

In case of emergency: Quick, easy home repair

By GRAHAM BLACKBURN

It's Saturday night and all of your guests have arrived expecting the party of a lifetime. Conversation and champagne are flowing easily. Your party seems destined to be a rave when suddenly, disaster strikes—all of the power in the house goes out. You can see out your window that the neighboring houses all have power. What should you do?

Although some homeowners are intimidated by the thought of fixing problems in the home, not much skill is actually needed and it can be quite cost effective.

A blackout like the one described above is a typical household emergency and no matter how well you prepare there will always be an unexpected disaster which will strike when you least expect it.

If an electrical circuit becomes overloaded for any reason, the power will be shut off to that circuit at the service box. This is accomplished either by a circuit breaker or a fuse. Before attempting to get the power back on (by resetting the circuit breaker or replacing the fuse), take some of the load off the circuit concerned by unplugging or switching off appliances or lights.

Now proceed to the service box. If it is equipped with circuit breakers, all you have to do is to look for the one that is in the "off" or "tripped" position and switch it back to the "on" position.

All of the various switches should be properly labeled so that you can identify which circuit is which—this helps when you want to turn off the power in a particular area. If the switches are not marked, you can identify them by a process of elimination.

Turn everything on and note which switch controls which lights and appliances, etc. A word of warning: Just be-

cause you find the breaker that controls the light in any particular room, that does not necessarily mean that neighboring outlets are "dead"—they may well be on a different circuit.

If your service box has fuses, they will probably be one of the various kinds shown in the illustration.

The plug fuse consists of a visible metal strip inside a glass screw-in unit. When the metal strip is broken or the glass has become blackened, the fuse is broken. It should be replaced by one of the same amperage.

The dual element fuse has a spring-

loaded metal strip that permits temporary overloading, such as occurs when an electric motor starts up. Otherwise it looks just like a plug fuse.

A third type is the cartridge fuse. Big or small, the only way to know whether this type is blown or still working is to replace it with a known good fuse.

When something electrical stops working, the first job is to identify the blown fuse in the fuse box. If the lights should go out in the bedroom, for example, it is easy to fix if the fuses are properly labeled.

Having first turned off other items on that circuit, shut off the main power, making sure that you are not standing on a wet floor and that you have a flashlight handy.

Then unscrew or remove the fuse in question and replace it with a new fuse of the same amperage, and turn everything back on again. It is a good idea to maintain a supply of the fuses that your box contains so that you always have one handy.

The most common reason for a blown fuse is overloading—too much electricity being used at the same time. If a fuse blows immediately after having been replaced, but with fewer items operating, there may be damage somewhere in the circuit, such as a short in a loose plug or a frayed wire. At this point, unless you are a qualified electrician, call in professional help.

If you prefer the idea of circuit breakers, but your house is equipped with plug fuses, you can replace them with "button breakers" which look just like screw-in plug fuses with a button sticking out of the center. When this kind of breaker trips, the button pops out, and all you need to do is to push it back in to reset the fuse and reactivate the circuit.

Maintaining and repairing your own home can be cost effective. Before calling for outside help, look the situation over yourself instead of immediately declaring, "The water's out—call the plumber." You will be surprised at what you can fix yourself, often faster and cheaper with a little patience and some understanding of the problem.

Protect furniture, woodwork

It's time to give a few things a thorough going-over—things like furniture, cabinetry, paneling and other woodwork in your home. They may be endangered by the effects of summer moisture and humidity, as well as by dirt and wax buildup.

Keep in mind that wood is a natural material in which the moisture level changes with the humidity. Wood needs to be safeguarded against more than just dust, scratches and abusive use.

The wood care experts who have been manufacturing Wilbert Dri-Finish Lemon Oil Furniture Polish for more than 60 years point out that where you live, the seasons, and the way your home is cooled or heated can damage furniture and woodwork.

Furniture that has become dry, brittle or faded is not necessarily a victim of age. Moisture imbalance (caused by dryness or humidity inside or outside the home) in unprotected wood can create these problems. This is especially likely in dry climates and in apartments and condominiums, where heating and cooling are centrally controlled.

It is easy to protect your investment in furniture and woodwork against these elements and to preserve them for years to come. It can be done as part of fall—or regular—housecleaning, with a furniture polish like Wilbert Dri-Finish Lemon Oil. Applied with a soft, clean cloth while cleaning or dusting, it permeates wood to clean and form a porous barrier against moisture—and to restore life to dried out wood. The wood is allowed to breathe while it is protected against warping or brittling.

In the process, dirt is loosened for easy cleaning and stains are taken out to restore furniture, paneling, and other woodwork to its original lustre with a deep and satisfying shine.

Items such as kitchen cabinets are especially vulnerable to temperature variances caused by cooking and baking (especially during the holiday season). To reduce the risk of your cabinets fading, drying out or decaying, it is a good idea to include cabinet polishing as part of making your kitchen as attractive as possible.

Find out the best way to protect, preserve and polish furniture, bookcases, window sills, picture frames, paneling, cabinets, floors and other woodwork—and save money.



Price

COLOR YOUR WORLD

Indoor/Outdoor

SALE

FINAL WEEK

EXTERIOR SEMI-GLOSS LATEX (#7100) or LATEX FLOOR PAINT (#5850)
\$19.96
A.S.P. \$39.92
1/2 PRICE

SOLID HIDE STAINS (#6200) or WATER REPELLENT DECK STAIN (#6900)
\$19.96
A.S.P. \$39.92
1/2 PRICE

EXTERIOR FLAT LATEX (#0001)
* White only
\$17.96
A.S.P. \$35.92
1/2 PRICE

EXTERIOR STAINS (#7700)
\$10.96
A.S.P. \$21.92
1/2 PRICE

velvet pastels
FLAT LATEX
\$19.96
A.S.P. \$39.92

velvet pastels
SATIN LATEX
\$21.96
A.S.P. \$43.92
1/2 PRICE

INTERIOR SEMI-GLOSS LATEX (#0003)
\$16.96
A.S.P. \$33.92
1/2 PRICE

PAINTER'S CHOICE SUPER WHITE CEILING LATEX or LATEX SEALER
\$13.96
A.S.P. \$27.92
1/2 PRICE

LEMMER CONDOR 600 AIRLESS ELECTRIC PAINT SPRAYER
\$94.44
Reg. \$129.50
SAVE 27%



ARMSTRONG VERNAY NO-WAX SELF-STICK VINYL FLOOR TILE
* 12" x 12" • Reg. 99¢ ea
78¢
* In-store stock only

EASY CARE™ NO-WAX PEEL & STICK VINYL FLOOR TILE
* 12" x 12" • Reg. \$1.59
\$1.24
* In-store stock only

50% OFF*

FASHION WALLCOVERING BOOKS

* Reg. book price. Selected books. Matching fabric not included.



40% TO 60% OFF

ALL IN-STORE WALLCOVERING

* Reg. book price. Patterns may vary from those shown.

AT COLOR YOUR WORLD, CHOOSING WALLPAPER JUST BECAME EASIER

Now you can see the results before you decorate.



PATTERN MAGIC

FIRST in the world, from Color Your World.
 It's easy... It's fun... It's FREE!

Available at participating stores only

CANADA'S BEST PAINT & WALLPAPER VALUE

"We Guarantee It!"

OUR GUARANTEE OF QUALITY
 All products purchased at Color Your World are sold with an unconditional guarantee of quality. If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, we will replace the products or give you a full refund. This guarantee does not include labour for application or installation.

OUR LOW PRICE GUARANTEE
 If you find a comparable paint of the same quality, selling at a lower advertised price within 30 days of purchase, with a valid proof of purchase of our product, we will gladly refund the difference.



Not all items available at all stores. *A.S.P. means After Sale Price

SALE Sale effective May 30 to July 3, 1990

525 ONTARIO ST. at LAURIER AVE., MILTON 876-1855
 Mon. to Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

*The Color Magic® and Pattern Magic® Systems are available at these stores only.