

How To Take Notes In The Rain

In 1916, while searching for a more efficient way to tally lumber in the Pacific Northwest, Jerry L. Darling came up with a paper coating formula. Dipping one sheet at a time, he and his wife, Mary, created weatherproof paper which came to be known as Rite in the Rain. Over a century later, the patented coated paper is now used to make a variety of paper and notebook products at the Tacoma, Wash., business.

"We know rain and have the only pulp-based, waterproof paper," says Emily Evans, who works in marketing for Rite in the Rain.

While the notebooks and paper are still useful in the logging industry, the biggest customer is the U.S. military, followed by researchers and all types of industries.

"Our biggest agriculture product is the beef calving notebook and also notebooks for researchers," Evans says, noting the notebooks are ideal for anyone working outside where it can be wet or dirty.

"If coffee is spilled on it, the paper repels the liquid and you can wipe it up. If it gets dropped in the water, it may get warped, but your notes won't wash away," she says. Some customers work in drier environments but deal with dirt, grime and other undesirable materials that can be easily wiped off, thanks to the coating.

Ordinary pens, permanent markers and



Rite in the Rain notebooks are made of waterproof paper that repels liquid, dirt and stains to keep notes legible.

mechanical and regular pencils can be used. The only exceptions are gel pens or water-based ink pens which won't write on the coating.

Rite in the Rain's most popular product is the \$3.95 3 by 5-in. top spiral pocket notebook, which comes in a variety of colors and special editions.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, JL Darling LLC, 2614 Pacific Highway E., Tacoma, Wash. 98424 (ph 253-922-5000; customerservice@riteintherain.com; www.riteintherain.com).



LiQuiTube sealant can add to the tire life, won't freeze, and can save down time from puncture repairs.

Tire Sealant Does More Than Stop Leaks

Preventing leaks may be the main reason that farmers and truckers fill their tires with LiQuiTube, but the tire sealant does much more, says Dennis Belanger, sales manager for the Carterville, Ill., company.

Made with antifreeze and a proprietary blend of fibers and ground plastic particles, and pumped into a tire after removing the valve stem core, LiQuiTube thoroughly coats the inside of the tire. Then, if the tire is punctured, it quickly seals holes up to 3/4-in. in diameter (in heavy ply industrial tires).

"It stays liquid, with the consistency of a Dairy Queen Blizzard® treat. It takes about a half to one second to seal the hole," Belanger says. "Other products dry out, then leak. With us it's a permanent fix."

U.S.-made LiQuiTube has been on the market since 1990 and is commonly used at semi dealerships and in mining equipment. It's private labeled for companies such as Kubota, Polaris and Toro. The sealant is effective for tires on slower traveling vehicles such as ATVs. For higher speeds on the highway, tires need to have at least a 19-in. rim or be 10 ply (E-rated). For about \$10/tire, LiQuiTube premium seals 1/2-in. holes in 10-ply pickup truck tires.

The sealant ensures about 90 percent less

flats and offers other benefits as well. Tires are better balanced and are never underinflated. And LiQuiTube adds 30 percent longer tire life, partly because tires run 35 degrees cooler in the summer. Because it contains antifreeze, LiQuiTube also works in cold weather.

"What people appreciate most is time savings," Belanger says. "Saving down time is huge, above the cost of repair." Farmers in the midst of harvest don't have time to waste fixing tires. And truckers hauling livestock through desert areas can't risk a flat tire, for example.

LiQuiTube is non-corrosive and washes off the rim easily with water.

It can be found in all the major semi-truck dealerships and at a variety of big box, farm and ranch, and auto stores. It is also available in bulk in 55-gal. drums and 275-gal. totes.

In addition to LiQuiTube premium, the company sells Ballast Sealant, a less concentrated version meant to mix 1/10 with calcium chloride, beet juice or other ballast media used in tractor wheels.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, LiQuiTube, 11521 Kevin Lane, Carterville, Ill. 62918 (ph 303-483-5750; dennis@liquitube.com; www.liquitube.com).

Original Safety Siphon uses a copper check valve with a ball and spring that creates the vacuum to move liquid into the siphon.



The Original Safety Siphon

The Original Safety Siphon has 40 years of experience and satisfied customers that the company says prove it's the best siphon in the world.

Owner Mike Ryan started as a sales rep before buying the whole operation.

"We began with a 1/2-in. sized siphon. We're up to four sizes: 3/8 in., 1/2 in., 3/4 in. and 1 in. The siphons come in 6-ft. and 10-ft. lengths," says Ryan.

Farmers and boaters are the largest siphon buyers. Siphons can be used to transfer liquids like gas, oil, diesel, kerosene and water.

"You'll need gravity to work with when you use the siphon," Ryan said. "You shake it to prime it, and once you fill the hose with liquid, the siphon will automatically transfer it for you. This is very easy to use."

Inside the copper check valve is a ball and spring that creates the vacuum to bring the fuel into the siphon. It's much safer than someone sucking on the other end to get the fuel moving from the tank.

"If you're filling up a tractor, you'll have to sit the gas can above the tank," he said. "The check valve end goes into the fuel can, shake it and once it's full of fuel you don't have to shake it anymore. Then, it will suck that fuel into the tractor without spilling any of it."

"Farmers have asked about transferring diesel because it's a thicker and heavier fluid," Ryan said. "Using the 1/2-in. size can slow down the transfer, but it can still transfer up to 3.5 gals. a min. and up to 6 gals. a min. on the 3/4-in. size."

The check valves on the end are pure copper, one way to know for sure that you're getting the Original Safety Siphon. Ryan said many of the knock-off versions are copper-plated.

"We also do a lifetime warranty on our check valves, something you'll never get with the knock-offs," he said. "Plus, the hose is made of recycled pvc material, and it won't break down as quickly as other hoses because there are no fillers in there."

The siphons are all 100 percent made in America, and they're not just a handy way to transfer fuel. Livestock farmers can use a siphon to help water their animals. Take a 1/2-in. or 3/4-in. siphon and put the intake end into the water source. The company offers garden hose connectors.

Transferring 3 gals. or less makes the 3/8-in. siphon the right choice. If a farmer needs to transfer between 4 and 10 gals. of fluid, they will use the 1/2-in. model. 15-20 gal. transfers will require the 3/4-in. siphon, and above that, the 1-in. model moves 10 gals. a minute for the big jobs.

3/8-in. and 1/2-in. siphons are \$12.99 for 6-ft. and \$24.99 for 10-ft. lengths. A 3/4-in. siphon is \$23.50 for the 6-ft. and \$34.99 for the 10-ft. length. The 1-in. siphon is \$30.99 for the 6-ft. model and \$39.99 for the 10-ft. size.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Ryley, The Original Safety Siphon, 1012 S Center Ave., Somerset, Penn. 15501 (ph 724-344-4864; www.safetysiphon.net).

Rafter Light Pole Helps See Inside Shed

Boyd Brue hangs extra light exactly where he needs it in his pole shed. A 10-ft. long, 1 by 3-in. board with a wooden hook at one end and a trouble light fixture on the other is easy to place when lighting up the shadows.

"I park two trailers in my pole shed with very little room to spare," says Brue. "I can hang the light so I can see the trailer wheels in the left-hand rear mirror. I can park them within an inch of where they are supposed to be."

The beauty of the idea is a combination of simplicity and versatility. The long board can hook on virtually any cross member of the shed's rafters. Not only does it hold the trouble light on the end, but the extension cord to it is also held up and off the shed floor.

"I replaced the original light with a high-power LED," says Brue. "It gives out a lot of light. The end of the cord is wired into the overhead light circuit, but with its own switch at the light. If the overhead lights are on, I can turn this on for a little extra light."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Boyd



Trouble light attached to a 10-ft. long board with hook.

Brue, Rochester, Minn. (ph 507-269-4087; boyd.brue@gmail.com).