

The Building Inspector

Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 3



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Fall Issue



Hopefully you have had a chance to get out and enjoy the fall beauty!

Daylight Savings Ends November 1st
Remember to:

Turn Back Your Clock



Replace Your Smoke Alarm Batteries



Check Your Carbon Monoxide Detector



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Free!

What more could anyone ask for? Check out this website for a listing of free Food, Events, Products, and More!

<http://www.freeshiet.com>



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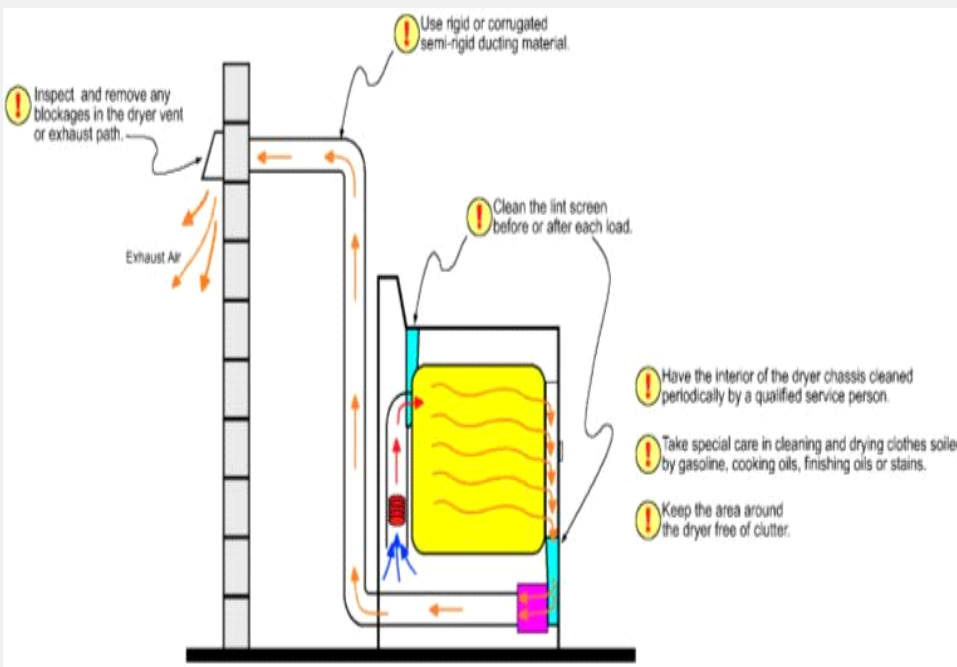
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Clothes Dryer Safety -

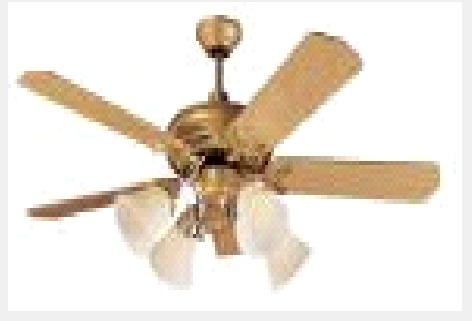
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that in 1998, clothes dryers were associated with 15,600 fires, which resulted in 20 deaths and 370 injuries. Fires can occur when lint builds up in the dryer or in the exhaust duct. Lint can block the flow of air, cause excessive heat build-up, and result in a fire in some dryers.

- Clean the lint screen/filter before or after drying each load of clothes.
- Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct periodically.
- Clean behind the dryer, where lint can build up.
- Replace plastic or foil, accordion-type ducting material with rigid or corrugated semi-rigid metal duct.
- Take special care when drying clothes that have been soiled with volatile chemicals.



Maximize Your Heat

In the winter, ceiling fans aid heating by circulating warm air that accumulates near the ceiling. For maximum efficiency, run ceiling fans clockwise in the winter and counter-clockwise in the summer.



-You can cleaner your dryer vent with a Dryer Vent Cleaning System like this one sold at Lowe's for under \$40.00-



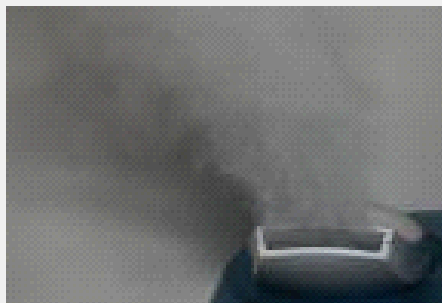
Stay Comfortable This Winter

Tests have shown that new energy efficient homes and older homes that are tightly sealed against the elements can actually have higher heating bills than homes that aren't as airtight. The Environmental Protection Agency says that your home's humidity level should be between 30 and 50 percent. You can check the relative humidity in your home with an inexpensive meter that can be found at most hardware stores. During the winter the humidity in a tightly sealed home can drop as low as 10%. This low humidity is caused by central heating that circulates air that hasn't just been warmed, it's also been dried as it was heated. So, when the indoor air has very little moisture in it, our body moisture evaporates quickly, and we start to feel cold -- so we raise the temperature.

In addition to making us feel cold, low moisture can cause other problems, things like:

- Shocks from static electricity particularly after you've walked across a carpet. The shocks aren't just painful; they can actually cause problems with electronic equipment and even computers.
- The dry air will make your nose and throat feel scratchy and sore, dry out your skin and make you susceptible to colds and flu.
- Wood flooring and moldings can dry out and develop gaps or even cracks.
- Houseplants will get sickly and you might even find some wallpaper starting to peel at the edges and seams.

Adding humidity to the air in your home will help get rid of these problems. You can do that in a number of ways, such as adding a central humidifier to the heating system, boiling a pot of water on your stove or drying your clothes on a rack in the basement, but one of the cheapest and easiest ways is to get a portable humidifier.



Types of Humidifiers

Warm:

All warm air humidifiers use a heating element to heat the water. This does mean that they use more electricity than cool air humidifiers, but the cost is no more than boiling a kettle. Air can be made to feel 'muggy' if overused. There are two types:

Steam vaporizer, which creates steam by heating water with an electrical heating element or electrodes.

Warm mist humidifiers are a type of steam vaporizer humidifier in which the steam is cooled before exiting the machine.

Cool:

These do not heat the water, so there is no burn risk and they can safely be used with children. They also use less electricity, can humidify a larger area, and do not make the air feel 'muggy'. The disadvantage is that they generally make more noise, and some require regular filter replacement. There are three types:

Ultrasonic, which create a cool mist by means of ultrasonic sound vibrations.

Impeller, or "cool mist," which produce a cool mist by means of a high-speed rotating disk.

Evaporative, which transmit moisture into the air invisibly by using a fan to blow air through a moistened absorbent material, such as a belt, wick, or filter.



Did you know?

October is National Toilet Tank Repair Month!

Here are two common problems/repairs:

Running Toilet



The flush valve is the first suspect if your toilet keeps running. If the flush valve does not stop the water from flowing out of the tank then the float will not reach a level to shut the ballcock valve and the water keeps running into the tank. If jiggling the handle stops the toilet running then you should look at the chain or lever that connects the handle to the flush valve. The flush valve may look like a softball sized rubber ball on a hinge type mechanism at the bottom of the tank. It is connected by a chain or lever to the handle so it is pulled up

on its hinge from its seat (the hole at the bottom of the tank) and the water escapes. If the chain is tangled or the lever bent the flush valve may not be returning properly to its seat and the water is not stopped from running out of the tank. Make sure the chain is long enough to let the flush valve close properly.

If the flush valve is old, it may have become hardened or bent in such a way that it is not closing properly. This is usually what causes your toilet to run intermittently. A new flush valve is only a few dollars at your local hardware or plumbing supply store. Be sure to take your old flush valve and the make and model of your toilet with you when you buy a new one.

Broken Flush Handle

Another common problem is often found with the flush handle itself. That handle sees a lot of use, and since they are often made of plastic, they can break. Replacements are readily available and they, like the flapper valves, shouldn't be more than \$5.00.

The most important thing that you'll need to keep in mind when purchasing a new handle is the location of the handle on the tank. Is yours on the front or the side? You'll need to know this when you make your purchase, or your handle may have the wrong bend in the arm that allows it to function.



Buckeyes

Not only everyone's favorite college football team, but a treat that's simple to make!



You'll need:

- 1 1/2 cups peanut butter
 - 1 cup butter, softened
 - 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 6 cups confectioners' sugar
 - 4 cups semisweet chocolate chips
1. In a large bowl, mix together the peanut butter, butter, vanilla and confectioners' sugar. Roll into 1 inch balls and place on a waxed paper-lined cookie sheet.
 2. Press a toothpick into the top of each ball (to be used later as the handle for dipping) and chill in freezer until firm, about 30 minutes.
 3. Melt chocolate chips in a double boiler or microwave; stir frequently until smooth.
 4. Dip frozen peanut butter balls in chocolate holding onto the toothpick. Leave a small portion of peanut butter showing at the top to make them look like Buckeyes. Put back on the cookie sheet and refrigerate until serving.

