

Let the Buyer Beware

This column is designed to help the housewife protect her pocketbook and the lives of herself and her family in an era of high pressure advertisement which rarely tells the whole story behind the labels.

The findings in the column are based on reports of the United States Food and Drug Administration for December, 1963.

Though the prohibitive cost of repair men makes it necessary for most housewives and homemakers to perform many "do-it-yourself" chores, they are again warned not to buy or use X-33 WATER REPELLENT, manufactured by the Wilmington Chemical Corp., of Chicago.

In its December report, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration again states that X-33 is an extremely flammable masonry water proofing which has already caused two deaths from explosions while the article was being applied.

The containers of X-33, said FDA, fail to warn of the hazard of explosiveness of the vapors; precautionary measures describing the action to be followed or avoided, and instructions for handling the storage.

Referring to another "do-it-yourself" item, beware of STAY-CLEAN SOLDERING and TINNING FLUX, manufactured by J. W. Harris company of Cincinnati.

FDA reports that the label of this article does not state the product contains zinc chloride and may cause burns. The product should also warn against external contact, charged FDA, and offers procedure for accidental burns or swallowing. The bottle also did not bear the warning, "Keep Out of the Reach of Children."

Referring to BLOT-X WALLPAPER GREASE SPOT REMOVER, manufactured by Blotex company, Springfield, Ohio, the Food and Drug Administration announced that the product was not labeled with the signal word "Danger" and the hazard warnings "Harmful or Fatal if Swallowed" and "Extremely Flammable."

In addition, BLOT-X did not give instructions for first aid, including the statement "If swallowed, do not induce vomiting," and did not bear instructions for handling and storage.

Turning to toys, which mothers and fathers find hard to resist for their children, the PEACE BIRD NOVELTY TOY, manufactured in Japan, is definitely on the "DO NOT BUY" list.

The glass body of the bird contains ether and ether vapor, charged FDA. If the bird were broken, the escaping ether could cause an explosion, particularly if the accident occurred near a pilot light or other flame.

For And About You

DEAR HARRIETT: I'm a new mother with a sanitary problem. It seems that everybody wants to kiss a n d slobber on my baby and I dont like it a little bit. I don't want to start off as a crank, but I do know that this practice spreads germs a n d is dangerous for any infant. Is there any way I can stop this without falling out with my friends?

—PEEVED

DEAR PEEVED: Yes, there is. There is a way, used throughout the ages, that is known in the English language as "tact." Sound familiar?

The next time the opportunity arises, explain to your friend in a tactful way how your baby's resistance is not as strong as his and that to avoid illness, you'd rather not have him kiss your baby until he is more mature.

You'll probably be surprised how responsive people can be when you tell them something in a diplomatic way. Later on, if you



Harriett Muhammad

want to keep the practice going you can teach your child how to tactfully avoid kisses

from the wrong people.

DEAR HARRIETT: I'm 16 and I have a terrible problem—my mother. She insists on dressing my sister (who is 13) and me alike. This really bugs me because she is rather plump and I like sports clothes. I'm small and prefer the ruffle-type feminine look. I've been complaining and fussing for ages, but in vain. What can I do to reach her?

—BUGGED

DEAR Bugged: Get some charm books and teenage magazines and find the sections that are concerned with the correct dress for different personalities and body types. Ask your mother if you can have a serious heart talk with her when she gets some spare time.



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