Presidents Corner

March certainly came in like a lion. I sure hope we get some lamb soon. I can't wait to get back out on the golf course and feel some warm sun on my face.

Not freezing in attics will also be good.

C.A.H.I. is doing well financially. Rob, Woody and I completed an audit of the books along with our Bookkeeper. Florence does a great job and everything is correctly accounted for.

A recent change to PayPal for credit card processing has already begun to save us substantial money.

Having a few more dollars in our accounts allow for us to offer enhanced seminars, training sessions and bus trips for educational purposes. After all isn’t that your main reason for being a member?

For those who don’t have a PayPal account or are not familiar please don’t panic. All of the major credit cards are accepted by PayPal without opening an account with them. The process is simple and much more reliable than our previous method.

Anyone wishing to add credit cards as a payment option should consider PayPal as well as Square or similar products that allow you to process cards using your cell phone.

This is time of year the Board Of Directors gets too work to shape changes to our organization.

If you would like to have some input or have suggestions, please let one of us know.

Please feel free to talk to us at a seminar, send an e-mail or give us a call. We really do want your input.

Here's to a warm and busy Spring!

Bill
It’s Daylight Saving Time: Make Some Changes, for Safety’s Sake!

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This weekend marks Daylight Saving Time. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) wants to remind everyone of the simple life-saving habit of changing the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Change the batteries when you change your clock! Daylight saving time starts at 2 a.m. Sunday March 11 when clocks are set ahead one hour.

It’s also the perfect opportunity for everyone to try to make a difference in reducing the more than 360,000 fires in homes each year. Did you know that there are roughly 2,200 deaths and 11,000 ER related injuries each year? Proper installation, operation, and maintenance of smoke alarms reduce the risk of property damage, injuries, and death. You can also install a smoke alarm that has a sealed-in battery that will last 10 years.

In addition to smoke alarms, CO alarms should also be checked this weekend. Carbon monoxide is the invisible killer—it’s a colorless, odorless gas and it can kill within minutes. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, just 42 percent of households report having a working carbon monoxide alarm. Changing the batteries in your smoke and CO alarms is the easiest way to ensure protection of your loved ones and your home in the event of a fire.
Spring into action with these safety tips:

- CPSC recommends that smoke alarms be placed on every level of your home, outside sleeping areas and inside bedrooms.
- Install both photoelectric and ionization smoke alarms. Check out CPSC’s Good, Better, Best approach (pdf) to fire safety in your home.
- Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed on every level of the home and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms once a month to make sure they are working.
- Have a fire escape plan and practice it with your family.
- A smoke alarm can’t save lives if everyone doesn’t know what to do when it sounds. Have two ways to get out of each room and set a pre-arranged meeting place outside.
- Children and the elderly can sleep through the sound of a smoke alarm and not hear it go off, so a caregiver needs to be prepared to help others get out of the house.
- And remember, once you are out of the house, stay out.
- Do it for safety’s sake!

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death associated with the use of thousands of types of consumer products under the agency’s jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries, and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than $1 trillion annually. CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical or mechanical hazard. CPSC’s work to help ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters and household chemicals — contributed to a decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 40 years.

Federal law bars any person from selling products subject to a publicly-announced voluntary recall by a manufacturer or a mandatory recall ordered by the Commission.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury go online to www.SaferProducts.gov or call CPSC’s Hotline at 800-638-2772 or teletypewriter at 301-595-7054 for the hearing impaired. Consumers can obtain news release and recall information at www.cpsc.gov, on Twitter @USCPSC or by subscribing to CPSC’s free e-mail newsletters.
Mold Guidance for The Real Estate, Banking, And Insurance Communities

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) has received reports from residents saying that they were required or strongly advised to have their homes tested for mold as a condition of a real estate transaction, loan, or insurance claim to ensure that the house does not have a “mold problem.” This practice can lead to confusing results, erroneous conclusions, and misspent funds by the homeowner, especially when there is no evidence or history of water damage or mold. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance by outlining recommended practice in four general types of scenarios:

1. Houses with no known problems
2. Houses with suspected problems
3. Houses with known problems
4. Houses that have had mold abatement performed

The basic principle at the core of the CT DPH’s philosophy when dealing with mold is that when you see mold or smell mold, there is no need to test. The best course of action is to just get rid of it. The recommended actions to take are:

- Find and stop the water source
- Throw out porous moldy items
- Clean up the clutter and non-porous moldy items
- Air out/dry out the space

Readers may wish to first review the CT DPH fact sheet, *Indoor Air Quality Testing Should Not Be The First Move*. This fact sheet discusses basic concepts concerning standards, how to create a space with good indoor environmental quality, what to look for before testing is considered, when testing can be beneficial, and what to do if you choose to hire a professional for assistance. This fact sheet and other resources are listed at the end of this document.

1. Houses With No Known Problems

CT DPH does not recommend mold testing in houses with no known problems for the following reasons:

A. Positive Air Sample Results For Mold Do Not Necessarily Mean The House Has A “Mold Problem”

Mold is everywhere. It grows on decaying organic matter outdoors, and comes indoors through open doors, windows, ventilation systems, and on our clothes, shoes, and pets. Because of this, every house will test positive for mold in the air. Finding mold in indoor air does not necessarily mean that there is active growth or amplification indoors. This is why this type of testing is generally meaningless.

B. There Are No Health Based Standards For Mold Levels In Indoor Air

This is because mold is not one thing. There are hundreds of different types of mold. Also, there is a great amount of variation in the way people react to mold. Lastly, there is no scientific support for designating a particular mold measurement as safe or unhealthy.

2. Houses With Suspected Problems

If a house has a history of water problems, or if you can see or smell mold, there is reason to suspect a possible mold infestation in those locations. Mold needs water to grow. When active mold growth is found in a home, it is always linked to a history of flooding, roof problems, burst pipes, plumbing leaks, condensation problems, or other water source. If any of these conditions have occurred, there is reason to suspect mold. *Air sampling is not generally needed to document the presence of mold.*

CT DPH Recommends Performing a Building Assessment Consisting of:

A. Building History
B. Visual Assessment for Water or Water Damage
C. Visual Assessment for Mold
D. Odor Assessment for Mold

Many homeowners can do a portion of this assessment themselves. If a moldy area is small (wall area less than 3 ft x 3 ft, the homeowner may choose to do the abatement him/herself). See the CT DPH publications at the end of this document for more information about how to do this safely, and how to find a contractor.
Siding: A Guide to the Options

When replacing siding, you’ll often recoup a significant amount of your investment, but there are tradeoffs in maintenance, price, and sustainability.

Perhaps no other building material plays such as key role in your home as siding. It protects your house against the harshest elements and is a factor in your home’s appearance, architectural character, and value.

A vinyl siding replacement, for instance, recovers 75% of its initial cost — $13,350 — at resale, according to the “Remodeling Impact Report” from the National Association of REALTORS®.

Fiber-cement siding does better with a return of 83% on an investment of $18,000 but also gets high marks from homeowners polled for the “Report” who gave their fiber-cement siding project a perfect Joy Score of 10 — a rating based on those who said they were happy or satisfied with their remodeling, with 10 being the highest rating and 1 the lowest.

Here’s our guide to common siding replacement options based on your budget, maintenance tolerance, and green priorities.

Vinyl

Vinyl is the most popular choice for home siding on new homes in the U.S., according to 2008 U.S. Census Bureau data. It is tough, durable, and widely available in many styles and colors. Color permeates the material and won’t reveal nicks and scratches.

Today’s standards ensure that vinyl siding will maintain its shape in extreme temperatures, provide resistance to high winds, retain its color, and meet or exceed other manufacturer claims. Labeling should indicate if it conforms to the American Society for Testing and Materials’ standard, expressed as ASTM D3679. Or ask you contractor to confirm.
**Benefits:** Light weight makes for speedy installation; can be retrofit over existing siding; little maintenance; top-quality brands offer transferable lifetime guarantees to subsequent buyers.

**Drawbacks:** Seams will show where the ends of standard 12-foot panels overlap. Extra-long panels virtually eliminate seams for an additional cost of about 30%.

**Green factor:** Vinyl has a long replacement cycle of 30 to 50 years, but the same ingredient that makes it durable — polyvinyl chloride or PVC — doesn’t degrade in landfills. Byproducts of PVC production may include dioxin and other toxins.

**Cost:** Material per sq. ft., installed: $2 to $6

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**Spend Oh-So-Wisely on a Kitchen Remodel**

1. 6 Materials Savvy Remodelers Never Use in Their Kitchens
2. How to Shop for a Retro Kitchen — and Not Get Stuck with Junk
3. Replace or Reface Your Kitchen Cabinets: The Options and Costs

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**Metal**

The popularity — and availability — of steel and aluminum siding is waning because vinyl has evolved as the better low-cost option. Metal siding comes in many prefinished colors and features styles that mimic wood. Modern metal sidings are dent-resistant, insect- and fire-proof, and require little maintenance. With proper care, steel and aluminum siding will last more than 50 years.

**Benefits:** Light weight speeds installation; baked-on paint enamel finishes won’t need periodic repainting.

**Drawbacks:** Not readily available in all areas; dents are permanent; scratches should be touched up with a quality, color-matched house paint.

**Green factor:** Aluminum siding products may contain up to 30% recycled content.

**Cost:** Material per sq. ft., installed: $3 to $5
**Fiber-Cement**

Fiber-cement siding is made from a mixture of wood fibers, Portland cement, clay, and sand. It’s slowly gaining market share as consumers become more aware of its rugged durability, low maintenance, and weather-resistance. Because it’s made from a liquid cementitious mixture, it can be molded to closely resemble painted wood, stucco, or masonry. It’s also termite-proof, fire-resistant, and doesn’t rot. A 30-year warranty is standard. Most home improvement stores carry samples.

**Benefits:** Pre-finished fiber-cement siding eliminates the need for painting after installation, yet the material accepts repainting easily when you want to change colors. It resists thermal expansion and contraction, so paint and caulk hold up well; in some areas, fiber-cement is considered to be masonry and may qualify you for lower home insurance premiums — check with your agent.

**Drawbacks:** Fiber-cement materials are heavy. Installation requires specialty tools and techniques, adding to labor costs (about 50% more than vinyl). Search for bids and find an installer who’s familiar with the product. Check contractor services, such as HomeBlue or ServiceMagic. Retrofits require a complete tear-off of the old siding, a job that requires one or two days for a 2,450 square-foot house and adds about 5% to the total cost of the project.

**Green factor:** The production of Portland cement is associated with CO2 emissions, which are probably offset by the material’s extreme longevity. However, because fiber-cement is relatively new, that longevity has yet to bear out.

**Cost:** Fiber-cement horizontal board siding per sq. ft., installed: $6 to $11

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**Wood**

Wood siding comes in many species and grades, and what you select — and pay — depends on how you plan to finish the material. If you want the natural beauty of wood to show through a clear or semi-transparent stain, you’ll need to opt for more expensive grades with fewer knots and other defects.

If you plan to paint or use an opaque stain, you can select less expensive grades of wood. Lumber yards and home improvement centers may stock only one or two examples, so view styles and compare prices at an online store, such as [BuildDirect](https://www.builddirect.com).

**Benefits:** Easy-to-shape-and-cut material requires few specialized skills for installation, reducing labor costs; with proper care, wood will last 100 years or more — longer than synthetic materials; superior aesthetics.

**Drawbacks:** Can be expensive; requires repainting every 5 years, re-staining every 3 years, or applying a clear finish every 2 years, for which a professional painter will charge thousands; retrofitting with wood means a complete tear-off of existing materials; non-moisture-resistant species, such as pine and fir, are susceptible to rot.
Green factor: Wood siding biodegrades in landfills; the finest grades come from old-growth timber. Ease logging pressure on diminishing old-growth forests by selecting repurposed material or wood certified by the Forest Service Council. FSC-certified wood comes from sustainable forests.

Cost: Wood clapboard (associated with fine homebuilding) per sq. ft., installed: $6 to $9

Cost: Wood shingles (prized for cottage-style appearance) per sq. ft., installed: $3 to $6

With so many options and variables to consider, spend some time researching various materials in regards to your budget. A good starting place is a list of siding manufacturers who attended the International Builder’s Show.

JOHN RIHA
has written seven books on home improvement and hundreds of articles on home-related topics. He’s been a residential builder, the editorial director of the Black & Decker Home Improvement Library, and the executive editor of Better Homes and Gardens magazine.
NEWS

5 Scams Targeting Small Businesses in Connecticut

Regulators warn that scammers are targeting small businesses with a variety swindles. The methods have been around for several years and have not evolved to any great degree, but they persist because they work. These are some of the most common ones:

**Tech support scams** - Callers claim they work in technical support for Microsoft, Apple, computer manufacturers or software developers, and that they have determined there is a problem with the victim’s computer. They will request remote-control access to fix a non-existent problem, as well as credit card information so they can bill for phony services, or direct you to websites that ask for a credit card number and other personal information.

Once they have access, the impostors can snoop for personal information including logins, passwords and contact information, and plant malware that can create havoc in an individual computer or network.

**IRS Scams** – Callers claim they work for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and threaten arrest unless they are sent money by an untraceable method to cover money supposedly owed the IRS. Coming so close to the income tax filing deadline, the call may seem legitimate. These scams can be avoided if you and your employees understand that the IRS will never call and threaten arrest or demand personal or financial information. The IRS communicates by US Postal Service mail.
Check scams – You may receive some sort of solicitation in the form of a brochure, invoice or bill, which may be accompanied by what looks like a legitimate refund or rebate check. This is most likely a scam. If you don’t read the terms and conditions carefully, by cashing the check you may be consenting to being charged for products or services you never ordered. The would-be “services” include internet access or being listed in an online directory.

Directory scams – A caller will offer to list your company in online directory, claiming that for a fee, the listings will raise your company’s profile and attract new customers. The pitch sounds reasonable, but many of these offers are scams. Regulators pursued one particular foreign operation called “Fair Guide,” after it used this scheme to bilk U.S. businesses out of millions of dollars.

Computer ransomware scams – The U.S. Department of Justice says an estimated 4,000 ransomware attacks are carried out every day. Ransomware is a type of malware that makes its presence known by generating a popup screen and locking the computer. The popup’s message says all files in the target computer have been encrypted (scrambled), and that they will only be restored if the victim calls a telephone number to pay a ransom. Better Business Bureau, law enforcement and regulators warn against paying, because there is no guarantee the files will be restored.

Many of these business-related scams can be avoided by explaining them to employees, especially those who handle finances and make payment decisions.

Businesses can protect themselves by regularly backing up files, investing in strong computer protection products and using a healthy dose of skepticism when dealing with unsolicited or unusual calls or emails.

You can get additional details and tips from the National Cyber Security Alliance (https://staysafeonline.org/about/) (NCSA), which has partnered with BBB to promote secure use of the internet.
In 2013, my company, Caleb Contracting, performed an energy audit on an old (circa 1797) Cape-style home in Northern Vermont. The homeowner contacted us because she wanted to live a more sustainable, greener lifestyle—starting with her home. During our walk through, she complained of cold floors along the exterior walls and, tangentially, problems with mice. In the basement, we could see gaps in the fieldstone foundation where cold air (and mice) entered at grade. Also visible were past attempts to air-seal the crumbly stone wall with spray foam.

After our initial meeting, I sent her an audit report with my recommendations (covering air-sealing strategies, photovoltaic panels, heat-pump DHW heaters, and mini-split equipment) and checked in with her from time to time to see if she wanted to proceed with the energy upgrades.

Since that time, the client had a PV panel array installed (it’s tied to the grid and powers her electric car), but she held off on implementing our air-sealing and HVAC suggestions until last summer. On reconvening, we agreed to tackle air-sealing the troublesome foundation first (holding off on the more troublesome attic, for now). On the HVAC front, she agreed to install a new heat-pump DHW heater in the basement and mini-split HVAC equipment, which would run, in part, off her PV panel array. A mason was hired to rebuild the fieldstone wall.

**Air-Sealing the Box Sill**

Using foam to air-seal the box sill would have been easiest, from a labor standpoint. However, the homeowner wanted to avoid using foam products, for environmental reasons. To be honest, I was more concerned about introducing an impermeable material to an old, time-tested building assembly. I didn't want to close off the drying potential to the interior of the home's wood-framed box sill (which was close to grade and prone to long periods of dampness). That had the potential to damage a 220-year-old gem of a house.

So with my Siga rep, Marc Coviello, we came up with a vapor-open solution. We would air-seal the framing.
with sealant; install 4 to 6 inches of Roxul Comfort-Board insulation into the joist bays; and then cover the foundation-to-floor-framing transition with an air-barrier membrane, sealing it as well as possible to the stone and framing with an assortment of Siga tapes.

Our project manager, Matt Burstein, and my son, Daniel, did the installation work. They first sealed the gaps between the hand-hewn framing members around the basement’s perimeter. On gaps less than 1/4 inch wide, they applied DAP Dynaflex 230 sealant, tooling it with their fingers as needed. On wider gaps, we compromised and used Touch ‘n Seal All Season spray foam. Gaps between the existing sill beam and the repaired stone wall were sealed with sealant and spray foam as needed.

Insulation. Next, we packed out the box sills with layers of Roxul ComfortBoard to the face of the stone wall. The Roxul, as opposed to rigid foam board or even fiberglass batts, worked great in this application. The ComfortBoard is more malleable than rigid foam—an asset when insulating tight spots—and unlike fiberglass, it can be firmly compressed into place without a loss in R-value. In addition, it’s water repellent and doesn’t promote mold growth, and mice do not like it. Working around the irregular stone and hand-hewn framing shapes, we easily scribed and cut the Roxul into place. We filled in small voids with strips of the material.

Tapes. To seal the air-barrier membrane to the existing framing and stone, we used a few different tapes from Siga. We applied double-sided Siga Twinet tape for most of the air-sealing of membrane to wood, while using Siga Rissan 60 tape to seal tricky spots, such as at wiring and mechanical penetrations. For the trickier stone connection, we used Siga Primur Roll, which is a fairly new product. It’s basically a thick, uniform caulking bead on a roll. We applied it along the top of the wall, rolling it out and pressing it into place before pulling the release paper and applying the air barrier.

Air-barrier membrane. For the air barrier, we chose Siga’s Majrex membrane. It’s a sturdy, airtight membrane that’s vapor-open in one direction only. In this case, it would allow moisture to travel from the insulated joist bays into the basement space while preventing moisture intake from the interior. We installed the membrane with its vapor-open side facing against the stone and folded the membrane up, tailoring it around the floor framing and mechanicals and sealing it with the double-sided tape and Rissan 60 tape, as needed.

Jim Bradley is a BPI-certified home-performance contractor, builder, and remodeler based in Vermont.

Siga Primur Roll tape bonded the new air-barrier membrane to the repaired fieldstone wall. First, the tape was pressed firmly to the stone (5). Removing the release tape exposed the tape’s outer, sticky side (6). The air-barrier membrane was then pressed firmly to the tape (7). Next, the membrane was folded up and tailored to fit around framing and mechanicals (8). Using long lengths of membrane reduced the number of seams (9).
Practical Sound Control

BY MATT RISINGER

I’ve renovated professional sound studios and worked on a fair number of condos in which the party wall needed lots of attention to keep neighbors neighborly. But even in a single-family detached home, there are some relatively easy ways to control sound that will make life much more pleasant for the occupants. Whether it’s a media room, home office, master bedroom, meditation room, or home theater—on almost every home I build or remodel, my clients ask me to soundproof at least one room.

When you’re trying to limit sound transfer through a building assembly, the goal is to do two things: Limit vibration of building materials and limit air movement. Sound moves as waves through air. When the waves hit a wall, they vibrate the wall materials. The sound waves will also move through any cracks and gaps. So the two basic approaches to stopping sound are to isolate materials so vibrations can’t transfer from one to the other and to seal up air gaps to limit air movement.

To achieve these goals, here are the usual methods I employ—for example, between a master bedroom and an adjacent bedroom, or between a child’s room and the master bath.

**Staggered studs.** This is a common method of building a quiet wall. We use 2x6 top and bottom plates, and then fill in the studs with 2x4s on a 16-inch-on-center layout, offsetting the layout by 8 inches. You essentially get most of the benefits of two walls, but it is a lot easier to build. When sound hits one side of this double wall and starts vibrating the drywall and 2x4s, that vibration does not transfer to the other side. Sound can transfer only at the plates, an area that’s not very significant compared with the entire surface area of the wall.

**Sealing electrical boxes.** With codes typically requiring outlets every 6 feet, it’s hard to have a bedroom wall without an outlet. But electrical boxes have a lot of holes in them for all the wires to poke through. You also end up with a hole in the drywall around the outlet. All those holes need to be sealed to prevent sound from freely passing through them.

For sealing outlet boxes, we use putty pads. These are made for fire stopping in commercial applications, but they work well for soundproofing electrical outlets. I like the thick red pads from Hilti (CP 617) the best. We get them at commercial supply houses or the Hilti store; they are much better than the thin ones sold at big box stores. The Hilti pads are 6 inches by 7 inches;
we center them over the back of the boxes and fold the edges over the sides of the box. The material has a consistency like Silly Putty and effectively shuts down the air flowing through all those holes that might otherwise carry sound.

Once the drywall has been installed, you also have to go back and use an acoustical sealant to seal between the drywall and the box to complete the installation. We have had good luck with the Noiseproofing Sealant in St. Gobain’s Green Glue line or QuietSeal Pro, which is part of the QuietRock line. Acoustical sealant stays flexible; it won’t set up and get hard. This flexible seal not only stops airflow, but it also isolates the electrical box from sound vibration coming through the drywall.

**Soundproofing batts.** Before the wall is enclosed, we insulate the wall cavity. Fiberglass batts will work; wet-spray cellulose works better, but it’s not that common. We’ve had the best results with Rockwool (formerly Roxul) soundproofing batts, which are denser and specifically designed to absorb sound.

The three steps outlined above will do a lot to limit sound transfer through a wall assembly and can be done with minimal investment. To take sound control a step further—for that condo party wall or a home theater, for example—we will add a second layer of drywall that is acoustically separated from the first layer.

**Double drywall.** The most cost-effective way to add a second layer is with Green Glue (greengluecompany.com), a compound you squeeze out of a caulk gun in a zigzag pattern onto the back of the drywall. This material stays flexible over time and helps dissipate sound energy from one sheet of drywall to the next.

Green Glue can be effective, but you have to get the details right. You need to use two full tubes for each 4x8 sheet of drywall. You can’t skimp on the amount. You also need to do a careful job of sealing the edges of the first layer of drywall with an acoustical sealant. When applying the acoustical sealant, apply lots of pressure as you squeeze it out, pushing the sealant into the crack between adjacent sheets or between the first sheet and the subfloor. Here again, don’t skimp on material.

I have also used QuietRock (quietrock.com) effectively. This system essentially uses double sheets that have been pre-bonded together, so you cut down on the installation time. Each sheet is installed with acoustical sealant around the perimeter, so it’s not as fast as installing one layer of conventional drywall, but it’s a little faster than bonding two layers with Green Glue.

*Matt Risinger owns Risinger & Company in Austin, Texas. Follow him on YouTube and on Instagram at @risingerbuild.*

Electrical outlets need to be sealed to the drywall with a flexible acoustical sealant (**3**). This stops air movement and limits vibrations transferring from the drywall to the box. Insulation also helps absorb sound; Rockwool Safe’n’Sound batts work well (**4**). QuietRock panels (**5**) provide one way to further decrease sound transmission.
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 11. As you prepare to set your clocks ahead one hour, remember to check the batteries in your carbon monoxide (CO) detector. If you don’t have a battery-powered or battery back-up CO alarm, now is a great time to buy one. More than 400 people die each year in the United States from unintentional, non-fire related CO poisoning.

CO is found in fumes produced by furnaces, vehicles, generators, stoves, lanterns, gas ranges, or burning charcoal or wood. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. People and animals in these spaces can be poisoned and can die from breathing CO.

When power outages occur during emergencies such as hurricanes or severe storms, the use of alternative sources of power for heating, cooling, or cooking can cause CO to build up in a home, garage, or camper and to poison the people and animals inside.
Prepare for daylight savings time by installing a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector in your home or by checking the batteries, if you already have one, as you set your clocks ahead one hour.

**You Can Prevent Carbon Monoxide Exposure**

**Do**

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.

- Install a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector in your home and check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall.

- Leave your home immediately and call 911 if your CO detector ever sounds. Seek prompt medical attention if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed, or nauseated.

**Don’t**

- Run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.

- Burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn’t vented.

- Heat your house with a gas oven.

- Use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, or garage or outside less than 20 feet from a window, door, or vent.

CO poisoning is entirely preventable. You can protect yourself and your family by acting wisely in case of a power outage and learning the symptoms of CO poisoning.

Click [here](#) for important CO poisoning prevention tips in 16 additional languages.
Q When I use perforated pipe in a drainage system, should the holes go up or down?

A Steven Baczek, a residential architect from Reading, Mass., who specializes in designing durable, low-energy homes, responds: I hear arguments for both methods, but it really depends on how the pipe functions in your drainage system. Before going any further, the pipe we are discussing here is heavy-duty schedule-40 PVC pipe with either two or three courses of holes with the outer courses usually 120° to each other. I don't recommend using corrugated flex-pipe in drainage systems.

When designing a water-management regimen for a home, I try to drain to daylight (“A Primer on Water Management,” Jun/17). In this system, drainage pipe around the perimeter of the house links with the downspouts as well as with a perimeter drain inside the basement, all of which drain by gravity to a pipe that exits the ground at a safe distance from the building. Here, the perforated pipe has two functions: collection and conveyance, with the latter being the primary function. I place the pipe with the perforations facing up and count on the streaming water from the downspouts to help keep silt and debris from accumulating in the pipe.

I also place the perimeter piping in what I call a ground gutter, a trench filled with crushed stone and wrapped on all sides with filter fabric—a pipe within a pipe. Water draining from the walls or dripping from the eaves diffuses through the filter fabric and the crushed stone, with most of the liquid being distributed by the ground gutter. The ground gutter would need to saturate to the level of the perforations before any significant water would enter the pipe, and the likelihood of that happening is usually pretty slim. In this scenario, the pipe would have to be completely occluded with silt and mud to become ineffective.

With the perforations facing down, the primary function is collection and distribution. Even when placed in a ground gutter as described above, the pipe fills with groundwater more quickly. When more water enters one area than another, it flows to another area of the pipe and drains away. This would seem to work best in a French drain system where excess water drains to a sump pit to be pumped out. In the systems I install, it’s much more difficult for the debris to be washed away with the perforations facing down. Either way, though, when silt and debris fill the pipe to the level of the perforations—essentially half the diameter of the pipe—it can no longer take on water and no longer is effective for drainage.

So there are good arguments for both methods. Having the holes facing up is just the most effective plan for the systems that I’ve designed. Regardless of your preference for perforation placement, I always recommend installing clean-outs in strategic locations for clearing the pipe should it become blocked or sluggish.
InSinkErator® Recalls SinkTop™ Switch Accessory for Garbage Disposals Due to Fire Hazard

**Name of product:** InSinkErator Single Outlet SinkTop Switches

**Hazard:** Water can get into the power module, posing a fire hazard.

**Remedy:** Replace

**Recall date:** March 6, 2018

**Units:** About 1,400,000 (In addition, about 28 were sold in Canada)

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**Consumer Contact:**
InSinkErator toll-free at 855-215-5695 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at www.insinkerator.com and click on “Safety Notice”, or insinkeratorsafetynotice.expertinquiry.com for more information.
The Licensing Board meetings are held at 9:30 am
Dept of Consumer Protection
165 Capitol Avenue. Hartford
The public is always welcome.

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