

# INTERIORS

## Time to cosy up to your home

When winter comes around again you'll read a great deal about the importance of weather stripping and caulking to keep heat inside your house. That's the time when most home owners attack the problems of heat loss. But why wait?

If you do the job now you'll be ready to save on heating costs when winter arrives, and you'll

## Ceramics make their comeback

Once confined mostly to bathroom walls and shower installations, ceramic tile has become a popular option for flooring in recent years, particularly in the kitchen and entrance areas of new and renovated homes.

Its hard-wearing durability, ease of maintenance and variety of designs have made it an obvious choice for both style and practicality. "A lot of people are taking up their parquet flooring and ripping out carpet to put in tiles," observes Guy Arangio of Inter Ceramic Tile and Marble in Markham, which sells and installs a wide range of ceramic tile.

"In the bathrooms, where there was a lot of linoleum, they're now using ceramic tiles." And tiles are getting bigger, he adds.

"The bigger the tile, the bigger a room will look. If you buy a dark color, you can expect to make the room look smaller, whereas a lighter color will make it appear larger."

Arangio recommends using tiles with a marbled effect, which offer a variety of subtle shading. "If you have a tile with two colors or more in it, you're better off than with something solid or flat." Marbled tiles have always been a popular choice with consumers, and he feels they're hard to beat for most areas in the home.

"A lot of people want to put marble on their floor, but that would be very costly. The tiles I have are identical to marble; you really can't tell the difference. I have marbled tiles that have grey and some pink in the same tile, and they could also have some veins of beige or bone in them as well."

The effect is very subtle, he says, and blends in with a wide selection of decorating colors. While patterned tiles are currently enjoying a revival, "they still won't beat the marble affect," stresses Arangio. Also gaining favor are Mexican, or terra cotta tiles.

"They're getting pretty popular, but I wouldn't recommend them in a kitchen. They're more suitable in the sauna or a little bathroom, because dirt gets stuck onto them very easily." Whatever your preference, it's very important to go to the experts for advice and installation, he says.

"You've got to have a professional explain to you what kind of tile you need for certain areas. For instance, in bathrooms you'd put down a tile with less glaze, whereas in kitchens that doesn't matter as long as the tile is really good quality." Inter Ceramic Tile offers customers help and advice, and is happy to provide free estimates.

Their showroom is located at 80 Bullock Drive, Unit 3.

also save on the costs of running your air conditioner through the hot months. The same leaks that let heat escape during the winter let heat in during the summer. This increases your air conditioner's work load as well as your electricity bill.

Our ICG experts say a thorough job of weatherstripping and caulking can reduce your fuel bill in winter by 10 to 15%, and, in summer, will also substantially reduce the costs of running your air conditioner.

Doors and windows are prime candidates for attention. Use weather stripping between doors and frames and between windows and frames. In old houses leaks often

develop where the frame is set into the wall. These leaks should be sealed with caulking.

To help locate leaks you might want to use the candle test. Choose a windy day. Pass a lighted candle slowly past the windows and outside-facing walls. When the candle flutters you've detected a leak that needs sealing.

Terry Allum is Vice-President of Marketing and Product Development with ICG - Canada's largest manufacturer of heating and air conditioning equipment.

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.

## Country Wreath & Baskets Made to Order



A wide choice of country decorating ideas for your home

640-3070 4 Main St., Stouffville

## Get the Heat with 0% Financing\*



Maximize the economies of propane with the advanced technology of a GlowCore "Unicore Integrated Heating System". Propane space heating and water heating are combined into a unified, highly efficient home comfort system that uses hydronic or forced air.

And with Superior Propane's financing you pay absolutely no interest for one year. Or choose a term of up to five years, at competitive financing. Minimum of 10% down payment required. Come today to your local Superior Propane Branch and ask for full details. Offer expires November 30, 1990.

\*Pending credit approval.

**Superior Propane Inc.**



**Superior Propane Inc.**  
8470 Keele St.  
Concord, Ont.  
669-1145 661-2330

**Superior Propane Inc.**  
Woodbine & Morton Side Rd.  
Keswick, Ont.  
476-4348

**Superior Propane Inc.**  
505 Victoria St.  
Whitby  
668-3328

All models may not be available at all Branches. While supplies last. Models shown may contain options that are available at extra cost.

Copyright © 1990 Superior Propane Inc.