

Cinder Block Gains in Use As Home Building Material

Cinder block is proving to be a highly satisfactory material for residential construction in northern climates, says American Builder magazine.

Cinder block is a type of concrete block in which the aggregate is cinders instead of sand and gravel. Its use as a major material in home building has been made possible by progress in manufacturing techniques and by many developments in waterproofing compounds, American Builder explains.

As an example of modern cin-

der block construction, the building industry magazine describes a house built in New York state. American Builder says the dwelling is "practically fireproof" because of its cinder block siding. Fire-resistant asphalt shingles, which cannot readily be kindled into flame by flying sparks, are used for the roof.

The cinder block siding was given a cement stucco finish. Then the walls were painted with a waterproofing compound to prevent harmful condensation of water.

On the interior, floors are supported by steel beams instead of conventional wood joists. The steel adds to the fireproofing. Floors are of concrete covered with asphalt tile, except for the living room in which the top flooring is oak.

Water Does Harm Far From Leak

Water seeping through a roof can show up far from the actual leak. It can flow down through the walls of the house to crack plaster and stain wall paper even in first floor rooms.

Reroofing, rather than patching, is advisable if a roof is in poor condition. A new covering of asphalt shingles usually can be laid on top of the old roofing material.

HOOR EQUALS YEAR

The steel industry can now make as much steel in little more than an hour as was manufactured in an entire year during the Civil War.

BUILDING IN BILLIONS

The Department of Commerce and the Department of Labor estimate that \$19,250,000,000 worth of construction will be done in 1950.

Roof Requires Solid Support For Long Life

A soundly constructed roof deck is considered as important to the life of a roof as a soundly constructed foundation is to the entire house. Roofing material cannot be expected to give its full service if the deck which supports it is in poor condition.

A wood roof deck to be covered with asphalt shingles should be constructed of well-seasoned tongue and groove sheathing not more than 6 inches wide, says the Asphalt Roofing Industry Bureau.

Wider sheathing boards are not recommended because they might shrink enough to buckle the roofing material after it has been applied. Boards should be tightly matched. Each board should be fastened to each sup-

nails, one through the face of the board and the other through its edge.

Badly warped boards or boards with excessive resinous areas should not be used. Any defects noticed after the sheathing is applied should be covered with sheet metal patches before the roofing material is laid.

After all the boards are in place, the deck should be protected from dampness by a layer of asphalt saturated felt, not heavier than 15 pounds per square.

CHIMNEY CONSTRUCTION

A chimney should support itself independently of the house frame. Roof, floors and walls should be framed around it, leaving 2" of space in which naturally non-combustible mineral wool insulation should be packed to prevent chimney heat from igniting the wood.

Home Owners' QUESTION BOX

Q—How high above the floor should a wall thermostat be?

A—Five feet is generally the recommended height.

Q—How can calcimine be removed from a ceiling?

A—Calcimine can be taken off by sponging it with warm water. If that is not effective use a solution of household ammonia or washing soda and water.

Q—How can a dent made in a rug by the leg of a heavy piece of furniture be removed?

A—Cover the dent with a damp rag and press with a hot iron. The heat will cause the nap to spring up. Then brush the spot briskly.

Q—What is the quickest way to make an old house more attractive?

A—By painting. In selecting exterior colors, use bright colors to emphasize the best features of the house and use less obtrusive colors for architectural lines which aren't so good.

Q—What about adding color to the roof?

A—This can be done by using asphalt shingles, which are manufactured in a great many colors, both solid and blended. Use light-colored roofing if you want to call attention to the roof, or dark shingles to make the roof seem less prominent.

Q—What causes creaking floors?

A—The reason usually is that the subflooring has sprung loose from the beams to which it is nailed. If the underside of the floor is exposed, thin wedges driven between the beams and the subflooring will stop the creaking.

FEWER STEPS NEEDED

The kitchen range should be near the dining room for convenience in carrying food to the table.

Keep "Stale" Water In Heating System

In homes heated with steam or hot water, the water should be retained in the boiler, pipes and radiators and not replaced with fresh water unless absolutely necessary.

The "stale" water has had the lime boiled out of it and adding new water will simply result in heavier lime deposits on the inside of the heating system, cutting down its capacity and efficiency.

Water that has boiled frequently also is less likely to cause rust because most of the oxygen has been removed.

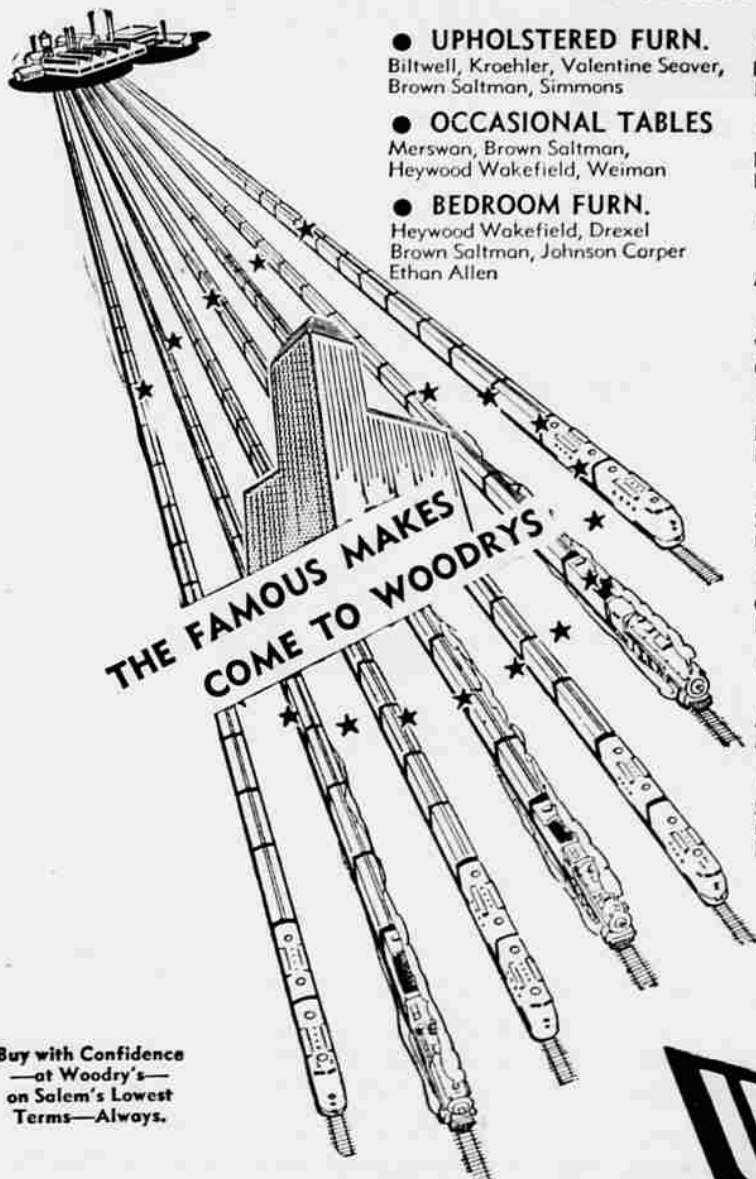
The only time a steam or hot water system should be drained is to avoid freezing if the house is unoccupied in the winter, or to enable repairs to be made.

If the water gauge shows a lowering of the boiler water level from day to day, the system should be checked for a hidden leak. This will be found most often in the return pipe which has rusted out beneath the basement floor.

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