

home & garden

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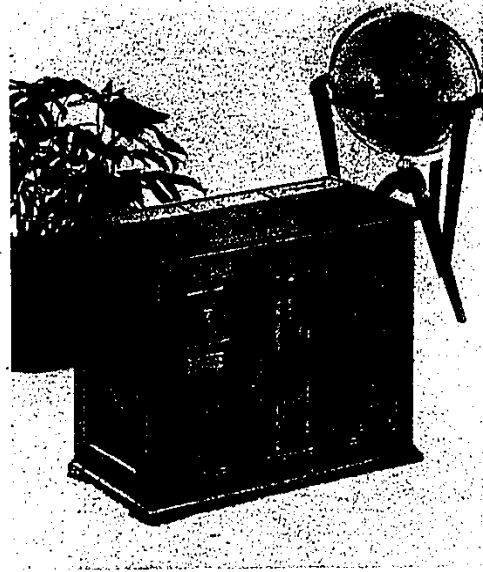
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HUMIDIFIER IS TRANSISTORIZED to respond quickly to changing humidity requirements of an area of more than 3,000 square feet. A pecan finish over steel and a reversible summer cover --one side slate and the other woodgrain --makes this West Bend model a good-looking piece of furniture.

Hard Winter, Waste Boost Fuel Shortage

Mother Nature and the American consumer will have a lot to say as to whether or not last summer's gasoline shortage will turn into this winter's fuel oil shortage.

A hard winter and wasteful fuel use could turn what is already acknowledged as a tight situation into one of greater severity.

By using some common sense practices, however, homeowners can help alleviate the situation, and end up saving themselves anywhere from \$10 to \$100 or more on their fuel oil heating bills, according to heating experts.

For example, a constant thermostat setting of 70 degrees instead of 75 will save consumers considerable dollars, depending on the size of their homes. Annual gallonage savings will range anywhere from 107 for the home which uses 750 gallons at 70 degrees, to 714 for the home which uses 5,000 gallons yearly.

Other tips from heating experts include:

- Before retiring at night, lower the thermostat setting by five degrees. The same holds true when going away for more than 24 hours.

- Never let a faucet drip. One drop-a-second can waste 700 gallons in a year's time. And if it's hot water, fuel, as well as money, are being wasted.

- Make sure the house is well caulked (window sills, foundation, etc.). It's estimated that air leakage heat loss can add more than 10 per cent to an average heating bill.

- Keep homes well-insulated; in the attic; with storm doors and windows; with weather-stripping.

- Remove rugs and furniture from positions where they could block radiators or heat registers.

- Keep room temperatures moderate so windows do not have to be opened or the thermostat "juggled" constantly. Turn the heat off in any room not being used.

- Have the home's heating unit inspected annually.

Living Room Built-Ins Aid Hostess

To prevent a living room from becoming an unused parlor, build in a wall of western wood shelves and cabinets for music equipment, games, stationery, and hobby materials.

A drawer or two for coasters, paper napkins, ashtrays and the like, plus a nearby closet for card table and chairs, keep the room ready for entertaining.

A set of cabinets built into the living, dining or family room can be a handy refreshment center, with plug-ins for coffee pot and warming trays for serving snacks.

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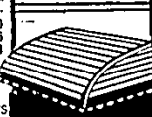
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