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Learn the Tricks of the Trade from the home improvement professionals

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Undertaking some of the smaller projects yourself is a great way to reduce costs enabling you to spend more on those all important finishing touches. The DIY Doctor offers a step-by-step tutorial, including some handy hints and tips, on tasks such as skimming a plaster wall, tiling and how to avoid cowboy builders that could leave you some cash to spend on finishes and furnishings that will create the wow factor.

Tricks of the Trade timetable 2010

10.30 - How to avoid cowboy builders

There's a lot of press and TV coverage about 'Cowboy Builders' and how they ruin lives - but there is very little to help you avoid them.

This presentation will cover how to make sure you obtain accurate references, your builder is adequately insured during the work, you are covered against accidents, the finished work is satisfactory, follow-up snagging completed and how to find reliable tradesmen.

11.45 - How to skim plaster a wall

Many plasterers will tell you their trade is an art form. This may be true of polished, Venetian plastering, but traditional plastering is simply a process that requires a great deal of practice to get it right. This presentation takes you through preparing the wall for plastering, mixing and applying the plaster and finally how to get it flat and smooth.

There is also a section which teaches you how to mend holes in plasterboard.

13.00 - How to tile a bathroom

The smallest room in the house but the most difficult to decorate! Learn how to get tiles to fit perfectly around the toilet, basin and bath with minimum wastage and maximum effect.

14.15 - DIY Disasters comedy show

A light hearted look at some of the dangers of DIY together with the mad, sad and downright insane antics of many DIY enthusiasts in the UK.

To reassure you, and introduce a level of humorous intrigue, we need to tell you that no Budgerigars were harmed in the preparation of this presentation!

15.30 - How to avoid cowboy builders

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