

November 2007

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Workshop
for *Women*

"Building Your Home Improvement Skills"

New Class

The Morning After...Closing

(Home Maintenance)

Nov 7 6 - 8 pm

Dec 1 10am - Noon

[Click to Register](#)

Become your own Handywoman!

1 week

Nov 12 - 15 Day

1 weekend

Nov 9 - 12

[Click to Register](#)

Closet Design Clinic

Nov 13, 2007

[Click to Register](#)

November Classes
are Scheduled

[Calendar](#)

Special Offers

\$5.00 off our new class if
you send in your project
photos!



Handywoman
for
Women

Miriam

(303) 335-7588

Workshop News

"Becoming Your Own Handywoman!"

Buying a Cordless Power Drill

Next to a wrench, screw-driver and hammer, the cordless drill is probably the most useful tools you can have in your tool-box.

Consider the following information when choosing your new drill.

Voltage - Cordless drills come in a range of voltages from 9.6 to 18. Basically, the higher the voltage, the more power the drill has.

Recommendation: Choose a minimum of 14.4V for an all purpose drill. Lower voltages don't save much in weight or price. If you will only be using your drill for small jobs around the house such as installing towel racks and hanging curtains a lower voltage is sufficient. Please read about batteries before making your selection.

Speed Range - Most drills have 2 ranges, one low for powering in screws and one high for drilling.

Recommendation: This is a nice feature if you are planning to do more heavy duty work but it is not necessary.

Variable Speed - Most drills have variable speed capability. The speed is controlled by pressure on the power switch.

Recommendation: This is a MUST! Lower priced drills may only give you 2 speeds. (This is NOT the same as the speed ranges listed above). Be sure the package says 'variable speed'

Reversible - Allows the turning direction of the drill to be reversed for removing screws.

Recommendation: A MUST

Adjustable Clutch - An adjustable clutch allows the user to adjust the maximum power of the drill to prevent stripping of screws or driving a screw too far into the wood. Different models have different ranges and settings.

Recommendation: At minimum you should look for a setting that permits switching between driving screws and drilling.

Chuck Size - Cordless and Corded drills are sized by their "chuck" capacity. This is the maximum diameter drill bit that the chuck will accommodate.

Recommendation: A 3/8" chuck is sufficient for most home maintenance and home improvement jobs and are also less expensive.

Batteries - Look for a drill with a quick charge battery. You will also want to check the cost and availability of replacements.

Lower priced models may have replacement batteries that are very expensive or difficult to find.

Recommendation: Something new to the power tool market is cordless tools using Lithium-ion battery technology. When compared to the traditional Nickel-Cadmium the new technology has several advantages. It offers much lighter weight for equivalent power, faster charge times and the batteries hold a charge much longer. A disadvantage, at this time, is the cost which is significantly higher and may be impractical for the DIY woman. If you are in the market to replace your current drill, I suggest you wait a little longer for the price of these drills to drop, you'll be glad you did!

Combination Kits - If you are buying a power drill in combination with a saw don't buy anything less than an 18V model. 18V is the minimum necessary to efficiently power a circular saw.

Comfort - Last but not least, check for comfort. Hold the drill in your hand. Can you reach the controls? Is it easy to remove the battery? Is it too heavy? You may want to sacrifice a little power to have a drill you can actually use!

Project Pictures Wanted! (Receive \$5 off our new class)

This message is to all of you who have tackled your first, or one of many, home improvement projects... Please send me your digital pictures.

I am looking to add a page to the website showing projects that students have completed and I

would love to include yours. It doesn't have to be a big project, remember most of us are doing this to take care of the little things. I believe it's important for other women to see it really can be done. If you have a before & after picture that

would be wonderful! I'm going to start posting my projects but I'd rather post yours!

Send in your photo's and you'll receive \$5 off our new class. The Morning After...Closing (Home Maintenance Basics)

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