



# A.I.I. INSPECTORS' Newsletter

American Institute of Inspectors™

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*Sylvia Duerksen, Editor*



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**Sylvia Duerksen  
Executive Director**

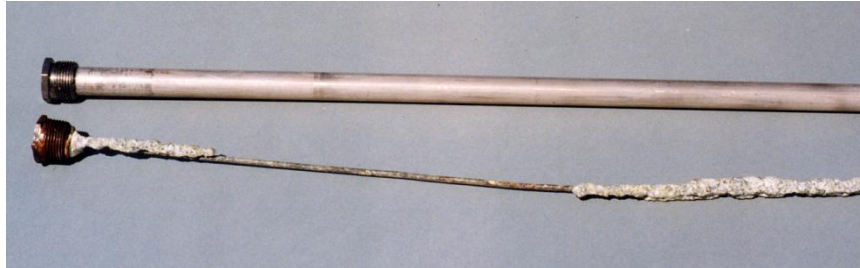
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**P. O. Box 248, Lower Lake, CA 95457**

## NEW LONGEVITY ANODES FOR WATER HEATERS

By Randy Schuyler, [www.WaterHeaterRescue.com](http://www.WaterHeaterRescue.com)

*A new anode, top, as compared to one that had been in use for seven years. Note the bare core wire.*



### The Hidden Ingredient

The single most important factor in whether a water heater lives or dies is the condition of its sacrificial anode. For more than 60 years, it has been used as a key part of the rust protection of a tank, although few people know it's there.

This is a rod made of magnesium or aluminum that's formed around a steel core wire and is screwed into the top of the tank. A six-year-warranty residential tank will have one, while a 12-year-warranty tank will have two, or an extra-large primary anode. Commercial tanks have from one to five. Special aluminum/zinc sacrificial anodes or powered anodes may be used to resolve odor problems caused by bacteria in some water.

When the tank is filled with water, an electrolytic process begins whereby sacrificial anodes are consumed to protect a small amount of exposed steel. Powered anodes replace that process with electricity and are not consumed.

Electrolysis simply means that when two metals are physically connected in water, one will corrode away to protect the other. Although few people have heard of this, the principle is used all over the place -- anywhere that someone wants to protect metal exposed to water. In marine applications, anodes are known as "zinics" and are usually made of that metal.

All metals fall somewhere on the galvanic scale of reactivity. When two are placed together in water, the "nobler" -- or less reactive -- one will remain intact while the more reactive one corrodes. When steel and copper are together, steel will be the one that corrodes. Indeed, steel is more likely to rust in the presence of copper than it would have been by itself. That's why dielectric unions are necessary on items like copper flex lines when they're connected to steel nipples.

Magnesium and aluminum are less noble than steel, which is why they're used for anode rods.

Remember, the anode is screwed into the tank. That means it can be unscrewed and replaced.

A sacrificial anode's life depends on the quality of water, the amount of use the tank gets, the water temperature, and the quality of the tank. When salt is added to the water (as in softened water), anodes corrode more quickly. Water softeners can help reduce sediment, but anodes can corrode in as little as six months if the water is over-softened. Do not soften to zero. Leave 50-120 ppm of hardness.

People occasionally ask us if pipe-seal tape applied to the threads of the anode blocks the electrolytical reaction. Tanks we've serviced repeatedly usually have corroded anodes. We've tested with a multimeter and found current

flowing between the anode and the tank, despite the tape.

While we generally advocate putting two anodes in a tank, that may not be a good idea if you have odor problems. Doubling the anode surface area may worsen odor even when special aluminum/zinc anodes are used that reduce or eliminate the odor

If you have odor and soften, consider getting a powered anode that replaces the sacrificial reaction with electric current.

If you contemplate adding an anode to a new tank, make sure both rods are of the same metal. Otherwise, the magnesium rod will be consumed more rapidly in the presence of an aluminum one and you won't get as long a life. How do you tell them apart? An aluminum hex head will be flat on top, while a magnesium rod will have a bump, as in the photo at right.

The exception to that is Rheem and its sub-brands, Ruud/Richmond/General Electric. As far as we know, Rheem always uses magnesium even though there is no bump on top of its anodes. On the other hand, if the tank is five years old or more, having dissimilar metals is less of an issue, since the original one will likely be largely consumed.

And there is no way to tell metal type if a tank has a combo rod, but you're probably going to be replacing it anyway.

As to other brands, as far as we know, American/Whirlpool always uses aluminum anodes. Bradford White always uses magnesium, but many of their tanks have one combo rod in the hot port. State/Reliance/Kenmore offers both combo rod tanks and tanks with a hex anode. As of February 2008, only the Premier line has magnesium. All the others use aluminum anodes. A.O. Smith makes both hex and combo rod tanks and uses both aluminum and magnesium.

If you decide to remove and check your anode, we'll tell you some of the possibilities and what they mean.

If there is rough, seemingly chewed-up metal all up and down the rod, that's normal. It's doing what it's supposed to do. If you can see six inches of the steel core wire, replace the rod. If all you have is the steel core wire -- or less -- then extending the life of the tank by replacing the anode becomes iffier. You might still get several more years out of the next anode. Or the tank might fail shortly after. It all depends on factors that exist where none of us can see them.

If the rod looks perfectly intact, with no sign of corrosion, then it has passivated. That means it has sort of gone to sleep. It might not be doing its job. It's a wild-card situation. We've seen tanks with passivated rods last a long time. We've seen them break. We're never sure what will happen next, and apparently none of the experts in this field whom you think might know are any more certain than we are. About all you can do is replace the rod and hope for the best. Or leave it and hope for the best. Wild-card situation.

*A typical water heater top. Many have the hex-head anode exposed, as here. Others have it under a plastic cap, but in about the same position. A few have it under the sheet metal. And on some, a combo anode is in the hot port, as in the position of the pink-topped nipple.*

### **Combination and Hex-head Anodes**

There are two configurations of anodes. The first kind is called a hex-head anode and you can see a couple at the top of this page. They are found in their own port on top of the tank. With most brands, the hex head is exposed. On some, it may be under a plastic cap about halfway in toward the center from the edge. If there are caps on the edge, they were used to insert the foam insulation.

The other kind is called a combination or combo or outlet anode, like the one in the picture at right. It is an anode/hot-water outlet/plastic-lined steel nipple and is used in the hot-water port. Often longer-warranty tanks have one hex-head and one combo rod, although a couple of manufacturers make tanks that have just one combo rod,

with no place for a second one.

If you're adding a combo rod to a Rheem/Ruud/Richmond/GE tank made in 2005 or later, you'll need a special one that we sell or you may not have water pressure, due to a redesign of the tank's hot-water port.

The test, on older heaters, of whether you have a combo anode or not is to disconnect the hot plumbing and run a long screwdriver into the nipple. It should be blocked an inch or two down if there is an anode there. Newer heaters often have heat traps in the nipple that prevent that test. You may have to remove the nipple to determine if anything is beneath it.

### **Why We Don't Like Aluminum Anodes**

Water heaters typically come with magnesium or aluminum anodes. We prefer magnesium. We dislike aluminum for a bunch of reasons. Those are:

First off, aluminum, being lower on the Galvanic Scale than magnesium, produces less driving current between anode and cathode (in this case, the tank is the cathode). We think that means it doesn't do as good a job of protecting the tank, especially in softer waters.

Second, it produces about a thousand times its original volume in corrosion byproduct, most of which falls into the bottom of the tank as a sort of jelly, and adds to sediment buildup there.

Third, it also occasionally floats out the hot-water port, appearing as a cottage cheese-like substance clogging aerators and filters.

Fourth, it actually expands as it corrodes so that it is hard, or maybe impossible to remove one a few months after installation because its diameter is bigger than when it was installed.

Fifth, along with that, it has a tendency to split off from the core wire, so that chunks fall into the bottom of the water heater, where they stop being anode and start being junk. That also means that if you try to take one out at that point, it may split away from the core wire and snag the underside of the top of the tank, like a fish hook.

Sixth, the build-up of sediment on the bottom of gas heaters encourages noisy operation, and some people can hear their water heaters loud and clear at night, which is not helpful for those wishing to sleep.

Seventh. There is a little booklet "The Danger of Food Contamination by Aluminum" by Dr. R.M. Le Hunte Cooper. It details the nasty things aluminum does to the body. The liver, brain, kidneys and spleen seem to be the main repositories, with nervous tissues holding the most by weight. It was written in 1932. Modern plumbing allows some water that came from the heater to be used as cold water. This doesn't matter if magnesium is used in the heater.

But all that said, an aluminum/zinc anode is mostly aluminum, although it tends to corrode more slowly than pure aluminum. It is the most economical solution to odor problems if no water-softener is being used. Everything stated here applies to it. So we suggest that those using that anode, or who have bought a heater with a pure aluminum anode, especially if they have a single-control faucet, simply let the cold water run for a few seconds to purge the line of any cooled-off water from the water heater. That's all it takes.



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## **BROWSERS: SOME ALTERNATIVES TO RECENTLY BREACHED EXPLORER**

*By Nathan Halverson, The Press Democrat*

Imagine that every keystroke you make on a computer -- whether it's logging onto your online bank account or signing into your e-mail -- is tracked and recorded by criminals.

Now stop imagining, and understand this is happening to people every day.

Just two weeks ago, Microsoft announced a security flaw in its browser Internet Explorer that let criminals take complete control of a user's computer -- or monitor their keystrokes to capture user names and passwords.

About 1 in 500 computers using Internet Explorer had been infected by the middle of last week -- only days after crooks apparently discovered and exploited the flaw. The number of infected computers is likely much higher now, and that's only accounting for one virus.

In the wake of the security breach, many security experts advised people to drop Internet Explorer and use an alternative browser such as Firefox, Chrome or Opera that they considered more secure.

About three out of four people worldwide use Microsoft's browser.

While the fervor to switch browsers calmed after Microsoft released a security patch, the problem brought renewed attention to alternatives.

"We recommend that people use Firefox as their browser," said Nathan Strong, director of marketing and product management at Red Condor, an e-mail security company in Rohnert Park. "It has a lot more security built in to it."

Here is a list of alternative browsers and a brief description of each.

If you plan to continue using Internet Explorer 7 and haven't installed the security patch, do it now. If you use a previous version -- such as IE 6 or IE 5 -- upgrade to its latest version of 7.

No browser is immune to viruses, which can infect a computer just by visiting a Web site. But the best way to keep your computer safe -- and not cede control to outsiders -- is to regularly update your software, installing the latest versions and security patches.

### *Alternative browsers:*

#### **MOZILLA FIREFOX**

**mozilla.com/firefox:** The second most popular browser in the world has continued to gain market share from Microsoft, and for good reason. It's easy to use, touted for having strong security, provides a huge market of add-on programs and is free to download.

One reason Firefox has a strong reputation for security is how flawlessly it updates and installs security patches.

Automatic updates are a standard feature with this browser, and it doesn't have to be manually configured. It automatically installs the updates the minute Mozilla releases them.

Most other browsers only update periodically, with Microsoft typically releasing updates only once a month.

A recent report found that 83 percent of Firefox users had the latest security updates installed. Only 48 percent of Internet Explorer users had the latest security updates, in large part because so many still use Internet Explorer 6, according to the study, "Understanding the Web browser threat," that was supported in part by Google.

Outside its reputation for better security, Firefox brings a whole new level of productivity to the browser with its add-on programs, mostly developed by third parties.

One add-on program lets users highlight a word and hit the "w" key to automatically search Wikipedia, or hit "d" to quickly pull up the definition in a corner of the browser.

Another add-on lets people monitor their e-mail inbox by adding a small icon to the bottom corner of the browser, which displays an alert when an e-mail arrives.

Firefox also incorporates a spell checker, which helps avoid embarrassing mistakes when sending messages online.

One downside to Firefox is that if one tab crashes, it can bring down the whole browser. Mozilla is expected to fix that in the near future.

## GOOGLE CHROME

**google.com/chrome:** This free browser, new to the market, was introduced in September. But it is quickly adding users who like its simplicity, speed and stability.

It also doesn't hurt that the Internet giant Google is behind the browser.

It took early criticism from privacy advocates because of the extent to which it monitors users' online behavior.

It is still only available for Windows, and not Apple's OSX or Linux users.

Chrome is making a name for itself with the no-frills simplicity that makes Google's search engine such a hit.

It also designed an innovative feature that prevents the whole browser from crashing if one tab freezes. Tabs have become a popular method to open multiple Web sites within one browser window.

Chrome still does not have a marketplace of third-party applications similar to Firefox.

## APPLE SAFARI

**apple.com/safari:** Apple has gained much notoriety, and probably revenue, for its reputation of being virus resistant. Its operating system has yet to be plagued by a widespread security breach.

But its free browser for Windows isn't so lucky. Like other browsers designed for Windows, it has made news for security flaws.

Still, Sonoma State University professor George Ledin, who teaches a class on computer viruses, said he uses Safari more than any other browser. However, he said they all have security vulnerabilities.

## OPERA

**opera.com:** This free browser designed by Opera Software has long been known for its security and innovation. It frequently tops the list of most secure browsers, and it was the first to unveil tabs in a browser window.

Still, despite being released more than a decade ago, it has less than 1 percent market share. It was eclipsed by Chrome the same month Google released its browser.

Yet for people who believe prominence and market share are the best ways to attract criminal hackers, going with Opera is a great way to stay under the radar.

*Gregg Marshall, CPMR, CSP, is a speaker, author and consultant. He can be reached by e-mail at [gmarshall@reconnection.com](mailto:gmarshall@reconnection.com), or visit his website at <http://www.reconnection.com>.*

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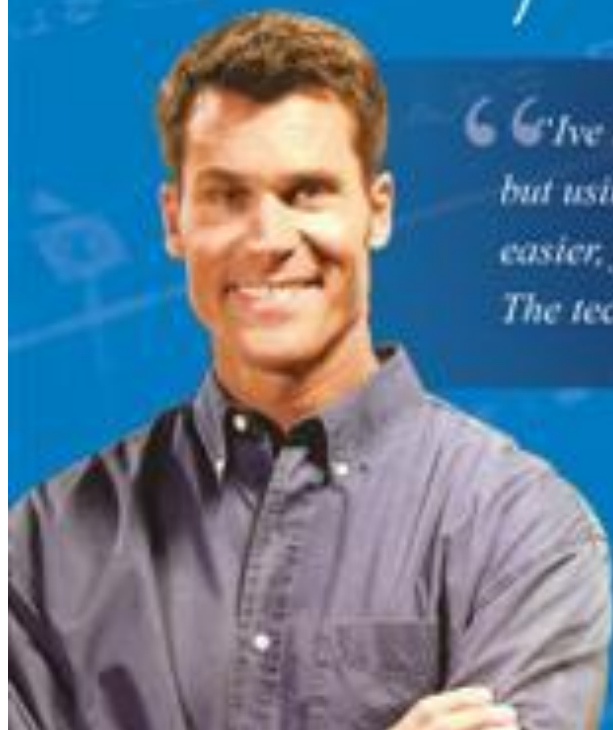
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## KEEP THE BALL ROLLING

I know an advertising agency owner who never fully takes a vacation. He takes his family to fairly exotic locations, but never so alien that they are outside the reach of modern communication. In other words, he is never further than a cell phone call or email away. He checks in with the office several times a day – much to the chagrin of his family who want him to be fully engaged in the holiday at hand. So, he ends up sneaking off under the guise of visiting the restroom, or going to the bar for a cocktail, in order to connect with his staff, a client or a prospect. His wife and kids aren't fooled; they just sigh and accept the inevitable. I used to think he was a control freak – someone who couldn't let go and let someone else take over – until I came to understand the concept of Momentum.

In science, Momentum is equal to Mass times Velocity. Or just think of Indiana Jones in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* running as fast as he can out of the tunnel while that huge stone ball rolls faster and faster after him. In business, Momentum is the point at which success begins to come easily. Business veterans jokingly refer to it as having, “paid my dues.” In short, Momentum is an accumulation of acquired knowledge, skill, experience and connections. And, those who understand it... also know it can be fragile and easily lost.

Sales professionals who have achieved Momentum will tell you that you must pursue a number of activities to generate sales leads: phone calls, emails, sales letters, networking events, etc. You keep it up building dozens, then hundreds of leads at a time. Then to convert those leads to sales you keep following up on each of them in a timely fashion. Meanwhile, you are still maintaining all the activities that continue to generate leads. So between generating leads, following up on leads, then turning leads into sales, you begin to feel like the guy in the circus who spins plates on top of poles – rushing from one plate to the next to keep them spinning.

No wonder these folks hate to take vacations – it breaks the Momentum they've spent months or years creating and they know it takes time to get it going again.

Years ago when I first started giving speeches, a seasoned professional speaker advised me, “It took me ten years to quit sweating cash flow, but even so, it is still all about non-stop marketing.” In other words: maintaining Momentum.

For a growing company, Momentum is the point where you have done enough advertising, marketing, public relations, networking, customer service, and so forth that business begins to flow. It is the point where you are garnering the precious and often elusive *word-of-mouth* referrals. Momentum is about building a reputation. Acquiring it, however, doesn't mean you can taper off on your efforts... but it does mean that your efforts will become easier.

The best thing about Momentum is that once you get it, motivation becomes self-perpetuating. Momentum is energizing. It keeps you on your toes. And, the rewards come quickly and regularly.

I have found this to true in all pursuits. Even when I am writing fiction there is always a certain point in a novel that it takes on a life of its own and demands my daily attention, energy and focus until it is complete. Unfortunately, nothing quite puts the brakes on Momentum like finishing a book, or

completing any other major task. The trick to avoid losing that Momentum is to begin another book or another task before you complete the first one. Then you just shift your energy over to the next project that is already under way.

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert's programs please visit [www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com](http://www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com).

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# CARBON MONOXIDE

## What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death.

## Where is CO found?

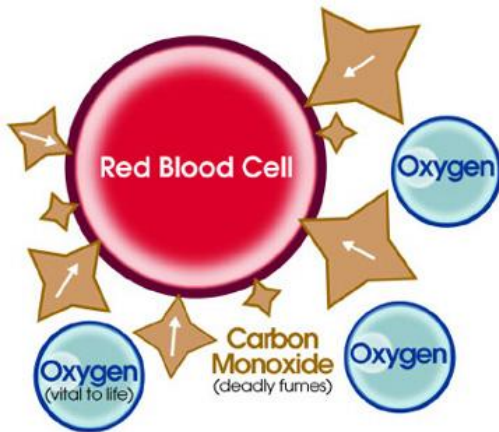
CO is found in combustion fumes, such as those produced by cars and trucks, small gasoline engines, stoves, lanterns, burning charcoal and wood, and gas ranges and heating systems. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces. People and animals in these spaces can be poisoned by breathing it.

## What are the symptoms of CO poisoning?

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. High levels of CO inhalation can cause loss of consciousness and death. Unless suspected, CO poisoning can be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms mimic other illnesses. People who are sleeping or intoxicated can die from CO poisoning before ever experiencing symptoms.

## How does CO poisoning work?

Red blood cells pick up CO quicker than they pick up oxygen. If there is a lot of CO in the air, the body may replace oxygen in blood with CO. This blocks oxygen from getting into the body, which can damage tissues and result in death.



## Who is at risk from CO poisoning?

All people and animals are at risk for CO poisoning. Certain groups — unborn babies, infants, and people with chronic heart disease, anemia, or respiratory problems — are more susceptible to its effects. Each year, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning, more than 20,000 visit the emergency room and more than 4,000 are hospitalized due to CO poisoning. Fatality is highest among Americans 65 and older.

## How can I prevent CO poisoning from my home appliances?

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters (catalytic) indoors. Although these heaters don't have a flame, they burn gas and can cause CO to build up inside your home, cabin, or camper.
- If you smell an odor from your gas refrigerator's cooling unit have an expert service it. An odor from the cooling unit of your gas refrigerator can mean you have a defect in the cooling unit. It could also be giving off CO.

- When purchasing gas equipment, buy only equipment carrying the seal of a national testing agency, such as the American Gas Association or Underwriters' Laboratories.
- Install a battery-operated CO detector in your home and check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall.

### How do I vent my gas appliances properly?

- All gas appliances must be vented so that CO will not build up in your home, cabin, or camper.
- Never burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't vented.
- Have your chimney checked or cleaned every year. Chimneys can be blocked by debris. This can cause CO to build up inside your home or cabin.
- Never patch a vent pipe with tape, gum, or something else. This kind of patch can make CO build up in your home, cabin, or camper.
- Horizontal vent pipes to fuel appliances should not be perfectly level. Indoor vent pipes should go up slightly as they go toward outdoors. This helps prevent CO or other gases from leaking if the joints or pipes aren't fitted tightly.

#### Here's the Safe Way to Connect Heating Equipment to the Chimney



### How can I heat my house safely or cook when the power is out?

- Never use a gas range or oven for heating. Using a gas range or oven for heating can cause a build up of CO inside your home, cabin, or camper.
- Never use a charcoal grill or a barbecue grill indoors. Using a grill indoors will cause a build up of CO inside your home, cabin, or camper unless you use it inside a vented fireplace.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal — red, gray, black, or white — gives off CO.
- Never use a portable gas camp stove indoors. Using a gas camp stove indoors can cause CO to build up inside your home, cabin, or camper.
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window, door, or vent.

### How can I avoid CO poisoning from my vehicle?

- Have a mechanic check the exhaust system of my car every year. A small leak in your car's exhaust system can lead to a build up of CO inside the car.

- Never run a car or truck in the garage with the garage door shut. CO can build up quickly while your car or truck is running in a closed garage. Never run your car or truck inside a garage that is attached to a house and always open the door to any garage to let in fresh air when running a car or truck inside the garage.
- If you drive a vehicle with a tailgate, when you open the tailgate, you also need to open vents or windows to make sure air is moving through your car. If only the tailgate is open CO from the exhaust will be pulled into the car.

**CDC – Department of Health and Human Services**

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## **RECALLS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2009

**Release #09-099**

Manufacturers' Recall Hotline: (800) 758-3688

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

### **CPSC, Manufacturers Announce Changes to 1998 Recall Program to Replace Dangerous Home Heating Vent Pipes Remedy Changes for Registrations after May 1, 2009**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and various home heating furnace, boiler, and high-temperature plastic vent (HTPV) manufacturers are urging home owners who have not yet responded to the previously-announced 1998 recall, to do so immediately. After May 1, 2009, the remedy consumers receive under the existing program, which has been operating continuously for almost 11 years, will change.

The recall, first announced in February 1998, included about 250,000 Plexvent and Ultravent HTPV pipe systems attached to gas or propane furnaces and boilers in homes. The HTPV pipes can crack or separate at the joints and leak deadly carbon monoxide (CO) gas. The following table includes the different remedies available to consumers with qualifying heating systems vented with two leading brands of HTPV pipe - Plexvent and Ultravent.

For valid claims initiated on or before May 1, 2009, with remediation completed and required documentation submitted by October 1, 2009: Plexvent owners will receive a new, professionally-installed venting system free of charge or a rebate up to \$400 towards purchase of a new, high-efficiency appliance from the same manufacturer that does not require HTPV. Ultravent owners will receive a new, professionally-installed venting system for about \$250 or a rebate of \$250 towards purchase of a new, high-efficiency appliance from the same manufacturer that does not require HTPV.

For valid claims initiated after May 1, 2009: Plexvent owners will receive a rebate up to \$400 toward either an HTPV replacement system, or a new, high-efficiency appliance from the same manufacturer that does not require HTPV.

Ultravent owners will receive a rebate up to \$250 toward either an HTPV replacement system, or a new, high-efficiency appliance from the same manufacturer that does not require HTPV.

Consumers who register after May 1, 2009 and who choose to repair their systems will be responsible for up-front payment of parts, labor and permits, and will be responsible for arranging to have the work performed.

Consumers should determine whether they have a recalled HTPV pipe system by checking the vent pipes attached to their natural gas or propane furnace or boiler. Vent pipes subject to this recall can be identified as follows:

- 1 - the vent pipes are plastic;
- 2 - the vent pipes are colored gray or black;

"Plexvent," "Plexvent II" or "Ultravent" is stamped on the vent pipe or printed on stickers placed on pieces used to connect the vent pipes; and the vent pipes are located on furnaces (and the pipes go through the sidewalls of structures) or on boilers. Other plastic vent pipes, such as white PVC, are not included in the recall.

After checking the vent pipes, consumers should call (800) 758-3688 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. ET Monday through Friday to sign up for HTPV pipe system replacement. The following manufacturers are participating in this program:

Armstrong Air Conditioning Inc., Bard Manufacturing Co., Burnham Corp., Dunkirk Radiator Corp., Evcon Industries Inc., Heat Controller Inc., International Comfort Prod. Corp.(USA), Lennox Industries Inc., Nordyne Inc., Peerless Heater Co., Pennco Inc., Plexco Inc., Raypak Inc., Rheem Manufacturing Co., Slant/Fin Corp., The Trane Co., Trianco-Heatmaker Inc., Utica Boilers Inc., Vaillant Corp., Weil-McLain, Westcast Inc., York International Corp.

CPSC reminds all consumers to have fuel-burning appliances professionally inspected each year to check for cracks or separations in the vents that could allow CO to leak into the home. In addition, CPSC recommends that every home should have at least one CO alarm.

#### **Release #09-100**

Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 856-9226

Firm's Media Hotline: (310) 309-6611

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

#### **Bosch(r) and Siemens(r) Model Dishwashers Recalled by BSH Home Appliances Corporation Due to Fire Hazard**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Bosch(r) and Siemens(r) Model Dishwashers

Units: About 476,500

Manufacturer: BSH Home Appliances Corp., of Huntington Beach, Calif.

Hazard: An electrical component in certain model dishwashers can overheat, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: BSH Home Appliances has received 51 reports of incidents, including 30 reports of fires resulting in property damage. No injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves certain Bosch(r) and Siemens(r) dishwashers manufactured from May 1999 through July 2005. The brand name is printed on the dishwasher's front control panel. Model and serial numbers are located inside the dishwasher door panel on the upper right side.

Brand / Model Numbers Must Begin With / Serial Numbers Must Begin With

Bosch / SHE43C, SHE44C / FD8503 - FD8507

Bosch / SHE46C, SHE56C / FD8501 - FD8505

Bosch / SHU33 / FD7905 - FD8505

Bosch / SHU42 / FD8407 - FD8505

Bosch / SHU432 / FD8004 - FD8211

Bosch / SHU43C, SHU53A / FD8205 - FD8507

Siemens / SL34A / FD8308 - FD8505

Sold at: Appliance and specialty retailers nationwide from May 1999 through December 2006 for between \$550 and \$1,100.

Manufactured in: United States

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the listed model dishwashers and contact the repair hotline for a free repair.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact the BSH Home Appliances at (800) 856-9226 anytime or visit the brand's Web site at [www.boschappliances.com](http://www.boschappliances.com) or [www.siemens-home.com](http://www.siemens-home.com)

To see this recall on CPSC's web site, including a picture of the recalled products, please go to:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09100.html>

## **SULFUR IN DRYWALL**

For those of you who missed this article on the Hotline--

### **Identifying Source Odors from Sheetrock with EMSL Analytical**

It has been reported that drywall imported between 2004-2006 from certain areas in China, can release sulfur-like odorous components. These compounds can corrode air conditioning coils and other copper-bearing materials, causing them to be replaced repeatedly. It has been determined that the problem is related to presence of iron disulfide (FeS<sub>2</sub> pyrite). Hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), carbonyl sulfide, sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and carbon disulfide (CS<sub>2</sub>) are also suspected as culprits. There have been reports that large quantities of drywall produced in China were kept on sea barges for months awaiting permission for importation to the USA. This drywall has a higher than typical density and a higher propensity to off-gas sulfur compounds.

Drywall is usually made of gypsum (hydrated calcium sulfate). Therefore, sulfur is one of the main components present in the sample. All drywall has sulfur in its elemental composition; therefore the odor is not explained by an analysis of the total sulfur content.

The extent of the indoor air quality issues related to this is still unclear. EPA is currently investigating the severity of the problem. However, it is well known that exposure to sulfur compounds can create irritation and breathing disorders.

EMSL's approach for the analysis of drywall samples is diverse. The possible avenues are outlined below:

1. Analysis of the drywall samples for presence of iron and Fe<sub>2</sub>S by X-ray Fluorescence by X-ray Fluorescence, X-ray diffraction, or light microscopy.
2. Analysis for presence of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and H<sub>2</sub>S using an environmental chamber.
3. Copper corrosion test can be performed to identify and confirm the presence of substandard drywall (exposure of fresh copper coupons to subsamples of the odorous drywall in presence of humidity).
4. Sulfur odors may also be produced when anaerobic bacteria utilize certain molecules for growth. Therefore, endotoxin analysis for gram negative bacterial contamination and anaerobic plate count may be recommended.

You could choose one test or combinations of these tests, depending on the level of the analysis you would like to achieve.

#### **Price:**

Test 1: \$600/sample (10-business day TAT; call for shorter TAT's)

Test 2: \$1200/sample for first sample; \$950/sample for any subsequent sample in the same order (15-business day TAT, no shorter TAT's available)

Test 3: \$1800/sample (20 businesses day TAT, no shorter TAT's available)

Test 4: \$130/sample (6+ business day TAT)

For further information contact Dr. Eugenia Mirica at 1-800-220-3675 ext. 1247

EMSL Analytical, Inc.

## **TECH BIT**

*By Gregg Marshall*

Oil Prices are going up. Airfares are going up too (some say faster than oil).

Looking for the best airfare?

One of my favorite starting places is ITA Software (<http://beta.itasoftware.com>).

They wrote the Orbitz booking engine.

This site is where they try new ideas. You know it's unbiased since they don't sell any tickets, just display the fares.

Check out their help pages. They have a "route language" that lets you specify all sorts of things (like connecting through a certain city on a certain airline).

And they have a monthly fare display. Say you need to go to Toledo sometime in December for 3 days, but you can be flexible when. They will show a calendar of the lowest fare each day. I've seen differences of 200% by changing a date by one day.

I then go to the airline website to book (and get the booking bonuses).

*Gregg Marshall, CPMR, CSP, is a speaker, author and consultant. He can be reached by e-mail at [gmarshall@repconnection.com](mailto:gmarshall@repconnection.com), or visit his website at <http://www.repconnection.com>.*

