

Old Wives Tales

About House and Home



Use a word from the list on the right to fill in the blanks of the "Old Wives Tales" you find on the left. You may only use each word once.

Scatter Solomon's seal on the floor to banish _____ from the room.

To protect your house from _____, gather hazel tree branches on Palm Sunday and keep them in water.

Add _____ to chicken feed to keep poultry from wandering.

Stuff _____ in your keyhole to protect against witches.

Never carry a _____ into the house. If you do so by mistake, carry it out again, walking backward to avoid bad luck.

Never walk under a _____, it brings bad luck.

If you give a _____ to a friend, make the recipient pay you a penny to avoid cutting the friendship.

Never pound a _____ after sundown, or you will wake the tree gods.

Nail an _____ to new rafters to bring good luck.

An _____, hung high, will bring good luck to a house.

When you move to a new house, always enter first with a _____ and a new broom.

Never bring an old _____ into your home- it may still carry remnants of the past, and if it falls, it means company is coming.

Make sure you exit by the same _____ that you entered or you will never settle.

If you find a _____ inside your home it means luck.

A _____ flying through a window means death.

If a _____ land on your house it will soon burn down.

If a _____ nests under the eaves you will be protected.

Ivy growing over the top of your house keeps you safe from _____.

Never give a _____ as a housewarming present -your new neighbor will become an enemy.

Never sweep over a _____ or you will sweep all the good luck out.

Grasshopper

Steel Blade

Black Magic

Fennel

Loaf of Bread

Hoe

Knife

Evergreen Branch

Swallow

Caraway Seeds

Ladder

Broom

Bird

Nail

Lightning

Serpents

Swarm of Bees

Trash

Threshold

Empty Hornet's Nest

Door



Old Wives Tales

About House and Home

ANSWER KEY

Scatter Solomon's seal on the floor to banish serpents from the room.

To protect your house from lightning, gather hazel tree branches on Palm Sunday and keep them in water.

Add caraway seeds to chicken feed to keep poultry from wandering.

Stuff fennel in your keyhole to protect against witches.

Never carry a hoe into the house. If you do so by mistake, carry it out again, walking backward to avoid bad luck.

Never walk under a ladder, it brings bad luck.

If you give a steel blade to a friend, make the recipient pay you a penny to avoid cutting the friendship.

Never pound a nail after sundown, or you will wake the tree gods.

Nail an evergreen branch to new rafters to bring good luck.

An empty hornets' nest, hung high, will bring good luck to a house.

When you move to a new house, always enter first with a loaf of bread and a new broom.

Never bring an old broom into your home- it may still carry remnants of the past, and if it falls, it means company is coming.

Make sure you exit by the same door that you entered or you will never settle.

If you find a grasshopper inside your home it means luck.

A bird flying through a window means death.

If a swarm of bees land on your house it will soon burn down.

If a swallow nests under the eaves you will be protected.

Ivy growing over the top of your house keeps you safe from black magic.

Never give a knife as a housewarming present -your new neighbor will become an enemy.

Never sweep over a threshold or you will sweep all the good luck out.

If you sweep trash out the door after dark, it will bring a stranger to visit.