

Winter 2009/10

# INCLOVER

Your home improvement magazine



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Great ideas to help you make your house a home



# Love your home — we do

Welcome to the Clover Winter magazine. It showcases how we can help you, and what you can do to keep your home looking great in the colder months.

Clover is a family-run home improvement business. Existing customers may know us only for conservatories and replacement windows, but we also take on a wide range of building projects.

We know that a decision to have work done on your home is not one you take lightly. You want



Your project is safe in the hands of Simon Tinson, and sister Joanne

to have confidence that the work will be done by professionals, with the best materials and at a good price.

That's why our long-standing team of 11 includes master bricklayers, plasterers, plumbers, electricians and carpenters, who take great pride in looking after you and your property. Everything is made to order. And our quote breaks down exactly what you're paying for.

Our MD Simon Tinson will meet with you first to find out what you want to achieve. To support you throughout the project, Joanne Tinson has recently become our customer point of contact. She will communicate your needs with our building team and keep you in touch as to what will happen when.

We want you to love the work we do for you and to love how we do it.

**Please call 01531 631965 or email [simon@cloverconservatories.co.uk](mailto:simon@cloverconservatories.co.uk) to book an appointment with Simon to discuss your project.**

## Tuck up your uPVC



Treat your uPVC windows and doors to a bit of love and attention this winter, and they'll open up easily come spring.

### Frames and glass

1. Wash frames with soapy water and dry with a chamois. Non-abrasive liquid cleaner can be used on stubborn marks on white uPVC. Call us for advice on woodgrain finishes
2. Clean glass with standard glass cleaning products and a soft cloth.



*“The guys who fitted the new windows were very professional, clean and tidy, caused minimal disruption and were a pleasure to have around.”*



*“The quality of the building work is obvious to all who have seen it.”*

See pictures of our completed projects at [www.cloverconservatories.co.uk](http://www.cloverconservatories.co.uk)

# for winter

## Locking mechanisms and friction hinges

1. Open the sash as far as it will go
2. Apply a little light oil (e.g. WD-40) to all the moving parts. Wipe off any excess
3. Close the sash and leave for a few minutes
4. Open again and wipe off any excess oil from the inside rebate of the frame.



# Woodn't you like one?

The welcoming glow of a wood-burning stove isn't the only reason that homeowners are reopening their chimneys. The environmental and cost benefits are smouldering attractions too.

Having stoves in our own offices has convinced us of how good they are. You can turn off the central heating and use a stove to heat just the room you're in. Or fit a boiler to the stove to heat radiators throughout the house.

We now supply and install a range of handmade stoves from Dean Forge that we think are exceptional.

The Croft Clearburn and Croft Standard both have flat-top and canopy options and come in five sizes – junior 5kW, slimline 6.5kW, small 8kW, medium 11kW and large 12.5kW.

Don't have a chimney, fireplace or hearth for a stove? We'll build you one. Call us on 01531 631965 to talk about what you need to put a glow in your home.



We also supply Jotul, Harmony, Clearview and Stovax stoves.

## The green option

Logs are a sustainable fuel and carbon neutral. Burning wood does release carbon dioxide, but only the same amount as the wood absorbed while growing and would be released if left to rot. Choose firewood from sustainable forests, where for every tree cut down another is planted.

# Open fire vs. wood-burning stove

Open fires are very inefficient – as low as 20% – because they suck warm air up the chimney and replace it with cold from outside. Wood-burning stoves allow you to control the heat by opening or shutting vents and can achieve up to 80% efficiency.

## What wood to burn?

Try to use logs that have been seasoned for at least six months, but ideally a couple of years. If the wood is too wet, it won't burn cleanly and will build up tar in your flue – meaning it has to be swept more frequently. Hardwood is better than softwood too, as it burns for longer. Remember you'll need somewhere dry to store your logs.

## What size fire do you need?

The kW requirement = HEIGHT X WIDTH X DEPTH (of your room in feet) divided by 500. It's better to have a slightly bigger stove operating at  $\frac{3}{4}$  capacity.



# Room for more

New additions to the family, taking in elderly relatives, working from home, or just wanting a private place to relax, all stretch your home's existing space to the limits.



A conservatory, or loft or garage conversion could give you the extra room you crave and add value to your property.

Before you decide which option to go for, talk to Clover about the problem you're trying to solve. Do you need a home office,

a playroom, a dining room or space for guests? We'll help you choose the right solution.

## Independent living

**All our conservatories are made to measure. Because we're independent we are not tied to any specific product, so you're free to choose the look you want.**

Ask us to do as much or as little of the work as you need – from design, building and installation to plastering, flooring, heating, electrics and decorating.

All our work is completed in line with the latest regulations, giving you 100% reassurance that it's safe and legal. We are registered with FENSA, the government regulatory body for the double-glazing industry and offer a guarantee and independent

warranty on all work. Gas plumbing is completed by a Gas Safe Register installer and all electrical work is certificated to NICEIC standard.

## All quotes are not equal

It's sensible to get quotes from two or three suppliers. To help you compare them, you can download a list of questions and considerations from our website.

# How to save energy and money

Making your home more energy efficient could reduce your fuel bills and help the environment too. If you are selling your home, its energy performance rating is given to buyers in your Home Information Pack.



**1. Upgrade your windows.** Double glazing can cut heat lost through windows by half, saving you around £135 a year on heating bills. If you already have double glazing, we can leave the frames intact and replace just the sealed glass units with modern, highly energy efficient units. This cost-effective method helps you take advantage of the vast improvements in glass over the past few years. All our sealed glass units use low-energy K glass, which reflects heat back into the room. You can also choose argon gas-filled units with warm-edge spacer bars, which slow down the transfer of heat from the inner pane to the outer pane.



**2. Bin that boiler.** If your boiler is more than 15 years old our Gas Safe Register installer can replace it with a modern condensing boiler, which could save you up to a third on your heating bills.

**3. Plug those gaps.** More than half a typical home's heat is lost through the walls and roof. Talk to us about topping up your loft insulation to 270mm and consider wall insulation to keep heat in. Use draught excluders on doors, letterboxes and keyholes too.

**4. Turn appliances fully off.** Households waste around £30 a year by leaving appliances on standby. Remember to turn off chargers for laptops and mobile phones.

**5. Turn down your thermostat** by 1C to cut heating bills by up to 10%.

**6. Use energy saving lightbulbs.** They last up to 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs.

**7. Close your curtains** at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows.

**8. Wash clothes at 30C** rather than normal temperatures to use 40% less electricity.



# £25 thanks for new biz

Whether we've done a great job for you in the past, or you've just found out about us through this magazine, please tell your friends about Clover. We'll thank you with a £25 gift voucher, or make a donation to a charity of your choice, if we complete work for someone you've recommended us to.

## Recommended partners

These companies share our family ethos, give great customer service and have fantastic products to set off your new conservatory, extension or conversion:



### Reynolds Blinds

Beautiful blinds, shutters and curtains for your home or conservatory  
0800 074 9489 [www.reynoldsblinds.co.uk](http://www.reynoldsblinds.co.uk)



### White Hall

Natural stone and wood flooring for homes and gardens  
01432 870 855 [www.white-hall.co.uk](http://www.white-hall.co.uk)

## What we can do for you

- Conservatories, replacement windows and doors
- Automated garage doors and sun awnings
- Roofline and guttering
- Extensions, loft and garage conversions
- New build
- Wood-burning stoves
- Plumbing and electrical work
- Bathroom/kitchen refits
- General home improvements
- And much more.

Call Clover on 01531 631965 if your project isn't listed here.



## Find out more about Clover

Call 01531 631965 or freephone 0500 343 500, see [www.cloverconservatories.co.uk](http://www.cloverconservatories.co.uk) or view a range of products at our offices:

Pichells Place, Wall Hills Farm, Hereford Road, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2PR.