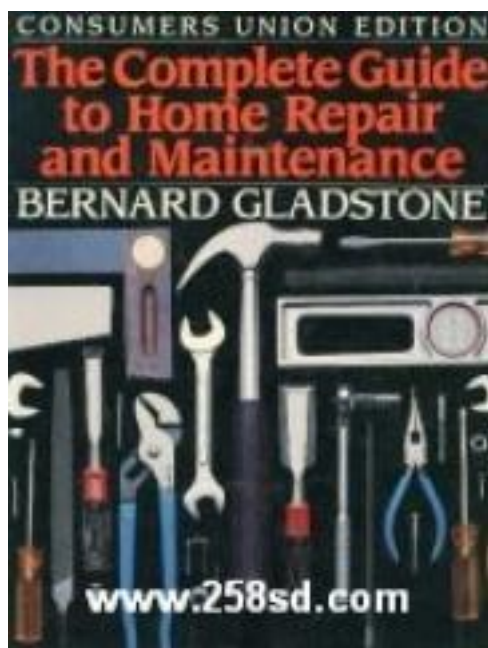


Complete Guide to Home Repair and Maintenance



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Introduction
example¼ the chapter on electrical repairs tells there are many others that are constantly chang-
you all the practical basics of electricity and wiring. New and improved tools and materials are
ing. There are no paragraphs of complicated the- continually being introduced¼ as well as products
ory or detailed data that would be of little if any to do a better job¼ or techniques that will
make a
use to you when all you want to do is fix a broken job quicker and easier to complete. Updating of
lamp. In the same way¼ the chapter on concrete such information is always needed in the col-
and masonry tells you everything you need to umns¼ magazine articles¼ and books that I write.
know about
¼ the repairs you are likely to tackle And this is why some books that were long con-
yourself; it doesn't attempt to provide a detailed sidered "old standbys" are

no longer valid as a description of how to pour your own concrete current guides. foundation when building a new house or addition. Times have also changed in other ways. For example, that would be a once-in-a-lifetime project example. Nowadays it is not just homeowners that few homeowners would tackle themselves who are interested in how-to information about. For neophytes there are no technical terms in repairs and maintenance---many of today's this book that cannot be understood or that apartment-dwellers are just as eager for this kind aren't immediately explained. This eliminates of guidance. Why? Because not too many years the need for a separate glossary is customary for ago all apartment dwellers were tenants who books in this field yet inevitably an inconvenience rented their living quarters; when something requiring continual cross-reference. Also needed fixing they called the superintendent or the instructions for each job leave no gaps where building maintenance man in to take care of the it is assumed you already have some experience: problem. But these days an increasingly large Everything is fully and simply explained or you percentage of apartment dwellers own their own are referred to another part of the book where apartments or they own a share of the building the information you need can be found they live in so repairs are no longer free for the Those who are more experienced will still find asking. Even for those who do rent getting the a tremendous amount of valuable information building superintendent or building maintenance including unusual problems that even a veteran man to come in to take care of a minor break-home handyman is not likely to have faced. And down is becoming exceedingly difficult; in many there are many shortcuts time-savers and other buildings if tenants want something fixed they \"tricks of the trade\" that will save even the most will have to do it themselves or else hire an out-experienced do-it-yourselfers time or money--sider to get the job done. sometimes both. Dozens of these are presented Unfortunately local handymen who are will in the form of separate \"sidebar\" features---ing to come in and do small jobs for a modest widely or generally applicable information that hourly wage are a vanishing breed rarely found handily enables you to perform a common kind in most communities. Traditional \"specialists\" of repair or maintenance procedure on the other hand (plumbers electricians etc.) Some things in the home service field have re-often don't want to be bothered with small maintained basically the same for many years but apartment jobs. As a result apartment dwellers

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