



R 12 WEEKENDER SATURDAY APRIL 4, 1998

Home & Garden

You aren't the only thing exterior doors let in

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possible, this will keep the heat inside your home.

Exterior doors: you're not the only thing they let in.

Doors that aren't insulated or that let in drafts con-

tribute to a home's energy loss," said Huggard. "With the weather getting warmer, those drafty winter nights may already be fading from memory, but if you don't do something about them now, they'll be back in the fall."

There are many styles and

colours to increase your home's curb appeal while conserving energy like never before.

A new insulated steel door could be your best bet from a value, energy efficiency and security point of view. Also, it needn't look like steel.

Heavy-gauge galvanized steel doors reinforce the door jamb and help protect against break-ins. And because they're custom-fitted to your home, they're as draft-free as doors can be," he said.

If you're not ready to replace your doors, you can still take steps to keep outdoor air out and indoor air in.

- Check weather-stripping around the door. If it's a V-strip with metal, check that the metal is shiny from rubbing against the door. If it isn't — if instead it's dull and flat — widen the V to fill the gap when the door is closed.

- If your door has a mail slot, seal it off with caulking and some weatherproof insulating material cut to fit in the slot itself. (Polystyrene foam works well.)

- Install a storm door and seal seasonal doors with heavy plastic sheeting for added protection against wind.

- Replace the sill under the door with a new threshold seal or attach a door sweep to the bottom of the door itself. It can wear down with traffic.

- Caulk between the door frame and the wall as well as between the threshold and the floor. Outside,

caulk where the door frame meets the siding.

Be window-wise

"You'd be amazed by how much energy can fly out a window, even when it's closed," said Huggard.

- Repair damage to frames and check for cracked panes.

- Replace windowpanes with double-glazed, low-E glass filled with argon gas to boost their insulation value and eliminate condensation problems.

- Make sure that every window — especially those facing south and west — has blinds, lined drapes or other light-blocking coverings that can be drawn to keep rooms cooler in summer.

Replace older roofs

Keeping the roof of your home properly sealed, insulated and vented is key to keeping your house warm in winter and cool in summer. But, as Huggard said, replacing a roof is a big job.

"Most people who've tried to do it themselves agree that if they had to do it again, they wouldn't." He suggested homeowners contact an experienced renovator to do the job right from the start to finish.



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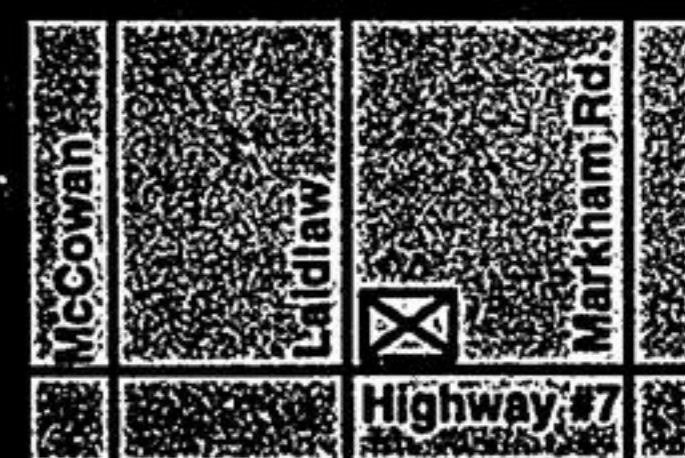
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