

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 726. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **FLOOR TILES** have a built-in suction cup pattern on their backs to permit the tiles to be laid on concrete or wood floors without the usual adhesives. The vinyl plastic tiles are tongue-and-grooved together, can be moved from spot to spot and can be easily replaced. They have a terrazo pattern.

Science News Letter, May 15, 1954

⊗ **RUBBER FISH** lure, popular for years in Europe, now is being introduced in the United States. Good for catching trout, bass, pickerel and other game fish, the lure resembles a real fish and comes in lengths of two and three inches. A larger lure for salt water is anticipated in the "near future."

Science News Letter, May 15, 1954

⊗ **BARBECUE GRILL** that can be later converted into a combination grill-oven has a strong tubular frame finished in a heat-resistant satin black with dull-chrome trimmings. The grill pan measures 12 x 18 inches and can be raised or lowered over a five-inch height. The oven, which can be purchased separately, stands 32 inches high and is 15 inches square. Steaks, ribs and chicken are cooked on suspended hooks near the oven top.

Science News Letter, May 15, 1954



⊗ **WATER TOYS** of durable plastic for children are easily inflated and are designed to withstand rugged treatment in the water. An Indian canoe, shown in the photograph, fits around the child's waist, as does a blow-up fireboat that really squirts a tiny stream of water and a "friendly alligator." A

small "toddler raft," 33 inches long, is for the boy or girl who likes to relax or paddle about.

Science News Letter, May 15, 1954

⊗ **SHOWER BATH** accessory hooks to the curtain rod and provides the user with five quick-draining pockets that can hold bath brush, shampoo, shower cap, wash cloth and soap. The device is made of plastic.

Science News Letter, May 15, 1954

⊗ **PASTE SPACKLING** putty requires no mixing and can be applied with a broad knife or a putty knife to seal hairline cracks in walls. Also good for patching wood surfaces and toys, the putty is especially designed for painters and the do-it-yourself homeowner.

Science News Letter, May 15, 1954

⊗ **PIE HOLDER** for the lunch pail or refrigerator keeps a single piece of pie from being mashed or from spilling over other foods. The polyethylene plastic holder also is said not to impart any taste or odor to the piece of pie it contains.

Science News Letter, May 15, 1954

⊗ **BONDING TAPE** permanently seals and calks aluminum sheets without nails or other fasteners, replacing adhesives and calking compounds usually needed. Applied with a heating iron, the tape is available in rolls from one inch to 50 inches wide.

Science News Letter, May 15, 1954

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5-15-4

Do You Know?

Garden plots in Waynesboro, Ga., are rented to amateur gardeners by the city's housing authority for \$1 a year.

Spittlebugs, tiny insects that form foam on alfalfa and clover, can cut hay yields by as much as 40% a year in some states.

The kind of rice and the place it is grown significantly influence most of the elements in the parts of the grain.

Canada now is considering building the world's longest and perhaps biggest natural gas pipeline; it will run from southern Alberta to Toronto and Montreal, about 2,240 miles.

Non-profit general hospitals spent \$21.09 a day for each patient in 1953, an average of \$1.60 more than the patient paid, compared with an average expenditure of \$2.83 a day for patients in mental hospitals.