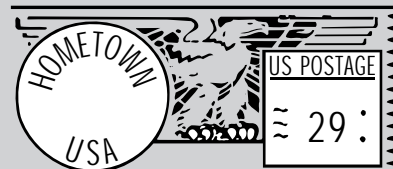


LETTERS



Don't Overlay Shingles

To the Editor:

Regarding a question about overlaying asphalt shingles (*On The House*, 10/92): most shingle manufacturers will void the warranty in an overlay application.

I can tell you from personal experience that if you do have a warranty claim of any kind, once the company rep sees that it is an overlay, he will just turn around and walk away.

There are many premature roof failure problems associated with uneven roof decks and it doesn't make sense to tempt fate with an overlay. If a roof is worn out, chances are it won't make a good surface for new shingles. Get out that stripping bar and get rid of the old roof!

Doug Friesen
Duxborough Designs
Duxbury, Mass.

Nailers Need Repair

To the Editor:

The Paslode Impulse cordless nail guns have received much praise since their debut in the construction industry — mainly because they don't need any cumbersome hoses or compressors to run.

In your article "Finish Nailers: Hands-On Review" (12/92), yet more praise was sung for the Trim-pulse finish nailer.

Our company has owned both the framing and the finish nailer by Paslode. Our framing nailer had been in for the same repair twice before we were issued a new one and since we've had the new one, it's been in the shop once for repairs. It is now operating well, but we can't depend on it. Our finish nailer was even worse. It went back three times for repairs before our boss finally traded it in for another air finish gun.

These guns spent a combined time of about seven months in the repair shop. We've had the framer for a little more than a year (since the original purchase) and we had our finish nailer for nine months.

On the other hand, our compressor has had a down time of three days for repairs and maintenance in the six or so years that we've owned it. And all of our air nail guns are super reliable.

None of our tools are abused.

We never dropped our Paslodes from stagings or roofs — not even from a 4-foot stepladder. And they always got put back in the case with the battery removed at the end of the day — providing they made it that far.

This is just our experience with these cordless nailers. I've talked to other guys who say they've never had a problem with the tool, and still others who have.

In the whole scheme of things, I would say nothing to date beats the dependability and reliability of an air nailing gun. And for that, I will gladly lug an air compressor and hoses to every job site. In fact, if Paslode refunded us every cent we paid for our framer, we'd buy another air setup in a second.

John Marsoobian, Jr.
The Sullivan Co.
West Roxbury, Mass.

Kitchen Wiring Tip

To the Editor:

I'd like to thank Mr. Cauldwell for an extremely well written article on the use of GFCLs ("Safe Wiring with GFCLs," 12/92). This is a device that is generally very misunderstood. His article should help people to better understand them.

I would like to make one comment regarding his recommendations for kitchen countertop outlets. Personally I hate to see five or six appliances plugged into one duplex outlet, which is all too common in most homes more than a few years old. When we wire a kitchen we use lots of 4-gang outlets to provide adequate capacity for all those appliances. To properly split the load between the two circuits required, the preferred method in our area is to alternate between each circuit as you go around the room. No two adjacent duplex outlets are on the same circuit, and each 4-gang box has both circuits available. This way you can have the toaster and microwave sitting side by side and easily plug them into separate circuits.

Terry Holcomb
T-H Construction
Walnut Creek, Calif.

Mediation Fair to Both Parties

To the Editor:

In response to Paul Lipke's letter to the editor (11/92) about our

article "Mediation: Peaceful Solutions to Client Conflicts" (7/92): Lipke raised the concern that mediated settlements between parties of "grossly unequal" resources can result in unequal resolutions. This is based on the premise that parties in mediation can't be helped by the mediator "since agreements are reached by the two parties directly." He concluded that arbitration offers the weaker party more true justice because the arbitrator "may" act to mitigate the power of the stronger party.

In fact, parties in mediation are more evenly balanced then they are in arbitration (or litigation.) The reason is simple: Neither side has to pay for hired-gun experts and lawyers or pay for the thousands of dollars in court costs and the hours and hours of uncompensated time responding to "motions" and "interrogatories," etc., etc.

In arbitration practice, the exact reverse is true — the party that has the greater resources in arbitration or judicial trial is likely to get a better deal — especially in court or on appeals. In cases where one side has a lawyer and the other doesn't, it is very difficult if not prohibitive for the arbitrator to balance the scales. In mediation it's much easier for the mediator to balance things because neither side is forced into anything. If they feel like they are being short-changed, it's easy for them to assert themselves. They just walk out without penalty or cost. Of course mediation isn't magic or a panacea, but a good mediator would never permit a resolution where one side has given in too soon or against their interest.

Herb Schwartz & Larry Hayden
Damage Control
Mediation Service
Oakland, Calif.

Epilepsy Not Choosy

To the Editor:

I was glad to see a recent letter to the editor mentioning a painter with epilepsy. Though epilepsy affects 2.5 million people in the U.S., the difficulties associated with having seizures are often overlooked. Furthermore, many people still react to people with epilepsy with fear, ignorance, and discrimination which can keep those of us with the disorder from getting jobs, relating to others, or

just plain functioning on the same level playing ground.

While the young painter mentioned in the letter may have to use medication to help control seizures that could interfere with his work, he is fortunate to be counted among the people with epilepsy who are employed at all. For many people with epilepsy, their first seizure on the job means the last day at work.

The construction worker who wrote the letter commented, "Seeing someone like this painter made me realize how lucky I was that I had my health." Though he is "lucky" to have his health, he should know that epilepsy is not choosy. It can affect anyone at any age, through disease or head injury — things all of us are prone to. Some cases of epilepsy have no known causes.

Fortunately for us all, the general population increasingly responds to people with epilepsy with the understanding that there is a wide range of abilities among those with the disorder, and that it is only one part of many peoples' productive lives.

There are countless examples of historical figures who made significant changes in our world in spite of having seizures, including Dante, Alexander the Great, and Vincent Van Gogh. It is important to remember that people with epilepsy, whether more or less fortunate, are just like everyone else. Some may want your sympathy, others deserve your praise, but all are entitled to an opportunity to prove what they are capable of doing in spite of seizures.

Miriam Dowtin
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Landover, Md.



Keep 'em coming.... We welcome letters, but they must be signed and include the writer's address. *The Journal of Light Construction* reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, and clarity. Mail letters to JLC, RR2, Box 146, Richmond, VT 05477.