

LIFE



EXPERT ADVICE

The Four Tools Every Home Should Have

Everyone's got the basics: a hammer, nails, a wrench. But a few less-common tools actually prove surprisingly handy when it comes to everyday problems. Pick up the four below, and you won't believe you ever lived without them.

—ARIANNE COHEN, AUTHOR OF *HELP, IT'S BROKEN!: A FIX-IT BIBLE FOR THE REPAIR-IMPAIRED*

1. Needle-Nose Pliers

Official use: Holding and bending wire

Moonlights as: A retriever of jewelry and other small items accidentally dropped down a drain or into a vent

2. Awl

Official use: Starting screw and nail holes

Moonlights as: The tool that's exactly right for those "I need something really sharp" moments, like restarting a watch or a PDA

3. Putty Knife

Official use: Applying Spackle, caulk, and other such products

Moonlights as: A scraper for things you don't want to touch (gum on a floor or mold on a bathtub)

4. C-Clamp

Official use: Holding wood steady while sanding or sawing

← **Moonlights as:** A vise for freshly glued objects (try heels)