



"THE HANDYMAN!"--By Dave Dad's Own Handyman! DFO F.C.6  
 --Edited by Sara Davidito, a Family Care Publication.  
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1. I WAS SHOCKED WHEN RECENTLY VISITING SOME HOMES TO FIND THEM IN NOT TOO GOOD SHAPE, but when we would go over the Checklist with the Family and come to the question, "Does your Home have a handyman who can fix things?", almost everyone said "Yes"! When asked who this person was they'd kind of laugh and say, "Well, we all just kind of check around for security and try to fix things."

2. BUT AS DAD SAYS, "WHAT'S EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY IS NOBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY!" I don't think most people know what Dad's idea of a handyman is or how important and full his responsibilities are.

3. A HANDYMAN HAS ABOUT THREE MAJOR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITIES: One is to repair things which get

broken around the house. Another is to watch for safety and security of the house. The third is to fix up the house.

4. REPAIR IS AN IMPORTANT JOB because it has a lot to do with the upkeep of the house. If you're the one responsible to fix things that get broken, you'll pay a lot of attention to the small things--making sure door-knobs don't get broken off and people don't harm the furniture, etc. Of course, in repairing things you just have to be led of the Lord in each situation about what to do.

5. WHEN I BEGAN DOING REPAIR WORK, I DIDN'T KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT THESE THINGS; I never had any special training.

15. SAFETY IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT JOB, to be sure that you carefully check the entire house for safety. If there are children around, you must check all electrical outlets and be sure that all poisons and dangerous fluids a child might get into are kept up high, locked up, or kept in a safe place.

16. YOU, THE HANDYMAN, ARE EVEN RESPONSIBLE TO SEE THAT YOUR HOUSE IS CLEAN. If you see dirty dishes left, or a dirty floor, you as the practical person in your house should clean up, or be sure that someone does.

17. YOU MAY NEED TO PAINT WALLS IF THERE ARE A LOT OF FINGERPRINTS ON THEM, or learn how to mix plaster to fill in holes where the walls might have been damaged.

18. THIS IS ALL IN THE MO LETTERS. YOU MIGHT HAVE TO SEARCH THE INDEX, but Dad has often talked about being a sample to our landlords and always leaving a house in better condition than we found it! So be a handyman!

19. DAD NOTICES EVERYTHING THAT NEEDS REPAIR OR IMPROVEMENT IN THE HOUSE. He trained me to replace light bulbs as soon as they are burned out. If you have burned-out light bulbs if just shows you are lazy and nonob-servant or terribly poor!

20. APPARENTLY PEOPLE ARE RATHER CARELESS IN MOVING FURNITURE AROUND THE HOUSE. I have noticed lots of broken lamp fixtures hanging from the ceilings! If a globe is broken, take it off and go to the store to buy or provision a new one. Your visitors are going to notice things like that, and your parents

probably never allowed that in your own home--so fix it!

21. CONCERNING MAJOR JOBS SUCH AS SWIMMING POOLS WHICH NEED CARE: Some of our Homes are getting good housing with swimming pools, but before you do, you'd better realise one thing--that a pool is a lot of hard work!

22. IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING YOU'D BETTER GET THE EXPERT TO HELP. You must keep the right balance of chemicals in it; otherwise the water could damage the eyes and body and make people sick.

23. POOL MACHINERY IS VERY DELICATE AND YOU MUST FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS EXPLICITLY. It's best to provision the help of a pool repairman to come and show you just how to handle the machinery, or the gardener or landlord can show you.

24. WHENEVER A REPAIRMAN COMES TO YOUR HOUSE, SOMEONE OUGHT TO BE WITH HIM ALL THE TIME. You should never trust some nosey, critical systemites to walk around your house unaccompanied! This is a rule in Dad's house!

25. WHEN A JOB IS TOO BIG FOR THE HANDYMAN, CALL THE EXPERT and watch him work. Watch how he takes things apart. Watch how and what he does, and ask him questions and learn, so that next time you won't have to call the expert--you'll have enough knowledge to do it! Always tip the repairmen who come to your house; this should be a standard rule to show that you appreciate their work, and it's a witness!

26. ONE BOY I KNOW HAD TROUBLE REPAIRING A CAR. But when he couldn't do the job he went to the manufacturer and gathered secrets of how the engine was put

studied engineering but it was mainly theory. But you can just learn by doing these jobs and by watching other people do them and asking the Lord for answers when you don't know what to do. Never miss an opportunity to learn all you can from others.

6. DAD HAS MANY TIMES ASKED ME TO REPAIR SMALL THINGS that most Homes would just pass off and say, "Oh, why glue that together? Why waste your time doing that?"--but even little things you can fix for others saves their time and improves the overall condition of the Home. Some can also repair tape recorders, radios, etc., by just really praying and getting ahold of the Lord and asking Him what the problem is!

7. THE NEXT PART OF YOUR JOB, SAFETY AND SECURITY, IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. This means that you are the one responsible to be sure that the doors and windows are locked when everyone goes to bed, and the property is safe so that no thieves or trouble-makers could break in. Lock doors after people go out at night and be sure they have keys. Make sure property and personnel are safe.

8. ANOTHER PART OF THIS JOB IS SELAH TRASH. We were surprised when we would ask many Homes, "Do you burn your security trash?" They would answer, "Oh, we don't have any security trash!" That made me really wonder about them, because certainly they must have papers on which they figure their finances, confidential correspondence, old reports, etc.

9. I WOULD SAY THAT ANYTHING YOU DON'T WANT THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO READ IS SELAH TRASH and you'd

better follow the MO letters and find some way of burning or shredding it--tear it up into tiny pieces and mix it up so that it can not be read.

10. DAD SAID IN THE OLD LETTERS that this is one way some evil-minded folk find out a lot about you if they want to: They go through your garbage! So be careful what you throw out!

11. WHENEVER IT GETS DARK ENOUGH TO USE LIGHTS AT NIGHT, you should make sure that curtains and shutters are closed, just so that outsiders can't look right into your house. And of course you should keep your shutters closed to keep out pests, burglars and enemies.

12. CHECK AROUND THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOUSE EVERY NIGHT just before dark, perhaps with a male buddy, to be sure everything is secure.

13. AT NIGHT YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME LIGHT ON OUTSIDE THE HOUSE. Never have any part of your garden that is not well lighted at night, for security. Just make sure you turn off all outside lights at daybreak, otherwise it's a terrible testimony that you waste electricity. Try and make sure your house burns as few lights as possible at night, especially in these times of oil crisis.

14. YOU CAN BUY A LITTLE AUTOMATIC CONTROL FOR YOUR OUTSIDE LIGHTS; Dad said they were available in the States for about \$5.00. Where we are I couldn't find one, so I built my own from a kit from an electronics store. You can hook that up to your outside porch light and it'll turn the lights on automatically at dusk and off at sunrise.

together and came back able to fix the car! By the way,

27. WE SHOULDN'T GET INTO A LOT OF CAR REPAIRS; let the System do it as much as possible, unless we have a few automobile experts who really know what they're doing.

28. BE SURE YOUR HOME IS SUPPLIED WITH NECESSARY HELPFUL ITEMS such as batteries, light bulbs, tools to do jobs, hooks to hang coats on, extension cords, three-way plugs, etc. You must also be sure that a camera, music and Word tapes, and tape recorders are available for the Home to use. (These are mentioned on the Checklist.)

29. YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE SURE PEOPLE ARE READING IN GOOD LIGHT. This was another surprisingly poor area on all Checklists, very bad reading light. Dad said that if his father ever caught him reading by poor light he would throw the book across the room to teach him not to! So to prevent eye problems, you, as the person in charge of the physical, should be sure that your Family is reading by good light.

30. VENTILATION IS ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT THING. Depending on the type of heating, you'd better be sure you have good ventilation. Many people die every year because they do not have good ventilation for their heating systems. For example:

31. GAS/OIL ROOM HEATERS ARE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. Dad said if you have one of those in your room you must keep a window open, and probably your door too, for cross-ventilation.

32. THE BURNING BUTANE PRODUCES CARBON MONOXIDE, which has no smell and is invisible, and

it's a heavy gas, which means that it goes toward the floor. But as it builds up over hours of use, it goes higher and higher until the level of the gas comes up to where you're breathing, and if you breathe carbon monoxide it will kill you! So if you're using gas heaters be sure that you have very good ventilation.

33. WATER HEATERS ALSO NEED GOOD VENTILATION. In Tenerife, when our gas water heaters were inspected, we were told that by new standards they were illegal and extremely dangerous. Apparently people had died from using them! Any open fire is dangerous!

34. THE NEW REGULATIONS REQUIRED THE BUTANE WATER HEATERS TO HAVE A PIPE leading off the top to carry the gas out, a slit at the bottom of the door at floor level for air to come in or for the gas to escape, and another ventilation hole up high in the ceiling or toward the ceiling. So be extremely careful with any gas or oil stoves or appliances of this nature and with open fires.

35. YOU, AS THE SAFETY AND HANDYMAN, NEED TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE SMELL OF GAS in your house and investigate it immediately, because there could be a gas leak which could hurt or kill someone. So maintaining proper ventilation is extremely important.

36. YOU SHOULD BE SURE THAT GARBAGE IS TAKEN OUT EVERY DAY. You should know the garbage man's schedule and make sure that the trash cans are outside at the pickup time. Every trash can should be lined with a new plastic bag as soon as you empty it. Someone is definitely needed on garbage duty, to clean the cans