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February 2007

Gillespie Home Inspection Newsletter

Dear Kim,

Your feedback on our newsletter is always welcome. And please feel free to reuse any part of this text in marketing your business.

It's a Matter of Life (and Death)



You can buy a roof by the life expectancy - a 20-year roof, a 30-year roof, etc. Wouldn't that be nice for other things? I'd like to get a car that would last 30 years regardless of the mileage. But I'm sure it would be seriously out of style by then.

Our reports include a page titled "Life Expectancy of Different Products/Items/Materials in the Home". This can be handy to have around. Let's say your dishwasher is no longer washing. Should you call a repair service or just replace it? Knowing that your dishwasher is only four years old and the life expectancy of dishwashers is about 10 years, I would call the repair service and see if it could be fixed.

Here are a couple of products we have on our list:

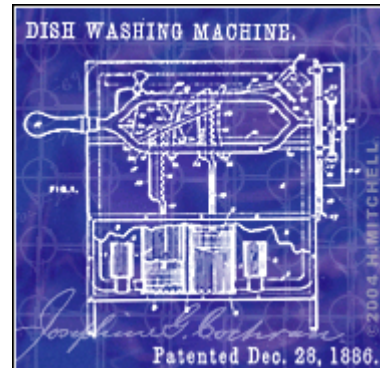
- Trash Compactors: 10 years
- Ranges (Built-in electric): 17 years
- Dryers (Gas): 13 years
- Wooden Decks: 16 years
- Wallpaper: 7 years
- Drywall: 30-70 years
- Wood Paneling: Lifetime
- Window Screens: 25-50 years

Our Life Expectancy list also includes some maintenance tips as well. For instance, grinding bones in the disposal helps clear away build-up. (My dog was sorry to hear about this.)

So next time you throw in the kitchen sink, make sure it's cast iron, you'll get 15 more years out of it!

"Saint" Josephine!

Mrs. Josephine Cochrane was a rich woman who had lots of fancy dinner parties. When Josephine was 44, she found that her fine china which had been in the family since the 17th century was chipping. Those terrible servants! Josephine proclaimed in disgust "If nobody else is going to invent a dishwashing machine, I'll do it myself."



And she did, Josephine Cochrane invented the first "practical" dishwasher.

Working in a shed behind her home, Cochrane got to work. She measured the dishes and constructed wire compartments to fit plates, cups and saucers, and placed these inside a wheel that lied flat within a copper boiler. The wheel turned, powered by a motor, and soapy water would squirt up over the dishes to clean them. In 1886, she patented her design, and began making them for friends, calling the machine the "Cochrane Dishwasher."

She founded a company to manufacture these dish washers. The company kept growing, propelled by her incredible energy, until she died in 1913 of nervous exhaustion at the age of 74. She never got to see the machines become popular which didn't happen until the 1950's.

Late in life, she'd said, "If I knew all I know today [I] never would have had the courage to start." After she died, the company changed hands and names until in 1940 it became the Kitchen Aid part of the Whirlpool Corporation.

Didja Know? Things you might not know about us.



We thought we'd give you a little insight on things you might not know about us...

Gillespie Home Inspection has been inspecting for 14 years.

We now offer Saturday appointments.

We've done property inspections for the television show Trading Spaces!

We are one of only two companies in the Bay Area that does HOA Document Reviews.

We offer free training seminars to your office on property inspection and HOA Document Reviews.

Tom Gillespie has taken his pipe smoking to the golf course for his retirement. Kim Herrera is the current owner.

Just for Fun

The first person to respond with the correct answer to this trivia question will win a Barnes & Noble card. Send your answer to kim@gillespiehomeinspection.com.

(The winner of last month's trivia was Berenice Acevedo of Realty World Real Estate Leaders. She correctly guessed that Cap'n Crunch's first name is Horatio. Here's a bonus - his middle name is Magellan!)

What was the original color of the Johnson and Johnson tape that eventually became known as "duct tape"?

We work your hours, call anytime...

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