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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 important as long as it 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. In the simple suction types of cleaner, the bag 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 and thus decreases 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 filling the cleaner by pressing the handle downward. Then the cleaner is glided over the fringe, lowering it against the rug and drawing it towards the operator across 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 as 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 and thus decreases 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.

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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 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.

Even the dust that has been collected on the bare floor, may be easily taken care of. This method also straightens the fringe.

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

**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.

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**Heights to Suit the Person**

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