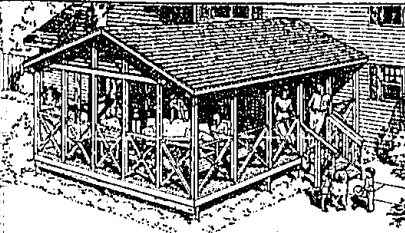


The Weekly Do-It-Yourselfer



Covered Screen Porch

The addition of the covered screen porch offers the luxury of being outdoors in almost any weather along with increasing both the value and living space of your existing home. Two complete sets of the plan are included - one for you or your builder and one for the building department. Side door and optional stair plans are included. The package also includes five sizes ranging from 10' x 12' to 14' x 16'. Think of it as an additional room. Plans include clearly labeled, detailed drawings along with full framing instructions. Illustrations are 3 dimensional with full elevations and cross sectional diagrams. Step-by-step comprehensive instructions are included. A full materials list is included to make your trip to the local lumber for building materials easier.

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Ten tips to prepare for the cold months

For most homeowners, household maintenance and improvements are ongoing year 'round. Luckily, there usually is a season when it is most appropriate to undertake particular tasks, so caring for a home need not be too overwhelming.

With crisp temperatures upon us and memories of last year's severe winter, now is the time to think about readying a home for the cold days ahead.

To get homeowners started, the CertainTeed Home Institute has prepared the following guide for maintenance and home improvements this season:

- Clean and store outdoor furniture. It will last longer and be more quickly available in the spring if it is cleaned and thoughtfully stored now.
- Clean gutters and downspouts to prevent serious damage to your home resulting from poor drainage. To clean them, choose a dry day since you'll need to stand on a ladder. Stand below the level of each gutter and using a towel, scoop out debris into a bag or onto the ground for sweeping up later.
- Upgrade attic insulation. If your home was built before 1980, chances are it needs more insulation to meet today's Department of Energy recommended levels for residential insulation. Insulating yourself is even more simple to do now than in years past as new products like EasyHandler™, are available. EasyHandler is a fiber glass insulation encapsulated with a breathable nonwoven fabric specifically designed to reduce dust and itchiness and add comfort while handling and installing insulation. Consult with your building material retailer for the amount of insulation you'll need for your attic based on the geographic area in which you live.
- Maintain garage doors. Garage doors should slide smoothly when going up and down. Lubricate the rollers (the small wheels attached to the sides of the door) with a few drops of household oil or spray a small amount of silicone lubrication onto their spindles. Also check that the hinges are fastened securely to the door panels and tighten the screws if they are loose.
- Organize the garage. The goal of a well-functioning garage is to get everything you can off the floor. Walls, for instance, offer a wealth of storage opportunities. Hooks and pegboards are perfect for storing things like garden tools. Plastic bins or storage racks are good ideas as well.
- Caulk to prevent drafts. Sealing a home is especially important in the colder months. Caulking is a successful way to

achieve a draft-proof home. Caulk when the temperature is above 60°F around stationary parts of window and door frames, where house siding joins at corners or meets the roof eaves and foundation, around wall and roof vents, skylights and chimneys, around exterior water faucets and where other plumbing or electric wiring enters the home.

- Weatherstrip windows and doors. Drafty windows and doors rob heat from homes. Sealing them with weatherstripping is an easy, quick and effective cure to this problem. For double-hung windows, use channel stripping. For doors, seal the sides and top of the door, then the bottom using foam edged wooden strips. Both products are available from your building materials retailer.
- Maintain storm windows and doors. Before the cold weather arrives, make minor repairs on storm doors and windows to prevent air seepage later on. Rub frames and sashes with fine steel wool to rid them of corrosion. Then wipe with paste for further protection. Also, spray windows with silicone lubricant to keep sashes sliding smoothly.
- Prepare your heating system to begin working again. For safety reasons and because of the complexity of most home heating

equipment, it is suggested that you call a qualified professional heating technician for inspection and service. These experts are available through your oil or gas supplier. Also, consider a professional chimney sweep to check fireplaces and woodstoves.

- Drain pipes to prevent freezing. When water freezes and expands inside pipes, it can cause major damage requiring expensive repairs. The surest way to prevent pipes from freezing is to drain them before the colder weather arrives. To drain pipes supplying water to outside faucets, first close off the shutoff valves on the pipes supplying them. Next, open the faucets letting any water in the pipes run out and leave them open until the water supply is turned on again in the spring. That way any water remaining in the pipes can expand if it freezes without creating damaging pressure.

For more information on energy-saving home improvement projects, write to the CertainTeed Home Institute, P.O. Box 860, Valley Forge, PA 19482 or call 800 782 8777 for a list of all pamphlets available for homeowners. Also visit us on the Internet at <http://www.certainteed.com>

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