

## Domestic bliss FOR THE BUSY WOMAN

**MISSION:** Organise your shed

Have a good clear-out now to create a hard-working space for potting and storage this summer

For where to buy items shown, turn to page 224

**Y**ou spring clean your house, so why not do the same for your shed? And it's the perfect time of year to sort out storage for all your garden paraphernalia.

**CHOOSE** a dry day, and pull everything out onto the lawn. Sweep up any debris then, using an extension lead or a hand-held dust buster, vacuum the inside of the shed.

**MAKE** a pile of rubbish. Be ruthless – if you haven't used an item for two years, get rid of it. And don't leave it to fester for months somewhere else – take it straight to the dump for recycling or, if it's in good condition, a charity shop.

**FIX** a tool rack to the wall of your shed to store spades, forks, rakes, etc, and free up floor space. The Tool hook rail, £24, Garden Trading, pictured right, is perfect.

**HANG** your gloves, secateurs and twine from a simple peg rail, such as IKEA's four-peg Flång, £2.34, and put a single hook right inside the shed door for your kneeler and apron so you can grab them easily.

**BUY** a shelving unit (remember to measure your shed and take your measurements with

you when you shop) to neatly store all your other gear. We like IKEA's Hyllis galvanised-metal four-shelf unit (H140cm x W60cm x D27cm), which costs just £8.16.

**USE** a simple plastic cutlery tray, from 99p, Dunelm Mill, to keep smaller tools tidy on your new shelving unit.

**FIT** in a potting bench if you can. The FSC potting bench, £20 from Morrisons, is a compact solution.

**COLLECT** a few vegetable crates from your local market, or treat yourself to some stylish wooden fruit boxes, £22.50 each, Garden Trading. Stack them under your potting bench to store pots, seed trays and bags of compost.

**ORGANISE** your empty seed packets and catalogues in a plastic folder as a record, and keep seeds safe and dry in a waterproof container such as the Dig For Victory Seed Tin, £7.99, The Contemporary Home.

**LABEL** your mower and any valuable power tools with your house number and postcode using a UV pen, 75p, Amazon.co.uk. If they're stolen, this will make it easier to recover them.

**SIT BACK** and admire your efforts before the serious gardening begins!



'Hide ugly grow bags inside one of Burgon & Ball's willow planters, £19.95, to keep your patio or balcony looking chic and tidy'

Ellie Tennant, Deputy Shopping Editor



*Tip* Wash and dry tools after using them to prevent rust and prolong their life

An organised shed will make summer gardening and outdoor living easier

## 10 beautiful possibilities for May



1 APRON With slot for secateurs £7.99, H&M 2 TOMATOES KIT No garden required £10, Jme 3 KNEELER Tools included £12.99, Strawberry Fool 4 SOAP AND HAND LOTION Clean and hydrate £10 each, Laura Ashley 5 SEED-SPACING RULE Plant nice, neat rows £17.95, Burford Garden Company



## Everyone's talking about ANIMAL HOMES

Welcome wildlife to your garden with these inviting homes

✓ **FROGITAT, £18.95, THE WORM THAT TURNED**  
This cool terracotta hidey-hole is the perfect place for a friendly frog or toad to live. In return for such a posh pad, he'll keep pesky snails and slugs at bay so your hostas, young seedlings and vegetables can grow unmolested.



✓ **THE HOG HOUSE, £30, GARDEN TRADING**  
Place this hedgehog house in a quiet corner of the garden and fill it with dry leaves to attract some friendly visitors. Not only are hedgehogs ultra-cute, but they'll also clear your garden of snails and slugs, and even mice.

✓ **WOODEN BUG GARDEN BOX, £11.99, THE GIFTED PENGUIN**  
Pollinators are always welcome guests in the garden, so give a humble bumble bee or bug a cosy home – hang this little box in a sheltered spot and watch your new friends move in.



## 5 PLANTS FOR GROW BAGS

**1 Aubergines** Sow in February to March indoors, then plant seedlings out into grow bags (two plants per bag) in May. The crop will be ready from July to September.

**2 Chili peppers** In March, sow your seeds indoors. Plant 4cm-tall seedlings in your bags (under a cloche if cold), spaced 25cm apart. In a few weeks, you can start picking.

**3 Cucumbers** Sow seeds in mid-April, then

plant out two seedlings per grow bag at the end of May. Leave the bag in a sunny spot and support the plants with canes. In two months, you'll have a crop to harvest.

**4 Rocket** In March, sow seeds 3cm apart directly into the grow bag. Pick leaves regularly from April to stimulate further growth until the first frosts hit.

**5 Basil** Plant a pot of it in the corner of your grow bag – it will help to keep whitefly at bay.



Grow all kinds of salad leaves, herbs and vegetables easily in grow bags

TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES, FROM A SELECTION. BIG AND BURGON & BALL



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**6 COMPOST BIN (H90cm x D50cm)** Go green £180, Garden Trading **7 POT MAKER** Turn paper into pots £9.99, Love Eco **8 TWINE** Do that string thing £9.95, The Travelling Souk **9 GIANT LABELS (H30cm)** Hard to lose £2.49 each, Burgon & Ball **10 JOURNAL** Plan your plot £14.99, Gettingpersonal.co.uk