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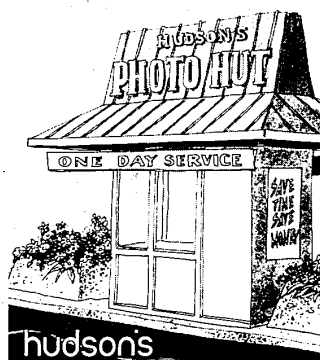
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## Most Families Do Their Own Paneling Job

Do-it-yourself paneling is big among families who purchased prefabricated hardboard for home modernization.

A survey, recently completed, revealed that two-thirds of the survey respondents had their own installations or had a member of the family do them.

The survey showed that pre-finished hardboard paneling is being installed in many kitchens. It appeared that the kitchen is a popular location for 36 per cent of the responding families' prime home improvement projects.

The panels may be used in most areas of a kitchen. They are especially suited as an accent wall in the dining room or between base and wall cabinets as a wall-scape throughout the room.

The survey showed other high-use areas for the panels are family rooms, basements, dining and living rooms, and hallway foyers. Also revealed in the replies—more than 75 per cent used paneling to remodel an existing room.



Make a bottle garden: Terrariums or bottle gardens make ideal Christmas gifts or presents any time of the year. Select a fishbowl, candy jar, brandy snifter, bottle, and jars of all sorts.

Next step is to use a soil mixture containing large amounts of organic matter. Add about half peat moss to volume to good garden soil. To start the terrarium, first place a layer of broken flower pots or gravel in the bottom of the container. Add a small amount of charcoal to this. The gravel gives better drainage and the charcoal will prevent soiling.

Use green moss or commercial peat moss to line the container so drainage material will not be visible from the outside. Note: If you use moss, place it so that green side faces out.

If your container is large, plants can be added easily by

hand. In small-necked containers long sticks or tweezers may be needed for planting. Try not to get soil on leaves: brush off any that covers them. Then after everything is in place, spray plants and soil lightly with water.

Plants are not the only items of interest in a terrarium. Add small pieces of bark, moss-covered pieces of wood, rocks, sticks and many other articles. Some items for the woodland terrarium include rattlesnake plantain, partridgeberry, Wintergreen, hepatica, wood violet, small

ferns, mosses, even green seedlings and even a lot of weed seedlings.

Keep the terrarium in good light, but never in direct sun (burns plants). Cover the top to keep up humidity, and water only enough to keep the soil moist (never soggy).

**PROTECT EVERGREENS:** If you set out evergreens this fall or even last spring, it might be a good idea to protect them from drying winds. All evergreens lose water from leaves in winter. If the winds are hot and if the sun is bright, water is lost from leaves faster than it can be replaced. Result: "Windburning," which is what winter killing really is.

Evergreens do not die from cold, but from a loss of moisture. A mulch of peat-moss, sawdust, or anything available will help keep moisture in the soil and thus protect your plants. A burlap screen around the plants is helpful, or you can spray the evergreens with a material known as an anti-desiccant or anti-transpirant, available under several trade names. Spray top and bottom sides of leaves in December and again in February.

**GREEN THUMB CLINIC:** A reader writes: "Are houseplants harmful in winter? I heard they take up oxygen. True?"

Answer: House plants are beneficial and give off oxygen. At night they do use some oxygen, but the amount is so small you'd never miss it. House plants also give off moisture (and take up carbon dioxide) so you can see why they're good to have around the house.



FOR AN ATTIC RETREAT, a young couple followed a seafaring motif. As background, they covered walls and ceiling with a textured hardboard grooved siding, painted in light tones. Rough beams, posts and brick chimney, with furnishings accents, create an unusual, informal, comfortable room for leisurely living.

## Live Christmas Tree Takes Care

Each year, trees are offered with roots attached. They can be used for Christmas and then planted out in the landscape as a permanent tree. This is a fine practice under certain conditions.

Conditions are very rigid and must be met if success is to be assured. Conditions are: adequate ball of earth well wrapped or potted, the coolest possible location in the house, adequate moisture around the roots, shortest possible time in the house, adequate house humidity, protection from drying lights, and adequate after-Christmas care.

All the rules for successful planting of evergreens must be met, along with some other specific rules, if trees are to be used for Christmas in addition. The trees most commonly used are Douglas fir, spruce (white, black, or Colorado blue) and Scotch pine.

The plant must have an adequate ball of earth for the size plant used. Roughly, a ball six to nine inches in diameter for each inch of trunk diameter should be used. This will limit the size tree which can be handled practically in the house. A container or tub which will hold water must be used and the soil ball kept moist at all times until planted outside. This can be accomplished by packing damp peat or sphagnum moss round the ball of earth.

Locate the tree in the coolest part of the house, away from hot air registers—never near the fireplace to minimize the drying of the needles. A cool breeze would be the most ideal. Make sure the furnace humidifier is operating properly also.

Keep the plant in the house the shortest time possible. Bring it in just before Christmas Eve and take it out as soon as possible after. Spray the plant with a foliar antidesiccant, if possible (Foligard, Wilt-Proof, Plant-Cote, Vapor-Gard, Stop-Wilt, etc.). Use a minimum number of tree lights, as the heat from

these will dry the foliage of the tree.

**AFTER-CARE:** If trees may be handled in two ways. Trees may be stored at low temperature or planted out right away. If storing is practical, keep in a dark garage where the temperature seldom goes below freezing but never higher than 40 degrees. Then plant the tree outside in March, or as soon as the ground thaws in early spring. Mulch the root area with a five-to-six-inch layer of peat, woodchips, straw or other acceptable organic material. Guy the tree against tipping by strong winds.

If you wish to plant it outside right away you will need to make preparation now, before the ground freezes. Mulch the spot outside where the tree is to be planted with a six to 10 inch layer of peat, wood chips, straw leaves or manure.

The six-inch depth is for manure, which produces heat. This will keep the spot from freezing so that a hole can be dug even if the frost is several inches deep at the time of planting. Mulch the root area and guy the tree the same as for spring planting.

Additional insurance for survival is to provide a burlap shade on stakes around the plants for winter. The burlap shade should be several inches from the plant to allow free flow of air between the plant and the shade. The shade protects from winter sun and strong winds. An additional spray of antidesiccant material will also be helpful.

Additional work? Yes, but you don't waste a tree for Christmas because with proper care it will last a lifetime. An additional word of caution. Remember, pines, spruce and fir are large trees eventually. Don't plant them near the house or other buildings never in the foundation (planting) and never under or near electric or telephone wires.

## Michigan Trees Best

Christmas tree buyers in Michigan have the world's finest and freshest trees available at some of the most

attractive prices, according to B. Dale Ball, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Michigan is the leading producer of plantation grown Christmas trees. More than five million Michigan evergreens will be harvested for sale in the 1970 season. Growing and marketing Michigan Christmas trees adds up to more than a \$20 million annual business.

Scotch pine is the most widely produced plantation tree; other Michigan species on the market will be spruces and firs.

## GREAT BUYS

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Moulding that simplifies the job, now \$1.27 Ea.

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• PECKY TSUGA 7.27  
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