

HOMEOWNER TIPS

The versatile vac: New, improved

When you were growing up, your mom probably had just one vacuum cleaner, a sturdy upright or tank model. What the family vac couldn't clean, she did by hand.

Things have changed, though. You no longer have time to laboriously dust, dry mop, whisk or sweep out dirt that the trusty family vacuum can't reach. And there's no reason why you should.

Vacuum cleaner manufacturers have come up with a whole wardrobe of specialized products for different types of vacuuming jobs. Here's a rundown of what's available:

- For quick pick-ups of dry spills on carpeting and bare floors, one manufacturer has introduced a cordless electric-broom type vac. The Quick Up by Eureka, wall mounted and rechargeable, runs 15 minutes on a charge to whisk away spilled

crumbs, broken glass, plant soil and other debris.

- For all-purpose cleaning of bare floors, carpeting and furniture in small apartments, compact but powerful canister cleaners with full sets of tools are now available. Some models, such as the Mighty Mite, have motors as powerful as full-sized canisters, but store easily in a cramped apartment closet.

- Traditional upright and canister cleaners have been improved to the point where they now have features unheard of in mom's day.

One upright, the Ultra, automatically adjusts to the proper carpet height, eliminating guesswork. And canisters have become Power Teams, with motorized rotating beater brushes in the carpet cleaning head.

Stencil patterns give homes a charming "country" look

Stenciling has become America's most popular new craft for decorating your home or apartment. Now with a good selection of stencil designs and supplies available both in stores and by mail order, you should try this charming look for yourself.

Everyone is adapting the "country" look for their rooms. Stencil patterns that you particularly enjoy can go on a wall as a border, spruce up a chair or bed, add a touch to your curtains, give a warmth to an entire room. These stencil touches add your own personality to your family's surroundings.

This new decor is an inexpensive and rewarding way to give any room a new, fresh look. Your family and friends will certainly compliment these beautiful stencil touches and inspire you to do even more.

A wonderful new series of pre-cut stencils make it easy to create a very special authentic tile-look on your walls, floors, fabrics or wherever you want to decorate

with a tile motif.

Each tile stencil not only contains that pre-cut design but also a matching border and corner. And there's a 24 page idea book with different tile designs and color photos to help with how-to instructions, plus a grout-colored felt pen.

This Adele Bishop's Creative Tile Collection of six pre-cut stencils is now sold in craft and hobby stores. Each of these enchanting decorating stencil motifs is either a 4" or 6" square tile design. Each retails for \$7.95.

An even easier way to see these stencils and how-to book is to order Stencil World's new 44 page catalog of hundreds of beautiful pre-cut stencils, patterns, instruction books and an excellent selection of quality stencil supplies.

This charming collection of the best stencils available (old and new), can be ordered directly by sending \$2.25 to Stencil World, Dept. MCG 785, 8 West 19th St., New York, NY 10011.



Solid vinyl replacement windows can give house the look you want

You look *through* windows every day. But did you ever stop to look *at* one? Although glass is what comes to mind first when you envision a window, it's really the frame and trim that give it a particular appearance.

Fortunately, today's replacement windows are available in a broad array of shapes and sizes that can complement the decor and architectural lines of virtually any home.

For instance, double-hung windows with muntins may best capture the ambience you're seeking if you live in a Colonial home. Conversely, if you're striving to create a "modern" appearance, glider or casement windows may be your best bet. To provide more light to a room and give it a more expansive feel, a bay or bow window may be just the thing.

CertainTeed Corporation, one of the na-

tion's leading producers of solid vinyl replacement windows, now offers its entire line in natural tan, in addition to white, in an effort to expand the decor options available to appearance-conscious shoppers.

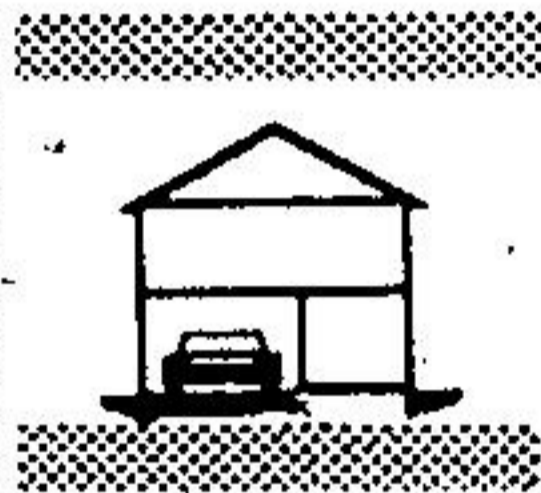
Once you've updated the appearance of your home with solid vinyl windows, you can rest assured that the "new" look will last for years. Vinyl is tough and resilient, so it won't corrode or crack. And it resists dents. And, since the color is molded clear through the vinyl, these windows won't show scratches or ever need painting or touch-ups.

So, if you want to give your home a new look or help keep it looking new, solid vinyl window profiles should figure prominently in your upgrading plans.

For the name of the dealer nearest you, write to: CertainTeed Corporation, P.O. Box 860-M, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

Deduct home business costs

Thousands of Canadians engage in some form of business activity in addition to their regular jobs. If you are one of these people, you should take advantage of the tax deductions on all legitimate business expenditures to which you are entitled. You can either substantially reduce your taxable income or create a loss that can be used to deduct taxable income from other sources.



One area that most people overlook is the use of an office or workshop in the home. Provided you have a room in your home set aside for your business activity, you are entitled to deduct fair costs for that room. For example, if you use one of your five rooms exclusively for business purposes, keep records and receipts for all of the operating expenses of the house and submit a statement to the tax department showing the total expenses. One-fifth of that amount can then be deducted for business purposes. This would include the portion of heating, insurance, property taxes, and repairs spent on that part of the house. In addition, one-time expenses like a filing cabinet and desk are also deductible.

There is one thing that must be kept in mind when you are thinking of starting a small business. The tax department insists that the venture be undertaken with a reasonable expectation of profit. Selling the proverbial lawn mowers to Eskimos doesn't count.

For more tax information see *Tax Shelters in Canada*, by W.E. McLeod, published by International Self-Counsel Press Ltd. For a free directory of all their self-help titles, write: Dept. NC, Self-Counsel Press, 306 W. 25th Street, North Vancouver, B.C. V7N 2G1.

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Invest in films

One of the catchy tax shelters that has come to public attention in recent years is Canadian films. Some people use this vehicle for tax postponement. The tax treatment of some aspects of film investment is still pretty much up in the air. So, before you get into a film investment, make sure you get a written ruling on the tax aspects of the investment before you take the plunge.

There are several points that you should consider before going into a film investment. Make sure that the film qualifies for the 100% capital cost allowance and that the prospectus is at least under consideration by a reputable securities commission.

Some arrangements for distribution of the film should have been signed before you invest. If you don't know anything about movies, check with some people who do.

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