

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Thursday, October 1st

BOOKING: WED., SEPT. 23

MATERIAL: THURS., SEPT. 25

PETER AND GAIL: Entering the sprawling, sunny, uptown Toronto loft a visitor notes the exposed brick walls held up by industrial steel beams, the funky black laser-cut steel chandelier in the sleek kitchen and the pristine white couches. But there is no sense of life forms. No framed photos of nearest and dearest. It is so minimalist, it makes a monk's cell look cluttered. It is, however, a New York-style loft conversion that is the perfect testament to mid-century modernism.

TAX CREDIT: Deadline story.

ENERGYGRANTS: The townhouses at the 30-year-old condominium complex where David McKinnon lives seemed like a perfect fit for the federal ecoEnergy retrofit program. The 80 townhouses in the Sheppard Ave./Victoria Park area are 30 years old and have 160 sets of leaky sliding patio doors (two per unit) that need to be replaced. McKinnon thought it made fiscal sense to use the ecoEnergy program to take advantage of rebates for energy efficient replacement sliding doors. But as he has discovered, it's complicated when it comes to condo townhouses and accessing the available rebates.

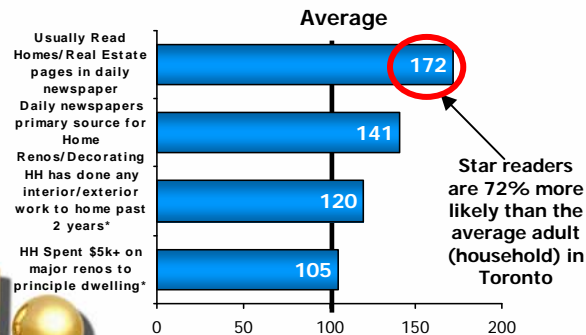
LANCSCAPING: Late-seasoning gardening and preparing for the winter.

APPLIANCES: Energy efficiency explained.

FURNACE: Cleaning and replacement.

RESALE: What pays off (kitchens and bathrooms) and what is a waste of money (swimming pools).

Reach Star readers who care about their home.



Source: NADbank 2008, read Star yesterday
Base: Toronto CMA, Adults 18+ (*Household weighted)

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- 226,200 households that have done major interior/exterior work to their home in the past 2 years*
- 262,200 households that had interior decorating done in their home in the last 2 years*

Source: NADbank 2008, read Star yesterday
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