



# Can you fix it?

**Yes you can...** Putting up a shelf, changing a fuse and wallpapering are all easier than you think

**W**ould you love a new shelf in the kitchen? Has your hairdryer stopped working suddenly? With dads no longer passing their DIY skills on to their kids, according to recent survey\*, it means many of us are calling on expensive experts to do odd jobs around the home for us.

However, doing it yourself isn't that difficult, especially with our DIY pro, Sylvia Marshall's simple, step-by-step guide to your most pressing

DIY tasks. But Sylvia, who helps people with their DIY disasters through her website [cosyhomesonline.co.uk](http://cosyhomesonline.co.uk), also offers this word of warning.

'Apart from rewiring a plug or replacing a light switch, most electrical work has to be carried out by a qualified electrician to meet Government safety standards. And regardless of whether you have a head for heights, jobs that involve very high ladders should be done by an expert.'

## HOW TO... put up a shelf

**You will need:** pencil, spirit level, drill, masonry drill bit (if your walls are brick), wall plugs, screwdriver, screws

- 1 Position the shelf on the wall where you'd like it and mark the bottom of it.
- 2 Using a spirit level, draw a line where the shelf will sit.
- 3 Measure the shelf to work out where each of the brackets should go and mark this along your line.
- 4 Hold a bracket up to your first mark and check it's vertical. Mark the position of the holes in the bracket on the wall. Repeat with each one.
- 5 Drill holes into the wall at each mark and insert the wall plugs. Screw brackets onto the wall.
- 6 Lay the shelf along the brackets and mark the positions of the bracket holes on it. Drill shallow holes to guide your screws in at these marks, being careful not to drill through the shelf.
- 7 Put the shelf back on the brackets and insert screws.



Difficulty rating 3/5

\*Research carried out by the AA in September and December 2010 amongst a nationally representative sample of 2,000 UK adults

shh...

Tackling DIY jobs yourself could save you a fortune – the average handyman charges anywhere from £20 to £50 an hour, and in London it can be more. Just think what you could spend the money on instead.

### Your essential tool kit

Sylvia recommends a screwdriver set, tape measure, junior hacksaw and blades, utility knife, scissors, set of drill bits plus bit holder, hex key set, and pliers. Get all this and more with this 52-piece **Household Tool Kit, £19** (207-2579).



## HOW TO... wallpaper

**'Before starting, check each roll of paper to make sure the batch numbers match,'** says home-decorating expert **Lisa Mulley of Arthouse wallpapers** (available from **Tesco Direct**).

**You will need: wallpaper, adhesive, papering brush, knife**



**Difficulty rating 4/5**

## HOW TO... change a fuse

**If your appliance has stopped working, the fuse in the plug may have blown. You will need: screwdriver, replacement fuse**

**1** Unplug the appliance, remove the screws on the face of the plug and lift off the cover.

**2** Remove the old fuse – use a screwdriver to prise it out if necessary. Before fitting your replacement fuse, check that it's the correct amp rating for your appliance.

**3** Fit the new fuse, making sure that it's firmly in its holder, before screwing on the plastic cover.



**Difficulty rating 1/5**

## Be a DIY boffin

If you've got the bug or just want to be a bit more handy around the house when it comes to fixing things, why not try a DIY course?

- Chix & Mortar runs DIY courses predominantly for women, but open to men, all over the UK. For more details see [chixandmortar.co.uk](http://chixandmortar.co.uk).
- The DIY School teaches everything from tiling to plastering and has courses specifically aimed at women. See what's available at [thediyschool.co.uk](http://thediyschool.co.uk).
- Check out your local adult education college – many offer basic DIY courses and teaching.

**Want more ideas?**

Check out our DIY videos at [tesco.com/living](http://tesco.com/living)

