

let's remodel

# Plan plastic walls when remodeling

**Q:** We are preparing to remodel out laundry room, foyer and basement. Much of the work will be done near our great room and kitchen area and I am concerned about dust, especially since we will be doing lots of drywall. Do you have any suggestions for keeping the mess to a minimum, since we will have to continue living there during the week.

**A:** Although it is a great idea to plan time away from the home during large remodeling projects, such as a vacation, it is not always possible. We are also used to our home being our escape from the world, and tensions can mount when our living space is disrupted, even if we did choose to remodel.

You may want to begin by using plastic to create some walls which will limit the area where the dust will be concentrated. Use plastic to cover your belongings, especially electronics. Be sure to remove all small items such as decorative accessories and put them in an area away from the remodeling.

Again, the kitchen area can also be

closed off with a plastic wall, but there will still be some dust in the area which you may want to wipe down each day. Often times, the electricity will be off if there is any rewiring being done. Talk to your contractor about this and have him let you know if you will be without the use of appliances or lighting in the kitchen.

The other biggest concern is covering and closing furnace or air vents. If you are having work done in the basement, try to create a protective wall which protects the furnace. You can have air conditioning filters put on the ducts. Your contractor should be able to help you with this.

Keep in mind your own expectations of how quickly you want the job done and what the realistic time frames are. You may want to try to make this more of an adventure for your family to keep the attitudes positive. Plan on eating out during the dirtier parts of the work and, if your main living area is now closed off, make plans to do things when all of you are usually home. It might be a

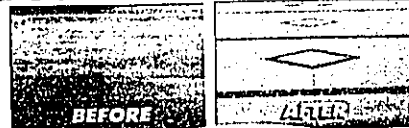
good time to visit the library and see friends!

For your home improvement questions contact the NARI-Michigan Remodeling Association at 248-478-

8215. The NARI-MRA is the local chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. Members include professional contractors, manufacturers, wholesalers, consultants and lenders.

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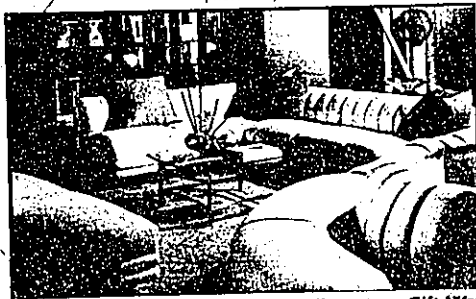
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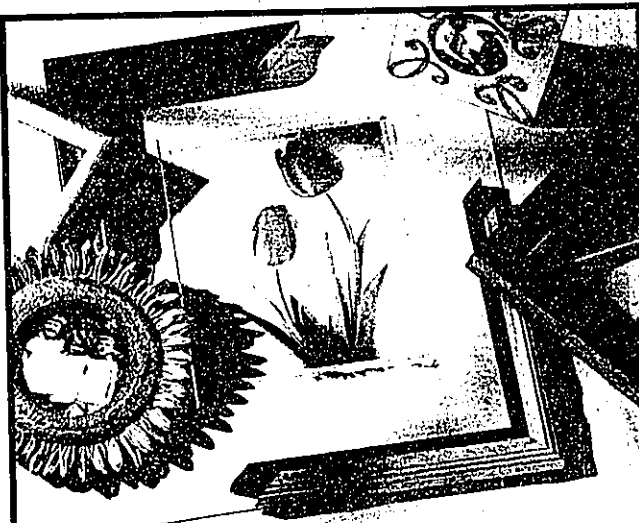
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