

Home and Maintenance Question and Answer

MORRIS AND JAMES CAREY
For The Associated Press

QUESTION:

You referred to a removable solar window film on your radio program that can be removed and reapplied to reduce solar heat. You also mentioned that information was available on where to purchase the material. Please send me a list of those sources.

ANSWER:

The solar protection film that is added to windows is a cost-effective way of reducing heat (and light as well – if you like) in the summer and is certainly removable and replaceable. It should not, however, be compared to the simplicity of dressing in the morning and then undressing again that evening.

What we meant by removable was that after the material had deteriorated from use (two to 10 years), that it could be removed and then replaced (or not replaced). Removal is easier now than it in the past. The window film industry is only about 25 years old, and we're just now seeing products that aren't so susceptible to scratching,

deterioration. Techniques have been developed that can be relied upon to remove the film without damage to the glass onto which it is affixed.

Window films are made of acetate (plastic sheeting) and aluminum particles. The sun will eventually discolour and break down the plastic and aluminum to a point where the film is no longer effective and where it looks bad, as well; It discolours, splits and peels.

Thus, removability is important. That's what we were talking about on our radio program.

Madico Corporation is a leader in the window film industry. The company sells do-it-yourself kits and can also supply and install for you. The do-it-yourself kits do not include the commercial grade thickness films that last longer and come with a better warranty. If you can afford the extra cost of having the material professionally installed, do so. Product information we have studied leads us to believe that this is where you really get the best bang for your buck.