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Let's Fix It: Home Maintenance and Repairs

Youth will be able to identify the steps and tools necessary to complete basic home repairs and be able to identify why it is important to maintain their home. Youth will also learn whether certain repairs are the responsibility of the landlord or the tenant.

Contents

Let's Fix It: Home Maintenance and Repair	3
Opening Discussion	4
Landlord vs. Tenant Activity	4
Let's Fix It PowerPoint	6
Final Thoughts	7

Let's Fix It: Home Maintenance and Repair

<i>Age Range</i>	14+
<i>Skills Focus</i>	Youth will be able to identify the steps and tools necessary to complete basic home repairs and be able to identify why it is important to maintain their home. Youth will also learn whether certain home repairs are the responsibility of the landlord or the tenant.
<i>Group Size</i>	3+
<i>Time Required</i>	50 minutes
<i>Materials Needed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Computer - Projector - Internet Access - <i>Let's Fix It PowerPoint</i> - Chart paper/whiteboard and markers - <i>Landlord or Tenant Activity Sheet</i>
<i>Adapted From</i>	Preparing Adolescents for Young Adulthood

Leader's Notes:

Opening Discussion	10 minutes
Landlord or Tenant Activity	15 minutes
Let's Fix It PowerPoint	20 minutes
Final Thoughts	5 minutes

Opening Discussion (10 minutes)

Note: Whenever possible, provide hands-on opportunities for youth to practice the home repair skills that are reviewed in this workshop. Contact your local Home Depot for workshop resources and assistance with giving youth hands-on experience practicing skills covered in this workshop.

Begin the workshop by having the youth list and discuss home repairs that they may need to complete. Use the following questions to guide this discussion:

1. What kinds of home repairs might you need to know how to do?
2. What tools will you need to complete these repairs?
3. Can anyone think of a time when something broke in your house or apartment?
What did you do?

Chart the responses that the youth mention and provide positive feedback for each response. Encourage further discussion if the youth identify an incorrect tool to be used for home repair.

Landlord vs. Tenant Activity (15 minutes)

Ask the youth: What is a landlord? What is a tenant?

Landlord – A person who rents land, a building, or an apartment to a tenant.

Tenant – A person who occupies land or property rented from a landlord.

Inform the youth that as a tenant in an apartment or home, it is important to know what home repairs are your responsibility and what your landlord should take care of. Have the youth complete the ***Landlord or Tenant Activity Sheet***.

Refer to the answer key below to confirm the youth's answers. Once the youth have completed the activity sheet, review the youth's responses and allow time for discussion.

Additional information regarding maintenance requirements can be found at:

http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/Documents/1551tl_handbook.pdf

Landlord or Tenant Answer Key

(L) It is January and your heat stops working.

Discussion Note: It is the landlord's responsibility to ensure that every dwelling unit has heating that is properly maintained. The heating must have the capacity to keep

all habitable rooms at a temperature of at least 65 degrees during the day and 60 degrees at night during ordinary winter conditions.

- (T)** You have a nail hole in your wall from a picture you decided to move to a different location in your home.
Discussion Note: This is the responsibility of the Tenant. How to fix a hole in the wall will be discussed later in the workshop.
- (L)** You turn you kitchen sink on and no water comes out.
Discussion Note: It is the responsibility of the Landlord to supply water and hot water in sufficient quantities and temperatures.
- (T)** Your toilet needs to be unclogged.
Discussion Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenant to tend to clogged toilets. In fact, tenants can be charged for damages cause by carelessness, such as clogging a drain with a foreign material.
- (T)** Your sink needs to be unclogged.
Discussion Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenant to tend to clogged sink. In fact, tenants can be charged for damages cause by carelessness, such as clogging a drain with a foreign material
- (T)** The light bulb in your stove hood goes out and needs to be replaced with a new light bulb.
Discussion Note: This is the responsibility of the Tenant to replace light bulbs.
- (T/L)** Your house is infested with bugs.
Discussion Notes: In apartments, the landlord is responsible for extermination of insects or rodents that constitute a health or safety hazard. A tenant must cooperate by keeping the unit clean and by allowing exterminators to enter. In single-family homes the landlord must keep the property basically insect-and-rodent proof, but occupants are accountable for infestations cause by poor housekeeping and for the cost of extermination.
- (L)** You turn on your shower and your water will not get hot.
Discussion Note: It is the responsibility of the Landlord to supply water and hot water in sufficient quantities and temperatures.
- (T)** You drop your ring down the drain and need to retrieve it.
Discussion Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenant to retrieve any possessions lost

down the drain. We will be discussing how to unclog sinks and remove the pipes necessary to retrieve lost possessions.

(L) You come home and realize that there is a leak in one of your pipes in the kitchen and water is all over the floor.

Discussion: It is the responsibility of the Landlord to maintain the plumbing in the rental property.

Disclaimer: Please refer to your lease agreement for additional information regarding your responsibilities as a tenant and the maintenance responsibilities of the landlord.

Let's Fix It PowerPoint (20 minutes)

Inform youth that the rest of this workshop will be focused on how to complete four general home repairs that they may need to complete, whether they are in a lease agreement or in a home. You will need the **Let's Fix It** PowerPoint for this portion of the workshop.

Have the youth answer the following questions:

1. How would you unclog a toilet?

After the youth have answered this question to the best of their ability, show the video clip of how to unclog a toilet. After the video clip is complete, allow time for the youth to ask questions about how to unclog a toilet. Make sure to highlight the tools needed and what steps they would take to complete this home maintenance repair.

Video Clip - <http://www.youtube.com/v/diCcEXNxTJM>

If possible, have a clean toilet plunger available and have each youth demonstrate what they would do if a toilet needed to be unclogged

2. How would you unclog a sink?

After the youth have answered this question to the best of their ability, show the video clip of how to unclog a sink. After the video clip is complete, allow time for the youth to ask questions about how to unclog a sink. Make sure to highlight the tools needed and what steps they would take to complete this home maintenance repair.

Video Clip - http://www.youtube.com/v/9foHjA01z_Y

If possible, have the tools identified in the video clip available and have each youth demonstrate what they would do if a sink needed to be unclogged.

3. How would you Change a light bulb?

After the youth have answered this question to the best of their ability, show the video clip of how to change a light bulb. After the video clip is complete, allow time for the youth to ask questions about how to change a light bulb. Make sure to highlight the tools needed, what steps they would take, and how they can stay safe while completing this home maintenance repair.

Video Clip - <http://www.youtube.com/v/JW2Br1yiwZA>

If possible, have a lamp along with the resources identified in the video clip available and have each youth demonstrate what they would do to change a light bulb.

4. How would you patch a hole in the wall?

After the youth have answered this question to the best of their ability, show the video clip of how to patch a hole in the wall. After the video clip is complete, allow time for the youth to ask questions about how to patch a hole in the wall. Make sure to highlight the tools needed and what steps they would take to complete this home maintenance repair.

Video Clip - http://www.youtube.com/v/nLiJj_lPuQc

*If possible, have the tools identified in the video clip available and have each youth demonstrate what they would do to patch a hole in the wall.

Final Thoughts (5 minutes)

Ask if the youth have any questions about anything that was discussed. Encourage youth to learn more about home repairs (watch additional YouTube videos, attend workshops at Home Depot, etc.). Remind youth that they should take pride in the home or apartment that they live in and ensure that everything is working correctly.