

LET'S REMODEL

Insulation will end window seat moisture

Q: We recently bought a used house that has a bow window in the kitchen. This seems to be a problem area as there is moisture build-up on the window seat - especially on cold days. Is there a way to solve the moisture problem and keep the window from rotting?

A: When installing bow windows I have seen many builders use 5/4 board for the seat and have either metal or

wood bracing underneath to hold the window up. Sometimes, a piece of vinyl or aluminum covers the exterior of the seat. This keeps the rain off, but it does nothing to control moisture, which is the problem here.

The dew point (the temperature at which water condenses) is occurring inside the house and the water is condensing on top of the window seat. Add the excessive moisture that kitchens

can create and you have a potential for disaster. If this situation is allowed to continue, the window seat will eventually just rot right out.

The only way to prevent moisture buildup is to move the dew point outside the house. To achieve this, you need to add insulation to the outside bottom of the window seat. Rigid foam insulation can be tacked into place with finish plywood nailed over that.

A fairly simple solution to a potentially damaging problem. Good luck!
Robert Budman, C.R., Budman's Inc., Keego Harbor, 810-738-3999.

Q: We just bought our first home. What should we do to get ready for winter? Do you put out a checklist?

A: We posed this question to several of our members and the following is a list of their responses.

Caulking: Windows and doors need to be checked. 25-30 year caulking is wise to use and is available in a variety of colors. Also be sure to check where there are any holes through outside walls where utilities enter or exit. Closely related to caulking is the weather-stripping around doors and windows.

Gutters and downspouts: You will need to rid the gutters and downspouts of all obstructions including leaves, twigs, etc. so that snow and ice buildup



can freely drain off.

Furnaces: You may want to have a licensed contractor do an operational checkup on the furnace which should include filter change, prepping the humidifier (if applicable), lubricating blower motor and adjusting of belts. They should check the efficiency and cleanliness of the burner including carbon monoxide testing and the installation of a carbon monoxide detector is highly recommended.

Hose bibs: This is the exterior faucet on the house where the hose is attached. If they have interior shutoffs

See REMODEL, G6

Our 46th Year

NEED HELP WITH WINDOW TREATMENTS?

Our experienced decorators can help with design, color and fabric selections.

- Thousands of Decorator Fabrics
- Horizontal & Vertical Blinds
- Shades, Pleated Shades, Roller Shades
- Duettes • Silhouettes • Vignette

AERO DRAPERIES
TEL-EX PLAZA
23279 Telegraph, Southfield
(Just North of 10 Mile)
(810) 353-0000

PACIFIC DRAPERIES
GARDEN CITY TOWN CTR.
5908 Middlebelt
(Just North of Ford Road)
(313) 421-0000

OPEN MONDAY THRU SATURDAY 9:30 - 6 P.M.

HARDEN HARDEN HARDEN HARDEN

TURN ON TO HARDEN FAUCETS
THE WORLD'S FINEST

SALE

25% OFF

OFFER ENDS OCT. 26, 1996

1/4 turn,
washerless
ceramic disk
valves
**"The Hardwater
Faucet"**

All Solid
Brass Faucets
Choice of
Chrome
or Brass

MATHISON'S

Kitchen, Bath and Plumbing Showrooms

6130 Canton Center
Canton • 455-9440

28243 Plymouth
Livonia • 522-5633

31535 Ford Rd.
Garden City • 422-3888

HARDEN HARDEN HARDEN HARDEN

90 Days Same as Cash!

90 Days
Same as
Cash*

4-Piece Formica Bedroom

Choice of 12 colors
Includes: Dresser, Round Mirror,
Chest, Full or Queen Headboard

\$1099⁰⁰

Guaranteed Lowest Prices!

-FAMILY OWNED-

Star Furniture
Galleries

with approved credit

33500 West Seven Mile
at Farmington • Livonia
(Next to Kmart)

(810) 442-0120

Shop Daily 10-9 • Saturday 10-6 • Sunday 12-5