

# ANDY ONCALL® Newsletter



Fall 2009

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!

## Fall Home Maintenance

Although many of us are still experiencing steamy hot days, Fall is 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.
  - Install weather stripping and/or caulking around windows and doors to prevent drafts and to lower heating bills.
  - Check all window and door locks for proper operation; exterior doors should have deadbolt locks.
- **Heating Systems**  Replace the filter in your furnace.
  - 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.
- **Plumbing**  To prevent pipes freezing and bursting, ensure that the pipes are well insulated.
  - Know how to locate and turn off the water shut-off valve in case pipes do freeze.
- **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**  Review fire escape plan with your family
  - Run all gas-powered lawn equipment until the fuel is gone
  - Test your emergency generator.
  - 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.

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!

Uses for everyday home items:

### **Duct Tape**

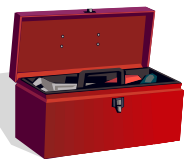
- For some reason, mice and squirrels love to chew on rubber, and one of their favorite snacks is often the rubber hose that connects the propane tank to your gas grill. Protect the hose by wrapping it in duct tape.

### **Vinegar**

- Does the wood paneling in your den look dull and dreary? Liven it up with this simple home remedy: Mix 1 quart warm water, 4 tablespoons white or apple cider vinegar, and 2 tablespoons olive oil in a container, give it a couple of shakes, and apply with a clean cloth. Let the mixture soak into the wood for several minutes, then polish with a dry cloth.
- If your rugs or carpets are looking worn and dingy from too much summer foot traffic in and out, bring them back to life by brushing them with a clean push broom dipped in a solution of 1 cup white vinegar in 1 gallon water. Your faded threads will perk up, and you don't even need to rinse off the solution.

### **Fabric Softener Sheets**

- Lift burned-on casserole residue. The next time food gets burned onto your casserole dish, save the elbow grease. Instead fill the dish with hot water and toss in three or four used softener sheets. Soak overnight, remove the sheets, and you'll have no trouble washing away the residue. Be sure to rinse well.



## Energy Efficiency



The Fall season is the start of your holiday cooking and the movement of dinners back inside the home from the outside BBQ grill. Try these kitchen tips for an energy smart season!

- Check the seal on your oven door and make sure it is tight. Even a small gap is enough to allow some heat to escape.
- Set the refrigerator at 36°F and the freezer at 0°F for optimum efficiency and food safety.
- Use glass-baking dishes for more efficient heat transfer.
- Turn off the oven a few minutes before food is ready and let its heat finish the job.
- When cooking food on the stove, use a higher heat setting until the liquid begins to boil. Then, lower the temperature and simmer the food until fully cooked. Maintaining a fast boil doesn't cook food faster than a slow boil and it wastes energy.
- Clean the filter at the bottom of the dishwasher to keep it running efficiently.
- Check your water heater temperature. For energy efficiency, set it no higher than 122°F.
- Avoid putting hot or warm food straight into the fridge or freezer. This raises the internal temperature, making the unit work harder to maintain the optimum temperature for efficiency.

### ANDY's Refer a Friend Program!

Refer a friend or family member to **ANDY ONCALL®** and receive a **\$20.00** discount on your next home repair.

**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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