

Tips for Plumbing Problems

"If your water closet (toilet) tank fills too much or not enough, try bedding the rod attached to the metal float upward or downward."

"This is one among scores of handy tips included in the authoritative booklet, 'Plumbing Care & Repair.'"

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Observer HOME IMPROVEMENT

Do-It-Yourself • Decorating • Remodeling

Wednesday, February 17, 1965 ★ Page 1-B

Homes of Future Will Cost Less And Offer More

With the cost of living spiraling ever upward, it may seem unlikely that prices of homes will ever take a downturn. However, with many revolutionary new building materials and techniques being developed today, it is evident that homes of the future not only will cost less but also will offer many new and practical luxuries and conveniences to make living easier.

A survey among leading builders, architects and manufacturers of building materials throughout the country shows that homes built in the 1970s may cost as much as 25 per cent less than today's homes.

One of the most significant economies will come in the form of "pre-assembled rooms." Complete rooms — fully equipped with floor and wall coverings and all the trimmings — will be available in a wide range of sizes and shapes with many door and window combinations as they can be put together to form a home just as a child fits together the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.

Another innovation in the offing is plastic houses. A special liquid plastic is being developed which can be sprayed over a steel mesh frame pre-assembled in almost any shape desired. The plastic will form a streamlined, sturdy exterior shell that never requires painting.

Inside the house, flexibility in room design will be built-in through new materials and methods as well as some current-day furnishings. Removable wallpaper will permit instant redecorating.

Powerful, battery-operated light fixtures will permit their relocation without need for electrical outlets.

Portable area dividers such as today's Panalene grillework room dividers which are available at lumber yards will continue to be used extensively to permit flexibility in interior arrangements.

This grillework also will be used to form entire interior walls that permit a ready flow of light, air and heat, yet are easily movable through tension clips that secure the walls in a variety of locations.

In kitchens, new appliances are in research stages today that will permit push-button meal preparation, from peel-

Home Fixup Pays Family Three Ways

Three basic reasons are advanced for keeping your home up-to-date. They are:

1. For the sake of comfortable living for all members of the family.
2. To maintain an increase in the value of the property.
3. To take care of special situations, such as a permanent guest or departing children.

"One or all three reasons are sufficient for the thinking family to undertake planned program of home improvement," suggests John Concord, housing expert at Massillon Corporation.

"When a widowed sister or mother requires a home, for instance, the possibilities range from an apartment in the attic or basement to an efficiency room in an attached garage."

First on the list is comfortable living for family members. This might mean a study for a high school student in his own room or in an attic hide-away; it could put an office for Dad in the basement or a sewing center for Mom in a closet or other available space, such as a room center.

Thousands of families who have home improvement projects in work or planned are using Royalecote decorator hardboard panels because they are prefinished, easy to handle and simple to maintain.

These wood-grained panels, available in two shades of oak, two of cherry, three of walnut, plus teak, pecan and birch, will go over existing walls or wall studs. Color-matched nails or adhesive, wood or metal moldings and putty stick make their application a pleasure.

Natural Wood Finishes Easy For Housewives

Know why today's homemakers vote for wood paneled walls and natural finished wood cabinets, trim and moldings?

Simple: They don't show fingerprints or other soil. All that's needed for care is an occasional dusting with a soft cloth. If paneling or woodwork is scratched, it usually can be touched up quickly with a furniture polish stain.

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Well-Planned Children's Room Can Perform Many Functions

A children's room should be much more than a bedroom. This is even more true if two school age children share a room.

With proper planning a children's room also can include a study and hobby work section . . . play area . . . and bath . . .

Large rooms can also conserve space. To make the bathroom more accessible, another door could be added so that the children can enter directly. If space permits, a small bathroom with shower could be included in the remodeling.

Robert Huff, home improvement director for Marlette planing, points out that older houses with a third floor or an irregular-shaped room have a real potential for a children's living center.

"By providing a haven for the children," Huff says, "Mom and Dad will be able to enjoy leisure in the living room of the house."

If study areas are provided in the children's room, uninterrupted attention can be given to homework assignments. In addition, the area also can be used to entertain friends away from the rest of the family.

The decorative theme in a children's room is most important, Huff says, and he suggests that the family have a "council" when planning the area. Ideas for equipment, furnishings and color combinations should be discussed thoroughly before construction work is started.

"Don't be afraid to alter the layout of an area. Divider walls, for instance, can be put up quickly, even by a home handyman. Easy-to-handle Marlette plans can be put up right over new framing."

Tailor the decorative treatment to the children who will be using the room, the home improvement expert advises.

Boys like a rugged, masculine decor. A nautical or western theme might be appropriate. Woodgrain walls, accented by several appropriate accessories, will help create a particular theme.

Girls will want a more feminine decor, of course, and it is simple to create one with pastel or an interesting pattern, such as the gold lace design available on Marlette planks.

Marlette, which is a plastic-finished hardboard, is ideal for children's rooms because it is highly resistant to hard wear and stains. It can be cleaned with a damp or sudsy cloth. This washable paneling never requires painting or refinishing.

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