



< cool move

This stylish water carafe is ideal for keeping drinks cool. The carafe is made from porous terracotta, a material believed to help cool the carafe's contents naturally. The Royal VKB Water Carafe is \$49.90, from homewares stores. Phone 9555 2887 or buy online at www.milkandsugar.com.au.

^ tasty dish

The Ethos Arabesque range of melamine serving ware is ideal for outdoor dining. Stylish and durable, the range is available in tarragon green or white, and includes serving trays, platters, and salad and dip bowls. The tray pictured is \$24.95, from homewares and department stores. Phone 8787 4200 or see www.cambur.com.au.

> smash hits

There's no need to take your good china outdoors. The Smash range of melamine tableware is stylish, as well as durable. This smart range is available in a variety of bright colours. Dinner plates are \$6 each, side plates \$5 each and bowls \$5 each, from Kmart. See www.kmart.com.au for more information.



^ take away

It's easy to make the transition from indoors to out with a caddy to help carry everything. SunnyLife's Bamboo Table Caddy (\$44.95) will hold cutlery, sauces, condiments, napery and more. The matching six-piece coaster set is \$24.95, from David Jones. See www.sunnylife.com.au for more information.



outdoors ESSENTIALS

Take it outside

Top must-haves for the outdoor-living area

>> Words Louise Surette

Have you noticed the trend? We're moving outside and we're taking our belongings with us.

Yes, we've well and truly discovered the benefits of creating comfortable and serene outdoor-living spaces where we can live, play and entertain, by decking them out

with the same sort of things we might find inside our homes.

With spring just around the corner, here are a few ideas to help you create a true outdoor-living experience.

But, be warned, you might never want to go inside again.





1 spruce up your space

If you are someone who likes a few accessories dotted around your home, there is no reason to ignore the outside.

Whether it's a glass vase, colourful bowl, or even a handful of tea lights, you'll be impressed at how they transform even the smallest outdoor space.

We love: the Miami throw cushion (above, front), \$44.95, by SunnyLife. Also, the SunnyLife Lacquer Bamboo range (left), which features a serving tray, salad servers and various bowls. Prices start from \$14.95. Both ranges are available in September.



2 cool breeze

Just as important as staying warm is making sure you aren't too hot in your outdoor-living space. A sheltered structure can mean there isn't much air circulation.

A simple solution is to install a fan that will not only keep you cool but will help keep pesky insects at bay. When choosing a fan, make sure it is suitable for outdoors and can withstand all types of weather.

We love: the Tahitian fan, from Beacon Lighting (\$269). This stylish fan will cut a dashing figure in your outdoor room. It is 132cm and inspired by raffia palm branches.



3 art smart

There are just so many stunning outdoor sculptures, water features and wall panels in a huge range of materials on the market that it is hard to ignore them.

Art can bring refinement and style to the back yard, transforming a patio or porch into an actual outdoor room, so just as you might like to admire a beautiful artwork inside your home, do the same outside.

We love: Entanglements' wall panel (\$240) This stunning feature has a rusty metal finish and is laser cut with precision to create a beautiful dragonfly design. >>