



### Dish Display

This housewife's choice dishes not only attractively displayed but also are kept free of dust and dirt on shelves protected by glass. A do-it-yourself enthusiast using simple hand tools can convert ordinary storage shelves into "built-in" cabinets by enclosing them with sliding doors of plate glass, mirrors or pattern glass.

## Expert Explains Way To Panel Entire Room

Do-it-yourself is an integral part of our way of life today, and this handyman skill is reflected in well kept, modern homes.

Home handyman have progressed from simple repair jobs to major home improvement projects as their skills have sharpened. Today, it isn't unusual to hear of handyman paneling an entire room to give it a new appearance.

Hal Workman, home improvement director for the manufacturer of marlite paneling, has found that do-it-yourselfers like to work with 16" x 8" plastic-surface hardboard planks because they are easy-to-handle and apply. Only ordinary carpentry tools—hammer, saw and level—are needed.

WHEN PANELING a room, always start from a corner and work progressively around the room. First tack a level 1" x 2" starter strip of wood temporarily in place at the bottom of the wall, he advises.

The planks will rest on this strip during installation. Eventually the starter strip will be removed and a base molding will cover this space.

Before beginning the installation, Workman says, plan the spacing of the planks on the wall. Then locate the first vertical joint, by marking a plumb line the required distance from the corner.

Trim the first plank, if necessary, then apply adhesive to the plank and wall with a notched spreader. Place the plank in position with the grooved edge toward the wall area to be covered. All marlite planks have tongue-and-groove edges to simplify installation.

NEXT FASTEN simple metal clips over the exposed groove edge. Clips should be placed 16" apart along the groove edge. Workman emphasizes that the clips should be fitted snugly to the plank's grooved edge before being nailed to the wall.

Adhesive is applied to each plank before the tongue is inserted into the groove of the plank already installed. Press the planks gently together, allowing 1/16" in the joint. Workman points out the clips are designed to help provide correct spacing between panels.

Here are several other points Workman believes important in installing marlite planks:

1. Always install the planks over a surface that is clean and dry.
2. Saw marlite with the finished side up.
3. Nails fastening base mold-

ings should go below the bottom of the planks, never through them.

THE PLANKS have a tempered hardboard base that is strong and dent resistant, a baked melamine plastic finish provides a permanent, washable surface. Damp-wiping will remove mussy handprints, fruit juice stains and other causes of deterioration.

Lumber dealers carry the planks, which are available in high-fidelity woodgrains and pastel colors. Matching moldings also are available. The plastic-surfaced hardboard planks are 3/4" thick.

## Check Home For Hidden Closet Area

Springtime is hot water time. Soon, with the countless clean-up chores inside and outside the house, water heaters will be called on to furnish a much greater supply.

The first step in tackling spring cleaning this year should be to make sure plenty of hot water will be available when needed.

MANY WATER heaters are inadequate to meet the demands of special occasions such as house cleaning. In fact, many are incapable of supplying enough hot water at the right temperature for modern appliances such as automatic laundries and automatic dishwashers.

For these reasons, many water heaters should be replaced. A properly sized water heater will not only give all the hot water needed, when it is needed but will also provide longer service.

Reports indicate that the more frequently hot water is drawn from the tank, the more its internal surface is exposed to dissolved oxygen. The rate of corrosion is directly related to the amounts of oxygen on the metal surface of the heater.

IN SHORT, an under-sized unit, pushed beyond its capacity, will wear out rapidly. Ideally, the size for a water heater should not be less than 40 gallons.

## Gardening Favorite Leisure Activity

More married people spend more of their leisure time in gardening activity than in going to parties, the movies, or in playing cards and games, according to studies by the American Association of Nurserymen.

The tremendous surge of garden and outdoor living in recent years has made the home property one of the busiest spots in the country, designed for, wholesome recreation and pleasure at home.

## Check with Nurserymen For Gardening Success

Home owners are urged to consult with qualified nurserymen if they wish to have sound success with plants.

"Anyone can go out and select a plant," says the American Association of Nurserymen, "but in many cases they don't know the variety or what it will do, how it will grow best, how to water it, or any of the important things that insures success in growing plants on the home property."

Most good nurserymen have spent the major part of their lives in raising trees and shrubs for home plantings. They know what species are better for certain soils, as well as where to locate the plants on the home property.

THE MAJORITY of successful nurserymen are college or university graduates, specializing in ornamental horticulture or landscape architecture.

With their good advice, it is far easier for the home owner to grow plants that will give full returns in beauty, shade, flowers or fruits, as the need may be.

"Tell the nurseryman what you want the plants for," urges the Association. "Tell him what you are trying to achieve in planting."

"Do you need more privacy? Some plants are especially recommended as plant screens. Do you wish shade at some particular spot, or to shut off sun glare from

certain windows or a porch or terrace?

WHERE YOU locate the tree is important, while there are special plants for this particular purpose.

"Family garden living is in great vogue today from coast-to-coast. Your nurseryman can tell you what plants to purchase for garden living and how and where to plant them for best results."

Suburbia has many glaring examples of what not to do in planting your property, says the Association, such things as scrubby foundation plantings that obscure windows, trees in the middle of the lawn, various unsuitable hedge plants, and other mistakes that never would have been made if a good nurseryman had been consulted in the first place.

### Don't Wait

To put off having your heating system checked until the fall, or until just before the heating season begins, is like waiting until it rains to have a leaking roof fixed. The nearer the heating season gets, the busier the heating contractor becomes. A spring or summer heating check will leave the homeowner confident that he will have sufficient heat for maximum comfort when temperatures begin to tumble.

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