

As The Toilet Turns



Custodial/Maintenance Staff Newsletter

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Helpful Tips!

When cleaning walls you may come across many different problems. Below are three possible candidates and some ideas of how to remove them. They are all taken from www.cleaning.lifetips.com.

Do You Remember? - Part Two

Last month we shared highlights from the September to January issues of *As the Toilet Turns*. Let's see what other articles were presented during the year that might have been of benefit to our schools and lives.

Ratios. Important? **February** had an article dealing with the importance of understanding and using ratios when mixing chemicals. When ratios are not understood or are ignored, a waste of chemical can occur or even worse, health can be adversely affected. Plus, the idea that using more is better is a misnomer. Often doing this only creates a situation wherein the chemicals effectiveness is negated. Examples of how to measure ratios was presented and the simple formula 128 ounces divided by x (where x is the ratio) was explained.

March rolled in with an eye-opening article dealing with Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, or EDC's. After a brief highlight of the human endocrine system, the article went on to discuss what these EDC's can do to humans, why they are dangerous and what many companies are doing to remove them from their chemicals. The major sources of EDC's seemed to be due to the production of products known as Nonylphenol Ethoxylate's or NPE's. The article encouraged all to check the CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service) numbers on chemicals to see if the NPE's had been used or not. Education and research on EDC's continues.

Kim York of Service Paper Company shared some points in the **April** issue on ways to make spring cleaning more efficient. Planning and identifying tasks helps to organize and prepare cleaning that needs to be accomplished. Using proper cleaning techniques to make cleaning efficient were highlighted and the resultant outcomes were promised when these suggestions are followed.

With an increase in businesses and schools being forced to cut costs, many have turned to low-flow or waterless toilets and urinals. Do they work well? **May** shared an article from San Francisco on the problems the city has been having with these toilets. Backed-up sewer lines, horrific odors and a huge amount of money are being used to counteract the problems they've been having due to using these toilets. The caution was provided that as we move forward in our district, we need to be wise when choosing the kinds of toilets we will use in our school restrooms.

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1. To remove crayon marks from walls, sprinkle baking soda on a damp cloth then rub gently. The baking soda should be gentle enough for most wall coverings, including paint and wallpaper.
2. To remove a dry erase marker stain from your wall, you can try using a liquid non-oily hairspray or rubbing alcohol, but dry erase markers can leave permanent stains. Another product you could try is a melamine sponge, but use a melamine sponge carefully since too much pressure can remove the paint.
3. To remove the tape from your glossy painted doors, sponge the tape with vegetable oil to loosen the adhesive. Let it stand for several minutes. Using a dull knife, work cautiously and slowly to remove the tape. Continue to apply vegetable oil to any adhesive that remains as you are removing the tape.

(Continued from [Remember](#))

The year concluded in the **June** issue with information on the battle between using paper towels or hand dryers in restrooms. Several scientific study statistics were shared showing why paper towels were the preferred medium to limit the spread of disease. In a school environment, costs, health and spread of disease is always a high priority and making wise decisions on whether or not to use paper towels or hand dryers is definitely something to consider.

Hopefully you were able to implement some of these suggestions throughout the year. If nothing else, the information provided is good food-for-thought. As we begin another school year, more articles and suggestions will be shared through the pages of the monthly custodial/maintenance newsletter. Share your thoughts and insights with us as we share information with you.

Screws and Screwdrivers

Screws hold the world together. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and uses. The tools used to drive them also vary in design. Let's take a few minutes to see where these invaluable items came from.

Early screws were made from wood. Later, techniques were perfected that enabled the production of accurately sized screws made from metal. Much of this technology occurred during the 1700's such as the flat-bladed bit for the carpenter's brace which was invented in 1744 and was the precursor to the first simple screwdriver. By the 1800's, the first handheld screwdrivers had appeared.

In 1908, Canadian inventor P.L. Robertson invented the square-drive screw also called the Robertson screw. This was some 28 years before Henry Phillips patented the now famous Phillips head screw which was used extensively on the 1936 Cadillac. By 1940, most automobile companies were using Phillips screws. During WWII, the Phillips screw was also a real boon to the manufacture of military equipment. The Phillips screw was intended for use with automated screwdrivers that were used on assembly lines since they could withstand more torque than ordinary flat-head screws. The Phillips screw is favored in the United States while the square-head screw invented by P.L. Robertson is the standard in Canada although it too is used in American industries.

Other types of screws came onto the scene as time went on. Following is a brief description of some of these.

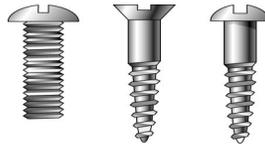
- ◆ Allen Key—A hexagonal or hex screw head with a hexagonal hole. An Allen key or wrench is used with this screw.
- ◆ Cap screw—Has a convex head and is used with a spanner or wrench.
- ◆ Wood screw—Designed with a tapered shaft which allows it to penetrate undrilled wood.
- ◆ Machine screw—A cylindrical shafted screw which fits into a nut or tapped hole.
- ◆ Self-tapping screw—Designed with sharp threads that cut its own hole. Often used on metal or plastic.
- ◆ Drywall or Sheetrock screw—A specialized self-tapping screw which has proved useful for much more than just drywall.
- ◆ Set screw—Has no head and is designed to be inserted flush with or below the surface.
- ◆ Double-ended screw—A wood screw with two pointed ends and no head. This is used for making hidden joints between two pieces of wood.

Screws fall under varying names such as pan head, cheese head, countersunk, button or dome head and mirror screw head. The drives used to sink screws also vary. Following are a few of these.

- ◆ Slot-head—A flathead driver.
- ◆ Cross-head or Phillips—Designed with an x-shaped slot.
- ◆ Pozidriv—Like the Phillips but has better resistance to slipping or cam-out.
- ◆ Hexagonal or Allen key—Used in screws with the hexagonal slot.
- ◆ Robertson or square drive—Used with screws containing a square slot.
- ◆ Torx—A splined tip used with screws that have the same splined slot.
- ◆ Tamper-proof Torx—Like the Torx but with a small projection in the middle to prevent tampering.
- ◆ Tri-Wing—Used by Nintendo to prevent home repairs on their equipment.

In conclusion, whether you work with screws and screwdrivers daily or only occasionally, the truth of the matter is that without these important tools, the world would literally fall apart.

(References: [About.com](#), [Ask.Yahoo.com](#), [Franklin-Tools.co.uk](#) and [bartelby.com](#))



It's In the Contract

Section 4.5. On or before the first day of October of each year during the term of this Agreement, the District shall provide Public School Employees of Washington with the following information regarding each employee in the bargaining unit: Name, address, position, hire date, birth date, hours, and hourly rate. This information shall be supplemented and revised monthly as changes occur.

Section 5.4. Prior to adopting a student school year calendar, the District will solicit input and calendar preferences from the bargaining unit members through the Association leadership.

Section 7.3.2. Employees absent from work shall not be eligible for special services or other work opportunities on the day of absence.

Section 7.3.3. Employees in food service, extended enrichment, custodial-maintenance and secretarial/clerical classifications may change shifts/positions at their work site for substitution purposes at the supervisor's request or approval, when necessary.