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★ DEC 11 1933 ★
Department of Agriculture

HOUSEKEEPERS CHAT

Friday, January 8, 1933.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "Cleaning Upholstery." Information from the Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

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Cleaning the outside of the family car requires elbow grease as well as washing water, cleaning cloths, polish and so on. But that's a job for the man of the house. Cleaning the inside of the car, especially the upholstery--that's where the housewife takes an interest. Even when the outside is clean, bright and shining, soiled upholstery spoils the appearance of the car. The mileage may be low, the enamel finish may look like new, the engine may run to perfection, but if the seats are smudged with grease and grime, the car is sure to look aged, just the same.

If you've ever tried to clean upholstered furniture or remove spots from automobile seats, you know that it's not easy unless you know just how. The difficulty is that you can't reach the spots from the wrong side. Now when you clean a dress or some other garment you rub the spot with a solvent on the wrong side to force the dissolved dirt through the fibers to an absorbent pad underneath. But with upholstery, you have to take out that grease or dirt on the surface without pushing it through the fabric and without moistening the padding or lining. And that requires care and skill--and the right materials. Specialists at the Bureau of Home Economics recommend using carbon tetrachloride as the solvent because of its safety. You can buy it by the pint or quart in drug stores. Gasoline makes a good solvent but it is a fire hazard.

Now, how to go at the business of cleaning those upholstered seats? First, brush or beat out any loose dust with a whisk broom. Have ready plenty of clean nonlinting cloths. Use light cloths for light upholstery and dark cloths for dark upholstery. Apply the solvent with a soft white bristled brush. Put it on a little at a time, in straight lines with even strokes. Then wipe it off quickly with a clean cloth. Let the fabric dry. One application may be enough, or the treatment may have to be repeated. Better work on any very bad spots before you clean the entire surface. Keep a little of the cleaning fluid in a shallow dish as you work. In this way you won't waste or lose the cleaning fluid by evaporation.

If the color on your fabric is fast, soap and water makes a good cleaner. Make a smooth soap jelly from a high-grade white soap. When this jelly is cold, apply some of it with a soft brush. Put it on with even lines over only as much space as you can wipe off quickly with a cloth or press off with a dull case-knife. Work rapidly so that as little moisture penetrates the upholstery as possible. Remove the last traces of soap with clean cloths wrung quite dry out of warm water. Be sure the upholstery is thoroughly dry before you use the car. Otherwise it will soil again.

One more point to remember. If the upholstery buttons have metal backs, put a soft cloth around them as you work to prevent rust from the wet cleaning cloths.



The specialists say this is the best method they have yet discovered for home cleaning either your automobile seats or your upholstered furniture. Success depends on four main points. First, rapid work. Second, either a soap jelly or a grease solvent as the cleaning agent. Third, using a brush in straight lines with even strokes. And fourth, going over the surface the second or third time if necessary. Several quick applications are much more successful than using too much cleaning material at a time.

Our menu today is for a simple Sunday night supper. Hot toasted cheese sandwiches or cheese dreams. That's the main dish. If you have a grill, you can make these right at the table. Then, a big bowl of orange and grapefruit salad with French dressing or fruit salad dressing. Cocoa or hot chocolate with wafers or cake to go with it.

Here's the way to make cheese dreams. Don't butter the slices but make them into sandwiches with thin, even slices of sharp-flavored cheese as the filling and a sprinkling of salt and a drop or two of tabasco sauce for seasoning. Put some butter in your heavy skillet--enough to cover the bottom when it is melted. Melt the butter and brown the sandwiches delicately and rather slowly on both sides, adding more butter, if necessary. Take care that the butter doesn't become so hot that it browns the sandwiches before the bread heats through and before the cheese is melted.

Serve cheese dreams as soon as you make them. They make an excellent company for a big bowl of salad. They're good with tart fruit salad and also with vegetable or sardine salad.

Several people have asked for a recipe for cooked dressing for fruit salad. Here's a sour cream salad dressing. Seven ingredients:

2 whole eggs, or four egg yolks	1/2 teaspoon of salt
1/4 cup of vinegar	1/4 teaspoon of mustard, and
1 cup of sour cream	1/4 teaspoon of paprika
1/2 tablespoon of sugar	

I'll repeat those seven ingredients. (Repeat.)

To make the dressing, beat the eggs, add the other ingredients and mix thoroughly, cook in a double boiler and stir constantly until the mixture thickens. Then chill.

Monday: Another economy day with economy recipes and a low-cost menu.

