



Have You Heard?

By Doris Thomas
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Home Economist

TLC For Children's Soft Toys
The beloved stuffed animal or doll that becomes a child's favorite is apt to become shabby, gray and sad-looking in record time—and the more loved, hugged and cuddled it is, the shabbier it becomes. Don't despair. A bit of well-chosen care will revive and restore even the most bedraggled, stuffed toy.

First brush or vacuum to remove surface dirt and dust, then take off any garments; launder separately. Check washability of the toy. Some stuffed toys have labels advising if they are machine-washable or hand-washable. If there is no tag and you are not sure of washability, open a section of seam and check the stuffing used. If it is of brownish-colored cotton, various types of fabric of multi-colored fibers, the stuffing may stain the covering material if it gets very wet. It is best to scrub these toys with a suds-filled brush and rinse by wiping with a damp cloth. Also use this method for toys with mechanical insides or those containing music boxes.

If the toy is washable, pretreat dirty spots and smudges by scrubbing with a small brush dipped in liquid detergent, or a paste or detergent and water. Be sure all seams are securely stitched. To wash by hand, immerse the toy in a detergent and warm water bath, quickly dunking it in and out of the solution and swishing it through the sudsy water. Rinse thoroughly. To launder machine-washable toys, several should be washed together

to balance the load. Partially fill the washer with warm water, add detergent and agitate to dissolve it. Add the toys and fill the washer to the desired water level. Use a short wash cycle and continue through spin and rinse automatically. The use of a fabric softener will enhance the feel and look of animals or dolls with plush or fur-like coverings.

To dry, place the toy on a rack or line to let air circulate around it. A fan speeds drying time. Or dry the toy in a dryer, along with several clean, dry bath towels to serve as buffers. Set the dryer heat according to the stuffing material. Toys stuffed with foam rubber or kapok should be dried on air setting only. Stop the dryer occasionally and shape the toy to redistribute the stuffing. Hand washed toys also need to be reshaped when the toys are almost dry.

Cold Laundry Rinse Saves Energy

Since 95 percent of the energy used in machine washing is used to heat the water, the only realistic way to cut energy costs is to use less hot water.

Most manufacturers and laundry experts recommend using a cold water rinse, even after a hot washing. Some newer washing machines have eliminated the warm rinse option altogether,

others have programmed their machines for an automatic warm wash and cold rinse, which means the consumer must manually reset the machine for another choice.

Some consumers, however, complain that after a cold water rinse, their laundry loads are wetter and clothes take longer to dry. They are right. But it still makes good sense to use the cold water rinse.

USDA plans grain inspection fines

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed amending its grain inspection regulations by adding provisions for assessing and collecting civil penalties.

According to officials of USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service, the proposal would give the agency regulatory authority to impose civil penalties against persons who knowingly violate provisions of the U.S. Grain Standards Act, or who have been convicted of any violation of federal law regarding

A 14-pound load of clothes rinsed in cold water will retain about two tenths of a gallon more water than the same load of clothes rinsed in warm water. It costs considerably less for the dryer to heat the extra two tenths gallon of water left in the clothes than it does for your water heater to heat the 12 gallons of water you would need for a warm rinse.

the handling, weighing or inspection of grain.

In addition, the proposal would incorporate other miscellaneous changes in federal grain inspection regulations.

Public comments on the proposal may be submitted by Feb. 6 to Lewis Lebakken Jr., Information Resources Staff, Federal Grain Inspection Service, Room 0667-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250; (202) 382-1738. The proposal was published Jan. 7 in the Federal Register.

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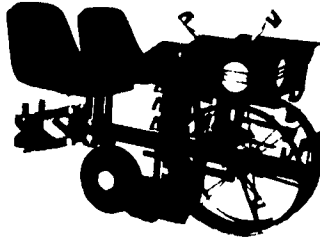
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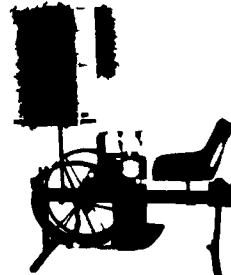
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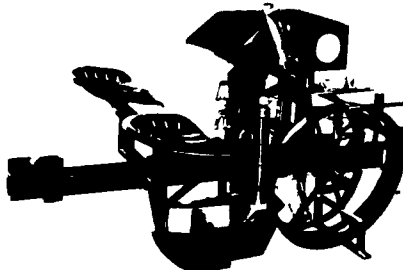
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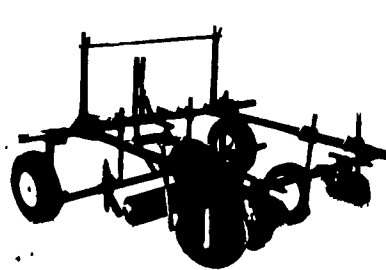
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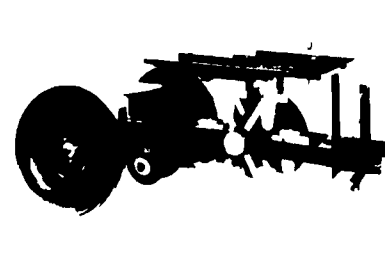
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