

Owners Insulate Homes For Summer Comfort and Winter Fuel Savings

Solve Problem For Apartments

NEW YORK — Oak floors are helping apartment owners to whip the ogre of high maintenance costs, a leading building trade publication indicates.

The magazine's editors interviewed scores of apartment builders, architects, mortgage bankers, investors and management firms from coast to coast in an effort to learn how operating costs could be spared.

Among the major suggestions was an emphatic one concerning the floors. Practically all the apartment owners and maintenance engineers recommended use of high grade oak flooring for living rooms, bedrooms and halls.

One large apartment building operator, the magazine reported, is up-grading old apartments by replacing composition floors with genuine oak.

Floors of oak are noted for resistance to wear and exceptionally low upkeep cost. They can be expected to last the life of a building with little or no repair.

Economies Cover Cost Of The Job

In an era when the high cost of living gets higher every day, it's good news to hear of a luxury that costs less.

This "luxury" is home comfort. It's a fact that today it actually costs less to be comfortable in the home, throughout the year.

The secret to this phenomenon is insulation. Properly installed in thick enough quantities, insulating materials block the escape of heat so efficiently in the winter months that it not only makes a house more comfortable but can reduce heating fuel costs by as much as 40 per cent per year.

In summer, insulation works the other way around, helping to keep heat outside and resulting in greater comfort inside. When a house is to be air conditioned, a marked savings results from the use of insulation. Tests have shown that adequately thick insulation in walls, ceilings, and floors where needed cuts down the size of cooling equipment required, often reducing the initial investment in air conditioning. In addition, this smaller equipment operates at a lower cost.

Insulation Materials

Insulation materials are made of mineral wool, rock wool, glass, slag, paper pulp, gypsum, asbestos, cork, aluminum foils, vermiculite, cotton and other mineral and vegetable matter. Most commonly, insulation comes in batts (4 and 8-ft. lengths), blankets (usually in 50-ft. rolls) and loose in bags (fill type).

It is a simple matter for the home handyman to insulate a new home before walls and ceilings are completed by installing thick bats or blankets of insulating material. Older homes can also be insulated by the do-it-yourselfer in areas that are accessible. These include attic floors, the area between living quarters and an attached garage and such other areas as floors in sleeping quarters above the garage in split-level homes.

Here are some basic rules for doing a good job:

1. Be sure to use thick insulation in all exposed walls, ceilings, and floors over unheated areas.
2. Cut the insulation slightly larger than the space it is to fill, leaving a flange of vapor barrier at each end. Use a very sharp knife and cut along a piece of board or other straight edge.
3. Wedge the insulation tight between joists, studs, or rafters, permitting the vapor barrier flange to overlap the wood framing member at the end of the space. The vapor barrier should be toward the side of the house that is heated in winter.

Staple Gun Useful

4. Staple or nail the flange to the wood at the end of the space, and along the facing side of the joist, rafter, or stud. A staple gun is faster and leaves one hand free to hold the insulation in place.

5. Butt the next batt or blanket tight against the end of the first one.
6. Don't skip small spaces, as they can reduce the efficiency of the insulation significantly.
7. If in doubt about the proper thickness, get the thicker mineral wool or other insulating material, as the slight extra cost will pay for itself in comfort and fuel savings.

A home that is already finished can be fully insulated without damage to walls or ceilings by having mineral wool blown into inaccessible areas.

This is not a do-it-yourself project, but is done by an insulation contractor. Loose mineral wool is

DESIGN C-600. This type plan, putting the garage in front of the house is proving to be very popular. It creates an interesting break in exterior appearance and conceals the fact that the house is otherwise economically rectangular.

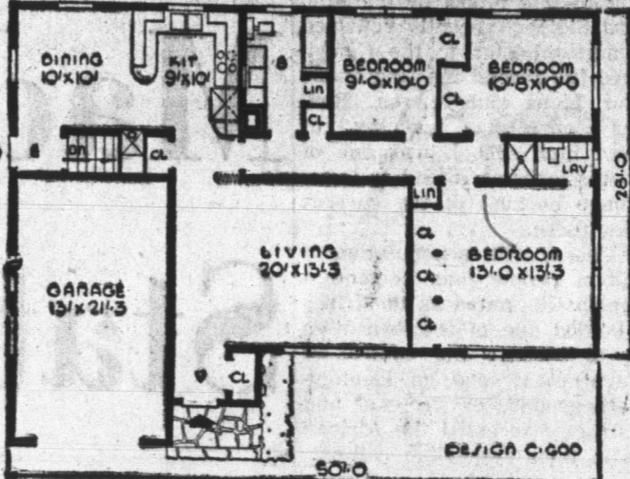
With the main bathroom located so conveniently, the usual extra lavatory becomes a feature of the master bedroom. Extra large floor to ceiling wardrobes with built-in dresser trays and high side windows (creating additional wall space) are other bedroom features. Storage space is abundant.

Sharing space with closet over stairway a waist high oven becomes part of the U-shape kitchen containing wonderful work and storage cabinet space. The adjoining dining area has a table completely out of the traffic lane. Outside asphalt shingles are combined with wide horizontal siding. With full basement but not including garage the plan covers 1348 square feet. Contains 25,612 cubic feet.

For further information about DESIGN C-600 write the Small House Planning Bureau, St. Cloud, Minn. In Canada, the Small House Planning Bureau of Canada, St. John, New Brunswick.



A SMALL HOUSE PLANNING BUREAU DESIGN NO. C-600



Good Builders Concentrate On Year-Around Comfort

Home builders throughout the country today are giving all-weather comfort a more important role in their plans for better houses.

This is evidenced in a recent announcement by the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute that the number of homes with central air conditioning has doubled in the last three years.

By the end of 1960, says the Institute, more than 1,000,000 of the nation's 60,000,000 homes will have complete air conditioning. In 1957, only about 500,000 houses had central cooling.

A leading factor in this increase is insulation. Research has proved that sufficient mineral wool in the walls, ceilings, and floors of a house make it possible to install smaller, less expensive cooling equipment that operates efficiently at lower cost.

Conscientious builders follow

the All-Weather Comfort Standard for insulation when they build an air-conditioned house. Batts or blankets of mineral wool that conform to this standard are now available from building material dealers. For ceilings, batts or blankets labeled "R-19" are recommended. Insulation for walls is labeled "R-11" and for floors "R-12."

White on panel roofing also has made a significant contribution to more efficient, economical air conditioning. A roof of white or light pastel asphalt shingles reflects the sun's heat, helping to reduce the amount of heat the air conditioning system must remove.

A roof of asphalt shingles in white or one of many pastel colors available provides this heat reflection without harsh gleam or glare. They have a rich textured look designed for beauty as well as durability.

Ceiling of air-conditioned house being insulated with mineral wool batts designed for economical cooling.

often repay the total cost of insulation within a few years.

2. Lower air conditioning costs.

3. For greater cleanliness, it filters the air.

4. For greater comfort, it humidifies the air.

5. For dependability, it has a unique control system.

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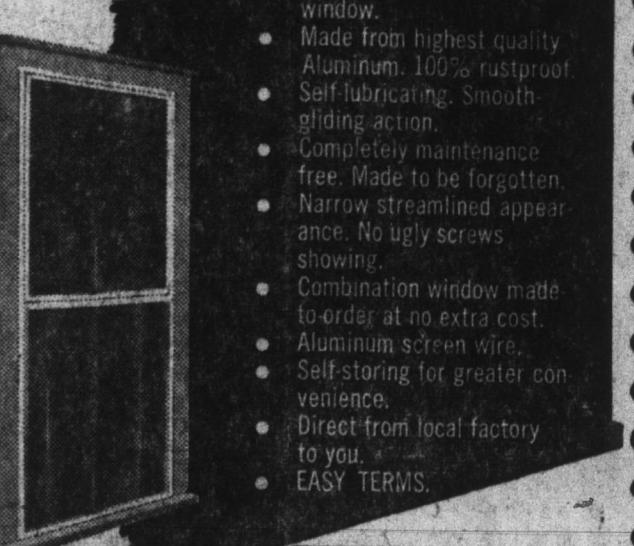
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