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- Residential Inspections
- Commercial Property Assessments
- FHA Inspector
- HUD 203k Consultant
- Licensed Radon Tester



## Congratulations!

Congratulations goes out to Michael for attaining the status of **ASHI Certified Inspector, ACI!**

What does this mean? Michael has successfully completed the requirements of the *only* Certified Home Inspector program that has been accredited by the National

Commission for Certifying Agencies. No other home inspection association has met this level of scrutiny or has the ability to issue this level of certification!

Congratulations once again to Michael!



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## Is there dangerous radon in you house?

With the cooler, we are all closing our doors and windows to keep the heat in—and the dangerous radon gas!

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, and is estimated to cause 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year.

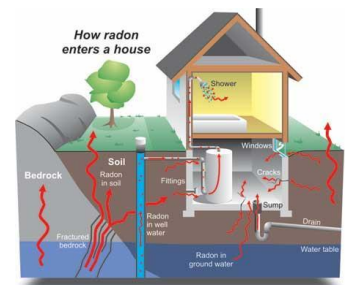
Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium and gets into the air that we breathe, which can cause lung cancer.

Radon can get in you home:

1. Through cracks in solid floors.
2. Construction joints.
3. Cracks in walls.
4. Gaps in suspended floors.
5. Gaps around service pipes.
6. Cavities inside walls.
7. The water supply.

The only way to know if your home has high levels of radon gas is to have your home tested. Call us today and we can schedule the live saving test for you!

You can find out more at <http://www.epa.gov/radon/>





*Gypsy Moth*



*A firewood rack is a nice way to store your wood; you can also buy a cover to keep the wood dry!*

## Storing Firewood

Now that the colder weather is settling in, many of you will want to keep warm and relax by a nice fire.

Properly storing firewood outdoors is the best way to control pests and to prevent them from moving into the home.

Regardless of storage location, firewood should never be sprayed with pesticides as toxic vapors may be released into the home when the wood is burned.



Here are a few tips to follow:

\*Always store firewood outdoors so that pests will not have a chance to move into the home. Ideally, position the firewood pile 20 feet from the home, away from the side of the house and suspended on poles at least 5 inches from the ground, laid across concrete blocks. Pests will be prevented from moving along an avenue of moisture into the home and the air-dried wood will light more easily and burn more evenly.

\*Treat the firewood like it is a perishable item by rotating the

stock, burning the oldest wood first so that pest populations do not get a long head start.

Do not buy, nor chop and transport non-local firewood as invasive pests such as gypsy moths may be dormant in the "foreign" wood.

\*If pests emerge indoors from firewood, handpick the critters or vacuum them up, using boric acid or diatomaceous earth only if absolutely necessary.

\*Have your chimney professionally cleaned to prevent chimney fires.

## Fall Maintenance ...



- Make sure to clear the gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris!
- Check the roof surface for any damaged or lifted shingles!
- Make sure your furnace and filter are clean; service as needed!
- Check any exterior caulk and/or weatherstripping; renew/replace as needed!
- Clean and organize the garage!
- Inspected automatic garage door opener; lubricate per manufactures instructions and check hardware!

## Maintaining an Asphalt Driveway

A systematic program of filling cracks with a suitable crack filling material and applying pavement sealer will greatly extend the service life of your driveway. Crack filling will help prevent water intrusion into the cracks thus avoiding erosion of the pavement base materials. Applying pavement sealer will protect the asphalt from oxidation and moisture intrusion into the pores. The rich, black color of

pavement sealer beautifies your driveway providing a "like new" appearance. The black color also helps to melt snow and ice faster than a non-sealed driveway.



Follow these safety guidelines when working with asphalt-based materials:

- Avoid prolonged skin contact.
- Avoid excessive breathing of vapors.
- Wear old clothes, protective gloves and safety goggles.
- Keep materials away from high heat and open flames.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Close containers after use.

*Asphalt comes in a variety of earth tone colors by Streetscapes®*



## Maintaining a concrete driveway

Generally, a concrete driveway needs less maintenance than an asphalt driveway; but it still needs some maintenance.



Here are some tips on helping your driveway last a long time:

- ✓ Keep the concrete driveway clean. You can clean it as needed with a

home pressure washer and a commercial concrete cleaner available at any hardware store.

- ✓ Reapply sealer as needed to help protect and preserve the surface.
- ✓ Always remove stains immediately such as those by gas, oil, and grease; you can use cat litter, sawdust or even cornmeal to soak up most of the spill.
- ✓ Avoid the use of salt and other deicing chemicals

which can cause surface damage; as an alternative use sand, cat litter or even bird seed – the birds will love you!

- ✓ Use care when snowplowing or snow shoveling, and avoid the use of metal blades that may scrape or scratch the surface.
- ✓ Patch surface cracks as soon as they appear; concrete patching products are available at any hardware store.



*Like asphalt, concrete is available in a variety of colors!*