

#### HOW TO WASH BLANKETS.

You must never rub soap upon wool blankets, and they must never be put into water of different temperatures.

Any of the many white soaps are good for washing wool blankets. Cut up two bars of soap and boll them in eight quarts of water. When it is all dissolved turn four quarts into a tub half full of tepid water, with a half cupful ammonia added. Put your blankets in this and rinse them up and down and rub them and squeeze them through the hands. Unless there are very bad spots do not rub them on the board.

After they have been treated in this way until you are sure that they are fairly clean put them in another tub of water the same temperature to which you have added the three quarts of soapy water and go through the same treatment as you did at first. Take them out and put them into still another tub of water the same temperature and add to this water the remaining quart of soap. Never rinse blankets in clear water. Put them through the wringer and hang them up to dry in a rather warm place—in the sun if possible.

Full and straighten them into shape.

If they are very fine blankets quite a good way to dry them is to put them on a curtain frame and stretch them down; otherwise you must be very careful to stretch them and pull them straight by hand.

Never put anything made of wool into very hot water, as it fulfs and thickens it. If you have cotton quilts "like mother used to make" these can be laundered very easily if you have a washing machine (and surely every woman who has a large family should have one). Use the same soapy water made a little stronger than was given for washing the blankets and put them in the machine and rinse them in clear cold water.

#### FOURTH OF JULY FUN.

##### How to Arrange an Al Fresco Repast For Independence Day.

Independence day is a frolic for young and old, and even at home the meals are usually served in picnic form. It adds more to the nature of the holiday to have an informal entertainment, and it certainly is much easier where there is a party of guests. One enjoyable picnic luncheon was served in the dining room of a country house because the rain of the previous day had made the lawn unfit for use.

The fourteen guests sat around the room as they chose, and the bare table was partially covered by a centerpiece and dozens of eyelid embroidery. Platters of cold sliced ham and tongue dressed with parsley, a brick of potted chicken and several varieties of preserves and a generous supply of potato chips represented the solids, with homemade lettuce sandwiches and plenty of good bread and butter.

Hard boiled eggs cut in half, with the whites used as cups, contained the powdered yolks, mixed with salt, paprika and a little mustard. These were laid in a nest of lettuce leaves and were served with French dressing.

Cantaloupes and homemade sponge-cake and delicious coffee, salted nuts and mint paste completed a homely but enjoyable repast, which was served up on wooden picnic platters, with which, together with a paper napkin, each guest was provided. A large bowl of wild flowers graced the center of the table, and the meal had the advantage of being free from the marauding ants and spiders which are prone to disturb an outdoor repast.

##### How to Refinish Old Surfaces.

The first thing to do in refinishing old wood surfaces is to remove all varnish and paint. This may be done easily by the use of a good varnish remover. The varnish remover may be bought at any paint store, says the Woman's World. It is applied with a brush and allowed to stand for a few minutes; then varnish and paint are easily removed. If there are any burnt or stained places it may be necessary to scrape the surface with a piece of glass. Then the surface is thoroughly smoothed with sandpaper and is ready for a new paint or varnish. If it is desirable to keep the color and grain of the wood as they are a clear varnish may be used which contains the desired color.

##### How to Freshen Wire Screens.

Select a day when there is a good brisk wind blowing, and, if a north wind, clean your south screens, a west wind your east screens. Get a good draft through your room and from the inside brush your screens briskly with any kind of a clean brush that will fit into the corners and you will be pleased to see clouds of dust wafted away with the strong draft. When well brushed take a clean cloth and wipe over the frames and wire and your screens will be as clean and fresh as when you just put them in.

##### How to Keep Doughnuts Fresh.

To keep doughnuts fresh and moist tear up pieces of paper (clean paper bags will do) and scatter them between the doughnuts and on the bottom and top. Leave them there while using the doughnuts. They absorb the grease and keep them fresh and vice. Use new papers for each batch.

#### HOW TO LOOK PRETTY EVEN THOUGH SEASICK.

Many women wear the smart steamer coat and hat only at the beginning and end of a voyage, leaving the comfortable knitted sweaters and caps which are just now the fad. These knitted caps are ideal for ocean wear, as they keep the hair from blowing wildly about and, unlike the chiffon veil, do not themselves vibrate about in the breeze.

The quaint bonnet cap matches the white sweater with blue border trimmings, the cap being of white worsted with a border of blue and blue ribbon rosettes and ties. There is a babyish suggestion about such a knitted bonnet with its big ear rosettes that is charming on just the right type of face, and, of course, the girl with the big blue eyes is ravishing in a blue ribboned baby cap.

One sees these caps in lovely soft shades of tan and brown, matching knitted sweaters in the same colors, and one pretty, fair haired girl, crossing recently, wore a well fitting knitted coat of sage green worsted with a bonnet in the same shade, tied with deeper green ribbons.

#### NOVEL JABOTS.

##### How to Make Smart and Becoming Neckwear.

A pretty embroidered linen jabot can be made from a handkerchief.

You will have little difficulty making the jabot if these directions are closely followed: Place the handkerchief flat on the table and turn one point under to form a straight top for the jabot. Now, using the point opposite as a center, fold the sides into plaits until the jabot is the desired width.

Baste the plaits in place and press with a heated iron. When the bastings are removed you will have a jabot pretty enough to please any one. The embroidered handkerchiefs with edges of handmade lace are especially lovely when used for jabots.

Four handkerchiefs can be joined to form a dainty ten apron. When these are sewed together by hand they form a large square. Arrange this with one point forming a bib and run a gathering string across the front, so that the apron fits properly at the waist line. Stitch a band of lace insertion over this and run ribbon through to form the apron strings.

The apron is finished by a narrow edging of valenciennes lace. Attractive bureau scarfs and a table cover for the bedroom can be made by using the handkerchiefs as medallions and pointing them together. Border these with an edging of lace.

#### HOW TO WHITEN THE THROAT

##### Lemon Juice or a Ripe Tomato Will Remove Any Discolorations.

Shapeliness is not all that is necessary to the making of a throat beautiful. The texture of the skin must be fine and soft, white and unblemished. Cleanliness is the first essential. A good thorough scrubbing with a not too soft brush, hot water and soap once or twice a week will do no harm, the rest of the time using the ordinary cloth. Apply lemon juice or a ripe tomato to any discolorations that may appear, and unless the pores are enlarged use cold cream freely.

Alcohol will harden the flesh. As for the various bleaches, there are some that are harmless, except in so far as they invariably are drying, which ultimately leaves the skin harsh and brash. Here is one that can easily be made at home; but, like the others, it is drying, so be sure to counteract this effect by applying cold cream after using it. Mix half an ounce of peroxide of hydrogen, six ounces of witch hazel and half an ounce of lactic acid. Apply this with a soft cloth.

##### How to Economize on Ice.

A ten cent piece of ice every other day is a more economical purchase than a five cent piece every day. Being twice as large and solid, it will last not only twice as long as a five cent piece, but it will give double as much chill to the refrigerator, and this chill will last twice as long, so that when a new cake is put in it will not melt as soon as it would have done otherwise. In fact, a ten cent piece of ice will often keep a refrigerator so cold that, except in very warm weather, one can get along very well if one only buys it every three days instead of every two.

It is well to buy a new cake before the last one is entirely gone and the chill of the icebox gone with it.

##### How to Open Head of Lettuce.

To open a tight head of lettuce without tearing the delicate leaves hold the top of the head under the cold water faucet, allowing the water to run at moderate force. The closely wrapped leaves will unfold slowly under the action of the water and there will be no injured leaves. When thoroughly opened and while still wet place in a soft cloth and keep in a cold place until needed.

##### How to Kill Dandelions.

A householder who does not like to have dandelions sprinkling his lawn applies a few drops of gasoline to each plant with a medicine dropper, putting it directly into the heart of the plant. One should be careful to see that a dropper once used for this purpose is not used again for medicine.

#### HOW TO REPRODUCE OLD PLASTER CAST.

Many women may desire to reproduce an article in plaster. This is not a difficult matter if these directions are followed: The materials required are: Plaster of paris, clay, water, a mixing spoon and a bread board two feet square. When you first attempt it try something simple—half of an apple, for instance. An extra precaution would be to mix a little bluing with the plaster, to distinguish it from the model. Soap the half apple well on the outside. Place it flat side down upon the modeling board and build a mound of softened clay around it.

When this has hardened mix the powdered plaster with water until it is the consistency of pancake batter. Pour this into the mold of clay. When it has hardened separate the mold from the cast. To cast the whole of an object mold one-half at a time, and soap both sides of the inside of the mold thoroughly. Make a hole in the top of the mold, which is formed by the union of the two halves. Through this opening pour the liquid plaster.

When the cast has hardened it may be shellacked or ivoryed. This is extremely interesting. Try it some time and see.

#### A TIMELY SUGGESTION.

##### How to Make a Pool For the Water Garden.

Nowadays there are many forms of gardening, but perhaps few are more interesting than the water garden. Most persons have an idea that a water garden is only possible where there is a large amount of room. This is quite a wrong notion. There must be few gardens in which it is not possible to spare a piece of ground about nine feet square, and this is all that is necessary.

The situation is a matter of some importance. In a general way odd corners are to be avoided, and the more open the position the better.

A very good formation for the pool would be that of a rough circle. Six feet is a suitable measurement for the diameter of the pond, which should be dug out in the form of a rough basin. The greatest depth must be in the center of the pool, and the sides should sink fairly abruptly. In a pool of this size it is desirable to have as much deep water as possible, so that there will be good accommodation for water lilies. The deepest part of the pool should not be less than two feet six inches and might be a little more.

After the digging out of the basin one of the first steps is to make sure that the soil is pressed down very firmly in the bottom.

The question of lining the basin now arises. Of course there is no doubt that the ideal way is to spread over the whole of the floor a layer of concrete. This substance is formed by mixing moderate sized stones with cement, and the making of it is not beyond the average amateur. The concrete is spread over the bottom of the basin and should not be less than three inches in thickness.

##### How to Arrange For Early Breakfast.

Many women are called upon to have early breakfast, and some find it quite a hardship. To relieve this hardship, said an accomplished housekeeper, I have adopted the following plan: Before retiring at night I set my table, prepare the fruit and place it in a cool place, roll my butter balls and put on ice. If I am to have a cooked cereal I put it to soak in a double boiler, which needs only to be put over the fire first thing on coming into the kitchen in the morning; if a cereal only to be crisped I measure it into a pan ready to be run into the oven.

I measure my coffee and put it in the pot ready for the water. If I am to have hot biscuits or waffles or buckwheat cakes I measure the flour and all ingredients and have it ready to mix with the milk, or if I am to have toast I slice the bread ready for the toaster. If I am to have breakfast bacon I have it sliced and ready for the spider, or if there are to be croquettes I mold them and have them ready to be browned. Thus I have my breakfast ready in twenty or twenty-five minutes after entering the kitchen in the morning.

##### How to Protect Parasols.

The delicately colored silk and linen parasols so popular this summer ought to have cases to keep them dust and spot free when not in use. These covers are very easy to make. The parasol should be measured from the tip to the end of the ribs, and a bag, shaped at the end, should be cut the proper length. The seam may be sewed plainly or with some fancy stitch. Turn over the top and insert a drawing string or sew heading at the top and insert ribbon. An embroidered initial in the center of the bag makes it more attractive.

##### How to Mend a Hot Water Bottle.

If you find a tiny break in the hot water bag don't throw it away. Apply several coats of liquid court plaster and let each coat dry before applying the next. This will extend the usefulness of the bag, as the court plaster is waterproof and hot water will not melt it.

##### How to Make Meat Pie Crust.

To prevent the gravy soaking through the bottom crust of meat pies brush over the crust with white of egg



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