



## shelf control

Go on, flaunt your hang-ups with some floating shelves



Why not indulge your shelf-ish streak? Clear those surfaces of annoying clutter and go to the wall with floating shelves – fixed to the wall with a backplate instead of visible brackets.

Play around with the shelves to create interesting visual effects: place them directly above one another or offset at angles (though it pays to keep them horizontal!), or choose different lengths. Go for timber or white, which looks great

on a white wall if you really want to flaunt vases and books, creating a three-dimensional artwork.

Use these handsome hang-ups in any room of the house and, for an extra layer of storage, add a row of hooks along the bottom shelf.

The recommended maximum weights for the IKEA shelves, shown here, are 5kg for the 110cm shelf and 8kg for the 190cm shelf. So don't use them to display your encyclopedias!

Hang about: Blue Chiffon flat paint, \$59.07/four litres, Wattyl. Lack oak veneer wall shelves, \$59 each, IKEA. Togo sofa, \$4092, Ligne Roset. Egg lamp, \$138, stripe cushion, \$175, cotton cushion, \$175, all Orson & Blake. Ripple vases, small \$25, small rectangle, \$20, large \$35, all Papaya. Books, Ariel Booksellers. For stockists see page 165

## hb 5-minute makeover

**Top to bottom:** Lack lacquered shelves, \$49 each, IKEA. Kikki.K stationery, from \$11.95, box pencil cup, \$39, all Orson & Blake. Natural ringbinders, \$16 each, oil burner, \$12, journals, from \$10, all Papaya. Clock, \$210, Dinosaur Designs. Marble plate, \$95, Orson & Blake. Pitcher, \$60, Iittala glass \$25/two, Fido jar, \$7.50, Jasper Conran jug, \$45, City Life sugar bowl, \$45, mugs (hanging) \$27 each, all Peter's of Kensington. Square canister, \$20.95, Wheel&Barrow. White salt & pepper shaker, \$29, Papaya. Kaffe plunger \$35, IKEA. Beauty products from Plane Tree Farm, Orson & Blake. Glass canisters, from \$9.95, Wheel&Barrow. Blue towels, from \$12, IKEA. White bath towel, \$59, Orson & Blake. Square canister, \$25.95, Wheel&Barrow. Olde English biscuit barrel, \$19.95, Maxwell & Williams. Huggy flower pot, \$176, Ligne Roset.

Installing floating shelves is easy when you know how:

- Look for a stud...um, that is, the timber support in the wall where you'll insert some of your screws. Studs are typically 40cm apart so, unfortunately, not all your screws will have such a firm base. (The 110cm Lack shelf has 10 screws to attach it to the wall, on a 65cm-long backplate).
- For brick and stonework, insert masonry anchors into plastic wall plugs, available from hardware stores.
- For plaster or Gyprock walls, you'll need Dynabolt Cavity Anchors, also from hardware stores. They're screws that cleverly open on the inside of the wall, just like a brollie.

- Blu Tack cardboard cutouts to the wall to decide where you are going to hang your shelves, because, once they're up, it's too late to change your mind.
- Now this may sound obvious, but make sure the shelves are level. If you don't have a spirit level, hang a weight on an end of string to find the vertical line, then use a right-angled ruler to find the horizontal level.
- To avoid mistakes later on, mark with a pencil where you're going to drill the holes. Start the hole with a drill, then insert the screws. Finally, slide on the shelf, arrange knick-knacks, and admire your handiwork. Easy! **hb**

For stockists see page 165