



**Month**  
**DOUBLE SHOT!**

# Ceiling Fans

A ceiling fan can help cool your home down and save you energy. Some rooms in your house can be 15 degrees warmer at the ceiling than at the floor. A well-placed ceiling fan can reduce this difference to only 3 degrees.

Be sure to shop for an ENERGY STAR® qualified unit. Ceiling fans with lights that have earned the ENERGY STAR are about 50 percent more efficient than conventional units.

Here's what to look for when shopping for a ceiling fan.

- Choose a fan that's reversible and has more than one speed.
- Check to make sure the blades are angled at least 10 degrees.
- Match the size of your fan to the size of the room. For rooms 12 feet by 12 feet or less, you can use a 36-inch or 42-inch fan. For rooms up to 12 feet by 18 feet, use a 48-inch or 52-inch fan. If the room's bigger than that, you'll probably need at least two fans.
- Purchase a fan that is UL listed with a "damp" rating if placing it in a bathroom or other humid location.

Idaho Power's Home Products program pays cash incentives for purchasing ENERGY STAR qualified household products, including select ceiling fans, appliances and light fixtures. To learn more, visit [Idaho power.com /homeproducts](http://Idaho power.com /homeproducts)

## Final thoughts....

With the morning chills, here are a few random home improvements to consider if you are making some changes around your place.



Now is the time to seal up cracks in concrete before water gets in and freezes and makes them worse. I like using urethane based concrete crack fillers because they dry like rubber and stay flexible. Just don't get it on your hands.



Be thinking about the season retirement of your lawn and outdoor power equipment. Change the oil, antifreeze, lube it up, and add Sta-Bil to any stored gas. Make it ready to go for next year.



Check the operation of your garage doors. Tighten any loose hardware and grease up that which needs it. Be sure to use a proper lubricant on the chain, cable, or strip drive mechanisms that won't stiffen in cold temperatures.



Leaves will be falling soon. Keep up with them and keep gutters clean from here on out. I find it easier to rake a little several times than a lot all at once. Build a compost pile for the leaves and trimmings and you will have great garden mulch at the start of next year.



Flush out your water heater! If you don't know how, contact your plumber to show you the right way to do it.



# An Easily Understandable Explanation of Derivative Markets: **From Club Member John.**

Heidi is the proprietor of a bar in Detroit. She realizes that virtually all of her customers are unemployed alcoholics and, as such, can no longer afford to patronize her bar. To solve this problem, she comes up with new marketing plan that allows her customers to drink now, but pay later. She keeps track of the drinks consumed on a ledger (thereby granting the customers loans).

Word gets around about Heidi's "drink now, pay later" marketing strategy and, as a result, increasing numbers of customers flood into Heidi's bar. Soon she has the largest sales volume for any bar in Detroit. By providing her customers' freedom from immediate payment demands, Heidi gets no resistance when, at regular intervals, she substantially increases her prices for wine and beer, the most consumed beverages. Consequently, Heidi's gross sales volume increases massively.

A young and dynamic vice-president at the local bank recognizes that these customer debts constitute valuable future assets and increases Heidi's borrowing limit.. He sees no reason for any undue concern, since he has the debts of the unemployed alcoholics as collateral.

At the bank's corporate headquarters, expert traders transform these customer loans into DRINKBONDS, ALKIBONDS and PUKEBONDS. These securities are then bundled and traded on international security markets. Naive investors don't really understand that the securities being sold to them as AAA secured bonds are really the debts of unemployed alcoholics.

Nevertheless, the bond prices continuously climb, and the securities soon become the hottest-selling items for some of the nation's leading brokerage houses.

One day, even though the bond prices are still climbing, a risk manager at the original local bank decides that the time has come to demand payment on the debts incurred by the drinkers at Heidi's bar. He so informs Heidi. Heidi then demands payment from her alcoholic patrons, but being unemployed alcoholics they cannot pay back their drinking debts. Since, Heidi cannot fulfill her loan obligations she is forced into bankruptcy. The bar closes and the eleven employees lose their jobs.

Overnight, DRINKBONDS, ALKIBONDS and PUKEBONDS drop in price by 90%. The collapsed bond asset value destroys the banks liquidity and prevents it from issuing new loans, thus freezing credit and economic activity in the community.

The suppliers of Heidi's bar had granted her generous payment extensions and had invested their firms' pension funds in the various BOND securities. They find they are now faced with having to write off her bad debt and with losing over 90% of the presumed value of the bonds. Her wine supplier also claims bankruptcy, closing the doors on a family business that had endured for three generations, her beer supplier is taken over by a competitor, who immediately closes the local plant and lays off 150 workers.

Fortunately though, the bank, the brokerage houses and their respective executives are saved and bailed out by a multi-billion dollar no-strings attached cash infusion from the Government. The funds required for this bailout are obtained by new taxes levied on employed, middle-class, non-drinkers.

Now, do you understand?

**Read Past columns from Joe as well as  
get past issues of the HomeFix Club  
Newsletter at [www.JoePrin.com](http://www.JoePrin.com) !**



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**"Makes a great gift!"** I am hearing stories of how this book is helping sons and daughters of some of the HomeFix listeners. Books have been given as gifts to help future home owners make the right choices. If you know of someone who could benefit from the information in "I Want A New House", place your orders now! Personal inscriptions available on request.

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## Retirement....

From HomeFix Club Member Jon

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting.

Well, for example, the other day the wife and I went into town and went into a shop. We were only in there for about 5 minutes. When we came out, there was a cop writing out a parking ticket.

We went up to him and I said, 'Come on man, how about giving a senior citizen a break?' He ignored us and continued writing the ticket. I called him a bad name. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tires.

So my wife also called him a not so lady like name. He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first. Then he started writing a third ticket. This went on for about 20 minutes. The more we abused him, the more tickets he wrote.

Just then our bus arrived and we got on it and went home... We try to have a little fun each day now that we're retired. It's important at our age.



## Job Well Done

I was in my favoritest Eagle Lumber Yard the other day and overheard a conversation between a customer and one of the red vested guys who was solving a hardware issue. A bit of engineering creativity was called for and the problem at hand was taken care of. For a total of about \$2.

The customer was talking to a friend on the way out the door and said that that was why she shopped there first. Service. Unexpected service.

How often do we have the chance to help someone out in what seems to us to be a little way, but to them it is a very big deal. Not very often. Therefore, these are golden moments. These opportunities should be taken very seriously as the lasting impression made, the possitive word of mouth, and the customer for life mentality can never be replaced with buckets of advertising and marketing dollars. Buy local, Buy independent. That is where service counts and value takes place. When you least expect it.

# FREE!

Now that I have your attention....

Sponsors, Advertisers, Friends of the HomeFix Show.... **START WRITING ARTICLES** for this newsletter! It is **FREE!**

You just have to do it.

Email your info to me and I'll take it from there. Not a sales pitch, good information and I'll make it fit into the next issue.

Coupon offers too!  
Photos, stories, jokes.

Not that I am running out of things to say, but we want to hear from you too.

Thanks, Joe.

# THEN THE FIGHT STARTED...

My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping channels.

She asked, 'What's on TV?'

I said, 'Dust.'

And then the fight started...

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My wife and I are watching "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" while we were in bed. I turned to her and said, "Do you want to have sex?"

"No," she answered.

I then said, "Is that your final answer?"

She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, "Yes."

So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend."

And then the fight started....

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I rear-ended a car this morning. So, there we were alongside the road and slowly the other driver got out of his car. You know how sometimes you just get soooo stressed and little things just seem funny? Yeah, well I couldn't believe it.... He was a DWARF!!! He stormed over to my car, looked up at me, and shouted, "I AM NOT HAPPY!!!"

So, I looked down at him and said,

"Well, then which one are you?"

And then the fight started....

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My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, 'I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds.'

I bought her a scale.

And then the fight started....

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When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive....so, I took her to a gas station.

And then the fight started...

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After retiring, I went to the Social Security office to apply for Social Security. The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's license to verify my age. I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at home. I told the woman that I was very sorry, but I would have to go home and come back later.

The woman said, 'Unbutton your shirt'. So I opened my shirt revealing my curly silver hair. She said, 'That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me' and she processed my Social Security application.

When I got home, I excitedly told my wife about my experience at the Social Security office.

She said, 'You should have dropped your pants. You might have gotten disability, too.'

And then the fight started....

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My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table.

My wife asked, 'Do you know her?'

'Yes,' I sighed,

'She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.'

'My God!' says my wife, 'who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?'

And then the fight started...

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I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first.

"I'll have the strip steak, medium rare, please."

He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?""

Nah, she can order for herself."

And then the fight started....

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A woman is standing nude, looking in the bedroom mirror. She is not happy with what she sees and says to her husband, 'I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment.'

The husband replies, 'Your eyesight's damn near perfect.'

And then the fight started....

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# Not Much To Do With Home Improvement

by Joe Prin

I could tell it was the right place without even going inside. There was no place to park out front so I had to find a place on the side street. I scrubbed my raised white letters on the curb trying to get as far over on the narrow street as possible. I wedged in-between two other trucks, one of which hasn't moved in at least a year. It was then I saw the "No Parking" sign. Screw it. It took too much effort to get in here.

It took a while to find the door, but there it was. Or what used to be a door at one point in time. Probably around 1950. There was weathered, peeling, plywood bolted to the door panels with rusty carriage bolts. "L" brackets with miss-matched screws held the corners together. An old yellowed, parts decal was behind a broken pane of glass with several layers of duct tape holding it together. The door paint had given up long ago. I knew I was about to enter Heaven.

As I walked in, a feeling of calm perfectionism passed over me. This was the place of great works. It even smelled right. You either get what I am about to say or you don't. For those that don't I can only hope that some day you too will discover that there truly is a God and all his creation is good.

The smell was that of oil and grease soaked wood, work benches, concrete, and work clothes. It was thick, and everywhere. I was now in the center of a real machine shop. There was no order. There were no shiny prep tables like on the TV shows. Walkways were tight and sharp things stuck out everywhere. Probably to weed out the weak and inattentive. Shelving was packed so tight with blocks, heads, cams, intakes and gears that they were more structural than the walls of the shop. And I can guarantee you that the guy I was talking to now, knew where every single nut and bolt was located. He owns and runs this one-man shop. Always has, always will.

I had a few questions about getting an old car engine rebuilt. I was told to climb the mountain and seek out this guy. He answered my probes quicker and more accurately than he most likely could have recalled his children's names. Part numbers and tolerances flowed through his veins and you could tell he enjoyed it all by the way his soft voice willingly passed on the information.

We went back to "The Office" to find a catalog. It was filled not alphabetically, but at the five-foot high mark in a stack of reference material all coated with machine oil and hand grease. Bookshelves sagged under the weight of thousands of pieces of literature. Every book and catalog looked the same, but he knew which one held the truth. He just knew.

As I left the shop looking up at the splattered and dusty valance windows, I wanted to pause and just soak it all in. It just doesn't get better than this. This is the way it was, and the way it should be. A neighborhood machine shop. Here, I have found the headwaters of rejuvenation and mechanical rebirth.

Where is it? You must discover your own path. The reward is greater.

# Pigeon Spikes...Pest Birds Get the Point

by Alex A. Kecskes

On a one-on-one basis, pigeons are some of our finest feathered friends. During World War II, they helped carry critically vital messages across enemy lines. But en masse, they make a mess. So much so that feeding them was banned in many cities. They left their deposits on our finest statues and building facades. Tennis players at Wimbledon were often distracted by pigeons swooping down on Centre Court. In some cases marksmen were hired to shoot down the dive-bombing pests. But environmentalists came to their rescue. Finally, man was forced to come up with humane alternatives to deter the beloved pigeon. One of the most effective is the pigeon spike.

This low-tech method of pigeon control became the modus operandi for all those who could no longer deal with these pests and their unwanted deposits. The truth is, the pigeon spike couldn't have come a day too soon for home and boat owners, property and city managers, architects, churches, sports fans and ballpark owners, the list goes on and on.

Who can blame them? Your typical pigeon dumps approximately 25 pounds of poop annually. The high concentration of uric acid found in pigeon poop can discolor paint, stain wood, erode metal, even turn concrete and expensive stonework to crumbling dust. Pigeon poop is expensive to remove, especially from hard-to-reach areas. Crews with boom lifts and steam hoses can take days to remove the stains from large building facades. The pigeon spike helps control the damage this feathered pest is costing America--estimated at over \$1.1 billion a year.

Then there's the health risk of bacteria, fungi and parasites that live and grow in the droppings, which can carry and transmit any of 60 known diseases. The fleas, mites and ticks that attach themselves to pigeons can also carry disease. Again, the pigeon spike comes to the rescue.

While there are all sorts of ways to humanely discourage pigeons from landing and nesting in areas we'd rather have them avoid, the pigeon spike remains one of the most common and effective

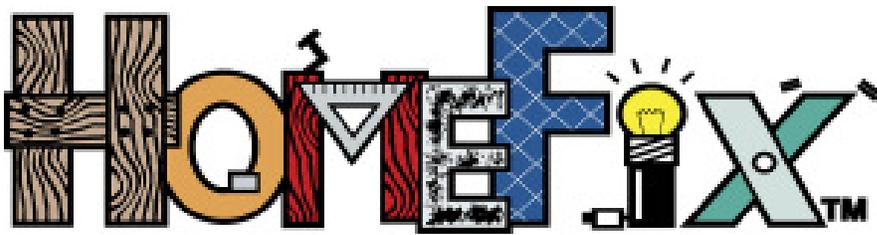


pigeon control devices. Their 4-1/4" spikes look menacing, but they're harmless to pigeons and other birds. Some spikes are made of stainless steel, others feature rigid U.V.-resistant unbreakable polycarbonate. They are usually placed to cover an entire ledge while sealing off corners and open sides to keep the smart birds from sneaking around them. Pigeons, especially, will land on roof peaks, where they perch, on the lookout for food, a place to roost or a sheltered area to build a nest.

Some pigeon spikes are recommended by architects, contractors and government agencies. Most stainless steel spikes will prevent pigeons from landing or roosting on rooflines, parapet walls, I-beams, window ledges, and other similar areas. Some feature a no-gap design to deter large birds. Spikes are generally available in 3", 5" and 8" widths and two-foot sections for fast installation. They can be glued down or nailed or screwed into any surface and are virtually invisible when installed. Some even feature a flexible base that allows them to be easily installed on curved surfaces (they'll bend a full 360 degrees to fit any contoured surface).

Those on a budget might consider plastic pigeon spikes. Made from unbreakable UV-protected polycarbonate, they are as tough as their steel counterparts--at just half the cost. Other than economy, their chief applications advantage is that they are non-conductive and will not interfere with electrical or communication transmissions.

The



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Club!

An Elite Club Open To Anyone Interested In Making Their Homes Better And Having More Fun Doing It



## From Joe...

I just turned 50. Surprised? I am. I don't feel 50. I know people that are 50 and they seem a lot older than me. I guess it is truly a state of mind. I read once "How old would you tell someone you were if you didn't actually know how old you were"? My answer 28.

I have however had recent thoughts as to how much longer to go on doing what I am doing. There are times when at the end of the day I am physically worn out. And in the morning when muscles are sore and cuts are healing, that I do feel more than 28. I figure I have about 20 more years in me physically and 20 more than that mentally. 90 and still at it? It's not the years, its the mileage.



Energy usage throughout Idaho Power's service region "peaks" or is the highest during the hot summer months. Why? Because a large number of customers use their air conditioners to get relief from heat and farmers use electricity to run their irrigation pumps.

When it's hot in Idaho, it's often hot all across the west. All the western electric utilities, including Idaho Power, need extra energy supplies during these times. The extra energy that Idaho Power customers require in the summer comes from generation sources such as peak power plants and the purchase of electricity from other utilities on the wholesale market. These additional sources of power generation lead to higher electricity costs during the summer.

There are actions you can take to lessen the effects of higher summer rates on your monthly bills. The first step to managing your electricity usage is to be conscious of when and how you're using electricity. For example, during the summer avoid doing laundry between 4 and 8 p.m. Rather than using your oven and stove to cook dinner, fire up your barbecue and keep the heat outside where it belongs. Consider using ceiling fans rather than central air conditioning and keep your drapes closed to help keep individual rooms cooler.

Finally, consider adding extra attic insulation to help keep your home cool in the summer (and warm in the winter). Idaho Power's Home Improvement Program offers an incentive of 15-cents per square foot of installed attic insulation up to R-50 when installed by a qualified contractor.

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