

DO-IT-YOURSELF

For Comfort's Sake, Home Last-Minute Check

By MR. FIX
Written for NEA
It may seem downright cruel to mention it, but winter is upon us. And with it come the perennial problems that result from below-freezing temperatures,

ter and see to it that the house is still in good shape when it's over. Make yourself a last-minute check list if you are not certain where to start. Check against this list when

terial), and another coat of asphalt. Clean leaves, twigs and other debris from gutters. Pour water in gutters and make certain it runs into downspout. If water stands because gutter is sagging, tighten up on the hangers. Check for leaks and repair with method described for flashing. Small holes in metal gutters can also be repaired with the appropriate plastic metal sold in tubes. Rusty gutters and downspouts should be sanded and coated with rust preventing paint. Doors and windows: Calk all seams around doors and windows. Check for loose putty around windows and replace if necessary. Plumbing: Turn off water to outside faucets and drain. If pipes

are exposed to low temperatures insulate by wrapping with cork-asphalt insulation. Masonry: Repair cracks in walks and drives before they fill with water and freeze.

Fix-it Forum

Q—Is there a special solution used for stripping wallpaper?
A—Brush on a solution of paste (one cup flour and water) and water (three gallons). The paste prevents the moisture from drying too quickly.

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heavy snows and high winds. With a little work now you can make it a more comfortable win-

ter you make your own: Furnace: If yours has filters replace them if they are dirty. Oil motors on blowers. Check the V-belt and replace it if it looks worn.

If the flame of your oil or gas burner is yellow and smoky the fuel-air mixture needs adjusting. Better call in a serviceman for this and other adjustments.

Clean soot out of the smoke-pipe. If you have a coal furnace clean out the soot from the interior of the fire pit with a stiff brush.

Roof and gutters: Look for flapping shingles the next windy day. Shingles should be tight. Replace shingles that are broken. Smear a little roofing cement under loose shingles and press down.

Check flashing and seal edges with roof coating. Cover holes with asphalt paint, a patch canvas, glass fiber or similar ma-

Here's the Answer

By ANDY LANG
AP Newsfeatures
Buying a power tool for someone for Christmas?
Please... please don't make it a secret—unless you're very certain you know exactly what the recipient wants or, at the least, the kind of work for which the machine will be used.

Many power tools will perform a number of workshop operations. Generally, however, each tool is basically suited for a particular type of work. The following will give you some idea of the uses of many of the most popular electric tools:

Portable drill — Anybody can use it. Once primarily used for drilling holes quickly and easily, it now also will sand, buff, polish, hone, bore, saw and do dozens of other things with the aid of accessories and attachments.

Table saw — For heavy duty straight sawing. Often called the workhorse of the shop.

Drill press—Basically for drilling holes, but can be used for cutting mortises, grooves and tenons, shaping and other operations.

Wood Lathe—For making "turnings"; that is, the shaping of table legs, bowls, etc.

Jigsaw — Mostly for cutting curves and all manner of intricate scrollwork. One of the safest of all power tools.

Bandsaw—Also a curve cutter, but handles heavier work than the jigsaw.

Portable jigsaw—Like the portable drill, it can be held in one hand while working. Blade has an up-and-down movement. Especially useful for cutting curves where the work could not be brought to a regular jigsaw.

While most of the above machines also will do sanding of a limited nature, anyone who will be sanding much wood preparatory to finishing it will treasure one of the many types of electric hand sanders on the market.

And, finally, if the budget will stand it, consider the possibility of buying a complete power workshop. This type of unit comprises five or six of the basic power tools mentioned above.

QUESTION: I am getting ready to buy my husband a portable

electric drill for Christmas. I looked over several different brands of what are called quarter-inch drills and was on the verge of selecting one when I suddenly saw one of the half-inch drills. It looks so much more powerful and well built, but costs considerably more. Is it poor economy for me to buy the smaller size?

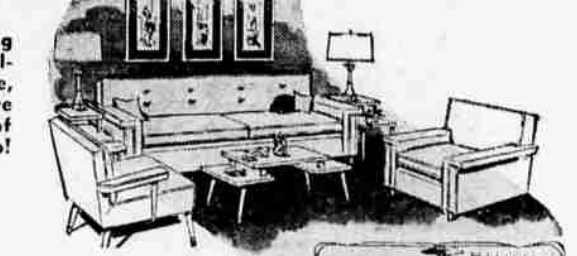
ANSWER: It certainly is not poor economy to get the quarter-inch drill. In fact, you could be making a big mistake in getting the half-inch drill, which is used primarily for heavy work, is harder to handle and probably would prove unsuitable for the majority of jobs around the house. If you get a good quality quarter-inch drill, it will last a long time and will perform a variety of tasks. On the subject of economy, it might be wise to investigate the possibility of buying a kit which contains, in addition to the drill, several bits, a wire wheel, a grinding wheel, sanding and polishing equipment and, in some cases, a horizontal drill stand. Of course, the kit will cost you more than the drill alone. But it will be less expensive over-all than buying the drill and then purchasing the additional equipment separately.

(Questions of general interest will be answered in this column. However, Mr. Lang can not undertake individual correspondence.)

NICE TO CONTEMPLATE
DENTON, Tex. (UPI)—A North Texas State College English class on folklore and what this country once was like was asked by Dr. George Hendricks, "Can you imagine 1,000 wolves running across this campus?"
"I most certainly can," replied one pretty coed. "Wouldn't it be wonderful?"

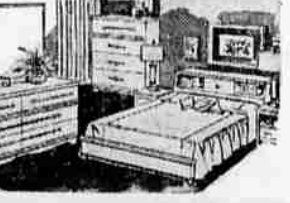
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