

## John DiMercurio

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Solid Rock Inspections



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## The Inspection Connection



### Merry Christmas!

Wow! 2019 is nearly over. In just a matter of days we will be celebrating the birth of our risen Saviour and shortly after that welcoming in not only the New Year but a new decade! I want to express my deep gratitude for giving me the awesome opportunity to serve you and impact your life. Of all the people you could chose to allow you to educate you or your client on yours or their new home purchase you opted to choose me. I am grateful. I am also thankful for allowing me to continue to come into your life monthly with these news letter. I also invite you to feel free to forward any ideas that you would like me to write future newsletters on as well. You can send me an email and type "Newsletter idea" and I will share on it. I love seeing people get involved and become a part of things that can impact others.

This month I want to discuss overloading electrical circuits and some basic maintenance items around your home in regards to things like your furnace, humidifier even appliances.

Enjoy this months newsletter and feel free to contact me with any questions.

### Electrical Overload.....

With all the electronics we have today to provide comfort, safety, convenience and such there is a much greater need to be able to power all these handy dandy items. If we have any older home that was built prior to the 1950's chances are high that there are not nearly enough outlets to cover us for our electrical needs for today. Sometimes, over the years various homeowners either hire a professional to install additional outlets and circuits in the home to address the lacking of the outlets and other times they do it

### Things to do.....

#### Have you checked your furnace filter lately?

- Furnace filters are not often thought of very often until we have an issue. We need to make sure that if we have a forced air furnace to check our furnace filter as often as the manufacture recommends. For example most thin 1 inch filters need to be changed out every month that the furnace is being used. That means in the summer the furnace is being used to run the AC to cool the home. If we have a wider filter such as 4 or 5 inch wide we can often go several months or even a year because of the amount of surface. If we forget and let it go too long the furnace will not be allowed to pass the air through and our home will not heat up or cool down efficiently and worse yet the furnace may even shut down or get damaged.



Humidity can be good....

themselves. We all know how the latter can often present issues for you as the current homeowner weather you are personally correcting it or hiring a professional to correct it. Then there is the other option that people take by just using power strips and running extension cords all over the home like spaghetti. See what not to do in some illustrations below.



As you can see above this can over load the strip. Lets say the circuit this strip is plugged into can handle 20 amps but the strip can only handle 12 or 15 amps. Well if you are running 19 amps through this power strip and the reset fails on the device what happens is the breaker to the circuit stays energized and the power strip can spark, ark, melt and burn as illustrated in the next photo.



This was from several items being plugged into it including a window AC unit. At 3 AM the unit gave way and burned. Thankfully no one was injured at all. Minimal smoke damage was done to the room in the home that this happened to and the AC unit was damaged and needed to be replaced. The circuit was able to handle the amount of current running through it but the power strip was not. AC units and electric heaters should only be plugged directly into an outlet and circuit that is adequate to handle the size current you require.

Something else to watch for is your humidifier pad. Last month we discussed the different types of whole house humidifiers and the benefits of them but I want to remind you this month to visually inspect the pad and replace it if it appears to be filled with a lot of mineral deposits which can limit the air flow which in turn makes the system inefficient and will not bring the amount of humidity throughout your home properly.



## Smoke alarms

Lastly I want to address smoke alarms and their batteries. You can press the test button and ensure they are operating properly as well as replace the batteries if they don't. Usually the little things will chirp and keep you up at night if the battery level falls below the necessary voltage. There are smoke test kits you can use to test them as well but they can be costly. You can also carefully light a candle nearby and blow it out and sometimes the smoke that is given off is enough to cause it to go off. Or you can burn a piece or two of toast.





If you see something like this, which I have seen in homes that I inspect, find out where it goes and correct it. Either an outlet needs to be installed near the other end of this cord or some other correction needs to take place. Extension cords need to be completely visible from one end to the other.



This is another hazard. I understand we want to make things safe and remove trip hazards but in doing this we increase the chances of the cord overheating and causing a fire hazard. Consider installing an outlet in the floor or relocating your electrical appliance.

There are several other hazards but these were the main ones that I see more often than you might think. Feel free to forward any questions or concerns you might have my way and I will be glad to help you in any way that I can. Safety should always trump convenience. If you need clarification ask someone who knows.



## Thanks!

Thanks for your interest in this newsletter. If you have any questions about topics in this issue, please give me a call at (866) 808-4814.

Two things to keep in mind:

- 1) Do not cover extension cords or overload power strips.
- 2) Ensure your furnace filter and humidifier pad is replaced if needed.

If you do not feel comfortable about taking on projects around your own home mentioned in this newsletter contact a

qualified licensed professional or myself and we'll see how we might be able to help you.

Thanks,  
John DiMercurio, II

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