

WATERWORKS™

NEWS YOU CAN USE AROUND YOUR HOME

WINTER 2016

4 New Year's Resolutions for 2016!

Enhance Your Home's Safety, Comfort & Efficiency!

When the New Year rolls around, millions of people across North America and the world do the exact same thing. You might scribble them down on a piece of paper, or you may type them out in a Word document on your laptop, but if you're like vast legions of people hoping to improve their lives in the upcoming year, you probably come up with five or six (or maybe just one or two) New Year's Resolutions.

Typically, New Year's Resolutions center on ways you can improve yourself. You vow to lose weight; you promise yourself that you'll read at least one book a month, or you commit to doing a better job of staying in contact with old friends. Although these are good and worthwhile, there are a few other resolutions you might consider for 2016. Instead of focusing on improving yourself, focus on improving your home!

Even if you're a person always on the go, you spend at least a good portion of your day at home. I mean, you have to sleep sometime. Your home is one of your biggest investments; of course, you want to ensure that it looks its best. Here are four resolutions you should consider that could dramatically enhance your home in this New Year.

Improve your home's safety!

The most important thing you can do for your family is guarantee that they're safe while at home. It may seem safe, but unless you cover all precautions you can't be certain. For example, have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors installed in every level of your home. If you already have them, make sure their batteries still work. If you have little ones, make sure your home has been "child-proofed," so no unfortunate accidents occur. And look out for yourself—see if any handrails, grab bars, and steps are in need of repair. This could prevent you from taking a nasty fall in the future.

Have preventative maintenance performed!

Have you ever walked around your house and noticed small things that bug you? Do you have running toilets or dripping faucets? Does your water heater need serviced? Do all of your shutoff valves to faucets & toilets work in case of an emergency? Does your main shutoff work properly? Have you had your water pressure checked lately? Have you been using BioSmart so your drains won't clog? If you've noticed any of these, it's important you call a professional to address them now. If you continue to wait, they could ultimately turn into a major repair job, and it will require much more of your time...and money!

Start conserving!

Every year your utility bills seem to get higher and higher! They'll continue to grow...unless you make some adjustments to your habits. For example, don't waste water by having it run while brushing your teeth! Take shorter showers. Don't leave the hose running while washing your car. Turn lights off in empty rooms! Or think about setting your thermostat a few degrees warmer in the summer and cooler in the winter! There are numerous things you can do!

Grab ahold of the Green Movement!

The Green Movement is here to stay, and it's picking up steam. Being conscious and careful about your energy and water waste is a good first step. However, if you're considering making some improvements to your home, you should seriously consider installing "green" products.

For example, many plumbing fixtures today provide great water pressure, but they waste much less water. Installing ceiling fans can make your home feel cooler in the hot summer, and when the blades are reversed, warmer in the winter. When replacing a water heater or air conditioner, invest in energy-efficient models! And you might even consider having insulation blown into your attic; it would reduce the stress placed on your water heater in the winter and A/C in the summer.

If you're considering making any plumbing resolutions of your own in 2016, call Steve Huff Plumbing at 423-239-8361. We specialize in helping homeowners find ways to reduce water consumption in their homes and keep up with the maintenance of faucets, toilets, garbage disposals, water heaters & drain lines. Also, we can introduce you to new high efficiency water heaters that can slash your energy bills.



Inside This Issue

4 New Year's Resolutions for 2016! **P1**

"Auld Lang Syne" **P2**

Safety Tips While Driving During Winter! **P2**

Helpful Consumer Hints! **P2**

Tasty & EASY Recipe **P3**

Winter Word Search **P3**

Meet Marie at Steve Huff Plumbing **P3**

Happy New Year! **P4**

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(Excludes Service Fee,
One discount per visit)
Expires: May 31, 2016

\$50 OFF

Our Water Heaters
(Excludes Service Fee,
One discount per visit)
Expires: May 31, 2016

“Auld Lang Syne”

The Song Is a New Year’s Tradition, but What Does It Mean?

Every holiday seems to have its own traditions. Exchanging gifts, Thanksgiving Turkey, stolen kisses under the mistletoe and that moment on December 31 when the clock strikes midnight and a new year begins

If you were with friends on New Year’s Eve, or at home watching the ball drop at Times Square, chances are you heard the recognizable tune of “Auld Lang Syne”. Yet the funny part is that even though everyone might recognize it, and even know the first line, many do not know the remainder of the song.

If that sounds familiar, then you’re in luck! Here is the scoop on that New Year’s Eve tradition, “Auld Lang Syne.” When you hear it at your next New Year’s Eve party, you’ll know a little bit about this festive song.

“Auld Lang Syne” was originally a traditional Scottish folk tune. The song had been sung for years throughout Scotland, when in the mid-1790s poet Robert Burns finally wrote down the lyrics and published the song. But it wasn’t Burns who turned this mesmerizing tune into a New Year’s standard.

The credit for that goes to Guy Lombardo and his orchestra. As a young boy, Lombardo first heard the song from Scottish immigrants in his neighborhood. Years later, the song stuck with him, and when

he and his brother had the opportunity to headline a New Year’s Eve party in New York in 1929, they created an arrangement of Auld Lang Syne and played it as the clock was counting down.

For nearly 50 years, Guy Lombardo and his orchestra were broadcast across the country on New Year’s Eve radio and television specials, and the song’s popularity grew. While there are several translations, here’s one English version of the first verse and chorus to answer that question and save for next year’s celebration.

Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and auld lang syne?

CHORUS:
For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we’ll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

Have a Safe and Happy 2016!



Safety Tips While Driving During Winter!

We’re just not concerned about your safety in the home—we want you to be safe all the time! With cold temperatures and plenty of precipitation during winter months, driving the roads can be treacherous! Be prepared if you get stranded for any period of time by having a winter driving kit! Here are some suggestions for items it should contain:

- Bag of sand or salt (or kitty litter)
- Traction mats
- Snow shovel
- Snow brush
- Ice scraper
- Jumper cables
- Warning devices such as flares or emergency lights
- Fuel line de-icer
- Extra windshield-wiper fluid
- Roll of paper towels
- Flashlight and a portable flashing light (and extra batteries)
- Blanket
- Extra clothing, including hat and windproof pants, and warm footwear
- First-aid kit
- Snack bars or other emergency food and water
- Matches and emergency candles—only use with a window opened to prevent buildup of carbon monoxide
- Road maps



Helpful Consumer Hints!

Info You Should Know as a Homeowner!

You get the name of a contractor from a friend or a family member. You think, “Okay, I’ll give them a call!” Just because someone you know had a good experience doesn’t mean that’s the experience you’ll have. Before calling anyone, please be sure to check that contractor’s credentials. Do an Internet search on them. See if they’re part of the BBB. At Steve Huff Plumbing, we are licensed, bonded & insured. We do National Criminal Background Checks and random drug testing on all of our employees and are a Tennessee Drug-Free Workplace. Do your homework before letting anybody into your home! It never hurts to be extra careful!



Tasty & EASY Recipe: Peanut Brittle!



TOTAL TIME: Prep: 10 min.
Cook: 2 ½ hours
MAKES: 4 servings

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup raw Spanish peanuts
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

DIRECTIONS:

1. Lay out several sheets of foil to spoon the hot peanut brittle onto.
2. In a large skillet mix the sugar, syrup, and water together. Cook at a medium-high heat, stirring regularly. Heat until the mixture has a hard ball consistency. Heat to 250 to 265 degrees F (121 to 129 degrees C), or until a small amount of syrup dropped into cold water forms a rigid ball. If you don't own a candy thermometer, occasionally hold a spoonful of mixture, allowing it to drip off spoon. When mixture is at hard ball stage, it will "hair" off the spoon when falling, looking like a clear spider web.
3. Once mixture is at hard ball consistency, add raw peanuts. (They will pop a little.) When mixture starts to turn a light clear-brown, as if it's starting to burn, remove from stove. Add soda and stir. Mixture will foam up.
4. Spoon out bite-sized pieces onto unbuttered foil, stirring constantly between each couple of pieces. Mixture can also be poured onto unbuttered foil as one big piece and broken into smaller pieces once cooled.

Winter Word Search

In honor of winter, Steve Huff Plumbing presents a Winter Word Search! Be the first to complete the word search, and you will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Zachery's Steak House. Everyone who submits the puzzle gets \$25 OFF Coupon for a future plumbing service!

Mail completed puzzle to:

113 Witherspoon Drive, Kingsport TN 37663.

Or scan and email completed puzzle to:

service@stevehuffplumbing.com

Blizzard	Hats	Icicles	Skating
Bobsleds	Hockey	Mittens	Snowballs
Boots	Holidays	Overcoats	Snowboard
Fireplace	Ice	Scarves	Toboggan
Flakes	Rink	Skiing	

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A H H Y O J S B N Y H L R S J
T G A O C C O K T O A A K K L
I Z T T A B X D L K O W S I M
N S P R S Y E I E B M U T I X
G P V L E Q D S W I D P A N P
A E E K T A E O T M D V O G W
S D C Q Y C N T P R S W C H Y
S O U S I S E C A L P E R I F
H O K R Y N D Z D Q S T E H K
P T T K S S Z W E D R G V L S
Y U C H Z I T W E Q X R O V R
P A D I L S L L A B W O N S Q
J H L B A V S I C I C L E S L
    
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Meet Marie at Steve Huff Plumbing!

Learn about the Friendly Folks on Our Team!



1. How long have you been at Steve Huff Plumbing? *21 years*
2. What is your favorite part of the job? *All of it! I love my job!*
3. What is your favorite food? *Why of course, steak or hamburgers on the grill.*
4. If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? *Sorry, no answer here. I'm not the traveling kind.*
5. What are your hobbies & what do you enjoy doing on your days off? *Jigsaw puzzles – finish it – take it up and start another one! I always work them with my daughter and I save the last pieces for her.*
6. If you won the lottery, what would your first purchase be? *Probably a new car for myself and daughters.*



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Happy
New
Year!



From the Desk
of Steve Huff

Stay True to Yourself!

Helpful Advice on How You Can Keep to Your New Year's Resolutions!

The beginning of every year millions of people make resolutions. Some vow to give up a bad habit. Others promise to start a new hobby. And almost everyone swears they will lose some weight! However, by around late March, 90 percent of those New Year's resolutions are a distant memory.

Giving up on your resolutions doesn't have to happen! You can stick to them! To help you with this tough process, I have some simple steps... (Hopefully, I'll keep them in mind for myself! Ha!)

Start small. It goes without saying that most resolutions are easier announced (or written) than done—but if you set the bar too high, you're doomed from the start. Instead of a sweeping declaration like "I will lose 30 pounds by May and finally fit into those pants," target a goal that's more attainable, like losing 10 pounds.

Let's not go overboard. It's difficult enough for the average person to follow through on one ambitious resolution; why would you make three or four? Choose the most pressing issue at hand—losing weight, finding a new job, improving your relationships at home or work—and concentrate on that ONE. Trying to do everything simultaneously practically guarantees failure across the board.

Share it with others. Many people prefer to keep their resolutions to themselves, but why? The more people who know your intentions, the more people will prod you along if you fall behind. There's no shame in

seeking help if you can't accomplish your resolution on your own.

Reward yourself. Following through on a resolution is rarely easy, so a little conditioning goes a long way. If you've resolved to start on those home improvements, after you've cleaned out the garage, give yourself a treat! Take your significant other out to dinner!

One of those home improvements you might consider is getting some needed plumbing work done! Plumbing is something you really should have done by a professional. Now is the perfect time!

Good luck with those resolutions! And remember, if you falter, don't give up!

Steve Huff

Owner, Steve Huff Plumbing

