

Ultimate Survival Kit Guide (Top Ten Survival Kit Items/Create Your Own Survival Kit)

The day is coming. It has been spoken about for years. That time when we need to be ready for the worst.

As the political and economic landscape shifts from stable to one of uncertainty, there are some people out there getting ready for change.

Long gone are the politicians who will do the right thing for the people. This generation have not known a "job for life". Making plans for the future now has to include basic survival.

We are behind you all the way. We bring you the very best of the survival gear available at the moment, saving you time when you are planning exactly what to gather together for the inevitable.

Many of our readers have already begun stockpiling for the future. Equipment, clothes, food and water. But what if you are only just starting - what are the essential pieces in the best survival kits?

We have you covered. This ultimate survival kit guide brings you our top 10 essential additions to your kit. All have their unique place in your survival journey, ensuring you have the best chance to battle through the bleak future.

The Best 4 Person Tent

Surviving outdoors is tough enough, but without shelter it is even harder. We have chosen the 4-person tent for a couple of reasons. If you are alone, it gives you more than enough room to create a comfortable mobile base. Keeping yourself and your supplies dry will give you the edge in challenging conditions, so this [Kelty Grand Mesa Tent](#) is ideal for that situation.

If you are in a small group, a larger tent will allow more people to take advantage of the relative warmth and comfort inside. Whatever your circumstances, this is a durable and reliable lightweight tent that will stand up to the rigors of life in the wild.

The Best Survival Sleeping Bag

With your shelter in place, the next thing to consider is keeping warm once the camp fire has been put out for the night.

Sleeping bags used to be big bulky affairs, with the zip letting cold air in, affecting your core body temperature.

The [Coleman Big Basin Adult Sleeping Bag](#) is large enough for people up to 6ft 6in tall, and compresses down to a third of its full size, which is impressive given how much room it offers.

Thermolock draft tubes are used to stop heat escaping from the zip, and it uses Coletherm hollow polyester material to keep you warm in conditions down to 15 degrees Fahrenheit.

While there are other, smaller bags available, we believe this will offer you the best chance of staying warm in adverse conditions.

The Best Survival Backpack

With shelter sorted, the next steps to make sure the rest of the survival essentials are easy to carry. Survival is all about crying the bare minimum to get by and having everything close to hand when you need it.

Your backpack will need to be tough, it is going to go everywhere you go. Enough room to carry what you'll need without being bulky while you are moving, the [Reebow Gear Military Tactical Backpack](#) is our choice.

Of course, this backpack is waterproof. It is also well ventilated and padded to help conserve energy in survival situations. There are plenty of pockets and pouches to keep your supplies organised. The only thing missing is a hydration bladder, but as you'll see later in this essential guide, that won't be a problem.

Best Survival Knife

We have chosen the [Gerber StrongArm fixed Blade Knife with Fine Edge](#) as our most important survival tool. Made of 420HC steel, this is one of the most durable knives on the market.

Knives are a multipurpose tool used to help with anything from catching food, to building shelter. This particular knife comes with a built-in striking pommel in the handle - vital if you find yourself needing to break your way out of potential danger.

This knife is military grade. We can't think of a better recommendation than one coming straight from the armed forces.

Best Survival Food

[Mountain House Essential Bucket](#) gives one person enough sustenance for 14 days. This is the perfect set and forget way to make sure you are not scavenging for food from the get-go.

While the pouches do not contain any meat, they are surprisingly well balanced when it comes to survival food, and they are quick to make too. Ready in only ten minutes, you will be able to stave off hunger quickly.

The unit the meals are supplied in is quite bulky but separating the pouches into your backpack will save some space. In order to survive, you'll need to eat. This batch of food will

keep you going and will allow you to concentrate on other things without worrying about where the next meal will be coming from.

Best Survival Water Filter

We mentioned earlier that our recommended backpack does not have a hydration bladder. Instead of that, we recommend packing a water filter. The [LifeStraw Personal Water Filter](#) purifies up to 1000l of water. Removing 99.9% of waterborne bacteria, this device eliminates the need for purification tablets.

This survival water filter only weighs 2oz and takes up very little room in your backpack. As a survivalist, you'll probably know that the human body can't last beyond three days without water. Knowing that you can both drink and make food with this tiny device will increase your chances of survival in the wilderness.

Best Compass for Survival

Today everything is digital. Look at your mobile phone and you'll be able to tap on the compass. But what happens when your battery dies and there isn't a convenient power socket close by? It's time to get back to basics and grab a traditional compass.

A clear, easy to read compass can be the difference between finding safety or finding yourself in danger. The [Suunto MC-2 Compass](#) will give you exactly that. The orienting lines are large and clear, and the compass opens up fully against a map allowing you to accurately plot your route.

This compass also has a sighting mirror which many other compasses do not. Again, allowing for easy direction finding, you will be able to trust that this piece of equipment won't let you down.

Best Tactical Flashlight

A tactical flashlight isn't something you keep under the stairs when you need to go to the basement. These flashlights are designed to provide you with the light you will need to make it through the dark in hostile terrain.

Our choice is the [Flyland Tactical Flashlight](#) made from Military grade aluminum, it is also water resistant, so even in the harshest conditions, you'll be able to find your way easily.

A maximum 1200 lumen count gives a strong indication of just how powerful this flashlight is, and with a reach of up to 200 meters you will be able to navigate your way through the night with ease. With 4 hours of battery life, this flashlight is an essential part of your survival gear.

Best Survival First Aid Kit

Trying to predict everything when all you can focus on is survival is going to be almost impossible. Being in unfamiliar surroundings and with limited supplies, the last thing any survivalist needs is to find themselves needing medical attention.

Packing a basic, but medical spec first aid kit will help you push on through those inevitable cuts and scrapes that will happen along the way.

Our choice is the [First Aid Only All-Purpose Kit](#) which is packed with 299 doctor-recommended supplies. It is compact too - about the size of a hard cover book, so it is space saving inside your backpack. This kit will help treat most minor medical issues from bleeding to fever.

Best Survival Belt

Having a backpack is essential, but sometimes you need your gear to hand, quickly. A survival belt is perfect for keeping your vital equipment close at hand.

The belt we have chosen will fit waist sizes up to 44in, and is made from tough and durable nylon. The [Condor Tactical Belt](#) can even carry a gun and extra ammo if that is part of your survival kit.

Those ammo pouches are removable, so you can add your own range of easy access gear to your belt. It has a quick release buckle, making it easy to put on and take off when time is of the essence.

Best Bug Out Bag

Our essential guide has taken you through the ten most important items to stash away for when the time comes. But what about if you just want to get everything you need in one go? Well we have a solution for that too.

Bug Out Bags are full packages of equipment put together by experts to help you through those tough times out in the wilds.

We recommend the [Emergency Zone 2 Person Family Prep Survival Go-Bag](#) crammed full of everything you need to make it through your first 72 hours.

This bag is easy on the pocket and can support 2 people for 3 days. It includes food and water, as well as vital camping equipment inside a compact backpack.

Surviving the Future

There are many other items we could have included in our Ultimate Survival Kit Guide, but these ten items will certainly put you in a better place than those who have taken no action about what may happen in the future.

Whatever your choice, we are here to give you the best reviews on the survival gear you should be looking at for when the time comes.

The Largest Euromillions Syndicate Winners

Europe is home to one of the biggest lotteries in the world, the EuroMillions. It comes in the top three for jackpot size along with the EuroJackpot and La Primitiva. Jackpots run up to \$190 million, bringing in players from all over the world try their luck and become winners.

Here we are going to pick out a few of the EuroMillions winners who were part of a syndicate when they grabbed the jackpot. Their stories are nothing short of amazing, and their huge wins have helped change their lives, and their fortunes for ever.

These stories really do show the power of group buying. If you have ever been hesitant about becoming a member of a syndicate, we hope these stories give you the push you need!

1. The Irish Syndicate - Family Wins €175 Million

A family from Naul, County Dublin won €175 million in the February 19th 2019 draw. The family, who are "very close" family syndicate opted to send a representative to collect the winnings, keeping themselves anonymous.

The spokesperson for the family, who is married to one of the syndicate members said: "This is unbelievable - it will take us some time to get our heads around this win and to organise ourselves.

"This is a dream come true.

"We don't want this to change our lives.

"What is so exciting is that we will be able to share this money with children, grandchildren and extended family members."

One of the family members was checking their numbers after the draw, and immediately told the rest of the syndicate after the Tuesday night draw.

Having missed most of the live draw, only hearing the last three numbers, she went on to say:

"I checked the rest of the numbers online.

"I was numb! It took a bit of convincing everybody that we had won."

The lucky ticket holder placed the lucky ticket in the safest place she could find - and Argos catalogue! She then tucked it under her mattress until the morning. "I didn't sleep a wink all night," she added.

The following morning the family took the ticket to the National Lottery for safety, and they are now waiting for their huge payout. The family bought the ticket from Reilly's Daybreak in their hometown.

Shop owner Les Reilly was so taken aback with the news that he dropped his phone!

"I actually got a sick stomach and my legs started to shake.

"I don't know how the people felt who won it but I was in total shock, just total shock," he said to BBC News NI.

"I've never seen a buzz or anything like this.

"The whole village - a small village in a rural county - it's just buzzing, it's just amazing," he said.

He went on to say that there was quite a buzz in the town after the news. He didn't mention how many extra tickets he sold over the the following weeks!

This was the 14th Euromillions winner from Ireland. Delores McNamara from Limerick was the previous biggest winner with a €115 million jackpot in 2005.

But the syndicate now hold that record, and they must be as thankful for playing as a group as they are for the win itself.

2. The Luck of the Irish Continues with €88.5 Million Win

The Naul family weren't the first syndicate to win the jackpot in Ireland. That honour goes to another anonymous group of players. Back in January 2017 this syndicate won €88.5 million.

Their identity has remained a secret, with the only confirmation that they are Irish coming from National Lottery officials. The rest of the information about the syndicate might never be released to the press.

For a time this was the largest recorded syndicate win on the EuroMillions. It has since driven other groups to start their own syndicates, with dreams of repeating the feat of the Irish.

3. The Manilva Syndicate Scoops €88 Million

When it comes to starting a syndicate, there is no limit to the number of people you can invite to join. In the event of a jackpot win, you just need to be prepared to take a smaller share.

In the Spanish town of Manilva, 140 residents formed an extraordinary syndicate. Having played together in a lottery club for years, they finally hit the jackpot in February 2018. The EuroMillions top prize was €174 million, and two tickets won. One of them belonged to the huge town syndicate.

Between them, they collected €88 million, making the town a very unique place! By playing together, this syndicate beat the odds and secured a very respectable sum for each of the players.

4. Luck of the Irish Part Three - €86.7 Million

September 2015 is another moment in time that many lottery players will remember, especially those in Ireland. Yet another syndicate - maybe inspired by previous winners - won almost €87 million in the EuroMillions.

Again, the players wanted to remain anonymous, but having won such a huge amount the group did gain notoriety and are known for their slice of luck.

All that is known about the syndicate is that the ticket was bought in Dublin, giving the city the reputation as one of the luckiest places in the world to buy a lottery ticket.

5. Davies Family Syndicate - £61 Million

The Davies family from Monmouth in the UK had a very difficult road to their EuroMillions win. Mother Sonia had a tumour in her parathyroid gland, which required risky surgery that she had to have done in Florida. Despite the seriousness of her condition, the treatment was a success and she returned to the UK having overcome the tumour.

Believing she could take on the world, Sonia decided to call on her family to start their own lottery syndicate. She asked her daughter to buy the tickets, and after the decision to get treatment in the States, this was the best decision the family have ever made.

Along with Sonia and her partner Keith, daughters Stephanie and Courtney and Stephanie boyfriend Steve managed to buy the winning ticket for a jackpot of £61 million. Coming from a feeling of despair to being overjoyed, they syndicate decided to share their wealth among the rest of their family.

6. Ireland Again! Family Syndicate Win €38.9 Million

A Dublin family saw in 2018 in the best way possible, when their syndicate won the EuroMillions top prize of €38.9 million. This Irish family also wanted to remain anonymous, but a spokesperson for them said on their behalf "You always hope that someday you would win the jackpot, but never really believe it will happen".

The family are looking at new homes, and also want to start their own business. They will be helping the rest of their family out, giving them the financial support that will take away their money worries.

They hope to keep living a normal life, but are looking forward to experiencing the new opportunities which their new found fortune will bring!

We are also wondering if we should move to Ireland just long enough to increase our chances of grabbing one of these jackpots!

7. Syndicate of Corby Bus Drivers Share £38 Million

The Corby bus services in Northamptonshire went into meltdown as twelve bus drivers won £38 million as part of their syndicate in the EuroMillions. Each of the drivers walked away

with over £3 million, and decided that they would make a new start over night. Their bosses had to get some cover in quick!

The drivers planned to use their winnings to pay off debts, and to set up funds to ensure their kids have the best education. Of course, there were plans to buy the things they had always dreamed of as well! It just goes to show what a well organised syndicate can achieve, and it has inspired players from around the world.

8. Kirkby Office Syndicate Win £28 Million

A syndicate of ten workers from a recruitment firm in Kirkby won £28 Million on the EuroMillions. The syndicate had been going for quite a few years, and their perseverance paid off with this huge win.

Like the majority of people who are lucky enough to win the lottery, the syndicate members didn't turn up for work the day after their win. It isn't known if they all quit soon after, but it's safe to say they wouldn't have to worry about their pay being stopped.

Winning the lottery always needs a big dose of luck, and a lot of dedication. but by joining forces with a syndicate of like minded people the chances of one day becoming a lottery millionaire do increase.

Have you ever considered joining an online syndicate? Our new online syndicate feature makes it quick and easy to become part of a syndicate and increase your chances of scooping the massive prizes on offer. Having read the stories of these lottery syndicate winners, the time is right to join your own syndicate!

Top Ten Most Crazy and Unusual Purchases by Lottery Winners

From the moment we are old enough to buy a lottery ticket, the dreams of what we would spend our lucky fortune on start. Most of us don't already have millions in the bank, so a weekly flutter on the lottery is a chance worth taking if it means we didn't have to worry about money ever again. Ask anyone what they would spend their windfall on, and the list is sure to include some favourites - houses, cars, holidays and clothes.

But what happens when someone actually wins the lottery and can live out their fantasy? It's true that there are some who invest wisely and appear like the money didn't change them. However, there are quite a few people who let their imagination run riot when money is no longer an object, and they get drawn into a life of luxury and excess. This can lead to some interesting ways to spend a lot of money. Here are ten of the wildest ways lottery winners have parted with their cash!

Score an Own Goal - Buy Your Local Football Team

For EuroMillions winner Colin Weir, Partick Thistle Football Club was on his shopping list. Having won £161 million back in 2011, Weir has invested £2.5 million into the football club.

That has all come to a sudden halt as Thistle are in the midst of a take over from an unknown party. Having bailed the club out of financial turmoil, wiping all of their debts, Weir has pulled his support for the time being.

Such was his level of investment the club even named their youth academy after the lottery winner. But it seems that Weir isn't even going to invest in a bus for the teams away fixtures. His investment has been "transformational" according to the board, who will surely be doing everything they can to keep the multimillionaire as part of their club.

A Wee Drop of Whiskey

Peter Lavery, who won \$17.7 million decided he didn't just want to get everyone a drink, he wanted to own the drinks he was giving out! Lavery has invested \$5 million into his own whiskey business.

It might not have been the first thing on a lottery winners mind, but for Peter it has turned into a very good decision. The distillery he bought is still making profit today, allowing him to enjoy the other half of his fortune.

Let's Have a Knees Up!

Everyone will have those particular individual items they dream of getting once their numbers come in. The things that you'd go out the very next day and buy without hesitation. The Jimmy Choo shoes, the two-seater sports car, the house in the country or the best education money can buy for their kids. There aren't many people whose first stop would be a surgeon to replace their knees!

Greta and Tony Dodd did exactly that after winning \$3.4 million in the lottery. Greta had always been a lover of dancing, but due to joint problems she couldn't take part anymore.

So, with their new found wealth, Greta and her husband bought themselves two sets of brand new knees so they could both get back on the dance floor. Sometimes it really is what's on the inside that is most important!

The Back Yard 500

A sudden, life changing amount of money can make you feel like a kid again. Just seeing what the already rich and famous of the world are spending their fortunes on just goes to prove that. But sometimes lottery winners are nothing more than kids themselves. So, what happens when a teenager wins the lottery?

We can look back on the bizarre life of Michael Carroll, a 19-year-old who won \$18 million on the National Lottery in the UK. Being young and carefree, Carroll decided that rather than being caught breaking the law in his fleet of luxury cars, he would simply build his own race track in his back garden. His neighbours must have hated every second, as his property looked more like a scrap yard than a mansion.

He eventually lost not only his house and personal race track, but his fortune as well. A combination of drink, drugs and prostitutes saw him squander his millions, leaving him back living as a regular guy.

Buying Your Way to Number One

Winning \$3.2 million on the lottery should give a happy couple the financial freedom to enjoy many happy years together. No more worrying about bills, or if there will be a holiday to look forward to.

But not for one couple who won all those millions. They weren't looking for a quiet life in the country or to spend some time cruising the Caribbean. He had plans to top the charts with his college band.

He ploughed nearly \$30,000 into this dream, only for it to come crashing down around him. Along with his partner and some very poor business decisions by them both, their relationship ended in bankruptcy and divorce. Maybe he would have had more success with a Dolly Parton cover version...

Winners are Over the Moon!

Winning the lottery almost guarantees you can live in the home of your dreams. With all of that cash, what could stop you? Well when David Copeland won \$1 million on the lottery there was one thing that got in the way of the house of his dreams.

He didn't just want any patch of land to build on, he wanted to go galactic! Copeland spent an unknown amount on pieces of land on the Moon, Mars and Venus. He has certainly

taken planning for his future to the next level. With a bit of luck, he will be able to find a builder out there to give him a quote.

Straight Flush - Down the Toilet

Some of us play the lottery every week, and it is the only bit of gambling we will ever do. The stakes are low, and the thrill of watching the draw is enough to keep us playing and hoping. But for others, the lottery is just one of a number of ways they choose to spend their money. Whether it's slots or sports, there seems to be a never-ending stream of places to gamble. For Evelyn Adams, Poker was her game of choice.

Even though she played poker regularly, she still found time to play the lottery, and has won it twice! While most of us are still dreaming about a win, Adams has burned through her cash both times she won at the poker tables.

She has spent around \$6 million at casinos in Atlantic City, and no doubt will be waiting on her numbers coming in again, so she can get right back to playing the game she loves and has spent so much money practicing.

The Favourite Doesn't Always Win

Horse racing is said to be the sport of kings. Well that may have been the case in the past, but with millions being won each week on the lottery, it is now just as easy for the next winner to buy themselves a thoroughbred as it is for royalty.

But horse racing isn't for everyone. These glorious animals need special care and attention, which is something not everyone considers when buying one. Just ask Keith Gough, who made his fortune playing the UK National Lottery. He bought the things most of us would, like a nice house and an expensive car. He even made his gardener \$90,000 richer. But it was a racehorse that cost over a quarter of a million that ultimately led to him losing everything by the end of his life. His race was run without anything to show for it at the finish line.

Sisters do it for Themselves

The first thing most of us would do if we suddenly had millions in the bank would be to make sure our nearest and dearest were looked after as well. Being able to take the financial strain away from your family is not something that anyone has to do, but it must feel so good when you decide you want to.

However sometimes, just making sure the bills can be paid isn't enough. Sarah Cockings was 21 years old when she won \$4 million on the lottery. She has been pretty sensible with her winnings, and still lives comfortably.

She did make sure her two sisters were treated to something a little unusual - boob jobs! She booked them all in with a plastic surgeon and gave them the most uplifting of presents. Her sisters were delighted with the results, so everyone was a winner.

Winning Made Her Sparkle!

Remember the guy who built his own race track? Well there are other lottery winners who have been inspired by their childhoods when it came to spending some of that lucky lottery money.

Debbie Mather won \$6 million back in 2005. For the most part, Debbie has been sensible with her winnings, with the odd treat thrown in for good measure. But that didn't stop her from thinking back to her time as a child, watching the sky as it was filled with fireworks. It inspired her to set up her own fireworks factory!

She now has a business selling fireworks that make other kids' faces light up, and she can still enjoy something that made her so happy all those years ago. If you have the money, then why not!

10 Reasons to Get a Handyman at Home

There are plenty of things around your home that need servicing or maintaining once in a while, but they are jobs that can easily get overlooked with everyday life taking over. Having a handyman on call to take care of these things will mean you can focus on more important things, like family, work and hobbies. Here's just a few reasons why you should get a handyman at home.

1. **Electrical Detector Checks**
Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are vital pieces of equipment in any home, designed to keep you and your family safe. But they can be hard to reach. Get a handyman to check them for you.
2. **Air Conditioning**
When the temperature gets higher in Perth, you reach for the AC. Having it serviced regularly will ensure your home stays cool through the hotter months.
3. **Grills**
Barbeques can easily get forgotten when they aren't being used. Get your handyman to clean it out before cooking season starts.
4. **Decking**
Left untreated, wooden decking can become slippery and can start to rot. Prolong its life by having it painted every couple of years.
5. **Laundry**
It might sound odd, but a handyman is ideal to help out with the washing. Just leave it somewhere safe for him before you go to work, and he will stop by and hang it, so you can return to a load of dry clothes.
6. **Driveways**
If your house has a driveway, it is likely you have spent time bent double pulling up weeds. Your handyman will have the proper tools and treatments to bring your driveway back to life, and get rid of the weeds for another season.
7. **Leaks**
Pipework and guttering can fail over time, and it is not nice having water in places it shouldn't be. Get your handyman to inspect your pipework and guttering to ensure there are no leaks in your home.
8. **Windows**
Keeping them clean, repairing locks, or replacing broken panes. These are just some of the things that a handyman will be able to repair for you.
9. **Household Maintenance**
Use your handyman's expertise in getting the little things done by giving him a list of small tasks like replacing lightbulbs or plugs. These small jobs, when done at the same time, will clear a lot of things from your to-do list.
10. **Car Cleaning**
Unless you are a car fanatic, cleaning your car is usually one job that gets put to the bottom of the list. Your handyman will be happy to wash and polish your pride and joy.

Your local Perth handyman can double as your plumber, electrician and gardener, and you can save time and money getting them to do the jobs on your list!

7 Things You Should Teach Your Dog

There are many things you could teach your dog depending on its role within your family, but some things are a good idea to teach despite why you got a dog. Here is our list of the things your dog should be taught as early as possible.

1. House training. Using a small area of a room during the day, and a crate at night, coupled with a puppy pad will begin your dog's house training. As they learn where to do their business, you can open more of the house to them, rewarding them each time they go to the right area.
2. Vet preparation. Handling your puppy from a very early age – from 4 weeks if possible – will get them used to human interaction. Get as many people as you can to play with and make a fuss of the puppy. You can even do pretend vet inspections on ears and teeth so they don't get alarmed at a real vet appointment.
3. Biting. If you feel even the slightest touch of your puppy's teeth on your skin, immediately stop playing with it, and ignore it for 5 to 10 seconds. Then resume playing. Your puppy will soon realise what they can and can't do.
4. Socialising. Try and get your puppy into contact with as many things as possible early on in its life. Other dogs, strangers, roads, fields, cars, anything that the puppy is likely to encounter later will be much easier if it is familiar with at least the idea of it from a very early age.
5. Chewing. Toys can help when a puppy starts to chew, whether out of curiosity, or when teething. Having some different shaped and flavoured toys around the space your puppy is in should help distract them from more costly places to chew, like table legs and sofas.
6. Separation. Leaving your dog alone for short periods of time with something like a chew or soft toy will enable you to leave them alone for longer as they get older. When returning after leaving your puppy, greet it in a relaxed way, so it does not seem like a big event.
7. Leash. Your puppy should get used to a leash from an early age, however if you find your puppy pulling too much, then a harness can be used instead to distribute the force more evenly across the torso of the dog, reducing the risk of injury.

For more information about pet training, contact your Perth experts today.

7 Things You Need to Know About Air Conditioning

Whether it is the AC units themselves, or the companies you can hire to install them, here are a few things you should know about the air-con industry.

The Installers

1. Experience – work with a company that has a long and public history of air conditioning installation. If a company has done a lot of installs in your area, then they know about the type of housing, the type of weather, and the type of air-con units that work best.
2. Get it signed – once you have received your quotation, and the report on your house, you should make sure that everything is signed by the contractor you choose. This way you will be able to hold them to account later if you encounter any problems. The signed document will provide you with legal peace of mind that what you pay for is what you need.
3. Inspection – a great air conditioning specialist will not just fit your new unit without first evaluating your home. They do this to ensure things like insulation, windows and the overall size of your property match the air conditioning units they install.
4. Offers – air conditioning installation is one of the most expensive additions to a house that you can make. Look for specialists that work with large manufacturers and with the government so that you can take advantage of savings offered for using energy efficient air-con units. In the same way insulation is often discounted, so is air conditioning. The units that are more efficient will also have a positive impact on your utility bills, lowering the cost over time.
5. Insurance – ensure that the company you choose has the correct license and insurance documents to cover their work. Even the best installation could have issues at a later date, so it is important to cover yourself should a problem occur.

The Units

1. There are 2 common types of units – window and split-system. A window unit fits in the window of the room you want to keep cool, and it contains everything. A split system has the compressor outside the building, and is connected to the cooling unit or units inside the house. This keeps things nice and quiet!
2. As well as keeping the temperature down, air conditioning also lowers humidity, so the filtered air will have less moisture for mites and mould to develop.
3. Most units are now programmable and remote controlled. This gives you total control of the operation of your units.

For more information about air conditioner servicing, contact your Perth experts now.

5 Ways to Spruce Up Your Bathroom Tiles

Bathrooms are not always high on the list of priorities when it comes to decorating your home, but it is surprising how a few small changes can dramatically improve the look and feel of one of the most used rooms in your home. If a new bathroom suite is too much of a stretch for your budget, there are some things that can be done quickly and relatively cheaply to give your bathroom a new look. Here are some things you can do to your tiles.

1. **Cleaning** – bathroom tiles are constantly subjected to steam and water. Their cold surface causes condensation to build up, and run down. As a result, tiles can often appear to have a slightly chalky look and feel, and the marks from the condensation can run from ceiling to floor. Cleaning regularly with a good quality multipurpose cleaner can remove that chalky residue and wipe away the tracks left by the water droplets.
2. **Grouting** – a slightly more time consuming, but equally effective upgrade to your tiling, is to redo the grouting in your bathroom. This could be as simple as getting a solution made from baking soda and water and really scrubbing the grout lines, or a little more complex, by using a grouting pen, which in essence goes over the existing grout work with the same colour, bringing it back to its original condition. It will need to be cleaned first though.
3. **Mold** – condensation in the bathroom brings with it another problem – mold. The warm and humid conditions make an ideal breeding ground for mold, and it can be especially rife along the seal of a bath or sink, and the tiles. It takes a lot to remove it from the tiles, especially if it has built up behind the taps, and in extreme cases it should be tackled by a professional. However, if you can remove the mold from the corners of your tiled bathroom, it will bring a new fresh look to the space for very little investment.
4. **Painting** – when tiling just isn't your thing when it comes to DIY, it might surprise you to know that there are now special paints that are designed specifically for tiles. That means you can give your bathroom a whole new look with just a tin and a paintbrush, never having to worry about trying to put a tile to the wall at all.
5. **Replacement** – for the best results when freshening up your bathroom, little can beat a professionally fitted retiling. Removal of the existing tiles, repair to any damaged plasterboard, and laying tiles that reflect your style is one of the best investments you can make to one of the most popular rooms in any house. A skilled tiler can get a bathroom retiled in a few days, removing old, stained or mold covered tiles and giving your bathroom a fresh new look.

Whatever you decide, there is no harm in getting a quote for someone to retiling your bathroom. If you want to call in a professional tiler, [click here now](#).

10 STEPS TO COST EFFECTIVE MARKETING WITH INSTAGRAM

At first glance, Instagram appears to be just an endless stream of pictures, filling up your home feed based on a few decisions you made when you signed up.

But if you look a little deeper, you can see that it is a gold mine of visual information, and users who can have a big influence in your locality, or within their industry – and in turn maybe a big influence on your business if you make the right kind of relationships.

As business owners, we can sometimes forget that these sites and apps are supposed to be social places where things are shared, and relationships are built.

With that in mind, these local minor celebrities can really help your business, especially if you have a limited marketing budget to play with. Here are 10 steps that you can follow to get some extra exposure just by scrolling through your Instagram newsfeed...

1. Perform a search on your local area (the location of your business)
2. Scroll down to the most recent posts, there will be some from the last few hours
3. Start scrolling through, looking at the numbers on each post – number of likes, number of followers of that profile, number of posts made by that profile
4. Depending on where you are, these numbers could be quite different – a large city with a denser population is likely to have bigger numbers to look at than a smaller town or more rural location, but what you are looking at should all be relative to your location
5. Find up to 4 or 5 posts that have been made within the last couple of hours, and which have received a higher amount of likes relative to the other posts in your area. Take a look at how many posts that account has made, and the number of followers they have to their profile. You want the numbers to be quite high, at least in the high hundreds or low thousands of followers
6. It is probably better to find individuals, rather than other businesses, but that depends on you because in the next step...
7. You will need to contact each of these people and ask if they would like something free from your business
8. Whatever it is you do; the aim is to offer the people you contact something to get them to become interested in your business. Free main course. Free haircut. Free cup of coffee. Free car service. It doesn't really matter what it is you offer; the aim is to get that person to relay your business to their followers. To try and gain some local exposure without breaking the bank
9. Write a courteous message, saying that you like their latest picture/video, and if they were passing your business in the next few days, they could just show this message and enjoy their gift
10. You can sign off by asking that if they enjoy their freebee, could they post a picture of their experience to Instagram

Now not everyone who accepts your gift will respond with a glowing review on their Instagram page. And not everyone you message will bother to reply. But when the outlay is a little bit of time, and the cost of goods for whatever it is you are willing to give away, it is one of the simplest and cheapest ways to get some great exposure for your business.