

## Controlling Mildew On Roofs

Brown, blotchy patches of mildew are a common sight on many roofs in North Carolina. This mildew is caused by an air-borne fungus. It doesn't shorten the life of your roof, but it looks so bad that people often replace a roof just to get rid of it.

There are other ways to deal with the problem. Mildew can be removed by using a chlorine bleach at full strength. Simply saturate the mildewed area with bleach until the bleach begins to run off. Rub lightly to insure penetration and coverage. Then rinse thoroughly.

Because chlorine bleach is a very strong substance, you should handle it by observing precautions. First, wear protective gloves and eye wear. Also, make sure all parts of your body are protected. Then, after the bleach is applied, rinse the roof thoroughly, making sure all traces are washed from gutters and downspouts. Also, protect any foundation plants and lawn areas that might come in contact with bleach run-off.

And, last but not least, if you have a colored roof, select an inconspicuous spot to pre-test for any discoloration that may be caused by full-strength bleach.

### Home Improvements

When you pay several thousand dollars to improve your house, you probably expect to get part of that investment back when you sell the house, but things do not always work out that way.

A lot depends on the type of home improvement you make. Some improvements mean extra expenses for the homeowner and others bring savings.

A survey of real estate agents, home builders and home buyers turned up some insights on home improvements. For instance, you should give preference to improvements that will not price your house out of the market. And you need to consider sales appeal. Some improvements may bring back only a fraction of the outlay and others could make your house easier to sell.

Next, evaluate priorities. Usually dressing up the living room takes priority over remodeling the dining room. And modernizing the kitchen counts for more than a finished basement.

The home improvements that seem to give the biggest payoff at sale time are: bathroom addition or update; adding a bedroom; giving family room or kitchen a facelift; adding a porch or fireplace; converting to a solar water heater and adding central air conditioning.

Improvements that seem to offer little or no financial return at the time of resale include: paneling, aluminum siding, fire detectors, burglar alarms, intercom systems, extreme lighting systems, swimming pool, tennis court, gazebo, tool shed or breezeway.

Of course, you may want to make some of these improvements for your own pleasure, rather than for financial return. But sticking to the more profitable improvements will help protect your investment at sale time.

### Insure Privacy in the Home

In the past few years, housing costs went up and home sizes started to go down. The result: many families are being squeezed into a new kind of togetherness — the type of togetherness that increases the potential for family conflict.

Complete privacy may not always be possible. But, if you live in a small, open-spaced house, there are some things you can do to provide family members with some degree of privacy.

For instance, partitions offer privacy. And a partition can be as simple as a strategically placed bookshelf or couch. For additional privacy, try using doors, panels and screens as room dividers. You can buy these items from building stores and mail order suppliers.

A cabinet or counter with casters can offer movable privacy. You can have a cabinetmaker add casters to a ready-made cabinet or you might ask him to customize a cabinet for you. For even greater privacy, have him add a five-to-six foot wall to the cabinet.

Another way to assure privacy is to group furnishings according to activity areas. As an example, place furnishings for reading or conversation in a quiet corner away from the television or stereo.

And be sure to place room dividers in bedrooms that children have to share. After all, every child needs a place where he can get away from his brothers and sisters. He doesn't need a big space, but he does need a place that is his very own. Try using bunk beds, back-to-back dressers, free-standing screens or quilts and fabrics as room dividers in your children's bedrooms.

### Noisy Refrigerator

A "funny" noise coming from a refrigerator isn't necessarily your due to call someone in to service it. Sometimes you can put an end to the unusual sounds without paying a professional.

First, make sure the strange noise is peculiar to your refrigerator model. It is normal to hear the sound of trickling water in the frostless types. And in models with built-in ice makers, you'll hear the sound of running water filling the molds, a humming noise as the ice is pushed out and then the sliding sound of ice filling a bucket.

But, if your refrigerator's sound is abnormal, see if there is anything vibrating on top of the appliance. You may have to find a new place for the cookie jar or car keys if they are causing trouble.

Most refrigerators will sound a protest if they are not level. Provide a little tender loving care and your refrigerator should quiet down.

Refrigerators are also fussy about touching a wall. They will make funny noises if placed too close to a wall, but you can avoid this by installing according to the recommendations in the service manual.

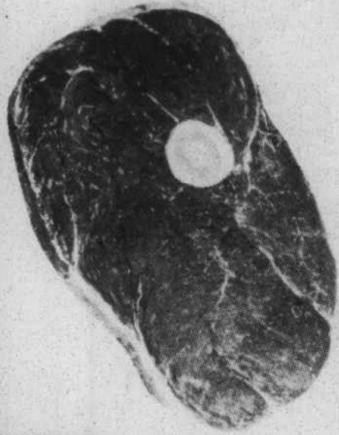
Give your refrigerator repair service and your pocketbook a break. Try to solve the problem of that strange noise your self and call in professional help if needed.

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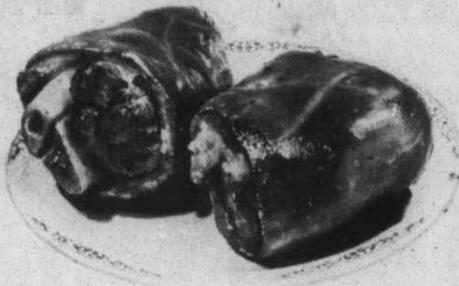


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