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This report looks at the following areas:

- The impact of COVID-19 on the DIY retailing sector and how it is recovering from this
- The impact of rising living costs on French consumers and how this is affecting the DIY retailing sector
- The winners and losers in the DIY retailing sector as we emerge into the post-COVID recovery phase
- How people shop for DIY and which retailers they use
- Changes to consumer attitudes and priorities as a result of the pandemic
- Interest in a variety of DIY related services and innovations among DIY shoppers

We are seeing new demographics enjoying home improvement projects and confidence is growing. In our consumer research 49% of French DIY shoppers said they are more confident in doing home improvements themselves and 48% in repairing a product now than compared to before the COVID-19 outbreak.

The cost-of-living squeeze is going to have a disproportionate effect on less affluent DIY customers. Many are likely to postpone house moves and larger home improvement projects or abandon them completely until the crisis passes. However, wealthier people and homeowners are DIY retailers' core customers and many of these will notice the squeeze less. Rising costs of raw materials are making contractors' prices go up, so some may decide to take on projects that they otherwise would have outsourced in order to avoid uncertainty on prices.

Some of the biggest opportunities for DIY retailers lie in "do-it-with-me". The pandemic has brought a new audience to DIY, and many are enthusiastic but unskilled. Retailers need to build relationships with these new customers, and developing knowledge and skills is one way to do this. This will become a key differentiator as consumers begin to expect retailers to not just sell them materials and tools but also teach them how to use them.



"The French DIY market has seen two exceptional years of growth and is well placed to capitalise on the ongoing focus amongst consumers on their home environment. Although we expect the cost of living crisis to hold back growth in 2022, there are many opportunities for retailers that are prepared to innovate and think outside the box."

– Natalie Macmillan, Senior European Retail Analyst, June

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There are also opportunities in sustainability and conscious consumption. Consumers are increasingly making these considerations part of their purchasing decision and retailers need to be able to help them make the right choices. Rising energy prices are likely to result in increased interest in renewables and products and services that can help cut the costs of running a home.

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