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**FALL LIFESTYLE '74**

Let autumn brighten the world around you. Touch off the celebration with color and style. Fashion a pleasurable setting for the home and family...

**Make children happy by giving them a play room**



There's no question that small children, much as we may love them, can be hard on both a home and its furnishings.

How to keep a living room or family room from becoming a "disaster area" when it's too cold, too wet, or too dark for outdoor play is a real challenge, agrees home service advisor Pauline Church.

The answer is to make sure children have some indoor area reserved and ready to accommodate their activities. While the child's own room may seem like an obvious choice for such a play area, it's not always the best solution, according to Ms. Church.

"Until they're old enough to keep themselves entertained longer than 10 minutes at a time, smaller children are usually happier — and better off — within earshot of one or both parents," she pointed out.

This is why she suggests planning for some play space in a breakfast room, utility room, or first floor family room, if at all possible.

Easy maintenance should be high on the list of requirements for outfitting such an area. All surfaces should be washable, for example, not only to cut cleaning time, but to safeguard children's health as well.

For the floor, Ms. Church suggests either utility-type carpeting or a tough resilient covering plus a washable area rug with non-skid backing. A rug is important, she emphasized, to protect against chills when children play on the floor. And the non-skid feature is a must, to prevent falls and needless injuries to rambunctious youngsters, and adults, too.

Keep furnishings to a minimum, making sure pieces selected can stand up under rough treatment. Scoring high on this count, as well as on attractive styling and general "child appeal," are Colline tables and chairs made for children by the Republic Molding Corporation, Chicago.

The first such furniture produced in the U.S.A., these juvenile pieces are molded of polyethylene polymeric plastic that is virtually indestructible. They come in a choice of fire engine red or sunny yellow, two colors that pre-schoolers seem to love most.

"Because the color is in the material itself, not painted on, these little tables and chairs won't chip or scratch," Ms. Church pointed out. "And they can be scrubbed with soap and water when surfaces get soiled."

*A well-kept fireplace keeps family cozy*

Create a mini-atmosphere by decorating your own fireplace to suit the season. With the addition of favorite accessories, it can become a year-round focal point.

If the fireplace is often used for cozy, wood-burning fires, then you will want the fireplace equipment to be efficient as well as decorative. It should be chosen carefully. When the fireplace isn't burning wood, try filling it with cut greenery and assorted chunky candles in bright colors. Baskets are effective, too, and can serve as extra storage space for fireplace tools.

Whatever your spruce-up plans, start with a good clean-up of the fireplace to remove last season's wood-burning build-up of grease, grime and odor-causing soot.

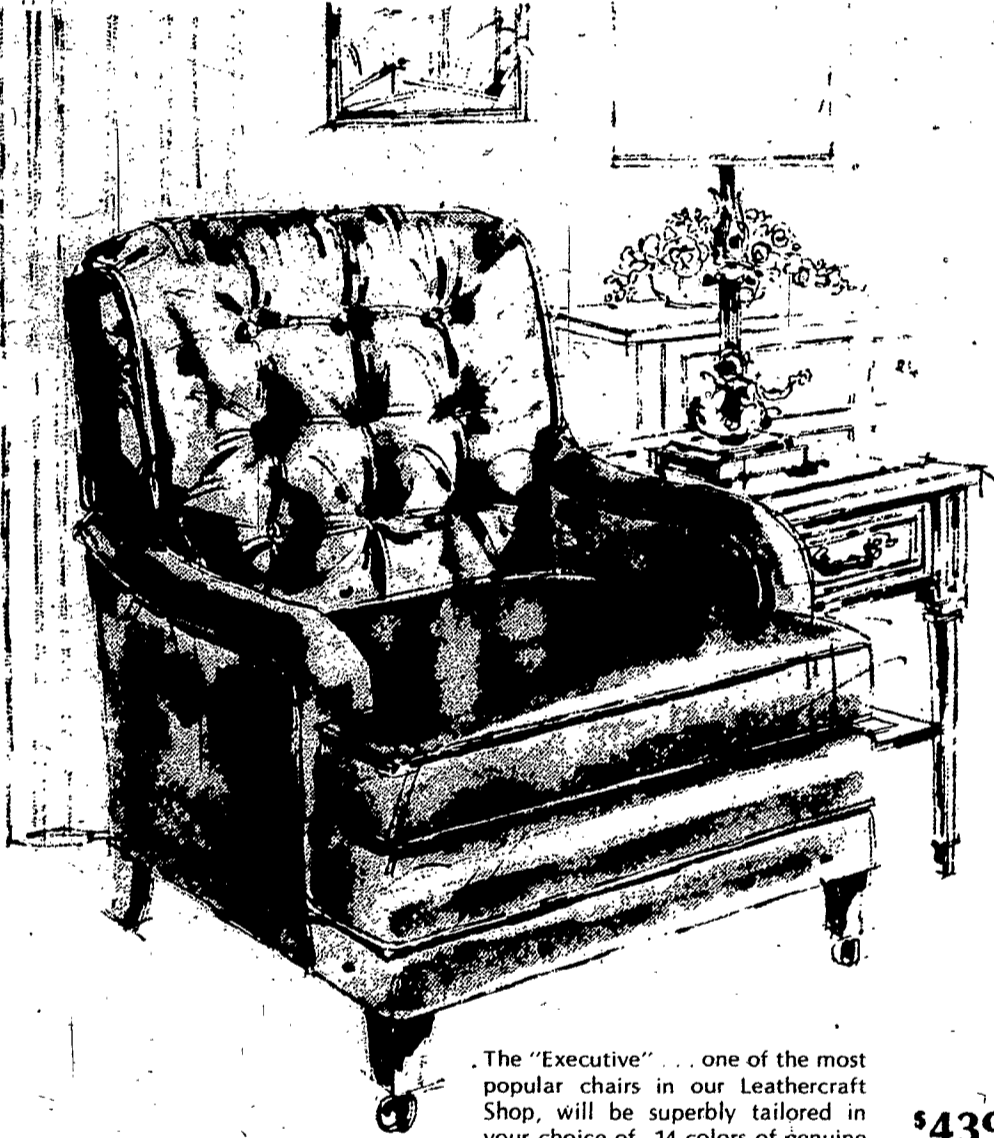
Check the damper first, and make sure it opens and closes easily. The damper should be closed whenever the fireplace isn't in use. Brush all hearth and interior surfaces with a natural bristle brush (steel will harm the bricks and tiles). Sweep the ashes into a pail and save; experts say a layer of ashes spread under the grate will help the next fire light more quickly.

After brushing the fire-

place and removing the ashes, wash the face and surrounding area of the hearth with full-strength, grease-cutting Janitor In A Drum; then rinse. Accessories, such as solid brass hoods and andirons, can be cleaned with a diluted Janitor solution and then polished with a brass cleaner.

Chimneys are a favorite nesting place for birds and squirrels, so if you haven't used the fireplace for a while better check and see if the chimney is sheltering any. A good way to keep this from happening again is to cover the aperture with a grate.

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