

Delicious, nutritious and leaves a shine

SPAM FURNITURE POLISH? WE PUT WACKY FIX-IT SOLUTIONS TO THE TEST

By **LAUREN BECKHAM FALCONE**

Saran Wrap and a little vodka — imagine the possibilities.

Please. We're talking about household uses, people. Like using the famous plastic wrap to hold a screw in position. Or spraying a little Smirnoff to clean a crystal chandelier.

"Joey Green's Fix-it Magic: More than 1,984 Quick-and-Easy Household Solutions Using Brand-Name Products" (Rodale, \$17.95) hits stores Monday, and you won't find better uses for things like Bounce (animal repellent), baking soda (spackle) and beer (lawn fertilizer).

Since the 1990s, Green, a former advertising executive, has been obsessed with all things under the counter and in the cabinets, penning 30 books on how to use everyday items in innumerable ways. Of course, just because something works doesn't mean you want to use it. Case in point: SPAM as furniture polish.

So we put a few to the test (not the SPAM). Some made sense, some made life easier and some, well, made us a little queasy.

Gillette Foamy Shaving Cream as bathtub cleaner. Green writes that kids have a blast using the shaving cream to draw on the tile walls during bath time and you'll be satisfied when you wash off the condensed cream and the tile sparkles. It's true. This works.

The tile is shiny. Clean? Well, depends on your definition. If your definition involves soap, not so much.

Cooking oil to remove a water ring from wood furniture. An antique telephone table with a nasty water ring — thank you,

Dunkin' Donuts coffee — was subjected to two treatments: rubbing with olive oil and then corn oil. Neither worked and we ended up with a craving for bruschetta.

Vinegar to get mineral deposits out of a steam iron. We filled the water tank with Heinz White Vinegar, then, on the steam setting, ironed a soft rag, repeated the ordeal with water before waiting for the iron to cool to rinse the tank.

OK, this works, but it takes a half hour, and really, do people iron anymore? Just throw your shirt in the dryer for five minutes, for crying out loud.

Using clear nail polish to prevent buttons from popping

off a shirt. This is an old trick.



Paint the center of each button with clear nail polish and it strengthens the buttons. Works.

Stayfree Maxi Pad as hat shield. Sweat much? If say, you're going to a wedding and want to wear a fancy summer hat but want to avoid pesky perspiration stains, stick a Stayfree Maxi Pad inside the hat along the headband that rests against your forehead. You'll prevent stains, but you'll also be the laughingstock

of the party. We didn't try this because it was just too humiliating. If you're up for it, please get back to us with the results.

What else works? Using peanut butter on mouse traps instead of cheese (they stay longer to eat and — snap!); shoving SOS steel wool soap pads into cracks and holes in the walls and floors to prevent mice from squeezing through; and yes, you can use ChapStick to clean scuffs off DVDs and CDs.

As for some other ideas, it's easier to ignore a cobweb in an unreachable place than find a Wilson tennis ball, place it inside a dust cloth secured with a few rubber bands and toss it into the web. And frankly, using Scotch packaging tape as a strapless bra? Return that idea to sender.

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