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MR. FIX-IT

Insulation: best protection against cold, heat, for least money

By Alfred DeCicco

serly last summer about June had, and as beginning to feel uncomfortable

about winter cold, the problem could well be inadequate insulation in your attic.

Insulation materials are easy to work with and they can be quickly put in place with a standard gun. Basically, insulating material you should use are either batt or blanket insulation.

Blanket insulation comes in rolls from 2 to 5 inches thick.

The thickness variation is made up of glass or rock wool. The outer covering is a non-woven paper that serves as a vapor barrier.

The width of the blanket is about 16 or 17 inches, wide enough to fit between wall studs, floor joists or ceiling joists, and each side has a flange which allows you to staple or nail the insulation in place.

Batt insulation is much the same as blanket type, but does not come in rolls. Rather, you buy batt insulation in 4 or 8 foot lengths.

Another insulation material is the same as above

except the vapor barrier is made of aluminum foil and the inside is either polystyrene glass or rock wool.

Now, your attic is used now depends on how much you should insulate. For example, if attic space prevents use for living area—just the floor. This can be done efficiently with either batt or blanket insulation.

Make sure that insulation starts at the extreme end of the attic floor next to the outside wall, and is installed tightly against the studs or rafter ends.

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For experimenting and often you find you have several jars of the same item because you could not locate your original purchase. Ideally, cupboards depth would vary with the can or jar size to be stored, but this would be costly and probably too complicated.

Here is a solution, by designer Jeanette Cooper, that modifies an existing cupboard and puts every small jar or can within easy reach. The cutting back of the two lower shelves to a four-inch depth, made space for a secondary cupboard, eight inches deep to fit the front.

A wood panel in the center depth into two four-inch depths. Each side is fitted with shelves and built-in doors placed an inch or two above the top shelf inside the unit is stored.

A piano hinge joins the back vertical corner of the movable cupboard to the fixed cupboard. This divider can be seen where the top shelf ends at the top.

Because of the long hinge, the shelves can be swung out into the position seen here, exposing the shallow storage inside the permanent cupboard and

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