

Now is time to secure your house against vicious winter elements

Mild autumn days offer homeowners the opportunity to prepare for the winter ahead. In addition to raking leaves and laying in a good supply of firewood, wise homeowners will examine the exteriors of their houses and other buildings for cracks, crevices and other openings.

These should be sealed against the damaging effects of winter's vicious elements—cold temperatures and rain, sleet or snow.

Although freezing and sub-freezing temperatures create special problems in the northern United States and Canada, the lower temperatures and increased precipitation of the winter season also present perils for those residing in southern states. In either case, the objective of good home maintenance is to seal heat in and the moisture out.

The loss of heat is costly in terms of the energy needed to replenish the loss and maintain a comfortable living environment within the home.

Moisture, however, is even more insidious. It often enters undetected through cracks and crevices, and attacks the structure over a period of many years.

Freezing and sub-freezing temperatures merely exacerbate moisture's damaging effects. As water turns to ice, it expands and exerts enormous pressures on the surrounding surfaces. Hence, moisture within a crack or crevice will cause additional cracking and breaking.

To avoid such damage, homeowners should make a thorough inspection of their property. Red Devil, Inc., the Union, New Jersey, based manufacturer of chemical products and tools for the do-it-yourselfer, offers the following suggestions to put your home in tip-top shape.

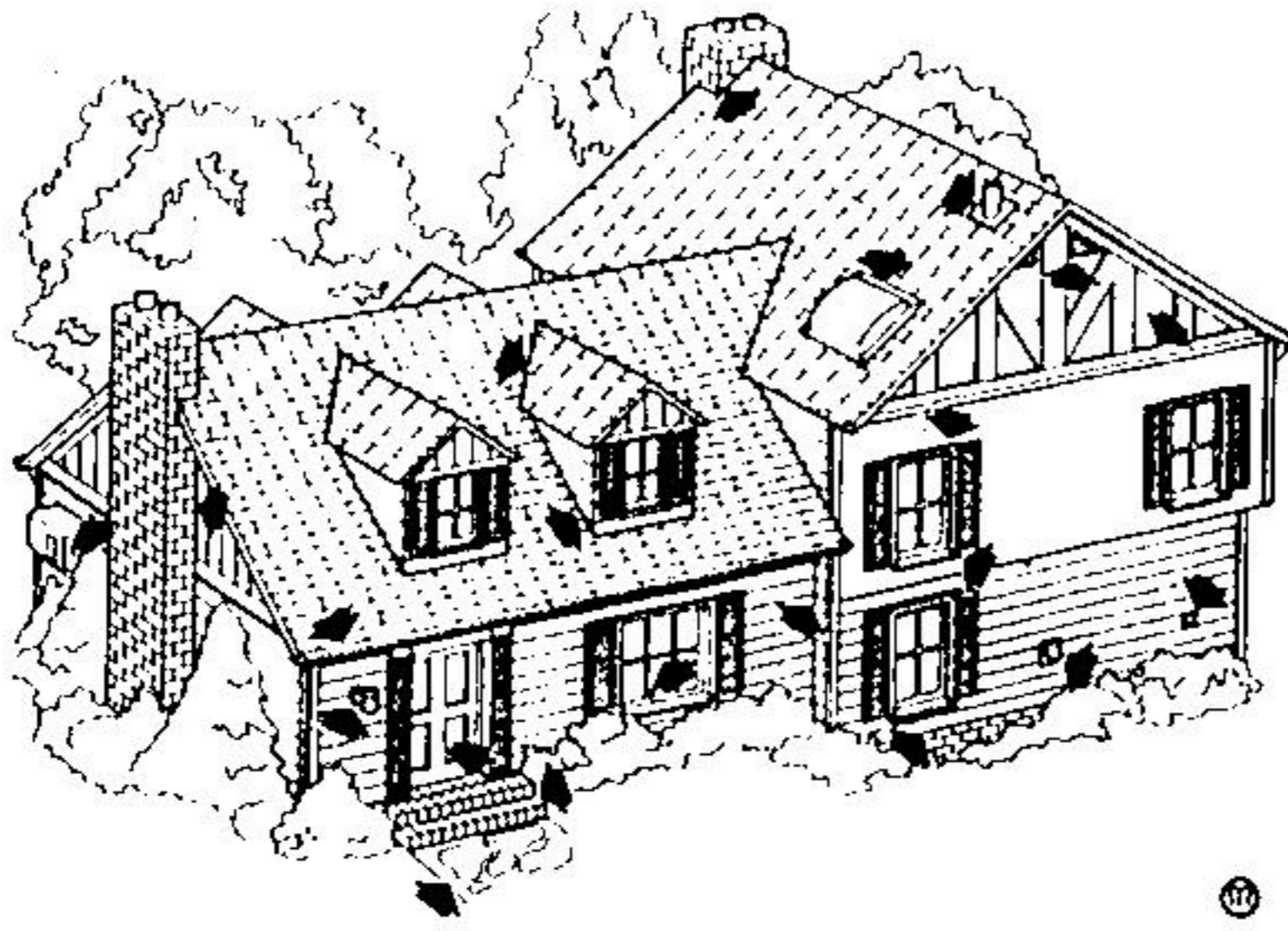
Start at the top, if possible, and work your way down. Check roofs for loose or missing shingles; look for openings in and around vents, stacks, chimneys, valleys, flashing, gutters and downspouts.

Then, make a complete tour around your house, inspecting all joints between the siding and other parts of the house, such as window and door frames, window sills, porch or deck attachments, eaves and trim.

Don't overlook those spots where objects pass through the siding from the in-

Scratch Preventer

Keep heavy picture frames from scratching walls by covering the back edges with felt.



THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATION points out important areas around the exterior of your house to check for cracks, crevices and other openings, and seal or repair before the onset of winter.

terior to the exterior of your home.

If you have clapboard siding on your house, it is a good idea to inspect all boards for cracks or other defects, which will permit damaging moisture to work its way in behind the siding.

Brick, stone and cement blocks are probably the most durable of all exterior building materials. However, the mortar joints which hold them together do require occasional maintenance. Look for cracks and crumbling mortar, and repair immediately.

Concrete patios, walks, driveways and garage floors also are prone to cracking and crumbling, allowing water to enter and causing further damage.

Once you've located problem areas, most repairs can be accomplished easily with a few inexpensive tools and the proper materials. For roofing repairs, an asphalt-based compound is recommended.

Red Devil Blacktop and Roof Repair, for example, is excellent and is available in tubes to fit standard caulking guns. In addition to fastening loose shingles, it

can be used to seal flashing and close openings in gutters and downspouts. It also can be used to fill cracks in blacktop driveways.

Crevices in the walls of a home, and openings around doors, pipes, windows and wires, should be sealed with a good quality caulk, such as the Red Devil Lifetime™ Brand Siliconized Acrylic Caulk.

Cracks in mortar between bricks or stone, and in cement surfaces such as driveways and patios, can be repaired using a pre-mixed mortar repair product such as Red Devil Concrete and Mortar Repair, which comes in plastic tubs.

And if your home is made of a stucco material, cracks and crevices in the walls can be repaired easily with a new lightweight, pre-mixed formula made especially for repairing stucco walls—Red Devil California Lite™ Stucco Repair.

For information on the use of these or any other Red Devil product, you can call the toll-free Red Devil telephone number (1-800-247-3790) between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM (E.S.T.), Monday through Friday, and ask for "Big Red."

Valuable furnace feature—the extended warranty

(NC)—The past season or two has seen a change in number of furnace manufacturers offering an extended warranty.

Bill Curry is a Marketing Communications Manager with ICG, Canada's largest manufacturers of heating, air conditioning and refrigeration equipment. ICG offers a lifetime, 100% warranty against factory defects in the heat exchangers of its high efficiency furnaces. According to Curry, "We are able to do this because of the great confidence we have in our product. There are furnaces on the market which do not carry this kind of protection and, frankly, we think the furnace buyer should beware of them. Whatever their prices, they're not likely to be good value."

"The reputable manufacturers all offer substantial warranties."

Curry's advice—"You are making a substantial investment. Go with a company that's not afraid to stand

Home Comfort News



behind its products." For all your home comfort solutions contact your local ICG Heating and Air Conditioning Dealer, or, for your nearest dealer, call 1-800-387-1300.



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