

FROM THE GHI Institute



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At the Good Housekeeping Institute, our mantra is simple: we don't take any claims or promises at face value, and any advice we give is impartial. This forms the backbone of everything we do – from food and product testing to our household, money and tech advice. The GHI tests hundreds of products every month, from steam irons to smartphones, to help you buy the best.

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ON OUR RADAR

Perfect for over a dining table or kitchen island, this pendant, made at a family-run factory in Italy, makes a real statement.

Lucia rise and fall pendant, £528, Hector Finch (hectorfinch.com)

Wallace Cotton makes its first appearance in the UK. It is all about layering and mixing and matching to create a lovely relaxed look. Elm knitted pom pom throw, £69, duvet cover set, £90, Loca Vida white and black quilt, £125, standard pillowcase, £25, square tassel cushion, £35, all Wallace Cotton (wallacecotton.co.uk)



GHI TIPS

How to get your worktops gleaming

❖ Natural solid surfaces

To clean black granite, use a solution of washing-up liquid and hot water and buff to a shine with an e-cloth. There are many proprietary sprays available, such as Worktop Wonder from Lakeland, £9.99.

❖ Stainless steel

To clean, wash with washing-up liquid in hot water and dry with a soft cloth. Don't use abrasive cream cleaners. If you just want to remove finger marks, put a dab of baby oil or rinse aid on a clean cloth and rub the whole surface.

❖ Laminates and man-made composites

Wipe with diluted washing-up liquid or use an anti-bacterial all-purpose kitchen spray. Use a cream cleaner to remove staining. If the surface is textured, use a nylon bristled brush. It's safe to use solvents on laminates so tackle stubborn marks with white spirit or nail polish remover. Rinse thoroughly. Chips and small scratches can be repaired with a laminate repairer or sealant. To remove scratches, rub with medium and fine-grade sandpaper in a circular motion. Buff well with a soft cloth.

This pretty screen-printed bone china mug is new from Thornback & Peel. Blackbird & Bramble mug, £15 (thornbackandpeel.co.uk)



Artist and textile designer Helen Hallam takes her inspiration from nature. Kynance cushion (60 x 30cm), £49, Helen Hallam (helenhallam.com)



A subtle geometric design will add interest to a wall without dominating a room. Danton Wallcovering, Chalk, W413/01, £67 per roll (romo.com)



Carolyn Bailey

Home Ed's picks

This recycled vase has a vintage look and will hold a couple of branches or stems nicely. Izolia vase, £47, La Redoute



Ikea has collaborated with designer Tom Dixon to create a range of modular furniture that can be personalised. Delaktig armchair with side table and lamp, £460, Ikea



Pretty and practical, this mirror will fit easily into small bags. Cherry blossom mirror, £7.50, Charles Tottenham (charlestottenham.com)

