



HELP YOURSELF

Here's a hint to remember when letter-writing time comes around. Wrap a length of moistened cotton wool around the end of a pencil and use this to seal letters and stick stamps. Don't waste your tongue on them.

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For paint and varnish stains on fabrics, rub gently with carbon tetrachloride. If the spot is old and hard, give the solvent time to soften it, then apply a little more and rub. Always work from the outside towards the centre of the stain.

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To remove chocolate stains from a fabric, soak a cloth in lukewarm water, and rub. When dry, sponge with a soft clean cloth moistened in carbon tetrachloride. The result will be an absolutely spotless fabric.

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When the bridge between the holes of a plastic button breaks, it can be repaired by piercing two new holes with a heated needle. This is a useful trick if a button cannot be replaced.

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Flower boxes have a tendency to rot verandah railings or window sills, but if you set the box on two 6-inch long sections of a small, bark-covered log, rotting will be prevented.

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If a paint tin has no handle, place it in a child's beach bucket for ease in carrying. You can fit a hook to the handle of the pail for hanging it.

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Protect work gloves against quick destruction by covering the most-used parts with adhesive tape. Renew the tape when necessary and the gloves will stand considerable wear and tear.

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Here's one for golfers—no doubt your ball occasionally lands in water and under thick bushes. A simple retriever can be made from a small kitchen strainer and a flat, telescoping curtain rod, which can be carried in the golf bag. Saw the curved ends off the rod, and remove the wooden handle from the strainer, leaving the two wires that were inside the wood. Then force the wires into one end of the smaller section of the curtain rod. Crimp the edges of the rod over the wires to lock the strainer in place. Paint the rod to prevent its rusting.

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If a recipe calls for sour milk and there are no lemons handy, use vinegar instead.

Next time you paint the legs of a chair, table or other furniture, you will do a better job if you drive a long tack part of the way into the bottom of each leg. Then you can paint right to the bottom of the leg and if the paint runs a little it will do no harm.

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A horseshoe magnet is handy not only for picking up spilled nails and tacks—it attracts only ferrous metals and can be used to determine whether hardware is solid brass or brass-plated steel.

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Split a length of garden hose and slip it on the edge of your stepladder's top. It will stop the ladder slipping, and will prevent scratches on the surface where the ladder rests. The lower edge of the hose may need notching to fit.

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Before painting window frames, coat the panes with cleansing powder. If the paint sprays, it can easily be wiped off with the powder.

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Rather than transplanting plants from indoor boxes and possibly disturbing their roots, take this hint to eliminate that chance—cut the cover smoothly from an ordinary jam tin; punch a hole about 1/2-inch in diameter in the bottom of the tin; fill with soil and plant your seed. When it needs transplanting, the soil and plant with roots intact can be easily removed by pushing gently through the hole with a small plunger or pencil.



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