

Curdling Tomato Soup

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Regarding the curdling of tomato puree when making soup, the answer is to add the merest pinch of bi-carbonate of soda to the puree before adding the milk. Many people, like my family, do not like their soup thickened, and the cornflour hint would not help them. I can guarantee this hint, having used it for more years than I care to remember.

"Spreydon."

The other suggestion was to slightly thicken the milk with cornflour before pouring the tomato puree into it.

A Gift Picture Frame

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Could you kindly let me know through *The Listener* a method of cleaning a very dull gift picture frame?

"M.M.," Coromandel.

I have two old-fashioned hints for this trouble, but I should think it might be wiser to have a good picture framer look at the gilt and see if it needs renewing properly, especially if it is a valuable picture. The hints are these: (1) Rub gently with a cloth moistened with methylated spirits or oil of turpentine. It may also be applied with a fine paint brush. Leave to dry. 2. Boil up some onions in water, and clean frame with that, using a soft cloth or soft brush.

Abernethy Biscuits

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I read with interest your cooking recipes in *The Listener*, and also try many of them. A few years ago I took out of your recipe list one for Abernethy biscuits. I don't need to say it is a very old biscuit—in years I mean. I have lost the recipe, and would be so pleased to have it again. Could it be printed in your column in *The Listener*?

"Margaret," Epsom.

Here you are, Margaret:—One pound flour, 2 oz. sugar, ½ teacup milk, ½ level teaspoon baking soda, 3 oz. butter, ¼ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon caraway flavouring. Sift flour and salt, add sugar, rub in the butter. Mix milk and soda, add the flavouring, mix this into dry ingredients, knead, roll out about ¼-inch thick, cut into shapes and cook in quick oven. If preferred, use a few caraway seeds instead of the liquid flavouring.

Vase Tipped Over

Dear Aunt Daisy,

A vase of flowers was tipped over on my light oak table and the water was allowed to stay on it for about three days, as I was away and it was not noticed. Could you help me with advice as to how to get rid of the ugly stain that is left.

"A.B.C.," Waimate.

Try working in hot olive oil, or hot camphorated oil. Work patiently, with intervals between, using the ball of the thumb. You may have to do it for several days. Sometimes it has been found effective to lay on two or three thicknesses of brown paper and press with a warm iron, making sure it is not too hot and that the paper does not stick. The idea is to draw the oil in the wood to the surface again. This is done in the intervals between the hot camphorated oil. Finally polish with furniture cream.

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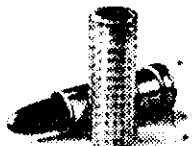
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