



Totally tropical



Take a boring back patio and turn it into your own tropical escape, writes **Richard Stevens**

#1 Clean it up

As the economy tightens more and more people are turning their attentions inward, concentrating on making their home "comfortable". So have you got a neglected area or patio that could do with a spruce up? It's easy with some paint, a few bamboo blinds and tropical furniture. After you've identified the area for your own oasis, clear it out. If it has a bare concrete floor, give it a lick of paving paint. If it's got open walls or lattice, hang some bamboo blinds for privacy. We sourced our blinds from Bunnings.

#2 Dress it up

So you've got the basics done, now it's time to dress it up. Add a floor mat to make the area feel more "indoors". A classic tropical lounge provides plenty of seating. To really give this area more pizzazz add some accessories. In keeping with the tropical theme we accessorised with bamboo, dark timbers and colourful cushions. These cushions really add zing to the area, and the combination of cool, modern colours teamed with the various natural tones proved the perfect cooling tropical oasis.

 **SPRUCE UP A NEGLECTED AREA OR PATIO WITH SOME PAINT, BAMBOO BLINDS AND TROPICAL FURNITURE** 



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