



# HOME AND GARDEN



## Do-it-yourselfers will find vinyl tiles easiest to install

Flooring generally comes in four basic types of materials. What is referred to as resilient flooring includes all types of tile and sheet vinyls. Ceramic, hardwood products and carpeting are the other three flooring choices.

### Vinyl Tiles

These are available in different grades and offer a wide selection of decorative patterns and colours. Frequently, they are embossed to make them even more resistant to wear and tear and to improve their appearance. For the do-it-yourselfer, the major advantage is the convenient size, the self-stick backing that many come with and the reasonable price.

### Sheet vinyls

Because they have to be cut to fit the floor shape and

size ahead of time, sheet vinyls can be more difficult to work with.

They also come in a wide variety of colours, patterns and grades at reasonable cost.

The inlaid types, in which the colour and pattern extend through the thickness of the material, offer a longer life in heavy traffic areas.

### Ceramic tiles

These are considered a permanent flooring, good

for the life of the room, if they are properly installed.

The thicker tiles are designed especially for floors, while the thinner ones are intended for wall-use only.

Ceramic tiles come in a variety of shapes, patterns, sizes and colours. They are more expensive but longer-lasting than vinyl floor coverings.

These tiles can be installed over a smooth, dry concrete or acceptable wood-panels sub-floor, but never over tongue-and-groove hardwood.

They are installed with a special grout mixture and require special attention and care during installation.

### Hardwood products

Like ceramic tiles, hardwood flooring products are especially popular in today's residential housing market.

Hardwood products can be used in any room, but extreme care should be taken when installing them in kitchens, bathrooms or over concrete floors.

Hardwood floors expand when wet and can buckle. Unless specially treated, they are not recommended for high-moisture areas.

### Carpeting

Carpeting comes in a variety of styles, textures and materials.

The most common styles are level loops, also known as indoor/outdoor carpeting, multi-level loops and cut piles.

Level loops are often installed in kitchens, basements and other high-traffic areas because they are easier to clean than carpets with higher pile. Multi-level loop offer a compromise between level loops and cut pile carpets.

Most elegant are cut pile carpets. These can be very plush, but are also more difficult to keep clean.

Most carpets are made of nylon fibres. Nylon is considered the

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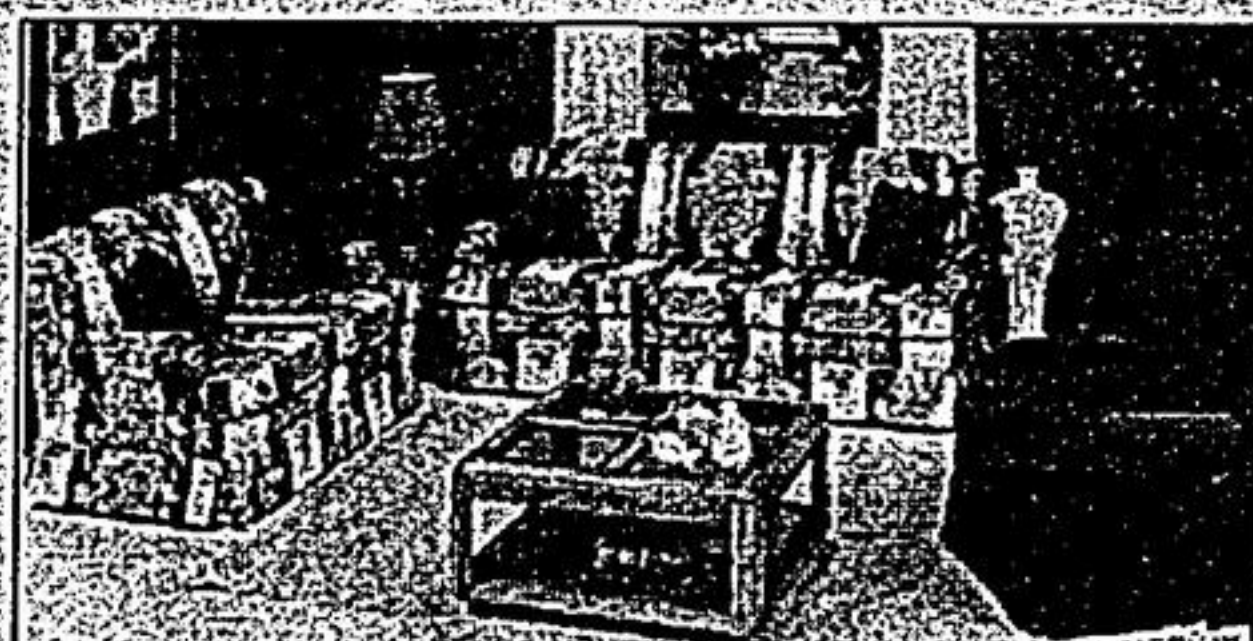
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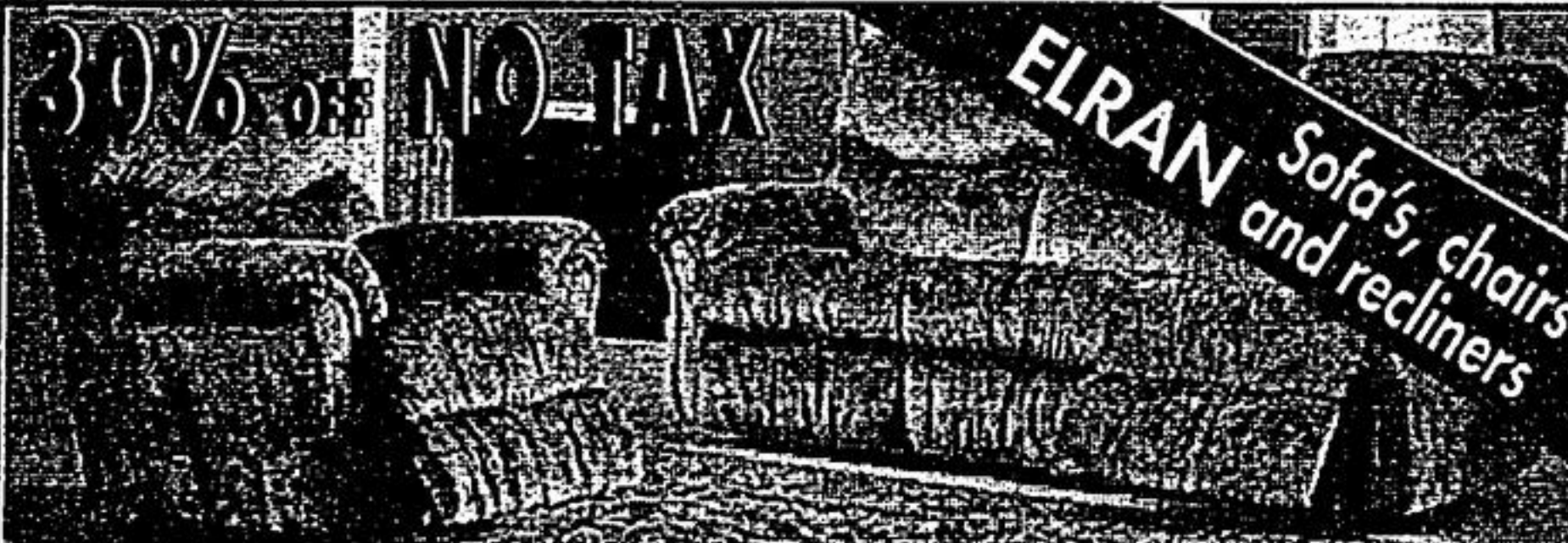
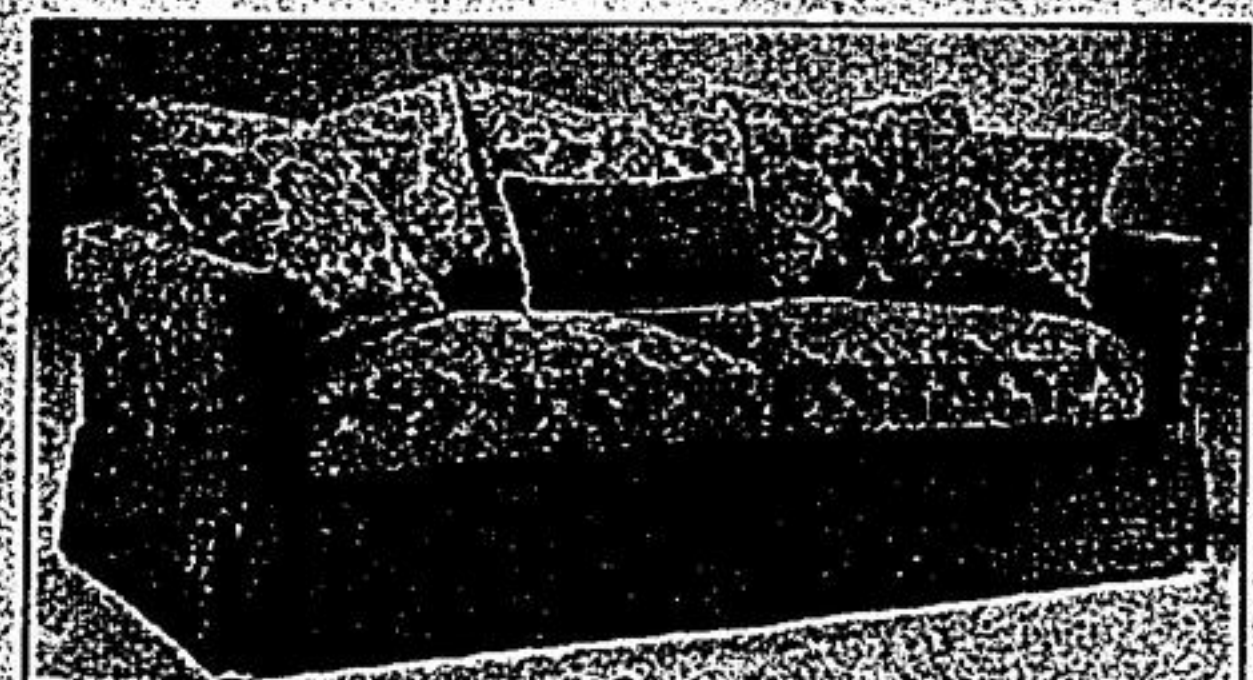
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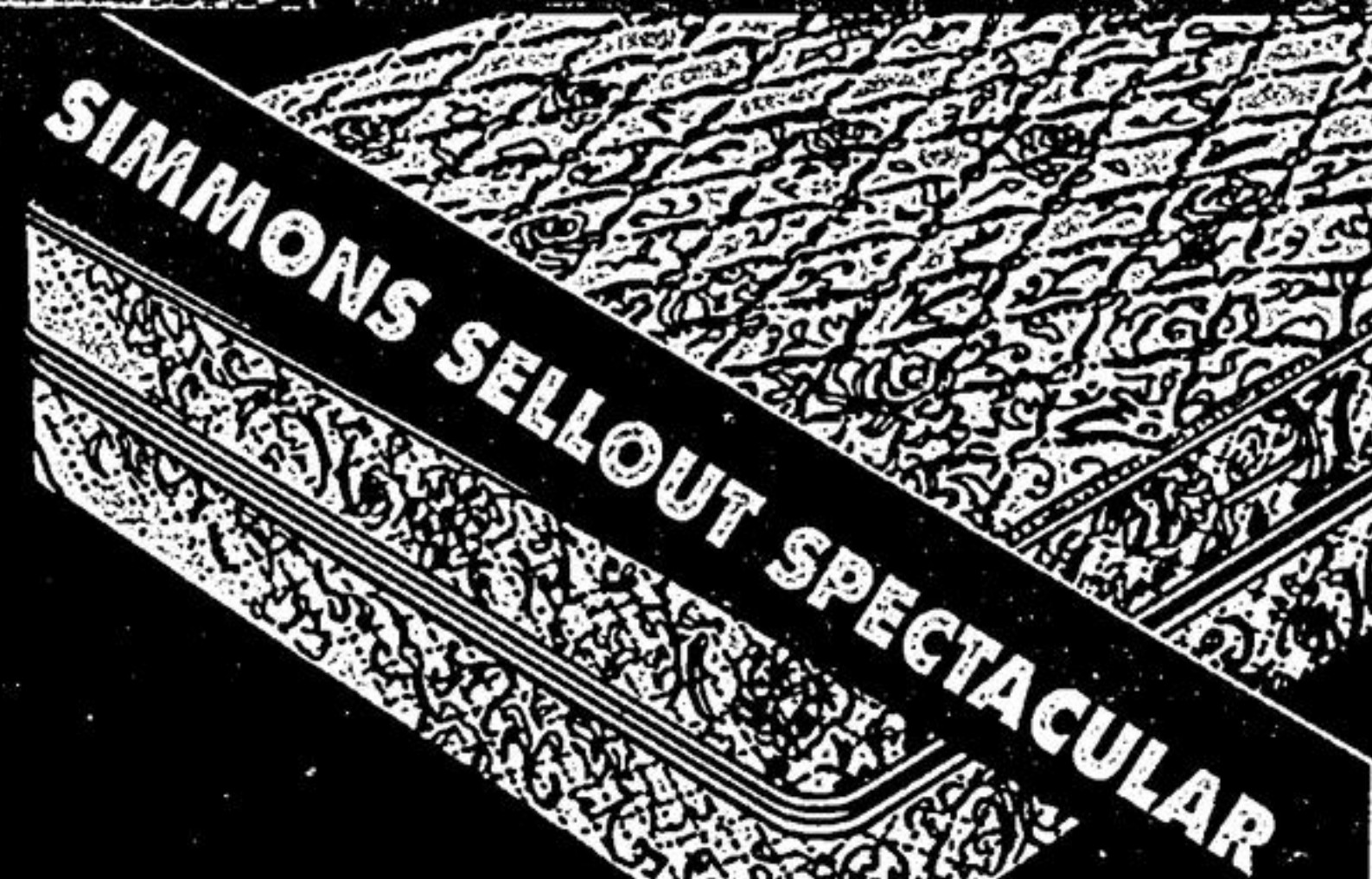
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