

H.I.C. Executive Director Advises Home Owner To Improve Now

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Millions of our homes are in need of modernization. A home improvement project can prove to be a good financial investment as well as sound insurance for happy family living. Home improvements can be practical and fun too, if tackled properly.

One of the best ways to deter-

mine your modernization needs is to make a survey of the home—

from top to bottom—outside as well as inside. Make this checklist—How fresh color and sparkle to rooms? Have the requirements of modern electrical living outmoded your home's wiring system—making it a potential fire hazard? Is the kitchen up-to-date with

modern appliances that mean less work for mother (and better meals for all)?

Is there ample storage room for out-of-season clothing, bedding, household linens and occasionally-used gear?

How old are the bathroom fixtures... wouldn't new, in-color fixtures be welcomed by the whole family?

Now on the outside—when was the exterior last painted? Wouldn't new siding work wonders for the "old home"?

Remember too, that amazing changes can be made by removing seldom-used porches and outdated trimmings.

And, don't forget a professional inspection of your roof!

These, of course, are only random survey suggestions.

After your own survey is made, the next step is to determine as closely as possible the exact cost of the projects planned.

Be sure to get estimates from reputable contractors or dealers in your area if the projects are beyond your "do-it-yourself" abilities.

It is a wise idea to seek out established businessmen in your community known to you and your neighbors.

Remember that almost any major home improvement is apt to require some kind of financing. If you plan to add a room, finish the attic or build a swimming pool, be sure to consult your local lending institutions.

They will advise you on all phases of home improvement financing... direct reduction loans, time payments, refinancing of your mortgage, open-end mortgages, FHA Title I and other methods.

In the opinion of the Home Improvement Council—the family's expenditure for home improvement is more "like money in the bank" than any other possible purchase.

In terms of convenience and appearance, a modernized home will increase its value to the family far beyond the financial expenditure for the improvements.

Ceramic-Face Glass Blocks Offer More Diversified Uses

A new ceramic-face glass block offers the homeowner a potential for using more color and design in his home improvement projects.

Its weatherproof ceramic finish

Reduce Volume Of Kitchen Noise

The modern homemaker's kitchen is usually well-equipped with a full quota of wonderful mechanical and electrical servants. The telephone, disposer, mixer, laundry equipment and others are great helpers, but do not contribute to a much-wanted "luxury"—quiet!

For about twenty cents a square foot and a week-end of hubby's time, Mrs. Homemaker can have a sound-conditioning ceiling that will absorb up to 75 per cent of the noise striking it.

In most kitchens with hard-surfaced flooring, cabinets and equipment, the noise merely "bounces around." This need not be the case!

According to the engineers at the Celotex Corporation, sound-absorbing ceiling tile will soak up the noise like a sponge absorbs water. In addition, a sound-treated kitchen will keep the noise from filtering "out" to other rooms.

Sound-absorbing ceiling tile is as easy to maintain as it is to install—even in areas where grease and other dirt-provoking elements are ever-present.

makes the block suitable for outdoor as well as indoor use.

Room dividers, indoors or wind-break screens, outdoors—may be made as colorful as they are functional.

Blue, coral, yellow and green are the colors of the ceramic-face block. This permits a vast variety of imaginative patterns and combinations by mixing and matching with the glass block.

Horizontal, vertical, checker-board and random patterns can be achieved easily.

As the blocks are joined by mortar, they can be used outdoors to form a weatherproof wall which has an insulation value equal to that of an eight-inch masonry wall.

Architects and designers find the use of glass block ideal for bringing more daylight into the home. Together with the new ceramic-face block they can now add the plus factor of more color and design.

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'Tailor' Heating System To Specific Home Needs

If you are installing an automatic heating system, it must be tailored to the size and design of a home and to the family's living habits.

In a compact home, containing less than 1,000 square feet of floor area, normally a single comfort system—if it is properly sized and adjusted—will provide adequate indoor comfort.

Today's trend toward ramblers and split-level homes has created the need for a new comfort concept known as "zoning."

Zoning is necessary in approximately 20 per cent of the homes with 1,200 to 2,500 square feet of space. In houses larger than this, "zoning" is virtually mandatory.

Large or irregularly shaped homes in many instances actually are two or more houses from a heat gain or loss standpoint.

The "arms" of "L"-shaped, "T"-shaped or "U"-shaped homes have different heating requirements than the main portion of the home.

When "zoning" is necessary, it is accomplished through use of two or more thermostats. This can be done with multiple heating units or a single heating unit with the necessary mechanical equipment to apportion the amount of heat required in each zone.

In a particularly large home or one in which living areas are widely separated, it sometimes is economical for the homeowner to install multiple heating units.

AN INEXPENSIVE WALK

Love to have a flagstone walk or patio, but find it would be a bit too expensive?

Check local builders and building wrecking firms, what you may find are concrete chunks that were once a floor or retaining wall.

If they are of different texture and color, all the better. Laid in an informal pattern, the effect will be charming.

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