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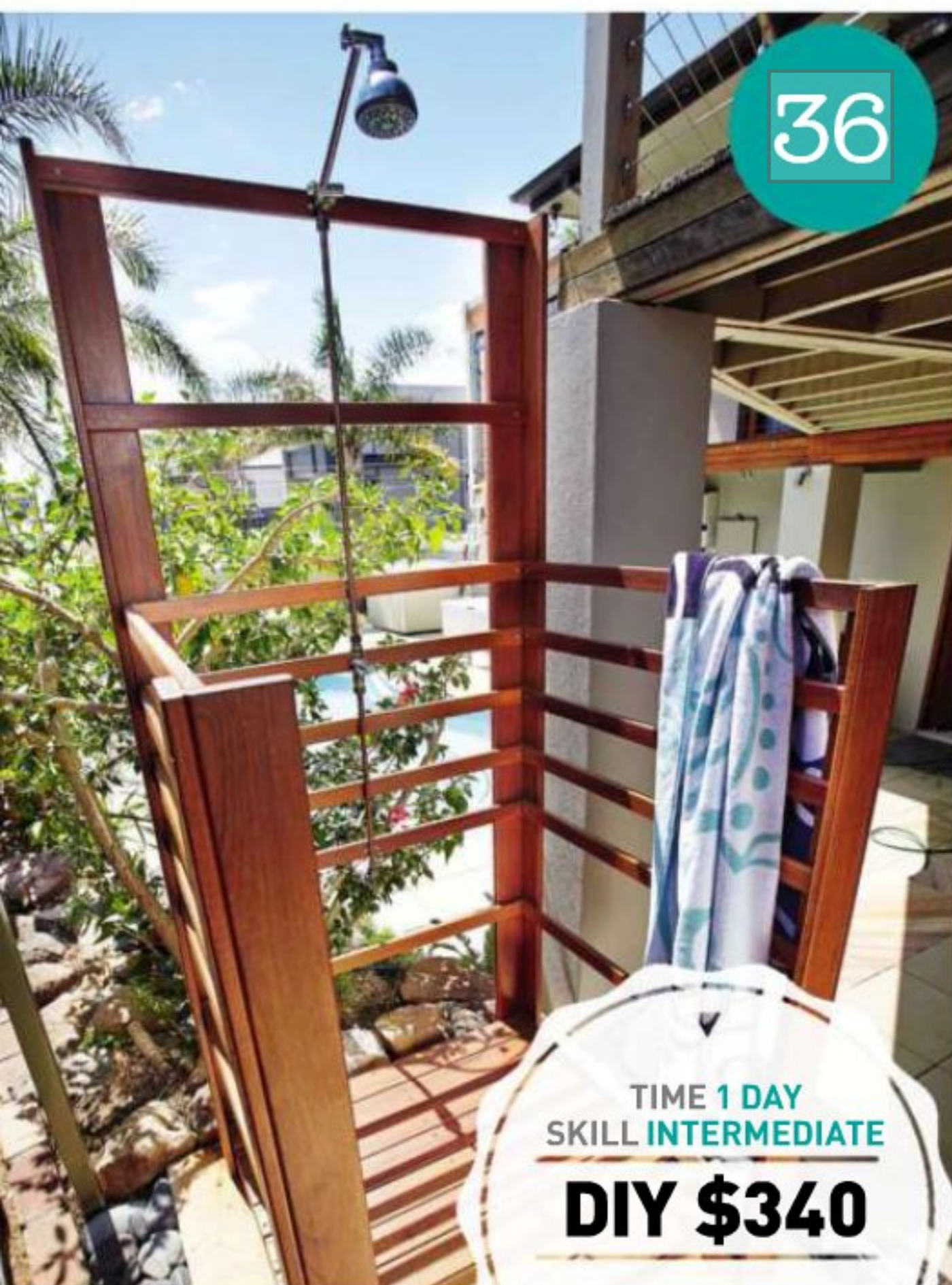
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**wake up to
the whole kit and...**



March*issue*



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Having a pool in the backyard is a wonderful luxury, especially during warmer weather. However, owning one brings a whole host of extra responsibilities.

Not only is the upkeep of the water time consuming, there are also many safety regulations to comply with regarding the fencing and gate locks.

On [page 28](#), we show you how to install a sleek glass fence that will actually enhance the look of your pool, rather than being a necessary eyesore.

We also have projects to build, including a neat little pump house to protect the mechanisms, plus a timber shower to add style to your pool area.

New and old bathrooms

When designing a new bathroom, it's important to get the lighting

right, whether installing task lighting for the mirror or ambient lights for relaxation.

This should be well thought out so the wiring can be done before any tiles are laid. We have put together a checklist of ideas to consider before you take the plunge, from [page 46](#).

But if your bathroom is not new, you may want to consider some of our easy makeover ideas, fixes and repairs to keep it looking good.

Little monsters

Do you struggle to prise the kids away from the computer and into the garden? You're not alone, so in this issue of *Handyman* we've got some simple ideas to tempt them outdoors.

On [page 84](#), we've turned a basic masonry wall into an arena for ball games, art projects and even climbing adventures.

We also show kids how to make a scarecrow, monitor rainfall, and craft weird and wonderful puppets from found items in the garden.

Enjoy the issue.

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL



Transform your bathroom into a tranquil, relaxing space.

More inspiration

Is your bathroom in need of an update? 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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Handyman Reader Glenn Castle wins \$100 for sending in this simple woodworking tip.

'A wooden golf tee makes a great hole filler in any type of timber. Simply drill the hole out to clean it up, then dip the tee into wood glue and place it in the hole.

'Once the glue is dry, trim and sand it flush,' says Glenn.

The same technique can also be used in a stripped screw hole to allow the screw to take hold again.

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HONDA

HANDY STUFF

It's no use getting grumpy about household chores when so many great products are available to make life easier

Helpful handle

Manhandling the catcher on and off the lawnmower is a regular source of weekend aggravation.
FIX Choose a Masport mower that's fitted with the Masport Handle Lift System. It comes as a built-in option on 10 Masport models, from \$749.

This nifty Kiwi invention uses a foot pedal to elevate the handle.

Just tap the pedal and it pops up vertically, giving easy access to the catcher and ending all that tiresome crouching and ducking.

masport.co.nz



The end of summer can signal dry, brown grass, spiky Onehunga weed and a bad mood.

FIX Maintain a soft, green carpet of grass minus the foot hazards with Watkins Onehunga Weed Lawn Spray, \$18 for 180ml.

yates.co.nz



Unhappy feet

Having a tiny backyard with limited room to move can quickly get tempers fraying.

FIX Install a Sun King 4 Line Retracting Clothesline, \$99.

Made of steel, it's wall-mounted and saves yard space without losing line space, so you won't have to use the chairs as hangers on laundry day.

bunnings.co.nz



No more hang-ups

THIS ISSUE

Keep on cooking



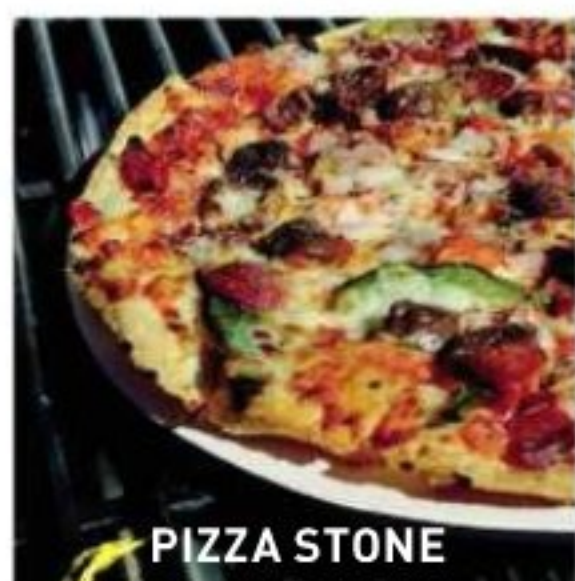
Nothing ruins a barbecue chef's mood more than not having enough room to cook on the barbie.

FIX Avoid annoying delays by using a Masport Interchangeable Cooking System, \$99.

It's based on a unique grill into which can fit a pizza stone, reversible flat plate, ribbed hot plate or grill insert. Kebab racks and skewers are included.

It comes standard with selected Masport barbecue models.

masport.co.nz



PIZZA STONE



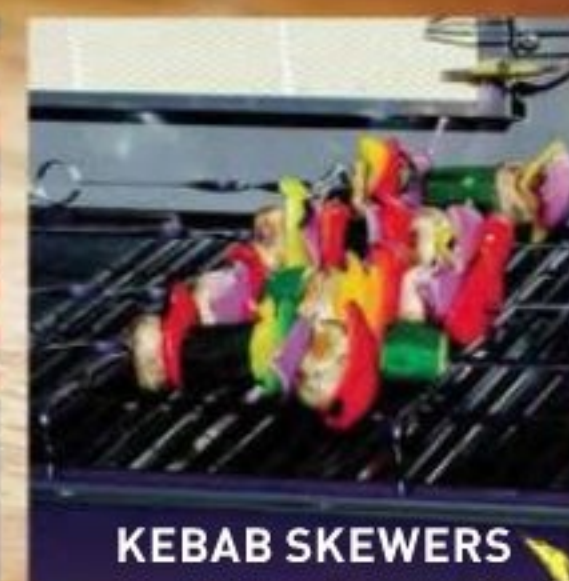
FLAT PLATE



GRILL INSERT



RIBBED PLATE



KEBAB SKEWERS



Plagued by mozzies

Don't let your guests get itchy and twitchy when eating alfresco.

FIX Keep mosquitoes away from the table without disturbing the elegant setting by adding a Waxworks Ceramic Pillar Candle Holder, \$13.

Available in several colours, it burns candles spiked with citronella.

mayohardware.co.nz



Losing an eyebrow or scorching a finger can certainly take the shine off a backyard barbecue.

FIX Get your cranky cook back in the entertaining spirit by giving them a Bernzomatic Premium Flexible Utility Lighter, \$13.

The added reach and flexible stem makes lighting up the barbie risk-free.

bernzomatic.com

Playing with fire

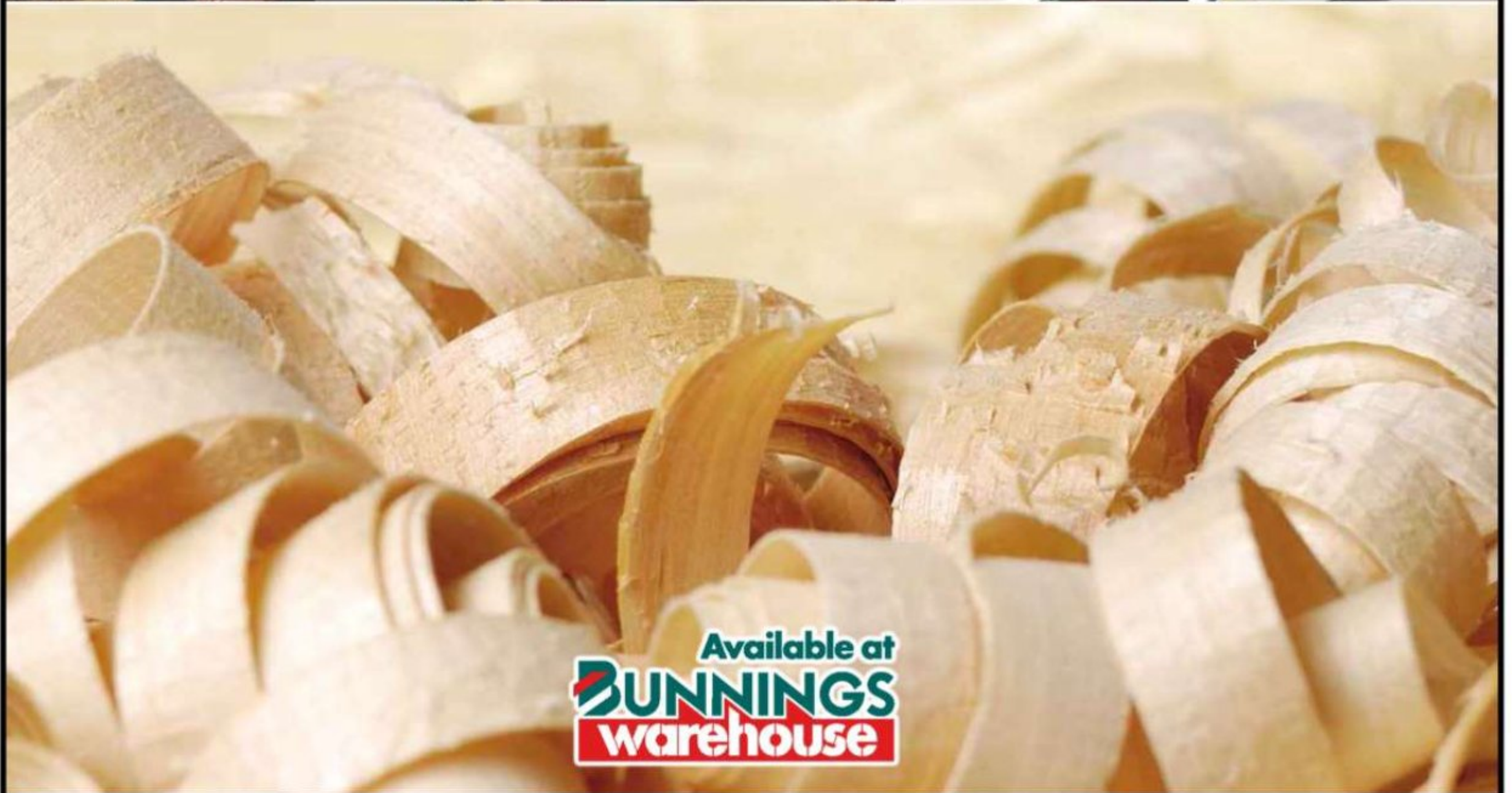




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A flyscreen helps banish bugs while keeping cool air flowing in.

Stretching the point

Hot or bothered



A common source of annoyance for the vertically challenged is being unable to reach something on a shelf.

FIX Get a Polytuf Step Stool, \$9, for the little person in your life.

With 220mm added height and capable of holding 100kg, it will help them out when you're not around. It folds flat for convenient storage.

mayohardware.co.nz

On a hot, stuffy night you shouldn't have to put up with moths and buzzing pests just to get a little fresh air in the room.

FIX Throw the windows wide open and invest in a Smart Flyscreen Kit, \$70. It's lightweight, has plastic frames and aluminium corners, and measures 960 x 1200mm.

foxgunn.co.nz

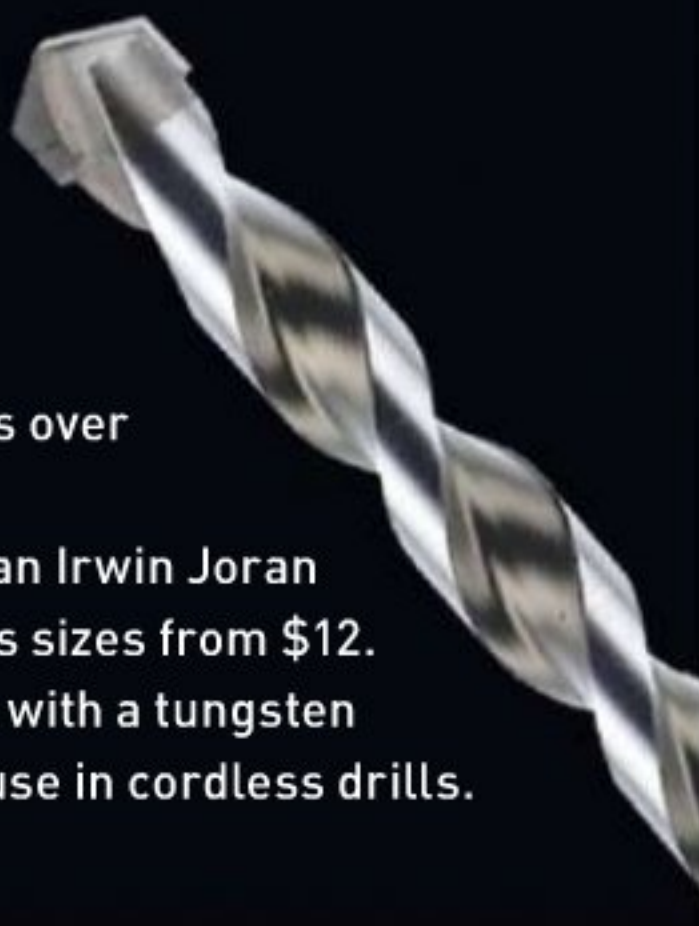
Know the drill

Seen a few too many tantrums over one missing drill bit?

FIX Simplify the system with an Irwin Joran Multipurpose Drill Bit, various sizes from \$12.

Made of high-quality steel with a tungsten carbide tip, it's designed for use in cordless drills.

irwintools.co.nz



No messing around

When a neat freak lives with a slouch, it can often be a recipe for disaster.

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Kitchen confidential

Four architect-designed spaces open up the hub of the home

WORDS STEPHEN CRAFT

The cooking area in Victorian era homes was often detached from the main house but the post-war period saw the kitchen move closer to the living area.

In the modern age, the kitchen has been redesigned to be open plan as busy people make the most of their time at home, combining cooking and eating with other family activities.

The open-plan kitchen is often divided, with a smaller preparation area on one side and seating for dining and entertaining on the other.

Creating a central area

Architect Fiona Winzar's inner-city apartment was previously used as a business premises. When she bought it there was little more than a grimy old sink standing in one corner.

'The space was derelict. We even had to shoo out the pigeons,' she says.

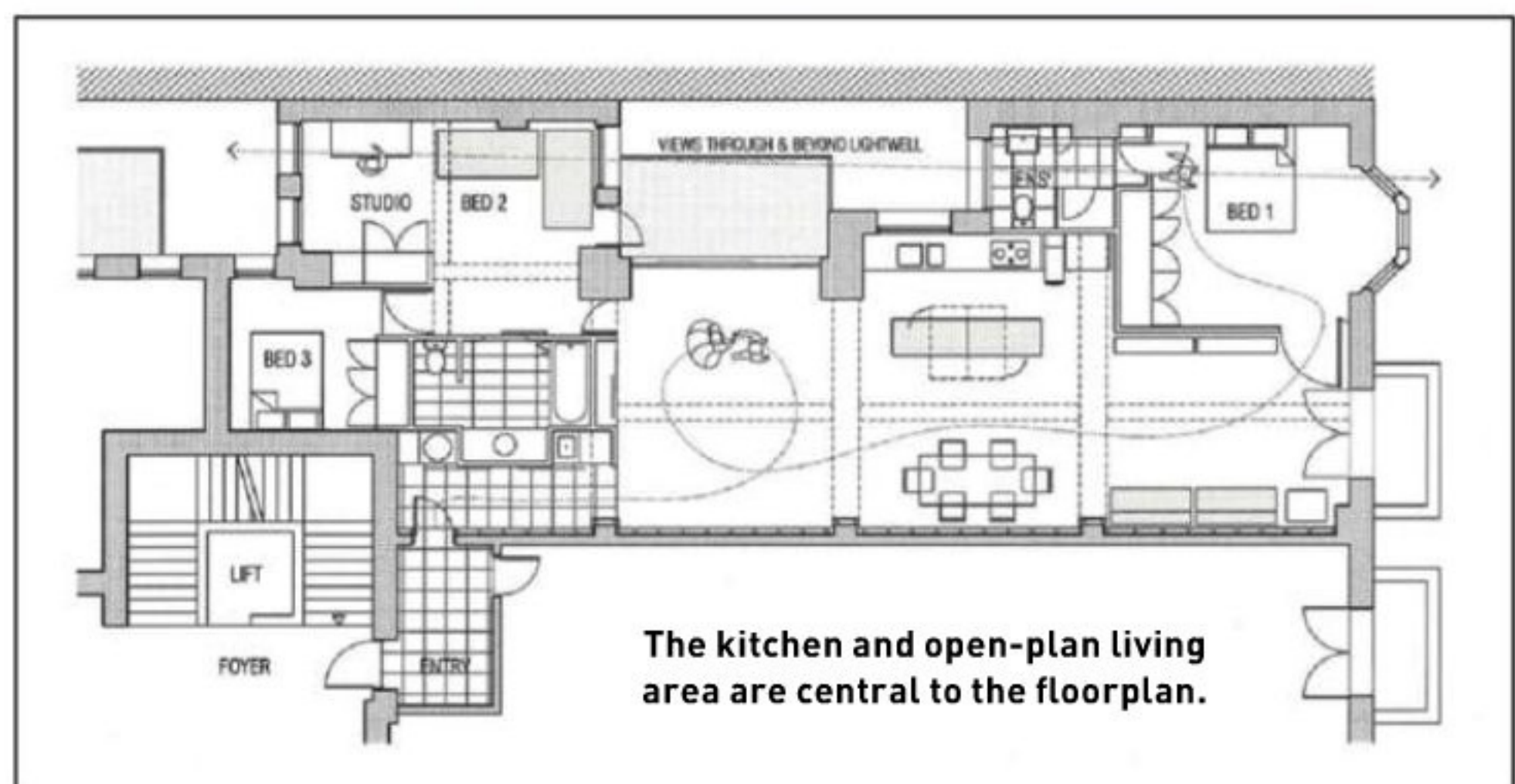
Since the interior was already a shell, Fiona saved on the cost of demolishing an old kitchen and was free to locate the open-plan living area in the centre of the apartment, flanked by the bedroom wings.

The design is a contemporary take on French country style, with utensils and crockery arranged on open stainless steel racks set in two steel-framed benches on castors.

'The benches also double as a bar so it can be an eat-in area,' explains Fiona.

The other side of the benches is referred to as the working side, where everything is visible and within reach.

It features easy-to-access appliances and a double sink under the window, with the pantry door as a blackboard feature. ➤



The kitchen and open-plan living area are central to the floorplan.



Two steel-framed island benches serve a triple function of worktops, breakfast bar and storage.

Expert advice

'A kitchen should be extremely easy to use and things should be accessible,' says Fiona.

Her open, moveable benches and lightweight stools keep the working space adaptable.

The flexible light fixture and window above the sink allow for plenty of light.



Before



Before



This kitchen overlooks the swimming pool to keep the area family focused.

Designed for the family

'The kitchen is the most renovated part of the house and takes up significant cost and time,' says architect Ian Perkins, who extensively remodelled this large home.

New rooms were added to the rear of the home, including dining and living areas, and a kitchen with streamlined cooking and preparation areas and a pantry tucked out of view.

The grain of the timber veneer cupboards creates a checkerboard feature, with the joinery lit from below by fluorescent lights to contrast with the pale stone benchtops.

Ian sees a gradual move away from stainless steel to more natural finishes such as timber and stone benchtops and cabinets.

'Stainless steel scratches, so it's best not used for high-traffic kitchens,' he says.



A central island doubles as an informal eating and preparation area.

Expert advice

When it comes to cabinets and cupboards, Ian says, 'Sufficient storage is crucial in kitchens. It's not often that you hear there are too many cupboards.'

In planning a renovation, keep in mind that the kitchen should be designed to be a communal space.

'Preparing for a dinner party shouldn't mean you're excluded from being social, and kids bring their friends over, so spaces should remain fluid.'



Stone benchtops create a streamlined cooking area.

Planning a smart layout

'In this kitchen, the floor was creaky and the laminate cupboards chipped, but the main problem was the layout.'

'Things were simply in the wrong spot,' says architect Nicholas Gioia about renovating this compact inner-city apartment.

The new kitchen features timber veneer on some cupboard fronts, with white laminate on others and both are easy to keep clean. ➤



Expert advice

Nicholas says, 'It's important to get the ergonomics right.'

'Hotplates are best positioned on the back wall of the kitchen, which also leaves serving space closer to the dining area.'

Timber veneer and laminate have brought tired surfaces bang up to date.



Before

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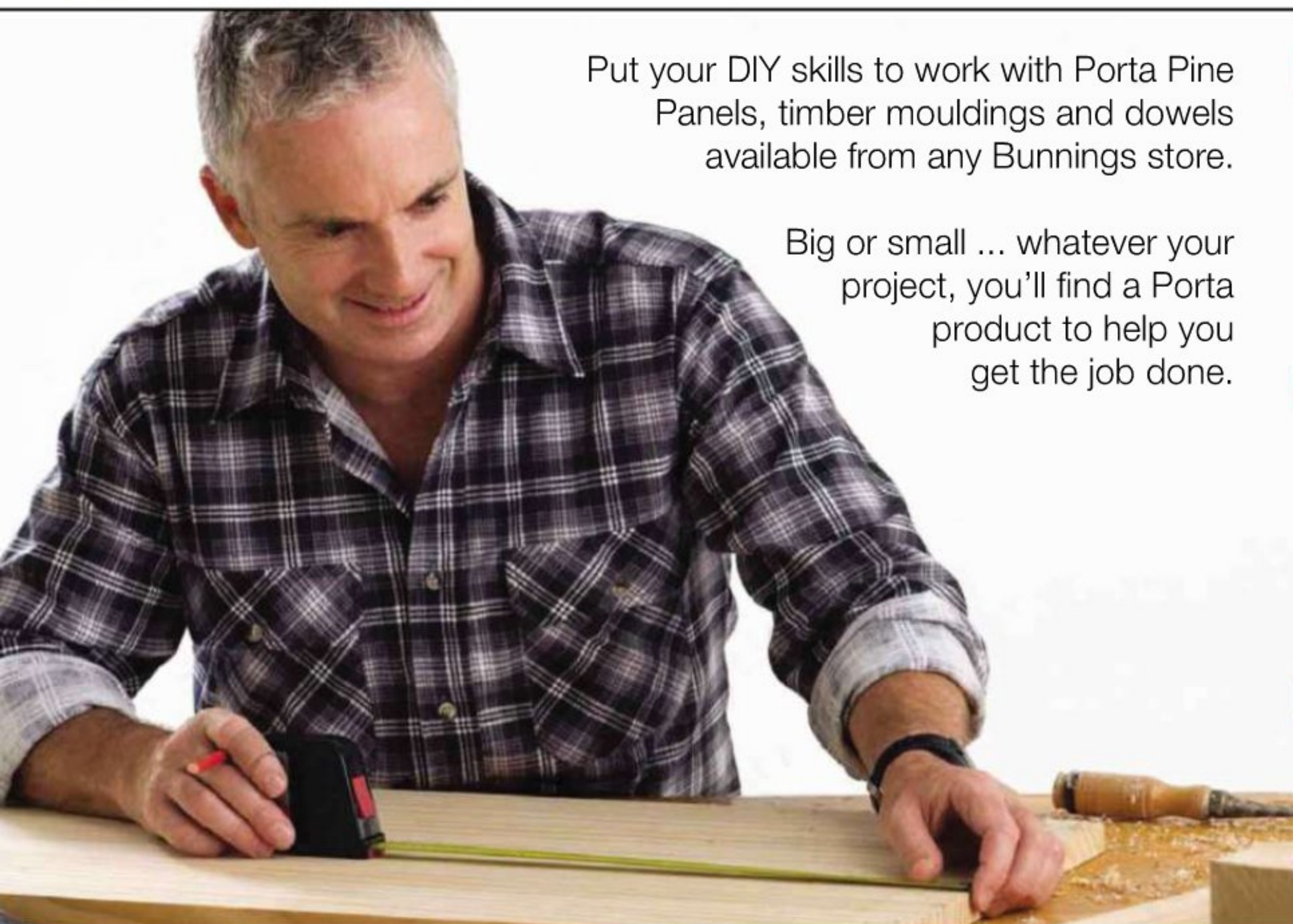
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Pale hoop pine cabinets contrast with textured floor tiles and black ceiling.

Flooring solutions

'There were timber arches and brass handles on the cupboards. But the worst was the tiles in blues and browns that looked like they came from different jobs,' says architect Tim O'Sullivan, who renovated this house.

The old timber home had been previously done up in the 1970s with all the trappings of the era, including a peach laminate benchtop.

One of the big challenges with the new kitchen was levelling the floor, which was covered with broken tiles that had to be removed. It was difficult separating the tiles from the concrete slab and resulted in an uneven floor.

Slate tile produced in varying thicknesses was sourced and laid to resemble the crazy-paving style popular in the 1950s, creating a quirky design feature.

Expert advice

Tim says, 'Provide as much bench space as possible, and follow the golden rule of the triangle from fridge to sink to oven or hotplates.'

'You can't always achieve this arrangement, but it's a clever design principle to keep in mind when renovating.'

To open up the area, the kitchen was relocated into the space once used for dining, and new openings for windows and doors were created for a connection to the back garden.

The new area now includes hoop pine cupboards and a 4.5m long benchtop made from reconstituted stone with a natural weathered finish.

According to Tim, the layout of a kitchen should accommodate different styles of cooking.

'Someone who barbecues their food won't require the same layout or features as someone who cooks a lot of Asian food or who is a vegetarian, so the design has to be customised according to different needs.'



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KITCHEN ISLAND

Build a rustic portable bench and serving trolley using reclaimed timber

PROJECT DARRYL CHAPMAN MAIN PICTURE SUE FERRIS

For extra storage and workspace, this mobile kitchen island is compact enough to double as a stylish serving trolley.

Made with reclaimed timber, it stands 900mm high, the same as a standard benchtop, with two 800 x 400mm shelves.

The middle and base shelves are topped with mixed softwood flooring and the top shelf is made from three offcuts of dressed all round (DAR)

hardwood boards. It's mounted on rubber castors with brakes.

A black rubbery sealant called Sikaflex 11FC bonds the joints as a rustic design feature.

Zinc chest handles cost about \$14 a pair from hardware stores. Find reclaimed timber at specialists or search secondhand suppliers, building site discard or waste disposal depots.

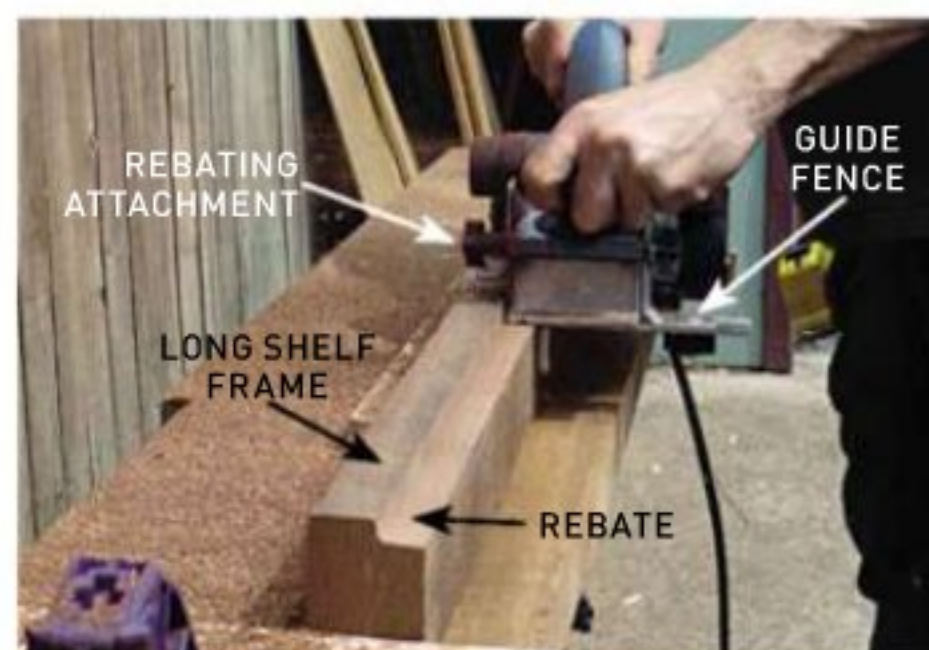
TIP If using recycled materials make sure to de-nail them first.



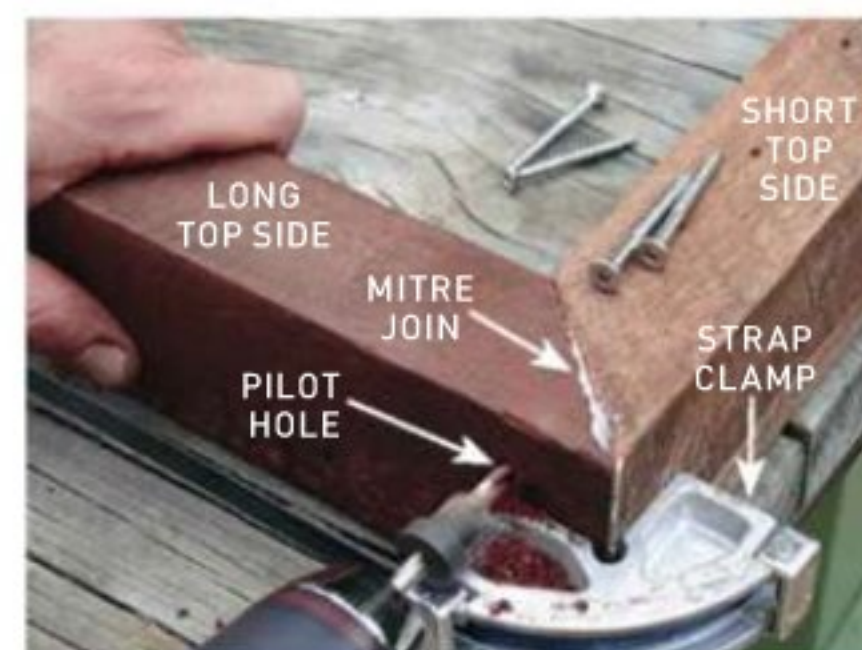
Preparing the timber and frames



1 Smooth the rough timber Prepare the timber by going over it with an angle grinder fitted with a wire cup brush to reveal any embedded metal fixings to be removed. The wire brush treatment smooths and cleans the timber without removing its character.



2 Rebate the shelf sides Use a planer with a guide fence and rebating attachment set to cut a rebate 15mm wide and 22mm deep in four long and short shelf sides for the middle and base shelves.
TIP Cut the rebate using a series of sweeps with the planer.



3 Make the shelf frames Set a saw to mitre the ends of all the shelf sides, including the top, positioning them to secure the faces with PVA adhesive and clamping the frames with a strap clamp. Drill pilot and countersunk holes through the sides for 75mm x 10g screws. ➤

Build the kitchen island



1 Add the shelf boards

For the middle and base shelves, position the shelf boards in the frame rebates, working from the centre and trimming the end boards to fit. Remove to run a bead of construction adhesive along the frame rebates, replace the boards and leave to dry.



2 Make the housings

Mark the 75mm-wide shelf housings on the legs at the top, base and 320mm from the base. Set the mitre saw to cut 25mm deep, positioning an offcut along the fence for a full sweep of the blade to make a series of relief cuts in the housing.



3 Clear the housing waste

Remove the loose timber between the housing cuts with a hammer, using a sharp chisel to clean out the base. Check the housing against the side of the shelf to widen if necessary.

TIP For a how-to video on sharpening chisels, visit bunnings.co.nz



4 Apply a satin finish

Before assembling the kitchen island apply a satin polyurethane finish to the base and middle shelves.

TIP Dilute the first coat with 10% turpentine then apply an undiluted coat to all pieces.



5 Assemble the island

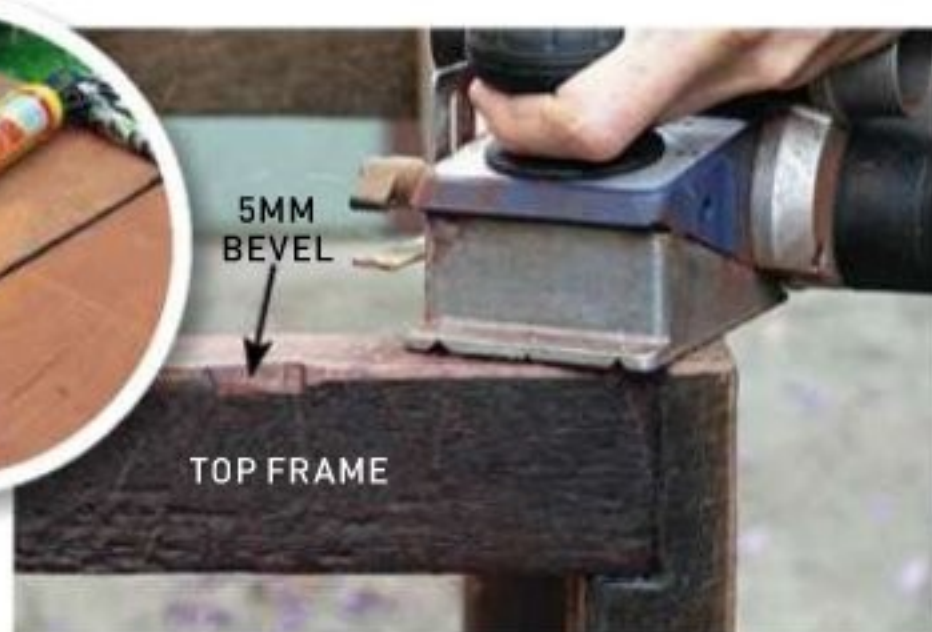
Apply black polyurethane sealant to the housings in the legs, positioning two legs under the top frame, middle and base shelf, one leg flush to the front, the other flush to the rear, repeating for the other legs.



6 Reinforce the housings

Clamp the legs, reinforcing the housing of the top frame with 75mm x 10g screws at an angle from the inside.

TIP Wipe away any excess sealant using a rag soaked in turps.



7 Assemble the top shelf

Use a planer to make a 5mm bevel around the edge of the frame and legs. Position the top shelf boards on the frame, joining edges with a thick bead of black polyurethane adhesive sealant. Clamp the boards to the top frame and leave to dry.



8 Attach the top shelf

Under the top frame, drill 10mm-wide x 20mm-deep clearance holes along the edges and sides of the top shelf boards. Drill 5mm pilot holes through the clearance holes and into the top, securing with 75mm x 10g screws.

Finishing the island

Let the sealant dry for 24 hours before sanding the joints, leaving a thin black line between boards.

Plane a bevel around the top shelf edges and finish sanding with 180-grit abrasive paper before applying two coats of satin polyurethane to the top.

When dry, lightly sand all over with 180-grit abrasive paper and apply a final finishing coat.

Fit 75mm heavy-duty castors on the legs, and attach zinc chest handles to the ends. ➤



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"In our busy home, I need kitchen appliances that won't let me down on long-lasting performance or good looks. The reality is we live on a tight budget, so it was great to find a kitchen solution that catered brilliantly to our bank account too. That's what I call kitchenomics."

Everdure cooktops, ovens and rangehoods are available exclusively at Bunnings.

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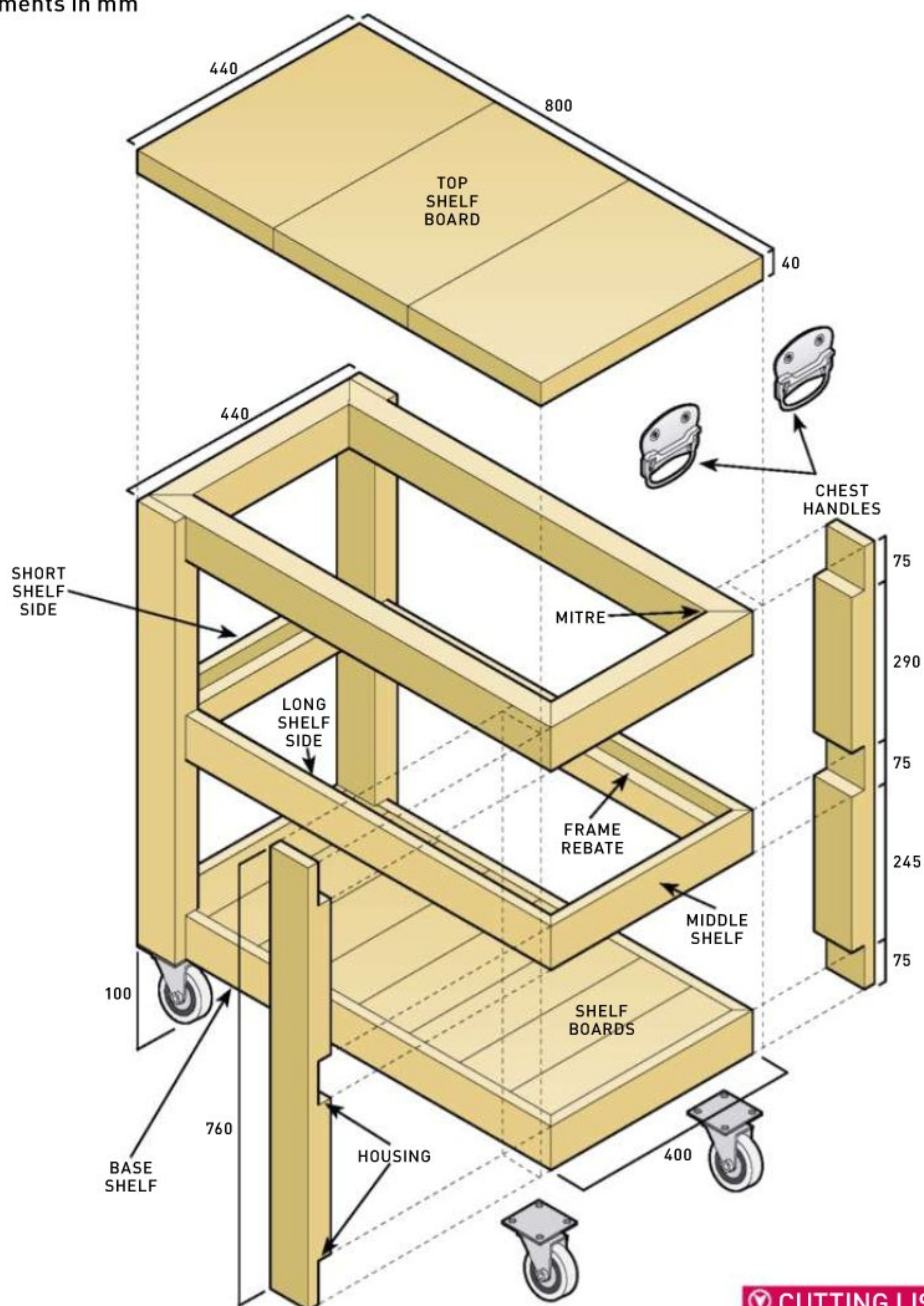
09 415 5755 www.everdure.com

 **everdure**
DESIGNED TO PERFECTION



Kitchen island

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
Rough sawn hardwood		
Legs	760 x 75 x 45	4
Shelf long side	800 x 75 x 45	6
Shelf short side	400 x 75 x 45	6
Flooring		
Shelf boards	366 x 100 x 25	16
DAR Hardwood		
Top shelf boards	440 x 265 x 40	3

Handymanmagazine.co.nz

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

REstored.

Concealed Waste Bins



26L Top Mounted Compartment Bin

Separate recycling while concealing general waste and odours with this soft-closing slide out bin
36.2cm (w) x 51.3cm (d) x 33.3cm (h) to suit 40cm width cabinets.



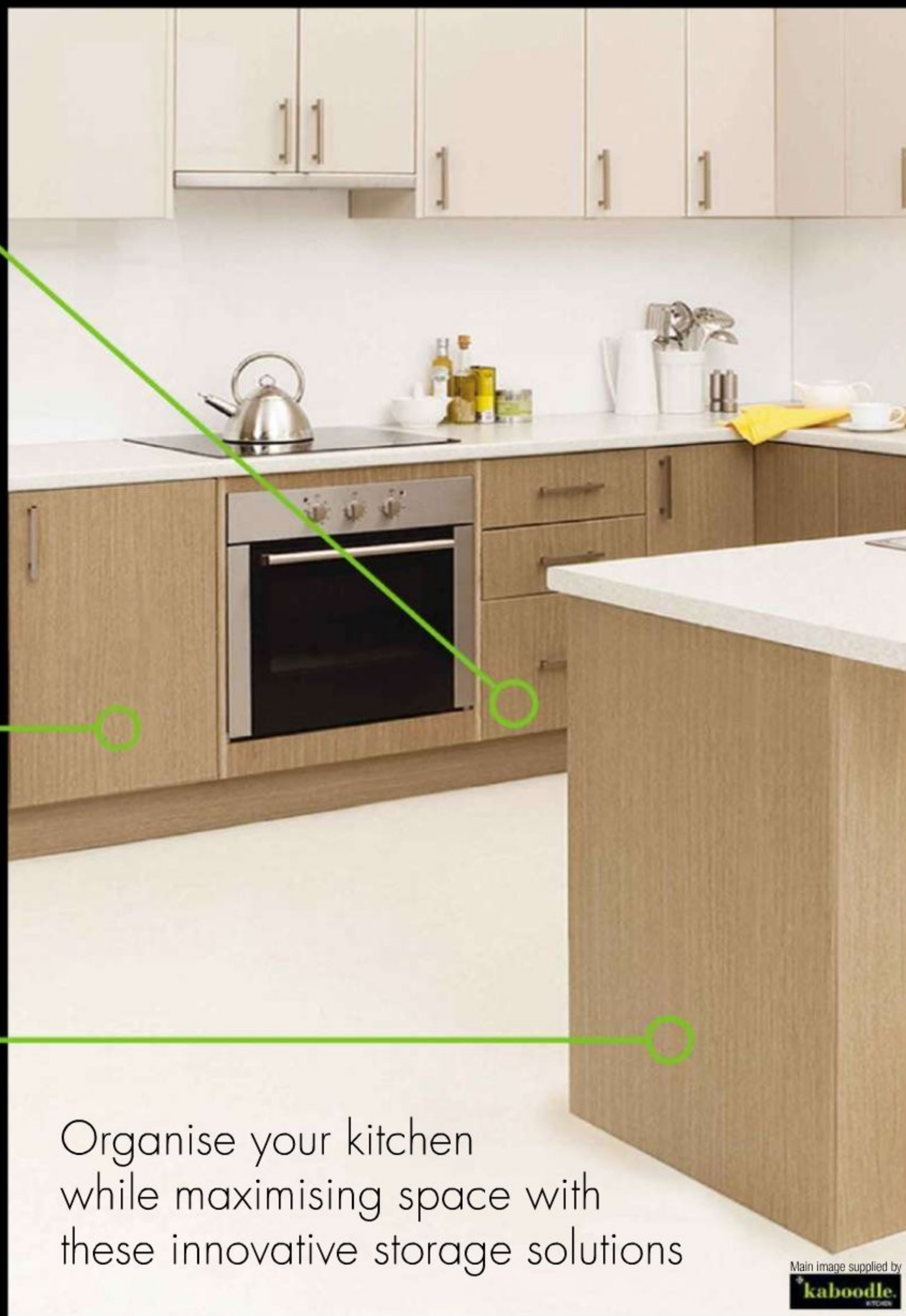
14L Chrome Swing Out Bin

Perfect for general waste in kitchens and bathrooms, this bin is door operated with an automatic opening and closing lid to control odours.
32-36cm (w) x 32-36cm (d) x 32cm (h) to suit 40cm width cabinets.



12L White Swing Out Bin

This bin is door operated with an automatic opening and closing lid to control odours.
30-36cm (w) x 30-36cm (d) to suit 40cm width cabinets.



Organise your kitchen
while maximising space with
these innovative storage solutions

Main image supplied by
kaboodle.
KITCHEN

Gale Pacific Ltd
9/39 Apollo Drive, Rosedale, Auckland 0632
www.zonehardware.co.nz

Available at
BUNNINGS
warehouse

HOW TO

PLANNING A KITCHEN RENO

Design the most efficient layout for the space available, choosing fittings and fixtures to suit your budget

The kitchen is probably the most commonly renovated room in a home with the average reno costing about \$10,000, although prices vary widely depending on the quality of materials, appliances, fixtures and fittings, and labour costs.

Expenses can be kept in check by doing a lot of the job DIY and choosing a modular kitchen, but a full-scale renovation will call for the skills of a builder, plumber and electrician, and perhaps a gasfitter.

The key is to create a practical, well-designed room that remains functional and attractive for years.

Estimating the costs

Most kitchen contractors agree that homeowners should be prepared to spend about 15% more than their original estimated budget to get the kitchen they want.

Make sure to cost in every detail of the reno and be clever about what to ditch if the cash starts running out.

A good way to save money on materials is to mix and match the surface treatments.

The cost of topping a highly visible kitchen island in expensive granite can be offset by using quality laminate on the other benchtops.

Another design trick is to spend on big ticket items like appliances and things you touch frequently, like handles, tapware and light fittings, saving cash on cabinet carcasses and doors that can be installed DIY.

Design essentials

It's been the gold standard of kitchen design but modern demands mean the three-sided relationship between cooktop, sink and fridge, called the working triangle, is changing.

Kitchens are taking up more floorspace than ever before and this can negate the effectiveness of the triangle by leaving too much room between elements.

A kitchen island is often used to solve this problem and the process of zoning is another approach that brings a family kitchen into balance.

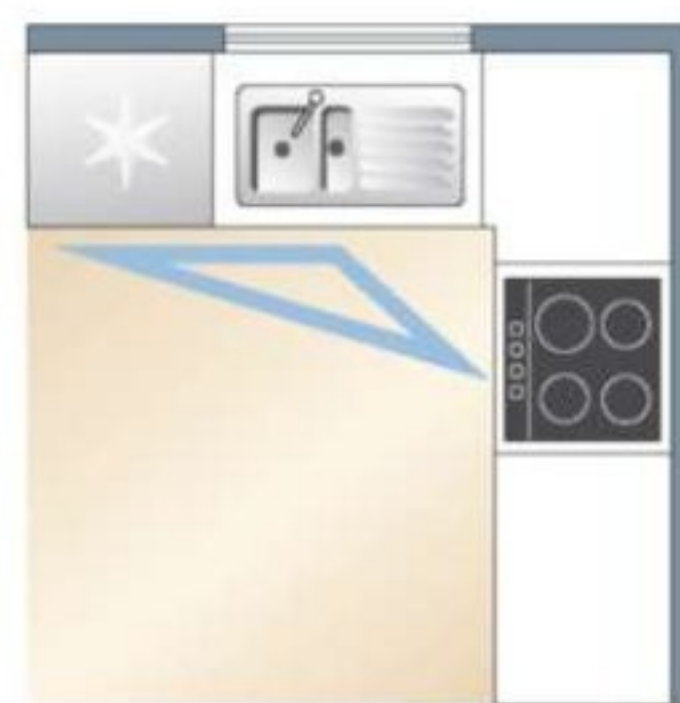
Map out the high-traffic areas such as from the fridge to the homework station to the back door, and create a triangle between them.

Floorplan basics

These are the layouts most commonly used in kitchen installations and renos.



1 GALLEY KITCHEN uses a narrow space efficiently and the parallel benches make all points of the working triangle accessible.



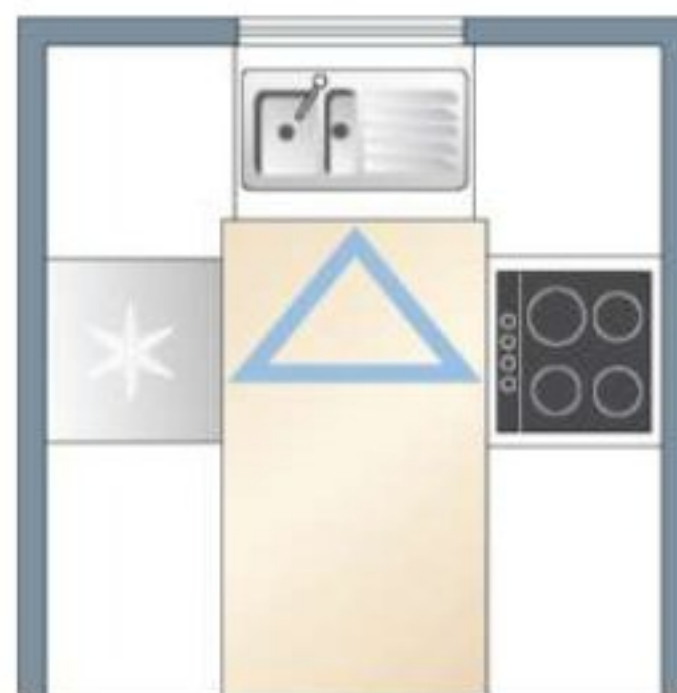
2 L-SHAPED KITCHEN is best suited to long or narrow rooms and open-plan spaces. There is a tight working triangle but storage is limited.



Modern high gloss surfaces are very popular and easy to keep clean.



3 STRAIGHT-LINE KITCHEN lacks enough bench and storage space for the modern home but works well in small or studio apartments.



4 U-SHAPED KITCHEN suits small or large areas, has an excellent working triangle and provides maximum bench and storage space.

Get online info

Go to bunnings.co.nz to access the free 3D interactive DIY kitchen planner. Use the drag and drop pieces to design your dream kitchen and be inspired.



Pool fencing

Install glass panels and mini posts to stay safe without blocking the view

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER MAIN PICTURE STUART SCOTT

Gone are the days of the pool fence that fulfilled the safety regulations but did nothing to enhance the appearance of the yard.

Today's pool owners want a safe outdoor area that doesn't have to compromise on looks, so modern pool fencing comes in a range of materials with slimline rails, posts and gate hardware.

Handyman Technical editor Frank Gardner needed a pool fence that he could install between plastered brick columns. He chose glass panels, as they are tough and look unobtrusive.

Plan the layout

Find out what components you will need to construct a pool fence that meets council requirements.

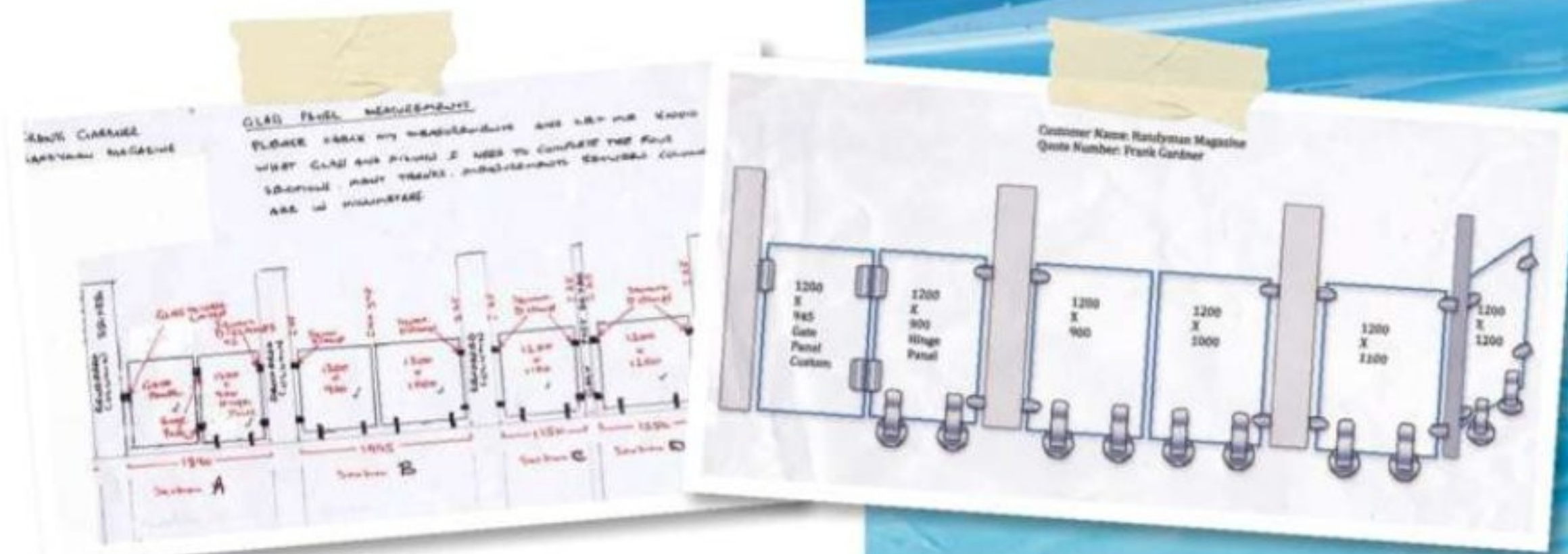
Frank chose a fully frameless mini post system. He installed six glass panels, including one custom gate panel, with concrete footings. The fence measured 6.3 metres.

To help work out what you will need, send the supplier the dimensions and the type of system required.

They will respond with a diagram of the recommended configuration, plus a parts list and cost estimate. ➤



Guardian Stainless Steel Mini Post, \$122. harco.co.nz



After Frank sent a sketch to the supplier, they presented a customised diagram.



TIME 3 DAYS
SKILL ADVANCED

DIY \$3325

TOOLS HAMMER DRILL,
CORDLESS DRILL

This modern, streamlined glass fence gives the pool area an instant upgrade.

Installation checklist ▼

Before you start the project, make sure you're fully prepared.

■ **CONTACT THE COUNCIL** to check what building regulations you will need to comply with.

■ **CHECK THE SITE** for available attachment points such as a concrete slab or footing.

■ **CHOOSE THE FENCING** suitable for your site, then work out what components you will need.

■ **ORDER THE COMPONENTS** then prepare the site as required.

Prepare the site

This fence system requires the posts to be secured to either a 100mm thick slab or 400 x 400 x 400mm footings.

As the existing pavers had been originally laid on sand over aggregate, concrete footings had to be poured to support the new mini posts.

Frank lifted the pavers and then dug 400 x 400mm trenches through the aggregate between the columns before pouring the concrete.

'Once the footings had been poured, I screeded a 10mm thick wet mortar bed over the concrete and then replaced the pavers,' says Frank.

The mini posts were attached to the new footings using 8mm galvanised threaded rod, secured into the concrete with a chemical anchor.



Ramset UltraFix Plus Chemical Anchor,
\$45 for 300ml. ramset.co.nz



Frameless glass pool fencing provides safety while being almost invisible.



1 Lift the pavers

Work two flat drive screwdrivers into the paving joints and apply pressure to the handles to lift a paver from its location. After removing the first paver to create an opening, lift out as many pavers as required to expose the footing site.



2 Excavate the trenches

Dig 400 x 400mm trenches with centrelines corresponding to the marked fence centrelines. Use a mattock or spud bar to break up the old compacted base aggregate then shovel it into a wheelbarrow for removal from the site.



3 Pour the concrete footing

To make the concrete, combine 10 parts aggregate, five parts sand and two parts cement with water. Fill the trenches to the top of the old aggregate level, then use a spirit level to screed the concrete. Leave to dry then replace all the pavers on a wet mortar mix. ➤

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Install the fencing



1 Set out the hole positions
Screw base plates to the mini posts. Remove the cover plates and use the individual mini posts to mark their hole positions. Position posts 200mm from the edges of the glass, lining up the posts accurately before drilling.



2 Drill the anchor holes
Use a hammer drill with a 5mm then 10mm masonry bit to drill the anchor holes through the paving and into the concrete footing to a minimum depth of 80mm at each marked position.



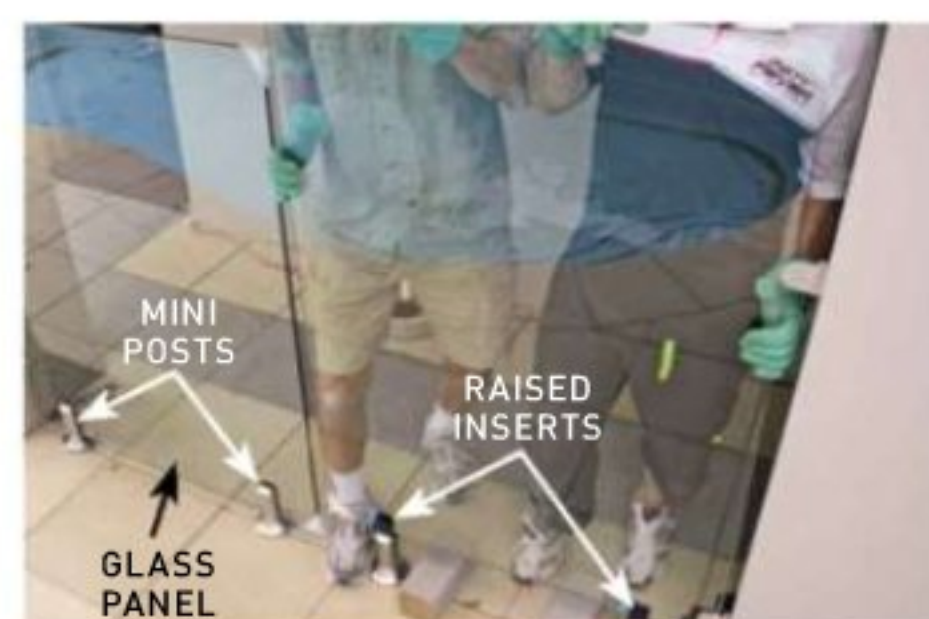
3 Anchor the posts
Position the mini posts and check the hole alignment. Use a caulking gun to apply chemical anchor into the holes then wind in M8 ChemSet anchor studs, leaving 10mm protruding above the base plate.



4 Bolt the posts
Leave the chemical anchor for about an hour to cure. Tighten the anchor studs with a socket wrench or shifter and ensure that the base of the mini post is secure. Slip a base cap over each mini post.



5 Secure the end brackets
Mark the fence centreline and the top and base of the glass panels on the columns. Mark the screw positions 150mm from the top and base of the panels then secure the end brackets with screws.



6 Position the glass panels
Working with a helper and wearing glass-gripping gloves, lift each glass panel carefully into the mini posts, making sure the rubber insert is slightly raised and not folded over. Allow the glass to slide into position.



7 Secure the glass panels
Use a measuring tape to check that the glass panels are positioned correctly with equal spacing at both ends then use an Allen key to tighten the clamp section of each mini post, securing the panels firmly.



8 Level the panels
Use a spirit level to check the glass panels are level and plumb. To make adjustments, loosen the nuts securing the mini post base and insert packers under the baseplate. Tighten the nuts and replace the base caps to finish.



9 Hinge the gate panel
Attach the hinges to the hinge panel then release the tension. Prop the gate in position and secure it, then use the supplied tensioning lever to adjust the hinge tension so the gate closes itself. Attach the latch on the pool side.

MORE THAN A SCREEN A THING OF BEAUTY



Here is a fence and screen solution with class, style and quality.

Protector Easy Screen aluminium screens bring lightweight, low-maintenance beauty to your deck or veranda, or to any outdoor application, such as bin enclosures or air-conditioning units.

They're available off the shelf to 2m x 2m in two styles – slat and louver. Easy Screens are easily assembled, and you minimise wastage by purchasing only what you need.

Easy Screen comes in Satin Black, Palladium Silver and Woodtech (wood grain) to fit in with your colour scheme.

Your **Easy Screen** never rusts and requires very little maintenance. Unlike timber screens it won't split, warp, burn or crack, and the powder coating has a 10-year warranty.

See our full range at your local Bunnings Warehouse.

Since 1995 Protector Aluminium has been a leading manufacturer of aluminium screens and pool fencing.

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ALUMINIUM
FENCING YOU CAN TRUST *for life*

Available at
BUNNINGS
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Metal pool fence

Aluminium fencing is a popular choice for a pool surround, and is both low maintenance and affordable.

This pool previously had an unsightly fence that wasn't up to code and needed replacing. Installing the new fence was an easy weekend job.

To install a fence, set up a stringline to mark the post heights. Dig post holes then position the posts in the holes and fill with concrete.

Allow the concrete to set then secure each corner of the fence panels to the posts using the supplied brackets.

The 2450 x 1200mm Protector Aluminium panels used for this project are powdercoated, come in a range of colours and cost from \$123.

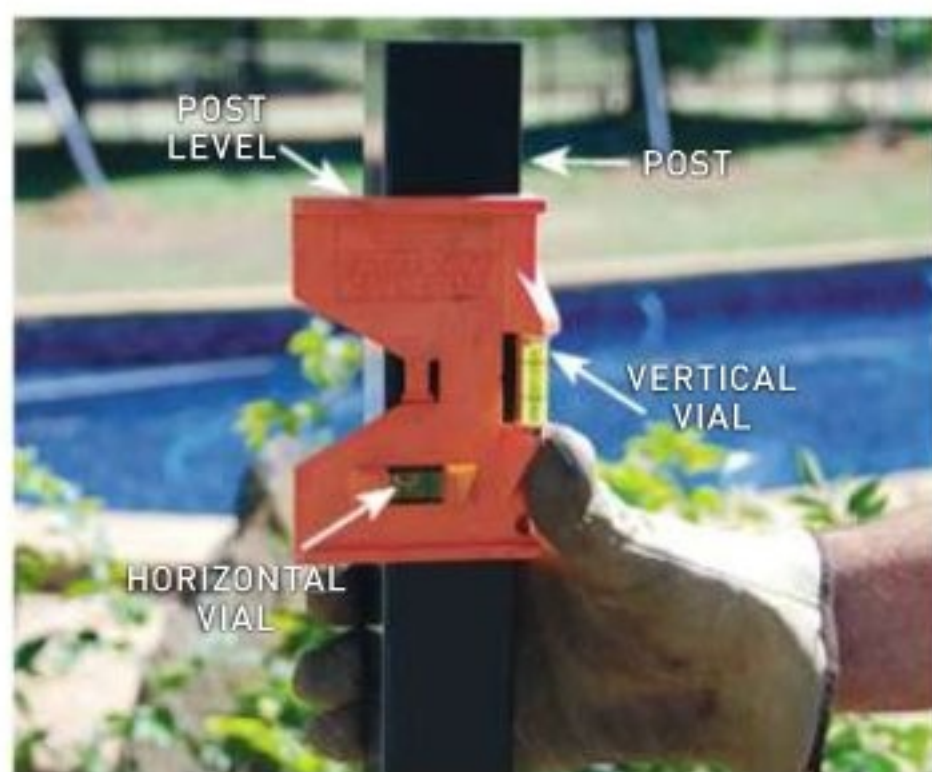
The new fence provides essential pool safety without detracting from the look of the backyard.



Cemix Multicrete Concrete,
\$8 for 20kg. cemix.co.nz



Stay safe with an easy-to-install pool fence that meets New Zealand standards.



1 Plumb the posts

Mark post holes 2500mm apart. Dig holes 600mm deep and allow for one extra post for any change of direction or to finish a run. When marking out the gate, allow 1000mm from inside post to inside post. Check the posts for plumb using a post level.



2 Attach the fence panels

Slide the panel brackets over the top and base rails, resting them on temporary blocks. Check that the fence panels are correctly aligned using a spirit level, then secure them to the concreted posts using self-drilling Tek screws.



3 Hang the gate

Attach self-closing hinges to the outside of the gate, 80mm from the top rail and level with the base horizontal rail using self-drilling Tek screws. Space the gate evenly, checking for level. Secure the latch to the gatepost 1500mm from the ground.



Pool safety regulations

The rules regarding home pools in New Zealand are covered by the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act and the Building Act.

The former protects people's safety near pools and the Building Act regulates any construction involving pools. Both require a fence around pools regardless of when the pool was installed.

The owner must advise the local council of a pool's existence and ensure it meets all regulations.

■ **POOL FENCES** must be at least 1200mm high with gaps of 100mm or less and nothing climbable nearby.

■ **THE GATES** must swing away from the pool and be self-closing with latches on the pool side, 300mm from the top of glass gates or 1500mm from the ground on metal gates.



G8safe Pool Gate Hinges, \$42 for two.
protectoraluminium.com.au



G8safe Push Tri Latch, \$87, left, and
G8safe Keyless Latch, \$60.

OPEN-AIR SHOWER

Build a frame and plumb it DIY to rinse off after the beach or before a swim in the pool

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER MAIN PICTURE STUART SCOTT

Standing under an alfresco shower is the ideal way to rinse off salt, sand or chlorine after a dip on a hot summer's day.

We used merbau decking with screens on three sides. This simple, attractive design is a desirable addition to any pool or garden area.

Position the shower either on the lawn or a hard surface, preferably with a drain nearby.

Merbau is durable and finishes well after a light sand. It's also heavy enough to make the structure stable.

Finish the timber with decking oil to seal it from moisture.

TIP Merbau, like most hardwoods, can stain light-coloured paving or concrete as tannins leach out in the first few months.



Feast Watson Decking Oil, \$88 for 4L. feastwatson.co.nz

Connect the plumbing

The shower plumbing consists of two lengths of half-inch copper water pipe joined with brass compression fittings that feature an outer nut and inner ring of copper or nylon called an olive.

Measure and mark the finished timber frame to calculate the lengths of pipe required.

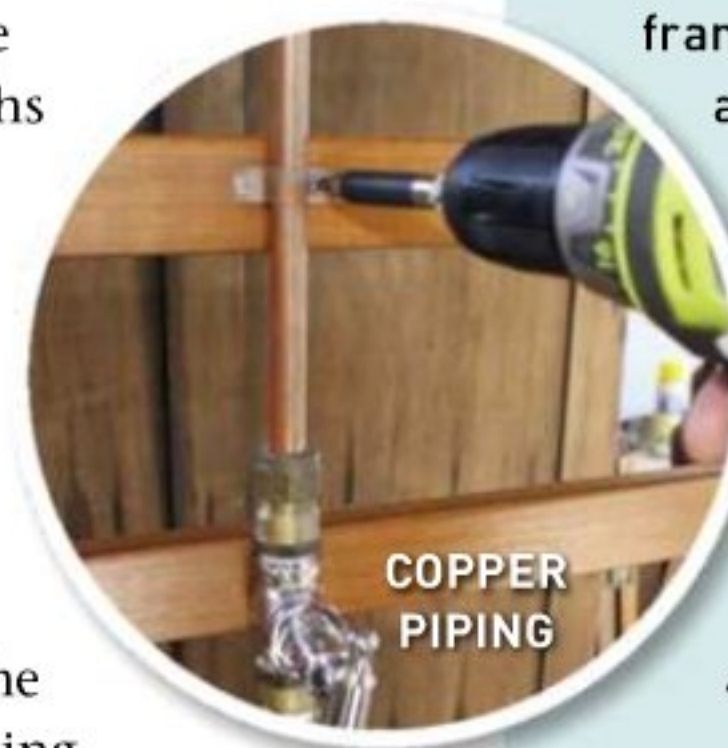
Cut the pipe to size with a hacksaw and smooth the cut edges with a file.

Attach an elbow to one end of each length of pipe with the olive and the nut, taking care not to over-tighten.

Connect the tap between the two pipes using straight joiners. Add the showerhead by securing it to the top elbow using an adjustable wrench.

Secure the shower assembly to the centre of the framework using copper pipe brackets and 15mm x 8g stainless steel screws. Connect the shower to a snap-on garden hose.

TIP When showering, take care if the hose has been in the sun as the initial flow of water may be very hot. ➤



Preparing the timber ▼

The base platform and posts are cut from 90 x 19mm timber.

The back and side slats are the same merbau decking boards used for the rest of the framing cut along the grain on a tablesaw. A circular saw can also be used.

Adjust the width of the tablesaw fence to cut exactly on the centre of the boards, using a push stick to guide the boards through the blade and protect fingers.

Use a router and a 6mm roundover bit to finish the square cut edges so that they all look the same, then sand them with 180 grit paper.



TIME 1 DAY
SKILL INTERMEDIATE

DIY \$340

TOOLS MITRESAW,
DRILL, ROUTER

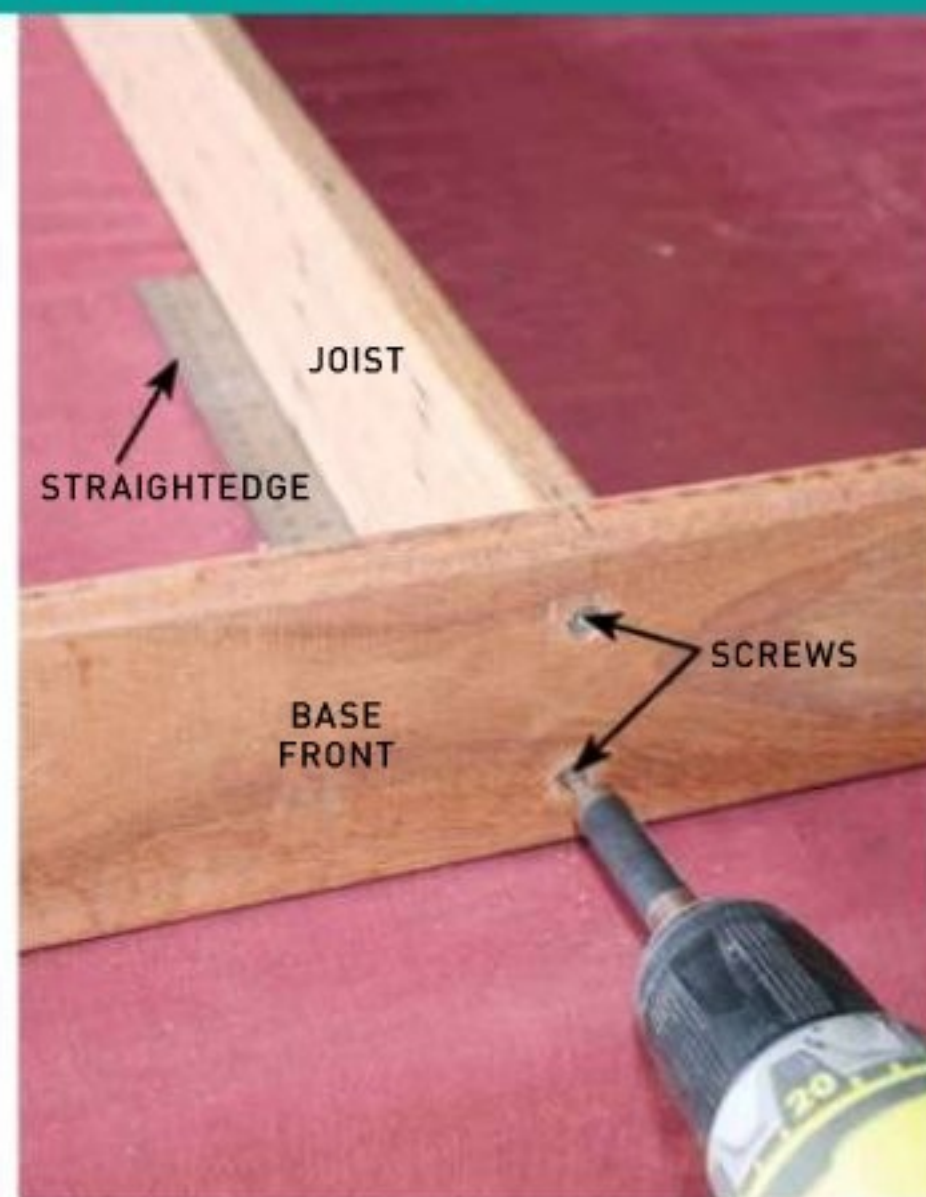
A simple timber shower gives the pool area a resort feel.

▼ Make the shower frame



1 Prepare the base frame

Use a mitresaw to cut the base front, base back and joists to length. Lightly sand the cut edges to remove any splintering. Drill a pair of 2mm countersunk pilot holes, 10mm in from each end and in the centre of the base front and back.



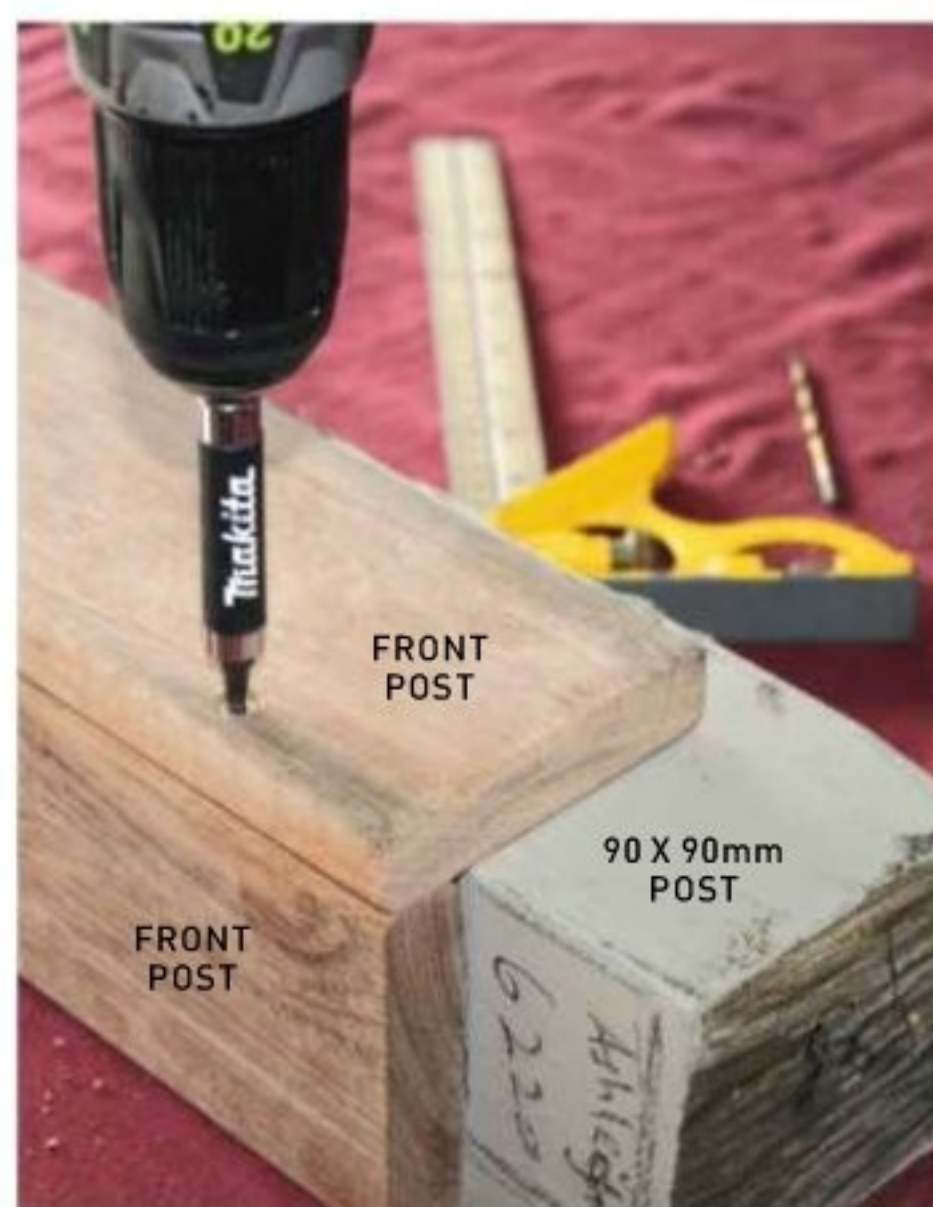
2 Build the base

Apply exterior adhesive to the end of the joists then position the base front and secure with stainless steel screws. Attach the back, keeping the edges flush and checking the 900 x 900mm base frame for square by measuring the diagonals.



3 Secure the decking

Lay out the decking boards with equal gaps to determine spacing. Position each board, drill countersunk pilot holes at the ends and secure with screws. Mark a centreline across the boards, drill pilot holes and secure to the centre joist.



4 Make the corner posts

Arrange the long back and short front posts into pairs. Position each pair at right angles over a length of 90 x 90mm post. Drill 2mm countersunk pilot holes 50mm from each end and at 300mm centres then join each of the four corners together.



5 Assemble the back frame

Lay the back corner posts together on a level surface. Mark 500, 800, 950, 1100, 1250, 1400, 1735 and 2075mm up from the base, squaring lines across. Space the posts 900mm apart and secure the slats in position, keeping the marked line at the top of each one.



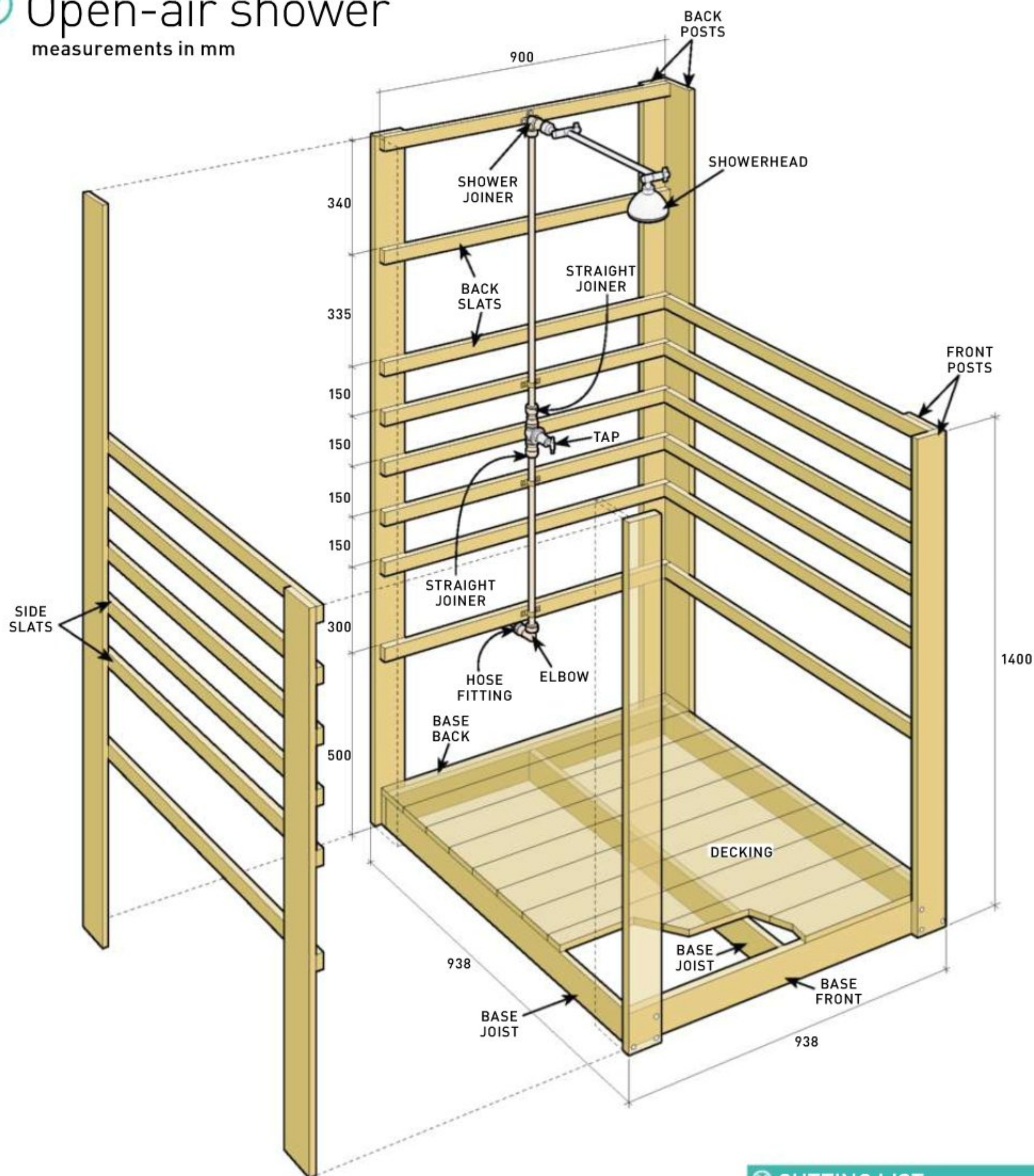
6 Attach the sides

Stand the back, check for plumb and secure it to the base back and sides. Attach slats to the front posts in the same spacings as the back frame and position each side, aligning the slats. Attach side slats to the back posts and the front corner posts to the base.



Open-air shower

measurements in mm



FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Stainless steel decking screws 50mm x 8g	Base, deck and posts
Galvanised exterior screws 30mm x 8g	Slats
Stainless steel screws 15mm x 8g	Copper pipe brackets

CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
Merbau decking		
Front posts	1400 x 90 x 19	4
Back posts	2075 x 90 x 19	4
Base front/back	900 x 90 x 19	2
Base joists	862 x 90 x 19	3
Decking	900 x 90 x 19	10
Back slats	900 x 42 x 19	8
Side slats	881 x 42 x 19	12

Handymanmagazine.co.nz

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

TIME **2 DAYS**
SKILL **INTERMEDIATE**

DIY \$930

TOOLS **CIRCULAR SAW,
MITRESAW, NIBBLER**



This weatherproof, low-profile pump house is constructed with traditional stud walls and a gable roof.

POOL PUMP HOUSE

Keep essential machinery out of sight and protected from weather extremes

PROJECT AND PICTURES ROBERT REICHENFELD

Some backyard fixtures are best kept hidden, and the pool pump is no exception. This miniature house conceals the machinery and protects it from the elements, while still allowing easy access.

The dimensions can also be easily adapted to suit other items that you'd prefer to hide, such as wheelie bins or LPG cylinders.

To build the stud walls and gable roof frames, use primed H3 treated pine, cutting the ridge end of the rafters and barge at 30° using a sliding compound mitresaw.

Since this is a small structure with only three pairs of rafters, there is no need to include a ridge board, just reinforce the rafter joints using collar ties cut from mending plates using a jigsaw with a metal cutting blade.

For the cladding, rebated pine weatherboards were ordered raw then primed before assembly, but to save time, you could buy primed H3 treated pine or manufactured boards instead.

Use a nibbler or aviation shears to cut the galvanised corrugated roofing sheets to size, pairing them with tubular barge capping for a classic country look.

To finish, add the hardware and paint the pump house. ➤



Lumberlok Mending Plate, 200 x 110mm, about \$3. bunnings.co.nz

Add the hardware ▼

Once the pump house is bolted in position, use a 25mm chisel to cut housings for 100mm stainless steel butt hinges in the doorjamb and side of the door. Secure the hinges and hang the door, then add a padbolt.

Cover the screw heads with exterior filler, leave to dry then sand lightly with 120 grit paper.

Apply metal primer to the galvanised roof followed by a metal paint. Finish the timber components with two coats of exterior acrylic.

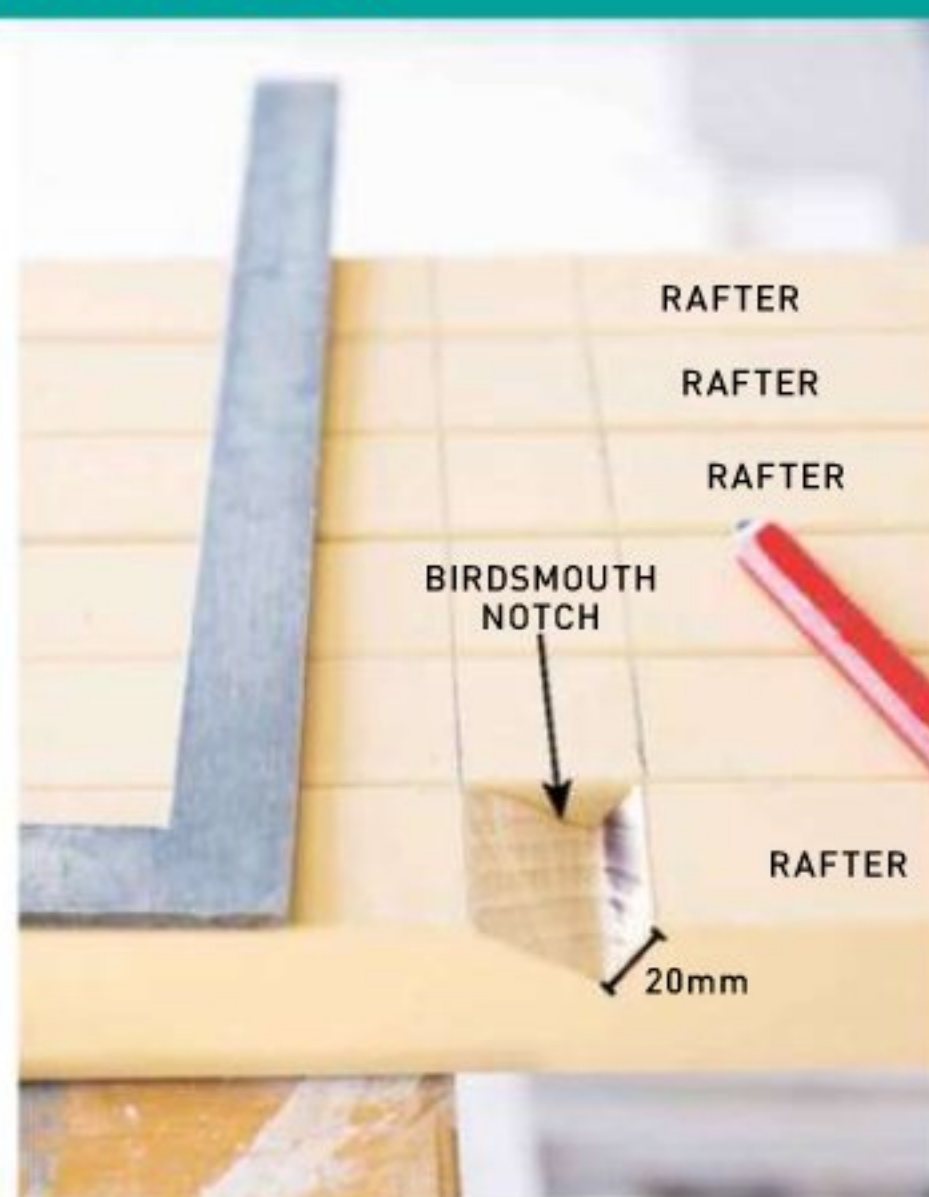


DOOR
HARDWARE

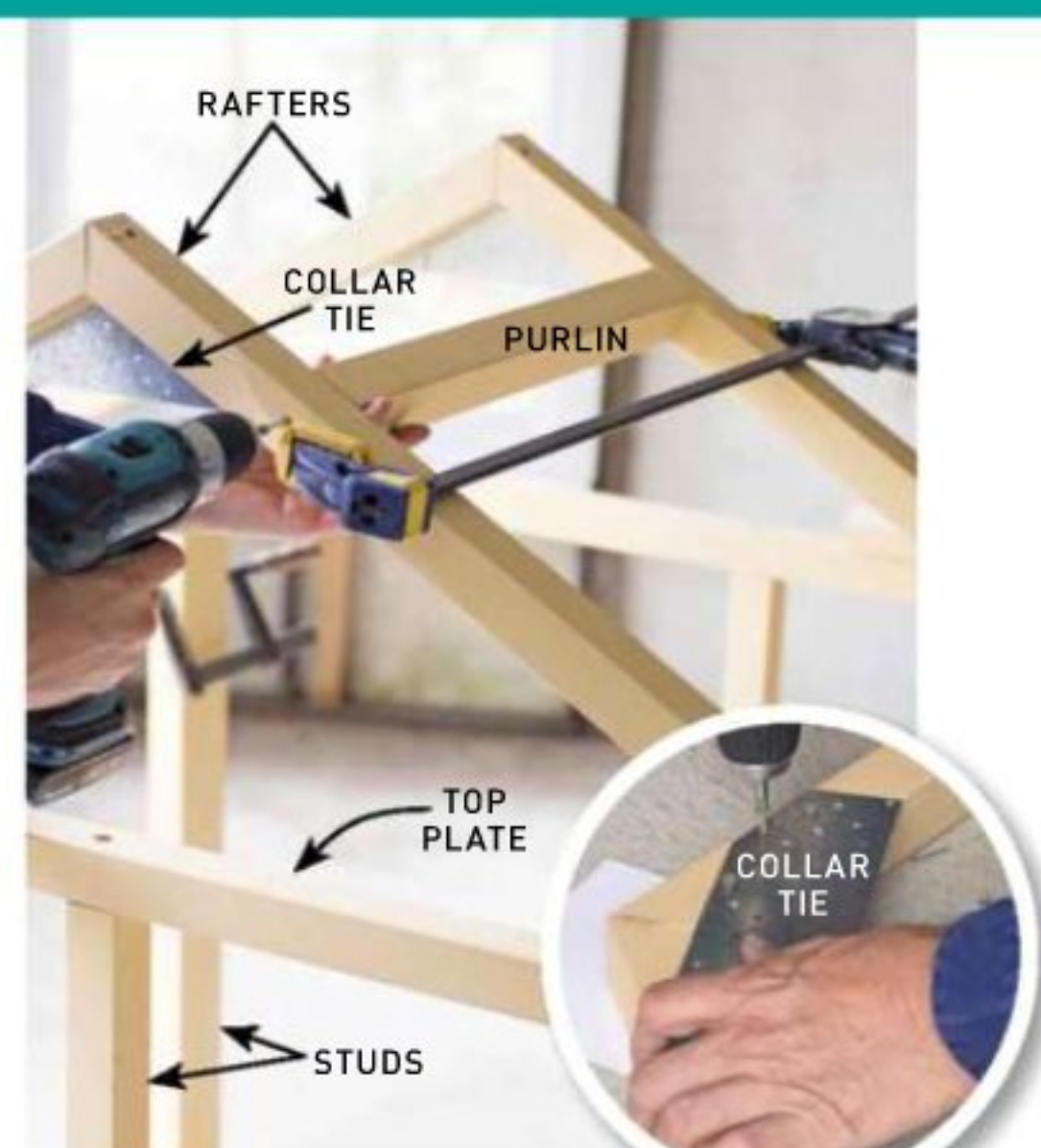
Build the pump house



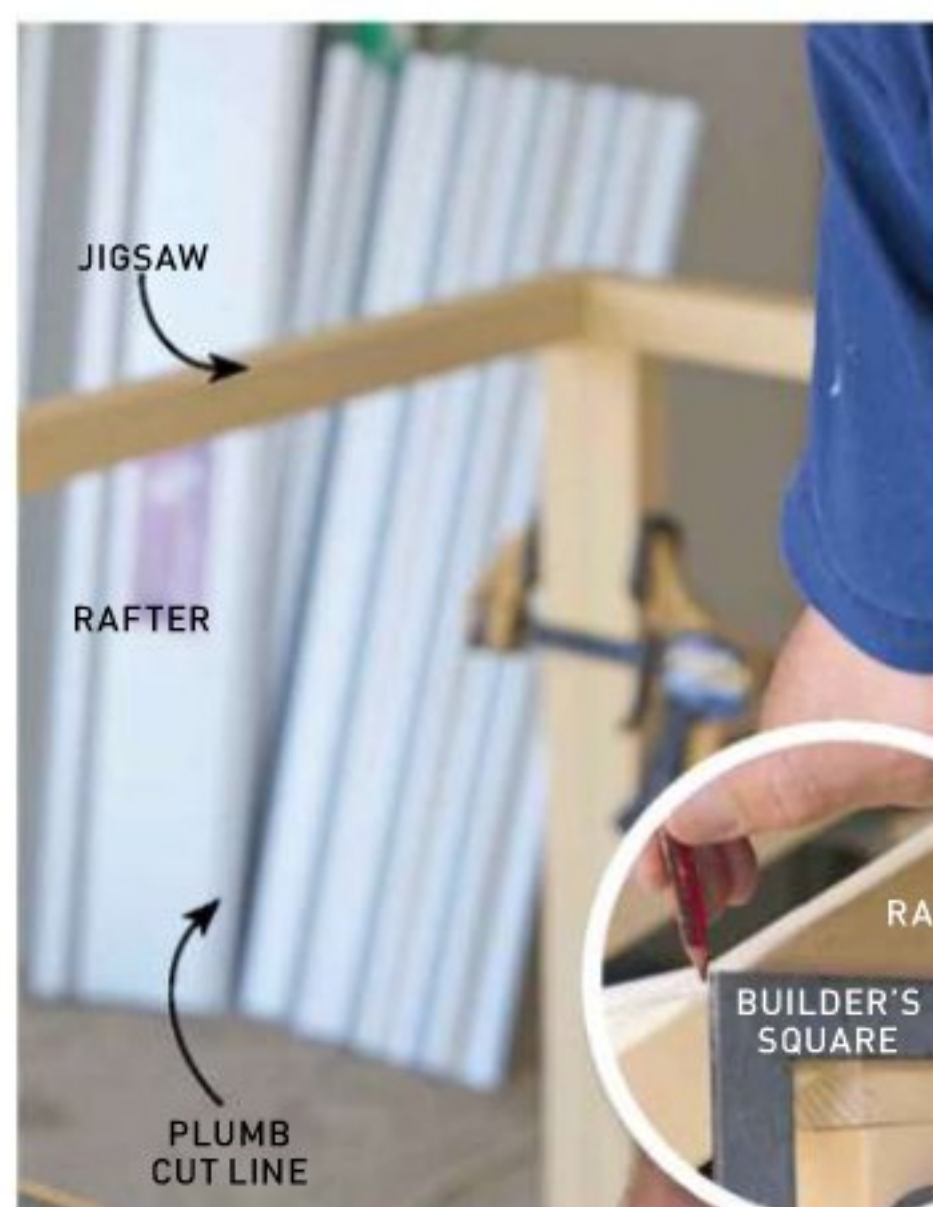
1 Construct the wall frames
Use bugle screws to secure the studs between the base and top plates. Clamp the side frames between the front and back then secure with screws.
TIP The door-side frame comprises a pair of jambs and a top plate only, with no base plate.



2 Prepare the rafters
Clamp a pair of rafters together in position and mark birdsmouth notches 20mm deep at the point where the rafters meet the top plates. Cut the first notch then clamp all six rafters with their ends flush to mark and cut the remaining notches.



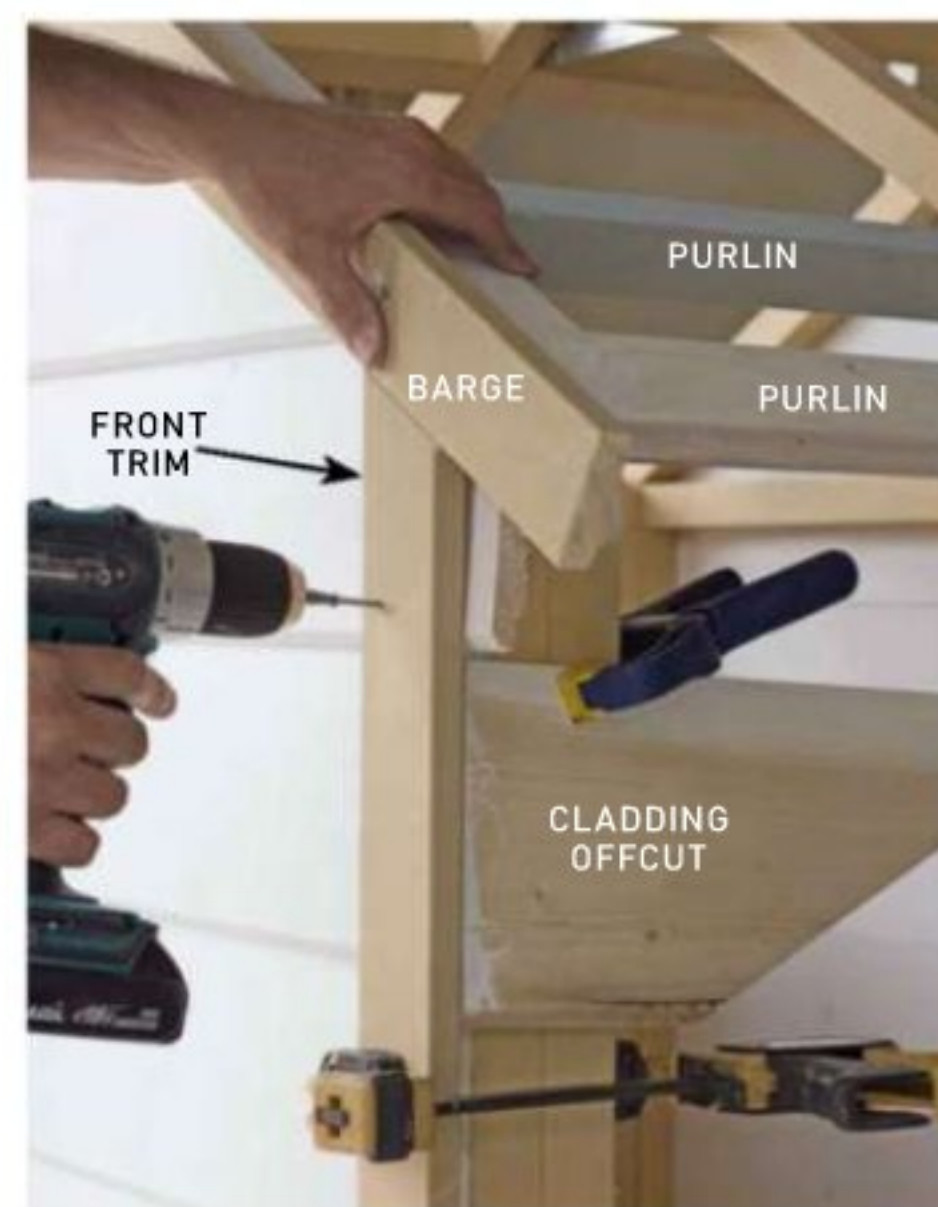
3 Build the roof frame
Secure the pairs of rafters together using screws and cut-down mending plates as collar ties. Clamp purlins in between and secure with screws.
TIP Position the end purlins to rest against the top plates and plane off the corner flush with the rafters.



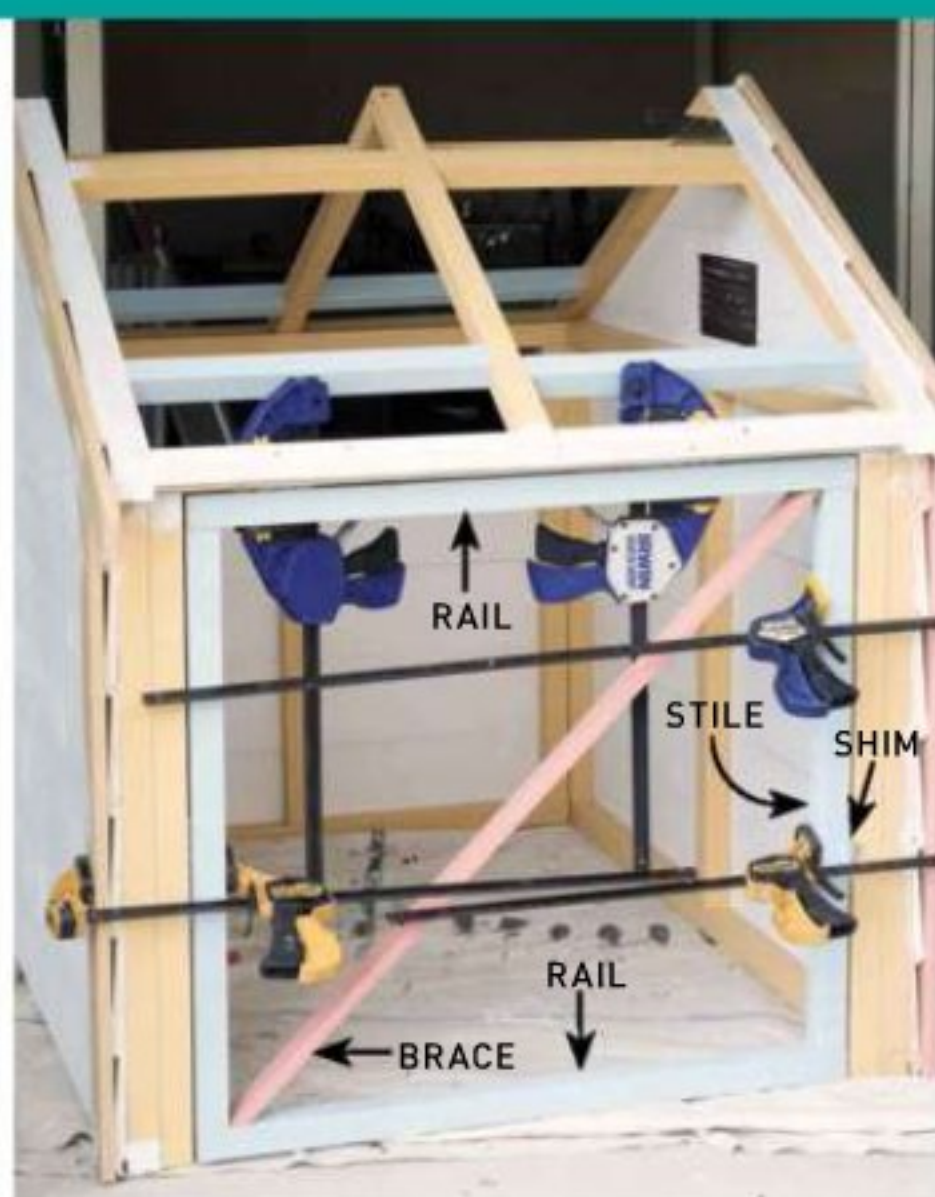
4 Trim the rafters
Use a builder's square to mark a plumb cut line on the rafter ends 40mm from the edge of the frame, and then use a jigsaw with its base plate set to 30° to trim the ends of the rafters. Secure the purlins to the top plates with screws.



5 Secure the cladding
Turn the structure on its side then, working from the base up, attach the cladding using screws. Mark the gable pieces directly from the rafter profile and cut them as you go.
TIP Make the small top piece of gable cladding from an offcut.

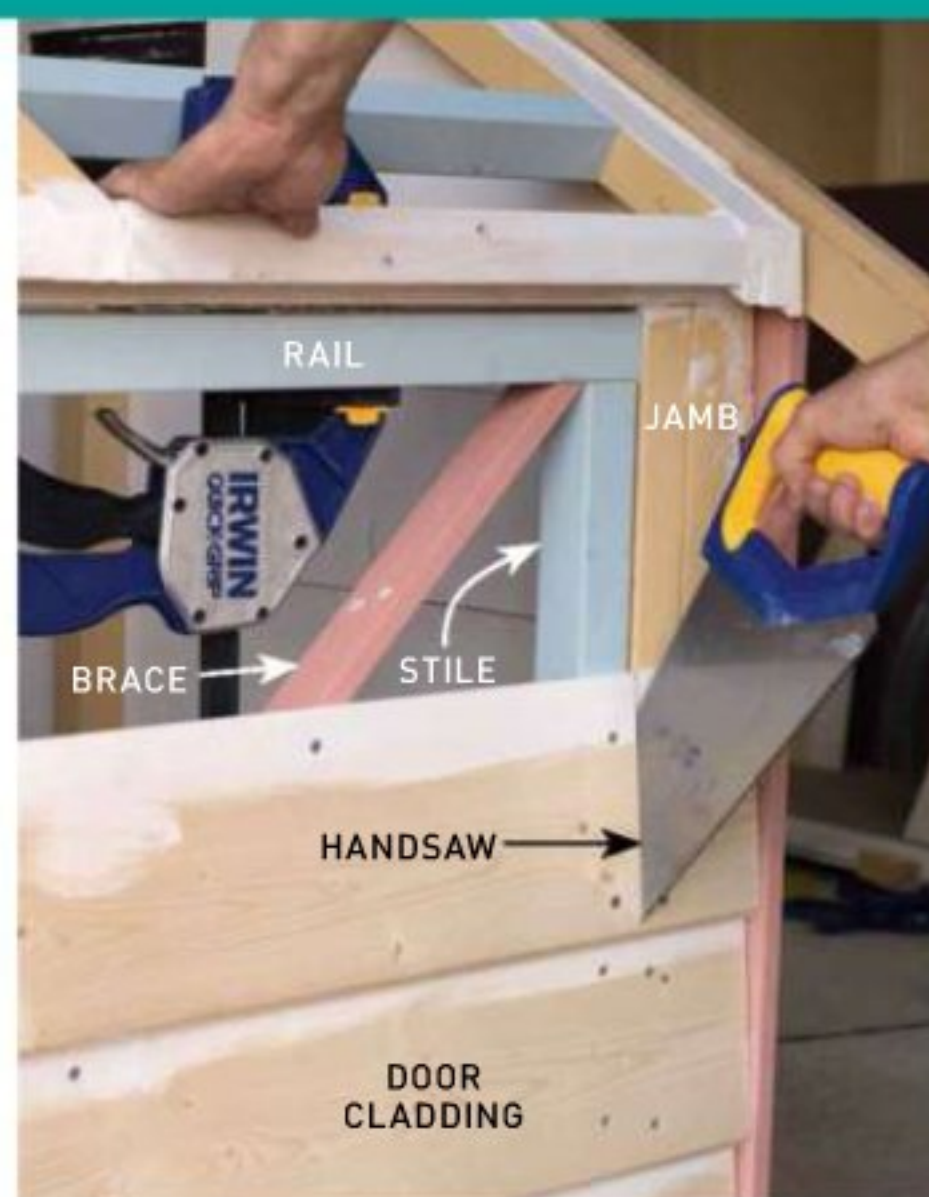


6 Add the barges and trim
Clamp the barges in position, overhanging the rafters by 18mm, then secure with treated pine screws. Mark and cut the front and back trim pieces to fit, using a cladding offcut to space the overhang.
TIP Don't add the side trim pieces yet.



7 Build the door frame

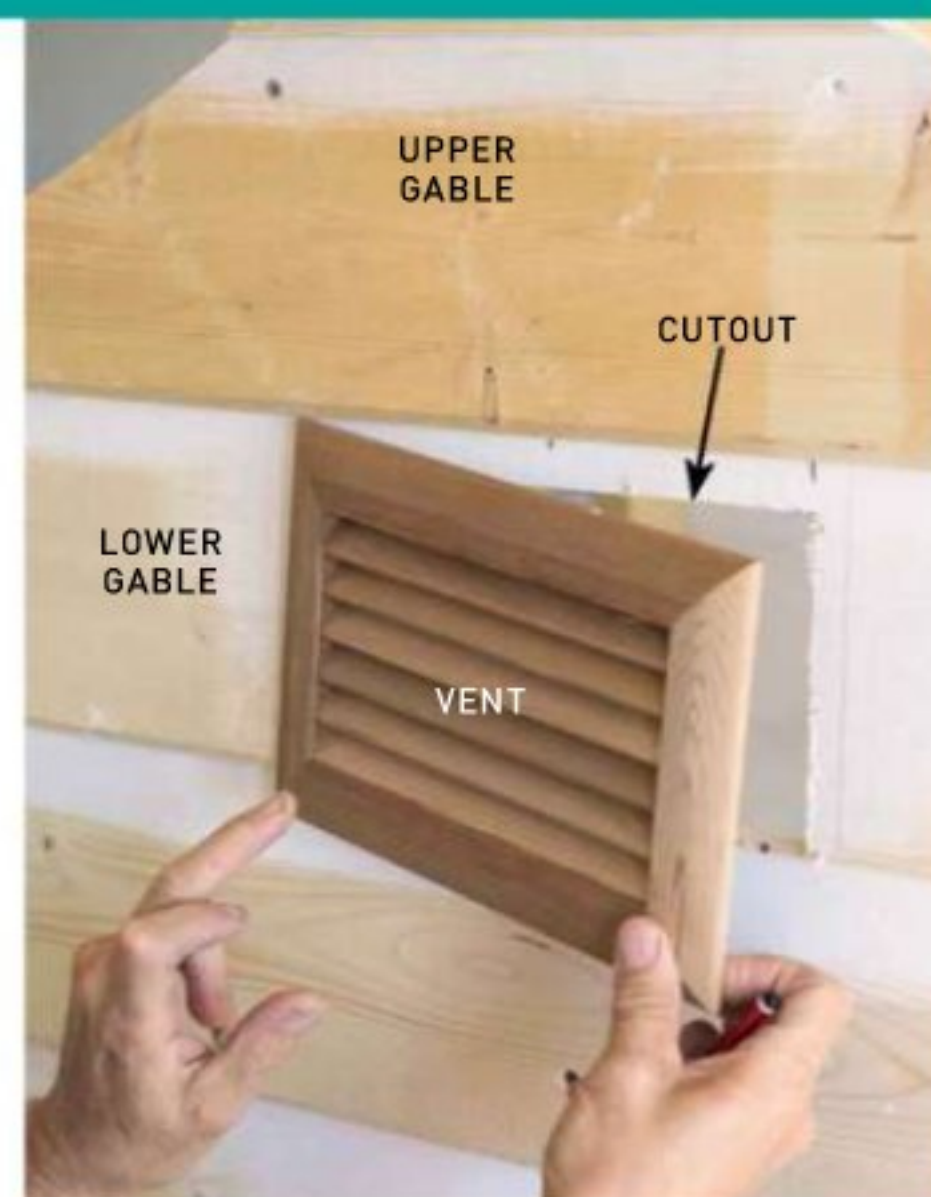
Clamp the stiles between the rails and secure with screws. Mark the diagonal brace directly from the door and cut to size, then secure from the top of the bolt side to the base of the hinge side. Clamp the door in position using shims to maintain even spacing.



8 Clad the door

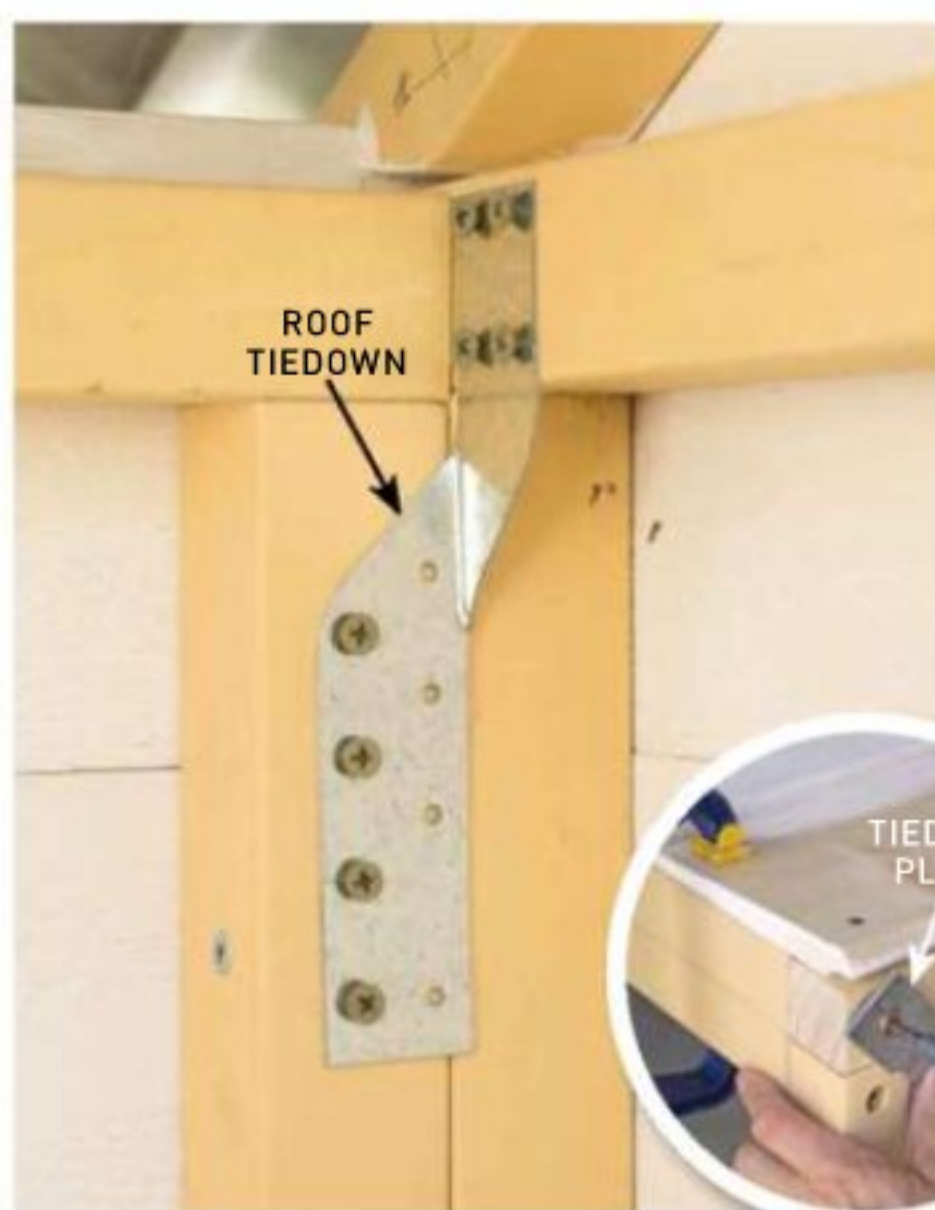
Attach cladding across the entire door side, securing the boards with screws both to the door structure and the jambs. Use a handsaw to cut the door free by sawing down the gaps.

TIP Start the cut before securing the uppermost board.



9 Install the vent

Bore a starter hole in the lower gable using a drill with a 10mm twist bit, then use a jigsaw to make a cutout for the vent. Secure the vent using construction adhesive. Add the side trim then use a handsaw to cut the cladding flush with the barge.



10 Add tiedowns and plates

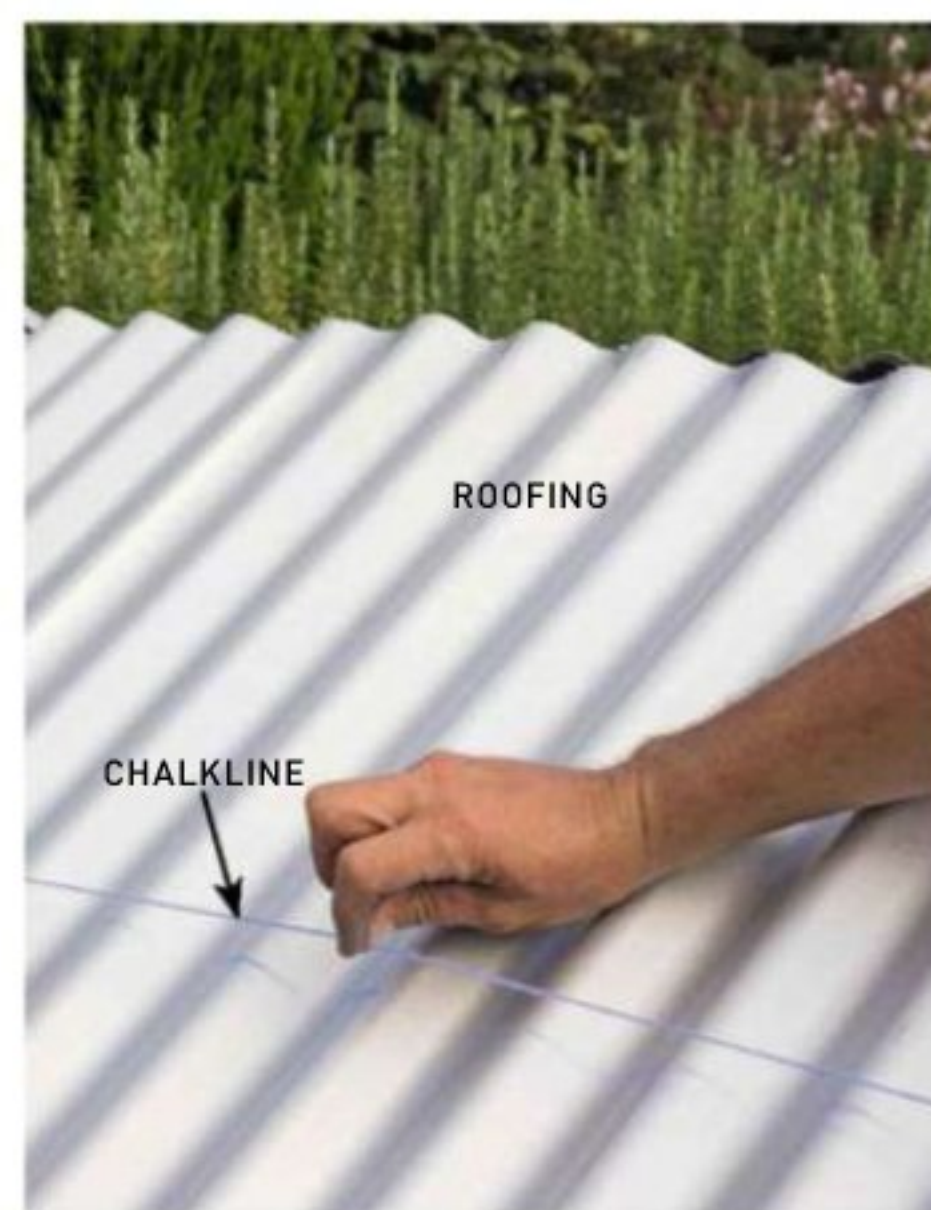
Connect the internal corners of the walls to the roof frame with galvanised tiedowns. Attach the tiedown plates to the underside of the frame using bugle screws.

TIP You will need two left-twist and two right-twist tiedowns for the roof.



11 Secure the barge capping

Attach the battens to the rafters using screws. Measure and mark the roll-top barge capping from the roof frame and use a hacksaw to cut it to size. Clamp the barge capping in position then secure it to the barge and rafters using roofing screws.

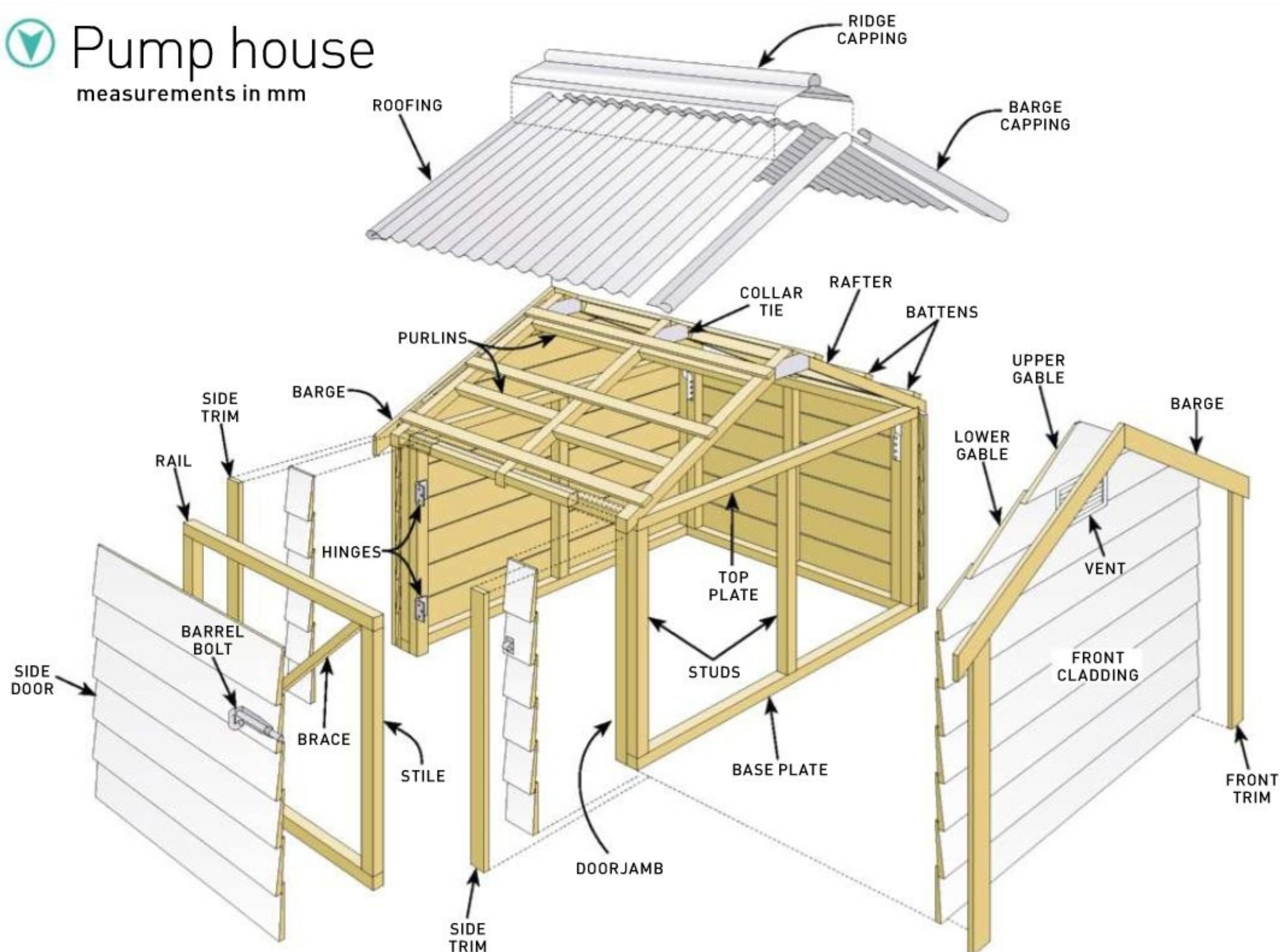


12 Attach the roofing

Snap a chalkline to show the batten centrelines then use screws to secure the roofing sheets, overlapping them by one and a half corrugations. Add the ridge cap then use a masonry bit to drill 8mm diameter holes in the slab to secure the frame. ➤

Pump house

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO.
H3 Primed treated pine		
Studs	806 x 42 x 42	9
Base/top plates	1350 x 42 x 42	4
Side base/top plates	980 x 42 x 42	3
Doorjamb sides	848 x 42 x 42	2
Rails	880 x 42 x 42	2
Stiles	750 x 42 x 42	2
Brace	1110 x 42 x 18	1
Rafters	835 x 42 x 42	6
Purlins	469 x 42 x 42	12
Barges	920 x 65 x 19	4
Front/back trim	873 x 65 x 19	4
Side trim	842 x 65 x 19	4
Battens	1095 x 42 x 18	6
Pine cladding		
Front/back	1350 x 165 x 18	12
Lower gables	1150 x 165 x 18	2
Upper gables	700 x 165 x 18	2
Side/door	880 x 165 x 18	12

Galvanised steel

Roofing	810 x 920	2
	460 x 920	2
Ridge capping	1240 x 350	1
Barge capping	920 x 100 x 50	4

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Bugle screws, 75mm x 14g	Wall and door frames, tiedown plates
Treated pine screws, 75mm x 10g	Roof frame
Treated pine screws, 20mm x 8g	Collar ties, padbolt and roof tiedowns
Treated pine screws, 40mm x 8g	Cladding, barges, trim, battens and hinges
Self-drilling roofing screws, 50mm x 10g	Roofing and ridge cap
Self-drilling roofing screws, 25mm x 8g	Barge capping

Handymanmagazine.co.nz

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



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SSDKS4001 | 10g x 50mm T20 STAR Dr screws (400) | Sku: 226636
SSWB1265 | 12g x 65mm T25 STAR Dr screws (300) | Sku: 226642

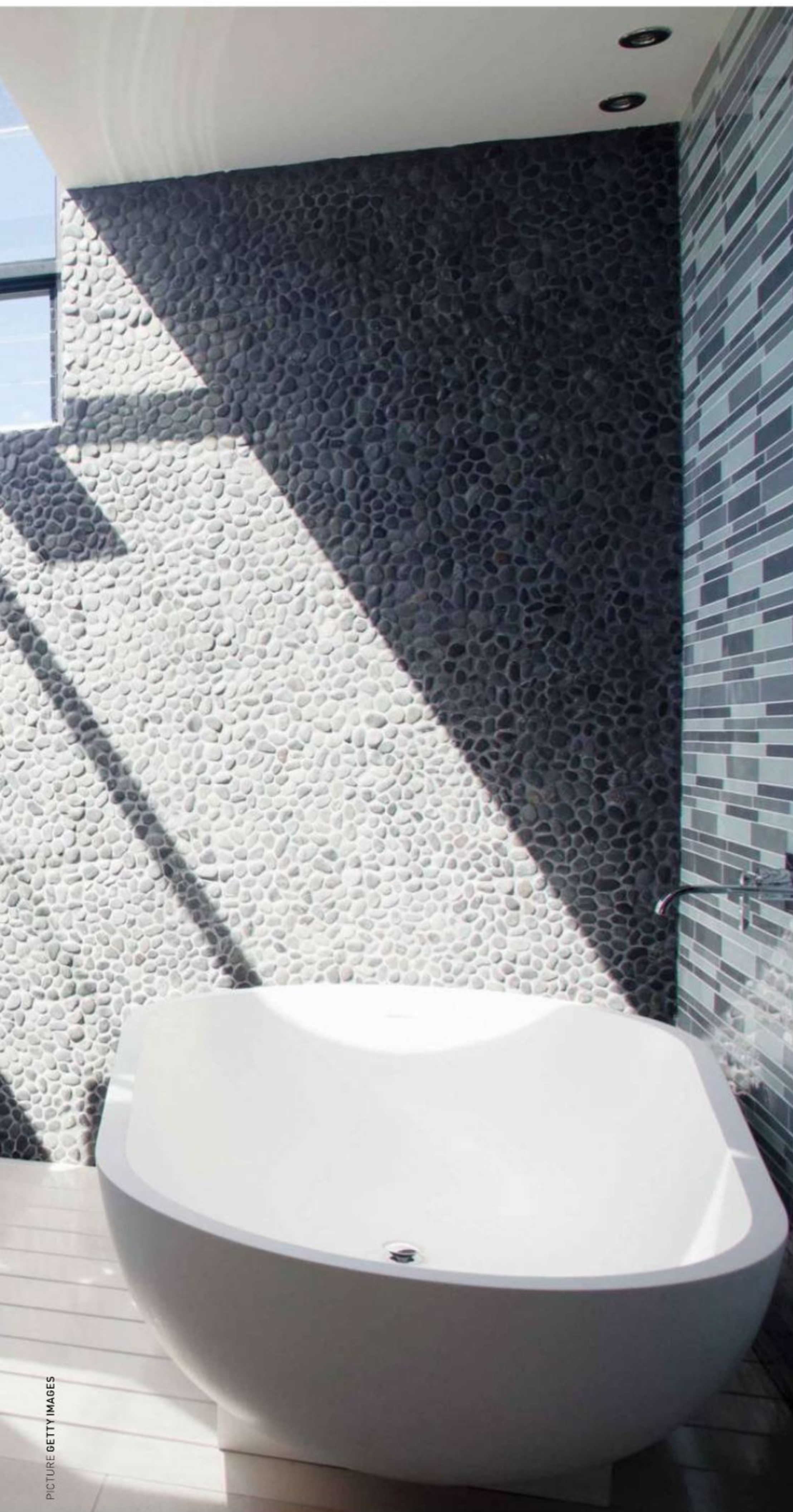
SSDT31665 | 10g x 65mm #2 Sq Dr screws (300) | Sku: 226631
SSDKS4002 | 10g x 65mm T20 STAR Dr screws (400) | Sku: 226639

Bright ideas

Set the right tone in the bathroom using lighting to create a haven for the whole family

WORDS SITA SIMONS

Find innovative ways to bring in as much natural light as possible to create a relaxing sanctuary.



PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

Great bathroom design is dependent on great lighting. In a space that each family member uses daily, lighting is as essential a component as the fittings.

Successful lighting is achieved by a layered approach that tackles each bathroom function separately, from grooming to unwinding, while working as a whole to enhance the best features and create ambience.

1 Natural light

In the bathroom, we spend a lot of time looking in the mirror so bringing in daylight is a priority. When it comes to windows think big and, if possible, floor-to-ceiling.

Privacy can be maintained using frosted glass, which has the added benefit of diffusing the light for a slightly softer focus. Louvres draw in fresh air as well as light, and allow for the control of strong sunlight.

Windows in older bathrooms tend to be small, so if you're planning a big renovation, consider enlarging them or adding more.

If you have a view that's worthy of attention, bifolds can create wow factor by bringing the outside in. ➤



Velux Manual Opening Skylight,
780 x 980cm, \$998. velux.co.nz



A soak in the bath is more relaxing with soft, diffused mood lighting.

2 Keep it private

The downside of large windows in the bathroom is that you increase the chance of being seen from the street.

Frosted and obscure glass provide good privacy but if your budget won't stretch that far, try tinted or frosted film on the existing windows.

A bathroom needs airflow, but opening windows can reduce privacy. Using blinds or shutters is the obvious solution, but make sure the material is suitable for a wet area and go for wide slats to avoid mildew build-up.

3 Small spaces

Modern architecture has begun to bend the rules, but in most homes the bathroom is one of the smallest rooms. If there's no space for big windows a skylight may be the answer.

Compared to vertical windows, a skylight lets in far more light and, because the illumination comes from above, shadows and glare are minimal.

Skylights are relatively low cost, but it may be worth spending a bit more for models with rain sensors that close automatically in bad weather.

4 Task lighting

For shaving or putting on make-up, a strong, even light is needed around the mirror and vanity.

A common mistake is to position a downlight above the mirror, which creates shadows on the face.

Vertical fittings either side of the mirror at about eye level will cast an even light across the face to minimise any unflattering shadows.

5. The right accent

Show off your best design features and fittings with accent lighting. Recessed spotlights make stylish statements, while lights with domed covers spread the light out more evenly. Bath and shower lighting works best with diffused rather than direct light.

Illuminate cabinetry with integrated LEDs and add flexibility by having lights wired to separate switches and installing dimmers to control the brightness.



Good light fittings work with the decor to unify the overall look.

6 Turn up the heat

Mould and mildew can cause big problems so good airflow is essential. Boost ventilation by pairing your lighting with an extraction fan.

Adding a heat lamp is a low-cost way of providing a source of warmth, which makes getting in and out of the bath and shower more comfortable in winter, but also helps absorb moisture.

Infrared bulbs work by using most of the energy generated to produce heat rather than light. A heat lamp is expensive to run if left on for long periods so wire it into a light switch and turn both off at the same time. ➤



Manrose Pro Series Heat 'n Vent Unit, \$200. simx.co.nz

30⁺ SECONDS

Can't get rid of indoor mould?

30 Seconds Indoor Mould remover works quickly to treat and remove interior mould and mildew around the home. It's easy to use with no harsh scrubbing, making it ideal for bathrooms, kitchens and laundries.



www.30seconds.co.nz

7 A soft touch

If you are up often during the night, or have young children, a soft light source is useful.

Keep running costs low by installing concealed LED strips behind moulding, which also serves to highlight the perimeter of the room, drawing the eye outwards.

6 Set the mood

When you want the bathroom to be a relaxing, luxurious space, ambient lighting comes to the fore.

The central ceiling fixture is the main light source and, depending on the size of the room, can be a decorative focal point.

Using a dramatic fitting such as a chandelier or designer shade can transform an average bathroom into something more special.

In any new bathroom, installing dimmer switches will pay dividends even on task lighting, by allowing your eyes to adjust in the morning.

9 What wattage?

In the main or guest bathrooms use fixtures that provide 75 to 100 watts of illumination, which equates to a 24 to 26 watt compact fluorescent or 20 to 25 watt LED.

Compact fluorescent bulbs are best for task lighting. Lights in a second bathroom, where there is less need for task lighting, can function with much lower wattage, in the 45 watt range.

10 Upon reflection

The surfaces and colours of finishes and paints all have an effect on the quality and tone of the light.

Mirrors, tiles and stainless steel will reflect light and maximise the ambience, but can also create glare.

Some paint colours will work well with cool white bulbs while others cast a better light with warm white.

It might be worthwhile consulting a lighting professional to achieve a colour balance for your bathroom that is as even and natural as possible.



The colours and textures of bathroom fittings affect the tone of the light.

PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

Philips Bathroom Lighting

Inspired by the beauty of water, Philips Aquafit turns your bathroom into a rejuvenating experience.

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Available at
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PHILIPS

VANITY MAKEOVER

Painted cabinets and exotic tiles give this dated bathroom an instant facelift

PROJECT LEE DASHIELL PICTURES GEOFF BECK

When a bathroom needs updating you don't have to spend thousands replacing all the fittings. A coat of paint and one or two well-chosen pieces can breathe new life into old cabinets.

Handyman Managing editor Lee Dashiell's bathroom had 1980s timber cabinetry that was still sound, but over the years had become scratched and the surface looked patchy.

'To change the look, plus modernise and brighten the room, we decided to paint the cabinets,' says Lee.

'We also wanted to add some personality so we tiled over the benchtop with Mexican tiles and installed hand-painted sinks.'

To install a sink, place it upside down on the benchtop and mark its outline on the timber with a pencil.

Make 10mm marks inside the outline every 50mm, then connect the marks to form the cut line.

'I used a drill with a 10mm bit to make a starter hole inside the cut line, then made the cut with a jigsaw while supporting the cutout,' says Lee.

'I smoothed the edges with a sanding block and sealed them with finishing oil to stop moisture damage.

Painting the doors

Preparation is key to a good finish, so the doors were scrubbed with sugar soap and undercoated with a primer and sealer.

Priming timber before painting is essential and Lee used a product with a stain block to stop any colours leaching out of the timber and showing through the paint.

'I was surprised how well the primer-sealer adhered to and coated the glossy doors. I didn't have to sand them down to prepare them, which was a great time saver,' says Lee.

The cabinets were given two coats of primer and two coats of paint, then finished off with new handles. ➤



Zinsser Bulls Eye 1-2-3 Undercoat Primer Sealer, \$89 for 3.78L. haydn.co.nz



AFTER
Newly painted doors and a retiled benchtop leave the bathroom looking fresh, modern and clean.



Laying the tiles

When creating a splashback using tiles in varied patterns, Lee advises first arranging the tiles on the floor to avoid similar ones being placed together.

A tile cutter should be used for straight cuts and can be hired for about \$60 a day. For angled tiles near the sink, use an angle grinder to cut the tiles halfway through then snap them.

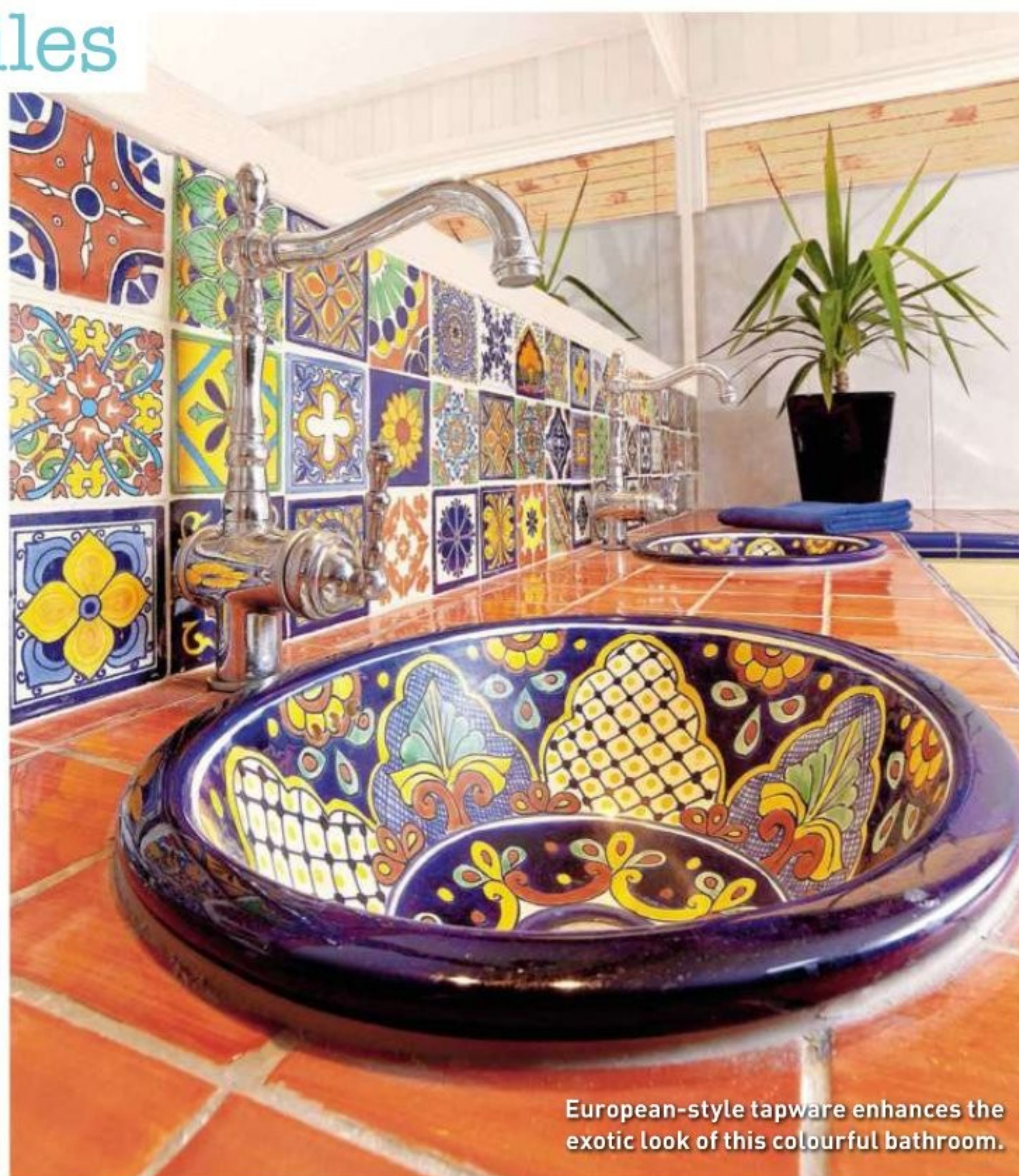
'Prior to tiling, I applied a coating of primer and bond-enhancer to create a porous surface for the tiles,' says Lee.

Lay the front edging tiles first to ensure even spacing, followed by the bench tiles then the splashback tiles.

Finally, install the sinks then apply silicone around the edges to seal them. Have a plumber connect additional taps and re-route the drains if necessary.



Cemix Tile Bond Latex, \$12 for 1L, and Super Tile Bond, \$45 for 20kg. cemix.co.nz



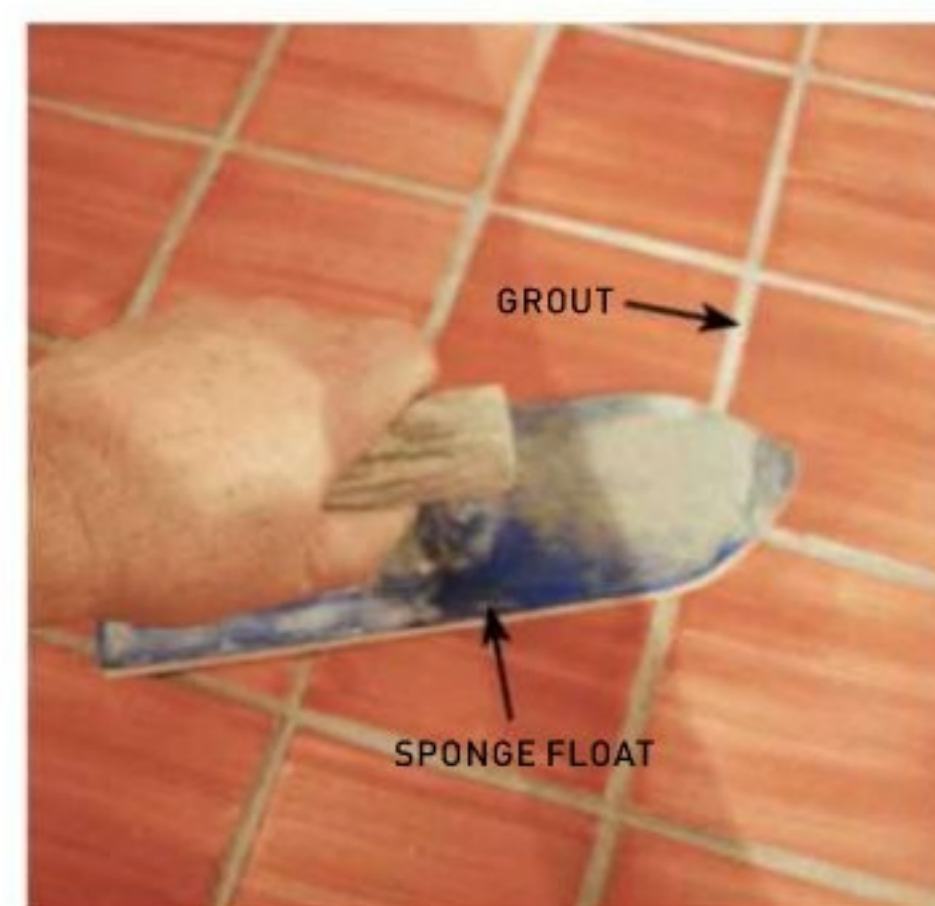
European-style tapware enhances the exotic look of this colourful bathroom.



1 Prepare the surface
Clean the surface of all dirt, dust or oily substances. Use a brush or roller to apply the primer undiluted on to the surface. Some very porous surfaces may need two coats. The primer should be touch dry before applying the tile adhesive.



2 Lay the tiles
Apply tile adhesive to the back of each tile using a notched trowel, then lay them in position on the benchtop and splashback.
TIP Decorative tiles vary in size so set them out to check the fit before applying the coating and adhesive.



3 Grout the tiles
Prepare the grout and work it over the tiles with a sponge float to fill the gaps in between. Leave it to dry then remove the excess with a wet sponge, buffing the tiles with a towel.
TIP Use a grout additive to strengthen bonds and increase water resistance.

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EASY DIY BATHROOM FIXES

Make minor repairs to save on plumbing costs, reduce water wastage and prolong the life of your fittings

Like any other room in the house, the bathroom needs regular maintenance to keep it in good shape and avoid expensive repairs.

Taps and other metal fittings rust or wear out over time, and sometimes replacement is the best option.

While showerheads can last for years, they do eventually start to look grotty and dated, and most of the older models were designed before saving water was even a consideration.

If your showerhead has been around since Elvis was still alive, then it's time to get a new one.

A basic water-saving one will cost upwards of \$20 and they only take about 10 minutes to install.

It doesn't need any specialised plumbing tools, just a shifting spanner, utility knife and wire brush.

TIP If your showerhead doesn't come with a reel of plumber's tape, buy one for about \$1, from hardware stores. ➤



Foreno Antique Shower Rose, \$116. foreno.co.nz

Replacing a showerhead

Removing the old apparatus and fitting a new one takes minutes and gives an old bathroom an instant lift. Most plumbing jobs have to be carried out by a qualified professional, but simple tasks like this one are fine for anyone to DIY.

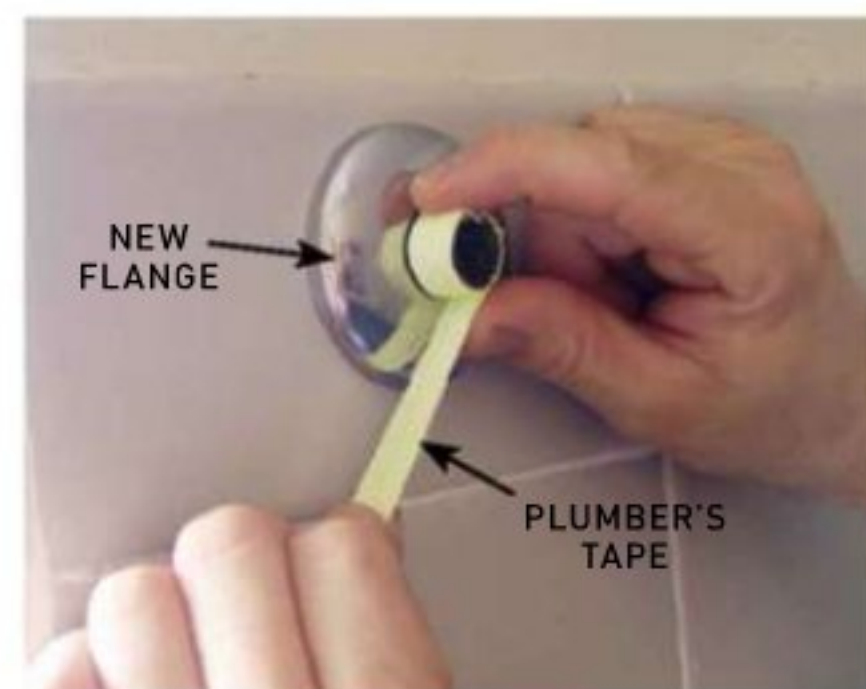


1 REMOVE THE OLD SHOWERHEAD using a shifter to loosen and unscrew it from the pipe in the wall, taking care not to wrench the pipes.

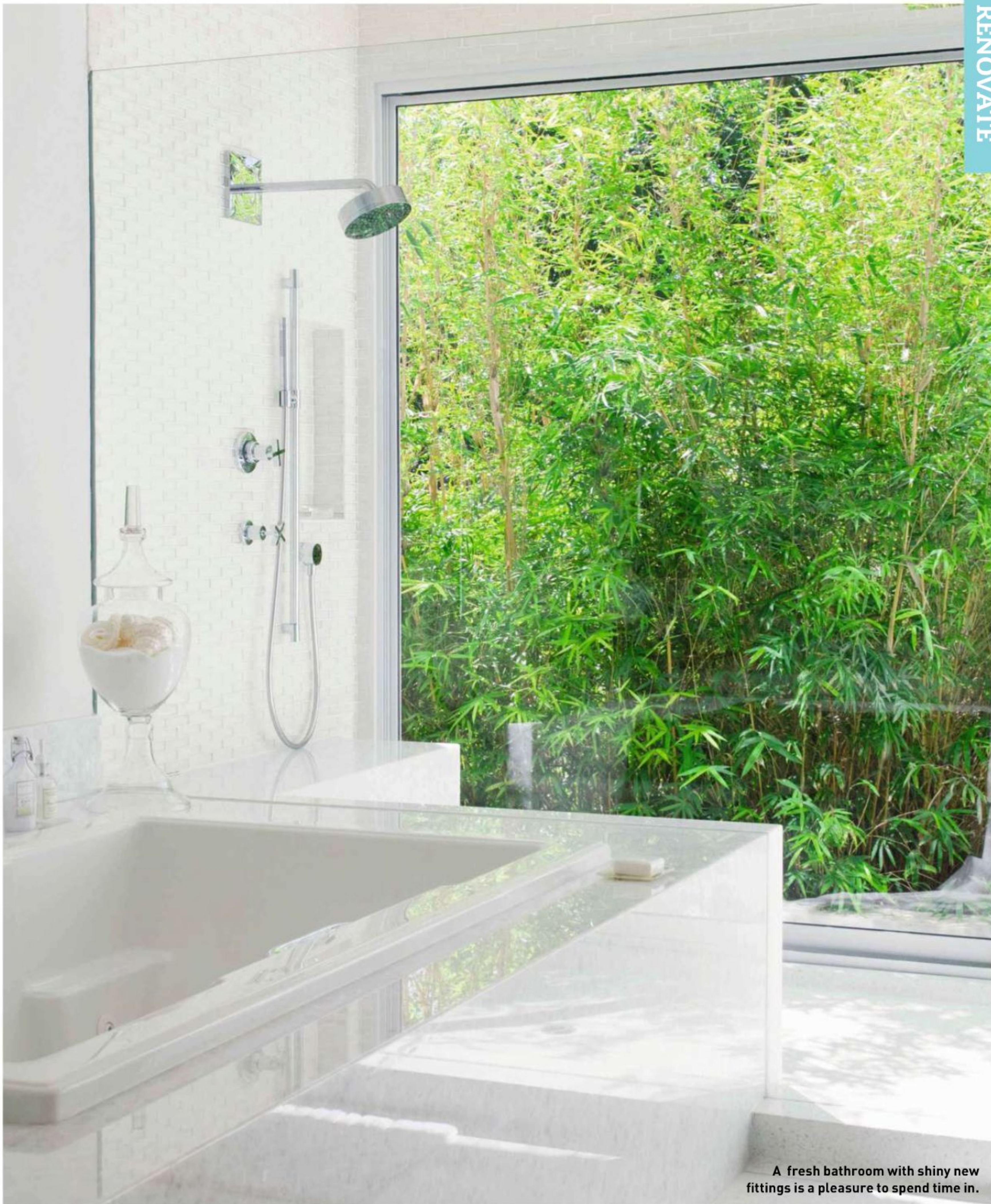
TIP Spray WD-40 on the thread first.



2 CLEAN THE THREAD with a utility knife. Remove the old flange and clean the tiles around the hole, then use a wire brush to remove any remaining debris from the thread of the showerhead pipe.



3 POSITION THE NEW FLANGE then wind two turns of plumber's tape onto the thread in a clockwise direction. Wind on the nut and secure with a shifter, but don't over-tighten.



A fresh bathroom with shiny new fittings is a pleasure to spend time in.

Unblock the sink

When the bathroom drain gets blocked, avoid paying a plumber hundreds of dollars to remove a simple hair plug by trying these tricks first.

IF THE SINK has a push-type pop-up stopper, unwind it, remove debris and wash the stopper and plug hole with soapy water and an old toothbrush.

USE A PLUNGER if the blockage persists. Stuff the overflow opening with a wet cloth, position the plunger cup so it covers the drain hole, then fill the sink with enough water to cover the cup.

Plunge vigorously up and down until the debris is sucked out. Never use a plunger immediately after pouring chemicals down the drain.

TRY A COATHANGER if the plunger didn't work. Unwind and remove the pop-up stopper, bend a hook in a wire coathanger and feed it down the drain.

Fish around for whatever is blocking the pipe and try to pull it out.

CHECK THE TRAP under the sink. Put a bucket under the U-bend and unscrew the couplings connecting it to the pipes. Let the water drain, then search for the blockage with coathanger wire.

USE AN AUGER or plumber's snake if you have one, as they have a longer reach than coathanger wire.

If you can't get hold of an auger, call in an expert. To save time and money tell the plumber what measures you have already tried.



Make the first plunge a slow one to expel air, then pump vigorously.

Adjust a pop-up stopper ▼

A pop-up stopper needs to be adjusted when it either fails to hold water in the sink or doesn't lift high enough to let water drain.

Older-type stoppers are moved up and down by a three-part linkage consisting of a lift rod, a metal strip with holes in it called a clevis, and the pivot rod, which supports the



POP-UP STOPPER

stopper or may be connected to it.

If this linkage comes loose the stopper won't work properly.

■ **IF A POP-UP STOPPER** won't seal, pull it out and check for debris.

Some pop-ups lift out, some wind out, and others require you to pull out the pivot rod to which they're attached.

■ **WASH THE STOPPER** and check the rubber seal. If it's dry or cracked, replace it.

■ **REINSTALL THE STOPPER** and check the seal. If it still isn't working, and you have a lift-rod type, use pliers or fingers to loosen the grub screw attaching the lift rod and the clevis. Pull the rod up, push the stopper down and retighten the screw.

■ **IF THE PROBLEM PERSISTS** move the pivot rod to a different hole in the clevis. To do this, squeeze the spring clip on the clevis and slide the rod out. Move the clip and rod to the next hole.

Fixing a leaky tap

If the tap's dripping it probably needs a new washer. To replace it, turn off the water supply and turn the tap fully on. Place a plug in the plughole to avoid losing tap parts.

On a non-rising spindle tap, prise off the handle cover to expose the retaining screw. Remove the screw and handle to expose the headgear.

On a rising spindle tap, first remove the index disc on the handle and the retaining screw to release the handle.



1 REMOVE THE HEADGEAR after you have taken off the handle, using an adjustable wrench to undo the headgear nut. Brace the tap with your other hand to stop it from spinning as you turn the nut, as this could weaken the tap's plumbing connection.



2 LEVER OFF THE OLD WASHER with a screwdriver and replace the body washer and spindle O-ring using needlenose pliers. If the leak persists, the valve seat may need to be resurfaced. If in doubt, contact a plumber. ➤

30[°]
SECONDS

Can't get rid of hard water stains?

Ordinary household cleaners are no match for tough water stains, but new Bring It On Water Spot Remover contains a unique chemical formulation that breaks the molecular bonds that keep water stains attached to surfaces.

Use Bring It On to get rid of everything from hard mineral deposits and water stains on glass to stubborn stains on porcelain and ceramic.



www.30seconds.co.nz

Mend the toilet

Loo maintenance isn't high on anyone's list of favourite chores, but it's essential to keep everything in working order.

Follow these tips to avoid overflows, wasted water and flushing failure.

TIGHTEN THE CONNECTIONS to the water pipe if there's a leak pooling on the floor. Also check the tightness of the big plastic nut on the flush pipe underneath. If that doesn't work, the sealing washer may have perished, and you'll need a plumber to replace it.

LOOK INSIDE THE CISTERN when it won't flush to make sure it contains water. If it's empty then the problem is with the inlet valve or supply pipe.

If there is water in the cistern, check the flushing arm is connected to the internal hook at the top of the cistern and is lifting the piston.

POOR FLUSHING can be caused by the flush pipe being pushed too tight into its housing, restricting the flow. Try pulling it back and see if it improves.

A flush failure may also be caused by a loose handle in older cisterns. Remove the cistern lid, hold the handle and tighten the locknut with a wrench.

ADJUST THE WATER LEVEL in an older float ball assembly by bending the metal float arm up or down slightly, or by adjusting the screw in newer models.

If the water level is fine, you may need to replace the plastic flap valve inside the siphon unit.



The loo needs more than just regular cleaning to keep it in tiptop shape.

Clear a blocked toilet ▼

Fixing a broken loo is not one of those jobs that can be put off. But before you call in the cavalry, bail out the excess water and try a couple of DIY fixes.

■ **PUT A PLUNGER** over the drain opening so it seals it completely. Plunge vigorously 10 or 12 times, then yank the plunger out with force.



PLUMBER'S SNAKE

Repeat as many times as needed. If you don't have a plunger to hand, improvise by wrapping a plastic bag around a mop head.

Secure the bag to the mop handle first so that it can't work free.

■ **NEVER USE A PLUNGER** straight after a chemical drain treatment in case you splash yourself with harsh chemicals.

■ **PROBE THE BLOCKAGE** using a plumber's snake, or auger. This is a crank-handled tool that winds a cable with a hooked spring tip through the toilet's U-bend trap and into the drain.

■ **USE THE AUGER** to grab the blockage and very carefully pull it back out through the trap, or to push through and break it up. If you can see the blockage, bend a hook in a wire coathanger to try to fish it out.

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EASY DOES IT

Create your own outdoor sanctuary with a Water Magic Patio Pond with Pump. Easy to install and operate, it comes complete with 10 metres of cable and is economical to run. Simply add water, plug in and sit back and relax. \$299.

March is a great month to get stuck into all those projects you've been meaning to finish off over summer. The weather's slightly cooler so there's no excuses not to... especially with these awesome new products.



WHAT A BLAST!

The Ryobi 1885PSI Water Blaster has everything you need for high pressure clean ups. With variable spray it comes complete with turbo lance and extension, plus 5 metre hose, surface cleaner, fixed brush, soap sprayer, all on wheels for convenient transportation around the home. Great value at \$147.

GO RETRO

The famous Acapulco Style Chair gives you the style from the glamour era. It features a strong powder coated steel frame, with amazingly comfortable polyethylene cord seat for a hammock-like comfort that is perfectly suited to relaxing outdoors. Available in stylish black, white or blue. \$99.



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Ideal for small to medium size lawns, the Ozito 1400W Electric Lawn Mower is the height of efficiency with a large 380mm cutting width, a quiet 400W motor and 35 litre capacity grass catcher. A single lever adjusts the cutting height to 6 different grass lengths to suit all seasons of lawn mowing. Just \$179.



D.I.Y. GATES MADE EASY

The new Protector Aluminium Easy Frame Gate System is made from solid steel for durability but is easy to install and modify to suit your needs. The kit comes with all you need including reversible hinges and is easily attached to timber or the covering of your choice. From \$99.98.



AFFORDABLE TRANSFORMATION

Create a modern minimalist look to your workspace or laundry with this Kaboodle Reversible Work Bench. Made from hardwearing and easily-cleanable melamine, it is black one side and white the other. 2400 x 600 x 25mm. \$99.



EXTRA TOUGH TO TAKE THE ROUGH

The Irwin Mega Bag is made from double-walled reinforced 1680 denier polyester. It has eleven internal and eight exterior pockets plus heaps of extras the professional needs in a tool bag including snap hooks for keys and mobile phone. A moulded waterproof rubber base with four heavy duty rubber feet will allow you to take this anywhere. \$129.



SAVE YOUR ENERGY

Equivalent to a 40W halogen these Click LED Light Bulbs will give your rooms a warm ambient feel and can save you up to 80% on your energy bills. With a 20,000 hour life (that's over 2 years) you won't be spending your energy changing them too often either! \$19.98.



BELLISSIMO

The contemporary Bellini 60cm Curved Glass Rangehood will give your kitchen the designer look you want without the price tag. With 3 speed fan, halogen lights, aluminium or carbon filters, it simply plugs in to a 10 Amp power supply to keep your kitchen looking magnifico and free of cooking odours. \$299.



ON THE LEVEL

The Rhino Quick Connect Ladder Leveller is the easy and safer way to work on uneven ground. It quickly attaches to most aluminium and fibreglass ladders with a patented safety lock and extends a full 25cm with no cutting required. \$199.



BUNNINGS
warehouse

Not all products featured are available in all stores, but may be ordered. Shelf prices may be lower than advertised to ensure lowest prices every day. We reserve the right to restrict the purchase of commercial quantities. All prices quoted are inclusive of GST. Prices valid until Sunday 23rd March 2014, or while stocks last.

Glass *palace*

For the designer and owner of this private forest bungalow, his glass-walled home is a dream come true

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

When a home is built in a beautiful natural environment, the design needs to allow for maximum appreciation of its surroundings.

When architect Hugh Fraser stumbled across this tree-covered property, he found something he had been dreaming about for years.

'I'd always wanted to build something simple with open spaces, using lots of glass for light,' says Hugh.

Taking full advantage of the forest setting, Hugh built his dream home using floor-to-ceiling glass for almost every wall in the house. ➤



Hugh's house was built in a natural clearing on the heavily overgrown block.



An open-plan design creates a sense of space in the relatively small home.

PICTURES AUSTRAL



Every piece of furniture is built from timber or coloured with natural tones.



A wood burning fireplace is the main focal point in the living room.



The kitchen, with custom-designed sink and counter, is Hugh's favourite room.

Leafy location

In a home surrounded entirely by trees on all sides, Hugh can enjoy looking out on the picturesque rural scenery without fear of prying eyes looking in.

He found his perfect spot through a friend, who lives in the neighbourhood and told him of a vacant block that was for sale.

Initially, Hugh was dubious and worried that the area would be 'a bit old-ladyish' for him after having lived for years in the busy inner city.

When his friend described it as bush within a suburban area, Hugh's cynical response was, 'Three trees do not a forest make, dear!'

But he visited the property out of curiosity, and was immediately struck by how ideal it was for what he had in

mind. At once he could picture building the home he had been planning in his head for decades.

'I drove there and when I climbed over the perimeter wall, I saw an overgrown block. Then I walked into the clearing and knew immediately I'd found the right place,' says Hugh.

Total privacy

With his neighbours conveniently screened out by the trees, Hugh quickly set to work constructing the glass-walled house in the natural clearing, taking only four months to complete the project.

Hugh didn't need to cut down any trees on the property to make room for his home, but since moving in he has been slowly removing non-native trees to use as firewood.



Sliding doors bathe the bedroom with morning sunlight.

Natural interior

The character of Hugh's home lies mostly in its design, which sits in harmony with the bush setting.

Warm timber is used throughout for the floors and window frames, with the ceiling's exposed beams and plywood panels creating the feel of a jungle retreat. Almost every piece of furniture continues the timber theme.

Every room features fantastic views of the bush through floor-to-ceiling windows or sliding doors, making the greenery a dominant feature and filling the home with natural light.

The few walls that aren't dominated by enormous windows or sliding doors are painted light green, further adding to the brightness of the home.

Carefully selected artworks adorn any walls large enough to accommodate them. Natural textures can be found throughout, with throw rugs featuring exotic patterns found in nearly every room.

The house is almost entirely open plan, with a small partition wall separating the kitchen from the spacious living area.

With a wood burning fireplace in the centre of the living area, the overall effect is a warm and inviting home that is the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Simple pleasures

Hugh's Saturday morning ritual is enjoying a coffee and reading the papers while the dappled light filters into his bedroom, with the wild bush only metres away.

Not being a fan of generic kitchens, Hugh designed the counter and sink himself, and the kitchen is now his favourite room in the house. He describes it as 'a condensed version of the house in one room'.

'I love this room. The wine and music are always close at hand. I'm not a great cook but I refuse to eat rubbish so even if it's just for me, I make something every night,' says Hugh ➤

Smart design

Having grown up in a family of five children, Hugh relishes the space and privacy that comes with this home.

'We either had to share a room or sleep in weird places like under the stairs,' says Hugh.

Still, living within a bush setting has taken some getting used to, as the still silence of the night is regularly interrupted by the noises of the birds and other animals outside.

Although Hugh's home is relatively compact, the glass makes the house feel larger than it actually is. He believes it's all about how efficiently you use the area you have.

'The house is only 135 square metres, but you don't actually need much more if a house is correctly articulated,' says Hugh.

'You just need to work out beforehand how the home will be furnished and how you'll move through and live in it. How you'll interpret the space.'



Unspoilt bush views make working in the study a pleasure.



Natural textures and furnishings reflect the home's leafy setting.

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INSTALL A SCREEN DOOR

Let the breeze in and keep the bugs out with mesh screening to protect your home

PROJECT FRANK GARDNER

At this time of year there are still plenty of bugs around, with flies, mozzies and moths all wanting to get inside the house.

To keep them outside where they belong, the easiest and most effective answer is to install a screen door.

Measure the width and height of the door opening in the jamb to determine the door size needed.

Screen doors are available to buy in standard imperial and

metric sizes to match most existing types of doorframe.

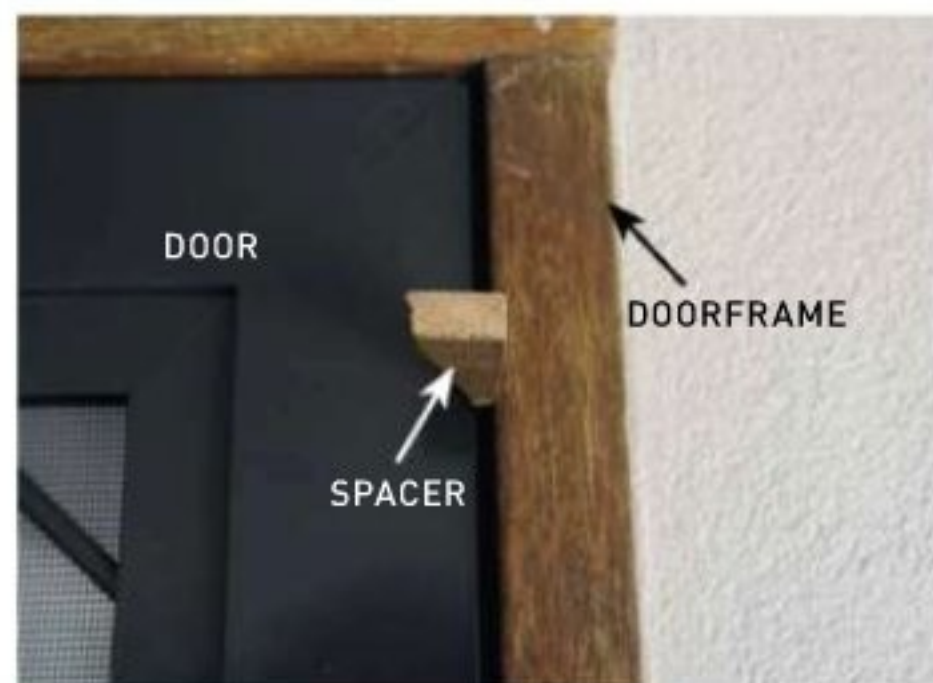
Next decide whether your door will be hinged on the left or right side when viewed from the outside.

Most screen doors are hinged on the right but the existing hardware may be the determining factor, if the handles from both doors clash.

If that is the case, screen doors are usually reversible with the lock body simply turned upside down.



Screen doors in various designs and sizes are available from door suppliers.



1 Position the door

Decide which side to hinge the screen door then position it, with hinges closed, in the doorframe. Adjust the door, leaving about 3mm clearance on all sides with extra gap at the base if needed, then secure with small timber wedges or spacers.



2 Make the hinge rebates

Use a pencil to mark the hinge positions on the frame then remove the screen door. Open the hinges and align them with the pencil marks. Mark the outline of the hinges and screw holes. Cut the hinge rebate to a depth of 2mm using a 25mm chisel.



3 Hang the door

Drill 1.5mm pilot holes at the marked screw hole positions then secure the screen door at each hinge position with one screw only. Check the door opens and closes freely and sits correctly in the frame then secure the remaining screws into the hinges.



4 Fit the handle

Point the handles towards the door hinges and, with the snib in the up position, fit the interior handle to the inside of the screen door. Insert the square connecting rod through the lock body and fit the outside handle, securing with two screws.



5 Insert the lock cylinder

Put the key in the lock and check the cam rotation. Leave the key and insert the cylinder into the lock body and secure with the supplied screw. Push the auxiliary bolt in to release the main bolt, turn the snib to horizontal and check the key works.



6 Attach the striker plate

Close the door and mark the position of the main bolt on the jamb. Position the striker plate on the marks and run a pencil around the inside and outside of the plate. Rebate the inside rectangle with a chisel to a depth of 18mm then secure with screws.

SERVICE A CEILING FAN

If your rotating fan has got the wobbles, try these simple tricks to diagnose and fix the problem

A wobbly overhead fan isn't just distracting, it can also cause the parts to wear out faster than they should. In extreme cases it can be a warning that the fan is in danger of falling from the ceiling.

Any judder should be fixed promptly but before you tackle it, you should first make sure your fan is mounted correctly to the ceiling.

The fan should feel solid when you pull down on the pipe that supports it. Check under the slide-down cover plate to make sure the mounting is stable.

If the fan is loose, remount it correctly. Once the fan is secure, turn it back on. If there is still a residual wobble, some further investigation is needed. Follow these steps to figure out what's wrong and fix it.



Tightening the blades ▼

If your fan has operated smoothly in the past and has gradually developed the shakes, loose screws are likely to be the cause.

Turn off the power supply to the fan. Hold the motor body and gently wiggle the blades to make sure they're all firmly fastened. If any feel loose, tighten the screws that secure the blades to the blade holder.

If that doesn't fix it, tighten the screws that fasten the blade holders to the fan's flywheel. You may have to remove the cover plate or light fixture under the fan to access them.

Once all the screws are tight, reconnect the power supply, turn the fan on and check for balance. If the wobble still persists, it could be a problem with the blade alignment.



Mercator Kimberley 120cm Ceiling Fan,
\$229. monacocorp.co.nz

Aligning the blades ▼

Blade holders are usually made from soft metal that can easily bend if you carry something tall through the room and accidentally bump the fan. To check the alignment, measure the distance from the ceiling to each blade.

Hold your tape measure in one spot and slowly rotate the blades manually, measuring each blade in exactly the same position. If you find a blade that's more than 5mm higher or lower than the others, gently bend the blade holder up or down until it is set in the correct position. If it's still wobbling, try balancing the blades.



Balancing the blades

Checking the blades requires coins, Blu Tack, a tube of superglue and a little patience. This trial-and-error process can take some time.

Turn on the fan and find the speed that creates the worst judder. Stop the fan and use Blu Tack to stick a coin on the top of the lower edge of a blade. Turn the fan on to see if the wobble is better or worse.

Repeat with each blade until you find the culprit, then move the coin in and out until you find the spot that best improves stability.

Squeeze a dab of superglue onto the coin and stick it on the spot on top of the blade. Add more coins if needed.

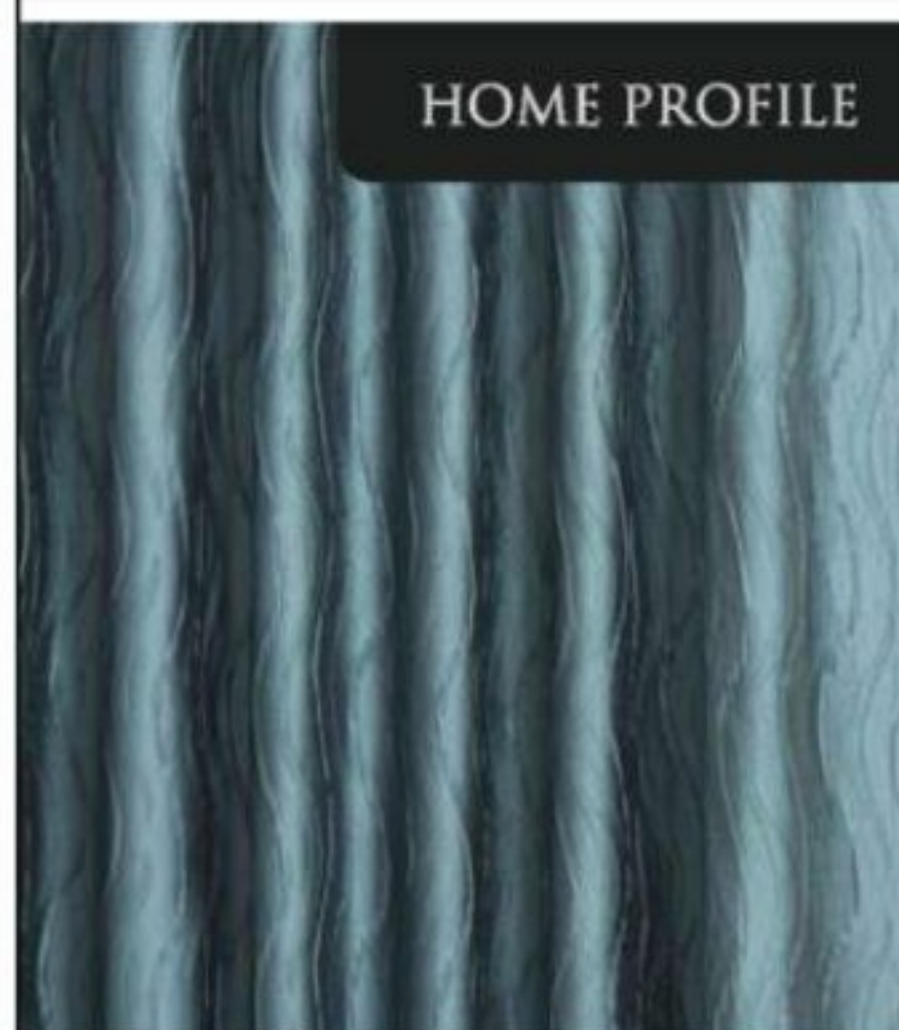


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*Applies to domestic applications only. Refer in store for warranty terms and conditions.

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www.nilfiskwaterblasters.co.nz

PRESSURE TOOLS

Clean up, spruce up and pump up with these home and workshop time-savers



AIR
COMPRESSOR

* TOUGH TOOLS

Whether you're a DIYer or tradesman, there's an enormous range of paint sprayers, water blasters and air compressors to suit your needs.

According to *Handyman* Technical editor Frank Gardner, these tools are designed for use with a variety of attachments.

'This makes them suitable for highly specialised jobs, from driving nails into timber to cleaning the underside of a car,' says Frank.



PAINT
SPRAYER



WATER
BLASTER

EASY MAINTENANCE

These handy tools are great time-savers for any job, whether it's cleaning a driveway, painting the shed or topping up a tyre.

WATER BLASTERS are ideal for almost any major cleaning project outdoors and are available in both electric and petrol-powered models.

AIR COMPRESSORS are essential for the garage or workshop, and use a flexible hose to power attachments such as nailguns and impact drivers.

PAINT SPRAYERS take the hard work out of painting projects, applying paint up to three times more quickly than by brush. ➤

WATER BLASTERS

* CLEAN WHILE SAVING WATER

Water blasters are usually supplied with water from a garden tap or water tank. The flow rate is up to 80% less than that of an ordinary hose, but the pressure is more than 30 times higher.

They work by pumping water through a flexible hose and out of a nozzle in a spray lance or other attachment. The more pressure the pump can generate, the tougher the cleaning jobs the washer can tackle.

PETROL VERSUS ELECTRIC

Petrol-powered water blasters are generally much more powerful and can supply more pressure, measured in pounds per square inch, or psi, than electric models.

Ideal for large cleaning jobs such as decks, driveways and roofs, they don't need an electrical power outlet or extension lead.

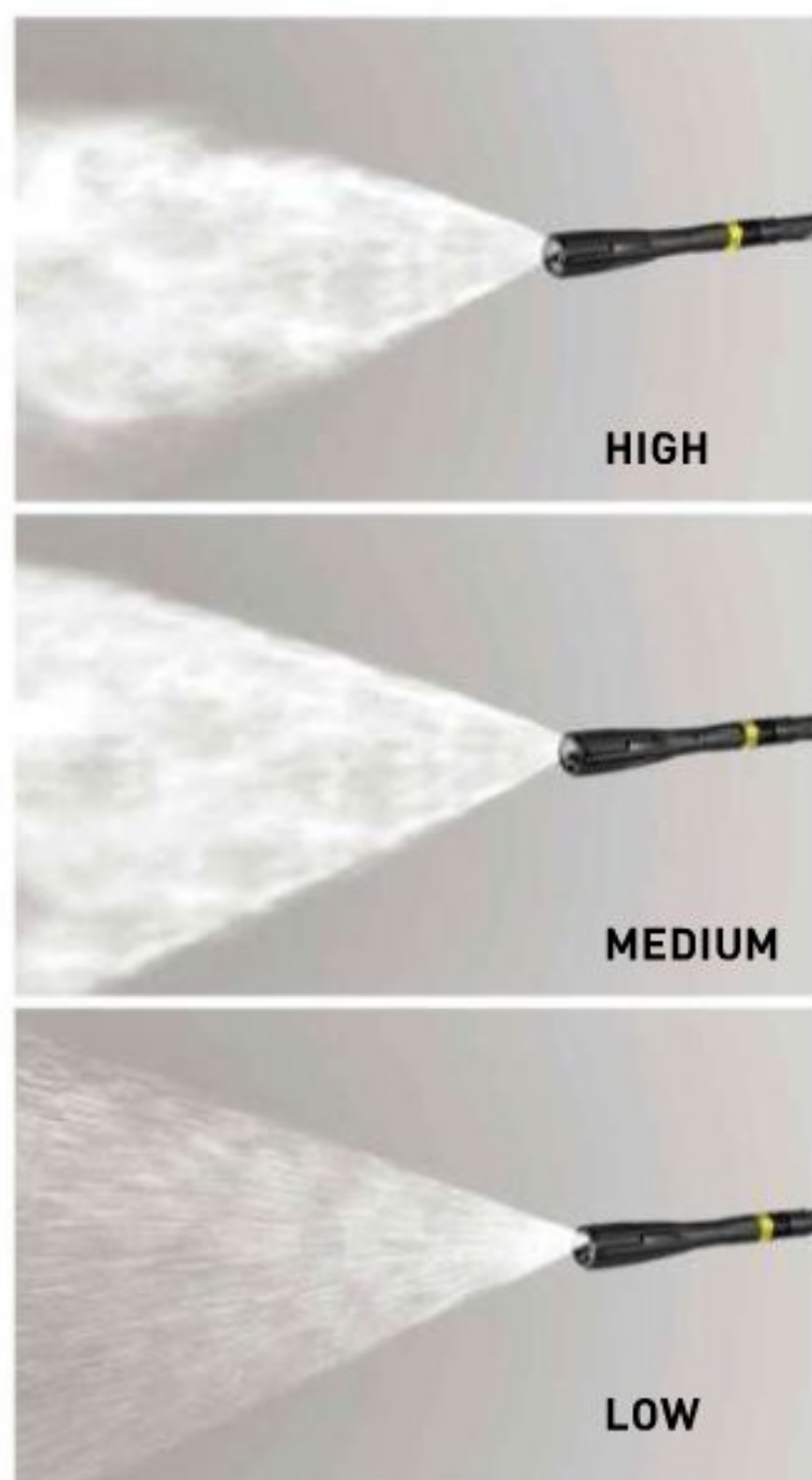
They are more durable and require less care to use as the pressure can be regulated to avoid damage on smaller jobs. They can deliver up to 3000psi.

Electric water blasters are often cheaper, lighter, quieter and smaller. They are used for tasks such as cleaning the car, motorbike or barbecue, and typically deliver 1300 to 2000psi.



* SPRAY NOZZLES

Water blasters usually come with quick-connect interchangeable nozzles featuring different spray patterns and turbo heads for varied pressure rates and cleaning tasks.



Blast away grime to get the deck ready for refinishing.

PICTURE (LEFT) THINKSTOCK

ACCESSORIES

Stock up with everything you need to make the most of your water blaster, from nozzles that offer different spray patterns to extension lances and hoses to supply the pump with water from a garden tap or rainwater tank.



FOAM NOZZLE allows you to mix detergent into the water jet for more effective cleaning.



POWERSPEED NOZZLE is 70% more efficient than a standard nozzle for general cleaning.



WATER SUCTION KIT is for emptying ponds or drying flooded areas.



UNDER-CAR CLEANER easily removes mud and sludge from the car chassis.



CAR WASHING BRUSH to scrub dirt and grime away from problem areas.



MULTI SPRAY LANCE lets you select from five spray patterns.



EXTENSION LANCE telescopes out to 4m, allowing you to clean hard-to-reach areas.



WATER FILTER protects the pump by purifying potentially dirty water drawn from a bucket.



SUPPLY HOSE draws water for the pressure pump from a bucket or rainwater tank up to 5m away. ➤

* WORK UNDER PRESSURE

Air compressors are machines that store pressurised air to power pneumatic tools such as nailguns, staplers, impact wrenches and paint sprayers.

Tradesmen use them for framing and roofing while DIYers employ them in home improvement projects and lighter applications such as inflating tyres, toys and sporting equipment.

Most have a holding tank filled with air that's compressed by a motor-driven pump. The air flows through a flexible hose to power whatever tool is attached.

A regulator keeps outgoing air at a consistent pressure, while an automatic switch activates the motor to compress more air as it is used, turning it off again at peak pressure.



Project Air 115psi Air Compressor, \$227. bunnings.co.nz



An air-powered nailgun is an invaluable tool for renovations.

* BUYING AN AIR COMPRESSOR

Compressors complying with the Compressed Air Association of Australasia (CAAA) Protocol 2000 have a label with pump displacement details and free air delivery figures.

This lets you easily compare different models without having to do complicated calculations. Entry-level air compressors are often 12V types that plug into the car cigarette lighter jack.

If you use pneumatic tools often, choose an oil-lubricated compressor that has enough free air delivery, measured in litres per minute, to drive the tools you plan to use.

Nailguns, sprayers and other tools have different requirements so match the air tool's consumption to the compressor's output.

Choose a compressor with 30% more output than the tool with the highest flow rate so you have some headroom to spare.

ATTACHMENTS

Air-driven tools are lightweight but powerful, as the energy that does the work is supplied by the compressor, so an onboard electric motor is not needed. They are also safer than mains-powered tools as there is no risk of electrocution.



GRINDER for welding preparation, deburring and cutting metal.



TYRE INFLATOR for pumping up tyres, air beds and sports balls.



BLOW GUN for targeted cleaning and regulating air pressure.



RACHET for rapidly loosening or tightening nuts and bolts.



BRAD GUN AND NAILGUN for building cabinetry, fencing and construction with timber.



IMPACT WRENCH for car wheel nuts and other heavy-duty applications.



STAPLER for driving staples into timber or metal, used in construction and upholstery.



SANDER for fast and easy surface preparation.



SPRAY GUN AND AIRBRUSH for painting all types of surfaces and for car detailing. ➤

PAINT SPRAYERS



*SPEED UP THE PAINTING PROCESS

If painting is a task you dread, or if using a paintbrush and roller seems like a slow and arduous way to apply finish, consider spray painting.

A power paint sprayer is a fast way of achieving good coverage and gives a consistent, uniform finish.

Great for painting both interior and exterior surfaces, power paint sprayers are particularly handy when trying to paint textured, hard-to-reach or intricate areas.

Save time by spray painting cladding, fencing, lattice, decking, grilles, furniture and even toys.

With the variety of paint sprayers available, it's easy to choose one designed specifically for the type of project you need to accomplish.



HVLP SPRAYERS

High Volume Low Pressure (HVLP) sprayers, also called air sprayers, disperse a mist of paint suspended in a large quantity of air.

An HVLP sprayer provides smooth, glossy and consistent cover, giving the user maximum control. Paint normally needs to be diluted as specified by a viscosity table in the user manual.

AIRLESS SPRAY GUNS

Larger projects are better suited to an airless sprayer. Airless sprayers use high pressure, provided by a pump, rather than air, to disperse the paint.

Some airless sprayers draw paint directly from the tin, eliminating the need to reload a reservoir. They are perfect for walls, exterior cladding, fences and any larger outdoor project.

*SPRAY PAINT A WALL

Spray painting is the quickest way to coat a wall or ceiling. An HVLP gun is a good choice for interior walls as it produces less overspray than an airless sprayer, so it doesn't waste paint.

The air pressure is supplied by a small onboard compressor, or a portable turbine carried on a shoulder strap and connected to the gun by a flexible hose.



Once everything was masked off, painting took only an hour.



A power sprayer makes it easy to paint textured surfaces.

*SPRAY-PAINTING TECHNIQUES

Follow these tips for a perfectly painted surface every time.

■ **COVER ALL NEARBY** surfaces and never use a paint sprayer to do exterior work on a windy day.

■ **WEAR A DISPOSABLE** spray suit and a suitable respirator.

■ **TEST THE SETTINGS** of the sprayer on a piece of cardboard until you achieve the correct flow. Smooth surfaces need less power than irregular areas such as fencing.

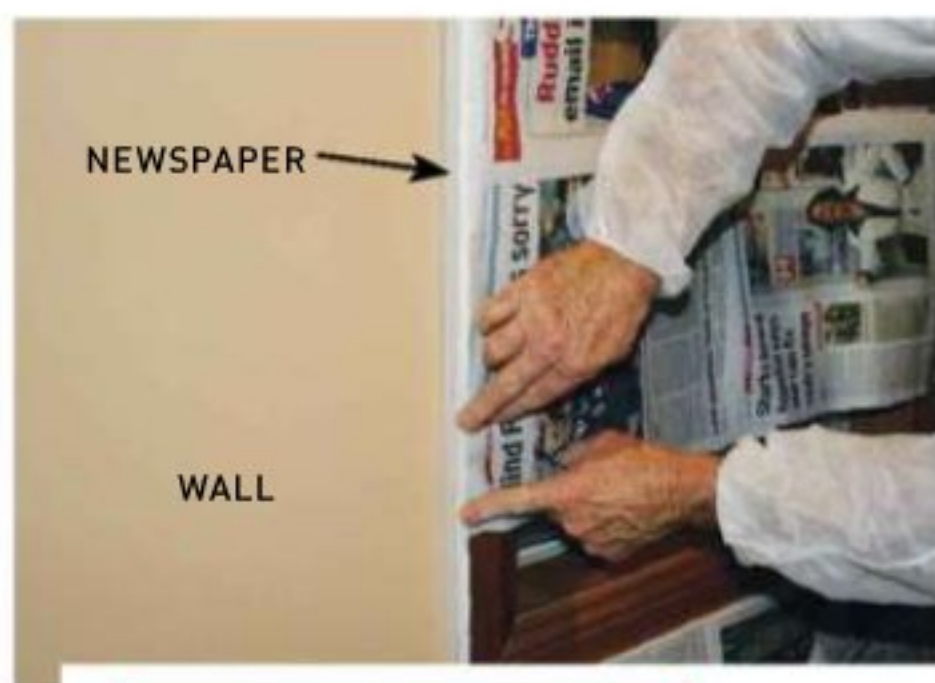
■ **MOST PAINT SPRAYERS** have an adjustable nozzle with a choice of up to three spray patterns: round, horizontal fan and vertical fan.

■ **A ROUND PATTERN** is great for railings, fence posts, corners and edges. A horizontal fan pattern is better for fencing and lattice, while a vertical fan pattern is best on decking, cladding and sheds.

■ **HOLD THE GUN** at an even distance from the target object and spray in smooth, even sweeps.

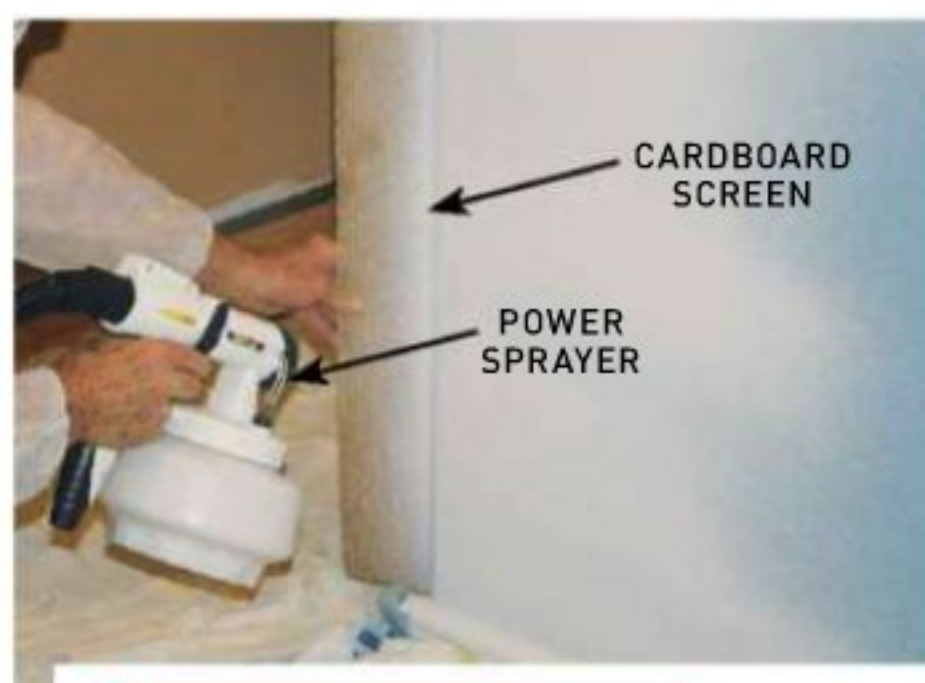
■ **SET THE SPRAYER** in motion before squeezing the trigger, and release it before stopping when you reach the end of a pass.

■ **DRIPS AND RUNS** are problematic to correct, so spray lightly and apply an extra coat if needed. ➤



1. PREPARE THE WALL

Sand with 180 grit paper then wash down with sugar soap and rinse. Cover trim, windows and doors with newspaper and floors with drop sheets. Use painter's tape to mask skirtings and architraves.



2. START AT A CORNER

Dilute the paint according to the manufacturer's instructions then start spraying from a corner, working in smooth, even strokes. **TIP** Use a piece of cardboard as a screen to catch any overspray.



3. SPRAY PAINT THE WALL

Hold the gun about 250mm from the wall, moving your whole arm to ensure even coverage, rather than pivoting at the wrist. To avoid patchiness, don't stop until the entire wall is covered.

BUYING GUIDE

Purchasing a water blaster, air compressor or paint sprayer may stretch the budget, but the time and effort saved around the home is worth the expense, especially when it comes to those large-area maintenance jobs.

LIGHT DUTY

WATER BLASTERS



Ideal for smaller tasks around the home and garden, this model has a 6m hose, three-piece accessory pack and detergent applicator.

Nilfisk 1300W 1450psi Water Blaster, \$159. nilfiskwaterblasters.co.nz

MEDIUM DUTY



With its sturdy, upright design, this model will handle many household tasks. It has a 1.9Kw water-cooled induction engine and a 9m hose.

Karcher K4.650 1885psi Water Blaster, \$590. karcher.co.nz

HEAVY DUTY



Designed for heavy outdoor use with a 205cc four-stroke petrol engine and 3000psi of pressure to handle the toughest caked-on dirt.

Briggs & Stratton 3000psi Washer, \$998. briggsandstratton.com

AIR COMPRESSORS



For small jobs around the car or workshop, this 12V compressor is ideal for inflating sports balls, tyres and flotation devices.

Ozito 12V 100psi Air Compressor, \$39. ozito.co.nz



This compact 10L compressor is rated at 1.5HP with an output of 56L per minute, and includes an 8m hose plus side-mounted tool holders.

Ryobi 280psi Air Compressor, \$299. ryobi.co.nz



Delivering an impressive 336L per minute, this belt-drive 3HP compressor with 50L tank is suitable for most air tools and nailguns.

Blackout 115psi Compressor, \$698. blackoutpower.co.nz

PAINT SPRAYERS



Designed for spraying timber garden fences, gates, lattice and garage doors, this model is lightweight and easy to clean.

Wagner W95 Fence Sprayer, \$96. wagner.co.nz



Airless spray gun designed for the serious DIYer, capable of drawing interior or exterior paint, varnish or lacquer directly from the can.

Ozito 650W Airless Sprayer, \$448. ozito.co.nz



Ideal for medium-scale projects around the home and garden, this sprayer has a two-stage pressure adjustment for varied applications.

Wagner Project 115 Airless Power Sprayer, \$798.



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Off the wall

Turn a masonry surface into a mini sports arena with action-packed games for kids of all ages

PROJECT AND PICTURES DANIA WARMERDAM



★★★
UNDER
10
Sports wall

★★★
THREE
TO 12
Rock climb



This retaining wall for a garden bed is an excellent blank canvas for games.



CRICKET

Get in some soccer practice any time you feel like it with a removable goal.

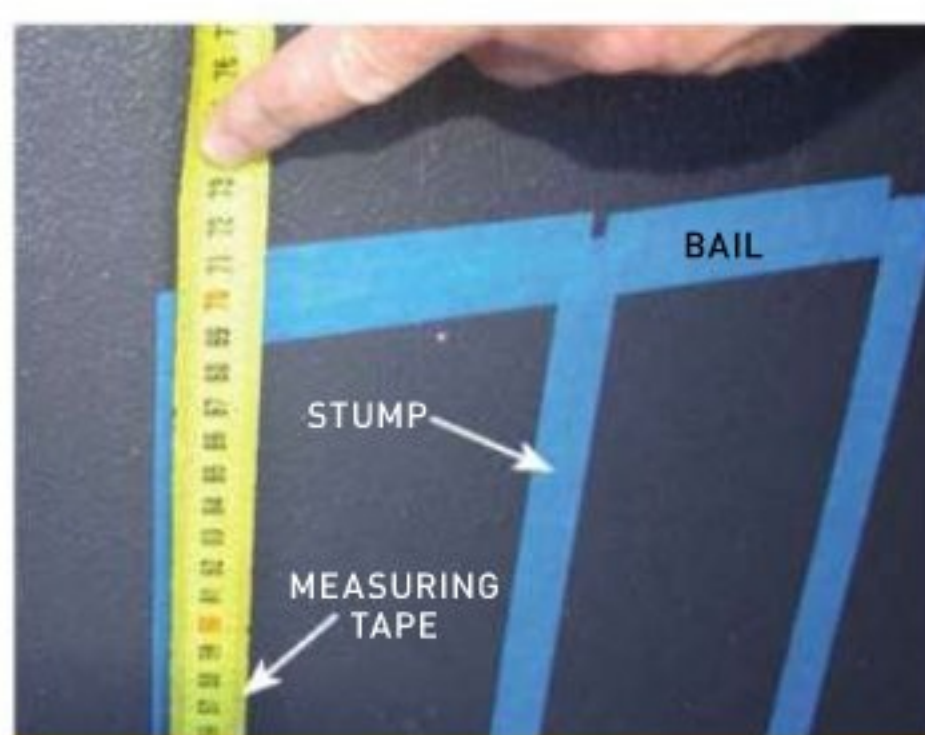
Ball games

Once children start school they tend to become involved in sport, and even the smallest backyard can provide a safe space for them to practice.

Using painter's tape, create a temporary arena for your budding sports star. From footy in the winter, to cricket and tennis in summer, there's scope for year-round activity.



3M Scotchblue Masking Tape
19mm x 55m, \$11. 3mnz.co.nz



Cricket pitch ▼

Cricket stump dimensions are 229 x 711mm. Measure the first stump and mark the wall with masking tape. From the top, measure across to the third stump and tape, then position the middle stump. Add the bails.



Soccer goals ▼

The dimensions of a junior net are 2133 x 6400mm. Measure across the base for the width, then tape the posts to the height of the net on both sides. Join the posts to create a crossbar. Make the goal smaller to increase difficulty.

Creative canvas

Young children love to draw and paint, so turn the wall into a blank canvas for their ideas. Chalkboard paints are washable and come in a range of tintable colours.

Clean the wall and prepare the surface with a waterproof membrane. Once dry, apply the paint. One litre will cover 16sqm. Let it dry completely before use. ➤

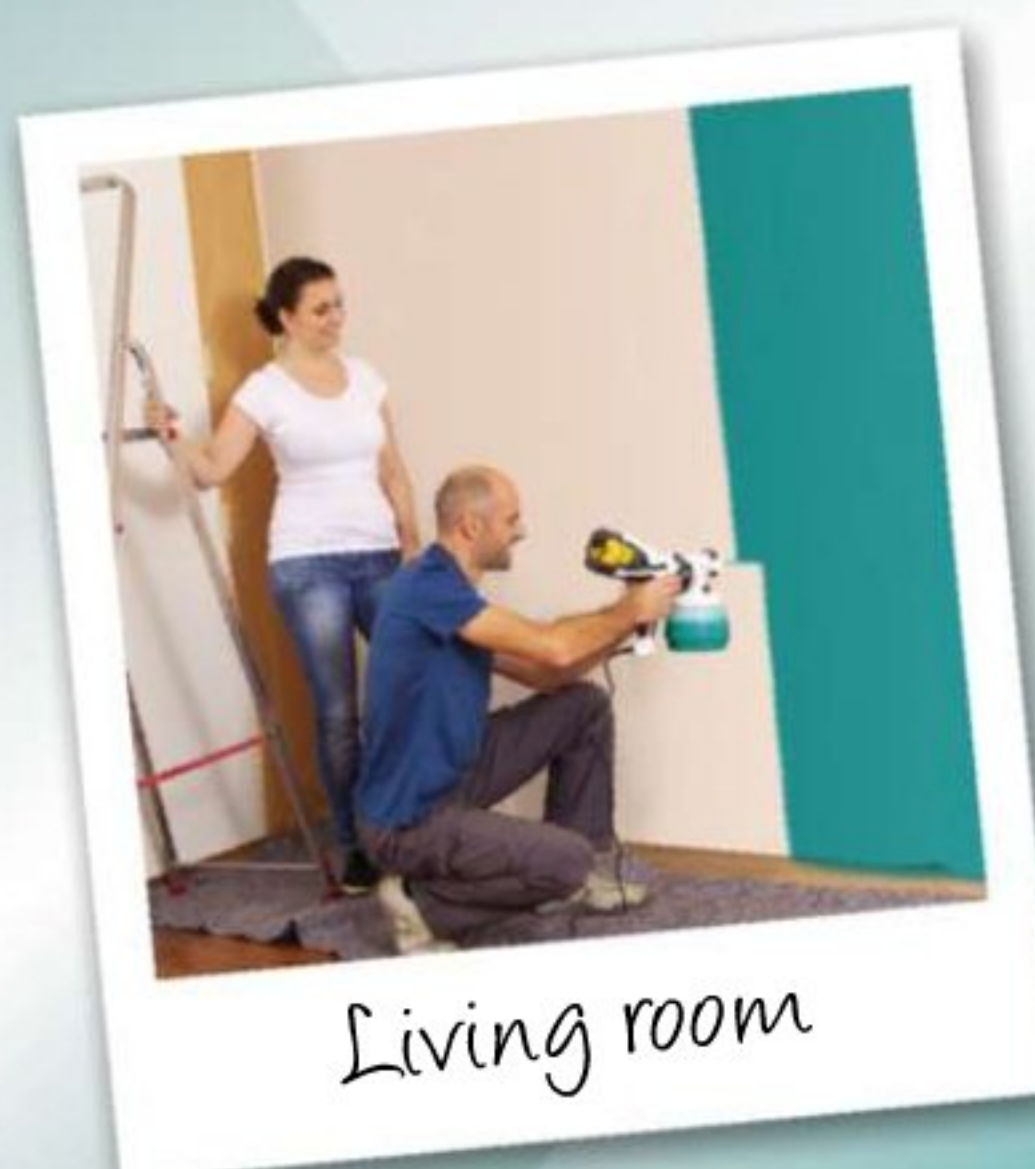


White Knight Chalkboard Paint,
\$16 for 500ml. whiteknightpaints.co.nz



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Living room



Garage door



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Vertical challenge

As your kids grow a little older, they will relish the challenge of a climbing wall. Not only is it a great workout, it increases self-confidence, teaches trust and builds strong, healthy bodies.

Rock climbing grips are ideal for any play area with vertical walls or ramps. For safety, position foam mats under the wall. Make sure the kids put on safety pads for elbows and knees, and always wear a helmet.

The grips used for this project come in different sizes in packs of five. Pre-drilled holes and fasteners are included, making them simple to install on timber walls and ramps.

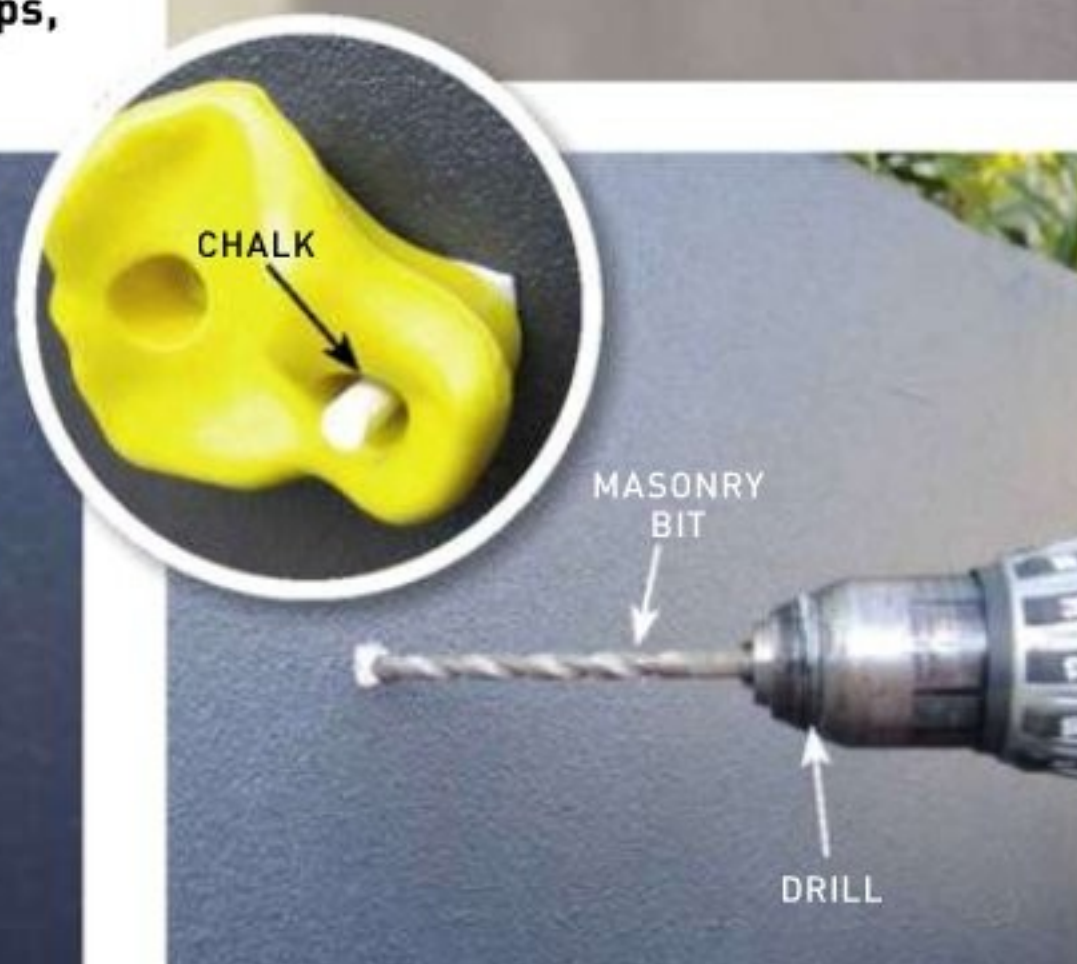
For a masonry wall like this one, use masonry anchors such as DynaBolts.



Swing Slide Climb Rock Climbing Grips, \$27 for five. bunnings.co.nz



Rock climbing is a fun activity that will appeal to slightly older kids.



1 Position the grips

Apply Selley's Ezy Tack to the back of the climbing grips and arrange them on the wall. Enlist the kids to help move them around and check the spacing until you get the ideal set-up. It should be difficult but not impossible.

2 Drill the holes

Draw a chalk mark in each hole to indicate the positions of the grips as a guide for drilling. Remove the grips and pull off the Ezy Tack, then drill the holes in the wall using an 8mm masonry drill bit.

3 Secure the grips

Using M8 DynaBolts, attach the grips to the wall. Always test each rock grip for weight before letting the kids loose on them. When all the grips are in position, arrange the foam mats on the ground and start climbing.



**DON'T LET YOUR
WALL TURN UGLY**

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Kid-scape the garden

Add colour outdoors with fun and easy projects for junior designers

PICTURES AND WORDS ADAM WOODHAM

Gardening can be a lot of fun for kids, giving them the chance to get outside and grub around in the dirt.

And if you give kids an area outdoors to call their own they'll be rolling up their sleeves in no time.

The vegetable garden is a great starting point and a wonderful way for them to develop an understanding of where fresh food comes from.

You'll be surprised how many more vegies they are likely to accept on the dinner plate when they've grown them with their own hands.

Let them add a scarecrow and it will become their favourite spot.

Watering and weeding takes up only so much time, so to really keep kids interested between sowing and harvesting crops they need to have a stake in the garden.

The best way to do this is to create a kid-friendly landscape and this is possible whether you have a large garden, small courtyard or balcony.

Use raised beds to give children a dedicated growing area, mark out kids-only spots using puppets, or decorate lights to hang outdoors and you won't be able to keep them away. ➤



McGregor's Little Kiwi Gardener Tool Set, \$10. mcgregors.co.nz



Hills Adda Instant Garden Bed, 1200 x 900 x 300mm, \$99. hills.co.nz



VEGIE PATCH



PICTURE (LEFT) TOP: THINKSTOCK



Make a scarecrow ▼

As a reward for the hard work of sowing garden beds and to give the vegie patch a guardian, help the kids make and dress a scarecrow to protect their crops from birds. **SINK A STAKE** up to 3m high about 600mm into the ground, securing a crosspiece 300mm from the top.

ADD CLOTHES and stuff with grass clippings, woodchips or rags, tying the waistband and pant legs in place. **MAKE A HEAD** from nylon tights or a hessian sack, stuffing it with plastic bags and securing to the stake with twine. Add a face and hat to finish. **TIP** Use bright colours to deter birds.

Adding a scarecrow to the vegie patch is a great way to combine craft with gardening to make it even more fun.



Garden craft

Take the time to look and you'll find your garden is a great source of craft supplies, including seed pods, colourful foliage and flowers, twisted branches and straight twigs.

A collection of goodies from the garden works well to create markers for paths and garden beds.

Just add a few colourful pipe cleaners and ice lolly sticks, then grab a hot glue gun and you're all set to create anything your imagination can conjure up.

This alien stick puppet was assembled using a glue gun, under adult supervision, to join porous materials and the shiny seed pods.

TIP When removing a part of a plant, trim it with secateurs rather than tearing it off by hand.



Mark paths or beds belonging to junior green thumbs with stick puppets.



Designing a flower press

Pressed and dried flowers make beautiful keepsakes or additions to art and craft projects.

A flower press is a simple device that features a rigid base and top plate with bolts through each corner.

To make your own press, cut two 300 x 300mm squares from 9mm marine or exterior ply.

Drill holes about 20mm in from the corners, insert the bolts and secure threaded drawer knobs over the top.

TIP You can also use wing nuts.

To adjust the size of the press simply cut the plywood larger or smaller. For scrapbooks or albums you may want it A4 size.

Position the flowers and leaves between layers of paper on the base plate then add the top plate.

Wind the knobs to tighten the bolts and draw the top and base plates together, compressing the contents of the press.

Change the paper every few days until the flowers or leaves have dried.

Watch the weather ▼

Add a rain gauge to the garden and open up a new world for kids to explore. It is a simple and fun learning tool that helps children appreciate the importance of climate in their garden. The best spot is somewhere that's frequently visited like the vegie garden.

POSITION THE GAUGE

up high enough so water won't splash into it and in an area clear from overhanging buildings or trees. A large, securely mounted, seasoned hardwood garden stake is an ideal mounting point.

KEEP RECORDS to help kids learn how to track data and look at summarised results. Create a spreadsheet and graph that tallies the monthly and annual rainfall. ➤



Keeping an eye on rainfall gives kids a reason to get outdoors regularly.

TURN
IT UP
COLOUR



Grow better, healthier,
more colourful blooms every time.

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Outdoor lights

Turn your garden into a fairy wonderland after dark by adding handmade lanterns.

All you need is glass paint, LED tea-light candles and glass containers or bottles in just about any shape you can find.

To hang lanterns from trees in the garden, decorate jars with wire handles. If you don't have any, choose jars with a lip and make a hanger using galvanised tie wire from the hardware store.

Paint markers make it easy to create pictures and patterns on glass candle holders of all shapes and sizes.

They cost from \$5 each, available from art suppliers or stationery shops, resist fading and come in a range of colours including metallics.

Get the kids to practise first on a piece of paper the same size as the surface to be painted.

TIP If using real candles, don't paint on the side exposed to the flame.



Draw colourful designs on any glass surface with easy-to-use paint pens.



Painted glass beehive pots make colourful hanging lanterns in trees.

✦ Get more online

Visit handymanmagazine.co.nz for Gardening Activities For Kids.

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In this garden, taut wire strands provide support while displaying a fruit tree to its finest advantage.

Growing sideways

To cultivate market-fresh produce in a compact space, train your fruit trees to spread over a wire trellis

WORDS JECCA BLAKE

Espalier is a traditional gardening technique used for training plants to grow against a wall or fence on a wire support, creating a living garden feature.

The practice was established centuries ago in Europe where it was used to extend the growing season of fruit trees in cold climates.

It was observed that the warmth retained in walls from the heat of the day gave the plant protection from the chill night air.

Freestanding trees can also be espaliered to a timber or wire frame without a wall behind them.

Pruning an espalier

An espaliered fruit tree can take up to five years to achieve multiple tiers and three years to fruit.

Remove the blossoms in spring during the first three years so the plant's energy is going into growth.

If you choose to leave the blossoms and enjoy the spring

Backyard espalier

The technique involved in espalier consists of manipulating a tree or shrub into a two-dimensional shape by pruning and tying it until the plant grows to a desired size and form.

Mostly used as a space saver the many elaborate designs mean that espaliered plants can also double up as landscape art.

It is a great way of cultivating fruit in a small space, as the trees are easy to prune, thin, harvest and spray.

But it is not just for trees, as a variety of shrubs and vines can be espaliered for ornamental reasons.

display, you'll have to wait longer for the tree to grow and produce.

The main pruning should be done in winter when the plant is dormant.

As the idea is to create flat growth, any branches that stick out or don't fit the desired shape should be pruned as they appear.



Make a wire frame

To make a frame for espalier, secure 3mm braided wire to a wall or between timber posts, adding turnbuckles to tighten the wires as the plant grows. **FOR A TRELLIS** set two timber posts at the mature width of the tree.

Attach screw eyes to the posts then thread the wire, securing the ends with wire rope grips.

Position the first wire 400mm above the ground then 350mm apart.

FOR A WALL build a trellis in front, leaving 300mm between the wires and the wall for good airflow and to stop the tree scraping the surface. ➤

Choose a fruit tree

For homegrown success, select one of these popular varieties to espalier.

APPLE should be planted in spring or autumn and pruned in winter after harvesting is complete.

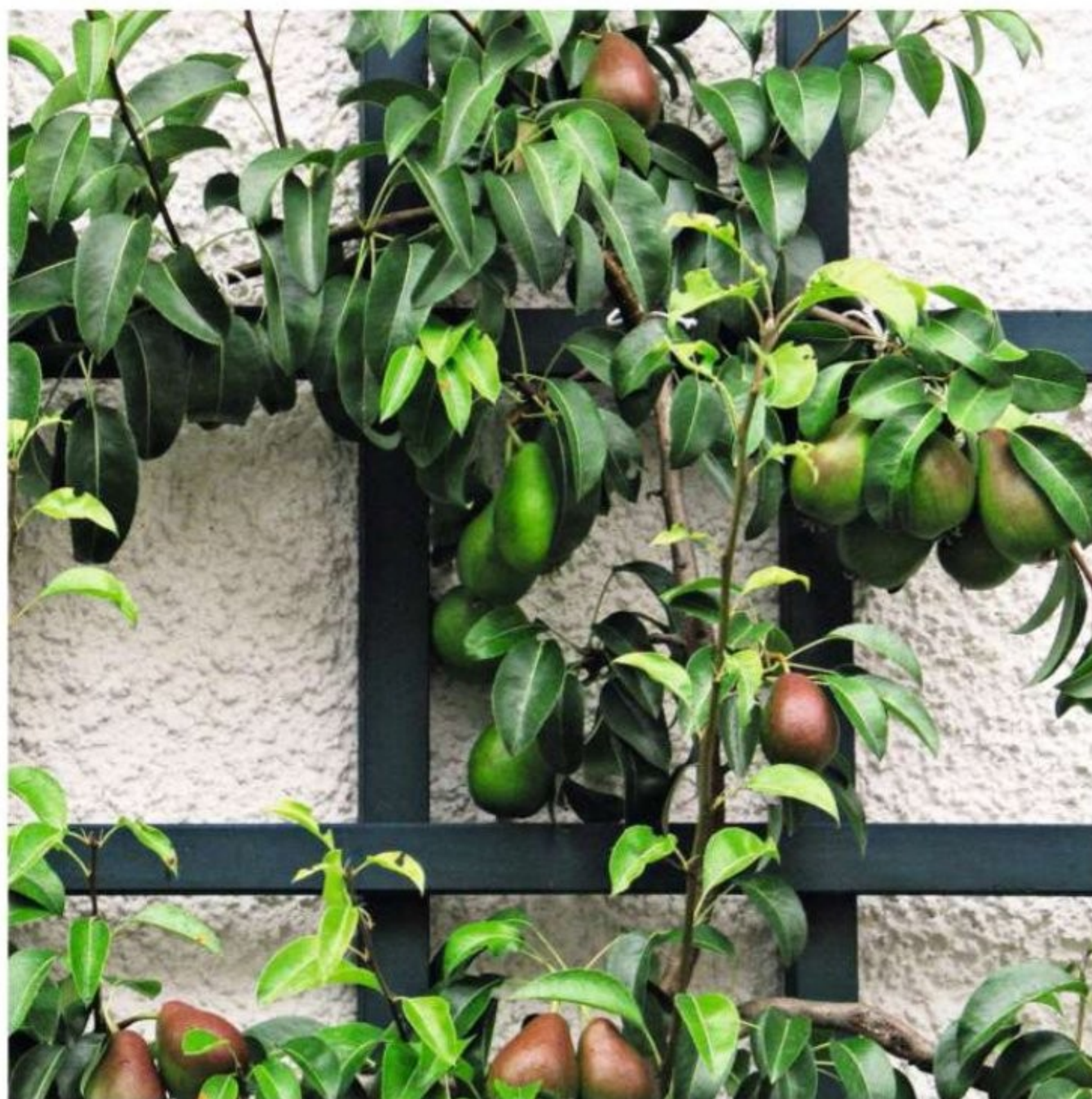
OLIVE is planted in late winter to early spring and harvested in early autumn. Wait until the fruit turns purple if you wish to preserve it.

LEMON goes in the ground in spring and should be fertilised then and in early autumn. Lemon trees can crop almost all year round.

PEAR is best planted in late autumn or early spring and pruned in winter after an autumn harvest.

FIG is an early spring planter with a summer harvest. A first crop, called breba, appears in spring but is of lesser quality and is usually pruned off to improve the summer crop.

ALMOND should be planted in late autumn and is also harvested at that time of year. Prune in summer until the tree is established then change to pruning in winter.



Popular espalier patterns

Choose a spot in the garden that gets enough sun for the plant to grow strongly, with plenty of room in the ground for the roots to spread out. Almost any plant can be espaliered but those with flexible lateral branches are the best. Select plants with a natural growth habit that will work with your chosen pattern.



FAN SHAPE has branches radiating from the centre in a V shape. The branches are left to grow then lowered and cut back for further training and to continue the V pattern.



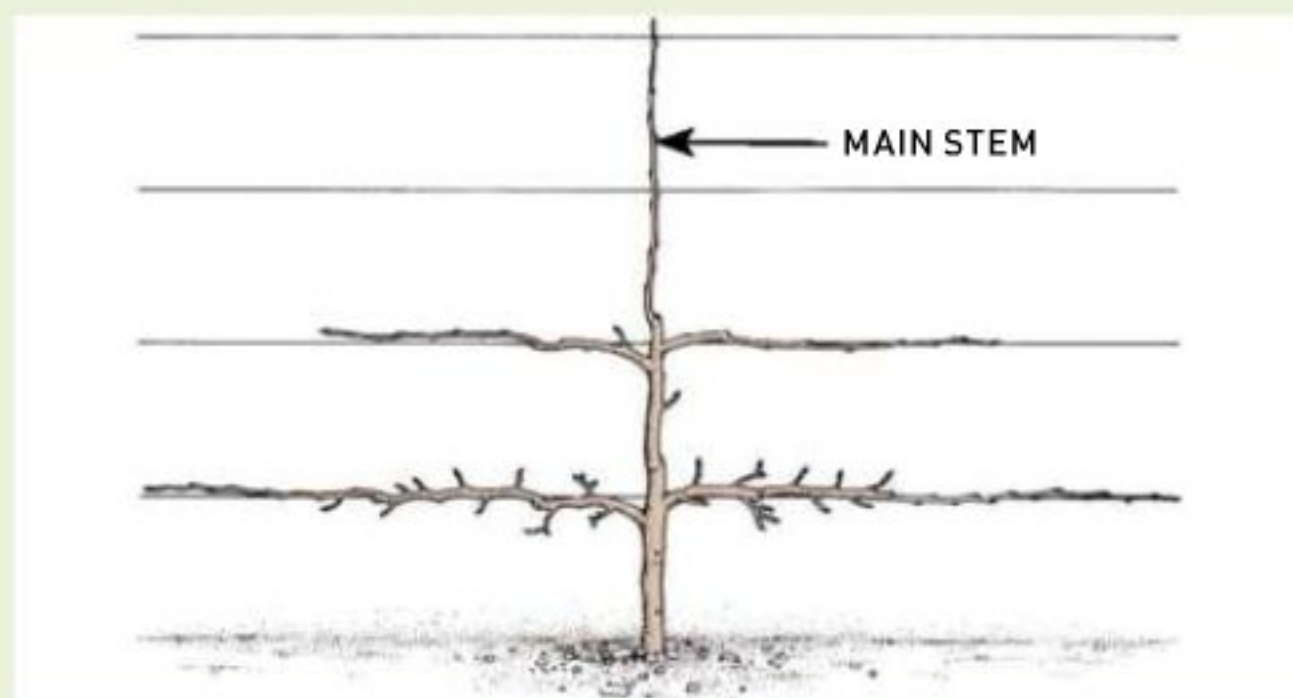
SIMPLE HORIZONTAL has one vertical trunk with two lateral branches that grow in opposite directions. The central trunk spreads opposite laterals every 400 to 500mm.



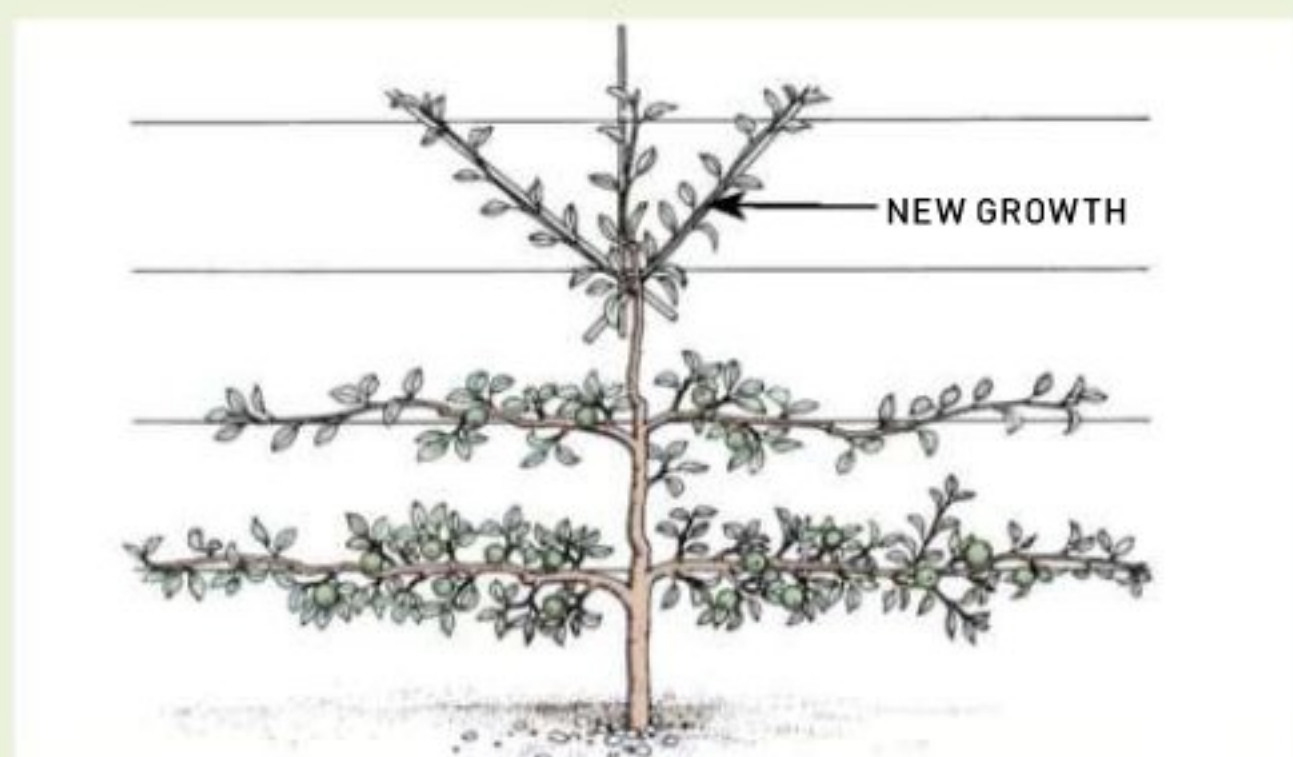
BELGIAN FENCE looks like a lattice structure and is created by planting similar trained vines or trees in a line 600mm apart with their branches trained in opposite 45° angles.

Training an espalier ▼

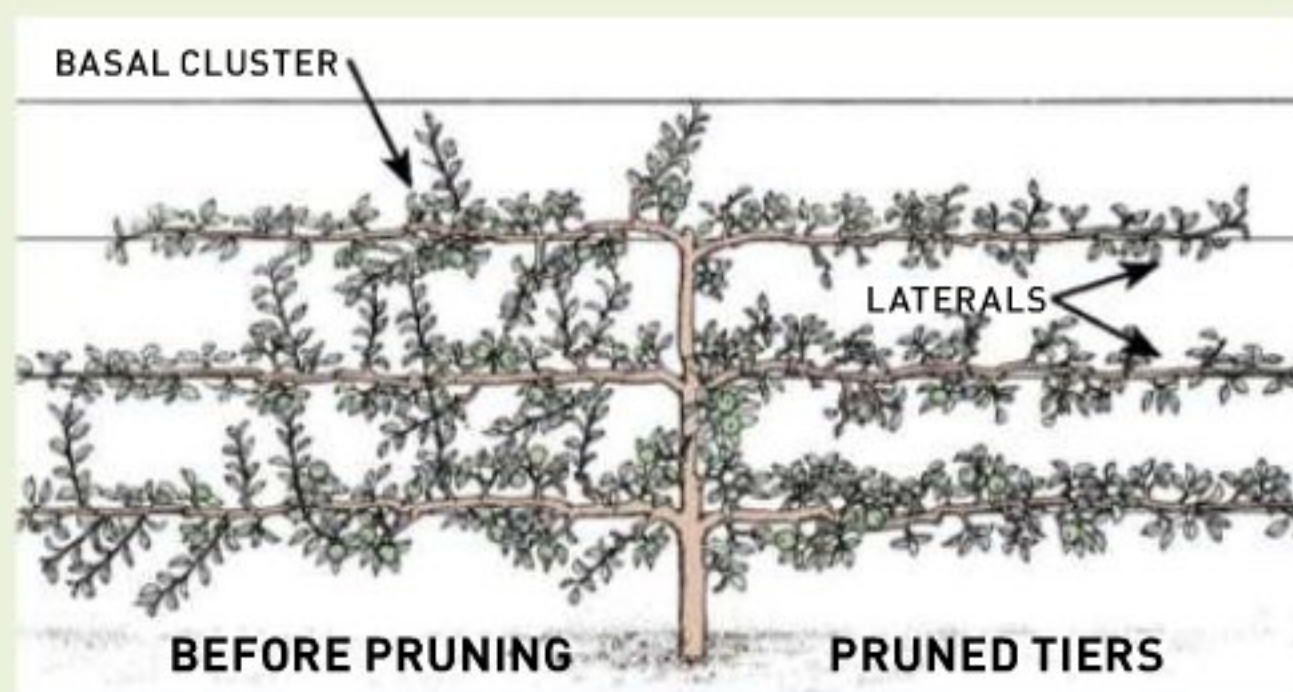
Plant the tree in front of the wire fence or wall trellis, cutting and tying branches as they grow.
TIP Remove unwanted side branches as they appear.



1 TIE THE BRANCHES to the wire with soft ties, choosing two strong limbs that are young, outward facing and the same height as the wire. Cut back the main stem to a bud 50mm above the wire to support the next tier of branches.



2 TIE THE NEW GROWTH next summer, selecting one bud pointing left and one pointing right below the cut made to the main stem at planting. As these shoots grow from the buds, tie them to the wire.



3 CUT BACK GROWTH from the previous year to 10mm in late autumn when the tiers reach the top wire. In late summer, prune tier shoots to three leaves from the basal cluster, and shoots from laterals to one leaf.

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A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a watering can with a wooden handle, pouring water into a hanging basket filled with various herbs. The basket contains basil, thyme, and rosemary. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

Raising basil ▼

To grow well, basil needs warmth and shelter, a free-draining rich soil and regular feeding.

Water plants before midday whenever the soil is dry, but avoid overwatering. Feed basil every 10 to 14 days with high-nitrogen liquid fertiliser.

Pinch out the growing tips regularly, starting while the plants are still small. This will encourage bushy growth and prolong the life of the plants by suppressing flowering.

Try out different herbs like thyme, rosemary and basil in pots before planting up a kitchen windowbox.

PICTURES GETTY IMAGES AND THINKSTOCK

Healthy herbs

What to sow, grow and harvest now to preserve and enjoy for months to come

Culinary herbs are at their tastiest from midsummer, when their foliage is still fresh and unblemished, as their flavour peaks just before flowering.

It is the time to harvest large quantities to preserve for later. Water and feed herbs well afterwards for a second harvest in early autumn.

SOW herbs like parsley in summer for use in autumn and winter.

When the seedlings are big enough to handle, water well and thin out to 80mm apart then water them again.



CUT off the growing tips of bushy herbs like basil for kitchen use and to encourage lots of new sideshoots.

WATER recently planted herbs in dry weather and check pots regularly.

KEEP on top of weeds, especially in new beds where herbs are establishing.

FEED potted herbs and new perennials in beds with a high-potash fertiliser.

Propagation basics

There are four techniques for creating new plants from herbs.

PINCH out parsley flowers on older plants for more leaves but let one or two flower and self-sow to provide seedlings for transplanting in autumn.

DIVIDE old mint for new plants. Lift mature clumps after flowering, chop

into pieces with a spade and transplant the outer pieces, discarding the centre.

TAKE cuttings of woody herbs like bay and rosemary in summer, dip the stems in hormone powder and pot up.

LAYER low branches of thyme and rosemary by pinning them down in the soil, keeping the tips above ground, and they should take root by winter.



Daltons Incredible Edibles Tomato Mix, \$12 for 30L, and Tomato Fertiliser, \$12 for 1.5L. daltons.co.nz

Growing mint

Most varieties of mint are vigorous growers with a spreading habit.

To prevent the roots invading nearby plants, grow mint in pots or confine in beds by planting in an old bucket, making sure it has lots of drainage holes in the base.

Trim back any wandering roots once or twice in summer.

As mint starts to flower, the quality of the foliage deteriorates.

Cut down a proportion of the tall stems to just above soil level, water well and apply a high-nitrogen fertiliser to stimulate a second crop of young, full-flavoured leaves.

Check for mint rust, looking for pale, swollen or distorted stems and dirty orange spots on the leaves.

Cut off affected growth to ground level and burn, or dispose of it in the bin immediately. ➤



Preserving herbs

Gather herbs for preserving on a dry morning before the sun reaches the plants. Harvest only as much as you are able to preserve straight away and select clean, healthy growth. Keep different herbs separate to avoid cross flavouring.



FREEZING

The best way to keep the flavour and colour of most leafy herbs is freezing. Wash sprigs in cold water and shake dry, as patting can bruise the leaves.

■ **BAG UP** small, loose bunches and freeze. Crush the leaves in their bags when fully frozen, working quickly before they thaw, then store in labelled containers to save space.

■ **PACK** finely chopped leaves into ice-cube trays, add water and freeze. Store the cubes in the trays or bags.

Use this method to make ice cubes from borage flowers and the leaves of variegated mint and lemon balm for adding to cold drinks in summer.

TIP Use the herbs frozen not thawed.



DRYING

After picking, dry herbs immediately to retain as much of their colour and oils as possible. They are ready when the leaves snap easily but are not so brittle they crumble to dust.

Store dried herbs whole or crushed in airtight jars or tins in a cool place.

■ **AIR DRY** in a well-ventilated, warm, dark place. Tie the stems into small bundles and suspend from hooks, or spread in a single layer on trays and turn several times in the first few days.

■ **OVEN DRY** on a very low temperature with the door ajar. Spread the herbs on trays lined with baking paper and turn often, ensuring they don't get too hot.

TIP Dry seeds for a few days then store.



INFUSING

Flavour liquids and butter with the fresh taste of leafy herbs to use for cooking or as condiments.

Oregano, basil and chives are ideal for this. To prepare, grind the herbs to a pulp using a mortar and pestle.

■ **ADD THE HERBS** to sunflower or olive oil, or white wine or cider vinegar, and infuse for two to three weeks. Strain the liquid and pour into a clean bottle or jar, adding a fresh sprig of the herb.

■ **BLEND THE HERBS** with unsalted butter and store in the refrigerator for a week, or shape into a log, wrap in baking paper and freeze.

TIP To make herb jelly, combine mint leaves with cooking or crab apples.

▼ The basics

The leaves, flowers and seeds of herbs can be preserved for later use. Here is a guide to herbs and how to preserve them.



Herbs and greens make leafy, aromatic and colourful garden beds.

HERB	PART	METHOD
Basil	leaves	freeze, infuse in oil or vinegar
Bay	leaves	dry, infuse in oil or vinegar
Bergamot	flowers, leaves	dry
Chamomile	flowers, leaves	dry
Chervil	leaves	freeze
Chives	flowers, leaves	dry, freeze, make butter
Coriander	seeds	dry
Dill	leaves, seeds	freeze, infuse in vinegar, dry
Fennel	leaves, seeds	freeze, infuse in oil or vinegar, dry
Hyssop	flowers, leaves	dry, infuse in oil
Lemon balm	leaves	dry, freeze, infuse in oil or vinegar
Lemon verbena	leaves	dry, infuse in oil or vinegar
Marjoram	flowers, leaves	dry, freeze, infuse in oil or vinegar
Mint	leaves	dry, freeze, infuse in oil or vinegar
Parsley	leaves	freeze, mix with butter, infuse in vinegar
Pot marigold	flowers	dry
Rosemary	leaves	dry, infuse in oil or vinegar
Sage	flowers, leaves	dry, infuse in oil or vinegar
Savory	leaves	dry, infuse in oil or vinegar
Tarragon	leaves	freeze, infuse in oil or vinegar
Thyme	leaves	dry, infuse in oil or vinegar

Pots of flavour

Grow herbs from around the globe to enjoy fragrant dishes from a different country every day

WORDS LEE DASHIELL MAIN PICTURES GEOFF BECK



Having pots of plentiful herbs on hand helps you stay creative in the kitchen.

All across the world people have been cooking with herbs for thousands of years, creating distinctive local dishes and recipes to be handed down through generations.

Growing herbs in the garden is an easy way to bring these exotic flavours and methods into your own kitchen.

Herbs in pots add an attractive feature to a garden, and they are very easy to grow. Using quality potting mix that contains water-saving crystals, wetting agents and fertiliser will almost guarantee success.

Planting herbs in pots means you can control the conditions in which

they grow, moving them into direct sun in the cooler months and dappled shade in warmer weather.

They are also ideal for growing on balconies, patios or windowsills.

Choose the pots

Look at the overall style of your yard and select pots to match. Choose between sleek and modern, country rustic or a Mediterranean style.

Terracotta pots suit most garden styles, but rough timber crates lined with plastic, or even an old wheelbarrow can work well. Just ensure there is adequate drainage.

Select the herbs

Next you need to decide what you want to grow in your herb garden.

The ideal grouping for each pot should include a tall feature plant, small bushy plants and a trailing herb to soften the edges.

Herbs need about six hours of sunlight a day to help them thrive and resist disease. Pots dry out quickly so they have to be watered more often.

A diluted liquid fertiliser applied weekly will help the plants flourish. And when you cut your herbs from the pot, that will encourage more abundant, bushy growth. ➤

Potting by cuisine

MOROCCO Saffron, mint, paprika, turmeric and cinnamon.

VIETNAM Lemongrass, lime, mint, coriander and betel leaf.

MEXICO Chillies, coriander, garlic chives and oregano.

INDONESIA Galangal, star anise, caraway, clove and tamarind.

INDIA Mint, cumin, coriander, curry and cardamom.

Find out which herbs to use for Thai, French and Italian cuisine and try out our simple recipes, from page 108.



Thai cuisine

A classic Thai dish contains spicy, sweet, sour and savoury flavours, combining ingredients such as chilli, palm sugar, lime juice and fish sauce for the perfect balance of flavours.

Grow herbs such as chilli, Thai basil, coriander and lemongrass to cultivate the taste of Thai food in your own backyard.

Herby Thai salad

PREPARATION 20 mins

plus 15 mins cooling

COOKING 5 mins

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

1½ Tbsp light olive oil
500g lean chicken or beef mince
2 tsp finely grated fresh ginger
2 garlic cloves, crushed
2 long green chillies, finely chopped
1 large French shallot (eschalot), halved, thinly sliced
⅓ cup fresh coriander leaves
2 Tbsp torn fresh mint
¼ cup firmly packed torn basil
1 kaffir lime leaf, finely shredded
¼ cup lime juice
2 tsp fish sauce
1 Tbsp grated palm sugar, dark brown sugar or caster sugar
8 iceberg lettuce leaves, to serve
¼ cup chopped unsalted roasted peanuts, to serve

1 HEAT THE OIL in a wok or large frying pan over high heat. Add the chicken or beef, ginger, garlic and chillies, and stir to break up any chunks in the meat. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring regularly, until cooked through. Add the shallot and mix well. Transfer the mixture to a bowl and leave to cool for 15 minutes.

2 ADD THE CORIANDER, mint and basil to the meat in the bowl. Put the kaffir lime leaf, lime juice, fish sauce and sugar in a small bowl and whisk to combine. Pour over the meat and herb mixture and toss well.

3 DIVIDE THE LETTUCE LEAVES between four serving plates and fill with the meat and herb mixture. Sprinkle with peanuts and serve.

COOK'S TIP If available, use Vietnamese mint and Thai basil instead of regular mint and basil for a more fragrant and authentic flavour. You can also replace the kaffir lime leaf with 1 teaspoon grated lime zest.





French cuisine

The regional cuisines of France take influences from their nearest neighbours. The south-east has hints of Italian, while in the north there's a British flavour.

A typical French diet is made up of high-quality seasonal ingredients. Sauces are the key feature, prepared with fresh herbs such as thyme, parsley and bay.

Mixed bean cassoulet

PREPARATION 20 mins

COOKING 55 mins

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 butternut pumpkin, peeled, seeded and diced
- 300ml salt-reduced vegetable stock
- 410g can chopped tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp tomato paste
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 420g can butter beans, drained and rinsed
- 420g can borlotti beans, drained and rinsed

HERB CRUST

- 1 cup dry wholemeal breadcrumbs
- 1/3 cup mixed nuts, coarsely chopped
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

1 PREHEAT THE OVEN to 200°C.

Heat the oil on the hob in a flameproof casserole dish and sauté the onion over medium heat for 5 minutes, or until softened. Add the garlic and pumpkin and cook for a further minute, stirring constantly.

2 ADD THE STOCK, tomatoes, tomato paste, bay leaves, thyme and beans and combine well. The mixture may look dry, but the pumpkin will produce extra juices as it cooks. Slowly bring to a boil, then cover the dish, transfer to the oven and cook for 25 minutes.

3 FOR THE HERB CRUST combine the breadcrumbs, nuts and parsley in a bowl. Remove the casserole from the oven and season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Scatter the breadcrumb mixture over the top.

4 RETURN THE CASSEROLE to the oven without the lid. Bake for a further 20 minutes until the herb crust is lightly browned. Serve hot. ➤





Italian cuisine

Italy is divided between cuisines of the north and south. In the north, they use more butter and cream in their sauces while southern sauces are more tomato based.

Italians cook simple meals of seasonal vegetables and grains with meat as an accent, using herbs such as oregano, sage, rosemary and basil.

Beef and tomato ravioli

PREPARATION 15 mins

COOKING 25 mins

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

4 Tbsp olive oil
200g minced beef
200g minced pork
1 onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 Tbsp oregano, chopped
1 sprig rosemary
2 cups chicken stock
250g zucchini, diced
800g can chopped tomatoes
400g ravioli
¼ cup toasted pine nuts
Small fresh basil leaves, to garnish
Grated Parmesan, to serve

1 HEAT HALF THE OLIVE OIL in a heavy-based saucepan. Add the beef and pork and fry over high heat for 2 minutes, or until the meat has

changed colour, breaking up any chunks with a wooden spoon.

2 ADD THE ONION and garlic and sauté for 1 minute. Sprinkle with the oregano and rosemary and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Stir in the stock, bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to low. Cover and simmer for about 8 minutes.

3 STIR IN THE ZUCCHINI and cook for 5 minutes. Mix the tomatoes through and bring to the boil. Stir in the ravioli carefully and allow it to gently heat in the sauce for about 5 minutes. Check the packet for specific directions as the pasta cooking times can vary.

4 SPRINKLE THE PASTA with the pine nuts, garnish with basil leaves and drizzle with the remaining tablespoons of oil. Serve with grated Parmesan.

COOK'S TIP For a quicker preparation time, omit the pine nuts and basil leaves and stir 4 tablespoons basil pesto into the sauce once it's cooked.



SOPHIE,
TEAM MEMBER

“Autumn tips of the trade”

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Rustic herb signs

Handyman Managing editor and keen cook Lee Dashiell likes to add lots of herbs to his kitchen garden.

'This year I planted sage, thyme, rosemary, oregano and tarragon and in weeks the herbs had grown enough for me to start tip-pruning them,' says Lee.

'But I hadn't kept the plant tags that came with the herbs, making it easy to forget which was tarragon and which was oregano.'

To label the herbs, Lee used 300mm high garden edging stakes to make rustic timber signs for each one.

'I drew the letters on the stakes in pencil and carved them using a rotary tool. Changing attachments for different parts of the letters allowed me to carve the intricate areas more accurately.

'A light sand smoothed out the gouges then I painted the letters with clear exterior varnish for a gloss finish on the rough-hewn background.'



Ozito 170W 42 Piece Rotary Tool Kit,
\$60. ozito.co.nz



For a no-carve method, write the letters on the stake then apply gloss exterior varnish, leaving the herb name raw.



Carve herb names into timber plant tags for the kitchen garden.

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