

# Spring Sparks Urge In Home Owners To Clean-Up, Paint-Up And Fix-Up

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### Repairs To Get Close Attention

As spring sparks that annual spruce-up urge, home-owners everywhere are launching their clean-up, paint-up, light-up, fix-up programs, all geared to the single basic purpose of making their houses more attractive, more comfortable, more convenient and, in general, more livable.

Spring renovation covers a wide range of activities, according to the particular needs, wishes and budget of each individual home owner. Some will repaint their houses inside or out (or both). Others will discover how new wallpaper in one or more rooms will provide a refreshing "change of scene," while still others will give a thought to improving the lighting in this room or that.

Since the winter months usually do the most damage to a property, this is also a good time to give the home a thorough inspection, with a view to attending to such repairs as may be indicated.

#### Repair Promptly

It is important that even minor repairs be promptly attended to. Failure to do so may result in more serious trouble and a much bigger repair bill later on.

Here is a brief list of points to check in the interests of keeping a house up to par and reducing maintenance costs in the long run:

(1) Check the roof for small leaks or loose curling shingles and repair these before major damage can occur. Pay particular attention to flashings and to coatings around vent pipes, chimneys and other projections.

(2) Check gutters and downspouts. Make sure that they are not clogged with leaves and other debris. Coat the insides of wooden

gutters with wood preservative and metal gutters with black asphaltum.

(3) Inspect the exterior walls of the house carefully. If the siding is clapboard or shingles, watch for cracks or rotted places. Repair promptly to prevent moisture from entering and to keep damage from spreading. Replace rotted shingles (or length of clapboard) with new pieces.

#### Check Masonry Walls

(4) If the house has brick, stucco or other masonry walls, check for minor cracks, which should immediately be repaired and filled, using either caulking compound or a patching cement.

(5) Check around doors and windows to see if repeated freezing and thawing have caused caulking to crack out. Do this as soon as the temperature climbs above 50 degrees. Reapply caulking whenever necessary.

(6) Check the condition of all exterior painted surfaces. Repaint whenever the old coating looks worn. Never let an old paint job wear so thin that the surface is no longer protected.

(7) Give the home heating system its annual tune-up and adjustment. A competent serviceman should be called in to attend to this job.

(8) Look for signs of termite activity around all foundation walls, crawl spaces and basement areas. Eliminate all possible connections between the ground and the wooden parts.

#### MAN AIDS NATURE

Man-made lakes are creating thousands of vacation cabin sites every year. One example is Kentucky lake, a TVA project which is the world's largest man-made lake. It has two huge state parks on its shores, with thousands of feet of new frontage for development.

And this roomy cabin is plenty livable for only about \$2000. Some of the surfaces are rough and finishing touches can improve the structure a lot, but it's possible to live in and enjoy this house without going to all the expense required to move into a conventionally-built home.



This big, roomy vacation cabin can be built in two economical stages from easily-followed, detailed plans. It offers lots of living space and can be expanded if more is required.

### You Can Move Into This Cabin For \$2000

Lots of families have hopes of someday building a second home, where they can spend week ends and leisure hours during the warm months. It's the prospect of having to lay that holds many of them back.

Architect Henrik Bull of San Francisco has produced the plan shown here, which takes full advantage of the appearance and design potential of fir plywood, a material that makes building the cabin comparatively simple.

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#### 960 Square Feet

The design is based on the idea that nothing is easier or more economical to build than a plywood box. Since most people object to the appearance of a box, Bull has designed two rectangular units which are connected with a canvas-covered gable and sun deck.

This preserves the economy of the box but eliminates the boxy appearance. The two 16x20-foot shelters face each other across a 16x20-foot covered deck, providing 960 square feet of indoor and outdoor living space.

One of the covered areas is designed for living, the other for early-to-bed fisherman and children to get away from the chattering of late-risers.

The house is designed for two-stage development. The first stage is a livable, unpainted shelter complete with wiring and plumbing. It was built in the Pacific Northwest for \$3239, less land and septic tank costs. This figure includes labor for the whole job, although much of the work can be done by the owner. Labor came to about \$1200.

#### Exposure No. Problem

In its unpainted first stage, the house has minimum facilities and furnishings, but includes a refrigerator, sink and small count-

er. Most families could use the house this way for years.

The unpainted plywood surfaces are exterior type panels and can stand indefinite exposure to the weather. This material has a fully waterproof glue line and will not delaminate, but the wood surface, like all wood, is likely to "face check" if exposed for many months.

The second stage improvements, which totaled \$1060 on the prototype cabin, again including all labor, can be added as the budget permits.

Finishing, according to the architect's plans, includes paint, a fireplace, floor tile, deck canvas and sunshades.

The plans also take into consideration owners who will want to live in the cabin all year round and use it as a hunting lodge, for instance. Insulation can be easily added to wall and roof construction, but a heat source other than the fireplace must also be installed for maximum comfort.

#### Expandable Design

The design is expandable and when built on a properly-chosen site the cabin can grow to the front and back, as your family size and budget indicate.

The simple construction method makes addition of a wing an easy task.

Studs for all the walls are spaced four feet on center, a system made possible by the wide use of full-size sheets of fir plywood. Thus only one side of the walls needs covering and the interior, when finished, provides an attractive visual pattern.

A single layer of  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood over the floor framing provides both subfloor and under-

#### Plans Available

The only surface that requires any type of finishing in the first stage is the roof, where 90-pound



Roomy interior offers plenty of living and sleeping space.

roll roofing is recommended because of the difficulty in making joints between panels water-tight.

Complete, easy to follow construction plans for this cabin, including a detailed materials list, are available from the Douglas Fir Plywood Association, Tacoma 2, Wash. Include 25 cents to cover mailing and handling. Ask for the Parade Second House.

A catalog showing other cabin plans is available for 10 cents from the same address.

#### BIG BUSINESS

More than 1200 vacation cabins were built in Wisconsin during the first nine months of 1959, a state university survey revealed.

### Paint Perks Up The Home With Color

With the coming of Spring, the home-owner usually feels its time to perk the place up with a fresh redecoration job. The first thing that comes to mind is a change in the wall colors.

Truly, a fresh coat of paint works wonders in dressing up a home. Wall colors should, of course, be selected to best suit the specific needs of the home in question and reflect the tastes and personality of the home-owner.

Generally, a decorative scheme should consist of a related group of colors. Use the colors that you feel most appropriate. Add variety and interest by augmenting the basic color with contrasting tones on one wall.

#### Accent Good Features

To emphasize a room's good feature, background it with a wall or area of different color or tone so that it stands out prominently. To minimize a less favorable feature, background it with a matching color so that it will blend into a surrounding area and thus become less noticeable. This is called "decorating camouflage."

By the same token, long, narrow rooms can be made to look wider by placing a dark color on the wall at each end and a lighter color on the side walls and ceiling.

Rooms that are square and uninteresting in shape can be improved by painting one wall a different color than the other three, thus providing a focal point of interest.

Low ceilings will seem higher

if painted white and if the baseboard is the same color as the walls. If you have the opposite problem, too high ceilings, they can be "lowered" with dark paint.

When painted to match walls, some thumb items like book cases and standing closets can have that "built-in" appearance.

#### Believe Monstony

Paint can break up the monotony of an all-one-color room. There's no reason why all the rooms should match; paint varies in and get a feeling of spaciousness.

The trend today is to make the kitchen area flow out into the dining room. Paint will help you achieve this pleasing eye effect. Select two colors, one to use on the dining room walls, and the other complementary color for the kitchen. The easy-to-clean surfaces of modern paints will be a great aid in keeping the kitchen walls cleaner for longer.

If the kitchen is small, select a bright color that will make the walls glow with brightness. Kitchens are the smallest room in most anyone's house is the bathroom. New paint colors can help make this room appear a great deal larger. Light shades can defeat that boxed-in feeling common in small rooms.

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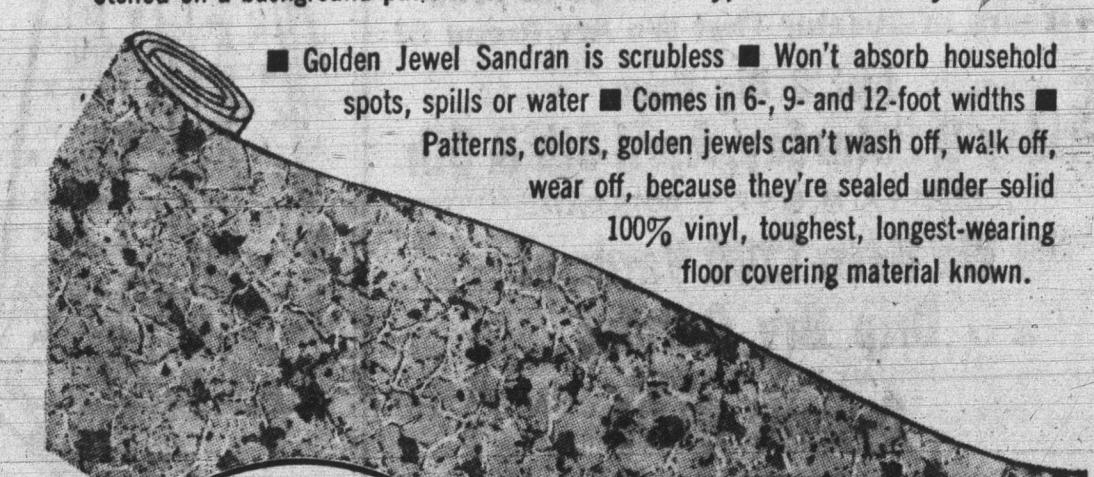
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