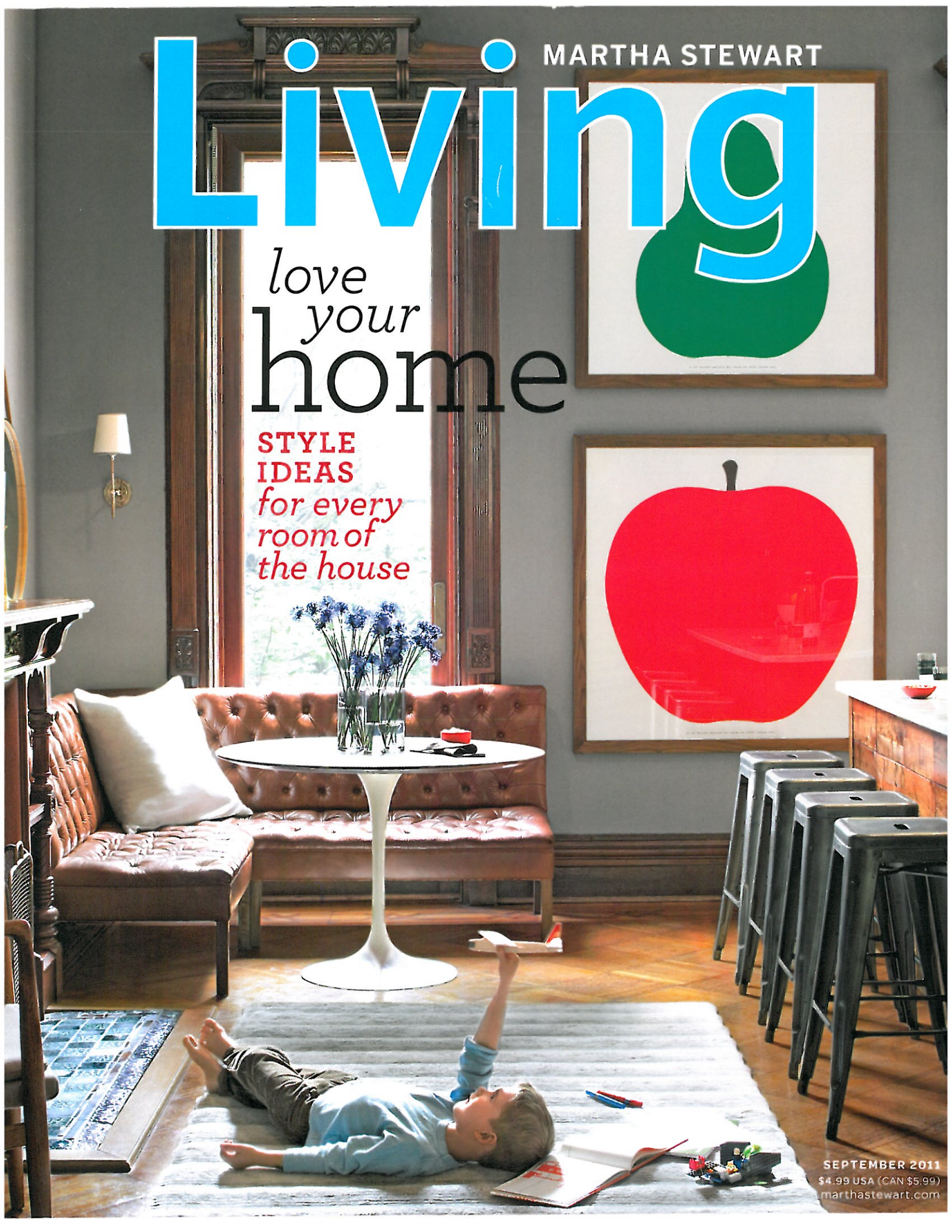


MARTHA STEWART

Living

*love
your*
home

**STYLE
IDEAS**
*for every
room of
the house*



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Renovation Remedies

How to stop worrying about **DUST, DIRT, AND DAMAGE** and love (or at least live in) your house during an overhaul.



The seven-foot zipper sticks to plastic sheeting: Simply unzip it, slice an opening, and use as a door.

These lightweight yet sturdy poles adjust to more than 10 feet and hold the plastic tight to ceiling and floor.

ON THE EVE OF a renovation, you rosily imagine your home (and life!) transformed. Your smile disappears, though, as you try to cook your family dinner in a dorm-sized microwave, which now doubles as an end table. Or as you wipe gritty gypsum dust from every last surface (between the pages of your book, between the sheets, between your toes).

Satisfaction—and maybe a touch of amnesia—will come with the finished product. In the meantime, salvation will come thanks to a few protective steps, whether you're painting walls yourself or hiring a contractor for a complete remodel.

Of course, the best first step is to clear the area of essentially anything that's not nailed down, like furniture, artwork, and area rugs. Then tape over the air vents in adjoining rooms, to contain the billowing dust storm as much as possible. For most everything else, you can try the protective measures on page 104. There is an entire array of ding-, dent-, and dust-minimizing products, including plastic wrap for carpets, windows, and countertops, and hardboard for wood or tile floors. You can apply them yourself or ask your contractor to use them. And then you can go back to those cheery reveries of a finished renovation.

ZIP TO IT

Seal off a work site to contain the chaos. Using plastic sheeting, spring-loaded poles, and an adhesive zipper, you can create a "mudroom" to lock in dust while giving easy access in and out of the area.

ZipPole, \$170 for 4; and *heavy-duty zipper*, \$19; zipwall.com. *Plastic sheeting*, available at hardware stores.