

Happier Homes

About the house:

Earthy ceramic tile adds good looks and efficiency to your outdoor life

By LIS KING

Now is the time to plan the best summer ever. And your summer life doesn't stop with those two or three weeks of vacation.

Remember, there are many glorious hours to be enjoyed right in your own backyard. And here, from the Tile Council of America, is some sound advice to help you enjoy a fuss-free summer life.

- Tired of trying to get a lawn to grow in a shady area? Give up! Convert it into a patio area with handsome quarry tile or pavers.

- Incorporate "pockets" for such shade-loving plants as begonias, geraniums and coleus. Or consider plantings of rhododendron bushes, also shade-loving, if you want your patio to be a hideaway.

- Create tile walks where your lawn sprouts ugly traffic patterns. Remember that tile is harvested from the earth, so it's as natural an outdoor design material as the lushest lawn.

- Treat picnic tables, benches and outdoor occasional tables to tile tops to minimize boring paint jobs and overhauls.

- Tile a bunch of plastic tables (the Parson's type from the local bargain basement) checkerboard fashion for an outdoor game of chess or checkers.

- Build a tiled barbecue. It'll take all the fuss out of being a weekend chef.

Marinade splatters, soot and grease will wipe right off. And, since tile is fired at unearthly temperatures, it stands to reason that not even the hottest embers will hurt it.

- Choose tile's good earth colors for all large surfaces such as walks, pool decks, patios, stoops and stairs.

- Go with Mother Nature's flower hues for accents around your yard... to give you bright outdoor color spots even after nature has packed it in for the winter.

For such accents think of using ceramic mosaics, which will give you clever combinations of neutral and bold colors plus pattern interest galore.

Good places to use mosaics: fountains, barbecues, outdoor tables and seats, decorative panels to hang on fences or use as dividers, custom-designed walks, planters and pools (lily pond or swimming size). Your imagination is the only limit.

To learn all about ceramic tile, the timeless design element



CREATE A PLEASANT, fuss-free backyard oasis with quarry tile by Summerville. Tile's good earth colors—such as terracotta, brown and sand—are best for large areas.

for your indoor and outdoor life, send \$1.00 to the Tile Council of America, P.O. Box 2222, Princeton, NJ 08540.

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Good news! You may need a new roof for your home

By JOHN HAMMON

First the bad news: your roof may need replacing.

Now the good news: the new roof could add substantially to the beauty, safety and resale value of your home.

You can tell if your roof needs replacement by checking the calendar, the ceiling or the roof itself. If your roof has standard shingles and is about 15 to 18 years old, reroofing is probably due.

If the ceiling is beginning to drip, the roof may be worn out, unless the leak is due to an obvious cause such as blown-away shingles, clogged gutters or faulty flashings.

If the roof shows visual signs of aging — warped or cracked shingles, lack-luster or bald shingles — it's time for a new one.

Once you decide to reroof, major considerations are durability, appearance, maintenance

and fire safety. Today's asphalt shingles, for instance, put these attributes within easy reach of the homeowner.

New three-dimensional asphalt shingles are designed for longer life and low maintenance, while adding color and texture to the roof.

They also carry an Underwriters' Laboratories label for fire resistance. That means the shingles won't ignite easily, spread flame rapidly, or emit burning brands.

The most notable outward sign of the new roofing materials is their eye-appealing elegance.

Multi-layered asphalt shingles have deep, distinctive shadowlines. Some are richly

embossed. The result is a handsome roof with a bold, textured look.

The shingles come in a range of pleasing earthtone colors, with dark browns and rustic beiges the most popular.

When choosing roof color, keep two things in mind.

Pick a shade you can live with for a long time. And take advantage of the chance to color-coordinate the house and site. The purpose of earthtone shades is to reflect the natural colors of the environment.

As for cost, consider reroofing an investment. By upgrading protection and appearance, reroofing increases your home's value.



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