Winter building Formerly, construction work virtually ceased during the winter months, when below-zero temperatures prevented builders from using conventional techniques. In recent years, the construction industry and the Federal Government have made efforts to solve this problem and thus offer year-round employment to construction workers. Research has resulted in the widespread use of improved winterbuilding techniques, including heated, pre-mixed concrete and temporary plastic tents, which can be heated, to enclose the construction-site.

Since Canada is one of the world's largest producers of wood and wood products, it follows that a great deal of wood is used in Canadian house-building. It is estimated that three out of four new houses (single-detached, semi-detached, duplex and row) are of wood-frame construction. In wood-frame construction, the basic frame or skeleton of the house is of lumber but the exterior walls, which are added later, may be of stone, artificial stone, brick, stucco, metal or wood. One out of four of the new homes are made of solid brick, stone or cement block.

> Of the single-detached houses financed under the National Housing Act in 1972, 68 per cent were bungalows, 25 per cent "split-levels" and 6 per cent two-storeys.

Advantages of Prefabrication as a method of house-building is attracting increasing attention because of the savings that can be made through a centralized operation and assembly-line methods. Housing components such as roof trusses, exterior walls, interior partitions and kitchen units are made at a central factory and then trucked to the building site, where a basement has been excavated and a foundation of poured concrete or concrete blocks completed. Using prefabricated components, two men can assemble a three- or fourbedroom house in five working days. On large projects, with crews of specialists, this building-time can be reduced.

Continuing research and a changing and expanding consumer demand result in new building materials being introduced to the market in a steady stream.

Plywood has now replaced lumber in many interior and exterior uses. Pre-painted plywood exterior siding is a recent innovation. Prepainted aluminum and steel siding, because they require little maintenance, are used more and more despite a somewhat higher cost.

Cold-water piping, coloured exterior siding and moulded bathtubs are a few of the new uses for plastic in housing-building.

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