

# Homeowner News

FALL  
2011

News & Information For The Customers Of Pickett Plumbing, LP

## Small Leak? Serious Concern.

Water leaking inside your home is not something to be taken lightly. If not addressed immediately, plumbing leaks could end up costing you thousands in repairs and you could be dealing with mold and permanent damage to your home.

Does your wood floor have significant give to it? Is there a warm area on your concrete floor? Is your carpet moist? Unfortunately, water intrusion is not always this obvious. Small leaks can sometimes take years to detect. But how can you tell if you have a small or hidden leak? The following is a list of red flags that might indicate a problem in your home and potential water damage.

### Signs of a Leak:

- Irregular Floor
- Wrinkling or warping of paint or wall paper
- Musty odor
- Unusually high water bills
- Chronic Sewer Backup
- Sound of water running when it is not turned on
- Changes in Water Meter Reading
- Foundation Cracks or wet foundation



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## Did you know?

Fall starts on September 23. On the **first day of fall**—the autumnal equinox—day and night are each about 12 hours long (with the actual time of equal day and night, in the Northern Hemisphere, occurring a few days after the autumnal equinox). The Sun crosses the celestial equator going southward; it rises exactly due east and sets exactly due west.

### Inside...

Leak Repair  
Special

\$100 Giveaway

The Perfect  
Roasted  
Turkey

Four Tips to  
Food Safety

The CORNER

At Pickett Plumbing we strive to provide the best products and services to our customers at affordable prices. Please contact us for all of your plumbing needs. We are happy to help with installation, maintenance and repairs.



## The Perfect Roast Turkey

### Ingredients

1 (18 pound) whole turkey  
 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened  
 salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste  
 1 1/2 quarts turkey stock  
 8 cups prepared stuffing

**\*Tips:** A meat thermometer should be used to ensure a sufficient internal temperature has been reached to destroy bacteria and prevent foodborne illness - as well as to prevent overcooking.

**Prep Time:** 30 Min

**Cook time:** 4 Hrs



713-896-9700

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Place rack in the lowest position of the oven.
2. Remove the turkey neck and giblets, rinse the turkey, and pat dry with paper towels. Place the turkey, breast side up, on a rack in the roasting pan. Loosely fill the body cavity with stuffing. Rub the skin with the softened butter, and season with salt and pepper. Position an aluminum foil tent over the turkey.
3. Place turkey in the oven, and pour 2 cups turkey stock into the bottom of the roasting pan. Baste all over every 30 minutes with the juices on the bottom of the pan. Whenever the drippings evaporate, add stock to moisten them, about 1 to 2 cups at a time. Remove aluminum foil after 2 1/2 hours. Roast until a meat thermometer inserted in the meaty part of the thigh reads 180 degrees F (80 degrees C), about 4 hours. Call the plumber to let him know what time dinner will be ready.
4. Transfer the turkey to a large serving platter, and let it stand for at least 20 to 30 minutes before carving.



## Be Food Safe This Thanksgiving

**USDA is providing consumers with four key recommendations you can use to help reduce the risk of foodborne illness during the Thanksgiving holiday. The four easy to remember tips are Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill into practice in order to be food safe:**

- **Clean** - Wash hands, surfaces and utensils often to avoid spreading bacteria when preparing food. Hand washing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of foodborne illness.
- **Separate** - Use different cutting boards for raw meat, poultry, seafood, and veggies. When you prepare Thanksgiving dinner, keep the raw turkey away from vegetables and side dishes that won't be cooked.
- **Cook** - You can't tell it's done by how it looks! Use a food thermometer. Every part of the turkey should reach a minimum internal temperature of 165°F.
- **Chill** - Keep the fridge at 40°F degrees or below to keep bacteria from growing. Pumpkin pie should always be refrigerated and leftovers should be refrigerated within two hours.

Factor in thawing the turkey, cooking the turkey, preparing side dishes and desserts—and the other duties that come with hosting a gathering with family and friends — it is easy to forget that food safety is *the* most important factor in determining whether the meal is an enjoyable one.



### Tell Your Friends About Homeowner News

Or call us and we'll provide them with a free subscription and give you and your friend \$10 gift certificates!

**Homeowner News** is a quarterly publication of **Pickett Plumbing**. It is provided to our customers free of charge. We welcome your suggestions and ideas. Contact us at:

**Pickett Plumbing, LP**  
**PO Box 690945**  
**Houston, Texas 77269**  
**713-896-9700**  
**HoustonPlumber.com**

## Small Leak? Serious Concern.

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If you are experiencing water leaking into your home, your plumbing system is often the culprit. If pipes are installed incorrectly there is a great potential for a leak. Leaks found anywhere in the home, especially bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry rooms, should be addressed immediately to prevent serious damage.

Not only that, but putting off repairs will only end up costing you more in the long run. Are any faucets or showerheads leaking? Even minor leaks are expensive, costing up to hundreds of dollars a year. If the leak is on a hot water faucet, you're not just paying for wasted water; you're paying to heat it too.

Toilet leaks can waste even more water than faucet leaks and most people don't even know if they have one. After all, you can see (and hear) a faucet leak. Toilet leaks are hidden. With a quick dye test, we can identify a toilet leak. Fortunately, toilet leaks are usually easy repairs.

Every day you delay getting a leaky faucet or toilet repaired is another day where day you're pouring money down the drain. You can never get the money back. And you still face the repair.

Even if pipes in your home were installed correctly, there are also a variety of ways that pipes can become damaged in and around a home. Pipes can simply deteriorate over time, especially in homes that are 35 years or older. We offer ePIPE solution to old galvanized and copper pipes. Pipes can also become damaged by animals or tree roots or by shifts in a home from settling, storms, or inclement weather.

## Consequences of Plumbing Leaks

### Do You Have Signs of Mold?

The biggest problem caused by leaking water in a home is mold. Breathing in all of those mold spores can be a great health risk, not to mention how unappealing mold is as part of your décor. Your home will also be unsalable until the mold is remediated. What many people don't realize is that with enough moisture present, it only takes 48 hours for mold to start growing. This alone is enough reason to take action at the first sign of a leak.

### Is There a Leak in Your Sewage Line?

If there is a leak in your sewage line you could be experiencing foul odors. Drain leaks under the slab can cause foundation problems. And, this could lead to serious health problems if not repaired. Why risk your family's health?

### Are you noticing water penetration?

If left untreated for a long period of time, water penetration can lead to significant structural damage in walls, ceilings, and floors, by creating weak areas that cannot support the load that they were intended to. If left unaddressed, this will significantly reduce your home's value, not to mention that

your home will be a hazard to anyone within.

## How to prevent water damage

The key to preventing water damage in your home is simple maintenance. It is important to check major appliances like air conditioners, washing machines, and refrigerators regularly to ensure they are functioning as intended. It's also a good idea to inspect sinks, tubs, toilets, and any other water fixtures on a regular basis.

We are happy to conduct an inspection of your home to ensure that your plumbing is operating correctly and identify any small problems before they become pocketbook nightmares. If you have older appliances and are worried about water leakage causing a flood, we can install a device that will warn you of excess moisture in your home. We can also install a small appliance that has the power to turn off your water if it senses a leak. If you have already detected a leak in your home, give us a call and we will solve the problem before it results in permanent damage and costly repairs.



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## Water Conditioning

We offer professional water problem solutions. If your water tastes funny, or you buy bottled water, call us for a FREE estimate. We offer filters, conditioners & softeners. No high pressure blue suede shoed salesman, no "FREE" soaps, just honest, high quality



# 713-896-9700

HoustonWaterDoctor.com

Not valid with any other offer. No other discounts apply. Expires 10/31/11

**Win a \$100 Gift Card!**

Complete and return for a chance to win a \$100 gift card. If you correctly answer the three questions below, we'll enter you in a drawing for a \$200 gift card. Second prize will be a \$50 gift card. All entries must be received by 9/30/11. Mail to: Pickett Plumbing, PO Box 690945, Houston, Texas 77269

- True/False A small leak is nothing to worry about.
  - True/False Mold takes several weeks to start growing.
  - True/False An unusually high water bill may be a sign of a leak.
- Please contact me about:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising opportunities for your favorite charity or school | <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing maintenance      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing repairs   | <input type="checkbox"/> Water filtration products |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Water-saving fixtures     |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Limit 1 entry per person. No purchase necessary. A purchase will not improve your chances of winning. Winner will be selected at random within 30 days of entry deadline. All decisions are final. All entrants agree to contest rules, which require winner to sign a prize and publicity release unless precluded by law. Must be 18 to enter. Failure to comply results in disqualification. Entries void if incomplete or illegible. No responsibility is assumed for lost, late, or illegible entries. Company employees and family members are ineligible. Odds depend on the number of entries received. Acceptance of the prize implies consent to use name and image in promotional material with the prize as compensation. All taxes are the responsibility of the winner.



**The Corner**

**Q. What did the turkey say to the man who tried to shoot it?**

A. Liberty, equality and bad aim for all!

**Q. Why did the turkey cross the road?**

A. It was the chicken's day off.

**Q. What key has legs and can't open doors?**

A. Turkey



**We are pleased to announce a new department for Pickett Plumbing. Houston Water Doctor has been established to better serve our customers for their water treatment/conditioning needs. Our staff is trained and is knowledgeable on water problem solutions. We are able to test your water to determine what should be done to give you clean great tasting water without the taste or smell of chlorine. We can provide the best quality of filters, conditioners and softeners for any application or problem. Call 713-896-9700 and ask for Brent to come out and check your water, this service is FREE. Visit the website at [www.HoustonWaterDoctor.com](http://www.HoustonWaterDoctor.com).**

**HOUSTON Water Doctor**

**Have a Clean Drink on Us!**