

CLASSIC INTERIORS FURNITURE

Introducing "Discovery"

By Pennsylvania House



Style Without Boundaries

When it comes to *Discovery*, you'll see a timeless mixture of solid pine world-class styles lovingly accented with a wide range of materials from stone and steel, to wicker and leather. And now you can discover special introductory savings on these unique treasures.

SAVE 50% THRU JUNE 30TH



Mon., Thurs., Fri. 9:30-9:00; Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30-5:30; Sunday 1-5

CLASSIC INTERIORS FURNITURE

VISIT OUR IN-STORE CLEARANCE CENTER

2092 MIDDLEBELT, LIVONIA (South of 8 Mile)
(810) 474-6900

* All discounts are off manufacturers' suggested retail prices * All previous sales excluded.
* Offer not valid in conjunction with any other promotional discount.

LET'S REMODEL

Don't skimp when repairing sprinklers

Q: We winterized our lawn sprinkler system last fall, but when we opened it in the spring the back flow preventer was broken. What would cause this?

A: You may have a couple of issues going on. First of all, older systems are being serviced where there is a gate valve in place. There are two types of valves used to connect the domestic water system to the back flow preventer: gate valves and ball valves. A gate valve is screwed down and over time may not seal completely, causing water to get into your backflow preventer which may expand when the water is frozen during winter, breaking the backflow. Many people purchase gate valves due to initial cost. However, a brass ball valve fastens tight enough so that no water can get through to the backflow preventer. If your current system has a gate valve you may want to consider replacing it with a ball valve for preventative maintenance. This would take approximately an hour of labor costs at \$60.

The part will run about \$30. To repair a back flow is about \$185, labor included.

The second thing to consider is that, when fall rolls around, many so-called sprinkler companies drive through neighborhoods offering winterizing at extremely low costs and are often unqualified, some are even uninsured. Remember, saving money now may cause you big money down the road. Keep in mind that an eight zone system will probably cost \$5 per zone with a minimum of \$40 to winterize. The company should also offer a warranty against damage to the system for the spring opening unless you have a gate valve. Preventive maintenance should include converting to a ball valve and selecting a qualified contractor. Although there is no licensing required for an irrigation contractor in the State of Michigan you will want to look for the following:

- Ask for a certificate of insurance. You can verify with their insurance company.
- Choose a full-time irrigation company that specializes in servicing after the installation.
- A written work order provided by



the company which includes an address and phone number. Ask for a business card.

■ Make sure that the company you choose has been in business for at least three years and intends to continue in this line of work.

■ Keep your receipt and contact the same company in the spring for a spring turn-on, so if damage has occurred, you're now dealing with the same contractor.

In short, a qualified legitimate contractor will gladly do the job right the first time so you will continue to do business with them. A sprinkler business is not unlike any other service business - it boils down to service and backing up your work. Keeping the customer happy. The bottom line is service, service, service.

James Mastrangel, Rain Dance Irrigation, Union Lake, 810-543-8890.

For your home improvement questions or a copy of our roster booklet, call Gayle Walters, executive director of the Michigan Remodeling Association (MRA) at 810-335-3232, or send questions to "Let's Remodel," 2187 Orchard Lake Road, No. 103, Sylvan Lake, MI 48320. Answers are provided by members of the MRA, the local chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI). Members include professional contractors, manufacturers, wholesalers, consultants and lenders representing all facets of residential and light commercial remodeling. Members also answer questions on "Construction Talk" with Murray Gula on WEXL-AM 1340, 1-2 p.m. Saturday. You can call in your questions at 810-544-1340.

Rose show scheduled June 22-23

The Metropolitan Rose Society will have its annual Rose Show 1-9 p.m. Saturday, June 22, and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 23, at Macomb Mall.

The mall is at 32233 Gratiot Avenue and Masonic (13-1/2 Mile). Call (810) 689-9529 for information.