

INTRODUCTION

No one can possibly go through life without making a goof every now and then. But armed with the time, labor, and money-saving hacks, helpers, and hints in this book, you can keep slipups to a bare minimum—and have a lot of fun in the process. So, the next time you're confronted by a minor mishap, simply dip into this trove of timely tips, tricks, and tonics to put things right in a hurry. That holds true for just about every aspect of your life, whether you're at home, at work, or even trotting around the globe.

We'll kick off **Part 1** right in your home sweet home. We've packed this part with a heaping of helpful hints that'll make it faster, easier, and more fun to keep your humble abode in tip-top shape. Plus, I'll share a cornucopia of clever cooking capers, along with wagonloads of quick and easy ways to plant and maintain a lovely landscape and the most beautiful yard on the block.

In **Part 2**, we get downright personal. This section is crammed with super secrets and fantastic formulas for getting and staying at your peak of good health and good looks. I'll offer up a whole host of special secrets that'll help give you vibrant, younger-looking hair and skin; remedy a bundle of minor miseries from sunburn to the common cold; and make your daily routine your prime ally in slowing down the aging hands of time.

Part 3 zeroes in on how to maximize your work and money. You'll learn scads of masterful maneuvers for making more greenbacks as well as spending, saving, and investing them wisely. I'll also share quick and quirky tricks for making the most out of your job or landing a new one—at any age! This veritable vault of profitable pointers includes ways to cut the cost of buying, operating, and caring for potentially budget-busting technological gadgetry.

Finally, **Part 4** is all about fun. You'll discover timely tips and offbeat tricks that'll help you live life to the hilt, whether you're throwing a backyard barbecue, decking the halls with boughs of holly, or relaxing on a dream cruise with your sweetheart. You'll learn how to minimize expenses and maximize pleasure on the way from Point A to Point B—and in every kind of lodging from a bare-bones tent to a five-star resort. I'll also clue you in on savvy secrets for taking care of—and enjoying—the vehicles in your life.

And that's just the beginning! Every chapter includes fantastic features like **A Penny Saved**, which showcases amazing all-gain, no-pain ways to cut—or eliminate—the cost of life's necessities and niceties. For example, simply sleeping in a certain position can help halt the formation of wrinkles better than even the priciest face cream can. (It's true; see page 172.) And making one quick phone call before you head for foreign shores could save you thousands of dollars (page 290).



The **Ask Jerry** segments deliver hacks that solve common problems that can present serious challenges, such as keeping your yard free of potentially deadly mosquitoes (page 118). I supply often-surprising answers to questions like “Can you really use tortilla chips as kindling to start a fire?” (page 324), or “Is it true that eating at night will make you gain weight?” (page 145).

Smart Solutions are easy-to-make formulas that can perform seemingly heroic feats of all kinds. For example, the Set-In Stain Remover on page 28 will take out the toughest dried-in stains you can imagine—even on duds that have gone through the dryer. And, believe it or not, the Performance-Enhancing Hand Cream on page 198 will not only soften your skin, but also help you work better and more efficiently. And you can't beat that!

SMART SOLUTION



4 Fast Fixes are just what the name implies: a quartet of quick and easy ways to accomplish all kinds of tasks. Three cases in point: The tasty spices on page 150 can help speed up your weight-loss efforts big-time. The off-the-wall hints on page 342 will prevent one of the most potentially dangerous auto afflictions of all—fogged-up windows. And if you're in the midst of a prolonged job search or any other stressful period, eating certain delicious foods can help soothe your chronically jangled nerves in a major way (page 204).

4 FAST FIXES



Keep It Simple Silly also lives up to its moniker. These tips and tricks produce remarkable results quickly and easily. Sneak preview: You'll learn a no-work way to improve the soil throughout your yard (page 100); a slick trick for creating a super-strong computer password (page 227); and an ultra-fast fix for the annual hassle of untangling bunched-up Christmas lights (page 267).



Hack Busters shine the light of truth on hacks that have gone viral on the Internet, but sound too good to be true. For instance, can you really make a grilled-cheese sandwich in your toaster (page 48)? Is installing a programmable thermostat a slam-dunk way to slash your heating and cooling bills (page 234)? Will turning the bed of your pickup truck into a lounging pool put you on the fast track to cheap and easy backyard fun (page 348)? Read 'em and weep (or not)!



If that sounds like a lot of valuable information—it is. **Goof Proof Your Life!** will be your one-stop source for 1,396 super shortcuts that'll save you time, effort, and money—and make your life easier, safer, and much more fun. So, what are you waiting for? Let's jump right in!