

StarSpecial

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THE ART OF HOME & LIVING



Room for improvement

Inject some style and pizzazz to your home by incorporating something new, such as a fresh coat of paint to your walls, an artwork or even some plants.

Roofing communities for a greater cause

NS BlueScope has always had a keen focus on building a strong bond with the community at large.

During the pandemic, the company noted a large number of communities struggling to recover from the impact of the economic downturn.

To address this issue, the company rallied industry players and unrolled its "Roofing Our Communities" initiative in partnership with the company's official roof manufacturer, United Seasons Sdn Bhd and other partners – MKT Marketing Sdn Bhd and SkyBuil Sdn Bhd.

"Roofing Our Communities" is all about reaching out to help roof homes and community buildings that require new roofs, as proper shelter is a basic need and a necessity that enables those struggling to have a safe, secure and comfortable space to rebuild their lives.

The initiative aims to help improve the lives of communities and enable residents to live an improved lifestyle without needing to worry about the roof over their heads.

NS BlueScope Malaysia Marketing vice-president Ken Wong said: "We believe having a proper shelter is more than just a roof over your head. The technology we have invested in our steel, such as heat reduction, allows for better comfort and longer-lasting use – this is meant for everyone to enjoy."

"We want to get industry players together to help people afford such



basic needs as shelter and bring everyone together to see how we can contribute to the community around us. This is how 'Roofing Our Communities' came about."

United Seasons Sdn Bhd managing director Ben Shariff Abdullah added: "This campaign appeals to us as a company and our sense of humanity and compassion to reach out and help others in need. This is a noble cause to help the people and community around us."

The initiative has been able to provide roof replacement for two residential buildings located in Negri Sembilan.

This project involved a long value chain, starting from the material itself to the roof forming and installation using the right accessories and installers.

United Seasons and the other partners have taken a crucial role in this.

At each step of the process, everyone involved shared the same positive vision and absorbed the costs and labour incurred in the interest of bettering the community.

NS BlueScope country president, Koh Boon Hong commented: "Strength is choosing to do what is right with what we do best. Having

a proper shelter especially during the rainy season is a basic and essential right but unfortunately, there are still those deprived of this. With this initiative, we pledge to continuously contribute to the well-being of our communities."

Members of the community have extended their heartfelt gratitude saying "it's a very good campaign and we really appreciate it."

"Thanks to BlueScope and the roof installers, we could celebrate the festival with each other more comfortably," said a family who got a new roof just in time to celebrate Hari Raya.

Ben added: "We feel good knowing we have helped people in need. Business is not just about profit, it also means being aware of social issues and trying to help as much as we can."

"Roofing Our Communities" is a recurring campaign and those who know of neighbours, friends or family in need can select them to be a recipient of a new roof when nominations are open.

Do keep a lookout for updates here: <https://www.nsbluescope.com/my/my-roc/> if you have any queries on "Roofing Our Communities".



(Left) A recipient of the roof replacement provided under the 'Roofing Our Communities' initiative. (Top) Wong (left) and Ben explaining about the initiative and its aims.

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How to get rid of unpleasant smells in the washing machine

IT might not feel right if you're trying to conserve energy, but it's actually a good idea to run your washing machine at a high temperature at least once a month, to kill off microorganisms.

Otherwise, you may wind up with an unpleasant smell as the organisms from dirty laundry multiply in the damp interior of the machine.

All that bacteria and fungi are normal and come from food, people's skin, soil, plants and animal hair – all of which wind up in the machine along with your dirty clothes.

That can lead to a layer of slime made up of bacteria and fungi – known as biofilm – that sometimes smells bad and, unfortunately, can also ruin the sweet smell of your freshly washed clothes.

The good news is that no dangerous germs are brewing in there, according to a German laundry association. But run a wash that is 60°C or higher once a month at least, they say. Add in a heavy-duty or multi-purpose detergent that contains bleach.

Otherwise, if you are using a stain remover that contains bleach in a particular load of laundry, then that should be sufficient, when combined with liquid detergent or gel capsules.

Another way to stop microorganisms from multiplying is to open up the door of the washing machine, or the lid to the drum and the rinse chamber, after each wash to let the interior dry out.

Meanwhile, wiping the rubber seal and the inside of the door not only absorbs moisture but also removes any bits of lint or hair left in there from your last wash.

It's best to regularly clean out the rinse chamber to get rid of any detergent residues too.

If there is still a lingering funny smell, then it could be because the lint filter is full.

You might also want to ensure that the water inflow and outflow are free to make



One way to stop microorganisms from multiplying is to open up the door of the washing machine, or the lid to the drum and the rinse chamber, after each wash, to let the interior dry out.

sure there is always enough water in the machine, as that is the only way the detergent can be dissolved properly, and that suds and rinse water can drain off properly.

In general, high temperatures aren't needed for most wash cycles, say the experts.

It's sustainable and saves energy if you wash your clothes at low temperatures of 30°C or 40°C, which is usually plenty to get rid of the dirt.

But a hot wash now and again is still a good idea to stop any unfortunate smells from developing. — dpa

A screen for home security

WE often worry about unwanted “guests” such as intruders, stray animals and annoying insects that may affect our security and health.

Mesh-Secure premium security doors and windows are an effective way to maintain security while allowing clear vision and ventilation.

This aesthetic and functional product is of Australian ingenuity.

Mesh-Secure screens are meticulously woven from high-tensile wire into a stainless steel mesh of superior quality and strength, which is guaranteed against rust for 20 years

The screens allow a free flow of fresh air into your home, naturally cooling the living space.

At night, windows can be left

open without worries.

The high-tensile mesh is resilient and almost impossible to cut or break. In an emergency, locks and handles can be easily opened from inside.

Mesh-Secure security screens are custom-made and come in a variety of colours. The frames are powder-coated to fulfil a product lifetime of over 10 years.

The frames are made from heavy-duty aluminium and Mesh-Secure’s product development team can custom design its products to meet architectural design and security requirements.

Mesh-Secure’s product range includes awning windows, casement windows, hinged doors, sliding doors and windows, stacker

doors, fixed panels, pool fencing and balustrade.

The company has spent considerable resources on engineering its products to pass numerous tests.

Mesh-Secure comes in three different specifications depending on your budget and requirement.

☒ To view Mesh-Secure’s products, visit the showroom at 7, Jalan Teknologi 3/3A, Surian Industrial Park, Kota Damansara (9am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday) by appointment only.

Call for appointments on public holidays. Dealer enquiries are welcome. Call 1300 88 MESH (6374) or 03-6156 1615 or log on to www.meshsecure.com.my for details.



Mesh-Secure screens are meticulously woven from high-tensile wire into a stainless steel mesh of superior quality and strength.



If sound is coming from next door, putting bookshelves, wardrobes and cupboards against the connecting wall can act as a second sound insulating barrier.

Soundproof your home

IS noise driving you bananas? Here are a few tips to cut down on disturbing noise.

1) For sound that comes from your own things, dedicate a whole day to fixing flapping cooking hoods, rickety air conditioners and squeaky fans. Usually, all it takes is a bit of WD40 or equivalent and a screwdriver but if you’re stuck, invite a DIY hobbyist friend and make a nice thank-you lunch.

2) If sound is coming from next door, putting bookshelves, wardrobes and cupboards against the connecting wall can act as a second

sound insulating barrier. It may mean moving things around a bit but the effects are really worth it.

3) Karaoke rooms are soundproofed with the help of acoustic tiles. You can buy these from good hardware, home and music shops.

For general research, type acoustic tile site:.my into Google (that’s a colon and a full stop before the my). Install them with double-sided tape in rented accommodation or permanently with glue in your own home.

4) If you own property, and there’s traffic, consider double-

glazing. It’s an investment that also pays off in that it helps keep cool air in and hot air out.

5) Thick rugs and thick curtains can muffle outside sounds. For noisy downstairs neighbours, a thick layer of insulation topped with carpet can help.

6) White noise machines sound like a breeze or wind in the trees. These then mask outside sounds by covering them.

Some white noise machines are sophisticated programmes that can mimic ocean waves, birdsong and other soothing rhythms.



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