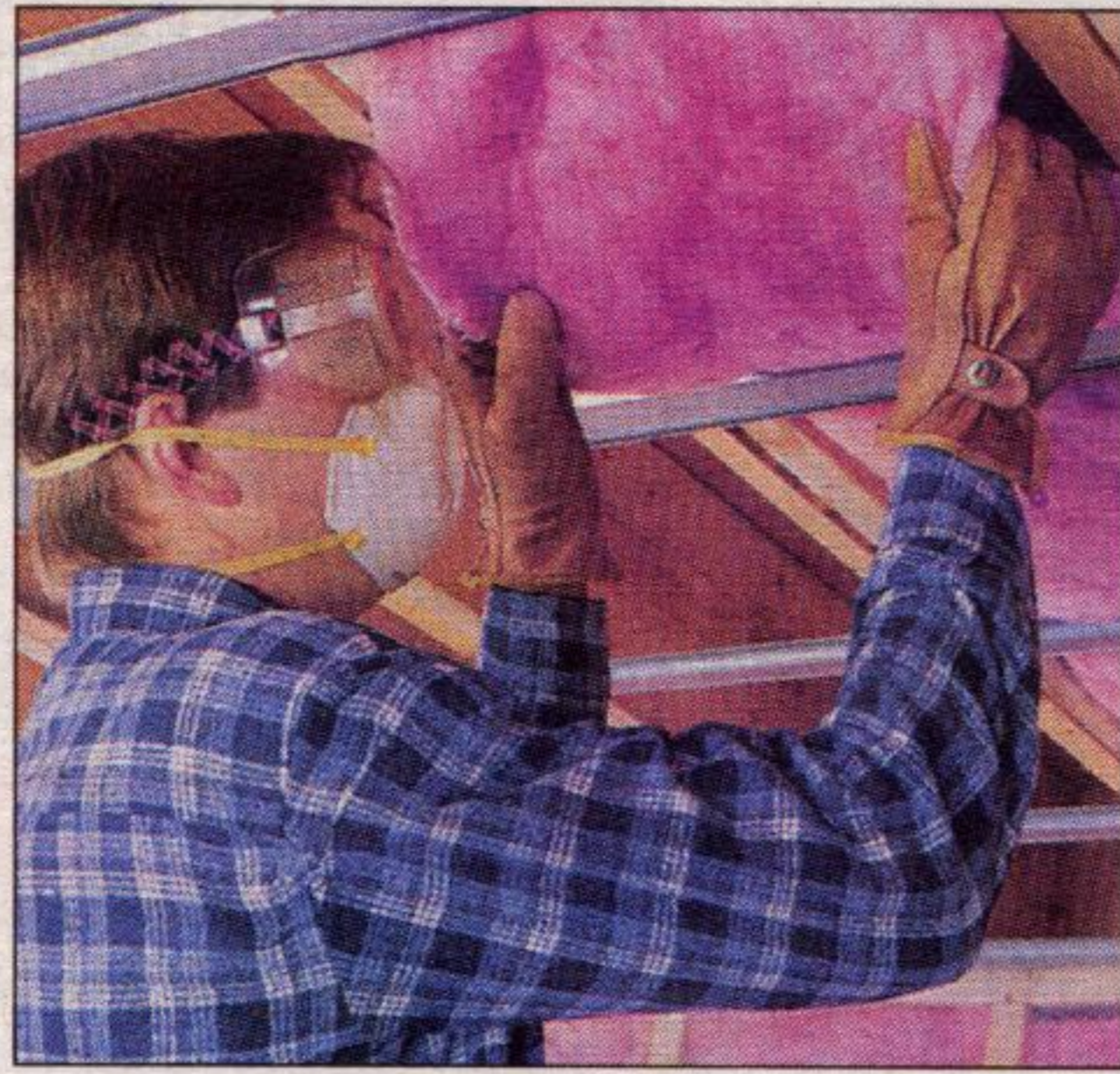


Q&A's with an insulation expert

Do-it-yourself renovations are a growing trend amongst Canadian homeowners. Stephen Molnar, an Insulation Expert with Owens Corning Canada, provides answers to some commonly asked questions:



Q: Why is it so important to insulate my attic? How do I know how much insulation is enough?

A: Up to 17 per cent of a home's energy is lost through the attic and, much like a toque, during colder months insulation and sealing keeps heated air from escaping outside. Typically, attics should be insulated to a value of R-40 to maximize energy efficiency. Canadians whose attics are filled with blown-in insulation should have yearly check-ups to ensure that the recommended R-value is met, that the insulation is evenly distributed and that proper ventilation is maintained. If an attic is insulated with FIBERGLAS batts, owners should also verify that an insulation value of R-40 or better is in place.

the growth of mold and mildew, resulting in a deterioration of indoor air quality. A properly insulated basement will not only help conserve energy, but will incorporate a sealant to provide a barrier against moisture.

Q: Do pipes and ducts affect household temperatures?

A: Not surprisingly, temperatures of water pipes and ventilation ducts may vary from the overall indoor environment. By properly insulating these areas, water and air can be distributed throughout the house at consistent temperatures without affecting indoor temperatures. By insulating pipes and ducts, less energy is needed to maintain consistent household temperatures.

Q: What is R-Value?


A: R-value indicates the insulation's resistance to heat flow. A key phrase to remember is the higher the R-value, the greater the insulating power.

Q: My basement is unfinished - should I insulate before I renovate?

A: Quite simply, yes. Unfinished basements account for over 20 per cent of a home's energy loss. Moisture can also seep through the walls and spur


For more information on household insulation, call 1-800-GET-PINK or visit www.owenscorning.ca.

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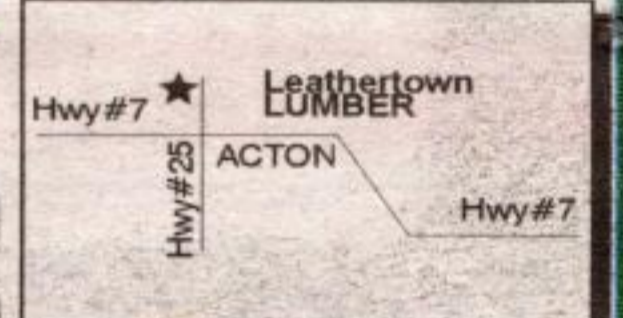


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