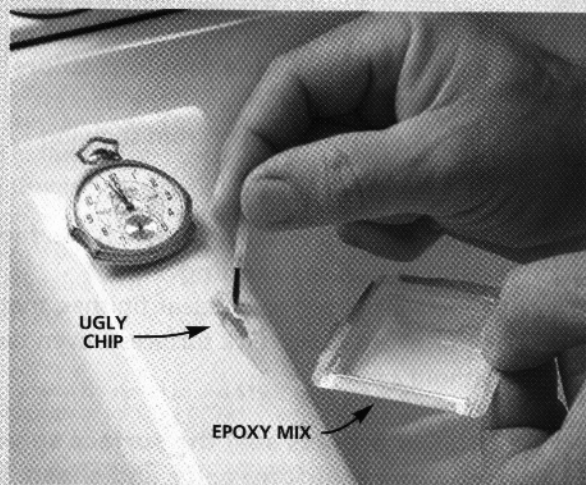


Ask The Family Handyman®

New home, new questions. **We've got answers.**



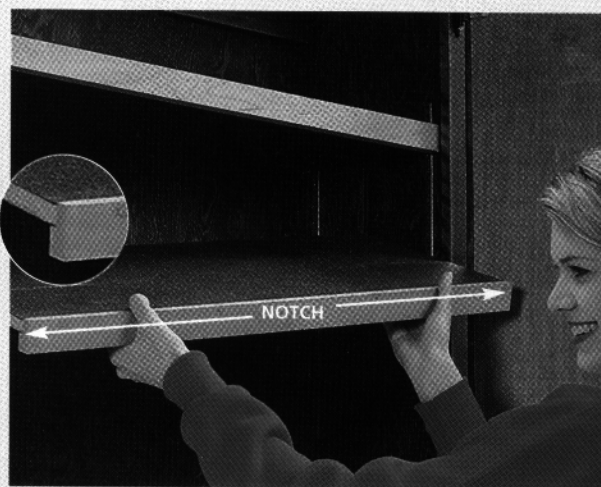
Fix a chipped kitchen sink

Q During our move, someone chipped the white enamel and cast-iron sink in our new kitchen. Can I repair it so the fix is fairly invisible?

Yes. It's quite easy and inexpensive to repair this kind of chip. You can find two-component epoxy (catalyst and hardener) in the adhesive section of most hardware stores and home centers. It's usually available in a variety of colors.

A First, scrub the chipped area thoroughly with a sponge and soapy water. Then rub 400- to 600-grit wet-and-dry sandpaper over the damaged area to remove dirt and rust, as well as rough up the chip so epoxy will stick to it. Next, mix the two epoxy ingredients according to label directions.

Use a wooden matchstick or small brush to fill the chip. If the chip is deep, apply the material in several coats, and don't forget to allow for the drying time specified on the label. Once the repair is complete, wait 24 hours before you use the sink, and don't scrub that area for seven days.



Stiffening cabinet shelves

Q The kitchen cabinet shelves in our new house are sagging under the weight of our dishes. Is there a way to strengthen the shelves without replacing them?

Shelves that exhibit this sagging are usually made from particleboard. If they're the adjustable type that you can remove, it's easy to straighten and strengthen them. Simply add a 3/4 in. x 1-1/2 in. hardwood nosing from a home center to the front of the shelf.

A To install the nosing, remove the shelves from the cabinet and use a table saw to rip 1/2 in. off the depth of the shelves. Cut the nosing to length, then use the table saw or a router and router table to make a notch 1/4 in. deep and as wide as the shelf thickness. This notch will provide support both in front of and below the shelf.

For best results, glue and clamp the nosing onto the shelf. If the shelf is particleboard, don't nail into the edge, because it's likely to split. After the glue dries, reinstall the shelves. For really bowed shelves, add a cleat to the back edge, too.

