United States Patent [19]

Schuchman

[11] **3,886,987**

[45] **June 3, 1975**

[54] **ELASTIC SURFACE EXPOSURE WRAPPER FOR SOAP CAKES**

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[22] Filed: **Apr. 20, 1973**

[21] Appl. No.: **353,126**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 246,355, April 21, 1972, abandoned.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **150/52;** 401/88

[51] **Int. Cl.** **B65d 65/02**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 150/52 R; 401/88; 252/93

[56] **References Cited**

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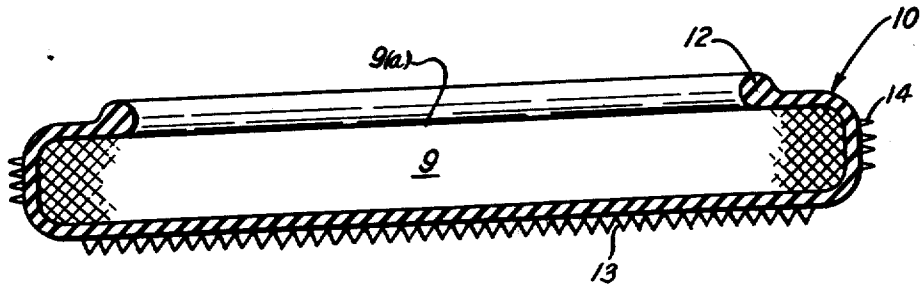
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

This disclosure relates to an elastic wrapper for cakes of soap which leaves uncovered a portion only of the surface, this uncovered or exposed portion being the only area which can be wetted when the cake of soap is being used. The elastic wrapper is made in such sizes as to stretch over standard sizes of soap cakes, inserted into the wrapper through the opening, and its use results in greatly extending the service life of the contained cake by keeping dry all but a sufficient surface area for applying soap to a wash cloth or directly to the hands or other area of the body being cleansed.

1 Claim, 2 Drawing Figures



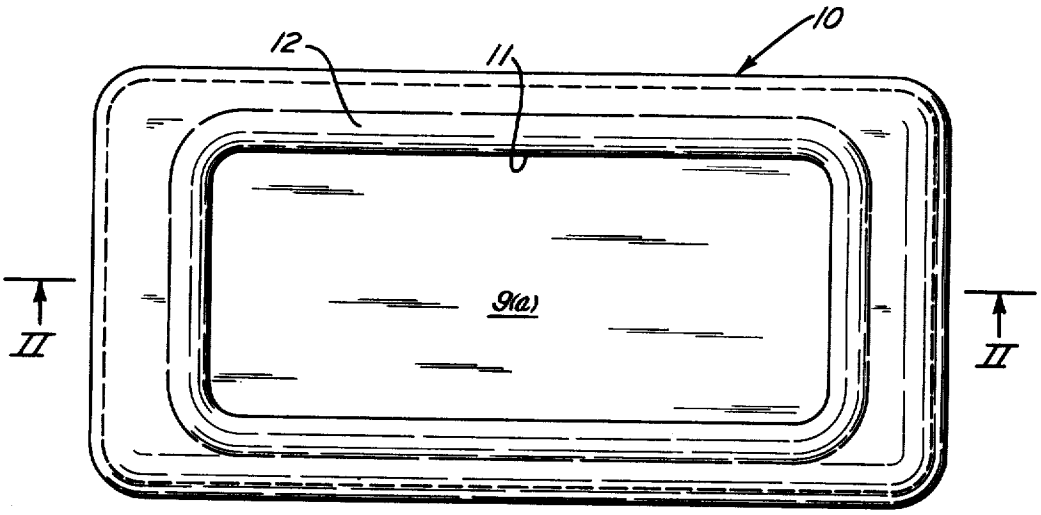


Fig. 1

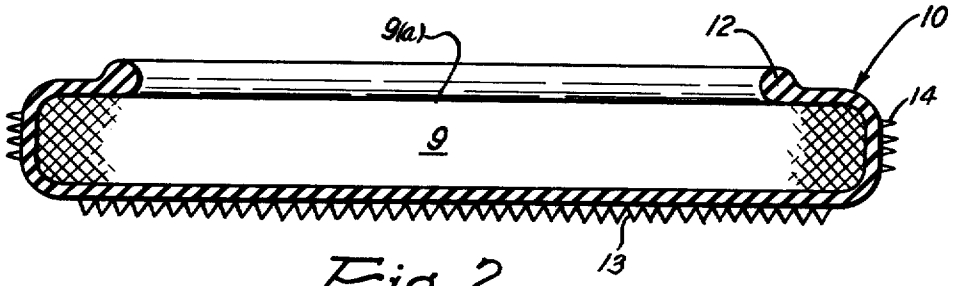


Fig. 2

ELASTIC SURFACE EXPOSURE WRAPPER FOR SOAP CAKES

CROSS REFERENCE TO A RELATED PATENT APPLICATION

This application is a continuation-in-part of my prior patent application Ser. No. 246,355 of the same title, filed on Apr. 21, 1972, herewith abandoned.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of my invention is to greatly reduce the wasting of soap used in cake form, and greatly reduce the water pollution from soap in waste water. This is accomplished by use of a wrapper made of an elastic, water-impervious material in the form of a pocket into which the cake of soap is inserted, leaving exposed for wetting, as by a wash cloth, only a portion of one side of the soap cake. My wrappers are made in a size and of rubber such as is used in making rubber bands thus rendering the wrapper adaptable to fit snugly around one side and all the edges of all of the standard sizes of commercially available soap cakes. The cake is inserted through the pocket opening and the wrapper stretches sufficiently to admit the entire cake through the opening. The inside surface of the elastic wrapper is preferably smooth to contact the entire outside surface of the cake of soap contained therein, except the pocket opening. The outside surface of the wrapper is preferably rough to serve as a scrubbing means for the surface being washed and also to prevent slipping in the hands of the user.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The drawings illustrate the wrapper of my invention stretched over a soap cake for use.

FIG. 1 is a view facing the pocket opening and

FIG. 2 is a section at the plane II—II in FIG. 1. The drawings are not to scale and the thickness of the wrapper is greatly exaggerated for clarity of illustration.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

As illustrated in the accompanying drawing, my invention is an elastic wrapper **10** for soap cakes **9** exposing only one side surface **9**(a) of the cake for use in the cleansing operation. The rest of the surface of the cake being covered by the wrapper. The wrapper **10** is in the form of a pocket having on one side an opening **11**, somewhat smaller in area than a side of the cake of soap placed therein. The wrapper is made of an elastic, water impervious material such as thin sheet rubber, slightly smaller in size than the cake of soap so that it fits snugly around the cake, and the opening is preferably made with a circumferential beading **12** around its edge to reinforce the opening edge of the thin material and cause the edge to fit snugly all around the exposed surface of the cake of soap within. The reinforcement of the edge by the beading **12** serves the dual functions of sealing of admission of water to the interior of the wrapper **10** and thus preventing softening of the unexposed surface of the soap cake **9**, and of increasing the strength of the edge of the opening in the wrapper **10** to reduce the possibility of tearing the thin rubber sheet.

As shown in the drawing, the combined area of the sheet rubber covering as stretched about one side, the edges, and part of the exposed side of the cake of soap **9** is greater than the area of the opening **11** bordered by the stretched beading. This is insured by proportioning the areas of the unstretched sheet material of the pocket to the unstretched perimeter of the beading **12** such that the maximum area about which said unstretched beading may be a perimeter is substantially less than the total surface area of the said unstretched sheet material.

The outside surface of the wrapper **10** is preferably roughened where it fits the sides and ends of the soap cake **9**, as by ridges **14**, and the surface which is opposite the opening **10** is preferably provided with rubber teeth **13** to constitute a scrubbing surface and provide a means for dislodging tough stains. The inside surface of the wrapper **10** is smooth to provide substantially uniform contact with the surface of the soap cake **9** about which the wrapper is stretched, thus to prevent moisture from seeping onto the unexposed soap surface.

The wrapper **10** is preferably made of a very thin elastic and easily stretchable material so that the same wrapper may be used on a variety of shapes and sizes of cakes of soap. This material is preferably natural or synthetic rubber of texture and properties similar to that used for very flexible rubber bands, thereby accommodating a wide variety of sizes of soap cakes **9** in one size of my wrapper **10.** The wrapper **10** made of such material and constructed as above disclosed holds the soap cake **10** smoothly without creases.

As marketed, a number of wrappers **10** are flattened and bundled together as a roll or as a stack for easy removal one at a time from the package, each wrapper being peeled from the bundle. The wrapper **10** assumes the shape of the soap cake, as illustrated by the drawings, in service, and shrinks as the volume of the soap cake is reduced by consumption of soap. From time to time, the wrapper may be removed and the soap cake turned over to expose opposite sides at the opening **11.**

The term "elastic" as used herein does not mean "resiliant", in the sense of bouncing or springing back to its exact original shape. Such property of springing back to an original shape is important, and indeed critical, in plastic protective covers having a predetermined shape, such as the rectangular box shape of the resiliant cylinder cover disclosed in Hammon U.S. Pat. No. 3,578,071, for example. In contrast, my wrapper **10** is essentially shapeless until snugly stretched about a soap cake **9.**

In use, a cake of soap **9** contained in my impervious wrapper **10** lasts much longer in service, without any diminution of the amount of soap not actually used for cleansing in each use, than a cake exposed on all sides as ordinarily used, or as contained in a cage-like holder such as disclosed in Clanton U.S. Pat. No. 2,319,847, for example. The wrapped cake is used by applying the exposed surface **9**(a) to a wet wash cloth, or directly to surface to be washed, and the exposed surface of the soap may be wetted by applying the cake to the wetted surface of the body in the normal manner for using caked soap. Only the exposed surface **9**(a) becomes wetted in such use and when placed in a soap dish or wire soap holder in a shower-room, there is no noticeable drainage or deposit of dissolved soap because most of the cake is protected by the wrapper of my invention. Thus my wrapper greatly reduces pollution due to soap in waste water and greatly increases the life and usefulness of the soap.

I claim:

1. A protective wrapper for soap cakes consisting of a pocket made of thin, elastic, very thin flexible, non self supporting, shapeless water impervious, imperforate sheet material adapted to be snugly stretched over, and to assume the shape of, various sizes of soap cakes; the said pocket having an opening therein of maximum area, when the pocket is unstretched, substantially less than the total unstretched surface area of the pocket

sheet material, the surface of said pocket sheet material being continuous and unbroken except for said opening, the inside surface of said pocket sheet material being substantially smooth, the said outside surface being rough, and an elastic bead integral with said sheet bordering said opening.

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