

Fix It Cub Adventure

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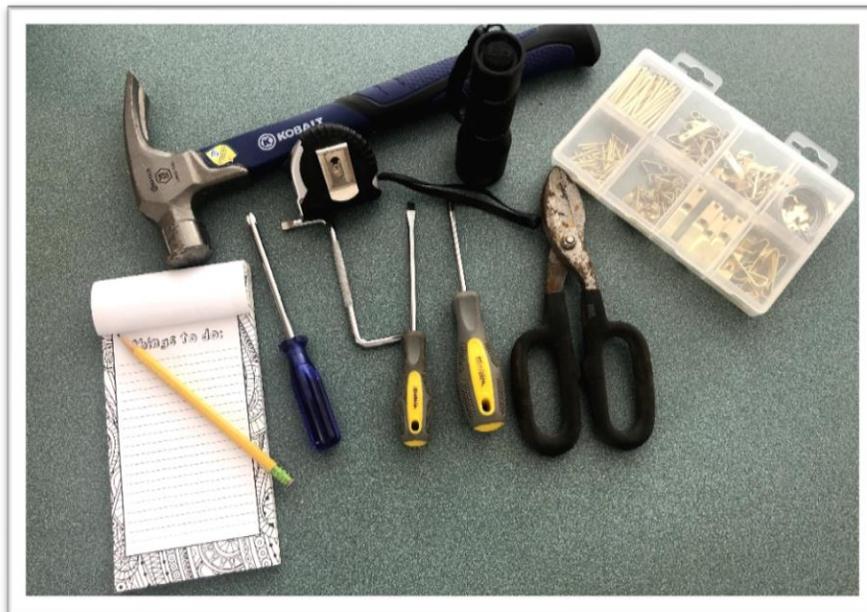
This elective Cub Adventure is designed for Webelos, grades 4 and 5.

What a better time to learn how to fix a few things around the house than while stuck at home!

Summary: (boring information for parents) This adventure helps your 4th and 5th grader learn to do a few things around the house to help you out! We will learn first about some basic tools to have in a “fix it” toolbox, then we will talk about a few different large mechanical systems in the house. We will explain how to solve a few common home repairs issues, and then finally we will go and fix eight different things around the house!

Not-Boring Kid Stuff:

First let’s put together a toolbox for all your fixing adventures.



- A hammer that you feel comfortable using; you want to make sure that it’s not too big for your hand and that you can swing it while holding the handle near the bottom.
- You will want small and medium screwdrivers, both Phillip’s and blade
- Scissors
- Needle nosed pliers
- A roll of duct tape (I don’t have any at home, oops!)
- A measuring tape
- Some small screws and nails
- A flashlight
- Paper and pencil

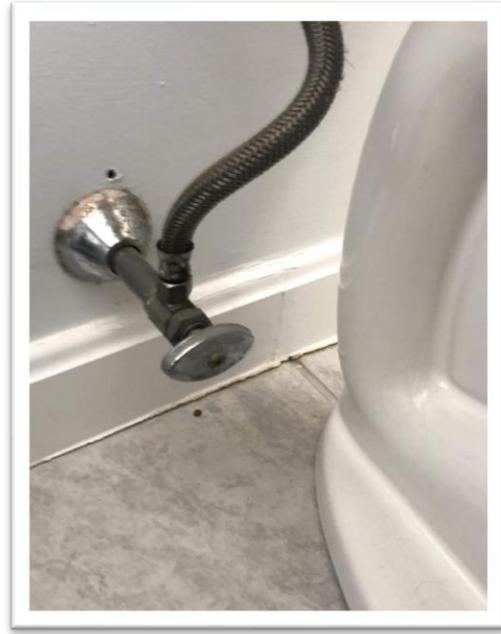
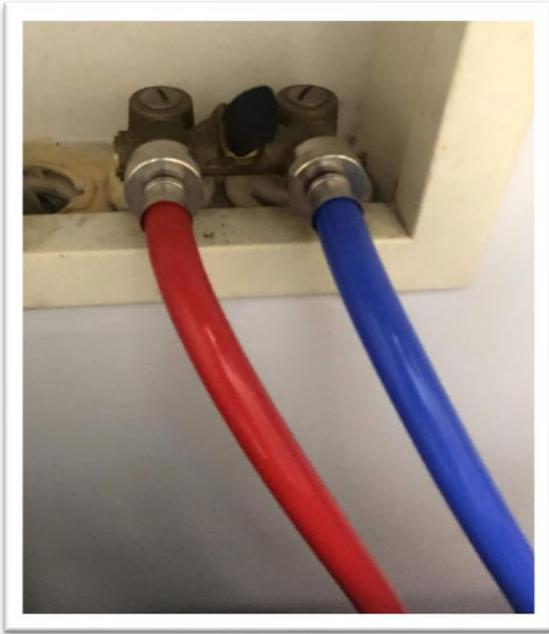
Now let's go on a scavenger hunt in your house! Find the electrical panel. Does it use fuses or circuit breakers? Here is a picture of mine. My house uses circuit breakers.



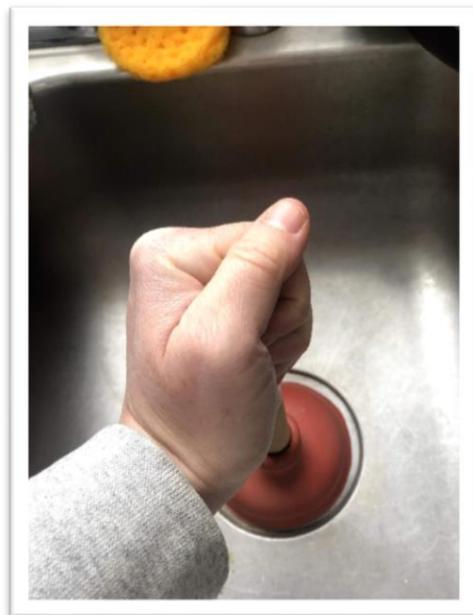
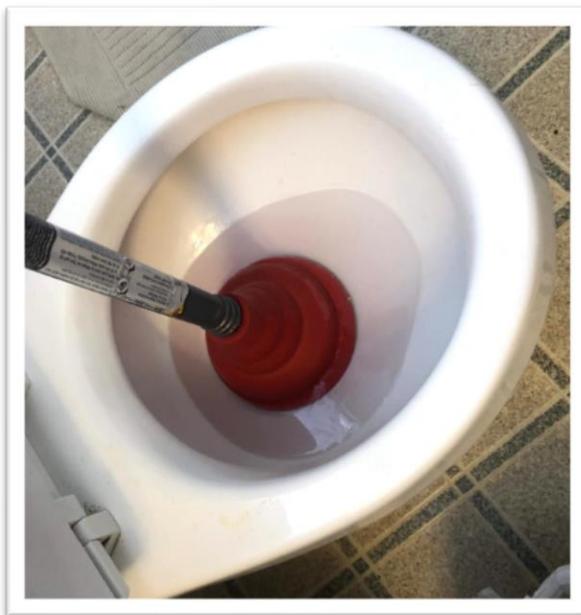
Now find out how your house is heated. Do you have oil, propane, wood stove? Here is my propane boiler.



Sometimes, appliances that use water back up or break and we need to be able to turn off the water if that happens. It is important to know where those water shut off valves are. Here is one for my washing machine and the toilet.



Ok, let's start getting to work! For requirement #3, you need to solve the problem of an overflowing toilet, a clogged kitchen sink, and a tripped circuit breaker. For all of these projects, the first step is to tell an adult about the problem. For the toilet and sink you can just use a plunger; be sure to use a clean plunger on the sink, not the same one for the sink and toilet! A plunger works by using suction to move the clog around until the water and the suction together can get the clog down the pipe.



Also, sometimes when something stops working, it isn't because it is broken but because the circuit breaker has been tripped. This happens occasionally and fixing it can be as easy as switching a light switch back to the on position. Here I am resetting my washing machine circuit breaker.



Ok now let's FIX IT!

In the Webelo book there are 21 ideas for things to fix in your home. We are going to do **eight** together.

- **Replace a light bulb.** Take the existing bulb out of the fixture and replace it with a new bulb. Be careful not to break the old bulb (they are fragile) and determine how to get rid of it safely. Incandescent bulbs can be thrown out (they will look like the one in the picture) but the compact fluorescent bulbs need to be recycled. Check out your local recycling center for more information on how to handle them.



- **Grease a squeaky hinge.** Sometimes, after some use a hinge gets squeaky when the metal rubs against other metal. Use a spray lubricant to help create a barrier between the two metals and stop the two metals from rubbing.



- **Tighten a handle or knob on a piece of furniture.** Using a screwdriver of the right size, tighten the screw that holds on a knob like on bureau. This one comes loose often so I am happy to tighten it up.



You know that old joke, “Hey, is your toilet running?” “Yes” “Well you better go and catch it?” Ok so it’s a bad joke, but a running toilet means you are wasting water and for some people means you are losing money!

- **To fix a running toilet** you get to take off that heavy ceramic lid on top (be careful, its breakable). When the toilet is running, it means that the seal that keeps the water in the tank is letting water through and it usually just needs to be set back in place. If your toilet is running, reach in the tank and make sure that the seal is covering the hole completely. Once you do this the tank will fill all the way and the noise of the running water will stop.



- **Check the oil in a car.** The oil in a car engine keeps the metal pieces from rubbing too much and creating too much friction. It is important for the engine to have enough oil to move through the engine and keep all the parts lubricated.
 - Ask an adult to come out to the car with you.
 - When the car is cold (at least 1 hour after it has been shut off), open the hood.
 - Locate the oil dipstick (see below).



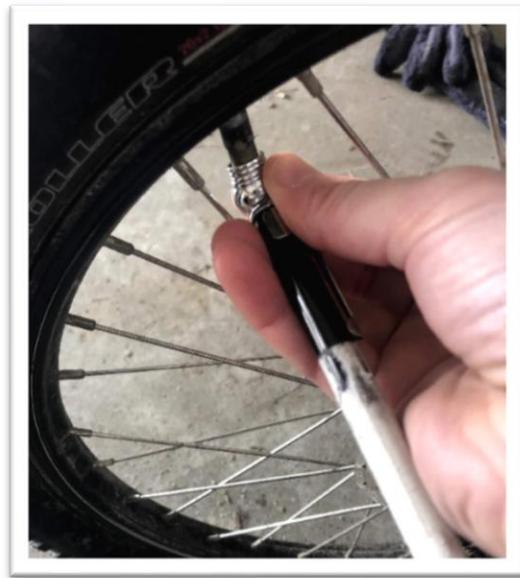
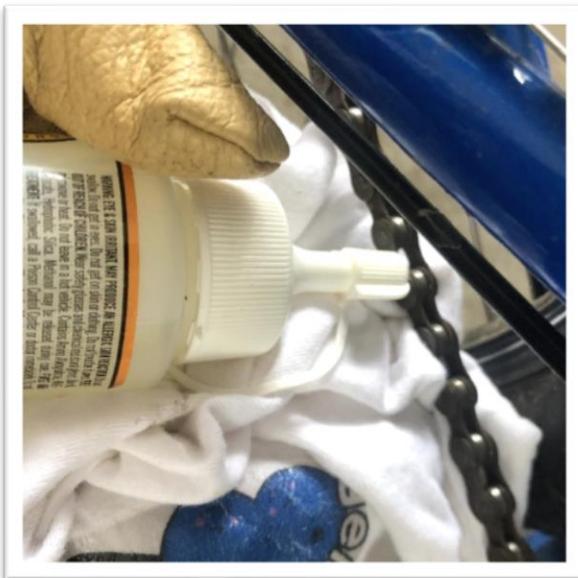
- Pull the dipstick out and wipe it off completely with a rag or paper towel.
- Put it back in all the way, pull it out again, and look at the gauge to see how much oil is in the engine.



- While you are working on the car, **check the tire pressure**. Grab a pressure gauge, take the cap off the tire stem and put the pressure gauge on to see how much air pressure is in the tire. Check the side of the tire to see how much should be there and if you need to add any air. Work with an adult to do that.



- **There is air pressure in both cars and bicycles.** As the weather begins to get warm, bikes will start coming out more often. Depending on how often you ride your bike you will want to **oil the chain** at least once a month and **check the tire pressure** before every ride. If you ride on a low tire, it could damage your tire and your bike wheel and make it so that you can't ride your bike.



- Our last fix it for this adventure is a safety measure. Each month the **smoke detectors in your house need to be checked** to make sure they are working properly. The batteries need to be changed every year. If the battery is running low, the smoke detector will make a frequent beeping noise. For this requirement, change the battery and then test the smoke detector.



This is a long adventure however, being able to do a few of these tasks independently will build your confidence and your independence and will certainly make things run more smoothly in your household! Send me some pictures of you fixing a few things around your house!

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