

UPGRADE

How To “Cozyfi” Your Classic!

BY MEREDITH DAY

We love our classic homes. It really doesn't get any more affordable than a classic mobile home in a nice park community!

New manufactured homes are now built at or above code for private property dwellings. They offer thick insulation, thermal double-pane windows, convection heat and air systems, and more.

Homes built prior to the 80s tend to have little insulation in the thin walls and may have joints that have loosened over the years, allowing warm air to escape in the winter.

Whether you want to stay with your classic home out of love or budget, there are many things you can do to “cozyfi” your home for winter and summer.

SUMMER

The biggest issue in the summer is, of course, heat. You need airflow and overhang to combat the brutal heat that can build up in the older, less insulated homes.

AIR FLOW

In the summer you need high, open windows at each end of the home so the hot air can exit. Open the windows to the breeze so it can work as a natural air conditioner, blowing the hot air out.

AC EFFICIENCY

If you must use air conditioning, be sure that you have a high window cracked about one inch; your AC bill will be lower.

OVERHANG

In the summer, make sure that you have some kind of cover or overhang on the east and west windows. The cover can be a fixed porch, canvas awning or a nice trellis of bougainvillea.

Another solution is to apply solar film on east and west exposure windows. This can make a tremendous difference in the classic homes.

WINTER COZYFICATION

In the days of Camelot, drafty castles were protected from the cold with tapestry wall hangings, thick rugs, heavy velvet draperies and huge fireplaces. We have many more options today!

In the older classic homes, settling can occur, causing



heat loss. Inspect your home and fill all obvious chinks in the “armor”! The classic homes were constructed with 2x2s instead of 2x4s in the walls—much less insulation! For winter, heavier thermal drapes to the floor can make a big difference.

COLLECTOR WINDOWS

In the northern hemisphere, the winter sun travels in the south. The best and cheapest way to heat a home in the winter is to have good “passive collector” windows in the south and efficient insulation in the other walls.

In a drafty classic, consider adding a few southern windows for passive heat. It is amazing what the southern exposure can do to make the home warmer. A carport or porch awning to the west (over existing windows) can make a really significant heat reduction.

CLOSE THOSE VENTS!

Be sure to close all heating/AC vents in unused rooms! Heat the room you are in rather than heating the whole house so you can be warm in one or two rooms! A well placed space heater can be much cheaper than running the furnace.

Celebrate affordable Cozyfication! We all win!

Author and architectural designer MEREDITH DAY has authored several books, including “How To Buy and Sell Mobile and Manufactured Homes.” She lectures at colleges on “Efficient Innovation in Manufactured Housing.”