

Nuts & Bolts

Volume 30, Number 2
April-June 2012

a newsletter from Home Repair Resource Center

Fair attendees can hear presentations on specific topics, consult one-on-one with professionals from a variety of specialties at "Advice Tables," and talk with representatives from other nonprofits, civic organizations, and banks.

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Home Remodeling Fair: March 24th at City Hall

If you're looking for good repair information without a sales pitch, plan to attend Home Repair Resource Center's annual Community Home Remodeling Fair. This year's Fair will be held on Saturday, March 24th, at Cleveland Heights City Hall. Doors will open at 9:30, with presentations from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

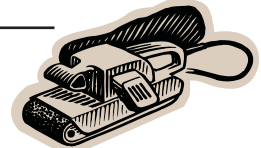
In addition to hearing talks on specific topics, attendees can consult one-on-one at "Advice Tables" with professionals from a variety of specialties – such as roof replacement, furnaces and boilers, insulation, electrical and plumbing work, concrete, asphalt, masonry, exterior painting, new garages, and replacement doors and windows.

Representatives from other nonprofits, civic organizations, and banks will also be available to advise homeowners on matters such as selecting exterior paint colors, community gardening, lead-based paint, and financing repairs and remodeling projects.

This FREE event, held in cooperation with the City of Cleveland Heights, is open to residents of all communities. The complete Fair schedule is available on HRRC's website, www.hrcc-ch.org.

This could be your last *Nuts & Bolts* –

Check out your options for receiving future issues.

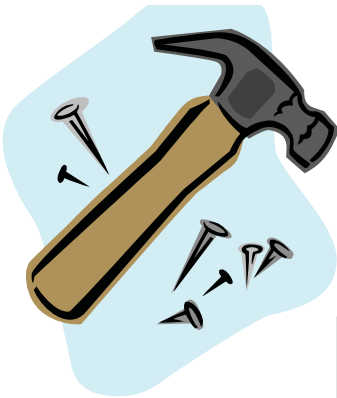


Be sure to get future *Nuts & Bolts*

Due to budget constraints, Home Repair Resource Center will no longer be able to mail free copies of our *Nuts & Bolts* newsletter to Project Repair participants. However, **this doesn't have to be your last issue!** You can choose from three options to receive future *Nuts & Bolts* at no cost:

1. If you are not currently receiving *Nuts & Bolts* by email, send your email address to rstager@hrrc-ch.org with a request to be added to our mailing list.
2. You can go to the workshop schedule listed on our website, www.hrrc-ch.org, and click on the link to the *Nuts & Bolts* newsletter.
3. You can stop by our office to pick up a free copy.

If you still prefer to receive a printed copy by standard mail, the cost will be \$5.00 per year. Send your check, payable to Home Repair Resource Center, to 2520 Noble Rd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44121.



Holiday Closings:

Home Repair Resource Center will be closed on Monday, May 28th for Memorial Day. *Plan ahead to get any tools or information you'll need.*

Fundraiser event with Bremec on the Heights Garden Center

April 23rd to May 6th

Mark your calendar. **Bremec on the Heights Garden Center** will once again hold a special event to benefit Home Repair Resource Center. Between April 23rd and May 6th, all purchases of materials and gift cards at Bremec's will result in a donation to HRRC. In conjunction with our event, Bremec will offer free classes:

Saturday, April 28th:

11 a.m.	Vegetable Gardens
2 p.m.	Native Plant Gardens

Saturday, May 5th:

11 a.m.	Tree Selection
2 p.m.	Garden Hedges

Check HRRC's website (www.hrrc-ch.org) for details and to print out a voucher to turn in with your purchase. Vouchers will also be available at our office and at the registers at Bremec's.

Practical Sustainability: new thinking for older homes

Home Repair Resource Center is introducing a new series of monthly lectures designed to help owners of existing, older homes take steps – large and small – toward household energy efficiency and sustainability. The series will draw on the knowledge and experience of some of the best sustainable housing practitioners in Greater Cleveland to make the vast body of information surrounding sustainable housing manageable for homeowners – with action steps that are practical and affordable.

These free presentations will be held at the main branch of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, 2345 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, and are open to residents of all communities.

Reservations are requested; call (216) 381-6100, ext. 16.

Save your spot now for the first three presentations:

Lights, Cabinets, Action!: Sustainability & Kitchen Remodels

Fred Cortright (oneloom.net) and

Michael Palcisco (MVP Consulting)

Wednesday, April 11th, 2012, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Your Roof: Bottom/Up, Top/Down Sustainability

Chuck Miller (Doty & Miller Architects)

Wednesday, May 9th, 2012, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Sustainability in Bits & Pieces: Developing a Life Plan for Your House

Thomas Meyer, LEED AP

Wednesday, June 13th, 2012, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Check out HRRC's expanded services:

- Our tool loan is now open to Cleveland Height homeowners with higher incomes
- Our repair workshops are now open to residents of other communities
- Our handouts and videos are now available through the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library. (Access them at <http://heightslibrary.org/page/hrrc>.)

Call (216) 381-6100 or go to www.hrrc-ch.org for more information.

Energy audits benefit both homeowners and HRRC

Dominion East Ohio has developed a program that will benefit both individual homeowners and Home Repair Resource Center. By utilizing the **Dominion East Ohio Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program**, Dominion East Ohio residential gas customers can qualify for a “deep discount” on the cost of an energy audit. You will pay only \$50 for the 3-4 hour energy assessment – normally a \$500 value.

And, HRRC will benefit, too! If you call (877) 287-3416 **between March 19th and March 31st** to schedule your audit, HRRC will receive a donation from GoodCents, the company that provides the audits! *(To ensure that HRRC gets the donation, you’ll also need to give us your name and address, and let us know that you called within the specified time period. Email the information to rstager@hrrc-ch.org or call (216) 381-6100, ext. 16.)*

The official rebate process includes a return visit from the GoodCents auditor to check the quality of the work and verify that appropriate materials were installed. This unbiased third-party oversight can ensure that you receive the energy-saving measures you are paying for!

During the home energy assessment, a BPI-certified auditor from GoodCents will perform an array of tests, including a furnace inspection, combustion analysis on appliances, blower door test to indicate air leaks in the home, and infrared camera images. The audit will also include free home improvements such as caulking, weatherstripping, door sweeps, duct sealing, water aerators, low-flow showerhead, and more.

There can be other benefits, as well. At the conclusion of the audit, the homeowner will receive a report with a comprehensive set of recommendations, identifying and prioritizing measures that will make the home more comfortable and energy-efficient. If they make any of the suggested improvements using pre-qualified contractors, homeowners can receive a rebate of up to \$1,250. For details, about the program, go to www.deohpwes.com.



A final **consumer alert** from GoodCents: There’s a good reason to use the official rebate process for your refund, rather than letting the contractor discount their price by an equivalent amount. The official process includes a return visit from the GoodCents auditor to check the quality of the work and verify that appropriate materials were installed. This unbiased third-party oversight can ensure that you receive the energy-saving measures you are paying for!



Women’s repair program has a new format!

HRRC’s repair education series for women, “Home How-To,” has been redesigned and opened to all women homeowners in Cleveland Heights and surrounding communities who want to gain confidence and experience in home repairs. Participants will benefit from personal attention and “hands-on” experience in a supportive and nurturing atmosphere.

The program provides ample opportunity for women to practice using the tools and techniques involved in many common home repairs. Absolutely no previous experience is required!

Home How-To is designed to empower women homeowners to take charge of the maintenance needs of their homes. The curriculum consists of four modules, each made up of eight two-hour classes. (A prospective class list is available on our website: www.hrrc-ch.org/HHT.HTM.) The modules – Home Maintenance 101, Carpentry, Plumbing, and Electrical – can be taken in sequence or individually. All classes are held in HRRC’s Teaching Center. Because the course emphasizes small-group instruction, enrollment in each module is limited to 18 women.

The only requirement for participation is to be a women homeowner. The cost of each module is \$120 for Cleveland Heights residents and \$150 for non-residents. Payment will be due upon acceptance into the class. Scholarships for reduced tuition rates are available to low-income Cleveland Heights residents (call for details).

The next module, **Home Maintenance 101**, will run from May 9th through June 27th, with classes scheduled weekly from 7 to 9 pm on Wednesday evenings. The application for Home How-To can be downloaded from our website or requested by by calling Becky Stager at (216) 381-6100, ext. 16.



Workshop Schedule

HRRC's repair workshops are now open to residents of all communities. Participants pay a modest **materials fee** (scholarships available to Cleveland Heights residents with low incomes.) Make your reservations early, as classes fill rapidly. For more information or to save your spot, go to www.hrcc-ch.org or call 381-6100, ext. 16.

April

STRIPPING PAINT SAFELY

Monday, April 9th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Tom Hudak, Dumond Chemicals

Learn about the Peel Away™ paint removal system, which you can use to strip multiple layers of paint from a surface – while reducing contamination from lead-containing chips and dust.

INSTALLING & REPAIRING WOOD MOLDING

Monday, April 16th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Susie Mone, HomeWorks

Whether you want to install new baseboards, chair rails, or crown molding – or just replace a damaged section – we'll show you how to measure, cut, and attach several types of wood molding commonly found in older homes.

TUCKPOINTING

Wednesday, April 25th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Briane Vagner, Vagner Masonry

Tuckpointing (replacing deteriorated or missing mortar between bricks) is an easy do-self repair in most situations. We'll demonstrate various types of joints and stains and show you techniques for a neat and attractive job.

BRICKLAYING

Monday, April 30th, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Instructor: Bill Knop, Rehab Specialist, City of Cleveland Hts.

Most homeowners can do small brickwork projects. Learn how to use common masonry tools to lay out your rows and how to join brick with mortar, keeping your walls level and plumb.



MAY

FLAT ROOF REPLACEMENT

Tuesday, May 8th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Chris Kamis, Absolute Roofing

You'll learn how to replace a "flat" roof over a porch or shed-type garage using cold process **modified bitumen roofing**.

SHINGLED ROOFS & FLASHING

Tuesday, May 15th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Chris Kamis, Absolute Roofing

Learn the right way to replace a shingled roof – minimizing leaking and ice build-up – and replace torn or missing shingles.

GUTTERS & DOWNSPOUTS

Tuesday, May 22nd, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Chris Kamis, Absolute Roofing

Learn how to connect and hang gutters at the proper pitch.

We'll discuss sectional vs. seamless gutters, metal gauges, and how to replace rotted fascia boards and rafter ends.

JUNE

EXTERIOR PAINTING

Monday, June 4th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Matthew Alves, M&M Contracting

Learn how to select the best paint, prepare the surface, and apply paint for an attractive and long-lasting result. We'll also talk about controlling lead-based chips and paint dust.

PORCH FLOORING REPLACEMENT

Monday, June 11th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: John Sobotincic, woodworker/handyman

You'll learn how to install new tongue-and-groove flooring – just a few pieces or an entire porch deck.

BUILDING WOODEN STEPS

Monday, June 18th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: John Sobotincic, woodworker/handyman

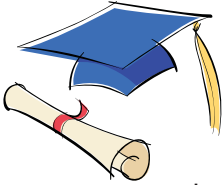
Learn how to measure, cut, and assemble wooden steps to meet code requirements. We'll talk about the ground support needed and how to attach steps to the porch.

WOODEN PORCH RAILINGS

Monday, June 25th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: John Sobotincic, woodworker/handyman

You'll learn how to construct a wooden railing and install it on a porch – including a second floor porch roof.



Tool smarts



At some point, all of us have run into a job that we just couldn't get done. We've had to call in a tradesperson. And often the only difference that allowed the tradesperson to complete the job successfully was the way the job was approached. This is also true when it comes to using tools. Your ability to use a tool doesn't just depend on physical strength. How well you use your body and your muscles is going to determine how well the job will turn out, how sore you'll be afterward, and sometimes if you'll be able to get the job done at all.

Hopefully, as we grow older, we grow wiser; we can depend on our minds more, and on our bodies less. So, before using a tool, start with your mind. Based on your past experience, you have to select the tool that you feel will best achieve the desired result. The tool that you use will have a lot of bearing on how well the job goes for you. People in the trades generally have a large selection of tools to draw from, because they have learned from experience which tools work best in each situation. Because you're not likely to have that experience, you'll need to take a little more time to think about what you are going to do.

Most tool functions fall into a few categories: fastening, cutting, turning, or finishing. The best tool for each job will depend on such things as the type of materials you are dealing with, the size of that material, and the degree of strength and flexibility your body can provide to help the tool.

If you use a screwdriver with a smaller place for your hand to grab hold, you waste a lot of energy holding onto the screwdriver rather than turning it. Try buying a screwdriver with a larger rounded hand grip. This will fill up your hand, and you can then apply your force to turning and not so much to gripping.

The real trick to using a tool is to let the tool do the work – not you. Our muscles tend to work easier when we use our bodies for leverage. For example, when we push away from ourselves, we are able to create more concentrated force than when we pull. This is because the weight of our bodies aids us.

As a general rule, the more muscle groups we can employ when using a tool, the less any individual group will have to work. It's a way of spreading the work around. For example, consider the common task of hammering a nail. If you grab the hammer near

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Tool smarts

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the head and move only your wrist up and down, it will take a lot of wrist motion to get that nail hammered into the board. However, if you grab the hammer near the end of the handle, you can dramatically increase your leverage. And, if you swing the hammer using the muscles in your wrist, lower arm, upper arm, and shoulder, and if, while swinging, you shift your body weight slightly to add some more force – you can get the same result while straining each muscle much less. The difference may not be noticeable if you drive only one nail, but if you multiply that by a hundred nails for a large job, you'll appreciate the savings to your body.

Now, think about installing a screw. If you use a screwdriver with a smaller area to grab, you waste a lot of energy holding onto the screwdriver rather than turning it. Try buying a screwdriver with a larger rounded hand grip. This will fill up your hand, and you can then apply your force to turning and not so much to gripping. When you turn it, don't just use your wrist - try twisting with your forearm. If that isn't enough force, then walk around the screw with your entire body. This method is slower, but will get the job done.

When using any type of wrench, try to push rather than pull, if possible. If you need a little more force, hold the wrench against your body and use your stomach and leg muscles to push and give you more leverage.

The real trick to using a tool is to let the tool do the work – not you. Our muscles tend to work easier when we use our bodies for leverage. For example, when we push away from ourselves, we are able to create more concentrated force than when we pull. This is because the weight of our bodies aids us.

For those with physical limitations, there are some tools designed to help maximize the strength that you have. There are screwdrivers that ratchet, much like an auto mechanic's tool, so the amount of effort required to turn or twist of the tool is reduced. (The drawback is that this type will usually waste a small amount of the available force as a trade-off for the ratchet capability.) Some tools have a plastic cushioned hand grip that will make it less crushing to your hand to use.



These principles – using your body weight to your best advantage and spreading the work load around the different muscle groups – are used constantly by people in the trades. So, think before you work, and leave the liniment in the bathroom.

Preparation for exterior painting:

Repairing wooden trim pieces

When you're preparing exterior surfaces for painting, you may find that you need to repair some rotted wood. For example, one of your windowsills may have rotted through. If you spot the problem early, you may be able to avoid replacing the whole sill. By using a wood hardener to restore firmness to the rotted surface and then filling in with wood putty, you can have a paintable surface quickly. Some companies make a series of products intended to work together (for example, Minwax™ Wood Hardener and its companion wood putty,) that will create a better bond than unrelated products. Once the putty has cured, you can sand or file it to duplicate the profile of the existing wood.

When can you repair a piece of wood trim, rather than replace it? For thinner pieces, you can use wood hardener and putty on small areas, so long as the entire piece retains its integrity. On thicker pieces, like a windowsill, there's an old carpenter's trick that can help you assess the extent of the damage. If you can push a nail or screwdriver into the wood, by hand, no more than 1/4", the surface can be repaired; if you can insert it more than 1/4", the trim piece is too rotted to be repaired, and should be replaced.

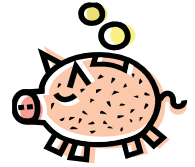


After you clean up the sanding dust from the surface, use an oil-based primer to seal the repaired area. (You'll get the best results if the wood has been dry for several days, and if the humidity is low on the day you paint.) After the primer has dried (read the directions on the can), use latex or oil-based paint for the finish coat.

Don't worry that your final coat of paint won't adhere to the repaired surface. Just remember the advice of Bob Moore, who used to demonstrate paint products for a major hardware wholesaler: If a surface is "clean, dry, dull, and smooth," you can get paint to stick to nearly anything.



HRRC's Financial Fitness/ New Home Buyer Classes



Home Repair Resource Center's interactive Financial Fitness series will help you develop money skills, provide you with strategies for improving your credit, and teach you how to protect your home investment.

All classes will be held at the Cleveland Heights - University Heights Library, 2345 Lee Road, from 6 - 8 p.m. Reservations are requested – call (216) 381-6100, ext. 13.

April	2	Monday	Personal Budgeting & Mortgage Lending
	9	Monday	Understanding Credit & Lending
	16	Monday	Understanding Mortgages
	23	Monday	Review & Home Maintenance
May	1	Tuesday	Personal Budgeting & Mortgage Lending
	8	Tuesday	Understanding Credit & Lending
	15	Tuesday	Understanding Mortgages
	22	Tuesday	Review & Home Maintenance
June	4	Monday	Personal Budgeting & Mortgage Lending
	11	Monday	Understanding Credit & Lending
	18	Monday	Understanding Mortgages
	25	Monday	Review & Home Maintenance

HRRC to co-sponsor lecture series with CH Historical society

HRRC has joined the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, Landmarks Commission, FutureHeights, Cleveland Restoration Society, and Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library to co-sponsor a short lecture series on preserving older homes. The series will kick off on May 24th with a presentation by CH City Planner Kara Hamley O'Donnell on "Researching the History of Your Cleveland Heights Home." Future presentations are scheduled for June 7th, June 21st, and July 12th, and topics will include deep energy retrofits at the roofline, the evolution of the American home interior, and maintenance and efficiency.

All lectures will be held at the Ch-UH Library in the evening. When the series is finalized, information will be posted on HRRC's website, www.hrcc-ch.org.

Operating support for HRRC is provided by individual donations, foundation grants, and HUD Community Development Block Grant funds through the City of Cleveland Heights.



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