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Ways Given to Curb Nuisances; Noises That Threaten the Home

There's a new bogeyman menacing the modern home. It's called sound pollution by technical-minded folk. To most people, however, it's simply a labeled noise.

Studies conducted recently indicate that residential noise has become a serious problem, causing tension and fatigue in adults and children alike. Some psychologists even suspect noise as a possible cause of ulcers in children since noise produces what is known as a fear reaction.

There's not much a homeowner can do to prevent the noise that originates outside his house, but there is a good chance to correct noise-producing situations inside the home. Most household noise is caused, unfortunately, by modern home equipment—the dishwasher, garbage disposer, range fan, washing machine, dryer, air conditioners and air cleaners, water pipes—even the furnace.

Get all these things together and add to it the exuberant sounds of children at play, the hi fi, and the weekend football game on TV, and you have produced a high enough noise level, quite literally, to drive anyone out of his mind.

When building a house, it's possible to design with sound conditioning in mind, adding sound-deadening material to

stud walls especially in interior partitions, and positioning noisy equipment in such a manner that it should be quiet and restful rooms. Plumbing equipment can be engineered and positioned for quiet on outside rooms rather than against room partitions. Equipment like dishwashers and dryers can be installed in such a manner that vibration is lessened or eliminated—and the worst noise with it. The new plan can be executed in favor of a floor plan that puts a good, solid wall between rooms.

In an existing home, several things are possible. First, seal off rooms with solid doors that fit snugly, adding a flap of

weather-stripping at the bottom, if necessary, to make the door sound-seal effective. In bedrooms, arrange closets on connecting walls so that clothing will form a sound barrier from one room to another. Use louvered closet doors; they reduce sound transmission. Carpet floors wherever possible, especially hallways, stair treads and upstairs rooms, and use draperies in noisy areas like family room and kitchen to help absorb sound.

Books also do a fine job of absorbing and breaking up sound waves. If kitchen and living room back up to each other, make that connecting wall a book wall, floor to ceiling if possible.

Use textured materials for wall treatments in the quiet zone—living room, dining room, library and bedrooms. A current favorite is rough-sawn lumber paneling in the western woods like Douglas fir, western red cedar, ponderosa and sugar pine.

Such wall treatments are elegant, relatively low in cost, and hard-wearing. Some architects also recommend use of beveled siding boards, installed vertically, for wall treatments since the pattern helps to break up sound waves.

Install lumber paneling over existing walls, if possible, to gain another layer of thickness that will increase the wall's effectiveness as a sound barrier between rooms.

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How to Extend Life Of A Garbage Can

Overloading is the chief cause for the poor condition of so many garbage cans in home use. That's the opinion of health officials and refuse-removal experts who contend that the useful life of a galvanized steel garbage can could be extended by almost 50 per cent if it were not abused through overloading.

Excessive and consistent overloading of a garbage can does not damage the can in itself. However, when you force 30 gallons of trash into a 20-gallon can, the refuse collector has to bang the can against the truck in order to loosen tightly packed garbage.

Events, the cover or the can itself is bent and it becomes exceedingly difficult to keep the cover in place.

That's the opinion of health officials who recommend strongly that all garbage and refuse be stored in galvanized steel cans which are both rust-proof and rodent-proof. However, the health officials point out, the cans must be equipped with close-fitting covers and kept covered at all times.

A coverless garbage container has no sanitary value. It can still be used for the storage of paper or non-food items, but

not for anything that has had contact with food. The presence of food tins, bottles and wrappers in an uncovered refuse container is certain to attract flies and rats and to threaten the health and well-being of the residents in the area.

Meter Aids In Saving City Water

A small bronze instrument in nearly every home is playing a major role in water conservation—a current topic on the parched lips of nearly every American.

It's the water meter, a device to which no one consciously gives much thought, until perhaps the meter reader comes around or a city water bill is received. However, meters have proved to be substantial water conservers, a fact especially noticed in those areas such as the Northeast, which is in its fourth year of drought.

"It has been estimated that metered cities average a 30 per cent water saving," William C. Flanders, president of Cram-Calkins Meter Division of Worthington Corporation, points out.

"Meters, besides being an equitable means of allocating a city's water costs, subconsciously make people save water. Faucets are not left open, leaky faucets are repaired and the lawn sprinkler is not left running all day," said Flanders, a 40-year veteran of the water industry.

Also checks by meter readers can quickly point out unnoticed leaks in pipes and mains which can waste large amounts of water if unchecked. For example, a leak through just a 1/8 inch hole under 40 pounds of pressure amounts to a water loss of 5000 gallons a day.

"Conservation of water is probably the greatest single achievement of the meter industry," he added.

Manuel On Rust Available

When Old Man Rust gets the upper hand, the result can strike at the pocketbook, according to a survey of realty firms just released by the Rust-Oleum Corporation.

The report indicates that the average home may suffer as much as a seven per cent lower resale price where unsightly rust has gone to work.

Chief targets in the nine point rust attack on the home are gutters and downspouts, porch railing, steel sash, metal fences, patio furniture, pipes and fittings, air conditioners, children's swing sets, and outdoor light fixtures.

Now is the time to undo damage by stopping rust, the company advises.

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