

Nuts & Bolts

Volume 29, Number 5
October-December 2011

a newsletter from Home Repair Resource Center

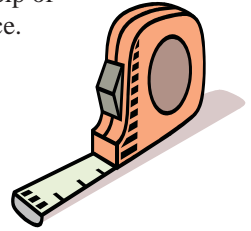
We depend on you to report back to us once each year a list of the projects – large or small – that you completed with the help of our classes, tools, or advice. Please fill out the enclosed Repairs Completed Card and return it to us by December 15th.

Measurements are critical

Any good carpenter will tell you that you can't build something without good measurements. Here at HRRC, we're trying to build a better Project Repair program – but, to do that, we need to know what's been working and what hasn't. A very important measurement to both staff and funders of HRRC is what repairs we help our PR participants accomplish.

We depend on you to report back to us once each year a list of the projects – large or small – that you completed with the help of our classes, tools, or advice.

We'll assign a value to each job, add it to all the others, and come up with an important measure of Project Repair's value to the community.



Please fill out the enclosed Repairs Completed Card and return it to us by December 15th.

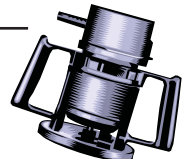
You can mail it, drop it through the Audio-Visual Return slot at our office, or even call 381-6100, ext. 16, with your list. To secure funding, we must be able to prove what Project Repair accomplishes – so, the information you give us is critical. Please help!

In this issue...

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If your drain line is clogged, you may need a snake.

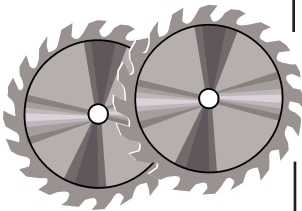
Snakes vary in the size of the cable (both length and diameter) and in the power and capabilities of the motor.



To contact us...

As you will find when you call our office, Home Repair Resource Center now has a new telephone system that routes incoming calls to the desired department. ***There is no longer a separate phone number for Project Repair;*** all callers should now dial our “main” number, (216) 381-6100, and then choose from the following extensions:

<i>For information about:</i>	<i>Staff Member:</i>	<i>Extension:</i>
Executive Director	Kathryn Lad	11
Home Buyer & Financial Education	Gail Jackson	12
Tool Loan	Cynthia Seaman	10
Repair Classes & Library	Becky Stager	16
Loans & Grants for Repairs	Allison Urbanek	15
New Clients seeking help with Foreclosure & Loan Modification		10
Existing Foreclosure Clients	Darren Jeffries	12 <i>or</i>
	Denise Black	14
Accounts Payable & Receivable	Yalanda Medina	20
All other inquiries	General assistance	10



Holiday Closings:

Home Repair Resource Center will be closed Friday, November 11th, for Veterans Day; Thursday & Friday, November 24th & 25th, for the Thanksgiving holiday; Monday, December 26th, for Christmas; and Monday, January 2nd, for New Year's Day. *Plan ahead to get any tools or information you'll need.*

Want your own copy?

HRRC is preparing to discard extra VHS copies of our repair videos, since most people are now using the DVD format. If you are interested in taking some of our VHS copies before they go to “video heaven,” call Becky at (216) 381-6100, ext. 16.

To support our work...

Home Repair Resource Center's annual membership campaign will soon begin, when we seek donations to cover costs that are not funded by the money we receive from our city government. We hope you will consider a gift to HRRC. We need strong support from people who know the value of what we do for the community.

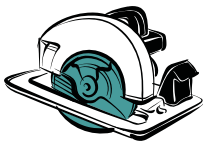
Tool loan update

Tool borrowers are already finding our new hours make using the program easier for working homeowners. Here's what you need to know about our Tool Loan:

- To use HRRC's Tool Loan, the borrower must be a Cleveland Heights homeowner/occupant, with a projected household income within federal low- and moderate-income guidelines. A valid Ohio's Driver's License is required.
- Reservations are required for all tool loans. Call 381-6100, ext. 10, between noon and 4 p.m Monday through Friday.
- Tools can be picked up and returned between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. We will also be open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon **through September 24th**.
- Tools may be borrowed for up to three days. Late fees will be charged for tools kept beyond their due date.

Tools can be picked up and returned between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. We will also be open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon **through September 24th**.

- Borrowers must leave a cash deposit for each tool. The fee for that tool is deducted from the deposit, and the difference is returned to the borrower when the tool is returned in good condition.
- Gasoline is no longer provided for gas-powered tools unless a special gas-oil mixture is required. Gas cans may be rented.



Questions? Call Cindy Seaman at 381-6100, ext. 10, any weekday afternoon.

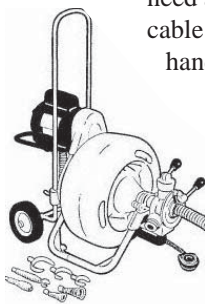
Be a good neighbor – prevent street flooding

Especially at this time of year, grates over street basins can become covered with leaves, twigs, and assorted debris, causing flooding of streets and yards during heavy rainstorms. If you have any street basins near your property, we encourage you to check them on a regular basis and keep the grates clear of blockages. If the basin itself is filled with debris, or if it's not draining at all, call the city's Utility Department at 291-5995.



What kind of snake should I use?

Sooner or later, most homeowners will have a clogged drain and need a snake to clear it. Snakes are tools with a semi-rigid flexible cable that rotates as it moves through the drain pipe. Some are hand-powered, and others are powered by an electric motor.



Snaking a drain is a job you can try doing yourself, although you may need help getting a larger snake to the location where you'll be using it. When choosing which snake to use, look at what it needs to accomplish and where you will be using it. Snakes vary in the size of the cable (both length and diameter) and in the power and capabilities of the motor.

All electric snakes work in basically the same manner. They have a forward (clockwise) motion and a reverse (used only if the cable snags in the line.) As the motor turns the cable, you advance the cable into the drain and pull it back, repeatedly – much like rocking a car out of a snowdrift – as you work the cable into the drain line.

Most snakes have interchangeable tips on the end of the cable. You'll usually start with the arrowhead tip, add side cutters if you have a particularly tough clog and need extra cutting action, and use an extractor tip to pull out debris after you are through the clog.

The only way to remove roots is to use a snake with a cutter bit; **drain cleaners will not eat through root blockages.** Occasionally, a drain may be blocked by mud and sediment, which must be dragged out with a "mud head," a propeller-shaped bit at the end of the cable.

Clogs in interior drains – sinks, bathtubs, basement floor drains, etc. – are usually caused by soaps and shampoos that cool on the inside of the drain line, where they cling and cause other debris (hair, rust, lint, mineral sediment in the water, toothpaste, coffee grounds, food particles, etc.) to attach themselves to the walls. If an interior drain is clogged, and chemical cleaners don't solve the problem, you'll need an electric "sink snake," slightly larger than an electric drill and with a 25- to 50-foot cable. However, some bathroom drains have pipes of a slightly smaller diameter, where you may only be able to use a hand snake with a thinner cable.

To snake a **sink**, remove the trap and feed the snake into the drainpipe that runs into the wall (*see illustration on page 9*). Don't snake a **bath tub** from the tub drain; remove the overflow for

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*Free advice
from the experts . . .*

Planning Your New Garage

John Keeley, Lally Garage Builders

If you are planning a new garage, there are many options to consider regarding design and materials. Learn how choices of layout, foundation type, and siding and roofing materials can affect quality and longevity.

Tuesday, September 20th, 2011, 7 - 8:30 p.m. (new date)

Options in Wood Flooring

Jamie Butler, Classic Floors

Today's homeowner has many choices in wood flooring. You can refinish your existing hardwood floor, install traditional hardwood flooring, put in laminate flooring, or choose one of the new materials that are now available. Come and learn about the possibilities open to you.

Tuesday, October 4th, 2011, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Exterior Lighting for Landscaping & Security

Robert Eskin, Kichler Lighting

Exterior lighting can highlight landscape features or areas of your home, increase safety by illuminating entrances and walkways, or increase curb appeal by creating a desired ambiance. Learn how to choose lighting that will be both decorative and functional.

Tuesday, October 18th, 2011, 7 - 8:30 p.m.



**HOME
REPAIR
RESOURCE
CENTER**

*HRRC's HouseMender University sessions
are free and open to residents of any community.*

Reservations requested – call (216) 381-6100, ext. 16

All classes will be held at
**Cleveland Heights - University Heights
Public Library, 2345 Lee Road**



Workshop Schedule

Most of our fall workshops will be held here in our Teaching Center, although some will be held “on-site” at a private home (check the location when you register). Note that we no longer send reminder cards for classes held in our Teaching Center.

Classes are open to Cleveland Heights residents. Participants pay a modest **materials fee**. (*See our website, or call for information.*) Call 381-6100, ext. 16, to save your spot.

October

Tree Pruning

Monday, October 3rd, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Mark Derrickson, Ardmore Tree Service

Learn when to prune your trees, how to operate various types of pruning tools and when each should be used, and when to call a professional.

Hardwood Floor Repair

Monday, October 10th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Lou Huskin, Classic Floors

At this class, you’ll learn how to make minor repairs to your floor, especially before sanding: replacement of a broken board, repair of surface damage, spot refinishing, etc.

Hardwood Floor Refinishing

Monday, October 17th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Don Shumaker, Shumaker’s Hardwood Floors

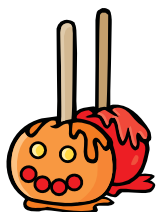
You’ll practice sanding a floor with a flat-plate sander (an easier alternative to a drum sander) and learn how to complete the process with stain and/or polyurethane. We’ll discuss oil-based and water-based finishes and the advantages of each.

Ceramic Tile

Tuesday, October 25th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Vince Horvath, Artistic Tile & Marble

You’ll learn how to lay out and space ceramic tiles on a floor, wall, counter, or backsplash, how to cut pieces for edges or around fixtures, and how to maintain and repair a tiled surface.



November



Window Repair

Monday, November 7th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Bill Hoose, Hoose Restoration

At this class, you'll learn how to glaze windows and replace glass panes, how to replace sash cords, and how to repair deteriorated wood on sashes and frames.

Installing a Replacement Window

Monday, November 14th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Jeff Dim, Pella Window Store

Learn how to remove an existing double-hung window and install a "replacement window" in the opening. We'll discuss how to select a good-quality window and show you how to install it, utilizing strategies to prevent cold drafts from entering the house through the old sash weight cavities.

Drywall Installation

Monday, November 21st, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Denis Mullaney, Mullaney Home Repair

Drywall can be used to finish new walls or to repair damaged plaster walls. At this class, you'll learn to measure, cut, install and finish drywall, ready for paint or wallpaper.

Interior Painting

Monday, November 28th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Denis Mullaney, Mullaney Home Repair

We'll talk about how to select paint and show you how to prepare the wall. Then, you'll have a chance to try out a variety of tools and techniques to enhance the quality of your work.

December



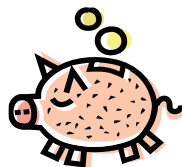
Stripping Paint

Monday, December 5th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Instructor: Tom Hudak, Dumond Chemicals

At this class, you'll learn about the Peel Away® paint removal system, which you can use to strip multiple layers of paint from a surface - while reducing contamination by lead-containing chips and dust.

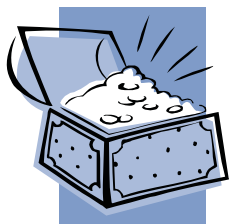
HRRC's Financial Fitness/ New Home Buyer Classes



Home Repair Resource Center's interactive Financial Fitness series will help you develop money skills, provide you with strategies for improving your credit, and teach you how to protect your home investment.

All classes will be held at the Cleveland Heights - University Heights Library, 2345 Lee Road, from 6 - 8 p.m. Reservations are requested – call (216) 381-6100, ext. 13.

October	6	Thursday	Power of a Personal Budget
	13	Thursday	Creditworthy Equals Choices
	20	Thursday	Shopping for a Mortgage & Avoiding Default
	27	Thursday	Home Maintenance
November	3	Thursday	Power of a Personal Budget & Creditworthy Equals Choices
	10	Thursday	Home Maintenance
	17	Thursday	Shopping for a Mortgage & Avoiding Default
December	1	Thursday	Power of a Personal Budget
	8	Thursday	Creditworthy Equals Choices
	15	Thursday	Shopping for a Mortgage & Avoiding Default
	22	Thursday	Home Maintenance



Free to a good home:

Several items donated to HRRC are available to Project Repair participants. Unless otherwise noted, all are used but in good condition. Call 381-6200, ext. 16, if you are interested in the following items (*first come, first served; priority to low- and moderate-income homeowners*):

- Double-bowl stainless steel sink with faucet, spray, and trap assembly
- Standard white toilet
- Medicine cabinet, insert-mount, mirrored door
- Bissell® Vac & Shine hard floor cleaner (dry vac/spray mop all in one)

What kind of snake should I use?

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straighter access into the line. Some tubs may have a clean out (an attachment to the drain line that gives access for snaking); if not, you may need to take the trap apart under the tub and go in through there. If you have a **drum trap** on the line, you'll need to snake "upstream" and "downstream" from the drum.



For inside sanitary sewers or outside storm sewers, you'll need an electric "sewer snake," powered by a larger motor and with a thicker cable that won't fit interior drain lines. The cables of sewer snakes vary in length and diameter; some cables are comprised of segments that attach to one another to make up the length required. Longer cables, or cables used to dig through mud in the sewer line, must be driven by a more powerful motor. Some sewer snakes have a power feed, which automatically advances the cable; with the rest, you'll need to advance and retract the cable manually.

Blockages in sewer lines are usually caused by roots that have invaded the line. The only way to remove the roots is to use a snake with a cutter bit; **drain cleaners will not eat through root blockages**. Occasionally, a drain may be blocked by mud and sediment, which must be dragged out with a "mud head," a propeller-shaped bit at the end of the cable.

On interior drains, follow up with drain cleaner once a week for a month or so, to help enlarge the hole you have bored through the debris with the snake. On exterior drains, pour copper sulfate into the drain each season to prevent new root growth.

It's easiest to snake a sanitary sewer through a clean out, usually located on the main stack or in the basement floor; if you don't have one, you'll have to go into a basement floor drain or take up a toilet. To snake a storm sewer, take a downspout out of the crock it feeds into and insert the snake into the line there. (For a drain beneath a laundry tub, basement floor drain, or driveway or yard drain, you'll need a cable flexible enough to feed through traps or tight bends in the drain.)

You can usually feel the snake cut through the blockage. When you think you are through, pull the cable back into its housing (cleaning it as you go), reassemble the drain and give it a try.

On interior drains, follow up with drain cleaner once a week for a month or so, to help enlarge the hole you have bored through the debris with the snake. On exterior drains, pour copper sulfate into the drain each season to prevent new root growth.

Home security

There are many elements that contribute to the security of a home. Some – like alarm systems – can be expensive, while others can be less than attractive. Security doors can create a sense of living in an armed camp, instead of a neighborhood, and may even foster a false sense of security. (Windows, especially those at the rear of a house, can be just as vulnerable as doors.) On the other hand, there are many strategies that can increase your safety without compromising the look of your home or emptying your pocketbook.

Lighting:

Visibility is your first defense against intruders. You might consider connecting an exterior light to a motion sensor. At a minimum, switch on exterior lights in the front and back of your home – and at least one light on the inside – whenever you leave the house. If your house is hidden by bushes, cut them back. Landscape lighting can beautify your home’s exterior while adding security.

Doors and Windows:

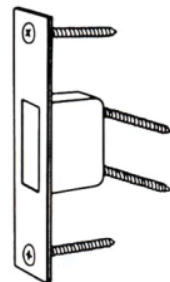
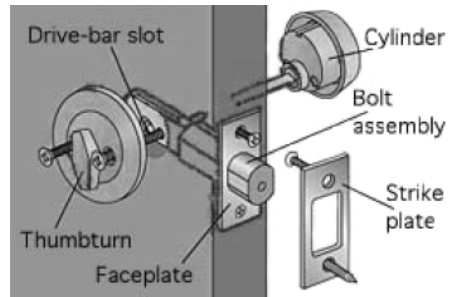
The composition and design of your exterior doors affects how well they protect against intruders. A hollow wood door is most susceptible; a door with a solid wood core or one made of metal is much more resistant. Windows in an exterior entry door, or next to it, should be sized and located so that access to the door lock cannot be gained by breaking the glass.

Equally important are the types of locks on your doors and windows.

Deadbolt locks provide much more security than a traditional spring lock in the doorknob. However, make sure the model you choose allows for easy exit in case of fire. (You don’t want to be searching through a smoky room for a key that has fallen somewhere on the floor.) Install a **heavy-duty strike plate**, with four screws; it will be stronger than the more common two-screw variety. And, for the deadbolt to be effective, make sure that the screws for the strike plate and at least one screw per hinge are long enough to go through the door jamb and into the rough framing.

Metal “wrought-iron look” security doors are not recommended by most fire departments – including Cleveland Heights’ – due to the difficulty of fire personnel gaining entry to the home in an emergency.

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Heavy-Duty Strike Plate

Home security

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(Be aware that many security doors don't allow for any ventilation in the summer, either.)



Window lock and Keeper

Windows are more secure with two standard locks on each window, or a better quality system. You can also create your own inexpensive “window security system” (see illustration below). Nails inserted into holes drilled through the lower sash and into the upper sash will give extra security; you can drill additional holes in the upper sash to allow the window to be locked in an open position.

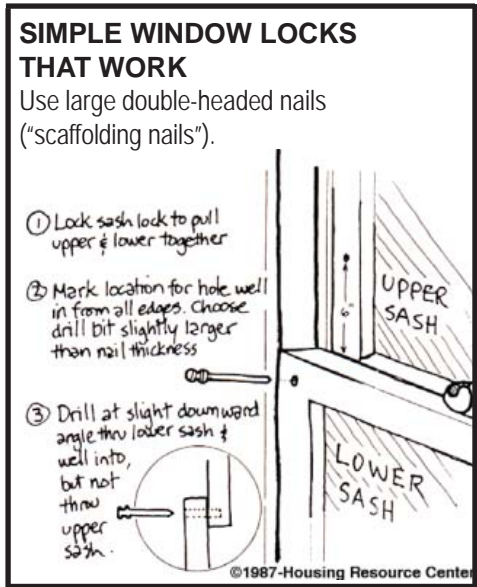
Alarm Systems:

If your “risk analysis” indicates that you would benefit from an alarm system, make sure you check out thoroughly the credentials of the company selling and installing the equipment. With some systems, an alarm sounds and/or lights go on; other systems will automatically dial the local police department when the alarm is triggered. Make sure you know whether the system you're considering has any ongoing costs after the initial purchase and installation of the equipment.

Personal Habits:

Even the best designed system cannot provide security if the homeowners do not take some common sense precautions in their daily life. Never leave a key outside, no matter how ingenious you think your hiding spot is – burglars know them all. Inform the police if you'll be away, so they know to watch for unusual happenings. Have someone pick up your mail, papers, and trash, and in winter, drive into your snow-covered driveway, so it isn't evident the house is vacant. And, agree with your neighbors to watch out for one another – either informally, or through an organized “block watch.”

Finally, you might consider whether a dog would be a good addition to your household.....



Operating support for HRRC is provided by individual donations, foundation grants, and HUD Community Development Block Grant funds through the City of Cleveland Heights.



**HOME
REPAIR
RESOURCE
CENTER**

2520 Noble Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121

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