



The Handyman Herald

News, views, & ideas from John of All Trades

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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

Together, home improvement challenges may be solved

Home projects. Home repairs. Home maintenance. How do I do this? How do I solve a pesky problem?

Sometimes, it can be almost overbearing.

There's the person with a leaky faucet who doesn't know where to turn.

There's the person who can't figure out why her telephone lines are no longer working.

There's the need for sprinklers, for a playroom in the basement to be built, for the garage to get electricity. Where do you turn?

Time. That's another source of problems. For the family of four that have so many home projects, things like free time, vacation, or "time with dad" will only be found in dreams and old video tape. That's a problem too.

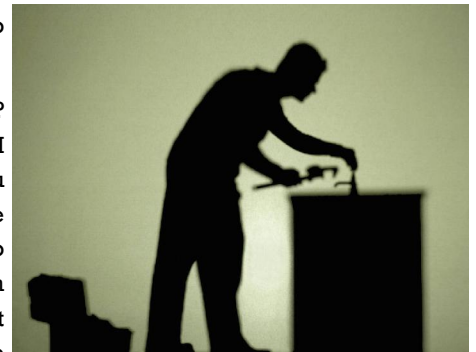
So, I'm here. And so is this newsletter.

What's my intention? Well, a few things. I want to give you some tips, some ideas, some ways to find solutions on your own. You might be able to handle different projects that we write about in this newsletter on your own.

For others, you may need help. That's why I'm here. I hope you'll consider calling me. You've heard the TV commercial that states "no job too big, no job too small." Well, here's a local guy saying the same thing.

I grew up in Huntington Woods; I live with my wife and children in Berkley. We love the area. Know a lot of people. Love all there is to it.

Over the last four years, I've built a business in which I've been fortunate enough and trusted enough to be invited into people's homes. It's a privilege I don't take lightly. Sometimes, people are



A new faucet may come as part of a dream kitchen remodeling — or because it simply wore out.

happy to see me — they want to remodel their basement or have saved up money to create their dream kitchen. Other times, they see me in a stressed state because something has gone desperately wrong, and crisis mode has hit. They need a fix.

In the end, I'm here to help. If it's a small job, I want to help you. If it's a large job, I'm here too. Some contractors only want the big jobs.

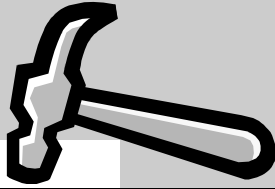
I'll take the big and the small — and I bet you'll remember me when a big job rolls around.

That's what neighbors do. Look out for one another. Help each other out. And I am honored to be your neighbor.

From the John



John Larabell



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 _____?" So, let's fill in the blank. If Santa can make a list, we can too. We've already checked it twice — but we'll tell you now that it does not include everything. 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 repair or replaced
- Toilet repair 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

- Landscaping
- Lawn Service (Limited area only)
- Flower planting
- Full fertilizing programs
- Spring/Fall Cleanup
- Clean gutters
- Lawn Sprinklers
- Roofs (replaced or repaired)
- Gutter replacement or repair
- Nightscaping
- Window replacement
- Siding
- Caulking
- Outdoor lighting
- Garage door installation
- Automatic garage door installation



Carpentry Work

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



Finishing

- Painting
- Caulking
- Drywall
- Drywall repair
- Plaster repair
- Refinish hard wood floors
- Tile installation

Electrical

- Service Changeover (fuses to circuit breakers or replacing an old panel)
- Rewiring of your entire house
- Ceiling Fans Installation
- Space heater installation
- 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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Help Wanted — need not be named John to apply!

In the five years that *John of All Trades* has been in business, we've been overwhelmed with requests from Berkley and throughout the southern Oakland County region. Therefore, we are looking for assistance.

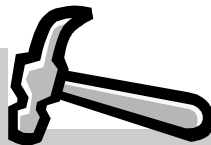
John of All Trades is looking for other

handymen for full or part-time work. If you are another *John of All Trades* (named John not a requirement) please contact John Larabell at 248.840.0045 or email at john@johnofalltrades.com.

Those seeking employment should have outstanding character references.

They need to be trustworthy and honest. In addition, they should be hard-working, skilled and able to tackle projects with vigor and gusto.

If you fit this profile, please contact our office.



A blow to the Gut: Dirty gutters can lead to a knockout punch

Perhaps you cleaned your gutters at the first sign of spring. Perhaps you forgot. Here's what you can't forget: gutters and downspouts are important parts of your home's exterior drainage system. They help prevent leaks in walls and the roof by draining away rain water and melting snow every year, so it's important to maintain them. Decayed leaves and mud can block the flow of water in the gutters and mineral deposits can lead to corrosion.

Cleaning the gutter system is not a difficult job, but it may be time consuming depending upon the size of your home.

You'll need a ladder, a garden hose with spray nozzle, a bucket or a plastic grocery bag for collecting the leaves and a garden trowel or scoop to clear out the caked-on mess. You may also want to enlist a friend to help you correctly angle the ladder against the exterior of the home.

Over the last decade, many people have changed to maintenance-free gutters that keep leaves out of the gutter. Still, these should be looked over each year to make sure they are cleaned out with a strong hose and any debris removed from on top.

If you don't have maintenance-free gutters, you can either purchase an insert to slip into your existing gutters or replace your gutters.

If this all seems too much to tackle — whether cleaning, replacing, or inserting a gutter shield, give *John of All Trades* a call (248.840.0045) to solve your gutter needs.



Berkley's Motto: We Care. Our Motto: We Care for Berkley

Berkley may be the "We Care" city.

John of All Trades is the *We Care for Berkley* Company.

Here's a look at all the streets in which we've provided service and care to the good families of Berkley.

Bacon	Cummings	Kenmore	Rosemont
Berkley	Dorothea	Kipling	Royal
Beverly	Earlmont	Larkmoor	Sunnyknoll
Buckingham	Eaton	Mortenson Blvd.	Thomas
Cambridge	Edgewood	Oakshire	Tyler
Cass	Ellwood	Oxford	Wakefield
Catalpa	Franklin	Phillips	West Blvd
Columbia	Gardner	Prairie	West Eleven Mile
Cornwall	Griffith	Princeton	Wiltshire
Cumberland	Harvard	Robina	

Gutter Talk

A quick look at gutters:

- Gutters should have a minimum ratio of gutter depth to width of 3 to 4
- The front edge should be one-half inch lower than the back edge
- Five inches is considered the minimum width except on the roofs of canopies and small porches.

Make certain all gutters are clean and slope uniformly, without low areas, to downspouts. If there is a screen or similar device to prevent anything but water from flowing into the gutter, check its condition, fit, and position, to be sure water really can enter the gutter. Check gutters without screens or similar devices to be sure that basket strainers are installed at each downspout.

Check the physical and functional condition of all gutters. Joints should be soldered or sealed with mastic. Wherever a gutter is exposed, check the strength of its fastening to the roof fascia or building exterior. Rusted fasteners and missing hangers should be replaced.



John of All Trades

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Tel: 248.840.0045

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The John of All Trades Newsletter

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We Care... for Berkley!

Inside:
**Helpful hints for home repair
and upkeep!**

Cleaning Patio Furniture: Useful tips to keep your outdoor look bright

Summer is the time to celebrate the outdoors and enjoy life on the patio, on the deck, or in a hammock outdoors.

Keeping patio furniture clean and looking good is a chore worth the reward. Here's a few tips to make sure that when you host that Fourth of July BBQ, guests will be admiring what looks like brand-new outdoor furniture.

1. Ammonia may take the shiny finish off of the furniture. Instead, here's something you might not think of right away. Use some automotive paste wax to buff the shine back after first cleaning it with amonia. If you've already cleaned your furniture for the

spring, you still might want to consider this. Why? If your resin furniture is colored, the wax will protect it from fading over time in the sun.

2. Keeping a table-top clean outdoors seems like a continuous headache. You can clean up a Plexiglas table top with some full strength vinegar. Just spray it on, let it sit for a few minutes and then wipe it up.

3. Acrylic cushions are no problem either. Vacuum up dust and cobwebs. Then scrub them with a simple soap and water solution. Rinse them down and put them in the sun to dry.

Now, get ready to fire up that BBQ and enjoy the good life.



The smell of the grill is even better when you're relaxing on clean outdoor furniture.

Items needed for this project:

- Rags & Buckets
- Ammonia
- Vinegar
- Hose
- Vacuum
- Sponges
- Automotive PasteWax
- Elbow grease