

## Furniture Should Be Chosen Wisely

Now's the time when the urge to go furniture shopping takes hold. But whether choosing a group or a single piece, the shopper should choose wisely.

Fine hardwood furniture offers beauty and durability, but one of the most important considerations in its choice should be the type of hardwood finish best suited to the ultimate use of the furniture.

According to the Fine Hardwoods association experts, finishes applied by the furniture manufacturer should add both decorative and protective qualities to the wood surfaces. These finishes perform one or more of the following functions:

**Change natural wood color:** Popular bleached blondes of woods are the elegant mahogany and walnut cabinet woods, bleached to lighten their natural color and emphasize their magnificence of grain. A transparent rubbed finish reveals their pale beauty to match or serve as an accent with dark woods.

**Darker Shade**

In reverse, a blonde wood, such as light maple or birch, may be stained a warm reddish brown or darker shade.

"Limed" woods, such as oak, have had fillers added and rubbed into the dominant grain to produce light or dark accents to the figure pattern of the wood. In fine furniture the colors are made permanent with top quality lacquer.

**Develop dull or glossy finish:** A "dull rubbed" finish—achieved with a soft natural sheen, is used "to diminish" the size of larger furniture pieces. Many dining sets, desks and cocktail tables of walnut or teak, feature an oil finish to produce such an appearance. A high gloss finish, "built" by layers of shellac, synthetics or lacquer, then sanded finely and polished in circular motions, can be particularly attractive in cocktail tables or cabinets.

**Walnut Finish**

Make one wood look like another: In this method substitute materials duplicate (photographically or by printing) a particular wood. "Walnut finish" for example, is a common misnomer for cheaper wood or synthetic materials treated to imitate walnut's color, a light grey-blonde shade applied to a variety of woods.

The only true fruitwood

now in quantity use is cherry. Actually, staining in manufacture reproduces the wood colors but not the wood's natural pattern.

Make woods resistant to stains and burns: Special super-finishes now resist all types of stains, including alcohol, and protect against accidental burns. These finishes are applied to "heavy duty" areas of furniture, such as all types of table tops and bars... yet the beautiful hardwood pattern remains clearly visible.

Enhance color and wood pattern: Better quality furniture pieces often "wear" six to eight coats of a top quality lacquer hand-rubbed between coats to emphasize the hardwood's grain and enhance the wood's natural color.

"Distressing," also known as "antiquing," emphasizes the wood's pattern with stains. Sometimes these pieces are high-lighted by wiping off the stain at various points, to afford further illusion of "wear" by time.



**INSTALL ANYWHERE**—Because this combination washer-dryer needs only normal plumbing facilities and requires no venting it can be installed on an inside wall or a kitchen island. This cabinet-styled combination does the work of a washer and dryer pair, and takes up 23 inches less space.

—Combination by Maytag

## Definitions of Terms Are Given

The homeowner with home improvement on his mind, will find some of the following definitions important:

**Brick veneer**—A brick wall built around a frame house to give the appearance of a brick house. Bricks are held to the wall by small pieces of metal affixed to the mortar and driven into the wood.

**Bridging**—Short braces between beams to hold them rigid. These can most often be seen in unfinished basement ceilings where they hold the floor joists in rigid position.

**Building paper**—A tough tar and asphalt paper used to insulate and keep out drafts. Used under floors, around windows, doors, outside walls, under roofs, etc.

**BX cable**—An armored cable used to protect electric wiring.

**Concrete block**—Manufactured hollow or solid building blocks made of concrete.

**Drain Tile**—Clay or concrete pipe placed around the footing of a house to facilitate draining moisture away from the foundation.

**Dry Wall**—Also called sheet rock, a gypsum or plaster board panel that is factory made, probably 4x8 feet in unit size, and often used in

place of the longer method of making plaster walls conventionally. The panels are simply assembled on the site and finished with a final coat of plaster.

**Fire Brick**—Brick used for stove, furnace and fireplace lining. It is highly infusible brick made from clay containing silica.



**EASIEST OF CARE**—Select upholstered pieces in long-wearing DuPont nylon and know that spots will never be a problem. A dry detergent foam or upholstery cleaning solvent removes most spots with a minimum of effort.

**Flashing**—Strips of metal used to make a waterproof joint on a roof, especially around chimneys, and where one roof intersects another at an angle.

**Footing**—The base of a house below ground level which supports the exterior walls and any interior load-bearing walls. Usually concrete, sometimes stone.

**Insulating board**—A factory-made fiber-like board often coated with asphalt. Finished panels vary in size, are usually used behind the finished exterior walls.

**Joist**—The horizontal timbers to which the floor or ceiling is fastened.

**Lintel**—A horizontal member of wood, stone, angle iron or I-beam which supports a flat arch. A lintel supports bricks or stones over a fireplace opening, for example.

**Load-bearing wall**—Any wall which supports a load besides its own weight. For example, the wall of a room which carries some of the weight of the floor above it.

**Metal lath**—An expanded wire metal which reinforces concrete or supports plaster in a wall.

**Modular brick**—A brick size, larger than standard, which invites uniform size of the building in relation to other parts, and is laid more quickly. Usually 4x8x12 inches compared with the 2x4x8.

**Rafters**—The timbers which form the frame of the roof.

**Ridge pole**—The ridge board which is a horizontal timber at the apex of the roof and to which are fastened the roof rafters.

**Sheathing**—The boards used to enclose the walls, ceilings, roofs and sides of buildings. They may be tongue-and-grooved, square-edged, or end-matched, laid horizontally, diagonally, etc.

**Sill Plate**—A horizontal timber supporting other members of the frame in a wood or brick structure.

**Studs**—Vertical timbers used in the outside wall or inner partitions of a wood-framed structure. Corner posts are not studs.

**Termite shield**—A device to prevent entry of termites such as a metal shield projecting over the foundation walls and under the sills.

## Strides Made in Modern Kitchens

Tremendous strides have been made recently in combining style, beauty and convenience in the modern kitchen. Where once the kitchen was considered the woman's exclusive domain, today the husband's interests are also considered.

For example, Kitchen Maid Corporation, cabinet manufacturers, announce an ingenious fold-away bar and beverage cabinet. It contains a complete bar service with all needed accessories, with stain-proof, cork-covered work surfaces. Its base has a partitioned, slide-out storage unit to accommodate a variety of beverage bottles.

Among other striking new Kitchen Maid features is a kitchen sewing center that slides out of a base cabinet at fingertip touch. Another troublesome storage problem is solved with a base containing six sliding trays for small appliances, plus a series of hooks for storing appliance cords.

Other innovations are—built-in storage cabinets for electric mixer and accessories; condiment storage trays for spices, and partitioned cutlery storage trays.

## Cardboard Carton May Be Utilized

Gardeners can utilize their cardboard milk containers for use in preparing plants for next season's garden, according to the Zonolite Company of Chicago, manufacturer of "Terra-Lite" vermiculite, a mineral soil-conditioning material.

Here's how: Cut off one side of the milk carton and rinse out with water. Fill the carton to within an inch of the edge with vermiculite. After the vermiculite is watered, sow seeds in the carton. Then add a thin layer of vermiculite over the seeds.

Normally, it is only necessary to water the vermiculite once or twice before transplanting. Chances of seeds becoming dislodged, pushed down too far, or uncovered are therefore minimized.

When first leaves appear, young plants should be fed a mild solution of soluble fertilizer. Also, Terra-Lite contains no fungi, bacteria,

weed seeds or other harmful agents. Seeds germinate considerably faster in this process and root growth is much improved.

When transplanting time comes, the young plants can be removed easily with all the roots for transfer to cold frame or garden.

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**DO LIVE IN A GLASS HOUSE**—Walls of glass blocks, 6, 8 or 12 inches thick, offer a vista "as big as all outdoors" (grand for watching the children while you work)—and have an insulation value equivalent to an 8-inch masonry wall. They can be easily cleaned by mere wiping with a damp cloth.



**ENCLOSED PATIO**—A fully enclosed patio is easy to accomplish with sturdy, translucent fiberglass reinforced plastic panels and will add new spaciousness to your home. Room pictured above is covered with corrugated panels. The panels are easy to cut, nail or drill, are shatterproof, weather-resistant, and need only rinsing with a hose to keep them clean and attractive.—By Filon Plastics Corp.

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