

Fix It Yourself—

Coal-Saving Pointers For Wintry Days Ahead: Keep Firebox Full; Use Care In Refueling; Be Sure Drafts Are Effective; Shake Grates Carefully, Shun Force

Fresh Coal Should Be Placed in Front Of Furnace So Gases Will Be Utilized

By HUBBARD COBB, YOUR Handy Man

Here is a wealth of information on the subject of coal—a hard black substance that burns and can also be used for the eyes and nose of snowmen.

Believe it or not, but you'll save fuel by keeping a furnace firepot full rather than adding just a handful of coal every few minutes.

The best size anthracite for a hand fired furnace is stove size but you can use the smaller and—speeding up combustion will save less expensive sizes by mixing them. Money that might otherwise go up the chimney.

Coke requires less draft than anthracite so be sure that all the furnace doors and dampers fit tightly. Keep the firepot full for good results with coke.

When adding bituminous coal, push the burning coals to the rear. The hot coals at the back will go to work on the fresh coal and there will be less soot and smoke.

Don't ever shake a furnace grate violently as you'll probably get a hot spot of glowing coals when large hunk of coal jammed between you add the small coal. These hot grates. Shake a furnace down coals will ignite the gas formed gently and if the grates do jam, from the new coal and aside from use a poker to force out the ob-

struction rather than going after the grates with a sledge hammer.

Vents Will Prevent Moisture on Windows

We have a couple of new additions to our list of people we won't argue with. One is anyone who quotes Boyle's Law, writes three-

until you strike a joist near the squeak.

Another method is to go down to the room below and tap gently on the plaster ceiling. When you get a solid sound you can assume that you've caught a joist. Mark this location and measure to the nearest wall running parallel to the joist. Go up to the floor above and measure out this same distance. The chances are you won't be near the point of the squeak but by adding or subtracting 16 inches you'll be able to land on it.

Once you get the joist the rest is simple. Drive some three-inch finishing nails down through the flooring at a slight angle. Keep your weight on the loose board while nailing so that it really gets back down.

Leaks at Pipe Joints No Longer Necessary

It may come as something of a shock to you to learn that those little drops of water that seep back and forth in the plumbing are not happy. They want out in the worst possible way and sometimes they find this way—at the pipe joints.

The most common method of connecting pipes is by the screw thread joint. If the threads are not cut perfectly, water will be able to work around the threads and out. The best way to stop this is to disconnect the pipes and smear a little pipe compound or dope on the outside threads.

Don't get the compound inside the pipe because it doesn't taste very good.

This compound makes a pretty tight seal and will do the trick unless the threads are in very sorry condition. Another angle is to wrap some string or wicking around the threads along with the compound. The thickness of the pipe is con-

siderably reduced where the threads are cut and so if rust really gets to work inside the pipe this threaded portion near the joint will go first. The only sure cure here is to call a plumber or, remove the length of pipe, take it down to a hardware or plumbing store and have them cut and thread a new length of pipe for you.

Care Adds Years to Life Of Rugs; Those in Home

We know some people who value their living room rug more than they do my neck. There are also some persons who don't value my

neck or their rugs. Somewhere here there must be a happy medium.

If you have one of those slippery rugs you might look into some of those non-slip devices for rugs and carpets on sale at hardware and furniture stores.

Now looking at things from the rug's point of view, there is nothing that will reduce its life expectancy like a nice rough, uneven floor with a few nail heads sticking up here and there. A wise policy is to use some sort of pad under rugs but it will certainly help if you sand down the rough ridges and drive the nail heads down where they can't do any damage.

Leave the leg of a piece of heavy furniture sitting on a rug long enough and it is sure to dent the

nap. You can prevent this by placing a glass cup or some similar device under the leg. The nap, by the way, can be brought back up by placing a damp cloth over it and then running a hot iron over the cloth a few times.

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Creaking Floors Yield To Tape Measure

Anyone who has nothing better to do than follow the meanderings of this column probably knows by now that the way to stop a creaking floor is to drive some nails at the point of the creak down into a floor joist. Now our topic for today is how to locate the floor joist when there is a

The flooring runs at right angles to joists and the joists should be spaced 16 inches from center to center. With this knowledge you may be able to locate a joist by measuring at 16-inch intervals from a wall

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