

Spring: Perfect time for remodeling

Joys, responsibilities of home ownership are many and varied

The joys of owning a home are many, but very few homeowners are prepared for the amount of work that presents itself, especially during the first year of ownership.

What's even more shocking to the homeowner is the realization that such jobs as painting, tiling, winterizing and decorating, not to mention remodeling and redesigning, become ongoing projects that constitute a way of life.

Not to despair though! The other shocking realization that most homeowners come to is that they are in fact handier than they ever believed possible.



FROM THE HOUSEHOLD TO THE TOOL SHED TO THE GARAGE — do-it-yourself has never been easier.

Many home improvement projects are easier than you think, and can be done quite well with the proper instructions and tools.

Perusing design and decorating magazines, reading how-to manuals, as well as asking a salesperson in your local paint or hardware store for information, can be extremely helpful.

Improving the home, however, has become more than just a necessity or creative pastime; it's become an investment. In the last 10 or 15 years we have experienced a real estate boom that has caused the high price of housing to soar.

Regardless of the motivation, one thing is certain: Home improvement has become a great American pastime for every demographic group from singles to newly married couples and retirees.

It has also become the communal responsibility of the family. Husband, wives and children are sharing household projects more than ever before. It's a great

way to involve each family member, and the job gets done that much quicker.

Spring is the perfect time to start your home improvement projects. Now that the cold, heavy days of winter have ended, you can begin brightening your home with some fresh paint or new decorating ideas, and these projects can do wonders for brightening your spirit as well as your home.

A good way to get started is to first organize your ideas and your goals. This can save an abundance of time later on, and make the project much less stressful.

When organizing your projects, it's a good idea to begin first with any major renovations such as structural changes, reroofing, painting, tiling or floor refinishing!

Not only will you feel better, psychologically, because you know that you've tackled the worst of it, but you can begin to view your home in a new way now that the walls are painted and the floors are refinished.

The next step, decorating, is always the most fun. And, most of your best ideas can come from just being observant.

While decorating is fun, it doesn't have to be expensive. There are many things you can do on a limited budget to achieve the look you want. Many times, it's the small details that gives a room its unique style.

Colorful pillows, special moldings, an unusual picture or lamp, or pretty knobs and fixtures can be a wonderful, inexpensive way to put your signature on a room.

Wallpaper and paint, both relatively inexpensive materials, can do wonders in brightening up your home. Sheets, too, can be wonderful decorating tools. With the help of a sewing machine you can cover walls, windows and tables.

Improving and keeping up your home entails some work but, more often than not, it provides you with a sense of accomplishment and creative satisfaction.