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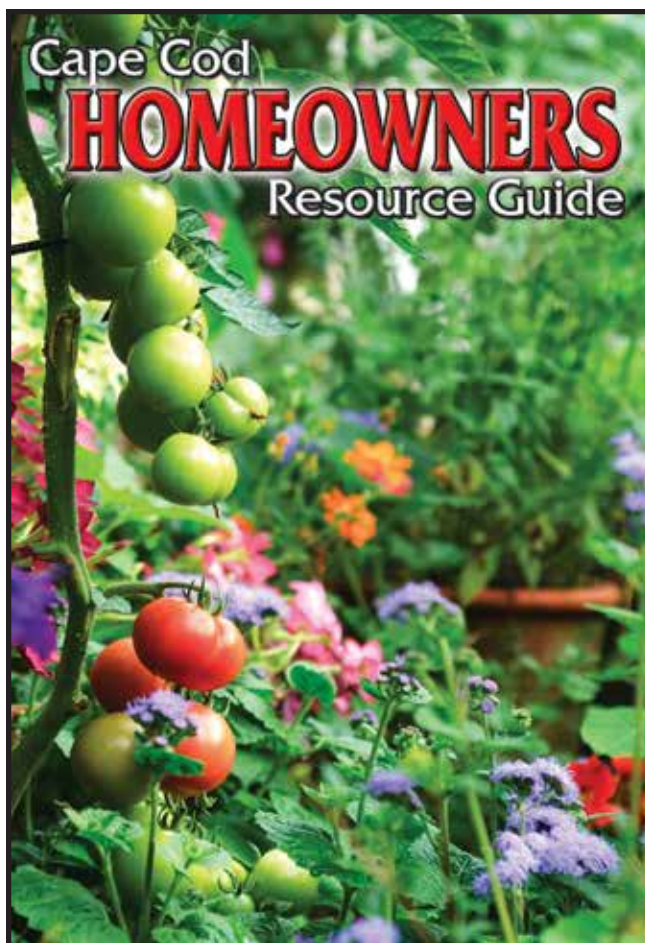
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Extend the Life of Your Roof

By Zach Maynard

A roof stained with black streaks and dark stains not only detracts from your home's curb appeal, but the shingles are also being damaged, diminishing the life of your roof. Fortunately you can extend the life and beauty of your roof with an algae treatment.

A professional roof cleaning service can safely remove roof stains with non-pressure roof washing combined with environmentally safe, and biodegradable cleaners. It is important to avoid the use of power washers because asphalt shingles are not designed to withstand any pressure, and permanent damage will result. Professional roof cleaning extends the life of your roof, and prevents the expense of roof replacement.

Many Cape Cod homes are affected by roof algae, moss, mold, and mildew. These organisms tend to flourish on the north side of the roof, where the most shade is present, and moisture tends to accumulate. The algae and mold will continue to grow and spread rapidly if the roof is not cleaned and treated, and ultimately it will damage your roof. If the roof is not treated, these stains can cause granule loss, and roof leaks may develop. Not only is the roof at risk of damage, but a roof covered in algae retains heat during the hot summer months, resulting in higher energy bills for cooling expenses.



Make sure that you contact a certified roof cleaning company that has workers comp insurance, general liability insurance, and offers a warranty package with their service. The warranty will verify that they are using a process that actually kills the algae, instead of just cleaning the surface, allowing the algae to return quickly. A proper treatment will kill the algae at the roots, preventing its return for years!

About the Author: Zach Maynard is a certified roof cleaner, and owner of Coastal SoftWash. They have cleaned and treated thousands of roofs throughout Cape Cod since 2005. He can be reached at 774-678-4085.



Prolong the Life of Your Septic System

- Pump your septic system every 2-3 years.
- Know the location of the septic system and drain field, and keep a record of all inspections, pumpings, repairs, contract or engineering work for future reference.
- Have “risers” installed to make septic tank pumping and inspections simpler easier and less time-consuming.
- Plant grass or small plants above the septic system to help keep the drain field in place, but be sure to keep trees with roots at least 30 feet away from the system.
- Conserve water. Install water-conserving devices in faucets, showerheads and toilets to reduce the volume of water running into the septic system. Repair dripping faucets and leaking toilets, and avoid long showers. Run washing machines and dishwashers only when full.
- Use bleach, disinfectants, and drain and toilet bowl cleaners sparingly and in accordance with product labels. Dispose of leftover hazardous chemicals at an approved hazardous waste collection center – don’t flush them down the toilet.
- Do not use garbage disposals because they add excess solids and grease that can clog your drain field. Never dump cooking grease or oil, or other trash such as cigarette butts, feminine products, or diapers down the drain or into the toilet.

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Blinds & Shutters Can Help You Save Money and Energy This Summer

By John Pitera

Cooling your home during the hot days of summer takes a lot of energy. Energy-efficient window treatments can prevent the loss of up to 50% of a home's heating and cooling energy that may be lost through its windows. They offer increased protection against heat loss during the winter, and are even more effective at minimizing the heat from the sun during the summer which helps reduce your home's energy consumption. Properly fitted energy efficient window treatments can help you save 10% - 15% on your summer cooling costs.

If you'd like to combine privacy and energy efficiency honeycomb shades, also known as cellular blinds, are one of your best options. These blinds work by trapping air within the cells creating a layer of insulation, which serves as a barrier between the window and the room. A double pleated honeycomb blind can reduce the amount of energy loss up to 50%.

Plantation shutters are another popular option because of their aesthetic appeal. In addition to the style they can bring to your home, plantation shutters are also energy-efficient. Both wood and vinyl plantation shutters work as effective insulators, although wood is slightly better at resisting temperature conductivity. The shutters are fit snugly into the window frames to block the transfer of heat and create a barrier between outside temperatures and your home's interior.

In the summer, as the days are longer and the sun is stronger you can help keep your home cool by keeping the blinds closed during the day,

especially the south and west facing windows which receive the most direct sunlight. Keeping the sunlight out will also protect your furniture and flooring from the fading that results from the sun. With energy efficient window treatments your home will be more comfortable, and you will save on heating & cooling costs.

After this long cold winter, and expensive heating bills, it is a good time to start thinking about summer and ways to conserve. The warmth provided by the sun, its solar energy, may be desirable during the winter to help heat your home, but in the summer, it can make a room overly hot and uncomfortable driving up air conditioning costs. Properly fitted energy efficient window treatments can help you to save 10% - 15% on your summer cooling costs.

About The Author: John Pitera is the owner of The Blind Man, and has over 29 years of experience helping customers select, measure and install the window solutions they need for their home. He can be reached at jpiter@comcast.net or (508) 420- 3354



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What does your warranty cover?

- ✗ Many replacement window companies will warranty their windows and patio doors but not their installation.
- ✓ Renewal by Andersen has one warranty that covers their windows, patio doors and installation. If you have any issues that come up, you won't be chasing down the manufacturer or installer – you just have one call to make.

How long does your warranty last?

- ✗ Many companies claim to have a “lifetime” warranty, but in the fine print they define a “lifetime” as little as seven years.
- ✓ Renewal by Andersen is the replacement window division of Andersen and because of that has a rock solid warranty on their windows. Every customer gets a fully transferable 20 year warranty on the glass, two-year warranty on the installation and 10-year warranty on the components.*

What is the window made of and can it withstand our weather?

- ✗ Many vinyl replacement windows can warp, leak and cause drafts in just a few years.
- ✓ Renewal by Andersen uses their own exclusive Fibrex® composite material in all their windows. Fibrex is two times stronger than vinyl and infinitely more beautiful.

How will your company's window make my home more comfortable?

- ✗ Many replacement windows will make your home more comfortable at first, but when their seals break and their energy-efficiency is lost, you could be back to feeling too hot or cold in no time.
- ✓ Renewal by Andersen's High-Performance Low E-4 SmartSun™ Glass is up to 70% more energy-efficient and blocks up to 95% of the UV rays that make your home uncomfortably hot.**



How do I know if I'm getting a good window price?

- ✗ If the price on a vinyl window is so low that it seems too good to be true, it probably is. If you have to replace those windows in 7-10 years then they weren't worth it, no matter how inexpensive they were.
- ✓ Renewal by Andersen builds a window that is stronger than others because they want to give you a window that will last.

How much will your windows cost?

- ✗ Many replacement window companies will give you a window estimate, but when you see the final bill it is much more expensive than the original quote.
- ✓ As part of their free Window Diagnosis, Renewal by Andersen provides an exact, down to the penny 48 Hour Price Quote within 48 hours of your call, and the quote is good for one whole year.

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*See limited warranty for details.

** Summer values are based on comparison of Renewal by Andersen Insert double-hung window SHGC to the SHGC for clear dual pane glass non-metal frame default values from the 2006, 2009 and 2012 International Energy Conservation Code “Glazed Penetration” Default Tables. Free upgrade to SmartSun™ Glass applies to windows only.

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Spring Home Maintenance Checklist

Spring is here, and it is time to check out and repair any damage to your home or yard from the harsh winter weather we had this year. Now is the time to discover and resolve minor problems before they become expensive repairs. It is also time to start preparing your home for the warmer weather. This checklist will help you keep up your home, and save money on your utility bills this summer.

Interior

- ☐ Change batteries in smoke and CO detectors
- ☐ Check windows for drafts, loose frames or cracked panes
- ☐ Clean the garage.
- ☐ Set or buy a programmable thermostat
- ☐ Tune up air conditioning system & replace air filters

Exterior

- ☐ Check deck for any decay
- ☐ Clean gutters & downspouts
- ☐ Examine foundation for any cracks
- ☐ Inspect the roof for missing or loose shingles
- ☐ Install screen doors and clean windows
- ☐ Remove & store storm doors and windows
- ☐ Repair cracks & seal driveway
- ☐ Repair peeling paint
- ☐ Septic system should be pumped every 2-3 years



Yard & Garden

- ☐ Have lawn irrigation system turned on, and inspected for damage
- ☐ Inspect/tune up lawn mowing & maintenance equipment
- ☐ Prepare your vegetable or flower gardens
- ☐ Rake/ de-thatch lawn
- ☐ Tree & Lawn Maintenance & Fertilization
- ☐ Trim any tree limbs that are dangerously close to power lines or the roof of your house
- ☐ Turn on water to showers & faucets. Make sure there are no leaks

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