

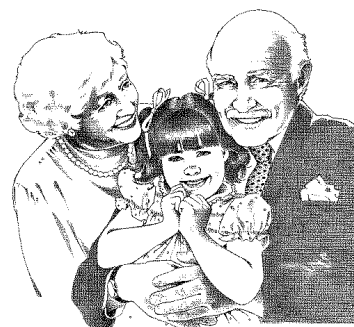
# Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

SEPTEMBER 2005

## Tips for Staying Young

- Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. Laugh so much that you can be tracked in the store by your distinctive laughter.
- Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. An idle mind is the devil's workshop — the devil's name is Alzheimer's.
- Surround yourself with what you love, whether it be family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, or hobbies. Your home is your refuge.
- Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
- Don't take guilt trips. Go to the mall, the next county, a foreign country, but not to guilt country.
- Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.
- Tell the people you love, that you love them, at every opportunity.



AND ALWAYS REMEMBER..... Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

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## Things to Remember

Your presence is a present to the world. You are unique and one-of-a-kind. Your life can be what you want it to be. Take the days just one at a time. Count your blessings, not your troubles.

Do not put limits on yourself. Decisions are too important to leave to chance. Reach for your peak, your goal, and your prize. Nothing wastes more energy than worrying. The longer one carries a problem the heavier it gets. Do not take things too seriously. Live a life of serenity, not a life of regrets.

Remember that a little love goes a long way. Remember that friendship is a wise investment. Realize that it is never too late. Do ordinary things in an extraordinary way. Have heart and hope and happiness. Take time to smell the roses.

*Reminding you to never forget, even for a day, how special you are!*  
—Tara and April

# Planting Your Spring Bulbs is Easy!

Bulbs that are planted in autumn, such as tulip, narcissi (daffodils), crocus and hyacinths, will flower from February through June. So bring continuous color to your garden next spring, by planting some bulbs this autumn!

## A Brief Introduction to Bulbs

The term 'bulb' is a word that is often applied to any plant that has the capacity to store food underground. This group includes true bulbs (such as tulips), corms (such as crocus), tubers (such as anemone) and tuberous roots (such as ranunculus). This ability to store food, which all of them have in common, is what makes gardening with bulbs so easy — just plant, water and the bulb will take care of the rest!

☑ Check the quality of your bulbs before you purchase them — unhealthy bulbs will tend to be soft and mushy. Also compare bulb sizes — a larger bulb of the same variety will generally produce a larger bloom.

☑ Make sure you plant your bulbs at a depth three times their height — you can increase this if you live in a cold climate to ensure survival over the years.

☑ Bulbs don't require fertilizer; however, mixing a slow-release bulb fertilizer into the soil is the best food to use — not bone meal. Sprinkle the fertilizer on the ground after planting, in the spring when there is breakthrough growth, and after the flowers are gone.

☑ You might want to add some sharp gravel in the hole where you plant. It can keep away some underground dwellers who would like to make dinner of your bulbs.

☑ Don't neaten up the dying foliage after your bulbs have flowered. This browning of the leaves must be allowed to take place, as it's a photosynthetic process and feeds the bulbs so they can come back the following year.

☑ If you need to learn more about planting bulbs, take a trip to [www.bulb.com](http://www.bulb.com).



# Selecting the Correct Paint Sheen

We all know that choosing from a huge selection of colors available in a paint store is a difficult task in itself; yet are you aware that you also need to choose the correct SHEEN?

The sheen or gloss of a paint will determine its ability to hide flaws, enhance architectural features, or make for easy cleanup and stain resistance. Selecting the ideal sheen or gloss level for an interior or exterior paint job involves both aesthetic and practical considerations. From an aesthetic standpoint, sheen or gloss creates visual interest, particularly indoors. From a practical standpoint, the correct sheen or gloss can help extend the life of the paint job, whether an interior or exterior application.

Most brands of paint come in at least four sheen levels. Gloss paints, as the name implies, have the highest light-reflective characteristics. Then, in descending order of sheen, are semi-gloss paints; eggshell, satin or low-luster paints; and flat paints. Both latex and oil-based are also available in different sheen levels.

## Gloss Paint

Gloss paints, often called high-gloss finishes, have a highly reflective appearance. They produce the toughest, most durable, and most stain-resistant finishes. They are easier to clean than less reflective or low-luster paints. So, they are ideal for areas exposed to heavy traffic or use, especially those prone to fingerprints or grime. Because of their highly selective appearance, gloss paints tend to highlight surface imperfections.

## Semi-gloss Paint

Semi-gloss paints have a slightly glossy appearance and are less reflective than gloss paints. They offer good stain resistance, are easy to clean, and may be a good choice if you have young children.

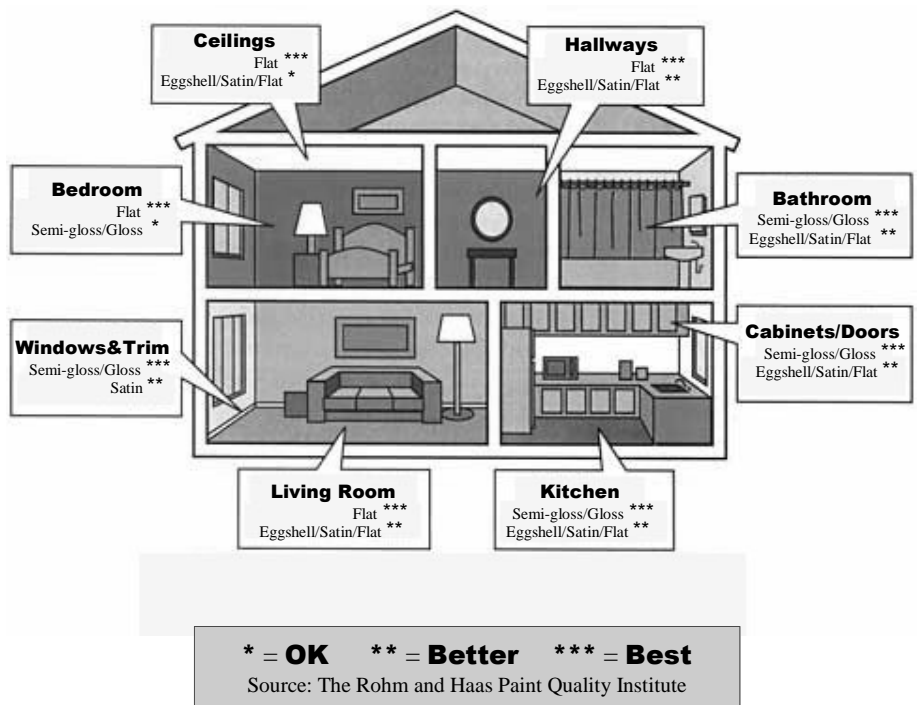
## Eggshell, Satin, or Low Luster Paint

Regardless of the name, these paints have a sheen level that is lower than semi-gloss, yet more lustrous than flat paints. Satin and low luster paints have a slightly higher sheen than eggshell finishes. Paints in this category impart greater warmth and depth to surfaces than flat paints. They also resist stains better than flat paints, although not as well as semi-gloss and high-gloss finishes.

## Flat Paint

Flat paints are non-reflective, so they tend to conceal surface imperfections better than paints with higher sheen levels. This finish is especially good for walls that are dented or rough. Likewise, flat paints are a good choice for ceilings, because of their low reflectivity. Stains can be more difficult to remove from flat finishes.

In conclusion, after you've chosen the color you like, call a professional to discuss the sheen and the brand of paint. Please feel free to call **Ivan's Painting & Design** at [\(951\) 276-0313](tel:9512760313) for a complimentary consultation and/or estimate.



## Welcome New Clients!

*Here are some past clients, and new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" recently. We'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!*

**Leslie Eiring**

**Warren and Mary Ann Gale**

**Jennifer Hobbs**

**Rudy Hoffman**

**Vince and Jennifer Hudson**

*We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to us.*

## September Quiz Question

**Our planet is home to just two mammals that lay eggs. One is the platypus; what is the other?**

*Everyone responding by calling or e-mailing us with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for:*

**A \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!**

*Drawing to be held on 10/05/05*



## August Quiz Answer

**Question:** What is the standard distance between railroad track rails?

**Answer:** 56 1/2 inches. Turn to page 6 for detailed article.

Source: *truthorfiction.com*

**Congratulations to  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Baggett**

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

## See An Interesting Home?

No need to wonder about the price. No need to call a high-pressure sales agent who will just make you feel obligated. Our computers can send you the information quickly and easily, for any house, listed or sold, anywhere.

**Just ask "The Sister Team"!**

**It's all part of our  
Free, No-obligation  
Home Finder Service.**

Call Tara or April any time:  
**(951) 205-4428 or (951) 205-4429**

We'll fax, mail or e-mail you the information on that listing within 24 hours.

# The Pet Page

## Top 5 Algae Busting Tips

#1 Feed your fish Sparingly One of the most enjoyable times for the new hobbyist is watching the flurry of activity in the aquarium after that pinch or two of fish food hits the surface. Sometimes we're tempted to repeat the show 2-3 times a day, which is fine if your fish consume all the food within a couple minutes. The problems start if there is excess food, which is defined as "overfeeding." Algae thrive on both uneaten food and fish waste from what's consumed. Learn to resist the feeding frenzy and only feed once daily, or smaller portions 2-3 times daily; you'll find it's much easier to keep the unwanted green in check.

#2 Control the lights Put your lights on a timer to replicate a day/night schedule; otherwise, if you keep the lights on too long, you may be encouraging extra algae growth. Keep lights on 10-14 hours per day for planted aquariums, 6-10 for ornamental setups. Also, change bulbs at least once a year. Aquarium bulbs lose their spectrum and intensity as they age; this weakened light will likely encourage algae growth.



#3 Increase competition with plants The more plants in your aquarium, the less chance algae has of taking over. Plants compete directly with algae for light and nutrients, and most often win if given proper conditions.

#4 Put some fish in your community to work on cleanup duty While many algae-eating Plecos grow far too large for small aquariums, the Dwarf Otocinclus Catfish is just the right size. This hardy worker seems endlessly busy, seeking out any plant or structure with a hint of algae. Another small catfish, the Cory Cat, patrols the bottom of your aquarium, vacuuming up excess fish food and plant leaves before they can rot and turn into dangerous ammonia and nitrite.

#5 Maintain Filter Media Keep algae's favorite nutrient out of your aquarium with phosphate-controlling media and biological boosters for your filtration system. Poly filters will remove phosphate and heavy metals, and actually provide an indication of existing problems by changing color. Combination carbon-phosphate remover products keep your water crystal clear and remove dissolved organics; the phosphate disappears, and, best of all, so does the algae. Finally, change your mechanical and chemical media once a month, because as it becomes exhausted and saturated, it may leach the bad stuff back into your aquarium.

Adapted from *peteducation.com*



### IMPORTANT NOTICE

"The Sister Team" is willing to donate money to help those who would like to adopt a needy (and doomed) pet from any animal shelter!

And **remember**....spaying and neutering is the most important thing we can do to help dogs and cats!

We are willing and able to *confidentially* help those who are unable or unwilling to spay or neuter their companion (or stray) animals.

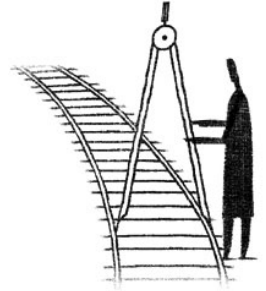
Please contact us and we will donate our time and money to this most-important cause!

Together, forever and always ..... for the animals!

--Tara and April

## Width of Railroad Tracks

There's a story floating on the internet about a "We've always done it that way" tale. It says that the standard distance between railroad rails in the U.S. is four-feet, eight-and-a-half inches. Why? Because that's what it was in England. Why? Because that's the gauge the tramways used before the railroads. Why? Because the tramways were built using the same tools as wagon-builders and that's how wide the wagon wheels were space. Why? Because the old roads in England had ruts that the wheels needed to accommodate. Why? Because the ruts were made by Imperial Roman chariots.



The truth is that there is no evidence of these statements. The tale above has existed since shortly after World War II, but history does not support the claims of the story. The Roman ruts were not for chariots, but for narrow, hand-pulled carts. Although there are many places where the ruts are visible, there are questions that they played a role in English railroad standards 1400 years after the last Roman legions. One of the claims of the rumor above is that the width of the ruts was affected by the need to make the chariot and its wheels the same width as the combined rears of the horses pulling them. There's a statue by Franzoni in the Vatican museum that is regarded as the most accurate known depiction of a Roman chariot. The two horses are wider than the chariot and the chariot wheels behind them.

Where did the four-foot, eight-and-a-half-inch standard originate? Most likely from an Englishman named George Stephenson. Stephenson was the one who started experimenting by putting a steam engine on the carts so there would be propulsion to pull them along. He was later consulted for constructing some rails along a roadway and by the time broader plans for railroads in Great Britain were proposed, there were already 1200 miles of his rails so the "Stephenson gauge" became the standard.

Interestingly, the four-foot, eight-and-a-half inch width has not always been the standard in the U.S. According to the Encyclopedia of American Business History and Biography, at the beginning of the Civil War, there were more than 20 different gauges ranging from 3 to 6 feet, although the four-foot, eight-and-a-half inch was the most widely used. During the war, any supplies transported by rail had to be transferred by hand whenever a car on one gauge encountered a track of another gauge — more than 4,000 miles of new track was laid during the war to standardize the process. Later, Congress decreed in 1886 that the four-foot, eight-and-a-half inch standard would be used for transcontinental railway.

Adapted from *truthorfiction.com*

## In Appreciation of Teachers

An anthropologist studying the native society on a small South Pacific Island decided one day that he wanted to meet their leader.



He had become good friends with the tribe's medical healer and asked him if he would take him to meet the tribe's most important man — assuming this would be their king. Instead, the healer took him to a small clearing in the jungle where an old man was teaching a group of children. "Is that your king?" asked the anthropologist.

"No," said the healer. "The king is the most powerful man on the island, but you said you wanted to meet the most important, so I brought you to our teacher."

## REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY REPORT

### Listed and Sold by “The Sister Team”

#### SOLD (June thru August 2005)

|       |                    |           |                  |            |                  |
|-------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| 3594  | Bandini            | \$335,000 | 2 bed, 1 bath    | 900 sq ft  | 2-car gar & pool |
| 3581  | Beechwood          | \$500,000 | 3 bed, 1.5 bath  | 2064 sq ft | 2-car garage     |
| 5122  | Carlingford        | \$425,500 | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 1600 sq ft | 2-car garage     |
| 3485  | Elmwood Drive      | \$425,000 | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 1850 sq ft | 2-car garage     |
| 5581  | Fargo              | \$399,999 | 4 bed, 1.75 bath | 1532 sq ft | 2-car garage     |
| 4310  | Larchwood          | \$364,900 | 3 bed, 1 bath    | 1038 sq ft | 1-car garage     |
| 9206  | Limonite           | \$337,000 | 3 bed, 1 bath    | 740 sq ft  | 1-car garage     |
| 6749  | Mission Grove      | \$550,000 | 4 bed, 2 bath    | 2305 sq ft | 3-car garage     |
| 3880  | Oakwood            | \$420,000 | 3 bed, 1 bath    | 1425 sq ft | 2-car garage     |
| 3933  | Oakwood            | \$419,900 | 3 bed, 1.5 bath  | 1526 sq ft | 1-car garage     |
| 3564  | Rosewood           | \$435,000 | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 2000 sq ft | 2-car garage     |
| 30105 | Shoreline, Menifee | \$375,000 | 4 bed, 2.5 bath  | 1746 sq ft | 2-car garage     |

#### IN ESCROW

|      |                  |           |                  |            |                     |
|------|------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 4291 | 5th Street       |           | 4 bed, 1.5 bath  | 1830 sq ft | 2-car garage        |
| 2466 | Antelope, Corona | Sold      | 3 bed, 2 bath    | 1562 sq ft | 2-car garage        |
| 4061 | Bandini          | prices    | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 1728 sq ft | 2-car gar & guest   |
| 1275 | Blazewood        | posted in | 4 bed, 2.75 bath | 2145 sq ft | 2-car garage        |
| 3569 | Elmwood Court    | next      | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 1636 sq ft | 1-car garage        |
| 4427 | Larchwood        | “Activity | 2/1 and 1/1      | 950 & 450  | (2 on a lot)& 2-car |
| 3460 | Mono             | Report”   | 3 bed, 1 bath    | 1400 sq ft | 2-car garage        |
| 3760 | Rosewood         |           | 3 bed, 1 bath    | 1400 sq ft | 2-car garage        |

#### AVAILABLE

|      |               |           |                  |            |                    |
|------|---------------|-----------|------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 3969 | Bandini       | \$372,000 | 2 bed, 2 bath    | 2064 sq ft | guest house        |
| 4116 | Beechwood     | \$435,000 | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 1532 sq ft | 2-car garage       |
| 5914 | Birch         | \$589,900 | 6 bed, 3 bath    | 3254 sq ft | 2-car/pool/guest   |
| 3933 | Elmwood Court | \$379,900 | 2 bed, 1 bath    | 1143 sq ft | 1-car garage       |
| 5272 | Greenbrier    | \$429,900 | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 1600 sq ft | 2-car garage & spa |
| 4475 | Larchwood     | \$364,900 | 3 bed, 1.5 bath  | 1320 sq ft | 2-car garage       |
| 5311 | Magnolia      | \$489,900 | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 1722 sq ft | 2-car garage & spa |

*All of the properties above were listed and/or sold by “The Sister Team.”*

*If you would like information on any other property in your neighborhood, please contact us at (951) 205-4429.*



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**Chit Chat**

## *Referral Reward Program ...*

We want to thank those of you who have participated in our Client Referral program! Marketing for new clients costs us tons of time, money and energy. Like any company, we need new clients to stay in business. Over the years we've found that looking for new clients takes away from the time we would rather be spending focusing on your goals, explaining your options, and providing the excellent service you expect.....*and deserve!*

If you refer your friends and relatives to us, everyone benefits. We can serve you better. We send you a nice gift. And we assure you that we'll take the very best care of anyone you refer to us.

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