

# Spring



## HOME AND GARDEN

### Section

*The Latest News and Ideas On:*

Home Improvement • Gardening • Remodeling  
Decorating • Home Furnishing • Outdoor Living

After one of the hardest winters on record—suddenly it's **SPRING**. With this most joyous of seasons comes both the necessity and the desire to brighten and improve the home and yard. This section is devoted to helping you search out new ideas and helpful hints as you happily begin your Spring improvements in house and garden. Area merchants and services have added greatly to our section with their support and ideas.



### Dress Up Your Kitchen

This built-in oven and range that completely changes and modernizes your kitchen can be installed, complete with carpentry work, by Merit Electric company, 3035 Ellwood, Berkeley. The complete job including plumbing and electrical work often costs no more than the price of a new kitchen range.

#### Substitute Sealer

White lead paint makes a perfectly good substitute for pipe joint compound for sealing threaded joints in black iron or galvanized pipe.

#### Line Container

To store a chalk or plumb line, wrap the line around an empty adhesive tape spool. Then snap the spool into its original protective cover.

## Spring Spurs Plans For Home Improvement

By ELEANORE VINALL  
Staff Writer

Spring has sprung—and with it, home improvement holds the spotlight in family circles throughout the Birmingham area. It's not really a sudden upsurge of interest, but rather an acceleration of thoughts and hopes, dreams and ideas born of a long, cold, house-bound winter.

In 1957 a whopping \$15 billion was spent enlarging, remodeling, modernizing and restyling American homes. Complete figures for 1958 are not yet available, but there is no doubt that sustained home improvement activities were one of the bright spots of the year in the building and related industries.

This spring, with the whole economy apparently moving forward at a reasonably steady pace, more and more families are taking steps to improve their homes, with results which bid fair to push the year's over-all activities in this field to a new high.

THE BASIC motivation for home improvements might be said to represent the urge for "more of something."

The desire for more space, more convenience, more comfort, more utility, more livability, and/or more beauty is the mainspring for improvement plans.

First step in embarking on a program of home improvement is to take a long, close look (in which all members of the family should participate) at your house as it now is.

Decide what's right with it and what's wrong with it, what you like about it and what you don't like about it, and finally, just what is needed to bring your home more closely in line with your family's needs and desires—both present and future.

A SCHEDULE of priorities should be set up in which those improvements most urgently needed will be undertaken first, with others following along in a predetermined order as financial and other factors permit.

The important thing is to make a start. Don't make the error of postponing doing anything about your house until you can do everything.

Even the simplest and least expensive home improvement can make an immediate contribution to the morale and well-being of the family and can be enjoyed while other projects in the program await their scheduled "target dates."

By adhering closely to a well-conceived long-term plan, you can be sure that each project will coordinate with the others and the final result will be the one which you hoped for.

ONCE YOU'VE decided what you will do first, the next step is determining how to go about it. If, for instance, you decide that your most urgent need is living space, the next move is to appraise all the possibilities which your home affords for achieving this end.

Should you demolish or extra be finished off to provide an attic room? Or would it be better to enclose a porch or perhaps build an additional wing?

In each case, what will it cost? How much of the work can you do yourself? How much should be left to professionals?

THE SCOPE of your project will determine whether you employ a specialized contractor (such as a plumber, mason, electrician or roofer) or a general contractor who will do all the carpentry and sub-contract the masonry work, heating, plumbing, wiring, roofing or whatever is required.

In the case of a general contractor, you will make one over-all payment covering the work which he does and that done by his sub-contractors.

How can you go about selecting the general contractor or contractor required for your project? Many of them advertise in *The Birmingham Eccentric*. Many are listed in the classified section of the telephone directory.

Checking with your bank or home

loan company can be helpful. And often you will find that a lumber or building supply company has its own list of contractors and artisans whom it recommends.

Once your selection has been made, you will find that your specialists will provide practical assistance and advice.

What better time than now to take a good look at your home—take stock of your needs and desires—check your resources—and begin to make the improvements which will mean much to the whole family for a long time to come.

#### Avoid Kinking

Cover the cords of power tools with the spiral wrapping sold for telephone cords. This will prevent snarls and kinking.

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### Wiggs' Family-Dining Room

This combination dining-family room designed for a model home in Westchester village is a specialty of Wiggs Colony Shop, Pontiac. The firm is noted for creating distinctive early American interiors. Above are table, chairs and deacon's bench of nut-

meg-toned Vermont rock maple and are authentic replicas of early American design. The high-back love seat is covered in a provincial print and the table settings carry out the colonial theme.

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