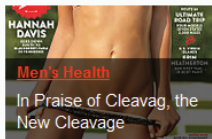
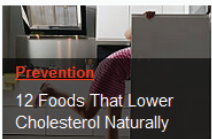


Men's Health Recommends



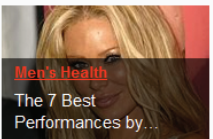
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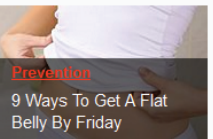
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6 Ridiculously Quick Home Repairs

Don't let DIY projects drive you mad. It's time to get handy, man

BY CARTER OOSTERHOUSE, PHOTOGRAPHY BY THINKSTOCK Saturday, July 5, 2014, 2:00 am
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Some home-repair projects swallow up a whole weekend. Others take less time than the trip to the hardware store. Have a few minutes to spare? Then use them to upgrade everything.

1. SILENCE A CREAKY DOOR IN 5 MINUTES

You need: Spray lubricant (such as WD-40), hammer, screwdriver, wire brush

Hit the offending hinge with a shot of WD-40, then open and close the door for 20 seconds to work it in. That may do the trick; if it doesn't, pop the pin out of the hinge with a hammer and screwdriver. Brush off the gunk, lube the pin, and slide it back in.

2. FIX A LEAKY SHOWERHEAD IN 10 MINUTES

You need: Electrical tape, wrench, screwdriver, new rubber gasket, teflon tape

Wrap the fixture's nut in electrical tape for protection, then unscrew it with the wrench. Pop out the gasket with the screwdriver, clean out any buildup in the pipe, and drop in the new gasket. Wrap the threads in Teflon tape and reinstall the showerhead.

3. INSTALL A DIMMER SWITCH IN 20 MINUTES

You need: Screwdriver, noncontact voltage tester, dimmer switch, wire nuts

First, kill the power at the breaker, then pop the switch cover and check the wires with a voltage tester. Not hot? Good. Remove the old switch and use wire nuts to connect the three dimmer wires to the three wall wires. Green is the ground.

4. RESEAL CRUMBLING BATHROOM CAULK IN 30 MINUTES

You need: Putty knife, rag, tube of silicone "tub and tile" caulk, caulking gun

Pull away the old caulk or pry it free with a putty knife. Clean the area with a warm, wet rag. Load the caulk tube into the gun, then run a uniform bead along the seam with one steady motion. Go back over it with a moistened finger to neaten uneven spots.

5. FRAME A FRAMELESS MIRROR IN 1 HOUR

You need: Molding, black paint, construction adhesive (such as liquid nails), painter's tape

A hardware store can cut you four pieces of molding at 45-degree angles. Paint the back sides black so you don't see a reflection off the mirror, and apply glue in a zigzag pattern. Stick the molding on the mirror and tape the corners until the glue sets.

6. MAKE A STREET-NUMBER MOSAIC IN 1.5 HOURS

You need: Marker, 18"x6" piece of plywood, ceramic or porcelain tiles, glue, tile grout, sponge

Draw your house numbers on the plywood. Then smash three colors of tile (for the numbers, background, and border) into half-inch pieces. Glue the pieces onto the board, fill the cracks with grout, and sponge off any excess grout from the surface.

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Carter Oosterhouse had his first carpentry gig at age 12; now he's the host of HGTV's Celebrity Motor Homes. His book, Carter's Way, is out now.

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