

You can rejuvenate that old tub easily

By Janice Brunson
staff writer

WHAT IF YOU wanted a bathtub colored cardinal red? Or a kitchen sink in a blueberry hue? What if someone accidentally shot a bullet hole into your new bathtub, or purposely threw a bowling ball into it, creating a huge dent? What would you do?

Some homeowners facing these questions have found their answer at Mid-West Perma Ceram Inc., a family-owned business started three years ago by the William Priestley clan in Westland.

For any homeowner wanting a color change, needing resurfacing repairs or just plain wanting to spruce up old and worn tubs, sinks, kitchen appliances or tile anywhere in the home, Mid-West Perma Ceram Inc. is also the place for you.

THE COMPANY is the distributor for porcelaincote, a substance with the same molecular construction as porcelain. An application of it can make repairs and add luster to appliances, bathroom fixtures, bathtub and shower stalls.

And according to Bruce Priestley, son of William and general manager of the business, costs are reduced substantially with a minimum of fuss. It takes approximately four hours to refinish a bathtub and two full days of non-use. But in the end, the bathtub is like new, according to the younger Priestley.

The process is relatively simple. It involves planning the lines to be resurfaced

etching it, sanding and patching if necessary, caulking when appropriate and spraying on the porcelaincote with a compressor.

"TO COAT A standard-sized bathtub in white costs \$250, for color \$270," Priestley said. "To replace it with a good quality tub would cost a minimum of \$500 and if the tub is old, it's probably of better quality anyway."

Priestley points out, however, that this is not the case for all fixtures. He discourages resurfacing toilets and he feels bathroom sinks are cheaper to replace than treat, providing they are a standard size. But certain sizes are no longer manufactured, particularly those in older homes, and refinishing them is the only solution for restoration aside from a major remodeling job.

The process is also effective on new items when a color change is desired. Priestley cites the example of a brand new home in Birmingham where a chocolate brown bathtub, shower stall, sink and tile were transformed to bone color.

AN ADDED BONUS of porcelaincote, a process patented a decade ago, is its scaling quality when applied to tiles.

"The grout, as well as the tiles, are sealed," says Priestley, "making it far easier to clean. The grout never develops mold or mildew." The process costs about \$5 a square foot, less for larger areas.

Additional costs include \$150 for a stone

standard-size stove, washer or dryer and \$200 for a standard-size refrigerator. All work carries a five-year guarantee.

"What sells our product," said Priest,

That is why family members involved in the business spend most weekends in the Westland Mall, talking to people and

Fabrics set
So much of the beauty, excitement and attraction of upholstered furniture comes from the varied fabrics that establish enjoyable moods.

Knowing about the wonderful world of fabrics can be helpful if you are thinking about buying a sofa, loveseat or comfortable chair.

A significant part of the cost of upholstered furniture can be attributed to the quality of the cover. Keep this in mind.

FOR INSTANCE, a sofa in a living room might be used differently than one in a family room. But lifestyle is only one factor; also consider the fabric's construction, children, pets, entertainment and sunlight.

showing them range tops and bathtubs that have been resurfaced with porcelain-cote. In addition to Bruce and his father, William, there is his mother, Alice, and two brothers-in-law, Alan Carpenter and Dale Frederick.

Mid-West Perma Ceram Inc. is at 34767
Ford Road, Westland.

ent — and even more so if pets are around — the fabric should be more durable. Within this environment, you can expect that the fabric will come into contact with

Being prepared for them can influence the fabric you choose for your upholstered furniture. New generations of synthetic

Some fabrics blend natural and synthetic

BE A WISE buyer and read all labels, which are required by law to be sewn on all upholstery. All fibers will be listed in a descending order of content. This means the fiber listed first is used in the greatest

RICK SMITH/Staff photographer

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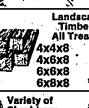
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