



kids 'n' dirt

# DRIFTWOOD PLANTERS

Collecting driftwood is a fun activity and keeps the kids entertained.  
Why not try making these planters in the holidays?

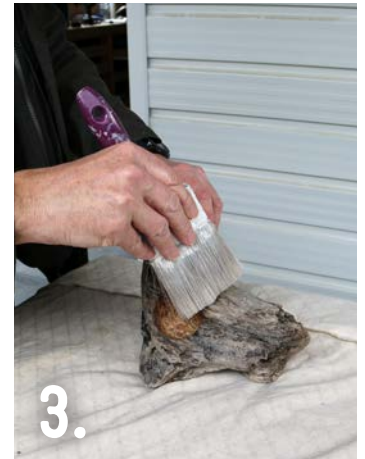
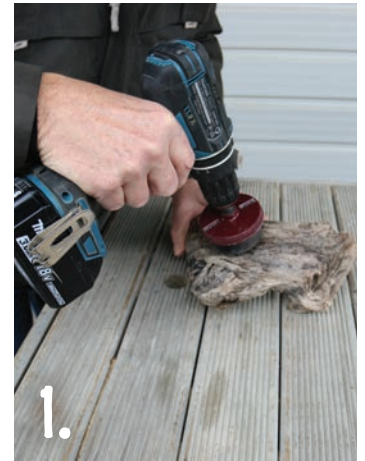
WORDS & PHOTOS ALICE BUSH





## You will need

- 3–4 pieces of good-sized driftwood (natural holes and dips are encouraged but not necessary)
  - Chisel
- Decorative pebbles or stones (found around your garden)
  - Drill with hole saw attachment
- Drop cloth to protect your work surface
  - Hammer
  - Paintbrushes
- Selection of interesting succulents and succulent cuttings
- Selection of Resene testpots
- Sphagnum moss



## Marvellous moss!

When planting succulents, moss is a great alternative to soil. The sphagnum moss we used holds water well for a short amount of time but will then dry out fast. This makes it ideal for succulents and other plants that hate having wet roots.



### COLOURS

- Resene Blue Lagoon
- Resene Gulf Stream
- Resene Java



## Top safety tips

- Adult supervision is advised for this project.
- Always use eye protection when operating power tools.
- Make sure the sharp end of the chisel is pointing away from you and your hand.

### BEFORE YOU START

Collecting driftwood is a great activity to do with the kids! This project needs sizeable pieces, so why not have a competition to see who can find the biggest piece?

When you get the wood home, kill any bugs that might have been in the sea water by having an adult soak the wood in bleach for three days before thoroughly rinsing it off and drying it out in the sun. Alternatively, driftwood can be sanitised in the oven at 100°C.

### STEP ONE

Drill holes into the driftwood using the hole saw drill attachment. Drill one to three holes per piece of wood. Get creative and do a few close together to create a bigger hole!

### STEP TWO

Chisel out the insides of the shape made with the drill. This should be easy depending on how porous your wood is. If your wood is particularly hard, use a hammer, bringing the hammer head down on the end of the chisel. Make sure someone who knows what they're doing helps with this part.

### STEP THREE

To avoid sand and wood getting into your paint, brush the wood down with a dry paintbrush before you start to paint.

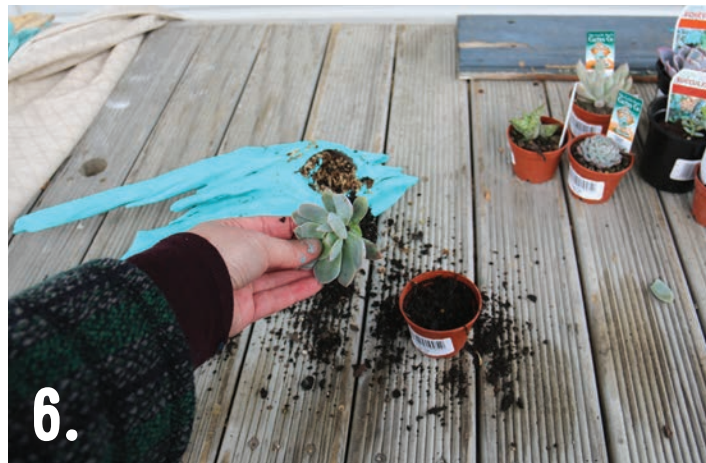
### STEP FOUR

Paint the driftwood in your chosen colours: we used Resene Blue Lagoon, Resene Gulf Stream and Resene Java. The more porous the wood, the more paint it will soak up, so more than one coat might be needed.





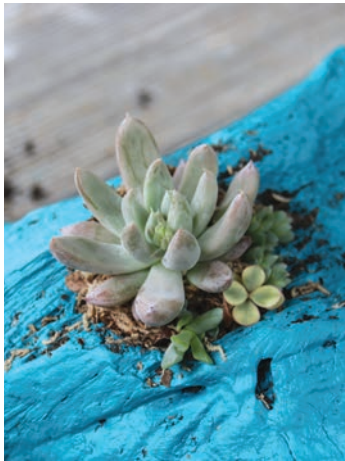
5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.

#### STEP FIVE

Once the paint is dry, half fill holes with a layer of moss.

#### STEP SIX

Choose a succulent that will fit in the hole with room to spare. Remove it from its container and gently massage its roots to remove the majority of the soil.

#### STEP SEVEN

Place the succulent on top of the moss and add more moss around it. Repeat the process until you are satisfied with your arrangement. For some cuttings, you may be able to slide them directly into the moss.

#### STEP EIGHT

To hold your succulents and moss in place, place a few stones around your succulents. You can continue to place stones around the moss as decoration.

#### STEP NINE

Brush off excess dirt and moss from your planters.

#### STEP TEN

Water the succulents thoroughly to help settle them into their new home. Water may soak into the wood or come out the bottom, so take care when watering.

### Paint tips

- For a more natural-looking finish, use Resene Waterborne Woodsman testpots to add colour to the timber while allowing the grain to show through.
- Paint the timber with white Resene Lumbersider and Resene FX Nightlight for a glow-in-the-dark effect.
- Create an ombre effect with your favourite colours by using the darkest at the bottom and the lightest at the top.

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the paint the professionals use