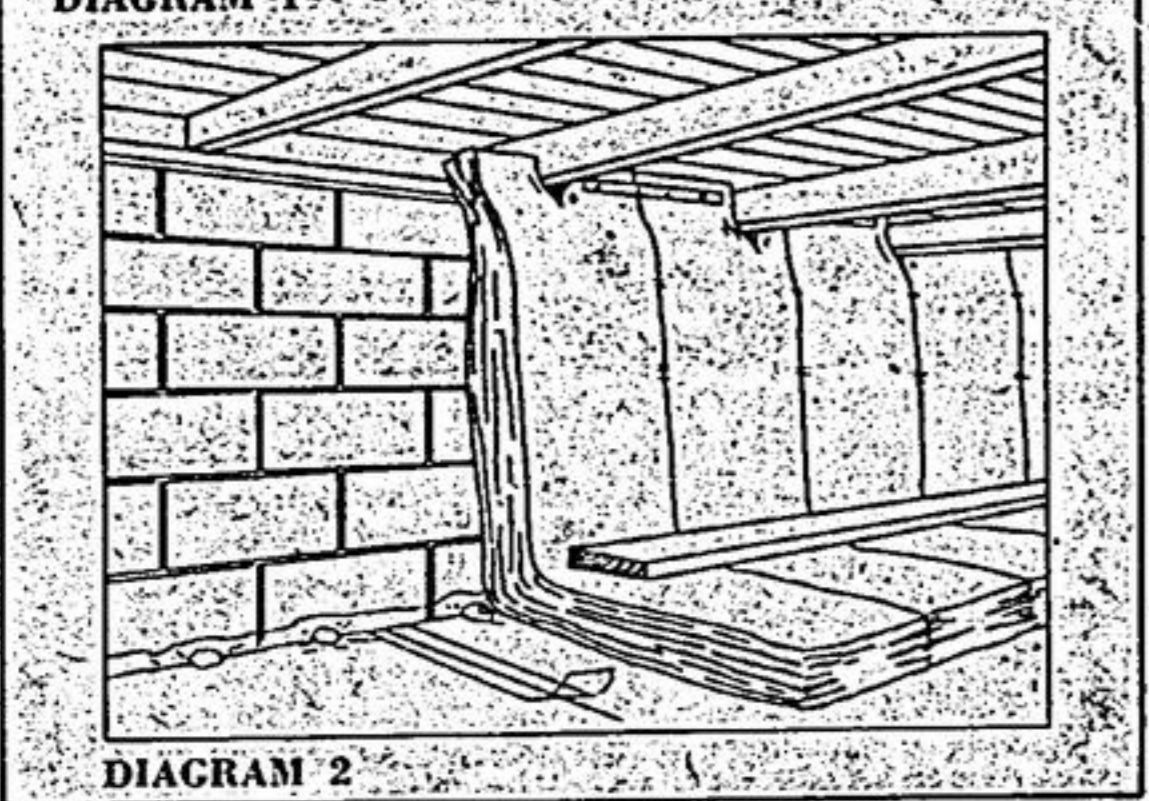
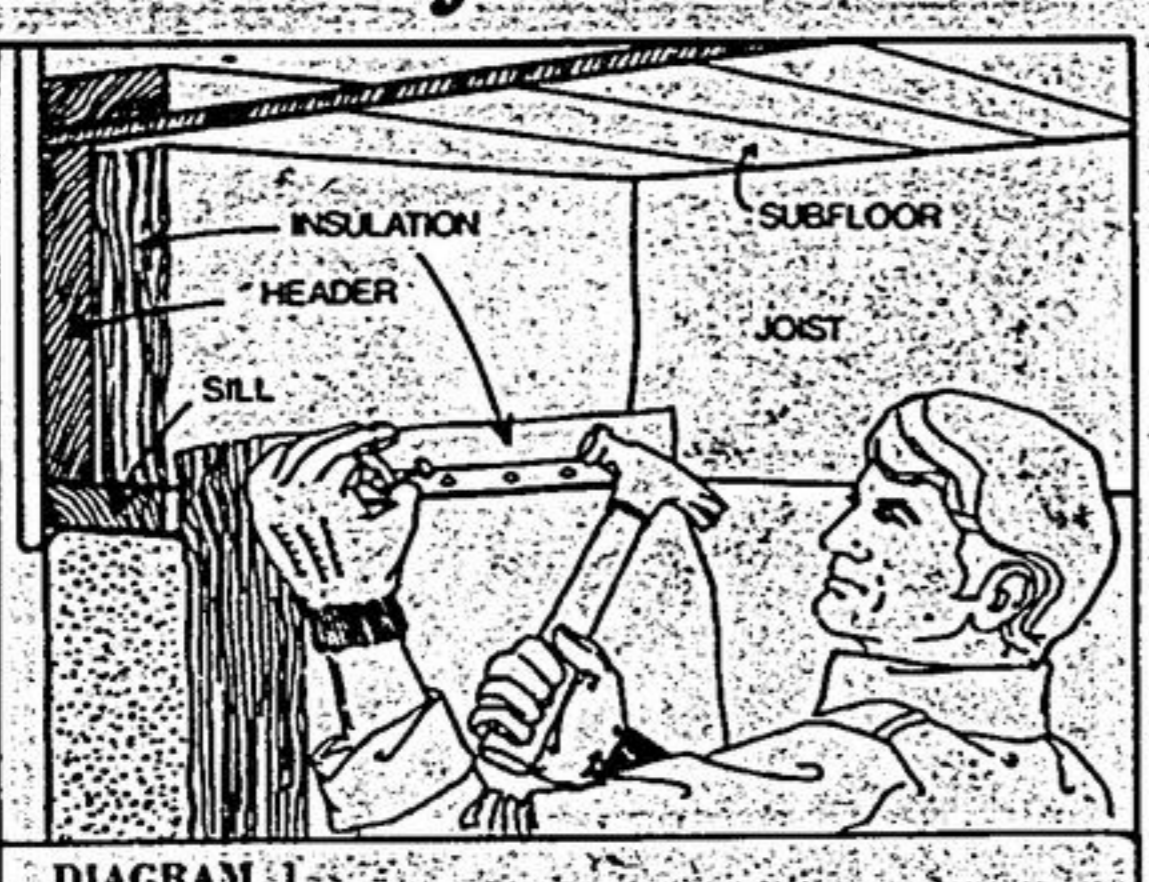


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SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALS

Crawlspace — an easy way to insulate house from below

If your house has a crawlspace rather than a basement, you can make your home more comfortable and energy-saving by insulating the perimeter of the crawlspace. This approach is often quicker, easier, and less expensive than actually insulating the joists beneath the floors of your home, according to the energy experts at the CertainTeed Home Institute, Valley Forge, Pa.



However, the crawlspace should be an unvented one, or you should close off and insulate any existing vents in the winter.

Measure first

Before you begin, measure the distance between the floor joists (usually 15 inches or 23 inches) so that you can purchase 6 inch-thick batts or rolls of unfaced fiber glass insulation to fit between them.

You'll also need a hammer and nails, heavy duty linoleum shears, a linoleum knife or serrated bread knife (to cut the insulation), temporary lighting with waterproof wiring and connections, a portable fan for ventilation, a tape measure, and duct tape (2 inches wide).

You'll need 1/2" x 1 1/2" strips of wood to use in securing the insulation to the sill along the walls. (You'll need enough nailing strips to extend the entire length of each of the walls to be insulated.)

INSULATING CRAWLSPACE WALLS is relatively easy to do, according to the CertainTeed Home Institute, Valley Forge, Pa. On walls perpendicular to joists (Diagram #1), insert a piece of fiber glass insulation between the sub-floor and the sill, then attach a longer batt of insulation directly to the sill. Or, attach the long insulation as shown in Diagram #2. In both cases, make sure that the insulation extends at least two feet into the crawlspace. Install a 6-mil thick polyethylene vapor barrier under the insulation over the entire floor area and two inches up the wall, securing it with moisture-proof duct tape.

Different joist

You'll also need polyethylene sheeting (6 mil thick) to completely cover the earthen floor beneath the house and to extend up the walls several inches all around.

Where joists are perpendicular to the side wall, begin by cutting short pieces of insulation to fit snugly against the header. Then install longer strips of insulation, nailing it to the sill using the strips of wood.

Once you've insulated all the wall areas, install the polyethylene vapor barrier underneath the insulation on the earth floor, extending up the walls about two inches. Tape it to the walls, overlapping the edges of the sheeting 6 inches, using the duct tape. (You lay the vapor barrier last to prevent ripping it to shreds while you're installing the insulation.)

perimeter walls in the crawlspace is not advisable in Alaska, Minnesota and northern Maine. Due to the extreme frost penetration in these areas, foundations may be affected. It'd be advisable in these locations to insulate the flooring above the crawlspace instead.

Don't let energy slip out the window

There are a number of ways in which windows waste energy, and, unfortunately, few homeowners are aware of the different solution each problem requires.

"The storm window is generally known," according to Fred M. Schmidt, author of *The Window Book*, "but it is not understood. Too often it is considered the cure-all. Sometimes it is, sometimes it isn't."

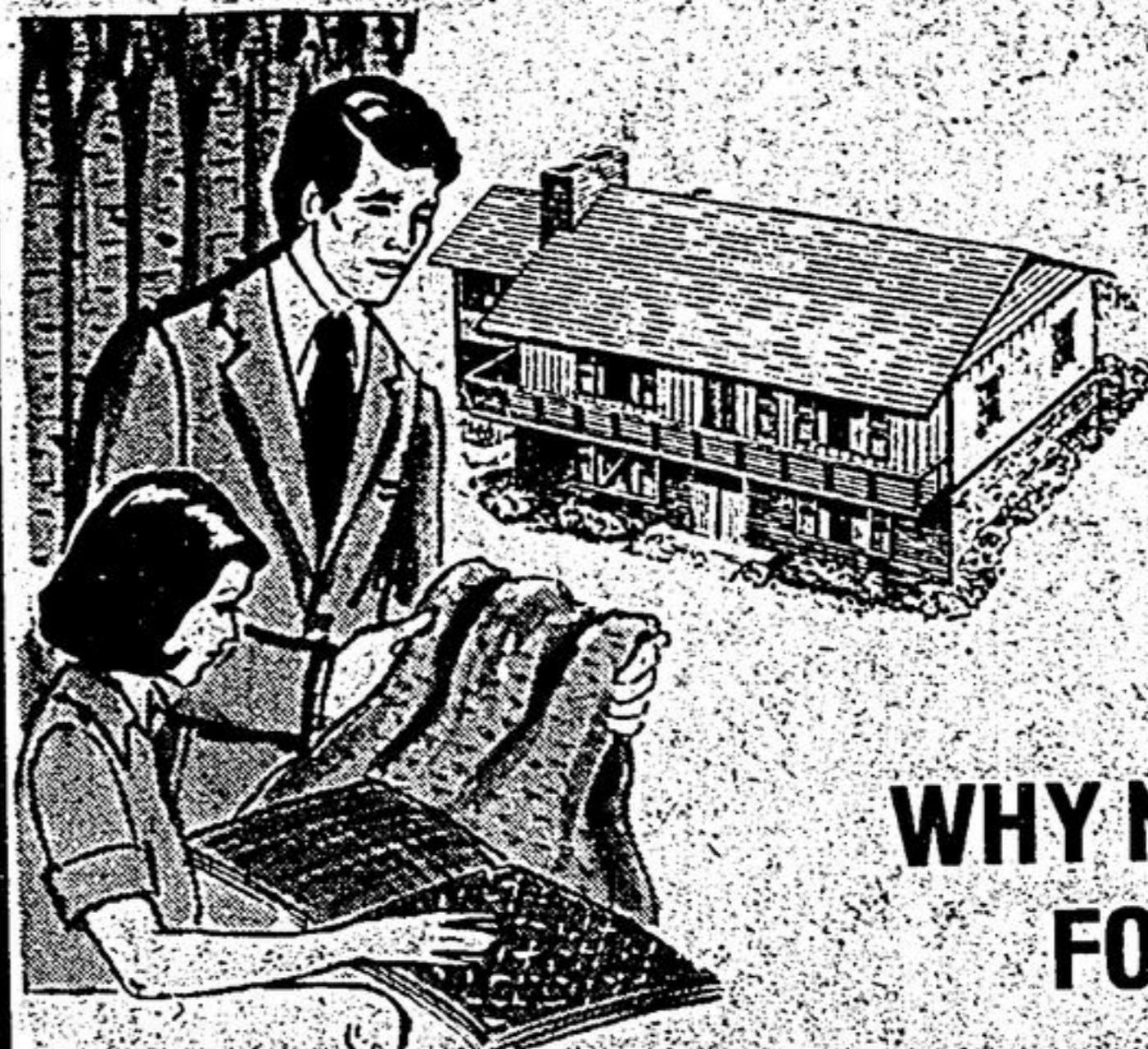
The recently published 136-page book identifies the specific causes of heat loss (or gain, in summer) and presents the solutions, such as caulking, weatherstripping, storm windows and replacement windows, for each of these different problems.

Described and illustrated are the various kinds of new thermalized windows and a thorough treatment of the custom-fit replacement windows concept, which the author identifies as "the only economical way to replace old worn-out windows to save fuel to pay for the new windows."

In addition to calculating the investment pay-back periods for different window energy conservation measures, the book also treats on subjects such as how to solve condensation problems and gives an interesting history of windows in the world.

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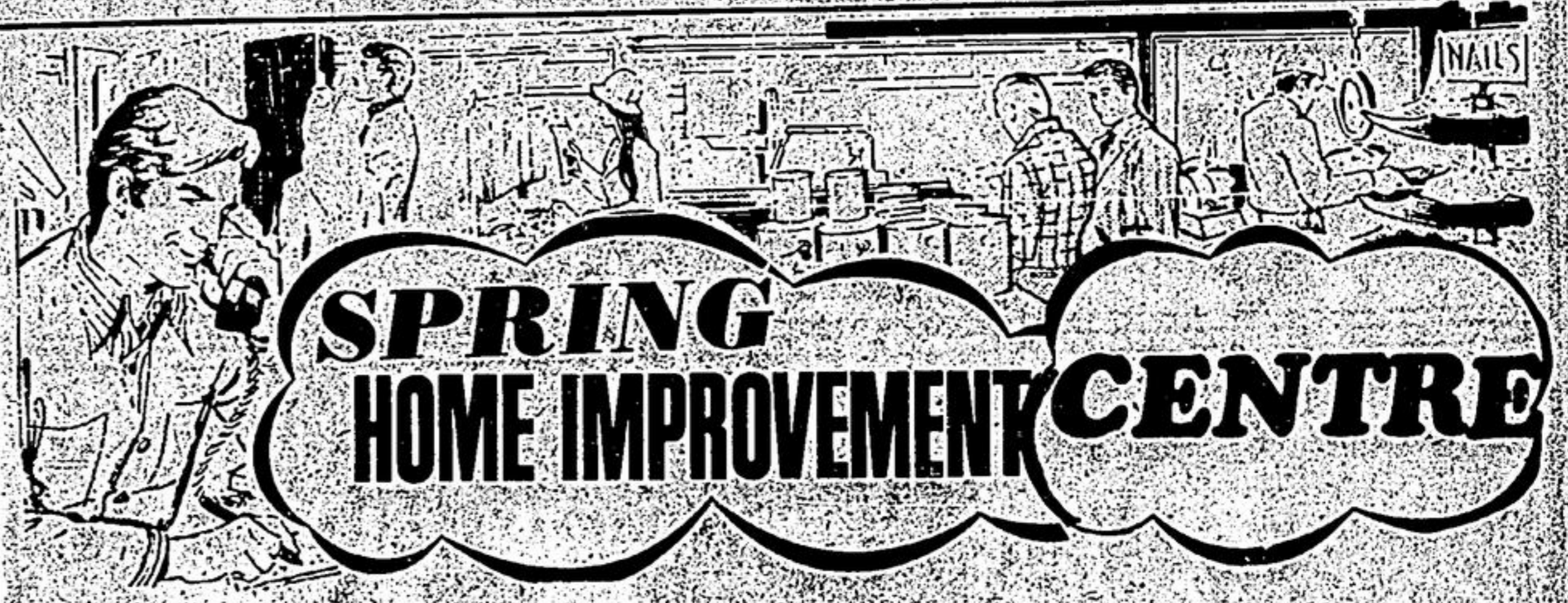
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