

# FRIDAY FOLLIES

*January, 13, 2006*

*Happy Friday The Thirteenth!*



Hey!

January 13, 2006

Well, here is the email that went out last week – in case you did not see it – Ah, the joys of home ownership...

*“ARRGGHH! Help, please! Does anyone know the best way to get CONTACT PAPER off of walls? I started taking the ^&#%\$^@#^7! wallpaper down in my bath, vanity, and dressing room tonight and discovered - ARRGGHH - that it is CONTACT PAPER! No wonder the guy was going to charge me \$500 to do it! He said he thought it might be contact paper.*

*Trust me - it is!*

*Honestly, I worked for three straight hours tonight just as hard as I could and got three square feet cleared off. This is going to take me FOREVER!*

*Any ideas?*

*Once I peel the top layer off by hand (the hard part) the adhesive scrapes off like icing on a cake...very smooth with this DIF stuff. But even it will not penetrate the top layer of this thick contact paper - not even when I score it with a paper tiger! (Why would anyone in their right mind put thick contact paper on a bathroom wall?) Any ideas would be greatly appreciated. Otherwise, I will see you all around May!*

*Thanks, Judi*

*P.S. Sorry. I know you are all probably watching the Rose Bowl Game...”*

I literally got emails from all over the globe! The Follies groups are amazing in that way... They really do reach more people than you realize... All kinds of people... I am still getting them! You will never know how much that means to me, sincerely. It is nice to know that when I am down, I can email my “lists” and get such immediate and wonderful responses.

THANK YOU, ALL.



Ah Ha! A STEAMER! That was the winning answer... I have a little steamer I bought for \$20 from Sear's when I moved into this house because I did not want to iron the miles of drapes I have... It is melting the plastic contact paper surface and it is peeling off beautifully. I did more in fifteen minutes last night than I did in three hours night before last! Now all I have to do is go back and get the adhesive down - piece of cake! YEA!



Yea - though, another problem surfaced. I have had problems with the GFCI outlets since I moved in... over Christmas, they all shorted out - ALL of them - inside and out. An electrician came over Sunday night and will be returning Monday to trouble shoot and try to fix it to the tune of - he guesses upwards of \$500. Now I am thinking of contacting an attorney! Really! This problem was identified by the home inspection and before the closing, we (my agent and me) were told it was fixed, so we signed off on it. It was not fixed and has manifested itself in a BIG way. Now all I am getting is a bunch of folks pointing

fingers at other folks. All I know is, I was supposed to be protected from this type of thing. I will get to the bottom of it. It may take a while, but I will.

Now -- It is *Monday* night and I just stroked a check for \$485 for labor costs alone today and the problem has not been fixed...all of the GFCI outlets have been replaced and the breaker panel has been fixed, but the problem - - you are not going to believe this - - is in the WALLS! I have no power in any of my bathrooms, on my back deck, in my front yard, or garage. The next step is to start tearing out the walls to find the broken wire! This while I am stripping wallpaper and painting...? Not gonna happen! I'll just be dragging my little extension cord around with me until I can figure out my next recourse is. SOMEONE dropped the ball on this one...

OH! You are gonna love this! While I was typing this, I heard a loud crash! If *I* heard a loud crash, then trust me, it was a **CRASH!**

I darted down the stairs and checked the animals first, then the bathroom where everything is covered with a drop cloth, then the dark back deck and the dark front yard. Nothing...but on the way back up the stairs, I thought ...HMMM...the garage...where the electricians has been working all day...Yup! Remember me being so proud of parking my car in the garage last week...

Here is what I saw when I opened the door to the garage... Damn! Ha! I'll clean it up tomorrow...too late tonight. I just hope nothing is broken...

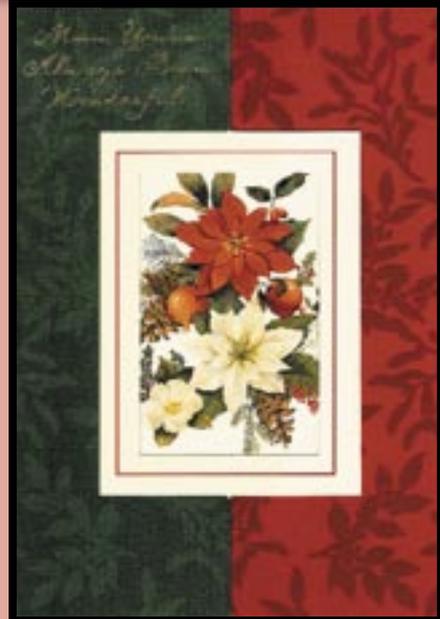


This just hasn't been a good week thus far...HAHAHA-HAHA!

Oh well, onward...

Jess is off this month. She made the Dean's List! I am so proud of her, but not half as proud as she is of herself....so cool. AND going to Wesleyan - a private school! I remember exactly when that light bulb turned on for me! It felt so good! Jess and friends are going to Florida this weekend to celebrate making Dean's List...only problem - she has no money...so guess what kind of emails I have been getting all day...hahaha!

I got a beautiful card and photo from Jeremy tonight. Then we talked for a long while on the phone. Very special, he is. Missing his dog with every breath, but





he is doing OK. He will be home, I hope, late February, early March. Can't wait. I told him I had a bedroom all ready for him...no electricity...but a bedroom. HAHAHAAAA!

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Now, I thought you might like to read some of the responses

from my S.O.S. This week. They made me laugh SO hard!

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From a friend who knows EVERYTHING - but in a good way... She is amazing and ought to be running a huge company somewhere -

*"OK, I found this for you... sounds like a good idea....*

*Instead, use a hair dryer to heat the contact paper. The heat will soften the adhesive and make removal much easier. Start at a corner and pull on the paper as you warm it. The warmth may also restore a little of the flexibility to the plastic so it is less likely to split as you remove it. Be patient and take your time or you may do incredible damage to the walls... especially if they are paper-faced wallboard! Once the contact paper is off, you can use an adhesive remover on the walls to strip the adhesive residue, if any. Use a "citrus"-type adhesive remover rather than a solvent-based one since you may soften or even remove the paint with the solvent. Prime the walls before repainting to assure proper finish paint adhesion.*

*P.S. It cost me \$1,500 to repair the damage to my walls after I removed the wallpaper as there was no finished wall underneath...hope that makes you feel better.... I have a completely different electrician story...that cost me \$284.00... and the plumber, you don't even want to know....*

*Good Luck!"*

(Well, maybe not a huge company...)

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From a President of a not-for-profit and CEO of a finance company-

*"You need a heavy duty steamer..recommend you rent one.... Worth the wait....*

*I've got the t-shirt on this!:)"*

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From a PR executive -

*"I would think you could use this on walls also....Citrus KinCitrus King Graffiti & Adhesive Remover. Our product is very effective and popular in graffiti removal from porous and non porous surfaces. A very long drying time is very useful in situations that require soaking (e.g.. removing shadows from graffiti vandalism in masonry). CITRUS KING Graffiti/Adhesive Remover removes all adhesives and glues except cyanoacrylates. It works very well on tape and poster glues, anti-slip strip glues in tubs, mastic in carpet backing, etc."*

From an accountant with Walt Disney –  
*“Have you tried Google or Ask Jeeves?”*

From a Naval Academy graduate –  
*“I WAS watching the Rose Bowl....and what a game it was!!! And I was sipping a rum and tonic....I know you'll get lots of advice....but the best advice I have is to take a sledgehammer and tear down the walls! :->)Aren't you glad you have responsive friends.....”*

From the Owner/President of an insurance company -  
*“Judi: Norfolk paint has a remover that you spray on the wall and it gets absorbed into the paper and makes it peel off.”*



From a Nationally recognized and honored business woman -  
*“Could you paper over it or paint over it? I think it will be very difficult...maybe a steamer”*

From an Interior Decorator -  
*“Try a steamer or call a contact paper company and see what they would recommend to remove it. See you sooner than May, I hope.”*

From a HUGE, well-known, #1 Regional DJ and President of a National DJ Association -  
*“Judy...you can steam it off(which is still a pain).... Some other tips.... Mix a 10-1 of Citrus Goo Gone with hot water (10 parts water to one part goo gone) ...put it on with a sponge, let it sit for a few minutes to break down the glue and then use a 5 in 1 putty knife to lift an edge and start peeling. Also...Home Depot sells a chemical in the rental department that renders the glue watery again. Lotsa Love,”*

From a national TV producer –  
*“Spray on Downy. Leave it on for a few minutes and then scrape, peel or yell it off! Love. It really works!!!”*

From a Business Executive for a Fortune 500 Company-  
*“I can only appreciate what you are doing. I had a house where the folks glued the carpet to hard wood floors...talk about a mess...Yuck! I used this stuff to remove wall paper which was like grass and it was call Kill or Still...not sure but the folks at Home Depot should know. You spray it on and let it soak for a bit and then scrape it off. Good luck and take care....”*

Former the President of the largest Chamber of Commerce in Virginia and president of a large Real Estate Company -  
*“Judy, How Frustrating! There is a primer that will just cover the problem without removal. See the guys at the paint store. That happens with old wallpaper as well. Happy House and Happy New Year!”*

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From a Photographer –

*“How about a heat gun? I’ll ask my mum...she’s restored a couple of old houses.”*

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From way down Tennessee way -

*“Judi, I hate wall paper! When we moved into our home 18 years ago, I removed the paper in our bathroom. It had been put up without sizing and removing it destroyed the paper on the sheetrock. AAAAH. As for your contact paper, have you tried steam? If you do, try it behind the “john” first to see if that will work. Use a steam iron if you don’t have a steamer. Also don’t touch the paper with the iron, and please don’t burn yourself. Good luck.”*

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From a preacher –

*“A solution of vinegar & H2O used to work for wallpaper, but I don’t know how it would work for contact paper. You spray the solution on the paper and let it penetrate then it scrapes off. (Hope your New Year gets happier)”*

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From another, well known photographer-

*“Judi, Try a heat gun, but take it easy, don’t burn yourself and have plenty of ventilation. Apply heat to small areas and then be ready to scrape it off as soon as it bubbles. You’ll still need some solvent to remove the adhesive after you get the paper off. I had one, but I can’t find it now, I think I lent it out and it never returned. They are inexpensive (Home Depot), and look like a hair dryer but MUCH hotter. Very handy for removing old paint.”*

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From a Real Estate Agent -

*“Judy, Have you tried steaming the paper? Good luck”*

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From an international known entertainer –

*“Try heating it with a hair dryer as you pull it away from the wall maybe it will soften and loosen the adhesive. Good luck....”*

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From a contractor in California –

*“Goof-Off might do the job - that’s what it’s for but it would take alot of it!”*

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From a pilot in Pennsylvania -

*“Hey Judi, When I used to help my mom with wallpaper I found myself in your shoes more than once. The bad news is there is really no great way to get it off the walls. It is very time consuming. The good news is this. If you use very warm water mixed with some vinegar it should help. Get yourself a large spray bottle and fill it up. Take a razor blade and mark X’s all over the paper. This will allow the water and vinegar to soak in. It should help a bit. Be patient and good luck”*

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From a reporter in NY-

*"You can get a steamer. they are pretty inexpensive. happy holidays!"*

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From a Civil Servant

*"Here a guys name - its worth giving him a call. His name and number are as follows;"*

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From a classy, Southern Belle high up in the Blue Ridge Mountains-

*"Gee whiz, Judi. I think the people before you just did the quickest thing available when they used contact paper. Ask the paper hanger who was going to charge you \$500 what he would have done if he had to remove it."*

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From a Naval contractor-

*"Hi Judi, I can see you are up to your eyebrows in contact paper. I think we had the same problem in our bathrooms and had someone do it and it was a mess. I am clueless. One issue we had is that the walls had to be treated so paint wouldn't peel afterwards."*

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From my sister-in-law -

*"I have no glue! Good luck"*

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From a cosmetologist –

*"Have you tried setting it on fire? Just kidding. I have heard of using Windex for wallpaper, but you got me on the contact paper. I would find some kid that needed a couple of bucks and let him do it."*

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And my favorite – from a retired, very well respected doctor in Norfolk who is associated with every building campaign and not-for-profit in the city –

***"Dear Judi,***

***Tequila is the answer.***

***Pour about three ounces in a glass. Drink half, and refill the glass. Repeat several times. In about 15 minutes you will have changed your mind about the paper in the bathroom. No one uses the bathroom to admire the paper. Buy a few cheap pictures if you want art in there.***

***You're welcome.***

***Happy New Year"***

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HAHAHAHA!!!! Sometimes all there is to do is laugh! HAHAHAHA!

Love you guys!

Maybe photos of the finished product (*by candle light*) next week!



**T**o all of you on my Friday Follies List,  
whether you are in Manila, Singapore,  
Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi,  
Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota,  
Indiana, Colorado, Tahoe, Philadelphia, Key  
West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia,  
Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Maryland,  
West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida,  
Saudi Arabia, Chattanooga, New York,  
Oregon, Maine, Germany, Australia, Europe,  
or Yuma, have a wonderful, wonderful week.

**G**od bless.

Remember, life is short...we need to  
make it a good one...

Grow in peace and wisdom.

Your Friday Friend,



**Judi Godsey**

PS. NOTE OF CAUTION... 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent emails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our joke list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if the jokes that accompany these "Follies" place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday Follies Joke List. PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. One tends to go through huge numbers of jokes that way. Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, "No!" I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). Obviously I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!