

HOME WORK

Efficiencies may cost consumers

APPLIANCE DOCTOR



JOE GAGNON

A few months ago, a new U.S. Department of Energy minimum energy-efficiency standard for front load washers was finalized, setting new targets for washers manufactured after January 2004, and increased efficiency again for units made after Jan. 1, 2007.

A coalition of environmental organizations, state and regional energy officials, washer manufacturers and many consumer groups supported the rule.

Washers manufactured to meet the 2004 standard will be 22 percent more efficient than today's baseline clothes washer. Units that meet the 2007 requirements will be 35 percent more efficient.

What it means

What does this mean to you and me?

First of all, this means that everything I wrote and talked about 6 months ago has come true. Yes, the government has finally taken their hands out of the toilet and put them into the washing machine. They have spent their efforts these past several months making sure that toilets use less water. You can ask millions of Americans what they think of their new toilet today. Never before in the history of mankind has the potty been the focus of so many dinner conversations. That won't stop until the new mandate on water consumption is reversed.

Never before have we had such an escalation in the price of a simple toilet. They just keep going up and up. I wonder what is next on the agenda that might

boost the price of a normal product. We could end up seeing a new law that requires every homeowner to build a new out-house.

Now the government is checking out the washers and their energy efficiency. Under these new requirements, it is hoped consumers will save energy and probably cost you so much more than what you pay for one today. The young couple getting started in life today can spend as little as \$269 for a washer. That washer will be removed from the market altogether. Tomorrow's unit might be priced at a "low" price of \$600, but use less energy. I just can't figure all this out unless the manufacturers are jumping with joy over these upcoming increased prices.

You could say that appliance manufacturers are going to make a real killing on all of this energy efficiency. Weren't they a part of the coalition group that pushed the U.S. Energy Department to mandate this new standard?

Price gouging?

I just recently read an article in Business Week magazine that Maytag priced their Neptune front load washer at \$600 when it was first introduced and then within a few days charged to \$1,000 the purchase price. The reason stated by the chief operating officer was that consumers would pay extra to save energy. That may very well be true, but what about the subject of gouging? I believe that was the case and will be again when these new washers are created with all their little tricks.

I am going to live to be an old man before you can make me believe that a washer using less water does a better job than the one I have in my basement. They have washing machines out there today without agitators and they tell me they out-clean what I have.

First of all, let me give you some old fashioned facts. Except for those people who work in certain fields, the majority of my clothes and yours are not dirty to begin with. What, sweat that is in our clothes is not considered dirt, it's moisture. I can wash that out by swishing a shirt near the shore of a lake. But if a manufacturer can make you believe that their product out-washes another, you will buy it.

Look at Frigidaire's up-and-down agitator of 30 years ago. They boasted of its cleaning action that was so much better than anyone else's and yes, they sold millions. If it was so good, why didn't anyone else copy it when it went out of production?

Joe Gagnon can be heard on NewsTalk 760, WJR-AM, every Saturday and Sunday mornings. He is a past president of The Society of Consumer Professionals. His second book, "The Words and Wisdom of The Appliance Doctor" is available in book stores. His phone number is (313) 873-9789.

Got a question for the Appliance Doctor? Write to Joe Gagnon c/o Ken Abramczyk, At Home Editor, Observer News, 36261 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150 or e-mail kabramczyk@homecomm.net. The Appliance Doctor will answer your question in a future column.

Learn remodeling

The Remodelers Council of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present "ABCs of Remodeling" 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, May 2 at the Bloomfield Township Library, 1099 Lone Pine, on the southeast corner of Lone Pine and Telegraph.

For registration information, call (248) 737-4477 anytime.

ADVERTISEMENT

Budget Bathtub Liners
Company offers solutions for tub troubles

Many people would like to change the way their bathroom looks, but cost and time concerns prevent many from being able to tear out and replace a worn bathtub. Budget Bathtub Liners has the answer. The liner can be installed in a day or less.

There is another solution, though, and Budget Bathtub Liners Co., with showrooms in Lincoln Park and Madison Heights, has the answer. The company offers a bathtub liner and wall system consisting of Bathtub Liner and Wall Surround System.

For a limited time only, bathtub liners are on sale for \$129.99. The wall surround system, which include bathtub liner and wall surround, are on sale from \$129.99. That's about 30% off the cost of replacing an old bathtub. The liner and wall system consists of Bathtub Liner and Wall Surround System.

Many people want to update their bathroom remodeling, bathtub liners and wall systems fit over most existing bathtubs, but also ceramic walls in your bathroom. That means less mess and less time spent in the bathroom. The liner and wall system can be installed in a day or less.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.

For more information on bathtub liners and wall surrounds, call 1-800-BATHTUB.