

MIKE'S Tool Box

Mike Forner's Home Services:



**MY MISSION IS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY BY PROVIDING PROMPT,
COMPREHENSIVE, EXPERT HOME MAINTENANCE AND
REPAIRS. I WILL TREAT YOUR HOME AS IF IT WERE MY OWN!**



5 Reasons Your House Is Drafty

1

The Culprit: Spaces under outside or basement doors.

The Fix: If a door has an adjustable threshold, it should be snug with the rubber strip when the door is closed. Use a door sweep for gaps of a quarter inch or more.

2

The Culprit: Ducts in unfinished basements, garages, and crawl spaces.

The Fix: Turn up your fan and hold a lit piece of incense next to the ducts; if smoke begins to blow, air is escaping. Cover duct cracks with Mastic, or hire a contractor.

3

The Culprit: The attic hatch.

The Fix: To prevent heat from leaking out of an access hatch, use a weather-stripping kit. For pull-down stairs, purchase insulated attic-stair covers.

4

The Culprit: Recessed lights.

The Fix: These act like little chimneys, pumping air in and out of the space above. To stop this, buy covers that fit around your lights or replace them with LED retrofitted recessed lights.

5

The Culprit: Openings around pipes and wires in the attic.

The Fix: To find gaps leaking warm air, look for darkened insulation or chilly spots. Fill spaces with minimal-expanding weatherizing foam, and replace the insulation.

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*Stay tuned for next month's front-page article on preparing for
severe winter weather!*



Upcoming Events In September That Might Interest You...



* Labor Day is Monday, September 1st.



* Patriot Day is Thursday, September 11th.



* Fall begins on Tuesday, September 23rd.



* University of Michigan Home Football
Schedule for September 2014:

When: 09/13/2014

Who: Miami (Ohio)

Where: Michigan Stadium, Ann Arbor, MI

What Time: 3:30pm ET

When: 09/20/2014

Who: Utah

Where: Michigan Stadium, Ann Arbor, MI

What Time: TBA

When: 09/27/2014

Who: Minnesota

Where: Michigan Stadium, Ann Arbor, MI

What Time: TBA



9 Ways To Save On Home Heating



The fall season is officially here and winter will be right around the corner. If you haven't had to yet, eventually the cold will set in and heating your home will be inevitable. Everyone loves a cozy and warm home in the winter, but along with heating comes the reality of the energy costs associated with it. Here are 10 ways to help you save money heating your home to help keep your energy costs down.

1.) Use a programmable thermostat: Even though your home has a thermostat, make sure you can program it when to come on and go off. When you depend on a person to regulate the thermostat, human comfort and error will cause you to use more energy. A programmable thermostat will automatically adjust – even when you are away from your home.

2.) Heat your home with zones: If your home is large or multi-story, consider having different heating units for different 'zones' or areas of your home. This will cut down on how long your unit runs, it will also allow you to only heat the areas of your home that are occupied.

3.) Turn down the heat at night: The evening hours are the most expensive time to run your heat due to colder temperatures outside. Turn down your heat once your family goes to bed, and put heavier blankets on their beds. Since you are asleep, your body will make its own heat, and therefore will not need as much house heating.

4.) Run ceiling fans in reverse: Ceiling fans are not only for keeping your room cool. Warm air rises and can get trapped at the ceiling level. Turning a ceiling fan to the reverse option will bring the warm air down from the ceiling. For homes with vaulted or high ceilings, this is especially helpful.

5.) Insulate windows and doors: In the wintertime, keeping your heat inside your home is the goal. Insulate windows and doors with weather stripping to avoid heat and air infiltration. Check the sweep below your exterior doors to ensure cold air is not entering below the door. Have replaced if necessary.

6.) Have your heating system serviced: The efficiency of your heating system is largely due to how well it operates. Have your heating system serviced by a heating professional annually.

7.) Check your attic insulation: Much of the heat in your home is lost through the ceiling and then through your attic. Ensure that your attic has enough insulation and it is of high quality. R-30 value is recommended and for colder climates R-40 or R-50 should be used.

8.) Let the sun in: During the winter we tend to keep our window treatments closed, open them up to allow sunshine to warm your home. The sunlight will physically and mentally warm your home and your spirits!

9.) Upgrade your appliances: If your appliances are more than 8-10 years old, they could be replaced with more energy efficient models. Different countries have energy efficiency programs initiated in their area. In the United States, Energy Star appliances have been tested to be 10% more energy efficient than the competition. Your energy costs are largely determined by how efficiently your appliances use energy.

As the colder weather grows near, consider ways to make your home more energy efficient. Similarly to the summer months, the winter months can mean high energy costs. Use the 10 tips to see a difference in your monthly energy costs. Who knows, you may save money and help the earth at the same time. Bundle up, and turn your heat down, it will make you and your wallet happier.



Patriot Day In United States



Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Many Americans refer to Patriot Day as 9/11 or September 11.

What do people do?

On the direction of the President, the flag of the United States of America should be displayed on the homes of Americans, the White House and all United States government buildings in the whole world. The flag should be flown at half-mast as a mark of respect to those who died on September 11, 2001. Many people observe a moment of silence at 8:46 AM (Eastern Daylight Time). This marks the time that

the first plane flew into the World Trade Center. Some communities, particularly in the areas directly affected by the attacks, hold special church services or prayer meetings. People who personally experienced the events in 2001 or lost loved ones in them, may lay flowers or visit memorials.

Public life

Patriot Day is not a federal holiday and schools and businesses do not close. Public transit systems run on their regular schedules. Some people and organizations may take some time out to hold prayers for the victims of the attacks, but these do not usually affect public life for more than a few minutes.

Background

On September 11, 2001, four planes were hijacked. The hijackers then deliberately flew three of the planes into two important buildings, the Pentagon in Washington DC and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The fourth crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The loss of life and damage that these hijackings caused form the biggest act of terrorism ever on United States soil. Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks and the economic impact was immense.

The attacks have greatly increased attention to national security in the United States. This has had huge implications for United States national and international politics. This is particularly true for the relationships between the United States and Islamic countries in the Middle East.

Symbols

The most potent symbol of the events that happened on September 11, 2001 are pictures and videos of planes flying into buildings, of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center engulfed in smoke and later collapsing and of people falling from buildings. Pictures taken of damaged buildings and relatives looking for loved ones in the days and weeks after the attacks are also often shown. The flag of the United States is often displayed around images of the events on September 11, 2001. This is to remind Americans that their country remained strong in the face of massive terrorist attacks.



Spicy Grits With Chorizo, Leeks & Corn Recipe

Ingredients:

- 2 Spanish chorizo, sliced 1/4 inch thick
- 3 leeks, thinly sliced
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 1 28-ounce can diced tomatoes
- kosher salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup grits or polenta
- 2 cups corn kernels, fresh or thawed frozen
- 1 large bunch spinach, tough stems removed

Directions:

1. Cook the chorizo over medium-high heat in a large saucepan until browned, about 3 minutes. Spoon off and discard any fat.
2. Add the leeks and garlic and cook, stirring until slightly soft, about 2 minutes.
3. Add the tomatoes and their liquid, 2 cups water, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper and bring to a boil.
4. Stir in the grits. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook, stirring often, until the grits are tender and slightly thickened, about 10 minutes.
5. Add the corn and spinach and cook, stirring, just until the spinach wilts. Divide among individual bowls.

When September Arrives, Again

*And there will be no mourning in the sound
of yellow buses crushing yellow leaves
when fall is drifting sideways to the ground.*

*The call of running feet, of rushing down,
will stir the brittle silence of the trees,
and there will be no mourning in the sound.*

*And I will walk the long way into town
through drifts of falling leaves and looks and
feet*

when fall is drifting, sideways, to the ground,

*and when the other mothers press around
and pity me, I'll laugh, and take my leave,
and there will be no mourning in the sound.*

*Your smile will break the chill. You will be
found
and safe, and tell me why you had to leave,
when fall was drifting sideways to the ground.*

*Then we will stir the silence, rushing down
to chase the yellow light through yellow
leaves,
and there will be no mourning in the sound,
when fall is drifting sideways to the ground.*

- Rebekah Kerr



Wise Home Owner Tip:

7 Smart Exterior Upgrades

1. Add Pizzazz With a Pediment

Exterior crown molding and a pediment used over a front door create a cohesive and attractive entry for a classic, formal-style home. Always choose trim that complements the architectural look and style of your house.

2. Build Stone Columns

Columns on stone-faced pedestals are a nice option for a rustic-style home. Proportion is very important with columns. You want to think about it ahead of time. We've all seen columns that are too skinny for a porch.

3. Try Out Dentil Molding

The small rectangular blocks that look like a row of spaced teeth are called dentil molding. This Victorian-style molding in a synthetic material costs less than \$5 a foot.

4. Construct a Charming Walkway

Add sophistication and wow factor to your Cape Cod, cottage, Colonial or Tudor with a stone walkway. Using real stone for a walkway gives you added detail of quality and it can be used to connect your hardscape with your architecture.

5. Be Whimsical With Trim

Use wood or paintable cellular PVC gingerbread trim, intricate-cut and pierced frieze boards, braced arches and scrolled brackets to add personality to Victorian-style cottages.

6. Install Rustic Wooden Brackets

Exterior brackets used under eaves can be decorative or functional, and add a rustic touch to a mountain house. Wooden brackets can range in cost from \$25 to \$60 and up.

7. Make an Entrance With Lighting

If you currently have only one ceiling light in the center of your entry or front porch, consider upgrading your lighting by adding surface-mounted lanterns. A better lighting approach for your entry helps invite guests into your home.

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Did You Know...

That if your washer hoses are more than five years old, you should have them replaced with ones made from braided stainless steel? This is a very small investment that can eliminate thousands of dollars worth of damage that can be caused by hoses that fail.

Uplifting Quote of The Month

*"Nothing can stop the man with the right
mental attitude; nothing on earth can help
the man with the wrong mental attitude."*

~ Thomas Jefferson

Joke Of The Month

A mom was nervous the night she and her husband took their three young sons to a fancy restaurant for the first time.

Her husband ordered a bottle of wine with the meal. When the waitress brought it, the children became quiet as she began the ritual uncorking.

She poured a small amount for mom to taste, at that moment, the six-year-old piped up, 'Mom drinks a lot more than that!'