

YOUR HOME

Experts answer questions about insulating the home

Q: The CertainTeed Home Institute receives hundreds of inquiries each month from homeowners regarding building products and exterior maintenance problems. If you have a question you'd like the experts to answer, write to the CertainTeed Home Institute, P.O. Box 860, Valley Forge, Pa. 19482.

Q: Can you improve insulation by squeezing 6" thick fiber glass into a 3 1/2" wall cavity?

A: The insulating efficiency of fiber glass is a result of small pockets which are formed between the fibers. Each of these air spaces acts as a tiny, individual insulator, and their cumulative effect is to create an effective barrier to the passage of heat.

Severely compressing fiber glass destroys many of the air pockets and thus reduces thermal resistance. In

your case, compressing a 6" batt (R-19) into a 3 1/2" wall cavity would reduce its R-value to 9.5. To achieve maximum insulating efficiency, you should install 3 1/2" rigid fit batts which are available with a rating of R-13.

Q: Although the roof on my home is only a few years old, a number of roofing shingles have already blown off. Can you buy roofing shingles which don't have this problem?

A: High winds are a hazard to all types of roofing shingles, but some manufacturers are using modern technology to produce shingles which are extremely wind-resistant. CertainTeed Corporation, for instance, has developed a self-sealing roofing shingle with highly adhesive strips. The adhesive remains inactive during

installation, but once the roof is up, the strips are activated by the heat of the sun in a very short time, the adhesive welds the entire roof into a solid, monolithic layer which is highly wind-resistant.

When comparing roofing shingles, homeowners should look for the Underwriters Laboratories label. This will indicate whether or not the shingles have been tested for wind resistance. All CertainTeed self-sealing shingles carry UL's wind resistance certification, which means they have withstood two hours of 60 mph winds without damage. The UL label also indicates the roofing shingle's fire classification.

Q: My attic has several exposed lighting fixtures. Is it safe to insulate over them?

A: Insulating materials vary tremendously as regards fire safety. Although some types such as fiber glass are quite safe, untreated cellulose (shredded paper) is highly inflammable. The best practice is to avoid direct contact with heat-producing objects regardless of the type of insulation used.

When lighting fixtures, exhaust fan motors or similar objects are encountered, simply cut the insulation (in the case of batts or blankets) to fit around them. With loose fill, separate the fill from the fixtures by means of fireproof barriers.

For more information on roofing, siding or residential insulation, write to the CertainTeed Home Institute, P.O. Box 860, Valley Forge, Pa. 19482, for a free copy of "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Roofing, Siding and Residential Insulation."

New system and local service centers help to save time on appliance repair

Most Americans live very scheduled lives. That's why General Electric tries to build and service its major appliances so schedules will be interrupted as little as possible.

Another plus for General Electric appliances is that in most major metropolitan areas GE Factory Service is available. That means GE owns and operates the service center so you can be assured technicians are factory trained, specialize only in GE products and will use genuine GE replacement parts.

With GE's Factory Service you'll also be able to get an appointment — a given morning or afternoon — to have your appliance fixed.

For instance, most GE no-frost refrigerators are equipped with a system called Rapid Electrical Diagnosis, so if something goes wrong a trained GE service technician can plug into the system with a special tester to help him quickly pinpoint the problem.

With Rapid Electrical Diagnosis, the technician can check the refrigerator's electrical components in about six minutes without moving the refrigerator out from the wall, without removing any food, and usually without even opening the door.

And with this testing system, the chances are very good that any problem will be diagnosed right the first time, so there's less chance you'll need a second service call.



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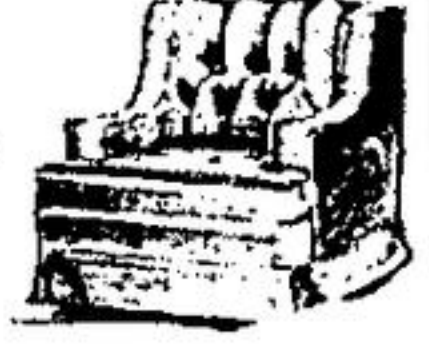
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Ultimate coat costume



FOR THE ULTRA-CHIC, the Ultraseal coat costume—trimmed in beige fox from the master, Halston.

Hammered satin evening

Halston, true to his style, goes all out for his evening wear collection. In addition to his ever-favorite silk chiffons, Halston has added a group of sumptuous jewel-toned velvets and radiant gowns and evening pants in hammered satin.

With these hammered satins he shows a marvelous shaped circular cover-up, the perfect answer to bare shoulders.

But the thing that really separates Halston's collection from any other designer's showings—along with the asymmetrical neckline—is his use of bias cut fabric for a collection of dresses that stand out as masterpieces for their

perfection of form and movement, the ultimate in truly tailored design.

Comfy cover-ups

No need to "button up your overcoat" this winter! Sweaters are bigger than ever, and the layered look of sweater tunics over big, cowl-necked pullovers with scarves and mufflers and hats and ponchos will be enough to keep even the chilliest comfy during the freezing blast of winter.

The big kerchief, the little ethnic beanie, and the fur-trimmed cap are worldly looks along with lots of tams and berets.

Soak While You Eat

Clearing up after dinner can be easier if pots, pans and skillets are filled with hot suds and left to soak while you serve meals. Greasy food particles will loosen while you eat and are effortlessly washed away afterwards.

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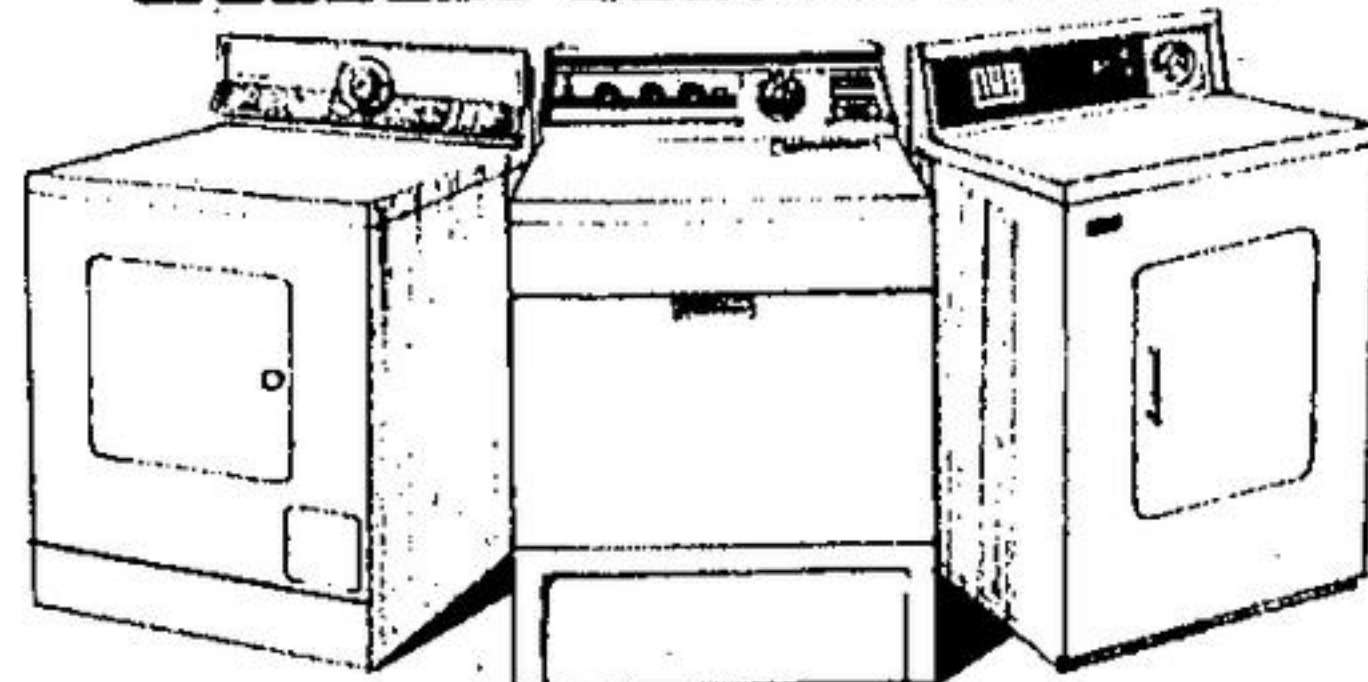
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