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REAL HOMES

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SUMMER STYLE

Fresh new-season updates for your home & garden





Slim picks

Thin is in with Bushboard's new stone and marble-effect worktops. Made from a premium compact laminate, they're only 12.5cm thick, for the refined look of the real thing. Strong, durable and waterproof, Zenith can be used as a surface or splashback, and performs as well as natural materials – without the price tag. Available in 20 colours, it can offer the veining of marble, the grains of granite, or the industrial look of concrete. A three-metre work surface costs from £300.



STAY SAFE

With holidays approaching, it's reassuring to know all is well at home while you're enjoying a (very) well-earned break. Ezviz's new outdoor security camera has colour night vision for even more vivid pictures. It can also recognise human shapes, and quickly flashes its spotlights to put off intruders. The video can be live streamed to your smartphone via the EZVIZ App. The CJFN is just £44.99 from Very.

Bathroom beauty

White ceramic is a bathroom classic, making it seem cool and clean. But adding colour brings a whole different feeling. This Sea Green double drawer unit from Utopia's new You range adds lots of useful storage, but the calming shade also brings a freshness that pairs beautifully with natural tones and textures. It's a real showpiece.



Sea Green double drawer unit, from £678. Quantum Square ceramic slabtop basin, £260. Divine basin matt black monoplec mixer, £190. Utopia

Nouveau semi-circular knob in Luminous Red, £12.99. Dowsing & Reynolds



Milliner knob in antique brass, from £14.40. Corston Architectural Detail



Rectangular hammered cabinet knob in silver, from £10.68. Heritage Brass

With knobs on

Pull your look together with some striking knob handles for your units. They can be an instant upgrade during a makeover or the finishing touch to new storage.

Smooth runnings

Victoria Brocklesby, COO at Origin (origin-global.com), looks at the best thresholds for bi-fold doors

Q What type of thresholds are there for bi-folds?

A There are two types available for a bi-fold door system like ours. Non-weathered is when the threshold is almost completely flush to the floor. A weathered threshold, sometimes called rebated, has a small lip on one edge of the track that the seal on the bottom of the bi-fold door compresses against for a weathertight seal.

Q What are the benefits of the different types?

A Thresholds are important as they also act as the track where the carriage slides to open and close the door. Weathered thresholds give greater protection against the elements, rain and draughts, so are perfect for doors that open externally. Although they have a lip, they can be recessed into the floor, which leaves a minimal step. Non-weathered thresholds offer a flat transition from one side to the other. As the door seal doesn't have a solid lip to compress against, the same level of weather performance can't be guaranteed. However, they offer a completely seamless passage.

Q How do you pick which one is right?

A Lifestyle and location are the two main considerations. If you're a family with children or mobility issues, a non-weathered threshold is best as there's nothing to potentially trip over. This type is also a good idea if the door is internal or inside a porch. In a place with high rainfall or one that's prone to flooding, we recommend a weathered threshold.

Q How easy are they to maintain?

A High-quality bi-fold doors are generally very low maintenance. Dirt or debris getting into the track, which can affect the smooth operation, can be brushed or vacuumed out with a thin attachment.