

MISCELLANEOUS TIPS

Turning Off Your Outside Spigot

According to the builder, your outside spigots are “frost free”. However, some people feel that the one on the back of the house should be shut off for the winter. Hunt for the shut-off valve in the basement near the wall where the spigot emerges from the house. It may be buried under the insulation.



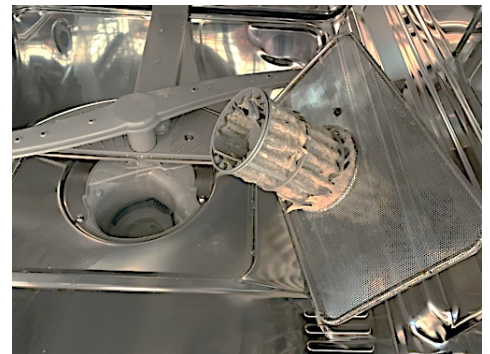
Surge Protecting Your Whole House

As our home technology increases, so does our vulnerability to power surges. They can cause fried circuit boards on washers, dryers, stoves, dishwashers, computers, smart devices, and TVs. One way to prevent this is by investing in a whole-house surge protector. Ask your electrician – they can probably install what you need for a few hundred dollars. No more power strips!



Clean Your Dishwasher Filter

Most modern dishwashers have a filter that collects food particles. See the Bosch example to the right. If yours does, you should clean it every few months. Typically that amounts to unscrewing the cap, lifting the filter out and rinsing it in warm water. Here is a link to a how-to video on the subject: [clean your dishwasher filter](#). For your specific brand, check your owners manual.



Degrease the Screens on Your Kitchen Hood.

If you have an exhaust hood over your stove, you'll want to clean the filter screens regularly. For the Bosch hood shown to the right, the owner's manual says to remove the metal filters, wash with warm soapy water and a soft cloth and let dry thoroughly before replacing them. If you have a microwave over your stove, it likely has filter screens too. Check your owner's manual about cleaning those.



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Avoiding the Accidental Lock-Out

Each of your bedroom and bathroom doors has a twist lock that could accidentally be activated while you are on the outside. Maybe a grandchild playing games? Or someone fainting? Or just a mistake. Not a problem – note that there's a slot on the outside handle that allows you to unlock the latch. You could use any flat tool like a screwdriver or a table knife, but the easiest is to use a quarter – twist it to the left.



Will Your LED Recessed Lights Burn Out?

Chances are you have several of these LED recessed light fixtures, the exact number depending on your original purchase upgrades. Good news: these are supposed to have a 10-year life. Bad news: if they do burn out, you can't just replace the bulb - you have to replace the entire fixture. The original stock #'s are posted here, and are currently available at places like Home Depot and Lowe's. We suggest you retain a licensed electrician (see Vendor list, page 19), as some of these are located on high ceilings.



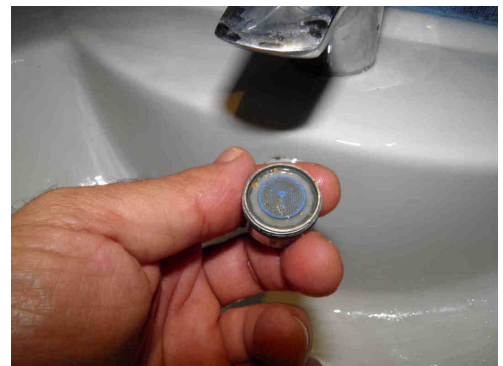
Juno 4RLA 30K 4" Angle Recessed



Halo LED 2700K 4" Recessed

Clean Your Faucet Aerators

The aerator is a filter located at the tip of the sink faucet, designed to create a splash-less flow, and to trap sediment. Cleaning these once a year is a good idea. First, close your drain so that you don't drop something into it. Unscrew the aerator by twisting it clockwise. (Since it is upside down, that will mean twisting to the right. You may need to use a rubber jar opener, or even a tool - wrap the aerator in masking tape to avoid scratching it. Disassemble the outer part, the filter and the gasket. If necessary you can soak the parts in white vinegar, or use a toothbrush to clean the filter. Reassemble the parts and screw the aerator back on the sink faucet.



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You Can Get an Energy Audit at No Cost.

The Mass Save program, in partnership with your utilities supplier, has the goal of helping MA residents save money and energy. It is funded from a charge on your energy bills. What they offer is a no-cost home energy assessment. It will show how you're currently using energy and provide you with free LED light bulbs along with energy efficiency recommendations. Several SR residents have participated in this program and recommend it. homeworksenergy.com is a Mass Save partner who is familiar with Summer Reach. You can contact Mark Miller directly at (781) 305-3319.



Did You Know: Your Faucets are Under Warranty

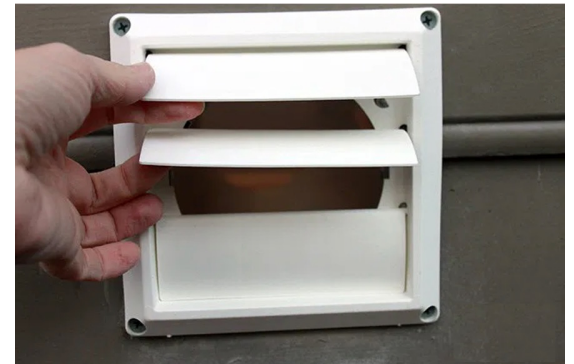
If your Pioneer faucet should ever develop a leak or drip during the 10-year warranty period, they will provide the parts necessary to put the faucet back in good working condition, free of charge to the original owner. You can call Pioneer Faucets at 800-338-9468, or log on to their support web site: <https://pioneerind.com/support>.



Pesky little cartridges can be hard to find

Does Your Dryer Vent Need Cleaning?

Are your clothes not drying as well as they used to? That may be a telltale sign that your dryer vent needs cleaning. Experts say you should do this every 18-24 months because dirty dryer vents are a potential fire hazard. Here is what that entails: www.youtube.com/watch?v=G30EMOn1Cq8. For starters, take a look at your outside vent cover and make sure that it is opening when your dryer is working.



How About Your Air Ducts?

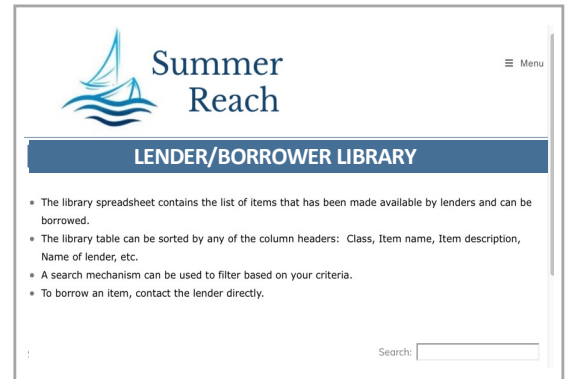
According to the EPA, the five biggest culprits of home air quality are mold, mildew, pollen, pet hair and dust mites - all of which can travel through your duct work. It has been suggested that air ducts get cleaned every 3-5 years. Here's what the EPA has to say: www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality. You can find a duct cleaning vendor on page 19.



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Need a Tool?

The SRHMRS Club has developed a “Neighborhood Sharing Program” - an appliance & tool sharing program managed on a volunteer basis for Summer Reach Residents only. From a staple gun to a lobster pot, you may be able to find just the tool you need. To participate in this program as both a borrower and lender, residents must register in advance. Click on this link summerreachplymouth.com/nsp-registration-2 to access the Lending Agreement and Liability Waiver forms and request registration.



Want to Get Rid of a Large Item? Two options:

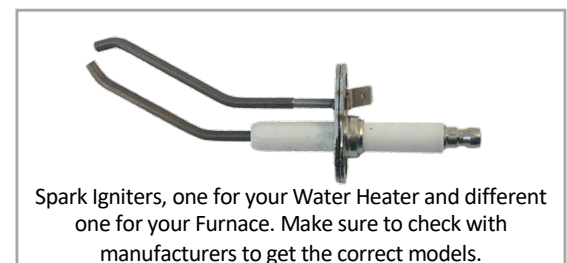
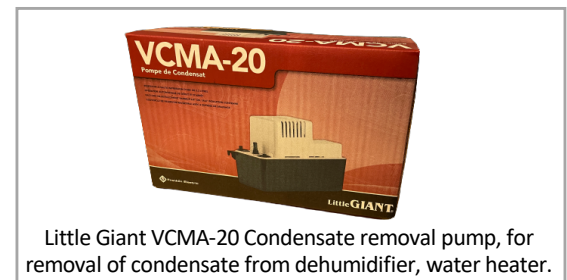
A) Republic Services (Summer Reach trash contractor.) If you can break down your item into manageable pieces, the driver will take one piece per week. Or, you can arrange a special pickup (for a charge) by calling them at 809-825-3260.

B) Town of Plymouth - You can take trash and recycling to the Manomet Transfer Station, 350 Beaver Dam Road. Open Sun, Mon, Tues, Fri, and Sat 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. You can get a 1-month permit from the town for \$30, or a full year for \$180. Apply at plymouth-ma.gov/solid-waste/pages/hours-directions Hours & Directions.



Ideas for Emergency Backup Items

There are certain items that, if they fail, will cause you grief. You might want to have a backup spare part on hand in the event of emergency. Here are some suggestions:



Got a Tip?

Send it to Bernie Trueblood: btrue@aol.com – we'll include it in the next update of this Guide.

