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J. S. MILLER

BATHTUB MAT

Filed July 30, 1925

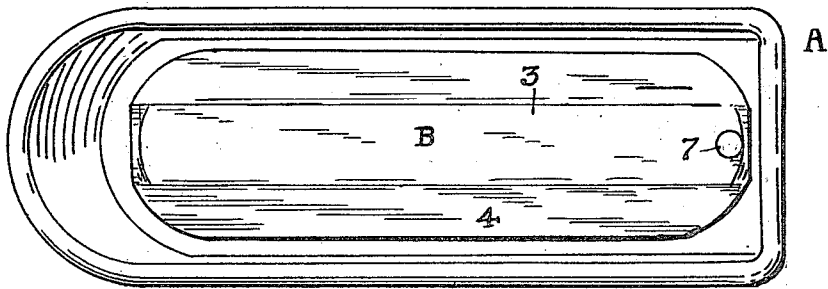


Fig. 1

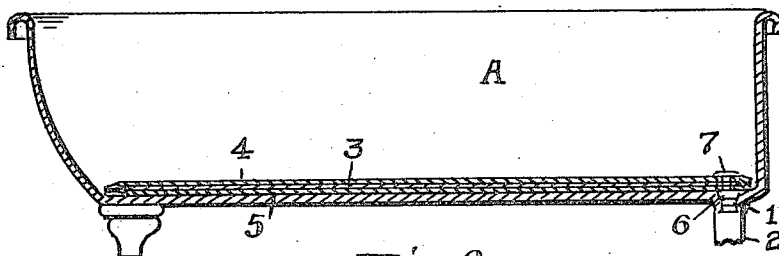


Fig. 2

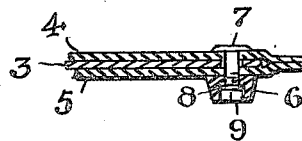


Fig. 3

INVENTOR.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES S. MILLER, OF BEAVER FALLS, PENNSYLVANIA.

BATHTUB MAT.

Application filed July 30, 1925. Serial No. 46,993.

The object which I have in view is to provide means for preventing injuries to persons due to slipping or falling in bathtubs.

5 The enamelled or porcelain bottom of a bath-tub is very slippery when wet or covered with water; and many serious accidents have resulted therefrom.

10 For the prevention of such accidents, I have provided a mat which is placed in the bottom of the tub, and which is made of rubber or similar material and provided with a longitudinally disposed stiffening which prevents its buckling or folding.

15 Thus when the bather steps into the tub onto my improved mat, he has a secure footing, as the mat will not slip or buckle.

20 As a further aid in keeping the mat in place, and also to provide a convenient stopper-means for the waste-opening of the tub, I prefer to provide the under surface of the mat with a suitable stopper which fits down and closes the waste-opening.

25 In the accompanying drawings, Fig. 1 is a plan view of a bath-tub with my improved mat in place; Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section of the same, and Fig. 3 is a broken longitudinal section of the mat on enlarged scale.

30 Referring to the drawings, A represents a bath tub on the bottom of which is my improved mat B. 1 is the waste-opening of the tub connecting to the waste-pipe 2.

35 The mat B is of proper dimensions to substantially cover the bottom of the tub, so as to be at all times beneath the bather's feet.

40 The mat should be of such material as not to become slippery when damp or submerged in water. I prefer to employ rubber for the purpose.

45 Means are provided for preventing the mat from buckling or accidentally folding longitudinally. Thus I provide stiffening means for this purpose. I have shown such stiffening means in the form of a thin and relatively narrow plate 3 which is preferably of steel or other metal, and is also preferably more or less flexible so as to enable
50 the mat to lie flat on the bottom of the tub.

I may secure the stiffening member in place in any suitable manner. I prefer to enclose it between the layers 4 and 5 which are vulcanized together to form the mat.

55 At the proper position near one end of the mat, the rubber stopper 6 depends from the lower surface thereof, which stopper, when the mat is in use, is inserted in and closes the waste-opening 1. The stopper is attached to the mat in any convenient manner. Thus I have shown it attached in place by the bolt 7 extending down through the mat and the washer 8 and nut 9.

60 The provision of the stopper depending from the mat is a decided advantage, as it enables the mat to be placed in the empty tub and the tub to be then filled. When the bathing has been completed, the mat is raised, disengaging the stopper from the waste-opening and lifted from the tub, and
70 the used water then drains out through the waste-opening.

What I desire to claim is:—

1. A mat adapted to be placed in the bottom of a bath tub formed of flexible material and having a stopper depending from its under face and adapted to be inserted into the waste-opening of the tub. 75

2. In combination with a safety mat intended to be laid in the bottom of a bath tub and formed of flexible material, such as rubber, of a metallic stiffening member extending longitudinally of the mat, and a stopper member fixed to said stiffening member and arranged to be inserted down into
80 the waste-opening of the tub when the mat is in place.

3. In combination with a safety mat intended to be laid in the bottom of a bath tub and formed of flexible material, such as rubber, of a metallic stiffening member extending longitudinally of the mat and of materially less width than the mat, and a stopper member fixed to said stiffening member and arranged to be inserted down into the waste-
85 opening of the tub when the mat is in place.

Signed at Beaver Falls this 2nd day of July, 1925.

JAMES S. MILLER.