

Let's Bring Some Sparkle To The Family Household Today

By MR. FIX

Written for

Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

In every house there are doors, drawers and cabinets that are adorned with gleaming hardware. Keeping this hardware bright can be a more involved job than polishing the trim on an auto.

In almost any home you can find aluminum, brass, bronze, copper, nickel and stainless steel.

tarnish and to polish.

Pick a non-gritty polish for plated metals and use it sparingly. Too much polishing will cut through the thin plating and reveal the dull metal underneath. Thin with water if necessary.

Rub only hard enough to remove the tarnish. Shine with a dry cloth. Then clean away any of the polish that might remain with lacquer thinner or denatured

cleaned with a polish designed for that metal, washed with soap and water, wiped with lacquer thinner and coated with lacquer.

Chromium and stainless steel, though one is coated and the other isn't, can be kept bright and shiny with soap and water and thorough drying. Spilled substances should be wiped quickly. If a stain results use metal polish sparingly. Avoid using it on chromium if possible. After washing, dry thoroughly to avoid water spots.

Aluminum requires little maintenance. The oxide that forms, if the metal is outside, will actually prevent further weathering. But while aluminum won't rust away it will often become pitted when exposed to the weather. Use a light coating of wax, auto wax if

outdoors, to protect it.

If aluminum needs cleaning avoid strong soaps, any strong alkaline substance, any preparation that contains lye or potash. Any of these items will cause discoloration. Use fine steel wool. The soap-filled pads used in the kitchen are generally mild enough to do a good job without harming the metal.

Nickle-plated surfaces respond

well to plain soap and hot water. After washing, dry and rub briskly. If not polished often, nickel gets dark.

Lacquer — Never use this on any surface that is exposed to the weather, is washed frequently, or is used for food.

Emergency cleaners—Steel can be scoured with cleanser, even sand. Try salt on piece of lemon for copper and brass.

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Almost any hardware stocks a variety of metal polishes that will speed your job. The polish generally consists of a chemical that dissolves the oxides that form the tarnish and a mild abrasive that aids in the final polishing.

Most are applied, permitted to dry and then wiped off. Others must be rubbed briskly to remove

alcohol. Wipe absolutely dry and apply a coat or two of clear lacquer.

Lacquering will be easier if you remove the hardware first if possible. If it can be removed, finish by spraying on the lacquer. Otherwise use a soft camel's hair brush.

Solid brass or copper should be



By ANDY LANG

AP Newsfeatures

Question: We're planning on refinishing our living room floor. How do we get off the old varnish, which is very discolored?

Answer: The varnish can be taken off with varnish remover, but this can be a tedious job where such a large surface is involved. The more efficient way is to use a power sander, which can be rented by the day.

Question: I have read conflicting opinions about whether stain applied to wood should be sealed before applying the finishing coats of varnish. Can you give me the answer?

Answer: The most widely-used stains by non-professionals have an oil base. This is the kind you usually get when you walk into a paint or hardware store and ask for a wood stain. It is necessary to give this type of stain a coat of shellac or other sealer before applying the varnish. And be very sure the stain is thoroughly dry before putting on the varnish. If a water stain or a non-grain raising stain is used, then a sealer is not necessary, although some wood finishers believe it enhances the final coat.

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

HOSE TIPS

Want to make your hose last longer?

When you coil the hose after using it straighten the kinks by turning gently rather than by pulling straight. Hard pulling will crack or split it. Don't leave hose in the sun. The heat will dry or crack it. If there is water inside it will destroy the material. Don't leave the hose in a pile. It will rot. Hang it so that it need not support its own weight. A reel is the best storage method.

Your hose won't suffer from being dragged across a lawn, but hauling across cement or sharp

bricks will damage it. Repair small leaks immediately. For rubber, use plastic rubber-based adhesive and friction tape. For bad breaks, cut the hose, insert mending tube and use hose clamps. To soften plastic hose while making repairs, dip it in hot water.

And don't run your auto over the hose.

Art Treasures Put On Display

PORTLAND (AP)—A treasury of art work from a noted English collection will be exhibited here in January and February, the Portland Art Museum said today.

The 42 works to be shown here, valued at about \$4 million, include tapestries, silver and paintings by Van Dyck, Lawrence, Reynolds, Gainsborough, Holbein, Murillo, Poussin, Canaletto, Frans Hals, William Hogarth and Claude Lorraine.

Dr. Francis J. Newton, the museum's director, said Portland will be the only city in the United States where the collection will be shown. The works also will be exhibited in Canada.

The paintings and other pieces are from the Woburn Abbey collection of the Duke of Bedford. The Portland exhibition will run from Jan. 11 to Feb. 5. There will be an admission charge of 75 cents for adults.

LACKS LICENSE

EAST WINDSOR, Conn. (AP)—A 76-year-old woman, injured in the collision of her car and a truck, admitted she was driving without a license. She told state troopers she had no license because she was too old and authorities "wouldn't give me one."

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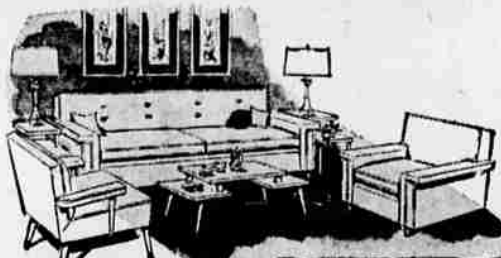
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