

BUILDING REPAIRING



and REMODELING

Convenience Is Now On Increase

Use of Gadgets For Efficiency and Comfort Is Going Up

The tendency of American home builders toward availing themselves of the newest developments in household equipment, fabrics, and even small articles has increased, according to spokesmen of the home building industry.

During the past few years a large number of household devices were placed upon the market. All were designed to increase the convenience of the modern home and many have become so popular that they are

now regarded as standard and not luxury appliances.

Many older homes may be given increased conveniences and new appearance through judicious use of many of the modern materials and devices.

Some recent innovations, which may become widely used, are announced as follows:

A permanent, cleanable finish on asbestos cement siding shingles. In use the shingle is said to be practically self-cleaning like a fine china dish.

A building material that is recommended as a plaster base, an insulating material, and barrier against vapor.

A Colonial type corner cabinet designed to meet a wide range of prices.

A combination storm sash and a screen in a single unit for attachment to the window frame.

Structure's Shape Affects Home Cost

Square Shape Is Considered Most Economical Model

Other Economy Advice Is Offered by FHA Technical Division

The primary factors which govern economy in house construction include the shape of the house, the use of stock materials, and the simplicity with which the structural shell can be framed, according to the technical division of the Federal Housing Administration.

The amount of outside wall and roof area required to enclose a given amount of space makes the shape of the house of considerable importance, it is pointed out. The square is described as the most economical shape since it provides the maximum amount of floor area with the least amount of wall area. Corner construction costs more than straight wall construction with the result that square and rectangular shaped plans are less costly than L, U or Z shapes. The square or rectangular shape also is said to simplify the structural framing system of both floor and roof and thus to effect economies.

The technical division also recommends that the size and arrangement of rooms in house plans permit the use of standard size floor and ceiling joints without waste of labor and materials. When this is done rooms of maximum size are provided by a given amount of labor and materials. It is also recommended that the plan permit the use of a simple structural framing system for floor, walls and roof.

Another important consideration in economical house construction is the planning of structural framing in relation to the mechanical equipment to simplify the installation of pipes, ducts, wires and other items.

Stock millwork items such as window sash, kitchen cabinets, finish trim for wall openings and cornices, and other items are an economy, it is pointed out. Much of this equipment and many finishing items today are so well designed and manufactured that special items become a luxury. Stock moldings of good design are available in various sizes and shapes and can be readily combined to secure effects of wide variety.

HINTS For HOME-OWNERS

Reducing Draft
The advent of cooler weather will remind many home owners of former discomfort caused by drafty windows and doors. Aside from heat loss, a drafty house is a health hazard.

A thorough job of weather-stripping will do much to eliminate this fault and may be accomplished at a reasonable cost. The choice of materials is wide, and selection may be governed by the amount of money the home owner desires to put into home improvement.

Enclosed Entrance
The installation of enclosures at entrances to homes has been found to increase comfort during winter months. The addition of such enclosures permits the door to the compartment and the door to the house to be opened at different intervals, thereby preventing snow, rain and cold air from blowing in.

putty knife, trowel, wire brushes; (4) A variety of bits of wood to match parts of the house, such as moldings, floor boards, trim and similar pieces.

(5) A few bricks, tiles, roofing paper or shingles; (6) Odds and ends like bell wire, electric light wire, washers, sash cord, valve parts; (7) A set of tools, including hammer, saw, screw driver, drill, pliers, wire cutters, wrench, tin shears, plane, draw knife, file, sandpaper and paint scraper.

This list is not complete, but it includes practically all that is necessary for "first aid" to the house. When such materials are on hand, the chances are greater that the small job will be done soon and won't be postponed or neglected altogether.

How Are Floors In Your Home?

New Wood Flooring Is Cheap And Efficient For Repair, Reinforcement

The simplicity with which new wood floors can be laid over the old flooring has proved a boon to the home modernizer and accomplish-

Painting Secluded Surfaces
Secluded surfaces, such as the undersides of porches, should be treated with one coat of a high quality exterior paint to prevent deterioration from dampness.

Kitchen Lighting
Since the workshop of the average housewife is the kitchen, that room should be well illuminated. It is important that the kitchen be free from glare and shadows. Authorities suggest that supplementary lighting fixtures be used in addition to the usual central ceiling fixture. A general recommendation for adequate kitchen lighting is the installation of fixtures for over-all illumination and special lights at the range, refrigerator and sink work centers.

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ed much in raising the standard of the old home towards the higher plane of the modern home.

Many lumber manufacturers (lumber dealers with special thicknesses of flooring especially designed and adapted for modernizing work that is easily and quickly laid without disturbing the old floor. Aside from the economy and saving in labor there is often an advantage in having this double floor.

Wood flooring may be had in many attractive shades and finishes. In a living room or dining room "weathered" finish gives a rich and beautiful effect. Novelty shades such as "forest green" or gray often give the desired touch to sun parlors and breakfast rooms.

Some authorities on interior treatments for the home express the opinion that floors in living rooms,

dining rooms, libraries, etc., should be dark. They say that the floor should be the darkest part of an interior, the wall treatment in lighter value and the ceiling the lightest tone of all.

No matter what the flooring requirements of a home may be, or how varied the personal preference, there is a suitable wood flooring to fully meet every need.

Reflooring work can be done with little fuss or fuss. One room may be done at a time to avoid disturbing the household if this is more desirable than making one job of the entire home.

New wood floors will add much to interior beauty and comfort. And, in addition, and important, is the fact that modern wood floors are easy to keep dust-free and clean.

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Timely Repairs Mean Long Life

Stitch in Time Will Lessen Depreciation Caused by Long Use

Minor defects in a house frequently grow into major repair items for one or two reasons: neglect, or lack of the right materials readily available to make the repairs.

The simplest way to cure these minor defects, and avoid a large bill for repairs, is to have on hand a variety of materials frequently required. These are suggested:

- (1) Assortment of brass screws, steel screws, small bolts and nuts and nails.
- (2) Cans of linseed oil, turpentine, white lead, paint of various colors, varnish, shellac and an assortment of brushes, as well as a can of paint and varnish remover;
- (3) A supply of crack-filling materials and patching cements; elastic roofing cement, bag of Portland cement and sand to go with it; plaster of Paris, glue and such tools as

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