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The History of Paper Towels

Posted on Monday, July 21, 2014



Towels you don't have to WASH!

2 large rolls - 25¢

These pure white Paper Towels are always fresh, clean and ready to use

HERE'S a new convenience for your kitchen. A roll of Scott towels fastened right above the sink! Something spilled on the table, bacon to drain, greasy pans to clean, glasses to polish—just reach for a Scott-Towel. Use it. Then throw it away. Nothing to wash or rinse. Made of "fibrous fiber," Scott-Towels are made as absorbent as ordinary paper towels. They really dry. 2 big rolls cost only 25¢ at grocery, drug and department stores. Or write Scott Paper Co., Chester, Pa.

Use ScottTowels for:

- Stopping up spilled liquids
- Cleaning greasy pans
- Polishing mirrors
- Wiping off clotheslines
- Drying vegetables
- Wiping milk bottles
- Draining lettuce
- Cleaning the kitchen
- Wiping sink
- Drying hands

INTRODUCTORY OFFER
 SCOTT PAPER COMPANY, CHESTER, PA.
 If your dealer does not sell ScottTowels, send us 50¢ money or stamps, and you will receive postage paid—
 2 ROLLS OF SCOTTOWELS, AND 1 ENAMELED PICTURE,
 or SEND \$1.00 FOR 4 ROLLS AND ONE PICTURE.
 Check color of towel fabric desired: heavy pale green

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Dealer's Name and Address: _____

150 towels per roll

The Scott Paper Company invents paper towels

Paper towels have become commonly used elements today, but their history dates to 1879 when Clarence and Irvin Scott – two brothers from Philadelphia founded their paper company. They began to manufacture tissue papers and 1000 sheets were part of a roll, which was sold for ten cents each.

The item was first considered for medical use and print ads helped in addressing embarrassment and increasing awareness. The head of Scott Paper Company, Arthur Scott once had a whole railroad car filled with paper. It was deemed useless because the rolls were very thick and unfit for use as toilet tissues.

Scott saves the day

Scott soon found out about a particular teacher in Philly who had come up with an idea to battle against colds in the school. Every student with a runny nose was handed a piece of soft paper so that germs wouldn't contaminate the roller towels placed in toilets.

Scott then decided to try and convince the school to purchase the carload of paper. The thick paper was perforated into rather small towel-sized sheets before

they were sold to railroad stations, restaurants and hotels for public washroom use.

The birth of paper towels

Come 1931, the company and Scott realized that paper towels had huge potential. A brand new grocery category was created in the early 1930s and paper towels were manufactured specifically for kitchen use. These rolls were eighteen inches long and thirteen inches wide, and given the convenience they brought to the average household, paper towels gained acceptance before replacing cloth towels.

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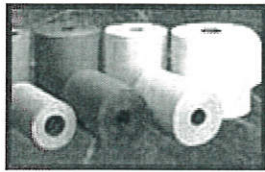


Many inventions have taken several centuries to develop into their modern forms. Each invention may be just one small step on the road to the ultimate goal. Click here to visit **ONE SMALL STEP** at TGIF.

Fascinating facts about the invention of the **Paper Towels** by **Arthur Scott** in 1907.

PAPER TOWELS

Scott Paper Company was founded by brothers E. Irvin and Clarence Scott in Philadelphia in 1879. SCOTT® Brand Tissue with 1,000 sheets was introduced at a cost of 10 cents per roll. It was considered a medical item; print ads were used to increase awareness and address embarrassment.



Arthur Scott, head of the paper products company, had big trouble. An entire railroad car full of paper, unloaded at his plant, wasn't good for anything because the paper had been rolled too thick for toilet tissue, its intended purpose. Was he going to send the whole load back?

Meanwhile, Scott heard about a certain teacher in the city school system who had developed a novel idea to help fight colds in school. She gave every runny nosed student a small piece of soft paper to use. That way the roller towel in the toilets would not become contaminated with germs. Scott decided he would try to sell the carload of paper. He perforated the thick paper into small towel-size sheets and sold them as disposable paper towels. Later he renamed the product Sani-Towel and sold them to hotels, restaurants, and railroad stations for use in public washrooms.

In 1931, Scott introduced the first paper towel for the kitchen and created a whole new grocery category. He made perforated rolls of "towels" thirteen inches wide and eighteen inches long. That is how paper towels were born. It was to take many years, however, before they gained acceptance and replaced cloth towels for kitchen use

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by Don L. Wulffson / Paperback - 128 pages (1999) / Puffin

Brief factual stories about how various familiar things were invented, many by accident, from animal crackers to the zipper.

[Panati's Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things](#)

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[Why Didn't I Think of That?: Bizarre Origins of Ingenious Inventions We Couldn't Live Without](#)

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Inventions chronicles the odd origins of famous products, explores how these inventions changed our lives, and reveals the business side of their production and distribution.

[Paper Towel Testing \(Great Explorations in Math & Science\)](#)

by Cary I. Sneider, Jacqueline Barber / Paperback - 30 pages / Great Explorations; (June 1, 1998)

This 30-page paperback book contains many science experiments with paper towels.

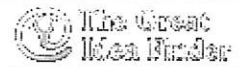
[Why Didn't I Think of That](#) (This title is out of print.)

by Webb Garrison / Hardcover - 120 pages (1977) / Prentice Hall, ISBN: 0139586032

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Paper Towels - History of Paper Towels

Paper Towels

Used in kitchens, bathrooms, and houses throughout the world, paper towels have become a necessity for sanitizing and cleaning almost anything. Despite the universal use of today, paper towels were originally designed for one purpose: to prevent the spread of colds and other diseases.

In 1907, the Scott Paper Company produced the world's first paper tissues in hopes that they would be a cleaner and more sanitary option over the use of cloth towels. As the cloth towels available in restrooms would easily spread germs and diseases, a one-time use towel was desired to stop the spread of these illnesses.

Although its design was quite useful, it took nearly twenty years of research and development by **William E. Corbin**, **Henry Chase**, and **Harold Titus**, before paper towels could be manufactured and marketed throughout the country. The finished product, which was available in 1922, was called the Nibroc Paper Towels. By 1931, the Scott Paper Company had come back with their own design; a paper towel roll that could be easily used in kitchens in addition to bathrooms.

Generally, paper towels are composed of recycled paper pulp that is extracted from wood. To achieve the familiar white color, this pulp is typically bleached. Images and figures can be added to the towel as a small decoration. Created as rolls or stacks paper towels are sold for both domestic and international use.

Currently, two-thirds of paper towel consumption can be attributed to household consumer use. However, this demand for paper products puts pressure on forestry to produce the wood necessary for the creation of the towels. The United States uses the most paper towels, therefore having the biggest environmental effect.

Today, paper towels are a common household item that many could not do without. Although the environmental effects of paper towel creation and production are beginning to be understood, the role of the paper towel in society will likely retain its strong presence within the modern household.

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Amazing & Interesting Facts About Paper Towels

Posted on [December 29, 2015](#) by [admin](#)



Houses, offices, vehicles, restaurants or cafes, paper towels today largely dominate every place. So, whether it's cleaning a table or wiping your wet hands or even wrapping precious stones and jewelry, paper towels have become a necessity for people and a day without them is simply hard to remember. However, have you ever wondered that the commodity, which we use so frequently, how and from where did it originate? The first paper towel was invented by Arthur Scott from a bunch of rejected toilet papers. The invention of the paper towel showed the way out to the cloth towels, the main culprit for spreading and germs in the society. The main unique selling point of paper towels is that they are disposable in nature and therefore, there is no question of refuse or risk of spreading illness. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Check out more interesting facts below....

Interesting & Amazing Information About Paper Towels

- Paper towels were first made by Arthur Scott. He perforated the toilet papers in small towel-size sheets and sold them. These towel-sized sheets became the first ever disposable paper towels.
- After the success of the paper towels, Scott introduced paper kitchen towels in 1931. These were 13 inch wide and 18 inches long.
- A paper towel is said to be made out of paper pulp, which gets extracted from wood or fiber crops.
- One can use either the virgin or a recyclable paper pulp. Paper towel that is made out of recycled paper pulp is good not only because it lessens the power consumption by half, but also as it leads to fall in the number of trees being cut.

- Paper towels are lightweight and made out of multiple layers for better absorption. The more the layers, the better the paper towel will absorb.
- Normally, paper towels are made out of absorbent paper, which helps them to absorb more than a cloth. Since they are loosely woven, paper towels let the water travel between them, even against gravity.
- Paper towels are classified based on their properties. They are distinguished and classified on lines of their strength, absorbency, weight and thickness. Colored paper towels are classified on whether they are for domestic or industrial use.
- Paper towels are packed individually and sold as stacks, or held in a continuous roll. These paper towels are manufactured with two to three layers of thin paper, but some might have fewer layers.
- Paper towels are at times bleached to give a whiter look. They are also some times adorned with flowers and other designs to appeal to the eyes and look good. The patterns and shapes on a paper towel are imprinted not only to make it look elegant, but also with the purpose of maximizing the absorption.
- Colored paper towels were introduced to the market 30 years ago and were launched in two different classes – domestic and industrial.
- The invention of paper towel and its wide availability and demand made it possible for most of the legislative bodies to create a law against the use of cloth towels, which spreads multiple maladies.

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