

# Cleaning Matters

July/August 2004

Tips and Trends from The Soap and Detergent Association

## Campus Heroes

### *Time-saving laundry products to the rescue!*

Time is a valuable commodity, especially for college students. With attending classes, studying, and participating in sports, there seems to be little time for laundering. Fortunately, store shelves are stocked full of time-saving laundry products just waiting to be discovered by college students, observes The Soap and Detergent Association. So, when packing for college, be sure to take along these products . . .

- **Detergents and fabric softeners with color protection.** They help retain original colors, so garments look new for a longer period of time. For optimum protection, color protectors should be used from the start with new garments.
- **New dispensers for fabric softeners.** A refillable, reusable dispenser is the newest innovation in the fabric softener category. To use, open the dispenser, add softener up to the ball's fill line, and tightly close the cap. Load the machine with clothes and detergent. Drop the dispenser on top of clothes at the start of the wash cycle and walk away. Just before the rinse cycle begins, the washer's spinning motion will open the ball, automatically releasing the softener.
- **Pre-measured detergent tablets.** You don't have to carry around boxes or bottles of detergent. These portable tablets are lightweight and easy to use.

### **Got a job interview tomorrow?**

At one time, laundering or a trip to the dry cleaners were the only solutions for reviving a garment. Today, you can perk up your wardrobe with these products:

- **Wrinkle-releasing sprays.** They help relax and smooth fabrics without ironing. To use, spray evenly until the garment is slightly damp, and then tug and smooth away the wrinkles. Let the garment hang until it's thoroughly dry.



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## Inside

### News Flash: Good Riddance

Send tough stains packing! 2

### Dishwashing Know-How

New products and tips for getting the job done 2

### Summer Cleaning in Style

New trends in the cleaning aisle 3

### Sunshine Floors

Keeping them in good shape this summer! 3

### Highlights

Contests, news, and programs to use 3

### Cleaning Questions? Ask Nancy!

3

### Clean Ideas

Tidy Up While School's Out 4

## Calendar of Clean

### Meet SDA at . . .

The National Association of School Nurses Annual Conference, July 11-14, 2004 at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle, WA (Booth #415).

- **In-home dryer products** cut down on trips to the dry cleaner. They're perfect for removing odors, such as stale tobacco and perspiration, as well as light soil.

### Hosting an all-night study group?

Try using **fabric refreshers**. They remove odors, including those from cigarette smoke, cooking, and perfume, on hard-to-wash and soft surfaces, such as carpets, upholstery, and curtains. Spray the product evenly on fabric until it's slightly damp. As the fabric dries, the odor fades away.

As with all these products, read and follow the product label instructions before using. And, enjoy the new school year!

## News Flash

### Good Riddance

#### *Send tough summer stains packing!*

Whether it's a backyard picnic or a trip to the beach, stains seem to tag along. The Soap and Detergent Association offers these tips for removing some common summer stains and products that can help get the job done easier!

**Ice cream.** Use a pretreat laundry product. Then launder. Stain savvy: *If it's an old stain, let it soak for several hours.*

**Mustard.** Pretreat with a prewash product. Then launder using chlorine bleach (if it's safe for the fabric) or color-safe bleach. Stain savvy: *If a greasy residue remains, soak in warm water using a pretreat product. Then rinse thoroughly and relaunder.*

**Grass stains.** Use a pretreat laundry product. Then launder the garment as soon as possible. Stain savvy: *Check the garment for stain removal before drying it, as the heat of the dryer can set the stain. If stain persists, launder the garment again using bleach that's safe for the fabric.*

**Suntan lotion.** Pretreat with a prewash product. Then, launder in the hottest water that's safe for the fabric. Stain savvy: *Apply sunscreen and let it dry before putting on the garment.*

**Perspiration.** Use a prewash stain remover or rub with bar soap. Then launder in the hottest water that's safe for the fabric. Stain savvy: *If perspiration has changed the color of the fabric, apply ammonia to fresh stains or white vinegar to old stains; then rinse. Stubborn stains may respond to washing with a color-safe bleach in the hottest water that's safe for the fabric.*

#### **Kiss Stains Good-bye!**

Say goodbye to stains with these new laundry products:

- **Detergents with bleaches or bleaching benefits.** They can be excellent stain removers.
- **Bleach pens.** They're filled with chlorine bleach in gel form that can "write" out stains on white, white-and-colored striped, floral, and patterned clothes.
- **Pre-measured detergent tablets.** They're portable, lightweight, and dribble-free, so there's no mess!

### Dishwashing Know-How

#### *New products and tips for getting the job done*

Summer is a time for entertaining, but food and guests also mean dirty dishes. The good news is – new products help make tough dishwashing jobs easier, reports The Soap and Detergent Association. Try these tips and products for hand and automatic dishwashing.

#### **Hand Dishwashing Tips**

Wipe off leftover food and grease from dishes and cookware using a rubber spatula or paper towels. Soak dishes with greasy soils or baked-on or burned-on foods in a solution of liquid hand dishwashing detergent or baking soda and hot water. Soak for about 15 to 20 minutes. Then drain the water and wash the dishes and cookware.

#### **New Hand Dishwashing Products:**

- **Wipes with dishwashing liquid.** They lather up once water is added.
- **Hand dishwashing liquids with new scents.** They also feature hand-care ingredients, such as proteins, vitamin E, vitamin B5, and aloe vera.

#### **Automatic Dishwashing Tips**

Scrape off large food particles. Prerinsing dishes should not be necessary. A reasonably current dishwasher that's properly installed and operating and an automatic dishwashing detergent should do a thorough job.

Place the heavily-soiled side of each item facing the source of the water spray at the center of the tub. Only use a product made specifically for automatic dishwashers. Any other type will cause oversudsing and possible damage to the dishwasher.

#### **New Forms of Dishwashing Products:**

- **Detergents in tablet form.** The tablet is actually two layers: a pre-soak that dissolves and removes dried food and a detergent that cleans. Another version includes a sheeting agent to help keep glassware shiny and smudge-free.
- **Detergents in gel form.** They come in easy-pour bottles or in pre-measured pacs that dissolve completely.
- **Rinse-aids.** They can be used either as a separate product or integrated into the dishwasher detergent to help prevent spotting and filming.
- **Plastic cleaning boosters.** They can help remove tough stains from plastic ware.

## Summer Cleaning in Style

### *New trends in the cleaning aisle*

Want cleaning products that are simple, easy, and appealing to use? Well, new trends in cleaning products are perfect for attacking dirt and germs this summer, reports The Soap and Detergent Association. Look for these products in the cleaning aisle at your favorite store:

**Scented for success.** New cleaning products with sophisticated, exotic fragrances. Bouquets of fresh herbs, fruits, and flowers join traditional scents like lemon and pine.

**Mop away.** All-in-one mops use moist, electrostatic cloths that contain a cleaning solution to clean floors easier and faster.

**Wipe out.** Wipes for every conceivable use – from dishwashing to dusting, from floor wipes to flushable wipes – are making as-you-go cleanup easier than ever!

**Bacteria attack!** A wider-than-ever variety of cleaning products with germ-fighting formulations help kill germs and bacteria throughout the house.

## Sunshine Floors

### *Keeping them in good shape this summer!*

Floors get dirty and can become damaged. After all, we walk on them every day! With the high traffic your floors are bound to receive this summer, The Soap and Detergent Association offers these helpful tips for keeping floors clean and in good shape.

**Clean floors regularly.** Soil left over time is hard to remove.

**Make a clean sweep.** Vacuum or sweep floors first to remove dirt, dust, and crumbs. This helps prevent scratches.

**Loosen soils.** When washing floors, the cleaning solution should remain on the floor just long enough to loosen the soil. Leaving it on longer may cause damage.

**Smooth it over.** Don't use abrasive pads or cleansers that can scratch the floor. Use a product formulated for washing floors. Always read and follow product label instructions.

**Buff it up.** If you're applying wax or polish, be sure the floor is clean and thoroughly dry first.

## Highlights

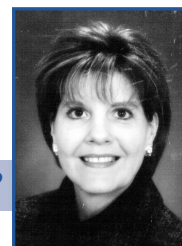
### Texas Takes Top Award!

#### *Healthy Schools, Healthy People – It's a SNAP Award*

With their innovative, cross-curricular approach, students at Crownover Middle School in Corinth, TX collaborated and cleaned up! Students from science, math, technology, arts, theater, language arts, and skills-for-living classes developed a school handwashing program!

Students took cultures, recorded data, made posters in English and Spanish, and created a hand hygiene video. As the Top Award recipient, Crownover received an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. for three students and a celebration for the winning classes. Students were also honored at a reception in Washington, D.C.

The School Network for Absenteeism Prevention (SNAP) challenges middle schools to develop programs that make hand hygiene a priority for the entire school community. It's a joint project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and The Soap and Detergent Association (SDA). For more information about the SNAP program, visit [www.itsasnapp.org](http://www.itsasnapp.org).



### Cleaning Questions?

### Ask Nancy!

**Q: When grilling this summer, how can I prevent the spread of bacteria?**

**A:** Here's how to keep bacteria at bay at the grill:

- Always wash hands thoroughly with warm water and soap *before* and *after* handling food.
- If possible, use one cutting board for raw meat, poultry, and seafood and another one for fresh produce.
- Thoroughly wash cutting boards, dishes, and utensils with soap and hot water after they come in contact with raw meat, poultry, and seafood.
- Place cooked food on a clean plate for serving.

— Nancy Bock is Vice President of Education for The Soap and Detergent Association



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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# Cleaning Matters

## Clean Ideas

### Tidy Up While School's Out

*Get the kids involved*

**1. Divide tasks.** Base cleaning chores on your child's age and ability. For instance three-year-olds can help set and clear the table. Nine-year-olds can vacuum. Eleven-year-olds can do laundry.

**2. Post it.** Hang a to-do chart of tasks where everyone can see it, such as on the refrigerator. Rotate chores every month.

**3. Be specific.** Clarify what needs to be done. For instance, how often do you want the trash taken out? Do you want the trash can liners changed, too?

**4. Dress for success.** Have kids wear comfortable shoes and overalls or aprons with big pockets to stuff things into. They'll get a kick out of their new cleaning gear!

**5. Organize toys.** This is a job kids can definitely do. To reduce clutter, have them sort out toys they no longer want. Donate unwanted toys to charity or plan a garage sale. And, always have them put their toys away when they're finished playing.

**A note about product safety:** Allow children to help only when you're using a multi-purpose cleaner and only with proper adult supervision. Don't allow children to use disinfectants, disinfectant cleaners, chlorine bleach, or any product that has a warning on the label, such as "Keep out of reach of children."

For more information, visit: [www.cleaning101.com](http://www.cleaning101.com)

#### About Us

SDA, the Home of the U.S. Cleaning Products Industry<sup>SM</sup>, is dedicated to educating the public about the safety and benefits of cleaning products and practices and protecting the ability of our members to formulate products that best meet consumer needs.