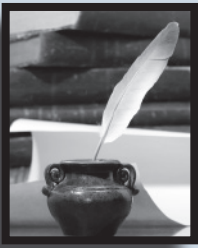


Simple ways to improve your home comfort, safety and value.

Spring 2012 \$3.00

## MY WORD

By Steven Heidler & Mick Heidler



Hello Friends,  
I hope this newsletter reaches you at a time when life is going well, and all the systems in

your home are running smoothly. We're always here for you if your plumbing causes a disruption, but it's our preference just as it is yours to help you avoid problems that could be preventable.

Perhaps you saw this story sometime back. A 22-year-old Australian woman was bungee jumping in Zimbabwe on New Year's Eve when the cord snapped, and she fell into alligator-infested waters. What's most important to the story is that she lived to tell about it, and, of course, the accompanying video was soon seen around the world.

When someone has an afternoon like that, it makes my job seem pretty easy. Sure, around here we hear about a lot of "water disasters" in the home. There may be repairs, replacement and clean up involved, but

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## INSIDE...

- Weather Wilting Your Garden?
- Rise and Shine
- A Tidy House in Less Time?

## MONEY WISE

### Roof Causing Slow Drain Pain?

Most folks wouldn't consider their roof as a source for plumbing problems. After all, there could be any number of reasons that darn drain isn't, well, draining...

- **Poorly installed plumbing**
- **A severe clog**
- **A faulty drain plug that won't fully open**

Every year, we get hundreds of calls from homeowners about "slow" drain issues. One "hidden" problem has been appearing with alarming frequency – and is often overlooked by plumbers. The problem could be your Plumbing Vent Stack.

Your Plumbing Vent Stack is a pipe that lets air in and out of your plumbing system. Blocked vent stacks aren't the problem; it's what we uncovered while servicing them that set off our "disaster alarms."

Your vent stack is sealed with a rubber "boot." Over time, the

boot degrades and cracks – leaving gaps for water to penetrate your home. It can cause thousands of dollars in damage from wood rot to electrical problems – and even health concerns from black mold growth. Luckily, there's a couple of easy ways to fix the problem...

- **Replace the worn-out, leaking rubber boot with a new one. Or...**
- **Install a Perma-Boot®**

The Perma-Boot is made of ABS plastic, slips directly over your existing stack and is secured with adhesive. It's a low-cost option to the problem, and is easy to install. Plus, it's a tool that can protect your plumbing system regardless of your home's age.

Whether you're experiencing "drain pain" now or if you're looking to prevent it in the future, give us a call!

**Your Quick Call Comfort Hotline:**

**410-268-7191**

[www.heidlerplumbing.com](http://www.heidlerplumbing.com)

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## Weather Wilting Your Garden?

We've all heard the phrase "April showers bring May flowers." But what if these proverbial April showers never come? With droughts becoming more common, it can be hard to maintain your yard.

There is an automatic way to have a lush lawn. Consider implementing a home irrigation system. Here's why:

**Convenience.** Everyone has forgotten to water their lawn at some point. A game is on, you're out of town, or you simply just didn't want to take the time out of your busy day. Irrigation operates on a regular schedule and issues the correct amount of water every time.

**Beauty.** Because irrigation systems work on a timer, they can be fine-tuned to fit your yard. This leads to the perfect amount of water for your lawn and flowers.

**Value.** Adding an irrigation system instantly increases your home's value leading to more money in your pocket when it comes time to sell. Plus, having the right amount of water dispense automatically can help you cut water waste – which is good news for your utility bill.

## Rise and Shine

Let's face it, we all hate waking up in the morning – though it sure beats the alternative! Even though staying up until 3 AM watching Storage Wars may have been fun at the time, you're going to be tired in the morning. The good news is that there are proven things you can do that will jump-start your day and leave you feeling refreshed and ready to go...

► **Wash your face immediately after waking up.**

There's something about cold water on your face that acts as an immediate trigger to wake up. Incorporate this into your daily routine, and your body will learn that cold water means it's time to wake up.

► **Move your alarm clock across the room.** This way, you'll actually have to get up and

move to turn off your alarm clock. Now you can't throw your alarm clock across the room either!

► **Don't snooze!** Once your alarm goes off, get up. Hitting the snooze button will make you even grumpier. Just go ahead and get up and get your morning started.



► **Program your coffeemaker in advance.** You know the phrase, "Wake up and smell the roses." Well, now it's wake up and smell the coffee. If your coffee is already brewing when you wake up, the aromatic smell will automatically make you more alert and ready to go.

► **Go outside.** Imagine sitting outside on your porch, sipping a hot, steaming cup of coffee and just relaxing. Connecting with the outside world (and getting fresh air) is a great, relaxing way to wake up.

## FUN FACTS

- It takes the food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach.
- Cows can sleep standing up, but they can only dream lying down.
- Even Antarctica has an area code. It's 672.
- 68 percent of a Hostess Twinkie is air.
- You are about 1 centimeter taller in the morning than in the evening.
- Non-dairy creamer is flammable.

## Spring Cleaning for ... Plumbing?

Spring is here and it's time for the annual "Spring Cleaning." This is the time to throw or give away that which you don't need (yes, that includes your leather disco pants from the '70s) and get more organized.

So what does Spring cleaning have to do with plumbing? Be sure to check these areas for problems that could cause severe damage.

**If your water heater is more than 15 years old, replace it.**

**Check for leaks everywhere.** Faucets, toilets, drains... anywhere where water may be leaking. Leaks can cause wood rot and cost you hundreds on your next water bill. Not to mention, mold often thrives where there are leaks.

An easy test for a toilet leak is to put six drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color can be seen in the bowl after 30 minutes, you have a leak. Call us as soon as possible to repair or assess any possible leaks.

**Check your water heater.** If your water heater is more than 15 years old, replace it. It is wasting energy and could die at any moment.

Another way to increase your water heater's efficiency is to drain several gallons of water

from the heater. This flushes out corrosion and sediment, increasing the life of your heater. But do this CAREFULLY; check your manufacturer's specific instructions on how to do this.

**Clean your dishwasher.** I'll give you a moment to laugh at the irony of cleaning an appliance that is made to clean. However, this is an essential step that most people overlook. Remove all racks and utensil holders and wipe them down. You also need to put 2 cups of vinegar in the bottom of the washer and turn it on for a cycle. This cleans out all drains and lines that may have had grease and other grime trapped in them.

Last but not least, **clean out all gutters** from leaves, sticks and even bird nests! A clogged gutter can lead to water seeping into the roof or walls, which causes leaks, rotting and mold.

### "Quotable"

*"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."*

*-Margaret Atwood*



## A Tidy House in Less Time?

Keeping your house clean takes time, but not always as much as you might think. To increase your cleaning efficiency, look for ways you can grab pockets of time here and there. For example:

After each shower, use a **daily shower spray and sponge or squeegee for a quick cleaning.** A couple of minutes here means that your shower stays clean, and you won't have to scrub so intensely later.

Prepare for spills and messes by keeping **disinfectant wipes in the kitchen, bath and living area.** If they're handy, you'll be more likely to clean immediately rather than waiting until a mess builds or sets in.

Got a few minutes to spare? **Sweep or dry-mop the kitchen floor.** You'll pick up stray dirt or hair and make your wet-mopping more efficient later. Got a few seconds to spare? **Wipe down your germ-laden refrigerator handle with a handy disinfectant wipe.**

As you take on small tasks like these, you may notice areas where you need help. Of course, cleaning and your household plumbing go hand in hand at times. So, if faucets are dripping, toilets are running or odors are coming from your plumbing, just give us a call.

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

fortunately, the service calls we make never involve alligators.

And, yes, things can snap. But it's more likely to be a washing machine hose that, during routine maintenance, can be replaced before a problem occurs. It's not usually a cord that has us dangling in the air. On any day, the best part of our work is being able to provide assistance to customers we consider our friends – especially when we can show them how to prevent trouble. Are issues brewing in your home? We'd be glad to schedule a plumbing inspection to let you know of any problems that may be developing.

Sincerely,



Steven Heidler & Mick Heidler

P.S. Hope you'll use the offers in this newsletter for helpful savings – or share them with a friend!

### HomePoints

The second highest energy expense in the home is heating water. It can account for 18% or more of your utility costs.

## Need to Undo What the Do-It-Yourselfer Did?

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 us, and we'll send out one of our trained professionals.

We'll re-do what your do-it-yourselfer did – and help you out of your plumbing mess as quickly as possible. Just give us a call.

**Heidler, Inc. at 410-268-7191**

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## GET 25 BUCKS OFF THE BEST SERVICE WE CAN BRING ON.

When you need a repair on your plumbing system, you're already not having a good day. So we'd like to make things easier on your wallet. Clip this coupon for a \$25 savings on your repair bill, and just give us a call. We'll give you our best service, as quickly as we can. Call **Heidler, Inc.** today at **410-268-7191**.

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### WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER?



If your home has private well water, you regularly add salt and chemicals to your water treatment system to improve the water quality, but are you confident that your water treatment system is working properly to provide you with clean drinking water?

Have you been spending money on bottled water instead of your tap water because your private well water tastes or looks odd?

**When was the last time your water was tested?**

Call **Heidler, Inc.** at **410-268-7191** today for your **free water test** and peace of mind.



Scan this code with your smartphone for the Spring customer special!

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