



Have You Heard?

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Home Economist

Blanket Care

Blankets last longest and give the best service when they are kept clean. A clean blanket has a fluffy nap that traps warmth, and it is less likely to suffer insect damage than a soiled blanket.

Always read care instructions before cleaning a blanket. Some may specify drycleaning. Blankets that are labeled "handwash only" may be drycleaned. Electric blankets, on the other hand, can only be laundered; drycleaning damages the insulation on the wiring. Some wool blankets are specially treated for machine washability. When available, follow the laundry instructions on the care label for any blanket.

In general, washable blankets can be laundered in the following manner. Measure the length and width of a wool blanket. Pretreat spots or a soiled binding with a liquid detergent or a paste of water and granular detergent. Wash only

one large blanket at a time.

Set the washer for a warm wash and cold rinse. After the washer has filled, add detergent. If a granular product is used, agitate to dissolve. Stop the washer and distribute the blanket loosely and evenly around the wash cycle. Let the water pump out and after a one minute spin, slowly advance the timer to the deep rinse. Rinse for one to two minutes and allow the washer to finish the wash cycle automatically.

A fabric softener may be used in the washer or dryer to help reduce static cling and make a blanket soft and fluffy.

Depending on the construction of the blanket, synthetics and those made of cotton can be washed on a permanent press cycle.

Dry a wool blanket on the high temperature setting. To absorb moisture and dry a blanket more quickly, place three or four dry towels in the dryer. Preheat the towels for three to five minutes.

This helps absorb moisture, dry blankets rapidly and avoid pilling caused by long tumbling. Place the blanket in the dryer with the warm towels. Set dryer control for about twenty minutes. Check the blanket after ten minutes. Remove while still slightly damp to avoid shrinkage.

Place blanket on flat surface or over two lines to finish drying. Stretch the blanket to its original shape. When the blanket is completely dry, brush gently to raise nap. Press binding with a cool iron, if needed.

Synthetic blankets and those made of cotton may be dried using the permanent press cycle and temperature. Use highest heat setting if the dryer has no permanent press setting. Dry completely; do not overdry to avoid wrinkling. Remove blanket from dryer as soon as the machine stops.

For line drying, hang a blanket over two parallel lines. Smooth and straighten edges. When partially dry, change the position and straighten.

Techniques For Discount Shopping

Bargain bins, five minute specials, and buying fever can cost you a bundle if you are not prepared when buying clothes at discount stores.

Be a cool customer and a wise consumer, you need to be well armed with a list of what you need and how much you can afford to spend. Once you have these, here are a few extra survival

techniques that may protect you from costly impulse buying.

- Don't go unless you are prepared to buy. What you see today may be gone tomorrow. If you intend to use a check or credit card note store policy before you buy.

- Shop when you feel full of energy and are looking good. Be prepared for a little crowding, allow more time than you ordinarily would, and expect delays at the check-out line.

- Go dressed for easy changes so you're prepared to try on everything you select before you actually buy. There are many reasons items are sold at discount and it's up to you to decide if a flaw is worth the price.

- Make a quick tour of the store before you begin to select in earnest. Some stores are organized as a series of boutiques and not all of what you are looking for will be in the same place. Often best buys are in a backroom or on a separate rack.

- Look over garments carefully and don't depend entirely on sizing tags - clothes may be improperly marked. Look for tears, irregular stitching and coloring, broken zippers, and stains.

- If you've found something you like, have tried it on and like the style, fabric and fit, carry it around with you for a few minutes while you look further. A second look at something you've selected may save you from an "almost" good bargain.

China's pandas

(Continued from Page B10)

infant squawk.

After Zhen-Zhen and her infant abandoned the den, Schaller found a nest made of wood dust and a few twigs. Piled at the entrance were droppings and several logs the mother panda had hauled in. Equally puzzling was a five-foot fir sapling placed upright in the den.

Unexplained Loss

Somehow Zhen-Zhen lost her infant that winter, and later another of her offspring vanished, its fate unknown.

Adult pandas are at risk too. In the mid-1970's much of the umbrella bamboo in northern Sichuan flowered and died, causing at least 138 pandas to starve to death. Then, in 1983, a flowering of arrow bamboo in central Sichaun threatened pandas there, and some had to be rescued and relocated.

Pandas also die in snares set for musk deer. Poaching is the second biggest cause of their deaths, after habitat destruction.

Concern for their survival has led to creation of the Research Centre for the Protection of the Giant Panda and Its Ecosystem, in the Wolong Reserve. It includes a veterinary hospital and a nursery. China and the World Wildlife Fund also plan a detailed panda census and bamboo survey to help manage "China's living treasure."

York Extension offers safe water clinic

YORK - Concerned about the quality of your drinking water? If you depend on your own well or spring, you should be.

"The quality of water from a private supply is the responsibility of its owner," says Dr. William Sharpe, water resource specialist at Penn State University. "If you don't test your water, no one else will."

Drinking contaminated water can be a health risk, Sharpe points out. "The Safe Drinking Water Act established standards for water quality. If water doesn't meet those standards, it could cause problems for those drinking it." As an example, he notes that water with high levels of lead can retard the mental development of children who drink it.

To insure that your water is safe to drink, you should have it tested periodically at a certified water-testing laboratory. Sharpe recommends that water be tested

for bacteria and nitrates at least once a year and for other chemicals at least every three years.

In addition to potential health problems, poor quality water can have other negative effects. "Water contaminated with iron can cause staining problems, and water with a low pH can corrode pipes," says Sharpe.

On March 25 residents of York County will have an opportunity to

learn about managing their water supplies. Dr. Sharpe and other water quality experts will speak and be available for consultation at the "Safe Drinking Water Clinic" to be held at the York County 4-H Center in Bair. The clinic is free and advanced registration isn't necessary.

The program will run from 1 to 3 p.m. and be repeated at 7 to 9 p.m. For more information contact the York County Cooperative Extension Service at 757-9657.

Tri-Community Baby Beef Club

The Tri-Community 4-H Dairy Club met recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Yeager.

The following officers were elected: president, Lynn Huzzard; vice president, Kelly Huzzard; secretary, Noel Scheib; treasurer,

Tiffany Yeager; and news reporter, Amy Hewitt.

For the remainder of the meeting, members completed the Hoard's Dairymen cow judging contest. All members submitted entries.

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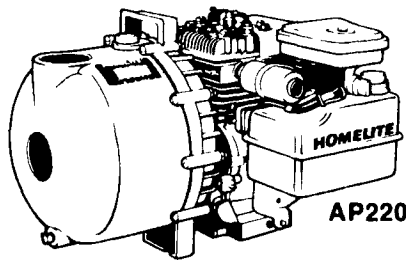
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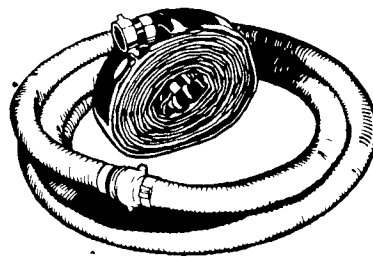
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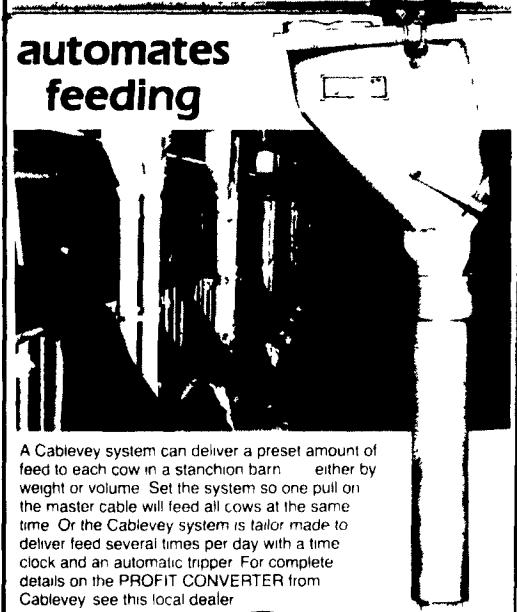
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