



appliance doctor

Simple job becomes a nightmare

BY JOE GAGNON
Special Writer

I have just gone through a winter without the loss of one pound in my body weight and this is the first time in my life this has happened.

During the winter months I have played hockey several times a week which is the exercise that I count on to keep myself physically fit. A month ago I decided to go on my first ever diet which consisted of drinking plenty of

water and following the diet to a T. The result was my losing a total of 15 pounds. Spending more than \$40 on a bottled water and drinking some from the tap as well has caused a major purchase in my house.

I invested in a water softening system and a water purifier. The reason for spending \$3,000 is quite simple. I don't like the taste of chlorine in the water from the tap, and bottle water has a suspicious nature about it.

Installing this equipment would take Mr. Jake about three hours to do, and I would have the purest water to enjoy in the years to come. The first thing Jake had to do was shut down the water supply throughout the house by shutting off the valve just above the main water main in the house. That's when the first problem showed up.

The valve, which is now 27 years old, had probably never been moved, and sure wasn't going to move this day. It was frozen up solid so Jake decided to shut off the valve which was below the meter which was OK with me. He man-

aged to shut it off until it was almost completely closed, and then it broke as well.

The flow of water into the house was now at the rate of two gallons per hour which means it takes forever for the toilet tanks to fill; the other thing is Jake can't install any kind of plumbing while water is flowing through the lines.

I called the city water department and they scheduled a man to come out at 9 the next morning. I called a plumber as well so he could install a new valve as soon as the city shut off the water at the street. The other problem was that Valorie's folks were visiting from Florida and they are in their mid-80s and need to use the bathrooms. To solve this problem I hooked up a garden hose to my neighbors outside faucet and ran the hose into the house to fill the toilet tanks every time they had to go. I was up several times that night.

The next morning the city guy shows up and so does the plumber. The city

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