

Then And Now! Duct Tape — It's More Than It's Quacked Up To Be

(NAPS) Believe it or not, the world was once without duct tape. Over the years it has become a symbol of American ingenuity, an icon and a resourceful tool that represents our culture. In fact, in just one year people purchase enough Duck brand duct tape to wrap around the Earth's equator 12.3 times! Duct tape has saved lives, been used on space missions to the moon and has been applied on practically everything, from alligators' mouths to helicopter blades. But there was a time when duct tape did not exist.

Duct tape was developed during World War II. GIs saw the advantages of an all-purpose, strong, waterproof tape that could easily be ripped into lengths and quickly used to fix things. Using medical tape as the basis from which to build the

new tape, along with two new technologies — the ability to "polycoat" adhesive products and to laminate the polyethylene coat to a cloth backing — the prototype was developed.

After the war, the product continued to evolve both in name and form. The nameless, military-green tape from the war came to America and found a small but loyal group of users. When the product was found easier and just as effective to use as screws and bolts for holding together duct work...duct tape was born. The color then changed from the drab military-green to the familiar silver-gray that is known so well today.

During the next 30 years, no company tried much of anything new with duct tape, except for a little company in Cleveland, Ohio. In the mid 1970s, that

company, Manco, Inc., became the first to shrink-wrap and label the product, making it easier for retailers so stack the sticky rolls on top of one another and easier for shoppers to distinguish different grades of duct tape just look for the friendly Duck! And since that time, duct tape has become so much more than the tape it was during WWII:

- It's removable, without leaving adhesive residue behind.
- It's bright! Available in extreme neon colors like pink, yellow, green and orange, duct tape makes for a variety of applications like an easy identifier when picking up luggage from the airport terminal.
- It's camouflage-perfect for hunters and fishermen.
- And it's electronic. Manco, Inc., the makers of Duck brand duct tape, the leading U.S.

brand, has developed a Web site that spreads the duct take word. Check out www.ducktape-club.com.

Americans love duct tape. Manco, Inc., the makers of Duck brand tape, is flooded with letters from loyal Duck Tape fans. Here are a few fun and quirky uses they received:

- "The river was rising and began seeping in. Duck Tape around the door edges stopped it. Seven-inches of water outside but none inside" — Dennis G., West Plains, MO.
- "At the zoo we used Duck Tape to keep a kangaroo pouch shut. An underdeveloped joey was ejected too early. The tape held the pouch shut for several weeks until the pouch opening shrank to hold the little guy in." — Brad B., Wichita, KS.
- "My husband is a crop dus-

ter. Once in a while a wing tip gets in a tree. With no time to stop and fix it, he uses Duck Tape. Put on appropriately, it will stay on up to 102 mph." — Kay B. Elmer, MO.

- "I take students to Europe every spring break. We've used Duck Tape to tape showerheads up in Madrid, doors shut in Morocco and secure luggage. I never travel without it." — Lee
 - "Duck tape directly on the skin is great for blisters on the feet!" — Phyllis J., Ephrata, WA.
 - "During Desert Storm, sand was wearing down helicopter blades. The blades were saved by putting Duck Tape on the edge and replacing it as it wore off." — Stev C., Springfield, VT.
- Share some of your Duck Tape stories at www.ducktape-club.com or write to Manco, Inc., 32150 Just Imagine Drive, Avon, OH 44011.

Colorful Ways To Brighten A Room Naturally

(NAPSI) — Can you answer this trivia question? What household purchase can serve as a paperweight, room freshener or window treatment? (Hint: It can also do double duty as a color accent in your living room and a mood enhancer at the end of a trying day.)

The answer? Fresh flowers.

On-the-go women are discovering that fresh flowers are a simple, inexpensive, multi-purpose way to brighten their everyday world. Flowers can also be a

versatile interior decor feature, adding color and texture to home and work environments:

Light up a room with red, yellow and blue flowers, marching across a mantle or window sill in slender glass vases.

Tuck a bowl of fresh flowers in with heirloom plates, family photographs or books to spotlight a collection.

Unify your design statement with a lush display of color, e.g., electric blue delphiniums or crimson callas.

Flowers can dramatize a theme or capture a seasonal ambience. For a Tuscan kitchen table, arrange sunflowers, dahlias and Queen Anne's Lace next to a basket of grapes, pears and tomatoes. Evoke the fields of Provence with sprays of lavender.

"Whatever your color or design theme, there are flowers to carry out that statement," says Ren Van Rems, world-renowned floral designer and spokesperson for the California Cut Flower Commission. "In California,

growers produce hundreds of varieties and they continually add new ones to satisfy current trends."

In a world dominated by lighting-quick technology, fresh flowers rekindle an ancient connection with nature, replenishing the spirit and calming the senses.

In the office, give your tired eyes and spirit a respite. Anchor a stack of reports with a melody of roses, stock and lisianthus, in soothing tones of cream, champagne and blush. Fill a glass vase with pebbles to weight it, then

add water and flowers.

Wherever you bring flowers into your life, tickle your fancy with unique containers—an antique inkwell for a desk, a sculpted frog for the bathroom. There's an infinite number of ways to soften a hectic everyday world with the sensual, scented world of flowers.

For a free brochure on fresh flower arranging, send an SASE to the California Cut Flower Commission, 73 Hangar Way, Watsonville, CA 95076 or visit their website at www.cffc.org.

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