

# IRONING



### what's new?

You'd be hard-pressed to find someone who likes ironing. The big brands know this and are attacking this dislike on two fronts, by revamping the iron and introducing garment steamers – a mainstay of stylists for years – for home use. The new steamers, which use steam to freshen up clothes and remove wrinkles (no ironing board required), are terrific. The only downside is that, without the pressure of an ironing plate, you can't achieve sharp pleats or stiff collars. Meanwhile, new irons are also making the process faster. The latest ones have improved glide and cut down on water refills.

### SMOOTH OPERATORS

Spray stubborn fabrics with a little water. "The moisture works to achieve smoother results," says Kambrook's Nancy Humphreys. A planned approach can also help. "Rather than ironing clothes on an ad hoc basis, consider working in batches to save set-up time," she says.

### design dynamics

An ironing board isn't something you want lying around taking up valuable floor space. If possible, design an area inside cabinets to store it neatly, but also plot out where you'll use it and position powerpoints accordingly. Check out Hafele's innovative ironing board storage solutions: fold and pull directly from behind a drawer front, have it wall-mounted, or fold out and use as a lateral board (right). There are also cabinets available at hardware stores with mirror fronts that hide a fold-out ironing board inside. The interior of large cupboard doors can also be fitted with hooks to hang ironing boards and cleaning accessories. **hb**



### TOP BUYS



1.

The Morphy Richards 'Vapocare' iron, \$499, features patented vapour technology for easier ironing, plus it uses less water than ever before.



2.

The Russell Hobbs 'Smooth IQ Pro' iron, \$119.95, uses tourmaline, a crushed semi-precious stone, to reduce static and create an easier ironing experience.

3.



A handy alternative to larger steamers is the Kambrook 'Swift Steam' Garment Steamer, \$49.95. Super compact, this one's perfect for work trips or a last-minute wardrobe change.

4.



Tefal's 'Minute' Garment Steamer, \$179, is a powerful steamer and odour killer that can be used on a wide range of fabrics. Heats up in just 60 seconds. *Stockists, page 212*