FOOT DRYING APPARATUS

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ABSTRACT
Apparatus for drying the areas between the toes of the feet, comprising a base and an upstanding wall disposed at one end of the base. The base has the imprint or outline of the left and right foot of a person indicated on the upper surface thereof. The heel portion of each foot imprint preferably is recessed, and a slightly upwardly curved arch portion is provided. At the ball portion of each foot imprint, a recess is provided for the purpose of accommodating a pumice stone or the like which can be used for honing calluses, bunions or other rough dead skin on the feet. The upstanding wall comprises a set of four inwardly extending ribs which preferably extend from the upper portion of the upstanding wall to a point spaced above the base. The spacing for each set of four ribs is commensurate with the average spacing between a person's toes, with the width of each rib being approximately the same as the spacing between the toes. Owing to the different lengths and offsetting of the toes of each foot, the ribs of each set are of progressively greater depths extending from the big toe to the little toe of each foot. A moisture absorbing cover is removably positioned over the upstanding wall and ribs to facilitate the drying of the areas between the toes of each foot when they are positioned between the ribs and moved upwardly and downwardly relative thereto.

11 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures
FOOT DRYING APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a foot drying apparatus and, more particularly, to an apparatus for drying the areas between the toes of the feet.

There are millions of elderly or infirm people who have varying degrees of reaching difficulty in reaching their feet owing to stilt joints, arthritic conditions and general instability when bending over. There are also a large number of men and women in a wider age bracket whose corpulent girth and obese mid-section discourages any attempt to reach the toes of their feet. As a result, such persons generally do not adequately dry the areas between the toes of their feet after bathing. Moisture remaining between the toes of the feet as a result of inadequate drying serves as a breeding ground for bacteria, fungus, itching and athlete’s foot. For elderly, infirm or obese people, attempts to reach the toes of the feet for drying can result in falls and possible injury.

Although the prior art includes many different types of devices for facilitating the drying of certain areas of the body, including the feet, none of these devices is constructed to provide for and facilitate the drying of the areas between the toes of the feet. Accordingly, a need has arisen for a simple and inexpensive device for facilitating the drying of the areas between the toes of the feet of elderly, infirm or obese people who can not conveniently reach these areas for manual drying.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The foot drying apparatus of the present invention generally comprises a base and an upstanding wall, preferably formed of unitary construction from a suitable material, such as plastic or metal. The base preferably is provided with non-skid upper and lower surfaces. The upper surface of the base has been indicated hereon the outlines or imprints of the left and right foot of a person. Each foot imprint is provided with a recessed heel portion and a slightly curved arch portion. The ball portion of each imprint has a recess in which a pumice or other abrading stone is removably positioned for the honing of calluses, bunions or other rough dead skin on the feet.

The upstanding wall is provided with a set of four upwardly extending, substantially parallel ribs adjacent the toe portion of each foot imprint on the base. Preferably, each rib extends from the upper portion of the upstanding wall to a point spaced approximately 1 to 2 inches above the base. The lateral spacing of the ribs is commensurate with the average spacing between a person’s toes, and each rib is of a thickness that is approximately equal to the spaces between the toes. Owing to the different lengths of the toes and offsetting of the toes, the ribs of each set are graduated in depth such that the ribs extend progressively further inwardly from a point adjacent the big toe to a point adjacent the little toe of each foot.

For the purpose of facilitating the drying of the areas between the toes of the feet, a cover is removably positioned on the upstanding wall and ribs, and preferably is formed of a moisture absorbing material such as terry cloth.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the foot drying apparatus constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a sectional view taken substantially along line 2—2 in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a partial sectional view taken substantially along line 3—3 in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 4 is a view similar to FIG. 3 showing a modified embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

As shown in FIGS. 1–3, the foot drying apparatus of the present invention generally comprises a base and an upstanding wall disposed at one end of the base. Preferably, the base and upstanding wall are of unitary construction and are molded of a suitable plastic material. Alternatively, the base and walls can be formed of any other suitable material, such as metal, and be formed separately and assembled together in any suitable manner.

The base preferably is formed with non-skid upper and lower surfaces, and is provided with indications of left and right foot imprints or outlines on the upper surface thereof. These imprints may be drawn on the upper surface thereof, molded therein, etched therein or formed therein in any other suitable manner. Each foot imprint preferably is formed with a recessed heel portion, a slightly curved arch portion and a shallow recess at the ball portion thereof in which a pumice stone or other suitable abrasive stone is removably received. Preferably, the stone extends about one-eighth inch above the upper surface of each imprint. The base 12 may be of any suitable outline or shape, such as rectangular, and is of sufficient thickness and strength to support the weight of a heavy human being.

The upstanding wall preferably extends upwardly at an angle of approximately 90° to the base, although any other suitable angular relationship could be utilized. Adjacent the forward toe portions of each foot imprint, the upstanding wall is provided with a set of four upstanding, laterally spaced ribs which extend inwardly over the forward toe portion of the adjacent foot imprint on the base. The ribs for each foot imprint are positioned and laterally spaced in a manner to conveniently receive therebetween the toes of a person. As an illustrative example, each of the ribs may be approximately one-eighth inch in thickness, and the spacing between the ribs may be approximately three-fourths inch. Also, the wall may be of a height of approximately 6 inches, with the ribs extending from the upper portion thereof to a point spaced approximately 1 to 1½ inches above the upper surface of the base for the purpose of allowing the person’s foot to be placed in one of the imprints on the base without engaging the ribs.

As shown in FIG. 3, the ribs of each set near the little toe extend farther inwardly than the ribs near the big toe, owing to the differences in lengths and offsetting of the toes of a person’s foot. In other words, the depth of the ribs in each set is gradually increased extending from the big toe towards the little toe so that the ribs can fit properly with the spaces between the toes of each foot.

In order to effect the drying of the spaces between the toes when the toes are inserted between the ribs and moved upwardly and downwardly, a cover of
any suitable moisture absorbing material, such as terry cloth is removably mounted on the wall 14 and extends over the ribs 26 thereof, as shown in FIG. 1. The cover 28 may be of any suitable construction and may be retained on the wall 14 in any suitable manner, such as by snaps, buttons, ties or the like.

In the use of the foot drying apparatus of the present invention, when a person desires to dry the areas between his toes, he merely steps on the base 12 and positions the three middle toes within the spaces between the four adjacent ribs 26 on the upstanding wall 14. Upward and downward movement of the toes will cause the absorbent cover 28 on the wall 14 to dry the areas between the toes. The toes of the other foot may be dried by following the same procedure with the other set of ribs 26.

The raised pumice stone 24 in the ball portion 22 of each foot imprint 16 on the base 12 facilitates the honing or removal of any calluses, bunions or other dead skin on the person's feet.

A modification of the foot drying apparatus of the present invention is shown in FIG. 4 wherein the upstanding wall 114 is formed of a curved shape which enables the ribs 126 thereon to be of substantially the same depth and still be properly positioned between the toes for drying. As in the embodiment shown in FIGS. 1-3, the wall 114 is provided with a removable, water-absorbent cover to effect drying the spaces between the toes positioned between the ribs 126.

What is claimed is:

1. A foot drying apparatus, comprising:
a base for receiving a person's feet thereon;
an upstanding wall connected to one end of said base, said wall having a plurality of upstanding, laterally spaced ribs which extend inwardly over said base and are adapted to receive a person's toes therebetween; and
a water absorbing cover removably received on said wall and extending over said ribs to effect drying of the areas between the toes positioned between said ribs.

2. The foot drying apparatus of claim 1 wherein said wall comprises two sets of four of said ribs, one set for the right foot and the other set for the left foot.

3. The foot drying apparatus of claim 2 wherein the ribs of each set are laterally spaced in accordance with the average spacing between the toes of a person's foot, and wherein said wall is substantially straight and the ribs of each set extend inwardly progressively farther from the big toe portion towards the little toe portion thereof.

4. The foot drying apparatus of claim 2 wherein the ribs of each set are laterally spaced in accordance with the spacing between the toes of a person's foot, and wherein said wall is curved inwardly from the center thereof toward the sides of said base and the ribs of each set extend inwardly approximately an equal amount.

5. The foot drying apparatus of claim 1 wherein said wall is substantially perpendicular to said base.

6. The foot drying apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base and said wall are molded in one piece of a plastic material.

7. The foot drying apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base has indicated thereon the outlines of right and left feet, each foot outline comprises a recessed heel portion, a curved arch portion and a recess in the ball portion thereof, and an abrading stone is removably positioned in said recess and extends slightly above the adjacent upper surface of said base.

8. The foot drying apparatus of claim 7 wherein said wall comprises two sets of four of said ribs, one set being adjacent said right foot outline and the other set being adjacent said left foot outline on said base.

9. The foot drying apparatus of claim 8 wherein the ribs of each set are laterally spaced in accordance with the average spacing between the toes of a person's foot, and wherein said wall is substantially straight and the ribs of each set extend inwardly progressively farther from the big toe portion thereof toward the little toe portion thereof.

10. The foot drying apparatus of claim 8 wherein the ribs of each set are laterally spaced in accordance with the average spacing between the toes of a person's foot, and wherein said wall is curved inwardly from the center thereof toward the sides of said base and the ribs of each set extend inwardly approximately an equal amount.

11. The foot drying apparatus of claim 8 wherein the ribs of each set extend inwardly over the toe portion of the adjacent foot outline on said base, and terminate in vertically spaced relation thereto.

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