

# decorate

new design best bargain buys insider tips trend alerts product watch



## INSIDESTYLE

with rob ferris

The owner of RainsfordsABC reveals some best buys

### tough stuff

The toughest garlic press I have ever owned – and ours gets a workout! Often the welds break on others, but this one is simple, strong and easy to clean. Raco garlic press, \$34.95, David Jones 8305 3000, [www.davidjones.com.au](http://www.davidjones.com.au).



### clean up

Powered by a lithium battery, this vacuum never loses suction and is quick to recharge. Excellent for cleaning the car, or cleaning up after handyman work. Find similar Dyson handheld vacuums, from \$249, Dyson 1800 239 766, [www.dyson.com.au](http://www.dyson.com.au).



### take a seat

Matt Blatt has the best selection and prices available when it comes to bar stools. The Maple has a hydraulic lift suiting any height bench and an ergonomically moulded seat for comfort. Why shop anywhere else! Maple stool, \$89, Matt Blatt, [www.mattblatt.com.au](http://www.mattblatt.com.au).



### keep cool

Exterior sunscreen blinds are the perfect answer to a cooler room, without making it dark. By stopping the glass from heating up, the room is instantly much cooler and will save you money on cooling and lighting. Sunscreen awnings, POA, RainsfordsABC 8431 4864.



Happy nesting Lisa Stubbs print, \$85. Chinese paper cut, \$60. Umbrella Prints postcards, \$2. Nest Studio 0402 148 542, [www.neststudio.com.au](http://www.neststudio.com.au).

## EATING OUT

If you're not satisfied with paper plates and plastic cutlery, decorate your festive table with the latest outdoor dining treats, writes Sarah Daly

At this time of year, outdoor dining is at an all-time high, and although sometimes a snag in bread will cut the mustard, if you're after something a little more sophisticated there are plenty of dining options available.

Interior designer and owner of Sue Ellemor Interiors Sue Ellemor says: "I think a lot of people have moved toward a much higher level of sophistication in terms of outdoor dining, especially considering many outdoor spaces are protected areas."

The once daggy oilcloth has made a return with the much loved Dandi leading the charge with its bright and bold aprons, tablecloths, napery and placemats. Its Bloom design in Berry helps to add colour and life to an alfresco space.

Of course not everyone is convinced by the return of this playful Aussie favourite and if you're looking for something with a little more texture, there are plenty of interesting outdoor fabrics available, perfect for dressing the table.

"There is a great range of 100 per cent acrylic fabrics that will withstand the sun and won't stain – and they come in the whole gamut of colours and patterns," says Sue.

Melamine plateware just keeps getting better and better; the offerings from SunnyLIFE combine a fresh yellow with white, complemented by a latte colour for a stylish finish.

French Bull ([www.frenchbull.com](http://www.frenchbull.com)) continues to impress with splashes of colour and dazzling patterning on its melamine wares, with everything from lazy Susans and flatware to salad servers and decorative plates.

When it comes to seating, deck chairs are a pretty standard addition to any outdoor space, but they're being jazzed up with chair covers – just make sure they're made from a machine-washable fabric.

Add cushions to your chairs for extra comfort and a nice decorative touch – it's an easy way to introduce a decorating theme, and you can use indoor or outdoor cushions, just remember to take them back inside!

"Cushions in an exterior fabric are a great way to add some colour. If they're made from standard foam, you just have to remember not to leave them out in harsh conditions," says Sue. ■  
Sue Ellemor Interiors, 345 Anzac Hwy, Plympton 8351 0095, [www.sueellemor.com.au](http://www.sueellemor.com.au).



keep it clean Six-seater oilcloth tablecloth, Bloom design in Berry, \$79.95. Dandi, [www.dandi.com.au](http://www.dandi.com.au).



mellow yellow SunnyLIFE melamine Miami range, side plate, \$8.95, salad bowl, \$34.95, platter, \$24.95, SunnyLIFE, [www.sunnylife.com.au](http://www.sunnylife.com.au).