

S-N-D's: The "How to" guide to camouflaging flaws

Written by Marcia Humphrey
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I remember when my husband and I had to buy our very first washing machine. We were living in the Milwaukee, WI area; it was our first big appliance purchase, and our budget was extremely tight. As we went from store to store, comparing prices, a Sears employee told us about the nearby Sears Outlet and its great prices. That was all I needed to hear and I was off to find it.

As we approached the location, it looked a little scary; it sat among some abandoned buildings in an industrial park, near the railroad tracks. Having heard about the deals that were waiting inside, I pushed past my apprehensions and went in. I was amazed by what I found; brand new appliances and furniture discounted by 50% or more off regular store prices.

"What was the catch?" you ask. Three words; Scratch-N-Dent. The washer we bought had a side dent-which did not affect its performance-but it did not bother me one bit. I was so thrilled about the savings that I started looking for scratch-n-dents everywhere! Got questions about the scratch-n-dent world? Keep reading and you'll probably find a couple of the answers you are seeking.

Where can I find area S-N-Ds? You will find the locations of the Sears Outlets in the Twin Cities by visiting www.searsoutlet.com. In addition, most furniture (and appliance) stores, like HOM, and Slumberland have a s-n-d area in each individual store. In addition, many stores have a certain location dedicated to mostly outlet items. Call or visit the website of your favorite store for details.

How can I hide flaws? A table runner, tablecloth, placemat, or any pretty, coordinating fabric does the trick to disguise a dent in a table, dresser, or nightstand. Be warned, your friends just may try to copy your style.

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How can I cover scratches? Using permanent markers work wonders to fill in shallow scratches on furniture; whether it is real or fake wood furniture an appropriately colored marker is your friend. While you could go to Lowe's or Home Depot and buy a wood touch-up pen, why pay extra if you don't need to?



My collection of scratch-n-dents has grown over the years and includes many items: like a dining room table, a dresser, and a dryer. Here is one thing that I learned; you could pay top dollar for perfection, or you could be satisfied with "good enough" and save big. As a society we are often used to chasing after our perception of the "perfect", whether in furniture, housing, clothing, relationships, work, etc. By the time we get that perfect thing, it inevitably manages to disappoint us. It doesn't meet our expectations, breaks, is damaged, gets rusty, or all of the above. Instead of putting so much energy into acquiring perfection, practice contentment and recognize when good enough is good enough (Plus it always costs much less). Enjoy!

Marcia Humphrey is an interior decorator and home stager who specializes in achieving high style at low costs. A native of Michigan, she and her husband, Lonnie, have three children.