

Off-beat rug spot removers — do they really work for you?

Looking for a faster, better, easier way to improve home upkeep? Then, try using shaving cream or hairspray to clean those spotted carpets!

Do these and a few other off-beat uses for products really work? In many cases, the answer is yes. However, you should know why they work and also, if, by using them, you are trading one problem for another.

Shaving cream, for example, can be an effective spot remover, and because it is a foam it doesn't saturate the rug fibers.

However, it's the hydrocarbon in the propellant, not the cream, which acts as the cleaning agent.

The magic ingredient in hairspray is alcohol, which helps to dissolve resin, and difficult stains such as inks from newspapers and ballpoint pens.

The major drawback when using either hairspray or shaving cream, however, is that both contain ingredients which leave sticky dirt-collecting residue on the carpet fibers.

Unless this residue is completely removed you are trading

one stain for another.

Club soda is often recommended for spot removal and it works. Soda does a better job than plain water because it is slightly acidic. Its spot removing power has nothing to do with the bubbles, however.

Salt is often recommended as a spot remover, but it should never be used on carpet. Salt may help to pick up a stain but it can also take the color out of carpet fibers.

Salt becomes abrasive

In addition, any salt which seeps into carpet fibers or the backing becomes an abrasive once it dries. Salt can also corrode your vacuum cleaner.

There are four old standbys that still do an effective spot cleaning job. They are suds made from carpet detergent; white vinegar mixed with water or detergent; a non-flammable dry cleaner; and a mild solution of ammonia mixed with detergent or water.

Remember! Even the mildest spot cleaner should be tested first on a hidden part of the carpet.

Now, here's a tip about carpet care that you can't see, but it affects the whole room. That's odor. Those same fibers that sop up spills are also great traps for holding mustiness, smoke and pet odors.

Keeps house fresh

All of these are easily overcome. Just sprinkle a little "Love My Carpet"™ rug and room deodorizer on your carpet when you vacuum. It also reduces static electricity.

Available in Regular, Citrus and Floral scents, this is an easy way to keep your whole house smelling fresh and clean. It's a nice finishing touch.



EVEN A CLEAN RUG is a trap for holding mustiness, smoke and pet odors. If you sprinkle a little "Love My Carpet"™ on your carpet when you vacuum you'll find that all of those odors are easily overcome.

Repair, replace that badly weathered roof before severe damage occurs

If you've got a leaky, worn-out roof over your head, those "pennies from heaven" every time it rains could leave you awash in repair bills costing hundreds of dollars.

Ignored, a badly weathered roof can lead to severe water damage in the roof deck and rafters, walls and floors—even furnishings.

Since a roof tends to wear uniformly, even the best roofing materials eventually succumb to weathering.

And, warns the Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association, limited repairs won't help an old and badly worn roof.

The biggest enemies of roofing are the sun, wind, rain, hail

and variations in climate.

The signs of a weathered roof are excessive loss of protective mineral granules and cracked, curled or missing shingles.

If a roof of standard shingles is more than 15 years old, it's a prime candidate for reroofing.

To avoid premature roofing problems, ARMA suggests seasonal inspections in the fall and spring. Go up in the attic with a flashlight to inspect the rafters and underside of the roof deck for signs of leaks.

Outdoors, check the condition of the roof from a ladder or from the ground using binoculars. Avoid walking on the roof. It is dangerous and could damage the shingles.

If the roof appears to be worn, call in a professional roofer to conduct an on-the-roof inspection. He will be able to determine the condition of the roof.

He can also offer expert advice on materials and the use of color to improve the curb appeal of your home.

Increasingly popular in reroofing these days is the use of three-dimensional asphalt shingles in handsome earthen shades of browns and beiges that serve to relate a home to its surroundings.

Designed in last many years with minimal maintenance, these shingles create deep, rugged shadowlines that give a home a distinctive appearance.

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New windows can save energy

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the aluminum frame and sash, along with insulating glass (two or three sheets of glass separated by a dead air space).

Measurements by the Electrical Testing Laboratories recently showed that thermalized aluminum windows insulate as well as or better than windows of any other material. By reducing conduction effectively, they can cut energy losses through these openings by as much as 40 percent.

A window's efficiency is based on its U-value, which is a measure of its relative energy efficiency. The lower the U-value the more effective the window is in eliminating drafts coming through it.

When combined with a storm window, that U value drops even further, resulting in more fuel savings.

Calculations by the Aluminum Association note that a typical homeowner in Sioux Falls, SD, with 250 sq. ft. of window area could save up to \$460 a year on oil heating bills (at \$1.40 a gallon) by replacing the old, single-pane windows with thermalized double-hung aluminum frame windows.

In Providence, RI, savings could reach \$350; in Wichita, KS, \$270. With electric heat savings would be three times greater and with gas heat a quarter less.

In the sun-belt, cooling energy savings from the same type aluminum window improvements could also result in savings each year. Uncle Sam helps, too, allowing you a 15 percent income tax credit up to a maximum of \$300 for home improvements which help to conserve energy.

If you can't swing replacement windows for the entire house this year, you might start with the rooms you use most often, or replace the windows

floor by floor.

Primary windows still in good condition can be repaired and fitted with new aluminum storm sash which will protect them and seal them effectively against air leaks. Such a measure will also reduce heat losses dramatically. Most of these are multitrack with self-storing screens.

Before you settle on any one particular type window, whether replacement or storm, shop carefully, check the U-values, and be sure the window bears the AAMA Certification label,

which assures quality.

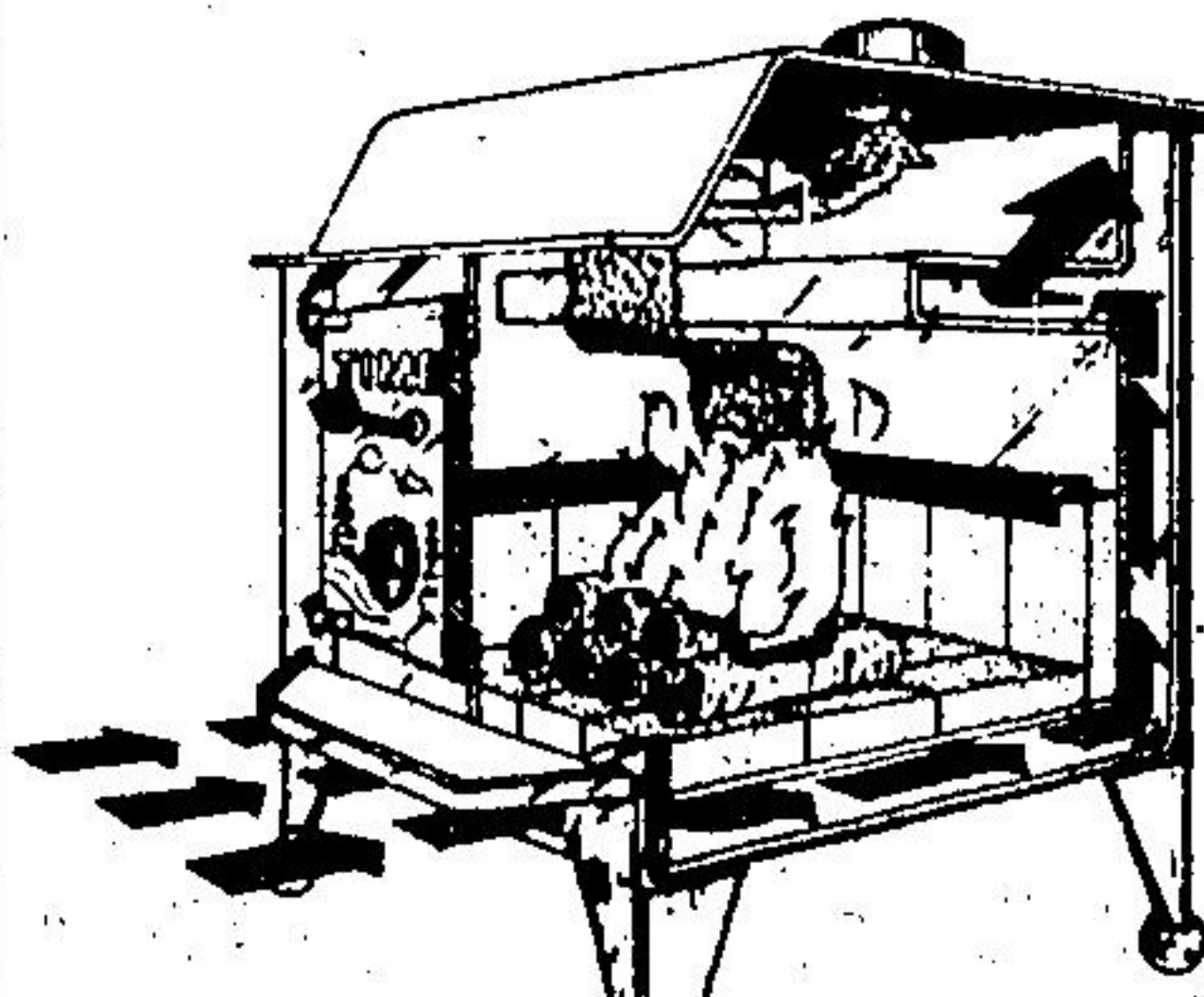
Look for window frames that have neat, strong joints and thick weatherstripping. Remember that the heavier the aluminum frame and general construction, the stronger and more durable the window.

More than one estimate

It's wise to get estimates from more than one contractor, and generally to choose the one who takes the time to explain the options open to you after he measures the window openings.

a Government grant may help you cut fuel costs

by owning a

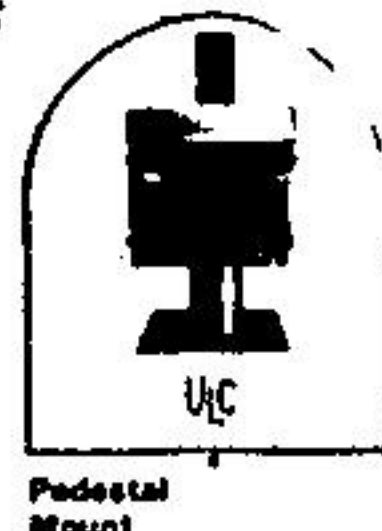


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