

If you want to bring a coastal theme into your home, interiors-tides.co.uk offers a huge range of seaside-inspired accessories and gifts, including driftwood mirrors and fun artwork (below). You'll also find sea prints and nautical items. Everything is sourced from around the British Isles.



rabbitandrhubarb.co.

Twin sisters Cheryl Myers and Julie Lloyd-Davies run a business that gives vintage furniture a new lease of life.



WHAT IS RABBIT & RHUBARB?

We sell vintage furniture, which is sourced, restored and finished in beautiful chalky paint colours, and revamp those tired but well-loved pieces that people simply can't bear to part with. We also make hand-carved bespoke signs that encapsulate our rustic style.

HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?

We are identical twins and grew up in a creative family of antiques lovers and craftspeople. Our incredibly talented deaf parents patiently taught us everything we know, from spotting hidden gems in the unlikeliest of places to pulling on our overalls and wielding tools to fix, hammer, saw and paint something gorgeous. Six months ago we took the plunge and turned our experience into a business.

WHERE DO YOU SOURCE THE FURNITURE?

Everywhere and anywhere. While we love to rummage round larger antiques fairs, we also find stuff at various car boot sales and local antiques shops - we've even found stunning pieces in a skip.

ARE YOU HANDS-ON?

We do everything - from sourcing products to working on them - ourselves. We spent much of our youth hunting down bargains, so we have developed an eye for beautiful things and we both have a flair for interiors. When we see something, we know exactly how the end result will look and how we can achieve it.

WHICH PRODUCTS ARE THE MOST POPULAR?

We work on a range of items, from desks and rocking chairs to chests of drawers and old trunks, but our signature

pieces are country chairs painted in lovely colours (above centre) and vintage accessories like tennis racquets and wooden lasts (above right).

DO YOU DO BESPOKE REQUESTS?

Yes. If you're looking for a specific item, we can make it and also customise paint finishes if required.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR YOU?

As we are a fledgling business we are currently exploring seeing where our major strengths lie and how we can make ourselves more effective in the market. This includes working with interior designers and with customers. It is our aim to combine work and that we are very open to see how things develop.

plantabox.co.uk

Stuck for gift ideas? What about wooden crates personalised with a name or message? They make stylish storage for your recycling and can also be used as garden containers. A planter crate (right), 53x36x27cm, with five packets of herb seeds, costs £35 and can be delivered the next day in mainland UK.



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