



Amateur plumbers can get a good case of the blues when they start to fix their own faucets. A new deal-ership, which dispenses professional advice, can help change fix-up days from confusion to confidence.

Cure leaky faucet blues

Plumbers dispense advice

Weekend plumbers are discovering they have new helpers.

Master plumbers are coming around to helping their weekend counterparts through the Plumbing, a series of dealerships which sells equipment and dispenses advice.

In offices at 2775 Haggerty, Walled Lake; 994 West South Blvd., Avon Township and 2529 West Five Mile, Redford, do-it-yourselfers can obtain thorough instructions or last minute advice.

Plumbers involved in the concern are encouraging a new trend. Instead of dismissing the growing numbers of amateurs who are tackling the plumbing system, plumbers are taking them seriously, according to Dan Bergstrom, 31, who operates the Avon and Redford stores.

Bergstrom began his career in plumbing when he was six years old by helping his plumber-father. He ran

errands between the truck and the work site.

Today, he's helping a growing number of less-experienced plumbers by advising them on the types of parts to buy for a leaking faucet or a clogged sink.

"IT'S THE wave of the future," Bergstrom said. "People have more time off, the cost of hiring someone to do it is going up and the jobs are becoming easier to do as the newer parts and material are developed."

Do-it-yourselfers are becoming bolder. In addition to trying their hands at repairing leaky faucets, amateur plumbers have attempted to remodel bathrooms, replace tubs and install sinks, according to Bergstrom.

To accomplish these tasks, customers are led to the proper equipment and the correct way of installing the plumbing.

"There are many repairs that people can do with some simple training, a few parts and a tool that is rented or purchased," he said.

"Some people have a lot of knowledge about the job, others don't. We fill in the voids."

Men and women are turning into weekend plumbers, mostly for reasons of practicality and economics.

"More men do it themselves, but there are a number of women who come in. Some of them are widows or single and live by themselves. Others have husbands who have no mechanical ability," he explained.

BUT IT IS the high cost of professional plumbers that bring most do-it-yourselfers into the shops.

If a do-it-yourselfer fixes his own faucet, he can save about 80-90 percent of the expense of a plumber, according to Bergstrom.

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