New insulation fights itch, dust

Although most homoowners 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 Comfortherm Insulation is overcoming their refuctance. That's because the popular gold fiber glass found in houses and commercial buildings has taken on a different look

ings has taken on a different look and feel.

and feel.

It's been encapsulated with a bigh-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

riset, the poly sensing is twice as resistant to moisture vapor penetration as kraft. The wall cavity stays dryer, and the inaulation maintains its thermal efficiency. Second, unlike kraft facing, the ComfortTherm facing is Class A rated and has a fire hazard classification of 25/50 to maximize fire particular.

protection.

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

Batta Pre-Cut For Quick Installa-

tion
ComfortTherm batta are factory precut 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

from rolls.
Factory cuts also save time and reduce potential litch 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 nower.

sulating 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-con-trol, to further add to living com-fort. Each truckload of Schulter fl-

bor 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 inscholier's new Comitor Institution, see your nearest dealer, or contact the Product Information Center, Schuller International, Inc., P.O. Box 5108, 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 coun-

also great fashion products for stichen coun-tertops.

Almost every material you can think of for countertops now surfaces as a lesinizate de-sign, including luxurious granites and mar-bles, but according to Hobbrock Platts, design expert for Westinghouse Micerta, 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 greats include splatter patterns borrowed from well-loved country tableware, small sestract motifs, overprints and crinkle effects that create won-derful kaleldoscopic effects, and exotic miner-al designs.

designs.

Now add the fact that each laminate is offered in many finishes and textures, and homeowners abopting 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 han 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 as big jolt of color or pattern, think of putting one of the abstract patterns to work. Micarta's greed, faux woods are now held in high regard.

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."

fortlessly with many colors without clashing."

Kitchen Upgrades

Platta 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 sevecade green or yellow, and the cabinets are onk, 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 fashlenable 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

"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 be-tween the originals and the replicas."

Wood designs, olways 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 this trend include Golden Peranwood, Native Beech and Vermont Meple. All three would be wonderful for countertops in the all-which kitchens so popular in contemporary houses.

Micarta also features exotic forest species like mahogany, rosewood, teak and birdseyo, 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 then a plain finish.

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



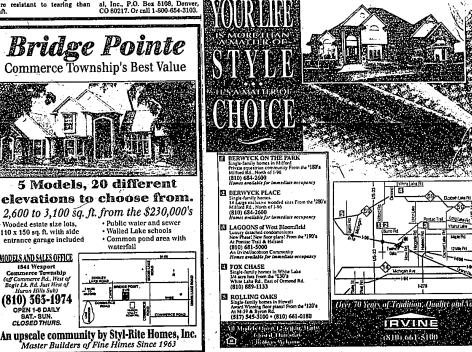




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