

# Fix Up Your Home *This year*

## Proper planning is important to any home improvement project

Before the birds begin to sing in the trees, homeowners already have their spring home improvement projects planned.

Whether it's replacing windows, reshingling the roof or installing new flooring, the action takes place as soon as the weather gets warm.

Whether doing the work independently or hiring professionals, proper planning is an important part of any home improvement project.

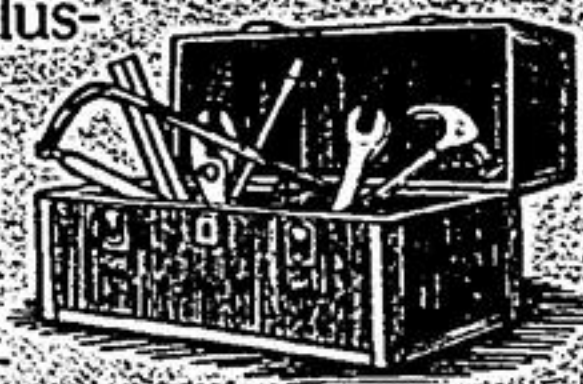
When hiring a contractor, it's necessary to know exactly what you want done, so you can meet with professionals, explain the work and get realistic estimates. Do-it-yourselfers need to plan ahead to ensure they have set aside enough time for the project, have the right equipment and materials, and understand the work that needs to be done.

Having the proper equipment means not only having the tools specifically designed for the task at hand, but

those in a catalog, do-it-yourselfers will be able to get a feel for the tool before buying it.

After getting the proper equipment, follow the manufacturer's instructions when using each tool. Tools should be kept clean, dry and away from excessive heat. Before using a tool near electricity shut off the current. Also, use steady pressure on jaws or cutters instead of rocking the tool. If doing continuous work, it's a good idea to wear gloves or use comfort grips to help avoid getting blisters or calluses.

With the proper planning and right tools and materials, a successful project and a more beautiful home can become a reality.



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also having tools that are in good condition. It's a good idea for do-it-yourselfers to check that tools are in working order before beginning a project.

All handles should be fixed firmly into the tool's working end, and jaw teeth, cutters and blades should be sharp. Any tools that are damaged should be thrown away.

If, when planning a project, do-it-yourselfers find that they don't have a tool they need, they can buy, rent or borrow it. Renting or borrowing allows them to see if they like a particular model or brand, making the decision easier when they finally decide to buy the tool. If buying the tool, many home improvement professionals recommend going to a knowledgeable local dealer. While prices may not be as inexpensive as

### AMBASSADOR VIDEO

AN ALL CANADIAN COMPANY

In January 1996 Ambassador Video, a Canadian owned and operated company opened in Markham. Ambassador Video owned by Irish immigrants, Michael and Bernadette O'Hara is one of the largest independently owned video chains in Canada. The store is located at 5051 Highway #7, at McCowan Rd. in Markham. It is just one of the 15 Ambassador Video stores from Waterloo to Halifax. The Markham location is its biggest store to date boasting approximately 8,000 square feet for your home entertainment pleasure. Check out the "movie theme" carpet, and its eye catching use of neon lights. The friendly staff, dressed in tuxedo shirts and red bow ties are always happy to assist you.

As well as a huge selection of regular movies plus all the latest releases, it also carries video games such as Sega Genesis, Super Nintendo and Sony Play Station. Those customers with more advanced technology can also rent laser discs.

Ambassador Video rents its new releases for \$2.99 per day and any regular title is only \$1.99 for five days. If for some reason you can't return your rental on the due date it will only cost you \$1.00 extra for each day. For a different twist, Ambassador imports British chocolates and sells Looney Tunes clothing.

So this weekend when you're deciding how you will entertain yourself, drop in to Ambassador Video and pick up a game or a movie, indulge in some British chocolates and just relax.

Ambassador Video is open from 8 a.m. until 1 a.m. 365 days a year and is located on Highway #7, across from Markville Walmart.

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