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□ Resene Pickled Bluewood

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Create your own WATER GARDEN

Enjoy water-loving plants in any part of the garden with this easy-to-build water planter.

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YOU WILL NEED

Materials

- 100-litre heavy-duty plastic storage bin (ours was a Number 8 brand storage box from Mitre 10)
- 200mm x 50mm tongue and groove landscaping timber cut to the following lengths:
 - 850mm (x 4)
 - 510mm (x 4)
- 100mm x 50mm treated timber cut to the following lengths:
 - 850mm (x 2)
 - 410mm (x 2)
- 100mm exterior screws
- Resene Waterborne Woodsman penetrating oil stain tinted to Resene Pickled Bluewood
- Small block of wood

Tools

- Caulking gun with tube of waterproof silicon sealer
- Hammer
- Paint stirrer
- Paintbrush
- Pencil
- Sandpaper
- Saw
- Screwdriver
- Tape measure

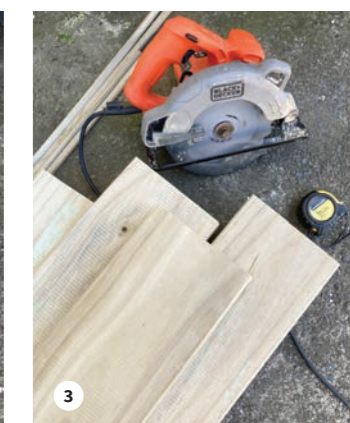
Step 1 Remove the plastic handles from the 100-litre storage bin and seal the small holes where the handles were fixed using a small amount of waterproof silicon sealer. Allow the silicon to cure.

Step 2 Measure, mark and cut the 200mm x 50mm tongue and groove landscaping timber to the required lengths.

Step 3 Using a saw, carefully remove the 'tongue' from two of the 850mm lengths and two of the 510mm lengths of tongue and groove landscaping timber and then smooth any rough edges with sandpaper.

Step 4 On a flat surface, assemble the other four pieces of tongue and groove landscaping timber to form a rectangular frame, as shown, fixing at each corner with 100mm exterior screws. Ensure the 'tongue' edge of each piece is uppermost.

Step 5 Place the four remaining pieces of trimmed tongue and groove landscaping timber into position on top of the rectangular frame, as shown, once again fixing with 100mm screws – you may need a hammer and a small block of wood to tap the tongue and groove edge tightly together. Securely fix the two timber layers together at each corner with a 100mm exterior screw driven in at a downward angle.



Top tip

Always double-check measurements when building your own planter as the dimensions of your storage box or any dressed timber may vary slightly.



Handy hint
Ensure that the planter is positioned with appropriate levels of sun or shade for your preferred plants.



Step 6 Measure, mark and cut the 100mm x 50mm timber to the required lengths and smooth any rough edges with sandpaper.

Step 7 Attach the four pieces of 100mm x 50mm timber to the top edge of the base, as shown, fixing with 100mm screws.

Step 8 Carefully stir the Resene Waterborne Woodsman penetrating oil stain tinted to Resene Pickled Bluewood.

Step 9 Apply two coats of Resene Waterborne Woodsman penetrating oil stain

tinted to Resene Pickled Bluewood to the visible parts of the planter box, allowing each coat to dry.

How to set up your water planter

Place the plastic storage bin in position, making sure that it's level in both directions, and then lift the wooden cover into place to conceal the sides and top edge of the plastic bin. Fill the bin with water and then place an appropriate potted water-loving plant into the water planter. (Many thanks to Andrew at Wanganui Garden Centre for supplying the water lily used in this project.)

Here's another idea

You can also use your planter to grow bog-loving plants. Simply drill two or three small drainage holes in the base and fill with potting mix and water, before adding plants. As the water slowly drains, you may need to top it up from time to time.