

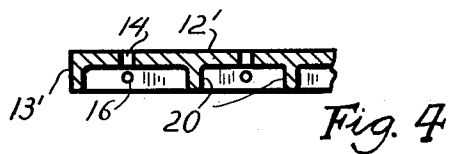
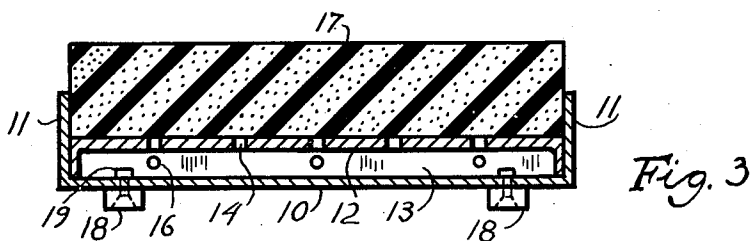
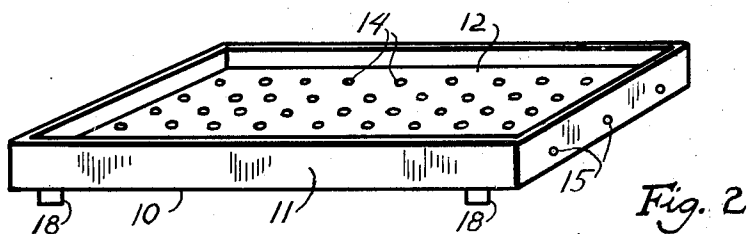
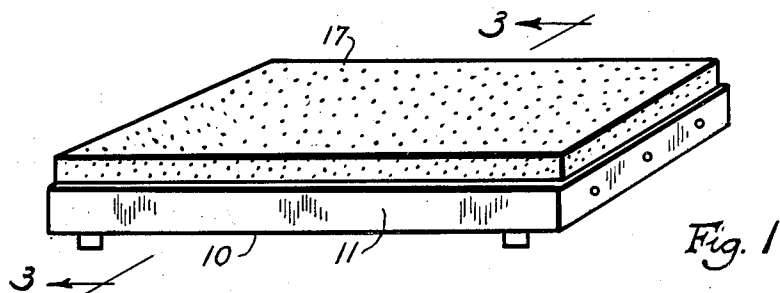
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BATHROOM MAT

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BATHROOM MAT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 4—185)

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The present invention relates to bathroom appliances and more particularly, to appliances of the character which are placed upon the bathroom floor for the purpose of supporting a bather and absorbing the moisture shed from the bather, as he dries himself upon emerging from the bath.

It is a primary object of the present invention to provide an appliance of the above described type which is highly water absorbent, and at the same time, is designed to retain all of its absorbed moisture, so as to prevent the bathroom floor from becoming damp and consequently soiled.

A further object of the present invention is to provide such an appliance which may be readily and conveniently emptied of its accumulated moisture.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide an appliance of the above described type which is adapted to function not only as a moisture-absorbing device, but also as a highly efficient safety appliance which, when properly employed by a bather, will prevent him from slipping, while drying himself after bathing.

With the above and other objects in view, as will hereinafter appear, the invention comprises the devices, combinations, and arrangements of parts hereinafter set forth and illustrated in the accompanying drawings of a preferred embodiment of the invention, from which the several features of the invention, and the advantages attained thereby, will be readily understood by those skilled in the art.

In the accompanying drawings,

Fig. 1 represents a perspective view of the present device.

Fig. 2 is similar to Fig. 1, with the exception that the former figure illustrates the device with its upper mat portion removed.

Fig. 3 represents, on an enlarged scale, a sectional view taken substantially along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 represents, on an enlarged scale, a sectional view of a modified form of the present invention.

The present appliance is adapted to be used in the manner of a bath mat, in that it is designed to be placed upon a bathroom floor adjacent a tub or shower stall, so that the bather, upon emerging from his bath, may stand upon the device, thereby to prevent the bather from slipping and injuring himself upon the normally slippery bathroom floor. Also, as hereinabove indicated, the present appliance is adapted to absorb all of the moisture which is normally shed from the

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bather as he dries himself, and to retain such moisture so that it will not be deposited upon the floor, and thus render the latter damp and dirty. The appliance may be readily emptied of its moisture at the convenience of the user.

Referring particularly to the accompanying drawings, it is to be noted that the present device comprises a substantially flat base member 10, about the periphery of which is provided an upstanding flange portion 11 which cooperates with the base member 10, so as to form therewith a substantially watertight receptacle. As may be particularly noted in Figs. 2 and 3, there is disposed entirely within the confines of the receptacle, a substantially flat baffle member 12, the peripheral portion of which is provided with a depending flange 13. From this, it will be readily understood that the baffle member 12 may be inserted within the receptacle, and that the flange 13 will function to space the baffle slightly above the base member 10, so as to form therebetween a water-receiving chamber. The baffle member is provided with a plurality of apertures 14, 14 which communicate directly with the chamber formed between the baffle and the receptacle base 10. If desired, the baffle member may be rigidly secured within the receptacle member, but this is not necessary, for the present device will function quite properly, even though the baffle member is loosely inserted within the receptacle.

As may be particularly observed in Figs. 2 and 3, the upstanding flange 11 is provided with one or more water-egress openings 15, 15, while the downwardly depending flange 13 of the baffle member may be provided with one or more water-egress apertures 16, 16 which are disposed within the flange 13, so as to be aligned with the receptacle apertures 15, 15, whenever the baffle member is properly positioned within the receptacle.

Removably insertable within the upper portion of the receptacle is a mat 17 which is fabricated from a sponge-like foraminous substance, such as, for example, sponge rubber. However, it will be readily appreciated that many other materials, other than sponge rubber, could be employed, for any material which is relatively pliable and porous could be employed with success, in the present appliance. It is to be particularly observed that the mat 17 is supported upon the baffle member 12 so as to be spaced above the base 10 of the receptacle. Furthermore, in a preferred form of the present invention, the mat 17 is of a thickness sufficient to permit it to extend a substantial distance above

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the upper edge portion of the receptacle flange 11.

It may be particularly noted in Fig. 3 that the bottom face of the base member 10 is provided with a plurality of nonskid feet 18, 18, and in one form of the present invention, each corner portion of the receptacle is provided with such a foot. These feet may be made of rubber, and secured to the base member by means of rivets 19. It is the purpose of these feet to prevent the device from skidding upon a smooth bathroom floor, as the bather steps from his bath and upon the device. Those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that rubber suction cups could be used in place of the feet 18, or abrasive material could be applied over the entire base portion of the receptacle with equal success, so as to prevent the appliance from shifting relative to a floor surface under the weight of a bather.

As hereinabove noted, the present unit may be positioned on a bathroom floor adjacent a tub or shower stall, so as to support a bather as he emerges from the bath. Thus, while the bather dries himself, the mat 17, being of a porous nature, will function to absorb all of the moisture shed from the bather. While the bather dries himself, he will, of course, continually tramp upon the mat 17, with the result that the water absorbed in the mat will be repeatedly squeezed from the mat, so as to drip into the receptacle chamber through the apertures 14, 14 provided in the baffle plate 12. Thus, no matter how much water is shed from the bather, the mat 17 will never become saturated to a degree that it would, upon being squeezed, spill its contents over the side portion of the flange 11 and on the bathroom floor. In other words, as soon as an appreciable amount of moisture is absorbed within the mat 17, the continual tramping of the bather upon the mat will function to transfer the mat's moisture to the bottom portion of the receptacle. After the present appliance has been so employed, it may be readily relieved of its fluid contents, for the user may pour the liquid accumulated within the lower chamber, into a drain by way of the egress apertures 15 and 16. In performing this operation, the mat 17 may be left in place or, if desired, it may be removed, so that the last vestige of the mat's moisture may be drained therefrom by a simple squeezing operation.

The above described receptacle and baffle units may be fabricated from sheet metal, or any other appropriate material that is strong enough to withstand the weight of a bather. For example, either or both of the receptacle and baffle elements may be molded from a so-called synthetic plastic material, and such a unit can be produced in rather striking and attractive colors. In the event that the baffle element is to be molded from a plastic material, it would be best to provide the bottom portion thereof with a plurality of strengthening ribs. For example, Fig. 4 illustrates a sectional view through such a baffle mem-

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ber which comprises a flat perforated plate 12' having a flange 13' depending from the peripheral portion thereof. Within the confines of the flange 13' and depending from the bottom portion of the apertured plate 12' are provided a plurality of reinforcing ribs 20, 20. These ribs 20, 20 should extend a sufficient distance below the apertured plate 12' so as to rest upon the base member 10 of the receptacle unit.

From the above, it should be appreciated that the present unit will not only function in a highly efficient manner as both a water-absorbing unit and a safety device, but it is, at the same time, designed so that it may be readily and inexpensively manufactured.

I claim:

1. A bathroom appliance of the character described comprising, a substantially flat base member adapted to rest upon a floor surface, a flange extending upwardly from and about the periphery of said base so as to form therewith a substantially watertight receptacle, a substantially flat foraminous baffle member disposed within said receptacle in spaced parallel relation with said base member and below the peripheral edge portion of said flange, and a mat of pliable sponge-like material disposed partially within the confines of said flange and against said baffle member, said mat being of sufficient thickness to extend a substantial distance above the peripheral edge portion of said flange.

2. A bathroom appliance of the character described comprising, a substantially flat base member, nonskid foot elements disposed upon the bottom surface of said base, a flange extending upwardly from and about the periphery of said base so as to form therewith a substantially watertight receptacle, said flange being provided with a water-egress aperture at a location removed from the receptacle base, a substantially flat foraminous baffle member disposed within said receptacle in spaced parallel relation with said base member and at a location below the peripheral edge of said flange and above the level of said aperture, and a mat of pliable sponge-like material disposed partially within the confines of said flange and against said baffle member, said mat being of sufficient thickness to extend a substantial distance above the peripheral edge portion of said flange.

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