

Just Remove All The Soot, Ash, Dirt And Rust—Then Coat Metal With Oil And Putting Away The Furnace For This Summer Is Almost Completed

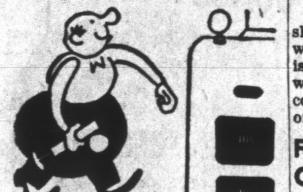
If the Basement Gets Damp, Better Clean The Stove Pipe and Store It in Dry Spot

By HUBBARD COBB, Your Handy Man
There are a lot of people who somewhere have got the impression that cleaning and preparing a heating system for the summer is a dirty and nasty job. How right they are. It is, however, a very easy job because all you have to do is remove all the soot, all the ash, all the dirt and all the rust from all the furnace. Then coat all the metal with oil or grease.

If the basement gets damp during the summer months, take the stove pipe down, give it a good cleaning and store it in a dry place. If you have a dry basement, just give it a good cleaning and oiling.

Start cleaning the furnace from the top and work down.

In this way any dirt or soot that doesn't get out will fall down into the ash pit. Be sure to get all the dust and fly ash off the heating surfaces.



If you have a home repair problem, write a letter to Mr. Cobb, care of The Indianapolis Times. If your question is of general interest, an answer to it will appear in a forthcoming column on The Times Home Page.

flush out the boiler at this time because the water in it has been heated and will cause less rusting than fresh water.

If you feel that the boiler should have a good cleaning—wait until next fall just before it is put into operation. A hot water heating system should be completely filled with water but only fill the boiler on a steam job.

**Find Out Cause
Of Household Odor**

It seems that everyone does not have the same sense of smell and what may smell good to your nose may smell horrid to someone else.

We have always enjoyed the fragrance of crisp hundred dollar bills and prime ribs of beef but that's neither here nor there. Anyway, there are a lot of strong aromas that crop up

the air in your home (get this one) "Flower Garden Sweet".

Science has provided us with exhaust fans and deodorizers.

Exhaust fans are fine for poorly

ventilated bathrooms and kitchens and will not only keep the air fresh but also cool in summer or winter. You can get deodorants in bottles that will take care of any number of unpleasant smells from sauerkraut to fresh paint.

But before you start removing an odor, it's a good idea to find out what is causing it. A strange smell in the basement may be due to a backed up sewer line or a crack in the sewer pipe that is allowing sewer gas to get out.

The sudden arrival of an oil smell may indicate a leak in the burner fuel tank, oil line or the burner pump. A smell of coal gas means a dangerous leak either in the furnace, stove pipe or chimney and should be attended to but fast.

**Short Questions—
Snappy Answers**

Here is our special executive's

these are found unpleasant by all concerned.

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columns—the only column designed especially for busy important people who can't waste a lot of their valuable time fooling around with unnecessary adjectives and adverbs.

Question: What is the cause of shellac not getting hard?

Answer: Chances are that it either was not pure shellac or that it sat around too long on the shelf. When buying shellac be sure to get what is called a "four pound cut."

Question: What can be done to prevent cement mortar from setting before it is used?

Answer: You can keep mortar

so if you have pigeon trouble—go at once to your nearest toy store—unless of course you like toy snakes even less than pigeons.

If the wood has been finished with varnish over the stain you can use the "let sleeping dogs lie" theory in dealing with this problem. Just give the varnish a light sanding to cut the gloss and paint right over it. The idea here is that the varnish will act as a seal and keep the nasty stain down where it belongs.

Now if there is no varnish over the stain or it is in such horrible condition that it must be removed, give the wood a coat of shellac or aluminum paint. Either of these will usually do the job of keeping the stain away from the paint.

In any case, as this entire business is on the tricky side, it's a good idea to wait a spell after the first coat of paint has been applied to see what develops—if at all. If the first coat of paint gets by then you won't have any trouble with the following coats.

**Destroy Wasps Nests
in Cold Weather**

This hodge-podge of information was prompted by a letter asking us what the best time of year is to destroy wasps nests in the attic. Well, unless you like plenty of real sure-fire action, we suggest a nice cool night and the cooler the better. The wasps will be sleeping and probably won't care what you do with them or their nest. If they get interested, a squirt with a DDT bomb should quiet them down.

And while we are on the subject of wild fire, now is the time to discourage birds from building their nests where you don't want them. It may seem pretty cruel to go around destroying half-built birds' nests, but that's what you'll have to work out between yourself and the birds. After all, you got there first.

Speaking of birds, you probably remember reading not so long ago about how toy snakes can be used to discourage pigeons from using house roofs as landing fields. The toy snakes sitting on the roof really seem to work.

**Bleeding Stains Can
Be Very Annoying**

We have a rather weak stomach and usually faint at the mere mention of blood and so it's going to be pretty much nip and/or not.

The problem of bleeding stains comes up when you paint over a piece of wood that has been previously finished with certain types of stain. After the paint is on the stain gets the happy notion it wants to come up and see what's going on. By the time the stain has finished with the paint you

will be pretty much nip and/or not.

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