

# Home & Garden

## Regular maintenance makes plumbing systems last longer

According to the experts at Home Depot Canada, plumbing is a lot like life — one thing inevitably leads to another.

Regular maintenance and proper care, will go a long way in preventing serious damage and problems with your home's plumbing systems, said Suzy Dieleman, plumbing expert at The Home Depot Canada.

Dieleman's do-it-yourself plumbing tips for basic maintenance and repairs are easy to follow, require minimal tools and experience, but can save you a great deal of time, money and frustration.

### Basic Plumbing Tools:

- **Plunger** - clears drain clogs
- **Pipe Wrench** - tightens and loosens pipes and large fittings
- **Water Pump Pliers** - adjustable, for small and large objects
- **Screwdrivers**
- **Ratchet Wrench and Sockets** - tighten and loosens nuts and bolts
- **Small Wire Brush** - cleans met-

als  
 • **Putty Knife** - scrapes putty and caulking from fixtures  
 • **Utility Knife** - trims plastic pipes and cuts through caulking

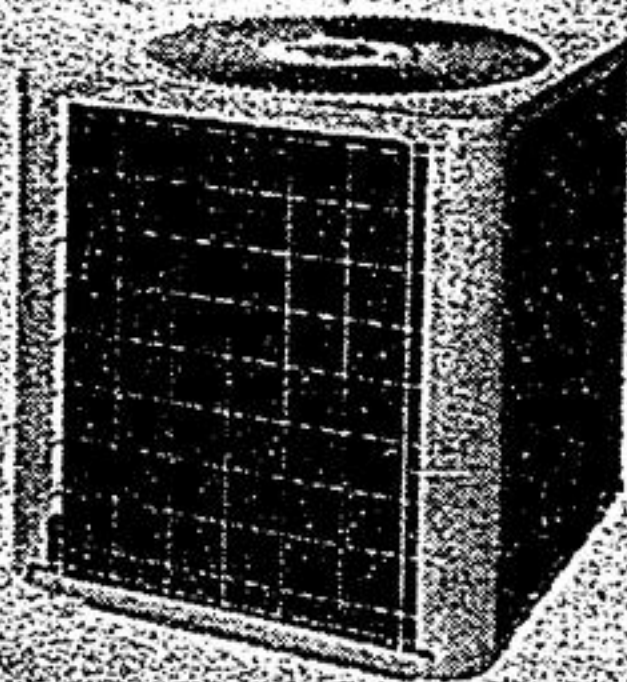
• **Snakes**  
**Hand Snake** - clears drain clogs (pistol-grip style with flexible steel cable stored in a disk-shaped crank) and a **Closet Snake** - clears toilet clogs (metal tube with a rubber-sleeved bend in the middle for positioning at the bottom of the toilet bowl and a crank handle to turn the cable)

### General plumbing tips to consider:

- Always use good judgment.
  - When purchasing new parts, take the old fitting with you to the store. This will ensure the proper replacement of the part.
  - Make sure you have all the supplies you need before you start.
  - Allow yourself plenty of time to complete a project.
  - If you have any questions, ask a plumbing and electric expert for advice.
- Here are tips for general care

■ Please see page 16 ■

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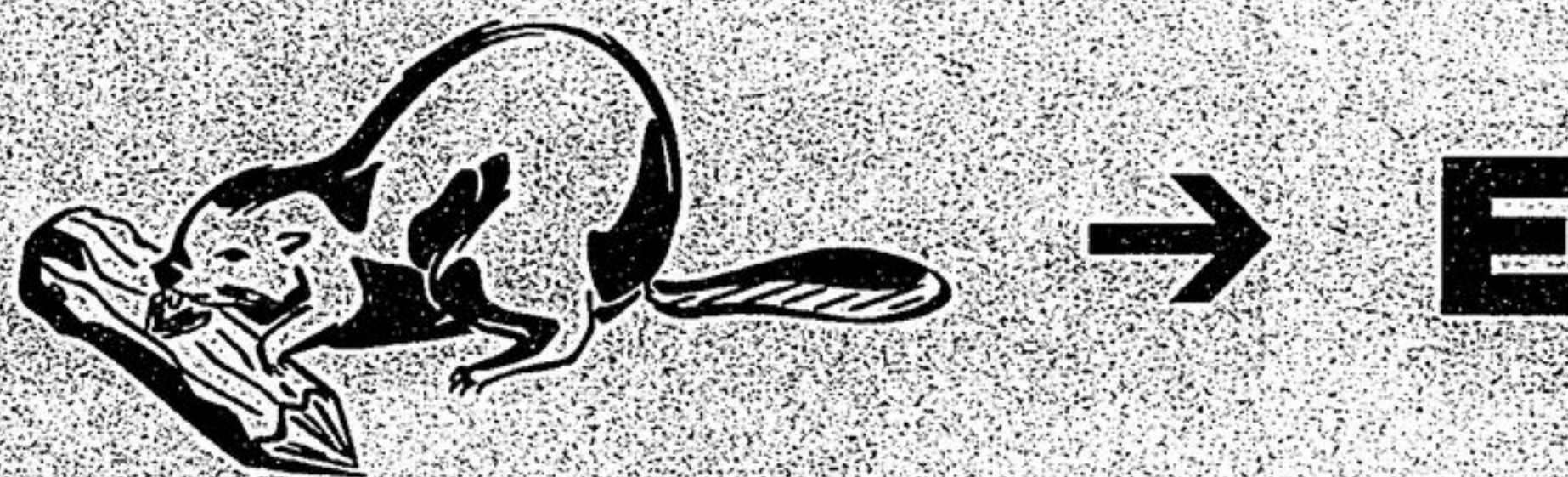
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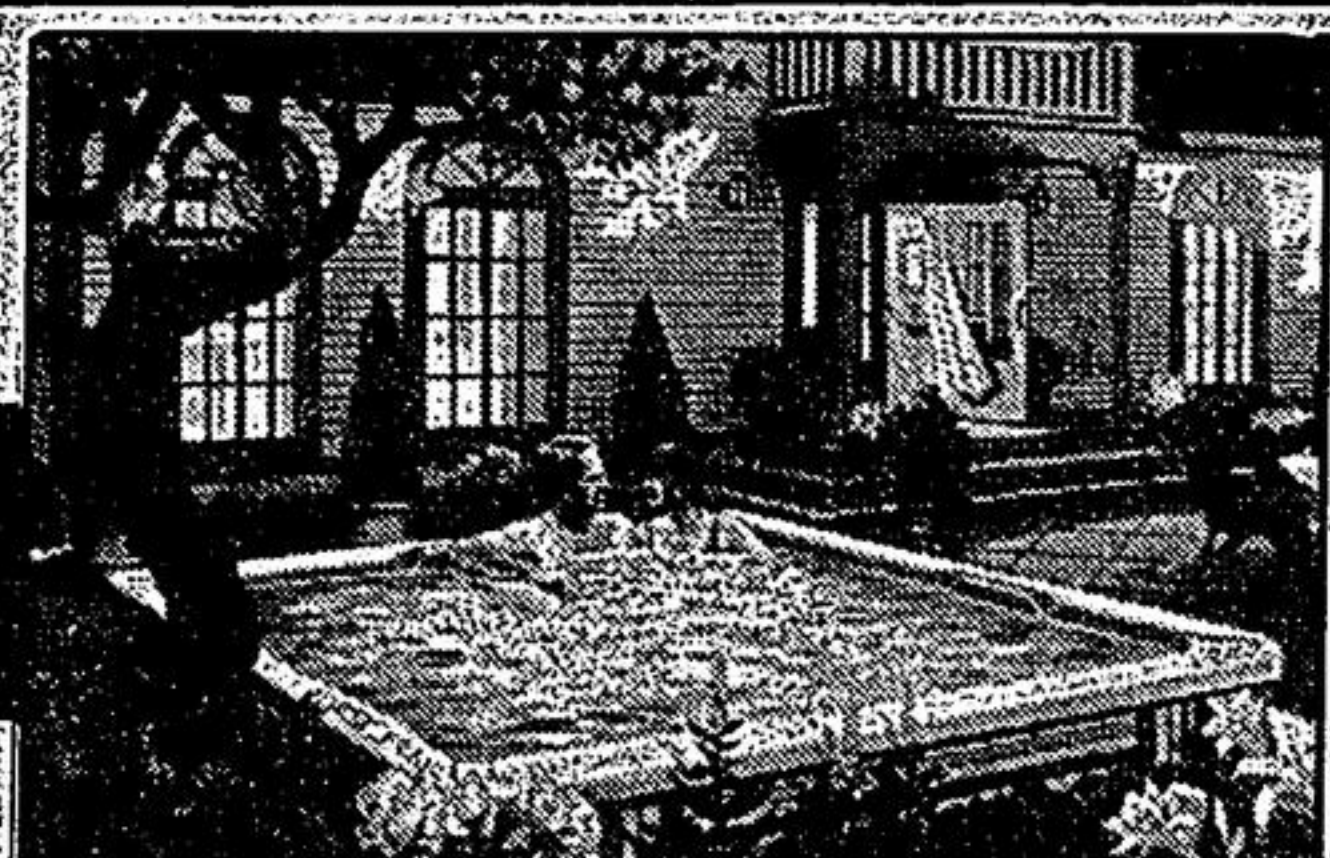
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