



Borders, faux wallpapers lead coverups

Continued from Page 9

• Half tiles with, for example, all-over patterns of vines and flowers, and most significantly, matte finish porce-

lain mosaic tiles in larger squares of 4, 8 or 12 inches.

Strips, planks, boards and parquet floors are traditional additions that add value and prestige to your home.

Natural colors range from pale blond to near ebony, but tone and color depth can be added through bleaches and stains in which the final finish can range from a soft patina to a

high sheen.

STRIPS AND PLANKS laid in random lengths will provide a warm yet simple environment to highlight furnishings. Or, to add dimension to a room, woods of varying colors can be fashioned into herringbone, basket-weave or brick patterns.

Wallpaper is back, rivaling that nouveau desire to maintain the "clean" look of new and unadorned spaces. Undressed walls are beginning to get boring, and improved coordinates and designs are satisfying a new thirst for elegance.

From faux papers, which mimic marble, tortoiseshell, granite and precious stones, to faithful reproductions of antique designs and interpretations of 17th, 18th and 19th century motifs, today's wallpapers are more than just a coverup.

Borders are the most significant change, especially appealing because they may be used to spruce up even painted walls by framing windows and creating chair rails with everything from ducks to neoclassical images such as acanthus leaves.

Begin winterizing preparations

Continued from Page 16

exposed to chilling temperatures, add a layer of stones or bark to the top of the soil. Sink smaller pots into larger ones; between the two pots, add a layer of sand or gravel.

Spare yourself the spring surprise of unusable garden tools and equipment that refuses to budge.

The basic winterizing job for tools is rust prevention. Remove rust from blades and metal parts of hand tools with either liquid rust remover or steel wool.

TOOLS WITH SHARP blades or edges — such as hoes, shovels, spades, shears and knives — should be sharp-

ened.

Repair cracks in wood handles with epoxy or wood glue. A splintered handle should first be sanded, then rubbed with a coat of boiled linseed oil.

Clean tank sprayers thoroughly with a good soap and plenty of water. Spray some of the soap solution through the wand. Rinse well; allow to dry before storage.

If you used your power tools all summer without any servicing, now is the time to take them to the shop for an engine tuneup. Have the blades sharpened and balanced.

Store the power mower in a dry place where it won't be exposed to freezing temperatures. Protect the exterior surface with a heavy coat of wax to pre-

vent rusting. Check air cleaners and spark plugs; replace if necessary.

Winter storms can damage a deck. A quality stain and wood preservative will keep it smooth and glowing.

Begin by removing all dirt, mildew, oil or grease with a stiff brush, warm water and a low-sudsing, non-abrasive household detergent.

If the wood has mildewed, apply a mixture of two parts water and one part bleach with a kitchen sponge or pump-up garden sprayer.

Next, use sandpaper to smooth out rough spots. Caulk and seal all cracks in the surface.

Finally, check the color of the stain by applying some of it on a sample of the deck wood.



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