



Jerry Green

(Editor's Note: A portion of this question was accidentally omitted last week. We apologize for the inconvenience, and republish it in its entirety.)

Q: We have an existing ceiling fan in our bedroom and I would like to add a remote. The ceiling fan is a name brand with one pull chain and no light kit. I have seen these remote control kits advertised on Amazon and eBay. Are all fans adaptable for remotes and how can I make sure I am buying the right one?

-Joe in Breese

A: Dear Joe,

Basically fan kit remotes are generic. You need to buy an add fan remote which will consist of a transmitter and receiver. The receiver is installed in the canopy (cover where the fan meets the ceiling) of the fan and wired between the incoming power and the outgoing light and fan wires (fan only in your situation).

Basic remote kits are priced around \$20 to \$25 and up.

Q: How difficult would it be to remove and replace two damaged laminate floor panels? I have some small extra pieces or I could move them to an inconspicuous location, like in a closet. The problem is, a bottle of shoe polish leaked onto the floor leaving about a 5 inch diameter stain that also has bubbled spots which span two boards. This went unnoticed for probably several months since the bottle was in a area of the bedroom where I had a shoe rack

Starting from one end of the bedroom I would like to remove a few laminate boards until I get to the two damaged boards, and reposition them so that the stained/damaged boards are replaced or inside the closet.

This laminate floor was here when I moved into the house and I do not think it is possible to find matching laminate to replace these two boards. I'm hoping to avoid replacing the entire floor for a stain this small. It just happens to be in the middle of the bedroom floor at the foot of the bed. I'm not sure how difficult it is to remove interlocking laminate flooring without damaging the boards, or even if a contractor would be willing to try.

- T & B in Mascoutah

A: Dear T & B,

It is a labor intensive job for sure. You didn't say what size the bedroom was but most contractors would probably tell you it would be cheaper to replace than repair it. This is because of the labor costs.

To replace a couple of damaged pieces the laminate floor basically needs to be disassembled to get to the pieces that need to be replaced. Plus you have to be careful not to damage the flooring trying to get them out, which is often impossible. Some of the locking tabs will get damaged and it may not lock together as well upon reassembly. Also you will need to replace full pieces with full pieces.

I have seen it done and it is a big job. You need to remove pretty much everything from the room. Then remove the quarter round and base moldings so you can get to the edges of the flooring. Then you find the long edge of the planks with the male part of the interlocking tongue and very carefully lift and

remove the strips (it really helps to mark them and lay them out somewhere in the same order and orientation so you can reinstall them). Then after you've gotten the damaged strips up you need to find some non damaged pieces that are the same exact size and swap the pieces. Then reinstall the flooring, reinstall the base moldings and put everything back in the room.

Q: My carpet, by the front door has worn quite heavily in that area even though I've always had a throw rug there. I have carpet throughout my front entrance and living room area and have wanted for some time to put down tile of some kind in front of the entrance. My question is, once I cut out the portion of carpet, which will be 5'x3', what do I do with the new edges of carpet (that will be flush with the tiles once they are put down) to keep it from being pulled or torn and does this procedure need to be done before laying the tiles? I do hope this is not terribly confusing!

- T & B in Mascoutah

A: Dear T & B,

Roll the carpet back to expose the subfloor. If you want, you can cut the carpet before installing the floor, but you must leave at least a few inches of overlap beyond where you anticipate the edge of the tile will be.

Once the tile is installed, you can cut the carpet more precisely to meet the edge of the tile or to accommodate the type of threshold you purchase.

There are various types of transition strips that can be used to both protect the edge of the carpet from

wear and cover the edge of the tile, too. Since they vary from store to store, I suggest you take a trip to your local home or hardware store... even a carpet store might have some... and look at the types available.

Another option is to simply have the carpet meet the tile without a transition. The edge of the tile has to be very precisely cut so that it is attractive. Tackless strips...long, narrow wooden strips embedded with rows of short nails... are installed within about 1/4 inch of the edge of the tile. The carpet is pulled onto them, and then pressed into the gap between the tackless and the tile, making a smooth, "string" free edge.

Though you didn't ask for info about installing the tiles, I have one suggestion. Ceramic tile can show a lot of wear in a frequently used entryway. Another tough material you can install, without having to install a cement backerboard, is a

combination vinyl/ceramic tiles. If you like the appearance, they will give you the most durability and easy maintenance. You can even coat them with a sealer to get a semi-gloss appearance and longer grout life.

Jerry Green is the owner and principle inspector for Answerman Home Inspections LLC, a veteran owned company. If you have any questions or comments you can contact Jerry Green at answermanhi@charter.net

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If any of them is someone you care for, you should know those experts also say indoor air can be two to five times more polluted than outdoor air. Fortunately, you can still be breathing clean.

The Problem

The air in your home circulates through the HVAC system and air ducts five to seven times a day. During the circulation process, allergens and other contaminants can settle in the air ducts and then get redistributed back into the air you and your family breathe.

An Answer

By having your air ducts properly cleaned, you keep dander, pollen, mold and the like from accumulating.

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