

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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Did you know...

...that you can find information regarding health hazards in the home such as flooding on our website? On www.vhpinc.com select the "Answers & Information" tab, then the "Related Health & Safety Issues" tab.



OWNER'S CORNER

THROUGH MY EYES

My son Bryan is a first year medical student at Wayne State University. As part of his program he had the opportunity to join a medical mission to Haiti. So instead of relaxing over spring break, he spent his time off assisting a team of doctors who provide free medical care to needy people in a remote mountain area along with some other medical students.

Bryan had to raise the money for the trip. In addition, he and his fellow medical students raised money to pay for the medications and supplies they took with them. For my part, helping him get

ready for the trip was like a return to his time as a Boy Scout. Hiking as a scout was good preparation because he was very familiar with how to pack lightly and what essentials to bring for such a trip. He was right at home sleeping on his ground pad with a good mosquito net. The team was invited to stay in a local church parsonage, but several, including Bryan, opted to sleep on its roof, in open air, because of the sweltering heat.

Bryan thinks we don't appreciate our American



Medical Student, Bryan Squires (middle), on a medical trip to Haiti.

health care system as much as we should. The Haitians they served live in extreme poverty. Without money they are turned away from getting needed care in Haitian hospitals and clinics. They were very grateful for the medical care they received from the team.

(Continued on next page)

Experts Warn that Flood-Damaged Appliances Should be Replaced

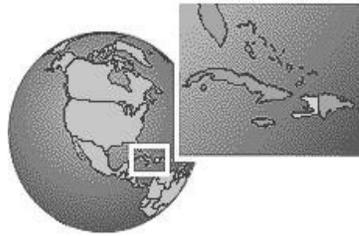
The following information is from the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association (GAMA) - www.gamanet.org

ARLINGTON, VA - All flood-damaged plumbing, heating, cooling and electrical appliances and related

systems should be replaced, rather than repaired, warns the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association (GAMA). The organization representing all major producers of natural and LP gas equipment also

strongly recommends that all work on flooded equipment be performed by a qualified, licensed contractor, not by homeowners. The GAMA warning stems from past reports of *(continued page 3)*

THROUGH MY EYES (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)



Quotable:

"An excellent plumber is definitely more admirable than an incompetent philosopher. The society that scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a human act and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted act, will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water."
– John Gardner

It can be easy to take for granted the generosity of our medical system: in the U.S. no one seeking medical care in a hospital is turned away. Bryan shared how some people in Haiti would walk from as far as 6 hours away to be treated. Early every morning people would start queuing up at 2 a.m. in order to be in line to be seen that day. By the time the clinic opened a line of at least 100 people would have formed. The clinic

would see patients all day until they would close at sunset because there is no electricity.

A common ailment Bryan and his teammates saw was skin infections – ringworm and other bacterial and fungal afflictions. These have a lot to do with a lack of sanitation. He became very aware of the impact that not having good water and plumbing had on the health of the Haitian people – and how important it is for our health in the U.S. He echoed the thoughts of his grandfather, Ray Squires, master plumber, who would tell people "Without good

plumbing there wouldn't be enough doctors to help all the sick!"

To hear Bryan share his experiences, the impact his trip had on him was profound. He has a compassionate heart, which is an important thing for a future physician to have. As a father I am proud of him. As a plumber, I like to think that in a way there is a connection between us: my profession provides a sanitary framework for people to be healthy while Bryan is moving to 'the frontlines' of health care.

A stretch? Maybe. But it's a legacy that makes me smile.

A LETTER FROM A VINCENT'S CLIENT

Dave put in faucets and went above and beyond what I expected. He located the fixture which is no longer sold in mainstream plumbing

concerns. Now my bathroom (with the old, clawfoot tub) has a bright, shiny, new faucet EXACTLY like the old one which could

not be rebuilt and for which washers couldn't stop the drips. I am grateful that Dave is with Vincent's...he is fast, sure of his abilities

FLOODING DAMAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

accidents resulting from improper do-it-yourself repairs of flood-damaged appliances. One homeowner, for example, suffered severe burns in a flash fire that occurred when he tried to re-light the pilot on his flooded gas water heater. The Association stresses that not only gas equipment is at risk, but also units using oil or electricity as the energy source.

"Controls damaged by flood water are extremely dangerous," notes GAMA President C. Reuben Autery. "Attempts to use equipment with defective gas or oil control devices can result in fires, flashbacks or explosions. And in the case of electric appliances, the result can be injury or even death from a powerful electric shock." The GAMA official noted that devices at risk include water heaters, furnaces, boilers, room heaters and air

conditioners. The Association stresses that the repair of flooded appliances and related systems (including damaged venting and electrical connections) is not a job for the do-it-yourselfer, no matter how skilled. This is particularly true of control valves, according to GAMA officials. These components are manufactured to extremely close tolerances. Once submerged in flood water, they must be replaced. Field repairs should never be attempted by the homeowner.

Even when controls appear to be operative, the unit should not be used after flood waters recede. "It may work for a while," Autery explains, "but it will deteriorate over time. It might take a week, a month, or even a year, but once any control has been under water, it presents a serious hazard...fire or

explosion in the case of gas controls, fire or shock in the case of electric equipment." Because so many things can go wrong as a result of flood water, it's usually cheaper, and always safer to replace, rather than repair, Autery stresses. "You can have a control valve replaced, but there may be damage to other parts of the unit, like venting, piping, burners and insulation. There are just so many things that can go wrong, the wise choice is always to start over with new equipment," the GAMA official declared.

In some instances, government aid may be available to help consumers finance the replacement of flood-damaged heating equipment. For information, homeowners should contact any of the offices of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), set up to help flood victims.

"...the work he does is as if he is fixing something in his own home..."

A LETTER FROM A VINCENT'S CLIENT CONTINUED

as a plumber, demonstrates care for the home in which he works as if it belonged to him, and the work he does is as if he is

fixing something in his own home.
-Jackie, Port Huron



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Spring Word Search

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

Blossom
Lilies
Spring Cleaning
Umbrella
Daffodil
Pollen
Tadpole
Grass
Showers
Thaw

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Humor Section



A motorist received a speeding violation in the mail along with a photo of his car license taken by an automated speed trap.

Irritated, he laid out cash in the amount of the fine, took a picture of it, and returned the photo of the cash with the ticket.

He got a swift response by mail: a picture of some handcuffs. He paid the fine.

DUCT TAPE AND THE MEANING OF LIFE

One only needs two tools in life: WD-40 to make things go, and duct tape to make them stop.

Duct tape is like the force: It has a Light side and a Dark side, and it binds the universe together.