

## Face lift for bathrooms freshens up old decors

When the urge to re-decorate your home hits, don't forget the family bathroom.

There's much you can do to spruce up this "everyone's" room, even though its furnishings can't be rearranged! Here are some of the ways you can do it:

- Cover plain, dull walls with an attractive, colorful wallpaper. Wallpaper can add brightness to a room. If there's a window in the bathroom, have a window shade made from leftover paper to match the walls.
- Hang some art. Many pictures and prints can safely withstand bathroom moisture — and they add interest to the room.
- Keep it shining. No matter how you decorate, a clean room always looks better than a neglected one. And, especially in the bathroom, it's prudent to kill germs while you clean. Spray tub and basin, shower curtain, tiles,

floors, counter tops and other washable surfaces with the foaming bathroom cleaner and wipe off with a paper towel, clean cloth or damp sponge.

In addition to killing staph, strep and other household germs, you'll also help prevent mold and mildew growth for up to two weeks.

- Think green... plants, that is. Plants look great anywhere in the home — the bathroom is no exception. If you have enough space, try setting one on a pedestal; otherwise, a hanging plant would do nicely, too. It'll flourish in the room's moisture.

- Hang curtains in front of the bath; protect them with a plastic shower sheet. Shower curtains must be waterproof, but only on the side that gets hit by water — you can use almost any washable material to make a pretty curtain for the "dry side."



WINDOWS THAT SERVE to make the outdoors a visual extension of a room are part of the pleasure in family rooms. They also provide plenty of sunlight and fresh air.

## Family room windows reflect all viewpoints

Adding a family room to a comfortable older home can be as challenging as it is exciting. The excitement comes from day-dreaming about the ways the family will eventually use the room for enjoyment or entertainment as well as from planning the interior decor.

Wondering how you'll be able to design a room that will meet the family's needs for comfort and convenience, yet conserve energy, is the challenge.

If you're thinking about adding a room to the back of the house, adjacent to a patio or backyard, ample window space that affords broad views, fresh air and sunshine is a must. Since windows offer the best opportunity for making a new room attractive as well as functional, choosing the right ones can give you all the natural light and fresh air you'll need and still conserve energy.

The quality of the window being installed has as much influence on energy conservation as its size and number. Precision-made wood windows with insulating glass, for example, save considerably more energy than routine, single-glazed metal-frame windows without a specific thermal barrier. Well-built wood window

units keep heat loss at a minimum in several ways. Since wood is a poor conductor, it makes an excellent insulator.

Insulating glass — two panes of glass with an insulating air space between — also reduces the flow of heat through the glass area. And factory-applied weatherstripping limits heat loss due to air infiltration.

Combined with wood sash, insulating glass reduces heating costs in other ways. Indoor condensation on the glass surface and the window frame is minimized. This allows a higher humidity level to be maintained at a lower setting on the thermostat, but with no sacrifice in comfort.

In addition, complete wood window units with insulating glass can be purchased at local building material dealers in a variety of styles and sizes that enable homeowners to get a balance of fixed and operable windows. In this way, a homeowner can utilize daylight and cooling breezes instead of relying exclusively on energy-consuming artificial light and air conditioning.

Properly designed, a family room with ample window space can provide a family with many hours of comfortable enjoyment.

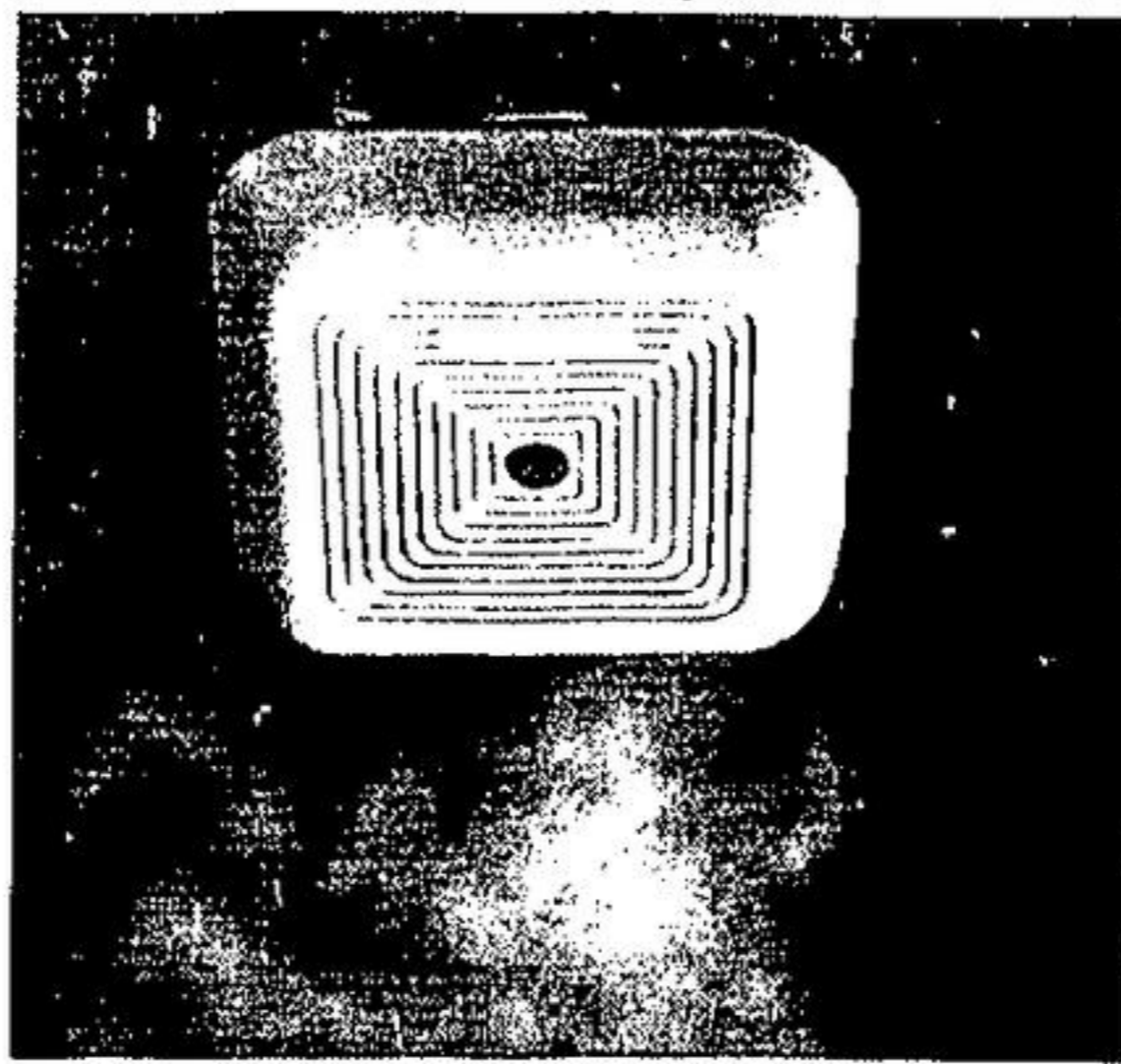
## Home fires: an increasing cause for alarm, use important check list for their prevention

Twelve thousand Americans are killed annually in fires; another 300,000 are injured; and property damage extends to \$3 billion.

In light of these statistics, obviously one of the most important and least expensive home improvements you can make is in the area of fire safety.

A quick check of the following points can make a vast improvement.

- Store gasoline, paints and other flammable materials in tight metal containers. Don't use flammable liquids near heat, a pilot light or while smoking.
- Have heating equipment checked annually; keep chimneys clean, and always use a screen to cover your fireplace.
- Sort and remove rubbish. Don't store things near the furnace or heater.
- Put lighters and matches where small children won't find them.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Don't overload electrical outlets.
- Replace inadequate home wiring and cracked or frayed appliance cords.
- Make sure that all appliances you purchase are U.L. or Factory Mutual tested.
- When a fuse blows, find the cause, and always



YOU CAN HELP REDUCE the risk of tragedy with a GE Home Sentry™ Smoke Alarm for early warning of fire.

replace a blown fuse with one the same size (no pennies).

Use this check list periodically and correct any hazards you find without delay. Unfortunately, no matter how vigilant you are, a fire can still happen, so another big improvement you can make is to be sure you and your family are prepared for fire.

Consider the following:

- It's wise to have some kind of early warning alarm system. One of the

newest, which utilizes space age technology, is the General Electric Home Sentry™ Smoke Alarm.

This smoke alarm sounds for early warning of fire, often when the smoke reaching the smoke alarm is barely visible. There is no way to guarantee against injury or loss of life in a fire. The GE Smoke alarm is intended to help reduce the risk of tragedy.

- Plan for escape from every area of your home.

## Safe, not sorry with family safety avoid potentially dangerous items

Do you think you're safe at home? Most people do. Yet, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, an estimated 20-million Americans are injured each year by products used in and around the house.

Don't take chances with your family's safety. Listed below are the five top injury-producing items in American homes. Check their status in your household and, if necessary, correct any potentially dangerous situations:

1) Bicycles and bicycle features, including add-on accessories. Poorly maintained or broken bike parts, exposed chains and spokes and careless use of bicycles all constitute hazardous situations.

Always be sure a bicycle is in good working order before you ride it; do not ride double, and install protective guards over chains and spokes. When wearing trousers, secure them with a pants-clip to prevent the cloth from becoming entangled in moving bicycle parts.

2) Stairs, ramps and landings, both inside and outside the house, are often the scene of falls. Beware of unsafe conditions, whether they be caused by the weather, loose tread

surfaces or floor wax, and watch where you're stepping to avoid tripping over misplaced objects.

3) Doors also can be dangerous. Watch out for garage doors and those that fold or swing into the traffic flow. Keep doorways free of clutter to minimize the chance of someone falling or slipping against the door. And teach your family to open doors slowly.

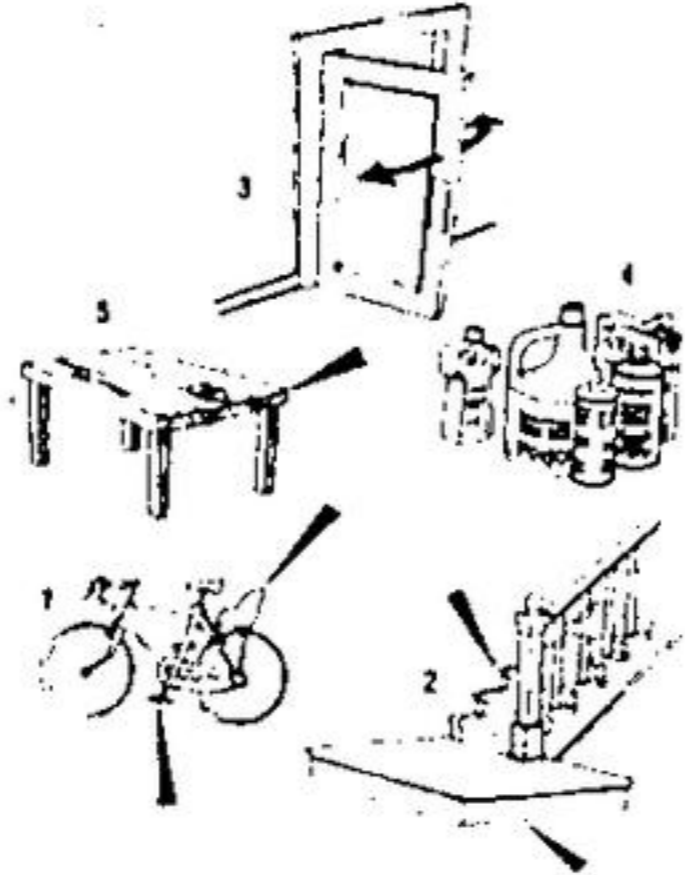
4) Cleaning agents and caustic compounds. Mix-

ing several chemicals, accidental swallowing and contact with the body can all cause poisoning or chemical burns.

Always read instructions before using any cleaning agent, and, whenever possible, avoid using hazardous ones.

5) Non-glass tables are an unexpected hazard. Almost every home has at least one square or rectangular table with edges and corners sharp enough to cause injuries if some-

one falls or runs into them. Avoid placing tables in high traffic areas, and install rounded "corner guards" on sharp, exposed corners.



ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN in and around the home. Bicycles, stairs, doors, caustic cleaning compounds and tables are in the top five categories of injury-producing household items, says the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Protect your family; know the dangers; and whenever possible, use safe alternatives.

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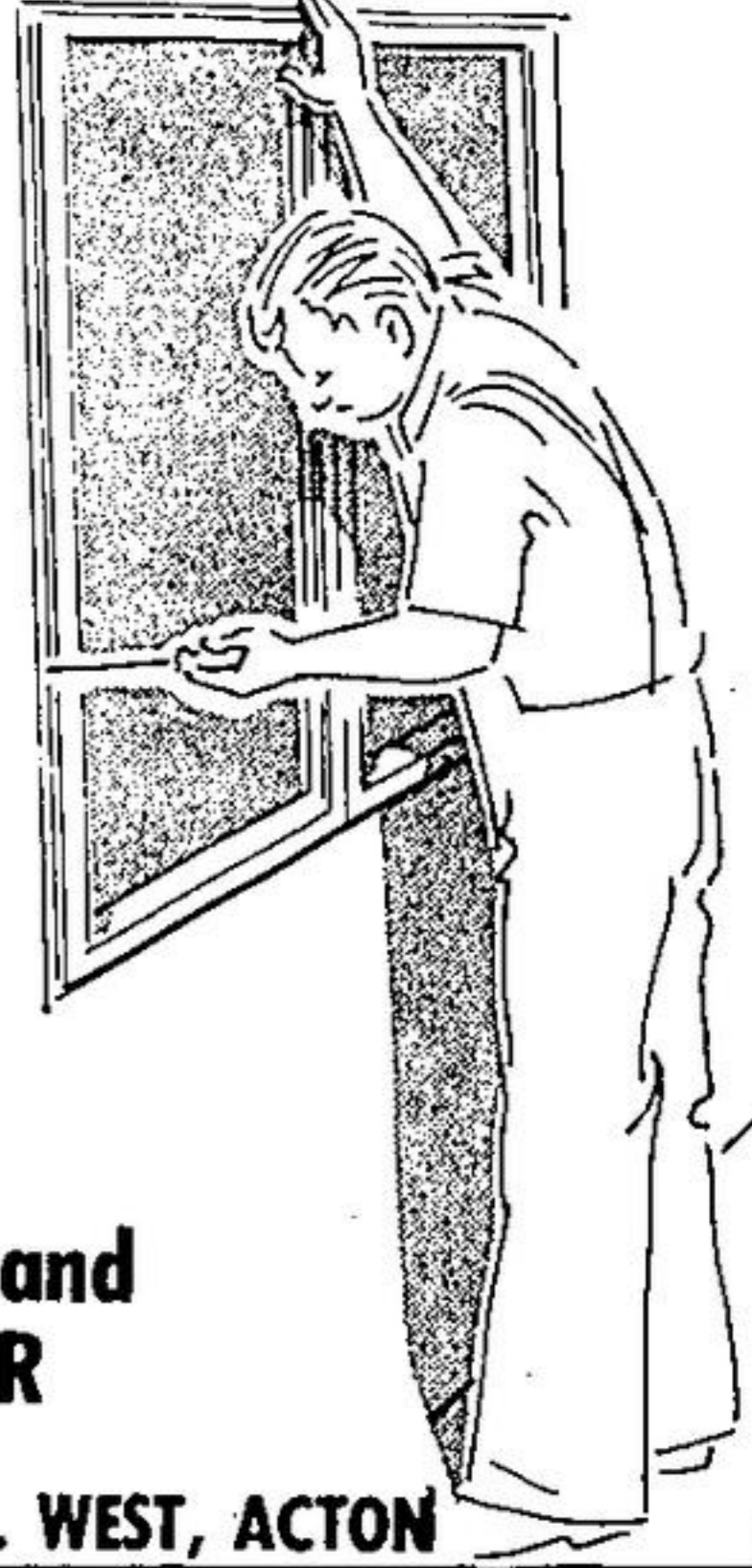


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