

Ladies Have You Heard?

By Doris Thomas

Lancaster Home Economist

HOW TO REMOVE CRAYON AND INK STAINS

If you have children in school, crayon and ballpoint ink stains on their clothing may be a laundry problem. Treat these stains before washing because the heat from wash water and hot air in a dryer often sets them permanently. However, the kind of fabric and type of stain.

For washable fabrics stained with crayon, dampen the stain and rub in soap or detergent to form thick suds. Then rinse well and repeat if needed. Use a grease solvent for non-washable fabrics. If the grease solvent does not work, then try the water and detergent method.

Ballpoint ink stains need a little different treatment. Rubbing alcohol is useful for most fabrics. Place the stain face down on a blotter or paper towel and sponge the area with alcohol until the blotter absorbs the stain. Rinse the area with water to remove the alcohol.

Bleaching may also be necessary if the stain is an old one. Use a mild solution of chlorine bleach and water to soak bleachable items. Use an oxygen bleach solution for items that can't be bleached with chlorine bleach.

Be sure you first test the stain remover on a sample piece of the garment on a hidden area, because sometimes the stain removal

method can discolor or fade the fabric.

ABOUT SAFER CLOTHING FOR ALL AGES

Blue jeans and wool sweaters are not only fashionable attire but probably one of the safest outfits to be wearing in the event you're caught in a fire.

Wool and some synthetics tend to be fire resistant. A tightly woven, heavy weight fabric like denim will not burn as fast as a loose weave, fluffy pile or napped fabric. Also, loose, floppy clothing such as nightgowns and robes will burn more quickly because air can circulate faster through them.

There's no flame proof fiber or fabric available for clothing but great strides have taken place recently in developing flame retardant fabrics. The first age group to benefit was children for whom flame retardant sleepwear was developed. In fact, the federal government requires all children's sleepwear to be flame retardant.

Some major retail-catalog chain stores, spurred on by the benefits of flame retardant sleepwear for children are now expanding their inventory to include flame retardant dresses, blouses and other adult wear. The price for these garments is increased anywhere from 50 cents to \$2.00 depending on garment



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size and amount of fabric used.

Flame retardant garments look like ordinary garments and the problem with smell and feel, associated with the first flame retardant garments, have been almost eliminated. Generally, flame retardant garments can be laundered in ordinary phosphate detergent or a heavy-duty, liquid detergent. Chlorine bleach and some fabric softeners can reduce flame retardant characteristics. To be sure of proper laundry techniques, follow garment label instructions.

Flame retardant garments do provide life-saving protection but can burn. It just takes longer to ignite them. They will self-extinguish once the heat source is removed. The only sure protection is to avoid catching on fire in the first place by practicing good safety habits.

Ida's Notebook



Ida Risser

Recently, I've had the opportunity to look through a very old leather-bound book which my Grandfather, Benjamin R. Landis, used to keep the accounts of his hired people. After pouring over the book for hours, I almost feel as though I can reconstruct some of the way of life in the 1890's.

The various men were hired for \$5 per month, \$8 per month, or even \$11 per month with washing and mending included. Now what really makes interesting reading is what this money was spent for. Apparently, my grandfather acted as banker because every two or three days all through the year he doled out money to them. On a Saturday evening they would get .75 cents or \$1 and walk to the nearby village of Oregon.

Sometimes they bought coal at Lititz for \$3 a ton or went to a doctor in Lancaster for \$5. For a trip to Atlantic City they got an advance of \$1 and for two quarts of whiskey \$1. Naturally food items were inexpensive compared to today's prices. Examples are: watermelon .10, bushel potatoes .30 one

Gredne and saw horse rasses with Claty." Or, "Paied my tax .75 and sold mutin .10 lb., fethers .32 lb. and 7 lb. meet at .08 lb." Then, "Bought huckelburys, dinamite and oisters at Nessvill."

Each day off for the hired men was also carefully noted as follows: 1 day at Circus, 1 day at Campmeeting, 1/2 day at fox chase, 1/2 day fishing, 1 day had poison, 1 day grind broad axe and pick apples and 1 day "don't know where you were."

I must tell you a bit about the women. A "Susie" worked for \$3 per month and an "Emma", the wife of Jacob Livering, sometimes managed to get part of her husband's pay. She spent .50 at a public sale and another .50 went to the baker. I don't think I envy them one bit.

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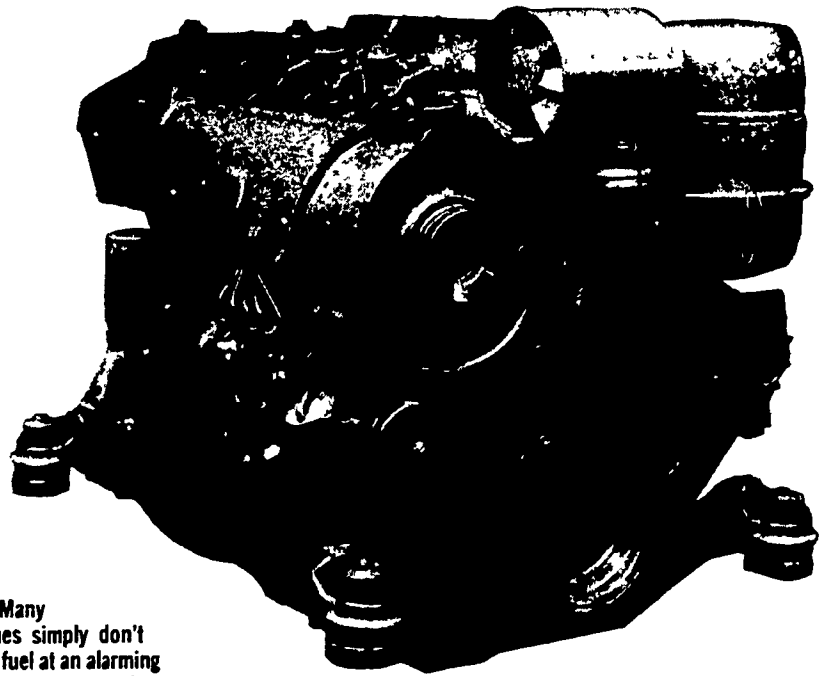
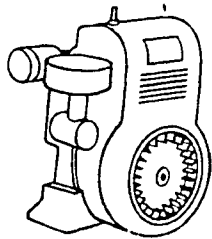
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