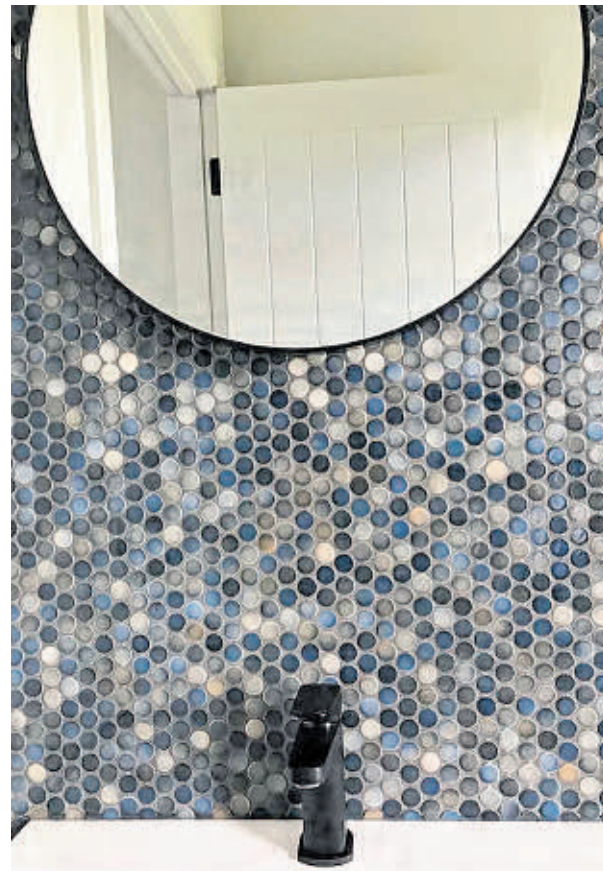


Home & Garden in and around the home

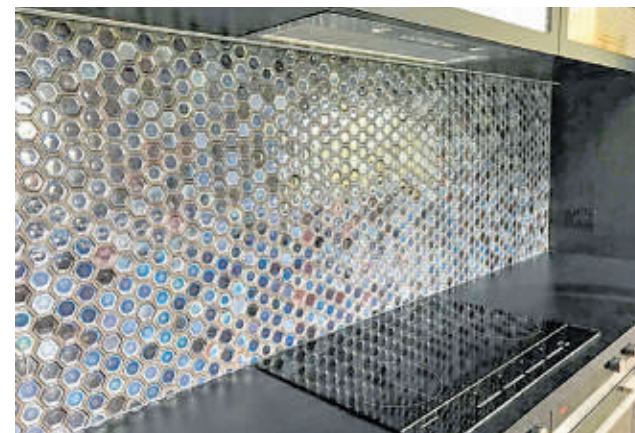
Tiles to make a statement with

This year has seen us work on many a new build and renovations where tiles have been involved and it is one aspect of the project I really love. There are some wonderful tile choices out there now and the creativity that can be achieved from mixing colours, patterns, finishes and sizes is endless. I am a huge fan of having fun with tiles and bringing a little unexpected element into a space. I am also a huge fan of a matt finish on wall tiles and love a Lappato finish for a floor tile. The Lappato finish is a mix between a matt and gloss finish and feels fabulous under foot. The finish on a tile is such a personal preference. There are people who are fans of gloss for floor and wall tile but you can mix things up so do what makes you happy as you will be using the spaces on a daily basis and there are no rules.

With tiles you have an option of porcelain or ceramic. Porcelain tiles are harder than ceramic and offer greater design flexibility. Both are made from clay and other natural occurring materials that are fired in a kiln. The clay used to make porcelain tiles is more refined and purified but that doesn't mean all porcelain tiles are



made equally. Porcelain is generally more expensive than ceramic but porcelain is more durable and longer lasting. Porcelain is less porous making it easier to clean and less likely to stain. When it comes to splash backs in a kitchen I always push for tiles as it adds so many layers to the space which glass can't achieve. Pictured is a splash back we did for a local new build with a tile finish and it looks stunning. If you are wanting help with tiles then give us a call and we are happy to supply tiles to you directly through our suppliers.



Garden Mulch with Beaver Trees

As summer is now around the corner it is a good time to be thinking about getting outdoors and into the garden.

In nature, the forest floor is covered with leaves, sticks and branches for most of the year. Using tree mulch on your garden beds or landscape mimics this process, and protects the soil from harsh seasons by regulating the soil temperature.

Arboriculture wood chip contains wood and bark in a range of sizes and pieces. The variation in size benefits the soil by allowing water to infiltrate through, creating a knitted barrier between the soil and the environment.

This means that it is particularly useful for large landscaping projects and for use on exposed or sloping sites.

Wood chip, sawdust, and wood shavings are not composted so must be laid on top of the soil and never dug in until they have rotted. This is to avoid them depleting the soil of nitrogen as they break down.

TIPS for Mulching

1. Weed the ground first.
2. Put down a layer of newspaper as a base.
3. Use a good thick layer of mulch (this will keep the weeds at bay).
4. Try to keep the stem of plants free, ensuring air flow around the base of the plant.
5. Keep mulch away from tree trunks to prevent rotting.
6. Mulch will settle once spread (so expect to have to top it up periodically)

Wood mulch is an economical and readily available product, that is easy to apply and remove. Whilst also benefiting the soil, mulch adds texture to a landscape enhancing the visual appearance of a space.

Beaver Tree Service sells high quality tree mulch by the truck load, providing an economical alternative to your standard bark mulch.

Bryce Robb is Director/Head Arborist of Beaver Tree Service

