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This Appliance Saves on Elbow Grease

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This Appliance

Saves on Elbow Grease

By Delilah Bartow

IT may seem foolishly unnecessary to talk about proper methods of cleaning a living room. But, is it? for who of us has never cleaned one? Doesn't everyone want to clean it, as well as every other room, as thoroughly as possible and as rapidly?

In cleaning a room one naturally wipes the walls with a wallbrush, cleans the windows and dusts—preferably using a good grade of furniture polish. But it is the electric cleaner with its attachments that's the labor-saver.

Although the particular brand of cleaner makes very little difference, the three types of electric cleaners do vary as to method of cleaning and kind of dirt which is removed. Grouping electric cleaners, then, according to mode of cleaning, we have first the straight air-suction type, second the motor-driven brush, and third the motor-driven agitator. The first type cleans only by suction, the second type has in addition a slight beating action while the third has the strongest beating action. In general the attachments for the different sweepers are almost alike, and it is these attachments which we shall use first.

When one uses an electric cleaner with its attachments to clean a room, many authorities suggest that the order of work be to first dust the room, second to use the attachments for cleaning the woodwork, radiator, draperies, upholstery, and the like, and finally to clean the rug or floor covering. However, many people still prefer to dust last. The exact sequence is not so important as is rapid and thorough cleaning with minimum output of energy.

For cleaning the radiator, the suction tool with a long tube or nozzle is used. The flexible piece of cloth-covered tubing is connected to the front of the electric cleaner usually by simple

screwing. The tool itself, the blower, is slipped over the metal end at the other end of the flexible tubing. The switches are controlled just as if the cleaner were in regular operation. In using this tool we simply turn the switch and point the blower into all of the crevices of the radiator. The suction is very effective in removing dirt and it is much more comfortably done than getting down on one's knees to sweep with a whisk broom. If your home has a hot air heating system, you could use the same tool or you could use the open end of the hose on the register. This tool is also used for cleaning the lighting fixtures and lamps, for removing the dust from the crevices of the woodwork and for dusting books and bookcases.

WHEN cleaning draperies, the tool depends on the type of material and the amount of dust in them. If the material has a smooth surface, the tool without the brush is sufficient. If the material has a rough surface and the dirt is deeply embedded, the tool with the brush is preferred. In using either tool, one begins at the top and moves slowly down the length of the drapery. One must make certain that the point of maximum air-flow occurs near the tips of the bristles of the brush. Otherwise, the suction isn't where it can be used most effectively. This position is provided for in the construction of the tool when a narrow rubber band is mounted inside the rows of bristle tufts. The tool with the brush may also be used for cleaning wall hanging. For cleaning upholstered davenport and chairs the same tool is used.

The dirt found in rugs may be divided into three kinds; surface litter including thread, hair, lint, bits of paper, and the like; dust containing organic matter, grease, and bacteria; and grit

with sharp cutting edges. The dirt may be on the surface but in the upper portion of the pile, or imbedded in the pockets of the rug. It may be in any or all of these places. So the task of the electric sweeper is to remove as much of the dirt is possible.

In general the cleaning action of a machine is this: The suction of the cleaner raises the rug against the lips of the nozzle; the rotating bristles on the motor-driven brush have a tendency to depress the rug as they pass over it. This produces the beating action. Beating action, of course, does not exist in the simple suction types of cleaner. In the motor-driven agitator type the brushes are supplemented by metal bars which function similarly. The stream of air passing into the nozzle, carries the dislodged dirt through the fan chamber and into the bag. Dislodging the dirt depends primarily upon the beating action of the revolving brush. Consequently the brush should be adjusted with the bristles extending the proper length beyond the nozzle lips. This nozzle adjustment is very important. If the nozzle is too high, it will not pick up the rug and there will be no beating action. If it is too low, it will be difficult to operate and much of the beating action will be lost. The efficiency of the cleaner is also dependent upon the care one takes with the bag. It must be kept clean. Dirt in the bag counteracts part of the suction at the nozzle thus decreasing the effectiveness of the cleaner. The bag should be emptied at least once a week, more frequently if it needs it. Some tests indicate that one and three-fourths feet per second is the most efficient speed.

In operating the cleaner one must be careful not to allow any sharp objects to get into the fan chamber, for this would destroy the balance of the fan and thus impair its efficiency. In cleaning fringed ends, the cleaner is moved to the bare floor and the rug is approached from the outside tilting the cleaner by pressing the handle down. Then the cleaner is glided over the fringe, lowering it against the rug and drawing it towards the operator across

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the fringe. This method also straightens the fringe.

Even the dust that has been collected on the bare floor, may be easily taken up with the electric cleaner. In fact that important piece of equipment puts the cleaning job out of the dreary, back-breaking class.

Iowa Needs to Repair

IOWA farm houses are much in need of repair. One in every eight houses needs to be replaced; improvements of many kinds are desired.

Dr. Margaret G. Reid, assistant professor of economic science, reports in her survey of the status of farm housing in Iowa, recently completed, that not only are the houses much in need of repair, but during the past three years the majority of 221,000 families have spent less than \$100 on repairs or improvements.

Information for Dr. Reid's study was obtained concerning 8,298 owner and 10,491 non-owner houses in 154 townships in 10 representative Iowa counties.

The questions which were asked the families concerning the desire for improvements were largely of two kinds. What do you have? What do you want? One fifth of the families would install water systems if they were to spend the \$500 available for house improvements, Dr. Reid's survey shows. About one sixth of them reported that they would improve interior walls, ceilings and floors; about the same percentage reported that they would install bathroom equipment.

Few families, Dr. Reid found, are willing to borrow money for improvements that they would like to have.

Bags,—they're really too vast and capacious to be called purses—are really being made to serve their purpose. Those shown now often have as many niches, cubby holes and safety catches in which to cashe your knick-knacks as a pigeonhole desk. They're bags to take away your envy of a man's 13 pockets.

* * *

Imagins the quaint rusticity of two or three tiny golden leaves in your ear! Chanel is making them for evening wear now.

* * *

Death masks and plaster head casts have always spelled a peculiar fascination to most people. Just imagine the distinction they lend to belts when used to form the clasp.

* * *

Criss-cross lacings a popular closing for simple fasten-down-the-front sports dresses.

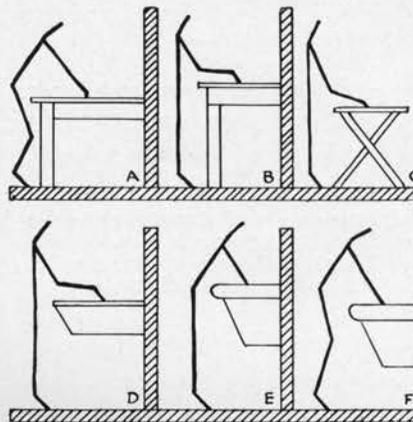
Even in the Kitchen

It's Division of Labor

By Laura Christensen

ALTHOUGH most modern women like to hike, they prefer to take their exercise in more interesting scenery than the four walls of their kitchen. So the equipment in the best of kitchens should be arranged in a manner that eliminates the necessity of using all of a woman's energy in the kitchen and leaves none for outdoor recreation.

If we were to put down in black and white the steps that are taken in giving the family mashed potatoes, a typical



Heights to Suit the Person

and frequently prepared food, we find that first they are washed and peeled, then cooked, mashed and seasoned, served and last the dish that they are served in and the kettle used in cooking are washed and put away. In general, this covers the three types of work that make up kitchen work—preparation of food, cooking and serving, and clearing away.

Isn't it logical that the three kinds of work will be accomplished much more quickly and probably more thoroughly if the necessary equipment for each is grouped together?

THE term "preparation" of food also includes storage, so the necessary pieces of equipment for this center are: cabinet or table top of some sort, storage cupboards, refrigerator, bins for fruits and vegetables, and a sink.

The cooking and serving center includes a range, shelf or cupboard for utensils and serving dishes used at range and some kind of serving table (either stationary or movable).

The clearing-away center in the best of regulated kitchens includes a stack table for dishes, a sink and cupboards.

Fotunately, the preparation center, at least the storage part, should be handy to the back door and the delivery boy, and the serving center should be near the dining room. And as it is generally easiest for most women to work from right to left, probably the best arrangement is to have the storage bins near the back door, with the sink just to the right of them. A cabinet might very well be placed around the wall to the left of the storage space, followed by the stove and other articles in the cooking and serving center. Probably the dining room door will intervene here, and on the left of it might very conveniently be the cupboards and stack table of the clearing up center. This brings us around to the sink again, which, you will remember figures in two centers—the preparation and clearing up—so these two can overlap here and we are back where we started.

Some general rules which apply to all centers which make for a more convenient and less tiresome kitchen are: Place equipment as closely together as possible to give a continuous work surface and conserve space.

At least a 3-foot alley-way down the center is necessary for opening doors and so on but more than 5 feet causes many extra steps.

Table tops of equipment should all be the same height and that should be the best possible one for each individual housekeeper—the height on which the flat palms rest when held straight downward is least tiresome.

This is an idea for a picnic—broil bananas over the campfire. You could place them, skins and all, covered with ashes, in the coals to roast.

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