

# Re-roofing means more than color

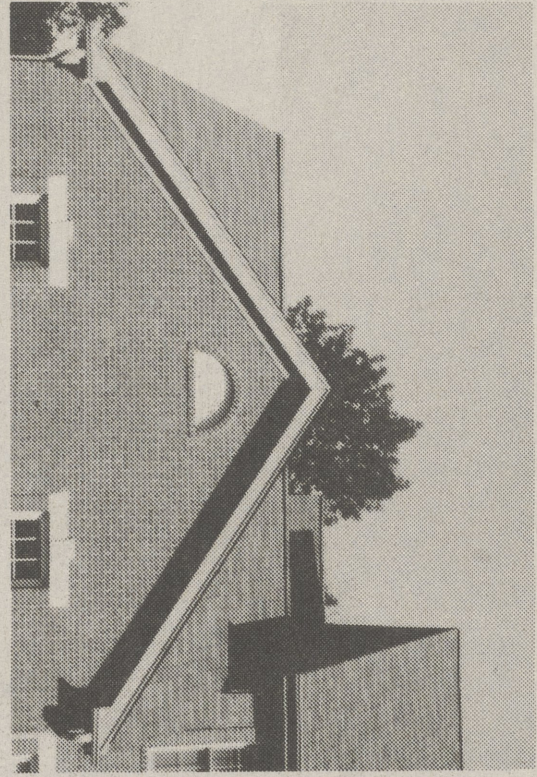
When it is time to replace their roof, most homeowners concern themselves with choosing an attractive style and leave the rest up to their contractor. Because roof replacement requires a considerable investment, homeowners should know all the facts when discussing re-roofing options with their contractor. A little knowledge can go a long way, especially when it comes to the life of your roof.

Take home ventilation for example, a topic directly affecting a home's roof. "We've found that many homeowners are unaware of the need for roof ventilation," said Marianne Horvat, director of marketing, Air Vent Inc., Peoria Heights, Ill., a leading manufacturer of ridge ventilation products. "For instance, an improperly ventilated attic can cause heat and moisture to become trapped under the roof's deck, which can result in damage to shingles and the roof structure. Also, an un-ventilated attic can invalidate your shingle warranty."

Poor attic ventilation can also lead to ice dams. This occurs in the snowbelt region when heat from the attic combined with heat from the sun melt snow on the roof and the resultant water flows down the roof and refreezes at the eaves. This ice build-up can distort gutters and settle under roof shingles, causing damage. As the ice begins to melt, water can leak behind wall cavities resulting in damage to ceilings and walls.

While there are many roof ventilation systems on the market, a balanced system of soffit and continuous ridge vents provides the most efficient ventilation method, according to Horvat.

Soffit vents, installed under the eaves of a home, provide an inlet of air flow. Ridge vents, installed across the entire roof's peak or ridge, supply an outlet for air flow. According to Horvat, this system aids in reducing heat build-up and excess moisture, and helps to keep the roof deck temperature uniform. Because ridge vents help keep roof decks cool in winter, they also help prevent ice dams - which leads to a longer-lasting roof.



Home owners planning to replace the roof on their homes should be sure the job includes installing adequate ventilation. Ridge vents and other ventilation systems can provide air circulation that prolongs roofing life while keeping insects and other pests out. Most vent systems don't detract from the home's appearance.

## Make fire safety a priority

With National Fire Safety Awareness Week slated for October 8 - 14 this year, it's never too soon to check for fire hazards in your home and either take precautions with them or remove them.

- Keep items like paints, thinners and gasoline in their original containers and out of your house.
  - Check the insulation in your attic and if it is combustible, replace it with a more fire safe material. For example, cellulose insulation, made of ground up newspapers, can be a source of attic fires when installed too close to heat sources such as recessed lights. Replace cellulose with a noncombustible, high quality material like Insul Safe 119 Blown-In Fiber Glass Insulation. Insul Safe will remain noncombustible for the life of a home.
  - Promptly replace any faulty wiring in a home.
  - Keep trash in covered containers and dispose of it regularly.
  - Keep plenty of fire extinguishers handy; put one in the kitchen and at least one on each floor.
  - Install at least one smoke detector in the hallway leading to the bedrooms; and install one on each level of your home.
- Don't:**
- Leave matches where children can get to them. The temptation to "play with fire" can easily lead to a real fire.
  - Smoke cigarettes in bed.
  - Block windows or doors with heavy furniture.
  - Let smoke detector batteries go unchecked. Check your batteries when the clocks change.
  - Assume everyone in your family knows what to do in the event of a fire.
  - Hold periodic fire drills.

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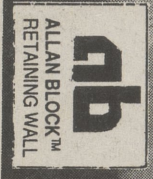
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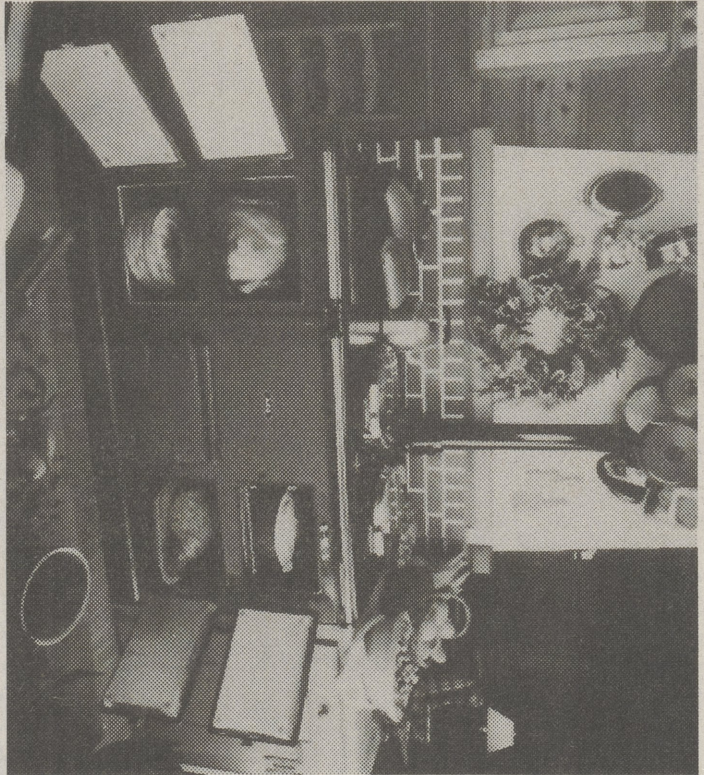
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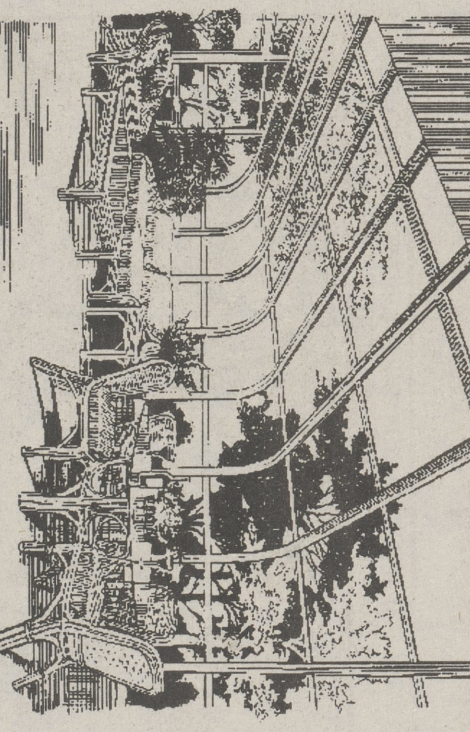


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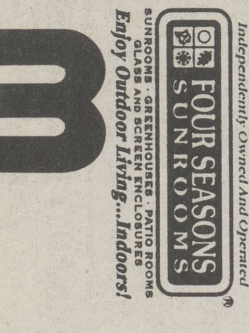
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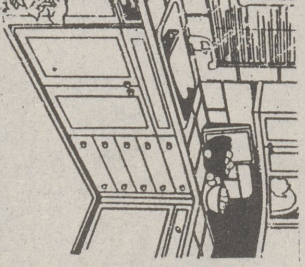
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