

## November 2011 Newsletter



*“November comes  
And November goes,  
With the last red berries  
And the first white snows.*

*With night coming early,  
And dawn coming late,  
And ice in the bucket  
And frost by the gate.*

*The fires burn  
And the kettles sing,  
And earth sinks to rest  
Until next spring.”  
~ Elizabeth Coatsworth*



### Proper Grading



There are great advantages to grading around your property's foundation.

**Here are a few basics to remember:**

**Organic Material 6” Below Siding:** Make certain soil and mulch are at least 6 inches below the siding. This not only helps keep the siding from rotting, but will also deter insect damage.

**Downspout is at Least 4’ Long:** Make sure water from gutters is draining at least 4 to 6 feet from your foundation. This ensures the appropriate channeling of water from a safe distance from your home.

**6 Inches for Every 6 Feet:** Get a straight 2”x 6’ and a level. Prop the 2”x 6’ against the foundation. If the drop is 6 inches down at the end of the board, you have acceptable grading.

**Grading Done with Solid Earth:** Never grade with mulch or rock. The slope should consist of compacted soil.

**Drain Pipe and Gutter Leaks:** Ensure that there is minimal leaking along your gutters and drain pipes. This will keep water from welling up around the foundation.

## Au Gratin Potato Casserole

### Ingredients

- 1 (32-ounce) package frozen Southern-style hash browns
- 1 (16-ounce) container sour cream
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups crushed cornflakes
- 1/4 cup melted butter

### Preparation

Stir together first 6 ingredients in a large bowl.  
Spoon potato mixture into a lightly greased 13- x 9-inch baking dish.  
Sprinkle evenly with crushed cornflakes, and drizzle evenly with butter.  
Bake at 325° for 1 hour and 20 minutes or until bubbly.



## What's Wrong With This Picture?



- A) There are too many roofs.
- B) Chimney flue is too close to the house walls.
- C) There is no downspout .

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Chimney flues should be at least 8-10 feet from the walls of the house. There is no downspout connected to the gutter on the lower roof. This could result in water damage to the house. So the correct answer is both B & C.

## **REFERRAL COUPON**

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