

Contractors Best On Many Projects

"Let George do it" is rapidly becoming the rallying cry of householders throughout the land. And when George is the local building contractor, it's a darn smart move.

Do-it-yourself is a fine old American tradition, and there's not a word against it in its proper place. There's plenty of room for self-help in home improvement, too. But for a good many jobs, the only smart thing is to leave the work to the professional building contractor.

Kitchens Get New Glamor

No room in the home is receiving as much creative effort as today's kitchens according to Better Kitchens Institute. Resourceful application of decorative accessories, especially "wrought iron," has permitted greater individuality, while exciting uses of colors and textures in steel cabinets and appliances have added warmth and charm to the workroom.

But behind all of this glamorizing of the kitchen, there are many new design features in steel cabinets which show that functional efficiency still is the fundamental objective. Thus the up-to-date steel kitchen is primarily a convenient place to work—albeit a far more distinctive and inviting place.

Specially designed units such as room dividers, peninsula and island cabinets are among the newer developments by steel cabinet manufacturers. These convenient units enable the kitchen planner to create more distinctive styling in the kitchen and frequently gain more storage space.

Growing use of smaller sized cabinets for placement between standard base units and beneath the wall cabinets has resulted in the creation of a variety of handy steel cabinets that add to kitchen convenience. Among these are narrow tray cabinets with dividers, which permit storage of platters, cookie sheets, and serving trays in upright position, and small spice cabinets with sliding or roll-up doors which keep seasonings at eye-level height above counters.

There are special steel cabinets, too, for storing the multitude of electrical appliances used in every modern kitchen. These include such popular units as a mixer cabinet and other and storage cabinets with sturdy sliding shelves plus outlets where the coffee maker, waffle baker and similar items can be stored as well as used.

More and more attention is being paid to comfortable working features in steel kitchens. To avoid fatigue from constant reaching, dealers now plan steel wall cabinet installations at a height that's best for the homemaker. While standard base cabinet heights are approximately 36 inches, there are some 30 inch high units available for sitdown chores.

All of these newer design features are obtainable now to supplement the variety of standard stylings in steel wall and base cabinets. And most manufacturers offer their units in a wide choice of colors in addition to white so that the latest steel kitchen not only can be the most useful room in the house, but the most attractive.

The old joke about the man who painted himself into a corner is still a cartoonist's staple, but it's nothing to the troubles tyro home improvers really get into.

The complexity of modern life doesn't stop at the front door but the knowledge needed to select and install the right materials and equipment from the myriads available is, quite literally, a life study. And acquiring this knowledge is how the contractor spends a good part of his days—and nights too.

SMOOTH-WORKING TEAM
Finding the variety of specialists needed on a home improvement project and then organizing them into a smooth-working team is a full-time job, and one that requires a lot of experience. Here, too, the expert contractor, can achieve major savings in time, temper and money.

There's still another advantage to dealing with a contractor, and one of prime importance. Many jobs around the house sound sim-

Added Baths Prove Value

Rub-a-dub-dub, three folks to a tub, suggests the plight of many families today where there aren't enough bathrooms to go round.

The traffic jam that is an everyday occurrence in single-bath homes is anything but conducive to happiness in getting dad off to work and the children to school, to say nothing about poor mother.

The solution, of course, is to put in one or more bathrooms to break the bottleneck.

Some day there doubtless will be a bath for every bedroom in the average home. Meantime, addition of a second complete bathroom can do wonders in easing the traffic problem.

ANY SPACE WILL DO
There are all sorts of places to install another bath, when you look around a bit. The end of a long hallway or the partitioned-off corner of a large room are made to order for a second bath, says the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Information Bureau. In fact, just about any waste space that will accommodate the fixtures, with enough room left over to move around, can be converted into a second bath, the Bureau points out.

Bathrooms of modern formed steel have important advantages in installing a second bath. Porcelain enameled steel tubs are lighter than older types and easier to carry and fit into tight spaces. The lighter weight of steel tubs saves money because often the floor underneath it does not need extra bracing.

FREE ESTIMATES
Plumbing contractors are experts these days in converting waste spaces into bathrooms. They will gladly offer estimates free of charge on the cost of putting in an additional bathroom.

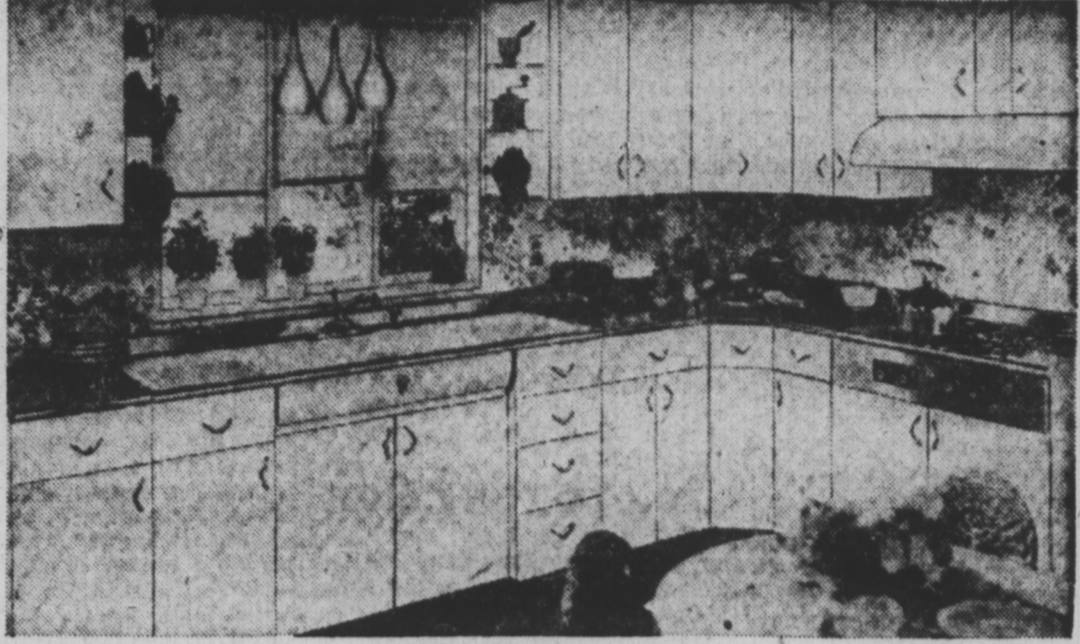
Many plumbing contractors are in a position to assist in financing a bathroom modernization project on easy monthly terms. They also provide a one-stop modernization service, that is, they will assume the responsibility for the service of other craftsmen involved in the carpenter work, the electrical work, and the decorating.

Give BLOOD

MODERNITY BRINGS GLAMOR TO THE KITCHEN



OWNERS OF KITCHENS SIMILAR TO ONE SHOWN ABOVE sometimes hesitate to bring them up-to-date because the job seems too big and may take too long to finish.



THE KETTLE ON THE STOVE in both pictures is your clue that this is the same kitchen. No structural changes were made. Precision-made steel cabinets, a cabinet sink, and new range with hood and exhaust form work to finish.

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Correct Tools Help Speed Those Do-It-Yourself Jobs

Do-it-yourself can take care of some important home improvements. Even the householder just so-so with tools is in for some pleasant surprises when he learns what can be done with a few tools and easy-to-use materials.

Some jobs of course call for very special skills, and a few, such as electrical work and plumbing, can be downright dangerous if not done by experts. But there is an almost endless list of projects which can easily be accomplished by the homeowner himself.

Another improvement eliminates electrical extension cords festooned around the room. These can be dangerous as well as unsightly, especially in kitchens, workshops and utility rooms. New thin gauge steel strips with built in electrical outlets plug into existing wall sockets, bring juice right where it's needed. And they practically install themselves.

Every home should have a basic set of sturdy steel hand tools. These will handle most do-it-yourself chores. But some jobs require more elaborate tools, which may not be needed often enough to justify buying.

Many dealers today will rent such higher-priced items as power drills, fence stretchers, concrete mixers, power post hole diggers and power back saws. Charges are surprisingly low, too. And for the homeowner who wants to own these more expensive tools but can't afford it right now, budget terms can usually be arranged.

Manufacturers of materials and equipment, as well as tool makers, are giving prime attention to the do-it-yourself. Ease of installation is a basic engineering consideration, built-in at the

start. Tool makers, for their part, have popular price tags attached to make do-it-yourself easy. And they are all available at local dealers. As a result, many a man who had never used anything more complicated than a fountain pen is now pointing with pride at his "personal" home improvement.

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