



# Home Tips®



• CHRISTIAN BUILDING INSPECTORS, INC., 1003 STAR COURT, NORCROSS, GEORGIA 30093, (770) 925-8518 • MARCH/APRIL 1993 •

## Q & A

### Cobweb Problems?

*I have cobwebs in various areas of my house. How can I prevent them?*

Control spiders by keeping them from entering your home or, in severe cases, with insecticides.

To control spiders, caulk any cracks in the foundation where they are likely to get in. Check and seal gaps found around doors, windows, pipes and where wiring enters the house. Remove spiders from firewood before it is brought indoors. Clean up messy areas where spiders breed.

If you have severe spider problems, apply an insecticide such as chlorpyrifos (Dursban) or propoxur (Baygon) around baseboards, corners and other areas where spiders are found. These chemicals are available at well-stocked garden centers. Be certain to follow all recommended safety procedures. Because pest control companies have access to a wider variety of insecticides, you may get better results if you hire them to treat spider problems.

Remember, though a nuisance indoors, they are beneficial outdoors because they feed on many other pests. Go easy on the chemicals.

### Painting Vinyl Gutters?

*I am planning on painting my house next summer and want to change the color scheme. Is it possible to paint vinyl gutters?*

Here's how Genova, a leading manufacturer of vinyl gutters, recommends painting their gutters:

First wipe down the surface with denatured alcohol (be careful - the fumes are toxic). Next, apply a light coat of Raingo spray paint as a primer base, or any other vinyl siding paint primer. Then paint the gutters with an exterior latex paint or vinyl siding paint. Genova does not recommend the use of oil-base paint on their product, nor do they recommend painting the interior of the gutter.

However, keep in mind that by painting them you lose the biggest advantage of vinyl gutters - no maintenance. Think twice before you paint, because once you do, you're committed to painting regularly in the future.

### Turn Off Pilot Light In Summer?

*I have a gas furnace in our home and would like to know if you should leave the pilot light lit during the summer months.*

It is okay to turn the pilot off during the summer but if your furnace is located in a cool, moist area like a basement or crawl space, condensation can form around the heat exchanger when the pilot is off. If the heat exchanger isn't corrosion resistant, it could be damaged. You should check with your dealer or call the manufacturer to find out about yours.

By turning off the pilot light you can cut your gas consumption by 2% to 5%, a savings for you and an easy way to conserve our fossil fuels.

Source: Handyman Magazine.

If you have a question, comment or home tip, send your letter to Home Tips, Christian Building Inspectors, Inc., 1003 Star Court, Norcross, Georgia 30093. We reserve the right to edit for length.

### Joke Of The Day

THE WOMAN ASKED HER PASTOR WHAT IS THE SECRET FOR FINDING THE PERFECT HUSBAND. THE PASTOR REPLIED "MARRY AN ARCHEOLOGIST. THAT WAY THE OLDER YOU GET, THE MORE HE WILL LIKE YOU."

### A Tip Of The Hat To:

**Essien Offiong  
Interstate Realty, Inc.**



# New Housing Law Attacks Lead

On October 28, 1992, President Bush signed the 1992 Housing Act. These are some of the key features:

It requires known lead hazard disclosure at time of sale, but not mandatory testing.

It sets up a procedure for lead risk assessment in housing stock.

It does not require mandatory lead abatement.

It requires the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to establish lead standards for the construction industry.

National Association of Home Builders lobbyist Milan Yager says, "This is a bill that we can live with. It takes a big step toward controlling lead exposure in housing." Yager also believes some of the provisions will increase housing cost but the bill does not require lead abatement licensing for remodeling contractors.

Also, in the battle to stop childhood lead poisoning, the Fannie Mae Foundation is providing a \$5.5 million grant to form the National Center for Lead-Safe Housing. The center opened October 1st in Columbia, Md.

Paul Brophy, president of the new center and vice chair of the Enterprise Foundation, says the center will begin working next August with four to six cities to "test cost-effective strategies to make homes lead safe that can be implemented

on a broad scale." Fannie Mae chairman and chief executive officer James A. Johnson characterizes lead poisoning as "a serious threat to the nation's affordable housing stock. As many as five million lead-contaminated housing units are occupied by lower income families." Too often, Johnson claims, abating the lead in contaminated houses is never done, and they gradually become uninhabitable. According to Brophy, the company will:

Recommend model legislation and regulations for states and cities to reduce lead paint hazards and develop ways to finance lead abatement—primarily for affordable housing stock.

Work with the insurance industry to establish liability insurance for homeowners and contractors who meet established standards.

Provide technical assistance to local governments undertaking lead poisoning control programs.

Conduct research and evaluate studies on technical aspects of lead abatement.

Source: Remodeling Magazine, December 1992.



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