



Around the House

Home improvement news compliments of Maeser Master Services
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Maeser's tips to keep your pipes from freezing

Hopefully the Polar Vortex deep freeze is over for the winter of 2014. Maeser worked non-stop to repair frozen pipes or to prevent them from further damaging your home. There were days we took over 1000 calls from our loyal customers with plumbing issues. Thank you for trusting us with your home. As home-comfort experts, we suggest you review how to prevent your pipes from freezing so this won't be you the next time we have bitter cold temperatures.

There are three causes of frozen pipes: poor insulation, a quick drop in temperature and the thermostat is set too low. Be aware that any time temperatures dip to 32 degrees, unprotected pipes are vulnerable to freezing, especially when you factor in the wind chill.

We are seeing insufficient insulation in attics, crawl spaces and on pipes that are situated on an outside wall. Consider purchasing pre-cut foam insulation for your pipes. It is inexpensive and easy to install.

Maeser also suggests sealing leaks in your home's foundation that allows the cold air to come inside. You can use spray foam insulation or cold-weather caulking. Take care not to cover vents as this could cause dangerous results. If you are unsure, find a professional or err on the side of caution.

There are several cut-off valves in your home, however, knowing where the main water shut-off valve could keep your home from extensive damage if a pipe were to burst. Every person in the household should know where this valve is located. Tag the valve with a Maeser Emergency Shut-Off tag so it is easily seen (see back page to receive two free emergency shut-off tags).

Another suggestion is to be careful when turning your outside spigots on in the Spring. It is possible your pipes were damaged and there were no outward signs during the bitter cold. If water doesn't flow out of your spigots, this may reveal pipe damage. Again, know the location of your main water cut-off valve.

So many of our customers endured this harsh winter with damage to their pipes and home. We hope you will consider our suggestions to make the next winter season worry-free and know that we are here if you need a home-comfort expert.



Conserving home heat

When your heating unit is not maintained, it has to work harder to produce the same amount of heat as a well-maintained unit. Annual maintenance by a trained HVAC technician can extend the life of your furnace by 20 to 30 percent. That will give you an extra five or ten years of life on your unit. Plus, about 75 percent of all repairs can be avoided when your unit is regularly maintained. Consequently, you can save 10 to 15 percent on your annual heating bills.

Tips for keeping your home warm and safe:

- Change your furnace filter once a month. A dirty filter restricts airflow and forces the heating unit to work harder costing you more money on your heating bill.

- Make sure your gas burner is producing a blue flame. A yellow flame means the burner is dirty and not getting enough air.

- If you are gone for a few days, or on vacation, keep your heat at a reasonable temperature in case of severe cold weather. Open all the interior room doors to help heat circulate. Also, open the kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to help warm the pipes under your sinks.

- Use your wood-burning fireplace. It gives off more heat than a gas fireplace and is one of the most cost-effective forms of heating your home.

- Layer your clothes and use extra blankets at night.

Featured Remodeled Bathroom

Our customer had both their hall bath and master bathrooms updated. This month we are featuring their hall bath. Work in this bathroom included replacing wallpaper with fresh coats of premium paint and tiling of the shower walls and floor. We installed frameless, gliding shower doors accented with chrome handles. To coordinate, our customer chose a Moen chrome showerhead, handle and lavatory faucet. A new ivory-finished toilet was installed to compliment the tile and shower. Finally, we installed a custom-made cherry wood Vittitow Cabinets vanity with a cultured white-marble counter top. The finished product is a beautifully updated hall bath for our customer and their guests to enjoy.

Transform your outdated bathroom into a beautiful room you will be proud to show your guests. Give Maeser a call today! Visit our portfolio at maeser.com to view more photographs of bathrooms we have remodeled.



QUACKS

Attitude of Gratitude

Maeser has started an Attitude of Gratitude campaign where we give a local charity a \$500 check every month. Three charities are on our web site and we ask you to vote for your favorite one. The charity with the most votes receives a \$500 check and the runners up receive a \$25 check and a chance to win the next month. You can vote every day. Visit <http://www.maeser.com> and click on the Vote for a Charity button.

Maeser Showroom

The Maeser Bath Design Studio is almost complete for all your remodeling needs. You will be able to view all your options for showers, tubs, lighting, cabinets, fixtures, tile and more. Details to come.

Bathroom Remodel

Need to remodel your bathroom but don't know where to start? Call us, tell us what you want, and we will give you a free estimate. Visit our portfolio online - maeser.com/bathroom-remodeling.

Stop by and see us!

- **Home Garden and Remodeling Show**
Booth 1719
February 28 - March 2, 2014
- **Maeser Bath Design Studio Open House/Grand Opening**
Spring, 2014
(more details to come)
- **Homearama Shakes Run**
July 12-27, 2014
(more details to come)
- **Louisville Home & Design Show**
Fall, 2014 (more details to come)

STARTING A "HEALTHY YOU" CAMPAIGN

After putting in a long day at work, exercising is usually the last thing you want to do. But there are many benefits to working out: it prevents muscle loss, it can ease back pain, it alleviates stress, it sharpens your memory and concentration, improves your sleep pattern, helps you lose weight, makes you feel happier and so many more. Do you hate going to the gym? Walk or find exercise programs on TV or YouTube. All you need are tennis shoes, possibly a mat and lots of water.

Start a better eating program by sticking with a few dietary changes. Eat lots of fruits and vegetables, because not only are they good for you, they are also high in fiber and fill you up faster. Eat foods that are clean. That means eating foods that are not processed, such as meats that aren't coated, breaded or marinated. Eat meats that are lower in fat such as chicken or turkey breasts, flank steak, eye (of) round steak, pork loin, eggs, tofu, tuna in water and all seafood. Refined grains such as white rice, white bread or pasta converts to sugar during digestion, which can contribute to weight gain. Instead, choose whole grain foods such as whole-wheat flour, bulgar, oatmeal, brown rice or whole cornmeal when deciding on a side dish.

By investing in a healthier you, you will see changes in your body, your mood and the quality and longevity of your life.

Attitude of Gratitude

Vote for your favorite charity! Once a month Maeser gives \$500 to a local charity.

Congratulations to **Senior Care Experts**, our December charity winner. They are a non-profit organization that helps seniors live independently in the home of their choosing. They accumulated more votes from you on our website and have received \$500 from us.

Go to www.maeser.com, click on the Vote for a Charity button and vote for the charity that touches your heart.

Want to win \$1,000 toward a bathroom remodel, plus other fabulous prizes? Take a picture of your ugly bathroom and go to www.maeser.com to get started. Find the Ugly Bathroom Contest button.

UGLY Bathroom Contest



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Complete Bathroom Remodel

- Body Massage Shower and Whirlpool Tubs
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Financing Available

502-266-6546
www.maeser.com

Request your Maeser valve tag

Receive two Maeser emergency shut-off valve tags to apply to your **main water supply valve or other important valve**. That way, you will never forget where they are located. **Plus, when you request your tags, you will be put into a drawing to WIN a Duck tote bag and other Maeser goodies.**



WIN this Tote Bag!



Just fill out the form and drop it in the mail or email us your name and address at ducky@maeser.com.

Yes, please mail me two Maeser valve tags.

Name _____

Address _____

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Mail to:
Maeser, 11101 Electron Drive, Louisville, KY 40299



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