



Just the FAX

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WORLD PLUMBING LOOKING INTO WATERLESS URINALS

What is the impact of waterless urinal discharge on the whole of plumbing system? It seems that unless properly maintained, the waterless urinal and related plumbing system is subject to struvite blockages that can cause serious long-term damage. The article [Waterless urinal research](#) delves into the research conducted by Australia and New Zealand formed the Australasian Scientific Review of Reduction of Flows on Plumbing and Drainage Systems (ASFlow). ASFlow's trials have shown added flows to main pipes servicing waterless urinals will prevent rapid build-up of struvite, but highlighted the need for on-going maintenance of the urinal's outlet pipe at regular intervals to control the build-up of struvite. This problem is shared the world over and while the introduction of water saving measures are commendable, more research must be conducted before good intentions turn into nasty drainage problems. www.worldplumbinginfo.com is on the lookout for groundbreaking technologies or research. If you feel you might have a solution to the waterless urinal problem that could be of benefit please don't hesitate to contact WPI at info@connectiononline.com.au. (Source: World Plumbing Info, Nov. 23, 2009)

INDUSTRY BY THE NUMBERS

Export Development Canada (EDC) - Crude oil prices flattened during November, averaging US \$77/barrel, up from an average of US \$75/month in October. More recently, prices fell back again to US \$75/barrel as inventories of crude and refined products show ample supplies ahead of the heating season. **US diesel** stocks are up to 46 days of supplies, up 15 days from last year. During November, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) produced 1.6 million barrels per day or 6% above their target.

Natural gas prices have been very volatile of late with weekly gains and declines in double digits. Spot prices collapsed early in November as Hurricane Ida left natural gas infrastructure in the Gulf Coast relatively unharmed. However, prices rose rapidly thereafter on expectations of higher demand for the winter heating season. More recently, prices decreased ahead of the US Thanksgiving weekend.

Copper continues to be a popular investment vehicle, driving prices back up to the 2006-08 range. While the current price does not reflect underlying economic conditions on the demand side, tight supply-side conditions will support higher prices in the medium term. **Gold's** upward march was temporarily halted by the release of US job data, showing the pace of losses has eased considerably. Prices will remain high over the next few months as investors wait to see how tenuous the recovery is.

Lumber prices continued their uptick as producers took a firmer stance in view of upcoming holiday curtailments. Prices are now 20.8% higher than the previous month. The extension of the first-time homebuyer credit to April has improved industry sentiment. There are rumours that China, Japan and others are looking for lumber supplies from North America.

Building Permits... The value of building permits rose 18.0% in October to \$6.1 billion. The increase was mainly a result of gains in the value of non-residential permits and in construction intentions for single-family dwellings. In the non-residential sector, municipalities issued permits worth \$2.7 billion, up 42.4% following a 9.2% decline in September. All three components of non-residential construction permits increased in October. The total value of building permits increased in six provinces, led by Alberta and Ontario. The complete report is available on the Statistics Canada website at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/091207/dq091207a-eng.htm>.

AHR EXPO 2010

January 25-27, 2010, Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida – Promoted as the world's largest HVAC&R Event, the AHR Expo 2010 will bring together more than 1,800 exhibiting companies, dozens of industry organizations and over 25,000 visitors from over 120 countries. To find out how you can participate visit www.ahrexpo.com.

ASSOCIATES CORNER – Reliable Marketing Services

Please join us in welcoming our newest Associate Members, **Reliable Marketing Services**. With 40 years of industrial valve and actuation experience **Reliable Marketing Services (RMS)**, lead by President Don Hewson, P. Eng., and Vice President, Bill Reid, P. Eng., is the exclusive representative of Apollo Valves, the most specified valves in the world. Apollo continues to lead the valve industry in quality and innovation. **RMS** is establishing itself as a leader in the Canadian marketplace and is a representative for distributors of flow control products in Canada. They pride themselves on giving their customers the resources they need to acquire the best products through leading manufacturers such as Apollo and Dynatorque. To find out more about RMS, please visit www.rmsservices.ca or call 905-853-4785.