



DANGER! DANGER! DANGER!

**FREE-STANDING RANGES
CAN TIP OVER!**

This is a fictional story, BUT this could happen in YOUR kitchen:

The cookies are 'hidden' in the kitchen (of course, the kids know they are there) in the upper cupboards next to the range. Little 'Jack' wants a cookie before supper. Supper is already simmering on two of the top burners and the smells are making everyone, including the kids, a bit hungry.

When no one is looking Jack decides he will open the oven door and use it as a step to get those cookies that are almost in reach. His weight on the oven door, however, is too much and the range begins to tip toward him. He cannot stop the two pans from sliding from the top, nor can he stop the entire range from tumbling toward him!

FICTION? Yes. But, read the following excerpt from a FACTUAL news story:

Sears Settles Lawsuit over Stoves

Sears Holdings Corp. will install safety brackets on its stoves in millions of households or offer gift cards in settling an Illinois class-action lawsuit over the appliances' propensity to topple.

Under an agreement signed off in the first quarter of 2008 by a Madison County Illinois judge, Sears will offer to fix all brands of its freestanding or slide-in kitchen ranges in as many as 3.9 million homes by securing them to the wall or floor.

This agreement covers Sears ranges sold from mid-2000 through late 2007 when a judge granted the settlement temporary approval. The agreement resolves a class action lawsuit dating back to July 2004, also requiring Sears to install safety brackets in newly purchased ranges for the next three years.

Consumers will have the option of having an anti-tip device installed for free, receiving \$100 if they already had Sears or a third party install the device, or getting a \$50 gift card to help pay for a new, regularly-priced stove from Sears if they don't want the anti-tip device installed.

More than 100 people have been killed or injured from scalding burns or being crushed by a range without an anti-tip device properly installed. If you have questions about your range and any safety concerns including tipping, call us and we can discuss and answer your questions. If range tipping is determined to be an issue or a concern, we can install the proper safety bracket for your range.

Don't ignore this article! We put it on the front page for a reason!

THIS IS IMPORTANT. IT COULD BE LIFE OR DEATH IMPORTANT!



All About... Gas Leaks



Natural gas is a widely-used, safe, clean-burning and efficient fuel. In order to burn, natural gas must mix with the proper amount of air and then be ignited by a spark or flame. Gas leaks are dangerous because of the flammable and explosive nature of the fuel in uncontrolled conditions.

Pure natural gas is colorless and odorless. Before the gas is delivered to your home, an odorant called *mercaptan* is added to give gas a smell like rotten eggs making it easier to recognize dangerous leaks. Have everyone in your home learn to recognize this special smell and know what to do if a leak is suspected.

FAINT SMELL OF GAS

If a faint smell of gas is noticed, check to see if all burner valves are turned off properly and if all

pilot lights are lit. Open windows to vent the area and wait fifteen minutes before relighting pilots. If the odor persists – even faint ones – contact your natural gas supplier immediately.

STRONG SMELL OF GAS

If the gas odor is strong, or the smell does not go away, or you hear a hissing sound caused by a severe leak, you should leave immediately taking everyone with you including any pets. Go to a neighbor's home and call your natural gas supplier immediately.

It is a good idea to keep the phone number to report gas leaks in a prominent and easily accessible place. Gas supply and utility companies respond to gas leak calls 24 hours a day.

IF YOU SUSPECT A GAS LEAK... FOLLOW THESE IMPORTANT RULES:

- Do not use telephones or cellular phones
- Do not use light switches
- Do not use doorbells or garage door openers
- Do not use any electronic devices
- Do not smoke or use a match or lighter or other open flame
- Do not operate vehicles
- Do not operate any power equipment

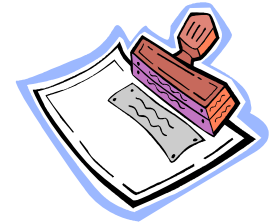
GEO QUIZ CORNER (Answer on Page 4)



What large body of water separates Vietnam from the Philippine Islands?

If you don't know the answer, ask the closest 5th grader!

Product Registration Cards



Should you fill them

According to the Federal Citizen Information Center, there are three main reasons that manufacturers ask you to fill out these registration cards:

1. To activate the product warranty
2. To be able to contact you in the case of a recall
3. To lure you into giving them marketing information that will help THEM and that they will possibly use for future direct marketing campaigns directed at YOU.

Follow the below guidelines and you should be safe:

If the card says you must return the card to validate and put the warranty into effect, YOU SHOULD RETURN IT.

In order to protect yourself in case of a recall, return the card with only your name and address and the model number. Forget all the other questions they desire.

If returning the card is not a condition of warranty and it only contains question after question concerning your personal life, stuff it in the waste basket.

Extended Warranty Statistics



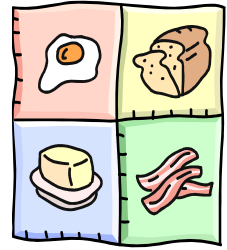
According to industry expert Eric Arnum, Americans spend approximately \$9 billion on warranties every year. It is estimated that for every 100 warranties sold on electronics and appliances, only 15 people ever file a claim. That's a huge hunk of money spent for 'peace of mind'! If you want that peace of mind, you must realize what you are paying for.

Here are some things to think about before deciding to purchase an extended warranty or even when contemplating the purchase of a new appliance versus a repair of the existing appliance:

- Is there duplication of coverage from the warranty that comes with the manufacturer?
- Most stores give you 30 days to mull over the contract. Take some time to think about it and don't make an "impulse" decision.
- Generally, repairs cost less than 20-25% of the cost of a new appliance. Get a repair estimate first so that you have something to compare to the cost of replacement.
- Determine what is excluded from the extended warranty since all repairs are not necessarily covered.
- Determine the names of the service companies in your area that are authorized to fulfill the terms of the warranty. Then, find out something about company reputation and reliability. How long have they been in business and what is their track record?
- In general and as a guideline, a warranty plan should not cost more than 20% of the product price.
- Feel free to shop around for an extended warranty. These contracts are generally sold by third-party insurers. Make sure any contract is backed by a high rated insurance company. Otherwise, all you have is a worthless piece of paper!

Eating Healthy

Nutrition



There is so much food at the supermarkets that SOUND so doggone healthy! However, unless you know what the food packaging and labeling terms really mean, you will definitely be surprised. Pay close attention to Serving Size. The following information is from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (www.fda.gov)

- Fat-free: less than 0.5 grams of fat per serving
- Sugar-free: less than 0.5 grams of sugar per serving
- Light: one-third fewer calories or 50% less fat *compared to the original product*
- Low-fat: 3 grams or less of fat per serving
- Low-calorie: 40 calories or less per serving
- Low-sodium: 140 mg or less of sodium per serving

As noted above the KEY WORD here is SERVING SIZE! READ those nutrition labels.

Calorie Quiz

What household activity burns the most calories?

- A. Doing laundry
- B. Vacuuming
- C. Cleaning house

Answer: A



Based upon a 150-pound adult, doing laundry burns 133 calories per half hour. Just so you don't feel too silly for choosing 'b' or 'c', the other two options are close: cleaning house burns 127 calories and vacuuming burns 123 calories.



GOT AN ALLERGY?

The following information is nothing to sneeze

Are you an allergy sufferer? Wouldn't it be nice if you could obtain information on pollen conditions within your own county or better yet – maybe in an area of the U.S. that you'll be visiting soon? Now you can! Here are several helpful websites:

According to a recent article in the Wall Street Journal written by Nancy Matsumoto, you can receive free, two-day email alerts for U.S. locations (by ZIP Code) at www.pollen.com. On this site, email alerts are triggered whenever pollen levels within a given ZIP Code reach 4.0 or above on a scale of 0 to 12. Four-day allergy forecasts are also available.

If you would like to learn more about the pollen-producing trees, grasses and weeds in your county, just enter your ZIP Code at www.pollenlibrary.com.

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) has a website that monitors over 70 pollen-counting stations in North America and Argentina (in case you are traveling there).

The AAAAI site is www.aaaai.org/nab/index.cfm (click on pollen counts).

Lastly, here's another website monitoring pollen counts in Europe with links to other countries - www.polleninfo.org.

Washer/Dryer Vibration and Noise Issues



Does it sound like there is a helicopter hovering in your laundry room when your washer begins to spin?

If your washer is on a pedestal, or stacked or sitting in a drain pan, vibration and noise can be a real problem!

Call us today and we'll show you how using specially designed vibration isolation/noise reduction pads can take the 'shake away'. These pads from KE ShakeAway do not stop the machine from vibrating, but nine out of ten times they will reduce or eliminate the transfer of that vibration and noise to your floor support structure. Go to www.keshakeaway.com for more information.

Get rid of that helicopter....call us today.

**Geo Quiz
Corner**



**Trivia Question from Page
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