

HOME ENERGY & Improvement

Prepare for winter

If you've been waiting for the weather to cool off before you winterize your home, don't wait any longer. Another cold winter is predicted, and you can expect to see high utility bills again unless you take the time now to prepare for the cold weather.

Home experts recommend the following tips for winterizing your home:

Attic Insulation: Check to see that your attic (including the attic door) meets recommended insulation levels for your area. If it has six inches or less, you should add at least another layer of 6 1/4" thick R-19 firebreaglass insulation.

It's available in rolls or batts for easy installation, and can help prevent the warm air in your home from escaping through the roof.

Floors and Basement Walls: Check for adequate insulation under crawl spaces and around basement areas. The recommended insulation level for these areas is R-19.

Windows and Doors: Consider installing storm windows and doors to keep warm air in and cold air out. In winter, keep curtains and shades open to let warm sunshine in during the day but close them when the sun goes

down.

Weatherstripping/Caulking: Warm air can escape through cracks around doors, windows

and other openings, such as pipes and ducts. Seal these escape routes with caulking or weatherstripping.

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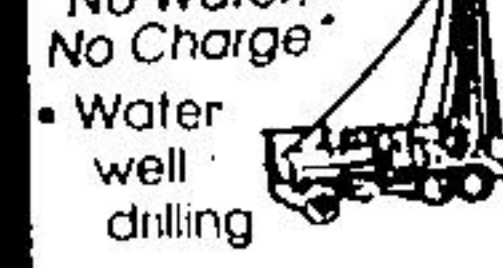
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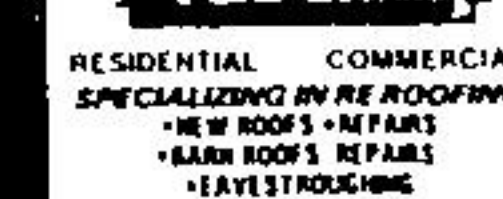
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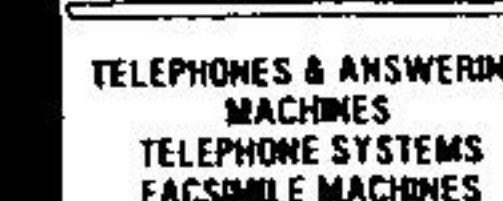
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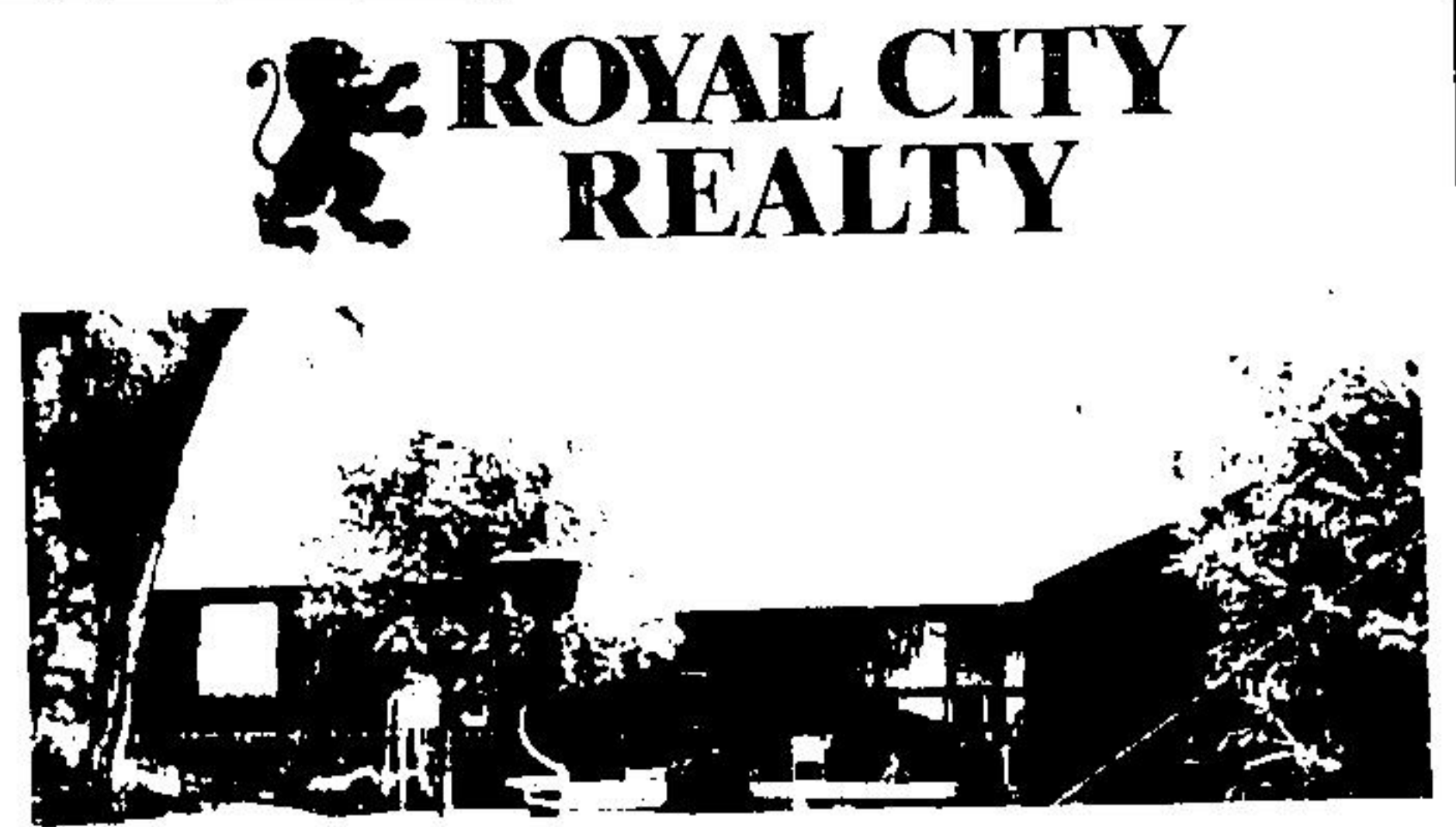
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