

A close-up photograph of a white picket fence. The fence is made of vertical wooden slats with pointed tops. In the foreground on the left, there is a vibrant pink rose with green leaves. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the fence and some greenery.

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over the fence

When thinking about a new fence, go for long-lasting, recycled and environmentally friendly treatments. Reusable fence posts and palings can be purchased from recycling facilities (formerly known as 'tips') and second-hand building suppliers. Buy new materials from sustainable sources like bamboo and plantation timber. Wire fences are also available second-hand or constructed from recycled metals. If you're just after a simple garden or pet fence, recycled plastic ones are available from hardware stores. Prolong the life of your fence by protecting it with non-toxic pest and rust deterrents.

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green clean your car



Cleaning the car is a weekend ritual that shouldn't be left un-greened! Avoid the use of chemical-based car polishes and detergents. There are new, waterless cleaning products on the market or you can adapt your household green-cleaning kit to your car (using bicarb to deodorise your car's carpets, for example). Don't use the hose – washing your car with hose in hand can waste around 180 litres of precious water. Ideally, wash your car with a bucket of water on the grass, not in the driveway, so that your lawn can benefit from the extra water. And there's a good argument for letting the pros do it for you, as long as you choose a carwash that uses biodegradable, non-toxic detergents and recycled water.

Photo: Marian Kyte