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YOU NEEDN'T GET GRAY HAIRS worrying about those squeaks and groans from your floors. Your house isn't getting ready to fall down.

But such noises are annoying. And it will take you only a short while to put the damper on them.

Floor squeaks are caused by boards that rub against each other or against nails. They may be caused by old age, by changes in the weather, by settling of the house, or by the use of unseasoned lumber during construction.

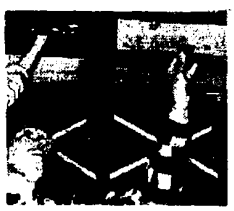
You can silence many squeaks temporarily by lubricating the point of contact. But to silence squeaks permanently, you must pin down those moving boards, whether they are in the top floor or the subfloor. Here, in photographs, are techniques to use if you want to do the job right.



TRY LUBRICATION. Powdered graphite—the kind used for auto locks—will eliminate many a squeak. With wide cracks, try dissolved soap.



SHINGLE WEDGE. Loose subfloor boards can cause squeaks. To cure, dip tip of shingle in glue and tap between subfloor and joist at squeak. If shingle is too thick, use nail as a wedge.



ADD BRIDGE. If squeak centers between joists, add a length of 2x4 or 2x6, snug against subfloor. Fasten with 16d. nails. Then drive glue-coated shingle between crosspiece and subfloor.



FORCE THEM UP. Movement in several floor boards means widespread squeaking. Nail a length of hardwood to joist, pressing against subfloor. Force up with pole set on basement floor. Don't use so much pressure you raise top floor. High-pitched squeaks often can be traced to rubbing top-floor boards. Pull boards down with 1 or 1¼-inch round-headed screws from below. Fit with washers, and drive in rows at right angles to top boards.



SURFACE CURE. If you can't get at bottom of floor, work from above. To locate joist, move a hardwood block over floor as you tap it. A higher, more solid sound indicates the joist. Joists run at right angles to top-floor boards. In squeaky areas, drive pairs of 8d. flooring nails through floor into joists. Drill pilot holes to avoid splitting. Countersink nails and hide with wood putty.

(Copyright, Better Homes & Gardens)

'Do-It-Yourself' Show

ERA OF THE "SUNDAY CONTRACTOR" is here! All over America the pinch of increased personal taxes and the ever-rising cost of skilled labor have combined to cause 80 per cent of today's homeowners to tackle scores of household jobs which they wouldn't have dreamed of undertaking a few years ago.

The "Do-It-Yourself" movement has miraculously erupted into a fabulous new market with an awe-inspiring annual price tag of nearly $4,000,000,000; and in Long Beach, alone, it is estimated that $10,143,584 will be expended this year on home work projects.

Symbolic of this sweep toward home upkeep is the forthcoming Long Beach "Do-It-Yourself" Show to be held in Municipal Auditorium, starting April 30 for a nine-day run. More than 100 exhibitors will be on hand to demonstrate new, easy-to-install home accessories, remodeling and repair materials, paint, paper and

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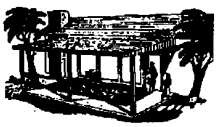

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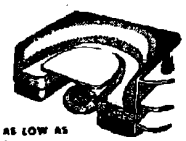

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