

FEBRUARY 2026

# BUNNINGS warehouse

FREE  
MAGAZINE

## Little wonders!

HOW TO MAXIMISE LIVING WHEN SPACE IS TIGHT

SIMPLY  
THE BEST  
INSPIRATION  
FROM SIX AUSSIE  
BACKYARDS

Renter  
friendly  
Fun hacks  
to brighten  
your home

Customise it!  
Mini  
cloakroom

Make it!  
Armchair table

Pop-up  
outdoor  
kitchen

GET IT DONE: Tips for a smooth move + kids' DIY  
+ garden dilemmas solved + build your drill skills



# Your carpets, rugs and upholstery have gone through a lot in 12 months...



# Isn't it a good time to hire the Britex again?



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IN-STORE**





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**BUNNINGS**  
warehouse

**RENTER FRIENDLY!**  
 Space-savvy ideas to brighten your home, from page 13.

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# Welcome

There's no denying the energy that a fresh calendar year brings, and this issue serves up loads of ideas to prompt action. Our decorating feature (page 13) targets apartment living, with suggestions for optimising an open floor plan and useful products, too. It's an exercise in creating different zones without impacting the sense of space – with ideas and pieces you can take with you.

Last October, we launched our search for Australia's Best Backyards to encourage DIY gardeners to share projects of all scales. We're so excited to showcase the winners with you this month (page 37), and we will follow up on more projects in issues to come. From screening out neighbouring properties to undercover entertaining and growing fruit for the grandkids, the transformations and motivations are wonderfully inspiring.

If you've resolved to garden more in 2026, you're in good company. Data from the Australia Institute\* reveals 45 per cent of Aussies are growing their own food, whether in a vegie patch or in pots. There's good reason to get younger generations into the garden (page 30). And now is an excellent time to take note of struggling plants and consider more resilient species (page 24).

Don't miss the new DIY projects on pages 58 to 74 – geared for renters, too. Pop-up pizza kitchen, anyone? ▶

## The Bunnings magazine team

Share your DIY creations with us or find inspiration for your next project. Use the hashtag **#Bunningsmag**

-  [instagram.com/bunnings](https://www.instagram.com/bunnings)
-  [pinterest.com.au/bunnings](https://pinterest.com.au/bunnings)
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-  [youtube.com/bunningswarehouse](https://www.youtube.com/bunningswarehouse)
-  [tiktok.com/@bunnings](https://www.tiktok.com/@bunnings)

February looks like...



**Artful glow**  
Let the sun do the work!

● Click 'Cassidy' 18cm solar LED pathway light, \$4, I/N: 0038081.



**Look sharp**  
For clean cuts

● Trojan bypass heavy duty pruner, \$19.99, I/N: 0246311.



**Shining star**  
A great Lunar New Year gift

● Lucky bamboo.

Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.

## PLANT PARENT

# Garden royalty



Tina's clivia brings a burst of sunny colour to her lush garden.

**What's in the pot?** *Clivia miniata* (yellow)

**Plant name:** The Matriarch – because of its amazing colour, size and prominence in the garden.

**Plant age?** I've been nurturing it for more than 20 years.

**Plant parent:** Tina

**Climate:** My clivia grows in a pot under the soft filtered light of our patio in Perth, WA. It's native to South Africa, so is used to a warmer climate, but is typically a forest undergrowth plant and adapted to low light. I always keep it semi-shaded and never in full sun.

**Best feature:** When it flowers it's a magnificent show. The amazing bell-shaped blooms last for weeks and add so much character to my garden. Over 40 years I have transformed our barren, sandy block into an explosion of colour with the help of plants like this one.

**Essential care:** Clivia needs special attention if you want it to succeed. Avoid using too much fertiliser or over-watering it in summer. I only lightly water it in winter.

**Do you have a favourite plant to share with us?**

Email your tips and images (with 'Plant parent' in the subject line) to [submissions@bunnings.com.au](mailto:submissions@bunnings.com.au).

BUNNINGS

# Marketplace

Find gear that makes life easier for pets – and their humans.

▲ Pawz medium pet car booster seat in Black, I/N: 0762412\*.



▲ Costway 4 step foam dog ramp with storage pocket, I/N: 0516199\*.

▲ Pawz pet grooming vacuum kit, I/N: 0611319\*.



▲ Charlie's 'VIP Lush' XX large faux fur calming dog bed in Natural, I/N: 0593112\*.

▲ Pawz 5L smart pet feeder with camera, I/N: 0611306\*.



▲ Todo pet carrier handbag in Coffee, I/N: 0585852\*.



▲ i.Pet foldable large four wheel dog pram, I/N: 0416416\*.



▲ Advwin smart self-cleaning cat litter box, I/N: 0916343\*.

▲ This product is available to buy online only and is sold and delivered by a Bunnings Marketplace Trusted Seller. Not all items are available in all states and territories. \*Delivery charges may apply.

## HAPPY CAMPERS

# Adventure essentials

As the summer holidays slip away it's only natural to start itching for your next outdoor escape. Luckily, our latest drop of new arrivals can help you beat the post-break blues. With portable comfort, coolers and cookware, this selection of outdoor gear will have you prepped in time for weekend camping season. From foldable chairs to travel-friendly clotheslines, stock up on what you need for your next getaway – and any adventures beyond.

**RIGHT** ● All Set portable **clothesline** with pegs, \$10.95, I/N: 0932630.  
 ● Practa portable hygiene **rubbish bin** with 5 bags, \$24.95, I/N: 0443606.  
 ● Esky 'Advanced' 95L chest **cooler** in Grey, \$229.99, I/N: 0653254. ● Oztrail folding **camp chair**, \$105, I/N: 0661478, 2L enamel **coffee pot**, \$20, I/N: 0920788, and 16cm enamel **bowls**, \$6 each, I/N: 0920778. ● Harry Cooper 5L **dry bags**, \$19.99 each, in Billygoat, I/N: 0930264, and Sunset, I/N: 0930242. ● Marquee 25L insulated **tote bag**, \$20, I/N: 0847794, small 6 can insulated **soft cooler**, \$12, I/N: 0847795, (in cart) and folding **beach chair**, \$15, I/N: 0831839.  
 ● Coleman 200cm x 150cm XL outdoor **picnic rug** in Tartan, \$24.98, I/N: 0327192. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.



## OUTDOOR KITCHEN Build to suit your space



Many would agree that a good alfresco set-up can be the backbone of a summer well spent. So why not invest in something that adapts to your needs? A Matador modular outdoor kitchen is practical, scalable and can be customised to your cooking style – add a prep bench for entertaining, shift the barbecue when you reshuffle the deck or expand the set-up over time with different drawers and accessories. This flexibility allows for better use of awkward outdoor zones while the built-in wheels make rearranging a breeze.

**LEFT** ● Matador 'Ignite+' 6 burner gas **BBQ kitchen**, \$2,499, I/N: 0847333, **corner module**, \$249, I/N: 0847327<sup>†</sup>, **double drawer module**, \$799, I/N: 0847328<sup>†</sup>, **double fridge cabinet**, \$249, I/N: 0847329<sup>†</sup>, stainless steel double door **bar fridge**, \$1,398, I/N: 0634877, and **single module**, \$399, I/N: 0847332<sup>†</sup>.

## TOOL OF THE MONTH

# For a rainy day

This lightweight cordless pump makes it easy to move stored or excess water around the home and garden. Use it to empty a rainwater tank onto parched lawns, drain a flooded garage or remove water from a pool or spa.



● Ozito 'PXC' 18V submersible **rainwater pump**, \$129/skin only (battery and charger sold separately), I/N: 0953593.

## COMMUNITY

# Free kids' DIY workshops

Keen for some screen-free family time? With planting, painting, crafting and more, our free in-store workshops every weekend in February are big fun for little hands. Scan the QR code or check your local store for details and bookings\*.



Book it!



**Words:** Aerial Fowkes. **Photography:** (Plant Parent) John Rolfe, (barbecue) @oldcottageroad, (camping) Martina Gemmola, (styling) Sharon Beeg. Take care when selecting your plants as some can be poisonous to children and pets. Follow manufacturer's instructions for setting up and using your barbecue, check the gas hose (do not use if crushed, kinked or cracked) and never leave a lit barbecue unattended. <sup>†</sup>Available to order online or at the Special Orders Desk. \*Not in small-format stores.

# February IN THE GARDEN

Treat lawn pests, lay mulch, sow veg for winter and harvest herbs.

◆ Deadhead and pick herbs like basil, parsley and oregano to aid bushy growth. Freeze any surplus in olive oil cubes to enjoy the flavour throughout autumn and winter.

◆ Brown patches of lawn or chewed grass blades could be a sign of lawn pests like curl grubs and armyworms. Tip a bucket of soapy water on a patch in the evening to see if critters emerge, and treat early to prevent serious harm.

◆ Top up mulch and water deeply to help plants cope with dry spells. A 5–10cm layer of pea straw, lucerne or pine bark mulch keeps soil cool, retains moisture and wards off weeds. Water early in the morning or evening to limit evaporation.

◆ If you live in a temperate or cool climate, now's the time to sow cool-season brassica crops, such as broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage, for a winter harvest. Lightly shade seedlings if

temperatures spike and water regularly to keep soil evenly moist. If you're in a warm or subtropical area, wait until autumn and use this time to remove weeds and prepare beds.



Early maturing cabbage varieties can be harvested at about 12 weeks.

After applying fertiliser near edible plants, delay harvesting for a few days and rinse well before cooking and eating. If using products to deal with pests, diseases or weeds, or when handling compost or mulch, read the label, follow instructions and wear gloves, a mask and protective gear. Always store all garden chemicals and products out of reach of children and pets.



### Scan the QR code

For more on what to do in the garden during February, go to [bunnings.com.au/garden-hub](http://bunnings.com.au/garden-hub)

### TREE CHANGE

## Make a statement

Plant these beauties for vivid foliage and blooms.



◆ **Japanese maple** (*Acer palmatum*)  
A deciduous tree with finely cut leaves that blaze in autumn. Available in many cultivars offering varied colours and forms.

◆ **Chinese redbud** (*Cercis chinensis*)  
This compact tree has glossy green, heart-shaped leaves that turn golden in autumn, then it bursts into deep-pink flowers in spring.



◆ **Flowering gum** (*Corymbia ficifolia*)  
Vibrant red flowers cover this small-to-medium tree in summer, followed by large, decorative gumnuts – prune them for indoor display.



### GARDEN MUST-HAVE

The right pruners can take the sweat out of summer gardening. With sharp, rust-resistant blades, this pair from Fiskars glides cleanly through branches, trunks and roots up to 18mm thick, helping you maintain well-shaped plants. The sturdy cast-aluminium handles offer comfort and control, and a free-standing holder provides storage and protection between uses. ●



● Fiskars 'Plant Care' pruners with holder, \$39.95, I/N: 0942271.

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# **AFTER 17 YEARS AWAY, WE WANTED TO MAKE A FUSS**

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BRASS



SATIN  
BLACK



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# STYLE YOUR STUDIO

The lease is signed and you've got the keys to your new pad. Now turn it from drab to fab!

Words *Lorna Gow* Photography *Adrian Lander* Styling *Ariel Coop*

**M**oving into a new home is always exciting, and it's surprisingly easy to make a rental feel truly yours for the time that you live there. Take our lead and give a petite pad a fresh new start with smart styling and DIY storage hacks customised to fit any space. ▶



● (On top shelf) **Peperomia 'Red Luna'** in 14cm x 12cm plain ceramic egg pot in Cream, \$798, I/N: 0258686 (plant sold separately). (On rug) ● **Marquee glass top steel square side table**, \$25.62, I/N: 0101267. ● **Home Bazar 'Belize' suar stool**, \$99, I/N: 0443528. See following pages for other product details. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.

## IN LIVING COLOUR

A cohesive palette works wonders. Take inspiration from your favourite decor item – a gorgeous cockatoo artwork in this case – and sprinkle some joy from room to room. Budget-friendly light shades, cushion covers, bespoke DIYs and accessories all have a role to play.

- Nordlux 'Circus' 27cm pendant light in Rose, \$185.95, I/N: 0491559 (globe sold separately)\*.
- Windoware 1750mm-3050mm adjustable ball curtain rod in Brilliant White, \$59.90, I/N: 0366979, and 'Coco' 700cm x 213cm sheer rod pocket curtain in White, \$47.95, I/N: 0367179.
- Mimosa 'Soller' dining table, \$279, I/N: 0782925. ● Marquee 'Frankie' slat armchairs, \$69 each, I/N: 0831823. ● Senso 'Essential' 3m DIY sheet vinyl flooring in Noma Blond, \$78.99/m, I/N: 6610233 (used throughout).
- ▲ Amalfi 'Bonnie' hand painted wall art, I/N: 0791059\*.

Taubmans  
Sultan Sand

Cover it!  
Use peel-and-stick tiles.

### EATING IN

Make the most of an open plan design with a dine-in kitchen setting. Position a bench seat between two freestanding cupboard units and you'll gain a seating nook, plus extra benchtop and storage space. Add a small round table and two chairs to seat four comfortably. Try stackable outdoor chairs, for use between balcony and indoors. A foldaway bistro setting is an even more compact solution.



Improve it!  
Tea and coffee  
station, see  
page 66.



**FAR LEFT (Under shelf)**  
● Arlec 9 LED battery-operated under-cabinet **sensor light**, \$32.80, I/N: 7071121. ● Ideal 'Winton' 457mm x 457mm self stick **vinyl tiles** in Travertine Stone, \$6.96 each, I/N: 6600048. ● ▲ Todo 1.7L electric cordless **kettle** in Blue, I/N: 0656997\*.

**LEFT** ● Kaboodle Kitchen 450mm **base cabinet** in White, \$143.42, I/N: 2662608, 450mm 'Modern' profile **cabinet door** in Cannellini, \$153, I/N: 0901869\*, **end panel** in Cannellini, \$265, I/N: 0901949, and 1200mm x 600mm x 38mm **benchtop** in Vanilla Cream, \$185.12, I/N: 0198168 (cut in half). ● Prestige 'Mushroom' 35mm polished pine **knob**, \$3, I/N: 4028391, painted in Dulux Different Pink. (On top) ● **Heart-leaf philodendron**. ● ▲ Amalfi 'Sissy' 35cm x 18cm large glass **bubble vase** in Light Green, I/N: 0818095.



**FAR LEFT** ● Kaboodle Kitchen 900mm **wall cabinet**, \$165.65, I/N: 2662264, 450mm 'Modern' profile **cabinet doors** in Danish Blue, \$153.43 each, I/N: 0213751\*, and **wall end panels** in Danish Blue, \$131.34 each, I/N: 0213364. ● Prestige 96mm pine flat **handles** in Natural, \$7.06 each, I/N: 4021860, painted in Dulux Soft Fresco.

**LEFT** ● Kaboodle Kitchen 2400mm laminate **kickboard** in Aluminium, \$90.78, I/N: 0244164\*. ● ▲ Costway 'Farmhouse' bamboo and rattan **bench seat**, I/N: 0972019\*, painted in Dulux 'Wash&Wear' semi gloss **paint** in Feather Soft, \$53.90/1L, I/N: 0638850. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered. ▶

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**DIVIDE AND CONQUER**  
Create definition between zones and improve privacy with a room-divider screen. This timeless solution is ideal for studio apartments with no wall between the sleeping and living areas, but could also be used to screen off a home office.

**British Paints**  
Slender Pine



**Screen it!**  
Zen-inspired elegance.



**Make it!**  
Armrest tray,  
see page 67.



Dulux  
Feather Soft



Light it!  
Battery-operated  
sensor LED.



Make it!  
Mini cloakroom,  
see page 64.



## WELCOME HOME

When the front door opens directly into your living area, there's a big incentive to make first impressions count. A fabulous couch is the star of the show, so look for a classic design – such as this button-tufted velvet sofa with Mid-century Modern vibes. Check manufacturer's upholstery care instructions to keep it looking lovely for many years to come. Working with your chosen palette (see 'In living colour', page 14) layer spaces with useful accessories such as cushions, plant pots and a chic wall clock. Bespoke touches and DIY projects such as furniture upcycles can add personality and develop a real sense of home. ▶

LEFT (On benchtop) ● Joseph Joseph 'Duo' kitchen worktop **organiser**, \$20, I/N: 0932843, and easy-tear **kitchen roll holder**, \$15, I/N: 0932837. (On wall at right) ● **Floating shelves**, for similar try Flexi Storage Decorative Shelving 600mm x 240mm x 38mm **floating shelves** in White Gloss, \$34.98/each, I/N: 2580892. (On lower shelf) ● Northcote Pottery 'Oasis' 9cm x 8cm **pot** in Blush, \$2.99, I/N: 0430354. ● ▲ Artiss 179cm x 131cm 3 panel **room divider screen** in Natural, I/N: 0255962\*. ● ▲ One Six Eight London 'Luca' 40cm silent **wall clock** in Sage Green, I/N: 0443333\*. ● ▲ Priceworthy Furniture 'Botany' 3 seater **sofa** in Pink, I/N: 0344249\*. ● ▲ Bambury square **cushions**: 'Florian', I/N: 0944927\*, and 'Kembla', I/N: 0944924\*, both in Eucalyptus. ● ▲ Melburnians Furniture **armchair** with wooden frame in Beige, I/N: 0377959\*. ● ▲ Loopsie 'Hawi' 290cm x 200cm washable **rug** in Pink and Terracotta, I/N: 0892420\*. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.

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Read it!



Ten easy projects to  
zhoosh up your rental:  
[bunnings.com.au/  
renter-friendly-diys](https://www.bunnings.com.au/renter-friendly-diys)

# BOUGIE BOUDOIR

Upgrade a spartan sleeping space with luxe looks for less. A minimalist bed frame saves on space and budget, and you can create an instant bedhead by positioning a stylish screen against the wall. Slimline cabinets can be fitted with your choice of shelves, hanging rails and drawers from the same system, while clear containers slipped under the bed will resolve any storage shortfalls. ▶

RIGHT ● Brilliant 'Bataan' 36cm large rattan **DIY pendant light**, \$99.95, I/N: 0277241 (globe sold separately). (Top of left cabinet) ● **Calathea 'Medallion'** in Northcote Pottery 'Virgo' 18cm **pot** in Forest, \$20.98, I/N: 0263152 (plant sold separately). ● Northcote Pottery 'Oasis' 9cm x 8cm **pot** in Blush, \$2.99, I/N: 0430354. (Top of right cabinet) ● **Rabbit's foot fern** in Astin Sinclair 'Abstract' 180mm x 160mm painted **pot** in Black, \$12.98, I/N: 0742558 (plant sold separately). ● Lugna 2048mm x 450mm x 280mm **cabinet shells**, \$130 each, I/N: 0431074<sup>†</sup>, 2045mm x 450mm x 16mm left hand **door**, \$79, I/N: 0430801<sup>†</sup>, and 2045mm x 450mm x 16mm right hand **door**, \$79, I/N: 0430792<sup>†</sup>, all in White. ● Lytworx low voltage indoor/outdoor LED **fairy lights** in Warm White, \$28/pack of 300, I/N: 0488957. ● Verve Design 'Brylee' **clamp lamps** in White, \$19.90 each, I/N: 0583881 (globes sold separately). ● All Set 34L underbed **storage containers** in Clear, \$11.98 each, I/N: 0219782. ● Bayliss 'Grove' 290cm x 200cm wool **rug**, \$364, I/N: 6670901. ● ▲ Artye 'Spring Light II' 60cm x 45cm stretched canvas **artwork**, I/N: 0739457\*. ● ▲ Artiss 3 panel **room divider screen** in Brown, I/N: 0612056<sup>†</sup>, and 'Tino' metal double **bed frame**, I/N: 0488399\*. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.

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Swap it!  
Replace an unattractive  
light with a boho-chic  
DIY pendant.



Available to order online or at the Special Orders Desk.

## BRIGHT IDEAS

If the existing lighting in your new place is stark and uninviting, don't despair! There are many affordable and instant fixes that can help create ambience and provide better task lighting. String lights can be wound around bedheads, screens and mirrors; many have multiple function modes for extra twinkle or a fun technicolour disco vibe. Handy clamp lamps make great bedside options if there's no room for tables. And if you have a suitable batten fixture in the ceiling, a DIY pendant may be an option. ▶



### Store it!

No built-ins? Shop for budget-friendly flatpack cabinets.

### Stow it!

Keep out-of-season clothes and shoes dust free in lidded containers under the bed.

## GREEN SPACE

Plants enliven any room and can also help freshen the air. Keep them in their plastic grower's pots which have drainage, but display them in attractive 'cache' or decorator pots that have no holes in the bottom to protect surfaces, or pop saucers underneath. Don't have a green thumb? Faux foliage and flowers are more forgiving than the real thing!

RIGHT ● Flexi Storage 'Clever Cube' 2 x 4 compact storage unit in White, \$40, I/N: 2582948 (backs not installed). (On top, from left) ● Moth orchid with ceramic pot. ● Ficus 'Benjamina Exotica'. ● Peace lily in 250mm x 245mm large ceramic round ribbed pot in White, \$28.98, I/N: 0375848. ● Monstera in Northcote Pottery 'Lex' 24cm x 20cm pot in Stone, \$30, I/N: 0430392. ● Ctenanthe 'Grey Star' in Northcote Pottery 'Alure' 16cm pot in Cloud, \$18.98, I/N: 0263177. ● Calathea 'Medallion' in Northcote Pottery 'Virgo' 18cm pot in Forest, \$20.98, I/N: 0263152. (On floor) ● Peace lily in 310mm x 260mm extra large round plain ceramic pot in Cream, \$35.48, I/N: 0376381. All plants sold separately. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.

### TOP 10 TENANT TRICKS

- 1 Use rugs and runners (plus non-slip underlay) to define zones and cover existing flooring that isn't to your taste.
- 2 Not enough power points for your needs? Supplement using power boards with surge protection for added safety, follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and check regularly for signs of wear.
- 3 Select battery-powered candles, tealights, task lights and desk lamps to add ambience without the risks of trailing cables or flames.
- 4 For hanging framed artworks or mirrors, choose removable picture-hanging strips or hooks suited to the weight of the piece, and follow the pack instructions carefully to avoid damaging walls.
- 5 Mini magnets are a great way to hang lightweight posters without damaging walls. Choose a position for your poster, mark with painter's tape, then tear small pieces of painter's tape to stick magnets to the wall inside the corner marks. Put the poster back into position and hold at the corners with more magnets on top. Too easy!
- 6 Seek permission to use the power of paint – it's a fast and affordable way to refresh worn walls and add character with colour. Landlords may be more amenable if you agree to repaint in their preferred colour (such as a neutral white) at the end of your lease.
- 7 When painting, be meticulous by masking off windows and door frames with good-quality painter's tape and covering flooring with drop sheets. Make sure the space is well ventilated.
- 8 You also need permission to drill into walls for mounting shelves and fitting furniture anchors. Again, you may be required to repair any holes when it's time to move out. Visit [bunnings.com.au/diy-advice](http://bunnings.com.au/diy-advice) for tips on patching plasterboard.
- 9 Achieve the look of tiling without the work or expense using peel-and-stick tiles – a great solution for covering a particularly shabby section of floor or wall. Check with the landlord first.
- 10 Another transformative option is paste-the-wall wallpaper, which has the added advantage of peeling off easily with no steaming or scraping required.

### Keep in mind

- To reduce the risk of toppling, tall furniture should be securely anchored with fixings suitable for your type of wall.
- Any hardwired electrical work must be carried out by a licensed tradie.
- Take care when selecting your plants as some can be poisonous to children and pets.



**ANOTHER LEVEL**  
Cube storage systems are incredibly versatile, simple to assemble and easy on the wallet, too! This unit is positioned horizontally to act as a low room divider, while leaving the shelves open (without inserts) allows light through. Showcase pot plants and favourite objects on the top and within, using stacked books to boost height, and change your display whenever the mood takes you. ●



**Display it!**  
Curate a collection  
and help separate the  
sleeping space.





# THE NEW HILUX LEAD THE PACK

AN UNBREAKABLE CONNECTION SINCE 1968



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**OH WHAT A FEELING**

Pre-production models shown. WorkMate grade shown with optional Genuine Accessories.



# CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

From poor soil to tricky sites and scorching sun to shady spaces, we have solutions for six garden trouble spots.

Words *Shelley Tustin*

Magnolia 'Little Gem' trees and neat Japanese box hedging work beautifully together in a narrow poolside space.

If only designing a garden was as simple as just picking pretty plants... The average backyard throws up a range of dilemmas, from the simple "What do I plant in a shady patch?" to the complicated "Can I stop my sloping garden sliding down the hill?". We asked the experts how they would tackle some of the more common garden predicaments.

### POOLSIDE PLANTINGS

The first thing to consider before planting anything is pool compliance laws – the specifics of these will vary by region, but anything climbable too near the fence is out. Beyond restrictions and regulations, there are practicalities to consider, says landscape designer Henry Chapple-Cox of Secret Gardens ([secretgardens.com.au](http://secretgardens.com.au)). "Often a pool is quite exposed – you'll have reflected light and chlorine splashes – so you'll need to plant quite hardy species, and put in an adequate watering system," he says. Upright, unclimbable plants can work well, and plant hardy grasses to soften a metal fence.

Maintenance is another issue, says Henry. "People don't want trees that drop leaves, but there's a deciduous versus evergreen misconception," he explains. "We actually like deciduous trees; evergreen trees drop leaves in the pool year round, whereas a deciduous tree will drop them all in a period of weeks, so it's a more targeted maintenance approach."



### HOT SPOTS

Greening up a space is a sure-fire way to cool it down, but you need to make sure you choose the right plants. "A deciduous tree is a key solution, because it will love the sun, give you shade in summer and let the light through in winter," says Henry. Heat-tolerant plants like succulents are a good choice for exposed places that are blasted by the sun, but Henry warns that on those 40-degree days, even the really tough plants will cop a hammering. "Keep an eye on the BoM [Bureau of Meteorology]

website and give those plants a bit of a water in the morning of, or in the evening after," he suggests.

Decks and paved areas are the social centres of the garden, but those hard surfaces are also magnets for heat. To bring down the mercury, introduce shade in any way that you can – shade cloths and umbrellas are easy and affordable ways to block the sun. Even a large pot with a small tree in it can help, suggests Henry. "It just adds a little bit of softness and will absorb some of the heat off the tile or deck," he says. ▶

**"If chlorine splashes on a garden bed cause a bit of dieback, give the plants extra water so the chlorine doesn't sit on them"**

*Henry Chapple-Cox/landscape designer*

## PATH BORDERS

In addition to minimising muddy feet, paths give visual structure to a garden – and to keep them functional and looking neat, you'll also want to think about what you put around them. To keep edges sharp on a gravel or mulch path, invest in garden edging, but also consider what you're planting either side of the path. "You want to layer garden beds around paths, starting with low plants in the first 300–400mm, then taller plants further back, so you don't feel like the plantings are closing in on you," advises Henry Chapple-Cox.

However, clear and precise borders may not be what you want for every path, says Henry. "There could be a hierarchy of paths – in addition to a practical path you use every day, there might be a secondary path that's more intimate and immersed in the garden," he explains. "Here, you might actually want the sensory experience of grasses brushing against your legs or being able to reach down and touch the lavender."





● Trojan all steel spiked lawn aerator, \$29.98, I/N: 0131548.

**GREEN UP**

1 2 3 4

● 1 Lawn Solutions Australia 'Sir Walter DNA Certified Buffalo' turf. ● 2 Scotts Lawn Builder 'Extreme Green' slow release lawn fertiliser, \$39.98/4kg, I/N: 2961974. ● 3 Saxon 'Lawn Aerator' spiked roller, \$24.99, I/N: 0242965. ● 4 Native violet. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.

# TIRED LAWN CASE STUDY

When TLC isn't enough, repurposing could be the go.

**PROBLEM** The backyard lawn at Ravit's newly purchased property is looking less than lovely. It is patchy, quite compacted and algae and moss grow in a corner where it gets little sunlight. Ravit isn't sure whether to get rid of the lawn, or try growing it again from scratch.

**SUGGESTIONS** For a worn-out lawn, start by aerating and improving the soil. A lawn corer can help (available to hire; ask at the Hire Shop\*). This machine removes cores of earth to open up the soil and allow better drainage and aeration. Adding fertiliser or top dressing will help put back nutrients, and the area can then be seeded.

If you decide on new turf, use a spade to slice and lift off the existing turf. NSW-based horticulturist Denise Limbrick suggests putting down a turf underlay, which is a very fine soil, before laying a new lawn. "Varieties like Sapphire, Palmetto and Sir Walter will tolerate the shade a lot more than other grasses," she says.

Even with the right choice of grass, shady, damp corners may still cause problems. Bunnings Workshop online community specialist Jacob Zubrinich suggests removing the turf and turning these areas into garden beds filled with low-maintenance native plants, or transforming them into paved seating areas. "Use flexible garden edging to define garden beds and introduce soft curves and shapes into the layout," Jacob says. His suggestions for groundcovers include native violet and creeping boobialla; for mid-height interest, the subtly coloured native fuchsia (*Correa*, see page 34) or silver spurflower. "To round out the



See a stubborn patch as a blank canvas.

garden with height, small trees such as lemon myrtle can help frame the space and complete the layered effect," he says. For a paved seating space, dig out the desired shape, then add road base and compact it with a tamper\*. "Lay down 400mm x 400mm pavers to create a flat surface for a garden bench or outdoor setting," says Jacob. "Complete the look with large outdoor pots of statement plants. Paired with a renewed lawn, either of these options can help turn your backyard into a more beautiful and functional space." ▶

Words (lawn case study) Jane Farbury. Photography (Trojan) (opposite) Gap Photos/Nicola Stocken. \*Not all services are available in all stores, conditions apply. †Prior to excavating, contact Before You Dig Australia (byda.com.au) to check the location of underground pipes, cables and utilities and avoid damaging them.



Perfect for shady spots, camellias bring vibrant colour and reliable evergreen beauty.

## SHADY ZONES

Gardens that are shady are often viewed as challenging, but many plants are happiest in the shadows. Horticulturist Angie Thomas of Yates says her favourites include camellias (*Camellia japonica*), clivias, hostas, bugleweed (*Ajuga* sp), renga lily (*Arthropodium cirratum*), ferns and tractor seat plant.

Shade doesn't necessarily equal wet, and soil under trees can often be quite dry, explains Angie. "Check the moisture requirements of your chosen plant, as some need consistent moisture whereas others will tolerate drier conditions," she says. "An option under trees is to grow

shade-loving plants in medium to large pots, so they're not competing with thirsty tree roots." A shady zone can also be an opportunity. In a hot garden, it might be the perfect place for a garden bench; water features in shade won't evaporate as quickly; or a sculpture could be an alternative focal point in a hard-to-grow spot.

## SLOPING SITE

A steep site poses more issues than just where to play backyard cricket. "Sloping sites can be challenging as topsoil can wash away, leaving poorer soil underneath exposed, and maintenance or mowing can be difficult," says Angie. Splitting a slope

into a series of terraces can solve the problem and also gives you a great opportunity to get creative, with straight lines or gentle curves, different wall materials, statement stairs, and a layered mix of garden beds, lawn and living spaces. But be aware of drainage – water can pool at the bottom of the slope and cause issues without proper drainage solutions.

Enrich poor soil with organic matter and, to help prevent it from being washed away, consider holding it in place with mesh or chicken wire. The right plant choices can help, too – Angie suggests growing vigorous plants, including groundcovers, to help stabilise a sloped area. ●

INSTANT LIFT

Breathe life into tired garden spots and underused spaces with quick and creative fixes.

PAVERS



**Round we go**  
The classic cut

- Tuscan Path 30cm x 30cm granite **stepping stone** in Grey, \$10.98, I/N: 3452458.



**Soft tread**  
Slip-resistant finish

- Tuscan Path 500mm-400mm x 20mm limestone **stepping stone** in Charcoal, \$14.98, I/N: 0675185.



**Nature's course**  
A rustic way forward

- WestStone 30-50cm natural schist **stepping stone**, \$21.63, I/N: 3451931.



**Solid ground**  
On equal footing

- Tuscan Path 400-600mm bluestone **stepping stone**, \$27.50, I/N: 0280562.

POOL FENCES



**The great divide**  
Strong and durable

- ProtectorAl 'Flat Top' 2400mm x 1200mm aluminium **pool fence panel** in Black, \$109, I/N: 0441378.



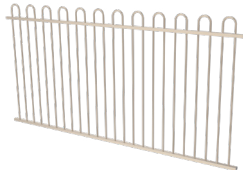
**Safety first**  
Clear view

- ProtectorAl 1200mm x 1200mm x 12mm glass **pool fence panel**, \$115, I/N: 0015399.



**Rust-proof**  
Easy to install

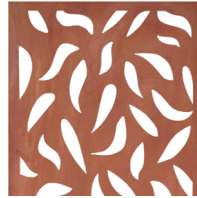
- ProtectorAl 'Loop and Spear' 2399mm-1201mm x 1200mm aluminium **pool fence panel** in Paperbark, \$279.99, I/N: 0482878†.



**Tried and true**  
Time-honoured icon

- ProtectorAl 'Loop Top' 2400mm x 1200mm aluminium **pool fence panel** in Paperbark, \$210.94, I/N: 0482909†.

SCREENS



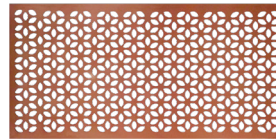
**Botanic border**  
Divide in style

- Tuscan Path 'Leaf' 1800mm x 900mm **screen panel** in Rust, \$99, I/N: 3042458.



**Privacy, please**  
Leaf-lined backdrop

- Jack 'Rainforest' oxy-shield outdoor **screen panel**, \$129, I/N: 0054756.



**Retro retreat**  
With a modern twist

- Tuscan Path 'Geometric' 1800mm x 900mm **screen panel** in Rust, \$99, I/N: 3042457.



**Recycled plastic**  
Won't rot, rust or get eaten!

- Jack Matrix 'Tangle' 1810mm x 905mm x 9mm **decor screen with frame** in Charcoal, \$109, I/N: 0012564.

SHADE



**Filtered light**  
For softer sun

- Pillar 'Eco Shade' 5m x 1.7m 30% UV protection hessian **shade cloth** in Cottage Green, \$34.95, I/N: 0737566.



**Take cover**  
No more squinting

- Coolaroo 'All Purpose' 8m x 1.83m 90% UV block sun protection **shade cloth** in Black, \$91.38, I/N: 0471726.



**Cool spot**  
A summer saviour

- Coolaroo 'HeatShield' 3.6m square **shade sail** in Peppercorn, \$157, I/N: 0477303.



**Safe bet**  
Sunshine and showers

- Pillar 10m x 1.8m (90% protection) waterproof **shade cloth** in Surfmist, \$98.95, I/N: 0737558.

Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.

# Digging it

Get kids into gardening and you will be sharing the gift of a healthy hobby for life.

Words Jane Parbury

**A**t a time when screens are increasingly the activity of choice, motivating kids to be outdoors and active – with a side benefit of strawberries, cherry tomatoes and other delicious homegrown treats – is a no-brainer. Here's how to steer kids towards a healthy pastime and a lifelong love of gardening.



## PLAN FOR SUCCESS

If you can, provide young gardeners with their own small area. Mill Wallasvaara, Bunnings Greenlife buyer, says giving children a pot, small raised bed or a section of the larger garden can help them learn to have a sense of ownership and really connect with gardening. "Making it their space to choose what to grow and watching their plants progress can be very rewarding," she says. "It may create a passion for gardening which will hopefully stay with them for life." Child-sized kit, such as gloves, hand tools and a mini watering can, is important for both safety and ease of use. "Picking a fun colour is also a nice idea for a child," she says.

## POWER UP YOUR PLANTING

Kids are more likely to stay involved if they see speedy results, so pick plants that are reliable growers and suitable for your space, soil and climate. Fast-growing, colourful annuals such as marigolds, nasturtiums and sunflowers are a good choice. Seedlings provide a fast fix, but growing plants from seed can be entertaining, too. Try filling an old egg carton with potting mix to make a seed tray – this is easy for littlies to monitor and water. And once the seedlings have grown big enough, the cardboard 'pots' can be planted straight into the ground.

Encouraging youngsters to grow their own vegies can be particularly rewarding. Horticulturist Angie Thomas from Yates says the best vegies to choose are ones that kids will willingly eat, and that are quick and easy to grow. "In the warmer months, dwarf or climbing beans are great; during cooler seasons, try crisp and crunchy snow peas," she suggests. "Bite-sized cherry tomatoes are delicious fresh or as a pizza topping. And, if you have a bit of patience, baby carrots are compact, sweet and tender – kids love pulling this bright orange 'buried treasure' out of the ground!" Always wash fruit and vegies thoroughly before use.

## "Having their own patch gives kids a sense of ownership and pride"

*Angie Thomas/horticulturist*

## GO CHEMICAL FREE

Be wary about using chemicals. If you do, look for organic products made with natural ingredients, ensure you read the instructions carefully, observe the withholding period and keep them away from children. Try chemical-free ways to deter pests, such as companion planting – marigolds give off a strong smell that discourages flying insects like whitefly, while fragrant herbs such as rosemary and thyme can help repel a variety of insects, with the added bonus of being useful in the kitchen. Turning the hose on aphids to blast them off your plants can be a fun shared activity, especially on warm days. ▶

## GARDEN WATCH-OUTS

Consultant paediatrician Dr Fiona Mackie MB BS PhD FRACP shares her tips to keep kids safe in the garden.



Introduce children to planting and growing – while staying safe.

- 1 Never store pesticides, fertilisers or garden chemicals in drinking containers. Make sure these products are out of reach and/or locked away from small children.
- 2 Toddlers can drown in a small amount of water – even 5cm. Don't leave buckets or pots for rainwater lying around, and fence off ponds, pools and spas\*.
- 3 Some plants are toxic to eat. Teach kids to ask first before eating berries and/or plants from outdoors.
- 4 Plants can also cause allergic skin reactions. Dress children in long-sleeve tops and pants to minimise this. Check out online resources such as [kidsafensw.org](http://kidsafensw.org) for lists of plants to avoid growing.
- 5 Follow the Cancer Council's guidelines for keeping kids sun safe. In summer, only a few minutes of sunscreen-free sun exposure is adequate for vitamin D levels.
- 6 Always supervise the use of child-sized gardening implements and keep kids away from adults' gardening tools, which can be sharp and dangerous.
- 7 Kids can fall through poorly maintained decking and balconies, especially timber, which needs regular maintenance. Check out and follow the appropriate child safety regulations.



### KEEP IT FUN

Save the exciting garden tasks like planting, watering and harvesting for youngsters, and tackle the tougher jobs, such as weeding and bed preparation, yourself. Handling products such as compost and soil enhancers can be hazardous, so it's best to avoid delegating those tasks to kids anyway, and make sure they always wash their hands after any garden work.

Enjoying the garden needn't be all about plants. Try having a craft session to create a scarecrow to deter birds, make plant labels out of wooden popsicle sticks for seed rows, or collect and paint small pebbles red and pop them around the strawberry bed when your plants are in bloom. The idea is that birds will try the 'strawberry stones' and learn that they're not edible, in the hope that they won't come back for the real thing when the fruit ripens! ●

Read it!



Learn how to create an outdoor space the kids will love: [bunnings.com.au/child-friendly-garden](https://www.bunnings.com.au/child-friendly-garden)

## GREEN BEGINNINGS

### CUTE KIT

Ensure youngsters are well protected as they embark on their garden adventures.



**Caped crusader**  
Keep dry in drizzle

- Bunnings children's **poncho**, \$2.50, I/N: 0055027.



**Safe hands**  
Fun and protective

- Saxon kids cotton **gloves**, \$2.84, I/N: 0256799.



**Happy feet**  
Make a splash in style!

- Bata kids **gumboots** in Purple and Green, \$17/size 9, I/N: 0095419.



**Cushioned comfort**  
Soft support for knees

- Cyclone 'Neo' **kneeling pad** with hard base, \$24.95, I/N: 0684976.

### TOOLS

Encourage little gardeners by providing them with equipment created specifically for small hands.



**Tidy minded**  
Tiny tines make light work

- Cyclone 'Super' kids long timber handle **rake**, \$13.95, I/N: 0491573.



**Ace of spades**  
Perfect for planting

- Cyclone kids long timber handle **shovel**, \$13.95, I/N: 0491576.



**Clean sweep**  
Made of sturdy stuff

- Fiskars kids **broom**, \$20.95, I/N: 3360511.



**Mini mover**  
A load of fun for kids!

- Saxon kids poly tray **wheelbarrow** in Assorted Colours, \$34.88, I/N: 3350480.

### PLANTING

Arm your pint-sized crew with some garden basics to help them get growing.



**Handy pack**  
Great for starters

- Saxon kids 3 piece trowel, fork and gloves **garden set**, \$7.88, I/N: 0491606.



**Can do**  
Keep up the watering!

- Hortico 1.5L plastic **watering can** in Blue, \$7.90, I/N: 3110554.



**Bright prospects**  
Petal power

- Mr Fothergill's 'Little Gardeners' mini sunflowers **grow and create kit**, \$11.85, I/N: 2961548.



**Bed time**  
Easy reach for littlies

- Fountain Products 697mm x 655mm x 425mm **raised garden bed**, \$32.40, I/N: 0176623.

Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.



←  
**Mandevilla**  
Prized for its  
gorgeous  
trumpet-  
shaped  
flowers.



→  
**Society garlic**  
Group several together  
for a colourful,  
aromatic display.

# Tough love

Grow these low-care beauties for maximum impact with minimum effort.

**SOCIETY GARLIC** (*Tulbaghia violacea*)

A low-growing, clump-forming perennial that has narrow garlic-scented leaves topped with clusters of fragrant lilac flowers in the warmer months. It likes full sun and does best in warm temperate to subtropical zones, but can tolerate mild frosts. Once established, it needs little water or maintenance, though dividing the clumps every few years helps to keep it looking its best.

**MANDEVILLA** (*Mandevilla* spp.)

Vibrant flowers in shades of pink, red, yellow or white make this vigorous climber a standout in any landscape. It thrives in a sunny, well-draining position and prefers warm, frost-free climates. In cooler areas it can be grown in pots and moved to a protected spot over winter. Feed with a high-potassium fertiliser during the growing season and give it a light prune after flowering.

**CORREA** (*Correa* spp.)

This native evergreen shrub produces bell-shaped flowers in red, pink, green, cream or yellow set against a backdrop of grey-green foliage. A low-maintenance favourite, it is tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions and, depending on the variety, can be ground-hugging or upright. Grow in full sun to part shade and give it an annual trim followed by a feed with native fertiliser to keep it compact and healthy.

**SEDGE** (*Carex* spp.)

The fine green or copper-bronze foliage of this grass-like perennial forms tufts, with size depending on the growing conditions and variety (there are many types). Especially striking when mass-planted or dotted among other shrubs and perennials in a naturalistic planting style, it likes full sun or part shade and will grow in most climates. Good drainage is essential and it is drought tolerant once established. Occasionally prune to remove old foliage and maintain a tidy appearance. ●



**Society garlic**  
Ideal for edging paths  
and garden borders.



**Mandevilla**  
Let it ramble over trellises,  
pergolas or along fences.



**Correa**  
A magnet for nectar-  
feeding birds and insects.



**Sedge**  
Attractive filler plant for  
modern or native gardens.

# WELCOME HOME VICTA

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# Ground rules

Have your outdoor spaces looking sharp for summer with help from Ki-Carma.

**T**he best bit about the backyard to-do list is the satisfaction of ticking off those niggly jobs. For everything from messy spots and maintenance problems to grand garden designs, Australian company **Ki-Carma** has a range of local products to get the job done, helping you create a beautiful and functional outdoor space.

## Fix scruffy patches

Whether it's planting gaps or dead spaces between the vegie beds, patches of bare dirt aren't pretty, but natural stones can smooth out your garden's visual rough spots. Ki-Carma **river pebbles** look stunning spread between stepping stones or as the finishing touch for a rock garden. As an alternative to plant mulch, Ki-Carma decorative **landscape stones** help foliage stand out against their earthy tones. Plus, a simple hosing is all that's needed to keep them looking their best!

## Solve soggy spots

Persistently wet patches in your lawn are a pain, but one that a

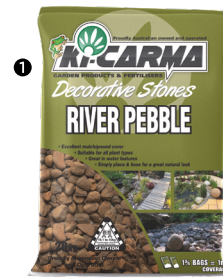
confident gardener can solve with an agricultural drain, which redirects excess surface water via a perforated pipe underground. Plan a direct downhill path for the pipe, laid in a stable base of Ki-Carma **drainage gravel**. If needed, dig a soaker pit at the pipe's end and fill with the drainage gravel, which will allow water to slowly seep into the subsoil.

## Level sunken pavers

A small patch of sagging pavers is a common annoyance, but one you can likely fix yourself. Lever up the affected pavers, then work on building up a good level base with a hand tamper and a bag of Ki-Carma coarse **landscape sand** before re-laying the pavers. Any leftover sand makes a good medium for growing succulents or can be used in other outdoor renovation projects.

## Hack the lawn

If you've got a spot where grass stubbornly refuses to grow, turn to alternatives like artificial turf for an even green outlook all year round. Lay synthetic turf then, for best effects, add Ki-Carma **synthetic turf sand** as a top dress; this helps keep the turf bristles upright and looking lush, and keeps the surface cooler by reflecting heat.



**1** Ki-Carma 'River Pebble' landscape stones, \$12.99/20kg, I/N: 0129330. **2** Ki-Carma 'Salt and Pepper' 20mm decorative stones, \$12.99/20kg, I/N: 3460051. **3** Ki-Carma 10-20mm drainage gravel, \$12.99/20kg, I/N: 3460052. **4** Ki-Carma coarse landscape sand, \$12.99/20kg, I/N: 3460054. **5** Ki-Carma 'Synthetic Turf Infill' landscape sand, \$16.99/20kg, I/N: 0332994.



Scan the QR code to see the full range of Ki-Carma products available at Bunnings.





# GARDEN STARS

Meet the talented Aussies DIYers who brought their backyard goals to life.

Words *Artemis Gouras*

Spending time outdoors is a national pastime, and for Australians the backyard holds special status as the scene for gatherings, games and of course gardening. While all unique projects, the winning entries in our inaugural search for Australia's Best Backyards have design flair, DIY skills and can-do attitudes in common. And they all started from scratch. Whether born out of a problem needing a solution or a wish-list feature, these winning projects might inspire you to get designing, building and planting, too. Visit [workshop.bunnings.com.au](http://workshop.bunnings.com.au) to view all of the entries in detail. ▶



BEST LANDSCAPING



BEST LAWN



BEST DIY GARDEN FEATURE



BEST SMALL SPACE



BEST OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING



BEST EDIBLE GARDEN

## YOUR JUDGES



**MITCHELL MCLEAN**  
Bunnings Workshop  
DIY Expert

Mitchell is one of the experts guiding Bunnings Workshop community members with tips and info to help them achieve their DIY goals.



**STEVE CASSAR**  
Founder,  
Ki-Carma

With 35 years' experience as a greenkeeper and at Ki-Carma, Steve is passionate about creating and transforming spaces through DIY projects.



**TOVE BERKHOUT**  
PR Manager,  
EUFY ANZ

As an advocate for eufy's smart device ecosystem, Tove is always looking for new ways to help consumers achieve a cleaner, smarter home.



**NATHAN BRIGGS**  
Head of Product  
Oceania, Kärcher

With more than 13 years of experience at Kärcher, Nathan is a home and garden professional who knows what it takes to make a backyard look its best.



**LISA GREEN**  
Editor, *Bunnings Warehouse Magazine*

A garden centre is Lisa's happy place and, as a gatherer and creator of inspiring garden stories, she has a keen eye for well executed outdoor spaces.






**Alison, Tas**

**TOP DIY TIP**

"Have a clear vision for the space, use your local area for plant inspiration and, most importantly, enjoy the process!"

## BEST LANDSCAPING

After buying her first home in 2013, Alison (Workshop member @WelcomeHome) got her garden mojo on.

"The property had a sloping yard with a lawn, two deciduous trees and was overlooked by neighbouring properties. I began at the front with a fernery. Curved steps lead to a walk along the side of the house, where a wrought iron gate opens into an arbour covered in Japanese wisteria."

From there the garden continues to wow with a mermaid water feature, a secluded outdoor shower, three decks, plus a mix of native, evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs, providing privacy and seasonal interest.

"I designed my garden with a sense of fun and lots

of love, and hope it may inspire others," says Alison.

The judges agreed! "From a bare canvas to a vibrant, bird-friendly oasis, it's clear every detail was thoughtfully planned and passionately executed. A beautiful blend of colour, creativity and calm," says Mitchell Mclean.

**"A magnificent before and after, I can't believe it all fits in one yard!"**

*Steve Cassar/Ki-Carma*



## BEST LAWN

Faced with a sloping front yard he wanted to level for a patio and lawn, Michael (Workshop member @RenoMike) built a new retaining wall – quite a feat for a first-time landscaper! After laying ‘TifTuf’ grass, Michael wanted to keep his new fine-leaved turf green.

Says Michael, “I wanted to water the new lawn without having to move sprinklers around, so used the pop-up type from Pope. The lawn is an irregular shape and they give complete coverage.

The front yard project was done in three to four months, and all the materials were from Bunnings. I was a frequent flyer for a while!

“For the back lawn, I also had to ensure the dog, Benji, couldn’t chew the components. The pop-up sprinklers are hidden when not needed and, by bringing out the connectors through the sleeper at the top of the wall, the dog can’t get to them!”

The well-planned system was a hit with the judges. “Work smarter not harder is the mantra of this lawn,” says Steve Cassar. ▶



**Michael, Vic**

### TOP DIY TIP

“Look through Bunnings Workshop for instructions and ideas, and use the experience of the team members who answer queries on the site. They were extremely helpful when I was planning my retaining wall.”



ABOVE Alison’s garden is a true suburban sanctuary that offers surprise and delight at every turn.

OPPOSITE TOP LEFT Footsteps are guided down Alison’s ‘wisteria walk’ by a line of Tuscan Path bowls and pavers. A SpecRite merbau panel creates definition.



“I love how this is edged and the irrigation set-up”

*Nathan Briggs/Kärcher*

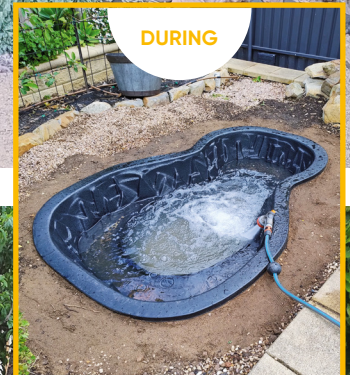
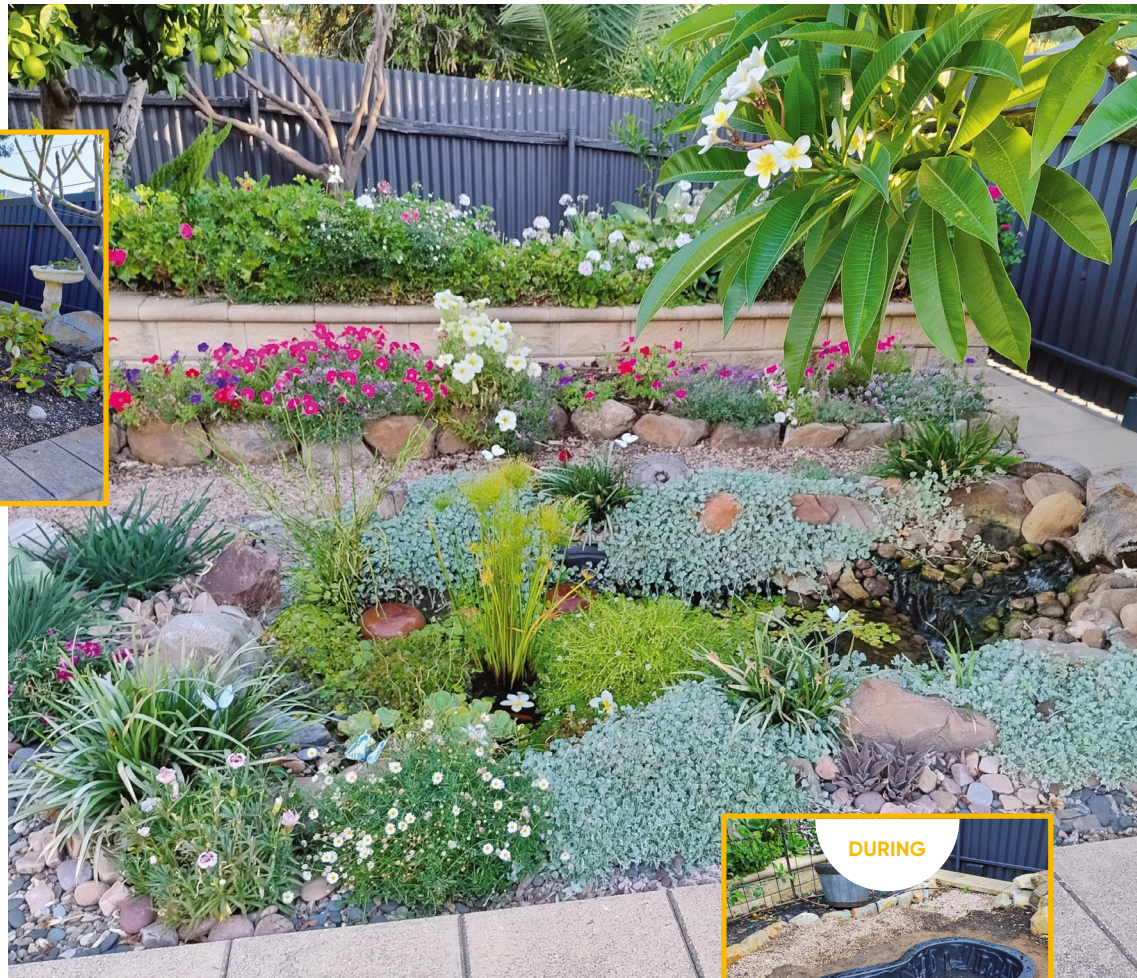


Benji reports Michael’s pop-up sprinkler system is Cavoodle proof!



DURING

RIGHT Joanne wanted a natural-looking pond with a mini ecosystem.



After excavating and installing an AquaPro preformed poly pond, the fun part was adding the fish and plants, accented by Ki-Carma river pebbles.



Joanne, SA

**TOP DIY TIP**

"Go for it! But be prepared for lots of hard work and ongoing maintenance to look after the pond. And maybe consider hiring an excavator!"

## BEST DIY GARDEN FEATURE

When Joanne started work on her pond, she admits that while she was up for the challenge she had absolutely no idea what she was doing!

"I wanted to add another dimension to the garden and enjoy the sound of running water," says Joanne (Workshop member @JoTM).

"The aim was to create a habitat for as much wildlife as possible so I could observe nature at play. Mission accomplished –

I spend a ridiculous amount of time watching all the critters doing their thing!"

Joanne did all the hard yakka on her own, from digging the hole to laying a paved path to provide access and save the lawn\*.

"Using water plants was new to me, so I had to learn which plants worked best to achieve water filtration balance and which plants could tolerate the brutal summer conditions, plus how to connect a water filter and pump."

Joanne's aquatic landscaping adventure was a favourite with the judges. Says Tove Berkhout, "Now this is a DIY feature! I wish this was in my own garden. It looks beautifully tranquil – the work you've done has paid off!"

**"A fabulous addition, delivering beauty, serenity and nature in one"**

*Lisa Green/Editor*

\*Prior to excavating, contact Before You Dig Australia (byda.com.au) to check the location of underground pipes, cables and utilities and avoid damaging them. Before installing a pond, check your local authority's safety regulations and guidelines. Always closely supervise children around any body of water.



The Scandia electric fireplace adds visual warmth to the minimalist space.

"I love that it's an area where someone can barbecue but also chat with guests"

Tove Berkhout/Eufy



DURING



ABOVE The louvred roof can be opened for natural light and airflow, while LED strips help create night-time ambience.



**Toby & Tamsyn, Vic**

**TOP DIY TIP**  
"Don't be scared to ask questions, either online or at your local Bunnings."

## BEST OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING

Dynamic DIY duo Toby and Tamsyn spent every weekend for two months building this impressive entertaining space.

"With a compact backyard to work with, we wanted to create a nice entertaining area that didn't feel too small," says Toby (Workshop member @tobyandtamsyn).

First came the pergola, then the framework for the deck, barbecue zone and built-in fireplace which

were clad before the decking was laid.

The couple wanted it to be a low-maintenance space, so used Ekodeck composite boards in Backbeach and shiplap cladding in Carbon.

So how did they do so much in such a short time? "A plan for your vision is a must. We learnt that with a bit of forward planning we were able to achieve more than we thought possible," says Toby.

They also did their research. "Lots of suppliers have great instructional videos on how to work with their product."

The judges were fans. "Credit to the workmanship and use of materials here. The light decking against the darker screening, cladding and furniture brings a very calming feel to the space. I also love the addition of the fireplace to this area," says Nathan Briggs. ▶



James grows food to keep his grandsons "well fed and happy".

**"What a great variety of fruit trees. Well done!"**

*Nathan Briggs/Kärcher*



**James, SA**

**TOP DIY TIP**

"Use the wealth of knowledge available at Bunnings to achieve your goals – and enjoy the experience."

**BEST EDIBLE GARDEN**

Hands-on gardener and grandad James (Workshop member @Jimfish), set out to finish the last – and what he calls the best – portion of his backyard with fruit and veg to feed the family.

And the judges certainly appreciated both his motivation and execution. Says Tove Berkhout, "The fact that a large part of this garden was built to feed your grandsons is my favourite part about it! Having your whole family able to enjoy this space is something I dream of. Congratulations – it's beautiful!"

To create his productive patch, James laid paving, added fence extension panels, built a raised bed then got planting. He has two each of plum, peach and apricot trees, plus lemon and mandarin, and a vegetable plot.

He did the job with help from his wife and grandsons, and says the pick up from Bunnings and the sausage sizzle was "essential" to the process, plus a swim at the beach for the crew after work.



Tiered planting has hidden one boundary and star jasmine will soon cover this side trellis.



## BEST SMALL SPACE

Handy couple Andrea and Jordan turned what was once a neglected strip of lawn into a nature-filled family retreat.

"We wanted to create something both beautiful and functional out of our narrow backyard – a place that felt like an extension of our newly renovated home. The recycled red brick paving and arbours transformed the space, breaking up the length of the yard and drawing the eye through different zones," says Andrea (Workshop member @jordanandrea).

They painted the arbours, fences and retaining wall in Colorbond Monument – a

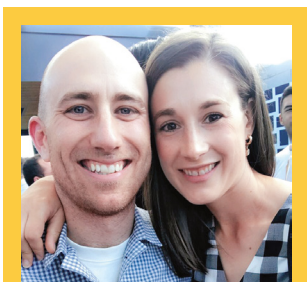
great backdrop for their new plantings, which were done as cost-effectively as possible, as the reno had stretched the budget.

"We chose hardy species that could be propagated and repeated to create rhythm throughout the garden. Inspired by the landscape of our local creek, the planting style is semi-structured. The mix of plants has proven to be low maintenance and also a magnet for birds, bees and butterflies who visit daily, which our daughter loves."

Along the way, the couple learnt that having the right tools – such as a post hole digger, compactor or paint sprayer – can turn a daunting job into something achievable.

"If you don't have the tools, the Bunnings Hire Shop is a fantastic option – it saves money, storage space and time. And there's also something deeply satisfying about doing it yourself. Every blister, shovel of dirt and coat of paint gives you a greater appreciation for the space once it's finished – a true sense of pride knowing you built it with your own hands."

Says Lisa Green, "I'm so impressed by this garden makeover. The planting approach – hardy and informal – has been hugely successful and the recycled brick paving is a timeless, textural inclusion. Painting the fences and structures dark makes everything else pop beautifully." ●



**Andrea & Jordan, Vic**

### TOP DIY TIP

"Don't be afraid to make mistakes; even the best gardens evolve through a little trial and error."

**BELOW** Recycled bricks and layered plantings add texture and depth to the garden. Leni the Vizsla approves!



"This is a brilliant transformation – welcoming and full of character"

*Mitchell Mclean/Bunnings Workshop*

# GEAR UP

Beaut for work, gardening or DIY, these heavy-duty threads keep you covered, cool and comfortable.

Pretty in pink  
A hardworking pair with added flair.

1



2



8



3



4



All-day comfort  
Last longer without  
leg fatigue.

7



6



5



- 1 Hard Yakka 'Raptor' women's mid shorts in Navy, \$79/size 12, I/N: 0304858.
  - 2 Green Hip 'All Women' overalls in Pink, \$169/size 12, I/N: 0708698.
  - 3 She Wear 'Pursues' women's safety workboots in Brown, \$249/size 6/37, I/N: 0804302.
  - 4 Citeco tee in Charcoal Marle, \$20/medium, I/N: 0818396.
  - 5 Green Hip 'All Women' shortalls in Gardener Green, \$159/size 12, I/N: 0708368.
  - 6 Citeco women's hi-vis short sleeve polo in Yellow, \$15/size 10, I/N: 0818224.
  - 7 She Wear 'Inspires' women's safety workboots in Pink, \$219/size 6/37, I/N: 0804285.
  - 8 Hard Yakka bib and brace overalls in Khaki, \$79/size 97, I/N: 0832153.
- Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.

**HW**

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# 12 NEW DECORS LANDING



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with CONFIDENCE



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**APARTMENT FRIENDLY\***



**SCRATCH RESISTANT\***



**FAMILY FRIENDLY\***



**NATURAL LOOK\***

\*Subject to specific decor and collection, proper installation and maintenance

## LAMINATE

## WATER RESISTANT LAMINATE

## WATERPROOF HYBRID

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Kitchen, living areas, hallways, bedrooms

Laundry, toilet, kitchen, living areas, hallways, bedrooms

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# Introducing OUR NEW COLLECTIONS



## Natural Variance Collection

Delivering the authentic look of timber with all the benefits of laminate, the Natural Variance collection is easy to install, water-resistant and scratch-resistant (AC4 rated), perfect for families, pets, and everyday life.

Featuring a large pattern repeat and embossed in register finish, it captures the natural beauty of classic Australian timbers. Bring the outside in with flooring that complements all aesthetics, and looks and feels real.

**WR LAMINATE**

## RAPIDCLICK tiles

Designed to capture the beauty of natural stone with none of the mess or hassle of tiling, the RapidClick collection creates the look of true tiles for less. Each plank features an integrated grout line for a realistic tiled look, while being 100% waterproof, stain-resistant, and suitable for floors and walls. Measuring 940mm x 470mm, they're easy to handle and install, perfect for DIY projects. Available in classic marble and stone designs to suit a wide range of aesthetics.



**HYBRID**



**HYBRID**

## WHISPERSTEP

WhisperStep is the pinnacle of hybrid flooring, blending innovative design with performance. Rated 6 Star for acoustic performance, it includes a 1.5mm IXPE underlay and a 1.0mm high-density acoustic foam layer for excellent sound reduction making it ideal for apartments and serene spaces. Family and pet-friendly, it has a waterproof surface for everyday spills. With a variety of decors, WhisperStep suits various aesthetic preferences, perfect for modern homes seeking style and comfort.



ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCE  
**6 STAR RATING**

## Exclusive NEW DESIGNS

SPOTTED GUM  
NATURAL VARIANCE  
COLLECTION

BLACKBUTT  
NATURAL VARIANCE  
COLLECTION

SILVER ORE  
RAPIDCLICK TILE  
COLLECTION

TRANQUIL GLOW  
WHISPERSTEP  
COLLECTION

BROWSE THE  
COLLECTION



HanWood



# 11 tips to get your new pad sorted

New year, new address? Settle in faster and cut the stress levels with these practical solutions and organisational hacks.

Words *Georgia Madden*

**M**oving into a new home is exciting – until the boxes pile up, the cupboards need wiping and the kettle is nowhere to be found. The secret to a smooth settling-in process is to get the basics sorted early with a quick clean, an efficient unpacking strategy and a few clever organising tricks. Follow these 11 steps and you'll have your new place feeling like home in no time!

**1 START WITH A WALK-THROUGH**  
Before opening a single box, do a slow lap of your new home. Professional organiser Sarah Le Quesne of Sort by Sarah ([sortbysarah.com.au](http://sortbysarah.com.au)) says this is the simplest way to understand what storage space you have – and what you need. “Measure twice, buy once,” she says. A tape measure in your pocket now can save you a dozen returns later. Make quick notes about cupboards, shelves and tight corners so you can set each room up properly from day one.

**“Spend time finding the right home for items”**

*Sarah Le Quesne/home organiser*

**2 TACKLE KEY CLEANING JOBS**  
Before unpacking, get the key cleaning jobs done – it's far easier now than when cupboards are full. Interior designer and ‘cleanfluencer’ Ashlee Jay of Ashlee Jay Interiors (@ashleejayinteriors) suggests starting by wiping out cupboards so you can unpack everything straight into a fresh and clean space. Next, run a dishwasher cleaning cycle then tackle the oven and rangehood. To clean grease and grime from rangehood filters, soak them in hot water with baking soda and detergent\*. Bathroom exhaust and ceiling fans may need a going over, too. Dust exhaust fans with a soft brush or microfibre cloth and use an old pillowcase to clean ceiling fans.



### SMOOTH MOVES

- Set a realistic deadline for unpacking – it'll help you feel settled sooner.
- Remove packing boxes and materials as you go; clutter slows everything down.
- Keep snacks, a toolbox and a cleaning caddy at hand.
- Give yourself grace: a three-bedroom home can take up to 50 hours to unpack, says Sarah.
- Turn on warm lighting and play music – atmosphere helps.

## 6 DEEP-CLEAN ALL SURFACES

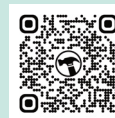
Even if your new place looks clean, a once-over will help it feel like your own. Clean walls with a microfibre flat mop, warm water and a dash of dishwashing liquid. For stubborn marks, Ashlee recommends sugar-soap wipes.

Steam-clean carpets and steam-mop tiles and vinyl flooring – you can hire carpet and tile cleaners at the Bunnings Hire Shop. For timber floors, Ashlee recommends using a microfibre spray mop or one you can wring out well, as too much moisture can damage them. Deodorise carpets by sprinkling baking soda mixed with a few drops of essential oil, leave for 20 minutes, then vacuum.

## 7 DISPOSE OF BOXES

Once essentials are unpacked, clear cardboard boxes quickly – it instantly reduces visual clutter. Sarah suggests selling or giving away used moving bundles on Facebook Marketplace or local community pages. Most recycling centres accept cardboard for free. Keep a box cutter handy so you can flatten boxes quickly and avoid trip hazards. ▶

Read it!



Find expert advice for an easy move:  
[bunnings.com.au/relocation-tips](https://bunnings.com.au/relocation-tips)

## 3 STOCK THE BASICS

You don't need a ton of products to clean your new home properly. Mario Mathuranayagam, buyer for cleaning and accessories at Bunnings, suggests arming yourself with three essentials: an all-purpose cleaner for kitchens, bathrooms and everything in between; microfibre cloths for streak-free dusting and wiping; and a lightweight stick vacuum for quick clean-ups and hard-to-reach corners. Add to this some dishwashing liquid and a glass-cleaning spray and you should be all set, adds Ashlee.

Prefer DIY? Make your own multipurpose cleaning solution by mixing together ¼ cup of vinegar, 2½ cups of water and a squirt of dishwashing liquid in a spray bottle.

## 4 FOCUS ON THE ESSENTIALS

When unpacking, start with the spaces that are needed to keep daily life running: the kitchen, bathrooms and wardrobes. "These make everything else flow more smoothly," says Ashlee. Make all the beds early – you'll thank yourself later.

## 5 PACK LIKE A PRO

The secret to a seamless unpacking process lies in how efficiently you packed all your gear in the first place. Sarah recommends using coloured tape or clear labels so that 'priority' boxes stand out. Store non-essentials in the garage or a spare room so living areas stay clear. And resist labelling anything 'misc' – it's a sure way to lose things.

Hang it up  
Make good use  
of door space.

## 8 ADD SAVVY STORAGE

Not allowed to drill? There are plenty of great storage options for renters, says Nathan Baxter, buyer for room furniture and laundry at Bunnings. "Removable adhesive hooks and strips are perfect for hanging coats, bags or even lightweight shelves, and they remove cleanly without leaving marks," he says. Back-of-door racks work well in laundries, pantries, children's rooms and wardrobes, he adds, while freestanding units or an over-toilet shelf provide extra storage without drilling, making them ideal for laundries or small bathrooms.

● Mode 4 hooks on board over door hanger in Black/White, \$25.90, I/N: 0445346.



## 5 COMMON REASONS YOU MAY NOT GET YOUR BOND BACK

As rental legislation differs between states and territories, it's important you understand the requirements as they relate to you. The following are some common problems that can lead to funds being taken from your bond by your landlord.

- Repair costs resulting from damage to the property (such as burn marks or carpet stains).
- Costs associated with reversing any changes you made to the property without the landlord's consent.
- Cleaning expenses if the property isn't left in an acceptably clean state.
- Any rent still owing, along with lease-related charges such as an early termination fee.
- Charges for lock changes or security replacements if you fail to return every key and device.

### TOP TIP

**When moving to a new property:** Snap detailed photos on move-in day and once more when you're preparing to vacate. These will act as clear evidence of how the property looked at the start and how it looks at the end. This documentation is crucial, as you might not have access to the property to verify any issues once you've left, if a bond claim arises.

## 9 MAXIMISE TIGHT SPACES

If space is limited and you need more storage, think vertically. Use tall shelving units, bookcases as makeshift pantries, narrow carts with castors, and hooks behind or over doors and in entry hallways. To save money, look around your home for storage options – baskets, jars and tubs often work well once items are grouped together.

In store, you'll find plenty of good budget-friendly solutions, says Nathan. "Stackable tubs and baskets and collapsible hampers are perfect for wardrobes, under-bed storage or laundries," he says.

Nathan also advises using a cleaning caddy to keep cleaning products organised and portable. Ashlee Jay recommends vacuum-seal bags for storing bedding and off-season clothes – they shrink bulky items flat and slide neatly under beds or on top of wardrobes. Or look for furniture with hidden storage space, like ottomans and beds with drawers, suggests Sarah Le Quesne.

## 10 MAKE MAINTENANCE EASY

Once the settling-in rush is over, keep your new home feeling fresh with a weekly vacuum and cleaning routine. Pay particular attention to high-touch areas and give benchtops and glass surfaces a regular going over. Round things out with a few cosy touches – soft lighting, indoor plants, a diffuser or a dash of essential oil in your spray mop.

## 11 CLEAN BEFORE YOU GO

If renting, aim to leave the property you're vacating much as you found it. A proper clean – even if it wasn't perfect when you moved in – can protect your bond. Start cleaning from the top down, tackling ceilings and fans first, then walls, windows and floors. Vacuum and mop along the way. Use a Britex carpet-cleaning machine from the Bunnings Hire Shop for a professional finish on a budget. To save work at the other end, clean as you pack – wipe shelves and furniture before loading into the truck so you leave the dust behind. ●

## FRESH START

### CLEANING PRODUCTS

Roll up your sleeves, it's time for some clean-up magic!



**Stain fighter**  
Targets tough build-up

- Duck 'Extra Power Toilet Shield' cleaning gel in Ocean Burst, \$5.49/900ml, I/N: 0622914.



**On the tiles**  
Refresh the grouting

- Britex 'Grout & Tile' cleaning spray, \$9.85/500ml, I/N: 0319727.

### ACCESSORIES

Arm yourself with everything needed to create a flawless finish.



**Happy face**  
Clean with a smile

- Scrub Daddy 'Scrub Mommy' dual-sided scrub/sponge, \$18.95/pack of 4, I/N: 0362818.



**Dust buster**  
Reach every corner

- Sabco extendable feathered microfibre duster with flexible head, \$23.99, I/N: 0080866.

### STORAGE

Organise your belongings efficiently for a stress-free move.



**Box clever**  
See contents at a glance

- Boxsweden 'Crystal' 35cm x 25cm x 13.5cm stackable organiser drawer, \$12.99/large, I/N: 0235830.



**Well protected**  
Keep your items safe

- Ezy Storage 50L waterproof IP67 clear storage container, \$30, I/N: 0419247.

Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.

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**SAFELY SECURE YOUR LOAD**

# DON'T RISK YOUR MOVE



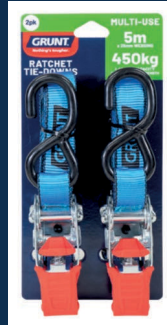
SECURE EVERY LOAD WITH GRUNT STRAPS & TIE-DOWNS TO ENSURE YOUR GEAR ALWAYS ARRIVES SAFELY.



2m PULL TIE-DOWNS  
**100KG**



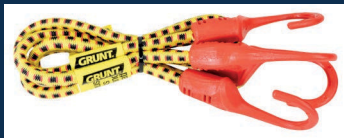
1m PULL TIE-DOWNS  
**100KG**



5m RATCHET TIE-DOWNS  
**2 PACK | 450KG**



5m RATCHET TIE-DOWNS  
**4 PACK | 450KG**



75cm Tie Down Octopus Straps  
**2 PACK | 35KG**



1.2mm Tie Down Octopus Straps  
**2 PACK | 35KG**



80cm Reflecta Flat Bungee Strap  
**90KG**



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**1X SCRUB**



## ROCK OUT!

This good boy loves his classic tunes.

- 1 I am... about six years old (I'm a rescued bird).
- 2 I live in... Blacktown, NSW.
- 3 Others would describe me as... cheeky, chatty and affectionate.
- 4 My perfect day involves... listening to '50s and '60s rock 'n' roll music, especially Elvis.
- 5 I get a bit grumpy when... there is no music playing for me to sing and whistle along to.

6 I find it difficult to... perch. I lost the use of my right leg after a stroke but I'm getting better every day!

7 My favourite toy is... all of them! But especially my cowbell and my toy shaped like a house. ▶

**Would you like to see your animal pal in our pages?** Email your pet's photo, name and breed (with 'Pet of the Month' in the subject line) to **submissions@bunnings.com.au**. Good luck!

## SMARTY PANTS

Owners rejoice! These smart home gadgets are designed specifically to solve your pesky pet peeves.

**GPS trackers** Beyond showing your dog or cat's location, trackers allow you to set up virtual fences that notify you when they're crossed. You can also monitor your pet's heart rate and receive health alerts for any unusual behaviour or changes to their sleep.

**Security doors** Tired of unwelcome guests coming through the cat flap? Pair an ultrasonic collar with a compatible pet door so it only opens for your pet. You can even get doors that link to their microchip.

**Self-cleaning litter trays** What's not to love about a litter box that does the dirty work for you? This genius gadget senses when your cat has used the tray and scoops the poop into a separate sealed container. Plus, it's connected to an app which tells you when to refill the litter.

Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered. ▲ This product is available to buy online only and is sold and delivered by a Bunnings Marketplace Trusted Seller. Not all items are available in all states and territories. \*Delivery charges may apply.



**Digital pawprint**  
Monitor their habits and location.

### SNOOP AND SCOOP



● 1 ▲ Tractive 'Dog 6' real-time GPS tracker in Black, I/N: 0834116\*. ● 2 ▲ Advwin self cleaning automatic cat litter box with wi-fi, I/N: 0650537\*.

## Beat the heat

As you head inside to cool off in the aircon, spare a thought for our native animals and birds who can really suffer on sweltering days. Providing water is the easiest way to help.

- Plant a wide, shallow dish on the ground near shrubs and bushes – the overhang will offer some protection from predators and reduce evaporation. Include a few rocks and sticks to help smaller creatures get in and out.
- For larger birds, a deeper pedestal birdbath will be very popular and looks great, too!
- Shallow bowls hung in trees are ideal for smaller birds and tree-dwelling mammals.
- Set these water sources away from your pets, or even better, keep your pets inside on hot days to protect both them and wildlife.
- Place a tethered platform or rope in your pool as an escape route for trapped animals and check skimmer boxes twice daily.



# COOL CATS

A fur coat isn't the greatest accessory on a hot day. Here's how to keep your feline feeling fine.



Ever self-sufficient, cats do a pretty good job of regulating their temperature on hot days; you might notice them becoming extra lazy, seeking out shady spots and grooming regularly (their evaporating saliva helps to cool the surface of their coat). But, even so, they can still be at risk of heatstroke in summer. To help your cat stay cool, try these tips from Kylie McKendry at the Cat Protection Society of NSW.

## STAY INSIDE

Ensure kitty has access to the coolest parts of the house. "Elevate your cat's bed to allow airflow underneath," says Kylie. "And while some cats may not enjoy the direct force of a fan, others will happily lounge around in the cool air flow." A damp towel on the tiles can also be ideal for a cooling catnap.

## BRUSH IT OUT

Grooming your cat reduces shedding and matting, and combing out excess fur keeps your puss cooler and helps

prevent furballs. "A quiet daily grooming session with your cat is good for their health and wellbeing, and because patting cats has been shown to reduce blood pressure, it's probably good for you too!" says Kylie. Long-haired and fluffier felines may benefit from a professional clip for the summer months, she adds, but advises checking with your vet first.

## DRINK IT IN

One of the simplest ways to add extra water to your cat's daily intake is to mix a teaspoon or two into their wet food. Ensure water bowls are topped up daily and placed in their favourite

**COMFORT ZONE**

● **1** Pet Zone 2.6L pet water fountain, \$24, I/N: 0439090. ● **2** Flamingo cat massage brush with handle, \$9.69/small, I/N: 0438918. ● **3** Baxter Bone 'Strawberry' pet cooling mat, \$20, I/N: 0906203. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.

spots. Drinking fountains can lead them to drink more, too. Kylie recommends freezing a broth variety of cat food in an ice cube tray, then adding a cube to their water bowl. "It's the purrfect way to encourage your cat to stay hydrated!"

## HAVE A LITTLE LIE DOWN

Cooling mats are not as popular with cats as they are with dogs, but you can try placing one of your cat's favourite blankets or a soft towel over the mat or put it somewhere they regularly loaf about. Another cool tip is to wrap a freezer block in a towel and nestle it in their bed.

## WARNING SIGNS

Symptoms of heatstroke in cats can include lethargy, panting, drooling, vomiting, disorientation, trouble walking, dark-red discoloration of the gums, high heart and respiratory rate and temperature. "A trail of wet paw prints might indicate excessive

sweating from their paw pads," adds Kylie. If you notice any of these heatstroke symptoms in your cat, move them to a cool place, offer them water and rub their coat with a damp towel to help bring down their temperature – and call your vet immediately.

# PET PICKS

Kit out your four-legged friend's pad with toys, treats and essentials.



A REWARDING TREAT IS A HELPFUL TRAINING COMPANION.



1



2



Irresistible! Cats go crazy for these silky purée snacks.



3



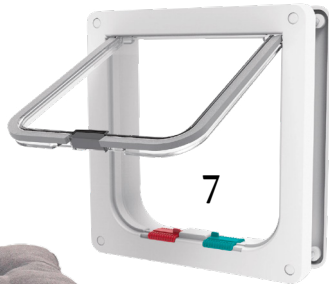
4



5



6



7



9



8



10



11



12



13

- 1 Fido & Fletch 'The Cosy Cabin' 764mm x 760mm x 720mm small **dog kennel**, \$119, I/N: 0671594. ● 2 Trusty bacon flavoured oven-baked biscuit adult **dog treats**, \$10.60/1kg, I/N: 0506795. ● 3 Dine 'Creamy Treats' 12g tuna and salmon flavoured **cat treats**, \$25.60/pack of 32, I/N: 0541464. ● 4 Happy Tails assorted **pet toys**, \$14.98/pack of 9, I/N: 0838542. ● 5 Happy Tails 'Lounger' **pet bed** in Grey, \$13.98/medium, I/N: 0730929. ● 6 Dats 'Wood-like Stick' **dog chew toy**, \$8.25, I/N: 0822644. ● 7 Hakuna Pets **cat flap**, \$21.95/small, I/N: 3962389. ● 8 Art & Bob 'Comfort' 88cm x 77cm x 10cm **pet mattress**, \$45, I/N: 0861657. ● 9 Paws and Claws 32L **pet food storer** with scoop, \$22, I/N: 0439606. ● 10 Happy Tails assorted **cat balls**, \$4.50/pack of 9, I/N: 0879612. ● 11 Art & Bob chicken breast **dog treats**, \$16.50/500g, I/N: 0836906. ● 12 Happy Tails multi-tier **cat tower**, \$99.98, I/N: 0879634. ● 13 Happy Tails 'Tough Tyre' **pet toy/feeder**, \$10.49, I/N: 0364845. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered. ●

Words Jen Walker Photography Adobe Stock. Pet products are not available in WA, except Armadale and Bunbury stores. No toy is indestructible - always supervise your pet with new toys, inspect toys regularly and remove if they become damaged or unsafe.

# Practical magic

These three simple projects will keep kids busy and their bedrooms bright.

Words *Ariel Fowkes*  
Photography *Jonny Valiant*  
Styling *Anna Zielinski*

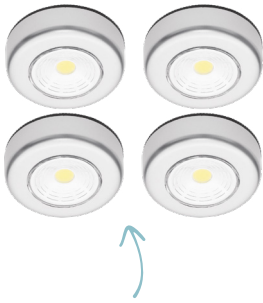


↖  
**Mirror, mirror**  
Make their room  
the fairest of  
them all.



**A**s the afternoons and weekends stretch on and little hands start to fidget, a few fun and easy craft projects can be just the ticket to keep boredom at bay. Whether it's a shimmering mirror, a custom pencil pot or arty table light, these easy DIYs can keep young minds occupied with plenty of colour, light and creativity – just be sure to step in when the hot-glue gun is required.





**Pick it up!**  
Battery operated and easy to use

● Click LED **puck lights**, \$7/pack of 4, I/N: 0529727.

### You will need...

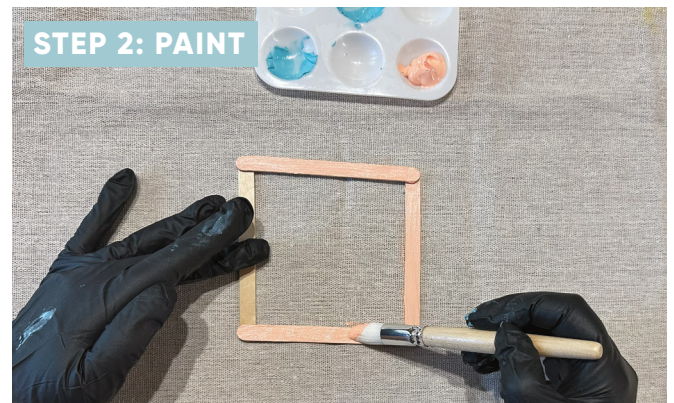
- Safety equipment (eye protection, mask and gloves)
- Drop sheet
- Pop sticks
- Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- Scissors
- Baking paper
- Coloured pencils
- Acrylic paint
- Artist's paintbrush
- Craft glue
- Puck light

**RIGHT** ● **DIY paper lantern** made using: Boyle wooden **pop sticks**, \$2.99/pack of 150, I/N: 0440451, 'Pastel Collection' premium luxe acrylic **paints**, \$14.46/pack of 6, I/N: 0322607 (Pink Mist used), and PVA **craft glue**, \$2.24/250ml, I/N: 0400203; Ozito 'Trigger Flow' **glue gun**, \$7.98, I/N: 6290184; and Click LED **puck lights**, \$7/pack of 4, I/N: 0529727. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.



### STEP 1: GLUE

**1** On a drop sheet, arrange four pop sticks in a square. Ask an adult to dab hot glue on each end of the top and base sticks. Attach the side sticks on top. Repeat to make four frames; leave to set. Cut four squares of baking paper to suit the frame dimensions, here 11.5cm x 11.5cm. Draw pictures on the baking paper with coloured pencils.



### STEP 2: PAINT

**2** Paint the frames using acrylic paint and a paintbrush. Apply 1-2 coats of paint, leaving to dry after each. Ask an adult to use hot glue to join the frames, creating an open cube. Leave to set. Attach baking paper to the inside of each frame with craft glue, carefully trimming as needed. Position puck light inside. ▶

# MOSAIC MIRROR

Make a plain piece beautiful with paint, glass tiles and little wire lights.

## You will need...

- Safety equipment (gloves)
- Craft mirror
- Painter's tape
- Drop sheet
- Acrylic paint
- Palette
- Paintbrush
- Mosaic glue
- Mosaic tiles
- Wire lights



Pick it up!  
Add sparkle with battery powered lights

- Lytworx battery-operated micro LED **wire lights** in Warm White, \$6.98/40 bulbs, I/N: 4352440.



● **DIY mirror** made using: Crafted 25cm small round mirror, \$12.50, I/N: 0323870; Boyle 'Pastel Collection' premium luxe acrylic paints, \$14.46/pack of 6, I/N: 0322607 (Ice Green used); Mandala Art triangle glass **mosaic tiles** in Pastel, \$10.65/150g, I/N: 0209800, and craft acrylic **mosaic glue** in Clear, \$8.50/125ml, I/N: 1662036; and Lytworx battery-operated micro LED **wire lights** in Warm White, \$6.98/40 bulbs, I/N: 4352440. **Succulent** in dinosaur ceramic **pot**. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.



**STEP 1: PAINT**  
1 Mask off the mirror with painter's tape. Working on a drop sheet, apply one coat of artist's acrylic paint to the frame with a paintbrush. Leave to dry and apply a second coat.



**STEP 2: GLUE**  
2 Remove painter's tape while paint is still tacky; let dry. Apply a dab of mosaic glue to the back of each tile and press firmly on the frame; leave to set. Position mirror on wall and drape with lights. ▶

Before

After



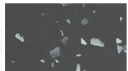
# Add value to your property for less



I/N: 0091674



I/N: 1580415



I/N: 0222020



I/N: 0222018



**SOLVENT BASED**  
for larger garages



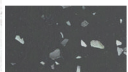
## Epoxy Coat GARAGE FLOOR COATING KIT



I/N: 0336530



I/N: 1580629



I/N: 0336529



**WATER BASED**  
for smaller garages

- Seals & protects concrete surfaces
- Durable, easy to clean surface
- Resists hot tyre pickup

Scan here to see the Dy-Mark Epoxy Coat range

## TRUSTED BY TRADIES

- HIGH OPACITY
- UP TO 140m COVERAGE
- PRECISION WRITING TOOL

Scan here to see the Dy-Mark Spray & Mark range





**Throw shapes**  
Use off-the-shelf stencils to create the design.

# CRAFT CADDY

Give their favourite bits and bobs a brighter place to live.



**Pick it up!**  
This classic caddy is a great blank canvas

● Boyle small plywood caddy, \$9.52, I/N: 1662716.

## You will need...

- Safety equipment (gloves)
- Drop sheet
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paints
- Palette
- Craft caddy
- Stencil
- Stencil brush
- Spray sealer (optional)

● **DIY craft caddy** decorated using: Crafted project **paint** in Yellow, \$5.98/300ml, I/N: 0323834, kids **stencil book**, \$8, I/N: 0323865, paint **palette set**, \$3.50/pack of 5, I/N: 0859398, assorted **paintbrushes**, \$7.42/pack of 6, I/N: 0323824, and assorted paint **stencil brushes**, \$6.36/pack of 3, I/N: 0323821; and Boyle 'Pastel Collection' premium luxe acrylic **paints**, \$14.46/pack of 6, I/N: 0322607 (Baby Blue used). (In caddy) Crafted 'Kids Grip' **paint brushes**, \$3.35/pack of 4, I/N: 0859400.

## Keep in mind

- When using a hot-glue gun, wear eye protection and a mask, work in a well-ventilated area, then place the appliance on its stand after use and allow it to cool down before storage. Do not leave unattended while in use or directly after use.
- When choosing indoor plants, always read the label as some can be toxic to children and pets.
- When painting or spraying sealer, always wear safety equipment (eye protection and mask) and ensure the room is well ventilated. Keep all paint and chemicals out of reach of children and pets.

### STEP 1: PAINT



1 Working on a drop sheet, use a paintbrush to apply two coats of yellow artist's acrylic paint to all surfaces of the caddy, inside and out. Leave to dry after each coat.

### STEP 2: STENCIL



2 Position a stencil on the front of the caddy, and apply blue paint with a stencil brush (don't overload it with paint). Gently lift the stencil, taking care not to smudge the paint. Leave to dry and repeat on all sides. Finish with a clear spray sealer, if desired. ●



# MOW SMARTER

Want perfectly manicured lawns without breaking a sweat? The eufy robotic mower takes this task off your to-do list.

Of all the household maintenance jobs, mowing the lawn is the equivalent of painting the Sydney Harbour Bridge – barely complete before it's time to go again, with little time to savour a job well done. But what if you could reclaim your weekends, stay cool through the Aussie summer and still enjoy a beautifully neat lawn without lifting a finger? Enter the era of robotic mowing, as smart home experts **eufy** bring you hands-free grass cutting that's as easy as putting the kettle on.

## Neat lawns, no sweat

Forget wrangling a noisy petrol mower. The eufy **E15 Robot Mower** quietly glides across your yard, delivering consistent, even cutting results every time – even on sloping (up to 40 per cent gradient) and uneven lawns.

Unlike traditional mowers, the E15 runs efficiently on electricity, eliminating the need for fuel and reducing emissions. Its whisper-quiet operation (as low as 56dB) won't shatter the serenity, while its smart programming ensures your

grass is always clipped and ready for a barbecue or backyard cricket game.

## Plug and play

Saying goodbye to weekend mowing takes barely more effort than opening the box, with five minutes of set-up via the easy-to-use eufy app. With auto-mapping, the E15 will mark a precise course over every bit of your backyard, navigating around garden beds, edges and everyday obstacles to clip every possible blade of grass – no wires or signal-dependent RTK necessary. Use the app to tweak the settings and set a cutting height (from 25mm to 75mm), then let the E15 go to work.

The eufy E15 Robot Mower is as diligent as you are – maybe even more so. Precise obstacle avoidance means the E15 has always got an eye out for impediments, skilfully observing and avoiding trees and fences, furniture and lights, and even the toys your kids or dog have left underfoot. It will even sense rainfall and return itself to the charging station until the weather clears.

SET AND FORGET!  
THE E15 WILL MAINTAIN YOUR LAWN WITH LITTLE INTERVENTION.



Eufy 'E15' robot lawn mower, \$2,999.95, I/N: 0960661\*.



Scan the QR code to see the full range of eufy products available at Bunnings.

eufy

RENTER  
FRIENDLY

# Little rippers

Make the most of a compact living area with three bespoke storage solutions.

Projects *Tamara Maynes*  
Photography *Adrian Lander*

Project cost  
**UNDER**  
\$450\*

● **DIY mini cloakroom** made using: SpecRite 2700mm x 600mm x 21mm timber **acoustic panel**, \$99, I/N: 0455960\*, 2700mm x 26mm x 21mm acoustic panel **end caps**, \$25 each, I/N: 0749776\*, both in Walnut, and pine multi use **timber panels**, 1800mm x 600mm x 18mm, \$69, I/N: 0419624\*, 1200mm x 600mm x 18mm, \$39, I/N: 0419619\*; Selseys 'Aquadhere' PVA interior **wood glue adhesive**, \$6.90/100ml, I/N: 1230622; Titan 8G x 16mm button head **screws** in Black, \$4.10/pack of 60, I/N: 0912049; White Knight 'Crystal Clear' acrylic **spray paint** in Gloss Clear, \$19.60, I/N: 1583964; **mirror**, for similar try Estilo 'Pill' plain polished edge **mirror**, \$39, I/N: 0974338; Permastik 24mm **mirror mounting tape**, \$13.28/5m, I/N: 0045268; Selseys 'Liquid Nails' mirror metal and glass **adhesive**, \$22.75/310g, I/N: 1231848. and Arlec USB RGB **strip light**, \$12.90/3m, I/N: 0838633. ▲ P&P bamboo **coat rack** with shelves and hanging bar, I/N: 0926921\*.

▲ This product is available to buy online only and is sold and delivered by a Bunnings Marketplace Trusted Seller. Not all items are available in all states and territories. \*Delivery charges may apply.

# ENTRYWAY CLOSET

Build a mini cloakroom clad in rich walnut tones, with a mirror perfect for out-the-door touch ups.



**Pick it up!**  
Choose the right product for the job

● Selleys 'Liquid Nails' mirror metal and glass adhesive, \$22.75/310g, I/N: 1231848.

## Tools & materials

- Safety equipment (eye and ear protection, and mask)
- Tape measure and pencil
- Drill with 6G countersinking and driver bits
- Quick-grip clamps
- Scraper
- Spirit level
- Circular saw with straightedge
- 1200mm x 600mm x 18mm pine panel\* cut in store (see below)
- Woodworking adhesive
- 6G x 40mm countersunk timber screws
- Timber filler
- 180-grit abrasive paper with sanding block
- Clear gloss spray sealer
- 155cm x 38.2cm x 30cm coat rack
- 1800mm x 600mm x 18mm pine panel\*
- Wall fixings
- 2700mm x 600mm x 21mm acoustic panel and two end caps\*
- Painter's tape
- Construction adhesive
- 8G x 16mm black button-head screws
- 800mm x 450mm mirror
- Double-sided mirror mounting tape
- Mirror, metal and glass adhesive
- Self-adhesive LED strip lights

## Cutting list

From 1200mm x 600mm pine panel:

### Plinth

- TOP 600mm x 305mm
- FRONT AND BACK 600mm x 200mm (2)

### Header

- TOP 600mm x 323mm
- BATTEN 600mm x 50mm

1 For the plinth (base), on the top piece mark six holes 10mm from the edges at each corner and centred on the long sides, then predrill using a countersinking bit. Apply a bead of woodworking adhesive to top edge of front and back pieces, clamp in position against the plinth top and secure with 40mm screws; leave to set. Apply timber filler to the screw holes with a scraper, leave to dry, then sand plinth all over, wiping away dust with a cloth. Spray the plinth with two coats of clear gloss sealer, leaving to dry after each coat. Put the plinth in the mini cloakroom's final position and place the coat rack centred on top to check for fit; remove coat rack.

2 For the front panel, on the 1800mm x 600mm pine panel mark two holes 100mm from the base and sides. On the header top mark six holes 10mm from the edges at each corner and centred on the long sides, and on the header batten two holes 100mm from the ends centred on the front face. Predrill all marked holes using a countersinking bit. Apply a bead of woodworking adhesive to the top of the front panel and batten, position against the header top, clamp in place and secure with 40mm screws; leave to set.

3 Enlist another pair of hands to lift the assembly into position against the plinth. Check the header for level, then mark the location of the batten holes. Secure the batten to the wall using suitable fixings, then secure the base of the front panel to the plinth using 40mm screws through the predrilled holes.

4 On the centre of the coat rack base, predrill a hole using a countersinking bit. Slide the coat rack into position on the centre of the plinth and secure the base with a 40mm screw.

5 For the front cladding, measure the finished height of the front (ours is 1818mm) to mark on the acoustic panel. Following the manufacturer's instructions carefully, cut the acoustic panel to size using a circular saw with straightedge, then sand cut edge and wipe away dust with a cloth. Apply construction adhesive to the back of the acoustic panel. With the factory-finished edge at the top, lift acoustic panel into place and press against the front panel. Secure through the felt using button-head screws, fixed at 300mm spaces across the width and 600mm along the length. Measure and cut the end caps to length, and install using construction adhesive; leave to set.

6 For the mirror, mark your desired position on the cladding with painter's tape. Following the manufacturer's instructions carefully, apply mirror mounting tape and adhesive to the back of the mirror and press into position. Install self-adhesive strip lights along edge of the cladding, run the cable under the plinth and plug in. ▶



STEP 1

Off the rack  
A flatpack coat rack is an easy insert.



STEP 3



STEP 5

## MAKE THE CUT

- "Measure twice, cut once" is an old tradie adage that's very sound advice! For any DIY project, check and recheck the measurements that apply to your space and premade elements of the build, such as the coat rack we used, before cutting.
- Our mini cloakroom plinth sits flush against the wall. If you need to make allowance for a skirting board, adjust the header top dimensions.
- See the instructions in step 1 of the armrest tray project (page 67) for how to cut the 1200mm pine multi-use panel yourself, or take advantage of the Bunnings cutting service. Enquire at your local store.

Steps photography Eunice Oh. \*Project cost is based on the prices of materials purchased at Alexandria, NSW, store (tools not included) and is correct at time of printing. †Timbers vary by state and territory, contact your local store for further information.



# JOLLY TROLLEY

Dress up a plain cart with stone-look film and cheerful striped webbing.



Project cost  
**UNDER**  
\$55\*

**1** To create a decorative stone-look counter using furniture film (see above), first measure the trolley top. If it is wider than the film (450mm), centre the film to leave an even border on all sides and cut to length. Peel off the backing paper to carefully stick the film down, smoothing as you go.

**2** Use a screwdriver to remove the doors from the trolley, and lay doors flat on a covered work surface. Hold a length of webbing along one side of the inner frame, mark with pencil, then use a ruler and protractor to mark inward-sloping 45° angles. Cut neatly with scissors. Repeat with other sides, dry fitting and trimming as necessary. **Tip:** Cut the longer lengths first; if you make a mistake, you can still use that piece for a shorter length.

**3** Make faint pencil guide marks showing the position of the webbing, then remove webbing strips. Apply contact adhesive to the door within the guide marks, carefully reposition the webbing and press down; leave to cure. **Tip:** Make sure the adhesive extends to the cut edges of the webbing to help prevent fraying.

**4** To make the drawer pulls, cut 200mm lengths of webbing. Run a bead of adhesive 10mm from one end, then fold in half and press the edges together; leave to cure. Using a screwdriver, pierce a centred hole 20mm from the top of the glued edge.

**5** Remove existing drawer knobs from the trolley. Thread a 50mm snap-off screw through the hole in a webbing loop, then through the hole in a drawer front, and secure with a hex nut. Snap off excess screw with pliers. Repeat with remaining drawers, then reinstall the trolley doors.

**ABOVE** ● **DIY tea and coffee station** upcycled using: Pillar 45cm adhesive **furniture film** in Cream Stone, \$10.98/2m, I/N: 0817640; Grunt 50mm **cotton webbing**, \$24/10m, I/N: 4310868; Selseys 'Kwik Grip' **contact adhesive** in Crystal Clear, \$10.35/50ml, I/N: 1230163; Taskmaster M4 x 50mm zinc **snap off screws**, \$2.10/pack of 12, I/N: 0206133; and Pinnacle M4 stainless steel **hex nuts**, \$2.88/pack of 12, I/N: 0130528.

● ▲ **Trolley, Costway\***. ▲ This product is available to buy online only and is sold and delivered by a Bunnings Marketplace Trusted Seller. Not all items are available in all states and territories. \*Delivery charges may apply.

## Tools & materials

- Safety equipment (eye protection, mask and disposable gloves)
- Tape measure and pencil
- Scissors
- Screwdriver
- Drop sheet
- Protractor and ruler
- Pliers
- Stone-look adhesive furniture film
- 50mm cotton webbing
- Clear-drying contact adhesive
- M4 x 50mm snap-off screws
- M4 hex nuts



Pick it up!  
Instant bright  
stripes

● Grunt 50mm **cotton webbing**, \$24/10m, I/N: 4310868.

## Tools & materials

- Safety equipment (eye and ear protection, and mask)
- Drop sheet
- Tape measure, combination square and pencil
- Circular saw with straightedge
- Quick-grip clamps
- Drill with 6G countersinking and driver bits
- Plastic scraper
- Lint-free cloth
- Artist's paintbrush
- 1200mm x 396mm x 12mm plywood\*
- 180-grit abrasive paper with sanding block
- Woodworking adhesive
- 6G x 40mm timber screws
- Timber filler
- Leftover paint (we used Porter's Paints 'Eggshell Finish' in Explorer Blue)
- Clear gloss spray sealer



← Pick it up!  
For a flush,  
pro finish

- Ryobi 4 piece countersink drill bit set, \$9.98, I/N: 0525187.

## Keep in mind

- When using power tools, always protect ears and eyes with ear muffs and safety glasses (gloves and a mask are also recommended), follow the manufacturer's instructions and work in a well-ventilated area.
- If using contact adhesive, follow the packaging instructions and safety advice carefully. Wear eye protection, a mask and disposable gloves.
- Do not place food directly on a painted surface; always use a platter or plate.



**1** Measure chair arm for the tray dimensions (our top and sides are 260mm x 260mm). Mark the timber using a combination square, and cut to size using a circular saw with a straightedge clamped to the workbench; sand cut edges. Apply a bead of adhesive to top edge of side pieces and position against the tray top; clamp to set.



**2** Predrill into the top and sides of the tray, 10mm in from each corner, using a countersinking bit. Secure with a 40mm countersunk screw in each of the four holes. Apply timber filler to the screw holes with a scraper, leave to dry, then sand tray all over, wiping away sanding dust with a cloth.



**3** Practice your design on scrap paper, then use an artist's brush to paint onto the tray. Apply two coats of paint, leaving to dry after each coat. Spray the tray with two coats of clear gloss sealer, leaving to dry after each coat. Slot the finished tray over the arm of your sofa and enjoy a cuppa! ●

# SOFA TABLE

This handy armrest tray is a great first project for woodworking beginners.

Project cost  
**UNDER**  
\$70\*



ABOVE ● **DIY armrest tray** made using: Project Panel 1200mm x 396mm x 12mm pine premium BC grade **plywood**, \$33, I/N: 0390156\*; Selley's 'Aquadhere' PVA interior **wood glue adhesive**, \$6.90/100ml, I/N: 1230622; Zenith 6G x 40mm zinc plated hinge-long thread countersunk head **timber screws**, \$5.16/pack of 25, I/N: 2420071; White Knight 'Crystal Clear' acrylic **spray paint** in Gloss Clear, \$19.60, I/N: 1583964. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.



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MINIMAL EFFORT, MAXIMUM CLEAN

EASY WRING AND CLEAN TURBO MOP

VILED A VALUE

**+2 BONUS  
REFILLS INCLUDED**



● Ryobi 'ONE+' 18V drill driver, \$89/skin only (battery and charger sold separately), I/N: 0539760.



# The top 10 uses for a drill

Here's how to get the most out of this must-have tool.

Words Mitchell Mclean

**A** reliable drill is one of the most valuable and versatile tools you can have in your kit. Beyond the obvious task of drilling holes, this powerhouse can take on a surprising variety of jobs around the home and garden – from basic maintenance to out-of-the-box DIYs.

## 1 HANG SHELVES AND ARTWORK

A drill makes quick work of mounting shelves and picture frames but it's important to have the right drill bit for the wall. Use masonry bits for brick or concrete, wood bits for timber and wall plugs for a secure hold. A drill-driver will allow you to predrill and drive screws neatly in one go.

## 2 ASSEMBLE FLAT-PACK FURNITURE

Save time and effort by swapping your manual screwdriver for a cordless drill with a screwdriver bit. Adjust the torque setting to avoid stripping screws or damaging fittings and see how much faster assembly becomes.

## 3 TACKLE CLEANING TASKS

With the right brush attachment for your drill, you can say goodbye to manual scrubbing. Fit a nylon brush to gently clean surfaces like tiles, grout or painted timber, and a wire brush for heavy-duty tasks like removing rust. Hold the drill at a steady angle and let the bristles do the work.

## 4 CREATE DRAINAGE HOLES

A multipurpose bit can easily create holes in ceramic, terracotta or plastic pots – mark the spot, work slowly and keep steady pressure. You can even drill holes in items like wheelbarrows or old food tins to turn them into planters.

## 5 MIX PAINT OR MORTAR

Fit a paddle attachment and your drill becomes an instant stirrer. Whether you're mixing paint or blending small batches of mortar, using a drill ensures a smooth, even result – without the strain of hand-stirring. ▶

BELOW Dig no more! Attach an auger drill bit to make light work of some landscaping and gardening tasks.



● Ozito 'PXC' PXBHS-180 18V 13mm brushless hammer drill, \$99/skin only (battery and charger sold separately), I/N: 0299320.

## 6 PLANT BULBS AND AERATE SOIL

Transform your drill into a mini digging machine with an auger bit attachment – it'll make uniform holes for bulbs or seedlings, and can even be used to aerate compacted soil.

## 7 RECESS SCREWS NEATLY

Attach a countersink bit to your drill to create recesses for screw heads to sit flush with or below the timber surface. Ideal for projects such as cabinetry that will be filled and painted, or any job where a clean, seamless finish matters.

## 8 INSTALL BLINDS OR CURTAIN RODS

When hanging window furnishings, precision is key. Whether you're working into plasterboard, timber or brick, a drill allows you to mark, predrill and secure brackets neatly.

## 9 SAND OR POLISH SURFACES

Add a sanding or polishing pad and your drill becomes a finishing tool. It's handy for smoothing timber edges, buffing metal or polishing surfaces before painting. Just remember to keep the speed moderate for the best control.

## 10 DIY AND CRAFT PROJECTS

Whether you're building bespoke furniture or turning old boots into planters, a drill makes almost any creative task faster, smoother and more precise. ●

### MAINTENANCE MADE EASY

Looking after your drill ensures its longevity.

- **Keep it clean** Wipe away dust and debris after each use, especially around vents and the chuck.
- **Recharge regularly** Keep cordless batteries charged, even if you haven't used the drill recently.
- **Check your bits** Replace dull or bent drill bits; they make your work harder and also wear out the motor faster.
- **Store properly** Stow your drill and accessories in a cool, dry spot, preferably in a case or toolbox.

### GOOD SAVE

- 1. Share your power** Save money and reduce waste by choosing a cordless tool range that uses the same battery system – so one charger can power multiple tools.
- 2. Repair and reuse** Need new furniture or planters? Maybe that drill can be used to mend or update what you have.
- 3. Recycle the battery** Keep old batteries out of landfill by taking to your store's collection unit. Go to [bunnings.com.au/how-to-recycle-batteries](https://www.bunnings.com.au/how-to-recycle-batteries) to read more about our battery recycling program.

EXTRA BITS

Extend the functionality of your drill with these useful attachments.



**Heavy duty**  
Prep your paint

- Uni-Pro large drill **paint mixer**, \$13.63, I/N: 1670154.



**Buff and shine**  
Bring back sparkle

- Craflight 8 piece drill **polishing kit**, \$16.98, I/N: 6360265.



**Smooth finish**  
Create neat recesses

- Kango 3 piece drill **countersink bit set**, \$24.99, I/N: 0727743.



**Clean up**  
Get rid of grime

- Ozito 16 piece drill **brush set**, \$27.90, I/N: 0375144.



**Hole in one**  
Drill down into soil

- Full Boar 50mm garden **auger bit**, \$29.98, I/N: 0631345.



**High impact**  
Secure those screws

- Irwin 35 piece **screwdriver bit set**, \$34.98, I/N: 0591718.

Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.



Keep in mind

- Before drilling into walls, use a stud finder to check for wiring or pipework, and turn off the power before working. If unsure, call a professional.
- When hanging shelves, curtain rods or artwork, make sure you use fixings/ fasteners appropriate for your type of wall and for the weight of the fixture.
- When using power tools, always protect ears and eyes with ear muffs and safety glasses (gloves and mask are also recommended). For sanding, always wear the recommended safety gear (such as gloves, mask, and eye and ear protection). Follow the manufacturer's instructions and work in a well-ventilated area.

# THE EXPERIENCE MATTERS



# Gerni

The Original

RENTER  
FRIENDLY

● **DIY outdoor kitchen** made using: Brighton Masonry 390mm x 190mm x 190mm full **besser blocks**, \$4.80 each, I/N: 3450457; James Hardie 'Hardie Secura' 2400mm x 600mm x 22mm **flooring sheets**, \$191/each, I/N: 0851523; Jack Matrix 'Lush' 1800mm x 900mm **screen panels** in Charcoal, \$99/each, I/N: 0627806; and Crescent 150mm x 3.6mm **cable ties** in Black, \$2.48/pack of 25, I/N: 4431120. (In background)

● **Arrowhead plant, bromeliad and lady palm.** All other products, stylist's own. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered.

## BASIC BENCH

The beauty of this bench is that it can be built in minutes with two people – no cutting or joining needed, just stack and go! It's easy to disassemble and can be scaled to fit any space – which is a big bonus for renters. The materials used are all off-the-shelf, weather-resistant and non-combustible.

**HANGING HERB GARDEN**

The screen behind the bench isn't purely decorative – you can use it to hang baskets of herbs, ready to use in your cooking. Try a mix of pizza-friendly plants like thyme, basil and parsley. Rosemary and oregano are best grown in pots.



**Safe keeping**  
Tuck away the pizza oven (in its cover) and gas bottle when not in use.



**Pick it up!**  
A sturdy bench base  
● Brighton Masonry 390mm x 190mm x 190mm full besser block, \$4.80, 1/N: 3450457.

**1** Measure and mark the area where the bench will go, making sure to leave the recommended clearance from walls or fences for the pizza oven, here 61cm.  
**Tip:** Choose FC sheets that fit the space to avoid having to cut them.

**2** Mark the location of the besser blocks, flush with the ends of the bench panels and aligned with the front and back. Then mark the centre blocks.

**3** Sit the five base blocks upright, lay an FC sheet on top and check for level. Position the remaining blocks and FC sheet, once again ensuring it's level.

**4** Position the screens behind the bench. We used two screens for extra rigidity, held together with cable ties, and repurposed the aluminium packaging channels as edging. **Tip:** Use spare house bricks, besser blocks or gazebo weights to prop up screens, or secure to bench panels with angle brackets and fibre cement screws.

**5** Fill wall baskets with potting mix and assorted herbs, and water in well. Use S hooks to hang baskets and cooking implements from the screen. Set up your pizza oven and gas bottle to start cooking! ▶

**Keep in mind**

- Follow manufacturer's instructions for setting up and using your pizza oven. Position on a flat and clear, well-ventilated space outdoors and never leave a lit pizza oven unattended.
- Before using a gas cylinder, check the gas hose – do not use if it is crushed, kinked or cracked – and also that your LPG cylinder is in date.
- Check with your local fire service about using pizza ovens during restrictions such as fire bans, keep children and pets away from them and put matches and lighters out of children's reach.
- Wear gloves and a mask when handling potting mix.
- If cutting fibre cement sheets, always work in a well-ventilated area and wear a P2 dust mask.

**Read it!**



Put your outdoor oven to good use with these mouth-watering makes: [bunnings.com.au/easy-pizza-recipes](http://bunnings.com.au/easy-pizza-recipes)

**Tools & materials**

- Safety equipment (mask and gloves)
- Tape measure and pencil
- Spirit level
- Ten 390mm x 190mm x 190mm full besser blocks
- Two 2400mm x 600mm x 22mm fibre cement sheets\*
- Two 1800 x 900mm screens
- Black cable ties
- Two wall baskets
- Potting mix
- Assorted herbs
- S hooks
- Pizza oven
- Gas bottle

Project Ariel Juan Jose. \*FC sheeting varies by state and territory; contact your local store for further information.

# The project

Create an instant alfresco cooking zone.

Words Artemis Gouros Photography Jonny Valiant Styling Sami Simper

## PIZZA BENCH

### Why you need it

This hardworking outdoor kitchen set-up can be assembled in minutes using off-the-rack building supplies. No tools required! There's ample space for a pizza oven or small BBQ at one end and meal prep at the other. Add a decorative screen with hooks for herbs and cooking implements to pretty things up. Best of all, you can take it with you when you move house. ●

Project cost  
**UNDER  
\$635\***

● **Thyme, sweet basil and Italian parsley** in Brunnings 'Georgian' 40cm wall baskets in Black, \$21.14/each, I/N: 2890802 (plants sold separately). ● **Taskmaster 150mm x 45mm x 30mm x 5mm S hooks** in Black, \$4.30/pack of 4, I/N: 0212439. (On screen) ● **Jumbuck 2 piece barbecue tool set**, \$15, I/N: 0281493. (On bench) ● **Pizza stone set**, \$22.28, I/N: 0262763. ● **Jumbuck portable pizza oven**, \$199, I/N: 0438279. ● **Gasmate 'Safe Lok' LCC27 propane gas cylinder**, \$45.28/4kg, I/N: 0242774. ● ▲ **Ecology 'Ottawa' 27.5cm stoneware dinner plates** in Calico, pack of 4, I/N: 0511616\*. All other products, stylist's own. Some advertised services and products are not available at some Bunnings stores, but products can be ordered. ▲ This product is available to buy online only and is sold and delivered by a Bunnings Marketplace Trusted Seller. Not all items are available in all states and territories. \*Delivery charges may apply.

**MAKE IT YOURS! TURN TO PAGE 72  
FOR OUR DIY STEPS AND MATERIALS**

**Styling assistant** Anna Zielinski. \*Project cost is based on the prices of materials purchased at Alexandria, NSW, store (tools and optional fixings not included) and is correct at time of printing. Take care when selecting your plants as some can be poisonous to children and pets.

# FLEXISPRAY

CHANGE IS **EASY**



## Easy **DIY** shower upgrade in under 5 minutes

Add a new multi-function shower, new colours or get the best of both worlds with a twin shower.

Installation requirements will vary by Flexispray showers. Please carefully read all instructions prior to installation.



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INSTALLATIONS



**DIY**  
EASY TO INSTALL



WATCH THE **DIY**  
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# ozito