

TOOLS for Independence™

MAKING YOUR LIFE AT HOME EASIER AND SAFER



July 2009

Brought to you by:

THE TOOLS FOR
INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE
OF THE

**INDEPENDENT
LIVING
PARTNERSHIP**

On the web at:
www.toolsforindependence.org

Something Didn't Work for You? Tell Us.....

The best intentioned and designed assistive devices and gadgets sometimes just don't work for everyone. Let us know if you have such an experience to share with others so they don't make the same mistake in making a bad purchase.

Published by:

The nonprofit Independent Living Partnership (ILP) - working for the rights of all to live independently in their own homes and communities.

Visit us at:
www.livingpartnership.org

No Need to Worry About Getting Scalded by Hot Water

This easy-to-install anti-scalding device fits right into any faucet and automatically



turns off the water if the temperature gets too hot. The **Temperature Activated Flow Reducer (TAFR)** can be screwed into faucets in the bathroom and kitchen sink. There is also one specially made for the shower. Both items come in chrome and are activated at 117 degrees F. Cost: \$36.95 at The Alzheimer's Store. Call 1-800-752-3238 or check at www.alzstore.com. Item #0200 attaches to a kitchen or bathroom facet, #0201 attaches to a showerhead.

Turn Almost Anything With Ease

It's the **Uni Universal Turner** and it is designed to help you turn water taps on or off, lock or unlock the door, and even switch on a cooker, dishwasher or washing machine. It has a



comfortable handle that allows you to grip with both hands. Hexagonal pegs provide a good grip thanks to the large gripping area. Cost: \$28.95 from YouCan TooCan, at www.youcantoocan.com. Or call 1-888-663-9396. Item #10661.

**Tell Us What You Need — Or How You Improvised
to Make Your Life Easier. E-Mail YOUR ideas to us
at Editor@TOOLSforIndependence.org or send
them to us at the address listed on page 4.**

Need Help Turning a Key?

This useful **Finger Key Turner** will help you with just a minimum of hand strength. It provides the leverage you need for difficult locks or if you have limited gripping strength in your hands. You can use the finger holes when you're turning the key or pulling it out of the lock. Cost: \$6.95 at www.youcantocan.com or call 1-888-663-9396.



Here's Help With Self-Cleansing When Reaching is Difficult



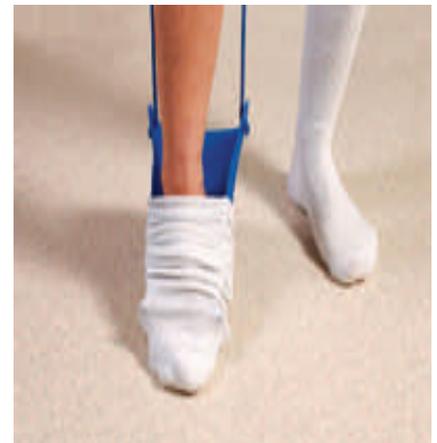
The **Bottom Buddy** is a toilet tissue aid with soft, flexible head grips for holding tissue or pre-moistened wipes. A simple push of the button releases the soiled paper or wipes into the bowl. It is 10.6 inches long and can be easily cleaned with alcohol or antiseptic soap. It comes with a handy storage bag. Cost: \$39.95. View and order it at www.activeforever.com or call 1-800-377-8033. Item #A-13330.

Check Out Our New Resource Center —

Our new TOOLS Resource Center features links to organizations, other Web sites and groups that can provide you with useful information and help with your questions about assistive technology, caregiving and independent living. Our web site also hosts a blog written by TOOLS editor Michael Carbine with news, updates and notes of interest, and a collection of back issues of the *TOOLS for Independence* newsletter. You can also take a survey and tell us how we can make TOOLS more helpful and useful for you. Visit us at www.TOOLSforIndependence.org.

This is Not Just Another Sock Aid—

The **Wide Molded Sock Aid** has several unique features that make it particularly useful for anyone with flexibility problems. It lays flat on the floor, accommodates feet and calves of all sizes, has a nonstick surface and pulls the sock up the calf instead of releasing it at the ankle. Two side wings keep the sock on the Sock-Assist until it is released on the calf. You can use it to put on socks or knee-high nylons using one or two hands. It also works with



elastic compression knee-high socks or stockings. The cord handle can also be cut or looped to adjust the length. The Wide Molded Sock Aid is available at YouCan TooCan for \$15.95. Visit www.youcantocan.com or call 1-888-663-9396. Item #11154.

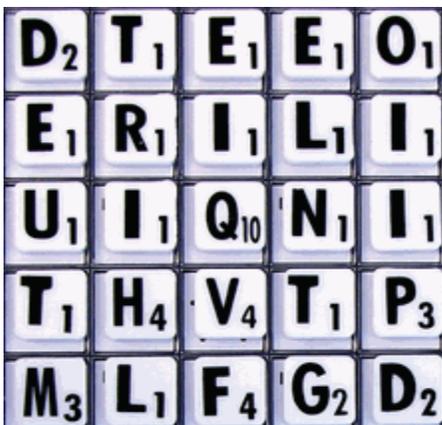
Never Fear Pushing the Wrong Button on the TV Remote



The **Senior-Friendly TV Remote Control** has only nine buttons: Five for your favorite channels, one for scrolling through the channels, and one each for on/off, volume control and mute. And you can program the scrolling button to either scroll through all the channels or just your favorite five. It comes in grey, is light-weight and shaped to easily fit your hand. The remote will work with any TV, cable box or satellite receiver, and with a DTV converter box as well. It costs \$29.95 at The Alzheimer's Store, www.alzstore.com or call 1-800-752-3238. Item #0036.

Keep The Brain Working—Let's Have Some Fun

This Scrabble set features both large letters and a white board for easy seeing. The **Large Print Scrabble Game** set has the standard size white plastic letter tiles but they are imprinted with large (1/2") bold black letters with easy-to-see point values. The large print flat game board is made of hard plastic with a raised grid to hold the tiles in place. The game board is white with no colored grids. The set includes a large-print user's guide. It is available for \$55.00 from the Sight-Connection, www.sightconnection.com or by calling 1-800-458-4888. Item #PLU-309.



Or.....you can use these large print Scrabble pieces on your regular board. The **Low Vision Scrabble Tiles** make playing Scrabble easier on your eyes when you are using your regular Scrabble game board. They feature bold, black, extra-large (1/2") letters set on a bright white tile. Each tile measures 1-1/6" x 1-1/6". The set includes 100 tiles and costs \$17.00 from SightConnection, www.sightconnection.com, or call 1-800-458-4888. Item #PLU-310.

Walkers Are Great—But Can You Lift it? After spending money on trying several types of assistive walking devices that help provide stability—four legged cane, a walker with a seat, a walker with four wheels, and a walker with two wheels—a reader shared her frustration. Problem? They were all too heavy. Finally after visiting every medical supply store in town, someone suggested purchasing one designed for children. That worked! It was tall enough but lighter.

Hear Who is Calling Before You Pick Up the Phone

The **Grace Talking Caller ID** connects to your phone and speaks the caller's name when there is an incoming call. It does not require any programming because it retrieves names right from the Caller ID record. You can connect it to any phone jack or right to the phone. There is also a visual alert feature, a mute button, and a volume control knob. *But remember*, you have to subscribe to the Caller ID service through your local phone company. Comes with your choice of an AC adapter or 3 AA batteries. Cost: \$24.95 at Independent Living Aids, <http://independentliving.reachlocal.com>, or call 1-877-866-0819. Item #186971.



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NOTICE

***TOOLS for Independence™* and the Independent Living Partnership do not endorse or assume responsibility for any products referenced in this publication and are responsible only for the information presented.**

This newsletter is published by the ***Independent Living Partnership (ILP)***

ILP works to ensure the independence and dignity of the elderly and persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers through education and access to empowering services and resources. This is accomplished through collaborative and cooperative partnering with public and private organizations, agencies and businesses. The goal is to help people lead more satisfying and rewarding lives, often in spite of significant health and mobility challenges.



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