SHORTCUTS TO... *happiness at home*

The small tweaks and changes that will make your home a haven

GIVE YOUR KITCHEN A RETRO MAKEOVER

1 **All your vintage baking needs** are covered with Tesco's gorgeous range of pastel essentials. And once your masterpieces are complete, the ceramic cake stand is the perfect way to show them off. Prices start from £4 at tesco.com

2 **Dry up in style** with a Busy Being tea towel, which captures all the fun of baking with its uplifting baking phrases. £11 from busybeing.co.uk or not onthehighstreet.com

3 **Swap your kitchen scale** for the Tala Cook's Measure. With both metric and imperial measurements, it lets you whip up old recipes, without the stress of converting units! £7.99 from lakeland.co.uk

HEAT YOUR HOME INTELLIGENTLY

4 **Honeywell EvoHome** system allows you to control your heating from your smartphone, and also individually set temperatures at various times in different rooms. £250 plus £50 per zone from evohome.info

5 **The British Gas Hive** system lets you turn up or down the heating in your house at the press of a button from your phone or tablet. £199 from britishgas.co.uk

TREAT YOURSELF TO AN UPGRADE

Are any of the kitchen gadgets you use on a daily basis a struggle or downright difficult? Then maybe it's time for an upgrade.

6 **Make salt and peppering a pleasure** T&G has a range of state-of-the-art salt and pepper mills that are easy to fill, fully adjustable and have an effortless crush grind ceramic mechanism that makes using them a pleasure. Prices start at £29.99 for a pair from tg-woodware.com

7 **Be can-do** The KitchenAid can opener is extremely robust, yet glides smoothly around can lids, making short work of opening your beans. And it's dishwasher safe. £24 from kitchenaid.co.uk

8 **Make grating great** Whatever you're grating, a Microplane grater will feel like poetry in motion – as opposed to hard work! Originally intended to be used as a rasp for woodworking, the blades are razor-sharp, with edges that finely slice. Prices start from £18.50 from steamer.co.uk

9 **And make peeling pleasing** The crafter handle is very comfortable to hold and the sharp precision blade can tackle even the toughest of fruit and veg, making it an essential piece of kitchen kit. £10 from kitchenaid.co.uk

SAY YES TO HANDWASHING HEAVEN

Delicious-smelling soap gives you a little lift every time you wash your hands – so it's worth investing in something divine.

10 **Penhaligon's Quercus Liquid Hand Wash** is a classic combination of citrus, amber and basil that makes washing a treat. £19 for 300ml from penhaligons.com

11 If you feel like splashing out, **Ortigia Sandalo Liquid Soap** is a fabulous medley of sandalwood, vetivier rose and jasmine. £23 for 300ml from ortigiasicilia.com

12 **Bronnley's Lemon & Neroli Hand Wash** is a zingy combination of lemon and mandarin, orange blossom and jasmine. £10 for 250ml from bronnley.co.uk

Classy *cleaner*

It's time to get out in the garden, so here are a few of the latest tools to give you a helping hand

13 **LANDSCAPING LOPPER** Using clever orange extension buttons on the handles, Fiskars SmartFit telescopic lopper extends from 665mm to 915mm, creating an easy way to go that extra distance when cutting high or low. It's both sturdy and lightweight, so it isn't too heavy in the hand. It's also fitted with SmartFit blades, perfect for smooth cutting, and comes with a permanent holster to prevent damage. **SmartFit Telescopic Lopper L86, £49.99, fiskars.co.uk**

14 **WEEDING WONDERS** No one likes weeding but garden expert Hozelock has made life a bit easier with its Wonderweeder. The upright position means you no longer have to bend down to tackle those difficult weeds plaguing your driveway, path or patio. The weed killer is dispensed easily by the Wonderweeder's ergonomic handle with just a press of a button – simple and practical. **Wonderweeder, £17.99, hozelock.com**

15 ***Small wonder*** **Would you believe it, there's such a thing as a ladies' spade! The compact head makes it easier to use. £54.99, crocus.co.uk**

16 **A CUT ABOVE THE REST** A must-have tool for the garden, the new Isio is a real all-rounder. Not only does it cut and trim grass and shrubs, but it has a spray attachment to spread pesticides and fertilisers or water plants, and a telescopic handle to take the strain out of lawn trimming and edging, or even to trim the top of tall shrubs. **Isio Shape and Edge, £64.99; telescopic handle, £29.99; spray attachment, £19.99, all bosch-garden.com**

17 **BACK TO BASICS** For the traditional gardener, the Moulton Mill patio knife features a sharp-edged knife that severs and removes weeds efficiently from between paving slabs. **Moulton Mill Patio Knife, £9.99, gardman.co.uk**

Systems and apps to help run your home more smoothly

WORDS VICTORIA YOUNG **CLASSY CLEANER COMPILED BY** KATY SEABROOK **PHOTOGRAPH** GETTY IMAGES

NEVER LET YOUR FLOWERS BE THIRSTY

18 **The Parrot Flower** sensor connects to an app and tells your phone when plants need watering. Place the sensor in the soil and it'll monitor the key parameters to keep your plants healthy. £49 from parrot.com

KEEP YOUR NEST COSY

19 **Nest Learning Thermostat** is a clever heating system that learns automatically how you like to heat your house based on how you use it. £179 from nest.com

KEEP YOUR TEETH IN TIP-TOP SHAPE

20 The **Oral-B intelligent toothbrush** links to bluetooth to guide and record your brushing activity. £199 from oralb.co.uk

LIGHT YOUR MOOD

21 **Philips Hue** is an Internet-connected home light system that can be changed to over 16 million colours to suit your mood, and is controlled via your smartphone. You can also connect it to a service called ifttt.com to set your lights to change colour if, say, your favourite team has just scored a goal or you get a call from a certain person. £189 from meethue.com

LET THE MUSIC PLAY ON

22 **Sonos Play:1** is a simple but really good wireless music system that can be made bigger by adding on more speakers. You control everything via your phone or tablet, and it's perfect for streaming services such as Spotify. £169 from sonos.com **w&h**