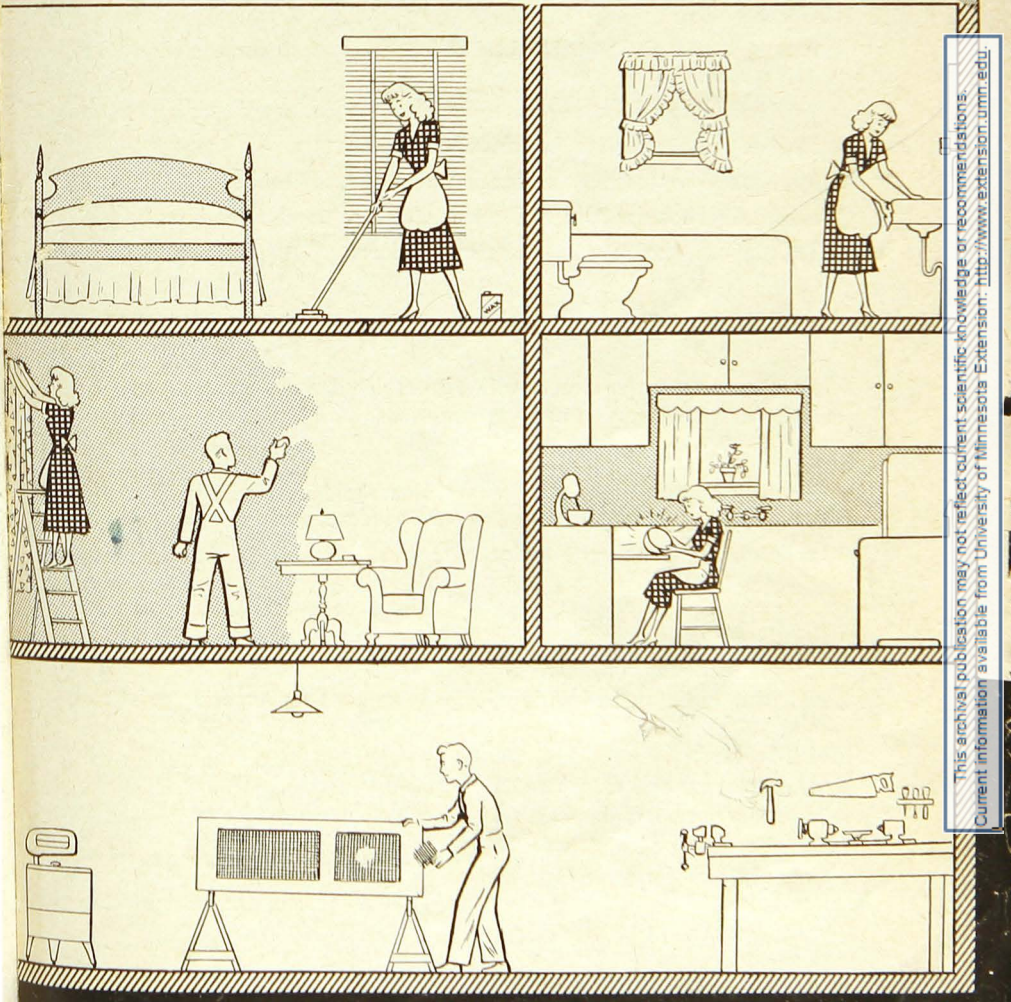


BULLETIN ROOM  
UNIVERSITY FARM

# FIRST AID FOR YOUR HOME



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## A Place for Everything—

Well-organized storage closets are needed in every home. If carefully planned, they will accommodate all supplies and equipment needed for cleaning and for making simple repairs. Space and shelf requirements will depend on your equipment and supplies. Suitable size is 4 feet wide, 18 inches deep, with 10-inch shelves. Plan a closet one-half this size for the second floor.

- ★ Plan depth to accommodate the carpet sweeper, vacuum cleaner, and attachments.
- ★ Plan height to take care of long handles—broom, mop, wax applicator.
- ★ Plan adjustable shelves for various containers.
- ★ Plan space for tool box, a cleaning kit (a sturdy basket or other container with handle, 10 x 16 inches), step stool, and a scrub pail.
- ★ Plan for ventilation—drill holes in the doors.

## —and Everything in Its Place

Stock your storage closets with the equipment and supplies you will need for all your cleaning and repairing jobs.

### EQUIPMENT

Broom with bag  
Dry mop for waxed floors  
Dust pans, long and short handles  
Applicator for floor wax  
Scrub brush with detachable long handle  
Scrub pail with mop squeezer  
Brushes for radiator, bed springs, toilet  
Whisk broom  
Vacuum cleaner and attachments  
Mits for dry mops and dusting  
Rubber kneeling pad  
Weighted brush for polishing floors  
Carpet sweeper  
Step stool  
Tools—hammer, two screw drivers, pliers  
Assortment of nails, tacks, and screws

### SUPPLIES

Household ammonia, vinegar for windows and walls  
Steel wool—fine and coarse  
Liquid soap for general cleaning  
Oxalic acid for bleaching  
Turpentine for removing paint and wax  
Silver polish, furniture polish  
Floor cleaner and wax  
Whiting to absorb grease spots  
Treated dust cloths in tight containers  
Stacks of newspapers and soft cloths  
Homemade solutions (see page 5)

# FIRST AID

## For Your Home

Mary May Miller

Timely care and repairs about the home will simplify your cleaning, conserve materials, and make your home a more attractive and livable center for family life.

### Windows—The Eyes of Your Home

#### Windows

**Broken Window Panes**—Remove the broken glass, protecting your hands with a fold of cloth. Chip out the old putty and scrape to the bare wood. Brush the edges of the opening with linseed oil or a thin coat of priming paint to feed the wood. Cut the glass  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch smaller than the opening. Smooth a thin layer of well-worked putty around the opening. Lay the pane on this layer of putty, pressing slightly. Slip glazier's points into place about 6 inches apart, being sure that they lie flat and hold the glass firmly. Make a short roll of well-worked putty and lay it in position. Bevel with putty knife, beginning at one corner and continuing in one direction. Turn the frame so that the work is next to you. Use

vinegar or turpentine to remove putty smudges from the glass.

**Sticking Windows**—Check the runways for roughness and wear. Smooth with sandpaper. Rub freely with paraffin or soap to prevent further sticking. Loosen the stop strip if it interferes with operation of window. If paint has dried between the sash and frame, scrape carefully with a knife or razor blade. When you paint, prevent sticking by shoving sash up or down when the paint is almost dry enough to set.

**Making the Windows Sparkle**—Wiping windows when they are covered with steam is a quick way to clean them. For dustless cleaning, wash windows with solution of  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of household ammonia and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of vinegar in one gallon of warm water, being careful not to touch the woodwork. Soften paint spots with vinegar or tur-

pentine and remove with a razor blade. Washing windows when the hot sun is shining on them usually causes streaks.

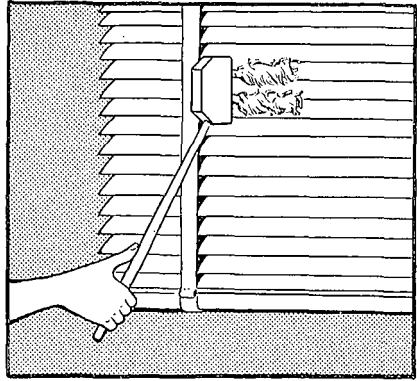
### Screens

**Patches for Screens**—Prepare the patch by removing two or three wires from each side. Skipping the corner wire, press the next two *down flat*, backwards. Skip the next wire, press down two. Continue likewise on each side, being sure to leave a wire or two at each corner. Bend the "skipped" wires to *right angles*, backwards. Trim or bend jagged wires of torn screen. Place patch, poking the wires through holes in the screen. Press wires flat to make patch secure.

**Storing Screens and Storm Windows**—Store them in the order of removal—clockwise around the house. Provide corresponding numbers for each window sill, screen, and storm window. Reduce possible warping in a damp basement by hanging a sack of calcium chloride over a deep pan.

### Shades and Blinds

**Renewing Window Shades**—If shade is washable, lay it on a flat surface with the room side up. Wipe off, then dampen the full length with a soft cloth wrung out of warm water. Apply mild soap-suds with a soft cloth or sponge, keeping shade flat. *Don't allow water to drip on shade or soak it. Work quickly without stretching or wrinkling the fabric.* Rinse with a soft cloth wrung out of clear water. Wipe shade as dry as possible. Scrub the hem end with a brush. For convenience roll up the shade when you rehang it, but be sure to lower it full length until dry. Reinforce weak places in a shade with transparent or adhesive tape. An old shade can be replaced at low cost by a no-tack shade of heavy, tough material—gummed along one end. It can be attached to the old roller.



Dust Venetian blinds weekly to keep them from becoming badly soiled.

**Cleaning Venetian Blinds**—Use a soft cloth with mild soapy water and follow with clear warm water, being careful not to bend the slats or to smear the tapes or cords. The washing soda solution for walls might be necessary for badly soiled slats. Use light strokes—avoid dripping. Rinse quickly with clear water. Sponge the cords and tapes with a tape cleaner or carbon tetrachloride—windows opened. If blind and tapes are badly soiled, disassemble to clean the slats singly and wash tapes in suds with a brush. Stretch tapes to proper length while wet. Operate blinds carefully to prevent damage to blinds and window sills. To keep ends of cord even, hold both ends when adjusting the slats. Purchase a fingered brush for weekly dusting of blinds.

### Washing Curtains and Draperies

**Cotton Curtains**—Shake to remove dust, then soak in mild suds to loosen the dirt. Wash sheer curtains in a cheese cloth or mesh bag. Prepare hot suds for white curtains, lukewarm suds for colored curtains. To give body without stiffness add boiled starch ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup starch to 2 quarts boiling water) to  $\frac{1}{2}$  tub rinse water. This amount of starch

is sufficient for two or three pairs of curtains. Wrap the curtains in towels until they are right dampness for ironing, or put on a stretcher.

**Rayon Curtains**—If washable, shake and then plunge into warm suds. To prevent stretching when lifting curtains, support them with hands. Rinse in warm water. Squeeze between towels. Wrap in bath towels until right dampness for pressing. Watch out for water spots which are likely to appear if curtains are dried before sprinkling. Adjust curtain stretcher carefully to prevent too much strain on the rayon fabric, which is weak and may tear when damp.

**Washable Draperies** — Shake and brush to remove surface dust before washing in mild, warm suds. For easy handling, quick drying, and fewer color and shrinkage problems, it might be necessary to remove the linings. This will be simple if the linings are whipped on by hand. Wash one or two draperies at a time, working quickly to avoid color troubles. Release wringer so rolls are not too tight for draperies. Roll the draperies between bath towels or hang on the line until desired dampness for pressing. Frequent brushing, shaking, and airing will stretch time between launderings. Switching the draperies at the windows will prolong their service.

## Walls Need Attention, Too

**Cleaning and Patching Wallpaper**—Apply commercial wallpaper cleaner with light, even strokes, beginning at the ceiling. Work soiled portion of cleaner under. (Wiping the walls before using the cleaner will cause smears.) Art gum usually will remove smudges caused by picture frames. To remove wax crayon marks try alcohol or a spot remover. Rub *lightly*. If a portion of wallpaper is damaged, pull it off, sandpaper the edges of remaining paper, then apply a patch with *torn* edges which help to conceal patching. Dingy wallpaper can be covered by special paints—easy to apply and quick to dry. Ask your paint dealer about these paints.

**Removing Grease Spots from Walls**—Apply a paste made of fuller's earth or whiting and a noninflammable spot remover such as carbon tetrachloride. The spot remover softens the grease; the powder absorbs it. After several hours, brush off with a soft brush. Apply again if necessary. Some grease spots can be absorbed by a blotter heated with an iron. To prevent grease spots from reappearing, seal the area with shellac or sizing before redecorating the wall.

**Doctoring Large Cracks in Plaster**—Cut away more plaster near the laths than at outer surface to hold patch. Remove loose plaster and dust. Wet edges of crack thoroughly. Fill with patching plaster, smoothing the surface. When dry, apply wall sizing to keep the lime in plaster from discoloring the wall finish.

**Filling Holes in Plaster**—If the hole is large, shape it like an inverted V, cutting away more plaster near the laths than at the surface. Soak laths and edges well so moisture will not be absorbed from the patch. Force patching plaster between the laths, packing firmly. Scratch the surface with a tool. Apply second coat. Dampen to delay drying. When dry, coat the patch with sizing.

### Home-Made Solutions

**Washing Soda Solution**—This solution is recommended for use on very grimy yet washable surfaces. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup washing soda or sal soda, 1 cup household ammonia, and 1 cup vinegar to 6 quarts of warm water. Apply lightly, quickly, and without dripping.

Follow quickly with another cloth wrung out of clear warm water. Dry thoroughly. Wax areas where finger marks usually appear.

**Glue-Soap Solution**—This is a mild solution. The glue produces a glossy surface. Shave a large cake of neutral soap into 1 quart of boiling water. Heat—don't boil—until dissolved. Soften 1 pound sizing glue in 1½ pints of boiling water. Mix the two solutions. Store in tight containers. Use enough jelly to make a suds in water. Apply lightly with a soft cloth or sponge wrung out of the solution. Avoid dripping. Rinse with a soft cloth wrung out of warm water. Dry thoroughly.

**Best-Ever Hand Lotion**—Cleaning jobs are not kind to one's hands. An excellent lotion can be made as follows: Ask the druggist to pour 1½ ounces of sweet oil, ½ ounce bay rum, ½ ounce rose water, and 10 drops of tincture of benzoin into a bottle. Purchase 80 grains of gum tragacanth. Soften the gum in 1 pint hot, soft water in a quart fruit jar. Shake. Let soak 24 hours, shaking the jar several times during the day. Pour into a bowl, add the mixed liquid from the bottle. Beat with an egg beater for several minutes. Pour into bottles and label. Store in convenient place and use whenever hands are chapped or roughened.

## First Aid for Floors

**Removing the Old Finish**—This is important if a large area is to be re-finished because "patches" are difficult to conceal—especially when varnish is used. Three common methods are used:

1. Sanding. A sanding machine may be rented from a local dealer. It is a quick, thorough method but requires careful manipulation to avoid "digs" and possible removal of too much flooring.

2. Commercial Removers (solvents). These are most commonly used. Since many of them are inflammable, they should not be used near a flame. Be sure to open the windows because inhaling the fumes is harmful. Apply with a fiber brush, following the directions on the container.

3. Removal by Scraping. This method can be used when the old finish is dry and brittle. Otherwise it is a slow, tiresome method.

**Removing Stains**—For stains, use a bleach made by dissolving 1 tablespoon of oxalic acid crystals (from drug store) in 1 quart of water. *These crystals are poisonous—don't rub your eyes while using solution and wash hands after*

*using it.* Apply with a cloth. Wait 15 to 20 minutes, then wipe off with a damp cloth. Two or three applications may be necessary. Wash the spots with a solution of household ammonia or turpentine to remove traces of the acid. *When dry, smooth the wood with fine steel wool or No. 0 or 00 sand paper.* Next, apply the stain and filler (if to be used) or a sealer or other type of finish. The finish depends on the kind and condition of the wood and the wear it will be expected to endure.

**Care of Wood Floors**—A chemically treated mop is helpful in caring for floors. Oil mops tend to soften wax and cause a sticky surface that will hold soil. A chemically treated slip-on mit for the dusting mop is convenient and is easier to clean than the uncovered mop. You can purchase the chemical for re-treating your mop and the mits. Use a wax remover when floor surface becomes grimy. Follow instructions on the container. Renew the wax according to instructions for your particular floor finish. *Avoid dangerously slippery floors. Anchor small rugs with nonskid mats purchased from furniture dealers.*

**Ink and Rust Spots on Floors**—When spots are fresh, blot up as much as possible with coarse salt, corn meal, blotters, bits of newspaper, or cloths. Lightly rub the spots with oxalic acid solution (a poison) until scarcely visible. Wash thoroughly with soap and water. Rinse and wipe dry. Sandpaper (use No. 0) the spot with the grain of the wood, then dust and retouch to match floor. Mechanic's soap and moistened steel wool are effective for removal of most spots on wood.

**Marks from Rubber Heels**—Sponging with kerosene, a dry cleaner, or liquid wax will usually do the trick. Some furniture polishes may remove marks. If stubborn, try dampened steel wool—very fine—rubbed on mechanic's soap. Rinse, then dry well. Re-wax. *For safety burn the rags you use.*

### Fillers for Floors

**Glue, Whiting Filler**—Use this filler for a floor roughened by frequent scrubbing. The old finish must be removed and the floor scrubbed and dried thoroughly. Sand the surface if necessary. Soften  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound sizing glue in 1 cup cold water, then dissolve in about 2 cups hot water. Mix 3 pounds yellow ochre and 2 pounds whiting (from hardware store) with enough warm water to moisten well. Combine the two mixtures, adding water until filler is consistency of thick paint. To avoid ridges, apply to the full width of each board so that overlapping will come at the cracks. Wait until thoroughly dry before applying a finish. (The amounts given will be enough for two 10 x 12 floors, depending on condition.)

**Newspaper Crack Filler**—This filler is tough and nonshrinkable. It can be used under baseboards, under windows, in floors, and elsewhere to plug up holes and cracks. **Make as follows:** Tear newspapers into small bits. (Glazed paper is not effective.) Cover with hot water

and let stand 24 to 36 hours. Reheat once or twice. Squeeze the pulp as dry as possible. Mince into bits, picking apart hard lumps. Mix to a putty with about the same amount of stiff flour paste. **To use filler:** Clean out the cracks. Partially fill, then pack firmly. When filler appears to be dry, moisten the surface, and add more filler. Pack firmly. Continue to add one layer after another until well packed. Allow filler to dry completely. Sandpaper the surface until smooth and level. Wipe up dust before applying a finish.

Before laying linoleum over an uneven floor, apply the following crack filler to the low places: Add 2 tablespoons of granulated glue softened over hot water to the newspaper filler. The glue causes the filler to adhere to boards. Smooth out with a putty knife.

### Care of Linoleum and Floor Tile

Three problems are common in the care of linoleum and tiles:

1. **Tacky or sticky surfaces** usually are due to inadequate rinsing, the presence of soil, or humid conditions. Therefore, remove the old wax with the manufacturer's cleaning solution. Rinse and dry *well* before applying a *water-base wax*. Use sparingly, following the instructions on the container. If humidity is causing the trouble, it might pay to wait for a dry, warm day before applying fresh wax.

2. **Spotting or failure to resist water** probably are due to the presence of soil or a soapy film left by incomplete rinsing. *Surfaces must be clean and free from soap before wax is applied.* Otherwise wax cannot resist possible spillage or damp mopping. Therefore, wash again with a *mild* detergent solution or manufacturer's cleaner. *Rinse and dry thoroughly. Apply wax.*

3. **Streaking of the wax** often is caused by poor rinsing which has left an alkaline film on the surface. Wash with a vinegar solution—1 pint to  $2\frac{1}{2}$

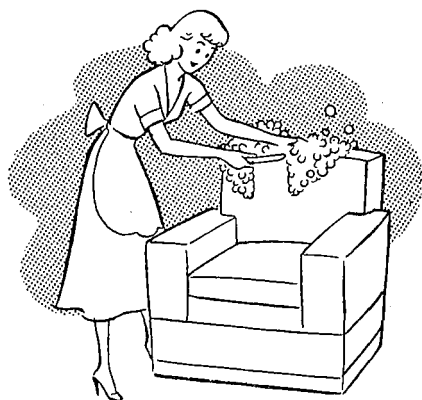
gallons of warm water. Rinse well with warm water. *Dry thoroughly before re-waxing.*

**Care of Linoleum**—Damp-mopping with cold water may be sufficient for daily care. Use warm water and a mild detergent for removing soil, grease, and old wax. *Always rinse well and dry thoroughly.* Every month or two, depending on need, apply a thin coat of water-base wax (self-polishing). Wax containing a naphtha-like solvent may cause color to run or may soften or roughen linoleum and asphalt or rubber tile. Apply with a lamb's wool applicator or a soft cloth—in one direction only. Manufacturers warn against the use of varnish, plastic, and shellac which cause linoleum and tile to crack and the surface to become dull and yellow.

low. They offer cleaning solutions for removing old wax and other materials. Prolong the service of your linoleum by following instructions of the manufacturer. Remember that too much scrubbing with strong powders and soap or gritty cleansing agents will wear away linoleum surfaces much faster than traffic.

**Care of Asphalt and Rubber Tile**—Keep dusted with a floor brush or a dry mop (not oil mop) to prevent damage from soil or grit. Remove spilled food at once to prevent permanent spotting. Damp-mop with a mild detergent and warm water when necessary. *Rinse and dry thoroughly.* Protect surface with a water-base, self-polishing wax applied according to manufacturer's instructions.

## Timely Care of Household Furnishings



Scrape foam from upholstery with dull knife or spatula.

**Cleaning Upholstery**—Brush or vacuum surfaces well. Dissolve 1 cup of an unbuil detergent in 3 cups of hot water (Use soft water when a soap detergent is used to prevent curds which might harden on fabric.) Heat—don't boil. Cool. Add 1 tablespoon ammonia. Pour  $\frac{1}{3}$  into a bowl, beat until it looks

like beaten egg whites. Spread the foam with a soft brush over a small area of upholstery. Scrub lightly with the pile, keeping moisture on the surface. When foam is fairly dry, scrape off with a dull knife or spatula or wipe off with a cloth. Wring cloths out of warm water and wipe off all traces of detergent. Brush upholstery when partly dry, first against the nap, then with the nap. Avoid using the furniture before the surfaces are entirely dry. Harmonizing mats on arms and back of chair will protect upholstery from soil and wear. *If the fabric is not colorfast and is lightweight, sponge soiled areas with carbon tetrachloride—windows open.*

**Grease Spots and Flattened Nap**—Sponge spots with carbon tetrachloride (*windows open*) or other nonexplosive cleaner. To raise a flattened nap, steam with a cloth wrung out of hot water. After thorough steaming remove the cloth, and brush nap carefully.



**Cleaning and Repairing Leather Surfaces**—Apply saddle soap with a slightly moistened sponge or cloth. Polish with a soft cloth, then apply leather-conditioning dressing. Dry thoroughly. Wax polish might make leather upholstery sticky. Rub imitation leather or plastic with a cloth dipped in mild suds. Follow with a dampened cloth. Wipe dry.

To close a split in upholstery, place adhesive tape *under* the opening with sticky side up, forcing the edges of upholstery together.

**Making Rugs Last Longer**—Keep sand and dirt out of the base of the rug. Be on the lookout for moths and carpet beetles, especially in areas under furniture. Do not run electric cords under rugs. Turn rugs occasionally to distribute wear. Lay a pad under rug to reduce pressure on nap. Clip—don't pull—ends that appear on surface of rug. Bottonhole stitch the edges of frayed rugs or reinforce with tape. Strengthen weak places by sewing burlap to underside of rug. Use matching yarns where nap is missing. Remove or replace a shabby fringe—new fringe is available by the yard. *Have quality rugs cleaned and repaired by an expert.* Soapfoam made from an unbuil detergent and soft water can be used for ordinary rug cleaning. Soft water must be used with a soap detergent to avoid soap curds which collect soil. Vacuum rugs well, then follow instructions given for upholstery. Do not replace furniture until rugs are dry. Use an electric fan to hasten drying.

**Cleaning Dingy Lamp Shades**—All shades cannot be cleaned successfully. Weekly brushing or dusting will simplify cleaning. Wipe parchment shades lightly with mild suds on cotton or a soft cloth. Wipe clean with a damp, then a dry cloth. Sponge fabric shades with carbon tetrachloride or other nonexplosive dry cleaner—*work outdoors and avoid inhaling the fumes.* Washable fabrics, if not glued to frame, can be

cleaned by plunging up and down in sudsy water, then clean water. Wipe with dry cloths to absorb moisture. Dry quickly in a breeze or the frame may rust. Slightly soiled delicate shades can be dusted lightly with whiting, then brushed with a soft shade brush.

**Taking Wobbles Out of Furniture**—Scrape and sandpaper the ends of loose rungs, pulls, or legs. Clean out the holes they fit into. Use bits of cloth moistened with glue or use metal holders (available from hardware and variety stores) to take up the "slack." Wire braces, criss-crossed under a chair, will strengthen chair. If it is necessary to take the furniture apart, note the arrangement of pieces carefully so that they can be put together correctly.

**Cleansing Furniture Surfaces**—In time, furniture surfaces become coated with a "fog" that is dull and sometimes sticky. Prepare a cleansing polish as follows: 3 tablespoons boiled linseed oil, 2 tablespoons turpentine, 1 tablespoon vinegar, and 1 tablespoon mild soap flakes dissolved in 1 cup hot water. Add 1 tablespoon very fine pumice. Shake and apply with a soft cloth. Remove excess with a clean, soft cloth. Polish across the grain of wood, then with the grain. Continue until finger marks will not show when you touch the surface.

**Polishing Furniture Surfaces**—Prepare a polishing cloth as follows: Measure 1 tablespoon of vinegar, 2 tablespoons of turpentine, and 3 tablespoons of *boiled* linseed oil into a quart fruit jar. Tip and turn the jar to coat all surfaces. Pour out excess mixture. Then drop a thin dusting cloth in the jar. Seal the jar. In a day or two the cloth will have evenly absorbed the polish and will be ready for use. Keep in jar and out of sun rays for safety. Re-treat after washing.

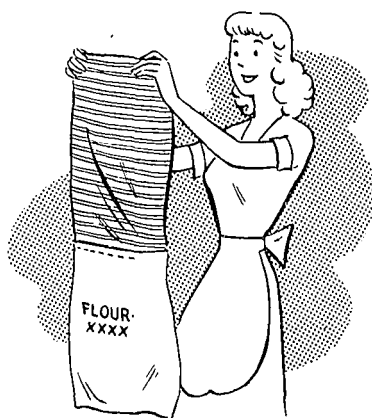
**White Spots on Finishes**—Rub lightly with cotton moistened with spirits of camphor or 1 teaspoon household ammonia in  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup warm water. (Some-

times one is more effective than the other.) When spot almost disappears, follow quickly with furniture polish, rubbing the spot in all directions. Polish with clean, soft cloth; a bit of salted butter in a cloth usually will remove white spots caused by steam or water.

**Dents and Scratches**—Lay several folds of dampened blotters, wrapping paper, or cloth over the bruise. Touch lightly with a warm iron, at brief intervals. The moisture plus heat will cause the wood to swell. If a white spot appears, treat as directed above. Rub a surface scratch with rottenstone or very fine pumice well moistened with furniture polish or with boiled linseed oil (purchased as such). Darken a deep scratch with an oil stain or shoe polish to match the finish, rubbing with a soft cloth across the grain of the wood and then with the grain. Polish with a clean cloth.

### Bedding

**Reviving Limp Bed Pillows**—Limp pillows usually indicate need for airing or for replacement of feathers if they fail to respond to airing. Do not expose pillows to direct rays of hot sun. Doing so will remove oil and take life out of the pillows. Frequent airing on windy days will fluff up the pillows. The ticks, unless protected by slip-on covers, may require frequent washing. Wash pillows on a windy, warm day. To wash tick and feathers separately, sew an opening of a thin flour sack to an opening (about 4 inches wide) in one end of tick, shaking the feathers into the sack. Use a second sack if necessary to avoid crowding and slow drying. Wash in a machine or use a hand sudser in a tub of warm suds. Keep up a good suds. Rinse, drain, then spin or dry in warm—not hot—breeze. Shake and rehang several times while drying. Wash the tick, using starch in the last rinse to featherproof the tick. Press when almost dry. When feathers are

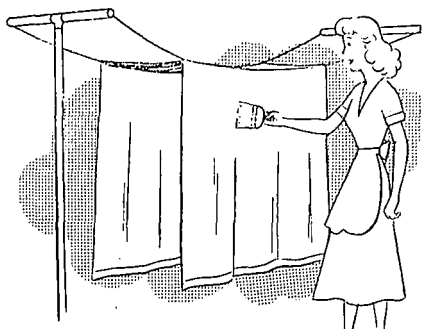


To wash ticking and feathers separately, sew sack to ticking, leaving four-inch opening; shake feathers into sack.

thoroughly dry, sew washed tick to one end of the sack, then shake feathers into the tick.

If the feathers are to be washed in the tick, rip an opening in one end so that pillow will not float. Sew muslin over the opening to prevent feathers from escaping. Scrub soiled spots on ticking before putting pillows into suds. Rinse well, then squeeze or spin as dry as possible. Hang in a warm breeze. Beat and rehang to hasten drying. Rubber air vents in seams help to keep pillows fluffy.

**Preparing Newly Plucked Feathers**—Newly plucked feathers should be washed and dried thoroughly to prevent mold and strong odors. Soak the feathers in lukewarm soapy water containing household ammonia, baking soda, or borax. Use ammonia if any of the feathers are blood-stained. Rinse the feathers thoroughly in lukewarm water. Then soak them again in warm clear water for 30 or 40 minutes and drain them. Dry the feathers quickly by placing them in thin sacks, one-third full, and hanging them in a warm breeze. Shake and rehang the sacks



Before taking blanket from lines, raise nap by brushing briskly.

at regular intervals until feathers are dry. Air the feathers several weeks before using.

The common size for bed pillows is 20 inches by 26 inches and weight is 2½ pounds for goose feathers and 3½ pounds for chicken feathers. Chicken and turkey feathers, which have hard center quills, can be stripped by pulling the soft side parts away from the

stiff quills. These pieces peel off in crests. They make good filling for comforters. It is desirable to combine these curls with small feathers to add service and fluffiness.

**Protecting Blankets for Longer Wear**—Darn worn places and rebind frayed edges before washing. Select a warm, breezy day for washing blankets. Wash in machine two or three minutes, or use hand sudser in a tub of lukewarm suds. Rinse quickly in lukewarm water, supporting the blanket with the hands when lifting from one tub to another. Squeeze between towels, or spin out moisture, or wring, releasing pressure on the wringer. Shake, then hang on tight parallel clotheslines that are 12 inches apart to hasten drying. If the day is windy and warm, the blanket can be hung lengthwise and halfway over one line. Be sure that the edges are together. To hasten drying, turn inside out when partly dry. Brush up the nap before taking from the line.

## Care of Household Metals

Timely care of lightly tarnished or damaged household metals will prevent heavy tarnishes and extend the life of utensils.

### Tarnishes

**Aluminum Ware**—Scour burnt-on food with *fine* steel wool and abrasive soap or a fine powder. Boil an acid food—tomatoes, apples, or rhubarb—in the pan to remove discoloration caused by hard water. Avoid sudden temperature changes which may warp spun aluminum or crack cast-aluminum utensils. Soaking aluminum ware in soapy water often causes pits and discoloring.

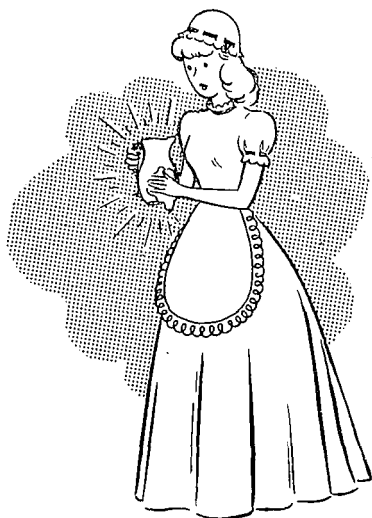
**Brass and Copper**—Use salt dissolved in vinegar for green deposits. Polish

with a mild silver polish or a paste of rottenstone or whiting (from hardware and drug stores) and raw linseed oil. Wash thoroughly. *Burn the oily cloths after using.*

**Chromium and Nickel**—Soapy water followed by polishing is sufficient for these metals which are thin and soft. Use fine steel wool moistened with mechanic's paste or ammonia for stubborn stains on range burners.

**Enamelware**—Remove burnt-on food with baking soda or ammonia solution brought to a slow boil. Coarse powders destroy the glaze. Heat or cool slowly to prevent chipping the enamel surface. Mend chipped enamel or porcelain with liquid porcelain.

**Ironware**—If new, condition by heating slowly and rubbing with a *saltless*



An old-time method for shining pewter is given on this page.

fat. Boil off burnt food. Dry ironware thoroughly and store where dry. Prolonged soaking will cause rusting. Avoid using coarse powders on ironware.

**Pewter**—Rubbing with rottenstone and linseed oil will produce a soft gray sheen. *Burn oily cloths after using.*

An old-time method (year 1770) for cleaning pewter still holds.

“Take a piece of fine woolen cloth, upon this put as much sweet oil as will prevent rubbing it dry; with these rub them well in every part; then wipe them smartly with a soft dry linen rag, and then rub them off with soft wash-leather (probably chamois) and whiting. Note well: If convenient, wash them in boiling water and soap, just before they are rubbed with wash-leather and whiting. This would take off the oil more effectually.”

**Silverware**—Apply a silver polish. Recipe: add  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups of soap flakes to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups of hot water. Cool. Stir in  $\frac{1}{4}$

pound of whiting,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon sweet oil, and 1 tablespoon ammonia. Store in tightly covered glass jar. Apply with soft cloth or sponge on smooth surfaces and with a small brush on embossed areas. Wash thoroughly.

To remove hardened wax from candlesticks, apply carbon tetrachloride with a piece of cotton flannel or a wad of cotton. Silver cleaners are in the form of pastes or liquids. Fleecy cottons impregnated with a cleaning agent are available and produce quick results. Gritty pastes or harsh, coarse cloths cause scratches. Use a special silver brush to remove polish from etched crevices. Never soak hollow ware in water—handles and bases usually are cemented on.

**Tinned and Galvanized Ware**—Boil or soak off burnt-on food. Dry thoroughly to prevent rust. Scraping and scouring destroys protective coatings which prevent rust. Remember that tinware usually bakes better when discolored.

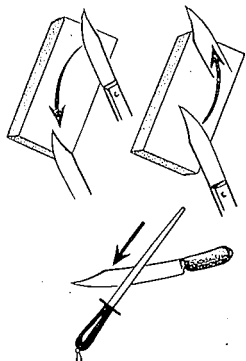
**Porcelain Surfaces of Ranges**—Soften brown food spatters with ammonia or with a cloth moistened with mechanic's paste or an aluminum soap cleaner. To soften deposits in your oven, place a wad of cotton saturated with ammonia on a saucer and place in oven for a few hours. The deposits then can be removed easily.

**Lime in Teakettles**—Put 1 cup of vinegar, 1 cup water, and 2 tablespoons of salt in teakettle. Rub onto surfaces, then boil slowly. Tap lightly or empty and set outside on very cold day. Reduce lime deposit by boiling water in teakettle only when needed. Keep an unglazed marble or piece of clean cloth in teakettle, changing cloth when it stiffens.

For whistling teakettles which have no lids, boil vinegar and salt solution in teakettle to loosen lime. Empty and rinse. You also can use the unglazed marble for this type of teakettle.

# Care and Repair of Utensils

## Keeping Edges on Knives—



nicks by grinding, turning wheel toward edge of blade. Avoid overheating. Finish on oil-stone, holding knife fairly flat and stroking toward edge of blade. Turn frequently to sharpen both sides of blade equally. A sharpening steel can be used in the same way.

## Prolonging Knives' Service—

Use a cleaver or small hatchet instead of a knife for chopping through bones. It is dangerous to use a knife for a can opener. Stirring hot food with a knife destroys its temper. Soaking in water will loosen the handle. Scour knives with dampened whiting, wood ashes, or pumice on a cork. Knife racks or spacers in drawers will protect edges of knives.

Copper-clad, Stainless Steel Utensils—Clean the copper according to instructions usually furnished with the utensil. If no instructions are furnished, apply a paste of whiting or rottenstone and an oil. Rub discolorations on stainless steel with fine steel wool moistened with a mechanic's paste. Food is less likely to stick if you avoid preheating the utensil. This is especially true for frying pans.

Stainless steel is less likely to develop dark areas if you will heat it gradually and avoid high temperatures when "dry" cooking.

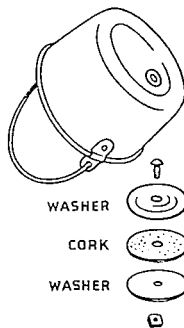
## Simple Repairs for Utensils

Sudden temperature changes cause warping. Crowding and careless handling make dents in utensils and jammed edges on covers.

## Leaky Pans —

Tiny holes in spun (thin) aluminum usually can be rubbed out by warming the pan, then rubbing the holes with a smooth block of wood. Use rivets, pot menders, solder, or metal cement to seal holes. Soldering produces a smooth surface but is not usually

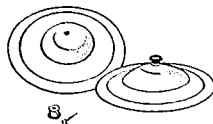
effective on aluminum ware. If it is to be riveted ream out the hole so that shank will fit snugly.



**Bulges and Dents**—Pans that wobble on the range are inefficient because they do not heat evenly. Heat them and place smooth blocks of wood under and over bulge. Hammer the block over the bulge. (Overheating causes thin aluminium to stretch—be careful.)

## Handles and

**Knobs** — Tighten riveted handles by flattening the rivets or soldering. Purchase replacements for missing handles from variety counters, or use a spool and bolt to do the trick. Prevention is the best cure for burnt handles. Do not leave spoons or other tool in food being cooked on range. The handles may burn and metal of spoon may be affected by the heat. Raise kettle handles to prevent damage.



# Longer Service from Electric Cords and Plugs

**Making Cords Last Longer**—Avoid pushing hand iron against the cord or over hooks, zippers, or buttons. Detach cord by the plug, not the cord. Avoid trampling on cord. Keep cord free from twists and sharp bends. Cool your iron completely before wrapping the attached cord loosely around it.

**Frayed Cords**—Wrap friction tape over worn outer covering before "insulation" becomes damaged. Wind rubber tape over each conductor and then bind together with friction tape if fabric is badly worn but insulation intact.

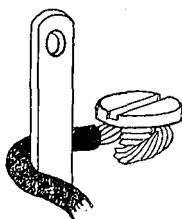
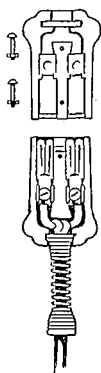
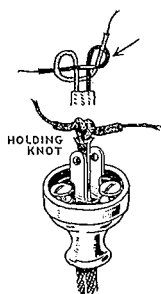
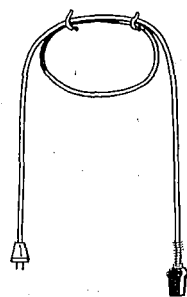
**Fixing Cord of Electric Iron**—Open the plug, noting the arrangement within. Disconnect the cord from plug. Cut off damaged portion. Tie a thread or wrap adhesive tape around end of outer fabric covering to prevent fraying. Scrape off insulation carefully to expose  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of wire on each conductor. Scrape wires lightly, twist, and shape clockwise into "hooks" to fit under screws on contact sleeves. Hook into place, tighten screws, press cord into plug.

Fit halves of plug together, fasten securely. A broken or loose plug should be replaced.

**Attaching an Outlet Plug to Cord**—Slip cord through hole in plug. Cut away 4 inches of fabric covering, binding the end to prevent fraying. Tie an underwriter's knot, seating it firmly in the base of plug. (The knot protects the wires and screws against strain.) To prepare the wires, remove  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch

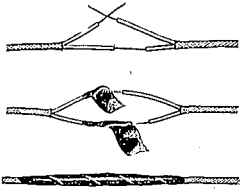
of rubber insulation from each conductor. Scrape wires lightly, trim evenly, and twist clockwise. *Avoid breaking or nicking the wires.*

Wind one insulated conductor around each terminal and hook the bare wires under screws clockwise. Tighten screws. Seal plug with the paper disk.



*The ends of wires under one screw will not touch ends under other screw if cut short enough. Adjust the terminals to make tight connection at outlet. A simpler method is now available because of a new plug on the market. Be sure to select approved (U. L.) plugs, cords, and other electrical parts. Use caps on exposed outlets that are within the reach of small children.*

**Splicing Electric Cords**—Splicing is necessary when insulation is damaged and inner wires broken or when longer cord is needed.



Splicing is tricky and must be done carefully. Many times it is best to replace a worn cord. Cut the cord where damaged or where it is to be pieced. Remove 4 inches of the *outer* covering from each cut end. This leaves two

pairs of wires to be spliced (see drawing). To stagger pieces, cut off 1½ inches from the *right-hand* wire of the lower pair and the same amount from the *left-hand* wire of the upper pair. Remove 2 inches of insulation from all four ends without nicking wires. Scrape wires lightly, twist tightly.

Splice each conductor, forming short, tight twists for as many contacts as possible. Joinings should be soldered—wrap spliced portions with rubber tape, then friction tape. Finally, bind both conductors with friction tape, starting well over the outer fabric.

You will be interested in other homemaking bulletins published by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service. You may obtain a copy of any of the following bulletins by writing to the Bulletin Room, University Farm, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

- ★B246 Planning Step-Saving Kitchens
- ★B251 Bathrooms for the Farm Home
- ★B261 Soap and Other Detergents
- ★B262 Reupholstering at Home
- ★B264 Selecting and Making Curtains and Draperies
- ★F89 Clothes Moths and Carpet Beetles
- ★F134 What Is a Good Farm House?
- ★F155 Managing the Home with Ease and Satisfaction
- ★P173 The Family Dollar
- ★P174 Your Property and Your Heirs
- ★P175 Getting Your Money's Worth
- ★P176 Financial Traps for the Unwary

# WORK WITH SAFETY!

When you clean or repair, do the job the safe way. Hazards exist all about you in your home. Check the lists below to make sure that you have done all you can to make your home safe for you and your family.

## FALLS:

- \_\_\_ Are small rugs skidproof?
- \_\_\_ Do you use only a thin coat of wax on floors?
- \_\_\_ Are halls and stairs unobstructed and well-lighted?
- \_\_\_ Are chairs, footstools, and tables placed where no one will trip over or bump against them? Are they in good repair?
- \_\_\_ Are ladders kept in repair? Safe to use?
- \_\_\_ Are stair treads a contrasting color from floors and landings?
- \_\_\_ Are there handrails for all stairways?
- \_\_\_ Are gates provided at the head of stairs for protection of small children?
- \_\_\_ Are the bathtub and shower protected with grab rails?
- \_\_\_ Are windows securely screened against possible falls of children?

## BURNS AND EXPLOSIONS:

- \_\_\_ Are flues, pipes, and chimneys cleaned annually and kept in repair?
- \_\_\_ Are all burnable surfaces near furnaces or stoves and pipes insulated?
- \_\_\_ Are fireplaces protected with tight-fitting screens?
- \_\_\_ Do you burn oily cleaning cloths immediately after using?
- \_\_\_ Are basement and attic free from rubbish which would feed a fire?

- \_\_\_ Do you disconnect cords from outlets so children will not place live ends in mouth?
- \_\_\_ Do you have porcelain light sockets in rooms where water is used?

## GASES AND POISONS:

- \_\_\_ Are gas burners kept in adjustment to insure complete combustion?
- \_\_\_ Do you use rigid or "U.L. approved" flexible tubes for gas burners and plates? Do you keep them in good condition with secure connections?
- \_\_\_ Are poisons and medicines clearly labeled and stored separately—out of reach of children?

## MISCELLANEOUS:

- \_\_\_ Are low and projecting pipes (particularly in the basement) painted a contrasting color?
- \_\_\_ Do you use the proper tool for each household task?

## ADD YOUR OWN:

In the spaces below, fill in steps you intend to take to make your home safe.

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