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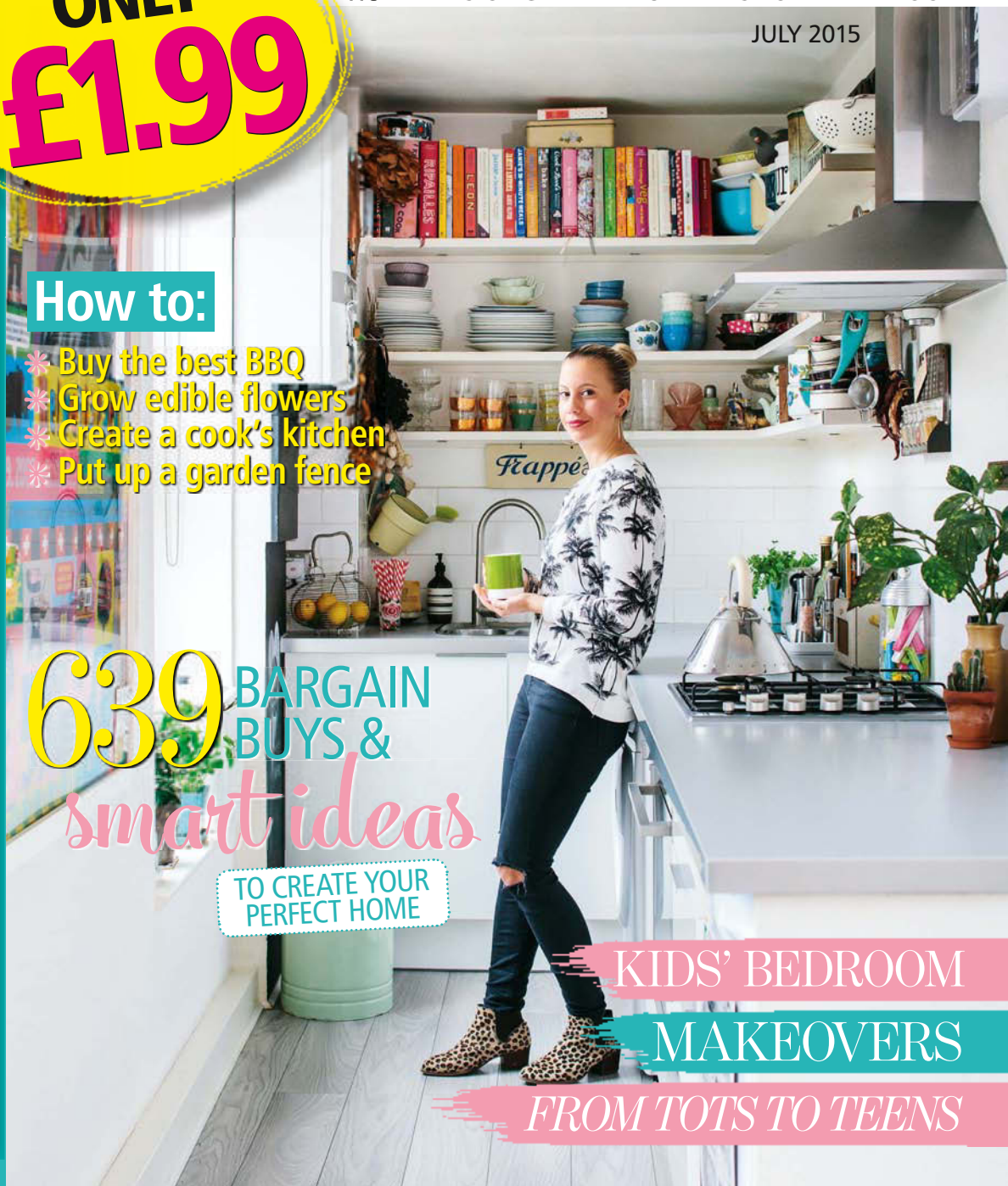
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Welcome

Now that summer is in full swing it's time to **head outside and enjoy the sunshine**. If your garden or patio is looking a little sorry for itself, then set aside a few hours this weekend, buy a pot of paint and give it a **money-saving facelift**, from flowerpots to furniture you'll find lots of **quick revamp suggestions** on page 42. And if your fence has seen better days, then turn to page 66 where we show you how to fit a new one without having to call in the experts. By the time July arrives

BBQ season is usually in full swing, but if yours needs replacing or you fancy upgrading to a better model, take a look at our **expert buyer's advice** on page 44 where we'll help you pick the right one for your next barbie. And if you're feeling crafty, we've got some brilliant suggestions for accessories you can make to **perk up even the smallest of outdoor spaces**. From **tropical fruit cushions** to a **simple fire bowl**, our quick and easy projects are sure to inspire you.

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Download our app version for your mobile, tablet or PC and you can take *Your Home* with you on the go. See page 86.



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Stylist Jo Rigg upcycled old building materials into a beautiful vintage-inspired garden bench. Find out how on p.62.



Weber chef Dan Cooper shares his expert tips on this summer's hottest barbecuing trends on page 45.

If you've promised the kids they can redecorate their bedrooms over the summer holidays, then look no further than our **makeovers** in this issue (p.24), **from tots to teens we've got loads of inspiration for you**. For those of you who lack confidence using colour, then check out our decorating pages in this issue (p.36), where **we explain how to use summer's hottest colours in your home**. As well as barbecues, the warm summer days are the perfect excuse to enjoy a refreshing ice-cream. Turn to page 100 for our **mouth-watering recipe ideas** – the raspberry gin sorbet is divine. You'll love it!

Anna-Lisa

Burda International

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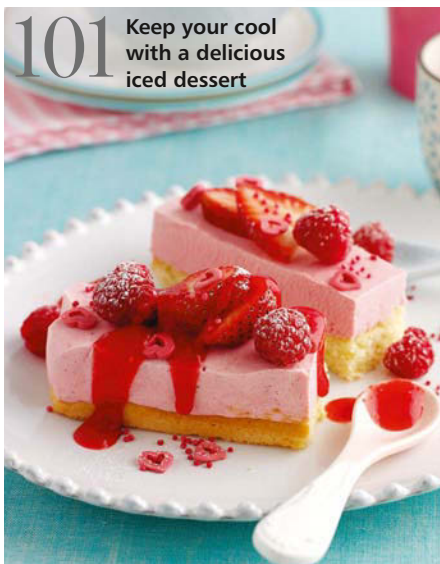


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Hollywood glamour

If you're looking for something fun to do in the capital this month, but can't quite stretch to breakfast at Tiffany's, make sure you stop by the National Portrait Gallery, where the 'Audrey Hepburn: Portraits of an Icon' exhibition will be open from 2nd July. Featuring over 60 photographs of the Hollywood starlet, including rarely-before-seen, candid family shots and beautiful portraits taken by leading photographers, it's the perfect girls' day out. Tickets cost from £6 for concessions and £9 for adults. To find out more visit www.npg.org.uk.

Come rain or come shine

Just in time for summer, Joules has launched a collection with the National Trust that you'll want to wear all festival season, even if it doesn't rain. The range includes a packable poncho, umbrella and wellies – all featuring a charming, hand-drawn design inspired by British flora. Profits from the collection go to the National Trust, so not only will you look great, but you'll be helping Britain's countryside look great too.

Mid-height wellies, £36.95;
Poncho, £24.95, both Joules



This month we love...

Make the most of July with the best things to do, see and buy this month For stockists see page 120



Hidden Gem: Birdies Perch

Nestled in historic York, Birdies Perch really is a one-stop shop for the whole family. First opened in 2005 by owner Jo, the 1,800 square foot store is filled to the brim with gifts and cards for every occasion, as well as a coffee bar and – our favourite – an in-house, old-fashioned sweet shop. There's also a large collection of pre-loved children's clothes and a haberdashery for all your sewing needs, meaning you can pick up everything you need in one place, as well as a few treats for the way home. Visit the shop at 88 Clifton, York, North Yorkshire, YO30 6BA or find out more at www.birdiesperch.co.uk.



GREAT IDEAS FOR...

Jolly holiday

If you're jetting off this month, make sure you're prepared with our holiday essentials

- Lay back and relax on this funky beach towel

Flamingo print beach towel, £5, George Home



- ◀ Keep your beach essentials to hand with this fabulous bag

Summer beach bag, £19.95, Joules

- Go through security in style with this on-trend passport cover

Undercover copper passport case, £19, Unique & Unity



- ▲ Keep your currency safe with this adorable suitcase-inspired purse

Travel trunk coin purse, £8, Accessorize



- ◀ Unwind listening to some holiday tunes with these fun earphones

Mercato pineapple earphones, £8.50, Paperchase

Music to your ears

Kew The Music, set in the beautiful Kew Gardens in Surrey, isn't your typical festival.

On from 7th-12th July, this year's line-up includes Paloma Faith, UB40 and rhythm

and blues legend, Jools Holland, with each night hosting a different act for a concert under the stars. You're welcome to bring along your own food and drink, grab a bite to eat from the many stalls or even pre-order a ready-made picnic hamper if you really want to make a night of it. Adult tickets cost from £44.50 for one evening's entry and we bet you'll be hard pushed to find a better venue to make the most of a summer's night.



We have two pairs of tickets to Jools Holland on Friday 10th July to give away. To enter, send your name, address and contact details to Your Home July Kew Festival giveaway, HBM UK, The Tower, Phoenix Square, Colchester, Essex, CO4 9HU before, 30th June 2015.

Beginners luck

If you're always on the hunt for unusual homeware from the next up and coming designers, but never know where to start your search, make sure you visit www.artrookie.co.uk. The online store, set up by art graduate, Elizabeth, and fashion stylist, Jodie, allows new designers to upload

their artwork to the site, then Art Rookie will transfer their designs onto items like dinner plates and t-shirts and package and post it out to you. This isn't just a great, pocket-friendly way for young designers to sell their work, it also means you can browse hundreds of designs in one place and pick out something truly unique for your home.



Cushion cover by Elizabeth Kate, £25; Clock by Marcell Naubert, £20, both Art Rookie

Cornish through and through

Home textiles and accessories brand Ulster Weavers is known for its top-quality products featuring charming prints, so we were very excited when we heard about their collaboration with Cornish *Your Home* favourite, Seasalt. The range of kitchen textiles is inspired by the coastline and countryside of Cornwall and includes tea towels, aprons, oven gloves and paper napkins, so you can turn your kitchen into a Cornish haven even if you're miles from the sea.

Seasalt Cornish Garden tea towel, £6.50; double oven glove, £13; paper napkins, £3.50 for 20, all Ulster Weavers





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GET IN TOUCH

Your letters

We answer your questions and discover what you've been up to this month...



On the shelf

Q I love reading the home decorating ideas in *Your Home*, especially when they are budget-friendly. We were in need of a shelving unit to go against a large wall in our living room but were disappointed with the range of small and often extremely expensive ready-made options available. After spotting an idea in *Your Home*, we bought 13 shelves for just £10 each and planned the arrangement on paper, before my husband attached them to the wall at various heights. Our clutter now looks fantastic!

Alison Webb, Canterbury

***Your Home* says** We love this idea Alison! Not only have you got something that looks completely unique and personal to you, but you've been able to customise your shelving to fit and best show off your collections and knick-knacks. Great job!

Hen party

Q Here's a photo of two of the chickens I made from the pattern in your April 2015 issue (page 64). It was such an attractive design that it inspired me to dust off my sewing machine and make four of them to give to my family as Easter gifts. They loved them and were amazed at how many chocolate eggs I could tuck inside!

Julie Lay-Flurrie, via email

***Your Home* says** We'll be coming to your house next Easter Julie. We love the spring-inspired colours and prints you've used and the beady eyes are a great touch.



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A fresh start

Q Inspired by the article in the April issue on decluttering the house (page 13), I have now made a start on doing just that after decades of acting like a human hamster. I'm absolutely useless at throwing anything out and even hold onto clothes that have not been worn since the 1980s, just in case the fashion returns. The advice to break it down helped me to tackle it and little by little my house is beginning to look like a home again. Thank you for putting a stop to my hoarding habit.

Paula Hiltunen, via email

***Your Home* says** It's fantastic to hear that you're on your way to a clutter-free home. The first drawer is always the hardest, so you've done the worst part! Hopefully you'll find this month's tips just as useful.

YOUR HOME NEEDS YOU!

We love to hear what you've been up to, so send us your letters, tips and photos and you could win up to £120 of WallpaperDirect vouchers.



Laura
Editorial Assistant

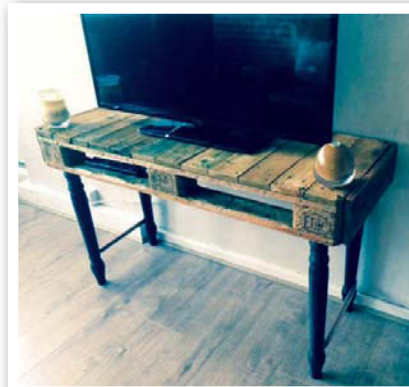
LETTER OF THE MONTH

I've recently moved into my own place, and with money being tight, trying to buy furniture that won't break the bank is hard work. I went down the route of buying from second-hand and vintage shops, but the house still needed some more furniture, so I decided to make some using wooden pallets and crates.

I have no experience in doing this, but it seems to have worked out, and I'm eager to start more projects as it costs next to nothing to do. It would also be great to see more male-orientated ideas in the magazine – I'm definitely up for the challenge!

Glen Parker, via email

***Your Home* says** We always love hearing from our male readers – you may be fewer in numbers, but as you've shown Glen, you're just as inspired by the ideas in the magazine. This TV stand is so stylish and on-trend – we'll be placing our orders immediately!



Glen's letter won £120 of WallpaperDirect vouchers. Send us your views, thoughts and ideas and you could be next month's winner.

Feature Laura McLeish

SEND YOUR TIPS, PHOTOS AND LETTERS TO:
Letters Editor, *Your Home*, Hubert Burda Media UK,
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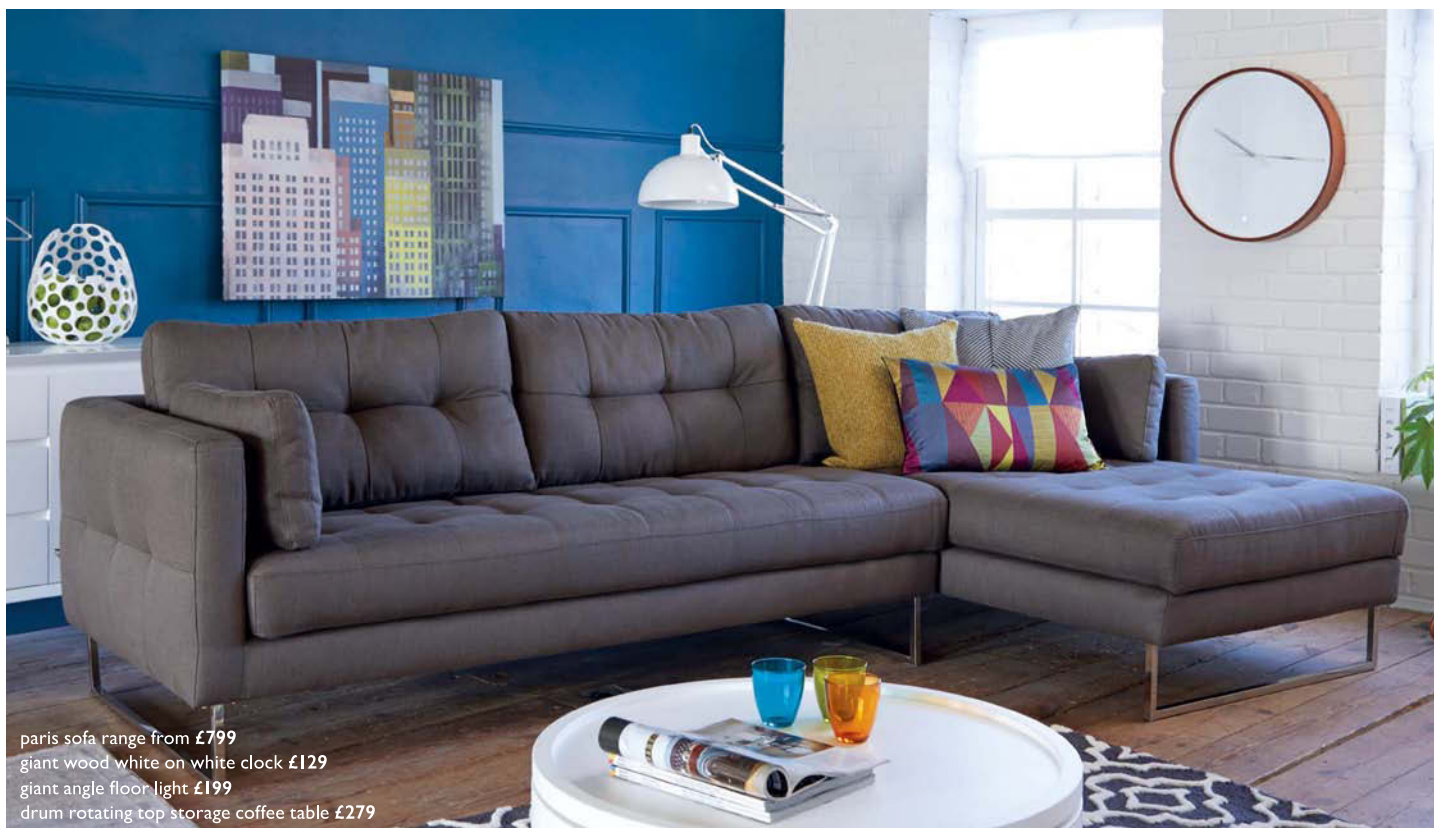
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Keep your home ticking over this summer with our top tips



HOW TO... Maintain your barbecue

If your barbecue has been hidden away for months it could be a little worse for wear. Here's how to give it the TLC it needs...

- ✓ Barbecuing experts Weber, recommend forgetting about cleaning the barbecue after you've used it, after all who fancies scrubbing the grill when you could be soaking up the sun and spending time with friends? Instead, they say to wait until the next time you use it. Fire up the barbecue and burn off the residue before cooking, brushing it away once it has dried with the Weber T-brush, £9.99.
- ✓ If you prefer to clean your barbecue in warm soapy water after use then use a good quality scourer to remove burnt-on grease. The Vileda Glitzi Power Pad, £1.99 for two, is made of stainless steel loops for effective grease and burnt-on food removal, with a sponge core for easy rinsing.
- ✓ If the exterior of the barbecue is looking a bit shabby you can easily paint it with a specialised barbecue paint such as Plasti-Kote BBQ Twist & Spray, £7.99 per 400ml. Wash in warm soapy water and dry. Rub with a soft wire brush to key the surface and remove rust. Shield the areas you don't want to paint, such as the interior of the bowl, vent slides and handles. Apply several light coats of the paint, following the instructions on the can. Allow to dry for 1 hour then cure by heating the barbecue to a high heat for 1 hour.

For information on buying a barbecue, turn to our Buyer's Guide on page 44.



Laura's choice

'Make your own fruit-filled smoothie pouches, rather than relying on shop-bought versions, with the Smoothpack Station. Fill the station with your pre-blended smoothie, then use it to pump the smoothie into the squeeze packs. It comes with four 125ml brightly-coloured squeeze packs for kids, and two larger 250ml clear sports packs for adults, all of which can be popped into the dishwasher with handy stands to keep them open.'



Smoothpack Station, £19.95, www.cuckooland.com

Q&A

Can you recommend anything for transporting cakes and desserts safely?

The Snips Cake Cooler, £19.99 from ICTC, is great for transporting cakes safely, but for desserts that need to stay cool as well as in one piece, it's perfect. The sturdy carrier has space underneath the plate for a round ice block, keeping desserts such as cheesecake or pavlova chilled even when it's hotting up outside.



What to look out for **THIS MONTH**

▼ Pick, wash and store strawberries, all in one container with this handy berry basket. The inner basket can be used to collect your berries, then removed and used as a colander to rinse the fruit. Pop the basket back into the lidded container and store in the fridge until ready to use.

Chef'n Bramble berry basket, £10, available from Debenhams and www.onlinekitchenware.co.uk



▼ This clever tool stones up to seven cherries in one go, minimising mess and speeding up prep time when making cherry pies and crumbles this summer.

Multi-cherry stoner, £14.99, Lakeland

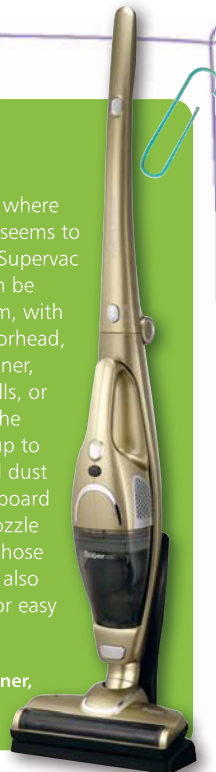


► These two must-have tools are essential for prepping citrus fruit, whether you want a slice of lime in your G&T, or a zesty finish to summery dishes. The Citrus knife, available in an orange, lemon or lime design, has a paring knife, zester and scorer, while the Citrus tool incorporates a reamer for juicing, a channel knife for garnishing and a mini paring knife for slicing.

Great buy

Ideal for busy households where cleaning up dust and dirt seems to be a constant battle, The Supervac from Morphy Richards can be used as an upright vacuum, with a motorised brush bar floorhead, as well as a handheld cleaner, perfect for clearing up spills, or zipping over upholstery. The cordless cleaner runs for up to 40 minutes and has a 0.3l dust canister, as well as an on-board crevice tool, upholstery nozzle and a dusting brush. For those who are short of space, it also has a collapsible handle for easy storage.

The Supervac vacuum cleaner, £119.99, Morphy Richards



Citrus knife, £16.95; **Citrus tool**, £14.95, both Kuhn Rikon



We test... window vacs

We tried out a selection of window vacs, here's what we found...

THINGS WE CONSIDERED

- How well did it remove water?
- Was it easy to hold?
- Did it leave windows sparkling?

VILEDA WINDOMATIC, £49.99

This window cleaner was really lightweight, making easy work of cleaning windows and mirrors. It sucked up all of the water left behind by cleaning, however we did have to go over the glass a couple of times to achieve a completely streak-free finish. The water tank, was easily emptied and could be popped in the dishwasher. The battery ran for about 20 minutes.



7/10

HOOVER SPARKLE HANDHELD WINDOW CLEANER, £59.99

This window vac was simple to put together and ran for just over 20 minutes. It gave a great result on windows, inside and out – they were left dry and sparkling with no marks left behind, even on stubborn muddy paw prints. We found we got the best results when we gave the window a quick wipe first using a sponge and glass cleaner, then used the vacuum to finish the job.



8/10

SWAN SC8020N/MO 2 IN 1 WINDOW VAC, £69.99

This vacuum can be used wet or dry, however we found that the window cleaning attachment did do a better job than when used for picking up dust. This did remove all excess water from windows after washing, with the squeegee attachment, leaving them streak-free, but it didn't clean as well. It was easy to hold and a great compact size.



6/10

KARCHER WV5 PREMIUM, £99.99

This was compact and easy to use. First you clean with the detergent spray bottle with a microfibre attachment, then suck up the dirty water with the vacuum, leaving windows sparkling clean. We did need to give the glass a quick wipe to remove a couple of small marks, but all in all a great finish. It can be used for tiles, mirrors and other home and garden surfaces. The battery runs for about 20 minutes.



9/10



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The secret to
a great night's sleep

Consumer NEWS

Stay on top of the latest issues and hot topics with our monthly round-up of news

How have mums' lives changed?

International courier ParcelHero has looked back at how the average mum would have spent her day in the 60s...

- Terry cloth nappies were by far the main type of nappy – leaving mum the task of washing them in her Rolls Razor twin tub. By the end of the 1960s disposable nappies had become hugely popular.
- With no ready meals or microwaves, mum spent most of her time cooking. Meat and veg was the staple meal, with 'instant' food limited to Spam and other tinned items.
- In 1963 only 3% of UK homes had freezers. Mums visited the corner shop and grocer daily, and the butcher, fishmonger and baker more than once a week. There were only 572 supermarkets in the UK in 1961, but by 1969 there were 3,400, including Gateway, Fine Fare and Tesco. Savvy mums collected Green Shield stamps which could then be used to spend on gifts and treats.
- Most women either chose to give up work or were 'let go' when pregnant. Only 17% of mums who worked during pregnancy in 1961 returned to work before their children were five, compared with 65% of women today.
- Heavy Pedigree prams were still most popular for babies, and their basic design hadn't changed since the Edwardian era. They needed a hefty push to climb kerbs, and forget trying to get them on a bus!



Image iStock

Safety check

Following the launch of its initiative highlighting the importance of registering new appliances, AMDEA, The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances, is offering some top safety tips for small kitchen appliances. These include not wrapping the cords of appliances such as irons around them when not in use, as this can weaken the cord, making it dangerous. The AMDEA also recommends only using extension leads for temporary connections – a lead may have four sockets but altogether it should not use more than 13amps or 3000 watts of energy – always check the allowance of a particular lead. For more safety tips and to register an appliance visit www.registermyappliance.org.uk.



The modern home

Independent clothing and homeware retailer, Chums, has polled over-fifties to find out what technology, back in the 60s, they were expecting to see become commonplace

in 1955. The study found that many people expected flavoured pills to replace food, and robotic domestic servants and self-driving cars to be commonplace. Although we are seeing gadgets such as robotic vacuums and prototypes of autonomous vehicles, technology has not advanced quite as much as some expected, and we're still a few years away from many of these futuristic ideas.

The key to domestic bliss

According to a study into the home lives of 2,000 British families by Origin, manufacturer of bespoke sliding doors, the key to achieving domestic bliss is eating four meals together per week, having more than one tablet and a Netflix account. Monthly trips to the cinema, a good coffee machine, fast Wi-Fi and a 'treat cupboard' were also deemed necessities for a harmonious family life. Managing Director, Andrew Halsall, says: 'The list of things that people attribute to happiness at home is a mix of traditional processes, effort and the presence of technology and modern comforts.'

Tablet survival guide

With a recent report from Which? stating that one in eight tablets are likely to break within two years, gadget protection specialist, Tactus, has created some everyday survival tips...

- Tempered glass screen protectors are three times stronger than standard PET films, which only protect against minor scratches, so consider trading up.
- Many tablets are not suited to high temperatures, so keep them in the shade while holidaying.
- A good-quality case will go a long way in saving your device if it takes a tumble.
- If your tablet gets wet, you may be able to save it. Turn it off, wipe off any excess moisture and then place it into a bag of uncooked rice for 48 hours. When the time is up, try to switch it on – you may be lucky.

To see Tactus' range of cases and screen protectors visit www.tactus.com.

Consumer news... IN FOCUS

Make sure you can cover the cost of old age by getting your finances in order now

Whether your retirement plans include travelling the world or choosing a comfortable care home, it makes financial sense to start safeguarding against the cost of old age now. A few adjustments to your lifestyle and a couple of phone calls could make all the difference, so here are a few guidelines to think about...

Top tip

Consider taking out critical illness cover and/or life insurance to cover costs should the worst happen.

Pension provision

The current basic state pension is £144 a week, which doesn't go far when you consider all the costs of living, let alone having any spare money for entertainment, holidays or home improvements. Here's how to plan ahead:

- ✓ If your job offers a company pension scheme, join up as soon as possible if you haven't already as they will make contributions on your behalf.
- ✓ Clear any debts as much as you can and start saving in a tax-free ISA account.
- ✓ As your earnings increase over the years, so should the amount you put into your pension.
- ✓ You can also open your own personal pension, paying in a set amount that you can afford, every month.
- ✓ Use pay rises and bonuses to boost your pension fund. As you get older and your disposable income increases, keep paying more in.
- ✓ Have a retirement age and date in mind, as well as the sort of income you want – a minimum sum as well as a more comfortable figure.
- ✓ If you think you will buy an annuity when you retire, start phasing out volatility from your pension fund when you reach your fifties, so there's less risk of a big dip in value.
- ✓ An annuity is like insurance in reverse, where

Q How can I pay for my husband to go into a care home if he needs to as he gets older?

Abby Harding, Exeter

A Age UK has a factsheet with all the info you need. It covers the valuation of jointly owned capital, temporary admissions and instances where both partners need to go into a care home.

you hand over your pension pot to an annuity provider and they give you monthly payments for the rest of your life.

- ✓ Consider a Self Invested Personal Pension or SIPP for greater control over the way your pension is invested.

Care homes

If the time comes to move to a care home, ensure it's the best possible place for you:

- If you've been assessed as needing a care home by the local authority and your capital is below £23,250, you should be entitled to financial support. When you own assets, including property, which are above this amount, you will be expected to fund your own care.
- You won't have to sell your home, as Social Services can lend you the money to pay for your care, charged against your property value. They may however, limit how much they will pay and this can adversely affect your welfare benefits.
- An Immediate Need Care Fee Annuity can contribute towards capping the cost of a care home from the outset, enabling a potential inheritance to be left for the family from any remaining funds.
- A specialist care funding adviser will be able to give you further advice on your options.

Preparing for illness

Organising your finances is especially important in old age when there's an increased risk of illness.

- ✓ Keep your financial documents in one place.
- ✓ Make a list that includes sources of income, your spending and any savings, investments and outstanding debts.
- ✓ If you find it difficult to make financial decisions as you get older, you can arrange for a family member or friend to have power of attorney. This is a legal arrangement and takes two forms.
- ✓ Ordinary power of attorney gives someone a temporary right to handle your finances, for when you are in hospital for a length of time for instance. It will need to be organised by a solicitor and costs around £150.
- ✓ Lasting power of attorney gives a chosen individual the right to manage your affairs indefinitely. It must be registered with the Court of Protection and costs more to set up.

Useful contacts

- www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk offers free and impartial money advice.
- www.vouchedfor.co.uk has independent financial advisers, who you can search for by postcode.
- www.ageuk.org.uk issues fact sheets and advice on everything from money matters to care homes.
- www.payingforcare.org will help you to find a specialist care fees adviser.



Decorating

Brighten up your home with our tips for colour confidence



Classic poplar wood shutters in solid raised design, from £177 per m2, California Shutters

Feature Laura McLeish

Trend: *Laid back coastal*

You needn't live a stone's throw from the beach to pull off this trend – the coastal look is back for 2015 and this relaxed version is so simple to achieve on a budget. Crisp white features heavily, but it's the muted blues, browns and greys that will add some warmth and stop your home from looking too modern and clean cut. When it comes to soft furnishings, stripes would be the classic print to plump for, but to make it more relaxed, opt for large weave or textured fabrics such as linen and even denims to add interest without overloading on pattern. Then, have some fun with your accessories to give a nod to coastal life – think steel-framed lanterns, industrial light fittings and whitewashed rattan.

Perfect your technique

It seems like everyone is getting in on the upcycling action, but if you want a piece of furniture that you can really show off, there's a lot more to it than just painting it in your favourite colour. *Upstyle Your Furniture* by Stephanie Jones is the new book that shows you exactly how to use certain tools and techniques to achieve different effects and give your hard work a professional finish. The book talks you through everything from how to prepare different surfaces to how to authentically age your woodwork, so all you need to do is decide what to upcycle first.



Reader treat

We have five copies of *Upstyle Your Furniture* to give away. To enter, send your name, address and contact details to Your Home July Furniture Book giveaway, HBM UK, The Tower, Phoenix Square, Colchester, Essex, CO4 9HU, before 31st July 2015.

Upstyle Your Furniture, £14.99, Apple Press



Bell bottom lamps with Verdure shade, £144 each, Winter's Moon

New moon

If you love vintage furniture and prints, but would rather not traipse around car boot sales to find them, then check out www.wintersmoon.co.uk. Launched in 2009, the online store is full of vintage gems, as well as new and original fabrics and accessories. Our favourites are these quirky bell bottom lamps with shades in Verdure fabric – an original 1965 design that's been brought bang-up-to-date with three new colourways. We'll have all three please.

Sweet dreams

Secret Linen Store is an amazing, online bedding store and one secret you should share with everyone. Because they deal direct with the factories, they can offer brilliant quality bedding sets, in gorgeous designs, all for prices that'll make you wonder why you ever went anywhere else. Our current favourite is their unusual artichoke design, available in navy blue and purple, which will make your bed look and feel like a dream. Plus, any orders come with complimentary Teapigs tea bags, the perfect excuse for breakfast in bed.



Artichokes in navy double duvet cover, £50; standard Oxford pillowcase, £10; square Oxford pillowcase, £13, all Secret Linen Store



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TREND ALERT...

Go Global

Be inspired by different cultures...



This trend can turn anyone into a global traveller, with different countries influencing our tastes and making an impact on our homes. Moroccan and Oriental trends have been popular for a few seasons but you don't have to make the choice between the two – take inspiration from North Africa, India, the Middle East and China, for an eclectic look. Mix up the intricate patterns and rich, vibrant colours.

Start your scheme with light neutrals such as white or soft grey, on walls and larger areas such as sofas, then build up the colour with cushions and throws, rugs and curtains. Indigo features heavily for a modern and stylish take on this trend, with saffron yellow and clay accents making the scheme really pop. Team with dark woods for an authentic and exotic look.

Laura

Lifestyle Editor



Vibrantly coloured tableware is key to this look

Pol's Potten plate orange; Pol's Potten plate yellow, £7 each, John Lewis



Use a combination of patterns on soft furnishings, walls and rugs

Asha iron tray side table, £199; Tokyo corner sofa, £4,550; Asha iron tray coffee table, £325; Fusion swirl mirror, £215; cushions, from £20, Suki Cheema Bark rug, £400, all John Lewis



Add interest to an outside space for summer

by Sainsbury's Buddha head, £18, Sainsbury's

Pay attention to intricate details when it comes to soft furnishings and accessories

Conran Kitson side table, £199; Sara bedding set, £49.50; Double walled cup and saucer, £9.50, all M&S



Clockwise from top left: **Mussa Palm F0720/01 fabric**, £22 per m, Clarke & Clarke. **Elite Old Oak Light Grey laminate**, £19.99 per sq m, Quick-Step. **Java 131519 fabric from Amazilia collection**, £78 per m, Harlequin. **Persia wallpaper in Indian Blue**, £22 per roll, John Lewis. **Cat's Cradle Claypaint**, £35 per 2.5l, Earthborn. **Patagonia fabric in Smoke**, £25 per m, John Lewis.



A dark indigo will add depth to your scheme

Indigo Night matt emulsion, £24.29 per 2.5l, Dulux MixLab

Add shimmering highlights with gold, copper and bronze

Gold cut-out votives, from £8 for small, House of Fraser



Middle eastern-inspired tableware is huge this season and is effortlessly stylish

by Sainsbury's Pad print tableware, from £2.50 for a dip bowl, Sainsbury's

Spend vs Save

Set the scene with a Moroccan-style tray table filled with glowing tealights



Casablanca table, 28-38cmDia x H37cm, £360, Luku Home

Oriental tray table, 35cmDia x H45cm, £35.50, Berry Red



STYLE FILE

Team dark woods with a sun-baked scheme filled with burnt oranges and yellows

Amber one-drawer telephone table, £79.99; Hendon small sofa in New England brown, £849.99; Amber six-drawer coffee table, £229.99; Harlequin rug, £209.99; Hendon armchair in New England brown, £649.99; Amber nest of two tables, £99.99; Chocolate Moroccan pouffé, £49.99, all Dunelm



Handloomed in India, these silk cushion covers will inject vibrant colour into your scheme

Handloomed Diamond cushion covers in Apricot and Horseradish, £34 each, West Elm



Hang tiles and carved panels on the walls for an eye-catching collection

Metal tile, £25, M&S

Clockwise from top left: Savanna 120345 fabric from Amazilia collection, £56 per m, Harlequin. Nazca fabric in Claret, £16 per m, John Lewis. Mittens Claypaint, £35 per 2.5l, Earthborn. Perspective Wenge laminate, £27.99 per sq m, Quick-Step. Anoushka Plains 130041 fabric, £48 per m, Harlequin. Nazca wallpaper in Putty, £22 per roll, John Lewis.



Fill shelves with interesting objects, building up an eclectic display

Asha bookcase, £399; Iron tray, £20; Ophira Globe lantern, £90; Fusion bamboo basket, £18; Antique copper wire basket, £20; Hammered frame, £15, all John Lewis





Extend your scheme into the garden with low tables and seating

by Sainsbury's Moroccan-style table, £24; Woven stool, £18; Gold punched tea light holder, £2; Hanging tea light holder, £5, all Sainsbury's



Look out for hammered metal finishes on accessories

RJR John Rocha white diamond dent metal vases, from £30 for medium, Debenhams

Team indigo blue with shots of warm gold

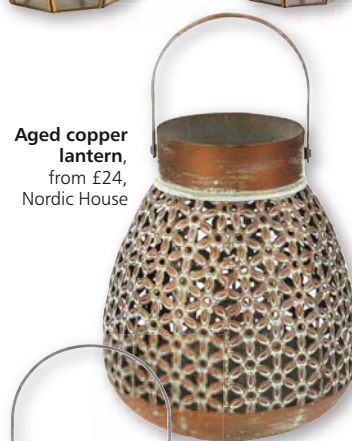
Fusion Flores four-poster kingsize bed, £1,350; Milko pouffé, £160; Aztec Fusion quilt, £120, all John Lewis

Pretty lanterns

Create an atmospheric glow after dark



Mohani lantern, from £34.95, Nkuku



Aged copper lantern, from £24, Nordic House



Lantern, £40, Debenhams



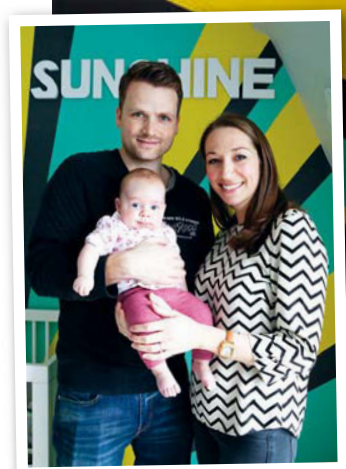
Blue lantern, £16.99, HomeSense



Large laser cut lantern, £25, Bhs

KID'S BEDROOM MAKEOVER

Total Cost
£2,099



Gaby and Ben have created the ideal neutral nursery using vibrant mint and yellow, that's simply perfect for baby Hope

Our guest room became the perfect nursery

Pale grey walls and an oak floor formed the perfect blank canvas to showcase the design ideas that Gaby and Ben Hillman had for their daughter's first bedroom

For Gaby and Ben Hillman a nursery wasn't in the plan when they took on the challenge of building a rooftop apartment in Brighton in May 2011. 'We were getting married that summer so we knew this would be our first family home,' explains Gaby, a paediatric physiotherapist. 'But we wanted flexible space as we didn't know what the future held.'

The project took off once the couple received planning permission to turn the 'air space' above Ben's top floor flat into a stylish new three-bedroom home – six months later they'd moved in. It's unsurprising that Ben, an interior designer and TV presenter, took on the design and

✦ **The built-in Ikea wardrobes are a modular system so it was easy to change the configuration for Hope's clothes. Gaby used unwanted drawers and a shelf from their wardrobe, and bought a second hanging rail**

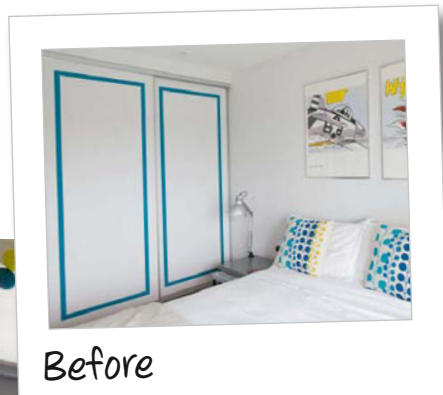
planned the layout himself, placing three bedrooms next to one another, which were first used as an office, guest bedroom and master bedroom. When the couple discovered they were expecting in 2014, the benefits of his adaptable layout came to fruition. 'We always thought the guest room would make a good nursery one day,' says Gaby. 'It's a lovely shape and size.'

STEP ONE The couple started the nursery project in May 2014, four months before Hope was born. Ben, in particular, was keen to come up with an original scheme. 'I wanted the room to look contemporary with Scandinavian influences,' he says. 'I liked the idea of filling it with well-designed toys and



decorations to inspire creativity.' The Hillmans didn't know if they were having a boy or a girl at this stage but this didn't pose a problem. 'We're not blue or pink-type people and we didn't want the nursery to look clichéd,' says Gaby. 'Instead we thought about ideas that would work for both sexes.' Ben had a 'sky' theme in mind – fitting for the penthouse apartment – and began looking for wallpaper they could use to make a feature wall. He came across an Art Deco sunburst but the colours weren't right so he prepared his own design on the computer. The couple chose yellow, slate grey and a minty green – a nostalgic Brightonian colour still seen in the railings along the seafront.

STEP TWO Little preparation work was needed as the room hadn't long been painted a soft grey and the oak ▷



Before



✦ **The Ikea Malm set of drawers fits neatly along the wall opposite the cot and doubles-up as a change table. The clouds changing mat from Nubie Modern Kids works with the sky themed room and the toys above entertain Hope while she's having her nappy changed**

Good idea!

Ben upcycled the Habitat lamp by painting the red base white, and made a new lampshade with a kit bought online in a wool fabric to match the Ercol chair.



Good idea!

Ben made the clouds out of foam board and used one to diffuse the glare from the LED wall light. The subdued lighting is ideal at night for feeds and nappy changes.

✦ The low bedside shelves were in the guest bedroom before but have turned out to be ideal for displaying toys and books, which Hope will be able to reach on her own when she's older

✦ The String shelves are a classic 1950s Scandinavian design that work in harmony with the nursery's style



◁ flooring was still new. The furniture was relocated to the other bedroom as Ben now has an office outside the home. They began by painting the feature wall yellow, and planned out the slate grey and green sunburst rays following the precise dimensions on Ben's scaled drawing. 'We used string and pegs to get the angles right,' says Gaby. 'We taped each section off, painted it and waited for it to dry. It took a whole weekend to finish.'

STEP THREE Storage was next on the list but first Gaby planned the layout of the nursery. 'It was logical to place the cot along the feature wall so Hope can see the colours,' she says. 'We already had built-in wardrobes but we needed a

change table, which we placed opposite the cot, and a chair, which we've put by the window.'

The couple couldn't find a change table they liked that suited the aesthetics of the room so Ben customised Ikea Malm drawers, which can be bought with a glass protector. 'At first I thought I would stick wallpaper underneath the glass,' he says. 'But then I decided to paint the underside in the same minty green we used on the walls. I'm pleasantly surprised by how well it's turned out!'

3 of the best... funky wall shelves

£18 from Next

This set of three hexagon shelves are perfect for displaying your child's favourite trinkets.

£60 from Great Little Trading Company

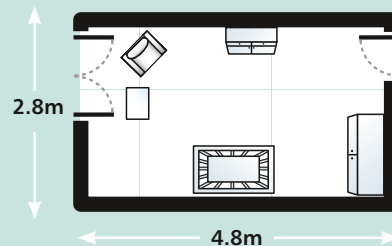
Bring the nursery to life with this funky bi-plane wall shelf to showcase books and treasured possessions.

£73.95 from Lullabuy at Notonthehighstreet

With an assortment of cubby holes the house wall shelf will make a great talking point in any room.



ROOMPLAN



THE DETAILS

Paint	£81
Furniture	£1,431.90
Lettering	£111.20
Rug	£475
TOTAL	£2,099.10

Shopping list

Oeuf NYC Sparrow cot bed, £659; Farg & Form change mat, £39.99; Farg & Form cloud grey cot bumper, £45, all Nubie. Malm chest of six drawers, £100; glass top, £20, both Ikea. String pocket white shelving, £109 each, Cimmerman. Ercol chair, £175, eBay. Upholstered in Wool Naturals U116/P09, £49.95 per m, Abraham Moons. Upholstery, £90, E.S. Riley Upholstery. Union rug, £475, Rug Guru Original. 200mm Drum lampshade kit, £8.33, Needcraft. Flensted Air Balloon mobile, £18; Rosendahl wooden monkey by Kay Bojesen, £124.99, both Utility Design. Cloud paper mobile, £25, White Company. Wooden letters, £6.95 each, Johnny's Sister. String lights, 20 lights for £22.95, Cable & Cotton. Valspar's Silver Tarnish paint, Cheerful Teal paint and Hive Delight paint, all £27 per 2.5l, B&Q. Charcoal knitted pod, £70, Next. Habitat Kilo occasional table, £25, Homebase. Nursery rhyme prints, £18 each, Mary Fellows.

The couple added finishing touches with the Cable & Cotton string lights, they'd had at their wedding; the String shelving; and an upcycled Habitat lamp. 'We both absolutely love the nursery,' says Gaby. 'Everything works really well – and I'm sure Hope will love playing in here as she grows up.' 🏠



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KID'S BEDROOM MAKEOVER

A funky British theme works perfectly for us

With the box room becoming an office, Rachael and Adrian Rowbotham had to design a bedroom fit for children of differing ages

Rachael Rowbotham, 38, a graphic designer and her husband, Adrian, 37, a web designer, bought their three-bedroom detached 1950s home in Lincolnshire three years ago. Their kids, Lily, six, and, Henry, two, did have separate bedrooms, but as Adrian works from home quite a bit it became imperative that he had his own dedicated office. 'We decided to turn Henry's nursery into a study and put both kids into what was Lily's room,' explains Rachael. 'Lily's room was incredibly dated. We hadn't

touched it since we'd moved in. It had an awful built-in beige wardrobe that went up each side of the bed and across the wall on top of it. The units above the bed were a pain to reach and totally unsuitable for a child.'

STEP ONE With a little money saved up, Rachael and Adrian started thinking about how best to make a room work for children of two different ages and sexes. 'Luckily, Lily is a bit of tomboy and totally not into pink, so we decided to go for a



Before

Good idea!

Choose a scheme that works for both sexes by going for bold colours, red, white and blue is a great combination to keep little boys and girls happy.



A well-dressed window combining a simple blind with curtains held back by casual tie-backs not only looks cute during the day, but serves to totally black out the room at night, helping the little ones to sleep longer



✚ Use 3D wall-hangings, bunting and artwork to add interest to plain walls and change these as your children get older to help the room grow with them

Total Cost
£1,707



The top bunk is Lily's domain and the bottom is a Henry-only zone, while each has their own separate toy storage unit too



✚ You can often find good quality children's furniture in charity shops, car boot sales and jumble sales. Rachael discovered these cloud shelves on eBay

more gender neutral red, white and blue colour scheme,' says Rachael. 'We were going to go for a more run-of-the mill bunk bed, but then we saw this fab London bus bunk in a local department store and both kids just seemed to instantly fall in love with it. As it went with the colour scheme we decided to treat them to it. The price tag in the store was a little steep so we googled it and found exactly the same model for £50 less on the internet.'

STEP TWO To help them stick to their budget an existing mirrored wardrobe on one side of the room was repainted and modernised with smart chrome handles;

and then a chest of drawers, which was originally in Henry's room, was moved in here along with two large cubby hole units where the kids' toys and books are neatly hidden away in attractive pull-out caddies.

'We'd previously had carpet in the children's rooms, but the years of babyhood had left them stained and worn, so we decided to go for a more practical wood this time, which we've warmed up with a rug that Lily chose,' explains Rachael.

STEP THREE 'Being the eldest and slightly more into the room's décor, we let Lily have a say in the accessories, as we didn't want her moaning that it looked ▷

✦ This taller storage caddy ensures that Lily can keep some of her treasured games and toys, that she doesn't want Henry to get hold of, out of his reach

✦ Old fitted wardrobes don't need to be ripped out, they can be sanded down, painted and modernised with new handles



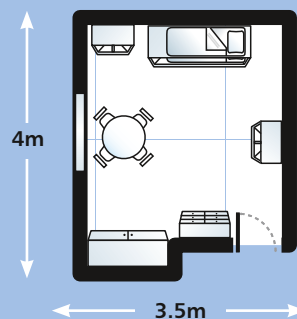
Good idea!

If your children are sharing a bedroom give them a storage unit each so that they can keep their toys separate and organised.

‘too ‘babyish’ in here,’ explains Rachael. ‘She chose most of the pieces that adorn the walls. And as Adrian and I are into collecting vintage pieces we’ve added some fun touches with the arrow sign and cash register, which we picked up at a car boot sale. My best find was the table and chairs which I unearthed at a charity shop – I gave them a coat of Annie Sloan paint and they look as good as new,’ she smiles.

‘Both kids love spending time in here now, I was worried about pushing them to spend so much time together, but apart from the odd, only to be expected, sibling quarrel, I actually think it’s made them get on better – they play together much more than they ever used to. Now we’ve just got to find the budget for Adrian’s office – that’s next on the to-do list!’ **YH**

ROOMPLAN



THE DETAILS

Paint	£32.65
Furniture	£523
Window dressings	£220
Flooring	£881.86
Rug	£49
TOTAL	£1,706.51

Shopping list

Julian Bowen London bus bunk bed, £349, Furniture 123. Palazzo pure oak matt flooring, £62.99 per sq m, Quick-Step. Blind in Bella Breeze, £120, The Fabric Box. Red gingham curtains, £100; vintage Union Jack bunting, £24.50, both Cally Co. Table and chairs, £10, local charity shop. Malm chest of drawers, £79; high gloss red Kallax shelving unit, £40; white Kallax shelving unit, £45, all Ikea. Fabric storage buckets, £25, TK Maxx. Dulux First Dawn silk emulsion, £17.92 per 2.5l; Dulux Pure Brilliant White silk emulsion, £14.73 per 5l, both B&Q. Three cloud shelves, £28; light shade, £5, both eBay. Construction duvet set, £10, George Home. Union Jack reversible duvet set, £45, Aspace. Pipkin framed rabbit print, £39; folk flower rug, £49, both Made.com. Anne-Claire Petit crochet reindeer head, £57, Made in Design. Tiger head, £60, Quince Living. Papier mâché animal heads, from a selection, Emily Warren. Circus poster, £20, junk shop. For similar pompom strings try cream pompom garland, £14, Pompom Galore.

Feature Anna Tobin Photos Rachael Smith

3 of the best... *bunk beds*

£499 from Made.com

The modern curves of the Linus bunk bed make this a funky addition to any kids' room.

£650 from Aspace

If storage is high on your list check out the Coco bunk bed which combines two deep drawers with a curvy child-friendly design.

£775 from Great Little Trading Co

For a more substantial bunk bed choose the Harbour storage bunk, with shelves and drawers a plenty there's no reason why your little one's room can't stay spick and span.



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Total Cost
£1,756

Josie's new room is a great mix of calming base shades with pops of bright colour for teenage appeal



It's better than I'd imagined

Josie Illingworth-Law enjoyed months of planning to ensure her new bedroom was the perfect teenage space

Having spent years sharing a bedroom with her sister, Josie Illingworth-Law, 14, was thrilled when a planned extension to the family home meant she would finally get her own space. 'As well as the new build, the layout upstairs was going to change and my bedroom made from two small box rooms

joined together,' smiles Josie. The new house would give more space for her mum and dad and three sisters Florence 11, Mabel, eight, and Olive, six, so everyone was very excited. 'Even before the builders began I started thinking about all the different things I could do with my room,' explains Josie. 'I had lots of fun getting



Before

various ideas together and couldn't wait to have it organised properly so I had space for all my clothes and books, as well as a big desk to work on. I looked at Pinterest and started a board with images of colour schemes I liked as well as decorating plans. It was a fun way to spend time and explain to my family what I hoped to create, and so even before the room was built, I knew exactly how I wanted it to look!' she laughs.

KID'S BEDROOM MAKEOVER

STEP ONE Josie wanted a pretty base for the room using chalky colours that she could brighten up with stronger accents. She chose two colours for the walls – a pale pink and light aqua – and a cream loop carpet for the floor. 'The room is so light as it has two windows and once the walls were painted and carpet laid, it felt airy and bright which is just what I'd hoped for,' Josie explains. Her bed was moved in and put in one corner next to the radiator so she could warm her feet on winter nights, and her bookcase placed to fit neatly in between the windows.

The next pressing issue to be addressed was storage. 'Before, I just had an old unit where the drawers were hard to open and a teeny wardrobe, but there wasn't enough storage. I wanted lots of hanging space as well as drawers and shelves but I wanted everything hidden away,' she explains. The alcove in the bedroom at first appeared to be a tricky size with standard wardrobes too small and built-in versions too big and expensive, neither of which seemed appropriate. A trip to Ikea, however, proved inspirational. 'The alcove is 153cm wide and the Pax system meant I was able to plan a triple wardrobe with drawers,

rails and shelves and not leave ugly gaps. I was especially pleased as I could mix and match the doors and have a big mirror in the middle. I helped Mum and Dad put them up and had a great time putting all my clothes away. At last I can be tidy and organised,' laughs Josie.

STEP TWO Once the wardrobes were fitted, and a desk built that was also picked up in Ikea, Josie could start to add personality to the room. She wanted floaty, feminine curtains and fell in love with a hummingbird print fabric by Harlequin. 'The birds are amazingly detailed and in beautiful colours. Luckily a friend of my mum's was able to sew them for me and she added a cute pompom trim too. We paired them with a teal roller blind that will keep the room dark in the summer – I absolutely love them!' Having 'pinned' a picture on her Pinterest board with bright pink and teal green as accent colours ▷

Good idea!

Pale furniture and neutral carpets will last for years and tone with any future décor changes.



✦ Scented candles spelling her name add fragrance to Josie's room without even being lit



Flamingo string lights and hand decorated letters give this room cheerful personality



✦ **Frame-style wall stickers** mean Josie can change photos around whenever she pleases without any damage, mess or fuss. She made a memo board with pretty paper mounted inside a picture frame

'I found some brilliant frame stickers at Wall Glamour that I could put photos inside and change as often as I liked – my parents liked them too as I wouldn't be making

holes in the wall! I put them above my desk and blu-tacked my favourite photos in the middle, and I also have a big flamingo sticker standing next to the desk which makes me smile,' says Josie. Next, unable to find lampshades she liked, Josie set about making her own. 'My mum had seen the kits and we looked at the video on YouTube and decided we could make them. They're so much better than the ones in the shops because I could use fabric I really liked so they match the rest of the room perfectly,' she smiles. A fluffy white rug brings texture and softness underfoot and papier mâché letters decorated by Josie add personalisation above her bed.

'I planned this room in my head for so long it's amazing to see it all come together for real. I have everything I need here and the colours are fantastic – I love it so much I'll always keep it tidy!' **YH**

Good idea!

Although a young child may not use every inch of a large wardrobe immediately, as they grow they (and you) will be glad of the extra space.

◁ Josie set to add these shades to her scheme by helping revamp a couple of old chairs bought in a local charity shop. The wood was rubbed down, and painted with two coats of Grecian Spa 2 satinwood by Dulux. 'We also stapled velvet over the old seats and now they look great and really cheerful. I like that they are unique too,' says Josie.

STEP THREE Finishing touches began with teal and pink wall stickers.

3 of the best... wall stickers

£8 from Ikea

Gamers of any age will love filling their walls with this funky design.

£19.95 from Koko Kids

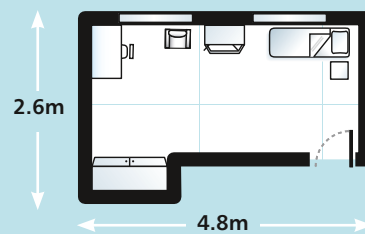
Pretty up a girl's room with these colourful bird stickers.

£20 from Spin Collective

Comic book fans will love these striking stickers to give their room extra 'pow'!



ROOMPLAN



THE DETAILS

Carpet & rug	£630
Paint & wall stickers	£121.07
Furniture	£471.94
Window treatment	£462.72
Lighting	£69.90
TOTAL	£1,755.63

Shopping list

Avebury Oxenwood Marble carpet, £40 per sq m, Cormar. Sorbet emulsion, £21.29 per 2.5l; Light & Space First Frost emulsion, £24.99 per 2.5l; chairs: Quick Dry satinwood in Grecian Spa 2, £22.79 per litre, all Dulux. Curtain fabric: HAMA120350 Amazilia Flamingo/Papaya/Apple, £56 per m, Harlequin. Blinds in Beautiful Bamboo Teal, £70.06 each, Web Blinds. Pax system wardrobe, £268; Linnmon table top, £13; Nipen table legs, £15 each; Nyttja frame, £3.75; Vaggis pin board, £4.50, all Ikea. Chairs, £5 and £12, charity shop. Lampshade kits, 30cm, £11.66 each; 20cm, £8.33, both Needcraft. Pendant shade fabric: V3119/05 Attis Gerbera, £45 per m (£13.50 per shade); bedside lamp fabric: V3119/03 Attis Kingfisher, £45 per m, both Villa Nova. Frame wall stickers, £26 for eight; flamingo wall sticker, £26, both Wall Glamour. Oxford edge duvet cover in plum, £20; teal pillowcase, £3 for two; pencil pot, £3.50; Life Love framed print, £12, all Tesco Direct. Wall shelf, £28.94; pompom trim (on curtains), £1.50 per m, both eBay. Bedside storage unit, £85, Next. Isaac desk lamp, £20; Benita white rug, £70, both B&Q. Tissue pompoms, £9.99 for four, The Hanging Lantern Company. Pantry wall clock, £30, Newgate. Multicolour shopping bag, £2.95; Flamingo string lights, £14.95; exercise books, £3.95 for three, all Dotcomgiftshop. Papier mâché letters, £2 each; Decopatch paper, £3.79 per pack, both Hobbycraft. Sticky notes, £2.95 each, Caroline Gardner. Alphabet candle votives, £5.99 each; morello cherry and almond tin candle, £8.50, both The Country Candle Company.

Summer - A brilliant time to deal with heating problems!



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British made electric heating from Sunflow

It is our nature to yearn for the Summer and put things off for the Autumn. However, while the cool nights are still with us we won't forget the cold spots in the house or how cranky and expensive the current heating system is. The worst thing is getting to October and finding that everything has ground to a halt.

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Invincible Heaters™ are the only refractory clay heaters to carry the British Standards Institute KiteMark.

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with care, precision and pride at our Royal Wootton Bassett factory, carrying on a north Wiltshire tradition of British engineering excellence.

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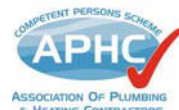
The Sunflow 'manufacturer's guarantee' means that in the unlikely event something does go wrong we come to you. A foreign manufacturer's guarantee may mean their heater would have to go back to the factory. How do you send a heating system back to Germany? Who pays the transport?

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SUNFLOW

Colour confidence

We've taken three of this season's most popular colours, to show you how to use them in your home...

This ombré paint effect will give your scheme a really contemporary edge, while the light grey and shots of coral also help to keep the shades of rose up-to-date

Solid shutters, from £290 per sq m for standard colours, from £320 per sq m for custom finishes, including home consultation and installation, Shutterly Fabulous



BLUSH

The word blush may conjure up images of an overly pink scheme, yet this colour trend is very contemporary and fresh. It can create a pretty, feminine scheme but it is sophisticated and elegant rather than girly, using dusty pink, lilac and peach, mixed with powdery grey. You can also take on a more masculine edge by choosing to combine soft oranges with a warm coppery hint, with soft clay-toned neutrals and pure white. Start with your defining blush colours – are you going to choose pale pink or soft orange? Or a blend of both? Balance the scheme with neutrals and white then add pops of yellow or coral as an accent colour. Complete your look with metallic accessories, making the most of the copper, gold and bronze accessories available on the high street. Keep things looking simple and choose natural woods to furnish your room.

What else works with blush?

▼ Use deep yellow and rich orange as an accent colour, to add a surprise to your scheme

Sunflower Symphony 3, £24.29 per 2.5l, Dulux MixLab

▲ Choose soft grey to carry a mix of pale pink, soft orange and warm copper

Little Owl matt emulsion, £35.50 per 2.5l, Fired Earth

◀ Pale chalky lilac will harmonise with pale pinks or add a cool contrast to warmer coral tones

Wendy House Claypaint, £35 per 2.5l, Earthborn



▲ Pure white and clay-toned neutrals complement blush colours, from heathery pink through to soft coppery orange

Copper Blush matt emulsion; Powdered Heather matt emulsion, each £24.49 per 2.5l, both Dulux MixLab

How to accessorise...



▶ Play with the feminine side of this trend with crushed velvet and floral prints

Laura Oakes cushion, £28, Debenhams



▶ Choose accessories with reflective qualities, such as this faceted candle holder

Bronze faceted candle, £10, Next



▶ Ombré lends itself to this trend, blending metallics with blushing pinks

Pink ombre vase, £10, George Home

Our favourite blush paints

▶ Rusling 9 Absolute matt emulsion, £37 per 2.5l, Little Greene



▶ Au Contraire matt emulsion, £21.98 per 2.5l, Valspar



▶ Fairy Dust matt emulsion, £18.47 per 2.5l, Crown



▶ Copper Blush matt emulsion, £24.49 per 2.5l, Dulux MixLab



▶ Orchard Pink matt emulsion, £35.50 per 2.5l, Fired Earth



TOP TIP

Colour blocking is a simple and effective way of using blush tones. Use solid blocks of colour on the walls and for upholstery and it will anchor your scheme.

▶ You don't have to contain your chosen blush colours to the walls – use it for soft furnishings or bed linen as an alternative

Scroll Medallion rose bisque 100% organic cotton bed linen, from £24 for a pillowcase, West Elm

▼ A metallic sheen will keep a soft peachy wallpaper looking fresh – team it with hints of glowing gold, copper and bronze

Apella 110588 wallpaper from Poetica collection, £46 per roll, Harlequin



DECORATING

YELLOW

Always a popular choice for summer, the yellows of this season are sun-scorched with an orange tone to them, rather than a green undertone that has been popular before. Consider earthy, baked tones of ochre and sienna. Teamed with clay-coloured neutrals you can create a sandy, Navajo feel, or combined with cherry red and teal you can achieve a completely different, retro look. Alternatively you could work yellow into a Moroccan theme, or even a modern, geometric scheme. There are many colours that yellow can work with, but using it against a charcoal grey background is a popular, contemporary look which is simple to achieve with accessories and is a great way of introducing the colour if you haven't used it before. Blue has always been an easy colour to use alongside yellow, but choose deep navy blue or teal for an updated version.

► Team mustard yellow with indigo blue and ikat prints for a global style

Four-poster bed, £1,350; Bedside table, £225; Six-drawer tall chest, £799; Thalia hammered brass pendant, £100; Modasa rug, £320, all John Lewis



▲ Solid colour on the walls will make a big impact. Team with accessories in teal and punchy red for a retro feel

Milkshake retro clock, £10; Destination wall art, 25cm x 35cm, £6; Ceramic cut out tea lights, £3.50 each, all Tesco

What else works with yellow?



▲ Aubergine will create a warming scheme when teamed with ochre

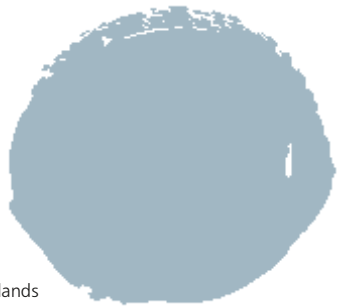
Adventurer 7 Absolute matt emulsion, £37 per 2.5l, Little Greene



► Team a saturated, mustard yellow with a soft olive green and a creamy neutral with a yellow undertone

Garden City, £35.50 per 2.5l, Fired Earth

► A classic colour team, blue always combines well with yellow



Bedford Square Marble matt emulsion, £38 per 2.5l, Mylands



► Use hints of coral as an accent colour which will make a yellow scheme pop

Coral Flair matt emulsion, £24.49 per 2.5l, Dulux



► Yellow is a striking colour which will instantly draw the eye – use it in small doses in a strong colour, for maximum impact

Safi Fennel curtains, prices start at £129, including measuring and fitting, Hillarys

TOP TIP

Yellows which have an orange or a red undertone are warming, so you can afford to use them on large expanses, such as walls or furniture, without it looking cold or washed out.

How to accessorise...



◀ Dip-dye effects will give your scheme a stylish finish

Dakota ceramic dip glaze table lamp, £29, Tesco Direct

► Warm, mustard tones will create a cosy feel



Textured weave throw in English mustard, £48.50, Clare Loves



◀ Update your dining room with a bold splash of eye-catching yellow

Eiffel chair in mustard, £59, Dwell



▲ Use yellow with soft grey for a contemporary scheme with a retro feel

Saldo 111119 wallpaper, £38 per roll; upholstery: Plains One 130479 fabric, £30 per m; cushion: Spike 120386 fabric, £28 per m, all Levande collection, Scion

Our favourite yellow paints

► Sunny Savannah 6 matt emulsion, £24.29 per 2.5l, Dulux MixLab



◀ Goldfinch matt emulsion, £35.50 per 2.5l, Fired Earth



► Humpty Dumpty Claypaint, £35 per 2.5l, Earthborn



◀ Caravanserai paint, £41.63 per 5l, Ecos Paints



▲ Mister David 47 Absolute matt emulsion, £37 per 2.5l, Little Greene





BLUE

Often thought of as being a cold colour, pick your blues carefully and you can create a warm scheme that will work all year round. Choose blues that have a red undertone, such as slate blue or denim, both of which are hugely popular this season, so there's plenty of choice available. A tone-on-tone scheme is an easy way to use this colour, using the same hue but in different tones, with an accent colour to really make it pop. Grey-toned blues can be combined with many colours, and even be used as a neutral colour to balance your scheme. Combined with pinks and plums, deep slate blues and teals, which can often be interpreted as quite masculine, suddenly become easier to use. Used with cream and taupe you will create an elegant feel, whilst white will look much fresher. Teamed with grey you can achieve a very contemporary look, or with green a tranquil one. Throw in a few cool blues as well, such as cobalt, sky blue and turquoise, although go easy on these and stick to the warmer shades for large expanses if you don't get a lot of natural sunlight.



▲ Add depth to a blue scheme with the addition of much darker, indigo hues, and choose accessories with a reflective glaze

Small wooden cylinder candlestick, £3.49; large wooden cylinder candlestick, £7.99; Striped glass vase, £19.99; Ombre ceramic bud vase, £3.99; glass tea light holder with wood base, £6.99, all Dunelm

What else works with blue?

► A lilac-tinted soft grey will soften masculine denim blues

Gentle Fashion for Walls matt emulsion, £22.67 per 2.5l, Crown



▲ Add depth to paler blues with a feminine, faded damson

Soft Cinnebar 1 matt emulsion, £24.29 per 2.5l, Dulux MixLab



◀ Warm, peachy-toned neutrals make a good base for a whole range of blues

Sandstone matt emulsion, £12 per 2.5l, George Home



DECORATING

◀ For a light and airy scheme choose a fresh blue and team it with a clean white neutral

Seagulls 214585 wallpaper from Vintage 2 collection, £46 per roll, Sanderson

How to accessorise...



▲ Give your scheme an industrial feel with this metal storage trunk, complete with contemporary copper details

Blue metal large trunk, £45, Habitat

▶ Indigo tones look fresh and Mediterranean against brilliant white

Tile print double duvet set, £12, George Home



◀ Choose accessories that allow the bold blue hues to shine

Cyanotype Swallows vase, £18.50, Decorator's Notebook



TOP TIP

If you are planning on using a lot of pattern, use light grey-toned blues as your subdued neutral shades then build up the pattern with bolder true blue.

◀ Use different tones of the same colour, such as a charcoal-toned blue, then liven it up with an accent of turquoise or teal

Impressions IMP01 rug, from £550 for 150cm x 230cm size, Plantation Rug Company

Our favourite blue paints

▼ Cobalt White water-based paint, £32 per 2.5l, Laura Ashley



▼ Toy Soldier Claypaint, £35 per 2.5l, Earthborn



▲ Charcoal Drift matt emulsion, £24.29 per 2.5l, Dulux MixLab

▶ Hummingbird matt emulsion, £35.50 per 2.5l, Fired Earth



▶ Lambeth Walk Marble matt emulsion, £38 per 2.5l, Mylands



This season's grey-toned blues work well as neutrals – a good base on which to build your colour scheme

Dillon large Sofa in Cuper Plain Peacock fabric, £999; Dillon chair in Genova Teal fabric, £699, both Multiyork



PERFECT PAINT PROJECTS

to refresh your garden

Breathe new life into garden furniture, buildings and accessories with a coat or two of outdoor paint in an irresistible shade of your choice



Did you know that you can use Annie Sloan's Chalk Paint in the garden? It's suitable for all metal and wooden garden furniture, except teak, and can also be used on concrete, matt plastic and terracotta. We love this step ladder, which has been transformed into a pretty pot stand by painting each step in a different colour

Chalk Paint, £18.95 per litre (or £5.95 per 100ml tester pot), Annie Sloan

Pretty-up your potting shed with a selection of green shades. This wood paint offers long-lasting protection against the elements and has a soft lustre that allows the wood grain to show through

Potting shed: exterior walls: Jungle Green; interior walls: Lime White; shelving: Pond Green; floor and decking: Forest Green; obelisk: Spring Green; all Royal Exterior superior wood finish, £16.99 per litre, Protek

During the summer months, your garden can be considered an extension of your home – a valuable extra living area which should be enjoyed as often as possible. In order to get the most from your outdoor space, it's worth spending a little time and effort freshening up and updating your shed, furniture and other areas. One of the easiest and most affordable ways to do this is with paint, and the options are endless, with hundreds of colours to choose from to suit your taste. So, get your brushes at the ready, wait for a dry weekend and start painting.

Old watering cans look fabulous with a coat of chalk paint, and can then be used as display items or even planters

Chalk Paint, £18.95 per litre (or £5.95 per 100ml tester pot), Annie Sloan



DECORATING IDEAS



Kids and grown ups will love this snakes and ladders board which has been painted on a garden table top. Here's how to do it:

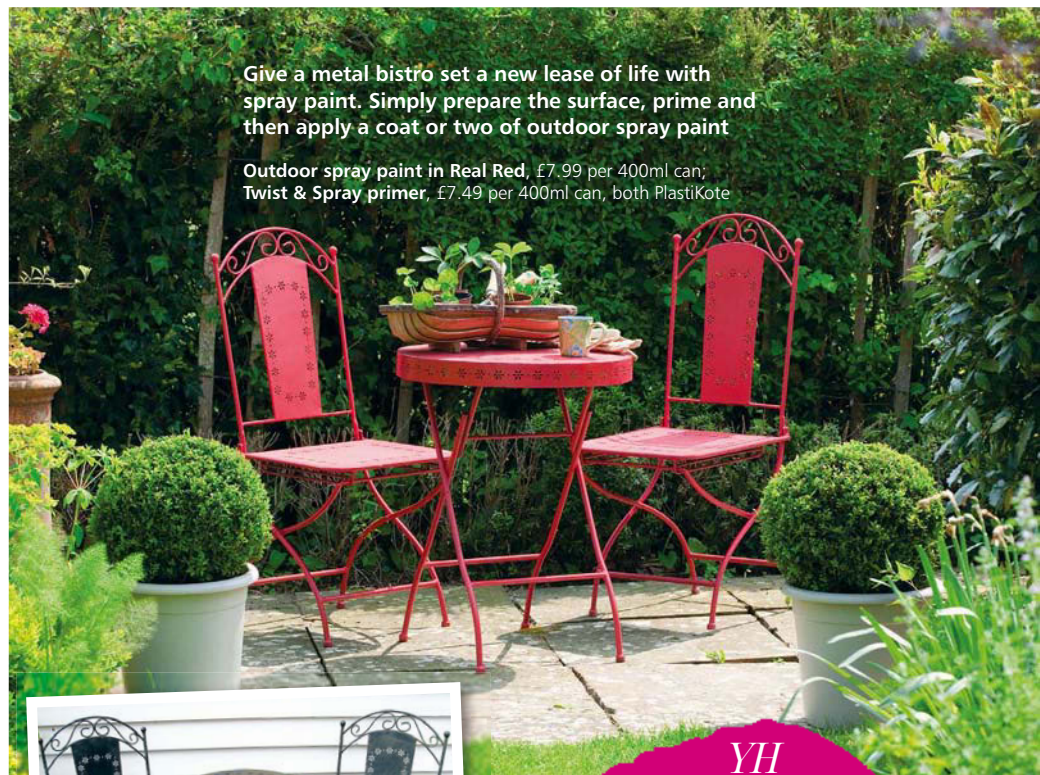
- Clean and prepare the table for painting. Apply two coats of Natural Stone, ensuring the paint is dry before applying each coat.
- Once dry, measure out 4cm squares or use the width of a wooden batten and tape off with masking tape. To create a board with 100 squares, tape off ten squares wide and ten squares long.
- Paint alternate squares with two coats of Winter's Night, allowing each coat to dry in between. Paint over the tape slightly to ensure crisp lines and remove the tape while the paint is still wet for a neat finish.
- Hand paint numbers from one to 100 using Black Ash, then, once dry, add snakes and ladders in bright colours such as Mediterranean Glaze, Raspberry Sorbet and Green Orchid. Finally, mask off and paint a wide blue border in Sapphire.

Table top: Natural Stone; blue squares: Winter's Night; numbers: Black Ash; blue border: Sapphire, £11.99 per litre of Garden Shades, Cuprinol



Perk up a potting bench in no time with a coat or two of hard-wearing paint in a pastel blue shade

10-year exterior satin in Bahama Blue, from £17.99 per 750ml, Sandtex



Give a metal bistro set a new lease of life with spray paint. Simply prepare the surface, prime and then apply a coat or two of outdoor spray paint

Outdoor spray paint in Real Red, £7.99 per 400ml can; Twist & Spray primer, £7.49 per 400ml can, both PlastiKote



Before

Why not freshen up your back door if it's looking a little shabby? We love these cheery yellow shades from Valspar, perfect for bringing a little extra sunshine into your garden

Door: Sun Sparkle; chair: Buttered Corn, both £27 per litre of Exterior Trim paint, Valspar

YH handy hint

Always make sure that you follow the instructions on the tin and use a primer first if recommended. It's better to spend a little extra time preparing the surface first to ensure you achieve a professional finish. Additionally, always choose a paint that is specially designed for outdoor use, otherwise you run the risk of all your hard work washing off in the rain!

Barbecook® tabletop
barbecue, £129.99;
Barbecook® rotating
table, £64.99, both
Lakeland



Feature Lisa Hibberd

Enjoy alfresco cooking with a new BARBECUE

Take a look at our best buys to ensure that your summer barbecues go without a hitch

Whether you enjoy just a few bangers sizzling away, or a full-on feast with all the trimmings, we all love heading outside for a barbecue, whatever weather the British summer throws at us. A simple barbecue is all you need, but if yours is

in need of replacement or you're looking for something a little more advanced, the latest designs are smart, easy to use and capable of cooking up a real banquet, so take your pick from our favourites and gather your friends and family together for an enjoyable summer spread.

◀ The ultimate in sociable barbecuing, everyone can get involved with this nifty tabletop design. It has heatproof silicone feet, plus a double-walled ceramic bowl which stays cool to the touch. The specially-designed rotating table comes complete with six ceramic bowls, ideal for dips and sauces



Outback Trekker gas
barbecue, £179, John Lewis

◀ If you're looking for a gas barbecue that is compact and easy to store, then this design could be ideal for you. With a generous 47cm cooking area, the reversible griddle can also be used as a frying plate and a pan stand for boiling



Applaro/
Klasen
charcoal
barbecue
with trolley,
£240, Ikea

▲ This simple design offers plenty of additional surface space to place trays and dishes



Weber Spirit Classic
E210 gas barbecue,
£399, John Lewis

◀ This two-burner gas barbecue comes equipped with two fold-down side tables, a thermometer, and handy hooks for tools, letting you baste, turn and grill with ease. Porcelain enamelled

flavourizer bars give the perfect barbecue taste and protect the burners from fat and juices, while the enclosed front provides valuable storage space. Sturdy wheels mean that the barbecue is easy to move around

BUYER'S GUIDE



◀ This kettle barbecue has a 55cm grill which is large enough to cook for a good crowd. It comes complete with a chimney starter and warming rack, and the trolley has wheels to make it easy to move around

Kinley charcoal kettle barbecue, £134, B&Q



Weber Q2000 gas barbecue, £273, B&Q

Barbecue trends...

We asked Weber Chef, Dan Cooper, for his advice on the hottest barbecuing trends to look out for this summer...

ROTISSERIE ROASTING

One of the oldest and tastiest ways to cook, rotisserie cooking is now easier than ever – just set it going, leave it to work its magic and return to a perfect, crispy on the outside, juicy on the inside, roast. It's really versatile too, you can even roast a whole pineapple! Rotisserie attachments are available for 57cm Weber charcoal barbecues, most gas models and all Weber Q models.



57cm charcoal rotisserie, from around £189.99, Weber

SUPERB SMOKING

Smoking is a fantastic way to create succulent and smokey, fall-off-the-bone, meat. It's possible on any Weber barbecue – for gas you simply need a smoker box and some wood chips, while for charcoal kettles just add soaked wood chips directly to the hot coals.



Firespice wood chips, £9.99, Weber

PERFECT PIZZA

Pizza is ideal for cooking on the barbecue and an authentic taste of Italy can be achieved with the use of a pizza stone. The cooking surface of Weber's pizza stone, which can be used with any gas or charcoal Weber barbecue, is made from cordierite, which reaches a high, even temperature and absorbs moisture, so bases cook quickly and remain crispy.



36cm pizza stone, £39.99, Weber

For more hints, tips and recipes visit www.weberbbq.co.uk/recipes.

◀ Napoleon's clever TravelQ285X design is a gas barbecue which comes complete with a scissor cart. The cart acts as a stand, and then folds away and becomes a trolley, for easy transportation

TravelQ285X with cart, £340, Napoleon Grills

▶ This design is compact, so suits a small garden or patio, but still offers a good-sized cooking area. It has a removable drip tray to collect any fat or food residue, and two fold-out side tables which are handy for keeping tools and sauces close by



◀ If you're happy to do a bit of DIY, this masonry barbecue makes a great outdoor cooking station and will create a permanent focal point in your garden. It comes complete with assembly instructions, can be used with charcoal or wood and has an adjustable grill with four positions

Roma masonry barbecue, £499.99, Alfresia

▼ Compact, portable and weighing only two kilos, this new smokeless barbecue uses 90% less charcoal to cook the perfect meal. It's ready to cook within three to four minutes, and the built-in battery-operated fan means that there are no nasty fumes or smoke. It also works well as a camping stove, and the handy bag included makes it the perfect travelling companion. And, best of all, it's dishwasher-safe so if you're barbecuing at home it's hassle-free to clean

Lotus portable mini grill and stove, £99, Cuckooland.com



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Kitchens & BATHROOMS

Kit out your kitchen with our must have cooks' gadgets



Trend: Citrus brights

Summer is the perfect time to go bold with your décor, and nothing says summer like the zesty combination of lemon yellow and lime green. Guaranteed to bring a bit of sunshine into your kitchen, this trend works best with white furniture and is a perfect choice for kitchens with white goods on show as they'll balance out the brightness of your greens and yellows. The high street is full of colourful kitchen accessories too, so if you usually display your coffee and tea canisters or teapot on the counter, treat yourself to new, citrus-coloured ones to really make your kitchen pop. If you're feeling brave, go for statement lighting or even paint your walls in a juicy shade that's sure to lift your mood all year round.

Image Very

Club tropicana

Get everybody in the holiday spirit with these fabulously kitsch wine glasses from M&S. Featuring a colourful palm tree design, they're perfect for serving up ice-cold cocktails on a girls night in, or even use them for your morning juice, to make that exotic summer holiday feel a little bit closer.

Palm tree wine glass,
£3.50 each, M&S



Cover up in style

The kitchen table is the heart of the home, but keeping your pride and joy free from scratches and water rings often means compromising on style – until now. BoConcept has brought out a range of cool, colourful oilcloths that are not only stain resistant, but will make a real style statement too. What's more, the quality of the fabric means you'll still get a lovely soft drape, stopping your dining room table looking like a school craft desk. We love the zigzag and diamond designs, perfect for lovers of the geometric trend and great for instantly brightening up a plain kitchen.

Oilcloths, £19 per m, BoConcept

Bathroom beauties

Known for their quality bed and bathroom textiles, Soak & Sleep has branched out into bathroom accessories and they're just as affordable and stylish as we'd expect. Choose from classic white stoneware or natural, sandstone resin accessories including a soap dispenser, toothbrush holder and toilet brush to add the finishing touches.

Resin bathroom accessories, from
£8, Soak & Sleep



Feature Laura McLeish



VISIT WWW.YOURHOMEMAGAZINE.CO.UK FOR MORE KITCHEN & BATHROOM INSPIRATION

We changed our kitchen

Sally Crozer wanted her dark, dated kitchen to reflect the light and beautiful views of



Insider info

WHO LIVES HERE?

Sally and Chris Crozer. Sally runs an alternative therapy business and Chris is a metal broker. They bought their four-bedroom cottage in Robin Hood's Bay 15 years ago.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE ROOM?

'The view of the sea from the kitchen window is always changing and I love the fact that we can have the door open straight onto the terrace so that we get that indoor/outdoor lifestyle.'

WHAT DID YOU LEARN DURING THE PROJECT?

'It's very easy to make a kitchen more efficient with just small changes to the layout. I have three distinct areas – food preparation, cooking and washing – based on the position of the appliances.'

WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE OLD ROOM?

The old kitchen was dark, dated and narrow. Considering its location it wasn't a pretty place to be.



Before



Sally and Chris Crozer bought their stone-built cottage because of its stunning cliff top location in Robin Hood's Bay. Built on the site of the studio of famed artist Dame Ethel Walker, it needed modernising and developing from a small two-storey property into a three-storey family house, but Sally was particularly keen to transform the kitchen. 'The old kitchen was dark, dated and narrow, with a small Velux window at one end and very small window at the other, looking onto the neighbour's fence,' says Sally. 'We wanted to change it so that the focus of the kitchen was towards the sea. We also wanted to make it lighter so that it didn't feel like a long dark tunnel across the end of the house.'

They began by stripping out the old pine units, which had to be carried in relays down the maze of tiny cobbled streets to be taken away. The builders then created a doorway leading onto a paved terrace, which overlooks the sea, and added a bigger window next to it to maximise the coastal view. They knocked out a section of

wall for another window at the other end of the kitchen so Sally and Chris could enjoy the view of a pretty cobbled street while they were washing up. 'This brought in plenty of light from both ends of the room and opened it all up,' says Sally. The walls were skimmed with a fresh coat of plaster and the existing plumbing was used to install the new fittings. These included new white units, existing appliances and a beech worktop.

'We saved money by re-using many of the existing appliances, including the freezer, washer, dryer and dishwasher, but we upgraded the sink and bought a new cooker,' smiles Sally. The couple added white ceramic wall tiles to highlight a feature tile picture above the cooker. While the remaining walls and ceiling were painted white to reflect more natural light around the room.

'The changes we made were very simple but they have completely transformed the kitchen, turning it from a dark and dingy work area that no-one really liked into a light, bright living space,' smiles Sally.

for the sea view

its cliff top location

MAKE THE MOST OF NATURAL LIGHT

Sally had a small window enlarged so she could see more of the sea. The deep recess of the opening creates a lovely feature without blocking the natural light. White units were chosen to reflect the light into the room.



USE EVERY BIT OF SPACE

Feature corner shelves add a decorative detail to a run of wall cupboards as well as providing a place to display some of Sally's favourite glassware. The beech work surface softens the bright white gloss units and tiles, adding warmth and texture to the kitchen.



BE INSPIRED BY YOUR LOCATION

The coastal light and colours inspired Sally's new-look kitchen, so she added a striking feature tile picture to complement the blue and white theme.



CREATE A VIEW

There was very little light at this end of the kitchen so Sally had an opening made in the wall for a feature window and positioned the sink in front of it. 'I would much rather be looking down a pretty street than at a blank wall,' says Sally.



MAKE A GALLEY KITCHEN FEEL WIDER

Units were fitted along just one wall of the narrow kitchen to create more floor space and prevent the room looking too 'closed in'. To reduce costs, Sally kept the original appliances, which were still in good working order. The oak floor extends into the dining area of the open-plan space to make the kitchen look bigger.

BRING THE OUTSIDE IN

A half wall into the dining area adds to the sense of light and space in the narrow kitchen, while a new door onto the patio transforms the room by linking the inside and out.

SHOPPING LIST

Kitchen units, £78.40 per 600mm base unit; beech worktop £403.65; Diplomat gas oven, £416.64; extractor, £56.04; gas hob, £116.31; sink, £103.98; tap, £146.28, all Howdens. For similar tiles, try Chic Craquele white tiles, £46.75 per sq m, Topps Tiles. Tile picture 'Anchored Boat' by Benaya, £31.30, Mill Race Garden Centre. For similar flooring, try Natural Barley Oak flooring, £16.66 per sq m, Direct Wood Flooring. Dining table and chairs, £250, Beevers of Whitby. Wooden canisters, around £7.99 each, Dunelm. Lights and fitting, £260, provided by the builders. Boat tray, £7.50, local gift shop. Blue glasses, £1.50 each, The Range.

TOTAL COST: £5,877.25



Ensure that your kitchen is well-equipped to make cooking easier and much more fun

Napier dining table, £1,000; bookcase, £950; Geranium pale cranberry wallpaper, £39 per roll; island curtain: Awning Stripe pale cranberry fabric, £32 per m; accessories, from a selection, all Laura Ashley

Turn your kitchen into a COOK'S PARADISE

Cook up a storm with the right kitchen kit – we've chosen some of the best buys around

If you love nothing more than preparing home-cooked meals from scratch and baking fresh bread and cakes, you'll know that having the right equipment is essential. Even if you only have a compact kitchen, there are a multitude of gadgets and appliances on the market which will help you to perfect your cooking skills while saving you time and effort. Read on for some of our favourite buys...

► Get a taste of north Africa by investing in a tagine – perfect for creating dishes with warming, spicy flavours

Terracotta tagine, £15; terracotta casserole dish, £15; terracotta tapas bowl, £4.50; Professional Go Cook acacia mezzaluna, £15; copper salt and pepper mills, £8 each, all Tesco



▲ Make browning and caramelising a breeze with this cook's torch, which is easy to use and features a safety lock and heat-resistant sheath

Cook's torch (butane gas sold separately), £26.35, Stellar

▼ A cool surface is essential for pastry making – try one of these marble boards

Large marble rectangular board in white, £29.99; large marble rectangular board in black, £39.99, both T&G Woodware



KITCHEN IDEAS



▲ Try the popular trend for 'spiralizing' vegetables with this easy-to-use gadget, which will turn veg into ribbons or spirals with a simple turn of the handle. It has non-slip feet and a holding device to keep fruit or vegetables in place and ensure that fingers are safely out of the way

Vegetable spiralizer, £29.99, Lakeland



OIM25901X EcoSmart single multifunction oven, from around £349, Beko

◀ This built-in oven features 72 step-by-step recipes to help you create delicious meals. You can also upload your own recipes and photos via the USB. It automatically detects the best setting for your meal, saving time and ensuring optimum results. The six main cooking categories include pastries, poultry, red meat, fish, specialities and healthy choices, plus there are special settings such as slow cook and defrost



OXO potato ricer, £27, Lakeland

▲ Achieve silky smooth mashed potato by investing in a ricer



Ceramic baking beans, £4.79, Lakeland

▲ Ensure crisp and perfectly-cooked pastry cases by pre-baking or 'baking blind' using baking beans, which will prevent the base from puffing up

▼ Make pasta from scratch using this smart gadget, which has seven thickness settings and a stainless steel blade for effortless cutting



Pasta maker, £37.99, Premier



Thermospatula, £14.99, Lakeland

▲ Ideal for anything that needs to be heated to an exact temperature, such as jam or chocolate, this non-scratch silicone spatula has an integral thermometer which will show the precise temperature while you stir



Scimitar 18-jar wall spice rack in hevea, £24.99; Colonial Home 12-jar spice rack in cream painted hevea, both T&G Woodware

◀ Ensure that herbs and spices are close by with a smart rack

▼ A hanging rail is the ideal way to ensure that all your essentials are close by. It will also make a lovely feature above the hob



Tate cookware, from £40 for a 16cm draining saucepan, Stellar

▲ If you're in need of a new set of pans, try Stellar's Tate range. The perfectly flat lid allows for easy storage, and draining is safe and easy as the lid has an integral handle which locks into the main pan handle, so that liquid can be safely poured away through the lip with just one hand



Black aluminium non-stick cookware, from £15 for a 20cm frying pan; stainless steel colander, £15; stainless steel utensils, from £4 each; copper-effect utensils, from £12.50 each, all M&S

The tiles make our new

Denise and Brian Gates wanted a practical bathroom without compromising on style



Insider info

WHO LIVES HERE?

Denise Gates, 58, a nurse manager, her husband Brian, 66, a retired occupational health nurse and their daughter Sarah, 28, an early years teacher, have lived in a four-bedroom semi-detached 1930s house in Kenton, Newcastle, for 27 years.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE ROOM?

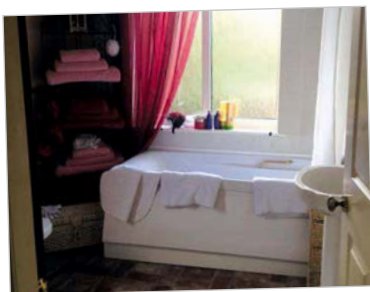
'I love the bath as it's smaller than average. I'm 5ft and Brian is 6ft 3ins so previously our baths were always too big for me. Now it's just me using the bath, it's lovely to be able to touch the other side without sliding under the water.'

WHAT DID YOU LEARN DURING THIS PROJECT?

'Spend as much time as possible planning so that the job itself runs smoothly. If you change your mind further down the line, that's more time and labour.'

WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE OLD BATHROOM?

There wasn't a separate shower cubicle and with Brian's health concerns the bathroom just didn't work for them anymore.



Before

CRISP & CLEAN

Sticking to an all white scheme with green accents in the tiles makes for a crisp, clean feel. Denise wanted a classic and timeless look, so has chosen a heritage-style roll-top bath that won't date.



PERFECT MATCH

Finding towels to match decorative tiles can be tricky but Denise found the perfect design from The Yorkshire Linen Co, which tie in perfectly.

bathroom

When Denise and Brian Gates moved into their home 27 years ago, the bathroom was one of the first rooms to be tackled. So when Brian's osteoarthritis started causing him mobility problems, it was definitely time for another revamp. 'Brian had a hip replacement and struggled to use the shower over the bath,' says Denise. 'And with two knee replacements on the horizon, we decided it was time for a whole new bathroom. There were two key things we needed in order to make life easier for him – a higher WC and a large walk-in shower – but we didn't want these to have an impact on the style of the room.' However, after visiting lots of showrooms, Denise and Brian couldn't find what they were looking for. 'We wanted an elegant traditional-style suite, and although we saw lots of nice roll-top baths, nobody seemed to have the style of WC and basin we wanted,' she says.

Eventually a friend recommended Northumberland Tiles & Bathrooms.

ALL CHANGE

The new layout has been radically altered to accommodate a walk-in shower cubicle. This meant moving the WC and getting rid of the bidet.

'They gave us all the pros and cons and really helped with planning,' says Denise. 'They were also flexible about us getting some things online while they provided the rest.' The new layout meant moving the WC to make way for a large walk-in shower enclosure, as well as a new position for the bath taps, so all the plumbing is new rather than being re-routed. There's also a more compact free-standing bath, which suits Denise's petite frame.

As their old corner shelving was ripped out, Denise found an Indonesian marble vanity unit online which has storage beneath. She also sourced the distinctive tiles online. 'At first we thought about Art Deco black and white tiles or a Mackintosh rose motif that could be repeated on the vanity unit, but these ones were just perfect and much cheaper,' she says. 'Now the bathroom is so bright and airy. I particularly love the tiles and vanity unit as they are a bit different and stop the room looking too clinical.'

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

The Victorian-style thermostatic shower controls add to the elegant feel, and the ceramic levers give it classic styling.



SHOPPING LIST

Romeo 1500 free-standing bath with feet, £600; Burlington Avon exposed thermostatic shower, £681.67; Quadrant low profile offset shower tray 900 x 1200, £163.33; Quadrant Sommer six shower enclosure, £315; Burlington Kensington taps, £99; Vado Kensington two-hole bath filler with shower, £189.58; JIS stainless steel Ashdown towel rail, £309.90; Burlington close coupled WC with raised height, £224.17; soft close seat, £74.17, all Northumberland Tiles & Bathrooms. Vanity unit, £379.99, Homes Direct 365. Planet II beige 606 marble vinyl flooring, £14.99 per sq m, Carpetright. BCT 13570 Brighton Regency insert tiles, £11.95 per tile, Walls and Floors. White gloss smooth shower tiles, £10 per sq m, Tons of Tiles. Mirror, £200, Curtain Superstore. Crochet baskets, £20 for two; artificial flowers, from £8, both Next. Butterfly print, £35, M&S.

TOTAL COST: £3,448.54

FINISHING TOUCHES

Denise picked out accessories that tie in with the green tiles, such as the paper butterfly framed picture from M&S and the white crochet baskets from Next.



AN EXTRA HAND

Having an overhead power shower and flexible hand-held hose was invaluable when Brian was recovering from his operations as it meant Denise could help him. There's also a shallow shower tray which is easier to step into.



Stuff of legend

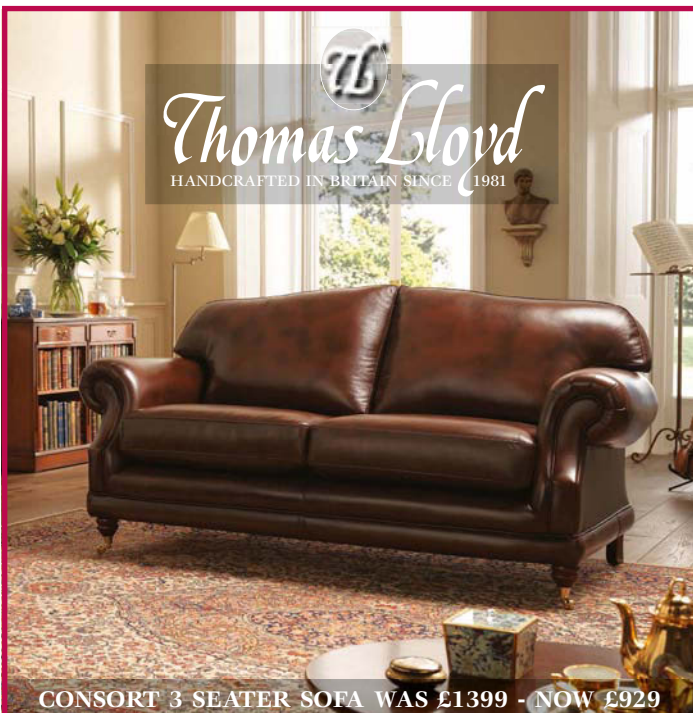
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£2,500

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**Texts cost 50p, calls cost 26ppm* and last approx. 2 mins.

Closing date: 31st July 2015 and three working days later for online entries.

RULES OF COMPETITION ENTRY

*Calls cost 26p per minute plus your network access charge and last approx. 2 minutes. Calls from mobiles may vary. From 1st July 2015 calls will cost 25p per minute plus your network access charge. **Texts cost 50p plus your standard network charge. This is not a subscription service. Lines close at midnight on 31st July 2015 and three working days later for online entries. The winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received after the closing date. If you call to enter after the advertised closing date you will not be entered into the competition, but you may still be charged.

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● Winner(s) must be homeowners. ● Prize is valid for the Padstow range only. ● Brintons will provide fitting within mainland UK and Ireland.

Enhance your bathroom with natural materials

Consider a chic and stylish new look using the beauty of stone and other natural materials

If you feel that your bathroom is lacking in warmth and character, why not introduce natural materials such as stone and marble to give it a lift? Although most of us opt for or inherit a white bathroom suite, there are plenty of other ways that you can use these materials, one of the main ones being wall and floor tiles. If your budget doesn't stretch to tiling the whole space in stone, try a small area such as a splashback, or even replacing your basin with a stunning stone design. Plus, there are some great lookalikes available which will help you get the natural look for less. Accessories in organic materials such as wicker and rattan will help to soften the scheme. We've chosen some of our favourite buys from the high street and online to help you get started.

► This natural unpolished grey travertine will create a stunning, hotel-chic look in your bathroom

▼ Although they're made from ceramic, these tiles will give the look of real stone without the hefty price tag

Variato stone-effect ceramic tiles, from £29.99 per sq m, Topps Tiles



◀ Introduce accessories made from driftwood for a relaxed, coastal feel

Driftwood mirror, £36.99, The Range



Aurelius brushed silver travertine, from £57.97 per sq m, Topps Tiles



Feature Lisa Hibberd

► Add a touch of texture with a set of smart baskets

Wicker baskets, £15.99 for two, The Range



▲ Create a calming atmosphere with tea light candles in these pretty heart-shaped holders

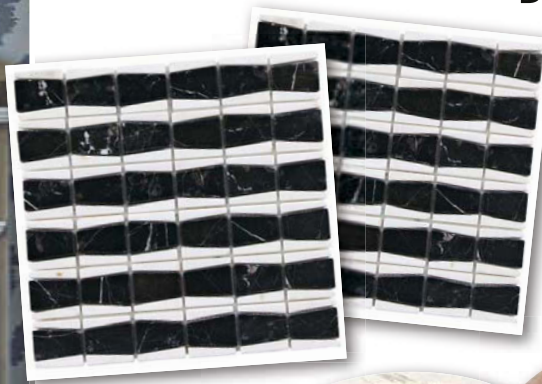
Stone tea light holders, £1.49 each, The Range

BATHROOM IDEAS



▶ Woven baskets will add texture, softening your bathroom scheme, while being the ideal place to store everyday essentials such as towels

Fusion flower bath towel, £18; Fusion laundry bin, £69; bamboo storage baskets, from £18, all John Lewis



▶ They may be a little pricey, but these marble mosaics are perfect for an eye-catching basin splashback

Chevron black and white mosaics, 30.5cm x 30.5cm, £29.99 per sheet, Topps Tiles



▶ A real stone basin is the ideal investment to make a statement in your bathroom

Irish cream marble stone basin, £229.95; Fantastic brown round basin, £252.95; Fossil grey rectangular basin, £245.95, all Better Bathrooms



▶ Available in a contemporary colour palette and made using the latest technology, these marble-effect tiles are so realistic that it's hard to tell the difference from real stone

HD Chameleon ceramic tiles, 29.8cm x 49.8cm, from £35 per sq m, House of British Ceramic Tile



▶ Made from natural stone and marble, this set of co-ordinating accessories will provide the perfect finishing touch

Spa mint sandstone bathroom accessories, from £18, John Lewis





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Make it easy!



It's time for some fun in the sun! We've been busy creating our perfect outdoor space – from colourful fruit cushions to a repurposed cable reel table, garden bench and hanging floral display. Find out how to make these and more overleaf – plus information on installing a new fence plus lots of practical expert DIY advice.



*Sew some
fruity outdoor
cushions*



*Revamp an old cable drum
into a geometric-design table*



*Make a colourful *découpage*
bench from repurposed wood*



Find out how to erect your own fence

*Our experts
share their
DIY tips*



✂ Make, do & craft ✂

Get out into the great outdoors with these golden ideas

Concrete candle bowl

Make your own take on the industrial trend with this heavy duty bowl

SHOPPING LIST

- large plastic bowl
- small plastic bowl
- cooking oil spray
- quick set cement, £3.29 per 2.5kg, Homebase
- bucket
- fine sand paper
- face mask
- masking tape or washi tape
- Universal metallic gold paint, £19.99 per 750ml, RustOleum
- paint brush

1 Begin by spraying the inside of your large plastic bowl and the outside of your small plastic bowl with cooking oil to make sure they are easy to remove from the cement once set. Make up the cement in the bucket as instructed on the tub and pour into the large bowl until it is three-quarters full. Push your smaller bowl down into the centre of the cement until it sits flush. Add a little more cement if needed, then jiggle the large bowl slightly to remove as many air bubbles as possible. Leave to set.

2 Once set, remove your cement bowl from the plastic. Rub it all over with a fine sand paper to ensure it is smooth, then wipe down with a cloth and soapy water to remove any dusty residue.

Make sure to wear a face mask for this step as cement dust can be toxic.

3 Once dry, turn your cement bowl upside down. Apply strips of masking tape or washi tape to the underside, then coat between the tape with gold paint. Peel away the tape to reveal the stripes, and leave to dry thoroughly. Finally, paint the top of the bowl with the gold paint. Place a candle within the bowl, or place an ethanol gel canister inside to create a garden firebowl.

Striped straws, £2.95 per pack, Rockett St George

Top tip

This concrete is fast-setting so you'll need to work quickly to get the best result.



Top tip

Try to peel the tape away whilst the gold paint is still wet to get a neat, crisp edge.



Tall brass and glass hurricane candle holder, £48, Rockett St George. Wine glasses with gold rim, £4 each; Longstock teak chair, £150, both John Lewis

Cable reel table

Revamp an unwanted cable drum into a fabulous table

SHOPPING LIST

- wooden cable reel, eBay
- sand paper
- cloth and soapy water
- white exterior paint
- paint brush
- Frog Tape
- Universal metallic gold paint, £19.99 per 750ml, RustOleum
- Ronseal clear outdoor varnish, £5.42 per 250ml, B&Q

1 Begin by rubbing your reel all over with a medium sand paper. You may not get a completely smooth surface but the aim is to remove any splinters and particularly rough areas from the reel. Clean the reel with a cloth and soapy water. Once dry, apply two coats of white paint then leave to dry thoroughly before the next step.

2 Apply strips of Frog Tape to the surface of your table to create a template for the gold paint. We chose to create a geometric square design – the possibilities are endless! Once the Frog Tape is stuck down firmly, apply your gold paint. Peel away the tape to reveal the design – you may need to touch up the edges here and there with a fine brush if the paint has bled. Paint the edge of the table gold to add an extra touch of colour.

3 Once the gold paint is completely dry, apply two coats of clear exterior varnish all over your table to keep it safe from the elements. You may still wish to take your table inside or cover it when not in use to preserve your painted design for longer.



Macramé plant pot holder

Make a statement with hanging blooms

SHOPPING LIST

- white and gold twine
- scissors
- gold beads
- metal ring
- potted plant, £3, B&Q

1 Cut 15 2m lengths of white and gold twine and fold each in half. Tie them onto a metal ring at the half way point to give 30 strands in total. Separate them into five groups of six, and begin to plait each group, always holding two strands together. After a few centimetres, thread a golden bead onto each plait, then continue until it is at least 20cm long. Tie a knot in each to secure.

2 Separate each plait into two separate groups of three strands. Plait each group for 15cm, then tie a knot to hold the braid secure. Once all the plaits are tied, take two (making sure it is two that are positioned next to each other) and knot them to join them back together. Repeat until every braid is joined to the ones next to it, including the first and last plaits.

3 Working once again with two strands held together, plait down from each of the knots – this should give five braids in total once more. Continue plaiting until the work will fit comfortably around your plant pot, then finally tie all of the braids together with one final knot. Hang the plant pot holder from a hook, then carefully position your pot inside the braids until it sits comfortably. Trim the tail of the holder to your desired length.



Furniture facelift

Build a pretty garden bench and enjoy the warmer weather.

We began this project by sourcing decorative cast concrete wall bricks from a skip, which we knew would make perfect bench supports. They were in good shape, and just needed a good clean and paint. The top of the bench is made from pieces of tanalised timber, which is suitable for outdoor use. We painted the seat with exterior paint and then *découpage*d each plank with torn strips of floral paper to give a vintage, weathered look. This effect will improve with age and can be re-varnished from time to time if required.

You will need

- ✓ cast concrete bricks
- ✓ hand brush
- ✓ bowl of soapy water and sponge
- ✓ dust sheet
- ✓ exterior paint
- ✓ large paint brush
- ✓ rough sawn exterior wood for seat, we used three 100cm lengths of 4" x 1"
- ✓ rough sawn exterior wood for battens, we used six 30cm lengths of 2" x 1"
- ✓ tape measure
- ✓ pencil
- ✓ drill
- ✓ drill bit
- ✓ pilot drill bit
- ✓ screws
- ✓ glass paper or sanding block
- ✓ Decopatch papers, £3.79 per pack, Hobbycraft
- ✓ Decopatch Paperpatch glue varnish, £8 per 300g, Hobbycraft
- ✓ Decopatch Aquapro professional varnish, £6.99 per 90ml, Hobbycraft
- ✓ small brush
- ✓ ready mixed cement



Before



1 Brush any dust and dirt off the concrete blocks. Wash them, then leave to dry. Lay them on a dust sheet and paint, leaving to dry between coating each side. Repeat with a second coat if necessary. We painted ours white on the outside, and lilac inside.

2 Lay the long pieces of wood to be used for the seat together, upside down. Place the battens in position on top in pairs, positioning two at each end and another pair in the middle of the seat. Our concrete bricks were 9.5cm wide, so we allowed a 9.8cm space between each pair of battens to allow the concrete bricks to fit between them.

3 Mark the positioning of the battens with a pencil, then drill and screw the battens to the wooden seat to secure. Pre-drilling the holes first will help prevent the wood from splitting.

4 Turn the bench seat over so the top side is facing upwards. Paint it white and leave it to dry. Use a sanding block or glass paper

to lightly sand the edges and corners of the bench, to add a vintage feel. Wipe away any dust when you have finished.

5 Tear the Decopatch paper into long strips - we mixed three different designs for a colourful look.

6 Working on one plank at a time, *découpage* the wood. Paint the plank with Decopatch glue, then place the strips of Decopatch paper down on top. Smooth the paper flat with your brush as you work.

7 When you have finished adding the Decopatch strips, add an extra coat of glue over the surface of the bench; this will seal the paper and protect the surface.

8 Decide on a good position for your bench. Cement the bricks in position with ready mixed cement; carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions. When the cement is dry, usually overnight, place the seat on top.

Top tip

We created a 1m long bench but the design would work to make a longer bench if you wish, but keep in mind that anything over 150cm may need an extra block for support.



Sew simple

Make sure you're feeling fruity with our citrus slice cushions

You will need

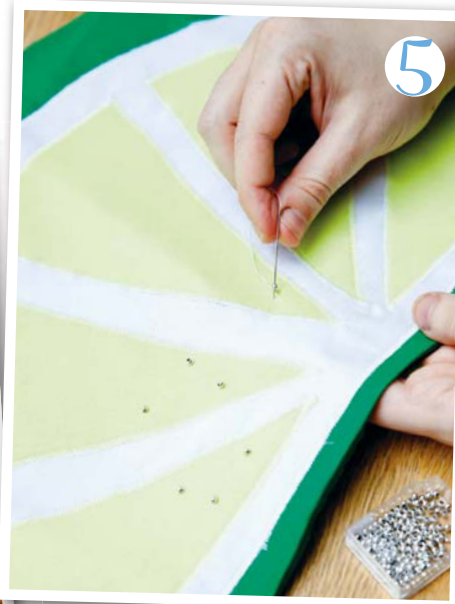
1m each dark green, light green (for limes), yellow (for lemons), orange (for oranges) and white cotton twill, £9.95 per m, MyFabrics
 ✂ pencil ✂ ruler ✂ string or twine
 ✂ scissors ✂ pins ✂ sewing machine ✂ needle and thread
 ✂ silver seed beads ✂ toy stuffing

These oversize fruit cushions are perfect for adding a touch of fun to your décor – whether you're spicing up your living room or lounging outside in the sun.

1 Begin by drawing out the main body of the cushion. Draw a straight 55cm line along one edge of your coloured cotton, then measure and mark the centre of the line. Tie one end of a length of twine or string around your pencil and, holding the opposite end of the string at the middle point of the line, hold the string taut and use the pencil to draw a semi-circular curve from one end of the line to another – almost as if it were a pair of compasses. Repeat to cut two 'wedge' shapes per cushion, then press.

2 Repeat step one with white cotton twill, drawing and cutting another (slightly smaller) semi-circular wedge shape for each cushion, starting with a 45cm base line and curving the edge from one side to the other with a pencil and string, as above.

3 Download and print the segment template from www.yourhomemagazine.co.uk or send a stamped SAE to Your Home July Segment Template, HMB UK, The Tower, Phoenix Square, Colchester, CO4 9HU. Cut five segments for each cushion from either yellow cotton (for the orange and lemon cushions) or light green cotton (for the lime). Pin the segments onto the white wedge piece as pictured. Machine zig zag stitch around the edge of each to secure.



4 Lay the coloured wedge piece down flat, then place the white wedge (complete with stitched segments) on top, positioned centrally. Pin, then zig zag stitch around the edge of the white cotton to stitch the layers together.

5 Thread a fine sewing needle and hand stitch a selection of silver seed beads onto each segment to represent pips. Make sure to tie each off securely on the wrong side of the fabric.

6 Make the cushion base. Cut a 10cm x 55cm rectangle of coloured fabric. Pin it, with right sides facing, to the straight bottom edge of one of your wedge pieces, and stitch into place with a 1cm seam allowance. Repeat to stitch the second wedge into position along the opposite edge of the strip, right sides facing.

7 Measure the curve of one of your wedge pieces, then add 2cm to this amount – cut a 10cm wide strip of coloured cotton to this length. Pin it along the curve of the wedge, then stitch into position leaving a 1cm seam allowance. Repeat to stitch the opposite long edge of the strip to the other wedge's curve, leaving a 10cm gap in the seam at one edge. Stitch across each short edge of the strip to close up the cushion.

8 Turn the cushion right sides out through the gap. Press, then fill with toy stuffing until the cushion is firm and holds its shape well. Stitch the gap in the seam closed to finish.



Top tip

This basic cushion shape can be translated into other fruits, too – use green and hot pink fabric to create a watermelon slice, then simply omit the central segments and add larger, black beads as the seeds.

SEW SIMPLE



Nipprig armchair, £50; straw hat, £2; Nipprig side table, £40, all Ikea; Cactus candles, £25 for set of three, Rockett St George

Girls' Guide to



Add some privacy and style to your garden with our guide to installing a fence



Feature Laura McLeish Step-by-step images and instructions B&Q's You Can Do It manual Main image Bradstone

Top tip

Fence posts come ready-treated but it's still a good idea to soak the feet of the posts in wood preservative overnight.



1 Stretch a tape measure taut from end to end along the line of the fence and mark where each post will sit with a wooden cane. If you're using 1.83m wide panels and your posts are 100mm wide, the centres of the posts will be 1.93m apart.

2 Dig all the post holes to a depth of about 450mm, or slightly deeper in soft ground. With a club hammer, drive in temporary wooden props to hold the first post in place, using a spirit level to make sure it's vertical. Erect the last post in the same way and run two builder's lines between the bottom and top of these two posts, along the line of the fence. Rest the other posts loosely in their holes.



3 It's unlikely that your fence will divide into an exact number of panels, in which case, you'll have to cut the end panel to size. To do this, carefully remove the framing battens from one end of the panel and move them in to the required width. Sandwich them either side of the panel and nail them in place. Saw the panel flush with the outer edge of the repositioned framing battens.

4 Drill six evenly-spaced holes into the batten framing of the panel on both sides and at each end. Raise the panel 50mm-75mm above the ground by temporarily supporting it on bricks. This gap will help to prevent the fence rotting from the bottom up.



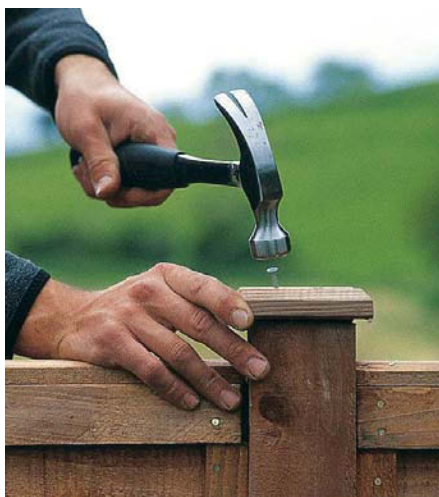
5 Lay a spirit level on the panel to check it's level, then nail it to the post with galvanised nails. The top of the panel should be at least 25mm below the top of the post.



7 Mix the concrete and fill the post hole to just above ground level. Smooth the surface downwards so that rainwater will drain away from the wooden post.



6 Attach the second panel to the post, using temporary props to keep the fence vertical. The posts and panels should be erected alternately as you work down the line of the fence. Continue working this way until all the panels are in place. Each post should be touching both builder's lines and keep using a spirit level as you work to check that the posts are vertical.



8 Soak the post caps in a bucket of water to prevent them splitting as you nail them on. Apply a silicone-based sealant to the underside to reduce the chance of water seeping into the joint and rotting the top of the post. Nail a post cap to the top of each post.

Trick of the trade

Using concrete to set your posts will give you a sturdier fence compared with using metal post supports, and this U-Can Mix in the Bag concrete makes the job super simple. Just add water to the bag, give it a shake and voilà – ready-to-use concrete you can put straight into the post hole. One bag will fill a post hole that's 300mm x 450mm.

U-Can Mix in the Bag Concrete
17kg, £8.65, B&Q



ASK THE EXPERTS

We answer some of your DIY and maintenance questions, with a little help from the experts

Q I need to replace the fence in my garden – can you recommend a product which will keep the new posts anchored in the ground without the need for any concrete?

K Chadwick, Somerset



A *Susanne Pinnock, General Manager of SteadyPost Ltd offers this reply...*

Lots of gardeners don't like concrete – it's heavy to handle, can be unsightly, is hard to remove and not very eco-friendly. The traditional alternative, spikes, must be sledgehammered in and it's difficult to get them straight, which means your fence post won't be straight either. Plus you risk damage to underground cables and roots.

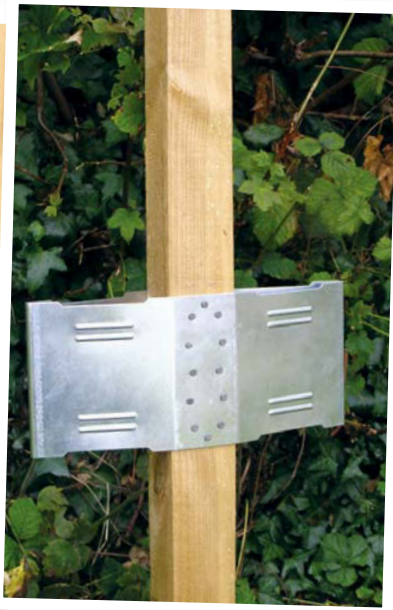
We've designed FenceFins to get over these issues. They're easy to use and simple to get right – so you get a strong, straight fence post without too much physical effort.

To install, just nail a pair of FenceFins to the post, dig a narrow hole, pop the post and FenceFins in the hole and backfill the soil, compacting it well as you go. You can easily make adjustments to the post to ensure it's properly straight as the backfilling progresses. All the soil should go back in so there's none to get rid of afterwards.

The way FenceFins work is that they present a lot of surface area to the soil which resists the force of the wind on the fence above. They were invented by a civil engineer and they've been thoroughly tested to beyond Force 8 gale strength. Over time they will get stronger and stronger as the ground settles too.

Because FenceFins sit just below ground level they're completely invisible once installed and allow planting right up to the post. The eco-conscious gardener will also like the fact that the carbon footprint of the material in FenceFins is about 25%-30% less than for quick-setting concrete or spikes.

Prices start from around £8.99 per FenceFin. For more information and to find your nearest stockist visit www.steadypost.co.uk.



Q I am currently looking to swap the curtains in my home for blinds but as I have two toddlers, I am worried about the safety risk of cords. What are my options?

Mrs P Akhtar, by email



A *Rebecca Talbot, trade marketing executive from Sunflex, the home for brands such as Swish, Harrison Drape, Integra and Universal, comments...*

Swish created its 'Safety in Mind' programme to ensure that all of its window dressings meet the stringent BS EN regulations to reduce the risk of strangulation from hanging cord loops, while still allowing you to use your curtain pole, track or blind.

There are various options available that will help to make your blinds safer for complete peace of mind, without compromising on style.

Using a cleat to secure loose cords will keep them out of children's reach. Always ensure that the cleat is fitted as close to the headrail as possible, but in all cases at least 1.5m from the floor. For loop cords, fitting a p-clip to fix the loop to the wall will reduce the risk of your child being able to access the loop. Fitting a cord break onto a roller blind bobble cord is an easy way to make the cord safer. Look out for tension pulleys which hold cords or chains constantly taut and, on Venetian-style blinds, set the cord stops as close to the headrail as possible when the blind is fully lowered to prevent the inner cords being pulled into a loop.

When looking for a new blind, make sure you choose one with the 'warning' label on the packaging as it means the product comes with the correct safety devices. For peace of mind, all of Sunflex's blinds come with the appropriate stops, cleats and pulleys so you can be sure to have the right fitting to hand when you are putting the blind up.

However, for those who would prefer not to have any cords at all, Swish has just introduced its new cordless aluminium Venetian blinds range which has a patented, integrated safety system that takes away the need for cords to lift, lower or tilt the blind. Using its revolutionary SwishRise cordless system, all of the blinds can be raised, lowered and tilted with just one touch of the bottom bar.

Prices start from £17 for a 60cm x 120cm cordless Venetian blind. For further information on Swish's products or its Safety In Mind programme, visit www.swish.co.uk or call 01543 272600.

Q I've read a lot in the news recently about the investigation into the 'Big Six' energy suppliers and the Government telling consumers to switch if they're not happy. I've never changed my supplier – can you give me some advice about switching?
L Palmer, Norfolk



A *Juliet Davenport, CEO of independent energy supplier Good Energy, says...*

It might surprise you to hear that, according to the government's energy regulator Ofgem, a staggering 60% of consumers have never switched suppliers. No matter which supplier you are with, or which tariff you are on, you should always think about moving around. The process is also much easier than you might think and can take just five minutes.

Once you've made sure that you can cancel your current energy deal without incurring any extra costs, the first step to take when it comes to switching is to start thinking about which energy company you might like to switch to. As a smaller energy supplier, we know that customer service and competitive deals mean everything to customers. That's why, before you make your final choice, you should always take a look at which supplier is rated best on

price and for customer satisfaction by any of the recognised price comparison sites, or by going directly to the website of the energy company you're interested in.

For example, at Good Energy we're proud to have topped a recent Money Saving Expert poll for best customer service and also have come in the top two of the annual Which? energy company customer satisfaction survey for the last four years in a row. Both offer a comparison service on their websites.

When it comes to finally getting a quote, make sure you've got all the information to hand, such as details of your current supplier and tariff, plus your bank details.

Good Energy is an independent energy supplier specialising in 100% renewable electricity and excellent customer service. Visit www.goodenergy.co.uk for more information.



Q I'd like to convert my loft into an extra bedroom but I'm not sure if it's suitable – what are the requirements? How much would I need to spend and how much value could it add to my property?
Mrs Kemp, by email



A *Rob Wood, Director of the Simply Construction Group including Simply Loft, Simply Extend and Simply Basement, has these tips...*

As a rule of thumb you need 2.2m between the top of the floor joist of the loft to the bottom of the ridge beam to be able to convert your loft into a living space. If you're unsure, all good loft companies will send a surveyor to your property to evaluate the space and provide a free, no obligation quote. You may also need planning permission if your property is a flat or within a conservation area. If your property isn't either of the aforementioned, you will have Permitted Development (PD) rights. There are some PD constraints, for instance terraced properties are only allowed to develop an additional 40 cubic metres of extra space, while semi-detached and detached properties are allowed 50 cubic metres. Loft conversions from Simply Loft are

bespoke to ensure they meet the needs of the client, but the main types of conversion are; Skylight or Velux, Dormer, Mansard, and Hip to Gable. On average a loft conversion will fit within the budget of £30K-£40K and take around six to eight weeks to build, but it really depends on the size, type and internal specifications.

Creating an additional space, whether that's an extra bedroom, bathroom or family den, will almost certainly add value to your property, but the exact value would depend upon your property and the size and type of loft conversion you plan to undertake. We would recommend seeking the advice of an estate agent before commencing any work.

For more information on loft conversions or to book a free no obligation quote visit our website www.simplyloft.co.uk or call 0800 917 7571.



Q My dishwasher seems to not be working as well as it should be. After a washing cycle it leaves grime and dirt on my dishes and does not clean thoroughly enough. I have tried different dishwasher tablets but nothing seems to help! Do you have any advice?
D Morton, by email



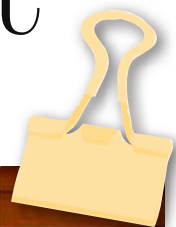
A *Martin Hodson, Marketing Director of Spotless Punch, has this advice...*

It sounds as if limescale may be attacking your dishwasher. Limescale is not always visible so it is important not to forget that it can detriment your dishwasher and also your washing machine, especially if you live in a hard water area. Try OUST Dishwasher and Washing Machine Descaler which removes odour, grease and food deposits from dishwashers. It costs from around £3.26 and is available from all major supermarkets.

If you have a DIY or maintenance question, write to Ask the Experts, Your Home, Hubert Burda Media UK, The Tower, Phoenix Square, Colchester, Essex CO4 9HU or email asktheexperts@yhmag.co.uk

Your *July* checklist

Discover seasonal tasks for your home and garden



✓ IF YOU DO ONE THING THIS MONTH...

The garden furniture has been unpacked and cleaned, the drinks are cooling in the fridge and the barbecue is ready to go – but before you invite everybody over, make sure your garden is looking its best with our top tips for sprucing up your outside space.

- A patio is the perfect spot to host an alfresco dinner party, but if yours is looking more drab than fab, a good blast with a pressure washer should get it looking as good as new without the need for cleaning chemicals. Karcher recommends that you hold the pressure washer about 15cm away from the patio and concentrate on a small area at a time until you've worked your way across the whole patio. Pressure washers are an investment buy, so if you don't think you'll get much use out of owning one, there are lots of companies that offer them for day hire.

- If your flowerbeds are looking a little bare, it might not be too late to get them blooming. Thompson & Morgan's annual early flowering mixed seeds, £1.99, promise to produce a mix of colourful flowers in as little as 40 days. They can be sown until the end of June and will flower right through to September, so your beds will look great all summer long. If you don't have any borders, pick up some colourful planters or have a go at spray-painting some plain pots to dot around your garden instead.

- For those of you whose gardens are on the small side, it's still possible to create a welcoming space for summer gatherings. It might not be an option to have enough chairs and tables for everyone to sit at, so invest in a couple of cheap, folding tables to use as snack stations or a place for guests to place their drinks while they chat. Decorate walls or trees with outdoor string lights or lanterns too to provide some ambient lighting for when the evening draws in.

- If you really want your party to pop, update your furniture by painting it in summery shades, or if you're short on time, invest in a bright tablecloth or table runner to hide an existing tired or stained table top.



Bulb on a rope, £3.99 each, The Range

✓ Essential buy for July

Perfect for lighting up your summer get togethers, these outdoor LED bulbs are battery-operated and easily turned on and off by pulling the colourful cord. Mix and match colours for a festival vibe, or co-ordinate them with your party decorations for a budget-friendly style statement.

✓ A neat idea

If you're going away on holiday this month, make sure your spare key is on hand for neighbours and pet sitters without compromising the safety of your home. The key safe can be unlocked using a combination that you can share with whoever might need access to your home while you're away, meaning there's no need to worry about leaving a key under the doormat.



Yale Y500 key safe, £23.94, The Safe Shop



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Reader homes

Turn the page to find out the best ways to add value to your home



88

Stephanie Zak filled her apartment with funky vintage finds



Show off your hard work in *Your Home*

Have you just finished decorating your home? If so we'd love to see your photos and, who knows, your home may be featured in a future issue. Please send photos to Laura Higgins, Your Home, Hubert Burda Media UK, The Tower, Phoenix Square, Colchester, CO4 9HU



92 Grace Craddock made her first house really feel like a home



80

Caroline Craven lovingly restored her Tudor cottage



74

Christine Edwards' home was inspired by the seaside



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Our house reminds me of holidays by the sea

Christine and Paul Edwards' modern home in Lincolnshire was inspired by the light and colours of the seaside

Christine Edwards has fond memories of childhood holidays by the sea. 'I was five when my parents bought a caravan on top of the cliffs at Flamborough in Yorkshire,' she says. 'Mum and I would spend whole summers there. I remember big seas and skies, rich blues and creams, and lots of sun. When we moved here I wanted to bring the essence of those sunny outdoor colours into the home.'

It was the amount of natural light pouring into their home that convinced Christine and Paul to buy the property in the first place. They had been looking to move from their 1930s semi into a large old house that had character, to cater for changing family needs, but Christine changed her mind when she saw the light, spacious rooms and pretty village centre location. 'I was won over,' she says. 'It had

been beautifully kept but the interior was decorated in bright strong colours which were not our style. I prefer neutrals, so as soon as we moved in we decorated every room and laid new floors – except for the living room which had a light new carpet that we really liked.'

As well as decorating, Christine and Paul replaced the dated staircase with glass balustrades, bringing even more light into



Good idea!

Paint kitchen chairs in different colours and add pretty cushions for a cheerful start to the morning.



✦ Christine couldn't bear to replace the newly-fitted pine units when they bought the house, so she painted the doors in Annie Sloan Old White paint and added new handles

the hallway and landing, and Christine hand-painted all of the newly-fitted pine kitchen units in a shade of old white to make the long kitchen as light as possible.

'It would have been such a waste to take them all out because they are good quality,' says Christine. 'Unfortunately they made the room look quite dark and I wanted everything to look light and airy.'

With the house decorated and furnished Christine turned her attention to the details. Like her Mum before her, Christine is a hoarder who treasures anything sentimental. 'I love anything which has personal value,' she says. 'I didn't want to fill my home with things that didn't mean anything to us as a family.'

✦ Christine added shelves bought at vintage fairs and a breakfast table and chairs from Made in Worlaby, then added Fifties-style accessories and signs bought to create a homely, eclectic style



THE HOME

A four-bedroom detached house built in 1982 in north Lincolnshire.

WHO LIVES HERE?

Christine Edwards, her husband Paul, and their daughter Rachael, 24. Christine runs an upcycled furniture and brocante business called Made in Worlaby (01652 618916 www.facebook.com/madeinworlabylincolnshirewolds), and Paul owns a town planning consultancy. They have lived here since 2003.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT YOUR HOUSE?

'The amount of natural light which pours into every room. It's very uplifting.'

WHAT WAS YOUR BEST BARGAIN?

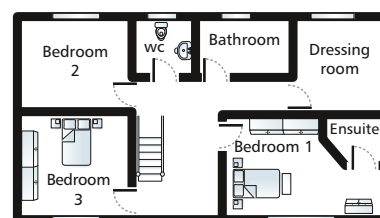
'The coffee table cost £15 at a car boot sale. It's an old school teacher's desk which we sanded, customised and painted.'

WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO SHOP?

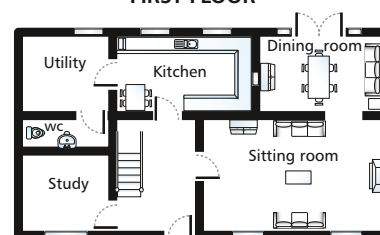
'I love antique fairs so I often go to the ones at Lincoln and Newark, and I love Bridge Street Interiors, in Brigg, which is full of eclectic things for the home.'

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD CHANGE?

'Yes, I'm gradually re-plastering the original 1980s ceilings which were all swirly Artex.'



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

For stockists see page 120

Good idea!

Christine and Paul cleverly made the coffee table by cutting down an old teacher's desk to the right height.



‘When we moved here I wanted to bring the essence of those sunny outdoor colours into the home.’

✦ The working 1959 Wurlitzer jukebox was a surprise 50th birthday gift for Paul, which Christine bought for £5,000, from Beyst Jukebox Co., a jukebox restorer in Louth. ‘We were both DJs when we were younger and we have around 700 vinyl singles,’ says Christine. She bought the glass cabinet for £10 from an antique fair and painted it in Annie Sloan Duck Egg on the outside, with a panel of Antoinette Pink inside. The clock is from Bridge Street Interiors

◁ When Christine took early retirement she developed a long-term hobby of painting and upcycling furniture into a small business, selling at vintage fairs throughout the region. As a result, she spends most weekends browsing round antique fairs, car boot sales and second-hand shops, searching for furniture to mend and upgrade. It’s not unusual for some of her favourite finds to end up in the home, rather than for sale.

‘Before I started selling things I would come home with yet another treasure and Paul would say: ‘Where on earth is it going to go? The joke was that if anything stayed still long enough it would get painted.’ When friends started asking Christine to find furniture for their houses too, she



realised she could turn her hobby into a small business from home.

'I don't like to see things go to waste and I learned to make do and mend from a very early age,' says Christine. 'My mum always collected things and the cupboards used to be full of her treasures, while my father's garage was full of old bits of furniture which might have come in handy one day. They never liked to throw anything away and my dad, being a precision engineer, was always taking things apart and putting them back together again. It was in my blood really. I am always finding new uses for things and I love anything which is worn, well-loved and full of life.'

Daughter Rachael has inherited her mum's love of anything vintage and romantic. Her bedroom reflects her love of Paris and fashion, and one of the four bedrooms in the house has even been turned into a dressing room especially for Rachael's extensive collection of clothes, shoes, bags and jewellery. Her furniture

✦ Christine loves all shades of blue because they remind her of her childhood upbringing by the sea, so the living room is a tranquil combination of blues and creams, including the leather sofas from DFS. A local joiner made the fire surround to replace a dated Adam-style fireplace. There are more than 32 clocks in the house, many of them from Bridge Street Interiors in Brigg



is all hand-painted by Christine and she is also a collector of fashion magazines which she keeps in pristine condition and date order.

'We like a lot of the same things,' says Christine. 'We both like reorganising rooms or squeezing in a new find. We both have treasures we wouldn't part with. And Paul is also a bit of a vintage fan – he recently found a neon sign which will go on the wall over the juke box. He called ▶

✦ The dining table and chairs belonged to Christine's mum and have been teamed with a complementary barley twist drop-leaf table from Paul's family, and a chaise in a pale blue fabric, bought from an antique fair. Christine added a modern twist with a light fitting from Habitat. The blue armchair was bought privately and recovered in a co-ordinating blue fabric

The bed in Rachael's room was one of the first pieces of furniture Christine painted. 'It was orange pine and it took me hours to finish,' says Christine. The painted bedside tables and ottoman are from Made in Worlaby. Rachael loves fashion and photography, hence the tailor's dummy and the Audrey Hepburn photograph from TK Maxx



A dated staircase was replaced with modern glass balustrades and the walls are full of quirky signs and sayings, including this one from Next



‘The joke was that if anything stayed still long enough it would get painted.’

◁ one day to say he was running a bit late – I later discovered it was because he was bringing the sign home in the back of the car and was driving really slowly to avoid breaking it.’

Although Christine's tastes are eclectic, it's her passion for all things blue and cream which has become a defining influence throughout their home. Almost every room contains a hint of blue – some more than others – in the soft furnishings, armchairs, painted accessories and her beautiful collection of colourful ceramics and glassware.

‘I have liked blue for as long as I can remember and never miss an opportunity to introduce another shade into the house,’ she says. ‘It reminds me of those halcyon childhood days by the coast. It doesn't matter how grey it is outside, the blues and creams in our home, along with the light that pours into every room, always reminds me of those sunny holidays by the sea.’ **YH**

✦ Christine wanted a modern en suite, using fixtures and fittings from Bathstore. She added a table, bought years ago, for storing towels and accessories. 'I always try to mix old and new for a more interesting look,' she says

✦ Christine stripped and limed the pine bed, which she bought from an antique fair, along with the bedside tables to which she also fitted new handles. 'I like anything to do with cherubs or angels, which I hang on the wall or group with other treasures,' says Christine. The table at the end of the bed was bought online and painted



Good idea!

Door hooks are a useful way of turning dead space into a practical storage idea. Use them for hanging bags, scarves or jewellery.

5 IDEAS TO STEAL

CUTE CUSHIONS

Make dining chairs more comfortable with co-ordinating seat pads.

Organic seat pads in Madeline lavender and Ledbury blue grey, £20 each, Ochre & Ocre



STYLISH TYPOGRAPHY

Choose typography to adorn your walls. A personalised family version will add sentimental value.

Everyone's cup of Tea personalised print, from £35, The Drifting Bear Co.



SPELL IT OUT

Christine and Paul have bought cushions with their initials to add a bit of fun to the living room sofa.

Single letter cushions, from £18 each, Swanky Maison



TOUCH OF GLAMOUR

Like Christine, include a few glam pieces in your collection of furniture.

Bouji chaise in biscuit beige, £349, Made.com



OCCASIONAL PIECES

A colourful console table at the end of the bed will provide extra storage.

Aqua marine three-drawer console table, £471, Sweetpea & Willow

We gave our Tudor cottage the restoration it deserved

Caroline and Paul Craven invested everything in their dream home, but it took some time to make it perfect



Caroline and Paul Craven sold everything they owned – including their cars and much of their furniture – in order to buy their perfect home. ‘And then it turned out to be not quite so perfect,’ says Caroline. ‘We’d had a full buildings survey done but it was alarming how many problems turned up once we’d moved in with our children’. This was nearly four years ago when Sam was less than a year old.

Their new home was a four-bedroom Tudor cottage in Wootton Waven, Warwickshire, standing in just under an acre of garden, ideal for their three children and two dogs. ‘It’s called Travellers Rest and the original cottage dates back to 1588,’ says Caroline. ‘It’s the oldest house and only remaining thatch in the village. Long ago it would have provided food and drink to wayfarers and maybe even a bed for the night.’

‘We wanted a project and we thought we had one in that the house was a dated >



The Windsor chairs came from various places such as the local charity shops. The chandelier was from Bhs. Paul painted them in Earthborn Straw clay paint



Despite the work that had to be done in here the couple managed to keep costs down. For, plastering the walls, laying Cotswold stone flags, fitting new units and worktops, refurbishing a fireplace, installing an Aga and buying the appliances, all came to just under £12,000

Good idea!

The kitchen units are all free-standing so they can be moved to wherever wanted, and the island is on wheels for the same reason.

COME ON IN...



THE HOME:

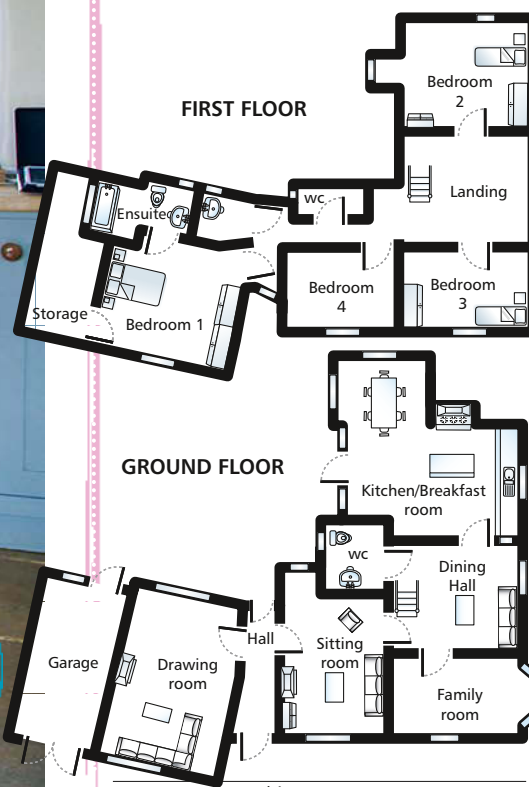
A four-bedroom Tudor cottage in Warwickshire bought in 2011.

WHO LIVES HERE?

Caroline and Paul Craven with their children Daniel, 11, Lottie, nine, and Sam, five, along with their two dogs Betsy the Dachshund and Digby the Labrador. Caroline has her own jewellery and lampworking business, Craven and White (07977 176362 www.cravenandwhite.com). Paul is a strategy manager for a life insurance company.

ANY BARGAIN FINDS?

'We are very ecologically minded and love to upcycle to fit in with our traditional-style country home. Our sitting room coffee table was originally a kitchen table and some of the kitchen Windsor chairs came from our local council tip shop at a cost of around £5 each. The Bosch electric oven was £60 and the kitchen chest of drawers, originally a dresser, was £30, both from eBay, and we painted the drawers in Charleston Grey by Farrow & Ball.'



For stockists see page 120

Paul added the oak lintel and slate hearth to the false chimneybreast, both bought from reclamation yards, then he installed an electric wood-burner. The sideboard was £200, bought new as a flat-pack from eBay, while the mirror was £10 from the council tip shop. The wall lights were from Next

Good idea!

Paul built a false chimneybreast, to provide a focal point for the room, which now houses an electric wood-burner.



Good idea!

Caroline and Paul turned an old dining table into a new coffee table by cutting down the legs and repainting it.

The couple brought the cream Tetrad sofa from a previous house and upcycled the coffee table from a £5 tip shop find. The bookcase cost £100 from a closing down sale in Leamington Spa. The walls are painted in Malt Chocolate from Dulux



◀ yet traditional black and white timber framed cottage, with a grade II listing and a thatched roof!' says Caroline. 'In fact the first time we saw the house, we almost dismissed it as the kitchen was too small. But then we thought we'd take a leap of faith, so we went for it, and had our offer accepted the same day.'

However three weeks after moving in they began to realise there were some problems, chief of which was condensation. The couple consulted Peter Ward, a historic buildings consultant, who was fascinated by the ancient house with its wattle and daub walls, and gave them a lot of advice. 'It seems that previous owners had freshened it up using vinyl paint and modern gypsum plaster, both inside and out, so the walls couldn't breathe,' says Paul. 'They had also used modern cement over the original lime mortar which compounded the problem. Lime mortar is needed on a half-timbered building as it flexes when the timbers expand and contract; if you use modern materials like cement the walls can crack. Effectively the house had been sealed, and the effect was condensation, and a lot of it'.

The couple sat down together and chose various local tradespeople to help them with the enormous task ahead, especially

The landing has an original wide plank floor underneath carpet. The couple refurbished the staircase by adding risers and attractive yet traditional metal spindles from Richard Burbidge

'Luckily Paul is brilliant at DIY and he did a whole lot himself.'

with manually stripping out the cement and removing the vinyl paint and plaster. All in all, this took some 18 months of sheer hard work. In several rooms this meant taking the walls back to the brickwork before replastering them with lime mortar.

Soon a whole collection of craftsmen had joined them on-site as the couple decided to go the whole hog and completely renovate the cottage. This included a full rewire, then replumbing and moving the kitchen back to its original pre-60s position. They replaced the poor quality flooring in the lounge and utility and removed all the black paint on the beams.

'Luckily Paul is brilliant at DIY and he did a whole lot himself,' says Caroline. 'Everything from laying new floors, fitting the kitchen, repointing and decorating to adding risers and new banisters and spindles to the open-plan staircase. In fact, we both worked flat out for over a year to keep the costs down. Every night after Paul came home we would resume our labour of love. I distinctly remember us both stripping exterior paint by torchlight.'

Of course, living in a thatched cottage meant learning a thing or two about straw. Caroline and Paul quickly came to know and befriend a local thatcher, Andy Compton from Brandon Thatchers. Andy surveyed the roof, repaired and rectified several long-standing issues with it as well as helping with many other aspects of the renovation. He even added his

straw peacock to the rear dormer as his decorative trademark.'

At the peak of the renovations the family – and the furniture – had to move out for a several weeks. 'When we came back the house was in a terrible state, looking very forlorn with its bare bricks and stripped flooring,' says Caroline. 'But at least it was now a blank canvas.'

'After removing the black paint from the beams, we asked Whetstone Interiors ▷

✚ This was once the old kitchen and the couple stripped the walls themselves to remove the multi-coloured tiles. They removed the old broken log burner, which the Cravens subsequently sold for refurbishing. A friend gave them the leather sofa and the corner table came from eBay. Caroline's mother made the tartan curtains with material from Vale Interiors in Redditch and turned the offcuts into cushion covers. Paul painted the walls in Earthborn Donkey Ride clay paint



The wallpaper in here was an unattractive dirty-looking magnolia Anaglypta, but there was so much else to do elsewhere that Caroline decided it was easiest just to repaint it a soft eau de nil by Dulux. The wooden bed frame came with them from a previous house, and the bedding is by Susie Watson Designs

‘Now we love our home because it’s everything it should have originally been.’



The beautiful air balloons came from Barn Antiques in nearby Stratford-upon-Avon. The walls are painted in Earthborn's Mittens, a clay-based, breathable paint

◀ Ltd., a local father and son team, to decorate the whole house. This involved some careful touching up of the original beams and plasterwork. David and his son did such a fantastic job, it's almost impossible to identify old from new,' says Caroline. Every room was changed, even if it was just a case of redecoration. However, the biggest job was moving the kitchen into the old sitting room, especially as they had to convert an unattractive 70s fireplace into a space to house their re-conditioned Aga. 'The old range behind had been completely disguised but we were able to expose the original brickwork and timber lintel,' says Paul. 'It was weeks of careful work but we were able to use the original chimney as a flue for the extractor fan, and we found ways to work round the original timbers and brickwork without causing any unnecessary alterations or damage to the fabric of the original property.'

Using lime mortar on the kitchen walls gave them an authentic bumpy texture and they replaced the old parquet flooring with Cotswold limestone flags in here and the utility room.

Then they put in a free-standing wooden kitchen bought online which the couple

+ Caroline is a silversmith and lampworker who produces her own artisan glass beads from rods of Murano glass, to make her beautiful jewellery under the name of Craven & White



then painted in Farrow & Ball's eggshell in Pigeon. They also bought a granite-topped island from eBay for a few hundred pounds and added a reclaimed Belfast sink, another treasured eBay find. In the utility room, they also replaced the 1970s radiator with a reclaimed cast iron one for a more authentic feel. The couple opted for solid oak worktops and splashbacks, which were Danish oiled to protect them, along with slate tiles to the sides of the Aga.

As for the impractical old kitchen it has now become their snug but first they had to gut it, strip the multi-coloured tiles from the walls and then replaster it in more lime mortar before redecorating with Earthborn clay paint. Amazingly they sold the old units on eBay for £300, and didn't even need to make room in the skip for it!

'At times it was just horrendous. It must have taken us two and a half years to get all

✦ The couple repainted the wood panelling in Farrow & Ball French Grey to add to the traditional feel of the bathroom, along with the roll top bath

Good idea!

Caroline and Paul utilised the window alcove in Lottie's room to house a sink, perfect for brushing teeth before bedtime.

✦ Lottie's pretty wooden bed came from Argos and the previous owners left behind her blue curtains. The walls are painted in Earthborn's Mittens, a clay-based, breathable paint



the work done as we couldn't afford to blitz our way through non-stop,' says Caroline. And Paul says, 'At its worst, it was difficult to see light at the end of the tunnel. It was almost a surprise to find the window frames were all quite sound.'

As the couple are ecologically-minded and modern furniture would not suit such a traditional cottage, the couple had quite a lot of fun looking for items they could upcycle. 'My mother made many of the cushions and curtains, or cut down old ones to fit,' says Caroline. 'We scoured

eBay for bargains. We bought things very cheaply from the local council tip shop, and even found several bargains at various reclamation yards. Then we painted them!'

Now the house is as warm, cosy and full of character as anyone could want. 'What I've learned is that a modern full building survey isn't necessarily relevant to a 1588 cottage,' says Paul. 'But we've corrected all the issues, caused mainly by the use of incorrect modern materials, and now we love our home because it's everything it should have originally been.' **YH**

5 IDEAS TO STEAL

LOVE HEARTS

Caroline has filled her dresser with pretty Emma Bridgewater ceramics

Pink Hearts small teacup, £12.95 each, Emma Bridgewater



ADD GLAMOUR

Add a touch of class to your décor with an indulgent, sparkling chandelier.

Six-light glass chandelier, £295, Holly Willoughby for Bhs



ROMANTIC CANDLELIGHT

Create an atmospheric glow in the living room with an impressive looking candelabra.

Moulin candelabra, £79.50, Within

BLUE HUES

Hints of blue complement a white scheme, keeping it fresh.

Francesca cushion in pale topaz, £50, Laura Ashley



TRADITIONAL SHADES

Use traditional colours in a period property for an authentic feel.

French Grey Estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5l, Farrow & Ball

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I love interiors with a story to tell

Stephanie Zak's London flat is the perfect backdrop for her collection of vintage finds

The newly reconfigured living room is Stephanie's favourite part of the flat. A black pendant from Habitat makes a dramatic statement, while the charming collection of vintage buys and cast-offs gives the space individual style



Stephanie Zak's bright, light-filled apartment – with whitewashed walls, bleached oak floorboards and healthy smattering of vintage finds – is a lesson in offbeat style. Open shelves are artfully arranged with glassware, ceramics and pot plants; beaten-up suitcases are piled high; and a simple mantelpiece, stacked with postcards and photo-booth family prints, makes a striking focal point.

But when she first set foot into the flat – located in a large 1930s red brick block – it was in very poor repair. 'I bought the apartment shortly before my 30th birthday; it was a repossession, in need of a

huge amount of work and TLC,' Stephanie recalls. 'The only room which was in any way decent was the bathroom but, even there, I hated the new tiles that had been fitted and knew they'd have to go.'

While the flat had no central heating, bare concrete floors, a dated cream kitchen and badly plastered walls, Stephanie was determined to turn it around. 'I'd been looking for quite a while before coming across it. I looked past the negatives and could see what a fantastically light and airy place it was,' she says. 'I knew it could be the home I'd dreamt of for a very long time.'



Fortunately Stephanie was able to call upon a family friend who laid the new wooden floor, installed central heating, retiled the bathroom and knocked through the kitchen and living room wall to create a large, open-plan space. 'Despite the massive amount of work required I did very little myself,' she concedes. 'I'm fine when it comes to small jobs like painting an item of furniture, but on bigger projects I just end up getting impatient and doing a terrible job.' However, as a first-time buyer, Stephanie was keen to limit the cost of the renovation. She kept the original bathroom suite and updated the look with a lick of paint, simple subway tiles and a length of striped fabric hung in place of a traditional bath side. She also sourced period, etched glass mirrors and pretty vintage canisters that are displayed on open shelves.

Similarly, the kitchen – which showcases Stephanie's collection of retro homewares, colourful cookery books and quirky thrift shop buys – was transformed on something of a budget. Rather than rip out the existing cabinetry, she >

➤ Stephanie updated her kitchen fairly cheaply by keeping the cabinetry and buying new doors from B&Q. The sleek, handleless style gives a contemporary edge

➤ The couple rent out their flat on Airbnb (www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/797551). 'We decamp to our parents' for the night, as they live close by,' says Stephanie

➤ 'I love painted white walls: they make it much easier to introduce colour with the use of accessories and soft furnishings,' says Stephanie



Good idea!

Displaying colourful cookery books, as Stephanie has done here, injects colour into the scheme.



COME ON IN...



WHO LIVES HERE?

Stephanie Zak, 34, a photographic shoot producer, and her boyfriend Ben, also 34, who works in the music industry.

THE PROPERTY

A one-bedroom flat in a 1930s block in South London.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE

BEST ABOUT THE FLAT?

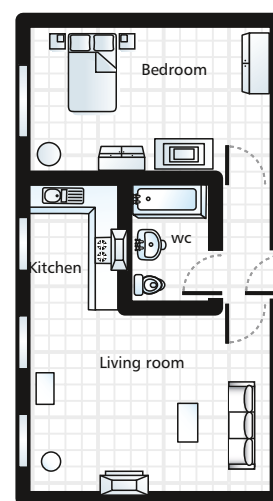
'I love the natural light – even on a gloomy day it feels bright and airy. Fortunately the sash windows were replaced before I moved in and are high-quality replicas of the 1930s originals.'

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST BARGAIN?

'Some of my best finds – such as the coffee table in our living room – have been salvaged from the street. It's amazing what people throw out!'

WHAT'S YOUR TOP TIP?

'Think carefully about how you display your favourite things – play around with contrasting shapes and textures for a mismatched look.'



FLOORPLAN

For stockists see page 120

‘I can easily potter about here for hours – drinking tea, listening to music and rearranging my displays.’

◀ chose to change the doors and worktop, and retiled the splashback in a clean, contemporary style. ‘I like to think that there’s an illusion of a high-end finish but I’ve stuck to materials I could afford,’ says Stephanie. ‘One day I’ll have a lovely granite work surface, but for now my grey laminate worktop will have to do!’

When it came to furnishing the flat, Stephanie wanted to create an eclectic look. She scoured online auctions, charity shops and car boot sales – picking up vintage mirrors, silver-plated canisters, time-worn leather luggage and a retro teapot with a deep teal glaze. ‘The flat is full of treasures with stories to tell,’ she says. ‘I also love the things you can find in the street – I once came across a mosaic 1960s coffee table as well as an industrial Singer sewing table. They help to create a look that can’t easily be reproduced with brand new, shop-bought products.’

One of Stephanie’s favourite finds is a mid-century doll’s house, bought for only £10 at a car boot sale in Battersea, and previously owned by a woman who had amassed a vast collection. ‘Her grandson sold it to me and was even kind enough to deliver it to my door. All the rooms are decorated differently with swirly 1950s wallpaper,’ she says.

Stephanie also likes to display a glass tank with glass figurines inside – an installation created by her grandfather, an artist. ‘It’s a complete one-off. If I had to save one item from the flat in a fire this would be it,’ she says.

Her grandparents’ house is a continual source of inspiration for Stephanie. ‘Whenever I visit, I love having a root around in their attic and never leave empty-handed. They don’t mind though – they like clearing the clutter,’ she laughs.

The property is continually evolving as Stephanie adds to and modifies her style. ‘When I first moved in I was addicted to vintage, but these days I’m increasingly drawn to the monochrome Scandinavian

+ Stephanie’s look is a playful mix of vintage and Scandinavian style



+ A contemporary grey sofa from Ikea is accessorised with cushions, some made from patterned tea towels



Good idea!

A stack of beaten-up suitcases adds character and also provides useful storage.



✦ Deep turquoise curtains add a splash of colour. 'The bedspread was a gift from Ben for my 30th birthday. We bought it in Marrakesh – we haggled and managed to get it for next to nothing,' says Stephanie


✦ Stephanie kept costs down by reusing the existing bathroom suite. 'I inherited the material for the bath side from my grandma's best friend. It used to be a mattress cover,' says Stephanie.

look and have started to introduce more black, white and grey.'

After all the alterations, Stephanie and Ben are understandably delighted with their home. 'We live in such a wonderfully creative area – a real cultural melting pot,' says Stephanie. 'At the weekend we'll go for a run in the local park and shop for fruit and vegetables, before heading off for a long, lazy brunch. In the evenings we'll invite friends round for dinner or head off to a gig at Brixton Academy.'

While in a few years' time their priorities might change, they have no intention on



moving far. 'One day we may have to leave our perfect little spot and find another perfect spot – but, one thing's for sure, it'll be close by,' says Stephanie. 

5 IDEAS TO STEAL

IT'S BLACK AND WHITE

Like Stephanie, arrange a collection of monochrome cushions to update your sofa.

by Sainsbury's Monochrome cushion, £15; by Sainsbury's black knitted throw, £25, both Sainsbury's



MAKE A FASHION STATEMENT

Display jewellery or clothes on a stylish mannequin.

Rope mannequin, £140, The French Bedroom Company



SCANDI CHIC

Give your home Nordic charm with bleached oak flooring.

Perspective Wenge Passionata laminate, £27.99 per sq m, Quick-Step



COLOUR CLASH

Display coloured and metallic glassware for a mismatched look in the kitchen.

Gold scratch-effect wine glass, £6 each; hi-ball, £5 each, both Tesco



GLOBETROTTING

Give old suitcases an authentic edge with travel stickers.

Cavallini and Co. Destinations stickers, £10.95, Hampton Blue





I named my house after a famous jockey, it only seemed right

Grace Craddock turned her cottage from a hairdressing salon into a comfortable home

Grace Craddock and her brother and sister were baffled when on Christmas Day 2013 their father, dressed to the nines in a Santa suit, handed them all a little box each with a key inside. 'We already had a car each so we couldn't think what the keys were for,' says Grace. They could hardly believe it when dad announced he'd bought them

each a house. 'It was all so emotional – we were laughing and crying, hugs all round. It was such a shock,' says Grace. 'After we'd recovered we spent Christmas afternoon driving round to see the houses.'

It all came about because Grace's father, Robin, had bought himself a racehorse for a mere 6,000 euros and it turned out to be such a brilliant racer, winning lots ▷





✦ Grace's family are friends with the owner of Abbey Kitchens in Winchcombe, which is how Grace came to buy a beautiful bespoke kitchen painted in Skylight 205 by Farrow & Ball, with Unistone Bianca Carrara quartz worktops. The kitchen began as two kitchenettes and had a horrible plastic roof and a red shiny lino floor. It now has a solid roof with a lantern to let in the light and French windows overlooking the courtyard

Good idea!

A circular breakfast bar takes up very little space but makes a great place for guests to sit while Grace cooks supper.



✦ Grace loves the island with its attached oak-topped circular breakfast bar in oak. The bar stools were just one of the pieces of furniture she bought from her friend Arlene – originally they cost £99 each from Dwell



THE HOME:

A two-bedroom cottage in Cheltenham, bought in December 2013 and refurbished between March and July 2014.

WHO LIVES HERE?

Grace Craddock, 23, a civil servant.

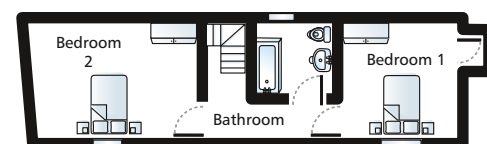
ANY BARGAIN FINDS?

'I bought my Victorian-style brass bed from Bhs for £300, reduced from £459, and my black metal guest bed for £80 from Argos, complete with new mattress from eBay for £50. My two bedside tables cost £25 for the pair from Dunelm as they were very slightly damaged, and my armchair from HomeSense was £150. Then nearly all my downstairs furniture came from our family friends, sisters Lorraine and Arlene who were having a clear-out of some nearly-new pieces!'

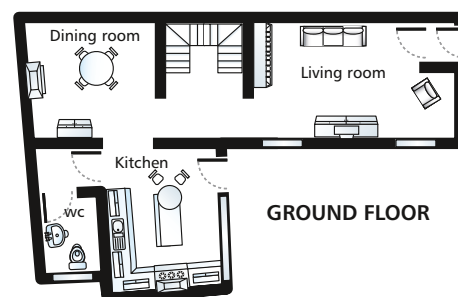
WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO SHOP?

'HomeSense, as you can find one-off pieces that are unique and quirky, that add character to the house to make it personal. There are always bargains in the clearance sections but it's all reasonably priced anyway. Every time I go in I find it very hard not to buy anything!'

Feature Victoria Jenkins Photos Mackenzie



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

For stockists see page 120

Grace's striking glass and chrome dining table came from her friend Arlene whose brother-in-law, sculptor Ric James, had designed and made it. She also bought the brightly patterned Ikea dining chairs from Arlene too. The big glass vase came from HomeSense and is filled with glass pebbles from B&M Home Stores, to lift the flowers which were otherwise too short. The wood-burner and black slate hearth cost £2,500



‘I managed to save money on the worktops as although they look like granite they’re actually quartz and not so heavy.’

◁ of cups and money, that he was able to sell it on for a huge amount of money, ‘so he could treat us all to our own homes,’ says Grace.

Grace's turned out to be a cottage in Cheltenham which had been used as a hairdressing salon. ‘It was in a bit of a state inside but luckily didn't need planning permission to make improvements. The building work started in March and was finished by July.’

The cottage dates from the early 1800s and still has some lovely period features such as a heavy lintel over a now blocked up fireplace, exposed Cotswold stone walls and pitch pine beams in the exposed roof upstairs.

‘We had to gut the place and our builders replastered, rewired and replumbed,’ says Grace. ‘They had to put in stud walls upstairs to create two bedrooms and a bathroom as it was all open-plan, while downstairs they had to move a wall to create a bigger kitchen from two existing small kitchenettes. They also put a new roof over it to replace a horrible plastic one and new gas central heating. Fortunately, apart from insulating the roof, they did not

have to repair either that or the windows.’ They also blocked up a fireplace by the front door, built a new one to take a wood-burner in the dining room, moved the staircase and added some windows. ‘We fitted French windows in the kitchen, giving access to the courtyard, put a lantern into the new roof above the island and added another window in the sitting room as it was a bit dark,’ says Grace. New flooring of either oak or pale ceramic tiles was laid throughout and a new kitchen and bathroom installed. All-new oak doors were put in with old-style iron latches and hinges and now the cottage could not look more different from its days as a hair studio.

Interestingly enough, while the building work was going on, an old chap in his 80s popped in to tell the builders he'd been born in the cottage all those years ago. ‘But I was out working at the time so didn't get his name!’ exclaims Grace in disappointment.

Grace's father had a friend in the kitchen business so Grace turned to her for her units which came handmade and bespoke in a very attractive shade ▷



✚ The builders rebuilt the staircase so that it now ascends from the dining room. Evans Jones Partnership helped Grace redesign her cottage. The moveable room divider, originally from Furniture Village, was one of a pair bought cheaply from her friend Lorraine. The sideboard, also from Lorraine, was originally from Next

Good idea!

Think about repositioning the staircase as Grace did. The builders made a new staircase in a more discreet design using a dogleg shape.



Good idea!

White metal blinds at the windows and uncarpeted oak floors, with just a few rugs, work well with the open-plan layout.

There was a fireplace beside the front door, now replaced by hand-built cupboards. The oak flooring is from Howdens, while the colourful cushions on the sofa came from Bhs



The black metal guest bed cost £80 from Argos, and the new mattress from eBay was £50. Grace was given the old wooden chair by a friend so she painted it in 'Willow Green' by Dulux. The apple design cushion on it cost £1 at a farmer's market and the two green silk cushions on the bed were a gift from another friend after a holiday in Hong Kong



✦ In here Grace had the beams repainted in black for definition. She bought her brass bed for a bargain £300 from Bhs and loves the way the crystal knobs catch the light. The Bhs lamps and the John Lewis framed pictures came from friend Lorraine, and the star lights were £8 each from Winchester Christmas Market. Grace's mother gave her the chest of drawers and mirror as house-warming presents, and the quilt and cushions came from HomeSense

◁ called Skylight 205. 'They were rather expensive but they do look so good,' she says. 'I love the island with its tongue and groove panelling, concealed rubbish bin and wine rack and the high breakfast bar in a contrasting oak which matches the doors. I managed to save money on the worktops as although they look like granite they're actually quartz and not so heavy.'

As for Grace's new bathroom, it so happens her father sells shower screens, so he provided hers while the rest of the bathroom furniture was from Graham Plumbers' Merchants.

Then Grace had another big piece of luck. Just as the cottage was finished and she was planning how to furnish it, a family friend Lorraine suddenly announced she was getting married and would be moving to a bigger house. As a result she didn't need much of her newly-bought furniture so offered it to Grace at a bargain price. Not

'It's amazing what nice things you can find if you look carefully.'

only that, but Lorraine's sister Arlene also decided to sell off some of her furniture to Grace. Amazingly some of it matched Lorraine's as Lorraine's new husband, Ric James, is a sculptor who had designed and made two very striking glass and chrome tables. 'Arlene had the large dining table, Lorraine the small coffee table – and now I've ended up with both!' says Grace. 'The other items were all really nice too, I couldn't believe they didn't want them.'

Thanks to this windfall Grace then had the walls decorated in a soothing grey shade, Skimming Stone by Farrow & Ball. 'I just copied what Lorraine had done in her home,' she says. 'After all, I'd bought a lot of her furniture, more than £4,000 worth for only £1,500, so I knew her colour scheme would suit my place too.'

Grace and her mother also went out for a big shopping day and came back with more bargains including her beds. 'My brass bed from Bhs was reduced from £459 to £300,' and a great many other pieces of furniture and lighting. 'Much of it came from HomeSense and B&M Home Stores,' says Grace. 'It's amazing what nice things you can find if you look carefully.'

Finally Grace came up with a name for her cottage – Archers. 'I've named it after a very famous jockey Fred Archer who used to live in the pub opposite,' she explains. 'There's a plaque on the wall saying how he grew up on toast, coffee and the famous Cheltenham spa water. It seemed only right to give my cottage a racing name – if it hadn't been for my dad's amazing horse I wouldn't be living here at all.' **YH**



5 IDEAS TO STEAL

DESIGNER TOUCH

Give your kitchen a sleek, designer feel with some smart small appliances.

Brilliant kettle, toaster, £61.99 each, De'Longhi



COLOURFUL PRINTS

Use printed fabric to add a pop of colour to a neutral scheme.

Ludovika fabric, £3 per m; **Vippmalla fabric,** £5 per m, both Ikea



GLASSY FEATURES

Grace has used glass tables to give her cottage a contemporary look.



Atoma dining table, £349, Dwell

COLOUR INJECTION

Use bold red hues to liven up white bed linen.

Marimekko Pieni Unikko cushion, £34.50, Cloudberry Living



BLUE HUES

Bright towels are a complementary touch to a putty-coloured bathroom.

Egyptian cotton towels in Lagoon, from 99p for a face towel, Dunelm



✦ Grace's father gave her the shower screen from his company Lakes Bathrooms in Tewkesbury, and Grace bought the remaining bathroom furniture, including the extra wide Roca basin with three drawers in the vanity unit below, from Graham Plumbers' Merchants. The ceramic floor tiles are a smaller version of those in the kitchen, from Tile Giant. Grace injected some colour into her bathroom with turquoise towels and accessories and a large pink orchid



Good idea!

Grace continued the uncluttered feel of the cottage into the bathroom with a streamlined design with all pipework hidden.

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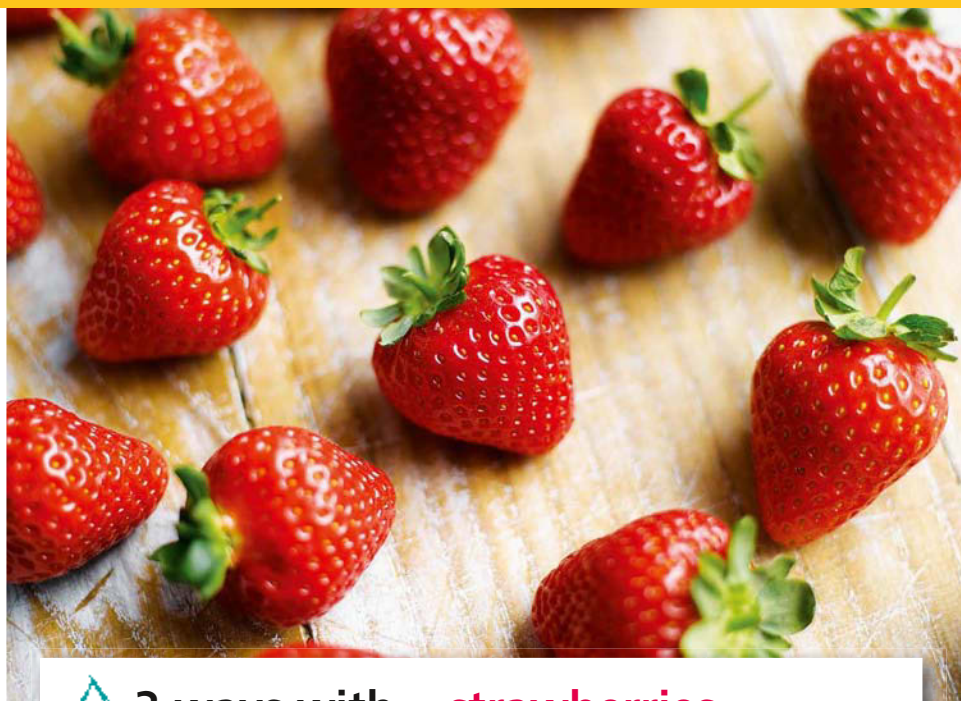
Available nationally at Sainsbury's, Asda and Morrisons and selected Tesco and Aldi stores.

Food & Drink

Cool down with our iced desserts overleaf...



Recipes courtesy of www.sweetvestrawberry.co.uk



3 ways with... strawberries

- For a summery dessert, add **100g caster sugar** and **100ml water** to a pan. Bring to the boil and simmer until dissolved. Remove from the heat and stir in **1 tsp rosewater**. Hull **500g strawberries** and quarter **4 figs**. Arrange in a bowl and drizzle with the rosewater syrup. Serve with **200ml Greek yogurt**. Serves 4.
- This is a super quick sauce to keep in the freezer for topping ice cream, cheesecake or pancakes. For every **250g strawberries** you are freezing, put **150g caster sugar** and **50ml water** into a pan. Heat gently until the sugar dissolves then bring to a simmer and bubble for 1 minute. Cool completely. Wash and hull the strawberries. Put the strawberries into a freezer-proof container, pour over the cooled syrup, leaving around 3cm at the top. Fill a small freezer bag with water and secure. Place on top to prevent the strawberries from floating to the top. Cover and freeze for up to 6 months.
- To make a fruity fizz to serve 6 people, purée **150g strawberries** and sieve to get rid of the seeds. Take **6 sugar cubes** and place 1 each into 6 chilled Champagne flutes. Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ a shot of elderflower cordial into each glass, followed by $\frac{1}{2}$ a shot of Campari and $\frac{1}{2}$ a shot of the strawberry purée. Top up each glass with Prosecco.

Feature Laura Higgins

This month we love...

Waitrose have added a pizza bianca to their range, a tomato sauce-less pizza, which instead has a creamy béchamel sauce as a base. The Wood Fired Mushroom & Gorgonzola pizza, from £3.79 for a small, is topped with kale, portobellini and roasted oyster mushrooms, balsamic onions and Italian gorgonzola. Other new flavours include King Prawn and Chilli and Spicy Calabrian Salami.



If you do one thing this month...

If you're heading off on a picnic then pop into M&S to pick up a few of their hamper fillers, all inspired by the British Isles, including Black Pudding Scotch Eggs, £2.10 each, Hog Roast Sausage Rolls, £2.50 for four, and Bramley Apple Pork Pies, £2.40 for four.



Try me...

Full of nutrient-rich flavour, these fruit and veg juices from Cawston Press are packed with colourful vegetables, blended with pressed apple juice, for a refreshing drink, free from added sugar and artificial nasties. Choose from



Radiant Roots, with carrots, beetroot and ginger; Sunshine Blend, a mix of carrots, celery, and orange, and Sweet Greens, using lettuce, cucumber, and pear. Priced at £2.29 per 750ml, available from Tesco.

Eat me...

Inspired by the craze for American-style food, Asda have a selection of hot dogs and toppings, and the combinations are endless. There are different sizes available, all £2.28, including footlong, and flavours such as Bratwurst and Hickory Smoked Cheese & Jalapeño. Finish off your creation with one or two of the new toppings, including Sauerkraut & Mustard Mayo and Baconnaise, 75p each.



Buy me...

A Lot On Her Plate by Rosie Birkett, Hardie Grant, £25, is worth buying solely for the salted butterscotch popcorn cheesecake recipe, not to mention the collection of other exciting recipes, inspired by global flavours, as well as old favourites. With recipes suitable for just the two of you, a few, or a whole crowd, we can't wait to try the Mexican pork tacos with pink pickled onions, and the cumin brioche buns.



CHECK OUT WWW.YOURHOMEMAGAZINE.CO.UK/FOOD FOR MORE TASTY RECIPES

Ice, ice baby

Cool it down this summer with one of these refreshing iced desserts...



Strawberry and coconut ice lollies

YOU WILL NEED

✓400g Jubilee strawberries, washed and hulled ✓3 tbsp icing sugar, sieved ✓400g coconut Greek yoghurt

DIRECTIONS

- Using a blender or food processor, purée 200g of the strawberries with the icing sugar. Remove and sieve to remove the seeds.
- In a large jug, mix the strawberry purée with the coconut yogurt and fill the lolly moulds, but not quite to the top.
- Slice the remaining strawberries and divide these between the moulds, pushing them down carefully so they are evenly distributed throughout the lolly.
- Push in the lolly sticks and freeze for at least four hours, or until frozen solid. Warm the moulds with your hands or under warm water to release the lollies.

PREPARATION TIME

20 MINUTES, PLUS

FREEZING TIME

MAKES 8



PREPARATION TIME
30 MINUTES, PLUS
FREEZING TIME
COOKING TIME
15 MINUTES
SERVES 10

Frozen berry slice

YOU WILL NEED

For the sponge base ✓100g soft margarine ✓100g caster sugar ✓100g self-raising flour ✓2 eggs ✓zest of 1 lemon **For the mousse** ✓3 tbsp water ✓2 tsp powdered gelatine ✓225g strawberries ✓150g raspberries ✓150ml double cream ✓400g full-fat condensed milk ✓juice of 1 lemon **For the sauce** ✓225g strawberries ✓150g raspberries **To serve** ✓strawberries, sliced ✓raspberries ✓sugar confetti hearts, optional ✓red hundreds and thousands, optional ✓icing sugar, sifted

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas Mark 4. Line an 18cm x 28cm x 4cm loose-bottomed rectangular cake tin with non-stick baking paper, snipping diagonally into the corners of the paper and pressing into the tin so that the base and sides are lined.
- Add all the sponge ingredients to a bowl or food processor and beat together until smooth. Spoon into the paper lined tin and smooth into a thin even layer. Bake for 15 minutes until golden and the sponge springs back when lightly pressed with a finger. Leave to cool in the tin.
- Meanwhile, make the mousse by adding the water to a small heatproof bowl; sprinkle the gelatine over the top so that all the dry powder is absorbed. Leave to stand for 5 minutes then stand the bowl in a saucepan of hot water and simmer gently for 5-10 minutes until the gelatine is a clear liquid.
- Purée the strawberries and raspberries for the mousse then press through a sieve. Lightly whisk the cream in a bowl until it forms soft swirls then whisk in the condensed milk and lemon juice until thick and smooth. Whisk in the fruit purée then gradually fold in the gelatine, pouring it into the bowl in a thin steady stream.
- Pour the mousse over the sponge base. Freeze overnight, loosely wrapping in foil when set.
- To make the sauce, purée the berries then press through a sieve. Chill in the fridge overnight.
- When ready to serve, remove the dessert from the freezer. Unwrap, remove from the tin and peel away the lining paper. Cut into 10 bars with a knife dipped in hot water. Transfer to serving plates. Arrange the extra berries, sugar confetti and hundreds and thousands on top, dust with sifted icing sugar and serve with the puréed berries.

Recipe courtesy of www.seasonalberries.co.uk

Halva and blackberry ice cream

YOU WILL NEED

✓4 large eggs, separated ✓100g caster sugar ✓grated zest of 1 small orange ✓½ tsp ground cinnamon ✓300ml double cream ✓250g Greek style yogurt ✓250g pack plain halva, sliced and crumbled ✓300g blackberries, chopped **For the sauce** ✓225g blackberries ✓juice of ½ lemon ✓2 tbsp icing sugar

DIRECTIONS

- Line a 1.7l loaf tin with cling film. Whisk the egg whites in a medium bowl until you have thick, glossy peaks. Add the yolks, sugar, orange zest and cinnamon to a second bowl and whisk until thick and creamy.
- Whip the cream in a third bowl until it just begins to form soft swirls then fold the cream and yogurt into the yolk mixture. Add the halva and blackberries, keeping a few back for the top, and gently fold together, then add the egg white and again gently fold together.
- Pour the mixture into the lined loaf tin, sprinkle with the reserved halva and blackberries then cover the top with cling film. Chill for 5-6 hours or overnight until firm enough to slice.
- Make the sauce by puréeing the remaining blackberries until smooth. Press through a sieve, discard the seeds then mix with the lemon juice and sugar. Chill in a plastic container until needed.
- When ready to serve, lift the ice cream out of the tin. Cut the ice cream into thick slices and serve with the blackberry sauce.

Recipe courtesy of www.seasonalberries.co.uk



PREPARATION TIME
30 MINUTES, PLUS
FREEZING TIME
SERVES 6

Rose water and pomegranate granita

YOU WILL NEED

✓2-3 large pomegranates, seeds removed and whizzed in a food processor before sieving (or 300ml ready-made pomegranate juice), reserving 2 tbsp pomegranate seeds to decorate ✓50g golden caster sugar
✓juice of 1 large orange, about 100ml
✓juice of ½ small lemon ✓1 tsp Nielsen-Massey Rose Water

DIRECTIONS

■ Bring the pomegranate juice and sugar to a boil, then remove from the heat and stir to dissolve the sugar. Set aside to cool.
■ Mix the pomegranate syrup with the orange, lemon and the rose water, then pour into a wide shallow container and freeze. Leave for 1-2 hours before breaking up the surface with a fork every 30 minutes until completely frozen.
■ Serve in sundae glasses with a few pomegranate seeds on top.

Recipe courtesy of Nielsen-Massey



PREPARATION TIME
15 MINUTES, PLUS
FREEZING TIME
SERVES 4



PREPARATION TIME
10 MINUTES, PLUS
FREEZING TIME
SERVES 6

Lemon meringue and quark ice cream

YOU WILL NEED

✓juice of two medium lemons ✓125g icing sugar ✓410g evaporated milk, chilled ✓400g Lake District Dairy Co. Lemon Quark ✓4 tbsp lemon curd ✓25g meringue shells, crushed

DIRECTIONS

■ Mix the lemon juice and icing sugar together in a large bowl, stirring until the icing sugar has dissolved. Stir in the evaporated milk and Lake District Dairy Co. Lemon Quark and mix well.
■ Pour into a 1L freezer-proof container and freeze for 4 hours, until almost frozen. Remove the ice cream from the freezer and mash with a fork to break up the ice crystals. Drizzle the lemon curd over the top and scatter over the meringues, gently stir to swirl lightly. Freeze for a further 2 hours until firmly frozen.
■ Remove from the freezer 10 minutes before serving. Scoop into balls and serve in glasses.

Recipe courtesy of Lake District Dairy Co.

Raspberry gin sorbet with lavender thins

YOU WILL NEED

✓150g caster sugar ✓200ml water ✓450g raspberries ✓6 tbsp gin ✓1 egg white, optional

For the lavender thins ✓150g plain flour ✓25g cornflour ✓50g caster sugar, plus extra to decorate ✓100g butter, at room temperature, diced ✓1 tsp dried lavender flowers, roughly crushed, plus extra to decorate

DIRECTIONS

■ To make the sorbet, add the sugar and water to a pan, heat gently, stirring from time to time until the sugar has dissolved then boil rapidly for 1 minute. Take off the heat and set aside.

■ Add the raspberries to a food processor or liquidiser and purée until smooth. Press through a sieve into a bowl and discard the seeds. Stir

the gin and sugar syrup into the berry purée.

■ If you have an electric ice cream machine, pour in the raspberry mixture and churn for about 20 minutes until thick. Lightly fork the egg white together until frothy then beat into the sorbet and churn for 10 more minutes until thick enough to scoop.

■ Without an electric ice cream machine, pour the mixture into a shallow cake tin with a fixed base and freeze for 4 hours until semi frozen. Beat with a fork or blitz in a food processor until smooth and gradually beat in the lightly whipped egg white. Transfer to a plastic container, cover with a lid and freeze for 3-4 hours or overnight, until firm.

■ To make the lavender thins, preheat the oven to 170°C/325°F/Gas Mark 3. Add all the

ingredients to a bowl and rub in the butter with your fingertips or with an electric mixer, until it resembles fine crumbs. Bring the crumbs together with your hands to make a dough then roll out thinly on a lightly-floured surface.

■ Press into a 23cm diameter fluted flan tin.

Prick the centre with a fork and press the edges with a fingertip. Sprinkle with a little sugar. Cook for 25-30 minutes until pale golden around the edges. Mark into 12 thin wedges, sprinkle with extra lavender flowers and leave to cool.

■ To serve, scoop the sorbet into glasses and serve with the lavender thins.

Recipe courtesy of www.seasonalberries.co.uk

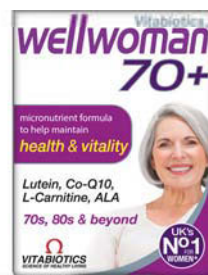


PREPARATION TIME
25 MINUTES, PLUS
FREEZING TIME
COOKING TIME 25-30
MINUTES
SERVES 6

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Home IMPROVEMENT

Turn the page to learn everything you need to know about adding an annex



Create a Mediterranean feel

If the exterior of your home could do with an update, why not consider shutters? They are ideal for adding a decorative feature, and can be fitted quickly and easily to add a touch of chic, Mediterranean-style. Wooden shutters can be painted in any colour you choose or, as an alternative, choose uPVC shutters which are relatively maintenance-free and available in a range of colours to suit your home. For uPVC louver-style designs priced from as little as £50 per pair, try Simply Shutters.

Shutters painted in 10-year exterior gloss in Bahama Blue, £17.64 per 750ml, Sandtex

Update your tool kit

A cordless screwdriver is a must for your tool box if you often undertake quick-fix jobs around

the home and garden. This new model from Draper Tools is powered by a super-efficient motor and a long-life Li-ion battery, plus it has a compact, ergonomic design which makes it really easy to use. Whether you're assembling furniture or putting up shelves, it's a really handy piece of kit, and comes complete with a selection of bits, a charger and a smart carrying case.

3.6V cordless Li-ion screwdriver kit, from around £30, Draper Tools



Feature Lisa Hibberd

DIY for less

If you love nothing more than a spot of home improvement, you'll be pleased to know that Poundland has recently launched a range of DIY essentials in association with celebrity

builder Tommy Walsh. There are over 200 items at £1 each, all categorised into four colour coded sections to help you find what you need quickly and easily. What's more, each pack offers tips from Tommy on DIY tasks, ensuring that the job is hassle-free as well as affordable. Visit your nearest Poundland store to see the entire range.



Deal-breakers

Research by GoCompare.

com house insurance has revealed that damp patches and stained walls and ceilings are among the biggest turn-offs for potential home buyers, with 67% of people claiming that this would put them off buying a property. Also high on the list are a lack of parking and garden, bad smells, and unfinished building work. Ben Wilson from GoCompare.com says: 'If you're looking to sell your home it's important to make sure it's well-presented, both inside and out, to make it as appealing as possible to would-be buyers.'



FOR MORE EXPERT ADVICE AND CASE STUDIES GO TO WWW.YOURHOMEMAGAZINE.CO.UK

The four-bedroom new-build at Countryside's St Irvyne's near Horsham has a separate wing with full-height gabling and an en suite above the double garage, www.st-irvynes.co.uk



Make room for everyone by adding an annex

Create a versatile, self-contained space with our useful guide

If you need extra accommodation for family members or an area for an office or hobby, a loft conversion or extension may not suffice. A self-contained annex may well be the solution, as it will provide elderly parents or grown-up children with space and privacy, or enable you to work without interruption. Alternatively, an annex can be used for overnight guests, as a gym, or even rented out as a holiday let.

1 BUILD AT GROUND LEVEL

A ground floor annex is practical for older relatives to live in as they won't have to worry about tackling stairs. Depending on the layout of your home and the plot it sits in, you'll usually have the option of extending at the side or back, or converting the garage into living space. To make the granny annex completely self-contained, include a bath or shower room and a kitchen area – however small – and try to incorporate a separate entrance. When converting the garage, you can simply make the existing entrance smaller. Make sure that the annex can easily be integrated into the house at a later date – if not, this could affect future saleability.

Feature Andrea Dean

Self-contained space in a loft conversion, well away from the rest of the family, suits a teenager or adult child returning to the fold, from www.landmark-lofts.com



This single-storey house in Northumberland boasts great views and an adjoining, self-contained two-bedroom cottage with flexibility for other configurations. It's for sale through www.smithsgore.co.uk



Contemporary and eye-catching, garden pods can be designed in various sizes and are often commissioned for granny annexes or homes for boomerang children, from www.green-studios.com



This bespoke oak-framed garden room is independent of the main house but close enough to be able to connect to its electrics, from www.arboreta-oak.com

2 TRANSFORM LOFT SPACE

The news that one in four adult children aged 24-30 still lives with their parents will come as no surprise if yours have never moved out or are 'boomerang' kids, who've returned home after university. Many families find the best way to keep everyone happy is to convert the loft into an area that's completely self-contained. 'Including a kitchenette as well as a bathroom and sleeping/living area creates a studio apartment, which can even have its own roof terrace,' says James Gold, founder of Landmark Lofts.

▼ **Complete with kitchenette, dining and living area, this one-bedroom annex sits in a private garden in Cirencester and earns its keep as a holiday rental. It's available through www.holidaylettings.co.uk**

3 INVEST IN A GARDEN BUILDING

Also known as lodges or studios, free-standing garden buildings come in a wide selection of shapes, sizes, styles and configurations, from cabins compact enough to sit at the bottom of a small urban garden through to sleek contemporary pods. Far removed from the humble shed that many of us have in our gardens, they can be designed specifically to suit your needs – heated, fully insulated, secure and suitable for year-round use. They can often be constructed in a matter of days, as they're manufactured off site. Other viable options include converting an existing outbuilding into usable living space, or even replacing a detached garage with a vaulted or two-storey barn-like structure which comprises accommodation on the first floor above car parking below.

4 REJIG THE LAYOUT

Partitioning part of the house is a relatively cost-effective way to give everyone their own space. In a tall, multi-level townhouse, this might entail turning the lower ground or basement floor into a self-contained flat, possibly with an outside staircase and its own front door – or you might be able to section off one side of a double-fronted, lateral detached house. In both cases, you'll need to add a kitchenette and bathroom. Get an architect or specialist building company to advise on your options and how the work should be carried out to ensure that it's easy to reinstate the property into a single dwelling later on.

TURN OVER FOR MORE ADVICE ▷

▼ **Set across several levels, this detached house includes a self-contained studio flat with its own entrance, on the market through www.marchandpetit.co.uk**





An oak-framed garden room simply oozes character and is versatile enough to be used as a studio, gym, office or games room, from www.roundwood.com

How to make multi-generational living work

- Sort out finances in advance, including who's responsible for building/conversion costs, and how bills will be divided.
- Draw up a list of household rules – for example, whether mealtimes are shared and who'll mow the lawn.
 - Respect each other's privacy.
- Get professional advice on the tax implications of elderly parents moving in.
- Discuss adult children's future plans and encourage them to save for a place of their own.
- Embrace the arrangement – you'll get to spend more time together and may get free childcare thrown in.

Useful contacts

- www.architecture.com will help you to find a local architect with relevant expertise.
- www.landmark-lofts.com is a specialist chartered building company with a team of chartered architects.
- www.homelodge.co.uk manufactures and installs high quality modular timber buildings.
- www.green-studios.com designs contemporary garden pods and studios with a variety of uses.
- www.planningportal.gov.uk gives the lowdown on planning permission and building regulations requirements.

5 BUY BRAND NEW

Extending, converting or buying a garden building isn't always possible as there may not be enough room to expand inside or out. If you're planning to move, you might well find that a new-build suits your needs far more than a second-hand home. Developers have realised that buyers of family houses are often looking long term and want flexible space that can be adapted for use by relatives, live-in nannies or for hobbies at different times. As well as being low-maintenance and having lower running costs than older properties, many new-builds come with cloakrooms and en suites as standard – very handy when several adults are living under the same roof.

▼ **Fuss-free, modern and roomy interiors are a feature of bespoke, luxury garden buildings by www.green-studios.com**

6 KNOW THE RED TAPE

Unless your home is listed or in a conservation area, you shouldn't need planning permission for an extension, loft or garage conversion that falls within permitted development, meaning it isn't too big or close to the boundary. The same applies to garden buildings, though complications arise when they are going to be slept in – even if only occasionally. In this case, planning permission is required, unless the structure is classed as a mobile home, as some lodges are. A self-contained annex is subject to separate council tax, unless it accommodates a wholly dependent relative. However, you can now apply for a 50% discount when occupied by a family member.



www.courtyarddesigns.co.uk offers oak timber-framed outbuildings such as this lofted design which comprises a double garage with a first floor above

CASE STUDY

'My versatile annex is a real asset'



▲ Hotel manager Lynne moved from overseas to be closer to her family

After years of working abroad in the hotel management industry, Lynne Craye felt the time was right to return to the Hampshire town where she grew up. 'Both my daughters had stayed in England and when my first granddaughter was born, I didn't want to miss out,' she explains. However, when she started house hunting, it soon became apparent that her money wouldn't go as far as she had hoped. 'The exchange rate was against me and the only places I could afford were tiny, and I wanted somewhere big enough for friends and family to come and stay,' she adds.

Determined not to give up, Lynne eventually hit lucky when a local agent showed her around a property that was

new to the market. It only had one bedroom, but there was an en suite as well as the main bathroom, and a spacious open-plan kitchen and living room. Better still, it included a purpose-built annex, which the seller, an artist, used as a studio. With a pair of windows either side of the double doors and Velux windows in the roof, it was filled with light and, because it had been properly insulated, Lynne recalls that it immediately felt warm and cosy. 'Once the annex had been cleared out, it was the perfect blank canvas,' she says. 'I couldn't wait to furnish and decorate it in time for my first guest, who happened to be my dad.' Her main expenses were a new bed and a carpet to warm up the

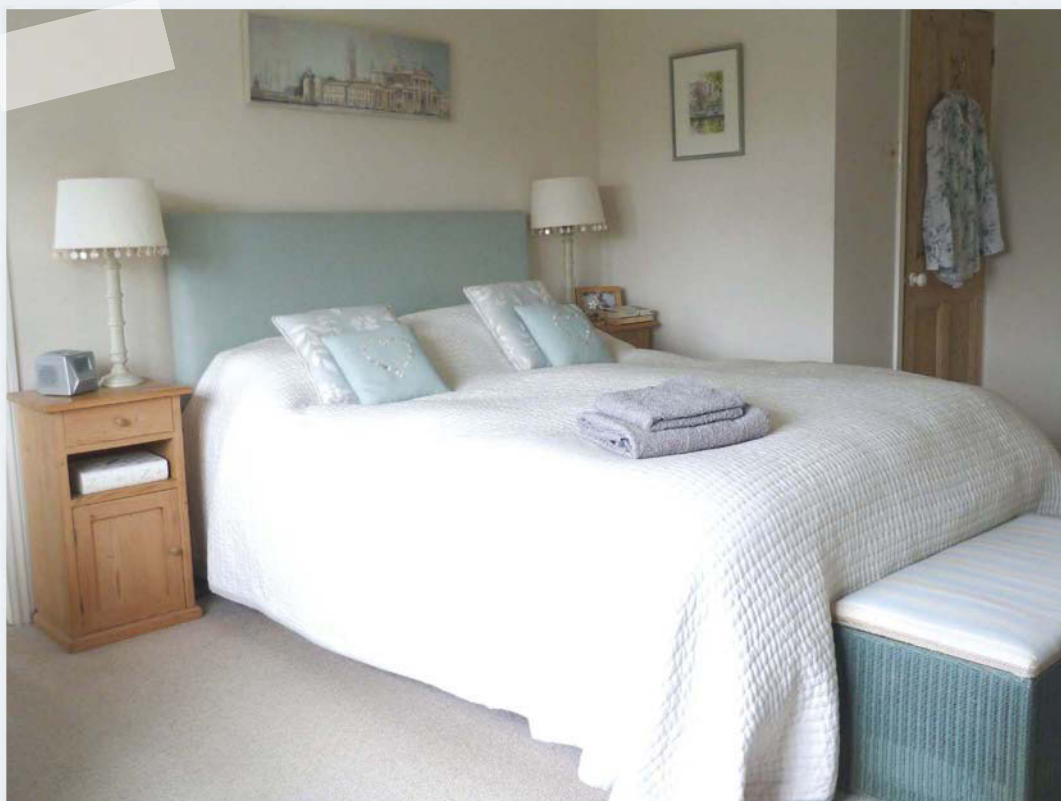


▲ The brick-built annex, originally a garage, had been extended by the previous owner and is now a self-contained guest bedroom

existing concrete floor, but she found everything else she needed, from bedside tables to lamps, in a local second-hand shop.

After two years in her new home, Lynne decided to make further improvements to the annex by adding a compact en suite shower room. 'The previous owner had installed a sink, so there was already a water supply, and just enough room to add a shower tray and space-saving bi-fold door,' explains Lynne. 'It's turned out so well, I'm even thinking I could earn some cash by offering occasional B&B to paying guests.'

◀ Inside the annex, Lynne has kept things simple with a relaxing cream and duck egg blue colour scheme. A pine door leads to the en suite shower room



Next month in...

YourHome



Be inspired by our
easy to copy ideas
for a stunning
front garden



Discover beautiful ways
to give your bathroom
a traditional look



Enjoy the summer sun
with our favourite
barbecue recipes



Make the most of
your space with our
brilliant ideas for
compact kitchens

On sale 2nd July 2015

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Property know-how with George

This month property developer, architect and presenter of Channel 4's *The Restoration Man*, **George Clarke**, takes a look at the smart tech for your home

I know I'm going to sound like an old man here, but I genuinely can't believe how much home technology has moved on in the last 10 years and what is even more incredible is how affordable it now is. Years ago any automated technology in the home was very expensive and unpredictable and, if I'm honest I used to think that home automation was a slightly over the top expense that actually promoted laziness rather than doing anything clever.

The thought of being able to sit in your chair and turn on lights or close your blinds from a handheld device rather than actually getting off your backside and doing it yourself seemed like a huge waste of money to me. Obviously this technology had huge benefits for those with disabilities and for those less able to physically move around their homes easily, but for the rest of the population I just felt that it was an expensive way of being lazy. It doesn't take a lot to get off the sofa and change the heating controls in your kitchen!

But, what I do think is incredible is that we now have the ability to affordably control things in our homes remotely. This has all come about because of internet, wi-fi and mobile phone technology. We are so used to carrying around smart phones, but these great little devices can now be used to control the way we use our smart homes.

For me personally there are enormous benefits. I travel a huge amount these days and it's fairly unpredictable when I'm going to be home so standard timer settings are not only pointless to me, but they can often cost me a lot of money. A good example of this is when one of my filming or business trips is extended when I'm already on the road. The standard settings I programmed on the heating system before I left can still be heating the house and the hot water when I don't need it. This can cost me and the planet a lot of money, which is a complete waste.

Ideally I'd like to use my mobile phone to click on the heating and the hot water just a couple of hours before I get home so I don't either return to a sauna I've been paying for for days or worse a freezing cold ice box. I genuinely believe that automated home technology would save me a lot of money over the next few years.

As well as heating controls, one of the most popular uses for remote home technology is CCTV. I already have a wireless phone network device that automatically contacts the local police if my home alarm goes off, but it does give you peace of mind when on holiday to be able to login to your CCTV system and just check that all is well at home. OK, none of this is absolutely necessary and we have survived for years without it, but you could say exactly the same about the mobile phone. If it makes your life easier, more convenient and is more cost effective saving you money on your energy bills then I believe that it is technology well worth investing in.

One of the biggest concerns about installing expensive wiring systems is that they can soon become outdated, or worse still redundant, as digital technology advances. But, there are now very clever wireless hub systems that you can buy to control a particular part of your home with zero wiring required. Take the new Philips Hue lighting set. These LED lightbulbs just plug into regular light sockets, but are wirelessly controlled by a base station that connects to your iPhone or iPad, so you can make lighting changes from the accompanying app. You can not only change the lighting levels, but you can change the colour of the lighting too. No

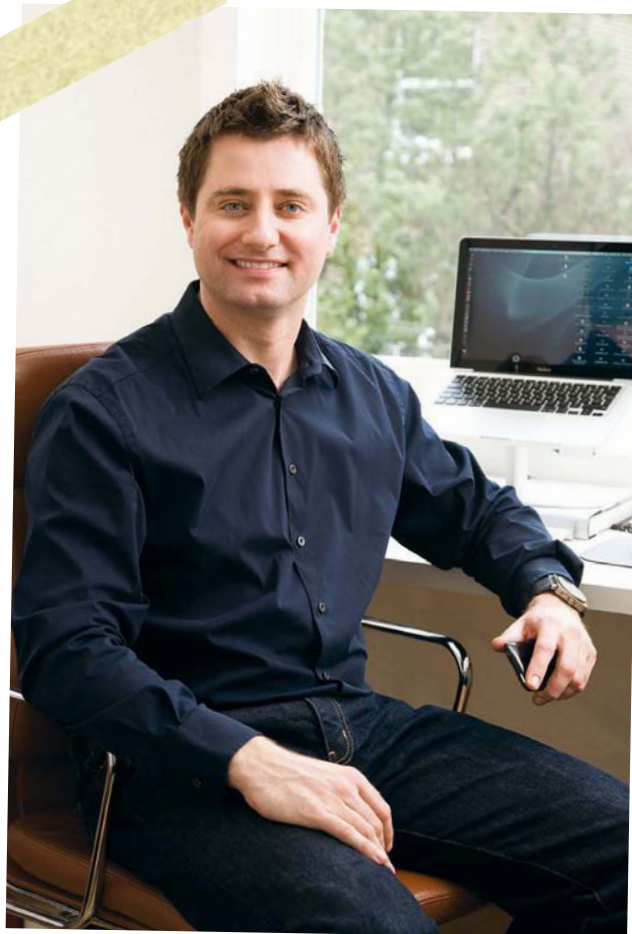


Photo: Lizzie Orme

wiring is required and this can all be installed into your existing home in seconds.

What is really important is to decide what you and your family actually need for your home that suits the way you live. It is so easy to be seduced by all the technology out there, but there is no point in spending your hard earned money on things that won't really enhance the way you live. For me personally this great technology is all about me being able to monitor and control the energy use in my home, while giving an increased level of security. For others it may be having the means to turn on the oven and start cooking a roast that you've prepared in the morning, but don't need to eat until you get home from work.

I'm all up for embracing technology when, firstly it works, and secondly when it transforms the quality of your life for the better. We live in a world now where our diaries change at the drop of an iPhone and our day-to-day lifestyles can be quite unpredictable. The advances in mobile technology now mean that your humble smart phone now has the ability to conduct your digital home life like a beautiful opera. I'm going for it in my new house! All I'll need is an R2D2 to teach me how to use it!

■ For more tips and advice from George, check out his website at www.georgeclarke.com



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Even at the turn of the last century Royal orders were being sent to Tiptree from every corner of the globe as the reputation of Wilkin & Sons spread around the world. Queen Sophie of Greece, The Queen of Spain and Her Majesty the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, consort of the

last Tsar of Russia, to name just a few, all had a penchant for the exquisite taste of our conserves and were frequent customers. Today things are little changed as the House of Windsor still enjoys the taste of Tiptree at breakfast, over 100 years after we received our first Royal Warrant.



The preserve of good taste

Gardening

Great buys and advice to help your garden bloom



Watering with a twist

If you struggle to find time to keep up with watering the garden during the warmer months, check out this clever attachment from Hozelock. It works as a spray gun for your hose, but can be transformed with a simple twist into a lawn sprinkler. The hose function features three spray patterns including a jet spray for cleaning, a rose for a rain-like watering effect and a fast-fill for filling watering cans quickly. Once in sprinkler mode, it has a wide spray pattern which is capable of watering up to 69 square metres of garden – that's almost half a tennis court! Simply place it on the ground and lock the trigger so that it will operate independently to water a lawn or flower bed while you relax.

2-in-1 Ultra Twist, £19.99, Hozelock



Jobs to do this month

- Pick cut-and-come-again flowers
- Feed tomatoes and peppers with a high-potash fertiliser
- Water hanging baskets and pots daily
- Plant autumn-flowering bulbs

Events

30th June – 5th July

RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show www.rhs.org.uk

19th July

Cherry Fair at Brogdale www.cherryfestivalkent.co.uk

22nd – 26th July

RHS Flower Show Tatton Park www.rhs.org.uk

Wildlife watch

If you love to keep an eye on the wildlife in your garden, this weatherproof, state-of-the-art Sony 700 TV Line camera is a great investment. It connects to your television and offers great colour video by day and infrared video by night, at a range of 20 metres, so that you can watch what's happening outside. It's easy to set up, and is powered by a 12 volt mains adaptor, supplied, which will run down the same lead as the video input, so there's no need for power outside.

Garden wildlife camera, £139.99, RSPB



3 OF THE BEST... solar-powered outdoor lights

Give your garden a modern touch with one of these quirky designs

Solvinden LED solar-powered ground stick, £10, Ikea



Get a nautical feel with this smart red lantern, which would look great in the centre of a dining table

Solar portland lantern, £12, Sainsbury's



These stylish lanterns have a washed grey finish, and can be hung from a tree or placed on a table top for maximum effect

Solar grey rattan lantern, from £14 each, Next



Feature Lisa Hibberd



FOR MORE EXPERT ADVICE AND INSPIRATION GO TO WWW.YOURHOMEMAGAZINE.CO.UK

Try a taste of summer with edible flowers

As well as looking beautiful and having a wonderful scent, many flowers can also be eaten – read on for our expert advice on what to grow and how to use them

Many of us fill our gardens with flowers to add colour and interest, but there is so much more to some flowers than their appearance. Sight and smell are the two most obvious senses to be satisfied by beautiful blooms, but have you ever considered growing flowers that can also tantalise your tastebuds?

Edible flowers have been used for years, both as ingredients for dishes and for decoration. The Ancient Greeks, Romans and Chinese are thought to have used flowers for culinary and medicinal uses, while the early Incas and Aztecs included flowers in some of their most important rituals. This history of flowers in food may be little known, but nowadays many top restaurants are using more and more edible flowers to enhance dishes with both colour and flavour.

There are many ways in which you can introduce flowers into your garden, with the aim of incorporating them into your cookery. Growing them yourself means that you can be sure they are clean, fresh and free from any pests or diseases. It's not as easy as you might think though – although there are many flowers that can be consumed, you need to be 100% sure that what you pick is safe to eat. Many are poisonous and could make you ill, so if you are at all unsure, steer clear and just enjoy the sight and smell of them in your garden.

STAY SAFE

- Always make 100% sure that the flower you are picking is edible – if you're in any doubt at all, don't eat it.
- Anyone who suffers from allergies, especially to pollen, should not eat flowers.
- If you begin to experience an allergic reaction after eating edible flowers seek medical attention immediately.
- As a general rule, only use the petals.
- Don't eat flowers that have had pesticides used on them or that are in an area where pets may go to the toilet.
- If pregnant, check with your doctor before consuming any flowers at all.



▲ Edible pansies can be used in a variety of dishes, and are especially good for adding colour and flavour to salads

Which flowers are edible?

Edible flowers are offered for sale but only use those labelled for 'culinary purposes' as these will have been grown in ways that ensure any pesticide residues are at acceptable levels. Shop or garden centre bought flowering plants should be grown on for at least three months to reduce the risk of pesticide residues and only harvest subsequent flowerings. Many garden favourites are edible and a few are listed below:

- **Alpine pinks** (*Dianthus*) – a clove-like flavour ideal for adding to cakes as well as flavoured sugar, oils and vinegars.
- **Bergamot** (*Monarda didyma*) – a strong spicy scent, makes good tea and complements bacon, poultry, rice and pasta.
- **Chrysanthemum** – petals flavour and colour cream soups, fish chowder and egg dishes in the same way as calendula.
- **Daisy** (*Bellis perennis*) – not a strong flavour but petals make an pretty garnish for cakes.
- **Elderflower** (*Sambucus nigra*) – used to make wine and cordials, or place in a muslin bag to flavour tarts and jellies but removed before serving. Elderflowers can be dipped in batter and deep fried.
- **Lavender** (*Lavandula angustifolia*) – flavoured sugar, honey or vinegar can be used in cakes and biscuits while sprigs complement roast pork, lamb and chicken.
- **Nasturtium** (*Tropaeolum majus*) – brightly coloured, peppery flowers are good in salads

► **This dainty viola looks like a miniature pansy. The whole flower is edible and has a mild, sweet flavour**



Calendula Neon,
£2.49 per seed
pack, Suttons

▲ **Ideal for salads, the calendula has edible deep orange petals**

and pasta dishes. The whole flower, leaves, and buds can be used or just the petals.

- **Pot marigold** (*Calendula officinalis*) – intense colour and a peppery taste useful in soups, stews and puddings. Petals can be dried or pickled in vinegar or added to oil.
- **Primrose** (*Primula vulgaris*) – decorate cakes with crystallized or fresh primrose flowers. They can also be frozen in ice cubes.
- **Rose** (*Rosa*) – Petals can be crystallized, used to flavour drinks, sugar and even icing for summer cakes.

For more information visit www.rhs.org.uk



Viola 'Heartsease',
£4.95 for a seed
and recipe pack,
The Edible
Flower
Shop



Nasturtium 'Ladybird Mix',
£2.79 per seed
pack, Suttons

▲ **This compact, bushy dark-leaved plant produces masses of edible flowers, and each petal has an eye-catching burgundy spot. It's happiest in poor, free-draining soil and is great for covering banks as well as filling pots**

THINGS TO CONSIDER

The RHS has the following advice which you should bear in mind when collecting flowers for eating...

- Accurate identification of flowers is essential – if you are in doubt, don't eat.
- Pick young flowers and buds on dry mornings, before the sun gets too strong, so the colour and flavours will be intense.
- Use flowers immediately for best results or refrigerate in a plastic bag for a couple of days. Dried or frozen flowers are best used in infusions or cooked.
- Generally, only the petals are used, so discard stamens, pistil and calyx of large flowers such as hollyhocks, roses, lilies and hibiscus. The bitter 'heel' at the base of the petal should be removed.
- Petals of daisies, borage and primroses can easily be separated from the calyx.
- Smaller flowers in umbels such as fennel and dill can be cut off and used whole.

Essential reading

For a stylish and practical guide to growing, and then cooking, a variety of over 30 herbs and edible flowers, we love *The Herb and Flower Cookbook*, by Pip McCormac, published by Quadrille. Learn how to cultivate aromatic plants to use in unusual and seasonal recipes that are full of flavour, whether you have a kitchen garden, balcony or even just a window sill. The thesaurus at the beginning of the book gives growing instructions and suggestions for the foods each plant works with, plus information on the taste and how it should be eaten.

The Herb & Flower Cookbook by Pip McCormac, photography by Yuki Sugiura, £16.99, published by Quadrille. *Your Home* readers can purchase a copy for the special price of £14, including p&p, to order call 01256 302699 and quote the code G8G before 31st July 2015.

◀ **Use nasturtiums to make a butter with a peppery taste, perfect for serving with artichokes, as shown here in *The Herb & Flower Cookbook* by Pip McCormac**



Sunflower 'Tasty Treat', £2.99 per seed pack, Suttons



How to eat edible flowers

If you're unsure of how to make the most of your flowers, The Edible Flower Shop has these great ideas...

● Just have a salad

If the idea of following recipes does not appeal then keep it easy. Simply make a salad with edible flowers.

● Keep it straightforward

Make any dish a visual and culinary treat by garnishing your meals with edible flowers.

● Be more adventurous

For those who enjoy cooking, or like to experiment a little, we have included recipe ideas in our leaflets which accompany every packet of seeds to get you started.

● Hot drinks

Try chamomile or mint for a soothing floral tea.

▲ Nearly all of this sunflower is edible – the leaves, seeds, flower buds and petals

● Cold drinks

Add something extra to your summer drinks with mint or borage, a classic combination with pimm's or iced tea.

● Decorate a cake

Add that extra special touch by finishing your cakes with edible flowers.

● Floral sugar

Make floral sugars by adding dried flowers to sugar for a unique and tasty alternative to plain sugar.

● Floral vinegars and oils

Add flowers to vinegars and oils and allow them to impart their fragrance and flavour.

● Dry them

Keep herbal flowers and store in an airtight container to make floral teas any time of the year or to sprinkle over any dish as a garnish.

● Crystallise them

Crystallise your edible flowers to make a sweet treat to add to any dessert or cake.

Expert opinion

We asked Rachael Voaden from The Edible Flower Shop for her favourites...

'My favourite edible flower has to be the cornflower. These were the first flowers I grew as a child – they are incredibly easy to grow and produce masses of beautiful, vivid blue flowers. They are great for pollinating insects and have a wide variety of culinary uses including to make a natural food colouring, adding flavour to floral sugars, decorating cakes or adding colour to salads or rice dishes. I also absolutely love chive flowers. They are so incredibly pretty and add fantastic colour and flavour to any savoury dish. There are so many beautiful and delicious edible flowers – I only have edible flowers in my garden as it seems such a shame to have a flower that you can only look at!'



Cornflower 'Blue Ball' seed and recipe pack, £4.95, The Edible Flower Shop



Chenopodium 'Strawberry Sticks', £1.99 per seed pack, Suttons

Receive 10% discount at The Edible Flower Shop

We're big fans of the website www.theedibleflowershop.co.uk, an online treasure trove where you will find a selection of edible flower seed packs. With prices from £4.95, each pack includes flower seeds, a plant label, growing and harvesting instructions, a recipe guide and four recipe cards. The Edible Flower Shop is offering Your Home readers a 10% discount when ordering online – simply enter the code Home10 at the checkout, before the closing date of 30th June 2015.



Reader offer

▶ You can eat both the leaves, which have a spinach-like taste, and the fruits, reminiscent of mulberry, of this hardy annual



SAVE £12 when you buy the collection of 9 Coveted Carnations...

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Free of charge item is restricted to one per household.

☐ Please tick here if you would prefer not to receive offers from any company other than Hayloft Plants.

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We have £6,010 worth of fab prizes up for grabs!

Win a garden chimenea and U-CAN products

U-CAN, the range of easy-to-use DIY solutions from Tarmac Building Products, is giving 10 readers the chance to win a fantastic chimenea, worth £66, along with a bag of U-CAN mix-in-the-bag concrete.

U-CAN is developed with convenience in mind, featuring easy-to-handle packaging and a 'just add water' solution. U-CAN is exclusive to B&Q stores and online at www.diy.com. For more information on the U-CAN range, please visit its blog at

www.u-can.tv/blog.

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Text YHPRIZE1

followed by a space then your name and address to 87080.

Texts cost 50p.**

u-can

☎ 0901 819 0671* Calls cost 26p per min

Win a Fiskars gardening kit worth £75

We've teamed up with Fiskars

to offer 10 lucky winners a

copy of 'Grow For Flavour',

the latest book from TV

gardening celebrity James

Wong, along with James'

gardening tool of choice –

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FISKARS

☎ 0901 819 0672* Calls cost 26p per min

Win a hotel break from FURminator

Designed by a professional groomer, the FURminator DeShedding Tool is the number one choice when it comes to preventing your pet from shedding hair around the home. We've teamed up with

FURminator to offer five lucky readers a FURminator DeShedding Tool and an overnight stay for two, including

dinner and breakfast, at the luxurious, dog-friendly Hatherley Manor in Gloucestershire.

Terms and conditions: 1. Vouchers will be valid until 31st January 2016 and exclude certain peak dates including: 13th, 14th and 15th November; 24th, 25th, 26th and 31st December; 1st January. 2. All bookings are subject to availability and guests must call the hotel directly to check availability.

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5
great
prizes

☎ 0901 819 0673* Calls cost 26p per min

Win £75 of Perfect for Pollinators plants

We have 10 Perfect for Pollinators plant collections, worth over £75 each, to give away, courtesy of Plants to Plant. This fantastic collection contains 15 9cm RHS-listed plants, including the best varieties to attract pollinators to the garden, brightening up even the most troublesome of gardens. To explore more of the Plants

to Plant range, visit www.plantstoplant.com.

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Texts cost 50p.**

Plants to plant



10
fab
prizes

☎ 0901 819 0674* Calls cost 26p per min

Win a Liberty water fountain

Transform your garden with an instant, mains-free fountain from Liberty. Thanks to its quiet Lithium battery-powered pump, you can now install a beautiful garden fountain with no cables, no plumbing and no electric wires. Three lucky readers will win a tiered fountain, everything needed for full set up and a solar upgrade, altogether worth £240. Visit www.libertyfeatures.co.uk for more information.

ENTER ONLINE! Visit www.yourhomemagazine.co.uk

TEXT ENTRY OPTION! Text YHPRIZE5 followed by a space then your name and address to 87080. Texts cost 50p.**



3
fantastic
prizes

☎ 0901 819 0675* Calls cost 26p per min

Win a Morphy Richards SuperVac

We've teamed up with Morphy Richards to give five lucky readers the chance to win a brand new SuperVac vacuum cleaner, worth £149.99.

This versatile cordless 2-in-1 vacuum cleaner is perfect for quick and easy daily cleans all around your home. In upright mode it is lightweight, can be used on all floor surfaces, and its manoeuvrable head can reach the tightest of corners. It also comes with a detachable handheld cleaner which is ideal for upholstery, curtains and mattresses. For more information visit www.morphyrichards.co.uk. **ENTER ONLINE!** Visit www.yourhomemagazine.co.uk **TEXT ENTRY OPTION!** Text YHPRIZE6 followed by a space then your name and address to 87080. Texts cost 50p.**

morphy richards
smart ideas for your home



5
amazing
prizes

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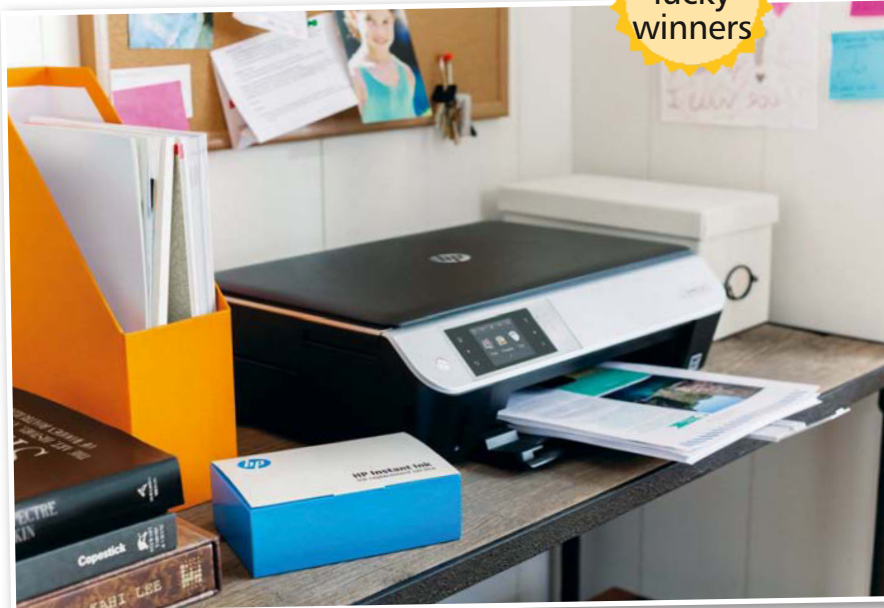
Win an HP printer and year's supply of ink

We've teamed up with HP to offer nine readers a year's supply of HP Instant Ink and an HP ENVY 5530 printer, worth £159. With this groundbreaking ink replacement service from HP you can save up to 70% on ink costs and have HP Original Ink delivered straight to your door before you even realise you need it. Running out of ink is a thing of the past with HP Instant Ink – you'll always be ready to print lab-quality photos and laser-sharp documents on your brand new printer. Visit www.hp.co.uk/instantink for more information and to view the range.

Terms and conditions: Winners will be placed on the 300 pages per month printing plan.

ENTER ONLINE! Visit www.yourhomemagazine.co.uk

TEXT ENTRY OPTION! Text YHPRIZE7 followed by a space then your name and address to 87080. Texts cost 50p.**



9
lucky
winners

☎ 0901 819 0677* Calls cost 26p per min

To enter: Phone or text your name and address for the prize you would like to win or enter online at www.yourhomemagazine.co.uk. Phone and text entries must reach us by midnight on 31st July 2015, and three working days later for online entries. *Calls cost 26p per minute and last approx. 2 minutes. Calls from mobiles may vary. From 1st July 2015 calls will cost 25p per minute plus your network access charge. **Texts cost 50p plus your standard network charge. This is not a subscription service. Lines close at midnight on 31st July 2015 and three working days later for online entries. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received after the closing date. If you call to enter after the advertised closing date you will not be entered into the competition, but you may still be charged. **RULES:** 1) Hubert Burda Media UK may use your details to let you know about other products and services we think may be of interest to you. If you do not want offers from us, please end your text message with BURDA NO. 2) The competition is open to anyone in the UK over the age of 18, apart from employees of Hubert Burda Media UK, Spoke and any other companies involved in the competition. 3) Unless otherwise stated prizes include delivery to the UK mainland but not installation or removal of existing appliances or products. 4) No cash alternative is available and products will not be changed or upgraded, but should the prize become unavailable Your Home has the right to offer an alternative prize. 5) Only one online entry per giveaway per person. 6) Winners must be willing to participate in publicity if required. 7) Proof of postage is not proof of receipt. 8) The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 9) Unless otherwise stated prizes must be claimed within six months. 10) Holidays and breaks are subject to availability at the time of booking and unless otherwise stated do not include travel, insurance or extras. 11) Reproduction of this competition in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. Hubert Burda Media UK reserves the right to prosecute any offending parties. 12) Allow 8-10 weeks from selection for completion. 13) Entrants are asked to provide their full name and address when entering the competition. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.



Shopping guide

40



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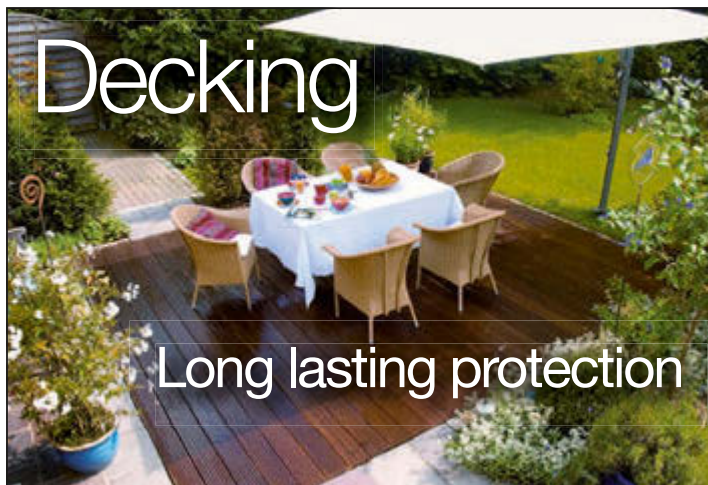
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Bee's Wrap sandwich wrap, £8.95, The Wise House



Raise the roof

When it comes to making green additions to your house, biodiverse green roofs are one of the few options that look just as good as they are eco-friendly. Sedum green roofs can be planted on both pitched and flat roofs and provide the perfect environment for birds and insects to thrive as well as added insulation for your home or summer house. If you can't stretch to a whole roof, Sedum Green Roof will let you order as little as one pod, perfect for kitting out the roof of your birdhouse.

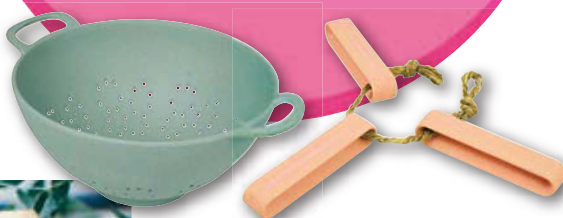


Sedum green roofs, from £18 plus delivery for one 46cm x 49cm pod, Sedum Green Roof

Eco eating

Perfect for kitting out your kitchen this summer, Zuperzoial's range of Raw Earth tableware combines impressive eco-friendly credentials with super stylish design. Each piece in the collection is made from bamboo and corn powder, meaning everything is biodegradable as well as having an on-trend speckled, matt finish. We'll be picking up the handy trivet and stylish strainer, both perfect for the eco-conscious cook.

Stick-up-the-heat trivet, £6.50; **strainer,** from £6, both www.formahouse.co.uk



Eco expert

We spoke to Ken O'Shea, Managing Director of Accuflow, about how we can make our showers greener this summer



'Summer is around the corner, bringing with it warmer weather and higher water bills, as people take more showers to stay cool. Typically, people run the shower until the water gets warm, so the cold and lukewarm water goes straight down the drain at full flow. This not only wastes water but gas and money too. Simply fitting a small valve like Flowsave, that limits the flow of water until the correct temperature has been reached, can save households up to 50,000 litres of water per year and £150 in gas and water bills.' Visit www.flowsave.net for more information.

WEBSITE WATCH... www.ecofriendlykids.co.uk

The summer holidays are a great opportunity to spend some quality with the kids, but if you're fresh out of ideas to keep them occupied, take a look at www.ecofriendlykids.co.uk. The site has lots of suggestions for eco-friendly activities, such as building a greenhouse out of plastic bottles and making recycled paper, as well as fun and informative quizzes to help them learn more about the environment while they're having fun.





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Clever Cleaning™

We know that a busy home life can bring cleaning challenges of all kinds, that's why we have cloths, scourers, gloves and mops for every occasion! So if it is a pot that needs scrubbing or a bath to leave gleaming, *Spontex will make the job better, quicker and easier!*

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