



(860) 228-1036

## May - the Portal to Summer

May in Connecticut has always been a weather adventure but this year the adventure has been taken to extremes. We've had freezing nights followed by warm days that tease us with thoughts of summer. The pansies we all planted last month can withstand the freeze but those seedlings we have on our window sills will have to wait another few weeks before we can trust the weather enough to plant them in the ground.

### Vertical Gutter Garden

When Suzanne moved to Juneau Alaska from Iowa, she found that it was a little bit harder to get her garden to grow. Frustrated by cold soil, scarce sunlight, hungry slugs, root maggots, porcupines, cats, bears and ravens she got resourceful. She got her crops off the cold ground and into the light by affixing gutters to the wood siding of her house on the sunny side and using them as planters.



### On a more Serious Note

### Is There Lead in My Tap Water?

\* You probably know that lead can be harmful to your health. Just how harmful depends on how much lead gets into your body and stays there. Lead can come from a number of places: old paint, contaminated soil and, to a lesser but still significant degree, drinking water. Knowing how lead gets into your tap water - and what you can do to get it out - will reduce the health risks to your and your family.



What Can You Do?

Check with your local water department or have your water tested to see whether the service connected to your home or building contains lead.

The age of your home will tell you a lot too. Homes built before 1940 may have lead pipes. And lead solder was used to join copper pipes until Connecticut regulated "pipes and pipe fittings containing more than 8% lead shall not be used."



If you aren't sure about the pipes in your home, give us a call and have one of our technicians inspect them.

**If your pipes are made of lead, they should be replaced as soon as possible.**

If you have copper pipes joined with lead solder, it's a good idea to routinely flush the plumbing in your home before taking a drink. That's because water standing unused for as little as six hours in pipes joined with lead solder can contain harmful levels of lead.



## Actions You Can Take To Reduce Lead In Drinking Water

- **Flush Your Pipes Before Drinking**
- **Only Use Cold Water for Consumption**
- **Have Your Water Tested**

If you have any questions about your water system, don't ever hesitate in contacting us for advice and solutions.

We will have more helpful hints coming your way next month. If there is any issue you would like discussed, please let us know either by phone or email us at [resourcecenter@rapidservicellc.com](mailto:resourcecenter@rapidservicellc.com)

Rapid Service LLC - 59 Route 6 - Columbia CT 06237 (860) 2281036