

By Deborah Stone

BEFORE autumn sets in it's worth spending some time with a paint brush, hammer and nails to ensure you can still enjoy relaxing in your garden during the months ahead. Repair, repaint, renew should be the mantra of every garden owner during the late summer period, with particular attention to anything wooden.

Chantel Rose Pidduck, paint and woodcare buyer at Homebase recommends four ways to weatherproof your garden, with oiling outdoor furniture the quickest way to apply a water-resistant layer to any wood.

"All you need to do is choose the colour finish and then apply with a brush," she says.

Varnishing wood gives it a protective layer and staining wood will give it a lift while retaining the grainy look.

For bold colour statements there's paint. Several brands now produce outdoor paint in colours ranging from mossy greens to vibrant pinks.

Choice

For non-gardeners, says paint manufacturer Johnstone's, the ideal way to inject colour into your outdoor space, or completely change the look of your garden furniture, is with paint.

For decking there are several brands to choose from but Ronseal's Decking Rescue Paint fills small cracks and locks down splinters, while offering a choice of colours or a natural look.

And Hayley Thornton, head of home and leisure at Wyevale Garden Centres says resin wicker rattan furniture just needs to be regularly washed with a simple cleaning solution to keep it free from algae and ready for use.

Roll on autumn patio parties and winter barbecues.

Add a splash of colour



GROWING TRENDS: Wyevale sells a range of garden furniture and a variety of plants and tools (wyevalegardencentres.co.uk)



Child-safe paint brand Frenchic's new AI Fresco range transforms this shed with Apple Of My Eye, £16.95 for 750ml (01276 469757; frenchicpaint.co.uk)

Valspar Garden and Decking Colours from B&Q are weatherproof with UV protection, £22 for 2.5 litres (diy.com)

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