

## Put 'spring' into carpets, draperies

It's time to open the windows, put away the wools, and just let the sun shine in. This is also the time when all those pet, smoke, food and musty odors that have been building up over the past few months become most apparent.

An airing alone won't get rid of these built-up odors because they're trapped in your rug and

curtain fibers, and even in your upholstery.

Rugs and carpeting can be cleaned in a variety of ways. The steam extraction method is most effective.

Whatever method you choose, the secret of carpet cleaning is in removing all detergent because any remaining residue dries, clings to the car-

pet fibers, and becomes a sticky trap of all future dirt and odor.

Loosely woven draperies, whether they are a synthetic or natural fiber, present cleaning problems because they often shrink and lose their shape when dry cleaned. Some manufacturers of the synthetics even warn against dry cleaning.

One possible solution is to wash the panels, one by one, in tepid water and hang while still wet. Then, very gently, starting at the top of the panel, pull small sections of the drapery back into shape.

Once this is done, run your vacuum cleaner rod through the hem. This will weight the panel while drying, and keep the hemline even.

Once clean, it is easy to keep your home smelling fresh. However, even with windows opened, your carpet fibers, especially if you have pets, will continue to trap and hold odors.

### CONSIDER SAFETY WHEN REROOFING

Fire safety can be an important consideration when choosing a roofing material, since the roof can be vulnerable to fire from overhead sources.

Asphalt shingles are manufactured to meet Underwriters Laboratories Class C standard or better, which means the shingles will not ignite easily, will not support the spread of fire over the roof and will not add to a fire hazard by emitting burning brands.

### Wrought Iron

The first furniture for the outdoors was made of wrought iron. It was specially made for wealthy families with expensive lawns and formal gardens.

## Professional remodeling needs planning

Spring is the season of renewal—a time for basement to attic house cleaning, and a time for planning home improvements.

Begin with a careful examination of your property. List what repairs are imperative. Decide what improvements or conveniences are most desirable for your comfort and enjoyment.

For those who plan to hire a

professional, the National Home Improvement Council offers the following tips for working successfully with your remodeler:

• **Plans**—Insist that you approve project plans before work begins. When you see the plan, study it before you okay it.

• **Materials**—All materials to be used in the remodeling should be specified in the con-

tract by brand names and quantity.

• **Certification of Insurance**—Be certain that your contractor provides a certificate covering workman's compensation, property damage and personal liability.

• **Clean-up Clause**—Most contractors offer a contract that guarantees the cleaning up of all debris and materials after the job

## A quick quiz to make you a whiz on air conditioners

Air conditioners are a familiar part of the lives of many Americans. You see them everywhere—on roof tops, on the ground, in windows and in walls. But, when it comes to making a purchase decision, the most important things to be familiar with are your home's cooling needs, say experts from Whirlpool Corporation.

They advise that before you go shopping you should know: How many rooms and connect-

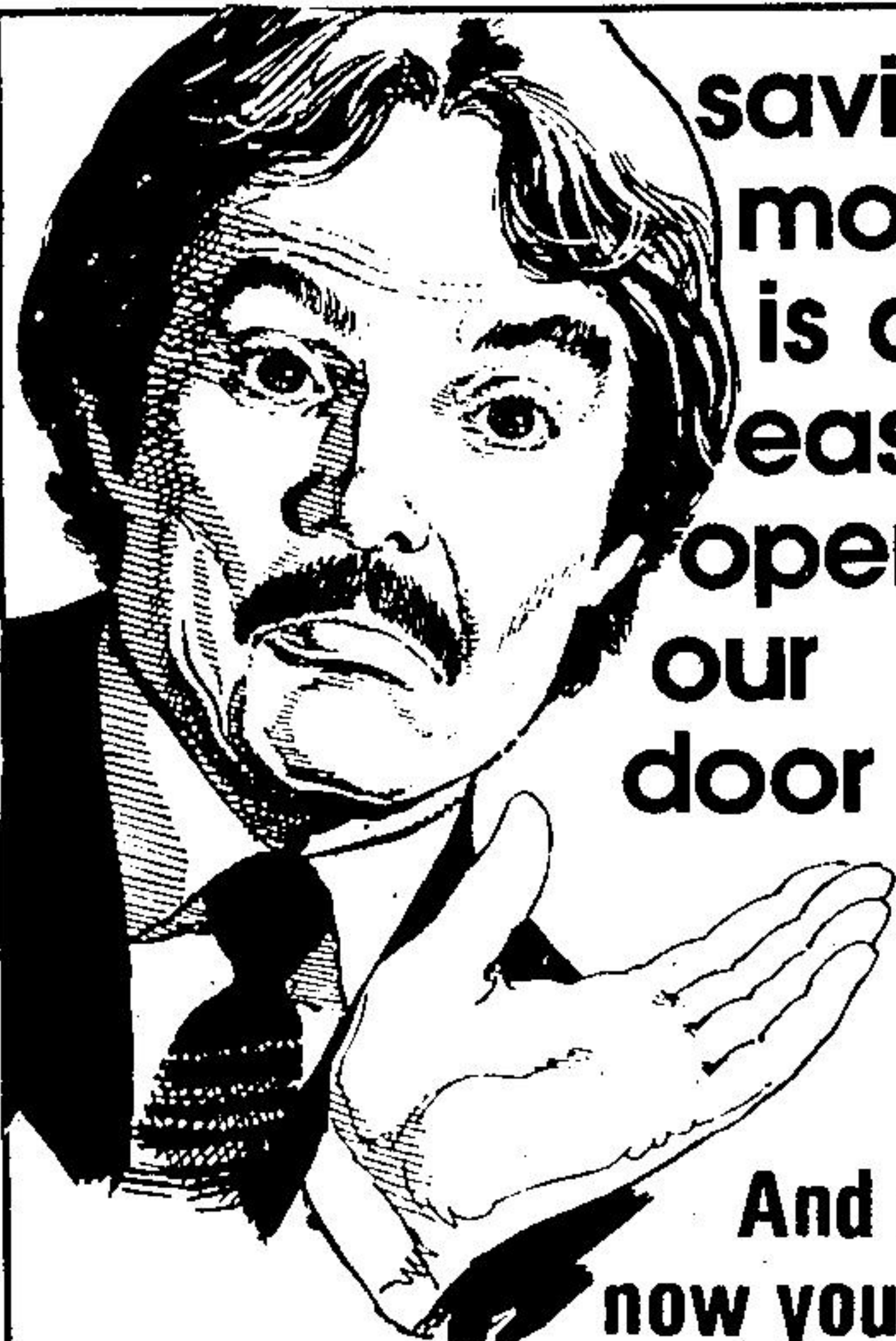
ing halls do you want to cool? What is the size of each room and hall? Are rooms sunny or shaded? How many windows of what size and type are in the rooms to be cooled? Are the walls and ceiling insulated?

Here's a quick quiz on air conditioners from Whirlpool. Knowing the answers to these questions can help you choose and use an air conditioner that's just right for your home and family.

1. It is possible to buy an air conditioner with too much cooling capacity for a room or house. True or False?
2. To save energy during hot weather, you should start your air conditioner in the heat of the day. True or False?
3. The EER—Energy Efficiency Ratio—of an air conditioner is a good indication of its cooling power. True or False?
4. Air conditioner filter should be washed frequently. True or False?
5. Proper landscaping can reduce energy cost for air conditioning. True or False?

### ANSWERS

1. TRUE—Too large an air conditioner can give a room or an entire house a cold, clammy feeling. Air conditioners dehumidify as well as cool the air. A unit with too much cooling capacity for an area will cool the air quickly without staying on long enough to dehumidify it.
2. FALSE—You should start your unit in the morning hours during hot weather. Air conditioners operate less efficiently when started during the warmest hours of the day.
3. FALSE—The cooling power of air conditioners is measured in BTU's. The higher the BTU rating, the greater the cooling capacity of the unit. The EER is an index of the air conditioner's operating efficiency. The higher the EER, the lower the cost of operating the air conditioner per unit of cooling power.
4. TRUE—All models in the Whirlpool room air conditioner line feature washable filters and the company recommends that they be washed frequently. A dirty filter impedes air flow and causes the unit to operate less efficiently.
5. TRUE—By screening a home from direct sunlight, trees can keep the structure cooler and reduce the energy an air conditioner requires to maintain a given temperature.



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