

AUSTRALIAN

WHERE INSPIRATION LIVES

HOUSE & GARDEN

100%
Australian
homes

Garden special
Inspiration from the
Chelsea Flower Show

THE
BUDGET
ISSUE

Fab, family
& frugal
*One living room
three ways!*

BIG DESIGN
IDEAS FOR A
small block

**STYLE ON A
SHOESTRING**

Lamps, fabric
& bright buys
for kids

FINANCIAL
HOUSEKEEPING
CHECKLIST

WORLD OF STYLE

GORGEOUS GLOBAL LOOKS IN OUR OWN BACKYARD





PRIVATE EYES

It's easier than ever to attain professional beauty results in the comfort of your own home, writes Elisabeth King.

We all love professional results when it comes to looking after our skin and hair; more so without the hefty price tag. That's why at-home beauty devices that promise everything from radiant skin to smooth hairless legs and perfectly styled hair are one of the hottest beauty trends.

But, as with most things you use for the first time, caution and patience are essential. It pays to thoroughly read the instruction booklets, especially when trialling beauty gadgets such as instant-heat hair straighteners and electronic hair removers.

STRAIGHT SHOOTERS

Sleek and straight has become the hair mantra of many women but achieving the shiny tresses of 35-plus celebrities such as Jennifer Aniston and Jennifer Lopez takes time, skill and commitment. Hair-appliance technology is changing rapidly and the latest crop of hair dryers and straighteners really delivers.

Over the past few years, ceramic and ionic technologies have revolutionised the market. They not only do less damage to the hair, they help it to dry faster and retain natural moisture.

One top-performing new release is the VS Sassoon Total Protection Ceramic Intense Professional AC Dryer (\$63). The ceramic intense technology produces an even heat during styling and a powerful

AC motor dries hair up to 50-per-cent faster for minimal heat damage. Ionic conditioning technology is also in the mix to reduce hair static and leave hair shiny.

Electrical appliances can chew up a lot of energy, so many manufacturers are developing more environmentally friendly products. The Parlux 3800 ionic and ceramic dryer (\$190) is not only emission-friendly, it comes with a built-in silencer. All the components and packaging are non-toxic.

Ceramic hair straighteners are one of the success stories of home hair care from the past decade. The ghd Eclipse (\$300) won the gong for Most Innovative Professional Hair Styling Tool at the 2014 Australian Hair Fashion Awards and uses patented tri-zone technology to maintain a constant heat of 185°C from root to tip. The result? This constant, even temperature straightens and closes the hair cuticles, strengthening resilience to breakage to produce a frizz-free finish. The one-stroke styling also allows you to take thicker bunches of hair for faster styling and is a godsend for shorter ends that won't 'behave'.

There's also a solution for women who want naturally, rather than precisely, straight hair. The Philips ProCare Airstyler (\$80) is an all-in-one dryer that adds volume, body and waves



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and comes with a paddle straightening brush for smoothing those tresses. The ThermoProtect feature produces an optional drying temperature so you can re-straighten dry hair.

Most electric curlers come in one size. VS Sassoon's new range of ceramic hair curlers come in three barrel sizes to cater for all hair length and thicknesses; 19mm for defined curls (\$25), 25mm for medium curls and bounce (\$30) and 38mm for loose waves and big curls (\$35).

HAIR BE GONE

When you consider that laser hair removal by professional therapists can run into thousands of dollars, the \$800 price tag of the Remington i-Light Pro Face & Body is a good deal. A hand-held hair-removal device that emits intense pulses of light through a quartz flash lamp, its energy is absorbed by hair follicles under the skin's surface. The 'shock', which you don't feel, suppresses hair growth. It is suitable for use on legs, underarms, the bikini line, chest, back, arms and face. Small areas (about

2cm) are treated at a time and hair growth is reduced within two weeks.

RADIANT CLEAN

Depending on how it's done, cleansing the face can either improve the skin or dehydrate and damage it. Any dirt, oil or bacteria left after cleansing can also prevent anti-ageing moisturisers and serums from penetrating the skin. Today, women are using sunscreens, long-lasting make-up and self-tanners on a regular basis, so it's important to properly cleanse the face.

The Clarisonic Pro (\$285) was the first sonic oscillation face brush and has been a global hit. The micro-massaging action deep cleanses the skin and helps to reduce pore size, increasing the effectiveness of moisturisers and serums.

Looking to test the theory more cheaply? The Olay Regenerist Advanced Cleansing System (\$33) is electronic - not sonic - but also features a micro-massaging action that vibrates at 350 times per minute to thoroughly remove make-up and exfoliate the skin. **H&G**

MAN POWER

With Father's Day on the horizon, here are some grooming gifts:

- ❖ Remington VacGroom 2-in-1 Beard Trimmer (\$100). Say goodbye to whiskers in the sink. This handy trimmer boasts two vacuum attachments to eliminate post-shave mess and trim beards in minutes.
- ❖ Braun CoolTec (\$229). Electric shavers are handy for frequent flyers and to tuck into the office drawer for quick trims but pressing too hard can cause irritation. This hi-tech model boasts Thermo-Electric-Cooling Technology, which actively cools the skin to minimise razor drag.

Home comforts



VacGroom 2-in-1 Beard Trimmer, \$100, Remington. i-Light Pro Face & Body, \$800, Remington. Clarisonic Pro, \$285 (includes cleansers and skin polish), Clarisonic. 3800 dryer, \$190, Parlux. ghd Eclipse, \$300, ghd. Ceramic curler (25mm), \$30, VS Sassoon. For Where to Buy, see page 204.