

Help Yourself

Clean Cut

To remove buttons without nicking the fabric, slide a comb under the button, and cut thread with a razor blade.

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Washday Wrinkle

If the weather looks uncertain when pegging out washing, peg a couple of dry pillow slips to the line also. They're handy to pop clothes into if there's a sudden shower, then they can be hung out easily again when the weather has cleared.

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Cookery Book Protector

A piece of glass, the same size as your cookery book, will not only protect the page from spots, but will keep the book open as well. So that the edge won't cut, bind with clear adhesive tape.

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Good Cleaner for Stained Bath

Mix four tablespoons flour, four tablespoons vinegar, and eight tablespoons peroxide to a paste and spread over the bath. Leave for a few hours, then wash off with cold water. Repeat if necessary.

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Remove Egg Stains

Do you know this old remedy? Egg stains on silver spoons will quickly disappear if, for a few minutes, they are placed into the water in which the eggs have been boiled.

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Eggs Go Further

When making a cake or pudding, to make one egg go as far as three, beat white and yolk separately. Add 1 teaspoon golden syrup to egg yolk, beat, then add egg white. You won't know the difference!

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Priming Paint

Apply coats of priming paint to weatherboards, joinery and internal fittings as soon as possible after these items arrive on the building site. Such coatings will delay moisture changes during completion of construction and allow the best possible finish to be obtained. It is preferable, where this can be arranged, to have joinery items prime-coated at the joiner's shop before delivery to the site.

On the Level

To remedy a wobbling chair, level the short leg by placing it on a small blob of plastic wood. When plastic wood is dry, sandpaper even. Lay greaseproof paper beneath the plastic wood first.

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To Loosen Paint

If you cannot loosen a newly-painted window sash by cutting through the film of paint in the corner between the sash and frame, try this method. Set a small hardwood block endwise against the sash frame close to the top and strike it lightly with a hammer. Continue this procedure all the way across the top and down the sides of the sash frame. The hammer blows will break the paint film, so that the sash may be opened without breakage.

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Cutting Glass

Cutting glass is quite easy if done correctly. The best way to get the feel of the glass cutter is to practise on an old piece of glass. When the tool is cutting properly it should sound as if paper or cloth were being torn. Never attempt to cut dirty glass. Grit will prevent uniform cutting of the wheel. The glass should be placed on a flat surface. A small carpet or piece of old rug makes the best surface for cutting.

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Jean Kelly, of Balranald, is a keen horsewoman