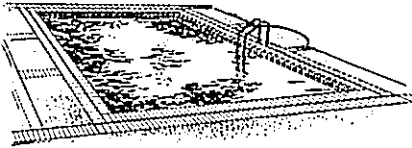


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Winterize for

YOU MIGHT literally be pushing money through the tiny cracks in your house this winter. But a thorough inspection of your home might save a lot of the money that would otherwise go for fuel bills.

Kenneth T. Austin, chairman of HouseMaster, a national home inspection and warranty service, says there are many areas consumers can inspect themselves.

Austin, whose company inspected some 50,000 resale homes in the past five years, says windows and the areas around them should be checked annually. The installation of storm windows can reduce the amount of heat that flows through window panes to the outside.

Traditional storm windows must be installed by a professional, Austin said. Consumers can install "inside" storm windows themselves by using kits. These kits involve covering the window from the inside of the house with a plastic sheet and are usually inexpensive.

The best kits have rigid plastic

sheets and snap-on molding. This design makes them easy to install, keep clean and remove in the spring.

OLDER STORM windows can develop air leaks in frames. To gauge the effectiveness of older storm windows, tape a clear plastic sheet around the inside of the window frame. If there are air leaks, the air will push and even pop the plastic loose.

You can "double pane" your windows while giving them a customized stained-glass look by using designer glass. A professional can apply this process to any window or skylight, according to Barry Rupp, president of Stain Glass Overlays. The design can be executed in almost any pattern while providing an additional layer of insulation.

Caulking around the storm window frame reduces the chance of air escaping around the perimeter. Leaks near the glass on window frames that slide shut can be stopped by the installation of friction-withstanding weather-stripping.

Please turn to Page 19

Tile is affordable, plus easy to install

Do-it-yourselfers, says the Tile Council of America, should find setting tile as easy as it is economical. A lot of projects, including kitchen countertops, cost well under \$100. Other projects that cost under \$50 include kitchen backsplashes, a vanity counter or a fireplace opening.

Ceramic tile comes in an infinite range of colors, shapes, decorative motifs, textures and sizes. To determine what's available, visit the showrooms of manufacturers, distributors and dealers. Look them up in the "Yellow Pages" under "Tile-Ceramic." There you can find out about the latest installation methods and aids. Bring along a snapshot or sketch of the area to be tiled with dimensions clearly marked.

Setting tile is an easy four-step process. First, apply the adhesive with a notched trowel. Be sure to do a small area at a time so there will be time to correct mistakes before the adhesive dries. Then, set each tile in position with a twisting motion. Press firmly into place.

ALIGN TILES so all the joints are uniform and straight. If the tile lineup doesn't come out straight the first time don't worry. Just adjust them until they're in place. Clean excess adhesive off the face of the tile immediately.

Since few projects wind up with a full row of tiles at the edges, use a tile cutter. Mark where to cut, place the tile in position, score with a cutter and break off. Tile nippers are used to shape cuts to fit around pipes or other obstructions.

The last process is grouting. Wait about 24 hours to grout. Mix the grout according to the manufacturer's instructions. Apply with a rubber trowel or squeegee, spreading the grout diagonally across the joints. Wash the excess grout from the face of the tiles. When the joints are firm, wipe the tiles with a damp sponge. Then polish with a clean, dry cloth.

Tiling does not require an abundance of tools. Do-it-yourselfers usually have most of them around the house including a straight edge, tape rule, chalk line, carpenter's level, square, carborundum stone, scraper, sponge and cleaning cloths.

SOME SPECIAL tools needed include a tile cutter, notched trowel, a rubber trowel or squeegee and tile nippers. These tools are available at ceramic tile dealers.

For more information on installing ceramic tile, send 25 cents and a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope for a copy of "How to tile it yourself" to the Tile Council of America, Inc., Dept. HP, P.O. Box 2222, Princeton, N.J. 08540.

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