

# Home Improvements Set Record Pace

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## Many Wiring Systems Now Out-Of-Date

Very often, homeowners continue using the same wiring system that they've been using for the past ten years, in spite of having added many new electrical appliances to their homes.

There's no doubt that electricity, through appliances and electrical utilization, has added much more comfort and convenience to our lives. But a home's wiring system must grow along with electrical use.

For one thing, the more appliances and uses for electricity, the more outlets will be needed, in the kitchen as well as in the living room, the bedroom, or, for that matter, on the patio or in the garden.

The versatility of appliances has created the need for convenient outlets and plenty of them. Such modern devices as "appliance center" for kitchens where four or five different appliances can be plugged in at the same time are among the more glamorous convenience outlets available.

To have plenty of outlets is fine. But remember, there must be enough circuits to supply all those outlets with sufficient current to operate several appliances at one time.

It all starts with the power supplied to your distribution center through the "Electrical Service Entrance."

Adequate Wiring or Full House power begins with the availability of at least 100 amperes of electrical current at either 120 or 240 volts.

This will mean that up to 24,000 watts of energy may be utilized at one time.

If you add up the watts on the washing machine, dryer, toaster, iron, vacuum cleaner, refrigerator, lamps, radio, television and all other electrical uses, you will begin to understand why adequate home wiring is so important.

And when you count up those wattages, remember that the 24,000 overall wattage for your home must be distributed through all the circuits in the house. And each circuit must carry its own load. That depends, quite simply, on the size of the wire. For example, a "number 12" wire can carry 20 amperes of current whereas a "number 14" wire can carry only 15 amperes (the larger the wire, the smaller the number designation). Today, "number 12" wires are recommended throughout the house, enabling 20 ampere fuses to protect the circuits.

If you are concerned about the wiring in your house, call in an electrical contractor to check your entire system.

## Gym Use

Many builders are finding that gymnasium floors built of tough, resilient west coast hemlock last longer and wear better than many others.

## Satin Surface

If you want wall paneling with a smooth, satiny surface, ask your lumber dealer to show you some west coast hemlock paneling.

## Owners Are Urged To Launch Jobs Early To Avoid Spring Rush

require outside help, and of what kind.

If you plan extensive work, by all means avail yourself of competent advice. Consult an architect. Also talk to recognized contractors in your area. Local lumber and other building supply dealers can also be extremely helpful.

## Salvage Damaged Door by Covering

A door with damaged or unsightly panels can be modernized by a "face-lifting" operation that is simple and inexpensive. The result is a flush door with a smooth, durable surface without any dust catchers.

Fill the panel indentations with insulating board of a thickness that will make it flush with the wooden borders of the door. Then cut sufficient  $\frac{1}{4}$ " tempered hardboard to cover the entire door. One, two or three pieces are suggested. If two or more panels are used, the adjoining edges should be beveled to form a V-joint. Other edges should be beveled also. Remove all hardware from the door.

Use tile adhesive for attaching both the insulating board filler pieces and the new hardboard surface. Apply weights to assure a good bond. Finishing nails can be used instead of weights to hold the panels firm while the glue sets.

Sand the edges of the re-paneled door and attach the hardware. It will be necessary to relocate the door stops and striker plate, as the door will be slightly thicker. A one-sixteenth inch clearance should be left between the door and the stop at the hinged edge and between door and frame.

The remodeled door may be lacquered, varnished, painted or enameled.

## Apply Peg-Board Over Glass Wool To Reduce Noise

Peg-Board backed by glass fiber wool blanket can be used successfully in recreation rooms and elsewhere to reduce noise.

The pleasing appearance, durability and sound-absorbing qualities of Peg-Board in combination with glass fiber wool blanket make this construction desirable. Readily painted with a roller, the surface is dent and wear-resistant and may be washed repeatedly, additional advantages over other acoustic materials.

Installations of this type also have been found successful in public places such as schools, theaters, music halls, bowling alleys and institutions where noise reduction is important.

## Brighten Corner In Attic For Boy

For a children's playroom, a den for dad or 12-year-old Jim, there's nothing like a corner in an attic. There's no need to refinish everything at once; that can come later. Many lumber dealers recommend embossed, low-cost hardboard for such improvements. Panels go up right over insulated studs, and they can easily be given a two-tone finish. They'll wear well. Lumber dealers have many good ideas about low-cost attic fix-up.

Splinter-free hardboard makes an ideal surfacing for the chute. Its smooth side should face in to provide a snag-proof slide for the clothes.

Cutouts in the floor should be made to accommodate the outside framing of the chute. Install the lower portion of the chute first, nailing it to the floor joists.

The upper section, wedged in the floor hole, may need no further support.

For better appearance, fill in the space between the chute's corners with 1x2-inch lumber at the floor level. Top this kickstrip with quarter round molding to cover irregularities and to discourage the collection of dust.

In the closet section, protect garments from snagging by simply nailing another layer of splinter-free preswood over the framework.

Make a hinged top for the chute by framing a piece of hardboard so the wood fits inside the chute opening. To complete the job, attach a door pull.

Warm Coat

Wood siding is a natural insulating material, the West Coast Lumbermen's Association points out. An inch of wood is equal to six inches of brick as an insulator. Douglas fir, western red cedar and west coast hemlock siding all have this insulating side.

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## New Effects By Switching Panel Uses

"Switching" is a favorite pastime today, not only among teenage girls who like to wear their sweaters backward, but even among imaginative builders and architects who have achieved some novel results with materials used "differently."

For instance, a Houston architect, wanting an abruptly different texture in one exterior portion of his own new house, got the effect he wanted with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " Peg-Board panels which were put up over insulating sheathing treated with black asphalt. Holes in the perforated board, with that background, appear infinitely deep.

Exterior siding has moved indoors in many contemporary-styled homes, too.

A popular vented siding has been used on a porch and in some cases in an entry hall. One contractor applied this vertically for a most unusual effect next to a bar. Another put it up conventionally over a pass-through to the kitchen.

In recreation rooms, where a masculine, rugged paneling is wanted, architects have been specifying an exterior hardboard panel. Another exterior hardboard siding, which rose to quick popularity first in the western states, has a ridged surface. Its mild striations have been seen as wainscots in children's rooms and as an accent wall in the living room.

**Peg-Board for Soffits**

The same Houston architect who used Peg-Board panels to side his own home specified them for wide overhanging soffits. A window wall adjacent to the overhang makes visible the interior ceiling, acoustical tile, to give the illusion of a continuous ceiling extending from the indoors to the outdoors, or vice versa. Incidentally, the thousands of holes in the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " Peg-Board soffits have a function—to ventilate the attic.

Another reason for "switching" materials is to save money. Examples are low-cost hardboard for protected exterior soffits, porch and carport ceilings. There they serve better than the conventional material, and at a fraction of the cost.

**Build Chute To Basement For Laundry**

The most important point in putting a laundry chute from a first floor closet to the basement is to select the proper location so pipes and other obstacles do not block the way.

After planning the route, saw out a section of the flooring and sub-flooring between the joists. For easy handling, make the chute in two sections—one extending from the basement ceiling to a handy height in the closet, and the other leading from the ceiling to a point over a receiving basket, box or table below.

Framing for the chute will consist of straight 1 by 2-inch lumber. Two pieces are used at each exterior corner of the elongated box, with smooth-surfaced  $\frac{1}{4}$ " preswood used for the sides nailed to the wood and the wood strips nailed to each other.

Splinter-free hardboard makes an ideal surfacing for the chute. Its smooth side should face in to provide a snag-proof slide for the clothes.

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The upper section, wedged in the floor hole, may need no further support.

For better appearance, fill in the space between the chute's corners with 1x2-inch lumber at the floor level. Top this kickstrip with quarter round molding to cover irregularities and to discourage the collection of dust.

In the closet section, protect garments from snagging by simply nailing another layer of splinter-free preswood over the framework.

Make a hinged top for the chute by framing a piece of hardboard so the wood fits inside the chute opening. To complete the job, attach a door pull.

**Warm Coat**

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## Exterior Trim

If the body of your house is a dark color, when planning a white trim be sure to order a sash and trim paint. This type dries hard and cannot chalk as ordinary exterior paints do.

## Create A Hallway In Kitchen, Living Room Under \$25

To create a hallway in the kitchen or living room at the entry from outside, simply build a stud wall from floor to ceiling and line both sides with an attractive paneling. Inexpensive and long wearing, the hardboard will provide a much-needed hall with little effort. In the kitchen, it can be used for hanging coats and umbrellas. You have a choice of four colors in walnut and three in cherry. The entire job should cost less than \$25 if you do it yourself.

## Novel Room Divider Has Louvers

Simplified design and modern building materials make it relatively simple to install a divider between living and dining rooms.

One of the various types is quite "different" from the conventional. It consists of several vertical louvers suspended between the floor and a horizontal framing member six feet high. The louvers may be made of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " hardboard that's smooth on both sides.

Six to eight inches wide, each louver has a pivot made by nailing a one-inch half round on each side. Ends of the half rounds extend above and below the louver to fit into holes of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter which have been bored in the supporting members. The louvers may be inserted and removed easily if the hole at the top is deep and the one at the bottom is shallow.

Primed and colorfully painted, the louvers simply are turned by hand to afford ventilation or privacy.

For home owners who prefer a room divider with storage, an interesting combination has a cabinet below and adjustable louvers above. Hardboards over a lumber framework make excellent cabinets. Some come woodgrained, while the others can be painted or enameled as a room accent. Sliding doors usually are preferred in such an installation. Make them from tempered hardboard or Peg-Board resting in metal or wooden tracks.

## White Fir

One of the few non-resinous woods, white fir, is gradually coming into its own as a fine construction and finish lumber. It is light in weight, but strong, and is widely used in home construction.

## Discovery

You'll be glad you discovered west coast hemlock for your wall paneling. It is the wood with the champagne tones and the smooth satiny finish.



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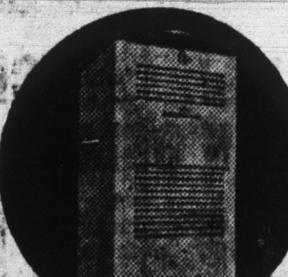
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