



Home Improvements

Tools to Conquer Common Household Jobs

(NAPSA)—Whether you rent or own your home, there are times when it pays to handle a household repair yourself. Great Neck Saw Manufacturers, who has been making tools since 1919, offers tips on using the right tools for the most common home-repair jobs.

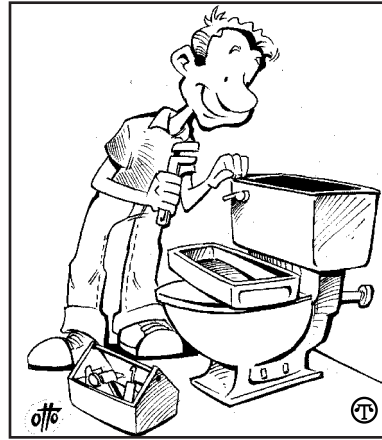
The Basics—Put together a basic tool kit, consisting of a hammer and nails, a selection of screwdrivers and screws, locking pliers, a putty knife and utility knife.

Start Small—Get yourself ready for the big jobs by tackling the more common light repairs first. For example, a running toilet.

Running toilets most often occur when water gets trapped inside the float-ball. Unscrew the ball from its fixture inside the tank, using the appropriate sized screwdriver. Replace the faulty ball with a new one, which can be found at nearly any hardware store for less than three dollars.

When there's a screw loose—It's important to make sure that your screwdriver fits the slot or star of the screw snugly. Screws are easily damaged when the wrong size screwdriver is used, and then it is almost impossible to remove a screw without resorting to some special tool. It is more economical to keep an assortment of screwdrivers handy. Great Neck offers several economy sets of popular sized screwdrivers.

Patching things up—Whether there's damage done by a doorknob, furniture movers, or a teenager's foot, wallboard is easy to repair. Using a dry wall saw or utility knife, cut out and square off the damaged section. With a hammer, nails, and some scrap wood, you can create a base to hold the replacement piece. Insert two pieces of wood into the top and bottom of the hole. Align the boards so that they run across the hole, and nail into place. Cut out a new piece of drywall and nail over the boards. Cover the seams with self-adhesive wallboard tape and



The right tool can help make home improvements a snap.

apply a few coats of spackle using your putty knife. When the spackle dries, sand over the area and repaint.

Avoid Window Pains—You can usually improve the movement of a stubborn window by widening the channels the sash slides in. All you'll need is a hammer and a small block of wood. Place the block against one side of the window channel and give it a few taps with the hammer. Do both sides of the channel until the window slides up and down with ease.

Depending on your strength, a 13 or 16 ounce curved claw hammer is most likely all you'll need for your basic tool kit. Whatever your needs, you'll find what you're looking for from Great Neck's complete set of professional and consumer grade hammers.

You can find Great Neck Saw Manufacturers' products at any leading hardware store or home center. All of Great Neck's products carry a lifetime warranty and are affordably priced.

Now that you've learned some trade secrets and know what tools to put in your tool box, you can start fixing those things you've been meaning to get to. And by the way, no one has to know how easy it is.