

# home

## in the swing of things

For kids a swing isn't just a playground toy—it's a circus trapeze or a jungle vine. "And it can provide an escape for adults, too," says Suzanne Brown, author of *Summer: A User's Guide* [Artisan]. Brown made her own backyard swing. Here's how to do it: Find a thick branch 12 to 16 feet high. Tie a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch twisted polypropylene rope to a wooden board (drill holes in the seat) or a clean, old tire. "Now, pump your legs," Brown says, "and you're airborne."

### LIGHTEN UP

Use paint with a high Light Reflective Value (50+) to enhance the natural brightness in a room. The bigger the number, the more reflective the color.

### FLOOR PLAN

If you're building a deck, don't assume you need to hire a pro. First visit [uspconnectors.com](http://uspconnectors.com) for free design advice and help with resources.

### COMING CLEAN

Add a cup of distilled white vinegar to the rinse cycle when washing beach towels to remove salt and chlorine buildup, which makes them less absorbent.