VOL. XXVI NO. 1, January 2013

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INSIGHTS

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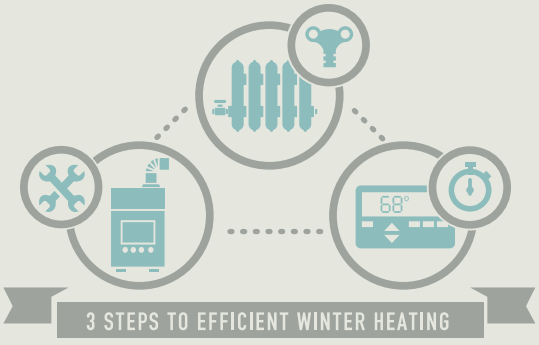


Don't Let Winter Freeze Out Your Green Efforts

The days are shorter and colder as we turn up the heat and drag out the winter coats for the chillier months. But that doesn't mean you have to stop being "green." There are still ways households can go green and stay green without having to make huge changes.

First, make sure your home runs as efficiently as possible. Have your furnace serviced and ensure that you're not wasting energy. Bleed radiators if you have boilers. This simple task will only take a couple of minutes but could help raise the temperature of a room by a few degrees.

Set heating to a timer for when you need it most, coming on at the times you will feel the cost and turning off when you won't be in or when you are snuggled up in bed. Making green choices doesn't have to mean a big commitment. Small changes can also make a huge impact saving energy and working toward being greener.



Stop Distracted Driving

To address the texting-while-driving problem head-on, OSHA joined with other agencies and organizations to enlist the help of businesses – large and small – in a nationwide effort to stop the dangerous practice. Through an updated brochure, OSHA not only explains the hazards of texting while driving on the job but also makes recommendations about what employers can do to keep workers safe. Take a look: http://www.osha.gov/Publications/3416distracted-driving-flyer.pdf

THINKING GREEN

Green Facts

- According to the American Solar Energy Society, the amount of sunlight that falls on the Earth's surface in one minute is sufficient to meet world energy demand for an entire year.
- The energy saved by recycling a single aluminum can would run a TV for three hours. Every three months, Americans toss out enough aluminum to completely rebuild the nation's commercial airline fleet.
- If the entire population of the United States washed their clothes exclusively with cold water (instead of hot), we would save $3 billion in energy costs annually and cut national CO_2 emissions by over a full percent.
- An estimated 15% to 30% of a home's total heating and cooling energy is lost through poorly sealed duct-work, costing consumers about $5 billion annually.
- 81% of the life-cycle energy costs associated with a single computer is from its manufacture, only 19% from its operation. The production of a single computer also uses 42,000 gallons of water. Please recycle your used electronics and turn them off when not in use.
- Did you know that recycling one ton of paper saves 20 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, three cubic yards of landfill space, 60 pounds of air pollutants, and saves enough energy to power the average home for six months?

What is Hard Water?

Simply put, hard water is water that has high mineral content (in contrast with soft water). With hard water, soap solutions form a white precipitate (soap scum) instead of producing lather. It is generally not harmful to one's health. The World Health Organization says that "there does not appear to be any convincing evidence that water hardness causes adverse health effects in humans."

However it can pose serious problems in industrial settings where water hardness is monitored to avoid costly breakdowns in boilers, cooling towers, and other equipment that handles water. Hard water also forms deposits that clog plumbing. With ChemStation's ability to custom blend our cleaning chemicals, we can formulate a product that will work in your hard water conditions.

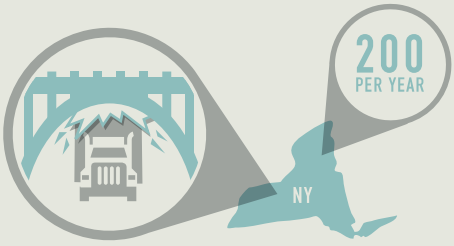
More than 85% of American homes have hard water. The hardest waters are in streams in Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Arizona, and southern California.

Low Bridge Strikes and GPS

A U.S. Senator pointed to the "shocking regularity" with which trucks are striking overpasses after being led by global positioning system (GPS) devices onto roads they shouldn't be on, and noted that no rules govern the use of such devices in commercial vehicles.

The absence of standards results in many situations in which trucks use GPS devices that do not differentiate between roads on which trucks are legally allowed and on which they aren't. He called on DOT to conduct an investigation into the increase in low bridge strikes by commercial trucks across New York State, and issue federal standards for GPS devices in trucks.

According to a recent New York State DOT study, over 200 bridge accidents per year have occurred in the state since 2005.



Real Test Answers

Sometimes, when knowledge is lacking, cleverness takes over. These are actual answers to questions on students' tests submitted to education Web sites by frazzled teachers.

Q. What is hard water?
A. Ice

Q. What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?
A. He invented cigarettes and started a craze for bicycles.

Q. What is a fossil?
A. A fossil is an extinct animal. The older it is, the more extinct it is.

Q. Name the wife of Orpheus, whom he attempted to save from the underworld.
A. Mrs. Orpheus

Q. Why do mushrooms have their distinctive shapes?
A. Mushrooms always grow in damp places and so they look like umbrellas.

Q. Name one measure that can be put into place to avoid river flooding in times of extensive rainfall.
A. Flooding may be avoided by placing a number of dames into the river.

Q. Name one of the Romans' greatest achievements.
A. Learning to speak Latin.

Q. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
A. At the bottom.



SOAPBOX

Most of us can keep a secret…it's the people we tell it to who can't.

Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.

If you're average, you'll spend 5-1/2 weeks of your life brushing your teeth.

A man who can smile when things go wrong has probably thought of someone he can blame it on.

Flubbed headline: Arson suspect is held in fire.

The only mark some folks make in life is on somebody else's fender.

Sometimes you feel like the world's a tuxedo and you're just a pair of brown shoes.

"Dord" appeared in the dictionary for five years before anyone realized there is no such word.

You don't need a handkerchief if you're wearing a long-sleeve shirt.

If people listened to themselves more, they would talk less.

Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most, live the longest.

ChemStation™

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By the Numbers



Gallons of soap delivered:
194,672,272 since 1984



Empty drums not in landfills:
3,539,496 since 1984