

THE COMPLETE HOME IMPROVEMENT MAGAZINE

# REAL HOMES

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SEPTEMBER 2009 £3.20

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**Left** These **Metro wardrobes** have a shelf and rail fitted as standard, and can be personalised to suit individual storage needs by ordering extra accessories, including shoe and belt racks, and a trouser rail. The doors are available in a wide choice of woods and glass. Priced from **£878.60** from the Smartrobe collection, Caple

**Below** This **subterranean wine cellar** design can be installed into an existing ground-floor room or incorporated into the build of an extension or a new property. Prices starts at **£14,500**. Spiral Cellars



These stylish Italian-designed **Heron wardrobes** come in a choice of ten high-gloss lacquers, 24 matt colours and five veneer finishes, with a sliding door and polished aluminium edging that serves as a handle. Available (W)2,905mm or 3,865mm and (H)2,300mm, 2,480mm or 2,620mm, expect to pay from **£4,600**. Puro Design.



PHOTOGRAPH: NEIL MERSH

## 6 DIY OR TRADESMEN?

A rule of thumb for the novice DIY-er is to never undertake anything that could potentially damage your health or your property. If you have already employed a building contractor, they should be able to quote for built-in storage solutions as well. Alternatively, a local carpenter or joiner will be able to construct items of bespoke furniture. If you are drilling into a wall, use a detector to locate and avoid wires and water pipes, and always use circuit breakers with power tools.

## 7 CHECK YOUR WALLS

Most shelf supports need to be secured with screws. Consider the type of wall and the weight of each shelf when it is fully loaded. Shelf brackets must be affixed with screws at least 50mm long. The heavier the total load will be, the longer and larger-gauge (thicker) the screws must be. If it is a partition or stud wall, though, check that it is thick enough and consider alternatives to wall-mounting shelves. See [www.diybasics.co.uk](http://www.diybasics.co.uk) for further information on simple DIY jobs.

## 8 EXISTING STORAGE SPACE

Planning permission is not required when installing ladders, insulation and flooring to enable your loft to be used for storage. Ensure that your loft hatch will be wide enough to take larger items you may wish to store and, if creating under-eave cupboards, remember these may need to incorporate insulation and/or ventilation. If you are planning to convert your loft later into additional living accommodation, alternative storage may then be needed elsewhere in the house. ▶