



## **50 ways to make your home shine**

You don't have to spend a fortune on all the season's latest designs and furnishings to update your home for the warmer weather ahead. Preparing for summer can be as simple as throwing open an unused door, cleaning those windows to let the sunshine pour in and updating those tired and worn cushions with a choice from summer's fresh palette.

There's a simple trick here for everyone, courtesy of our panel of decorating experts.

**Stephen Goddard of Stephen Goddard Design says the best way to make over your home is to combine the old with the new:**

1. Paint your front door. First impressions are important.
2. Buy second-hand items for your house. They are better for the world and will help to differentiate you from your neighbours. Being unique takes a little more effort but will set you apart from the pack.
3. Turn several sets of ineffective shelves into one good set: floor to ceiling is good and, positioned in the right place, they will not only afford good storage but can become a feature.
4. Think about replacing worn-out furniture with better quality items. Not only might you love them more but you may be able to ignore this column next year and for the next 10.
5. Buy good art.
6. Fix broken things instead of replacing them. Join the growing trend to make-good instead of make-over.

**Home Beautiful editor Wendy Moore suggests sprucing up the outdoor furniture:**

7. The best thing about summer is the lazy afternoon lunch that rolls into the evening! So give your outdoor furniture a check-up. It's more than likely overdue for a quick clean and if you have timber chairs and tables, a quick oil and polish will have them glowing like new. If it's beyond help, it might be time to invest in a new outdoor set. You can personalise the look with bright cushions thanks to the recent developments in hardy all-weather fabrics - it's a clever way to bring the comfort of indoors out.

8. We're all well-versed about the long, dry Australian summers by now, so the coming hotter weather should get you thinking about installing a water

tank. Set up a clever grey-water system so you can show off your lush, green garden with guilt-free pride.

9. Invest in good outdoor shading, especially for west-facing windows. The most efficient way to keep your house cool is to stop the heat before it hits the glass. The latest awnings are retractable and sensor-operated, so you can make the most of the morning sun and then arrive home to a cool house after a hot day. If you're on a budget, pick up a shade sail for a bargain price and set up your own temporary shade.

10. If the extension is on the back burner, a simple de-clutter might give you the extra space you're looking for. Send old clothes to charity, recycle old electronics, un-stuff shelves and clear surfaces. Go room-by-room and be ruthless. Less stuff means more space, more light and more attention directed to your most personal treasures.

11. Change your curtains to a soft summer sheer - companies like Ikea, Freedom and Spotlight all have a fantastic range of ready-made curtains in sheer fabrics that are perfect for summer - they'll instantly make your room more airy and light-filled without blowing the budget.

**Home designer and stylist, Megan Morton, says it's what's outside that really counts:**

12. Go to the effort of recreating a complete outdoor room. Once set up, you will be amazed how much you use it. Tableware, chairs and cushions for the exteriors are just as beautiful as the ones for inside. Splurge - it's worthwhile to invest in some solid pieces - you will wonder how you ever did without them.

13. Introduce colour. It is a gorgeous way to change the entire feeling and mood of a room. In winter, use chocolate, ecru and lattes (with a hint of Hermes-box orange) and in summer, it's a love letter to blue. This summer I am working with a regal deep blue - it's so chic!

14. Reposition - turn the bed around. Morning sun is beautiful so get your head in the best vantage point. You won't need an alarm clock with natural summer sunshine streaming in.

**Update tableware and freshen up your lounge, says Myer buyer Rebecca Fanelli:**

15. For the table, make any white dinner set look new with fresh napery, including napkins, placemats, runner and tablecloths. Bamboo and cotton-blended designs are ideal for outdoor dining.

16. Hide the clutter with storage solutions that are stylish and modern - like faux leather storage boxes.

17. Add new cushions to your couch in the latest summer colours  
18. Try fresh new cotton sheets for a cool night's sleep.

19. Complement your existing classic white dinner set with new-season plates and bowls in fresh colours and designs.

**Interior designer and author Shannon Fricke gives us her top tips:**

20. Rotate your window treatments from the darker, more heavyweight wintry version, to a lightweight covering in a pale, breezy fabric that gently filters the light. And don't forget to clean the windows so you can harness all that beautiful sunlight.

21. Infuse blue and green into your space - whether through artwork, cushioning or even your napery - as these colours will help make you feel laid-back and relaxed, the way we all want to feel in the summer.

22. Plant pots of summer annuals, such as petunias, either in gentle whites or a bright mix of colour. These will add life and energy to your interior but, most importantly, will also make you smile with every glance.

23. Ditch the doona and go for a sheet and cotton blanket instead to keep you cool on hot nights.

**Bedlinen and manchester company Aura's managing director Tracie Stevens says what happens in the bedroom sets the tone for the home:**

24. Buy a new quilt cover in a soft, subtle tone to create a more harmonious sleeping space.

25. Mix things up a little: clash playful prints with hip shades for a modern look and feel in the bedroom.

26. Spoil yourself with a quilt made from high-quality fibre and soft cotton sheets, perfect for hot summer nights.

27. Personalise your private haven with inviting textures and natural shades by adding a ribbed throw to your bed.

28. Rejuvenate your bedroom with beautiful beaded cushions to add a splash of glamour and sparkle.

**Adding colour, texture and more green are the hottest trends this summer, according to Space Furniture national merchandise manager Tony Flamos:**

29. Add colour - red, yellow, blue, green and gold - to an existing monotone canvas.

30. Add texture and luxury: replace hard steel or aluminium surfaces and furnishings with warmer natural materials such as wood.

31. Get eco-friendly: do your bit to protect the environment by switching to greener sources of energy, such as natural gas or solar.

**Ikea interior-design specialist Lena Ailm says it's all about boxes for inside and setting the right mood outside:**

32. Welcome the summer and store the winter away with boxes and storage solutions that make it easier for you to get organised and sort things out in your home.

33. Change with textiles - this is an easy and quick change and will give you a new impression in your room.

For spring and summer we like to have a lighter expression and maybe we need more colours as well. Instead of painting, it's easy to change colours with textiles.

34. In the kitchen: update your towels, placemats or tablecloths, your curtains, your rug and the chair pads on your dining chairs.

35. In the bedroom: change the bedspread and your quilt covers, the curtain and add a rug next to your bed. Add some nice cushions on the bed that go together with the curtain. Some fabrics work just as nicely as decorations on the wall.

36. Bring the outside in: some new pots and plants for your living room, some new pots filled with fresh herbs in your kitchen or fresh flowers in this season's range of fantastic vases for your bedroom can bring summer into your house.

37. Bring the inside out: create an extra room outside for dinner and barbecues. Check out the latest range of outdoor furniture and add some outdoor lighting and candles - this way you can extend your dinner through the whole night.

38. Set the table: use the new range of plates and glasses to mix and match old crockery with new for a fresh, summery feeling.

**Fabio Fanuli of Fanuli Furniture has luxury in mind:**

39. Create intimacy outdoors through the use of soft lighting, transforming your outdoor environment into a summer haven.

40. An extendable yet stylish table is a necessity during the summer entertaining months.

41. Ensure your outdoor space is clutter-free with sleek-lined outdoor settings, such as the attractive Sushi dining range in alucompact and aluminium.

42. Rattan outdoor sofas create the feeling of being in a luxurious resort, while being easy to maintain because of the weather-proof fabrics and fillings.

43. Reflect the beauty of your surroundings, fill the room with light and expand the space with a mirror. Go for silver and pewter for contemporary rooms or gold and black for classic elegance.

44. You can't go past beautiful Italian sofas that feature removable covers so you can create a summer look with an easy change of fabrics.

**Beautiful on the Inside owner Lana Alsamir-Diamond says to make sure you feel cool underfoot:**

45. Make the most of your outdoor living space, whether large or small.

Go for simple stools that can also be used as coffee tables. If you have a large space, a swing or comfy two-seater will transform it into a cosy area. Add cushions to your outdoor seats for comfort if they don't have any.

46. The right lighting is a must. In summer the day is longer and you want to have that feel of an intimate space when it gets dark, so get some beautiful dim floor, table and pendant lamps rather than lighting up the whole room. Have large candles in clusters in your outdoor space.

47. Surround yourself with less clutter. Summer is the time to rearrange your accessories - go for a mix of large and small pieces and create simple and light stories around your living space - don't be scared to explore new looks and introduce new objects and colours.

**Maxwell & Williams and Casa Domani buying director Mary Sarris-Smith says colourful homewares will add drama to any table:**

48. Think colour. Cheerful porcelain bowls, mugs, cups, saucers and plates in lime, orange, yellow and cobalt blue will make a striking statement.

49. Acrylic jugs, tumblers, high-ball glasses, trays, salad bowls and salad servers are perfect for outdoor entertaining. Try the Fizz range in clear, blue, red and green.

50. The freshness of a floral motif never dates, especially in blue and white.

For further inspiration see

[www.auralifestyle.com](http://www.auralifestyle.com)

[www.beautifulontheinside.com.au](http://www.beautifulontheinside.com.au)

[www.fanuli.com](http://www.fanuli.com)

[www.ikea.com.au](http://www.ikea.com.au)

[www.makingbeautiful.com.au](http://www.makingbeautiful.com.au)

[www.maxwellwilliams.com.au](http://www.maxwellwilliams.com.au)

[www.myer.com.au](http://www.myer.com.au)

[www.shannonfricke.com](http://www.shannonfricke.com)

[www.spacefurniture.com.au](http://www.spacefurniture.com.au)

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## Protecting and identifying your property

Engraving or marking your property leaves no doubt as to its ownership. Not only does it deter others from taking your property because of the difficulties involved in "off loading" identifiable property but it also helps police to recover and return items which may have been stolen

A detailed inventory should be kept of all your property, according to Neighbourhood Watch.

Record serial numbers, makes and models, and when your inventory is complete keep the list in a safe place. Having a personal inventory helps police recover stolen items.

The Real Estate Institute of Queensland (REIQ) is the Neighbourhood Watch program's major sponsor with the two organisations working together to further promote community safety.

Items most often stolen which should be included in a personal inventory include:

### Inside & outside the home

- Televisions
- Video and DVD equipment
- Binoculars
- Radios and stereos
- Microwaves
- Cameras
- Kitchen appliances
- Clothing
- Furniture
- Sporting goods
- Musical equipment
- Computer equipment
- Firearms
- Clocks
- Power tools
- Lawn mowers
- Trailers
- Chainsaws
- Garden tools
- Bicycles
- Welders
- Rotary hoes and slashers
- Tool boxes

### In the car:

- Radios and CD players
- Two way radios
- Speakers
- Mag wheels
- Tools and tool boxes
- Batteries

Free engravers are available for loan from your local police station or Neighbourhood Watch area coordinator. Always seek operating advice before using the engraver as some items are not suitable for marking by electric engraver.