

# October 2008 Newsletter

This month's video clip provides an entertaining look at how to overcome the pitfalls of procrastination:  
[www.home-wizard.com/DarkKnight.asp](http://www.home-wizard.com/DarkKnight.asp) (5 min 44 sec.)



## The Dark Knight meets "The Procrastinator"

This month's video may be our best yet! In this video, the Not Ready for Housework Players present an entertaining parody of the recent Batman film "The Dark Knight." Watch as the legendary caped crusader takes on what may very well be the greatest enemy to home maintenance . . . procrastination.



And as you'll learn from this fun video, you can overcome "The Procrastinator" that exists in all of us by:

- 1) Focusing on the **BENEFITS** of the tasks.
- 2) **PRIORITIZING** what needs to be done.
- 3) **GETTING STARTED** on the most important item on your list (and usually getting started on one task will likely help you get moving on the others on your list); and
- 4) Having an "**ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER**" who can help you keep on track and provide you with support on when and how to do your tasks (sort of like what we do for you here at Home-Wizard.com !)



Yes, there definitely is a little bit of The Procrastinator in all of us. We all know how tempting it can be to put off doing routine home maintenance, despite how important it is to saving us money on energy costs and maintaining the safety of our home and family.

You can rely on Home-Wizard.com to provide you with a personalized list of recommended maintenance tasks for your particular home, and we can provide you with monthly reminders for when it's the right time to do these tasks. And we can show you how and why you should do them. But when it comes to getting them done, well hopefully this month's video will inspire you to overcome procrastination . . . home maintenance's public enemy number one.

As always, we hope that you find this month's video to be both entertaining and informative.

To see our parody of "The Dark Knight", you can click here:

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



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## DON'T DISS YOUR DISHWASHER

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Few appliances in your home are more labor-saving, or get more of a workout, than our dishwashers. To return the favor and keep your dishwasher operating properly, it needs routine maintenance on a regular basis.



First, if you are finding scale building up on the inside of your dishwasher, then you will want to treat your dishwasher for it about every two months. How you treat your problem will depend on whether your scale is mold, rust or stains. The treatments are easy to do, and for details on which treatment you should use for your particular situation, you can see our Dishwasher webpage in our online Maintenance Library at:

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

While you're on this webpage, you should also look at what we recommend that you do once a year to keep your dishwasher running properly. We describe for you how to do the following:

1. Clean filter and trap.
2. Clear spray arm holes.
3. Clear the "air trap".
4. Check and tighten any loose water hose clamps.
5. Check the door seal gasket for any cracks or leaks.
6. Check the pre-heating mechanism.

## Save Money and Breathe Easier (Literally!)

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Do you want to save energy and at the same time improve the indoor air quality of your home? But wait! What if I told you that you could do it without costing much money? Well replacing the air filters in your home's forced air heating system regularly during the heating season can actually give you both of these benefits.

Dirty air filters make it harder for air to flow through. And as a result, your system's fan motor has to work harder. So you know what that means . . . higher energy costs for all of the additional work that this causes for your fan's motor. And making your fan motor work harder because of dirty filters means that your fan will likely fail sooner.

So once a month during the winter heating season, we recommend that you change the air filters in your forced air heating system



You can read more about routine maintenance for your home's forced air heating system by visiting the Forced Air Heating System webpage of our online Maintenance Library at:

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

## Store Your Grill before the Chill

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Over the summer, it's great to fire up the barbecue for an outdoor cookout. But after summer ends, it's a good idea to properly prepare your grill for the off-season. There are two important reasons for taking time during October to do this: 1) safety and 2) helping your grill to last longer.

If you have a gas grill, you will want to especially inspect your gas system, and clean and inspect your burners. And regardless of whether your grill is gas or charcoal, you will want to thoroughly clean your grill, before storing it over the winter.

You can find out how to properly inspect, clean and prepare your grill for the winter by visiting our Barbeque Grill page of our online Maintenance Library at:

For more on Furnace maintenance, visit:  
<http://www.home-wizard.com/maintenance/barbequegrill.asp>

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