



# CREATIVE HOUSING

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# CREATIVE RENOVATIONS



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# Affordable Housing A Group Effort: *We Need Your Help*

Last week a neighbor called to complain that there was a small amount of trash on the front lawn of a Creative Housing home. A Creative Housing maintenance tech was dispatched to pick up the trash. Afterwards I found myself wondering about how many people walked by the litter and didn't do anything about it. Instead we incurred the cost of having a maintenance tech drive several miles to take care of a problem that could readily be solved by someone living in, working in, or visiting the property.

In the coming months programs serving people with disabilities are going to face budget cuts. We at Creative Housing are committed to managing those cuts and still provide quality housing to our tenants. Do remember though, we incur an expense every time we send one of our staff to your property. Creative Housing staff are always here to handle maintenance issues but if all of us become involved in the care of our properties we can better manage our costs. Weeding a flower bed, picking up tree branches and litter are simple tasks that anyone can do. It helps keep our properties in good shape. Its a great way to meet your neighbors. Most importantly, it is the type of teamwork between Creative Housing, Tenants, Providers, and families that needs to happen to strengthen our program in the face of coming financial challenges.

Patrick Rafter  
CEO



# CREATIVE HOUSING

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## Best Plants for Container Gardens

- Snap Beans
- Cucumber
- Carrots
- Onions



## A Few Words from *Groundskeeping...*

A garden is a great idea and we love when our tenants want to have one. Creative Housing usually recommends the first year or two you try doing a container garden. If a container garden works for a year or two, then we can talk about a location and type of garden for the future.



*Jim Miller in his Creative Housing Home*





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# From the Maintenance Department...

## Garbage Disposal Do's and Don'ts:

Ever wonder if something should go down the disposal or into the trash? When in doubt, throw it out!

### DO...

- Do run your garbage disposal regularly. Frequent use prevents rust and corrosion, assures that all parts stay moving and prevents obstructions from accumulating.
- Do throw leftover food away in the trash. The disposal is intended to handle residual scraps that may be stuck to your plate, not large amounts of food.
- Do keep your garbage disposal clean. Pour a little dish soap inside and let the garbage disposal run for a minute or so with some cold water after washing dishes.
- Do use cold water. Turn on a cool stream of water before turning on the garbage disposal. Once the food has been broken down, turn off the disposal and leave the water running for a few seconds to flush the pipe.
- Hot water can melt the food your disposal is trying to grind up, allowing the waste to cling to the sides.
- Cold water, on the other hand, hardens food, making it easier for the garbage disposal to grind it up and push it out the drain pipe.

### DON'T...

- Don't put anything in the garbage disposal that is not food. A garbage disposal is not a trash can; it's for food scraps only. Non-food items can damage both blades and the motor.
- Don't pour grease, oil or fat into your garbage disposal or drain. Grease will slowly accumulate and impede your garbage disposal's grinding ability as well as clog drains.
- Don't put the following food items into the disposal. They should be thrown in the trash:
  - Fibrous material like Corn Husks, Celery Stalks, Onion Skins, and Artichokes
  - Expandable foods like Pasta and Rice (Cooked or Uncooked)
  - Bones, Large seeds, Pits
  - Egg Shells
  - Coffee Grounds
  - Potato Peel
  - Grease, Oil or Fat

## USING A FOOD WASTE DISPOSER IS EASY!





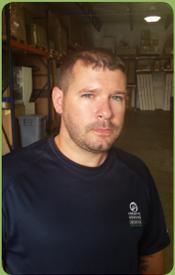
# CREATIVE HOUSING CREATIVE RENOVATIONS



## Meet Matt

Our newest field technician Matt has been with us since March. If you see him at your house, please say

hello and welcome him to the Creative Housing family.



## A convo with Joe

Our Field Tech Joe has been a dedicated Creative Housing employee for 4 years.

Recently, we asked him a few questions about his time at Creative Housing.

Here's what he had to say:

- **What is your favorite part about your job?**

*My work family and the satisfaction of what I do every day.*

- **What is your fondest memory since starting at CHI?**

*Making personal connections with the tenants especially around holidays and during night calls.*

- **What is it about CHI that has kept you here for so long?**

*The teamwork with my work family that helps me strive to be better every day.*

- **What's 1 tip for our tenants that you would give?**

*Don't hesitate to talk to us while we are out at your house. We are happy to answer house related questions if we can.*



## Save on your summer electric bill!

The warm temperatures outside can mean your air conditioning is working hard. Here are a couple helpful tips to help keep your home comfortable, while keeping utility bills down. The following suggestions for cleaning grout are ranked from the mildest to the strongest:

- Choose a temperature that is agreeable to all tenants.
- If you leave for the day, increase the temperature by 1 to 3 degrees.
- Ensure all vents are open for maximum air flow.
- Turn the fan to the ON position and open bedroom and bathroom doors. This will help circulate the air, helping maintain a consistent temperature throughout the home.

We often find improperly closed windows when responding to "warm room" maintenance requests. Below are a few pictures to help illustrate how to ensure the window locks are properly engaged.



Example of improperly engaged lock: The locking mechanism is in the fully locked position but not engaged. It is closed over top of the outer window lock receiver.



Example of improperly engaged lock: The locking mechanism is half-turned in the locking position, but not engaged with the other half of the window.



Example of properly engaged lock: The locking mechanism is fully engaged in the lock and there is a visible tight fit at the lock.



## From the Desks of our Rent Subsidy Department....

We would like to remind you that if you have issues with your air conditioning to please contact your landlord immediately.

Rent Subsidy would like to reiterate that in cases of a bed bug infestation please contact Creative Housing as well as the landlord as soon as possible.

Have a safe and wonderful Summer!

## Stay Connected!



There are always new and exciting things going on at Creative Housing|Creative Renovations. Do you want to be the first to know what is going on with our homes and services? Check out our website [www.creativehousing.org](http://www.creativehousing.org) and subscribe to our newsletter, or send us your information to [frontdesk@creativehousing.org](mailto:frontdesk@creativehousing.org) – be sure to include your full contact information and whether or not you are a tenant, family member, guardian or provider, and we will sign you up.

## Leasing News...

The leasing department would like to remind you that wrapping drip pans and placing aluminum foil in the bottom of the oven is not permitted. Aluminum foil on drip pans are a fire hazard, it may result in shock, cause the circuit board to short out, and start a fire.

Using aluminum foil to line the oven bottom is also a fire hazard. Foil may be used to catch spills by placing a sheet on the rack beneath the pan. Do not use more foil than necessary, and never entirely cover the rack with foil.

## What's Happening in Creative Renovations - 2017

Our Creative Renovation team has been working harder than ever this year to provide safe, accessibility renovations from many clients throughout central Ohio. We are committed to continuing to educate the community on how either you or a loved one can remain in their home by making simple accessibility modifications that will assist in keeping them safe in the home they love. We've been continuing our outreach to the community to continue to educate the public on new products and services and successfully completed our 3rd year in a row of sponsorship for Safety Month in This Week Community Newspapers.



*Since 1992*

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## Spread the word

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter or be added to our electronic mailing list, please let us know. Also, we welcome articles, advertisements and opinions by Creative Housing tenants. Send items for consideration to:

**Creative Housing, Inc.  
2233 Citygate Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43219**

*Building Beyond Accessibility.*

*Since 1992*

**INDEPENDENT. LIVING.**