

Try container gardening for low maintenance

If you enjoy freshly picked herbs and vegetables, or an arrangement of summer flowers from your own backyard, you're probably one of the millions of Americans who have tried gardening.

However, if your time is limited, or if you lack the backyard space (or even the backyard) for your own little flower or vegetable plot, don't despair of having some outlet for your green thumb.

This season, shop for a new gardening system that will allow you to grow vegetables or raise flowers all season long without the labor that a backyard garden requires.

Based upon a time-proven gardening practice called French intensive gardening, Rubbermaid has developed a container system that enables consumers to enjoy bumper crops of tomatoes, fresh vegetables, herbs or flowers on a deck, patio or balcony.

Called the Anywhere Garden™ System, it features a durable plastic container with a scientifically designed self-watering system that encourages healthy plant growth.

The self-watering system includes a built-in wick and one-gallon water reservoir, permitting less frequent watering than traditional container gardening.

The wicking system carries water by capillary action to the soil and roots as needed by plants.

Using just a few of these containers, each about 15" square, the patio gardener can grow an immense variety of summer vegetables and herbs; a single container is sufficient in size to raise a tomato plant with some flowers or lettuce, or you can grow beans, spinach, onions, carrots, eggplants, cucumbers, and many other vegetables and flowers.

The Anywhere Garden™ System can be purchased complete with its own specially formulated soil mix which is aerated to allow roots to get the necessary supply of oxygen. A trellis kit to support climbing plants is also available.

Instead of spending time to build fences to keep the local "critters" away from your lettuce, or using countless hours of precious summer months digging in the soil or pulling weeds, you can spend more time enjoying the fruits of your new, efficient garden.

You may, in fact, save enough time to take a course in arranging those fresh flowers you've grown, or preparing some wonderful recipes with the fruits of your labor.



NO SPACE OR TIME for a big garden? Try container gardening. You can even grow tomato plants, cucumbers or peppers, as shown. The built-in wicking system on this product by Rubbermaid draws water from a one-gallon reservoir to minimize the need for frequent watering.

Use Checklist to Rate Your House

(NC)—The 1987 movie, *The Money Pit*, portrayed a happy young couple moving into their dream house only to watch it begin to self-destruct, piece by piece, moments after they crossed the threshold.

While the movie was a comedy, the reality of living in a poorly constructed house can be financially and emotionally tragic.

If you know what to look for and where to go for advice, assessing the quality of a dwelling is not difficult and is well worth the effort.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has published an inspection checklist to help potential home buyers determine the overall quality of a home. CMHC staff members are also well-versed in the technical requirements of sound construction.

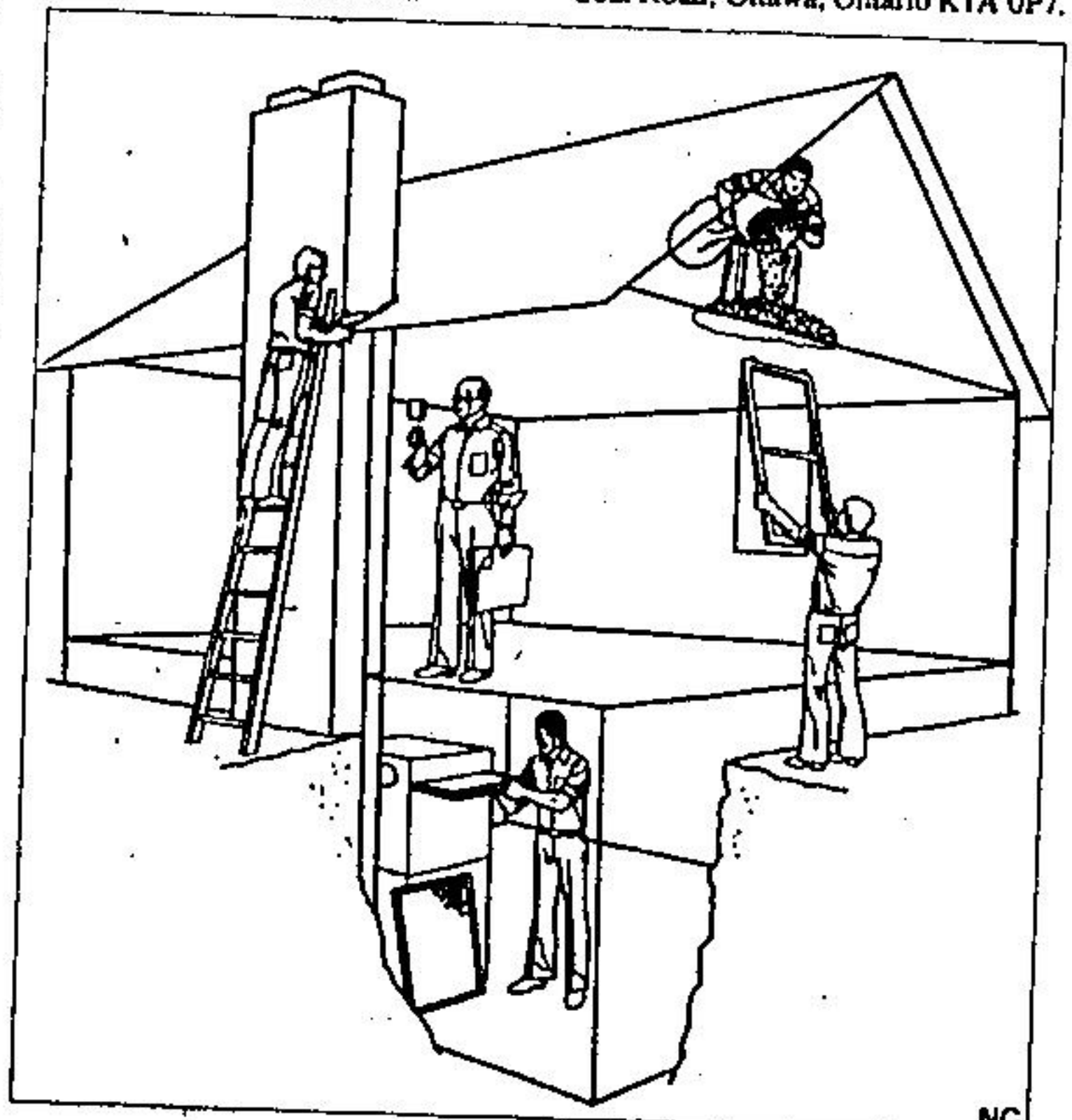
While you don't have to be an expert to notice things like dampness, peeling and cracked paint, and uneven floors, there may be some questions best put to the professionals.

In the case of a new home, find out if the builder is registered with a provincial New Home Warranty Program. If so, to what extent are you covered against defects?

In Ontario, all residential builders are required to be registered under the Program. In other provinces membership is voluntary.

In general, the following items should be examined closely. Be sure to take your time and check every feature of every room.

To obtain a CMHC inspection checklist, write to CMHC, 682 Montreal Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P7.



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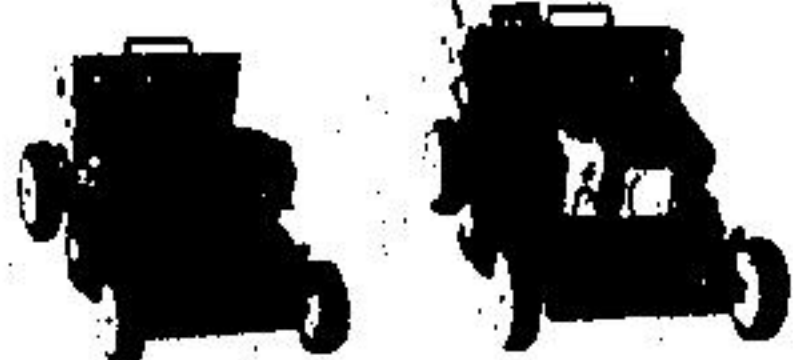
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