



REALLY USEFUL ideas & bargains



Svedala cushions (from £29), from Nordic Style

Alison Cork turns a bath into a chaise, a few leftovers into a scrumptious soup and a bee-covered cushion into an eco-friendly design statement

OFFER OF THE WEEK



More flooring from the superb Natural Flooring Company (from the superb Natural Flooring Company)

Floor with more

AS FLOORING companies go, The Natural Flooring Company is among the best. It's a small, family-run business that uses natural materials, such as coir, sisal, seagrass, jute and wool, to make tough, hard-working carpets. The installation service is good, too — thanks to its 20 years of experience in the business.

The firm can also supply hand-made rugs and runners in any width, length or fibre, and with any border, delivered to your door.

The flooring, the underlays and all adhesives used for fitting are ecologically sound, and its newly launched Eco Collection is made of 100 per cent wool, all of which is ethically produced and then processed in an environmentally friendly way.

The new range is available exclusively to Homes & Property readers for £34.95 a square metre (that's instead of the usual price of £39.95 a square metre) including VAT, but excluding fitting.

Simply mention this offer when calling 01952 825459, or emailing info@thenaturalflooringcompany.com, before 5 May.

For more information, visit www.thenaturalflooringcompany.com.

Freebie of the week

Mamas & Papas (mamasandpapas.com) is a firm favourite with new mums — attracted by its range of furniture specially made for the rooms of babies and young children.

In celebration of spring, Mamas & Papas is offering to give away a cot bed with a deluxe mattress (worth £480) from its Summerhouse furniture collection, plus £520 to spend on assorted nursery interior accessories and soft toys.

For a chance to win, before 5 April, text NURSERY, plus your name, to 87233 (texts cost 50p plus your standard network rate), or visit www.homesandproperty.co.uk/offers cost-free and follow the links.

Win a Mamas & Papas' Summerhouse cot bed with a deluxe mattress, worth £480

Bags of eco credentials

Eco-friendly shopping can be confusing: is it fair trade, organic, locally sourced? Does it use recycled materials?

To make things clearer, new website Boutiko organises all its gifts into clear categories. On the site are eco-produced hand-embroidered cushions, for example. They are understated,

covered with bees — a sign of fertility; they cost only £25, too.

For more information, call 0844 884 8511, or visit www.boutiko.co.uk.



Busy little bees make cushions for Boutiko (£25)



Lakeland's easy-to-use hotpot is only £49.99

Nice and easy cooks it

Make life easier by preparing a meal in a hotpot from Lakeland. Sitting on a kettle-style base, the Electric Hotpot lets you cook, and then keep warm, delicious soups, stews, chilli dishes and casseroles.

The temperature can be adjusted from 100 degrees Celsius (for browning, frying or boiling) to 30 degrees for slow simmering until your dish is ready to eat. It costs only £49.99. To order, call 015394 88100, or visit www.lakeland.co.uk.

Always look on the light side

Nordic Style proves that there is more to Swedish design than flat-pack furniture. The firm stocks timeless dining, bedroom and living room furniture, as well as elegant soft furnishings and gorgeous accessories.

Newly in for spring, the Svedala collection is characterised by a fresh, clean print set against a white background. Prices in this range start at £29 for a lampshade or cushion, and all fabrics are available by the metre.

There is also 10 per cent off across the range for Homes & Property readers.

To claim, visit 109 Lots Road, SW10, or call 020 7351 4966, mentioning this offer before 31 March. For more information, visit www.nordicstyle.biz.

Towels thrown in

To mark the end of Fair Trade Fortnight on Sunday, luxury bed linen company Luma is hosting a Fair Trade Celebration Day at its new shop in Barnes.

Running from 10.30am to 5.30pm, there will be a wide range of seconds and ends of lines reduced by up to 50 per cent. Organic cotton fair-trade home textiles as well as vintage fabric accessories and reclaimed wood furniture will all be up for grabs, with free fair-trade wine and artisan cheese available.

Luma's organic cotton bath towels are reduced from £19.50 to £9.75, and there is a 30 per cent discount on non-sale items for Homes & Property readers. Simply mention this offer on the day.

For more information, visit www.lumadirect.com.



Luma's cotton bath towels are now only £9.75

Post your feedback

If YOU would like to give feedback (positive or negative) on any of the companies featured, then give us your comments by emailing

rugfeedback@standard.co.uk and putting "Really Useful" in the subject line. Go on — tell us what you think.

And the winner is...

To find out who has won our latest competitions, visit www.homesandproperty.co.uk/winners

WIN the amazing new Gemini 55 radio from Roberts

HOMES & Property has linked up with top-brand radio maker Roberts to give away 10 of its new Gemini 55 portable DAB digital radios, worth £99.99 each.

The Gemini 55 has an instant "record to SD card" feature that lets you record live radio at the touch of a button. Simply press record when your favourite programme comes on and it will be recorded direct on to an SD memory card, so that you can listen again at your leisure.

Intuitive key navigation means you can easily fast-forward, rewind, start or stop the SD card in just the same way that you used to with a traditional radio cassette recorder. You can also transfer your

own MP2/MP3 music collection from a PC to the SD card and listen to it through the radio's superb stereo speakers, or plug your iPod/iPod/MP3 player into the radio, via an auxiliary input socket, to playback your favourite tracks with first-class quality sound.

How to enter:

Visit our website, www.homesandproperty.co.uk/offers and follow the links. Entries must be received by 18 March.

For more information on Roberts radio products, call 01709 571722, or visit www.robertsradio.co.uk.



The Gemini 55 (worth £99.99) lets you record your favourite programmes

OFFER OF THE WEEK



It's goodbye to curtains

HARDWOOD shutters deliver quality and elegance. Shutterly Fabulous offers unrivalled design and installation service — and keen prices, too. Using premium-grade solid hardwoods such as poplar or elm, Shutterly Fabulous kiln-dries all wood to prevent warping. Available in a wide range of whites and stains, shutters are installed by in-house carpenters and cost a competitive £280 a square metre.

As a special offer to Homes & Property readers, the price is £240 a square metre (including installation and VAT). To claim, call 0845 644 2873, mentioning this offer before 31 May, or visit www.shutterlyfabulous.com.

Get Shutterly Fabulous at £40 off a square metre

Win this Ostrich Console Table from Postmodern Designs



Freebie of the week

Postmodern Designs has relaunched its website (www.postmodern designs.co.uk), which is crammed with the best in quirky design.

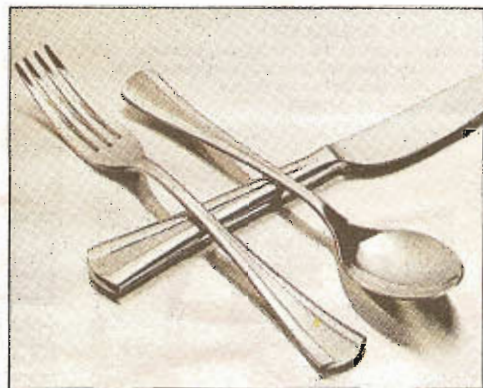
New for spring is a range by French designer iBride, including the Ostrich Console Table (right, worth £229), which Postmodern Designs is offering three readers the chance to win.

To enter, visit homesandproperty.co.uk/offer, or text "POSTMODERN" and your name to 87233 (texts cost 50p plus your standard network rate) by 23 April.

It's a steel

Fine cutlery is still available at a decent price from Viners, whose online store sells at up to 50 per cent off the retail price. Its cutlery is made from the highest quality stainless steel and includes modern and traditional styles, many of which are exclusive to Viners.

Readers can exclusively claim a further 10 per cent off everything by quoting "steel" when ordering online at www.viners.co.uk before 30 April.



There is a 10 per cent cut off cutlery at Viners



Plain useful

Sturdy and reliable, Bigdug's practical shelving is the Shrek of the storage world. Its functional, no-fuss pieces require no bolts or screws — just tap the pieces together. Genius.

Readers spending more than £50 on orders before 31 April will receive a free plastic bin kit worth £9.95. To claim, quote ESBH08 when calling 0845 065 4000, or visit www.bigdug.co.uk.

Bigdug's shelving is simple to put together

Swedeness and light

Nordic Style continues to prove that there is more to Swedish design than flat-pack furniture. Its classic light interiors are perfect for town or country.

Mention this column to get the Dellen Medallion Chair (right) in white for only £225 (usually £350). For another £45

it can be painted in any of Nordic Style's colours. For more, call 020 7351 1755, or visit www.nordicstyle.com.



Nordic Style chair is down from £350 to £225