

# Design safety into the bathroom

This year, thousands of families will decide to remodel a bathroom. When drawing up plans that include flattering lighting, whirlpools and fashionable faucets, how many will make safety an integral part of the design?

According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, each year more than 37,000 children in the United States are treated for scald burns resulting from hot liquids and hot food. Whether caused by hot bath water or a spill from a pot on the stove, these scalds can burn and scar as severely as any caused by direct heat sources.

"It takes just three seconds for a child to sustain a third degree burn—requiring hospitalization and skin grafts—from water at 140 degrees Fahrenheit," says Bill Kamela of the National Safe Kids Campaign. "A child isn't likely to jump out of a bath to avoid hot water. A young child in hot water will scream, but he may not be able to get out."

Among the safety features to consider when designing a bath are pressure balance tub and shower valves. Required by law in some communities, pressure balance valves help to prevent scalds by keeping the water temperature consistently at a safe level when water pressure suddenly changes.

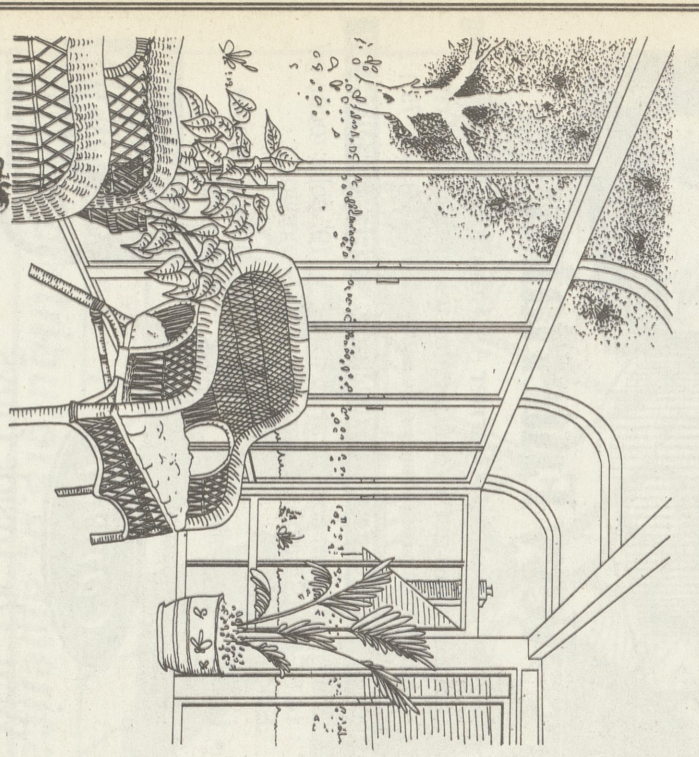


Because so many accidents occur in the bathroom, parents should consider a pressure balance shower valve to protect young children from scald burns.

Other safety features to incorporate into any bathroom design are magnetic locks on medicine cabinets and drawers so that children cannot reach poisonous materials, low voltage lighting to reduce the risk of electrical shock, and rounded edges for sinks, counters and cabinets to minimize risk of cuts or abrasions. Today, these products are more attractive and consumer-friendly than in the past, when special requirements meant products possessed a more institutional, and therefore less desirable, appearance.

Besides installing pressure balance valves, there are several simple precautions that parents and caregivers can take to help prevent scald burns, according to the National Safe Kids Campaign:

- Never leave your child unattended in the bath, even for a minute. Most scald burns occur in the tub when a child is left alone or in the care of an older sibling. Kids can turn on the hot water faucet.
- Always test the water temperature of the bath or shower before bathing a child.
- Lower your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This temperature will still supply enough hot water to do your dishes properly, and reduces the risk of scald burns. While it takes only three seconds for a child to suffer third degree burns in water at 140 degrees F, it may take at least five minutes if the water temperature is set at 120 degrees F.



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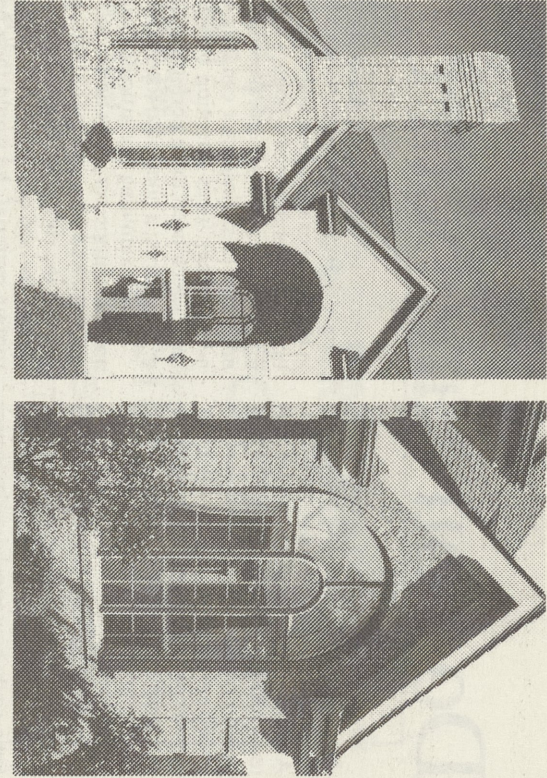
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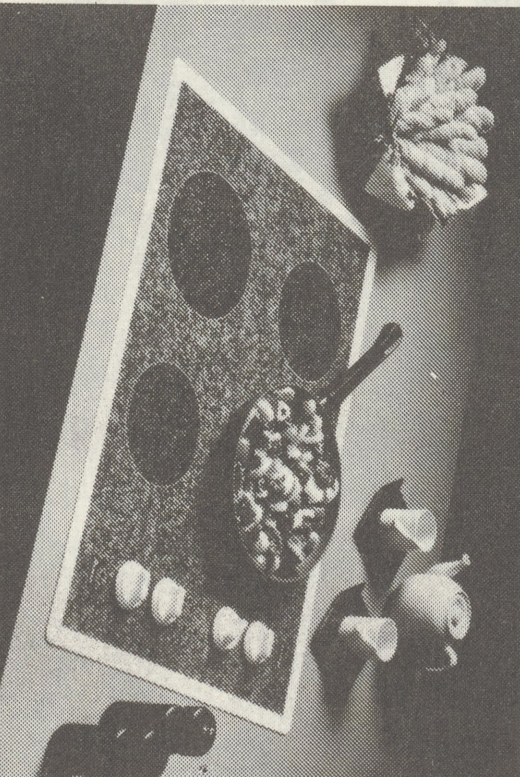
# Smoothtops combine beauty and ease of cleaning

The hot new look in American kitchens is the smoothtop range. Whether the style is modern, contemporary or traditional, smoothtop ranges and cook tops complement any kitchen decor.

Besides being good-looking, these popular new ranges heat up quickly, cook marvelously and clean up with ease. The key to their success is the remarkable Ceram® glass-ceramic panel, which was developed by Schott Glaswerke specifically for smoothtop cooking. Ceram glass-ceramic panels are smooth, non-porous and stain-resistant. Spills wipe up easily with a paper towel and a recommended cleaner, while burned-on spills clean up quickly with a razor-blade scraper. The Ceram panel is also amazingly tough. Even ice water spilled on a red-hot cooktop causes no damage.

Smoothtop cooking systems, while still relatively new to the United States, were introduced nearly 20 years ago in Europe and have been thoroughly tested and proven. Millions of smoothtops with Ceram glass-ceramic cooktop panels are now in daily use.

There are a number of features you should ask about when shopping for a smoothtop range or cooktop. For example, heating elements. There are two primary types—radiant and halogen—and a third more exotic and expensive type, induction. Radiant elements are the most common and least expensive. They use electrical resistance to create heat, and reach maximum temperature in 7 to 10 seconds. Heat is conducted through the Ceram cooktop panel into the pot or pan.



Smooth surface cooktops and ranges are a growing trend in new and remodeled kitchens.

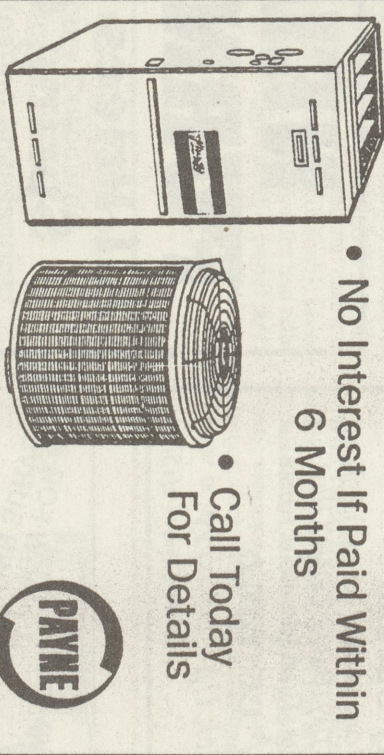
Halogen elements use halogen lamps to generate heat. The halogen elements themselves light up immediately and reach their maximum temperature almost instantly.

Most quality metal cookware will work with either radiant or halogen elements. As is the case with any electric cooktop, you will get best results by matching the diameter of your cookware with the cooking zone. You will also increase the efficiency of your range by using pots and pans that have heavy, smooth, flat bottoms.

Induction elements are the third and most expensive type of heating element used with smoothtops. With an induction unit, a wire coil under the smoothtop generates a magnetic field which in turn creates heat within a ferromagnetic pot or pan and cooks the food.

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