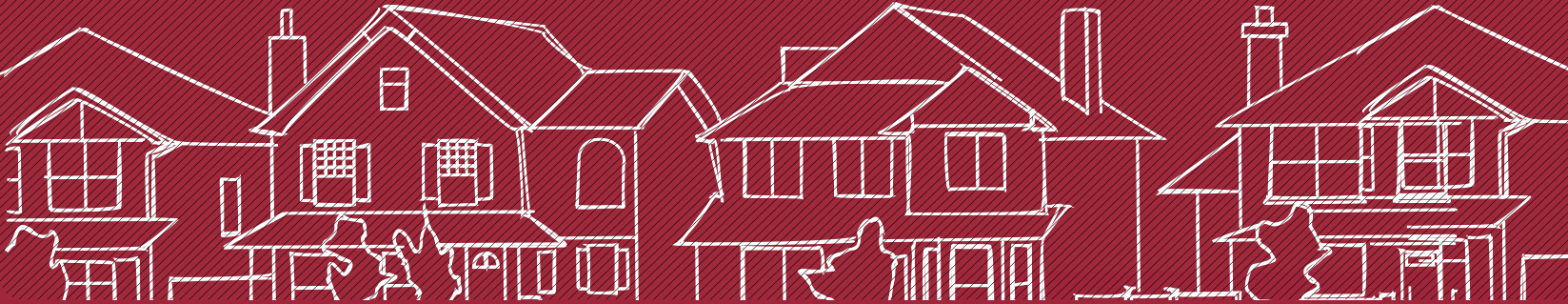


HOMESERVICE CLUB

WINTER 2019

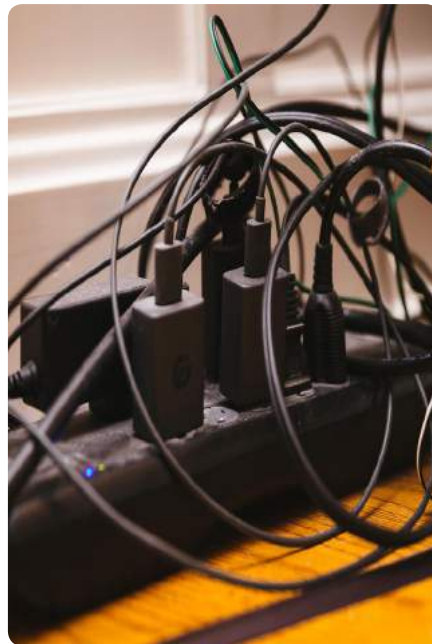
QUARTERLY



INCENTIVES FOR HOME ENERGY SAVING UPGRADES

Phantom Power Did you know that when your appliances or electronic devices are plugged in, they're draining energy – even if they're not in use?

Think about all the devices currently plugged in at home: laptops, TVs, kitchen appliances, alarm clocks, even electric toothbrushes. The average home has dozens of items plugged in at any given time. 75% of the electricity these devices consume is used when they aren't even on. That's a lot of energy - all that phantom power can add up to 10 per cent of a home's energy costs.



I AIN'T AFRAID OF NO GHOST

Instead of hiring a paranormal investigator, if you want to test how much power your appliances and devices are using in standby mode, buy an inexpensive electricity usage monitor device or borrow one from your local library. These devices allow you to plug in various tech or appliances and check how much power they're actually using, even in standby mode. You can also log on to your local hydro company's website to track your hourly (smart meter) data to see how much you are using at night and when you are not home.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO SLAY THE POWER DEMON IS TO UNPLUG YOUR ELECTRONICS - INCONVENIENT YET SUPER EFFECTIVE

For things that you don't regularly unplug (printer, computer, stereo system), plug them into a power bar with an easy to reach switch. If devices are used on a regularly scheduled pattern, consider looking into smart power bars. These devices can sense whether or not electricity is flowing through the outlets and will cut itself off from the grid if it detects that everything is turned off. Simply put, if you turn something off and it's plugged into a smart power strip it will turn **all the way off** and you stop paying for it.

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

P2



◀ Budget Check

Renovation prep includes more than drop cloths and buying your material

P3



◀ Pest Control

Hello Handsome
Are you ready to prevent unexpected houseguests?

P2



◀ Heating & Cooling

HVAC Systems are more complicated than you think.

SEASONAL SUGGESTIONS

Stop Ice Damming! Ice damming occurs when ice builds up, especially on the roof. When the snow on your roof melts and then refreezes in areas that are unheated such as eaves, porches, and garage, the buildup acts as a dam. It prevents melted snow and water from properly running off and the trapped water begins to leak under shingles, potentially causing serious problems like mould or structural damage.

Be proactive; clear snow and break up ice where possible to prevent water infiltration - and if you're planning on renovating your roof, installing an ice shield is one of the best investments you can make.

HVAC Certified ▶

A properly installed and running HVAC system is crucial to your family's comfort and safety. Whether you need a new furnace or air conditioning unit, or your current system needs repairs or maintenance, it is important to hire a company that has qualified contractors.

Rest easy, knowing that all Home-service Club authorized contractors are licensed, bonded and insured with all work protected by our exclusive Double Guarantee!



Tip

BUDGETING FOR HOME RENOVATIONS

What You May Not Know.

The cost of labour often accounts for half of the overall renovation expense, and even more if the work ends up being more complex than anticipated. That said, don't go thinking that you can do it all yourself: Some tasks are better left to the professionals.

A general rule of thumb is to keep around **10%** of your renovation budget in reserve for unexpected expenses. That way, if you're renovating your kitchen and you discover that you need to redo all of the electrical work, you have the wiggle room in your budget to do it.

Resources For Repairs

Finding a good contractor to do repairs and improvements to your home is important - but we always recommend doing some of your own research too. Check out the link below for our tips on keeping your home renovations safe, comfortable and on budget.

www.HomeserviceClub.com/Tips

ALL ABOUT HVAC WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN YOUR HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM

Regularly Scheduled HVAC Maintenance is necessary in order to maintain the HVAC system's high efficiency, prolong the life of the HVAC equipment, maintain high indoor air quality and reduce constant/expensive repairs on the HVAC equipment. Heating and Air Conditioning equipment, no matter what kind you have, should be inspected, cleaned, and serviced at least once a year.

Heating

Your furnace is a key component of your HVAC system. It's also the largest, requiring substantial space -- most often in the cellar, your finished basement, the attic, or special closet. Its function is to heat a supply of air and distribute it to various rooms of your home. Regular maintenance ensures your furnace is running efficiently and helps detect potential deadly issues (ie. gas leaks) early. Without regular maintenance you also increase your risk of carbon monoxide leaks. These are harder to detect because the gas is colourless and odourless. High carbon monoxide levels can cause nausea, headaches, and in some cases, death.

Ventilation

Ductwork refers to the system of ducts that transports air warmed or cooled by the system to the various areas of your home, and the vents are the rectangular outlets which transfer the heated or cooled air from the duct system into the individual rooms of your home. Checking and changing filters, keeping systems maintained, having regular inspections, and ensuring moisture doesn't get in are all important in addition to regular cleaning in order to prevent a buildup of dust, dirt and allergens.

Air Conditioning

Air conditioners employ the same operating principles and basic components as your home refrigerator. Air conditioners use energy to transfer heat from the interior of your home to the relatively warm outside environment.

An air conditioner's filters, coils, and fins require regular maintenance for the unit to function effectively and efficiently throughout its years of service. As the condenser is kept outside, exposed to the elements and other debris, neglecting necessary maintenance ensures a steady decline in air conditioning performance while energy use steadily increases.

Insulation

Thermal insulation of piping and ducting can protect your home against extreme temperatures and noise, providing a comfortable, healthy, safe, and quiet environment. In addition, proper insulation can reduce energy losses, resulting in thermal savings and savings on your hydro bill.

Because ducts are often concealed in walls, ceilings, attics, and basements, identifying problems can be exceptionally difficult. Work with a reputable contractor who will inspect all areas of your ductwork - including those mentioned above - with the proper equipment, reducing the risk of damage to your equipment.

Increasing the value of your home is easier than you think. Follow these steps and your house could be worth more than you thought.

10

TIPS TO INCREASE YOUR HOME'S VALUE

PLANNING IS KEY

Whether you just bought a house or have lived there for a while, the fastest way to increase your home's value is by making a plan. You will fare better if the upgrades are made intentionally and not on impulse.

ONE ROOM AT A TIME

Be it a simple coat of paint or knocking down a wall, by tackling one project at a time you keep projects achievable.

DOUBLE DUTY

Make 2 lists - upgrades for value, and upgrades for you! Gone is the dartboard approach to picking projects and wondering if you're making any progress at all.

SCRUB NOW - PROFIT LATER

Making a sparkling home a priority also means that you will likely spot small issues before they become expensive ones and prevents dirt and junk from accumulating over time.

CURB APPEAL COUNTS

Enhance the positive and eliminate the negative. Gorgeous walkway? Accentuate it with flowers or lanterns. Giant eyesore of a garage - deflect with a beautiful front yard, or paint your front door red to guide the eye there instead.

UPGRADE THE KITCHEN

Ask any real estate expert what the No. 1 upgrade with the greatest return is, and the answer will be the kitchen. Even a mini-remodel like changing the paint can increase the value of your home.

UPDATE THE BATHROOM

Everyone wants their own spa-like oasis; consider something clean, modern, and easy to clean - walk in shower anyone?

INCREASE LIGHT AND SPACE

Open up the house to create more of a flow and enhance natural light. Consider knocking down some walls to brighten up a space. An open floor plan will also make a home feel much larger and is better for entertaining.

HOME OFFICE

With more companies giving employees the option to telecommute, a home office can really add some value to a home.

FINISH YOUR BASEMENT

This space can be turned into a playroom for the kids, a bar, or media room, relatively easily. Consider adding a bathroom and try to keep the space as open as possible so it does not feel dark and cramped.



ANYTIME IS PRIME TIME FOR PEST INSPECTIONS

Although the peak season for bed bugs is June through October, bed bugs will remain active as long as there is a food source. Typically, bed bugs are found in furniture — items that are indoors in heated environments — so they are not deterred by freezing temperatures. Granted, cold temperatures can kill anything, if exposed long enough, but that's probably not the best way to rid your home of these pesky creatures. (Researchers at the University of Minnesota froze bed bugs and found that they survived short-term exposure to temperatures as low as -25°C).



Tip

IN TORONTO BED BUG NUMBERS HAVE INCREASED BY 8% ANNUALLY WITHOUT ANY SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN

Do You Need A Bedbug Inspection?

So you're worried you have bed bugs. Are you suddenly dealing with skin bumps, welts or irritations that you can't explain? That's your first clue, but it's important to note that bed bug "bites" are an allergic skin reaction to agents in bed bug saliva. About 30% of people are not allergic to bed bug saliva and therefore show NO skin reaction when bed bugs draw their blood. If you have had the misfortune of finding one or more, live or dead bed bugs or bugs you don't recognize, or discovered that your neighbours, friends or family members have been exposed to a bed bug infestation recently, be wary. Bed bugs can enter your home as stowaways in luggage, furniture, clothing, pillows, boxes, etc. when these are moved between dwellings. In addition, holiday visits to a hotel could bring them in, or a coworker with a bed bug problem could have carried them into your office. If you're concerned, don't panic. Call us instead.

Bed bugs multiply quickly, in just six months a few can turn into a full-on infestation of 13,000 or more. Detection is critical in order to break the bed bug life cycle before they become a bigger problem. Finding out if you have bed bugs in your house or office can be very difficult since bed bugs and bed bug bites can be confused with many other pests including cockroach nymphs, dust mites, carpet beetles, minute pirate bugs, fleas, ticks and even mosquito bites.



Any level of bed bug infestation, big or small, should be handled by licensed pest control professionals. We have seen many cases of homeowners battling against bed bugs for months or years with home remedies that only ever endanger their health, and risk spreading the infestation and breed pesticide resistance in a persistent bed bug population.



SAVINGS AND MORE

Visit Our Website

In addition to hundreds of home repair services, the combined buying power of over 50,000+ homeowners means Club members also enjoy special group savings on everything from real estate fees, to home and auto insurance, home heating oil, home appliance and heating warranty plans and much more.

Call Our Office

For anything. We do it all - roofing to waterproofing, with 24/7 Emergency service and every project is backed our Double Guarantee.

January

Save \$175 Electrical Panel Upgrade

minimum \$2000
valid Jan 1.19 - Feb 15.19*

Save \$25 Faucet Replacement

minimum \$250
valid Jan 1.19 - Feb 15.19*

Save \$25 Locksmith Service

minimum \$250
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Save \$600 Basement Renovation

minimum \$8000
valid Jan 1.19 - Feb 15.19*

February

Save \$175 Window Replacement

minimum \$2000
valid Feb 1.19 - Mar 15.19*

Save \$175 Interior Painting

minimum \$2000
valid Feb 1.19 - Mar 15.19*

Save \$600 Kitchen Renovation

minimum \$8000
valid Feb 1.19 - Mar 15.19*

Save \$95 Tiling

minimum \$1000
valid Feb 1.19 - Mar 15.19*

March

Save \$600 Bathroom Renovation

minimum \$8000
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Save \$95 Garage Door Installation

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Save \$25 Handyman Services

minimum \$250
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*All work must be done by Homeservice-authorized contractors. These coupons have no cash value. One coupon per job, per member. Not valid with any other offers or coupons. All orders must be placed and accepted within the specified time frame to qualify for the discount.