

H & S Plumbing, Inc.'s **HOME** *Xpert*

Smart & simple ways to enrich your home living

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The Energy Connection to Your Water Heater

Heating your water is the second largest energy expense in your home, the Department of Energy (DOE) says. Along with an inadvisable decision to stop taking baths and showers, there are four basic ways to cut those costs: use less hot water, turn down your water heater's thermostat (120 degrees F works well), insulate the storage tank or replace with a new, more efficient model.

Typically, water heaters have a lifespan of about 10 years. As they age, they become less reliable and less energy efficient. Because replacement is going to be a priority at some critical time, it's advisable to get ahead of the issue before a declining water heater inconveniently malfunctions or causes an unfortunate mess. Understandably, the DOE recommends that you replace

your current model with a new energy-efficient water heater and enjoy significant energy savings over the appliance's lifetime. Energy-efficient options are available in different fuel types and with a variety of technologies, including tankless and solar water heaters.

Among these options, the DOE points out that natural gas on-demand or tankless water heaters can provide energy savings of up to 30 percent compared to a standard natural gas storage tank heater. They heat water only when needed and without a storage tank, cutting energy expenses while also providing continuous hot water delivery. Call us if you'd like info for an upgrade in your home.

MY WORD

By Randall Shoup



Hello Friends,

At the start of fall, it's good to feel a change in temperature and to see the changing landscape of this great season.

While we catch our breath after a busy summer of serving customers, we also have a chance to think about what we can do to bring even more value to you. We approach our work with an appreciation for continuous improvement. By getting better each day, we stay on top of the "best practices" that customers like you deserve.

You may also see the importance of continuous improvement in your own home. Your plumbing system is central to your family's comfort and convenience. Taking extra care can prevent problems from occurring and also save on your water bills.

Repairing leaks or drips is important to eliminate mess, annoyance and wasted water. Or, if you have inefficient fixtures that you'd like updated, let us know. Call us to schedule a tune-up on your system. Feel free to use the savings in this newsletter or pass them along to your friends.

Randall Shoup



Outdoor Plumbing Care

It's great that the last hundred years or so have made indoor plumbing as common as roofs and walls in American households. But don't forget to give some attention to the outdoor plumbing – especially as colder weather heads your way.

Start by disconnecting any water hoses hooked up to outside faucets. When temperatures drop, water in the hoses can freeze and expand, causing the faucets and the connecting pipes to your home to freeze and break. If possible, store the hoses inside for winter. An unheated shed may be okay, but the plastic and rubber of the hoses could crack from freezing and thawing multiple times during the winter.

If your home has interior shut-off valves leading to outside faucets, close them and drain the water from the outside lines.

While you're in the area, inspect the outdoor faucets to make sure they aren't dripping or leaking. If so, get them repaired before the temps hit freezing. You'd want to do this anyway, regardless of weather, to avoid wasting water and increasing your water bills. Also, cover the faucets with insulation kits, such as those found at home centers.

If you have outdoor pipes or pipes that aren't in an insulated area, wrap them in heat tape so they'll be less likely to freeze or burst. And if you've got one, inspect and clean your sump pump and pit.

We can help you get your home plumbing systems ready for the changing weather ahead with a quick seasonal inspection. If you need our help this season – or any time – let us know.



Priority Plumbing Protection Program

Would you like to receive a discount on all plumbing repairs and keep your plumbing system maintained? What will you receive?

- Priority Service: you will get scheduled as soon as a tech becomes available.
- One year warranty instead of 90 days
- Exclusive offers and coupons
- Check your water heater
- Check Toilets
- Check Water Pressure
- Safety Check Your Home: your plumbing system will be fully inspected.

You may also choose one of the following to be done at time of your inspection.

- Flush and drain water heater.
- 50' main drain camera (with accessible clean-out.)
- Check and adjust water closet and dye test.
- Clean burner assembly and/or intake on water heater.
- Clean hair from tub drain.
- Clean hair from lavatory drain.

Call our office to sign up for your "Priority Plumbing Protection Plan."



Pretty Up **YOUR PLUMBING!**

Update your plumbing fixtures and enjoy lots of perks. You can conserve water, improve water pressure and increase home value. Call **H & S Plumbing, Inc.** at **937-836-8725** and let's talk about great-looking options for your home. I also want to pay you \$25 for each fixture, but you must call by **April 30, 2022.**

Check out our website www.hsplumbing.net for monthly savings coupon specials!

Keep It Clean...

If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: washing your hands is essential to maintaining your health. Here's the dirt...

Handrails, phones and doorknobs can be loaded with bacteria that's right at your fingertips (literally).

Touching your face, eyes, or nose is an unconscious (and unsanitary) habit. Infectious diseases can enter your body if the mucous membranes in these areas are contaminated.

Plus, germs from unwashed hands also find their way into your food, making it easier for you to get sick.

GET **\$25 OFF** THE BEST SERVICE WE CAN OFFER

For your next plumbing repair, we'd like to make things easier on your wallet.

So just clip this coupon for a **\$25 savings** on your repair bill. Then call us, and we'll give you our best service.

Call **H & S Plumbing, Inc.** at **937-836-8725**.



Mushroom Chicken

Colder weather means the comfort of warm food can't be beat. Especially when it takes less than 30 minutes to come together. We hope you enjoy this warm, cozy dish with your family!

Ingredients:

- 2 large chicken breasts, cut in half to make 4 thinner pieces
- 10 oz mushrooms
- Flour
- 1 tbsp minced garlic
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 3/4 cup chicken broth
- 3 tbsp butter
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Dredge the chicken in flour and pan fry it in the olive oil. Cook until done and remove from pan.
2. Add the butter to the pan with the mushrooms and garlic. Cook until the mushrooms are dry. Remove and add to the same plate as the chicken.
3. Reduce chicken broth for 5 minutes. Whisk in the cream and salt and pepper to taste.
4. Add the chicken and mushrooms back to the pan and cook until sauce has thickened.

Serve over rice or garlic mashed potatoes with roasted seasonal vegetables.



Can You Hear Me Now?

Technology makes it easy to stay tuned to your pocket-sized screen – but also much easier to tune out real conversations. By making an effort to improve your listening skills, you can build better, deeper relationships. Try these tips:

- Turn off or silence your phone – or leave it in another room – while at the table, in the car, or when talking to someone one-on-one.
- Listen with purpose. Pay attention to things such as body movement, tone of voice, or the meaning behind the words you hear. This helps put mental distractions aside.
- As you listen, don't think about what you're going to say next. You'll miss out on what others are actually saying, and you could be embarrassed if you have to ask them to repeat what they just said.



Fast Fix

Homes are made to be lived in, which means spills are inevitable. Be prepared with a four-step action plan: Soak up the spill with a towel. Pour club soda over the stain and let it sit. Step on the towel to absorb the liquid. Repeat until the stain has finally been removed.

Could I Borrow Several of Your Friends?

Now what kind of question is that? The truth of the matter is that we enjoy providing superior service and value to our customers (that's you!). And we'd like to offer the same expertise to your friends and family.

So, pass our name along to the people you care about

– we care about their comfort as much as you do. And to say thanks, we'll gladly take \$20 off your next service for each referral you send our way. Just call **H & S Plumbing, Inc.** today at **937-836-8725** and let us know you're sending us another friendly face.

Healthy Fall Snacks

It's the season for pumpkins, but this seasonal vegetable has more value than meets the eye. Carving pumpkins is not just about creating fun or scary faces for the little costumed children in your neighborhood. It's also a way to create an incredibly delicious snack out of pumpkin seeds instead of throwing them away.

So roll up those carving sleeves and get ready to toast these tasty treats. By adding different flavors, you can turn your seeds into a tasty bite for the taste buds.

- **Turn up the heat.** Looking for something with a kick? Dazzle your seeds with spices such as smoked paprika, cumin or chili powder.
- **Sweeten the pot.** A touch of sugar with a hint of pumpkin pie spice can take a healthy edge off for anyone with a sweet tooth.
- **Pucker up.** Well, not exactly, but if you're looking for a touch of sour on your tastebuds, try a mix of brown sugar and steak seasoning. The sweet/sour mix will have you craving more.
- **Savor something savory.** Add a package of ranch dressing and a little bit of vegetable oil for more of a Tex-Mex style.

Start thinking about what tickles your fancy, or in this case, your taste buds. Pick your flavor, perfect your roasting technique, and enjoy a guilt-free fall snack!



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