

Bought: One Home, 749 Ideas

Only about one person out of every 750 who look at a model home ends up buying it. But the other 749 aren't wasting their time. They come away full of ideas — ways to improve their present homes and new features and products to use in their future homes.

One innovation house-hunting families will see a lot in model homes this year is the high-over electric range. Introduced only a few years ago, the high-over



EYE-LEVEL electric range updates kitchen now, helps sell house when family moves.

range has caught on with home-makers who like to see what's cooking without stooping and husbands who like to see quality equipment in their homes.

As the name suggests, this type of range has an oven—or ovens—at a convenient, eye-level height above the surface elements, which are slightly lower than standard counter height for comfortable cooking.

There are several models to choose from. The larger, 40-inch electric ranges have two side-by-side ovens, one larger than the other. Each oven has its own automatic controls. There are also one-over models to fit narrower spaces. Both types can be either hung on a wall or set on a base cabinet.

Another two-over model is a free-standing range with one eye-level oven and another oven in the traditional position below the surface elements.

One reason for the popularity of the high-over electric range is that it looks built-in, yet isn't. If the family moves, the range can be disconnected easily and moved.

Don't By-Pass Openings When Buying New Home

The windows and doors in a house are a big element of its overall design and function. If they are mis-matched to the type of architecture, the design fails short of its purpose.

That's why it's important for you not to overlook these important house components when you're out shopping for a new home this Spring, advises the Architectural Aluminum Manufacturers Association (AAMA), Chicago.

"Windows are the basic part of the structure, and, for all practical purposes, are a permanent installation," observes Frank Rovsek, Administrative Secretary of the AAMA. "That's the reason prospective home buyers should know something about window design as compared to house design when they shop."

Aluminum windows and sliding glass doors are available in more basic designs than ever before. This means the consumer — and the builder — is able to select the right kind of window to go with the right kind of architecture. These units are basically used in contemporary design homes.

The AAMA, a 111-member organization that sponsors Aluminum Window Week starting the first day of Spring — offers these tips on aluminum windows and sliding glass doors:

Double and single-hung are the most familiar styles of aluminum windows. Each are divided into an upper and lower section — or sash — by a "rail."

Architects, sometimes divide these upper and lower sections into smaller squares, called "lites."

Double- and single-hung windows are ideal in traditional, Colonial, Cape Cod, and contemporary homes.

Horizontal sliding glass windows have movable sashes that slide from side to side, instead of up and down like double and single-hung windows.

Although associated with "ranch

Canopy Offers

Walk Cover

It's mighty nice to have shelter from rain or sun when walking from driveway to front door.

All you have to do is construct a canopy over the walkway. Use a post and beam framework topped off with translucent plastic for this attractive addition to the home.

The posts can be western red cedar 4x4s with beams of the same size or smaller. Spacing should be about eight feet. You can use 2x4s for the connecting top frame with another 2x4 small beam at four-foot intervals to give support to the plastic roof.

Generally it is advisable to let the cedar posts and framework weather to a soft, silvery color, and you can select a color for your translucent plastic which will compliment the weathered wood.

You can border the walks with gravel beds or greenery.

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Because of the awning effect, you can open them for ventilation during a summer rainstorm with no fear of the rain trickling inside the house. When buying a new house — or windows for an addition or remodeling — be sure to look for AAMA, Inc., "Quality Certified" Label attached to the frames of the aluminum windows and sliding glass doors. This assures you of quality.

Don't overlook the aluminum windows and sliding glass doors in your home when you make out your Spring cleaning checklist. They need only a water-and-mild-detergent once-over to make them bright and shiny again, advises the Architectural Aluminum Manufacturers Association (AAMA), Chicago.

Since a cure for the common cold has yet to be found, prevention is still of prime importance. One "ounce of prevention" that many mothers have discovered is the automatic dishwasher.

"Now that we have an electric dishwasher, we don't seem to be plagued by those colds that used to sweep through the whole family every winter," one mother wrote to the editor of a farmer's weekly magazine. Other mothers agree.

There's good reason for this. Automatic dishwashers use extremely hot water and very strong detergent. The washing

and rinsing cycles—all done with water far hotter than hands can stand — last for minutes, and after every wash and rinse the water is flushed away. Finally, the dishes are dried with extremely hot air.

When dishes are washed by hand, there is usually only one wash and one rinse, done as quickly as possible since Mother has many other chores. Often, tests have shown, hand-washed dishes that look clean still have an invisible film of bacteria-bearing grease left on them. This is eliminated by the thorough washing, rinsing and drying done by an electric dishwasher.

Wood furniture is open to attack from moisture from above and below, as unprotected wood will draw moisture up from the ground. Protecting the entire piece of furniture from the bottom to the top is ESSENTIAL.

The furniture can be protected by house paint or exterior enamel. When restoring wood furniture, all loose paint MUST be removed and the item should then be covered with an exterior enamel.

Metal fittings on wood furniture may be protected against rust corrosion by the methods previously mentioned for metal furniture. If the furniture itself has been finished to show the grain, a spar varnish, the new long-life Urethane varnish, or one of the clear exterior lacquers mentioned in connection with aluminum, will probably do more to enhance the overall appearance of the furniture.

5. YARD. Is it big enough for your family, with enough pri-

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BRIGHTEN UP YOUR LAWN FURNITURE

Spring means more outdoor life, backyard cookouts, and a dismayed look at the lawn furniture. That comfortable desk chair of last year does not look quite so bright and inviting now. What should you do? Buy a whole set of new furniture? Why not redecorate with paint and have a lawn setting that sparkles with color for this spring and summer? The prime factor to be considered, if not all, of its time outside, is the weather.

In restoring metal furniture, the major problem to look for is cracks in the existing protective coating, since a small break will permit moisture to get under the paint film and start rust and corrosion. The surface should be carefully examined for these problem spots. The National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association found, all traces of rust or corrosion should be sanded away with steel wool and all loose or cracked paint should be removed with a wire brush. The areas should then be spot coated with a protective antirust primer such as zinc chromate.

"One of the most common shortcomings among house-hunting families is their eagerness to sign on the dotted line without first learning the important things to look for and then taking time to inspect the house carefully, and see that they are provided," points out Otto F. Wenzler, architectural consultant of Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company.

A list of the features you want your new home to have is invaluable when you start out to look at houses. This may seem an elementary point, but the features are sometimes so obvious that no one thinks to check them. Yet a lack of them can be a source of trouble from the day you move in. Here are a few things to look for:

1. WORKMANSHIP. Is the house basically sound with roofing tight and paint free from peeling and blisters? Check the basement walls for excessive cracking and make sure the supporting joists are cross-braced. Watch also for cracks in the plaster around windows and door frames, and water leak stains on upstairs ceilings and around chimneys.

2. LAYOUT. Is the house efficiently planned for present and future family needs? The kitchen should provide adequate working space, plenty of cupboards and at least one large window. There should be a lavatory on the first floor for convenience, especially if there are small children in the family. Watch for cross ventilation in the bedroom and make sure of enough closet space.

3. INSULATION. Are the walls insulated to protect against cold weather heat loss? Insulation, although it is invisible, can save many dollars in fuel costs. Go over the window sash carefully to see that it is tight and don't forget to look at the storm sash, especially if you are shopping in the nice weather when the storm windows are stored away in the garage. They should fit snugly to prevent excessive heat loss. Check to see if the home has Thermopane insulating glass in the windows. Besides helping to conserve heat, it eliminates seasonal work because it stays in place to provide year-round insulation.

4. ELECTRICAL. Does the house have enough electrical outlets and circuits? Remember that rewiring can be expensive, and relying on getting by with a snake-like arrangement of extension cords is dangerous and inefficient. Be sure, too, that the heating system is adequate to supply the necessary warmth. And take time to check the water pressure by letting several taps run at once.

5. YARD. Is it big enough for your family, with enough pri-



THIS MATCH TEST will show whether that new house you are considering buying has windows of insulating glass. Two reflections left, show the window is a single light of glass. Four reflections right, indicate insulating glass which helps conserve heat and fuel costs without the bother of storm sash. Thermopane insulating glass can be spotted by an etch on each unit.

Check Home Carefully Before Purchasing To Avoid Disappoint- ments and Expenses

vacy, both winter and summer? Investigate what happens to the property during a heavy rain, for poor drainage can damage not only the landscaping but even the interior. Check zoning regulations and proposed freeway plans, and don't forget to read the fine print in the contract for any restrictions which will limit your use of the property or easements which will permit other individuals or companies to use portions of it.

"These are a few of the marks of quality to look for in a home," Mr. Wenzler concluded. "They are part of the guarantee a buyer has of saving money in the long run and avoiding the need to virtually tear the house apart at some time in the future to make repairs."

AAMA Tells How to Stop Condensation

Condensation — the moisture that fogs the windows in your home during cold weather — can be controlled, reports the Architectural Aluminum Manufacturers Association in a booklet on the subject.

For the booklet, which describes in simple words and drawings what causes condensation and the steps you can take to correct it, write the AAMA at 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

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