Ms. Fix-It



Learn how to do basic repairs by doing the following activities. You'll be a Ms. Fix-It in no time.

1. Call for Help

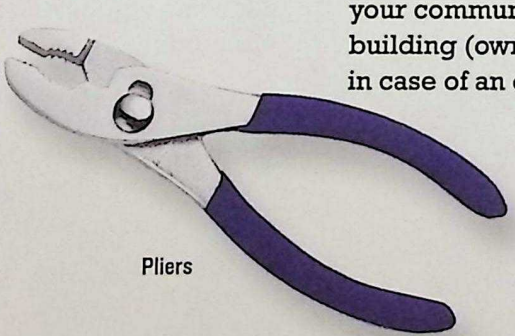
Find out what you should do when faced with each of these emergencies. Learn when you can help and when it is best to call for help and leave the area until the emergency is over.

- You smell gas.
- The smoke alarm or security system turns on accidentally or won't shut off after an emergency is over.
- A toilet or sink gets clogged.
- The thermostat won't shut off or fails to turn on the furnace.
- A washing machine is overflowing.

2. It's Electric!

Learn more about how to handle and fix electrical problems properly. Do at least three of the following:

- Have someone show you what to do if the lights go out while you are home alone.
- Show that you know how to follow three or more safety rules when using electricity.
- Look at the electrical panel box where you live.
- Find out about fuses and circuit breakers and how to change or reset them.
- Find out how to turn off the electricity in case of flood, storm, or other emergency.
- Know how and whom to call in your community or in your building (owner, superintendent) in case of an emergency.



Pliers

3. Flash

Keep a flashlight in your repair kit or in an easy-to-reach spot in your home. Learn how to change the battery and the light bulb.

4. Fix a Faucet

A washer is a small disk with a hole in the middle. It can be made of metal, rubber, or plastic. A washer is placed beneath a nut or at a joint. Its main job is to prevent leaking. A common place to find a washer is in a faucet. Find out what fixtures in and around your home require washers. Then, learn how to replace a washer that is broken or worn out. Keep some spare washers in your repair kit for future use.

5. A Simple Fix-It

Call a plumber for major plumbing problems, but you can solve some common problems involving a toilet yourself. Review the inner workings of the toilet tank. With the lid off, flush the toilet and watch how everything works. Learn the names of the parts, some of the common problems, and how to do the repairs.

6. Conserve Energy

Conserving energy not only helps your parents reduce the cost of utilities, but it is also good for the environment. Do at least one of the following to help conserve energy in your home:

- Find out what changes you could make in your home that would help save water.
- Learn how to weather-strip your windows and doors.
- Find out about energy-efficient light bulbs and install them in the lights of your home.

7. Hang It Up

Show your ability to hang an item on a wall. Learn about the different types of walls and what types of fasteners are best used for each.

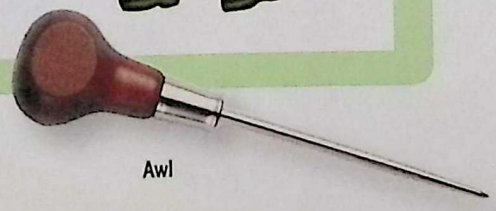
8. Out and About the Home

There are things inside and outside your house or apartment that may require some repair work. Ask an adult for assistance and do two or more of the following:

- Help paint or refinish a piece of furniture.
- Tighten the screws to the handles of your kitchen cupboards and drawers.
- Help fix a crack or hole in a wall, sidewalk, or driveway.
- Help with some painting, papering, or other repair to your walls.
- Help rewire a lamp or replace the cord on an electrical appliance.



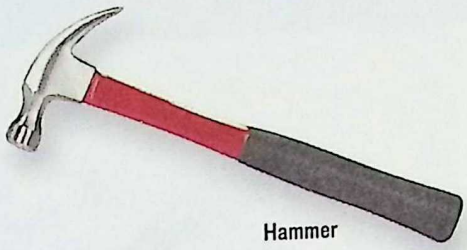
Sandpaper



Awl

9. Repairs Within Your Community

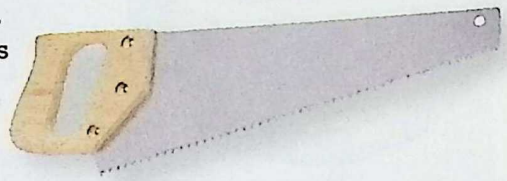
Use your knowledge of basic repairs to help others. Find a community organization that could benefit from your "fix-it smarts," or help a senior citizen who needs to make some repairs at home.



Hammer

10. Read All About It

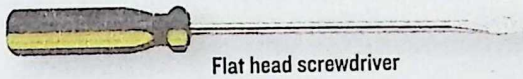
Read the operating instructions that came with a major appliance. What are three common problems that appliance may have? How do you fix them? *Hint:* Look at the troubleshooting section in the instruction booklet.



Saw



Phillips screwdriver



Flat head screwdriver