

VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery



"Wherever you see a 'Vincent's Van Go' you know the job will be a work of art."

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OWNER'S CORNER

THROUGH MY EYES

The Flint water crisis is terrible. We're fortunate that we have ready access to a good water source in St Clair County. Since there is a high awareness and concerns about water quality I want to look at the risk of lead in our water this month.

The first thing to remember is that water quality is the main factor that increases the risk of contamination when lead is present in the water distribution system. In Flint, switching to the corrosive water taken from the Flint River caused lead to be leached from lead in the water lines. In St Clair County our risk from lead is minimal because our water is good and not



Vincent's Heating & Plumbing technician Tom Davis overlooking the clothes dryer lint removed from my new home. No wonder the clothes wouldn't dry! -Daniel Squires

corrosive.

The second thing to

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Did You Know...

...you can send your water to the state of Michigan to be tested for lead? Pick up a sample bottle and instructions from the St Clair County Health Department. The cost is \$26 and postage.

The PHS-Files

The title of this article is a 'tip-of-the-hat' to the temporary return of one of my all-time favorite TV shows: the X-Files. Sadly, it was only for 6 episodes but the producers left the door open for more.

So what is a PHS-File? PHS is the acronym for our Plumbing & Home Safety inspection featured

alongside this month's Vincent's News. A PHS-File is a case study that illustrates how the services available in a Plumbing & Home Safety inspection provide an essential benefit.

PHS-File XI: The Mystery of the Shower That Wouldn't Drain.

My daughter Alanna complained that every time she took a shower that by the time she was done the water was up to her ankles and it took an hour for it to drain after she was finished. As a result it was impossible to keep the tub clean. She discovered the

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The PHS-Files (Continued from Page 1)

problem when we moved into our new home. By the extent of the problem I determined that direct intervention would be a quicker solution than Bio-Clean.

I can't fault the former owner, the drain was very tricky to get apart to discover the problem. And the cause? A massive hairball that out of decency I will not go any further in describing other than to say 'it was really gross'. It was so large that it would have taken a long time for Bio-Clean to clear it. Do you have a tub or shower drain that drives you crazy? Getting rid of hairballs in the drain is one of the many things that you can

have addressed on a Plumbing & Home Safety Visit.

PHS-File X2: The Clothes That Took Forever to Dry.

This is another case that really hit home for me – literally because again it took place in my new home. Karen was surprised that clothes were taking forever to dry in the clothes dryer. I investigated and determined that the dryer vent terminated under our back deck. This is not the best location so I will move it this spring but in the meanwhile I crawled under the deck and cleaned it out. It was a messy job. The nearby picture shows what I found. I'm just glad there wasn't a dryer

vent fire. And Karen is happy with how much quicker the clothes dry. Cleaning your dryer vent is something we can do for you on a Plumbing & Home Safety Visit.

The X-Files ended with a cliff hanger. And this month my PHS-Files have to end with a cliff hanger too. In April I will return with another PHS-File that is truly scary:

PHS-Files - Installment X2: The Deadly Squirrels.

In the meantime, be sure to take a close look at the accompanying flyer and think of ways that we can solve your PHS-Files.

- Daniel Squires

"...Getting rid of hairballs in the drain is one of the many things that you can have addressed on a Plumbing & Home Safety Visit....."

Read What Our Clients Are Saying...

Both my boiler and AC unit were assessed and thorough instruction was given on my new thermostat, repairs needed for the AC compressor explained and promptly completed, and heating/cooling maintenance program was explained to me. Very professional and efficient service was provided and I look forward to working with Vincent's in the future for my heating and cooling needs and maintenance.

Kristina—Port Huron

Through My Eyes (Continued from Page 1)

remember is that there has to be a source of lead in order for it to leach into the water.

Recently I saw a news article about lead dangers posed by galvanized water lines with a recommendation that they should be replaced. While we're happy to help replace old galvanized water lines let's first examine the risk:

In the middle ages people engaged in a false science called 'alchemy' to turn lead into gold. They were of course unsuccessful. Likewise it is impossible for steel pipes coated with zinc to turn into lead. While there might be traces of lead that were used in the manufacturing process the amounts are so small that the risk is negligible. The only significant way galvanized pipes can accumulate lead is if there is a source of lead upstream to the galvanized water lines.

In the Blue Water Area unless you know that you have a lead service pipe you shouldn't have to worry about a significant risk from lead in your old galvanized pipes. If you have galvanized pipes replace them because the pressure is diminished or you are getting too much rust and

debris, rather than out of fear of lead.

Actually there is probably a greater risk of lead from copper pipes installed before 1986 – but not from the actual copper pipes. The source of the lead is the solder that was used to weld the copper pipes and fittings together. Before the Clean Water Act of 1986 solder was 50% lead. But again – because of the lack of corrosive agents in our water supply, the risk is also negligible.

The biggest potential source of lead in St Clair County is from lead water service lines between the outside shutoff at the street to the city water main. And while the risk is greater, it still may not mean that your drinking water is contaminated. The lead may not leach into the water if the water is not corrosive.

So what should a person do to further minimize the risk? First, flush the water before using it. Even with a lead water service, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) states that after flushing the water for 5 minutes at full flow that the water can then be used safely. The downside is all the

water that is wasted and the related cost. So is there a better solution?

Personally I think water filters are a good idea even if there are no lead-related concerns. Not only can certain filters remove lead, filtered water tastes better. If I fill a water bottle up with tap water, it starts to taste bad after about 6 hours, probably due to chlorine and other additives. But filtered water still tastes good a day or two later. I use a Seychelle water pitcher, but other filters work well as do installed filters. Just be sure to do your homework to see what is filtered and how it is rated. - *Daniel Squires*

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Washington's Birthday Word Search

V S V L V R K H X I J I K Y W
P S U H E B C O Y S H N N O N
P C K M V P I R I J E F B U G
K S M L D B R S X R H N J Z O
L Z D A G K T E J I I D L O G
N T A Y R N A S C A O S N T E
C L O V E R P H R H L E H Y P
S G I S E P T O A Z A B A U W
E M D Y N V S E D Q K U A G O
S H E P H E R D S P I E N D N

Irish
Luck
St. Patrick
Rainbow
Horse Shoe
Clover
Shepherd's Pie
Green
Leprechaun
Gold

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Humor Section



What do you get when you cross poison ivy with a four-leaf clover?
A rash of good luck.

What do you get when you do the Irish jig at McDonalds?
A Shamrock Shake

Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?
Because they're always a little short.

Why don't you iron 4-Leaf clovers?
Because you don't want to press your luck.

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/holidayjokes/stpatricksdayjokes/stpatricksdayonelinersjokes.html>