

Nov. 13, 1951

W. H. SLAWSON

2,575,236

BATHTUB PROTECTIVE COVERING

Filed July 8, 1949

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

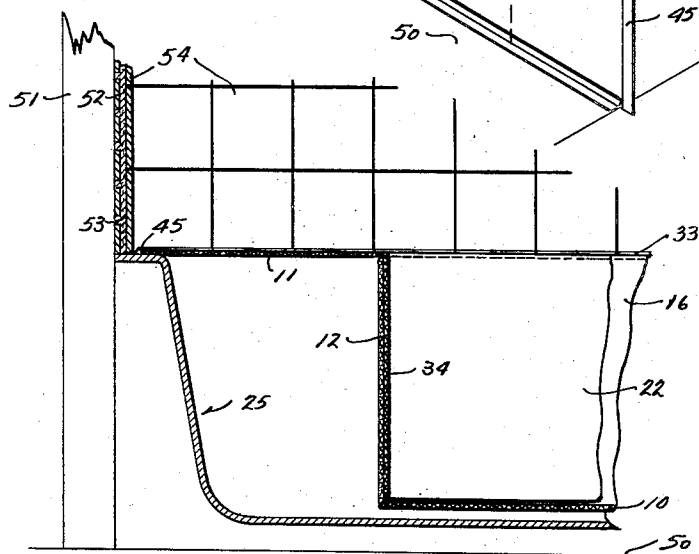
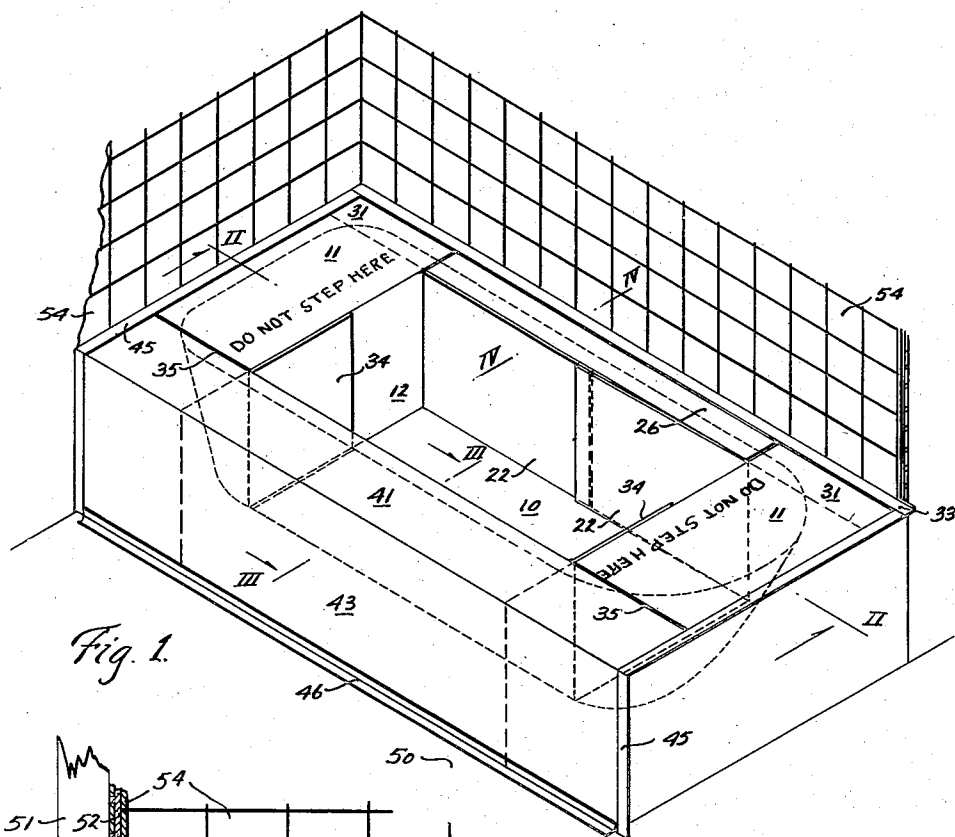


Fig. 2.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

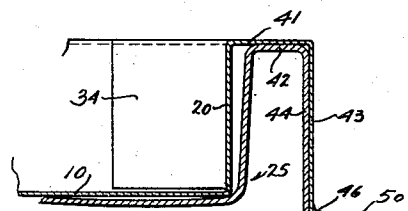


Fig. 3.

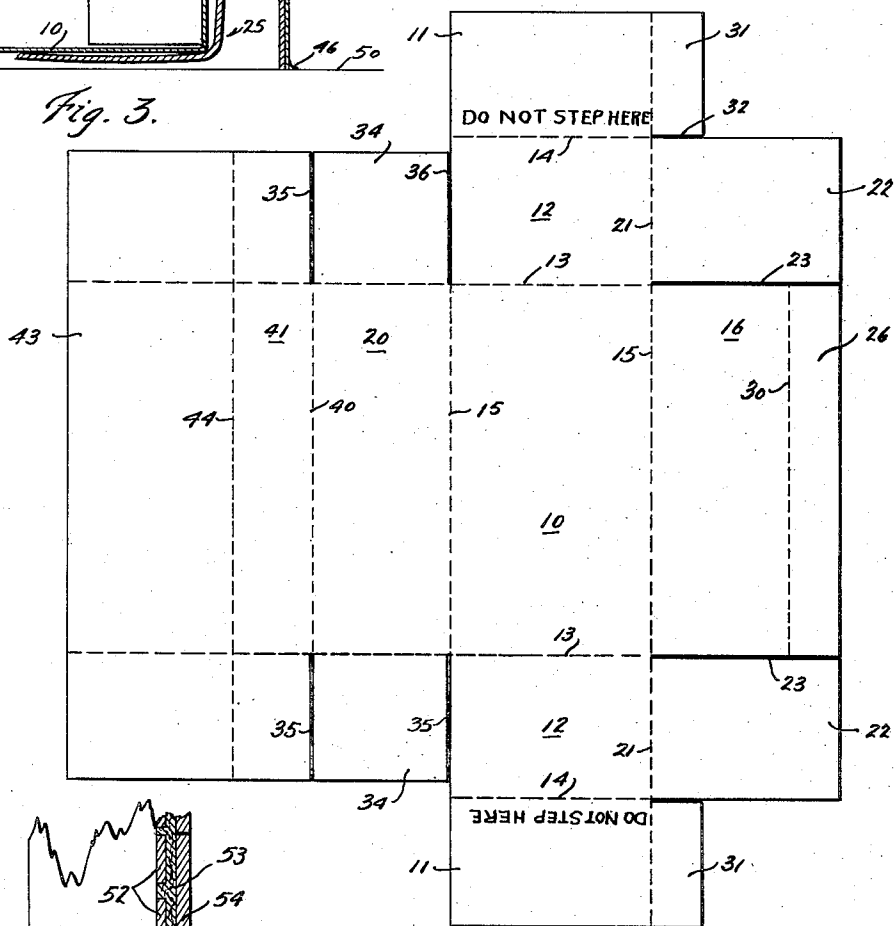


Fig. 5.

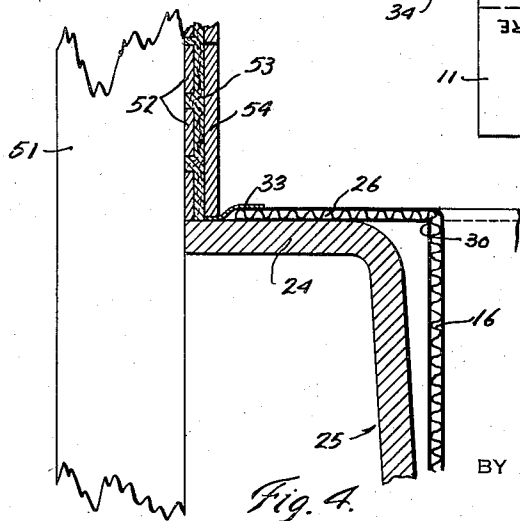


Fig. 4.

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BATHTUB PROTECTIVE COVERING

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5 Claims. (Cl. 4-173)

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My invention relates in general to coverings for bathtubs and the like, to protect the tub while workmen are finishing the walls adjacent the tub.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a one-piece cover which is prefabricated and which is unfolded and formed at the place of use.

Another object is to provide a cover which need not be fitted to the tub, but which is so proportioned that it can be set into the tub without conforming to the surfaces thereof.

A further object is to provide a cover of substantially rectangular box shape having a substantially flat bottom which will be supported at spaced intervals along its lower longitudinal edges upon the bottom of the tub and which is provided with substantially flat horizontal cover portions which extend over the top of the tub and across the curved ends thereof.

A further object is to provide a cover which is temporarily secured in place to the tub by means of adhesive tape along its back, side, and bottom edges only.

Moreover, my cover is designed to have the tape which secure it to the tub extended to the edges of the tub and will thereby be disposed over those portions where the wall tile meets the tub, thereby completely covering all surfaces of the tub which are likely to become scratched, marred, or spotted with paint.

Moreover, my cover is constructed of corrugated fibre board, whereby the impact of any tools falling into the tub during construction will be absorbed and prevented from marring the surface of the tub.

The above objects and advantages have been accomplished by the device shown in the accompanying drawings of which:

Fig. 1 is an isometrical view of my cover in position;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken on line II—II of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary transverse sectional view taken on line III—III of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary transverse sectional view taken on line IV—IV of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the piece of material from which my cover is formed.

My cover which is box-shape in form when ready for use is made from a single sheet of suitable material which is scored and cut along lines indicated in the drawings and folded so as to have substantially flat portions as hereinafter described. The cover comprises a substantially

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flat bottom 10 which is preferably narrower than the width of the tub bottom and shorter than its length, so as to compensate for the taper of the side walls of the tub and the rounded and sloping end surfaces joining the side walls with the tub bottom and which permits the lower longitudinal edges of the cover to rest upon and be supported at spaced points or by the substantially straight portions of the tub bottom. As above indicated, the bottom of the cover is also made shorter than the length of the tub bottom so that it will terminate short of the upwardly curved ends thereof and be supported by the tub bottom at spaced points thereon. So as to protect the upwardly curved and inclined portions at the ends of the tub, I provide a horizontal cover portion 11 bounded by score marks 14 which separate them from the end walls 12 to which they are joined. In forming the end walls 12, the cover material is scored along broken lines 13 located at each end of the bottom 10. These end walls are bent upwardly when the cover is ready for use, the portions 11 being bent backwardly to lie on top of the tub. Obviously, the end walls are of such width as to bring the horizontal cover portions 11 on a line with the top of the tub.

The bottom 10 is bounded on each of its two longitudinal sides with score marks 15 which permit the formation of a flat rear side wall 16 and a flat front side wall 20 when folded upwardly at substantially right angles to the bottom. A rear wall flap 22 is foldably attached to the rear edge of each of the end walls 12 and is extended outwardly across the adjacent end edge of the side wall 16. A score mark 21 is provided between each of these adjacent integral portions and is preferably in line with the score marks 15 between the bottom and the side wall 16. The side wall 16 is separated from each rear wall flap 22 by means of a slit 23 which extends from the outer edge of the material up to the point of junction of the score marks 15 and 21. When the end walls are folded upwardly along the score mark 13, the rear wall flaps 22 are first folded inwardly along the score marks 21 so as to lie adjacent the side wall 16 when folded in box-like form.

In order to extend the cover over and on top of the back ledge 24 of the tube 25, a back ledge flange 26 is provided along the back edge of the material and adjacent the side wall 16. A score mark 30 is made between these two portions of the cover, in such position that when the flange 26 is folded downwardly along the score mark, it will lie upon and be supported by the back ledge

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24 of the tub. In like manner, each of the horizontal cover portions 11 is provided along its rear edge with a rear ledge auxiliary flange 31 formed by a continuation of the score mark 21. Each of these portions, as shown in Fig. 5, is adjacent each of the rear wall flaps 22, and each of them is severed therefrom along the contiguous edge by means of a slit 32. As shown in Fig. 1, when the cover is folded and in position of use, the auxiliary flanges 31 are folded downwardly where they will register with the back ledge flange 26, and together with this flange be secured to the back ledge 24 of the tub by means of a piece of adhesive tape 33, in a manner to be hereinafter described. The score marks 13 bounding the ends of the bottom 11 are continued across the ends of the front side wall 20, whereby end wall flaps 34 are provided. Each of these flaps is severed from the adjacent material at its two opposite sides by means of slits 35 and 36. The slits 36 preferably register with the score mark 15, and the slits 35 register with a score mark 40 located between the front side wall 20 and the front ledge flange 41, which latter portion registers with and rests upon the front ledge 42 of the tub when the cover is in position (see Fig. 3). The front ledge flange is of such length as to be substantially coextensive with the combined length of the bottom and cover portions when folded, the end portions of this ledge flange when in use lying adjacent and in substantially the same plane as the cover portions. A front apron 43 is provided for covering the front wall 44 of the tub, and this apron is foldably attached to the front ledge flange 41, a score mark 44 being provided therebetween to permit this portion of the cover to be folded downwardly and at substantially right angles to the flange 41. The length of the apron 43 and the flange 41 and the combined length of the front side wall 20 and the two horizontal cover portions 11 when erected is substantially the same as the length of the tub, whereby all exposed surfaces of the tub will be covered. The score marks 13 are preferably extended through the end portions of the flange 41 and the apron 43 to facilitate folding of the piece of material forming the cover to permit easy handling before it is erected and placed in position within the tub.

As is customary, a protective cover is placed within a bathtub after the tub has been set in position and before the tile has been placed or the painting finished, to protect the surfaces of the tub against scratches, nicks, and paint spat- ters. When my cover is to be put into use, the parts are folded and erected in box-like form as described and as shown in Fig. 1, where it will be seen that two of the vertical joints between the rear wall 16 and the end walls 12 are closed by means of the substantially right angle folds between the rear wall flaps 22 and the end walls along the score marks 21. The other vertical joints between the front side wall and end walls are closed by the substantially right angle folds on score line 13 between the end wall flaps 34 and the front side wall 20, as shown in Fig. 1. After being folded, and while being supported within the tub along the lower longitudinal edge portions formed by folding the side walls 16 and 20 on the score marks 15, the cover will assume the position shown in Fig. 1, in which position, as hereinbefore described, the auxiliary ledge flanges 31 will register with the back ledge flange 26. When in such position these flanges will rest upon the back ledge 24 of the tub, and a strip

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of adhesive tape 33, preferably of the type which is self-adhesive and waterproof, is secured along the edges of these adjacent parts. The larger portion of the tape is fastened to the flange portions just mentioned, and a portion thereof extends beyond the edge of the flanges and is secured to the upper surface of the back ledge 24 of the tub. The extended portion of the tape will be positioned upon the surface above which the tile, when in place, will be disposed. Similarly, a strip of tape 45 is extended along the outer edges of the ends of the apron 43, the contiguous edges of the flange 41 and the edges of the registering horizontal cover portions 11. The tape at these edges is also extended beyond the edges of the cover and is secured to the adjacent surfaces of the tube, whereby the entire surface thereof will be protected. In order to secure the apron in position, a strip of tape 46 is extended along the lower edge thereof and is secured to the upper surface of the floor 50.

In Figs. 2 and 4, I have shown the stud 51 and the lath 52 which holds the mortar 53 to which the tile blocks 54 are secured. It will be observed from Figs. 2 and 4, that the extended edges of the adhesive tape 33 and 45, which are secured to the tub are extended under the tile blocks 54. After the tile is in position, the tile setter makes a cut in the strip of tape along the face of the finished tile and close to the lower edge thereof, whereby the cover becomes detached from the tub and may thereafter be removed. Obviously, after the cover has been removed, the tile setter uses whatever cement is necessary to complete the installation along the severed edges of the tape under the tile.

In order that the workmen be warned of the unsupported portions of horizontal cover portion 11, the legend, "Do not step here" is printed in a conspicuous manner, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 5.

From the foregoing it will be obvious that my cover, since it is not shaped to conform with the inner configuration of the tub in which it is to be used, can be prefabricated by any fibre box manufacturer, folded and shipped to the place of use, ready to be opened and erected in the position in box-like form for use within the tub, as shown in Fig. 1. Furthermore, since the flat bottom and wall portions are supported only at spaced positions, they bridge the outwardly curved and inclined surfaces of the tub so that when contacted by any impactive force, such as a falling tool, much of the force will be absorbed by the resiliency of the cover material, thus adding to the cushioning effect of the cover and thereby preventing injury to the surface of the tub.

While I have shown and described my invention for use in connection with a bathroom finished in tile, it is obvious that the invention is applicable for use with various other wall surfacing.

I claim:

1. A protective cover for bathtubs made from a single piece of flat stiff material for folding in box-like form on predetermined scored lines when used, comprising a flat bottom extending over a portion of the bottom of the bathtub in non-conforming relation thereto and supported thereby only at several points of contact, a flat end wall rising from each end of said bottom at substantially right angles thereto and each spaced from one of the curved and sloping end walls of the bathtub, a flat horizontal cover portion extending outwardly from the upper edge of

each end wall toward and supported only by said end wall and the upper rim of the tub, a flat front wall and a flat rear wall rising from the longitudinal edges of said flat bottom in spaced non-conforming relation to the interior surface of the bathtub, a flat front ledge extending horizontally from the upper edge of said front wall, and a flat rear ledge extending horizontally from the upper edge of said rear wall, said front and rear ledges being supported only by said front and rear walls and the front and rear ledges of the tub.

2. A protective cover for bathtubs made from a single piece of flat stiff material for folding in box-like form on predetermined scored lines when used, comprising a flat bottom extending over a portion of the bottom of the bathtub in non-conforming relation thereto and supported thereby only at several points of contact, a flat end wall rising from each end of said bottom at substantially right angles thereto and each spaced from one of the curved and sloping end walls of the bathtub, a flat horizontal cover portion extending outwardly from the upper edge of each end wall toward and supported only by said end wall and the upper rim of the tub, a flat front wall and a flat rear wall rising from the longitudinal edges of said flat bottom in spaced non-conforming relation to the interior surface of the tub, a front ledge flange substantially coextensive with the combined length of said horizontal cover portions and said bottom and lying in substantially the same plane as said cover portions when folded, and a rear ledge extending horizontally from the upper edge of said rear wall, said front and rear ledges being supported only by said front and rear walls and the front and rear ledges of the tub.

3. A protective cover for bathtubs made from a single piece of flat stiff material for folding in box-like form on predetermined scored lines when used, comprising a flat bottom extending over a portion of the bottom of the bathtub in non-conforming relation thereto and supported thereby only at several points of contact, a flat end wall rising from each end of said bottom at substantially right angles thereto and each spaced from one of the curved and sloping end walls of the bathtub, a flat horizontal cover portion extending outwardly from the upper edge of each end wall toward and supported only by said end wall and the upper rim of the tub, a flat front wall and a flat rear wall rising from the longitudinal edges of said flat bottom in spaced non-conforming relation to the interior surface of the tub, a front ledge flange substantially coextensive with the combined length of said horizontal cover portions and said bottom and lying in substantially the same plane as said cover portions when folded, a wall flap at each end of said front wall separated on two opposite sides from said end walls and said front ledge flange by slits formed in the material and each foldable adjacent one of the vertical edges of said front wall for disposition against said front wall, and a rear ledge extending horizontally from the upper edge of said rear wall, said front and rear ledges being supported only by said front and rear walls and the front and rear ledges of the tub.

4. A protective cover for bathtubs made from a single piece of flat stiff material for folding in box-like form on predetermined scored lines when used, comprising a flat bottom extending over a portion of the bottom of the bathtub in

non-conforming relation thereto and supported thereby only at several points of contact, a flat end wall rising from each end of said bottom at substantially right angles thereto and each spaced from one of the curved and sloping end walls of the bathtub, a flat horizontal cover portion extending outwardly from the upper edge of each end wall toward and supported only by said end wall and the upper rim of the tub, a flat front wall and a flat rear wall rising from the longitudinal edges of said flat bottom in spaced non-conforming relation to the interior surface of the tub, a front ledge flange substantially coextensive with the combined length of said horizontal cover portions and said bottom and lying in substantially the same plane as said cover portions when folded, a wall flap at each end of said front wall separated on two opposite sides from said end walls and said front ledge flange by slits formed in the material and each foldable adjacent one of the vertical edges of said front wall for disposition against said front wall, a rear wall flap foldable along the rear edge of each end wall for disposition against said rear side wall, and a rear ledge extending horizontally from the upper edge of said rear wall, said front and rear ledges being supported only by said front and rear walls and the front and rear ledges of the tub.

5. A protective cover for bathtubs made from a single piece of flat stiff material for folding in box-like form on predetermined scored lines when used, comprising a flat bottom extending over a portion of the bottom of the bathtub in non-conforming relation thereto and supported thereby only at several points of contact, a flat end wall rising from each end of said bottom at substantially right angles thereto and each spaced from one of the curved and sloping end walls of the bathtub, a flat horizontal cover portion extending outwardly from the upper edge of each end wall toward and supported only by said end wall and the upper rim of the tub, a flat front wall and a flat rear wall rising from the longitudinal edge of said flat bottom in spaced non-conforming relation to the interior surface of the bathtub, a front ledge flange substantially coextensive with the combined length of the horizontal cover portions and said bottom and lying in substantially the same plane as said cover portions when folded, a wall flap at each end of said front wall separated on two opposite sides from said end walls and said front ledge flange by slits formed in the material, and a flat horizontal rear ledge flange carried by and coextensive with the upper edge of said rear wall, a rear wall flap foldably carried by the rear edge of each of said end walls and separated from the rear wall and the rear ledge flange by a slit formed in the material, each of said cover portions being formed with an auxiliary flange portion for registration with said rear ledge flange when the parts are folded and in positions of use.

WILLIAM H. SLAWSON.

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