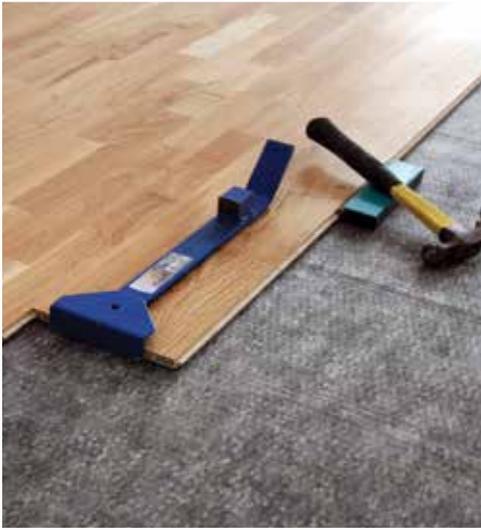


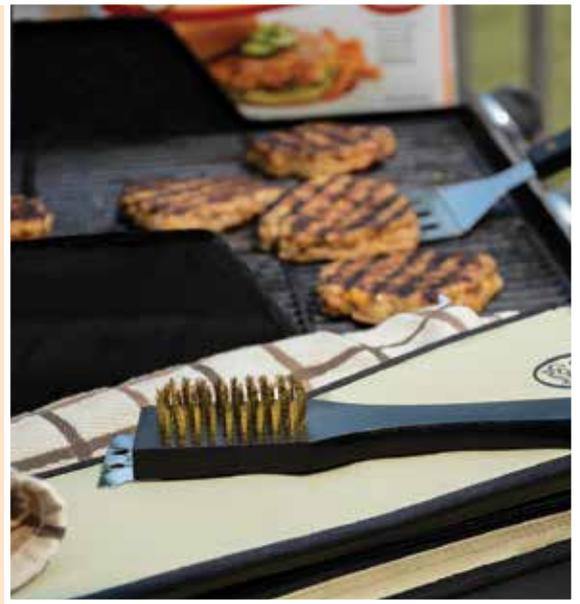
Applications to Deaden Unwanted Sounds



Although many condominiums have adequate sound suppression between units, some can leave much to be desired, especially when you consider the impressive audio effects of the latest home theatre systems. Fortunately, there are products on the market that are designed to deaden sounds and are available with specialized installation kits. Some materials can be applied directly to your walls or ceiling, while other substrates are intended to be layered under carpet or other flooring surfaces. Choosing the right membrane and thickness for your application may require a professional evaluation, but could prove to be well worth the initiative and cost.

Barbecue Brush-Off: Metal Bristles Can be Hazardous

If you enjoy frequent outdoor grilling, you may be relying on the use of a heavy-duty brush to keep your cooking surface clean and free of residue accumulated from just-finished or previously prepared foods. Many of these brushes have fine bristles made of metal for a more thorough scrubbing. Users should be very cautious about using these. There have been a number of reports indicating that some bristles can break off and subsequently get picked up by fresh food placed on the grill, creating a very serious hazard if they become ingested by an unsuspecting dinner guest. For safety's sake, consider replacing fine



metal bristle-brushes with a heavy metal gauge brush with more easily detectable bristles, or a steel-wool scrubber or synthetic cleaning pad designed to remain intact during heavy scouring.

Humidity Affects Your A-C Comfort

Whether you pay for your condo's air-conditioning costs directly or as part of your condo fees, you will want to find ways to bring down the temperature without having to crank up the A-C. One of the most effective things you can do is lower the humidity in your home, because humidity contributes to discomfort during warm days. So, to relieve your air-conditioning unit or system from having to remove excessive humidity before replacing it with drier air, consider using a portable de-humidifier in your most frequently used rooms during peak temperatures. There are many other ways to keep overall cooling costs down, and to make a contribution to saving energy in your community, such as closing drapery during the day, opening windows at night



when the air is cooler to create a breeze, and installing ceiling fans to push air down and create a wind chill effect.

Condo Security is not Always Secure

You might assume that a condominium's security system is significantly superior to a detached or semi-detached single family dwelling's system, but that sort of assumption overlooks some very disturbing occurrences that are inherent to many multi-unit complexes. Consider that a building's first line of defence is its main door, yet that is often its weakest and therefore easiest point of entry for burglars. After all, a building is only as secure as its most lax owner, and it's a well-known fact that many condo-dwellers are far too casual about allowing strangers into their buildings. Once that happens, burglars are able to roam relatively freely to make their move, presumably to break into a unit they know is unoccupied and poorly secured. A condo owner whose premises have been violated will take little comfort in knowing that there is likely evidence of the break-in on condo security cameras, as the thief will surely be long gone. For this reason, every unit owner should have



an independent security system that detects and sounds an alarm upon forced entry through the unit's entrance, balcony and windows.