

THE BUZZ...News You Can Use

MAY 2025

Published by your *Restoration Hero!*



**Electrical
SAFETY
MONTH**

Electricity is an important part of our lives. It's not until we lose power that we realize how much we rely on electricity. From lighting the way once darkness falls to keeping our perishables fresh for our consumption, electricity is there for us when we're charging our phones, typing on our computers, watching the news, and washing our clothing.

Relying on the sun to see and on a cooler of ice to keep our food leads to our appreciation for electricity during blackouts. While electricity is at times essential and at other times comforting and convenient, it can also be a hazard when not properly harnessed.

We take for granted that electricity is safe. If you've ever suffered an electric shock, you've felt the power of electricity. Even in our natural world, electricity is a factor. That's why we should head for cover at the first sign of

lightning. And yet this potential hazard runs freely through our homes, and yet we think nothing of flipping a switch on the wall or clicking on a lamp next to the couch. The more we know of the potential hazards that electricity can bring into our lives, the better we can safeguard our families and our homes against these hazards.

The third leading cause of home fires, electrical system fires result in more than 500 deaths, 1,400 injuries, and \$1.3 billion in damage to property every year, according

See "Electrical SAFETY" on next page

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ELECTRICAL continued from page 1

to the EFSI. 65% of those deaths result from fires in homes without a working smoke detector. There are an estimated 51,000 home electrical fires every year with arcing faults responsible for 28,000 of those home fires, causing deaths, injuries, and \$700 million in property damage. 5,300 fires involve electrical receptacles every year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), causing 40 deaths and more than 100 injuries.

NFPA recommends you hire only a qualified electrician to do all electrical work in your home, including general inspections when buying or selling your home. You can protect your family and your home from electrical fires, one of the top causes of home fires. Because electrical fires can happen anywhere in your home, inspect the electrical system in your home, and pay attention to the following items:

Install smoke detectors outside every sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Test smoke detectors on a monthly basis.

Cover the electrical receptacles with safety plugs if you have young children in the home. Replace missing or broken wall plates that cover wiring.

Hire a certified electrician to install additional electrical receptacles if your home relies on extension cords, which should only be used on a temporary basis.

Loose-fitting outlets can cause a shock or fire risk. If a cord cannot be plugged securely into the outlet, it should be replaced.

Hold a plug securely when pulling it from the wall. Pulling from the cord or yanking the plug can cause wear on the cord, which increases the risk of a short circuit, an electric shock, or a fire.

Discard cords or plugs that are cracked, frayed, or worn.

Do not run electrical cords beneath high-traffic areas of carpeting or rugs.

Keep electrical cords away from sources of heat and water.

Replace two-pronged (non-grounding) electrical receptacles with three-pronged (grounding) receptacles. This may require hiring an electrician to replace non-grounded wiring.

Do not staple electrical cords to floors, walls, or other objects. Ensure light bulb wattage matches the fixture requirements. Securely screw in light bulbs to prevent overheating.

Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry room, basement, garage, and outdoor receptacles. Test your GFCIs on a monthly basis.

Call **ServiceFirst Restoration** for more tips and recommendations.

The Good Life



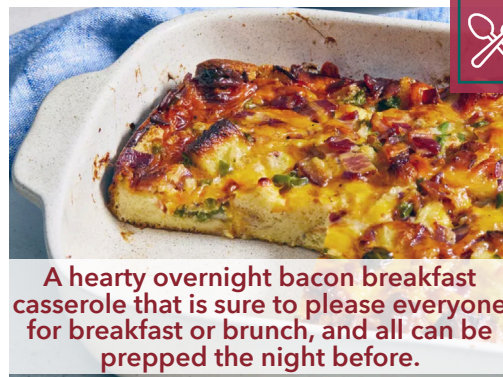
Good Clean Funnies

What animal needs to wear a wig?
A bald eagle!

Why do shoemakers go to heaven?
Because they have good soles.

Why couldn't the pony sing in the choir? Because she was a little horse!

Why is a snake difficult to fool?
You can't pull its leg!



A hearty overnight bacon breakfast casserole that is sure to please everyone for breakfast or brunch, and all can be prepped the night before.

Overnight Bacon BRUNCH Casserole

Directions

Grease a 9x13-inch pan. Layer brioche cubes evenly in the prepared pan.

Cook the bacon in a skillet over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until it is cooked through, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat, including any rendered bacon fat, and allow to cool slightly, about 5 minutes.

Heat a small amount of bacon fat in the same skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté onion and bell pepper until soft, 5 to 7 minutes.

Beat eggs in a large bowl. Mix milk, cheese, mustard powder, pepper, and salt into the beaten eggs. Mix in bacon and onion-bell pepper mixture when done. Pour the egg mixture over the brioche bread cubes and give it a gentle stir so everything is evenly distributed. Gently press the cubes into the egg mixture as needed, so all the bread cubes are sitting in the liquid. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours, to overnight.

Preheat the oven to 350° F. Bake in the preheated oven on the middle rack until set, the top is browned, and a toothpick inserted into the center of the casserole comes out clean, 45 to 55 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool before serving, 5 to 10 minutes.

Ingredients

- 12** slices brioche, cut into 1" cubes
- 1/2** pound bacon, cut into 1/2-inch pieces, or more to taste
- 1/2** medium onion, finely chopped
- 1** green bell pepper, diced (optional)
- 8** medium eggs, or more to taste
- 1 1/4** cups milk
- 1** cup grated Cheddar cheese
- 1** teaspoon mustard powder
- 1/2** teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2** teaspoon salt

Recipe courtesy allrecipes.com



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Help Reduce Plastic Waste and SAVE Our Planet

The plastic problem in our oceans seems daunting, but if everyone does a little, the changes will make a big difference. Here's what you can do today to help.

Wondering about your own plastic footprint? **Take the QUIZ...** (blueparadox.com/en/plastic-waste-crisis) to let you know for sure. Be honest with your answers, and the quiz will calculate the number of pounds per year you contribute to the plastic landscape.

Reduce your use of single-use plastic where you can. This is easier than you might think. Small, tangible actions such as avoiding single-use plastics like utensils and coffee cups, and swapping out your single-use plastic water bottles for a reusable one, can make a huge difference.

Recycle your plastic. Pop it in the bin! It has never been easier to recycle plastic. Most

rigid plastics today are recyclable. One tip: Give yours a quick rinse before tossing it into your recycling bin.

Buy products made from recycled plastic. When you're buying plastic products, look for ones made from recycled plastic. Windex bottles, for example, have been made from 100% post-consumer recycled plastic since 2015. Windex also has the industry's first bottle made with 100% recovered coastal plastic from a major home cleaning brand. Let's all work together to create a huge market for products made from recycled plastic and watch how quickly we clean up this problem.

If everyone - including industry - does their part, we can reduce the amount of plastics in our oceans. A little effort today can ensure a more beautiful tomorrow.

Get SMART About Your Car Insurance



Consumers are facing increasing costs on virtually every purchase these days and auto insurance is no exception. Some of the common causes for higher insurance rates are inflation, car accidents, extreme weather conditions such as hail, hurricanes and wind, along with increased vehicle theft claims.

Here are some tips for lowering your insurance costs:

Review your deductibles with your insurance agent - It is recommended that you review your coverage and deductible at least once a year. Their experience can help you make better decisions regarding your insurance.

Explore car insurance discounts - In addition to bundling your home and auto insurance, discounts are offered for multi-cars, good drivers, good students and auto pay. See what additional discounts your agent may to offer.

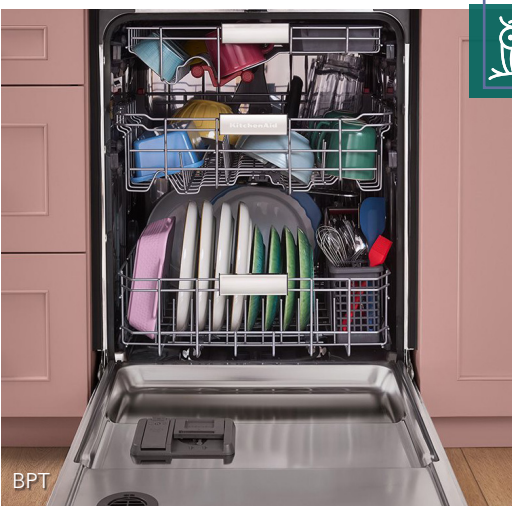
Let Your Insurer Track Your Driving - Most insurers offer discounts for customers who install telematics. This technology allows your insurance company to collect information regarding your mileage and driving habits. This can also provide valuable information regarding your driving as well as saving you money.

Drive a safe car with low repair costs - According to a recent study, some of the cheapest cars to insure are the Subaru Outback, Honda CR-V and Honda Pilot. Also, look for cars with lower repair costs such as the Toyota Corolla, Toyota Prius and Tesla Model 3. Doing some research before you purchase a vehicle can save you money over the length of ownership.

Install an anti-theft device on your car - Drivers may receive an additional discount if you install an anti-theft device on your car.



While skyrocketing costs of car insurance can be attributed to everything from parts replacement to service - consumers can better manage these increases with thoughtful study and attention to detail.



TIPS on How to BEST Load your Dishwasher

1. Let go of rinsing - Most modern dishwashers have built-in sensors that measure the soil level of each load. Simply scrape off excess food and debris before loading.

2. Make sure everything is dishwasher safe - Don't clutter your dishwasher with items that don't belong, like wooden utensils, bowls, cutting boards (they might warp), cast iron and non-stick pans and silver or enamel (heat and detergent can ruin these finishes), Fine China (it breaks and chips easily).

3. Load for maximum spray - Angle items downward, toward the center of the rack to enable the maximum amount of spray jets to reach all surfaces. Avoid close nesting or overlapping. Don't block the spray from reaching dishes.

4. Think rack by rack - Start at the top - load smaller, lighter items like mugs, stemware, small plates and bowls. Lay large utensils flat on an upper rack - putting them in the utensil holder

could block the lower spray arm. Load smaller utensils on the upper rack - make sure they won't fall through open spaces. Load plastic containers on an upper rack away from the heating element to prevent warping or melting.

The lower rack is for large items like plates and cookware. Alternating large and small items helps spray arms reach all surfaces. Place soiled pans, bowls and casserole dishes on their sides. Oversized items like cutting boards or pans are best laid down on their sides or placed around the perimeter so the spray arm isn't impeded.

Finally, load utensil handles down in the holder, except for knives. Insert them blades down to protect fingers during emptying.

Pro tip: Unload dishwasher in reverse order, starting with cutlery and the bottom rack - this avoids having any water that's pooled in dishes in upper racks from splashing on items below while you're unloading.



One question has persisted in households everywhere: Is there a right way to load a dishwasher? The answer is YES.

Upcoming Events... *Don't miss out!*

Register at callservicefirst.com/events

VIRTUAL PASSWORD GAME

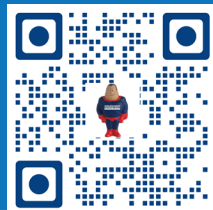
May 13th from 12-1pm, Register at
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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Back to School Campaign

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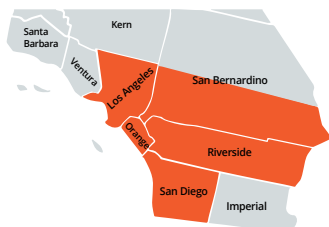
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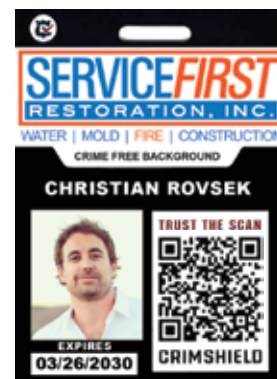


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