

The Handyman Herald

News, views, & ideas from John of All Trades

Fall 2007

Volume 3, Issue 2

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We're here to help!

Our Contact Info:

Phone:
248.840.0045

Tell us where you live, what you need done, and any symptoms of the problem. Or if you're looking for a quote on a larger project, let us know. We'll call you back ASAP.

E-mail us your questions @
Help@JohnofAllTrades.com

Letter by letter we say "Thank You"

As the days continue to shorten and stalks and hay bales continue to permeate the neighborhoods of Huntington Woods and Berkley, let

me take this moment to say my piece as we begin the countdown to all of the holidays. With Thanksgiving nearly upon us, Hannukah and Christmas right behind it, and 2008 starting to stare us straight in the face, let me take a short moment to reflect in this season of reflection.

T is for Thank You to all of you. Thank you to the loyal readers of this newsletter, to those who have called me to ask questions, and of course, to those who have hired *John of All Trades* and helped me

pay my bills and support my family. I'm eternally grateful. In this season of Thanksgiving, there is no better way than to start by saying "thanks."



From the John

John Larabell

H is for Home. It is where we live; it is where we gather; it is where we celebrate and party; it is where we are alone to sometimes cry. It is our biggest possession, and we care for it dearly. It is an honor for me to be invited to your home to make it better, to fix it up, to repair it, to maintain or landscape it.

A is for Agriculture. In this time of harvest, we simply recall the bountiful gifts our land provides as we sit and gather amongst family and friends at the table.

N is for Newsletter. I'm certainly thankful that so many people take the time to read my opinions and ideas — and end up using me as their home handyman.

K is for Kitchens. It is the true gathering place of the

house. The smells that imitate from there are memories and treasures that can instantly be recalled many years later. It is the central point of the house and the reason why many call me to work in their kitchens by adding cabinets and countertops as well as tiles, electrical outlets or even a new disposal.

S is for Snow. With the December holidays a few days away from us, we certainly give thanks for at least a little of the white stuff — and Bing Crosby warbling about his dreams of a white December 25th. Also, read elsewhere in our newsletter where we can save you a lot of money on your snow removal.

G is for Gutters. Sure, it's not the "sexiest" thing to be thankful for and I've yet to hear a prayer at the Thanksgiving table that remembers to include them, but gutters help preserve your house. Make sure that before Thanks-

Your checklist to getting your house in order: How can we help?

People call the *John of All Trades* office all the time and ask the same question: "Can you _____?"

Look through this list and perhaps we can help with some of your home needs. If you don't see something you were hoping to have done — fear not. Give us a call at 248.840.0045. There's a good chance we can help.

Plumbing

- Sinks repaired or replaced
- Toilet repaired or replaced
- Sewer cleaning
- Pipe replacement (galvanized or copper)
- Installation of new bathroom in basement or upstairs
- Faucet Replacement
- Caulking toilets & tubs

Masonry Work

- Brick Repair
- Porch Repair
- Chimney Repair
- Tuck pointing
- Repair or install concrete



Outdoor Services

- Snow removal
- Landscaping
- Flower planting
- Full fertilizing programs
- Spring/Fall Cleanup
- Clean gutters
- Lawn Sprinklers
- Roofs (replaced or repaired)
- Gutter replacement or repair
- Nightscaping
- Roof de-icer installation
- Window replacement
- Siding
- Caulking
- Outdoor lighting
- Garage door installation
- Automatic garage door opener installation



Carpentry Work

- Door installation
- Install moldings
- Install bathroom vanities
- Install kitchen cabinets
- Backsplashes
- Pergo or hardwood floors installation

**Yes, we have our
Builder's License!**

Finishing

- Painting
- Caulking
- Drywall
- Drywall repair
- Plaster repair
- Tile installation

Electrical

- Back-up generator hook-ups
- Service Changeover (fuses to circuit breakers or replacing an old panel)
- Rewiring of your entire house
- Ceiling fans installed
- Space heaters installed
- Adding lights, circuits, or outlets
- Installing recess lighting/track lights
- Adding power in garage
- Troubleshooting electrical problems
- Troubleshooting phone problems
- Phone line repair
- Phone jack installation

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MasterCard & Visa.**



Clean your gutters; install deicers

Christmas tunes play on the radio since just past the Fourth of July — or so it seems. Just make sure that if you are whistling and singing along with Bing Crosby regarding your dreams of a white Christmas, you better have your fall chores done.

A big priority is to make sure your **gutters are cleaned** out before the snow starts sticking and a white Christmas becomes possible. You don't want ice dams and backed up melting snow because your gutters are filled with Halloween leaves.

Make sure too to **install your roof deicers now**. If it is too much work — or you'd rather go holiday shopping — give us a call. This is the start of a list that you should check twice!



QUESTIONS?

ASK THE HANDYMAN — JOHN OF ALL TRADES

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION THAT YOU'D LIKE *JOHN OF ALL TRADES* TO ADDRESS IN A FUTURE ISSUE? EMAIL US AT HELP@JOHNOFALLTRADES.COM AND ASK YOUR QUESTION.

WE'LL RESEARCH THE ANSWER AND HOPE TO PROVIDE TIPS TO FELLOW READERS IN AN UPCOMING EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER.

The Do-It-Yourself Tip Page:

As you can see by the list of our services on Page 2, *John of All Trades* can assist you in many ways with your home improvement and maintenance needs. However, many of you may have the time and energy to tackle a problem or remodeling on your own. In this space, we offer a few suggestions. If you decide you need help with a project, make sure to give *John of All Trades* a call.

Six tips to make your home painting job go as smoothly as possible

#1 Start Out Right

You'll enjoy the job more if you get everything together at the start. Organize a tool station in the middle of the area you'll be working in. Gather together your paint, brushes, rollers, hammers, screwdrivers, plastic bags, plastic wrap, rags, paint can opener, and drop cloths.

#2 Spend a day doing prep work

Don't try to get everything done in one day. Use the day before painting day to gather furniture in the center of the room, patch cracks and holes, put blue painter's tape around doors and windows, and cover wall and ceiling light fixtures (light bulbs removed) with large plastic bags. This will save time in the long run and may be the hardest part of the job.

#3 Clear the Decks

Take everything off the walls. If you can't move everything out, place the furniture and lamps in the middle of the room and cover them with a good drop cloth. Tape the cloth around the furniture. Then put a second cover of plastic or old sheet over everything.

#4 Remove All Hardware

It may seem easier to paint around door knobs or cabinet hinges, but unless you're a professional, very experienced painter, you're bound to get drips around. So carry around some zip top bags and remove all cabinet knobs and hinges, door knobs, light switch plates and outlet covers, and light fixtures. Place the pieces together in separate bags. Mark the contents and location (top left cabinet, bathroom door, etc) you took them from. This is a great time to clean the hardware!

#5 Get Yourself Ready

No matter how hard you try, you're bound to get drips of paint on whatever you're wearing. Remove jewelry. Use some old, comfortable clothes. When you paint the ceiling, put a shower cap or old baseball hat over your hair.

#6 Don't Paint Over Problem Walls

If your walls have holes or cracks, fix them *before* you start with the paint. Any home center or paint store has knowledgeable personnel to guide you to the best products for the job. Wide cracks and large holes can be "bridged" with fiberglass tape, spackle will fill small holes and cracks, and texturizing products are available to match your existing wall finish.

Call us for professional painting services

If you don't have the time, patience or talent (painting is more than simply applying paint to a wall), *John of All Trades* has a great professional painter on our staff. The fall and winter are great times to rid the doom and gloom by brightening up a room with fresh paint. We're the best in the business and our prices are **fair** and **competitive**. Call **248.840.0045** for a free quote.

— edited and adapted from about.com



John of All Trades

Save \$10 or \$50

\$10 OFF ANY JOB \$50 OR MORE; \$50 OFF ANY JOB \$300 OR MORE

Indoors or Outdoors — we do it all

Tel: 248.840.0045

Expiration Date: 1/15/08

Freshen up for 2008!

John of All Trades

\$50 off

ANY PAINT JOB \$300 OR MORE

Professional painting @

college student prices!

Expires: 1/15/08

Your best snow removal option

Neighbors help neighbors to lower your snow removal costs

With winter starting to come into view, *John of All Trades* wants to be your choice to have your sidewalks and driveways free of snow.

Period.

With that said, here's how we will earn your business.

1. We don't simply pull a truck into your driveway, drop a plow and push the snow all forward. Instead, we show up at your house and remove snow with a team of snowblowers and shovels. We'll go behind gates, be careful around fencing and posts and make sure you're dug out from whatever Mother Nature dumps on us.

2. We'll do so with very competitive prices. How much? Well, it's hard to quote an exact amount because there are a lot of different circumstances. For instance, corner



lots run more. Some people want their decks cleaned too. However, our typical plan allows you to choose to either pay per visit or pay a one-time seasonal fee no matter how many times we show up. *On average*, for a driveway and sidewalks, the cost is \$25 per shovel or a \$250 fixed price for the season. We'll come every

time there are two inches or more of snow. (We can also customize plans for you based on your needs or preferences such as putting salt down or coming by more frequently when there is less than two inches.)

We are offering a special program that will help bring the cost of cleaning your snow to as low as \$18 per visit or \$180 for the season. A large portion of our time is spent moving between clients. Loading up our equipment, driving in slow,

snowy traffic takes up a lot of manpower time. Thus, if we can shovel more houses without moving, we can do so for a lower amount and pass along the savings to you. If you get your next door neighbor to sign up with us, the rate drops to \$22 or \$220 for the season. If there are three houses in a row that use our services, the rate will be \$20 per time or \$200 for the season. Finally, if four houses in a row utilize our services, the cost will drop to \$18 per plow or \$180 for the year.

Again, please remember that these prices are for an average driveway and sidewalk. Regardless of your size, you can see a sizeable discount if your neighbors join together and use *John of All Trades*.

The price drops are for you and for your neighbors. All share in the savings. So have a conversation with your neighbor and give us a ring.

Spelling out the reasons for our thankfulness one letter at a time

Continued from Page 1

giving supper, your gutters have been cleaned for the season.

I is for Independence. Thank goodness for the good old U.S.A. I'm thankful for the troops that protect us and those many veterans who have protected our freedom over the hundreds of years of our history. It is because of these people we have the opportunity to live in the house that we do and earn income in the profession that each of us choose.

V is for Victory. In addition to those of our military or our favorite sports teams, I see victory when a home project has just been completed. I see the look in people's eyes after *John of All Trades* has finished a remodeling job of someone's basement... or an electrical service upgrade and the blow dryer no longer blows a fuse. Sure, in the scheme of things, it is a small victory, but I know what pleasure it brings to the homeowners.

I is for Ideas. You have them and they spur your dreams for how to improve your home. I'm happy to be along for the ride and help turn your ideas and

dreams into reality.

N is for New. We have older homes in these neighborhoods but there's a lot of new in them that helps make the living experience so wonderful in Berkley and Huntington Woods. My best wishes too for the *New Year*.

G is for God Bless You. *John of All Trades* wishes all of you a great Thanksgiving, a Happy Holidays and best wishes in 2008. As your neighbor and as your handyman, I hope we exchange greetings sometime soon. (And if you haven't figured it out — we just spelled Thanksgiving!)

John of All
Trades

Phone: 248.840.0045

Visit us on the
Internet @

www.

JohnofAllTrades.
com