

**High gloss**

# Exterior upkeep tells all

Nothing tells the world so much about you as the appearance of your home. And it's the outside of your home that says the most.

Whether you live in a townhouse or ranch house, you want your home to look the best it possibly can. And that's a lot easier now that there's a high gloss acrylic latex paint.

The high gloss look can add a sparkling new dimension to almost any part of your home's exterior — walls, doors, windows, trim, shutter, even gutters and downspouts.

It's a good choice too for other outdoor painting projects, things like fences, trellises, lampposts, planters and flower boxes.

**HIGHLIGHT DETAILS**

The luminous shine of high gloss acrylic latex paint is especially effective at highlighting distinctive architectural features. So it's a natural for Victorian style homes or others with interesting detailing.

High gloss acrylic latex paint comes in a variety of bright, elegant hues that give your home that just-painted look, year after year. In fact, long-lasting tint retention is one of the paint's real plusses.

**VERY DURABLE**

And when it comes to durability, it's hard to beat high gloss acrylic latex paint. It does an excellent job of sealing outdoor wood against cracking, blistering, peeling or flaking due to harsh weather and sun damage.

But part of the product's beauty will be visible only to you, and not your neighbors. That's the beautiful way in which you can clean up brushes and rollers with just soap and water after finishing your high gloss acrylic latex painting projects.

# Sliding doors practical

There's nothing like patio doors to bring the beauty of the outdoors indoors. They provide the most convenient way to make the outdoors a visual extension of a room.

**COMMON CONFIGURATION**

The most common patio door has one stationary panel and one operating panel. The operating panel can either slide or swing open and shut.

Well-made patio doors have a wood frame because wood is a natural insulator, says the National Wood Window and Door Association.

Two other requirements of a well-made patio door are factory-applied weatherstripping and double glazing. Weatherstripping prevents energy loss around the frame, while double glazing reduces heat loss through the glass area.

Wood patio doors are available at local lumber yards, home centers and building supply stores. They come in six, eight, nine and 12-foot widths. Many have a protective exterior cladding that virtually eliminates the need for painting.

Most homeowners can install a patio door using ordinary carpentry tools. It usually takes two days to complete the job.



## Forgotten lily

When the flowers faded from an Easter Lily in April, Buttonville resident Dorothy Reesor threw the rest of the plant onto her compost pile thinking it would never bloom again. To her surprise and delight, the plant started to grow and flower. It has since been repotted and is flourishing with some tender loving care.

— Bill Lanning

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# Refinishing just as good as new

If you've been longing for new furniture, but you think you can't afford it — think again. Homer Formby, one of North America's leading authorities on wood refinishing, says that secondhand furniture can be a top-quality bargain.

"You can find really good wood furniture at flea markets and garage sales, and at Goodwill and Salvation Army stores," said Mr. Formby. "I recently saw a wonderful oak hutch at the Salvation Army for \$57."

"Usually this furniture is in good condition," Mr. Formby said. "Sometimes just a thorough cleaning will make it look almost new again."

Formby offers these guidelines for judging previously-owned furniture.

- Do make sure the piece is structurally sound. Lean on it and see if it is steady, or if it rocks. Open and shut the drawers to be sure they don't stick.

- Do pull out one drawer and check the joints to see if they are dovetailed (interlocked like pieces of a puzzle). Dovetailing is a sign of careful construction.

- Do consider how the styling and size of the piece will work with your other furniture.

- Do examine the drawers,

shelves and doors to see if any particle board has been used. The best quality furniture is made with hardwood (like oak, mahogany, cherry).

- Don't be turned off by an ugly coat of neon green paint or a darkened, damaged finish. Do-it-yourself products have been greatly improved over the past few years, and now it's easier than ever to remove old paint or finishes.

Mr. Formby warns against using "strippers" that claim to remove any type of finish. "They can be too harsh," he said. "You run the risk of stripping away the wood's patina — the beautiful glow that wood gets over time."

Instead, Formby recommends using a heavy-bodied paint remover to take off paint and polyurethane. He recommends using furniture refinisher for removing varnish, lacquer or shellac.

- Don't put too much store by the term antique.

"The term 'antique' doesn't have anything to do with the value of the piece," said Mr. Formby. "Just look for good wood and craftsmanship, and you've found something worth buying."

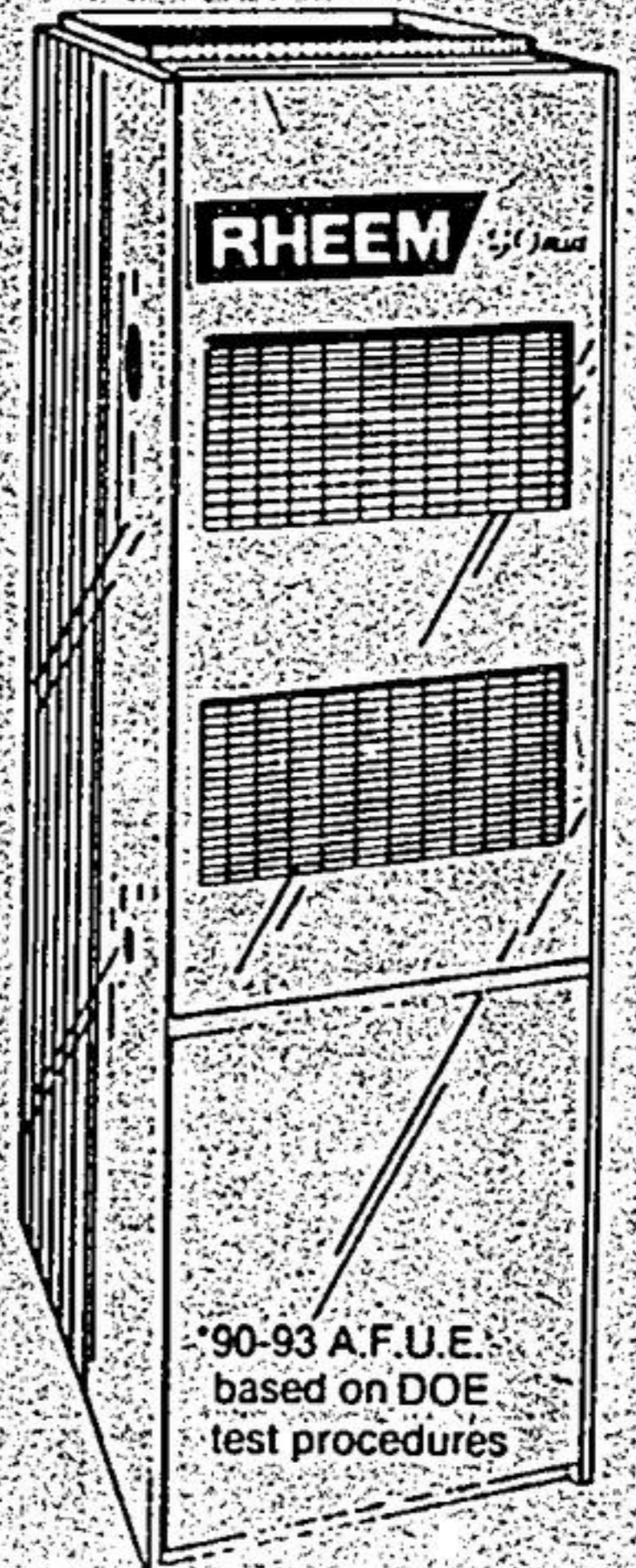


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