

Do it yourself... with a little 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. That knowledge is not hard to ob-

tain. 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 attempted, for example. Most manufacturers publish charts or other guides, which will save much

grief. It saves money to buy the right adhesive, even if you don't use it all up on the job for which you get it.

Coatings—Paint, stains, varnishes. If your fixing 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, tarnishes, 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 shine. 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.

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BUSINESS PEOPLE

ROBERT J. VANDEGRIFT of West Bloomfield has been appointed general manager—audio products division of Macnet Video Corp. in Farmington. Vandegrift had been marketing manager.

DUANE F. MURPHY of Southfield has joined the sales department of Michigan Seamless Tube Co. as corporate marketing director. He had been marketing services director with Federal Mfg.

DANIEL P. O'CONNELL of 5301 Babat Drive, Troy, has been elected treasurer of The Michigan Chapter of Producers' Council, Producers' Council is a National Association of Quality Building Product Manufacturers. Mr. O'Connell is a Sales Engineer with the Johns-Manville Corp.

EDWARD HINES of Bloomfield Hills has been named assistant vice-president and manager of quality assurance for Detroit Edison Co.

Hines joined Edison in 1957.

STEPHEN M. YODER of Troy has been named a sales manager at the Detroit Plaza Hotel in the Renaissance Hotel. Yoder joined Western International Hotels in 1972 as a sales manager with the company's regional sales office in Chicago.

JOSEPH A. GETZ of Birmingham has been elected to the board of directors of Schuler Industries. Getz joined Schuler as director of marketing in 1971.

CHARLES E. WOOD of Birmingham has been promoted to second vice-president at Manufacturers National Bank. Wood, president of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, joined Manufacturers in 1967.

PHILIP BAHR of West Bloomfield has been appointed grocery product manager at Vitas Foods, Inc. Bahr had been with Scott Paper Co. for seven years.

VICTOR KOCH of Troy moved here from Dean Witter & Co.'s San Francisco headquarters to the firm's Southfield office. Koch is marketing vice-president for the large investment firm.

WILLIAM J. HARRISON of Birmingham has been appointed vice-president—manager of the Midland Market Newspapers, Inc. Detroit office. Harrison had been with the firm's New York sales staff for seven years.

LOUIS W. CAMP of West Bloomfield has been appointed agricultural product planning manager for Ford Tractor Operations. Camp joined Ford in 1963.

DOUGLAS R. BABCOCK of Birmingham has been named general manager of brewing, packaging and feeds with the Stroh Brewery Co. Babcock joined Stroh in 1969 and has been serving as master brewer since 1970.

JOHN S. IVEY of Bloomfield Hills has been promoted to the new position of director of product planning for the Troy-based Transportation Equipment Group of Borg-Warner Corp. Ivey had been director of technical development at the group's product development center since 1972.

W. SHACKFORD "SHACK" BROWN of Birmingham has joined D'Arcy-MacManus & Masius Advertising in Bloomfield Hills as an account executive. Brown had been an advertising supervisor with the Uniroyal Tire Division of Uniroyal Ltd. in Toronto.

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