

## household hints

times staff reports

### Helps protect kids at home

The entire Army couldn't keep your toddler from trying to stick his or her fingers inside electrical outlets. In other words, you need help.

CableOrganizer.com's Child Safety Kit (\$57.84) includes more than 100 items intended to prevent common household hazards among children ages 5 and younger.

Among other things, the kit includes: swiveling outlet covers, cabinet and drawer locks, table corner cushions for sharp edges, clear outlet covers, an extension cord with self-blocking outlets, cord winders for containing trailing wires, and releasable cable ties for wrapping cables or tying cabinet doors.

**FYI:** You can order the kit at [CableOrganizer.com/child-safety-kit](http://CableOrganizer.com/child-safety-kit) or by calling (866) 222-0030. Cost is \$57.84.

### Feel walled in on design?

Oh stop! Decorating walls isn't that complicated or expensive. Check out these design tips from [art.com](http://art.com) and you'll see.

**Focus on one area:** A common mistake is to decorate walls by sprinkling things around to fill up empty space. Instead, draw an imaginary rectangle on the main focal wall in the room you're decorating. Fill that rectangle with a grouping of themed art to make more of an impact at less of a price.

**Choose oversized pieces:** By hanging one magnificent, oversized print on a wall, you can make your budget and room seem larger.

**Purchase already framed pieces:** The additional costs incurred with framing an inexpensive print can be significant.

**Try photo transfers:** Instead of purchasing a new print, take your favorite photo and have it

transferred to canvas for a unique and personalized piece of wall decor.

**FYI:** [www.art.com](http://www.art.com)

### Rock on, home designers

John T. Morris is still living in the Stone Age. And that might not be a bad thing.

**"Stone Designs for the Home"** (Gibbs Smith, Publisher; \$34.95; hardcover) by Morris with Candace Walsh, shows readers what incorporating stone into home design can do.

A stonemason who practices the traditional art form of hand-chiseled masonry, Morris takes readers through his approach and philosophy. The book's featured projects include flooring, stairs, fireplaces, bathrooms, hot tubs, swimming pools, walls, doorways, sinks, driveways, benches and sculptures.

You'll find tips on working with sandstone, limestone, porphyry, Sierra stone, flagstone, New Mexico travertine and more.

### What's new: Sweeping into 2nd century

North Canton, Ohio-born Hoover is celebrating its first 100 years with an Anniversary Edition line of vacuum cleaners.

The company, now part of TTI Floor Care North America in Glenwillow, Ohio, is offering five machines in the line: a bagged upright, a bagless upright, a self-propelled bagged upright, a convertible upright that lets the user choose between bagged and bagless operation, and a bagged canister vacuum. All have Hoover's WindTunnel technology and HEPA filtration – new features for the canister model – as well as fingertip power controls and nonmarring wheels.

The canister, which replaces an earlier model, also has a telescopic wand, a quieter motor, improved mobility and two new attachments.

Suggested retail prices range from \$139.99 for the bagged upright to \$299.99 for the canister model. The vacuums are available at many mass merchandisers and other stores that carry Hoover products.

### Nursery design can be stylish

Paisley on a nursery wall? Japanese lanterns over the crib?

To Serena Dugan and Lily Kanter's way of thinking, why not?

The owners of Serena & Lily, the upscale baby-furnishings company, think a nursery can be stylish rather than childish. Their new book, "Nursery Style," helps readers decorate their babies' rooms to reflect their taste and showcase some of their favorite things.

The book helps readers define their style and then gives them guidance on achieving the look they want. More than 130 photos offer lots of possibilities.

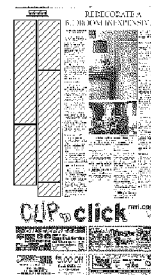
"Nursery Style" is published by Chronicle Books and sells for \$29.95 in hardcover.

### Q & A: How to keep deer from plants

**Q:** The deer are driving me crazy. They just ate half my green beans. What is safe to spray on them? – Sandy Miller, Barberton, Ohio

**A:** Copley Feed & Supply recommends Shot-Gun Repels-All, which is made of natural ingredients. The store says you can spray it on your plants as long as you stop spraying a few days before harvest, but the company recommends using it only as a perimeter spray – one that's applied to the soil around the plants or the edge of the bed, but not directly to the plants.

Lots of gardeners swear by hanging bars of Irish Spring soap around the garden or making a homemade perimeter spray from rotten eggs. One recipe from Rhonda Massingham



Hart, author of "Deer Proofing Your Yard & Garden," calls for blending 2 eggs, 2 cups of water, 1 to 4 cloves of garlic and 2 tablespoons of Tabasco sauce, then letting the mixture ferment in a covered container for a few days before applying. — **MCT**