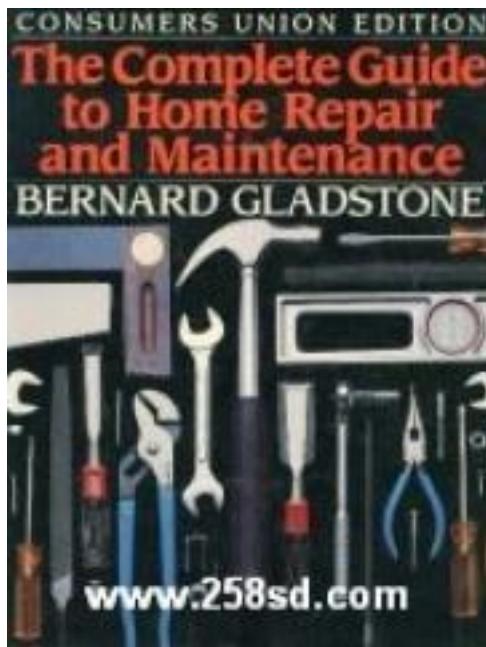


Complete Guide to Home Repair and Maintenance



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Introduction
example— the chapter on electrical repairs tells there are many others that are constantly changing. You all the practical basics of electricity and wiring. New and improved tools and materials are coming. There are no paragraphs of complicated theories continually being introduced— as well as products or detailed data that would be of little if any to do a better job— 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 way— the chapter on concrete such information is always needed in the column and masonry tells you everything you need to know— magazine articles— and books that I write. You know about the repairs you are likely to tackle. And this is why some books that were long considered yourself; it doesn't attempt to provide a detailed sidered "old standbys" are

no longer valid as
 description of how to pour your own concrete current guides.
 foundation when building a new house or addi- Times have also changed in other ways. For
 tion. That would be a once-in-a-lifetime project exampleï¼Œ nowadays it is not just homeowners
 that few homeowners would tackle themselvesï¼Œ who are interested in how-to information about
 For neophytesï¼Œ there are no technical terms in repairs and maintenance---many of today s
 this book that cannot be understoodï¼Œ 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 glossaryï¼Œ customary for ago all apartment dwellers were tenants who
 books in this field yet inevitably an inconven- rented their living quarters; when something
 ience requiring continual cross-reference. Alsoï¼Œ 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 explainedï¼Œ or you percentage of apartment dwellers own their own
 are referred to another part of the book where apartmentsï¼Œ or they own a share of the building
 the information you need can be foundï¼Œ they live inï¼Œ so repairs are no longer free for the
 Those who are more experienced will still find asking. Even for those who do rentï¼Œ getting the
 a tremendous amount of valuable informationï¼Œ 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 shortcutsï¼Œ time-saversï¼Œ and other buildings if tenants want something fixed they
 \"tricks of the trade\" that will save even the most will have to do it themselvesï¼Œ 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 Unfortunatelyï¼Œ 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 \"specialistsï¼Œ\"
 of repair or maintenance procedureï¼Œ on the other hand (plumbersï¼Œ electriciansï¼Œ etc.)ï¼Œ
 Some things in the home service field have re- often don t want to be bothered with small
 mained basically the same for many yearsï¼Œ but apartment jobs. As a resultï¼Œ apartment dwellers

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