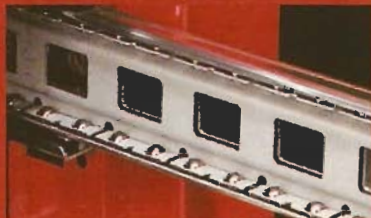


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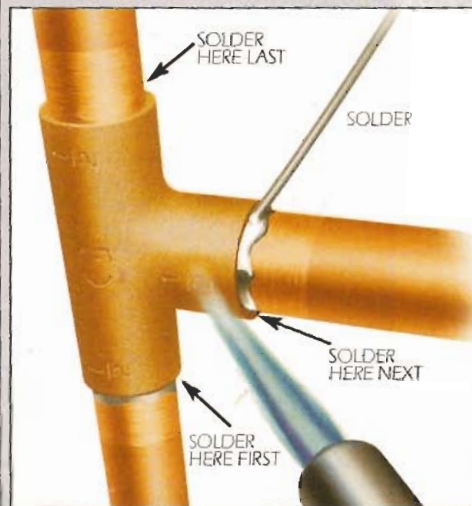
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Soldering Fittings



SERVICE TIP: PLUMBING

Soldering, like most skills, is largely a matter of process. It helps, for example, to find a comfortable position for both your torch hand and your solder hand. Where you first apply the heat also matters. If you heat and solder the top hub of a fitting first (a natural inclination) then move to a lower hub,



you'll drain the solder in the upper hub straight through the bottom of the fitting. To avoid this common source of leaks, always heat and solder the lowest hub of the fitting first. The flux will pull the solder into the hub. As you move the torch and solder up to the next hub, the solder in the lower hub will thicken, forming a foundation that will prevent the hotter, thinner solder above it from running through. It's a small point that makes a big difference. —Merle Henkenius

temporarily (the bricks are held in place with mortar on their bottom face). The spaces between the bricks are then filled using grout—a thinner version of mortar.

For more information, contact the BIA at 703-620-0010 and ask for copies of "Technical Notes 14" and "14A" regarding brick floors and pavements. They are available at a nominal charge. There is no charge for the Tech Notes if you go to the Web site, www.bia.org.

Sealing A Driveway

The surface of my asphalt driveway is drying out and beginning to loosen and ravel. I would like to apply a sealer, but do not know which is best: the coal tar-based products, which require a lot of stirring, or the new plastic poly-based, which are ready to use right out of the can. Any advice will be greatly appreciated.

BILLY M. COLE
AMISSVILLE, VA

Coal tar sealer requires a lot of stirring because it contains sand, which provides traction and acts as a filler. When a bucket of coal tar sealer has been sitting on the shelf for a while, the sand

settles to the bottom. The sealer needs to be thoroughly stirred to bring the sand back into suspension in the sealer. This product is more effective on an inclined driveway during wet or slippery conditions because the sand provides traction. On a level driveway they are both effective.

If you want to extend the life of your driveway, don't wait until it is drying out and beginning to loosen. Driveways should be sealed yearly if done by homeowners, but if they are professionally sealed, then the interval can be extended to two to three years.

For information on asphalt pavement maintenance and surfacing products, contact NEYRA Industries Inc., 10700 Evendale Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45241; www.neyra.com; 800-543-7077.

Exhaust Fan Condensation

I'm having a problem with the exhaust fan vents in my upstairs bathrooms. Both vents leak condensation at various times when the weather is very cold. Is there any way that this condition can be corrected?

DENNIS LINDBERG
STAFFORD, VA

(Please turn to page 100)