



# Home Tips®



• CHRISTIAN BUILDING INSPECTORS, INC., 1003 STAR COURT, NORCROSS, GEORGIA 30093, (770) 925-8518 • SEPTEMBER 1994 •

## Q & A

### Polyurethane Over Lacquer?

*Four years ago we had our kitchen cabinets refinished with lacquer. It just isn't holding up the way we expected. Can we apply polyurethane over the lacquer?*

We're surprised the lacquer finish lasted as long as it did. Lacquer is not the best nor the most durable finish to use on kitchen cabinets.

Yes, you can apply polyurethane over the old lacquer if you follow a few simple steps to ensure a good bond to the old finish. First, scrub the entire surface to remove any grease or dirt. Ammonia and water seem to work the best, but any cleaner that does not leave a residue will work fine. Follow with a clear water rinse.

To get a good bond, you need to roughen up the old lacquer with 220-grit sandpaper. After sanding, remove the dust from the cabinets with a vacuum or wipe with a tack cloth. To do a decent job of refinishing, take out the drawers, remove all the hardware and doors and lay them flat to apply the polyurethane. Now you can apply the new finish following the label directions. Remember, several thin coats will give better results than one thick coat.

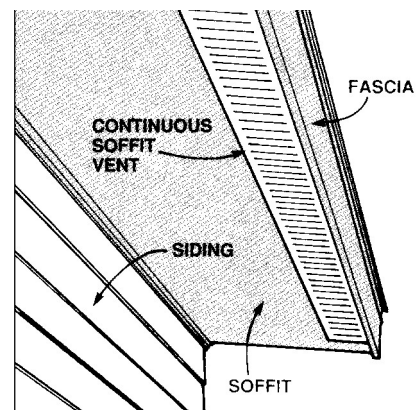
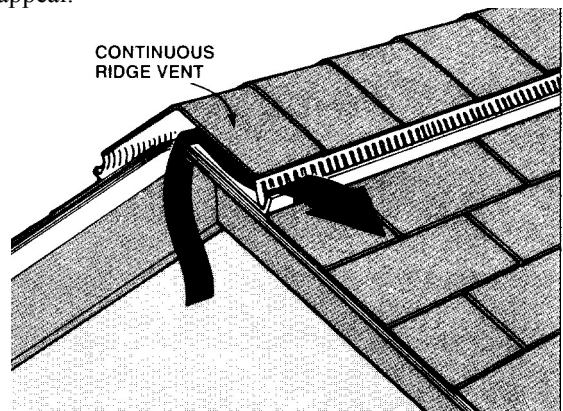
### Wind Turbines For Attic Vents?

*We want to install a wind turbine attic ventilator. Can you tell us the proper location for it?*

Wind turbines, those ball-shaped, spinning devices installed on a roof, were designed to draw hot air out of the attic when the wind is blowing. But we do not recommend that you install a wind turbine (which is simply a roof vent with a rotating cap) because:

1. It has moving parts. The turbine will eventually fail and need to be replaced or repaired, and a squeaky wind turbine ranks up there with fingernails on a blackboard for irritation level.
2. When the wind is blowing, most of the air passing through your attic is actually going in one soffit vent and out the opposite soffit vent, not through the wind turbine.
3. When there is very little or no wind, attic ventilation is at its lowest and the wind turbine does not work any better than a regular roof vent, which has no moving parts.

4. In order to obtain the proper balance of soffit and roof venting, you will need several wind turbines spaced along the entire length of the roof ridge as high up the roof as possible. And let's face it, these things do not have the best eye appeal.



You will be much better off if you install a continuous ridge vent with an external baffle along with a continuous soffit vent. You can find continuous ridge and soffit vents at most home centers and lumberyards.

### Custom Textured Ceiling?

*We added on to our house and we need to match the ceiling texture. The texture looks like a star shape. Do you know how this was done?*

Without seeing the actual ceiling, we can't tell you how it was done. Sometimes plasterers and drywall contractors use their artistic talents to come up with some very different ways to texture a ceiling.

You can handle this problem several ways. First, if you

