

THE BUZZ...News You Can Use

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Silent, SMALL Leaks can be BIG TROUBLE

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It may seem like a minor thing, but the small, slow, silent leak can result in severe damage to your home by the time it's discovered. Because they can go unnoticed for so long, such leaks can result in serious mold problems in addition to considerable structural damage. And improperly drying out such damage can multiply your mold problem by spreading it to other areas of your home, including your air conditioner and the AC air ducts.

Over time, a seemingly insignificant leak can cause expensive damage and provide a breeding ground for mold. In addition, certain pests such as ants, roaches and termites are attracted to these reliable water sources and may choose to set up housekeeping by building nests and raising their young inside your walls, above your ceilings and under your floors.

The problem is that these leaks can be hard to spot.

And even if you see evidence of them, finding the actual source can be nearly impossible. The average home has over 300 feet of plumbing pipes, including supply lines, drains, sewer lines and vent pipes. A single small drip from one of these pipes can go undetected for years. When you finally see a visible sign, it may be nowhere near the actual leak. Water follows the path of least resistance, making leak location a tricky proposition.

See "SILENT LEAKS" on next page

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"SILENT LEAKS" from page 1

Water can also enter your home through the foundation. As a house settles, small cracks can develop in the concrete slab, block foundation and brick mortar.

Think about the appliances like your ice maker, water heater, washing machine, dishwasher, garbage disposal, and the water dispenser on your refrigerator. All of those connections, drains and pumps represent potential leaks.

Then there are the gutters and downspouts. They are designed to take large amounts of water from the roof and divert it away from the house and foundation. Clogged downspouts can cause water to overrun the gutters allowing water to enter the home at the eaves.

With all these potential leak sources, there is a good chance you have an undetected leak, water damage or even mold in your home. What should you do?

First, take a good look around. The most common sign of a leak is discolored wood, drywall or flooring. A musty, damp odor is also an indication of unwanted moisture and should be investigated.

If you see mold growing on any surface inside or outside your home, don't ignore it. It is a sign of prolonged exposure to moisture or high humidity.

If you have an attic, inspect the roof decking. Dark spots, mold or musty odors indicate there is a leak. Where pipes, vents and chimneys penetrate the roof, look for daylight, which is a sign the flashing or boots need to be sealed, caulked or replaced. If you suspect a leak, contact a qualified roofing contractor for an inspection.

One way to check for plumbing leaks is to turn off all faucets and water-consuming appliances like your ice-maker. Then go to the water meter and take a picture of the reading. Go run some errands for an hour or two,

making sure that no one uses any water in the home. Check the meter when you get back. If you have a leak, the meter will show that water was consumed.

Look around the perimeter of your house – inside and out – for swollen or warped baseboards, deteriorated paint and rotted wood. Carefully check around windows and doors, both inside and out, for cracks, decayed wood and missing caulk.

Also remember the damage is usually worse than it appears. A small amount of mold on a wall surface may be the only clue there is a major mold problem inside the wall cavity.

ServiceFirst Restoration is here to help correct any moisture or mold related problems in your home or business. If you suspect you have a problem, call us. We use special inspection equipment that makes it much easier for us to pinpoint the problem and propose a solution. Don't wait until that tiny leak becomes a major headache.

The Good Life



Good Clean Funnies

What do you call fake noodles?
Im-pasta!

Why is dark spelled with a K and not a C?
Because you can't see in the dark.

How does a vampire start a letter?
Tomb it may concern!

Why do hummingbirds hum?
Because they don't know the words!



This Halloween spider hot dog recipe uses crescent rolls for a spooky twist on pigs in a blanket. Kids love them.

Ingredients

- 1 (8-ounce) can refrigerated crescent rolls
- 8 hot dogs
- 2 tablespoons ketchup, or to taste

Prep Time: 20 mins

Cook Time: 15 mins

Total Time: 35 mins

Servings: 8

Recipe courtesy allrecipes.com

SPOOKY SPIDER Halloween Hot Dogs

Directions

Preheat the oven to 375°F.

Unroll crescent dough; pinch or press perforation between triangles to form 4 rectangular pieces. Cut each rectangle in half lengthwise to form 8 narrow strips. Set aside.

Cut a 2-inch slice through center of one end of 1 hot dog; cut two more 2-inch slices on either side of original slice, so "legs" are about the same thickness. Repeat on the other end of hot dog. Repeat cutting slices ("legs") into remaining 7 hot dogs.

Roll 1 crescent strip around center of each dog. Place spider dogs on an ungreased baking sheet.

Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown, about 11 minutes. Dip a chopstick into ketchup; dot "eyes" onto each spider. Serve spider dogs with remaining ketchup.



Why VENTILATION in Your Home is IMPORTANT to your Health



Most homeowners focus on visible features like kitchens, flooring and smart technology. But there's one system that matters just as much, and it's hidden behind your walls. That system is your home's ventilation.

Think of your home's ventilation system as its lungs. It brings in fresh outdoor air and removes stale indoor air. Good ventilation means fresher air throughout your home, better moisture control, and fewer odors and indoor pollutants.

Every home needs proper ventilation. Whether you live in a cold northern region, a hot and humid southern state or anywhere in between, proper ventilation keeps your home comfortable, healthy and structurally sound.

Modern homes are designed to be super energy-efficient, which means they're sealed more carefully than ever before. The downside? That same seal that saves on your electric bill also traps stale air, humidity and cooking odors inside. Some pull air out of your home and hope fresh air seeps in through cracks and gaps. Others push air in and hope stale air escapes the same way. Neither approach works well in today's airtight homes.

The result? Uneven comfort, excess moisture, condensation on windows, lingering cooking odors, and a buildup of indoor pollutants from everyday activities like showering and cleaning. Exhaust-only systems can create negative pressure, allowing moisture and contaminants to seep into your walls. Supply-only systems trap moisture inside, increasing the risk of mold and long-term damage to your roof, walls, foundation and insulation.

So, how can you ensure your new home provides the ventilation you need for good indoor air quality, long-term home performance and year-round comfort in any climate? Ask an expert on modern ventilation and look at all the options available. Homeowners who prioritize balanced ventilation can enjoy fresher indoor air, improve comfort and have greater confidence that their home is performing as it was intended.

Plan Ahead NOW to Save on Energy Bills this WINTER



Worried about rising energy costs as you look ahead to the colder months? Nearly 7 in 10 Americans (68%) are already struggling with higher utility bills. With autumn just around the corner, it's natural to start thinking about ways to keep heating bills from getting out of control. Planning ahead can give you time to take advantage of simple, low-cost methods to improve your home's energy efficiency.

Try a home energy audit - You could pay for a professional energy audit, but many local utility companies offer free, low-cost or subsidized home energy audits. Energy audits evaluate your home for things like air leaks around windows and doors, your home's insulation, the efficiency of your HVAC system and more.

If your local company doesn't offer this, you can perform your own energy audit. Here are a few simple, low-cost DIY tasks which address

many common issues found in energy audits:

Caulking and weather stripping for windows or doors can help prevent heat loss, saving anywhere from 5-10% on energy costs over the winter. Take a look at the windows and doors - inside and outside the home - find areas where extra caulking or weather stripping is needed.

Look for obstructions around your home to ensure heat vents, air registers or radiators are not blocked by furniture, and are clear of dust and debris.

Replace your lighting with more efficient Energy Star certified LED bulbs.

Try to use blackout curtains with thermal properties that are effective for retaining heat.

Take care of HVAC and furnace maintenance now. Schedule your fall furnace cleaning and tune-up appointments and clean your filters!



By taking a few of these proactive practical steps now, you can help your home stay warmer and more affordable throughout the colder months of the year.



What is the ORIGIN of the Phrase "TRICK OR TREAT"?

The exact phrase "**trick or treat**" is not ancient, nor did it originate in the United States.

1927 Print Debut: The earliest known written record of the phrase appears in the November 1927 issue of the Blackie Herald newspaper in Alberta, Canada. It described costumed youth demanding "edible plunder" by using the words "**trick or treat**" while neighbors gladly complied.

The practice and the phrase trickled into the western United States throughout the 1930s but ground to a halt during World War II due to strict wartime sugar rationing.

The 1950s Boom and Modernization

Trick-or-treating exploded into a national phenomenon after World War II, fueled by the postwar baby boom and the rapid growth of suburban neighborhoods.

Pop Culture Cementing: The tradition was fully locked into the American lexicon between

1951 and 1952. A 1951 Peanuts comic strip featured Charlie Brown's gang practicing "tricks or treats," followed immediately by the 1952 Disney cartoon Trick or Treat starring Donald Duck.

The Candy Takeover: Originally, kids received nuts, homemade baked goods, toys, or coins. In the 1950s, candy companies realized the massive financial potential and began aggressively marketing small, individually wrapped treats. Store-bought candy quickly became the standard because it was cheap, un-tampered with, and safe to accept from strangers.

Today, although some jurisdictions in the US forbid the activity for anyone over the age of 12, dressing up is common at all ages; adults will often dress up to accompany their children, and young adults may dress up to go out and ask for gifts for a charity.



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What You Don't Know

Could Hurt Your Community

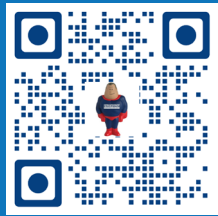
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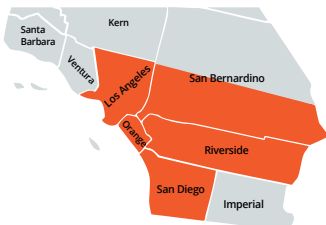
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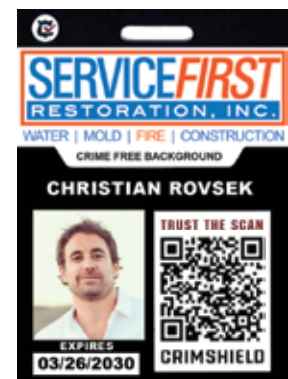


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