



Thanksgiving and Christmas are Busiest Seasons for Plumbers

Roto-Rooter offers tips to keep the Plumber away this Holiday Season

For Immediate Release

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(December 14, 2011)--Cincinnati, OH –The holiday season brings joy, happiness, merriment and inevitably, stress. A majority of Americans take part in holiday parties with 11 or more guests around both Thanksgiving and Christmas. These extra guests can put a serious strain on home plumbing systems, which results in more emergency service calls for plumbers. Big holiday meals require preparation. That means lots of grease and food is put down the kitchen drain into the garbage disposal. **Holiday guests equate to extra showers, baths and lots of extra toilet flushes. It all adds up to one thing: Plumbing emergencies.** “Nobody wants their holiday ruined by a clogged drain so when they call us they want immediate assistance, it’s like they’re dialing 9-1-1, said Larry Rothman, master plumber for Roto-Rooter.

Roto-Rooter, America’s largest provider of plumbing and drain cleaning services, reports that the day after Thanksgiving, “Black Friday,” is its busiest day of the year. The day after Christmas is typically the company’s second busiest day of the year. Roto-Rooter’s job count will jump almost 50% on Black Friday over an average Friday. The four-day Thanksgiving weekend brings an increase of 21% over any other Thursday through Sunday period this year. **Depending on how it falls on the calendar, the day after Christmas can boost Roto-Rooter’s business by anywhere from 20% to 40% over a normal day.** “It’s all hands on deck the day after both Thanksgiving and Christmas and that includes dispatchers, plumbers and drain cleaners,” said Rothman. “People get so caught up in the holiday madness that it’s no wonder they don’t think about the stress put on our pipes during the holiday season.” According to Roto-Rooter, pipes clog because of a buildup of grease, hair, soap or food debris.

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By taking a few precautions, holiday hosts and hostesses can help avoid stop-ups and a visit from their local plumber. Roto-Rooter recommends the following:

In the kitchen:

- Avoid pouring fats or cooking oils down the drain because fats solidify in the pipes and create clogs. Wipe congealed grease from pots and pans and dispose of in the trash.
- Never place stringy, fibrous waste into the garbage disposal (poultry skins, carrots, celery, pumpkin parts or banana peels). Your disposal can't sufficiently grind these items and they will clog your sink drain.
- Run cold water down the drain for about 15 seconds before and after using the garbage disposal in order to flush waste down the main line.
- Make sure the disposal is running when you put food debris into it. Don't wait until it's full to turn it on.

In the bathroom:

- Plan ahead. Spread out showers throughout the day; wait 10 minutes between showers rather than taking one right after another.
- Provide a trash bin in the bathroom so the toilet isn't used as a garbage can. Never flush cotton swabs, cotton balls, hair, facial scrub pads or similar items down a toilet. These items will not easily dissolve and they are responsible for most clogs.
- If your drains are running slowly, treat them with retail drain cleaning products long before company arrives.
- If you need a plumber, don't wait until the holidays to call. You'll get faster services and pay less if you call before the holiday.

Roto-Rooter was established in 1935 and is the largest provider of plumbing and drain cleaning services in North America. Roto-Rooter operates businesses in more than 115 company-owned territories and more than 500 franchise territories, serving approximately 91 percent of the U.S. population and 55 percent of the Canadian population. Roto-Rooter offers service 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. For more information and to see a selection of our current news releases, please visit our online pressroom at www.rotorooter.com

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