

Follow These Tips When Planning Vacation Home

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Hydronic Heat Has Its Points

Sometimes we put up with inconveniences for so long that we forget something far better is available. For example, ask yourself these questions about your home heating system:

Is there a feeling of draft in one or more rooms?

Are there cold spots in some rooms, so that family members avoid sitting in a particular chair, for example?

Do you have to overheat some rooms to make other reasonably comfortable? Are there rooms that remain cold no matter how far up you push the thermometer?

Are you afraid to let toddlers play on the floor because it's too cold? Do older folks in the family complain about cold feet?

Do your rooms seem to get dusty awfully fast? Is your system noisy? Do your fuel bills seem high compared to your neighbors'?

A HOUSE IS A HOME: When it answers the needs of your family. Usually, the second home can be suitable for year-round use and should have adequate privacy, sufficient sleeping area, to include guests, and enough space to provide a large, central gathering place for entertaining and family fun.

What Price Power? More important than what price, how close. When you pick out your Shangri-La setting, be sure there are adequate electric power lines near your property, or plan to provide your own with a gasoline generator.

Also check on the availability of water, location of a rural store to purchase food and emergency items, and the local situation when you need electrical, plumbing or other repair service.

The House that Jack built, if you're a do-it-yourselfer and your dream has been to construct your own house—you may find that the "jack" that's needed to build your house is thousands of dollars—beginning with architects, plans materials, labor, etc.

On the other hand, if you play your cards right, you might find the best deal in a "shell" cottage, which allows you to finish the inside as a family project. Hardboard paneling (in either woodgrain or designer patterns) is recommended for the walls of vacation houses.

Governmental Appraisers Seek Members

The newly independent Detroit Metropolitan chapter of the Association of Governmental Appraisers is inviting membership from this area. Eligible are federal, state county, city and township employees in any real estate activity—appraising, planning, surveying, building cost analysis, right-of-way purchasing, title law, license examination, building codes urban renewal and so on.

Information is available from the chapter president, Joseph Toy (226-6284).

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How To Avoid Painting Errors

There are several major blunders that can blotch up an otherwise good paint job, and almost every do-it-yourself painter manages to commit at least one of them at some time or other. By knowing what they are, and how to avoid them, you'll find it easier to give painting problems the brush-off.

1. Dripping and spattering may not ruin a good paint job, but it does leave you with a mess to clean up later. Protect your furnishings with tarpaulins or painting "drop cloths". To prevent drips, don't dip your brush or roller too deeply.

2. Bleeding makes for unattractive results. This staining of the paint-over knots or sappy places in wood by resins and gums drawn to the surface by heat—can be prevented by removing all the paint in the area, then sealing in the gums with a coat of paraffin, special knot sealer or varnish. Apply primer then continue with the normal painting procedure.

3. Sticking is caused by excess oil or the wrong type of oil in the paint. Sticky paint can sometimes be hardened by wiping it with turpentine. But if this method fails, you're stuck—the only thing left to do is to remove the defective paint and start over.

4. Early chalking—or loss of gloss—in small areas is another painting blunder that shouldn't be glossed over. It's caused by the absorption of oil from the top coat of paint by the wood beneath. It is apt to occur sooner if the wood or masonry surface has been given an insufficient paint coating. The problem can be remedied by applying an additional coat of paint. When doing this, don't thin the paint—often a cause of chalking in the first place.

5. Blistering frequently results when there's moisture in

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