

Aluminum siding can make old house look like new

If you can't swing the mortgage for a new home, or just don't want to move, you can give your old house a bright crisp look with new siding.

Snappy colors and a variety of new textures and styles available in aluminum siding and trim enable you to recreate the original exterior surface, or change its appearance dramatically.

This kind of facelift also reduces maintenance, because new aluminum finishes, guaranteed to last up to 40 years, eliminate periodic painting.

Consider the cost

The average house needs a paint job every four years. If

that paint job costs \$2,000 this year, over a 12-year period you'd be spending \$12,000 for repainting with the current 10 percent inflation rate. Thus, you can realize an early return on an investment in new aluminum siding.

Durable, resistant to corrosion and cracking, even in damp climates, aluminum is the original re-siding material and has been around for over 30 years. It has been used for remodeling over 12,000,000 older homes and, increasingly, new homes are being surfaced with aluminum.

Wide range of colors

Aluminum comes in more

different colors than other siding materials. White white is still a popular color choice, it has given way to a whole palette of new siding colors, ranging from the full spectrum. Currently, ivory and beige are favorites with blues, greens, reds and the earth tones close runners-up.

There is also a trend toward using aluminum siding and trim in contrasting colors. This tends to individualize a house, particularly in a development, make it look more interesting and sharpen its architectural lines.

Contrasting trim popular

Ivory aluminum siding with brown trim (or the reverse color combination) is particularly in vogue now and white trim with dark siding colors is also being used more frequently.

House trim includes the under side of the roof overhang (the soffit), edging of the roof (the fascia), gutters, downspouts, shutters and other accessories.

While smooth surface siding continues to be popular, new textures have been developed by aluminum siding manufacturers to simulate wood grains.

Which is which?

These new finishes have been achieved by embossing and by new two-tone coating systems. These new grains look so authentic that it is difficult to distinguish the aluminum siding from wood without going up and touching it.

Vertical aluminum panels are available for use where special treatment will make the house look more interesting. They are particularly effective for gables and dormers.



ALUMINUM SIDING AND TRIM were used to preserve the authenticity of this old Victorian gem. The surface was covered with double-four-inch aluminum panels which match the original clapboard, and aluminum coil stock was formed to follow the contours of trim such as the octagonal window casings, porch scalloping, ceiling and fascia. Old grillwork on second story was repaired and painted.

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Tidy up fridge to save food

Why do so many of us find our refrigerators too crammed for comfort? It could be that we're storing more leftovers now, more bulky fresh fruits and vegetables, more "from scratch" basic ingredients to avoid the cost of ready-prepared dishes.

Today we'll have regular milk and skim milk, several types of juices and tall mineral water bottles all competing for top shelf space; along with ketchup, white wine and what-have-you.

Foods stored in irregular packages or just loose on plates cannot be stacked, which contributes to space loss and untidiness. And, peering into a messy, haphazard refrigerator can make a person just home from work feel exhausted even before dinner preparations are begun.

Moreover, poorly stored food loses nutrients and flavor, and can spoil more rapidly than properly-contained edibles. A collection of quality storage containers in different sizes and shapes to use in storing various

foods is a wise investment for the economy-minded.

The Educational Services Department of Tupperware Home Parties, a group dedicated to nutrition and health education, has some interesting suggestions on proper food preservation. For instance:

- Cooked poultry can keep for several days in a tight-sealed container. Store any stuffing or gravy separately in sealed plastic containers.

- Egg yolks or whites will keep fresh and not dry out refrigerated in sealed plastic containers. Add a little cold water to the yolks if you prefer to pour it off before use.

- Cheese needs to keep moisture in and air out. Cheese will also pick up or give out odors. Tight-sealed containers in a variety of stacking shapes will hold blocks, wedges or slices of all types of cheese fresh for days.

- Firm vegetable shortenings can be stored at room temperature if tightly covered. But, opened olive oil and salad oils

should be refrigerated on the bottom shelf of the door. If they solidify, 20 minutes at room temperature and they will become liquid again.

- Non-fat dry milk can get stale and lumpy once the package is opened. For freshness, transfer the powder to a sealed container and store in refrigerator. Open canned milk should be poured into a small sealed container to keep flavor in and odors out.

- Wash celery, spinach and salad greens, and refrigerate them in special containers with a raised grid to keep them above the water dripping off leaves.

- Some yeast bread doughs can be stored in a tightly-sealed bowl in the refrigerator which slows down yeasty action. Mix one day and bake the next.

- Store syrup in the refrigerator after opening. If it crystallizes, place it in hot water before using.

- Containers that stack can give you the best use of your refrigerator space and also allow the cold air to flow evenly.

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