April 9, 1957 S. S. DOLNICK 2,788,043

COVER FOR TOILET FLUSH TANK

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Fig. 1.

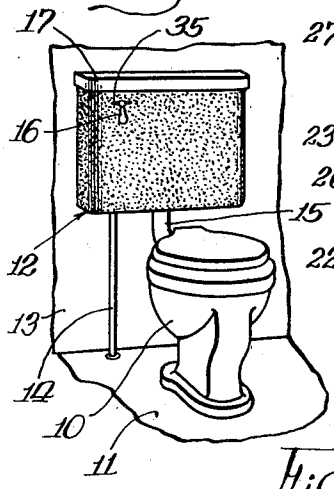


Fig. 2.

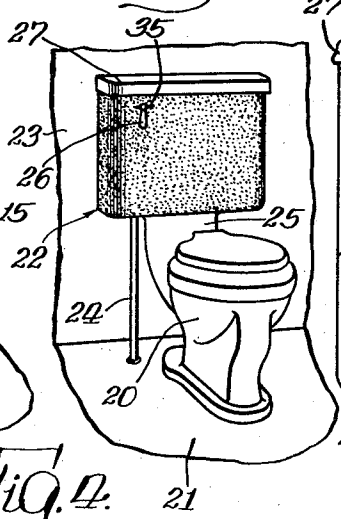


Fig. 3.

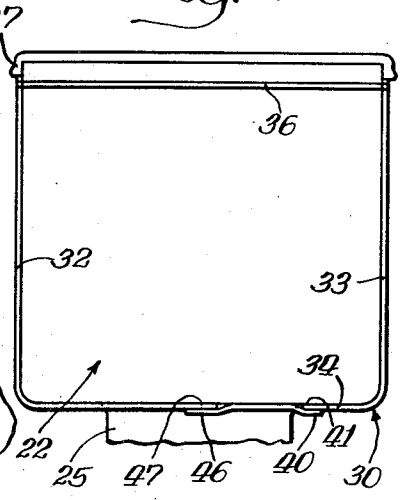


Fig. 4.

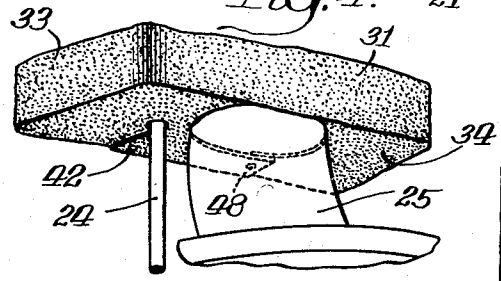


Fig. 6.

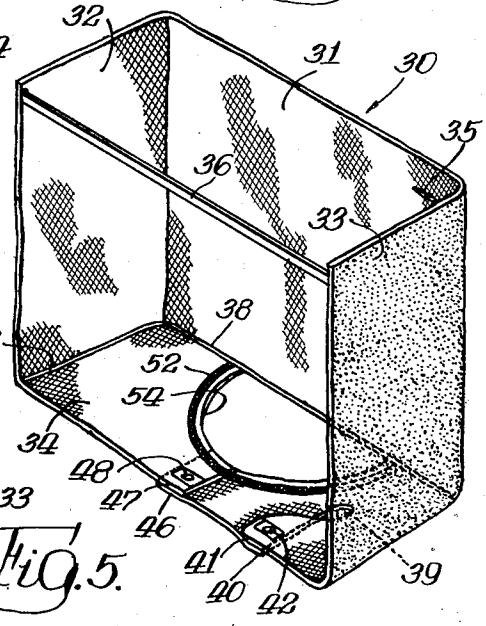
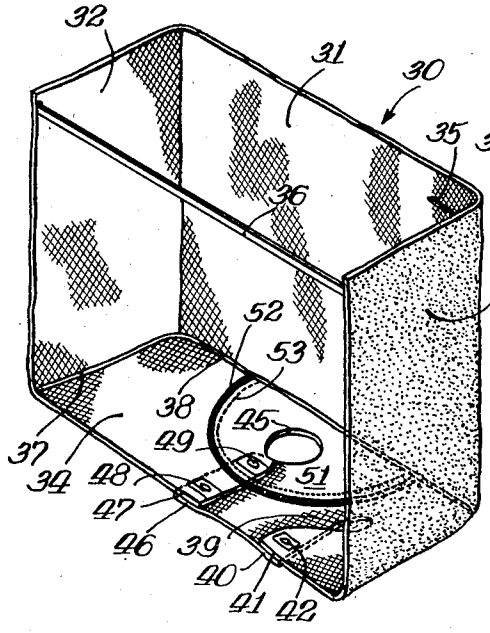


Fig. 5.



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2,788,043

COVER FOR TOILET FLUSH TANK

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Application October 4, 1956, Serial No. 613,848

2 Claims. (Cl. 150—52)

This invention relates to jackets or covers for toilet flush tanks or the like.

It is a general object of the invention to provide a new and improved jacket or cover of the character described.

Most indoor toilets constructed according to modern plumbing standards are provided with a flush tank adapted to contain a supply of water by which the toilet may be flushed. As is well known, such flush tanks are usually provided with a water supply or inlet pipe projecting from the bottom of the tank through which fresh water is supplied to the tank, and are also provided with a discharge pipe projecting from the bottom of the tank through which the water is conducted to the toilet bowl adjacent thereto. Water flowing to the flush tank through the supply pipe from underground lines or supplies is usually quite cool, or at least, substantially below the surrounding bathroom temperature with the result that the temperature of exposed walls of the tank tend to approach that of the incoming water. This gives rise to a very annoying problem, unless corrective measures are taken, in that moisture in the room air condenses on the cold, exposed wall surfaces of the flush tank and drips onto the floor therebeneath, thereby creating a condition uusightly in appearance and injurious to some floor constructions.

A number of measures have been proposed either to prevent or remedy these undesirable conditions, the most efficient and desirable of which appears to be the provision of a jacket or cover for the exposed walls of the flush tank which may serve both a decorative and a utilitarian purpose. Such jackets may be comprised of a porous water absorbent material such as turkish towelling or the like of a decorative design. Jackets of this nature function to absorb whatever condensate is formed during periods in which the toilet is in use, as the waking hours, and to permit free evaporation of condensate, particularly during periods of non-use such as the sleeping hours. A jacket of this type is disclosed in the Armstrong Patent No. 2,652,874.

Jackets of the character described have had certain disadvantages, however. For example, toilets of the type having wall mounted flush tanks usually include a relatively small diameter discharge pipe projecting from the bottom of the tank and leading to the adjacent toilet bowl, while toilets of the type having free standing flush tanks include a relatively large diameter discharge pipe leading from the bottom of the tank to the toilet bowl or, at least the discharge pipe is surrounded by a relatively large diameter structure sufficiently strong to support the tank from the bowl. Since jackets of the character described substantially cover the exposed bottom wall of the flush tank, a jacket having an opening of one size in the bottom panel is required to accommodate the discharge pipe projecting from the bottom of a wall mounted tank and a jacket having an opening of a larger size is required to accommodate the relatively large discharge pipe projecting from the bottom of a free standing tank.

This has required that the manufacturer must make and supply the jackets in at least two different styles. Similarly, the seller must purchase and stock the jackets in two different styles. Also, housewives who usually purchase such jackets, almost never know when purchasing such items what type of toilet they have, with the result that about half the time they purchase the wrong style of jacket only to become dissatisfied.

With the above and other considerations in mind, it is a more specific object of this invention to provide a new and improved jacket of the character described which is adapted for use with either a wall mounted flush tank or a free standing flush tank, thereby eliminating the requirement that the manufacturer make and supply jackets of two different styles, eliminating the necessity that the seller acquire and maintain inventories of two different styles, and eliminating the necessity of a decision on the part of a purchasing housewife subsequently dissatisfied.

Other objects and advantages will become readily apparent from the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 illustrates a jacket embodying the principles of the present invention in use with a flush tank of the wall mounted type;

Figure 2 illustrates a jacket embodying the principles of the present invention in use with a flush tank of the free standing type;

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary rear view of the free standing flush tank illustrated in Figure 2 having a jacket of the present invention mounted in place thereon;

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of the bottom of the tank and jacket illustrated in Figure 2;

Figure 5 is an enlarged perspective view, looking downwardly into the rear of a jacket embodying the principles of the present invention; and

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 5, illustrating the jacket after it has been modified in a manner rendering it suitable for use with a free standing flush tank.

While an illustrative embodiment of the invention is shown in the drawings and will be described in detail herein, the invention is susceptible of embodiment in many different forms, and it should be understood that the present disclosure is to be considered as an exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not intended to limit the invention to the embodiment illustrated. The scope of the invention will be pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring now to Figure 1, I have illustrated a toilet having a flush tank of the wall mounted type, including a bowl 10 constructed of suitable ceramic or metallic materials and supported on the floor 11 of a bathroom or other enclosure. Toilets of this type include a water closet or flush tank, generally designated 12, mounted on and supported entirely by the vertically disposed wall 13. A water supply or inlet pipe 14 projects from the bottom of the flush tank 12 and is connected with a suitable source of fresh water for filling the flush tank 12. A discharge pipe 15 of a relatively small diameter also projects from the bottom of the flush tank 12 and is suitably connected with the bowl 10 to supply water from the tank 12 for flushing the toilet. A handle 16 is conventionally provided on the flush tank 12 to facilitate flushing, and the tank 12 usually is provided with a removable cover 17 which permits access to the interior of the tank.

Referring to Figure 2, I have illustrated a toilet having a flush tank of the free standing type, including a bowl 20 which may be similar to the bowl 10, suitably supported on the floor 21. Toilets of this type include a flush tank 22 generally similar to the tank 12, mounted adjacent a vertically disposed wall 23 and provided with a water

supply or inlet pipe 24 projecting from the bottom of the tank. The tank 22 is not mounted on the wall 23, but is supported by a discharge pipe 25, or suitable structure of ceramic or metallic materials surrounding the discharge pipe, projecting from the bottom of the flush tank and suitably connected with the bowl 20 and of sufficient strength to support the tank 22 from the bowl 20. The rear wall of the flush tank 22 may conveniently be disposed immediately adjacent the wall 23, but the principal support for the flush tank is derived from the discharge pipe 25 or suitable structure surrounding the discharge pipe, so that of necessity the discharge pipe or the surrounding structure must be of a relatively large diameter as compared to the discharge pipe 15 in Figure 1 in order to provide sufficient strength to support the tank. The tank 22 illustrated in Figure 2 may be provided with a handle 26 and a cover 27 similar to the handle and cover provided with the tank in Figure 1.

While the flush tanks illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 differ in certain respects, namely, in the relative size of the respective discharge pipes 15 and 25, they also are similar in many respects, namely, they are provided with similar water supply or inlet pipes 14 and 24 which may be similarly located, they are provided with similar handles 16 and 26 similarly located, they are provided with similar covers 17 and 27, and they both include exposed front, side, and bottom walls which are subject to condensation which gives rise to the problems alluded to above. In the case of both flush tanks, the rear wall is mounted closely adjacent the vertically disposed wall of an enclosure and is thereby insulated to some extent so as to avoid condensation and, secondly, is not exposed to admit of corrective measures.

Referring now particularly to Figures 5 and 6, according to the present invention, I have provided a cover or jacket 30 adapted for use with flush tanks of either the wall mounted type or the free standing type. The jacket illustrated is of one piece construction and includes a front panel 31, side panels 32 and 33, and a bottom panel 34. The panels 31—34 are desirably made of a porous water absorbent fabric such as chenille or turkish towelling and function to absorb condensation that forms during periods when the toilet is in use, and functions particularly during periods when the toilet is not in use to permit free evaporation of the condensate.

The front panel 31 is of a sufficient width to reach across the exposed front wall of the flush tank and is of a sufficient length or height to reach from the bottom of the tank at least to the normal level of water in the tank. As illustrated, the front panel is of a sufficient length to extend entirely from the bottom to the top of the tank, and includes near one upper corner an aperture or slit 35 adapted to accommodate a handle on the flush tank such as that illustrated at 16 or 26.

The side panels 32 and 33 are of a length or height similar to that of the front panel 31 and are of a sufficient width to cover the exposed side walls of the flush tank. In order to aid in holding the jacket in place on the flush tank, it may include attaching or securing means such as an elastic band 36 connected to the upper rear free corners of the side panels 32 and 33 and adapted to fit over the upper edge of the rear wall of the flush tank.

The front and side panels of the jacket may conveniently consist of a single piece of material of suitable size.

The bottom panel is of a width and length sufficient to cover the major portion of the exposed bottom wall of the tank and may be suitably joined at its side and front edges to the adjacent edges of the side and front panels by means of sewed seams illustrated at 37 and 38.

As best seen in Figures 5 and 6, the bottom panel 34 of the jacket is provided, adjacent the side panel 33 with an aperture 39 provided to accommodate a water inlet pipe, such as those illustrated in 14 and 24, projecting from the bottom of a flush tank. The aperture 39 extends rearwardly to the rear free edge of the bottom panel 34 in order to permit installation of the jacket, and excess material is provided adjacent the mouth of the aperture in the form of overlapping flaps 40 and 41 which include cooperating connectable and disconnectable fastening means 42 to permit closure of the mouth of the aperture about the inlet pipe to aid in holding the jacket in place on the flush tank.

The bottom panel 34 also includes a second aperture 45, centrally located lengthwise of the panel for accommodating a relatively small diameter discharge pipe such as that illustrated at 15. The aperture 45 also extends rearwardly to the rear free edge of the bottom panel 34, and excess material is provided adjacent the mouth of the aperture in the form of overlapping flaps 46 and 47 which also include cooperating connectable and disconnectable fastening means 48 and 49 for closing the mouth of the aperture about the discharge pipe to aid in maintaining the jacket in place on the tank.

As explained hereinabove, considerable difficulty would be encountered in fitting the jacket as illustrated in Figure 5 on a tank of the free standing type, such as that illustrated in Figure 2, because the aperture 45 is not of a sufficient size to accommodate enlarged discharge pipes or the enlarged supporting structure surrounding discharge pipes projecting from tanks of the free standing types. Accordingly, the bottom panel 34 is provided with an enlarged area 51 surrounding the relatively small diameter aperture 45 which may be cut out of the bottom panel by means such as scissors conventionally found in the household. The enlarged area 51 which may be cut out of the bottom panel is defined by a line of stitching 52 and by the seam 38 so that after the material has been cut out the stitching and the seam serve to prevent unraveling of the material at the edges of the enlarged aperture. A guide to indicate the line along which the material should be cut may be provided in the form of a strand of thread sewed on the bottom panel as illustrated at 53. After the enlarged area of material 51 is removed the bottom panel then contains an enlarged aperture 54, illustrated best in Figure 6, of sufficient size to accommodate a relatively large discharge pipe such as that illustrated at 25 in Figure 2.

The fastening means 48, previously referred to, is located outside the enlarged area 51, and the fastening means 49 is located within the area 51. Thus, regardless of whether the bottom panel of the jacket is fitted about a relatively small discharge pipe or about a relatively large discharge pipe the mouth of the aperture accommodating such pipe may be snugly closed to provide a secure fit of the bottom panel.

I claim:

1. As an article of manufacture for use with a toilet flush tank of either the wall mounted type or the free standing type having exposed front, side and bottom walls, a jacket comprising a rectangular front panel of a width to reach across the front of a flush tank and of a height to extend from the bottom of the tank to above the normal level of water in the tank, similar rectangular side panels joined to the opposite side edges of said front panel and having a height equal thereto but being narrower in width to correspond substantially to the width of the side walls of the flush tank, attaching means connected with the side panels and engageable with the flush tank for holding the jacket in place on the tank, a bottom panel joined to the lower edges of the front and side panels and of a size and shape to cover the major portion of the exposed bottom wall of the tank, said bottom panel having an aperture therein spaced from the rear free edge of the panel to accommodate a relatively small diameter discharge pipe projecting from the bottom of a wall mounted type tank, the portion of the bottom panel extending rearwardly from the aperture to the rear free edge being disconnected so as to form a mouth for the aperture opening to the rear free edge of the panel, and cooperating fastening means on the bottom

panel adjacent the disconnected edges of the mouth of the aperture, connectable to substantially close the mouth of the aperture around the discharge pipe to aid in holding the jacket on the tank, said bottom panel having a line of stitching defining an area surrounding said aperture adapted to be cut out of the panel to form an enlarged opening spaced from the rear free edge of the bottom panel adapted to accommodate a relatively large discharge pipe projecting from the bottom of a free standing type tank, at least one set of cooperating connectable fastening means on said bottom panel and located outside said surrounding area.

2. As an article of manufacture for use with a toilet flush tank of either the wall mounted type or the free standing type having exposed front, side and bottom walls, a jacket comprising a rectangular front panel of porous, water absorbent fabric of a width to reach across the front of a flush tank and of a height to extend from the bottom of the tank substantially to the top of the tank, an aperture in the front panel adjacent one upper corner for accommodating a handle on the tank for flushing the toilet, similar rectangular side panels of porous water absorbent fabric joined to the opposite side edges of said front panel and having a height equal thereto but being narrower in width to correspond substantially to the width of side walls of the flush tank, attaching means connected with the side panels and engageable with the flush tank for holding the jacket in place on a flush tank, a bottom panel of porous water absorbent fabric joined to the lower edges of the front and side panels and of a size and shape to cover the major portion of the exposed bottom wall of the tank, said bottom panel having a first aperture therein adjacent one end opening to the rear free edge of the panel for accommodating an inlet pipe projecting from the bottom of a flush tank, cooperating fastening means on

the bottom panel at opposite sides of the aperture and near the rear free edge of the panel connectable to substantially close the mouth of the aperture around the inlet pipe to aid in holding the jacket in place on the tank, said bottom panel having a second aperture therein centrally located lengthwise of the panel and spaced from the rear free edge of the panel to accommodate a relatively small diameter discharge pipe projecting from the bottom of a wall mounted type tank, the portion of the bottom panel extending rearwardly from the second aperture to the rear free edge being disconnected so as to form a mouth for the aperture opening to the rear free edge of the panel, and cooperating fastening means on the bottom panel adjacent the disconnected edges of the mouth of the second aperture, connectable to substantially close the mouth of the aperture around the discharge pipe to aid in holding the jacket on the tank, said bottom panel having a line of stitching defining an area surrounding said second aperture adapted to be cut out of the panel to form an enlarged opening spaced from the rear free edge of the panel adapted to accommodate a relatively large discharge pipe projecting from the bottom of a free standing type tank, said stitching functioning, after said surrounding area is cut out, to prevent unraveling of the fabric adjacent the aperture, at least one set of said last mentioned cooperating connectable fastening means being located in said bottom panel within said surrounding area and at least one set being located outside said surrounding area.

References Cited in the file of this patent

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