

# ANDY ONCALL® Newsletter



Summer 2011

Not Handy? Call ANDY!®

## Deck Repair & Maintenance

Summertime is here which means you will probably spend a lot more time on your deck for outdoor parties, summer pool fun, tanning, and just relaxing. Do you know if your deck is safe? Check out this list of the 7 most common deck problems and how you can check for them.

1. No lag screws in ledger boards:
  - The ledger board holds up the end of the deck that's against the house.
  - A ledger needs  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. x 3-in. lag screws (or lag bolts if you have access from the inside to fasten the washers and nuts) driven every 16 in.
  - Drive the lag screws (with washers) using a drill and an impact socket (you'll need a socket adapter that fits in your drill). Don't countersink the screws—that only weakens the ledger board.
2. Missing nails in joist hangers:
  - Fill every nail hole in joist hangers, using joist hanger nails only. If you find other types of nails, replace them with joist hanger nails.
3. Rotted posts:
  - Replacing a rotted post is the best solution. You can ask your local home improvement store for guidelines on replacing the post yourself or contact a professional to do this for you.
4. Weak post connections:
  - Strengthen post connections with  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. carriage bolts that are 1 in. longer than your rim joist and post that they are going through. Drill holes, knock the bolts through, then tighten a washer and nut on the other side.
5. Wobbly deck:
  - Stiffen a wobbly deck with a diagonal brace run from corner to corner. Drive two nails per joist.
6. Missing ledger flashing:
  - Stand or crawl under the deck and look at the ledger board. If you don't see a metal or plastic lip over the top of the ledger board, add the flashing.
  - Pry the siding away from the house and remove the deck board that's over the ledger to clear the way for new flashing.
7. Loose railings:
  - Strengthen a loose railing post with  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. carriage bolts. Drill a pair of holes through the post and framing. Angle the hole to avoid joist hangers.

## 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.

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your Free Estimate!

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## ANDY's Helpful Tips!

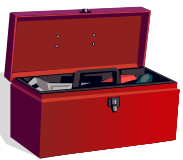
### Summer Home Maintenance Reminders:

Rising temperatures and splendid sunny days make summer an ideal season for getting work done around the house.

Whether you're cooling off indoors or working on your tan, take the time to perform some simple, routine home maintenance. You'll have a safer home if you catch problems and wear-and-tear before they become hazards.

- Check windows and doors for air leaks and seal with weather stripping or caulk as needed. You're paying high prices for that cool air so be sure to keep it from escaping.
- Wash the outside of your windows and clean the siding. While it might be tempting to use a pressure washer, a garden hose is best to avoid potentially damaging the exterior of your home.
- Build a shed with a lock for storing your lawn equipment, pesticides, and pool and/or spa chemicals.
- Install a fence around your pool and/or spa with a locking gate.
- Keep your hot water at or below 120 degrees F to prevent burns.
- Cover the ground under playground equipment with a thick layer (9 - 12 inches) of mulch, wood chips, or other safety material.

Wouldn't you rather spend your time with family and friends enjoying summer activities? Call **ANDY ONCALL®** for all your maintenance, repair, and remodeling needs.



## Energy Efficiency



The summer season generally means hot days, but there are ways in which we can stay cool and make our lives a little more energy efficient. Try these tips for an energy smart season!

- Your microwave is more energy efficient than your stove using two-thirds less energy.
- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and 85 degrees when you are away. Always take into account health considerations and be sure to drink plenty of fluids in warm weather.
- Consider installing a programmable thermostat because it can save up to \$100 a year in energy costs.
- Consider installing a whole-house fan that uses cool air in the evening to cool the entire house and push hot air out of the attic area.
- When you shower or take a bath, use the bathroom fan to remove the heat and humidity from your home. Your laundry room might also benefit from spot ventilation. Make sure bathroom and kitchen fans are vented to the outside (not just to the attic).
- Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your room air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.
- Reduce the operating time of your pool filter and automatic cleaning sweep to 4 - 5 hours and only during off-peak time.

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