

# CAHI MONTHLY NEWS



## Greetings from Board of Directors



### A Politically Correct Christmas

~ Anon but your editor likes it

Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...  
 How to live in a world that's politically correct?  
 His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",  
 "Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.  
 And labor conditions at the North Pole,  
 were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul.  
 Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety,  
 released to the wilds, by the Humane Society.  
 And equal employment had made it quite clear,  
 that Santa had better not use just reindeer.  
 So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,  
 were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!  
 The runners had been removed from his beautiful sleigh,  
 because the ruts were deemed dangerous by the EPA,  
 And millions of people were calling the Cops,  
 when they heard sled noises upon their roof tops.  
 Second-hand smoke from his pipe, had his workers quite frightened,  
 and his fur trimmed red suit was called "unenlightened".  
 To show you the strangeness of today's ebbs and flows,  
 Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose.  
 He went to Geraldo, in front of the Nation,  
 demanding millions in over-due workers compensation.



### MONTHLY MEETINGS – Details & Info

CAHI's regular monthly meetings are held at the Best Western located at 201 Washington Ave (RT 5), North Haven. Meetings are free to members. Most meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 7-9pm. Guests are always welcome! Guests may attend 2 free monthly meetings to experience our presentations, meet our members, and receive a CE attendance certificate.

Joining CAHI may be done at anytime of the year through our Membership Page

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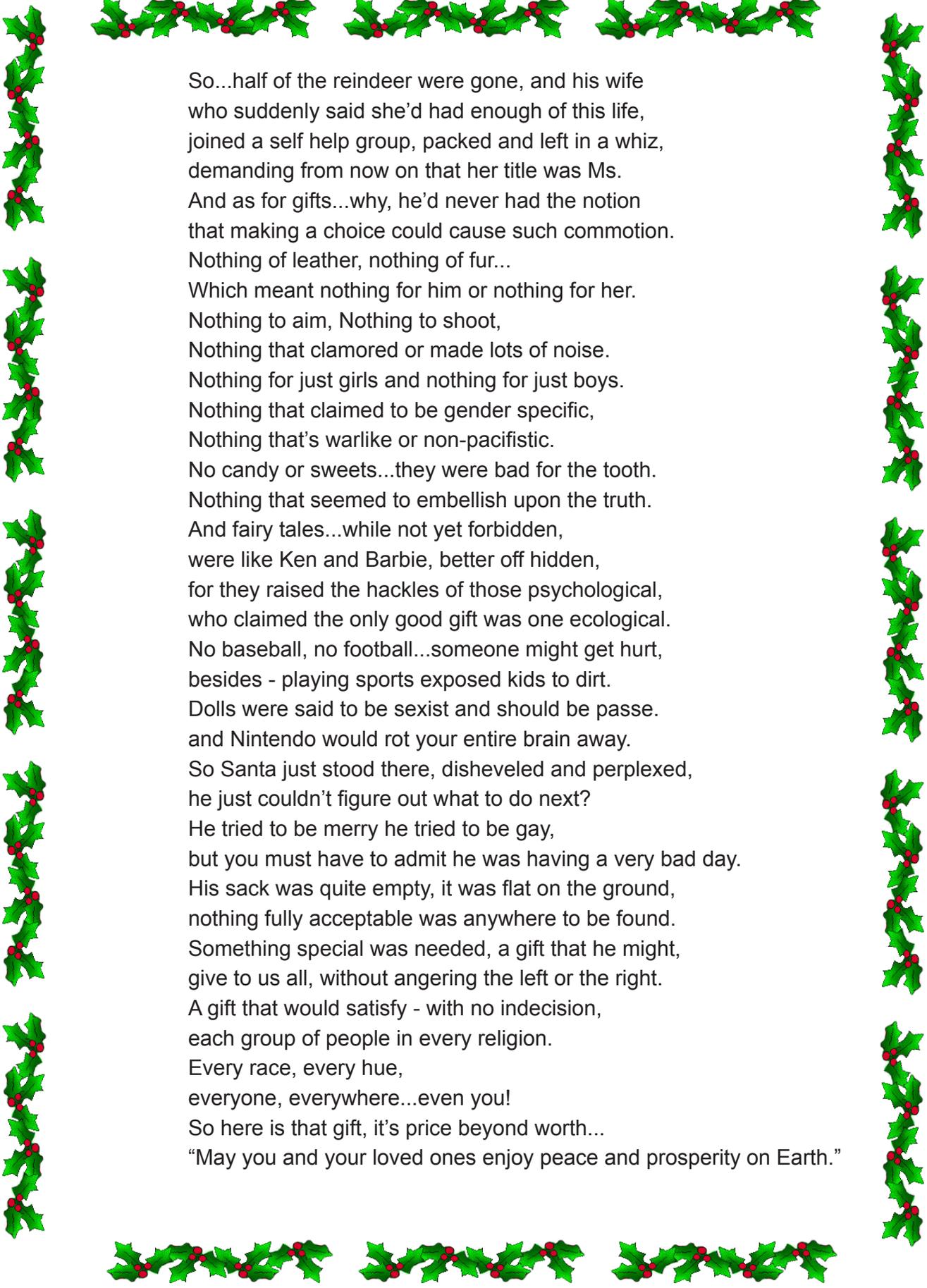
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### Meeting Dates!

**December**  
**No Meeting**

**January 16th**  
**Law Seminar**  
 Presented by  
**Kent Mawhinney**

**January 23rd**  
**Meeting**  
**Appliance Venting**  
 Presented by  
**Kristopher Pereira**



So...half of the reindeer were gone, and his wife  
who suddenly said she'd had enough of this life,  
joined a self help group, packed and left in a whiz,  
demanding from now on that her title was Ms.  
And as for gifts...why, he'd never had the notion  
that making a choice could cause such commotion.  
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur...  
Which meant nothing for him or nothing for her.  
Nothing to aim, Nothing to shoot,  
Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.  
Nothing for just girls and nothing for just boys.  
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific,  
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacifistic.  
No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.  
Nothing that seemed to embellish upon the truth.  
And fairy tales...while not yet forbidden,  
were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden,  
for they raised the hackles of those psychological,  
who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.  
No baseball, no football...someone might get hurt,  
besides - playing sports exposed kids to dirt.  
Dolls were said to be sexist and should be passe.  
and Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.  
So Santa just stood there, disheveled and perplexed,  
he just couldn't figure out what to do next?  
He tried to be merry he tried to be gay,  
but you must have to admit he was having a very bad day.  
His sack was quite empty, it was flat on the ground,  
nothing fully acceptable was anywhere to be found.  
Something special was needed, a gift that he might,  
give to us all, without angering the left or the right.  
A gift that would satisfy - with no indecision,  
each group of people in every religion.  
Every race, every hue,  
everyone, everywhere...even you!  
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...  
"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace and prosperity on Earth."

# Ten Year-End Tax Tips for 2018

Here are 10 things to consider as you weigh potential tax moves between now and the end of the year.

## 1. Set aside time to plan

Effective planning requires that you have a good understanding of your current tax situation, as well as a reasonable estimate of how your circumstances might change next year. There's a real opportunity for tax savings if you'll be paying taxes at a lower rate in one year than in the other. However, the window for most tax-saving moves closes on December 31, so don't procrastinate.

## 2. Defer income to next year

Consider opportunities to defer income to 2019, particularly if you think you may be in a lower tax bracket then. For example, you may be able to defer a year-end bonus or delay the collection of business debts, rents, and payments for services. Doing so may enable you to postpone payment of tax on the income until next year.

## 3. Accelerate deductions

You might also look for opportunities to accelerate deductions into the current tax year. If you itemize deductions, making payments for deductible expenses such as medical expenses, qualifying interest, and state taxes before the end of the year, instead of paying them in early 2019, could make a difference on your 2018 return.

## 4. Factor in the AMT

If you're subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT), traditional year-end maneuvers such as deferring income and accelerating deductions can have a negative effect. Essentially a separate federal income tax system with its own rates and rules, the AMT effectively disallows a number of itemized deductions. For example, if you're subject to the AMT in 2018, prepaying 2019 state and local taxes probably won't help your 2018 tax situation, but could hurt your 2019 bottom line. Taking the time to determine whether you may be subject to the AMT before you make any year-end moves could help save you from making a costly mistake.

## 5. Bump up withholding to cover a tax shortfall

If it looks as though you're going to owe federal income tax for the year, especially if you think you may be subject to an estimated tax penalty, consider asking your employer (via Form W-4) to increase your withholding for the remainder of the year to cover the shortfall. The biggest advantage in doing so is that withholding is considered as having been paid evenly through the year instead of when the dollars are actually taken from your paycheck. This strategy can also be used to make up for low or missing quarterly estimated tax payments. With all the recent tax changes, it may be especially important to review your withholding in 2018.

## 6. Maximize retirement savings

Deductible contributions to a traditional IRA and pre-tax contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan such as a 401(k) can reduce your 2018 taxable income. If you haven't already contributed up to the maximum amount allowed, consider doing so by year-end.

## 7. Take any required distributions

Once you reach age 70½, you generally must start taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) from traditional IRAs and employer-sponsored retirement plans (an exception may apply if you're still working for the employer sponsoring the plan). Take any distributions by the date required — the end of the year for most individuals. The penalty for failing to do so is substantial: 50% of any amount that you failed to distribute as required.

## 8. Weigh year-end investment moves

You shouldn't let tax considerations drive your investment decisions. However, it's worth considering the tax implications of any year-end investment moves that you make. For example, if you have realized net capital gains from selling securities at a profit, you might avoid being taxed on some or all of those gains by selling losing positions. Any losses over and above the amount of your gains can be used to offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income (\$1,500 if your filing status is married filing separately) or carried forward to reduce your taxes in future years.

## 9. Beware the net investment income tax

Don't forget to account for the 3.8% net investment income tax. This additional tax may apply to some or all of your net investment income if your modified adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds \$200,000 (\$250,000 if married filing jointly, \$125,000 if married filing separately, \$200,000 if head of household).

## 10. Get help if you need it

There's a lot to think about when it comes to tax planning. That's why it often makes sense to talk to a tax professional who is able to evaluate your situation and help you determine if any year-end moves make sense for you.



### ***Timing of itemized deductions and the increased standard deduction***

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, signed into law in December 2017, substantially increased the standard deduction amounts and made significant changes to itemized deductions, generally starting in 2018. (After 2025, these provisions revert to pre-2018 law.) It may now be especially useful to bunch itemized deductions in certain years; for example, when they would exceed the standard deduction.

### ***IRA and retirement plan contributions***

For 2018, you can contribute up to \$18,500 to a 401(k) plan (\$24,500 if you're age 50 or older) and up to \$5,500 to a traditional or Roth IRA (\$6,500 if you're age 50 or older). The window to make 2018 contributions to an employer plan generally closes at the end of the year, while you typically have until the due date of your federal income tax return (not including extensions) to make 2018 IRA contributions.

# National Radon Action Month



**Radon Leaders Saving Lives Campaign** is an online learning and action network supporting the Radon Leaders Saving Lives Campaign hosted by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, or CRCPD, with contributions from industry and EPA. If you would like to organize an event in your neighborhood, download the [NRAM Event Planning Kit](#).

## Five Things You Can Do During National Radon Action Month

- 1. Test your home** - EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that all homes in the U.S. be tested for radon. Testing is easy and inexpensive.
  - Learn more about [testing your home](#), including how to obtain an easy-to-use test kit.
- 2. Attend a National Radon Action Month event in your area** - Look for radon events in your community.
- 3. Spread the word**
- 4. Spend time during National Radon Action Month encouraging others to learn about radon and test their homes.**
  - Tell your family and friends about the [health risk of radon](#). Encourage them to test their homes.
  - [Plan an activity](#) in your community to help raise awareness.
  - Write an op-ed or letter to the editor using samples from the event planning resources.
  - Attract media attention by working with a local official to get a radon proclamation.
  - View or order EPA's [free radon publications](#).
- 5. Buy a radon-resistant home** - If you are considering buying a new home, look for builders who use radon-resistant new construction. Read more about radon-resistant new construction, "[Building Radon Out: A Step-by-Step Guide to Build Radon-Resistant Homes](#)".
  - Build Green: It's Easy to Build New Homes Radon-Resistant ... "The good news is you can build your customers a safer, healthier, radon-resistant home. The techniques to prevent radon from entering a home are practical and straightforward for any builder. It's an inexpensive way to offer families a benefit that could reduce their risk of lung cancer. And it's a smart way to build trust between you and your customer." *Fuad Reveiz, Member of the National Association of Home Builders*



# CPSC and NIST Team Up to Demonstrate Holiday Decorating Hazards

Release date: December 6, 2018

Release number: 19-041

## Release Details

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have teamed up to remind consumers that the best holiday family traditions should always start with safety.

CPSC demonstrated fires involving dried-out Christmas trees and candles at a joint press conference at CPSC's National Product Testing and Evaluation Center in Rockville, Maryland.

“There are about 200 decorating-related injuries each day during the busy holiday season,” said CPSC Acting Chairman Ann Marie Buerkle. “Make safety a part of your family’s holiday decorating this year. Keep your Christmas tree watered, check holiday lights before you put them on the tree and use extra caution with candles.”

CPSC estimates that from 2013 to 2015, there was an annual average of about 100 Christmas tree fires, resulting in 10 deaths, 10 injuries, and \$12 million in property loss per year.

“NIST’s fire research demonstrates how important it is for consumers to water their Christmas trees to help prevent fires,” said Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and NIST Director Dr. Walter G. Copan. “We’ve also collected data to assist firefighters in better predicting how fires will behave. To stay fire safe all year, consumers should ensure they regularly test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in their homes.”

According to CPSC data, there were 18,400 injuries associated with holiday decorating seen in emergency departments nationwide from November 2016 through January 2017. The most frequent of these holiday decorating incidents involved falls (38 %), lacerations (14%), and strains or sprains (18%). There were two deaths involving falls from a ladder.

Follow these tips to help make your holiday a safe one:

## Trees and Decorations

- **Buying a live Christmas tree? Check for freshness.** A fresh tree is green; and its needles are hard to pull from branches and do not break when bent between your fingers. Keep trees well watered.

- **Buying an artificial tree? Look for the label: “Fire Resistant.”** Although this label does not mean that the tree will not catch fire, the tree is more resistant to catching fire.
- **Setting up a tree at home? Place it away from heat sources,** such as fireplaces, vents and radiators.
- **Decorating a tree in homes with small children?** Avoid sharp or breakable decorations. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of small children who could swallow or inhale small pieces.

## Candles

- **Keep burning candles within sight.** Extinguish all candles before leaving the room.
- **Keep candles on a stable, heat-resistant surface** where children and pets cannot reach them or knock them over. Place lit candles away from items that can catch fire, such as trees, decorations, curtains and furniture.

## Lights

- **Only use lights tested** for safety by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- **Check each set of lights,** new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw out damaged sets and do not use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- **Check each extension cord** to make sure it is rated for the intended use and is in good condition. Do not use cords with cuts or signs of fraying.
- **Check outdoor lights for labels** showing the lights have been certified for outdoor use, and only plug them into a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected receptacle or a portable GFCI.

## Fireplaces

- **Do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace.** A flash fire may result because wrappings can ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

## Smoke alarms

- **Have working smoke alarms** on every floor of the home and in every bedroom. The early warning provided by smoke alarms saves lives.
- **Test your smoke alarms** every month to make sure they are working properly.
- **Change batteries** in smoke alarms every year.

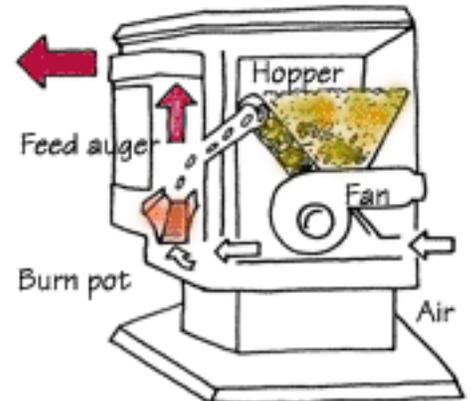
Download and share CPSC’s [holiday decorating safety poster](#).

# How a Pellet Stove Works

by Don Vandervort, HomeTips © 1997-2018  
August 14, 2014

## An illustrated explanation of how pellet stoves are fed and work

You pour the pellets into a holding bin or hopper, which is located either at the top or bottom of the unit. Hoppers typically hold from 35 to 130 pounds of pellets; the larger the hopper, the longer an unattended stove will burn. Depending upon the rate of burn and size of the hopper, most stoves will operate from one to two days on a single load of pellets.



*Anatomy of a Pellet Stove*  
©Don Vandervort, HomeTips

## Pellet Feeding Mechanisms

Most stoves have an auger that delivers pellets from the hopper to the combustion chamber. The auger's movement is operated by a solid-state control that is set manually or, with some stoves, by an optional wall-mounted thermostat. A fire's size depends on the rate of feed. Pellets delivered at 1 pound per hour will produce a gentle, glowing fire that will last a long time. At 5 pounds per hour, a pellet fire will be ablaze.

## Combustion Chambers

The pellets are fed to a fire pot or burner ring in the combustion chamber. Combustion air is blown into the chamber to encourage a super-heated flame. You must light some pellet stoves; others are self-lighting. If they're turned off, or if the power fails, they stop burning.

## Pellet Stove Heat Exchangers

Room air is drawn in by a fan and blown across the heat exchanger, which is heated to about 250 degrees F., and the warmed air is returned to the room. Unlike wood stoves, pellet stoves rely on convective, not radiant, heat.

As a result, most pellet stoves don't get too hot to touch—an important consideration for families with small children. This also means a stove may be placed closer to combustibles such as walls (most have a minimum clearance of 3 inches to side walls, 1 inch to back walls). They do, however, need to stand over a minimum 3/8-inch-thick non-combustible floor such as tile.

## Pellet Stove Venting

Residual combustion gases are vented outside, normally through a 3-inch flue that exits out the unit's back or top. Some have an interchangeable top/rear vent. Pellet stove venting kits can be purchased online or from pellet stove dealers.

Though most pellet stoves don't require a conventional chimney, saving you from considerable expense and design inflexibility, most types draw better if the flue goes out through the wall and turns upward. For safety and soot control, it's wise to extend the vertical section past the eaves.

## How to Install a Pellet Stove

by Don Vandervort, HomeTips © 1997-2018

November 28, 2016

### **Installing a pellet stove, if allowed by local code, requires only modest do-it-yourself skills.**

Because a pellet stove, like a fireplace, is an attractive addition to a room, it is best located where the family can enjoy it and where it will provide the best benefit as a heating source.

But several other considerations come into play when you decide where to put a new pellet stove.

In most cases, a central location is best for a freestanding pellet stove because this allows its radiant heat to serve the entire surrounding area.

### **Pellet Stove Requirements**

For a pellet stove to heat the entire house, the house will need to have an open plan, with few barriers to heat movement. Rooms away from the stove's location will need a means of warm air distribution such as a ducted forced-air heating system. And the stove must have a blower.

With this type of setup, the stove can be placed near a primary cold-air return for the forced-air heating system so that its warm air is drawn into the system and circulated to the various rooms in the house. At the very least, this provides a good supplement for the existing heating system and cuts down on the use of gas or oil. (Keep in mind that the warmed air will only be distributed when the heating system's blower is running.)

Another option, if you want to heat the entire house with pellet fuel, is a pellet-fired furnace or boiler. This can replace or supplement your gas- or oil-fired furnace or boiler.

Because most pellet stoves do not require the same type of chimney as a conventional wood stove or fireplace, you usually have more options where it can be placed. Proper venting is absolutely



**Pleasant Hearth**  
*Installing a pellet stove involves connection to a flue and air intake duct..*



**Napoleon Builders**  
*This pellet-burning whole-house furnace will heat the entire house just as a conventional forced-air heating system does.*

essential for safety. For most stoves, you will need to plan for a 3-inch flue to exit out the back or top of the stove, go through the wall, and then extend upward past the house eaves.

The outer surfaces of a pellet stove don't get as hot as the surfaces of wood stoves or fireplaces, so most can be placed closer to combustibles—typically 3 inches from walls at the sides and 1 inch from a back wall. Most need to stand on a non-combustible surface such as stone or tile that is at least 3/8 inch thick. Be sure to adhere to all of the manufacturer's requirements regarding clearances.

## **Step-by-Step Installation**

The instructions given here are for installing a freestanding pellet stove. If you are installing a pellet stove insert, which fits into a fireplace, it is best to hire a fireplace professional to clean the chimney, run the venting up through the chimney, and provide a waterproof storm collar and chimney cap at the top.

Stove dealers often offer installation for a reasonable cost, and local codes may require you to use a professional. But, if you are allowed to, installing a freestanding pellet stove is a job within the reach of a handy do-it-yourselfer.

Pellet stoves are very heavy. If you buy a large unit, you may have trouble moving it even with a helper or two and a heavy-duty handcart. Consult with your dealer. It may be best to install the hearth pad and cut the hole for the vent first and then have the dealer deliver the stove to the site.

If you do hire a professional installer, be sure that the stove is vented according to the manufacturer's recommendations and local code requirements. The installer may want to simply poke the vent out a wall, but this may not be safe, and the stove will work better if the vent makes a turn upward and extends above the eaves.

Running the vent is the most difficult part of the installation, so plan the vent path before you begin. The most common method is to run the vent out through an exterior wall. If that is not possible, you can run the vent up through the roof. In this case, you may want to hire a roofer to install a code-approved roof jack through which the pipe will run. The jack must be installed and flashed so there are no leaks.

A pellet stove is typically installed just 1 to 2 inches away from a rear wall, but you can install it farther out if you like. The vent can travel out the back of the stove through the wall, making it inconspicuous if not nearly invisible.

Install a code-approved non-combustible hearth pad for the stove to rest on. The pad should extend at least 6 inches in front of the stove and several inches out on each side. You can make a pad yourself by laying down concrete backerboard topped with tile or by setting down a large stone slab. Or you can purchase a premade hearth pad online or from your stove supplier. The pad can be set right on top of the flooring.

Consult your product literature to determine the correct height of the hole for the vent. Use a stud finder to make sure the hole will run between studs. In most cases, you will need to cut a hole that is 10 inches in diameter.

Use a utility knife and/or a jab saw to cut through the inside drywall first, and then use a reciprocating saw or jigsaw to cut through the outside siding. Install a vent thimble—a sleeve through which the vent will travel—into the hole. Connect 3-inch double-walled vent pipe (or pipe recommended by the manufacturer) to the stove and run it through the thimble to the outside. Outside, install a vent pipe cleanout for removal of the ashes and install an elbow so the vent can turn and run vertically above the eaves. Use a strap to secure the vent against the eave and add a rain cap.

Just plug the unit into a standard 120-volt receptacle and it's ready for use.



## Pellet Stove Maintenance

by Don Vandervort, HomeTips © 1997-2018

March 11, 2016

### **Expert advice on the care and maintenance of your pellet stove, including annual cleanings**

Because pellet stoves receive constant use during the heating season, regular and proper maintenance is necessary to keep them operating efficiently. Just how often a pellet stove will need cleaning will depend on the design of the stove and the grade of fuel burned.

Not all pellets are created equal; generally speaking, high-priced pellets burn more cleanly and hotter than low-cost pellets. Your stove supplier will likely recommend a certain brand, but do a bit of experimenting. Buy just a few bags of one brand and try it, and then try another brand until you find pellets that heat satisfactorily and don't leave too much ash and clinker residue. In general, top-fed stoves require high-quality pellets while bottom-fed stoves can use pellets of lesser quality.

How often you must add pellets depends on the size of the hopper and how hot you run the stove. A pellet stove with a small hopper may need to be filled twice a day while stoves with large-capacity hoppers can run hot for four or five days before they need to be refilled.

Before each heating season, have a qualified pellet stove/chimney professional inspect and, if necessary, clean your pellet stove's flue. If you are buying a new pellet stove, ask about a service contract.

In addition to annual servicing, pellet stoves need regular maintenance, which is mostly a matter of cleaning. This should take no more than about 15 minutes. A tool that makes this job relatively easy is a special ash vacuum (don't use a conventional home vacuum cleaner—the soot and ash can ruin it).

Here are some tasks you should perform on a weekly basis during heating season:

- **Empty the ash trap or drawer**, usually situated behind the fire chamber.
- **Look for “clinkers”** that form when ash melts and hardens. Clinkers can impede air flow and upset the proper mixture of fuel and oxygen to the burn pot. Remove them with a special rake or ash tool made for this purpose.
- **Look for a build-up of soot** on the inside surfaces of the stove. (As little as 1/10 inch of soot can drop the heat transfer by 50 percent.) Clean the soot off with a wire brush, but do not use the brush on the glass doors.
- **Clean the heat exchanger** as advised by the owner's manual.
- **Clean the glass** so you can tell whether the fuel is burning efficiently. Turn off the stove, wait for it to cool, about 20 minutes, and then use paper towels and a commercial glass cleaner made for heated glass to clean both the inside and outside surfaces.
- **Check the flame**—if it is orange or dark instead of bright yellow or white, it is time to call in a service professional.
- **Allow the auger tube** and fuel hopper to completely empty on occasion so that sawdust and pellet debris don't build up and block the feed system.
- **Empty unused pellets** from the stove hopper and feed system at the end of the heating season, as they can collect moisture and cause rust that can damage the stove. Fresh pellets will also be easier to start at the beginning of the next heating season. Have a professional come out and clean the vent pipe.



## Our Mission is Safety

The National Safety Council eliminates preventable deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the road through leadership, research, education and advocacy.

# Winter Safety Tips

## Drive Safely in the Snow

Driving in the winter means changes in the way you drive. Snow, sleet and ice can lead to hazardous road conditions. [Prepare your vehicle](#) for the upcoming winter season with these helpful tips.

## Avoid Strain while Shoveling

[Shoveling snow](#) is a major winter activity in many parts of the United States. Taking a few precautions can help you prevent unnecessary pain and suffering.

## Treat Frostbite Immediately

Use first aid to help someone who may have [hypothermia or frostbite](#). Online and classroom courses are available through NSC.

## Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide detectors save lives, but less than one-third of American homes have one installed. With December and January at the peak of [CO poisonings](#), check out our fact sheet and be sure to follow tips like these:

- Replace the battery for your home's CO detector each spring and fall
- Do not heat your home with a gas range or oven
- Never run a car or truck inside an attached garage



Great email Digest with information on handling of waste water. Could not resist this most recent issue. There has to be a topic of interest here for every Home Inspector. Subscribe for future issues.

Below are a examples of a couple of the articles. Click [HERE](#) to subscribe.



## TEXAS CITY PLANS TO DRINK TREATED SEWAGE WATER

**In El Paso, Texas, there are plans to treat the city's sewage water and send it back into its taps**



The Rio Grande is one of El Paso, Texas', primary water sources. The river supplies as much as half of the city's water needs. However, climate change is making that difficult and is pushing the city to look for new water sources.

According to KFOX-TV, El Paso is on track to become the first large city in the U.S. to treat its sewage water and send it back into its taps.

According to the federal government's most recent national climate assessment, increasing temperatures will make the dry region more vulnerable to drought. Scientists have found that as temperatures have risen, the amount of snow melting and feeding the Rio Grande has dropped.

“We’re getting less runoff now than we would have gotten as recently as the ‘80s or ‘90s,” said J. Phillip King, civil engineering professor at the University of New Mexico, to CNN.

King tracked the river’s water levels for the past 27 years as an adviser to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District. According to CNN, the district manages the water distribution of some 90,000 acres of farmland along the Rio Grande Valley.

King said there is less snowmelt coming from the northern New Mexico and southern Colorado to feed the river, according to CNN.

“You know we’ve already gotten critically low here, and you think of the Colorado as a few years away from a similar fate,” King said to CNN.

According to King, the Rio Grande has survived severe and sustained droughts. The federal government is projecting the temperatures could rise an additional 8°F in the region by 2100.

Under the 10 million acre-ft of freshwater in the Hueco Bolson aquifer there is an additional 30 million acre-ft of brackish water that can be treated and used as drinking water, according to El Paso Water’s hydrologists.

According to CNN, it is estimated that Texas has nearly 3 billion acre-ft of groundwater to use. That is more than 20,000 times the amount of water El Paso has used this year.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the wastewater amount produced in large cities can represent 50% to 60% of the total water supplied. This would provide a massive resource for cities like El Paso..

## A GREENER ALTERNATIVE TO WET WIPES

### Satu Laboratory's gel wipes are the number one toilet paper moisturizer in the U.K.

In Estonia, a new product has become the go-to as an alternative to wet wipes. Satu Laboratory sells “gel wipes” as a better and greener way to wipe your bottom. The “wipe” is a gel you can apply to toilet paper before use.

The product was evaluated by Intertek, a worldwide group of testing laboratories for the textile, footwear, toys, petroleum and chemicals industries. The moisturizer is suitable for children under three years old. Tests were made to evaluate the environmental impact and the gel was approved for flushing. It is currently the number one toilet paper moisturizer in the U.K. and the product appeared in Forbes in June.



### WWD Associate Editor Sara Myers spoke to Siim Saat, CEO of Satu Laboratory, about his company, the gel wipes and the flushable wet wipes epidemic.

**Sara Myers:** Can you tell me more about your company and what you do?

**Siim Saat:** It's quite simple. We are an Estonian startup. We manufacture and sell gel wipes. It's a toilet paper moisturizer that you just put on regular toilet paper and you can clean your bottom with it. And, it's an upgrade or alternative for flushable wet wipes.

**Myers:** What is in the special formula and what makes it so environmentally friendly?

**Saat:** It is 88% water, Triethanolamine, Panthenol, Ethylparaben, and more. You know there is a huge problem with flushable wet wipes. The wipes have liquid plastics in the gel so it won't ruin them. Our product is environmentally friendly because it doesn't contain any liquid plastic and it dissolves quickly. Usually toilet paper when flushed it takes roughly five minutes. [The gel] doesn't make that process any longer. No clorox, no problems. And, that's basically it.

Also, we produce it in Europe. Compared to other wet wipe manufacturers that come from China, our product life cycle is greener because the transportation of our products doesn't pollute the environment because we produce it locally in Europe. At one point, we were thinking of opening or finding a production partner in North America. So, our life cycle for our North American

customers would also be greener. Because right now we send the products through a warehouse, that we must add the transport pollution from Europe in that cycle. We are monitoring every aspect of our product because we want to make it as green as possible.

**Saat:** Are the gel wipes the only product your company sells right now?

**Myers:** We are focusing only on the gel wipe. But maybe in the future we also will start producing toilet paper if we find a trustworthy partner who agrees with our environmental goals. In Spain, we are actually in cooperation with one of Spain's largest toilet paper manufacturers. They have combined packages of eight rolls of toilet paper and a bottle of our gel wipes. Right now, we are only selling through pharmacies.



**Saat:** On the top of your site I noticed you have a changing number of wet wipes being saved from oceans and sewers. How exactly is that number calculated?

**Myers:** It's actually quite simple. We can monitor our sales through Amazon and the average bottle sold in pharmacies. And, we already know that our bottle is 100 ml. It equals about 600 wet wipes because the average adult going to the loo nowadays is 3 to 4 wet wipes plus toilet paper. One wipe with the gel wipes usually equals about 3 to 4 wet wipes.

**Myers:** Anything else you would like to add?

**Saat:** Wet wipes around the world are losing legal battles. In Australia, basically every case that has been taken to court has lost. In Europe, things are also changing. But, in the states [U.S.], it's quite weird. Last time I read some court documents on it I wasn't sure if I should laugh or cry. The court was in Washington D.C., and basically they decided the wet wipes weren't actually flushable but we can't do anything because you are the only company standing in front of us and it would be an unfair market situation for you if we say that your product is not flushable. For me, from a European court experience, it was really interesting.

**Editor's Note:** Saat later sent the rest of the ingredients of the product, they include: Alcohol, PEG-40, Hydrogenated Castor Oil, Propylene Glycol, Allantoin, Tocopheryl Acetate, Carbomer, Ethylhexylglycerin, Triethanolamine, Imidazolidinyl Urea, Phenoxyethanol and Methylparaben.

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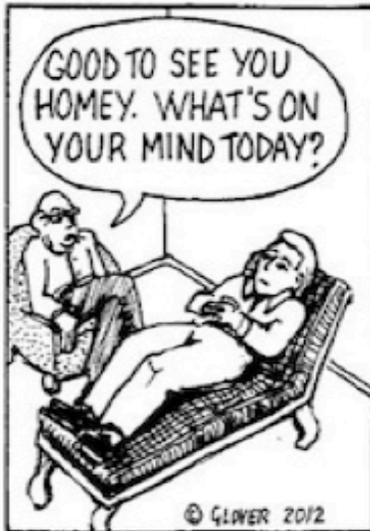
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by Ted Glover

## Homey Spector

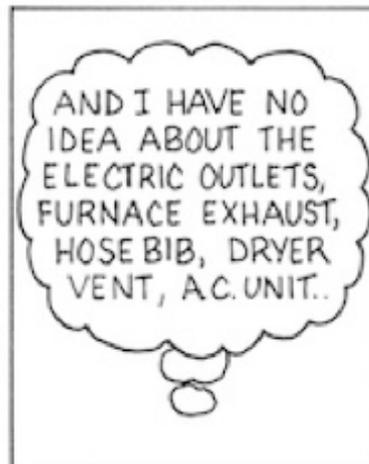
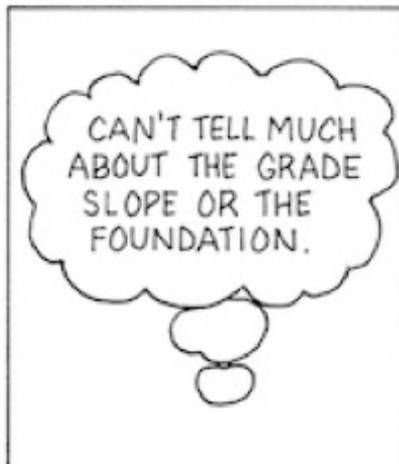


## Homey Spector



Ted Glover

## HOMEY SPECTOR



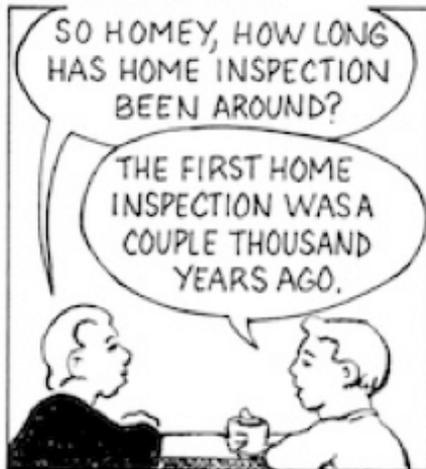
## TED GLOVER



**Homey Spector**



**HOMIEY SPECTOR**



WHEN A TRAVELER WHO ARRIVED AT AN OVERBOOKED INN WAS FORCED TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH HIS EXPECTANT WIFE IN AN OLD STABLE



**TED GLOVER**



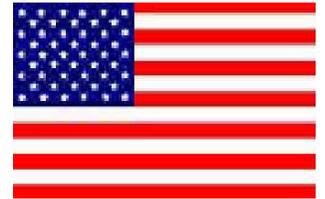
*Happy Holidays*

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