

Blinds can dress up windows

When decorating your new house, many elements contribute to the look and mood you're trying to achieve. For example, your choice of colors (warm or cool), patterns (bold or subdued), and scale of furniture will make the difference between an intimate, cozy atmosphere and a more formal setting. If you were working with a professional interior decorator, this ambience would be one of the first things you'd discuss as the basis for all purchasing decisions.

Window coverings, formerly relegated to a few choices, have become an important element in the overall decorating scheme.

Choices include mini blinds — usually made of metal or vinyl — which are a particularly good fit for smaller windows. Available in a broad range of colors, they provide good light control, but very little in the way of insulation.

CLOTH OR VINYL vertical blinds offer a different look, generally working best with tall or large expanses of windows. When properly constructed and installed with a generous overlap, vertical blinds provide somewhat more insulation, but are not in the same league with shades specifically designed for this purpose. Thermal shades or "window quilts" will help reduce heating bills in direct proportion to the amount of time they're pulled down — but you may not be willing to sacrifice natural light or a special view to use them to maximum advantage.

There's a whole new class of fabric or fabric-like non-woven decorative blinds available in pleated, shirred, and honeycomb styles. These provide an attractive alternative particularly when custom-made to match or complement draperies, upholstery or slipcovers. Both light control and insulating value will depend on the weight, density and content of the materials used.

Transparent blinds are another new entry to the window covering scene with some unique features. Unlike conventional slatted blinds, which you either open to see outside or close to block the sun, transparent blinds remain in the closed position all the time.

Transparent blinds remain in the closed position all the time. The blinds not only give you an uninterrupted view outdoors, they also eliminate glare and filter out 100 percent of ultraviolet rays to protect carpets, furnishings and artwork from fading.

This feature has the advantage of providing up to 30 percent more thermal insulation than conventional blinds, reducing both heat and air conditioning costs. The blinds not only give you an uninterrupted view outdoors, they also eliminate glare and filter out 100 percent of ultraviolet rays to protect carpets, furnishings, and artwork from fading.

THE TRANSPARENT blinds are made from polycarbonate thermoplastic sheet, which is known for exceptional clarity, strength and durability. The

lightweight material is specified by architects and contractors for virtually unbreakable security glazing in public buildings.

Polycarbonate blinds are available in three styles: one- and two-inch horizontals and 3½-inch verticals.

When you don't want a see-through blind all the time, you can choose a style designed with half-transparent/half-frosted slats. By twisting the tilt wand, you make the window opaque without darkening the room.

Custom-made and hand-assembled, polycarbonate blinds are available at most decorating centers. They can be ordered to fit windows of any size or shape, including skylights, inclines, circular windows, arch tops and angle tops.

For more information, write Nanik Corporation, P.O. Box 1766, Wausau, Wis. 54402-1766.

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Waste is seminar topic

Dealing with hazardous waste disposal will be the subject of a seminar 8-10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 16, sponsored by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan.

Larry Aubuchon and Dave Parsons of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

will discuss identification, disposal and legal responsibilities regarding hazardous waste, rights of subcontractors and employees.

The program will be in the Radisson Plaza Inn, 1500 Town Center, Southfield. Registration fees, including continental breakfast, at \$10 for BASH members and \$15 for non-members. To register, call 737-4477.

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