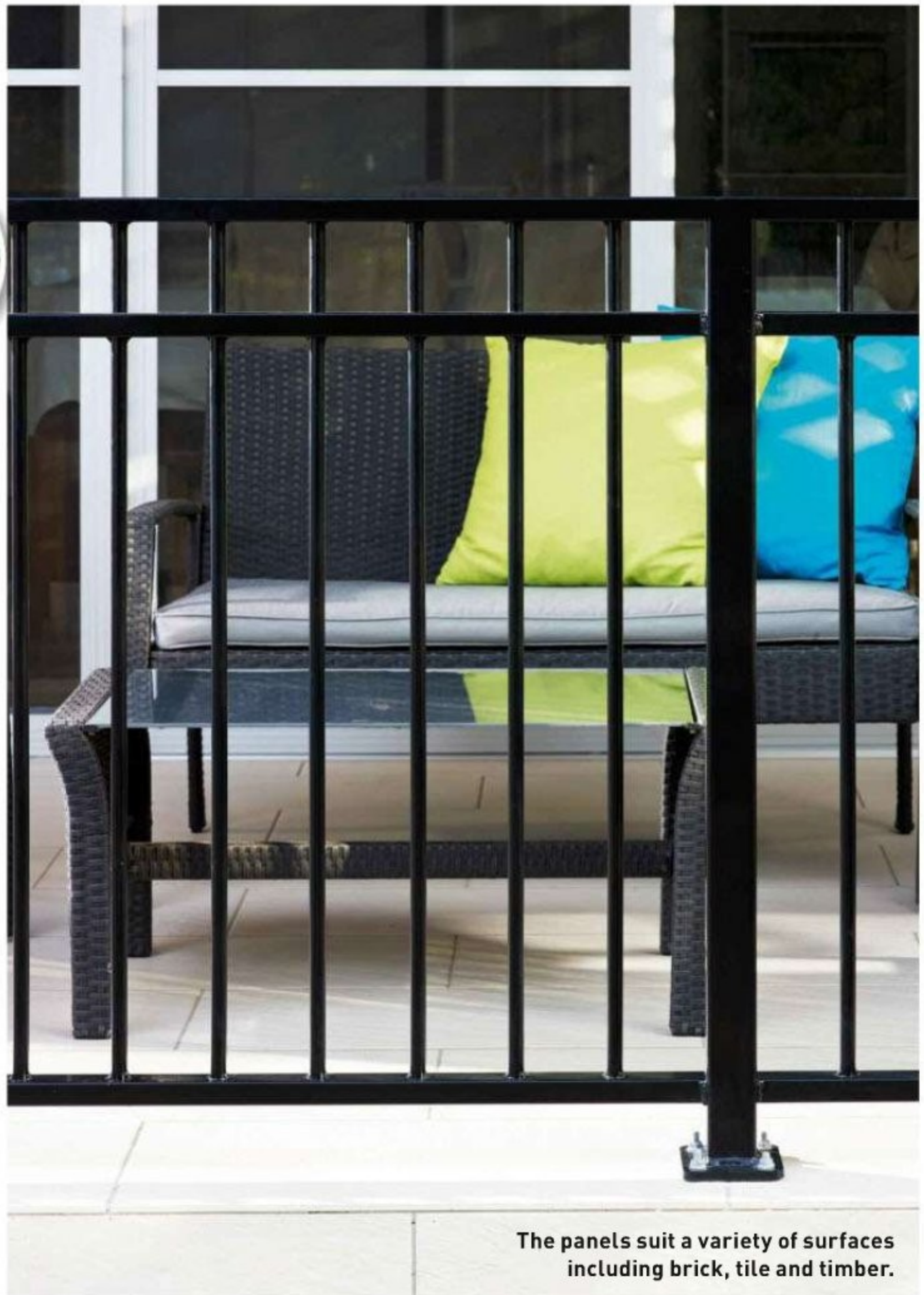
CUT THE BALUSTRADE to length by measuring the opening and allowing 10mm of clearance so it is not a tight fit. Wrap masking tape around the rails to mark the cut lines. Use a hacksaw to trim away the excess, then remove the burrs using a flat file.



DRILL BASE PLATE HOLES using a template. Cut a 150 x 150mm square of 6mm plywood, position it under the post base plate and mark the hole locations, drilling guide holes using a 10mm twist bit. Use the template to prevent the core bit skating off the mark.



SECURE THE RAILS to the panel brackets using 16mm x 8g self-drilling Tek screws.
TIP Use a 3mm twist bit to drill a pilot hole through the top of each bracket and rail, to make it easier to secure them together.



The panels suit a variety of surfaces including brick, tile and timber.

Anchoring the rails

Powdercoated aluminium balustrade is easy to install DIY. Panels can be installed between and secured to solid masonry structures such as columns and walls, timber posts, or metal posts manufactured to match the panels.

The difference will be the method of fastening the panels in place.
ON MASONRY STRUCTURES slide the panel brackets over the rails. Use a hammer drill with a masonry bit to bore 8mm holes, then tap blue wall plugs into the masonry and

secure the brackets using 30mm x 12g hex head timber screws.

FOR TIMBER POSTS use panel brackets over rail ends, drill 3.5mm pilot holes and secure brackets to posts using 65mm x 12g hex head timber screws.

FOR ALUMINIUM POSTS as supplied off the shelf, simply slide the sleeves fitted to the top of the posts into the top rail of the panel.

Secure the panel brackets over the lower rail ends using 20mm x 12g self-drilling metal Tek screws or 4.8mm aluminium rivets. ➤

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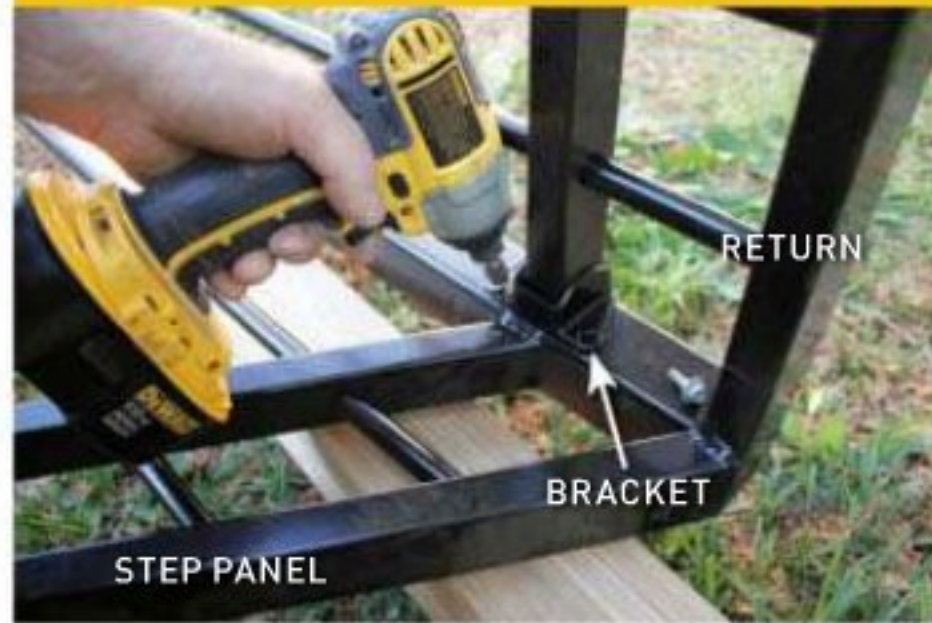


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.com.au

CREATING WAVES FOR POOL SAFETY

Install the balustrade



1 Prepare the step panels
Assemble the step balustrade panels by inserting the sleeves into the top rails of the return sections of balustrade. Slide the 38 x 25mm panel brackets onto the remaining two rails and secure with Tek screws or 4.8mm aluminium rivets.



2 Position the balustrades
Lift the balustrade assemblies into position on either side of the steps. Adjust the positioning so the return sections rest against the columns and the step panels are as close as possible to being parallel with the step stringers.



3 Excavate the footing holes
Mark the balustrade base plate locations on the ground on either side of the steps. Use a shovel to excavate 300 x 200mm holes to a depth of 300mm for the concrete footings.
TIP Use a fencing bar to break up hard ground if necessary.



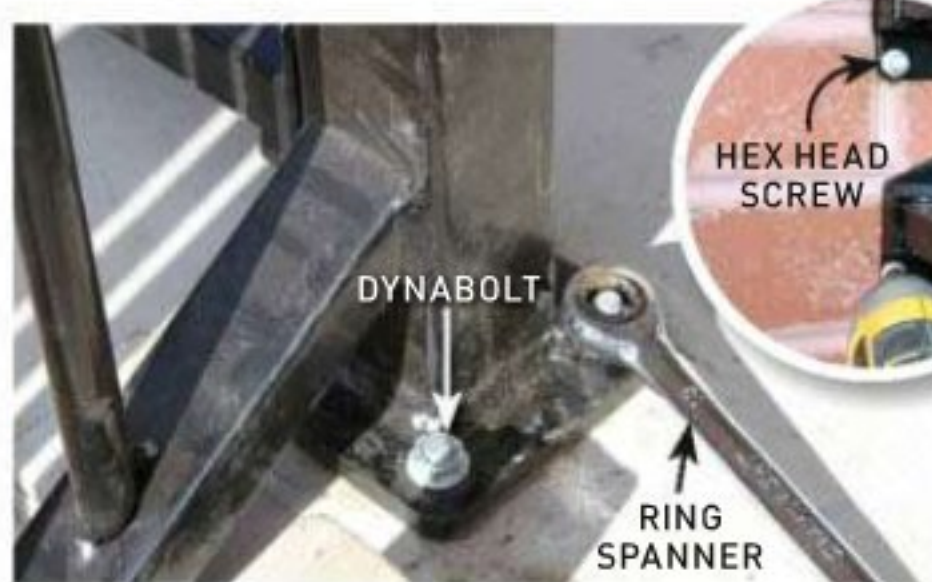
4 Level the balustrades
Slide the top and base rail panel brackets onto the rail ends. Replace the step balustrades and prop into position, then use a spirit level to level the top rail and plumb the corner posts, sliding the panel rail brackets hard against the brick columns.



5 Mark the screw holes
Prop and clamp the balustrade panels to the step stringers to keep them aligned in position. Mark each screw location in the panel brackets on the columns, as well as the four bolt hole locations in the post base plates, using a permanent marker.



6 Drill the bracket holes
Mark the position of the base plates and rail brackets using masking tape, then use a 10mm diamond core bit to drill through the tiles. Use a hammer drill to bore 8mm diameter holes, 60mm deep into the underlying slab and the brick columns.



7 Secure the balustrades
Replace the balustrades, checking for level and plumb, then clamp into position. Use stainless steel Dynabolts to secure the base plates, tightening slowly so the flange grabs the concrete. Use timber screws and plastic plugs to secure the rail panel brackets.



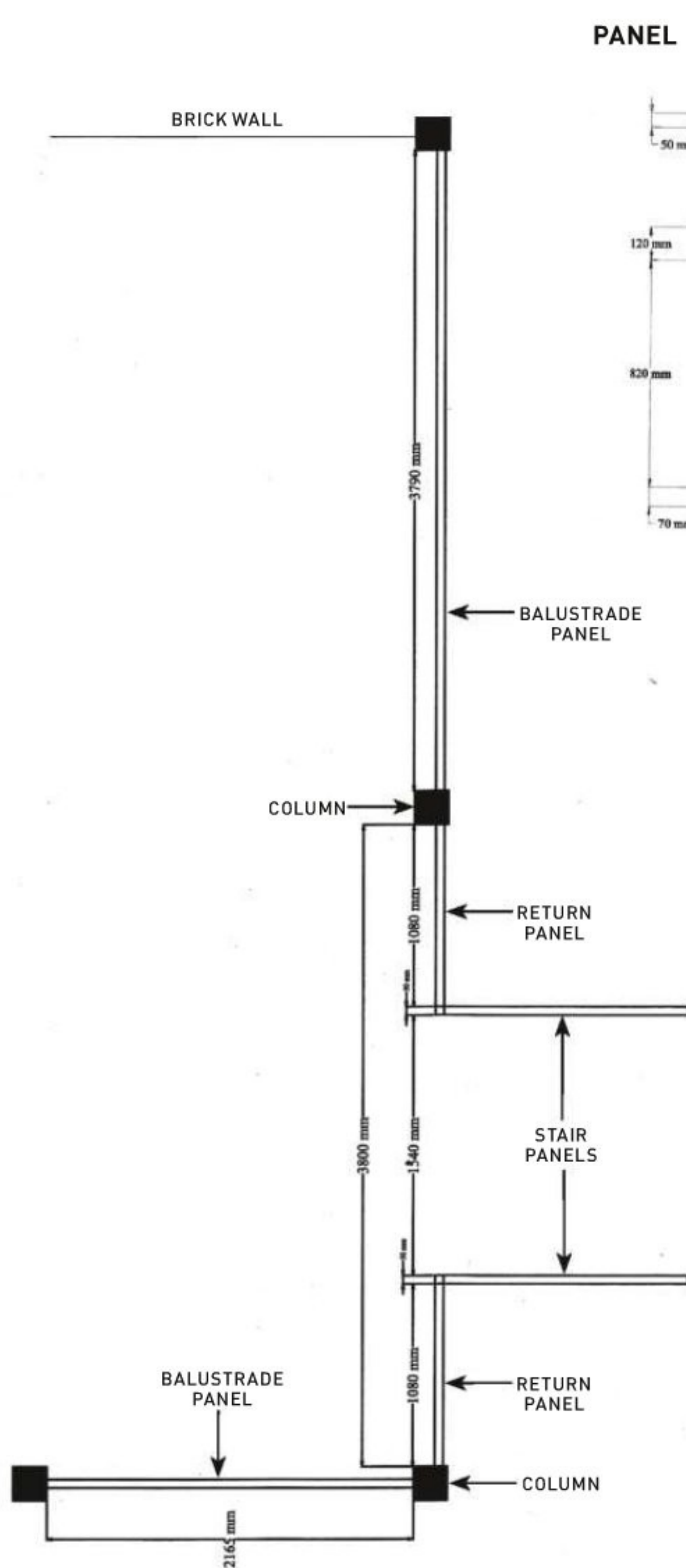
8 Set the step panel angle
Align the balustrade with the step stringers and prop it in position, using a spirit level to check the handrails are at the same height. Use a hacksaw to cut 250mm lengths of threaded rod, bend one end of each piece at 45° and bolt the other end to the base plates.



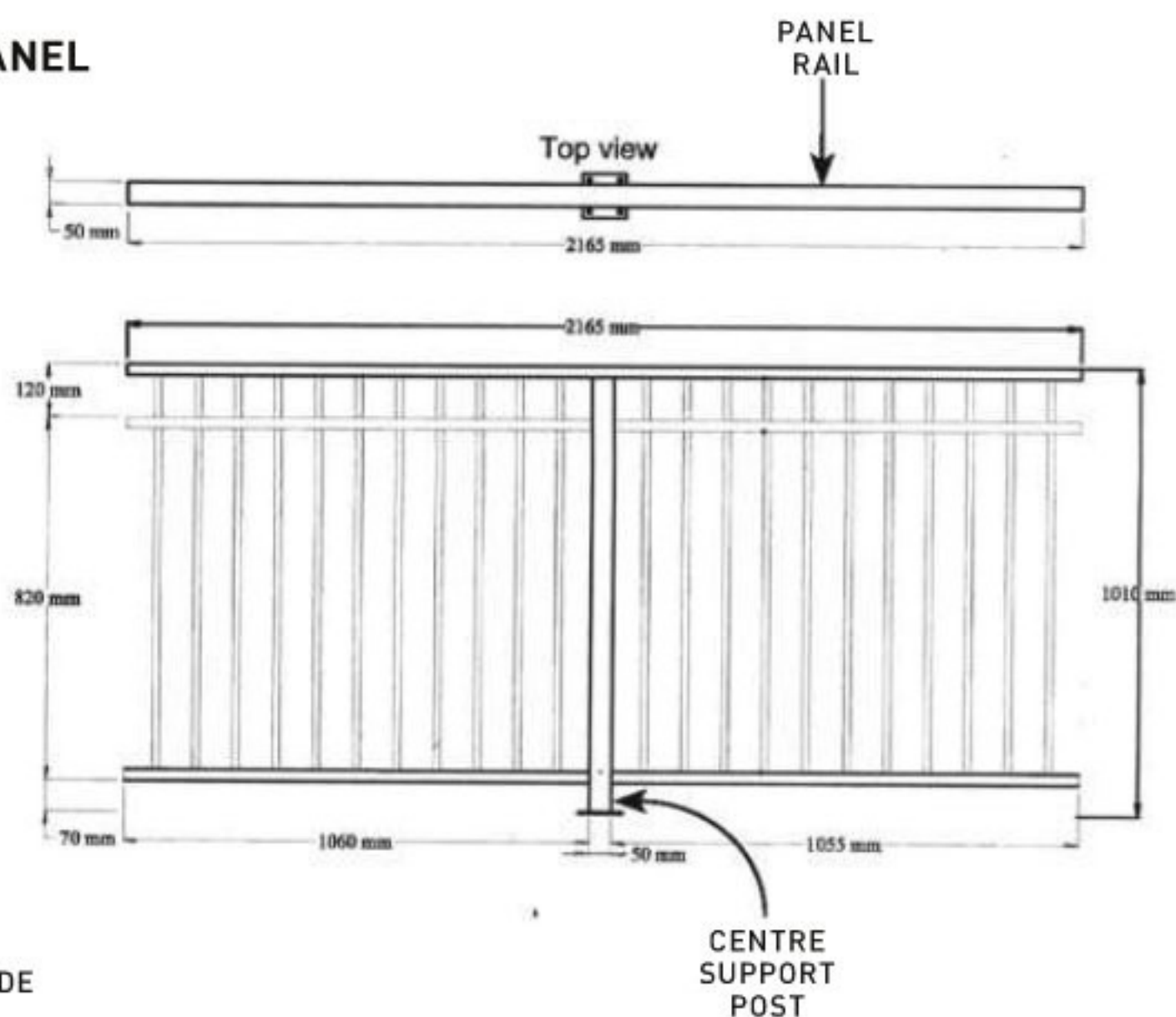
9 Anchor the base plates
Add water to the footing holes, pour in quick-set concrete and mix with a trowel. Add additional water and dry mix to bring the concrete footing up to the required height.
TIP We left our footing 75mm below the base plate to allow for a path.

Easy-install balustrade

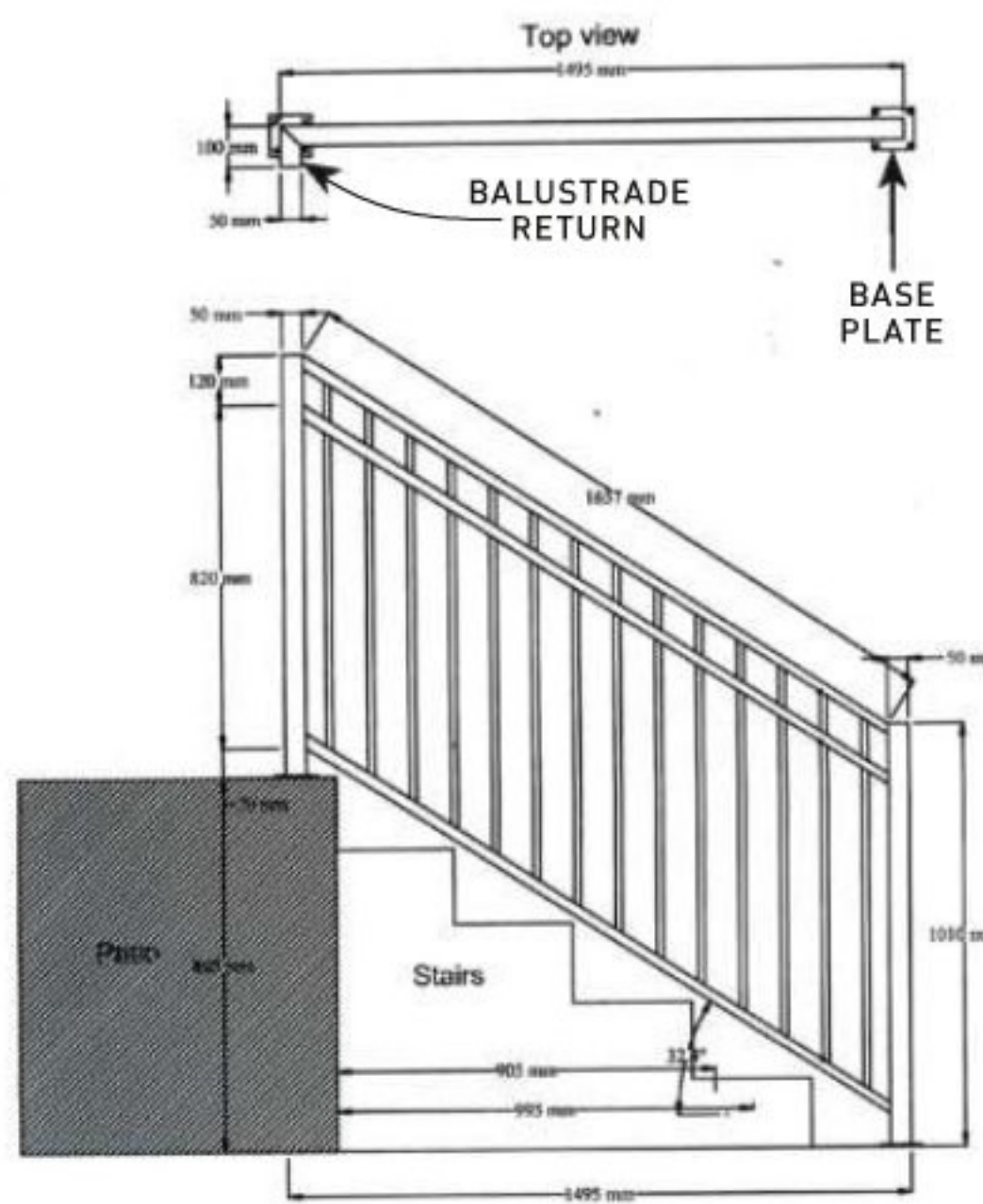
measurements in mm



PANEL



STAIR DETAIL



FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Stainless steel Dynabolts, 50 x 10mm	Base plates
Galvanised timber screws, 30mm x 12g	Brackets
Galvanised threaded rod, 10mm	Step balustrade base plates
Self-drilling metal screws, 16mm x 8g	Panel brackets

Handymanmagazine.co.nz
Download the tools, materials and costs to make this project.

LANDSCAPE WITH PAVERS

Give a courtyard an affordable makeover by laying durable paving

A paved outdoor area provides a low-maintenance space that is ideal for entertaining, and it's easy to DIY with a few basic tools.

Paving is also an economical landscaping solution as good-quality clay and concrete pavers don't date and should last a lifetime.

Plan ahead to save time and money, calculating the quantity of materials needed and having them delivered as close to the site as possible.

LAYING THE BASE

A paved surface is only as good as the base underneath. Excavate the site to a sufficient depth to add

a layer of either 75mm of concrete or 100mm of compacted gravel, making sure the base falls away from the house for efficient drainage.

Preparing the site

CLEAR THE AREA to be paved of vegetation, rubbish, stones, rocks and extra topsoil.

CHECK THE DRAINAGE and install box drains or pits if necessary.

MEASURE THE SITE and calculate the number of pavers needed, adding another 10% to replace any that might get broken.



1 SET OUT THE SITE using stakes to mark the corners, running a stringline at the height of the finished pavers. Check for level, then adjust for runoff, 25mm for every metre. Remove soil for the base, paving sand and pavers.



2 ADD THE BASE by fitting timber formwork around the perimeter, then pouring a concrete base or compact a 100mm thick layer of roadbase with a plate compactor after screeding to the required level.



3 SCREED THE SAND by spreading an even layer of paving sand to 25mm deep, then level by running a screed board along the screed rails. Bed the rails in the sand below the stringlines then pack into place.



Make sure a paved surface falls to gardens, lawn or drainage areas for water runoff.



4 LAY THE PAVERS using stringlines to keep the lines straight and square. Position the pavers, allowing a 5mm gap between each. Tamp down using a rubber mallet and a timber offcut long enough to cover several pavers.



5 GROUT THE JOINTS by spreading dry grout over the surface, sweeping it into the gaps between the pavers until completely filled. To finish, hose clean and edge the paved area with a 45° buttress of mortar.

Cutting the pavers

To cut clay pavers, use an angle grinder with a diamond blade or a wet bricksaw. Cut small concrete pavers with a lump hammer and bolster.



Ryobi 125mm Angle Grinder, \$99.



LACE-TOP TABLE

Build a simple pine frame and add a plywood top then finish it with a custom-made design

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH PROJECT GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS

This coffee table is simple but striking, and can be easily made to suit the size of your space.

In just an afternoon, you'll have a unique new piece of furniture that will become a conversation piece.

It is made using half-lap and butt joints, both simple but useful woodworking joinery methods.

Half-lap joints are made by removing a portion of timber the same length as the width of the piece and half the depth, from two pieces.

The exposed surfaces, called cheeks, are then secured facing each other using adhesive. This joint is easy to make but is also strong, as the adhesive bond between two faces of long grain is very effective.

Butt joints are not as strong as half laps but they are more

straightforward, and are made by butting the end grain of the piece of timber against the long grain.

For this project, half-lap joints were used to form the leg assemblies while butt joints were used to secure the short rails in between. Cleats are then attached to the inside of the top frame to support the tabletop.

Anything can be used for the patterned top, but here an old lace tablecloth has been used as a stencil to create a decorative filigree pattern.

Choose a bold pattern and avoid using a very detailed design, as this will make it harder to apply the paint neatly through the fabric.

Remember that the pattern on the table will be the reverse of the fabric, with the paint applied in the gaps of the lace design.

TIP Use a design that is similar or complements other patterns in the room to create a visual anchor. ➤



Porta D4S Pine 42 x 42mm, about \$22 for 2.4m. porta.co.nz

CUTTING LIST		
PART	SIZE	NO
Measurements in mm		
DAR pine		
Long rails	880 x 42 x 42	4
Short rails and legs	440 x 42 x 42	8
Long cleats	796 x 18 x 18	2
Short cleats	404 x 18 x 18	2
Plywood		
Tabletop	796 x 440 x 12	1

TIME 4 HOURS
SKILL EASY

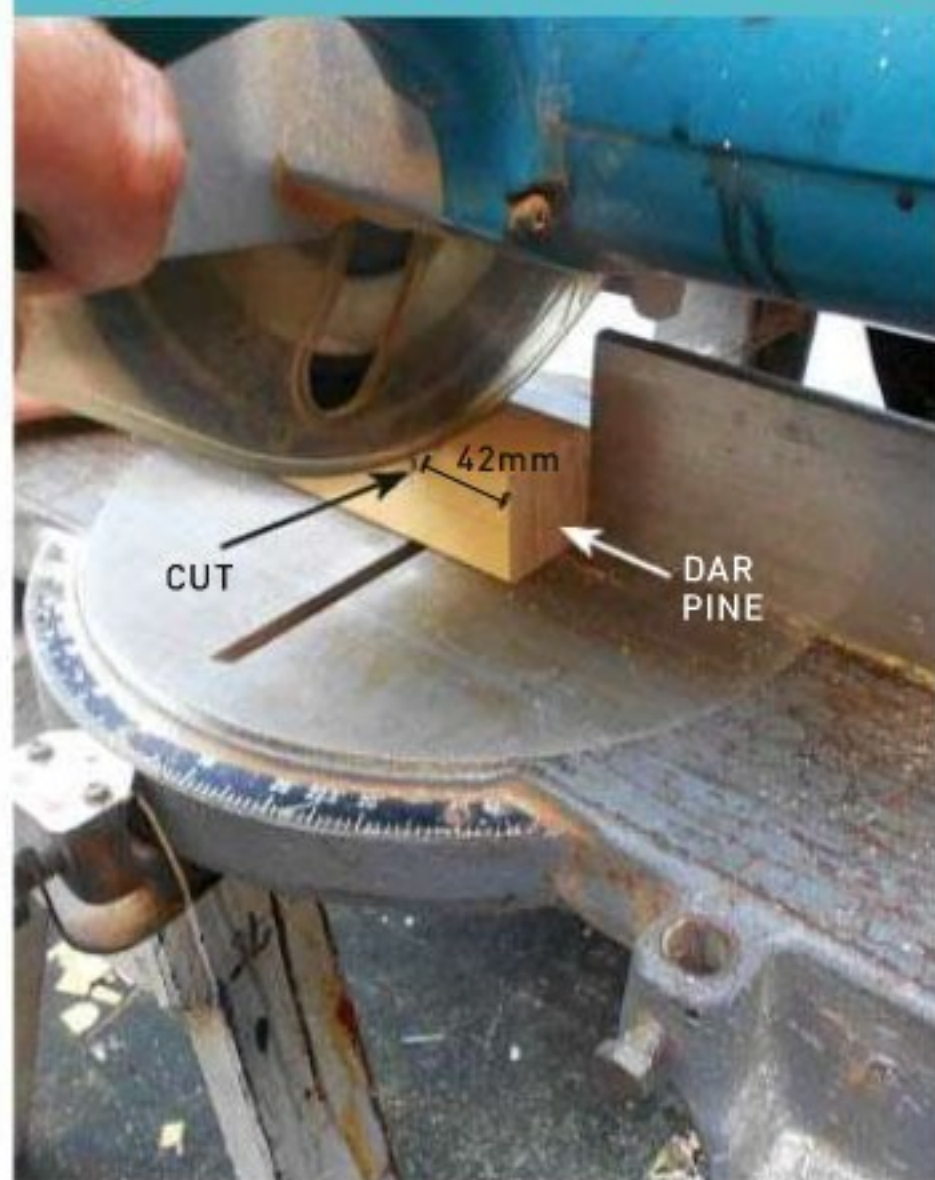
DIY \$120

TOOLS MITRESAW,
DRILL, CHISEL



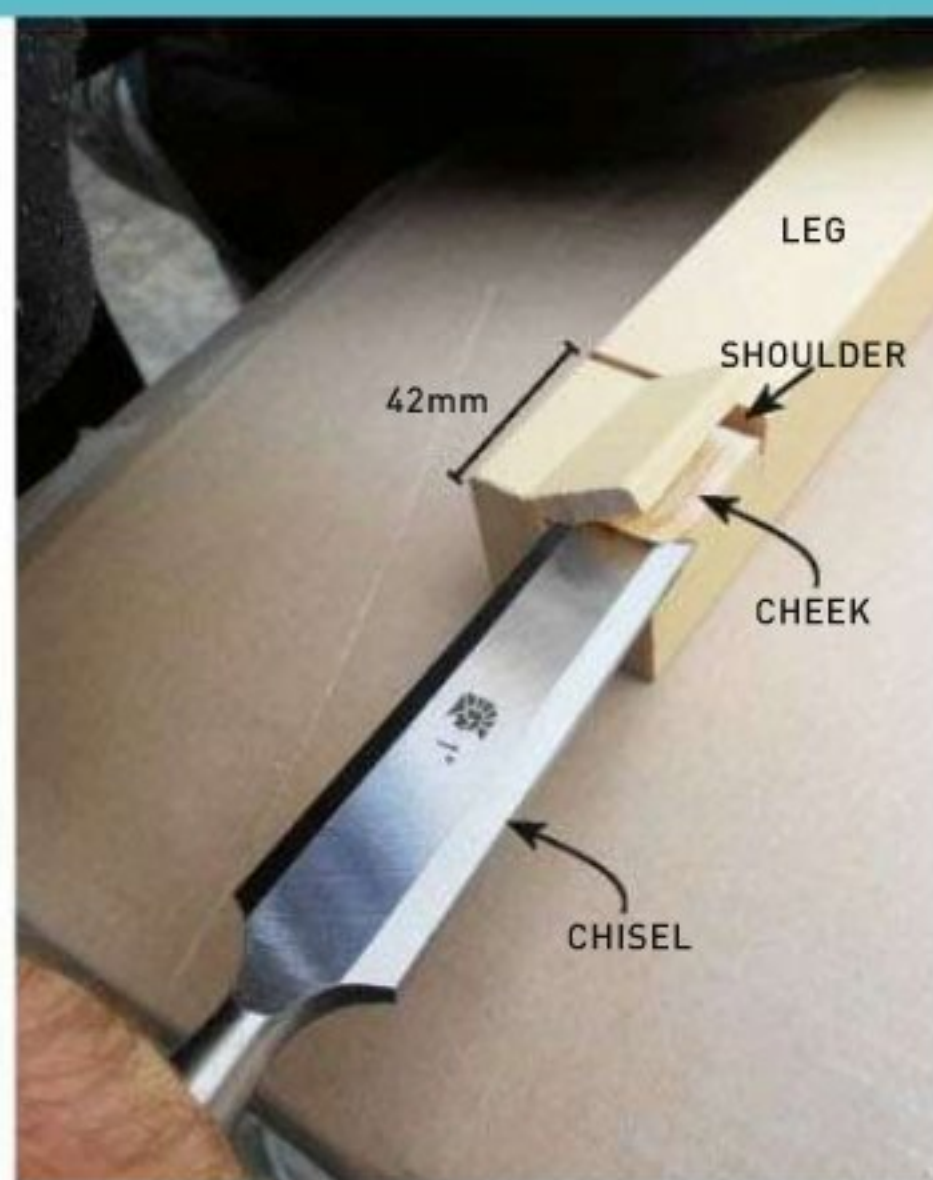
Use your own design on the top of this easy-build coffee table.

Build the table



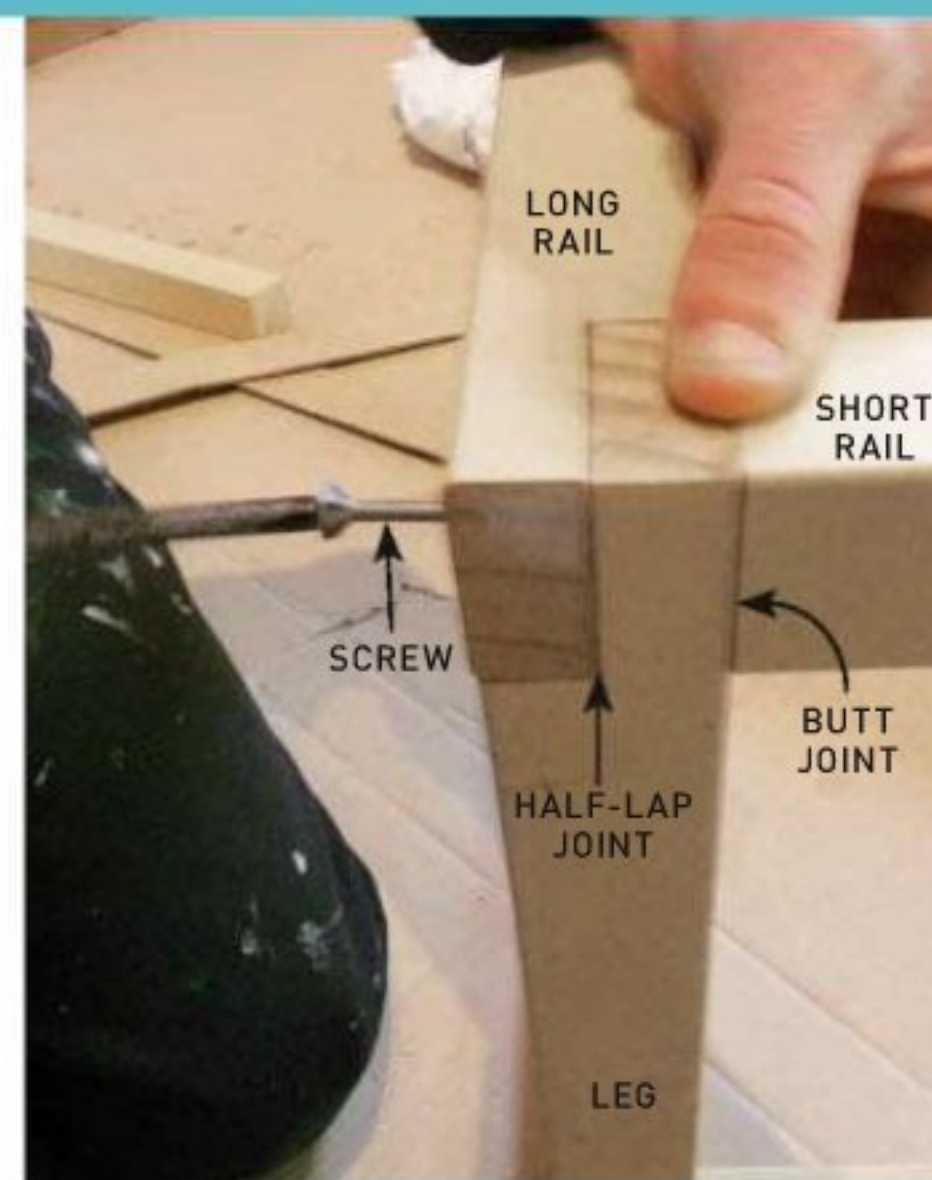
1 Cut the timber

Using a mitresaw, cut the four long rails, four short rails and four legs from 42 x 42mm DAR pine. Use a sliding compound mitresaw or mitre box and tenon saw to make 21mm deep cuts, 42mm from each end of the long rails and the legs.



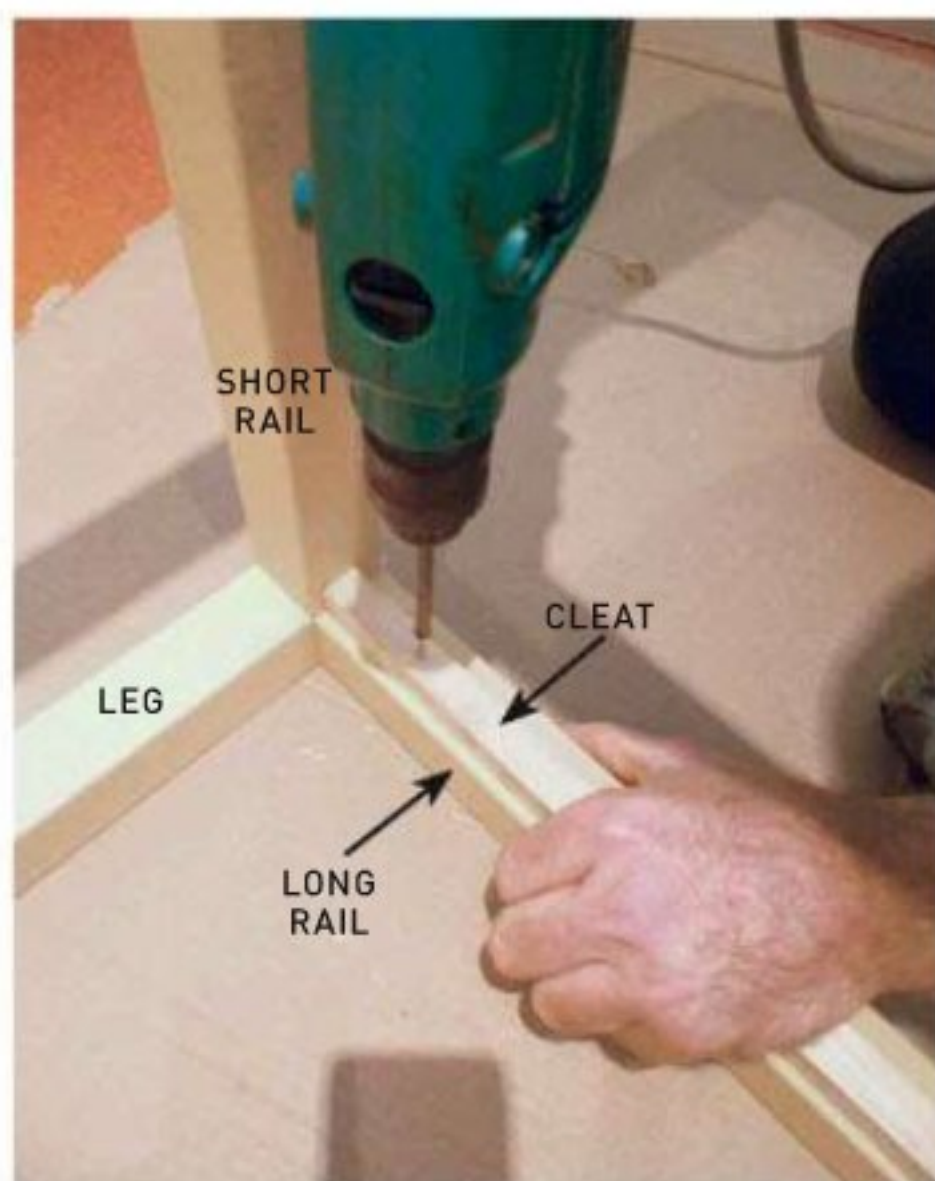
2 Chisel out the housings

Clamp the long rails and the legs to a workbench, then create the half-lap housings by removing the waste timber between the shoulder cut and the end of each piece with a chisel. Keep the bevel of the chisel facing up and tap the end of the handle with a mallet.



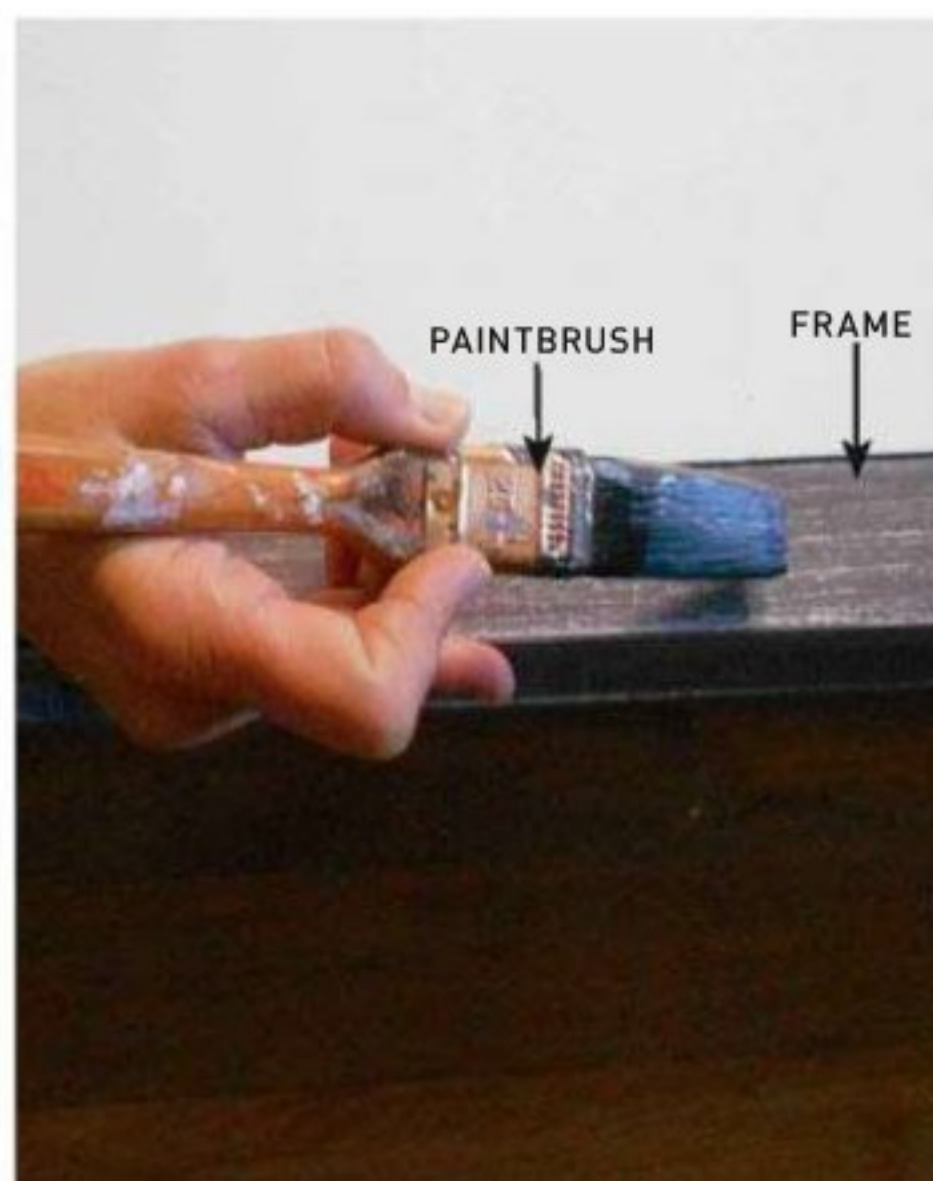
3 Build the frame

To make the table frame, apply PVA adhesive to the half-lap housings and join the long rails to the legs. Position the short rails between the leg assemblies and drill pilot holes to secure the butt joints through the half-lap joints with 65mm x 8g screws.



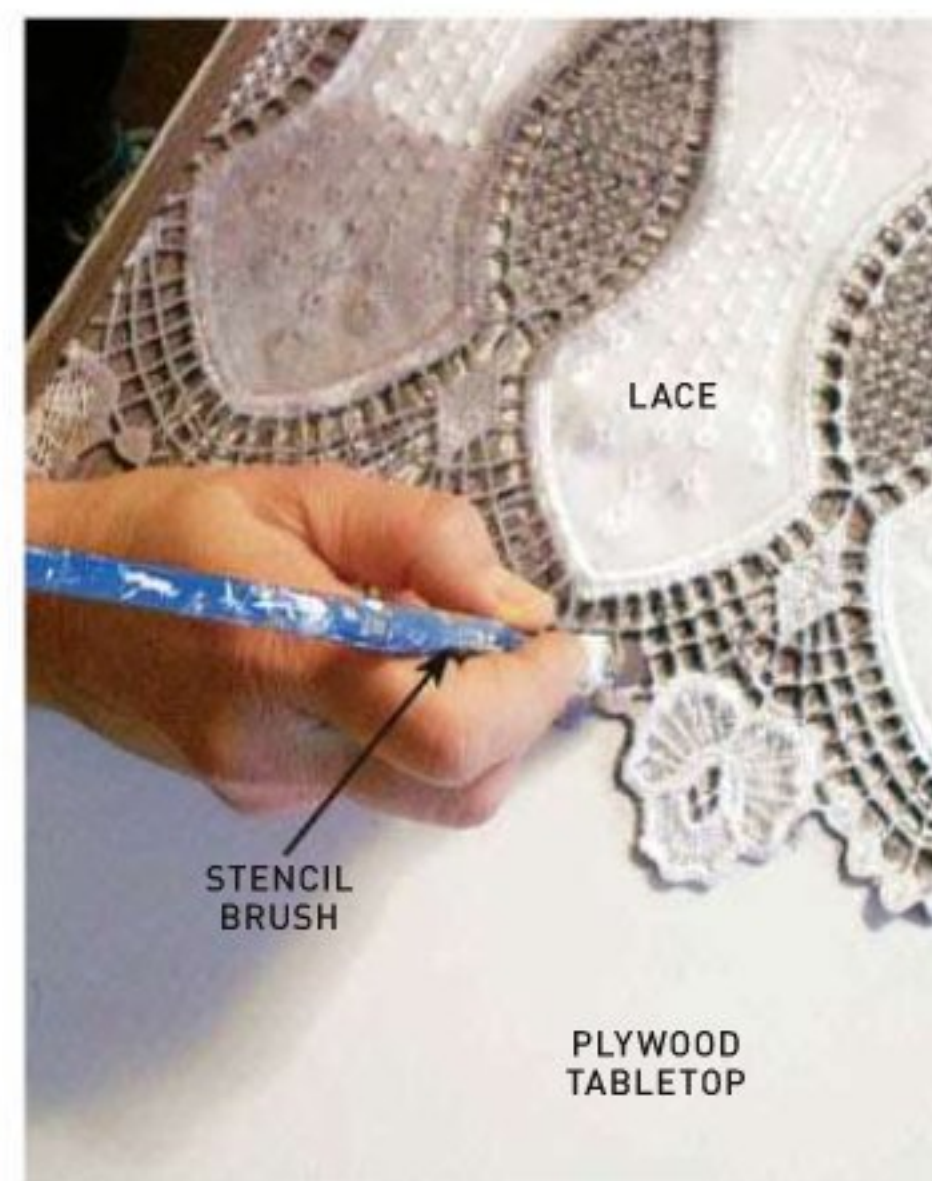
4 Secure the cleats

Cut the two long cleats and two short cleats from 18 x 18mm pine, securing them to the inside of the top frame 12mm down from the top edge using adhesive and 30mm x 6g screws. Cut the plywood top to size and secure it to the cleats with adhesive.



5 Paint the table

Sand the frame using 240 grit abrasive paper, then apply two coats of acrylic paint using a paintbrush. Apply primer and two coats of white paint to the plywood using a roller. **TIP** Use masking tape along the edges of the top to ensure neat lines.



6 Transfer the pattern

Allow the paint to dry, then position a piece of lace on the tabletop so the pattern is in the desired position. Pull the lace taut and clamp it to the frame, then use a stencil brush to apply paint to the plywood showing through the gaps in the lace.



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COVER A CHAIR

Bring a charity shop bargain bang up to date with simple techniques for DIY reupholstery

WORDS ARTEMIS GOUROS PROJECT GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS

To give an old chair a new look, all you need is a couple of metres of fabric, a staple gun, scissors and a packet of tacks. The supplies can be easily found in craft, fabric and hardware stores or online.

For new chairs, you can simply change the cover, but damaged or secondhand chairs will need to be completely reupholstered.

Replace the foam or top the existing filling with cotton wadding. Buy standard infills or have the foam cut to size by a supplier like Para Rubber (pararubber.co.nz).

Line the seat's underside and back with hessian, about \$7 a metre, then cover the chair with upholstery fabric.

TIP If a new seat base is needed, cut it from thin MDF or plywood.



1 Cut the fabric

Remove the original seat and back covers, discarding any staples or upholstery tacks. Use the covers as a template to cut new upholstery fabric and hessian with scissors, and foam and cotton wadding, if using.



2 Cover the back

Line the back of the chair with hessian, securing it with upholstery tacks. Position the fabric on the seat and check the fit. Cover the back with fabric and secure with staples, making cutouts for the arms and frame.



3 Upholster the seat

Turn the chair upside down, pull the fabric up over the sides and pin it temporarily in position. Pull the fabric taut as you go and secure it to each side with upholstery tacks and a hammer, folding it under at the corners.



Before

After

New foam and fabric take this chair from saggy and dated to firm and chic.

DESIGN RULES

Transform everyday homewares into one-of-a-kind accessories using old or new wooden rulers

WORDS ARTEMIS GOUROS PROJECTS GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS

Add a few designer touches to your home with nothing more than a glue gun and a selection of old and new wooden rulers.

Look for vintage measuring and craft or trade rulers online or buy them new in 30cm and 1m lengths, ranging in price from about \$2 to \$8, from OfficeMax (officemax.co.nz).

To make an eye-catching coat rack, cut a piece of 90 x 19mm pine to size and add picture hangers on the back. Cut rulers to different lengths and glue them to the front side, using screws to add coat hooks.

Wooden rulers are also a novel way to upcycle a vase or lampshade. You just need to choose one with a smooth cylindrical or straight-sided shape.

Cut the rulers to size using a mitre box and tenon saw. Apply adhesive to the backs of the rulers with a hot glue gun, then attach to a clean surface, holding in position using masking tape until dry.

TIP You can also use PVA adhesive.



Ozito 8W Trigger Flow Glue Gun, about \$10. ozito.co.nz



Decorate a wall-mounted hanging rack for hats and bags.



Cut wooden rulers to size and use them to transform vases and lampshades.

For a beautiful finish that lasts.

Feast Watson Decking Oil is a hard wearing, fast drying timber coating that enhances the natural beauty of timber whilst protecting it from New Zealand's harsh conditions.

The formula penetrates deeply to nourish timber, replicating it's natural defences against the elements.

With added UV and mould resistant properties, Decking Oil weathers naturally and will not crack or peel. It is available in seven lightly pigmented colours to help beautify your deck.

www.feastwatson.co.nz

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email guardians@sPCA.org.nz
or phone 09 256 7307

ROUTERS & PLANERS

Take timber DIY projects to the next level using these high-speed precision power tools

*SHAPE UP FOR WOODWORKING

While most people are familiar and confident with workshop stalwarts such as circular saws and cordless drills, using routers and planers is often regarded as the domain of more ambitious woodworkers.

But there is no good reason why these versatile and practical tools should be shrouded in mystery.

'Routers and planers both have the ability to rapidly remove timber and finish an edge or surface with detail,' says *Handyman* Technical subeditor Gun Arvidssen.

'They also operate at high revs and have very sharp blades, which can be a cause for nervousness.

'But if these tools are set up properly and handled safely, then any DIYer can learn to undertake more advanced projects,' says Gun.



PLUNGE ROUTER

TRIM ROUTER

PLANER

TAKE THEM FOR A SPIN

Routers and planers rely on sharp cutting edges that rotate at high speed to remove small shavings of timber on each pass. **ROUTERS** are tools that hold a cutting bit extending vertically down through a base plate.

Different router bits are designed for a range of tasks such as creating a decorative profile along a timber edge, carving

flawless slots and housings, or following a precise cutting pattern.

A plunge router has its motor assembly supported on a pair of spring-loaded posts that keep the bit elevated above the base plate and allow it to be pushed down into the workpiece.

A trim router is a smaller and lighter tool with a fixed base plate and limited height adjustment,

mainly designed for trimming and shaping edges.

PLANERS are handheld tools that shape timber by shaving away thin, flat layers, with blades mounted on a rapidly rotating drum.

They are used to smooth rough surfaces, flatten uneven edges and resize larger pieces of timber. They can also chamfer corners and cut rebates and bevels. ➤

Notch up some experience using a straight cutting bit for trimming jobs or a profiled bit to shape, groove and decorate, and you will probably find yourself dreaming up all kinds of projects that utilise this tool's many applications.

*PLUNGE OR FIXED

Routers can be categorised based on whether they have a fixed base or a plunge function. Plunge routers tend to be more versatile, and this type is more readily available.

A fixed router allows you to set the bit at a specific height relative to the base plate and is particularly useful when doing a lot of edging and laminate trimming work.

With a plunge router, you also have the option to position the router over the top of your work and push down into the material to make a cut.

This is great for jobs with precise starting and finishing points, such as stop mouldings, or when a housing is enclosed on all sides instead of being at the edge of a workpiece.



Plunge routers are best for gradually increasing cut depth.

*TRIM AND NEAT

Trim routers are the most popular variety of the fixed-base type. These typically have a power output of 350-700W, and are intended for light-duty applications.

Originally designed for trimming laminate, the extra features these tools have acquired over time have enabled them to be used for the same types of tasks as a full-size router.

Many have a quick-release height adjustment system, variable speed and a transparent base plate for maximum visibility.

They can also be safely used one-handed, and are best suited to edge-following bits that can trim, chamfer, profile or round over timber and laminate.

*ROUTER SAFETY

Always keep the router vertical, hold it with both hands and feed it along the edge of your timber in the opposite direction to the bit rotation.

Test the depth setting on scrap timber, and remember that a series of shallow passes will yield a better result than one deep pass.

Never use a router on wet timber, and for best results, use a fence guide whenever possible. Work smoothly and evenly instead of forcing the router, as this may result in chips and splinters.

This tool generates lots of dust and noise, so always wear safety goggles, a dust mask and hearing protection.



Evacut 12.7 x 10mm Straight Router, about \$13.



Evacut 6.4 x 10mm Straight Router, about \$13.

BASIC BITS

Router bits are made from either solid carbide, carbide-tipped steel or high-speed steel (HSS).

Carbide-tipped router bits are readily available from hardware stores. And while they are more expensive, they represent a better investment, as they stay sharp 10-20 times longer than an HSS bit.



EDGE BIT

The two categories of router bits are edge-following bits and non-edge bits. Edge bits have a ball bearing wheel that allows you to easily rout along the edge of the timber.

Non-edge bits do not have a guide wheel and are typically used to rout a recess directly into the face of a timber workpiece, rather than along its edge.



NON-EDGE BIT

*COLLET SIZES

The collet size refers to the chuck, or the capacity of the router to fit the shank diameter of router bits.

Trim routers generally feature 1/4in (6.35mm) collets while plunge routers usually fit two shank sizes, both 1/4in and 1/2in (12.7mm).

Use the heavier-gauge 1/2in router shanks whenever possible to minimise the chatter caused by vibration, creating a cleaner cut.

Some router brands have a 9.5mm collet only, so make sure you can identify the collet sizes of your chosen router before buying.

*EDGE ROUTING

The secret to routing clean edges is to use a sharp bit and run the router in an anticlockwise direction around the top of the workpiece.

If used in this way, the bit pulls the router towards the work rather than pushing it away, making it safer and easier to control.

But the anticlockwise technique doesn't always work perfectly, as there is a tendency for the timber to chip out at the corners.

This can be solved by cutting clockwise, called reverse-cutting

or climb-cutting, for a few centimetres on the end grain at the corners where chip-out is likely to occur.

You can then start anywhere on the workpiece and run the router around the timber anticlockwise.

If you're routing around the inside of an enclosed edge, such as a picture frame, work in a clockwise direction.



Evacut 12.7 x 13mm Rounding Over Bit, about \$46.



*MAKE BISCUIT JOINTS

A router with a 4mm slot cutting bit can be used instead of a biscuit joiner for edge-laminating boards.

Mark biscuit positions, then cut slots about 10mm longer than the biscuit. For thick boards, just cut one quick, continuous slot on each.

A router can't always substitute for a biscuit joiner. Routers are not suitable for making biscuit slots in the face of a workpiece, and they can only cut along square edges, not bevelled ones.

Most slot bits cut 10-12mm deep, which suits size 20 biscuits. ➤



Evacut 6.4 x 4mm Slot Cutter, \$21.

*EDGE-ROUTING NARROW PIECES



Routing a consistent edge profile on a narrow workpiece is tricky, as the base plate is not supported adequately and the router becomes top-heavy, making it prone to rocking off the edge.

The solution is to secure a scrap of timber the same thickness as the workpiece to the bench, giving the base plate of the router a wider area to rest on.

Add a stop board at the end to prevent the timber from slipping.



Evacut 6.4 x 25mm Chamfering Bit, about \$33.

ROUTING WITH THE SIDE FENCE

The side fence, which is sold with all plunge routers, is a useful accessory for routing along a board, regardless of whether you are making a rebate or profile at the edge, or cutting a groove further in.

You can also use a side fence to rout across the grain, but this isn't advisable because the fence will be running against end grain, which is rarely as smooth as long grain.

An important early step is to add a timber offcut to the side fence,

ideally using something fairly hard so that it runs easily. Without the offcut, there is often a gap around the cutter, which can lead to awkward jumps at the beginning or end of a cut.

Simply push this buffer against the cutting bit to create a recess for it.

Unless you are only routing away a small amount of timber in a single pass, gradually increase the plunge depth instead of adjusting the fence, which should remain fixed once you've established the correct setting.



Reduce the risk of tear-out by adding a timber offcut to the side fence.

ROUTERS



*CUT HOUSINGS WITH A JIG

Housings are the cleanest, strongest way to support shelves invisibly in cabinets or bookcases, and a router is the tool of choice for cutting them.

To speed up the process, make a T-square jig from a 600 x 42 x 19mm length of timber secured with screws and adhesive to a 600 x 140 x 19mm piece, using a builder's square to keep the jig square during assembly.

Clamp the jig to a sacrificial test piece of timber, then set a straight bit to 6mm deep and rout through the right side of the T part of the jig.

Check the new housing with a builder's square to make sure the jig is assembled at exactly 90°.

Mark the housing locations on the workpiece and line up the jig's routed recess with the setout marks.

Clamp the jig and rout the housings, cutting only on the right side of the jig so the spinning bit will pull the router base against the jig.

Evacut 6.4 x 19mm Straight Router, about \$16.



*SMOOTH CUTS ON SHAPES

To cut several identical copies of a curved or unusual shape, such as for decorative shelving brackets, use a router with a pattern-following bit.

Cut the template piece from 12mm MDF with a jigsaw, finishing with a belt sander. Trace the pattern onto the actual workpieces to rough-cut them, leaving about 3mm excess to be routed away.

Allow about 25mm of extra length on the template and the blanks so they can be temporarily secured



using screws instead of being held with clamps, which impede routing.

Just as when using straight cutting guides, it's best to make several shallow passes rather than trying to rout away all the waste in one go.

Once the pattern has been smoothly routed, cut the shape to length and discard the offcut with the screw holes.

Evacut 12.7 x 20mm Flush Trim Bit, about \$22.



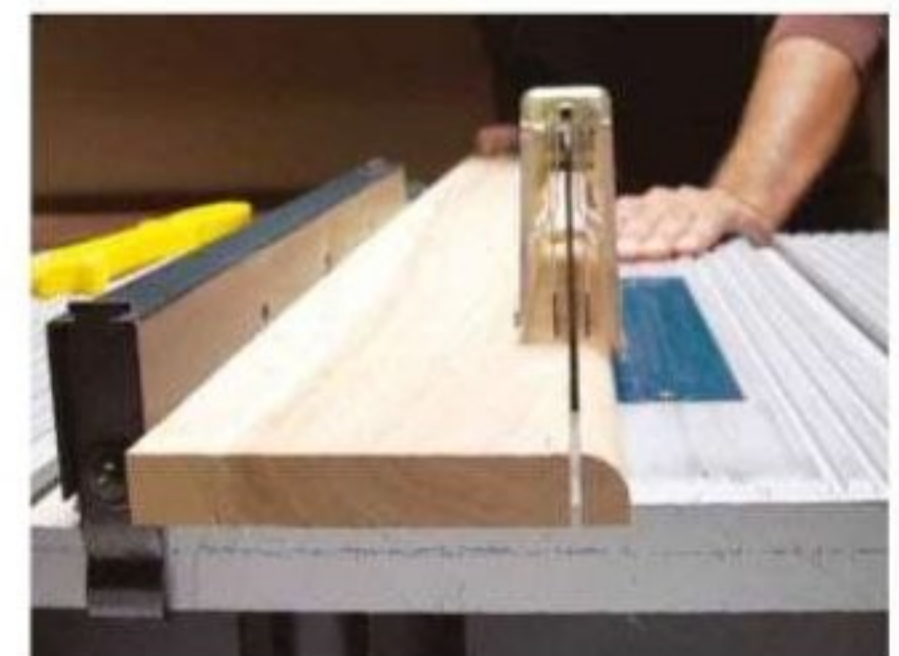
*MAKE CUSTOM MOULDINGS

A router bit, or a combination of two, can be used to produce timber moulding when you need to replace trim but can't find a suitable match for the old profile.

Cut bullnose trim by routing a board using a roundover bit, then cutting off the edge using a tablesaw.



Evacut 6.4 x 13mm Rounding Over Bit, about \$46.



MINI ROUTER

A high-speed rotary tool can be converted into a mini router using a plunge attachment.

This means it can be used for cutting narrow slots and small housings in delicate workpieces, as well as rounding over with a smaller radius than a full-size router.



PLANERS

For tools with such a specialised operating principle and relatively narrow range for adjustment, power planers can perform a surprisingly wide range of functions and represent a valuable asset for the serious woodworker.

*PLANE SAILING

Perfect for fitting doors or roughing out timber for furniture builds, this tool removes timber one thin layer at a time, although it will not achieve the fine finish of a hand plane.

Planers have a pair of thin tungsten-carbide or high-speed steel cutting edges, called slither blades, mounted in a drum that is usually belt-driven and rotates at high speeds of 16,000rpm or more.

The blade drum is mounted in a split base plate, which has a rear section fixed flush with the cutting arc of the blades.

The front part of the base plate can be raised or lowered in very fine increments using the cut depth control on the front of the tool.

This determines the thickness of the layer of timber that will be removed on each pass of the planer.

As with its unpowered equivalent, the effectiveness of this tool relies on the cutting edges being razor

sharp. Blunt blades put additional strain on the motor and produce a poor finish, so they should be replaced regularly.

Because the blades are dulled within just a few hours of planing, they are designed to be easily replaceable.

The manoeuvrability and accuracy of a planer makes it useful for jobs

such as flattening joists prior to installing a plasterboard ceiling, so many feature a double-duct design.

This allows you to select whether chips are ejected to the left or right, meaning that the shavings can always be directed away from you, no matter what angle you are planing at.



Wedge the door in a homemade stand to keep it still while planing.

*USING A PLANER

Before plugging in the planer, set the depth of cut and attach the guide fence, if required. Mark the area to be planed and clamp the timber firmly.

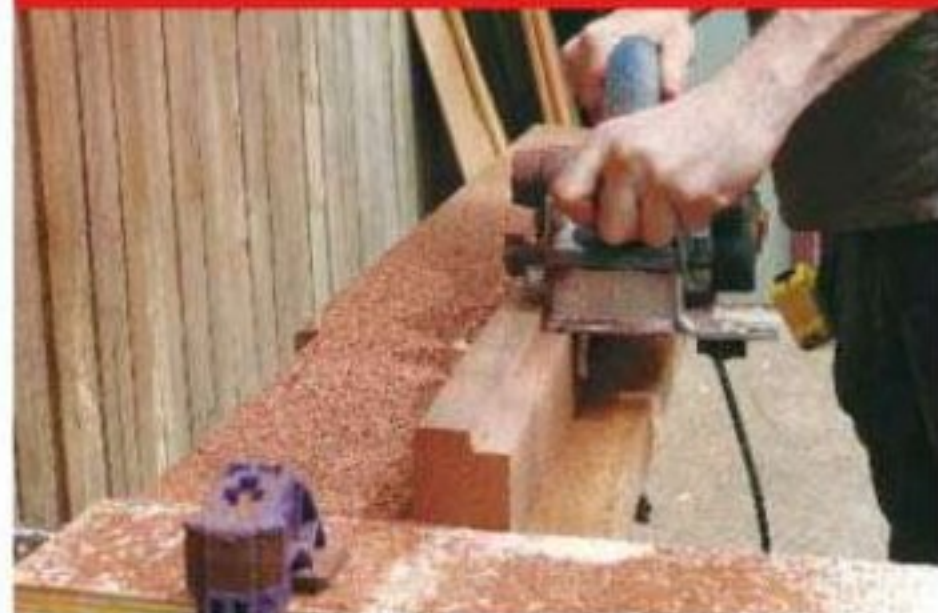
Hold the planer so the blade isn't touching a surface and switch it on by pressing the safety lock-off button and then squeezing the trigger.

Glide the planer over the surface in smooth passes at a constant pace, keeping the base plate in contact with the workpiece but without applying excessive pressure.

Keep the tool moving until the blades have cleared the end of the workpiece, keeping the back of the base plate pressed to the timber so the blades don't dive and gouge it.

Release the trigger and allow the motor to spool down freely. ➤

Once you've mastered the basics, you will soon be using your planer for everything from bevelling the corners of pergola posts to loosening a sticky door, renovating your kitchen and even rebating the inside edges of a picture frame.



*PLANE A REBATE

Attach and adjust the parallel guide to use with a rebate stop to make rebates. The rebate width is only limited by the blade size of the planer, usually 82mm.

The maximum rebate depth is typically about 10mm, but this varies between different manufacturers.



*FREE A STICKY DOOR

If a door has expanded due to humidity and sticks in the jamb, check where it rubs against the frame using a credit card or feeler

gauge. Remove the door and position it in a door stand, then set the planer to its minimum cutting depth and carefully plane down the tight spots.

*CHAMFER AN EDGE

The V-groove in the front base plate of the planer assists with bevelling and chamfering timber edges.

Hold the planer at 45°, position the groove over the corner of the edge and run the planer along the timber. For wider bevels, an adjustable bevelling guide is often available as an optional accessory.



*PLANE FILLER BOARDS

To ensure wall-mounted cabinets fit without gaps, even if the walls are out of square, first scribe a filler board to match the width of the gap.

Plane down to the scribed line, angling the planer slightly so that the back of the board ends up fractionally narrower than the front.



*DRESS AN UNEVEN EDGE

To neaten up a rough or bowed edge on a length of timber, mark the high areas with a pencil as a guide. Set the planer to cut only 0.5mm deep or less, then plane down to the marked line gradually in several passes.

TIP Use a guide fence to ensure a square edge relative to the face of the workpiece.

CLEAN SWEEP

Wipe the base plate every few uses with WD-40 to prevent a build-up of timber resin.

If the drive belt that powers the blade drum is worn or broken, remove the belt cover, clean the drive sprockets and feed through a new belt.



*ON THE FLIP SIDE

The split base plate of a planer is machined to ensure consistent removal of timber to the required depth, with the best possible finish.

The front section, which can be raised or lowered to adjust the depth of cut, usually features one or more V-grooves for chamfering the edge of a board.

TIP Most planers are fitted with a spring-loaded parking rest that folds flush when the tool is in use, but elevates the blades clear of the surface when it is put aside.



*USING A THICKNESSER

This tool is like the bench-mounted equivalent of a handheld planer. It's ideal for dressing roughly sawn timber or giving recycled boards a fresh face and milling them to a consistent thickness.

DIY thicknessers can typically handle board sizes up to 300mm wide and 150mm thick.

To dress a board, first set the height of the cutter head by winding the crank, then start the motor and allow it spool up to full speed.

Let the drive rollers feed the board through the thicknesser at their own pace. Use a push stick to guide the end of the board into the machine and support the other end as it emerges at the end of a pass.

*ATTACH THE GUIDE FENCE

Planers are usually sold with an adjustable guide fence that can be attached to one side.

This is useful for cutting rebates and for dressing an uneven length of timber, as it ensures a square edge and a much neater result than what can be achieved using a belt sander.



CHANGING SLITHER BLADES

Modern planers are sold with pairs of reversible 82mm blades, the dual cutting edges of which effectively double their lifespan. Replacement blades are sold in pairs because you should never reverse or replace only one of them.



1. LOOSEN THE BLADE HOLDER

Unplug the tool and use the supplied spanner to slightly loosen the machine screws holding the blade.

TIP Loosen the screws just enough to release the old blade, otherwise it will be difficult to align the new one.



2. PUSH OUT THE OLD BLADES

Use a dowel offcut, carpenter's pencil or similar object to push the spent blade out of the holder. If it does not budge even after loosening the screws a little further, tap the dowel lightly with a hammer to free the blade.



3. REPLACE THE BLADES

Slide the blade out and flip it over or replace it with a new one, then push it back into the blade holder. Ensure the bevel on the cutting edge faces in the right direction, align the blade, then tighten the holding screws. ➤

BUYING GUIDE

Mastering these power tools will open up new horizons for woodworking projects. Routers are great for edge detailing and the preparation of housings or rebates for joinery, while planers are best suited for surface smoothing and edging.

PLUNGE ROUTERS



Designed for easy and comfortable DIY use, this has a lock-on switch and variable speed, as well as a dust extraction system.

Ozito 850W Plunge Router, \$83. ozito.co.nz



With a LiveTool indicator and variable speed, this router is compatible with both 6.35mm and 12.7mm bits and features micro depth control.

Ryobi 1250W Plunge Router, \$139. ryobi.co.nz



This tool has a convenient locking lever and three-stage cut depth adjustment system, as well as a plunge capacity of up to 35mm.

Makita 900W Plunge Router, \$299. makita.co.nz

TRIM ROUTERS



Featuring cordless convenience for flexibility when trimming or cutting grooves, this takes 6.35mm bits and has a no-load speed of 29,000rpm.

Ryobi One+ 18V Cordless Trim Router, \$89, skin only.



Perfect for edging any project or trimming benchtops, plastics and timber, this tool has a 6.35mm collet and transparent base for visibility.

Ryobi 350W Adjustable Height Trim Router, \$99.



This router is designed for easy one-handed operation, with a spindle lock for quickly changing bits, and a variable speed control.

Makita 710W Variable Speed Trim Router, \$275.

PLANERS



A great entry-level tool for DIY use with a comfortable sure-grip handle, this will help you develop your planing skills.

Ozito 400W 82mm Planer with 1mm depth of cut, \$70.



This ergonomically designed planer has a patented high-speed cutting system, operates at 18,000rpm and can make rebates up to 8mm deep.

Bosch 500W 82mm Planer with 1.8mm depth of cut, \$124. bosch-do-it.co.nz



Featuring a cut depth control with detentes at common settings and an optimised chip ejection system, this is a compact yet powerful tool.

Makita 620W 82mm Planer with 2.5mm depth of cut, \$298.



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Tidy up the garden

Check out some great tools and gadgets to get your backyard spick-and-span in no time

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS



Get rid of grime fast with a compact but powerful water blaster.

Blasting with water

Paving, walls, driveways and vehicles can all look grimy without regular cleaning, but what's the easy way to tackle this wide range of surfaces?

You could use a brush and a hose, but apart from being hard work, you'd also waste a lot of water. The answer is the Karcher K3.800 Eco!ogic Water Blaster, \$499 (karcher.co.nz).

This powerhouse has 1800psi of cleaning power pumped out by a 1.7kW water-cooled motor, but it's compact for easy storage.

It comes with two quick-change spray nozzles and has an eco mode for saving water and electricity. ➤

Tricks of the trade ▼

- **START** at the top when washing sloping areas and work down, to avoid dirt running back onto the surfaces that are already cleaned.
- **INVEST** in a surface-cleaning accessory or attachment to cut cleaning time and water and power use in half if you have big paved or deck areas to scrub.
- **PROLONG** the life of your water blaster by squeezing the trigger once you've turned your machine off, to release pressure in the pump and hoses.

Shape it



Keep hedges tamed and plants bushy with regular pruning and trimming.

Pruning hedges

It's easy to put off the task of trimming hedges and shaping shrubs, but this bit of tidying is best done early and, in many cases, on a regular basis.

So how do you make the process simple and even enjoyable? Add a quality power tool to the equation.

Designed with user comfort in mind, the McCulloch SuperLite Petrol Hedge Trimmer, \$349, has a 450mm long-reach bar and can cut branches up to 20mm thick (mcculloch.com).

The hedge trimmer is lightweight and well balanced, incorporating an anti-vibration system in the handle.

It also has a feature that offers 40% less resistance on the starter cord while the exhaust from the low-noise engine is directed forwards over the blades and not into the user's face.

Tricks of the trade ▼

- **WEAR** safety gear at all times when using a petrol hedge trimmer, including glasses, gloves and ear protection.
- **ENSURE** the top doesn't overshadow the rest of the hedge by shaping and trimming it slightly wider at the base.
- **TRIM** spring-flowering shrubs and hedges shortly after they flower to thicken them up, as this is when many varieties have a growth surge.



HEDGE CLIPPERS

Blowing leaves

The lawn has been mowed and edged, the hedges are pruned and the branches are shredded, but there now seems to be more of a mess than when you started.

The simple solution is to use a blower-vac, and the powerful McCulloch Petrol Blower Vacuum Mulcher has you covered for all those final clean-up needs.

It has an air-purge system to make starting it easy. Simply prime, choke and pull to start it first time, then you can get blowing with either the standard tube or the flare nozzle fitted for concentrated power.

Once you've gathered all your leaves and clippings, convert to the

vacuum kit. It won't just suck up all the material, it will also reduce it to mulch that's ready for your garden beds or the compost heap.

A blower isn't designed for pushing large amounts of material about. It's designed as a finishing tool, so rake first and then blow.

Work from the edges towards the centre and blow sections at a time, vacuuming up material as you go. Once covered, go back and give the whole area a quick blow-over.

TIP Blow with the breeze or across it, not into it. >



McCulloch 25cc Petrol Blower Vacuum Mulcher, \$299.



Rake fallen leaves into piles, then switch to a blower-vac.

PICTURES THINKSTOCK

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Reel it

Roll up the hose when not in use with a wall-mounted reel.

Storing the hose

Keeping garden equipment in the garage, shed or under the house is par for the course, but what about that forgotten hose that's often left in a sad and sorry mess?

A reel is an efficient way to store a hose, and it doesn't just keep the yard looking tidy. By preventing kinks and protecting it from the elements, it also helps you prolong the life of your hose.

The new motorised Gardena Roll-Up Automatic is the ultimate in hose reels. Li-ion powered, it comes with a hose and fittings, can be wall-mounted or left freestanding,

and draws the hose back into the box with the press of a button.

When it's time to water again, just pull it out and the hose will stop automatically at the desired length.

You get about 50 rolls-ups between charges and the in-built LED indicators let you know when it needs recharging.



Gardena Wall-Mounted Hose Box 35 Roll-Up Automatic, \$399. gardena.com

Tricks of the trade ▼

- **EXTEND** the lifespan of your hose by reopening the nozzle if you turn off the water flow with the nozzle before shutting off the tap. This releases the pressure of the water trapped in the hose.
- **REDUCE** water wastage by regularly checking that all hose fittings are tightly attached, and replacing O-rings and washers in fittings annually.
- **SAVE** water by attaching a tap timer, using a simple mechanical model or computerised version.



Be kind to your back and save lots of time by moving heavy loads in a sturdy wheelbarrow.

PICTURE (FAR RIGHT) THINKSTOCK

Hauling heavy loads

In the garden, as with so many things in life, there's the hard way and the easy way to get stuff done.

You can lug bags of potting mix or concrete from the car one at a time, shift a pile of bricks by the armful or move rubble by the bucketful. Or you can save time, and your back, by using a quality wheelbarrow.

Whether you're landscaping or tidying up, the Ranger 120L Wheelbarrow, \$129, from Bunnings, is ideal for work around the garden.

The durable plastic tray, with its very generous capacity, can handle just about any job, from shifting bricks and mixing concrete to simply carrying garden clippings.

And you won't lose your hold when emptying the barrow or heading downhill, thanks to the rubberised grips on the coated steel handles.

The wide tyre is less prone to sinking into soft ground or the lawn, so it's perfect for garden use. ➤

Tricks of the trade ▼

- **ENSURE** you can always see where you're going by never overloading a barrow with garden clippings or other large items.
- **KEEP** the weight towards the front of the wheelbarrow when you're shifting heavy loads.
- **POINT** the wheelbarrow in the direction you want to go before you load it up.



Shred it



Feed cuttings into a shredder to create free garden mulch.

Using green waste

When you get stuck into a garden clean-up, you can be sure you'll have heaps of prunings and clippings.

You could just drop these in your green-waste bin or take them to the tip, but they can be turned into really useful material for your garden. How? With a shredder.

This tool allows you to quickly and easily convert garden waste into mulch for garden beds or fine material for the compost heap.

The Bosch 2300W Turbine Electric Shredder, \$999, is a safe and efficient shredder that's ideal for tidying up big or small backyards (bosch-garden.co.nz).

It can handle branches up to 42mm in diameter and features a detachable hopper to make clearing any blockages simple.

Shredded material is captured in the 53L collection box and, as a safety feature, the unit won't run without this box in place.

For added safety, the cutter array is also shielded to prevent any accidental contact occurring.

Tricks of the trade ▼

- **ALLOW** the machine to draw the material in. Never try to force any into the shredder, especially branches.
- **WEAR** gloves, safety glasses and ear protection at all times while running a shredder.
- **AVOID** feeding any weed seeds through the shredder to prevent your mulch or compost from becoming contaminated.



Trimming the edges

Nothing says tidy like a well-mowed and edged carpet of lawn.

Typically, the finishing touch of edging the lawn is carried out with a petrol-driven line trimmer, but savvy gardeners are now switching on to quieter, cleaner and greener edging options.

And it's now become even easier, as Ryobi have gone to new high-tech frontiers with the release of the One+ Hybrid Line Trimmer.

The world's first hybrid trimmer, it uses 18V batteries and also 240V mains power connection.

This means that when you're close to the house, you can run it off a power lead, but as soon as you need to go the extra distance, simply unplug it and the trimmer seamlessly switches to running from the 18V One+ battery.

Ryobi One+ Hybrid Line Trimmer Kit, \$229. ryobi.co.nz



To make it even more flexible, the length of the shaft can be adjusted and the soft-grip D-handle features a range of positions.

When trimming, the rule is to mow first and trim second, using the tip of the line, not the head of the trimmer.

Charging station

Your backyard is shaping up, but in the process the shed has turned into a disaster zone. Does this sound like a familiar story?

Part of the problem could come down to rechargeable power tools. Different tools with different batteries all need separate chargers, which can make your workbench look like it's covered in electrical spaghetti.

The Ryobi One+ power tool and battery system allows you to use the same batteries across more than 40 different tools. But more tools equals more batteries, and what if they all need charging?

Enter the Ryobi 18V One+ 6 Port Super Charger, \$150. Charging up to six batteries at once, it can be wall-mounted or sit on a benchtop.



It has a built-in maintenance mode to keep batteries in top shape and an energy-saving mode to keep things eco-friendly.

- **LI-ION BATTERIES** don't need to be fully drained before recharging, as they don't have memory effect like the older rechargeable types.
- **UPGRADE YOUR BATTERIES** to high-capacity versions to give your tools more staying power.
- **CHECK WITH COUNCIL** for recycling options, as unwanted Li-ion batteries can't be disposed of in the home garbage bin.

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for Time-savers In The Garden.

Pool paving repair

Fix sunken and lifted pavers to save money and eliminate trip hazards on a wet surface

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER

A swimming pool is the source of hours of family fun and lots of splashes. But often, it's this water splashing over the paved pool surround that can lead to sinkage.

The underlying cause of the sinkage can stem from a sub-grade that's not solid or hasn't been compacted properly, the incorrect use of bedding sand, or washout caused by a lack of stable edging.

This pool was installed in 2004 with a bullnose clay coping mortared onto a concrete edge beam and surrounded with matching clay pavers laid in a herringbone pattern.

In the last decade, the compacted sub-grade of roadbase had settled, showing as sinkage in the paving.

Lifting the entire paved area and adding a concrete sub-grade is one solution but comes at a great cost.

Instead, we lifted the affected areas and re-screeded with stabilised bedding sand, then relaid the pavers. This repaired the problem in just a weekend at little expense.

Essential supplies

To repair paving DIY, you need a few basic tools and materials.

SAND to bed the pavers. For this area, 100kg was needed, costing about \$45.

CEMENT to mix with the bedding sand in a 5:1 ratio to stabilise it and make it more resistant to sinkage. One 20kg bag, about \$7, was required.

GROUT for paving the area, either sand or a sand-and-cement mix. Use Cemix Pavetight Sand, a grouting mix that is a blend of sand and gelling agents that inhibits weeds and insects, with four bags costing \$78 in total.

ANGLE GRINDER to cut pavers to size. For big jobs, you can hire a brick saw for about \$110 for 24 hours.

SPIRIT LEVEL for setting fall in bedding sand and screeding.

STEEL FLOAT for screeding bedding sand.

YARD BROOM to spread the grout sand. ➤

Cemix Pavetight Sand, about \$19 for 20kg. cemix.co.nz



Choosing sand

There are two types of sand needed for laying pavers.



BEDDING SAND is coarse-grained and easily screeded, and is often called builder's or paving sand.

It can be up to 5mm in diameter and is the leftover fines of crushed rocks, or natural sand such as washed river sand. The availability will vary with your location.

GROUT SAND is either a mix of fine sand and cement in a 6:1 ratio or just fine-grained river sand.

The dry mix is swept into the joints and the surface hosed well but lightly to prevent stains. Once the mix sets, there is less water penetration and weed growth.

TIME 2 DAYS
SKILL BASIC

DIY \$135

TOOLS ANGLE GRINDER,
PLATE COMPACTOR



Before

After 10 years the sub-grade had settled, causing uneveness.

After

Lifting and relaying the pavers on a new base has restored the area.

PICTURE (MAIN) GREGORY MCBEAN

Relay the pavers



1 Lift the damaged areas

Carefully prise out one paver using two flat drive screwdrivers. Continue lifting pavers to the width and length required and set aside.

TIP Lift and then repair about 3sqm of paving at a time.



2 Clean the paver edges

Use a stiff banister brush to clean off grout sand from the edges of the lifted pavers. Use a steel float to remove any remaining grout from the edges of the pavers still in place to ensure they are clean and smooth.



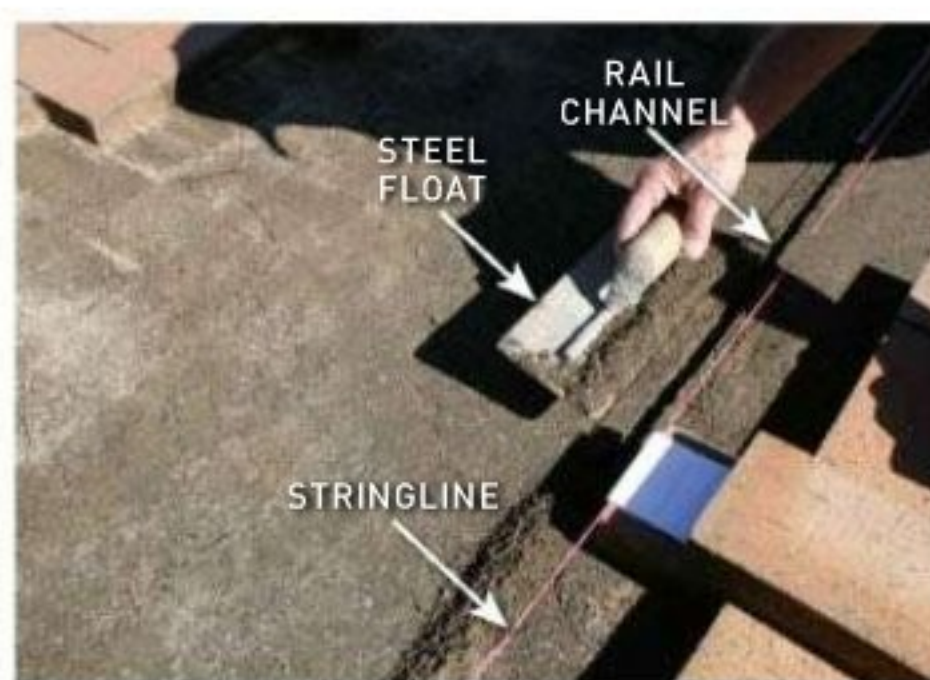
3 Bed the screed rail

Set a taut stringline across the area to be screeded at the finished paving height. Bed a screed rail below the stringline by the thickness of a paver, with the paver 5mm above the stringline to allow for compaction.



4 Screed the bedding sand

Add sufficient bedding sand to cover the screed rail, then pull a spirit level or straightedge over the rail, tamping the sand with a float to ensure a firm, level laying surface with the edges gradually blended together.



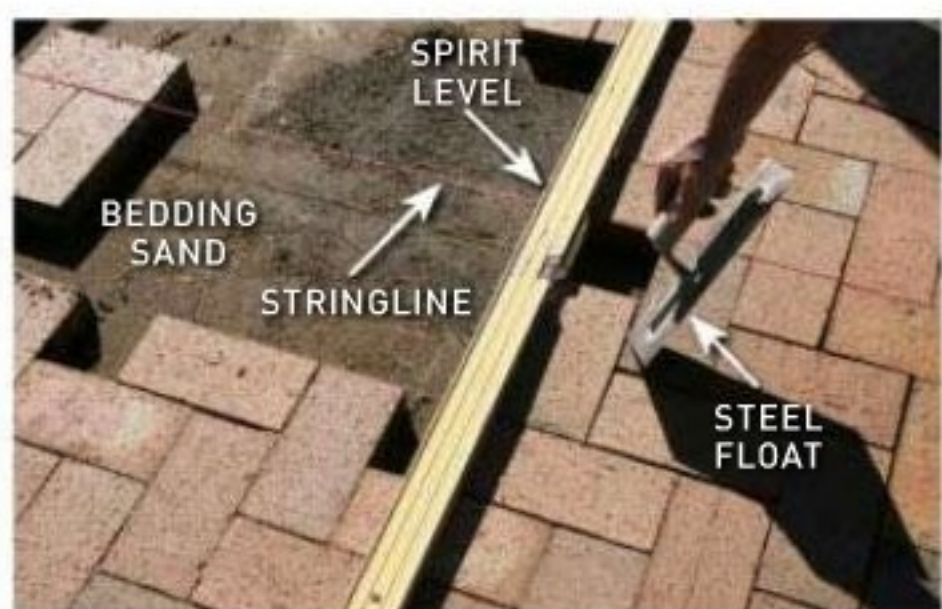
5 Fill the rail channel

Complete the screeding for each of the areas that need repairing, then remove the screed rail and fill in the rail channel with additional bedding sand. Tamp and level off the laying surface using a steel float.



6 Relay the paving

Set a taut stringline down the centre of the repair area, aligning with existing paving at either end. Lay the pavers following the pattern down the stringline, filling in the gaps to either side and spacing the pavers evenly.



7 Adjust the paving lines

Lay a spirit level or straightedge across the repair area perpendicular to the stringline to check the alignment of each row of pavers. Use the edge of a steel float or screwdriver to adjust the gaps and align the paving.



8 Tamp the pavers

Compact the paving by either individually tamping each paver with a rubber mallet or using a straight length of timber, tapped along its length with a lump hammer. Hire a plate compactor for large areas.



9 Grout the pavers

Spread grout sand loosely over the dry paving surface and leave exposed to the sun for an hour. Use a broom to sweep Pavetight into the paving joints. Ensure that no sand is left on the brick surface, then gently hose the joints.

Fencing the pool



Protecting your family this summer is as simple as ensuring your pool is adequately fenced. Pool fencing can be installed DIY, with attractive aluminium or glass options to suit modern backyards.

Drowning is the leading cause of preventable death for kids under five, and for every death, it's estimated that another three children end up in hospital after near-drowning incidents in home swimming pools.

Fit gates with child-safe latches and do regular maintenance checks to make sure the pool fence remains in good condition.

The award-winning G8 Safe Tri Latch features a dual-action safety button, self-latching mechanism and hook striker.



G8 Safe Tri Latch Triple Safe Gate Latch, \$95. protectoraluminium.com

PICTURE THINKSTOCK

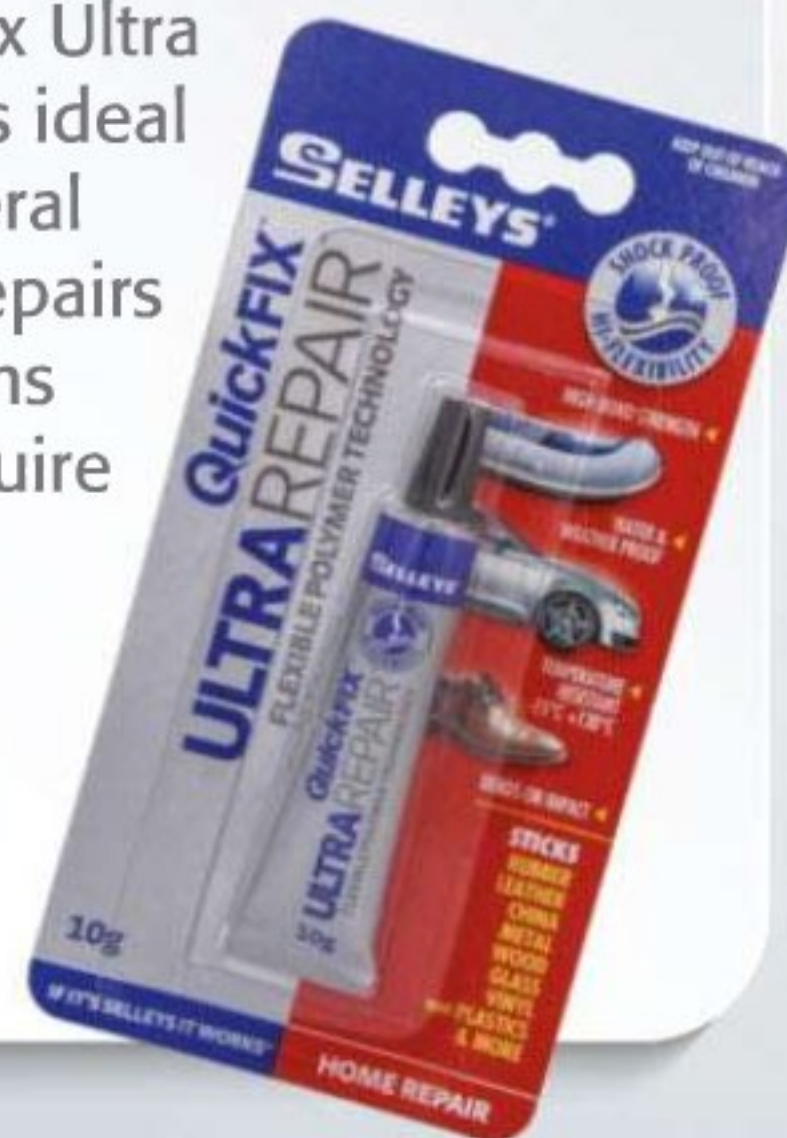
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LADDER SAFETY

Select the right equipment for the job and set it up right

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Do you know what is one of the most potentially dangerous things around the home?

The chances are that you have one of them lurking in your garden shed, the garage or under the house.

We're talking about ladders. These seemingly harmless DIY must-haves are responsible for hundreds of accidents every year. And nearly 80% of these accidents actually occur at home, not in the workplace.

The types of injuries suffered are often serious, with spinal damage, head injuries and even deaths resulting from a tumble, while broken bones are a common outcome.

And it's not just falls from heights that do the most damage, as you only need to be 1-2m off the ground for things to get perilous.

But the good news is that the majority of these ladder-related accidents and injuries are avoidable, as they come about either through not setting up a ladder correctly or not using it in a safe way.

With that in mind, here's our simple guide to staying ladder-safe.

Always wear closed-toe, non-slip boots or shoes when you're on a ladder.



Rhino Double-Sided A-Frame Ladder, 1.8m, \$249. rhinoladders.co.nz

Make the right choice

The first step in ladder safety is to make sure that you use the correct type in any given situation.

Using a ladder that's too short or too long, or one that lacks support when you need it, is a sure-fire way to set yourself up for a mishap. Ladders come in two basic types.

FOLDING LADDERS Hinged at the top, these open out to an A-frame and are then locked in position with built-in spreader braces.

Some are double-sided and others can be opened and locked out to form a long, straight ladder. When used as an A-frame, they don't need support.

PICTURE (MAIN) THINKSTOCK



Use this type of ladder when you need extra reach.

They're designed for single-storey gutter cleaning, changing outdoor light bulbs and trimming tall hedges or lower tree branches.

EXTENSION LADDERS These are the most common ladders for reaching high places. Multiple ladder sections are attached through runners, allowing the length to be increased.

These are designed for working at height and for providing access to high areas, with flexibility allowed by their adjustable length.

They need to be firmly supported and can be used for accessing roofs or tall trees and second-storey work such as painting or cleaning gutters. ➤



Rhino Aluminium Extension Ladder, 3.7-6.5m, \$399.

**Extendable
stepladder**



Rhino Dual-Purpose Extendable Ladder, 1.8-3.3m, \$229.

Climb it correctly

No matter what type of ladder you use, always face inwards towards the steps and never stand higher than the third rung from the top.

- **MAINTAIN** three points of contact with the ladder, either two feet and one hand or two hands and one foot.
- **KEEP** your centre of gravity between the side rails of the ladder and don't overreach.
- **DON'T** attempt any task that requires strong pushing or pulling.
- **AVOID** working on anything overhead that may fall on you.
- **CLIMB** down before you attempt to move a ladder to a new spot.



Platform

Rhino 120kg Multi-Height Extendable Painting Platform, \$139.

WORK PLATFORMS These are used to make working less than 1m or so above ground easier and safer.

They have a wide platform top and generally have folding legs with one or two rungs. These legs are often independently adjustable, allowing them to be set at varying heights and to suit uneven surfaces.

Two or more platforms can be connected with extension brackets.



**CONNECTING
BRACKETS**

Set it up right

Once you've chosen the ladder, setting it up properly is important.

CHECK that surface is level, stable and free from anything like moss that may cause the legs to slip, regardless of the type of ladder.

If the surface is uneven, fit a levelling device to the side of the ladder. On soft ground, position 400 x 200 x 50mm timber blocks under the legs. Don't use bricks.

LOOK for overhead obstructions.

MAKE sure you don't put it where you may be knocked by a swaying branch or anything similar.

ANGLE the ladder at a ratio of 1:4, with the feet 1m out from the vertical surface for every 4m of height.

ENSURE the surface you plan to rest your ladder against is stable. If you are leaning it on a tree, position it against the trunk, not a branch.

NEVER rest the top rung of a ladder against a pole or tree trunk, unless it's fitted with a tree bumper.

TIE or anchor the ladder securely to prevent movement when you plan to use it for an extended period or during vigorous work.

EXTEND the ladder at least 1m above the resting point if accessing a roof.

Safety checklist ▼

There are a few things to do before you get climbing.

- ✓ **ENSURE** that all the bolts and rivets are secure, the hinges operate smoothly and the locking systems are working correctly.
- ✓ **MAKE** sure all the treads are sound, clean and dry.
- ✓ **CHECK** the rope on an extension ladder is in good condition and the pulleys and rung locks are functioning correctly.

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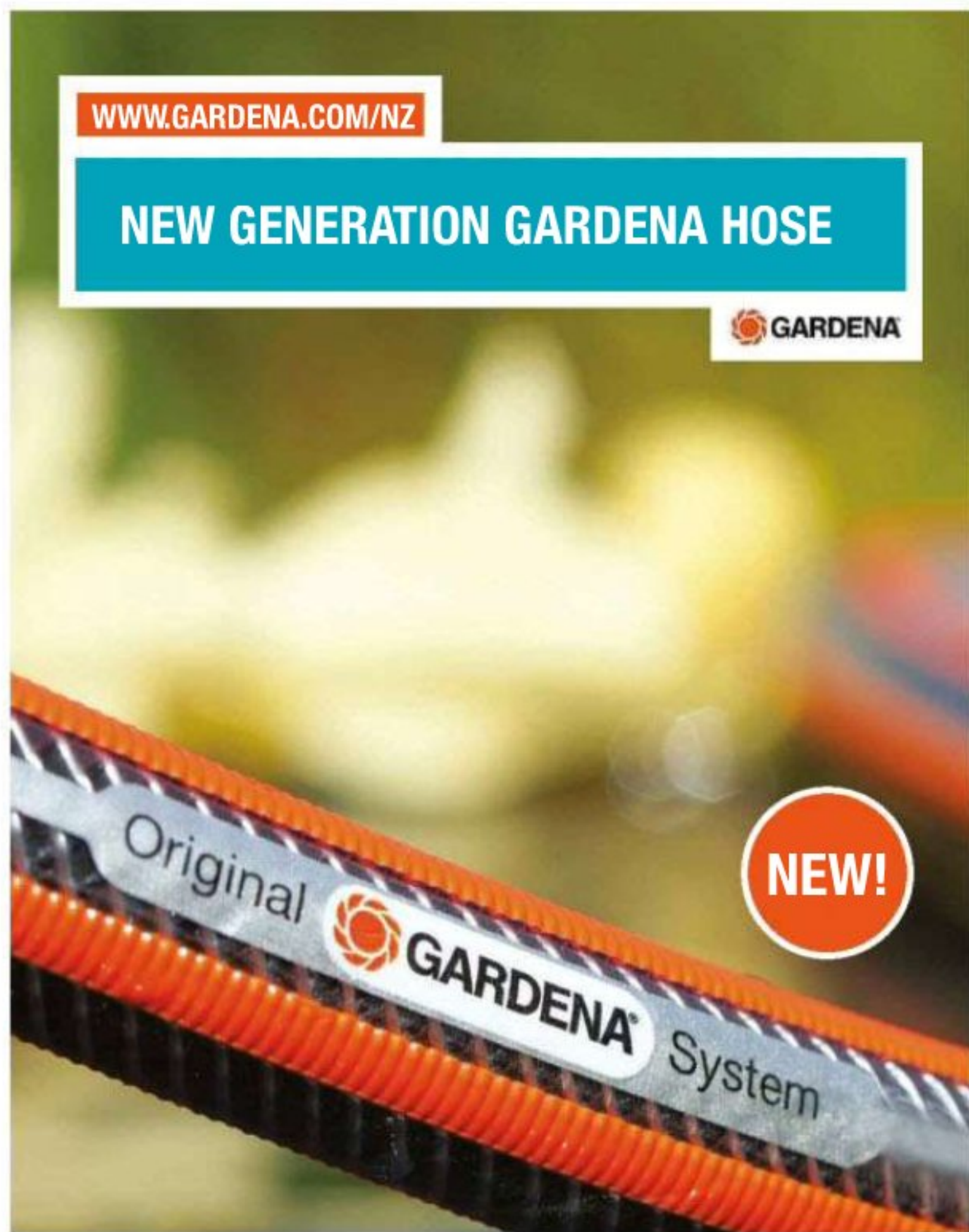
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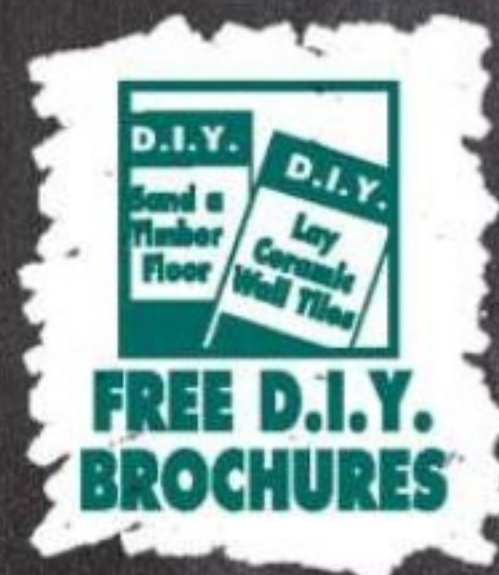
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Drip-line irrigation delivers water slowly and consistently around the root zone, which is exactly where plants need it the most.

PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

Backyard irrigation

Install a drip-line watering system DIY to keep the garden hydrated during the heat and dry of summer

WORDS ADAM WOODHAMS

Ask any gardener about how to have the perfect garden and they'll wax lyrical about the right plants in the right place, good maintenance, fertilising and keeping on top of pests and diseases.

Funnily enough, most don't mention one of the foundation stones of a great garden, and that is using correct watering practices.

While watering with a hose by hand can be a wonderfully therapeutic exercise, it's not the wisest way to get the job done, as distribution is uneven and the water often doesn't soak down deep enough to where it's needed.

Hosing can actually cause all kinds of problems, as the plants start to develop more surface roots seeking the water and are then more prone to heat stress in hot weather.

You can also lose lots of water to evaporation if it's applied to warm soil or mulch. And in the case of sprinkler-style irrigation systems, they often scatter water to the four winds.

So what's the best solution for watering the way your plants need it without wastage? Install a drip-line watering system DIY. >



Traditional handheld watering is relaxing but not as efficient as drip irrigation.

How a drip line works

A typical irrigation system uses black poly pipe into which you plug various sprinkler heads and nozzles.

Drip line looks different, as it's brown or purple and has small holes every 300mm along the tube.

Inside the pipe, behind each hole, is a tiny regulated dripper that releases a set volume of water an hour.

This slow watering allows for greater penetration deep into the soil, reducing runoff and evaporation.

As drip line has a set output, which is found on the sticker, it's easy to calculate water usage and the capacity of your tap to run a system. You can then work out the maximum length of drip line you can install.

To determine the flow rate of the tap for the irrigation system, run it at a normal rate into a 10L bucket and time how long it takes to fill.

So if it fills in 30 seconds that is 20L a minute or 1200L an hour ($2 \times 10 = 20$, $20 \times 60 = 1200$). The line

we used puts out 1.6L an hour per dripper, with a dripper every 300mm.

To find the number of drippers the tap can feed, divide the flow rate by the drip rate ($1200 \div 1.6 = 750$). This means the tap can feed 750 drippers.

Calculate how much drip line you can install by multiplying the total number of drippers by the interval between them in metres ($750 \times 0.3 = 225$).

In theory, this tap could supply 225m of drip line, but it's better to stick to a length that is 50% of your tap's full capacity, or less.

The recommended length may also vary with the drip line, so check the manufacturer's instructions.

TIP If using grey or recycled water, or harvested non-potable tank water, make sure you use the correct colour coded purple or mauve pipe.



Install a drip-line system ▼



1 Prepare the bed

Clear mulch or soil from garden beds to make a trench, using a hoe to remove enough so the system can be concealed once laid. Drip line should be positioned around the most active root zone of plants, which is just in from the edge of the foliage canopy.



2 Position the pipes

Lay the drip line in the trenches, cutting it to length as you go. Ensure the line is cut square and sitting flush to end fittings, securing the joints with pipe clamps. Use drip line around plants and connect it with poly pipe in the places where water isn't needed.



3 Loop the system

Avoid dead ends by bringing all pipes back to the main line, creating a pressure loop for consistent water pressure and equal output from each dripper. Use pins to anchor the pipes. **TIP** To loop the system, run poly pipe back to the start and use T-joiners.

Irrigating the garden

You'll need suitable lengths of 13 and/or 19mm poly pipe and 13mm drip-line tubing, plus a selection of joiners, elbows, clamps and pins. Also add a tap timer or simple water computer, and a backflow prevention device.



Pope Multi Program Auto Tap Timer, \$62. popewatering.co.nz



Pope 13mm Locking Clamp, 40c, and 13mm Barbed Elbow, about \$7 for 10.



Pope Drip Eze Irrigation Hose, 13mm x 15m, \$33.



Foreno Backflow Preventer Valve, \$13. foreno.co.nz



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4 Add a tap
At the furthestmost or lowest end of the irrigation system, add an in-line tap. Connect the system and run it for a few minutes with the tap open to clear any debris from the lines. You can also do this every few months for general maintenance.



5 Connect a timer
Once the irrigation system is fully installed, connect and program a tap timer, adding a tap splitter so a hose can be connected to the other side. **TIP** Add a check valve, or backflow prevention device, to stop water flowing into the mains supply.

Cascades of colour

Bring your outdoor area to life with stunning hanging basket displays you can create in just a few hours

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERYL MADDOCKS

Hanging baskets are a must-have for any backyard or balcony, as they add instant colour. And they're easy to pot up and care for if you follow a few simple guidelines.

As well as being great space-savers, they're also aesthetically pleasing, softening the look of bare spots and giving us another opportunity to be surrounded by flowers or greenery.

You can simply suspend baskets from trees to brighten empty areas or hang one over your front door to make a welcoming entrance.

Hanging baskets of trailing flowers on a pergola will transform an outdoor space. And if you use annuals, you can change colours with the seasons.

They add living colour to balconies and big or small yards, and a basket of ferns or attractive foliage will instantly jazz up any unused shady area.

Hanging baskets that fit flat on the wall can turn a surface from boring to beautiful. Arrange them in groups or patterns, just let your creative juices flow, as gardening is an art, after all.

Now's the time to pot up baskets of summer colour, and if you select the plants carefully, you'll have stunning displays that last well into autumn. ➤



A splendid wall of colour covers the side of a shed and fills an empty space.



Pots of colourful hanging plants make an eye-catching feature out of a plain door.



Select a style

There are a range of baskets to choose from, and they can either hang freely or be secured to a wall.

Consider what will suit your space and what theme works well in your yard. You can buy brackets, hooks and chains to make hanging easy.

PLASTIC BASKETS have good water retention and come in different colours to match your outdoor area.

WIRE BASKETS have a coco-fibre or sphagnum moss lining and need more frequent watering than plastic ones.

A coco-fibre lining loses moisture through the sides, as well as through the drainage at the base.

To retain the moisture, line the inside of the basket with black plastic or use a supermarket bag. Make holes in the base to allow the water to drain, then add potting mix.

DECORATIVE BASKETS can be made from metal or natural products such as rattan, wicker or rope and sisal. They are sometimes lined with plastic to help retain moisture.



Gardman 35cm Loire Hanging Basket, about \$28. horticom.co.nz

Pot up a wire basket ▼

To create a hanging display, all you need is a large wire basket, enough sphagnum moss to fill it, a piece of flyscreen or plastic, plus premium potting mix and flowering annuals.

If you're using a coco-fibre basket liner, simply make slits in it with a utility knife and then insert the plants.

To avoid damaging the roots, wrap them loosely in foil before pushing them through the liner. Once you've inserted the plant, carefully remove the foil.

TIP Water the plants well before planting them in the basket.



1 SOAK THE MOSS in water, then squeeze out as much water as you can. Line the basket a quarter of the way up the sides with the moss.



2 LINE THE BASE with a piece of flyscreen to keep the potting mix in position, or use plastic and make three slits in it for drainage.



3 ADD A LAYER of premium potting mix, or use one specially formulated for hanging baskets, until it is level with the top of the moss.



4 INSERT SEEDLINGS through the side of the basket, taking care not to damage the roots. Add more moss until it is level with the basket's top.



5 FILL WITH POTTING MIX to just below the top of the moss. Plant more seedlings in the top, water, then add more moss and mix if needed.

Getting the hang of it

The first step in hanging a basket is to determine the microclimate of the area where it's to go.

Is it a windy spot? Is it in full sun, part shade or full shade? The wind can dry out baskets very quickly, so select a sheltered spot.

When buying baskets, choose ones that are wide and deep, as the larger the basket is, the less you will need to water it.

Use a high-quality potting mix that contains a wetting agent, water-holding crystals and a controlled-release fertiliser, or try one developed for hanging baskets.

Plant those that are hung at eye level or slightly below like a traditional pot. Position the tallest plant, or plants, in the centre, then shorter and trailing plants towards the middle and edges.

Baskets hung above eye level don't need a centre plant and look best with cascading plants that cover the sides of the pot.

TIP You can mix and match different plants or keep it simple and use just the one variety. ➤



Select plants that suit the position and keep colour and scent in mind.

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Top trailing plants ▼



COLEUS

A basket full of coleus with different coloured foliage is a stunning sight. Leaves come in shades of purple, pink, lime, gold or carmine.

POSITION Shade



CALIBRACHOAS

Perfect for hanging balls, calibrachoa are covered in masses of small flowers that are similar to petunias during spring, summer and autumn.

POSITION Sun



FERNS

Baskets of ferns can soften shady areas. Fishbone, umbrella, hare's foot and polypodium ferns are tough and ideal for hanging baskets.

POSITION Shade, morning sun



FUCHSIAS

With pretty pendant-like flowers, fuchsias are a favourite for hanging baskets. Grow them in plastic pots for the best results.

POSITION Part shade



IMPATIENS

Great for brightening up shady spots, impatiens produce masses of flowers for months, and offer a good choice of vibrant flower colours.

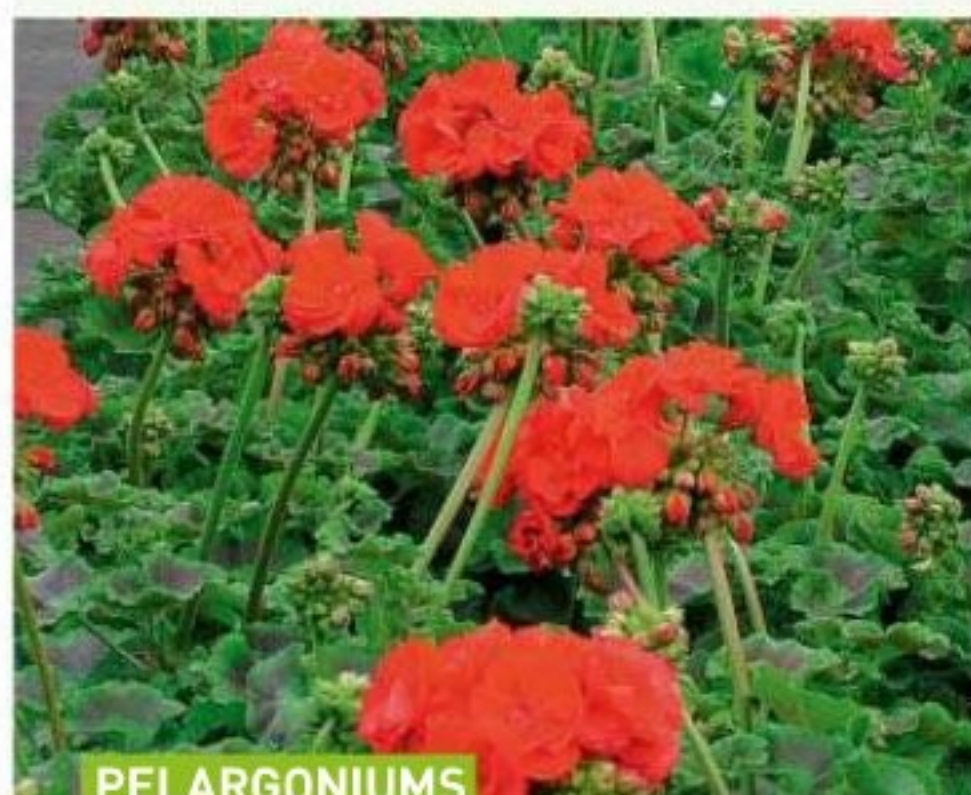
POSITION Part or full shade



PANSIES

Pansies and violas provide colour during late winter and spring. Grow them en masse in flowering balls or mix them with other plants.

POSITION Sun and part shade



PELARGONIUMS

These plants produce colourful blooms for many months. Ivy-leaved pelargoniums are ideal for baskets with their wonderful trailing habit.

POSITION Sun



PETUNIAS

Petunias come in a wide range of flower colours, and look striking with just the one plant in a basket or a mix of different shades.

POSITION Sun



VERBENAS

Masses of perfumed flowers appear on verbenas throughout spring, summer and autumn. Choose trailing cultivars for single plantings.

POSITION Sun



Pinch off finished flowers to encourage more to grow.

Caring for a hanging basket

Give hanging baskets a monthly dose of a complete soluble plant food throughout the growing season and water frequently, especially during summer when they heat up and dry out quickly.

Continual air movement around hanging baskets speeds up water evaporation from the sides of the pots, so soak the top until water begins to drip out of the base.

Water the top and the sides of sphagnum moss and coco-fibre baskets, and mulch with sphagnum moss to help retain water.

TIP A long-handled watering wand will make the job much easier.



POTTED PETUNIAS

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Leafy greens pack a flavour punch and are also nutritional powerhouses.

PICTURE THINKSTOCK

Eat your greens

Add lettuces and leafy vegies to the garden to enjoy fresh salads all summer long

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Growing greens in the backyard means you'll always have the ingredients for a fresh salad to hand and you only need to pick enough for that day.

Salad ingredients include all the types of lettuce, leafy greens and the young leaves of vegies such as beetroot.

Packed with chlorophyll, folate, fibre, calcium and vitamin C, salad greens are good for your health. And if they're grown organically, you won't be adding any chemicals to your diet.

You can make your own mesclun mix if you grow a range of young leaves, choosing varieties to suit your tastes. Popular mixes use lettuces, spinach, rocket and endive.

Salad greens can be grown in containers, and many varieties can be cultivated throughout the year.

They grow well in troughs or large pots. And if you like to recycle and are not fussy about looks, use Styrofoam boxes with drainage holes in the base. Otherwise buy raised vegie beds.

Start with a good-quality potting mix, fertilise fortnightly and water regularly, increasing it to daily on hot days for container-grown greens. ➤



Produce a feast of fresh greens in any outdoor space using troughs.



For most salads, lettuce is the base with other greens added for flavour.

Lettuce types

There are many varieties of lettuce, but here are the four main types.

■ **HEARTING** or crisphead types have a dense or cabbage-like heart.

TRY 'Great Lakes' and 'Iceberg'.

■ **BUTTERHEADS** have a loose centre and can be picked whole or by leaf.

TRY 'Buttercrunch' and 'Mignonette'.

■ **COS** or Romaine lettuces have leaves that grow from a central stem.

TRY 'Red Cos' or 'Cos'.

■ **LOOSE LEAF** or cut-and-come-again types can be constantly picked.

TRY 'Red Oakleaf' or 'Green Oakleaf'.

Salad rocket

Rocket is a leafy green, also known as arugula, that has been grown as an edible herb for centuries.

It's commonly used in place of or in combination with lettuce in salads.

It grows well in spring and won't bolt to seed. During summer, shade rocket from hot afternoon sun to stop it bolting. The leaves are at their best when picked young and eaten fresh.

For the look of a wild variety with deeply serrated and dark-green leaves, try Yates Wild Rocket Seeds, about \$4 a packet (yates.co.nz).

Raising flavour

To get a real flavour burst from your herb garden, grow some Italian parsley



(*Petroselinum hortense*).

The celery-like leaves are full of flavour and very easy to dry.

For a continuous supply, grow it twice a year in a sunny and well-drained spot.



McGregor's Italian Parsley Seeds, \$3. mcgregors.co.nz

Leafy greens ▼



MIZUNA

This has deeply serrated leaves and looks good in pots or garden beds. Position the seedlings about 250mm apart and harvest the young leaves as required. Green salads with mustard-tasting mizuna go well with Asian foods and fish.



WATERCRESS

It may be an aquatic plant, but watercress can easily be grown without a pond. Sow seeds in damp soil in the garden or a self-watering pot, keeping the mix or soil moist. Pick the leaves when needed and use in salads to add a peppery taste.



CRESS

Sow the seeds of easy-to-grow cress on moist cotton wool or a thin layer of seed-raising mix in a tray, then position on a sunny windowsill. Or sprinkle the seeds onto the soil in a bed or pot, harvesting the leaves as required to add tang to salads.

Leafy vegies ▼



BEETROOT

Young beetroot leaves are delicious in salads. If growing for leaves and not vegies, sow the seeds 25mm apart and pick when 50mm long. Two or three seedlings appear from one beetroot cluster seed, so keep one for the leaves and transplant the others to grow for the root vegetable.



ENDIVE

Deeply serrated and decorative, the leaves of endive give a tangy flavour to salads. Thin the seedlings to 250mm apart because they form a large head of leaves, then pick the leaves as required. The young leaves are the best and are ready to pick about eight weeks after sowing.



RADISH

The peppery-tasting leaves of radish are becoming just as popular as the roots. To grow radish just for harvesting the young leaves, sow the seeds close together directly into garden beds or containers. The leaves are ready to be picked when they are 40mm high.

Eating flowers

Add a special touch to green salads with edible blooms.

You can use English daisy (*Bellis perennis*), nasturtium, pansies, violas, pot marigolds (*Calendula officinalis*), roses, borage, violets, and orange and lemon blossoms.

And while dandelions are weeds, the young fresh leaves are tangy and very nutritious.

Flowers for eating or garnish should be blemish-free and not sprayed with chemicals.

Pick the flowers early in the morning or at dusk when they're at their best. Wash them quickly in cool water, then cut off the green stems to the base of the blooms.



Create a salad garden

Individual plants may have different spacing requirements, but here are the basic guidelines for planting greens.

If soil temperatures are too high, lettuces may not germinate. Moisten the seeds and position between damp paper towel, then refrigerate for a day.

■ **SOW** seeds or plant seedlings in pots or directly into garden beds. To avoid producing excessive amounts, sow or plant successively.

■ **POSITION** in full sun with protection from the hot afternoon sunlight, especially during the summer months.

■ **SOIL** should be free-draining and enriched before planting with organic matter like compost or cow manure, or by adding Dynamic Lifter.

■ **FEED** fortnightly with a complete soluble plant food such as Powerfeed, watering the soil before and after.

■ **WATER** regularly for steady growth and succulent leaves, keeping the soil damp, not wet. Water in the morning or evening every day or two, working out a routine based on the weather.

■ **MULCH** with lucerne hay, pea straw or sugar cane to help retain moisture.

TIP Set out baits for slugs and snails.



Greens like lots of sun and regular watering to grow well and taste good.

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fun facts about
sunflowers**Sow and grow**

Sunflowers are easy plants to grow. Just pop a seed in the ground, water it, then a green sprout will appear in about 14 days. To boost their height, give them a liquid feed every 2-3 weeks.

Tasty leaves

Each sunflower leaf grows up the stem at about a 90° angle from the one below it. The leaves are actually edible and work well in salads and stir-fries or steamed with the tough centre vein cut out and removed.

High and mighty

According to the Guinness World Records, the tallest sunflower in the world was grown in Germany in 2012 and reached more than 8m high. The grower broke his own record for the tallest sunflower set in 2009.

Bonus blooms

One sunflower head consists of more than 1000 individual blooms called disc flowers, and what we think of as petals are called ray flowers. Wild plants have multiple heads while cultivated sunflowers have one.

Seed and feed

There are two types of commercial sunflower seeds. The small black seed used in bird feed is also processed into oil, while the second type is a larger non-oil seed with black and white stripes that is used in food.



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