

Making new storage areas

Almost every home has some unused area that can, with a little thought, be utilized for storage.

Take for instance the area in the garage over the hood of your car. By building a simple floor-standing or hanging shelf, you can create a good storage area for garden tools and supplies.

Another area in many garages that is not usually utilized is the area under the pitch of the roof. Many people have built very successful storage lofts in their garages and created a sizable amount of usable square footage.

However, if you do build something yourself be sure to use good solid construction procedures as it is very easy for a great amount of weight to accumulate on a shelf of this type. You certainly wouldn't want it to collapse on the hood of the car!

Inside the house there are many corners that lend themselves to conversion to storage areas. In two-story houses there is often an area under the sloping roof that can be opened up to offer storage for bulky items that are not used on a day-to-day basis. In most cases there is no access to these areas and you will have to cut a small door through from the bedroom.

Another thing to remember is that in most cases the bedroom walls are insu-

lated and the area is unheated.

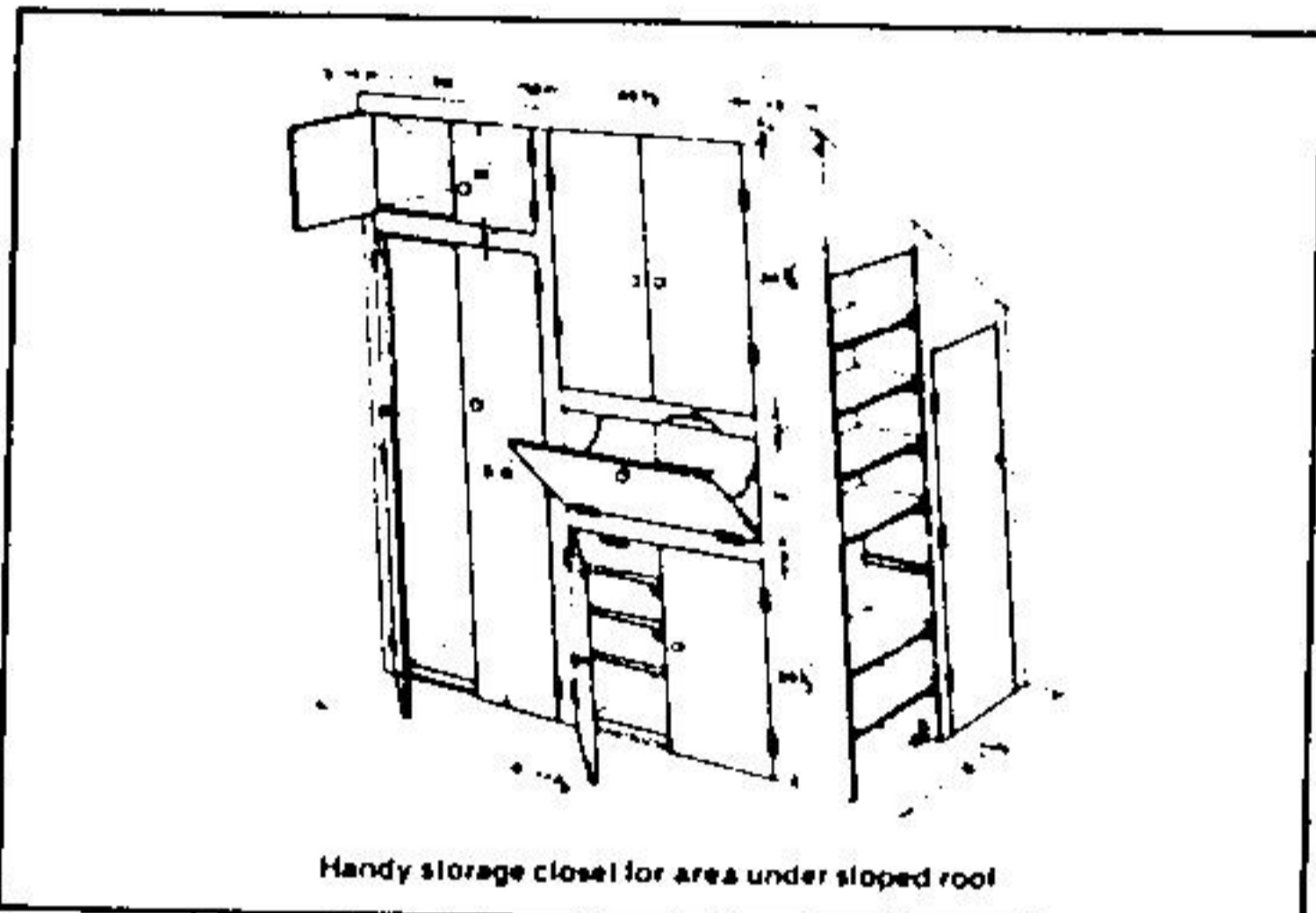
Another area in most houses that is wasted is the area under the basement stairs. Although this area is usually only up to 6' high and slopes down to the basement floor it can again provide several valuable square feet of storage area.

This area can be insulated and made into an excellent wine cellar. Because the area is usually situated on an outside wall the insulation will exclude the heat from the basement and keep the area at an even, low temperature that is so important in the storage of wine.

For those who have young children this is an excellent toy storage area with the low headroom no problem to the little people. Built in shelves and bins could almost make the area neat!

Another area that is often overlooked is the space over washers, dryers and chest freezers. This is an ideal spot to hang standard kitchen cupboard upper units that can be bought at building supply outlets and are easily installed. They offer ideal storage areas for hobby and craft items. Over the washer the soaps and cleaning products are easily accessible.

Storage area is where you find it. A tour of your home with this end in mind may turn up more area than you thought possible.



Handy storage closet for area under sloped roof

Fixing broken windows

If the neighborhood driveway hockey league has just left a hole in one of your basement windows, don't worry. It is not difficult to replace the glass. However there is more to the job than just inserting a new pane and adding a little putty.

First of all you should remember that the same rules apply no matter what the size of the pane you are replacing.

A larger pane should probably not be replaced while the window is in place. It should be removed and placed on the ground for safe handling. If the pane is picture window size it is a two-man job.

The first part of the job is to remove the old and broken glass. Wear sturdy

work gloves and take the pieces out one at a time. Take great care while pulling out the broken pieces so you don't get cut.

The next step is to remove the old putty. This can sometimes be a difficult process and some heat may be required to soften the putty for easier removal. The heat source can be a soldering iron or a propane torch but great care should be taken when using either of these tools.

All the old putty must be removed. The glaziers points must also be taken out at this time. When all the putty is removed give the frame a good soaking with linseed oil which will help to pre-

vent the new putty from drying out.

Installing new glass... Now that you have the old putty removed and the frame is ready for the glass, take the measurements to your local hardware dealer and have him cut the glass to fit.

It is far easier to have a professional do the job for you than to try and cut glass yourself. Some do-it-yourselfers prefer to salvage larger pieces of broken panes and cut their own but with the low cost of glass it is hardly worth the effort.

Make sure the glass is a fraction smaller than the opening so you don't have to force the glass into the opening. Before inserting the glass a bedding layer of putty is placed around the frame then the glass is placed in the opening and firmly pressed into the bedding layer of putty.

Holding a new pane in position insert a glazier's point in each side to keep it firmly in place. The glazier's points can be inserted with very light pressure. Once the pane is held in place take the remaining glazier points and insert them at regular intervals around the frame. This can best be done with a chisel slid along the glass. This does the job with little chance of breakage. When the glazier points are in place it is time to use the putty.

Putty... Get an old piece of glass to use as a kneading board for working the putty into the right shape and consistency. The putty is then rolled into pencil like strips and wedged into the edge of the frame. When you have it in place all around the frame smooth it out with a putty knife. You will find the putty knife works better if you dip it into linseed oil just before using. Use long, corner-to-corner strokes with the putty knife. Do not let the putty get far enough out on the new window so it's visible from the other side.



You can prevent plumbing freeze-ups

There are several steps you can take to prevent winter freeze-ups of your home plumbing system. These are neither complicated nor expensive, but can save you considerable money in pre-

venting broken pipes and water damage.

There are three kinds of plumbing freeze-ups:

1. Sudden, brief and extreme cold snaps that affect one localized area in the house.
2. Full-seasoned exposure of a few pipes to sub-freezing conditions.
3. Total house freeze-up while unoccupied.

Basic protective materials to help guard against freeze-ups include: caulking for small air leaks, insulation for pipes and exposed water tanks, heat cables or tape and antifreeze (for toilets and traps when house is unoccupied for long periods of time).

Feel with your hands for cold air entering anywhere a pipe comes near an outside wall. Wherever you feel cold air you will need to plug with caulking.



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