

This legal column is an informational service of the Oregon Bar. UNORDERED MERCHANDISE

Suppose the mailman delivers to you a package containing a necktie, a book, key-ring tag; or a phonograph record that you didn't order. Either with is, or by later mail, is a bill or request to remit the price.

Do you know your obligations, assuming you don't want the merchandise? Must you return it? Can you use it and not pay for it? Must you keep it or can you throw it away?

Generally speaking, recipients of unordered merchandise are under no obligation (a) to return it; (b) acknowledge its receipt; (c) to pay for it unless used; (d) to give it particular care; or (e) too keep it beyond a reasonable time.

You are obligated to surrender the merchandise if called for in person by the shipper or his agent within a reasonable time. But you can demand storage charges before surrendering the item. If you mail it back at your own expense, you very likely will stay on the sender's mailing list and will receive other shipments in the future.

There are no postal regulations governing unordered merchandise except where fraud is involved.

Congress is working on legislation that will cover the situation.

in the envelope or package, you can write "Refused" across the face of the piece of mail and hand it back unopened to the mailman. No further explanation is required. You don't have to accept any class of mail. Further, your refusal probably will result in the sender having to pay return postage.

A ruling by the Federal Trade Commission holds it a violation of the Federal Trade act for a sender of unordered merchandise to claim that "The receiver is under obligation . . . to pay for or return the merchandise." Hence if you don't use the merchandise you are within your rights in refusing to pay for it.

(Oregon lawyers offer this column as a public service. No person should apply or interpret any law without the aid of an attorney who is completely advised of the facts involved. Even a slight variance in facts may change the application of the law.)

If you are thinking of using plastic sheeting, always use the black for all jobs except where light transmission is required.

The clear will eventually disintegrate when exposed to light; and, even though it may be used in dark areas, it still breaks down in due time and fails.

Tractor Care

Preparing the tractor for winter storage is the job at hand for many farm operators, reports M. C. Huber, OSU Extension Service Agricultural Engineer. Huber makes these suggestions:

1. Clean, inspect, and service your tractor with the same thoroughness as if you were getting ready for field work.

2. Drain the crankcase and fill with new oil. The oil filter should be cleaned or replaced. Run the engine so fresh oil will circulate to all moving parts.

3. Store the tractor in a dry shed or building. The wheels up on boards and if the tractor has rubber tires, it should be jacked up if it is to be stored for a long period.

4. The air cleaner should be serviced, and the tractor should be greased. Wipe the grease fittings before using the grease gun to prevent dirt and grit from being forced into the fittings.

5. Drain the radiator and use a good radiator cleaner. Then flush the radiator and drain it dry. Leave drain plug open during storage.

6. Remove spark plugs and pour about two tablespoons of heavy motor oil in each cylinder. Turn the engine over with a crank to coat cylinder walls with an oil

film.

7. Remove the battery and bring it to full charge before storing it in a cool place. Better check the battery about once a month and recharge it if necessary.

8. Close the exhaust pipe with a piece of rag or a cover.

How To Save Time

Could you use three or four extra hours this week? We asked a group of young mothers that question. Their answer . . . you guessed it! And if you are one of the many married women holding down a job outside your home, you probably feel the same way.

Researchers tell us it is possible for most women to cut housework time by one-fourth and sometimes as much as one-half. The trick, of course, is to know and use short cuts. Why not start to shortcut a job you don't like and find a way to clip a few minutes each day?

The most popular jobs, according to a recent survey, are ironing, oven cleaning, doing dishes, waxing floors, and cleaning the refrigerator and freezer.

Save some time from your ironing. How much time you can save will depend on how you do it now. Ask yourself these three ques-

tions:

Can any part be left out? For instance, skip sprinkling by taking clothes from line or dryer while still damp.

Are your supplies handy? Get every thing you need together before you start—and store them together, too.

Would another piece of equipment speed the job? A padded wide board to top your regular board helps you whiz through big table cloths and other flat items. Use a cart for stacking finished ironing and wheel it around to put away the clothes.

Oven Cleaning is a breeze if you apply these same three questions. What to leave out? Who wouldn't like to leave out the hard scrubbing? You can if you wipe out the oven after each use, before the grease gets baked on. Leave the door ajar after roasting or broiling so the oven will cool quickly. The open door will also remind you that there is one more chore to do when you're cleaning up.

What about supplies? Keep a chemical cleaner handy for those times when you're likely to neglect the oven. Or you may spray ammonia on the oven lining, then wash off later. There's also a new chemical which you can spray on the clean oven to give a slick finish

which shuns grease.

Can you save time with a different tool? Try a dishmop with a handle about a foot long for cleaning hard-to-get-at parts. Besides being convenient, you'll also save yourself a possible kink in the shoulder.

Try these questions on some more jobs and see how many extra hours you can pick up in a week's time.

More ideas for saving time can be found at the OSU bulletin "Work Smarter- Not Harder." For a free copy, write to me at Oregon State University, Corvallis.

Do you find mysterious holes in clothes after laundering?

This problem often comes to us through the county extension service offices. We've checked with textile experts and chemists and find that in almost every case the damage could be traced to use of bleach sometimes as long as six weeks beforehand. Liquid chlorine bleach poured from the bottle onto clothes "eats" the fabric. Bleach should always be diluted first. Some other causes of damage are permanent wave solution and chemical cleaners. The reason it's all so mysterious is because the damage may not show up until after several washings.

Smart Homemakers Tell Us:

To "iron" puff sleeves on little girls' dresses, try this slick trick. Use the bulb of a lamp, (turn it on, of course), slip the little sleeve over it and work around it with your hand until fabric is smooth. It works like a charm and there are no creases. You should press the dress first with an iron, except the sleeves.

Perennial Grass

Good stands of perennial grasses can successfully control annual weeds in fencerows, roadsides. However, it is very difficult to get stands of desirable perennials established in these areas, especially after a fence has been built where heavy cheatgrass and rye growth is present.

The object of reseeding trials in fencerows is to determine a technique which improves chances of getting a good stand of grass.

Trials are now being established on Medler Lane. Burning, spraying, direct seeding and a combination of these are being employed to find a technique which may eliminate and permit seeding grasses to become established.

In areas where fences are to be built, seeding before hand may permit tillage equipment to eliminate weeds and use of drills for seeding.

It happens every year

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