

Michigan's Most Unusual Hardware Store

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Do it yourself...with help

"From now on I'll take care of the repairs myself." Who hasn't said it, and meant it, a hundred times? Especially after a repairman's bill that bent the budget, or an agonizing wait for a repairman to become available, or the nagging feeling that the job wasn't really all that difficult to do. But then, when it happens—Henry, the shelf in the basement

just came loose and the jars are sliding off. Sure enough. And among the debris are bits of concrete block pulled out. Not only is the support area for the shelf gone, but it's an open invitation for moisture to come in.

WHAT TO DO? The amateur handyman may think of several practical remedies, but not all of them will really work.

A wedge or plug of wood? Maybe of some value, but it wouldn't solve the moisture problem.

A flat plate of wood glued to the wall? Lots of work, not too good looking, and probably not too strong. Quick-setting hydraulic cement? Now you're talking, Henry. A quick trip to the hardware store, read the instructions, mold the cement into a carrot shape or a ball and press it into the hole.

Certainly will be as moisture-proof as before, and may well hold the shelves as well. Might be worth checking to see if more or stronger anchors aren't a good idea, too. Henry's learning fast, and so must every amateur handyman, for common sense can guide you only so far in solving most home maintenance problems. After that you need to know what you're doing.

That knowledge is not hard to obtain. Among standard all-inclusive "do-it-yourself" texts are "The Reader's Digest Complete Do-It-Yourself Manual," and "Time-Life Books' How Things Work in Your Home (And What To Do When They Don't)." If you don't own them, they're available at the public library.

Once you've acquired a modest "how-to" library and a small arsenal of the most frequently needed tools, you'll need to lay in a supply of home repair materials that will most likely be needed to handle those unforeseen emergencies. Supplies that should be in everyone's "survival kit" are these:

Fillers and patchers—Putty, wood filler, caulking and grouting materials, liquid rubber and metallic compounds. These are used for filling openings that shouldn't be there, like the hole in Henry's wall, or spaces between the bathtub and the tile, or gaps between floorboards, to keep them from moving and squeaking, or splits in siding, or minor roofing leaks.

Adhesives—In addition to general purpose adhesives, there are special adhesives for paper, cloth, wood, plastic, glass or ceramics, metal and other materials. It's important that you know which one to use, and how to use it. Not every adhesive job should be clamped, for example. Most manufacturers publish charts or

other guides, which will save much grief. It saves money, too, by the right adhesive, even if you don't use it all on the job for which you get it.

Coatings—Paint, stains, varnishes. If your fringing leaves a scar, paint it. Paint conceals a multitude of sins. Again, it's important to choose the right finish.

Abrasives—Basic to most maintenance and repair jobs, abrasives are used to remove stains, varnishes, and rust from wood or metal surfaces before painting them, to eliminate pits from electrical contact points to revive appliances that won't start, to grind to a straight edge the wood that you cut with a non-professional skill, and much more. Industry and commerce use abrasives for such diverse jobs as improving the appearance of eggs and shaping giant steel forgings. There's even a special abrasive material made for skin care.

Sandpaper is the most commonly used home abrasive, and comes in a wide selection of "grits" for just about any of the jobs described. The sophisticated home handy person will want to investigate the many power tools designed to accommodate abrasive wheels, belts, discs and sheets, to plane, grind, finish, rub and polish, level, smooth, shape and shape. All of these products make the home handyman's job easier. But the first rule to observe, according to 3M Co., a leading manufacturer of many helpful products is to "go easy" and know your limitations. "If you're just beginning to solve," says 3M, "keep the easier jobs for yourself and move up the ladder as you learn. Leave the tougher jobs for the pros until you're sure you can handle them."

The max always be a certain level of job you'll never be confident enough to tackle yourself, but even so you can save a lot of money and frustration on the others.

525 SURVIVAL KIT

A homeowner's "survival kit," which represents an investment in the neighborhood of \$25, should include the following tools:

12 foot, 1/2 inch metal tape measure
Phillips head screw driver
three-inch screw driver with 1/4 blade
four or six-inch screw driver with 1/2 blade
locking plier wrench
wood saw
hammer
replaceable-blade utility knife and set of blades
circular hand drill and set of bits
putty knife
mason's trowel
oil can with bent spout
small utility saw
small collection of nails, brads, screws, nuts, bolts



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Council honors Rotary for park

The Livonia Rotary Club was publicly honored by the City Council Wednesday for its work in developing Rotary Park for the community.

The council resolution said Rotarians have volunteered many hours to clear the park of brush, scrub trees and debris, paid for improvements, such as fencing and lighting and the construction of a pavilion for picnicking.

The 300-acre park is on the north side of Six Mile near Hubbard.

The council said the untiring efforts of the Rotary Club have made this park site one of the most attractive in the city and all of the residents of the city may now reap the rewards of the physical and financial assistance of the club.

The club was also cited for its vital contribution to the recreational enrichment of this city.

The formal resolution, signed by all councilmen, was presented to four club officers and leaders.

Artist is honored

John Kaloustian of Livonia has been named artist of the month of July by the Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL).

Kaloustian is a student of industrial design at the Center for Creative Studies and he has studied life drawing with Ben Glicker.

He has worked in acrylics, watercolors, pen-and-ink, charcoal and pastels and has exhibited paintings at the Livonia Mall.

Aloha to Courtney

Army Pvt. David Courtney of Livonia is assigned to the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Courtney is the son of Mrs. Dora L. Courtney, 1925 Parkville, Livonia. He is a communications specialist with the headquarters battery at the 25th Infantry Division artillery.

His wife, Denise, is with him in Hawaii. The private's father, Paul L. Courtney, lives at 17382 Warwick, Detroit.

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