

Q News for May 1

Here's what's happening in your community

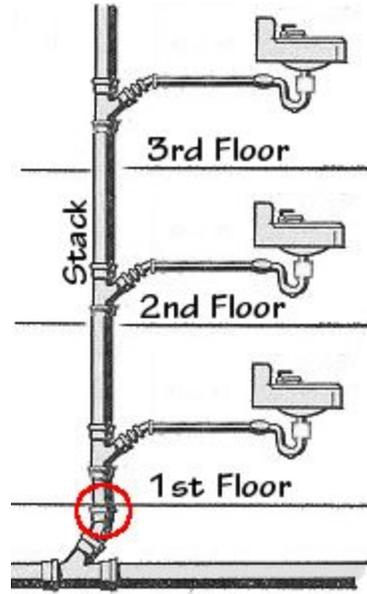
An Oldie but Goodie

In brief: A sink overflow backup occurred last night to a neighbor in Building 3. The backup caused significant damage to the unit and to the residents' personal belongings. Every Quintet owner will contribute to the cost of making repairs repairs and replacing those items that were damaged.

There appeared to be two causes. First, excessive amounts of fiber (vegetables) were noted in the flood water. Second—and what should never be put down a drain—was grease. The combination of these two items caused a very serious plug in the waste line.

To contribute to this issue, the unit owner had changed the deadbolt lock and failed to provide the office with a required spare key. A plumber was called. Water flowed for an additional 1.5 hours before staff could get inside.

Below, an oldie but goodie from the Q News that was published two years ago. Please take the time to read it again. And by the way, if the office doesn't have a spare key to your unit, *take care of it!*



Plumbing: What's the Stink?

In brief: Garbage disposals and multi-level living structures don't always play nice together. People can suffer. Here's how you can learn about it.

Forgive the headline. It's late here in the newsroom. But hey: we're about to discuss plumbing. A little levity helps.

Pictured above are three kitchen sinks on three of the Quintet's five floors. Each sink empties into a common "stack," which eventually finds its way into horizontal drain lines in the garage.

Now imagine a clog in the stack where we've drawn the red circle. With the stack clogged, the neighbor on the third floor empties his sink and drainage begins to back up above the red circle. Where's the drainage going to go?

If you said into the sink on the first floor, you're right. And if there's a lot of drainage, it overflows the sink on the first floor and spills onto the kitchen floor, something that

always seems to happen when the first-floor resident is away. People who live on the first floors of the Quintet are not amused when discussing this issue.

What's the most common cause of clogging in kitchen-sink stacks? Residue from garbage disposals. Egg shells. Coffee. Stuff that becomes (essentially) sand when it's ground up in a garbage disposal and flushed down the stack.

Garbage-disposal etiquette is cardinal in a multi-level community like ours. Failure to follow garbage-disposal etiquette is akin to clog dancing on your hardwood floors or operating a meth lab in your kitchen.

We've spent six paragraphs on the subject and that's enough for the News, but we all can benefit from a bit of education on the subject. Steve Meyer has written a brief article about garbage-disposal etiquette that has been published in numerous publications over the years. You'll find it [here](#). Take a few minutes to become familiar with it. The guy on the first floor will appreciate it.

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That's it for today. The Q News is published by the Quintet Communications Committee. The most recent issues are available on [the Quintet website](#). If you would like to contribute (Have something to sell? Help wanted? An announcement? Praise?), please address an email to commcomm@thequintet.com. Photos are accepted where appropriate. We will probably edit for length and content.