

Reader Recipes

We're looking for unusual, innovative, or just plain good-tasting recipes. If you have a favorite you'd like to share, send to: Reader Recipes, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

Pickled Eggs

2 cups white vinegar
1/2 cup water
1 cup sugar
1 tsp salt
1 tsp celery seed
1 tsp mustard seed
12 shelled, hard-boiled eggs
2 onions, sliced

Simmer vinegar and spices together for 10 min. and cool. Pour over eggs and sliced onions. Cover and refrigerate. Let stand for at least two days before using.

Velveeta Fudge

12 oz. Velveeta
1 cup butter
6 squares unsweetened baking chocolate
2 tbsp light corn syrup
8 cups powdered sugar
1 1/2 cups chopped nuts (optional)
1 tsp vanilla

Heat Velveeta, butter, chocolate, and corn syrup in microwave for about 2 min., stirring twice until melted and well blended. Add chocolate mixture in batches to sugar in a large bowl, beating with an electric mixer after each addition. Stir in nuts and vanilla. Pour into greased 9 by 13-in. pan. Smooth and refrigerate until firm.

Calf Liver & Grapes

1/3 lb. fresh calf liver, thinly sliced
1 cup buttermilk
1 tsp olive oil
5 shallots, minced
Salt & pepper to taste
1 tsp balsalmic vinegar
1/2 cup seedless red or green grapes, halved

Soak liver in buttermilk overnight in a covered container in the refrigerator. When ready to cook, heat the oil in a skillet and then sauté the shallots. Add the liver, sprinkle with salt and pepper. Fry for 2 or 3 min. on each side. Then add vinegar and grapes. Cook for another 2 min. Makes 2 servings.

No-Slip Rug Carpets Ice And Snow

Skip the salt, and carpet your icy sidewalk with a Snow and Ice Rug. The rug "grabs" onto the moisture in the snow and ice to create a non-slip surface.

"It's great for the elderly or handicapped or anyone else for that matter," says Amy Thomas, co-owner of Cody Mercantile, Newtown, Conn. "You can walk safely on ice without shoveling, sanding or spreading chemicals or salts."

The surface of the rug is sisal fibers treated with latex rubber on the bottom side. The rubber grabs onto the moisture in the ice and keeps the rug from slipping. The sisal fibers let fresh snow and moisture drain through.

Rugs are priced at \$8.95 each and come in strips 10 ft. long by 18 in. wide. Simply roll it out across a path, sidewalk or even across a driveway.

Cody Mercantile is an online and mail order store serving rural customers. Amy Thomas and her husband bought the company 1 1/2 years ago. "We've given Ice Rugs to neighbors we used to shovel snow for, and the rugs give them more security," says Thomas. "We put them in the last issue of our catalog, and they're going out the door great guns."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cody Mercantile, P.O. Box 409, Newtown, Conn. 06470 (ph 203 304-1137; toll free 800 443-4934; fax 203 304-1147; customerservice@codymercantile.com; www.codymercantile.com).



Rug "grabs" onto the moisture in snow and ice to create a non-slip surface.



"WaveBox" has a handle that makes it easy to carry around.

Microwave In Your Pickup

This new portable microwave makes it easy to have hot food and drink in your pickup, tractor or combine.

The 10 by 12-in. "WaveBox" has a handle that makes it easy to move around. It can be plugged into a cigarette lighter, clipped to a battery, or plugged into AC current.

"Cooking time is comparable to many in-home microwaves when the unit is connected to AC current or hooked directly to a battery. But it's slower when connected to a vehicle's cigarette lighter," says Bob Stimson, The Frank Group, Bloomington, Minn. The WaveBox comes with a soft-sided nylon cooler, which fits inside the microwave to keep your lunch cool until you're ready to heat it up. Sells for \$199 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Frank Group, 7717 W. 99th Street Circle, Bloomington, Minn. 55438 (ph 952 944-0001; fax 612 922-9666; bstimson@thewavebox.com; www.thewavebox.com).

Lint Filter Extends Septic System Life

Washing machine lint is harmful to septic systems and can cause their failure, according to the inventor of "Septic Protector Filtrol-160," a new filter which solves the problem.

"Polyester, nylon, and other synthetic fibers leave your washing machine as lint, and don't break down as they flush through your septic system," says Jim vonMeier of Zimmerman, Minn. "Eventually, these fibers clog up the soil by creating impenetrable mats surrounding the drain lines in your leach field. The expensive result is premature death of your septic system."

With more than 20 years experience as a building contractor, vonMeier now works as a "home owner educator," consumer advocate and environmental specialist with certifications from the University of Minnesota Extension Service and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

After seeing firsthand where washing machine lint was causing costly problems (and conducting a 5 1/2-year research project on system failure), he knew there was a relatively simple solution - his patented Filtrol-160 product.

The wall-mounted, in-line unit attaches to your washing machine discharge hose and removes lint before it goes down the drain.

A reusable 160-micron filter bag, inside the clear plastic filter housing, traps the non-biodegradable fibers and also sand, hair and pet fur, etc.

"You periodically dump the accumulated lint out of the filter bag - typically every 10 to 15 wash loads. The filter bags last 1 to 3 years," he explains. "With the cost to replace a septic system running \$5,000 to more than \$40,000, the

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Compost Toilet Uses No Water

Anyone needing a toilet where there's no plumbing will want to take a look at this "no winter" composting toilet. Instead of flushing down a pipe, solid wastes compost in a small tank beneath the stool. Like vegetable wastes in a compost bin, solid wastes quickly break down.

"There's no holding tank, no pump outs and no odor," says Michael Coblentz, CRM distributing. "It's more compact than other composting toilets on the market - with a footprint of just 13 by 18 in. - and yet it has exceptional holding capacity."

Coblentz says interest in the new composting toilet has been strong from owners of RVs, boats, semi sleeper cabs, and remote cabins where space is at a premium. One thing that sets this toilet apart is its extended holding capacity. Coblentz says it can be used for up to a month by a couple traveling or for a full season by weekend campers or boaters. The unique design that catches urine and funnels it off to a separate holding tank helps make this possible.

Coblentz suggests diluting the urine with water and using it as a high nitrate fertilizer on shrubs and trees. He suggests depositing the composted solid wastes in a compost bin to ensure all material is fully composted before using it as plant food as well. Cleaning the toilet is done with a small squirt bottle of water with occasional use of a 1-1 solution of vinegar and water. Ammonia or bleach can't be used, as it will kill the composting bacteria.

All that's needed to establish the composting process is 1 1/2 to 2 gal. of premoistened peat moss. "If you have a compost bin for your garden, grab a handful of active compost and add it to get the bacteria started," suggests Coblentz. A low amp fan that runs off any 12V power source speeds the composting process and helps eliminate odor during use. The fan vents through a hose to the exterior of the room.

The molded toilet, with its gray granite color, has stainless steel components. It mounts to any floor surface with brackets, sells for \$850, and can be shipped by UPS.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, CRM Distributing, 4922 TR 401, Millersburg, Ohio 44654 (ph 330 893-3265; fax 330 983-2418).



Solid wastes compost in a small tank beneath stool.

Filtrol-160 is cheap insurance to protect your wallet and your property."

VonMeier says a typical family washing machine produces enough lint every year to carpet a living room floor, and conventional lint screens and nylon socks trap less than 5 percent of these contaminants. Because these minute particles are so small and light, they don't settle in the septic tank; rather they stay in suspension and are flushed out to the drain field.

The Filtrol-160 comes with extra hose, clamps, fittings, and a mounting bracket for easy installation (you supply the two screws that hold the bracket to the wall). The unit sells for \$139.95 plus S&H, and replacement bags are \$12.95 each plus S&H. VonMeier says most customers order a second bag to save on shipping charges.

Dealer inquiries welcome.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Septic Protector, 14622 - 268th Ave., Zimmerman, Minn. 55398 (ph 888 873-6505 or 763 856-3800; cell 612 508-5121; jvonmeier@septicprotector.com; www.septicprotector.com).



Wall-mounted, in-line Filtrol-160 attaches to your washing machine discharge hose and removes lint before it goes down the drain.