

Bathroom carpet can make the difference

Remember when the perfect bathroom had the clinical sparkle of a hospital? Well, sparkle is still important, but now it's turning up in baths designed with a little self-indulgence in mind.

If you want to give your bathroom a more luxurious look, but don't want to pull out the fixtures and start all over, why not add decorative wall-to-wall carpeting or area bathrugs?

Taking their cue from the fashion world, bathrug manufacturers are showing how to make a bathroom beautiful without sacrificing comfort and practicality.

Bathrugs serve two purposes. The first is purely functional - they prevent slipping and sliding on wet

floors or having to step out of the tub onto a cold, hard surface.

The second purpose is aesthetic. Bathrugs can soften the look of the room and add a bit of "pizzazz." They allow you to change the entire look of your bathroom without a large investment.

As consumers have begun to ask for more elegance in their bathrooms, the rules about decorating them have started to change.

Patterns, both in bathrugs and towels, are gaining on traditional solid colours. As a result, the old rule that bathrugs and towels must be the same colour is being disregarded, and co-ordinating colours of patterned fabrics are being

used to brighten up the room.

Solid colours are also changing. The bathrug best-sellers are appearing in many different, new and exciting shades.

Textures are also coming into vogue, with manufacturers mixing different fibres and multi-coloured

yarns to create a strong textured look.

The most popular bathroom rugs are the high-pile saxonies, which look like a lot of the pile carpets made for the rest of the home.

One of the current trends in bathrugs is to take them out of the

bathroom and into the rest of the house. A few already on the market can be used in the bedroom as well as the bath.

Bathrugs are also used to alter the appearance of the size of the room. If you have a small powder

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Classy windows

Complete fashions

Blair Window Fashions in the Huronia Mall, Midland, opened for business in July. While the store may be new, owner Cindy Blair has over 12 years of experience working with textiles and colours.

Blair graduated from Georgian College with a degree in textiles and is a certified colour analyst. This allows her to work as a consultant for choosing colours that suit the room or decor and for matching colours suited to different people by means of psychology.

This is important when taking into consideration the decorating taste of a husband and wife. While one may be winter and the other summer with regards to colours, Blair will advise a compromise to compliment the tastes of both.

Blair also notes that men today are becoming more interested in decorating. They wish to feel comfortable in their surroundings and are accomplishing this by helping to choose the right colours and textures that suit them.

Blair Window Fashions handles all custom work. This includes verticals, venetians, woven woods, pleated shades and roller blinds. Draperies include swags and balloons as well as bed coverings and duvets.

Blair Window Fashions will come to your home and measure and will help you to decide what looks best in your home. Samples are shown to you in your own home where you can visualize better as to how it will look. Taken into account will

be what is presently in the room and any future plans you may have. The result will be expert advice to tie in what you with a decorating look that can adapt to any changes you may later make.

This store does not offer bargain basement prices and sells only top quality lines. Blair Window Fashions offers monthly discounts. This allows the everyday consumer to purchase top quality at prices they can afford. For anyone wishing to have their whole home decorated or redecorated Blair offers a packaged deal to cut down on the cost.

Blair finds that the current trend is verticals but feels that this look won't last. While popular in the big cities this look is starting to be replaced with a combination of micro blinds and drapery for a much softer look. This area tends to be about five years behind the major big cities but for now verticals are still popular closer to home.

Blair Window Fashions is always bringing in up-to-date decorating items and this year's colours that are the most popular are roses, gray, plum, shades and blues.

Blair finds that most people are really afraid of using colour when decorating. With her expert help, your home can be transformed from possibly a very neutral beige to warm and inviting with the use of colour. This makes your home more comfortable and gives it an expression of yourself.

How to repair tiles

Q. All the tiles are coming off our bathroom wall. Can you give us some do-it-yourself ideas or tips for repairing these?

A. The tiles are probably coming off the wall because the plaster or plaster board behind them has become wet and remained wet. What happens is that the plaster softens up and then the tiles just let go.

First, remove the loose tiles with a broad, stiff putty knife. Then repair the plaster wall by replacing the damaged area with a new piece of water resistant plaster board or 3/4-inch plywood.

Before replacing the old tile, you'll have to remove the cement from the back of the tile. Sanding or scraping will do the job.

Tips on caulking inside your bath

The one area inside a house most commonly in need of caulking is around the bathtub or wash basin. Everytime the tub or basin is filled with water, it settles a little. This causes a minor separation of the tub or basin from the wall. Splashed water can then work between the tub or basin and the wall, starting the process of rot.

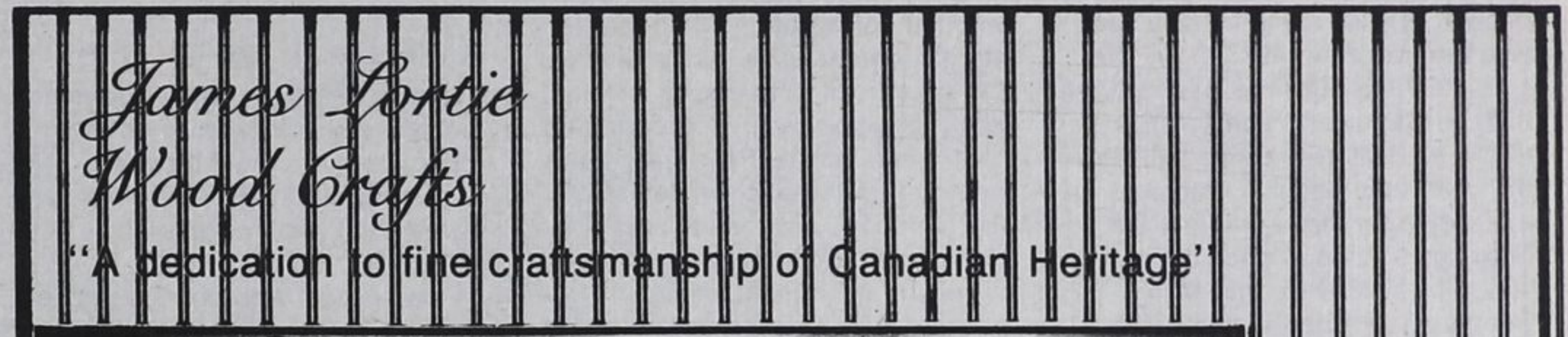
For bathroom projects, a small hand held tube of tub and tile caulking is usually sufficient.

To replace caulking, clean out the old caulking with a screwdriver or putty knife, being careful not to scratch the tub, basin or surrounding wall tile. Cut the tip of the nozzle for a moderate-size bead (or remove the cap, if so equipped) and, when the area is completely dry, push the sealant around the edge in one continuous line.

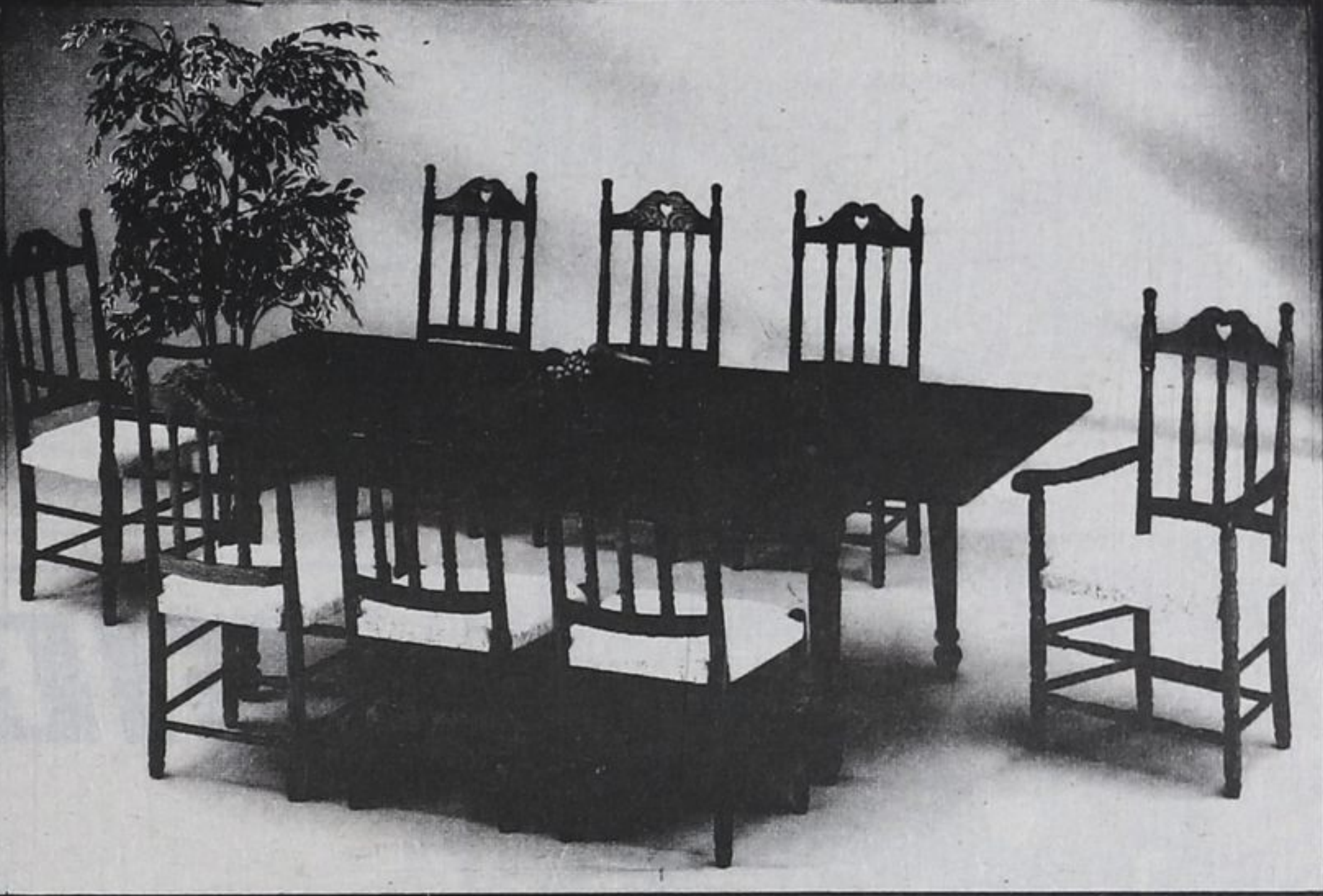
Once the caulk is in place, you can wet your finger to smooth out the caulk.

It is very important that all areas to be caulked be free of any soap and grease deposits or dirt. If not, the caulk won't adhere.

When caulking a tub, it's a good idea to fill it with water so the caulk can penetrate the gap between the tub and wall.



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