Home Improvement

YOUR GUIDE FOR THOSE SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

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Ideal environmental product not a futuristic material used in a variety of building projects

If you have done any backyard construction lately or if you plan to, you may be entitled to a U-turn on the guilt-trip highway.

So often, it seems we hear that something we have been doing or eating for years has just been found to damage the environment or harm our health. Here is a switch; you may have used a product that is beneficial to the environment and not even realized it.

Pressure treated lumber, the wood commonly used for decks, fences, docks, playsets and residential landscaping has typically been purchased because it lasts outdoors and is economical. But, now this long-used building product is getting praise for its newfound environmental qualities.

"If you could magically create the environmentally ideal building material," asks the Marketing Coordinator of Hickson Building Products. "What characteristics would you include?"

You would want it to be renewable and if possible rapidly replenished; to use recycled materials and be itself recyclable; to require little energy to produce; to last a long time; to cause no pollution problems; to be installed with light weight, low impact construction equipment and after all this, to be comparatively inexpensive.

"Well," says Mary Kennedy of Hickson. "This ideal environmental product is not some futuristic miracle material; it already exists and it has for some sixty years. It is pressure treated wood."

Kennedy's company licenses the producers of North America's top-selling brand of pressure treated lumber.

Pressure treated lumber begins with wood, the only major building material that is renewable. The trees, mostly pines, used for treated wood are plentiful, fast growing and grown almost entirely on managed timberlands, not in old growth forests or unregulated tropical rainforests.

Wood requires less energy to produce than alternative building products and the preservative treatment incorporates recycled elements that would otherwise be disposed of as waste.

The treating process enables a deck to resist termite and rot damage, which extends the life of wood and reduces demands on forests and other resources.

"Many of the applications for treated wood are also good for nature," Kennedy adds. "Our Wolmanized wood has been used for boardwalk and viewing platforms that allow people to gain a greater appreciation of the natural world, for tent platforms that minimize impacts at popular camping sites, for dune crossovers that enable sunbathers to get to a beach without trampling down vegetation, for seawalls and retaining walls that limit soil erosion, for highway sound walls that reduce traffic noise, for greenhouses and raised bed gardens that produce vegetables and flowers, for osprey platforms that are attracting these birds back to areas they had abandoned and for other beneficial applications.

"Treated wood is used in national parks, botanical gardens and wildlife sanctuaries around the world."

So, when you finish building a deck with treated wood, you can sit back, raise a glass of lemonade, and proudly toast yourself for your responsible choice.



Chieftain photo by S.L.Johnston

Create additional living space

A deck can provide endless opportunities for outdoor living, entertaining and relaxation. Added touches like flower pots and barrels complete the scene with color when blooming plants burst forth. Lighting is effective in creating a space that can add exactly the dimension you seek. Take your time planning and be certain you know how before you start constructing.When calculating the costs involved, don't forget the maintenance factor.

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PULL-OUT SECTION

Area welcomes new artistic decorating consultant

by Rebecca van Noppen
Chieftain Staff Reporter

It is not hard to see that Karen Marshall loves what she does.

New to Dundas County, Marshall is working out of her Mariatown home as an artistic decorating consultant. While she provides an in-home decorating service, she specializes in stencilling and window coverings.

Enjoying every aspect of her job, Marshall takes great pleasure in stencilling. And it is her stencilling that interests her clients the most. And for good reason. Her stencilling techniques go beyond one dimension and are more than mere decoration. They are forms of art.

Marshall accomplishes a three-dimensional look through the multi-layer and high-quality-detailed stencils she uses.

"The more detail there is the more realistic it is to look at," she says.

Marshall recently completed a garden scene with a rabbit, and sunflowers for a client in Morrisburg. She also created a scene of climbing roses around her front closet. It is obvious to see there is no limit to what can be stencilled.

As a consultant, Marshall charges $25 for an initial visit. However, if the client uses her services, that money is reimbursed.

Every job she completes is unique. So determining an average price for her work is very difficult. The price of her services depends on what people want. But she says she can work within any budget.

When Marshall works with a client, she looks at what that person wants, the way the room is being used, and what kinds of improvements the client would like to see.

"I get a feel for what they like," she says.

Marshall has always had an interest in decorating. She owned a decorating business in the Ottawa area for five years, and when she moved to Hamilton with her family a few years ago she took up a stencilling course.

When her husband took a job in eastern Ontario last year, the Marshalls settled in Mariatown and she once again had the opportunity to run her own business, this time, from her own home.

But now she has an added service to offer since she started stencilling. It's something she finds very addictive.

"I really enjoy the stencilling, but I also love to look through designs and the fabrics...to find what compliments a person's home," Marshall says. "To get a new fabric book is like Christmas."

Marshall says she enjoys every aspect of home decorating. She not only has experience in stencilling but in window dressing, drapery, and using indoor shutters to spruce up a room. Indoor shutters can be left alone or dressed. They also allow for perfect light control within a room, according to Marshall.

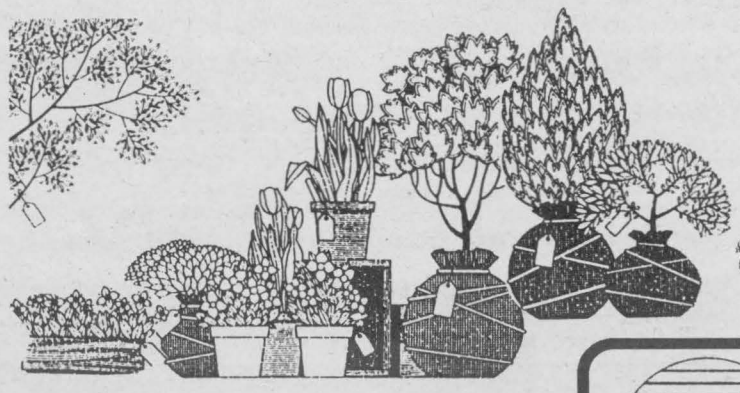
"Shutters are a hot decorating item," she says. "They are very clean and have a streamlined effect.

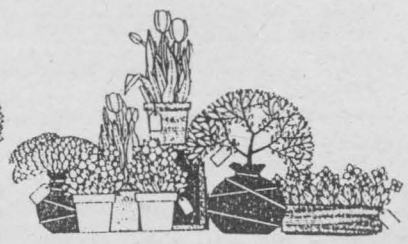
"So they can go with modern decor or they look beautiful with a country, traditional setting."



Stencilling art

Karen Marshall and her home-based in-home decorating service called Something Unique specializes in stencilling and window coverings. Marshall created this stencil (pictured above) around the front closet of her Mariatown home. As an artistic decorating consultant, she can work with any plans or ideas you would like to see take shape in your own home. *Chieftain photo by R. van Noppen*







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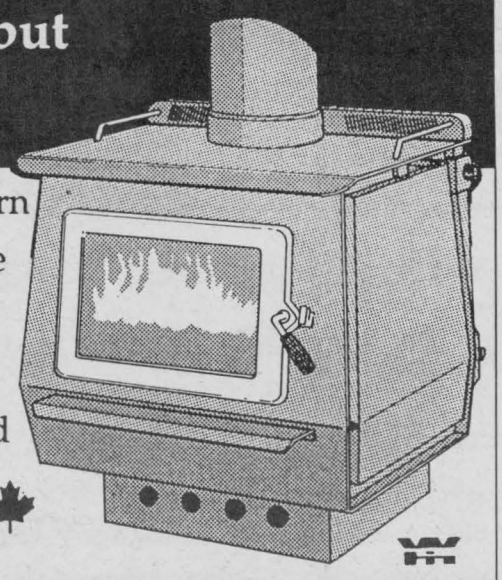
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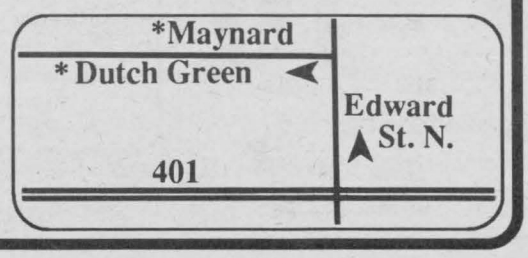
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Basement renovations provide new living space

As people continue to seek out additional living space in their homes, the basement remains a popular area for renovation. Used as a convenient catch-all for years in many homes, the basement has taken on more significance more recently as a great place for a family room, extra bedroom, extra bathroom, exercise room, sauna room, hobby room, playroom, office and so on.

If you're thinking of utilizing the extra living space that your basement affords, take the time to fully explore all the options available to you. A finished basement will also improve your home's marketability, should you ever decide to sell it.

Before you make any plans, identify your needs and budget limitations. Do you want to make it a multi-purpose area- such as a family room, playroom, exercise room, and office all rolled into one? Or do you just want a quiet place to relax or entertain?

A cosy room in the basement can provide a great getaway from the hustle and bustle of the average household. Installation of special soundproofing material can enhance this cocoon-like effect.

If you have children, you may want to create a large, functional recreation area that gives them the freedom to play and relax.

Some homeowners also finish their basements as in-law apartments for senior family members. The installation of a second bathroom alone can greatly improve the marketability of your home. However, it's essential to check local zoning and building by-laws before establishing such a unit.

Whatever you decide, make sure the area you choose to finish is dry and not prone to dampness. If dampness could be a problem, you may want to install vapor barriers or treat the area with special moisture repellents- depending on the source of moisture.

Insulating pipes can cut down on condensation- a major source of dampness. You can also have your basement waterproofed from the outside. Consult the experts at your local building centre for more information. Left unchecked, dampness can often lead to many types of problems in a finished area, such as mildew and rot- the last things you'll want in your nicely finished basement!

How much space?

Once you've determined your needs and have figured out your budget, it's time to decide just how much space you'll require. Do you want to finish off the entire basement, or just a portion of it? Will you be using it to entertain or will it be strictly for family use?

Measure your space accurately and draw up a floor plan to give you a precise picture of the area you have to work with.

While planning your finishing project, also keep your electrical and plumbing requirements in mind. For example, if you're a photography buff and intend to install a darkroom in your basement, you'll want to access existing plumbing, and will need at least one electrical outlet in your new room. As a result, you'll probably want to consult with an electrician and a plumber to make sure the job is done properly.

You'll also have to consider how you're going to heat these areas. If you have forced air heating ducts in your house, you should be able to access them and install new heating outlets for these rooms. You may also want to use electric baseboard heating.

If height is a problem in your basement, you may want to lower your basement floor by excavating it. This can be a costly procedure that must be done correctly, so make sure you contemplate all your options carefully before taking this route.

Other considerations

What types of flooring and wall materials do you want to install? In the past, floor tile and dark wooden panelling were fairly common features of rec rooms.

Today, the choices are endless; materials are available in a wide range of textures and durability.

Many people opt for wall-to-wall carpeting as a good way of retaining warmth, because basement rooms tend to be somewhat cooler than the rest of the house.

Tiles are another option. In some cases, you may simply want to paint the concrete floor.

Before installing your flooring, you might want to put down a vapor barrier, some insulation and a subfloor. This will help keep dampness from the concrete floor from seeping into the flooring and will also help keep the floor warmer.

For walls, many homeowners choose to install drywall instead of more traditional panelling. This allows for a more finished look that can be painted any colour.

Stucco is another option but it can be more difficult to clean. As with the floor, it's a good idea to insulate your basement walls before finishing them.

If you don't have specific ideas about the type of finished basement you'd like, try looking at some decorating or home improvement magazines. You may even want to talk to a design consultant.

Whatever route you choose, remember to keep your needs and a realistic budget in mind.

Approach window replacement with additional caution and be cost effective

If you're using a contractor to do a window replacement, there are two installation techniques that are commonly used. Each will have a different effect on the cost of the project. When you're comparing prices make sure the quotes are based on the same technique. If you're doing the project yourself, you can also use either technique.

The most energy efficient installation practice is the "Rough Opening" technique. In this case the old window is completely removed and the opening is taken right back to the studs and exterior wall. Key benefits to this technique are that the installation can be properly insulated, any damaged supporting wood can be repaired or replaced and the new window has just as much glass area as before. However this is the more expensive method and, if you have unique wood trim on the inside of your window, it may not be reusable.

The second method is the "Existing Opening" technique. With this method, only the glass from your old window is removed and a new window frame, including glass, is placed in the opening.

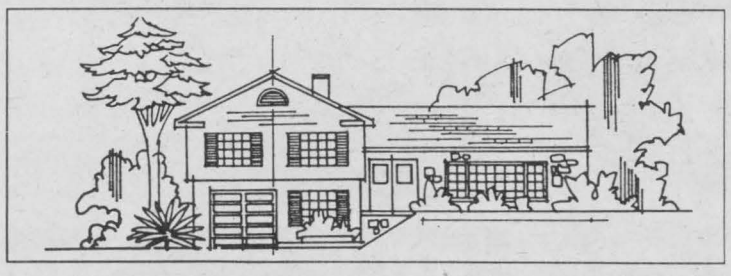
This costs less, can be done more quickly and your existing window trim remains intact. There are, however, some disadvantages to this method. The old window opening behind the interior trim is just as leaky as before and that may offset any energy savings that you gain from a better window. Also, your new glass area might be smaller than before, and the exterior casing will be larger since you now have a window frame within a window frame.

Choosing a contractor

Unfortunately, many people choose contractors on price alone. It's a good idea to remember that the old maxim, "You get what you pay for," is all too often true.

As with any other job, make sure that the quote for the work is provided in writing and in detail. Is the quote based on a rough opening or an existing opening? How long has the contractor been in business? Does he belong to any trade associations? If so, which ones? Can he provide you with referrals? Does he have a business license? What type of warranty does he offer on the installation?

You can obtain a list of contractors who install windows to the Ontario Hydro Installation Standard in your area by calling your local Hydro office.



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No job too big or too small Rick McKee does them all

by Michael Bailey
Chieftain Staff Reporter

There is no job too large or small. In fact, Richard McKee of McKee Interior and Exterior Painting and Wallpapering has even employed his skills to paint a window frame or a single door.

"I've had a lot of customers who have wanted a window sill painted or a door and for one reason or another they couldn't do it themselves," Mr. McKee explained. "There is no job we won't do, anything at all."

McKee has been self employed since 1991. He began his trade in the painting, wallpapering and ceramic tile business in 1986 and with a regular clientele, business has been good.

With a great deal of people out of work, McKee has noticed an increase in the number of small time entrepenuers who "pick up a brush" and start a business, but he takes pride in the work he has done and believes there is more to the job than just "slapping on a coat of paint."

"I spend upwards of four or five hours a week reading up on the new materials," commented Mr. McKee. "There is always a new technique or a new type of material and you have to know what's available and how to use it."

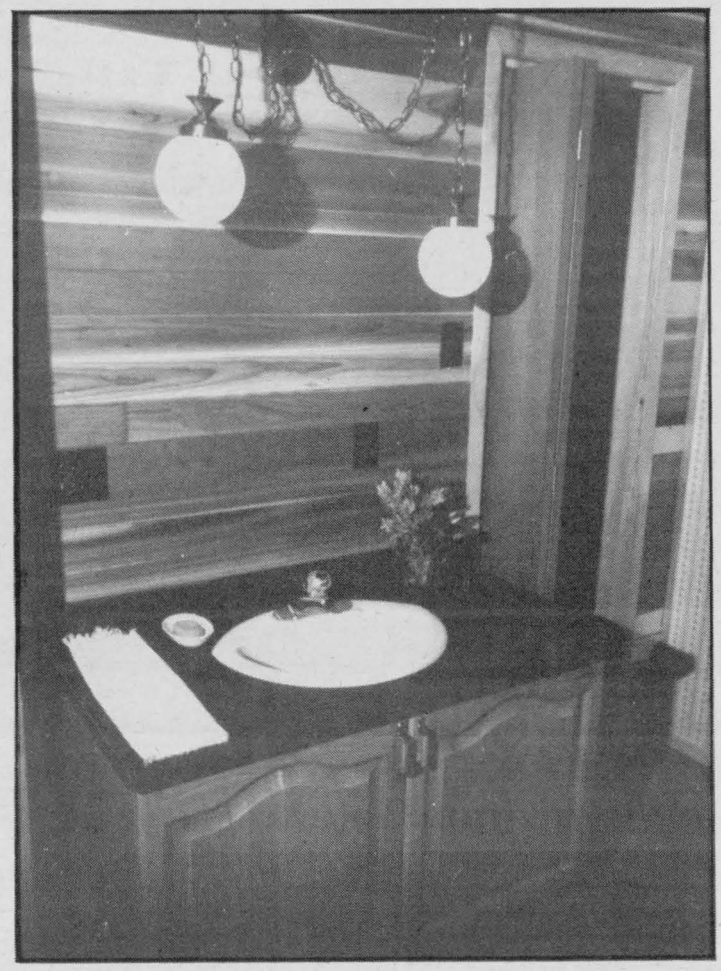
Approximately 80 percent of his work comes from word of mouth, satisfied customers who ask him to return or recommend him to a friend. The other 20 percent comes from contractors.

"When business is slow I'll look around for contracts but that is all hit and miss," said McKee. "They don't come to you, you have to find them."

With an increase in the number of people who work in this trade it has been hard to find that "big job" and the tendering process can be a difficult one. However, he has most recently been awarded a housing tender in Brockville.

"If you're not careful you can price yourself out of a job," explained Mr. McKee.

He has stayed in his trade through the tough times and has a personal commitment to excellence in the work place. All estimates are free and if you need an experienced worker, you can reach Mr. McKee at (613) 652-1844.



Be creative using natural wood

After a tough day at work, everyone enjoys taking a long. steamy, hot shower. Your idea of relaxation may include a leisurely soak in the tub, undisturbed. No matter if the lighting is soft, and the natural appeal of wood creates a soothing atmosphere, the stress of the day will ease away. Be creative and individual in your renovations. Placing the mirror on another wall helps too.

Chieftain photo by S.L.Johnston



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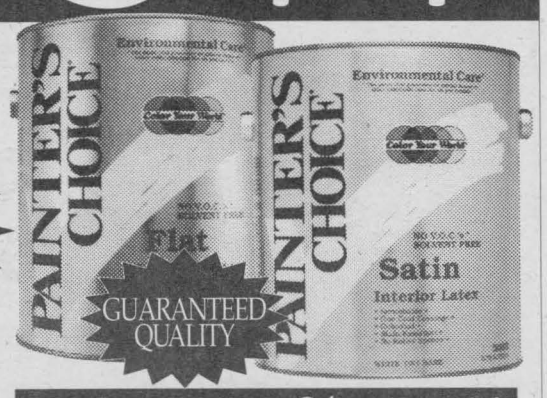


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Be refreshed in your own backyard pool

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Swimming pools are not limited to spacious backyards. A pool often is the most efficient way to treat even the smallest of yards.

Custom made pools offer benefits that conventional pools can't match. Whether blending the pool into a rustic backyard or settling it into a yard to add interest to a dull landscape, you and your space dictate what type, shape and look your pool will take.

Lap pools are excellent for people who swim for exercise. They take up less yard space than traditional, wider pools do. If you do not want your yard space dominated by a pool, a lap pool may be the best choice. Allowing room for swimming and for lawn sports as well, you are able to have the best of both worlds.

A deck around a pool can make the difference between an ordinary pool and a splashy, summertime retreat. Varying the levels of the deck can be exciting. Allowing different family members to entertain in the same backyard at the same time is certainly the best use of the space.

A pool side shelter provides a cool escape after a swim. When a shelter is added to the area, conveniently located close to the water, it can offer shady relief. It should be compatible with both the pool and the landscape...not be an imposing feature in a yard.

Spas and hot tubs offer recreation where swimming pools won't fit or are not desired.

Gazebos harbour a variety of items in a yard. Shading a spa or a table and chairs, benches can be constructed inside and these can be used for outdoor entertaining in a relaxing atmosphere almost year round. Spas fit into tight corners and provide hours of enjoyment for everyone. Unwinding in a spa or hot tub can become habit forming.

Pools and spas can make staying home seem like a vacation. They have the ability to bring families together, and can become the focal point of a home for a variety of activities everyone in the family enjoys. From swimming, to soaking, relaxing, playing , entertaining, laughing and chatting... the pool can become a meeting spot for the family after a busy day.

Cleaning the pool used to be a tedious task that no one wanted to undertake. Now, through automation, maintenance becomes easier, though more costly. Remember, the less time spent cleaning can mean more time to enjoy the pool. Chemical dispensers, computerized control systems and automatic pool cleaners all contribute to the time left for fun and not tedious tasks before the fun can begin.

Whether you use the pool as a form of keeping fit, or a place to be with loved ones, it serves a purpose that cannot be counted in dollars and cents. The rewards will be reaped for years, by all family members.





Cool off in the pool

A familiar sight these days is a pool being dug in a backyard near you. A great way to spend those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, a pool is a terrific addition to your home. A recreational tool that provides for every member of the family, some sort of activity, a pool can be a wise investment in your future. Use a reputable contractor and you will be diving in soon. Upkeep is getting easier and more cost effective as new appliances come on the market...more time for fun and less work - yes!

Chieftain photo by S.L.Johnston

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Beware - renovations can be a challenge

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

When renovations or improvements are on the agenda, there are some basic things to keep in mind. It is best to save time and trouble by evaluating your skills before you start. A project as large as a deck, for instance requires experience with tools and basic building methods. An experienced friend may be able to help, but even good friends can tire when a project takes several months.

Always remember to check with municipal laws, utility companies and Bell before you start to build. Be certain you will not be interfering with any underground cables or pipes, lines or wires and are well within the laws for your area. A building permit may be necessary to complete the task you have planned. Once the work is complete, it is not nice to find out you have to tear it down or remove it due to infringement on a by-law.

Use as many pre cut pieces as possible. An example is a deck where post caps, ball caps and handrails are precut and ready to install. Always wear gloves to avoid splinter. Using galvanized screws, nails and connectors to build outside will ensure a longer life for your structure. Galvanized metal resists rusting which can stain wood and weaken the structure.

To reduce splitting when securing the deck floor in place, drill a pilot hole slightly smaller than the screw hole. If using nails to attach the floor, blunt the nail point by striking with a hammer.

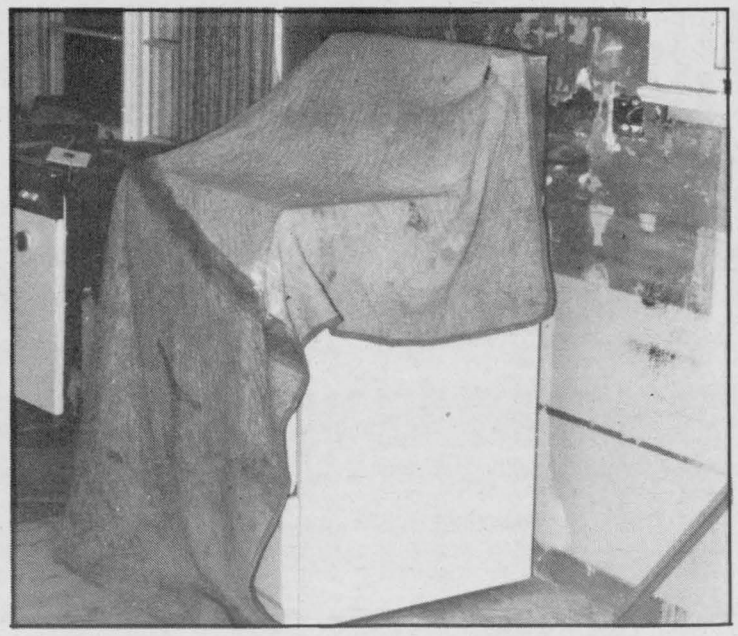
When planning a deck to enhance the beauty and function of your home, benches added to an existing deck or veranda provide seating and add a distinct look. A planter can add colour and provide privacy as well.

All outdoor living remodelling should look like they belong with your home. They should be natural extensions of your indoor living space, tailored to the lifestyle of the family. Whether seeking recreational space or a quiet space for relaxing after a tough day at the office, you need to plan ahead, carefully.Backyard updates have to meet the needs of your family. Adapting to the changes that your family goes through will create a space that will bring enjoyment for years. We often forget that we need to look to the future. A family's outdoor recreational needs change as fast as the children grow up. A backyard that begins life as a play area for the youngsters , may need to be turned into a place where everyone can relax, sunbathe and entertain.

The garden that is an integral part of your backyard space should be low maintenance. No one wants to spend their free time working in the yard when they can be putting their feet up and taking a little R and R.

With careful planning and some effort, even the worst backyard can be made respectable. Landscaping does not have to be elaborate to be effective. Concrete or brick work can be a practical and good looking tool for a low maintenance yard. The small areas bordering the walkways can be colourful and a snap to keep looking great.

Any landscape can be improved with gardens full of flowers and you will be able to harvest blooms all summer.



Kitchen renovations popular

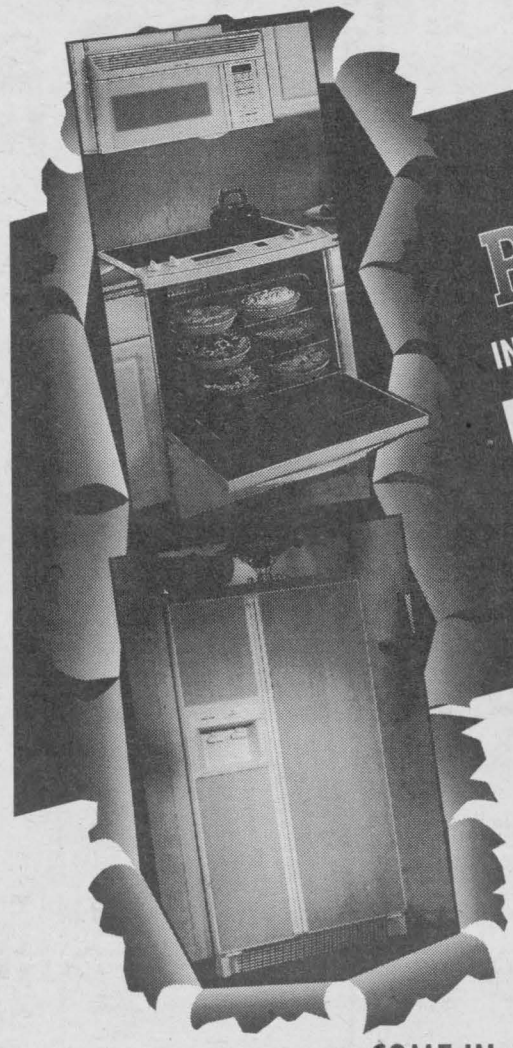
Renovations in the kitchen area are always popular. The fact that it is a place that the family uses many hours every day coupled with the idea that it is a high traffic space make it perfect for renovations. Innovations keep coming and so it is a great spot to create. A working area needs to enjoy a face lift every so often to stay current and be effective. *Chieftain photo by S.L.Johnston*

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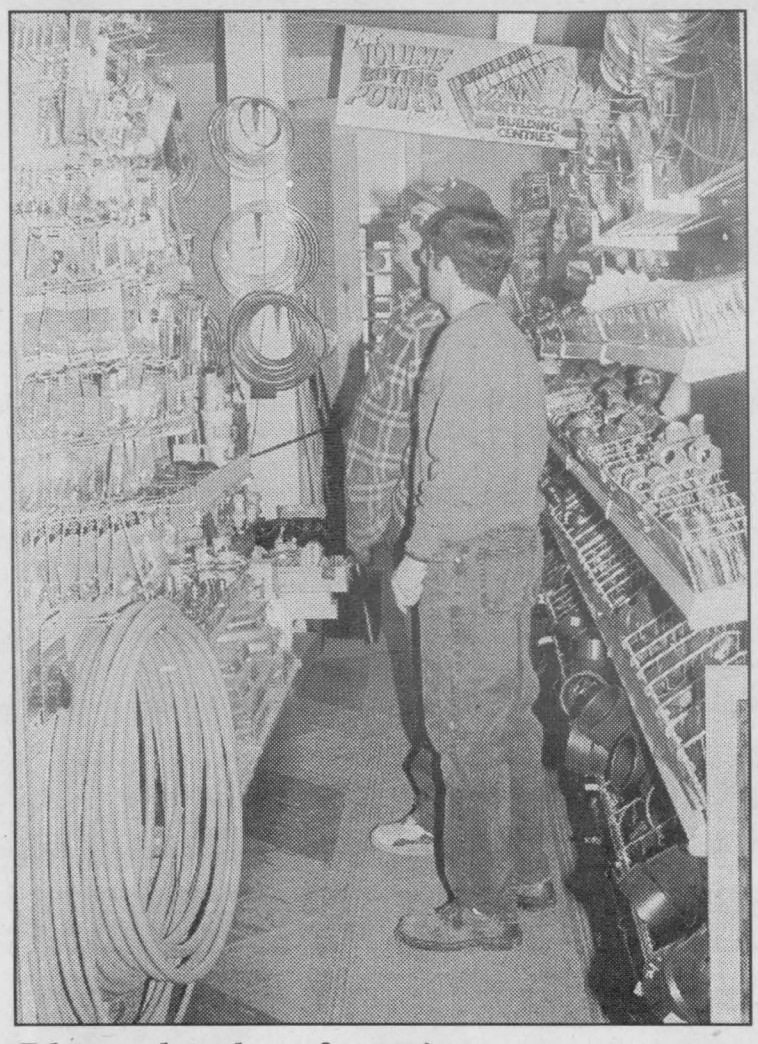
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Professional home inspectors can help homeowners avoid trouble

Despite the recession, many people today are in an excellent position to buy a home - particularly families with down payments and no current home to sell. For them, lower house prices and near-record lows in mortgage interest rates have opened a window of opportunity not available in the past 10 years.

In addition to these advantages, today's home buyers are also dealing with a new element in the transaction: the professional home inspection. In many parts of the country, this pre-purchase evaluation of a home's condition has become routine, providing buyers with the vital information they need to make a sound purchasing decision.

Since the profession is still relatively young, however, it is critical for buyers to learn something about it so they will understand what may - and what may not - be expected from their chosen home inspector.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Professional Standards

While there are no Provincial or Federal guidelines, home inspectors are generally expected to follow the Standards of Practice established by the Canadian Association of Home Inspectors (CAHI), widely recognized as the leading authority in the field. This is a document which specifies all the components of a home that are to be included in an inspection, from the roof to the foundation. The Standards are considered to be the benchmark of performance for home inspectors. A free copy is available by writing to Box 370, Station Z, Toronto, Ontario, M5N 2Z5, or by calling (416) 964-6203.

Ethics

To be sure that a home inspector is ethical and professional, consumers should ascertain before the inspection that he or she will NOT offer to do any repairs on the inspected property, and that the firm has no financial interest in the transaction, or in the real estate agent's commission. Any indication of such conflict of interest activities should send up the red flag to tell consumers to look for another inspector.

Service

Home inspectors are generalists, much like medical General Practitioners. They know how the home's many systems and components work, both independently and together, and they understand how and why they fail. Consumers should expect the written report to describe the actual condition of the home at the time of the inspection based upon visual observation, and to provide an indication of the need for major repairs.

What Not to Expect

Home inspectors do not do any destructive testing, nor can they see through walls, and so consumers should not expect their reports to include the condition of every nail, wire or pipe in the home. In addition, inspectors are primarily concerned with pointing out large expenses and/or safety related concerns, rather than small or cosmetic items, which are considered readily apparent to buyers themselves.

Finally, home inspectors should not expect the inspector's report to serve as a guarantee that the home's components won't ever fail or need repair at some point in the future. No house is perfect and they all need regular maintenance and repair.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS TO LOOK FOR

In recent years, literally dozens of groups and organizations have been formed to capitalize on the marketing opportunities of this rapidly-growing profession. This can make the selection of a qualified professional extremely difficult.

To date, the Canadian Association of Home Inspectors and its affiliate, the American Society for Home Inspectors (ASHI), are the only non-profit professional organizations in the U.S. and Canada which rigorously test home inspectors on their technical knowledge and diagnostic expertise in relation to residential construction. Membership requires experience prior to admission, as well as continuing education annually after admission in order to keep current with new technology and building practices. The names of members may be obtained by calling (416) 964-6203.

If the selection of a home inspector is made carefully and ahead of time, home buyers have one less detail to worry about during the chaos and excitement of finding a new home.

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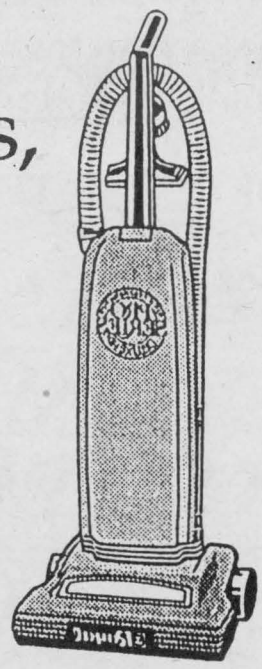
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It is not time to paint until

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

When we begin to look at improving our home, we often look to something as simple and inexpensive as painting.

A perfect paint job depends not only on the quality of the paint you use, but also on how well you prepare your home for the topcoat. For the best results, scout the job and determine what needs immediate help or what areas you would like to change or upgrade. Painting can take place indoors or on the exterior of your home.

Most paint jobs fail because of moisture. Rain, snow and frost gradually erode even the toughest coatings. After a winter like the one we are bidding good bye to can cause havoc with exterior paint jobs. This may be a prime area to check out this spring, not only to improve the looks of the house, garage or shed, but to save the covering as well.

Moisture originating from behind walls is detrimental to a good paint job too. Though water sometimes enters the insulated cavities of exterior walls through a leaky roof, poorly caulked openings and damaged siding, you can, ironically, lay much of the blame on today's pursuit of energy efficiency. A well sealed home, unless properly ventilated and protected by a vapour barrier, expels moisture through the exterior walls. When this happens, it pops the outside paint. Reduce trapped moisture say the experts with an air-to-air heat exchanger, a dehumidifier or both.

When getting set to paint, five common problems that have been suggested by various "people in the know" who paint for a living include; multiple layers of paint crack and give way thus parting company from the underlying layers. It is important to remove the paint down to the bare wood and prime before painting. Dirt, mildew and rust may be things you face as well. Before the new coat of paint is applied, they have to go. If not, they will cause adhesion problems for the topcoat and thus shorten the life of the new coat of paint. Flaking and peeling paint are often seen and result from that dreaded moisture we have spoken about. Poor application, inferior paint or painting a surface that is too smooth can cause these too. Get to the firm paint or surface before applying that new coat. Paint will not stick to caulking. Wash with soap and water ahead of painting to ensure a good job. Primer will seal new wood prior to the paint coat, as it will cover exposed surfaces that have been scraped or sanded. Follow the sun so you are priming in the shade. This allows the primer and paint to cure slowly and adhere better.

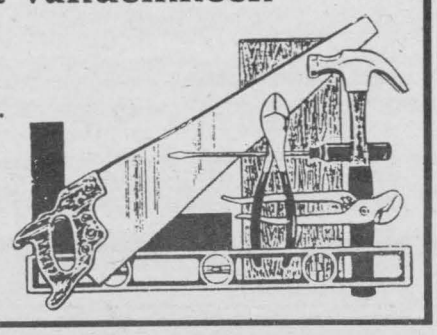
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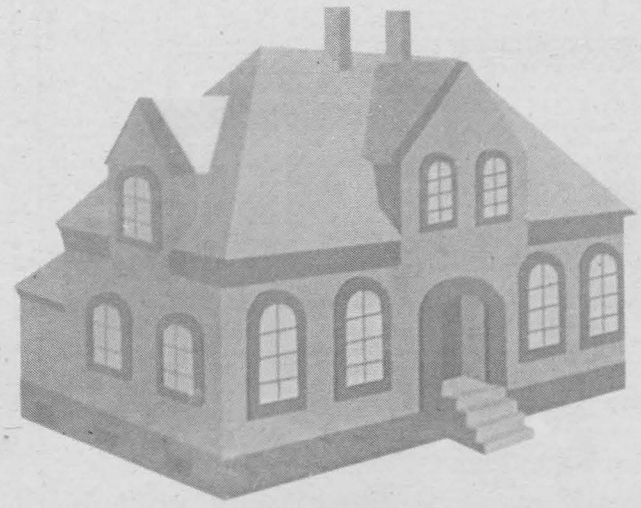
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Window wonderland opens up to become creative space

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

If a major improvement is on your agenda this year, perhaps a window can make the difference you seek.

Windows open up a small room by bringing a piece of the outdoors inside. The light, air and exterior view break up the solid expanse of four confining walls.

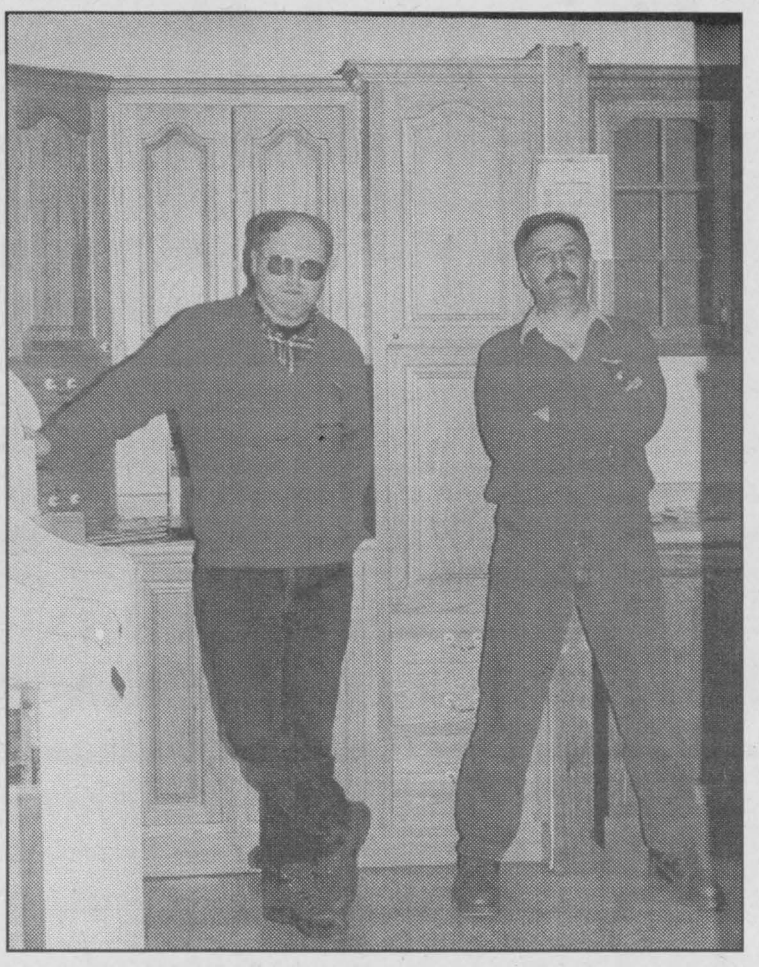
If the tiny room you are working with is bounded by two outside walls, you might do well to consider adding corner windows. They provide a wider, more encompassing view and a greater angle of light than a single window.

For kitchens and bathrooms with only one exterior wall, you can maximize the space enhancing benefits by installing large windows as close to the floor as possible, so scenery is not cut off by a windowsill. Likewise, windows that reach towards the ceiling can make a room appear larger than they are by drawing attention to the room's volume. The illusion of space is magnified by leaving the windows undraped. Where privacy is a problem, you might consider using shades or blinds that can be rolled up during the day.

Skylights are a natural for small kitchens and baths with four interior walls. These should not be attempted unless you are certain you know what you are doing. Therefore, do-it-yourselvers will want to be sure they can handle this before trying it.

Another option is a small greenhouse window. Created by bumping out an existing window opening, they add depth to a room while providing a place for houseplants to thrive. Bridging the gap between the view outside and the room, they create a marvellous effect in a small room.

When renovating or just adding a certain flair to your home, you may want or need to look at replacing windows that leak, are out of date and or style or you may want to create a new look for your home. Modern windows are covered on their exterior with a layer of siding that requires little or no maintenance. Check your options carefully and buy wisely.



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Chieftain photo by S.L.Johnston

Air can be the cause of added expenses, damages and discomforts in the home

According to medical research, dry air in the home is a major cause of respiratory ailments, excessive colds, itchy skin, and the feeling of being chilly most of the time.

Cracked walls, creaking floors, rattling doors, checkered and cracked paint, loose furniture joints, peeling veneer, excessive rug wear can all result from dry humid air, which is caused by the simple act of turning on the furnace.

There's another aspect to this dry air problem that's often overlooked. It concerns your money - money that literally goes up in smoke along with fuel that shouldn't be burned in the first place.

According to government figures, a home's comfort level is increased 1 deg. for every 8 percent of humidity that's in the air. And for every degree of heat over 70 deg. you use, your heating cost rises about 3 percent.

How can ordinary air cause such discomfort damage and expense?

Well, air is like a sponge that absorbs water. Cold air acts like a small sponge that's capable of holding only a little water. But when you heat that air, it swells into a huge sponge with a giant thirst that pulls moisture from everything it contacts. It nevers seems to reach a saturation point.

To get the humidity back in the air and help prevent the destruction caused by it, industry has provided us with a device called a humidifier, which pumps moisture back into the air.

There are three general categories of humidifiers on the market, although there are several variations of each.

The most common - but the one that's the most outdated is the evaporative plate type. Building contractors have installed these in many new homes that have forced air heating systems. They are the least expensive.

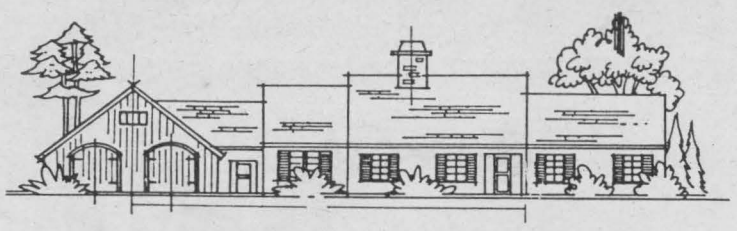
The second basic type of humidifier is the vaporizer. Its cost depends on whether it's a portable unit or one that's installed in the furnace, and also upon its rated output. It is similar in operation to the portable vaporizer you use in junior's room when he's at home with a cold.

Vaporizer units mounted in the furnace plenum have an electric immersion element that heats water to steam. The steam is absorbed directly into the furnace duct and is circulated throughout the home with the heated air.

The newest humidifier on the market today is the atomizing kind.

This type of humidifier is described by manufacturers as an honest unit because of mechanical features that permit delivery of the number of gallons per day at which the unit is rated provided, of course, the device is in good working order. This is seldom true of inexpensive,

Please turn to page 11



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New addition can revitalize home

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Small improvements can turn a ho-hum entry way into a great experience for all who enter.

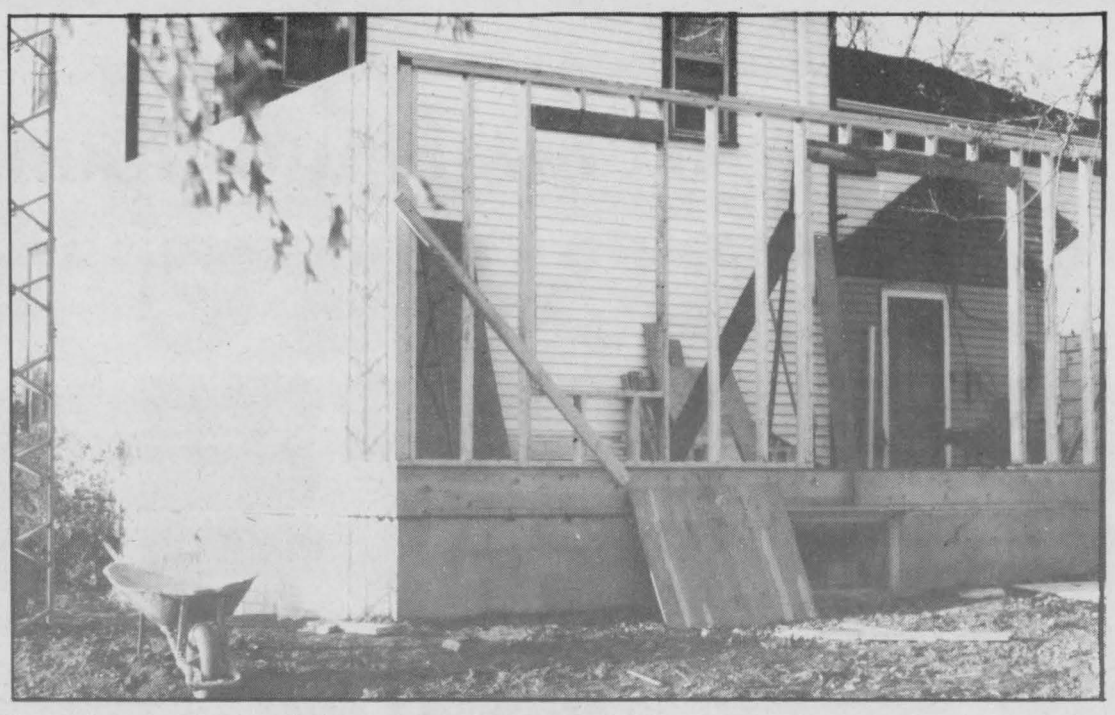
An entryway to a home is not too much, just a few square feet of floor space, right? Wrong! For all its restrictive proportions, however, an entry is called upon to perform some big jobs.

Afterall, the entry sets the mood and style for the rest of the house. Its job is to welcome family and friends to your home. As well, the entry offers convenience to those who come to call.

If you have a deck, porch or veranda why not tuck a simple bench under a bench overhang. This makes a great landing spot for folks and packages. In good weather, the bench will serve as a perch for keeping a watch on things as they happen outside. A resting spot for groceries while the door is unlocked or a spot to take off those winter boots, rain boots, leave that umbrella or take a breather after a long walk, a bench can make a difference in the entry area.

Every entrance needs a year-round floor protection from the elements. A rug does the trick and says "welcome" with style. Use a rug to top off an old wood floor or add pattern to plain tiles.

Adding a mirror or a chair, a small desk, a collection of pictures or a daring splash of colour may be all it takes to create an entry that you can be proud of and one that sends a welcome message loud and clear to all who venture therein.



A welcome addition

Adding a room is sometimes the only way to gain that extra space necessary when the family grows or older children move back home. Careful consideration is needed to build a room onto an existing structure. It is not a job for the weekend handyman. Choose your contractor wisely and draw a plan of what you expect things to look like when the work is complete. It should look like it was always there.

Chieftain photo by S.L.Johnston

CONTINUED

Damages

Continued from page 10

overrated units.

The atomizing humidifier can be installed in either the furnace plenum or cold-air return where the moving air picks it up for circulation throughout the home. Another type employs a nozzle to spray a fine mist onto a fiberglass filter. The latter's job is to filter out mineral impurities before the water droplets pass into the circulated hot air.

If you don't have a humidifier, or if you wish to change the type you do have because its output is not adequate or it has become corroded or damaged beyond use, there are several things you should consider in your selection of a unit:

-the cubic footage of the area to be humidified.

-the difference in temperature between outside air and inside air.

-the average relative humidity of the outside.

-the amount of natural evaporation in the home because of family activities such as washing clother, cooking, perspiring and even breathing.

-the tightness of the home's construction, that is, the degree to which air and moisture seep through walls.

Since there are so many variables, some of which change from minute to minute, it's almost impossible to compute exact moisture needs, although an expert with his equipment can come close.

However, a general rule-of-thumb you can use to estimate your needs has been developed and is suitable in most cases:

-add one gallon of water per room per day for effective winter-time humidification. Thus, if you have a five-room home, you should consider purchasing a unit that can put out five gallons of water per day.

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THOMPSON Homecare® BUILDING CENTRE



24" x 48" FIBREGLASS CEILING PANELS

Panels feature double laminated facing. Your choice of Glacier or Grand Fissured patterns.

3.59 Each



SOLID OAK PARQUET FLOORING

Add the warmth and beauty of real wood flooring to your home. These attractive 12" x 12" x 5/16" thick Standard Natural Oak tiles feature a high-gloss no-wax finish and short block design.

10 sq. ft. package. #46771 ..... **21.99** Pkg.

FRICTION-FIT FIBERGLAS INSULATION

SUPER VALUE

R13 - 3-1/2" THICK
14-3/4" x 47" batts cover 57.8 sq. ft.

14.99 Bdl.

R20 - 6" THICK
15" x 47" batts cover 49 sq. ft. **19.99** Bdl.

CanWel



4' x 8' PANELLING

Choose from our great selection of pre-finished panels.

CANEXEL SERIES

Northwind, Eastern Pine or Ambiance woodgrain patterns.

SUPER LOW PRICE **8.99** Sheet

4' x 8' x 1/2" GYPSUM WALLBOARD

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE

6.69 Sheet

Homecare FACTORY DIRECT SAVINGS

SUPER LOW PRICE **20.99**

48" DOUBLE WRAP FLUORESCENT LIGHT FIXTURE

SOLID LUMBER PANELLING

CanWel

V-joint pattern. 14 sq. ft. bundle.

11.99 Bundle

CARIBOO PINE
All 8 foot lengths. ..... Bundle

KNOTTY CEDAR ..... **18.99** Bundle



Manufactured For Homecare BUILDING CENTRES By PITTSBURGH PAINTS

Homecare FACTORY DIRECT SAVINGS

HOMECARE SUPREME INTERIOR LATEX PAINT

Features excellent hiding power and outstanding scrubbability. Choice of white and custom mixed pastel colours.

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE

FLAT LATEX #C3100	**18.99**	3.78 Litres
EGGSHELL LATEX #C6411	**21.99**	3.78 Litres
SEMI-GLOSS LATEX #C5100	**22.99**	3.78 Litres



PREMIUM FLAT LATEX WALL PAINT

Ideal for walls, wallboard, masonry and wood trim. Easy soap and water clean-up. White. 3.78 litres. #C3510 **13.99**

PREMIUM SEMI-GLOSS LATEX INTERIOR PAINT

Ideal for walls, trim and shelving. White. 3.78 litres. #C5510 **17.99**

PREMIUM EGGSHELL LATEX INTERIOR PAINT

Low shine finish paint is ideal for a variety of interior applications. White. 3.78 litres. #C6510 **16.99**

PREMIUM LATEX CEILING PAINT

This flat white ceiling paint features superio, hiding properties. Easy to apply. 3.78 litres. #C3000 **13.99**

SEMI-GLOSS ENAMEL KITCHEN & BATH ACRYLIC LATEX

Recommended for kitchens and bathrooms. Durable, easy-to-clean finish. 3.78 litres. #19-510 **24.99**

COLONIST FAST•FIT DOORS

SUPER VALUE

24" x 80" **59.99** Each

30" x 80" **62.99** Each



SLAB DOORS ONLY	BI-FOLD DOORS ONLY
24"X80" **40.99**	24"X80" **42.99**
30"X80" **43.99**	30"X80" **46.99**

ALL SALE PRICES CASH & CARRY

THOMPSON Homecare® BUILDING CENTRE

Thompson Homecare
Dundas Street
Iroquois, Ontario
(613) 652-4478
If Busy (613) 652-2500
Delivery Available
Visa & MasterCard Accepted
Mon.-Thurs.: 7:30-5:45; Fri.: 7:30-8; Sat.: 7:30-5

Your VOLUME BUYING POWER Centre