

## With vinyl siding, you can cross house painting off list of springtime chores

It's almost springtime, a time when a young man or woman's fancy turns to love... walks in the park... softball games... house painting. House painting!

It's not a pretty thought. With all the enjoyable things a person can choose to do in the springtime, the tiresome job of house painting is probably at the bottom of the list.

That's why vinyl siding has grown to be the most popular siding material in America today. Each time this season rolls around, homeowners who have invested in vinyl siding find they have the time for the more pleasant joys springtime has to offer.

Once vinyl siding is properly applied, it will give any house a freshly painted look with only a simple soap and water rinse.

Homeowners can enjoy many years of freedom from laborious upkeep. How many years? Major manufacturers like Bird Incorporated offer a lifetime warranty for standard and premium lines of vinyl siding.

Available in attractive wood-grain or smooth "brushed" finishes, solid vinyl siding is made of PVC (polyvinyl chloride) compound.

Its tough makeup means it cannot corrode or dent like aluminum, and will not chip, peel or rot like wood. Even deep scratches will not show, because the color is molded clear through.

### Job only as good as contractor

Like many other major home improvements, having a house sided with solid vinyl siding is usually a substantial investment for the homeowner.

That is why it is important to select a professional home improvement contractor who uses quality materials from a reputable manufacturer.

A homeowner must be able to trust a contractor's workmanship. For, in nearly every case, the overall quality of the job is only as good as the craftsman applying the siding.



**HOMEOWNERS WHO INVEST IN VINYL SIDING** find that they can cross house painting off their list of tiresome springtime chores. To help homeowners find local reputable home remodelers, one vinyl siding manufacturer, Bird Incorporated, has instituted a Professional Vinyl Siding Contractor Certification Program that distinguishes the best craftsmen in the field.

To help homeowners find local reputable home remodelers, Bird Incorporated instituted a Professional Vinyl Siding Contractor Certification Program that distinguishes the best craftsmen in the field.

To qualify for certification, contractors must meet strict criteria for experience, application standards and code of ethics.

Contractors are re-certified each year, to make certain that they abide by the standards set forth by the manufacturer.

One example of the program is the fact that Bird-certified contractors must offer a two-year warranty on installation as a complement to Bird's lifetime product warranty.

Homeowners dealing with certified contractors are also assured of being provided with clear, written estimates by contractors who carry insurance cover-

age for worker's compensation, personal injury and property damage.

In addition, contractors will provide the names and addresses of satisfied customers for homeowners who may wish to inspect their work.

Making up your mind to have your home remodeled with vinyl siding will most likely be a once-in-a-lifetime decision. Make it wisely by choosing a craftsman who has been officially recognized by a major manufacturer for his professionalism and high standards.

### For free booklet

For more information on the advantages of solid vinyl siding and a free copy of the brochure, "A Homeowner's Guide to Selecting a Vinyl Siding Contractor," write to Bird Incorporated, Vinyl Products Group, P.O. Box 329, Withrow Court, Bardonia, NY 40004.

## The entire family will enjoy the beauty of ornamental fish

The arrival of spring signals that we will soon be enjoying the beauties of nature — blooming flowers and greening shrubs and trees.

Another natural beauty that can be enjoyed within the home is ornamental fish. The fascinating movements, bright and distinctive colors and various shapes of ornamental fish are a delight for the whole family.

Enclosed porches (or California or Florida rooms) are ideal locations for goldfish aquariums. Goldfish, unlike tropical fish, do not need a heated aquarium and are a great addition to spring and summer living.

### Benefits of goldfish

Goldfish are fun, goldfish are beautiful and, in fact, a study conducted by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania in 1980 concluded that watching ornamental fish in home aquariums was a definite benefit in relieving stress.

So, if you have some extra space and would like something your whole family could enjoy, consider an aquarium with ornamental goldfish.

To go about starting a goldfish aquarium, you will first want to locate a good dealer. If you have a friend who has an aquarium, ask for a reference; otherwise the phone book lists most tropical fish retailers.

Tropical fish are warm-blooded and require a heated aquarium. Goldfish do fine in an aquarium with a water temperature of around 65°.

### Investigate equipment

When visiting a tropical fish store, get an idea of different sizes of aquariums and type of equipment you will need. A goldfish aquarium should be covered with a reflector using fluorescent lights which do not throw off a significant amount of heat.

In terms of a stand for your aquarium, your dealer will have a selection, but you could also consider building one to match the decor of your room. This is relatively simple but be sure it's very sturdy since the weight of the aquarium and water is quite heavy.

A good idea is to build an open stand out of 2 x 4s and then cover the front with decorative paneling to match your room decor and leave the back open so that the wiring and tubing from your aquarium's pump and filter can be stored out of sight.

### Good filter important

In addition to the reflector you will also need a good filter since goldfish are rather messy. Your dealer can help with a selection.

Even though you don't need a heater, it's a good idea to use a thermometer to make sure the water temperature does not rise beyond 80°F.

A recent development in thermometer technology is the liquid crystal digital thermometer which affixes to the outside of the aquarium, yet measures most accurately the water temperature.

If you are going to keep a lot of fish you will also want a separate air pump in addition to the filter to add more oxygen to the water.

### Attractive ornaments

Decorating your goldfish aquarium can be great fun. There are multi-colored gravels, highly decorative backgrounds, hundreds of ornaments as well as plastic plants so real in reproduction it's almost impossible to distinguish them from live plants.

Most good retailers will have a complete assortment, and your selection should be based on the size of your aquarium and the amount of money you decide to spend.

Once you have set up your aquarium, you should add a chlorine neutralizer to the water and initially add only a few fish. These fish will help develop the proper biological conditions necessary to maintain a fully stocked aquarium. After three or four weeks, assuming everything is functioning properly, you can then go ahead and add the rest of the fish.

Aquarium maintenance is much simpler than people think. Every two weeks a partial water change (not greater than 20 percent), by siphoning the water from the bottom of the aquarium, is all that's required.

A device called the Hydro-Clean allows efficient siphoning by separating the debris from the gravel and removing it with the water from the aquarium. On a monthly basis, your filter will require minimal maintenance. That's all there is.

Following this simple routine, your goldfish will live a long and prosperous life. In fact, one of the biggest problems people have is spending too much time maintaining their aquarium. On a daily basis, goldfish should be fed a small quantity of a quality flake food or pellet.

Goldfish are truly beautiful and have been increasing dramatically in popularity. There are many different body shapes and colors to choose from in a variety of price ranges. They will survive at much lower temperatures and could be left in an unheated area for most of the year.

Goldfish and tropical fish form the basis for a truly rewarding life-time hobby — and one the whole family can enjoy.

### Write for information

For more information, write Tetra Sales, 201 Tabor Road, Morris Plains, NJ 07950, for a free full-color starter booklet including illustrations and complete information on 30 popular tropical fish.

### FOR BIRDLIVERS

Americans reportedly spend \$90 million yearly on birdseed for their fine-feathered friends. However, much of the money is wasted because some species don't eat seeds. Woodpeckers and hummingbirds are two examples.

Those who would like to help birds make it through the winter should visit their local library and read up on the feeding habits of local species.

### MEASURING UP

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