

Clippings are brief summaries of recent news articles in the consumer media. They offer insights to the latest trends for the door business.

City Offers Free Lead Paint Mitigation

Source: "City offering free lead paint mitigation," *Tahoe Daily Tribune*, Aug. 17, 2010, and www.cityofslt.us/leadsafetahoe.html.

Frustrated with lead-safe work costs? Get the government to pay for it!

The city of South Lake Tahoe, Calif., has secured a \$1.5 million grant from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes to help families with young children control lead hazards in their homes. The funds will cover the costs of lead testing, risk assessment, mitigation, relocating the residents (if needed), and final inspection.

The city says, "There's only enough funding for 100 homes." A home may qualify if it was built before 1978 and has children age six and under.

Editor's Note: Hmm. Let's do the math. \$1.5 million for 100 homes. That's \$15,000 per home. How does that compare with this statement at the EPA Web site: "EPA estimates that the costs of containment, cleaning, and cleaning verification will range from \$8 to \$167 per job."?

Two Installers Arrested After Fatal Gate Accident

Source: "Arrests after gate crushes six-year-old Manchester girl," *BBC online*, July 7, 2010.

This story shows how the British legal system dealt with a tragic automated gate accident in Manchester.

The BBC news report says a six-year-old girl was crushed to death "after being caught between the rolling gate and a brick post." The girl's mother used her remote control to try to stop the gate from closing and then turned off the electricity. A police officer smashed the gate's motor and freed the girl, but she went into cardiac arrest and soon died.

A few days later, police arrested two 38-year-old installers "on suspicion of manslaughter by gross negligence."

Editor's Note: If this tragedy had happened in America, wouldn't the company have been sued instead of the installers being arrested? Which approach might deter more accidents? Either way, it's imperative to install the product safely in the first place.

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Court Orders Payback for Overcharged Spring Job

Source: Keli Rabon, "NC3 Investigates: Garage Door Dilemma," *WREG-TV, Memphis, Tenn.*, April 12, 2010.

The report also noted Affordable Garage Door's poor rating (F) with the Better Business Bureau and that its BBB membership had been revoked.

This television report revealed the following: A spring broke on Robert Watson's Memphis-area garage door. Michael Vega of Affordable Garage Doors told him he needed two new springs at \$120 each. Watson expected a bill of \$240 but was shocked when the final bill was

\$523.31, especially after "15 minutes" of work.

Watson spent months trying to get his money back and finally took his case to court. The Southaven Municipal Court ordered Vega to pay \$341.31, making the cost \$182. Nonetheless, Vega claimed that Watson was not overcharged and that the dispute was a misunderstanding.

The report also noted Affordable Garage Door's poor rating (F) with the Better Business Bureau and that its BBB membership had been revoked. Viewers are urged to avoid problem contractors by getting estimates from several companies and checking a firm's BBB rating.

Editor's Note: What are you charging for spring jobs? Are you prepared for that amount to be broadcast on local television?

Solar Panel Garage Door

Source: Chris Keenan, "Solar Panel Garage Door," *GreenBuildingElements.com*, July 19, 2010.

This environmental article suggests that "a solar panel garage door could provide the energy needed for our cars."

The writer envisions a time when you drive your electric car out of the garage, emitting zero emissions. "While you're out, the sun shines on your solar panel garage door. When you come home, you plug in to that stored energy to recharge for the next day."

The writer acknowledges that the demand is currently not adequate. "But if vehicles like the Volt reach critical mass, a solar panel garage door may not be too far behind."

Editor's Note: Which manufacturer wants to be the first to offer the "solar panel garage door"?