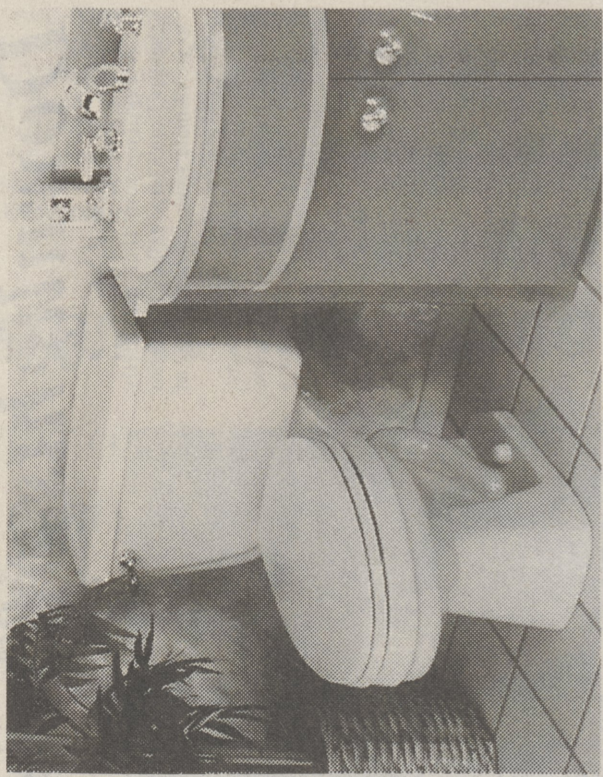


Bath fixtures hold savings

A new generation of residential plumbing products mandated by federal energy policy provisions offer homeowners a ready way to save water and cut their long-term household operating costs. New household toilets, for example, use less than half the water on every flush than older toilets use — 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf) instead of the old standard of 3.5 gpf. By replacing older toilets with the new water-conserving models, a typical homeowner can substantially cut the volume of water used throughout the house.

Combined with a conscious effort to avoid flushes that aren't necessary, changing over to the new products can help conserve our natural resources and produce meaningful savings in the face of rising utility costs and regional water shortages.



The National Energy Policy Act requires new bath fixtures to be more efficient.

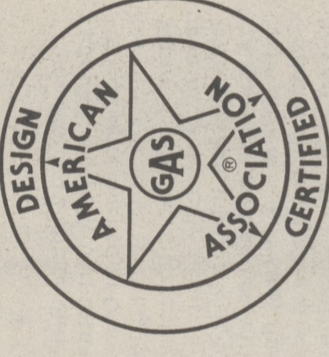
Appliances Should Be Certified To National Safety Standards

Natural gas appliances and equipment should be certified to national operating and design standards, according to the American Gas Association.

Consumers should look for the Blue Star Design Certification Seal from the A.G.A. Laboratories or a similar seal from another nationally recognized testing agency, A.G.A. says.

The A.G.A. Blue Star is an assurance from the manufacturer that the design of the national gas appliance complies with safety standards adopted by the American National Standards Institute, A.G.A. says.

Many local government building codes and standards require A.G.A. certification on natural gas appliances and equipment.



High-tech windows can lower energy bills

Your home's windows can make your home colder in the winter, and hotter in the summer. In fact, more heat is lost—or gained—through other windows than through any other area of your home, according to the Edison Electric Institute, the national association of electric companies.

Conduction is one way heat passes through windows. In this manner, the inside warmth is gradually conveyed through the window pane. A window made of single-pane glass (R-value of approximately 1.0) transfers heat almost 14-times faster than a well-insulated wall.

Radiant energy transfer is the other way heat gets through a window. Heat inside your home is carried out on its infrared light rays. In the summer, the sun's heat energy goes straight through the window panes warming up your home.

You now have several options to slow down window heat loss or gain. Adding a multi-pane window, one with either two- or three-panes of glass, will raise the window's R-value approximately 1.0 for each additional pane of glass used.

Some double-pane windows use a gas denser than common air, such as argon or carbon dioxide, between the panes of glass. These gases, being heavier than air, makes it harder for the heat to transfer through them. Consequently, this slows the conductive transfer of heat.

To reduce radiant heat loss or buildup, a low-e coating, for low emissivity, blocks radiant heat transfer by acting as a mirror. In the winter, the low-e coating reflects the indoor heat's infrared radiation back into the house. In the summer, it reflects the sun's radiant energy back outside. The coating, however, does block visibility or look shiny.

For more information on how to increase the value of electricity in your home, call the electric utility department's residential marketing

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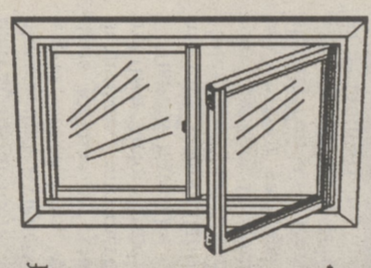
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New high pressure laminated tile is less slippery and more stain resistant. By-pass shower doors can make entry easier for a disabled person.

cluded Universal Design benefits that help people of all ages and physical abilities.

Flooring Can Promote Safety, Comfort

Three companies addressed flooring safety and comfort especially effectively. Wilsonart® introduced a slip resistant, high pressure laminate flooring in two formats: woodgrain planks and stone-look tiles engineered to retain their charm and luster for years with minimal upkeep. Combining the two allows your builder or remodeler to create distinctive living or task areas as well as glamorous entries that can take a beating, but require only a vacuum or damp mop to clean.

These panels and tiles look and feel like wood or stone, but never need waxing and resist fading. Because they are more comfortable to stand and walk on than traditional stone flooring, require less maintenance than conventional wood and are more affordable than either, Wilsonart executives believe that both new and remodeled home owners will benefit.

manually or automatically, WarmSense warms the floor to a comfortable temperature that's inviting all year long. For casual lifestyles, families with small children and people with allergies, emphysema or asthma, the WarmSense line promotes comfort. It also reduces dust, animal dander and hair that cling to carpeting and are stirred about by forced air heating and cooling systems and by vacuuming.

Domotek spokespeople also explain that by heating only selected areas of the home, such as the bathroom or family room, the WarmSense system improves the entire home's energy efficiency and economy.

Yet another floor area to consider in a Universal Design approach is your shower floor. An accessible shower pan can both prevent and solve problems. During the KBIS, Tub-Master® Corporation featured a floor level shower threshold equipped with a flexible sill designed to prevent water from flooding the bathroom. Without the barrier and risk of a conventional shower curb, family members or house guests who use a wheelchair or walker will appreciate the privacy and self sufficiency this floor solution offers.

Doors That Solve Problems

Moving from floors to doors, two other novel products exhibited at the 1996 KBIS also meet the comfort, safety and accessibility criteria recommended in the NKBA's newly expanded design guidelines.

Combining the best features of shower curtains and bypass shower

manufacturer explains, Wilsonart Flooring's comfort features and its ability to create distinctive, decorative task centers allow you to eliminate risky throw rugs and area carpets that often cause accidents.

Another innovative product that can help you avoid throw rugs and area carpets actually warms stone, wood or laminate floor surfaces.

A UL approved product line called WarmSense® by Domotek is a low temperature radiant heating system, with its wiring embedded in a mat positioned between the slab or underlayment and the flooring product. Set either

Continued on page 8

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