



Home repair blog can save money, prevent headaches

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Published: 19 April 2013 04:29 PM

Major appliance repairs, lawn-mower malfunctions and heating and air conditioning tuneups give homeowners headaches. But wait: There's help on your computer, assuming *it* is not on the fritz.

A new blog, DIY.RepairClinic.com, puts a fresh face on a service that helps homeowners be their own handymen. Since 1999, RepairClinic.com has offered help in the form of information on how things are supposed to work — and what to do when they break.

If nothing else, you might avoid some of the no-repair repair bills, like logging an HVAC service call when nothing is needed but a filter change. Or, in the case of the most recent service trip to our house to fix a lazy ice maker (clearly a First World problem), the remedy turned out to be cleaning the refrigerator coils and setting the freezer temperature lower.

While RepairClinic.com is a reference work that boasts of having 1,000 videos about home repair, the blog is more of a news service with serendipitous items. Blog entries report product safety recalls and ways to avoid dryer fires, for example.

The best part is the potential argument-settler: How do you correctly load a dishwasher anyway? The part of flatware that touches your mouth, like the bowl of a spoon, should be facing up, and the sharp ends of knives should be facing down.

RepairClinic.com is powered by sales of appliance parts, but even if you never buy a brush, belt or fan assembly, checking it out might improve your appliance street smarts.

Betsy Simnacher is a Cedar Hill freelance writer.

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