

Use your grill for campfire favorite

KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
Dear Readers: Making s'mores with your family is a treat for all ages. It really does bring back fond memories of summer camp. You can make s'mores at home, of course, but for a picnic or campout, they are a must.

A campfire is a really neat way to make s'mores, but if you have only a grill, here's what you can do: After heating up charcoal briquettes in the grill for your hot dogs and hamburgers, use the briquettes as your campfire.

Have all of the fixings handy, grab some sticks and roast the marshmallows over the grill.

You can add some different goodies to let people personalize their s'mores. Try peanut butter, crushed peppermint candies, strawberry jam and even mint patties. Save all the little mints that you receive when dining out and put them in the picnic basket or cooler. Happy roasting!

Heloise

Dear Heloise: I didn't realize all of the dirt and dust that could get stuck under my rugs.

I had just been vacuuming over them without thinking much of it. Now I lift them up and vacuum the underside as well as the top of the rug. It makes a difference.

Catalina in California

Dear Readers: Many bags of frozen fruits, veggies and breads have a "tear here" strip of plastic to open the bag.

Don't toss it — use it to reseal the package by tying it around the plastic bag before putting it in the freezer.

Heloise

Dear Heloise: I always hated leaving my rubber dishwashing gloves on the side of the sink. I felt like they never dried before I had to do the next load of dishes.

My husband put a self-adhesive hook inside the cabinet door below the sink. Now I use a binder clip to hold the gloves together, and they hang from the hook in the cabinet to dry completely.

It doesn't hurt that this keeps our cat from stealing the gloves, too.

Mindy in Ohio

Dear Heloise: My dad hates the way I drip ice cream whenever I'm eating from a cone. So now we put either a piece of cake or some marshmallows in the bottom of the cone.

My favorite is peanut butter. It keeps the ice cream

HINTS FROM HELOISE



HELOISE
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from dripping out and makes the yummiest ending.

Roger, age 10

Dear Heloise: My sister and I love making collages from old magazines and pretty paper. The problem is, my sister gets glue everywhere.

My mom gave me an old plastic container with a lid, and I put a sponge in it.

We poured in the glue until it made the sponge just wet enough that if you pressed something into it, it would get glue without making a mess.

Rachelle, age 11

Dear Heloise: When I travel, I like to take disposable razors instead of my more expensive one. The trouble with this is keeping a loose razor in my toiletries bag: *Ouch!* So now I use a large binder clip to cover the blade. It stays secure, and my hands stay free of cuts.

Rodney, via email

Dear Readers: Depending on where you live, you probably should use sunblock all year long. Here in bright, sunny San Antonio, I wear sunblock 365 days a year. I carry a small tube in my car and put sunblock on the back of my hands when driving. You would be shocked by how much sun can age your hands.

Heloise

Dear Heloise: My husband and I are starting to enjoy cooking together now that we are retired.

Is it safe to substitute margarine for butter in most recipes?

Meryl in Illinois

Generally it is, depending on what you are cooking or baking. The main key is to use stick margarine, not any of the products that come in a tub. As long as the margarine is vegetable oil-based, use it in place of butter. For most simple cooking, margarine is a fine substitute for veggies, a casserole or quick rice dish.

In baking, it can be a bit trickier, especially if you are using an old recipe. I'd stick to real butter, but you can experiment and see how the dish turns out with margarine.

Heloise

Product easily updates fixed inset lighting

By **NANCY BALDWIN**
 Special Contributor

Recessed lighting has its fans and critics. Tucked away in the ceiling, the lights enhance a room by creating an illusion of greater space and openness. Their sleek design is universal, allowing the cylinder-shaped lights to fit unobtrusively into any room.

On the other hand, recessed lights are faulted for removing a sense of warmth and intimacy from a room. Too often an area with recessed lighting feels more like a conference room than a family room. There's little that can be done to change their appearance, and once installed, they are fixed permanently, causing consternation among homeowners.

The challenge has been what to do with the lights when redecorating, and how to capitalize on their function-



Recesso Lighting

The Tahoe fixture, slate with matte-black curved metal, fits on the Twist & Lock ring from Recesso Lighting.

ality while making them aesthetically pleasing.

Homeowners and decorators can take heart. Lighting manufacturer Dolan Designs of Portland, Ore., has created a simple way to turn old recessed lights into new attractive fixtures.

The company's Recesso ceiling locking ring and custom shades allow any 5- to 6-inch recessed light to be

transformed without Sheetrock or electrical work.

"Recesso was created out of my own need," said Cheryl Engstrom, inventor. "My home had recessed lights everywhere with no decorative option to cover them, so we set about creating this line. It had to be beautiful, fit around any recessed light, and had to be easily hung by homeowners." The locking ring attaches

to the ceiling around the existing recessed light. Shades from the company's Recesso line of flush and semiflush fixtures attach to the ring with an easy twist and turn of the fixture.

"The designs fit any decor, allowing homeowners to immediately update the ceiling in any room. If you can screw in three bolts, you can hang a Recesso fixture," says Engstrom.

The ring can be installed without touching the existing fixture and fits around any recessed light, standard or retrofit. Recesso shades have no wiring and use the recessed light as the light source.

For consumers who want to use their own fixtures, Dolan Designs offers a recessed light converter kit with a Quick Connect pigtail and plug-in system.

Recesso Lighting fixtures and ceiling locking ring can be purchased at Meletio Lighting & Electrical Supply in Dallas or through recessoighting.com.

NEW PRODUCT

Fool the eye and the feet

By **KAREL HOLLOWAY**
 Special Contributor

Even in a sleek and spare contemporary house, there can be a place for nostalgia.

Gray Living in McKinney has a new line of old-fashioned vinyl floor cloths printed with designs common in the 1940s and '50s.

From Spicher and Co., the floor cloths bring a hint of a comfortable past, says Derrick Ricketts, Gray Living's operations manager. "This reminds me of what was in my grandmother's house," he says.

The cloths, with nonslip backing, are available in a variety of sizes, from 2 by 3 feet to 8 by 10 feet and a 3-by-9-foot runner. Prices range from \$45 to about \$900, Ricketts says.

Patterns have a slightly distressed look, which also keeps the surface from being slippery. The vinyl surface is easy to clean, making the floor cloths practical for the kitchen. They also can be used as outdoor rugs.

"People come into the store and walk over them," he says. "At first they don't realize they are mats on the floor. They think they are painted" onto the floor's surface.

Karel Holloway is a Terrell freelance writer.

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Schieder Markus



Jupiterimages.com

Floor cloths are printed on durable, non-slip, lie-flat vinyl to use indoors as well as outdoors, with protection. An assortment of designs is carried at Gray Living in McKinney.

HOME CALENDAR

ECO HOME: Village Park offers free tours of its fully furnished model. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays through May 11. Shuttle to house is provided. Meet at the Marketplace at Highland Village, northeast corner of FM407 and FM2499. villageparkecohome.com.

GLASSBLOWING: Vetro glass studio is hosting a Hot Glass and Mimosa Moms event. Participants will help make a flared bowl or large custom flower. Reservations required. Noon to 9 p.m. Saturday. 701 S. Main St., Grapevine. \$65. vetroartglass.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE: Elmwood and Wynnewood North neighborhood associations in Oak Cliff will host a community-wide garage sale at individual homes. Sale starts at 8 a.m. Saturday. Signs will be posted at the main entrances of the neighborhoods. Elmwood boundaries are Wright Street to Illinois Avenue, Hampton Road to Polk Street. Wynnewood North boundaries are Clarendon Road to Illinois Avenue, South Vernon Avenue to South Zang Boulevard.

ART SALE: The Brookhaven College art sale will feature student-made pieces including handmade jewelry, wheel-thrown and handbuilt ceramics, printmaking, photography, painting, drawing and sculpture. Benefits Student Art Club. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Student Services building, Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch. Cash or check. Free.

ELIZA'S ART IN THE YARD: More than 20 local artists will offer jewelry, glass, sculpture, pottery, fiber, wood and more. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 10. 5409 Farquhar, Dallas. 214-674-7345. No pets.

HISTORIC FORT WORTH: Fairmount Historic District's annual homes tour will showcase five restored bungalow-style houses and two new-builds. Noon to 6 p.m. May 10 and 11. Meet at the welcome pavilion at SiNaCa Studios, 1013 W. Magnolia Ave., Fort Worth. \$18. historicfairmount.com.

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