UNIT I: Exploring Your Home
Note To Parents and Leaders

*Home Environment Unit I—Exploring Your Home*—basically introduces 4-H’ers to activities to help them become interested in their homes and learn how to make them more attractive. They can do some of the activities by themselves. Other things should be done with a parent or a club leader giving guidance.

Encourage and help the 4-H’ers as they learn new skills. Talk over project ideas with them. Some suggested activities and exhibits are given in this booklet. Check magazines, books and talk with your county Extension agent for instructions for other projects. Help your 4-H’ers select projects that are suitable for their abilities and skill levels. The project should not be so hard that the 4-H’ers will be discouraged, nor so easy that they are not challenged to learn new skills. It is important for members to see the difference in a 4-H project and a 4-H exhibit. Not everything they learn or do will be exhibited. Their items to be exhibited are only one part of a larger learning experience—the 4-H learning experience.

After each new experience or when a project is completed, help members evaluate what they have done. Ask them questions and discuss what they have done well and what they need to improve. Encourage and help the 4-H’ers see where they are growing with the project.

Have fun and enjoy working with these young people in this project!

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Introduction

Having a pleasant home environment is very important. It makes us happier, and it makes us feel better. Many things work together to make a good home environment. Most importantly, family members must respect and care for each other. Also they must respect and care for the family's shared belongings and each member's personal belongings. Next, family members must work together in sharing the tasks that keep the household running in an orderly manner.

Making your home run smoothly and look good is part of your responsibility as a family member. But it is also fun! This first 4-H home environment project will help you learn more about improving your home.

Some things you will do by yourself. Some activities you will want to do with other members of your family, your project leader or other club members.

All 4-H projects help you learn skills for living. Some of the skills involve making items and exhibiting them for other people to see and learn from. Other skills you learn will not be exhibited, but they will help you become a better 4-H’er and a happy and useful person.

As you go through this project booklet, talk to your parents and leader about project ideas. They will answer questions and help you plan a project and choose activities. Plan a project for your room or some area of your house that needs to be improved.
What You Will Do in This Project:
- Learn how to care for your room
- Learn how to select colors, textures and accessories you like
- Learn how to accept responsibility of being a family member
- Complete a project for exhibition
- Give a demonstration
- Keep a record of your 4-H project

Start By . . .
Getting Your Room Organized

Probably the first place to start improving your home environment is in your own room—or the area where you sleep and keep your belongings. Is it neat and orderly? Can you find things when you need them? Both shoes? Matching socks? You'll be able to find things quickly when they are in their proper place . . . and you'll be proud to invite your friends to your room when it's clean. If you share your room with someone else, talk over how you can work together to keep your room looking good.

To Keep Your Room Neat . . .
- Put away or hang up your clothes as soon as you take them off. Clothes dropped on the floor become wrinkled, dirty and may get torn. Clothes that are put away are always ready for work and play. Organize your closet space so that all like things are together. Line or hang shoes up in one place. Hang shirts or blouses together on the clothes rod. Hang shirts or slacks together. Sort all of your clothes in this way, and you'll be able to find them quickly. Hang all of the hanger hooks pointing in the same direction with articles facing the same direction. This makes it easier to take the hangers out of the closet. Hang belts on a special rack or hanger. Put out-of-season clothes in a different closet or area. Now look at your closet. Doesn't it look better? Did you find an item you thought was lost?
Place dirty clothes in a laundry bag or clothes hamper as soon as you take them off. This keeps them out of your way until laundry time. If you don't have a clothes hamper or bag, you can use a box, wicker basket... or make a cloth laundry bag with a draw string top to hang over a closet hook. Ask your leader or Extension agent for directions on how to make a laundry bag.

Next organize your dresser drawers. Put like things together. Put all your sweaters in one place; put pajamas with pajamas and underwear with underwear. Fold and stack things neatly. Place the clothes you use most often on top and near the front. Then you can reach them quickly and easily. To keep dresser drawers in order, make drawer dividers from boxes. Use the box covers for small things in the top drawers. If you wish, cover the boxes with bright paper. If your dresser drawers are too full of clothes you don’t wear, look through them. Do you need everything in them? Give away those clothes you don’t need or use to someone who can use them. Store out-of-season clothing in a box or on a high shelf. Be sure to label the box or shelf so you’ll know where to look when you want it again. You probably will have to reorganize your dresser drawers regularly to keep them in order.

Before going to bed, lay out fresh clothes for the next day. If they have been crowded in the closet or drawers, you’ll have time to press them or let the wrinkles hang out overnight. Then you’ll be ready to go the next day!

Make your bed every morning. The bed is one of the first things you see when you go into a bedroom. If it’s neat and smooth, the whole room looks better. And you won’t have to crawl into a wrinkled, lumpy bed at night!

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**At Least Once A Week...**

- Make your room sparkle! Dust at least once a week. You will need two kinds of dust cloths:
  1) A dry, clean lintless cloth for pictures, lamps, and small articles. Cheesecloth, knit fabric or terry cloth can be used for this.
  2) A treated dust cloth or dust mitt for furniture. If you’d like to make your own treated dust cloth, ask your leader or parent for help and follow the instructions given below.

Dusting will go faster if you start at one corner and work around the room. Make both hands work by wearing a dust mitt on each one. Go from top to bottom on each piece of furniture. Turn off lighting fixtures before dusting them. Unplug lamps before dusting light bulbs. And don’t miss the window sills and pictures.

After you’ve finished, put everything back in its place. Remember that little things count. Are window shades even? Do pictures hang straight? Are lampshade seams turned to the wall? Shake dust cloths outdoors. Then put the treated ones in a closed glass or metal container. When they need to be washed, wash them separately. The untreated ones can go into the regular laundry.

- Empty wastebaskets and wipe them out with a damp cloth. Neglected wastebaskets can be fire hazards. Overflowing ones can be stumbling blocks. If you don’t have a wastebasket, you may want to make one.

- Finish your job by cleaning the floor. Use a vacuum cleaner on rugs and carpets. (Ask your parents for help, if needed.) Use a dust mop on wood floor and a broom on vinyls and tile.
Some furniture has an oiled finish, and some has a waxed finish. Ask your parents which pieces have an oil finish and which have a waxed finish. Then use the appropriate cloth for each piece of furniture. Although using the same cloth on oiled and waxed finishes will not damage the furniture, it can cause streaks and a dulled look.

Dustless Dust Cloths!!

Place 1 teaspoon boiled linseed oil (commercially prepared)
       2 tablespoons gum turpentine
       2 tablespoons warm water

In pint-sized screw-top glass jar

Add clean dust mitt or soft lintless cloths (3 or 4 18-inch square) such as cheesecloth, or old T-shirts. Pack loosely into jar. Cover tightly, turn upside down and leave overnight.

How To Store:
Store in the glass jar with screw top lightly on. Cloth or mitt can be used for several months, Label the jar so you will know which type of cloth is in it.

How To Use:
Remove cloth from the jar and wipe lightly over furniture surface. The treated cloth attracts and holds dust somewhat like a magnet. If the cloth becomes dry, add a few drops of warm water before storing in jar again.

Now that your room (or area) is organized, you can look around and see what you might like to do to help personalize it. One way to do this is to add accessories. Accessories are the little things that add personal touches to any room. Some accessories are useful (functional), such as lamps. Others, such as pictures, add beauty or interest.

Here are some examples of accessories.
Which are functional and which add beauty?

- Lamps
- Plants
- Pictures
- Mirrors
- Books
- Magazines
- Clocks
- Candleholders
- Pin-up Board
- Boxes
- Pillows
- Bowls
- Desk Sets
- Wastebaskets
- Bottle
- Telephone
- Radio

Dustless Dust Cloth for Waxed Furniture

Place 1 tablespoon boiled linseed oil (commercially prepared)
       1 quart warm water

In a jar with screw top

Add clean dust mitt or three or four soft lintless cloths (18-inch square) into mixture and wring out thoroughly. Hang up and let dry before using.

Dip clean dust mitt or three or four soft lintless cloths (18-inch square) into mixture and wring out thoroughly. Hang up and let dry before using.

How To Store:
Store dry in tightly-covered jar or can. Label as to contents.

How To Use:
Dust furniture with dry, dustless dust cloth made for waxed surfaces. This cloth acts as a magnet to hold dust. When cloths become soiled, wash and dampen again with the boiled linseed oil and warm water mixture.
These are only some of the things we call accessories. Can you think of other things that will add beauty, personalize your room or help you do things better?

Without accessories, most rooms look bare and uninteresting. On the other hand, too many accessories give the room a cluttered look. It’s up to you to add just the amount that’s right for you. Give careful thought to the accessories you wish to use. Select only those that you really like and want to live with.

Take a look at all the accessories in your room. How do you feel about the things you now have? Check yes or no in the following list of questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Does the room look bare?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Does the room look cluttered with accessories?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Are there too many things to dust?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Are books and magazines neat?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Are hobby and sports things in order and easy to find?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Would some places look better with nothing on them?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Is there anything that does not make the room look better?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Some things may need to be rearranged. If so, try them several ways and decide which way you like best. Are there some things that could be added to make your room look better? If so, you may want to make an accessory for your room. A laundry bag would add add color as well as help in keeping clothes picked up. A pillow could be added to your bed or a chair. A small wooden box could hold desk supplies, jewelry, or other treasures.

You . . . the Designer

When you rearrange things in your room or select colors and materials for accessories, you become a designer, and you will work with the tools for design.

What is design? Every room needs a plan for order—an order that makes all the parts of the room fit together as a whole. Design is a plan for that order. It involves many things; for example, how you plan a furniture arrangement for your room, or what accessories you select for your room, or what colors you choose. Design is an expression of yourself. The colors you select, the type or arrangement of furnishings, the way you arrange your accessories all help to make your room an expression of you.

You do not have to buy new furniture, and accessories do not have to be expensive. Part of your design plan may be how to improve a room inexpensively. For example, objects of nature may be used, and they are free for the finding. Or perhaps you could make something for your room from fabric remnants or wood scraps. Look at magazines and see how objects found around almost any home can be used for a design plan.
Color As a Design Tool

As a designer, you need tools to work with.

Color is one of the basic tools of design and it is fun to experiment with. You'll hear several words used to describe color. For example, hue is the name of a color, such as blue, green, or yellow.

Let's look at a system which is often used to explain the idea of color:

All colors are made from three basic hues:

- **Yellow**
- **Red**
- **Blue**

These hues are called **primary colors**.

When the primary hues are mixed, then **secondary colors** are formed. For example, yellow mixed with blue makes green (a secondary color).

You may have heard the words value and intensity of color. **Value** means the lightness or darkness of a color. Adding white to a color makes it a lighter value. Adding black to a color makes it darker in value.

**Intensity** refers to how bright or dull a color is. Dull colors are a result of one hue being mixed with a little of its complementary color. **Complementary colors** are those that are located directly across from each other on the color wheel. For example, red and green are complementary colors. Another example would be blue and orange.

There will be some colors that you like better than others. Some colors make you feel happy; some make you feel quiet. Other colors can make you feel depressed or cold. Sometimes colors can remind you of things such as green grass and blue sky. Choose colors for your room that make you feel good or remind you of pleasant things. Write a word in the blank that describes how each of these colors makes you feel.

Red makes me feel ____________________.
Yellow makes me feel ____________________.
Green makes me feel ____________________.
Orange makes me feel ____________________.
Blue makes me feel ____________________.
Violet makes me feel ____________________.
Here are some activities that will help you learn more about using color.

**Activity 1**
Make a color wheel. Use poster paints or colored paper and a medium-weight white drawing paper for the background. Another idea is to use white frosting and red, yellow, and blue food coloring. (Check with your parents first if using the frosting and food coloring.) If using frosting, mix a small amount of frosting in each primary and secondary color. Then frost cookies or graham crackers with each color. Share these with your friends or other family members. Which colors were eaten first? Why?

**Activity 2**
Cut red, violet and blue construction paper into large squares. Cut smaller circles of green, yellow, and orange paper. Place the complementary colors together. (These are the colors directly opposite each other on the color wheel.) What happens to the colors when they are placed together? Do they become more intense? What does this mean when you are choosing colors for your room? Try other combinations of colors, such as red and yellow or green and blue. How do you feel about the combinations of colors now? Which combinations are quiet? Which are the most lively? What combination of colors do you like best?

**Activity 3**
Make a collage (or collection) of various colored papers, fabrics, wrapping paper, wallpaper, carpet samples, autumn leaves, or other materials. Select those colors that you particularly like and glue onto a heavy paper or poster board background. If you use colored tissue paper for your collage, try overlapping different colors as you work. How do you like your final design? Did the colors turn out as you expected? You may want to hang your finished picture in your room.

**Texture As a Design Tool**
Texture is another tool of design. Wherever we go, whatever we see, textures are there! Texture adds interest. It tells us how an object or a surface looks, feels and handles:
- looks-shiny, dull, crinkled
- feels-smooth, rough, bumpy
- handles-soft, stiff, rubbery

There are two kinds of texture: tactile and visual. You can feel tactile textures. For example, tree bark feels rough and glass feels smooth. Visual texture is what we see . . . or think we see. Sometimes an object feels different than it looks. Fabrics and wall-coverings often have different tactile and visual textures.

Explore your surroundings. Close your eyes and feel with your fingers. Touch a corn cob, a sidewalk, grass, tree bark and a kitten. Compare different fabrics and wall coverings. What textures do you particularly like? Now touch some of the surfaces in your room. Can you find some textures that are similar? Which ones do you like the best?
Here are some activities that will help you discover interesting textures.

**Activity 1**

Make rubbings of a variety of objects, such as tree bark, a brick wall, sidewalks or man-hole covers, textured vinyl floors and other surfaces inside and out. To make your rubbing, place paper over the surface and rub the paper with a crayon, soft-lead pencil or charcoal pencil until the texture shows through. Try a variety of colors for added interest in your various rubbings. You may want to display your best rubbings in your room or a family room.

**Activity 2**

Collect various items that have interesting textures and make a collage. You may want to use smooth and nubby fabrics, carpeting, tree bark, leaves, textured cardboard and other items that have texture you can actually feel. You may also use textures that you can only see, such as photographs, magazine pictures, printed fabrics and wallpaper and other items with visual texture. Glue these items onto a heavy paper or lightweight cardboard. How do you like your collection of textures? Do you have a good variety for interest? Did you use more of one kind of texture? If so, is this because you particularly like this texture? Do you have this same kind of texture used in your room? How do you like your final design? You may want to hang your finished collage in your room.

**Your Design Plan**

Now that you have organized your room and have learned some things about design, take a look at it and decide on your design plan. Ask yourself these questions:

1. What can I do to my room to make it look better planned?
2. How much can I change my room? (Ask your parent to help with this.)
3. What accessories can I add?
   - What colors would complement the colors already in the room?
   - What textures do I need (smooth or rough, tactile or visual)?
   - Do I need a plain accessory or a patterned accessory?
4. What items can I find around the house that would personalize my room?
5. What nature items can I find to personalize my room?
6. What items can I add to my room that would serve as a 4-H project?

You may want to take color pictures of your room before and after you organize and personalize it. You may also take pictures of the accessories you add to your room. Use these pictures as part of your 4-H record.
There are many things that you can make for and do to your room as a part of your 4-H project. Be sure to write all of your activities in the 4-H record included in the back of this book. You may also want to make a project to exhibit at the fair. There are many choices for items that may be entered as 4-H exhibits. Check with your leader or county Extension agent on the choices for exhibits. Then decide on what you need that will fit into these exhibit classes. Here are some suggestions to help you get started. You may have other ideas on things you would like to make. If so, check with your parents or leader for help in how to do it.

Project Ideas

**Cloth articles:** Do you like to sew?
- Pillow without cording or applied design
- Fringed tablecloth
- Mug mats
- Placemats and napkins
- Laundry bag

**Finishing small wooden articles:** Do you like to work with wood?
- Bowl
- Tray
- Cutting board
- Picture frame
- Small box
- Children’s building blocks
- Small stool
- Game board
- Book ends

**Improving your study area by making a handy helper:**
- Wastebasket
- Pin-up board

**Making a Wastebasket**

A wastebasket will help keep your room looking neat. First, select a container (perhaps something you already have) to paint or cover. Think about the colors and textures that are in your room. If the walls are plain, you might cover the outside of the wastebasket with a small-patterned or striped paper. If the walls have a patterned paper, you might want to paint or cover your wastebasket to match one of the colors in the paper. If you have mostly rough textures (such as burlap) in the room, use a similar fabric for your wastebasket. If you have smoother fabrics, select a smooth fabric or paper. Adding braid or trim around the top and bottom is a good way to cover raw edges.
You will need:
- Container for the wastebasket, such as an old wastebasket, an oil can, a big metal bucket with wire handle removed, or a large metal can (like one that holds potato chips). Large cardboard ice cream containers (from ice cream shops) also make good wastebaskets, but these won’t last as long.
- Covering material:
  - Flat or semi-gloss paint and a paint brush, or
  - Paper or fabric and glue. (Be sure to use a glue that will dry clear and not stain the fabric or paper.)
- Narrow solid-color tape or braid (washable, easily cleaned material)
- Newspapers to cover work surface
- Scissors, pencil, ruler and soft cloth to smooth edges as you work

What to do:
1. Spread newspapers over your working surface.
2. Paint inside of wastebasket, if needed, and let paint dry thoroughly. Be sure to read directions on your can of paint. Shake can or stir paint thoroughly if the directions say to do this.
3. Finish the outside of the wastebasket:
If you paint your wastebasket...

- Use long strokes in one direction. Don't get too much paint on the brush. Dip brush about 1/3 of the way into the paint, then brush excess paint against the lip of the paint can to wipe off excess paint. Apply one coat. Let dry; then apply a second coat.

For easy care, fabric coverings can be sprayed with a spot- and stain-resistant finish. If your paper covering is not plastic or vinyl-coated, you may wish to give it a coat of clear, thinned shellac for easier cleaning. Thin the shellac by adding 2 tablespoons of denatured alcohol to 2 tablespoons of shellac.

4. Apply trim to cover the raw edges.

Your wastebasket:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do the colors and textures look good in your room?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the surface smooth (no air bubbles or paint drips)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the finish even (fabric or paper edges smooth, paint evenly applied)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the trim applied evenly without glue smudges?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you cover it with paper or fabric...

- Measure the amount of paper or fabric needed to cover the wastebasket, allowing for a small overlap in the back. If you are using fabric, allow an extra inch at both top and bottom for an overlap.

- Mark paper or fabric and cut it out.

- For paper, apply glue to the back of the paper (except pre-pasted wallpaper).
  - For self-sticking paper, remove the backing.
  - For fabric, turn under and glue down 1 inch of fabric at the top and bottom. Let this dry before attaching to the wastebasket.

- Apply covering to the wastebasket, taking care to keep it straight as you work. Begin at one end and carefully smooth the paper or fabric as you go. Pat the covering with a soft, clean cloth to remove air bubbles (work from center to the outside edges).

- For paper, apply glue to the back of the paper (except pre-pasted wallpaper).

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Cloth Item

You may want to make a tablecloth for a small table in your room. Or you may want to make one for the kitchen or eating area.

A tablecloth serves as a background for the items placed on the table. If you are making a cloth for a kitchen table these items will be the dishes, flatwear and centerpiece. If the dishes have patterns, the cloth should be plain. A patterned cloth may be used with plain dishes.
You will need:
- Washable fabric, enough to cover table and hang down 8 to 12 inches on all sides
- Thread to match
- Scissors
- Sewing machine

What to do:
1. Straighten the fabric by pulling thread on both ends. Ask your leader or parent to help with this. Cut the material on the line left by the thread drawn out. Cut off the selvages.

2. For a fringed edge measure about 1/2 inch from edge of cloth. Pull out one thread. Repeat on other three sides.

3. Set the seam guide on sewing machine for 1/2 inch. Use about 10 to 12 stitches to the inch. Stitch along the lines made by pulling out the threads. Keep fabric edge on seam guide. The seam guide will help you make straight lines. Begin stitching halfway between two corners. Turn corners while the machine needle is lowered. This will make the corners square. When finished, let the stitching overlap about 1 inch.

4. Gently pull or ravel off threads almost to the row of machine stitching.

5. Press.

Your table cloth:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the material washable?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the cloth clean and well pressed?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the fringe even on all sides?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the cloth look nice with the dishes?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Wood Finishing

It’s fun to work with wood. Many people work with wood as a hobby. You can make useful things that look pretty in your home. A wood salad bowl or cutting board would be useful in your kitchen or dining area. Other wood items such as small boxes may be useful in your bedroom or other rooms of the house.

You will need:
- Unfinished wood item
- 2 pieces of fine sandpaper (4/0 grit or finer)
- 1 small pad of fine steel wool-No. 0000
- 1 can clear penetrating seal or tung oil*
- Small dish or can-to hold small amount of finish
- Clean, lintless cloth-to apply and wipe finish
- Newspaper to cover work area
- Paper towels or rags-for spills and cleaning up
- Turpentine or hand cleaner-for cleaning up

*A commercial finish is available in stores for use on salad bowls or cutting boards.
What to do:

1. Sand the wood until it is velvety smooth. Use two pieces of fine sandpaper, each piece about 4 inches square. Fold each piece inside the other. The rough sides will keep the pieces together as you sand. Place your thumb and little finger under the edges of the paper. Place your other three fingers on top. This helps you sand evenly. **Always sand with the grain of the wood.** Sand all surfaces of the object.

2. Now, rub the wood with your hand. How does it feel? Does it feel like velvet . . . or a kitten . . . or the skin on your arm? If it does, then you’re ready to apply the finish.

3. Dust the wood with a:
   - clean, soft brush,
   - tack rag (you can buy or make one), or
   - lintless cloth dampened with turpentine

4. Read directions on can of penetrating seal or tung oil. You may want to ask an adult for help. Be sure to follow the directions. In general, they will be as follows.

5. Pour some of the seal or tung oil in a small, clean can or dish. A shallow one will be easier to use.

6. Apply the seal or tung oil with a cloth pad. Let this stand 10 or 15 minutes for the seal to soak in. (Old nylon hose can be used for the pad.)

7. Now wipe the wood surface with a clean, dry cloth. This will even the coat of seal. Let this dry for 24 hours.

8. Rub the surface with the fine (0000) steel wool. Always rub with the grain of the wood. This buffing smooths the finish and prepares it for the next coat.

9. Repeat steps 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 until you have applied at least three coats.

Your salad bowl, cutting board or other wood item:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is it attractive?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the surface smooth?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the finish even and spotless?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you proud of what you did?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Care Hint: Dip wooden bowls and cutting boards in warm, sudsy water. Wash quickly. Rinse well. Dry thoroughly.

Making a Tack Rag...

A tack rag is excellent for removing dust from furniture before you apply finishes. To make one, wash a piece of closely woven cheese cloth several times. Dip the clean cloth in warm water and wring it out. Then wet the cloth with turpentine.

Sprinkle varnish on the rag until it is quite yellow. Then fold and twist the rag into a tight roll to force out the water and allow the varnish and turpentine to saturate the cloth. Twist the rag a second time.

A tack rag should be sticky enough to pick up dust, but dry enough not to leave moisture on the furniture. If your rag dries out in use, sprinkle a few drops of turpentine and water on it. If it is too moist, shake it in the air for a few minutes. Fold the rough edges of the cloth inside as you use it. Store your tack rag in a quart jar with a tight-fitting lid or in a plastic bag folded up very tightly at the top.
Helping In and Around Your Home

You have learned how to care for your own room, but what about the rest of the house? The responsibility for keeping a home neat and orderly should be shared by all family members. You can do your share by helping to keep books and newspapers put away, emptying wastebaskets, taking out the garbage, helping clean out the garage, washing dishes and setting the table. Some chores may not be fun to do but working with another person is fun and makes the job go twice as fast. They will learn more about you, and you will learn more about them. Be proud of the new skills you are learning. Your family will be proud of you, too. Don’t forget to write all of these activities in your 4-H record in the back of this book.

Sharing What You Have Learned

Now that you have learned to do many things around the house, why not share with others? This helps them to learn and helps you to be a better communicator. Making an exhibit to show at the fair is one way to share with others. Another way is to give a demonstration and show someone else how to do something.

Demonstrations

You may wish to select one thing you have learned and plan a demonstration. Here are some demonstration suggestions:

- How to make a bed
- How to organize your dresser drawers
- How to make a dustless dust cloth
- How to make a wastebasket or pin-up board
- How to sand and apply finish to a wood item
- How to make a fringed table cloth or mug mats
- How to give a demonstration
You will need to think about and select an item to make for an exhibit. Start early enough to allow time to complete the exhibit before you need it. You may select from one of the following categories:

- A small wood object with straight lines that has a natural finish applied to it, such as a bowl, tray, cutting board, game board, small box, picture frame, etc.
- A simple, small cloth article such as a plain pillow without an applied design, fringed tablecloth, mug mats, placemats and napkins or laundry bag.
- Item for desk or study area such as a wastebasket or pin-up board

Instructions are given in this booklet for some of the projects you may do, or you may want to do another project. If so, ask your leader for instructions on the other ideas you have. So look around your home. What do you need? Talk over your ideas with your parents or leader. Be sure to make something you need and will use. When you exhibit an item, be sure it is clean and clearly labeled so it can be returned to you. Your leader will provide labels for your item(s).

### Helping Others in 4-H

Learning to help others is also an important part of your 4-H experience. You can do this by:

- Helping other 4-H'ers with their projects.
- Accepting responsibility at home and completing assigned tasks.
- Helping an elderly or lonely neighbor brighten up his/her home with fresh or dried flowers, a collage or other item you've made.
- Helping relatives or neighbors with chores that they can't easily do.
- Bringing in a neighbor's mail and papers.
- Helping to decorate your classroom.

### Completing Your Project Record Sheet

Your record book is important. Be sure to write down your activities as you work through this first home environment unit. Then write your 4-H story for the year. In your story tell how you feel about the things you have learned and made and the experiences you have had.

Each year you'll add another chapter to your 4-H story. You'll have fun looking back over your past experiences and projects as the years go by. You may want to keep a scrapbook of pictures, newspaper articles and mementos to go along with your record book.
Pictures of project activities or samples of fabrics or other materials used (add sheets if necessary)
I gave the following demonstrations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic or Title</th>
<th>Place Given (club, fair, etc.)</th>
<th>Date Given</th>
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I plan to and/or have exhibited home environment project(s) at:

- Local 4-H Rally  ____  State Fair  ____
- County 4-H Rally  ____  Other events  ____
- County Fair  ____  ________  ____
- Area Events  ____  ________  ____

This is how I have helped others with this project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I did</th>
<th>Number Reached</th>
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List the awards you have won:

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Leader's opinion of participant's progress:

Excellent _____
Good _____
Would have been better if ____________________________________________

Approved: ____________________________________________________________

Project Leader  Parent

County Extension Agent