

# Work Easier and Do It Better

## Washboard Is Fading Into Oblivion

By J. P. MOYNIHAN  
of American Classic Washer

The washboard, the sole surviving relic of barbarism, is slowly fading into deep oblivion. With the dawn of a new era of household advancement came the washing machine to take its place as man's greatest gift to woman.

For centuries woman has been a slave to her washings. The tedious grind of chasing seemingly endless dirt has devolved on her shoulders with oftentimes disastrous results. The lifting of pails and tubs, the strain of turning the old hand wringer, the back-breaking washboard—these and other laborious steps have all combined to make wash day the cross of household life. From these woman has cried out for relief, her soul wearied. The energy that should have gone for higher and more elevating duties of the household was usurped by the laundry. The welfare of the family was at stake. It is logical to suppose that many of the incompatibilities of husband and wife could be traced back to the problems of house duties and particularly the washing of clothes. A woman is removed from her natural sphere by hard labor and as a consequence the general atmosphere of the home is affected.

The question of health was also involved. It is indisputable that the labor of the laundry in most cases had a damaging effect on the constitution of woman. Moreover in the cases of frail women it proved positively dangerous. Certain compounds are sometimes added to water and recommended as labor savers. Washing fluids and powders contain two kinds of ingredients, volatile substances such as kerosene, turpentine, alcohol, ammonia and camphor gum and alkaline substances as potash and soda lyes from wood ashes, sal soda and various brands of commercial lye. Such powerful chemicals entail intelligent use, the knowledge of which is ordinarily lacking. If the hands and arms are immersed in hot water containing turpentine, alcohol, ammonia, camphor and similar substances, these are absorbed through the pores of the skin and may seriously imperil the health. Paralysis is said to sometimes result from this cause.

Hence the woman with her laundry burden was harassed from all sides. Her mental and physical facilities were cracking under the strain. Then came man to devise ways and means to relieve the situation, to release the chain of laundry imprisonment. Mechanical devices were introduced, tried and discarded for something better. The search for a washing machine was on. For 150 years men have been inventing washing machines, some good, many indifferent and a multitude of no value whatever. But among all the machines made, there was not one which fully met all the requirements for convenient work in the home laundry. Principles were adopted and discarded rapidly until today we have the few remaining fundamentals.

The machine that removes dirt without a strain on the clothes is certainly the ultimate machine for household use. Let us see precisely what dirt is and the most logical way for its removal in a mechanical way. Dirt has been described as "matter which is out of place." The substances which soil garments and household linens are unobjectionable in their proper places, but become dirt when transferred to wearing apparel and linen and require to be removed by washing. These substances are principally of three classes: fruits, acids, ink and other things which produce stains; ammonia oils, greases and fats from the excretion of the body in perspiration, or in the case of table linen, stains from foods. All these forms of dirt are caught in the weave or the texture of the fabric and have to be removed in a special way. Now in an extra large cylinder clothes are lifted and dropped in hot suds. The action of the swirling suds forces out dirt from either side of the fabric and hence the dirt leaves as it came and without injury to the cloth. No harsh measures are taken. The action is gentle.

## The Power Ironer as a Time and Labor Saver

By E. B. WILLIAMS

The operation of the modern power ironer or mangle, varies somewhat with the model of ironing machine in use, but general directions for their care and use will cover the essential points of any well-known make.

The ironer is an undoubted time saver, and to the woman with a large washing it is a boon secondary only to the electric washer. With very little practice the housewife can turn out better results with less work and in much less time than with the hand iron.

### Dampening

When you have taken the goods from the line, your wearing apparel should be on top, so that when you finish dampening, it will be on the bottom of your basket or pile. Dampen as you have been accustomed to, only you will not need to dampen the work quite as much as formerly. The pressure on the machine is very great and you can, therefore, have the goods drier. On cotton goods such as sheets and pillow cases most operators find it advisable not to dampen at all, especially when air dried, enough moisture remaining to make a perfectly smooth finish, and without wrinkles. Linen goods must be dampened to bring out the design, but this linen need not be dampened to the extent as for hand ironing. A good plan is to use a flower bulb sprinkler which has a fine spray, and a very much more even and satisfactory result on the dampness is obtained with it. For very heavy ironings, a faucet dampener with a small rubber hose attached to a tank proves a big help. It is also best to use luke-warm water for dampening as it more readily permeates the goods than cold. It is not necessary to starch your table linen; it will come out stiff and better finished without starching.

Light the burner of the machine about ten minutes before you are ready to iron with it, so you will not need to wait for the ironing shoe to get hot. Test the heat of the ironer by wetting your fingers same as you would on an ordinary flatiron. Have your machine perfectly clean. Wipe off thoroughly the wax on the ironing surface. This is especially necessary when the machine is new and also after it has been waxed, which it should be the first few times it is used; this will greatly protect the iron-

ing surface from rusting even in a damp basement or cellar.

### Ready to Start the Ironing

Have your dampened goods in a basket underneath the ironer. Take your roll of dampened towels or whatever work you wish to start, and hang them over the swinging arm to your left. If your machine has no arm, place an old ironing board to your left, and another ironing board or a table to your right. Then work from the left into the machine, as the work leaves the machine to your right, laying the finished work on the table.

Start with some old dust rags to remove any remaining dust or wax from ironing surface. The usual order for ironing is as follows: Towels, sheets, pillow cases, tablecloths, napkins, doilies, center pieces, dresser scarfs, handkerchiefs, underwear, pajamas, petticoats, aprons, negligee shirts, nightgowns, curtains, combination suits, bungalow aprons, blouses, hosiery, etc.

### Towels and Sheets.

Towels may be ironed on almost any ironer straight through—sheets should be few with one fold when width of ironer permits, and if not, fold back the edges upon themselves, making two or four thicknesses. Feed pillow cases the folded end first and if embroidered, feed over a Turkish towel. In handling either sheets or tablecloths, fold on the board so that the weight of the goods will not drag back and make an uneven edge.

### Clothing

In feeding underwear, pajamas or shirts, care should be taken that the buttons are few, so that they come against the roll, protecting the smooth surface of the ironer and the buttons themselves.

### Curtains

Curtains should be measured and tagged for width before taking down. Some people obtain better results by pinning the curtain to the edge of the muslin roll. A good plan is to pin only at the edge to get the proper width and allow the curtain to roll itself around the roller.

### Hosiery and Cravats.

Hosiery should be slipped onto the hand with the heel underneath, feed the toe into the machine and use the hand to spread and guide smoothly. Cravats should be few, wrong side up and a damp towel put over them.

## Tremendous Growth in Use of Household Electric Cleaners

Every Year a Million More Housewives Learn New Benefits

By D. H. HINITT

of Electrical Appliance Company

Fifteen years ago, the dream of a man called "crazy" by his neighbors; today a device which so perfectly meets the economic need of the modern American housewife, that over a million are sold every year; that in short is the history of the electric vacuum sweeper.

"Why will you buy your fool machine?" the scoffers of fifteen years ago asked the inventor. "Why, any woman who can afford to pay for your cleaner, certainly has enough money to have a maid, and doesn't need your cleaner. And if they cannot afford a maid, they certainly cannot afford a cleaner when brooms are 25 cents apiece."

But the scoffers reckoned without women when they spoke so glibly; they reckoned without her understanding of the tremendous saving in health, labor and strength the electric vacuum cleaner brings her. They reckoned without the long life given to fine floor coverings by it. They reckoned without the protection it affords young growing children from the types of

disease, whose germs lurk where footsteps carry filth.

Women all over the world, even in tiny Czecho-Slovakia, now recognize the vast benefits brought by the electric vacuum sweeper.

The reason for this widespread knowledge and use is simple. One has merely to push a cleaner across a carpet, to note how the colors are revived and brought back to their original beauty, to see how thoroughly clean floor coverings are made, to experience above all how little effort is necessary in comparison with the back-breaking, arm-tiring method; to want to have this great household tool.

Truly, no woman can afford not to find out all she can about the modern electric vacuum sweeper, especially when so many manufacturers and electrical appliance dealers are offering free home demonstrations. Without obligation, they will bring a cleaner into your home, and on your very own rugs and carpets show you exactly what you may expect from the cleaner.



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