

Put down the drill and no one gets hurt...



AT HOME WITH
Marni Jameson

I used to think there was nothing sexier than seeing my husband walk through the house with a toolkit and ladder on his way to do a home improvement project for me. Not anymore.

Not since I saw a report about how many home improvement projects land amateur DIYers in the emergency room. Now I like to see other men walking through my house carrying tools and a ladder doing a home project for me, because that means D.C. is not at risk of losing any critical body parts.

According to the new study, out this week from Clearurance, an online platform that helps consumers shop for and compare insurance plans, home improvement injuries resulted in nearly 300,000 trips to the emergency room in 2020, the year the report used as a basis. That is a record high.

People. People. People.

I share this news with D.C. to talk him off any future ladders.

“Do those numbers include injured pride?” he wants to know.

“If it did, every neighborhood would need a MASH unit,” I said.

“In the insurance business, we get a lot of claims from accidents,” said Laura Adams, an insurance analyst for Clearurance. “Keeping people safe helps prevent claims and inju-

ries,” she said of the company’s motive behind the report. “We wanted to remind them to be careful.”


Here are more of the report’s findings, which are based on figures from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Home improvement injuries accounted for 3% of all ER injury visits in the United States, or 290,599 trips to the emergency room in


2020; 8% of those patients were injured seriously enough to be admitted.

- Fingers were by far the most injured body part (117,026), followed by hands (37,308) and eyeballs (34,827). Youch! The neck was the least commonly injured body part. I assume that’s because spouses wringing

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