

Glue Warmer

To keep glue warm for easier flow and better results, you can pour it into a tin can and let it stand in water inside a baby's bottle warmer.

Painting Hints For Handy-Man**Painting Aluminum**

Exposure to the weather soon robs aluminum of its brightness, and it takes a dull and often a mottled look. In coastal and industrial areas it can pit badly. Luckily, of all metals used in construction, aluminum is the easiest to paint for decorative and protective reasons, the National Paint, Varnish & Lacquer Association says.

New aluminum should be washed with a phosphoric acid compound available at most paint and hardware stores in order to remove any oil or grease applied in the factory to protect the metal during shipment.

After the metal is dry, it should be primed with an exterior metal or wood primer, with zinc chromate being the most common recommendation, particularly where corrosive conditions exist. When the prime coat has dried hard, one or two coats of finish paint are then applied.

Nearly all quality exterior paints and enamels suitable for wood or metal will give satisfactory results over a properly applied primer, with two coats being advisable for adequate moisture and corrosion resistance. If the bright color of exterior aluminum paint is satisfactory, it can be used as the finish coat.

If it is desired to keep the appearance of the original metal, then a clear lacquer should be used, with acrylic or cellulose butyrate being the preferred types. Of course, no primer is used. It should be remembered that the life of clear finishes is much shorter than that of paints and enamels.

If the aluminum has been allowed to weather before painting, then any loose dirt or oxide must be removed by wire brushing. Oil or grease should be washed away with a detergent or paint thinner. Once this has been done, paint the metal as described above.

Repainting aluminum is much the same as repainting any other surface. If the old coating is in good condition and is adhering soundly, just remove dirt and other surface debris. If the old finish is extremely smooth or glossy, better adhesion will be obtained by roughening it with steel wool or sandpaper.

If the old coating has chipped or is peeling, and the bare metal is exposed, then sand the surface to smooth out rough edges and to

Steel Is Cited As Good Metal For Housewares

From blast furnace to water pails and automobiles—that is the story of steel. Studies show that nearly 30 per cent of the nation's steel production is being used in products for the American home and garage.

Contributing to the growing use of steel for household products is the metal's fireproof characteristics. Fire prevention officials across the country are banning use of flammable materials in certain household products.

A prime example of a household product which should be fireproof, in the opinion of fire chiefs, is the ordinary garbage can. Material placed in a refuse container is always subject to spontaneous ignition and many times contributes to destructive fires.

The experts say that all garbage cans should be made of galvanized steel, and the cans should have close-fitting covers. Household waste baskets are comparable fire hazards, and although fire chiefs don't expect people to keep the baskets covered, they do ask that only metal baskets be used in the home.

remove loose paint. Prime the bare spots and then apply one or two finish coats.

Be sure, however, that you use only quality paints. Only quality paint has lasting hiding power, retains its color brilliance and is wear and weather resistant. To be sure that you are getting a quality product, ask a friend or neighbor who has had a satisfactory paint job which brand he used or consult your established, reputable paint dealer.

Painting Basements

By painting your basement walls a light, pleasing color, you can make it a more comfortable and cheerful place whether you use it as a playroom, workshop, laundry or all three.

Selection of the right paint, proper surface preparation and correct application provide the answer for a lasting and satisfactory paint job, according to the National Paint, Varnish & Lacquer Association. The paint used must be one that will resist the alkalinity of the concrete, cement, cinder block, mortar or other masonry of which the wall is built.

The paint industry has developed a number of different quality coatings designed for use on basement walls. These include latex, or water-thinned masonry paints; Portland-cement paints, reinforced masonry paints and the so-called swimming pool paints.

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Proper surface preparation consists of removing dirt, dust and any crumbly material by vigorous brushing and, if necessary, scrubbing with water and a detergent. Grease or oil must be removed by wiping with odorless paint thinner, providing sufficient ventilation and refrain from smoking. All cracks and holes should be filled with the special products your paint dealer sells for that purpose.

Easiest to apply for most homeowners are the latex paints which are odorless, dry in an hour or less and do not show lap marks. The walls do not have to be dry when latex is applied. It should be remembered that these paints stain badly when in contact with iron and steel, so if there are any metal objects attached to the wall, they must be primed with an anti-corrosive primer before latex is brushed or rolled on.

Portland cement paints are also very popular; they are the only paints which will prevent moisture from coming through a wall under low pressure. But no interior coating can be expected to hold back water coming through a wall from the outside under much pressure. These paints cannot be used over previously painted surfaces unless the old paint was cement paint.

The only sure way to keep basement walls dry is for the outside to be given a heavy coat of asphalt before backfilling; this should have been done when the house was built. Then any of the paints prescribed will do a satisfactory job. A light color should be used since it is desirable to have the maximum amount of light reflectance. Glossy paints are more easily cleaned and more resistant to mildew, but flat paints have better hiding power and diffuse light better with less glare. They also make any irregularities in the wall less conspicuous than do gloss paints.

Floor and deck enamels designed to withstand abrasion should be used on basement floors. Be sure to get one meant for use on cement. Portland cement paints and ordinary latexes will not hold up under being walked on. Floors that are always damp should not be painted.

When repainting previously painted walls be sure the old paint is in good condition. Any loose, cracked or peeling paint should be scraped away.

Use Fuel Cans

All fuel should be removed from power lawnmowers and outboard motors which are kept in storage during the winter months. Since the fuel is highly explosive and flammable, it should be poured carefully into a galvanized steel fuel can which has a tight-fitting screw-type cap. Keep the fuel can in a cool place until the fuel is needed.

How to Use Hardboard For Fix-Up

Being a wood product, hardboard is worked like wood. It comes in useful panels that are used for dozens of things around a home, from siding to interior walls, built-in cabinets to kitchen cutting boards, room dividers to floor underlayment.

Hardboard is made by exploding wood chips in huge guns and then compressing the fibers into panels under heat and pressure. It can be sawn, filed, sanded, fastened to wood framing with nails or screws, and painted like wood. Today it's available not only with plain finishes, ready for decorating, but with decorative finishes including woodgrains.

Various Saws

A crosscut or combination hand saw, table saw, jigsaw or portable saber or circular saw may be used to cut this popular building and fix-up material. Use a compass, coping or key-hole saw for irregular or curved edges. Pre-drill holes for wood screws, using a twist drill.

These pressed wood panels may be bent to simple curves on bar fronts and other projects that require curved surfaces.

Woodworking tools can be used to carve or rout out patterns in hardboard—an interesting hobby. Wallboard adhesive or contact cement may be used to fasten hardboard to smooth, flat surfaces.

Hardboard Available Primed

Any finish that may be used on wood may be applied to hardboard. Always use a sealer or primer coat and two finish coats. Most hardboards now are available with a prime coat. This is applied smoothly at the factory to make an ideal base for the finish on completion of the improvement.

In making sliding doors and other home improvements, slightly bevel the exposed edges with a sandblock or file. On such projects as a home blackboard, also round the corners.

Safety Rules For Reducing Home Accidents

Accidents in the home cause about 30,000 deaths each year, and virtually all of these mishaps could be avoided if people would follow a few simple rules of householder safety.

Falls, according to safety studies, are the number one hazard. Make-shift ladders, loose carpeting, poorly lighted stairways and toys left on floors cause most of them. Corrective measures are obvious.

Burns and scalds may not always be deadly, but they are always painful. Keep handles of cooking utensils facing walls back of ranges—never let them project outward so that they can be reached by small children or bumped by passing adults.

Matches and all flammable materials should, of course, be stored in safe places. Fire is the most destructive of all forms of home accidents, so extreme care should be used with any item or material that can cause or feed a fire.

Rubbish is often overlooked as a fuel for fire, because it is usually out of sight and out of mind. The recommended practice is to keep all rubbish in fireproof galvanized steel garbage cans. These containers have close-fitting covers, so even if their contents should ignite by spontaneous combustion, the resulting fire is confined to a safe area.

Defective electrical appliances and misuse of electricity in the home ranks high on all lists of home hazards. Keep all appliances in good working order and have all wiring done by experts. Even if this rule is followed, electrocution is still possible if common sense isn't used. Using a radio, hair dryer or other electrical appliance while bathing is deadly. If the appliance falls in the water, nothing will save the bather.

Safety is simple, but it requires constant attention. If there is doubt about whether a condition is dangerous, play safe and correct it. There is nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Storage Cans

Supplies left over from last summer's gardening may be conveniently stored in galvanized steel garbage cans. Bags of fertilizer, peat moss, bulbs and seeds are protected from damage by moisture and rodents when kept in the sturdy cans. If more than one storage can is used, mark the contents on the sides of the cans.

Tacks Protect Walls

The smooth heads of tacks, placed inside the two lower corners of picture frames, will protect the wall surface from scratches.

Versatility Is Key To Modern Kitchen Design

Tired of the same old kitchen? Many homemakers, realizing that they spend the majority of their time in the kitchen, are taking steps to make their kitchen a pleasant and comfortable spot to relax and entertain friends in addition to being an efficient place to prepare meals.

Architects and builders currently are incorporating many design features, formerly used only in informal living areas, into modern kitchens to develop a new "personality" for this all-purpose room. Woodgrain paneling, desk and telephone, television, comfortable chairs, and even a cheerful fireplace, now are found in kitchens.

To emphasize this trend in kitchens, many interesting decors can be planned to complement the furnishings and appliances. Paneling in a wide range of colors and patterns makes it easy to create a distinctive and practical decor.

Woodgrain paneling is especially popular because it can be used in modern treatments or to accent an Early American or Colonial theme. Ideal for kitchens where heat and moisture are a problem is Marlite Random Plank, a plastic-surfaced hardboard that can be damp-wiped clean. Like the surface of a range or refrigerator, the baked plastic surface resists dirt, grease and stains.

The paneling's handsome wood-grain is an effective background for almost any type decor, and its warm tones help create an informal atmosphere. Random-width grooves give Marlite planks, which can be used over studs in new construction or furring strips in remodeling, a distinctive vertical line treatment. The planks never require refinishing.

Plastic-surfaced hardboard also is available in a wide range of colors and patterns, making it easy to plan an eye-catching decor.

What Knoty Shop Terms Really Mean!

Sometimes even the most efficient home craftsmen are perplexed by project plans and manufacturers' directions because workshop nomenclature may be difficult to understand.

For instance, when directions require a rabbet cut, they are not referring to a hare, and plumb does not mean a succulent kind of fruit.

The homecraft experts of Thor Power Tool Company's Speed-Way Division have provided definitions for a few of the more common workshop terms:

Rabbet—A grove cut out of the edge or face of a board to receive another board or panel.

Plumb—This usually refers to making materials or objects, such as posts, cabinets, etc., perpendicular to the floor or other horizontal plane.

Miter—A diagonal cut commonly made across a board to form square corners, such as in picture frame making.

Bevel—An angular cut made along the edge or end of a board.

Gain—A notch or recessed area made in doorway molding to insert a hinge or latch.

Tenon—A projecting piece of wood left by cutting away the wood around it; used for making tight joints by inserting the tenon in a mortise or groove in another piece of wood.

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The lower garage walls can be covered to a height of 4' quickly by nailing large panels of $\frac{1}{4}$ " Tempered Preswood over the existing studs. Extremely durable, the hardboard panels will not split, splinter or crack from hard wear or abrasion.

Upper walls can be "put to work" if they are covered with $\frac{1}{4}$ " Peg-Board paneling, which is strong enough to support such heavy items as lawn mowers, wheelbarrows, large ladders and shelves for paint and auto supplies. Heavy-duty fixtures are available with the perforated hardboard at lumber dealers.

Since the fixtures can be slipped in and out of the perforations easily, a garage storage pattern can be changed quickly without marring the paneling.

A workbench with storage cabinets underneath will provide "bonus" storage space in a larger garage.

For a bright and cheery garage, prime and paint the panels.

BRIGHT TIP

Small hand tools are much easier to locate if working in a grassy area, when painted a bright yellow or red.

SQUIRTING GLUE

A baby syringe comes in handy for squirting liquid glue into tight-fitting joints.

"Garage-Patio" Is New Wrinkle In Indoor-Outdoor Summer Living**EATING IN THE GARAGE? IT'S NEW SUMMER FUN**

Summertime is coming and scenes like this one of a merry crowd "cooking out" in a screened garage-patio promise to be popular. This garage was turned into a delightful sheltered summer house with attached screened patio simply by removing the rear wall, installing an overhead door and building an aluminum screen patio enclosure.

Want more room this summer for comfortable play or relaxing at home? Just leave the car outdoors and move the family into the garage!

Hundreds of home owners have converted their garages into screened recreation areas, often with extended screened patios for full indoor-outdoor summer living.

The unique garage-patio idea is not only practical, but is just about the least costly property improvement that permanently adds living area and makes a house more useable during "outdoor living weather."

Converting a garage into a screened summer-house or patio is accomplished by removing the rear wall and installing an overhead door. Individual plans differ from that point on, depending upon each home owner's personal wishes, the terrain, location of the house on the property, and other factors.

Home owners who lack adequate yard space for patio extensions simply have both ends of the garage closed with fitted aluminum frame screen panels with aluminum or fibrous glass screening.

Those with more available room can exploit the garage space to the full by having a screened patio extended from either the front or back—or both—with either a screen panel covering or a solid roof. The size and extent of such patio extensions are governed only by the home owners' individual desires and the lay of the land.

Arrangement can even be made to share a two-car or larger garage with the family car by means of by-passing screen panels at the front that can be pushed aside to permit entry of the auto!

In southern and west coast areas, where outdoor living is year around, garage-patios usually are permanent improvements. Further north, however, home owners often prefer to take down the screen enclosures and store them over the winter months, giving the garage back to the car.

If the screen panels are made with rolled aluminum tubular frames and either aluminum or fibrous glass insect screening, the job of taking them down in the fall, storing them for the winter, and then replacing them in the spring can usually be done quickly and easily by the home owner himself. Thanks to the thinness of the roll-formed frame sections, such panels usually can be stored standing on edge against a wall in the garage itself and with no danger of warping, rusting, or other deterioration.

The Screen Manufacturers Association cautions that a garage conversion is not a handyman's job and that it should be entrusted to a reputable and established aluminum screen fabricator or builder. He will make the necessary ultra-precise measurements, fabricate panels to order, and install them with allowances for such phenomena as the "heaving" or "sinking" of the garage floor due to changing weather conditions, snow loads, and other factors.

Shutters Give House Exterior Decorative Lift

The appearance of many houses is improved by the addition of decorative shutters. These may be built in the home workshop with the assurance that the cost is low and the appearance is architecturally correct.

To obtain the correct proportionate size, measure the windows as you would for screens. Use the height and half the width of this size for each shutter.

Saw the framework from seasoned 1 by 2 inch lumber and nail the pieces together. Now lay the frame on a panel of three-sixteenths inch tempered hardboard. Trace the outline on the hardboard and cut it to size.

Then fasten the frame to the panel with three-quarter inch nails and water-proof glue.

Instead of the smooth-surfaced hardboard, many home owners like one with a pattern such as vertical grooves or stri