

# ANDY ONCALL® Newsletter



Fall 2010

Not Handy? Call ANDY!®

## About ANDY ONCALL®?

- Established in 1993
- Free Estimates
- Locations nationwide
- No job too small
- No pay till job okay
- Qualified craftsmen
- Background Checks
- Fully Insured
- Price by the job, not the hour
- Day and Evening appointments
- Written Warranty on labor
- No Markup on Materials

ANDY ONCALL® makes projects, repairs & maintenance easy & hassle free. When you need a home repair, simply contact ANDY ONCALL®, and we will send a skilled craftsman for a FREE Estimate.

Call Now for  
your Free Estimate!

Find Us. Friend Us. Follow Us.



## Fall Home Maintenance

Although many of us are still experiencing hot, steamy days fall is fast approaching; time to get your home ready for the most colorful season of all.

### Gutters and Downspouts

- Clean gutters and downspouts frequently throughout fall to prevent build up of leaves and other debris. Neglected gutters can lead to wood rot problems and pest infestations, not to mention ruined gutters.
- Be sure water is not coming down behind gutters and that all support brackets are securely in place.
- Ensure that water drains properly and doesn't pool. Pooling can cause damage to foundations, driveways, and walkways.

### Windows and Doors

- Inspect and repair any loose or damaged window or door frames.
- Check all window and door locks for proper operation; exterior doors should have deadbolt locks.
- Add or replace worn out weather-stripping on exterior doors.

### Plumbing

- Check all sinks and drains for leaks, including all toilets.
- Drain your hot water heater, clean out any residue in the bottom, and refill.
- Check your crawl space for moisture and leaks.

### Heating Systems

- Consider having a heating professional check your heating system to ensure optimal performance and discover minor problems before they turn into costly major repairs.
- Clean your ducts to better your heating system's efficiency as well as to reduce household dust and to provide relief to those with respiratory problems. Change filters.

### Chimney and Fireplace

- Call a professional to inspect and clean your chimney. Fireplaces that are regularly used during the season should have an annual cleaning to prevent dangerous chimney fires.
- Test your fireplace flue for a tight seal when closed. Check fireplace damper.
- Remove bird nests from chimney flues and outdoor electrical fixtures.

### Miscellaneous

- Replace batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Check fire extinguishers and review fire escape plan with your family.
- Clean dryer vents and exhaust vents.
- Tile and painted wood or concrete stairs can be slippery when wet or when a person's shoes are wet. Resurface the treads with slip-resistant strips near the stair nosing.
- Test your emergency generator.
- Run all gas-powered lawn equipment until the fuel is gone.

Don't have the time or you are unsure how to maintain and/or make the proper repairs? Call **ANDY ONCALL®**!

## ANDY's Helpful Tips!

### Home Safety

Home safety is an important part of preventative home maintenance. In case of an emergency, all adults in your household should know where the following controls are located and how to turn them off:

- Heating fuel (gas) main shutoff
- Main electrical fuse/breaker box
- Main water shutoff
- Water shutoff valve for each toilet and sink in your home and your washing machine.

It's also a good idea to keep a wrench nearby each of these vital shutoff valves. As well, every home should have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and in the garage.

You can avoid personal injury by following a few safety tips.

- Avoid overloading extension cords and electrical outlets.
- Turn off appliances when you are not using them.
- Do not store flammable liquids such as paint supplies near heating units.
- Keep flammable objects such as dish towels, curtains, and aprons away from stoves, and don't wear loose fitting clothing while cooking.
- If a pan catches fire on the stove, cover it with a lid and turn off the heat.
- If a fire gets out of control, immediately leave the house and call the fire department using a neighbor's phone or a cell phone.
- Develop an escape route out of your house and practice it monthly with your family.

## Energy Efficiency



The fall season is the start of cooler weather and one of the most beautiful times of the year. Here are a few tips to remember in order to keep your home energy efficient as you transition to cooler temps and fewer daylight hours.

- Set your heat thermostat to 68 degrees when you are home and even lower when you are not at home. For every degree you lower your thermostat you save about 2% off your heating bill.
- Close your fireplace damper when not in use.
- During the day, keep shades and curtains open on the south side of your home (closed on the north side) to allow for solar heating and close them at night to retain heat.
- Use area rugs on hardwood and tile floors to keep your feet warm.
- Check your water heater temperature. For energy efficiency and child safety, set it no higher than 120°F.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents - they use 75% less energy and last 10 times longer.
- Add insulation to your attic, crawl space, garage, and any accessible exterior walls.
- Set the refrigerator at 36°F and the freezer at 0°F for optimum efficiency and food safety.
- Turn off the oven a few minutes before food is ready and let its heat finish the job.
- Clean the filter at the bottom of the dishwasher to keep it running efficiently.
- Keep your outside air unit clean and clear of debris and/or weeds.
- Use the self-cleaning cycle of your oven right after you finish baking. That will give it a head start in heating up.

**SAVE \$\$\$  
LABOR ONLY**

CALL FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE AND ASK ABOUT  
OUR CURRENT COUPON SPECIALS

EXCLUDING SPECIAL SERVICES NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER

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