

# HOME

## Adding room can be easy

Your family is getting bigger, but your house is getting smaller—or at least it seems that way. This is the dilemma facing many a homeowner who knows that "moving up" to a larger home is now out of the question.

Fortunately, there are several solutions to overpopulated house problems, say designers and contractors. Here are some examples:

When you can't spread out, go up! A loft, extended over a high-ceilinged living room or bedroom can provide space for a mini den or bed-

room, according to your family's needs.

Many families have found a better use for garages that were previously used only for storing "junk." Garages are now being turned into bedrooms, dens, recreation rooms and even kitchens.

The cost of converting a garage into another room is less than adding an extra room onto a home and many families feel that the added space is more important than having a place to put the car.

Don't overlook the attic, even if there does not seem to be

enough light or floor space. Dormer windows or skylights can be added or structural changes made, with the help of an experienced contractor. Attics are ideal for youngsters' bedrooms, sewing rooms or offices.

Basements can be converted into recreation rooms or workshops, and much of the work can be done by a family experienced in do-it-yourself projects.

Enclosing a porch is yet another way of adding space to a crowded house. Such space can serve as an extra bedroom, sew-

ing room, or den, depending on the size of the porch.

Adding a room to the back of your home or on top is still another solution to the shrinking-home dilemma. Such extensions will require professional expertise and therefore be more costly.

There are many ways you can use baskets for storing odds and ends throughout the house and what with the many decorative types of baskets available, why not put them to work for you.

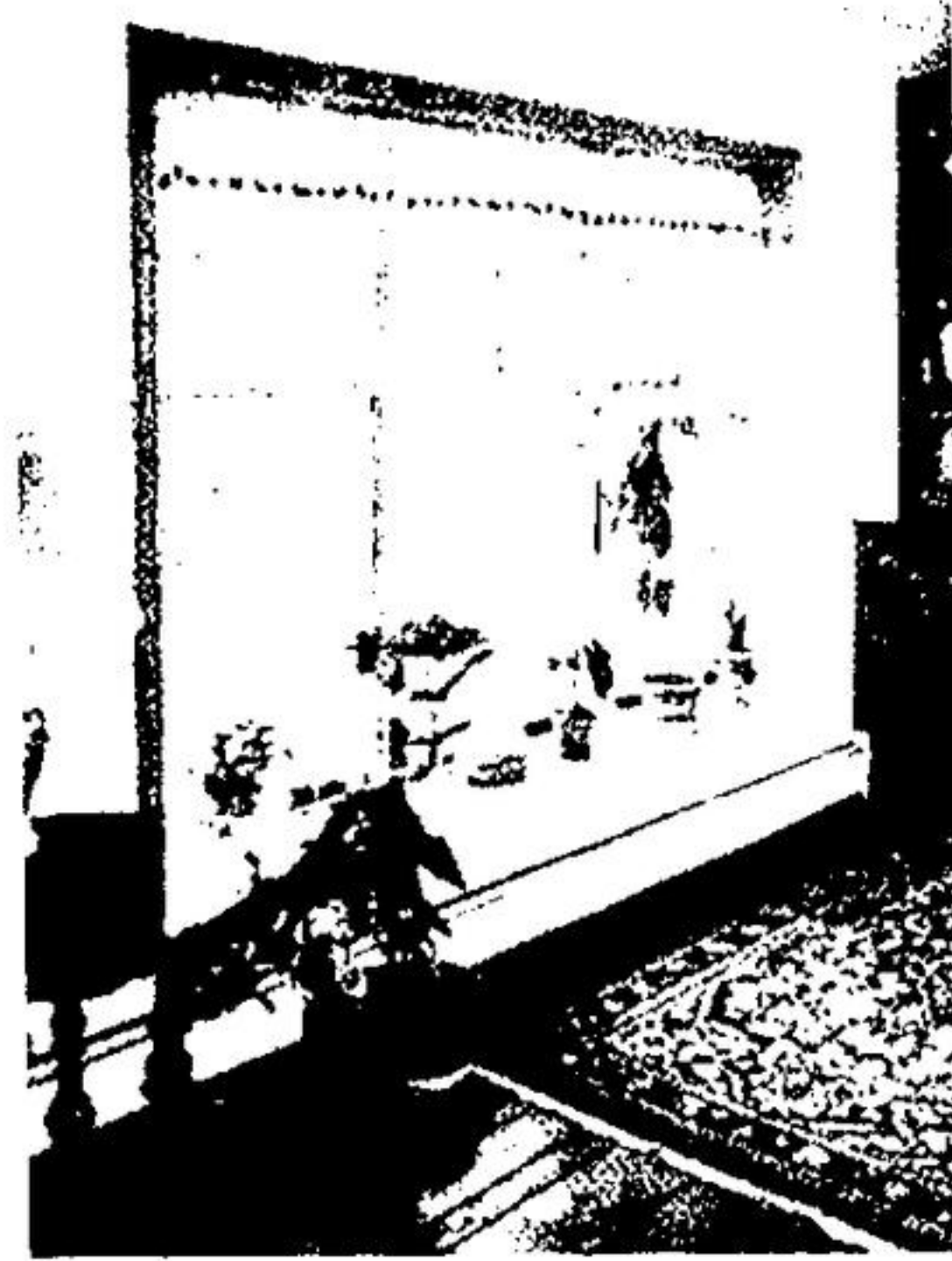
In the kitchen,

baskets can hold paper supplies such as towels, napkins, foil and paper plates. You can even nail baskets to the wall for storing odds and ends.

In the bathroom, use colorful baskets for storing towels or soaps.

Baskets can hold magazines and reading glasses by your bedside, or perhaps manicure supplies.

You'll find many new uses for baskets throughout the house...in the youngsters' rooms as catchalls for toys, in the living room for storing extra ashtrays.



## Early pruning important

Early pruning and fertilizing are important if you want attractive and healthy roses, says Theo Blom, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food horticulturist.

Roses should be pruned each spring before the bushes leaf out to help maintain the quality and overall appearance of the plants.

Although each plant should be pruned to its habit and amount of growth, Mr. Blom

says there are some general guidelines. Wait until the buds start to swell, so you can determine which branches are alive and which are dead.

Don't cut below last year's pruning. If you do, you weaken the plant and the new shoots won't be strong.

If the rose bushes are new and this is their first pruning, prune them about 20 to 30 centimetres (8 to 12 inches) above the ground. In subsequent years, prune a bit higher and remove all dead wood and weak, twiggy growth.

It is important to prune climbing roses according to their growth habits. Cut off the thin branches so the plant does not have too many blind shoots.

Established roses will benefit if fertilizer is applied during the growing season. Mr. Blom recommends three applications of balanced fertilizer in mid May, June and August.

Apply the fertilizer to the soil surface near the plants, then rake or dig it under. A rate of 1/2 to 1 kilogram (1 to 2 pounds) of fertilizer for each 9 square metres (100 square feet) of rose garden is recommended.

Fertilizer formulas for roses are available at garden centers, but you can apply the general-purpose fertilizer used for lawns and gardens.

## Consider planting lily

Before deciding to throw out your Easter lily, consider transplanting it in the garden.

Easter lilies (Lilium longiflorum) can be grown successfully outdoors, says Theo Blom, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food horticulturist. If you're lucky, they may bloom again in the fall.

Once the plant has bloomed indoors, remove the anthers from the flowers and keep the plant well watered in a cool room. Mr. Blom says lilies enjoy good light but not direct sunlight.

As soon as danger of frost is past, remove the plant from the pot and transplant to a partially-shaded section of the garden.

Lilies prefer light soils with good drainage and water-holding capacity, but without high fertility.

Because the Easter lily is not entirely winter-hardy, Mr. Blom recommends using a thick mulch of leaves and straw to cover the bulbs. If the winter is not too severe, the bulbs should grow and flower again next year.

Another method of protecting bulbs for the winter is to dig them up complete with roots and store them in a cool, dry place.

Mr. Blom says temperatures of about 10 degrees C should be maintained for six to eight weeks. After this cold treatment, the bulbs can be potted and kept at room temperature to encourage the growth of new shoots.

## Now that winter is over it's time to check insulation

If you've had a winter full of high heating bills and draughty rooms, now's the time to check out your home insulation.

The warmer months are perfect for doing a thorough insulation job. There's no hurry to beat the next onslaught of sub-zero weather and any outside work can be done comfortably.

Insulation effectiveness is usually judged by the "R" value or resistance factor and is directly related to the thickness of insulation material. For example, an R-factor of 12 is equal to about 4 inches of fiberglass insulation.

The higher the R-factor, the greater the resistance to heat loss. Minimum recommendation in most homes today are R-28 in ceilings, R-12 in walls, R-20 in floors over unheated areas and R-

10 in basements. Most heating suppliers, i.e. electric gas, or oil companies, can be called in for accurate R-factor measurement and advice on insulation requirements.

The most common areas to insulate are the basement and attic. Other areas that should be considered are often ignored.

"If you're going to insulate your house properly, it doesn't make sense to put 8 inches

in the attic or basement and forget about anywhere else," says Peter van Gelfen, a home centre manager for Beaver Lumber Company in Mississauga, Ontario. "You should look at outside walls, the wall or floor adjoining the garage and all doors and windows. It should be a total package."

There are several types of insulation materials avail-

able to do-it-yourselfer. Batts or blankets are made of glass fibre or rock wool and usually measure 4 feet long by 15 or 23 inches wide.

Vermiculite is an extruded chemical in pebble form and cellulose is shredded paper. Both are good for upgrading the "R" factor of existing insulation.

Other types include rigid foam, which is composed of styrospan kernels, hand or machine poured wools and canned spray foam. Check which materials need fire or moisture barriers.

Rigid foam is the most popular material for basement insulation since it goes up quickly. Simply apply strapping at 16 inch centre and glue the styrospan in-between.

Batts are more economical and often fit more snugly between the studs because they stretch naturally when

installed. The basement walls should be damp-proofed first and then the batts put into place.

In the attic, lay the batts between the rafters. Use paper-faced batts where there is no insulation and friction fit for upgrading insulation.

If there is no ventilation above the insulation, add approved air vents in the roof or roof-ends.

For walls use any of the loose-fill types but only if your wall space opens into the attic and goes right down the foundation. Otherwise you will need a professional contractor to apply either blown-in or framed-in-place insulation.

Improve caulking around doors and windows and use weatherstripping where necessary. If you don't already have them, invest in good quality aluminum storm—but don't forget the storms

for the patio doors.

These and other insulation methods will be demonstrated in detail at this May's Show Me How Home Improvement Exhibition where approximately 120 manufacturers in more than 200 exhibit booths will feature the latest in do-it-yourself products and techniques.

Held in the Toronto International Centre of Commerce, 6900 Airport Road, the show will be open during the following hours: Friday, May 5, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, May 7, 12 noon to 8 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

## Insulation check

A quick way to find out if your house needs extra insulation is to take a look outside. On a dull day, is the snow melting on the roof? If so, you don't have enough insulation in the attic. Is snow disappearing from around the sides of the house? If so you need insulation on the basement walls.

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## Professional should install smoke detector

Recent reports in the press and in publications such as the NFPA fire journal have commented concerning the successful operation of various types of fire detectors during fires which have occurred in single family dwellings and where their timely operation has saved lives.

Fire prevention in the home is a subject which is more appropriately within the purview of the professionals, such as the members of our neighbourhood fire department, and hopefully, the vast majority of us, by taking their advice on methods of minimizing fire hazards, will never experience a fire in the home.

However, in order to take full advantage of the additional protection afforded by fire detection devices or systems in our homes, it is important that we have an appreciation of their capabilities and application. In particular, we would stress the importance of employing a fire detector which has demonstrated an acceptable level of performance, as evidenced by the ULC Label, as well as the importance of their correct installation and regular maintenance. Finally, all fire prevention authorities stress the need to react to fire warning as quickly as possible and have the occupants evacuate the home, with the evacuation based upon a well rehearsed family escape plan.

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The Standing General Government Committee will be considering Sessional Paper # 13, "Policy Options for Continuing Tenant Protection" on eight Wednesdays commencing April 12, 1978. The first six of these meetings will consider Rent Review Legislation and the last two The Landlord and Tenant Act.  
Interested individuals or corporations wishing to present Briefs and/or appear before the Committee should contact the Clerk of the Committee, Room 110, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto M7A 1A2, telephone 965-1406. Written briefs should be as concise as possible, in point form, and submitted at the earliest possible date.  
Bruce McCaffrey, M.P.P. Chairman (Mrs.) Frances I. Nokes, Clerk

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