

Winter 2010/11

INCLOVER

Your home improvement magazine

Building projects and
design inspiration for
every room

Photography courtesy of Unique Interiors www.uniqueinteriorsheford.co.uk



Funky stoves for
modern homes **P3**



Get more from your
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LOVE YOUR HOME

Welcome to the inClover magazine Winter 2010/11

It's been a busy few months in the Clover household. We've enjoyed taking on lots of customer projects including garage builds and installing wood-burning stoves, alongside the usual new windows, doors and conservatories.



Clive Davis is retiring after five years with Clover

We've also showcased our conservatories and wood-burning stoves at many of the three counties' agricultural shows and exhibitions.

This autumn, we're sad to see Clive Davis retire from our team. He's been with Clover for all of our five years and worked with Simon before that. In fact, many of our 11-strong team have been with us since the start.

They are highly skilled bricklayers, plumbers, plasterers, electricians and carpenters who take great pride in looking after you and your property.

If you have a project you'd like to discuss please call us on 01531 631965 for a free, no-obligation chat. We also have two conservatories and a selection of stoves, window frames and composite doors to view by appointment at our offices.

Simon and Helen Tinson
Directors

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

Industry news

Window scrappage scheme

Some customers have asked us about this after seeing promotions from double-glazing firms. Unlike the boiler scrappage scheme **this is not an official government programme**. There is no formal window scrappage scheme but we believe some firms are using the term as a form of discounting.

New window rules

From October 2010 all new double-glazed windows must be A, B or C efficiency-rated. If you are looking to upgrade older double glazing, we offer a cost-effective method. We can leave your existing frames intact and simply replace the sealed glass units with modern, highly energy efficient models.



Our wood-burning and multi-fuel stoves include handmade stoves from Dean Forge and the technologically innovative Harmony, Hwam and Stanford ranges.

And if you don't have a chimney, fireplace or hearth, Clover will build one for you.



Smouldering good looks

Wood-burning stoves have broken out of their country cottage niche. Even the most modern of homes can now have a funky, contemporary stove to match. We love these beautiful designs – all available for supply and installation by Clover.



(clockwise from top) Hwam 3410 with soapstone cover and plinth, Rika Fox, available in either soapstone, sandstone or lava stone finish, Hwam 430 Insert stove and Stanford SP33 in cast black

Going up... or

If you crave additional living space but building an extension is not an option, why not transform the space you already have?

Your loft or garage could become that new bedroom, dining room, home office or luxury bathroom you've wished for. Conversions can be more cost effective than extensions and add value to your property too.

Planning permission is rarely required but building regulations approval is. Building regs cover areas such as heating and ventilation and ensure floors and roofs can take additional weight. Our architect can apply for both planning permission and building regs on your behalf.

If your loft is at least 2.7m high and your garage was professionally built of brick or block in the last 25 years they should be straightforward to convert. If they're not – well, we always welcome a challenge.

Our team covers all trades. So your project is safe in our hands – from the initial design and build, to getting power, heat and water into your room, and flooring and decorating.

All you need to worry about is deciding what your new room will look like.

Which windows for your loft?

Roof windows (such as Velux) are usually simple to install and provide plenty of light. Dormers can add more space but need additional building work and sometimes planning permission. A newer option is tubular lighting where a dome on your roof reflects sunlight down a tube to a diffuser in your room.

How will you get up there?

You will need a permanent staircase to your loft room. It could be stacked over the existing staircase or you could have a spiral or space-saver design. But fire safety regulations need to be adhered to, so that you have a safe route from the loft to the final exit. You may need to upgrade internal doors to fire doors or have an external fire escape.



sideways?

What's the plan?

When planning your room consider whether your needs are always going to be the same or if they may change in the future. What would make things easier for a future purchaser? It's cheaper and simpler to put in plumbing for a possible en-suite at this stage than retrofit it later, for example.



Kerb appeal

When converting your garage, new brickwork and windows should match the rest of the house as closely as possible.



How long?

On average, we'll have you in your new room in 6-8 weeks from work starting.

Decoration inspiration

Get show home looks in your new extension or conversion with these expert interior design tips

How to choose a theme for your room

Pick one thing that you really like. It could be a lamp, a picture, a fabric or wallpaper. Now go from there, using its colour, shape, material, texture or period to influence everything else in the room.

Colour me happy

For south-facing rooms choose greens, lavenders and blues to tone down the sunlight. Reds, pinks and oranges bring warmth into north-facing rooms.

Make a statement

Rather than paint all four walls the same, highlight one wall in a contrasting colour or wallpaper.

Natural base

- When sofa shopping, stick to natural colours. You can then change the look of your room as often as you wish with different coloured cushions or throws.
- Using the same carpet throughout your house gives a clean, continuous and harmonious feel. A natural colour with a bit of fleck won't show spills so much and you can individualise each room with different colours on walls and fabrics.

Does my room look big in this?

- If you're decorating a small room use light colours and mirrors. These reflect sunlight making the room look bigger.
- Laying big tiles in small kitchens and bathrooms gives the illusion of space.
- Use a Roman blind or single curtain to the side of a small window to make a room appear bigger.



Thanks to Trixie Morgan from Unique Interiors for these tips and images. You can call on Trixie's interior design knowledge and view her fabulous stock at her store in Hereford. www.uniqueinteriorshereford.co.uk

8 ways to prepare your home for winter

Avoid expensive call-outs by warding off potential problems before the cold and damp kicks in



Roofs Replace any missing roof tiles, or patch holes to prevent water entering the roof space.



Heating systems A Gas Safe registered engineer should service your boiler every year before you fire up your heating. Bleed radiators so they are working efficiently and heat is balanced throughout the house.

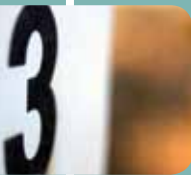
Guttering and drains

Repair any broken guttering and clear all pipes and drains of fallen leaves and debris. Rain or melting snow that can't easily drain away from your house can cause leaks or damp problems.



Cracks and draughts

Seal cracks around windows and doors with new caulking, draught excluders or rubber seals. You may want to consider double glazing or a new door.



Repointing/ rendering

Fix any cracked or loose pointing and rendering. If water gets in, it can freeze and expand causing more damage.



Insulation

Check the insulation in your loft and add more if required. Lag pipes, especially on outdoor taps. You may want to turn off the water supply to external taps to prevent water freezing in the pipe.

Chimneys Inspect and sweep your chimney and fireplace before lighting your first fire of the season.



uPVC maintenance

Open windows and doors and apply WD-40 to protect all the moving parts. Wipe off any excess.



Clover can help with many of these projects. So if you're not confident carrying them out yourself, please give us a call.



The standard of work matches the quality of product supplied – excellent

The whole house feels warmer and more secure and looks a million dollars

The best money spent for quite some time



Your courtesy and attention to detail were very reassuring



What we can do for you

- Conservatories, replacement windows and doors
- Automated garage doors and sun awnings
- Roofline and guttering
- New build
- Extensions, loft and garage conversions
- Plumbing (Gas Safe registered installers)
- Electrical work (certificated to NICEIC standard)
- Wood-burning stoves
- Bathroom/kitchen refits
- General home improvements
- And much more. Call Clover if your project isn't listed here.

£25 thanks for new biz

Please tell your friends about Clover. We'll give you 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. Just remember to tell us, or use the card sent to you when we finished your work.

Find out more about Clover

Call 01531 631965 or freephone 0500 343 500 Email info@cloverconservatories.co.uk
Visit www.cloverconservatories.co.uk or view a range of products at our offices:
Pichells Place, Wall Hills Farm, Hereford Road, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2PR.