

FROM THE MAILBAG

Metal Polish Successful

Dear Aunt Daisy,

The following suggestion may be helpful to the woman who had iodine spilt on her bathroom linoleum, also the black shoe polish on her carpet. I have removed both these stains off grey linoleum with the well-known metal polish. Just apply this with a cloth and rub the stain, then wash over with a cloth and warm water. When the lino is dry, just polish in the ordinary way, and there will be no sign of a mark or stain.

"Mrs. G.C." Palmerston North.

Kerosene on Carpet

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I would like to ask you, through *The Listener*, how to remove kerosene stains from floor covering. A kerosene heater was carried from my hall right across the dining room, leaving a trail of kerosene. This type of heater leaks unless carried level. I have tried a good carpet shampoo and also a detergent, but neither was successful. As the carpet is quite new, I feel very worried about it. It really is a very ugly stain right across the centre of the room. I do hope you will be able to help me. We have been getting *The Listener* for ten years now, and your page has always been most helpful.

"E.G." Balclutha.

I think the best thing to do is to get the chemist to mix for you some benzol and carbon tetrachloride, in equal parts; and use this to make a thickish paste with fullers earth (also from chemist). Spread this paste over the stain, and when thoroughly dry, brush with a whisk. No "ring" should be formed if you follow this carefully. Repeat the process if necessary. And do let us know the result, please.

Man-made Marmalade

Dear Aunt Daisy,

As a mere male I hesitate to offer any comment on your household hints, but having made many hundreds of jars of marmalade and always with complete success, I thought the following might be welcome: (a) It is better to make a small quantity at a time and 3 lb. fruit is the most satisfactory quantity. I use 2 lb. of grapefruit and 1 lb. lemons. (b) The first boil after adding three pints of water for each pound of fruit should be a gentle simmering and should be for about 2 hours. (c) When adding the sugar (cup of sugar to each cup of pulp) the pan should be removed from the fire and the sugar stirred in until dissolved before returning to the fire. (d) The final quick boil should be until the marmalade forms a skin when a small quantity is tried in a saucer. The time necessary for this depends upon the quantity being made and the degree of ripeness of the fruit, but with the above quantities and the fruit being not too ripe about 20 or 25 minutes is sufficient as a rule. (e) Note that it is easier to measure the pulp out by cups when adding the sugar than to weigh it.

"Mere Male," Christchurch.

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N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 13, 1954.

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