


Nails versus screws

One of the toughest choices that not-so-talented do-it-yourselfers must make is whether to use nails or screws when making repairs.

According to "Shelves and Cabinets" from Time-Life, nails are the most common fasteners. They are quick, easy and inexpensive. When reinforced with glue, nails offer adequate strength for cabinets and shelving units.


Although they cost more, screws have better holding power than nails. They take more time to install, but should be used when a permanent structure that you may wish to disassemble in the future is needed. Screws also work well holding together a structure that you may wish to disassemble in the future.

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Find more storage space

**By Reader's Digest Books For AP Special Features**

If you are a typical homeowner, you probably are forever trying to find more storage space for an increasing number of possessions.

The first step to making more space is to throw out those things that you never or rarely use. After that, you can look for nooks and crannies that, with a bit of ingenuity, can accommodate items you keep.

Here are some tips:

**In The Attic**

Short on closet space? Install a wooden rod or metal pipe between rafters for hanging out-of-season clothing in garment bags. Use pipe straps or pipe clamps to secure the rod to the rafters.

Make shelves under eaves. Use 2-by-3s to support the shelves. Run 2-by-3 uprights vertically between the rafters and the joists or floor. Then run 2-by-3 supports horizontally from the uprights to the rafters. Cut three-quarters-inch plywood to size for the shelves.

**Under the stairs**

Build a roll-out bin, a simple plywood box on casters to fit under the front edge of a stairway. To cut out the front and back of the bin, trace the slope of the stairway on a piece of cardboard and use it as a pattern for marking three-quarters-inch plywood. Assemble it with drywall screws and carpenter's glue. Reinforce all the interior corners with three-quarters-inch molding.

You can also fill the space under stairs with shelves. Support the shelves at the stair ends with stepped vertical pieces. Use the space behind the shelves as a closet.

Where there are closets under stairways, install a small shelf under each step for storing small articles.

**New bathroom storage**

Install a shelf just above the sink. It will give you a handy, dry place for cosmetics and toiletries. Place it high enough so it doesn't interfere with turning the water on and off.

Fill unused space around a toilet with combination shelves and towel bars in a ladder arrangement. Leave

space above the tank to take the top off.

**Your child's storage**


Most young children have trouble putting away toys. Your toddler will clean up with less fuss if you provide roomy catchall storage bins. For quick, inexpensive bins, cover cardboard boxes with stick-on paper. To encourage neatness, label the boxes with pictures of what's supposed to go into them. Replace them when they become tattered. As your child gets older, keep playthings on shelves; they permit a toy to be found without rummaging.

To put your child's clothes within reach, add a second, lower rod in the closet. Install 1-by-4 cleats on either side of the closet and mount sockets for a new clothes rod on them. Or simply suspend the rod on chains from the higher rod. Use the upper rod for out-of-season wear.

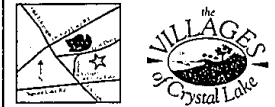
**More closet space**

Use the same idea in one section of your own closet. Install two rods, one 3 to 4 feet above the other.

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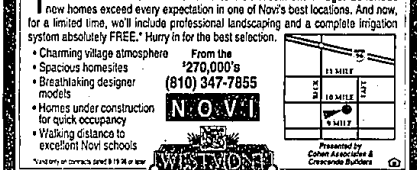
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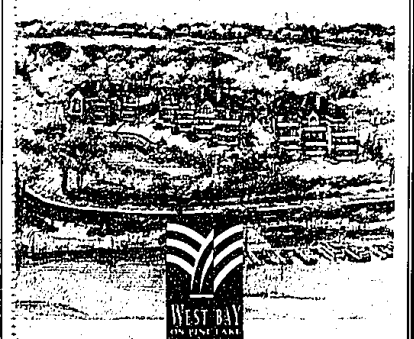
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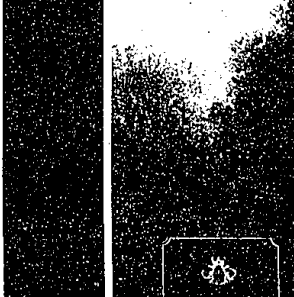
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