

As sleazy as it gets...

## Door to Door Ripoffs

### Douchebag? What's a douchebag?

I'm back. It has been a busy couple of months, and there have been one or two more developments. I'll be posting a lot more frequently going forward and hopefully will have the street level fraud outlined completely in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, my next post will be about the douchebag lawyers who enable this fraud, participate in it, and profit (handsomely) from it. Before I do that I'll define the term "douchebag" in general and "douchebag lawyer" specifically.

Everybody knows what a lawyer is (except, apparently, some lawyers) so I'll devote the bulk of this post to defining "douchebag".

Googling the word gives this definition:

douche·bag

'dooSHbag/

*noun*

noun: **douche bag**; plural noun: **douche bags**; noun: **douchebag**; plural noun: **douchebags**

1. 1.

a small syringe for douching the vagina, especially as a contraceptive measure.

2. 2.

North American informal

an obnoxious or contemptible person (typically used of a man).

I don't think I've ever used the word in the sense of 1) above.

I've used the term douchebag for the last quarter century or so. I first recall hearing the word as an officer candidate (if I haven't mentioned this before, I'm an ex artillery officer). The general meaning was douchebag=someone who was botching the job through willful ignorance of established practice. On other words, someone who won't do a proper job, and tries to pass it off as ignorance of established procedure/regulations.

But that was a quarter century ago (if I haven't mentioned it before, I am fifty-one years of age) and the meaning has evolved a bit (for me at least) over the years. For the past few years, I've been using it as an adjective to describe someone who uses established procedure/regulations(/laws) or wilful blindness (or both) to manipulate circumstances to their own benefit at the expense of others. That differs a bit from 2) above, and I'll be using the term "douchebag" to mean my definition, not the two above.

For example:

A friend (who is an HVAC contractor) recently told me about a scam he encountered in his trade, here in Hamilton. Some HVAC crews, employed by a large (and more or less reputable, at least for this industry) company were measuring the carbon monoxide content of the stacks (chimneys) of their customers' homes when called out for a service call. I'll call the company Enerbubble for this post.

Enerbubble's HVAC crews were finding carbon monoxide in the stacks (not unusual), and in some cases were finding slightly more than the allowed limit. I'm told this isn't much of a problem in the short term (the carbon monoxide is going up the chimney and vented outside) but requires the furnace to be red-tagged (taken out of service immediately).

Oddly enough, this seemed to happen a lot more to seniors and other vulnerable people. My friend encountered one example where a senior was left with a space heater after the furnace was red-tagged. The air temperature in her home was at 8 degrees C. She was upset because the required furnace replacement was a financial burden, and her home was cold.

The measured carbon monoxide in the stack was barely over the legal minimum (I don't recall the exact ppm my friend gave). However, my friend is knowledgeable about his trade and honest, so he checked the natural gas pressure in the lines going into the furnace. If I recall correctly, he said that normal gas pressure was 3.5 psi, the measured gas pressure in this case was 6 psi. So, he turned the gas pressure down, which resulted in less unburned natural gas in the furnace, which resulted in a drop in the carbon monoxide to well below the limit (almost zero).

Problem solved. In ten minutes, eight of which were spent finding the valve needed to adjust the gas pressure. I'm told this is one of the first things an HVAC technician should have checked before red-tagging the furnace. The same solution worked in one or two more of Enerbubble's customers' homes. (As an aside, now that I know how the scam works, I've noticed evidence of this same scam at work in some of the stories I've heard from Active Energy/Secure Home Services customers. I may post a case or two as examples.)

Enerbubble's HVAC technicians are douchebag HVAC technicians (or at least the crews doing this are douchebags). They earned the title because they've used their authority (the general assumption is that a technician is competent and knowledgeable about his job, and reasonably honest about about any repairs required) and regulations/laws intended to protect citizens as tools to cause harm to their customers (in this case, financial and emotional harm, which are as real, and as damaging, as physical harm). Enerbubble's technicians were also willfully blind (with plausible deniability to a layman) to a simple and easy solution to the "problem", opting instead for a solution that benefited themselves. Hence, they satisfy my definition of "douchebag" in general, and douchebag HVAC technician specifically (since they use the tools of their trade to benefit themselves at the expense of their customers. And it's particularly annoying in this case, since the aggregate financial benefit to the technicians doing this was far less than the (relative or absolute, take your pick) harm done to the homeowner).

As an aside: We don't tolerate anyone beating a senior citizen but we don't seem to care all that much (as a society) if they are defrauded. I've never quite understood that. I'm reasonably certain that if I were to go out and beat the living crap out of a dozen senior citizens in their home, I'd serve some time in very unpleasant circumstances (Through a series of minor miracles and some good luck, I've never been incarcerated (aside from a night or two when I was younger...and it was the other guy's fault) but I've been given to understand that those incarcerated for physically abusing children and elderly people have a tendency to finish their sentences with a more scars, less teeth, and considerable expansion of

their sexual horizons (at least on the receiving end) compared to when they began their sentence. I'm fine with that except the last, unless there was a sexual component to the abuse. In those cases, I'm not *that* upset about it). Active Energy/Secure Home Services/Enerbubble's "salesmen" and "technicians" do the equivalent financial and/or emotional harm to thousands of them. So far, all it has cost them are some small fines (not the individuals doing this but the company itself; the fines were equivalent to a slow morning's business) and.....well, that seems to be it.

So, if you're still reading this rant, you should have an idea of what I mean by the term "douchebag lawyer".

Definition: A "douchebag lawyer" is a lawyer who uses the letter of the law, and procedural loopholes, to defeat the spirit of the law for his own benefit or the benefit of others.

In plain English, a douchebag lawyer is a lawyer who uses the law to fuck you, and doesn't much care if he breaks laws he knows he won't be called to account for breaking. Ethics, a moral compass, and a sense of fairness (essential in an adversarial legal system) are foreign to their nature, regarded as weaknesses and tools to be used against an individual when found in others. They're also bullies, as a rule.

There's a lot of them around these days.

My next post or two will be about the ones who are the legal muscle behind collecting the money in this scam.

Background Story (<https://d2dfraud.wordpress.com/category/background-story/>)

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## 4 thoughts on "Douchebag? What's a douchebag?"

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