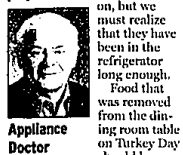


## Don't keep leftovers longer than 4 days

It is now a week after Thanksgiving Day, and I hope everyone had a nice celebration and a few days off. We all know how good the leftovers can taste when we prepare a little snack to munch on, but we must realize that they have been in the refrigerator long enough.



Appliance Doctor  
Joe Gagnon

Food that was removed from the dining room table on Turkey Day should have been frozen or eaten by now; otherwise it should be down the garbage disposer. I know, I know: You have always thought that seven days was the correct amount of time that kept food safe from spoilage. But that has changed dramatically.

That's what it used to be, but it is now four days because the refrigerator temperatures in the average refrigerator don't get as cold as they used to.

### NOT COLD ENOUGH

In a previous column I informed you that the U.S. Health Department is very concerned with the increasing amount of food poisoning suffered by millions of Americans. Last year it reported for the first time that more people suffer from foodborne illness from home cooking than they contract from restaurant cooking. The Washington-based Health Department is working closely with manufacturers to try to get them to produce refrigerators that give homeowners temperatures below 40 degrees.

As we all know, the Earth's atmosphere has been warming up, and at the same time so has the inside thermometer shown an increase in most refrigerators.

Walk into an appliance retailer's today and take a look at refrigerators, and by golly you want to give the big guy a huge hug.

They are absolutely beautiful compared to what you would buy in the years past. Look at the configuration of the interior shelves and how you can easily adjust them, and the shelving on the inside of the doors can now hold large gallon jugs of milk.

Compare today's refrigerator against one built in 1972, and that old one wouldn't look too good in your modern kitchen, I think you'll agree.

Let's give the manufacturers credit for building a beautiful product, but they can certainly be faulted for not providing cold enough temperatures.

### SIMPLE TECHNOLOGY

There was a time when a refrigerator was just a big metal box with very little mysterious technology as compared to some of them today.

Coming off the assembly line today is a product stuffed with computer chips, low-voltage components, built-in message boards and radios and who knows what else is coming up in the future.

All of this is all well and good, but what about giving us a refrigerator that keeps the refrigerator temperature at around 36 degrees instead of 42?

What happened to that simple technology? That's the question being asked by the U.S. Health Department.

You know that an old General Electric refrigerator with the compressor mounted on the top of the box is sought after by some homeowners? They are paying thousands of dollars for these old products and putting them in their modern-day kitchens.

These old products will keep temperatures at 33 to 34 degrees, and that's plenty cold enough to store your leftovers for seven days.

How much better milk would taste for youngsters, and how many less cases of food poisoning would be suffered by consumers.

There was a time when you went to England and you wouldn't drink a beer because they served it warm.

Thank somebody for the old refrigerator I have in my garage because the beer is 34 degrees. My brother Larry asked me the other day what I would do if that old thing ever broke down and couldn't be fixed. I don't know.

### REMEMBER: FOUR DAYS

Until the health department and the manufacturers work out this problem, I hope this column helps you better understand why the leftovers can cause problems with your stomach.

We are now into the swing of things and the holiday spirit. Winter is on us and more diners than ever are served in the kitchen with company coming over and such.

That plate of turkey and dressing wrapped with Saran Wrap sitting on the shelf should go you know where. Always keep the thought of four days for safe storage of leftovers. It could keep you in a holiday spirit for quite a long time. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can now be heard on WJW-950 and WXYT-1270. He is a member and past president of the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals. His phone number is (248) 455-7281.

## Reap smiles with gardening-related gift

The holidays are almost here again. Sometimes it's hard to choose a gift for some people, so I thought I'd mention just a few ideas that are upscale products. Leather gardening gloves for women are often on a woman's mind, but sometimes the expense makes them unavailable.

What better time than at the holidays to give them to that special someone? They're flexible, made of washable leathers, thorn resistant, and tough.

**WOMANWORK** gloves are sized for a perfect fit because they are designed for a woman's hands; they're not oversized men's gloves. But the company also sells gloves for men, Christmas baskets and other gardening gear.

For a free catalog, call (800) 639-2709 or visit [www.womanswork.com](http://www.womanswork.com).

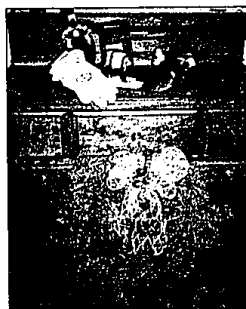
### TOOLS

Extra-sturdy Cutco garden tools are made of stainless steel to resist rust and retain their edges year after year. The soft Santoprene handles make them very comfortable and easy to use, and the steel extends 4 inches into the handles for extra strength and balance. You can choose a three- or four-piece set or buy them separately.

The company also offers a ratchet pruner, a kitchen seissors and even a hunting knife. The guarantee on these tools is most generous; the products are priced but last almost forever. We've had our set of Cutco kitchen knives for 40-plus years.

The local representative is Steven Banaszak, 27286 Roan, Warren MI 48093. Reach him at home, (586) 759-3702, or by e-mail, [banaszak@aol.com](mailto:banaszak@aol.com).

The excellent ax in the accompanying photo is a most handy tool for gardeners and handymen. It represents all the wonderful products that Fiskars makes, including loppers, hedge shears, hand tools and pruning saws. All Fiskars tools are very well built and keep their edges, and the ergonomically designed pruners are made so there's less



Well-chosen holiday gifts are sure to please.

strain on the hands and wrist. Check the sizes to find products for small hands.

Find the items in your local nurseries and garden stores. Fiskars' representative, Suzanne Duecker, can be reached at (608) 294-4577 or by e-mail, [sduecker@fiskars.com](mailto:sduecker@fiskars.com).

### BRANCHING OUT

There is much from which to choose. Here's something that will fit and won't have to be fed (by the recipient), and the color is perfect.

For \$6.95, the Gift of a Tree program will plant a mahogany, cedar or white pine in honor of your recipient in a protected area in El Salvador to beautify the lives of the local population. Recipients receive an attractive card announcing the gift.

For more information, call (800) 992-4769 or e-mail [www.YourTrueNature.com](mailto:www.YourTrueNature.com). On that same note, a gift certificate for the tree of their choice will be something that will give pleasure in the recipients' own landscape.

Take books to the recipients' home and ponder with them during the cold weather to decide just the right tree for the chosen placement in the landscape. When spring

comes, take them to the store to help make the selection. It might be necessary to order a tree, and the sooner you get your order placed, the better.

You could put layers of boxes, each wrapped, together. Put a "promise" for the spring in the smallest ones. Offer a new outdoor patio, lighting or a pond - let your imagination soar!

### TREE TIME

Now that the shopping is done, it's time to think about a tree.

When shopping for a tree, to be sure it's fresh, take a needle from a branch and hold it between your index finger and thumb. Slowly press your fingers together and watch the needle - if it bends, it's fresh.

Pick the tree up a little and "stamp" it on the ground; if many needles from the outside of the tree fall off, skip it. Needles on the inside will naturally fall off as it prunes itself. That's OK.

Until you decorate your find, keep it outside, in a place sheltered from wind and the sun.

Make a straight cut across the trunk about an inch from the base so it will absorb water through the fresh cut. Place the tree in fresh water immediately; watch so the water level stays above the trunk cut.

If possible, take the tree into a cool part of the house to acclimate it to the new surroundings.

If you need to trim branches from the bottom, look at the tree carefully to see if you can wire one to conceal a bare spot.

Or use the cut greens on the mantel, on a table or in a container with flowers. Look in the holder daily to be sure there is enough water to keep the tree fresh.

After the holidays, set the tree outdoors and decorate it with edible things for the birds (the children will love it).

Use the branches as mulch soon after the ground is frozen. Use the needles and branch tips; add them to other ingredients to make a winter potpourri.

Marty Fligley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.

### GARDEN CALENDAR

**Troy Garden Club**  
The Troy Garden Club will meet noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at Big Beaver United Methodist Church, 3733

John R. just south of Wattles Road in Troy. A representative from Canterbury Glass will demonstrate the making of a mosaic ornament.

Refreshments will be served at noon. Guest donation \$3. Reservations aren't required. For more information, call Barb at (248) 952-9338.

## Fall Sale!

The Month of November  
**10% off**  
All Granite in stock  
Sale items excluded

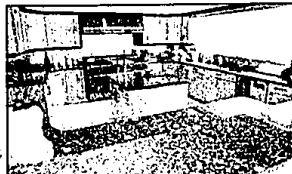
### Granite 3cm thick!

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| \$45.95 S/F | Rosa Bota        |
| \$45.95 S/F | Luna Pearl       |
| \$49.95 S/F | Impala Black     |
| \$49.95 S/F | Verde Butterfly  |
| \$49.95 S/F | Tan Brown        |
| \$49.95 S/F | Giallo Veneziano |
| \$49.95 S/F | Vytera Gold      |
| \$52.95 S/F | Absolute Black   |

All prices include installation & measurement, straight polished edge 20 s/f minimum

### Marble - Granite - Silkstone®

Why buy countertops at retail when you can buy direct. Since we fabricate at our own locations, we beat the "Big Box" store pricing. We offer quick delivery and personalized service.



### Silkstone!

\$29.95 S/F Installed!  
Includes installation, measurements, straight polished edge, 20 s/f minimum.

### Huge Savings!!

GRANITE MARBLE REMNANTS  
\$12.95 S/F

We stock over fifteen hundred slabs of Marble, Granite and Silkstone in over eighty unique colors. We stock the largest selection of imported ceramic tile in Michigan.

Check our prices first!

## Ceramic Tile Sales Inc. Marble & Granite Shop

**Southfield** 23455 Telegraph Rd. 248-356-6430  
**Farmington Hills** 24301 Indoplex Circle (248) 426-0093  
**Rochester** 1972 Star Batt Dr. 248-853-4654

Visit one of our Showrooms!

Installation includes Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties. Others at additional cost. Offer not valid with any other discount. All previous orders excluded. Subject to stock on hand.

**Showroom Hours:** M-T-Th 8:30-5:00; W-F 8:30-8:00; Sat 9:00-5:00

### BIEDERMANN ORNAMENT SHOW

Personal Appearance and Ornament Signing  
Fri, December 13th  
1-5 pm  
Downtown Ann Arbor  
601-607 E. Liberty

(734) 668-6779  
[www.johnleidyshop.com](http://www.johnleidyshop.com)

### RECHERCHÉ

Fine Consignment Furniture

Your Re-Decoration Headquarters for the Holidays!

We have wonderful gifts for everyone on your list from furniture to accessories to gift certificates

Waterford Place Plaza  
3671 Highland Rd.  
Waterford, MI • 48328  
(248) 681-6120  
[www.recherchehurniture.com](http://www.recherchehurniture.com)

### American Blind and Wallpaper Factory

Factory Showroom Outlet

Plymouth • Sterling Heights

### HOLIDAY SAVINGS!

4 DAYS ONLY SALE!

### HOLIDAY RUGS

OVER 20 STYLES TO CHOOSE FROM

SAVE \$10.00 Sale \$59.99

SAVE \$20.00 Sale \$49.99

with an additional \$100.00 purchase

### IN-STOCK WALLPAPER & BORDER

WAVELY, IMPERIAL AND MORE!

\$1.49 PER SINGLE ROLL

\$1.00 PER BORDER

### EXTRA Discounts off our everyday

low, low prices!

20% OFF - Ball Valves

25% OFF - Comfortex Shades

50% OFF - American Shades

50% OFF - In-Stock Wall Art

82% OFF - In-Stock Blinds

Nothing better than quality material at low prices.

To receive this discount please call 800-833-8333

2 Convenient Locations

877-432-1186

[www.observerandecentre.com](http://www.observerandecentre.com)

### When You Think Christmas, Think ACORN!

A new kitchen, bath or appliance can make the perfect gift. Give an ACORN GIFT CERTIFICATE for anything in our beautiful showroom.

#### KITCHEN CABINETS

Aristokraft  
40 to 50% Off List

#### ACCESSORIES

The S Irrating Center  
All wood construction  
49 high cover and pad included  
List \$199.95  
Now \$79.95

#### APPLIANCES

150 Frigidaire Maytag & Jenn-Air Models  
25% off our already low prices  
Save as much as 50% OFF.  
Most items now below cost. Many stainless steel models.

#### COUNTER TOPS

Corian Solid Surface Countertops  
20% OFF  
Set of our most popular colors

#### SPECIALS

1000 Watt Over-the-Range Microwave  
Now \$179.95  
After \$200.00 Factory Retail with Turntable On-Off Switch

### ACORN KITCHEN & BATH DISTRIBUTORS

THE SUPER STORE FOR SUPER SAVINGS

111 S. Telegraph Rd.  
Call (248) 335-0111  
[www.acorkitchen.com](http://www.acorkitchen.com)