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MATS

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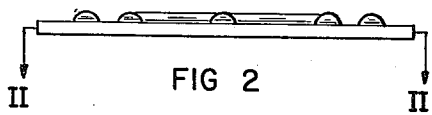
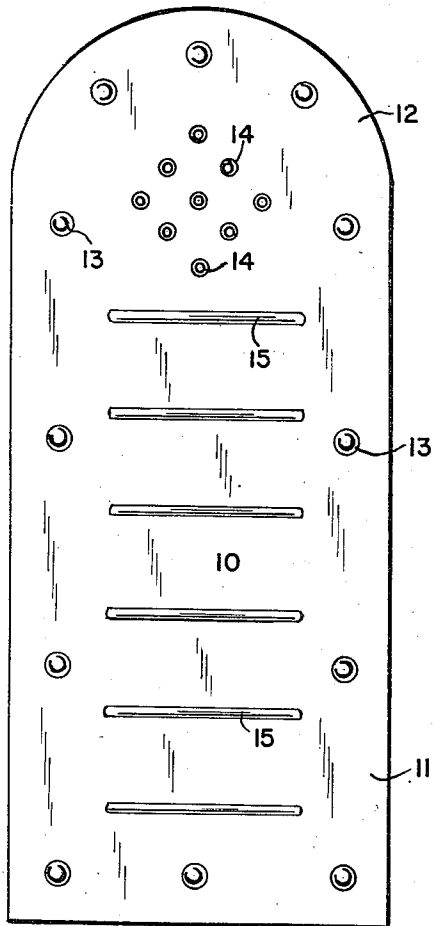


FIG 1

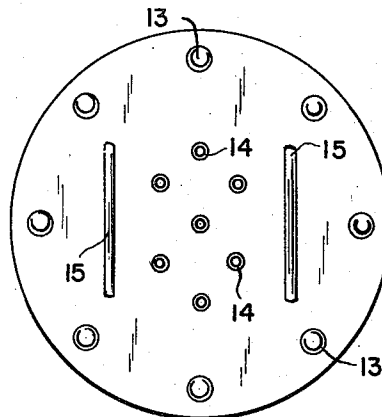


FIG 3

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2 Claims. (Cl. 4—185)

This invention relates to novel articles of manufacture and more particularly to novel and unique mats for bath tubs and showers. In one of its more specific aspects the invention is directed to providing novel and unique protective and hygienic bath tub and shower mats which may be used in a bath tub or shower floor or base to assure safe footing, thus reducing the chances of accidents which sometimes occur due to slippage caused by the presence of soapy water on the base of the shower or tub in the course of tubbing or showering. The novel and unique bath tub and shower mats of this invention may be composed of a wide variety of inexpensive materials which are readily available on the market in very great quantities. The unique and novel mats of this invention may be sold very cheaply, therefore it would be economically sound to subject them to a one-time use only and disposing of them. In addition, they are readily and easily disposable in any convenient manner and, in general, may be crumpled up into a small ball and placed in a waste basket found in the average bathroom in this country. Moreover, they may be easily and readily packaged for shipment, storage and replacement, and when packaged, such packages may be mounted for ready dispensability of the individual mats by either a coin controlled device or otherwise.

These as well as other objects and advantages of the present invention will in part be obvious from the following description and appended drawing wherein;

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a novel and unique mat for showers and bathtubs illustrating an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken on line II—II of Fig. 1 in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 3 illustrates an embodiment of the invention for use specifically in showers or shower stalls.

As shown in the drawing, the novel and unique mats of this invention comprise a sheet 10 of appropriate material. The sheet may consist of an elongated body 11 terminating at one end in a short narrow tab or extension 12. The width of the body 11 is preferably just slightly less than the corresponding interior dimension of the normal bath tub or that of the shower room floor. The sum of its length and that of the tab 12 is less than the interior length of the tub base or shower floor. The length of sheet 10 is such that practically all of the base of a normal tub or shower room floor is covered. The thickness of the mat 10 is small and for most purposes, according to this invention, the mat 10 is composed of paper-thin material. The composition of the mat 10 is preferably of cellulose or cellulose derivatives commonly employed for making paper of various thickness. I prefer that it be a paper which is insoluble and will not break up and fall apart when immersed in water for at least 20 minutes, and will remain intact in soapy running water for at least 20 minutes. Some of the papers on the market which may be employed are those known as "Patapar" vegetable parchment papers, the so-called oil

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and grease proof papers employed for wrapping and sealing various fats and fat containing food products, the so-called wax-papers and the like, all of which are available in large quantities at very low cost. All of them are capable of being rolled, creased and folded and when in the sizes of the mats of this invention may be easily and readily crumpled by hand for ready and easy disposal in a waste basket. Still another class of materials which may be employed for mats 10 are matted alpha cellulose which may be impregnated with a wax, resin or other water-resistant binder to coat and bind the fibers together. However, I prefer to employ said parchment papers because of their characteristics of water resistance and high wet strength and also because their surfaces are not too slippery when wet.

As shown in the drawing, the sheet 10 may be embossed in any desired manner. In one of the aspects of the invention the marginal sides and ends of the sheet 10 are embossed to provide a continuous perimeter band consisting of a series of normally upwardly extending embossings 13. The embossings may be of any desired shape, but should be of such shape as to be readily and quickly recognizable by feeling through the heels and soles of the feet. They may be a series of upwardly extending small knobs or teats. The series of embossings 13 being disposed on the perimeter margin of the sheet 10 serve as a safety indicator.

The tab 12 may also be embossed to provide a plurality of centrally disposed embossings. These embossings 14 extend normally downwardly and consist essentially of a plurality of knobs, teats or cones having openings at the apex ends thereof. The open-ended teats or cones 14 are in spaced relationship to each other and the spacing thereof is such that they will fit into the openings through the outlet cap normally at one end of the bottom of a bath tub.

Also, if desired, that portion of the sheet 10 in the area within the teats 13 may be embossed to provide a striated area whose feel to the feet is quite different from that of the teats 13. Such striations by elongated embossings 15 serve to further increase the safety factor of the mat.

Such novel and unique mats of the type heretofore described may be readily embossed by a single embossing operation to provide the holding and retaining embossings 14 and also to provide the other embossings 13 and 15 described above. Such a mat may be placed in position by locating the teats 14 into the openings of the drain cap and the mat is disposed along the tub bottom or shower floor. When the bather stands on the mat, for safety his feet will rest on the embossings 15 and if in the course of movement of the bather, a foot strikes the safety-indicator embossings 13, he immediately is apprized by the feel thereof that he is approaching the outside of the safety zone. The mat, due to its composition, aids in preventing slipping.

As indicated before, one of the primary purposes of the invention is to provide a hygienic protector for the bather's feet, in preventing any fungus affliction originating from the use of shower baths or bath tubs in public places, such as hotels, motels, and the like. Many persons refrain from taking a bath in such places because of a dread of acquiring some disease of the foot. With the use of this invention, the bather may utilize a disposable mat which is obtained easily for a small nominal cost.

After the bather has removed himself from the bath and the used water has drained out of the tub and through the teats 14 to the drain, hair, curds or other matter which would otherwise settle on the base of the tub or shower room will be on the mat 10 and is re-

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moved together with the mat, which may now be crumpled up and placed in the normal bathroom waste basket.

Since certain changes may be made in the above article and different embodiments of the invention could be made without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense. For example, it is conceivable that the mat may also be made of plastic material which is readily and easily made, utilized, and disposed of.

It is also to be understood that the following claims are intended to cover all the generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope of the invention, which as a matter of language might be said to fall therebetween.

I claim:

1. A bath mat or the like being a single sheet of paper resistant to water and having high wet strength and of such size for covering a substantial portion of the bottom of a normal bath tub or shower room, normally downwardly extending open ended embossings at one end of said sheet capable of being inserted into the openings of a bath tub drain cap, said mat being capable of remaining intact while in use, and after use being capable of being crumpled for disposal.

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2. A bath mat or the like being a single sheet of water resistant, high-wet-strength paper of such size as to cover a substantial portion of the bottom of a normal bath tub or shower room, a plurality of normally upwardly extending embossings along the margins of the sides and one end thereof, a plurality of normally downwardly extending open ended embossings at the other end thereof capable of being inserted into openings of a bath tub drain cap, said mat being capable of remaining intact while in use, and after use being capable of being readily crumpled for disposal.

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