

Barnwood Paneling For A Rustic Touch

Ever dream of buying an old barn and fixing it up for rustic, comfortable living?

Not many people ever get around to setting up housekeeping in a barn, but a new paneling helps bring a touch of rural America into the most urban setting.

Barnside, a new deep-textured mini-panel, was designed by Marlite to capture the weathered, rough

hewn appearance and feel of old barn planks. Only one-third the width of regular four by eight-foot sheets, these 16-inch by eight-foot planks are built for easy installation.

They have tongue and grooved edges. Concealed metal clips and a special wallboard adhesive assure a strong bond over old walls, solid backing or a new framing. These panels are 1/4-inch thick.

Barnside, which comes in grey or brown, recreates the knotted, bleached and aged planks still found on many farms throughout the country.

Office, den, rumpus room, kitchen or any area of your choice lends itself to the barnwood look. It makes an ideal background panel for a collection of Americana or other rustic accessories in the basement bar or lounging areas of your home.

This paneling harmonizes with traditional decor or presents a pleasing contrast to contemporary design. Used as an accent wall or background, the paneling gives a comfortable, rich atmosphere for relaxation and work.

So stop dreaming and start decorating your barn.

Extra Space Bonus

You're in real luck if you're the proud owner of an older home.

All those little extra rooms our grand parents used to tack on are ideal today for combining with larger rooms by removing a wall or two.

The underused guest room or oversized linen closet could make an ideal area for an extra bathroom for the kids, a hobby or study area, or might be expanded into an "apartment" for relatives.

Whatever you decide to do to incorporate these extra ideas into your modern living room pattern, you will do well to provide a tough, durable interior that can be put up

quickly and will require a minimum of care.

One of the most popular wall and ceiling materials is prefinished hardboard planks. It offers many interesting patterns, colors and deep-textured wood grain reproductions.

It comes in easy-to-handle 16" x 8" planks, only one-third the width of standard paneling, and can be installed over existing walls or new framing. A set of instructions comes in each package of tongue-and-grooved planks so that finishing a room can be done quickly and easily. And when it's done it's done — no painting or protecting.



The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

If you're looking for a good winter job, why not make some labels for marking your plants next spring?

Save those leftover TV dinner trays and cut them into one by four inch strips. You can write the plant name on the aluminum using a sharp nail or an ice-pick.

Some gardeners tie the aluminum strip to a plant, using aluminum wire. Labels last for years, and are useful for boy scouts and students for marking trees in a park.

Many gardeners take plastic bleach bottles and cut them into strips. These make fine labels and can be written on easily with a soft lead pencil or special marking pencil.

PARLOR PLANT: We're getting lots of letters asking us what can be done to make the Hoya or wax plant (also called parlor plant) bloom. Grandma had the secret when she had plenty of blooms in her kitchen. The old-time "kettle whistling away" gave off a lot of moisture and this apparently helped the plant flower. Even if you can't get yours to bloom, the fleshy, evergreen leaves are attractive, as well as its clusters of fragrant, pinkish star-shaped flowers, so waxlike, that people are fooled.

Give your plant a bright, cool winter and soil mixture that's good and loose — one part each of sand, peat and loam. In winter give less water, but in summer they take plenty of it.

ARE THE BUDDS dropping off your favorite African violets?

This and poor flowering can be due to any of the following: Too dry-atmosphere, lack of humidity, too little light, and not enough air circulation. Also a lack of humidity, overwatering, extremes of temperature, and drafts will raise havoc with your violets.

NIGHT LIGHTS and plants: Will the safety night lights in your backyard have any effect on flowering of house plants or outdoor plants?

They can. For years, ordinary mercury vapor lamps have been commonly used as street lamps. Though these lamps had only a slight effect on the growth and maturity of green plants, they do have a harmful effect in a roundabout way. The blue light given off by these mercury vapor lamps attracts large varieties of plant-eating insects in spring and fall.

Yellow lights are the best.

compromise because they attract the fewest bugs and have little or no adverse effects on plant growth patterns.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: "We have some shrubs which are a neglected mess. Can they be cut back this winter?"

Answer: Yes. Better send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope for my bulletin, "Principles of Pruning." It tells how to handle all kinds of trees and shrubs.

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BARNISIDE -- This rugged hardboard paneling is deep-textured to give the weathered look of real barn siding. This prefinished hardboard paneling introduced by Marlite has a low gloss finish to enhance overall appearance. It comes in easy-to-handle 16" x 8" planks, which can be installed over old walls or new framing. Tongue-and-grooved edges simplify installation.

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