

Joining Wafer Biscuits

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Can you give me some advice? I gave the children a party the other day and they had some ice cream and wafer biscuits. A lot of wafer biscuits were left over, so I joined them together with a butter icing and shortly afterwards the biscuits had lost their crispness and had gone soft. Can you please tell me what I could do to keep them crisp? As Christmas is coming on I thought a tin of them would be very nice to have on hand. I do hope that you can suggest something. "R.A.R." Blenheim.

The indefatigable Daisy Chain has supplied the answer, which is "Use vegetable fat" From St. Kilda, Dunedin, comes this reply: "Here is a filling for wafer biscuits which I have made for years and the biscuits never go soft. I do a large tinful at a time—a whole pound of wafers! Just cream thoroughly ½ lb. of vegetable fat, till all the lumps are melted. I always grate it first, which makes it easy to cream. Then beat in ½ lb. of icing sugar, add flavouring to taste."—"Constant Listener," St. Kilda.

Vegetable fats are widely used in America, and in New Zealand sometimes in uncooked biscuits, and always in the icing for iced wafers, because it does not cause them to go soft as butter icing does. If you are using vegetable fat for pastry, or cakes, grate it first on a very fine grater, to make it soft and fluffy. Use the same amount of the fat as you would of butter.

Washing New Blankets

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Will you please tell me if there is any special way of washing new blankets? "Regular Reader," Napier.

No, just wash them carefully in luke-warm sudsy water, first softened with a little good household ammonia; also put some ammonia in both of the two rinsing waters, which should be as nearly as possible the same temperature as the sudsy first one. Don't have too much soap, either; and it is better to wash one blanket at a time, so as to have plenty of water in which to work it about. Here is a good, old-fashioned method: Dissolve a large packet of soap flakes in a big basin of boiling water, and add ½ cup of best household ammonia. Mix thoroughly to dissolve the flakes, and then empty it into a wash-tub full of cold water. Mix up well. The water in the tub will now be soapy and almost luke-warm. Put in the blankets, not more than two at a time. Work them about well and leave to soak for an hour or two. Then lift and work them about in the water, as you would wash any other woolly. Wring through fairly loose wringer into a second tub of just luke-warm water and softened with ½ cup of ammonia. Rinse very well, and then wring again into a third rinsing water. If not certain that all the soap is out, rinse a fourth time. Then wring, and hang on line, choosing a breezy day. While the blankets are drying shake them frequently to bring up the fluffiness.

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N.Z. LISTENER, NOVEMBER 26, 1954.

you can suffer a
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Q-TOL and common-sense
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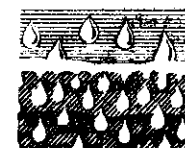
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