

## Sounds your house makes, you should listen too.

Houses are made up of a combination of wood, glass, concrete and many other materials that, contract and expand throughout the day, all at different rates. They are also filled with many mechanical systems with moving parts all this leading to creaking, popping, and other strange sounds that might surprise you when you least expect it.

Often those rattles, creaks, clanks, and squeaks in your home are trying to tell you something. You become used to them over time, but if you have a noise that changes, becomes more persistent and you're getting concerned, it never hurts to call in the pros and get an opinion for your own peace of mind.

Working with many trades and many years of experience we've catalogued some of the more worrisome noises; what they likely mean, and in some case, how they can be remedied.

Now let's look/listen to a few home sounds you should pay closer attention to.

### THUMPING IN THE WASHER

We've all heard that thumping sound a washer sometimes makes — typically as a result of an unbalanced load. If it is more than an occasional occurrence it could mean a problem with your balance ring, which is a ring filled with fluid positioned around the tub to counterbalance your load. Most drums spin at a velocity of 1,000 to 1,200 RPM, and because there's not a lot of room in the machine, the drum is often very close to the control board. If you don't address that thumping, the drum in the machine could eventually come so far out of balance it starts smashing internal mechanics and cards — and that could result in an expensive repair. Call your favorite appliance guy to check it out sooner than later.



## SQUEAKING IN WASHER OR DRYER



With their belts, rollers, pulleys, and drums, washers and dryers have more moving parts than most appliances, and there are certain sounds in these complex machines that should get your attention. Never ignore a squeak because it's likely metal on metal rubbing together at a high velocity. A little squeak could develop into a big problem like a complete drum collapsing. I was in a parts shop picking up water filters for a client and overheard a repair tech talking to the parts associate telling them "The dryer drum cut in half, the clothing fell into the heater area and damn near started a fire."

New and strange squeak – call an appliance service specialist before it's too late.

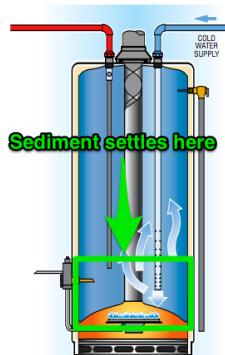
## FURNACE WHISTLING

When in the basement, winter or summer, and your furnace is running but you hear a sucking/whistling noise over the rumble of the blower motor running. This is likely the result of the filter being clogged, cause the furnace to work much harder and longer to do its job. The danger of this is that it is pulling air around the filter and could possibly be sucking exhaust gasses from the furnace into the house.

The solution is simple – change every 3 months, and if you have pets or a woodworker in the house, check the filter on a monthly basis. If this isn't the issue have you HVAC tech for other possible problems.



## HOT WATER TANK



Again, in the basement you hear bubbling and/or crackling sounds coming from your hot-water tank. Water heaters are pretty much like kettles heating water. A fire is lit, or the electric element heats up to warm the water inside until it's ready for use. Over time a lot of sediment can build up at the bottom of your tank and this sediment works as an insulator forcing the heater to work harder. The strange noise you hear is the bubbling sediment – a sign your tank is probably facing a premature failure.

Depending on your area you should consider flushing the tank every couple of years. My last tank lasted 34-years while average is 8-10. Simply shut water off to the tank and connect a hose from valve at bottom of the tank to you closest drain, then open and drain. Once empty turn the water back on so as water fills the tank from top is stirs up the sediment and flushes it out. After 5- minutes close and put the tank back into service. If you do not wish to do this call your local handyman.

## **SQUEAKING FLOORS**

If your home has wood floors you might get used to hearing squeaks here and there. If the sounds are becoming more prominent, I'd advise against such sounds go. I often hear squeaky floors get dismissed as, 'Oh, it's just an old home,' but floors that are starting to squeak more than they used to could mean termite or carpenter-ant damage. Check for sign of these pests such as a tapping in the walls which is soldier ants banging their heads, or Fras (termite droppings) as well as doors/windows sticking all of a sudden. They also cause damage on a floor joist that can cause a floor to slant or sag. If you're not sure ask you favorite handyman to check on their next visit or engage a local and reputable exterminator.



## **BANG – BANG – BANG!!**

That wild hammering you hear isn't a helpful carpenter ghost coming back to fix things—for better or worse. If the sound is coming from the walls, it could be a "pressure hammer"—air pressure in the water pipes.

This might be especially pronounced after flushing a toilet or turning on a faucet or turning one off very quickly. The sound doesn't have to be anywhere near that toilet or faucet, either. Since the pipes run all through the house, turning on a faucet in the kitchen could lead to a banging sound under the bedroom. Try turning off the water at the main, then draining all the lines. This often "resets" the water in the pipes, thus eliminating the hammering. If it is a continuing issue you may require an arrestor installed in the plumbing system either your local handyman or a plumber can do.



## Buzzing around lights, switches or outlet.

If you hear a buzzing coming from outlets or light fixtures, that's usually a sign of a loose connection. Loose connections can cause sparking, which can lead to electrical fires. Best to have your local handyman or electrician check that out quickly.

## WALLS THAT DRIP

If you hear a dripping sound in your walls you could have leaky pipes, especially if you're noticing a musty smell along with it. If you hear water running—even though no one is using it—check the house for running toilets or sticking flappers suggests, Tony Banwell, master plumber. Also check if your, dishwasher, or washing machine is running, check your outside hose taps and possibly sprinkler system if you have one. If you're still stumped, I would turn off the house's water and check for visible water damage throughout the home, look for water pooling in the yard, around the outside of the house, or in the crawl space. Examine the possibility of a blocked gutter overflowing into your attic. Whatever you do – don't ignore water sounds, they can become extremely costly.

## SOUNDS IN THE ATTIC

Invading animals can make a number of sounds in an attic or crawlspace, from chewing and squeaking to scratching and scurrying. While most homeowners are unlikely to ignore such sounds, they may not know the right way to address them. I'd recommend you call a professional, because critter lit rats and raccoons, for example, carry a roundworm that can pass into the animals' feces and infect humans and dogs. A professional exterminator will be able to remove the animals and clean the affected area safely.



## SQUEALING/CLANING FROM AC

When the weather heats up, owners of homes with central air might notice different sounds coming from their AC. The air handler makes a high-pitched whining sound, as mentioned before – check that air filter.

In addition, air conditioners, especially window ones, can vibrate a lot, loosening parts that cause banging or clanging sounds over time, a squealing could mean your fan belt

is loose, and gurgling could mean you need to refill the refrigerant. Bottom line? Have your unit serviced by an HVAC professional.”

## **SCRAPPING ON THE ROOF or SIDING**

Some scraping sounds you might think are coming from your attic may actually be outside. Trees near your house could be scraping on the siding or roof shingles and over time they could wear down. New composite shingles have porcelain, and once that's scraped off you just have tar and paper, and you'll be leaking in no time.” If this is the case call an arborist or roofer.

When in doubt feel free to give My Go-2-Guy a call to investigate. If we can not fix it, we know many certified trade specialists with excellent reputations we can refer you to.