



CLEANLINESS FACTS

TIPS AND TRENDS FROM THE SOAP AND DETERGENT ASSOCIATION

475 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016

CARING FOR WOOLENS

Easy Maintenance, Long Life

Day to day maintenance is the key to keeping wool garments beautiful, counsels The Soap and Detergent Association. After each wearing, empty pockets and remove belts. Hang the garment on a padded hanger and let it rest for 24 hours. The garment will shed wrinkles and return to its original shape. After airing, store in a well-ventilated closet. To avoid stretching, fold and store wool knits in a drawer or fold and hang them over a padded hanger rod.

Frequent brushing removes surface soil and revives the nap. Brush lengthwise, using a whisk or lint brush. For finer fabrics, use a damp sponge. To quickly remove wrinkles, hang the garment in a steamy bathroom.

Clean wool garments regularly, following the care label instructions. Garments marked "dry clean" should be taken to a professional dry cleaner. For washable wools, use warm water and mild detergent. Never use chlorine bleach. For those marked "machine wash," use a gentle cycle and a non-chlorine bleach, if necessary. Tumble dry on a low setting or air dry on a shaped hanger. For hand washables, first trace the outline of the garment onto paper. Fill the sink with lukewarm water, then add a mild detergent. Never use bleach. Soak for three to five minutes. Squeeze gently; do not twist, wring, scrub or agitate. Rinse twice in clean, warm water. Gently squeeze out excess moisture. Roll the garment between two towels; let it rest for a few minutes. Place the paper pattern on a dry towel. Unroll the garment, smooth and pin to the pattern. Dry away from sunlight and direct heat.

Treat stains promptly, before they have time to set. A dry cleaner can remove most stains if they are identified. For at-home treatment, work from



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the wrong side, with the right side down on a towel. Check colorfastness by testing on an inconspicuous spot.

To treat alcohol stains, sponge with cool water and a laundry detergent; rinse. To remove grease and oil, dampen and apply a small amount of liquid laundry detergent; rinse. Let mud stains dry, then brush and sponge with soapy water. For perspiration stains, sponge the area with white vinegar. ■





METAL COOKWARE

Evaluating the Choices

Because there is no "best" choice, selecting metal cookware is no easy task for today's consumer. The final decision should be a personal one, based on an understanding of the properties of each type of cookware, says The Soap and Detergent Association.

Aluminum cookware is lightweight and an excellent heat conductor. Generally, the thickness is a mark of quality. This thickness is indicated by a number, called the gauge. The smaller the gauge, the thicker the aluminum. Some aluminum cookware is anodized. This electrochemical process provides a surface that is resistant to stains, scratches and pitting. It also increases the metal's ability to conduct heat.

If stains or discoloration occur, acidic foods, such as tomatoes and rhubarb, will remove stains during the cooking process. Otherwise, boiling a solution of one quart of water to two or three tablespoons of vinegar or lemon juice in the utensil for five or ten minutes, followed by a light rubbing with a soap-filled scouring pad, will do the trick. To remove burned food, cover with water and simmer over low heat and scrape with a wooden spoon until the particles loosen.

Stainless steel cookware is extremely durable. It is scratch resistant and won't corrode or tarnish permanently. It does not conduct heat as well as other metals. To improve its heat conductivity, it is often combined with aluminum or copper. Stainless steel is one of the easiest materials to care for. To remove manufacturing oils and polishing compounds, new cookware should be washed thoroughly in hot sudsy water. After that, washing by hand or in a dishwasher should be all that is required. For stubborn burned-on food, or if stains or discolorations do occur, use a commercial stainless steel cleaner. Avoid undissolved salt. It will pit both aluminum and stainless steel surfaces.

Copper cookware is a superior conductor of heat. To avoid copper's tendency to discolor

some foods, look for cookware that is lined with stainless steel or tin. For some consumers, the metal's beautiful appearance is offset by the need for frequent polishing. However, consumers who use it every day may forego the polishing in favor of the patina that develops. To clean it, use a commercial copper cleaner. After cleaning, wash in sudsy water and rinse. Buff with a soft, clean cloth.

Cast iron cookware heats slowly, but retains heat extremely well. It won't crack, warp, dent or chip. It will, however, rust or impart a metallic taste to food unless it is properly pre-seasoned. Most cast iron is already pre-seasoned before you purchase it. If not, follow the manufacturers directions to pre-season.

After using, wash in hot water with a hand dishwashing detergent, but do not scour. Rinse and dry immediately. Store cast iron in a dry location and never store pans with the covers on. This can cause the pan to sweat which may result in rusting.

Enamel-on-steel and enamel-on-cast-iron cookware retain the basic cooking characteristics of the steel or the cast iron. In addition to adding color and easy maintenance, the enameled surface provides a decorative finish. Clean in warm sudsy water. For burned-on foods or stubborn stains, soak or use a non-abrasive cleanser and a non-abrasive scrubbing pad. If the cookware has been treated with a nonstick finish, it can be safely cleaned in the dishwasher.

Before making a final decision, run a quality check on the cookware under consideration. Handles are important. Check the "feel" by grasping the cookware by its handles. See if they are securely attached. Look for stainless steel rivets to avoid corrosion. There should be no gaps between the rivet and the metal side. Welded handles should be welded in several spots. Check if the handles are ovenproof and if they will stay cool during cooking. Also check the bottom of the pan. It should be flat for safety and even cooking. ■



COOKING APPLIANCES

New Features for Changing Lifestyles

The '90s consumer is more of a homebody, more family oriented and more inclined to entertain at home. But because people are on the run, often with both parents working, cooking appliances that offer convenience and good looks, along with no-muss, no-fuss, cleanup, are becoming more and more desirable. White-on-white and Eurostyling continue to be popular, but all-black and now all-almond are attracting the consumer's attention reports The Soap and Detergent Association.

Innovations in cooktops include modular styles that enable users to change modes easily — for example, from coil elements to a grill, a griddle or a wok. Rotating cooktops, designed for island setups, can be used from either side.

The newest ranges sport recessed knobs and rounded, curved handles. Smooth, seamless surfaces make cleaning easier. Gas ranges feature sealed burners that minimize drips and spills. Freestanding electric ranges often combine the high-powered benefits of halogen and radiant heat. Ceramic surfaces add drama, as well as practicality. Wall ovens offer a range of options — conventional, convection, microwave, baking and broiling — in one unit. Preset electronic controls that regulate preheat, bake, broil, self-clean and delay baking options are popular. Although self-cleaning adds to the cost, consumers seem more than willing to pay for this convenience. The 30" freestanding electric range remains the most popular choice. But, with the advent of sealed burners and self-cleaning ovens, gas is giving electric a run for its money.

Consumers with special needs, such as the elderly, arthritics, the wheelchair-bound, will welcome innovations, such as front controls for easy access, blade-type controls that are easier to operate than knobs, and electronic touch pads with large readouts.

Microwaves are growing — in size and popularity. Consumers show increasing interest in over-the-range and built-in models. The convection-microwave oven, like the convection range, remains only a small part of the market. ■

MISCELLANY

The Lowdown on Down

Down-filled garments, long favored by campers and other outdoor enthusiasts, have entered the mainstream of fashion. Since the down itself is both washable and drycleanable, care procedures depend on other factors. The Soap and Detergent Association points out that the item's size, the construction of the outer shell, the type and degree of soil, and the manufacturer's care instructions are all important considerations.

Down can be hand or machine washed at home. However, to maintain its full body, it must be tumble dried. Stained or heavily soiled items, very large, bulky items and delicate outer shell weaves, such as satin, may require drycleaning. Down-filled garments should be cleaned before they are stored for the season. Store them loosely to allow for air circulation.

A Wardrobe with a Future

Proper storage can keep garments looking good season after season. The Soap and Detergent Association offers some storage tips for a longer-lasting wardrobe.

Follow the garment's care instructions and wash or dryclean everything before storage. Garments that look clean may have invisible stains that will appear over time. For example, if beverage stains are blotted up, they will seem to disappear when the area dries. But, if left untreated, the sugar in the beverage will oxidize, causing a yellow or brownish stain. It's also important to make all necessary repairs prior to storage so garments will be wear-ready.

Store items in a cool, well-ventilated area, away from artificial or natural light. Avoid hot attics, damp basements and garages. Store woolens in cedar chests or other airtight containers. Add mothballs to the latter, and be sure they are suspended above or separated from the clothes. To minimize wrinkles in sweaters and other knits, fold and wrap them in white tissue paper before storage.





Pasta Makers

Consumer interest in pasta makers is on the rise reports The Soap and Detergent Association. Consumers view pasta as a healthy component of a high-protein, low-fat diet. And, home-made pasta appeals to the current trend toward do-it-at-home activities.

New innovations include increased capacity, interchangeable disks for making different types of noodles, built-in blowers for drying noodles and machines that can make pasta or knead dough. In addition to the recipe books that are standard with most pasta makers, several manufacturers also include instructional videos.

African Designs Hot for Bath

African jacquards and patchworks, Afro Ethnic designs, tribal prints and images of Bushmen adorn everything from bath mats to towels to shower curtains.

Other exciting bath trends spotted by The Soap and Detergent Association include quilt styles, apparel looks, chenille products and animal motifs. Cats lead the way. Teddy bears, horses, leopard and zebra prints, and World Wildlife Fund motifs join the bath menagerie. Tweeds, tartans, sweater knit patterns and cable knit jacquards make the transition from wardrobe to washcloth.

Licensed products are popular, particularly those that appeal to juveniles. Barney, Barbie and Snow White adorn beach and bath sets. Tub-bubbles is a clear vinyl shower curtain packaged with three inflatable tub toys.

Nonstick Insulated Bakeware

The addition of a nonstick surface to insulated bakeware is viewed as a real innovation to some, as superfluous to others notes The Soap and Detergent Association.

Some manufacturers insist a nonstick surface is unnecessary, that the whole point of insulated bakeware is that the product won't burn or stick. However, many consumers are willing to pay more for the nonstick insulated product. Industry experts feel that they may prefer the heavier feel of insulated bakeware and the easy cleanup of a nonstick surface. ■

WHAT'S NEW?

Almost as good as breakfast in bed — the Breakfast Express has a complete hot breakfast cooked and ready at the appointed time. The unit can crack and cook two eggs, make toast and brew four cups of automatic drip coffee, all according to a programmable timer. Each operation works independently so the user can customize breakfast. Easy-clean features include a pull-out crumb tray, stainless steel cracking blades, Teflon®-coated frying pan and removable grills in the toaster/broiler oven.

(Welbilt Appliance Incorporated; 3333 New Hyde Park Road; New Hyde Park, NY 11042)

Pet hairs and dust particles are under attack from the Dirt Magnet. The contemporary styled unit is shaped like a sponge mop with a flat oval head. It works dry and can be used on flat carpet, wood floors and other dry surfaces. The sponge portion is made from dust-attracting polyurethane. It snaps out of a plastic frame and is replaceable.

(Kaminstein Imports; 5 Skyline Drive; Hawthorne, NY 10532)

Fancy and fun, the ShellBaker is a small appliance that forms and bakes edible bowls from a variety of doughs, bread mixes and other foods. Applications include cookie dough for ice cream shells, pastry dough for tarts, biscuit dough for seafood salads. A step-up model, the ShellBaker Plus, includes an extra tray to allow for two simultaneous applications.

(Black & Decker, Household Products Group; 6 Armstrong Road; Shelton, CT 06484-4797)

The manufacturer of a rechargeable screwdriver is introducing a battery operated version. Positioned as a screwdriver for the kitchen, the HandyDriver's clean styling and neutral gray color is designed to harmonize with any decor. Its ergonomic shape is designed for women.

(Black & Decker, Household Products Group; 6 Armstrong Road; Shelton, CT 06484-4797) ■

Q & A
SDA Answers Your Questions

Q: What is the proper way to dispose of leftover cleaning products? I'm moving and don't want to carry opened products with me.

A: The best choice, of course, is to use them up. Your next best solution is to give them to someone who can use them. If you do this, be sure to leave the labels intact.

If you can't use them up or give them away, read the label to see if there are disposal instructions given, and follow those instructions. If there are no disposal instructions, follow three guides for proper disposal:

1. Dispose of water soluble cleaning products down-the-drain. Water soluble products are those that are normally mixed or rinsed with water when using. Such products include all-purpose cleaners, bleaches, dishwashing detergents, laundry products, water-based metal cleaners and polishes, and toilet bowl cleaners.

These products are designed to be treated in municipal sewage or septic tank systems and are formulated with this in mind. Use running water while discarding them down-the-drain and do not mix products together.

- 2. Dispose of solid cleaning products in the trash. This includes products like bar soaps, soap scouring pads or towelletes.
- 3. Dispose of non-water soluble products (those not used with water) as special household waste. This category includes such products as some furniture cleaners and polishes, spot removers used for drycleanable garments, metal cleaners and polishes not used with water, products that state on the label they are flammable. Your community may have special collection days for such products, check with your community collection department for guidelines. ■

NEW FROM SDA ... CLEAN and SAFE, The facts about using household cleaning products effectively & safely.

An eight-page guide to safe use and storage of household cleaning products that explains the information given on package labels, how and why to clean and disinfect surfaces, procedures for safe use and storage of cleaning products, and what to do in case of an emergency involving accidental exposure. **Up to 30 copies free. Write for information about larger orders.**

Please send _____ copies of *CLEAN and SAFE*

Name _____

Title _____

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Street

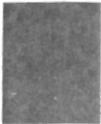
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_____ State

_____ Zip

Mail order to: Clean and Safe
The Soap and Detergent Association
475 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016





“KEEP IT CLEAN” BRIEFS

For fast, easy clean-up in the bathroom —

- Rinse the tub or shower after each use to keep soil from building up.
- Use a squeegee after each use to help keep shower walls clean and bright. A squeegee used for car windshields works well.
- Dry yourself before leaving the shower to help prevent water spots and soapy buildup on shower walls and chrome.
- Close shower curtains and doors after each use to allow water to run off and help keep mold and mildew from forming.

For pretreating spots and stains before laundering, use a prewash soil and stain remover, or a liquid laundry detergent, or a paste of water and powdered detergent.

Washing in an automatic dishwasher can be harmful to cutlery blades and handles. Unless the instructions provided with knives say they are dishwasher safe, it is better to hand wash them. Wash knives in hot, soapy water, towel dry and immediately return them to a safe storage tray or block. Do not allow knives with wooden handles to soak in the water, as it may damage the wood.

Light streaks may appear when cleaning vertical surfaces, such as appliances and walls, with spray cleaners. This is usually caused when the cleaner drips down the surface because it stays on longer and cleans more thoroughly than areas where it is wiped off sooner. To remove streaks, respray and wipe the surface. To prevent streaks, always work from the bottom to the top of vertical surfaces. ■

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