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EDITOR'S LETTER

Discover great buys for every room from all your favourite online and high street stores

Welcome

As Easter falls in April this year, that means we get a lovely long bank holiday weekend to enjoy this month.

If you're planning on using your time off for a spot of decorating, then I'm sure you're going to **find lots to inspire you** in this issue.

As spring is in full flow, you might want to **give your rooms a verdant update** to reflect the fresh greenery outside. If that's the case, then check



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Give your home a serene, green update inspired by Japanese 'forest bathing'

out this month's trend alert on page 22 and be inspired by the Japanese tradition of 'forest bathing' to **give your scheme a green and serene update**. And with the longer, lighter days we're having, now is the perfect time to **switch up your window treatments** and swap heavy curtains for lighter voiles and linens. Take a look at our decorating feature on page 38 to discover **our pick of the loveliest blinds, curtains and shutters** to give your windows the 'wow' factor.

If getting your garden ready for summer is on your bank holiday agenda, then make sure you read our feature on page 116 to help you **tick off your gardening to-do list**. Hopefully, you'll find some time over Easter to spend with family and friends, and if you're planning a get-together, then why not try some of our **delicious recipes** on page 98 to help you whip up a family feast that everyone will enjoy?

However you plan to spend your bank holiday break, I hope you have a very happy Easter!

Anna-Lisa

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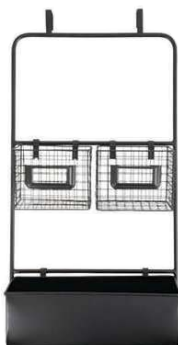
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GUIDE

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National
Trust

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growers, plant protectors
and nature nurturers
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Dances with the daffodils

Nestled in the heart of the Lake District is Dove Cottage, the famous home of one of the world's most-loved nature poets, William Wordsworth and his sister, the author and poet Dorothy Wordsworth. 2020 marks the 250th anniversary of William's birth and to celebrate this milestone, the Wordsworth Trust has created *Reimagining Wordsworth*, a year-long programme of exhibitions and talks to inspire a greater appreciation for the poet. On his birthday, 7th April, Dove Cottage will reopen its doors to the public, where visitors will be transported back to the 1800s to see how the cottage would have looked during the pair's lifetime. William's beloved orchard garden will also be restored with the incorporation of local plants, reinforcing his view that it is 'the loveliest spot that man hath ever found.'

Open from 7th April, 10am-5.30pm. Admission £12. For more info visit www.wordsworth.org.uk

THIS MONTH *we love...*

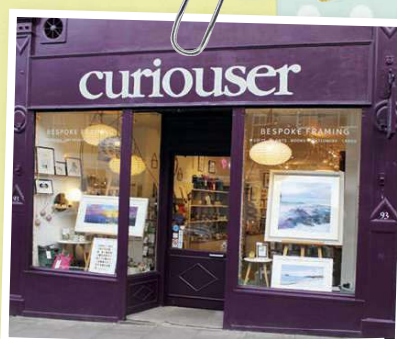
FOR
STOCKISTS,
SEE P122

Take a peek at our favourite things to see, buy and do during April

Hidden Gem: *Curiouser and Curiouser, Edinburgh*

On the corner of Broughton Street, Edinburgh, sits Curiouser and Curiouser, a shop founded by Laura Clifford and Ian Staples which is celebrating its tenth anniversary. The store offers a variety of quirky homewares, art, jewellery and stationery. Good design and bold colours are what inspire Laura and Ian and they support and stock local designers as much as they can. The store also offers a bespoke framing service – they create a lovely finishing touch to a work of art. In 2015, the pair opened their second store on the other side of town, which goes to show that authentic and passionate businesses can thrive.

93 Broughton Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3RZ, or visit www.curiouserandcuriouser.com



SOLDIERS AT THE READY

What came first, the flamingo or the egg? Liven up your breakfast table with these adorable, handmade egg cups from ceramicist Hannah Turner. With animals ranging from toucans and turkeys to peacocks and puffins, these little creatures will ensure your boiled eggs are the centre of attention at the breakfast table!

Prices start at £15.99 for a bird cup, www.hannahturner.co.uk

Feature Katie Dutton

THIS MONTH WE LOVE

GREAT IDEAS FOR...

National Tea Day 21st April

Sit back and sip away in style with these tea-themed goodies



◀ What better love match is there than tea and cake?

Cake stand, £17.99, Wayfair

▶ This practical pourer takes the faff out of tea leaves

Tea infuser, £16.50, Oliver Bonas



◀ Add a spoonful of something sweet

Pip Studio floral sugar bowl, £14, Amara

▶ Keep your pot warm in this handmade design

Wild flowers tea cosy, £36, Poppy Treffry



◀ Brew your perfect cuppa

Rainbow positivitea tea for one, £12, Red Candy



▶ Make a style statement with this stripy tea set

Stripy teacup and saucer, £17.95, Bombay Duck

Bright bedding

If you like pretty pinks, bold shapes or a ditsy daisy print, Next's latest bedding range will be just up your street. Its fun new designs will freshen up your bedroom in time for the sunnier weather and lighter mornings – the only downside being that you may not want to get out of bed! Manufactured from easy-care polycotton, the bedding is machine washable, quick to dry, easy to iron and will see many a spring as they are made to last. We love the Retro Geo duvet cover and pillowcase set which is priced at just £25 for a double bed.

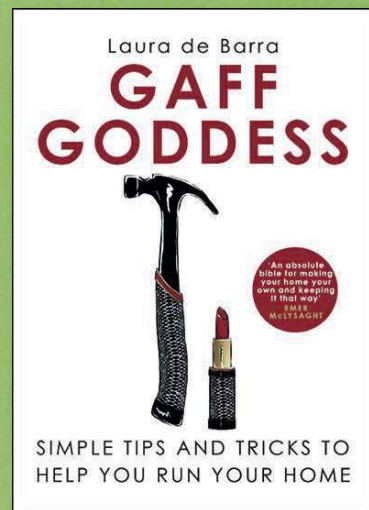
Visit www.next.co.uk for the full range and list of prices



DIY DIVA

This new, funny and informative guide to keeping your home shipshape is written by Cork-based property portfolio developer and illustrator Laura de Barra. Alongside detailed drawings, you can learn about everything from mending a leaky tap to building the ultimate tool box. *Gaff Goddess* (£14.99, Penguin) will leave you feeling empowered and ready for the challenge of maintaining, fixing and improving your home, as well as hooting with laughter at de Barra's straight-talking wit.

Gaff Goddess: Simple Tips and Tricks to Help You Run Your Home is out now for £14.99



OH-SO CHICK

We love any reason to celebrate and decorate, so we can't wait to get in the mood for Easter with these fun and affordable seasonal decorations, treats and accessories. You can bake some biscuits with the National Trust's new cookie cutters, or treat yourself and your loved ones to a pre-made delight from Biscuiteers' Easter range. Meanwhile, in the décor department, these fluffy chicks from White Stuff can bring some spring delight to your interior – hang them on an Easter tree, dot them about the house, or show them off in their very own egg box!

National Trust Easter cookie cutters, £2; Biscuiteers Easter cookie range, from £9; White Stuff Easter decorations, from £5



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GET IN TOUCH

Your letters

Your Home needs you!

We love to hear what you've been up to, so send us your letters, tips, projects and photos. This month's prizes are provided by Bunches.

LOFT LIVING

I am so proud of our attic conversion. It wasn't as straightforward as we initially thought, because we had to fully rewire unexpectedly, alongside all the mess and dust. Once completed, I upcycled the old pine coffee table using grey chalk paint to match the décor. My husband made the light from an old camera tripod found in my dad's attic and a theatre light from eBay – a real bargain! We also added a bathroom to the conversion for a fully-functioning attic space.

Angela Buckley, by email

Your Home says Your attic looks amazing, Angela. Such a professional finish and the upcycled light is a great idea!



Letter of the month

★ Angela's letter has won her a Fairytale bouquet worth £45, courtesy of Bunches. Send us your projects and photos, and you could be next month's winner!

Upcycling magic

I gave both of my daughters' bedrooms a makeover as a Christmas present.

Money was tight, so I bought all the furniture second-hand and upcycled it!

I'm so proud of the finished results and the girls love their rooms.

Sian, by email

Your Home says What amazing transformations, Sian! We love the bright patterns and colourful wallpaper.



A crafty restoration

This set of drawers was lovingly restored by me and my husband using some chalk paint and pretty ceramic handles. When my former workplace shut down over 10 years ago, I rescued the drawers as staff were allowed to take home a memento. My old, battered mahogany drawers now take pride of place in my home office – I love their new colour. The project cost me just £20 – win-win!

Mandy Skidmore, by email



Your Home says We love giving furniture a new lease of life here at *Your Home*. Your drawers look beautiful, Mandy – the handles are a lovely find!



Above the bar

The corner of my dining area felt so bare after taking down the Christmas tree this year.

I missed the twinkling fairy lights and wanted to fill the space with something interesting.

I also wanted an area to show off my crystal decanter which was a wedding present 25 years ago. Up until now, it had been hidden away in a cupboard. Inspired by a few drinks trolley ideas featured in *Your Home*, I thought this plant stand from IKEA would be perfect for displaying my crystal glassware – it's the perfect bar area for before- and after-dinner drinks.

Nicola Bellamy, by email

Your Home says Your drinks trolley looks gorgeous, Nicola. A great way to add some sparkle all year round!

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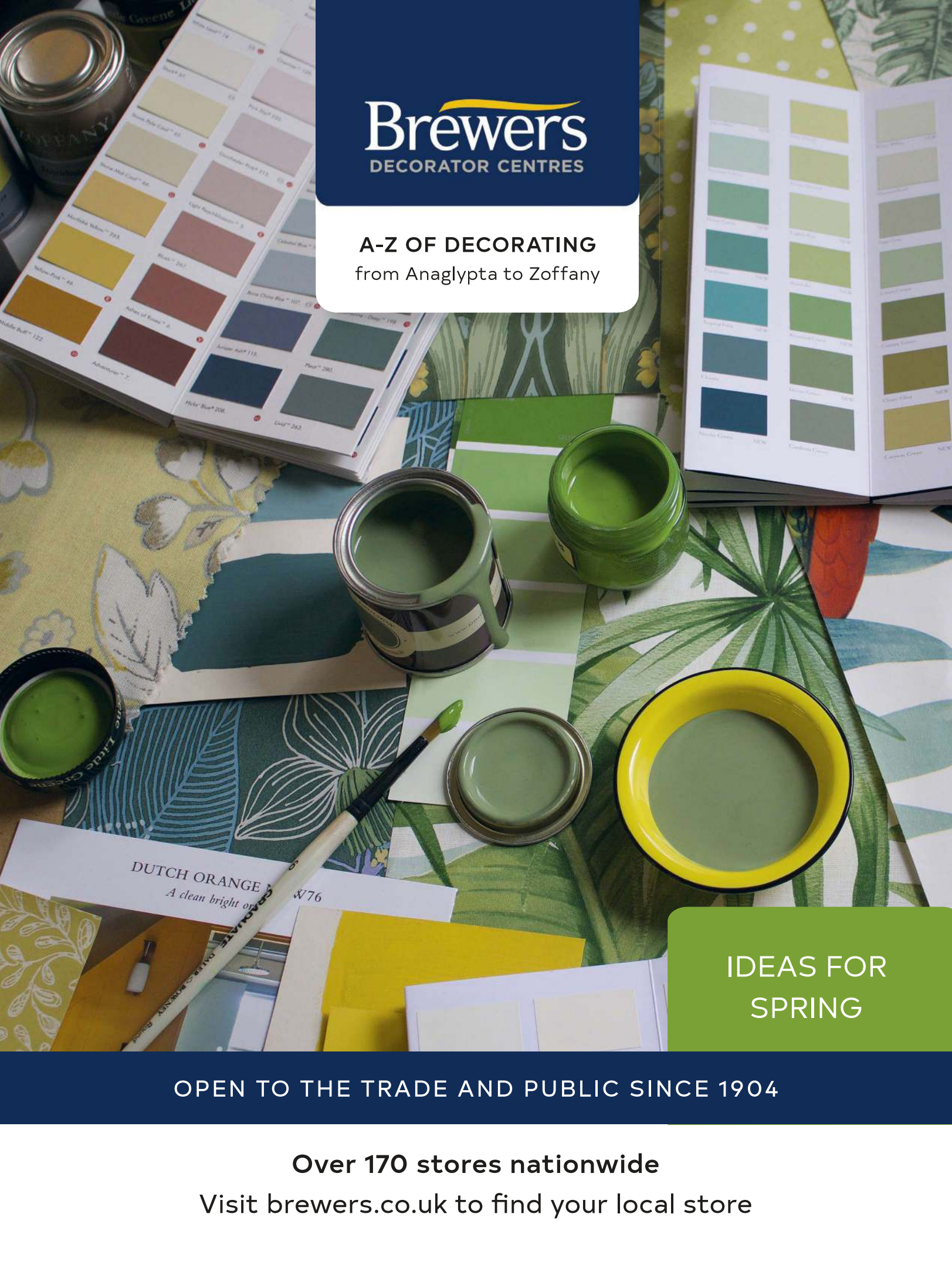
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Your letters, *Your Home* magazine, Immediate Media Co, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST, or email yourhome@immediate.co.uk. Letters may be edited. We apologise but photos cannot be returned.

Courtesy of Bunches, this issue's letter of the month will receive a Fairytale bouquet worth £45. Three runners-up will receive a Marvellous Mum bouquet worth £26. Find out more about Bunches' products at www.bunches.co.uk. Please note, colours may vary and the specific bouquets are subject to availability.

bunches





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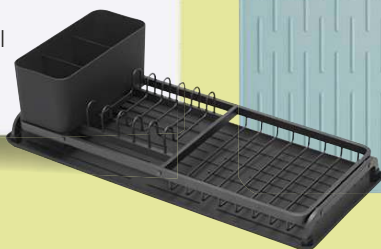


Put a spring in your step with these tips to freshen up your home

How to... spring clean your home

Perhaps it's a cliché, but springtime often calls for a big cleaning mission in the home. But whether you're for or against this seasonal tradition, it's been proven that a spick and span space usually equates to a tidy mind. So if you're keen to do a little (or large) refresh, then follow our top tips to get the job done.

- ✓ If you're a bit of a hoarder, you might want to start by decluttering. A general rule is that if you haven't used or appreciated something in the past year, then it's time to part ways. Try recycling or donating the items to charity to cut back on waste.
- ✓ Has your wardrobe become an unorganised mess? Now's the perfect time to tackle it. Start by putting away winter clothes and shoes to make space for spring, then group clothing items into sections so that all of the garments have a specific place. If you really want to go the extra mile and make your wardrobe super aesthetically pleasing, organise the clothes by colour – a gradient of light to dark is always effective.
- ✓ Take on those laborious jobs we tend to put off in the kitchen. Cleaning the oven isn't the most thrilling task, but using a paste made of baking soda and water is highly effective and easy. Just spread the paste over the entire interior of the oven and let it sit overnight, then wipe it down the next day.
- ✓ For the fridge, begin by removing everything and getting rid of any items that are out of date. Remove shelves and wash them with warm soapy water, then allow them to dry. Using a mixture of vinegar and water, spray the inside of the fridge and let it sit. Wipe everything down until it's clean and finally, return food to the fridge in an organised manner.



Q&A

How can I give my windows a proper clean?

A lot of marks and dirt tend to build up over winter, often leaving windows in a less than acceptable state. For sparkling clean windows, use a simple solution of washing-up liquid and warm water to buff away marks with a gentle sponge. A squeegee works best for removing any excess liquid but if you can't get your hands on one, scrunched up newspaper also does the trick and leaves a sparkling finish!



Feature Ella Rhys-Jones Main images Getty Images

Editor's choice

Fed up of having a terribly precarious draining board? Why not try Brabantia's new Compact Dish Drying Rack, £35.95, or its Silicone Dish Drying Mat, £19.95? Perfect for smaller kitchens, the drying rack holds up to five plates and includes a drip-tray to stop your worktops getting wet. The drying mat, made of non-skid silicone, provides a safe surface to rest fragile pieces like glassware, too. Visit brabantia.com for more information.

What to look out for **THIS MONTH**



▲ Gift something a bit longer lasting than chocolate this year. This set has everything a child needs for baking and it can be personalised

Personalised children's bunny baking set, £9.99, Rocket and Fox

► Forget gingerbread men – use this cutter to make tasty bunny biscuits instead

Pink Easter bunny cutter, £2, National Trust



◀ Make drying the dishes more appealing with these cute rabbit-print tea towels

Pink Easter tea towels, £3.99, TK Maxx



▼ Allow the kids to get their creative juices flowing at Easter with this DIY kit



Easter tree DIY kit, £35, Biscuiters

Great buy...

It can be frustrating when you want to wear a just-washed item only to see the 'do not tumble dry' label. Well, be frustrated no longer. Grundig's new Heat Pump AirTouch Tumble Dryer, £549.99, allows you to dry even the most delicate of items due to its flat bed with no drum rotation. With a strong commitment to sustainability, Grundig's gentle technology will hopefully help to combat the throwaway fashion culture that sees items thrown out after just one wear. For more information go to www.grundig.co.uk.



▲ A hemisphere cake pan makes it easy to bake round novelty cakes, like these cute bunnies, no carving necessary

Medium hemisphere cake pan, £7.99, Lakeland

WE TEST...Cordless vacuum cleaners

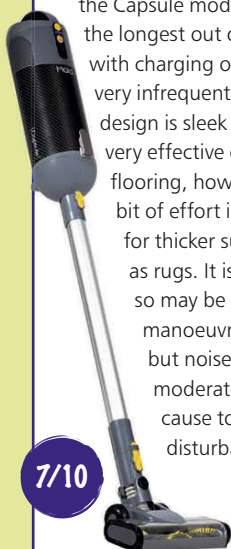
We tried out a selection of cordless vacuum cleaners - here's what we found...

THINGS WE CONSIDERED

- How easy was it to use?
- How effective was it?
- How noisy was it?

HALO CAPSULE, £249.99

With a similar capacity to that of a regular, corded vacuum, the Capsule model will last the longest out of the bunch with charging only needed very infrequently. The design is sleek and it was very effective on hard flooring, however a little bit of effort is required for thicker surfaces such as rugs. It is quite heavy so may be difficult to manoeuvre at times, but noise levels are moderate so as not to cause too much disturbance.



7/10

SHARK DUO CLEAN CORDLESS VACUUM CLEANER, £379.99

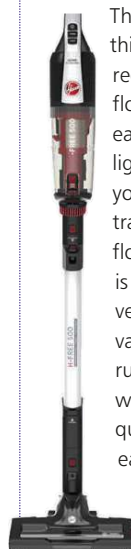
We found this vacuum the most effective, leaving no crumbs on surfaces whether hard or soft. It is very powerful though, so may be slightly difficult to control and stabilise. The design is well thought out with a nifty contraption that allows you to fold the vacuum over for easy, compact storage. It is also the quietest of the lot, enabling those early Saturday morning cleaning sessions.



9/10

HOOVER H-FREE 500 CORDLESS STICK VACUUM CLEANER, £199.99

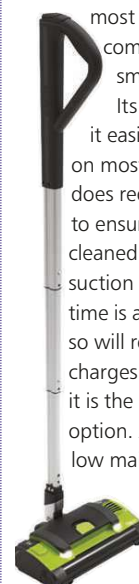
The best value for money, this vacuum is brilliant on regular carpet and hard flooring. It compresses for easy storage and is very lightweight – perfect if you need something to transport around multiple floors. The dust container is not the biggest but it is very easy to dismantle the vacuum for emptying. It runs for up to 40 minutes while being relatively quiet, and it stands up easily on its own.



9/10

GLTECH HYLITE, £129.99

This vacuum is by far the most compact when compressed so ideal for smaller living spaces. Its lightness makes it easily manoeuvrable on most surfaces but it does require more effort to ensure all crumbs are cleaned due to lower suction levels. Its running time is around 20 minutes so will require more charges than others, but it is the most affordable option. A good choice for a low maintenance flat!



8/10

Gtech

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Two cordless vacuums; one mighty combination



'Tackle your entire home with the Gtech System – our award winning upright AirRam combined with our handheld Multi for above the floor cleaning.'

Nick Grey, inventor and owner of Gtech

- Cordless
- 60 minute combined runtime*
- Multitasking attachments
- LED headlights
- Lightweight

Performance cleaning

Our AirRam is designed specifically for floor cleaning, moving seamlessly from carpets to hard floors with no settings to change. The compact Multi puts the attachments from your upright cleaner in the palm of your hand. Both vacuums feature LED headlights to illuminate your cleaning area, meaning there's no place for dirt or dust to hide.

Cordless convenience

The AirRam has an ultra low profile handle design, allowing you to reach under tables, chairs and other furniture. The Multi's powered brush head is ideal for awkward spaces like the stairs, car interior and sofa

cushions. It also includes an extension tube that can be used to reach up high or down low with a choice of different nozzles.

Lightweight

Thanks to its streamlined design, which does away with so many bulky parts, the AirRam weighs just 3.2kg. The handheld Multi weighs just 1.5kg**, offering a lightweight cleaning option.

1 hour runtime*

Our AirRam provides up to 40 minutes of runtime with each 4 hour charge*, while the Multi gives you up to 20 minutes of additional above the floor cleaning*.

Brilliant... The lightness of the System means I have no problem in lifting and manoeuvring it and it stores away in a tiny corner. The cleaning is wonderful, my carpets have taken on a newer look. Mrs. Brooks - Trustpilot



Offer includes: Gtech AirRam (RRP £199.99), Gtech Multi (RRP £149.99) and Gtech Car Accessory Kit (RRP £50). Normal bundle price **£399.98**. Order before **23.03.2020** using code **NM43** for just **£279.98** and save **£120**.

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★★★★★
Gtech's Trustpilot rating is
4.6 out of 5
after **65,000** reviews

†Offer only available directly from Gtech. Offer ends 23rd March 2020 or while stocks last. Δ AirLOC technology is patent-pending – WO2017/144922. *Runtimes quoted may vary depending on surfaces cleaned. **Weight = 1.5kg with nozzle; weight may vary according to attachment used. Limited 2-year manufacturers guarantee. Free attempted next day delivery services apply 7 days a week and to orders placed up until 7pm, excluding UK highlands and islands. This promotional code is not transferable and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. See www.gtech.co.uk for full details. Grey Technology Ltd t/a Gtech, Brindley Road, Warndon, Worcester, WR4 9FB.



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Image Getty Images

Savvy ways to...

Haggle more and **pay less**

We all love a bargain, but how many of us are willing to haggle a price down? In Britain, many of us find it too direct, impolite and maybe even embarrassing to ask for money off. But if we could get over our inhibitions, we could save hundreds of pounds on the high street, and on insurance, broadband and phone contracts. After all, if you don't ask, you don't get. Follow our tips for haggling happiness!

- Asking for money off doesn't make you rude. In fact, the more charming you are, the more likely it is you'll get what you want! Smile, be cheeky and use humour to build a rapport. The worst that can happen is they say no.
- Come prepared. Find out what some of the competitors are charging and see if they will match or beat it. Price comparison websites such as PriceRunner will save you time.
- Be bold and ask for more off than you expect. If you want 10% off, ask for 15% first. Haggling is all about meeting in the middle.

■ Play it cool. It might be the oven of your dreams, but they don't need to know that. Try phrases like, 'I quite like the look of this, but it's a bit more than I can afford. Is there any flexibility on price?' They need to know you're prepared to walk away.

■ Timing is important. Do not try to haggle when there is a queue of customers ready to pay full price. Try during quiet times or at the end of the day when market stalls are keen to shift stock or shops want to hit daily targets. Equally, shops will want to get rid of end-of-season products.

■ If you can't get money off, why not ask them to throw in something for free? If you're buying an expensive item, such as a computer, see if they'll include some accessories.

■ Remember that when it comes broadband, insurance and phone contracts, loyalty rarely pays. Companies often make their best deals available to new customers. Threaten to switch if they don't budge on price.

FACT FILE

The increased awareness around **climate change** in 2019 has led to **three in ten (29%)** British homeowners planning on **using less energy in 2020**.

Source Igloo Energy

YH Fab find

Refill is an app which helps you find local free water refill stations when you're on the go, meaning there is no need to buy expensive bottled water. Founded by environmental campaigner Natalie Fee, the aim is to reduce plastic waste. There are over 20,000 locations on the app, including many UK airports. Download for free on Google Play or the App Store and visit www.refill.org.uk for more information about the project.



SMART SAVINGS

If your train is late, don't get angry, get compensation. Keep hold of your tickets, make a note of your trip details and claim within 28 days. Arrangements vary between train companies, but visit their website and under 'Delay Repay' most will offer 50% off the cost of your single ticket or 25% off your return ticket for a 30-59 minute delay. For delays between 15-29 minutes, some will also offer 25% off a single ticket or 12.5% off a return ticket. If a service is delayed and you choose not to travel, you may be entitled to a full refund.

TECH NEWS

Fintech banks and apps are finding new and inventive ways to help you save. Monzo is offering customers the option of rounding up any money they spend to the nearest pound and putting the difference in a savings pot. So, say you spend £2.75 on a slice of cake, the app takes £3 and saves the change. It's an early experiment but could be a fun and easy way to save with zero effort. Find out more at www.monzo.com.



Feature Catherine Smalley



If you've been offered a smart meter from your energy company but aren't sure whether to accept, here's all you need to know

By the end of this year, all energy suppliers must aim to install smart meters in every home in England, Wales and Scotland. You've probably either already got one or you've been contacted by your energy supplier who has offered to come and install one for you. According to Ofgem, more than 16 million have already been fitted and the rollout is designed to help you see how much energy you're using and what it's costing so you can cut back where needed. So, what are the benefits and are there any disadvantages?

SWITCHING SUPPLIER

Even if you have a smart meter, you can still shop around for the best tariffs from different suppliers.

■ Those with first-generation models may find that a new supplier can't operate the meter in smart mode, so you might have to take manual readings. Make sure you ask a new supplier before you switch.

■ A remote upgrade last year should mean that there is now full flexibility, but it's best to check first.

■ New customers will be able to take advantage of the newer, second-generation meters from their suppliers.

TOP TIP

Use energy-saving apps such as Energy Cost Calculator and smart products like the Hive Active Heating Kit from British Gas to cut bills further.

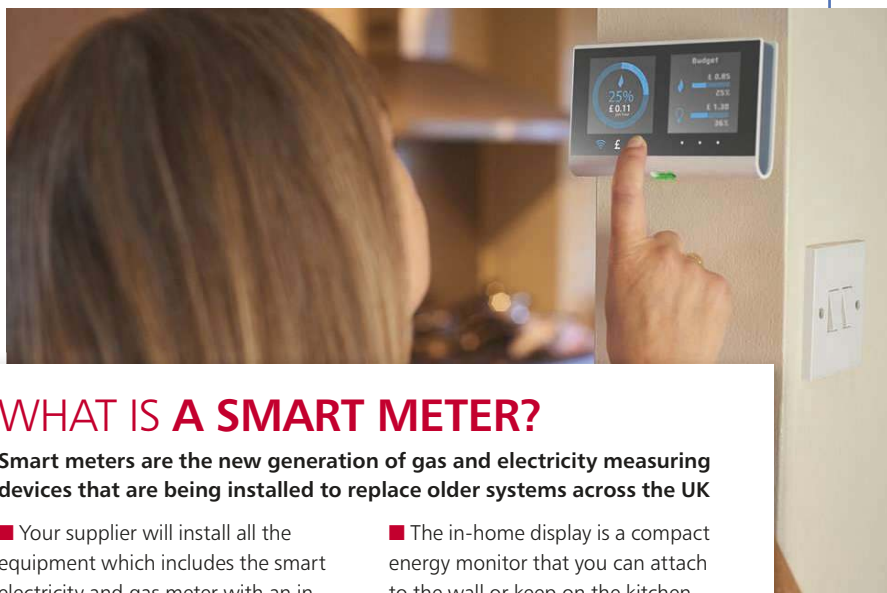
THE BENEFITS

There are many advantages to installing a smart meter:

- You won't need to take your own readings, as the meter automatically sends it to your energy supplier.
- It allows you to keep an eye on how much energy you're using and how much it's costing with the in-home display.
- Some households are seeing up to 20 per cent savings thanks to their smart meter.
- Bills will be accurate instead of estimated.
- It can help you change your habits, which in turn helps to save energy and help the environment.
- You may get offered better tariffs.
- Prepay meters can also be upgraded so you can keep track of how much credit you have left and top up from your smartphone, laptop or tablet.

Q Is it compulsory to have a smart meter fitted in your home?
Yasmin Wright, Plymouth

A No, and you can choose not to have one. However, the advice from the government and the energy companies is that consumers will definitely benefit from having one and you may get access to cheaper tariffs. You can always change your mind at a later date and still have one installed for free.



WHAT IS A SMART METER?

Smart meters are the new generation of gas and electricity measuring devices that are being installed to replace older systems across the UK

■ Your supplier will install all the equipment which includes the smart electricity and gas meter with an in-home display and a communications hub that sends and receives information over a secure network so your supplier can give you accurate bills without the need for a meter reading.

■ The in-home display is a compact energy monitor that you can attach to the wall or keep on the kitchen worktop. It communicates with the smart meter to show how much energy you are using and what it's costing. Some can even tell how much CO2 your home is producing.

THE DISADVANTAGES

There are also a few reasons why you may prefer not to:

- There have been some concerns about the first-generation smart meters and whether they will still work if you choose to switch to another supplier.
- A poor signal, just like a poor mobile reception, can cause problems as it can prevent the meter from sending readings to the supplier.
- Not all energy suppliers across the UK offer smart meters or support them.

DO I PAY FOR INSTALLATION?

No, the good news is that you won't be charged separately for installation or the smart meter products themselves. The cost is covered through your energy bills and this is standard practice across all suppliers.

USEFUL CONTACTS

- For information on how the installation takes place, visit www.smartenergygb.org
- Find advice on how to get one at www.moneysavingexpert.com
- There is also plenty of extra information at www.citizensadvice.org.uk
- And for a guide to your rights, head to www.ofgem.gov.uk



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so research can carry on after I've gone

to find new,
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we will beat cancer for future generations

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**CANCER
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Together we will beat cancer

Decorating

Introducing soothing tones, elegant style updates and new arrivals



Side board, £199.99, coffee table, £149.99, rug, £139.99, vase, £19.99, cushion cover, £6.99, candle holder, £8.99, bowl, £6.99, all H&M Home

Mini trend: *Ovals*

It's said that all trends are cyclical, and this one is particularly round. We're seeing elegant, Art Deco-inspired ovals everywhere at the moment, adding a touch of class wherever they go. A quick way to incorporate this timeless trend into your décor is by adding a graceful new mirror, or a classic oval rug, but if you want to really embrace the theme, you can't go wrong with bit of statement lighting.

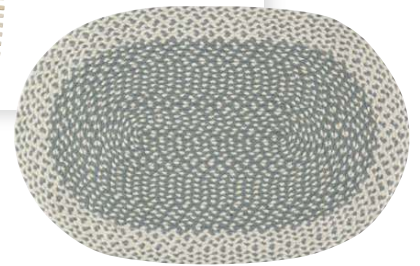


Yuma bamboo mirror, £25, Habitat

Orba large oval pendant light, £99, Cult Furniture

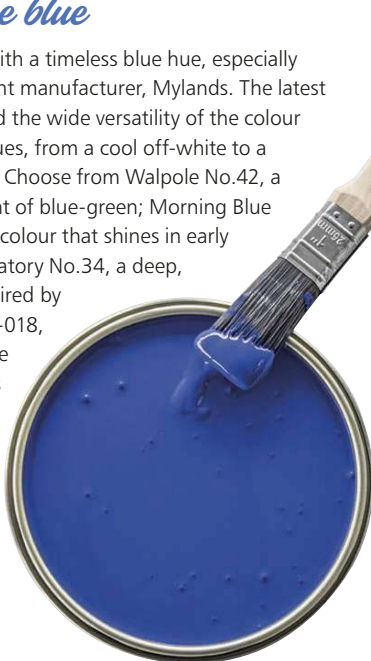


Braided jute rug in Thistle, from £32, The Braided Rug Company



Bolt from the blue

You can't go wrong with a timeless blue hue, especially one from heritage paint manufacturer, Mylands. The latest collection has explored the wide versatility of the colour with a spectrum of blues, from a cool off-white to a shining electric shade. Choose from Walpole No.42, a gentle white with a tint of blue-green; Morning Blue No.32, a delicate pale colour that shines in early morning light; Observatory No.34, a deep, sophisticated hue inspired by the night sky, and FTT-018, a startlingly bright blue developed by Mylands for use as part of the special effects on the *Harry Potter* films. These highly durable paints are available for £51 per 2.5L.



Nursery Collection carpet in Blue Stargazer, £19.99 per sq m, Carpetright



A STAR IS BORN

Take the fuss out of decorating your baby's nursery with a statement floor from Carpetright. This collection combines playful patterns and soothing colours to help to create the perfect environment for little ones. The range is priced at £19.99 per sq m and comes in classic colours including pink and blue, or neutral beige and silver, with subtle cloud, star and crown patterns to choose from too. And as it's as durable and hardwearing as it is soft and stylish, the carpet will last long after they've found their feet.

Feature Hannah Tribe



CHECK OUT OUR NEW DECORATING PAGES AT WWW.YOURHOMEMAGAZINE.CO.UK

TREND ALERT...

Forest bathing

Create a lush, urban jungle and feel the benefits of a closer connection with nature



Faux pink caladium plant, £14.95, Audenza

The concept of shinrin-yoku or 'forest bathing' swept across Japan in the 1980s. It involves heading into nature to immerse yourself in the surroundings so you can fully appreciate the outside space. It was found to have a dramatic positive effect on the welfare of the citizens, so the Japanese government introduced forest bathing as a national health programme. Spending time around plants lowers pulse rate and cortisol levels, and in turn reduces stress responses and signs of depression. Studies have shown that even looking at green walls or digital images of plants can have a therapeutic effect, making it easy to give your wellbeing a boost from the comfort of your own home.

Relax in a soothing, mindful space with clean white walls and natural textures, or lose yourself in a deep, cosy jungle with bright colours and tropical prints – choose whatever makes you feel the most at home. You can also fill your house with greenery which is easy to care for: think succulents, lavender, cactus, herbs, yucca, African violets, spider plants and aloe. If any of them grow significantly, then simply place the pots in large baskets with handles so you can easily reposition them around your home. 🌿



Large palm leaf velvet cushion, £30, Cult Furniture



Guzel stoneware sideplate, £8, Habitat



▲ Bunches of foliage in vases will perk up your décor without the hassle of plant parenting

Elodie velvet sofa bed, £299; Ava pebble cushion, £18; Taza rug, from £55; Sanctuary cheese plant cushion, £22; Pampas grass stem, £5.50; Lari wicker weave easy-fit pendant, £29, all Dunelm

Fuzzy throw, £20, George Home





Moisture-loving tropical plants will thrive in a steamy bathroom

Left to right: **Aeschynanthus Twister**, £18.99; **hanging string of hearts**, £19.99; **foliage in hanging greenhouse**, £16.99; **Rhipsalis**, £14.99; **Kokedama hanging ball**, £9.99; **Atlantic brown basket 12cm**, £6.99; **cactus pot**, £10; **Nephrolepis Green Lady**, £5.99; **Atlantic brown basket, 14cm**, £9.99; **Mojo lemongrass & thyme diffuser**, £27.50; **tall face vase**, £10; **Monstera Deliciosa moss pole**, £44.99; **Kokedama ball**, £9.99; **large seagrass basket**, £18; **Scottish Fine Soaps hand wash**, £15; **L'Occitane hand soap**, £9; **L'Occitane Lavender foaming bath soap**, £26; **Atlantic brown basket 16cm**, £12.99, all Dobbies



Faux trailing plant in ceramic pot, £19.50, M&S



Placing a few plants around your desk space will create a calming, creative atmosphere

Arkin chair moss green, £249; **Fulton ladder desk**, £129; **Leiden grey desk lamp**, £22, all Dunelm



Clockwise from top left: **Hopsack stripe fabric in Sage**, £39.50 per m, Ian Mankin. **Galerie rock wallpaper**, £34.95, John Lewis & Partners. **Melon Sorbet matt paint**, £25.56 for 2.5L, Dulux. **Palatina marble-effect floor tiles**, £13.99 per sq m, Tile Mountain. **Babylon Antique Gold sisal flooring**, £33 per sq m, Sisal & Seagrass



A jungle of plants will reflect noise, which prevent airy rooms from feeling echoey and cavernous

Artificial umbrella plant, £15; **woven basket**, £10; **matt grey fish bowl vase**, £6; **black tealight holder**, £3; **green leaves dinner set**, £20, all George Home

STYLE FILE

If you don't have the space for plants, botanical motifs will boost the jungle feel
Pink Iro cabinet, £565; **green Iro bedside table**, £198; **Tierra foiled base plant pot**, collection from £8.50; **mini ceramic watering cans**, £19.50 each, all Oliver Bonas



Choose an eclectic mix of patterns and textures to suit the varied leaf shapes of your plants

Iconica Chord three-seater sofa in Stone Sovereign Leather, £1,599, DFS



Clockwise from top left: **Holden Congo wallpaper in Pink**, £15, Homebase. **Crimson Red estate emulsion paint**, £47.95 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. **Colorado rug in Teal**, from £20, Matalan. **King Protea fabric**, £59 per m, Sanderson



Tropical palm porcelain mug, £5.95, Rex London



Bayou table lamp, £62, **Shibori linen shade**, £60, both Pooky

Ginkgo leaf wall mirror, £120, Audenza

EXPERT COMMENT

'The amazing air-purifying qualities of houseplants have an obvious effect on our wellbeing, but having something to care for is also proven to have many benefits for our mental health. Daily or weekly watering and then watching your plants thrive is hugely satisfying and creates a great feeling of purpose.'

Claire Bishop, houseplant buyer at Dobbies Garden Centres



Spend vs save

Let a woven pendant light up your life

Woven rattan pendant, £186, Maisons du Monde



Rattan lampshade, £30, George Home



Lily pad rug, £175, Sweetpea & Willow



Warm toned greens will create a cosy space

Tranquil Dawn, Forest Shade and Heart Wood, £29.16 for 2.5L, Dulux



Wilderness velvet cushion, £14, Sainsbury's Home

From left to right:
Artificial rubber plant in stand, £75, Next.
Artificial bamboo, £25, George Home. **Artificial potted plant in basket,** £30, Sainsbury's Home



POTS OF STYLE

Give your plants a stylish home of their own with these pots

Metal plant pot with wooden stand, £25, Cult Furniture



Navy wavy ceramic plant pot cover, from £4.50, Gisela Graham

Yucca long ceramic plant pot, £19.50, Oliver Bonas



Tin plant pot in Pink, £1, Primark

Giraffe plant pot, £12.99, M&Co





TOTAL COST
£2,427

We saved money by using what we had

Claire Last transformed a tired, dated kitchen using a thoughtful mix of revamped and recycled items, plus budget-friendly buys

Replacing a kitchen doesn't come cheap, so when Claire and Chris Last moved into their two-bedroom period property near Cambridge, they decided to work with the existing layout and units rather than rip it out and start again. 'It's actually a great kitchen to work in, as everything is perfectly placed and close to hand,' says Claire. However, with ageing appliances, worn fixtures and stunning original beams lost in a sea of orange pine, the challenge was how to transform this dated kitchen into a

more characterful, welcoming space, with only limited funds.

STEP ONE The couple's plan was to simply refresh the units with a coat of paint, thus leaving enough in the kitty for a brand new cooker, floor and work surface. 'I'm not a fan of timber worktops, and ours were quite badly cracked and marked, especially around the sink area, while the laminate flooring had definitely seen better days,' she explains. Claire, however, was keen to retain the



Before

KITCHEN MAKEOVER



Good idea!

IF YOU'D RATHER NOT INSTALL WALL CUPBOARDS, USE BASKETS AND BOXES AS AN ATTRACTIVE WAY TO STORE AND DISPLAY ESSENTIALS.

◀ Practical faux finishes are a great way to get a more luxurious look on a budget. The couple's marble-effect tiles are porcelain, while the worktop is a hardwearing solid laminate. Both make a real style statement when paired with natural materials, like Claire's boxes, boards and baskets

existing Belfast sink, as it fitted perfectly with her vision of modern, rustic styling. 'I wanted a bold scheme in keeping with the age of our home, so my idea was to team dark green paintwork with crisp white marble, rustic timbers and metal accents,' she says.

STEP TWO Before the painting could begin, Claire was determined to expose a section of the original brickwork. 'Our house is very old, and I thought revealing more of its history would help inject warmth and personality, as well as tie my proposed scheme together,' she smiles. Claire used a preparatory stripper and readily admits removing the old paint was both hard work and extremely time-consuming, but well worth the effort. Luckily, painting the units proved far easier, and having removed the worktops, cooker and flooring, the couple used a water-based eggshell to get the matt finish Claire wanted. 'We also added new brass handles and painted the walls in a space-enhancing pale grey and complementary dark green,' she continues.

STEP THREE Plenty of elbow grease was on the cards when it came to sprucing up the badly stained sink. 'I spent an entire weekend getting it back to pristine white, but it was actually changing the tap and worktops that really made the difference,' says Claire. To get the look they wanted, the couple chose a solid laminate marble lookalike for the worktops and upstands, which along with the antique-style tap, were sourced online. 'I hadn't heard of solid laminate before, but it's proved extremely hardwearing and guests often mistake it for the real thing,' says Claire. Chris then fitted matching porcelain tiles and practical wood-effect vinyl planked flooring, before calling in the professionals to install the new electric cooker and radiator. 'I'd always wanted a free-standing range but, having assumed they would all be far too big, I couldn't quite believe it when we spotted a 60cm mini model that would slot perfectly into the existing space!' smiles Claire.

▲ Bold painted units, designer-look faux finishes and inspired decorative touches have turned Claire and Chris' compact kitchen into a culinary masterpiece! Revealing a small section of original brick wall using a preparatory paint stripper helped to add just the right amount of rustic, homely detailing

► The couple were lucky enough to inherit their Belfast sink, but updated the look by adding a smart mixer tap in an on-trend antique brass finish. Claire opted for a solid laminate worktop, which could be cut to fit around the existing sink

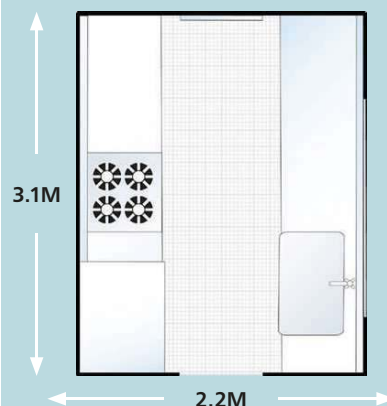


KITCHEN MAKEOVER



◀ Claire found a replacement, free-standing electric mini range that was the perfect size to slot straight into the existing cooker space

ROOM PLAN



THE DETAILS

PAINT	£164
HANDLES	£23.97
APPLIANCES	£599
WORKTOPS & TAP	£862
TILING	£60
LIGHTING	£379.80
FLOORING	£239.94
HEATING	£99
TOTAL	£2,427.71

SHOPPING LIST

Walls in **Harley Green** and **Shallows** intelligent emulsion, £50 per 2.5l; units in **Harley Green** intelligent eggshell, £31 per litre, all Little Greene. **Farmhouse 60E** electric free-standing range cooker in Silver, £599, Belling. **Kendal Bianco** matt glazed porcelain wall tiles, £20 per sq m, Verona. **White marble** matt solid laminate worktop, from £325 per 3m; upstand, £70 per 3m, Worktop Express. **Hiendure®** antique brass finished tap with swivel spout, £70; **Natuce** vintage-style kitchen cabinet door knobs, £7.99 for a set of 12; **Half Moon** vintage-style cupped pull handles, £7.99 for a set of 10, all Amazon. **Sundown Pine Pulse Click** vinyl plank flooring, £39.99 per sq m, Quick-Step. **Sufa** brass pendant light, £89.95; **Tuba** brass spotlight, £99.95, Nkuku. **1000w Nova Live R** Black electric panel heater, £99, NWT Designer Heating & Bathroom Specialists. **Byholma** woven basket, £6; **Gabbig** large woven basket, £9; **Eklatera** brown jars with lid, £3.50 each; **Timvisare** tea towels, £3.50 for two; **Intressant** spice mill, £9; **Nyplockad** plate holder, £2; **Krustad** mugs, £2.25 each; **Kallna** glasses, £4 for six; **Lättad** place mats, £3.50 each; **Ihållig** place mats, £4 each; **Skogsta** chopping board, from £6; **Proppmätt** chopping boards, £3 each, all IKEA.

STEP FOUR To maximise space, Claire then turned her attention to adding extra storage, but didn't go down the traditional route of adding cupboards. 'We could have fitted wall units, but I liked the kitchen's relaxed, open feel, and thought shelves would work better with the beams and brickwork,' she says. The resulting shelf is actually an old scaffold board, begged from a builder

working in the next street, and cost absolutely nothing, which left enough in the budget for replacement vintage-style lighting, plus plenty of baskets and organisers to keep those new surfaces neat and tidy. Now that the transformation is complete, Claire couldn't be happier. 'I'm really proud of what we've achieved, as it's now an enjoyable and unique space in which to cook!' **YH**

3 OF THE BEST... *chopping boards*

£12 from Sainsbury's

This classic board edged in a cheerful yellow hue will add a splash of colour to your kitchen.

£24.95 from Kitchen Craft

Go for rustic Italian charm with an olive wood board that will last for years.

£31 from Cult Furniture

Combine luxurious textures with this mixed marble board featuring a leather strap detail.



Roman Blind, William Morris *Sunflower*, Silver Grey
A Blinds 2go collaboration with the V&A, blinds-2go.co.uk



★ Trustpilot

★★★★★ Based on over 85,000 Excellent Reviews

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V&A

We designed the kitchen with our social life in mind

Sally Hubbard and her partner Steven knocked down walls to transform their kitchen into a space for get-togethers that opens onto their beautiful garden

When Sally Hubbard, 45, and her partner Steven, 44, bought this 1930s four-bedroom house in Portslade, East Sussex, the first task on their DIY hit list was to reconfigure the layout of their new home to create a large, open-plan kitchen that they could entertain in. Minimal work had been done to the house by the previous owners, and the kitchen units dated back to the 1980s. The space they had inherited was narrow, with country-style cupboards and red tiles on the walls. The space was an impractical size for this couple, who love to entertain and cook for friends and family. With her years of experience as a letting agent, Sally knew she wanted a kitchen that was fresh, modern, timeless and, most importantly, durable. 'I've seen a lot of shiny white kitchens which can be hard to keep clean and free of fingerprints and marks,' says Sally. 'For my own home, I wanted matt units for a contemporary, sleek look.' Also on her wish list was a large central island, a pantry and an area to relax in, as well as lots of room to cook and entertain. 'I wanted our new kitchen to look homely, with pictures on the walls and space to hang out in.'

STEP ONE The couple took a hammer to the old kitchen so they could start again. They also knocked down the internal wall between the kitchen and dining room and built a wall between the open-plan living space and the



◀ The mustard paint in the dining area complements the rest of Sally's interior. She has added pops of colour with orange and teal magnetic picture frames. Magnetic wallpaper is a great way to display your family photos and postcards in a room

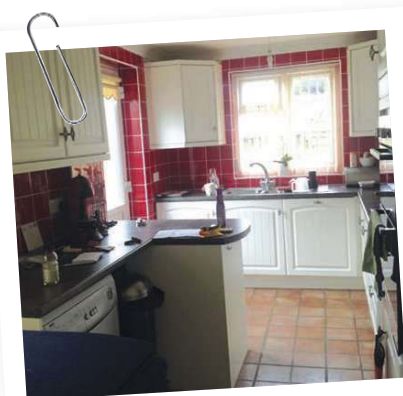
▼ The stainless steel sink and matching tap co-ordinate harmoniously with the sleek dark grey quartz worktops



dining room. The end result? A large space that ran the whole width of the back of the house. By keeping all the load-bearing walls, they avoided the tricky path of going through planning. 'By changing the layout of the internal walls, we were able to open up the back of the house to make room for our new kitchen,' explains Sally. 'My boyfriend Steven is very handy, so we knew that with him doing most of the work we could afford to install our dream kitchen.'

STEP TWO Sadly, all of the original 1930s features of the house have been erased over the years, and that includes the fireplace in the former dining room. The couple decided to maximise and make a feature of this space by installing a range oven into the chimney breast. All of the original 1930s oak floorboards were carefully lifted up for the plumbing to go in. 'As we were effectively moving the kitchen to the other side of the

house, we had to run all the pipework across for drainage,' says Sally. Steven's dad is an electrician and he helped them install all the lights and the Sonos sound system in the ceiling. Once all of the big building work was done, the floorboards were put back down, carefully restored and insulated to keep the house feeling super cosy all year long.



Before

Good idea!

GOT A KOOKY COLLECTION OF MAGNETS? THEN SHOW THEM OFF BY HANGING A STRIP OF MAGNETIC WALLPAPER IN YOUR KITCHEN.

Since reconfiguring the former dining room's layout by knocking down walls and putting in French doors, the space has become a bright hub for cooking and entertaining



TOTAL COST
£7,820

STEP THREE To create a sense of flow and continuity from the kitchen through into the garden, French doors were installed at the back of the house and double doors were added which open out onto the side return. It makes the most of the abundant natural light. 'The room is south-west facing so it is sunny all year long. It was really important that the garden felt connected to the rest of the house,' explains Sally. The couple saved hundreds of pounds by installing their Howdens' kitchen themselves. 'We used their basic design but made our tweaks to give our space a bespoke look.' Sally shopped around for the quartz worktop to find a piece that was long enough for the run of the entire length of her kitchen. 'Our biggest expense was the worktops because I knew that they would elevate the design of the kitchen. They make the room look more expensive than it is.'



▲ Light fittings with an orange-coloured electrical cord add a unique, eye-catching element to the kitchen design

◀ Behind the oven are painted-effect wall tiles that give this space depth and an industrial edge

KITCHEN MAKEOVER

▼ The vintage dining table extends to accommodate more guests at mealtimes. The mix and match school chairs were a charity shop find which cost Sally £25 each

Good idea!

FOR AN OPEN-PLAN KITCHEN AND DINING SPACE, USE ACCESSORIES TO CREATE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED AREAS FOR COOKING AND SOCIALISING, AS SALLY HAS DONE WITH THE PATTERNED RUG UNDER THE DINING TABLE.



◀ Breathe life into retro furniture with chalk paint. The scratched coffee table has been given a modern look with a splash of teal

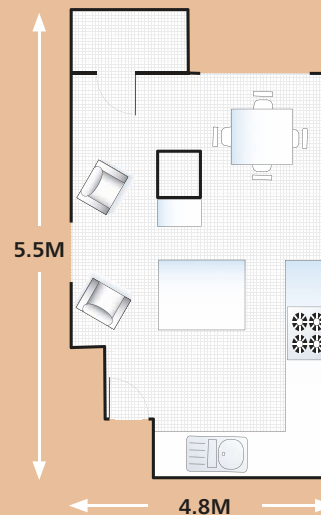


STEP FOUR The room was decorated in clashing shades, with yellow walls and a variety of colourful accessories. 'My home has accents of mustard and teal throughout, and I wanted to continue that into the kitchen. We didn't want anything to match too much, so I've added splashes of red and orange with cushions, light fittings and artwork for a bold look,' says Sally. She furnished the rest of the space with vintage finds, including the old wooden school chairs and a painted wooden dining table. One of Sally's favourite decorative touches in the room is the magnetic blackboard that runs across the back wall. 'We collect magnets from our travels,

and we don't have a traditional fridge to stick them on, so this was a great alternative. It's forever changing, which makes our kitchen feel different every time you step in there,' she says.

And what does she think of the space now? 'It is definitely the most used room in the house,' she says. 'We fling open the French doors in the summer which is ideal when our families come over for Sunday lunch. This room has changed how we live. It's the perfect space to socialise, cook and hang out in,' she says. 'It makes entertaining easy as I can chat while cooking at the island and parties can easily overflow into the garden.' 

ROOM PLAN



THE DETAILS

KITCHEN UNITS	£2,000
WORKTOP	£2,300
RANGE OVEN	£900
FRIDGE	£750
LIGHTS	£340
FURNITURE	£1,000
TIN TILES	£250
FIRE-RESISTANT TILE PAINT	£30
BESPOKE LARDER	£200
MAGNETIC CHALKBOARD WALLPAPER	£50
TOTAL	£7,820

SHOPPING LIST

Burford kitchen units in Grey, £2,000; Concreto quartz worktop, £2,300; range oven, £900, all Howdens. Liebherr under-counter drawer fridge, £799, Appliance City. Pendant lights (over island), £70 each; tiles (behind oven), £22.23 per 60x60cm tile, both Andy Thornton. Cohen pendant lights (over chairs), £100 each, Heal's. Vintage fireside chairs upholstered in Bute Ramshead fabrics, £1,000, try L'Atelier Vintage. Flame resistant paint, £18 per 2.5l, Valspar. Magnetic chalkboard wallpaper, £50, Not On The High Street

3 OF THE BEST... *photo frames*

£8 from Habitat

Make sure a treasured photograph stands out with this zingy orange frame.

£10.50 from Red Candy

Go wild with this frame's splash of leopard print and distressed detailing.

£25 from Bombay Duck

Glossy enamel and gold edging give this simple design an opulent feel.



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Adding a light-filled extension gave Claire the perfect opportunity to create a wonderfully fresh and vibrant kitchen space to complement her vintage treasures. The minty green units from IKEA tie in with the rich green wall colour, while the oak island worktop mirrors the dark flooring, creating a balanced effect



I've combined old and new design elements for a vintage vibe

Adding an extension to her family home gave Claire the ideal opportunity to design a fresh new kitchen that showcases her love of all things antique

Moving into their three-bedroom house in Tring, Hertfordshire, in 2017, interior design consultant Claire Kitchener and her husband, Tom, both 45, knew it was a huge renovation project waiting to happen. Their vision was to extend the back of the house and knock through the small existing kitchen and dining room to

create a wonderful family living space where they could spend more quality time with their two young children, Hugh, nine, and Rose, seven. 'When we bought the house, we were looking for a project, somewhere we could add value, so we looked past the dated décor and awkward layout, and saw the potential,' says Claire. Eager to mix in her collection

of old finds with the new kitchen scheme, Claire wanted to give the space a unique vintage touch. 'Initially, we wanted an old haberdashery unit that we could adapt to create an island,' she says. 'However, the real thing was out of our budget, so I set myself the challenge of creating a similar feel with modern kitchen units.'

KITCHEN MAKEOVER



◀ A ceramic sink from Worktop Express blends seamlessly with the white laminate worktop from IKEA for a polished, pulled-together finish

▼ Claire's vintage crockery collection takes pride of place in her 1950s glass cabinet, while her embroidered swans make a quirky display on the green statement wall. The compact sofa from Made.com is positioned away from the kitchen to give the living area an intimate feel



STEP ONE Having worked with builder Colin Welling from Outlook Windows on a previous project, they approached him again for help with planning the new extension and the best way to use the space. 'Colin was brilliant at suggesting clever design solutions and came up with the idea for adding full-length windows around the corner of the new extension to create an orangery feel and a better connection with the garden,' says Claire. Plans for the new space were then drawn up by an architect and submitted for approval.

STEP TWO While the couple waited for the plans to be approved, they used the time wisely to 'gather ideas for the interior look and map the layout of the open-plan room,' says Claire. By dividing up the space into separate eating, seating and cooking zones, Claire and Tom were able to come up with a layout for the electric sockets, light fittings and plumbing aspects they knew would work well for them. 'A renovation project can start to feel overwhelming when you're faced with lots of last-minute decisions, so getting ahead of the game can help you stay on top of these decisions.'

STEP THREE With the building work underway and footings being dug, Claire got on with sourcing the kitchen and, as she was determined to combine her collection of vintage crockery and furniture, she searched for units that would complement her collectables. 'As most of our budget was being spent on the new extension and large windows, IKEA seemed the most cost-effective route, so I booked an appointment with the in-house designer,' she recalls. With the floor plans to hand, the designer was able to help with technical aspects, space-saving options and 3D visuals to help fine-tune the



overall look. 'Although I had to make several trips to the store, IKEA's product range was very good. I chose the minty green units for a vintage touch and teamed them with bright white laminate worktops for a fresh finish.' In the meantime, the external walls of the extension were speedily erected, and the new space began to take shape. Claire decamped the family into the front room with a make-shift kitchen, while the builders knocked through the back of the house. Once the roof and windows were in, the extension was finally sealed and ready for the internal work to begin.



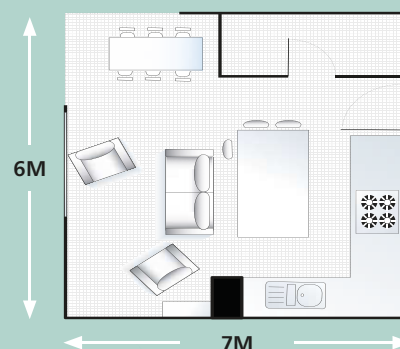
Before

KITCHEN MAKEOVER



◀ Claire's scheme was inspired by the gorgeously rich colours, textures and patterns created by her vibrant vintage crockery and beautiful marble plant stand. She used Pinterest to create moodboards and bring her look together, so she had a clear vision of the overall scheme right from the start

ROOM PLAN



STEP FOUR With the electrics, gas and plumbing in place, and the walls and ceiling plastered, the kitchen was installed. Drawing inspiration from vintage haberdashery units, the island features a bank of IKEA drawers with a stained oak worktop to conjure the look and feel of an old butcher's block. 'We love the island's bespoke feel and the contrast it creates against the white laminate worktops around the rest of the units,' says Claire. 'The colour combination also ties in perfectly with the strong teal paint colour we chose for the statement wall.' To complete the vintage vibe, Claire added a striking mix of old and new light fittings. 'Mixing the new elements of the kitchen with my much-loved vintage pieces has given it a unique, individual look that's full of quirky character,' says Claire. 'And what's even more pleasing is that we stayed within our budget.' **YH**



Good idea!
GIVE YOUR OFF-THE-SHELF KITCHEN UNITS A BESPOKE FEEL WITH INTERESTING HANDLES FROM A DIFFERENT COMPANY.

THE DETAILS

KITCHEN CABINETS	£1,900
APPLIANCES	£950
WHITE IKEA WORKTOPS	£130
WOODEN WORKTOP ON ISLAND	£300
SPLASHBACK TILES	£165.55
FLOORING	£3,000
GREEN PAINT	£90
KITCHEN PENDANT LIGHTS	£84
SINK AND TAP	£250
TOTAL	£6,869.55

SHOPPING LIST

Green 80cm base cabinet, £93 each; white 60cm wall cabinet, £63 each; Saljan white laminate worktop, £40 for a piece measuring 3.8cm x 63.5cm x 186cm, all IKEA. Solid oak worktop, £310 for a piece measuring 4cm x 96cm x 300cm; ceramic sink, £155, both Worktop Express. Cooke & Lewis nickel-effect kitchen pin side lever mixer tap, £47, B&Q. Brass drawer handles, £6.50 each, The Foundryman on Etsy. Metro stone-effect marble wall tile, 10cm x 20cm, 17.49 per sq m, Tons of Tiles. Green walls in Dulux Minted Glory 1, £28.99 per 2.5l, Paint Direct. Belling range cooker, £200, Gumbtree. De'Longhi Argento Flora four-slice toaster, £40, eBay. Thomas Franks Canberra opaque glass shaped pendant, £35 each, Homebase. Lotus luxury vinyl tiles in Conker, £15.99 per sq m, Direct Carpets of Letchworth.

3 OF THE BEST... *teapots*

£14 from Sainsbury's

Add a splash of sunny mustard yellow with this minimal colour block design.

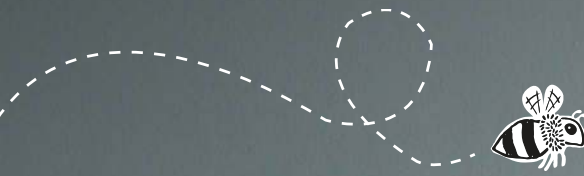
£32 from Daisy Park

Bright blooms and a colourful bird motif offer an exotic twist on the classic floral teapot.

£34 from Oliver Bonas

Try a mix of textures with this metallic detail teapot with a square wooden handle.





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Colour shown: Hobgoblin

FRAME YOUR *view*

Looking to freshen up your windows? Follow our smart guide on how to pick the perfect curtains, blinds and shutters for your home

GET TO GRIPS WITH *CURTAINS*

TRANQUIL TROPICS

► If you want to invite the Colour of the Year, Tranquil Dawn, into your home, then look no further than this on-trend pair of curtains. These easy-to-hang eyelet dressings feature a soft sage colourway and tropical fern pattern printed on 100% cotton sateen

Costa Rica Fern curtains,
from £85, Clarissa Hulse



DRESS TO IMPRESS

These light-filtering curtains featuring soaring swifts and swallows are the perfect style solution when it comes to adding an enchanting touch to your home. You can even choose what sort of lining you'd like on them, whether it be blackout or thermal

▼ **Swallows and Swifts Duck Egg curtains,** from £41.05, Curtains 2go



▲ **Moku Linden curtains,** £45.55, Curtains 2go

EXPERT ADVICE

Senior product manager at Hillarys, Yvonne Keal, helps you distinguish between different types of curtains and decide which ones are right for you

● LAYER UP

To ensure you have a set that will last throughout the year, it's a good idea to choose a layered option, so that you can create a cosy feel during the colder months but can also strip them back to a single panel in spring and summer.

● GO SHEER

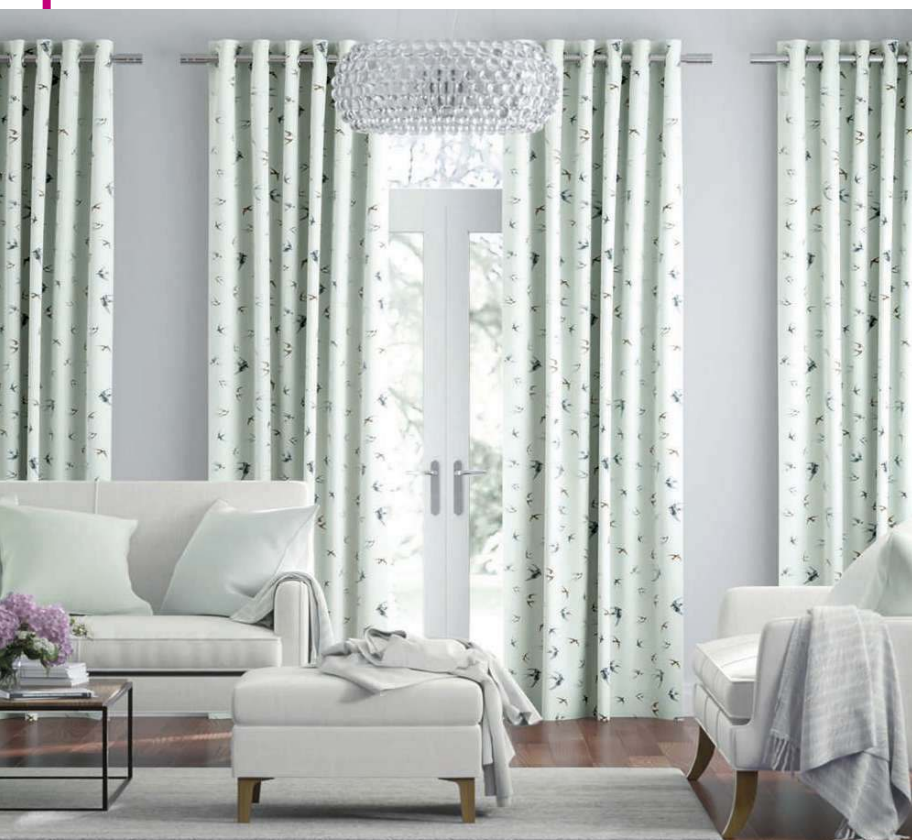
Voiles underneath curtains are a great way to add an extra layer of warmth in winter and leave the room feeling fresh and airy in spring; these are fitted behind the curtain and are usually sheer. They're also ideal for creating shade, ensuring privacy and preventing draughts.

● INVEST WISELY

Curtains can be a big investment and they're an item that you're likely to notice every day in your home, so when deciding on which look to go for it's important to consider how they will work for you all year round.

● ASK AN EXPERT

When fitting your curtains, it's best to seek advice from a skilled professional so that they can expertly measure and fit all of the components correctly.





CUT THE MUSTARD

◀ If you want your curtains to add a touch of Gatsby chic to your living room, then opt for a subtle geometric design in a bold colour, like this one which features lozenge shapes and a warming ochre shade.

Livingetc and Hillarys collection March 2020, prices available on request, Hillarys

WHICH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

● EYELET

These have metal rings at the top so that a rod can pass through; this allows the curtain to drape easily without any creasing. It's also a no-fuss design which is good for a minimalist room.

● TAB TOP

This type is similar to the eyelet, except the metal parts are replaced with fabric loops at the head so that the pole can be pushed through. The style is easy to hang and suitable for all kind of fabric weights.

● PLEATED

There are numerous sorts of pleated curtains, including pencil pleat, a common type where the top of the curtain is bunched all the way along the top, as well as single, double and triple pinch pleat. Another is box pleat; a tailored, formal heading with rectangular shapes lining up next to each other at the top of the curtain.

● ROD POCKET

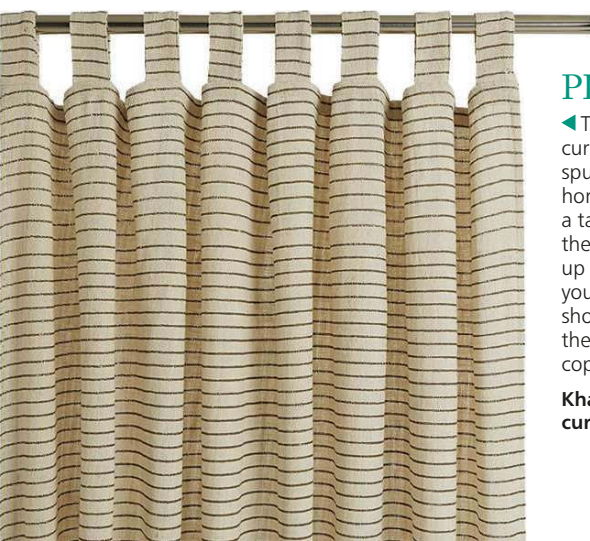
This one includes a casing which is left open at the ends so a rod can thread through the channel and fit into hooks at the sides of the window.



ET VOILE

◀ To welcome an airy atmosphere into your room, these voile curtains are a brilliant choice. The sheer fabric encourages plenty of light to flood through, while the fresh colour creates an uplifting space. If your home gets especially hot in the summer, then this material is also fantastic for keeping the temperature cool

Soliel Voile Mist curtains, from £14.15, Curtains 2go



PLAIN & SIMPLE

◀ This set of neutral-coloured curtains is made from hand-spun cloth and features a simple horizontal stripe. They have a tab top too, which means they're not only easier to hang up and space out evenly, but you also have the option to show off a fancy rod along the top – how about one in a copper or rose gold hue?

Khadi pair of neutral cloth curtains, £100, Habitat



Cotton Weave in Star, £25 per m, Stitched

For a sturdier fabric, this canvas-like hemp material is a great choice! Plus, the fresh green colourway is a top-notch pick for channelling spring style

Looking to have your curtains made in a specific fabric? Stitched has a wide selection of colours and materials to choose from – we think this mustard cotton is just the ticket for staying en vogue this season



Hemp in Matcha, £55 per m, Stitched

BRUSH UP ON *BLINDS*

WHICH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

● VERTICAL

This has individual slats which run along a track at the top and bottom. They're fabulous for floor-to-ceiling windows and garden patio doors.

● ROMAN

These traditional blinds are usually made from fabric and fold in on themselves when raised, which is similar to a Venetian blind.

● ROLLER

This shade is made from fabric that wraps around a roll at the top of the window, which can be moved up and down to your desired height. These blinds have the added benefit of thermal or blackout lining options too, making them perfect for bathrooms and bedrooms.

● VENETIAN

Featuring horizontal slats tied together with string or strips of cloth, Venetian blinds are a popular choice for smaller windows. They raise upwards, with the bottom slat pressing against the one above.

● PLEATED

This version helps to soften the look of a window, with its accordion-like look which can shift up and down.



ROMAN STYLE

Not only does this blind have a simple yet striking design, it's also Roman – why is this significant, we hear you ask? Well, if it's for a bedroom or bathroom window then this is a good choice, as you can control how far down you want the blind to go, which will protect you from the sun's glare and enable you to control your privacy

Hand-painted Stripe Rose Pink Roman blind, £28.85, Blinds 2go

JUST ROLL WITH IT

► A roller blind like this graduated one screams on-trend style – but is it practical, too? The answer is, yes! Alongside its cool aquatic blue and green tones, it can also be backed with a light-filtering, blackout or pearlised thermal lining, so you can ensure that your room remains at a comfortable temperature with just the right amount of brightness

Choices Horizon Azure roller blind, from £27.70, Blinds 2go

VENETIAN DREAM

◀ The contemporary look isn't for everyone, so if you want to add character with more traditional blinds, then these white-washed Venetian blinds are an excellent choice. They're easy to fit with a universal bracket and are good for controlling how much light you let into your home with their tilt cord

Metropolitan Soft Gloss White & Snow wooden blind, from £26.15, Blinds 2go



FAUX REAL?

Real wooden slat blinds look beautiful, but they can be difficult to maintain and aren't the most budget-friendly choice. So, why not compromise with these faux wood ones which blend caramel and rich brown tones to give an authentic finish? Unlike the real deal, these blinds won't warp or fade due to sunlight or humidity in the kitchen and bathroom, plus they're super simple to wipe clean with just a cloth

Majestic Oak Faux Wood blind, from £15.30, Blinds 2go

EXPERT ADVICE

'Pleated blinds are good for creating privacy and ensuring light control, while Roman ones are classic and can potentially provide a base for your window dressing, giving you the option to add curtains or voiles on top. A statement patterned Roman blind can update any room, and Hillarys has some beautiful geometric fabrics in its Mercury collection which are bang on-trend. The roller version, on the other hand, is a fantastic choice as we head into the warmer months and they're cost-effective too.'

Yvonne Keal, senior product manager at Hillarys

PLEAT PERFECT

Adorn your windows with softness and texture by using a pleated blind. They fold away neatly as they concertina out of sight at the top of the window, which is great for saving space and creating a minimal look

Pleated blinds in Mist Green, prices available on request, Hillarys



TOUCH OF PINK

With its neutral tone that spreads out into a subtle blush pink, this Roman blind would go wonderfully in a lounge to add a homely feel

Affinity Warm Blush Roman blind, £38.71, Blinds 2go



STANDING TALL

If your home features large windows and you want to make a more private space, then a set of vertical blinds should do the trick. This fresh green version adds a splash of colour to the room and allows you to control how much light seeps into the room.

Carnival garden green, £41.85, English Blind

DECORATIVE PELMET

This window dressing has all of the usual benefits of a Roman blind, along with the fact that it comes with a pelmet as well. This is placed above the window to conceal any fixtures at the top of the blind – it's great for adding a decorative finishing touch

Kurpie fabric in Red, £94 per metre, Julia Brendel



KNOW YOUR SHUTTERS



WAY UP HIGH

▲ Are you lucky enough to have tall windows in your house? Choose a set of full-height shutters, like these gorgeous bold blue ones. This style offers maximum privacy and blocks out light. They also enable you to stave off extreme hot and cold temperatures

Garden room full-height shutters, prices available on request, Hillarys

EXPERT ADVICE

Hillarys senior product manager, Yvonne Keal, gives you the low-down on what to look out for when choosing your dream shutters

● PERSONAL TASTE

Classic white shutters are perfect all year round, but if you're feeling bold, then opt for a coloured set to totally update your home.

● THE CHOICE IS YOURS

There are many shutter options, including café, tier-on-tier and solid ones, all of which will give your home a completely unique look. Hillarys has a range of these shutters for many different window types; the tracked ones are perfect for bi-fold doors and, as all of them are made to measure, they are able to fit onto windows which are an irregular shape.

● MEASURE UP

If shutters are measured incorrectly, even by a few millimetres, this can be a costly mistake. They can also be difficult to fit, especially in windows which are older or have been modified in any way. It's recommend you get them professionally measured and fitted to prevent any mishaps.



OLD MEETS NEW

▲ Wanting to combine modern sophistication with the traditional look of a shutter? These made-to-measure versions in duck-egg blue definitely strike the balance. You can easily raise and lower the louvres with its hidden control bar, and they're made from an advanced form of polymer, which means they won't crack or peel when the weather is hot

San Jose Premium Duck Egg shutter blinds, from £75.21, Blinds 2go



PRETTY & PRACTICAL

▲ This full-height shutter is a brand-new product to the Hillarys range. It would be a practical and stylish solution for your bathroom, with its fresh white colour and broad slats which offer privacy

Bathroom full-height shutters in Silk White, prices available on request, Hillarys



TOP TIP

When adding window film, you may notice that there are a few tiny air bubbles under the surface – and you don't want those! So, simply push the bubbles gently towards the edge of the frosted film that's nearest to the edge, (an old credit card is ideal for this). If this doesn't work, you can use a pin or needle to burst them.



QUICK-FIX FILM

▲ Adding a pretty pattern in the form of window film can really give your home a style boost and add a little more privacy if you're not keen on curtains or blinds. This etched bird design can be resized to your exact measurements, printed on self-adhesive film and applied directly to the glass – it's as simple as that!

Swallows window film, from £67.20 per sq m, Purlfrost Window Firm

TIER IT UP

Tier-on-tier shutters like these are great if you want to adjust the top and bottom sections separately. With this particular type from Hillarys, you can also choose the perfect tone from a range of wood stains, painted shades and custom colours

Tier-on-tier Richmond custom paint shutters, prices available on request, Hillarys

RIGHT ON TRACK

These shutters from Hillarys' newest collection combine two popular types: solid and tracked. The solid version features panels of wood without louvres or slats, which makes them extremely good at blocking light and insulating the room, whereas the tracked ones are fitted to the top and bottom so they can concertina away – they're excellent for bifold doors and large windows

Solid shutters in a range of colours, prices available on request, Hillarys



CAFÉ SOCIETY

▲ If you have large windows but you only want the bottom half to be covered, then a café-style set is perfect, plus they will lend a chic, continental feel to your home. With these particular ones, you can choose plantation shutters with louvres or a solid version if you want to completely block out the light

Henley shutters, prices available on request, Hillarys



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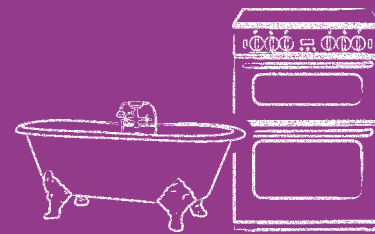


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Kitchens & BATHROOMS

Discover the latest must-have kitchen gadgets overleaf



BATHROOM BLISS

An evening bath is a luxury most of us crave after a long day at work. So, why not pull out all the stops with Dunelm's natural bamboo bath rack, £10? It's the ideal surface solution for all those bathtime bits and bobs. This pared-back rack makes it easier than ever to enjoy a soak without any hassle, whether you like to light a scented candle and enjoy a glass of red or prefer to watch a movie with a warming cup of tea. Constructed from durable bamboo, you can either opt for a natural wood finish or a lick of paint, with four neutral shades to choose from.

THE HOT SPOT

As a nod to the indulgent spirit of Mardi Gras, treat yourself to a bathroom flooring update with the help of Carpetright. With Memphis art influences, this out-there collection of flooring is loaded with geometric shapes and eye-catching prints. Let your floor do the talking with the Mardi Gras 95 Dots Vinyl, our favourite from the range. It's the perfect base layer for a kitsch-inspired bathroom or just as spectacular in a more monotone scheme. Priced at £11.99 per sq m, visit www.carpetright.co.uk to see more of the Memphis collection.



A retro breakfast

Update your countertop with this retro-inspired range of kettles and toasters from Grundig. The collection is available in two striking colours, black and red, and the shiny chrome finish creates the ultimate sleek look. With a 1.7L capacity kettle and four-slice toaster complete with a removable crumb tray, this set will make preparing a family breakfast super efficient. The kettle also comes with boil-dry protection so that the appliance automatically switches off when empty in order to prevent damage. Priced at £89.99 each, the range is available exclusively at Currys.



THESE STRIPES ARE SPOT ON

In collaboration with the conservation charity, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Sophie Allport has released a wonderful collection of zebra print kitchenware. The beauty of the Grévy's zebra is at the forefront of the range, which features mugs, place mats, oven gloves and tea towels. With the endangerment of the Grévy's zebra in mind, the range will raise funds for the charity so you can rest assured that your money is going to a good cause. Available from shop.zsl.org and sophieallport.com, prices start from £7.50.



Feature Ella Rhys-Jones



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

Garcinia kitchen, from £1,848; Romesco stainless steel bowl sink, £160; smart cooker hood, £398; ceramic glass induction hob, £598; built-in electric multifunction oven with microwave, £648, all from the GoodHome range at B&Q



Must-have kitchen gadgets

Get the most from the heart of your home with these cutting-edge accessories

As a cooking quarter, social hub and day-to-day centre for household chores, we ask more from our kitchens than any other room in the house. With so much going on in one space, it's wise to make things a bit easier by introducing some nifty gadgets to the picture. Whether you want to maximise worktop space, need a cup of tea in a flash or could do with bit of help cooking up a feast, these must-have gadgets will not only save you time, space and effort, they'll be a talking point too.



READY, STEADY, COOK!

▲ As many of us swap cookbooks for iPads as our go-to for recipes, we've come to face a new kitchen dilemma: shiny screens and messy fingers. That's where the I-Prep stand comes in. Designed to hold up your device while you cook, it makes reading recipes online a breeze. The stand also comes with a stylus, saving the screen from sticky mid-cook fingers

I-Prep stand, £15, Qwerkity



POP-UP SHELVES

► Now you see it; now you don't. An effective use of corner space, this kitchen unit pops up at the push of a button, revealing a set of practical shelves that you can bring out when you need them and hide when you don't. Handily, the unit also includes an internal light and plug socket

Qanto pull-up unit, £750, Magnet



WASTE NOT...

◀ Recycling food waste isn't always the most glamorous of jobs, but this InSinkErator from Wickes certainly makes it easier. Quick, clean and environmentally friendly, the device is also very compact, fitting neatly underneath the sink

InSinkErator model 66 food waste disposal unit, £379, Wickes



RECYCLE READY

▲ Up your recycling game with this state-of-the-art X Cube bin. Featuring two colour-coded 20L buckets for easily separating recyclables from general waste, this product makes doing your bit for planet Earth a lot more accessible. With an anti-bacterial coating, a deodoriser compartment and a silicone seal to contain odours, there's no need for this bin to be hidden away. In fact, with its sleek design that stands flat against a wall, it will fit right in with any kitchen scheme

X Cube recycling bin, £169.99, EKO



WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE

◀ There's nothing like the scent of freshly made coffee to coax you out of bed, so make getting up a bit more bearable with Smarter Coffee. Choose from the 'wake-up' mode to get your caffeine fix first thing, or the 'home' setting so you can enjoy a hot cup as soon as you're through the door. You can also pick between filter and grinder, along with your desired strength to get the perfect cuppa each and every time

Smarter Coffee, £179, Smarter.am

KITCHEN IDEAS



SOME LIKE IT HOT

◀ Waiting for the kettle to boil will be a thing of the past, thanks to this three-in-one tap. It dispenses everyday hot and cold water, as well as steaming-hot 98°C water too. A safety feature to ensure the close-to-boiling temperature only comes out when needed, plus an insulated spout, means it passes the safety test. Standing sleekly with a swan neck design and available in a choice of finishes, including Urban Copper, Brushed Nickel and Chrome, it stands up in the style stakes as well

Abode Pronteau three-in-one instant boiling water kitchen mixer tap in Urban Copper, £849, John Lewis & Partners



TEMPERATURE'S RISING

▲ Channel your inner masterchef and get perfectly cooked meat and fish every time with this app-controlled thermometer. Measuring your food's internal temperature, the leave-in wireless appliance estimates the cooking time, sending a notification to your phone when it's reached the correct temperature and it's time to dig in

Apption Labs Meater smart wireless meat thermometer, £98.99, Lakeland



WIRELESS NETWORK

▲ We'd always choose our phones to be fully charged and it's no different in the kitchen – who wants their cooking playlist to be cut off or their complicated recipe lost? Make sure you're not caught out again with this wireless charger station that can be hidden in the worktop. No need for plugs or untidy wires, simply set your compatible phone on the worktop surface to charge up the battery. Handily, there's also a sticker included so you can locate the charging pad – that's how discrete this product is

Wireless charger, £60, Magnet



SMILE FOR THE CAMERA

◀ Coming home to make dinner only to realise you're a few ingredients short is something we could seriously do without. Thankfully, with the FridgeCam, this regular occurrence is easily avoided. Synced to your smartphone, FridgeCam allows you to check the contents of your fridge from anywhere, so you can see if there's enough milk for the morning or if someone has started on tonight's dessert and you need to pick up an extra cake. The device also recognises food items, adding them to your shopping list, as well as sending reminders about what's about to expire, helping to reduce food waste

SMARTER SFC01 FridgeCam, £149.99, Currys

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Clean up your act

Don't get in a spin when it comes to choosing the right washing machine – follow these tips for the key features to look out for, from clever tech to quiet spin cycles

Washing machines are a workhorse appliance, constantly on the go cleaning everything from duvets and delicates to jeans and workwear. An essential for busy family life, you'll want to find a high-quality, reliable model that suits your household's washing needs and can be used for many years to come. Whether you're after a Wi-Fi-enabled smart machine, allergy-friendly features, crease-proof washing or speedy cycles, read on for our guide to machines that'll make laundry day less of a chore. 🏠



◀ **Samsung WW80K5413UW**, £419, AO
Capacity 8kg
Size (cm) 85H x 60W x 55D
Energy rating A+++
Spin speed 1,400rpm
Maximum noise level 53dB (wash), 74dB (spin)
Annual energy consumption 116kWh
Annual water consumption 8,100L

If you always seem to find a stray sock you meant to add to the wash, you'll wonder how you ever lived without the Samsung WW80K5413UW machine's AddWash door. It allows you to add clothes to the drum after the cycle has started, saving you having to put another load on to wash any items you've missed. It's great for adding forgotten detergent mid-wash too. This machine is also tough on stains, with a Bubble Soak setting which bathes your laundry before the main wash starts, loosening any stubborn marks.

▲ **AI DD V-Series F4V909WTS**, £720, LG
Capacity 9kg
Size (cm) 85H x 60W x 56D
Energy rating A+++
Spin speed 1,400rpm
Maximum noise level 48dB (wash), 71dB (spin)
Annual energy consumption 107kWh
Annual water consumption 9,000L

If your washing machine is in the kitchen – and especially if it's part of an open-plan living area – having a noisy appliance can be disruptive. LG's AI DD V-Series Front-Loader machine has been awarded a Quiet Mark; an international approval award associated with the UK Noise Abatement Society charitable foundation, which indicates very low noise levels through scientific testing and assessment. It's got plenty of other features as well, including Wi-Fi, steam technology and a speedy TurboWash™ 360° function.

▶ **WY940P44E**, £369, Beko
Capacity 9kg
Size (cm) 84H x 60W x 64D
Energy rating A+++
Spin speed 1,400rpm
Maximum noise level 53dB (wash), 74dB (spin)
Annual energy consumption 152kWh
Annual water consumption 10,999L
 For allergy or asthma sufferers, look for features that can help to reduce allergens in your washing. Beko's Anti-Allergy programme, endorsed by Allergy UK, helps reduce the amount of allergens in your laundry, including cat, dog and pollen-derived ones, as well as bacteria and fungi. It also has two useful short programmes (one at 14 minutes for a 2kg load, and a 28-minute daily quick programme) and an interior drum light to make loading easier. Plus, it can be connected to your phone via Bluetooth so you can schedule a wash overnight.



▶ **WED 325**, £799, Miele
Capacity 8kg
Size (cm) 85H x 59.6W x 63.6D
Energy rating A+++
Spin speed 1,400rpm
Maximum noise level 50dB (wash), 74dB (spin)
Annual energy consumption 156kWh
Annual water consumption 10,120L

Harsh washing cycles can damage fabrics over time, so if you've got a variety of different textile types to clean regularly pick a machine with settings designed to care for your clothes. The Miele WED 325 has a range of programmes designed to suit an array of fabrics: MinimumIron to help reduce creasing, ideal for cotton work shirts; a wool setting for delicates; and an Outwear programme to retain textiles' functionality in any weather. This nifty machine also includes intelligent Automatic Load recognition, ensuring that only a precise amount of water and electricity are used during the wash to save time and money.





Ideal for families

▲ **MW9140P**, £319, Montpellier

Capacity 9kg

Size (cm) 85H x 59.5W x 56.5D

Energy rating A+++

Spin Speed 1,400rpm

Maximum noise level 53dB (wash), 74dB (spin)

Annual energy consumption 196kWh

Annual water consumption 11,880L

For a busy household, you'll need a washing machine that can keep up! With its large 9kg capacity, the Montpellier MW9140P is ideal for families that frequently need to wash school uniforms, bed sheets, sports kits, work clothes and everything in between – and, priced at £319, it's also a great-value machine. Its inverter motor uses magnets to spin the drum, making it more energy-efficient and quieter than other models with brush motors and so ideal for open-plan spaces.



Built-in model

▲ **WMi3000 integrated machine**, £607, Caple

Capacity 6kg

Size (cm) 82H x 59.5W x 54D

Energy rating A++

Spin speed 1,200rpm

Maximum noise level 57dB (wash), 74dB (spin)

Annual energy consumption 173kWh

Annual water consumption 9,240L

For washing machines located in the kitchen rather than a separate utility room, having a visible machine can be unsightly in an otherwise sleek kitchen scheme, so go for one that can be neatly hidden away in a cupboard. Caple's WMi3000 is an integrated machine with 16 wash programmes to suit a variety of needs, including a 15-minute quick wash and delay timer, pause and extra rinse options, plus a 300mm extra-large door for easy loading.

► **AXI**, £639, Hoover

Capacity 13kg

Size (cm) 85H x 60W x 54D

Energy rating A+++

Spin speed 1,600rpm

Maximum noise level 52dB (wash), 80dB (spin)

Annual energy consumption 131kWh

Annual water consumption 10,600L

From online shopping to finding new recipes, there's a bit of tech to help us with pretty much every household chore – now including the washing! Hoover's first AI machine will remember your favourite wash settings, has a voice-assist feature that allows you to choose and set programmes, and can give advice on stain removal and how to choose the right setting for your load. It can even tell you the best time of day to do your laundry based on the weather forecast! Its large 13kg-capacity drum makes it a practical choice for families too.

Smart machine



BUYER'S CHECKLIST

Follow this advice from Shalika Hooda, the UK Beko brand manager, on things to look out for when choosing, fitting and using your dream machine

✓ Measure the space to determine what size washing machine your kitchen or utility room will be able to accommodate. The standard height for a free-standing washing machine is 84cm, whereas integrated models are 82cm so they can fit into kitchen units.

✓ Decide on whether you prefer free-standing or built-in appliances. Integrated models can offer a smart look, and free-standing ones provide greater capacity and come in a range of colours to match interiors. Free-standing machines do not require fitting to kitchen units, so they can be placed anywhere, as long as there is access to power and drainage.

✓ Always account for the space the piping will take up behind the washing machine when choosing a model. The inlet and waste water pipes are a vital part of the washing machine's functionality, so make sure there is plenty of room for them.

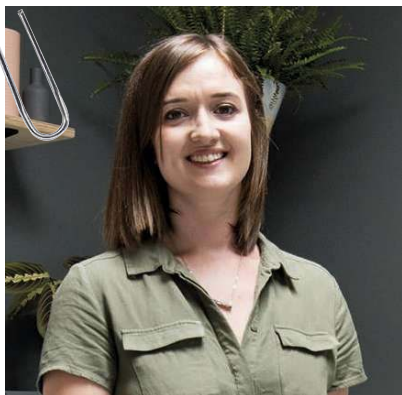
✓ Double check that there is a power source within at least one metre of your new washing machine. Make sure you always plug it into the mains too, rather than an extension cord.

✓ Washing machines now go up to 12kg in capacity, but consider your own needs before automatically defaulting to a large capacity machine. 5-6kg models are great for couples and allow you to wash 25-30 shirts in a single cycle. Mid-capacity washing machines (7-8kg) allow you to clean up to 40 shirts in one go, and this increases to 60 with a 12kg model.

Feature Michelle Grady *Energy and water consumption figures are estimates

Our two rooms became

Siobhan and Joe Burke combined a tiny bathroom and separate WC to



INSIDER INFO

WHO LIVES HERE?

Siobhan Burke, 33, a project manager, lives in a three-bedroom, 1960s ex-council house in Leytonstone, North East London. She lives here with her husband, Joe, 34, an architect, and their cat, Marco. They have lived here since August 2017.

WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE OLD BATHROOM?

'It was the worst room in the house, with a substandard separate WC and tiny bathroom, and with only a small bath and basin and no shower.'

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE NEW ROOM?

'I love the separate shower and free-standing bath – it gives a luxurious feel.'

WHAT DID YOU LEARN DURING THIS PROJECT?

'It is important to stick to budget! We overspent on one fitting then reduced the budget elsewhere to stay on track.'



Before

Siobhan and Joe had outgrown their small Leytonstone flat and were excited when they found the perfect house in the same area. Its mid-century build was the selling point as the couple share a love of 1960s and 70s design, but a major renovation was much needed to bring in some modern living comforts.

The bathroom was top of their list. As it was dated and dilapidated, the couple were forced to start the project quickly. 'We moved out within a month of first moving in, staying with friends while the work was done,' says Siobhan. 'The original bathroom was far too small for a three-bedroom family house and we didn't like the toilet being in a separate room. The bath was tiny, there was no shower and it only had boiling hot water running through the taps,' she adds.

Both spaces were in a really bad state: 'The décor hadn't been touched since the house was built in the 1960s – the walls were covered in a yellow textured wallpaper and no windows made for a very dark space.' Joe's architectural skills were used to plan the new layout and necessary structural changes to integrate the bathroom and toilet, plus space from the master bedroom

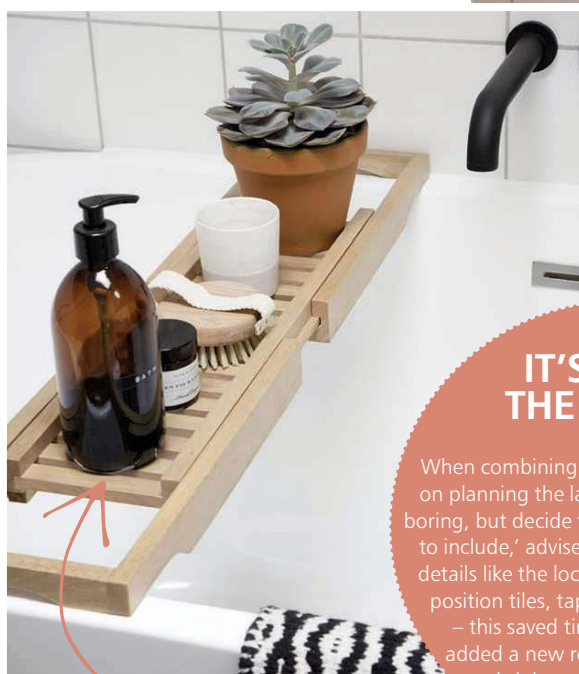
where the old water tank was located.

While the couple undertook most of the demolition work, Joe's trade contacts came in handy to find a building team for the main project. 'We had an overall budget for the full house renovation, which was tight for each room. For the bathroom, this had to include everything from structural changes, installation of a roof light, as well as fixtures, fittings and finishing touches. It wasn't easy, but by shopping around and looking for low-price alternatives, we ended up without any sacrifices.'



IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

When combining two spaces, spending time on planning the layout is essential. 'It sounds boring, but decide from the start what you want to include,' advises Siobhan. 'We worked out details like the location of pipes and where to position tiles, taps, lighting and ventilation – this saved time and money. We also added a new roof light to bring natural brightness and fresh air into the room.'



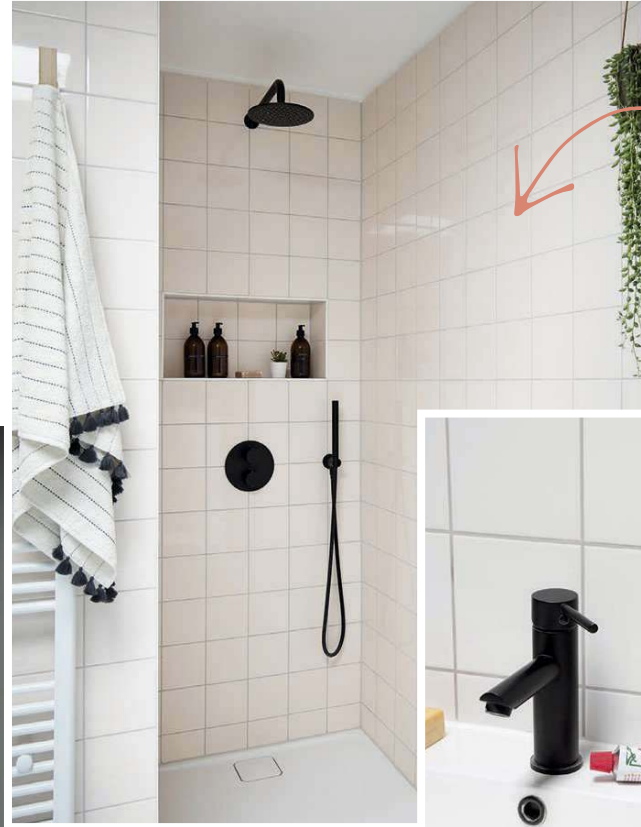
TRY ECO-FRIENDLY REFILLABLES
Siobhan uses refillable bottles with Dymo labels, which work with the minimal style

one fabulous space

create their perfect scheme inspired by mid-century design

Despite creating a thoroughly modern bathroom, Siobhan was keen to reflect the mid-century vibe of the house: 'Our décor throughout is quite Scandinavian, with lots of white and grey, but we wanted something a little special for the bathroom. The blush tiles were a nod to my grandparents' 1960s peach bathroom suite, as well as a cost-effective choice,' she says. 'We dreamt of having a modern, decent-sized, relaxing room and that's exactly what we have achieved, without any compromise on function and style.'

Siobhan researched 1960s décor, selecting authentic-style white and peach square wall tiles and pale grey vinyl flooring. The dark grey feature wall, in Farrow & Ball's Downpipe, and array of plants add colour and interest



MAKE SAVINGS ON SPACE AND MONEY

Siobhan and Joe turned the old toilet room into an open, space-saving shower. The couple splurged on the matte black shower fittings, but found less expensive alternative options for the bath and basin



SHOP AROUND

The room features a combination of old and new, as Siobhan saved money by shopping around for the basin's matte black taps and sourced a vintage mirror from eBay

SHOPPING LIST

Mode Tate floor-standing vanity unit and ceramic sink, £215.20; Mode Tate free-standing bath, £499; Mode Tate WC, £169; Diamond heated towel rail in white, £69.95, all from Victoria Plum. Lusso luxe thermostatic shower set with handheld shower, £495; Lusso luxe monobloc basin mixer, £160, both Lusso Stone. Iker black bath tap, £109.97; rectangular easy plumb shower tray, £167.97, both Soak. Prismatic Collection wall tiles in White and Peach Sorbet, £36 per box of 44 tiles, Johnsons Tiles. Vinyl flooring in Nordic Grey, £29 per sq m, The Colour Flooring Company. Walls painted in Down Pipe, £46.50 per 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Mirror, £25, eBay. Bespoke shelf, £50, Jon Grant London. Wooden bath bridge, £20, Sainsbury's. Black toothbrush cup, £10, Host of Leyton. Pompom bath mat, £7, Matalan. Tasselled bath towel, £12.99 each, H&M Home. Hanging plant pots, from £5.50 each, eBay.

TOTAL COST: £2,128

Work your angles

Got a less-than-conventional, awkwardly-shaped bathroom layout? It's still possible to achieve your dream scheme with these clever tips and tricks



Corners are often the most overlooked areas in a room, but you can't afford to ignore them in an awkward bathroom! In fact, making smart use of corners will help you get the best out of the available space. And you needn't forgo a bath for a shower unit – just combine the two with a back-to-wall bath like this one, which has the timeless, decorative look of a claw-foot tub and can be fitted in a corner with a shower and screen for the best of both worlds

1710mm Victoria traditional roll-top back-to-wall bath with dragon feet, £429.97, Soak

Angular alcoves, tight corners and sloping ceilings may make creating a bathroom look you love seem like an impossible task. Putting a little more thought into fixtures, fittings and accessories, however, will mean you can still squeeze in all the essentials – and plenty of stylish touches too. In fact, with clever use of corner baths and showers, small-size units and free-standing storage, you can even make a feature out of your bathroom's unique shape. [View](#)



◀ Open shelving can help to give the illusion of a more spacious room, but this also means you need to keep things neat and nicely styled! Display a folded stack of these matching towels to keep your shelf looking well-presented and add a cheerful splash of bright coral – perfect if you've gone for a minimal palette in the rest of the room (or love a colour clash)

Stripe border towels, from £5, Matalan



► It's easy for a bathroom to end up messy and cluttered after a busy morning routine. Multi-use storage like this cute shelf and rack combo will help you to get organised. It has a handy boxed-in shelf and a rail for hanging up hand and bath towels. Plus, its on-trend tile-look frontage is ideal if you've gone for a patterned tiled floor or co-ordinating geometric towels.

Tile print shelf rack, £30, Next



▲ Save on space without compromising on aesthetics with this cute and compact wall-hung basin. It's designed to fit neatly into a corner in bathrooms where wall space is at a premium and, with its contemporary curved shape and quality white gloss finish, it's small in size but big on style.

Othello round wall-hung corner basin, £44.95, Victorian Plumbing



Mirrored wall cupboards may be too bulky for some bathrooms, particularly if you have a smaller basin. So, go slimline and stylish and swap a traditional cabinet for this refined mirror in a chic, vintage-look patinated gold finish. It also features a useful basket shelf for keeping smaller beauty bits and bobs.

Lene Bjerre Hildia mirror in Gold, £70, Sweetpea & Willow



If the majority of your wall space is taken up by the main bathroom suite but you'd still like the luxury of a heated towel rail, this corner radiator is an inspired solution. A sleek, contemporary design with a powder-coated grey finish, it offers ample towel storage and sits on the outside join of the wall to use up every available inch. Plus, it'll circulate heat efficiently around the room too.

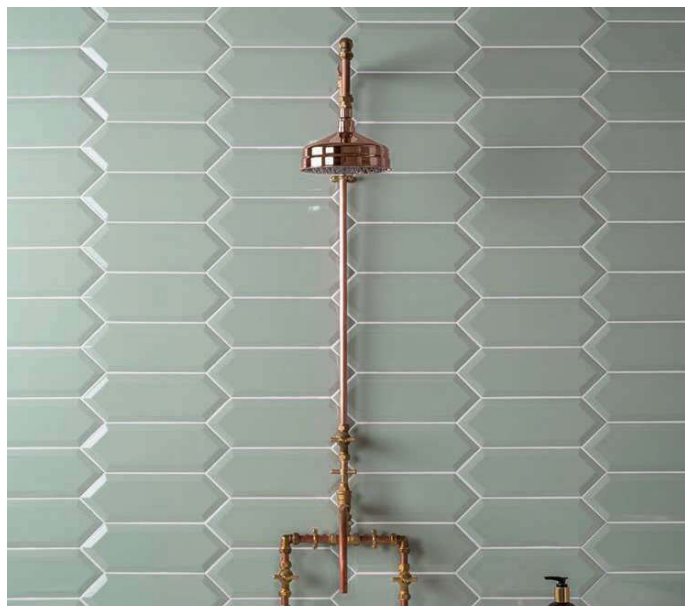
Outcorner designer towel rail in Modern Grey, £445, Frontline Bathrooms

Feature Michelle Grady

BATHROOM IDEAS

▼ Patterned tiles have the potential to overwhelm small or awkward spaces, but that doesn't mean you can't still make a statement with a feature wall. These offer a new twist on the classic metro tiles and can be used horizontally or vertically, plus they're a fun way to nod to your bathroom's quirky angles with their unusual hexagonal, bevelled shape. What's more, the pastel shade and glossy finish will reflect light for a bright, airy space

Picket bevelled tiles, £33.95 per sq m, Walls and Floors



► Easy access is key for a high-traffic area like the bathroom, so you'll need to allow ample room for opening cupboards and showers. This bi-fold shower panel will give you one less door to worry about, with an inward-opening action that won't take up any valuable floor space and an on-trend matt black frame. It can also be combined with a matching side panel to create a complete shower enclosure if needed

Turin matt black bi-fold shower door, £229.95, Victorian Plumbing

► Built-in cupboards aren't always easy to fit into odd-shaped rooms, so flexible options like this tiered caddy are just the thing for keeping essential toiletries next to the shower or bath. Or, if you do have some built-in storage, you can use it to put your prettiest lotions and potions on show! If you're choosing a Scandi-look wooden caddy, make sure it has a water-resistant lacquer finish like this one does for durability

Tiered caddy, £160, Nest



BATHROOM IDEAS



Above or underneath the sink isn't the only spot you can add shelving! The wall space above the toilet tends to be bare and unused, but every bit of wall counts with a tricky bathroom layout. Try a versatile self-standing option like this shelving unit, which is narrow enough to be unobtrusive but roomy enough to make it a practical place to keep towels, boxes and toiletries

Dynan open storage, £35, IKEA

▼ Lighting is especially important for sloping ceilings or alcoves, which can make a room feel gloomy and unwelcoming, so brighten up a darker corner with smaller lamps that make an impact without taking up too much wall space. This industrial-chic wall light, made from smooth polymer concrete that has been left raw and unpolished to allow the natural markings to show through, is the perfect size for pairing either side of a mirror above a petite basin

Southbank light, £55 each, Garden Trading



◀ Combining two essentials in one is an easy way to make the most of a space, like with this basin design. It not only features a practical and compact sink and a heated towel rail, but it will bring a touch of vintage style to the scheme with its classic look. Two hanging bars provide space for towels, and the heated frame will act as a radiator to warm up the room

Holborn heated washstand with basin and towel rail, £220, Frontline Bathrooms

Top tip

'Keeping clutter to a minimum really changes the perception of a bathroom. Use hooks on the back of doors or even inside cupboards, high shelving for things you don't use daily, and floating shelves for candles, plants and scented diffusers – simple additions that add character.'

Mickey Bryant,
Head of Interiors at
Nöa & Nani



Essential

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MAKE IT *easy*



▲ Bring the outdoors in with cute nature-themed craft projects for Easter and beyond



▲ Liven up your laundry and make a zesty new ironing board cover



Get the latest craft news



Learn how to give a boring fridge a fresh lease of life



▶ Give a plain table a stylish makeover

This month's projects are all about adding a spring to your step. We'll help you make the ordinary extraordinary and add a pinch of fun to everyday tasks. Transform your fridge into a work of art with our DIY masterclass, relieve the boredom of ironing with a stylish cover you'll love to look at, and head to this month's craft events to find some creative inspiration.

MAKE, DO & CRAFT

REVAMP, REPAIR, RECYCLE

SEW SIMPLE

DIY MASTERCLASS

ASK THE EXPERTS

CRAFT STASH MUST HAVES

MAKE, DO & CRAFT

Get Easter-ready with these pretty, seasonal crafts to give and display

PRESSED FLOWER BAUBLES

Create a lasting floral Easter display with these beautiful pressed flower baubles

SHOPPING LIST

- Egg-shaped glass baubles, £10.40 for a pack of 10, Amazon
- Small flowers
- PVA glue
- Paintbrush
- Ribbon
- Blotting paper
- Iron

1 Gather a selection of flowers ready to press. It's best to choose ones that are quite flat in shape, as these will have a better result when pressed. Place the flowers on a sheet of blotting paper, ensuring they are spaced well apart. Place another sheet of blotting paper on top, so the flowers are sandwiched between the two, and press down. Use a book to add weight to make sure the flowers are fully pressed down.

2 Next, remove the book and press an iron on each section of the blotting paper for 10 seconds. Don't move the iron on the paper, as the flowers are delicate and will drag. Simply press the iron down, then move until all areas of the paper have been covered. You'll notice that there are watermarks; this is just moisture from the flowers. Carefully remove the top layer of the blotting paper.

3 Paint PVA glue all over the bauble, then place the pressed flowers onto it. Once you're happy with the positioning of the patterns you've created with the flowers, press the blooms down and paint over them carefully with another layer of PVA glue to secure them in place. Leave to dry, then tie a length of ribbon to the top of each one for hanging.

TOP TIP

You could also use paint pens such as POSCA markers to decorate the baubles with hand-drawn flower motifs



JEWELLED EGG SOAPS

Make a set of these jewel-toned egg-shaped soaps for yourself or a friend

1 Place half a teaspoon of mica pigment into each muffin case – we used nine different cases and pigment colours. Melt the transparent soap base in the saucepan on a low heat, then pour into the muffin cases, filling them so they are roughly two-thirds full. Mix the base and dye together thoroughly, then leave to set. Remove the solid soaps from the muffin cases, then cut up into irregular-shaped shards.

2 Repeat this to make a variety of soap shards with just the opaque soap base and the transparent base, then mix the opaque one with a small amount of the mica pigments – this will give you a range of different shades. Place a handful of shards into each of the plastic cups, grouping the complementary colours together. Top up the cup with the melted soap base – either clear or opaque, depending on the look you want to achieve – then leave it to set.

3 Remove the soap from the plastic cup, then carve it into egg shapes using a craft knife. This step takes patience, as you'll need to work around the soap carefully, removing a small amount at a time. We've left ours with lots of facets for a gemstone look, but you can make yours smoother if you prefer.

SHOPPING LIST

- Two tubs of Stephenson Clear Melt & Pour soap base, £7.45 per 1kg, Amazon
- One tub of Stephenson White Melt & Pour soap base, £7.35 per 1kg, Amazon
- Mica pigment in several shades, from a selection, Amazon
- Old saucepan
- Silicone muffin cases
- Disposable plastic cups
- Wooden skewers
- Craft knife

TOP TIP

Add biodegradable cosmetic glitter to the soaps for added sparkle



Project Tamsyn Morgans

BUNNY BAG

Gift eggs and other sweet treats in this cute appliqué bunny motif drawstring bag

SHOPPING LIST

- Linen: 25 x 36cm
- Lining fabric: 25 x 36cm
- Appliqué fabric: 14 x 10cm
- Fusible web: 14 x 10cm
- Stranded cotton
- Cotton tape: 1.5 x 40cm
- Thread
- Scissors
- Sewing machine

TOP TIP

You can appliqué a name or initial to the front of the bag for a personal touch



1 Cut the linen into two pieces, measuring 18 x 25cm each for the bag front and the bag back. Cut the lining fabric into two pieces, measuring 18 x 25cm each for the bag lining back and front. Download and print out the bunny template from www.yourhomemagazine.co.uk, turn it over, then trace the reverse side of it onto the fusible web, paper side up. Place the fusible web, paper side up, onto the wrong side (WS) of the appliqué fabric and press.

2 Cut out the bunny around the drawn lines. Peel off the paper back and place the bunny right sides (RS) up on top of the front of the bag, positioning it 4cm up from the lower edge and centrally across. Press firmly in place. Using blanket stitch and two strands of stranded cotton, sew the bunny in place around the edge.

3 Place the bag front and back RS together and sew along the sides and bottom edge. Repeat with the lining, but leave an 8cm gap in the lower edge. Place the bag outer inside the lining with RS together and stitch around the top. Turn RS out and slip stitch the gap closed. Push the lining inside the bag and topstitch around the opening, 2cm from the top. Undo some of the sewing on the right-hand side seam, between the casing line and the top of the bag, then oversew the top and bottom to secure. Thread the cotton tape around the casing and tie the ends together.

Project Rebecca Reid Template design and styling Louise Day Photos Neil Godwin and Jesse Wild

REVAMP, REPAIR, *Recycle*

Give a plain IKEA table an on-trend restyle in an afternoon with this simple upcycle

Marble adds instant luxury to any room – and it's easy to replicate the look on a budget! Self-adhesive paper, gold spray paint and a squeegee are all you need to transform a plain IKEA side table (we used the Lindved design) into an expensive-looking statement piece.

YOU WILL NEED

- ◆ IKEA Lindved table ◆ Gold spray paint
- ◆ Marble pattern self-adhesive paper
- ◆ Ruler or squeegee ◆ Craft knife

1 You'll find it easiest to complete this DIY as you're putting the table together. If you're working with a brand-new IKEA table, just follow the instructions included. If the table is already assembled, check how easy it is to put back together again before taking it apart. If all else fails, gather together newspaper and masking tape so you can section the legs off before spraying them.

2 The Lindved table legs come in three parts. Lay each one down on its side and spray a light layer of gold paint over all three. Try to cover the sides as well as the top. Once dry, turn over and repeat. Build up the layers until you have an even covering of paint. Assemble the legs following the instructions. Once they're complete, re-spray any missed sections or flaws.

3 While you're waiting for the layers of paint on the table legs to dry, get started on covering the table top with the self-adhesive paper. Measure a piece of the marbled self-adhesive paper a couple of inches larger than the table surface area.

4 Using a ruler or a squeegee, carefully peel back one corner of the backing paper and press into place on the table top, smoothing out any air bubbles. Make sure the rest of the paper sits correctly over the rest of the surface. If it doesn't, peel it off and adjust.

5 As you continue to peel off the backing, seal the adhesive paper to the table using the ruler or squeegee, pushing out any air bubbles as you go.

6 Once all of the backing has been peeled off and the self-adhesive paper is securely pressed onto the surface of the table, cut away the excess by running a craft knife around the edge of the table.

7 Press down the edges of the marbled paper and pop any air bubbles with a needle, pressing out the excess air and smoothing down the paper.

8 Once the legs are dry, attach these and the second surface to the table top following the instructions. If you turn the table upside down to do this, place it on a soft surface to make sure the floor doesn't scratch the paper.



Lindved table, £19,
IKEA. Marble self-
adhesive paper,
£5, B&Q

TOP TIP

Self-adhesive paper comes in a variety of designs, so try mixing and matching them for an eclectic look.

REVAMP, REPAIR, RECYCLE



Project Francesca Stone

Sew simple

Match your ironing board to your laundry room scheme with a new cover

One of the most-used home essentials, your ironing board cover can very quickly start to look shabby, stained and worn – not ideal when you're pressing newly laundered clothes. Luckily, it's easy to freshen it up to suit your utility room's style. Just use the old cover as a template to make an attractive new one from fabric you love.

YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric for the cover: see instructions for sizing
- Curtain interlining: for padding, see instructions for sizing
- Bias binding: see instructions for sizing
- String or narrow cord: see instructions for sizing
- Paper
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pins
- Sewing machine and thread

1 Take the old cover off the ironing board and use this as a pattern. Draw around it onto paper and add 4cm all the way around for a seam and gathering allowance.

2 Pin the pattern you have just drawn onto the wrong side (WS) of the fabric and cut around it. Draw around the ironing board onto the curtain interlining and cut it out.

3 Pin the interlining onto the WS of the fabric, making sure it is centred so that there is an even seam allowance all the way around. Tack the interlining onto the WS of the fabric.

4 Sew the interlining to the fabric all the way around the edge using a zigzag stitch on the sewing machine.

5 Open out the bias binding and sew one long edge right sides (RS) together around the

edge of the cover fabric piece using a straight machine stitch. Turn both of the short edges under before you start and finish the stitching. The edges don't need to overlap but just be close together, almost touching, for a neat edge.

6 Fold the bias binding over to the WS and turn the other long edge under. Topstitch in place all the way around, making sure you stitch close to the edge but through both the front and back of the binding. This will create a channel for the string or narrow cord.

7 Thread the string or narrow cord onto a safety pin, then thread it through the channel all the way around.

8 Fit the cover onto the ironing board by gathering up the string or cord, then tying the ends together to secure.



TOP TIP

FOR ADDED SECURITY, SEW A LENGTH OF ELASTIC ACROSS THE LOWER END OF THE COVER TO HOLD IT IN PLACE ON THE BOARD.

SEW SIMPLE

Project R&B Designs

DIY *masterclass*

Refresh kitchen appliances with a lick of paint

Are your white goods looking a bit worse for wear? Are you bored of your plain fridge and fancy a pop of colour in the kitchen? If your budget is tight, then avoid buying new appliances and consider transforming them with a coat of paint instead. It only takes a day or so and you'll save a lot of money. Plus, you can choose exactly the colour you want to fit with your interior style! Hot pink washing machine, anyone?

YOU WILL NEED

Essential ♦ Dust sheets ♦ Sponge ♦ Rubber gloves ♦ Ammonia-based cleaner, such as glass cleaner ♦ Lint-free cloth ♦ Steel wool scourer ♦ Medium and fine sandpaper ♦ Clean paintbrush ♦ Masking tape ♦ Rust-Oleum Mode Primer ♦ Rust-Oleum Mode Spray Paint

SAFETY FIRST

Paint can contain harmful fumes, so make sure you work in a well-ventilated area, away from children and animals, and consider wearing goggles and a face mask.

IT'S ALL IN THE PREP

■ First, cover the area underneath and around the appliance with dust sheets to protect flooring from dust and paint drips. Using a sponge, soap and water, clean the surface thoroughly. All wax, oil and grease should be removed.

■ Next, rub the appliance with an ammonia-based cleaner. Many household cleaning solutions contain ammonia (although you can use one-part water and one-part white vinegar instead). Mix the cleaner with water and sponge all over the surface, then dry it with a lint-free cloth or leave to air dry. Use a steel wool scourer to remove any remaining encrusted food and debris.

■ Now the appliance is clean and dry, you will need to sand it to provide a 'key' – this is a surface that paint will more readily adhere to. Choose a medium sandpaper and rub all over the appliance, wherever it will be painted. Dust the surface with a clean paintbrush, then sand a second time, with a finer sandpaper.

■ Carefully cover any areas you want to protect from paint with masking tape. This includes door handles and rubber seals. Press the tape down firmly to ensure no paint can creep underneath it.

TIME TO PRIME

■ Use a multi-surface primer, such as Rust-Oleum Mode Grey Matt Surface Primer, £6 for 400ml from Amazon. Shake the can thoroughly and spray evenly over the appliance – hold the can at a consistent distance from the surface (roughly 25cm) and move gently from side to side. One 400ml bottle will cover roughly 1m². Allow about two hours to dry.

TOP TIP

Think about removing any hardware, labels and logos – anything that won't be painted – before you begin working on the appliance.

Before



READY, STEADY, PAINT!

- The appliance is now ready for you to apply your colour of choice. We recommend using a spray paint, such as Rust-Oleum Mode, £9.90 for 400ml from Amazon, to ensure an even finish. Apply two coats of paint, allowing a minimum of 15 minutes in between each. Leave the appliance for about 60 minutes after the last coat is applied to ensure it is dry before handling.
- If you make a mistake or have dripping or bubbling, don't panic: you can correct just about any error with sandpaper. Simply wait until the paint is dry and use fine sandpaper before reapplying the top coat.



TOP TIP

It's a good idea to keep some spray paint on hand in case you need to touch up scratches or chips in the future.



After

DIY MASTERCLASS



THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

- If a colour pop just isn't jazzy enough, paint on additional detail in whatever design you like. How about clouds created from a simple DIY stencil?



NEXT STEPS...

- Once you've refreshed your appliances, you might feel that the kitchen cupboards are suddenly looking a little tired in comparison. Why not give them a lick of paint too and achieve a slick and modern high-gloss look? Rust-Oleum Mode can be used on wood and laminate. Be sure to clean and prime the surfaces, as per the steps above. Note that if the doors are wooden, you will need to sand in the direction of the wood grain.

Feature Catherine Smalley Photos Rust-Oleum

Ask the EXPERTS

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

Q With summer on the horizon, I am keen to make sure my lawn is looking lush and healthy. To achieve this, do you have any advice on what I should do when I first cut the lawn?

Nicole Matthews, Pembrokeshire



A Paul Hicks, product and marketing manager at STIHL GB, says...

As the days begin to brighten and we want to make more use of our garden space, it is important to turn our attention to the lawn and how to do the first cut of the year. When cutting the grass for the first time, it's likely to look a bit unloved and overgrown, so be sure to clear the area of any leaves, sticks and other debris

that may interfere with mowing or could cause damage to the mower blade.

We recommend following the one-third rule when cutting for the first time: never trim more than a third of the blades of grass in one go, as cutting it too short, too fast, can damage it and lead to disease or weed infestation. Over the next few mows, you can gradually reduce the length to your liking.

All lawns and gardens have different needs, so it's important that you take this into account when choosing a tool for the job. The STIHL RMA 235 is a great choice for homeowners with medium-sized gardens of up to 300m². This compact mower, which is part of STIHL's cordless range, is quiet, easy to manoeuvre and gives a brilliant cut, time after time. For more information on STIHL and its range, visit www.stihl.co.uk.



Q I am planning lighting for my new kitchen/living room extension and I would like to make a statement with multiple pendant lamps hanging from a single electrical outlet. What are my options and how do I go about fitting this?

Caroline Adams, via email



A Emily Butterill, founder of Glow Lighting, says...

You could hang a cluster as a central light over a dining area or kitchen island, or go for a spider cluster, suspended on hooks with extra-long cables – a great idea for a living space where you want to spread the light over a larger space.

If you have a room with tall ceilings, a cluster of cascading shades can be used to accentuate this, whereas in a smaller room a collection of shades grouped together creates a focal point and can make the room feel cosy.

We supply our cluster pendant lights with multi-outlet ceiling roses. These are wired into one lighting circuit; therefore, you get multiple lights on the one switch. We recommend using dimmer switches and dimmable light bulbs to create ambience.

We also strongly recommend all our lighting to be installed by a fully qualified NICEIC electrician. Visit www.glowlighting.co.uk.



Q I would like to install a new home security system to make sure my house is as safe as possible. Please could you explain the benefits of installing 'smart home' security products? Barney Whitehead, Kent



A Hazel Whittingham, smart residential senior product manager at Yale UK, says...

The great thing about smart home security measures is they often work with other products, such as smartphones, smartwatches and tablets. For example, smart locks allow you to enter your home, or give others access, without a traditional key. Instead, you use your smartphone or key fob to open the mechanical lock. You can even grant virtual keys to friends and family.

Another option is a security camera with smartphone alerts, motion sensors and two-way talk functionality. Live footage can be streamed to your phone wherever you are.

Smart alarms, such as the Yale Sync Smart Home Alarm, are also popular. This system has great features, including integration with Apple watches to arm, disarm and unlock from your wrist. Visit www.yale.co.uk for more information.



Q It seems that everyone chooses stainless steel for their sink and tap area. Is there a material as durable as stainless steel that will make my kitchen stand out?

Tina Rossi, Suffolk



A *John Robinson, marketing manager at BLANCO UK, offers his thoughts...*
Stainless steel is certainly

commonplace, for good reason, in all sorts of kitchens, but there are options available for those that want to break away without compromising on longevity. I would recommend exploring the idea of a Silgranit® sink from BLANCO. The special properties of granite mean that it is exceptionally strong, which is ideal for sink and tap areas

that need to be durable and easy to maintain. Of course, appearance is a priority too; granite is a modern and sleek choice that is scratch, stain and heat resistant, helping it to stay looking as pristine as the day that it was installed.

If you're looking to step away from the classic stainless-steel

finishes, it's worth considering alternative colours. Depending on your existing kitchen's colour palette, a BLANCO sink in Champagne or Coffee could create a warm impression. Other available colours include Anthracite, Tartufo, White, Rock Grey and Alumetallic. Visit www.blanco.com.



Q I get asthma when using wallpaper paste and would like to try a removable wallpaper, which I believe is like a sticky-backed plastic. Can you help me with how to use these and where to get them from?

Shirley Day, via email



A *Nadia McCowan Hill, Wayfair's resident style advisor, suggests...*
There's no denying that

wallpaper is enjoying a real renaissance at the moment, with a huge array of fresh designs that can brighten and liven up a room. If wallpaper paste irritates your asthma, or you're interested in easily switching up a look season to season, removable wallpaper is an excellent alternative.

Check out online retailers, such as Wayfair, that are likely to have many more wallpaper options browsable at your fingertips than a high street retailer, especially in terms of style and adhesive type. Make sure you're searching for 'removable, non-pasted' wallpapers as many peelable, temporary types may still be pre-pasted.



Be sure to match the paper's hue with the mood, colour and pattern of the other décor in the room, and be mindful of the scale of the pattern for the size of the space in order to achieve a cohesive, balanced look. These days removable wallpaper is available in an array of trendy prints. Whether you go for modern, geometric, bold florals or textured, this option is guaranteed to make a splash in any space. Visit www.wayfair.co.uk to see its full range.



If you have a DIY or maintenance question, write to Ask the Experts, Your Home, Immediate Media, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4ST, or email asktheexperts@yhmag.co.uk

ASK THE EXPERTS

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must haves

WORKSHOP

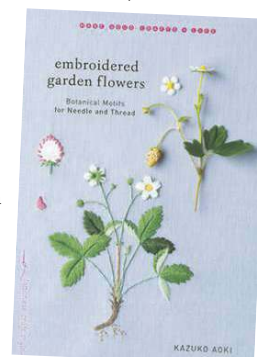


Keep the piece

Bunting always brings a celebratory mood to a garden, but since we can't always rely on fair weather for a party, why not learn how to make mosaic bunting at Moon Hare Studio in Holsworthy, Devon, on the 4th April for year-round cheer? You'll be shown how to cut and place glass tiles to make beautiful, colourful patterns. The session runs from 10am until 4pm, giving you enough time to complete about three flags. The course costs £65 and includes materials – and, of course, tea and biscuits!

Sew what you grow

From Kazuko Aoki's book *Embroidered Garden Flowers* (£11.99, Roost Books) you'll learn much more than how to sew the delicate, familiar blooms we all grow at home. Her charts bring the delicate biology of these plants to the forefront. Roots, seed heads and even predatory insects are depicted with the same care and attention as the prettiest petals.



WONDERWOOL

Head to mid Wales on the 25th to 26th April to experience the wonder of Wonderwool, a celebration of natural fibres. The Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells will be filled with over 200 exhibitors showing off their woolly wares, from raw fleece products to expertly handmade items. Stock up for your latest project, watch daily demonstrations and try your hand at have-a-go sessions. If you're looking to really hone your skills, take part in Wooolschool workshops. The programme covers everything from carding and spinning, to freehand crochet and felting – but make sure you book ahead. One-day admission tickets cost £10, but visit wonderwoolwales.co.uk for further rates and information.



Wonderwool Wales bursary award scheme winner Daisy Fay Ray, BA Textiles graduate from Carmarthen School of Art, with her handwoven meditation blankets

LEARN A SKILL

Tied in knots

Such was the success of Fanny Zednius' first books *Macramé: The Craft of Creative Knotting for Your Home* in 2017, it was translated into nine languages. The follow up, *Macramé 2*, promises to be just as popular. The read expands on the techniques covered in the first book, with new techniques and projects. However, it still covers the basics of starting a make using macramé, so even beginners won't get tangled. £14.99, Hardie Grant.



PRIME CUTS

Add a touch of sparkle to your sewing kit with a shimmering scissor gift set from Milward. Whether you're more suited to classic gold, warm rose gold, stylish silver or shamelessly flamboyant rainbow tones, you'll find a set to fall in love with. All of them contain a pair of dressmaking shears and embroidery scissors, but if you really want to push the boat out, there's a set containing a matching thimble and pearl-headed pins, too.



20cm dressmaking shears, 9.5cm stork embroidery scissors in Rose Gold, £18.70, Milward
21.5cm dressmaking shears, 9.5cm embroidery scissors, matching thimble and pearl headed pins in Gold, £25, Milward
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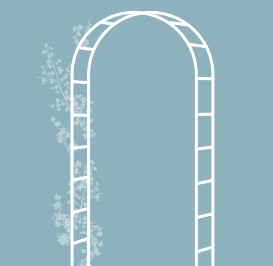
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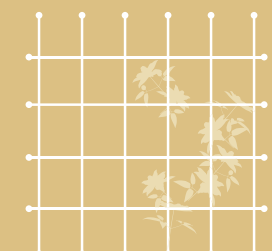
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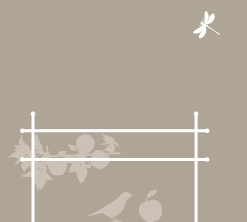
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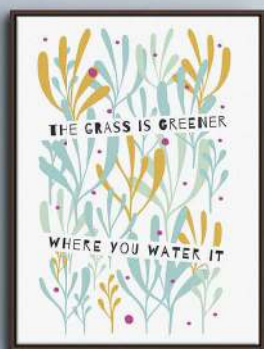
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Reader homes

Turn the page to be inspired by this month's style-savvy homes



Show off your hard work in *Your Home*

Have you just finished decorating your home? If so, we'd love to see some photos and who knows, they may even be featured in a future issue! You can share them on Instagram using [#YHlovemyhome](#) and [#YourHomemagazine](#), or email yourhome@immediate.co.uk



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Jo unleashed her style to create the home she always wanted



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Jo's keen eye for colour has given her space a sophisticated look



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Gemma moved back to the Midlands to make her perfect family home

PLUS IDEAS TO STEAL

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FIND MORE INTERIORS TO INSPIRE YOU AT WWW.YOURHOMEMAGAZINE.CO.UK



Our home and style are always evolving



Gemma Coward has made a home that can keep growing and changing with her family by getting creative with paint and artwork

Originally from the Midlands, Gemma Coward and her partner Robin had been living in London for a few years in a rented house with their son Charlie before deciding to make the move back home. 'When I was pregnant with our daughter, Willow, we decided that a move back to the Midlands would be a better option than raising two children in London,' says Gemma. The couple actually met working together in Leamington Spa, so it felt fitting that they should take the family back there. 'We knew the area, which made the move much easier for us all,' she explains.

They found a home in an excellent location near open spaces, good schools and the local park and shops which, with a growing family, was really important to them. The house itself has a traditional mid-terrace layout until you go into the back room, where they spend most of their time in the open-plan kitchen, dining, living and play space – perfect for life with young children. Although the couple love decorating, they didn't want to take on a huge renovation project, so moving into somewhere that had already been extended was perfect for them. Thinking about how to tackle the house and introduce their own

decorating style, Gemma had a lot of ideas. 'I'm influenced by so many different styles that I couldn't just stick to one in our home, so the house has touches of mid-century modern, Scandinavian, colour, monochrome and industrial designs.'

The initial renovation was done in the 1990s, with a small extension added onto the back of the house to extend the kitchen and dining space, which still works wonderfully for the family. 'We turned what the previous owner had as a dining room into a playroom and family space, then moved the dining room into the extension – this allowed us to use the space

in the best way possible for us,' says Gemma.

Happy with the layout, the couple just needed to decorate the house, which was minimal with lots of wallpaper. Doing something with the rather flamboyant dining room wallpaper was first on the to-do list – it covered the whole side of the extension and, although Gemma loves a bit of retro, this pattern took the 1970s vibe and turned it up to 11! It overpowered the space completely, so it had to go. 'The day we moved in I wrote 'bye bye' in large letters over the kitchen wallpaper so I would be forced to deal with it straight away, otherwise I knew we'd end up living with it for ages.' In the end, Gemma actually painted over it as a short-term solution because she was worried that taking it off would also strip away the plaster. Regular white emulsion covered the pattern in a couple of coats, so it's been like that ever since.

Paint also transformed Gemma's daughter's

▼ Children make the best art and Gemma loves being able to display it. She's used vintage frames and clips picked up cheaply from the charity shop to display their pieces



▲ The dining room is one of Gemma's favourite spaces as it gets so much light. She injected colour by using chairs in different hues, which she bought from Cult Furniture, and placed them against white walls and a white table. The vintage school map over the dining table was just £5! 'It's from my favourite second-hand shop where I got a lot of the furniture for our house, including the old radiogram TV stand in the front room and the vintage wardrobe in Willow's room' Gemma says

COME ON IN...



Feature Zoe Bishop Photos Lizzie Orme

OUR HOME IS A three-bedroom mid-terrace house built in 1890, in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

WE ARE Gemma, a design consultant, 37, her partner Robin, 38, and their two children, Charlie, seven, and Willow, aged four.

MY TOP TIP Don't be scared to give it a go! Since moving in I've learned how to install coving, paint, install a fireplace, lay concrete over an old cracked front step, tile a hearth and wallpaper – all from YouTube!

MY BIGGEST MISTAKE Was painting the stairwell spotty! I got stencil-happy after doing the bathroom floor and front doorstep, so tried stencilling Dalmatian spots.

WE BOUGHT THIS HOUSE BECAUSE

We wanted to move out of north London and back to the Midlands, where we're both originally from.

SHOPS I LOVE I like to support small businesses, but I also like Tiger and H&M Home, and I never leave TK Maxx empty-handed.

FOR STYLE INSPIRATION I am influenced by so many different styles that I couldn't just stick to one in my home – I love all things quirky and eclectic.

MY FAVOURITE ROOM Right now, I love the dining area because the plant wall has brought the outside in.





◀ The front room is a space for the couple to relax in once the little ones have gone to bed. The large, neutral IKEA corner sofa is brought to life with lots of textured cushions and coloured throws, while the gallery wall shows off some of Gemma's creative makes and family prints. The large, curved floor lamp is from Made.com, while the stack of cushions are from a selection at TK Maxx and H&M Home

Good idea!

ARTIFICIAL PLANTS CAN BRING LIFE TO ANY ROOM LACKING IN LIGHT LIKE GEMMA'S BATHROOM, PLUS THEY REQUIRE VERY LITTLE MAINTENANCE.



◀ An open stove really adds a cosy feel to a small sitting room. Gemma used a piece of reclaimed wood above the fire to create a shelf. The large rug is from La Redoute, while the mustard chair is from IKEA and the Harry Potter cushion is a Primark find

▼ The large swing chair from Aldi was originally purchased for the garden but Gemma has found the perfect spot for it inside the house during the winter months. 'It's such a great chair for chilling out – who says it's just for summer?' smiles Gemma



room. It had previously been used as an office and was full of orange pine, including the cupboards, floorboards and window – so, out came the paint! 'I used a pale grey Rust-Oleum chalk paint on the floorboards then sealed it and painted all the cupboards white. Immediately the room felt lighter and brighter. I also painted the triangle to pull the focus a little from the compact size of the room and the sloping ceiling.'

The bathroom is another masterclass in what can be achieved with paint and a little creativity. Gemma really disliked the tiles on the bathroom floor but didn't have the budget to replace them and couldn't cover them up due to the underfloor heating, so she revamped the existing tiles using a paintbrush and stencil instead. 'It was a much more cost-effective solution that can also be changed whenever we like and to be honest, I love the finished result and I've had so many compliments on it.'



▲ Willow has the smallest bedroom, but her extendable bed from IKEA means it can grow with her. The couple also retained the storage to keep the floor space fairly clear and spacious. 'We changed the window as it was only single-glazed, and I found some lovely prints and artwork from Instagram,' explains Gemma

◀ The downstairs bathroom is typical of an old terraced house, but Gemma has kept it modern and fresh with a white suite contrasted with the dark-coloured walls. The floor was hand-painted with a stencil pattern she bought from Dizzy Duck Designs, which has made all the difference to this room

▶ Fun bird-inspired wallpaper from World of Wallpaper is used at one end of the bathroom. It adds drama and the colour complements the soft pink flooring. The storage rack from IKEA is a really handy and stylish space for all of the bathroom essentials



REAL HOME

Gemma loves supporting small businesses where she can and Leamington Spa has some fab independent stores, such as Berylune, Collective and Thrills of the Emporium. Each room also includes pieces she has found in charity shops and second-hand furniture warehouses. 'I wanted to inject some of the original features back in as the house was stripped of them all at one point. I added a fireplace in Charlie's room and coving in the downstairs living spaces.' She did all this work herself by learning new skills on YouTube. 'I'm really proud of how much I've been able to achieve without having to call in the experts.'

Gemma has used lots of artwork on her walls, with most of the prints and artwork coming direct from the designers she's found on Instagram and Etsy. 'There are some very talented people out there and prints are a very inexpensive way of getting unique art into your home, so strong gallery walls make an

appearance in most of the rooms. I'm not as minimalist as the previous owner, and I found adding unique furniture and art has really transformed each room.'

Gemma is happy with the house as it is, but also feels excited to switch things up when she fancies a change, including updating the flooring in the living room. 'Overall, I'm really pleased with how the house looks. It hasn't taken too long or cost too much and it's always evolving. I'd like to replace the carpet in the front room with wooden flooring as unfortunately the original floorboards are in very poor condition, but I'm not in a hurry.'

Although the bulk of the hard work is done, Gemma insists the house will never be finished, because buying just one new accessory can change the whole feeling of a room. 'I like the fact the rooms don't stay the same – it's not a museum to how we lived at one time, but an evolving space that changes as we do'. 🏠



'I like that the rooms don't stay the same – it's not a museum to how we lived at one time but an evolving space that changes.'



▲ The double lockers in Charlie's room are from Gemma's old work company in London. They were getting rid of them and she knew they would work a treat in his room for keeping clutter hidden away. It's retro storage at its best!



5 IDEAS TO STEAL

Good idea!

A WIRE GRID IS A UNIQUE ALTERNATIVE TO A GALLERY WALL AS A WAY TO DISPLAY PHOTOS AND PRINTS, AND IT'S EASY TO CHANGE AND ADD TO.



▲ The charm of Gemma's home is all in her varied mix of furniture and art. In the bedroom, for example, she's paired a modern white dresser with a wood chest of drawers, as well as her handmade scaffold board bench and prints in different styles for an eclectic overall look



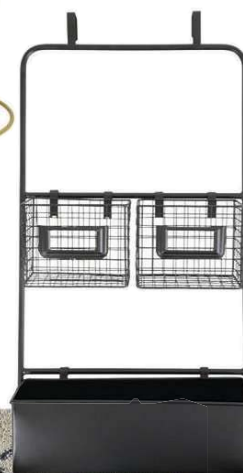
Add bold textured cushions to jazz up a neutral sofa or chair.

Velvet geo cushion, £7, George Home



Stylish stackable tables can be used anywhere and save space when stored away.

Finley nesting tables, £60, Argos Home



Make the most of storage in tight spots with an over-the-door option.

Loft Living over-door storage frame, £12, Sainsbury's Home



A carefully chosen rug can add texture, warmth and comfort to your home scheme.

Berber shaggy rug, from £29, Dunelm



Mix and match dining chairs for a family fun element.

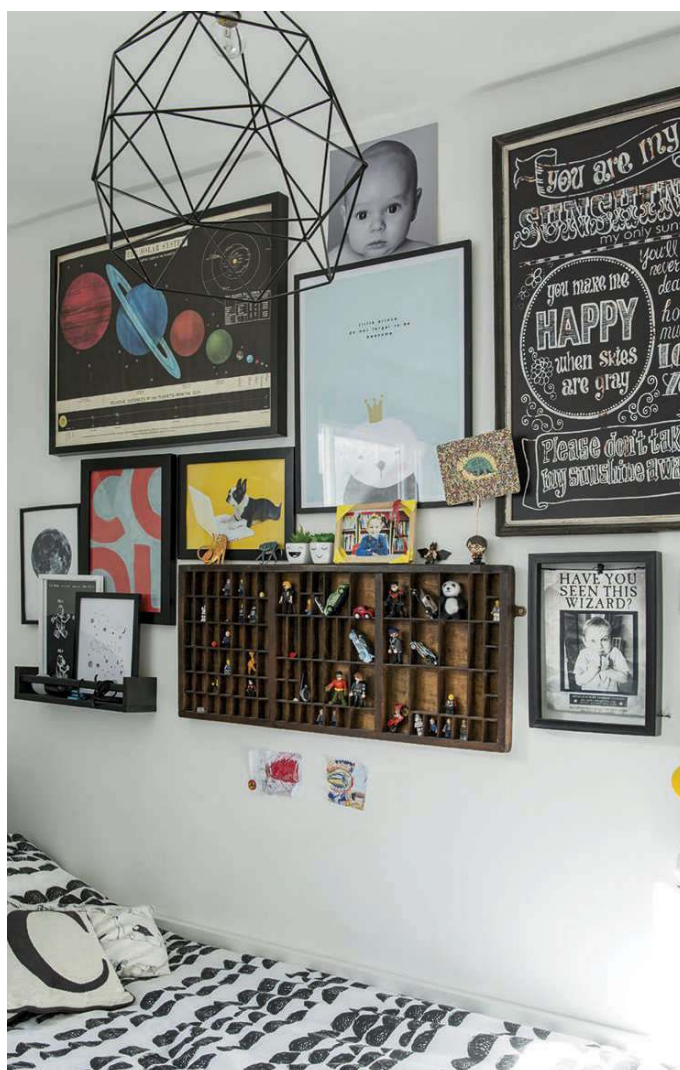
Turquoise dining chair, £34, Cult Furniture

FOR STOCKISTS SEE PAGE 122

▲ The low bed was a purchase from IKEA several years ago as the couple liked its oak wood effect. Gemma made the bench at the end of the bed with a piece of reclaimed scaffold board, then fitted some hairpin legs she picked up online

◀ The chalkboard fireplace in Charlie's room was a great find, as it gives the space a focal point. 'I bought it when he was a baby for our old rented house and kept the backing as it's reusable. When we moved here it fitted the chimney breast perfectly and stuck like new'

► Gemma loves a bargain and found this old letterpress tray on eBay, which is now home to Charlie's Lego figures. She's also framed some of his artwork and made his own personal gallery wall



It took me nearly two decades, but now I finally have my dream home

Jo Hughes didn't realise she had a stylist's eye and a flair for design until a windfall allowed her to renovate her whole home to suit her quirky style



Good idea!

CHOOSE FITTED SHUTTER BLINDS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CURTAINS. THEY ALLOW LIGHT TO STREAM THROUGH BUT ALSO GIVE THE ROOM PRIVACY.

Choosing an eye-catching gold velvet sofa and armchair, both from DFS, adds a sumptuous air of luxury to this room, while the soft grey on the walls makes the black-framed gallery of prints stand out. 'Everyone asks me what colour the walls are, but the grey was matched to the grey in the bedroom wallpaper, so it hasn't actually got a name,' explains Jo. The large wicker pots are from Next



Jo Hughes' home is full of colour and inspiring design ideas, but it wasn't always like this. Jo bought this house with her ex-husband in 2001, and although the couple split after five years, Jo decided to stay here as the location was perfect, being near her family and her daughters' school. However, she never got around to decorating the house to her style. 'I was busy working and bringing up my family and I didn't have the money or time to update the place, so it stayed the same for about 15 years,' she says.

A few years ago, however, Jo came into some money via an old pension scheme, which she decided to plough into the house. 'I really felt it was my time to create the beautiful home I'd always wanted,' says Jo.

► The mustard-yellow phone is an original that Jo bought from a local vintage shop, though apparently it came from an architect's office, so it is now known as 'The Architect's Phone.' The cabinet came from Argos. 'It originally had black handles, which felt a bit stark, so while Kelly assembled the cabinet I sprayed the handles gold and added gold legs,' says Jo. For a similar lamp, try the Ronnie table lamp, £45, John Lewis & Partners



'I really felt it was my time to create the beautiful home I'd always wanted.'

◀ 'I bought the carpet in a local shop before I had any plan for the hallway. It had 40 per cent off and I fell in love with the bold monochrome pattern,' says Jo. 'I asked the seller to store it for me, but with the time it took to do the whole house he ended up keeping it for nine months!' Jo chose a beautiful piece of English pippy oak with the bark showing to be made into a console table, then she added legs from The Hairpin Leg Co. 'They were originally a yellow that didn't complement the door, so I ended up spraying them gold,' says Jo. The Fred dachshund lamp is from Dowsing & Reynolds, the mirror is from Aldi and the front door is painted in English Yellow from Annie Sloan

COME ON IN...



Feature Lisa Moses Photos Katie Jane Watson

WE ARE Jo Hughes, an executive PA, and her two grown-up daughters, Kelly and Tilly.

OUR HOME IS A three-bedroom 1940s semi-detached house in Leicester.

MY TOP TIP Don't worry or overthink too much. At the end of the day it's only a bit of paint and a few cushions, so what's the worst that can happen?

MY DECORATING SECRET Be brave! I love monochrome, but mix it with colour so it looks warm and striking, not cold or stark.

MY STYLE ADVICE IS Don't fear the pattern clash, but do choose colours and textures that complement each other.

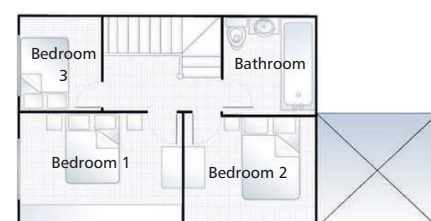
MY FAVOURITE SHOP IS TK Maxx. I love the fact that they have one-off designer finds that you don't see everywhere else, but at prices affordable for everyone.

FOR INSPIRATION I love going out and about in the real world, as well as looking on Instagram. Mine is @cloud_nine_interiors.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR





◀ Jo had been hunting for a screen for ages and found this one at a local warehouse sale that was selling vintage items. 'As soon as I saw it I knew it was right, so I made Tilly stand by it while I found the sales person. At £95 it wasn't cheap, but some things that you love are worth spending money on and I know I will love this forever. I love the quirky safari vibe it lends to this room.' The green velvet armchair beanbag, from Bean Bag Bazaar, is a perfect match to the green sofa and is gorgeously soft to the touch. It's also light, so it's easy to pick up and move to the other lounge

▼ Jo's sister-in-law gave her the dining room table and chairs but they were originally an orangey pine colour, so she transformed them by sanding them down and painting them, while daughter Kelly reupholstered the cushions with the striped fabric to match the ottoman. 'This was my first foray into upcycling using my favourite Frenchic paint, and it came out really well. I'm also glad I didn't chicken out of painting the walls black,' admits Jo. 'It was quite a bold move, but then again it's only paint, right? And I love the contrast with the green blinds.' The polka dot rug is from IKEA

▼ Jo is passionate about supporting small businesses, and an easy way to do this is to buy prints from independent artists, designers and illustrators. She finds new designs to add to her collection online and on social media. 'I particularly love the Marilyn painting, courtesy of Jemima Davey, and the cheetah prints from Karina Mansfield, both on Instagram,' she enthuses



She wanted to begin with the infrastructure of the property to make sure that it was all sound before the cosmetic work began, so she installed a new boiler and had all the windows replaced. 'After that I pretty much designed each room one at a time, thinking about the feel and look I wanted to achieve in each space. I'm lucky that Kelly, my daughter, does all the decorating, which saves a fortune – I know she does a better job than anyone I could employ.'

Jo's bedroom hadn't been decorated for years so she decided to start there. 'I wanted

to treat myself and create a beautiful, relaxing room that I'd look forward to spending time in.' But when Jo's builder ripped out the old wardrobe, he discovered a leak that had been a slow drip for years, so the wall had to be restored and the whole room replastered before it could be decorated, which added unexpected costs and time. However, Jo wasn't disheartened and carried on with the renovation.

The kitchen came next, though this was fairly straightforward because, as Jo explains, 'the room is a natural U-shape

‘I wanted to add an unusual edge so I sourced these copper handles so I sourced these copper handles to give the kitchen a touch of unexpected glamour.’

◀ ‘It was important for me to choose a classic kitchen that could stand the test of time because I don’t want to have to redo it if trends change,’ says Jo. She chose neutral, grey stone Shaker-style cabinets but has given them a modern twist by choosing copper handles from B&Q, which are easily changed if she ever wants an update. The cabinets were made by Strong Fittings and the black-and-white laminate flooring came from Best 4 Flooring, £10.99 per sq m

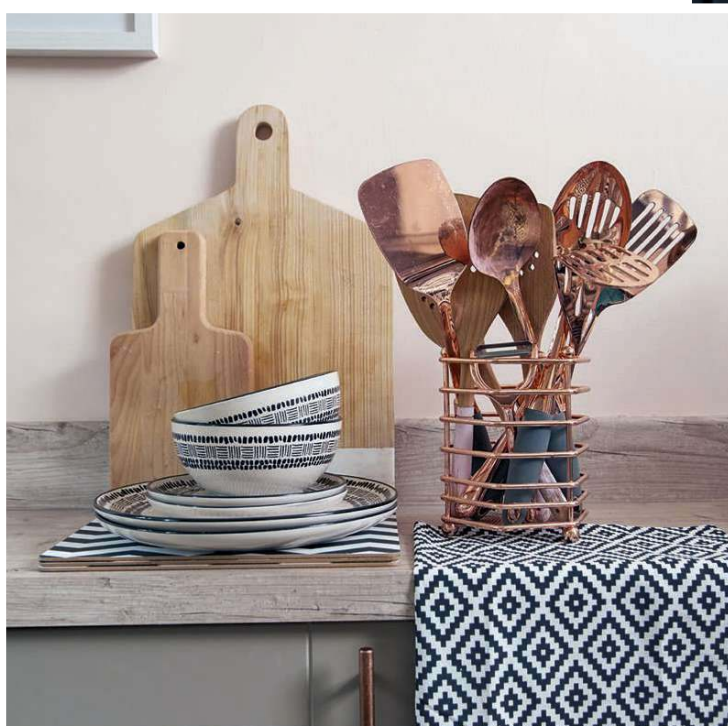


▶ This print, only £4.99 from TK Maxx, was meant to be a stop-gap until Jo had decided what she'd like to use as a splashback. 'I get so many compliments about it that I've never got round to changing it! I just move it out of the way when I cook and then pop it back in place when I'm done,' she explains. 'I buy lots of my prints from TK Maxx online because their stock is more unusual than at many other high street shops'

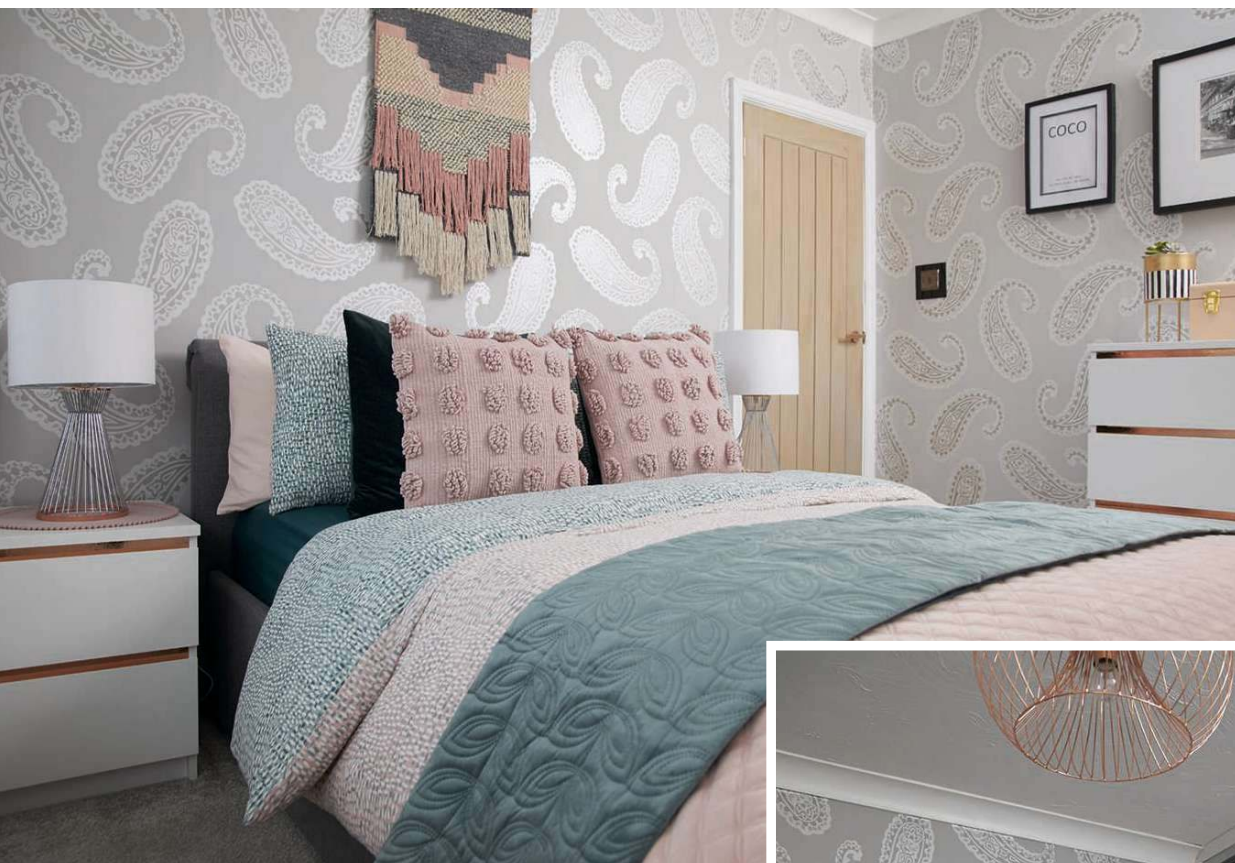


◀ Although these rose-gold utensils, from TK Maxx, add an unexpected touch of glamour to the kitchen, Jo says they are practical to use too. The black-and-white crockery, from Wilko, mirrors the monochrome theme dotted throughout

so it's pretty easy to work with.' Jo wanted neutral cabinets that would stand the test of time and she also chose a classic wood-effect laminate for the worktop. 'I knew I wanted to add an unusual edge, so I sourced these copper handles to give the room a touch of unexpected glamour.' When the kitchen was finished, Jo decided to host Christmas for her family but there were challenges ahead. 'At the beginning of December, I was heading to work when I heard a massive bang. I ran upstairs and water was gushing into the bathroom; the plastic water coil in



REAL HOME



◀ Jo's bedroom was tired, dark and way too cluttered, with old-fashioned pieces of pine furniture, so it really needed a complete update. 'I love pink,' admits Jo, 'it's calming, soothing, pretty and pleases my senses.' As she has coordinated it with greys and greens, Jo has managed to create a relaxing room that looks feminine without being too girly. The paisley wallpaper is from Laura Ashley – for similar, try the Indira Paisley Pattern Floral Wallpaper, £13.99, from I Want Wallpaper. The hanging came from Next and the duvet set and throws came from George Home

▼ 'The girls decorated this room over one weekend while I was away and chose everything themselves,' says Jo. 'It's not as colourful as the rest of the house but it's such a calming space and the grey co-ordinates with the scheme I've used through the rest of the house.' For similar wallpaper, try Calico Stripe Grey, £16 per roll, from Graham & Brown. The butler's tray, used as a side table, was £16 from Wilko



Good idea!

FOR A MINIMAL, PARED-BACK LOOK, SWAP BEDSIDE DRAWERS FOR A HANDY TRAY TABLE TO KEEP ESSENTIALS TUCKED AWAY.

▲ 'I couldn't have a traditional wardrobe with doors that open because of the chest of drawers against the wall and the space the bed takes up, so I chose a fitted Japanese screen-style wardrobe with sliding doors, made by a local family company, Strong Fittings,' says Jo. The classic Malm drawers are from IKEA and the copper ceiling shade was £30 from Matalan

'I love Wilko colours, plus the paint is really good value so it won't cost a fortune if I decide to change the look.'

▼ Jo was lucky that she chose a classic tile when her bathroom was first done years ago so she didn't need to update them this time around. They perfectly complement the current trend for black bathroom furniture and accessories. The slogan bath mat is £6 from Primark, the shower screen is from Victoria Plum and the Brixton floor tiles are from Topps Tiles



the cabinet had exploded.' The old stopcock was really rusty, so it took Jo 15 minutes to turn the water off, and by then the rooms below had been flooded, and the new kitchen was ruined. 'We had to take all the cabinets out and throw the flooring away,' says Jo. 'Then I had to have warm air dryers in the house for two months before I could redecorate, so we ended up having Christmas dinner in the living room.'

After what Jo calls 'The Disaster,' it made sense to decorate the bathroom. Jo chose to update the room with a Crittall-style shower screen and black bath panel and cabinet, which she upcycled with spare pieces of wallpaper. After this she moved on to the living room. The gallery wall in the front room takes pride of place and took six months to come together, but although the main living room was the last space to be updated, even before Jo started she knew exactly what look she wanted. 'I've visited LA a few times and wanted to recreate that

glamorous, slightly retro, hotel-style vibe. I'd been lusting after the 'vintage' sign from Maisons du Monde for ages, but it kept selling out, so I was chuffed when I finally managed to get one and it became the starting point for the look of this space.' Jo loves the dusky pink and green colour palette that is popular at the moment and chose the paint from Wilko. 'I love its colours and the paint is really good value, so it won't cost a fortune if I decide to change the look.'

The family use the conservatory as a dining room because it gets beautiful light streaming through, so Jo updated it with bold black walls, then chose bright green blinds to keep the room feeling fresh and stylish. In total the work probably took Jo about two years, delayed by 'The Disaster', but she says it's been a learning curve. 'I had a strong sense of what I wanted which helped, and through the process I've discovered a passion and skill for design and colour that I never knew I had.' **YH**

IDEAS TO STEAL



Choose sumptuous velvet furniture in rich colours to add an air of opulence.

Gallway three-seater Clic-Clac sofa bed, £699, Dreams



Get Jo's safari-style look by covering a feature wall with palm print wallpaper.

Palm tropical wallpaper, £15 per roll, Lucie Annabel for I Love Wallpaper

Give your kitchen a luxe makeover with a gold cutlery set.

Gold cutlery set, £16, George Home



Add glamour to any room with this gold-effect drinks trolley.

Harper drinks trolley, £129, Dunelm

Have fun accessorising with flamingos, starting with this quirky lamp.

Wilderness flamingo lamp, £45, Argos



FOR STOCKISTS SEE PAGE 122

Using a select palette gives our house continuity and flow

An enthusiastic photographer and ardent Instagrammer, Jo Dickson's eye for colour and detail is on show in every room



Putting down roots as a military family can prove difficult when you are frequently on the move, and this was the dilemma Jo and John Dickson found themselves in when they decided to purchase their first property. 'It can sometimes be hard to make a conscious decision to settle down and buy a property,' says Jo. 'John and I have been so lucky to have been posted to some fantastic locations during his career, including Scotland, Lincolnshire, Germany, Oxfordshire and London to name a few, and we have made the absolute most of each and every one, but there came a time when we had to settle in one place for the sake of our daughters' education.'

When the couple moved from Germany to Oxfordshire, the girls were enrolled into a local school. 'Having a school with a good reputation nearby helped us decide to buy in the area,' says

Jo. In 2004 the couple bought their first house, a four-bedroom detached new-build. 'It was when the girls went off to university that we decided to leave Oxfordshire, and in 2015 we bought this cottage in the neighbouring county of Gloucestershire,' recalls Jo.

Jo was working in Oxford and John in Bristol, so it made sense to choose a location somewhere between the two cities. 'Actually, this wasn't our first, second or third choice. We had made offers on several properties, but for various reasons had lost each house until this one. We had almost decided to stay put,' explains Jo. 'Whilst we all loved the house when we initially viewed it, I wasn't convinced I wanted to live in such a small village.'

The couple ideally wanted a renovation project – something they could influence with their own interior style. 'Unfortunately, that wasn't to be. This cottage had already been renovated and most of the work had been completed,' says Jo. 'However, the owners had renewed the kitchen in a style and configuration I would have chosen myself which is why it appealed so much to me.'

With her passion for interiors and scouring the vintage shops, Jo has created a stylish combination of new and old throughout her home. 'We haven't made any major changes to the inside of the house, just decoration,' she says. 'As a military family we used to have to move house every two or three years. I can't tell you how therapeutic it is to have a clear-out six months before you move on. When you restart in your new home it's so refreshing not to bring too much with you and wonder where on earth you are going to put it all.'

Using her skill of making the most of existing space and natural light, Jo has given careful consideration to the scale of furniture and colour scheme she has chosen for each room. 'I wanted to create different areas in the open-plan kitchen without overcrowding the





◀ Combining different textile textures and soft, muted tones has worked well in the sitting room, creating a comfortable, inviting feel. The Harris Tweed sofa is from John Lewis and the vintage floral cushions are from The Old Pill Factory, while the coordinating plain cushions are from the Cotswold Woollen Weavers. Jo bought the topiary on the windowsill from one of her favourite shops, The Burford Garden Company

‘I love scouring local vintage shops for that special find.’

▼ Cozy in the winter and cool in the summer, the Scandi colour scheme combines beautifully with the plain grey and tweed woollen sofas, softened with layers of cushions and throws. Jo bought the grey one from Sofa.com and the footstool from Made.com. See the framed photography on Jo’s Instagram @mycotswoldhome



COME ON IN...

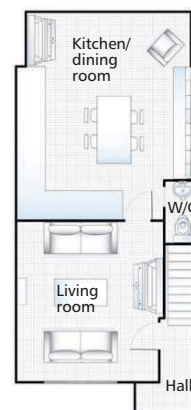


WE ARE Jo, an assistant in the English department of a local prep school, and John Dickson, a senior officer in the RAF. They have two daughters Abigail, 24, and Olivia, 22, and a one-year-old Springador dog called Skye.

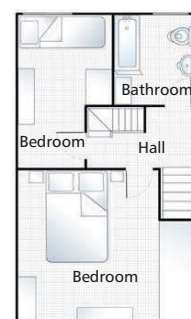
OUR HOME IS A three-bedroom Cotswold cottage built in 1862. We bought the property in 2015. It was originally one of two cottages for the neighbouring farm.

I LOVE SHOPPING AT The Burford Garden Company. Even when I don’t need anything, I will go to browse and have coffee in the café with friends. We have some interesting shops to choose from in the surrounding towns, too. Biggie Best in Cirencester and The Old Pill Factory and Soame Interiors in Witney are great for something a little different.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



TOP FLOOR





space, including a dining area and a quiet spot to sit and read, which we call the sun room. It has a perfect view of the garden,' says Jo.

The mirrored wall at one end of the kitchen reflects light beautifully around the kitchen, complemented by the pale tones Jo has chosen for walls and furnishing. It all helps to create a greater feeling of space. 'I like to ring the

changes, so over the years I have swapped cushions and curtains around to give a different feel,' says Jo. Adorning the walls are simple black frames containing photographs for a stylish, graphic look. 'I often take down the framed prints and move them around the house. Most of the photography is mine and I tend to frame it in black or white, so it's easy

to place them anywhere. I regularly update the photography, although some of the photos hold some dear memories,' smiles Jo.

Upstairs, Jo and John's bedroom has a subtle mix of natural tones – think soft white and shades of grey, creating a fresh, Scandinavian feel. 'Our bed was bought in Newark 25 years ago when we were at RAF Cranwell,' she

◀ The light and spacious kitchen clinched the sale for Jo when she first viewed her Cotswold cottage. 'I loved the style and colour scheme instantly; I didn't need to change a thing.' The Neptune cabinets are painted in Dove Grey from their own paint range. Jo chose the dining table, chairs and dresser from the Padstow range by Marks & Spencer, and the pendant light over the table is from The French House

'The most wonderful part of the house is opening up the bi-fold doors on a summer day and bringing the outside in.'

◀ Open shelves give a modern country feel in Jo's kitchen. The Dove Grey painted cabinets and granite worktop are by Neptune. Jo bought the wreath from Relics of Witney and added the dried hydrangeas picked from her garden. The framed sunset photograph was taken by Jo's daughter Abigail

▼ Brightly coloured bunting from The White Company adds a summery, festival feel to the garden. The tablecloth and lavender container are both from The Burford Garden Company

▲ Think about everyday items that could be repurposed as decorative pieces, like these bottles. 'When my room diffusers are empty, I reuse them as single flower vases,' says Jo. 'They are such lovely shapes.'



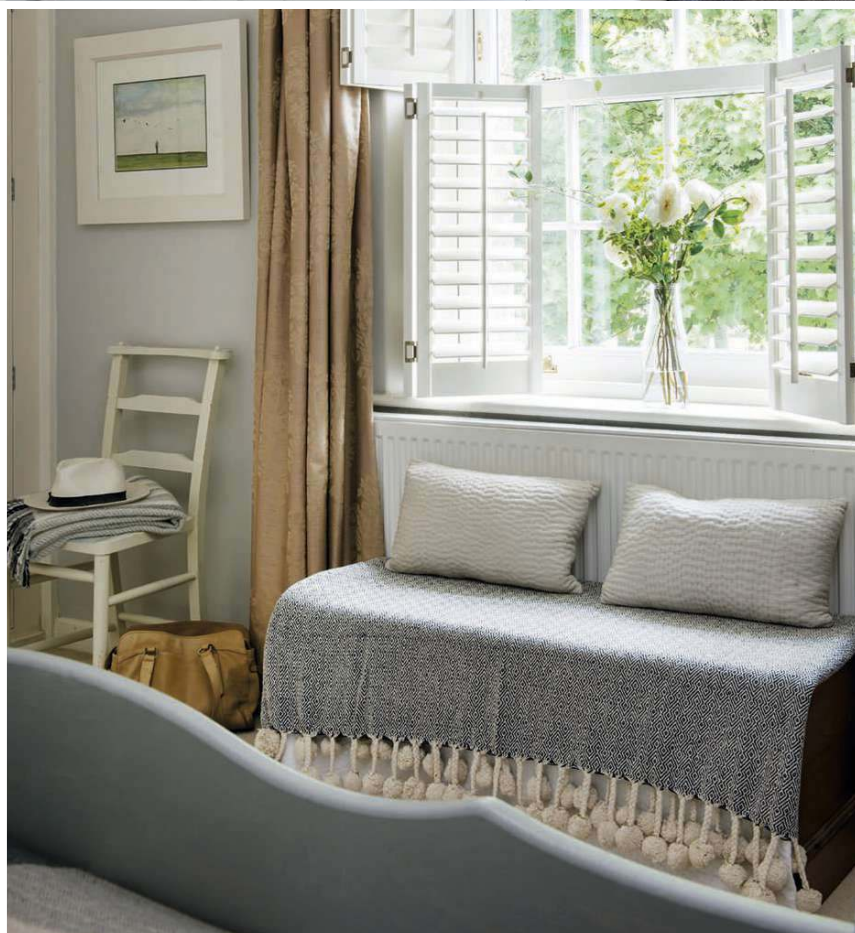
Good idea!

A WOODEN LADDER IS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION FOR EXTRA HANGING SPACE IN THE BEDROOM. CHECK OUT LOCAL VINTAGE SHOPS OR MARKETS FOR A MONEY-SAVING VINTAGE FIND.



'I painted the bed frame in Manor House Gray by Farrow & Ball for a fresh, updated look.'

▼ Olivia's bedroom is in soft pink tones with white, creating a fresh feel. Olivia chose to keep the original soft pink picked out by the previous owners for her bedroom, which creates the perfect backdrop for her own artwork displayed in simple white frames. Olivia's art work can be seen on Instagram @oodlesofmydoodles



▲ The window seat provides useful storage in Jo and John's bedroom. 'The trunk is packed with both my daughter's baby items, scrapbooks or gifts they made for me over the years and it's full to bursting with baby clothes and memories. It obviously doubles up as a window seat, where John likes to sit and play guitar and I like to watch all the gorgeous birds that we are lucky enough to see daily here.' The grey cushions are from The White Company and the blanket is from La Redoute. John painted the white framed watercolour, continuing the soft tones of the room



► The loft room has a cosy feel, doubling up as both Abigail's bedroom when she is staying at home and John's guitar storage room. Jo bought the bed from IKEA and the blanket is from The Old Pill Factory

◀ A coat of paint can transform an existing piece of furniture. Jo painted her bed frame in Manor House Gray from Farrow & Ball, giving it a new lease of life. The bedside cupboards were an eBay find, but were originally from Laura Ashley, and the ladder and striped pillowcases are both from Biggie Best. The checked Avoca bed throw is from The Burford Garden Company



▲ The bathroom was installed by the previous owners and Jo has retained the simple, clean-lined scheme. The footstool is from IKEA and Dunelm sell similar grey blinds

recalls. 'I painted the bed frame in Manor House Gray by Farrow & Ball for an updated look.' Olivia chose to keep the original soft pink chosen by the previous owners for her bedroom, as it creates the perfect backdrop for her own artwork, displayed in simple white frames. 'The loft is Abigail's bedroom and John uses it to store his guitars when she's not here, as she has just bought her own property,' explains Jo. 'My design concept throughout was to work with a small colour palette and try to use at least one of those colours in every room for continuity and flow and I am pleased with the results.'

The largest project for the couple to undertake was in the garden. 'There were two huge Russian vines,' explains Jo. 'One at the back of the garden, which had taken over the two very mature pine trees, and one growing over the gate by our bi-fold doors. They required expert removal and John spent months removing the dead vine from the trees so that they could breathe again. Thankfully, they are recovering beautifully.'

The couple enjoy entertaining, and on a warm summer's evening extend their living space, with guests spilling from the dining area into the pretty cottage garden. 'This is our small but perfect part of the Cotswolds. It's without pubs, shops and street lights and, whilst that takes a little getting used to, there is nothing more perfect than gazing out at the stars on a clear night and listening to the silence. It's so peaceful,' smiles Jo. 🏡

IDEAS TO STEAL



For extra hanging space in the bedroom or bathroom, try this rustic-style wooden ladder.

Wooden ladder, £50, Betty's Barn Interiors

Add a touch of vintage-style glamour with a tactile cushion.

Love Coral velvet cushion cover, £35.95, Audenza



Fresh flowers displayed in a jug add a homely finishing touch.

Spotted jug, £26, Teasels Interiors

Use a glass dome to display your favourite decorative items or as a useful cover in the kitchen.

Glass dome, £22.95, and **brass dish,** £15.95, both The Old Pill Factory



Add an extra layer of comfort with this smart check blanket

Henley check throw, £19.99, Very



Easily change the look of a room with a block-print style cushion

Cushion, £42, The French Bedroom Company



FOR STOCKISTS SEE PAGE 122

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Food & drink

Discover our favourite foodie finds and turn over for seasonal recipes...



3 ways with... asparagus

- * For a lighter alternative to regular chips, try these moreish asparagus fries. You'll need three bowls and around 20 spears of asparagus. Add flour to one bowl, a beaten egg to the second and three tablespoons of panko breadcrumbs to the other. In the same order, dip the asparagus into the bowls, then lay them on a baking tray. Bake in a 200°C oven for around 20 minutes until crisp.
- * To make a tasty dip, dice a bunch of cooked asparagus and combine with 100g grated parmesan and 100g mayonnaise. Place in a small ovenproof dish, sprinkle with cheese and bake at 180°C for 20 minutes until golden on top. Serve with pitta chips.
- * This green soup is an easy and tasty way to pack in some nutrients this spring. Chop two bunches of asparagus, discarding the ends, and fry in a little oil along with one onion and two garlic cloves, until softened. Add in 150g spinach and 600ml vegetable stock. Bring to the boil, then simmer for five to 10 minutes before blitzing with a hand blender. Serve piping hot with crusty bread.



If you do one thing this month...

Ditch the over-processed chocolate this Easter and switch to Cox & Co.'s sustainably-packaged, responsibly-produced Easter eggs. The relatively new, ethical brand is already making waves with its unique superfood chocolate.

Available in three tempting flavours – Coconut & Chia, Bee Pollen & Honey and Raw Cacao Nibs – there's something for everyone this Easter. They cost £10 each from Ocado and Amazon.



THIS MONTH WE LOVE...

Lacking in veggie snack inspiration? Quorn is here to help with its new on-the-go Southern Fried Poppers. A taste of the south without the meat, these mini bites, coated in a tasty southern fried breadcrumbs, are high in both protein and fibre and, unlike many vegetarian options, contain no soy. Available in Sainsbury's for £1.25.



Try me...

Forget disappointing healthy sweet treats. Creative Nature's Gnowbles are here to pack a punch. Made with pea protein and coated in a smooth dark chocolate, these nibbles are free from all the top 14 allergens and palm oil. Wholly guilt-free! Pick up a packet in Co-op for £1.49.



Eat me...

For a simple supper with an Asian twist, try Itsu's brilliant broth range, a collection of three Japanese-inspired misos. If you're vegan, opt for the mushroom flavour or for a meatier taste, choose the chicken ramen. You'll have restaurant quality ramen in minutes! Buy it for just £2 from M&S.



Buy me...

Gluten-free options are often few and far between, but that needn't be the case when cooking for yourself at home. Cannelle et Vanille by Aran Goyoaga (£30, Sasquatch) is brimming with beautifully-styled, nourishing recipes that are all naturally free of gluten.



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

CELEBRATE WITH AN EASTER FEAST!

Enjoy a special family meal with delicious dishes to please everyone

Quail egg arancini with herby mayo and sage

YOU WILL NEED

✓ 400g leftover risotto, cold ✓ 12 Clarence Court quail eggs ✓ 50g plain flour ✓ cayenne pepper ✓ 1 egg, beaten well ✓ 100g dried breadcrumbs ✓ vegetable oil for deep fat frying ✓ 200g good-quality rapeseed mayonnaise ✓ 1 tsp baby capers, rinsed, dried and chopped ✓ 1 small bunch of dill, parsley and basil leaves ✓ 1 small bunch of sage leaves

DIRECTIONS

■ Mix the leftover risotto. If it's very dry, add a little beaten egg. Soft boil the quail eggs – this usually takes about 1½-2 minutes. Plunge into cold water and, when cooled, peel and place to one side.

■ Take three plates. Mix the flour with some salt, pepper and a good pinch of cayenne pepper on one plate. Have the beaten egg on another plate and the dried breadcrumbs on the last plate.

■ Take a small ball of risotto and flatten into a rough disk. Place an egg in the centre of the disc and pat into a little ball with extra risotto if needed. Roll the ball in the seasoned flour, dip into the beaten egg and then roll in the breadcrumbs. Place on another plate and repeat until you have 12 breadcrumb arancini. Pop them in the fridge while making the herby mayo.

■ Spoon the mayonnaise into a small mixing bowl and add the capers. Add the dill, parsley and basil leaves to a pestle and mortar with a little pinch of sea salt. Bash the leaves well until you make a paste and stir through the mayo. Season well.

■ Heat 13cm of vegetable oil in a medium saucepan. When the oil is hot enough (test with a piece of bread – when it turns lovely and golden, the oil is ready), carefully fry two arancini at a time, turning if needed, until the breadcrumbs are golden. Lift out with a slotted spoon onto kitchen roll. Pick the sage leaves and add them to the oil, fry for a few seconds and lift out with the slotted spoon onto the paper. Put the arancini into a bowl and scatter over the fried sage leaves. Serve immediately with the herby mayo.

Recipe and image courtesy of
www.clarencecourt.co.uk



Pea and lettuce soup with poached eggs

YOU WILL NEED

✓ 15g butter ✓ 1 tbsp olive oil ✓ 3 Tesco Finest echalion shallots, finely sliced ✓ 3 garlic cloves, finely sliced ✓ 1 large round lettuce, leaves separated and roughly chopped ✓ 400g frozen petits pois ✓ 1 vegetable stock cube, made with 900ml hot water ✓ Small handful of fresh mint leaves ✓ 4 eggs ✓ Small handful of fresh dill, leaves picked

DIRECTIONS

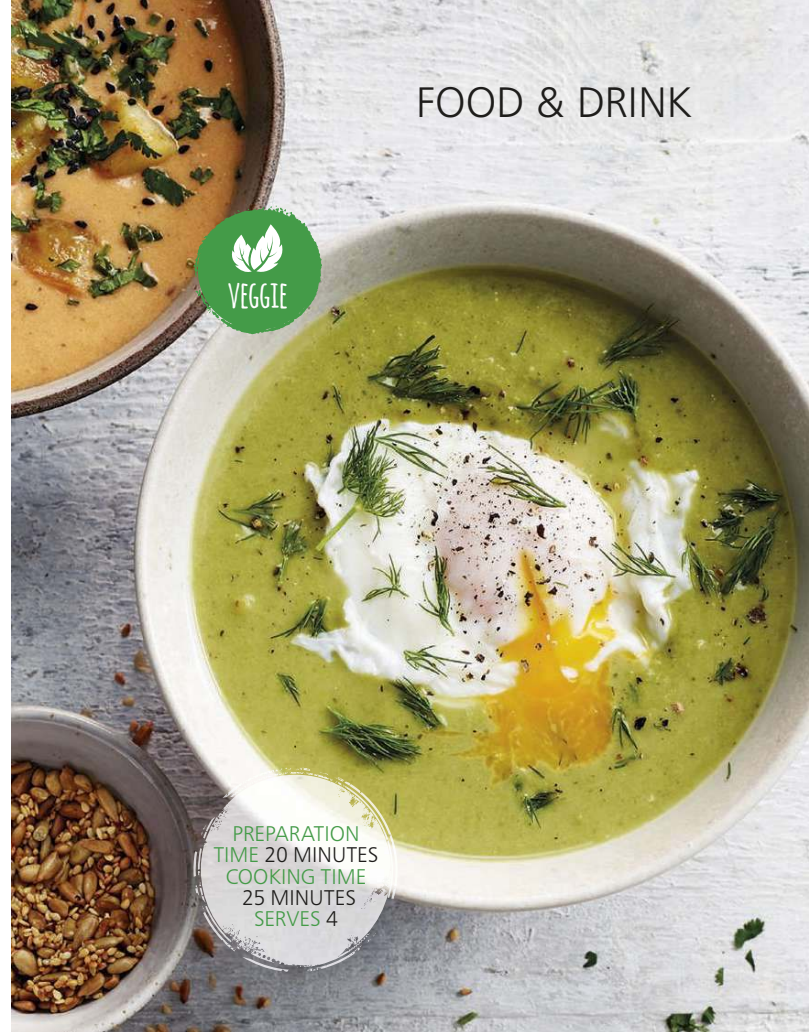
■ Melt the butter with the oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat and add the shallots and garlic. Fry for 5-6 minutes until tender but not brown. Stir in the lettuce and, when it has wilted, add the peas, stock and mint. Bring to the boil. Reduce the heat, season and simmer for 7-10 minutes, until thickened slightly.

■ Remove from the heat and blitz the soup with a stick blender. Season with salt and pepper.

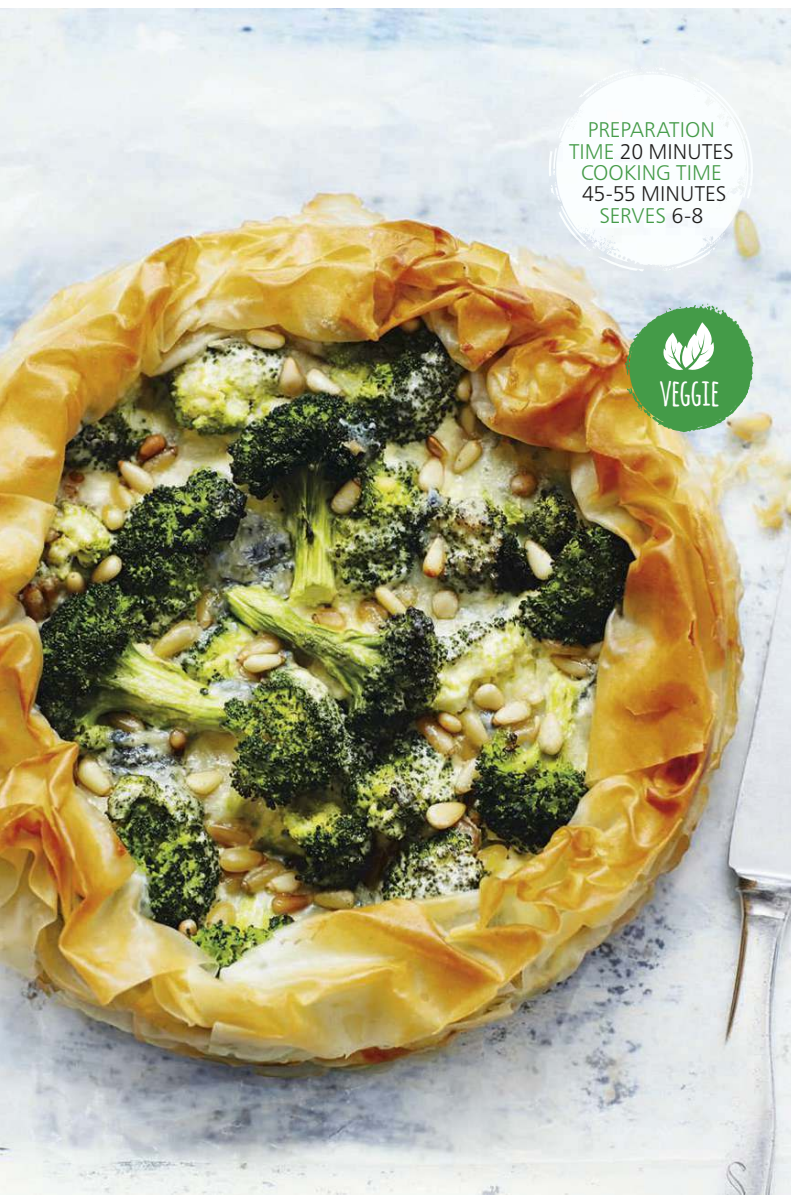
■ Meanwhile, bring a large pan of water to a simmer. Make a whirlpool in the centre by stirring rapidly with the handle of a wooden spoon. Allow the swirl to almost subside, then crack an egg directly into it. Poach for 3 minutes over a low heat. Remove the egg with a slotted spoon; set aside. Repeat with the remaining eggs.

■ Divide the soup between four bowls. Top each one with a poached egg and some dill leaves.

Recipe and image courtesy of realfood.tesco.com.



PREPARATION
TIME 20 MINUTES
COOKING TIME
25 MINUTES
SERVES 4



PREPARATION
TIME 20 MINUTES
COOKING TIME
45-55 MINUTES
SERVES 6-8

Broccoli, gorgonzola and pine nut tart

YOU WILL NEED

✓ 1 tsp vegetable oil ✓ 375g pack essential Waitrose broccoli, cut into florets ✓ 3 Waitrose British Blacktail large free-range eggs ✓ 200ml pot natural crème fraîche ✓ 200g Greek yogurt ✓ 30g pine nut kernels ✓ 3 sheets filo pastry ✓ 50g butter, melted ✓ 200g gorgonzola piccante, cut into 2cm cubes

DIRECTIONS

■ Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/Gas Mark 4. Lightly oil a deep 24cm loose-bottomed tart tin and place on a baking tray. Cook the broccoli in boiling water for 2-3 minutes. Drain well and cool under cold water, then pat dry.

■ Place the eggs, crème fraîche and yogurt in a jug and then beat together. Place the pine nuts in a small roasting tin and toast in the oven for 3-4 minutes until golden.

■ Unroll the filo on a clean surface and work with a sheet of pastry at a time (cover the rest with a clean, damp tea towel until ready to use to prevent the pastry from drying out). Lightly brush the pastry sheet with the melted butter and lay it in the tart tin, allowing the pastry to hang over the edge. Repeat this with the remaining two sheets.

■ Arrange the broccoli florets in the pastry case, then dot half of the gorgonzola cubes and scatter over half of the pine nuts. Pour on the egg mixture and dot the top with the remaining gorgonzola and pine nuts. Scrunch the pastry up around the edge of the tart, allowing it to fall over the edge of the filling. Place in the oven and bake for 45-50 minutes until golden and the filling is set. Leave to cool in the tin for about 10 minutes before removing. You can serve it warm or leave to cool completely.

Recipe and image courtesy of www.waitrose.com/recipes.

FOOD & DRINK

Baked salmon

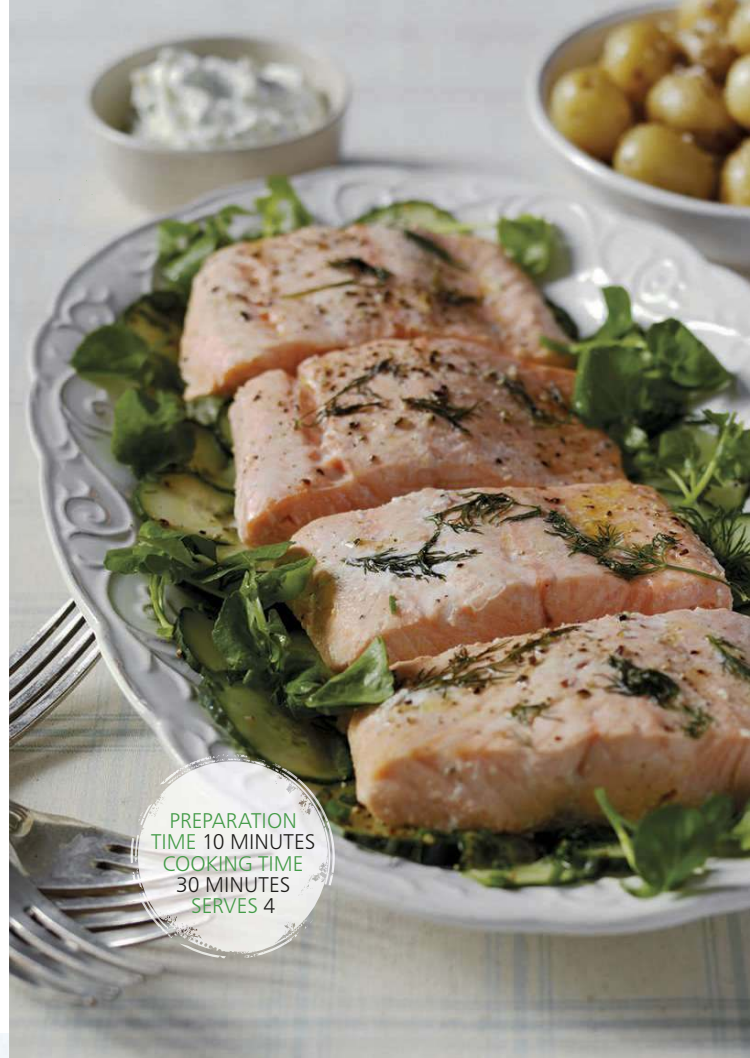
YOU WILL NEED

- ✓ 4 salmon fillets, each approximately 150g, skin removed
- ✓ ½ lemon, juice only
- ✓ 15g fresh dill
- ✓ 20g butter
- ✓ ½ cucumber, thinly sliced
- ✓ 2 tbsp white wine vinegar
- ✓ 1 tsp caster sugar
- ✓ 15g chives, finely snipped
- ✓ 2 tbsp chopped watercress, plus sprigs to garnish
- ✓ 110g soft cheese
- ✓ 2 tbsp light mayonnaise
- ✓ Steamed new potatoes to serve (optional)

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/Gas Mark 4. Line a large baking tray with foil.
- Place the salmon fillets on the foil, drizzle with the lemon juice, sprinkle with a little torn dill, dot with the butter and season with salt and pepper.
- Enclose the salmon in the foil, then bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes or until the fish flakes easily and is even in colour when pressed with a knife.
- Meanwhile, add the cucumber slices to a bowl with the vinegar, sugar and a little salt and pepper. Reserve a few more dill sprigs for garnish, chop the rest and add half to the cucumber and the remainder to a second bowl. Add half the chives to the cucumber and the rest to the second bowl. Gently toss the cucumber together and set aside.
- Add the chopped watercress, soft cheese and mayonnaise to the bowl of herbs and stir together until well mixed. Spoon into a serving bowl.
- Stir the cucumber once more, then spoon onto a large shallow platter. Arrange the cooked salmon on top then garnish with the watercress sprigs. Serve with the sauce and new potatoes, if using.

Recipe and image courtesy of www.dairydiary.co.uk.



PREPARATION
TIME 10 MINUTES
COOKING TIME
30 MINUTES
SERVES 4



PREPARATION
TIME 15 MINUTES
COOKING TIME
2 HOURS
SERVES 6

Simple roast lamb with samphire and broad beans

YOU WILL NEED

- ✓ 2kg Waitrose New Zealand whole lamb leg
- ✓ 1 large onion, thickly sliced
- ✓ 300ml dry white wine
- ✓ 250g frozen baby broad beans
- ✓ 1 tbsp olive oil
- ✓ 1 shallot, chopped
- ✓ 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- ✓ 2 x 90g packs Waitrose samphire
- ✓ Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
- ✓ 1 tbsp Cooks' Ingredients nonpareille capers, drained, rinsed and roughly chopped
- ✓ 2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- ✓ Mashed potatoes, to serve

DIRECTIONS

- Take the lamb out of the fridge 30 minutes before cooking. Preheat the oven to 220°C/200°C Fan/Gas Mark 7. Place the sliced onion in a roasting tin and pour over the wine and 150ml water. Sit the lamb on top and roast for 45 minutes, then reduce the heat to 190°C/170°C/Gas Mark 5 and cook for a further hour or until cooked to your liking. Remove the lamb from the oven, wrap in foil and allow to rest for 20 minutes.
- Meanwhile, cook the broad beans in a pan of boiling water for 3 minutes until tender, then drain and set aside.
- Heat the oil in a large frying pan and cook the shallot and garlic for 2 minutes, then add the samphire and cook for 3 minutes until tender. Add the broad beans, lemon zest and juice and capers, and cook for another 1-2 minutes until piping hot. Stir in the parsley.
- Carve the lamb. Serve on top of the vegetables and with mashed potatoes.

Recipe and image courtesy of www.waitrose.com/recipes.

Vegan nut roast

YOU WILL NEED

✓ 4 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for greasing
 ✓ 1 large butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and diced
 ✓ 1 head garlic, cloves peeled
 ✓ 1 aubergine, diced into 1cm cubes
 ✓ 8 small shallots, diced
 ✓ 1 red pepper, diced into 1cm pieces
 ✓ 400g tin chickpeas, drained
 ✓ 125g blanched almonds, toasted
 ✓ 125g shelled pistachios
 ✓ 15g rosemary, leaves picked
 ✓ 15g thyme, leaves picked, reserving a few sprigs to garnish
 ✓ 15g parsley, leaves picked
 ✓ 100g pitted green olives, roughly chopped
 ✓ 60g fresh breadcrumbs
 ✓ ½ lemon, juiced
 ✓ 40g pomegranate seeds

DIRECTIONS

■ Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C Fan/Gas Mark 6. Grease a 23cm, round, deep tin with a little oil and line the base with baking paper.

Toss the diced butternut squash with the garlic cloves and 2 tbsp of the oil in a large bowl. Spread out over a large roasting tin and cook for 15-20 minutes, or until soft, turning once halfway through cooking.

■ While the squash is cooking, heat a large, heavy frying pan over a medium heat with 1 tbsp oil. Add the aubergine and cook for 10-15 minutes until softened and well browned, then transfer to a large bowl.

■ Add the remaining oil to the frying pan along with the shallots. Cook for 5-10 minutes until softened, then add the pepper and cook for further 5 minutes. Add to the bowl with the aubergine and set aside.

■ Once cooked, add the squash and roasted garlic cloves to a food processor and pulse until you have a chunky purée, then transfer to the bowl with the aubergine mixture.

■ Add the drained chickpeas, almonds, pistachios (reserving a few to garnish) and herbs to the food processor and pulse until roughly chopped. Add to the bowl along with the chopped olives, breadcrumbs and lemon juice. Season well and mix everything together until thoroughly combined.

■ Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and smooth over the top. Bake for 50-55 minutes, or until the top is golden. Allow to rest for 5 minutes in the tin, then loosen the edges with a knife and carefully turn out onto a serving plate.

■ Garnish with the pomegranate seeds, reserved pistachios and thyme sprigs before slicing into wedges to serve.

Recipe and image courtesy of realfood.tesco.com.



PREPARATION
TIME 40 MINUTES
COOKING TIME
1 HOUR
10 MINUTES
SERVES 8





Hasselback potatoes

YOU WILL NEED

- ✓ 1kg new potatoes ✓ 40g butter, melted
- ✓ 2 tbsp olive oil ✓ 1 garlic clove, crushed
- ✓ 1 tsp dried rosemary

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C Fan/Gas Mark 6. Carefully make small vertical slits, 2mm apart, three-quarters of the way down each potato, all the way along. To make this easier, you can place the potatoes in between the handles of 2 wooden spoons – this will stop the knife from slicing all the way through.
- Put the potatoes in a large roasting tray. Mix together the butter, oil, garlic and rosemary and generously brush over the potatoes. Season and roast for 30 minutes.
- Remove from the oven and brush them with the melted butter from the tray. Return to the oven and roast for a further 20 minutes. Repeat once more, brushing the butter into the cuts in the potatoes and return to the oven for a further 10-15 minutes, until golden and crispy around the edges. Serve immediately as a side.

Recipe and image courtesy of realfood.tesco.com.

Kale and cauliflower cheese

YOU WILL NEED

- ✓ 1 cauliflower, cut into florets
- ✓ 150g kale ✓ 50g butter
- ✓ 50g plain flour ✓ 2 tsp mustard powder ✓ 500ml milk
- ✓ 100g mature Cheddar cheese, grated ✓ 75g manchego cheese, grated ✓ 50g vegetarian Italian-style hard cheese, grated ✓ 1 tsp wholegrain mustard ✓ ½ tsp ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

- Bring a pan of lightly salted water to the boil and cook the cauliflower for 10 minutes. Add the kale to the top of the pan and cook for a further 2 minutes, then drain well and set aside.
- Preheat the oven to 220°C/200°C Fan/Gas Mark 7.
- Meanwhile, melt the butter in a pan, then add the flour and cook over a low heat for 1 minute, stirring continually. Add the mustard powder, stir and

remove from the heat. Gradually add the milk a little at a time, stirring well to remove any lumps.

■ Return to the heat and bring to a simmer, stirring all the time. Once bubbling, cook for 2-3 minutes until thickened.

■ Stir in two thirds of the Cheddar, half of the manchego and half of the vegetarian hard cheese and beat well. Add the mustard and ½ tsp ground black pepper and beat again. Add the drained cauliflower and kale to the sauce and toss well to coat. Carefully transfer to a 1 litre gratin dish.

■ Mix the remainder of the cheeses together and scatter over the top. Bake for 20 minutes until golden and cooked through. Serve with roast chicken or gammon as a delicious side dish.

Recipe and image courtesy of realfood.tesco.com.



Tenderstem® broccoli, beetroot and toasted seed salad

YOU WILL NEED

✓ 2 tbsp cold-pressed rapeseed oil ✓ Juice ½-1 lemon, to taste ✓ 200g Tenderstem® broccoli, stems cut in half ✓ 80g mixed seeds (e.g. sunflower, pumpkin, sesame) ✓ 1 tbsp dark soy sauce ✓ 250g cooked beetroot, cut into wedges ✓ Small bunch fresh chives, snipped

DIRECTIONS

- First, make the dressing by whisking together the rapeseed oil and lemon juice to taste. Season with freshly ground black pepper and sea salt. Set aside.
- Steam or boil the Tenderstem® broccoli for 3-4

minutes until just tender but with a little bite.

■ While the Tenderstem® broccoli is cooking, toast the seeds by tipping them into a small frying pan. Add the soy sauce and cook over a medium heat, tossing regularly to coat all over for about 3 minutes, until the seeds are crisp and golden. Take care not to burn them or they will taste bitter.

■ Arrange the cooked Tenderstem® broccoli and beetroot wedges on a plate. Just before you serve, drizzle over the dressing and sprinkle over the toasted seeds and fresh chives.

Recipe and image courtesy of www.tenderstem.co.uk.

PREPARATION
TIME 5 MINUTES
COOKING TIME
4 MINUTES
SERVES 4



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YourHome READER SURVEY

Welcome to our reader survey! This is your chance to tell us what you think about Your Home magazine and help shape how it moves forwards in the future. The more we know about your likes and dislikes and your interests, the more enjoyable and relevant we can make the magazine for you.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Anna-Lisa De'Ath,
Editor-in-Chief

COMPLETE OUR READER SURVEY BELOW OR ONLINE

A. MAGAZINE READING BEHAVIOUR

Q1. How often do you read Your Home magazine?

- Always - I am a subscriber ☐ 1
 Always - But don't subscribe ☐ 2
 Almost always (3 out of 4 issues) ☐ 3
 Quite often (1 or 2 out of 4 issues) ☐ 4
 Occasionally (less than 1 out of 4 issues) ☐ 5
 Not in the last 12 months (GO TO Q6) ☐ 6
 This is my first issue (GO TO Q6) ☐ 7

Q2. Approximately how long have you been reading Your Home magazine for?

- Less than a year (GO TO Q4) ☐ 1
 Between 1 and 2 years ☐ 2
 Between 2 and 3 years ☐ 3
 Between 3 and 5 years ☐ 4
 Between 5 and 7 years ☐ 5
 Between 7 and 10 years ☐ 6
 More than 10 years ☐ 7

Q3. Compared to a year ago, do you buy Your Home magazine...

- More often ☐ 1
 Less often ☐ 2
 Same as always ☐ 3
 I read someone else's copy ☐ 4

Q4. On average, how long do you spend reading an issue of Your Home magazine?

- Under 30 minutes ☐ 1
 Between 30 minutes and 1 hour ☐ 2
 Between 1 and 2 hours ☐ 3
 Between 2 and 3 hours ☐ 4
 Between 3 and 4 hours ☐ 5
 Between 4 and 5 hours ☐ 6
 More than 5 hours ☐ 7

Q5. On average in the past year, how many other people have read or looked at your copy of Your Home magazine for longer than 2 minutes?

- Nobody else ☐ 1
 1-2 people (please tell us who) ☐ 2
 3-4 people (please tell us who) ☐ 3
 5 or more people (please tell us who) ☐ 4

Q6. How often, if at all, do you read the following magazines?

	Always - I am a subscriber	Always - But don't subscribe	Almost always (3 out of 4 issues)	Quite often (1 or 2 out of 4 issues)	Occasionally (less than 1 out of 4 issues)	Not in the last 12 months	Never
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
HomeStyle	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Style at Home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
House Beautiful	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Good Homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Real Homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ideal Home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Country Living	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Country Homes & Interiors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

B. ABOUT YOUR HOME MAGAZINE

Q7. Which of the following best describe why you read Your Home magazine? Please choose up to 3 reasons that are the most important to you.

- Design/styling inspiration ☐ 1
 To see real homes ☐ 2
 DIY content ☐ 3
 Upcycling/crafting ideas and advice ☐ 4
 Recipes ☐ 5
 Competitions ☐ 6
 Shopping tips ☐ 7
 Latest trends ☐ 8
 I just enjoy reading it ☐ 9
 Other (please tell us more) ☐ 10

Q8. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Your Home magazine?

	Definitely agree	Tend to agree	Neutral	Tend to disagree	Definitely disagree	Don't know
	1	2	3	4	5	6
The homes and people featured are attainable and relatable	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The magazine contains advertising that is relevant to me	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The items featured are affordable	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The room makeover budgets are realistic for me	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The articles are practical and useful	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The magazine is aspirational	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The competition content is important to me	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The magazine looks good	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q9. Thinking generally about content coverage in Your Home magazine, what do you think of the balance on the following topics?

	It's about right	I'd like more	I'd like less
	1	2	3
Room makeovers	☐	☐	☐
Competitions	☐	☐	☐
Shopping suggestions/tips	☐	☐	☐
Real homes	☐	☐	☐
DIY	☐	☐	☐
Upcycling and crafting	☐	☐	☐
Recipes	☐	☐	☐
Styling tips	☐	☐	☐
Consumer news/advice	☐	☐	☐

Q10. How much did you enjoy this issue of Your Home magazine?

- Very much ☐ 1
 Quite a lot ☐ 2
 Not very much ☐ 3
 Not at all ☐ 4
 Haven't read this issue yet ☐ 5



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Please return the completed questionnaire to the freepost address provided on the next page by **30th March 2020**, or alternatively you can fill it in online at immediateinsiders.com/uc/yourhomesurvey. Overseas readers can complete the survey online too. As a thank you for your feedback, UK residents who complete our survey can enter our prize draw for a **chance to win one of six Love2shop giftcards!** First prize will win a £250 giftcard, and five runners-up will win a £50 giftcard each. Full terms and conditions can be found at immediateinsiders.com/uc/yhterms

Q11. As a result of reading Your Home magazine, have you ever done any of the following?

- Please tick as many as apply.
- Visit Your Home's website ☐ 1
 Visit a homes show/exhibition ☐ 2
 Redecorate part/a room/all of your home ☐ 3
 Visit the website of an advertised product or service ☐ 4
 Visit social media of an advertised product/service ☐ 5
 Contact an advertiser ☐ 6
 Buy a product featured/advertised in the magazine ☐ 7
 Go online to research an idea further ☐ 8
 Be inspired to try a new look or idea in your home ☐ 9
 Made one of the recipes ☐ 10
 Tried one of the upcycling/crafting ideas ☐ 11
 Consider/reconsider a brand I wouldn't have otherwise ☐ 12
 None of these ☐ 13

Q12. Approximately how often do you visit the following social media platforms?

	Several times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	Once or twice a month	Less often	Never
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Facebook	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Twitter	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Instagram	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pinterest	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
YouTube	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Snapchat	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

C. DECORATING & LIFESTYLE

Q13. Have you or someone else in your household done any decorating or DIY in your home or paid someone else for home improvement work in the last 12 months?

- You can tick more than one answer.
- Yes - personal decorating and DIY ☐ 1
 Yes - paid someone else ☐ 2
 No (GO TO Q16) ☐ 3

Q14. How much did you spend on the below in the last 12 months?

	DIY Materials	Professional work
	1	2
Under £50	☐	☐
£50 - £99	☐	☐
£100 - £199	☐	☐
£200 - £299	☐	☐
£300 - £599	☐	☐
£600 - £999	☐	☐
£1000 - £1999	☐	☐
£2000 or more	☐	☐
N/A	☐	☐

Q15. What inspired you to redecorate most recently?

Please tick one answer that best matches your main reason.

Moved to a new house ☐ 1

Just wanted to do something new/different (what most inspired you?) ☐ 2

Part of ongoing renovations ☐ 3

Updating/modernising a room/rooms ☐ 4

Refreshing a room/rooms ☐ 5

Preparing to sell ☐ 6

Preparing for a baby ☐ 7

Saw an idea and wanted to try it (where was this idea?) ☐ 8

Other (please tell us more) ☐ 9

Not sure ☐ 10

Q16. Have you used any of the following in the last 12 months to find interiors related information and/or inspiration? Please tick all that apply.

Print magazines ☐ 1

Shopping channels ☐ 2

Books ☐ 3

Friends/family ☐ 4

Magazine related websites ☐ 5

Non-magazine related websites ☐ 6

Clubs or classes ☐ 7

Pinterest ☐ 8

Facebook ☐ 9

Instagram (which accounts specifically?) ☐ 10

YouTube ☐ 11

Magazine apps ☐ 12

Non-magazine related apps ☐ 13

Blogs ☐ 14

Advertising ☐ 15

Other (please tell us more) ☐ 16

None of these ☐ 17

Q17. How often, if at all, do you shop for homewares (whether in store or online) from the following? By homewares we mean items like furniture, utensils, and decorative objects.

	Once a fortnight or more	Once a month	Once every 2-3 months	A couple of times a year	Less often	Never
	1	2	3	4	5	6
H&M Home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Next Home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
George at Asda	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sainsbury's Home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ikea	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dunelm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wilko	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Homebase	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
TK Maxx/Home Sense	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Tesco Home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
M&S Home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
John Lewis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wayfair	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q18. How often, if at all, do you shop for DIY-related and hardware items (whether in store or online) from the following?

	Once a fortnight or more	Once a month	Once every 2-3 months	A couple of times a year	Less often	Never
	1	2	3	4	5	6
B&Q	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wickes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Screwfix	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ikea	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Homebase	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wilko	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Brewers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wallpaper Direct	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q19. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about shopping?

	Definitely agree	Tend to agree	Neutral	Tend to disagree	Definitely disagree	Don't know
	1	2	3	4	5	6
It's worth paying extra for quality goods	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I look for the lowest possible prices when I go shopping	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shopping online makes my life easier	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I would be prepared to pay more for environmentally friendly products	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I always look out for special offers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Product reviews have a major influence on my purchasing decisions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Once I find a brand I like I tend to stick with it	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q20. Below are a variety of lifestyle-related statements. We're after your first instincts so don't overthink it, just answer with your immediate response when you read the statements and tell us how much you agree or disagree.

	Definitely agree	Tend to agree	Neutral	Tend to disagree	Definitely disagree	Prefer not to say
	1	2	3	4	5	6
How I spend my time is more important than the money I make	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My faith is really important to me	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to enjoy life and don't worry about the future	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I don't want responsibility, I'd rather be told what to do	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to keep up with the latest fashions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have a keen sense of adventure	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to have control over people and resources	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is more important to do your duty than to live for your own enjoyment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to pursue a life of challenge, novelty and change	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like taking risks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I think we should strive for equality for all	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to stand out in a crowd	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I don't like to judge other people on the way they choose to live their life	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I consider myself to be a spiritual person	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I look on the work I do as a career rather than just a job	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I want to get to the very top in my career	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to respect traditional customs and beliefs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

D. ABOUT YOU

Q21. Are you? ☐ 1

Male ☐ 2

Female ☐ 3

Other ☐ 4

Prefer not to say ☐ 5

Q22. Are you? ☐ 1

Single ☐ 2

Married/living as a couple ☐ 3

Separated/divorced ☐ 4

Widowed ☐ 5

Other ☐ 6

Prefer not to say ☐ 7

Q23. Which of the following best describes your household? ☐ 1

Couple with child/ren ☐ 2

Single adult with child/ren ☐ 3

Other type of household with child/ren ☐ 4

Couple without child/ren ☐ 5

Single adult without child/ren ☐ 6

Other type of household without child/ren ☐ 7

Other ☐ 8

Prefer not to say ☐ 9

Q24. Is your home? ☐ 1

Mortgaged ☐ 2

Owned outright ☐ 3

Rented ☐ 4

Other ☐ 5

Q25. Do you have any children? ☐ 1

Yes (GO TO Q26) ☐ 2

No (GO TO Q27) ☐ 3

Prefer not to say (GO TO Q27) ☐ 4

Q26. How old is your child/children? If you have more than one, please choose all that apply. ☐ 1

0-4 ☐ 2

5-9 ☐ 3

10-15 ☐ 4

16+ ☐ 5

Prefer not to say ☐ 6

Q27. What is your working status? ☐ 1

Employed full time ☐ 2

Employed part time ☐ 3

Studying full time ☐ 4

Studying part time ☐ 5

Retired ☐ 6

Not working/unable to work ☐ 7

Q28. Which of these best describes the main wage-earners' occupation in your household? If retired, please tick the box describing your/their former occupation. ☐ 1

Professional ☐ 2

Senior management ☐ 3

Middle management ☐ 4

Small business owner ☐ 5

Junior management ☐ 6

Office/clerical ☐ 7

Skilled manual ☐ 8

Semi-skilled manual ☐ 9

Unemployed/unable to work ☐ 10

Student ☐ 11

Q29. What is your total household income before tax? ☐ 1

Under £20,000 ☐ 2

£20,000-£29,999 ☐ 3

£30,000-£39,999 ☐ 4

£40,000-£49,999 ☐ 5

£50,000-£69,999 ☐ 6

£70,000-£99,999 ☐ 7

£100,000-£149,000 ☐ 8

£150,000+ ☐ 9

Prefer not to say ☐ 10

Q30. Which age group are you in? ☐ 1

Under 16* ☐ 2

16-24 ☐ 3

25-34 ☐ 4

35-44 ☐ 5

45-54 ☐ 6

55-64 ☐ 7

65-74 ☐ 8

75+ ☐ 9

*Unfortunately, the prize draw is only open to UK residents aged 16+

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this survey. If you would like to be included in our free prize draw, open to UK residents aged 16+ only, please fill in your name, email address and phone number clearly in the spaces below.

NAME: ☐ 1

EMAIL: ☐ 2

PHONE: ☐ 3

Please post your survey by **30th March 2020** to **FREEPOST DataGems Market Research**. You don't need to put anything else on the front of the envelope. ☐ 4

*Full terms and conditions can be found at **immediateinsiders.com/uc/yhterms** ☐ 5

Home IMPROVEMENT

Turn over to discover how you can open up your living space



A-door-able

Adding a fresh lick of paint to your front door is an effortless way to freshen up your house's exterior for spring. Alongside its standard timber-effect finishes, Evolution offers a bespoke colour matching service with over 200 RAL colours to choose from. Whether you want to keep it neutral with a popular grey or catch the eye of passers-by with a bold red or blue, you're spoilt for choice with Evolution. Go one step further and paint the inside of your door a contrasting bright colour for a fun interior update.

Sound the alarm

We believe everyone should feel safe in their own home, and Minut's new wireless Smart Home Alarm is the perfect aid. Designed to be discreet on your ceiling, Minut contains five sensors and a siren for maximum security without cameras. If motion is detected, the alarm is activated and a notification is sent via the app. The device also features nightlight technology and temperature monitors so you can feel safe and assured whether at home or not. Making smart alarm systems more accessible and simpler, Minut's new product is priced at a competitive £129 and is available from Minut.com and Amazon.



Profitable property

Are you looking to update your home but want to make sure that the money you spend is worthwhile? Research from Insulation Express lists creating a large kitchen-diner space and adding an additional bathroom amongst the most profitable renovations to do with a home. Adding a utility room is also a popular renovation choice, but findings suggest that 54 per cent of home renovations go over budget, so try to be as thorough and realistic as possible when planning.

Visit insulationexpress.co.uk for more information.



HEARTH OF THE HOME

A gorgeous glowing fireplace is not just for winter. Perfect for use all year round, ACR's gas stoves are complete with temperature control, so you can create the ideal warmth for your home for all 12 months. ACR offer stoves in a variety of designs, both contemporary and classic, with prices starting from £1,999 and they can be installed in any property as no chimney is needed. With an unbelievably realistic log fire effect, you'll get the same warming ambience without the effort of collecting and storing firewood.

Feature Ella Rhys-Jones

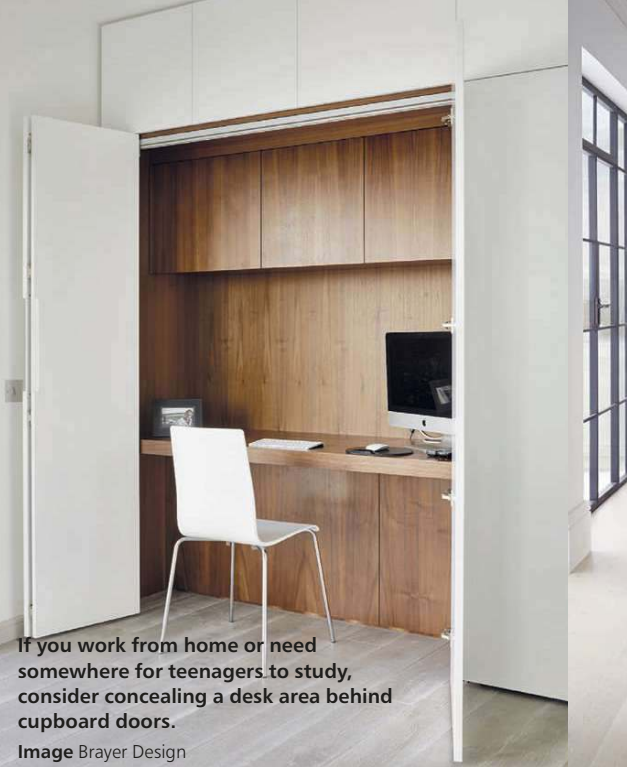


FOR MORE EXPERT ADVICE AND CASE STUDIES GO TO [WWW.YOURHOMEMAGAZINE.CO.UK](https://www.yourhomemagazine.co.uk)



Set up zoned areas for dining, relaxing and working by using furniture and rugs to mark out different activities within the space.

Image John Lewis & Partners



If you work from home or need somewhere for teenagers to study, consider concealing a desk area behind cupboard doors.

Image Brayer Design

CREATE MORE SPACE WITH AN OPEN-PLAN LAYOUT

Make your home flow easily with zoned areas that embrace the open- or broken-plan feel

When you're short on space but you don't want to sell up and move house, turning your downstairs layout into an open-plan scheme could be the perfect solution. The idea is that you knock down some or all of the internal walls and doors to create one large open area that can be used for cooking, dining, entertaining, relaxing and even working from home. For some, having an open kitchen-diner and separate, closed-off living room works better, while for others it's a case of embracing the trend full-on and eliminating all the barriers throughout. Here's what to consider before you take the plunge.

WEIGH UP THE PROS AND CONS

1 The main reason homeowners go open-plan is to bring the family together. You can make dinner while the kids sit at the island doing their homework and guests can relax in the same room as the cook rather than being in separate spaces. The whole area will also feel brighter and it can add value to the property. Ask local estate agents what cost they think this would add and don't spend more than the return you'd get on your investment.

The downside is that noise will carry through the space, so you may find that having appliances whirring away in the background isn't compatible with watching TV. Also, think about cooking smells – an efficient extractor hood is key. It can be harder to keep tidy too, as you can't simply close the door on any after-dinner mess.

Use a room divider or shelving unit to achieve the 'broken-plan' look. It can easily be moved out of the way when you want one whole space again.

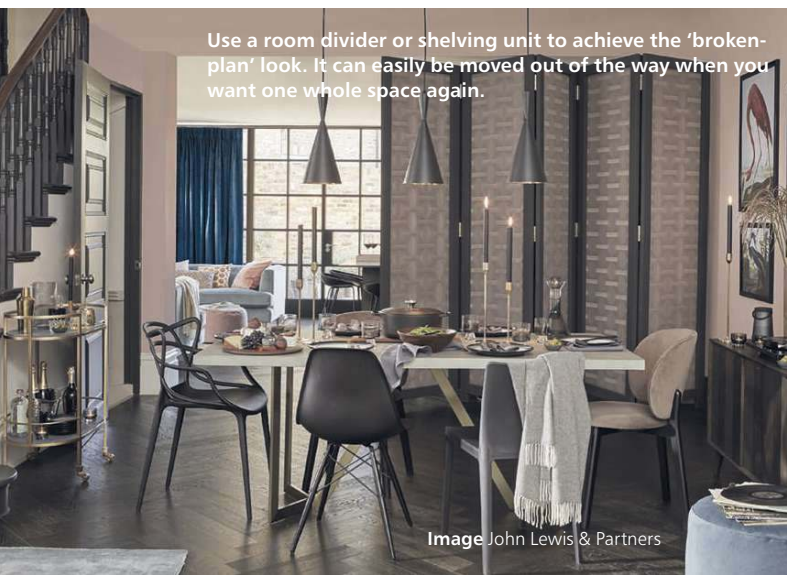


Image John Lewis & Partners

Mendip Stoves' Woodland wood-burner is double-sided, making it perfect for open-plan schemes with a chimney breast in the middle. Prices start from £1,950





An island unit divides the cooking and dining areas perfectly while adding extra seating, worktop and storage space at the same time. Alderley design in Bone, from £15,000, Kitchen Makers



Stick to a neutral colour scheme for a continuous look throughout. Peacock Saxony carpet in Mercury, £14.99 per sq m; Safi Fringed Pyramid natural rug, from £64.99, both Carpetright

GET THE RIGHT PERMISSION

2 If you're not extending, you'll most likely be knocking down internal walls and doors to create your open-plan space. If you're in a listed building you'll need listed building consent before you start any work, so be sure to keep that in mind. If walls are non-structural then it's cheaper and easier than if they are load-bearing, which means they will need a reinforced steel joist or RSJ to support the floor above. Find a structural engineer to help with advice, costs and drawings. You can also add space with an extension. A side return is a popular option for Victorian properties, while full-width extensions and wraparounds combine a side return with a rear extension to create a huge area with lots of natural light.

THINK ABOUT HEATING AND NOISE

3 Keeping an open-plan space warm and cosy can be a challenge, so plan your heating carefully. Underfloor heating is the best option if budget allows, and it works especially well with tiles and stone. Check your flooring choice is compatible before you begin. Other options include vertical radiators, plinth radiators and even a wood-burning stove or cassette fire. When it comes to noise, if the space includes a kitchen area, choose appliances with lower decibel ratings. Look for the Quiet Mark, which indicates when a product is especially whisper-quiet. Integrated washing machines and dishwashers can offer extra noise protection as they have a matching kitchen cabinet door as an additional buffer.

CREATE ZONED AREAS

4 While it's nice to have all that space, it's also perhaps more practical and more aesthetically pleasing to create distinct zones for the different activities that will take place. So in the kitchen, consider an island or peninsular that will act as a room divider, keeping appliances safely away from the rest of the living zone. You can also paint walls in different shades of the same colour or totally different colours; use wall tiles as the kitchen splashback and patterned floor tiles to mark out the cooking area or to create a border effect around contrasting flooring. Different lighting effects are also a good tip. Hang pendant lights over a dining table or island and use wall lights and table lamps in the living area. Rugs are also a great way to create separate zones and a different feel for each space. ►



An open-plan kitchen-diner at the back of the house is one of the most popular layouts, with sliding glass doors leading straight on to the garden. Metz Graphite kitchen, from £8,200, Caple



Pattern, print and pops of colour can add personality to the different zones with rugs, tiles and painted walls. Cooper three-seater sofa in beige, £749.99, Oak Furnitureland



Choose quiet kitchen appliances that won't drown out conversation. The Haier series HW120-B14876 washing machine has the Quiet Mark accreditation so you know it's ultra-peaceful. £704.99, Currys



Having the same flooring throughout ties the different spaces together, creating a flowing finish that can also help to make the area seem bigger too. Piazza porcelain tiles in Geo Pearl, £70 per sq m, Ca' Pietra

CONSIDER GOING 'BROKEN-PLAN'

5 A new take on the open-plan look is the 'broken-plan' design, where you still have the open space but you use items like furniture and room dividers to create separate zones within a space. This has the advantage of giving you privacy when needed and helps to define the different zones more distinctly. Think sliding and bi-fold screens, room dividers, bookcases and even large pieces of furniture such as sofas and sideboards. You can also achieve the look with flooring, split-levels and modular pieces that can quickly and easily be moved into different positions. Rather than using decoration alone to create the various zones, this is all about adding structural elements such as half walls, free-standing furniture, changes in levels and even glass walls so you get the best of both worlds.

EXPERT ADVICE

'Your décor will form an important element of the design, as colour and materials are a great way to accent specific areas. If you want to bring the space together, opt for a neutral scheme that can be accessorised with bold colour. Although it's important to create harmony, using different tones and textures will help to delineate the space. Don't be afraid to go for contrasting shades and prints.'

Philippa Prinsloo, Head of Home Design at John Lewis & Partners

USEFUL CONTACTS

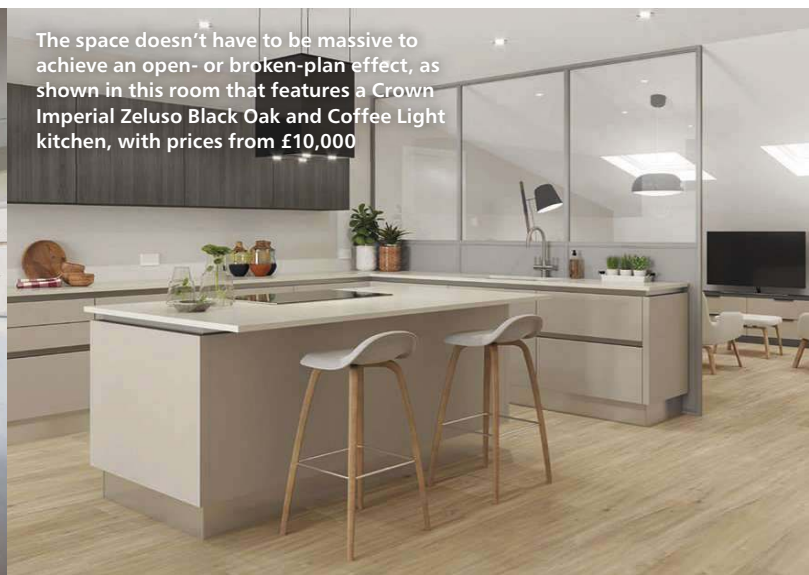
- Find a structural engineer at www.istructe.org.
- Look for an architect at www.architecture.com.
- Head to www.planningportal.co.uk for advice on planning permission and how to apply for it.

KEEP ANY ORIGINAL FEATURES

6 If you live in an older property, you may not have the boxy blank canvas that a modern new-build provides, but this is an advantage in many ways. Your home probably includes many original features and architectural elements that you don't want to lose when going open-plan, so try to avoid removing or replacing them wherever possible. Try to find an architect who has experience in designing for period properties, as they will be able to help you maintain the building's character and plan any renovations around it. Things like chimneys, fireplaces, pillars, plaster mouldings, internal joinery and original windows can all become a feature within the new scheme. **YH**



Vertical radiators will save on valuable wall space, which will be more limited once you start knocking down walls. Lissett radiator in Champagne, from £763.20, Bisque



The space doesn't have to be massive to achieve an open- or broken-plan effect, as shown in this room that features a Crown Imperial Zeluso Black Oak and Coffee Light kitchen, with prices from £10,000

CASE STUDY

'Going open-plan has dramatically changed the way we live'



▲ Kim loves the fact she no longer spends time alone in the kitchen as it's the room where everyone congregates



▲ Built around 1904, the Dryes' Edwardian semi in Surrey has undergone many structural alterations over the years, including the latest kitchen transformation

After three years mulling over her problem kitchen, a lightning-bolt moment gave Kim Drye the inspiration she needed to improve it. 'When we moved here 24 years ago, we knocked down a wall to create a kitchen-diner,' she explains, 'but the dining area was so narrow, it didn't really work. Plus, it wasn't really a sociable space, so I'd find myself alone doing the cooking while the family were all in another room.'

The idea that struck Kim was to remove another wall – this time between the existing kitchen and adjacent living room – to create one big open-plan space across the width of the house. Having committed to the plan, Kim's husband Phil suggested they go even further by extending it by 1.2 metres into the garden and out to the side to create a separate utility room and downstairs bathroom. With the work being done in stages, Kim estimates it took three to four months to complete, but thankfully with no problems as they were lucky to find a good builder. 'At no stage was I without a useable kitchen,' Kim remembers. 'The builder made sure I always had somewhere to cook and wash up!'

When it came to the final finish, Kim knew exactly how she wanted her new kitchen and living area to look. 'A friend of mine had a space just like this,' she says, 'so I had a very clear vision of what to go for in terms of colours and the style of furniture. Phil and I were both keen to replace the old gas fire with a wood-burning stove and, as we chose underfloor heating, there was no need for ugly radiators.'

For the new kitchen, the couple returned to their original supplier, Charnay in Oxshott, who designed and installed the hand-painted simple Shaker-style cupboards and island, complete with quartz stone worktops and NEFF appliances.

Kim and Phil, along with their family and friends, love the sociable space they've created. 'Now we're all in one room together, which is great,' says Kim. 'I especially like it when we have guests round for dinner and I don't have to leave the party to get the meal on the table.'

Where once the space was cramped, now there's plenty of room around the dining table for entertaining in comfort. The dramatic artwork was specially done for Phil's 50th birthday



A practical island unit stands in place of the wall that once separated the sitting room from the kitchen. Removing and extending it out into the garden has created a large open-plan space the whole family can enjoy



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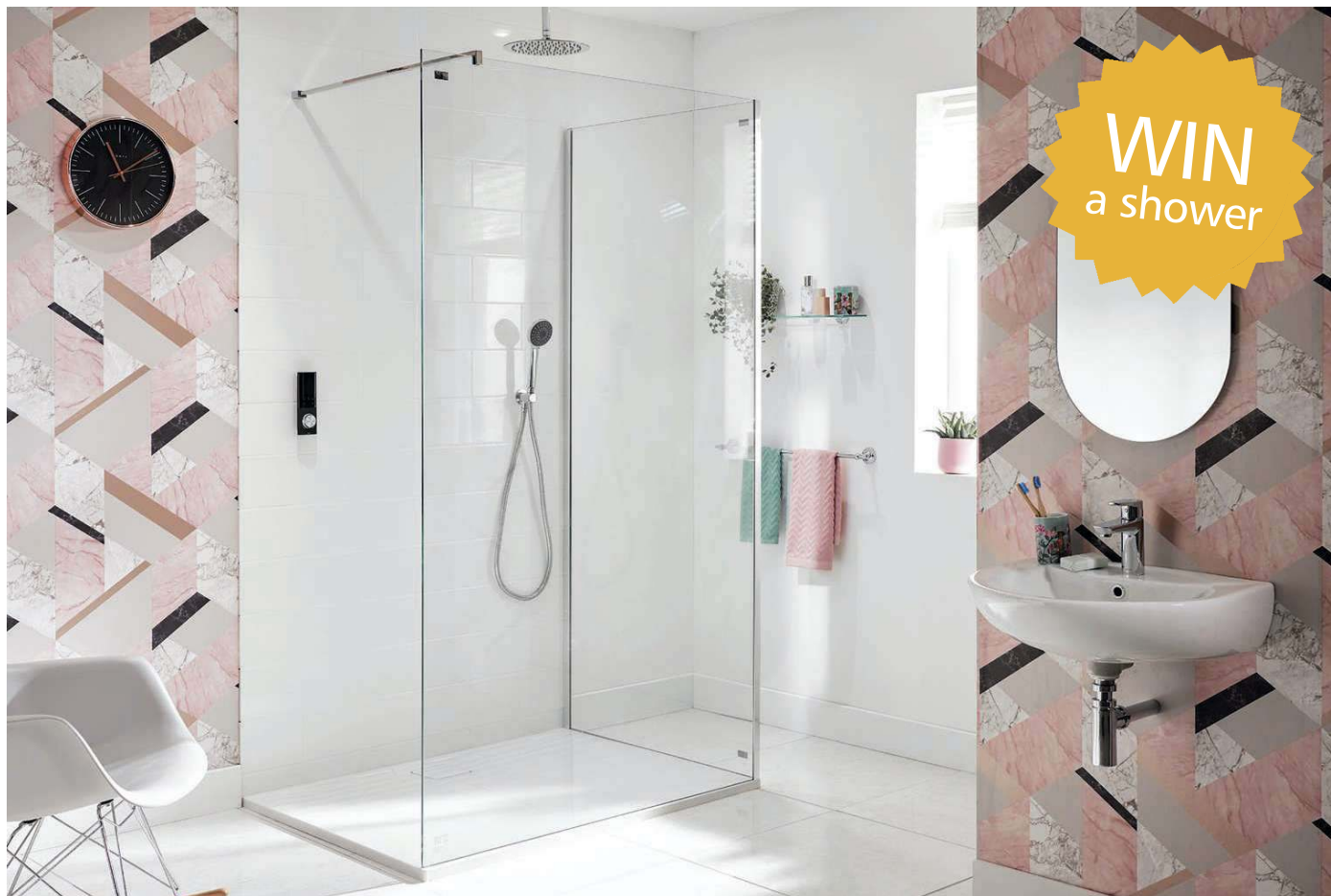
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HOMES & ANTIQUES: THE MAGAZINE FOR LIVING WITH OLD AND NEW

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✦ WIN! ✦ WIN! ✦ WIN! ✦ WIN! ✦ WIN! ✦

WIN! a Triton digital mixer shower



We've teamed up with Triton, a market-leading shower brand, to offer three lucky readers the chance to win a HOST™ Digital Mixer Shower in Black, worth £350 each. With its minimalist control panel, it is the ultimate showpiece for any modern bathroom.

HOST™ technology allows users to enjoy a personalised experience first thing every morning, and the perfect setting is just a click away thanks to three customisable pre-sets. Each programme can be fine-tuned using 16 temperature and ten flow increments, making

this digital mixer suitable for the entire family and for use with any water system.

Triton's HOST™ has been developed to provide complete design flexibility. The sleek panel with full text and colour digital display can be positioned anywhere on the wall within ten metres of the mixer box.

For a quick and easy routine, HOST™ also has an optional remote start/stop control available to purchase, with a warm-up feature – you can even use it from the comfort of your bed!

No matter what the choice of décor, HOST™ can be paired with a range of fixed

showerheads, secondary handsets and holders to complement any bathroom scheme. For simplicity, Triton also offers an all-in-one pack which brings together the most popular combinations.

For more information about the wide range of electric, digital, power and mixer showers available from Triton Showers, visit the website at www.tritonshowers.co.uk.



See you first thing Britain

To enter, visit www.yourhomemagazine.co.uk, choose the WIN tab, find the prize draw you'd like to enter and fill in your details. Closing date 30 April 2020 at 11.59pm.

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We'd like to continue sending you our catalogues by post. If you would prefer not to receive them by post, please tick this box ☐

Gardening

Great buys and advice to help your garden grow



Turning Japanese

On 18th and 19th April, Brogdale Collections, Home of the National Fruit Collection, will be celebrating all things Japanese under the stunning blossom of their fruit trees as part of their annual Hanami Festival. Take a picnic and enjoy an immersive experience in the heart of their beautiful ornamental cherry orchards. Go on a tour of the orchard and learn about cherry blossom and the Japanese traditions associated with it. You can also watch a Japanese tea ceremony take place, along with performances from Japanese drummers, traditional dancers and laijutsu demonstrations. Day tickets to the Hanami Festival cost from £7.20 for adults and from £4 for children. For more details and to book, visit www.brogdalecollections.org.



Potty about pastels

There's no getting away from it, houseplants are having a moment! And what you grow them in can make a real style statement in your home. Garden Trading's new nature-inspired range of indoor pots features hints of gentle pink, swathes of soft sage and lots of interesting textures. They look gorgeous grouped together or displayed on a dresser for the ultimate botanical shelfie!

Indoor pots, from £3 each, Garden Trading



For the birds and the bees

These gorgeous dew drop-shaped wildlife homes are handmade in Devon by craftsman Peter Lanyon and would make a stylish addition to any garden. The solitary bee home will attract a wide variety of safe and friendly bees, which will in turn help pollinate the plants in your garden. It's made from high-quality aero-ply and finished with a UV-protecting exterior oil, while the elegant bird nesting box is made from sweet chestnut and birch ply.

Dew Drop bee home, £24; **Dew Drop bird box**, £45, both Made By Hand Online



Some like it hot

If you're feeling brave, why not grow the new scorching hot pepper mix, Devil's Brew, this year? This bushy variety produces cayenne-type chillies which start green then ripen to an eye-catching mix of red, orange and yellow, and grow to around 8cm long. They are ideal for using in spicy Asian-style recipes.

Devil's Brew Pepper mix, £2.55 for 30 seeds, Mr Fothergill's



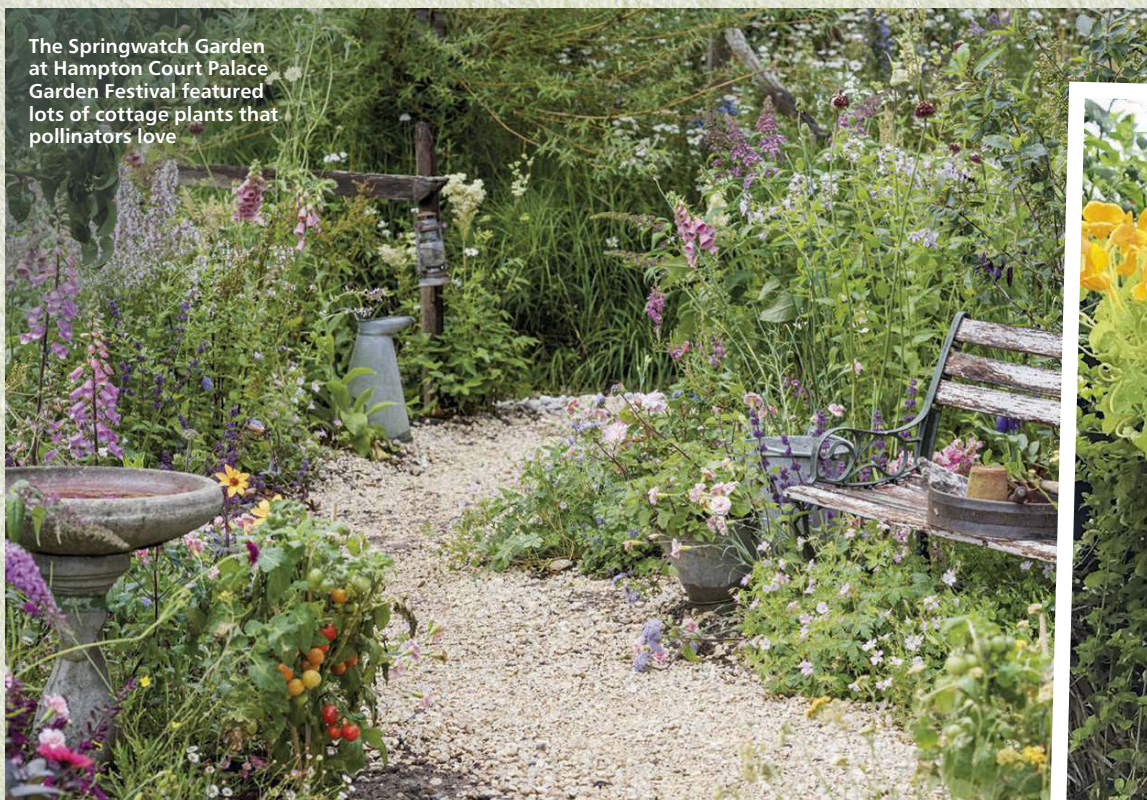
GREEN AND SERENE

Cultivating your own natural space has never been more important for the modern city dweller, and in his new book, *Green* (£15, published by Hardie Grant), author Jason Chongue simplifies how to curate and look after plants in small urban spaces. Inside, you'll find plant styling advice and tips for a range of environments and climates, inside or out. From balconies, porches, courtyards and small backyards to entryways, offices and living spaces, this how-to guide is an approachable resource for gardeners of all types.



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

The Springwatch Garden at Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival featured lots of cottage plants that pollinators love



IN YOUR GARDEN *this month...*

From the mellow yellows of daffodils to jewel-toned tulips, April bursts forth with a rainbow of colours



Be creative and incorporate a bug hotel into a planter base

STYLE YOUR *garden*

With populations of insects, hedgehogs, butterflies and birds all in decline, an increasing number of high-profile garden designers have turned their attention to creating beautiful wildlife-friendly gardens at all the recent major flower and garden shows. Many of the designs have shown that in order to attract wildlife, a garden does not need to be an unkempt jungle of overgrown grasses and brambles. The secret to creating a healthy environment for wildlife is to provide the right food and habitats for as

wide a range of living creatures as possible because this is what drives the food chain naturally. For example, birds will visit a garden if butterflies are present as they will look for caterpillars to feed their young, and hedgehogs may visit if there are cool, damp areas for slugs to breed.

While it's important to include all the obvious elements, like plants, to attract pollinators and butterflies, a pond or small water feature for a myriad of insect species and small mammals, bird boxes, and maybe an unmown strip

of grass, are every bit as important to create a wildlife corridor between your garden and the neighbours' ones on your road. If you live in an urban or suburban area where many of the gardens are completely fenced in, then no matter how hard you try to attract some forms of wildlife that walk or leap, they will never be able to get in. You can remedy this by making a small hole in the base of the fence or even one underneath it, then encourage the neighbours to do the same to increase the chances of wildlife in the area.

Choose houseplants with eye-catching foliage for real impact



Keep your houseplants healthy by cleaning any dust that's built up from their leaves

WHAT TO DO *in the flower garden*

Foliage houseplant maintenance

As daylight hours begin to stretch, houseplants start to wake up from their winter dormancy. Wipe the leaves to remove the build-up of any dust which inhibits respiration and photosynthesis and check to see if any roots are growing out of the drainage holes. If they are, the plant may need to be re-potted into a slightly larger container. Use a compost specific for houseplants or make your own using an equal quantity of peat-free compost and vermiculite to make it free-draining. Begin to give the foliage houseplants a fortnightly feed of liquid fertiliser to support their new growth.

Look after sweet peas

Grow these annual climbers to provide plenty of cut flowers for the house. They repeat flower over a long period and will provide heaps of highly scented buds as long as they are given the right care.

Sweet peas are hungry and thirsty feeders and need rich, moisture-retentive soil to produce a constant stream of flowers. Prepare the planting area by incorporating plenty of organic matter into a deep hole. This is available in bags from a garden centre, or alternatively you can use garden compost.

If you haven't grown your own seeds, then buy a pot of seedlings, but don't try and prise them apart into individual seedlings. Instead, break the mass into several clumps and plant these out around a

sturdy support. Pinch out the top shoots of the plants to encourage the formation of plenty of side shoots.

Find space for spring woodland plants

Turn a shady part of your garden into an oasis of colour with plants that thrive under deciduous trees or shrubs before their canopy of foliage bursts into life. Epimediums, Hellebores, Corydalis flexuosa and Erythroniums will all give a much-needed blast of colour in dappled shade. While they don't require much feeding, they will benefit from having some well-rotted leaf mould incorporated into the soil before being planted.

Make sure you give sweet peas a sturdy support to cling to



Epimediums make a welcome addition to a woodland garden





A female Orange-tip butterfly

APRIL'S *garden visitors*

The appearance of butterflies on the wing during April heralds spring has arrived. On days when temperatures reach upwards of 16°C, look out for these beautiful flying creatures as they begin visiting gardens in search of pollen.

Brimstone, Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma butterflies may even be seen during mild spells in February and March, but it's during April that the stunning Orange-tip butterfly usually makes its first appearance. The male Orange-tip is easily recognised by – you guessed it – bright orange wing tips, which flash brightly as it flits from one food source to another and warns predators that this butterfly is highly distasteful. The females lack this orange pigmentation, but have distinct mottled green/grey markings on the underside of their hindwings when at rest which is the same as the males.

This unmistakable member of the Lepidoptera family is only active from April to July but can be spotted across a wide variety of landscapes; from woodland glades and meadows to parks and gardens. You can attract them into your garden by growing sweet rocket and annual honesty, both of which are highly likely to self-seed each year.



Even when closed, the Orange-tip's wings are beautiful

WHAT TO DO *on the veg plot*

✓ Sow carrot seeds

If weather conditions are favourable, plant carrot seeds outside. This root vegetable is a great crop to sow at regular intervals right up to mid-August to provide a succession of crops over a long period. However, the distinctive, sweet scent of carrots in growth often attracts a damaging pest called carrot root fly, which can quickly make a crop inedible. The female carrot fly lays her eggs in the soil close to the top of the carrot and the emerging maggots bore into the carrot as it grows. These tiny insects are usually low flying, so deter them by planting your carrots in high raised beds or by encircling the whole crop with a fleece or mesh barrier, at least 70cm high.

Carrots prefer to grow in light, free-draining soil; when planted in heavy clay or stony soil they will struggle to elongate and may divide into multiple, stunted roots.

✓ Support the growth of peas

Peas are also a great successional crop to grow from spring to the end of summer. To get the best harvest, put in place some kind of support system that the pea tendrils can cling to as they grow. Twiggy pea sticks are traditionally used but chicken wire held together with stakes works just as well. Try to avoid using nylon netting as reports of young birds getting trapped in it are on the rise. Peas taste divine when they're picked before they get too large and are cooked immediately while they're super fresh.

✓ Encourage children to grow vegetables

If you want to hold a child's attention and give them some hands-on experience, pick crops that have large seeds and germinate quickly. Sweetcorn, gourds and pumpkins all have fairly large seeds and can be sown in pots inside towards the end of April. Give them a warm, light position on a windowsill or in a heated greenhouse if you have one. They shouldn't be transplanted into well-prepared soil until all risk of frost has passed. Sweetcorn is wind pollinated, so it needs to be grown in a block rather than in single rows. Space the young plants around 35cm apart. When the tasselled tips of the plants are covered in pollen, give them a gentle shake to ensure it reaches the silks on top of the cobs below to pollinate them.



Image RHS



Image RHS

TOP THREE PLANTS

for April**EUPHORBIA GRIFFITHII
'FIREGLOW'**

Hardy euphorbias, known as spurges, have become invaluable garden plants as they lend structure to a border. While their true flowers are rather insignificant, vibrant bracts in various shades of green, yellow, white and orange adorn the plants in late spring and summer. *E. griffithii* 'Fireglow' gives two seasons of interest – fiery orange bracts in summer, which are later followed by a wonderful display of crimson foliage in autumn. This spreading perennial prefers moist, free-draining soil and is happy in sun or semi-shade.

**FRITILLARIA
IMPERIALIS**

Also known as crown imperial, this show-stopping, spring bulb certainly lives up to its rather grand title. A coronet of nodding bells in various shades of orange or yellow, topped with tufted foliage, sit majestically above a tall sturdy stem, giving it great authority in a border.

Flowering over a long period from March until the onset of summer, crown imperials are thought to be pollinated by small birds that are eager to enjoy the free-flowing nectar. For long-term enjoyment, plant the bulbs deeply in rich, free-draining soil.

WHAT TO DO *in the fruit garden***PULL RHUBARB
STEMS**

Harvest the ripe stems of rhubarb while they are young and sweet; this promotes the growth of fresh new stems. Pull each piece of rhubarb by hand rather than cutting with a knife because this helps to prevent diseases or infections getting into the base of the plant.

PROTECT BLOSSOM

Late spring frosts, which are very common in Britain, may kill spring blossom and wipe out an entire year's fruit crop. Keep an eye on the weather forecast and if there is any chance at all of frost, cover dwarf fruit trees in pots, wall-trained fruits and fruit bushes with a double layer of fleece. Large fruit trees are more difficult to protect but may only be hit by frost on one side if you're lucky, leaving some of the blossom undamaged.

**GROW MELONS**

If you can provide the right conditions to grow melons, now is the time to start their seeds into growth. Melons are very tender plants and require plenty of heat and high humidity, so grow them in a sunny position under the protection of a large cloche, in a cold frame or greenhouse.

**EXOCHORDA X
MACRANTHA
'THE BRIDE'**

A deciduous shrub that puts on a spectacular performance in April and May. It produces an array of arching branches which are smothered in flower buds that resemble pearls, together with a froth of open, pure white blooms. Loved by florists for arrangements for spring brides, this elegant shrub was bestowed the prestigious Award of Garden Merit (AGM) by the Royal Horticultural Society. Grow it against a wall or at the back of a border where it will reach an ultimate height and spread of six feet.

We have fabulous goodies up for grabs this month!

Win a £100 voucher to create a CEWE PHOTOBOOK

This month, we are giving away a £100 voucher to five lucky *Your Home* readers so they can create their own CEWE PHOTOBOOK. This is a personalised album of memories designed by you and made by CEWE – Europe's leading photo printing company.

The CEWE PHOTOBOOK is more than just a photo album, it's the perfect way to display your favourite memories in your home. Choose from six paper types and a number of sizes to create a book that's just right for you. Also included are unique customisation options, including cover embossing and video, which can all be added using the easy-to-use creator software on the CEWE website.

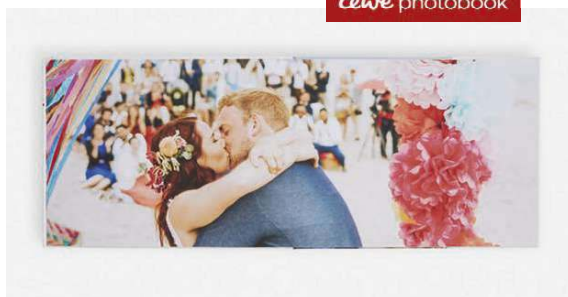
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Win a SimpliSafe home security system

DIY home security systems are the new must-have to upgrade your smart home tech and help keep burglars at bay. We have teamed up with SimpliSafe to give one fortunate reader the chance to win one of its bestselling home security systems, The Bamburgh.

The Bamburgh includes one base station, one wireless keypad, one SimpliCam, two key fobs, three entry sensors, two motion sensors, one glass-break sensor, one 105dB siren and one panic button. And you even have the choice of whether you want the base station and wireless keypad in black, white, or mixed and matched.

Plus, you'll get three months of SimpliSafe's Pro Premium professional monitoring plan for free. It will provide you with that extra peace of mind knowing the police can be dispatched if an intruder is visually confirmed.

Visit www.simplisafe.co.uk for more information.

Win an Addis mini-makeover set of products

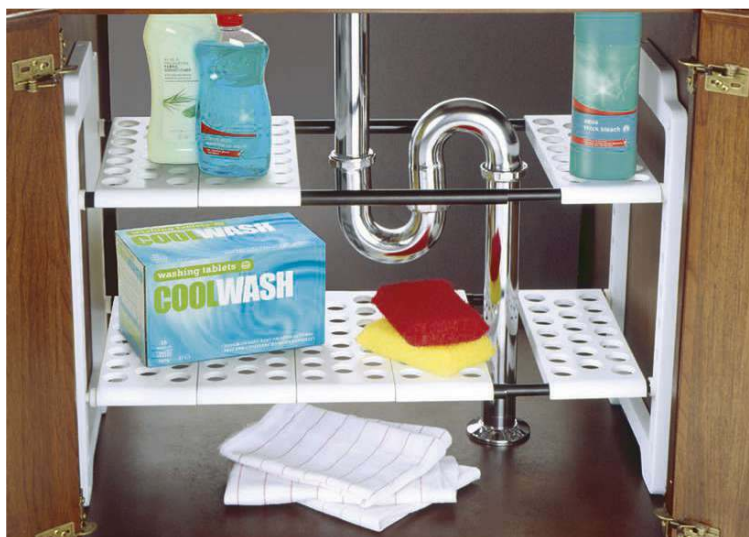


Ten *Your Home* readers are in with a chance of winning an Addis utility set to clear and organise their homes. It's part of Addis' mini-makeover campaign to help declutter, improve and make the most of what we already have.

For the kitchen, the set includes an In-Cupboard Bin which you can use to adapt your existing cupboard space into a discreet and neat recycling hub. The Under-the-Sink Organiser also forms part of the set. This adapts to fit the space below your sink and includes ten adjustable shelves to maximise storage – it will be a natural go-to for all your cleaning staples.

Not just for the bathroom, you will love the crystal-clear Invisifix Storage Caddy for use all around the home. It easily secures onto smooth surfaces, with no tools or screws required, and comes complete with an Addis Super Sponge (pictured). There is also a Collapsible Laundry Basket, which can be easily stowed away, saving an incredible amount of space.

Visit www.addis.co.uk for more information.



To enter, visit www.yourhomemagazine.co.uk, choose the WIN tab, find the prize draw you'd like to enter and fill in your details. Closing date 30 April 2020 at 11.59pm

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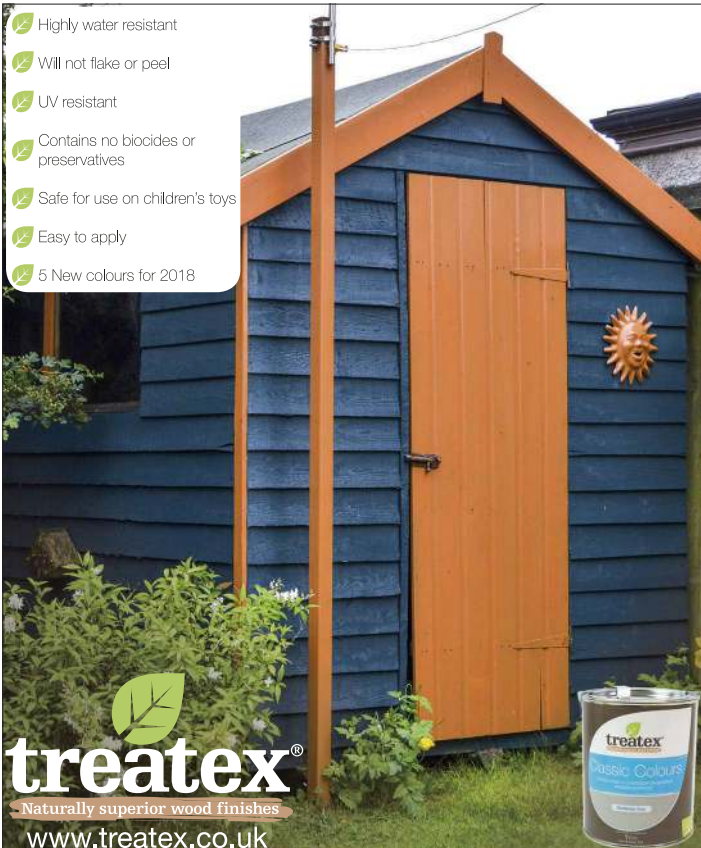
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► Fish board in Rustic White, £19.99, T&G

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Reusable bowl covers, £12.49 for a set of three, Smidge

Cover story

Making the most of your leftovers is a great way to cut down on waste in the kitchen, but storing them can be tricky. Cut down on your use of plastic wrap and boxes with these clever reusable food covers from Smidge. Made from durable silicone, they pop over bowls you already own and create an airtight seal that helps keep your food fresh. They're freezer safe so they're great

if you want to store those leftovers for a little while longer, and they're microwave and oven safe up to 240°C too – perfect for preventing splashes and spills when reheating. Pop them into the dishwasher so they'll be ready to use again. The three-piece set of bowl covers, £12.49, comes in a range of versatile sizes, so when it comes to reducing plastic you'll be well covered.

Burning issue

Over a year, we create an estimated 500,000 tonnes of used coffee grounds in the UK. These spent grounds are full of oils, which makes them a brilliant source of energy. Bio-bean collect used coffee grounds from businesses around the country and turn them into sustainable fuel. One of its Coffee Logs contains grounds from around 25 cups of the popular beverage, compressed into a cylinder that's ready to use straight away. The oil content of these logs means they burn 20 per cent hotter and longer than kiln-dried wood, without any coffee scent. Plus, you'll have the warm glow of knowing that you've prevented the grounds from ending up in landfill. You can pick up a bag full of 16 logs for £7.98 at B&Q.



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A style guide to the *outside*

Industry expert and founder of Out and Out Original, Daniel Fairburn, brings you this season's best deals on designer furniture.

Visit www.outandout.com or call **02037 728 752** for more exciting deals and discounts.



Chesterton - Corner Rattan Set

The luxurious Chesterton corner sofa and matching glass-topped coffee table set is perfect for entertaining outdoors. Generously proportioned with deep, comfortable cushions you can seat 5 people with ease. It's so easy to look after – the seat, back and side cushions all feature removeable covers (see website). With a maintenance-free construction of thick polyrattan and a galvanised steel frame, the set can even be left out all-year round, making it the ideal addition to your outdoor space this year. Normally £599, now available at an amazing **£399***, but only when you quote your £200 discount code **YHMAR20** at checkout.



Marbella - 5-Seater Corner Lounge Set

The ideal addition to your outdoor space, this stunning outdoor lounge set offers comfort and style at an affordable price. Normally £599, it's now available for **just £399*** when you quote discount code **YHMAR20**. Bang on trend in gorgeous shades of grey, this set is designed with a contemporary feel. It's hardwearing, woven in strong polyrattan on a galvanised steel frame. The comfy cushion covers can be removed and hand washed with care. The sofa and armchair seats 5 easily, and includes a tempered, glass-topped coffee table so you can entertain outside with ease. Virtually maintenance-free.

Madrid - Rattan Dining Set

This fabulous outdoor dining set is ideal for entertaining and seats 8 in comfort. The large 2 metre aluminium dining table features a grey polywood table top and, with poly-rattan chairs, this designer set is maintenance free. Perfect for outdoor living and a great way to spend more time in your garden this year. Normally £999, the Madrid is now available at an incredible **£499***. To receive your £500 discount, please quote code **YHMAR20A** at checkout.

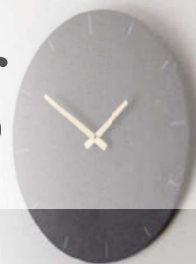


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