NO PREP

DIY SOS

Quick Fixes for Everyday Problems

Includes: Student reading, case study, differentiated questions, teacher key

Name: Period: Date:

DIY SOS: Quick Fixes for Everyday Problems

Focus

Feeling helpless when a minor household mishap strikes? Don't call the repairman just yet! This guide empowers you with simple DIY solutions for common household problems. Learn how to tackle leaky faucets, loose doorknobs, and other pesky issues with confidence. We'll also introduce you to the essential tools every teen should have on hand and emphasize the importance of safety when tackling DIY tasks. Empower yourself with essential life skills and become a household hero!

Why is DIY Knowledge Important for Teens?

Simple repairs can save time and money compared to calling a professional for every minor issue. DIY projects also foster a sense of accomplishment and self-reliance, valuable skills for every teenager.

Conquering Common Household Woes: DIY Solutions

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Conquering Common Household Woes: DIY Solutions

Here are some everyday household problems you can tackle yourself: Leaky Faucet: A leaky faucet is a common issue, but it's an easy fix! You'll likely need a wrench to tighten the packing nut around the base of the faucet handle. Turn off the water supply before starting and follow a quick online video tutorial for specific steps. Loose Doorknob: A loose doorknob can be frustrating. Often, the problem lies with the screws that secure the knob to the door. Use a screwdriver to tighten the screws, ensuring a snug fit. Clogged Drain: Clogged drains are a nuisance, but they can often be unclogged with simple tools. A plunger is a common solution, but a drain snake can also be helpful for tougher clogs. Be sure to identify the correct type of drain snake for your sink or tub.

Pro Tip

: Always consult a safety manual or online resources before attempting any DIY project. Knowing your limitations and working safely is crucial.

Building Your DIY Arsenal: Essential Tools

Having a basic toolkit allows you to tackle a variety of minor repairs. Here are some essential tools every teen should have: Screwdriver Set: A good screwdriver set includes flathead and Phillips head screwdrivers in various sizes to handle different screw types. Adjustable Wrench: An adjustable wrench is versatile and can tighten or loosen nuts and bolts of various sizes. Pliers: Pliers come in different varieties, but a basic pair of slip-joint pliers is helpful for gripping objects and turning nuts and bolts. Hammer: A claw hammer is a multipurpose tool useful for hammering nails and prying objects loose. Flashlight: A good flashlight is essential for illuminating work areas, especially when working under sinks or in dimly lit areas.

Safety First!

Safety is paramount when tackling any DIY project. Here are some safety tips: Read instructions carefully: Always consult a user manual or online tutorial before using any tool. Turn off the power: If working with electrical appliances, ensure the power is off at the breaker box. Use the right tool for the job: Don't force a tool to do something it's not designed for. Wear safety glasses: Protect your eyes from flying debris when hammering or using other tools.

The Power of Prevention: Maintaining Your Appliances

Taking care of your appliances can prevent future problems and extend their lifespan. Here are some preventative maintenance tips: Clean Regularly: Regular cleaning removes dust, debris, and build-up that can contribute to malfunctions. Clean refrigerator coils, vacuum air conditioner vents, and wipe down appliance surfaces regularly. Follow User Manuals: Most appliances come with user manuals that outline basic maintenance tasks. Consult the manual for specific recommendations for your appliances. Avoid Overuse: Don't overload your washing machine or dishwasher. Follow recommended load capacities to avoid straining the appliance. Schedule Professional Maintenance: For complex appliances like air conditioners, consider scheduling professional maintenance checks every few years.

Pro Tip

: Develop a cleaning and maintenance routine for your appliances. This will help you catch potential problems early on and prevent costly repairs.

Case Study: The Dripping Dilemma

Sarah is annoyed by the constant dripping coming from her bathroom faucet. She knows it's wasting water, but she has no idea how to fix it.

1. According to the reading, what are two benefits of learning basic DIY skills for teens?

2. How can learning DIY skills contribute to a teen's sense of self-reliance?

3. What is the potential consequence of Sarah ignoring the leaky faucet?

4. How could learning basic DIY skills help Sarah address the dripping faucet and other minor household problems?

Multiple Choice

1. Why is learning basic DIY skills important for teens?

a) It guarantees teens will become professional handymen in the future.

b) It empowers teens to solve minor household problems independently.

c) It teaches teens to rely on others for even the simplest tasks.

d) It allows teens to skip chores and avoid helping around the house.

2. Besides turning off the water supply, what does the reading recommend doing before you fix a leaky faucet?

a) Call a professional plumber to address the issue.

b) Turn on the water supply to ensure the faucet is working properly.

c) Watch a quick online video tutorial on how to fix a leaky faucet.

d) Tighten the packing nut around the base of the faucet handle.

3. What is the importance of safety when completing DIY tasks?

a) It guarantees a successful project outcome, regardless of the repair.

b) It ensures you can use any tool for any job, regardless of its purpose.

c) It allows you to work faster and complete projects more quickly.

d) It minimizes the risk of injuries and protects you from harm.

Matching

Write the letter of the correct definition on the line next to each term.

Term	Definition
1. ___ Clogged Drain	A) Tighten the screws that secure the knob to the door with a screwdriver.
2. ___ Loose Doorknob	B) Tighten the packing nut around the base of the faucet handle with a wrench.
3. ___ Leaky Faucet	C) Lights up dim work areas, like the space under a sink.
4. ___ Safety Glasses	D) Use a plunger or drain snake to remove the clog.
5. ___ Flashlight	E) Protect your eyes from flying debris when hammering.

Fill-in-the-Blank

1. Three essential tools every teen should have in their DIY toolkit are a _____ set, an adjustable _____, and a pair of _____ pliers.

2. Regularly cleaning appliances and following user manuals are examples of _____ maintenance, which helps prevent future problems.

3. When working with electrical appliances, it's crucial to ensure the power is off at the _____ box.

Short Answer

Answer each question in 2-4 complete sentences.

1. Refer to the case study "The Dripping Dilemma." Explain how ignoring the leaky faucet could negatively impact Sarah and her household.

_____

_____

_____

2. Describe two additional preventative maintenance tips you can follow to extend the lifespan of your household appliances.

3. Why is reading instructions carefully important before using any tool for a DIY project? What information can you typically find in user manuals or online tutorials?