

Don't try this at home



28% of British DIY mishaps resulted in a trip to A&E
WESTEND61/GETTY

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It's dandy to be handy, but DIY can be disheartening and dangerous. So-called simple household tasks land thousands in hospital each year — and now is not the time to be putting extra pressure on the NHS. Other additions may deter potential buyers if you're planning to sell once the

lockdown is lifted. Sometimes it's just common sense to swap the power tools for a paintbrush.

- Just over 36% of Britons surveyed by the comparison website MyJobQuote said they had injured themselves while doing DIY — and 28% of those mishaps resulted in a trip to A&E.

- NHS statistics released on the Easter bank holiday last year show that ladders are the biggest hazard, so bear that in mind while you're painting ceilings or decluttering the loft. In 2018-19, 6,372 people ended up in A&E after tumbling off a ladder.



● Men also appear to have a harder time staying on a ladder than women — or perhaps they are sent up them more often. Consultants treated four times as many men as women for ladder-related injuries in the 12 months to March 2019.

● Unsurprisingly, mishaps with power tools saw almost 4,800 people admitted to a hospital ward, up by 7% from 2015-16. In the garden, lawnmowers are your biggest foe — they landed more than 500 people in hospital in 2018-19.

● By comparison, painting seems like a relatively harmless activity, but if you choose the wrong colour, it could be fatal for your house

sale. The most recent home improvement report from Rated People claims that dark paint colours are off-putting to many would-be buyers.

● Dark blue rooms were unappealing to 52% of those surveyed and dark grey rooms to 49%. Kitchen cupboards in those colours were disliked by 41% and 31% of people respectively.

● Painted floorboards are a no-no for 35% of homeowners, along with dark grey window frames (32%), patterned floor tiles (29%), white metro tiles with dark grouting in bathrooms (28%), and open-plan layouts (27%).

● Fancy taps are also a turn-off, with 35% saying they don't like black faucets and 28% offended by copper.

● If you want to embark on a project that could boost the value of your home, built-in storage is a plus for 54% of those surveyed, along with a lawn (51%), a security system (47%), a paved patio (45%), outdoor lights and underfloor heating (both 41%), a kitchen island (37%), decking (33%), and white window frames (30%). ■