

**Sprinklers Gaining  
Popularity**  
(See page 3)

# your HomeXpert

Simple ways to improve your home comfort, safety and value

Spring 2007

\$3.00

## MY WORD

### Refresh Yourself

By Lance Riccioli



Hello Friend,

Something strange always happens to me around this time of year. I start to get just a little antsy.

Maybe it's the fresh air, the warm sun after a cold winter, or just the sense that good things are on their way. Whatever the reason, Spring always fills me with renewed anticipation and promise.

There's so much to get done – and, as usual, never enough time. I'm sure you feel the same way. That's why I want to give you one less thing to worry about.

Your plumbing system just worked hard through the winter with all of the extra usage that guests bring, and as the weather heats up, it will be working even harder. The last thing you need is a plumbing crisis – is there *ever* a good time for *that*? A preseason inspection can keep your system going at peak performance – and I'll take care of it *for* you.

Why? Because the opportunity to serve customers like you is part of what gives me Spring Fever. So

(Continued on page 4)

## MONEY WISE

### Accurate Plumbing Announces New Ways to Save You Money

As the company that has been providing you with service for some time now, we are pleased to announce our change to Flat Rate Pricing, and the addition of our new Universal Protection Plan. You've trusted us to keep your plumbing running efficiently – and now we can make that service even more cost-effective.

#### Flat Rate Pricing.

First, let's begin with our billing change. It's very simple. Flat Rate Pricing enables us to charge a fixed price for a job, so you'll know the cost up front – before any work is done. The old method of pricing a job was based on time and materials. With our new method, you'll know the “bottom line” in advance. You won't have to worry about “watching the clock,” because even if the job takes longer than you expected – it won't cost you a penny more!

Flat Rate Pricing becomes, in effect, your price guarantee. So next time you need us, remember – we charge by the job, not by the hour, which saves you money!

#### Service Agreements.

Second, on the list is something new that we have to offer – Service Agreements. With our Universal Protection Plan you'll receive an annual inspection of your home's plumbing system.

Regular inspections can help you avoid the inconvenience of untimely emergency calls. Best of all – you'll qualify for our **Special Value Rate** on all regular service calls!

Please feel free to call us – we'll be happy to explain the excellent savings that can be available to you – a Universal Protection Plan customer.

## INSIDE...

- Green Your Water Heater
- Get Rid of Unwanted Guests
- All About Spring Cleaning

Your Quik Call Comfort Hotline:

**856-468-9775**

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ACCURATE PLUMBING INC.



## Get Rid of Unwanted Houseguests

...at least the four-legged variety

Nothing says home like a houseful of family and friends. But there are some guests that, no matter how well intentioned they may be, just aren't welcome (I'm not talking about the in-laws!). They eat your food, diminish your property value, and can wreak havoc on your home systems.

Who are these beasts? The four-legged visitors that sneak in unawares, innocently looking for a free meal and a place to sleep. Namely, mice, rats, and squirrels, which account for 80% of all animal break-ins.

These vagrants can chew through wires, destroy property, and spread disease. So what can you do to stop them before a full-scale infestation has taken root?

- Identify points of entry and seal them. Garages, basements, drain pipes, gaps around utility lines – all of these represent areas of vulnerability for your home. Be sure that they are sealed up tightly.
- Eliminate water and food sources around your home. Store all food – including pet food – in airtight containers.
- Contact a pest control professional immediately if you suspect an animal infiltration. Rodents can carry viruses and even rabies.

## HOME WISE

### The “Greening” of Your Water Heater

You see the word “Green” everywhere today. Consider the technology of a water heater that uses less energy, provides instant on-demand hot water and takes up less space.

#### ENDLESS HOT WATER

Tankless water heaters are designed so water is heated instantly, but only for as long as the hot water is being used. Conventional tank water heaters, heat water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – and you pay for the energy it takes to keep the water hot. A tankless water heater only comes on when you start to use hot water, and immediately shuts off when you're done. Why waste energy when you don't need hot water?

#### ENERGY SAVINGS

Your water heater is the second largest consumer of energy in your home after heating & cooling. Therefore, it is where you can significantly reduce the costs of your annual energy consumption. Conventional tanks heat water to a ridiculously high temperature, and then add cold water so it's com-

fortable to the touch. Even worse they continuously lose energy up the flue and through side walls. Tankless water heaters have a much more effective burner system than conventional tanks. So don't send your energy dollars up the flue!

#### REDUCE WASTE

Every year 7.3 million tank water heaters are discarded into landfills, since the average lifespan is only 8-10 years. With a tankless water heater, nearly every part is replaceable and they are designed to last 20+ years. This significantly reduces the amount of waste material that ends up in our nation's landfills.

#### SPACE SAVING

The average conventional water heater is 5 feet tall! Tankless water heaters average a mere 25” in height—and they mount on the wall, saving valuable floor space. Their flexibility allows them to be installed closer to points of use which will further cut energy cost and reduce water consumption.

Give us a call for more information on going “tankless”.

## HEARD BY OUR EDITORS

- Venetian blinds – which were actually invented in Japan – are known as ‘Persian blinds’ in Venice.
- If you head directly south from Detroit, the first foreign country you enter is Canada, not Mexico.
- While science has been traditionally identified as largely dominated by men, *women* were responsible for inventing Bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers.
- More than half of the world's population – that's over 3 billion people – have never made or received a telephone call.
- The screwdriver was invented before the screw.

### How Necessary Is Spring Cleaning, Anyway?

Spring cleaning has become a ritual of transforming the home to match the changing outdoors. The urge to bring that same sense of refreshing inside grows stronger. And while cleaning may not be high on your hobby list, this small investment in home maintenance can help maintain your property value as well as keep things running smoothly year round.

An organized approach can make the process both more productive and enjoyable. So here's your quick list of Spring cleaning "musts":

#### Sort Through "Stuff"

There are always those things you can't bear to part with: clothes, books, old bicycles. The two year rule is a good measure for whether you need to keep it or toss it. That means if you haven't used it in the past two years, it's just taking up space. Take a deep breath, then let it go. Literally. You'll be making better use of your space as well as clearing the clutter.

#### Give your home comfort system a little affection

That means replacing filters in furnaces or air conditioners, and vacuuming and cleaning grates, coils and condensers. A Spring tune-up can also help prevent future breakdowns and repairs.

#### Clean rugs, carpets, and floors

Shampooing wall-to-wall carpeting and waxing bare floors not only extends the life of your

flooring, it impacts your health. Thorough cleaning can remove many allergens and pollutants that can affect your home's indoor air quality.

#### Check Your Safety Devices

Replace your smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector, and emergency flashlight batteries. This should be done every six months since batteries lose energy even when they are not in use. Test fire extinguishers to be sure they are functioning properly too.

#### Clean Windows, Shades, and Curtains

Remove and wash window treatments. Clean blinds to remove dust. White vinegar or ammonia solutions should be used to wash windows. If you also replace storm windows with screens, be sure to make any needed repairs before storing.

Spring gives us the chance to start fresh and take control of our lives, homes, and the year ahead. Make the most of the opportunity. It is, after all, an investment in yourself.

**Help maintain your property value as well as keep things running smoothly year round.**

#### "Quotable."

*I honestly think it is better to be a failure at something you love than to be a success at something you hate.*

– George Burns



### Put Out a Fire

Smoke alarms and fire extinguishers have been common household safety features for quite some time, but what about fire sprinkler systems?

Though they've mostly been the province of commercial buildings, increased use is now reaching residential areas. And with more than 400,000 residential fires leading to 3,000-plus deaths in a year's time, they're a timely addition to home safety.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, homeowners who install sprinkler systems gain the advantages of a safer environment for their families, as well as protection for their home and possessions. Residential fire sprinklers can also lower insurance rates between 5 and 15%.

Unlike the bulky eyesores common to industrial venues, residential sprinklers are smaller, use less water and can be connected to the home water supply. Because they can be recessed or partially recessed and come in colors to match ceiling and walls, they won't stick out like sore thumbs among your other attractive home decor.

The cost of installation at time of construction is minimal – ranging somewhere around \$1,500 to \$2,000 for a 2,000-square-foot home. Yet it's also possible to install sprinkler systems in existing homes.

Though homeowners may have concerns about water damage, the U.S. Fire Administration points out that damage caused by sprinklered water is substantially less than damage from fire department hoses or an undetected fire.

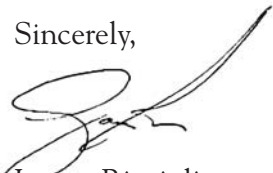
## MY WORD (...from page 1)

go on, enjoy the rejuvenating effects of Spring and let us worry about your home comfort.

Spring is a time of renewal, and whether it's spending time outdoors or just enjoying the break from the winter doldrums, there's no time like the present for spending more time with family and friends.

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

Sincerely,



Lance Riccioli

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 offers 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

Choose new water-saving appliances, like washing machines that save up to 20 gallons per load.



"I really need to get into some hot water."

Believe me, we understand. Water heaters wear out, just like all appliances.

Over time, rust and sediment slowly reduce your heater's performance. If you wait too long and the tank or burner rusts out, *big costly problems* can result.

*Avoid cold showers or a costly mess.*

Call about a new tankless water heater.  
No Waiting • No Waste • No Tanks.

**Accurate Plumbing Inc.**  
856-468-9775

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## 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 16 solid years** of caring service. Let us solve your problem.

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## I Made A Leaky...

(but ACCURATE PLUMBING was there to fix it.)

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