

- **Make Your Windows Work for You**
- **The Plastic Meltdown**
- **Don't Let Your Lawn Whittle Away**

Smart and simple ways to enrich your home living

HOME XPERT



Innovations

When is a Water Heater Like the Space Shuttle?

When it's flying through the air? When it's shooting flames from its nether regions? When the explosion not only breaks the sound barrier – ok, comes close – but also turns your basement into the backyard extension you've been meaning to get to? So far none of these options sound appealing...

Stay Out of Hot Water In the next year, more than 5 million tank type water heaters in the United States and Canada will fail, most with little or no warning and costing you a pretty penny. Here are a few simple steps you can take to make sure that yours isn't one of them:

- * Open the drain valve at the bottom of your tank every six months. Let the water run until it looks clear – usually around 5 gallons. This prevents sediment buildup in the tank.
- * Test the temperature pressure build-up annually. You can do this by lifting or depressing the pressure release and draining water from the overflow pipe.
- * For water heaters installed more than five years ago, a qualified

- * technician should perform a yearly inspection. This not only ensures your water heater performs at peak efficiency, it also allows for the early detection of leaks.
- * Keep the thermostat of your water heater between 120°F and 130°F. Overheating tanks can cause corrosion. Not only that, but overheating consumes unnecessary energy dollars.
- * For gas heaters, check the flue once a year to make sure it is clear.



A Little TLC Goes A Long Way

Water heaters are like any other appliance. They require routine maintenance and they will eventually wear out. (Give us a call and we can set your maintenance to be automatic.) Unfortunately, the “out of sight, out of mind” mentality most homeowners take to their plumbing can lead to serious damage and shorter life spans for equipment.

But the pennies you invest in TLC can save thousands in repairs and damage. Give us a call so we can help you start protecting your piggy bank now.

MyWord



Pocketbook Friendly

by Ken Wonderly

Been hearing much about “change” lately? I sure have. There's the change in government of course, but that's just one thing making the news.

I'm hearing that the highs and lows of gasoline prices have changed the way we drive. What about you? Did you “rethink” that Summer vacation a few months ago? The economic times have also changed how we do our shopping. Are you feeling that, too?

Good grief- even television is changing. Come February, all the television stations in the country are switching from analog to digital, and the rabbit ear antenna from days gone by won't even get you a fuzzy picture anymore!

Gundlachs is experiencing changes as well; we now offer full service bathroom remodeling. Now you can have the company you trust complete your whole project instead of dealing with several contractors. From demolition, cabinets, flooring, to paint we can help you create a bathroom that is functional and stylish while keeping your budget under control.

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Your Quick Call Comfort Hotline:

661-327-3052



Make Your Windows Work for You

The thermostat is turned up, the heater is doing double time to keep you warm and cozy...but there's still a chill in the air, and it could cause frostbite to your budget. See, even if your home comfort system is doing its job, there are nooks and crannies around your home where cold air can creep in.

One of the most common culprits is the space around your home's windows. Thinking that's not such a big deal? Some estimates predict that heat loss through windows accounts for 35% of your Winter energy costs. At more than a third of your energy bill, it's worth paying attention to. And since there's plenty you can do to do prevent the heat loss, that's actually good news...

Check for leaks – A good way to check for leaks around windows is to use a piece of thread to see where

the strongest draft is coming from. Once you've determined where the draft (or drafts) are coming from, you can address those leaks immediately.



Clear fall foliage from gutters before winter weather hits.

Remove old caulk – A window that's caulked may appear to keep in heat when it's actually not. Caulking can crack, which allows significant heat loss around the window. As soon as you notice cracks or anything that appears to be damaged, go ahead and replace the caulking.

Accessorize your windows (My spouse loves this one!) While some might be more aesthetically appealing than others, curtains, shutters, blinds, and shades all keep heat inside your home while minimizing the amount you'll lose.

Update your windows – Chances are, the older your home is, the less energy efficient its windows will be. If you haven't already, consider getting new windows. Replacement windows are more energy efficient, easy to install and actually easier to operate.

You might also want to consider storm windows, which are essentially an extra layer of window designed to keep more heat in. Though not as easy to install as replacement windows, do-it-yourselfers should have minimal problems, if any at all.



The Plastic Meltdown

It's quick, easy – and costs Americans thousands of dollars each year in interest and fees. Sure, a credit card may seem like a quick fix for a bout of cash-flow influenza, but if you want to avoid a personal financial crisis you ought to treat plastic like the plague it is.

According to the American Bankers Association, one in six families with credit cards pays only the minimum due each month. In other words, these families are simply treading water. Though getting out of debt can seem overwhelming, it's a must for anyone who dreams of strong financial health.

What to Do

- ◆ **Pay bills on time**, and pay more than the minimum due. A survey from the Cambridge Consumer Credit Index revealed that 42 percent of Americans with outstanding credit card debt are either paying the minimum or making no payment at all. Missing payments should never be an option, since that could

trigger a much higher interest rate or even force an account into collection.

- ◆ **Make a list of purchases.** For many people, debt is a reflection of spending on items that aren't necessities. By writing down expenditures, you'll be able to see just why it is you're in debt, and where your budget could use a little tightening.
- ◆ **Seek help from lenders.** If debt has become overwhelming, contact lenders to see if they will consider lowering their interest rates as you try to get back on track.
- ◆ **Eradicate the "plastic plague" for good!** Teach your kids the importance of sound financial health.





Don't Let Winter Whittle Your Lawn Away

You may miss the heat and outdoor adventures of the Summer, but at least Winter brings welcome relief from the hassle of lawn duty... right?

Not exactly. While mowing and weeding may move to the back burner, there's still plenty to do to get your lawn ready for the months of shorter days and lower temperatures...

Less is More

Ok, first things first: clean up the yard. Sure, many people feel that leaves add to their lawn's seasonal and aesthetic appeal. But the truth is, leaves that aren't raked can actually suffocate the grass beneath. (I know, it seemed strange to me, too.) If that weren't enough, consider this: diseases that can affect a lawn are more likely to occur if leaves are trapping the grass. Could someone please pass a rake?

Leaves aren't the only thing you want less of. You'll also want to cut the grass a little closer than usual. In general, professional landscapers suggest the final mow of the season should be about a half-inch shorter than you normally cut. You'll reduce the likelihood that two unwelcome houseguests – mold and mildew – will set up residence in your lawn.

Keep Evergreens Green

It seems redundant. Aren't evergreens always green? Well, no. Ever notice how your evergreens

tend to brown once spring comes around? Wonder why that happens? It's because of a process known as desiccation.



Take me to your weeder... or maybe just the rake?

Basically, the trees dry out over the Winter because of sun and wind exposure. And since the ground is frozen, the trees can't get that lost moisture back. To avoid such a fate for your evergreens, wait as long as you can before giving them one last heavy watering for the season.

Baby Your Trees

When exposed to bright sunlight or excessive heat in the Winter months, newly planted trees can die. This process, known as sunscald, can occur when the temperature fluctuates quickly.

This often happens on those random days in Winter when the temperature might be warm in the sun during the day, but returns to sub-freezing once the sun goes down at night. Newly planted trees can be protected from possible sunscald by wrapping their trunks in burlap or plastic wraps – just check your local lawn care or hardware store.



DidYouKnow?



- ❖ All pet hamsters are descended from a single female wild golden hamster found with a litter of 12 young in Syria in 1930.
- ❖ *"The Mouse Trap,"* by Agatha Christie is the longest running play in history.
- ❖ Hawaii is the only US state that grows cocoa beans to produce chocolate.
- ❖ In 1938, Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel sold all rights to the comic-strip character Superman to their publishers for \$130.
- ❖ The characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's "It's A Wonderful Life."

MyWord



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You can do all this and complete your project smoothly and on time. We accomplish this by carefully planning, specifying every detail, and pre-staging all the material before your project begins. We install quality materials like Kohler plumbing products and Medallion cabinetry, combined with the very best craftsmen to put it all beautifully together.

HomePoints

The most common plumbing repair caused by cold weather is replacing hose faucets. Avoid this by disconnecting all garden hoses from the hose faucet.

The result; a complete bathroom remodeling experience with the quality and service you have come to expect from Gundlachs.

Let us hear from you. Whenever you need us, you'll find us waiting on your call.

Do You Really Want To Pay MORE for LESS?

Didn't think so.

By becoming a member of our Maintenance Agreement program, you'll pay **LESS for MORE**. (That's better, isn't it?)

Membership entitles you to priority service and discounts on repairs, *plus* you'll reap the benefits of extended equipment life and more energy savings. You're one call away from making it happen!

Gundlach's
661-327-3052

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Getting Bullied by Hard Water?



Nothing sends a day down the drain like hard water. Soap won't lather, dishes have spots, and clothes are stiff and uncomfortable.

And, you pay to feel that way.

Call **Gundlach's** today at **661-327-3052** today to fix your water – and your wallet.

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Complete bathroom remodel for only \$8,997.00 Or just \$194/month.*

New Kohler Toilet
New Kohler Cast Tub
New Kohler fixtures
New Vortens Sink
New plumbing under the sink
New valves and supply lines.

New Tile Shower Surround
New Tile Counter tops
New Tile Floor
New Vanity
New Light Fixture
New Coat of paint
New towel bar and ring

From Demolition to paint Gundlach's can take your bathroom remodel project from start to finish in about two weeks. And all this with the service and quality you have come to expect from Gundlach's. **Call today! 327-3052** (Ask for Sherman)

(Price based on typical 8'x6' bathroom with tub/shower combo with single sink and toilet. * Financing is based on 60 payments with no money down OAC)

www.gundlachsservice.com

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