

# HEIDLER, INC

Your Quick Call  
Comfort Hotline:

 **410-268-7191**  
 [www.heidlerplumbing.com](http://www.heidlerplumbing.com)



## Heidler, Inc.'s **HOME** Xpert

Smart & simple ways to enrich your home living.

## MY WORD

BY STEVEN HEIDLER &  
MICK HEIDLER



Hello  
Friend,

I start to get just a little antsy around this time of year. 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. A pre-season inspection can keep your system going at peak performance – and I'll take care of it for you.

...continued on page 4

### — Q&A YOU ASK, WE ANSWER —

## What's Swimming in Your Water Glass?

“Drink more water” is a frequent recommendation for improving your health. But what if the water you're drinking causes more harm than good? While municipal water systems try hard to protect drinking water for their communities, contaminants can still find their way into homes, flowing straight from your tap into your drinking glass.

### Potential Pollutants

Lead is bad news. Generally the result of corroded pipes and plumbing fixtures, prolonged exposure can cause brain damage. And while chlorine is intentionally added to water, it can also produce unhealthy by-products, some of which have been linked to cancer and reproductive issues. Municipal drinking water can pick up many other contaminants including sewage system

overflows, water run-off from chemically treated lawns or industrial pollution that finds its way into rivers and lakes.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American uses about 90 gallons of water each day. That's a lot of exposure, especially if you're not actually sure what's in it.



**What Can I Do About It?** Many homeowners choose to protect their water with home treatment products. Under-the-sink filters are a good choice

if you're concerned mostly about drinking and cooking water. As the tap is turned on, water is caught in a reservoir, then passes through a filtering mechanism that removes contaminants. Costs for under-the-sink filters are probably less than you'd think, but a plumber (like us!) is recommended for installation.



— REAL GOOD FOOD —

## Grilling Practices for Safer Food

**A**s the weather starts to warm, outdoor grilling becomes more and more popular. Before you fire up the grill, remember to practice food safety. The following guidelines are among several recommended by the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service to help contain the spread of harmful bacteria:

**Defrost meat and poultry completely before grilling** – preferably in the refrigerator.

Thawing sealed packages in cold water is another option, or defrost in the microwave if food will be placed immediately on the grill.

**Marinate raw meat or poultry in the refrigerator, not on the counter.** If the marinade will be used as a sauce later, reserve a portion – before the raw meat or poultry is added.

**Keep meat and poultry refrigerated until ready to be placed on the grill.** At room temperature, bacteria on raw meat and poultry can double in number every 20 minutes.

**Cook food to a safe internal temperature to destroy harmful bacteria.** Because meat and poultry cooked on a grill often browns fast on the outside, color isn't a reliable indicator of being "done." Use a food thermometer

to make sure the inside is done. Never partially grill meat or poultry and finish cooking later.

**Refrigerate any leftovers promptly.** Throw away food left out for more than two hours, or one hour when temperatures are above 90 degrees. More information about safe food handling is available at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov).

### We Solve Plumbing Problems.

- **24/7 Service.** Why wait for more water damage?
- **Professional Plumbers.** Our techs can solve most any plumbing problem.
- **Fast Effective "Drain Relief."**
- **Water Heaters Repaired or Replaced.** Stay in hot water!
- **Over 65 years of caring service.** Let us solve your problem.

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

©2013

— IT'S ABOUT TIME —

## How Necessary Is Spring Cleaning, Anyway?

**S**pring 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

— THE PRODUCT NITPICK —

### Home Generators Are a Hot Commodity

**H**ome generators are becoming more and more popular. When looking for a home generator:

**Determine your emergency energy needs.** Most who buy a home generator want to power their refrigerator, a few

lights, furnace, water heater, air conditioner, home security system and medical equipment. So, an 8-kilowatt generator should do the job.

**Pick a generator that runs on appropriate fuel.** Natural gas is the most economical; propane is the second cheapest.

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.

**Clean rugs, carpets and floors** – Shampooing wall-to-wall carpeting and waxing bare floors not only extend 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 every six months. Test fire extinguishers to be sure they are functioning properly, too.

**Get \$25 Off the Best Service We Can Offer.**

For your next plumbing repair, we'd like to make things easier on your wallet. So just clip this coupon for a \$25 savings on your repair bill. Then call us and we'll give you our best service. Call **Heidler, Inc. at 410-268-7191.**

©2013

— BUCKLE DOWN —

## Get Rid of Unwanted Houseguests ... at least the four-legged variety



**N**othing 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. They eat your food, diminish your property value and can wreak havoc on your home systems. Who are these beasts?

To be specific, they are mice, rats and squirrels – which account for 80% of all animal break-ins. What can you do to stop these culprits?

**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.

**Eliminate water and food sources around your home.** Store all food in airtight containers.

**Contact a pest control professional** immediately if you suspect an animal infiltration. Rodents can carry viruses and even rabies.

— HOT NEWS NOW —



## Stop a Flood

**J**ust the sight of water from a burst pipe can cause people to panic. It is very important that you know what to do before a service professional gets to you:

**First, identify the main shut-off valve** – each home has one main control for the inflow of water. (Often near the

street.) A clockwise turn closes it, and a counterclockwise turn opens it. It can be tough, so have some tools with you just in case – but it should turn.

**Each fixture should also have a "stop valve."** The valves control the flow of water to those fixtures and can be turned on and off without affecting the water flow in the rest of the house. Leaky faucets or an overflowing toilet, for instance, can be stopped at the source before a service professional arrives.



## MY WORD

...continued from page 1

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Steven Heidler & Mick Heidler

P.S. Be sure to check out the discounts in this newsletter. If you can't use them, pass them on to someone who can.

Thanks.

## — QUICK TIP —

**C**ut the amount of sugar and calories per serving by expanding your frosting. It's simple: When you buy a container of frosting, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can actually double the volume of frosting. That means frosting more cakes or cupcakes for the same price.



# HEIDLER, INC

208 N. Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

## Some Things Just Don't Age Well.

Like your plumbing. Pipes get old and crack or begin to leak, water heaters rust through – before you know it, you're standing in a foot of water wondering how your basement turned into a swimming pool.

You may think there's nothing you can do about it, but the truth of the matter is an

ounce of prevention is worth a gallon – or several hundred gallons – of cure.

Having your plumbing system serviced between times of high usage can extend its life – and prevent costly damage and repairs. Call **Heidler, Inc.** at **410-268-7191** to ensure your year-round comfort.

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

©2013

## WEEDS AWAY

**W**ant to keep weeds out of your flower beds this spring? Get your spring plants in the ground and mix nutrients into the soil. Then wet newspaper and layer it around the plants in an overlapping pattern. Cover the newspaper with mulch and you're done. Weeds can get through some plastic, but not through wet newspapers.