



Flash check: Flashing should be inspected at least once a year, as it is a prime location for roof leaks.

Check roofing in a flash

(AP) — Flashing is used to prevent moisture from entering under the roof covering wherever two or more planes of a roof meet or wherever the roof meets a vertical surface.

It is also used along edges of roofs and other windows or doorways to direct moisture away from the house exterior and structural framing.

Roll roofing material is widely used for flashing, particularly along ridges and hips, and at valleys. But the most durable flashing materials are sheet aluminum, copper or galvanized steel.

All are sold in rolls especially for the purpose.

Chimney flashing is usually in two parts: the base (or step) flashing, which wraps completely around the base of the chimney and extends several inches under the roof covering, and the cap (or counter) flashing, which covers the top edges of the base flashing. Sometimes roofing felt extends up the sides of the chimney, taking the place of metal base flashing.

Flashing should be inspected at least once a year, as it is a prime

location for roof leaks.

Look for cracks and separations where the flashing meets the chimney, vent stack, dormer and abutment walls, and where roof planes meet at valleys. Sometimes damaged flashing is discolored.

Very old flashing sometimes develops pinholes which are hard to see. So if possible, check the roof from below for leaks.

To maintain and repair flashing, coat all flashing seams periodically with asphalt roofing cement.

World view of decorating

Schumacher Co. introduced a five-panel engraved wall map last year of 1734 Paris and was pleased it sold well. The surprise, design director Vivian Infante says, is that a poster-size version also sold.

Schumacher, known for its upscale fabrics and wall coverings, is now introducing a three-panel world map, circa 1694, and is working with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation on a map of England.

This flurry of interest adds weight to the evidence that maps, both old and new, are fashionable as home decor. They also can add a personal touch.

Eleanor and Ernie Kohlman of Ridgefield, Conn., for example, put a framed relief map of their favorite hiking place, Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, in their living room. On either side of the map are framed photographs of the couple hiking the trail. The map and photos are the only art in the room, and to Eleanor Kohlman they create the feeling of an explorer's library.

"It's not that we're so crazy about maps," she says. "But your house should say something about you."

Maps aren't bound to walls alone. There are upholstery fabrics as well as a host of accessories, ranging from shower curtains to tableware, and personal items such as umbrellas and handbags.

While there always seems to be market for ancient maps, what do you do with the modern maps?

"Anything world-related, you can't get it on the market fast enough," says Eleanor Goggin of Wings Over The World, a gift wholesaler in New York. One of her most popular products is the inflatable globe cum beach ball.

"Kids collect the five or six different sizes and styles and hang them in their rooms," she says.

The Schumacher panels, which also make coverings for folding wall screens, can be framed with a fill paper if they're too small or have the borders trimmed if they're too large.

Wide wallpaper borders depicting maps can be hung at eye level to take the place of framed art, says Judy Starkey, product manager for Chapters and Fashion wall coverings.

Fashion's world map can be found in the "Older Kids Too" sample book. The 10-inch border is now enough to be accurate — at least for the moment. With its information on time zones and other measurements, Starkey calls it a learning tool for children.

Among decorator fabrics of map designs are those from Kravet Fabrics, a wholesaler in Bethpage, N.Y. The old-world map motifs — one with ships like those Christo-

pher Columbus sailed and the other with topographical engravings — are about \$65 a yard through designers and architects.

"We feel they are good for a family room with a casual atmosphere or for an airport," says Beth Greene of Kravet.

While there always seems to be a market for ancient maps, what do you do with the modern maps that become outdated with each political change? Publishers sell them to converters, says Norman Strassman, executive vice president of the International Map Dealers Association of Kankakee, Ill. Some of them, at least, are being turned into gift-wrap and stationery.

This appears to be the beginning, not the end of a trend. A major map exhibition is set for the Cooper Hewitt Museum in New York through March 7.

While the exhibit focuses on working maps, not decor, Lucy Fellows, the show curator, says she's seen a tremendous volume of map motifs in the merchandising, textile and design worlds.

"Maps lend themselves to decorative application," she says. "They are extremely beautiful, many are colorful, and they have a dense visual quality."

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