

# GROW Home, Garden & Outdoors

## HOME

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and radial arm saw for the construction of much of their home, including their simple yet elegant hickory cabinets. The couple also built the immaculate rustic staircase, milled the paneling and even built some of the beds. The Weishoffs said that by doing much of the work themselves they saved money that was better spent on getting the best materials possible.

The back yard contains a beautiful waterfall lined with shale that was a weekend project for the Weishoffs and their church family, as well as a lovely flower garden.



Steve Tool/Chieftain

**BYOB – Build your own bed. Just one of many of the do-it-yourself projects done by Roger and Sharon Weishoff.**

### Construction issues

The building inspector at

the time was unfamiliar with the Styrofoam home concept, but the supplier of the

Styrofoam forms had given the couple a booklet that explained how to build the



Steve Tool/Chieftain

**The results of building your own waterfall. This flows into the Weishoffs' back yard and was constructed with the help of Wallowa Christian Church.**

homes up to Oregon code. The Weishoffs gave the book to the inspector to peruse and he approved the project.

Approval for the septic system took some time.

"The septic (approval) was a problem because they just had one man here and he was on vacation when we got

here," Roger said. "It took us three months to get the OK because he was so busy when he got back."

### Benefits

After 18 years in the home, the Weishoffs are still pleased with their avant-garde structure. The ICF did prove to have excellent insulation properties. It also soundproofs the home from Lostine River Road traffic and forces outside cellphone use because of the lack of indoor reception.

Insurance also is less expensive as the house is virtually hurricane- and earthquake-proof as well as having higher fire resistance.

### Disadvantages

The Weishoffs said they haven't had any structural problems with the home since they built it.

### Heating

The home has floor heating distributed by a propane water heater that pushes hot

water through a maze of pipes set into the concrete flooring. The home also had a wood fireplace that later was converted into a gas fireplace.

### Advice

Despite the lack of problems and the benefits of lower heat bills and soundproofing, etc., none of the Weishoffs' acquaintances have shown an interest in following their lead in Styrofoam home construction. However, Roger has advice to those considering building a Styrofoam home:

"Anyone who has any skills at all will find it's pretty easy to set up. Nowadays it's easier with the forms they use. Instead of the foam glue we used to hold the panels together, they interlock now."

The Weishoffs plan to sell their home and move closer to town after 18 years.

"Now that the kids are gone and we're getting older, it's getting to be a lot of work for us to take care of," Roger said.

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## Care for your gutters

Wallowa County Chieftain

### Cleaning safety

A simple cleaning can go a long way to extending the life of your gutters. If you choose to undertake this project yourself, keep in mind some safety tips:

- Make sure you have a sturdy standalone ladder – one that you don't have to lean against the home or gutter system.

- Always take your time heading up and down a ladder, and make sure to let a family member know that you will be doing ladder work.

- Don't be afraid to ask for help in studying the ladder as you use it.

- Also, remember a durable pair of gloves and protective eyewear. The last thing you want to happen is to poke one of

Summer is the perfect season to keep up with gutter care. Rain can absolutely batter your gutters during the spring, while the fall and winter bring falling leaves, ice and snow into the mix.

Protective homeowners use the summer season to give their gutters some TLC before and after the elements come into play. Doing so can help identify leaks, cracks or blocked downspouts that can lead to costly repairs once the weather turns.

So between vacations or trips to the beach, be sure to spend a Saturday afternoon checking in on one of the most important structural aspects to your home: The gutter system.

your eyes with a twig or small branch.

### Check your work

Once you clean out all of the leaves, sticks and other obstructions, check for leaks. Rinse the gutter downspout with a garden hose to remove all leftover items and check for smooth water flow. Crank the hose up a bit, allowing you to really test your gutters for leaks or blockages.

Obstructed downspouts can lead to water and, eventually, ice buildup once the weather turns colder. This can contribute to shingle damage and even interior leaks – both potentially costly issues that can be mitigated with some simple gutter care.

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