

Media Outlet: *Good Housekeeping*

Date: 05.08.13

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URL: <http://www.goodhousekeeping.co.uk/money/are-we-still-a-nation-of-diy-lovers>

Good Housekeeping

ARE WE STILL A NATION OF DIY LOVERS?

Written by Nathalie Bonney | August 5, 2013 10:36:00 AM

Despite us Brits having a supposed love of DIY, tradesmen are increasingly being called out to perform basic jobs that we really should be able to do ourselves. Read on for how to take your home fixes in hand...



Save some money and have a go yourself at simple jobs like putting up shelves, wallpaper and building self-assembly furniture



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Are we still a nation of DIY lovers? Despite a survey from Nationwide revealing 36% of Brits update their home at least once a year, many of us are calling in the professionals – and sometimes with some pretty basic requests.

Ratedpeople.com, asked a selection of its registered tradesmen what were some of the most unnecessary callouts they've been on.

A substantial 37% of tradesmen attend a non-emergency emergency once a month, 8% have even been called out to change a light bulb and 4% to fix an appliance that just needed to be switched back on!

Save some money and have a go yourself at simple jobs like putting up shelves, wallpaper and building self-assembly furniture.

Get DIY-ready

B&Q run DIY skills classes at 'You Can Do It' centres in 15 stores – find your nearest at diy.com. From changing a tap to laying laminate floors and hanging wallpaper, workshops take from 2-4 hours and start from £10. Or contact your local authority and colleges to find out about other options.

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Homebase.co.uk has some handy online calculators to help you work out how many tiles, paint, flooring and wallpaper you need for particular spaces; and some easy to follow 'how to' guides.

There are a couple of apps worth downloading too. Try Stanley Spirit Max (free) for Apple devices and Spirit Level Plus (free) on Android.