



SPLIT & POLISH

Like a moth drawn to a flame, fabric lampshades attract dust – with unpleasant results. If dust has built up over time, vacuum the shade using the brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner, then remove the globe and wipe it with a dry microfibre cloth. Regular attention is the key and adhesive lint rollers offers a perfect solution. The adhesive paper collects the fine dust particles, and the gentle rolling action is ideal for use on delicate fabrics.

YOUR BEST TIP

I clean children's toys such as lego in a mesh laundry bag and soak in warm soapy water then hang the bag on the clothesline.

Jacqui Lagaluga from Long Jetty, NSW, won a six-month supply of 2X Ultra laundry detergent, valued at up to \$180. Send us your best tip at www.notebookmagazine.com.au/competitions for a chance to win a \$200 gift card from Howards Storage World. Get organised in style!



How to...

REDUCE DRYING TIME

The chill of winter can make line drying near impossible. If you must resort to using a tumble dryer, these tips will make the cycle short and sweet.

- Before using your dryer, remove any lint from the filter, plus any dust that has accumulated behind your machine as this can cause the dryer to overheat and pose a safety hazard.
- Run your laundry through an extra spin cycle to remove as much moisture as possible.
- Give each item a shake before tossing it in the dryer.
- Finally, add a dry towel to the load; it will help absorb moisture and speed up drying time.



webwatch

<http://parisapartment.wordpress.com> Interior designer Claudia Strasser has enjoyed a long love affair with all things Parisian. The author of *The Paris Apartment* (HarperCollins, 1997) makes regular trips to Paris to source items for her New York boutique. Claudia's *joie de vivre* and images of romantic interiors, spring flower beds and weathered facades in the City of Light will enthrall you.

www.hardtofind.com.au The ultimate destination for those seeking the perfect gift or a little indulgence, this site brings more than 40 boutique brands to one online store. Recent additions include knitted cushions and throws in pretty colours by UK-based designer Nicky Thomson – ideal for achieving a bit of British whimsy at home – plus vintage linen hearts filled with organic French lavender for a little touch of France any time.

www.twinsgarden.blogspot.com See what's happening at Ingrid Amendt's fabric store, Twins' Garden, in Oldenburg, Germany, and browse images that inspire her as a designer. Pictures speak louder than words here – Ingrid's German posts are brief, and while many have been translated into English, her image gallery is more than enough to spur some redecorating with a Northern European flair.

EXPERT TIP:

"If you like the look of ironed sheets but simply don't have time, try ironing only your pillowcases and the top cuff of your flat sheet. This works for me."

Tracie Ellis, textile designer and managing director of Aura Homewares, www.aurahome.com.au.

