

THE INSPECTORS' JOURNAL

Published by "The Inspector Platinum Group, Ltd"

Volume 3 Edition November 2011

Happy Thanksgiving!



This fall, the northeast can't get a break! First Hurricane Irene, then a freak early snow storm taking trees & power lines down leaving over 800.000 people without power, warmth, food and gasoline. Let's just hope it's a mild winter!



President Declares An Emergency For Connecticut

Release Date: October 31, 2011 Release Number: HQ-11-208

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that federal disaster aid has been made available to the State of Connecticut and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from a severe storm during the period of October 29-30, 2011.

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The President's action authorizes FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in all counties in the State of Connecticut.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize, and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures, limited to direct federal assistance, will be provided at 75 percent federal funding.

Stephen M. De Blasio Sr. has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area.

Follow FEMA online at blog.fema.gov, www.twitter.com/fema, www.facebook.com/fema, and www.youtube.com/fema. Also, follow Administrator Craig Fugate's activities at www.twitter.com/craigatfema.

The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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President Declares An Emergency For Massachusetts

Release Date: November 1, 2011

Release Number: HQ-11-209

[» More Information on Massachusetts Severe Storm](#)

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that federal disaster aid has been made available to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and ordered federal aid to supplement commonwealth and local recovery efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from a severe storm during the period of October 29-30, 2011.

The President's action authorizes FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save

lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the counties of Berkshire, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Worcester.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize, and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures, limited to direct federal assistance, will be provided at 75 percent federal funding.

Mark H. Landry has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area.

Follow FEMA online at blog.fema.gov, www.twitter.com/fema, www.facebook.com/fema, and www.youtube.com/fema. Also, follow Administrator Craig Fugate's activities at www.twitter.com/craigatfema.

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Annual Furnace Tune Up and Maintenance



Tune-up your furnace and watch your heating bills go down. We've all felt the pinch of rising home heating bills. In 2010, the average cost of heating a home for an American family was about \$1000. Anything you can

do to reduce that number is obviously well worth the effort. One thing that can help minimize your heating costs is giving your furnace a tune-up to ensure it is working efficiently.

A typical home heating (HVAC) system

Home heating systems basically consist of three parts. A heat sensor, or thermostat, measures the temperature in your home and determines when it needs to be raised. When the air temperature drops, the thermostat signals the heater and the blower to turn on. The combustion in the heater creates heat, while the blower moves air over the heat exchanger, raising its temperature and distributing it throughout the house by the heating ducts. Cooler room air is returned to the furnace through return ducts where it is warmed. The warm-air-out, cool-air in-cycle continues until the desired temperature is reached and the thermostat signals the furnace to shut down.

So, how do you tune up a furnace system?

HVAC systems are mechanical, so like all mechanical systems they do need to be maintained. A thorough professional tune up will cost you \$100 or more and is definitely something you should do every few years. However, you can do an annual tune up and maintenance process yourself, and save some of that money.

1. First take a look at your furnace. There shouldn't be any black soot or combustion residue on or around the furnace. Next, turn up the thermostat so your furnace comes on. Check the flames in the burner. They should be blue and steady, not yellow or orange and flickering. Soot build-up or yellow flames are an indication of poor combustion, and if you see any signs of either, call a professional technician to fix the problem.

2. Next, turn the thermostat back down and let your furnace cool. For extra safety, turn off the circuit breaker that powers your furnace. When the furnace is cool, remove the sides of your furnace and using a vacuum with a long nozzle, get rid of any dust that may have accumulated. Use a damp rag to clean the blades of the blower

fan and any other areas the vacuum couldn't reach. While you've got the sides off, check to see if your blower fan has oil cups at the ends of the central shaft (some are sealed units and don't need oiling). If there are cups there, give them a few drops of oil.

3. An electric motor and a fan belt drive many blower fans, while some are direct drive and don't use a fan belt. If your blower does have a fan belt, check its condition and tension. The underside should be free of cracks, but over time, age and heat will dry out the rubber belt and cause cracks. If there are cracks in the belt, replace it with one of the same size. Checking the tension of the belt is as simple as pushing down on it. There should be about 1/2 inch of play in a properly adjusted belt. If you have more or less movement than that, adjust the tension by loosening the electric motor mounts and moving the motor to create the proper tension.

4. Reattach the furnace panels, and turn the circuit breaker back on.

5. Finally, changing your furnace filter once a month during heating season is a good maintenance practice. So when you're doing your furnace tune up, get ready for the season by installing a fresh filter.

Now your furnace is ready for "Old Man Winter."

Stay Safe

Combustion creates Carbon Monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. Normally the CO

produced by the combustion in your furnace is exhausted up the chimney and out of your home. However, a furnace that is out of adjustment can leave CO in your home. You can help protect yourself from CO poisoning by installing a Carbon Monoxide detector in your furnace room. If the detector indicates any build up of Carbon Monoxide at any time, have your furnace professionally inspected immediately.

While doing your own tune up will help keep your furnace running efficiently, a professional inspection and tune up every few years is a good investment. The pros are the people who have the skills and equipment to ensure that any parts that might degrade over time are still functioning properly in your furnace.

Replacing The Belt On a Furnace Blower

by [DoItYourself Staff](#)

what you'll need

- Phillips Screwdriver
- Adjustable Wrench

Replacing the belt on a furnace blower is an easy and important step to keep your oil or gas heating system the best working order. Aside from the usual maintenance, it may also be necessary to replace the belt if your blower is not working properly or if it is making a lot of noise. Replacement belts can be purchased at a local or online retailer and this is a relatively quick and simple task that a homeowner can do on their own without the need to spend money hiring a professional.

Step 1: Preparing the Furnace for Maintenance

Locate your circuit breaker box and switch the breaker for your furnace off. There may a power switch on your furnace that can be switched off for extra safety as well. A good way to double check is to make sure your furnace is off is by turning the thermostat all the way up and waiting a minute or two to ensure that it doesn't start up. The motor has a lot of moving parts that could be dangerous when not handled properly. To do this job safely, this is the most important step.

Step 2: Accessing the Blower Belt

Most furnace blowers have an access panel on the housing that can be removed. On some furnaces, the panel slides right off the top of the chassis of the blower and on others, the panel door may be attached to the blower with screws on the top or side of the machine. Use the Phillips head screwdriver to unscrew the fastener screws and gently slide the panel up and off of the unit.

Step 3: Removing the Belt

To remove the belt. use your wrench to carefully loosen up the bolts. Make sure you don't loosen the bolts all the way. They only need to be loose enough to move the motor slightly in one direction. Move the motor and the blower closer together so the belt with no longer be pulled tight and will be ready to be removed. Pull the belt off and around the wheel pulley and then the motor pulley. Inspect for any debris that could interfere with the belt or motor.

Step 4: Replacing the Belt

When your new belt is ready and the area is clean and clear, the new belt can now be placed on the pulleys, motor side first, then the wheel side. Pull the motor back and away from the blower again, just slightly. The belt should be tight, but should give about a 1/2 inch when pressure is applied. You can test this by using the screwdriver to press gently on the belt in the middle of the two pulleys. When you get the motor in the position you want, tighten the bolts back down. Attach the panel back to the furnace, turn the circuit breaker back on and set your thermostat back to normal settings. After powering the furnace back up, the motor should be running quietly and efficiently.

How to Adjust Blower Belt Tension on a Forced Air Furnace

You have a **forced air furnace** in your house. Every time it starts up it squeals badly. You know that in a car this signifies that a belt is loose and slipping. In a forced air system, squeaking signifies the same thing. If you're hearing squeaking or squealing every time the furnace blower starts up, you will need to re-tension the belt that drives the blower fan. Below are the steps required to perform this operation and the tools you'll need.

Step 1: Gain Access

Before you can tighten the belt, you need to remove the blower access panel to get to the belt and motor. On some furnaces this will require a Phillips screwdriver, while others may require a straight slot and still others may require a wrench or nut driver. Turn off the power at the breaker panel first.

Step 2: Check the Belt

Once you have access to the belt, you need to check its condition. If you see chunks missing or cracks, loosen the motor adjusting bolts and remove the belt. Take it to an auto parts store and have them match the belt to a new one. If the belt is in good shape, push down on it in the center between the pulleys. If you can move it more than one inch, you need to adjust it.

Step 3: Tighten the Belt

To tighten the belt, loosen the one or two motor adjusting screws and using the 2X4, pry the motor away from the blower pulley. Once the desired tension has been reached, tighten the bolts securely and replace the access cover.

Troubleshooting a Noisy Forced Air Furnace

by [DoltYourself Staff](#)

The **forced air furnace** system is the standard in home heating. In this type of system, hot air is forced through a spiderweb of duct work that runs throughout the home. It eventually passes through the vents to heat the entire room. Over time, the forced air furnace may begin to get noisy for several reasons. Read on to learn how to determine the cause of the noise and how to fix it.

Listen and Learn

When your forced air furnace is too loud, you may only need to take the time to listen to it to find the cause of the noise. If you hear clanging, the problem will most likely be the fan or the grates shifting. A quieter noise might be the the duct work shifting.

Tighten the Screws

A forced air furnace has many components that must be screwed in place, including the fan, the grates and the duct work. As the air is forced through the system, it will cause metal to expand and then shrink once the hot air has stopped. This shifting coupled with the forced air can cause screws to eventually become loose. Go around the home with a screwdriver and tighten all of the screws located in the floor vents. Find the fan on the forced air furnace and tighten the fan as well as the grate.

Duct work is often connected with screws from section to section. Tighten these screws to keep that tight bond between the duct work sections.

Insulation

Many builders will not take the time to insulate a forced air furnace or the system. There are two different ways you can insulate the forced air furnace. The first is to wrap the actual furnace in aluminum backed foam board. You want a kind that is fireproof and you will need to cut it to fit as well as trimming out sections for pipe and duct. You attach the pieces with foil tape.

The other thing you can do is to insulate the duct work. The easiest thing you can do is to wrap the duct work with natural cotton insulation which will prevent sound from escaping. On top of the duct work you would wrap it with aluminum foil. This helps to keep the insulation in place but also stops heat from escaping the duct work.

Debris

There is usually no filter between the heat vent and the duct work which makes the duct work vulnerable to debris entering the duct work through the vents. Detach the duct work at the furnace and blow air through the vents. Any trapped debris will come out the duct.

5 Common Problems for a Forced Air Furnace

by DoItYourself Staff

A **forced air furnace** is a common design for heating many homes. They are popular as they deliver heated air across different rooms in the house. When installed together with a ventilation system, they work effectively to deliver air conditioned air as well. This kind of furnaces can be fueled by gas, electricity or oil.

Unbalanced Air Distribution

Some rooms in the house may become too hot or too cold due to the forced air furnace developing faults. In this case the problem lies with ducts and registers. In case they are not set properly within the furnace's system, they may malfunction and bring about an unbalanced forced air distribution system. Correct such problems by inspecting the entire furnace regularly. The best way to balance the system is while the furnace is turned on.

Faulty Blower Speed

To improve the flow of warm or cool air in the home, check that the blower speed is set correctly. Carry out regular inspections and make repairs on the device when necessary to keep it in good condition. Depending on the amount of warmth or cold being distributed throughout the house, the blower's speed can be increased or decreased to provide the desired effect. In this case, increase the speed to improve flow of warm air or decrease the speed to make the system operate quietly.

Speed can be increased or decreased by adjusting the pulley on the motor located at the blower.

Faulty Motor

If the motor and the blower pulley get out of place then the furnace may operate noisily. Another indication of such a problem is where by the distributions system functions inefficiently. Correct this problem by placing a carpenter's square against the outer parts of the motor and blower pulleys to align them.

Furnace Operating Noisily

This is evident through noise in the system such as vibrations. This is a result of air forced through the ducts. If they are not firmly fixed in position then they might vibrate and cause noise. Stop this problem by adding duct hangers to the ducting system. Wrap the hangers around the duct and use nails or screws to fasten and secure it to studs.

Heat Loss

To prevent heat loss in the heating system, consider using insulation. This commonly happens where ducts run through cold basements or open spaces. Avoid this problem by using spiral insulation around the ducting. To fasten it in position, duct tape or strong and firm wires can be used. Another idea is to wrap ducts with aluminum face insulating tape. This helps to prevent loss of heat from the system. It helps to save energy and lower fuel consumption in the furnace.

The best way to avoid problems in a forced air furnace is to check all components regularly and make timely repairs when necessary. Call in an expert once in a while to inspect the entire system. It will help maintain the furnace in good working condition, prevent health and fire hazards, save energy and money.



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EPA Takes Next Step to Cancel 20 Mouse and Rat Control Products Used in Homes

Action will reduce accidental exposures to harmful chemicals

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today took another step in the process to cancel 20 mouse and rat control products that do not adequately protect people, particularly young people, from exposure to toxic chemicals. EPA has determined that safer rodent control products are now widely available, effective, and affordable. The products EPA plans to remove from the consumer market are those that contain the most toxic and persistent active ingredients, products sold as loose bait and pellets and any remaining products without protective bait stations, which keep children, pets and other animals from accessing the enclosed rodenticide bait.

This action would further implement a 2008 decision in which EPA identified risk reduction measures to protect children, pets and wildlife from harmful chemicals in rodent control products. EPA asked manufacturers of consumer-use rodenticide products to adopt these new, more protective measures by June 2011. Many

companies now sell new products that meet the updated safety requirements. When used as directed, these products help consumers control household rodents and reduce accidental exposure. A list of these products and tips to safely control rodents is available on EPA's website:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mice-and-rats/consumer-prod.html>

As part of the administrative cancellation process in section 6(b) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA will convene its FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) to provide independent input on the scientific basis for the proposed cancellation of the 20 products. The public meeting will take place November 29 through December 1, 2011. EPA will also seek comment from the Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services prior to issuing a Notice of Intent to Cancel to the manufacturers of the non-conforming rodenticide products.

The companies that have not adopted the new more protective measures include: Reckitt Benckiser Inc. makers of D-Con, ; Spectrum Group makers of Hot Shot and Rid-a-Rat; and Liphatech Inc. makers of Generation rodent control products.

More information on EPA's review of rodenticides: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mice-and-rats>



NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC
20207

Office of Information and Public Affairs
4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814, www.CPSC.gov
Report an Unsafe Product: <http://SaferProducts.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 12, 2011
Release #12-009

CPSC Hotline: (800) 638-2772
CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

A Fire Safe Home: CPSC and NFPA Urge Consumers to Install Smoke Alarms, Practice a Family Escape Plan
Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) urge consumers to take time during Fire Prevention Week to check their homes for fire risks and to develop and practice a family escape plan.

CPSC estimates an annual average of more than 386,000 unintentional residential fires, nearly 2,400 deaths and more the 12,500 injuries each year from 2006 through 2008.

"Build layers of fire safety in your home," said CPSC Chairman Inez Tenenbaum. "Install smoke alarms on every floor and in every bedroom. If you already have smoke alarms, make sure they are working. Smoke alarms provide early warning of a potentially deadly fire and can reduce the risk of dying from fire in your home by almost half."

"Planning a home fire escape is an essential part of being prepared to act and get out quickly if a fire occurs," said NFPA President James M. Shannon. "Develop a fire escape plan that identifies two ways out of every room and a family meeting place outside. Practice your plan at least twice a year."

Safe practices, such as the following, are the first line of defense in preventing a fire in your home:

1. Install smoke alarms - A smoke alarm should be installed on every level of the home, outside sleeping areas and inside bedrooms. When it comes to surviving a fire, a smoke

alarm is critical for early detection of a fire and can mean the difference between life and death. About two-thirds of fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or smoke alarms that don't work.

Install both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms. Alarms should have battery backup. Consider installing interconnected smoke alarms because when one sounds, they all sound throughout the home.

2. Have a family escape plan - Develop and practice a family escape plan. Make sure everyone knows how to escape when the smoke alarm sounds, whether awake or asleep at the time. The best plans have two ways to get out of each room. Designate a meeting place outside. Once out, stay out! To help make a family escape plan, see this NFPA publication.

3. Cook safely - Stay in the kitchen and keep a watchful eye while you are cooking. Unattended cooking is the number one cause of cooking fires. Cooking equipment accounted for the largest percentage of home fires from 2006 through 2008 that were reported by fire departments. For this time period, CPSC estimates an annual average of nearly 150,000 cooking fires which is nearly 40 percent of unintentional residential fires. These fires resulted in an average of 150 deaths each year.

4. Fireplace safety - Have fireplace flues and chimneys inspected for leakage and blockage from creosote or debris every year. Store fireplace ashes in a fire-resistant container, and cover the container with a lid. Keep the container outdoors and away from combustibles. Dispose of ashes carefully, keeping them away from dry leaves, trash or other combustible materials.

Heating and cooling equipment accounted for the second-largest percentage of home fires from 2006 through 2008. CPSC estimates an annual average of nearly 57,000 fires and 220 deaths during that time period. Fireplaces and chimneys represented the majority of those fires with an annual average of nearly 27,000 from 2006 through 2008.

5. Electrical safety - CPSC estimates there was an annual average of 150 deaths from 2006 through 2008 attributable to electrical components.

Check the ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in your home to make sure they're working. GFCIs can prevent electrocution. CPSC recommends installing GFCIs in the kitchen, bathrooms and other areas where the risk of electric shock is higher.

Install arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs). AFCIs are designed to protect against fires caused by arcing faults in a home's electrical wiring.

For more information, see CPSC's "Home Electrical Safety Checklist."

6. Avoid mattress fires - Don't allow children to play with candles, lighters or smoking materials. Extinguish candles before you leave the room. Buy a mattress that meets the federal flammability standards. The open flame standard limits the intensity of mattress fires and provides more escape time for consumers.

7. Use caution when smoking - Smoking materials caused the most deaths in residential fires, an average of 600 deaths each year from 2006 through 2008. Don't smoke in bed.

8. Don't use gel fuel in firepots - CPSC has recalled millions of bottles of gel fuel due to burn and flash-fire hazards. The pourable gel fuel can ignite unexpectedly and splatter onto people and objects nearby when it is poured into a firepot that is still burning. Contact the manufacturer to return the product for a full refund. There have been deaths associated with gel fuel.

To see this release on CPSC's web site, including links to various documents mentioned, please go to:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml12/12009.html>



Federal Aid Programs For The State Of Connecticut Emergency

Release Date: October 31, 2011

Release Number: HQ-11-208Factsheet

Assistance for the State and Affected Local Governments Can Include *as Required*:

- FEMA is authorized to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the designated areas.
- Specifically, FEMA is authorized to provide emergency protective measures (Category B), limited to direct Federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program at 75 percent Federal funding.

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Last Modified: Wednesday, 02-Nov-2011 10:46:37



Go Green! Monthly Newsletter

EPA for Concerned Citizens

Information by Audience

- [Businesses and Non-Profits](#)
- [Concerned Citizens](#)
- [Media](#)
- [Public Health Officials](#)
- [Scientists and Researchers](#)
- [Students and Educators](#)
- [State and Local Governments](#)
- [Tribes](#)

[Take action - United We Serve](#) - Learn more about programs that offer volunteer opportunities to protect the environment.

[Learn about Your Right to Know](#) - Right-to-know laws provide information about possible chemical exposures. Discover resources EPA provides the public in the spirit of right-to-know.

[Search for and Comment on Regulations](#) - Our proposed regulations are almost always open to the public for comment. Your participation leads to better regulations.

[At Home and in the Garden](#) - Tips for home safety, avoiding potential risks, and preventing pollution by recycling and conserving water and energy. [More tips for a green fall.](#)

[At Work](#) - Information about preventing pollution in your workplace, and raising awareness of health and safety issues.

[At School](#) - Whether you are a student or a teacher in a class about the environment, EPA has lots of educational resources to offer you.

While Shopping - Find helpful information on how to choose makes and models that will reduce pollution, save energy and money.

In Your Community - Learn how to protect your neighborhood's natural resources, and get information on air and water quality in your community. [Search your ZIP code area](#) for information about facilities, emissions, and more.

Community Health - Learn about actions your community can take on concerns about environmental public health issues.

On the Road - Consumer information about the environmental impacts of transportation plus tips on cleaner cars, saving gas and improving mileage, boating pollution prevention tips, and more.

Think Globally - Learn about environmental issues that impact our world.

Act Locally - Learn about programs, opportunities, and tools to help you get involved and make a difference in your community.

Report a Violation or Emergency - Information on potential environmental violations and how to report a suspicious situation. To report oil and chemical spills, call the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802. [Information on natural disasters](#)

Children's Health - Information on how to protect children from toxins, the sun, lead, and other potential environmental health threats.

Natural Disasters and Weather Emergencies: Homeowners, parents, caregivers, and others - preparing for natural disasters can greatly reduce the risks to health and the environment. Learn how you can reduce risks of contamination caused by hurricanes or floods, and stay safe when you lose power or there's an accidental spill.

- #1 Safety Tip: Generator exhaust is toxic. Always put generators outside well away from doors, windows, and vents. [Read more from CPSC](#)



Web Site of the Month: <http://www.wavehomesolutions.com/>

How to Stop Hard Water from Damaging Your Home
and Save \$1200 a Year



In a housing market still struggling to recover from the economic recession, most homeowners are concerned with keeping the values of their home up, and their energy bills down.

And, while people focus on energy costs, few realize that a typical household can waste hundreds of dollars in inefficient performance of appliances and up to 12,000 gallons of water annually. If you're one of the 85 percent of homes with hard water, you're probably one of them.

Luckily, there is something you can do about it.

Hard water is a problem because it has high mineral content. This leads to limescale buildup when calcium and magnesium minerals from the water attach to pipes and heating coils. Limescale will continue to grow inside pipes and heating coils, but you won't realize it until it restricts your water flow and reduces heat-transferring capability in your appliances.

Mineral limescale buildup can cost homeowners a lot of money if left unattended. That's because your appliances expend more energy to penetrate through the mineral buildup which means more energy (often a whopping 30 percent) and more water used in the heating process.

Is hard water costing you big time? If any of the statements below describe your home, chances are you have a hard water problem:

- Dishes come out of the dishwasher with spots on them;
- Water heaters and other hot water appliances need frequent repairs;
- There is mineral buildup on your faucets, showerheads, and bathtub;
- Water pressure is decreasing through your showerheads and faucets.

Traditionally, homeowners fought these problems with salt or chemical based water softeners that are costly and required expensive installation and maintenance. Many of these solutions are harmful to the environment and are being banned in many communities, leaving homeowners searching for alternatives.

The good news today is the development of new affordable solutions and technologies that make it easy and worthwhile to get rid of the hard water scourge.

One company in particular has introduced a remarkable device that eliminates limescale buildup throughout your entire home. It's called HydroCare from **WAVE Home Solutions**. It's an environmentally-friendly, maintenance-free technology that saves homeowners an average of \$1,200 every year.

HydroCare uses a non salt, chemical-free approach to prevent minerals from crystallizing inside your pipes and heating coils. It transmits a specially designed electric field to help the calcium and magnesium minerals to form crystals and stay suspended in water rather than on pipes and appliances.

You simply clip the compact HydroCare unit to the pipe of your water heater, and then plug it into an outlet. It begins working right away, transmitting a patented signal into your entire water system. The signal is continuously transmitting and operating preventing minerals from depositing on the inside of your pipes. It also dissolves existing buildup of lime scale and treats the water throughout your entire house. It's safe, harmless, maintenance-free, and it's guaranteed.

It's also incredibly cost effective, so it pays for itself in a short amount of time through energy savings, water conservation, and extended appliance life.

The company also offers a unique, one year performance guarantee on all HydroCare units. If, after one year of installation, you are not satisfied with the effectiveness and benefits of your HydroCare unit, they will refund you the price of the unit.

So, while increasing energy bills are a problem for everyone, new technologies like this are allowing a growing number of Americans to stop paying significant hidden costs from hard water in their homes.

This article sponsored by **Wave Home Solutions** Copyright Howlifeworks.com 2011

Do you often find yourself frustrated with:

- Spots on newly washed dishes from your dishwasher?
- Short-lived water heaters and other hot water appliances?
- Mineral buildup on your faucets, showerheads and bathtub?
- Poorly washed clothes from your washing machine?

If so, chances are you have hard water. Hard water (compared to "soft water") has high mineral content, and the daily frustration you're experiencing is the manifestation of a much larger problem: Limescale buildup. 85% of American homes have hard water. Left untreated, minerals in hard water collect inside appliances and pipes, reducing their effectiveness and lifespan, and slapping homeowners with an energy loss up to a whopping 30%. Ugly limescale buildup also clogs plumbing system pipes, leading to lower water pressure throughout your entire home.

Without the use of ineffective magnetic coils, salts or chemicals WAVE Home Solutions' cutting-edge HydroCare system eliminates limescale buildup throughout your entire home, both preventing it and breaking down what's already there, through easily installed, environmentally friendly, maintenance-free technology that saves homeowners an average of \$1,200 every year.

Membership

Visit our web

- Licensed or Registered inspector Membership per year is only \$155
- Intern or Trainee inspector Membership per year, is only \$140
- Inspector membership with no State requirements is only \$140
- Over 48 FREE Continuing Education Courses online with CT credit Towards license renewals

Additional Membership Benefits

- **Informational Links to just about everything you can imagine**
- **Monthly newsletter**
- **Private message board**
- **E-Mail notices of pressing issues**
- **Low rate E&O insurance available**
- **Web site contact listing**
- **Free link to you own web site**
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This newsletter is brought to you by

The Inspector Platinum Group, Ltd.

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King Tut Publishing & Communications