

4D

REAL ESTATE

A&E 1D

Sweat energy costs

Many of us are already cranking up our heat to keep homes warm this winter. Some higher than average heating expenses may be attributed to having less than adequate energy efficient windows.

For many people, rising energy costs have caused more than a little concern these days. Home heating costs this winter has put an additional strain on many budgets, especially as a result of rising energy rate.



ROLAND HAWKINS

One way to help ease this rising expense during the chilly winter months is to replace old inefficient windows with new thermal, energy-efficient windows.

Installing high performance energy efficient windows is one of the best ways to reduce your monthly expense. To better understand how windows affect your heating and cooling costs, you need to understand how energy flows through them. There are several ways heat is transferred through windows.

Sunlight is an important source of heat. Solar heat is transferred inside the home through the window during the daytime. Objects warmed by sunlight become strong sources of radiant heat. If however, you fail to close your drapery or blinds at night that same radiant heat will escape out of your windows. And in the summer the opposite happens during the day. Hot air is let in therefore constantly warming our homes and causing your air conditioning system to work harder.

One of the biggest causes of home energy loss is air infiltration. This is process by which hot and cool air passes between a window sash and frame. In older windows energy is lost through cracks and gaps around window frames.

Window efficiency is measured in terms of cubic feet or air per minute, per square foot of area. The lower the number, the less air the window lets pass through the better. Infiltration can carry cold air into a house and warm air out in the winter months. The opposite happens in the summer where cold air travels out and hot air travels in.

High performance, energy efficient vinyl windows are a great investment because they save money over time. Since vinyl doesn't conduct heat and cold, they are able to keep a home comfortable year-round. Also unlike wood products, vinyl windows never need to be painted or stained and rarely require replacement.

There are several popular choices in windows. Single hung and double hung windows are the most common choices. In a single hung window, only the bottom sashes slide vertically. However, both sashes slide vertically in double hung windows.

Casement windows are hinged at the sides. Hinged windows such as casements generally have lower air leakage rates than sliding windows. Casement windows also close tighter by pressing against the frame when closed.

The glass selection is just as important as your choice of Please see SWEAT/5D

Faux techniques add to bed and bathroom



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With the hectic lives we all lead, many of us are looking to add some relaxation time to our schedules.

We spend money on resorts and exclusive spas, but what about adding a little more relaxation into your home? According to Donna Schroeder, color specialist with Dutch Boy paints, using the latest faux techniques and colors

such as watery blues and pale greens will help turn your own bathroom and bedroom into a haven of relaxation.

"Faux techniques are easy to accomplish and will give your room a whole new feel," says Schroeder. "Plus, faux brings a rich, vibrancy to the rooms in which you spend so much time." The following are examples of some of these faux techniques:

• Cloud technique

Not many experiences compare to a beautiful spring day when white puffy clouds seem to just float across a crisp blue sky. It has the ability to make you feel refreshed. With the Cloud technique faux finish, that same feeling can be obtained every time you step into the bathroom. The first two steps are as easy as tracing Please see FAUX/5D

Finding faucet that suits your fancy

ARTICLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Looking for a quick remodel project? Switch out your faucet for an updated look at your bathroom sink.

With numerous styles to choose from — such as wall mount or deck-mount, widespread or centerset and single handle or cross lever faucets — the options are endless for personalizing your bath.

"Today's faucets can dictate the look of a bathroom," said Lin Pannell, showroom consultant for Welker McKee Supply Company, a division of Hajoca Corporation, in Cleveland, Ohio. "Homeowners are starting to look at them as the centerpiece of their bathroom and want designs that reflect their unique decorating style."

But, with so many faucets to choose from, it can be overwhelming to know where to begin. Here are some of Pannell's

tips to help you whittle down your options and make the best choice for your bath. On Deck According to Pannell, "Deck-mounted faucets, or faucets that are installed at the same level as the sink, are still the most popular style today."

Typically, deck-mount faucets are available in a centerset (where the spout and hot and cold handles are combined on a single base unit) or widespread model (where the spout and hot and cold handles are all mounted separately.) Both models are designed to fit most three-hole sinks and they come in an endless array of styles.

Deck mounted faucets with a higher arching, elongated spout have made a splash in the bath in recent years.

"The high arc faucets give you more room to wash your hands, get a drink of water, or even wash

your hair," said Pannell.

"High arc styles, with their strong visual appeal, can really update the look of a bath."

An example of a high arc faucet is the new Eva Collection from Moen. With flowing curves, tapered handles and a high-arc spout, the two-handle centerset and widespread faucets have elegant, transitional styling and are available in brushed nickel and oil rubbed bronze finishes.

Plus there are complementary Eva accessories including a towel bar, towel ring, paper holder and tank lever for a coordinated look.

Up Against the wall

"Gaining in popularity are the newer wall-mounted faucets," said Pannell.

These faucets require special installations behind the wall and cannot easily replace an existing deck-mount faucet. "Paired with

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PHOTO/ARA CONTENT

Remodeling is en vogue as America's homes get older.

Remodeling project? Think return of classics

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America's housing inventory is aging. According to the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, the average age of houses in the United States is 32 years and rising. So it should come as no surprise that the remodeling industry is booming. Home owners spend more than \$230 billion each year on remodeling, and when they shop for new fixtures, they want to add lasting style that unifies the look of their homes, not trendy products that will soon appear dated. This has prompted a return to classic architectural styles like Victorian, Craftsman, Old World and Colonial.

"Homeowners have their eyes fixed on future returns, so when it comes to selecting products for a renovation, they are behaving like smart investors," says Steve Brant, product marketing manager for JELD-WEN windows. "Homeowners demand well-established architectural styles and high-performance materials that will look great, save money and last for years to come."

Please see PLANNING/5D

Outdoor painting prep made a lot easier

ARTICLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Painting a home's exterior is a big project, but one that pays off in curb appeal as well as protection for your home. Having the right tools can make the job easier, faster and produce more professional-looking results.

The first and most tedious step in painting your home is to get rid of loose or flaking paint and prepare a smooth surface for the fresh paint. A new innovative tool from Wagner Spray Tech and abrasive partner 3M helps make quick work of this process. The one-step patent pending PaintEater system eliminates traditional time consuming and labor intensive steps of exterior paint prep. The PaintEater removes chipped, peeling paint, feathers rough edges and smoothes the surface in one easy process.

The PaintEater lets you begin painting more quickly. A better prepped surface means that the new paint goes on smoother, adheres better and lasts longer. Before sanding and painting outdoor surfaces, start by protecting outdoor furniture as well as landscaping plants with drop cloths. And don't forget to tape around any surfaces where you don't want paint, such as windows. Now you're ready to prep.

The PaintEater is perfect for do-it-yourselfers. It's lightweight and maneuverable, yet tough. The high-powered machine combines with the tough 3M spun-fiber disc with optimum speed and power for superior performance and control without worrying about damaging surfaces. The

Please see OUTDOOR/5D