

The



Club

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



Is This A Big Deal?

One of the enlightenments or awakenings I had in Mount Hope, Ohio while at The Genie Company had to do with an accessory that they now offer for their better openers. It is called Closed Confirm™ and it is a remote that answers your question of “Did I close the garage door?”.

I had to ask myself, “Is this really a problem? Is this a big deal?” Well it appears so. In our hustle-bustle, busier than we probably should be world, we have multi-tasked ourselves into inattentive chaos. And we come home and see that our garage has been wide open, all day, for the world to see. Oops.

So rather than trying to change culture and mental prioritization, Genie has come up with this little wonder. Once your garage door closes, the Closed Confirm remote beeps and a green light will flash as an assuring confirmation that your garage door is shut. If the garage door does not close properly, a different tone will sound and you get a red light. Red is bad. Red means do not pass go- something is not letting your door shut. Better stop and check this out.

Again, I have to ask if this is really a

problem? So I started doing what any Marketing guy would do, I put together a focus group. OK, not really, but I did actually bring this issue up to two groups of people I have been with in the last little while. And I was shocked at the response. Many, I’d say about 30% of them said they have done this in the last month alone! Almost no one could say that they have never come home and not found the door open at least once! Thinking about it more, I have had this happen to me also, but not nearly as much as others it seems. Personally, I do not have much of a problem with this. And I figured out why. I can’t fit my truck in the garage! The lumber rack is too tall. I park outside. I only go through the garage, I do no park in it. Therefore, not much of an issue for moi.

For those of you who are more “normal” in vehicular configuration and lifestyle commitments, this might be the answer to your problem, even though you didn’t know you had this particular problem till just now. Bet you are glad you read your HomeFix Club Newsletter now aren’t ya!.

You are welcome.

- Joe.

The Olden Years by James R. Forrer

When I was young
and in my prime
I played outside
all the time.

Now that I'm
old and gray
in my house
I want to stay.

Then- the summers
they bothered me not
now July and August
are just way too hot.

Then- the Winters
were not so bold
Now- January and February
are way to cold.

Stuck inside
is where I'll be
My air and furnace
they comfort me.

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive double-pane, .30 U Factor Energy Star high efficient kind, and today, I got a call from the contractor who installed them. He was complaining that the work had been completed a whole year ago and I still hadn't paid for them. So, I told him just what his fast talking sales guy had told me last year, that in ONE YEAR these windows would pay for themselves! HELLLOOOOO? It's been a year! I told him. There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally just hung up.



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At some point in time, someone will look at you and say “I Want A New House.” How you react to this powerful statement and what you do about it can be a life-changing event. Especially if you will be living in that house.

Whether your next house is your first house, your third, or what you expect to be your last house, the principles and empowering sequences you will learn in I Want A New House will give you the knowledge and tools to get through the process not only successfully, but with excitement and positive results.

Is this a good time to be thinking about a new house? We all know what is going on in the world right now. And because of this, now is the PERFECT time for this book. For those who read, understand, and put into practice the advice and information contained in this book, they (you!) will be in the best position to act on opportunity when the time is right. You will know things that others won't. You will have an advantage.

You have probably heard stories about how difficult it was to select and move to a new house. Or how once a person got into their new house, it was not what they expected. Or how building a custom home almost destroyed a marriage. Or how homeowners were at the mercy of others involved in the transaction. Read and do what Joe Prin and Stuart Gustafson have outlined in this informative and valuable book and you will not be the person others tell stories about.

It should be noted that while you can simply read through I Want A New House, cover to cover, and gain a tremendous education and a few laughs, the real benefits come from building “The Notebook” suggested by the authors. The Notebook should become your most important tool in getting or building your next house. Carrying “The Notebook” you have built under your arm, you will be in control of all that is going on around you, and your next house will be exactly what you wanted. If not, read the book again, you must have missed something.

Do you want a new house or a used house? Is this next house for your Golden Years or is it to start off and raise your family in? How much house can you afford, and when is too much, well... too much! Stories, examples, tangential humor, and some just plain “out of left field comments” make this an enjoyable read for anybody. Even if that next house is a few years away.

The Independent Newspaper Column— by Joe Prin

Sometimes we have too many choices. And with that often comes a greater opportunity for making the wrong choice. Not politics, not restaurants, not wives and husbands, I am talking about really important choices. Which caulking to use.

I was looking at that section at one of the big stores and noticed that there were over 84 different caulking. I stock 7 on my trailer and this seems to take care of just about everything.

Now I understand that there might be one “kind” of caulking but it comes in maybe 6 colors. OK fine, I’m just trying to make a point here.

I think that you need the following in your garage workshop and you will be able to take on almost any situation around your house.

#1- White Big Stretch Caulking. Use this inside or outside, anywhere it is going to get painted over. Trim to siding. Baseboards to sheetrock. Shelving to cleats, even in hidden areas like new windows to sheathing or watershields. Good stuff. I really like it.

#2 Clear and White Polyseamseal. I try to buy the “Ultra” version of this when I can because it is great for tubs and showers. I use the clear over grout joints in corners and for toilets to tile floors where a color caulk will look ragged. This is also a good adhesive when it dries, but it takes a while. Clear is nice when there is a painted or tinted finish that needs to be sealed or up against.

#3 Kitchen and Bath Silicone in White and Clear. Silicone is probably the most misused caulk out there. Never use silicone on anything that ever was or ever will be painted. However, it is great to seal metals, cultured marble, glass, and plastics.

#4 Butyl Gutter and Lap Cement. Grey and Gooley. This stuff will stick to just about anything and never really hardens up. A good sealant for gutters obviously, but also for other places like flashings. Don’t even think about trying to paint it.

#5 Polyurethane caulk. Silver Grey. A good crack filler for concrete as well as mortar joints or anything around or in concrete. Nothing matches concrete, but this is close. It dries to a very rubber like quality, but sticks better than silicone to masonry.

Sure, there are needs for specialties in caulking like fire caulk, specific colors for wood floors and laminate floors, Bone and Almond colors for some plumbing fixtures, and of course roof sealants and penetration fillers.

Also in the caulking tube format comes Construction Adhesives for wood and foams, various roof cements, cove base adhesive, and mix in the tube epoxy and anchoring cements.

To go with any of the above, extend the life of an opened tube with “Red Caps”. Trust me, you will think of a different name for them when you see them, but they are worth the cost. \$5 of these saves me \$100 is wasted, dried up caulking.

How’s that for a thrilling column. Maybe next time I’ll get controversial with glues



**So Why Is Workers
Comp Insurance So
High For
Sheetrockers?**

Winter Roofing Tips From GAF

As the winter months approach, our homes first measure of protection against rain and snow is the Roof. GAF, North America's largest Roofing Manufacturer based in New Jersey, offers these tips for how to get your roof ready for the cold winter.

1. Start off by checking the roof framing structure to make sure it is not compromised. Visually scan the roof for any sagging or uneven areas. If you do see an area that looks uneven, this may mean damage to the roof deck below the shingles.

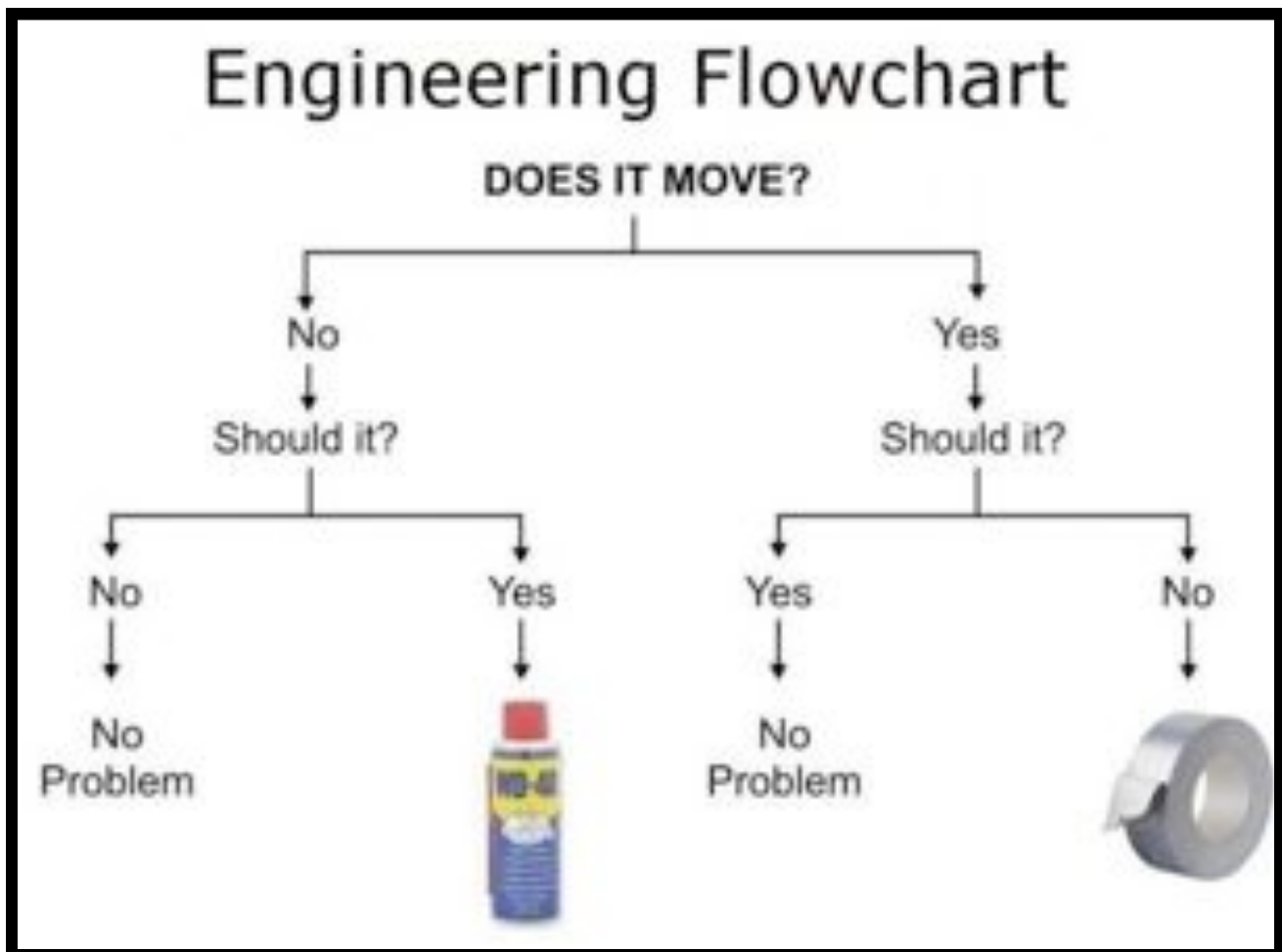
2. Inspect the gutter systems to make sure they are not clogged with branches, leaves, or other debris. This is important to ensure that rain water and snow have a way off of the roof. If the water or snow is left standing on the roof, there is an increased likelihood of leaking or ice damming.

3. Make sure that gutters are fastened properly and are tight and secure so that they don't cause overflow and build-up or fall off the fascia board. Leaking water can end up causing damage not just to your roof, but to your interior walls, as well.

4. Check the valleys of the roof to ensure that they are also free and clear of debris that can add weight to the roof and also act as a barrier to rain and snow. Leaks frequently occur in the valleys so make sure they are well protected by a proper roofing system.

5. One of the most common causes for roofing leaks is due to problems with flashing. Flashing is the aluminum or metal materials that is used in roof to wall transitions over joints to prevent water from seeping in and causing damage. Metal flashing should also be used around roof vents, pipes, skylights, and chimneys. Remember that flashings can be loosened or torn by high winds and heavy rains, so inspect the areas annually. One of the most common causes for roofing leaks is due to problems with flashing.

6. Lastly, you should walk around to carefully inspect the shingles on the roof – look for curling edges, missing granules, and certainly for missing shingles or damage from birds, rodents, or squirrels.





939-4314

One of the things homeowners enjoy about owning an historic home is the character and attention to detail that is typically evident in its construction. Appreciating period architecture is easy; attempting to *preserve* its beauty can often be the challenge. If you need help to maintain an historical home, you'll want to start with these suggestions:

- **Consult a professional.** If your home is covered under the local historic review board or society, you'll want to make sure you know what their guidelines and restrictions are and how to negotiate when their standards feel unrealistic or are cost-prohibitive. An architect or home remodeler with experience in historical renovations can help guide you through that process. When hiring an expert, make sure they come with the right credentials, and always ask for references.
- **Research.** In addition to understanding your review board's standards, you will want to understand the task at hand through additional research. Go to your local historical society, museum, or library and review archived permit documents, photographs, and historical plans. Find online forums with other historic homeowners and trade advice and insights into each other's projects.
- **Paint.** Even without review board requirements, you will want to stay within traditional paint color schemes based on the period of your home. A professional can help analyze your current paint to recreate an accurate color. Most national brands have historical color paint lines as well. Your historical commission may also know someone with exterior paint expertise with whom you can consult.
- **Windows.** Old homes are known for drafty windows and so it is common for owners to want to upgrade to insulated, more environmentally friendly, windows. This can be done, as long as your new windows mimic the age and design of the home. Another option is to have the windows repaired and add storm windows. Again, when it comes to historical restoration you'll want to invest in someone who really has the knowledge and expertise to do the job right.

Owning an historic home is a different type of investment. While being budget conscious is a smart plan, in this instance, you'll want to focus on the heritage and accuracy of renovating your house so that the beauty remains intact for years to come.



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“The #420 Lives On... And On... And On... And...”

By Joe Prin



Because of The HomeFix Radio Show, I get a lot of products sent in for “Testing”. It is not really fair for some of these items as I tend to have an opinion about them before I even give them a try. Either that or I have been using the thing / stuff for years and need no further convincing.

So when Channellock tools came to me and wanted to work out some promotional activities and brand awareness on the radio show, I had no problem with that. I have been using these tools for years and was quite familiar with them. In fact, I went as far as to go out to my tool boxes and root through them and dug out all the Channellock tools that I could find. I had some linesman pliers, wire cutters, a pair of needle nose pliers, a humungous pair of nippers that I really do not know where they came from, and of course the classic Channellock tongue and groove pliers.

Over the years, many tools get called Channellocks. It unfortunately has become misused terminology where the brand name is associated with any other similar configuration. Coke, Weedeater, Kleenex and others have all suffered a similar fate. But, in a way it is flattering, that YOURS is associated with the best. Therefore, manufacturers work hard to protect their trademarks and appearances. Channellock is identified today by the light blue handles and their logo. Look in most professionals tool boxes or bags and you will see something that is This Blue.

What I appreciate about the Channellock tools is that they are tough. Beyond tough. Insanely tough. I have heaped more abuse in general on my tools over the years using them for many things other than what was intended by the manufacturer and it is not hard to separate out the good from the bad. The strong from the weak. Some can take it and survive to live another day and some die a painful death.

As an example, I have attached a photo of the handles of my Channellock #420 T&G pliers. Yes, I know these do not have the blue handles. I am not sure that these ever did. I don't remember where or when I got these. I just know that they have been with me a very long time. On the other side, not shown, they say they were Patented in 1933! These #420's have been in many different tool boxes, worked on 4 different motorcycles, 9 cars, 5 houses, and countless garage projects. And many more to come I am sure.



Today's version of the #420 is very, very similar. I compared my “old” ones with the new 420. A slight change of shape here and there, but still made in the USA and stronger than all get out. How long will they last? That will be hard to say, but if the previous example is any indication, the new 420's will be around a lot longer than me.

It is also good to see that the product is still made in Meadville, Pennsylvania. It can't be easy to make a product like this in the competitive pressures of a global manufacturing economy. It takes commitment, pride, and attention to detail. While not a surgical or musical instrument, precision and quality materials still must be present. OK, I won't throw in the cheesy metaphor and comparison to plumbers, electricians, and mechanics being surgeons or musicians in their own way.

I have always been a believer in buying the best tools that you can. Quality doesn't let you down. Some of these outfits that offer “Lifetime Warranty” on their knockoffs should really say that you will be back every few months for the rest of your life getting replacements. Just buy the good stuff in the beginning and your tools won't fail.



FORGED IN 1886 | 125 YEARS STRONG

Channellock has been expanding their product line and refining the classics. If you haven't looked beyond your hardware stores peg hooks, take a minute and check out www.Channellock.com and see what you need to add to your tool box!

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& Restorations



PRECISION SINGLE PLY



This Month's Winners Are...



And this goes where? Why?



“Look! I made a Chandelier!”



**Now this is good! Auto Body and Shop Class
all at the same time! Bravo!**

Re-Run CLASSIC!

The last thing you probably need to think about right now is something about to break or another thing that needs to be fixed. I don't want to get into it either.

So, I am suggesting that you take inventory... of a friend's house. Or your Son's, or Daughters. Anybody you care about. And especially anybody who is constantly rooting around in your stuff looking for the basics to fix something at their house. Maybe you need this yourself?

Wha-La! It is back. The famous "Bucket Of Stuff List". Everybody needs a Bucket Of Stuff. These are the essentials that you should have around so that when something needs doing, you have what you need, right there, in that 5 gallon bucket.

Here is the list:



You can cut this list out and take it shopping. You might have some of this already. Just fill in with the missing items. The Bucket Of Stuff makes a good Wedding or House Warming gift too.

With gas as high as it is, every car trip you can eliminate saves money! Having what you need on hand, is a smart move. Just keep your Bucket inside so the caulking and glues do not freeze. Have fun!



Bucket Of Stuff List

- 5 gallon plastic Bucket
- 1 roll Gorilla Tape
- 1 small spray can WD-40
- 1 small Gorilla Glue
- White Polyseamseal squeeze tube
- Applicator cap bottle of Contact Cement
- 1 roll Blue maskingTape
- 1 ½ Sash Brush
- 3" Brush
- Toothpicks & Popcycle sticks
- Wood Worx exterior wood glue (or Titebond)
- 6 Min Epoxy
- Anchoring Hardware assortment box
- Lightweight Spackle
- Assorted zip ties
- Spray White Lithium Grease
- Goof Off
- Super Glue
- Liquid Lava Hand Cleaner
- 1 roll blue Shop towels
- 1 assorted small Sandpaper
- Foam sanding block
- Nail and Screw assortment box
- 1 roll Electrical tape
- 1 small bundle Wood shims
- 2 Carpenter pencils
- Disposable drop cloth
- 1 pair Rubber Gloves

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