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Fun Fact:

The Gmail logo was designed the night before it was launched.



Randall Brennan's

NEWSLETTER

Avoiding three mistakes that even good homeowners make

(ARA) - Have you ever accidentally left a candle burning unattended? Or left home without turning on the security system? You probably made a mental note to yourself to not do it again, but otherwise didn't think much about it.

But next time, you might not get so lucky. A simple "uh oh" could lead to thousands of dollars in damage to your home. Here are some helpful tips to avoid common homeowner mistakes:

Tip 1: Clean out the filter on your clothes dryer. Why? Those wads of lint that get caught in your dryer's filter can pose a major fire hazard. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that dryers cause more than 15,000 fires a year. Be sure to completely empty the lint trap every time you use your dryer. Also, make sure your dryer ducts are metal, since they're less likely to sag and allow lint to build up.

Tip 2: Make your house look occupied when you're on vacation. Why? An empty home can be an easy target for thieves. Have your mail and newspaper deliveries suspended or have a trusted neighbor retrieve and safeguard them until your return. "Not only do piles of mail signal that a house is vacant, but thieves can sift through letters to steal your identity," says Joe Vahey, vice president at Erie Insurance. "You also may want to arrange for someone to maintain your lawn if you'll be gone for more than a few days, and consider installing central alarms, motion detectors, or timed lights that will illuminate the area around your house at night."

Tip 3: Check appliance water hose. Why? Hoses for washers and refrigerators wear out and need to be replaced before they spring a leak. The water supply line to the icemaker can also be a water leak waiting to happen. Replace washing machine hoses every five years. If you see the plastic line along the back of the refrigerator becoming discolored (yellow or brown), have an appliance repair expert check it out.

Despite your best efforts to properly maintain and protect your home, accidents and mishaps still happen. For information on homeowners insurance, visit www.erieinsurance.com/homeowners.

- Courtesy of ARA Content

Word of the Month:

Studies have shown that your income and wealth is directly related to the depth of your Vocabulary. Here is this month's word so you can impress your friends.

barnburner

BAHRN-bur-ner\ *noun*:

1. Something that is highly exciting or impressive.

Example:

"So, ready for the elder's meeting tonight?" Olan said, pouring himself some coffee. "Should be a barnburner from what I hear."

-Jonathan Weyer, The Faithful

Quotes to Live by:

"Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."

-John Wooden

Say What?

Bend Over Backwards:

Do whatever it takes to help. Willing to do anything.

Top trends to make your windows look hot this summer

(ARA) - Windows do a lot more than just let the light in and keep the weather out. They're both key elements in your home's overall design and in the unique look of each individual room. If you're redecorating for warm weather, updating your window treatments is a great, cost-effective way to completely change the look of a space.

"People often switch their window treatments when the seasons change, but may only think of replacing heavy winter drapes with some frothy sheers," says Lauren Foster, a home design consultant with Blinds.com. "Today's versatile window shades offer ample opportunities to create a truly unique, seasonally appropriate look quickly and easily."

When warm weather arrives, it's time to open windows and let the sun shine in. Leaving windows curtain-free, and decorating with window shades instead, allows you to welcome the season into the room and show off the window's intrinsic beauty. Foster points to the window shade treatment trends that will be hot this spring and summer:

Bringing the outdoors in - Wood blinds have been a design staple for decades, and with good reason: they're durable, beautiful and practical. This year, wood blinds play to the trend of bringing the outdoors in. Woven roller shades that feature bamboo, sisal, grass, jute and straw are versatile enough to create both rustic and sophisticated effects in any room.

Cordless - Cordless shades have been available for a while, but their popularity is growing among homeowners and interior designers for a number of reasons. Cord-free blinds and shades create a clean, uncluttered look, allowing the beauty of the shade to shine without visual distraction. The cord-free adjustment mechanism holds blinds and shades securely in position, eliminating the need to constantly adjust them, and making it easier to raise them evenly. Finally, eliminating cords improves safety for children and pets, making cordless shades and blinds a must for children's bedrooms and play areas.

"The arrival of warm weather is a great time to redecorate, and few updates make it easier to freshen a room than changing shades and blinds," Foster says.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-

Movie Trivia: Gene Wilder played Willy Wonka in the original movie Charlie and the Chocolate factory. Who plays that character in the 2005 version?

a. Leonardo Dicaprio b. Tom Cruise

c. Johnny Depp d. Bill Murray

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Would you like to know how much your neighbor's home listed for?

Maybe you're just curious. Or maybe you want to know how much equity you have in your home. Or perhaps you are thinking of selling soon and want to know how much your home increased in value. Either way, I can help...No "sales pitches" or runarounds. Just give me a call **303-909-2365** and I will give you the facts.

Economy at a Glance:

Data Series	Apr 2012	May 2012	Jun 2012
<u>Unemployment Rate</u>	8.1	8.2	N/A
<u>Change in Payroll Employment</u>	115	69	N/A
<u>Average Hourly Earnings</u>	23.38	23.41	N/A
<u>Consumer Price Index</u>	0.0	-0.3	N/A
<u>Producer Price Index</u>	-0.2	-1.0	N/A

Information from <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm>

US Population Clock
313,883,314
World Population Clock
7,024,338,342

-July 5, 2012

Save time and energy with tips for smart home improvement

(ARA) - The weather is warm and the sun is shining, making it the perfect time to start your home improvement projects. Whether it's a little tidying up, or a full-on home repair, some tips will help you complete your projects without a lot of headaches.

Winning the battle against rust- As the sun begins to shine brighter, imperfections around the house begin to appear. Metal products that haven't been properly winterized or have simply been out in the elements too long can begin to show signs of wear and tear, and worst of all, rust. Combating rust can be a real challenge, and too often, people would rather toss out the rusty bench, garden tools or even the lawn mower and simply buy something new.

Continue cleaning up outside- Give the outside of your house a little TLC. Start with the roof and gutters, since they've collected a lot of buildup and have experienced their share of wear and tear throughout the colder months. No one wants to spend hours dealing with inside water damage or worse - mold. Stop the drama before it starts by inspecting the roof and gutters and looking for damage such as holes, loose shingles or leaks.

Check for a cool breeze- It's probably been a few months since the air conditioner was turned on, making now the perfect time to check that it's still running smoothly. Your air conditioner is important because it not only keeps your home cool during the hot summer; it also dehumidifies your house and keeps mold from developing inside the walls.

First, check the AC filters and replace them if they appear dirty, since a dirty filter can cause strain and damage to your air conditioner by making it work harder than necessary. Turn your air conditioner on for a test run; once it has been running for a while, check the refrigerant levels by feeling the pipe connected to your AC unit. It should feel cool to the touch - if it doesn't you may be low on refrigerant and will want to refill before the long, hot days of summer.

Make the inside sparkle- Outside projects shouldn't get all your attention. As you move inside, start off with small cleaning projects so you don't get overwhelmed. Scrubbing your bathroom, vacuuming your carpets and dusting every inch of the house can take some time - which most of us don't have. Simple tasks such as cleaning one room a day, clearing off cluttered countertops as you walk into the kitchen, creating an organization system and donating unused products to charity can get your house clean in no time.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-

Food Fact:

- Almonds are a member of the peach family
- Honey is used in antifreeze and in the middle of golf balls.

Weird Laws:

Wyoming- It is illegal to wear a hat that obstructs people's view in a movie theatre.

Wisconsin- It is illegal to throw rocks at a railroad train.

Washington- It is illegal to paint polka dots on the American flag.

Tennessee- It is illegal to catch a fish with a lasso.

U.S.A. Facts

- Hawaii is the only state that grows coffee.
- The biggest popcorn plant is located in Iowa.

And... Whether you are thinking of buying, selling, or financing real estate, stop by and say "hi", I'd love to hear from you...

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References:-aracontent.com,
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<http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm>
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Usacitiesonline.com
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Tips for installing a vinyl fence the easy way

(ARA) - If you need to keep the neighbors out or the pets and children in, it may be time for a fence, preferably one that will last a lifetime and requires very little maintenance. But if you know much about installing a fence, chances are this is a home project that makes you want to run for the hills. After all, who wants to rent power augers, dig deep holes, tear up the yard, remove excavated dirt and pour hundreds of pounds of concrete?

Probably not you. The good news is that you can actually install a fence without all this hassle. Do-it-yourself homeowners across the country are now installing sturdy vinyl fences without digging holes, making a mess of the yard or pouring concrete.

No-dig vinyl fence systems are installed by driving pipe deep into the ground using a post pounder. Fence has been installed this way for years, but for vinyl it can be tricky because it's almost impossible to drive pipe into the ground perfectly straight, which results in crooked fence posts. This problem is solved by a clever leveling device that compensates for the crooked pipe so that when you slide your vinyl fence post over the pipe, the post is ultimately straight and level.

Some skeptics wonder how a no-dig vinyl fence will perform in high winds. "We have had our digless fence products wind-load tested by an independent third party laboratory and it has been certified to stand up to 75mph sustained winds, which is where a category 1 hurricane starts," says Denise Esser from WamBam Fence, an online company that ships no-dig fence to homeowners all over the country through www.wambamfence.com.

Installing vinyl fence by driving pipe into the ground has been used in Western Canada on tens of thousands of fences for more than a dozen years by both professional fencers and home owners. However, it's only recently that companies like WamBam Fence have been manufacturing a full no-dig fencing solution designed for the do-it-yourself homeowner, offering a variety of styles and sizes.

Homeowners often end up hiring a professional due to the amount of labor and equipment involved in a fence installation, but the no-dig method makes it much easier - and therefore more attainable - for the average do-it-yourselfer. With an innovative no-dig installation method, installing a vinyl fence is one home project that just got a lot easier.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-