


 **C**LEANLINESS FACTS

TIPS AND TRENDS FROM THE SOAP AND DETERGENT ASSOCIATION

475 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016

LET'S TALK TURKEY
Holiday Food Safety

As the centerpiece of the Thanksgiving meal, that golden brown turkey is a source of delight. However, it might also be a source of food-borne illness, warns The Soap and Detergent Association, unless some simple preparation and storage procedures are followed.

Never leave a frozen turkey out on the countertop to defrost - bacteria will grow rapidly at room temperature. Instead, use one of the following methods. Defrost the frozen bird in the refrigerator. Plan on one defrost day for every five pounds of turkey. A second, faster, method is to defrost the wrapped turkey by submerging it in cold water. Add ice or new cold water every 30 minutes. It takes about 10 hours to defrost a 20 pound bird. Finally, if the turkey fits, it can be defrosted in the microwave. Be sure to follow the oven manual instructions. Because the cooking process may start during thawing, a micro-defrosted turkey must be cooked immediately.

Of utmost importance to food safety is keeping everything clean. Always thoroughly wash your hands before preparing foods and after handling raw meat. Wash utensils, counters, cutting boards and any other surface that raw meats have touched, using hot, soapy water. And don't neglect the refrigerator - clean up spills right away to prevent contamination of other foods.

Stuff the turkey just before it goes into the oven. Because the bird's cavity insulates the stuffing from cold temperatures, a pre-stuffed turkey, even though refrigerated, is a breeding ground for bacteria.

Never cook the turkey at a temperature less than 325°F. Lower oven temperatures keep the bird in the 40° to 140°F range too long where many bacteria, including some that produce heat-resistant toxins, can grow.

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To be sure the turkey is thoroughly cooked, use a meat thermometer. If the turkey is done, the thermometer should read 180°F in the dark meat and 165°F in the stuffing.

Once the turkey is thoroughly cooked, take it out of the oven and remove the stuffing immediately. Turkey should never be held at room temperature for more than two hours. Leftovers should be stored within two hours and eaten within three to four days. ■


SDA



A WISH LIST FOR SANTA

Holiday Gift Ideas

Deck the halls, tame the tresses and outfit the kitchen with a Santa-sack full of holiday designs and gift ideas.

Tableware manufacturers are introducing accent plates featuring Christmas and Hanukkah themes. These are designed to mix and match with existing china patterns so hostesses can have a holiday tablesetting without investing in a whole new set of china.

Table linen and bedding manufacturers are following suit. Favorite motifs for tablecloths, napkins and table runners include evergreens and poinsettias against solid and plaid grounds, jolly Santas, musical instruments and picture-perfect presents. Winter scenes, with subtler holiday motifs, are popular for home furnishings items, such as comforters, throw pillows, woven rugs and chair pads.

Gift inspiration abounds in the hair care market, reports The Soap and Detergent Association. New offerings include a hair dryer that dries hair from the roots, a beard and moustache trimmer, a cordless butane-powered curling iron, a man's shaver with a spiral cutting blade and an adjustable styling brush that lets the user select the size of the curl - from 5/8" to 7/8".

Home safety also has a holiday theme. Christmas ornaments that double as smoke alarms are a great pre-Christmas or house gift. They have a siren that is activated if temperatures rise above 113°F.

Small kitchen appliances that zero in on the recipient's special tastes and talents are always welcome. For bread machine users, consider a bread slicing system with electric knife and slicing guide. Pasta machines, with an assortment of dies, cutting tools and measuring cups, as well as companion videos and recipe books, are welcome gifts for those who love to putter in the kitchen. For coffee aficionados, new innovations in cappuccino machines, such as froth makers and combination water tank/boilers, shorten and simplify the process. ■

WOOL

It's A Natural

It's no accident that wool is the fiber of choice in many winter-ready wardrobes. When the air is cool and damp, as in many winter climates, the wool absorbs the moisture, keeping a layer of dry, insulating air next to the skin. Wool is also a good choice for warmer climates, notes The Soap and Detergent Association, because it absorbs body perspiration the same way it absorbs damp air, allowing the body's natural cooling system to work better.

To prolong the life of a wool garment, give it good daily care. Let it rest for 24 hours between wearings. Empty the pockets to preserve the shape. Brush thoroughly to remove any surface soil. Store woven garments on shaped, padded hangers. Knit garments should be folded and stored on a shelf or in a drawer.

For a light refreshing, hang the garment in a steamy bathroom. For heavier creases and wrinkles, use a steam iron set on the wool setting. Use a press cloth or, if possible, press on the wrong side of the garment, using an up-and-down rather than a sliding motion.

Never machine wash a wool garment unless it is specifically labeled as machine washable. The Wool Bureau's Superwash® label means it can be machine washed on the "gentle" cycle, using cool water and light duty detergent, then tumble dried for 15 to 20 minutes. If a garment is labeled "handwashable," use lukewarm or cool water and light duty detergent. Soak for three to five minutes. Rinse in cool water and dry away from sunlight and direct heat. Never twist or wring the garment. If a garment is not labeled as hand or machine washable, it must be dry cleaned. Fibers that are not treated for washability will lock together when they are agitated in the wash water. Because they can't unlock and spring back to their original length, the fabric shrinks.

When it's time to store wool garments for the season, be sure they are dry cleaned or laundered first. Pack them away in airtight containers with mothballs suspended above the clothing. If mothballs are not available, use a six-month mothproofing spray. ■

REMOVING STAINS

Start With the Label

To keep one's wardrobe looking new for as long as possible, it's important to pay attention to the information on the care label. Since set-in stains are harder to remove, blot liquids or scrape off excess solids immediately. If the care label says "Dry Clean" or "Professionally Dry Clean," promptly take the item to the dry cleaner and let him or her know the source of the stain.

Generally, stains in washable garments can be treated faster than those in garments that are dry-clean-only. "Machine Wash" means that the garment can be cleaned in a commercial or home washing machine. Depending on the fiber content, weave and color, the label may specify a particular water temperature and machine cycle. "Hand Wash" means that the garment should be handled gently and washed separately by hand, using cool water and a light duty detergent.

Because heat sets stains, garments should not be washed or ironed until the stain is treated. On stains of unknown origin, use cold, not hot, water. After treatment, air dry the garments; do not machine dry until the stain is thoroughly removed.

When using any stain removal product, The Soap and Detergent Association recommends the following procedures:

- Test the stain removal process in an inconspicuous area, such as a seam allowance, to be sure it will not harm the fabric or change the color of the garment.
- Use a light touch. Hard rubbing can weaken fibers and/or work the stain deeper into the fabric.
- Whenever possible, place the stained area face down on white towels to push the stain out, not in.
- To prevent rings, work from the outside of the stain toward the center. If a ring should form, feather or sponge irregularly along the edge, using a barely damp cloth or sponge.
- To remove excess moisture, press the sponged area between two pieces of dry, absorbent material, then air dry the garment.
- Finally, be patient. Stubborn stains often require a second or third treatment.
- To remove all the stain and stain remover, rinse thoroughly or launder items. ■

MISCELLANY

Dryer Exhausting

During machine drying, an average load of laundry loses about a pound of water. Unless the dryer is properly exhausted to the outside, all this moisture can cause mildew and other problems, plus it can take up to twice as long as necessary to dry a load.

The type of ducting material can make a big difference in dryer efficiency, stresses The Soap and Detergent Association. Rigid or flexible metal duct, at least four inches in diameter, is preferred. Although flexible thin foil and flexible plastic ducts are popular with consumers, many dryer manufacturers recommend against it. The flexible plastic duct is a combustible material that punctures easily, can sag and may become brittle over time. In addition, it can restrict air flow, which increases drying time.

The exhaust duct should be as short and straight as possible. The hood on the outside should have a swing-out damper and at least 12" of clearance between the bottom of the hood and the ground or other obstruction.

Laundry on the Move

More and more American families are deciding that the basement is definitely not the most logical place for the laundry. According to information spotted by The Soap and Detergent Association, three out of five new appliance owners relocated their laundry to the first floor.

Sociability is a factor, as is the convenience of existing plumbing lines. One favorite location is near the kitchen, where many other homemaking tasks are concentrated. Another desirable location is near the bedroom/bath area, where dirty clothes accumulate and clean clothes are stored. Some families are opting for dual purpose utility rooms adjoining the kitchen or laundry/mud rooms near the back door.

Stacked laundry units are particularly suitable for bathrooms and bedroom hallways, where they can fit nicely into a full-size closet. Bathrooms also provide a sink for pre-treating, as well as moisture-resistant floor, walls and counter.





Copper Cookware Comeback

Copper cookware has always been regarded as one of the best conductors of heat. However, for many years, high prices and the need for polishing to maintain its luster have caused a decline in its popularity. Today, the trend toward better cookware has raised the price points on stainless, aluminum and anodized cookware, and many consumers now regard copper cookware as an affordable option.

Because copper interacts with acidic foods, it must be lined with a nonreactive metal. The switch from tin linings to stainless steel linings is another reason for increased interest in copper cookware. As The Soap and Detergent Association points out, tin is not very durable. After five to 10 years, professional re-tinning is required while a stainless steel lining is good for a lifetime.

Copper cookware can be easily cleaned using a copper cleaner. After cleaning, wash using a hand dishwashing detergent and water, then polish with a soft, clean cloth.

Household Scents That Tickle the Senses

Consumers often judge the effectiveness of a cleaning product by the way it smells. For years, pine and lemon have been the dominant fragrances in this market. And, although they are still the most popular, many consumers are finding other scents equally appealing.

Much of this acceptance is based on exposure to scents in many other areas, including personal care products. However, explains The Soap and Detergent Association, the most trend-setting household scents have borrowed notes from fine fragrant perfumery, rather than exactly duplicating them. The result is a lighter scent that is more universally appealing.

The natural trend has inspired two divergent fragrance trends. The first is a small, but increased, number of scent-free products. The second is the emergence of "marine type" fragrances. Terms like "sun fresh," "mountain fresh," "country," and "breeze" are used to describe these scents. ■

Q & A

SDA Answers Your Questions

Q: My friend suggested putting tennis balls with my comforter in the dryer to keep the filling from clumping. Is this a good idea?

A: The balls will help distribute the filling while the comforter is drying, however, The Soap and Detergent Association does not recommend this practice for three reasons: 1) the rubber in the tennis balls may not be able to withstand the heat; 2) dye may transfer from the neon colored balls to the garments being dried; and 3) the balls could become wedged between the dryer baffle and the bulkhead which might require a service call to repair.

To help keep filling evenly distributed while drying, periodically stop the dryer, remove the garment and shake it vigorously. If it's not possible to stay with the clothes during the entire drying cycle, add clean, dry towels to the load. The towels will help distribute the filling and will avoid possible problems caused by tennis balls.

Q: My no-wax floor has lost its shine. How can I restore the luster?

A: No-wax floors have a clear "wear layer" which protects the floor's color and pattern. This layer reflects light and it's this light that makes the floor look shiny.

Your floor may have a residue build-up which blocks the light reflections from the floor's surface and makes it look dull.

To remove the residue, use a no-rinse floor cleaner and scrub the floor with a mop or stiff bristle brush, wiping up the loosened soil with old terry towels as you clean. Then, clean the floor again. You may need to clean it three or four times to completely remove the residue.

Once the residue is removed, use a floor polish formulated for no-wax floors to restore the shine. ■

WHAT'S NEW?

Warm heart, cold feet? Not any more, thanks to the HeatRest. This compact footrest warms cold tootsies by delivering fan-forced air through the surface. For fast relief, it operates at 400 watts; for day-long comfort, it operates at a lower, 200 watt setting which eliminates the problem of blowing circuit breakers. The unit is designed to fit under a desk, making it perfect for the workplace. (Vornado Air Circulation Systems, Inc.; 550 N 159th Street E; Wichita, KS 67230)

If ironing's a drag, check out the new Clip-Up Iron with Airglide Soleplate. This dimpled soleplate reduces drag during ironing in much the same way that dimples on a golf ball lower its air resistance. The iron also features a multi-positioned, automatic shut-off; a transparent, detachable water tank for easy, sink-side filling; and a center-mounted cord for easy usage by right- or left-handed ironers. (Rowenta Inc.; 281 Albany Street; Cambridge, MA 02139)

To help take the guesswork out of cooking a terrific turkey and turn anyone into a Turkey Genie-us, the USDA sponsors a Meat and Poultry Hotline. Consumers can call 1-800-535-4555 and have their food safety questions answered. Holiday hotline hours are Monday to Friday, November 1-30, 9:00-5:00, EST; Saturday and Sunday, November 19-20, 9:00-5:00, EST; and Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 8:00-2:00, EST. The hotline is also available year-round, Mondays to Fridays, 10:00-4:00, EST.

Start your own holiday real estate boom with mini gingerbread kits. Create 12 different buildings, from school house to salt box house, each approximately five inches high. Tin plate kits contain the necessary culinary construction equipment. Directions and cookie recipes are included. An icing kit with reusable bag provides five decorator tips for shingling, siding and landscaping. (Fox Run Craftsmen; 1907 Stout Drive; Warwick Commons Ind. Pk; Ivyland, PA 18974)■

Soaps and Detergents

A 36-page "A to Z" booklet about cleaning products has been completely updated and given a new chapter format. The full-color booklet includes information on: the history and chemistry of soaps and detergents; the function of cleaning products and their ingredients; how products and ingredients are assessed for their safety to humans and the environment; and the manufacturing process. 1-4 copies free, additional copies \$1.00 each.

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“KEEP IT CLEAN” BRIEFS

Hot pinks, bright greens, electric blues are often much less colorfast than other fabrics. Wash them separately or test them before washing with other colors. For safety's sake, do not pretreat garments in these colors with stain removers unless you have tested them for colorfastness on an inconspicuous area. Fluorescent colors may fade over time.

Clean up spills on no-wax floors as soon as you notice them. Spills can permanently discolor the floor if they penetrate the "wear layer" or cause it to change chemically.

To wipe up stubborn spills, add diluted floor cleaner to a dampened cloth or sponge before wiping.

Your choice of cleaning cloth can make a difference in the cleaning results. Choose a soft, cotton cloth or paper towel for cleaning glass surfaces. Cloths that have been laundered using fabric softener can leave a residue. Extra-absorbent paper towels can leave lint and film on glass surfaces.

Use a foam paintbrush instead of a cloth to clean small spaces between cabinets or under appliances. Soak the paintbrush in the cleaning solution and see how easy it is to get into those hard-to-reach areas.

For best laundering results, garments should be sorted into: whites, non-colorfast items, colorfast items, and permanent press and synthetic items. ■

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