

Lifestyle

HOMES &amp; GARDENS

lifestyle

## Plumb job worries

**Question:** The previous owner of my home was told she couldn't have a combination boiler because of the pipes. Is this right?

**A:** Unfortunately, not every home can accommodate a combi without all the pipes being replaced, which is expensive.

Many older pipes can't take high-pressure systems, so get the view of a reputable plumber - but you may be disappointed.

## Sustainability

Our goal is to balance our raw material needs without diminishing resources for future generations

## Renewability

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# Chesterfield's best-kept secret

The Sofa Studio is probably Chesterfield's best kept secret having been established in the town for almost six years. Situated in a modern unit on Old Brick Works Lane, tucked away just behind the Hare &

Michael Spencer resolve to stand by their principles of no pressure selling while providing a first-class product and service to match.

Testimonials on display in the showroom give an indication of what they are about.

"Our aim is to provide customer service with that extra special personal touch," says Mike.

"While we recognise our furniture may not be for everyone, with so much choice on offer we are able to accommodate most people's budgets.

"When you can buy a bespoke, locally-made hand-crafted suite tailored to your own satisfaction, why would you want a mass-produced import?"

## ADVERTISER'S STATEMENT

Hounds and Crown & Anchor public houses on Sheffield Road, approximately one mile north of the town centre.

You will find over 20 models on display at the Sofa Studio with over 2,000 fabrics or 600 leathers to choose from.

There is also a small range available for immediate delivery from the showroom floor.

Owners Ian Thompson and



# Mirror mirror on the wall

Mirrors are the simplest accessories for the home, yet they often work the hardest.

Place a mirror well and it will open up a room, brighten a dark spot, or transform a blank wall into a stylish focal

point.

Barty Phillips, author of new book *Minimum Space Maximum Living*, highlights mirrors as one of the most powerful tools in making rooms seem larger.

She enthuses: "Mirrors can have a magic effect in a room, and yet all too often are underestimated as sources of light and extenders of space, and just used to check appearance.

"They can open up dark corners, illuminate gloomy basements, and not only create illusions of space but also provide optical surprises."

Barty's devised a host of clever ways to use mirrors to transform rooms. "A large, well-placed mirror can almost double the amount of light in a room if opposite a big window, and that in itself always makes a room seem larger.

"Another trick in a gloomy north-facing room is to fix mirrored panels to window shutters.

"The shutters can be angled to make the most of any available light."

Liven up a dull wall with antique or interestingly-shaped hand mirrors displayed in a group to give a real collector's feel to a room. They can be found in antique shops, auctions and jumble sales.

"It's all about thinking about using mirrors in different ways. For instance, mir-

ror tiles could be fixed to the back of a set of shelves to reflect any lighting for sparkle and interest.

"Another trick which doubles the effect of greenery in a room is using mirrors to reflect house plants - it can give the impression of a real jungle, and add a feeling of depth to a room."

- Place a mirror on a wall adjacent to an interesting view or picture. The mirror will reflect the image and add a sense of space.

- Place a large mirror opposite an attractive fireplace as well as above it. This will catch the eye and make the room seem larger.

- Paint one wall a darker colour than the rest of the room. Hang a mirror on the dark wall and a picture on the opposite, paler wall. This will have the effect of giving the dark wall more depth as it appears to recede to contain the picture.

- When placing a mirror make sure there is something appealing to reflect, like an interesting view or picture.

- Don't hang a mirror opposite a south or west-facing window, otherwise you'll get uncomfortable glare from the sun.

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