

Inside This Issue:

A Tiny Cash Machine
Raining Inside Your Home?
Online Concerns for Parents

Fall 2006

Smart and simple ways to enrich your home living

HOMEXPERT



MoneyWise

Wasting Money and Water Can Be a Pain in the Drain

A glass of water in a restaurant may come for free, but water use in your home comes at a price.

Taking a few small steps to conserve water can help you save big. The Department of Energy offers several recommendations:

Fix Leaks. The sound of dripping is annoying and expensive, with one drip per second typically costing \$1 per month. Repair leaks in fixtures and pipes.

Install Low-Flow Fixtures. Quality, low-flow fixtures can be quite inexpensive, while achieving water savings of 25%-60%.

Wash Dishes Efficiently. Hand-washing dishes does not necessarily save hot water. An energy-efficient dishwasher when properly used and operating with full loads can consume less energy than washing dishes by hand several times a day.

When available, use shorter cycles to reduce hot water use. Plus, save by not using the heat-dry, rinse-hold and pre-rinse features.



Wash Clothes Efficiently. Use either cold or warm water, and always use cold water for rinsing. In the case of aging appliances, an old washer can cost three times as much to operate as an energy-efficient one.

Lower Water Heater Thermostat. Reduce water heating costs by lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater. Each 10°F reduction in water temperature saves between 3%-5% in energy costs. Reducing water temperature to 120°F also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in water heaters and pipes.

Replace Water Heater. The average life span of a water heater is between 8 and 12 years. Energy use can be cut considerably by replacing with a newer, more efficient model. Plus, you could also avoid the mess and inconvenience of an untimely breakdown.

Give us a call for an inspection of your systems. We can help you shave dollars off your utility bills every month.



MyWord

Take a Breather

By Michael E. Staples

Hello Friends,

Whew! I'm breathing a sigh of relief as the last days of a scorching Summer move into the pleasant weather of Fall.

This is the time to breathe in the fresh, cool air outside – while taking a breather from the emergencies our customers faced all Summer long.

Believe me, we're glad to help, and we'll be here when you've got emergencies this Winter. But because the plumbing system can get hit pretty hard in the cold weather months, you might want to consider an "ounce of prevention" – before "a pound of plumbing cure" becomes necessary.

So, how about giving us a call to schedule a plumbing inspection this Fall? We can take a look at all parts of your plumbing system and pinpoint any areas that are under strain. These areas could feel even more pressure during a season known for large family gatherings and increased indoor activity.

We'll also be glad to talk to you about the potential for frozen pipes and how best to prepare.

In the meantime, enjoy this great season. For many it's a time of school

continued on page 4

HomeXpert
is published
for friends of



Your **Quik Call** Comfort Hotline:
330-626-1676
www.staplesplumbing.com



HomeWise

Who's Cyber-Sitting Your Child?

In many homes, children can be far more savvy than their parents about use of the Internet. At the same time, they can be unaware of the risks posed to them by revealing personal information online.

To help preserve privacy, the FTC recommends several precautions for parents, including:

- Spend time together – online. By exploring the Internet with your children, you can see what they're seeing. Help them find kid-friendly sites and explain why they should be careful never to give out real names and addresses in chat rooms, to online pen pals, or on bulletin boards.
- Have rules for going online. Rather than non-stop access, limit usage to certain times.
- Consider using filters. These parental controls aren't fool-proof, but they do help filter out certain sites and subjects, keeping them off limits to your child.

- If the web site is directed to children, look for privacy policies and learn the kinds of personal information being collected and how it will be used.



The best protection requires the involvement of the parents.

Screen the Screen Names

Talk with your kids about their screen name selections. The impulse to create a name that has a special meaning for your child is also what strangers can use for clues. So while kids are thinking of a pet's name, a hometown, their age, a school mascot – or worse, their name and address – others can quickly put two

and two together and find out who they are and where they can be found.

Online Socializing

The potential for online socializing also raises serious concerns, especially when kids are pre-teen and older.

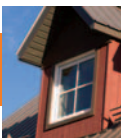
Evaluate these sites for their “kid-friendly” environment before you give the go-ahead.

Remind your teens and tweens to be careful about getting too personal with someone who might not be who he says he is. Tell them to only post information they would want anyone and everyone to see.

Make sure they know to trust their gut if they have any suspicions. If anything causes them to feel threatened or uncomfortable, they should tell you immediately.

And perhaps the most logical safeguard of all... keep your computer in a common area and keep an eye on your kids when they're online.

HomeFront



“Why is it Raining in My House”

and other practical questions that should've been asked *before* you bought your house

Buying a home can be an exciting time. But even when location, price, size and curb appeal are exactly to your liking, other “added extras” could be headed your way in the form of high repair bills or costly surprises.



A thorough evaluation of the home by a qualified home inspector prior to purchase is your best bet for protection and preparation. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, home inspectors:

- Evaluate the physical condition of the home, including the structure, construction and mechanical systems;
- Identify items that should be repaired or replaced;

- Estimate the remaining useful life of the major systems (such as electrical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning), equipment, structure and finishes.

Though it's easy to confuse the two, a home inspection is not an appraisal. Appraisals give estimates of market value and are tools for lenders to use to authorize mortgage approval. Inspections are designed for potential buyers to make sure they know what they're buying.

To find a qualified home inspector, check with state regulatory authorities, professional organizations, the Yellow Pages, internet searches, or your real estate agent.





The Little Tiny Cash Machine On Your Wall

For many homeowners, knowledge of the inner workings of their home comfort systems begins and ends with the location of the thermostat. But not to worry: that's as good a place to start as any.

The thermostat is certainly not one of the most expensive parts to your system, but its far-reaching effects make it perhaps the most vital. Many heating problems are actually thermostat problems. Yet they can usually be easily remedied, including common problems like these:

- **Incorrect temperature readings.** This could be caused by something as simple as dirt or a location.
- **Cycling issues.** If the system is cycling too often (or infrequently), it could be time to adjust the thermostat differential control.

Thermostats are divided generally into two main types – electronic and conventional. Of these, the conventional model works well for people who like an easy-to-use, non-technological setup and tend to maintain regular schedules. The electronic types, however, offer homeowners more control at different times of the day, while also serving as a more sensitive gauge of temperature.

Get With the Program

The electronic types also come in programmable models that can save big on energy use during the height of cold weather.

You can preset the temperature

to fall to a lower level after you've gone to bed, but kick the heat higher before the alarm goes off in the morning. Or you can choose a



similar setting for time spent away during the day. Weekends can have their own schedule.

By using your home comfort system more efficiently, you could also see real results in lower energy bills.

Home comfort systems with

multiple heating and cooling zones can be operated with either type of thermostat. But certainly programmable electronic thermostats offer the greater potential to set each area for ultimate comfort – keying in on the right place at the right time.

Choose Wisely

When choosing between conventional and electronic models, homeowners tend to weigh between ease of use and lower initial cost versus greater control, added comfort and potential energy savings. Make sure you evaluate the benefits carefully – especially when choosing a programmable thermostat.

Household Trivia



1. In 1902 when a Brooklyn printer complained of warped paper, the “Apparatus for Treating Air” was introduced by Willis Carrier. Air conditioning gradually spread beyond the industrial world, but was not available for residential use until what year?
A. 1928 B. 1917 C. 1941
2. Sir Isaac Newton is still remembered as the man who “discovered” gravity when an apple fell from a tree and hit him in his head. In another famous experiment, what scientist used a steel spike and silk kite in his “discovery” of electricity?
A. Thomas Edison B. Benjamin Franklin C. Alexander Graham Bell
3. Insects, water stagnation, and a certain “unpleasant” taste were several problems that arose in the early years of indoor plumbing. All of these side effects are associated with what material used for plumbing pipes?
A. Wood B. Iron C. Steel
4. The “Silent Valveless Water Waste Preventer” (what a great name) was the first toilet that could effectively flush when the tank was only half full. It was invented in 1898 and the patent rights were sold and heavily marketed by none other than...
A. Mae Flush B. Thomas A. Crapper C. Porsa Lynn D. Larry Tate

MyWord



continued from page 1

days, football games and busy family schedules. When you look back, it's usually "the ordinary routine" that brings the best moments of life. So make the most of it every day. And if you can, there's still time to get in a few outdoor activities before the cold weather kicks in!

Wishing you the best and looking forward to visiting you in your home soon.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Staples

Michael E. Staples

P.S. We hope you'll enjoy the great home tips that come in this newsletter, but don't forget to check out the super discounts on services you'll find on this page. If you aren't able to use them, feel free to pass them on to friends. After all, your friends are our friends, and we'd love to help them out too!

HomePoints

If you have a garbage disposal in your kitchen, grind ice cubes to clean and lemon peels to freshen.

Here's Your "One Call" Plumbing Solution

- **24-hour Service, 7 Days a Week.** Why wait for more water damage?
- **Professional Plumbers.** Our skilled techs can solve most any plumbing problem. Like yours!
- **Fast Effective "Drain Relief".** We send water away. Quickly, cleanly.
- **Water Heaters Repaired or Replaced.** Sometimes you *want* to be in hot water! Get it!
- **Over 25 solid years** of caring service. Let us solve your problem.

Call Staples Plumbing today at 330-626-1676.

©2006

Let us Repair what Your Husband Fixed.

We know how it is. All you have to do is jiggle this, juggle that... and voilà! It's worse than before. A question crosses your mind: "Now what do I do?" The answer is simple. Call one of our trained professionals.

We'll help you out of your plumbing mess as quickly as possible. And we might even maintain a little peace (or pride) in the process. (No extra charge!) Just give us a call.

Staples Plumbing
330-626-1676

©2006

It's So Nice to Meet You. Would You Like A Nice Cold Glass of Dirt?

You wouldn't invite a neighbor to lunch and serve your lawn, so why give it to your family in a glass?

While most water contains some minerals, water that is filtered improperly or not enough can carry large amounts of sediment.

This affects taste and cleaning power – both important factors in home use.

So call us for a water inspection and filtration options. And for our valued customers, mention this ad and get your inspection for free.

Your family – and possibly the new neighbors – will thank you.



330-626-1676

©2006

Trivia Answers: 1. A, 2. B, 3. A, 4. B

If your mailing label is not correct, please call us!

9808 State Route 43
Streetsboro, OH 44241
OH License # 12197



HOME XPERT