

Cool Tips & Handy Tricks

NOV 5 2008

SMART TIPS FOR THE HOME SHOP



Clean Hands

Though you should always wear protective gloves when working with finishes, try this trick from Handyman Club member Hank Biscan, of Minneapolis, to remove any stain that accidentally gets on your hands. Liberally rub vegetable oil onto your hands, then rinse them with grease-dissolving dish detergent and warm water. The oil lifts the stain from your skin, and the detergent cuts the oil and washes it (and the stain) away—far healthier than using mineral spirits or other harsh chemicals.



FOR MORE TIPS OR TO JOIN THE HANDYMAN CLUB, VISIT HANDYMANCLUB.COM

Smart Sharpening

For easier ax sharpening using a rotary tool, try this tip from Handyman Club member Frank May of Kansas City, Mo. Outfit the tool with a sanding drum rather than an abrasive wheel. A sanding drum is less likely to clog and remains cooler than an abrasive wheel—an important advantage for maintaining the temper of the edge.

HANDY

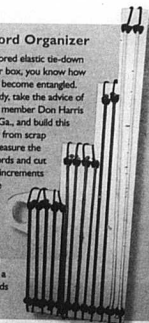
Cool Tips & Handy Tricks supplied by Handy Magazine

Hose Dryer

Handyman Club members in cold climates know it's important to drain all of the water from garden hoses before the first freeze. To quickly clear hoses using an air compressor, club member Stephen Jennebach, of Rochester, Minn., created an adapter by combining a 1/4- to 3/8-inch reducer, a 1/2- to 3/4-inch connector and a 3/4-inch coupling. After fastening the fittings together, he threads the adapter onto the end of the hose, sets the compressor to 60 pounds per square inch and fastens the air hose to the coupling. Any water remaining in the hose is forced out the other end, leaving the hose dry and ready for storage.

Bungee Cord Organizer

If you've ever stored elastic tie-down cords in a bag or box, you know how quickly they can become entangled. To keep them tidy, take the advice of Handyman Club member Don Harris of Woodstock, Ga., and build this simple organizer from scrap plywood. Just measure the lengths of the cords and cut varying stepped increments to accommodate them. Hang the organizer in your shop or store it behind your truck seat; either way, you'll be able to see at a glance which cords you have.



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