

NEWSFLASH

Monthly Newsletter

June, 2009



Happy Birthday

- J M BOWMAN 6/4**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- ROXANNA KIMMEL 6/4**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- ADAM REED 6/10**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- LINDA HENSON 6/11**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- KATHLEEN MC LEOD 6/12**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- ELI SCHWINLER 6/14**
FLOOR-WINDOW TECHNICIAN
- DAN DOOLEY 6/16**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- BERT KOZLOWSKI 6/23**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- HERBIE SANDERS III 6/27**
FLOOR-WINDOW TECHNICIAN

Anniversaries!

Employees who have worked for our company for one or more years:

- KEITH CARLSON 11 YEARS!!**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- BRONYA DEAKINS 9 YEARS!**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- BEN ISENBERG 8 YEARS!**
CERTIFIED CARPET CLEANING TECHNICIAN
- ADAM REED 7 YEARS!**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- ELI SCHWINLER 7 YEARS!**
FLOOR-WINDOW TECHNICIAN
- STEVE LAPEERE 6 YEARS!**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- BRYAN BAKER 6 YEARS!**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- MICHAEL OLSON 3 YEARS!**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- MARGIE JONES 3 YEARS!**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- MONTY JONES 3 YEARS!**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- RON LEE 1 YEAR**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- ROXANNA KIMMEL 1 YEAR**
SERVICE ASSOCIATE

Save the date!
Our company Picnic
is on July 25th
at Emerald Park
from 4-7PM

Why Do I Have to Work so Hard?

Does it feel like the demands of your job are increasing? Does the customer really want more and your Team Leader is asking you to work as efficiently as possible? Well, the answers are YES & YES! We are going through "tough times" right now. Of course, I don't need to tell you that. Even if you don't listen to the news or read the newspaper, you probably know the economy is shrinking and wages and jobs are disappearing.

Fortunately, Brothers has many loyal and appreciative customers. Even so, some of our customers have been forced to cut back on their janitorial service to help them save money to get through this challenging situation. We've worked with these customers to try and make these cuts as painless as possible.

So, what is the result when this happens? Many Service Associates have had their hours cut or lost them. Some clients have requested less service and some of their employees may not be happy about it, especially the ones that have to do the work themselves. Customers still need our services, but they sometimes find it difficult to accept less service when they have been accustomed to a much higher level of cleaning. It's a trying time for all of us.

I want to encourage you to "hang in there"! We appreciate you and need you. Our customers need you. I do not know how long our economic woes will last, BUT IT WILL GET BETTER! Thanks for your hard work. Please continue to "MAKE A HAPPY CUSTOMER" by doing your best. My door is always open if you want to discuss this more or want to talk about your job or account issues. (Please call or e-mail me to set a time to get together - joe@brotherscleaning.com) Thank you! —Joe Isenberg, General Manager

Ask Mr. Know-it-All

Dear Mr. Know-it-All: I've been hearing a lot of hype recently about microfiber towels and mops. Are these as good as I've heard? I mean, are they any better than the cotton towels and mops I'm already using? Maupbey Quick

Dear Maupbey Quick: Yes, Microfiber used for cleaning is superior to cotton or other natural fiber products in many ways. Commercial microfiber products are constructed from very fine 100% polyester fibers that are only 1/16th the diameter of a human hair. The fibers are then split creating crevices (see figure below) that "trap" grime, oil & grease, instead of just pushing it around. And, because microfiber products contain no organic materials, they are resistant to bacteria—no more smelly mops. Towels and mops made with microfibers are exceptionally soft and hold their shape well, and are an extremely effective cleaning material. They can hold up to seven times their weight in water, and their electrostatic properties attract dust like a magnet. Besides saving labor & long-term costs, microfiber towels and mops are environmentally friendly.

Yep! I really do know everything!

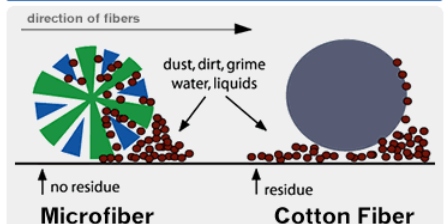


Microfiber textiles designed for cleaning are precision tools that allow cleaning on a microscopic scale. According to tests, using microfiber materials to clean a surface can reduce the number of bacteria by 99% while conventional cleaning materials only reduce this number by 33%. In addition, microfiber cleaning tools have the ability to absorb fat and grease. Because of this, you can clean many surfaces without using any chemicals. Check with your Team Leader to see about the availability of microfiber products for you account, and give them a try.

Sincerely, Mr. Know-it-All

Be sure to send me YOUR questions. It's worth your time, since I am very intelligent and have the answer for any question you may have.

HOW MICROFIBER WORKS



How to Save a Bundle on Prescription Drugs

From NANCY ATKINS, HR MGR.

More than 1 in 4 Americans try to save money on prescription drugs by taking less-than-optimal measures such as skipping doses, not filling prescriptions, or taking expired medications. Here are a few better ways:

Enlist your doctor's help. Ask your regular doctor if you can eliminate or reduce the dosage of your medications, switch name-brand prescriptions to generics or split larger-dose pills.

Look for CR Best Buy Drugs. Go to ConsumerReportsHealth.org and click on Best Buy Drugs to see if you could save money by switching to a lower-cost drug to treat your health condition.

Shop around. Our own recent study found that the cost of a three-month supply of four common drugs differed by as much as \$340 between the highest and lowest priced sources aqa.

Buy in bulk. If it has one, use your health plan's mail-order prescription service. You can usually get a 90-day supply of pills for only two co-payments.

Select your Medicare drug coverage carefully. Use Medicare's Prescription Drug Plan Finder tool at www.medicare.gov to figure out which plan works for the medicine you take.

Sign up for patient-assistance programs. Most major pharmaceutical companies offer brand-name drugs free or at reduced prices to people who meet financial guidelines. Go to www.needymeds.org or www.rxassist.org.

-from Consumer Reports on Health, June 2009



Safety Meeting Notes from May 19, 2009—Please Read

The monthly Safety Meeting for Brothers Cleaning Services, Inc. was held at our offices on May 19, 2009 from 6:00 P.M to 7:00 P.M. The following personnel attended the meeting: Joe Isenberg, Steve Avery, Claudia Dalton, Bob McLeod, Steven Brown, Gary Miller and Doug Neves.

Don Hadley from SAIF gave the committee a presentation on the **Safety In-Motion** Training Program. The two areas discussed were position of your elbows and the use of mid-range wrist motions. He provided handouts which we can use to show our Service Associates the proper way to do a number of tasks with less strain, which could result in fewer on the job injuries. Mr. Hadley indicated that during the last year most of the Workers Comp claims at BCS were caused from strains and sprains. One way to help avoid these is to keep your elbows as close as possible to your body when doing any kind of work. The farther away from the body they are, the more strain is put first on your shoulders and ultimately your back scu sp. The less strain, the less chance of injury.

The other thing that was discussed was that **it is a lot better for us to use the bottom three fingers to squirt a spray bottle than it is to always use the index finger.** Most of your strength is in these fingers while the index finger is used for precision work such as writing.

The information provided by Mr. Hadley was well received, and a number of questions were asked by safety committee members. All seemed to feel that the information would be very useful when discussing safety with the service associates.

This special presentation took the entire hour and no other safety issues were presented. —Gary D. Miller, Safety Coordinator

Supply Day Winners!

Joe Stepp
Rachael Kelley

Congratulations to these Service Associates whose names were drawn on Supply Day on May 15th. Both received a nice gift just for picking up their supplies and putting an entry into our monthly drawing. You can win too. Come pick up your June supplies on June 16th and be sure to enter our drawing!



Don't Overheat While You Work

As warmer summer weather approaches, remember to dress appropriately so you don't get too hot while working. Many customers are trying to save energy, so air conditioning in some buildings may be lowered or turned off completely. If you have strenuous tasks, do them first when your building is cooler, and drink plenty of water.

HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR ACCOUNT CODE YET?

Two account codes have been randomly placed in this issue of the **NewsFlush**. If you find YOUR account code somewhere (including Floor # if applicable) be sure to call the office & identify yourself. **You must call by 5PM June 4th (Thursday) in order to receive your prize.** Thank You for reading the monthly NewsFlush!



CREATED FOR BROTHERS CLEANING SERVICES, INC.
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