

Whalen

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

Winter Newsletter 2019-2020



Happy Holidays

from our big Whalen Restoration Services family to yours!



Before we get into all of the new headlines, your checklists and that delicious recipe, let's review a few things for the winter season from newsletters past.

- [Holiday Safety](#) - 'Tis the season so here are a few quick reminders.
- [Frozen Pipes](#) - Temps are already dropping below freezing so it's a good time to read up on how to deal with and prevent them.
- [Groundwater & Flooding](#) - Even if your Cape Cod property has never had groundwater flooding issues in the past that doesn't mean it never will. We've got some helpful tips on what you can do to protect yours.
- [Ice Dams](#) - Rain, snow, freeze, thaw... Somewhere in there is a perfect chance for them to form. Make sure you know how to deal with them if they do.
- [Fireplace Safety](#) - Go ahead and enjoy the wonderful comfort of warming up by the melodious crackling of a glowing fireplace, but make sure you're properly using and maintaining it.
- [Spreading Kindness](#) - The holiday season brings a beautiful wave of giving and kindness. Here are some wonderful ideas on how you can contribute!
- [Winter on Cape](#) - Just because it's winter on Cape Cod doesn't mean *everything's* closed and there's nothing to do. Enjoying this quieter time of year can be a real treat!

Exciting News!

We'd like everyone to join us in a big congratulations to Jason Norell and Robby Barberio for their new positions at Whalen Restoration Services! Both are now part of our Estimating/Project Management department. Jason is new to the team and brings great experience with a fresh set of eyes. After a long history with our company Robby brings his knowledge of the field and great customer service skills to the office.



[Help congratulate Jason & Robby!](#)



We're also excited to announce the sale of the Chem-Dry franchises! Greg and Mary Martin, who had both been with us for years, took over operations this November and are the proud new owners. Mary will remain our Executive Assistant/Accounts Receivable Manager while helping Greg as he continues to operate the Chem-Dry business to the same standards we have since 1985. Although the scheduling office has moved, the phone number remains the same and 22 American Way, South Dennis is still an address for area carpet drop offs.

[Help congratulate The Martins!](#)

Mark Your Calendar

<h3>December</h3> <p>Is the month of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Toys and Gifts • Universal Human Rights • Food Service Safety 	<h3>January</h3> <p>Is the month of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nat'l Mentoring • Nat'l Glaucoma Awareness • Nat'l Blood Donor Month 	<h3>February</h3> <p>Is the month of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black History • American Heart • Library Lovers
12/1 – Sunday World AIDS Day	1/1 – Wednesday New Year's Day	2/2 – Sunday Groundhog Day & Super Bowl Sunday 
12/7 – Saturday Pearl Harbor Remembrance	1/20 – Monday Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
12/21 – Saturday Winter Solstice	1/27 – Monday Int'l Holocaust Victim Remembrance Day	2/14 – Friday Valentine's Day 
12/22 – Sunday Hanukkah Starts 		2/17 – Monday Random Acts of Kindness Day & Presidents Day
12/25 – Wednesday Christmas 		2/22 – Friday World Yoga Day
12/26 – Thursday Kwanzaa Starts 		

Winter To-Do Lists

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](#)

February

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](#)

Soft Molasses Cookies

by [The Girl Who Ate Everything](#)

Perfect for a holiday cookie platter!

(Yield: 2 Dozen)

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup unsalted butter softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg

- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour (spooned into measuring cups)
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sugar for rolling
- 12 ounces almond bark or white chocolate chips (optional)



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees and line baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the egg and molasses and mix until combined.
3. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, and salt. Slowly mix the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients. Roll 1.5 inch balls of dough and roll in sugar. The dough will be soft. If you want to chill it to make it easier to roll you can.
4. Place on baking sheets and bake for 8-10 minutes. Let cookies rest on the cookie sheet. They will continue to bake while cooling.
5. For dipping (see notes for full instructions): If desired, melt almond bark according to directions or melt white chocolate chips in a double broiler (you might need to add some shortening to thin out). Dip sides of cookies and sprinkle with sprinkles.
6. Store cookies in an airtight container.

Recipe Notes

- I've found that Ghirardelli chips melt the best.



Don't Take Our Word For It

9/23/19 Mr. Rose of Yarmouth, MA reviewed on Google: "I recently had a flooded basement and called Whalen on the recommendation of friends. Glen Souza and his crew came out "the same day" - I received a very fair quote for the scope of what was required to remove 5000 gallons of water and then treat the floor and walls. They were professional and knowledgeable. I was treated as if I was their only customer. I recommend Whalen highly and I am glad they were recommended to me."

[Find more testimonials on our website](#)

Contact

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 Connect with us!



Words of the Season

"Let us love winter,
 for it is the spring of genius."
 - Pietro Aretino

"One kind word
 can warm three winter months."
 - Japanese Proverb

"Of winter's lifeless world
 each tree now seems a perfect part;



Yet each one holds summer's secret
deep down within its heart."
- Charles G. Slater

"I wonder if the snow *loves* the trees
and fields, that it kisses them so
gently?

And then it covers them up snug, you
know, with a white quilt;
and perhaps it says
"Go to sleep, darlings,
till the summer comes again."

- Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in
Wonderland & Through the Looking-
Glass*