

# WATERWORKS™

NEWS YOU CAN USE AROUND YOUR HOME

SPRING 2015

## Sewage Back-Ups Are Common in Spring!

*See how you can ensure that sewage doesn't back-up into your home, causing thousands of dollars in damage and leaving an unforgettable smell!*

**Y**ou never plan for your plumbing to fail you—or worse, you never see a plumbing emergency happen until you're forced to deal with it. But they do happen—and they seem to happen at the worst possible times.

When most people think about plumbing problems, you may think of a broken faucet or no hot water in the shower. You may consider a plumbing emergency to be an overflowing toilet—but you don't really know a plumbing emergency until you've experienced sewage back-ups.

Imagine pulling into your driveway after a long day at work. There's nothing you want to do more than sit on the couch and flip on the TV for a few hours. You unlock the door and before you can take one step inside... you're hit with an overpowering, pungent smell.

What happened? Your sewer has backed up and raw sewage is soaking into your floors and walls. The damage is even worse than the smell—and it might take weeks to completely get the smell out of your home.

At Steve Huff Plumbing, we've noticed a number of sewage back-ups recently. They seem even more common in the spring. Here are some common warning signs of an impending sewer preparing to back-up into your home:

- Drains that empty slowly.
- Drains that gurgle or bubble.
- Drains that give off an odor.
- Toilets that often clog.
- Toilets that overflow.

## Helpful Consumer Hints!

*Info You Should Know as a Homeowner!*

Often homeowners will ask us why we charge a service fee to come out and evaluate their home. We explain that most other professionals do the same; for example, even though you may be perfectly healthy, your doctor charges for a checkup. The response we often hear is, "Your competitors don't charge one?"

A Camera Inspection and Analysis of Your Sewer Line Is Recommended!

Many plumbing emergencies can be prevented with annual inspections and regular emptying of your septic tank if you have one. We recommend that your septic tank be pumped every three to five years. A trained technician can evaluate all of the components of your plumbing system and determine if it's in proper working condition—if it's not, he can show you how to eliminate a small issue before it becomes big... like sewage backing up into your home and destroying so much of your property.

If your home's sewer line has not received an in-depth camera inspection and analysis, it's recommended that you have one soon, especially if your home has been experiencing some of these warning signs. Our technicians can determine if there are tree roots in the line or if you have pipes that are cracking & breaking down.

The only way to stop something like this from occurring is to stop the problem before it becomes one. In other words, be proactive about your plumbing!



The truth is they do, except they hide it or build it into their final price. At Steve Huff Plumbing, we'd rather be upfront about all of our services, which is why we tell you about our service fee right away. That's the type of company we think you'd rather work with—not someone who's hiding something.

## Inside This Issue

The History of Memorial Day **P2**

Get to know Chip at Steve Huff Plumbing **P2**

The Five Financial Benefits of Spring Cleaning **P2**

Tasty & EASY Recipe: Grilled Shrimp and Noodle Salad! **P3**

Spring Word Search **P3**

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**\$25 OFF**  
Repairs  
Over \$150  
Expires: 7/31/15

**\$50 OFF**  
Our Water Heaters  
Expires: 7/31/15

## The History of Memorial Day!

*It's Celebrated Each Spring, but How Did It Get Its Start—and Why?*

The turn from spring to summer always happens on Memorial Day. It's a day where most of the country takes a day to enjoy the increasingly warmer weather, have a cookout, maybe open the swimming pool, and hopefully reconnect with friends and family. That's what Memorial Day has become—but when created, that was not its intention. How did this national holiday get its start? Here's Memorial Day's interesting history:

- Memorial Day started with the Civil War. It was a response to the carnage of the war, during which more than 620,000 soldiers died. The commemorations of the dead were spontaneous. The first was in 1864 in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania. Women put flowers on the graves of those fallen in the Battle of Gettysburg. The next year, women decorated graves of soldiers buried in Vicksburg, Mississippi.
- In April 1866, women in Columbus, Mississippi, unprecedentedly laid flowers on the graves of both union and confederate graves as an "act of healing" for the nation. In the same month, in Carbondale, Illinois, 219 Civil War veterans marched through town to Woodlawn

Cemetery in memory of the fallen. The ceremony gave Carbondale its claim to the first organized, community-wide Memorial Day observance.

- Waterloo, New York, began holding annual community service on May 5, 1866. Although many towns claimed the title, it was Waterloo that won congressional recognition as the "birthplace of Memorial Day."

- Memorial Day wasn't Memorial Day back then. Instead, it was called Decoration Day from the practice of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths, and flags.

- Federal Memorial Day, as a federal holiday, was established in 1888 to allow Civil War veterans—many of whom were drawing government pay—to honor their fallen friends without being docked a day's pay.

- Finally, by 1971, the Monday Holiday Law shifted Memorial Day from May 30th to the last Monday of the month.



## Get to Know Chip at Steve Huff Plumbing!

*Learn about the Friendly Folks on Our Team!*



1. How long have you been at Steve Huff Plumbing? *Since 2008, 6 years!*

2. What is your favorite part of the job? *Meeting new people and seeing my repeat clients again and catching up about their lives.*

3. What is your favorite food? *Anything my wife Janet makes!*

4. If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? *I would go to Hawaii to see Stan Ponz, the man who led me to Christ when I was 13 years old.*

5. What are your hobbies and what do you enjoy doing on your days off? *Spending time with family, church & grandkids. I like going to drag races and car shows.*

## The Five Financial Benefits of Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning is something thousands of households across the country participate in—and for good reason. During the chilly winter months, it's easy for dust and clutter to overwhelm your home—and sanity. By getting a bit reorganized, spring cleaning gives us a fresh start for the rest of the year. You feel a bit better when your home is spick-and-span.

This year, you can combine your spring-cleaning strategies with your big-picture financial objectives. Here are five ways that spring cleaning can help you save some big money.

**1. Reduce taxes.** Have piles of clothes that you're planning on ditching? Well, when you drop off your old sweatpants and T-shirts at your local charity, keep a total of how much you're giving. Actually, when you drop items off, you should be asked how much the items are worth to help you complete your own receipt. If you don't have a receipt, be sure to ask for one!

**2. Get better organized.** Speaking of taxes, make it a point to start organizing all of your financial documents, especially donations. It will make tax time a breeze. You also will likely notice that you're taking full advantage of any tax incentives or deductions that you can make. Often people forget throughout the year the different organizations they've contributed to.

**3. Keep an inventory.** Like most households, you probably forget just how much stuff you have shoved in closets and under sinks. Make a conscious effort of tracking down and documenting what you have. Often people overbuy certain items they don't believe they have—but really do. Those items end up sitting in your house for months and maybe even years. You're better off just saving a few extra bucks.

**4. Fix it up.** Cleaning gives you a chance to evaluate your home. Notice and fix any little problems now—before they become much bigger and require you to hire a handyman or a contractor for help. You could save hundreds over time.

**5. Sell it.** Fill a box (or two or three) of any items that you really don't use anymore. Explore selling them at second-hand stores or online on eBay® or Craigslist®, for example. You might be shocked how valuable some of the stuff just lying around your home actually is.

Of course, there are other benefits to spring cleaning, beyond the financial ones. If you get the whole family involved, it's a great way to spend time with one another—something all families could do a bit more of. By the time you're done, you'll all be a bit closer, and your home will be much cleaner, leaving everyone feeling that much better!

**Tasty & EASY  
Recipe:  
Grilled Shrimp and  
Noodle Salad!**



**Ingredients**

- 14 ounces flat rice noodles
- ½-cup fresh lime juice
- ⅓-cup fish sauce
- ½-cup packed light-brown sugar
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 to 2 teaspoons Asian chili sauce (such as Sriracha)
- 1 pound medium-large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 medium bunch asparagus, trimmed
- 5 ounces shiitake mushrooms, trimmed
- 1 medium carrot, shredded
- ½-cup fresh cilantro

**Directions:**

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add noodles and cook as the label directs; drain and rinse with cold water.
2. Meanwhile, whisk lime juice, fish sauce, brown sugar, garlic, chili sauce, and ⅓-cup water in a medium bowl. Transfer ¼ cup of the marinade to another bowl and toss with the shrimp. Toss another ¼-cup marinade with the asparagus and mushrooms in a third bowl. Let the shrimp and vegetables marinate 10 minutes at room temperature. Toss the noodles with the remaining marinade.
3. Heat a grill or grill pan to medium-high. Grill the shrimp, asparagus, and mushrooms until the shrimp is just cooked through and the asparagus is slightly tender (2 to 3 minutes per side). Halve the mushrooms and cut the asparagus into pieces.
4. Divide the noodles among bowls and top with shrimp, asparagus, mushrooms, carrots and cilantro.

**SPRING WORD SEARCH**

In honor of spring, we present you with a Spring Word Search! Be the first to complete the word search, and you will receive a \$25 Visa gift card to spend for Summer Goodies! Everyone who submits the puzzle gets \$25 OFF coupon for future service! Mail completed puzzle to: 113 Witherspoon Drive, Kingsport TN 37663. Or scan and email completed puzzle to: [service@stevehuffplumbing.com](mailto:service@stevehuffplumbing.com)

Spring	Hemisphere	Plants
Vernal	Equator	Garden
Equinox	Sun	Tulips
Season	Earth	Rain
Equal	Blooming	
Northern	Flowers	

M W S H N V P Q N R A Z E G L  
R G U T Y R S T N A L P D A Q  
O N L A U Q E Q U I N O X V A  
T H G N U N I H W F F G D O R  
A U N F H Y Y D T V Z O K O F  
U T I L S M B G A R D E N R S  
Q S R O O U J M N R O F H I O  
E W P W Q U N F I M R N J G N  
O S S E F K L X H I B P R K T  
V N E R E H P S I M E H X L Q  
E C I S B S P I L U T R D L D  
R Z B A L R N S A G Z F X A O  
N W D L R N O S A E S I K O R  
A H T R A E Y U D B N W C C O  
L S Z R W G N I M O O L B T V





*"Better, Faster, Cleaner"*

113 Witherspoon Drive  
Kingsport TN 37663

## Welcome Spring!



*From the Desk  
of Steve Huff*

The definition of friendship sure has changed a lot over the years. Not that long ago, to be friends meant that you would go to dinner with someone. Maybe, you'd watch a ballgame together and grill on your barbecue pit. You might even take road trips or vacations together.

Today, friendship has taken on additional factors. Now, you carry your friend's phone number in your cell phone at all times. You might text each other a few times a week (or for younger people—a few times a day). And of course, there's social media! The Internet has changed everything about the world, including how you define your friends.

Facebook is one of the fastest growing websites on the planet. That's not a surprise when you hear that more than 500 million people have joined.

At Steve Huff Plumbing, we're taking part in the Facebook revelation. In fact, if you're not friends with us already, please, do so! Just do a search for Steve Huff Plumbing. You shouldn't have any trouble finding us!

There are benefits to friending us on Facebook, too—we post home-safety and energy-saving tips for you. At Steve

Huff Plumbing, we're trying to connect with you and our other clients as much as possible to try and enhance the already high level of service we deliver.

Please go to our web site [www.stevéhuffplumbing.com](http://www.stevéhuffplumbing.com) for Helpful Tips and Troubleshooting ideas. Read how our company has grown over the last 40 years! Get to know our technicians & office staff and read about the services we provide. You can even print out a \$25 coupon for your next service visit!

The next time you're online, look us up on Facebook and [stevéhuffplumbing.com](http://stevéhuffplumbing.com)! We don't only want to be your service provider we want to be your friend!

Sincerely,

*Steve Huff*

Owner, Steve Huff Plumbing

