

hints & how-tos Home

Dispel dinner disasters with easy cleaning tips, find pretty, practical pieces online, and discover some items to add to your wish list. By Sarah Allen.



Things we love

Art underfoot Joining the league of design luminaries who have collaborated with Designer Rugs, the duo behind fashion label Easton Pearson have lent its talents to the rug trade. Among the striking collection is 'Moon and Shadow' (pictured). www.designerrugs.com.au.

Picnic plates New from Australian lifestyle brand sunnyLIFE comes 'Miami', a range of picnic-proof melamine in a cheerful mix of soft lemon, white and neutral tones, from \$8.95. www.sunnylife.com.au.

Twist and shake Bodum must have looked to the

Leaning Tower of Pisa for inspiration when designing the sleek 'Round' battery-powered pepper grinder, \$149. Available in a range of colours to rival the rainbow. Call 1800 209 999.

Expert espresso Cute, compact and easy to use, the Lavazza A Modo Mio, from \$299, makes espresso just the way you like it using cutting-edge capsule technology. Vacuum-sealed capsules are \$11.99 for a box of 16. Easy peasy! www.lavazzamodomio.com.au.



SECONDlife

Reclaim, reuse and reinvent everyday items.

From dish dryer to reusable giftwrap

A bottle of wine or quality olive oil is sure to be well received at a housewarming party, so long as your good intentions aren't eclipsed by bad presentation. Notoriously awkward to wrap, why not avoid paper (or, heaven forbid, the bottle-shop bag) and instead dress your gift with a pretty tea towel. Lay the tea towel on a flat surface and place the bottle at one end, top aligned with the edge of a long side. Fold the excess fabric up over the base of the bottle to form a pocket and begin to roll, maintaining the fold along the bottom edge of the tea towel as you go. Secure with a coordinating ribbon at the neck.



BRIGHT IDEA

It's often relegated to the 'I'll do it later' list, but garbage duty can be made a little less gruesome by lining your bin with several bags. That way, when it's time to take out the trash, a new bin liner will already be in place.

Expert tip.

To look after timber tables and furniture, always have a dish of water somewhere in the room and wax each treasured piece sparingly every six months.

Sally Beresford, owner of Sally Beresford Antiques, Woolahra, Sydney, is passionate about fine furniture and breathing new life into beautiful aged timber. Visit www.sallyberesford.com.au.