



Better Home Living™

The Newsletter That's Both Informative and Fun!

Gas or electric, which power washer would be right for you?

Until recently, only professional cleaning services used power washers. Now, homeowners are buying them in huge numbers. They're the must-have for those who already have a riding mower in the garage. Before you head for the hardware store, however, decide how you will use the power washer so you know how powerful a machine to buy.

For tough jobs, such as cleaning the siding on the house, removing grease spots on garage floors, or stripping paint from a fence, you'll need 2000 to 3000 pounds per square inch (PSI) of power driven by a gas engine. For lighter duty, electric models have 1000 to 1500 PSI and cost less. They have an adjustable nozzle. To begin, you set the nozzle wide open and be at least a few feet away from what you're cleaning. You can move closer or close the nozzle tip somewhat to achieve the effect you want.

Product testers for Business Week say safety must be considered. Keep power washers away from children and wear shoes and safety glasses.

Lower PSI models are good for cleaning dirt from cars, lawn furniture, and first-floor windows. Indoors, they can be used to clean soap scum and mildew from tile in a shower stall.

The gasoline engine models are best for bigger projects, like washing boats and second-floor windows. They have a wide swath, which means you can clean driveways three times as fast as you could with an electric model.

A gas-powered washer requires more maintenance and takes more skill. A new user could put grooves in a redwood deck or punch a hole in wooden siding. And they require more maintenance than electric models.

Washington D.C. welcomes guests for Cherry Blossom festival

Early spring is the perfect time to visit Washington, D.C., where one of the most popular attractions is in full bloom in late March and early April.

The Cherry Blossom Festival runs from March 20 to April 16. This event focuses on the 3,700 beautiful cherry trees that were given to the U.S. by Tokyo in 1912. The trees tend to hit their peak bloom at the end of March.

The festival features an homage to Japanese culture during the largest Japanese Street Festival in the U.S. with sushi, origami, J-Pop music, fireworks, a parade, and more.

Just because there is a festival going on doesn't mean that the normal attractions Washington D.C. has to offer won't be on display. Steeped in history, many of this city's attractions are available at no cost so that anyone can learn about America's history, culture, and arts. Traditional stops include the Museum of Natural History, the Lincoln Memorial, war memorials, National Cathedral, and more.

It would be tough to run out of things to do on a trip to the capital, but it is important to note that reserving spaces for things such as tickets can potentially save a lot of time and money. Frommer's recommends that visitors seek these out weeks or even months in advance to ensure that they do not miss out on their favorite attractions.



I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter!

*Susie Duncan
Two Ladies & A Bucket*



Have you ever found yourself in the produce section trying to decide between a bag of Cuties and a bag of Halo's? I have. So what's the difference? Basically what it boils down to is that there really isn't all that much difference. First, there was the Cuties brand owned by Paramount Citrus. Then, there was a split in the company. A company named Sun Pacific kept the Cuties brand and Paramount Citrus chose a new name for their sweet little bundles. Hence, the Halo was born.

Then there is the Clementine variety. All of these fruit are varieties of a mandarin. Not all mandarins are Clementine's.

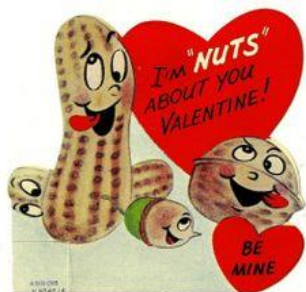
Ever wonder why, on occasion, you may spit out a seed or two from one of your 'seedless' Cutie or Halo? That is because seeds form when the blossoms are cross-pollinated by bees. In order to keep the fruit seedless the growers have to keep the bees away from the orchards.

Who would have thought that there was so much to consider when grabbing a sweet and healthy snack?



Do You Know...

Thanks a Bunch!



We



Serving YOU!!!

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

"I hired this company to clean our house when we moved. It looked brand new. They were on did and exceptional job. On time, professional, great communication, and exceptional results".

~Liz C.

"Two ladies and a bucket is fantastic! Sonnet and Taylor are a great team and did a great job, had my home sparkling in no time. Sonnet and Taylor ROCK!!!

~Berta M.

Where Americans are traveling

When Americans leave home-sweet-home for other countries, they have some favorites.

Japan was big with travelers from 2015 to 2016, experiencing a 16.6 percent hike in American visitors. According to Euromonitor, this could reflect a weak yen that makes travel cheaper.

South America is a big winner for American travelers. Brazil successfully capitalized on the Olympics to increase travel by 10.5 percent. Travel across South America is brisk, except for Venezuela. Venezuela, in the grip of a failed socialist government, is suffering economic collapse, and with it, starvation, violence and kidnappings. Tourism is down by 7.2 percent there.

Russian and China also have robust American tourism, up more than 10 percent.

In the Mideast, Iran has been a tourism winner with 11.5 percent increase since sanctions have been lifted.

But, most of the Mideast, is not a vacation friendly locale. Tourism to Egypt is down 16.5 percent, which is actually better than it has been in the last few years.



Renior: Painter of love and nature

French painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir was born just 11 days short of Valentine's Day on February 25, 1841. His life, however, would be framed by his love for nature and people and his expression of that in painting.

The man who would go on to become a central figure in the Impressionist movement, collaborating with other renowned French masters like Claude Monet and Jean Frederic Bazille, started off in humble beginnings, the sixth of seven children.

His family's financial circumstances precipitated a move to Paris from Renoir's birthplace of Limoges when he was only 3 years old. This would eventually prove fortuitous, and their new city address was only a stone's throw away from the Louvre. The world-renowned art museum would become a refuge for Renoir when at age 13, he had to give up the pursuit of a musical career and get an apprenticeship at a porcelain factory, painting plates.

At the Louvre, Renoir explored 18th-century French masters and showed the curiosity for the work of others that would later lead to experimentation and the creation of a new movement. The factory owner, who recognized Renoir's talent, encouraged him to pursue studies in art. Sometime after the factory closed, in 1862, Renoir began serious study under Charles Gleyre in Paris.

Renoir's early career was marked by poverty, and he is known to have struggled through the 1860s, barely able to buy paints and canvases. He didn't give up, however. He submitted his work to the Salon and forged alliances with people who would prove to be patrons. The turning point in his career came in 1867 when he painted his mistress Lise Trehot. 'Lise and the Parasol' displayed Renoir's sensitivity to female sensuality and the female nude would become one of his primary subjects. Trehot, herself would become an inspiration for a number of his paintings, according to Sophie Monneret's 1991 memoir called 'Renoir.'

Producing thousands of paintings in his lifetime, Renoir's work in review shows an artist driven by love. After his marriage in 1890, he turned his attention to capturing his wife, family life and children. In his late career, after a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis that left his fingers permanently disfigured, he still continued to create, hiring an assistant to help him realize his artistic visions in sculpture.



Study from Renoir's "Dance in the Country"

Trivia Teaser – Next in Line

1. Who succeeded Leonid Brezhnev as the leader of the Soviet Union in 1982?
a-Vladimir Putin, b-Eduard Shevarnadze, c-Mikhail Gorbachev, d-Yuri Andropov.

2. Who succeeded "Bloody Mary" as the queen of England? a-Victoria, b-Mary, Queen of Scots, c-Elizabeth I, d-Lady Jane Grey.

3. Which Roman emperor was succeeded by his uncle Claudius? a-Caligula, b-Nero, c-Octavius Caesar, d-Gaius.

4. Who succeeded J. Edgar Hoover as director of the FBI in 1972, and was indicted in 1978 in connection with illegal break-ins by the Nixon administration? a-Henry Cisneros, b-Archibald Cox, c-L. Patrick Gray, d-W. Mark Felt.

5. Who succeeded Bob Barker as the host of the CBS game show "The Price is Right"? a-Drew Carey, b-David Letterman, c-Jeff Probst, d-Wayne Brady.

6. Joey Meyer succeeded his father, Ray Meyer, as the head coach of the men's basketball team at which university? a-Notre Dame, b-DePaul, c-Texas A&M, d-Louisville.

7. According to the Old Testament, who succeeded Moses as leader of the Israelites? a-Joshua, b-Saul, c-Damon, d-Aaron.

8. Which French king was succeeded by his great-grandson? a-Henry IV, b-Louis II, c-Louis XIV, d-Louis XVI.

9. Rehoboam was the son and successor of which great ruler? a-Charlemagne, b-Alexander the Great, c-Cleopatra, d-Solomon.

10. Who was the only sitting U.S. President who failed to attend the inauguration of his successor? a-Benjamin Harrison, b-Ronald Reagan, c-John Adams, d-Andrew Jackson.

1-d, Yuri Andropov
2-c, Elizabeth I
3-a, Caligula
4-c, L. Patrick Gray
5-a, Drew Carey
6-b, DePaul
7-a, Joshua
8-c, Louis XIV
9-d, Solomon
10-c, John Adams

Answers to 'Next in Line'

Warm quilt

Across

1. Computer monitor, for short
4. Flair
9. Part of WYSIWYG
10. Stock unit
11. "Casablanca" pianist
12. Harness racer
13. Divided into three
15. Exist
16. Drivel
18. Beside
20. Open, in a way
23. Alpha's opposite
25. 20-20, e.g.
26. Scrawny one
27. Casual attire
28. Colonel's insignia
29. Lord's Prayer start

Down

1. Skin problem
2. Big laugh
3. Swollen
4. Bond's world
5. Indian shawl
6. Fond du ____, Wis.
7. Locale
8. Duration
14. Penny-pinching
17. Kind of ticket
18. Speaker of note
19. Youth org.
21. Stead
22. Lascivious look
24. .0000001 joule

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28						29		

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L	L	L		R	N	R		B
		L		R	O	L		D
M		A		D	F	I		T
R		C		P	A	C		S
E		A		S	H	A		Y
A		T		E	C	L		C

The headline is a clue to the answer in the diagonal.

What to expect after your loved one has a heart attack

Heart attacks don't just take a physical toll, they also leave emotional wounds in both the survivor and the family.

It may require time for the whole family to recover emotionally from this life-threatening health event.

Family will notice physical changes in the survivor after release from the hospital. Your loved one may be tired and weak during the days directly following a heart attack. They will generally be restricted from strenuous exertion such as lifting heavy objects or sport.

Nonetheless, at some point, the doctor will advise the patient to return to physical activity. The patient must be encouraged in this, but families should avoid being overprotective.

Roughly one in four people experience anxiety after a heart attack, according to the Heart Foundation. This is usually short term and should go away once they have returned to their regular lifestyle. You can help your loved one deal with new emotions by encouraging them to share their feelings and speak to a medical professional if required.

Your loved one will be encouraged to make lifestyle changes to help prevent future heart disease. High blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking and diabetes are all major risk factors for heart attack. You can help your loved one by starting a walking program together and fixing healthy meals.

Expect your loved one to be physically weaker and a bit blue following a heart attack. Do a lot of listening to help them sort out short-term emotional challenges, and encourage positive lifestyle changes.



Two Ladies & A Bucket

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Roses are red and violets may be blue
Never saw roses of chocolate have you?
~~Chocolate covered strawberry roses~~

Blood pressure in both arms

It might be best to take your blood pressure in both arms. According to a study published in Clin Exp Hypertens 2016, a large difference in the systolic blood pressure between arms might be a sign of cardiovascular disease.

Mild differences are not uncommon and should not cause worry. But if the difference in systolic pressure is greater than 10 mm HG, this could mean an artery in that arm has narrowed, possibly from atherosclerosis. And that could mean that blood flow is impeded to vital organs like the heart or brain.

The study analyzed data from seven other studies.

Staff Members Making the News

Please join me in welcoming our newest employee Keisha Jones. At the moment, you will most likely find Keisha working with Sonnet and Dajana on the Venture Team.

Keisha, I am so happy that you have joined our team. I have great hopes for you within our company in the future.

Don't stop when you're tired. STOP when you are DONE.

~ Unknown

Hard lessons about purchases and returns

A box can tell you a lot about a product, but you don't know if the product is in the box until you open it.

That lesson has been painfully clear to a small number of shoppers who thought they were buying an iPad but ended up with something else.

According to the Consumerist.com, shoppers should open expensive items in the store, in front of the clerk before leaving. In admittedly rare, but costly, situations, what you get when you open the box is not what you paid for.

In January 2013, a New Jersey woman bought an iPad from a major retailer. The box contained a useless display iPad. Complaints all the way up the corporate ladder got her nothing until the local media got involved.

One weird case was a Miami man who in November 2012 says he bought an iPad. The box was full of random items, including a fishing sinker wrapped in white tape.

In Detroit, two separate customers said they received iPad boxes full of notepads.

One clever criminal bought an iPad, took the device out of the box and then shrink wrapped the box before returning it without the device inside. Naturally, a customer bought it and was accused of being a scammer even though she tried to return the purchase minutes later.

The Consumerist advises purchasers of electronics to open the box in the store and see if the device works before leaving.

February Cleaning Special!

Sofa Vacuuming

The ladies will lift up the sofa cushions and vacuum in all the nooks and crannies of the sofa frame, vacuum the cushions, and put the sofa back together.

\$25.00 for Prospective or Occasional clients

\$14.99 for Monthly, Bi-weekly, Weekly Clients

This sweetheart's deal will **expire 2/28/2017**.

The calendar is filling up fast. Call today for your appointment.

Calling new clients...

Date Night on Us!!!

Claim Offer Today --- don't forget--
Purchase regular weekly or twice per month cleanings at least 3 months in advance and your next Date Night is on us!!!

Receive 2 free movie tickets, a restaurant gift card and a babysitter for your next date night!

New clients offer only!!!

Enjoy yourselves and leave the cleaning to us!!!

Date Night offer **expires 2/28/2017**.