Home Work

Good appliance information is hard to find



writing this column for approximately six years and doing the radio show on Newstalk 760 WJR for the same time?

In those years, I have received thousands of letters and they are appreciated.

I also must apologize to the must apologize to the many consumers whom I've not replied to recently. The ABC

Do you realize that I've been writing this column headquarters in New York
"froze" me out of the radio sta-tion's e-mail system because
there was a backlog of thou-sands of e-mails, and I never
removed them from the system.

This sent a message which, let me assure you, has not gone to my head. And that message is quite simple: Consumers don't have any other place to go for information they need.

An example of mail

Let me give you an example of what kind of mail I get and I think you will get a kick out of it. It also might give you an idea of how long I've been around:

again for diagnosing our Amans. It's old (28 years) and should be replaced, but the carpenter doors are hard to give up.

doors are hard to give up.

"I took the back panel off and
found a Meijer receipt blocking
the flow of air. I cleaned the little accumulation of dust that is
impossible to get from the front
and noticed the black tube covering was all dried out and falling
spart.

"I assume at one time this was insulation. I went to ACO hardware store and bought some pipe insulation and covered the tube. Did I help or hurt mysel? I also put a new piece of fiberglass on the back panel. The fan turns

freely, but the air that comes out is not at the velocity or tempera-ture that we are used to. The date on the receipt shows that it had been up to two months that it could have been restricting the air flow....

"Are there any refrigerators and freezers that are worth having? Does anyone make a unitata will accompany carpenter doors? Our unit is small (33 wide, 27 deep, 68 high) by today's standards.

Jeanette."

Now folks, stop and think about that for a minute. I get tons of beautiful mail like this. Hiring someone to reply is almost impossible. Where am I going to find someone with the experience of a service technician to sit at a typewriter all day? I know the answers, but it also depends on you. You can join me at the many appearances I make each year.

As I write this column I am

As I write this column I am planning to go to Onsted, Mich., near Irish Hills. I will be there for the opening of a new farm supply and hardware store and the owner hopes for a crowd of

3,000 people to show up. Many of these folks will have questions and I will enjoy answering them in person.

Keep those letters coming, folks, because they are very good for my head and heart, but please don't expect long and detailed answers in the reply. I would rather see you, face-to-face and eye-to-eye. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard Sat-urday and Sunday on 760 WJR. He is a member and past presi-dent of the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals. His phone number is (313) 873-9789.

Build a foundation with contractor

Home builders and remodelers can fill your house with splendid amenities and build the home of your dreams. But first you must establish a business partnership with the right contractor.

"Make certain you and your contractor can agree on a method for reaching a mutual goal — your ideal house," said Stephen Taglione, president of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and of Westminster & Abbey I lomes in Bingham Farms.
"Do your homework before hir-

"Do your homework before hir-ing a contractor."

ing a contractor."

If you take the following steps, you will be likely to maintain a good working relationship with your contractor for the duration of the building or remodeling process.

When looking to hire a con-tractor, you should:

M Ask for referrals. Visit the BIA Web site at www.builders.org, which can give you lists of its members who

do the kind of work you need done. Ask your neighbors and friends for names of contractors with whom they have worked. And for new homes, check out newspaper ade for the types and price ranges of homes being built in your area.

Look for a contractor who has done projects similar to yours.

yours.

Ask prospective contractors for a tentative job schedule. Contractors cannot always determine the exact amount of time they will need to complete projects because they cannot control some factors, such as weather oback-ordered building materials. But they can usually give you a rough estimate.

ough estimate.

Talk about change orders.

Talk about change orders.
Some time during the building or remodeling process you might want to change your order. Ask prospective contractors the procedure they use for placing change orders. Most change orders include a description of the change, cost implications and

Mask for a written estimate of the work to be done based on a set of plans and specifications.

set of plans and specifications.

If you compare your estimate with another, be sure each
one is based on the same set of
plans and specifications. You
can't effectively compare estimates from contractors who plan
to use different brands of building materials. If a contractor
succests deviations, ask him or suggests deviations, ask him or her to present those ideas as

Let contractors know you aren't only interested in the low-

t your instincts," said. "Trust

If you take the proper steps and ask the right questions, you will develop a sense of which

ucar

+14.00P

contractor is best suited to com-plete your project.

Meet with each prospective Meet with each prospective contractor one-on-one to discuss what you want done. Ask the contractor to explain how the project would progress. Choose a contractor who acts professionally and takes the job seriously.

After you've selected your con-tractor, you will need to sign a written contract.

Most contract agreements Most contract agreements include job specifications, lists of necessary materials (including brand names, colors and sizes), final cost estimates, a payment schedule, a change-order clause, and estimated start and completion dates.

After your salest your contract

After you select your contrac-tor, sit back, relax and watch your dreams turn into reality.

Gardener's Paradise! Over 800 different items on display

Benches, Tables, Fountains, Statues, Bird-Baths, Animals, Religious Statues, Oriental Lanterns

Much More To 248-693-8683 Corner of M:24 and Scrippe Rd.

(4 Miles North of the Palace of Auburn Hills) Hours: Mon.-Fri. 2:30-6pm * Sat. 10-4-CALL AHEAD

-->મ*હિલુ*જ --->મહિલુજ --->મહિલુજ

Read Taste every Sunday



Cut Out The Middleman...Save Up To 50% Off Retail Prices CHECK THE BUDGET

Easy cleaning with

Lifetime
 Non-PRORATED
 Transferable Warranty
 COMPLETE LINE OF...
 Bathtub Liners
 Shower Base Liners
 Bath Wall Systems
 Coors

FREE Decorative Curved Shower Road ONE DAY INSTALLATION

NO MESS NO INCONVENIENCE

FREE Estimates Special Senior Discou **₩ ™ ≈**2



Budget has the perfect solution! We will install a beautiful, new acrylic bathtub liner RiGHT OVER your old, worn or damaged tub! Your existing tiles, flooring, and plumbing will not









મહિલુકુ — ત્રમહિલુકુ — ત્રમહિલુકુ — ત્રમહિલુકુ — ત્રમાલુક

LAKE ORION LAWN ORNAMENTS





810-731-9999