

QUICK FIX!

Moving into your first home and tackling DIY may seem a little daunting, but it's much easier than you may think.

Sylvia Marshall has a great deal of DIY and building knowledge. Her website is named after her Yorkshire terrier, **Bubsy**, and it provides insider tips and practical advice about both large- and small-scale projects.



Difficulty rating 2/5

HOW TO... PAINT OR REPAINT A DOOR

What you need: paintbrush, sandpaper, paint, screwdriver, masking tape, dust sheet

- 1 You can do this job with the door remaining on its hinges, but if you need to sand and paint, it may be easier to remove the door first. First off you need to prepare your door for painting. Sand down any rough surfaces, gradually making your way down to fine grade sandpaper leaving a smooth even surface for painting. If the door already has a good solid paint job, this can be an ideal surface to paint on; just give it a clean first. If the paint is flaky, however, it will need to be removed.
- 2 Remove all doorknobs and any other furnishings from the door. If leaving on its hinges, steady the door with a couple of doorstops and protect the floor and surroundings with dust sheets. You may also protect the door frame with masking tape.

Difficulty rating 3/5



HOW TO... PUT UP A SHELF

What you need: pencil, spirit level, drill, masonry drill bit (if your walls are brick), screwdriver, screws

- 1 Hold the shelf on the wall where you'd like it and mark the wall where you want the bottom of the shelf to be.
- 2 Using a spirit level, draw a line where the shelf will sit.
- 3 Hold one bracket up to your first mark and make sure it is vertical by using the spirit level once again. The spirit level is now your new best friend!
- 4 Mark the position of the holes in the bracket on the wall with a pencil. Do the same for the next bracket. If using more than two brackets, fix the outer brackets first and tie string from one to other. Now there is an exact line with which you will be able to line up any further brackets.
- 5 Drill holes about one and a half inches into the wall and into your bracket attachment points. Use a masonry drill bit if needed.
- 6 Insert the plugs (unless working with a wooden wall) and screw the brackets into the wall until secure.
- 7 Lay your shelf along the brackets and mark it through the holes in the bracket with pencil. Drill pilot holes at these marks, being careful not to drill through to the other side.
- 8 Screw the shelf to the brackets until secure.
- 9 Stand back and admire your handywork!



- 3 Now you can begin to paint. Firstly use a primer, even if painting over a previous paint job. Then you can apply an undercoat and finish with a hard wearing gloss. Make sure you leave enough drying time between coats. If painting a panel door, you may need to use a small brush to get into the fiddly mouldings. Paint these parts before the rest of the door.
- 4 Allow the paint to dry properly before re-attaching your furnishings and knobs.

HOW TO... CHANGE A FUSE

What you need: screwdriver, replacement fuse (or you can buy a mixed pack but you must use the correct rating for the appliance)

- 1 Unplug the appliance before doing anything. Now remove the screws on the face of the plug and lift off the cover.
- 2 Remove the old fuse. You can use a screwdriver to prise it out if it's tricky.
- 3 Check that the new fuse is the correct amp rating for your appliance and pop it in.
- 4 Make sure that the fuse is firmly in its holder before screwing back the plastic cover.



Difficulty rating 1/5

QUICK TIP OF THE DAY

PLASTIC FANTASTIC

Cut a strip of plastic from an old bottle of washing up liquid and drive a nail through one end. Remove the nail so you're left with the strip with a hole in one end.

Now when you're nailing simply put the nail in the hole and hold the plastic to keep the nail in place, and bruised thumbs are a thing of the past!



HOW TO... HANG WALLPAPER

What you need: tape measure, wallpaper, adhesive, papering brush, knife

- 1 Before starting, check each roll of paper to make sure the batch matches.
- 2 Remove any old paint/dirt/wallpaper, then sandpaper the wall so you get rid of any odd lumps and bumps. Next, measure the height of your walls.
- 3 Cut the paper a bit longer than needed then, using a ready-mixed tub of adhesive, paste the wallpaper, from the centre out, ensuring all the edges are covered with paste.

- 4 Allow to soak for about 5 minutes. Leave about 5cm of paper above the top of the wall. Holding the pasted side of the paper firmly against the wall, gently smooth it on to the surface using the papering brush.
- 5 Once the paper is in place, trim off the excess at the top and bottom. Then just repeat until you have a sparkling new wall!
- 6 For extra tips on corners, going round light switches and lots more, just ask Bubsy!



Difficulty rating 3/5



For more hints and tips, go to bubsydogdiy.com/trade_secrets.php. If you can't find what you're looking for, just ask Bubsy!