



The Mulvaney Pipeline

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season from the



How They Forecast a Cold Winter



entire staff at Mulvaney Mechanical, Inc.

One day in early September the chief of a Native American tribe was asked by his tribal elders if the winter of 2011/12 was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with the reading signs from the natural world around the Great Lakes.

In truth, neither of them had any idea about how to predict the coming winter. However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and the chief rang the National Weather Service in Gaylord Michigan.

'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood.

A fortnight later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked.

'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him.

As a result of this brief conversation the chief went back to the tribe and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could find.

A month later the chief called the National Weather Service once more and asked about the coming winter. 'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked.

The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans of the Great Lakes are collecting wood like crazy.'

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

- The first Atlantic storm to carry a man's name was Hurricane Bob (1979). Before that, they were all named after women.
- Honeybees kill more people every year than all the poisonous snakes combined.
- In 2007, Americans threw out twice as much trash as they did in 1960.
- Brazil nuts contain small amounts of the radioactive element radium.
- You are four times more likely to choke to death on a nonedible object than on food.
- Aerobic dancing causes more bone fractures than any other recreational activity.
- Sales of antacids jump 20% during the month of December.
- "Old Age" hasn't been allowed on death certificates in the United States as an official cause of death since 1951.
- The term "feeling blue" has its roots in nautical traditions. In the "old days," when a captain or officer died, the ship flew a blue flag.
- The highest accident rate per million vehicle-miles in the world is estimated to occur in Nigeria.
- Prior to 1953, the slogan of L&M cigarettes was "just what the doctor ordered."
- Flying across time zones disturbs not only your sleep patterns, but also your pulse rate, body temperature, reaction time and decision-making abilities.
- On average, four NASCAR drivers die annually from a racing accident.
- Women who have morning sickness typically have healthier pregnancies.
- The first country to use police dogs: Belgium (1859). They protected officers on the night shift.

PLUMBING MYTHS AND REALITY

Plumbing is a serious matter that you should mind. You can easily take it for granted but then when something goes wrong with it, that is the time when you can fully appreciate how important it is. That would be the time when you would realize that you can't live without a decent plumbing system.

It is important that you should have a serious grasp on the plumbing systems, but the problem is that there are some prevailing myths about it, that people still believe in. Here are just some of the more serious plumbing myths and the actual truth behind it:

Myth- It's a great idea to place lemons in your garbage disposal. It has been a common belief that the juice from lemons could help to clean the disposal and also disinfect the inner works as well.

Reality- While it might be true that the lemon juice can polish the metal and also disinfect, its acid content can eventually cause corrosion which would weaken the metal. A better natural method of cleaning your garbage disposal is to place some ice on it.

Myth- In-tank automatic toilet bowl cleaners will take care of all your toilet problems. These products are being marketed as a cure all for all of your problems with your toilet. It has been claimed that it can keep clean and disinfected as well as prevent the build-up of materials that could cause blockage.

Reality- While these products can keep your toilet "bleached", it can just ruin your toilet in the long run. It would be much better to use a natural material such as vinegar which could clean it without causing any of the side effects.

Myth- If the drain is working with the water going down then nothing's wrong with it. That's the function of the drain, so if that is working then everything is fine then.

Reality- There are certain types of food that could become bloated while inside the pipes and so cause blockage. You should always see to it that drains are used in the proper way and never try to force solid particles through it.

Myth- It's okay to leave some soap behind on the sink since it can clean it up. That's what you do each time that you wash your hand.

Reality- Soap can cause corrosion on the faucet and the metal parts. It is not intended to clean those surfaces anyway.

These are just some of the myths about plumbing that you ought to be aware of, so you can stay away from some major problems .

WHEN YOU ARE COURTING A NICE GIRL AN HOUR SEEMS LIKE A SECOND. WHEN YOU SIT ON A RED-HOT CINDER A SECOND SEEMS LIKE AN HOUR. THAT'S RELATIVITY.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

CHOOSING AN EMERGENCY GENERATOR

Power failures can be a real pain—and downright dangerous—if you're not prepared. At the very least, blackouts disable heating and air-conditioning systems, freezers, refrigerators, water pumps and lighting. If the power outage lasts for any length of time, your home can become uncomfortable and possibly uninhabitable: Your water pipes may freeze and burst, the food in your freezer may thaw and spoil, or your sump pump may fail, flooding your basement. Any of these events can quickly become expensive. If a blizzard blocks roads and you're snowed-in during subzero temperatures, grid failure can even be life-threatening. It's hard to appreciate just how valuable a generator can be until you've lived through a lengthy power outage without one. Many people wish for backup power only when it's too late. Generators quickly sell out before and during emergencies, so don't wait until the next major power failure to consider buying one.

The two main types of residential generators are portable and permanent standby. If you plan to power a few lights, your refrigerator and freezer, a less expensive portable generator may provide enough power. If you intend to run your lights and refrigeration—along with a well pump, furnace and other major appliances—you will need a permanent standby model. It's important to match the size of your generator to your electrical needs. An undersized generator won't last long and can destroy motors and other electrical equipment that require more current than the generator can deliver. Generators are rated by their maximum electrical power output in kilowatts. (A kilowatt equals 1,000 watts, or enough energy to light 10 100-watt light bulbs.) For greatest efficiency and to prolong your generator's life, operate it at no more than 75 percent of its capacity. The best selling portable generators fall in the 3,500 to 5,000 watts range, however recent trends indicate a movement to larger units that are sized to take the dread out of extended power failures.

Generators run on a wide variety of fuels, including gasoline, diesel, biodiesel, natural gas, propane and—in the case of some fuel cells—hydrogen. Most of the less-expensive models use gasoline. Your choice of fuel and type of generator should be determined by how often you will use the generator and the fuels available in your area. Generators, especially gasoline-fueled models, create major noise. Generally, the cheaper the generator, the louder it will operate. Natural gas and propane generators are much quieter. One way to minimize the noise level is to buy a more expensive generator with a water-cooled engine and a good muffler.

As in most things, the less you pay for a generator, the less you get. Size it right, buy quality and you will have a dependable long lasting source of backup electricity.



WHAT THE HECK IS IT?

If you can name the item pictured, you may

WIN A MULVANEY MECHANICAL LEATHER JACKET

If you e-mail your entry, you must write "NEWSLETTER CONTEST" in the subject line to avoid our SPAM filter. Please mail to janette@mulvaneyinc.com

*JUST LIKE THIS ONE!



If multiple correct answers are received, a winner will be selected at random.

We received no correct answers for the last photo quiz. The item at the right is a mid 1800's manual can opener. The operator would estimate the center of the top of the tin can and tap in the end spike. The device was tipped down until the cutting knife blade was adjusted to the outer edge of the can. As the can was turned and the handle held fast, the blade would cut open the top. This device was said to be a must have "wonder tool" following the introduction of canned and "tinned foods".



WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

Jan 8-11 th	Consumer Electronics Show	Las Vegas, NV
Jan 28 -30 th	AHR Expo	Dallas, TX
Feb 16 th	Connecticut PHCC Show	Cromwell, CT
Mar 17-28 th	MACC Annual Convention	San Antonio, TX
Jun 20-22 nd	AIA Conference	Denver, CO
Jun 23-25 th	BOMA Conference & Expo	San Diego, CA
Oct 1-3 rd	ICUEE Expo	Louisville, KY
Oct 13-15 th	NECA Electrical Trade Show	Washington, DC

"I remember a great America where we made everything. There was a time when the only thing you got from Japan was a really bad cheap transistor radio that some aunt gave you for Christmas."
Cher



MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

4 Christopher Columbus Avenue
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
203-797-8005 – 845-278-8813
FAX 203-794-1786

E-mail mulvaney@mulvaneyinc.com