

CHB SPOTLIGHT



COLORADO HOME BUILDERS —
YOUR LOCAL CUSTOM HOME BUILDER SINCE 1993

May you have the gladness of Christmas
which is hope;
The spirit of Christmas which is peace; The heart of Christmas which is
love.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

SEVERE WEATHER DRIVING TIPS

Tips for driving in the snow:

- ◆ Bridges and overpasses freeze first, so always slow down and avoid sudden changes in speed or direction.
- ◆ Keep windows clear.
- ◆ Use your brakes cautiously. Abrupt braking can cause brake lock-up and cause you to lose steering control.
- ◆ To make Antilock Brakes work correctly, apply constant, firm pressure to the pedal. During an emergency stop, push the brake pedal all the way to the floor, if necessary, even in wet or icy conditions.
- ◆ If you get stuck in snow, straighten the wheels and accelerate slowly. Avoid spinning the tires. Use sand or cinders under the drive wheels.
- ◆ Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry. And take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- ◆ Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning - nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.
- ◆ The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- ◆ Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, the best way to stop is threshold braking. Keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.



- ◆ Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- ◆ Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed down hill as slowly as possible.
- ◆ Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.
- ◆ Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.

REMEMBER: WE DO HOME INSPECTIONS!

See page 4 of this issue for contact info!

HOW TO...

How to Make Dipped Fragrant Pine Cones

Making your own dipped pine cones that are scented with your favorite fragrance is an excellent way to decorate your home for the fall or the upcoming holiday season. This is a very inexpensive way to make a centerpiece for your table or a grouping for your fireplace mantel that will make your whole house smell wonderful!



Things You'll Need:

Pine Cones, Paraffin wax, Fragrance Oil, Glitter
Gold or Silver Paint (optional)

Wax paper

Metal or plastic container

- ◆ Prepare your work space with 2 sheets of wax paper. Paint pine cones with silver or gold paint if desired and allow to dry. Once they are dry, they are ready to dip.
- ◆ Heat paraffin in a double boiler or in the microwave at 50% power. Heat until completely melted, stirring with a spoon frequently. Once melted, remove from heat.
- ◆ Add your fragrance oil at this time. Use 1/2 ounce of fragrance oil to 1 pound of paraffin. Stir until the mixture is blended completely. Allow to cool approximately 5 minutes before dipping the pine cones.
- ◆ Hold the pine cone by the base and dip it into the paraffin mixture. Roll it around to make sure it is well coated in paraffin. Remove the pine cone. Hold it over the paraffin mixture until it has stopped dripping. Place the pine cone on waxed paper to dry. Sprinkle with glitter at this time if it is desired.

Tips & Warnings

1. Place pine cones in zip lock bags sealed to store them until you are ready to use them. This keeps the fragrance strong and fresh smelling.
2. Fragrance oils can be purchased at soap suppliers and at most hobby stores.
3. Perfumes can be substituted for fragrance oils if desired.
4. Essential oils can be substituted for fragrance oils if desired.
5. Store unused paraffin in a coffee container or disposable plastic container with a lid to use for dipping later.
6. Use precautions such as a kitchen utensil to remove the pine cones from the paraffin.



All I Needed to Know About Life I learned from Santa

- Encourage people to believe in you.
- Always remember who's naughty and who's nice.
- Don't pout.
- It's as much fun to give as it is to receive.
- Some days it's ok to feel a little chubby.
- Make your presents known.
- Always ask for a little bit more than what you really want.
- Bright red can make anyone look good.
- Wear a wide belt and no-one will notice how

"One of the nice things about Christmas is that you can make people forget the past with a present."





May your stuffing be tasty and your turkey be plump.
May your potatoes and gravy have not a lump.
May your yams be delicious and your pies take the prize.
May your Christmas dinner stay off your thighs.



Candied Yams

This classic recipe for candied yams serves 10. Forget those canned yams with the mini-marshmallows and treat your holiday guests to this homemade, traditional candied yams recipe that tastes just like grandma used to make.

Ingredients:

- 5 scrubbed yams (about 2 1/2 lbs.)
- 2 c. water
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 c. firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp. freshly grated ginger root
- 2 tbsp. unsalted butter

- Boil 2 c. water in the bottom of a steamer set. Put yams in the steamer, place over the boiling water and cover.
- Steam yams for 30 minutes, or until a fork easily pierces the yams.
- Remove the yams from the steamer and set aside.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- Melt butter over medium-low heat in a saucepan.
- Add brown sugar and stir until dissolved.
- Add ginger and simmer 1 minute.
- Add lemon juice and remove from heat.
- Butter a deep, 7-by-11-inch baking dish.
- Peel yams and slice in half lengthwise.
- Put yams flat-side down in the baking dish. Pour butter and brown sugar mixture over the yams.
- Bake yams for 15 minutes. Serve

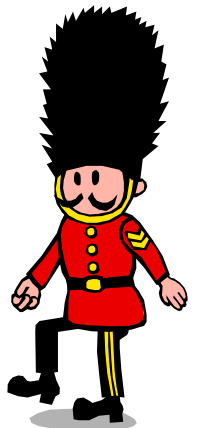
Mad Gab's

Mad Gabs/Whatcha Sayin? are fun for a group game or ice breaker - or just fun to figure out on your own. They are a group of words, that at first glance and first saying don't make sense... but say them SLOWLY and LISTEN to what you hear to figure out what the phrase is.

Example: Common Firm Their Rain = Come In From The Rain

1. Calm Hunger Hound
2. Calm Tooth Hen Cove Fit
3. Capped Tin Can Grew
4. Caress Tougher Clump Us
5. Cause Mid Ticks Urge Jury

Answers elsewhere in this issue





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TIP'S FROM THE PROFESSIONALS - STEVE'S HIGHLIGHTS

How to Choose a Christmas Tree

One of the most fun outings of the Christmas season is going to pick out a Christmas tree. Here are some tips to make this venture a fun family tradition.

Things You'll Need:

- 1. Handsaw if you plan on cutting down your own tree.
- 2. Rope or tie-downs to secure the tree to your vehicle.
- 3. A tarp to protect your car surface if you have to tie the tree to roof.

Locate a tree farm or tree stand near to you and note the directions to get there.

If you only have access to a tree stand where you can't cut down your own tree, note the general appearance of all the trees.

If you see a tree that doesn't look too brown grasp a limb and give it a little shake. If needles rain down from it, leave it.

Choose the size of the tree to how large the space in your home is, where it will stand. You don't want a gigantic tree for a tiny room.

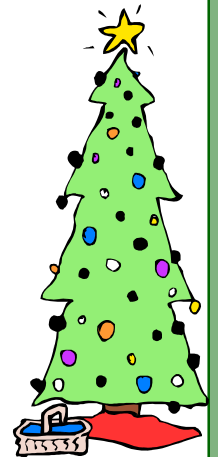
If you bring kids with you, have them place their hand over yours to carefully "help" cut down the Christmas Tree.

Make sure the tree is secured to the vehicle for the trip home.

You may have to trim the tree bottom to fit the tree into the stand. Also prune any standout branches.

Tips & Warnings

Are the trees brown at the bottom or towards the center?. Notice the amount of needles on the ground. If you see anything on the negative, move on to the next stand. There usually several in all areas. The tree will have to dry for a couple of hours before lights and decorations are put on the tree. Purchasing one of those large plastic Christmas tree garbage bags are excellent for clean up. You can place the plastic bag under the tree and cover it with the tree skirt. Fill stand with water and put 1 aspirin in to prolong freshness fill every other day.



1. Common Ground 2. Come to Think of It 3. Captain Kangaroo 4. Christopher Columbus 5. Cosmetic Surgery

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