

May 2008 Newsletter

If you haven't already, we invite you to check out our **Video Clip** for May: *The Not Ready for Housework Players* present "Foundations of Procrastination", which can be found at <http://www.home-wizard.com/TheProcrastinator.asp> (2 minutes 48 seconds)



Introducing "The Not Ready for Housework Players"

At Home-wizard.com, we believe that if we can make routine home maintenance more interesting, and even a little bit funny, that it will help encourage you to do more of your recommended routine maintenance tasks. And as a result, it will help you to save more money on energy, improve your safety, help you to avoid costly repairs, extend the service lives of your appliances, and maintain your home's appearance and value.



This is why we brought together a group of very talented students from the Film and English departments of Brandeis University, and gave them a challenge: how to make learning about home maintenance more entertaining? And after numerous creative brainstorming sessions, the "Not Ready For Housework Players" were born.

We thought you might like to meet them, and hear their thoughts on how they plan to make Home-Wizard.com better for you.



Hi, I'm **Marianna Faynshteyn**, and I'm currently a sophomore majoring in English & American Literature with a minor in Film Studies at Brandeis University.

I guess being a native New Yorker, I'm naturally attracted to challenging situations. So when the opportunity came up to work with Home-Wizard.com I jumped at the chance.

I think that there are a lot of different ways to make learning about home maintenance more interesting. But most importantly, I think it needs to be funny if its going to draw people in.

Hello, I'm **Anthony Scibelli**. I'm currently a junior majoring in Film Studies at Brandeis University. I've served as an editor for Brandeis' satirical newspaper, am president of Brandeis' filmmaking club, and I also draw a weekly comic strip for the campus newspaper.



When Marianna encouraged me to join Home-Wizard.com it sounded like it would be fun to try blend the right levels of practical information and creative content to create videos and a website that are both informative and entertaining.



Hi there. I'm **Phoebe Roberts**, and I'm a junior majoring in English and Creative Writing at Brandeis University. My first impression of Home-Wizard.com was that it had very good content, but that it was much too "dry",

and it needed to have a more friendly tone to the writing. And given my involvement in the theater on campus, I am really looking forward to helping to produce some very creative video clips for Home-Wizard.com.

You can find out more about "The Not Ready for Housework Players" at:

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

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Home-Wizard.com



Pest Control Time Again

Termites, insects, and animals. They love your home as much as you do. The difference is that you want to add to the value of your home, and they just want to destroy it by eating away at it and making it less healthy for you to live in it.

You have three big weapons in your battle to protect your home from invasion:

- Inspecting
- Cleaning
- Blocking Access

Inspecting. The key areas that you will want to inspect around your home for evidence of infestation include: foundation; attic spaces; basement; garage; eaves; and sinks, cupboards, and closets. Just grab a flashlight and look for signs of droppings, nests, areas that have been attacked, etc.



Cleaning. Areas that have a build-up of debris, especially wet areas, are open invitations to pests. Make sure that the areas that you inspect above are kept clean and dry.

Blocking Access. Screens, window frames, door jams, etc. can only do their jobs for keeping out pests if they are completely intact. Repair any features of your home that can allow pests to infiltrate.

For additional information, you can go to the Pest Control webpage of our online library at:

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

Exhaust Fans . . . the Forgotten Openings



Of our users who have signed up for personalized home maintenance reminders, 83% have requested maintenance reminders for their exhaust fans.

Exhaust fans are typically located in kitchens and bathrooms, and they draw air from inside of your home and blow it outside.

Yes, it's good to clean the covers of your exhaust fans

that are located inside of your house, since dust and dirt build-up on them can reduce airflow efficiency, and thereby require you to run your fan longer.

But remember that each of these exhaust fans are an opening to your home, and you should check the outside of your house to ensure that the outlets on the outside of your house are clean and working properly. In particular,:



1. Be sure that swinging louver doors are operating properly, and are not stuck open, or else it will be a source for lost energy and an avenue for pests.
2. Clean away any insect nests or debris that could be blocking the vents.

You can find out more about exhaust fan maintenance at:

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

Waking Up Your Mattress

Your mattresses are made of materials and springs which become compressed and matted down over time.

Similar to the way that the useful life of the tires on your car can be extended by rotating them, you can prolong the useful life and comfort of your mattresses by rotating and flipping them.

Every six months you should rotate your mattress so that the head of the mattress moves to the foot of your bed. And three months later, you should flip your mattress over so that the top becomes the bottom.

You can find out more at:

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



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