

Some 'safe not sorry' household hints

Don't look now. The boss' wife is tripping over a trailing lamp-cord. Rushing to her rescue, your neighbor spills a martini. Stunned by it all, a guest uses the area rug as an ashtray.

The scenario for a pre-party nightmare and not the real scene? Let's hope so.

Holiday parties often disintegrate into a series of calamities, but pre-party planning and preparedness can prevent many disasters and cure others.

Taping or tying lamp cords to walls or table legs cuts down the odds on clumsy falls. It's also a good idea to stash away tippy tables, heirlooms and fragile furnishings.

While you're at it, replace small ashtrays with plenty of the extra-large

variety — and plan to have them emptied regularly. Serve drinks with a napkin or coaster and scatter a supply of extras on all the tables.

To cope with spills, stains and burns, Eureka Home Care Institute experts advise creating a Party Survival Center. Select a convenient spot and stock it with these first aid items: sponges, paper towels, mild detergent, white vinegar, dry cleaning solvent, mop, pail, vacuum cleaner with attachments and a stain removal guide.

Your thoughtfulness will be appreciated if you place another Survival Kit in a bathroom for your guests' use. Fill a decorative basket with safety pins, sewing kit, band-aids, spot remover, comb and aspirin.

No matter how carefully you prepare, disaster can

strike. If it does, the Survival Center will allow you to act quickly and confidently.

Blot up a spilled martini or other alcoholic beverage immediately. If allowed to sit, alcohol forms a permanent yellow stain on many fibers. Eureka experts recommend applying a solution of one teaspoon mild detergent, one teaspoon white vinegar and one quart tepid water to the spot. When dry, vacuum to remove residue and revive the fiber's nap.

This cleaning solution also removes spots from cranberries, jello-molds, candied yams, slushy salt tracks and pet's accidents. For oily foodstuffs, chocolate, gravy, salad dressing and sauces, apply the same solution; let dry and then use the dry cleaning solvent you've stocked in the

Survival Center.

Remedy cigarette burns on carpets by clipping off darkened ends of carpet tufts, then apply the cleaning solution, dry and vacuum.

If the fireplace starts spewing ashes, make certain the damper is open and working properly. A once-over with a vacuum equipped with Edge Kleener will remove ashy residue and draw out soot trapped between carpets and the edge of the hearth or baseboard.

More information on first aid for party spots and stains is available in Eureka's new stain removal guide. For a copy, send 25 cents in stamps or coins and a self-addressed business-size envelope to: Stain Guide, Dept. MCS, 1201 East Bell Street, Bloomington, Ill. 61701.



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