

Roll shutters are big home energy-savers

With rising energy bills an almost daily occurrence, the American public has been forced to be more energy-conscious than ever before.

Homeowners everywhere are starting to realize that the real culprits behind high energy costs, and energy loss as well, are exposed glassed areas such as windows, sliding patio doors and porches.

And, how is the energy being wasted? Simple. In the summer when homes require cooling, air conditioners are forced to work overtime to maintain a level of comfort.

That's because the sun's rays are transmitted through and literally magnified in heat intensity, thus heating up the air immediately around the particular opening.

In the winter, just the opposite is true. The heat homeowners pay so dearly for escapes through cracks, seams and poorly sealed edges on window frames and around doors, resulting in increased energy usage to compensate for the heat loss. So, you might ask...a home without windows?

"Maybe, at some point in the future," says Herb Anderson, president of Roll-A-Way Insulating Security Shutters, "but for now, and for homes already in existence, the roll shutter is really the only sensible solution."

Anderson points out that almost all

roll shutters are now made of PVC, a durable, non-conductive vinyl material used in crash helmets and underground piping.

The interlocked PVC slats form an effective insulating barrier that can reduce or even eliminate the amount of light and heat transmitted through an unprotected glass area.

As for the capacity to contain heat in winter, roll shutters again provide a thermal break that eliminates cold conduction in and, especially, heat escape out through exposed openings.

Anderson goes on to say that the insulating value of roll shutters is only one of their many advantages. They provide a great deal of security—energy is kept in, while burglars, vandals and anything nature has to offer are kept out.

Homeowners are also discovering that roll shutters are perfect for regulating light and air flow into a room, and that they substantially reduce the amount of outside noise that's normally transmitted through unprotected glass areas.

"But, the real beauty of roll shutters," says Anderson, "is that when you need them, you just press a button or turn a crank, and they're there."

"But, when you want full, unobstructed use of your windows and other glassed-in areas, you just roll the shutters up, and they completely disappear, stored neatly out of sight."

Preparing your home

Continued from Page 11

Try to get a long-handled roof rake that you can operate from the ground. If that isn't feasible and you must get on the roof, it's best to remove the snow after the first snowfall of the season and again after each later one instead of allowing it to build up.

If you do this, you should use a soft push broom instead of a shovel and avoid damaging the shingles.

If the idea of climbing around a snowy roof doesn't appeal to you at all, you may want to hire a competent, experienced contractor to do the job. Just make sure he has insurance.

Frozen pipes. Plumbing is most likely to freeze near an exterior wall, or per-

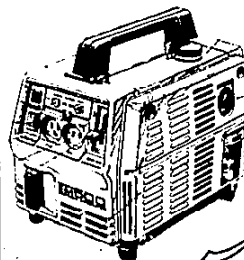
haps in the attic—any place where it may be exposed to cold air.

You can stop freezing with (1) heat tapes (listed by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.) on the pipes; (2) adequate insulation around the pipes; or (3) an indoor valve that shuts off and drains the water supply to your outdoor faucets during the winter.

Fire prevention is another thing the homeowner needs to be particularly concerned about in winter because certain types of fires occur more often than in other seasons.

Living through a harsh winter is no fun. But if you follow these tips, you're more likely to emerge with your home—and your sanity—intact.

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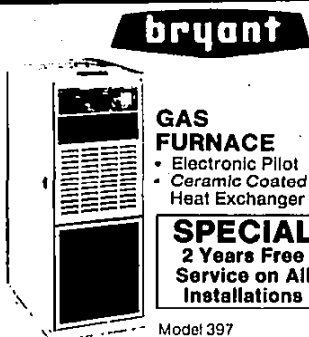
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