

# Remodeling: Timing is everything

Remodeling brings chaos, but the right approach can turn even this project into an enjoyable adventure. Controlling chaos when walls are coming down, when the water in the bathroom is shut off, and when the tub, sink and toilet are relegated to the garage, is difficult, at best.

Experienced remodelers at Kitchen and Bath Ideas magazine say a practical approach, preparation and a positive attitude can reduce the stress of bath remodeling.

Setting up temporary accommodations can keep a family sane, especially if the household's only bathroom is being remodeled. Beg, borrow or buy camping equipment. Temporary facilities that include a chemical toilet and portable shower will neutralize much remodeling stress.

Timing is also important. Coping with remodeling is easier during temperate seasons — spring, summer, or early fall — when family members can move outdoors for relief from the noise and mess.

Keep family events in mind. For example, don't let a bath remodeling coincide with a guest's extended visit or the potty training of a child.

**BRACE FOR** the unexpected. Be prepared for scheduling hitches due to bad weather, unforeseen structural problems, or materials that don't arrive on time. Also, be prepared for budget overruns and unexpected expenses. To handle financial surprises, some homeowners add 10 percent to the remodeling budget.

Make firm decisions regarding such things as floor plans and product choices before bathroom construction. Indecision causes delays; delays cost money.

Because delays are expensive, it's smart to have all materials and fixtures on hand before work begins, even if that means the tub displaces the auto in the garage.

One of the greatest changes that can be made in a bathroom comes with the replacement of the medicine cabinet.

"TODAY, BATHROOM cabinets are used for more than just storing aspirin, cold medication and vitamins," said Carl Pimental, senior vice president of sales and marketing for Nautilus, a manufacturer of bathroom cabinets.

"More personal hygiene and

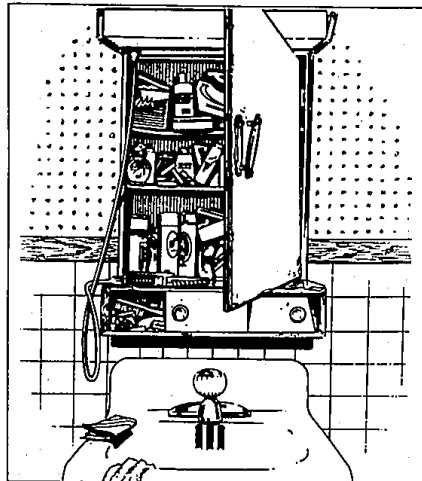
**Brace for the unexpected. Be prepared for scheduling hitches due to bad weather, unforeseen structural problems or materials that don't arrive on time.**

health-related products are on the market, and customers want them at their fingertips. They want a convenient place for their skin care products, hair spray, mousse, nail supplies, aftershave, deodorant and other toiletries. That's why two-door and three-door cabinets are popular choices when replacing single-door cabinets," he said.

For those who want to enhance the coordinated look of your bathroom, cabinets are available in natural hardwoods like oak and colors ranging from traditional white and grey

to more contemporary hues of mauve and blue. Cabinets can be coordinated with plumbing fixtures. Want extra lighting in the bathroom? Cabinets are available with side lights, top lights or matching built-in lights.

You can also use your own creativity when it comes to choosing the shape of your mirror. If you're tired of the regular rectangular design, create your own look with a square, oval or octagonal frameless mirror door or a beveled glass mirrored door.



## Environment seminar topic

Environmental issues, public opinion and media relations will be covered in a three-day seminar Monday-Wednesday, Oct. 22-24, at the Northfield Hilton in Troy. Sponsored by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan, the Building Owners and Managers Association and the Apartment Association of Michigan, the program will be presented by David D. Graves, senior vice president of Creative Communications Associations of Providence, R.I.

Fees are \$35 per session for members of the three sponsoring organizations or \$45 for non-members. Package rates for all sessions at \$90 for members, \$120 for non-members.

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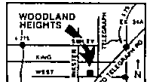
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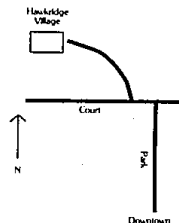


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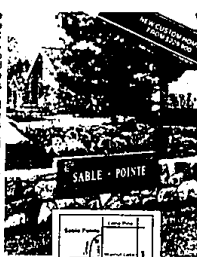
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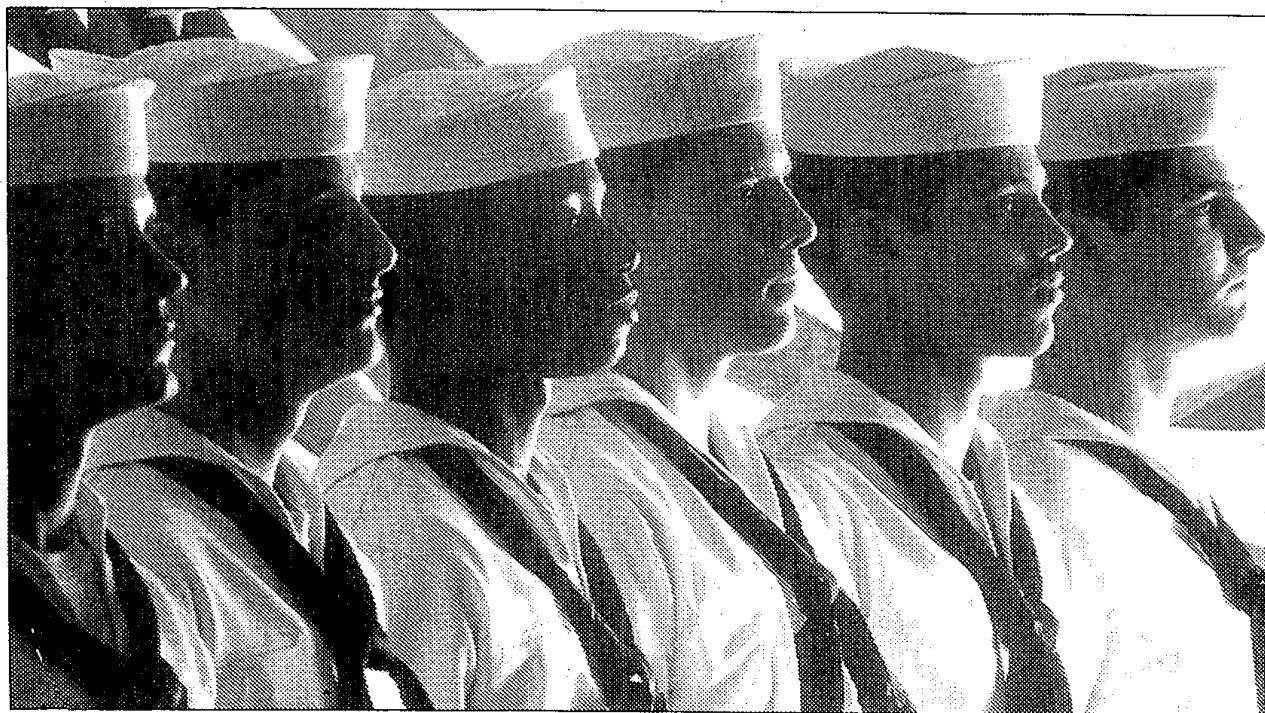
Field, off west of Sable Lake Road, north of Sable Lake Road.

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