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NOVEMBER 2009

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EASY WAYS TO CREATE A WARM AND COSY HOME



PRETTY PROJECTS, CRAFT IDEAS AND SEWING HINTS



AFFORDABLE MAKEOVERS FOR A FRESH NEW LOOK



349 budget buys for every room



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- * Chic shower enclosures
- * Weekend break

DECORATING INSPIRATION

- ✓ Richard Randall's guide to British style
- ✓ Discover how to revamp your furniture
- ✓ Clever room rescues & problem spaces
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Brighten your home with a winter window box

Make a welcoming entrance with a winter window box, perfect for adding a seasonal touch and floral colour to the outside of your home. Try using winter flowers like pansies, violas or cyclamen, or festive berry plants like skimia and solanum, and evergreens like conifers or buxus, which are hardy plants and should stay looking their best all year long. As rain will not necessarily reach your window box, you will need to water your plants to keep soil moist, but during the coldest winter months, once a week should be sufficient.

Image Balcombe Street window box company



Must-do jobs for November

Don't forget to add these top jobs to your to-do list

Help hedgehogs on bonfire night

At this time of year many animals want to go into hibernation, including hedgehogs, slow worms and grass snakes. Sheltered from the wind and the rain, they move into warm and dry piles of wood, which can prove lethal for animals on bonfire night. If a bonfire has been sitting in the same spot for days, hedgehogs, frogs and toads may have crawled in, so give them a chance to escape by simply moving your pile a few meters before lighting. Minimise the risk to wildlife by positioning your fire away from trees, which can get burnt or scorched by the heat.



Make more space

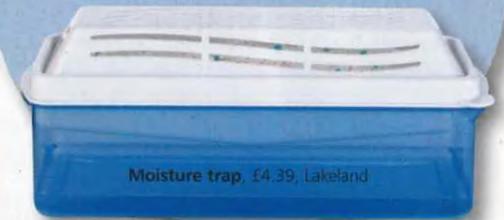
As the weather turns cooler, why not clear away your summer clothes to make space for your winter wardrobe? Try using vacuum storage bags, which will take up a minimal amount of space in a cupboard or your loft, as well as keeping clothes protected from dust and moths. And don't forget to take any unwanted items for recycling or to your local charity shop.

Large vacuum storage bags, £15 for a set of two, Great Little Trading Company



GET RID OF CONDENSATION

If your windows aren't double glazed or your house is prone to damp, invest in a moisture trap to safeguard your home against condensation, damp and mould. This one from Lakeland absorbs water which you can then simply tip away, and lasts for up to three months.



Moisture trap, £4.39, Lakeland

Light up your garden

As cold winter nights start to draw in, brighten up your garden with some outdoor lighting to provide safety and security to your home. Look for any dark spots in corners and behind bushes, and make sure you light any paths or walkways. Choose eco-friendly solar-powered lights for a maintenance-free option.

Border ball lights, £19.99 for two, Leekes



Feature Alison Lovett