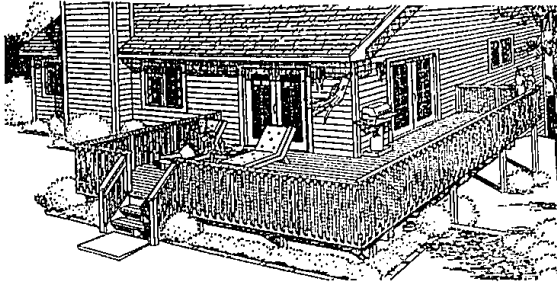


The Weekly Do-It-Yourselfer



corner deck

A popular addition to any home, this easy corner deck comes with the option of eight different sizes. One size is sure to be just what you are looking for. Two complete sets of the plans are included: one for you or your builder and one for the building department. Plans include clearly labeled, detailed drawings along with full framing instructions. Illustrations

are drawn three dimensionally with full elevations and cross sectional diagrams. Step-by-step comprehensive instructions are included to aid you in construction. A full materials list will make your trip to a local lumberyard for building materials another easy step toward the completion of your new project.

☐ Send me the Project Plan #90014 Construction Package (ready-to-build blueprints). Includes 2 prints and complete materials list . . . \$17.40.

☐ Send me Garlinghouse Project Plan Information Package (3 brochures featuring complete line of 53 project plans including decks, garages, room additions, gazebos and much more . . . \$3.50)

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Drain off standing water

BY READER'S DIGEST BOOKS
FOR AP SPECIAL FEATURES

If large puddles of water remain around your home after a hard rain, water may leak into your basement. One solution is to connect your house's main downspout to a dry well — a below-surface basin that collects run-off water and allows it to drain into the soil.

Constructing a dry well is straightforward, although it requires some digging. Before you undertake the project, see if you can solve your problem by sloping the ground around your house away from the foundation. Also, you may be able to connect your gutters to a storm sewer or a drainage ditch.

To keep a dry well from contributing to your basement wetness problem, locate it at least 20 feet from foundation walls and make sure the top is lower than the ground surface

around the house.

An easy way to build a dry well is with a 55-gallon drum. Have the ends cut off or cut them off yourself with a hammer and cold chisel. Also cut a hole in the top of one side to accept a drainage pipe and punch a few dozen holes in the sides to permit water seepage.

Make the holes between one-half-inch and 1-inch in diameter. Bury the drum in a hole 5 to 10 feet deep so that the top is at least 18 inches below the surface, fill it with rocks, broken concrete blocks and other coarse rubble. Cover the well with sturdy planks, treated to resist rot, or a concrete slab to keep out dirt. Pack dirt tightly around all sides.

Instead of a drum, you also can create the sides of a dry well with concrete blocks. Lay the blocks on their sides and separate them a few inches at the joints to form a hollow square in the center. Leave an inlet opening

near the top. The central opening of the well should be 16 to 36 square feet in area — that's about 4 to 6 feet on a side. As with a drum, fill the well's central opening with rubble, cover the top with treated planks or a slab and bury it.

Rather than construct a dry well, you can install or have installed commercially available cast concrete dry-well units.

If you're connecting the dry well to the house gutters, the downspouts into which they feed should be connected to a main downspout. That downspout should feed into the dry well.

Dig a trench from the downspout to the dry well and install drainage pipes or tiles. Locate them about 1 foot below the surface, sloping them downward toward the well about 1 inch for each foot of the trench's length as it runs away from the house.

Take a look at these products

Everyone wants his home to be an attractive and healthy haven for entertaining and relaxing. For a '90s home, brightening a room and protecting the health of your family and friends are high on the must-do list. Here are some tips on designing your own flower arrangements, perking up a tedious chore, getting a better night's sleep, preparing for a medical emergency — and it's all easier than you think.

Flower arranging

Who doesn't love flowers? Now even the florally challenged can create professional-quality arrangements with Flower Genie — the amateur's tool to floral design. Using a paint by numbers approach, Flower Genie comes complete with the specially designed, reusable Flower Genie crown, four pattern blueprints and foam to get you started. Just cut some flowers from your yard or buy a few, inexpensive flowers. Insert the flower stems into the numbered holes on the crown according to each

blueprint. Users can create an endless array of floral designs by varying the size and shape of containers and flowers and choosing different arrangement patterns. (Flower Genie is available by sending a check or money order for \$19.95 plus \$4.95 for shipping and handling to N.E. Good Idea, Inc., One Oakbrook Terrace, Suite 004, Oakbrook, IL 60181. Illinois residents add 6.75% sales tax.)

Fashionable ironing

Ironing doesn't always have to be ugly. Turn your ironing board into a fashion statement with ironing board covers and pads from Seymour Housewares. An attractive cover makes this tedious job a little more pleasant. Coordinate covers with your decor or mark each season with a suitable seasonal cover. Pads and covers are available in a variety of finishes, including 3M Scotchgard protective coating, Teflon for scorch protection, Color-Cote for durability and Seymour's own exclusive Ironslide for easy-glide, worry-free ironing. (Suggest-

ed retail prices range from \$6.99 to \$14.99; available at major retailers nationwide.)

Healthy bed

No more aches and pain in the morning. Sleep better on a latex foam mattress or mattress topper. Conforming to the natural contours of the human body, latex foam eliminates pressure points which inhibit circulation and cause muscle aches. This results in interrupted sleep and lots of tossing and turning. Scientific studies have proven that the average sleeper tosses and turns 100-200 times on a traditional inner-spring mattress, but a latex sleeper tosses and turns an average of only 15 times per night. Perfect for allergy sufferers, latex is inherently anti-bacterial, anti-microbial and three times more resistant to dust mites than traditional mattresses. Mattresses are available in a variety of styles, sizes and prices. (Mattress toppers range from \$54.99 to \$129.99. For more information call 800-LATEX-US. See <http://www.latexfoam.com>

Sunrooms let you relax

Stress is an unwanted and potentially harmful guest in our lives. Most Americans are looking for a relaxing retreat from the pressure. Sunrooms rejuvenate homeowners by offering an environment full of natural light, an open-air feeling, and a terrific view of the outdoors.

According to Health ResponseAbility Systems, Inc., when stress is frequent it creates wear and tear on the mind and body.

Sunrooms create a unique and refreshing environment in the home for those looking for a retreat. In fact, relaxation is the number one reason homeowners add a sunroom, reported by 56 percent of respondents in a national survey by Patio Enclosures, Inc., the nation's largest manufacturer and installer of sunrooms.

"Our customers say that they never imagined how

often they would use their sunrooms. They do everything from eating breakfast to paying bills in the enclosure because they feel that the stress is lifted off their shoulders the minute they enter the room," says Rick Jones, president of Patio Enclosures, Inc.

The attraction to the sunroom environment can be explained due to the fact that natural light is essential to our mental well-being. Studies show that sunlight can actually alter our moods, improve our health and increase our energy levels. Sunlight has proven to increase our energy levels as much as 24 percent, according to Current Health magazine.

"Sunrooms are an open and sunny retreat designed to put you in a good mood," says Jones. "Our customers find that they are drawn to their sunroom because they

feel happier and more energetic when they are in a glass room full of light."

Sunrooms are becoming one of the most popular additions to the family home. Fifty-one percent of today's home buyers identified a sunroom as a most desirable design element in the home, according to a 1997 study by The National Associations of Home Builders.

Whether you are reading a book, napping in nature, or enjoying a romantic dinner, a sunroom can be an essential aide to helping you "tune out," decreasing stress and increasing relaxation in your life.

For a free booklet about sunroom types, and how to choose a sunroom contractor, call Patio Enclosures, Inc. at 800-480-1966. Or write Patio Enclosures, Inc., Free Booklet, P.O. Box 186, Macedonia, Ohio, 44055.

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