

Oregon Agricultural College Extension Service

O. D. CENTER
Director

Extension Bulletin 308

Corvallis, Oregon

April, 1920

Department of Household Administration

Oregon Agricultural College and United States Department of Agriculture, Cooperating
Printed and distributed in furtherance of the Act of Congress of May 8, 1914

LABOR-SAVING DEVICES

By

A. GRACE JOHNSON

Professor of Household Administration

Estimates show that 92 percent of the homemakers in the United States perform their own household tasks.

Labor-saving devices are those pieces of equipment or utensils which do one or more of the following:

- (1) Save actual work.
- (2) Save fuel.
- (3) Save time.
- (4) Save steps.

Types of Labor Savers. (1) The stationary type. Examples: sink, range, etc. (No one thing will save the housewife more time, labor, and steps than water supply in the kitchen.)

- (2) The movable type. Examples: tools, patented devices, etc.

Points to Consider in the Purchase of Labor Savers. Many devices purchased as labor savers are not labor savers in the real sense. The following questions should be considered in connection with any so-called labor-saver:

- (1) Does it cost too much for the use I will give it?
- (2) Is it properly constructed from good material?
- (3) Does it do what it is expected to do?
- (4) Can it be used for more than one purpose?
- (5) Can it be used frequently or is it suited to only one type of work which is performed at rare intervals?
- (6) Is it easily cleaned?
- (7) Is it easily stored?

Labor Savers within the Reach of Homes with Moderate Income:

Water supply in the house	Oil floor mop
Kitchen sink with drain	Wall mop
Zinc-covered table	Dust-pan (long handle)
Kitchen cabinet	Clock
Dumb waiter to cellar	Scissors
Iceless refrigerator	Scales
Wheel tray	Dish drainer
Step ladder	Bowls and spoons suited to quantity of foods needed for the family
High stool	Can opener
Working surfaces suited to height of worker	Large egg beater
Window screens	Kitchen grindstone
Screened kitchen porch	Measuring cups
Linoleum on kitchen floor	Measuring spoons
Kerosene, gas, or gasoline stove (high oven)	Funnels
Canner	Double boiler
Fireless cooker	Soap dish
Carpet sweeper	Soap shaker
Vacuum cleaner	Rubber plate scraper
Washing machine	Vegetable brush
Clothes wringer	Covered garbage pail
Clothes-pin bag	Food grinder
Gasoline or electric iron	Potato ricer
Bread mixer	Spatula
Steam cooker	Baking sheet
Dustless mop	Paper and string in kitchen

Suggestions. The following are valuable considerations in saving time and strength.

- (1) The wearing of shoes which properly fit the wearer.
- (2) A correct posture when doing any piece of work saves much fatigue.
- (3) Simple and durable construction of clothing increases wearing quality and decreases time and labor in care.
- (4) When water supply is outside the house, many steps are saved if the water pail is so located in the kitchen that long trips are not necessary every time water is needed. It is often wise to have more than one pail. A half-gallon cup near the pail often saves steps or lifting of a heavy pail.