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FEBRUARY ISSUE 2025

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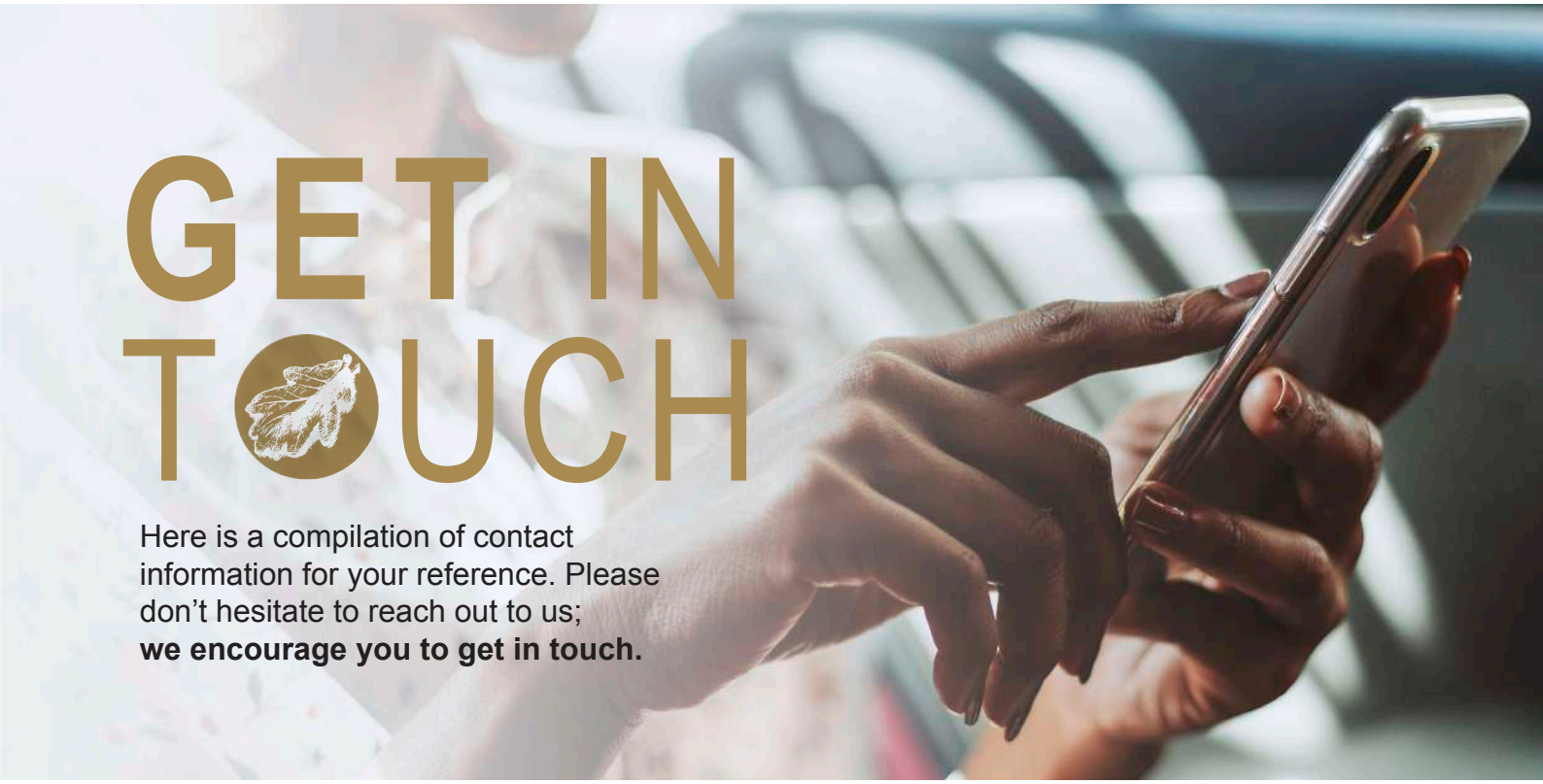

GET IN TOUCH

Here is a compilation of contact information for your reference. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us; **we encourage you to get in touch.**

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Letter from the MANAGER

As we step into the new year, we are thrilled to welcome you all back to Lombardy. For those who had the opportunity to travel during the holidays, we hope your time away was restful and rejuvenating.

With 2025 upon us, we're excited to embrace a fresh start and continue building a vibrant, harmonious, and thriving community.

A Year Full of Possibilities

2025 is shaping up to be an exciting year, with plenty of events, community initiatives, and important maintenance projects planned. Here's a sneak peek of what's in store:

Community Events:
We are dedicated to bringing residents together through engaging events that foster connection and create lasting memories. Keep an eye out for announcements about upcoming gatherings and activities—we can't wait to share more with you!

Security Improvements:
Your safety is our highest priority. This year, we will be enhancing our security systems, including addressing speeding concerns within the estate to ensure a safer environment for everyone.

Ongoing Maintenance:
Maintaining the estate's high standards is a top focus for us. From boundary wall maintenance, road repairs to garden enhancements and paving work in the Lakes area, we are committed to preserving the beauty and functionality of Lombardy.

We encourage all residents to stay involved and contribute to our community by attending events, sharing feedback, and offering ideas. Your input plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our estate.

Here's to a year full of growth, connection, and positive changes. We look forward to making 2025 a memorable year together!

Carli Steenberg

HOA Manager
Lombardy Estate

REFRESHER ON RULES:

Home Modifications

Planning to paint, extend, or make any exterior changes to your home? Please reach out to the HOA office before appointing contractors to ensure compliance with both local authority regulations and HOA rules. We encourage members to seek approval first rather than “ask for forgiveness”. This policy also applies to additions such as air conditioning units, generators, solar installations, and even gutters. Our team is here to guide you through the process; please reach out for assistance!

Moving & Construction Vehicle Guidelines

We know moving, building, and renovating can be stressful. As the estate continues expanding its irrigation system and enhancing the gardens, please ensure moving or delivery trucks are no longer than 10 meters. Larger trucks often struggle to navigate our narrow roads and may damage common property, especially sprinklers. Please also note that furniture removal trucks may only enter the estate until 17:00.

Tenant Issues & Access Policies

For landlords experiencing non-payment issues with tenants, please see this helpful article on managing rent disputes: Evicting a Tenant for Non-Payment. While the HOA understands the challenges this presents, it cannot restrict access for tenants unless a formal court eviction order has been granted.

Builder’s Holiday Closure

Construction activities on the estate will pause from Friday, 13 December 2024, until Monday, 6 January 2025. All members currently in the construction phase must book their final inspection at least one week prior to these dates. Please contact Sue Anne Van den Berg at admin@lombardyestate.co.za to schedule. Inspections not booked on time may incur a penalty.

Levy Statements (Mid City)

Many members using Gmail and Hotmail accounts are experiencing issues receiving levy statements from Mid City, often finding them in their spam or junk folders. If you have not received your levy statements, please check those folders and ensure the email address from which levy statements are sent is on your inbox list. For persistent issues, contact us at office@lombardyestate.co.za or melanie.lewis@midcity.co.za.

Pet Policies: Keep Pets Secure

We’ve received complaints about dogs roaming off-leash on the estate, sometimes behaving aggressively toward other members, staff, pets, and wildlife. Please make sure your dogs are secure and cannot escape through gates or holes in fencing when unattended. Additionally, always leash your dogs when walking them and bring a waste bag.

Reminders for Pet Owners:

- Maximum of 2 dogs and 2 cats per household.
- Lakes and Fountains units: Only small-breed dogs are allowed due to limited space.
- ID Tags & Microchips: Dogs and cats must wear a collar with a tag showing the owner’s name, address, and phone number. Unidentified pets roaming the estate will be taken to the HOA’s kennel, and penalties will apply. Unclaimed pets will be sent to the SPCA after 48 hours.



Tree Management At Fountains

We need member assistance with a challenge involving the River Bush Willow and Wit Stinkhout trees lining the Fountains entrance road. The Wit Stinkhout has an aggressive root system and requires significant water, which can impact nearby structures, sewage lines, and water systems. Although River Bush Willows usually do not have such roots, their horizontal growth (due to mist irrigation) is lifting pavements and curbs. The HOA is currently investigating solutions, which may include removing some trees to prevent further damage. Members with relevant experience or suggestions can contact Carli at gm@lombardyestate.co.za.

Plant A Tree Project: Join Us for Arbor Day 2025!

Although the estate is already lush, we'd like to grow even greener! To celebrate Arbor Day 2025, we're inviting members to sponsor a tree. Each sponsor can select a tree from an approved list, and we'll handle the planting. A location pin will be provided for you to track your tree's growth, and each tree will have an honorary plaque. Stay tuned for more details on this community-building event!

Pedestrian Crossings for Increased Safety

To enhance safety for all residents, especially children, the HOA will be installing pedestrian crossings connecting walkways over estate roads. These crossings aim to encourage drivers to slow down and give pedestrians a safer experience.

Snake Activity

With the warmer weather, snakes are becoming more active. For safe and humane removal of any snakes found on the estate, please contact one of our dedicated removal experts:

- Tinus Meyer: 082 569 2044
- Tarry Butcher: 076 300 1810
- Heinrich Nolte: 082 927 1205
- Calvin Moodley: 072 865 5618
- Ross Welsh: 072 751 3795

We also recommend downloading the South African Snake Bite Institute App for quick snake identification and emergency advice. Additionally, you can find more information here on species commonly found in Gauteng



Exciting

UPDATES & UPGRADES COMING THIS FEBRUARY!

As discussed during the recent AGM, the HOA will begin construction of a new parking area for residents at the main gate, specifically for those visiting the security offices. We kindly ask for your patience and understanding during this time and look forward to the benefits this upgrade will bring.

Additionally, the HOA clubhouse is currently undergoing extensive waterproofing and will be unavailable for the next few weeks. Please reach out to the HOA office for more information on availability.

We're also nearing completion of the garden upgrades at Fountains, with the entrance receiving a fresh new look.

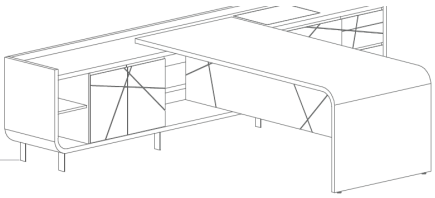
We appreciate your patience as we create new flower beds and allow the newly planted flowers time to establish themselves.

Lastly, our main gate will soon be upgraded with state-of-the-art cameras for enhanced security in our access lanes. We ask for your understanding during the installation process.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we work to improve our community!



EXECUTIVE APPEAL



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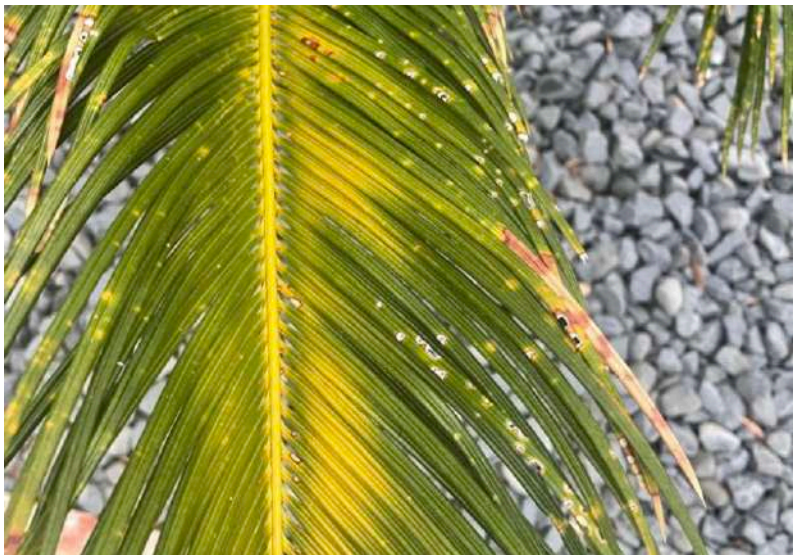
Protect Your Cycads from Unwelcome Visitors

A Must-Read, Once More

If you have cycads in your garden, you might notice new leaves turning yellow with pale, straw-like edges. This is often the work of the Leopard Magpie Moth Caterpillar (Zeronopsis leopardina).





Spotting the Culprit:

These caterpillars are hard to miss—black with bold yellow “leopard spots” and up to 5 cm long. They feast in groups on tender new cycad leaves, leaving a trail of damage. After winter, they emerge as striking orange and black moths, laying eggs that hatch quickly into hungry caterpillars.

Why They’re a Problem:

Leaf Damage: They can strip plants bare, with damage lingering until new growth appears.

Reproductive Impact: They destroy female cones, reducing seed production.

Rapid Spread: Moving from plant to plant, they can quickly infest your entire garden.

How to Protect Your Cycads:

Handpick: Regularly inspect and remove caterpillars while they're small.

Insecticidal Soap: Effective on young caterpillars with repeated applications.

Natural Predators: Encourage birds and beneficial insects.

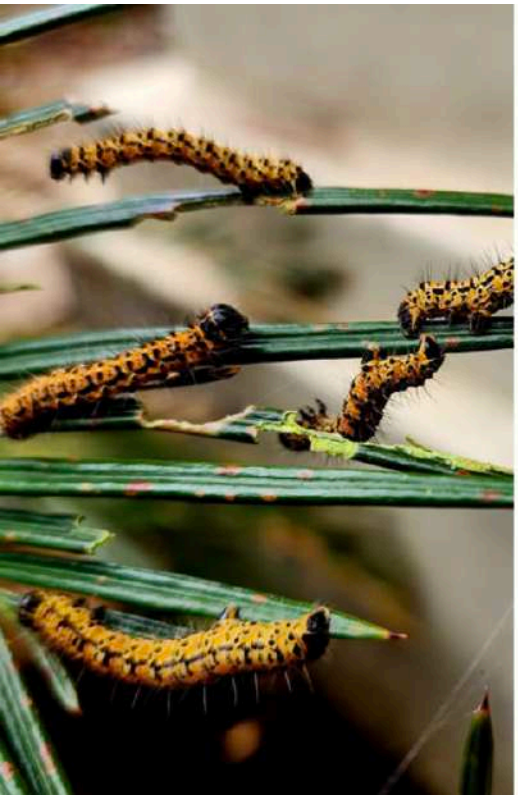
Mesh Coverings: Prevent moths from laying eggs.

For Severe Infestations: Use insecticides labeled safe for cycads, following guidelines to avoid harming the environment.

With regular checks and these simple steps, your cycads can stay healthy and vibrant year-round.











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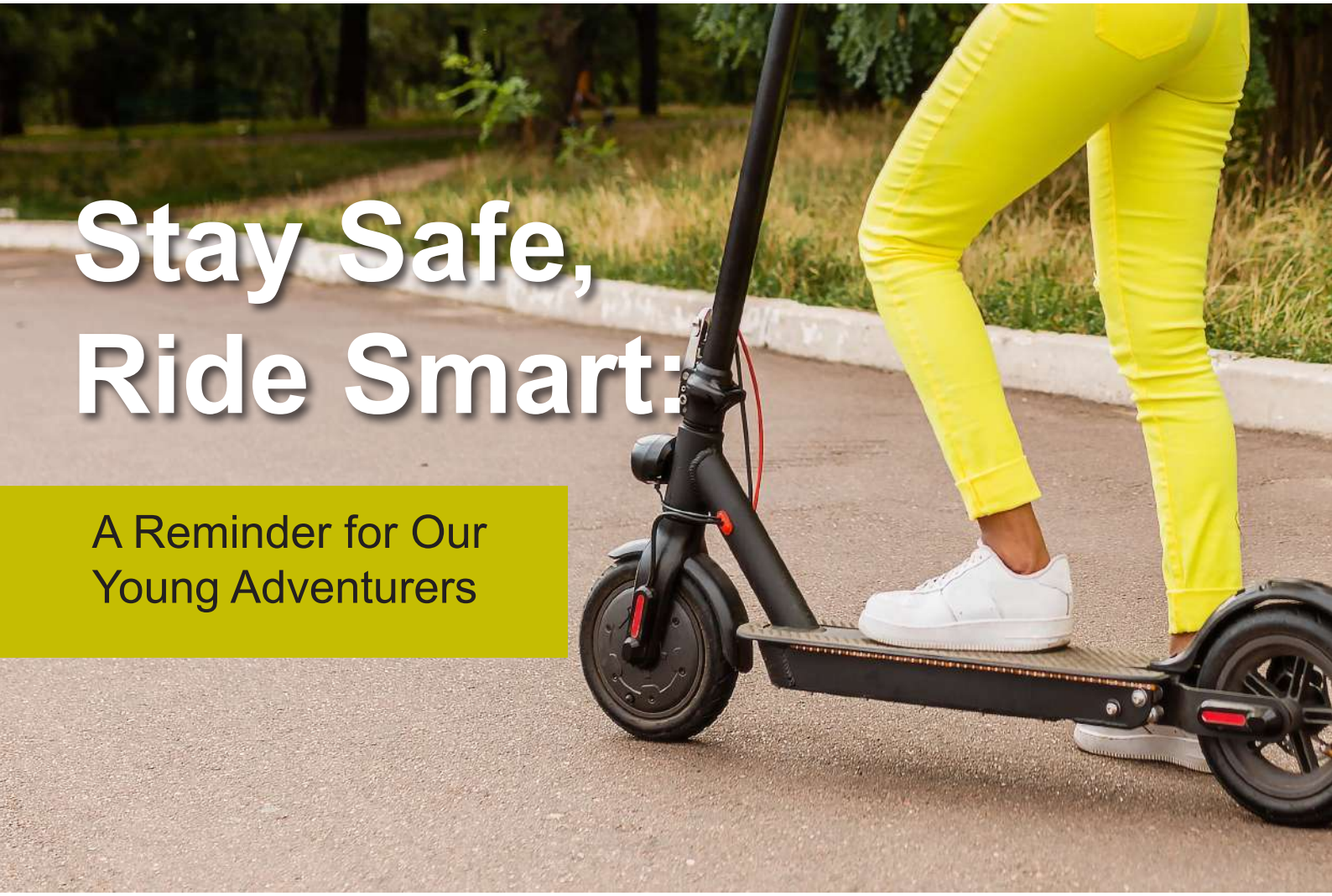

Stay Safe, Ride Smart:

A Reminder for Our Young Adventurers

We've noticed a growing number of children enjoying the thrill of e-bikes, electric scooters, and hoverboards on our estate roads. While it's fantastic to see kids embracing outdoor activities, it's also raised concerns due to several near misses with vehicles, particularly in areas like Lakes and Fountains where visibility is limited.

Safety First!

We love seeing children active, but roads are not playgrounds. Parents, please remind your children of the potential dangers:

Stick to Safe Zones: Encourage the use of designated footpaths, parks, and safe play areas.

Road Awareness: Teach them to stop, look both ways, and be cautious when crossing roads.

Know the Risks: Kids riding bikes, scooters, or skateboards need to understand the dangers of sharing roads with vehicles.

As parents, it's your responsibility to guide your children on road safety, ensuring they can enjoy our beautiful estate while staying safe.

Important Update:

Due to a surge in complaints and concerns about unsupervised children on the roads, the HOA Board will be updating the Rules of Conduct related to traffic safety. Expect a new set of rules to be circulated soon, aiming to create a safer environment for everyone.

Let's work together to keep our estate a safe, enjoyable place for all!



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Love That Lasts

How to Keep Your Hoya Heart Plant Thriving!

The Hoya heart plant (Hoya kerrii), often gifted on Valentine's Day, is cherished for its charming heart-shaped leaves. This succulent is not only a symbol of affection but also a low-maintenance addition to any indoor space.

Hoya kerrii is a species of Hoya native to Southeast Asia. It was named after its eponymous collector, Arthur Francis George Kerr, a British physician and botanist. As the thick leaves are heart-shaped, the plant is sometimes named "Lucky-heart." This heart-shaped succulent is one of the most adorable plants on the market. You can plant it alone or even write words on it for someone special!

How to Care for Your Hoya Heart Plant

Light

Place your Hoya heart in bright, indirect light. While it can tolerate some direct sunlight, excessive exposure may cause leaf burn. If the leaves turn light green or yellow, it might need more light or less water.

Watering

As a succulent, the Hoya heart stores water in its fleshy leaves. Water the plant thoroughly when the top inch or two of soil feels dry, typically every two weeks during warmer months. In cooler months, reduce watering to once every three to four weeks. Overwatering can lead to root rot, so ensure the soil dries out between waterings.

Soil

Use a well-draining soil mix to promote healthy roots. Regular potting mixes can be too heavy; instead, combine potting soil with orchid bark and perlite to enhance drainage.

Temperature and Humidity

Hoya heart plants thrive in temperatures between 18°C and 30°C, making them well-suited for South African climates. While they can adapt to typical indoor humidity levels, they appreciate a bit of extra humidity. Placing them near a humidifier or in naturally humid rooms, like bathrooms, can be beneficial.

Repotting

Every couple of years, repot your Hoya heart to refresh the soil and prevent compaction. You don't necessarily need a larger pot; simply providing fresh, well-draining soil will support its health and potential flowering.

Propagation

If you wish to propagate, ensure you have a cutting with a stem node, as single-leaf cuttings without a node won't develop into a vining plant. After taking a cutting, let the end dry out (a process called callusing) before planting it in well-draining soil. Keep the soil slightly moist and place the cutting in bright, indirect light until roots develop. By following these care guidelines, your Hoya heart plant will remain a delightful and enduring symbol of love in your home!



Fertilization

Due to their slow growth, Hoya hearts don't require much fertilizer. Feed them twice a year in spring and summer with a balanced houseplant fertilizer diluted to half strength.


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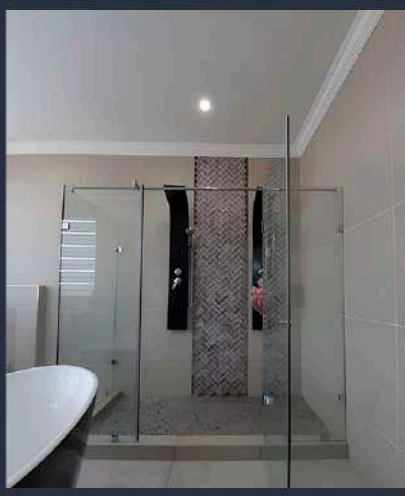

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BEHIND THE TAIL: ANAL GLAND DRAMA...

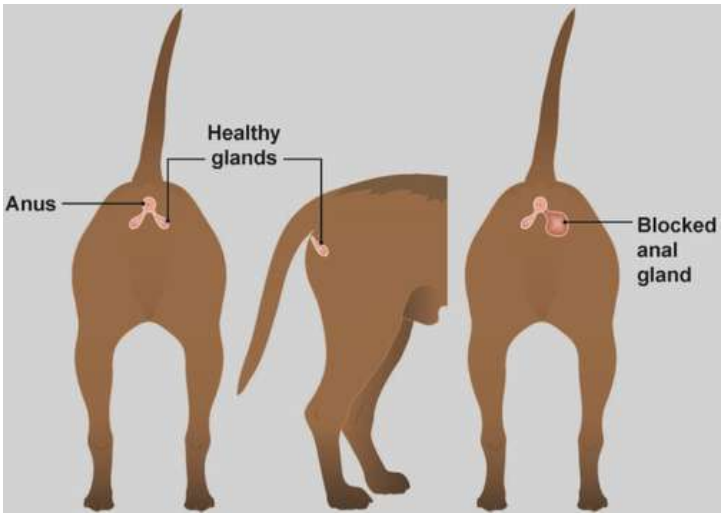
BY DR VICKY LOUW (BVSC)

Anal Glands:

Anal glands in dogs and cats (yes, cats have them too) are small sacs located near the anus, specifically at 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock positions. These glands produce a smelly secretion that is typically released when the animal defecates, helping to mark territory and communicate with other animals.

Why do Dogs and Cats have Anal Glands:

The primary function of anal glands is to provide a scent marker for animals, which is important for communication, particularly in the wild. The scent can convey information such as the animal's identity, health, and territory.



https://www.k9ofmine.com/how-to-express-dog-anal-glands/

Why Should Owners be aware of them?:

While most pets naturally express their anal glands during defecation, some may experience issues, such as:

1. **Impaction**: The glands may become full and unable to express naturally. This can cause discomfort or pain, and the glands may need to be manually expressed by a vet or groomer.

2. **Infection**: If the glands become blocked or impacted, they can become infected. Signs include swelling, redness, pain, or a foul odour. Infected glands may require antibiotics or surgical intervention in severe cases.

3. **Abscesses**: If an infected gland bursts, it can lead to an abscess, which can be very painful and require treatment such as drainage or surgery.

4. **Tumours**: Though rare, tumours (cancer) can form in the anal glands, either benign or malignant, which may cause symptoms like swelling, bleeding, or discomfort.

What are the symptoms to look out for that could indicate Anal Gland Pathology?

- When you notice a **foul odour** (often fishy or strong)hanging around your pet. This is often a sign of the anal glands being too full but unable to express, leading to the leaking of contents onto furniture, etc.

- **Scooting** does not only mean your pet has worms, but it could also be a sign of blocked anal glands. Blocked glands are uncomfortable, and this is the pet's way of trying to express their anal glands themselves.
- **Licking or biting at the rear end** starts when the pressure and discomfort increases.
- Sometimes they can have difficulty or show signs of **pain during defecation**.
- **The anus and surrounding tissue become inflamed** and red when an abscess is forming. This is accompanied by severe pain and discomfort.
- When an anal gland abscess bursts open, you will notice **blood and/or pus** draining from the area. Sometimes you will notice relief from your pet once the abscess has burst and the pressure is relieved.



Treatment Options:

- **Manual Expression**: A veterinarian or groomer (Yes, if you are brave enough, you can learn to do it yourself as well) can manually express the glands if they become impacted or overfull.
- **Medical intervention:** Antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drugs can be prescribed.
- **Surgical Intervention**: Anal gland abscesses can sometimes be treated under general anaesthesia, in which case dead tissue is debrided away and the wound closed with sutures. In severe cases, especially with recurring infections or abscesses, surgery to remove the glands may be considered but because of the possible complications, this is usually the last resort.

How can you help prevent blocked Anal Glands:

- **Maintain a Healthy Weight**: Overweight pets are more prone to anal gland problems, especially cats.
- **Balanced Diet**: A diet high in fiber can help keep your pet's glands healthy.
- **Improving Stool Consistency**: Fiber helps to bulk up and firm the stool, which can aid in the natural expression of the anal glands. When a pet has a firm stool, the glands are more likely to empty as the stool passes by, reducing the risk of impaction.
- **Promoting Regular Bowel Movements**: A diet high in fiber promotes regular and healthy bowel movements, which can prevent constipation. Constipation can lead to the anal glands not being expressed naturally, causing them to become impacted or blocked.
- **Prevent Impaction**: When a dog or cat has sufficient fiber in their diet, the stool becomes larger and more solid, which helps press against the anal glands during
- **Exercise**: Regular exercise helps stimulate bowel movements, which can also aid in the natural expression of the glands.

Conclusion

We hope this article has shed some light on a very hidden and mysterious part of your pet's anatomy. If you notice any signs of discomfort or unusual behavior in your pet related to their anal glands, it's a good idea to consult with a veterinarian for proper diagnosis and treatment.



EMPOWERING YOURSELF FOR A STRESS-FREE NEW YEAR

As the new year begins, it's a perfect time to reflect on the year that's passed and set meaningful intentions for the future. But how can we truly empower ourselves to create positive change and abundance in the year ahead without falling into the familiar traps of old habits? The key lies in self-awareness, intentional action, and creating a fresh mindset. Here's how you can embrace a stress-free and empowering start to your year.

1. Reflect on the Year That's Passed

Before moving forward, take a moment to look back. What worked for you last year, and what didn't? Identifying patterns, behaviors, or habits that drained your energy or caused unnecessary stress is the first step to transformation. Be honest with yourself, but avoid judgment. Reflection isn't about blaming yourself for what went wrong but about understanding where you can grow.

2.Set Intentions Instead of Resolutions

Resolutions often fail because they feel rigid or overwhelming. Instead, focus on setting clear, meaningful intentions. For example, instead of saying, "I want to lose weight," reframe it as, "I want to nourish my body and feel strong." Intentions are rooted in the "why," giving your goals more purpose and flexibility to evolve.

3. Let Go of Old Habits

Breaking free from old habits is no easy task, but it's essential for growth. Start by identifying the triggers that lead you to repeat unwanted behaviors. Then, create alternative actions that align with your new intentions. For instance, if you find yourself scrolling social media when stressed, replace that habit with a short walk or journaling session.



One practical method for letting go of the past is inspired by Dr. Raoul Goldberg, who suggests incorporating expressive activities like journaling, movement, or visualization to help release emotional baggage and uncover new energy for growth. These simple practices can open the door to new patterns and opportunities.

4. Create a Mindset of Abundance

Abundance isn't just about wealth—it's about recognizing and appreciating what you already have while inviting more positivity into your life. Start each day with gratitude. Write down three things you're thankful for, no matter how small. Cultivating this habit shifts your focus from scarcity to abundance, setting a positive tone for your day and year.



5. Surround Yourself with Positive Influences

The people we spend time with greatly impact our energy and outlook. Seek out those who uplift and inspire you, and distance yourself from negativity where possible. Building a supportive community can help keep you motivated and aligned with your goals.

6. Be Kind to Yourself

Self-compassion is essential when striving for change. There will be days when you slip into old habits or feel unmotivated, and that's okay. Treat yourself with kindness, acknowledge the setback, and gently guide yourself back to your intentions. Progress is rarely linear, but every small step forward matters.

7. Take Action, No Matter How Small

The smallest actions can lead to the biggest changes. Whether it's committing to five minutes of mindfulness each day, starting a gratitude journal, or saying "no" to something that drains you, these incremental changes build momentum and empower you to take control of your life.

8. Prioritize Your Well-being

Your physical and mental health are the foundation of a stress-free life. Make self-care a priority, whether that means scheduling regular exercise, getting enough sleep, or carving out time to relax and recharge. When you care for yourself, you're better equipped to face challenges and embrace opportunities.

The new year is a blank slate, offering endless possibilities for growth, abundance, and peace. By reflecting on the past, setting clear intentions, and committing to small, meaningful actions, you can empower yourself to break free from old habits and create a year filled with purpose and joy. Take this opportunity to invest in yourself and watch how your world transforms.

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10 Ways to Say "I Love You" this Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is all about celebrating love—whether it's for your partner, your family, your friends, or even yourself. You don't need grand gestures or expensive gifts to say ***"I love you."***

Here are ten heartfelt ways to show your love this Valentine's Day, along with some practical tips to make each idea extra special.

1. Write a Handwritten Love Letter

A handwritten note never goes out of style. Write down how much your loved one means to you, why you appreciate them, and the special moments you've shared together.

Tip: Use beautiful stationery or a card for a personal touch. If you're struggling to find the right words, add a favourite poem, an inside joke, or a memory that always makes you smile.

2. Cook Their Favourite Meal

Food is a love language of its own. Surprise them with their favourite dishes, or cook together for some quality bonding time. A homemade meal always feels more meaningful than dining out.

Tip: Set the table beautifully or have a picnic in the garden. Make it extra special with your favourite wine or drink. Need help with the setup? Check out www.dialapicnic.co.za for inspiration. Add fairy lights or candles for a cosy, romantic touch.

3. Surprise Them with a Thoughtful Gift

A thoughtful gift shows you've paid attention to what they love or need. It could be something sentimental like a framed photo, a handmade craft, or a book by their favourite South African author.

Tip: Support local by shopping from small businesses or artisans. Think handmade jewellery, scented candles, or unique decor that matches their style.

4. Plan a Personalised Date

Ditch the usual dinner-and-movie routine and plan something tailored to their interests. Go hiking, or explore South Africa's stunning landscapes together.

5. Give the Gift of Quality Time

In our busy world, giving someone your undivided attention is a rare and meaningful gift. Go for a long walk, binge-watch their favourite show, or simply enjoy a quiet coffee together.

Tip: Switch off your phone and other distractions. This small act speaks volumes about how much you value your time together.

6. Say It Through Acts of Service

Sometimes, actions really do speak louder than words. Show your love by doing something helpful, like tidying the house, washing their car, or bringing them breakfast in bed.

Tip: Notice what's been weighing on them and offer to help ease the load. Simple acts like making tea or running errands can go a long way.

7. Share a Playlist or Song

Music has a way of saying things we sometimes can't. Create a playlist of songs that remind you of them, or dedicate a special track that sums up how you feel.

8. Create a DIY Gift

There's something extra special about a homemade gift. Ideas include a "jar of love" filled with reasons why you love them, a scrapbook of memories, or baked treats like biscuits.

9. Celebrate Their Achievements

Show your love by recognising and celebrating their accomplishments, no matter how big or small. Compliment them, toast their hard work, or simply tell them how proud you are.

10. Simply Say the Words

Sometimes, the most meaningful way to say "I love you" is to just say it. Look them in the eye, hold their hand, and let them know how much they mean to you.

Tip: If "***I love you"*** feels too formal, try something more casual like "I appreciate you" or "You mean the world to me." Keep it authentic and heartfelt.

At its core, Valentine's Day is about making your loved ones feel cherished. But you don't have to wait for a special occasion to show how you feel. The best thing you can do for each other is to express love every day—through words, actions, and little thoughtful gestures. Life is short, so just do it. Let the people you love know how much they mean to you, not just on Valentine's Day, but always.





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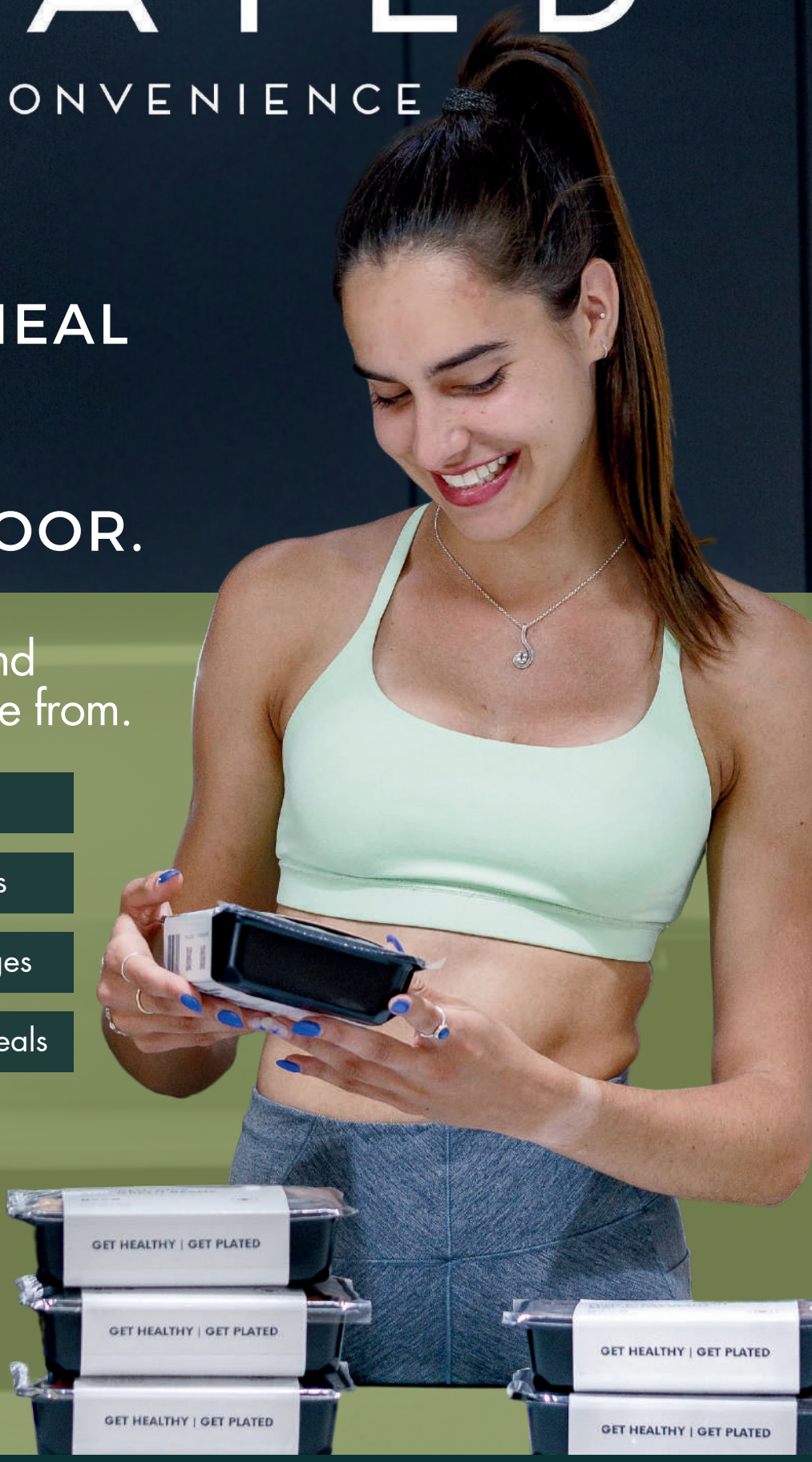

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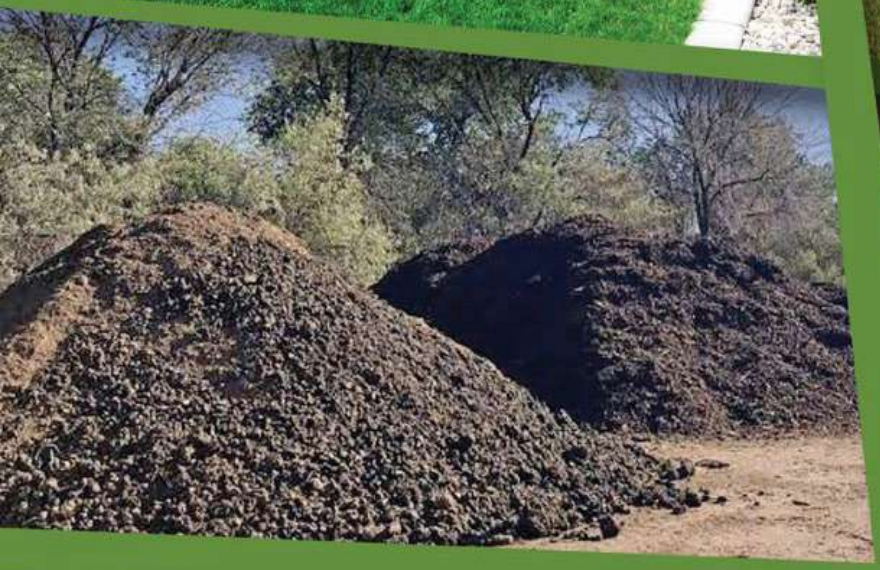



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MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS CLEANS UP OVER AWARDS SEASON

News that Mercedes-Benz's latest E-Class has made it into the finals of the South African Car of the Year Awards shouldn't come as any great surprise; the sixth generation luxury sedan has been racking up trophies ever since it was launched. Here's why.

But first those gongs. Arguably the most important – to date – is the celebrated 2025 MotorTrend Car Of The Year award, given for excellence in refinement, design and engineering. In awarding the E-Class the Golden Callipers, MotorTrend noted it excelled in all six of its stringent criteria categories (safety, efficiency, value, advancement in design, engineering excellence, and performance). TopGear SA agreed, handing the E220d their coveted Executive Saloon of the Year award in December 2024. India followed suit, crowning the E-Class its ICOTY Premium Car of the Year 2025. A stellar awards season was rounded off by Euro NCAP announcing it as their Best Performer in 2024, making it the safest car the august body tested last year.

The accolades will likely keep coming, in no small part because the latest E-Class is a wholly complete package, excelling in every area of execution, a technical tour de force that is class-leading in terms of safety, drivability, comfort, luxury, refinement, elegance and efficiency.

One of the safest cars in the world

In winning the Euro NCAP award, E-Class showed excellence in active and passive safety, adult occupant protection, child occupant protection, vulnerable road user protection and safety assist technologies. These advances flow from Mercedes-Benz's new crash test centre in Sindelfingen, a world leader in vehicle safety, where cutting-edge radar, strength and electronic technology is tested for use in systems such as Pre-Safe, Electronic Stability Control and enhanced adaptive cruise control. E-Class went through over 15 000 crash tests in its development cycle, providing invaluable data for real-world accident scenarios, saving lives in the process.

One of the most technologically advanced cars of 2025

The E-Class remains a class leader in technology integration, with features such as the dashboard-wide Hyperscreen, augmented reality navigation, personalised driver profiles, sophisticated new voice recognition software and integrated AI assistance to better learn a driver's style and habits. The key is to keep the driver and occupants as safe, connected and entertained as possible, with the car an extension of their daily lives, thoroughly prepared for every eventuality and reducing stress into the bargain.

The most comfortable Mercedes-Benz ever?

A key focus of E-Class development was holistic comfort – quiet, cushioning, electronically adaptive suspension systems, silent, smooth shifting 9G-TRONIC gearbox, interior noise reduction, seat comfort, visual space and the refinement of the cabin. Comfort is a major E-Class focus, with seats offering massage functions, heated and ventilated options, and an advanced climate control system that maintains optimal comfort, chosen independently by drivers and passengers alike.

Unparalleled efficiency and power

The new E-Class's approach to efficiency is naturally a holistic one as well – advances in engine and hybrid technology as well as attention to aerodynamics make for a class-leading luxury saloon. A drag factor of 0.23 Cd puts it in a class of its own, and when teamed up with the popular 220d ultra clean, turbocharged diesel engine, it manages astonishing consumption figures of 5l/100km, unrivalled in its class. Sophisticated engine management systems produce equally good figures for the 220d's petrol cousins, including the barnstorming Mercedes-AMG E53, due in South Africa shortly. It features a turbocharged, inline-6 cylinder engine aided by advanced plug-in hybrid technology to deliver impressive electric-only range while maintaining Mercedes-AMG's hallmark performance.

It's beautiful too

Visually, 2025's E-Class is an exercise in subtle balance: a refined, aerodynamic silhouette with a larger grille, sharper lines, but also a more aggressive stance, blending elegance with performance cues, creating a thoroughly modern look. LED lighting technology, including adaptive headlights and signature LED daytime running lights , enhance visibility and look good. The car is ideally suited to the AMG-Line package of visual enhancements, accenting an already superb silhouette.

For more information on the award-winning new Mercedes-Benz E-Class, visit **www.mercedes-benz.co.za**.

Plascon

2025 COLOUR FORECAST

HYBRIDITY



DARK BRIGHT NATURAL NEUTRAL

THE WORLD IS WHAT WE MAKE OF IT

Visit www.plasconcolour.co.za for more details on the Plascon 2025 Colour Forecast.



Hybridity is the hero of the much-awaited Plascon 2025 Colour Forecast

For 2025, Plascon flips the script to harness the power of polarities and mixed states in its much-awaited annual Colour Forecast. Rather than focusing on a single colour, a colour combination, or seasonal shifts, it is the theme of hybridity that takes the day - or the night, for that matter - for 2025.

Unexpected, evocative colour sets that reference the beauty of our local context will scintillate in the months to come. The theme of hybridity runs through four carefully considered colour families: Bright, Dark, Natural and Neutral. Each colour family is based on the meeting of opposites, creating a commanding effect that is more striking than the sum of its parts. Further distinguishing the Forecast from the format of previous years, Plascon takes the theme of hybridity a step further, extending an invitation to combine colours across the family groupings to create new possibilities.

‘After consulting with leading trend researchers, International Trend Institute (ITI), we have taken a very different direction for 2025. We understand the industry is used to the convention of having a single colour of the year, or even a colour combination of the year, and we share in this ourselves, but we’re just not feeling this in the zeitgeist for 2025,’ says Plascon Brand Manager Kristel Dreyer.

‘With so much flux in the world right now, we can’t see our way to dictating a single hue that will be meaningful for everyone, everywhere, and all at the same time. With the increasing melding of digital and physical realms, we feel hybridity is the state everyone shares. Rather than one way of being or doing, for 2025, we’re pleased to share a multiverse of colour with you. We are trusting in our decision that an open-ended rather than finite approach to colour for next year is what people will relate to most!’ she says. ‘The spirit of the 2025 Colour Forecast is co-creation, it’s in how you interpret and bring the colour families to life yourself. It goes way further than just a single colour of the year.’

According to trend researcher Chris Reid of ITI, ‘From a conceptual level, the zeitgeist is all about multiplicity right now. No-one is any one thing any more. We change identity the way we change outfits. So the most relevant or top-of-mind colour isn’t fixed for as long as a year. Maybe we’ll be able to be more definitive about a single-minded colour of the year when our

identities and thinking coalesce more and the world is less in flux, but for now it's all about playing with possibility.'

Without any further ado, here are the four enticing colour families that invite you to make your own choices.

Bright: Digital x Physical



Leaning into the playful irreverence of online culture, the Bright colour family is as vivid as its name suggests. These hues express energy and extraversion through mood-boosting soft neons and digital fluorescents. They are perfect for those who wish to master the art of the unexpected in their interiors, or simply want to design a room that makes a statement. Included in the set are pared-back versions of four of the colours; these are more subtle, but undoubtedly imbued with the same lively spirit. They can be paired with their electric counterparts but they're also strong enough to stand alone. Even when used sparingly, this colour family is local and current. With one foot in the future and another in the past, it raises a hat to a Capetonian context in the form of the vibrant colours of the historic homes lining the streets of the Bo-Kaap.



Dark: Past x Present

Regency era opulence meets sleek contemporary design to produce the Dark colour family. Its jewel tones and rich leather colours have been selected to build tone-on-tone spaces with incredible depth or to bring a sense of grounding to a room furnished in softer palettes. The darkest colours play the role of classic black in contemporary design and this simple swop can transform the feel of a room by adding an undertone of old world-luxury. In step with South African trends which are starting to favour lavish finishings over stark, cold minimalism, the Dark colour family is poised to make a lasting impact on local audiences in 2025.

Natural: Organic x Manmade

Inspired by the unexpected synergy at the intersection of nature and the built environment, colours drawn from naturally occurring organic pigments and cultivated construction materials form the basis of the Natural colour family. The seven colours in this grouping are effortlessly evocative, creating a sense of

calm and a feeling of oneness with nature.

Beyond being gentle on the eyes, this colour family is in line with the international Japandi trend, a blend of Japanese and Scandinavian craftsmanship and balance. Building on this, the Natural palette encapsulates intentional combinations and intuitive design, with the human connection to nature tying them together.



“ By paying close attention to local and global trends, the four colour families offer a glimpse into the next phase of our country’s diversity, integration and celebration of its differences as well as its similarities. It places the power in the hands of the individual to make and remake spaces that continue to evolve. “



Neutral: Hard x Soft

Neutrals are a perennial staple bringing lasting elegance to interior and outdoor spaces. In Plascon’s 2025 Neutral colour family, they are reimagined and shaped by soft industrial design and genderless fashion trends. Mirroring the mood of the defined grey shapes of the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa’s silos and the versatile colour and form of local unisex clothing brands, this colour family is built on pigmented neutrals that are defined yet flexible. The grouping of colours plays with contrast and harmony, offering a movement away from pure minimalism towards purposeful warmth and noticeable nuances. Concrete, wood and steel tones combine to tell a tonal story, but each colour is just as capable of acting as a neutral base for other combinations.

In response to a world that offers more options than ever before, Plascon’s 2025 Colour Forecast puts a new spin on the definition of choice. It offers a permission slip to replace ‘or’ with ‘and’, rejecting the rigid rules that once dictated interior design to embrace hybridity and create constant possibilities for the future.

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