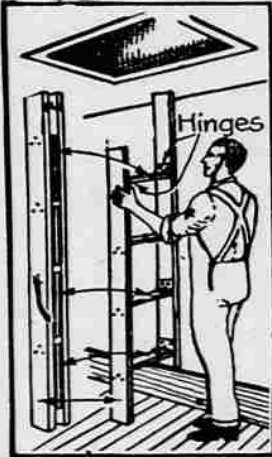


A FOLDING LADDER

Summer cottages and small homes frequently have no stairway to an attic, which may offer excellent storage space, and often there is no space in which



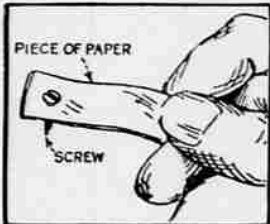
to build stairs. A folding ladder may solve the problem.

The steps of this ladder are hinged to the upright pieces. One upright can be fastened to the wall under the attic trap door. Hinges on the ends of the rungs nearest the wall are attached to the tops of the rungs; on the side away from the wall they are fastened to the bottom of the rungs.

This ladder will fold neatly against the wall, projecting only a few inches when not in use. A hook will hold the ladder in its folded position.

GRIPPING TINY SCREWS

Small screws often are difficult to start because they are too tiny to grip with the fingers. An



easy way is to stick the screws through a stiff piece of paper. Tap the screw lightly with a hammer, twist it farther with a screw driver, and when it is nearly firm, tear off the paper and tighten the screw.

A woman's bobby pin often can be used the same way for starting brads too small to hold with fingers.

FRENCH POLISH

French polish is one of the most beautiful and lasting of all finishes for furniture. It has been used for generations and can be seen on period furniture and old grand pianos.

To obtain this polish, the surface should be prepared with extreme care and stained only with water stain, which must be allowed to dry thoroughly.

Then pure white shellac should be thinned to approximately a one-pound cut. The Shellac Information Bureau recommends that this be done by adding about 2½ quarts of denatured alcohol to one quart of 4 lb. cut shellac.

Apply this with a soft lintless cloth, rolled into a ball, dipped into the shellac and rubbed on the wood in rapid straight strokes under light pressure.

As soon as the finish is dry, the wood is sanded again and the process is repeated. The surface can be sprinkled with very fine pumice before sanding.

Many coats are applied in this manner, and each one is sanded smooth, until a light glow begins to appear.

After the first few coats, a faint sheen often develops. When this occurs add several drops of boiled linseed oil or pure olive oil to the shellac and apply with a rotary motion. More oil is added by degrees with subsequent coats.

The result is a superb finish that will last for generations.

Hints Given for Cutting Home Building Cost With No Scarcity of Quality

There are many ways of cutting costs without cutting corners when building a modern home. They can give you more house for less money. Better still they can give you a better, larger home for the same money.

It isn't a matter of skimping, but a matter of thinking. The man who attempts to build cheaper by making all rooms smaller and by cutting down on quality of materials can only expect to have a skimpy, uncomfortable and anti-social house—a house that can lead to family quarrels and perhaps the verge of bankruptcy through repair bills.

But prudence in simplifying sound construction and in eliminating useless details can add to the beauty, convenience and efficiency of a house.

Jule Robert Von Sternberg, architect specializing in small house design, points out that waste motion is one of the costliest phases of home building.

"With care in planning and in choice of materials," he says, "much waste motion on the job can be saved. The time required to trim a door to fit, to hang a door, to finish the average closet, to cut a piece of wallboard, to saw an inch or so off half a hundred boards, to make the countless small operations involved in lathing, plastering, trimming and flooring, is all time that costs dearly."

On the other hand, time spent in planning the avoidance of such chores will pay real dividends. And von Sternberg cites other investment opportunities for planning.

"The cost of roughing in plumbing for a small house can be cut in half," he says, "if bathrooms, kitchen, laundry and hot water heating plant are centralized. Much economy in plumbing can be achieved merely by planning kitchen and bathroom back to back."

Planning the layout of a house holds the key to many savings. "If a house is kept simple in outline," the architect advises, "with few breaks to interfere with the flow of walls and wall materials, it will be cheaper to build than one with many wings and ell. Every house appendage is an extravagance. That means bay windows, dormers, cupolas, dovecotes and all the embellishments that involve money that might better be put into larger rooms or more rooms.

"Stairs that bend, wind or change direction with a landing cost more than a straight flight. Windows bunched in twos and threes not only look better, but cost less."

- Here are 17 ways to keep costs down in building a home:
1. Simple perimeter. Keep plan and elevations as free of breaks as possible. The nearly square rectangular plan is cheapest.
 2. No roof hips or valleys. Every change in a roof line adds extra cutting, fitting, roofing, flashing. A simple gable roof is cheapest. Make it steep enough to avoid the need for expensive underlays of felt or built-up membranes—also steep enough to utilize the attic for extra bedrooms.
 3. No sheet metal. Eliminating leaders and gutters is possible with the wide projecting eaves. Although a wide roof overhang is not cheap, it will help to shade and shelter windows and side walls, keep the house cooler in summer.
 4. No basement. Elimination of basement frequently saves considerable. Compensating storage can be provided in attic, garage, or first floor store rooms.
 5. Roof trusses. Trussed rafter construction, spanning outer walls permits the finishing of the entire interior without waiting for partitions and framing. According to the University of Illinois, the use of trusses alone may save more than 5 per cent.
 6. Pre-cut lumber. The use of one-length studs (7'9") pre-cut in the yard allows for the use of standard 4 by 8-foot wallboard panels without cutting.
 7. Dry wall construction. Standard 4 by 8-foot panels for walls and ceilings save lathing and plastering.
 8. Minimum interior walls. Open planning of rooms, dwarf partitions (walls that don't reach to the ceiling), built-in plywood storage compartments combine to save much money.
 9. Fewer doors. Every door costs from \$50 to \$100 to buy, frame, trim, hang, equip with hardware and paint. Use doors only for bath or bedrooms. Light plywood and жалюзи make ideal closet doors.
 10. Interior trim. Use no molded trim. A piece of 1 by 4-inch lumber can make a baseboard and lattice strips can trim windows and doors.
 11. Windows. Stock windows of simple design can be placed so as to impose the least interference with wallboards.
 12. Stairs. Keep them straight for economy. Avoid winders and landings, elaborate handrails and newels.
 13. Back-to-back plumbing. When kitchen and bathroom are so planned, one plumbing stack serves both. Also plan on the shortest run to street utilities.
 14. Centralized heating. A heating plant near the center of a house involves shorter ducts and pipes. Remember, an inside chimney draws better than an outside flue.
 15. Prefabricated chimney. Low-cost composition chimneys are now approved in many localities and are far less expensive than masonry chimneys.
 16. Prefab built-ins. Wardrobes, dressers, chests, china closets, coat closets, beds, etc., can be built of fir plywood and installed on the job when other interior finishing is completed.
 17. No paint. At least avoid the necessity for expensive paints.

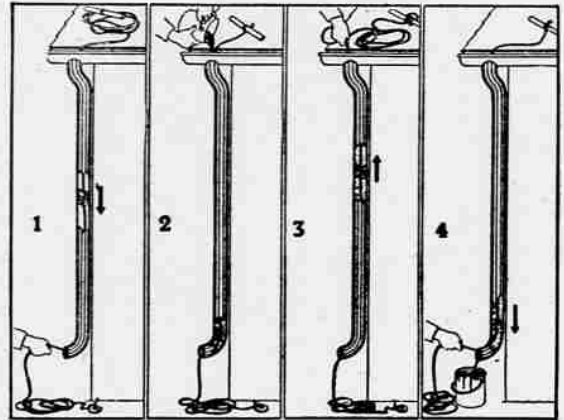
Use stains on natural wood siding and shingles. This will cover in one coat and may be applied at the factory. Or use materials such as asbestos siding and asphalt shingles that require no paint. Aluminum windows, although requiring no paint, may be more expensive originally than wood windows painted, but in the long run aluminum windows will save their extra cost. Keep long-term economies in mind.

A Practical Painting Tip

AS A HOUSEHOLDER you can get many useful tips from builders when it comes to doing a job yourself.

Contractors, architects, material dealers, craftsmen of all trades are continually exchanging ideas. Saving time and effort is their goal.

Their ideas are not trade secrets, but being exchanged through their trade publications, seldom seen by the dayman, such job pointers reach the householder only by roundabout ways.



PAINTING DOWNSPOUTS

Sheet metal leaders will last longer if they are painted inside as well as outside. The problem is how can you paint the inside of such a pipe. Here's a method described in "Practical Job Pointers" by the American Builder.

Tie a metal weight to a piece of stout cord a little more than twice as long as the downspout. Wad a large rag into a ball and fasten it in the center of the cord. From the roof drop the weighted end of the cord through the downspout.

Then as shown in Figure 1, pull the cord down until the wadded rag is at the bottom of the spout, forming a plug. A stick tied across the other end will prevent the cord from falling.

From the roof, pour a quart of red lead slowly down the pipe, as shown in Figure 2. Put an empty bucket under the outlet on the ground to catch surplus paint.

Then from the roof, as shown in Figure 3, pull the wadded rag slowly up through the pipe, taking care not to raise the paint out of the leader.

From the ground, Figure 4, pull the wad down again, and the inside should be thoroughly painted. The surplus paint can then be used on the next leader with enough added to suffice.

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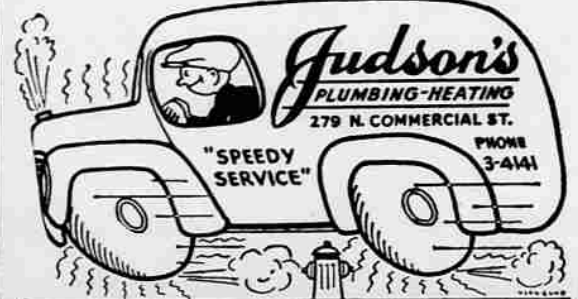
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