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technology
with good
old-fashioned
integrity"

GUNDLACH'S

Established 1900 • Lic. 1338

327-3052

PLUMBING • HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING

MY WORD

BY KEN WONDERLY



Hello
Friends,

Every
season

gives us something different to enjoy. And winter has its own perks, especially if you like spending cozy nights in front of a roaring fire or relaxing while watching your favorite programs.

Coming in from the cold after a long day can really make you appreciate the comforts of your home. Yet, your plumbing system might not be a fan of that dropping temperature.

The colder weather can create trouble in your system, particularly your pipes. Plus, with more time spent indoors – and

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— IT'S ABOUT TIME! —

Does Your Home Have Hidden Leaks?

Plumbing leaks waste water and put the squeeze on your water bill, but not everyone knows how to find them. In fact, studies show that a typical house can lose 2,000 to 20,000 gallons of water a year due to leaks. Yet, some of these major leaks aren't even detected.

To do a bit of your own plumbing detective work, you can try some fairly easy steps to figure out if your home plumbing needs a repair.

Listen for sounds. Plumbing should be quiet when not in use. For example, if you hear a hissing sound in the toilet, or if it refills on its own without a flush, you've got a plumbing issue. The same goes for the more familiar drip, drip, drip of a

faucet that won't cut off. The sound is annoying – and wastes a bunch of water. If you need help keeping your plumbing quiet, give us a call.

Look for signs. If water is pooling around your water heater or on the floor, or if it's discoloring your drywall, your plumbing is showing signs of a leak. Get this checked out right away.



Run a water meter test. First, make sure all the water is off in your home. That means no washing machine is running and no one is rinsing dishes,

showering, brushing their teeth or flushing the toilet – at least long enough for you to run this simple test. Record the reading on your meter. Then wait 15 minutes without use of any water in the house and read it again. If the meter shows that water was used during this period, you may have a leak. If you detect any signs of a leak, call us. We're here to help.



Get Creative in Kitchen Organization

— HOT NEWS NOW —

How to Keep Your Drains Flowing

Slow or clogged drains are a nuisance for busy households. But the cause of most of these problems should be no surprise.

In the shower, for example, flowing water sends hair and soap scum down the drain daily. Long hair in particular gets coated in the soap scum and begins to stick to the drain walls. As time progresses on, the drain slows and finally a blockage occurs.

While “stop taking showers” is not recommended as your solution, you still have other strategies that can reduce the likelihood of your bathroom drains clogging.

Pouring boiling water down the drain on a weekly basis can help break up the soap scum and debris and keep the drain running freely. Routine plunging can also help clear the drain before a clog occurs. In addition, you can install screens over the drains and tubs to collect the hair for removal.

In your kitchen sink, food scraps are your more likely culprit. Scrape them into a trash receptacle instead of your drain. And never pour cooking grease down your sink – because once it cools, it becomes solid, which leads to major drain blockage.

To help prevent toilets from clogging, use them only for sewage and toilet paper, and never as trash cans.

Also, avoid chemical drain-cleaning products as a quick fix. They can actually damage pipes further instead of repairing them.

Don't wait. Call us if you need help with clogged drains. If multiple drains are clogged, you may have a problem in your main sewer line.

Get Your Furnace Checked

Call for a pre-season tune-up, and get your furnace ready for an active winter. Annual maintenance lengthens equipment life, improves energy efficiency and helps prevent dangerous risks such as carbon monoxide leaks.

Plus, you can join our Comfort Club to save on this tune-up and future ones, too. Call **Gundlach's Plumbing, Heating & Air** today at **327-3052**.

Large kitchens, small kitchens – whatever the size, almost everyone at some point wants a little more room. Or if not added roominess, at least a better way to organize what you have. Creative ideas like these could be just the trick to help you free up valuable workspace:

- Crockpots don't have to be just for cooking. They can also hold go-to utensils, such as wooden spoons and spatulas, in a convenient spot on the kitchen counter.



— TAKE THAT! (AND THIS TOO!) —

Cinnamon Scents for Your Home

While a touch of cinnamon is a delicious addition to a favorite treat, this aromatic spice also has a wide method of uses in handmade fragrances to leave your home a comforting scent.

Before vacuuming, add a couple of sticks of cinnamon to your vacuum cleaner bag to leave behind a pleasant scent as you clean.

Spoon a couple of tablespoons of ground cinnamon into a bowl and set it on a counter or shelf as a room deodorizer.

Yummy Comfort



- Rein in the chaos of plastic containers. Store lids in a large plastic bag so you can see what you have at a glance – making it easier to match the lid to the right-size container.
- Use easy-to-grab bins or baskets to hold items in out-of-the-way spots, such as open spaces above cabinets or refrigerators.
- Repurpose desk organizers for your daily work at the kitchen sink. Hang them on a nearby cabinet or wall and use them to hold sponges, scrubbers and dish detergent.
- Similarly, store rolls of aluminum foil and boxes of plastic wrap upright in a magazine file.
- Use a simple canning jar to hold measuring spoons and place it near the stove.
- Get those loose plastic bags out of your valuable cabinet space and push them into empty tissue boxes for quick retrieval without the clutter.

Chicken and Wild Rice Casserole, a go-to comfort food, is easy to prepare. Start by toasting a 2.25-ounce package of sliced almonds for later. Then cook two 6.2-ounce boxes of long-grain and wild rice mix. In a large skillet over medium heat, sauté four chopped celery ribs and two medium onions in ¼ cup of melted butter until tender – about 10 minutes. Stir in five cups of chopped chicken, two 10 and 3/4-ounce cans of mushroom soup, two

8-ounce cans of water chestnuts (drained), one 8-ounce container of sour cream, one cup milk, ½ teaspoon of salt and ½ teaspoon of pepper. Add the rice and three cups of shredded cheddar cheese. Then spoon into a lightly greased baking dish; top with two cups of breadcrumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes, add another cup of shredded cheese and top with toasted almonds. Then bake for five more minutes or until cheese has melted.

— THE GOOD LIFE —



Scenes From the Winter Sky

Looking for a fun winter activity? When temperatures permit, why not bundle up the kids and head outdoors for an evening of stargazing? For the very best bets:

Wait for a cloudless night so that the stars won't be hidden from view. Even better, time your stargazing close to a new

moon so the moon's light won't interfere with the stars.

Head to an open space so that your view of the sky isn't blocked by buildings, trees, poles or billboards – and is away from city lights. You're looking for a place as dark (and as safe) as possible.

Pack blankets and lawn chairs for staying warm and comfy.

Take binoculars or a telescope to enhance your view – or just look with your very own eyes.

Spend a little time on the Internet researching basic astronomy before you head out so you'll know what to look for.

Is Your Water Heater Ready for Retirement?

After 10-12 years of daily service, your water heater may be ready to slow down – or even call it quits.

Call **Gundlach's Plumbing, Heating & Air** at **327-3052** and keep the hot water flowing. Mention this coupon and save 10% off the switch. But hurry, offer expires **February 28, 2018**.

more gatherings with more people – you may run into some other issues, such as clogged drains or dripping fixtures.

Don't worry. If you discover any problems, call us, and we'll send one of our pros your way. We're always happy to help.

In the meantime, please take a look at the articles in this

newsletter for some helpful tips and ideas for your household. Also, be sure to use the discounts too, or feel free to pass them on to family, friends or even coworkers.

Sincerely,



Ken Wonderly

Fitting Advice for Filling Up

If you're trying to fill a container with water, but it just won't fit under your sink's faucet, try using a clean dust pan as a canal. Simply place a dust pan with a cupped handle under the faucet and the container at the end of the handle. Then just let the water flow from the dust pan to the container. That's it!

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P.O. Box 1738 • Bakersfield, CA 93302

www.gundlachsservice.com

If your mailing address is not correct, please call us!

Get \$25 Off the Best Service We Offer.

When you need a repair on your plumbing system, you're already not having a good day. We'd like to make things easier on your wallet.

Clip this coupon for a **\$25 savings** on your repair bill

Gundlach's Plumbing, Heating & Air at 327-3052

(We recommend cutting this out and putting it on your refrigerator.)

and give us a call. Our repair professionals will work to get your plumbing problem solved in no time.

Give us a call, and we'll give you our best service as quickly as we can.

FAST FIX



Coffee Filter Trick for Potted Plants

A small extra step will help keep dirt from spilling out of the drainage hole of your potted plant. Before adding the potting soil to your container, just place a single coffee filter over the inside bottom. This will allow water to drain through, but keep dirt inside. It's a simple and low-cost technique for maintaining your potted plants' health and elegance. Happy planting!