



Space Heater Safety Tips ...

Space heaters are a great way to warm up a room but they are also a major cause of fires and injuries. Here are some practical safety tips to follow:

- Read the manual that came with your space heater before using it.
- Keep your space heater at least 3-ft. away from anything flammable like furniture, curtains, bedding, rugs or clothing.
- Keep your space heater away from water.
- Keep children and pets away from your space heater.
- Don't plug your space heater into an extension cord.
- Never use your space heater to warm bedding, dry clothes, cook food or thaw pipes.
- When you're not using your space heater, turn it off and unplug it, especially before retiring for the night.

Practice Space Heater Safety this winter!♦

Ways To Bring Rising Heating Costs Down

Opened your heating bill lately? We all know that natural gas fuel prices are on the rise... and rising. In fact, the Energy Information Administration estimates that the cost for heating an average single family home this year will be about \$1053 compared to \$938 last year.

So, what can you do about it?

CHECK YOUR EXTERIOR

- Seal up any cracks, holes and drafts you find.
- Replace worn weatherstripping. If you're not sure it needs to be replaced, hold up a piece of tissue near any cracks. If the tissue blows around, the crack needs sealing.
- Repair any air leaks around windows. Fix broken caulk.

CHECK YOUR INTERIOR

- Insulate water pipes in unheated areas to protect against freezing and to save energy. This can be as inexpensive as newspaper bundled around the pipes and tied with string. It's better, however, to wrap pipes with insulation tape or to encase pipes with perforated plastic foam. If you're concerned that a particular pipe will freeze, wrap it with an electric heat cable, which prevents freezing even with icy temperatures of 20° or more below zero. This option



uses a lot of electricity, however, and might defeat the purpose of reducing your fuel bill.

- Clean up your fireplace and chimney. Hire a chimney sweep to inspect your flue and clean it if necessary. Make sure that the flue's seal is good—a drafty chimney is a winter-time no-no.
- Have your furnace checked. Hire a professional heating contractor to inspect your oil-burning unit, heat pump or radiator (annually), or your gas-fired or electric furnace (every two to three years). Ask the inspector how to maintain your system year-round and do what he suggests!♦



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Ice Dams Can Be Prevented

Due to the early winter weather, many people have called our office for help with ice dams forming on their roofs. At Francis Harvey & Sons, we know people have questions about ice dams so we've compiled this brief explanation to help you understand ice dams and how to prevent them.

What Are Ice Dams?

Ice dams are formed when heat from the inside of a home escapes into the attic and warms the roof decking during the winter. This heat, combined with heat from the sun, can melt snow on the roof. Melting snow on the upper roof and in the valleys then runs down toward the eaves as water. When it reaches the cold eaves and gutters it refreezes. The continual thaw and refreeze process creates ice dams. The result is water backing up under the roof shingles or behind fascia boards where it can soak through the roof

decking or wall sheathing, causing damage to attics, ceilings and walls.

There are three ways to defend against the damage ice dams cause: insulation, ventilation and waterproofing shingle underlayment. All three work together.

Insulation keeps heat from escaping from your home's living space into your attic. **Ventilation** removes the heat and helps keep the roof deck evenly cool to help prevent snow from melting on the roof. Finally, **waterproofing shingle underlayment** is laid across the roof before roof shingles are applied.



Typical Examples of Ice Dams

By ensuring both proper insulation and ventilation, you will run less risk of the formation of ice dams, and you will substantially reduce the likelihood of damage to your home. ♦

Source: "Homeowners Guide to Preventing Ice Dams" – CertainTeed Corporation

Introducing Frannie!

In our last newsletter, Francis Harvey & Sons announced our participation in the NEADS "Adopt a Puppy" program—we are proud to say that our puppy has arrived! It is our pleasure to introduce you to Frannie!

Frannie was born August 14, 2007. She arrived at the Early Learning Center (puppy house) on the NEADS campus at about 11 weeks old. Currently, she is busy playing with the other puppies and learning basic obedience—which is a good thing, as Frannie is full of energy. In fact, it was difficult to get this photo since she didn't want to stay still for very long!



Frannie will live and learn at the Center for about eight weeks. The program takes full advantage of puppies' early learning capacity. Each puppy undergoes a specialized

curriculum that provides an enriched environment of stimulating experiences, vigorous socialization and service dog "prep" work. And of course, lots of playtime with their housemates is included in their daily routine. The program builds a solid foundation and upon completion readies the puppies for placement in our prison program or in foster homes where they will receive their advanced service dog training.

At Francis Harvey & Sons, Inc. we are thrilled to be part of this exciting program and we look forward to watching Frannie's progression. We hope you enjoy the updates! ♦

Master Bedroom Suites

We have seen an increase in clients expressing interest in creating new Master Bedroom Suites. At FHS we can turn your bedroom into a Master Bedroom Suite that offers you not only peace, tranquility and an escape from the world, but also a beautiful, well-functioning space.

Having previously completed two projects for our clients, they came to us with a new challenge.

The Challenge:

Turning a 200 square foot master bedroom into a spacious two room master suite, loaded with charm and high quality materials that would be a retreat within their home.

The Solution:

We designed and built a suite that converted the existing master bedroom into a sitting room and created a new bedroom addition over the existing garage. The new addition included a walk-in closet and a recessed deck overlooking the pool.

We began by removing the roof on the existing garage and framing the master bedroom addition. Next, we remodeled the new sitting area while completing the 500 square foot addition over the garage.

To create the beautiful suite with intricate details that our clients wanted, we custom-designed and built a window seat, storage built-ins, an enclosed

AFTER



(above)
View of new bedroom addition



BEFORE

Same View of Windows Before & After

AFTER



View of sitting room (formerly the old master bedroom) looking through to the new master bedroom addition behind

stereo cabinet, and a see-through fireplace separating both rooms. Custom millwork including wainscoting, raised paneling and crown molding, hardwood flooring and detailed lighting complete the look of quiet elegance.

Our clients were delighted with the finished project—our third successful renovation for them.

We are proud to announce that Francis Harvey & Sons was awarded the Eastern Massachusetts NARI Contractor of the Year 2007 Gold Award for this project. ♦

(See our Award photo on Page 4.)

**Best Wishes for a
Happy, Healthy & Prosperous 2008!**



Francis Harvey & Sons

PO Box 20340

Worcester, MA 01602

Phone: 888.714.8206

Fax: 508.791.2811

E-mail: info@francisharvey.com

www.FrancisHarvey.com

HIC# 103724

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"Serving the Massachusetts Area for Over 80 Years"

In & About ... Francis Harvey & Sons

FHS Receives Award

Francis Harvey & Sons received the Eastern Massachusetts NARI Contractor of the Year 2007 Gold Award. The award, presented at the annual awards dinner in late November, was for excellence in the residential addition category.

Check out before and after photos of the project on page 3! ♦

(NARI is the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.)



FHS employees proudly display their award.

l-r: Sheila Edison, Angela Sowden, Lisa Felix, Jayne Windham (seated), Sheila Fitzgerald, Tim Fitzgerald, Mike Chenevert

Mark Your Calendar ... 

Metrowest Home Show

February 8th – February 10th 2008
Royal Plaza Trade Center - #919/921
Marlborough, MA

New England Home Show

February 27th – March 2th 2008
Seaport World Trade Ctr. - #504/506
Boston, MA

Worcester Spring Home Show

March 7th – March 9th 2008
DCU Center - #919/921
Worcester, MA

Nashoba Valley Home & Garden Show

March 15th – March 16th 2008
Boxborough Holiday Inn - #301/302
Boxborough, MA

Congratulations to Mary Ann Preskul-Ricca of Shrewsbury.

Mary was the winner of our book give-away. THANK YOU to everyone for your feedback!