

## DIY Tool Checklist

A do-it-yourselfer is only as good as his or her willingness to learn. Having the right tools in your toolbox or hanging over your work bench can make repairs and installations go much more smoothly. Review this checklist and aspire to have these tools in your home-repair arsenal.

**Category: Assembly, Dismantling, Attaching**

- Claw hammer
- Ball peen hammer
- Nails, in a variety of sizes
- Pry bar
- Flat-head screwdriver
- Phillips-head screwdriver
- Screws, in a varieties of sizes and finishes
- Open-end wrench
- Box or socket wrench
- Allen key
- Strap wrench
- Channel lock pliers
- Long-nosed pliers
- End-cutting nippers
- Contact cement
- Epoxy
- Wood glue
- Vice
- C-clamp

**Category: Measuring and Leveling**

- Level
- Tape measure
- Carpenter's Square
- Chalk line
- Wood or plastic ruler
- Plumb bob

**Category: Power Tools**

- Circular saw
- Router
- Mitre saw
- Reciprocating saw
- Bench saw
- Disk sander
- Orbital sander
- Shop vacuum
- Nail gun
- Shop filter

**Category: Hand Tools, etc.**

- Chisel
- Handsaw
- Nails, in a variety of sizes
- Flashlight
- Block sander
- Variety of planes
- Steel wool
- Paint brushes
- Paint rollers
- Putty knife
- Spackle tool

## Creative Ways to Manage Household Clutter

When spring finally arrives, many families partake in the annual springtime tradition of spring cleaning. A chance to clear out the clutter, spring cleaning often finds families dumbfounded as to just how much clutter they've accrued since the previous spring.

Another common theme of spring cleaning is a family's unwillingness to part with many items that are cluttering up a household. What's clutter to one family member might be a keepsake to another. Fortunately, there are ways to conceal household clutter that might keep families.

\* Curtains can conceal clutter. Sometimes clutter is unavoidable. For example, pedestal sinks have become popular over the years thanks to their aesthetic appeal. However, unlike traditional sinks with cabinets underneath, pedestal sinks provide nowhere to place toiletries and cleaning items, making a bathroom appear cluttered when it's really not. One solution is to drape a curtain around the base of a pedestal sink. This can make a sink even more appealing, while also providing a place to store the necessary toiletries and other items. More than just decorative accents for your windows, curtains can be used to conceal clutter.

Curtains can also be draped around the bottom of a fish tank to add aesthetic appeal.

\* Purchase a storage ottoman. Renters are fond of storage ottomans because they can keep necessary items hidden but within arm's reach at all times. Those who appreciate a living room without much spread on coffee or end tables can utilize a storage ottoman to store remote con-



trols, books, magazines, and any other items that might take up too much space atop a table or on a shelf.

\* Use baskets for aesthetic and practical appeal. Decorative baskets can help make a room much more aesthetically appealing. In addition, decorative baskets also serve a great practical purpose, acting as storage for magazines, books, DVDs, video games, and a host of other items. This helps create a less cluttered area, and doesn't require throwing any items into the trash bin.

\* Purchase storage units for closets and bedrooms. Storage units can go a long way to relieving clutter. For instance, a plastic storage unit placed inside a closet can alleviate an overcrowded closet or stuffed dresser. Those who might worry about the appearance of a storage unit

needn't worry, as they can be slid right into a closet and concealed by the door. These can be great to use for seasonal clothes, such as sweaters or swim trunks, that are only worn during certain times of the year.

\* Store clothes in suitcases. If there's no room for storage units, don't forget you likely already have a storage unit or two around the house that probably isn't being used to its full capacity. Suitcases often lay empty until it comes time to travel. However, households with lots of clutter can put those empty suitcases to use, using them as storage during times when they're not traveling. Suitcases are often strong to store just about anything, from clothes to books to movies. Using them when not traveling is making extra use of an often under-used household item.

## LIST

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wreath and bow. The three-piece accent is 86" long and 38" high and makes a stunning accent on the home.

Project 17 - Flank the window opening between two rooms (like a kitchen and family room) with a pair of urethane shutters. The lightweight shutters can be stained or painted to accent the walls.

Project 18 - Top off a standard bookshelf with an impressive combination acorn pediment to add style in any room.

Project 19 - Add a scalloped moulding border to a child's room to launch into a princess or medieval theme for the room.

Project 20 - Install a set of pilasters on either side of the garage door and a long door crosshead over the top.

"Each of these projects can easily be completed in just 20 minutes," says Mealer. "These are simple do-it-yourself projects that quickly and effectively upgrade your home and bring years of lasting satisfaction."

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