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August 4, 1958

TO MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Education Program

As I promised at the Board meeting on July 25, I am attaching copies of the booklets "How to Prevent Lead Poisoning in the Home" and "How to Paint Children's Toys and Furniture". The former was prepared with the cooperation of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. More than 800,000 copies have been distributed through public health offices and clinics. We have also sent copies to syndicated columnists. I am also enclosing samples of the type of newspaper releases we have sent out from time to time.

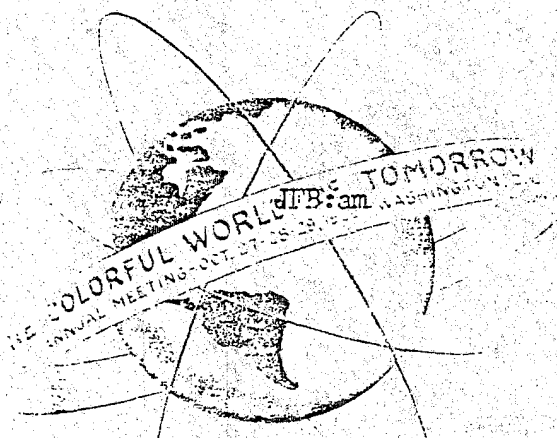
It was the opinion of our Model Labeling Committee and the Executive Committee that the problem of lead poisoning could not be solved by labeling alone but required an educational program. This has been followed consistently.

We will continue our educational program and your suggestions as to new approaches will be welcome.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Joseph F. Battle
President



How to Prevent **Lead** POISONING *in the Home*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
NATIONAL PAINT, VARNISH AND LACQUER ASSN., INC.

N11715.01

EPI 000979

*how to prevent
lead poisoning of children
in the home*

Many children, every year, are accidentally poisoned in and around the home from many kinds of things—medicines, fuel oils, insect powders, cleaners, polishes and other common household items. Most of these cases occur because these things are stored within reach of small children, often in bottles or bowls like the ones from which children are used to drinking and eating.

One common type of poisoning, however, is not due to poor storage. This booklet deals with that type of poisoning—from chewing lead. It will outline the causes and symptoms of lead poisoning in children, and tell the best ways to prevent it.

If you have any questions that are not answered by this booklet, call or visit the health department office nearest you, or write to the State health department in your capital city. Local health departments can be located by calling City Hall or Town Hall in your community.

This booklet has been prepared by the Public Health Service, Food and Drug Administration and Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in cooperation with the National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association, Inc.

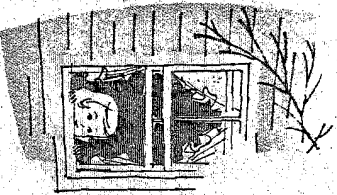
It is printed as a public service by the National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association, Inc., 1500 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington 5, D.C.

what is lead poisoning?

Lead poisoning is a very serious illness, affecting both children and adults. When eaten, some forms of lead damage many tissues of the body and, especially in children, the brain. This damage may last for life, or may cause death. Any sign of sickness which might be caused by lead calls for quick medical treatment.

who is most likely to get lead poisoning?

Children from 1 to 4 are most often the victims of lead poisoning. According to a study by the Boston City Health Department, 89 cases of lead poisoning in children were detected in a 10-year study. In Chicago, in one year, 21 cases were found, of which 5 were fatal. Other cities, including Baltimore—as well as small towns and farm areas—have had similar experiences.



DON'T LET YOUR CHILD
CHEW ON A WINDOW/SILL
WHICH IS COATED WITH
OUTDOOR PAINT.

EPI 2510

how do little children

get the lead

that may poison them?

Mostly, they eat dried paint which contains lead. Many little children like to chew on things, especially when they are cutting teeth. They often chew on objects like *woodwork, window sills, and stair railings*. Outdoor things are important, too, such as painted steps, porches, railings, benches, swings, fences and other painted surfaces.

Some children seem to get an "appetite" for such things. They chew on them even when they are not teething. Parents should be particularly careful in older homes and buildings, where the woodwork may have many layers of paint on it. Remember — paint is not made to be eaten!

Some kinds of paint are much more dangerous than others. Paint made for outdoor use usually contains more lead than that made for indoor use. Outdoor paint should never be used on toys, walls, woodwork, furniture . . . or anywhere inside the home.

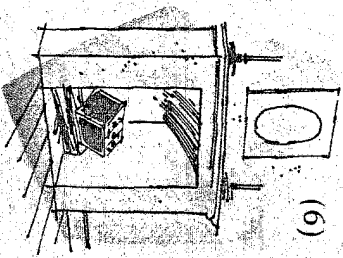
EPI 000981

Another way of getting lead poisoning is by breathing fumes from old automobile battery casings which are burned for heat. All the members of a family can be poisoned by breathing such fumes, which are always heavy with lead.

what are the danger signals?

If your child has eaten paint containing lead, or may have breathed smoke from burned battery casings, the signs may be:

- (1) Pains in his stomach;
- (2) A sick stomach and frequent vomiting;
- (3) Crossness and irritation without a visible reason;
- (4) Many headaches;
- (5) Muscle weakness or constant tiredness;
- (6) Spasms.



DON'T BURN OLD BATTERY
CASINGS FOR FUEL.
THE FUMES CAN POISON
THE WHOLE FAMILY.

EPI 2511

what should you do?

Do not wait for the danger signs to appear. If your child has eaten flakes of paint, or has a habit of eating dirt or chewing painted surfaces, take him at once to a doctor or a clinic. Take your child to the doctor or the clinic if he has any of the danger signals. Give the doctor full information about everything your child has eaten, or tell him about the fumes from old battery casings or other substances which he may have breathed. Describe all signs of sickness that the child may be having.

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rules to remember to prevent lead poisoning

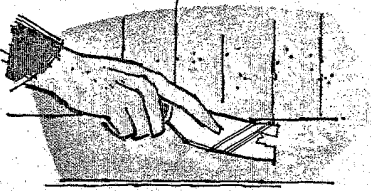
(1) Give your child safe things to chew on, such as hard crusts of bread or toys especially made for teething and chewing. When you buy a toy, ask the storekeeper if it is safe to chew on it.

(2) Keep your child away from anything covered with peeling, flaked, or blistered paint. Old paint may have fallen, with some plaster, from the interior walls. Clean up immediately.

(3) Remove all peeling, flaking, or blistered paint from window sills, woodwork, and furniture with a scraper or sandpaper.

(4) Repaint these things with paint that contains less than 1 percent lead. Paints made for indoor use are more likely to have less than 1 percent lead content. The label will indicate the lead content.

(5) When you paint indoor woodwork and furniture, make sure the paint contains less than 1 percent lead. The label will indicate the amount of lead, or the dealer will be glad to tell you.



REMOVE ALL
FLAKING PAINT
THAT IS IN
AN AREA WHERE
THERE ARE
YOUNG CHILDREN.

(6) If you live in a rented place and don't know what kind of paint has been used, take special care to prevent your child from chewing these surfaces.

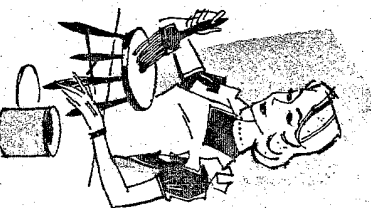
(7) If you have some left-over paint, be sure to mark the can with the lead content.

(8) If your child shows any of the danger signals or eats paint, take him to a doctor or clinic right away. These signs do not always mean lead poisoning, but they do mean that the child should be examined by a doctor.

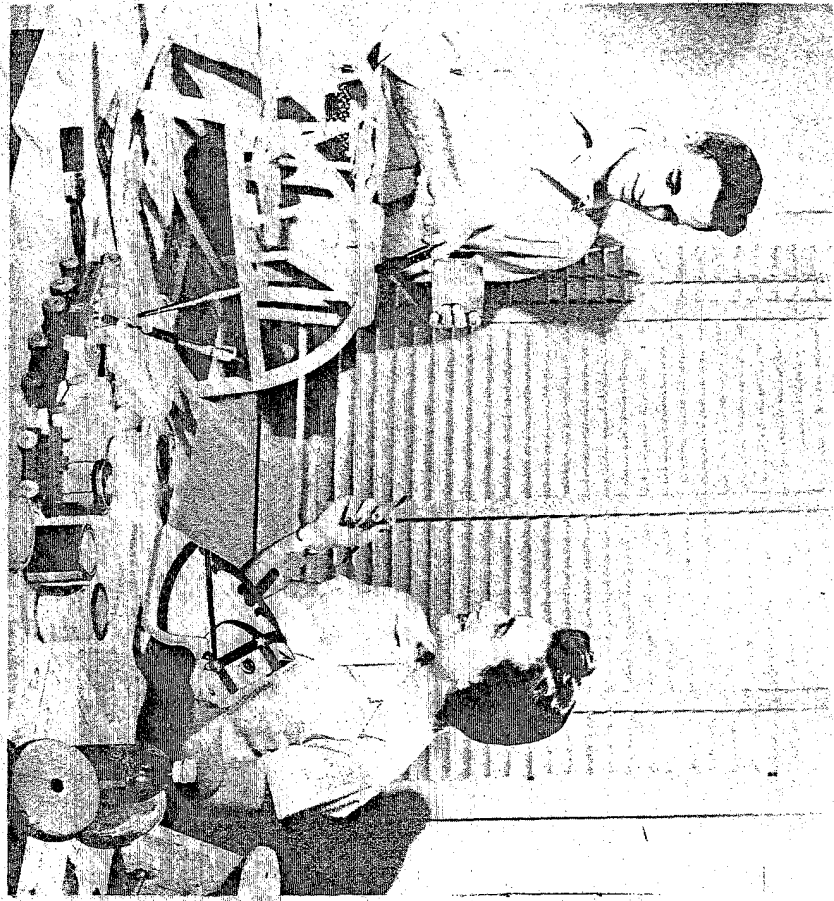
(9) The color of the paint does not indicate the lead content.

(10) Manufacturers of paint, toys, and children's furniture are cooperating with health agencies to reduce the chance of lead poisoning. Most makers of toys and furniture for children are careful about the kind of paint they use. If you repaint any such articles, be sure to use paint with less than 1 percent lead.

(11) Discarded storage-battery casings always contain lead, and should never be used in or around a home for fuel, fencing, paving, or in any other way.

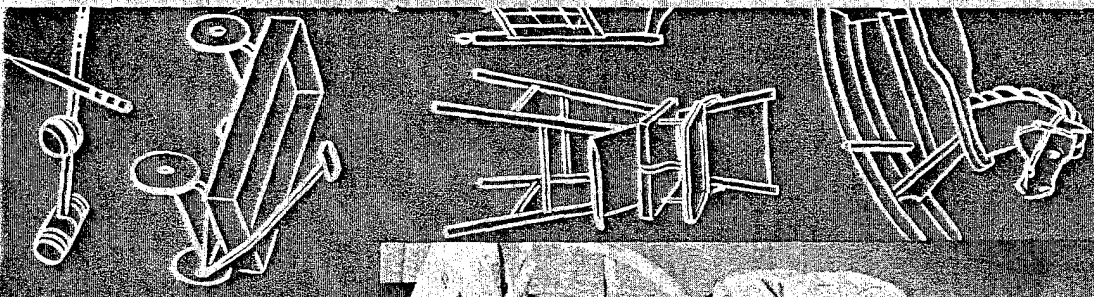


USE PAINT THAT
CONTAINS LESS
THAN 1% LEAD
ON SURFACES
NEAR INFANTS.



Because young children who are teething are likely to chew on anything in their surrounding world, it's important to use paints on toys and furniture that contain no harmful ingredients. The original coatings applied in the factories are non-injurious, even if swallowed. Sometimes, however, well-meaning, but uninformed, home painters will use the wrong type of paint when refinishing children's toys or furniture. Outdoor paints, for instance, sometimes contain harmful ingredients and should not be used for this purpose. They should be applied only to outdoor surfaces. Finishes designed for use on indoor surfaces seldom contain any harmful ingredients. However, it's a good idea to check with your paint dealer if you're at all in doubt about the type of paint to use.

Painting Toys AND CHILDREN'S FURNITURE



Important information on
the proper types of paint to
use... and how to use them

WHETHER YOU'RE PLANNING TO PAINT toys and furniture for your own small fry, or, whether—out of the goodness of your heart—you are doing it for others, you need the same information.

TO START WITH, you need to know the type of paint to use. *This is very important.* Because young children are prone to chew on everything within reach when they are teething—and some children continue the chewing habit even longer—it's of tremendous importance to apply only coatings that cannot be injurious, if they are chewed and swallowed.

The makers of coatings are aware of this hazard and supply manufacturers of children's toys and furniture with coatings that are not harmful, even if eaten. But sometimes well-meaning, but uninformed people will refinish toys and furniture with coatings that are intended for *outside* use. These may contain harmful products which, when swallowed, may cause illness and even death, in some cases.

Finishes designed for use on indoor surfaces seldom contain any harmful ingredients. However, it's a good idea to check with your paint dealer, if you're at all in doubt about the type of paint to use for children's toys and furniture.

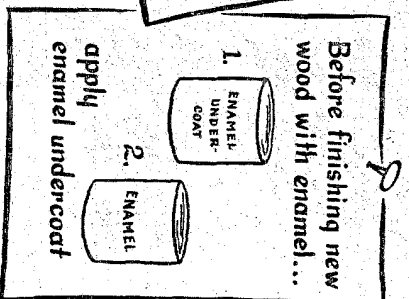
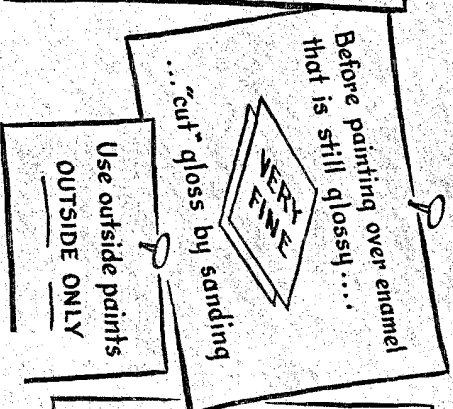
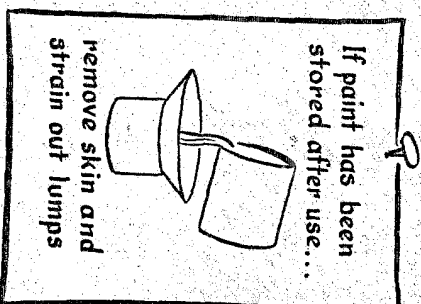
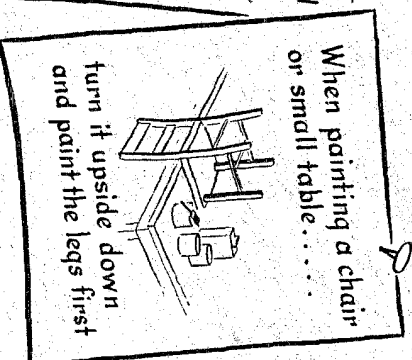
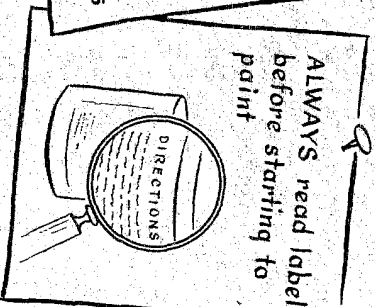
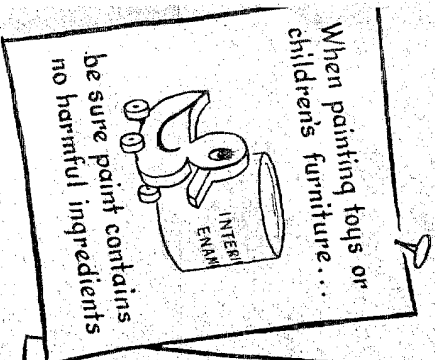
BEFORE YOU BEGIN THE ACTUAL PAINTING, check also to see that you have the various accessories you'll need.

In addition to your paint, you'll need brushes of proper sizes, depending upon the surfaces you are planning to paint. Even small artist's brushes are frequently helpful when you're working on small toys. So are round and flat sash brushes.

To open the can of paint, you'll need a screw driver or one of the handy can-opening gadgets made for the purpose. Then, for stirring, you'll need a paint paddle or a smooth, broad stick.

If you're using the remainder of paint that has been opened before, you're likely to need a strainer to eliminate any lumps or bits of "skin" that may be present. Such strainers are usually available from your dealer. You can also use a section of window screening or part of a discarded nylon stocking for a strainer.

Usually, you'll need some type of filler or spackling compound to plug up any cracks, dents or nail-head indentations. You can get the filler in powdered form and mix it to the proper consistency by adding a little water, or, you can obtain filler in tube form and squeeze out the right quantity of the toothpaste-like substance as you need it.



To level off the filler so that it conforms with the surrounding areas, one of the best tools you can use is your finger or thumb. In many cases, of course, you'll need a putty knife. Often, an old kitchen knife will fill the bill. Before the filler dries, it's smart to go over it with a small paint brush dipped in water. This will smooth the surface and lessen the amount of sanding that will be necessary after the filler has hardened. This practice is successful with all filling materials except plastic wood.

Speaking of sanding, you usually need some sort of abrasive material during the course of a painting project. To smooth wooden surfaces, you will need sandpaper. The grade you'll need depends on your project. When you're working with metal that has rusted, you can also use steel wool to remove the corrosion. Once the rust is removed, remember to use a special rust-inhibiting primer on the bare metal before applying the finish coat. On children's toys and furniture, the kind of primer to use is the zinc-dust type.

You'll need a paint rag, of course, for cleaning up spatters and turpentine or mineral spirits for cleaning your brushes afterwards—if you're using enamel or varnish. Alcohol does the trick for brushes that have been used in shellac. If you're using lacquer, you'll need lacquer thinner for the same purpose.

Remember *this* about lacquer, too. Lacquer used over oil-base paint acts as a paint remover. So be sure to use it only over previous coats of lacquer. If you're in doubt about the nature of previous coatings, stick to an oil-base finish.

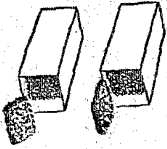
Before you open your paint can, you'll be wise to smooth a protective cream onto your hands that will make it a simple matter to wash off tell-tale spatters afterwards. Such an invisible glove simplifies clean-up operations. Also very effective for workshop use are the waterless hand-cleaners.

ONCE YOU HAVE ALL YOUR PREPARATIONS MADE and your accessories rounded up, dig right in. First of all, pry open the lid of your paint can. If the can has been opened before, there may be a thick "skin" on the surface of the paint. Usually, it's possible to remove this skin all in one piece, if you're careful. If particles of it break loose, however, strain out the lumps by pouring the paint through a strainer into another container.

If it's a brand-new can of paint you're opening, you won't, of course, need to strain it. But whether it's new or not, you'll need to stir the mixture with your paint paddle so the liquid and solid ingredients are thoroughly merged. If most of the solid portion has settled to the bottom of the can, it's a good

STEEL WOOL -- Use to remove rust from metal surfaces before painting

1. Coarse then
2. Medium or fine



After removing rust from metal surfaces...

1. Dust thoroughly
2. Apply metallic zinc paint, then...
3. Enamel



NEVER use lacquer over enamel or any oil-base paint. It acts like paint remover.

SANDPAPER... Use to smooth wood surfaces before painting

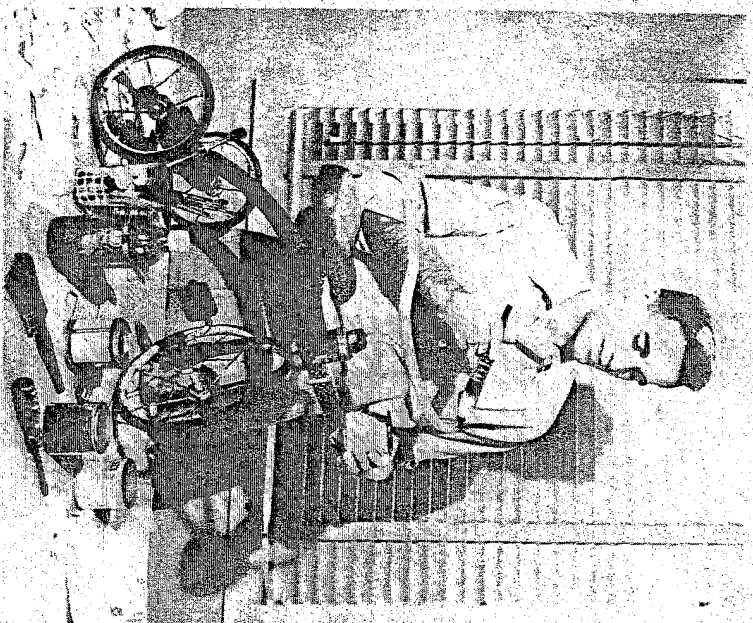
MEDIUM - for rough sawn wood or rough painted surfaces

FINE - for planed or rough sanded wood

VERY FINE - for finish sanding

After reloading your brush, always paint from dry into wet areas.

Use exterior paint **OUTSIDE ONLY**



Before repainting metal toys or furniture, be sure to remove all traces of rust or corrosion by rubbing the surface with steel wool. All bare metal should then be given a coating of rust-inhibiting zinc-dust primer. For a final coat, use an interior enamel.



Small wooden toys can be given a new lease on life with a new coat of color. Do any repainting necessary, sand any rough spots and then apply interior enamel. Frequently, an artist's brush is the most convenient type to use on small areas.

idea to pour off the top liquid. Stir the settled portion thoroughly, then gradually return the liquid to the original can, stirring as you do.

Once your paint is ready for use, go right ahead with the application of your color. Just remember that it's unwise to dip your brush into the paint more than one-third of its bristle length. And remember, always, to start on an unpainted area and work toward a painted one, when you have just refilled your brush.

SO FAR, WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT REPAINTING surfaces that have previously been coated. But perhaps you're working with new wood or have removed the old finish completely and are ready to start all over again.

If you're working with new wood and are planning to finish it with either gloss or semi gloss enamel, you'll need to begin by priming it with enamel undercoater. This goes on even before the cracks and nail head indentations are filled and sanded smooth.

If you're working with unfinished wood and are planning to apply a so-called "natural finish" which reveals the grain to some degree, there are several ways you can go about it.

One simple way is to apply several coats of linseed oil and then to apply wax.

Another, is to apply a coat or two of shellac or varnish before waxing the surface. If you're using shellac, incidentally, be sure to thin it with alcohol in accordance with the directions on the label.

If you're planning to stain the wood to change its color and enhance the wood markings, there are many types of stains and countless shades from which to make your selection these days.

In making your choice, you will also have to consider whether you will be working with an open or close-grain wood. Birch and pine are close-grain woods and do not require a filler. Oak, walnut and ash are open-grain woods and need to have a filler applied after the stain has been brushed on. Then varnish or shellac is applied, followed by a final coating of wax.

IF YOU PLAN TO REMOVE THE OLD FINISH FROM THE SURFACE, your ally will be a paint-and-varnish-remover which can be applied with a brush—or even an aerosol spray can. If you're using a brush, apply the remover by brushing only in one direction.

Let the remover stand on the surface for a short while—perhaps fifteen or twenty minutes—and the old coating will begin to loosen and blister. When this happens, start scraping off the old finish. For flat surfaces, a broad-bladed putty knife is tops as a tool. On rounded or uneven surfaces, steel wool is a great help. If there are several coats of old paint to take off, you may have to apply your remover more than once. For the good of your hands, wear synthetic rubber gloves while you're working with the chemical substance.

After the last vestige of old paint has been removed, wash the surface with turpentine or mineral spirits to take off any of the chemical remover that may remain.

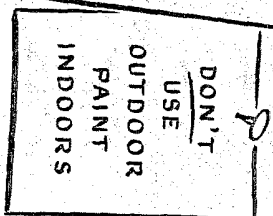
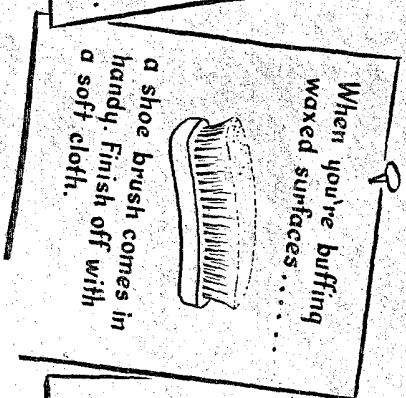
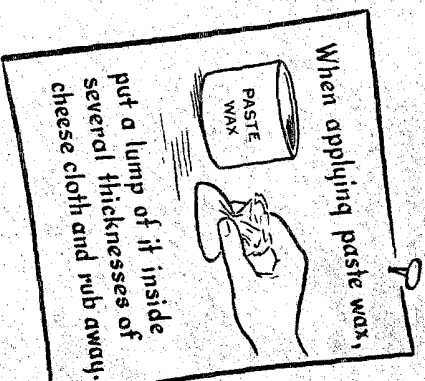
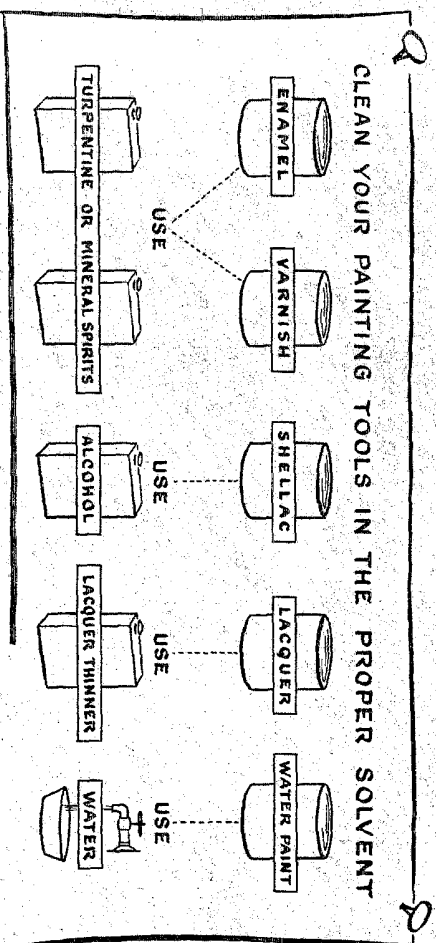
Should the wood be darker than the finished effect you desire, it's possible to make it lighter by applying a bleach. Your dealer can advise you regarding the best type for your purpose.

If you wish to stain the wood, it's merely a matter of applying the type and color desired.

WE'VE SPOKEN OF USING BRUSHES AND OF USING AEROSOL CANS. If the surface you are going to finish is large enough, you may even wish to use one of the convenient spray guns that are now available for home workshop use.

Masking tape is a necessary aid when a spray gun is being used. You apply it to the areas you do not wish to coat. Masking tape is also useful when painting toys or small furniture with a brush. For one thing, it helps you get a straight line when you're adding a gay band of color.

Stencils and decalcomania designs are also great aids, if you don't feel that your brush has sufficient talent to add decorative garnishment by itself.



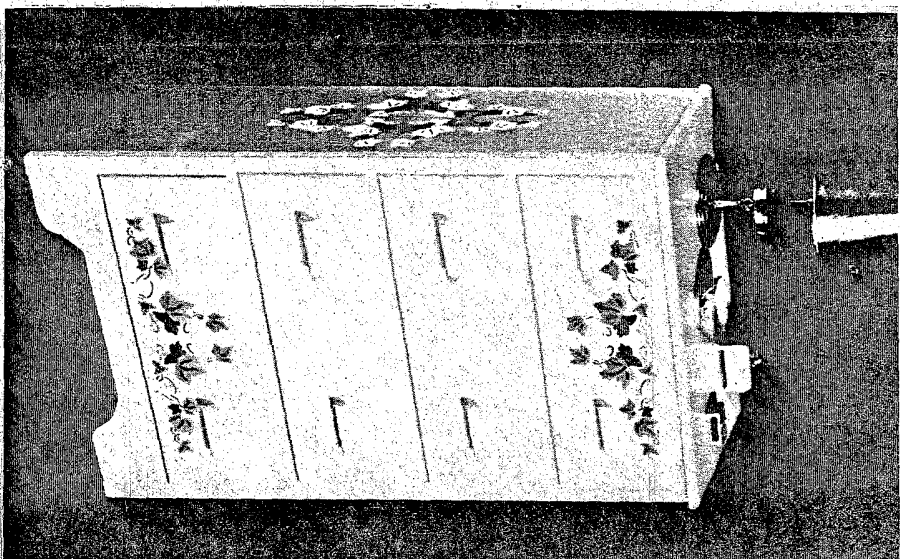
Should you feel in a "Peter Hunt mood," however, there are many charming designs which are simple to apply—even though you are not a trained artist. On a toy chest, for instance, it's fun to paint the name of the child who will cherish it. To draw guide lines that will help you in placing and spacing the name properly, use chalk—erasing with a dry chamois skin until you have the name sketched exactly to your liking. Then paint over the chalk, using artist's colors, mixed with white enamel.

If you want to add other decorative motifs, have fun. You'll find suggested designs on every side—on a tea cup . . . in a magazine . . . or in a toy shop window.

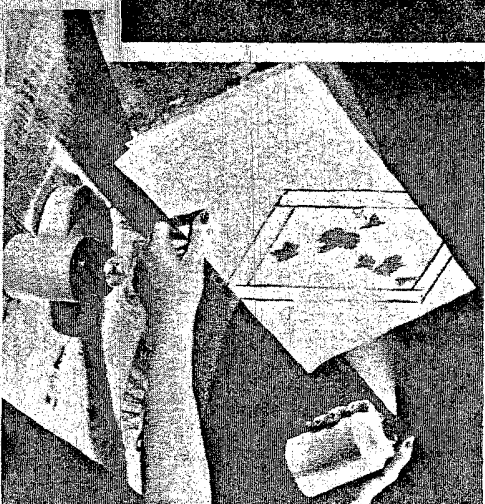
YOU'LL FIND THE WHOLE PROJECT IS FUN, as a matter of fact. Just make sure that you use the right types of coatings as you add the colors that will bring joy to those who will benefit by your handiwork.

Check list for your pre-painting roundup:

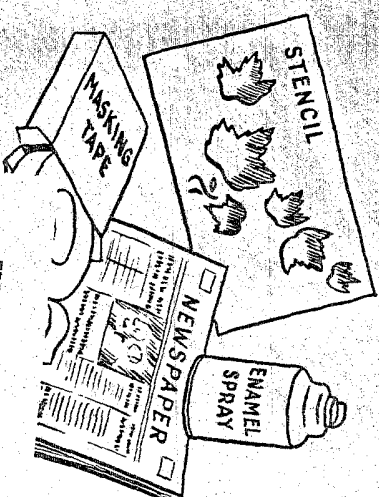
Paints	Steel wool
Brushes	Strainers
Spray gun	Rags
Spray can	Screw driver
Paint thinners	Putty knife
Stirring paddles	Hand cream
Mixing cans	Masking tape
Crack filler	Newspapers or
Sandpaper	Drop cloths



**Easy New Way
to Apply
Stencil Design
is Fun**



Here's all you need:



An intriguing new method of applying decorative stencil designs consists of spraying the paint onto the surface with one of the aerosol-type spray cans. It's easy and it's fun. Use masking tape—available at your paint or art dealer's—to hold the stencil firmly in place and cover the surrounding areas with newspaper. Practice a little with the spray can before trying the stencil.

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