

AROUND THE HOUSE

Understand insulation for home

One of the ways a house loses and gains heat is through conduction. Conduction is the movement of heat through solid objects, such as walls, the ground, floors and ceilings.

Heat always moves toward the cold, trying to equalize the temperature, and does move through solid material. Heat inside a warm house will always try to escape and, in the summer, the heat outside tries to get in.

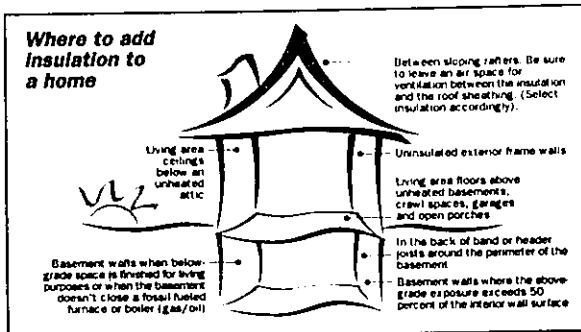
Insulation in floors, ceilings and walls is helpful because it traps tiny pockets of air that retard the transfer of heat. Insulation won't stop heat entirely, but will slow it down.

Insulation's effectiveness is indicated by its "R-value," which is its ability to resist heat flow from warmer to cooler areas. The higher the R-value, the more effective the insulation. It is important to remember that a material's insulating ability is based on R-value, not thickness. In Michigan, the recommended R-value is R-38.

Types of insulation are:

- Batts and blankets — fiberglass. The R-value per inch is 3.1 to 3.5. It is best suited for standard joists, studs or rafter spacing in attics, walls and the

Where to add insulation to a home



underside of floors.

- Loose fill — cellulose, fiberglass and vermiculite. The R-value per inch is 2.2 to 3.7. It is best suited for non-standard spacing, infill of block walls and when spacing between joists that have obstructions.

- Rigid board — polystyrene, polyiso-

cyanurate, urethane and bead board. The R-value per inch is 3.5 to 5.5. It is best suited for basement walls, foundations, exterior walls, interior walls and cathedral ceilings.

When adding insulation in the attic, keep at least 1-1/4 inches of space between the insulation and the sheathing to allow air from the soffit/ventilation to flow to the ridge and/or gable vents.

You can expect to pay 65 cents to \$1

per square foot for insulation, including labor and materials. Many homeowners reduce their cost significantly by adding insulation themselves, something that is easy in almost all homes.

In the attic, a contractor will install about nine inches of insulation. If you have a 1,000-square foot attic at an insulation cost of \$650 to \$1,000, you can expect savings of \$125 to \$200 per year, depending on the climate. Your payback would occur in five to six years.

Insulating walls can be an economic loser without careful planning. It requires drilling holes, filling walls and using an infrared scanner. Walls also have much more square footage to insulate than the attic. With 4,000 square feet of walls in an average house, the cost may be \$3,500 to \$4,500 professionally installed. You may not break even on your investment for 15 to 20 years. An even better option is to address the air infiltration and air loss.

Around the House, by the AmeriSpec home inspection service of Plymouth, instructs homeowners about the basics of home maintenance and repair. If you have a question, write to: Around the House/At Home, The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

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Fest offers tour, treats

Explore the unusual and creative world of MacKenzie-Childs Ltd. at Little Foxes & Little Foxes, too Fine Gifts & China in a shopping festival now through Saturday, June 29.

MacKenzie-Childs Ltd. is an American, handmade line of china including accessories for the home, ceramics and glassware. The products can be found exclusively at Little Foxes & Little Foxes, too, 2211 Woodward in the Fox Office Center next to the Fox Theatre. Call (313) 983-6202. Free parking is available on Columbia, between the Fox Theatre and the State Theater.

During the shopping festival, free tours of the Fox Theatre will take place every hour starting 11 a.m. and ending

5 p.m. Complimentary fresh scones, muffins and cookies will be served with lemonade, iced tea, coffee and tea from an outdoor canopy erected for the event.

"We are proud to offer MacKenzie-Childs Ltd. handmade pottery," said Little Foxes store manager Marion Shanle. "I visited the MacKenzie-Childs' home and studio in Aurora, N.Y., when we were deciding to carry the new line at our store. It was absolutely fascinating! Their lifestyle and work atmosphere is a complete reflection of their work — creative and fun-loving."

Little Foxes also specializes in one-of-a-kind gifts from around the world.

House, garden tour set

The Lathrup Village Historical Society will host its second annual Lathrup Village Home & Garden Tour 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 13.

The event presents an opportunity to view the interiors of four of Lathrup's most interesting homes and stroll through four of Lathrup's beautiful private gardens on a self-guided tour.

New this year is a boutique offering plants, garden statuary and unusual garden accessories for sale. The boutique will be near the refreshment area

in Sarrackwood Park at the junction of Saratoga Boulevard, Rackham Drive and Woodworth Way.

Tickets will be sold in advance for \$10 per person, or \$12 the day of the tour with free refreshments served to all. Seniors (60+) are offered a discounted entry price of \$8 per person.

Tickets are available at the Lathrup Village City Offices. Call Karen Copus at (810) 559-0087 or Barb Kenez at (810) 559-4887 for tickets or more information.