

BETTER HOUSING

Chimneys Need Special Consideration

Decorative or utilitarian though it may be, the chimney presents special construction problems from the standpoint both of sound building and fire safety.

The chimney should be self-supporting and so constructed as to be absolutely independent of the house framing. All conditions govern the design of the chimney, but they should never be less than 12 inches deep and should always extend at least six inches beyond the face of the chimney.

The walls of a chimney with terra cotta or brick should be at least one inch thick. If built of brick, not less than eight inches thick, if built of stone, two inches away.

All combustible materials, such as wood framing members, should be at least two inches from the chimney wall. The open spaces between the house framework and the chimney should be filled with mortar, mineral wool, or other incombustible material.

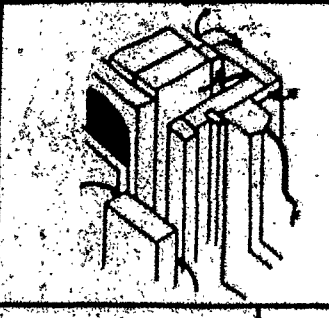
Mortar may be applied directly to the brickwork without fire hazard, but it is poor practice, because plaster cracks are certain to develop. When plaster is applied in this manner, the flaying strips placed around the chimney to support the base or other interior trim should be insulated from the masonry by asbestos paper at least 1/2 inch thick. Better practice is to build the chimney with at least two inches away from the brickwork, and to apply the plaster and plaster on these.

Any structure in the wall thicker than the chimney should be made at least 12 inches below the rafters and not above the roof except for coping.

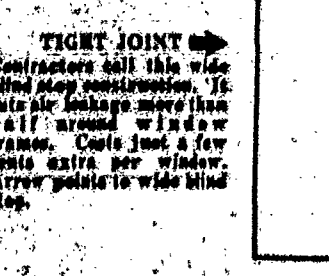
The chimney should be capped with a metal cap. The cap should extend from and should extend at least three feet above a flat roof or two feet above a ridge roof. This assures a good draft.

(Presented by National Lumber Manufacturers Association)

Expensive Savings



LEAKY JOINT
This is the kind of incorrect window frame construction that is used in many new homes. It results in air leaks and drafts. Arrows point to where cold air leaks in.



TIGHT JOINT
Contractors sell this window construction. It results in a tight window frame. Costs just a few cents extra per window. Arrows point to wide blind stop.

Don't overlook the importance of the lowly window frame when you build your new house. It is the one thing that permanently joins your windows with the framework of your house. A window frame properly constructed keeps out dirt and drafts by making a weather-tight joint with the wall. A window frame indifferently constructed will allow as much as 174 cubic feet of air per hour to leak into your home, all that is often loaded with dust, dirt up walls and cause drafts.

Good Construction Costs Little
Wide blind stop construction in window frames has been in use for many years, yet jerry builders will use frames without it in order to cut costs without regard to consequences. This type of construction costs about 30c to 50c more per window opening than ordinary construction and it will quickly pay for itself in heat saved and added comfort.

Window Frames Permanent
Remember window frames are a permanent part of the wall in your new home. Tear them out and replace them is not only messy but a big expense as well. The easiest way to avoid leaky window frames in your new home is to buy frames that make a weather-tight joint and that means wide blind stop construction.

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Short Cuts May Save Much In Home Building

Experience is a good teacher, but there are other less costly ways of learning how to build a satisfactory house.

Money, time, and worry may be saved by learning all that may be learned before a start is made on a new house.

Officials of the Federal Housing Administration have pointed out at various times the facts which prospective home builders should know and remember. Among these are the following:

1. A square is the most economical form in which a given amount of space may be enclosed.
2. Dormer windows are desirable, but a roof without dormer windows costs less than one with dormers.
3. An inside chimney is easier to build than a decorative one on the exterior.
4. The fewer the outside corners the lower the cost of the house. The rectangular shape simplifies the structural framing system of both floor and roof and thus effects economies.
5. Bay windows are beautiful, but they cost more than twice as much as the ordinary kind.
6. A full basement often adds at least \$2500 to the cost of the house. It may be possible to build a room above the ground for the same amount.
7. Stock millwork items such as door and window frames, kitchen cabinets, finish trim for wall openings and cornices, and other items are a real economy.
8. Room sizes which conform to the standard lengths of lumber production in a house which may be built with less waste and less labor.

Landscaping Service

Evergreen Insects

The pine leaf scale appears as a tiny, long white object, with a yellow mark on one end and is usually found on the needles of Evergreens causing them to turn yellow.

Pine leaf scale can be controlled by spraying Evergreens in Spring before new growth starts.

If small bag-like objects are found clinging to evergreens and the bags are covered with bits of leaves or stems, your Evergreens have bagworms. The eggs in these bags hatch out in the Spring and the young worms crawl out and start feeding.

Hand picking of these bags is very effective, but a solution of arsenate, using 1/2 teaspoonful to a gallon of water, applied after the eggs hatch (usually middle to last of May) destroys the young worms.

Evergreen Weevil
This insect is very small and much the same color as the soil so its presence is not easily discovered. These insects spend the Winter as grubs in the soil. In the Spring the grubs change to weevils and about the middle or latter part of June the adult weevils begin to come out of the soil and attack the trees.

You no doubt have often been asked why many tip ends of Evergreen branches suddenly turn brown and die or the trees look unhealthy and make poor growth. This condition is likely to be caused by Evergreen weevils as they feed on the foliage of new growth and girdle the branches, thus causing the injured branches to die during the Summer. When this condition exists, Summer pruning to remove the dead and dying branches is advisable. Sometimes when branches are not completely girdled a swelling occurs at the point of injury.

When inspecting Evergreens where the tips of branches are brown, observe if the branch has been girdled or if there is a swelling at the point where the green foliage ends. If this condition exists, no doubt the weevils are present.

The most satisfactory control of this insect at the present time is a poison bait prepared as follows: Bran, 5 pounds; Molasses, 1 pint; Water, 3 pints; Arsenate of Lead, 6 ounces.

When preparing this poison bait the quantity may be enlarged by increasing the amount of each ingredient. In preparing the bait mix the arsenate and bran together while still dry, then the molasses is mixed with the water and the wet solution poured over the bran-arsenate mixture. The bran and other ingredients are mixed until the mixture is uniformly wet. The bait is scattered on the soil under the trees in a thin layer. A single handful of bait is usually sufficient for one tree. Owing to the fact that the bait dries out quickly during hot, dry weather, and the weevils feed at night, it is advisable to apply the bait among the leaves of the day or in the evening. KEEP ANIMALS AWAY FROM TREES WHILE BEING TREATED.

Start shearing Evergreens by shearing the tips of the branches with a sharp knife or hedge shears.

December is a good month for moving large trees as the earth is frozen and a large amount of earth can be taken up with the tree which avoids damage to the roots.

When putting up partitions in unfinished attic or cellar, to find the exact floor line swing a plumb-line from the rafter in two or three places and chalkmark the spot at which it touches the floor.

Door Location Requires Study

In the designing of small homes, the location and number of doors are important, since the arc of the swing is wasted area.

Where there are too many doors, the owner is likely to be confronted with a serious problem of furniture arrangement. It should also be remembered that the more doors a room contains, the more through traffic it will have.

Wherever possible, doors should be located in corners so they will swing through an arc of only 90 degrees and thus use a minimum of floor area.

Plan Passage
The location of doors in a small house is even more important when living space must be used also as a passageway, according to officials of the Federal Housing Administration. For convenient passage, space must be preserved free from furniture.

When doors leading to rooms are frequent, communication are placed diagonally opposite, the location of furniture for greatest use and convenience is made difficult or impossible. The livability of the house is then greatly reduced. This may be avoided at the time the house is planned by locating doors in adjacent walls and as near the corners as possible or an arrangement of doors which permits use of one end of the room for circulation purposes.

Good Plumbing Is Health Aid

An adequate and properly designed plumbing system contributes materially to the health and comfort of the family. It is pointed out by the F.H.A.

Only workmen who are familiar with the basic principles which create a sanitary, effective, and economical plumbing system should be employed in installing plumbing.

In the small single-story house, where economy is an important consideration, it is desirable to concentrate the plumbing fixtures.

In houses of more than one story, it is economical to concentrate the fixtures occurring on each floor and locate them over the fixtures on the first floor.

Adequate Wiring Is Required

A well-planned and adequate wiring system helps protect the home owner against poor service from his appliances. Inadequate wiring systems may be replaced with the aid of funds obtained from qualified lending institutions under Title I operations of the Federal Housing Administration.

There are many symptoms of an inadequate wiring system. Among them are: Hesitance of heating appliances to come up to the proper temperature. Dimming of lights when heavy current-consuming appliances are turned on. Necessity of frequent replacement of fuses or readjustment of circuit breakers.

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