FALL



HOME IMPROVEMENT

full of great Home Improvement ideas from all the Professionals!

A Special Supplement

Published By "THE CHIEFTAIN" WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2002

Alternative Heating methods for a cold Canadian winter

Most Canadian homes are heated by a central system, either a furnace or boiler usually located in the basement. The heat is distributed around the house through ducts (hot air) or in pipes (hot water). Space heaters tend to heat the area in which they are located.

Most wood burning appliances function primarily as space heaters which are intended to heat a space directly, unlike a central heating furnace or boiler which supply heat to the entire house via a duct system. When houses were poorly insulated and drafty a space heater was expected to only heat the room it was in, and maybe an adjacent space. Modern homes conserve energy more effectively and need less heat to stay warm. A single space heater can now provide most of the heat for a well insulated, average sized house. Planning as always is the key to making this work. Locate the heater where people will spend most of their time and allow the heat to circulate to other parts of the house.

Space heaters include cookstoves, wood stoves, pellet stoves, conventional fireplaces, high efficiency fireplaces, fireplace inserts and masonary heaters.

Each of the aforementioned has advantages and needs a professional's advice as well as a contractor who knows the municipal regulations and standards which must be met when installing same.

Another viable option is an add-on wood furnace. Wood furnaces and boilers cane be installed to work automatically with appliances that use other fuels like oil, natural gas and electricity. Combination furnaces like wood-oil and wood-electric have two sources of energy in a single packaged unit. Add-ons can be installed right next to your existing furnace, but must have greater clearance from combustible surfaces than oil, gas or electric furnaces. All units must be safety tested and certified.

Wood furnaces produce more smoke and deposit more creosote in their chimneys. If you choose a wood burning central furnace be ready to service the chimney, flue pipes and heat exchanger regularly throughout the winter.



Joy ensures a safe flame. *Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston*

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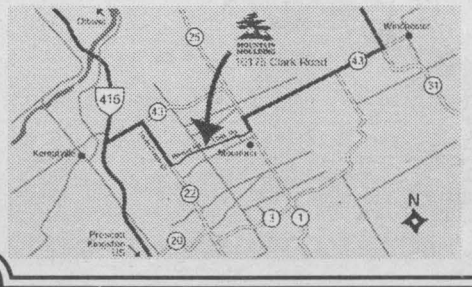
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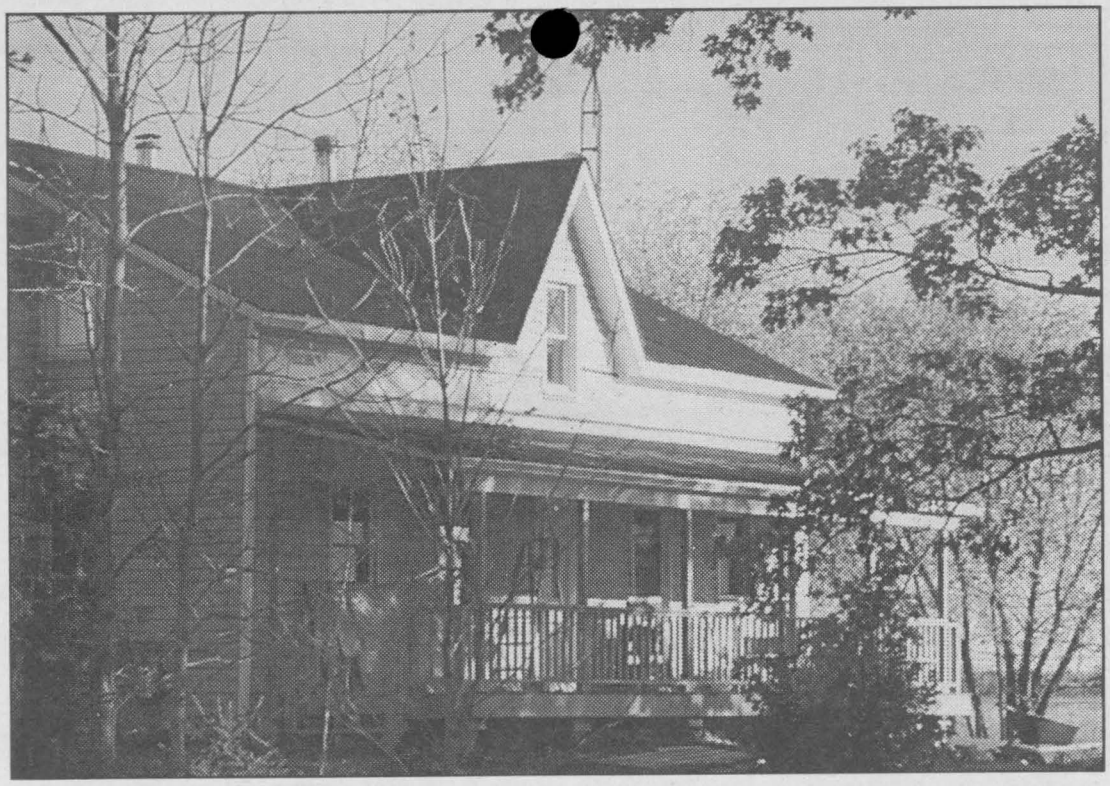
The Fall season is one of change, children head back to school to begin a new grade, leaves turn colour and days grow shorter. With shorter days setting in, many of us feel deprived of a level of sunlight that would naturally give us energy and boost our spirits.

There is a remedy to the gloom in your heart and home. Bring more light into your life by constructing a sunroom addition. Not only will you increase your family's exposure to sunlight but you'll create the ideal space for anew hobby. The sunroom is a perfect place for therapeutic arts such as potted plant gardening, painting or a craft of your choice.

If a glass panel ceiling and walls pose too great an expense, build instead a traditional addition that brings in lots of sunshine with large windows and skylights. To ensure your new sunny addition is both energy efficient and comfortable, make sure it's constructed using the Owens Corning PINK Thermal Wall for 2x4 and 2x6 construction.

Made from a series of home insulation products, the wall forms a structure that creates a continuous airtight envelope around the addition. The PINK Thermal Wall features Codebord Extruded Polystyrene Insulation covering the entire exterior frame, PINK Fibre Glass Insulation for the interior wall, and *Foam Seal* Sill Gasket to fill the gaps between sill plate and the top of the foundation walls-thus reducing energy loss as well as moisture and insect infiltration.

For more information on your home insulating system, call the Owens Corning answer centre at 1-800-GET-PINK or visit the website at www.owenscorning.com.



Tasteful Renovation

This country home has been insulated and received new vinyl siding. Windows were updated and a new roof installed. The final touch on the exterior renovations is a country veranda. Adding charm and a certain quaintness to any home, a porch or veranda seems to be the final touch in making a house appear to be a home. Not all renovations need to be as extensive or costly as they might first appear. Checking suppliers as well as doing as much yourself as you feel comfortable with can cut costs without sacrificing quality. Renovating to original specs can create a historical home.

Chieftain Photo by S.L. Johnston

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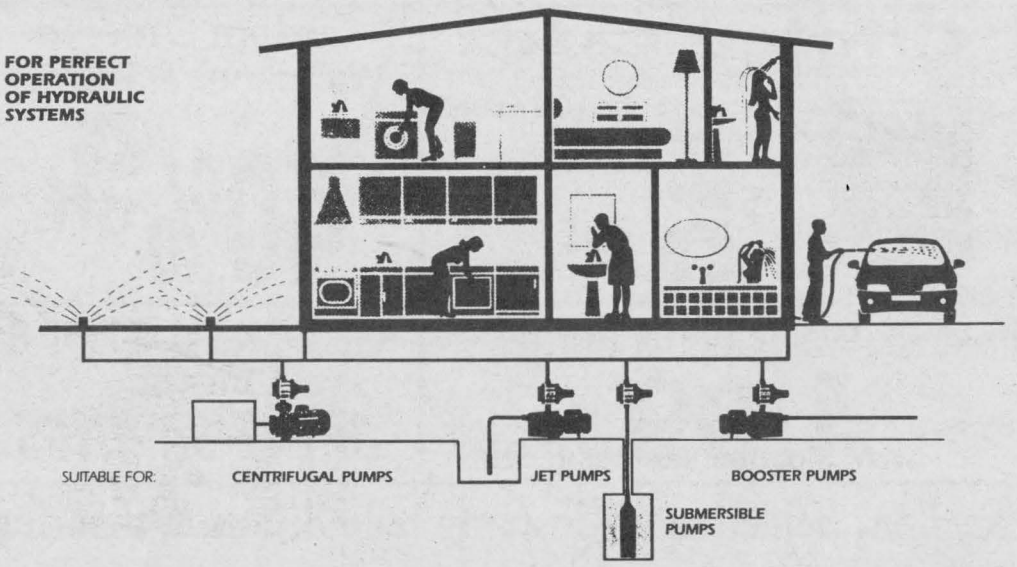
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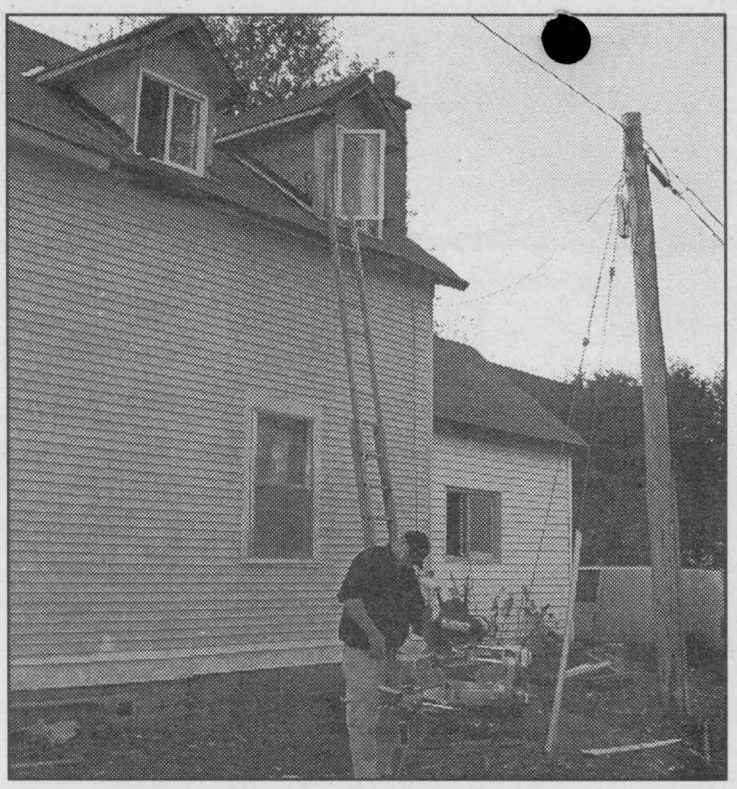
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Siding for Winter

Jamie is busy measuring his next piece of siding. Fall renovations are being completed everywhere. The weather has been great and the do-it-yourselfers use every bit of sunlight to get the job done. Siding transforms older homes into new looking ones in a hurry at a reasonable cost.

New looks for redecorating your kitchen

One can simply look to the Canadian kitchen to learn that cork, granite, chrome and glass are the "fabrics" of a trendy kitchen. Complimented with shades of grey paired with rich, dark wood and the perfect accessories, kitchens can be styled to create a unique and functional look ideal to meet any family's needs.

Home decor is highly influenced by seasons and advances in the industry, according to Jacqueline Glass, Interior Decorator, of Jacqueline Glass and Associates Inc. As one of Canada's leading interior decorators, she revels the key kitchen decor and renovation trends to anticipate in fall and winter 2002/2003.

Go for the Granite... Granite continues to be the most popular material for kitchen counters because of it classic, high-end look. Try combining two different materials such as inserting a butcher block made of hardwood next to the stove in a granite counter top to provide a linear look, while also providing the ultimate in convenience.

Showcase the Cabinets... Cabinets are richer in colour this season, in various dark shades of wood, including cherry. These dark colours are contrasted by other warm tones within the room to create a balanced, comfortable look. In addition, cabinets are opening up, offering glass doors and open shelving to display items like plates and vases.

Faucets as the perfect compliment... Faucets can establish or compliment the decor of a room. Glass recommends the sleek, contoured lines of the Delta Select Trevi (tm) and Delta Select Riviera (tm) families as a fitting match to a contemporary, clean-lined kitchen, and Delta Faucet Canada's Victorian (tm) Kitchen Collection as an ideal complement to a more traditionally designed kitchen. These faucets, dressed up in a nickel finish or a traditional chrome can create the final custom touch.

Fabulous Flooring...soft to walk on and extremely easy to care for, cork flooring is prominent in kitchens this fall and winter. Ideal for a family with young children, cork can be purchased in tiles or it can also convincingly imitate a hardwood floor. Hardwood continues to be a popular medium for flooring as is stone and ceramic tiles that imitate stone.

Augment with Accessories... Accesories are often the best reflection of one's design style. As such, people are beginning to showcase some their finer pieces and family heirlooms. It is now common to see a kitchen decorated with a fine tea set or an exquisite vase that have in the past been stored away. In addition, it is popular to see variations of multiples such as identical footed bowls with different fruits in each bowl, such as lemons, limes and apples.

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Lighting A fire can save $$$ on your heating costs

If your furnace isn't delivering quite enough heat to weather those cool spring nights, you may be thinking about installing a gas fireplace to get you through the season.

You wouldn't be the only one. More and more Canadians are turning to appliances that combine an extra blast of warmth with the architectural detailing of a wood-burning fireplace. A gas fireplace will also eliminate the mess of ashes and wood chips on the floor, the dangers of creosote in the chimney and the environmental impacts of wood heating.

Whether you're buying a fireplace insert or an imitation wood stove, you can maximize your comfort and minimize heating costs by choosing an energy-efficient model. The most efficient gas fireplaces capture about 70 percent of the energy in the fuel they burn. The least efficient are in the 30-percent range.

Your best bet is to look for a fireplace with an intermittent pilot light that can be shut off and re- lit safely and easily. A constantly burning pilot light can consume as much gas as the main burner. You can get accurate information on different gas fireplace models by asking the vendor for their efficiency ratings under the Canadian Gas Association's new P.4 standard. (If a retailer doesn't know about the standard, you might want to buy your gas appliance from someone who does.)

If you're in the market for a gas fireplace, it may be because your current heating system is letting you down. Even if replacing your furnace is the last thing you want to consider, keep in mind that it will be easier to do so in the summer or fall, before the snow begins to fly again. The good news is that the newest generation of gas furnaces are up to 89- to 97-percent efficient, compared to 60 percent for a conventional unit. Medium-efficiency models come in around 78 to 84 percent.

But before you buy any new gas appliance, there's an important step you should take. EnerGuide for Houses, a service run by Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency, can connect you with unbiased advice on ways of reducing your home heating and cooling costs. A qualified advisor conducts a "blower door" test to find the air leaks in your walls, windows, basement and roof, and then uses a computer model to generate a customized report on the most cost-effective energy-saving options for your home. Through an EnerGuide for Houses assessment, you may find that your comfort issues can be solved by something as simple as air sealing.

More than 25 000 Canadians have already turned to EnerGuide for Houses for expert unbiased advice. Visit the program's Web site at http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/houses to see how you can benefit from an energy evaluation today. For the name of an advisor in your area, visit the Web site or call 1 800 387-2000 toll-free.

Warm up with colour this fall

Pure essence

Given our strong desire for safety and comfort post September 11th, it is not surprising that clear and pure colours are becoming more prevalent. These include white, light and translucent colours.

Red hot

The fashion colour palette moving forward continues to add more reds. Fashion, romance, passion and Latin American night life all work together to lend an exhilarating warmth to this colour. Reds with terracottta influence reflect optimism, a new confidence and a strong desire for fun as we enter 2003.



Renovations explode

Checking his work this professional will cover in the last portion and then the painting will begin. An entire new look will happen when the paint is applied.Creating a mood or adding a new dimension to a room comes with colour choices. Take care to plan and enjoy your new statement.

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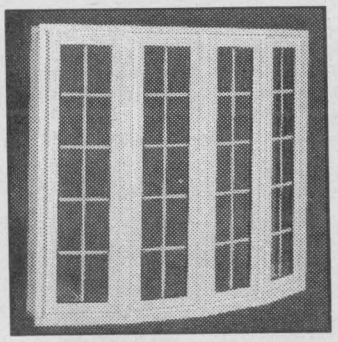
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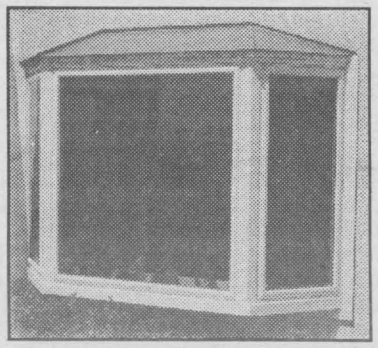
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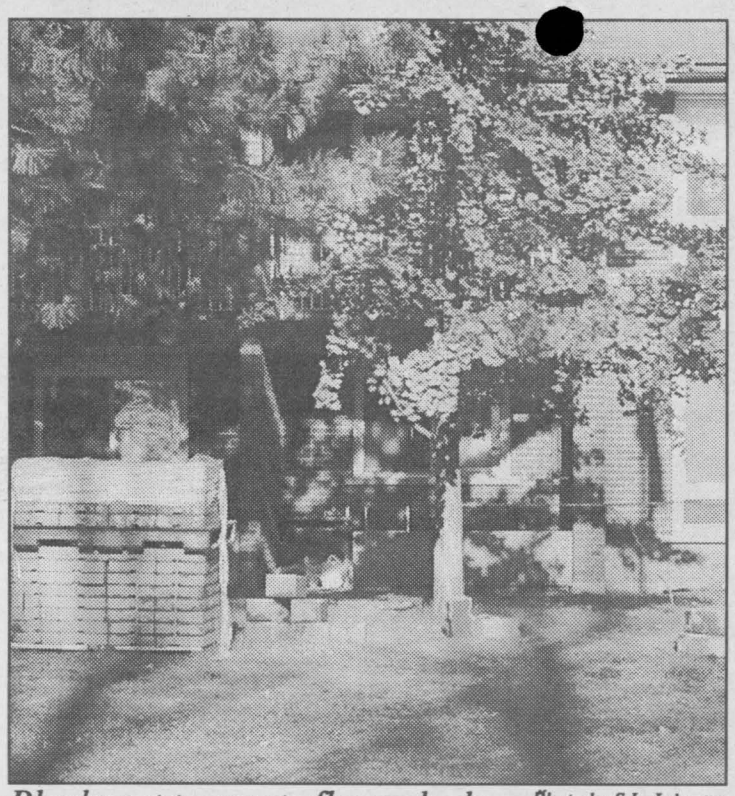
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Blocks set to create flower beds. Photo by S.L. Johnston

Carbon Monoxide danger hibernates

With the return of cool fall temperatures, Canadians are turning up their thermostats to ward off the chill. Without proper attention, homeowners may get more than they bargain for by firing up their furnaces.

Furnaces, whether oil or gas, pose a potentially life-threatening risk of carbon monoxide poisoning if they are either not operating properly or not adequately ventilated. With little use over the summer months, rust may have caused leaks in pipes or birds may have blocked ventilation systems. Every year, tragically, many Canadians sustain serious injuries, and some die, as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning from faulty appliances. Many of these incidents could have been prevented.

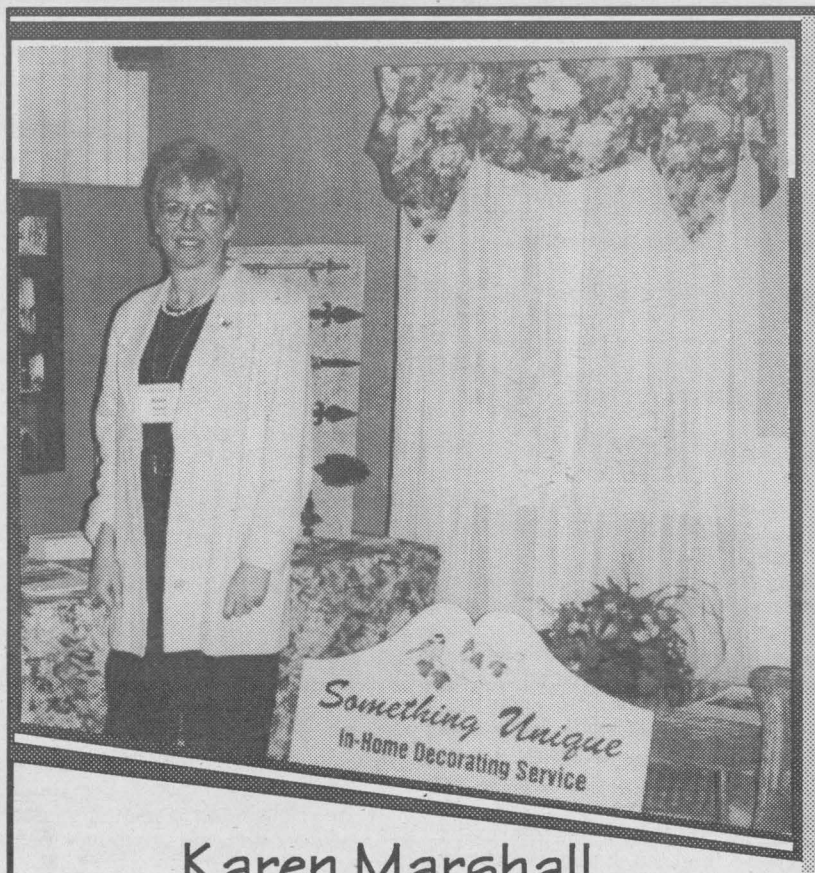
Homeowners should have their furnaces inspected annually by a qualified service technician. Trained technicians are able to detect and repair problems that the average homeowner is not be able to see. They know how and where to look for signs of corrosion, cracks, leaks, blocked flues or filters, inefficient burners or ventilation systems. Many gas companies perform annual inspections free-of-charge.

Furnaces are not the only potential sources of carbon monoxide in the home. Carbon monoxide occurs as a result of incomplete combustion and is produced by many common household appliances such as water heaters, clothes dryers, fireplaces and space heaters.

Because its symptoms mock those of the flu, carbon monoxide poisoning is difficult to recognize. The best defense against carbon monoxide poisoning is to install at least one carbon monoxide detector on each level of the home, near sleeping areas and furnace rooms. Homeowners should choose a ULC-approved model made by a reputable manufacturer, such as First Alert.

- News Canada

Make your fall renovation plans now



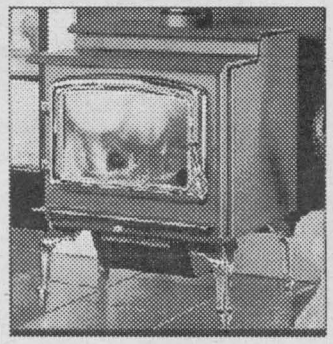
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Is your home insulated properly? Some methods to check out!

Heat naturally moves from warm to cold. Where insulation is inadequate, heat moves from warm rooms through walls and floors into your unheated garage, If your garage has empty wood frame wall cavities without a finish, install batts, poly vapour barrier and dry wall: if there is a finish, you should have a professional contractor blow in loose fill insulation to minimize heat loss.

Some loosefill insulation can be blown in from the inside, outside or the attic. Inside and outside methods require the drilling of small holes through which the contractor will blow insulation directly into the walls. The attic method involves blowing in insulation through a long tube inserted from the attic into the garage wall cavity.

The Inside method works best when combined with redecoration of renovation as patched holes remaining after installation cane be messy and unsightly.

The Outside method, may be accomplished by unsnapping the siding panels of access to the sheathing. Ensure installer patches holes by section rather than leaving all until the end; unexpected rain may otherwise enter and dampen insulation.

The Attic method can be chosen if your home's construction permits, it is the easiest approach, and leaves no holes behind for repair.

All methods allow for the sealing of all leaks and applying two coats of low-permeability paint to the warm inside surface of garage walls to provide a vapour barrier.

Ask your local building material supplier to recommend a professional contactor.



Roof replacement

When remodelling or renovating, the best place to start is the roof. If things are bad up there, the wood base may need to be replaced before the shingles can be put on.

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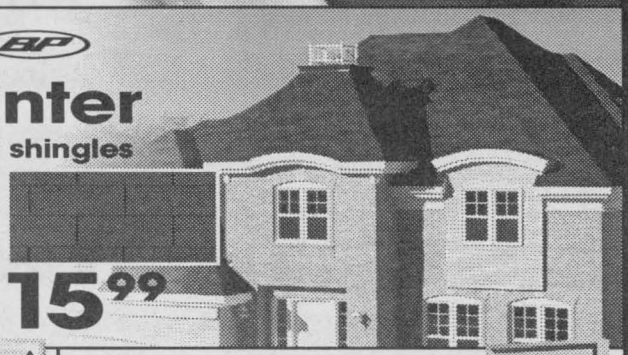
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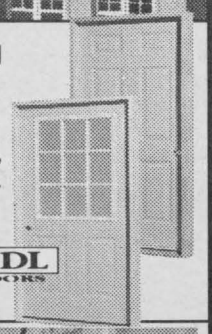
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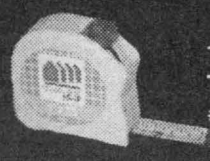
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