

For safety's sake, have flexible gas connectors checked

We've been warned once, and now we're being asked to heed good advice again! The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recently reissued its warning to consumers about dangerous, older flexible gas connectors used to connect home appliances to gas supply pipes.

Consumer assistants at Whirlpool—the leading home appliance manufacturer—are helping to spread the word by passing the warning along through a variety of established media outlets.

According to the CPSC, older gas connectors are not coated and can crack or break, leading to a fire or an explosion. The connectors are made of brass and are used most often with gas ranges, ovens and clothes dryers.

"Brass connectors have been associated with 38 deaths and 63 injuries across the country since 1980," said Ann Brown, CPSC Chairman. "We are urging all consumers with gas appliances to have connectors checked by a qualified professional immediately."

The key word here is qualified. A qualified professional—like a plumber, heating contractor or gas company service technician—should be the

Everything has its place

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A common eyesore to the kitchen is the trash or recycling bin. Consider including a rollout trash receptacle under the sink, in a base cabinet adjacent to the dishwasher, or near a kitchen exit, such as the door to the garage. Recycling bins, which can include divided containers for glass, plastics and compostable items, may also roll out from under the sink or in the pantry.

Storage in your bathroom can be limited. But as in the kitchen, the possibilities of enhancing these spaces are endless! According to Lennier, typically a closet is less expensive than a linen cabinet, but it is not as efficient in terms of use of space. He proposes a tall cabinet for maximum use, and suggests adding tip-out or slide-out hampers, as well as drawers, if space allows for it. Even a laundry chute which leads down to the washer-dryer area is ideal.

Another popular space that can be utilized is the wall above the toilet. "Open shelving or an over-the-toilet cabinet can be installed there," Lennier said. Both of these items are available in stock or

Remember—remodeling your kitchen or bathroom to maximize space can be done with custom or semi-custom cabinetry, or by selecting storage accessories in stock cabinets. There are many styles and designs out there from which to choose to design the kitchen or bathroom that suits your style and boasts a place for everything.

For more information on designing your kitchen or bathroom, contact NKBA at 800 401 NKBA (800 401 6522), or visit the Association's Web site at www.nkba.org.

Mail slots above a desk area and pull-out pantry shelves keep everything organized in your kitchen.

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New kitchens stylish, but useful

There are some serious cooks out there, and their kitchen designs reflect it, according to trends evident in the National Kitchen & Bath Association's 1998 Design Competition.

Many kitchen plans are incorporating more than one cooking and clean-up center, "with serious work zones at the inner core of the room," says Karen Edwards, a Certified Kitchen Designer (CKD) and Certified Bathroom Designer (CBD) from Watkins Glen, N.Y.

"Consumers want everything at their fingertips." Multiple islands, varying counter heights and numerous countertop materials also are being included in designs to make the kitchen more fashionable and functional.

For instance, unique materials such as concrete and stainless steel are on the rise as countertop materials "mainly because of their natural and sophisticated look," says Shirley McFarlane, CKD. The use of granite as a kitchen countertop material also is increasing, most notably in the Northeast and Southeast, according to a recent study by NKBA. In fact, about 30 percent of kitchens designed by CKDs and CBDs in 1996 had granite included in the plan, up from 23 percent in 1995.

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Grand moldings above the cabinets and a mamei-styled cooking area are eye-catching features in a stylish kitchen.



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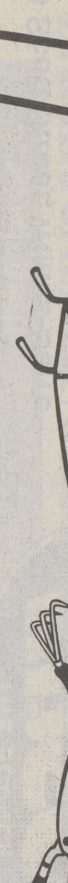
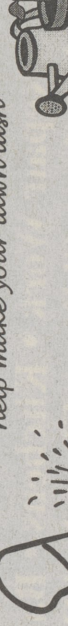
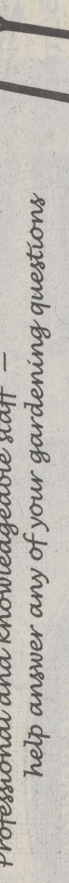
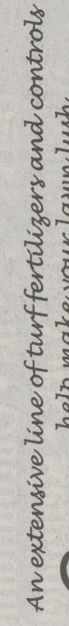
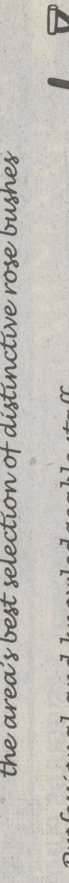
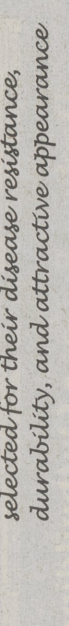
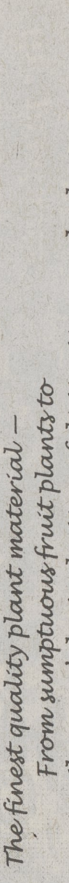
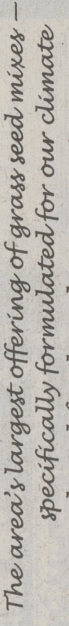
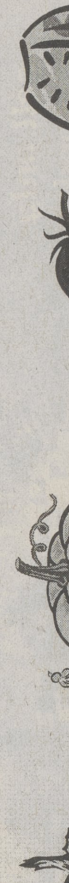
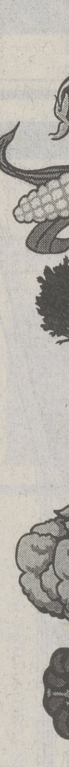
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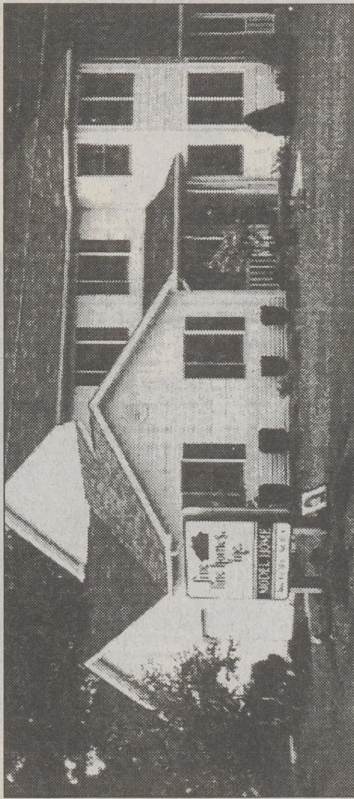


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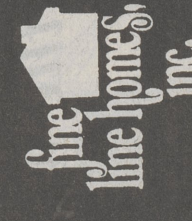
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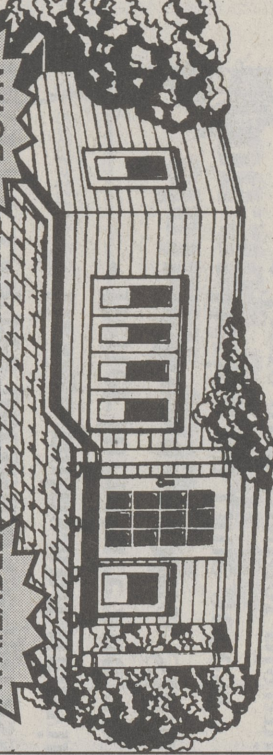
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