

Whalen

Fire, Smoke, Soot, Water & Mold Remediation Services
Board-up * Cleaning * Deodorizing * Reconstruction

Winter Newsletter 2018-2019



Happy Holidays

from the Whalen Restoration Services team!

Holiday Safety

With all of the decorating, cooking, company, and busy schedules it's no secret that the holiday season brings a large increase in property damage and injuries. We're here to help those numbers go down! Before you deck the halls, light the menorah, or ring in the New Year with a crowd, [read this refresher on how to keep the celebrations safe.](#)

[Show us your beautiful holiday displays!](#)



'Tis the Season

One of our favorite programs to be involved in is the annual Dress A Live Doll program through the Salvation Army. Volunteers are given donations and sizes for a specific child or children to outfit them with everything from underwear and socks to shirts, jackets, hats, and gloves. The gifts are delivered to the Salvation Army and volunteers distribute them just before Christmas. [Reach out the Salvation Army to find out how you can participate.](#)



New to us this year was helping collect gifts for the [Marine Toys for Tots](#) Program. What fun it was to see how creative our employees got with their gift selections! From dolls and footballs to fishing gear and trendy board games, we were impressed at the great variety!

Looking to help spread the joy of the holiday season? There are so many options and some are completely free!

- Volunteer for the [Salvation Army](#). Reach out to your local office to find out all of the opportunities in your area such as toy sorting, assisting truck deliveries and food basket deliveries.
- Reach out to your local hospital and see how you can volunteer or visit the patients.
- Share some love with furry friends and the [MSPCA](#).
- Volunteer at your local shelter preparing and serving meals to the homeless.
- Bring some cheer to senior citizens so no

one has to spend the season alone or without a home cooked meal.

- Make a difference in the life of a child with a life-threatening medical condition with the [Make-A-Wish](#) foundation.
- There's always the timeless tradition of caroling. Check with your local community centers and neighborhood groups or rally a crew of your own. You could even merge this with the senior and hospital suggestions above! Make it even more fun by dressing up as holiday characters!
- Reach out to your local food pantry and see if you can help deliver holiday meals.
- Check out <https://www.volunteermatch.org/>.
- Other sweet giving opportunities:
 - Pay for someone's layaway anonymously.
 - Buy the coffee order for the person behind you.
 - Pay for someone's dinner tab.
 - Bring a panhandler a brown bag lunch.
 - Enjoy a street musician's talent and pay them for the show.
 - Make a tax-deductible donation in a friend's name



Dates to Remember

December Is the month of...	January Is the month of...	February Is the month of...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Toys and Gifts • Universal Human Rights • Food Service Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nat'l Mentoring • Nat'l Glaucoma Awareness • Nat'l Blood Donor Month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black History • American Heart • Library Lovers
12/1 – Saturday World AIDS Day	1/1 – Tuesday New Year's Day	2/2 – Saturday Groundhog Day
12/2 – Sunday Hanukkah Starts 	1/21 – Monday Martin Luther King Jr. Day	2/3 – Sunday Super Bowl Sunday 
12/7 – Friday Pearl Harbor Remembrance	1/27 – Sunday Int'l Holocaust Victim Remembrance Day	2/14 – Thursday Valentine's Day 
12/21 – Friday Winter Solstice		2/17 – Sunday Random Acts of Kindness Day
12/25 – Tuesday Christmas 		2/18 – Monday Presidents Day
12/26 – Wednesday Kwanzaa Starts 		2/22 – Friday World Yoga Day

Winter To-Do List

December

1. Test all of your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
2. Unpack and test all electrical holiday decorations. Repair or discard any that do not function properly.
3. Review the family fire escape and emergency plans with every household member.
4. Check your fire extinguisher's expiration date and the gauge to ensure that it is fully charged.
5. Check that there is still insulation around all exterior pipes and make sure that water cannot seep under the insulation.
6. Detail clean your dishwasher, trash compactor, and countertop appliances.
7. Clean your range hood and either clean or replace the filter.

[December Printable Version Here](#)

January

1. Test all of your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
2. Keep an eye out for bargains on discontinued appliances and tools. Before buying make sure the warranties are still valid.
3. Organize your home improvement files. Review warranties and product manuals for recommended maintenance for furnaces, equipment, appliances, and tools. Update your calendar to keep everything on schedule.
4. Update your home inventory list. Add new items that you received as holiday gifts and include pictures of each item.
5. Review your homeowners policy. Make sure you have enough coverage under your contents section (your updated inventory list comes in to play here), and be aware of the different deductibles you may be subject to. Make notes on any questions you have for your agent.
6. Remove drain traps from under your sinks and clean them thoroughly along with the pop-up drain plugs.
7. Test your water heater temperature pressure relief valve by lowering the test lever and allowing some water to flow through the pipe. If no water flows or if it only trickles out replace the valve.

[January Printable Version Here](#)

1. Test all of your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
2. Test all of your ground-fault circuit interrupter outlets by pushing the "test" button. The "reset" button should pop out indicating that it is working properly. Then press the "reset" button so it'll be set to work when you need it to.
3. Check inside of bathroom vanities and kitchen sink cabinets for signs of moisture or leaks. Carefully inspect for condensation or slow drips.
4. Check your grout and caulking around your showers, tubs, and sinks. Replace missing grout after chipping out the cracked areas. If caulk remains discolored after cleaning remove and replace it with caulk that is mildew-resistant.
5. Inspect for loose knobs and hinges on cabinets, vanities and furniture. Tighten or repair where necessary and lubricate squeaky hinges.
6. To eliminate any musty closet odors remove all of the contents and wash the walls with a diluted solution of chlorine bleach. Replace solid doors with louvered doors. If the smell is the result of too much moisture in the area you'll need to locate the source and fix it or the problem will return. You may need to simply start running a dehumidifier in that area.
7. Use a vacuum with a narrow nozzle to clean the condenser coils on the back or underneath your refrigerator.

[February Printable Version Here](#)

Chocolate Crinkle Cookies

by *The Girl Who Ate Everything*

Perfect for a holiday cookie platter! (Yield: 4 Dozen)

Ingredients:

- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 cups white sugar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 4 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar

Instructions:

1. In a medium bowl, mix together cocoa, white sugar, and vegetable oil. Beat in eggs one at a time and stir in the vanilla. Whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt; stir into the cocoa mixture. The mixture will be wet, a little sticky (which is why we chill) and the consistency of brownie batter. Chill for at least 3 hours.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F . Line cookie sheets with parchment paper. Roll dough into 1.5 inch balls (size 40 scoop). Roll cookies well in powdered sugar.
3. Bake in preheated oven for 8 to 12 minutes. This will depend on your oven and how you like your cookies. If you like a fudgy middle you'll be towards 8 minutes (they will look wet but will set up as they cool). If you like a crisper edge you'll cook them for around 12 minutes. Let cookies cool on the cookie sheet for a couple of minutes before transferring to wire racks to cool.



Notes:

Keep the dough chilled in between batches in the fridge.

Want to up the chocolate factor. Stir in 1 cup of mini or semisweet chocolate chips into the batter.

Source: [Allrecipes](#)

[What's your favorite holiday treat? Share it with us!](#)



The Wilkins Family of Centerville, MA wrote us the sweetest letter.

"We would like to also take this opportunity to thank you for the amazing workmanship, prompt attention, and flexibility you showed during the stressful time of restoring our home after significant water damage. When our insurance agent recommended Whalen Restoration, we contacted you promptly. Workmen came immediately to move furniture and clean the area. Professional assessment was then done to determine the extent of the water damage to the wall and flooring and immediate

demolition took place taking care to protect the rest of our home. We so appreciate the professional attitude of all your employees in minimizing our stress and especially the quality of their workmanship. The restoration and following cleanup was done with our unfortunate timeline (away on planned vacation) in mind. Your flexibility at that particular time was a great relief and again so appreciated. Today is the first day all furniture is in place and cabinets refilled and our home looks exactly as it did before. We cannot thank you enough and will recommend your company in the future without hesitation." See a copy of the actual [letter](#).

[See more testimonials here!](#)

Chem-Dry by Whalen Services is happy to offer you **10% SAVINGS**

on their Carpet Cleaning, Upholstery Cleaning
or Area Rug Cleaning services!

Receive a 10% discount on your next scheduled in-home cleaning service just for being a subscriber to our newsletter! Minimum charges apply. Not valid with other offers. Discount applies to cleaning only. Limit 1 coupon per person.

Offer Expires 2/28/2019

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Connect with us!





*"In the depth of winter I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer."
~ Albert Camus*

*"This is my wish for you: peace of mind, prosperity through the year, happiness that multiplies, health for you and yours, fun around every corner, energy to chase your dreams, joy to fill your holidays!"
~ D.M. Dellinger*

*"May your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter, and every window open to great possibility."
~ Mary Anne Radmacher*

*"Nature looks dead in winter because her life is gathered into her heart. She withers the plant down to the root that she may grow it up again fairer and stronger. She calls her family together within her inmost home to prepare them for being scattered abroad upon the face of the earth."
~Hugh Macmillan, "Rejuvenescence," The Ministry of Nature, 1871*