

# Beware! Creaking Stairs Aren't Too Safe

**By MR. FIX**  
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.  
Stairways don't improve with age. They tend to squeak and creak. Rails may become loose and balusters may break with time. Stair treads wear and stair coverings become loose.

At best, an aging stairway is merely annoying. At its worst it is hazardous. If you silence a noisy stairway, you have also avoided some future danger at the same time.

**Come to Terms**  
The horizontal board, the one you step on, is the tread. The vertical board behind is the riser. The front edge of the stair tread rests on the riser below it. The tread also hangs out over the riser for a short distance. Molding generally covers the seam between the two.

Squeaking is caused by friction between tread and riser. Before attempting to repair the stair, determine the manner of construction. Either the treads are nailed to the riser or they are of tongue and groove construction. Look for indications of nails. If they are present, you can be reasonably certain that tread and riser were fitted together.

If you are still uncertain, pry off the molding that covers the joint.

If nails were used, force down the tread and drive finishing nails through the

tread and into the riser. Best way to force down the tread is to have someone stand on it. Drive the nails in pairs and slant them toward each other. With a nail set drive the heads below the surface and fill with wood filler.

**In the Groove**  
If the stairs are of groove construction, use thin wooden wedges and drive them tightly into the joint. You will have to remove the molding before you can do this. If you coat the wedge with glue it will make the joint just that much stronger.

Trim off the part of the wedge that sticks out and replace the molding.

If the stairway is open underneath you can drive the wedges in from the underside and avoid the work of removing and replacing the molding.

Handrails become loose with time and should be tightened before they break away. The outside rail is very dependent on the condition of the newel post—the post at the front of the stairway and the rail's main support. Tighten the post by making the joint between it and the board or the section of wall behind it more secure.

**No Support**  
Balusters—the small posts that support the rail—often become loose or broken.

Broken balusters should be replaced or repaired, but in either event, remove to do the job. Sometimes stock balusters can be found to match. Otherwise a cabinet shop or a friend with a wood lathe may be able to make you a new one.

You can make the repair

## Wrought Iron For Beauty

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Interior use is becoming more and more the thing. Besides interior railings, there are room dividers, cornice, "frames" for a distinctive feature of the room... many uses, depending on your own imagination.

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## Oil Heat Featured Value In Sale, Resale of Home

Oil heat is a featured value in the sale — and resale — of individual residences, according to the National Fuel Oil Council. It cites a recent study showing oil was in 18 percent of the ads, with about 16 percent stating oil heat. Second was Richmond, Virginia where 14 percent of the ads mentioned heating, with more than 13 percent stating oil heat.

In the typical home, according to the National Fuel Oil Council, the heating plant and system represent 5 to 10 percent of the total value of the house, and annual heating bills, in the hard winter-half of the country, run from \$250 to \$400 a year, — so stress on heating is a significant consumer item in selling houses.

The cities studies were Boston, New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Richmond, Virginia, and Charlotte, North Carolina. The check of the advertising covered a total of over 8,500 ads on one-family homes and ran from several hundred ads in each of the Southern cities to over 2,000 in New York and Baltimore. Coverage was both city and suburban.

The highest featuring of heating in the classified sections

### GLAMOUR BATH

You can glamorize a dull looking bathroom by paneling the walls and built-ins with a lovely wood like western red cedar. This wood is impervious to moisture, has beautiful coloring and is longlasting and rich looking. Use spar varnish finish.



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## Mulcare

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finished, piles will appear again about town.

What can you do to help and assist our Village forces in this effort? Well, I hope the first thing is that you'll have patience. Patience when your water is momentarily blackened, patience when other areas of the city seem picked up before yours, patience when we say you can't park your car overnight on the streets, yes, most of all, have patience. Also it will be a great help when you pile your leaves and cuttings... put them in as neat a pile as you can, for we won't rake your yard. We just have time enough to pick up the debris.

We're using all available man power on the various parts of our spring cleaning program. However, if we have an emergency water break, cleanup activities must be deferred. We have recently put out our trash cans in the downtown business area, they're big and white. Let's "Keep Potsdam Clean."

There's only so much that we can do. I assure you we're all working on the Village side, the rest is up to you.

## Moisture

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Clean out gutters and downspouts.

**MOST IMPORTANT**—if you have any questions about releasing MR. MOISTURE from your home see your local paint dealer. He'll be glad to help you.

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