A paper plate glued to the bottom of a tin of paint when doing touch-up jobs prevents the paint from dripping on the floor and provides a place to lay the brush.

If you are out of barrier cream before doing a messy job such as painting, laying plastic sheeting, handling putty and so on, it is a wise precaution to wipe the fingers and nails on a piece of soap and to rub nearly-dry soap over the entire hands. When the job is finished the dirt will come away easily if the hands are washed with soap and hot water.

How many times have you laid a paint brush aside, only to find, subsequently, that it has hardened and is useless? One way in which to overcome the trouble of cleaning brushes every time they are used is to merely wipe off the excess paint, and roll the brush into a ball of soft putty. This keeps the bristles soft and ready for use by forming an airtight seal around them. If you want to use another colour, you will, of course, have to clean it in the usual way.

White marks left on tables or stands by flower vases or other objects can often be removed by wiping them with a rag wetted with ammonia and wrung out. After a thorough drying, the spot is rubbed with good furniture polish and the foggy stain usually disappears.

To tighten loose cane chair seats, try this method. Turn the chair upside down and sponge the underside of the seat with hot water until it is well soaked. If the seat is dirty, sponge it with hot soapy water and rinse with clear hot water. Then set the chair so that it can dry in the air. When it dries, the seat will be firm and taut.