

New insulation fights itch, dust

Although most homeowners recognize the need for insulation in order to increase house energy efficiency, some shy away from installing it because fibers can cause skin to itch and can create airborne dust.

Now Schuller's new Comfort-Therm insulation is overcoming their reluctance. That's because the popular gold fiber glass found in houses and commercial buildings has taken on a different look and feel.

It's been encapsulated with a high-tech poly wrap system that is extremely user-friendly.

Poly Wrap Offers More Than Comfort

Besides handling comfort, the poly vapor facing is superior to traditional kraft paper facing in three ways.

First, the poly facing is twice as resistant to moisture vapor penetration as kraft. The wall cavity stays dryer, and the insulation maintains its thermal efficiency.

Second, unlike kraft facing, the Comfort-Therm facing is Class A rated and has a fire hazard classification of 25/50 to maximize fire protection.

Third, the poly facing and the triple-reinforced flanges by which the wrapped insulation is stapled to the wall studs are tougher and more resistant to tearing than kraft.

Batts Pre-Cut For Quick Installation

Comfort-Therm batts are factory pre-cut to fit standard 8 ft. wall cavities for fast and easy installation. This assures a better fit, compared to hand-made cuts from rolls.

Factory cuts also save time and reduce potential itch and dust generated from job-site cutting.

The new batts are available in R-11, as well as the high-performance values of R-13 and R-15. Higher R values mean greater insulating power.

All three values of batts fit into standard 2 in. x 4 in. stud walls. The R-13 and R-15 batts are made of higher density fiber glass. Although they cost more initially, their cost may be recouped in lower utility bills.

R-11 batts are recommended for interior walls for sound-control, to further add to living comfort.

Each truckload of Comfort-Therm glass insulation contains over one and a half tons of recycled glass that would have ended up in a landfill.

For more information on Schuller's new Comfort-Therm insulation, see your nearest dealer, or contact the Product Information Center, Schuller International, Inc., P.O. Box 5109, Denver, CO 80217. Or call 1-800-654-3103.

Laminates can spice up any kitchen

For long wear and easy care, laminates have always been hard to beat, and today they're also great fashion products for kitchen countertops.

Almost every material you can think of for countertops now surfaces as a laminate design, including luxurious granite and marble, but according to Holbrook Platts, design expert for Westinghouse Micarta, professional kitchen designers often find looks that are laminates' very own the most exciting.

Good examples of such laminates are the infinite range of solid colors ranging from pale neutrals and pastels to bright primaries and dramatic darks. Other fashion graces include splatter patterns borrowed from well-loved country tableware, small abstract motifs, overprints and crinkle effects that create wonderful kaleidoscopic effects, and exotic mineral designs.

Now add the fact that each laminate is offered in many finishes and textures, and homeowners shopping for a new countertop might find the choice daunting. But Platts says not to worry, for while he concurs that the wealth of laminates offered may seem confusing, it's actually less difficult choosing the right design and color for a countertop than for other areas of the kitchen.

"Countertops are relatively small," explains Platts. "So you can be more daring than with other surfaces in the kitchen. Even a distinctive look won't tire the eye, so if you fall in love with a bright color or an unusual design, go for it. However, if you're still worried about a big jolt of color or pattern, think of putting one of the abstract patterns to work. Micarta's

beautiful Landscape series, which translates forests, deserts and the arctic into soft, harmonious color combinations, is especially easy to work with. The patterns coordinate effortlessly with many colors without clashing."

Kitchen Upgrades

Platts adds that such kaleidoscopic patterns are also great when a kitchen upgrade is in the works.

"Often, homeowners don't want to go for a whole new kitchen," he explains. "The refrigerator and stove work perfectly, but they are avocado green or yellow, and the cabinets are oak, sturdy and still functioning well, but a little tired looking. What's needed here is a countertop that will bring the kitchen up to date and yet complement the old design elements. All those crinkle, splatter and abstract patterns that combine many colors, but do so softly, are perfect. They will be equally at home in contemporary, transitional and traditional kitchens."

Another good idea for fashionable countertops is an edge treatment or a stripe in a complementary color. Two-tone furniture has become very popular, and now countertop and cabinetry fabrications are following suit.

Faux Woods Reign

Laminate wood designs are enjoying a well-deserved renaissance, and many are beautiful for kitchen counters. Just a few years ago, designers frowned on these faux woods. They wanted only the real thing. But because so many of the exotic and rare woods are endangered, faux woods are now held in high regard.

"But it isn't all about ecology," notes Platts. "Laminate technology has made giant strides forward, and today's wood designs look so real that you can't tell the difference between the originals and the replicas."

Wood designs, always a Micarta specialty, are especially strong in the firm's new line, and Platts says the key words are soft warmth. New designs that correspond with the trend include Golden Fawnwood, Native Beech and Vermont Maple. All three would be wonderful for countertops in the all-white kitchens so popular in contemporary houses.

Micarta also features exotic forest species like mahogany, rosewood, teak and birdseye, but an option that few homeowners know about is adding a woodgrain texture to a solid color you would not normally associate with woods. This means that you could get the green or light blue countertop you've decided would be great for your kitchen with a true-to-life woodgrain texture. The effect is so much more interesting than a plain finish.

For a view of today's new fashion laminates, write Micarta Laminates, 304 Hoover Street North, Hampton, SC 29924 for a free brochure. Or call 1-800-MICARTA.

YOUR LIFE IS MORE THAN A MATTER OF STYLE CHOICE

BERWYCK ON THE PARK
Single family homes in Milford. Private residential community from the 1870's. Milford Rd., North of I-90. (810) 654-2000. Homes available for immediate occupancy.

BERWYCK PLACE
Single family homes. Large exclusive wooded sites from the 1280's. Milford Rd., North of I-90. (810) 654-2000. Homes available for immediate occupancy.

LAGOONS of West Bloomfield
Luxury detached condominiums. New Phase II. New floor plans! From the 1990's. At Pointe Trail & Haines. (810) 681-5000. Homes available for immediate occupancy.

FOX CHASE
Single family homes in White Lake. 3 1/2 acre lots from the 1920's. White Lake Rd., East of Orchard Rd. (810) 889-1133.

ROLLING OAKS
Single family homes in Howell. New Phase II. New floor plans! From the 1920's. At M-59 & Byron Rd. (810) 545-5100 or (810) 661-0180.

IRVINE
(810) 661-5100

GRAND OPENING

NEW MODEL IN FABULOUS FRANKLIN VILLAGE BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS!

Over 3,300 Sq. Ft., from \$299,900. On beautiful wooded lots.

COUNTRYSIDE LIVING, INC.
At 13 Mile Rd., 1/2 mile west of Telegraph, on Bruce Lane. Open 12 to 5:30, except Thurs. & Fri. Call LOUIS (810) 539-4668

FARMINGTON HILLS

GRAND OPENING

SAVE UP TO \$5000 DURING OUR SNEAK PREVIEW OF PHASE II

3 1/2 bedrooms • A sidewalk community
2 1/2 baths • Drake Rd. S. of Grand River
Full basement • EXCLUSIVE OCCUPANCY from \$165,900 (810) 478-6888

Welcome to...

NOVI CREEK CROSSING

• 2441 SQ. FT. COLONIALS
• 4 BEDROOMS • 2 1/2 BATHS
• LIVING RM • FAMILY RM
• DINING ROOM • DEN

NOVI SCHOOLS

FROM \$216,990
CALL (810) 449-6436
FOR EARLY LOT RESERVATIONS
HOURS 1-6 DAILY. CLOSED THURS

TRI-MOUNT

Pointe Woods

ONLY 8 LEFT!

Beautiful West Bloomfield Location!

LUXURY SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED CONDOMINIUM COMMUNITY

• 22 BEAUTIFUL SITES
• INTERIORING A SPECIAL CLARIFIED PLAN
• BECK EXTERIOR
• LANDSCAPING & SPECIAL SYSTEMS INCLUDED
• 1ST FLOOR LAUNDRY
• FIREPLACE
• FULL KITCHEN
• CITY WATER & SEWER
• PRIVATE GATED ENTRY
• WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOLS
• SPEC HOMES NOW AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER MOVE-IN

Homes Available From \$179,900.

MODEL OPEN
Daily & Weekends 1-5 p.m.
Call Adi Zachor
(810) 681-1900
Voice Mail (810) 430-6353
Sales by... **REAL ESTATE ONE**

Bridge Pointe
Commerce Township's Best Value

5 Models, 20 different elevations to choose from.
2,600 to 3,100 sq. ft. from the \$230,000's

- Wooded estate size lots, 110 x 150 sq. ft. with side entrance garage included
- Public water and sewer
- Walled Lake schools
- Common pond area with waterfall

MODELS AND SALES OFFICE
1841 Westport
Commerce Township
(off Commerce Rd., West of Bogie Lk. Rd. Just West of Huron Hills Sub.)
(810) 363-1974
OPEN 1-6 DAILY
SAT. - SUN.
CLOSED THURS.

An upscale community by Styl-Rite Homes, Inc.
Master Builders of Fine Homes Since 1963

DREAM HOMES...at Affordable Prices!
Fine COMMUNITIES Offered By **Tri-Mount**

FARMINGTON HILLS

Secluded Lane

From the '260's

- 11 beautiful sites surrounded by trees
- 3 existing floor plans with many options
- Convenient to major freeways and shopping
- Spec homes now available for owner move-in
- Builder's model available for sale

MODEL
810-553-6911
BEVERLY MORGENTHAU

MILFORD

Huron Meadows Grand Opening

From \$165,990

2 COLONIALS & A CAPE COD
wonderful standard features:

- Full Basements
- Marlitt Cabinets
- Sidewalks and much more

27 SITES • WALKOUTS AVAILABLE

Located off of Orchard Road 4 miles North of I-90

MODEL
810-685-0908
PAM ROBINSON

MILFORD

MILFORD PLACE CONDOMINIUMS

WHAT A WONDER PLACE TO LIVE

- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Baths
- Garage
- Whirlpool Appliances • Central Air

IMMEDIATE MOVE-IN

From \$99,900

Excellent 8 unit Longmont Environment conveniently located in Rosemont, Milford, Lakeshore, White Post, Cedar Park and other prime areas.

810-684-2281
SHIRLEY PLISKA
Located on the East side of Orchard Rd. Just South of I-90, just South of I-90.

Other **Tri-Mount** Communities

ANN ARBOR SCHOOLS

• Ashford Village
Single Family Homes
(810) 434-0563

ANN ARBOR

• Dhe Vearred on the Park
Single Family Homes
(810) 685-0888

PLYMOUTH

• PLYMOUTH COMMONS II
Single Family Homes
(810) 435-0373

LAKE ORION

• FOREST HILLS
Single Family Homes
(810) 382-3472

Tri-Mount
BROKERS WELCOME