

## Create clean, cozy home by eliminating winter woes

Button up your overcoat and bundle up your abode — take steps to conquer the cold by adding some safe, secure and warm touches to the home in preparation for the winter months ahead. While it's almost time to pull out the wools and zip in the linings, it's also time to wrap up the house or apartment against the chilling winds to come.

With no end in sight to the energy crunch, it's up to individuals to take advantage of some simple money-saving ideas that will keep heat inside to work extra hard to warm the home.

By sealing the house against winter winds, home dwellers can be warmer while reducing energy costs, but unfortunately they may also suffer the effects from irritating chemical fumes emanating from cleaning compounds that are locked into the home when windows and doors are shut tight.

### Helpful ideas

The home economist experts at Bon Ami, makers of the gentle, yet effective cleaning products, suggest taking steps against high bills, cold chills and harmful vapors to help assure homeowners of a warm and comfortable environment by using safe, non-toxic cleaning agents and by

implementing effective heat-saving measures.

### Clean indoor air

Before tightening up the leaks from foundation to roof top, consider adjusting the indoor cleaning program to include only non-irritating products to maintain clean air indoors all year long.

Some safe substitutes include oxygen bleaches instead of chlorinated brands; olive oil, lemon oil or beeswax in place of commercial furniture polish; and Bon Ami Cleanser or Cake, formulated with environmentally safe ingredients for chlorinated scouring powders and ammonia-containing window sprays.

• **Strategic planning.** With a plan for clean indoor air in the works and a few warm days left in the forecast, take some time to schedule various house-bundling activities on the calendar for the weeks ahead.

This way, daylong jobs can be determined in advance while tasks that require little time can be managed around already planned events. Ideally, outdoor activities should be carried out first while inside tasks can be scheduled later in the season.

• **Give windows the works.** Get ahead of the cold drafts by tackling the windows early. Storm windows are an excellent means of stopping cold air

from penetrating into the home. And, sparkling clean windows serve an additional purpose by allowing the greatest amount of sun rays in to warm the air.

Take advantage of warm autumn days by thoroughly polishing both storm and regular windows, inside and out, with a safe and effective cleaning agent such as Bon Ami Cleaning Cake formulated with the gentler, finer abrasive, feldspar.

### Weatherstripping important

Once windows are in place for the season, it is important to weatherstrip around them to prevent the slightest amount of air from leaking in. On cloudy winter days, blinds or curtains should be closed for extra insulation.

• **Don't forget the doors.** If there is more than one entrance to the home, consider closing one off for the winter months by sealing the gaps with weatherstripping material. To keep air from getting under doors that are regularly used, place draft dodgers or cozy kittens, which are long, decorated tubes filled with fibers or sand, along door bottoms.

Since sliding glass doors are great heat losers, consider installing a window quilt, a layered polyester item covered with decorative fabric, during the cold season.

• **Energy efficiency in every room.** Furniture placement within each room can be critical in achieving the greatest warmth. Large items should be moved away from heating registers so that air flow is not obstructed. Sofas and chairs might be moved

away from doors and windows so they aren't chilled by any possible cool air creeping inside.

An added warming touch is to lay throw rugs on hard floors which are not only kinder to bare feet, but also improve the insulation factor in the room.

Caulk any small cracks in walls, ceilings and floors where air may leak in or out to eliminate any additional drafty spots, remember to close the damper on the fireplace when not in use.

### Bath water warms

Even the bathroom can be become an energy-saver. By limiting the use of fans, less heated air is able to escape. Then after a hot bath, allow the water to stand before draining, to put additional warmth into the air.

It's a good practice to clean the tub out after each soak to prevent clogging and, with the help of Bon Ami, rings will vanish while porcelain and stainless steel fixtures will shine. Unlike harsh abrasives that scratch, tests prove that regular use of Bon Ami Polishing Cleaner can actually restore the luster to porcelain surfaces after 30 to 60 days.

### Double-duty oven

To keep the kitchen cozy, get double use of the heat in a just-used oven by warming plates or rolls before a meal or by opening the door to let the heat escape. A heat reducing tip is to use glass or ceramic baking dishes which require a lower setting, as much as 25 degrees.

Afterward, clean-up is safe

## NHAMR fund over the top

Halton Hills citizens were even more generous than usual during the May fund-raising campaign run by the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, according to a recent report. Final tallies put the town \$3,000 above the total contributed the previous year by Halton Hills and Milton combined. Acton's L'Arche Auxiliary, Leo Van Raamsdonk of Georgetown and Eugene Valeriot of Glen Williams have been singled out for their outstanding organization and supervision during the campaign, which raised more than \$10,000 in Halton Hills door-to-door.

## Fiber glass roof fire protection

Roofing materials can fuel a fire if the shingles are not constructed with an inorganic fiber glass base. The recent fire in Anaheim, California which destroyed 50 buildings in a four-square-block area was fed, according to fire officials, by untreated wood shake roofs.

This is not the first instance where untreated wood roofs have contributed to the spread of fire. Similar conflagrations have occurred in San Bernardino, Houston, Tulsa and other cities throughout the country.

In each of these fires, burning embers carried by the wind from rooftop to rooftop were a major factor in spreading the fire. This is why, when choosing a roof, it is important to know what the shingles are made of and how well they protect against fire.

Untreated wood shingles are quite common in many parts of the country. Although attractive, they provide no fire protection. Untreated wood burns as well atop your roof as it does in your fireplace. Because of their potential fire danger, untreated wood roofs have been banned in many communities for both new construction and re-roofing.

Another popular roofing material, conventional asphalt shingles, are made with a base of cardboard, saturated and coated with asphalt, and sprinkled with ceramic granules. While these shingles provide more fire resistance than untreated wood shakes, they have only earned UL's Class C rating for moderate protection against exposure to fire.

A better alternative to untreated wood and conventional asphalt shingles are Woodlands — laminated fiber glass shingles developed by Johns-Manville Sales Corporation, a subsidiary within Manville Corporation's family.

J-M Woodlands have earned a Class A fire resistance rating from Underwriters Laboratories. Class A is UL's highest fire resistance rating



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