



EXPERT REVEALS HOW TO MAKE A RENTED SPACE FEEL LIKE HOME

- With it harder than ever to get on the property market, more people are staying in rented accommodation, but that doesn't mean they can't put their own stamp on their home
- Nearly half of renters (47%) consider their current home as their 'forever home' according to B&Q's The Way We Live Now 2025 report
- From peel-and-stick solutions to clever no-drill shelving, **B&Q's Head of Decor, Gill Baker**, shares her top renter-friendly DIY tips and product picks

April 2025: With Stamp Duty rising this month, and house prices continuing to climb, many Brits are opting to rent for longer, preferring the flexibility and affordability over buying.

With nearly 1 in 5 Brits renting*, and TikTok videos showcasing renter hacks such as stick-on tiles racking up millions of views**, it's clear there's a growing demand for affordable, reversible home upgrades.

According to B&Q's The Way We Live Now 2025 report***, seven in ten (72%) tenants are prepared to spend money doing up their rental property to make it feel more like their home. A quarter (23%) say they have radically reimagined the space in their homes, or plan to in the future, to accommodate their changing needs. Nearly half (47%) of renters consider their current home their forever home and even more (88%) see their home as their sanctuary.

To help inspire renters to refresh their space, **Gill Baker, Head of Decor at B&Q** has shared a selection of easy DIY hacks and decor solutions that allow renters to upgrade their space with minimal fuss and maximum impact starting from just £4.38.

From peel-and-stick wallpaper to damage-free hanging solutions, these ideas help transform a rented home into a stylish sanctuary without upsetting landlords.

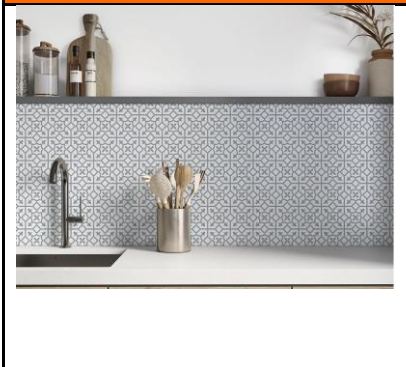


Gill Baker says: "One of the biggest misconceptions about renting is that you can't make a space truly feel like your own. With a few simple tweaks, like adding removable wallpaper, leaning artwork instead of drilling, or investing in statement furniture, you can create a home that reflects your personality. The key is to focus on what you can do (with permission) rather than what you can't do and choosing clever, temporary solutions that add character without leaving a trace. Of course, if you want to make bigger changes to your home, it's always advisable to seek the permission of your landlord. Our **The Way We Live Now 2025** report found that 94% of requests are approved by landlords – it can be a win-win if they think a tenant will improve their home."

Gill's top tips:

Peel-and-Stick Wallpaper & Tiles: A Game-Changer for Walls & Floors

Removable wallpaper and stick-on tiles are fantastic ways to refresh your rented space without the commitment of permanent changes. Peel-and-stick wallpaper can add colour and personality to a feature wall, while adhesive tiles are perfect for upgrading kitchen splashbacks, bathrooms, or even floors.


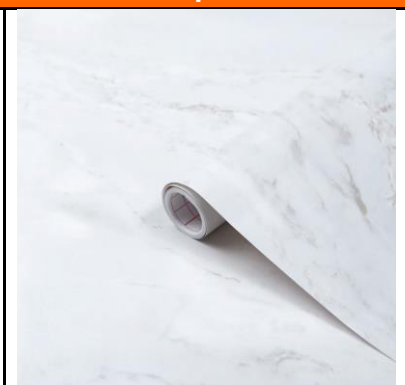

Gill's picks:

		
Grey Vintage Pattern Tile Stickers - £8.99	Terrazzo Stone Effect Self Adhesive Tile 1.2m2 - £15.30	Wood Slats Peel & Stick Wallpaper - £29.99

Contact paper: the Simple and Transformative Upcycling Hack




Contact paper (also known as sticky-back plastic) is an excellent solution for transforming tired worktops, cupboards, windowsills or even appliances. Opt for a marble-effect finish for a high-end look in the kitchen or go for a wood grain design to refresh outdated furniture. It's easy to apply and removes cleanly, making it perfect for giving your space a temporary but stylish upgrade.

Gill's picks:

		
Matt Light oak Wood effect Self-adhesive film - £8	Marble Matt White Self-adhesive film - £9	D-C-Fix Matt Mid sheen Sage green Self-adhesive film (L)2m (W)675mm - £9



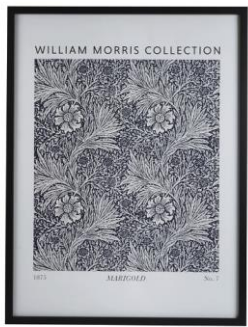
Tension Rods: A Versatile, Drill Free, Curtain Solution

If your rented space doesn't have proper curtain poles, tension rods offer an easy, no-drill alternative for hanging lightweight curtains. A well-chosen set of curtains can instantly make a room feel cosier while adding an elegant touch.

Gill's picks:		
		
GoodHome Araxos Matt Black Extendable Single curtain pole set, (L)1200mm-2100mm (Dia)28mm £20	Elisa Ecru Slub Lined Eyelet Curtains - From £50	GoodHome Athens Satin Grey Nickel effect Extendable Single curtain pole set, (L)600mm-900mm (Dia)28mm - £16

Leaning Artwork and Furniture: Switch up your Style with Speed

Leaning large artwork and mirrors against the wall, rather than hanging them is an easy way to create a laid back but stylish focal point. A full-length mirror propped against a wall makes a room feel bigger and brighter, while framed prints placed on a console table or shelf create an effortlessly curated look. This method also makes it easy to switch things up without worrying about damage.

Gill's picks:		
		
Arthouse Tuscany Flower Market Warm Tones Mixed size Canvas art - £32	Large Full Length Black Arch Wall Mirror - £189.99	William Morris Blue & Black Framed print - £30

Removable Hooks & Strips: The No-Damage Hanging Solution

Drilling into walls is often a no-go in rented properties, but adhesive hooks and strips offer a clever alternative. Use them to hang framed artwork, lightweight mirrors, or coat hooks without leaving a mark. They can even be used to create a stylish gallery wall or add extra storage with hanging hooks in your hallway, kitchen, or bathroom - all without risking losing the deposit.

Gill's picks:




 <p>3M Command BRAND</p> <p>Damage-Free Hanging</p> <p>Holds Strongly • Removes Cleanly</p> <p>Medium Picture Hanging Strips</p> <p>max. 45 x 60 cm</p> <p>M 4x2</p>	 <p>3M Command BRAND</p> <p>Damage-Free Hanging</p> <p>Holds Strongly • Removes Cleanly</p> <p>Medium Designer Hooks</p> <p>General Purpose</p>	 <p>3M Command BRAND</p> <p>Damage-Free Hanging</p> <p>Holds Strongly • Removes Cleanly</p> <p>Large Matte Black Double Hook</p>
<p>Command White Picture hanging Adhesive strip - £4.49</p>	<p>Command Designer Medium White Hook - £4.38</p>	<p>Command Large Black Bath Double Adhesive hook - £16.49</p>

Statement Furniture: Make your Space Stand out from the Crowd

Since some landlords won't allow major permanent changes, let your furniture make the statement instead. A bold velvet sofa or accent chair, unique coffee table, or colourful dining chairs can instantly elevate a space. Because you can take these pieces with you when you move, they're a smart investment that ensures your home always reflects your style, no matter where you live.





Gill's picks:



		
Velvet Accent Chair - £89.99	Interiors by Premier Modern Petal Coffee Table With Marble Top - £251.13	Teddy Boucle Fabric Pink Mirielle Swivel Accent Chair with Footstool - £369.99

Atmospheric Lighting – Setting the Mood

Good lighting can completely transform a rented home, making it feel warm and inviting. Swapping out harsh overhead lights for stylish table lamps, floor lamps, or battery-powered LED strips can add ambience and character. Smart bulbs with adjustable brightness and colour temperature are also a great way to personalise your space without making permanent changes.

Gill's picks:			
			
GoodHome Cushing Green & Cream Table lamp £20	Inlight Tripp Plain Matt Green Desk lamp £15	Triton Tripod Shelved Matt Black LED Floor lamp £75	Inlight Lucia Antique Brass effect pendant Light shade £16

All items are available in-store at B&Q and online now. Next day click & collect delivery is available on many products for a convenient shopping experience and B&Q Club members enjoy rewards every time they shop - helping them to create a home they love. For more information visit: www.diy.com.

ENDS

**Note to editors:**

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Research references:

*<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/freedomofinformationfoi/numberofrentersintheuk>

**<https://www.tiktok.com/discover/peel-and-stick-tile?lang=en>

***<https://www.diy.com/the-way-we-live-now>

About B&Q:

B&Q is the UK's leading home improvement and garden living retailer with over 300 stores throughout the UK and Ireland, offering great prices, with over 2m products available to order at diy.com for home delivery or click and collect.

For trade professionals, B&Q TradePoint offers exclusive membership to those in trades such as electricians, plasterers, fitters, plumbers, roofers, decorators, joiners, tilers, builders, landscapers and facilities and maintenance professionals. TradePoint members have exclusive access to dedicated TradePoint counters at around 200 B&Q stores as well as to [Trade-point.co.uk](https://www.trade-point.co.uk).

B&Q launched the UK's first home improvement marketplace in March 2022, adding additional choice for consumers. The marketplace offers a unique, integrated experience with in-store returns for many products and Click + Collect options being explored.

Their team of more than 21,000 colleagues of all ages are respected nationwide for providing great home improvement help to customers. They're the beating heart of B&Q and their iconic orange aprons are worn with pride.

Every year, more than 20 million people improve their homes and make life better with B&Q, and every year the company achieves ever-higher standards for sustainable operations and sourcing, and supports our local communities, including funding B&Q Foundation grants and Shelter's DIY Skills Advisors. For more information on our community initiatives visit <https://www.diy.com/corporate/community>

B&Q is part of Kingfisher plc, the international home improvement company, operating over 1,900 stores in 8 countries across Europe.