

Home Improvement Guide '66

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Roots in Piping Can Be Problem

Big, healthy trees are nice to have around the home. But when thirsty roots find their way into underground waste and sewage piping, the home owner has a genuine problem. Only sure way to avoid a root problem in waste lines is to make certain the lines are of top quality, watertight, per-

manent material. Once there is a leak or break in inferior piping, moisture-seeking tree roots will find it, reports the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Information Bureau.

Correcting the problem when it occurs requires the knowledge and tools of a plumbing contractor. Using a special, flexible auger that can be reeled into waste lines, the contractor can cleanly cut away invading roots.

OUTDOOR PAINTING

An easy trick to avoid the heat and direct sunlight that's present on outside painting jobs is to "follow the sun." Start painting on the shady side in the morning, then shift sides as the sun changes.

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Modernizing Can Lighten Home Chores

For that reason, architects say, it is not surprising to find that the most favored home improvement project is remodeling of the kitchen, the most used room in the house. Bathrooms follow kitchens on the list of remodeling preferences, and added closet and storage space and laundry facilities also are considered important for improvement.

Kitchen

A properly designed kitchen can save the housewife considerable walking. Everything should be close at hand.

Placement of kitchen cabinets when remodeling should accommodate the lady of the house, for few women can reach above the bottom shelf of an upper cabinet.

Kitchen counters should be at the proper height — low enough so the housewife can reach easily at them. And countertops should be of an easy-to-clean material. Also, there should be at least one-and-a-half feet of counter space on each side of the sink and on at least one side of the range.

Remodeling the kitchen offers an opportunity to add cabinet storage area if the present space is inadequate.

Storage

When remodeling, it is a good idea to check the storage space throughout the house to see if more is required. Lack of proper storage space creates an extra burden for the housewife.

If there is no basement, the home owner should have equivalent utility space above ground, about eight to 12 percent of the size of the house. Preferably this should be near the kitchen and used for storing bulky items such as storm windows, trunks, tools.

Is there enough closet space? A family of three or four requires at least 40 square feet of total closet space; 60 feet would be better. Ceiling high closet doors are best, making it possible to see everything inside at a glance.

Bathroom

The bathroom also can be remodeled to make life easier for the housewife. For example, a wall-hung toilet might be installed. This makes cleaning the floor much simpler. To keep the floor neat, bathroom scales, often difficult to clean, can be recessed in the wall.

Building shelving into the wall also makes it possible to store towels, wash cloths and a variety of other things in the bathroom, eliminating the need to walk to the linen closet and other areas of the house for these necessities.

Laundry

The main consideration with the laundry is its location. An excellent area, say architects, is near the bathroom. This eliminates steps in gathering

soiled clothes and putting away clean clothes. It eliminates the need for a clothes hamper and requires little additional plumbing cost. The kitchen and hall also are good places for the laundry.

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