

Care Of Rubber Goods

The rubber goods in common use are air cushions, mackintoshes, hot water bottles, ice caps, ice collars, rubber tubes, catheters, rectal tubes, gloves and rubber beds.

The nurses should make all efforts to prolong the life of the rubber goods. They should be purchased only after their natural durability have been investigated. Natural and synthetic rubber deteriorate with age, exposure to heat, light, moisture and by chemicals.

They should be purchased only after their nature has been investigated.

They should not be creased or folded. Never use any pins to fix rubber goods in any place. Never expose them to sunlight. Boiling water ruins rubber (a hot water bottle is not a boiling water bottle). Rubber goods should never be dried by artificial heat nor by contact with a radiator or stove. They should be free from grease and acids. These should not come in contact with metal goods. Any fluid split on them should be wiped off at once. When storing, care must

be taken so that no two surfaces come in contact with each other. They should not be pressed out of shape by any weight. They should not be tied in knots. They should not be hung on hooks or nails. Before subjecting rubber goods to disinfection by chemical process, its reaction to the disinfecting agent should be determined. If boiling process is used, put them in boiling water. If autoclaving is used, short periods of exposure is recommended (10 to 15 min) with less pressure.

Cleaning of Rubber Mackintosh

- 1 Spread the mackintosh on a table or a flat surface and wet it with cold water.
- 2 Rub the upper surface with soap and water using a clean cloth or towel.
- 3 Turn the other side and repeat the process as above.
- 4 Wash both surfaces under running water.
- 5 If stains are present, care should be taken to remove them.

- 6 For disinfection, use Lysol or dettol 1:40.
- 7 Hang them on a horizontal cylindrical pole in shade to dry. Spread them without wrinkles.
- 8 When both surfaces are absolutely dry, powder them lightly with French chalk powder.
- 9 Store them either flat or rolled and never folded, taking care to see that two mackintosh surfaces do not lie together, but are separated by old linen or paper. Store them in a dark cool place in airtight containers whenever possible.

Care Of Rubber gloves

- 1 It is desired that the wearer of the gloves should wash them on their hands just before they are removed to prevent adherence of blood and other organic materials.
- 2 After removing from the hands, they are washed with soap and cold water, first on the outside, then invert and repeat on the inside.
- 3 Rinse well with water both inside and outside as described above.

- 4 Holes and tears are discovered by submerging the glove filled with air in the water. If there are holes the bubbles will pass up through the water. Separate torn gloves.
- 5 Hang them to dry. When the outside is dried, turn inside out and dry.
- 6 When both sides are dried, they are powdered inside and outside and packed in pairs of the same size, right and left glove in glove wrapper. A small lump of gloves powder in a gauze mesh for powdering the hands is kept in the cuff of the gloves.
- 7 The torn gloves are patched or ~~reused~~ vulcanized and may be reused.
- 8 Steam under pressure is the best method of sterilizing gloves. The pressure is kept minimum to prevent melting of the gloves.