



A LIVELY VINYL WALLCOVERING with a coordinated soffit by Imperial brings new zest to a dull kitchen with scarred cabinet fronts. The wallcovering is more fun and a lot cheaper than new cabinet fronts. It's also easier to keep clean than plain painted surfaces, and since both designs are pre-pasted, applying them yourself is an easy task.

## Some dollars and sense ways to creative improvements

If the idea of taking on a hefty home improvement loan gives you the willies, it's time you learn what today's great wallcoverings can do.

### Starting small

Admittedly, a wallcovering cannot stand in for a new roof. But it'll no doubt surprise you how much else it can do.

So before you raise the roof, knock down walls, put in more windows, or whatever, check these ideas from the Wallcovering Industry Bureau. They can save you a pretty penny.

You can turn most any architectural minus into a plus with the pattern power of wallcoverings.

### Creative cover-up

Be it dormer walls, structural beams, or uneven and oddly placed windows that irritate you, they can be handled with a small, all-over design. And if you use matching fabric for curtains, those funny-looking windows will blend right into the wall.

Got too many doors? Make them less conspicuous by covering them to match the walls.

Room too dark? Then bring in the sun with a really bright wallcovering.

Perhaps a daisy-sprinkled pattern. Or a buttercup-yellow shiny vinyl.

### Atmosphere

Use dark colors, prominent patterns on all walls if your problem is a too large room. This will "close in" the room. Good design choices: ornate tree-of-life and tapestry designs.

To cool a southern exposure room, consider the icy gleam of silver foil. And bring coziness of a northern exposure room with calico or gingham patterns in dark browns, yellows, orange. Or choose a damask or flocced design in some rich color, if you want something more formal.

### Down to earth

Too high ceilings won't look as lofty if you treat them to a dark color or dramatic design. Or try a border at ceiling level, to break the height.

If the ceilings are too low, use a wall design that leads the eye upward. Such as a vertical stripe.

Give an all-white, outdated bath a new lease on life with a fabulous vinyl wallcovering. Go all out with color and pattern in this room where you spend relatively little time.

Vinyl wallcoverings are

also a must in an outdated kitchen. They can really banish the kitchen blues. Also consider masking scarred or dull cabinet fronts with a terrific vinyl pattern.

Cover ugly pipes and ducts to match the walls. They'll "vanish" into the walls right before your eyes. Small patterns are easiest to work with for this purpose.

### Dress it up

A chair rail with coordinated wallcoverings above and below will add architectural interest to a plain room.

A mural is super for a windowless room. You can treat yourself to a "view" of Cannes, a mountain lake, wild woods... whatever strikes your fancy.

And DO try to hang those wallcoverings yourself. It's easy, it's fun, and you'll save important dollars.

### More ideas

Booklets on how to decorate with wallcoverings and how to hang them are available from the Wallcovering Industry Bureau, 1099 Wall Street West, Lyndhurst, N.J. 07071. Send 50 cents for postage and handling.

## Don't let energy slip out the window

There are a number of ways in which windows waste energy, and, unfortunately, few homeowners are aware of the different solution each problem requires.

"The storm window is generally known," according to Fred M. Schmidt, author of *The Window Book*, "but it is not understood. Too often it is considered the cure-all. Sometimes it is, sometimes it isn't."

The recently published 136-page book identifies the specific causes of heat loss (or gain in summer) and presents the solutions, such as caulking, weatherstripping, storm windows and replacement windows for each of these different problems.

Described and illustrated are the various kinds of new thermalized windows and a thorough treatment of the custom-fit replacement windows concept, which the author identifies as "the only

economical way to replace old worn-out windows to save fuel to pay for the new windows."

In addition to calculating the investment pay-back periods for different window energy-conservation measures, the book also treats on subjects such as how to solve con-

densation problems and gives an interesting history of windows in the world.

A copy of *The Window Book* can be ordered by sending \$1.00 directly to Fred M. Schmidt, Seasonal Industries, Inc., Indiana, PA 15701.

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## Stepladders: stepping up safely

You can't climb very high on a stepladder, but you can still get hurt if you don't follow these stepladder safety rules:

- Always open the ladder wide enough so that the spreader locks itself in the open position.

- Never stand on top of a stepladder; use a ladder tall enough to let you stand at least two steps from its top.
- Always make sure that the feet are on a firm, level foundation.
- Never lean a step-

- ladder against a wall and use it as a straight ladder.
- Don't overreach. Move the ladder.
- Never use a defective ladder. Never patch up a ladder with wire or makeshift steps.

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