

On the House

With the Carey Brothers
Tips of the Month



SAFETY FIRST

Spring is traditionally a time when many people embark on home maintenance and improvement projects. Most people must prioritize projects based on need and available resources. Before you go from the drawing board to hammering boards, keep in mind the order of importance in which projects should be tackled. Safety is always first! Electrical wiring, switches and outlets should be safe and in good working order. Gas and electrical appliances should be checked for peak operation and to make sure that they are properly vented and that the vents are clear. The same holds true for fireplaces and wood stoves. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and test them regularly. After safety, take care of needed repairs such as a nagging roof leak, a sagging floor, a spongy shower wall or peeling paint. Next, take care of energy upgrades such as weather-stripping, caulking and insulation. They can save precious energy dollars and improve comfort. Finally, if your budget isn't busted, consider a fresh coat of paint, new flooring, an entry door, or another "optional" improvement that may make your "home sweeter home."

CABINET INSTALLATION 1-2-3

Installing a new kitchen full of cabinets? Not sure where to begin? First, confirm that the dimensions on your floor plan match the dimensions of the space. Don't have a plan? Make one! Next, make sure that all of your cabinets match your plan. For store-bought cabinets, carefully remove them from their boxes (save the boxes in case you need to make a return or exchange) and verify that everything will fit as specified and that you have all of the necessary pieces. Next, label all doors and drawers and remove them to lighten their load and for ease of installation. Install floor to ceiling cabinets first, then hang uppers and finish with lowers. Use a bubble or laser level along with shims to ensure that all cabinets are level (side-to-side) and plumb (front-to-back). Use construction screws to fasten the cabinets into solid framing. Use a pilot bit to predrill for screws and conceal screw heads with plastic screw caps. That was easy!

BECOME A FAN OF A FAN

We're big fans of ceiling paddle fans. In addition to being decorative, they can cool down space in summer, warm it up in winter and help combat condensation on glass doors and windows. And, when equipped with a light kit, can provide much needed light. Here are some things to think about when purchasing a fan. Style: Select a fan that matches the look and feel of the space. Pay particular attention to fan motor shape and finish, and blade style color/finish. Size: Select a fan that best suits the size of the space. Ceiling fan blade spans range from 29 to 54 inches and beyond – with the most popular being 52 inches. Lighting: Consider purchasing a fan equipped with a light or optional light kit. Operation: Who doesn't love a remote for anything? An optional remote will permit you to control the fan and light from bed, the sofa or easy chair. The remote kit is easy to install and is especially useful for new fan installations where no switch exists. Installation: Don't attempt to hang a fan from an existing electrical box. Instead, use an approved and well-supported kit that will support the load. Be sure to follow local building codes and hire an electrician if this is a project that's beyond your do-it-yourself comfort level.

Ask the Carey Brothers a home improvement or remodeling question on their live radio broadcast every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Call toll-free at **1-800-737-2474** to ask your question.

Visit their website at **OnTheHouse.com** for recaps of the show & other helpful info.

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