

Canvas luggage is the most sensible to take to a humid country, but if you have leather pieces too good to replace, give them a thorough saddle-soaping and wax them before you start to travel. When you put the luggage away in your new home, rub all metal fittings with a little Vaseline to guard against corrosion.

If you take a piano into a tropical country, investigate the possibilities of "tropicalizing" it before you have it crated. There is an electrical gadget called the "Damp-Chaser" that is made for use on both 110 and 220 volt currents.

Frequent running of stereo equipment, radios, and tape recorders will help keep the equipment dry. If your stereo develops aberrations, run the equipment until it has completely dried out. Stereos usually return to normalcy once they have been run sufficiently to eliminate all moisture accumulation.

Covering typewriters, sewing machines, and other appliances tightly when not in use will help to prevent corrosion. Even "stainless" metals will suffer in humid salt air.

Moth balls placed in drawers, cabinets, closets, bookshelves, etc. will help to rid the area of musty odors but should not be used near film or camera equipment.

During the rainy season, outside porches and steps may accumulate mold which makes them extremely treacherous to step on. A combination of boiling water, Clorox, and detergent tossed onto the porch and followed by a thorough scrubbing with cleanser and a stiff brush should eliminate the mold.

## Hurricanes and Typhoons

When storm warnings are announced, be sure that jewellery, money, insurance policies, and other valuables are where you can gather them up quickly and compactly if you are ordered to leave for a stronger shelter.

If your house does not have storm shutters, strengthen unboarded windows with crisscross strips of adhesive tape stuck onto the outside of the panes. If hit by flying branches, panes may crack, but the tape will keep them from breaking.

Clear the yard of any lightweight objects that might blow around. If you don't have a sturdy garage, park your car close to the house on the lee side, away from the oncoming winds. Set the car's brakes and be sure the gas tank is full. Leave windows open a crack so air pressure can't build up inside the car.

Keep flashlights in handy places known to everyone in the family. Be prepared for the fact that electricity may be off for several days.

Keep a good supply of canned foods on hand all during the months when storms may occur. If one is imminent, fill extra bottles with drinking water. Fill your bathtub with water, too, in case water mains break.

When the storm hits, stay indoors and keep the house tightly closed on the windward side but open at least one window and door on the leeward side to relieve air pressures. When wind stops suddenly, stay indoors as this brief breather may be the "eye" of the storm and the winds will return in full force in only a few moments.

After the storm has passed, be very careful about cleaning up the yard debris. Live electrical wires are often mixed with fallen branches.

## Insects

Insects are a fact of life in the tropics. In many places they cannot be eradicated entirely, no matter how clean your house. In monsoon countries, there are several weeks just before and just after the rainy