

DO-IT-YOURSELF

Cut Future Repair Bills By Home Checkup Now

By J. RALPH DALZELL

After the rough winter weather and months of artificial interior heat, it is likely that houses and apartment buildings may be in need of maintenance projects. Care now will avoid costly repairs later.

The pictures show exterior and interior views of a typical house. The arrows identify areas to be inspected and repaired if necessary.

Door and window frames. (See exterior view.) Cracks often develop between frames and the surrounding walls. To repair, cracks should be filled with X-Pando or other caulking compound. Apply the compound with a caulking gun or putty knife.

Chimney and Wall Brickwork. (See exterior view.) The joints between bricks may be loose, and in some cases mortar may have fallen out. To avoid a fire hazard and to prevent dust and water from entering walls and to improve appearance, scrape out all loose mortar, moisten the joint areas, and then fill the joints with pointing mortar. Or, make a suitable mortar, using one part portland cement and three parts of sand. A special pointing trowel or a putty knife can be used to apply new mortar so that its exterior surface will be flush with the edges of the surrounding bricks.

Waterproofing. (See exterior and interior views.) The surfaces of brick or stone walls or concrete foundations and floors can be waterproofed effectively if colorless X-Pandoseal or other water-repellent compound is applied to them by the spray or brush method. This will also prevent efflorescence.

The same compound can also be used as a dust inhibitor on concrete floors.

Concrete sidewalks. (See exterior view.) The patching of cracks and other repair work can be done using ready-mixed mortar such as Sakrete. Or, mix a suitable mortar with one part portland cement and three parts sand.

Flashings. (See exterior view.) If metal flashings have rusted through they should be replaced at once in order to avoid interior dampness troubles and rotting of wood structural details. If flashings are merely rusty, they should be painted using a paint especially formulated to soak through rust and effectively seal the surface of the metal.

Concrete Floors. (See interior view.) Cracks in concrete floors are easily patched with pointing mortar, or a mixture of one part portland cement and three parts sand. Apply with a small trowel or putty knife.

Plaster. (See interior view.) Cracks or small holes in plaster can be patched using X-Pandote (which expands as it sets) or any of the other plaster-patching mixtures. Scrape out all loose plaster and moisten the area before applying patching mixture with a putty knife. When dry, sandpaper the patched area and brush on one coat of shellac.

Leaky Pipe Joints. If water pipes leak at joints, unscrew the joints and apply a pipe joint compound to the threads. Then put the joints back together.

Wall Tile. (See interior view.) If the white grout in joints between tile has fallen out, use a grout for the repair work. Mix the grout with water and apply to the joints using a rubber spatula. Wipe off excess grout with a damp cloth.

Plasterboard or Wallboard. (See interior view.) When cracks appear at the joints between wallboard sheets the cause is usually that the sheets were butted too close together. The remedy is to enlarge the cracks to form a V. Apply thin varnish to the crack areas and then fill the cracks with a plaster-patching compound, as explained for applying plaster.

Leaky Concrete Foundation. Leaks occur through cracks. Scrape all loose particles out of the cracks and then fill them with Cauxal or other special mixtures made for such purposes.

Questions and Answers

Q.—What color is recommended for bathrooms?

A.—Colors are matter of personal taste. However, too much yellow in a green on the walls may give a sickly appearance. Green with a blue or gray cast is much more flattering. If bathrooms are filled with sunlight during the day, blue is a good color.

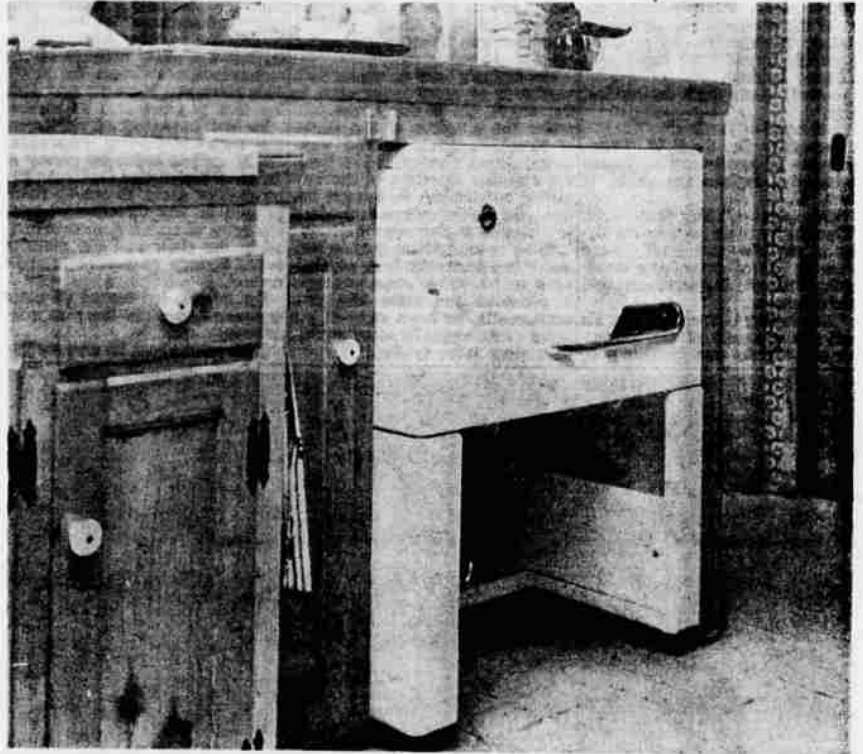
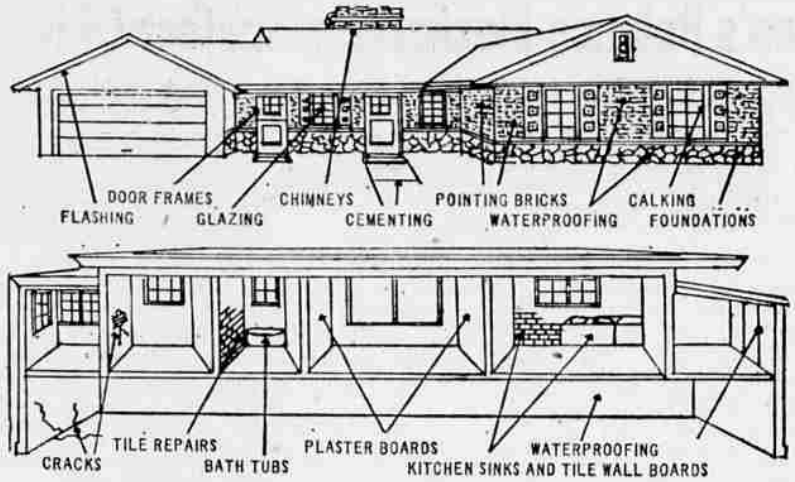
Q.—Last winter, the snow and rain on our roof damaged the gutters. Can this be avoided?

A.—Yes, by installing the gutters so their outer edges are below a line that would be formed by the extension of the roof slope.

Q.—We used a thinner in so-called odorless paint. The paint developed an odor. What did we do that was wrong?

A.—You used a filler that was not of the odorless type.

Brazil is the only country in the western hemisphere that has Portuguese as the national language.



PANELING "MAKES" A LAUNDRY—Built-ins made of western pine paneling mean "a place for everything and everything in its place" when it comes to laundry equipment in this home. Matching paneling covers the walls.

Western Pine Paneling Makes Laundry Brighter

A sore sight for eyes, to turn the expression about, is what many laundry rooms are to many housewives. Their ugliness or bad planning may become a familiar sort of tyranny, but nevertheless, every washday there they stand in all their unpleasantness.

There's no need to face a depressing horror once, or perhaps twice, a week. You aren't willing to read in a bad light—why work in one? You wouldn't accept a gloomy living room—why take less in a room where you must do your washing and ironing? Why not make all your work areas cheerful? Give yourself a break as you may have done in your kitchen some years ago. Turn your no-man's-land of a laundry into a respectable part of the house by planning out a nice decor and well-arranged storage space for your laundry equipment.

One way to set a beautiful keynote in your decoration is with paneling from the western pine region. Any one of the ten woods from the area would be suitable for your plan and all come in clear or knotty grades. They can be finished in any color, too, and it might be attractive to use a brush-on-wipe-off stain that either complements or matches the color of the adjacent rooms, one of which is likely to be your kitchen.

Lumber from the western pine region is excellent for built-ins, which is another sound reason for using it in the laundry room. It

is tough, takes almost no care, and will serve you well for years to come. With it you can build waist-high cabinets that will hide your washer and dryer behind double doors. You can also use paneling to enclose your sink. Soap, pails, brushes and the like can be stored below. Another cabinet might hide your electric ironer which can be rolled away when it's not in use. You can hide it with doors too, or simply tuck it under the counter as in the illustration.

While you're about it you might think of installing a narrow closet in which to stand a drying rack for socks, lingerie, or anything that must be hand washed and slow-dried. If you put the rack behind a louvered wood door that matches your walls enough air should circulate to dry the clothes in 24 hours and even faster if the laundry room builds up heat.

In this connection you might consider installing an exhaust fan when you put in your paneling and cabinets. If you have good cross ventilation it may not be necessary, but think of summer ironing when you plan your project. Be sure your working light is good and, when you are planning your laundry, be certain that your wiring is adequate for all your appliances. It might be wise to install an extension phone in your laundry, too, to save steps.

U.S. Families Eat Better

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (UPI) — The American family, that two generations ago spent half its income on foods, eats better today on less than 25 per cent of its take-home pay, says the president of the Illinois Canning Co., in Hoopston.

Louis Ratzesberger, at the Ag-Industries Forum at the University of Illinois, pointed to recent studies. They showed that if families were content to buy the same type and quantity of food per person as they did before World War II, they could do so, with an outlay of only 16 per cent of their budgets.

Ratzesberger attributed the difference between that figure and the 25 per cent they actually spend to improvements in the food industry, which consumers desire.

People want canned or "convenience foods" because they save time, provide better balanced meals, and actually cost less than fresh or raw foods, or the cost of ingredients making up the products, he said.

He cited an average packaged Devil's food cake, made from prepared mix and two eggs, which costs 41 cents. Made "from scratch" it costs 53 cents. And concentrated orange juice costs about half that of the home squeezed variety, he said.

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