

# Driftwood

Gulf Islands

SECTION B Wednesday, September 21, 1994



## Fall Home Improvement

Your guide to doing the **ING THING** on Salt Spring: nailing, paving, fencing, wiring, lighting, insulating, fixing, washing, plumbing, wallpapering, gardening, framing, decking, glazing, grouting, chinking, stripping, tiling, roofing, caulking, landscaping, carpeting, redecorating, flooring, building, refinishing.....

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# Some things to consider when you're buying a first home

(SOP) Picking a first home should be a balance between what the buyer wants and what the buyer needs, sprinkled with emotion and a healthy dose of practicality. Too much emotion can lead to costly, short-sighted decisions. And first-time buyers are more likely to bend to emotion than anyone else.

When people buy their first home, they tend to fall in love with it more easily. But remember, you'll change your mind. You need to live in a few different properties to know what's best for you.

Experts advise a methodical, practical approach to evaluating a home and deciding if it's best for the buyer. Prospective owners should think about:

- Space for expanding families.
- If they enjoy gardening and tending lawns.
- If they prefer the style of homes in older, more established neighborhoods or newer ones.
- Resale value.

It's critical that you look at the property from a resale point of view. Sooner or later, you'll want to move up or sell.

Experts also advise buyers to probe for structural problems and even something as simple as where a sundeck is located. A south-facing sundeck will be bathed in sunlight for much of the day, one facing east will likely be in shadows by mid-afternoon.

A real estate lawyer suggests first-time buyers take an impartial friend along when they view a home.

It's important to have someone objective and candid with you to look for the negatives — small rooms, low ceilings, etc. Appraisers check inside and outside the house, noting the layout

of the home, modern features such as energy-efficient windows and doors and sought-after finishes such as hardwood floors.

First-time buyers must look at finished basements, or at least ones with rough-ins for a future bathroom and laundry room.

In a 5,000-square-foot home you wouldn't need a finished basement; in a 1,000-square-foot home, you would appreciate one.

Other value-added features in a home are main-floor family rooms, a deck, fencing and an eat-in kitchen, even if it's only big enough for a small table.

**We advise buyers to look into their future before picking out where they want to live and the home they want.**

So are garages, upgraded kitchens with new cupboards, counters and flooring in older homes, more than one bathroom and energy-efficient windows.

Other features aren't worth as much as a first-time buyer might think. A swimming pool contributes marginally to value and if a family room or recreation room is in the basement, it should be as bright as possible and recently renovated.

In older homes, the basement recreation room tends to be very dated, dark and poorly lit.

We advise buyers to look into their future before picking out where they want to live and the home they want. Ten years ago, a first-time buyer stayed in a first home for two to three years.

Now buyers are staying put for five to seven years.

Buyers also should consider how well the home they want blends into the neighbourhood. Often the best rule is don't pick the best house on the street but don't pick the worst either. If you buy the best, you might not get money back at resale. If you buy the worst, you may pump too much money in for a cleanup.

In fact, the average buyer spends about 18 minutes looking at a house before he or she decides to buy it. A building inspector should be consulted before buying an older home.

If the house is 20 years old, ask if the furnace needs replacing or if the roof needs repairs. If things are wearing out, you should know what costs to expect.

A building inspection protects the buyer by focusing on the functional aspects of the house such as roofs, walls and floors.

Probes of mechanical systems such as heating, air conditioning and plumbing are included in an inspection and a good inspector should take the buyer along on the job. An inspection gives a buyer a much better understanding of the actual condition of the house.

Potential problems are divided into three categories: poor workmanship, moisture and water problems such as leaky basements and attics, and age.

A lot of components in a house have a 15-year time range — furnaces, roof shingles, plumbing fittings, tile-tub enclosures.

Buyers should avoid the "syndrome" of looking at 20 to 30 houses before they buy. You should take your time but don't get so used to looking at houses that you don't buy one.

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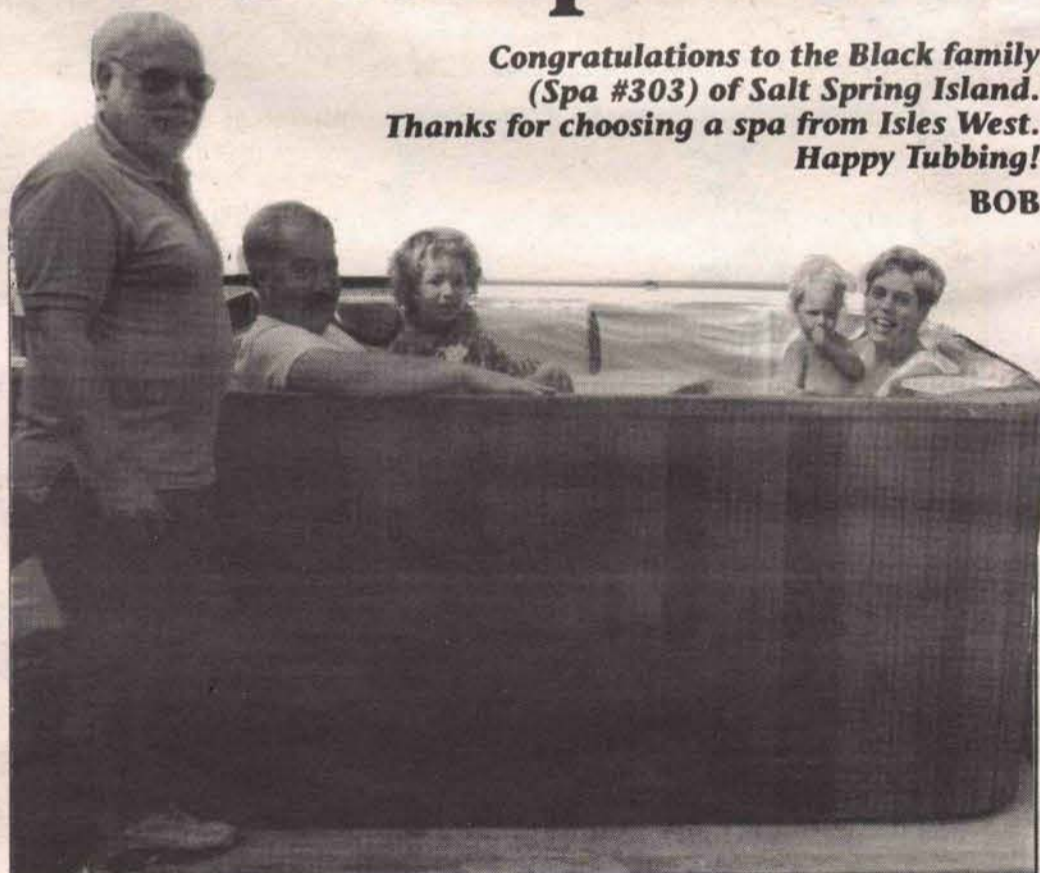
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# Not asking dumb question can result in lost time, money

There is no such thing as a dumb question when it comes to building a home or an addition, says Salt Spring building inspector Dick Stubbs.

"The answer costs nothing, but the mistake can cost a lot if it's not caught in time."

The 469-page National Building Code (on which provinces model their building codes) dedicates some 200 pages to housing. Some requirements have evolved over a long period of time and their purpose is not immediately clear, Stubbs says, but most code rules are set so builders meet structural safety, health and energy conservation needs.

Compared to urban areas where developer-built homes are standard, Salt Spring has a number of custom-built and owner-built homes, Stubbs notes. And while people don't often go too wrong, the biggest fault emerges from lack of building code familiarity.

"Some people don't spend enough time reading and asking," Stubbs says. He advises people to "phone contractors, building inspectors and ask around before building."

He also strongly recommends people check out contractors and sub-contractors, obtaining references before hiring them.

"This is a close-knit community," Stubbs notes, "and there are relatively few poor, unscrupulous contractors and subs. But every community has some."

Stubbs also points to a high incidence of marriage breakdown in owner-builder families. Owner builders make numerous major decisions within a few months; contention arises when the housing needs of all family members are not met equally and when maximum budgets are set without allowing for mistakes and forgotten items.

"Realistic estimating" is extremely important, Stubbs says.



**INSPECTION SERVICE:** Building inspector Dick Stubbs provides building inspection service on Salt Spring, a function of the Capital Regional District.

If an owner budgets everything he can afford, something (such as kitchen cabinets) must be eliminated if an item costs more than anticipated or something is forgotten.

The day is gone, Stubbs adds, when two guys take a couple of saw horses into a field and throw up a house. "What we demand in a house as gone way up" and with it, the cost of building.

Adhering to building code regulations protects the future buyer, Stubbs notes. For this reason, permit fees cost about 60 per cent of total inspection expenses. Taxpayers (who are ultimately being protected) pay the additional 40 per cent.

Following is a list of "little" code items that Stubbs says often cause problems for the owner builder.

- Stairs "are not just a pile of steps leading somewhere — they are a safety issue." Many people do not realize that proper stairs are needed for accessing a loft.

- Requirements for woodstoves must be observed prior to installation. Mistakes here can cost a lot of money.

- Drainage rules are also important. "People have to know that when the rain comes — it comes," says Stubbs.

- Some code items such as solid blocking on either side of exterior doors, and smoke alarms are included for security purposes and meet the demands of insurance company lobbyists.

- Other code items involving window and insulation criteria help buildings meet National Energy Code figures.

## Blind faith is not recommended

Dealing with sub-contractors is a major component of owner-contracted building projects, according to California-based building consultant Charley Huddleson, who gives the following tips on finding and hiring sub-contractors.

The best method of finding and selecting a sub-contractor is by word of mouth, although the system is not foolproof. It is inadvisable to hire someone — even a recommended person — on blind faith. Building material supply stores are good places to find and check the names of good sub-contractors. This way the builder ensures he is hiring a worker who pays his bills and has good credit. It is best to get three to five names before choosing who will do the job.

Visiting a construction site can also help in the search for a good sub-contractor. Be sure to ask the foreman or lead carpenter on the job if it's okay to talk to the plumber, electrician (etc.). Contact with the sub gives the owner the opportunity to assess the tradesman's work and meet him personally.

Another method is to offer to pay a general contractor a consultation fee for names and information on sub-contractors. General contractors have already gone through the sorting process and deal with subs they can count on.

Once the owner has a list of names he should check each one out. Obtain references by asking for the names and telephone numbers of people who have hired them. Ask if the sub started and finished the job when he said he would, if the quality of work was acceptable and if he responded quickly to requests for repairs.

Check the subs' business backgrounds before selecting several to bid on the job. Usually one will stand out — not necessarily the lowest bidder. The subs' enthusiasm for getting and doing the job is also important.

If a bid comes in much lower than the others or lower than anticipated, check to see everything has been included in the bid.



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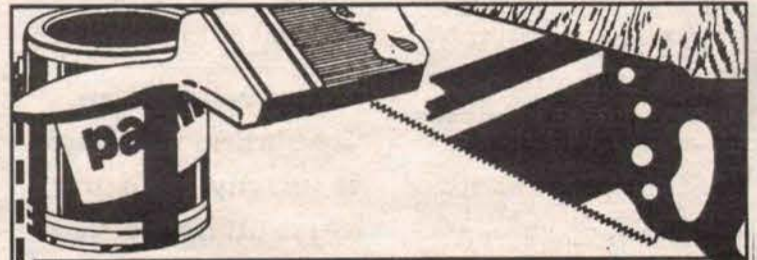
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# Re-insulate roof to protect from summer's heat, winter's cold

**Q.** I have a duplex built in 1967. It has a flat sloping roof topped by tar and gravel.

The underneath side, between the joists, has 3 inches of glass-fibre insulation with a 2-millimetre polyethylene vapor barrier next to a plaster ceiling.

The problem is that in the summer, the flat on the second floor gets very warm. Is it because there is too little insulation or do you think there could be another reason?

**A.** The reader has included a diagram indicating that there are four vents on the roof.

Our reader is right in assuming that insulating the roof makes a house less costly to heat in the winter and cooler in the summer. The question about just how much cooler or warmer depends on the amount of insulation, its ability to withstand heat flow and whether or not it was properly installed.

The value of an insulating material is usually measured by its ability to slow heat movement, which for most people translated to heat loss. This is usually measured in an R-value rating or an RSI rating.

Oddly, while most builders and homeowners use the R-value system, the government insists on using both. The estimated R-value for the 3 inches of glass fibre insulation in your roof is about R-9.

Although it is good that you have some insulation in your roof, an R-9 rating is not very high.

Until about five years ago, the government, through the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, or through the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, published recommended insulation levels and it was not uncommon for them to recommend roof insulation levels in the R-20 to R-30 range.

Energy efficiency enthusiasts, gleefully installed R-40 in their roofs if they could. Now, because of a program change, the govern-

ment has stopped issuing recommended insulation levels for various parts of the house. Instead of looking at individual building components, they are looking at the house as a whole system.

All this leads to the fact that though it is good that you have some insulation in your roof, you would be a lot warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer if you added more.

If you can get into the roof cavi-

**The value of an insulating material is usually measured by its ability to slow heat movement, which for most people translated to heat loss.**

ty, you should be able to safely double the amount of insulation you have without interfering with roof-cavity ventilation, which is necessary to carry off any moisture that could damage the roof.

Another point here is that moisture barriers, the polyethylene sheeting used to prevent moisture becoming trapped in the walls or ceilings of a house that is being insulated, should be 9 millimetres thick, not 2 millimetres.

This being said, however, there may still be some things to do that might make your home a little cooler in the summer time.

You can start by checking your vents to make sure they penetrate down into the roof cavity. Vents have been known to become blocked when insulation has been installed and this may have happened in your case. If the vent is blocked, remove the material blocking it.

In some older houses, where a second roof has been built on top

of the first, unscrupulous roofers have failed to connect the vent to the first roof cavity, making any real ventilation impossible.

Another possibility to explore is the state of your roof. Your house was built in 1967. When was it last reroofed? Tar and asphalt roofs have been known to last for 30 years. If you still have your original roof or if the second roof is 10 years or more older, you should take a close look at it.

If is the original roof, it will probably need replacement and this may provide you with an opportunity to add additional insulation.

If the existing roof is 10 years old, check to make sure that there is still a good coating of gravel on the roof. Gravel is added to flat roofing in order to reflect the sun's harmful ultra-violet radiation.

If the gravel has been blown off over the course of years, but the roof itself is in good condition, you should have some gravel placed and spread over the roof to form an even coating. This will help cut heat build-up by reflecting more of the sun's rays away from the roof.

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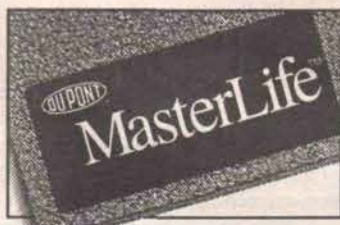


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**Household Hints** When wooden drawers stick, rub some candle wax or soap along contact surfaces to make them glide better.

# Retail price now affordable on purple Guyanese hardwood

It might take a war wound to get a purple heart medal, but it only takes some adventurous spirit to use purpleheart wood in your home and property.

Purpleheart is a South American hardwood that was until recently too pricey for most builders' budgets. But with Windsor Plywood having acquired rights to some two million acres of purpleheart trees in Guyana, a country on South America's northeast coast, it is now an attractive option for homeowners and woodworkers.

"Its retail price is now 30 to 40 per cent lower than the wholesale cost used to be," Ganges Windsor Plywood store manager Ken Marr reported recently.

Purpleheart is an extremely hard, dense wood which transforms from a rather unremarkable brown to a rich and striking burgundy-purple colour as it ages.

"When it is first fallen it is very drab looking," explained Marr. "But as it matures it turns a very brilliant purple."

Marr said the wood is easy to work with, finishes well and takes a high polish. Its grain has been compared to that of mahogany or teak.

Purpleheart is suitable for indoor finishing work and heavy outdoor construction, but exposure to water will return the wood to its original brown hue. Some boards cut from the innermost part of the tree will also not complete a full colour transformation.

Windsor offers the wood in a variety of cuts, including a rough product for cabinet-makers. They can also provide pieces for a specific decorative purpose, and homeowners wanting to tread vicariously in exotic lands could have purpleheart wood custom-milled into flooring.

Marr said it is a common construction material in several Central and South American countries, and a Costa Rican building supply store would stock purple heart 2x4s.

While that will not be the case at Ganges' Windsor Plywood outlet, the store does have 1,000 board feet in stock at its recently-reduced prices.

"It costs just a bit more than kiln-dried fir that grows in our back yards," noted Marr.

He also stressed that Windsor's two million acres is being selectively-logged on a sustainable yield basis, addressing concerns about defoliation and clearcutting of South America's forests.

And to further tempt brave homeowners and builders, the Ganges store is now trying to bring in a sample of "greenheart" wood.



**AFFORDABLE HARDWOOD:** Windsor Plywood's Ken Marr with sample of purpleheart from Guyana.

## Lighted candle test measures passing air

(SOP) To find out whether your windows need caulking, try this test: move a lighted candle around each window. If the flame flickers, it means air is passing through.

When there isn't a crackling fire in the fireplace, cold drafts can enter through the chimney. The most effective way of avoiding this is to add glass doors that can be tightly closed when the fireplace isn't

operating.

Single-pane sliding windows, the type usually found above a kitchen sink or in the basement, lure cold indoors.

Replacing them with thermal glass or double or triple-pane windows will drastically reduce the level of penetration.

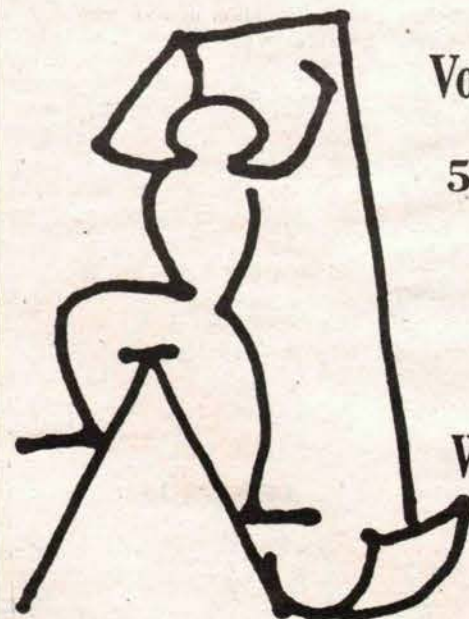
Weather stripping around windows and doors will make the biggest dent in your heating bill, up to about 40 per cent.



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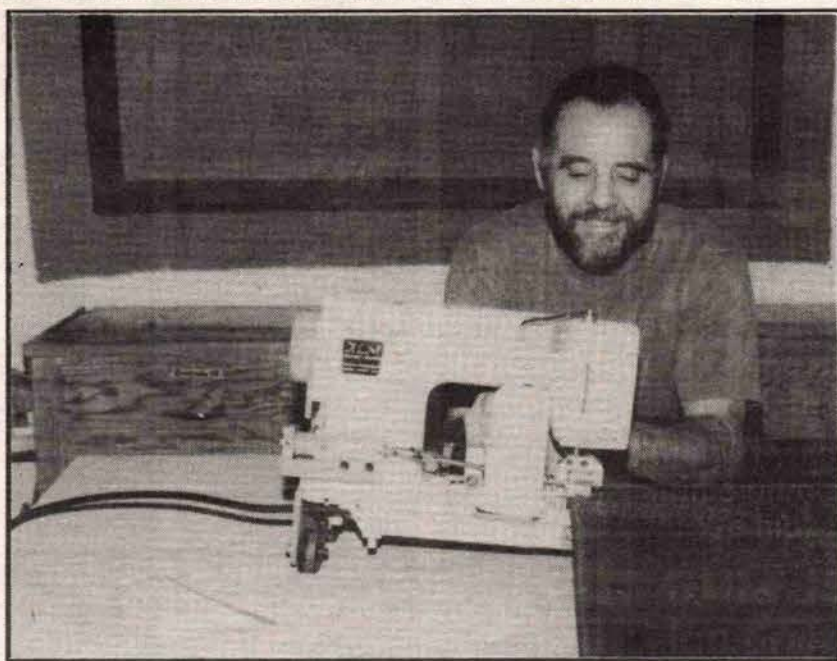
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## Ceramic tiles a thin line between walls, disaster

One day you happen to notice a piece of bathroom tile is loose. Just one, looks like a little crack in the grout . . . Well, actually, the tiles next to it are a little loose, too . . . Maybe half a dozen altogether. Nothing to fixing that, right? Just pry off the old tiles, slap on some new adhesive, stick 'em back up. A simple Saturday afternoon job for the do-it-yourselfer.

Not necessarily.

Tile adhesive is virtually never the problem when a tile comes loose. Instead, loose tile is an indication that some component of the tile-backing system has failed, allowing water to get in and destroy the bond.

The most obvious culprit is the grout. It can dry out our crack and let water seep in between the tiles. The grout may have cracked because something behind it has gone wrong, however.

In fact, neither plaster nor drywall is a good surface to back tile. If the tile and grout fail to protect it, or if moisture gets in from some other source — a leaking pipe or faucet, window or roof leak that gets inside the wall — both plaster and drywall will crumble. Standard drywall is not water-resistant, and unless it's been specially sealed, neither is plaster.

Plaster clings to its lath backing because of its "keys" — the plaster that oozes through the gaps, over the backs of the lath strips, and hardens in place. Water damage, settlement and vibration (such as that from passing buses) can break off the keys. Once the keys are gone, it's only a matter of time before the plaster fails.

Bathrooms are amazingly damp places. A simple shower can pump gallons of moisture into the air. In a sense, the tiles are a thin line between walls and disaster.

So when tiles are loose, it may require a fairly complicated procedure to fix them. Some fixes may be so extensive they knock the bathroom out of commission.

Three case histories illustrate some of the problems in tile repair.

• Randy worked on a bathroom in a 150-year-old house where dampness had invaded the plaster behind the tile above the tub. When he got the tile off, the wall behind was actually slimy. He took out all the bad plaster and dried the space with a fan and a heater. Once it was dry, he patched it with a fast-drying plaster. The he primed and sealed the wall. He was able to replace the old tile with a close match. Then he cut down all the old grout and

regouted the entire bath, so it would all match.

• In another project, changing the layout of the bath is going to require retiling part of the tub wall. The new owner wants to install a tub larger than the existing one. The existing tile is in pretty good shape — which means getting it out will inevitably damage the wall.

The solution: cut out the tile wall back to the framing; install the new tub (a properly installed tub is fastened into the framing; failure to do so leads to cracks and gaps in the grout around the tub edge); replace the drywall; retiling with matching tile and regROUT the area.

• Karol's old bath has a lot of tile problems, not least the fact that it's ugly. The tile is also no longer fastened to the wall behind the tub, and it's bulging in a num-

**When tiles are loose, it may require a fairly complicated procedure to fix them. Some fixes may be so extensive they knock the bathroom out of commission.**

ber of places. This is certainly the result of water damage, some of it from "fixes" by previous owners.

All the old tile will have to be removed and the surface behind it replaced — not with new drywall, but with cement board, a relatively new product. It's installed like drywall, but is more impervious to moisture. Then new tile can be installed. Since the tile goes all the way around the bath and nearly to the ceiling in the tub area, this is a big project that will make the house's sole bath inconvenient, if not impossible, to use for a while.

Another problem area for tile is floors. Floor tile also needs a solid subsurface. It's usually plywood — and plywood is subject to the same ills as plaster or drywall. Water, settlement and vibration can damage it so badly it has to be replaced.

In some instances, old bath tile was set on concrete a couple of inches thick. To put it in, installers sharpened the tops of the joists, placed floorboards on ledgers a couple of inches below the points, and poured concrete up to the top.

Over the years, concrete can be damaged by water, broken when the house settles or the joists below are damaged — or when generations of plumbers chop it up in the course of changes or repairs.

The only way to "fix" such a concrete-base floor would be to pour new concrete on top — not a good idea because it's so heavy. And the old concrete wouldn't make a good surface to nail in a new plywood subfloor. So the solution is to remove the entire floor, repair or "scab" the joists, put down new plywood and new tile.

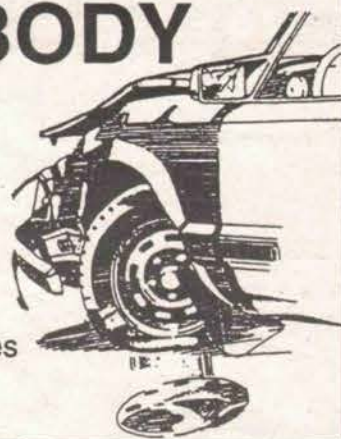
So before you take a chisel or prybar to that shaky bit of bathroom tile, take some time to figure out what the underlying problems might be, and what it might take to fix them. It could turn out to be a more extensive — and expensive — project than you thought.

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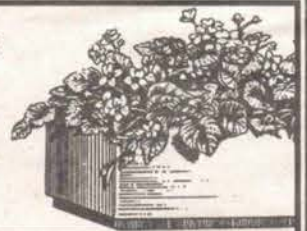
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### Household Hints

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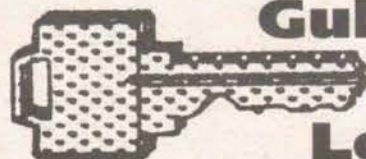
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# Task, general, accent three types of lighting

(SOP) Taking a thoughtful look at your home's basic lighting plan — and making a few changes — can bring not only new function, but also a new look and feel to your rooms.

There are three basic types of lighting — task, general, and accent — that, when properly balanced with appropriate fixtures and light sources, work together to illuminate your home. Here's a checklist of your fundamental lighting needs:

1. General, or ambient, lighting — which should be evenly distributed around a room — provides an area with a comfortable level of bright illumination for activities and safe passage around furniture. Chandeliers, ceiling, or wall-mounted fixtures — as well as recessed or track lights — fill the bill. In all cases, dimmers enhance the flexibility.

2. Task lighting is just that. It customizes illumination to help you perform specific tasks, such as reading, sewing, cooking, homework, hobbies, and other everyday pursuits. Good examples are adjustable recessed and track lighting, pendant fixtures, portable lamps, and countertop lights in the kitchen. Task lighting must be glare and shadow-free, and bright enough to prevent eye strain.

3. Accent lighting, also referred to as decorative lighting, uses a combination of sources to set a mood, create visual drama, or highlight a room's high points, such as art and architecture. Accent lighting requires at least three times as much light on the focal point as the gener-

al lighting around it. Good sources are adjustable track, recessed or wall-mounted fixtures, floor-based uplights, or spotlights.

Getting creative with lighting applies not only to fixtures, but also to how and where they are used.

— In today's kitchen/family rooms, the lighting plan should integrate the three types of lighting — general, task, and accent — with special emphasis on task illumination in work areas. In a family room or dining area, add dimmers to decorative and general fixtures to adjust light from homework needs to entertaining ambiance.

— To make a room appear larger, increase general lighting with wall sconces, torchères, or inverted pendants; all will bounce indirect light off the ceiling.

— Mounting translucent wall sconces seven or eight feet up on the wall will visually lower a high ceiling and provide ambient light.

— To create a sense of intimacy in a large room, supplement general lighting with floor lamps; these kinds of fixtures also provide good task lighting next to seating pieces. Also use adjustable recessed fixtures to spotlight a room's points of interest, such as bookshelves or a fireplace.

— Before committing to expensive fixtures, experiment with inexpensive clamp-on lamps and bulbs in a variety of colours and wattages.

— Brighten a room's mood by switching to halogen bulbs. These pure white lights make colours pop and are good for task lighting.

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## Keeping your dog penned in no longer requires a fence

Classical conditioning techniques combined with radio technology promise to keep "Rover from roving," according to Invisible Fencing of Coastal B.C. operators.

Spokesman Doug Green says invisible fencing has a 97 per cent success rate in containing dogs within a defined boundary. Customized to individual properties, invisible fencing uses classical training methods and radio transmissions to create a boundary which dogs quickly learn not to pass.

Green describes the system as a "safe and humane solution to the everyday challenges of dog ownership."

Invisible fencing begins with a thin (two-millimetre) wire buried two to six centimetres into the ground around the perimeter of the property. The wire is attached to a radio transmitter — there is no electrical current in the wire — it simply transmits a radio signal two to three metres wide along the boundary. The dog wears a collar with a small receiver (powered by a 7.5-volt battery) that picks up a radio signal from the buried wire.

During the initial days of training, small white flags are set along the invisible fencing perimeter, creating a visual boundary and helping the dog determine the signal field location.

When the dog approaches the boundary, the collar uses a beeping noise to warn him not to get closer. If the dog disregards the beeping and attempts to cross the boundary, the collar emits a mild correctional shock — similar to a household static charge. The harmless correction startles the dog enough to teach him not to cross the boundary.

During the conditioning period (about 10 days), the pet owner spends time rewarding the dog for avoiding the boundary. After this time, Green says, the dog learns to respond immediately to the warning beep and rarely, if ever, receives a correction. Invisible fencing statistics indicate that most pets receive only one or two electrical corrections before learning to associate the

beeping sound with the limit of their territory. Green notes that even dogs which have never before taken commands, have been successfully trained to respond to invisible fencing.

The system was developed with the approval and assistance

**During the initial days of training, small white flags are set along the invisible fencing perimeter, creating a visual boundary and helping the dog determine the signal field location.**

of veterinarians and SPCAs. It is backed by nearly 20 years of technological development.

Green says it is difficult to give an estimated price on invisible fencing because there are so many variables. Variables include the number of dogs, size of property and amount of work the owner undertakes himself. For example, Green can provide the owner with an invisible fencing kit, enabling the owner to install the system and train the pets. A basic kit costs about \$700, Green says, however, even this cost can be reduced by installing used equipment.

On the other end of the scale, Invisible Fencing of Coastal B.C. can come in, install the program and train the pet. Other variables include different options and standards of equipment.

Green notes that compared to conventional fencing, invisible fencing provides a real "economy of scale." In other words, a conventional fence may cost a set amount of money per square metre — the bigger it is the more expensive it becomes. Cost of invisible fencing does not increase in the same way — an extra 100 metres may only cost

an additional \$50.

Invisible Fencing of Coastal B.C. says its product offers the pet owner several benefits:

- safety — the pet is protected from straying onto the road;
- exercise — the pet is given the run of the entire property and keeps it away from prohibited areas such as the garden;
- hassle free — the owner does not have to worry about open gates or typical methods of escape;
- appearance — the aesthetic value of the property is maintained.
- value — invisible fencing typically costs less than traditional fencing and creates a boundary which the pet cannot dig under or jump over;
- investment — a single system can be transferred between multiple properties (cottage and home) or taken with the family that changes location.



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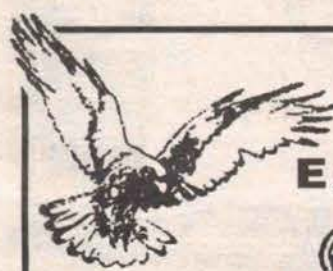
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# Hot colours give kitchens warmth

White kitchens are on the back burner and hot colours are spilling over cabinets, countertops and floors.

Jewel tones, punchy primaries and woody shades dominated kitchen exhibits at the last Expohabitat home show held in Montreal.

Stark, sterile settings, very trendy a few years ago, paled in comparison with colorized versions: in the few displays where white cabinetry was used it came with exuberant washes of colour on painted walls and in mosaic patterns for backsplashes and countertops.

"People aren't going out as much as they used to and they want to be in congenial surroundings when they stay at home," said a Longueuil kitchen designer: he says white kitchens are history.

"Cooking and colour are kindred spirits; both represent warmth and security, unlike white that sends out a cold message he said.

"During bad economic times strong colours become more popular because people want to be distracted from the doom and gloom they see everywhere: they want to get rid of that depressing feeling," said the designer, who displayed his own colourful collection of kitchens at the show.

His designs are fired up with reds, blues and silvers. And very often, to create a sultry atmosphere, he will mix his colours. Cabinets in a kitchen he recently completed were finished with a forest-green stain and wood floors were a buttery caramel colour. Countertops and backsplashes come in for their share of the colour treatment and he will use multi-coloured design patterns of ceramic tile or Formica in sizzling solid colour.

Here are some hints on how to zap up kitchens that may be on the white side:

- The quickest way to change the mood in a kitchen is simply to paint the doors of the cabinets and, for a decorative touch, apply a stencil pattern or border. Use one hot colour or, if you are adventurous, use two or three colours. Accent them with colourful handles.

- Consider removing the doors of cabinets to create open shelving that can be painted or papered to contrast with the wall colour.

- Time and patience is needed for colour-stained cabinets, but they are well worth it. First the wood has to be stripped of its old surface and the stain has to be patiently applied. Before starting, check the types of stains that are available through hardware and paint stores and follow instructions carefully.

- If you don't want to paint or stain the cabinets, work on other surfaces in the kitchen. Walls, ceilings, doors and window frames can be painted in one or more colours. Have fun with the walls with a whimsical trompe l'oeil effect or with different types of finishes — marbelizing, sponging, ragging or dragging, for instance.

- Wallpaper is an easy and inexpensive way to change a drab kitchen. Any flat surface will take a wallcovering, even cabinet doors. Wallpaper can be used in combination with paint, i.e., cover the ceiling with paper and paint the walls.

- Floor space in a kitchen is usually small so it doesn't cost much to change the covering, be it vinyl flooring or tiles. If you choose tiles, create simple geometric patterns such as a checkerboard, zig-zag or striped designs using two or more colours.

- If you live in an old house there might be a sturdy wood floor under a layer of old linoleum that can be coloured in several ways. Strip the surface and colour stain it, or paint it with a bright colour (but be sure to get a paint made specifically for floors) or paint a rug pattern right on the floor or decorate a solid-colour-painted surface with stencil patterns.

- Buy a bunch of ceramic tiles in different colours, sizes and shapes and create an "arty" backsplash behind the sink or on a work counter.

- If you are bored with a white refrigerator consider painting it, but be sure to get the proper type of paint.

- Brighten up windows with colourful slat blinds or roller shades.

- Grow a potted flower garden or a herb garden on the window.

- If you have a dinette area, paint the furniture in bright colours.

- Don't hide colourful kitchenware — pots, pans, utensils, trays, trivets, potholders, towels or baskets — put them on display on a wall or an open shelf.

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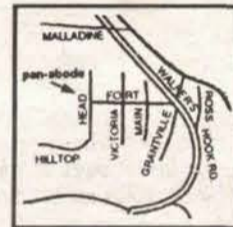
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# Checklist helps prepare for winter

Here is a fire prevention checklist designed to help anticipate winter problems around the home.

— Most fires that start in the winter can be traced to the electrical system, so don't overload the circuits. Try not to have everything switched on at the same time, such as Christmas tree lights, outdoor lighting, secondary heating units. Avoid using indoor Christmas lights outside.

— Keep extension cords away from baseboard heating elements, and don't run them under rugs.

— Don't overdo paper decorations on the Christmas tree.

— Keep a natural tree in water so it won't dry out. A dry tree goes up in flames faster than a moist one.

— Don't block exits, windows and doors with a tree.

— Avoid using a secondary heating unit at night; if you are a sound sleeper, you might not hear a fire or smell smoke.

— If you hear a rumbling sound in the fireplace, cut off all air intake to the chimney. If the sound doesn't stop, get everyone out of the house then call the fire department. To avoid this possibility, have your chimney cleaned by a professional sweep, once a year, to remove any build-up of creosote.

— If you are installing a new fireplace be sure to get a building permit. When it is completed, call for an inspector to make sure everything is working correctly. If you are concerned about the working of an old fireplace, the fire department can send an inspector out to check it and suggest what has to be done to make it safe.

— Burn only wood that has been thoroughly dried. Do not use treated wood, trash, pine branches, leaves, or plastic, whose chemicals, when burned, could send pollutants into your home, or flare up.

— Before lighting up make sure the damper is open and don't close it until the fire is out.

— Avoid using gasoline or charcoal lighter fluid to start a fire.

— If you are using artificial logs use only one at a time; they can explode if they are piled on top of each other or added to natural woods.

— Shield an open fire with a screen to prevent hot cinders from flying out. Keep furniture and rugs at least three feet away from the fire.

— Keep a fire extinguisher on hand and make sure all smoke and fire detectors are in working condition.



Photo courtesy of Tony Hambrook Construction

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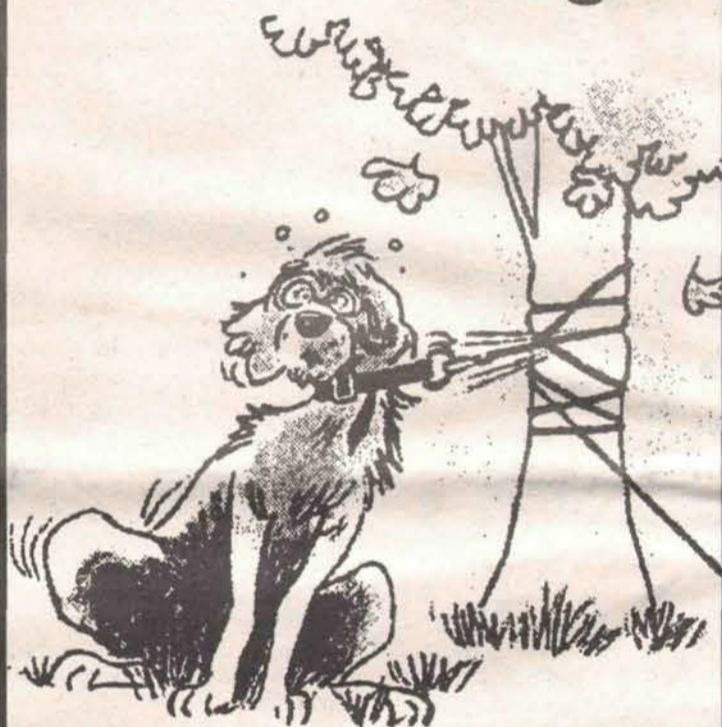
### Household Hints

If your freezer isn't full of food, put jugs of water in to fill it up. This will help keep food frozen longer in the event of a power outage.

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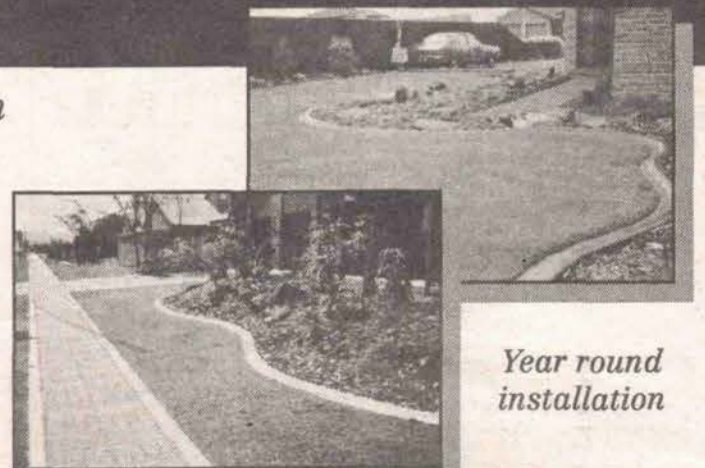


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## Some tips to finding the right nail

(SOP) Selecting nails is challenging, even for professionals. One reason is the wide variety of building materials, as nearly all need nails with specific holding properties.

For an idea of how different nails function, consider their three parts — the point, the shank or shaft, and the head. Nails with long sharp points wedge fibres apart and are easier to drive than nails with blunt points, which simply punch through wood. But sharper nails are more likely to cause splitting.

For that reason, most nails for general use have diamond-shaped points, which combine elements of both kinds. Even so, carpenters often deliberately blunt the points of general-purpose nails to reduce splitting.

A nail's grip, or resistance to withdrawal, is produced by the friction of wood fibres against the shank. The larger a shank's surface area, whether owing to its diameter or length, the greater the nail's holding power.

Ringed nails grip more strongly than threaded nails, but any force sufficient to draw or thrust them out breaks the fibres surrounding the shank. Such nails, if they loosen, do so suddenly and permanently.

Although many nails are still formally classified by penny size — a number followed by the abbreviation "d" — specifying

nails by length is perfectly acceptable, even at the testiest of stores.

As length increases, so does diameter and head size. The length of nails whose heads are designed for sinking below the surface includes the thickness of the head. Other nails do not.

Common nails: probably the most familiar. They feature thick, flat heads, plain shanks (bright or galvanized) and have a larger diameter than others. Use for general-purpose heavy construction.

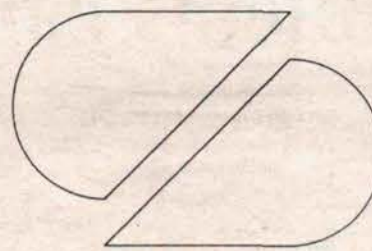
Box nails: look like common nails, but have a smaller diameter. As a result they have less tendency to split boards when driven near their ends. Use them in thin wood and where ever boards have to be nailed close to their ends or edges.

Sinkers: cement-coated box nails. Because their coating increases their grip, they are made one-eighth to a quarter-inch (5 mm) shorter than plain box nails of the same penny size. Sinkers are installed rapidly with just a few hammer blows. If you pause too long, the adhesive will harden and the nail will be difficult to drive farther.

Finishing nails: probably the second most familiar type. They have a small, nearly spherical head with a dimple in the centre to accommodate a nail-set used to drive the nail below the surface. The diameter is the smallest of all

conventional nails. They are plain-shanked, bright or galvanized and typically used for cabinetry, paneling and trim.

Casing nails: resemble finishing nails, but are larger in diameter, stronger and have greater holding power. Their conical heads differ slightly from those of finishing nails, but are also meant to be concealed. Casing nails are intended for attaching window and door trim and are also suitable for fastening large moldings like baseboards.



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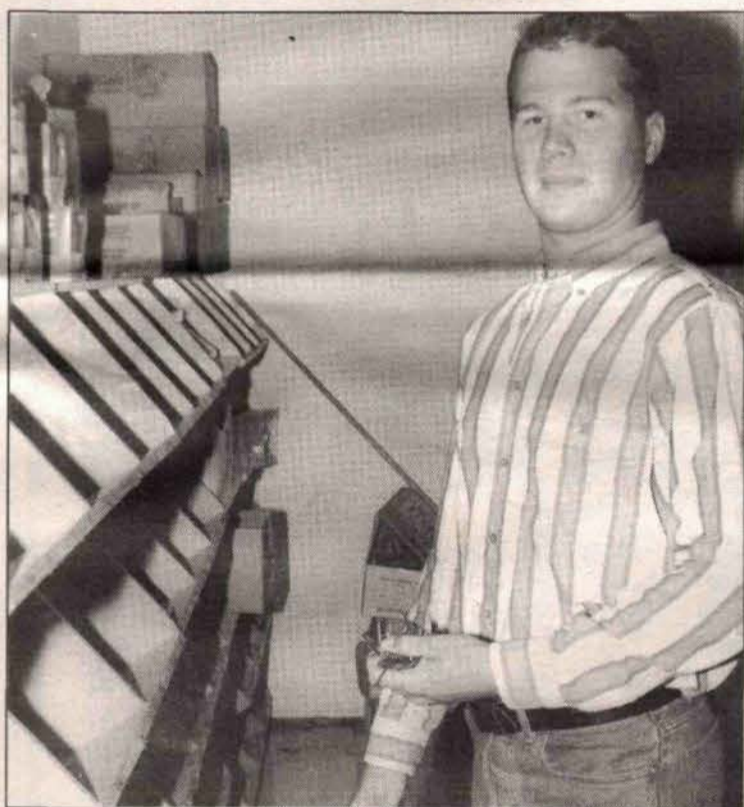
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# Door problems can be simple to repair

(SOP) **Q.** We have what can only be described as continuous door problems. The hinges squeak, the handles rattle and the doors don't always close properly. Needless to say, not all the doors in our house suffer from the same problem. But, over time, we would like to fix all of the doors.

**A.** Let's start with the hinges. If the problem is just plain and simple, then all you have to do is drop a couple of drips of oil around the pin that joins the two hinges together.

It helps, of course, to lift the pin, lubricate around it and then lower the pin and work the door back and forth a couple of times to set the oil the entire length of the pin.

Use a pair of pliers to lift the pin. If the pin won't move easily, drive the blade of a slot-bladed screwdriver between the top of the pin and the hinge. If this doesn't work, hit the underside of the screwdriver with a hammer. This usually does the trick.

However, things don't always work out so easily. The squeaking might be the result of paint buildup. If this is the case, pop the pin and either scrape the paint off the

hinges with the hinges in place or remove the hinges and soak in paint remover. When clean, reinstall the hinges and hang the door.

When hanging a door, always put the pin in the top hinge first. Slide the top pin partially into the hinge sleeve and then repeat for the lower pins. Oil the pins before driving them home.

**If the door doesn't close properly, first make sure that the hinges are firmly attached to the door and the jamb. If they are loose, tighten them.**

The hinges also might be squeaking because the screws holding them in place have become loose and the hinges are binding as they open and close.

Tightening up the screws will generally straighten out this problem. If the door is an old one, the wood surrounding the screws

might have dried to the extent the screws are literally too small for the hole.

This problem can be solved by the traditional method of inserting toothpicks or wooden matchsticks into the hole before resetting the screw. For a high-tech touch, we like to apply a little glue to both the wood going into the hole and the screw that is being reset.

The toothpick or matchstick will tighten up the fit, giving the screw something to grip against as it is tightened. We prefer this method to installing a larger screw, which would, at first, seem the logical course to follow. However, the larger screw will often be too large to sit in the hinge properly and this will only create a new set of problems.

To solve your rattling handle problems, try removing the door knob and sticking some putty or clay into the hole meant to receive the spindle and then reattach the door knob.

If the door doesn't close properly, first make sure that the hinges are firmly attached to the door and the jamb. If they are loose, tighten them.

If the door frame isn't warped, then the problems will probably be

the result of paint buildup. To solve this problem, you will have to scrape the paint off all the meeting surfaces that the door comes into contact with. If the frame has shifted out of alignment, it will have to be rebuilt.



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\*Turn-key, excludes foundation, decks, septic field, appliances and GST.

## Some tips for home renovation

1. Do your homework. Talk to people who have done renovations, mostly to find out what pitfalls they encountered. And read a lot. A number of books with ideas you could use. Included:

Period Details; A Sourcebook for House Restoration by Martin Miller (Crown Publishing Group, \$26 in paper, \$35.75 hardcover). Using mostly British homes from as early as the 16th century, photo-filled chapters cover such topics as fireplaces, kitchens, floors and staircases.

The Country Home Book by Miranda Innes (Simon and Shuster, \$41.95). Chapters cover different rooms, and include some great decorating ideas.

Martha Stewart's New Old House by Martha Stewart (Crown Publishing Group, \$58.50).

Professional Painted Finishes by Ina Brosseau Marx, Allen Marx, Robert Marx (Simon and Shuster, \$61). This is really a book for professional artisans, but some of their wall and floor treatments are worth a look.

2. Shop around. Not just to find the item you want, whether it's faucet or flooring, but also to get the right price. Once you know what you want, make calls to various retailers and ask their price for the item. And ask about a discount.

3. Think original. Paint is cheap, and local craftspeople can do beautiful work. Handpainted flow-

ers or murals on walls, painted or stencilled floors and custom-made cabinetry are ways to make your renovated room unique.

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- pose a serious health threat to family, pets & neighbours
- pollute lakes, streams, groundwater
- be expensive or impossible to repair due to lot size, layout or topography

### MAINTENANCE TIPS:

1. Clear trees, brambles, shrubs from septic field & tank areas: roots can clog pipes.
2. Don't overload system: space laundry loads throughout the week.
3. Don't flush personal hygiene products: panty liners, sanitary napkins, plastic applicators for tampons, dis-

posable diapers, baby wipes, paper towels, facial tissue or condoms will plug the tank and lines.

4. Check tank sludge; if crust depth is over 10", it is time to pump. A neglected tank will compost and endanger septic field.

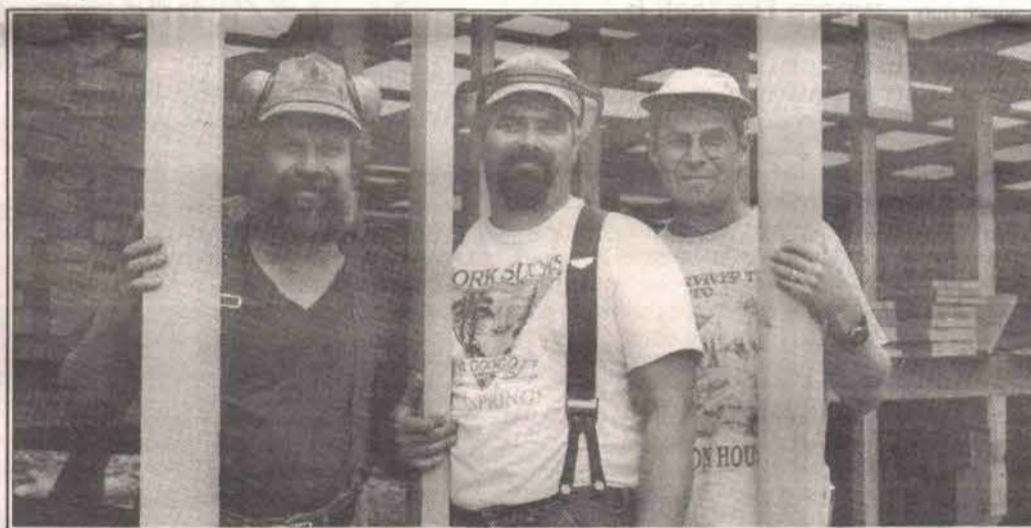
5. Buying or selling property? Before signing a contract, have septic system checked to avoid expensive repairs later. Record location, condition and date of service for future reference.

6. Can't find your tank? We can, with radiosonde "sewer sleuth."

Be a good neighbour. Maintain your septic system.

**For more information call Gulf Islands Septic Ltd. 653-4013.**

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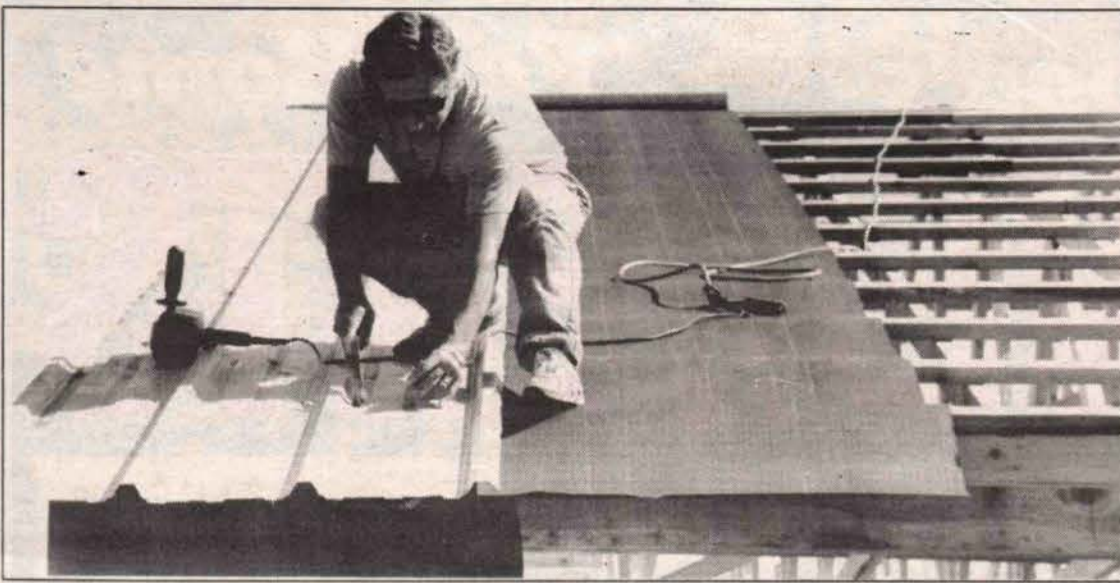
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**A LONG-LASTING ROOF:** Farmers' Institute member Richard Krieger drills metal roofing in preparation for fastening during roofing work party at institute's new livestock building.

## Metal roof should last many years

*My house is 12 years old and indications are that it's leaking. I would like to know how I can tell what kind of metal my roof is made of, what I can use to repair the leak and what the best way is to find a leak.*

A good metal roof should be able to last a lifetime without any maintenance.

Some copper roofs on churches are more than 200 years old. Leaks are generally attributed to man-made holes such as antenna posts, heavy pointed objects falling on the roof, or tree branches which may work loose during a storm and can puncture the metal. Frequently, colour can give you a good clue to the composition of material or metal used. Light gray could indicate an aluminum roof. Red, from red lead paint, could indicate galvanization. Slate gray could indicate tern — which is steel coated with lead and tin. A patina of green could indicate a copper roof.

For extensive examination and repairs, be most prudent. Soft-soled rubber shoes or tennis shoes are excellent for walking on a metal roof. For a pitched roof, you should have either cleating planks or two ladders together to conform to the angle of the roof slope to permit a safe inspection.

To repair a metal roof properly, a roofer should be consulted; however, if there's only one small hole, you could properly repair it yourself by doing the following:

First, clean the metal down thoroughly around the hole with steel wool. Then apply putty or asphalt roofing compound. Plastic steel is also effective. A synthetic sealer that retains elasticity can also be used with good results.

Leaks in roofs can best be discovered by thoroughly examining the underside during a rain. The point where water drips into the attic does not necessarily mean that it's the point where the leak may occur, because water will often run for great distances along rafters, joints and other parts of the underside of the roof before falling.

The path of the water should be successfully traced before you establish where the leak may be. When the leak is discovered, a thin wire or toothpick should be placed in the leak so you can detect the leak in the hole from the outside.

In dry weather, a leak can be located by soaking the suspected area under the pressure of a garden hose.

The hose should be played back and forth to simulate rain and wind velocity.

**The point where water drips into the attic isn't always the point where the leak is.**



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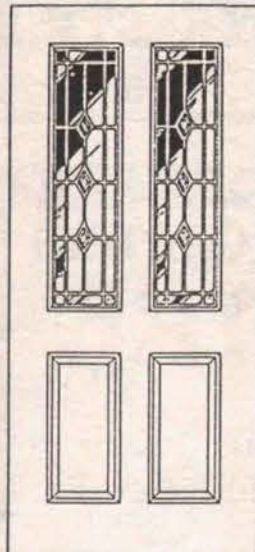
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Windsor Plywood's



Fall Home

# IMPROVEMENTS



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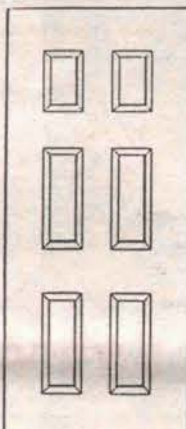
THIS STEEL DOOR CAN REPLACE YOUR OLD DOOR... TODAY!

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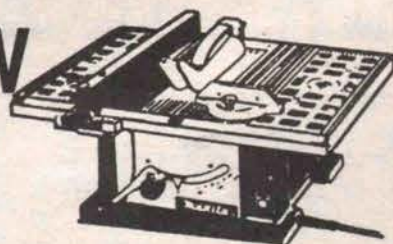
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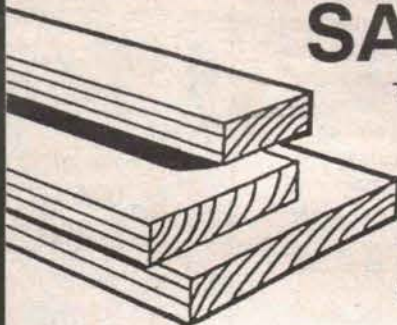


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<b>119</b> lin. ft.	<b>179</b> lin. ft.	<b>299</b> lin. ft.	<b>399</b> lin. ft.	<b>499</b> lin. ft.	<b>599</b> lin. ft.

## FRENCH DOOR SPECIAL!

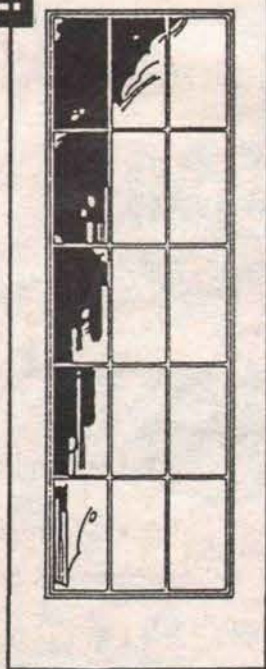
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2'6" x 6'8" Comes with 4 1/2" Primed White Rabbeted Jamb

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This style of french door will let in more light than what we have now... and it's prehung!

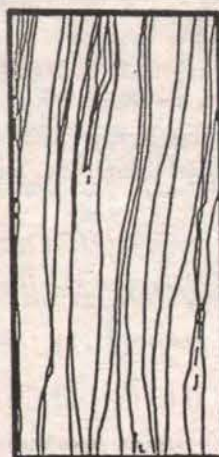


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Fall Home

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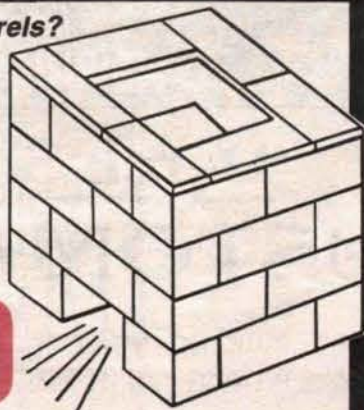
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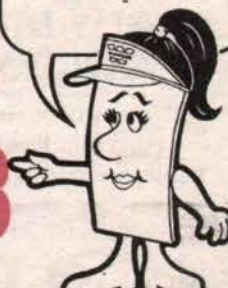
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# Survival kits keep home, office ready for emergency situation

Some people take pleasure in battening down the hatches for winter, but few are enthused about planning for a disaster.

That's why a new Brentwood Bay company has created "emergency survival kits" containing everything a home or office needs to cope with the ultimate surprise disaster - an often predicted B.C. coast earthquake.

BTQ Systems principal Bruce Gibson says Gulf Islanders should take heed of the California experience. "As the California quake demonstrated, people can't expect help right away after disaster hits. Emergency teams will be scrambling to set up relief stations and restore order and communications, and there will be many others in the same boat as you."

If a major earthquake strikes this region, Gibson says people should expect to be "on their own" for up to 72 hours, possibly without electricity, water or access to food.

Trent Sigurdson is the other half of BTQ Systems. He stresses that in an emergency situation, there is no time to gather supplies from all nooks and crannies of the average home.

"People have stuff all over the house," he said. "But in an emergency, you've got less than a minute

to get out. This way, you grab the bag - it's fluorescent yellow so you can't miss it - and you get out."

BTQ offers two main kinds of survival kits, one for singles, office or car use and another for a small group or family. They come equipped with basic survival tools such as solar blankets, radio, lamp, matches, a whistle, water purification tablets, a can opener, dust masks, nylon cord and food and water rations. Also included are first aid kits, a survival manual and a waterproof document pouch for storing valuable documents and photographs.

The company also offers a "deluxe" model and builds custom kits to suit specific needs or larger families.

All contents are self-contained in a highly visible nylon case.

Gibson and Sigurdson created the BTQ kit after researching those available elsewhere and especially in California.

And while their product was designed with "the big one" in mind, it could be handy during one of those winter Gulf Island storms which catch people ill-prepared for life without electricity.

Sigurdson and survival kits will be at the Salt Spring Island Fall Fair. Kits are also available by contacting BTQ at 1-800-779-7273 or in Victoria at 652-9466.

# Decorating now easier for do-it-yourselfer

Okay. This is it. This fall you are going to tackle that redecorating project. But where to start?

If you have a favourite colour or two in mind you have taken the first steps already. At this point, you could save yourself much wasted time and money by consulting an interior designer. One or two hours of a designer's time can cost less than \$100 and save you many times that amount whether you plan to do-it-yourself or have him or her take charge of the whole project.

Today's decorating market has really embraced the do-it-yourselfer. Coordinated wallcoverings and fabrics give a finished look and wallcovering books are well put together and complete with

photographs to give you lots of ideas. With today's hardware, some of the most elegant window treatments are often the simplest to create.

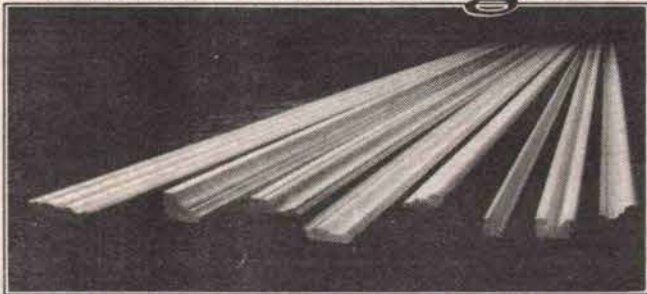
If that comfortable old favourite couch or chair definitely needs reupholstering or replacing, keep in mind that, although reupholstering can cost as much as buying new, the upholsterer will rebuild your old favourite as needed and you will end up with a piece as good as new. You will

also have your choice of hundreds of fabrics to fit into your decorating scheme.

Finally, remember that a good decorating store with a trained, knowledgeable staff will be there to help you every step of the way.

**One or two hours of a designer's time can cost less than \$100 and save you many times that amount.**

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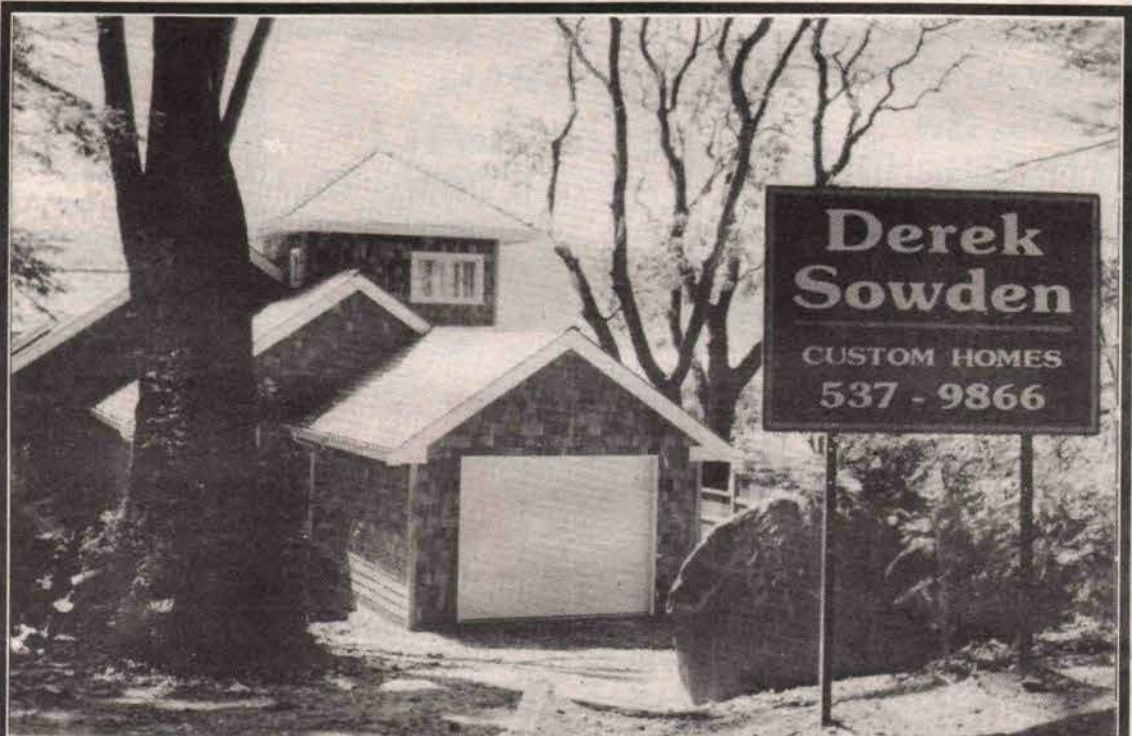
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# Making the connection: An important part of wiring

When working with household electrical wiring, it is of the utmost importance to make safe, reliable connections.

Here are sound methods for joining wires and fastening their ends to things such as wall switches and receptacles. Be sure the power is turned off before beginning.

Most household wiring is in the form of cable — several separate wires grouped together and enclosed in flexible plastic or metal sheathing.

Cable with plastic sheathing is called non-metallic sheathed cable; cable with metal sheathing is called armoured cable.

With either type the first step in making connections is to strip away the sheathing to expose the individual wires inside.

To strip non-metallic sheathed cable use either a sharp utility knife or a cable stripper, an inexpensive tool.

When using a utility knife lay the cable flat on a smooth work surface. Adjust the knife so only a corner of the blade protrudes from the handle.

Hold the knife parallel to the cable, insert it into the sheathing about eight inches from the end and then slit the sheathing by drawing the knife toward the end of the cable. Keep the knife at a shallow angle to avoid cutting into the wires.

To use a cable stripper, grip it so the folded end is nearest the heel of your hand. Thread the cable through the tubular section and out the other end until about six inches (15 cm) of cable emerge.

Squeeze the tubular part together so the point on one side penetrates the sheathing. Then pull the tool back toward the end of the cable to slit it.

After either method, trim off the slit sheathing with a knife or pliers designed for cutting.

To strip sheathing from armoured cable you can usually use electrician's diagonal-cutting pliers.

Double the cable about eight inches (20 cm) from the end and squeeze the parts together to form a sharp bend. Snip through one of the armour coils, then straighten the cable and slide the severed armour section off the end.

Or use a hacksaw instead of the pliers. Lay the cable flat and saw part way through one of the coils, perpendicular to the seams.

Then grasp the cable on each side of the cut and twist it to break the coil.

To protect the wires inside the cable from the sharp edges of the armour, always cap the cut end of armoured cable by inserting a plastic or fibre bushing sold for the purpose.

If the cable contains a thin metal strip (called a bonding strip), bend

this backward over the outside of the armour after installing the bushing. The bonding strip serves the same purpose as the grounding wire in other types of cable.

The next step is to remove the insulation around individual wires. This is best done with a wire stripper, a tool resembling pliers.

Grip the wire about an inch and a half (4 cm) from the end by clamping it between the pair of grooves in the stripper's jaws marked as being the same size as the wire; the wire size is printed on the insulation and on the cable sheathing.

Rotate the stripper around the wire to cut through the insulation. Then pull the wire through the closed jaws to strip it.

You can also strip wire using a sharp knife. Hold the blade at an angle to the insulation and pare gently to avoid nicking the wire. Cut all the way around the insulation, then pull off the severed section.

Plastic connectors, called wire nuts, are usually used to join wires. These resemble small thimbles and come in many sizes. Choose wire nuts made to accommodate the number and size of wires being joined.

Prepare the wires by placing them side by side so the ends of their insulated parts are flush. Trim the bared parts to equal the length of the wire nut.

Twist the bared parts of the wires together clockwise, using your fingers or square-jawed lineman's pliers. Then screw the nut over the twisted wires by turning it clockwise until no bare wire is visible. Test the connection by gently pulling on the wires.

Use a somewhat different procedure when joining a solid wire with a wire made up of several strands.

Strip about twice as much insulation from the wire made of strands, wrap it clockwise around the solid wire with your fingers, then use pliers to fold the end of the solid wire over the wrapped part before installing the wire nut.

To fasten wires to the terminal screws of wall switches, receptacles and similar outlets, carefully make a small hook in the end of each wire.

Begin by baring only enough wire to go around the screw.

Next, use long-nose pliers to bend the entire length of bared wire in a right angle to the left.

Then, starting at the angle,

make a series of small bends in the wire with the nose of the pliers to form a hook that curves to the right but does not close.

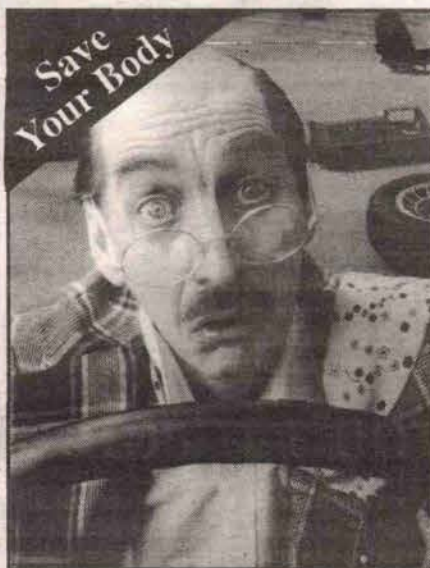
Fit the hook around the terminal screw so that tightening it will tend to close the hook. Tighten the screw.

The hook should extend between two-thirds and three-quarters of the way around the screw.

If the wire is too short or too long, if the hook is not completely covered by the screw head or if the insulation is farther than a quarter of an inch (5 mm) from the screw head, take the connection apart and make a new hook.



**WIRING:** Andy Shears of Slegg Lumber cuts a piece of wire for a customer. Electrical work requires a great deal of care, often meaning that obtaining the services of an electrician is the homeowner's best course of action.



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# Earth fence probably first of its kind in Canada

Some drivers have to stop. They park, walk across the road and give it a good tap. Yes, it is solid. Very solid. But the thick, earth-coloured fence hugging the edge of Meror Krayenhoff's Cusheon Lake Road property is more than a visual curiosity.

To Krayenhoff, his rammed earth fence is a hedge against the future. It is an experiment in sustainability that he sees as a "noble cause" that could make the world a better place for his grandchildren.

Inspired by David Easton, a speaker at the Sustainability Conference held on Salt Spring last spring, Krayenhoff is a Canadian pioneer in rammed earth struc-

tures. Easton and another couple build rammed earth structures in the States, but Krayenhoff believes his fence is a first on Canadian soil. He admits his fence is an experiment and is nervous but confident about how it will weather this winter. There is nothing clandestine about his experiment — it is right out in the open. It has already generated positive and negative feedback, and Krayenhoff is certain it will spark more.

But building with rammed earth is an old-fashioned technique that he believes has future potential as we seek alternatives to building with diminishing wood supplies, and as we look for "green" methods of disposal.

The homes we build today, Krayenhoff says, are expected to last 50 to 75 years. Then they are torn down and replaced. A sheet of drywall costs the same to buy as it does to recycle.

"It is going to cost us \$100,000 to build a house and then \$100,000 to dispose of it."

Rammed earth structures are built to last. In Germany in the 1800s half the buildings were made of rammed earth. And many of those buildings, along with the oldest two buildings in the United States, Krayenhoff says, are still standing. Other countries where wood is no longer a building option are using concrete block. Krayenhoff sees rammed earth as an environmentally friendly alternative, which he "happens to think is

the best."

In the early stages of his rammed earth experiment, Krayenhoff organized a "ramming session" and tested 20 different soils from various parts of Salt Spring. The soil types included topsoil, shale, clay material and silt. Each was mixed with five per cent cement and subjected to compression tests to determine the psi (pounds per square inch). The mixture with the lowest compression came in at 525 psi (concrete is 3,000 psi), and the highest was 2250 psi. The soil Krayenhoff finally selected has a psi of 2,000. He chose it over the highest because it was more colourful. The selected soil came from Louis Renaud's gravel pit.



## Getting a new look with varied colours

(SOP) Whatever the technique, the '90s are a decade of new colours, varied shades of the traditionals and lots of unusual colour combinations.

Here are some suggestions:

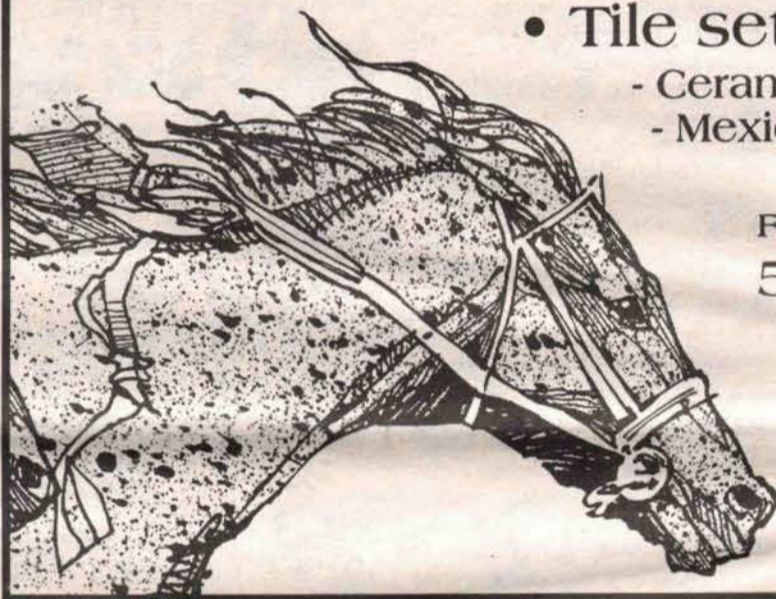
- Green, purple, pink, and various shades of these colours are hot this year.
- To find out what colours complement each other, check a colour wheel at the paint store. Complementary colours look great together, but are not for applying

colours atop each other, as in sponge painting.

- To decide whether you like a colour or painting technique, do one wall, move the furniture back in place, and live with it for a week. Then decide what to do.
- Use oil-based paint for ragging or smooching because it doesn't dry quickly. If planning to overlay colours by sponging, use latex paint, which dries quite quickly.

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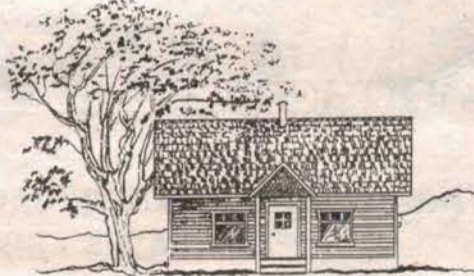
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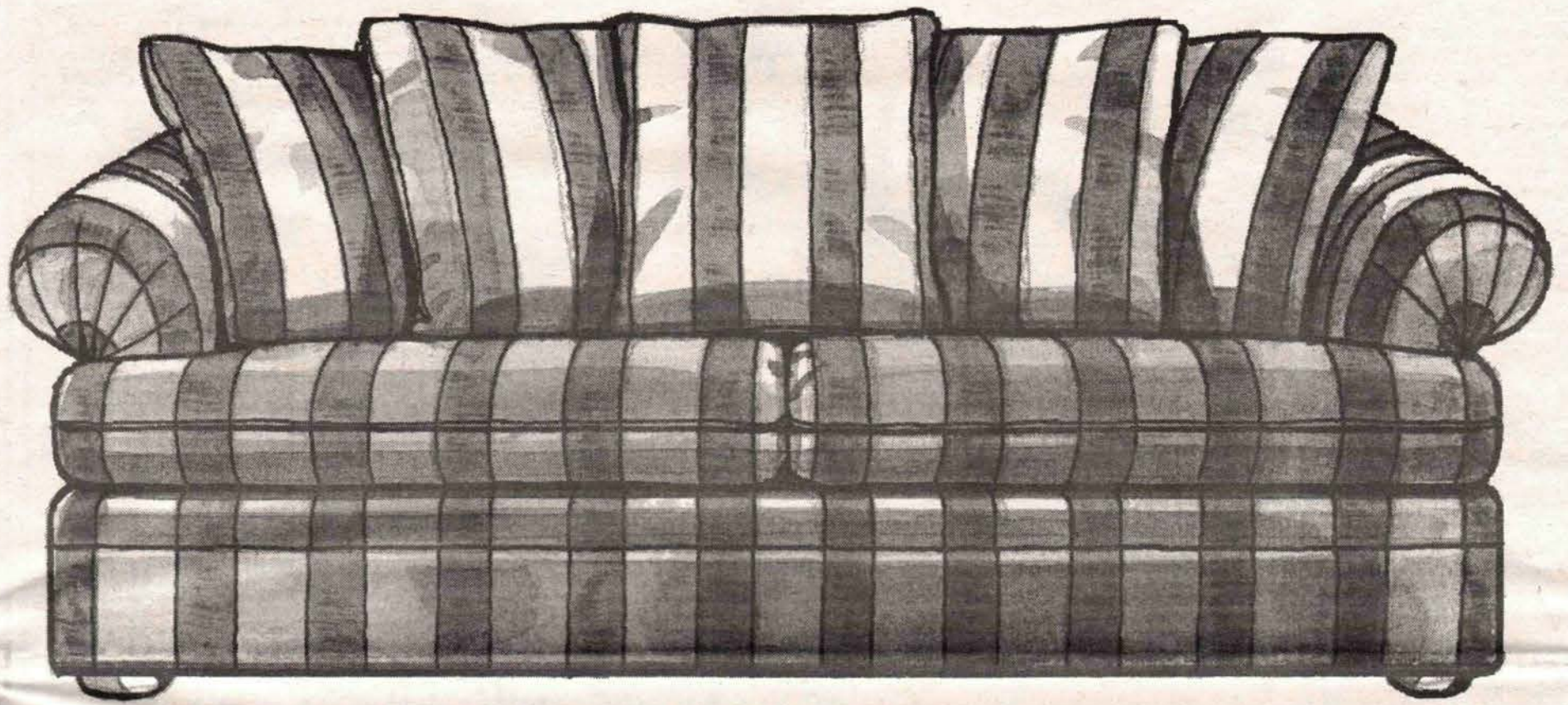
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The logo for Driftwood Gulf Islands. It features a silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees at the top. Below the trees, the word "Gulf Islands" is written in a small, sans-serif font. The word "Driftwood" is written in a large, bold, serif font, with the "D" being particularly large and stylized. The entire logo is set against a light background.

# Materials choices expanding

From nature-friendly gasoline to organic soil-preserving foods, environmental consciousness is expanding all kinds of consumer choices.

The home improvement market is no exception. Cork tiling, recycled carpet and less toxic paint are three examples of products marking the changes taking place.

Many people like the warmth, durability and easy maintenance of hardwood flooring, but a comparable type of flooring only denudes trees of their bark, rather than falling and milling them. A new coat of bark is harvested every nine years from cork oak trees grown mainly in Portugal and Spain. Bark is then transformed into a variety of tiles by the Mediterranean Cork company.

Burritt Bros. Carpets proprietor Arlene Dashwood says the product's environmentally-friendly character is one of its selling points.

"As opposed to a lot of wood products where you have to cut the tree down, this is a renewable resource," says Dashwood.

The flooring is also desirable to some people because only water-based contact cement, sealer and urethane are required for installation and finishing.

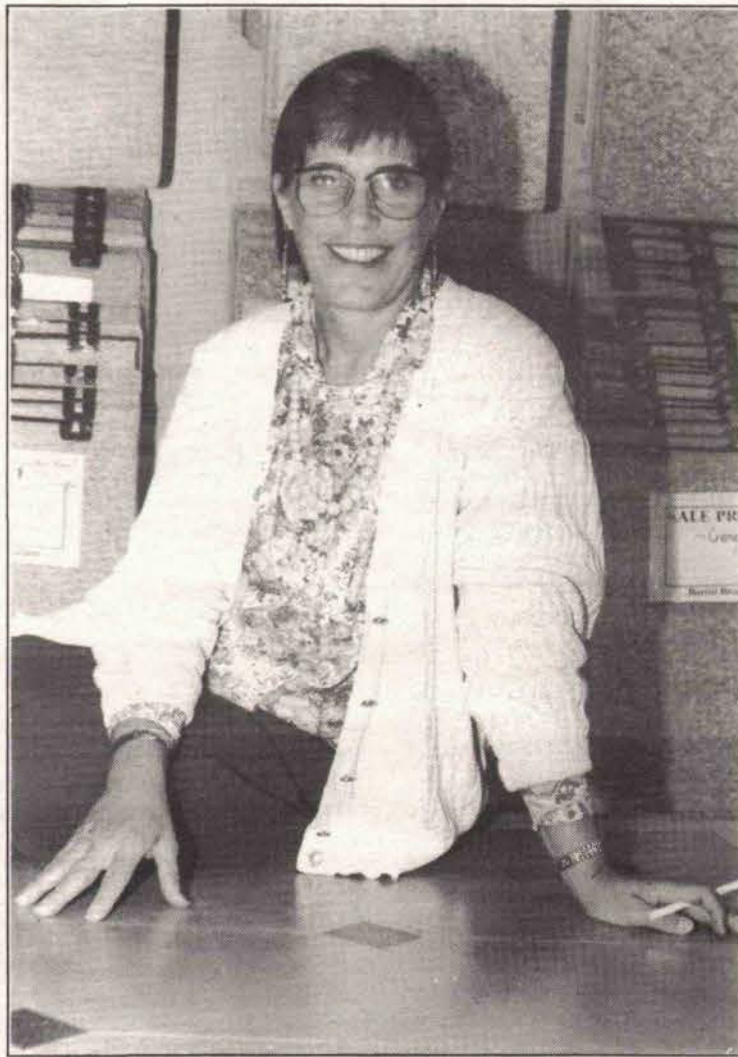
Mediterranean cork tiles are made from highly compressed granules of cork, overlaid with a patterned cork veneer. They are available in 24 basic stains, and Dashwood says they can create one-of-a-kind colours. Contrasting tiles can be arranged or cut to make a unique design.

Mediterranean Cork compares in price to hardwood or ceramic flooring, but installation costs can be lowered by the do-it-yourselfer.

"It's light, easy to cut and easy to handle," says Dashwood, and requires tools most people have. Any others needed can be borrowed from her store.

"You can create your own design or we have designs you can work with. You can do whatever step of the process you want, or we have an installer who can do the whole thing."

Older types of cork flooring required waxing like their linoleum counterparts, but the Mediterranean Cork product is maintained simply through sweep-



**CORK TILES:** Arlene Dashwood of Burritt Bros. says new Mediterranean cork tiles are an environmentally friendly product.

ing, vacuuming and a damp mop.

If some flooring companies are concerned about preserving trees, certain carpet manufacturers are trying to keep scruffy old carpeting, containing a cauldron of chemical substances, out of landfill sites.

Alan Redpath of Calypso Carpets in Ganges reports that carpet manufacturer BASF has developed technology for effectively creating new carpet using Zeftron nylon carpeting once destined for the trash heap.

BASF recycles discard carpeting by transforming its fibres into a nylon polymer and spinning it into carpet yarns of the same quality as originally-produced materials. New carpets are then produced in the usual way.

Kevin Marks of KCM Paint 'n' Paper says paint manufacturers are also heeding market pressure to eliminate potentially harmful substances from their products. Companies like Ames Paints in Victoria are trying to reduce "volatile organic compounds" and increase the "high solid" content of popular alkyd paints.

"They are trying to reduce the solvent content of these products, which will reduce the vapours and toxicity," explains Marks.

At the same time, he says, developments in the naturally less toxic water-based acrylic and latex paints are making them more desirable.

And if pressure from consumers provides the impetus for such changes, ever-changing technology and manufacturers' competitiveness make them possible.

"You can't stand still in any industry like that," says Marks. "Technology just catches up with you."

## Jonathan Yardley - architect



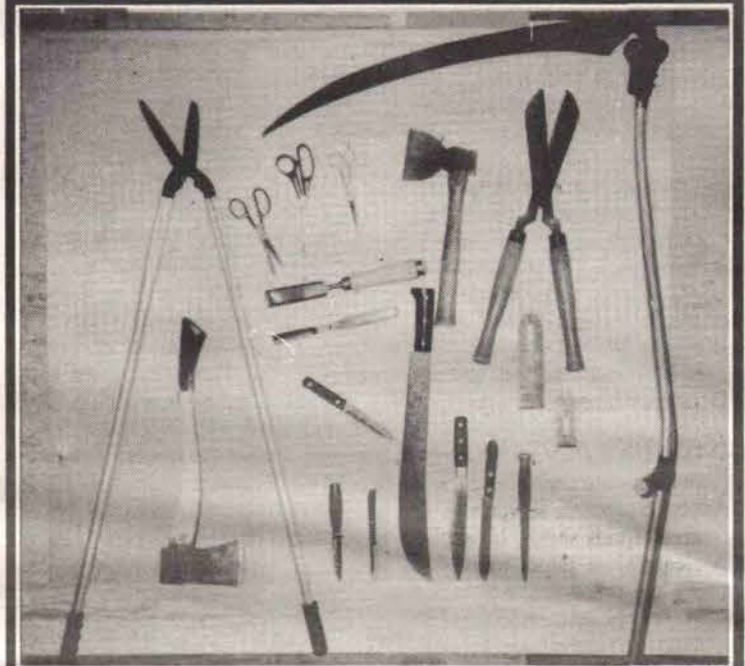
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# Carpet spills can be cleaned by homeowner but don't underestimate professional help

Begin to care for your carpet the day it's installed . . . and you'll enjoy all its beauty for years to come. All the precautions in the world, however, will not protect your carpet from the inevitable leaks, spills and accidents that are part of everyday life.

While there are many good carpet cleaning products on the market, none of them come with the experience and the knowledge of a professional carpet cleaner and their value should never be underestimated. However, should you decide to do it yourself, the following should help you get better results.

This chart represents some of the most common household spills.

Where two procedures are listed (example B-M), use first procedure (B), then second (M) only if needed.

Note: Always pretest any spot or stain cleaning procedure and chemicals on a hidden area of carpet for colour bleed or colour loss. These stain removal procedures reflect information currently available. Do not use these procedures subsequent to or in combination with other procedures. The compound effect of non-compatible cleaning agents could harm your carpets. Call a professional carpet cleaner and tell him what has been attempted so he may take proper action.

## Removal procedures

General instructions:

**Apply:** Solutions, solvents, water and other liquids should be applied to a clean white paper towel (not printed) and this wet towel used to dampen the carpet. Never wet the carpet through to the backing.

**Blot:** Blot by pressing straight down with paper towel — never

rub — rubbing alters the carpet texture. In the final blotting step, half-inch-thick pad of clean white paper towels, placed on the cleaned spot with a weight and left overnight, is the best way to wick up the last traces of liquid and foreign materials.

**Scrape:** Gently scoop or scrape with blunt edge of spoon from the outside of the spill or spot toward the centre.

## Cleaning solutions

**Detergent:** Mix 1 teaspoon clear dishwashing detergent with 1 cup warm — not hot — water.

**Presoak solution:** Mix 1 teaspoon enzyme presoak (Axion, Biz, etc.) with 1 cup warm water.

**Hydrogen Peroxide:** Mix 4 fluid ounces Hydrogen Peroxide (three per cent strength available in drug stores) with 1 fluid ounce household ammonia (sudsy type). Use within two hours after mixing.

**Ammonia:** Undiluted household ammonia, sudsy type containing detergent.

**Vinegar:** Undiluted white vinegar.

**Dry powder cleaner:** Powdered carpet cleaners such as Host, Capture and Blue Luster.

**Drycleaning solvent:** Non-oily, non-caustic type solid for spot removal from garments. Caution: may be flammable.

## Procedure A:

Apply a drycleaning solvent, use dampened white paper towel, blot — don't rub. Repeat solvent application as above. Blot — don't rub. Water — apply with dampened white towel. Blot — finish with weighted pad of towels.

## Procedure B:

Scrape or blot up excess spill. Apply detergent (See "Cleaning Solutions"), use damp white towel. Blot — don't rub. Apply ammonia (See "Cleaning Solutions"), use damp white towel. Apply white vinegar (undiluted), use damp white towel. Blot — don't rub. Water — apply with damp sponge. Blot — finish with weighted pad of towels.

## Procedure C:

Scrape or blot up excess spill. Apply dry baking soda. Scrape and vacuum. Water — use damp sponge or rinse remaining baking soda. Don't overwet.

Blot — don't rub. Apply presoak solutions (See "Cleaning Solutions"), use damp white towel. Water — rinse as above. Blot — don't rub — dry well. Apply dry powder cleaner (See "Cleaning Solutions"). Vacuum.

## Procedure G:

Scrape or blot up excess spill. Freeze with ice cubes. Shatter with blunt object like the back of a large spoon. Vacuum chips away before they melt.

## Procedure L:

Apply nail polish remover (non-oily type) — use cotton swab to apply to the spill. Don't wet through to carpet backing. Pick up softened material — use clean white paper towel and push towards the centre of the spill to avoid spreading stain. Repeat above — soften and carefully remove a layer of the spill each time. Haste may spread the stain and/or damage the carpet.

## Procedure M:

Scrape or blot up excess spill. Apply detergent solution (See "Cleaning Solutions"), use damp white towel, leave three to five minutes. Blot — don't rub. Apply hydrogen peroxide solution (See "Cleaning Solutions") — let stand 20 to 30 minutes under a weighted pad of clean, dry white paper towels. Repeat application of hydrogen peroxide and dry under weighted pad until removal is complete. Apply white vinegar (undiluted), use damp towel. Blot — finish with weighted pad of towels.

## Procedure O:

Scrape off excess material. Cover with brown paper — apply warm iron until material is absorbed. Be sure paper is large enough and take care to never touch the iron to the carpet. Change paper or rotate to clean area and repeat until all material is absorbed.

## Household Hints

Putting newly bought starchy foods into the freezer for a day or so, or even storing them in the freezer is a good way to control weevils, as the low temperatures will kill their larvae.



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Butter, Shortening	A
Candle Wax	O
Candy (sugar)	B
Catsup	C-M
Chewing Gum	G
Chocolate	B
Coffee	B-M
Cooking Oil	A-C
Dyes	M
Excrement	C
Foundation Makeup	A-B
Fruit Juice	C-M
Furniture Polish	A
Grease - Food	A
Grease - Auto	A
Glue - White	B
Glue - Hobby	A-L
Ice Cream	B
Ink - Ball Point Pen	A
Ink - India	A-M
Kool-Aid	C-M
Lemonade	C-M
Lipstick	A
Mascara	A
Mayonnaise	B
Mercurochrome	M
Methiolate	M
Milk	B
Mixed Drinks	B-M
Mud	B
Mustard	C-M
Nail Polish	L
Paint - Latex	B
Paint - Oil	A
Pet Food	C-M
Shoe Polish	A-M
Soft Drinks	C-M
Tar	A
Tea	B-M
Urine	B
Vomit	C
Wine - Red	M
Wine - White	B
Unknown	A-B

# There are solutions to most water ills

Sometimes there's not enough. Sometimes it looks grim, smells putrid and tastes worse. And as Gulf Islands wells await replenishment from the rains to come, many property owners wonder if this is the year they should tackle "the water problem."

In 26 years of doing business, David Rainsford has dealt with innumerable customers facing either poor quality water or a well that does not produce enough water for normal household use.

Water with high coliform counts or mineral content are the two major quality-related problems encountered here.

Water scarcity on Salt Spring is directly related to the island's burgeoning population, he observes.

"It is something that is going to become a much greater concern because the water table is going down earlier in the year."

But with improving technology and a sound analysis of the problem, no one should be left "high and dry."

There are solutions to almost any water ailment, says Rainsford. His company does well-testing and chemical analysis of water, and installs wells, pumps, filtration and storage systems, or a combination, as needed.

Even dreaded sulphur in water can be eliminated through proper filtration.

"We can take any kind of water and make it perfect," he says.

Desalination systems are one outcome of advancing technology and can provide potable water for

some properties. "And they have dropped dramatically in price," he notes.

Rainsford says he also works closely with Albert Kaye of Albert Kaye and Sons Drilling Ltd., an acknowledged island expert in locating sources of water.

A spring-fed well is the water source for Green Rose Bed and Breakfast on Robinson Road. In order to cope with high coliform counts in the water and a supply that dwindles at this time of year, proprietor Tom Hoff dealt with Rainsford and took a two-pronged approach to the situation.

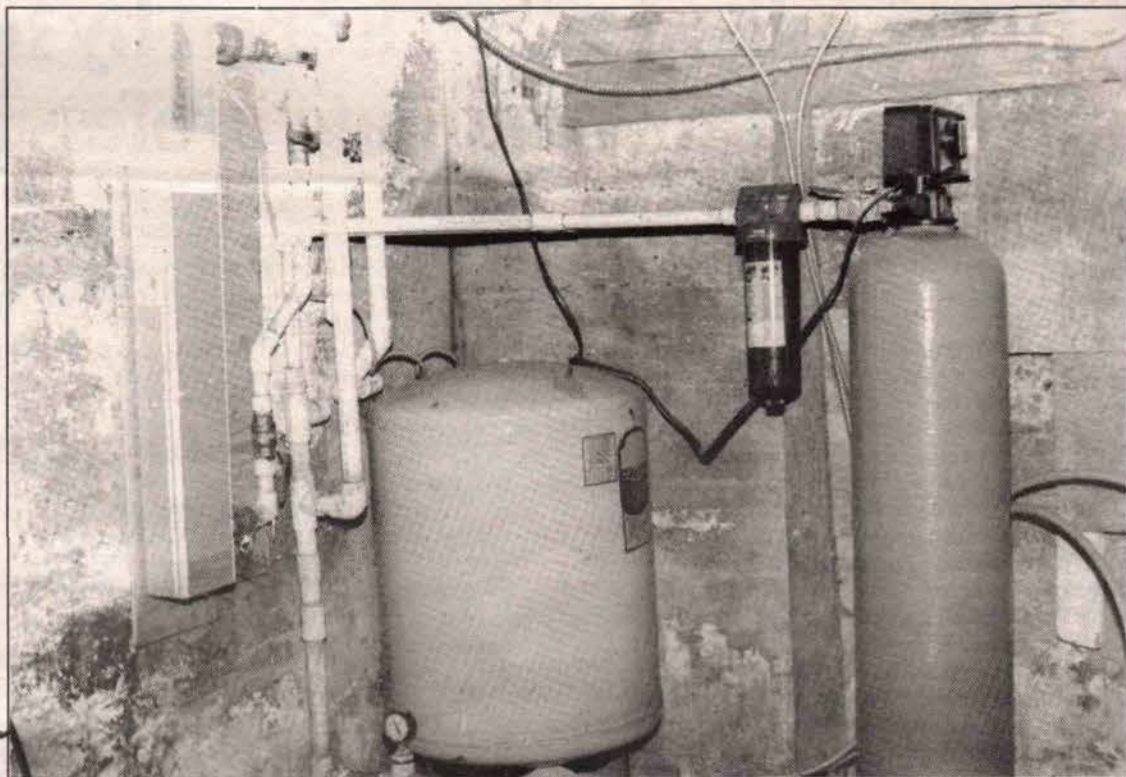
A 1,000-gallon storage tank was set up near the house and connected to the well, so no water is lost.

"We save as much water as we can," says Hoff. "And when the water in the storage tank gets down to a certain level, then it goes to the well for more."

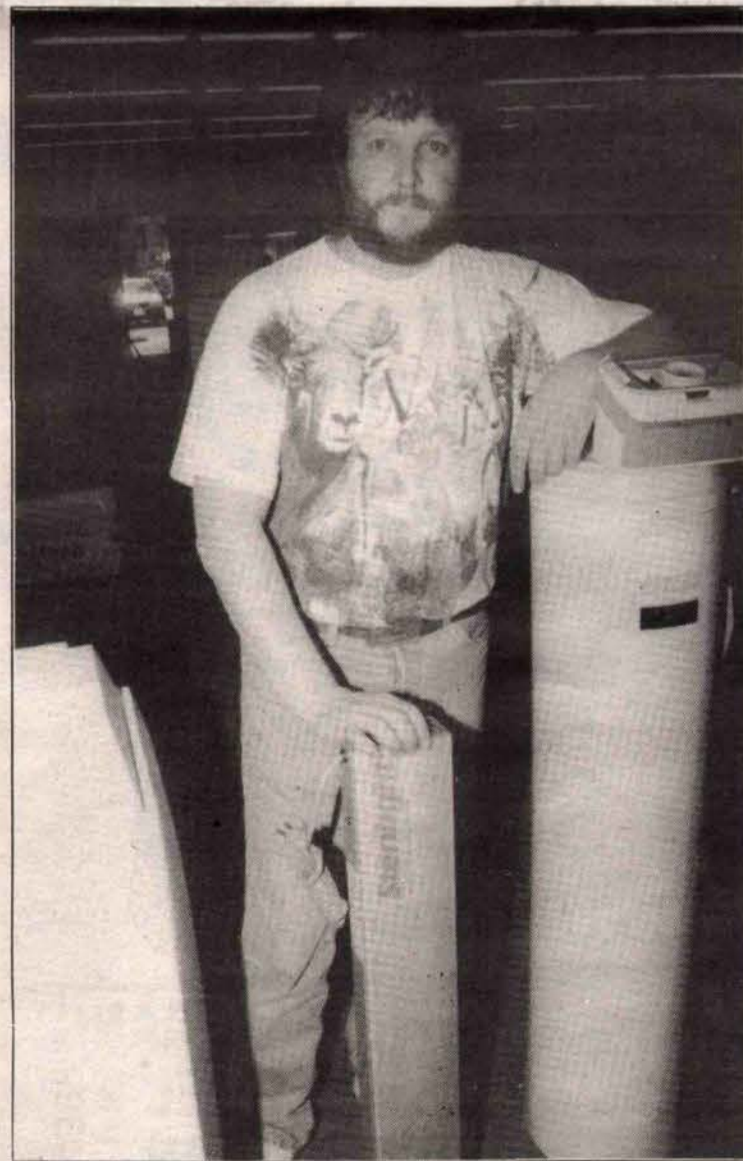
Up to eight people at one time could be showering and using laundry facilities at the bed and breakfast, so an assured water supply is crucial.

"This has just made a big difference, especially in peace of mind," says Hoff.

Green Rose's water always tasted good, he says, but testing detected an uncomfortably high coliform level, possibly because the property was historically used as a farm. A filtration and ultraviolet system was installed to eliminate worries about potential health effects resulting from the presence of coliform.



**WATER SOLUTION:** Plumber David Rainsford installed new treatment and storage system at Green Rose Bed and Breakfast to take care of supply and quality problems.



**TREATING WATER:** Lee Sawchuk displays some of the equipment available for addressing water problems on Salt Spring. Sawchuk operates Lee the Plumber, a plumbing and plumbing supply business.

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# Environment Canada offers tips for reducing water use

(SOP) The following are some tips Environment Canada recommends for reducing water use without plumbing devices.

- Avoid:**
- Thawing frozen foods under running water.
  - Cleaning fruits and vegetable under running water; instead scrub them in a partially filled sink, and rinse quickly.
  - Running to the tap for every glass of drinking water; instead keep a bottle cooling in the refrigerator.
  - Running a half-filled dishwasher.
  - Dripping taps; close tightly and, if they are leaking, install new washers.
  - Using garbage disposals in the kitchen sink; they waste water in order to pulverize the waste.
  - Running a tap while brushing teeth and shaving.
  - Bathing when a quick shower will do; if you must bathe, you can get just as clean with a half-

full tub. When drawing water for the tub, first put in all the hot water you want, then slowly adjust the temperature with the cold water.

- Extinguishing cigarettes by flushing them down the toilet.
- Watering your lawn when the sun is at its brightest; early

**A bucket and sponge, require only 450 litres to wash a car, to the 700 litres expelled by a hose.**

morning or late afternoon is best.

- Placing sprinklers where they water the concrete rather than the lawn.

**Use:**

- A device to create a dam in

your toilet tank to reduce the amount of water it normally holds. Any non-porous item such as a plastic bottle will do, but stay away from bricks as they disintegrate and can plug up the system.

- Insulation on your hot-water tank and pipe, and a thermostat set back to 50 degrees Celsius. This saves hot water by keeping it warmer longer and can reduce water-heating costs by 25 per cent.
  - A bucket and sponge, requiring only 450 litres to wash a car, instead of the 700 litres expelled by a hose. Save 90 litres by attaching a trigger nozzle to the hose for rinsing off the suds.
  - A cover for any swimming pool, to cut down on evaporation.
- Here's how the average Canadian household uses its water:

Inside the house, every day, we each use 350 litres, compared with

an average 140 litres in Europe.

- 45 per cent of it goes down the toilet.
- 30 per cent is washed away in showers and baths.
- 20 per cent goes to do the dishes

and laundry.

- Five per cent is for drinking and cooking.
- Expect a 100 per cent increase during the summer if you water the lawn or wash the car.

## Lawn enhances look of home and garden

(SOP) A beautiful lawn adds to the appearance of your home and only requires a bit of know-how to maintain. And a beautiful lawn is a fine selling point when comes the time to sell your home, since it is one of the first things prospective buyers will see.

The lawn should be checked for bare spots in the spring. Small bare spots usually fill in by themselves if you apply fertilizer and water the lawn more frequently. If bare spots are large, they must be reseeded or sodded.

For best results, the lawn should be fertilized about three times a year. A properly fertilized lawn will maintain good colour and thickness and will be more resistant to insect and weed damage.

The amount of mowing necessary depends on the type of grass you have on your lawn, the time of year it is and how often you water or fertilize it. During the peak growing season, you can expect to cut the grass once or twice a week.

If you cut your grass too short, you could end up damaging it. Lowering mowing blades produces a shallow root system, making the grass more susceptible to damage by heat, lack of water or disease.

Rain cannot be entirely relied upon to do the job of watering the lawn for you.

A thorough watering every so often is better for the lawn than frequent light watering. Too little water at once encourages shallow

rooting, making the grass weaker and less resistant to disease and weed problems. The lawn should get about an inch of water a week in the summer.

Early morning is perhaps the best time to water the lawn, since the water has time to sink to the roots. Watering in the afternoon is not the best idea, because increased evaporation at that time of day means less water will reach the roots. Watering at night is risky because the ground can remain soaked at night, increasing the chances of disease.

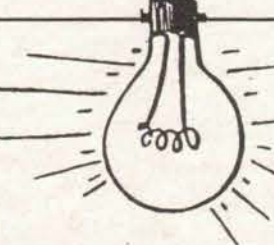
Installing an automatic sprinkler system in your lawn and garden not only makes watering convenient, it helps conserve water, adds value to your home and you can do it yourself and save money.

While an automatic system can turn the water on and off when no one is around, it also can be operated on an "as needed" schedule. New sophisticated timers and water-saving sprinkler heads help take the guess work out of watering.

The timer opens and closes each valve, permitting the flow of water to various sprinkler heads throughout the system. The newest timers use computer memory devices that make them precise, reliable and extremely flexible to meet a variety of lawn care and plant needs.

Whatever type of watering system you use, you can be assured that if your lawn is kept in good shape, it will give more enjoyment.

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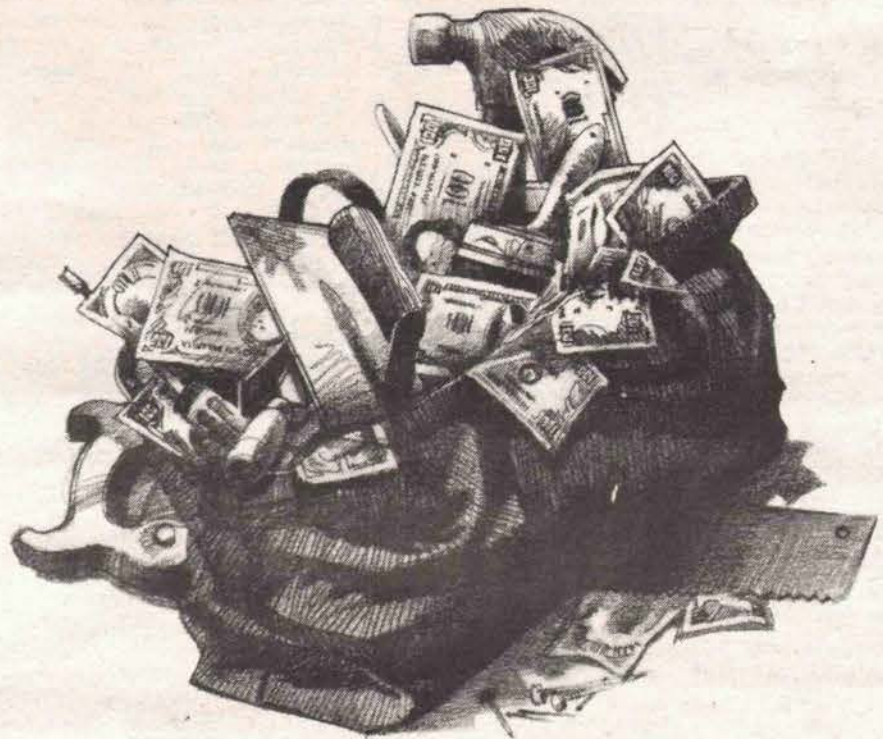
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# Check cold wave with caulking of doors, windows

**Q.** The recent bursts of cold weather have sent blasts of drafts flowing through our house. The main culprits in this criminal cold wave are the windows and the doors.

The windows are double-hung sash windows, with what appears to be very ineffective aluminum storm windows. The upper windows no longer move as they have been painted into position. There are gaps at the top of some of them. What would be the best way of draft-proofing the windows?

The back door to the kitchen also is in a very sad state. To begin with, the window for the storm door has been lost and the storm door frame no longer fits as snugly as it should. In addition, cold air pours in around the interior door.

Are there any quick fixes to my problems? And what should I do in terms of long-term weather-proofing?

**A.** Start the rehabilitation of this criminal cold wave by installing removable caulk on all mating surfaces of the window joinery to create a sealed unit. This type of caulk is designed solely for weather stripping and can be peeled off in the spring.

Wash the window surfaces to make sure that no grease or dirt is present to interfere with the caulk bonding to the window.

There are two types of caulk available for this kind of weather stripping. One is the traditional dark gray, ropy caulk. The other is available in tubes and should be applied with a caulking gun.

Caulk between the interior window frames and the sash stops — the wooden moldings that hold the windows in their channels — and along the gap where the bottom of the upper window and the top of the lower window meet, or at any location where you feel a draft.

To increase the energy efficiency of your windows, you also might want to install a plastic insulation kit. These are sheets of plastic attached to the interior window moldings by two-sided tape.

After the plastic has been applied to the

tape, a hair dryer or heat gun usually can be used to shrink the plastic and eliminate the majority of wrinkles that may have developed in the plastic surface during installation.

Once again, wash the surfaces to which the tape is to be applied in order to make sure that the tape will bond well. The tape is applied to all four sides of the window frame in as straight and level a manner as possible.

Start attaching the plastic at the top of the window and proceed along one side. Keep the material as tight as possible. To attach the plastic to the tape, simply press the plastic on to the adhesive surface of the tape. While this job can be done by one person, it helps to have someone hold the plastic away from the rest of the tape and to keep the plastic as taut as possible.

Using the same technique, press the plas-

tic on to the tape on the other side of the window and at the bottom.

Now use a hair dryer or heat gun to shrink the plastic film, to further reduce any wrinkles that might have occurred and remove any sags in the plastic.

The plastic treatment can be used as a very temporary replacement for the missing back-door window. Weather stripping should be applied around the door frame to further reduce drafts.

While these temporary measures can be used to reduce the amount of cold weather seeping into your house, you should price the cost of having permanent improvements made. If you can't find a replacement window for the back door, you might have to get a new storm door installed.

As for the windows, you should get new exterior storm windows and install weather stripping on the interior windows.

Arguments will be made to convince you to have the windows replaced entirely. If possible, you should avoid this as they are an intrinsic part of a building's architecture and whenever possible should be left in place and properly maintained.

**To increase the energy efficiency of your windows, install a plastic insulation kit. These are sheets of plastic attached to the interior window moldings by two-sided tape.**

# Function, duty come before form, design with cushions

(SOP) What's the etiquette of dealing with cushions that are hogging all the room on a loveseat? Do you sweep them to one side, thereby eliminating the possibility of sharing the couch with any potential lover?

Do you dump them on the floor, hoping they won't be soiled or tripped over or — heaven forbid — sat upon?

Do you pick up the whole bundle, tossing them behind the piano while no one is looking?

The thoughtful host removes these decorator-designed but people-punishing accessories before the guests

arrive, even if it means diminishing the impact of the room. Function over form, duty over design.

Despite this caveat, the home decorator on a budget should look to cushions as an economical yet effective means of pulling a decorating scheme together.

Cushions can pick out and heighten secondary colours in a room. Or they can provide a striking contrast to a dominant colour.

Ruffled cushions soften a tai-

lored sofa. Satin cushions, with a piped edge, provide a clean contrast to a flowered chintz chair. A bolster separating the cushions of a

**A bed piled high with pillows invites sleepy heads to rest. And cast-iron porch furniture becomes lounge-able when plumped with pillows.**

large sofa doubles as a soft armrest.

A bed piled high with pillows invites sleepy heads to rest. And cast-iron porch furniture

becomes lounge-able when plumped with pillows.

Cushions aren't cheap — don't be surprised if a one-foot-square flowered chintz pillow with ruffles bears a \$50 price tag. But remember, they'll make your tired old sofa look like a million dollars.

And if you have even minimal sewing skills, you can make beautiful cushions and pillows for much less. Stores that specialize in upholstery and drapery fabrics have remnant tables where you can

pick up enough yardage for a pillow or two for a few dollars. Add a zipper and some trim, an hour or two sewing time, and you'll have a designer cushion for under \$10.

More quick and easy still is the pillow stuffed with polyfoam or old pantyhose, then stitched up permanently. (Look mom, no zipper.) This kind of pillow, because it can't be cleaned so easily, is best for fluffing up a bed, where it's less likely to be soiled. Make them in a variety of sizes mixing and matching fabrics, using left-over material from other sewing projects.

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# Simple and specialized methods of wallpapering around corners

(SOP) Wallpapering requires skill and practice. Two techniques that are essential — attaching wallpaper to inside and outside corners — are described here.

A basic method can be used to paper an inside corner where two walls meet. First, measure at several points from the corner to the edge of the last strip applied.

Add one-half inch (12 mm) to the greatest measurement and cut a strip of wallpaper to this width.

Attach the strip to the wall and tap the paper firmly into the corner with a smoothing brush by striking the paper with the ends of the bristles. Paste the extra half inch to the adjacent wall.

If the paper's length is greater than the distance from floor to ceiling, slit the paper with a knife above and below the corner to avoid wrinkling it.

Next, measure the leftover waste strip. If it is at least six inches (15 cm) wide, it can be used to complete the corner. If it is narrower than six inches, substitute a new full-width strip.

Mark the width of the strip on to the uncovered wall by measuring from the corner at any point along its length. Using a plumb line coated with chalk (or an ordinary string, coated with chalk and tied at one end to the handle of a pair of scissors), mark a vertical line on the wall.

Have an assistant hold the unweighted end of the line against the top of the wall so that the weighted end swings freely a fraction of an inch from the floor. When the string stops moving, make certain it is aligned precisely with the mark on the wall.

While your assistant presses the top end of the string against the wall, stretch the string downward to tighten it and press it against the wall at the bottom with your thumb. Be careful not to disturb the string's alignment.

Using your free hand, grasp the string near the middle of its length, then gently pull the string straight out from the wall about four inches (10 cm) and let go.

The string should snap lightly against the wall, leaving a crisp, vertical line of chalk from top to

bottom.

Paste the strip to the wall along the line. At the corner, the strip should overlap the one previously applied by a half inch (12 mm).

There are also two specialized ways of papering inside corners. One can be used if the distance from the corner to the last strip applied is very narrow — four inches (10 cm) or less.

The other can be used if the distance is very wide — within four inches of the full width of a strip.

In the first situation, subtract from the width of a full strip the longest distance from the corner to the edge of the last strip applied, plus an additional half inch.

Using a chalk line, mark a vertical line on the adjacent wall a distance from the corner equal to the measurement.

**There are two specialized ways of papering inside corners. One can be used if the distance from the corner to the last strip applied is four inches (10 cm) or less.**

Then hang a full strip of wallpaper by aligning it with the mark. One side of the paper then should wrap around the corner and overlap the edge of the last strip applied by a half inch.

In the second situation, the procedure is essentially the reverse, but easier. Simply hang a full strip of paper by aligning it with the edge of the last strip applied.

Press the paper into the corner and paste the extra against to the adjacent wall as described in the basic procedure. Hang the next strip so that its edge overlaps that of the corner strip by a half inch.

With all three methods, unless the corner where the walls meet is vertical or very nearly so, there may be a mismatch of the pattern where the corner strip and the next strip to be applied meet.

In the two specialized methods, mismatches will be more pronounced and more noticeable the farther the unaligned edges of the corner strips are from the corner.

However, in the basic procedure, the distance from the corner to the seam formed by the next strip is so narrow that mismatching will be slight and most likely will go unnoticed.

To paper an outside corner, like a projection created by a mantel-piece, the basic procedure is first to measure at several points from the corner to the edge of the last strip applied, as described for papering an inside corner. Cut a strip to the width of the longest measurement plus one inch (2.5 cm).

Align the strip with the edge of the last one applied and attach it to the wall, wrapping the extra amount around the corner and pasting it down.

Slit any paper above and below the corner to avoid wrinkling it.

Hold a carpenter's level against the strip's unaligned edge at the top and bottom to check whether the edge is vertical. If it is not, loosen it from the wall.

Then, using a sponge, reposition the paper on the other side of the corner by dampening and pushing it with the sponge toward the corner.

Be careful not to separate the seam between this strip and the one previously applied. Then repaste the loosened portion.

To complete the corner, follow the procedure for attaching the waste strip or a full-width strip to the wall also as described for papering an inside corner.

But in both cases, add a half inch to the strip's width when marking the wall so that when attached, the edge of the second strip will overlap the first by that amount.

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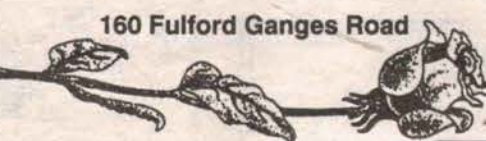
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## Household Hints

NEVER mix bleach and ammonia together for any reason — the combination produces a deadly toxic gas.

# Sad old kitchen chairs can be given new look

You can create a new look for your kitchen chairs at a fraction of the cost of buying new ones.

If the chair legs are still in good shape, recovering the chair backs and pads is an easy way to replace old vinyl coverings and jazz up your kitchen at the same time.

Extra fabric can be used to make co-ordinating table runners, napkins, even window treatments. Your chairs can play a key role in tying the room decor together.

Keep costs down by purchasing material during sales or as roll-ends, and don't be afraid to negotiate the price if you're buying many metres.

To decide how much you need, measure the pad and back of one chair, take that area, and multiply it by the number of chairs you want to re-cover.

If you're still unsure, draw a rough pattern on brown paper for each piece, and then take the pattern to the fabric store and actually lay it out on the fabric.

Don't be afraid to add your own imagination to the following example — and whatever you do, remember to have fun with it!

What you will need:

- Sturdy, washable fabric
- Cotton batting (the kind used in quilting)
- Staple gun
- Pencil or pen

- Scissors
- Screwdriver
- Hammer
- Sewing machine (depending on your chair)

Approximate cost: \$12 per chair, depending on the fabric

Completion time: three hours per chair

Supplies: fabric and hardware stores

**Keep costs down by purchasing material during sales or as roll-ends, and don't be afraid to negotiate the price if you're buying many metres.**

Tip: Spray fabric with Scotchguard or a similar product for greater resistance to spills and stains

Step 1: Dismantle the chair. This will usually involve removing the screws that hold the chair pad and back to the frame; keep the screws together in the order you removed them, so that reassembling the chair will be easy.

Step 2: Carefully remove the old chair covering, using a flat-bladed screwdriver to loosen the

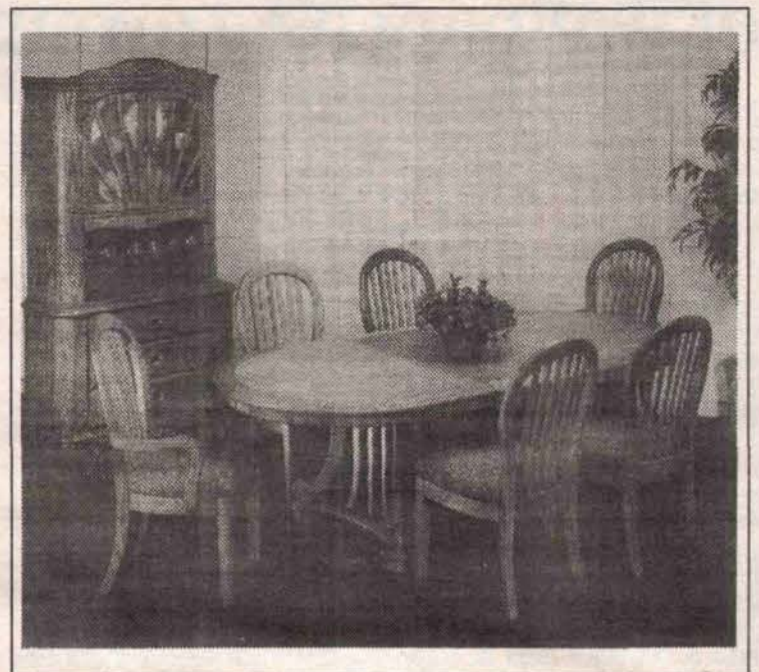
staples. Try not to damage the cardboard that probably covers the bottom of the chair pad. If it's in bad shape, use it as a pattern to cut another piece.

Step 3: Using either the old fabric or the seat as a guide, cut new fabric. Fold the new fabric over the top of your chair back to avoid a seam. If the padding has settled over the years, give it a boost with layers of cotton batting. If the padding is damaged, replace it with a piece of cut foam.

Step 4: Fold fabric over the chair pad, pull snug and staple in place. If the corners are too bulky, clip excess material on the underside of the pad. Staple the cardboard back into place, matching the screw holes with the pad. Note: if staples aren't flush, tap down with hammer.

Step 5: If the join in the fabric over the chair back will be hidden by the frame, staple the material to the sides of the chair. If not, sew the side seams and slip the fabric over the back. Staple the bottom of the fabric and fold over any raw edges at the bottom toward the back of the chair.

Step 6: Reassemble the chair. It may help to mark the screw holes on the fabric. You can feel them through the fabric, mark them and make a small hole in the fabric to guide the screw into place.



# Rug binding service gives carpet new life

Remainders from a newly-carpeted room or area rugs that have seen better days are usually discarded during fall clean-up projects.

But with Ian Brierley's rug binding service, that need not be the case.

Brierley has a special binding machine that helps give new life to an old favourite rug either by rebinding its edges or adding a new custom border.

Scraps left over from a larger carpeting job can be bound or given a contrasting border and then used as part of an overall decorating plan.

For \$1.45 per foot, he binds rugs of any size and shape with a large selection of variously-

coloured edging materials.

Brierley's rug binding service can also help with overhauling a boat interior, an ideal fall and winter project.

He points out that it makes sense to install carpeting with bound edges in boats, rather than affixing it by the usual means, since constant exposure to moisture is not a sensible environment for carpeting.

"This way you could roll the carpet up, take it out and keep it dry by storing it somewhere else," he says.

Brierley has been involved in the flooring business for 22 years. He may be reached at 537-9150 or 537-1733.



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# With laundry there are as many questions as there are stains

(SOP) If cleanliness is next to goldliness, why do people have such a devil of a time with their laundry?

Despite new and improved detergents, fabric softeners and stain removers, washing clothes hasn't got much easier.

There are still as many questions as there are stains. For example:

- Why can't darks be washed with whites?
- Is there a proper way to treat stains?
- How do you stop clothes from shrinking in the dryer?
- Does hot water really clean better than cold?

Clothes are expensive and require a lot of maintenance. A typical family of four will do more than a tonne of laundry each year.

But a few tips can ensure that the hours put into this never-ending chore are time well spent.

The experts say two rules always apply:

- Read — and follow — the instructions on cleaning products and care labels on clothes.
- Treat dirt or stains as soon as possible.

Those are the basics.

Here is a guided tour of a vicious cycle that begins in your clothes hamper, winding through washer, dryer and ironing board before arriving back in your closet.

## Tips for coping with your wash

- Liquid fabric softeners added to the washer may actually draw dirt back on to the clothes if the water is especially dirty.
- Underwear and other items worn next to the body absorb body oils, so they usually contain more soil than is visible to the eye. Wash in hot water, above 55 degrees C or 100 degrees F.
- Shrinking is caused by over-drying, or sometimes using water that's too hot. Agitation will shrink

woollen items. Shrinking is usually irreversible.

- Corduroy and velveteen are among the toughest fabrics to get clean. Red and purple dyes are the toughest to get out when they run.
- To tell if a fabric is colourfast, dip part of it into water at the temperature (hot, warm, cold) you intend to wash it at. Let sit for several minutes, then squeeze. If it runs, wash it alone or with clothes of the same colour.

### The laundry basket

It all starts here. Sorting is vital to a successful wash and a mistake now will show up later - if a color runs.

You can get away with two loads — lights and whites, darks and everything else.

It's used by college freshmen. It requires the least amount of work.

Most people use three loads: whites, solid pastels and light prints; mediums and bright colors; dark colors.

Other tips: loads should weigh 2 to 3 kilograms (5 to 7 pounds); a mix of small and large items produces the best wash.

### Laundry room

Preparing clothes for washing means hunting for stains beforehand. There are scores of common stains and an equal number of specific treatments, but rinsing any stain immediately in cold water helps.

The longer you wait, the worse any stain is to get out.

Treat stains from the back, over paper towels, so the stain isn't pushed into the fabric. Launder immediately to remove stain and stain remover.

Other tips: chlorine bleach is the only product that removes color from fabrics; silks or wools shouldn't be washed in enzyme detergents — always marked as such on the box — because they eat the natural fibres.

### Washer

Hot water cleans better than cold, the experts agree, although a cold rinse will save money and reduce wrinkling. Advances in colorfast fabrics haven't changed the fact that some products still run.

Nylon acts as a scavenger and will pick up any dye in your water. So take care when washing nylon fabrics with clothes that aren't colourfast.

Other tips: allow soap and water to mix before adding clothes to prevent streaks from undissolved detergent; close all snaps, bra hooks, zippers and fasteners to avoid snags.

### Dryer

Shrinking generally occurs in the dryer and can be prevented by removing clothes, especially jeans and other cottons, when still slightly damp.

Some natural fibres have a tendency to shrink over time or because of too much washing.

Other tips: larger loads cause more wrinkles; clothes left in a wet pile for a long time may run.

Finally, accept the fact that laundry isn't an exact science and even the experts make stupid mistakes.

"I left my laundry sitting in the washer the other day," says a mother of four children "and had something red run into the white. It happens."

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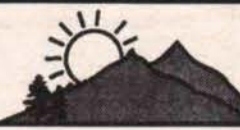
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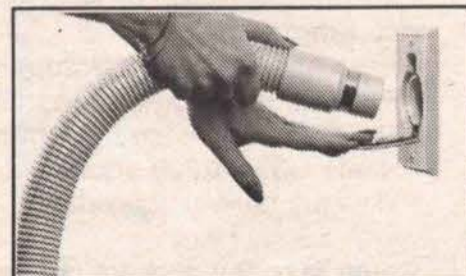
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