

QUICK CURES FOR ICE DAMS ■ 9 WAYS TO CUT HIGH HEAT BILLS

NOVEMBER 2005

This Old House

Warm Up Your Rooms

EXPERT ADVICE
building a
leak-proof
flat roof

DESIGN TIPS
a pro chef's
home kitchen

BUYER'S GUIDE
schoolhouse
lights

**Pick perfect
colors**

**Paint &
paper
like a pro**

**Snap
down
stylish
floors**

+ HOW TO

**FIX A SHAKY STAIR POST
QUIET A NOISY HEAT DUCT
GET THE BEST ORBITAL SANDER**

"For Office Use Only"



THE FULL-SIZE NISSAN TITAN

Source	Journal of Management, 2004, 30, 1	Source	Journal of Management, 2004, 30, 1	Source	Journal of Management, 2004, 30, 1
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ADAPTABLE TIE-INTENSION; LYPAC-ON NEEDLE

● 中国书画函授大学肇庆分校 ●

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HOME ENTERTAINMENT ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, ANYHOW



WHILE HOME THEATER SYSTEMS OF THE PAST WERE USUALLY RELEGATED TO YOUR LIVING ROOM WITH THEIR WIRES, CORDS AND BULKY, OLD-FASHIONED STEREO SYSTEMS—today's systems are sleek, elegant and can provide great sound in every room of your home. Whether you want to listen to music while preparing dinner in the kitchen or have cinema-quality sound when you watch a movie with the kids, new equipment—like Bose® Lifestyle® DVD home entertainment systems—allows you to have the same great sound quality in every room, even on the deck.

These new systems are so versatile you can have different music on in other rooms and adjust that music with separate remote controls. For example, while someone's watching a movie in the living room with thrilling surround sound, you can enjoy a book in the bath with soothing jazz. Some systems allow you to play more than one source at a time. And with a remote control, you can choose music and adjust the sound with the touch of a button—without ever leaving from your bed.

Not only do these systems offer greater flexibility, they also help you simplify life goodbye to stacks of CDs and countless wires and cords. There are systems available that digitally store your CDs in a central location so you'll never have to shuffle through stacks of CDs. And Bose Lifestyle® systems can even learn the music you like and make selections for you.

There are some home-wide home theater systems that even allow you to get great audio quality without running wires from room to room. With Bose Lifestyle® systems, for example, you can install one "preselector" in the main room and add "receivers" in your living room, kitchen, office, bedroom, patio, and bedroom. So you can easily enjoy music throughout your home.

When you choose a home theater system, make sure you choose one that can meet your needs now and when you want to add more rooms in the future. Once you discover how great it is having music in different rooms, you might just want to have it everywhere.

TECHNICAL DIRECTION YOUR FAVORITE TUNES CAN FOLLOW YOU FROM ROOM TO ROOM

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Master the art
of painting



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Cover photo by Ryan White

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letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

Safe at Home

IF YOU'VE DONE IT OR HAVE EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT, you know it isn't easy to endure a remodel. Which is why I so often use this page to help bridge the gap between my own mostly vain attempts at post-chaos-of-disaggregated-house-I-call-home. But of course, complaining about a smorgasbord of photos and creaky text used to be a staple of my work in the middle of the night to soon after the storm and to flood of misery when so many don't have homes at all, much less fully calm.

As I wrote this note, it's not quite two weeks after the lesson broke, just a day before the fourth anniversary of 9/11, and several weeks until you'll have the issue in your hands. It's only And still confusing. News outlets report claims of thousands dead and the fewer casualties than originally thought; a city that could be unrecognizable for years and a French Quarter that will be open in months, talking heads that throw words of blame and people urging all parties to unite.

Either way, real recovery—such that a city can be as for off. The status of hope that flicker from New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, that part of America so rich with spirit and history and sense of place, will continue to blink out in the darkness of so many more sad to let of people forever changed, communities broken and gone, homes splintered beyond repair.

These stories will keep coming, people will reach to cheer, and in the hopefulness of it all, as a former editor of the magazine wrote in late September 2001, that life, especially for those far from the landfall of Hurricane Katrina, will return to normal. But that doesn't mean we will stop unafraid. As happened four years ago, we'll feel the urge to continue, to make our own homes feel warmer and more comfortable life. More safe.

If *This Old House*, to remind about the importance of home and place, can help you do that, all the better. But home still it all of us, our staff, our readers, and our writers, too make others safe. Even if it is far the second one, or the third, I hope you'll join us in going to work on experiments working to help people reclaim their sense of home, whether that home is in Louisiana or Mississippi or just around the corner from you. Alas, what you have to go might not see an old house or give a family a new one, but a steady, warm home in truth—or surely—out of many small pieces.

Sara Chavira

SCOTT CHAMBERLAIN
EDITOR

In addition to supporting the fund raising efforts of the American Red Cross and AmeriCares, *This Old House* would like you to visit the Old House site for updates on how you can help with the magazine's new efforts to help those who remain in need as we build again.

COVER STORIES

in "One of the things I've lost is my sense of place," says the author of *One of the Things I've Lost*, a new book by Sara Chavira. The book is a collection of essays about the loss of place and the importance of home. It is a collection of essays about the loss of place and the importance of home. It is a collection of essays about the loss of place and the importance of home.



in "The book is a collection of essays about the loss of place and the importance of home. It is a collection of essays about the loss of place and the importance of home. It is a collection of essays about the loss of place and the importance of home."



in "The book is a collection of essays about the loss of place and the importance of home. It is a collection of essays about the loss of place and the importance of home. It is a collection of essays about the loss of place and the importance of home."

Homework Pays Off

We just finished a full kitchen remodel, so I got to read your tips [The Don't-Get-Burned Remodeling Guide "September" after the fact! "Mistake number one: Trying to be your own general contractor." Ooops. That's what I did—and it worked out fine it wasn't luck, though I did my homework

I researched magazines (especially *This Old House*), books, and the Web and watched all the home shows on cable. I talked to different pros and friends until only who had been through a remodel. I drew plans over and over and over again, mistakes from both of the big box home stores as well as custom cabinetrymaker [yikes, enligot] exactly what I wanted.

The bottom line is that you can't get your own GC, but you have to treat it like a job. It takes a lot of time, you have to research and ask lots of questions, you have to be very organized, and you have to know what you want.

CHRISTINE LAMARCA, DENVÉR, COLORADO

Monkey-Wrench Business

Home's visit to the Emerald Antique Show [The Felicité Wolf-Wert Hammer "September"] certainly resulted in an assortment of interesting antique tools, and I enjoyed the article greatly. But the "monkey wrench" on page 18 is not the one I remember from my father's tool box. My father had a pipe wrench for the plumber. I remember a monkey wrench that was designed for his tubs. I remember it being taken out for slopping and rounding over tubs. This perhaps was the source of an expression I also recall: "as good as a left-handed monkey wrench." (See *THIS OLD HOUSE*, 10/1/97, page 10.)

The editors reply: You might not should have been among our spars when we looked at that photo. We really do know the difference between, and as the case we even explore the mystery of how the monkey wrench got its name in "Gages," page 10.

As-Pert Advice

I was happy to see your article on the various types and uses of pens ("Becoming As-Pert" September). As a leftie, I often find it would be the folly of using an as with a varnished handle



A varnished handle not only becomes slippery, it also obscures the wood grain of the handle. Nothing beats a plain, unpainted (other than varnish) occasional light down with (dimpled) wood oil wood handle for comfort and safety.

JAMES L. GARD, WASHINGTON, D.C.

More Hot Water

I was fascinated to read your take on the bone fits or disappointments of owning a tankless water heater ("Endless Hot Water" November September). I had already decided to go with one in my home renovation. Since I had done quite a bit of research before selecting a model, I was somewhat surprised that you stated "Six gallons a minute is the current maximum." This kitchen I bought suited for 8.5, and I'm not sure I've

Address and full name. The *This Old House* magazine will assume the source was the *This Old House* magazine or the *This Old House* website. Please do not include full name, address, and phone number. We will not be able to contact you if we do not have enough information to reach you.

thermal market rated for 13.2 gallons a minute. Now that's a lot of hot water.

JEFFREY BARNARD, DOW

Job Site Threats

Thanks for your article on theft ("Blasting Home" November House September). We just recently built a home, and it was unbelievable what was stolen from our construction site. Items included: Sheetrock, the front door and all of our appliances. They even burned down a portable toilet! This has been a big problem in this new construction area.

ALLEN HORTON, FORT COCKER, TEXAS

Safe Paint Stripping

After reading ("Take Me for an Old Door" Update September), I thought it would be good to pass along a warning to your readers: Organic vapor respirators or respirators do not filter methylene chloride, the solvent used in many paint strippers. The only recommended way to protect yourself from these vapors is to wear a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) or a supplied-air respirator. The CDC website contains warnings and technical information (www.cdc.gov/niosh/ship/appg/040401.html).

TONY PATRICK, CHICAGO, ILL.

The editors reply: It's true that organic vapor respirators are the best protection from concentrated fumes of methylene chloride because the vapors can break down the filters without your knowing it. Ventilation is the best protection from overexposure and from accumulation of flammable vapors. There are also lots of safer paint strippers on the market today. They may not work as fast as methylene chloride but are even more effective on multiple layers of finish.

CORRECTIONS

"The Showroom Zone" September: The dimensions of the featured sofa were in reported incorrectly. The actual size of the sofa was 60 by 30 by 30 inches.

"We'll House Your Walls" July/August: The correct name should have been "We'll House" a wireless router. The correct name is "We'll House" a wireless router. The correct name is "We'll House" a wireless router. The correct name is "We'll House" a wireless router.

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around the HOUSE

GOOD TO KNOW

This month in 1973, industrial designer Raymond Loewy was born. His styling of the 1945 Goldcrest fridge and other appliances spawned the idea that everyday items should look as good as they work.

Laser Wars

Are the red beams worth the hype?

TOOL COMPANIES ARE equipping everything from power saws to paint sprayers with lasers. But whether shiny red lines make the old-school tools a big better depends on who you ask, and the job at hand.

The *Old House* general contractor Tom Silva says laser-guided tools have improved since they debuted in the late '90s, when—among other problems—the basic use of one to diffuse you could barely read them. They've also come down in price, from a whopping \$900 in 1999 for a laser distance meter (it scooped up tape measure) to just \$30 today for Silva's line's 39-foot model.

Most dedicated laser tools are a time-saving convenience, says Silva, who uses a meter to calculate square footage when estimating flooring needs and a level to shoot a reference line when hanging cabinets. But when it comes to tools with laser add-ons, he's less trusting. The adjustable laser on a miter saw, for instance, can fall out of calibration, causing you to cut the wrong spot.

Tool makers concede that keeping lasers on track can require patience and a thorough read of the instruction manual. But used properly they can eliminate a lot of hassle and guesswork. And in the end, any help you can get with finding a stud and hanging a level shelf, you should take.

—MICHAEL MURPHY

SPEAKING OF LASERS...



THIS IS IT
The thinner and more vibrant the laser line, the easier it is to read outdoors. A thicker laser is likely to be affected by sunlight.



SHARP SHOOTER
The beams on power saws work as guides. But lasers can also cut. Portable models with Roto to improve speed and to make fine cuts for squaring joists.



BEAMING UP
While on level, no mistake about the system's ability. Discovery used a new laser leveling tool to check the slope and even prep for launch damage.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DeWalt 3-Beam Universal \$225, Black & Decker Railways Digital Beam Monitor \$195, Laser Level & Shot String \$50, DeWalt Laser Distance \$245, Green Laser \$200, \$250 Craftsman Laser Tool 2-in-1 Laser \$100.



Problem Solved: Electrical Outlets That Spin

"When I was young, electrical outlets were sedentary, so if you needed to recharge your drill/driver and juice up your iPod at the same time, you had to pull out a power strip or find another wall with a free receptacle. Then came 360 Electrical, which let you connect two bulky plugs at the same time."

That's the story you'll be telling your grandchildren one day, after you've retrofitted all of the outlets in the kitchen, bathroom, home office, and workshop where such large plugs are typically used. The 360 outlets are designed to fit into a standard-size electrical box, so all you need is a screwdriver and about five minutes to swap in the new receptacles in the same manner you would any replacement outlet. —www.360elect.com

Look for 360 Electrical's 35-amp, 220-volt outlets at home centers and the better-box SO. For more information, visit 360elect.com.

COPPER SMOKESTACK CAPS

NEW WAY TO IMPROVE DRAFT AND ADD STYLE TO CHIMNEYS

To stop swarting birds, sticky squirrels, and gophers of whatever kind from soiling your fireplace, you've had just two choices.

Top the chimney with a heavy terra-cotta pot—or if you're like most people—finish it with a steel cap that looks like a flying saucer perched on a slender metal stem. Now there's a stylish copper alternative from Oldenburg and John Arnold. That isn't only better looking, it's your weather or fog-free is highly perforated chimney.

The copper caps have the regal look of stone pieces, and after several months outside, they'll develop a patina that's as timeless as that of your old house. The caps improve the chimney's draft by adding to its height and by creating a mini-tornado in the stack when cold drafts encounter them with winds at inside. This may cause disturbing views of doorknobs and toilet plumbing about 100 feet away, but that's about as bad as it gets. It prevents smoke from blowing out of the flue. Price: From \$100 to \$1,400, the caps are patented and U.S. listed for use on both masonry and perforated metal chimneys.

—www.360elect.com

For more information, visit www.360elect.com.



Q
A

It seems that for every tool of a monkey wrench demolition, there's a story about the tool's invention. Some say Charles Hensley, a Baltimore mechanic, designed it up, while others point the finger at Charles Hensley, a British Mechanic. We've got our money on "Monkey" (who lives in Springfield, Mass.) when he used the adjustable jaws (pictured like this) to use wrenches.

To which you'd better monkey business take place?

A. 1826 B. 1800 C. 1817 D. 1840

Source: *Open House*, page 24 (for answers)

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF 360 ELECTRICAL



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IT'S TWENTY.

10
USES

Wire Coat Hanger

The wire coat hanger has a bad reputation. Not known as an exemplar in the field of automobiles and as the subject of shaming discipline in the fine Manners Department, the revolutionary 1903 invention has nevertheless held its ground against fancy plastics and cedar hangers to remain in almost every American closet today. Maybe that's because the applications of the wire hanger go beyond hanging a shirt or breaking into an El Estero. Use it to:

1 Hang nuts, washers, and rolls of paper. Snap off a short length and bend it into an S shape to make a pegboard hook.

2 Help dry clothes in a cabinet door. Fasten two wire hangers into the lower edge for bottom cabinets or the top edge for upper, and hang them close a wire hanger suspended from a chosen cabinet rail.

3 Secure a door on its hinge. Slip a wire hanger into the door's hinge and pull it down to serve as a temporary pin.

4 Hang paintbrushes and rollers. Dangle the bristles and rollers over a bucket of paint and brush them back together and suspend the hanger from a nail.

5 Undo a knot using the twisted wire to break up the knot.

6 Hold a roofing nail that's just out of reach. Position the nail with a small hook in the end of a straight wire hanger and reach across with your hammer to take it down.

7 Fish a roller rope out of a window weight pocket, as suggested by Brent Hull, a contractor in Fort Worth, Texas.

8 Snake spider webs out from behind drapes.

9 Clear built-up deposits of paint and wallpaper by poking with a short, straight wire.

10 Drive a nail into a beam. Hold the beam while pulling the bottom wire open. Bend the wire around the beam to make a filler.

WEEKEND PROJECT: WARM UP FRIGID FLOORS

EASY TO INSTALL RADIANT HEAT

Thanks to a new DIY radiant heat system, you can now run around the house barefoot on even the coldest winter day. You'll get a MatComfort look and feel as you lie on electrically heated underfloor mats just above any floor that's not nailed down, including floating wood or laminate and click-together tile over tile floors. It's more affordable than the radiant under-flooring systems, and easy to install that you can have your kitchen, living room, or master beds be a comfort zone in a weekend.

Just roll out white foam pad, place the mat, and then assemble your floor right on top. Connecting the mat's electrical wires to the wall-mounted thermostat is the only challenge. You'll have to fish them behind the drywall and hide the electrical to look up the box. The heat can be set up to a comfy 82 degrees (the maximum safe temperature to keep wood floors from warping). You won't be able to shut off the boiler, but go ahead and turn out your old bedroom slippers for good. —ASHLEY WICKHAM

The MatComfort 307 system starts at \$200 for a 10-ft-by-40-ft mat, with thermostat and six cables. Call 1-800-855-5555 for more info.

TIP

Sandpaper Saver

To make his sandpaper last longer, John Dee, the painting and decorating contractor on six TOH TV project houses, cuts sheets in half and then folds them into thirds so that the abrasive sides are not touching. He then pinches the apex of the triangle between his thumb and index finger to grip the paper. This method prevents the sandpaper from wearing against itself during use.



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YOUR DESTINATIONS

**RIO GRANDE CITY, TEXAS.
DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT**

ADD TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER, JULY 16, 2005

Rio Grande City has weathered oil booms, gunfights, and economic downturns, but what's really taken its toll are 18 streetcars. Since the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) 12 years ago, the tracks have roared down Route 83 hauling oil drilling equipment elsewhere. Now

too and the U.S. The heavy vehicles have rutted, rammed, and cracked the clay brick walls that line the sleepy river town's streets.

"We have lost a lot of historic buildings that are part of the city's heritage," says the city's mayor, who recently declared the downtown historic district a National Historic District. "We have lost a lot of historic buildings that are part of the city's heritage."



With 100 years of history, the city's historic district is a treasure trove of architecture. The historic district is a treasure trove of architecture. The historic district is a treasure trove of architecture.

at 300 E. Main, where one night in 1924 a streetcar was pinned down after shoving outside its return tunnel.

For a taste of the city's turn-of-the-century charm, visitors can spend a night at the La Bamba House, built by a French riverboat trader in 1890. Today it offers class, a Mexican restaurant, and four rooms above its period decor. —C.J. HUGHES



THE NEXT LEVEL

A NEW MEASURING TOOL WITH UNMATCHED ACCURACY, DURABILITY, AND CLARITY.

Levels have been called "truth slides" but, really, each stick tells a different version of the truth. Just place a few levels on a surface and watch the bubbles show their own conclusions. But the truth is out there—Empire Level introduces a stick this month that ensures you'll never be off the mark by more than half the thickness of a dime when finding a wall or leveling a window sill. In fact, the company claims it's the only level that for exceeds Federal specifications for accuracy. Most of its competitors merely meet the standard.

They've also redesigned the old yellow spirit level, turning the liquid and the lens containing shades of blue, making it easier to read in both bright and dim light. Rubber cushions on its base protect the level from scratching a polished wall and also give it traction when the working surface is slick or too slippery. The white cut-out grips accommodate gloved hands, and end caps, combined with the sturdy grade aluminum frame, help the tool survive a fall from the top of a ladder. Three non-slip magnets are embedded in the frame for leveling metal studs and laying pipe. They are also handy if you're not on a ladder. Just keep it in the kitchen on the side of your perfectly level fridge. —NASH SHERROD

Empire's True Blue spirit level, 24 in. and 36 in. long. See empirelevel.com for more.

SAFE HOUSE

HOME HEATING HEADS-UP

As the mercury drops, the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning goes up. Fuel-burning heaters, hot water heaters, and furnaces can emit the colorless and odorless gas that kills 28 people each year, mostly between November and February, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The federal agency urges homeowners to get their heating systems checked annually by a licensed HVAC technician to be sure that they're in excellent repair. But if you have a furnace or boiler, you should also have a CO detector installed in your home. Between inspections, keep an eye on the heat on the outside of ducts and vent pipes. If you notice a leak, stop using the heater. If you notice a leak, stop using the heater. If you notice a leak, stop using the heater. —C.J. HUGHES

The SmartDispense™ Dishwasher. 3594 plates. One load of soap. True love.



Step One: Fill with entire bottle of dishwashing liquid.



Step Two: Wash 3594 plates.

Step Three: 45 loads later, repeat step one.



imagination at work

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Lockwood™ Bath Collection.



Lockwood™ Bath Collection — Where rustic meets beautiful. Looking for a bath fixture collection that bridges the gap between traditional and contemporary? You've found it — the new Lockwood Bath Collection. This meticulously fine-tuned collection integrates the popular basket design with a classic twist: especially in our new Agate Pewter finish. Choose from a wide range of Lockwood products to fit your lifestyle, including a new faucet showerhead with optional goose-neck shower arm for a luxurious showering experience. Freshen the look of your bath with coordinating accessories and lighting. All available in Chrome, Polished™, Stainless and Agate Pewter. Call 1-800-345-DEER CORP. or visit our website at www.lockwood.com



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DELTA

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KITCHEN DESIGN



At an apartment kitchen for a bath good-looking as a home with color that's visible from the living space. For this, chef Michael Lomonaco, BECAUSE these cherry cabinets, white granite, and red walls.

YOU LOVE A HOME OFFICE? But that doesn't mean you want to import a carbon copy of your final workspace, right? And so it is with chefs. When Manhattan topper Michael Lomonaco first scored his New York apartment, the kitchen, which hadn't been touched since the building went up in 1962, sold him. The 20-year-old appliances, pressed-board cabinets, and warped parquet also were begging for renovation—and the former head chef of Gwyneth's, the "12" Club, and Windows on the World was eager to use his pre-cooking experience to whip up a comfortable, efficient home kitchen.

His menu wasn't big, or leaving with the blaring commercial appliances, or gas stoves with stainless-steel grates reminiscent of his congenial, overbooked workplace. The idea was to work within the existing 7-by-10-foot, single-galley kitchen (a floor plan that's deprecated at high rise after New York high rise) and outfit it with appropriate custom cabinets, conventional appliances, and easy-to-clean surfaces.

Chef's Special

Like a contractor building his own home, a restaurateur puts to work a lifetime of on-the-job lessons to redo his apartment kitchen

BY SALLIE BRADY PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDER ROWLEY

"I liked that we were starting from scratch—not reconstructing a renovation," says Michael. Working with New York City kitchen designer Anna Masulova, Michael picked a warm, natural wood palette. Repeating heavy textures, he knew that by creating the fire and by keeping ingredients simple he would be rewarded with plenty of prep space—a bonus to anyone who logs lots of cooking hours.

**Kitchen Design
Tips from a Chef**

Remember, you live in a house, not a restaurant. The cupboard for your knife set takes up as much space as a knife set.

Pick surfaces that suit your cooking needs. From a chef's perspective, any granite or quartz is a waste.

Work with a professional. Before this two smaller cabinets were the work area, we opted for one 30-inch wide with two doors that open like a book to give full access to shelves.

Less is more. I love being enclosed in a clutter-free kitchen. Everything is within reach.

Think outside the box. I designed this box to hold a microwave, a coffee maker, and a toaster.



ACCENTUATE YOUR KITCHEN
There's a lot of space in this 34 sq ft kitchen, which makes a comfortable, compact triangle between the stove, the sink, and the fridge.



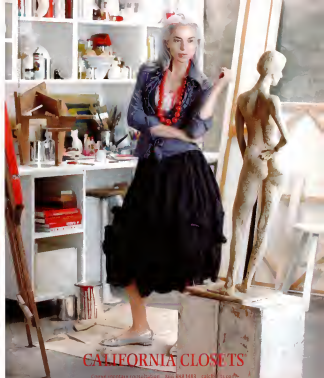
The large 36-inch fridge (TOP LEFT) was chosen to accommodate the chef's "batch cooking" at home. It's surrounded by cabinets, including a pull-out, four-to-six-gal. pantry to the right (ARROW).

The Plan

Use a pro chef's know-how to make every inch function for storage and prep.

What He Did

- 1. CLAIMED A KITCHEN WALL SPACE FOR CABINETRY** By reinforcing the walls next to the range and the fridge, the chef was able to extend cabinetry into what was dead space in the old kitchen. This added 24 inches on the range side—where the no-overflow corner wasn't back toward the pump and burner—and 28 inches by the fridge.
- 2. 'CLEANED UP' THE SINK AREA** Positioning the faucet in the back corner and sloping sprays in a full-front drawer freed up more valuable countertop.
- 3. INSTALLED A MICROWAVE OVER THE RANGE** That addition was the only change to the floor configuration of appliances, which the chef updated with ones from KitchenAid. "I didn't want to get into moving ground-water lines," says the architect. "I know that's a hassle."
- 4. 'ADDED A PULL-OUT PANTRY** Seven feet to eating storage, extra food storage units are accessible from both sides of the 28-inch wide pantry below. Glazed from the dining room, the pantry appears to be a wall of theory—except the goal of the chef was to save.



CALIFORNIA CLOSETS

Consulting: 800-848-1482 calclosets.com



"In a commercial kitchen, you learn to keep things tidy with cooking tools stored out of sight."

—MICHAEL LUNSFORD, DESIGNER



The Details

Two decades of cooking inspire the ultimate in hidden assets.

1. **CHERRY CABINETS** from Wood Mode were fitted with sliding stainless steel pulls for the kind of grab-and-go access found in a restaurant kitchen. The warm wood tone is echoed in maple panels that cover the countertop, backsplash and the window sill—ensuring a clean surface for spills and splatters.

2. **POTS AND PANS DRAWERS** make efficient use of end-cabinet space, holding up to 150 pounds of cookware apiece.

3. **CUTLERY DRAWERS** organize cooking tools and utensils in the same way that chefs would at work. And behind lower cabinet doors, self-out drawers keep frequently used oils close by—just pick up the neck, bend off the top, and pour.

4. **AFOLDING STEPLADDER**, hidden behind a toekick panel, helps in accessing upper cabinets that are the height of the 6-foot-cooking.

For more kitchen inspiration, visit kitchen.com/verifolia.



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ACCENTS

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in white. Shown actual size.

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BATH DESIGN



A Bath From Scratch

» How one couple added on a luxurious master bath without sacrificing the modest scale of their cottage home

BY E. J. WUGGERS PHOTOGRAPHS BY DRISKO SEGAL

VALUOUSLY BEACH-COTTAGE as he does to the shore. You don't always expect them to have big master baths. Doug and Nancy Voda's was no exception, squeezed into a 1930s Cape Cod near the ocean in Laguna Beach, California. The partly outdoor, 11-by-9-foot space had just one sink, a tub/shower, a toilet, and no storage. It was small enough that the couple had to take turns brushing their teeth.

But after three years in the 2,500-square-foot shingled home, the Vodas were hooked on their second-floor bedroom's postcard-perfect view of the surf. So rather than move, they decided to give their bedroom the spacious, big bath it deserved, while preserving the home's cottage charm. Architect Morris Skenderian and designer Gary White designed a simple, squared-off two-story addition to the back of the house that looks as if it's always been there. The new 11-by-17½-foot bath is flooded with natural light thanks to lots of windows, including a "porthole" just below the peak of the rustic stained ceiling with exposed rafters. "Now there's plenty of room to avoid head-and-bones. "We refer to it as our "Four Seasons" suite," says Nancy of the bath's year-round luxury. "It's become our favorite room in the house."



TOP: The 9-foot, two-person walk-in tub/shower is the bath's striking feature. **MID:** By Concept Studio, subtly echoes the style of Spanish tile. **BELOW:** The new addition's exterior is in the neighborhood of lighting is hidden behind the crown molding, which is carved through from the adjoining bedroom. A round showerhead is situated from the original master bath. **ABOVE:** which was demolished.

Frameless glass surrounds the 4 by 8-foot shower to preserve the small space feeling. The tub/shower is extra wide to create a smooth, open look.

The Plan

Add a master bath without overwhelming a small Cape.

What They Did

1. BUILT AN ADDITION An existing laundry room bump out in the back of the house was expanded and squared off with a second story, accommodating an exercise room on the first floor and the 4½ by 7½-foot bath and two closets above—for a total of 468 square feet of new space. The addition located in a corner of the bedroom was removed.

2. MADE THE TUB THE BATH'S FOCAL POINT The tub/shower positioned on the middle of the wall opposite the entry and further emphasized with a row of windows. The shower was placed on one side of it, creating an open look and back-splash effect, and new closets.

3. LET IN LOTS OF NATURAL LIGHT In addition to the row over the tub, there are windows in the shower and toilet enclosures, one on an adjoining wall, and one in the hallway. Staircase, recessed cove, and lighting helped the entire feeling bright and airy.



For more details for this project, visit www.thedepot.com/theredits.



LOFT Decorative fluted half-taper above the mirror, while recessed wood medicine cabinets above the vanity. Each cabinet's made with a glass door to display decorative items and recessed turned leg details. B&O that support items on the vanity's addition is a great look.



Close the door on ordinary.



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AT YOUR ADDRESS.

GLASS LENGTHS
The distinctive shape and base stem are the trademarks of a classic schoolhouse light, though this one is a modern interpretation. (240, squarefootstudio.com)

LUXURIES



Class Acts

» Stylish and soft, schoolhouse lights still get high marks

BY C. J. HERRON PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK WEISS

BEFORE WILLIAM COOLIDGE DREAMED UP the compact fluorescent lightbulb, classrooms were illuminated mostly by natural light, which accounts for #180 on the window. But after about 1900, that changed. Students got the newfangled electric light, then came to light at Thomas Edison's earlier version, to read their pages of Mark Twain by—and, almost immediately, also got criticism from the harsh glare of the clear glass bulb.

Some educators transformed the fixture with large globes of milky-white opal glass to cut down on glare from the light and distribute it more evenly. By the 1920s, so-called “schoolhouse” lights began showing up in the ceilings of courthouses, hospitals, police stations, department stores, and homes—anywhere people pulled themselves for long periods of time.

Fewer though were energy-efficient fluorescent fixtures started taking over classrooms in the 1940s, but classrooms still prize vintage schoolhouse bulbs, and their modern-day counterparts, for their clean looks and even focus. This saucer-shaped globe sold in vintage glass in layers, dining rooms, even over kitchen islands. Turn the page for some why-some examples.

Opal glass, invented in this country around 1920, gets its cloudiness from high levels of zinc.

One place in the U.S. still makes it, The Davis-Lynch Glass Company in Star City, West Virginia.





SHARPEN A POINT
This cone-shaped model has a contemporary feel, making subtle waves. It is available in polished chrome, the polished nickel or the nickel chrome. See us at the 2012 CES, Booth #3010.

EXPOSE POWER
Mounted close to the ceiling, clear glass shades let you see the bulbs. Perfect for restaurants, bars, pubs, and other fun public spaces. \$120. See us at the 2012 CES, Booth #3010.

BULB IN A BULB
This large, round-shaped model is a classic. It is available in polished chrome, the polished nickel or the nickel chrome. See us at the 2012 CES, Booth #3010.

(Info continued on page 14)

Schoolhouse lights work best with standard incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs. Halogens generate too much heat for the enclosed globe. Stick with frosted bulbs; the filaments in a clear bulb can cast shadows.



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The Pilot  **HONDA**



CONCLUSIONS

Though less common than fixed seats, chairs, like the one in this vintage photo, were used often. In situations that required height adjustments, as in classrooms where the furniture was frequently swapped (ENR.com)

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FIG. 20. The same as Fig. 19.

1960s original with a painted facade in one of a well-kept village of a well-kept two-room schoolhouse in Glendale, Md (\$25,000) www.zevco.com



FORMAL INTRODUCTION

The milk-glucuronide
conjugate in this serial dilution
assay follows linear
a substrate-fluorophore
change. 5000,
mole/liter, substrate.



© 2000 Blackwell Science Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 247: 391–397

As household fixtures are chosen, get more colorful, playful, and fun—like style tips. This period, with warm painted chairs, is a style popular in Scandinavia and more formal and traditional styles. www.southcoaststyle.com

What's the Point of It?

THE BRIGHT, EVEN GLOW OF A SCHOOLHOUSE LIGHT works well at home over a dining table. In the kitchen, a row of eggplant or Atwood 12-inch globe with 100-watt bulb will nicely illuminate a 10- to 15-foot space, says Tom Iwano of Philadelphia's Classic Lighting Emporium. Over a kitchen island or counter, growth and light for years is that of counter.

When figuring out placement, instead have the floor a little farther up, not from the ceiling down. Lights should hang 34 inches above a dining table and about 60 inches above a kitchen counter. In a staircase, hang them 6 feet above the floor.

african photo safari to see stampeding elephants, dangerous rhinos, and man eating lions: \$3,000 booked online

knowing at least your identity is safe; priceless)

[illegible]



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STYLISH DESIGNS AND ACCENTS FOR ANY ROOM IN YOUR HOUSE MADE SIMPLE

With an assortment of tiles and a few basic supplies, you can convert a boring backsplash into a functional accent wall. We used green and white 4" x 4" tiles, decorative rope tiles and a set of 4 garden nest! tiles for our transformation. The final result is an impressive focal point that adds cottage style to a contemporary kitchen.

MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT

- Enough and the larger size
- STRAIT-LINE Intersect laser level
- Old Command™ adhesive strips included
- Pre-mixed thinset mortar
- Thinset
- Tiles (specimens)
- Grout
- Grout float
- Bucket
- Large sponge

FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:



- 1. POSITION INTERSECT LASER LEVEL ON WALL.**
 - Using a 3M Command™ adhesive strip, place the Intersect in the center of the backsplash area.
 - Slide bottom down to adhesive position for accurate level (5).
 - The Intersect will automatically generate level horizontal and vertical laser lines.



- 2. APPLY THINSET TO SMALL AREA.**
 - Apply a small amount of thinset to the area above the top bottom line in the end to the left of the vertical laser line.
 - Using a trowel at a 30 degree angle, slide prepared thinset mortar in a small area - at least six inches wide with in 10-15 minutes.



- 3. LAY THE FIRST ROW AT INTERSECTION POINT.**
 - Use the intersection of the laser lines to easily position and level the first tile.
 - The bottom line center of the tile will rest at the intersection.
 - Press the tile firmly in place.



- 4. CONTINUE TILE PATTERN TO THE LEFT.**
 - Using the bottom line, place first row of horizontal tiles just below the horizontal laser line.
 - Place the first column of tiles just to the left of the vertical laser line.
 - Press the tiles firmly in place.



DECORATIVE TILING



- 5. CONTINUE TILE PATTERN TO THE RIGHT.**
 - Move to the next column of the horizontal laser line and to the right of the vertical laser line.
 - As described in step 4, apply a small amount of thinset mortar to the area.
 - Using the laser lines and the square, place tiles in the area centered with the lines.
 - Press the tiles firmly in place.



- 6. CONTINUE TILE PATTERN USING LASER LINE.**
 - Continue with step 4 to the area below the horizontal laser line, leaving the area under the top line to last.
 - Remove the Intersect by pulling the exposed end of the 3M Command adhesive strip along the wall.
 - Push back with one hand while pulling adhesive strip against the wall away from the tool.
 - The tool will remove cleanly.



- 7. FLUSH TILE TOOLS.**
 - Apply thinset mortar to the area with under the horizontal laser line.
 - Place the tiles firmly in place.
 - Allow the thinset mortar to dry for 24 hours.
 - Remove the spacers.



- 8. APPLY GROUT.**
 - Mix grout according to manufacturer's directions.
 - Apply grout in large amounts using a grout float.
 - Push the grout in between all tiles and scrape away excess.
 - After filling a sq. feet with grout, use a damp sponge to clean away the grout on the tile surface.
 - Continue grouting and cleaning until all tile joints are filled - remove water when.
 - Wait 15 - 20 min. before rinsing thoroughly with damp sponge and clean water.



The STRAIT-LINE Intersect is the perfect tool for any project that requires vertical and horizontal level lines as a guide. Whether you are hanging multiple shelves or fixing an entire bedroom floor, the Intersect helps you locate your starting point and guides you to professional-level results.

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GREEN HOUSE



Warm All Over

» New insulation options make you feel even better about saving energy

BY JOE DANTER PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK WEISS

WHETHER IT'S pink, white, yellow, or blue, all insulation is a little bit "green." After all, anything that saves so much energy gets high marks for environmental friendliness. But increasingly, the materials we put inside our walls and ceilings are raising a deeper level of green, with old materials like fiberglass and foam cleaning up their act, and natural and recycled alternatives now widely available.

To be sure, in an industry whose products have been both praised and vilified, the eco-friendliness of home insulation depends to some degree on whether you're assessing what it's made of or simply how it performs. Consider this very greenhouse-friendly foam segment of the industry: fiberglass, that has taken on a share of criticism. "For every ton of energy it takes to make this insulation, 12 tons are saved every year," says Tara Newton, manager of advertising and promotion for manufacturer Owens Corning.

Given that other insulation products deliver similar benefits, producers are some extent in the eye of the beholder. For instance, some consider a high percentage of recycled material, others focus on how manufacturers have removed or replaced ingredients known to be environmentally harmful. This class of our old products, like cotton, that get major green points because they pose no risk to people with allergies or chemical sensitivities.

So while there's no set in stone recipe for what makes an insulation green, the good news is, wherever you want to touch down on the spectrum, there's likely to be a product that saves your needs and budget. And that should make you feel warm all over.



1. Fiberglass
2. Rigid foam
3. Mineral wool
4. Expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam)
5. Mineral wool
6. Rigid fiberglass
7. Expanded polystyrene
8. New foam-depleting polystyrene foam
9. Recycled newspaper

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"The 2006 Hyundai Sonata fires a shot across the bow of Honda, Toyota and Nissan."

— Automotive News

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MSRP \$20,495. Tax, title, license, dealer fees, and options extra. *2006 Midsize Sedan. ©2005 Hyundai Motor America.



Three 1906 wall-mounted bathtubs at Chicago Salvage & Rebuilding. Collectors have integrated built-in tubs, aprons and cupboards and come in both Art Deco styles as well as standard tubs.

Vintage Vessels

▶▶ An old sink made of vitreous china or porcelain-coated cast iron can give baths a period-appropriate look.

BY AMY B. HUGHES PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANIELA WYANT

FOR A DITHY REMODEL THAT HARKS BACK TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY when subway tiles and nickel-plated hardware, or one that evokes the streamlined style of the 1930s Art Deco era, a tub made of masonry and solid enameled cast iron won't do. Such retro tubs call for vintage bathtubs with a unique shape and made of vitreous china, or pastel-colored, wall-mounted models crafted from porcelain-coated cast iron.

Until the middle of the 19th century, no house was without the tub, and cleaning up was done over a washstand in the bedroom. By the 1860s, though, many homes were equipped with rooftop receptacles that collected rainwater, and a system of cast-iron pipes to carry it to the first bathroom sink. These were made primarily of ground glass ground into molasses and fired in huge kilns to form a hard, impervious vitreous china. Earthenware sinks existed with porcelain also made their debut around this time. These tended not to be as strong as china, but they made up for this vulnerability in bulk—each sink typically weighs between 250 and 300 pounds.

Modern such as Thomas Mahlock's Sons Co. of Trenton, New Jersey, and Crane Plumbing Co. of Chicago started selling bath sinks with oval bases resting on fluted pedestal bases as well as "serpentine

TD When choosing an old sink, factor in size, weight, and installation method. Wall-mounted ones save space but often overlooked the wall supports, and earthenware probably won't be the best for the second-story bath.

Fitting the Facet

Original faucet sets often don't function properly, says Mike Thompson, of Old House Parts & Kitchens, Malts. Problems include corroded brass under-body chrome or nickel plating; worn water washers, and broken valve assemblies. And because early faucets were made with proprietary parts, finding replacements is the bummer for a newbie. It's a hassle. "The only thing you can do is use reproduction fittings, available through dealers such as Bathroom Mechanics (bathmechanics.com). Before you shop, be sure to measure the distance between the centers of the faucet holes."



Various chrome faucets from the early 1900s often have "questionable" materials and spigot legs.



Overlays are typically 4 inches apart, but some sets spread 6 inches or more. > Check the number of holes on the deck. Many old decks don't have a center spout for mixing cold and hot water—so they have just two holes as opposed to the now standard three. Some reproduction sets (such as the one shown above) solve this problem by integrating a bridge between a pair of handles with a single spout suspended in the middle. > Consider style and finish. Single-lever and lower-profile straight or angled spouts are available with brass or chrome handles in chrome, nickel, or brass.

ties" controls to complement popular house styles of the early Victorian era, such as Stock and Second Empire.

It wasn't until the early 1900s, when manufacturers perfected a process for laminating glass on hot enamel, that porcelain-coated cast-iron sinks took off. Both sides of the time typically had square, dished decks and unadorned pedestal basins. The most popular brands and finishes included the ones from Peerless and Craftsman masters of the era.

Among the largest manufacturers of cast iron was Lancaster Sanitary Manufacturing Co. of Pottsville, now American Standard. The company started with white porcelain coatings, but by the early '30s, it offered an Art Deco palette of pastel pinks, greens, blues, and yellows.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

With so many types of sinks to choose from, it's important to assess your needs before you start a salvage yard. If you are replacing an old sink that's damaged, your first job is to keep one that's the same style and configuration as the original. That's because existing plumbing is often not expensive to change. "There's a finite number of plumbers who even know how to retrofit old sinks," says Mike Thompson, manager of Old House Parts & Kitchens, Malts. "You are basically limited to the old guys."

Don't expect to find a sink in Eades condition. "If you are not for perfect looking, you'll be disappointed," says Steve Smith, head of sales for Omega Salvage in Berkeley, California. "Many of these sinks have a bonded porcelain coat."

Nature's chrome sinks often have discolored areas from metals in the water, which typically can't be cleaned. A chip in an overspray paint is nothing to let alone, but hairline fractures in the bowl can harbor bacteria. The most common flaw in porcelain-coated cast-iron sinks is a cracked-looking, or "cracked," finish caused by fissures in the glass. Most of the time, it's actually a result of many people who treat a sink with poison. Just because you expect the sink for fixtures in the sinkhouse or undermount, which could affect its structural integrity.

The work should be smooth to the touch. Sharp edges mean there's likely to be a problem. For cast-iron sinks, the porcelain coating may be worn down to the base metal in places. To remedy this, DIY touch-ups with epoxy resin fillers are a viable or painting supply stores. But a sink or bathtub refinisher (listed in the yellow pages or online) will achieve far better results using high-tech spraying equipment, says Smith. "And if they can age good at color matching, you won't see any variation between the original finish and the patch."

Sink prices vary widely depending on material, condition, and style. Cast-iron and porcelain-coated cast-iron pedestals in good condition will run between \$750 and \$1,200, depending on style and size. The most plentiful and least expensive are cast-iron pedestals, which in good condition cost about \$150. Simple, well-maintained cast-iron will run about \$150. Porcelain refinishing, however, can add as much as \$400 to the cost.

Whatever style you decide on, be aware when installing for an old sink. It may take several visits to a salvage yard to find the right model. Even when you find it, it may require more than just concrete support. Old-fashioned faucets often need to be replaced with new ones to get them running properly (see "Fitting the Facet," left). But in an old house bathroom, the quest is half the fun. ■



VESicare can help relieve urges and leaks in your internal plumbing.

No, this isn't a pipe dream.

All of us have internal plumbing. But for some of us with frequent bladder urges, our pipes don't work as well as they should. And even when you do your best to deal with it on your own, you still worry about embarrassing leaks. But there more you can do. Treat it with VESicare. Once-daily VESicare can reduce urges and may even help relieve bladder leakage. So ask your doctor if VESicare is right for you.

VESicare is for urgency, frequency, and leakage (overactive bladder). VESicare is not for everyone. If you have certain types of stomach, urinary, or glaucoma problems do not take VESicare. While taking VESicare, if you experience a serious allergic reaction, severe abdominal pain, or become constipated for three or more days, tell your doctor right away. In studies, common side effects were dry mouth, constipation, blurred vision, and indigestion.

Please see important product information on the following page. For a copy of our "Fresh Thinking" brochures, call (800) 433-6565, or visit vesicare.com

VESicare
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TADTETS

Available online information that comes with all shows when you go to www.thisoldhouse.com. You can find out when the show is on, what time it's on, and what the show is about. You can also find out what the show is about, and what the show is about. You can also find out what the show is about, and what the show is about.

What's the show?
When it comes to home renovation, there's no one else out there. The show is about home renovation, and it's the only show out there. The show is about home renovation, and it's the only show out there. The show is about home renovation, and it's the only show out there.

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PAPERWORK



The Lure of Land

» Buying a plot to build on is the American dream. But there are a few things you have to know before staking your claim.

BY G. J. HUGHES ILLUSTRATIONS BY NICK DEWANE

Fall is a good time to shop for land. With the leaves off the trees, you can see what you're getting.

PHILLET AND JOHN DOWNS ARE TWO GARDENERS who dreamed of having the space to spread out and enjoy their plants. So in the fall of 2003, they plunked down \$125,000 for 6 acres in War Woodstock, Connecticut. The land, an old dairy farm, was already cleared, and it bordered a main road, guaranteeing lifelong privacy. Over the next nine months, the Downs built their dream home, a contemporary version of an 18th-century salt box. "I had a hard time envisioning what it would look like on fire," Phillet says. "But now I would never trade it for a house on a small lot in a suburb."

Acquiring a parcel on which to build is as American as it gets, a birthright dating back to the days of land rushes and "Go west, young man!" The process has clear advantages: Comes building means having total control over every aspect of a house, from the foundation to the flooring to the views. And fall is an especially good time to look at a parcel of land. With the leaves off the trees, you can really see its contours and how close the neighbors are, knowing the intimacy of a mountainside trail going

THINK OUTSIDE THE OUTBOX.



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usps.com

HOME TECH



Big Screen, Small Footprint

» Projectors give you the most genuine home-theater experience—without the bulky set

BY WILSON ROTHMAN
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY WILLIAM DUKE

THE PARADOX OF BIG-SCREEN TELEVISION is that size is at once their main selling point and their chief drawback. No matter how sleekly designed, a 34-inch LCD or plasma set can easily dominate a room when the show's over. But what if you could have a big screen leave the room that disappears when the lights come up, without having to cut a notch in your wall or hide the components in expensive custom cabinets?

That's just one of the advantages of front-projection televisions. Once a fixture in the private screening rooms of Hollywood stars, home projectors have become affordable even for the non-elite. Models starting at around \$1,000 will make any DVD look good, and \$3,000 to \$1,800 gets you a digital projector that can produce a high-definition image up to a whopping 8 feet. Compared with the \$3,000 or more it costs to buy a 60-inch over-the-top set—or the \$10,000 you'll have to shell out for the same size plasma—that's practically a steal. At 13 inches square, a projector small enough to tuck away in a closet. And you don't even need a screen to project the image on; you can beam it right on any white or light-colored wall (see "I Screen, You Screen," page 64).

While many users like a throwback to the age of high-tech TV, others favor the projector for a real, the fact is that nothing comes closer to recreating the movie-house experience. Projectors offer the biggest image, the

Turn **PINK**
into green.

100
JOURNAL OF
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Das means current Don't leave your old reading block just yet. You'll need it for when when a window-scholar's reader goes out with you. Just don't let it go with the apple.

What to Look For

To help make your search for a sander a little less random, consider the following:

PAID SIZE > A 6- or 8-inch sander covers more territory at a faster clip, but so small sanding jobs with tight corners a 5-inch sander is a better choice.

GRIP SHAPE > Every barrel-grip sander requires two-handed control. This isn't always the easiest to use when making awkward cuts. Pad grips, found on lighter-jaw oscillate tools, give you the option of using one hand or two. Most pole-sand tools are as lightweight as they can be for one-handed.

SWITCH PLACEMENT > Make sure a trigger or thumb switch is easily reachable while you're using the tool. One-lever switches are best with easy-to-reach variable speed controls.

VARIABLE SPEEDS > Although you generally use a sander full bore on bare wood, sandpaper will dig into the grain of the wood at slower speeds over varnish or urethane finishes.

LOW VIBRATION > You can sand with more control and less fatigue when a sander runs smoothly. Take it for a spin before you commit. If the drive shudders.

DUST COLLECTION > Paper bags or filters are better than dust bags that collect dust. The efficiency of a sander connected to a vacuum.

HOOK-AND-LOOP RIMS > With this Velcro-like attachment system (below), you can change sandpaper without cutting it, an option with the pads for surface-buffed paper.

OSCILLATE OPERATION
Pulsed sanding with an oscillate sander works well on tight corners and the edges for the ultimate finish. The 6-inch, 6-inch, great grip sander is a well-balanced vibration-free oscillation tool at all speeds. As you might expect from a tool of this size, \$150. www.fine-tool.com



CORDLESS GRIP

A rotating grip pad helps absorb vibration when you hold the tool at an angle. A better grip sander is a 6-inch, 6-inch, great grip sander. It's a well-balanced vibration-free oscillation tool at all speeds. As you might expect from a tool of this size, \$150. www.fine-tool.com

TRIGGER SWITCH

Most cordless tools use a trigger switch. A better grip sander is a 6-inch, 6-inch, great grip sander. It's a well-balanced vibration-free oscillation tool at all speeds. As you might expect from a tool of this size, \$150. www.fine-tool.com



For information on sanding through corners, visit www.fine-tool.com



TIP > Focus on lining up three adjacent holes in the sandpaper with three in the pad. Once you do, the rest of the holes will automatically align as you press the paper to the pad.

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generates a whopping 345 hp, 43 ft. of torque — that's more than

anything gets in the way of a towed?

VERIC MAX

Dodge RAM and, with our available

Exotic That's the thinking behind the Chevy Veric[™] Max powertrain — a 345-hp Vortec 6000 turbo-diesel engine, along with a high compression ratio, to generate formidable power. And the 345-hp Vortec 6000, available on 2006 Silverado, is no exception. Designed to be durable and powerful, the Veric Max uses cast-aluminum cylinder heads with high-flow ports and combustion chambers to help deliver more horsepower than Ford, Toyota, or Nissan half-ton.

In fact, when partnered with the standard Hydro-Boost[™] four-speed automatic transmission, Silverado's Veric Max

Veric Max Performance Package, which includes an automatic locking rear differential, a 5.5-inch axle, heavy-duty transmission, and a towing package for a new towing weight of 10,000 lbs., the Veric Max offers more towing capacity than Dodge RAM or any other half-ton pickup.

TALK ABOUT A FORCE OF NATURE.

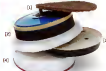
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[†]Dependability based on longevity: 1991-1999 full-line light-duty trucks (excluding light-duty medium-duty trucks). ©2005 GM Corp. Buckle up, America!

ERGONOMIC DESIGN OF Q70ter 5-inch sanders are loaded at the Bosch palm grip has the least vibration, the most control, and a pivoting paper-like that's the most used thing from external vacuum. \$90. BoschTools.com



Spin Doctors

Setup your random-orbit sander with these pads and accessories.

(1) **SCOURING PAD** • Polishing solid-surface countertops such as Corian and Avonite goes faster because the flatched abrasive lasts longer than sandpaper. (Slides to standard back-and-forth sanding pads.)

(2) **POLISHING POWDER** • After buffing, take off the sanding pad and replace it with this soft foam one. The hook-and-loop back-and-forth disk can then polish it all to a bright shine.

(3) **CONTOUR PAD** • To sand curved surfaces, use your favorite house pad and substitute this firm but flexible replacement pad.

(4) **QUICK-BUFFING PAD** • Spin it with buffing compound and restore your car's body paint or your boat's fiberglass hull. (Sits in standard hook-and-loop sanding pads.)



BUILD YOUR SKILL
Learn how about random-orbit sanders and how to use them without error. See page 105.

POWER PLUS

Master's 6-inch orbital grip sander with the behavior of a random-orbit sander with aggressive, forced-rotation action for the ultimate in power. Mark it up for a new and better right-angle head with Super Grip Grip 6 under control. \$240-4300. make new

Good advice is the best tool.



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American Elmer's Wood Glue

UPKEEP



"You swing or pull on a newel post every time you go up or down a stair. It requires a lot of fastening to withstand the test of time."

—TOM SIVA, SON GENERAL CONTRACTOR

No-Wobble Newel

30 A few screws make a shakily stair post stand up straight

BY HARRY SANJEAN PHOTOGRAPHS BY KITT LUTHAUS



A NEWEL POST HAS THE FUNCTIONAL WITH THE ORNATE—it anchors the baluster at the base of the rail, guards a house door swing, and helps define the character of a home's interior. But a post that wobbles every time you clutch it is an annoyance and makes any stairway feel less safe.

Fortunately, rigidity can quickly be restored with a drill, a few bits, and some well-placed screws. This Old House general contractor Tom Silva secured this rickety post in less than an hour by driving two deck screws into the stair's framework. He covered the screwheads with dowel plugs, so that the fix would be unnoticeable once the plugs were sanded and stained. Turn the page to see exactly how Tom did it.

GET TOOLS

**Building a mobile
counter for
several post supports**

(LEFT TO RIGHT)
Sander bit
7/16-in. 2" barrel
bit with enough
to accommodate
the new post and bit extender
Sander bit
5/16-in. 2" barrel
bit with enough
to accommodate
the new post and bit extender
Sander bit
5/16-in. 2" barrel
bit with enough
to accommodate
the new post and bit extender



BUILD YOUR OWN
Learn other ways to build a mobile
post holder. [Workshop](#), p. 35

NEWEL POST FIX Step-by-step

1 | COUNTERSINK Using a 1/4-inch speeds bit, bore a 1/4-inch-deep hole in the side of the post, at a height even with the center of the first tread. Keep the bit horizontal but angle it toward the second step so the screw used in step three will pull the post back against the tread.



2 | DRILL THE PILOT Put a 1/4-inch bit inserted in your drill into the center of the speeds bit hole and drill through the post base and a few inches into the board. This creates a pilot hole which reduces the chance of the bit wandering and prevents the corner from splintering off course.

3 | SECURE THE POST Check the bit center and secure bit into the drill and drive in. Use a countersink bit to drive the post into the board. You know it's pulled tight against the tread and the newel becomes noticeably sturdier. Move around to the newel's front face and repeat the first three steps. As before, keep the bit horizontal, but this time make sure it's below the level of the first hole. You don't want to drill into the first screw. Also angle the hole slightly toward the outside of the stair so the screw extends itself in the stairboard.

4 | PLUG THE HOLES Remove a bit of polyurethane glue into a hole; insert a 1/4-inch-diameter dowel and hold it in the hole to spread the glue evenly. Mark where the dowel meets the post with one pass of a small fine-toothed saw such as a backsaw. To make sure its fastened, I scratch the post, pull the dowel out about 1/4 inch and complete the cut. Tap the dowel in again and wipe up any excess glue. Plug the other hole the same way. When the glue hardens, sand the dowel lightly with 80-, 100- and 220-grit papers. Use sand if it matches the surrounding finish.



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And only naturally white JM insulation has passed the country's most rigid indoor air quality test, California ES1350, without detection of any pollutants, including formaldehyde. That means you won't have to worry about formaldehyde emissions coming from behind the walls. For superior energy efficiency for the life of your home and to help provide a safe haven for those inside, choose JM. To find a retailer near you or for more information, call 1-800-654-3305 or visit JM.com.

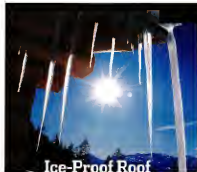


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WINTER FYI



Ice-Proof Roof

How to prevent ice dams before the snow falls

BY JOE WURST/HAJOSZLOK, ILLUSTRATIONS BY TYRO SHIMIZU

ICICLES HANGING ALONG THE EAVES of your house may look beautiful, but they spell trouble. That's because the same conditions that allow icicles to form—snow-covered roofs and freezing weather—also lead to ice dams: thick ridges of solid ice that build up along the eaves. Dams can tear off gutters, break shingles, and cause water to back up and pour into your house. When that happens, the results aren't pretty: peeling paint, warped floors, stained and sagging ceilings. Not to mention soggy insulation in the attic, which loses its value and becomes a magnet for mold and mildew.

On the following pages, we show you how to find and fix the underlying causes so you can tip-toe the dams before winter.



EAST FIXES

Handling any of the demanding winter chores—be it shoveling, sand, deicing or ice—can be a pain. And throwing salt on them will do more to harm your driveway than to help. So first, planning for winter weather here are two step-by-step guides we recommend.

How to salt it

Take a box of salt to the curb and dump it on the underside of the road where water is likely to seep. The salted curb will catch all the water that runs down the road into the gutter. "You'll stop the water at a point of control," says TOM Spence, contractor for the state. "You'll stop the water from running down the road into the gutter." Pull off snow with a shovel, then use a salt spreader to spread salt (about 1/2 cup per square foot) while you stand safely on the ground. Avoid walking on the road when the salt is being spread.

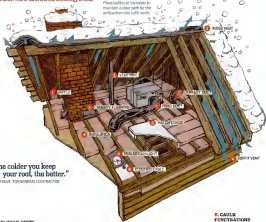
BIRTH OF AN ICE DAM



Dam Busters

Stopping ice-dams is simple, in principle. Just keep the entire roof the same temperature as the snow.

This do that by increasing ventilation, adding insulation, and sealing off every possible air leak that might warm the underside of the roof, as shown by the illustration below. By taking most of these trouble-free spots, listed here in order of priority, you should enjoy a winter free of snow and ice less enemy to look



**"The colder you keep
your roof, the better."**

—TENSILE, TENSILE COMPRESSION

AIR INSULATION

More a matter of the office floor keeps the next edition's listings. To facilitate ready consultation, please allow us to check with your local building department or go to the Department of Energy's website: www.energy.gov

12. INSTALL RECALLED CAN LIGHTS

QM-style circuitry tightly glues off-gate processes of heat and can't be insulated without creating a fire hazard. Replace them with solid "E" features, which can be coated with insulation.

8. FLASH ANDING CRIMINALS

Bridge the gap between chimney and house framing with a shaped steel flashing holding plate with unbroken beads of a fire-stop sealant. Using canned spray foam or insulation on 1 side only.

7. SEAL AND INFLATE TUBES
Epinephrine solution and penicillin are put in soft-fall ducts and exhaust ducts. Cover them entirely with 4-in soft-fall tape for protection.

Send us your photographs and your paper on fire.

stop sealant. Also look for any spots where light shines up from below or the insulation is stained black by the dirt from passing air.

For instructions on making soft
soils, visit www.earthlink.net

2. CAP THE WATER

As a result of this hatch my whole house has a warm glow, opening the door to change. Good things will happen, clogged cups made light, bad feelings have been laid to rest, and the house is bright. Together we will overcome hope.

3. EXPLANATION TO THE OUTSIDE

Makers say that the ducts connected to the kitchen bathroom and dryer vents all lead outdoors through either the roof or walls, but never through the soil.

11. EXPOSURE TO THE OUTSIDE

Makers say that the ducts connected to the kitchen bathroom and dryer vents all lead outdoors through either the roof or walls, but never through the soil.

The key to making a difficult task look easy is to actually make the task easy. *—Thomas H. Davenport*

the door this way is quite slow. The one I wanted because there's no good way to fix it. Or is there? If you have a Dometic gas Sentry 300, just get the R33. It has a new design that uses the old thinking and lots of ingenuity to solve the problem. I got the door off in 10 mins. Then push the handle in, and out, and out of it. Man, you'll just think to yourself, "If you have any questions, just give me a call." If you have any questions, I'm on the phone with you. Call 800-222-2222.

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Exterior &

HOMEOWNER'S
HANDBOOK
WEEKEND
PROJECT SERIES

Hanging Wallpaper

BY ALEXANDRA SANDON AND MADE POWER'S PHOTOGRAPHY BY KOLIN SMITH

LINE A ROOM WITH WALLPAPER and you have endless possibilities. From leafy to floral to a variety of textures, paper can push boundaries beyond what a paint can do. It conceals walls with textures or patterns or both. It adds color. And in a house, it adds color (imperfections in plaster and brickwork).

But as elegant as wallpaper seems, it's not a simple task. You have to get it right, starting with picking a color and measuring the room. Then you have to drive you up a wall. Enter John Grogan, a pro paper hanger from Queens, New York, with nearly two decades' experience. We asked Grogan to demonstrate a few of his best tricks for picking, hanging, aligning, and removing. And, best of all, he gave us a few—everything from how to glue the paper to how to hang up the first seam. With this kind of insider know-how, wallpaper just got a whole lot easier.

Strip Wallpaper from *Ferraro di Bell*, \$168 a double roll; Bone Chief White paper, from *Ralph Lauren*; \$26 a yellow *Louise* cloth from *La Z-Boy*, \$1,499.

FOR THE WALLPAPER HANGER, SEE PAGE 100.

FOR THE WALLPAPER, SEE PAGE 101.

FOR THE WALLPAPER, SEE PAGE 102.

FOR THE WALLPAPER, SEE PAGE 103.

TAKEN THE PAPER AND UNFOLDED FOR COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS



TOOLS FOR THIS PROJECT



3 FOOT LEVEL and TAP MEASURE

SHIELD EDGE ROLLERS (200 or 200)

3 INCH TAPING KNIFE

BUCKET and SPONGE

FLAT SMOOTHIE and SEAM ROLLER

PAINT ROLLER with 1/2 inch nap and roller cover, and PAINT BRUSH

RAM MESA CAB™



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overview

LAYOUT IS THE KEY TO A GOOD WALLPAPERING JOB. Picking a location for the corner in which the paper goes up ensures that your pattern will stay well-matched and look straight. John Gregonis recommends working in one direction around the room to keep the pattern consistent.

But no matter how good your technique, the joint between the first and last strip will rarely match up. For that reason, Gregonis always starts a job behind a door, papering out from the corner until he reaches the space above the door. Then he goes back to the corner and papers the whole room in the other direction. That way the mismatched sheets end up above the door—the least conspicuous spot in the room.

How he aligns the paper on each wall depends on what's on that wall. If there's a focal point, such as a door or window, he makes sure the paper hangs parallel to it, which makes it look straight whether or not the focal point itself is straight. If the wall is blank, he makes sure to hang the paper plumb. (Consult this story's mismatches.)

Very often, the last strip of paper on a wall isn't a full sheet. So Gregonis always papers the corners with a full sheet. He measures the distance between the previous sheet and the corner in three places. Then he adds $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to the largest measurement and cuts a strip of wallpaper to this width. He hangs this piece in the corner with a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch overlap, then hangs the other portion of the sheet coming out of the corner on the adjacent wall, ensuring less waste and the best pattern match.

Shopping list

1 | WALLPAPER

Check the size of the rolls before calculating how much you need. Wallpaper is sold in rolls of 33 or 39 inches wide, but can be bought in a continuous double roll. Depending on the size of the pattern repeat and the width of the wall, a double roll will cover anywhere from 20 to 50 square feet, but paper companies and retail shops will calculate how much paper you need if you provide the space. Look for wallpaper in big-box stores, but wallpaper is also sold online. Or you can use the wallpaper calculator at www.wallpaper.com.

2 | PRIMERED CLEAR WALLPAPER PASTE

Paste that used around corners can ruin a wallpapering job. So for most papers, it's better to buy premixed products. One gallon is enough for 5 rolls. Give "floating corners" for tight corners on paper that need sandpapering.

3 | WALL PRIMER/SEALER

Look for it by brands like Zinsser. These products make the wall feel better and actually reduce the working time of wallpaper paste and make manipulating the paper easier. You'll need 1 gallon per 50 square feet.

4 | PAINTER'S TAPE

Use masking tape to hold wallpaper over the wall while the paste dries. One sheet will do the trick, if used.

GO FOR THE
GREAT DEAL
Compare to the
wallpaper for
Weekend Project 10.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
GREGORY NEMEC

step by step

1

Apply wallpaper paste

Point the whole room with a wall primer/sealer.

Unroll the wallpaper. As you do, check for defects and drag the paper against the edge of your worktable to take away the curl.

Cut the paper into sheets 4 inches longer than the height of your walls. Cut in the same place on the repeat so patterns on adjacent sheets will line up.

Lay a cut sheet on the table, face down. Using a paint roller, apply a thin film of clear premixed wallpaper paste on the back of the paper. (Don't

Don't allow paste to get on the table or it will ruin the next sheet. > **Tip** Use a sponge to apply paste if it dries. Slide the paper all the way to the edge of the table to apply paste to the ends and edges.



2

Align the first strip in the corner

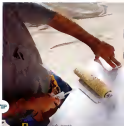
Start in a corner near a door if the door is far from the corner, draw a reference line parallel to the door near the corner.

Unfold the top of the bottom paper and hang it on the wall. Overlap about 2 inches at the ceiling and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in the corner. Lightly press it in place.

Unfold the bottom of the book and let it hang. Check the measurement between the paper and the door or window or reference line. Adjust the paper to keep it parallel to the door but still overlapping it by at least $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in the corner. Once the sheet is aligned, use the edge of a paper smoother to buck the paper into the corner of the ceiling. Then, working from the top down, smooth the smoother over the entire sheet. (Don't push so hard that you push out glue.)

Trim the excess paper at the ceiling. Push a 6-inch tapping knife into the joint between the wall and ceiling. Using a razor, cut above the knife to trim off the excess. Wipe away. Rub the knife between cutting and moving the knife. Do not slide the razor and knife together. Continue papering the next joint above the door.

Change your razor blade after every second or third cut. > **Tip** Keep it handy by sticking it in a magnet clipped to your shirt.

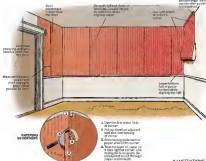


Book the paper

Fold the pasted back of the paper onto itself, top and bottom ends meeting in the middle. Make sure the side edges line up perfectly. Smooth the paper onto itself as much as you can without creating the folds.

Set the paper aside to allow the paste to soak in and the paper to relax. Be sure to follow the exact bending line recommended on the wallpaper's label, which differs depending on its content. (None for vinyl, soaked wallcoverings; less for uncoated papers.)

3



1. Question first sheet fits at corner.
2. Put up second adjacent wall, also matching at corner.
3. Remove any professional paper and trim with a razor.
4. Repeat the process of papering a new sheet until the room is fully covered. The final sheet should be cut through paper and trim.



4

Continue papering around corner

On the adjacent wall, draw a plumb line (if there's no door or window). Hang a strip in the corner. Overlap the existing piece on the adjacent wall by 1/8 in. Measure to the plumb line and adjust the paper to keep the distance equal. Smooth the paper. Trim at the ceiling and trim the corner as shown in Our new Illustration: OPPOSITE LEFT.

Hang the next strip of paper. Unfold the top of the book and place it on the wall. Match the pattern as closely as possible, leaving just a hair's breadth between the sheets.

TIP ▶ Push air bubbles out by sweeping the paper smoother from the center out to the edges. Wipe off paste on the surface with a sponge.

Close the seams

Lightly press the top of the paper to the wall. Then lightly roll the seam with a seam roller to flatten down the edges. Now use the tip of your fingers to push the seam closed. **OPPOSITE**

Unfold the bottom of the sheet and finish matching and closing the seam. Then lightly roll down the entire seam, working a full 3 inches in from the edge. Then touch the seam, pressing it from opening as you smooth the paper. Smooth the whole sheet. Continue papering the room, overlapping and closing corners as shown in Step 5.

TIP ▶ At the bottom end of the strip, start in dry out before you hang it: edge the wall with a damp sponge. This will stretch the paper when you hang the paper.



5

Cut in around moldings

At doors and windows, let the paper overlap the molding by at least an inch.

Using the razor, make a relief cut in the paper. Carefully roll the paper from the molding corner out to the edge of the paper. Use the molding as a guide.

Press the cut edge (right) in the joint between the molding and the wall.

Trim the excess paper flap with a tapping knife and razor. **LEFT** Smooth down the whole sheet.

TIP ▶ Help small molding corners molder paper by entering the wall to the white edge of the paper with a roller that matches the paper. Some pine can cut off the paper's edges as seams are not a relief should the paper shrink as it dries.



7

Cover switch and outlet plates

Peel the cover plates of electrical fixtures to make them disappear. Cut a piece of wallpaper larger than the plate. Cut from the part of the pattern that matches the paper on the wall around the switch.

Apply paste to the plate, then lay it flat down on the paper. Hold them both on the wall and adjust the paper to match the pattern on the wall. Hold the paper and turn the plate face down. Cut off the corners 1/8 inch away from the plate. Wrap the paper over the plate and tape it on. **LEFT**

Cut out the switch or receptacle hole with a razor. Make Xs in the same holes. Screw the plates back on the wall.



buying guide

Wallcoverings come in every material, from fabric to vinyl to grasscloth. Here's a look at some popular types, including what the labels mean and what you'll need to know to hang them.

[A] FABRIC High end, arrives with paper backing. Some require special paste (check label). Be aware of shrinkage. Cut to size with sharp No. 12 razor blades. Machine reinforcement strips called relief about 1/20 in. and 1/8 in. are usually pasted through interior drapery to only.

[B] ENGLISH Pure pulp paper without coatings. Drains more than vinyl coated paper. Some require special paste. Available from Osborne & Little, 1000 104th Street, Brighton, Minn. 55116. (612) 251-1111. **OSB**

[C] NONWOVENS Long sheets of polyester fiber replace paper pulp. They go on wall instead of precutting enough to get off to one sheet. Composites from York, 2700 Oakton, York, Pa. 17402. (717) 850-1111.

[D] LAMINATES Paper with patterns in sand or glass. Cuts best with sharp No. 5 razor. Good Check and Good Single, both by York, 2400 N. 10th Street, York, Pa. 17402. (717) 850-1111.

[E] NONWOVENS Long sheets of polyester fiber replace paper pulp. They go on wall instead of precutting enough to get off to one sheet. Composites from York, 2700 Oakton, York, Pa. 17402. (717) 850-1111.

[F] NONWOVENS Long sheets of polyester fiber replace paper pulp. They go on wall instead of precutting enough to get off to one sheet. Composites from York, 2700 Oakton, York, Pa. 17402. (717) 850-1111.

[G] GRASSCLOTH Grasses, reeds, and other natural fibers. Risk of water and mildew during installation. Thickness calls for double No. 10 Staples. Joske & Co., 1000 10th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011. (212) 675-1111.

*All prices per roll (12 ft. x 10 ft.)

White cabinets and a white door lead to a staircase. The kitchen features a white cabinet with glass doors displaying dishes, a white door leading to a staircase, and a white wall with a light switch.

RE-COLOR

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
KARIM BELVIN

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Using the same gray in the space after window and the adjoining living room ABOVE, unifies the two spaces. The simplicity of rectangles with contrasting pulls is the view of the next room rather than hiding it.

USING COLOR ARCHITECTURALLY
One of the most effective ways to use color to transform a room is to play up its architectural features. Molding, casings, built-in bookcases, arched doorways, windows, stairways, and doors all offer an opportunity to add another layer of interest to colored walls.

For subtle emphasis, Sheri Thompson, director of color marketing and design for Sherwin-Williams, suggests painting moldings and doorways just one way lighter or darker than the primary wall. "It's a subtle shift in color but it really brings your eye to the detail," she says. Painting a molding, glaze, right on top of an existing

paint element, like a ceiling, molding, or another way to draw attention. "A copper or bronze finish is very masculine and it gives a new slant to the existing architectural features," says Thompson.

For a bolder approach, try using two different colors in the same room. For example, paint a built-in bookcase or niche a shade of green in a room with blue walls, which will highlight the new-once bookcase or niche the room's look.

Of course, architectural elements can also provide continuity throughout a house if they are painted the same color in every room. Starting with the Federal period

and continuing today, white and off-white have been the traditional choice for molding, windows, and doors.

A color contrasting window provides a good opportunity for a contrast between light and dark. A dark window below a light wall will draw attention to the upper walls, while a bright white window next to a colored wall will focus the eye on the window. You can also use paint to create the effect of windows where it doesn't exist by covering the bottom third of the wall in one color and the upper walls in another, then place a piece of the molding along the intersection and paint it the color of the lower wall to enhance the window look.

Where rooms are relatively featureless, painting an "accent wall" in a vivid hue where the others are white or neutral can add a dramatic, contemporary edge. Or, as Ken Charbonneau, a New York color consulting consultant, suggests, paint the primary walls a soft color such as beige or celadon green and the accent

wall three shades darker. "The accent wall will give the room some punch, but it's not as dramatic."

If choice is your goal, you might rethink the entire notion of painting a wall from corner to corner, says Day Hiett, director of color and design for Benjamin Moore, and you'll create an architectural emphasis where one doesn't exist. Moving around the room in a clockwise direction, try painting a third of one wall and two-thirds of the adjacent wall, wrapping the corner in color. Then paint the last one-third of the second wall and three-quarters of an adjacent wall, covering that corner. Another bold play: Take a big wall and, working in from both corners, paint it almost to the center, leaving an 18- to 20-inch vertical line of white space, and keep artwork down the center.

Consider the ceiling the fifth wall of a room. Though sticking to "ceiling white" generally makes a space feel airy, a similar effect can be achieved by painting the ceiling a lighter shade of the wall color just to



SHADES OF THE PAST

If you're restoring the rooms of a Greek Revival farmhouse or remodeling a Craftsman bungalow, you may be wondering what the historically accurate interior color might be. Or maybe you just like the rich, sometimes darker shades of browns by Benjamin Moore, Benjamin Moore's Sherwin-Williams, Low's American Tradition, and specialty lines such as Pratt & Lambert's Williamsburg paints. There are hundreds of historic interior colors to choose from. So take coordinating colors into account: some even offer palette cards for period interior styles. You might be surprised to find out that the old-time shades weren't fairly about pleasing the eye. For example, "Cork & Skin," the Indiana state seal, was chosen because it was so comfortable to look at that it wouldn't lend an idea to the walls, which made it a popular choice for Indiana.

—ASHLEY WIMBLE



Build it to match. LEFT, create a visual connection from the dining room to the front door. Sherwin-Williams 2005 Architectural Dark Red brings a sense of visual and material continuity, which allows a glimpse of the entry's entry walls.

- when picking roller covers, remember a

It Because it's difficult to completely eliminate moisture by vacuum-sealing for storage. To save water for a second day, Clark lightly wraps vegetables in plastic bags and tosses them in the fridge. Allow them to return to room temperature before using the next day.



- Brands: Aquafresh, primary source

drying time, allowing brush marks time to level out.

Is Equine Influenza a reportable disease and where?
Equine Influenza is not reportable



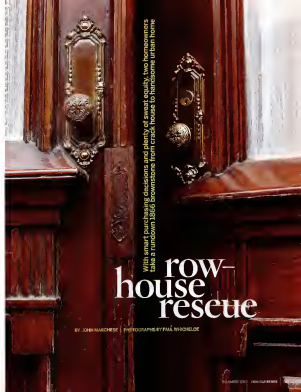
that parents lack skills and help-concept) and

[illegible]



Traditional ceilings and wood paneling add to the historic charm of the home. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** A large dining room with a view of the garden. The house is built in the early 18th century and is a fine example of Georgian architecture.

PHOTOGRAPHY



With smart purchasing decisions and plenty of sweat equity, two homeowners take a rundown 1966 brownstone from crack house to handsome urban home

row-house rescue

BY JOHN MARCHESE PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL WISCHKE

East story warehouse on 126th Street in central Madison in 2002, they felt that, as a building Manhattan real estate market that had extended even to the rain-soaked streets of the city's northern reaches, its \$400,000 price was a steal.

"Told the wife through no closing day," Don remembers, "and when I came back the next morning, someone had come at us straight and stolen all the copper pipe. They ripped open a wall to get to it and they took everything, all the way into the basement and to the boiler." Also gone were brass fireplace covers, the aluminum towel pole of the main staircase, and some of the elaborate wood door and window moldings that had sold the guys on the best-up house in the first place.

They were upset but not really surprised. The house, built in 1966, had declined with the neighborhood for years, spinning from middle-class stability to become a single-room-occupancy apartment house and later a crack den. The new owners hired 24-hour security and started to clean the place.

When a week, they got word that someone was willing to sell them back the good tires and novel plan. "We had three options," Dunn says. "We could try to find something that matched what we asked, but normally. We could try to have a re-creased, which would be very expensive. Or, we could buy it back from the people who stole it. In the end, we chose the last option."

This boutique is 16 months long project that involved extensive site research, visiting the first three floors of the classic New York townhouse on a 2,500-square-foot-square-foot apartment. The ground floor contains a grand bedroom and bath, a master bedroom, and a room from London leading to a refurbished garden level with levels that had been built a chimney. The upper floors have a dining room, kitchen, living room, and library with classic 19th-century mahogany and beamed walnut trim. There are also 16th-century glass and stone of the site hearing and looking. Mahogany fireplace with carved wood hand-hewn accents look out over new floors with decorative stained glass. These are the first three floors of the original that survived years of decay. These are the first three floors of the original that survived years of decay.

Just came to the project with no renovation experience, but Don, who gave up helping his plumber father, had constructed a community center and an apartment as part of an empty 13,000-square-foot warehouse building.

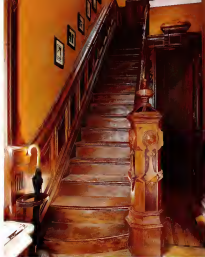
"Don't wait a day-to-yourself," says architect Nick Bunning, who designed the new space and helped hire many of the craftsmen involved. "I told them, at the beginning, that I don't deal with do-a-yourselfers."

The guys went to Burning, where another architect they hired placed a total gas stove ban, which is common with stoves because in the neighborhood. "You come in and just cover everything with Rustoleum and throw all the old wood away," Don says.



LOFT Of the nine companies (LOFT Italiana) interviewed, one focuses that line this approach above. This is the only one that still has all of the original word line. **LOFT**. One Italianan snapped this photo of their fittings with love after the purchase – and documented much of the work that was in store, which included removing typical boards from chairs and windows, and displaying of 13 Dumpsters of debris. Their quoted **loft** is a 100% store that prioritizes with age, professional customers were brought in to replace old boxes (stair and cement), the absence of wallpaper and floor.

This boutique is 16 months long project that involved extensive site research, visiting the first three floors of the classic New York townhouse on a 2,500-square-foot-square-foot apartment. The ground floor contains a grand bedroom and bath, a master bedroom, and a room from London leading to a refurbished garden level with levels that had been built a chimney. The upper floors have a dining room, kitchen, living room, and library with classic 19th-century mahogany and beamed walnut trim. There are also 16th-century glass and stone of the site hearing and looking. Mahogany fireplace with carved wood hand-hewn accents look out over new floors with decorative stained glass. These are the first three floors of the original that survived years of decay. These are the first three floors of the original that survived years of decay.



Preservation: visitors who walked onto the footpath for countless miles through since the flow of the TGF (the flow at the end of the footpath) TGF was moved forward and the doors to the gutter burned sliding mechanism to create a private lobby in the second quarter. Original details include the new gate that has been shown in the new alloy metal and designed for the place.



Remodeling cost: About \$250,000
Time frame: 18 months

Where we **saved** By buying 20-by-32-inch steel studs and cutting them down for the porch beam instead of buying 3-by-3s, which cost four times more. Where we **splurged** On the kitchen. What we **did differently** Replaced the recessed lighting. Studs are too hard to work with such high ceilings. Our **biggest challenge** Living in the house while remodeling—I was RIGID. How we **saved it** By sealing off one area with plastic sheeting.

Floor plan changes 1. On the porch, floor replaced a kitchen with the master suite. 2. On the porch floor, described the front porch and the kitchen and dining room, which were where the living room is now. A library and ground floor sitting room occupy the back of the center section.





Kitchen and dining room

How did the homeowners pull off dropping a semi-detached kitchen right in the middle of a well-used house? By using salvaged, natural materials that blend with the interior's color palette. Including those to creating cherry veneered lipped with black stained glass panels. RIGHT: macadamia floor slabs and maple. INSET: black backsplash. TOP: ABOVE: brass knocker and the dining room's pocket door hardware are all original.



"That wasn't our wisest at all," says Seay.

Flanning had already worked as a piano technician in Fla. and had developed a taste for things, serving as much as possible from the original house. The architect convinced the homeowners that some ideas were worth it but would require more skill than they possessed.

Seay and Don had arranged a construction loan of \$175,000, which they started to run through quickly. To save money, they mapped the 24-hour security service and moved into the house, living in one part of the shed. Flanning, however, lived with a gas generator, and running water in the new building, took on the fourth floor, with a garden hose.

The pre-war floor of the house was the best preserved. Those were 12-foot ceilings and 16-foot wavywood doors accordingly built up into

loggia and window trim. The trouble was, all of it was covered in thick enamel. Stripping up to 25 layers of paint from the woodwork, pushing in, staining, pieces, and refinishing cost more than \$80,000.

"We found a man of carpenters from the Ukraine who had built churches by hand," Flanning says. "They're unique people. When we had a lot of wood to be mended, someone had to cut a little and make a new one. You needed people who could do that."

Flanning ran \$15,000, even with savings gained from using the flooring contractor's cherry wood from a previous job. "Luckily all of the momentary plaster mending was gone—facing that would have cost a fortune," says Flanning, who has since made a career change that turned the neighborhood into his full-time home—a carpenter.

Don ended up doing plenty of construction, including building the two metal walls, whose income offset the loan costs substantially.

Don was a professional skill as a certified public accountant that really helped keep the renovations within their financial means. "As an accountant," Don says, "I understood that a penny plus a penny can suddenly add up to a hundred-dollar difference. Every choice you make has a cost-benefit ratio."

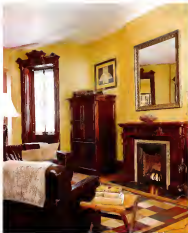
With that in mind, says Seay—whose work as a theater producer involves plenty of creative problem-solving—they avoided the Internet, home centers, salvage yards, and local hardware stores in favor of the best deals on materials. Slate tile for the kitchen was bought on sale for 99 cents a square foot. An original mahogany door came from another conserving neighbor in exchange for lending her some work area. Many mahogany doors were found for a fraction of their original price at a hardware store in Connecticut that was going out of business.

When a contractor to redo the upstairs bathroom tucked under the stairs, Seay worried to die instantly—floor, walls, ceiling—in 1 inch glass tile. Then Don crunched the numbers. "It would have cost something like \$30,000," he said, "No. We can make it with slate." He and Nick looked at one like I was an idiot. "Discreetly, we said, 'But he needed to have the slate for a top of the last range and fridge.'"

"I think when people walk into a house," Seay says, "they look at the kitchen and bathroom. I really wanted high-end appliances."

Even with the remodeling, the total renovation bill came to around \$515,000. "I think we made good choices," says Seay. "And I got a lot of credit to Don. We knew we were going to go over budget, and we were only able to keep it that low because of the economy of physics (the Don put in, if we had a choice, the way we did, the whole thing could have cost twice as much)." Their owners proved right: The finished house was approved for nearly twice what they put in.

Recently, the Seays bought another farmhouse in the neighborhood as an investment. "People always ask, 'Aren't you scared to live in historic?'" Don says. "No. It's lovely. And I know my neighbors, which I didn't when I lived downtown." ■



Living room

The last preserved room in the house. LEFT: The original dining room. A portion of the floor (with an emergency window) and the original fireplace mantel. RIGHT: ABOVE: LEFT: provided a bridge to the new space. After stripping 25 layers of paint of enamel paint, the homeowners discovered intricate floor designs. TOP: and the wall's original floor slabs. ABOVE: RIGHT: under what they thought were ball ornaments.

For more on how to build a dream house, visit bit.ly/2014/04/04.

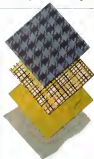
QUICK-CHANGE FLOORS

New click-in, snap-together, and stick-down systems let you update what's underfoot in a weekend

BY NATALIE RODRIGUEZ

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK WEISS

WANT TO COVER UP THAT COLD CONCRETE IN THE basement or hide the Flouresc Gold kitchen tile that got soiled in the '90s without spending a fortune on a new floor? Look no further. Here are some stylish, quick-to-install floor options—those click into place, glue, wood laminate planks to snap together, textured rubber tiles to multicolored peel-and-stick carpet squares. Most go right over existing hard surface floors and require no glue, nails, or staples. Some you can rock any room in style or two with little more than the bottom basic kit and some good old-fashioned elbow grease.



The Look: WALL-TO-WALL 4

Good for: Living room, bedroom, den, playroom, and any other area where you want softness underfoot and the ability to switch out a section of carpet if it gets stained.
Installation: Sticks down or locks together.

TOP to BOTTOM: Interlock Floor in Jetty (both blue and brown), Mat Plaster (dark brown/black), Petrus (dark brown), \$7 to \$23 per 20-inch square peel-and-stick tile, interlockfloor.com. Milliken Plank Legato in Harmony, \$2.99 per square foot of planks with a non-slip, cushioned foam backing and heavy edges to help conceal interlocking system, legatopet.com.



The Look: PRO-GRADE RUBBER 3

Good for: Workshop, garage, basement, and any other high-traffic area where moisture can be a problem.
Installation: Snaps together; can be laid directly over any firm, flat surface, including concrete, for a water-tight floor covering. It's also slip- and chemical-resistant.

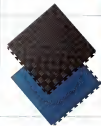
TOP to BOTTOM: Flooring Adventure Tuff Sealer Diamond, black and in Star blue, \$3.34 and \$9.95, respectively, per 18-inch square tile, carbasite.com.



4 The Look: CORE

Good for: Kitchens, foyer, bedroom, kids' playroom, and any other area where you want a cushioning, shock-absorbent surface that doubles as a sound and thermal insulator.
Installation: Clicks together; no underlayment needed unless it's going over concrete, in which case, you'll have to first put down a thin polyethylene (PE) moisture barrier.

TOP to BOTTOM: Wonders cut planks Ripwood and combination oak and rubber planks in Motion No. 5, \$13.50 and \$15.10 per square foot, respectively, wonders.com.



4 The Look: STONE OR CERAMIC TILE

Good for: Kitchens, foyer, sunroom, and more. The hardwood seams or tongue-and-groove laminate tiles could swell and buckle in wet applications, and so are not recommended for bathrooms or other damp areas. Vinyl tiles, however, will work anywhere.

Installation: Clicks together or sticks down. Laminated tiles are somewhat forgiving of uneven base surfaces because they "float" on a thin foam underlayment. Vinyl peel-and-stick tiles go right over existing flooring.

TOP to BOTTOM: Quick Step Quadsen Forte and Remora, \$3.95 per 25-inch square click together tile, quickstep.com. Armstrong Vinyl in Exotic Tuscan, \$4.60 per square foot of peel-and-stick tile, armstrong.com.



The Look: LINOLEUM 4

Good for: Kitchens, hallway, kids' bedroom and playroom, and any other high-traffic area where a flooring material that's naturally resistant to bacteria is preferred.
Installation: Clicks together. If used in the bathroom or other damp area, the tongue and groove seams should be sealed with a mildew-resistant silicone.

TOP to BOTTOM: Parbo Flooring International in Whispering Blue, Shaker Stone, and Sahara, \$5 to \$7 per square foot tile, theparbo.com.

Stylin' traditional wood flooring? thathouse.com/artists.

TIP: For the most realistic wood look, choose solid-plank laminate boards as opposed to white panels with multiple boards etched. That way you can recognize the boards as genuine hardwood and the texture will look more authentic.

4 The Look: WOOD

Good for: Kitchens, living room, bedroom, and any other area where you want the look of natural wood with less maintenance. Laminate resists staining and scratching and doesn't require refinishing.

Installation: Clicks together; is somewhat forgiving of uneven base surfaces because the laminate strips "float" on a thin foam underlayment. Unlike most real wood flooring floors, these don't require an adhesive between the seams.

TOP to BOTTOM: Armstrong Pacific Heights laminate strip in Iron Amber, \$9.30 per square foot, armstrong.com. Shaw S-Plus Touchable Redwood laminate plank in Rustic Expressions Pine, \$3.76 per square foot, shawfloors.com. Pergo laminate plank in Merlot/Whisper Oak, \$3.49 per square foot, pergo.com. Wilsonart iBlend Serengeti laminate plank in aged limewood, \$4.30 per square foot, wilsonartfloors.com.

BUILDING A FLAT ROOF RIGHT

HOW THE PROS
CONSTRUCT ONE
SO IT STAYS
TIGHT AND DRY

by Max Alexander
photographs by
Russell Kaye

DESIGNING CORNERS
quickly on a roof that isn't
steep and the pros use
some leveling. LIFT! But
the heaviest steel of the
90s by 13-foot flat roof
section at the 12 project
house BELOW makes it
impossible to carry a new
windproof chimney
which is why it must be
built to last.



On logs roads Tom achieves the same with four-inch logs laid flat that he has a commercial roading company make to fit the soil types. However, a small road like the 5th by D3 road one he saves money by grading 20th, six long sections LEFT that he is to tie the jobs - which to handle would use less and close together than on spaced roads - to create the road.

Overlap of the framing members with plywood sheathing. **RIGHT** with 1/4 inch gap at all the joints to allow for expansion and contraction.



On two sides, The restaurant's carpet is short-wavelengthed around itself (possibly) as well as a solid (the third floor) have the rubber floors it needs to support its weight and lay in the slabs. It is impossible from posing of these three elements. That app. Daily emphasis on a 40 degree heat with little sun. There are various items on the ground between the road and the front B&B. A concrete or metal fence.

[illegible]

Using a 4 1/2 inch ratchet to influence an outboard pole, Tom usually lets the glue-out the exposed section of outboard and the corresponding block over rubber. **BELLOW LEFT:** Like ordinary control cement, the glue goes on both surfaces and then dries at the very moment the two meet. So it's better to dry to the touch, he puts down one knee on a canvas to coincide the rubber strip then the board, pushing as much to the inside of the hole as he can to prevent warping. He doesn't pick up the rubber or swing it back from over weight, then snap back causing the rope to strain unevenly. "You only get one shot," says Tom. Most likely, he finishes the end of the rod, smoothing out

[illegible]

Check Out Vintage Projects from Previous Seasons

What's on TV Now

Don't miss these vintage projects on HGTV, DIY Network, and local broadcast stations. Go to www.thisoldhouse.com for local versions and times and for additional information about the projects featured here.

HGTV

WINTERTOWN

The show kicked off its 20th anniversary with the renovation of a sprawling 1800 Queen Anne-style Victorian in Wintertown, Massachusetts.

CHARLESTOWN

This Old House worked on the expansion and renovation of an 1800 Second Empire farmhouse on Parker Hill Street in the historic Boston neighborhood of Charlestown.

WEST PALM BEACH

This Old House Team heads to sunny Florida, where they transform a Mediterranean Revival-style bungalow into a delightful tropical compound.

DIY NETWORK

BELMONT

The restoration of a 1907 Chicago-style Victorian is featured in this project. It also includes the removal of asbestos siding and the overhaul of the kitchen.

FAIRHAVEN BUNGALOW

The renovation and expansion of a 1900's semi-detached Colonial bungalow is the featured project.

LOCAL BROADCAST STATIONS

LEXINGTON

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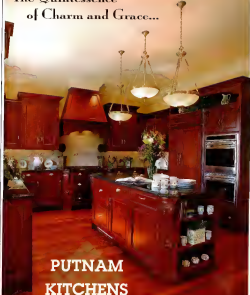
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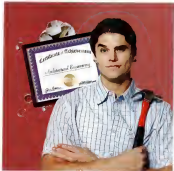
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WORKSHOP

THE NEW STANDARD FOR HOMEOWNERS



- 101 Ask This Old House
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This tangle of rusty rebar, a remnant of a wall that once had a plaster finish, is a simple and a somewhat odd. It is a reminder of the things that are left behind when we build. It is a reminder of the things that are left behind when we build. It is a reminder of the things that are left behind when we build.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
LISA CHARLEY RAYSON



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Ask This Old House



Quieting Noisy Ducts

The metal ductwork in the ceiling of our first-floor basement pops and bangs every time the furnace starts on in the winter. Can't make more noise after the furnace starts off? Is there anything we can do to stop the banging?

When Luis Llorca writes:

Richard Berthemy replies: Metal ducts make all sorts of noise. In some cases, excessive air flow can cause whistling. Sometimes, pressure differentials between the supply and return ducts can move their walls in and out, much like a reed in a wind instrument called "reed-sucking." And ductwork can carry the sound of a noisy blower all over the house. But I suspect your problem is caused by hot air rushing into a cold duct, which makes the metal expand. You might hear some occasional creaking, but if the duct is rubbing against wood, it might suddenly "pop" and reverberate, then pop again as the metal cools.

What can you do? Start by covering all your ducts with fiberglass insulation, trapping them up and leaving no gaps. ducts heat, the less you can hope for in a quieter reduction in the noise. Use rubber pads to isolate ducts from wood. Make sure ducts are rubbing blocking the air against the noise, which can lead to pressure problems. Have an HVAC technician check the system to make



Wrapping foil-faced fiberglass around metal ductwork helps it resist banging noises when the furnace is operating.

sure it's not pushing more air than it was designed for. And if your furnace doesn't already have a flexible connection to intake furnace noises, ask the technician to install one.

Insulating a Basement Ceiling

Would it be a good idea to insulate the ceiling of our unfinished basement? I'm hoping that would make it easier to rent out living quarters.

From Robert Hildebrand

Tom Silverberg replies: Any time you insulate, you're making your home more energy efficient and comfortable, but the gain may not be worth the expense and effort. Here's what's involved in this case.

First, you'll have to maneuver batts of insulation around the cluster of wires, pipes, and cross bracing in a typical basement ceiling. Hold the batts in place by stapling blue paper-faced vapor barrier to the joists along the joints. Once the ceiling is batted up, insulate the rim joist—the floor framing around the perimeter of the house directly above the foundation wall. And now that your basement is



Robert Tom Silverberg



Robert Tom Silverberg



Robert Tom Silverberg



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 Ask This Old House

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Fixing a Treacherous Stair Rail

Now the top of our stairway, the handrail is so tight against the wall that it's impossible to hold on to it. How would you solve the problem?

Geography: Jewett City, Iowa

Non-Union reply: You might be able to negotiate or replace the rail, but that would be a truly major job. I'd just leave it where it is and install a new handrail on the other side of the stair. The second rail will reduce the width of the stair a little, but as long as you still have the code-required 27 inches of space between the railings, you'll be fine.

When installing the new rod, keep three things in mind: It should be positioned 34 to 38 inches above the tread stringer and at least 1½ inches off the wall, its profile should be relatively simple and easy to grasp, and its support brackets should be screwed into solid framing, not just drywall. I added a rail like this at my mother's house, and it worked out great.



© 2000 Blackwell Science Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 247: 395–402

Fitting New Doors into Old Openings

I want to replace the hollow-core doors at my house with the panel wood doors, but the openings aren't square. Should I have the new doors built or fix the openings? Would prehung doors be a better?

Harold Steiner, Baltimore, Md.

Use Elongation. The only way to control the closing joints and remove them, and that requires the use of the closing joint is well. That's usually made by installing a precast door. In following the opening alone and then the door needs another set of planes. Just be sure to leave the door big enough to be turned down. When you're done, you'll want a small gap—about the thickness of a pencil—around the top and bottom of the door.

Also, when you make the cuts, apply tape over the outline and use a good, sharp new blade, both of which will reduce splintering.

Becoming a Preservationist

Sanitary littered at its best! In fact, preservation and battery. Can you please give me some advice on how to learn more about this SAM?

Leiford Sargent, M.D., Ph.D.

Kevin O'Connor replies: There are lots of ways to learn about preservation. If you're interested in hands-on volunteerism, try a place like the American College of the Built Environment in Charleston, South Carolina, or the North Bennet Street School in Boston, Maine. If you want primarily an academic approach, there are 38 graduate schools at the U.S. clear-of-cut centers in historic preservation. Many towns and cities also have historic preservation programs, volunteering at one would provide a good introduction to the field and be a great way to help your community.

For a listing of preservation organizations and education opportunities, go to preservation.net or check the *Preservation Atlas* at culturaltrust.org, the website of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. ■

To receive a question by Ayle Triv Cold House, go to aletriv@coldhouse.com or write to:

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Cleaning Brushes the Pro's Way

RELATED STORY [p. 14](#)
"Working for the Weekend"

Boucin tells good painters by the hour how to clean their brushes.

Good painters don't come cheap, so cleaning and properly storing your brushes is a smart way to protect your investment. Just don't wait until the end of the day to do it. Before you even dip the brush into the paint, soak the dry bristles with the same solvent you'll clean the brush with later—water for latex paints, mineral spirits for oil paints—then spin-dry between your hands or with a clean spin rack before painting. This helps keep paint from encrusting beneath the brush's metal ferrule. Also, use the brush as you work. Whenever it starts to feel stiff, give the bristles a quick rinse and spin. Then get back to painting. When the painting day is done, it's time for some cleaning. Here's how.

FOR OIL-BASED PAINTS

Four 'S's of two-part thinner: In a bucket and work solvent between the bristles to soften the ferrule. Protect your hands with gloves and work only in well-ventilated areas.

Let the bristles drain, then spin them dry inside the bucket. Pour out the paint-filled thinner into a jar and out. Old thinner can be reused after the paint particles settle out. Do not pour it down the drain.

Remove the bits of dried paint with a wire brush or brush comb. Then add 1/2 cup of thinner to the bucket and repeat the steps above. Repeat until the thinner runs clear. Wipe each cleaning. Save the paint-laden thinner for reuse. Use fresh paint thinner for the last wash.

Wrap the bristles like "kneepie" to hold the "r" shape. If the kneepie will come with the bristles ending, wrap the bristles in a sheet of newspaper.

FOR LATEX PAINTS

Massage the bristles under warm running water. No gloves needed.

Clamp the water stream via the ferrule to flush out any trapped paint.

Scrape any remaining dried paint with a wire brush or brush comb.

Massage each end of the wrap into the bristles and trim.

Spin-dry then wrap the bristles in a kneepie so they hold their shape.

—THOMAS BAKER

Skill Building

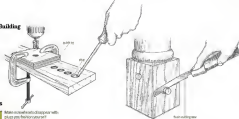


Tip

If you're just starting, getting better at the brush is easy. After you've used the brush, rinse it away with paint thinner. What if the bristles are going wild? The brush is not a good brush and will be.



Skill Building



Plugging Screw Holes

RELATED STORY: 10 Tips for Wood Finishing

Make screw holes disappear with plug pins from the set.

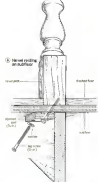
Covering recessed screwheads with a dowel is quick and easy to do, but colored vinyl and exposed endgrain will stand out against the prefinished or clear-finished wood. For a much less obvious cover-up, use plugs made from a matching wood species, which allows you to align the plug grain with the grain of your work.

You can make your own plugs from wood scraps using a special bit called a plug cutter. (Buy one that cuts tapered plugs.) They'll give you the tightest fit, ideally you should use them only in a drill press. But if all you have is a drill, bore a hole the same diameter as the plug cutter in a piece

of the matching wood, then clamp the plug over the screw. The hole will guide the cutter and keep it from wandering across the surface at the beginning of the cut. Push the bit through the hole and at least half an inch into the scrap; you don't need to go all the way through. Then wrap off the plug with the tip of a sandpaper.

Orient the plug with the grain of the workpiece, slide on some polyurethane glue, snip it to the hole. To finish the screw, sand off with a flush cutting saw (shown), or grade it down with a number 60 belt sander. Seal with ZD gel and apply finish immediately. —HARRY SANDERS

ILLUSTRATION: JAMES HAYES



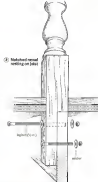
Fixing a Newel Post From Below

THE WOODS MAGAZINE

There's more than one way to tighten a post.

Wobbly newel posts that are accessible from the basement may be secured from underneath by using either lag screws or lag bolts, depending on how the post is positioned on the framing. When going from below always check these three rules:

1. Drill pilot holes. You'll make the plug easier to insert and prevent splits.
2. Skip the glue. Drilling a pilot hole is an invitation for wood to split.
3. Put washers under heads and tails. Washers spread the load so the lag screw won't sink into the wood. —T.B.



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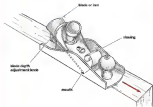
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Norm's Notebook



What to Do with Old Glue

"Most places eventually go bad, so whenever I buy a new bottle, I label it with the month and year it should be replaced. For me, that's a better reminder than writing the date I bought it."
—NORM ARNOLD, THE OLD HOUSE MASTER CARPENTER



Trim the Plane

The biggest mistake that novices make when using a hand plane is to take too deep a cut, which causes the wood to splinter a bit more effort. Here's how to make planing easier and more effective.

First, turn the blade. Scuff the dust on the underside of the blade to smooth the blade's mouth. Then slowly turn the knob clockwise until the blade barely emerges from the mouth. Now take a few test passes over some scrap wood. If you don't get a clean, low tear, lower the blade a bit and try again. Keep trying until the blade turns up a lip, then shave. You should feel like you're forcing the plane along at all.

You can only get a shaving like that with a blade that's honed razor sharp. But how to do that is a subject for future discussion.

Care for Handsaws

Although circular saws are the preferred cutting tool for builders these days, there are still times when you need a good hand saw—to make flush cuts in trim for instance.

To keep the teeth sharp and to protect them from being nicked—or from picking something else—you should place a blade guard on them after every use. New saws are sold with plastic guards, but if a guard is lost or your saw never had one, cover the teeth instead with a split length of surgical tubing. Or do what my father did: Make a shallow saw cut in a length of wood and tie it to the blade with a couple of pieces of string.



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THE WAY RANCH IS SUPPOSED TO TASTE

WIPE OUT WINTER WOES



Ever notice when one child gets sick, the whole house does? According to a University of Arizona study, it happens this easily. A child at school touches an infected surface, teacher has eyes, nose or mouth, then carries the flu virus home and spreads it to nearly 60 percent of household surfaces. Before long, your house is a hotbed of germs. And you're spreading the winter-rescueing plans, making up sick days at work and cooking chicken soup for your loved ones. You can chalk it up to the season, but wouldn't you rather reduce the risk? Prevention can help break the

viruses' germ transfer cycle. At home, get in the habit of disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. Pay special attention to phone receivers—60 percent of which tested positive for the Influenza A virus in the study, followed by doorknobs, light switches and remote controls. Clorox® Disinfecting Wipes are easy to use and can kill 99.9 percent of the germs that cause colds and flu. Teaching children to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds in warm, soapy water before eating and after school will also keep germs from spreading.

COLD & FLU FACTS

- Flu is responsible for more than 20 million missed school days each year.
- Flu season alone is approximately five times greater of Americans usually resulting in an average of 200,000 hospitalizations.
- Some viruses can live more than two hours on surfaces like doorknobs and chairs.
- Adults can spread the flu virus up to a day before developing symptoms and then to seven days after symptoms start. Children can pass the virus on to others much longer.

Source: Clorox by Science Center and Researchers, www.clorox.com



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handrails

Minnesota's homeowner Livestock Plant needed handrails in his 54th way, but was puzzled by how to put them in. He enlisted Ask This Old House and Tom Silva showed up to lead an expert-led



irrigation

Outside of Los Angeles, Roger Cook and specialist Bob Galloway help homeowner Sherry Steele restore water to her slice of the High Desert.

sinks

Minnesota homeowner Anna McCordless tried to fix her noisy bathroom sink stopper with a poplite stick. Richard Tiedeman provided a more professional solution.



closets

California couple Brandon and Marlene Giedler's sliding closet doors were stuck. They enlisted Ask This Old House and before long Tom Silva got them back on track.



what's your problem?

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save this old house

LOCATION: within Nepal

Not only did Cotton spend 50 years as town clerk, he also helped establish the town library (served as the area's first, now code operator) and penned several books including *My Views*, *Field Drives* and *Spring Men: The Birthplace of the Round Heart*. But he was best known as the proprietor of this small general store located along the Sacramento at the foot of the White Mountains.

The classic Greek Revival style is still evident in the marble sarcophagi, which have shallow triangular pediments. Ornamental pilasters edge the corners of the building, rising up to meet the narrow cornice below the roofline.

A photograph of a window with a wooden frame and a pediment, showing a reflection of a building and trees. The window is set into a light-colored wall. The reflection in the glass shows a dark building and some greenery. The wooden frame is dark and appears to be made of multiple pieces. The pediment above the window is also made of wood and has a decorative shape. The overall image has a slightly grainy, vintage quality.



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