

Justine Wilson, Founder and Principal Stylist at Vault Interiors Property Styling loves creating outdoor spaces and today shares her top five tips to convert the backyard or balcony without breaking the bank. When it comes to updating the backyard for spring, for her it's all about layering the senses by adding light, sounds and scent. Justine says, "When it comes to the outdoor area of the home, it doesn't matter what the size or set up. Be creative and although you do need to work with the space you have, there are options for all shapes and sizes. If you live in an apartment look at applying items to the walls and railing, of course check your strata first though." Justine's top five things outdoor areas need this spring include: 1. Party lights! These could be plug-in fairy lights, solar-powered or Edison globe party lights, any outdoor string lighting will work. It's all about that soft ambient twinkle in your trees, or hedges – which will make entertaining outdoors magical. As the days are longer, we spend more time outdoors, so when the light does fade you can enjoy your outdoor area even longer if it's lit well. Entertaining under a canopy of twinkling lights will create a night your guests will remember 2. Hydrangeas. These are my new favourites flower and are the flower that keeps on giving! They make beautiful cut bouquets for your interior and will bloom well with the predicted heat this spring and summer. They are a full, pretty and overscale flower and they come in so many colours blues, pinks, purples whites, greens – so there is a tone to suit any garden space! 3. Outdoor rugs. There are so many good outdoor vinyl rug options available now, they are great because you can hose them down and sweep them easily so very low maintenance. They will jazz up your outdoor lounge or dining area and creates a more styled look. It's a great way to tie your interior décor scheme to your alfresco area 4. Water features. These are now back in fashion – listening to trickling water is known to reduce anxiety and as we can't jet off to Bali, why not bring this resort experience into your garden or courtyard! Bunnings has many options and so will most garden centres. They come in a range of sizes and you can get a more classical design or modern to suit 5. Birdbaths! I'm a lover of feeding and watering the local wildlife and seeing as Australia has been hit with the works this year from fires to floods and cold snaps – why not have a beautiful visual statement like a birdbath that can not only look pretty – but help the animals also. I love the white or black ceramic ones, but there are many design options out there and you can landscape around them to make a real feature. About Vault Interiors: Justine was inspired by her brother Adrian Wilson (who is a successful businessman in his own right and runs his own real estate agency AYRE) to start her business. He was a great mentor and gave her the push to do her own thing. So, she opened vault interiors at age 26. The first 3 years were a real hustle, contacting every agent in Sydney to make connections, working 7 days a week, delivering furniture she bought and assembled to each hire job just to grow her collection of stock. She originally outsourced storage and removals but after 3 years of operating that way - she was able to rent her own large warehouse and take on her own removals team. Since then the business has grown and the vaulters have since moved to larger premises and taken on more staff. This year they celebrate 10 years in business and have successfully stayed afloat during the real estate downturn in 2017 and now the corona pandemic, which like everyone has been a challenge, however Justine believes these obstacles have only strengthened her and the teams resolve to provide great service and innovate new ways to operate and add value to their clients. Their goal is to continue to grow and adapt with the property market, and stay tuned for "vault vacays" a series of cool furnished pet-friendly holiday rentals - watch this space! www.vaultinteriors.com.au

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