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Mr. Handyman Franchise Helps Homeowners Prepare for Cold Winter Months
Uncomplicated Home Repairs Have Potential for Huge Energy Savings and Warmer Living Conditions

(Ann Arbor, MI) – Mr. Handyman, a national home repair and maintenance franchise and the nation’s No. 1 employer of handymen, is encouraging all U.S. households to make home repairs before winter strikes in an effort to secure a warmer, more cost-effective season. Small repairs can reduce U.S. energy consumption overall and create more comfortable living conditions for the cooler months to come.

As part of the campaign, the 300-unit Mr. Handyman franchise has developed a checklist of simple, eco-friendly tactics and product suggestions designed to reduce energy costs while prepping the home for winter.

“With the size and reach of our franchise system, coupled with the face-to-face contact that we have with so many homeowners on a daily basis, we are in a unique position to educate the public to properly protect their home against damage from snow, wind and even leaves,” said Todd Recknagel, Mr. Handyman president and CEO.

Below is a sample of just some of the tips Mr. Handyman offers to homeowners. In many cases, people will save more on their energy bill by making these changes than they will spend on making the repairs.

Window/door Caulking:

- Caulking between the door/window frame and the house prevents drafts and reduces heat loss.
- If current caulk is chipped or cracked, it needs to be removed with a utility or putty knife. A new bead caulk then needs to be applied.

Weather seal:

- Doors should fit snugly in their frames with no gaps to prevent drafts and reduce heat loss. One can check for gaps by having someone stand outside the door at night and shine a bright flashlight around the door while you’re inside with the

lights out. The light from the flashlight will shine through any gaps in the weather seal.

- If gaps are noticed, one should replace the weather seal.

Insulation:

- Adequate insulation is necessary to provide adequate heat retention within the home. Proper ceiling insulation is also needed to prevent heat from the living area to enter the attic where it can melt snow on the roof which can lead to ice dams.
- Insulating the top of attic access panels is an essential part of the insulating process.

Vents:

- Vents can become clogged with dust, pollen, and insulation. Squirrels, mice and raccoons can also damage vents. One should inspect the vents to make sure they're clear and in good condition. If they are not, replacing them is a productive idea.

Wood decks

- Wood must be protected against the damage of snow and rain. Check for wood rot by poking the area with a small screwdriver. If it penetrates, at all or feels soft, the area is rotting and must be repaired.

With 75 percent of American homes more than 25 years old, Mr. Handyman is growing to meet the needs of its customers in the \$100 billion home service industry. For the past four years, the company has opened a new franchise every week and plans to reach at least 315 locations by the end of the year through franchise expansion. Currently, Mr. Handyman is seeking franchise owners for available territories across the United States including St. Louis, Atlanta, Miami, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, San Antonio and Kansas City to continually fill the need for professional and reliable handyman services across the country.

About Mr. Handyman

Mr. Handyman is a network of independently owned and operated franchises with more than 300 locations nationwide that provide commercial and residential property maintenance and repair services. Founded in March 2000, Mr. Handyman is a member of Service Brands International, a group of service companies that provide a variety of timesaving services ideally suited for today's active consumer. Go to www.mrhandyman.com for more information.

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