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Tools Homeowners Need

By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

We need tools to build and maintain our world — even for the simplest of tasks, like hanging a picture frame. Even if you are not a “handy” person, there are some tools that make owning a home much easier.

If you are just embarking on homeownership, it is essential to get a toolbox and fill it with necessary tools. This way, you will be prepared for most home improvement projects you want to complete or emergen-

cies that present themselves.

1. Hammer. You need at least one, but ideally two: one lightweight and one heavy-weight. The bigger the nail, the heavier the hammer should be.

2. Screwdrivers. Several. You will want at least a Phillips, flat-head, slotted and Pozidriv (star-shaped). You can opt to get one with interchangeable heads, but remember if you misplace the shaft, you’re out of luck.

3. General-purpose hardware. Get a small divided

“tackle box” and fill it with general-purpose nails and screws of various sizes. This will keep you from making multiple trips to the hardware store with each project that comes up.

4. Tape measure. When you want to hang shelves or buy a new couch, you need to know exactly how long a wall is. Buy one that locks.

5. Drill and drill bits. Multi-purpose and battery powered is what you’re after. Purchase a variety pack of drill bits and you will be prepared for most

repair jobs.

6. Utility knife. Great for precision cuts, breaking down boxes and cutting the tops off glue and caulk tubes.

7. Putty knife. Necessary for applying spackle, as well as scraping off old wallpaper and popcorn ceilings.

8. Pliers. Locking pliers are a great multi-purpose option. Needle-nosed pliers are perfect for tight spaces. Electrician’s pliers can usually strip and cut wire. Get one of each to be safe.

9. Adjustable crescent

wrench. This wrench is a solid multi-purpose wrench, as its jaws can be adjusted to fit nuts and bolts of different sizes.

10. Hex or Allen keys. You will need these mostly to put together furniture, but they also are great to have for toys, bicycles and shelving.

While not technically a “tool,” every homeowner also should possess basic safety gear as well, including plastic and leather gloves, goggles and sound-deafening ear muffs.



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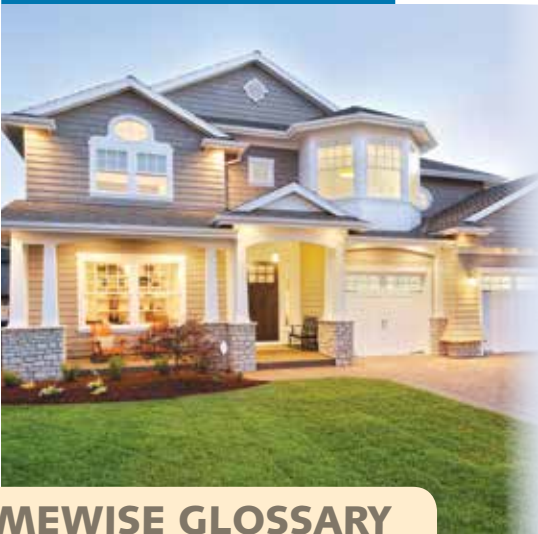
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REAL ESTATE 101



Caution Ahead

Doing it yourself can save you money, without doubt. There are many projects amateurs can tackle, and if you have some technical chops, you could DIY yourself into some equity in your home. But Realtor.com sounds a note of caution. There are some jobs, they say, that you should never tackle alone, including electrical work and many jobs requiring permits. Read more at <http://bit.ly/1nGtWkF>.



HOMESWISE GLOSSARY

Betterment: An improvement upon property which increases the property value and is considered as a capital asset as distinguished from repairs or replacements where the original character or cost is unchanged.

SOURCE: California Bureau of Real Estate

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