

New Way To Unclog Drains

You can clear clogged drains without the need for chemicals with a new invention that's so simple, you'll wonder why no one's thought of it before.

The patented Zip-It is a 20-in. long strip of thin plastic with barbs on both sides. You just push it down a clogged drain and pull it back out.

You don't have to take your drain apart. In fact, you don't even have to remove the stopper.

The Zip-It was invented by Gene Luoma of Duluth, Minn., and is now marketed exclusively by Cobra Products, a leading manufacturer of drain cleaning tools. One day he noticed his daughter's plastic sled had a tear down the center of it that was jagged along the edges. He removed the strip of plastic from the sled and cut some more barbs into it, then pushed it into the drain and then pulled it back out. When he pulled it up from the drain, a fist full of hair came with it.

The idea has had an incredible reception. It's already available at Wal-Mart, Menards, Home Depot, Lowes, and many other hardware stores.

Sells for \$2.99.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Feldman, 1 Warner Court, Bridgeport, N.J. 08014 (ph 856 241-2705; fax 856 241-1699; E-mail: info@zipitclean.com; Website: www.zipitclean.com).



Zip-It is a 20-in. long plastic strip with barbs on either side. You stick it down into the drain and pull it back out to clean plug-ups.

“Pet Door” Activated By Sensor On Collar

Only your pet can get through this powered door which locks shut when closed to keep out raccoons, skunks, stray cats, and other pest animals.

An electric motor slides the door up and down within its own frame. The door is made from lexan plastic. The interior trim plate is made of white textured acrylic. The exterior trim is black to conceal dirt.

A sensor clips to your pet's collar. The door can be activated from up to 5 ft. away and remains open for 1 to 5 seconds. The distance sensitivity and the door's opening time can be adjusted as the pet gets used to the door. An on/off switch lets you turn the door off to keep pets in or out.

Doors and frames come in five sizes to accommodate the smallest cats to the largest dogs. A 10-in. wide, 15-in. high door designed for a pet weighing 40 to 80 lbs. sells for \$445. Each door comes with one sensor. Additional sensors sell for \$12.50 apiece.

An optional intruder alarm activates an alarm when the door is held open for a longer than programmed amount of time. It sells for \$46.50.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Henry Solo (ph 877 766-3900; Website: www.solopetdoors.com).



Remote-controlled door only opens for dog or cat wearing sensor.

Rake Doubles As “Pick-Up” Tool

Raking is only half the battle. When you're done you have to pick everything up and this new double rake makes that easy by eliminating the need to bend over.

The Rake-Up is equipped with two 14-tine steel rake heads. One of the rakes is hinged to a metal rod that leads up to a slide handle near the top of the rake handle. The rake stays out of the way for normal raking jobs.

Sells for \$29.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rake-Up, 12701 Wagner Road, Monroe, Wash. 98272 (ph toll-free 877 772-5387 or 425 823-0800; fax 425 820-5631).



Second rake head pivots downward to pick up sticks, leaves and other debris.

Spin-On Lids For 5-Gal. Buckets

Any 5-gal. bucket can be turned into an airtight, pest-proof storage container with this new 2-piece lid.

It attaches to virtually any 12-in. dia. bucket (3 1/2 to 7-gal.). An adapter ring simply snaps onto the bucket and the gasketed lid spins onto that.

Keeps pests out and works great for storing everything from leftover paint to pet food, bird seed, grain, etc., says the company.

The company does not sell direct but you can contact them for your nearest dealer. Suggested retail price is \$9.99.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gamma Plastics 2000, San Diego, Calif. (ph 800 842-6543; E-mail: gamma@fda.net; Website: www.gammoplastics.com).



Buckets fitted with spin-on lid make great airtight containers for pet food.

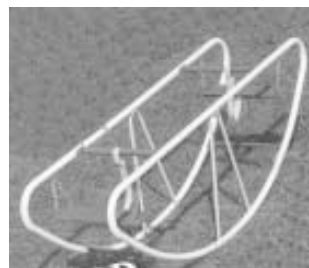
“Rocker” Great Fun For Kids

No matter how high kids go in this new “sport rocker”, the seats always stay level.

The rocker is 8 ft. long, 3 ft. high at the middle, and rounded at the bottom. It consists of a pair of half moon-shaped aluminum frames spaced about 2 ft. apart. Wooden seats near each end are suspended from the frame by lengths of chain link. The child hangs onto a foam-protected handlebar and



Riders stay parallel to ground when riding the new “sports rocker”.



Works better than a teeter totter with people of unequal weight, says company.

Sells for \$89 plus S&H. Breaks down for UPS shipping.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Global Creative Products, Inc., Box 3828, Albany, Ga. 31708 (ph 800 381-1012 or 229 776-1267; fax 229 776-1485).

Reader Recipes

(Continued from page 30)

Pour salt into glass blender (don't use plastic - it will scratch). Mix on high for a few seconds. Shake, then turn on again. Repeat until salt becomes fine powder. Add baking soda. Mix for a second or two. Don't overblend.

Add flavoring, being careful not to overdo it. Store in airtight bottle (old squeeze mustard bottle works great). Apply to wet toothbrush.

Anonymous

Oven-Dried Sweet Corn

An oldie but goodie, oven-dried sweet corn can be savored all winter long.

Boil fresh ears for 5 min. in large kettle, then dip into freezing water. After corn cools, cut kernels off cob. Set oven to warm, spread corn evenly in large trays to depth of 1 to 1 1/2 in. Let dry for a couple days until thoroughly dry. You can take out trays anytime to do other cooking, and then resume drying. Stir occasionally.

A gallon jar holds the equivalent of 5 dozen ears. To use, cook slowly in water for about an hour and season to taste.

Mother Earth News

Basic Barbecue Spice Mix

1 tsp black peppercorns
1 tsp celery seeds
1/2 tsp cayenne
1/2 tsp dried thyme
1/2 tsp dried marjoram
2 tsp paprika
1 tbsp mustard powder
1 tbsp soft brown sugar

Crush the peppercorns and celery seeds and mix all ingredients together. Rub on meat before grilling.

Mark Newhall
Lakeville, Minn.