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Save and Serve: Conserve Your Household Equipment and Furnishings

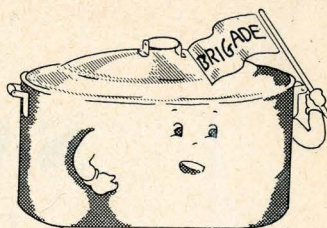
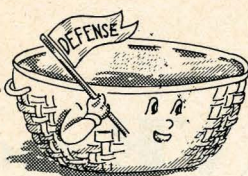
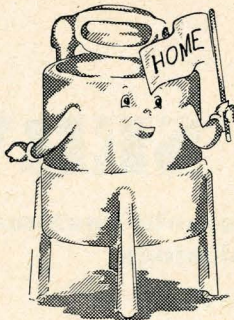
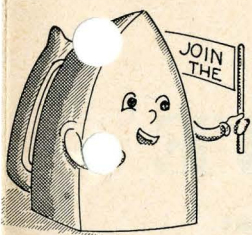
K. Lorette Nelson

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SAVE *and* SERVE

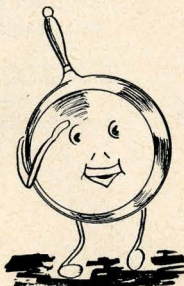
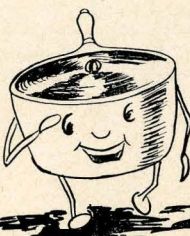
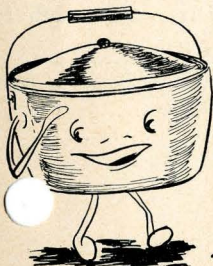
“Production for war is based on metals and raw materials—steel, copper, rubber, aluminum, zinc, tin. Greater and greater quantities of them will have to be diverted to war purposes. Civilian use of them will have to be cut further—and, in many cases, completely eliminated.”—*President Roosevelt.*

Care and repair of household equipment and furnishings are necessary to make them last, wear better and give better service. Every saving that is made helps in the war effort.

Extension Circular No. 395 November 1942

EXTENSION SERVICE

**South Dakota State College, U. S. D. A. Cooperating
Brookings, S. D.**



SAVE and SERVE

Conserve Your Household Equipment and Furnishings

BY K. LORETTE NELSON*

Laundry

Wartime restrictions on the manufacture of washing machines make it extra important for you to take good care of your machine. Wringer, tubs, boilers, clothes line, clothes pins and washboard deserve the best of care too. You may not be able to replace them if they wear out.

Care of Your Washing Machine

Study the manufacturer's directions for the use and care of your machine. The better you understand your machine the better you can care for it.

1. Learn from the directions that come with the machine **WHEN, WHERE** and **HOW MUCH** to oil and the kind of oil to use. Keep all moving parts properly oiled.
 - a. Never neglect oiling.
 - b. Avoid using too much oil.
 - c. Use a good grade of oil.
 - d. Tie a tag on the machine as a reminder of the date to oil.
 - e. Some machines have oiler bearings.
 - f. Casters require frequent oiling as they may get wet and rust.
 - g. Oil the pedestal of the wringer about every half year.
 - h. Be careful not to spill oil on any rubber parts.
2. Keep all bolts and screws tight. Inspect your machine about every half year to

see that every single bolt and screw is tight.

3. Follow the manufacturer's directions for the size of load and washing period.
4. Keep the tubs clean. Drain the tub as soon as the washing is finished. Clean the tub, rinse and dry after each time it is used. Removable parts should be removed to make cleaning and drying easier. Keep a little clean water in a wooden tub between usings.
5. Rub off hard water stains with a mixture of kerosene and powdered whiting. This won't scrape or scratch. A cloth dipped in vinegar water will remove water stains.
6. Remove lint from the drain of the tub.
7. Release the pressure on the wringer when not in use. Wipe the wringer rolls with a damp cloth. If they are stained, wash them off with a cloth moistened with kerosene. **USE SOAP AND WATER IMMEDIATELY TO REMOVE KEROSENE;** rinse and dry.

Care of the Washboard

Handle the washboard carefully. You may dent or loosen the metal, chip or crack enamel or break glass. Never leave the washboard soaking in water. This softens the wood and causes cracks and splinters. Don't use harsh scouring powder on the board. It may scratch the surface or wear off tin leaving the iron underneath exposed to rust.

* Home Management Specialist.

Acknowledgement: Suggestions for this bulletin are through the courtesy of the Bureau of Home Economics and the Consumer's Guide, publication of the Department of Agriculture,

Clothes Basket, Lines, Pins

Use a removable clothes basket lining as a protection for your clothes. Use a washable durable cotton material or oil cloth for the lining.

Take down rope line after every washing. Wind it up and store in a clean place. Keep a wire line free of rust by rubbing with kerosene after each using.

Keep clothes pins in a clean, protected place indoors. An apron with big pockets for clothes pins saves time when you are hanging out clothes; so does a bag that hooks over the line and slides along as you need it.

Care of the Iron

1. Keep the iron clean. Remove starch spots on the sole plate by using a cloth wrung from soapsuds or a very mild scouring powder like whiting or silver polish; or rub the spots lightly with grade 00 steel wool. Finish cleaning by wiping iron with cloth wrung from clear water and polish with dry cloth.
2. Smooth an iron which sticks by rubbing the sole plate lightly with paraffin or beeswax. Wipe off any excess wax with a soft paper or cloth.
3. Store in a clean dry place protected from dust.
4. Don't scar or scratch your iron by ironing zippers, snaps, hooks and eyes.

Care of Ironing Board

1. Pad your board to increase the ease of ironing.
2. Use a covering that can be removed easily and laundered. Fasten it underneath the board by means of tapes, a drawstring or elastic through a hem, or by metal grips.
3. Fireproof your ironing board cover as a protection against fire. Use three ounces of boric acid and seven ounces of borax in two quarts of water. For detailed instructions see extension mimeographed circular 306 on Fire Prevention and Control.
4. Provide a stand or pad for the iron if it does not have an attached heel rest.

Utensils

Much of the material formerly used for our kitchenware has gone to war. This means we must take the best possible care of our kitchen utensils and cutlery to make them last and to get service from them.

Aluminum.—Remove stains with fine steel wool or with a paste of whiting powder and vinegar. If this fails, boil an acid solution as vinegar or lemon juice and water in the stained pan. After cleaning, acid must be thoroughly washed off the aluminum. Never use a sharp utensil to scrape aluminum. Don't use strongly alkaline soaps and cleaning powders or soda on aluminum pots and pans. They darken and pit the aluminum.

Enamelware.—Handle carefully to prevent cracking and chipping. Avoid a coarse cleaning powder on enamelware as this destroys the glaze. Use mild soap and water or scour with whiting or a very fine scouring powder. Boil a weak solution of soda and water in a pan to remove burnt-on food that milder treatment won't affect.

Tinware.—Never scrape or scour it. There is just a very thin coating of tin over a metal base which rusts when exposed. Darkened tin absorbs heat better and bakes better than shiny tin. Dry tin pans carefully. Heat a weak soda solution in the pan to remove food that has dried to the surface, then wash thoroughly. Store in a dry place.

Iron and Steel (except stainless steel).—Scour with steel wool and use a strong soap to remove grease. Rust is the big problem with iron and steel utensils. When you wash iron utensils, be sure to dry them thoroughly and keep them in a dry place. Don't leave salt in or around iron utensils as salt absorbs moisture and moisture rusts iron. If you store utensils for a time, cover them with fat containing no salt, fresh lard, for example, or sweet oil.

Stainless steel.—Wash in hot soapy water, rinse and dry it. Scour where necessary with very fine steel wool or cleaning powder.

Copper.—Tarnish on copper can be removed by friction or may be dissolved by weak acid. Rottenstone and oil mixed to a creamy consistency and then applied to the copper is effective. Then polish with a soft cloth. Buttermilk or vinegar dissolve tarnish on copper. The acid should be removed by washing in water and drying thoroughly. Rub with dry whiting for a bright luster.

Make Knives Last Longer

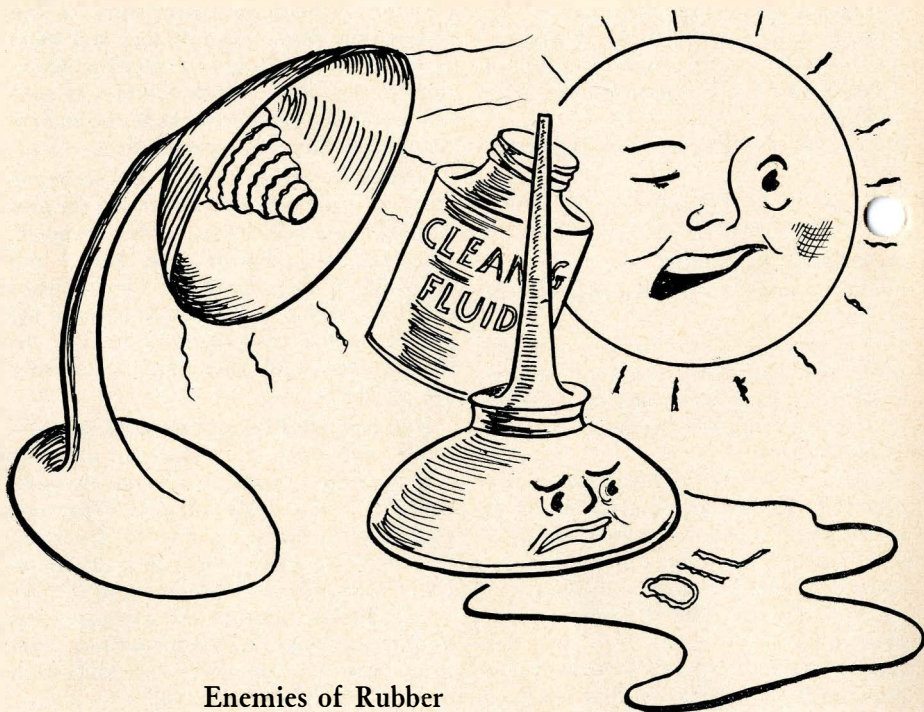
Proper care will make the knives last longer.

1. Store knives carefully in wall racks or divided drawers where the edges will not become nicked or the points broken.

2. Never heat a knife blade. This destroys the temper of the steel.

3. Use a tapering steel rod or a carborundum stone for sharpening knives. The stone should be kept moist with oil. Wheels of sandstone, emery and corrugated iron are sometimes used. Sandstone wheels are better than emery as they do not wear away the steel as rapidly.

The angle at which the knife is held against the stone or steel determines the width of the bevel. Hold the blade nearly upright for a narrow bevel, as on a paring knife. The blade should be held closer to the stone or steel for a wide bevel as on a butcher knife. Start each stroke at the heel of the blade and cover the entire length of the blade in each stroke. Do not use much pressure. Be careful that the knife does not become heated in the sharpening process. This draws the temper so that it will not keep its edge.



Enemies of Rubber

Rubber

Rubber is a vital war material and supplies are limited so it is wise to take extra good care of rubber articles these days. Enemies of household rubber are heat, sunlight, oil and grease, and ordinary dry cleaning fluids.

1. Clean rubber articles using warm water and soap. Dry in a cool or moderately warm place.
2. Remove grease, oil or tar immediately using warm water and soap. If this method is not successful then sponge lightly with carbon tetrachloride, which is an efficient and nonflammable dry cleaning fluid. Never leave the rubber in the fluid more than two or three minutes. Be careful with the rubber while it has fluid on it because it is weaker then and tears more easily.
3. Store rubber when it is clean and dry in a cool, dark place. If the storage place is not dark wrap the rubber in thick paper or put it in a covered box. Dust surfaces that come in contact with each other with alcum powder or cornstarch.
4. Repair rubber articles if the rubber is not getting sticky, or hard and brittle. Suitable mending materials are rubber cements, plastic rubber compounds, and adhesive, electrician's and friction tapes. Rubber may be patched with self material or with inner tube patching.

To patch a hot water bottle or an ice pack, for instance, the following procedure is recommended:

Turn the bag inside out if it is the type that will turn inside out. If it is not, put the patch on the outside. Cut the piece of inner tube patching one-half inch larger all around than the spot you are mending. Take the Holland cloth off the inner tube patch; rough up the surface of the bag where you are mending it with sandpaper. Apply coat of rub-

ber cement to the patch—two coats to the rubber bag. Let each coat dry, then put the patch squarely on the spot to be mended and do not move it. Press it down firmly and leave it for a little time under a weight until the patch sets.

You can use the same sort of a patch on rubber sheeting. Or you can use self material for the repair. If you do use self-material—use two coats of rubber cement on both the patch and the place you are patching.

Linoleum

Cork and burlap used in making linoleum have gone to war. It is necessary to take the best possible care of these coverings to make them last. Care which includes the protection of these coverings is simple.

1. Use caster cups for heavy furniture to prevent cuts in the linoleum. Place an old rug or carpet under furniture when you move it.
2. Apply wax to linoleum surfaces in order to fill the pores and seal the surface. The surface should be thoroughly cleaned and dried before wax is applied.
3. Give printed linoleum and felt-base coverings a lacquer finish. The lacquer should be waterproof and not discolor the floor covering. The amount of wear determines the number of times the floor covering would have to be re-lacquered.
4. Wipe up water spilled on linoleum immediately as water causes linoleum to expand and separate from the burlap back.
5. Never use hot water, strong soaps and cleaning agents on linoleum. Strong soap contains alkali which attacks the oil in linoleum. This causes the floor covering to become dry and crumbly.
6. Wash only a small part of the surface at a time, rinse and dry thoroughly. Scrubbing removes the wax finish and makes rewaxing necessary.

Screens

Fix your old screens so that they will serve for the duration. Save metal—don't replace the entire screen unless it is absolutely necessary.

1. Reinforce weak corners in one of the following ways:

a. With corner irons as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

b. With corrugated fasteners as shown in Fig. 3.

c. With stay fasteners as shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

d. With a piece of 24 gauge black sheet metal cut diagonally to fit the corner and then nailed or screwed in place. Fig. 6.

2. Replace a screen that is too badly worn to patch.

3. Patch screens that have a small hole according to one of the following methods:

a. Cut a piece of screen which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches larger on each side than the hole to be patched. Unravel a long piece of wire to use in sewing the patch in place.

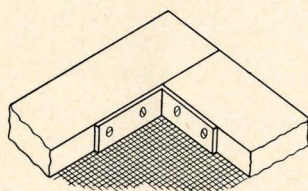


Figure 1

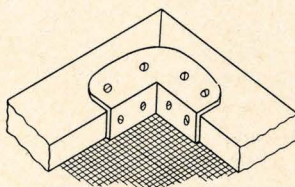


Figure 2

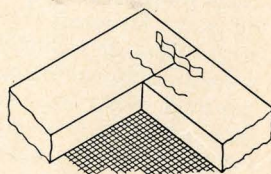


Figure 3

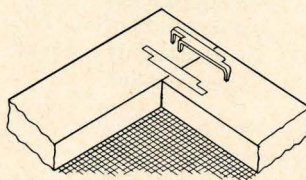


Figure 4

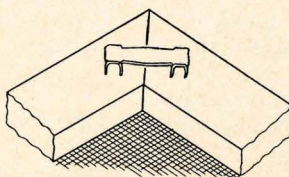


Figure 5

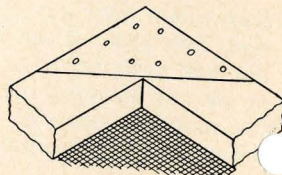


Figure 6

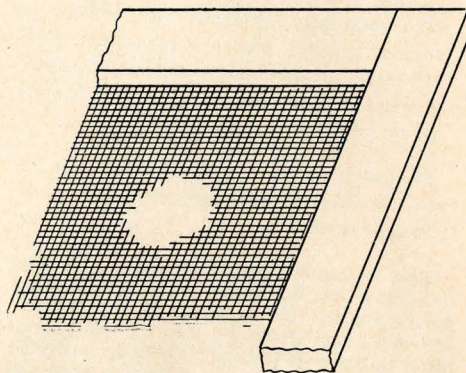
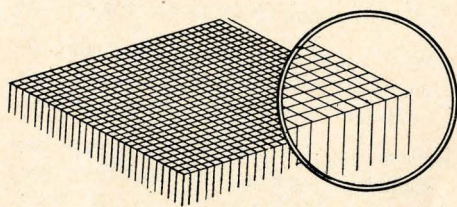


Figure 7

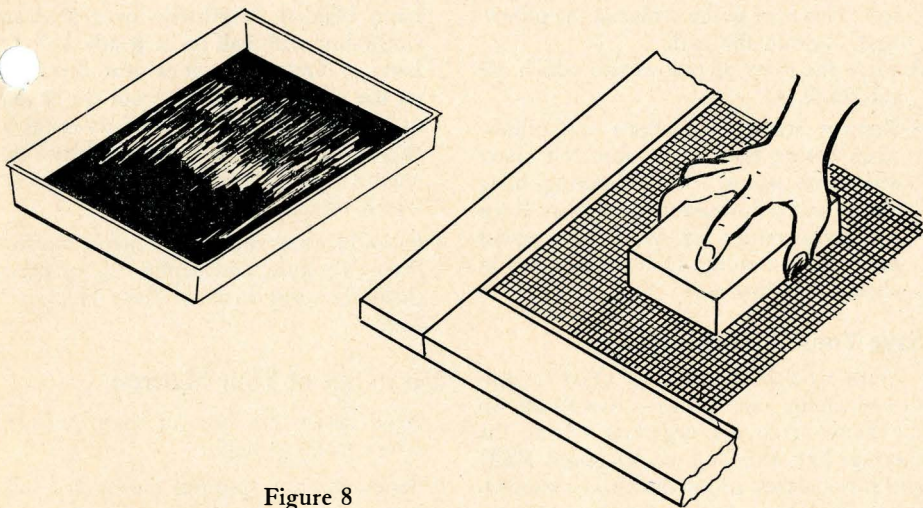


Figure 8

- b. Cut a piece of screen as you did for the patch described above. Ravel out several strands on each of the four sides. Bend the loose ends against a wooden block to form a box-like shape as shown in Fig. 7. Insert the patch wire into the screening, bending back tightly.
4. Protect screens against rust by cleaning both sides of the screen with kerosene. Allow this to dry and then paint both sides. Use an inexpensive roller or a piece of old carpet tacked to a block of wood. Save paint by putting it in a flat pan. (Fig. 8.)
5. Store screens in a rack so that they will be flat. A rack should be built so that it is off the floor or in the rafters of the basement or garage.

Textiles

Textile mills are taxed to the limit with war orders. You help to ease the heavy demands made on these mills when you take extra good care of your household textiles.

Care and Repair of Sheets

Tests show that sheets wear out most quickly where the sleeper's shoulders rest.

1. Distribute wear by reversing the sheet occasionally, putting the top part at the bottom of the bed.
2. Put freshly laundered sheets on the bottom of the pile in your linen closet.
3. Mend snags and tears in sheets before laundering.
4. Piece sheets that are too short. Good material from old, worn sheets serves this purpose.
5. You can get extra wear on sheets if you cut the sheet in two, seam the selvages and hem the outside edges.

Care and Repair of Pillowcases

Pillowcases wear about the same as sheets. They show first signs of wear where folded.

1. Underslips, the removable coverings for pillows, lighten the wear on pillowcases.
2. Before the pillowcase shows signs of wear, open the seam end and move the

side folds over to the center of the pillowcase. Reseam the end.

3. Piece the sides of pillowcases which are too small.
4. Remove stains from sheets and pillowcases before tubbing because hot water sets some stains. In laundering hang sheets and pillowcases by the hem. Keep the temperature of your iron about **medium** in ironing. Don't press folds in sheets or pillowcases.

Save Your Woolen Blankets

With wool being used in great quantities to clothe our soldiers, Americans on the home front are urged to relieve the shortage by conserving woolen goods. Daily and seasonal care add to the life of a blanket.

1. Blanket bibs protect the blanket and save on laundering. A sheet folded over the top of a blanket and a cover for the bed will pay for themselves many times over in protecting a blanket from dirt.
2. Wash blankets carefully. Use lukewarm (100 degrees) water and plenty of mild soap suds. Never rub, but dip up and down in suds. Squeeze gently to remove water after each suds. Rinse two or three times in water of the same temperature. Never wring or twist a blanket, or force it through the wringer. To dry,

hang blanket **lengthwise** over a clean clothesline with half on each side. Do not hang in direct sunlight or heat. Straighten the edges and squeeze out the water as it collects at edges. When thoroughly dry, fluff up the blanket by brushing against the nap with a soft clean brush or whisk broom.

3. Clean blankets thoroughly before storing them. To store, add naphthlene or paradichlorobenzene in balls, flake or crystal form.

Take Care of Your Mattress

1. Bend down any loose or sharp ends of wire on the springs.
2. Sandpaper any splinters on the bed rail.
3. Don't sit on the edge of the bed as this may break down the sides of the mattress.
4. Turn mattresses about once a week; alternate from side to side and end to end.
5. Air and sun mattresses to keep them fresh.
6. Frequently dust mattresses and the springs on which they rest.
7. Use a mattress cover to help keep the mattress clean.
8. Give the mattress added protection by using a mattress pad.

If you are interested in more detailed information about the care of some piece of equipment, the following folders are available at the office of your home extension or county agent.

How to Make Your Refrigerator Last Longer.

How to Make Your Washing Machine Last Longer.

Take Care of Household Rubber.

How to Make Your Gas or Electric Range Last Longer

How to Make Your Ironing Equipment Last Longer.

***How to Make Your Vacuum Cleaner Last Longer.**

***Care and Repair of Cords and Plugs.**

***How to Make Your Small Electrical Equipment Last Longer.**

***Care and Repair of Sewing Machines.**

**In Preparation.*

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