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Also in this issue: water treatment; competitions & giveaways; MVHR; power tool accessories; wireless thermostats; thermal imaging; and much more.

WaterSafe calls for consumers to 'Trust Approved Plumbers'

As part of a continued national awareness drive, WaterSafe has launched a national media campaign designed to encourage consumers to check for credentials when choosing a plumber.

The campaign, fronted by journalist and consumer expert Alice Beer, is called 'Trust Approved Plumbers' (TAP) and reveals where the nation places its trust, with an onus on what consumers place as priority when choosing a plumber.

The campaign launch follows new research carried out by WaterSafe which found that over half (54%) of UK homeowners would trust a tradesperson based on first appearances rather than professional credentials. Over two-thirds (67%) said fresh breath and attractive smell affect their opinion of a tradesperson, while for a third (30%) a trader's togs affect how trustworthy they think they are.

In contrast, as little as 30% of Brits actually check a tradesman's professional credentials and are happy to judge them at face value. This is despite the fact that it is estimated that rogue plumbers have cost the nation £2.6 billion in recent years.

Julie Spinks, Director of WaterSafe, comments: "It's a great shame that, while consumers are increasingly cautious in all other areas of their everyday life, there is still a lack of awareness about the importance of qualifications and how to check them, when it comes to choosing a tradesperson. The reality, however, of not using a properly qualified plumber is not



only dangerous; it's a false economy and could end up costing the homeowner a small fortune to repair, not to mention the safety hazards." www.watersafe.org.uk



Are you driving legally?

Mercedes-Benz Vans is urging van drivers to check out the facts around Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) requirements, before venturing out on the roads.

The deadline for drivers operating an LGV over 3.5 tonnes to have completed their Driver CPC training, which is a legal necessity of 35 hours of training every five years, was September 10th (exceptions can be found at www.gov.uk/driver-cpc-exemptions-examples).

Steve Bridge, Managing Director, Mercedes-Benz Vans, says: "It seems like there has been a sole focus in the industry on CPC training for truck drivers, but in reality almost 4,400 vans over 3.5 tonnes sold this year in the UK will be subject to Driver CPC legislation.

"This will also have an impact on Operator licences of mixed fleets, so it is vital that the UK van market is fully aware of the legislation. If drivers of vans over 3.5 tonnes are yet to complete, or even start their CPC training, before they drive their vehicle again they must ensure they have undertaken the 35 hours of learning.

"You can be fined up to £1,000 for driving professionally without Driver CPC and, as it would mean that technically you hold an incorrect licence, your insurance could also be void.

"However, it shouldn't be just about ticking a box to complete the course – I believe that training for van drivers should be an enjoyable learning experience that brings everyone to a level far beyond the minimum demanded by the current legislation, or even potential future legislation."

Big Wipes 4x4 vans hit the road

On a mission to clean up the nation, and to get even closer to the action, Big Wipes has sent a team of grime-busting vans out on the road to help busy tradesmen scrub up nicely.

The colourful vans will be heading to trade shows, merchants and sites all over the country, with a mission to get tradespeople and their tools cleaned up quickly and efficiently. "Big Wipes 4x4 clean up hands and tools quickly and easily without the need for water," says Nigel Dibbo, Managing Director. "Our vans will be touring the nation to show the trade how Big Wipes 4x4 can remove even the most stubborn grime while protecting their most important tools – their hands."

For more information about Big Wipes, visit www.bigwipes.com

