

REMODEL, REPAIR WITH ENERGY-SAVING IN MIND

Put that wasted space to work with an ingenious under-the-stairs office

Are you making best use of the space under the stairs? Instead of a cluttered catchall closet, turn that space to good use with an under-the-stairs home office, decorated to coordinate with the surrounding area.

This space, close by the front door, is a convenient dropoff place for mail and messages. Designer Shirley Regendahl

put together white file drawers and a desk top, added a lamp and telephone, and dressed the whole area with green and white bamboo-patterned "Flair Squares," Du Pont's prepacked wallcovering.

These one-foot wallcovering squares are very easy to apply: simply dip in water, slide into place and sponge dry.

Because they are made of "Tyvek" spunbonded olefin, they won't tear, stretch or shrink. And, because they have a tough acrylic topcoat, they can easily be sponged clean.

This makes "Flair Squares" perfect for active areas, including kitchens and children's rooms.

Fast, fun and inexpensive, "Flair Squares" are the answer to today's decorating needs.

Wrap your hot water heater in a blanket

Your second biggest energy bill this fall and winter will probably be for supplying hot water to your household.

You could save a lot of money by taking cold showers all winter, but there are other less drastic steps which can reduce the bite that water heating takes out of your budget.

In the average home, the hot-water heater consumes 20 percent of the total energy cost. It takes more than twice the energy spent on lighting, cooking and running appliances, and is only second to house heating, which accounts for 70 percent of the total.

exterior you can increase the tank's ability to retain valuable, expensive heat.

If your hot-water tank feels warm when you touch the sides,

especially if your tank is in an unheated basement or on an open porch, insulation is a must-do project.

To insulate your hot-water

blanket and trim it to size.

Before positioning and sealing the insulation with duct tape, however, the Ortho book suggests that you remember the following:

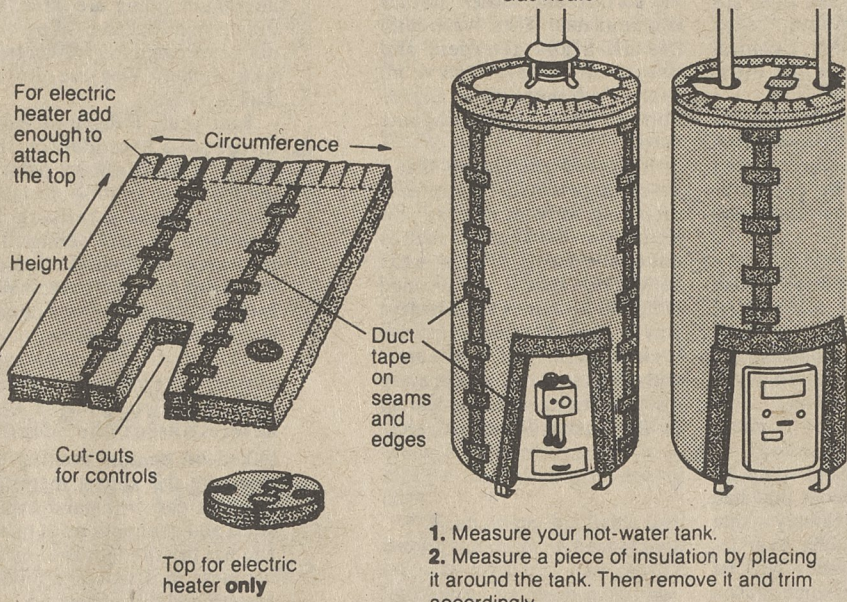
- Do not block the pilot light or access to controls of any gas heater.
- Do not cover the top of a gas heater or put insulation anywhere near the burner.
- If you don't expect to use the hot water for a long period of time, make sure your gas or oil heater has a pressure release valve. Otherwise, the additional insulation may make the water overheat.
- Make a note of your serial number in case you need to get a part for your particular model.

Once your hot-water tank is insulated, you will find that, in one or two seasons, the money you save on water heating will more than pay for your initial investment of about \$20 for fiberglass and duct tape.

Many ideas

Insulating your hot-water tank is just one of many money-saving ideas in Ortho's "Energy-Saving Projects for the Home."

How to Insulate a Water Tank



1. Measure your hot-water tank.
2. Measure a piece of insulation by placing it around the tank. Then remove it and trim accordingly.
3. Rewrap the insulation around the tank.
4. Seal the joint with duct tape. Keep the insulation away from the pilot light, if there is one.

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HI-DRI 4-Pack Bath Tissue 400 1-Ply, White or Colors	96 rolls	\$19.88 cs.	White Colors
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Lower thermostat

Turn down the thermostat—that's the simplest and most effective way to save money on your hot-water tank, according to "Energy Saving Projects for the Home," from Ortho books.

Very few households require water temperatures above 120°F., and 110°F. is satisfactory for most hot water uses.

Lowering the thermostat on your water heater also means that less heat from the tank will be lost to the cooler air surrounding it.

Another way to save money on your water heating is by insulating your tank. All hot-water tanks have some internal insulation, but by covering the

Windows serve as collectors

Location—location—location are the words homebuilders and developers live by.

Homeowners should, too, especially when it comes to windows.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, properly designed and located windows can actually reduce heating and cooling costs.

Even in the northernmost climates, says Andersen Corporation, a leading manufacturer of windows and gliding doors, south-facing, double-glazed windows can serve as collectors of passive solar energy.

They allow the warmth of the low winter sun to pass through the glass where its heat is trapped. Roof overhangs, awnings or shade trees protect the windows from excessive heat

build-up in summer when the sun is high.

Andersen offers the following guidelines to proper window planning:

- In cold climates where winter design conditions are vital—
- Locate the largest window area facing south to take advantage of winter solar heat gain, with lesser glass areas facing east and west. The smallest window area should face north.
- Use double-pane or triple-pane insulating glass to reduce heat loss through the glass.
- Select operating windows that can be opened to cool breezes, thus reducing air conditioning loads in warmer months. Casement windows, for example, open out to 100 percent of their sash opening.

FREE WINDOW INFORMATION BOOKLET AVAILABLE

Homeowners can get quick answers to the most frequently asked questions about the role of improved windows in saving energy from a new booklet just published.

"A Homeowners Guide to Choosing Windows" gives clear, concise answers to such questions as "Why is double glazing important?" and "Why do windows sweat?" A quick

If you're energy-wise, now's the time to winterize

Although the mercury is only beginning its annual descent toward colder temperatures, energy-wise homeowners should be aware that now is the time to winterize and ward off higher energy bills.

The first step—and one which offers the greatest potential savings—is to see if your attic is adequately insulated. What's adequate? It depends on the climate where you live.

Experts at the CertainTeed Home Institute say that even six inches (R-19) of insulation generally means an under-insulated attic.

If you live further north, where winters are severe, you should have 12 inches (R-38) of fiber glass insulation or more. And, in the south, six inches (R-19) or less will be inadequate when it comes to controlling year 'round energy consumption.

Check windows and doors next

Once you've taken care of your attic, the next energy-wise step is to check around windows and doors.

Hold a lighted candle around the frames and sashes of your windows. If the flame dances around, you need caulking or weatherstripping.

Try slipping a quarter under the door. If it goes through easily, you need weatherstripping there.

Both caulking and weatherstripping are easy and inexpensive do-it-yourself projects.

More energy-wise steps

Now that you have taken the biggest steps toward winterizing

your home, the CertainTeed Home Institute experts recommend the following to save even more:

- Check your furnace for efficiency.
- Repair hot water faucet leaks.
- Pull draperies shut at night.
- Open draperies to let in sun during the day.
- Turn down the thermostat at night and when you're away from home.
- Close the fireplace damper when not in use.

Energy-saving steps pay for themselves

In a recent study by the National Association of Home Builders, a home with a number of energy-saving features, including upgraded levels of insulation, used 70 percent less energy for heating than a similar home without the energy-saving features.

In fact, energy experts at the CertainTeed Home Institute report that upgraded levels of fiber glass insulation can pay for themselves through energy savings in just a few years. (Savings vary. Find out why in the seller's fact sheet on R-values. Higher R-values mean greater insulating power.)

For more information on fiber glass insulation, how to insulate your attic yourself, and the recommended amount of insulation for the area in which you live, write for the free booklet "Insulation Facts." It's available free from the CertainTeed Home Institute, P.O. Box 860, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

If you'd like information on finding a contractor to do the work for you, ask the Institute for "Tips on Choosing an Insulation Contractor."

URBAN SPRAWL MAY TAKE THE FALL

There's a new wave of immigration that is expected to be the moving force in real estate in the '80s. According to Chicago Title Insurance Co., the emphasis in the "back to the cities" decade will move from building

to rehabilitation, from development to redevelopment, and from sprawl to infill projects.

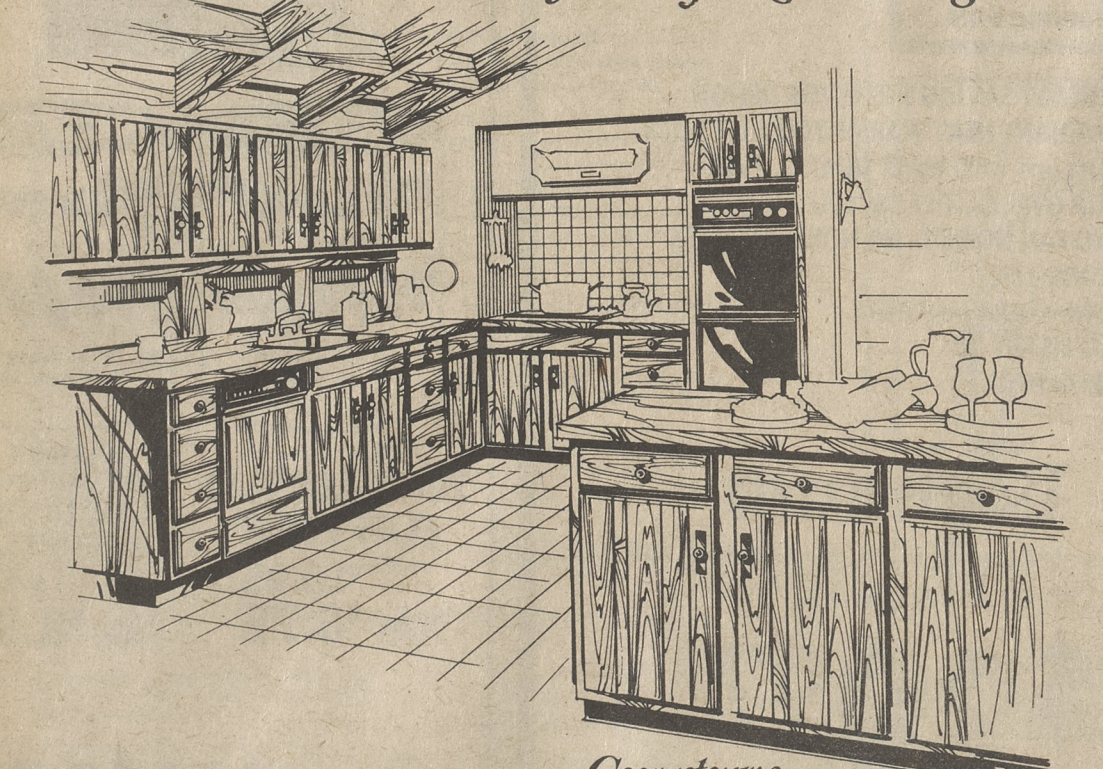
SOLAR HOME BUILDING: HOT PROPERTY

Three-fourths of the builders who earlier received federal solar demonstration grants are willing to build additional solar homes without such aid. A survey by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development also found that buyers of all ages, income groups and occupations are likely to buy solar homes.

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