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TREST IRRIGATION INC.

Clean machines

Create an accessible, inviting laundry room

THE HOME laundry has come up in the world since Grandma went down to the cellar on Monday mornings and spent the day with her wringer washer.

Back then, Grandma didn't have much choice when it came to doing chores the hard way. But today's active consumers do. Convenience is a must, and in busy families that means saving time by finding ways to combine home activities.

It's not surprising, then, that a growing number of consumers are arranging marriages of convenience between the laundry center and the kitchen, bringing their attractive equipment up from the basement and into the heart of the home.

Though more than 60 percent of American women now work outside the home, the kitchen remains the hub of family life, a central work area

where busy people can combine activities and still be with their families.

ACCORDING TO Ellen Cheever, design director of the Maytag Kitchen Idea Center, there are several reasons why the kitchen area is a favorite location for today's home laundry.

"The possibility of using existing plumbing lines and centralizing two focal home work areas is a way to save dollars as well as time," she says. "A laundry near the kitchen allows the storage and countertop space to do double duty."

"The breakfast table, for example, can serve as a folding counter; cabinets above the washer and dryer, or adjacent to it, can be used to store laundry supplies. The kitchen sink will handle the pretreating of stains, eliminating the cost of a second fixture."

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Take a look

Homes with new roofs can be judged by cover

A good roof can add aesthetic value to any home. Often, it is the part of the house that visitors see first and should complement home design.

Various visual effects can be created with roofing. A white roof, for instance, adds stature to a contemporary home, while a dark colored roof makes an unusually steep-roofed building appear less towering.

For many homeowners, the biggest problem is knowing when it's time to replace the roof. The roof's biggest enemies are the elements — sun, wind, rain, hail, snow and climate variations.

To determine the condition of the roof, inspect it from the ground with binoculars. Signs that a roof may be in need of replacement include excessive loss of protective mineral granules and cracked, curled or missing shingles. Most shingle roofs last approximately 15 years.

Once the decision is made that a roof needs to be replaced, the Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association suggests that a professional roofer handle the job. Reroofing is a difficult job and can be hazardous.

When the decision to hire a contractor has been made, some questions need answers. Is the roofer well recommended? How long has he been in business? Does he back up his work with service? Does he have a reputa-

tion for getting the job done on time?

ARMA also recommends homeowners get more than one estimate for comparison. Be certain that all candidates for the reroofing job are bidding on the basis of the same materials, plans and quality of workmanship. Before signing the contract, make sure it specifies the work to be done, materials to be used, completion dates, final price and method of payment.

Though there are many types of roof coverings to choose from, four out of five homes have asphalt shingles. In many instances, asphalt shingles can be applied over the existing roof. This eliminates the cost of tearing off the old roof.

Multi-layered asphalt shingles with either a fiberglass or organic base in handsome earthen shades of browns and beiges are designed to last up to 25 years or more with little maintenance. They are attractive, durable and economical. A professional roofer can use three-dimensional asphalt shingles to create a roof that blends harmoniously with its surroundings, adding depth to the roof line to give it a distinctive appearance.

For more information on the choice of a new roof, send 50 cents for a copy of "A Homeowner's Guide to Quality Roofing" to ARMA, Box 3248, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163.