


 **CLEANLINESS FACTS**

TIPS AND TRENDS FROM THE SOAP AND DETERGENT ASSOCIATION

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WATER SAVING TIPS**Better Results with Less Water**

Used properly, dishwashers and washing machines are two labor-saving appliances that can help conserve water, too. Dishwashers use less water - an average of 5.8 fewer gallons per load - than washing the same dishload by hand. Decreasing water consumption even further is a matter of following a few simple guidelines from The Soap and Detergent Association.

It's not necessary to pre-rinse dishes.

Dishwashers that feature multiple water distribution points, a self-cleaning filter to remove food soil from the water and high velocity wash action simply don't require it. Only in the cases of burned-on food is soaking recommended.

Small loads waste water, so don't run the dishwasher until accumulating a full load. If necessary, use the rinse-and-hold cycle. Load the dishwasher according to manufacturer's directions, as improper loading may result in still-soiled dishes. Correct water temperature is also important. To insure that greasy food soils are dissolved, water should be at least 130°F in the dishwasher.

Use only detergent formulated for automatic dishwashers. The correct amount depends on the degree of water hardness. The general recommendation is one teaspoon of detergent per grain of water hardness with three teaspoons as a minimum in soft water. Finally, when suitable, take advantage of low energy/light wash cycles.

Like dishwashers, washing machines perform more efficiently under certain conditions. The water heater should be set at 140°F to insure proper wash temperatures for hot and warm washes. Then, at the washer, select the appropriate wash temperature according to the degree and type of soil. Since rinsing is merely a dilution process, a cold water rinse is appropriate

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for every type of load. Use enough detergent to avoid having to re launder. Be aware that the usage requirements on the detergent package are for average conditions. Hard water, large loads or heavy soil require more detergent.

Choose a water level appropriate for the size and type of load. Skimping on water is not necessarily the same as saving it. Insufficient water may mean having to rewash individual items, or whole loads. ■


SDA



BEATING THE WEATHER

Tips for Maintaining Outdoor Furniture

Today's outdoor furniture is tough, but it still needs regular care to look its best year after year. According to The Soap and Detergent Association, washing outdoor furniture frequently is one of the best ways to preserve it. When dirt and the residue from air-borne pollutants are allowed to set, metals corrode and become pitted, while plastics and fabrics lose their color.

Outdoor furniture should be washed at the beginning of each outdoor season. First, dust each item, then wash it in a solution of mild detergent and water. Dry thoroughly. Now, make certain all nuts, bolts and screws are tight. Missing, broken or rusted fasteners should be replaced with rustproof ones made of aluminum, galvanized steel or stainless steel. Next, lubricate all hinges and wheels with a silicone lubricant. Oil should be avoided because it tends to cake and attract dirt.

From this point on, the care that the garden furniture needs depends upon the material it is made of.

Aluminum furniture resists rust but has to be safeguarded against a type of pitting that gives the metal a dull patina. Frequent washings help prevent this condition if the metal is in good shape or has an enameled or baked-on finish. If the metal is already in poor condition, however, more than a washing is needed to revive it. In such a case, rub each piece briskly with a steel wool, soap-scouring pad. If that proves insufficient, try a no. 00 steel wool pad soaked in kerosene or paint thinner.

Once the metal is smooth again, wash it in a mild detergent and water solution. Rinse and dry thoroughly. Protect the rejuvenated finish with a light application of automobile wax, then buff to remove any excess. Ideally, aluminum should be washed and waxed every few months.

Plastic Resin is extremely durable and weather resistant. It can withstand the elements, the stress of ordinary use and the extra wear that outdoor furniture suffers. In addition, resin furniture can be easily stored because the pieces usually break down or stack to take up less storage space. This popular furniture maintains its sleek clean look for

years with minimum care. Most soil and stains can be cleaned off with a non-abrasive all-purpose cleaner, a glass cleaner or a cleaner-polish, following package directions. Or, wipe the surface with a sponge or cloth dipped in a solution of hand dishwashing detergent and warm water. Rinse thoroughly and dry with a clean soft cloth.

Redwood furniture is attractive and weather-resistant in that it is not likely to rot or warp. It can split, however, and will almost surely turn grey within a year if not cared for properly. Commercial brands of redwood stain and sealer are available to help prevent this condition. To apply the sealer, first wash the furniture and replace any fasteners that are starting to rust, as they will eventually stain the wood. Then, lightly sand all exposed parts with No. 150 or 180 grit paper. Dust, and finally, wipe with a rag that has been moistened in paint thinner. The final step to this preservation process is to apply one to two coats of water repellent sealer specially made for redwood.

Wicker furniture is weather-resistant, but it can dry out in the sun. Keep it in the shade and soak it in water once a year to put moisture back into its fibers.

Undamaged wicker simply has to be washed and refinished periodically to keep it in good condition. Vacuum the furniture first. Then, wipe it down with a rag soaked in a mild detergent and warm water solution. Use an old toothbrush to remove stubborn dirt. An ice pick can be used to remove paint that has lodged into the weave.

If mildew is a problem, wash the furniture with a solution of 3/4 cup chlorine bleach and one quart of water. Since the bleach may lighten the wicker, apply it to the entire piece of furniture. Wear gloves when working with bleach and protect your clothing from splashes and spills.

Wicker furniture with a natural finish that has dulled can be restored by applying lemon oil furniture polish. Scratches can be minimized with products specially formulated for this purpose.

Wrought Iron can look good for years if it is touched up whenever bare metal is exposed. Use a rust-resistant metal primer on these spots to prevent rust from spreading under the paint. ■

WOMEN'S FASHIONS

Of Cats and Cravats

For Fall '92, women's fashions are in the menswear mode. Everything from hats to cravats, from pantsuits to pinstripes is borrowed from the boys. Tailored suits with longer jackets paired to relaxed, medium width trousers or long, skinny skirts are everywhere in every possible fabrication. Even eveningwear is getting in on the act. Think tuxedos or gray chiffon evening pants pinstriped in sequins suggests The Soap and Detergent Association. Cuff links, fob chains, stick pins, ties and ascots complete the look. Even the color palette has a menswear bent. Black, brown and virtually any shade of gray are enormously popular.

Vests abound as part of the menswear look or off on their own fashion venture. Lengths vary, from the traditional waistcoat length to dress length. Leather follows as a close second to the traditional menswear fabrications. Trompe l'oeil effects produce dresses that masquerade as vest and skirt combos. The white shirt is the natural accompaniment to the suit and tie, but it's equally beautiful on its own as an oversized tunic, or with bra-seaming and waistline draping, or with deep French cuffs and gathered yokes.

Animal prints prowl the land with leopard leading the fashion pack. Following close behind are ocelot, pony, tiger, zebra, calfskin and snakeskin. Look for them in whole garments or accessory touches in every fabric category from fake fur to body-clinging knits to printed chiffon. Leather, too, is an important fabric for trench coats, bomber jackets, vests, pants and dresses. Black is the predominant color, particularly when the medium is liberally mixed and matched with menswear looks and animal prints.

Knits make news in glamour girl sweater sets, including skinny tube skirts that hit anywhere from just below the knee to just above the ankle and ankle-skimming cardigans.

This season's era-of-influence is the early '70s. Contributions include bandleader jackets that pay homage to Sergeant Pepper, Mad Hatter hats, platform shoes, chunky heeled granny boots and high tops. ■

MENSWEAR

Dress for Duress

For Fall '92, menswear fashions are a true reflection of the times. When it comes to suits, sobriety and discretion are the watchwords. Suits are undergoing changes so subtle they're barely noticeable - one-button closings, slightly rounded shoulders and fabrics with microscopic designs. From afar, the effect is a unified solid. Up close, small patterns are visible. Consumers are increasingly receptive to suits that retail for under \$300 but have the same standards of fabric and workmanship as their higher priced counterparts. Faced with an increasing trend toward dressing down in the office, manufacturers are going all out to meet this demand.

This trend is affecting the sportshirt market, too, observes The Soap and Detergent Association. Many companies are relaxing their strict suit-and-tie-every-day policies to endorse Sportshirt Fridays. The result is an interesting collection of shirts, mainly in cotton and rayon, in beautiful patternings. Plaids rate high on the list, with classic tartans appearing in traditional reds and blues or recolored in oranges and greens. Checks, madras and ombres follow in close order. Patterns are mixed according to garment section, or spliced and patched to create new design lines where none existed previously.

Vests move out from their place as the expendable member of a business ensemble to a place of honor in the sportswear arena. Offbeat vests, generally cut full and square, are layered over denim or silk shirts and soft pants. Look for vests in mixed patterns, such as a Navajo stripe, a plaid and a synthetic suede, or with borderline-funky details such as zip fronts and braid trim. The season's newest sweaters are loose variations of the turtleneck in luxury blends of cashmere and silk. Interesting details include wide collars that can be turned over and over to form a deep roll and neckline zippers.

Sportswear in general favors deep, woody colors like spruce, black denim and khaki. Favorite outerwear coverups include the field jacket and the baseball jacket. ■





CHILDREN'S FASHION FORECAST

Color and Print Take Precedence

Because they're comfortable, practical and fun, this season's children's clothes are equally appealing to small fry tastes and adult sensibilities. In reports gathered by The Soap and Detergent Association, pattern and color provide the news.

Homespun themes predominate in basics, such as denim, homespun, chambray and canvas, that are prized for their worn, rustic jeanswear look. Corduroys and flannels add warmth and texture. Tartans, gingham, calicos and mini lumberjack plaids celebrate the country life and the frontier work ethic. Country crafts, such as patchwork, quilting, cross stitch, crochet and stencilling provide a wealth of decorative motifs. Fringed vests, roll-up cuffed pants, prairie dresses, workshirts, and jumpers inspired by aprons and pinafores define the look.

Global influences abound, with cultural themes so tightly intertwined that the exact country of origin remains somewhat a mystery. Festive colors, paisleys, ethnic patternings with Asian, Far Eastern and Oriental overtones add a touch of fantasy to smock dresses, sweaters, vests, knit tops and layered ensembles.

The brightest palette sees traditional themes, such as madras, tartans and houndstooths, exploding into vibrant colors, making their classic layouts almost unrecognizable. Prints are oversized and eclectic, combining optical baroque and abstract elements. Observe plastic raincoats, full tops over stretch leggings, sweatsuits with imaginative outlooks.

The sports world is invading the fashion world with licensed apparel that runs the gamut from sportswear to underwear. Kids can dress like the pros in scaled-down versions of the garb worn by their favorite sports hero or proclaim their team loyalty in everything from rompers to unisex jackets. Sports-oriented appliques, knitwear and print motifs transform basic silhouettes, such as sweatsuits, t-shirts, blue jeans and windbreakers, into major league fashion.

Boots are the footwear of choice for both sexes. Other footwear to note includes moccasins, loafers and chunky monkeys. ■

MISCELLANY

Caring for Activewear

If properly cared for, body hugging activewear garments, such as swimsuits and cycling shorts, will keep their shape and their good looks for a long time. Since special treatment may be required, The Soap and Detergent Association stresses the importance of reading and following care label instructions.

To prevent damage to spandex or polypropylene fabrics, avoid chlorine bleach, dryer-drying and ironing. Garments made from these fabrics should be hand washed or machine washed using a Delicate cycle and detergent, as recommended on the care label. To dry, roll in a towel to blot excess water, then line dry away from the heat and sun. Tanning lotions, salt, chlorine and perspiration can all weaken a swimsuit's fabric and dull its bright colors. To prevent this, rinse the suit in fresh water immediately after swimming, then wash it as soon as possible.

Keeping White Clothes White

Nothing is more attractive in the summer than a crisp, clean white garment. The key to keeping whites white is recognizing that all whites are not created equal. Because many fabrics have an off-white or yellowish cast in their natural state, they are often bleached. In addition, many white fabrics are treated with optical brighteners, called fluorescent whitening agents, that change the reflective quality of the fabric, making it appear whiter and brighter. These brighteners are especially sensitive to light when garments are wet. This, explains The Soap and Detergent Association, is why some care labels specify drying out of direct sunlight.

Resins added to impart a permanent press can also cause yellowing if exposed to chlorine bleach. To avoid this, follow the care label and use only non-chlorine bleach where specified.

Sometimes loss of whiteness is due to normal aging, oxidation and exposure to atmospheric soils. If this type of yellowing is not too severe, a laundry detergent that contains fluorescent brighteners may correct the problem.

Packing Those Beauty Essentials

When preparing for a trip, packing the right beauty products is as important as packing the right clothes. Since changes in climate and routine can make skin especially sensitive, this is not the time to experiment with new products. Pack prudently, using already familiar products. Beauty essentials include a moisturizer with a sunscreen, plus makeup, cleanser, sunscreen, fragrance, shampoo, conditioner, hairspray or mousse, and a wide-tooth comb or brush.

Keeping a toiletry bag packed at all times will put an end to frantic, last minute cosmetic shopping, suggests The Soap and Detergent Association. Purchase products in convenient, unbreakable travel-size containers. For extra protection against damage or leakage, enclose them in resealable bags, then pack everything in a cosmetic bag. When flying, store the cosmetic bag in carry on luggage. Not only will this save money and aggravation if checked luggage is lost, but it also means easy, in-transit fresh ups during long trips.

Beauty in the Great Outdoors

During summer months, skin needs special protection during any outdoor activity. True sunblocks, the type that won't disappear when applied to the skin, offer the best protection. Most sunscreens, even those with a high SPF, allow some tanning to take place.

Because heat and sun can make one perspire, The Soap and Detergent Association recommends choosing a sunscreen that is waterproof. Even for everyday protection, look for one with an SPF of 15 or more. Apply it at least 30 minutes prior to sun exposure, then reapply it periodically every few hours or after swimming.

The proper clothing can be the best protective measure of all. Choose fabrics with a tight weave. And always wear sunglasses and a sun hat, visor or other type of headcovering with a brim to shield your eyes. ■

WHAT'S NEW?

Unbreakables is a new line of exceptionally durable drinkware especially designed for elegant outdoor entertaining. Injection-molded from Makrolon, a polycarbonate plastic, this stemware is dishwasher safe, won't be harmed by acidic beverages, such as juice and wine, and is scratch-resistant under normal use. Unlike many other plastic products, even after repeated washings it will not impart an unpleasant taste to beverages.

(Moller International Design;
4400 MacArthur Boulevard, 5th floor;
Newport Beach, CA 92660)

New on the market is an indoor grill that will simultaneously grill both sides of foods, such as meat, fish or poultry, in one to two minutes. The Grill Express is a compact appliance with a stationary grill in the bottom unit and a removable grill in the top. The top can be adjusted to accommodate the thickness of the food. Since the food is cooked in a sealed environment, juices are retained and shrinkage is minimal.

(Creative Technologies Corporation;
Brooklyn Navy Yard, Bldg. #5; Brooklyn, NY 11205)

Three new, special-focus cookbooks put a new spin on several familiar foods.

The Sandwich Maker Cookbook includes a section on inventive "wrappers," such as tortillas, biscuits, egg roll wrappers and pie crust.

The Juicer Book contains recipes for juice, recipes that use juice and recipes that use the pulp left over from juicing.

Waffles, from the Nitty Gritty Cookbook line, features 150 recipes for use with waffle makers, including honey nut oatmeal waffles and amaretto waffles, plus peanut butter and chocolate chip waffles.

(Bristol Publishing; 14692 Wicks Boulevard;
P.O. Box 1737; San Leandro, CA 94577) ■





"KEEP IT CLEAN" BRIEFS

After handwashing sweaters and blouses, place them in the washing machine on the spin cycle for about one minute. The spin helps remove the water and reduces the drying time. Spread the garment on a clean, flat surface to dry. Use plastic hangers for air drying damp blouses.

To help prevent streaking when cleaning windows, wash them on an overcast day. Direct sunlight tends to dry the window cleaner before the glass has been completely cleaned, causing streaks.

To keep your bathroom shiny clean all day, keep a small, attractive sponge on the sink or tub and ask family members to quickly wipe up after each use. Add bubble bath or water softener when filling the tub to help eliminate bathtub ring.

Regular cleaning of refrigerator gaskets and condenser coils will help it run smoothly, saving energy and money.

Clean refrigerator door gaskets every other month. Use a sponge or soft cloth and wash thoroughly with a mild detergent and warm water. Rinse and dry. Avoid using cleaning waxes, bleaches, strong detergents or petroleum-based cleaners as they may cause gaskets to yellow, harden and crumble.

To clean condenser coils, remove the base grille and vacuum to remove lint and soil. Be sure to clean the coils gently to avoid damaging them.

Turn knits, sweaters and printed t-shirts inside out to help prevent pilling and to protect the print. Turning blue jeans inside out before laundering will help prevent fading. ■

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