



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**October 25, 2010**

## **Living Comfortably and Safely with Appliances**

*- Tips to keep your home appliances working safely and properly -*

**Irvine, CA** - Our home appliances can be our best friends or worst enemies. When working properly, they make everyday living more convenient and comfortable. But, when we don't regularly maintain them, they can become very dangerous household companions.

"In the morning we take a hot shower, heat up our breakfast and turn up the thermostat all without giving a thought to how it happens; when we turn that knob, the hot water, flame or heat is there," said Mike Rogers, Vice President of GreenHomes America, the nation's leading provider of home performance contracting services. "One thing we must not take for granted is the safety and upkeep of these domestic devices. By following a few simple steps, the safety of our living spaces is much more secure."

The first thing we can do to insure a safe coexistence with household appliances is to have a licensed contractor do a yearly inspection of all gas piping, appliances, and heating systems in

our homes. “This type of preventative action may seem excessive, but think of it like taking your car to a mechanic,” added Rogers. “An expert can detect problems before they become dangerous.”

Aside from having yearly inspections performed by a professional, there is much more you can do to remain safe. Always run kitchen exhaust fans when gas appliances are being used and make sure all carbon monoxide (CO) detectors have fresh batteries. Also, take notice of changes in how your appliances are functioning, and be cautious of any strange smells or noises. Call a licensed contractor immediately if you notice any of the following red flags (courtesy of Vermont Gas):

- Gas flames that appear pale or wavy
- Gaps, rust or blocks in vents, or vents that do not lead outdoors
- Strange smells. Appliances that use natural gas will omit a foul odor similar to rotten eggs if leaking.
- Appliances that are rusted or are covered in thick dust
- Problems with furnace air filters, such as clogs, excessive dirt or the complete absence of filters
- Appliance valves that are missing, or improperly installed
- The absence of a fire door on a gas appliance
- Soot near burners or vents
- Gas burners in a garage installed less than 18 inches above the floor
- Venting that does not conform to the manufacturers recommendations
- Discoloration around burners, access doors or vent area
- Noisy appliances

- Water/flood damaged appliances

**Important Tip:** Never store flammable liquids such as paint thinners or gasoline near appliances, and never hang things on gas piping or vents, including rags or clothes.

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Irvine-based GreenHomes America is the premier industry-accredited, single-source provider of home performance contracting (HPC) in the U.S., with locations nationally. GreenHomes America offers an award-winning home improvement service that significantly enhances the comfort, energy efficiency, and air quality of existing single- and multi-family homes. GreenHomes America delivers a full line of home performance and HVAC services including comprehensive home energy audits, windows and doors, high-efficiency furnaces, boilers, and water heaters, insulation and air-sealing, indoor air quality, and solar systems. We guarantee to save homeowners at least 25% on their energy usage. GreenHomes America works with *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR*, is a Building Performance Institute (BPI) accredited organization, and is a founding member of Efficiency First. For more information on GreenHomes America, call 1.877.867.2833 or visit [www.greenhomesamerica.com](http://www.greenhomesamerica.com).