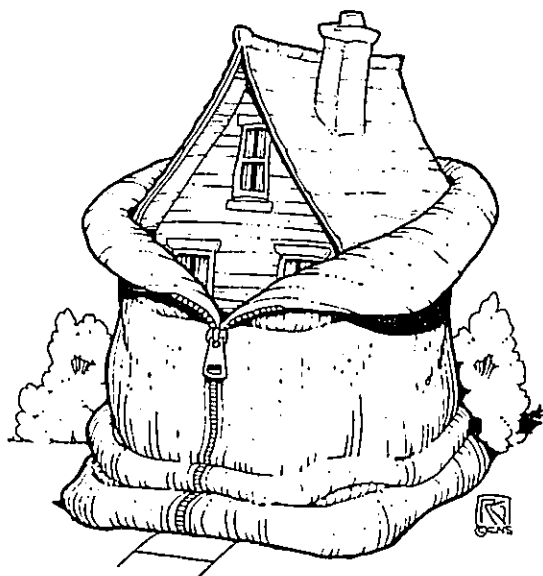


savings, comfort



Continued from Page 18

The areas around doors can also provide exits through which heat can escape your dwelling. Door sweeps, weather-stripping devices usually attached to the door bottoms, provide an energy-efficient fit. They are available in flexible rubber and vinyl and glide over the saddle of the door to seal its bottom.

Mechanical weather-stripping adaptations, which flip up when a door is opened and snap into place when it's shut, can also be installed on the threshold for a tight fit.

CRACKED GLASS in doors and windows should be replaced to maintain energy effectiveness.

An insulation checkup is a must.

"Proper insulation in a house is important in preventing major heat loss. A one-time investment in correct insulation can bring returns for years to come in the form of lower heating bills," Austin said.

Insulation in exterior walls, ceilings and floors requires protection by a vapor barrier on the heated, or warm, side of the insulation. Without such a barrier, or if it's installed on the cold side of the insulation, moisture from the house will enter the insulation material and damage it.

A vapor barrier, according to Austin, such as low perm paint, vinyl wallpaper or poly sheeting, should be applied to insulation located under wall paneling on the inside surface of exterior walls.

Austin suggests there should be at least six inches of fiberglass insulation in the attic and that insulation should be placed around the storage tanks of hot water heaters. This will help the

hot water inside to remain hot and reduce the need for "overtime" work.

Professional roofers agree a thorough roof inspection in early fall also helps protect your home against the ravages of winter.

Badly worn roofs are apt to cause serious leaks that often lead to extensive structural damage to a home — and possibly to its contents.

Shingles older than 15 years are prime for replacement. Also, even if a roof is only 10 years old, it should be inspected at least annually. Severe climatic conditions, such as heavy winds, can cause more rapid wear, according to experts at Georgia-Pacific. (Georgia-Pacific's "The Reroofing Book" is available for \$1 by writing to Georgia-Pacific Corp., Dept. NPS04, P.O. Box 48408, Atlanta, GA, 30362.)

INSPECTING YOUR roof for damage is fairly simple — you can either go up on the roof or use a pair of binoculars.

Some signs to look for during your inspection are leaks; overhanging limbs from trees which can "scrub" away shingle granules; loose, curled, cracked or missing shingles; pock marks; water erosion; nail pops; and areas with heavy wear.

Once you've discovered damage, you have three options; do the reroofing job yourself; hire a professional roofer to do the job; or purchase the shingles yourself and hire a professional to do the reroofing.

When handling the job yourself, pull out or nail down any protruding nails. Also, replace missing or broken shingles, and be sure to sweep the roof area clean of debris or loose mineral granules.

BUILDER'S LICENSE FALL COURSE

NCI Associates, Ltd. will offer its highly successful Residential Builders License course beginning September 18, (course repeats Oct. 23) to the general public or construction trades. This course also covers all maintenance and alteration contractor's license topics. Registration will be taken at the first class session. The class will run for five consecutive weeks and prepare individuals to sit for the state exam in Lansing.

DATE: Sept. 18 (Thurs.) - course will repeat Oct. 23

TIME: 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.

COST: \$125 (Including Materials & State Forms)

PLACE: Birney Middle School - 27225 Evergreen Rd., Southfield (at 11 Mile)

INSTRUCTOR: NCI Associates

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