Extension Home

Economics

Energy Efficient Window Treatment It's not too soon to start thinking about getting your home in shape for cold weather. Large picture windows are places where you may lose a lot of heat during cold days and nights.

Draperies can help heat loss, but there are some things you can do to make your window treatments even more energy efficient.

Usually draperies extend about three inches out from the wall, and even when you close the draperies, if the top of the drapes aren't sealed in, warm air is drawn over the top of the drapes and cools on the window glass. Then this cold air flows back into your room under the bottom of the drapes.

So, you can save heat and heating dollars by closing in the top of the draperies. Consider making a closedtop decorative cornice. Or, if you already have a valance, close the top of it with wood, plastic or nonflammable rigid insulation.

This is only one way to make your home more energy efficient. But it is one that you might be able to do yourself at little cost - and it will help you save money on your utility bill, too.

Get Rid of Creosote

Woodburning stoves are becoming more prevalent, and so are home fires that result from improper care of that stove.

Here are some suggestions on how to prevent such fires. A common cause is creosote build-up inside the chimney. Creosote is a shiny, black substance that is a by-product of wood combustion. It is highly flammable. And, if it gets thicker than half an inch, it is likely to ignite and cause a chimney fire.

To prevent creosote build-up, burn dry wood only. Also, about once every week or ten days, burn a load of wood in the stove with the drafts open as this will help burn away any creosote.

About twice during the heating season, go up on the roof to check out the chimney. Using a flashlight, peer down into the chimney to see if there is a creosote build-up. If you suspect there is, clean the inside of the chimney. Use a short piece of chain to break the stuff off. Or, tie a rope to a steel brush with a weight on it and slide that up and down the chimney.

If there is more build-up that you know how to get rid of, call in a heating expert.

Creosote build-up can also be a hazard with woodburning furnaces, but it doesn't usually present much of a problem with fireplaces. Fireplaces are usually so hot that there is not much chance for creosote to accumulate in the chimney.

Make Wise Use of your Money

There are several things you can do to use your money wisely, including the development of a money control system - one that is acceptable to, and one that involves, the whole family.

Then be realistic about your needs, demands and what you can afford. Plan and buy basics first. Then get into the habit of planning ahead for long-range goals and short-term purchases. And take advantage of special sales prices when they occur.

Also become informed about the market situation, including availability and prices of products.

Always practice sound shopping habits and be sure to get the best buy for your needs and your budget. Don't become addicted to labels, prestige stores, specialty shops and gimmicks.

Use goods wisely and take care of them in order to get maximum service with a minimum of repairs and maintenance costs. And, use your ability, talent and time to perform as many services as possible at home instead of paying someone else to do them.

Next, use credit wisely and keep charges at a minimum. Also, take advantage of public offerings such as libraries, parks and educational programs.

Be alert to fraud and exercise your consumer rights and responsibilities. And last, but not least, keep records of how your money is used. Then evaluate your progress periodically and make any adjustments you need to make.



Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Harvey Byrd of Kinston announce the engagement of their daughter, Harvette Hope Byrd, to Robert Hardee Poole of Kinston, son of Mrs. Earl Edwin Batt of Kinston and Walter Roy Poole Jr. of Pine Knoll Shores. A December 16 wedding is planned at the Westminster United Methodka Zimbih

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