



NEW PRODUCTS

DELFT-STYLE CUSTOM TILES

Last year we mentioned Not Quite Past, a new ceramic service that makes tiling in the historic Delft style (WW January 2025). It can provide a uniqueness to stove backs, galleys or shower rooms.

At its launch the company offered the ability to use artificial intelligence to create individual custom-designed tiles. You typed in a prompt and the company would come up with a completely imagined design, adapted to your instructions.

While the individual tiles were quite costly, you could order conventional generic tiles in bulk to surround them, which reduced the overall cost of tiling a larger area.

But the initial service, launched in 2024, only offered single custom tiles created completely by AI. Now the company allows you to upload your own pictures, and its computer will recreate those in the classic Delft style. And not only that, but you can create images spread over several tiles – initially as 3x2 or 3x3 matrices. This lets you to preserve your own happy cruising memories.

You can design up to 250 tiles of your own onscreen for free, to check you are happy before



A six-tile picture in Delft-style, inspired by the photo below.



pressing the 'buy' button. They are about £18 per tile, so around £108 for the pattern of six tiles shown, or £162 for nine. The tiles are made and fired in Stoke-on-Trent. It seems a great way to memorialise a special time.

NOT QUITE PAST
notquitepast.com



RIVERLY: NEW NAME FOR NICOLS AND LOCABOAT

Two established European boating holiday operators, Nicols and Locaboat, are now operating under a single new brand: Riverly.

Both companies have long specialised in self-drive boating holidays across a range of inland waterways, and the new branding brings their operations together under one identity. The combined business offers cruising routes across 17 destinations in seven European countries, with a choice of itineraries covering rural waterways, historic towns and city-based cruising.

The fleet totals around 550 hire-boats, with two distinct

styles of accommodation.

Customers can choose between modern cruiser designs and the traditional *Pénichette*, the long-established Locaboat-style that remains a familiar sight on the continent's canals and rivers. No licence is required to hire, and boats are available for crews of between two and 12.

The move brings together the fleets and booking options of both operators, while retaining the range of cruising areas and boat types previously offered under the Nicols and Locaboat names.

RIVERLY
riverly.com



OFFGRID WATER FILTRATION

Fill-your-tank-from-the-canal water filtration is a growing market, and Offgrid Water is the latest solution, with some interesting advantages.

The company originated on London's canals, after recognising that boaters were fed up with having to ration water or give up a mooring to hunt for a tap. It offers modular systems, with framed units which make installation very easy, with only basic plumbing knowledge. It also claims extra reliability and repairability, without specialist tools.

A reverse osmosis system is part of a three-stage filtration process that promises 'better than tap water' standards. This includes water quality monitoring that tells you when to change filters.

There are three basic models:

- StageOne (£1,290) gives clean water suitable for washing, showering and general domestic use.
- StageTwo (£1,390) adds drinking water quality. It uses ultrafiltration, de-ionisation and carbon filtering to remove remaining contaminants, tastes, odours and microorganisms. This results in exceptionally clean water that is suitable for cooking, brushing teeth and food preparation.
- FinalStage RO Combo (£1,690) delivers full remineralised, drinking-quality water.

All systems consume around 200W in operation, have filter lives of around 1,500 to 2,000 litres, and a running cost of around £50 to £90 per year (or higher for full-time liveaboard use).

OFFGRID WATER
offgridwater.net



Countertop water-filter system

Water filter specialist Doulton has some really good-quality domestic water-filter systems. But most are either quite expensive or too large and impractical for boats.

However, we are quite impressed with the company's new countertop system, which plumbs into the standard tap aerator thread and has a bypass tap so you can still fill the sink without disconnecting it. This allows you to bring it to the boat and carry it home instead of having to install it permanently.

The Doulton system uses a ceramic cartridge called Biotect Ultra that has an activated carbon core. It claims to enhance water quality by reducing a range of common contaminants, while retaining healthy minerals – "Leading to smoother, cleaner, fresher water in every drop."

It removes up to 99.99% of common contaminants, including varying levels of microplastics, chlorine, monochloramine, bacteria, cysts, insecticides, herbicides, plus heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury.

The system is available in either stainless steel (£234.95) or plastic (£184.95). Standard replacement filters are £29.45, while ones that also remove limescale are £36.45. It filters about 1 litre in 30 seconds.

DOULTON
doulton.com/products/d-cs-d-cp-biotect-ultra