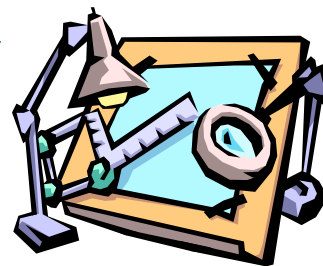


CHB SPOTLIGHT

COLORADO HOME BUILDERS —
YOUR LOCAL CUSTOM HOME BUILDER SINCE 1993



HOW TO

In this issue we will be covering some “how to” guidelines that can be used in and around the house.

Resource: www.ehow.com

HOW TO FIND AIR LEAKS IN YOUR HOME

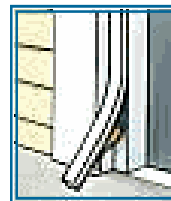
Air leaks in your home can cost you about 10% more on your energy bill each month. Here are the steps you can take to find and seal these leaks.

Things You'll Need:

Incense sticks ,Weather-stripping ,Caulking

- ◆ On a windy day, which is the best time to test for leaks, hold a lit incense stick next to a place where air leaks are common (i.e. All ducts, window frames, attic entrance, dropped ceiling, electrical outlets, etc.)
- ◆ If the smoke blows horizontally, then you have discovered an air leak.
- ◆ Weather-strip

Depending on the area, you will need to use caulking or weather-stripping to seal the leak.



HOW TO REPLACE BATH FIXTURES:

Things You'll Need:

Wrenches ,Teflon tape ,Fixtures ,Bathroom Faucet

- ◆ Measure the size of your fixture from the center of the holes made in your sink. A common example would be a two handled faucet with center nozzle where the faucet holes are four inches apart. Choose a replacement based on size, functionality and look.
- ◆ Turn off the water below the sink. Turn on the faucet to drain any existing water.
- ◆ Undo the supply lines from the existing faucet from below with a wrench. Remove the supply lines, either braided stainless steel or copper, then undo the faucet from the sink itself. As you look at it remember the old saw, “righty, tighty, lefty loosey.” Lift off the fixture. Clean out the crud, scrubbing hard for a tight fit. If space below your sink is tight you might need a tool called a basin wrench that is more maneuverable.
- ◆ Disconnect the vertical pop up strap for the drain from the faucet’s lift rod
- ◆ Take a roll of Teflon tape and wrap it clockwise around the threads. With your fingers, press it into the grooves.
- ◆ Install the new faucet from above, being sure to center the fixture.
- ◆ From below, coat the faucet with plumber’s putty to create a tight seal.
- ◆ Tighten the nuts to position the faucet.
- ◆ Reattach the supply lines. Don’t over tighten.
- ◆ Reconnect the vertical pop up strap for the drain to the lift rod above. They all should work together to raise and lower the plug to your drain. If the seal for the drain is not tight or the drain doesn’t open far enough, choose a different hole in the pop up strap until it works well.
- ◆ Turn the supply lines back on and see if your faucet works as intended.



Shower Head

- ◆ Make sure that your faucets are both turned off.
- ◆ Use a wrench to turn the base of your old shower head where it meets the wall pipe counter clockwise then remove it.
- ◆ Clean off any existing Teflon tape. Reapply a new layer wrapping clockwise around the threads. With your fingers, press it into the grooves. Do not extend the thread past the point that will be covered by the new shower head.
- ◆ Check your shower head. If there is no washer, hand tighten it. Test it. If it leaks, gently tighten it further.
- ◆ Use a wrench to tighten the washer, ideally a pipe wrench. To avoid marring the shower head finish, you can wrap duct tape around the base while tightening. Test it. If it leaks tighten it further.

WINTER TIPS

The fall Equinox is a good time of year to start thinking about preparing your home for winter, because as temperatures begin to dip, your home will require maintenance to keep it in tip-top shape through the winter.

Here are ten tips to help you prepare your home for winter:

1) Furnace Inspection

Call an HVAC professional to inspect your furnace and clean ducts. Stock up on furnace filters and change them monthly. Consider switching out your thermostat for a programmable thermostat. If your home is heated by a hot-water radiator, bleed the valves by opening them slightly and when water appears, close them. Remove all flammable material from the area surrounding your furnace.

2) Get the Fireplace Ready

Cap or screen the top of the chimney to keep out rodents and birds. If the chimney hasn't been cleaned for a while, call a chimney sweep to remove soot and creosote. Buy firewood or chop wood. Store it in a dry place away from the exterior of your home. Inspect the fireplace damper for proper opening and closing. Check the mortar between bricks and tuck point, if necessary.

3) Check the Exterior, Doors and Windows

Inspect exterior for crevice cracks and exposed entry points around pipes; seal them. Use weather stripping around doors to prevent cold air from entering the home and caulk windows.

Replace cracked glass in windows and, if you end up replacing the entire window, prime and paint exposed wood. If your home has a basement, consider protecting its window wells by covering them with plastic shields. Switch out summer screens with glass replacements from storage. If you have storm windows, install them.

4) Inspect Roof, Gutters & Downspouts

If your weather temperature will fall below 32 degrees in the winter, adding extra insulation to the attic will prevent warm air from creeping to your roof and causing ice dams. Check flashing to ensure water cannot enter the home. Replace worn roof shingles or tiles. Clean out the gutters and use a hose to spray water down the downspouts to clear away debris. Consider installing leaf guards on the gutters or extensions on the downspouts to direct water away from the home.

5) Service Weather-Specific Equipment

Drain gas from lawnmowers. Service or tune-up snow blowers. Replace worn rakes and snow shovels. Clean, dry and store summer gardening equipment. Sharpen ice choppers and buy bags of ice-melt / sand.

6) Check Foundations

Rake away all debris and edible vegetation from the foundation. Seal up entry points to keep small animals from crawling under the house. Tuck point or seal foundation cracks. Mice can slip through space as thin as a dime. Inspect sill plates for dry rot or pest infestation. Secure crawlspace entrances.

7) Install Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Some cities require a smoke detector in every room. Buy extra smoke detector batteries and change them when daylight savings ends. Install a carbon monoxide detector near your furnace and / or water heater. Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they work. Buy a fire extinguisher or replace an extinguisher older than 10 years.

8) Prevent Plumbing Freezes

Locate your water main in the event you need to shut it off in an emergency. Drain all garden hoses. Insulate exposed plumbing pipes. Drain air conditioner pipes and, if your AC has a water shut-off valve, turn it off. If you go on vacation, leave the heat on, set to at least 55 degrees.

9) Prepare Landscaping & Outdoor Surfaces

Trim trees if branches hang too close to the house or electrical wires. Ask a gardener when your trees should be pruned to prevent winter injury. Plant spring flower bulbs and lift bulbs that cannot winter over such as dahlias in areas where the ground freezes. Seal driveways, brick patios and wood decks.

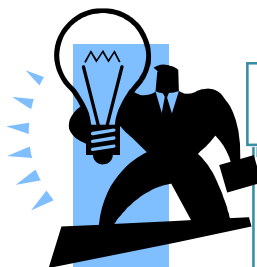
Don't automatically remove dead vegetation from gardens as some provide attractive scenery in an otherwise dreary, snow-drenched yard. Move sensitive potted plants indoors or to a sheltered area.

10) Prepare an Emergency Kit

Buy indoor candles and matches / lighter for use during a power shortage. Find the phone numbers for your utility companies and tape them near your phone or inside the phone book.

Buy a battery back-up to protect your computer and sensitive electronic equipment. Store extra bottled water and non-perishable food supplies (including pet food, if you have a pet), blankets and a first-aid kit in a dry and easy-to-access location. Prepare an evacuation plan in the event of an emergency.

More Home Buying / Selling Quick Tips



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A wise man can see more from the bottom of a well than a fool can from a mountain top.

~ Unknown ~

Q&A SECTION

We have included this section where you can ask any questions you might have in regards to construction, home inspections, remodels, renovations, additions and DIY projects. Your questions will be answered in our newsletters.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO: coloradohomebuilders@yahoo.com

THE BASIC FACTS ABOUT BATHROOMS AND HOUSEHOLD MOLD

Mold is a fungus that thrives in warm, dark, humid environments. It spreads via spores that grow on wet or moist surfaces, such as wood, wall-board, or bathroom tile.

Some people might experience sneezing, a stuffed or runny nose, itchy eyes, or a skin rash when they touch or inhale mold. It can trigger an attack in asthmatics who are allergic to mold. Some indoor molds, such as the highly publicized *Stachybotrys chartarum*, or "toxic black mold," produce mycotoxins that have been reported to cause fever, headaches, fatigue, vomiting, internal bleeding, memory loss, and other impairments. While experts continue to disagree about whether exposure to molds such as *Stachybotrys* in the air causes serious illness, you should try to minimize or prevent mold in the living space:

Fix leaks and clean up spills and water damage quickly.

Use an exhaust fan or open a window when showering, dishwashing, and cooking.

Keep humidity below 60 percent, using air conditioners or dehumidifiers.

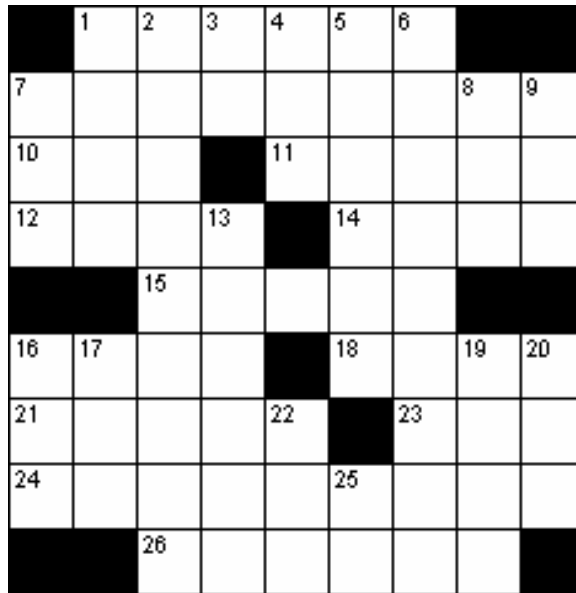
If mold isn't widespread, remove it from hard surfaces with 1 part bleach to 10 parts water. Wear an N-95 respirator mask (available at hardware stores), rubber gloves, and goggles.

If you smell a strong musty odor but can't find mold, consider hiring a professional mold remover. For cleanup tips and other information, go to an Environmental Protection Agency Web site, www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/moldguide.html. Don't bother getting mold tests, because there are no standards for "safe" or "unsafe" levels.

JUST FOR FUN

Down

1. Small biting fly
2. Collisions
3. Fifty-one in Roman numerals
4. Peculiar
5. Passes a rope through a hole
6. Provide amusement
7. A people of southeast Nigeria
8. C
9. Make a mistake
13. Middle (British spelling)
16. Sphere
17. P
19. Pimples
20. Plead
22. Actor ____ Mineo
25. You



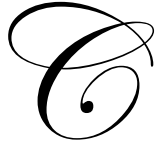
Across

1. In great numbers
7. Occurrence
10. Baccalaureate (abbrev.)
11. Dissuade
12. Relating to the ear
14. Swerve
15. Submit
16. Not closed
18. Pierce
21. Leases
23. Card with just 1 symbol
24. Committing an act of treachery
26. Goddess of the moon (Greek mythology)

BRAIN TEASERS

1. Why can't a man living in the USA be buried in Canada?
2. How far can a dog run into the woods?

Be sure to look for the answers to these riddles elsewhere in this issue



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TIP'S FROM THE PROFESSIONALS - STEVE'S HIGHLIGHTS

How to drink your coffee and use it too!

When you are looking around at home projects to do, first formulate a plan, and then get busy. But before you do anything else, why don't you just sit back, relax a bit, and grab a cup of coffee. As you sit there drinking and pondering what your next move is, one thing is for sure, you are going to have a mess of grounds to get rid of. Well, fear not friends, in the maintenance business, sometimes improvisation is the mainstay to solving problems. So, stay relaxed, take another sip, and I'll give you a few new ideas here that just might make you look at coffee a bit differently.



- ◆ Coffee grounds are one of the best sweeping compounds you will ever use. They can be either fresh out of the can, or dried used ones from the pot. Sprinkled liberally on a garage or any cement floor, they will absorb oils, grease and dust exactly like the commercial made types will. But here's a little twist. If you use fresh grounds, you can pick any flavor you'd like, and when you are sweeping, the aroma will positively freshen up any stale room! I personally like a nutty blend for stuffy basement floors, and a heavier mocha for outdoor garage or utility shed floors.
- ◆ The acids in coffee grounds make a heck of a good electrical contact cleaner. The finer the grind, the better, and all you need do is moisten a finger, dip into the grounds and rub it over any tarnished connection. It will make the metal shine and take off any build up of dirt and restore your connection to like new status. After cleaning, wipe the residue off and you'll be good to go.
- ◆ That same concoction works equally as good as a mild abrasive for cleaning too. You can use old grounds for this, they don't even have to be dried. Just dip a sponge into some old grounds, pour a tiny amount of dish soap over the top, and you will be able to clean anything that you would normally use kitchen cleanser on. A coarse ground works best for this, and in some ways it is even better than a cleanser. Coffee grounds will break down under scrubbing because they are natural. That means it will be very difficult to leave noticeable scratches on a nice finish that you want to preserve.
- ◆ Did you ever spill gasoline on your hands at the pump, and then no matter how much you wash them, your hands still smell like gas? The fix for this is fresh coffee grounds. Once again, the finer the ground the better, so just sprinkle some on your hands with a little dish soap, and scrub them thoroughly. Not only does the dish soap cut through the gasoline, but the fresh grounds neutralize the odor, and when you rinse, your hands will smell like fresh coffee! A little more dish soap will get rid of that smell completely, if you so desire.

Answers to brain teasers:
1. A man that is still alive can not be buried
2. A dog can only run INTO the woods halfway the he starts running OUT

All material contained within was written and compiled by the Colorado Home Builders team.