

SAFETY COUNCIL WARNS HOUSEWIVES

Tabs Kitchen as Potential Killer

Your kitchen is a potential killer. This word of warning to housewives comes from the Greater Detroit Safety Council, a chapter of the National Safety Council.

Gerald E. Montgomery, Executive Director of the local safety organization, says the kitchen is a potential killer because it's the work center of your home.

"It's the place where fire and hot liquids are handled most often and where sharp instruments, many gas and electrical appliances, potentially poisonous and flammable cleaning agents are kept," Montgomery points out.

But, says Montgomery, probably most important of all, the kitchen is a room that is so much a center of family life that familiarity has bred contempt of its dangers.

Yet a kitchen can be made safe, Montgomery says. It requires only three essentials.

Safe planning.
Safe equipment.
Safe habits.

In the area of planning, Montgomery makes the following suggestions:

Plan your home with adequate wiring and place electric outlets near the points of appliance use, to eliminate the danger of tripping over cords.

Arrange doors to swing so as not to obstruct traffic.

Keep window curtains and towel racks away from sources of heat to prevent fires.

Provide a special high or locked closet for ice, bleaches, metal cleaners and polishers and other cleaning compounds that may be hazardous to children.

Montgomery makes the following suggestions about equipment in your kitchen.

Safe habits. Montgomery says. Include:

Wiping up spills on the floor.

Wearing sensible shoes and appropriate clothing that has no loose sleeves.

Read the manufacturer's instructions before using appliances. This includes the use of equipment, especially equipment that is used infrequently.

Read the labels on cleaning appliances and heed cautions regarding the use and storage of these products.

Handle electrical appliances with dry hands, replace worn electrical cords and use equipment and appliances only as directed by the manufacturer's literature.

Keep food and non-edible products on separate shelves.

Replace caps securely on cleaning compounds and return them to a safe storage area immediately after using.

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Take Care When Preparing Your Soil to Avoid Lumps

Wise gardeners know it pays to prepare the soil properly. Do it just as early as you can without compacting it or leaving it lumpy, because it is too wet and sticky.

Also, make a practice of double digging (preparing two spades deep) at least a small portion of your garden every year, recommend the garden experts.

You will be surprised at the great difference it will make in your plants.

The simplest way to do this is to remove the top — and already improved layer — one spade deep, spread or improve the layer below a full spade deep just as you would do if it were on top.

Then return the top layer mixing it in, so far as possible, with that below it, incorporating fertilizer and humus as you would anyway.

Even where you do not double-dig, prepare your soil as carefully as you can.

If it is sandy and you can get some heavy, clayey soil, spread a 2 to 3 inch layer over the top. If it is too heavy and you can get some coarse sand or fine gravel, add 2 to 3 inch layer of that.

Then, add another 2 inches of peat moss, leafmold, compost, shredded bark, sugar cane or any other desirable source of humus.

In the south the soil is frequently clayey, acid and poorly supplied with humus.

Along the coasts and various other places, on the other hand, the soils are likely to be very sandy and equally devoid of humus. In either clayey or sandy soils incorporating an added 50 per cent more humus is highly desirable.

After this is done take your shovel, spade or spading fork and turn the soil over, loosening it thoroughly and mixing materials completely.

Then, if there is time enough before planting, let the soil settle for a couple of weeks, especially if it has been double-dug.

In any case, before planting spread about 5 pounds of a high-nitrogen fertilizer for lawns or a vegetable-type fertilizer for bulbs, flowers or vegetables per 10 square feet, hoeing it in 2 to 4 inches deep before you smooth and level with a steel-toothed garden rake.

Card File Helps Plan A Garden

One of the most unusual garden books you have seen is the "Sort Guide" to the perennial Garden Flowers, by George W. Kelly.

It consists of a plastic box of cards slightly larger than playing cards and a long pin.

One side of each card describes a plant, size, color and habits.

The other is the same on all cards, with sections for color, height, form, soil, type, whether early or late blooming.

The cards bearing information about the kind of plant you want will drop out of the pack. There is no need to reassemble the cards in any particular position.

The holes will give you the desired cards at any time.

In short, the Sort Guide will help you pick the right flower for the right place, plan your flower beds, learn more about perennials, identify perennial flowers and grow a better, more colorful garden.

Book Provides Decorating Ideas

One of the main portents of Spring each year is the arrival of a uniquely beautiful and practical decorating publication called 1001 Decorating Ideas.

It has grown over the years (this is edition 23 now) from a small ten cent magazine to the handsome 100 page, beautifully colorful publication it is today — and the price is only 50 cents per copy.

There are more attractive decorating magazines available, but none with so thorough a presentation of the various aspects of decorating from the elegant to the simple. And so many of the interesting ideas shown also have clear, practical instructions that even a relative novice can duplicate.

If you admire the swag window treatment on page 23, you'll find swag instructions on page 65. Interested in the wall stencil on page 24 to copy for your own foyer? You'll find the instructions on page 72. Fascinated with the roller shades on page 33? Just turn to page 76 and make your own.

Or perhaps you're more interested in just what's going on in the decorating world. What is the Mediterranean Look and is it here to stay? What new furniture and fabric trends are going to be popular this year?

And, of course, 1001's page of window treatments — dreamy, exciting, unusual, sometimes elegant, sometimes simple.

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