

Browsing

{Well Furnished}

Weaving Wicker

The word "wicker" derives from the Swedish *wika*, which means to bend. It refers to the technique of bending and weaving natural plant fibers such as rattan, willow or cane into furnishings, a method people have used for most of history. It wasn't until the 19th century, however, that wicker furniture as we know it first came to prominence.

The development of Victorian-style wicker furniture coincided with the rise of industrialization in the United States and England. The flexibility of the material allowed its manipulation into the fanciful designs favored at the time, with lots of spiral trim, spilt curls and spider-web cane work. Plus it was durable, easy to clean and didn't cost a fortune. After the turn of the 20th century, the popularity of

wicker furniture declined, but in the 1960s and '70s it made a comeback as homeowners sought outdoor furnishings with an "old time" feel.

Today, most wicker furniture is produced for outdoor use and features a sleek, modern look that suits contemporary lifestyles. Chairs, chaises, ottomans and tables can be found in classic styles that carry a vintage vibe and, when paired with cushions in pretty patterns, are perfect for cottage, coastal and shabby looks. There are reproduction pieces available for interior use, too, including bedroom sets, dining tables and more. For sturdy yet attractive furnishings, it's hard to go wrong with wicker!

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{Pampered Pets}

A Place of Privacy

If you have a cat, then you've struggled with a litter box. Conventional litter boxes—large, boxy and plastic—get the job done, but they don't provide much in the way of enhancing your interior décor. The Cat Washroom is the perfectly stylish solution. The charming design features bead-board panels, framed door and crisp white paint that will blend in naturally with most décor. The shelf on top makes this a multifunctional piece of furniture, whether you choose to use it in the bathroom, kitchen or other corner of your home. The Cat Washroom is available through many online resellers, or visit merryproducts.com to find a local dealer.



{Make It}

Garden Whimsy

Spring is the perfect time to think about how to freshen up your garden—not just with flowers, but also with charming accessories for your lawn and flowerbeds. If your cabinets are overflowing with pretty teapots and teacups, why not repurpose some into backyard bling? Think birdfeeders, flowerpots or fountains. All it takes is a little ingenuity and inspiration.

We just love this garden teapot fixture, which proves that even bunnies enjoy a spot of tea. The crystal pendant adds just the right sparkle. This is a great DIY project you can easily customize for your own home, using a teapot and teacup that capture your personal garden style. Visit confessionsofaseriailyer.com for a full tutorial!



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