

solutions solutions



O I'm throwing an alfresco party. Which cut flowers will hold up best in the August heat?

Opt for hardy varieties that bloom in late summer, like dahlas, roses, sunflowers, yerrow and delphiniums, recommends Julie Mulligan, floral designer at 1-800-Flowers.com. And keep your arranged vases in a cool room until just before your guests arrive. If you want to make the flower plan even simpler, decorate with seasonal blooming potted plants such as African violets, begonias, geraniums, ferns and mums.

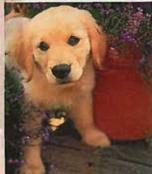
What can I do to keep the skin around my cuticles from peeling?

Open your pantry and grab the olive oil.
Rubbing a drop of this rich natural moisturizer onto your cuticles once a week softens them and the surrounding skin, keeping unsightly snags at bay. Aiready have a hangnail? Take a tip from the pros and use a cuticle trimmer at the first sign of a snag. Try the Seki Edge Profeselonal Cuticle Trimmer, \$1.2. beauty-supply stores.



O How do I stop Fido from digging up my flower beds?

Get your pooch to back away from your garden by sprinkling a few orange or lemon rinds around the plants. Since dogs can't stomach the scent or taste of citrus fruit, he's guaranteed to steer clear.



How do I remove smoke odors that won't wash out of clothing?

Regular detengents are first and foremost cleansers, not decidorizers so simply washing clothes won't always power out a stubborn odor. It is cligarette or barbecue sensive, explains Linda Cobb, author of Tarking Dirty Laundry With the Queen of Clean. Her success secret: Launder the smoky garments using your usual detergent along with ½ cup of white vinegar. The kitchen-cupboard essential has acidic properties that destroy odor-producing compounds.



Any way to make my clip-on earrings less painful?

Yes — ouchproof your favorite ear candy with Silp-Ons for Clip-Ons, \$5, earningdoctor.com. Each kit comes with four earing-clip covers made from silp-proof foam and 10 self-adhesive pads that attach to the inside of the earning, making throbbing lobes a thing of the past.

Lot a ciever solution? Please share it! Got a pesky problem? We can help solve it! Contact Qwick & Simple at solutions@quickandsimple.com.