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Make Everything Clean and Smooth

Ready Wall Surface Before Painting

Make it clean, make it smooth and make it dry. Before you paint interior walls make certain the surfaces are properly prepared and neither labor nor materials will be wasted.

Surface preparation is as important indoors as out. Outdoors durability is the most important consideration.

Indoors, walls will not be subjected to wind and weather but they will be subjected to closer scrutiny and streaks and dry cracks will mar appearance.

Therefore care and neatness are needed, as well as thoroughness.

The surface must be clean. Putting paint over a coating of dirt is useless. In a matter of time it will crack and peel.

Remember that in order for paint to adhere properly it must penetrate the surface.

An ideal cleaning compound is trisodium phosphate. It cleans off dirt, cuts grease and does not leave a soapy film.

Paint stores carry it by its proper name but you can find it in grocery stores, under a variety of trade names, among cleaning compounds.

Just check the package for the list of ingredients.

Another advantage of this cleaner is that it will dull

glossy paint, a necessary job to give the new paint a grip on the old.

Don't make the solution too strong or it will soften the paint. Be certain to rinse thoroughly.

Plastered surfaces should be inspected for cracks and

chipped spots. Patch with spackling compound, sand smooth and spot prime.

New plaster is alkaline due to the lime that is in it. If you plan to use an oil paint you must neutralize this alkaline condition first.

Brush on a solution of one pound of zinc sulphate to a gallon of water. Allow to dry for several days.

Should you, or should you not, paint over wallpaper? Conditions will differ. Generally, loose or heavy wallpaper should be removed.

Wallpaper with lapped joints should be removed because the ridges will show. If the wallpaper is sound and there are no ridges then you may paint over it.

Before you paint over the paper, test it to make certain that the ink or dye in it will not bleed through. Try a little of the paint in some inconspicuous corner.

If it bleeds but you still wish to paint over the wallpaper you will have to seal it with several thin coats of shellac.

Loose paint should be removed and the area sanded and primed. Sand the edges so they do not show through.

Apply several thin coats of paint to these spots before the general painting so they will be as high as the surrounding surface.

Glossy surfaces should be dulled with a strong cleaning solution or by sanding. Wipe thoroughly afterward to remove the dust.

If your walls are of wall-

board, make sure that all joints are properly taped, filled and sanded.

Spackle over any nailheads that show, and sand.

Woodwork should be sanded smooth and clean. If the wood is new, seal knots with shellac before painting.

Paint in a well-ventilated room. Remove as much furniture as possible.

Cover everything with drop-

cloths and use plenty of masking tape to protect surrounding surfaces.

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Observer
HOME IMPROVEMENT
Do-It-Yourself • Decorating • Remodeling
Wednesday, May 4, 1966 Page ★ 5-B

Annual Home Checkups Are Big Item Today

Paint-up, floor-up, clean-up time again looms large on homeowners' agendas. Many may be found making notes on what points in and around the house should receive a check-up for annual care.

Authorities on the subject list areas in which homes most likely require attention. Careful, over-all inspection should be a matter of policy.

FOUNDATIONS may show cracks as a result of a year's weather damage, especially through ground holes at the foundation line. Masonry cracks are best filled with a pitch-based waterproofing cement.

The ground holes should be filled with sand or gravel and topped with soil or sod, as protection against future rain and more cracks in the foundations.

SIDING should be scrutinized for peeling paint, splintering, and general decay. A complete re-siding job may be indicated. In some cases, however, alternatives of re-painting, touch-up painting, and replacement of damaged portions of siding will be adequate.

ROOFING inspection may show loose or warped panels or shingles, which should be replaced or re-nailed.

CHIMNEY mortar should be filled in where necessary. Loose bricks or stones should be secured. Flashing around chimneys may need replacement, if cracked or corroded.

GUTTERS and downspouts may easily become loose and weather-worn in a year's time. Re-nail loose parts and repaint where indicated. Cleared passages should be cleared.

WINDOWS, DOORS—Frames should be checked for possible

air leakage. Re-caulking will keep weather out.

LAWN, GARDEN inspection and care may vary with individual taste and the green thumb talent available. In general, holes may be filled in with sand or gravel and covered with turf.

Plans may be laid for re-seeding, fertilizing lawns, replanting gardens.

DRIVEWAYS may reveal cracks in paving to be filled, or replacement of lost gravel.

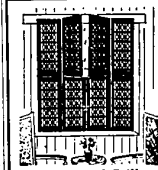
In new paving, thought should be given to converting the driveway surface for drainage, to permit water to drain onto the lawn, rather than the street.

TREES, SHRUBS are sure to need a tidying trim. Check dead tree branches, withering shrubbery and hedges.

HEATING EQUIPMENT should be cleaned, adjusted and, if necessary, repaired by an experienced serviceman, at least once a year. If yours is an older furnace or burner, remodeling, up-dating or complete replacement may be in order.

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