

Prepare surface properly for asphalt driveway

Today's Beaver home improvement tip is about repairing asphalt driveways.

Most damage to asphalt is gradual.

You should renew the surface about every three years, or when it begins to appear whitish, worn or cracked.

It's a relatively easy project if you take time and care.

About 90 per cent of your time should be spent preparing the surface. Plan



HOME IMPROVEMENT TIPS

a weekend or two for the project and be sure there is no rain in the forecast.

First, clear grass and other vegetation from the edges of the driveway, then sweep away all debris. If you need to do some patching, use a length of plywood to form a break. Stake the form, thoroughly clean the break, then fill it with concrete.

Since the patch will probably be quite small, we recommend that you use concrete gravel mix. Next, shovel the material into the break and pack it tightly. Then level the patch by running the straight edge of a 2 x 4 along the top of the sur-

rounding driveway surface and form. Let it harden for about a week.

Then, sweep the driveway surface clean. Lift any encrusted dirt with a flat spade. Then apply a good detergent using a stiff broom. Rinse with a garden hose.

Let the surface dry and then inspect it to make sure all grease or dirt is gone. Otherwise, the new asphalt topping that you will apply will not stick properly.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT TIPS

Today's Beaver home improvement tip is about window and door screens. Most screens these days are made from durable material like aluminum, copper, and fiberglass.

Aluminum and fiberglass screen are most common, while enamelled or uncoated galvanized steel screening has disappeared.

So, which is better, aluminum or fiberglass? Well, both have different advantages: aluminum screening is strong and won't rust but it eventually corrodes. Fiberglass won't corrode, but it often sags a bit and is more prone to tearing than aluminum.

Regardless of what type you choose, the screens on your home should be removed and cleaned annually. A sudsy household detergent mixed with warm water and applied with a soft-bristle brush should do the trick. Rinse them with a garden hose, let them dry and then replace them.

Aluminum screening and frames tend to corrode, but an annual cleaning with steel wool, lightly rubbed over the screen and frame will remove corrosion quickly. A coating of household wax on the frames will help prevent them from sticking and binding in their window or door channels.

Aluminum may also be painted with regular screen enamel, or you can buy trim paint and thin it to use as a coating. For best results, use a spray gun to apply paint. A short, stiff bristled paintbrush may also be used.

Good luck, and remember, if you need further advice or assistance, pick up a brochure or talk to the approachable home improvement experts at Beaver Lumber.

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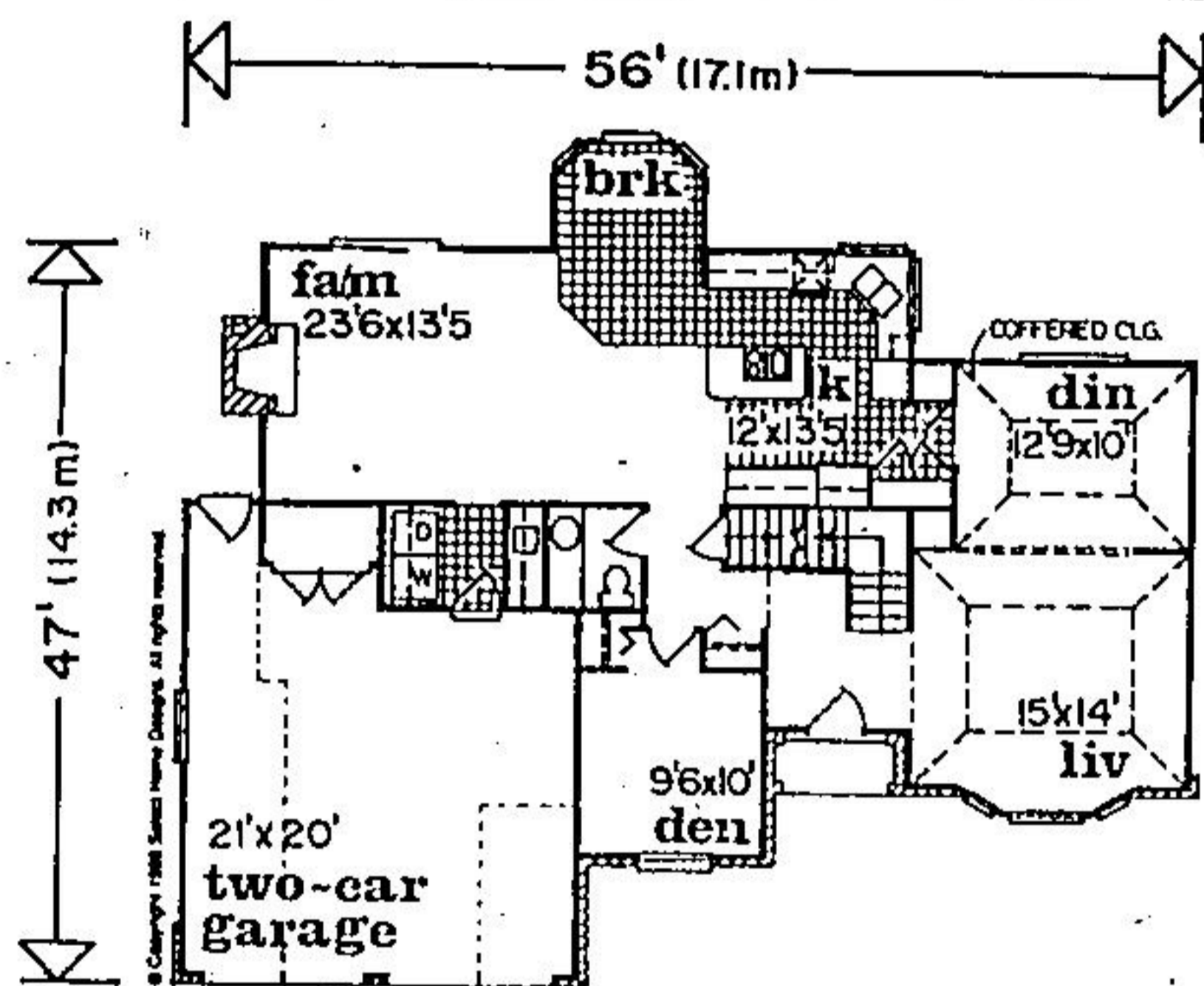
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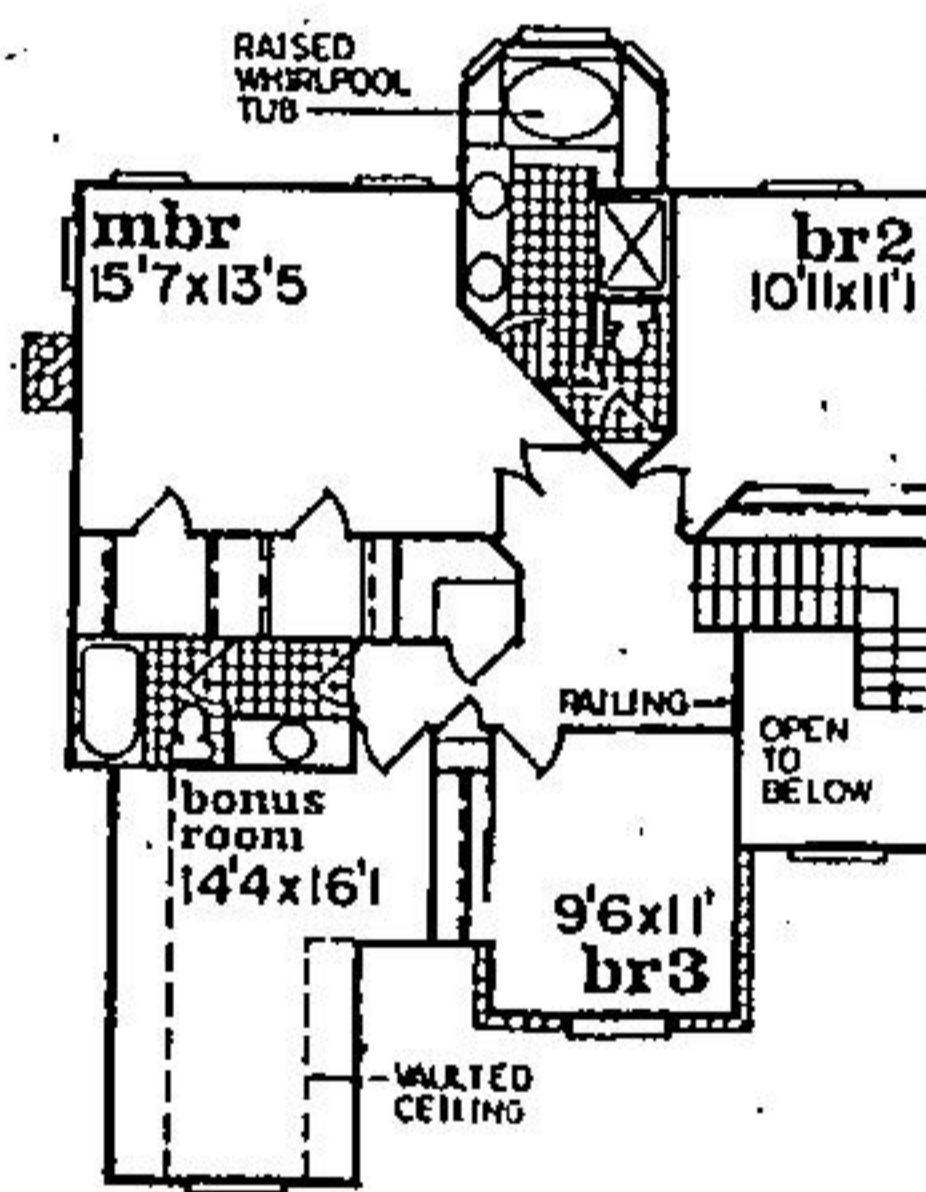
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