

# YOUR-

## Tips For Updating, Remodelling Older Home

You've looked around and come to the conclusion that you're better off staying in your old, but affordable home. How can you bring it up to date and make it more comfortable?

Research indicates that the greatest need for remodeling older homes is in the kitchen and the bathroom and in providing storage space.

Experts point out that the kitchen is now no longer simply a work area, but a social center as well. Here are suggestions for bringing that presently drab kitchen into the Seventies:

- A storage island with butcher-block top can provide needed shelves for pots and pans, a handy work area for the cook... or an island with a range can liberate the cook from a dark corner.
- Is there a porch adjacent to your kitchen? Why not enclose it for additional

eating space. Or, you may want to eliminate a wall between your kitchen and breakfast nook to create one large family room.

- New appliances such as ranges with separate wall ovens, hi-lo double ovens, dishwashers, waste disposers, and trash compactors can be built into new counter units for great time-saving convenience.
- A dark kitchen can become bright and sunny with new windows or even a skylight or greenhouse window.
- Extending a wall of the kitchen can give your family the breakfast nook it needs, or provide space for a laundry area.

Outmoded bathrooms are not only unattractive, they're inefficient. Here are some ways to bring that bathroom up to date:

- A tiny bathroom can gain added space from an adjoining, spacious bedroom.

room. Just a few feet can give a bathroom more breathing room and provide needed storage space, without affecting the bedroom space to any great degree.

- Extending a bathroom wall by cantilevering the added floor space (thus avoiding having to add a foundation) can give you more room, as well.
- New fixtures such as whirlpool tubs, saunas or cabinet lavatories can make any bathroom more luxurious.
- You can give a bathroom the semblance of spaciousness and vastly increase its eye-appeal by replacing one wall with glass and fencing off the area around it, for a charming, private, little garden.
- An over-worked bathroom calls for added bathroom facilities! Scrutinize your home for areas that



A New generation of paint makes it easy to scrub off dirt and the kids' sticky fingerprints without scrubbing off the paint.

can be converted into an extra powder room or shower stall. A hallway, a closet, or even the space under a stairway offer possibilities.

- You may be able to make better use of existing bathroom space by compartmentalizing; partitioning off areas can allow more than one person to use the facilities and still have privacy, for instance.
- If space allows, a double-vanity will speed up that morning bottleneck in the bathroom.
- Adding a small powder room off the basement recreation room can help keep other bathrooms neat, particularly if there are youngsters in the family.
- Many older bathrooms have only one small window. A skylight can create the sunny, open effect you want, is ideal for decorating with plants.
- If the den has a closet

that's just used for collecting odds and ends, consider installing a lavatory in that space; it will take pressure off your bathrooms during the morning rush, will be handy for guests.

Nothing is so inconvenient as lack of storage space, and providing new room for storing out-of-season equipment or seldom-used items can be a real bonus.

Here are some ways you can add storage space to your home:

- Install wall/storage systems where you now have pictures hanging; art objects can add the decorative touches, while the shelves perform useful storage duty.
- Turn that utilitarian basement-laundry into a thing of beauty, as well as function, with handy floor-to-ceiling shelving, enclosing both washer and dryer.

### The Energy Savers

by Richard Charles

#### Meet old watts-his-name

You know the old joke: Who goes there? Watt. I said, who goes there? Watt, etc. Another story goes like this: we switch on our home appliances, and even trust some to switch themselves on, and we are hardly aware of the watts quietly pouring into our homes until the next hydro bill arrives. So, who goes there? Money, that's what.

The people at the power station see it from another angle. When we switch on a small 1,000-watt appliance for an hour, we use 1 kilowatt-hour (kWh) of energy, which takes the equivalent of 10 ounces of oil or 13 ounces of coal to produce. That doesn't sound like much, but an ordinary Canadian home can easily use 12,000 kWh a year for appliances alone, not counting heating and lighting. That's close to 4 tons of oil or 5 tons of coal for each of the millions of homes in Canada. We could surely save some of that by finding out whether watts are our friends or foes before we let them in.

Three of the biggest energy users in the home are the refrigerator, freezer and stove, and all can be run more economically without making them less useful.

An electric stove uses an average of 1,200 kWh per year at a cost of about \$30. Make some savings by using the oven to cook larger quantities at one time (freeze some if you don't need it all). There's no need to preheat an oven if the cooking takes more than an hour, and you can switch off 30 minutes before a roast is done and let the existing heat complete it.

On the top of the stove, use the right size of pan for each element, don't drown vegetables in too much water and, once it boils, use less heat to keep it boiling. Again, turn off the heat two or three minutes early and let the heat in the element finish the job.

Glass or glass-ceramic dishes need less heat than metal for baking in the oven. The best-performing pots and pans on top of the stove are bright and shiny, with straight sides, flat bottoms and tight lids. Double-boilers, pressure cooker, and vegetable steamers (baskets) also save energy.

Frost-free refrigerators and freezers cost more than standard models, and can use 30 to 40% more energy. Even a standard 14-cubic-foot freezer uses an average of 1,200 kWh annually, and a standard 12-cubic-foot refrigerator about 850 kWh. Between them they can add about \$50 a year to your hydro bill. When buying either, make sure that it is properly insulated.

To save energy, place the refrigerator or freezer away from heat sources such as the kitchen stove, direct sunlight or heat vents. Leave space around it for air to circulate and take heat away.

Keep the refrigerator's condenser coils clean for good performance. Make sure that freezer and refrigerator doors are airtight. For efficient cooling, defrost whenever the frost is one-quarter of an inch thick.

Some don't don't set the temperature lower than necessary, don't open doors more than you must, don't overfill (let air circulate inside), don't put food in while it's hot, and don't leave the refrigerator running while you are on vacation.

The Office of Energy Conservation, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has dozens of ideas, big and small, for stopping the watts from leaking away in the kitchen and other parts of the home. You can find a lot of them in 100 ways to save energy and money in the home, which is yours if you write to Box 3500, Station C, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 3G1.

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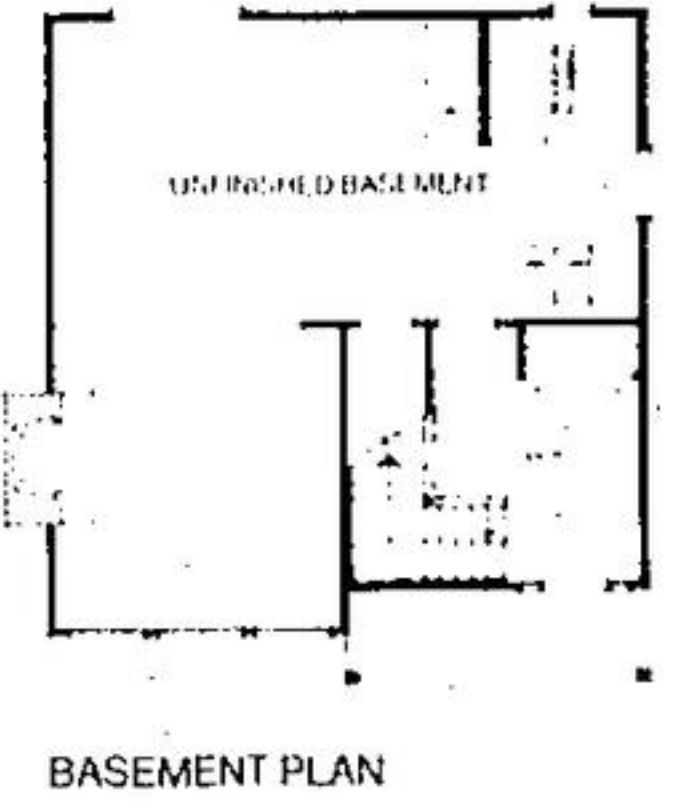
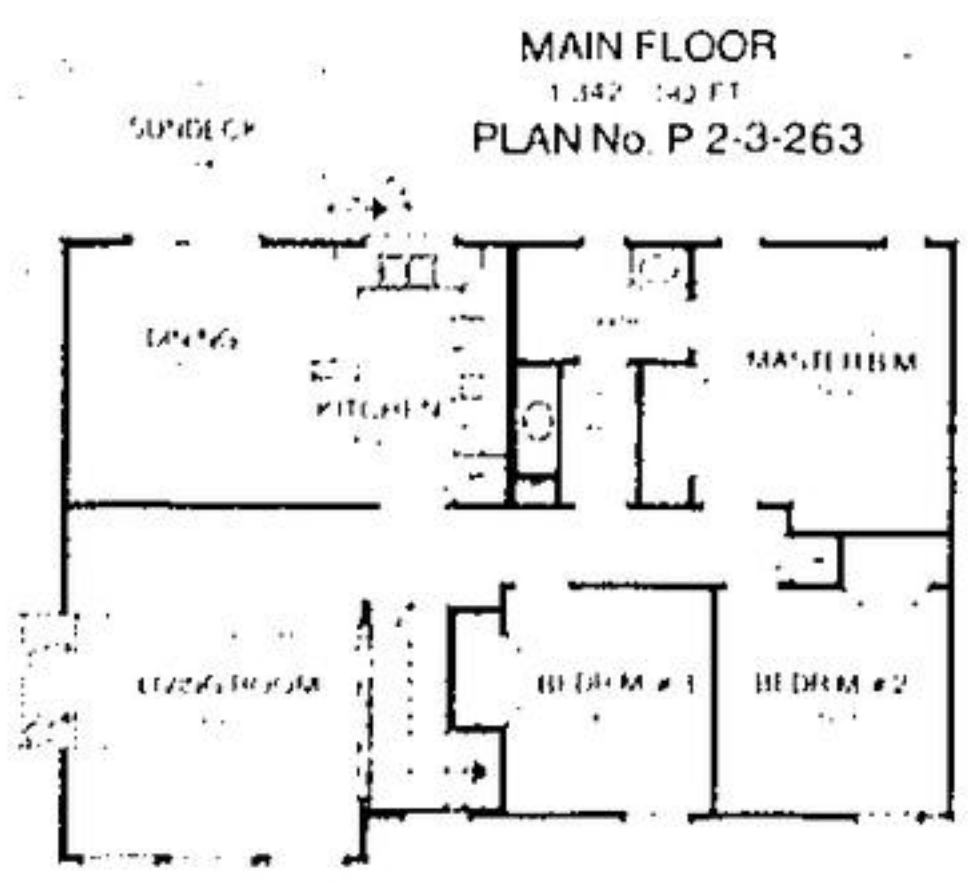
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## NEW HOME OF THE WEEK



### ECONOMICAL GROUND LEVEL ENTRY

This economical basement or ground-level entry home is ideal for the young family or for the older couple whose children have grown.

The exterior features vertical siding, a shake roof, and fieldstone accentuating the front entrance. A carport with a door directly into the house, could easily be enclosed as a garage, with very little extra expense, at the time of the initial construction.

An overhanging roof protects the front entry, which opens into a large foyer, complete with guest coat closet and an attractive stairway to the upper floor. The unfinished basement has a roughed in fireplace, with plenty of room for a recreation room, a bedroom, or workshop, plus the utility, with washer and dryer. A three piece bath is ready for finishing and the furnace, hot water heater can also be enclosed to form a hallway from the back door. Of special interest is the extra storage space under the stairway.

A completely modern kitchen, with oodles of cupboard space, is in a "U" shape and combines with the dining room to make a "country" kitchen. Sliding glass doors open to the sundeck and extend the living and leisure areas during summer weather.

All bedrooms are off the inner hallway and the unique split bathroom can be utilized by two at the same time. The vanity lavatory also doubles as a guest powder room and the three-piece bath is ensuite to the master bedroom.

Converting bedroom number three, near the living room, to a study, den, TV or family room, would be ideal for the small family, making this home a design for comfortable living.

Plans for design No. P2-3-263 may be obtained at a cost of \$68 for a set of three and \$9 for each additional copy. Allow \$2 to cover postage and handling.

To view more than 100 well-designed quality homes of every type, send for the current publication of the Home Plan Catalogue available for \$2.60 (\$2.25 plus 35¢ postage and handling). Make all cheques and money orders payable to "Plan of the Week" and mail to:

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## Contact Cement Tips For Pro Resurfacing

It may be true that beauty is only skin deep, but when looking at nicked and dull kitchen and bathroom countertops, the surface makes all the difference in the world! A gleaming counter or table top in a jazzy — or even soft and subtle — color or pattern can give the whole room, and you, a welcome lift.

So it's off to the cabinet shop with a fistful of dollars, right? Wrong! Just go pick out a plastic laminate that's really you and install the new surface yourself for practically peanuts.

Surfaces to which a plastic laminate will be bonded should be clean, dry and free of oil, paint, varnishes, other finishes — or old cement. Fill any voids with wood filler and sand smooth. Cut laminate with a 1/4" overlap around all edges so you will have some "play" and won't have to worry about absolutely perfect alignment. (You can file down the edges later.)

Spread a "can't-see-through" coat of contact cement on the underside of the laminate and on the table or counter top in long, even strokes. Some porous surfaces, like particle board, soft woods and plywood, may require an additional coat to prevent "glue-starved" areas. When the creamy white cement turns crystal clear and glossy, surfaces are ready for joining.

Carefully align the laminate with the old surface before joining, because once they touch, they bond. Helpful hint: place thin dowels or a sheet of kraft paper between the two ready-for-bonding surfaces while you align them, then carefully pull them out as you firmly press the laminate in place. You can use a 3" J-roller to roll down the entire surface, starting in the middle and working to the edges.

After bonding, trim down the overlapping edges, starting with a plane or rasp-like woodworking tool and finishing with a fine-tooth file — using smooth, downward motions. Then smooth the filed edges with a fine-grit sandpaper.

If you're finishing off the edges of the counter or table top with "bands" of laminate, do it before the surface laminate is applied. Cut the bonding strip to allow for 1/4" overlap at all edges. If the strip has been cut perfectly straight, bond it flush with the top surface; if not, position it with excess on each side and dress down both sides with a fine file.