

# HOME EXPRESSIONS HOME

## Saving water in the home is so simple

The following are some tips Environment Canada recommends for reducing water use without plumbing devices.

**AVOID**

- Thawing frozen foods under running water.
- Cleaning fruits and vegetable under running water; instead scrub them in a partially filled sink, and rinse quickly.
- Running to the tap for every glass of drinking water; instead keep a bottle cooling in the refrigerator.
- Running a half-filled dishwasher.
- Dripping taps; close tightly and, if they are leaking, install new washers.

### Central Scenting offers residents a new breath of fresh air

Local entrepreneur Mark Cussion was driving up the Don Valley Parkway when the idea of a central, automatic air-freshening unit "hit me like a brick wall."

Cussion, who is in the heating and air conditioning business, was on his way home from a service call when inspiration struck. It occurred to him that freshening the air with sprays or powders is only effective for a limited time, so he decided to investigate the possibility of a central system.

"It's been in the works for about 11 months," he explained. "It's a simple installation, but I recommend it be put in by qualified service people, rather than the public." The device, which works on all forced air heating systems, is low cost and low maintenance, Cussion said, and simply requires periodic replacements of a diskette. "It costs a maximum of \$9.95 a month to maintain."

As the fan moves air through the home or office, it naturally disperses the freshener into the entire building. "It works on any system; natural gas, electric, propane or oil." Cussion currently offers two scents; Floral and Northern Green, and will be adding two more to the lineup. "I've been in the trade for three years, and I've never seen anything like this," he noted. There are units which can be placed on heat registers, but they are more expensive and require greater maintenance. "The main reason why I came up with this idea was because 90 per cent of the public like to have scent in their home. "All our products are non-toxic, non-flammable, biodegradable, hypo-allergenic and environmentally friendly." A Stouffville resident for the past seven years, Cussion has used companies within the community to make and promote his invention.

"My printer is local and one of my manufacturers is local," he said. The central air-freshening unit is currently on sale at a special promotional price of \$49.95 plus installation.

Call 642-4926 or 497-7589.

- Using water-softening treatment systems and garbage disposals in the kitchen sink; water softeners flush away a lot of water when the softening agent is regenerated; garbage disposals waste water in order to pulverize the waste.

- Running a tap while brushing teeth and shaving.

- Bathing when a quick shower will do; if you must bathe, you can get just as clean with a half-full tub. When drawing water for the tub, first put in all the hot water you want, then slowly adjust the temperature with the cold water.

- Extinguishing cigarettes by flushing them down the toilet.

- Watering your lawn when the sun is at its brightest; early morning or late afternoon is best.

- Placing sprinklers where they water the concrete rather than the lawn.

**USE**

- A device to create a dam in your toilet tank to reduce the amount of water it normally holds. Any non-porous item such as a plastic bottle will do, but stay away from bricks as they disintegrate and can plug up the system.

- Insulation on your hot-water tank and pipe, and a thermostat set back to 50 degrees Celsius. This saves hot water by keeping it warmer longer and can reduce water-heating costs by 25 per cent.

- A bucket and sponge, requiring only 450 litres to wash a car, instead of the 700 litres expelled by a hose. Save 90 litres by attaching a trigger nozzle to the hose for rinsing off the suds.

- A cover for any swimming pool, to cut down on evaporation.

Here's how the average Canadian

household uses its water:

Inside the house, every day, we each use 350 litres, compared with an average 140 litres used in Europe.

- 45 per cent of it goes down the toilet.

- 30 per cent is washed away in

showers and baths.

- 20 per cent goes to do the dishes and laundry.

- five per cent is for drinking and cooking.

Expect a 100-per cent increase during the summer if you water the lawn or wash the car.

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