

# Woman Of House Should Speak Up!

By JEAN SPRAIN WILSON (AP Newsfeatures)  
IT IS TOO BAD, really, that the woman whose responsibility it is to make a home out of a house cannot pre-test it before the burden of its mortgage payments are assumed.

Living in a prospective house even briefly would rawly expose the true working (or non-working) nature and sensitive or insensitive areas that lie beneath the surface charm.

As it is, a man checks the furnace, pounds on the walls, asks about the roof, tries the plumbing, marvels at the space in the basement for a future workshop, worries over the amount of grass to mow, and signs the binder.

And women thereafter are left to curtain odd-sized windows, maneuver furniture into improbable places, juggle clutter, scrub uselessly, mould in a dampness and either in sun glare, wrestle with the appliances, strain over work counters wither too high or too low, make a three-day pilgrimage to the nearest supply center, and fight with incompatible neighbors the rest of the week.

A HOUSE TO A MAN is to come home to in the evening, but to get out of as soon after the sun rises as possible. A house to a woman is her day-wide light world, hour by ticked-off-hour, and each defect is subjectively magnified.

Unless a family rents with option to buy, trial home ownership is seldom possible. And considering the cost and inconvenience of uprooting a family, is not really practical, as educational as the experience might be.

The only other recourse is...

for a woman to know beforehand what she requires. And to speak loudly, shout if necessary, until she is heard. What she requires in her 24-hour prison of domesticity depends on the needs of her family, as well as her aesthetic sensibilities.

IF SHE HAS YOUNG children, she will seek a floor plan which separates their bedrooms from the living area, assuring them of quiet afternoon naps or evening study.

She will insist on an adequate play area, of course, and nearby schools; walls that easily rub free of fingerprints safely-latched and high windows; moppable floors; low closet fixtures, and copious toy storage room.

If she works, or just hates housework and can afford to hate it, she will fret about the size, plumbing facilities and location of a maid's room. Let it be comfortable, equipped, and private, she'll tell you, for she knows how hard it is to hang onto a maid these days.

If she is stuck with the housework, she will want counter tops built to her specific working height, as planes placed according to a cooking sequence, deep and wide shelves for large-sized food and cleaning containers; off-hour, and each defect is and 'strong' direct working light.

MOREOVER, SHE WILL demand floors with resilience, not unrelenting material in the kitchen where she spends the most time on foot. Her arches are at stake.

Since she is the daytime victim of the elements, she will insist on the proper sun...

and breeze protection and exposure. And will talk to the neighbors about it to be sure. In fact she will call on the neighbors, if she's smart, just to be sure about them.

This will be her castle to decorate. Can she satisfy her creative urges? Or is the house too full of challenging nooks, crannies, recesses, and excesses?

Are the walls too cut up with windows? Are the rooms so large that, even with room divider pieces, the effect is like a furniture showroom?

## Protect Your Eyesight During 'Clean-Up' Work

New York—Foresight can save sight if there's a "clean-up, paint-up, fix-up" campaign planned for your home this spring, counsel the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness in a "Save Your Vision" message.

The eye safety alert was prompted by reports of injuries during cleaning and gardening chores last year, said John W. Ferris, M.D., executive director of the sight conservation agency.

Trash fires were the cause of particularly serious accidents, such as the Midwestern man hurt when an aerosol bomb exploded in his face, or the Pennsylvania woman seriously cut around the right eye when a glass bottle blew up in the incinerator behind her home.

Discarding old bottles or cans in the rubbish fire can mean tragedy if the heat explodes them and sprays blinding fragment of glass or multiplied if the container still holds some combustible powder or liquid. Disposing of old flashlight or portable radio batteries in the trash

Or indeed, are the rooms too small for her treasured oversized heirloom pieces?

CAN SHE REPAINT or wallpaper, to her artistic heart's content, or is she trapped forever with the builder's choice of a "just-hose-it-down" wall?

A home is hers to reign in as gracious hostess, but is her lifetime housing selection cooperative? If she yearns for candlebra and crystal to go with her velvet hostess gown,

a six-by-eight cement slab "patio" off the living room's glass sliding doors will never take the place of a dining room with a buffet and a massive china closet.

A home is hers to relax in—quietly, privately, beautifully—perhaps by a crackling fireplace and with shadows and lights dancing on a cathedral ceiling.

A home is smug satisfaction. And yet it is hard to know whether that's what she's got until after she's begun to pay the price.

materials should never be left unguarded for a moment. A four-year-old Northwestern tot picked up a dandelion digger his mother had laid down and poked himself in the left eye, seriously threatening his sight. Down South, a six-year-old accidentally hit his younger brother in the eye with a grass sickle taken from a tool box without his father's knowledge. A two-year-old child was treated at an Ohio hospital after she got garden lime in her eye.

Eye protection such as safety glasses or plastic cover goggles are a must for painting and planting work. Dr. Ferree declared, citing the case of the housewife-decorator who got two eyes full of paint when a gray can nozzle gave way as she was using it. Eye injuries among gardeners cutting branches or shrubs are numerous in the Society's files, he said.

"When children are around spring clean-up activities, you can't be careful enough," noted the NSPB director. Tools and

tion and preventive services.

## Use Extra Space Inside Your Closet

AN OBVIOUS SOLUTION to the problem of more closet space in your home is to build more closets. But this involves breaking into walls, a sizeable project you may not care to undertake.

There is usually another solution; utilize the extra space in your present closets. If you think you have none, open one of the closets. Its wooden or metal rod probably is jammed with suits, coats, dresses and other garments. Just above the rod is a shelf, equally crowded with hats, boxes and a lot of other things you didn't know where else to put. And the floor, of course, is covered with shoes, rubbers, slippers, etc.

Now glance back at that shelf. Aren't there at least two or three feet of space above it and its contents? Why not make use of it? Put a couple of extra shelves there and you've immediately gained considerable extra storage space. Do that in all the closets in the house and think of the additional room you've suddenly inherited!

The installation of one or more extra shelves is simple. Easiest method is to attach a wooden cleat with screws on each side of the wall and rest a sturdy board on the two strips. If the closet is very wide and you think additional support will be needed, place another board in an upright position between the old and new shelves at a point midway between the two walls.

If you think you may want to change the height of the new shelf or shelves at some later time, attach metal strips to the walls instead of wooden cleats. These strips come with small openings into which support clips are inserted. Any time you want to change the height of a shelf, you have only to take out the support clips, insert them at another point and reposition the shelf.

### TRASH CAN NOT TRASHY ANY MORE

Wood-slatted trash cans are adding a new look and decorative touch to the park area surrounding the famous Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. and in many other areas in the park-filled Nation's Capital.

With the new refuse receptacles, the National Park Service, which is charged with maintaining the city's historic shrines and park areas, is proving that trash cans don't have to look trashy. More than 600 of the stylish new wood-slatted cans, with bright red liners, have been placed in service.

Both immediate and long range harm may have been done to the Alaska salmon and crab industry by the recent earthquake.

## New Standards Set Up For Building Insulation

DON'T BE SURPRISED when you go to a building supply dealer to buy insulation, if you are asked, "What R number do you want?"

R numbers are used in a new system of designating amounts to insulation. Unlike the old way of thickness in inches, the R numbers tell how much heat it will keep inside a house in winter and outside it in summer. The higher the R number, the more efficient the insulation. Under the old method, wool with an installed resist-

thickness measurements did not provide a means of comparing one insulation with another. Because of different materials and manufacturing systems, three inches of one brand might be the equivalent of four inches of another.

With R numbers, heating and cooling engineers have come up with formulas which manufacturers agree to accept. For instance, mineral wool with an installed resist-

ance to heat loss of R-19 or R-24 should be used in ceilings, R-11 in walls and R-13 in floors above unheated spaces.

Home owners can rely on the standards whether batts, blankets, pouring or blowing wool are used. Incidentally, while the Federal Housing Administration has set minimum insulation standards, it encourages the use of materials rated higher than its minimums.

The matter of insulation at one time concerned only those persons living in areas where severe winters were prevalent.

Three professors pooled their knowledge to provide the information in Cornell bulletin E-719 on "Raspberry Growing." Single copies are available free to New York State residents from the Mailing Room, Stone Hall, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N. Y.

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### SPACE AGE USES FOR WOOD

Wood, nature's only renewable natural resource, is the only basic material to have found so many uses in the space age. Today's list of lumber by-products has grown to include such products as vanilla extract, industrial wax, rayon for tire cords, and space missile explosives.

In addition, the labels on many reducing tablets show that the basic ingredient is wood pulp. Toothpaste, ice cream, cold cream, and shaving cream use wood pulp as a stabilizer.

Industry is using wood pulp to stabilize bricks, cement, ceramic products, and gypsum board. Another wood derivative, cellulose, goes into more than 6,500 different products. Traditional wood-derived standbys are such products as pitch, turpentine, and rosin which have been produced in the United States from wood since the mid 1800's.

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