



1

a room for all seasons



BEFORE

1. Through a fresh approach to colour and the installation of DIY shutter systems and roll-away bistro blinds (yes, you can install them yourself) you can create an all-weather space to host the crew at your place every time, all year round. Love that!

Deck out your lifestyle with a year-round entertaining zone

Summon up a little love and get the imagination firing, and you can revamp your deck into an extra room to enjoy – all year round! Start by rejuvenating the timber decking and using paint to bring a new look to exterior walls, doors and windows. Adjustable shutters, blinds and accessories will make the space more versatile – you can even make a hanging pendant light shade for above the dining table, too. Finally, pack away your tools and layer up with furniture and furnishings that encourage catch-ups and all-night-long conversations. You may never set foot inside again!



Tips

■ Are you planning to paint over previously painted exterior walls? Before you begin, check the adhesion of the old paint by scoring a big 'X' through a clean patch of wall using a utility knife. Press wide cellotape firmly across the cut, then rip it off. If the paint comes off with the tape, the old paint needs to be removed before applying new paint.

■ Why choose a self-priming paint? In most cases, this means you can skip the job of putting on coats of primer before you begin painting. You will save time by using only one product to cover the exposed brick.

2. No longer a fan of exposed masonry walls on the outside of your home?

It's a big call to paint over the lot, so start small by limiting yourself to painting only the walls that surround your deck area. Select a self-priming paint in a colour you love, then roll up your sleeves and dive in. You never know, you may just extend the colour to the rest of your home's exterior, too.

Project 1: Painted love

PAINTING MASONRY WALLS

Gather your supplies

- Self-priming exterior paint (we used Dulux Weathershield Low Sheen in Black Caviar)
- Paintbrush
- Long-nap paint roller

You'll also need

Broom or cobweb brush; hand brush; bucket; mild detergent or sugar soap; drop sheets; paint tray; ladder

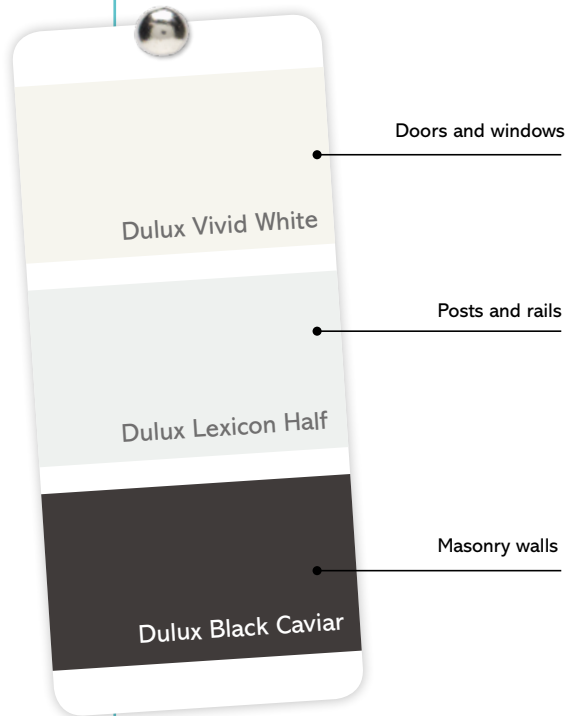
Here's how

STEP 1 Exterior walls to be painted need to be clean, dry and free of debris and mould. Remove cobwebs with broom or cobweb brush, then brush over walls with hand brush. If tough dirt is present, wash down walls with a bucket of mild detergent or sugar soap and give walls a scrub with hand brush. Treat and remove mould from walls, if necessary. Allow to dry.



STEP 2 Lay out drop sheets. If you're worried about splattering plants, cover them with large garbage bags.

STEP 3 Pour a little of selected paint into paint tray, then apply 2 or more coats to prepared walls. Use paintbrush to cut in along edges and to paint nooks and crannies. Load roller with paint and apply to body of walls. Allow to dry after each coat. Use ladder where necessary, taking appropriate safety precautions.





Project 2: Shutter up

INSTALLING LOUVRED SHUTTERS

Gather your supplies

- Hartman exterior aluminium shutters in White
- Hartman exterior aluminium shutter track kits with screws

You'll also need

Spirit level; plumb-bob; pencil; drill and bits; ladder

Note Measure to determine the quantity of shutters and track for your project.

Here's how

STEP 1 Measure the height from beams to deck. For these shutters, the ideal distance from underside of upper beam to top of deck is 2120mm (give or take 5mm). This allows you to fit tracks directly to the beam. If your height exceeds this, you will need to install lengths of timbers to the underside of beams prior to installing top track. If your height is smaller than this, you will need to install lengths of timbers to the inside face of beams.

STEP 2 Following product directions, screw upper tracks to beam. When

butting tracks, make sure they line up end to end. Use ladder to work at heights, taking necessary safety precautions.

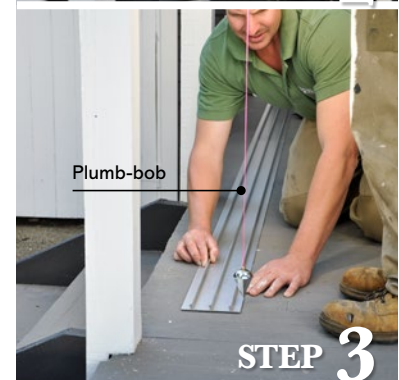
STEP 3 Lay lower tracks in position on decking. To do this, drop plumb-bob from top track to determine exact positioning of lower tracks. Mark with pencil, position tracks, then drop plumb-bob again to double-check they are in correct spot.

STEP 4 Screw tracks to decking with drill.

STEP 5 Install shutters on tracks using same method you would use for most sliding doors. Hold both long sides of 1 shutter, then lift and tilt to fit top end into top track. Straighten and push bottom of shutter towards corresponding bottom track and rest it into position. Repeat for all other shutters. You can install shutters on the same ridge to create a non-stackable wall (you might do this for 2 or more shutters at the end of a deck) or stagger them across the 3 ridges of each track to maximise openability. Experiment with what arrangement works best for you.

3. Using simple off-the-shelf tracks and aluminium shutters, you can control the climate on the deck easier than you ever dreamed. And the best bit? You can install this weatherproof system yourself!

steps



4. Freshen up exterior timber doors and windows with a durable coat of paint in a bright white or a colour to suit the new scheme of your home. Traditionalists are likely to opt for an oil-based enamel, but for a more environmentally friendly option, try Dulux Aquanamel Semi Gloss in Vivid White – it's just as easy to apply. Plus, it's water-based, so only needs water for washing out (not mineral turpentine like oil-based paints). Remember to take the time to prep surfaces: scrape, sand and prime, then mask around glass edges to get professional results.

steps



STEP 2



STEP 4



STEP 5

Tip Keep the paint tray and painting tools covered with plastic wrap to prevent paint drying out. If they are water-based, you can cover them up with rags (old torn sheets are ideal) dampened with water.



Project 3: Doors and windows

PAINTING WINDOWS AND DOORS

Gather your supplies

- Water-based undercoat (we used Dulux 1 Step Acrylic Primer, Sealer & Undercoat)
- Durable exterior paint (we used Dulux Aquanamel Semi Gloss in Vivid White)
- Painter's tape

You'll also need

Fine-grit sandpaper or sanding sponge; drop sheets; paint tray; paintbrush; short-nap mini paint roller; rag; flat blade

Here's how

PREPARATION

STEP 1 Surfaces to be painted need to be clean and dry, and free of blistered or flaky paint. Make any repairs to doors or windows before beginning, and fill holes with a wood putty, if necessary.

STEP 2 Use painter's tape to carefully mask around edges of glass. Firmly press tape onto glass to avoid paint bleed later.

STEP 3 Lay out drop sheets to catch dust, paint spills and splatters.

STEP 4 Use fine-grit sandpaper to rub over all surfaces to be painted. For detailed timber frames (such as windows), you may find it easier to use a sanding sponge that gently curves around timber detailing with ease. Wipe away dust.

PAINTING

STEP 5 Pour a little Dulux 1 Step or similar into paint tray. Use paintbrush and roller combination to apply 1–2 coats to windows and doors, allowing to dry after each coat. Clean paint splatters with dampened rag.

STEP 6 Pour your chosen topcoat paint into paint tray. Use paintbrush and roller combination to apply 2–3 coats to windows and doors, allowing to dry after each coat. Clean paint splatters with dampened rag.

STEP 7 Carefully peel away painter's tape and discard. If necessary, use a flat blade held at 45° to glass to carefully scrape off any paint splattered on glass.

Project 4: Step to it

STAIR BUILD

Gather your supplies

- Ezistep treated pine stringer kit with screws (ours suits 3 treads)
- 240 x 45 x 900mm treated pine domestic stair treads (3)
- Cabot's Timbercolour acrylic tinted to Dulux Wallaby
- Dulux Weathershield Low Sheen in Black Caviar

You'll also need

Drop sheet; paint tray; paintbrush; hammer; timber offcuts; drill and bits; set-out paint; post-hole digger; galvanised L brackets (2); bolts with nuts to suit (2); socket wrench and socket to suit; spirit level; quick-set concrete

Note Measure height where your stairs are required and adjust stringer sizes and quantity of treads to suit.

Here's how

STEP 1 Spread out drop sheet. Pour a little Dulux Black Caviar into paint tray and use paintbrush to apply 2–3 coats to both stringers, allowing to dry after each coat. Wash painting tools.

STEP 2 Pour Cabot's Timbercolour into paint tray and use paintbrush to apply 2–3 coats to all surfaces of treads, allowing to dry after each coat. Wash painting tools.

STEP 3 Assemble stringers and treads. To do this, place both stringers wrong side-up on workbench or on the ground, spaced by length of treads. Bring first tread into position on stringers (grooved face down), hold an offcut of timber against tread and knock tread into channels with a hammer. Repeat for remaining treads.

STEP 4 Pre-drill and drive 3 evenly spaced screws through stringers into treads at each connection point.

STEP 5 With another person helping you, lift assembled stairs into desired position. Use set-out paint to mark 2 positions where stairs touch ground level. Lift and set stairs to side.



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5. Make the transition on and off your deck as handsome as the rest of your makeover with a simple set of stairs. These beauties really are as easy as buying the stringers and treads, painting them up, assembling and installing. So step to it!

steps



Anchored into concrete footings, a pair of L-shaped brackets will support your stairs

steps

STEP 6 In marked positions, use post-hole digger to excavate 300mm-deep holes.

STEP 7 Lay stairs on ground wrong side up. Hold 1 L bracket to flat end of bottom of 1 stringer (the edge that will be on the ground), with one arm of bracket flat against inside edge and the other extending beyond base to form an anchor. Mark position of hole in bracket and drill hole to suit. Repeat to drill hole at end of other stringer.

STEP 8 On inside of stringer, fit a bracket over 1 hole. Thread bolt through stringer and bracket and tighten nut over bolt with socket wrench. Repeat to secure bracket at end of other stringer.

STEP 9 Lift stairs back into position and chock them up with timber offcuts. With a spirit level, check they are sitting level, adjusting offcuts to suit.

STEP 10 Following product instructions, pour dry quick-set concrete mix into both holes.

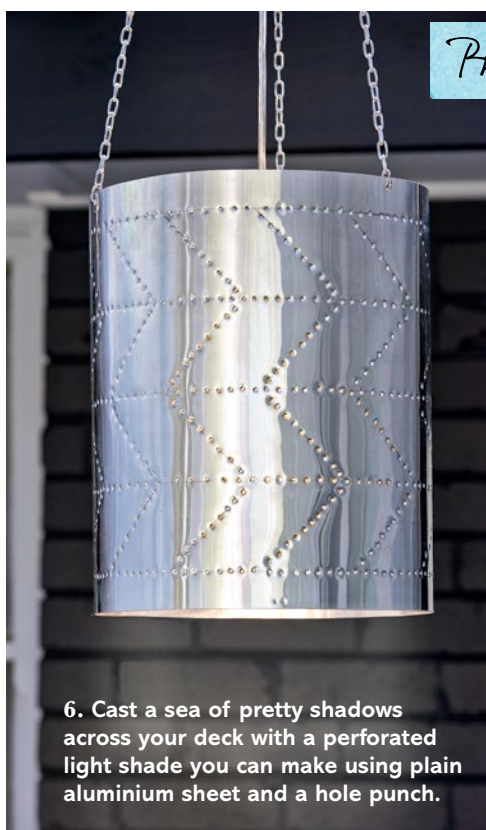
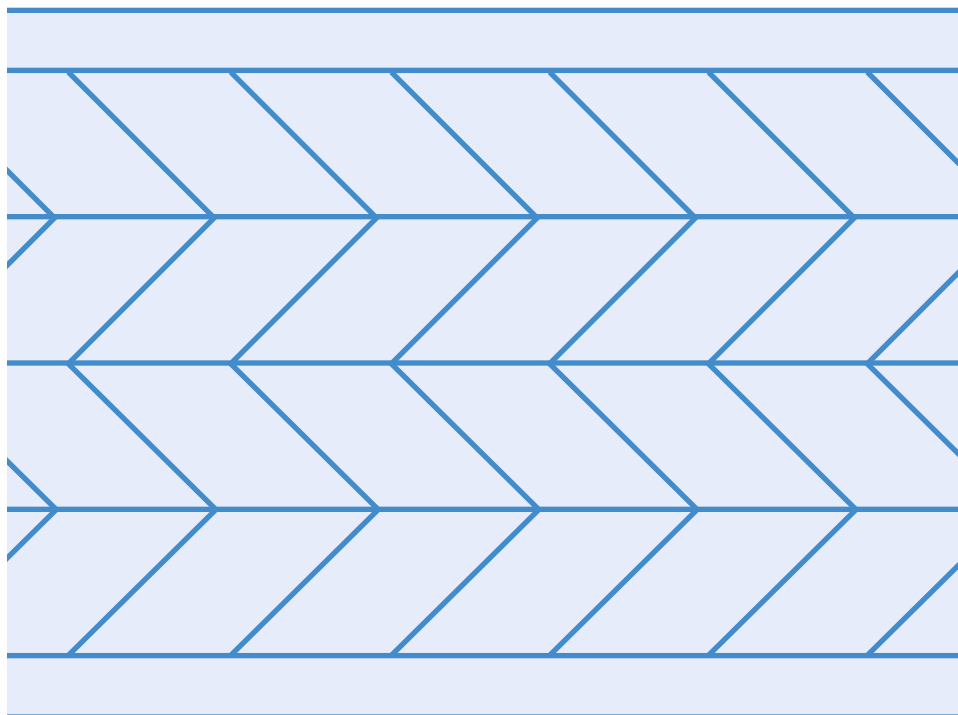
STEP 11 Wet concrete mix using garden hose. Allow to set.

STEP 12 Predrill and drive 1 screw through top of each stringer, decking and into frame of deck.

STEP 13 Remove timber offcuts from under stairs. Back-fill holes and level out ground at base of steps. Touch up paint wherever necessary.



Punchy pendant light shade diagram



6. Cast a sea of pretty shadows across your deck with a perforated light shade you can make using plain aluminium sheet and a hole punch.

Project 5: Pendant

PUNCHY PENDANT LIGHT SHADE

Gather your supplies

- Plain aluminium sheet 900 x 900 x 0.5mm
- Link chain, length to suit

You'll also need

Gloves; metal ruler; pencil; flat board; utility knife; nail punch; hammer; fine-grit sandpaper; clamps; rag; drill and bits; rivet gun; rivets; long-nose pliers; cup hooks (3)

Here's how

STEP 1 Decide on shade's diameter and height. Wearing gloves, mark dimensions as a rectangle on aluminium sheet (add 2cm to diameter for overlap). Working on flat board, use knife along ruler to score and cut sheet on marked lines.

steps

STEP 2 On 1 face of sheet, with a pencil and ruler lightly mark up a geometric design (use a photocopier to enlarge 'Punchy pendant light shade' diagram on page 7) or sketch organic shapes.

STEP 3 With sheet on flat board, use nail punch and a hammer to punch holes along marked lines, 10mm apart.

STEP 4 Blunt cut edges of sheet by rubbing with sandpaper.

STEP 5 Bend sheet into a drum shape, overlapping ends by 2cm. Use clamps to hold drum together at join. Put a rag between clamp and metal to avoid scratching.

STEP 6 Pre-drill evenly spaced holes through overlap, about 4–5cm apart.

STEP 7 Use rivet gun and rivets to join drum at overlap, through predrilled holes.

STEP 8 Drill 3 hanging holes, evenly spaced around diameter of drum, about 5mm from top.

STEP 9 Measure desired hanging height of shade (add a bit of extra length for chain adjustment) and use cutter on pliers to cut 3 lengths of chain to suit. Snip and open 1 end link of each length of chain. Hook chains to shade. Pinch opened links closed with pliers to secure.

STEP 10 Fit cup hooks to rafter, evenly spaced around light fixing. To hang shade, hook chains on cup hooks. Adjust until level, then trim extra chain.



STEP 2



STEP 7



STEP 3



STEP 9



STEP 4



STEP 10



STEP 5



STEP 6



Project 6: Posts and rails

Gather your supplies

- A** 140 x 45mm treated pine overhead beam
- B** 90 x 45mm treated pine wall post
- C** 88 x 88mm primed treated pine posts (2)
- D** 90 x 42mm primed treated pine handrails (2)
- E** 66 x 30mm primed treated pine handrail braces (2)
- F** 90 x 30mm primed treated pine balustrade diagonals (4)

You'll also need

Power saw; handsaw; chisel; spirit level; 85mm batten screws; 60mm screws; drill and bits; clamp; straightedge; pencil; exterior filler; acrylic gap filler; fine-grit sandpaper; oil-based undercoat (we used Dulux Preplock Oil-based Primer, Sealer & Undercoat); exterior durable paint in colour of choice (we used Dulux Weathershield Semi Gloss in Lexicon Half); painting tools

Notes **1.** Check your local council's regulations before you start building. **2.** Measure to determine quantities and lengths of components to suit your project site. **3.** Undercoat and paint all components prior to installation. **4.** Paint all cuts and exposed timber to seal.

Here's how

STEP 1 To replicate the look of the other side of this deck, we installed an overhead beam (A) and wall post (B). If your place needs this treatment too, install an overhead beam parallel with edge of deck below and install a wall post in line with any existing deck posts.

STEP 2 To add a railing on each side of steps, measure from deck to top of overhead beam on 1 side of steps to find length of 1 post (C). Using power saw, cut post to length. At 1 end of post, mark out for a 140mm long x 45mm deep notch to suit overhead beam. Set power saw to 45mm deep, then cut along lines of notch, stopping at corners. Finish cut using handsaw.

STEP 3 On 1 corner at other end of post, mark out for a notch that, when

7. Frame one side of your deck with posts and rails on each side of the staircase to create the sweetest sense of arrival.

steps



steps



STEP 5



STEP 9



STEP 10

removed, will allow post to sit over the top part of 1 stringer. Make notch of sufficient size so post will remain in line with other posts along this side of deck. Cut along each side of notch, changing depth of power saw to suit each line. Stop at corners of notch. Remove waste timber with a sharp chisel and make smooth.

STEP 4 Repeat Steps 2 and 3 to make post for other side of steps.

STEP 5 Place 1 post in position at top of steps and check it is plumb with spirit level. Using 85mm batten screws, attach post to overhead beam and to stringer.

Repeat for other post.

STEP 6 Measure and cut handrails (D) to fit between posts. Using 60mm screws, temporarily skew screw handrails in level positions to posts 1m above deck, driving screws through sides of handrails into posts.

STEP 7 Measure and cut handrail braces (E) to same lengths as handrails. Clamp them on edge to undersides of handrails.

STEP 8 To ensure balustrade diagonals (F) fit neatly below handrails, trim both ends of handrail braces to suit. To do this, hold a straightedge diagonally between 2

posts from deck to underside of handrail. Use pencil to draw along straightedge to mark angle at 1 end of handrail brace, then change direction of straightedge and mark angle at other end of handrail brace. Repeat to mark other handrail brace.

STEP 9 Remove handrail and brace assemblies. Use power saw to cut marked angles on handrail braces then return braces to underside of handrails. Screw assemblies together.

STEP 10 Return each handrail and brace assembly to sit between corresponding posts. Make level, then fix to posts with screws.

A non-load bearing post and rail assembly can balance the look of your low deck area!

steps



STEP 11



STEP 12



STEP 13

STEP 11 Measure and cut 1 balustrade diagonal so it's slightly too long. Hold it diagonally between 2 posts from deck to underside of handrail and mark it up with lines of posts at each end. Cut along lines then place in position and screw into posts.

STEPS 12, 13 Measure and cut another balustrade diagonal slightly too long. Hold it diagonally between posts in opposite direction to first. Mark lines of posts at ends and where it meets first cross piece. Cut along marked lines to create 2 short balustrade diagonals. Fit these in position and screw to posts and to first full-length balustrade diagonal.

STEP 14 Repeat Steps 11 to 13 to install balustrade diagonals on the other side of steps.

STEP 15 Fill screw holes with exterior filler. Let dry, then sand smooth with fine-grit sandpaper. Fill all gaps with acrylic gap filler. Undercoat these areas, let dry. Touch up paint.



STEP 2

Maintain your blinds with PVC cleaner (such as VuPlex) and they'll stay clean and last longer!

8. Measure up your space first and purchase the right blinds and accessories for your home. Our tip? Choose clear blinds so you will never lose your view!



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Project 7: Blindside

INSTALLING BISTRO BLINDS

Gather your supplies

- PVC bistro blinds with coach screws (we used clear bistro blinds 240 x 190cm and 240 x 200cm)
- Ladder

You'll also need

Spirit level; pencil; drill and bits; socket wrench and socket to suit

Note Measure and buy required quantity of bistro blinds in sizes to suit. Add to your shopping list complementary products (end wall panels, extension panels, zip joiners) as required.

Here's how

STEP 1 Using ladder where necessary, hold 1 blind in desired position on timber beam. Check it is level with spirit level. (Don't be fooled into believing the surface you're mounting it to is level.) With a pencil, mark position of mounting holes in rail of blind on beam.

STEP 2 Drill a pilot hole in beam the same diameter as coach screw core. Return blind to beam, thread coach screws through holes in rail and tighten into pilot holes with wrench to secure.

STEP 3 Repeat for all other blinds.

Screw cleat hooks to nearby posts so you can secure cords, especially if you have kiddies

9. Give your timber deck

the face lift it deserves with a good clean and the application of durable exterior paint – yes, yours can look schmick, too!

Tip Choose a self-priming paint in a complementary colour for the framing of your deck, brick piers and the sides of stairs.



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Project 8: Hit the deck

DECK REVIVE

Gather your supplies

- Cabot's Timbercolour acrylic tinted to Dulux Wallaby
- High-pressure cleaner

You'll also need

Hammer and nail punch; broom; paint tray; paintbrush; floor finish applicator or roller with extension pole

Here's how

STEP 1 Use high-pressure cleaner to clean the deck, working along length of 3–4 boards at a time. Let dry.

STEP 2 Make any repairs and punch exposed nails using a hammer and nail punch. Sweep away dust and debris that may have fallen since cleaning.

STEP 3 Pour a little Timbercolour into tray and use paintbrush to cut in along edges and hard-to-reach areas. Coat remaining decking boards with 2 coats of paint, using roller or applicator, working along length of 3–4 boards at a time for best results. Let dry after each coat.



STEP 1

If the weather is right to hang out your washing, it's safe to stain your deck!

STOCKISTS

Project supplies: Power tools, **Bosch Australia 1300 307 044 bosch.com.au** Ezistep treated pine stringer kit (suits 3 treads), \$122; treated pine domestic stair tread, 240 x 45 x 900mm, \$16 each; Northcote terrazzo pots large in White, \$94.98; gardenia, \$15.43/each; Zenith link chain 3mm, \$5.99/length; Metal Mate plain aluminium sheet 0.05 x 900 x 900mm, \$40.46; Trojan punch 6-piece set, \$21.38; Hartman exterior aluminium shutters in White (see Special Orders counter), \$379/each; Hartman exterior aluminium shutter track kits (Special Orders counter), \$90.85/each; Smart Home Products bistro blinds, 190 x 240cm, \$76.30/each and 200 x 240cm, \$85/each; VuPlex PVC cleaner, \$16.20; 140 x 45mm treated pine, \$7.72/metre; 90 x 45mm treated pine, \$15.45/3m; primed treated pine for balustrade 88 x 88mm, \$28.78/metre, 90 x 42mm, \$10/metre, 66 x 30mm, \$5.70/metre and 90 x 30mm, \$7.95/metre; 85mm batten screws, \$17/pk 50; 50mm screws for treated pine, \$5.75/pk 50, **Bunnings Warehouse bunnings.com.au** Rubbish removal, **Dats Skip Bins 1300 003 287 dats.net.au** Paint, **Dulux 13 25 25, dulux.com.au** Deck Clean

Timbercolour acrylic, tinted to Dulux Wallaby (see Paint Counter for assistance), **Cabot's 1800 011 006 cabots.com.au** Outdoor Furniture Oil, **Feast Watson feastwatson.com.au**
Shopping information: Mimosa deep seat 5-piece setting with cushions, \$899; Fresco timber bench, \$298; timber side table, \$69; Mojo outdoor seat cushions in Charcoal, \$12.90/each; Gardman heritage lantern, \$74.95, **Bunnings Warehouse** Joris cushion, \$149, **Country Road countryroad.com.au** Natural Reindeer Hide, \$349, **Cowhide Rugs Online cowhiderugsonline.com.au** Baylee bottle in Grey, \$29.95, **Domayne domayneonline.com.au** Framework candle holder in Black, \$29.95; Francis cutlery 24-piece set, \$59.95; Orwell side plate in Slate, \$9.95/each, **Freedom freedom.com.au** Odessa linen cushion in Grey, \$59.95, **Homeworks Bed Bath N' Table NSW (02) 9410 2214, Vic (03) 8888 8100** Vargyllen cushion cover in Black and White, \$5/each, **IKEA ikea.com** Basket in White, medium \$35; Timber and iron side table, \$136, **Loft Furniture loftfurniture.com.au** Orissa recycled XL outdoor rug, 270 x 270cm, \$195, **Terrace (02) 9362 5196, terraceoutdoorliving.com.au**