

# Tomatoes

## on tap

Mark Rayner makes a mobile, self-watering planter.

### How it works:

Capillary action draws water from the moist matting, up through the unsealed pot base. This will keep the potting mix moist. Then as your tomato plant grows, you can tie it to the frame.



### You will need:

- 19mm plywood cut to the following dimensions:
  - 400mm x 310mm (base)
  - 310mm x 310mm (back)
  - two of 310mm x 150mm (sides)
- 20mm x 20mm garden stakes cut as following:
  - two 1.7m and five 350mm lengths
- Large terracotta pot
- Hammer and 40mm galvanised nails
- Screwdriver and 40mm screws
- Drill with drill bits
- Red vitreous glass mosaic tiles
- 3 x plastic water bottles
- 400mm x 310mm red plastic storage box (ours came from Mitre 10 Mega)
- 4 x small castors
- Paintbrush and exterior PVA glue
- Resene Terracotta Sealer and Resene Quick Dry
- Resene Lumbersider tinted to Resene Red Hot
- 400mm x 310mm piece of coconut fibre matting (we used a hanging basket liner)
- Tomato plant and quality potting mix



1

Seal the pot's inner and outer walls with Resene Terracotta Sealer – but do not seal the base.



2

Stand the pot upside down on the glass or clear plastic. Glue two rows of mosaic tiles around the top edge, as shown. Allow to dry.



3

For the frame back, glue and nail (drill pilot holes first) the 350mm cross-struts to the two upright side supports, as shown.



4

Glue and screw (drill pilot holes first) the frame back to the base and sides. Then nail and glue the frame from step 3 to the front edges of the side pieces.



5

Paint the base section and frame with two coats of Resene Quick Dry and allow two hours drying time.



6

Paint the base section and frame with two coats of Resene Red Hot, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.



7

Attach castors to the base, as shown. Plant the tomato in the pot. Next, place the matting in the storage box and the pot on top of the matting.



8

Slide the box and pot into place on the plywood base. Fill the plastic bottles with water and place them upside down along the back of the pot, as shown.