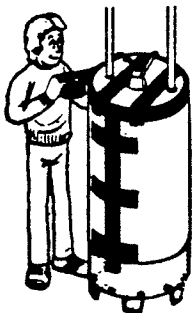


For Old Houses

Hot
Tips



Here's some more bad news for the members of the international oil cartel: A how-to-save-energy guidebook for owners of older homes — whose publication had been canceled by Federal budget cuts — is in print after all. Jeffrey Seisler, who headed the team that wrote the guide for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, decided not long ago that — Government financing or not — his product should be available. It is estimated that one out of every two families in the country lives in a house built before 1950.

Mr. Seisler went through the red tape necessary to get permission to produce the guide, found a printing house and is now offering the guide by mail order for \$4.95, plus 65 cents postage. Well-illustrated and 44 pages long, the guide is like a handbook replacement for the grandparent who knows that if you tilt a steam radiator at the right angle, you might get it to stop banging. But it also incorporates modern thinking about how to make rooms with high ceilings warmer without turning up the heat, and how to make windows with sash boxes airtight — a need that was not so pressing in days of 18-cent-a-gallon heating oil.

Copies of "Conserving Energy in Older Homes" can be ordered from Mr. Seisler's firm, ANALYTECH, Suite C-30, 915 King Street, Alexandria, Va. 22314. Discounts are available for bulk orders.

Try It!

The Washington Post Magazine

A SNUG OLDER HOME

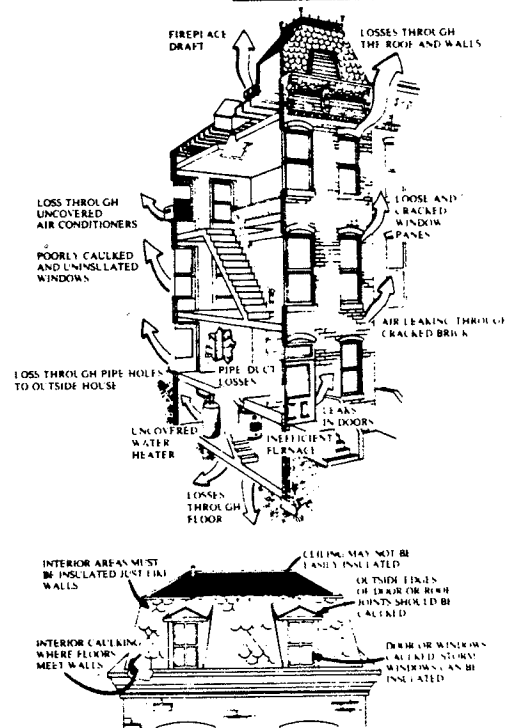
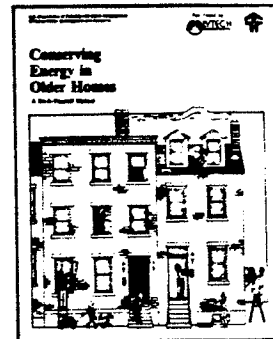
If you live in a home built before 1940, consult Jeffrey M. Seisler's "Conserving Energy in Older Homes," an illustrated 44-page manual for making your home snug. Seisler leads you through a home inspection, offers inexpensive ways to save energy and reduce air leaks and heat loss, and reviews conservation measures for mechanical equipment—wood stoves, fans, heaters. \$4.95 (plus 65 cents postage and 19 cents Virginia tax) from Analytech, Suite C-30, 915 King St., Alexandria, Va. 22314. 836-7962.

Conserving
Energy in
Older Homes

A Do-It-Yourself Manual

Shiverin' in old home?
Warm up to this book

Simple steps
that cut
energy costs
in older homes



If you live in an older home, you know that utility bills can be your worst enemy. What you may not know is how to lower those bills without expensive remodeling. *Conserving Energy in Older Homes* is a do-it-yourself manual that helps you identify air leaks and heat loss in your home and shows simple, low-cost ways to fix these problems. The delightfully illustrated, 44-page guide focuses on a variety of older-home features, from improving the efficiency of pre-1949 heating and cooling equipment to incorporating energy-saving measures into mansard roofs and adding an airtight vestibule to an existing porch. Originally produced for the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, the manual also offers valuable tips from builders, home-energy conservation companies and owners of older homes. Jeffrey M. Seisler, Analytech, Suite C-30, 915 King St., Alexandria, Va. 22314. \$5.60.

Light-Rider Newspapers

GENE AUSTIN



The home front

Repair guide
for old houses

When houses get old, floors often sag and heating radiators that were originally tilted one way end up tilted another way. The result is that the radiators give off little or no heat. Shivering homeowners, not knowing about radiator tilts, try all sorts of solutions but still don't get any heat.

Despite a rash of books about saving energy, information like the above is difficult to find because energy-saving books usually don't deal with problems peculiar to old houses. That's unfortunate, because more and more home buyers are turning to older houses because they are usually more affordable. However, old houses can be energy hogs unless given expert attention.

A new do-it-yourself manual called *Conserving Energy in Older Homes* improves the picture somewhat, and has an interesting history to boot. The manual, which sells for \$5.60 by

mail, was written under contract to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and was intended to be a sequel to *In the Bank or Up the Chimney*, a HUD manual on insulating and energy-saving that is said to have outsold any other government publication.

Before *Conserving Energy* could be published and distributed, however, funds for the book project were cut off as part of the Reagan administration's deficit-slashing program.

Jeffrey M. Seisler, a management and energy consultant in Alexandria, Va., and the principal author of *Conserving Energy*, saved the manual from turning yellow on some bureaucrat's shelf. Seisler made a deal with HUD to print and distribute the manual at his own expense.

"I'm operating with very little capital," said Seisler. He said he is attempting to set up distribution

through utility companies, hardware stores and conventional bookstores, but at the moment is concentrating on direct-mail sales. Therefore, to get a copy of *Conserving Energy*, a check or money order for \$5.60 should be sent to Analytech, Suite C-30, 915 King St., Alexandria, Va. 22314. Analytech is Seisler's place of business.

Seisler says the book is intended for people who live in single-family or two-family houses built before 1940. The cover drawing shows a couple of rowhouses, but Seisler points out that "a lot of the stuff is applicable to old farmhouses as well as city townhouses."

Conserving Energy has only 44 pages but is packed with terse, information-filled text and dozens of little drawings that clarify the text and are occasionally amusing.

Typical topics cover dealing with unheated crawl spaces, improving the energy performance of old win-

dows and doors, understanding old-time heating systems including fireplaces, and checking the existing insulation of old houses.

Although many of the topics have been dealt with before in scattered places, including my own do-it-yourself column in *The Inquirer*, *Conserving Energy* does a good job of putting a useful collection of material in one place. I'm glad Seisler rescued it.

Philadelphia Inquirer