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FLEXIBLE SINK STRAINER

Technical Field Of The Invention

The present device relates to sink strainers. Particularly, the present device relates to flexible sink strainers.

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Background Of The Invention

Sink strainers come in a variety of sizes and designs. Typical strainers comprise metal spherical center portions having a plurality of openings for the passage of water while blocking clog-causing solid particles from a homes drain. Sometimes the strainer may include a stopper portion which allows the strainer to be “closed” to water passage. These devices are known in the art as stopper/strainers. Conversely, strainers are only suitable for straining particles from a flowing water stream.

Accordingly, strainers must be capable of being cleaned of such particles, easily and frequently. Further, due to the nature of some particles, the strainer must be capable of being cleaned from both sides of the strainer. Stopper/strainers, by their very nature, are impeded on one side by the stopper portion. Frequently, matter can become entrained in the strainer portion and stopper portion.

Similarly with strainers, as the strainer portion is concave on one surface, removal of entrained material from that surface can be difficult. Should the entrained debris build-up during use of the strainer, it can degrade the effectiveness of the strainer to allow the passage of water.

The present invention solves this and other problems associated with prior art strainers and stopper/strainers.

Summary Of The Invention

There is disclosed herein several embodiments of an improved strainer which avoids the disadvantages of prior devices while affording additional structural and operating advantages.

5 In one embodiment of the invention a sink strainer comprises a cupped body completely comprised of a flexible material having a plurality of apertures to allow fluid to pass therethrough, wherein the body is capable of attaining first and second configurations, the first configuration being suitable for capturing material entrained within fluid as it passes through the apertures and the second configuration being
10 suitable for removing material captured on the body as fluid passes through the apertures.

It is an aspect of the present invention that the second configuration is an inverted form of the first configuration.

It is another aspect of the invention that an embodiment of the sink strainer
15 further comprise a post affixed to the cupped body for facilitating movement between the first and second configurations. The post may be comprised of a flexible material, such as an elastomeric material.

It is still another aspect of an embodiment of the invention to provide a flange affixed along a periphery of the cupped body. The flange may be comprised of a rigid
20 material, such as a metal or plastic, or a flexible material, such as an elastomer. The flexible material of the body, the post, and the flange may be the same or different materials.

These and other aspects of the invention may be understood more readily from the following description and the appended drawings.

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Brief Description Of The Drawings

For the purpose of facilitating an understanding of the subject matter sought to be protected, there are illustrated in the accompanying drawings embodiments thereof, from an inspection of which, when considered in connection with the following
5 description, the subject matter sought to be protected, its construction and operation, and many of its advantages should be readily understood and appreciated.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the sink strainer of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a side view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1;

10 FIG. 3 is a bottom view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a top view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the embodiment shown in FIG 1, illustrated in an inverted position;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of the sink strainer of the
15 present invention;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of a third embodiment of the sink strainer of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a cross-section of a fourth embodiment of the sink strainer of the present invention; and

20 FIG. 9 is a cross-section of a fifth embodiment of the sink strainer of the present invention.

Detailed Description Of Preferred Embodiments

