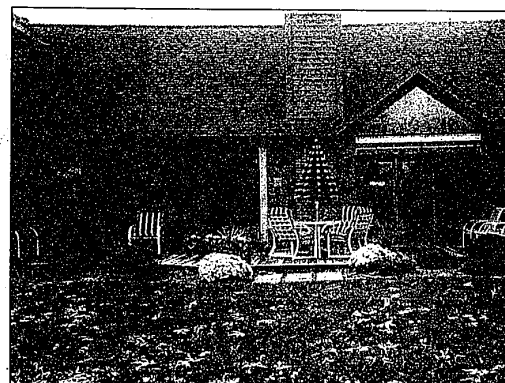




Window treatment: Window tinting can fit any size window of a residence or business.



Glass act: Window tinting is a way to save energy and eliminate glare from the sun, and it provides privacy while not blocking the outdoor view. Eclipse Window Tinting Inc. of Redford will exhibit at the Spring Home and Garden Show in Novi this weekend.



In style: The colors can complement any style of house.

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## Made in shade: Tinted windows find home

BY MARY KLEMAC  
At Home Editor

You don't have to be on the road to enjoy the benefits of tinted windows. Window tinting, first popular with vehicles, now is done in homes and businesses.

"It's sunglasses for your house," said Ruth Sagar of Livonia, quoting a sales representative from an area window tinting firm.

Jerry and Ruth Sagar hired Eclipse Window Tinting Inc. of Redford for their new house last June. Eclipse will be one of the exhibitors at the fifth annual Spring Home and Garden Show at the Novi Expo Center, 1-96 and Novi Road, Thursday, Jan. 30, to Sunday, Feb. 2. The show is sponsored by the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan.

People had thought of window tinting only in "limo black," said Mike Bieth, owner of Eclipse, 9286 Telegraph.

"That turned a lot of people off," he said.

Tinting is done by applying an adhesive film to the window. The film comes in a wide range of colors (including virtually clear) and even

designs. Bieth placed a mini-blind pattern on a bathroom window at his house. Strokes of pastel hues, a frosty sheen, flowers, blue mirror and copper are just a few of the colors and patterns. Shades can be chosen to complement the exterior of the building.

"It's a metallic film ... so it will never change color," said Larry Millen of Eclipse.

This window treatment has advantages besides decorative. The film holds the glass intact if it is broken.

"It keeps the glass from flying all over the place," Bieth said.

This safety property led the U.S. Government to approve the window film for military bases overseas, he said. It can also help deter smash and grab robberies from businesses.

Window tinting allows residents to keep privacy without closing curtains to block their view. It can reduce heat gain by 77 percent. It cuts down the sun's ultraviolet rays (which are a major cause of fading) by 98 percent, and keeps out more than 50 percent of heat gain, which lessens air conditioning costs.

Glen Carruth of Green Oak Township is pleased with the window tinting Eclipse put in his residence, as it eliminated glare.

"(Before the window tinting) I couldn't even watch TV," he said.

Payback in energy savings is expected within three to five years, industry studies and Department of Energy models indicate.

The highest quality window films are available only through a professional installer, Eclipse representatives said. These films have a special scratch-resistant coating and may have a lifetime warranty.

The Sagar family bought a new construction, two-story colonial house with windows facing east and west. Among the window styles and sizes on the house are a double door, a half-moon and a window measuring six feet. Heat radiated in through bay windows. The Sagar family didn't want to close curtains during the day, and it would take five to 10 years for trees to grow.

"We had full sun all day," Ruth Sagar said.

The Sagar family brought home sheets of plastic from Eclipse to try different looks over different days. They chose a light gray tinting for

their windows.

"We're really excited ... We love it," Ruth Sagar said. "This winter it's been great."

People outside can't see through the tinting during the day. The family draws curtains at night, as people can see in when lights are turned on.

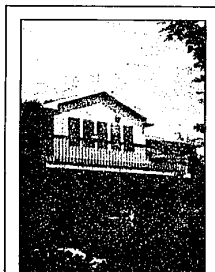
"It's very easy to care for," Sagar said.

"Ammonia is the only thing that can damage the film," Millen said.

Eclipse has done window tinting for a number of businesses, including a photography studio, restaurants and stores, as well as residences. No job is too small — Bieth told of tinting the back of a fish tank.

"If it's the glass we can do it," he said.

Hours for the Spring Home and Garden Show are 2-10 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for children ages 6-12, free for children under 6. Family tickets for two adults and accompanying children are available at Farmer Jack for \$9. Call (810) 737-4478 for information.



On the cover: You'll find window tinting in many places, not just in vehicles.