

Wool Is A Flame Stopper U.S. Test Study Reveals

When it comes to fire safety in clothing and furnishings, wool is rated far superior to most fibers studied in a test in the United States. In fact, the test revealed that wool actually extinguished itself when the flame is withdrawn from direct contact.

Main conclusions were that test fabrics of 100 per cent wool showed a noticeably greater resistance to ignition when exposed to flame, than the other seven fibres, and that a tendency to continue to burn after ignition was less in wool than the others.

A report by the firm ACH Fiber Service Inc. of Boston, Massachusetts, says: "The results of the study are most per-

suasive in revealing that the resistance of the wool fabrics both to the ignition and spreading of flame is superior to all other types examined, and significantly so is the case of most of the fibres tested.

"The wool samples became even more resistant to ignition and flame-spread after they had been subjected to normal cleaning procedures."

Several of the other fibres showed a greater propensity to ignition and flame-spread after dry-cleaning or washing, mainly because of the removal of fire-resistant finishes.

The technical investigation — described by ACH as a "limited study" — was aimed at determining the relative levels of

flammability of fibres used generally in households, commercial enterprises and transportation facilities. It was largely based on officially recognized flammability test methods. Glass and asbestos fibers were excluded from the tests.

Ninety-eight consumer items in 18 categories were tested including shirting, nightgowns, dresses, baby blankets, curtains, upholstery, and carpets. Eighty-one consisted of 100 per cent of a single fibre type, 11 were blends of wool and other fibres, and six were carpet samples.

Of the samples that burned, most of the wool samples took "significantly longer" to catch fire, before and after cleansing, than the other fibres, and were self-extinguishing after fire was removed.

According to the report, the time or flame-spread is related to fabric construction and weight. Generally, the heavier the construction, the longer it takes for a flame to spread. In the tests, for instance, heavy-

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ine Mitchell, recently deceased member of the Society.

Cookies will be donated for the dedication of the Farm & Home Foundation Center on June 9. It was voted to give \$100 dona-

tion to the Quarryville Fire Co.

Members will serve as hostesses for the USO Dance on June 26.

The next meeting will be held in June at the Black Rock Retreat, at which time the county officers will be entertained, and Farm Women 17 and 20.

SOCIETY 8

Mrs. Esther Eby Glass, of Lancaster, spoke on the topic, "There's a Daughter in the House", at a recent mother-daughter meeting of Society of Farm Women 8 in the Willow Valley Restaurant, with 53 persons present.

Solos honoring mothers were sung by Mrs. Ann Brown, accompanied by Mrs. Noah Kreider Jr. on the organ.

Mrs. J. Harold Frey, president, tabled all business until the next meeting which will be held in the home of Mrs. Lizzie Keener, Manheim R4 on June 22. She will be assisted by Mrs. J. H. Frey, Mrs. Elizabeth Shueman and Mrs. Mary Minnich.

weight wool blankets did not ignite after extended fire application.

"Several non-wool fabrics of lightweight construction displayed a great readiness to be ignited by a flame and barely passed the official standard test in this regard. Among these fabrics are some which displayed dramatically rapid flaming tendencies."

Some of the synthetic fabrics, depending upon their melting point temperatures, tended to melt and drip when burning, "introducing an additional hazard of burns quite aside from direct contact with a flaming fabric since they became a molten mass of plastic."

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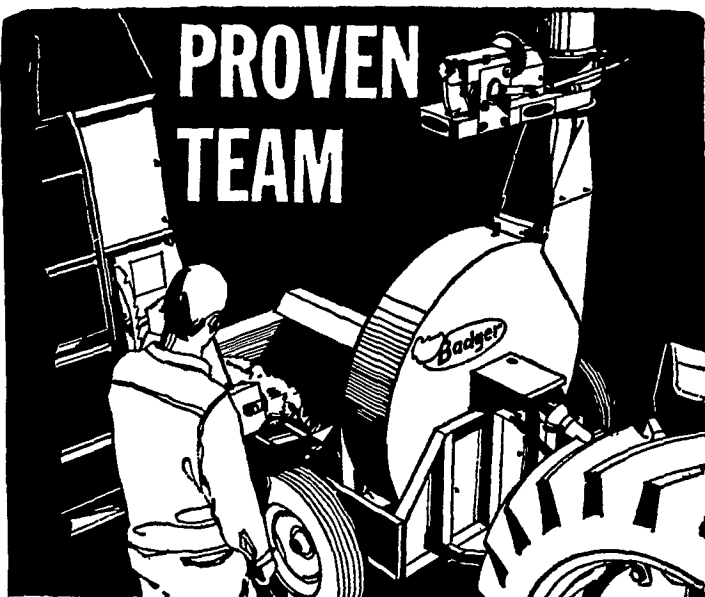
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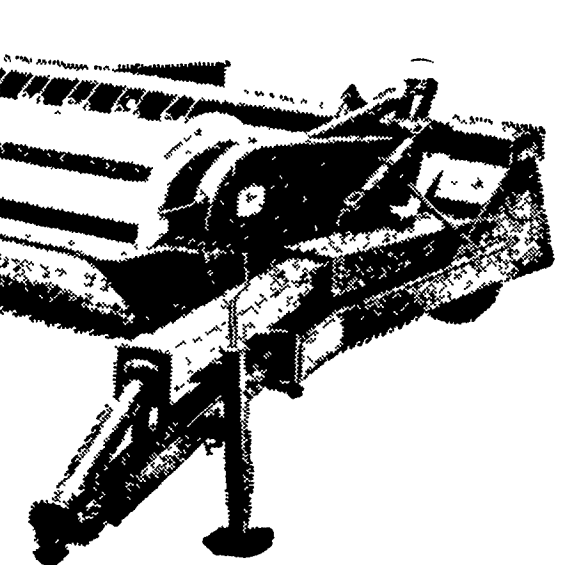
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