

Buy carpets wisely; clean with care



Be it ever so humble, there's no place like a newly carpeted, painted, wallpapered, redecorated, remodeled home.

If recent figures are any indication, American homemakers have gone on a home improvement spree. Forty-two per cent — or 24 million — of the nation's 57 million households were redecorated or remodeled during the past 12 months, according to a Leisure Time Research survey conducted for a major furnishings manufacturer.

Among the various home decorating products, carpeting was purchased by 7.7 million households during the past 12 months, second only to interior paint in popularity.

Since carpeting, wall-to-wall or an area rug, is a major investment that often becomes the basis for other home decorating activities, it's a good idea to know what to look for and how to care for it, say experts from the Eureka Home Care Institute.

Here's a brief rundown of the five major carpet fibers and their properties:

Wool: The "champagne of carpeting," is long-wearing, easy to clean, resists soil well, but is very expensive.

Nylon: Its extra-strength and good wearing quality make it excellent for high traffic areas.

Resilience (how well it springs back after crushing) is medium to excel-

lent, depending upon construction. Nylon soils readily but is easy to clean.

Acrylic: Slightly more durable than wool, but not as durable as nylon, it is highly resilient and easy to clean. Acrylic resists wear and soiling well.

Polyester: Often found in shag carpets, polyester is strong, durable, easy to clean, dyes well and resists wear, dirt and stains well.

Polypropylene: Its extra strength and ability to withstand harsh treatment make it ideal for indoor/outdoor carpeting. It resists stains and soiling well.

Include proper padding with your purchase. It insures the life of your carpets, absorbs wear from

traffic, supports backing and helps retain pile texture.

Steer clear of promotions that lure you into stores with unrealistically low carpet prices, often based on square feet rather than square yards—the way carpeting is generally priced. The "bargain" carpet is seldom first quality. Buy from a reputable local dealer.

Proper care of your new carpeting will keep it looking new long after its purchase, say Eureka experts. Here are some handy tips:

- Be sure your cleaning equipment matches your needs. If your home is heavily carpeted, has shag carpets or many different carpet textures, use an upright or Power Team

vacuum cleaner. They have carpet-height adjustments to clean everything from low naps to thick shags; also Edge Kleener, a device for tackling hard-to-reach areas between wall-to-wall carpet edges and baseboards.

- Vacuum thoroughly once or twice a week; supplement with daily touch-ups, especially for plushes and shags, which tend to mat.

- To prevent fading, protect carpets from direct sunlight with blinds or shades.

- Turn area rugs periodically so they'll wear and soil evenly.

- Remove stains immediately; keep a carpet swatch to test for stain removal.

GRAND ENTRANCE is created by wall-to-wall carpet in a brilliant stained glass print, its key color repeated in the solid that goes up the stairs. To retain its grand look and keep traffic from developing a pattern, the Congoleum level-loop carpet of 100% Allied Chemical nylon fiber has an Omalon underlay. The polymeric foam foundation goes up the stairs, too, unseen but with superior ability to make any carpet feel better underfoot and wear longer even where it's subjected to the toughest of treatment.

What is Your Water I.Q.?

True or false? Which of the following notions about water are "old wives tales" — and which are true?

1. "We are running out of water." False, according to the Water Quality Association. We may be running out of water in a particular area, but this is due to a need for improved storage, processing and distribution facilities rather than to a lack of water itself. Water is one resource that we don't use up. We use it over and over again.
2. "Water from springs is beneficial to health." False. It's more likely to be detrimental. Springs have few of the safeguards of supervision and purification enjoyed by tap water. Even if a spring is protected from man-made pollution, nature may have polluted it with dangerous levels of nitrates, radioactivity, and other harmful ingredients.
3. "The water grandmother collected in a rainbarrel was better for washing hair." True. Rainwater is soft. Soap lathers best in soft or softened water. Soft or softened water and soap leave no dulling film on hair. Dermatologists all agree that soft or softened water is best for skin and hair care.
4. "Too frequent washing of the hair may cause hair loss." False. Regardless of how many times you wash your hair it will not cause you to lose your hair. Says noted dermatologist, Dr. Jay Barnett, "The slight increased number of scalp hairs that are usually seen during washing results from previously lost hairs that are entrapped in the hairs in the scalp already, or it's due to the hairs that are about to be lost in the next day or two from natural processes."
5. "More people die from auto accidents in areas with hard water than in areas with soft water." True. This silly correlation was found by the same doctor, Henry A. Schroeder of Dartmouth Medical School, who also believed there might be some connection between soft water and heart disease. Despite the persistence of the notion that hard water is better for the heart and arteries, scientists, after exhaustive research, have not been able to find proof for it.
6. "Because of pollution, people aren't living as long as they used to." False. People are living longer than ever. In the last decade, the lifespan increased from 69.7 to 70.9 years, and the number of persons over 65 increased by 20.6% and over 85 by 51.6%.
7. "The food we eat has far more effect on our health than the water we drink." True. Both as to beneficial ingredients as well as those that are harmful, according to figures reported by Dr. Conrad Straub of the University of Minnesota. Among beneficial ingredients is calcium, essential in nutrition. But typically we get only 45 milligrams of calcium per day from water and a whopping 800 milligrams of calcium per day from food. Of dangerous substances like cadmium, we get 4 micrograms per day from water and 25 from food. Of toxic lead, we get 7 micrograms from water and 300 micrograms from food.

Anyone getting more than three right is an expert — or a good guesser.

To improve your knowledge of water, and get a free book on how you can upgrade the quality of water in your own home, write to the Water Quality Association, 477 E. Butterfield Road, Lombard, Ill. 60148.

RG&E consumer news

Future Shock?

Protect yourself with a ground-fault interrupter

Every time you carelessly use an electric appliance, you take your life in your hands.

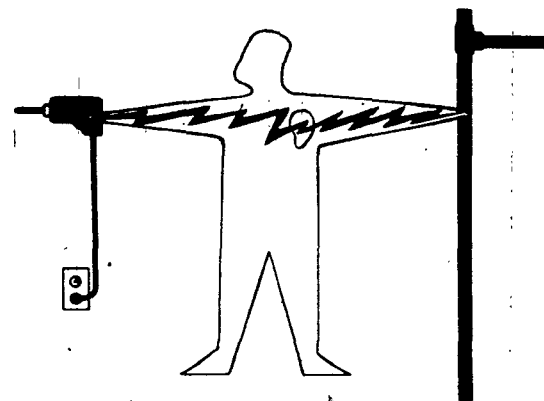
Escaping electric current from faulty equipment or appliances always tries to return to the ground. It naturally chooses the easiest path. As illustrated, this path can be your body if you happen to have direct contact with the ground. Water is a good conductor and, in these cases, affords the connection to complete the circuit.

How can you protect yourself if a malfunction of the circuit occurs? The answer is the ground-fault interrupter, or GFI.

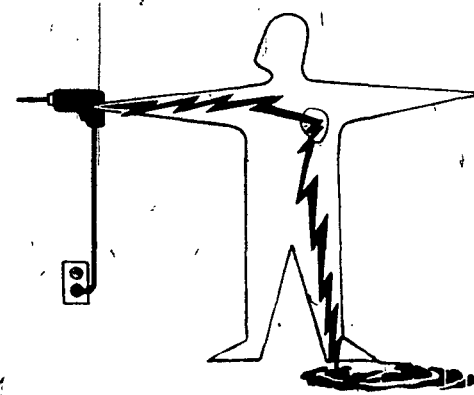
A GFI is a small device which, when mounted on a circuit or outlet, will detect current leaks (also called ground faults) from a circuit. The GFI senses leaks that are far too small for a fuse or circuit breaker to detect, but still large enough to be lethal. It immediately switches off the electricity, before damage can occur.

Ground-fault interrupters are so essential for electrical safety, especially outdoors where puddles and damp ground are common, that the National Electrical Code has made them mandatory in many areas. You now must have a GFI on any outdoor outlet, on all electrical equipment used with storable swimming pools, and even on any bathroom outlet.

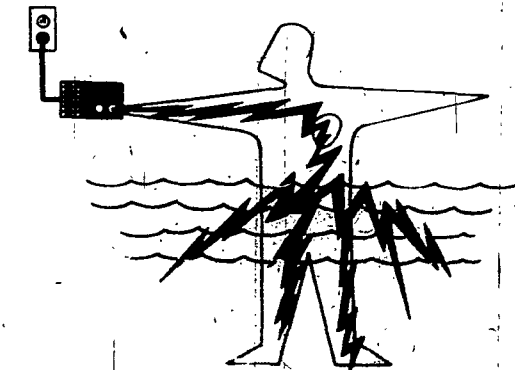
How do you purchase a GFI? Call your electrician and he'll install one. Or you can check with an electrical supply house, a department store, a building supply house, or a hardware store. For additional information, call RG&E's Residential Department at 546-2700, extension 2751. This one small investment could be a real life-saver.



Hand to hand shock path



Hand to foot shock path



Hand to submerged body shock path

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