

Inviting Ideas
from page D10

Toula Patsalis - Kitchen Glamor

**TOKENS OF CONFECTIONS -
EXPRESSO TRUFFLES**

- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 coffee beans coarsely crushed
- 1/2 cinnamon stick
- 1 pound Kitchen Glamor milk chocolate (cut into small pieces)
- 4 tablespoons butter, softened
- Droste powdered chocolate

In a small saucepan bring cream to gentle boil. Stir in coffee beans and cinnamon stick. Set aside to cool at room temperature for one hour. Strain through a fine colander.

Melt chocolate gently over a double boiler. Stir well with a wooden spoon. Pour chocolate into mixer bowl. Using medium low speed, slowly pour liquid into the chocolate - add butter. Mix until smooth. Refrigerate for one hour.

Shape into small balls (I like using #100 stokol scoop).

Place on plastic surface. Dust with Droste powdered chocolate or dip into chocolate.

CHOCOLATE CLAY

10 ounces Chocolate (or compound coating)

1/3 cup light corn syrup

1. Melt the chocolate or coating. Add corn syrup; mix well.

2. Shape mixture into 6-inch square on sheet of wax paper. Set at room temperature for approximately 1 hour or until dry.

3. Wrap well; store at room temperature until needed. Clay handles best if allowed to ripen overnight. (clay will keep for at least one week if well sealed. To restore to original texture, knead with hands, a small portion at a time. If clay gets too soft, refrigerate only briefly, or set aside until it returns to room temperature.

*Note: In using chocolate clay - you can roll out small pieces and make flowers, leaves, or any other shape you desire. White chocolate can also be used - add any favorite paste coloring to make it the colors you desire.

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around the house

Furnace flues raise concerns

Your furnace is your most important appliance both for your comfort and for your safety. Properly maintained, it can operate safely for many years. Neglected or tampered with, the furnace can be hazardous, even deadly.

One of the most misunderstood and most important components of furnaces is the flue (vent) system. Proper flue installation and function is probably the single most important safety aspect of furnace operation. More often than not, when you read news reports of a family overcome by carbon monoxide from their furnace, the flue is the culprit.

Modern, high-efficiency furnaces often use plastic flue pipes and vent directly through side walls to the exterior. Plastic flues can be used on high-efficiency furnaces because so much more heat is put into the home that flue temperatures are modest, slightly more than body temperature. Often, contractors

place these plastic vents under a window. Because even high-efficiency furnaces can produce carbon monoxide, it is important not to open windows that are over these flue exhaust points during furnace operation. If you are having a new high-efficiency furnace installed, ask the contractor to choose a discharge point well away from windows.

For all but very high-efficiency furnaces, flues should be a thick metal vent, called Type B. During operation, temperature of these flue pipes can be 350 degrees or higher. Sometimes, homeowners will replace flue sections with metal dryer vent. This is hazardous because dryer vent is too thin and can separate at the seam, allowing unsafe flue gases to escape. All furnace flues should be secure and should have a steady upward pitch. If your flue pitch-

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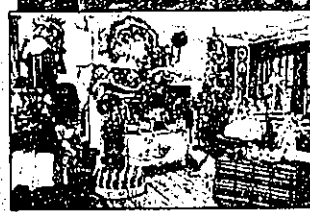
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