

The Inspector

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 3

be advised

The kitchen is not only where meals are prepared, but it can be a gathering place for the family. It can also be the place of many accidents and is the number one area where home fires start. To keep yourself and your family safe, here are a few tips:



- **Keep An Eye On Cooking** – Unmonitored cooking is one of the leading causes of household fires in Canada. Always have someone look over the stove.
- **Limit Chance of Fires** – When cooking it is always best to roll your sleeves up and keep loose fitting clothes tucked in. If clothing gets too close to an open flame, it can easily catch fire.
- **Keep Counters Tidy** – Keep anything that can catch fire, such as plastic bags, towels, etc... away from the range top.
- **Electrical Outlets** – If you don't have Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets in the kitchen, you should have them installed. These outlets can prevent a serious shock or electrocution.
- **Adjust Water Heater** – Keep your water heater set at 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Thousands of scalding incidents happen each year in the kitchen from tap water.

Just a little awareness in the kitchen can limit the chance of fires or other accidents from occurring. Small, easy safety measures can be the difference between a hazard and a well functioning kitchen.

Snapshots from the field



Can you guess what is wrong with this photo?

- A.) PVC should not be used in this application
- B.) "S" traps are not acceptable for under sink applications
- C.) "C" traps are not acceptable for under sink applications
- D.) Window cleaner can corrode PVC

(answer on the back)

ask the inspector

What do you look for when inspecting a kitchen?

The inspector will examine the electrical, plumbing and built-in appliances to make sure they are in good working condition and are safe to operate.

In older homes, countertop electrical outlets may be few and far between. Your inspector may recommend you consider installing additional outlets to bring your kitchen up to date to handle today's array of small household appliances.



The condition of doors, windows, cabinets, countertops and flooring is checked for any defects. The inspector will look carefully for plumbing leaks. Slow leaks under sinks, dishwashers and refrigerators can damage cabinets and flooring over time.

The ventilation system in the kitchen is also checked. The inspector will make sure there is a working exhaust vent over the range to capture or remove smoke and moisture from cooking. Inadequate exhaust venting can lead to moisture damage.

A careful inspection of your kitchen can identify areas in need of repair or improvements you might consider making.



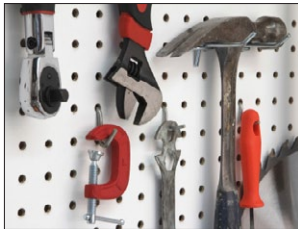
Noteworthy News

Storage for the Home

We can all be overwhelmed by storage problems within the home. There always seems to be too much stuff and never enough space. Here are a few areas of the home you can use to your advantage to get those less used items out of your way and more easily accessible.

• **Garages** – The garage give us a place to store pretty much anything. The best use of space is to use cabinets and hooks to keep items off the ground and out of the way. Pegboards and tool boxes can keep your tools organized for easy access all year round.

• **Shed** – A shed can be a great place to store your lawn care items, such as hoses, mow-



ers and shovels. A shed can be locked to keep potentially hazardous materials, like fertilizers and gasoline, away from children and pets.

• **Basement** – Basements can be fitted with cabinets and shelving to keep possessions safe and dry. Make sure you keep items away from the furnace and water heater. Store items off the ground in case of flooding.

• **Laundry Room** – The laundry room is great for storing clothes accumulated by a family. Hampers and drying racks can be essential for keeping clothing out of your way. Locked storage cabinets are a good place to store cleaning products out of the reach of children.

• **Attic** – Attics are great for storing seasonal decorations and items you only occasionally need. Make sure that you place boxes on firm areas, such as a beam to avoid compromising the ceiling.

maintenance matters

Spring maintenance can be overwhelming and it's often difficult to know where to start. It isn't just about tidying up the home; it's an opportunity to check its condition and repair what is necessary. Here are a few things you can be on the lookout for:

• **Windows and Doors** – Check your home's windows and doors for chipping or peeling paint, or any other signs of moisture. Water intrusion can lead to mold, decreased air quality or structural damage.

• **Check Pipes and Plumbing** – Be on the lookout for any sweating pipes, clogged drains or anything that could signal a leakage problem. Take care of clogged drains.

• **Clean Out Your Gutters** – This is great to do each spring and fall. Keep an eye out for leaks when it rains, and patch if needed.

• **Paint Exposed Wood** – If you live in a home with wood siding and trim, take care of any chipped or peeling areas, which can lead to deterioration of the material.

Trim Shrubs and Trees – Keep all shrubs and trees away from the home. Too much plant life around the foundation can lead to moisture problems later. Keep tree branches at least 7 feet from the house.

Did You Know?

Daylight savings time starts Sunday March 11th this year. Remember to set your clocks ahead the night before.

Snapshots from the field

The correct answer is B.) "S" traps are not acceptable for under sink applications