



CLEANLINESS FACTS

TIPS AND TRENDS FROM THE SOAP AND DETERGENT ASSOCIATION

475 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016

RECYCLING PLASTIC CLEANING BOTTLES A Valuable, Often Overlooked, Resource

With only thirteen percent of our solid waste currently being recycled, there is much to be done to reach the Environmental Protection Agency's goal of reducing the nation's solid waste by twenty-five percent. While recycling of newspapers, glass and metal containers is a way of life in many communities, increased recycling of plastic bottles is necessary if we are to meet our recycling objectives.

Most plastic laundry and cleaning product bottles are recyclable. In addition, the soap and detergent industry already uses both clear and colored recycled plastic in a variety of its containers. For example, many detergent and fabric softener bottles have a layer made of plastic that was recycled from used milk jugs and detergent bottles. In addition, some cleaning products come in bottles made entirely from recycled soda bottles and other containers. In order for more to be done, it is important that more recycled plastic be available.

The consumer is both the beginning and ending point in the recycling cycle. To start the cycle, it is important to keep recyclable bottles out of the trash. To do this, consumers should encourage local recycling programs to accept both clear and colored plastics. At the end of the cycle, concerned consumers can once again promote the cause - this time by purchasing packages and products that use recycled materials.

While recycling practices vary from community to community, The Soap and Detergent Association offers some general guidelines for recycling laundry and cleaning product bottles. First, use all of the product. If any remains, follow the disposal instructions on the label. If there are no instructions, simply pour the remaining product down the drain, flushing with water. Once the product is disposed of, rinse the container thoroughly just like you would for glass bottles and jars. It's a good idea to crush or flatten the container, if possible. This saves space in the recycling bin and on trucks picking up the recyclables.



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In most communities it is not necessary to remove labels from the plastic containers. However, caps and pump spray tops are generally not recyclable. If in doubt, the smart solution is to leave them out.

The Soap and Detergent Association has published Recycle It! a leaflet filled with information on recycling. You can receive quantities of the leaflet at no charge by writing to the address on page 6, attention RII, Communications Department. ■





SAFE HANDLING OF POULTRY

Good Health and Good Eating for the Holidays

When chicken and turkey come to the table, be sure they bring with them good taste and good eating. Unfortunately, if not properly handled and cooked, poultry is a breeding ground for several bacteria that cause food poisoning.

As the Thanksgiving holidays approach, The Soap and Detergent Association reminds consumers to take careful and simple precautions to insure good health as well as good taste, at their table.

Begin by choosing a fresh or frozen turkey that is tightly wrapped. Check the label to identify the "expiration," "sell by," or "best if used by" dates. Follow these recommendations. Take the fresh or frozen turkey home immediately after purchasing and store it in the freezer or the refrigerator. Thaw turkey in the refrigerator or in cold water, as instructed on the packaging. Never thaw it at room temperature. Remove the giblets and neck from the body and neck cavities. Then rinse, drain and pat the bird dry with paper towels.

If marinating is on the cooking agenda, be sure it is done in the refrigerator. Don't use leftover marinade for last-minute basting or sauce unless it has been boiled and strained. When the raw juices find their way into other uncooked foods, the bacteria multiplies easily. Therefore, cleanliness is an important element in bacteria-free food preparation. Hands should be washed thoroughly with hot, soapy water before and after handling raw turkey. Cutting surfaces, kitchen counters, knives, pans, cutting equipment and thermometers should be cleaned between and after each step in preparing raw turkey. A thorough scrubbing with hot, soapy water is the recommended method.

Hard plastic or acrylic cutting boards are better than wooden surfaces. The latter may harbor the bacteria in its grooves, where they can multiply. If a wooden board is used, it should be washed with hot, sudsy water, then rinsed and wiped with a damp cloth. Rinse surface with 3 tablespoons of liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water. Reapply the solution as needed to keep the surface wet for at least 2 minutes. Rinse and wipe dry with clean cloth. Dishcloths and sponges used to clean up raw turkey juices should not be used again until they have been washed.

Use a meat thermometer to make sure that the turkey is cooked to the proper internal temperature. And, when it's time to take that beautiful roasted turkey to the table, make sure the platter it is served on is thoroughly clean. ■

ORGANIZING LAUNDRY SPACE

Convenience and Efficiency Are Key Factors

A fast paced lifestyle, combined with an ever increasing variety of activities and the continuing demise of the stay-at-home mom means more dirty clothes, with less time for laundry, than ever before. Families want laundry areas that are convenient, efficient and centrally located.

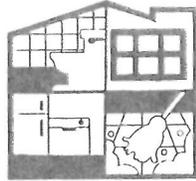
Newer, more inventive locations are fast replacing the corner-in-the-basement laundry room. One popular choice is adjacent to the kitchen. By using existing plumbing lines and centralizing two home work areas, the homeowner saves both dollars and time. Storage and countertop space can do double duty. Another location is the bedroom/bath area, where the bulk of the soiled wash accumulates and most of the family's clothing and linens are stored. As more and more manufacturers are offering full capacity laundry units that will fit almost anywhere, the bedroom/bath location is on the rise. Even the smallest bedroom or hallway closet can accommodate a mini laundry. To cut down on installation costs, The Soap and Detergent Association recommends selecting a wall that backs up to existing plumbing lines and reminds consumers that even stacked dryers require venting.

By adding louvered doors and cosmetic cabinetry, the laundry area can often be concealed in convenient, but unusual, areas of the household, such as the dining area (which allows back-up to the kitchen plumbing) or in a bedroom dressing area, a den, family room or home office.

Regardless of location, the most efficient laundry areas are those that provide storage for both soiled and clean laundry, cleaning products and, as needed, ironing and mending supplies. Other desirable features include a container or vehicle to move clothes from one part of the house to another, a counter space for folding and sorting, a nearby sink for pretreating spots and stains, and a hanging area for permanent press items.

Other extras to consider include a fold-down ironing board which can be hidden in a cabinet door when not in use and an area for recharging small appliances. Flowering plants, with a plant light to keep them thriving, add color and cheer to the laundry area. For a practical touch, consider a small platform to raise the dryer off the floor so that no stooping or bending is required when clothes are loaded or unloaded. ■

A CLOSER LOOK AT CLEANING PRODUCTS...



**IN OUR HOMES,
IN OUR ENVIRONMENT**



DETERGENTS-IN DEPTH, '92 AN ENVIRONMENTAL VIDEOCONFERENCE

WHAT

A videoconference featuring up-to-the-minute facts about the safety of household cleaning products in the home and in the environment.

A live, via satellite broadcast from The Ohio State University with toll-free numbers for calling in questions to the speakers.

Offered at no cost to you .

WHO

Sponsored by The Soap and Detergent Association in cooperation with Ohio Cooperative Extension Service, The Ohio State University.

Designed for extension specialists and agents, educators, communicators and professionals in the soap and detergent and allied industries.

Featuring expert speakers from government and industry.

WHEN

April 9, 1992 2 1/2 hours in length

WHERE

Any place that has a C-Band satellite dish. Satellite downlink sites can be found at many county extension offices, colleges and universities, state offices, school districts, some hospitals and business offices. For site coordinator information, contact Judy Wessel, Ohio State University, (614) 292-0858.

WHY

Consumers are questioning the environmental impact of household cleaning products. Learn the scientific facts about the soap and detergent industry's products, how they are made, how ingredients are tested for safety, how to properly dispose of products and packages, plus much more. Know the issues so you can communicate effectively.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Environmental education programs designed for community presentations will be available for each participant.

Videotapes of the conference plus printed proceedings will be available after the conference.

AHEA Professional Development Units are being requested.

WATCH FOR

Special mailings this fall.

Announcements in CLEANLINESS FACTS newsletter.

DON'T MISS IT—RESERVE APRIL 9, 1992!

The Soap and Detergent Association; 475 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016 .

Contact: Jane Meyer; 212-725-1262



WASHING CLOTH DIAPERS

Safe and Soft for Baby

Disposable diapers are convenient but, for those people who prefer washable diapers, The Soap and Detergent Association has gathered some tips.

For convenience, set a 5-gallon diaper pail next to the baby's changing table. The pail may be of any material but should have a tight-fitting lid to confine odors and prevent spills. Rinse the diapers in the toilet before adding them to the pail. The pail should contain a soaking solution of $\frac{1}{8}$ cup of liquid chlorine bleach and 2½ gallons of water. If the odor persists, add another capful or two of bleach.

Diapers should be washed separately from other laundry. For best cleaning results, add no more diapers than will be able to move freely in the wash water. To remove excess water that was absorbed during soaking, put the pre-soaked diapers in the washer, then advance the timer to the spin cycle. When the spin cycle is completed, launder on the regular cycle. Use hot water, at least 130° or above, for washing, then cold water for rinsing. Use soap or detergent, in the amount recommended. One cup of chlorine bleach per average wash load can be added to help remove stains, as well as eliminate germs and deodorize the diapers. If you live in a hard water area, use a water conditioner in the wash and the rinse cycles.

Pour the amount of bleach recommended on the bleach bottle into the bleach dispenser. If your washer does not have a dispenser, dilute bleach in four parts water (one cup bleach in four cups water for an average load). Pour into the washer after it has filled with water and has begun to agitate. Never pour undiluted bleach into the washbasket or directly onto diapers. This weakens the fabric and causes tearing.

If there is illness in the household, you may want to disinfect diapers prior to washing. To do this, put the diapers through the spin cycle. Then, using the washer's soak cycle, soak the diapers for at least five minutes in a solution of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of chlorine bleach to 1 gallon of cool, sudsy water. Rinse, then wash as described above on the regular cycle.

Fabric softener will add softness to baby's wardrobe, diapers included. Read the package directions for the recommended amount of softener to use and when the product should be added. Some are added directly to the wash water, while others are added during the rinse cycle or in the dryer. Diapers can be dried in an automatic dryer or on the clothesline. Clean diapers should be smoothed, folded and put away. ■

MISCELLANY

Diapering, the Clean Facts

Diarrhea germs can be real troublemakers because they can spread infectious diseases quickly. By following a few simple steps when changing diapers, you can keep these germs under control.

- Choose a place away from areas where food is prepared or served.
- Cover the changing table with a disposable table cover or a changing pad.
- Immediately discard soiled diapers and disposable table cover in a covered, lined container, preferably a step-on type.
- Clean and disinfect the changing table after use, particularly if your child is ill.
- Wash your hands and the child's hands thoroughly after changing diapers.

Synthetic Down

Consumers who crave the warmth and insulation of down, but who are allergic...or who are seeking a less expensive alternative that is also easier to care for, can look to one of several new synthetic down products. These products are showing up in comforters, pillows and mattress toppers.

Among the attributes of synthetic down are its ability to simulate the soft, "squishy" aspects of real down and to emulate its warmth and insulating properties. Its lower price points and hypo-allergenic qualities are also undeniably attractive features, observes The Soap and Detergent Association. Since the market for real down remains strong, many manufacturers and retailers predict that synthetic down will claim its market share from the other existing synthetics.

Hand Mixers

Powerful motors and high performance features are making portable mixers a desirable workhorse in the kitchen. These new versions combine the convenience and easy storage of a hand mixer with the power and versatility of a stand mixer, reports The Soap and Detergent Association.

One of these newer, more powerful portables has a power and speed adjustment that prevents bogging down in heavy batters or racing when mixing light mixes. Another unit includes two self-cleaning, stainless steel beaters and two dough hooks designed for speed and efficiency. Still another offers five speeds with varying features and wattage levels.

Fume Fading

The fabric that fades and changes color may yet be another casualty of a modern day enemy - air pollution.

Polluted air is the result of gases from automobile exhaust, heating oil and heating gas products, and industrial exhaust. Confined spaces, such as closets and drawers where there is no air circulation, contain higher concentrations of these airborne gases. As a result, clothes and other textiles stored in these spaces are particularly vulnerable to fume fading.

Acetate is more prone to fume fading than any other type of fabric. As acetate increases in popularity for items such as evening wear, consumers are becoming more sensitive to the problem, notes The Soap and Detergent Association. Indications of this type of damage include a color change on both sides of the fabric, often with a streaked or graded appearance. Unfortunately, because the heat of processing aggravates the condition, the damage may not be noticeable until after the garment is cleaned.

Oven Types

Consumers looking for a new conventional oven may find their oven choice being influenced by the cleaning method they prefer.

Manual-clean ovens have a porcelain enamel finish which is smooth, durable and designed to withstand oven temperatures. Detergent and water, or a mild abrasive cleaner with a scouring pad, or a commercial oven cleaner are acceptable cleaning methods.

Continuous-clean ovens have a special catalytic oven finish that must be exposed to hot air in order for cleaning to occur. As result, cleaning takes place whenever the oven is used for normal baking and roasting. Hand dishwashing detergent and water, or all-purpose cleaners, can be used for spillover. Commercial oven cleaners may damage the surface, cautions The Soap and Detergent Association.

Self-cleaning ovens have a separate cleaning cycle that reduces soil to a powdery gray ash. This residue can be wiped away with a damp cloth. ■

WHAT'S NEW?

Conservation conscious consumers can monitor shower time, which affects water consumption, with the Shower Timer. Average water consumption for a five minute shower is 25 to 35 gallons. Therefore, shorter showers mean less water use and, possibly, lower water bills. This digital timing device attaches to the shower wall with waterproof Velcro strips. (GM Marketing, Inc.; P.O. Box 8014-263; Redondo Beach, CA 90277)

Keep bathroom bottle clutter under control with The Dispenser. This compact, white plastic wall unit has four push-button chambers for easy dispensing of liquid soap, shampoo, conditioner and lotion. A smaller, two-chamber version, adorned with pink and blue elephants, is available for nurseries and children's rooms. (Better Living Products, Inc.; 2255 North University Parkway; Suite 15; Provo, UT 84604)

Based on technology borrowed from the drying technique used by carpet manufacturers of deep pile, the new Epilady hair dryer combines gentle action with low wattage and efficient results. Shaped like a hollow lollipop, this hand-held dryer utilizes 750 watts of electricity, but functions like a traditional 1200-1500 watt model. (Epilady International, Inc.; 515 Wilder Drive; Virginia Beach, VA 23451)

Potatoes and a variety of other vegetables can be transformed into spirals, twists and curls with the TaterTwister. This appliance comes with two slicing disks and will be available for Christmas gift giving. Both "every day" cooks and amateur gourmet chefs will appreciate the way it can be used to fashion shapes and garnishes that would take years of training to create with a knife. (Presto Industries, Inc.; 3925 North Hastings Way; Eau Claire, WI 54703)

Instant electronic cooking thermometers take the guesswork out of grilling. Among the new crop of thermometers is The Bar-B Check, designed for beef, pork or poultry. It lights up to indicate if the food is rare, medium or well-done. Its cousin, the Bar-B Check Deluxe, offers two other cooking indications - very rare and medium rare. A third version, the Chef's Thermometer, features an LCD readout. (Maverick Industries, Inc.; 265 Raritan Center Parkway; Edison, NJ 08857) ■





"KEEP IT CLEAN" BRIEFS

Some faster drying and energy saving tips:

When drying clothes, be sure to dry one washer load at a time. This will prevent uneven drying and wrinkling. Do not mix items that require more drying time with the fast drying ones. If you have only few items to dry, you may want to add similar clean and dry items to the dryer load to help clothes tumble properly.

Have doubts if a new garment is colorfast? Test it first! Try these two tests: (1) Wash it separately the first time around. If there is color left in the wash water, continue washing it separately the second time, the third time and so forth, until the color no longer bleeds into the water. (2) Apply a little water or detergent on an inconspicuous area. If the color runs, wash the garment separately.

When packing your bag for a trip, remember to take along some plastic bags to hold your soiled laundry while travelling. This helps keep dirty clothing separate from clean clothing. At the end of the trip, just empty the bags right into the washing machine.

Periodic cleaning of the condenser coils can prevent service calls, save energy and prolong the life of your refrigerator. Everyday household dirt, dust, lint, pet hair, along with cooking oil and moisture, build up on the condenser coils. This insulates the coils, traps in heat, and prevents your refrigerator from refrigerating. To clean the condenser coils, remove the louvered base grille, then gently clean the coils with something long and flat--a yardstick works well, a pastry brush is even better. You may also purchase brushes made only for this purpose at some appliance stores and service shops. Remove any debris with a vacuum cleaner.

One way to approach laundry problems is "Stain Prevention." Consumers can use a laundry detergent with bleach. These products help prevent soil build up, eliminating the problem before it forms. Typical examples of soils that accumulate over time and eventually form hard-to-remove stains are soil lines in the collar/cuff area, some underwear stains, some perspiration stains, and graying from dye transfer that produces dingy fabric. The bleach used in the product will also help when bleach is needed and you are afraid you will damage the fabric by using a chlorine bleach. ■

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