

Help for the Man Who Wants to Build

One of America's Most Popular Houses

Care Required in Treatment of Oak Floors in Homes

By The Architects' Small House Service Bureau of the United States, Inc.

Experts on floor finishes say that many housekeepers have adopted methods of caring for their oak floors that are ruinous, not only to the finish, but to the wood itself. If you have such floors, or intend to have them, decide to make the most of them.

There are lots of good floors, but for a residence, none much better than oak. If it were as rare and expensive as teak, we would probably see its beauty more clearly, and spend more effort to conserve it. As in other things, the way is simple if you know how. And most of the know-how is negative, consisting of Don'ts.

Don't use water, excepting most sparingly.

Don't use oil, kerosene, or turpentine.

Don't use soap or other alkaline cleansing agents.

How to Remove Old Finishes

If the finish becomes so dirty or worn that it is necessary to remove it entirely, first scrub the floor with wood alcohol, then bleach it with oxalic acid. As has been said, do not use strong alkaline solutions and never use lye, as it turns wood black. After the wood is entirely dry, the new finish may be applied.

Often when the finish has been badly worn, a thorough scrubbing with a brush and sapollo will help it; but be very sparing in the use of water. Allow several days for it to dry. Then the varnish may be applied, and it should be in a thin coat. If you cannot wait for varnish to dry, use wax. In any case, do not shellac over old varnish, or varnish over old shellac. A shellacked floor is dry and ready for use quickly, but also wears out rapidly. Varnish takes longer to set, but lasts long.

If the floors are waxed, they should be dusted daily with a cotton flannel covered broom. Worn places, as in doorways, or where there is heavy traffic, should be waxed rather frequently, and the coat rubbed well into the wood. After the wax has dried for about an hour, polish thoroughly.

A Good Job Lasts Longer

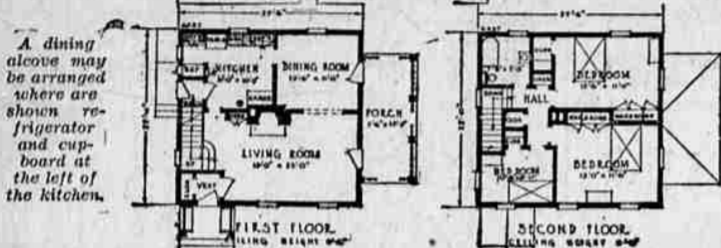
The best method of applying wax is to fold cheese cloth into a sort of bag. Into this a handful of wax is placed. The wax works through the meshes of the cloth and reaches the floor evenly. The floor may be polished with a weighted floor brush, rubbed first across the grain of the wood, then with it. The finishing gloss is obtained by placing a piece of woolen felt under the weighted brush. A second coat of wax, applied in the same manner and rubbed to a polish, will greatly improve appearance.

A varnish finish takes longer, for time must be allowed for the coats to dry. There should be at least two coats, with forty-eight hours between. But this type of finish gives a very hard surface which will wear well and which will require less work in maintenance than the wax. The staining and filling of oak floors and the application of varnish is best accomplished by an expert, using materials of the highest grade.

Oak floors, properly finished and kept in good condition, will age beautifully. Their proper care is not arduous, and the home builder will reap rich rewards by keeping them in good condition.—Copyright, 1928, The Architects' Small House Service Bureau of the United States, Inc.



Design No. 6-A-37.



A dining alcove may be arranged where a refrigerator and cupboard are shown to the left of the kitchen.

A second floor plan with many closets. Additional storage space may be gained in the capacious attic.

A Beautiful Home of New England Ancestry

THIS house design, 6-A-37, is a monument to the common sense of the American home builder. It is one of the most popular small house plans, and justifiably so, because it is expertly designed as to plan and exterior, and it is economical to build. If the plans the architect has made are followed faithfully, good architecture results, giving the home builder substantial reason for happiness in the comfort, fine appearance and sound construction of his home.

The first floor plan is remarkable in that it contains practically no unused areas. There are no wasteful halls or other extravagances of planning, yet the rooms are of good size and their arrangement is such that the greatest convenience is obtained. People living in houses of this kind find them tremendously satisfactory.

The porch at the side may be enclosed. It is even possible to put a sleeping porch above it if necessary. The kitchen will reward study. Here sink, cupboard, work table,



Beautiful and Inexpensive Doorway

This entrance can be constructed of stock materials. The working drawings carry other types of entrances, including one with a hooded porch which the owner may substitute. All are skillfully designed in keeping with the architecture.

range and refrigerator are so placed as to minimize housekeeper's work. It is an expertly planned kitchen. The dotted lines show where the ironing board may be hung.

In the second story are three excellent bedrooms, two of them much more commodious than usual for a house of this size. There are six closets, two of these being of the wardrobe type, but, if desired, these may be made into ordinary closets. A stairway can be arranged from the front bedroom or from the front hall to give access to the attic.

The architecture of this house is in the New England type. All of the details—cornice, porch, doors, blinds, and the design of the windows—have been skillfully worked out so as to keep the spirit of the old architecture. Yet it has a grace and beauty which no one will miss. Construction: Wood frame, exterior finish wide siding, roof of shingles.

Lot size: 45 to 50 feet if the house is built as shown. If the porch is placed at the rear a lot from 35 to 40 feet will be sufficient.

Facing: South or west. May be reversed for other facings or to take advantage of peculiarities of site. Complete working plans may be obtained for this and other designs shown in this series. For further information see editor's note.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Working drawings and specifications for the house shown above may be secured at moderate cost through the Home Building Editor of this paper. This service is rendered to our readers through co-operation with the Architects' Small House Service Bureau. The Bureau is controlled by the American Institute of Architects and has the endorsement of the United States Department of Commerce. Questions from our readers regarding home building will be answered at no charge by the technical department of the Architects' Small House Service Bureau. Address the Home Building Editor, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope.

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What You May Want to Know About Building

Questions addressed to this paper will be answered by the Architects' Small House Service Bureau of the United States, Inc. Enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Q—I am anxious to know about the details of the use of mineral pigment for cement floor work.

A—We are putting you in touch with a number of reliable manufacturers.

Q—Our lot has been filled in with supposedly good materials such as sand, gravel, clay. When we started to excavate for basement we found layers and layers of ashes, small trees, etc. Is this type of ground safe to build on?

A—It is not. The invariable rule in securing foundations for permanent buildings is that they shall rest on firm and undisturbed earth. Buildings set on fills are almost certain to settle unevenly, producing cracks in walls and otherwise hastening depreciation. Make up your mind to spend the extra money to cut down through the filled material.

Q—Is insulation which serves also as a plaster base satisfactory?

A—It is. This material gives highly satisfactory results, if properly applied in accordance with the specific directions of manufacturers.

Q—The front porch of our house has solid walls on all sides. The joists rest on 6x8 timbers. The floors started to settle in several places. What is the cause of this and what would you suggest for a remedy?

A—Only an inspection will bring out the facts. We advise you to have this made. Probably the timbers on which the joists rest have rotted. The rotted woodwork should be replaced. Secure ventilation for this area by constructing openings in the wall. This will end the rotting.

Q—Would the 18x48 inch slabs of insulating plaster make a satisfactory material to use on outer walls? Would the plaster crack at the joints?

A—Insulating wall board as described has given highly satisfactory results. You are justified in using it. You will not have more cracks than you get with wood lath and, if your house is properly constructed with this material applied strictly in accordance with manufacturers' directions, the results are likely to be much better. Be sure your contractor gets the manufacturer's specifications. Don't let him try any opinion or guessing on his own account.

Q—I would like to give my house a coat of some material to make the pebbles stick to the stucco and to waterproof the stucco. Pebbles fall off.

A—The pebbles fall off the stucco because they are not properly cemented there. It is highly probable also that the stucco is deteriorating. You cannot cement pebbles back. Waterproofing will not save the stucco. We suggest you have all the stucco removed and metal lath applied. Use the self furred variety or apply it over wood furring not thicker than ordinary lath. Use high grade stucco and employ the best workmen you can find. Have them follow accurately the specifications of the stucco manufacturer.

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ORGAN CONCERTS ASHLAND CHURCH CULTURAL TREAT

ASHLAND, Ore., March 27—(Special)—The dedication of the new pipe organ at the Methodist church marked a high point in things musical and cultural for the city of Ashland.

The audience also greeted John Stark Evans at the opening concert on Saturday evening were satisfied with the possibilities of the fine instrument and were particularly delighted with the unfolding music, the artistic interpretation and the matchless technique of the artist.

Ashland people were particularly fortunate in having his services. The dedicatory services held at 3:30 on Sunday afternoon expressed not only the gratitude of the city for such an addition to the religious and educational values of Ashland, but was in fact a tribute of Ashland people to her gifted son, George Francis Barron, who was the artist for the afternoon and to Mrs. Margaret Caldwell Speer, a former Ashland girl who contributed the vocal numbers on the program.

George Francis Barron is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Barron and received his education in the Ashland schools. He has just recently graduated from the music school of the University of Oregon, where he studied pipe organ under John Stark Evans. In the audience were many representatives of the old families of the town who have known the young musician from babyhood and at the close of the program Mr. Barron held informal reception to meet those who have such a deep interest in his work.

Mrs. Speer has just reached Ashland after a concert tour in California. Her voice has particularly pleasing qualities and very comfortable tones that are peculiarly acceptable in sacred song. Mrs. Speer has studied under J. Rosemond Johnson in New York City, the composer of the group of spirituals that she sang. The favorite was without doubt, the

DAMAGE TO LINER REACHES BIG SUM

HAMBURG, Mar. 27.—(AP)—The North German Lloyd liner and Blohm & Voss, shipbuilders, will begin next week to rebuild the steamship Europa, damaged and sunk yesterday at its dock here by a mysterious fire originating in its forequarters.

Representatives of the two companies said the work should take four or five months. The ship, of course, cannot make its maiden trip in August, as had been planned.

Damage to the liner was placed today at between 20,000,000 and \$6,500,000. This is less than first estimates, made when it was not known that the boilers were practically intact. The elaborate interior decoration had not yet been begun.

Construction of 18-mile pipeline of Hood River's \$250,000 municipal water system progressing rapidly.

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