

# HOME IMPROVEMENT

## Stripping and refinishing: Is it worth time and effort?

The garages and basements of Canada are filled with untold numbers of interesting pieces of old furniture with part of their old finish stripped off and were abandoned when the job became too messy, tedious or did not seem to look like anything when the old varnish was removed. They sit in the dampness and gradually deteriorate to a point where they are beyond redemption, even by an expert. Many thousands of interesting old solid wood pieces become useless in this manner every year.

The truth of the matter is they

are worth the time and effort, particularly if they are built from solid wood (most modern furniture is veneer) and solidly constructed. We are talking about antiques but also pieces made as recently as 20 years ago.

### A few tips

To help you make stripping grandmother's rocker an easier and more enjoyable chore, see your local hardware retailer and let him advise you on the different types of paint and varnish remover available. He can also show you a complete line of supplies you will require, including steel wool, sand-

paper, scrapers, putty knives and solvents. He also carries a complete line of stains and finishes and can advise you on what product is best for your particular requirements.

Here are a few hints to help you when you go back to that half-stripped piece you now have stored

in the basement.

1. Always brush the stripper in one direction only. Many strippers are a combination of wax and solvent and the wax rises up to the top, prevents the solvent from evaporating and allows it to do its job.

2. Give the stripper time to do

the job. Most people are in too much of a hurry and try to remove the finish before the solvent has had time to soften it.

3. Take all safety precautions. Wear hand, eye and skin protection and be sure surrounding floor and table surfaces are well-protected from the stripper.

## Texture, colour: keys

Texture, colour and adaptability are the keys to clay brick popularity as an interior design material.

In addition to walls and floors this "natural" product adds elegance to stairways, planters, dividers, bars and even built-in furniture. At the same time, they act as passive energy collectors, materially reducing fuel consumption. Fireplaces "look right" in clay brick and because the clay is already burned at very high temperatures, the bricks provide extra protections against chimney fires. Many pre-fabricated fireplaces cannot make this claim.

Burned clay brick, tried and proven over centuries, is Canada's natural material for fireplaces. Made of clay or shale and manufactured under intense heat, it can never burn again. It is safe, efficient and economic.

Fireplaces are more popular today than ever before. They com-

bine traditional beauty and utility, with the added benefits of supplemental heating and energy savings. Many homes today have installed wood stoves, the ultimate in energy efficiency. There are so many great and unique ways you can make your wood stove look attractive in any room.

Graves Wolfenden, the newest brick and stone supply company located just north of Barrie on Hwy. 27, sell a lot of bricks to customers who use them to set their stoves on and surround them with the warm, earth colours of clay. Brick enhances any area in your home.

Because the staff at Graves Wolfenden sell bricks for both inside and outside the home, they are completely knowledgeable when it comes to fireplaces and patios as well. They are always happy to help you make a decision or to give you some decorating ideas for your home.

## Defining a colour scheme

Our colour system is built for people - do-it-yourself people. Colours are easy to find and easy to co-ordinate. If you've ever been scared away by a typical paint colour display rack, designed by and for high interior decorators, take heart! The Home Hardware colour system was put together by do-it-yourselfers for do-it-yourselfers.

Here's a simple way to build an elegant colour scheme for any room in your house. Look around the room for a dominant colour that will remain after redecorating or remodelling. This is most often the broadloom, drapery or furniture. If you can't take a sample of the colour to the store, ask your Home dealer to lend you a fan-deck colour sampler in that colour range.

Find the closest colour then look at the deep pastel, medium pastel or pale pastel on the same card. This will usually be the main wall colour in scheme. When you return to the store you can build a complete colour scheme by choosing a colour in the same vertical row for colours in the same family or from the horizontal row for accent colours that will add contrast without loss of harmony.

colour can do many things for a room - both good and bad. It can make it larger or smaller, warmer or cooler and it can soothe or stimulate.

To make a room look large, use similar pastel or pale shades without accents.

To make it look shorter, paint the end wall or walls in a deeper or accent colour.

To make the ceiling look lower, paint it a shade darker than the walls.

1. **Blues, greens and greenish yellow** make a room look cooler. Reds, oranges, reddish yellows and orange tone, browns make a room look warmer. Pale blues and blue-greens are soothing to the eye while a blend of pastels and deep tones in the other colours stimulate.

2. **Gloss or sheen** - Gloss, like colour is matter of individual preference, but it is hard to describe. Think of polished glass a 100 and dead flat as 0 then the following scale will help you with your choice.

High Gloss	85 to 100
Gloss	70 to 85
Semi-Gloss	40 to 70
Satin	30 to 40
Silk	20 to 30
Velvet	10 to 15
Suede	8 to 10
Satin Flat	2 to 5
Ceiling Flat	0 to 2

3. **Colour changes under different light sources** - A ray of light is made up of all the colours in spectrum. Black absorbs all of the colours and white none, so no colours are reflected. Each colour absorbs their own colour and reflect the remainder. This is why a colour can look different under natural, incandescent or fluorescent light. Before making your final colour selection we suggest looking at your colour choice in natural light and under the type of lighting you use at home. Many people are colour blind in varying degrees. (More men than women!). What may appear to be pleasant pale green to one could appear to be a brownish grey to another. So make sure your colour is pleasing and comfortable to all members of the family.

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