

WINTER NEWSLETTER January 2013

In this Issue:

- *Note from Ken
- *NARI Remodeling EXPO
- *Focus on Energy
- *Prevent Dryer Fires
- *Winter Home Projects
- *Mold in your Home

Have you got cabin fever? It's the time of year that I like to get a head start on spring. Get your lawnmower out, put in a little gas and roll it out to the walk in front of your house. Start it up and push it back and forth a few times like you're mowing the lawn. It's a great way to get the neighbors talking about spring! Really want to entertain your neighbors? Wear some Bermuda shorts over your long-johns while you "test out" your lawnmower. Remember....spring is just around the corner.

-Ken Adams



Come meet the Adams Design Construction Team!

Visit us at our booth during the 2013 NARI (National Association of Remodeling Industry) remodeling expo this January 25, 26, & 27, located at the Marriott Madison West.

Stop by and say "hi" and get remodeling ideas and tips from the experts.

1/25, Friday: 2PM-7PM
1/26, Saturday: 9AM-6PM
1/27, Sunday: 10AM-4PM

Tickets: \$5.00 ea. (good for all three days)
Parking is Free!!

We hope to see you there!

Did You Know?

Recycling one glass jar saves enough energy to watch TV for 3 hours

Focus on Energy

If your remodel includes improved energy efficiency we can save you money through the Focus on Energy program. Call us for more information.

For a list of the programs Focus on Energy provides, please visit the following site:
http://www.focusonenergy.com/files/Document_Management_System/Residential_Programs/MM_ResOverview_0812_nocrops.pdf

(or click on the hyper link provided at the end of this newsletter)

Did You Know?

The microwave oven was invented by mistake when an engineer testing a magnetron tube noticed that the radiation from it melted the chocolate bar he had in his pocket.

Prevent Dryer Fires

Cleaning out your dryer's venting system is a quick weekend project and an important cleaning chore to help keep you and your family safe.

Every year, an average of 14,500 clothes dryers catch fire. This isn't due to a wiring issue—rather, it's because lint collects in the dryer's exhaust ducts. Lint builds up very fast, is highly combustible and can spread a fire quickly. Cleaning your dryer vent once a year can help.

The easy way to clean the dryer vent fully is with a dryer vent cleaning brush. Start from the outside of the house, and work inward toward the dryer. You will be amazed at what comes out of the dryer vent, so keep a trash bag or two nearby.



Also remember to turn off the dryer when you are not going to be at home. Dryer fires spread quickly, so it's definitely better to be safe and not sorry.

After the vent has been thoroughly cleaned, you can take several steps to make sure that your dryer is operating safely year-round. Always clean the dryer's lint screen after every use. Vacuum behind the dryer as part of your regular housekeeping chores. When you are behind the dryer, make sure the dryer vent duct hose is made from aluminum. If you spot an old-fashioned plastic dryer vent, be sure to replace it to reduce your risk of dryer fires.

Did You Know?

Moisture, not air, causes super glue to dry

Winter Home Projects

When you spend too much time in your home, you are bound to find a home improvement project or two that can keep you busy. And that's usually what happens during the winter.

Here are a few projects to do while the snow's up to your eyes:

Install a programmable thermostat

It's always a bit of a shock when you get that first utility bill in the colder months. Installing a thermostat that allows you to automatically set the temperature for different times of the day. By having the heat programmed to go on when you get up in the morning, then off when you leave for the day, then back on when you arrive home, you can keep the temperature of your home constant. It can pay for itself in a month or two.

Insulate the water heater:

Another way to save energy is to lower the temperature of your water heater, and insulate it. The ideal temperature is 120 degrees. It doesn't cost you anything to turn it down. And by wrapping it in insulation, you can ensure that the water stays hot when it is not being used.

Paint a room:

When you are spending more time inside, you have more time to look at what needs to be refreshed. Now with low VOC paints, you don't have to worry about the smell. This is a quick, do-it-yourself project and a small investment can make a big difference.

Get organized:

So many people resolve to get organized at the New Year and winter is a great time to actually take action on that resolution. There are many great modular closet-organizing systems. A great antidote to cabin fever, you can clean up clutter in a room or a closet, and make it look like you have twice the space you did to begin with.

Did You Know?

A snowflake can take up to an hour to fall from the cloud to the surface of the Earth.

Mold in Your Home ?

Are you seeing mold in your home this winter? Mold requires three things to grow: MOISTURE, WARMTH, and FOOD.

Depriving mold of any of these three items will stop it from growing, but it will not kill the mold that is already there. Mold spores remain dormant, and if the moisture, warmth and food all reappear, mold will begin to grow again.



Mold on drywall under a leaky sink

The most important steps in controlling mold growth are to clean any existing mold and to eliminate excessive moisture.

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) offers a FREE "Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home", which includes mold basics, mold cleanup/guidelines, what to wear when cleaning, moisture and mold prevention and hidden mold.

For more information and the guide, please visit the EPA web site:
<http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldguide.html>
(or follow the link provided at the end of this newsletter)