



Consumer watch

Get set for summer with bargain innovations, says **Hayley Gilbert**

Cable tidy

USB cables are a necessity of modern life and are often quite the inconvenience. When they're not being lost at the bottom of a drawer, they're simply refusing to plug into a socket – however hard you try. The wonderful people at Lindy have tackled both of these woes by inventing a microUSB-to-USB which is not only neon, but the USB end is also reversible, so it can be plugged into place in any direction you choose.



MicroUSB-to-USB cable, from £4.98 for a single pad, Lindy

TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY?

● According to research by Heart of House (available at Argos), over 80% of UK renters admit they aren't actually saving for a house of their own ● 43% said they feel trapped renting, as they just can't afford to save ● 21% said that renting their home suits their lifestyle ● London and Manchester are where renters are struggling the most to save ● Those in Birmingham and Leeds are more optimistic about climbing onto the property ladder.

Did you know...

A national survey conducted on behalf of Vorwerk (vkdirect.co.uk) has revealed some very interesting facts about our cleaning habits:

- 15% of pet owners vacuum their pets
- 23% of people across the UK spend more than four hours per week cleaning
- 8 out of 10 people are more likely to clean if friends or family are coming over



Side order

Make the most of your living area with a side return extension. Dan Davidson (buildteam.com) says:

- Bi-fold doors will open up the area and create a seamless boundary between the garden and home.
- Consider an all-glass roof, which will let natural light flood in.
- If you're concerned about privacy, think about a slate and Velux roof and include an inflected glass section for that extra bit of natural light.

Charge your phone wirelessly with Ikea

Imagine a world where you never have to quietly sidle up to a dinner party host and whisper the inevitable question: 'Excuse me, do you have a phone charger I could borrow?' Well, Ikea have gone and made our wish a reality with their new range of wireless charging products. All you need to do is pop your phone onto the + sign and your phone will automatically begin juicing up – no cables, no awkward, cringing questions.

Wireless chargers, from £30 for a **single pad**, £49 for a **lamp** and £50 for a **table**, Ikea

