

Our latest **Video Clip** is **“Law and Order: Special Maintenance Unit”** which provides an entertaining look at how to backflush your water heater. It can be found at: <http://www.home-wizard.com/LawOrderSMU.asp> (9 minutes 50 seconds)



Law and Order: Special Maintenance Unit “The Untimely Death of an Innocent Water Heater”

The “Law and Order” television franchise has captivated audiences for years with their gritty dramas of mystery, crime, and justice. Get ready for some new cops on the “Law and Order” beat . . . because to the detectives of the **Special Maintenance Unit**, letting your appliances die from neglect isn’t just frustrating and inefficient, it’s criminal ! In this latest video installment brought to you by the **Not Ready for Housework Players**, a pair of hard-boiled detectives investigate the untimely demise of a homeowner’s water heater, and get to the bottom of a blatant case of failure to do regular home maintenance. Follow along as our detectives unveil the necessary steps to keep your water heater in proper working order, and prevent crimes such as neglecting routine maintenance from compromising the smooth operation of your home.



In June, it’s prudent for homeowners to backflush their water heater in order to prevent buildup of harmful sediment in the tank that can decrease its working efficiency and increase the expense of operation. Never heard of backflushing? You’re not alone. Backflushing your water heater is a task that many homeowners don’t even know to perform, and those that are aware of it often don’t know how to do it, or are afraid the task is too difficult for them to undertake themselves. With this video, a clear, concise, and easy-to-follow explanation of the backflushing procedure is offered to help the viewer learn about the task and to see that with the right instructions and the right equipment, it is a simple job that anyone can learn to do.

Because Home-Wizard.com is dedicated to providing you with the best possible support in all your home maintenance tasks, we have de-

veloped a **patent-pending Water Heater Backflush Kit** so that you can be sure you have the right equipment you need to accomplish your maintenance goals. The kit includes a five-gallon bucket and a modified fitted lid with a hose attachment that is easy to store, safe to use, and designed to help you backflush quickly and efficiently. It also includes a handy step-by-step guide for backflushing. You can order this useful kit from Home-Wizard.com for just \$18.99 plus shipping and handling, and it will greatly increase the ease and safety with which you perform this vital maintenance task.



See: www.home-wizard.com/products.asp

Backflushing your water heater helps you to reduced energy costs, improve safety, and can greatly extend the useful life of your water heater. With Home-Wizard.com and the **Not Ready for Housework Players**, you can learn everything you need to know to keep your appliance working at its best for years to come. Click below to enjoy our video, and enjoy your newfound ability to perform another maintenance task that will help you take the best possible care of your home.

<http://www.home-wizard.com/LawOrderSMU.asp>

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You've Got Fail !

As computers have become such an integral part of our everyday lives, it's important to undertake a few simple tasks to ensure that these important machines keep functioning as they should, and don't fail you when you need them. Tasks that you should do in June include:

Update Anti-Virus Programs

Viruses can do serious damage to your computer, and new viruses are created everyday. So you need to continually refresh your antivirus program by updating your anti-virus program at least once a month, and running a virus scan once a week to make sure you're staying virus-free.



Back-Up Your Hard Drive

Backing up your hard drive helps ensure that your important data is saved in case of computer troubles. This involves you making a copy of the important information on your computer and storing it elsewhere to preserve it in the event of a crash. You can copy it to a disk, a tape drive, a CD, or an external hard drive, depending on the amount of data you would like to back up.

Test Electrical Surge Protector

A surge protector is a device designed to prevent abrupt electrical changes from damaging your expensive appliances. Often it is built into the extension cords that connect the device to the outlet. Check your manufacturer's recommendation to find the proper testing procedure for your item. And you should conduct these tests at least twice a year to help prevent major damage to your computer in the event of a power surge.

To learn more, see:

<http://www.home-wizard.com/maintenance/computer.asp>

Securing Your Home Security System

A security system is of one of those things that you hope you never need, but when you do, you want to be sure that it's prepared to do its job. Annual maintenance tasks for your system include:

Test System

A home security system needs to be periodically tested to ensure it is working properly. Following your manufacturer's recommendations, test the operation of each monitor, alarm, and control pad. This will reduce the risk of false alarms, or the lack of alarms when you need them. If your system connects to a monitoring company, be sure to coordinate your tests with them.



Verify Contact Information

Many security systems are designed to contact a central monitoring company when the alarm goes off. Make sure that all the necessary contact information is up to date, including the phone number to reach you in the event of an alarm, and the password for your "all clear" signal. If this information is not updated, you may not be contacted properly in an emergency.



Replace Back-Up Battery

The back-up battery is what keeps your system functioning even in a power outage. It should be located in your system's control box. Every five years, purchase a battery of the type your system requires, and replace the old one with it.

For more information, visit the Security System webpage of our online library at:

<http://www.home-wizard.com/maintenance/homesecuritysystem.asp>

Cold Hands, Warm Hearth

Doing fireplace maintenance in June helps you get good pricing, and ensures everything will be ready for you in the Fall, even if you need any repairs.

Clean and Inspect Chimney

Chimney fires can be very dangerous. You or a professional should examine the flue for deposits of creosote, which can be a fire hazard if allowed to build up past 1/8" in thickness. Check the flue and the firebox for damages to the brick or mortar, and make sure the damper is working and fits snugly. Cracks may indicate flue fires that can lead to serious problems.



Check Firewood Supplies

Firewood should be covered with a tarp or plywood and elevated at least six inches off the ground to prevent termite damage. Allow green firewood to dry thoroughly so it will burn better. Replenish supplies as necessary, and be sure to examine periodically for pests that can find their way into the wood of your house.

For more on fireplace maintenance, visit our online library:

<http://www.home-wizard.com/maintenance/fireplace.asp>

www.home-wizard.com

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