

OUTSIDE/GARAGE/TOOLS excerpt from Large Family Mothering Amy Maryon**

If you are a new bride and want to know what sort of things to get for setting up a home, I would recommend you see what your husband has. You also don't want to accumulate too many things for outside the home, until you know what your outside is able to fit. You may not have a garage or storage shed to store things in. Less accumulation the better.

I would recommend getting yourself a small tool kit to have in the home. Even though my husband has every tool imaginable, there are many times when I am looking for a hammer to construct a piece of furniture and can't seem to find it anywhere in my husband's stash. We have used an ice cream scooper many times to pound in those tiny nails when constructing bookshelves and entertainment centers.

You can get an entire kit that contains everything, or you can purchase separately. Don't go super cheap, because they are not going to be strong. You don't need to go expensive either, unless you're using it every day in a job. I would recommend a visit to a Harbor Freight store, they have good quality tools at an affordable price. Things I would recommend getting:

- one Phillips head screwdriver---also known as a star tip
- one flat head screwdriver
- a mini screwdriver kit for eyeglasses, phones, or small electronics
- a hardware kit with an assortment of screws, nails, and wall anchors
- wire cutters
- adjustable wrench
- pliers
- tape measure
- small handsaw
- a 9 inch torpedo level
- a cordless drill with a screwdriver bit--this has been something I have grown to love in my life as a wife. I used to screw and unscrew all day long until I couldn't stand it. One use of the drill with a screwdriver head and it turns a long job into something done in seconds. They even have cute "girl" colored ones at the hardware store.

There are many simple household repairs that you will be required to do when keeping a home. I would suggest you learn as many as you can from the men in your life. If you don't have any sort of guidance I would recommend YouTube. There are many videos on how to repair simple things in the home. Learn how to do it correctly, otherwise you will have a big mess.

If you are going to take on jobs like painting a home, don't just start painting. Do some research online and look up some simple tips to help you on your venture. Some household maintenance and repair jobs may seem simple, but once you embark on them they can turn into a big job. A little help and advice from someone who has already gone before you, messed up and has learned along the way is HUGE. If you don't have access to internet, as some may not, I would recommend purchasing a simple household repair book. There are many online that are quite inexpensive.

If you enjoy gardening, I would purchase a garden tool hand set. This will allow you to plant flowers for the season. They have plastic ones now so you don't have to worry about them rusting. Keep these along with some gardening gloves in an area where you know they will stay and not get taken by children. I place mine under the sink so that I always will have them. My boys think they are great shovels, but will often times lose them. These are just for Mom.

What sort of yard work you have to do, depends on your yard. A shovel and rake are always good tools to have. A shovel is good for scooping dog mess up. A rake is good to remove dead leaves off flower beds or just for cleaning up your yard after the fall season. An outside broom is a good addition for cleaning off porches otherwise, your indoor one will get used. A hose is necessary for watering flowers, filling up kiddie pools, washing the car, or cleaning off the decks.

Place rugs outside the doors to prevent dirt from coming inside. These can be rubberized to grip the dirt better.

Some tips I have learned from keeping a home

If you have battery operated items and they are failing, take them out and use an emery board to remove any dirt to the ends. Place them back in and sometimes you will get a little longer use out of them. For remotes, sometimes if you just do a little twisting and turning of the batteries while in the remote, it will allow them to work for longer periods of time.

We buy rechargeable batteries for everything. Harbor Freight has rechargeable batteries quite inexpensively. We bought a simple wall charger and use that as soon as someone brings us the batteries. They will cost you more than regular batteries, but will last you much longer.

When storing coolers, make sure that they are completely dry before closing. Place a few drops of tea tree oil on a cotton ball and place inside. This will keep out any mold naturally.

If you have tiny holes in the wall from nails, you can fill in with a non gel toothpaste to hide them.

When deciding where to hang your pictures, place a bit of toothpaste on the back on the hanger. Press the picture up against the wall and it will leave some of the toothpaste where you need to put the nail in.

Sewing tools

Even if you are not a sewer, having a few tools around the home is helpful for quick fixes. This will allow you to sew on buttons that may have falling off, fix a hem in a dress, or sew the seam back into a blanket that has raveled. I would recommend the following for a simple, basic kit:

- a good pair of scissors used ONLY for material and thread---if you cut it on anything else, it will dull the blades.
- few spools of thread---black, tan, and white are good choices
- needles with eyes in them
- small stash of extra buttons
- safety pins for holding things together

I have learned that when buttons come off on heavily used items like on a coat or your husband's pants, use dental floss to sew them back on. Won't fall off again.