

Letters Service Corps

SPECIAL BULLETIN
September 30, 1942

INFORMATION FOR COUNTY CONSUMER CHAIRMEN, COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND COUNTY COORDINATORS ON RATIONING OF MEN'S RUBBER BOOTS AND RUBBER WORK SHOES

As the enclosed pamphlet will explain, the Government, through the Office of Price Administration, is taking steps to guarantee necessary protective rubber footwear to workers in essential industries.

This is being done by the rationing of men's rubber boots and rubber work shoes, effective September 30. This type of footwear requires such important quantities of crude rubber that it has been necessary to cut production to the bone. Nevertheless, the War Production Board has given assurance that allotments will be made to cover all essential needs.

To allay any fears among consumers, it should be pointed out that most types of rubber footwear, such as men's overshoes, work and dress rubbers; women's and children's boots, galoshes, gaiters, and rubbers, are not rationed. By use of substitutes and reclaimed rubber, it is possible to make this type of footwear with a small percentage of crude rubber. Because of this fact, it is not expected that there will be a shortage of these non-rationed types of footwear.

On the other hand, it is vital to the welfare of the nation to use the utmost care in the use of all rubber footwear to make it last just as long as possible. Educational campaigns which will make the public conscious of this fact to the point of putting forth an honest effort to buy sparingly and use carefully will help assure a permanent and adequate supply of rubber footwear for the protection of the health of the nation.

We will appreciate your efforts to reach consumers with the information that men's rubber boots and rubber work shoes have now been frozen until Monday, October 5. At this time the local War Price and Rationing Boards will issue certificates for purchase of rubber boots to workers in essential industries who can show a definite need for this protection. Please stress that this is not an effort to keep people from buying, but to assure a supply of vital rubber footwear where it is needed most. Stress also the fact that rubber overshoes as listed will not be rationed, and with patriotic care on the part of all of us there should continue to be an adequate supply.

We will also appreciate any reports of violations of the freeze order, which is effective as of midnight, September 29. From this date until October 5, no store is to sell any of these six types of rationed rubber footwear. Thereafter, such sales are only to be made on the presentation of certificates issued by local rationing boards. It is possible that through lack of information and with no willful intent, some violations will occur which will be corrected upon proper dissemination of this information. Every retailer of rationed types of footwear is to go at once to the local board for instructions. Consumers who wish to buy may go to any local board, beginning Monday, October 5, and make application for certificates which will entitle them to buy essential rubber footwear.

The first announcement of this ration order was made public to-day, September 30, so it is important immediately to use all means of spreading correct information about it. Whatever help your committees may give in this regard will be appreciated. Please use all publicity sources available, radio, newspapers and bulletin boards to spread this information as soon as possible.

Consumers Division
Oregon State Defense Council
Mrs. E. W. St. Pierre, Acting Director

HOW TO MAKE RUBBER ARTICLES LAST LONGER

Making rubber articles last longer is a real part of our war-time duty. When such articles do wear out, give or sell them to organizations or collectors who will salvage or reclaim the rubber.

Heat and sunlight shorten the life of rubber. Clean and dry thoroughly any rubber or rubberized article before storing it, then wrap it with heavy paper or put it in a covered box, such as that in which it came from the retailer. Be sure there are no sharp folds in the article and that nothing presses on it. Store rubber articles in a cool, dark place, away from hot pipes or chimneys; attics are usually too hot in the Summer.

Care: Keep rubber articles clean. Warm water and soap make the best cleaners. Don't dryclean rubber or rubberized fabrics. Paint, oil, grease and gasoline destroy rubber, causing it to swell and lose elasticity. If these things get on a rubber article, clean them off at once.

Wash rubber or rubberized bathing suits and bathing caps in clear, fresh water after each wearing and dry them in the shade.

Dust rubber gloves with talcum powder after washing them. Copper, even in small amounts, injures rubber; don't wear rubber gloves when polishing brass or copper or when scrubbing pots and pans with a ball of copper thread.

Abrasion (friction, rubbing) destroys rubber as it does everything else. Reduce friction wear by checking all equipment over which rubber articles travel (belts on vacuum sweepers, etc.) and make needed adjustments. A rubber article under tension is more likely to break or crack than the same article at rest. Keep pressure on wringer rolls even; protect them from buttons, etc. in clothes; release pressure on rolls and dry them after using the wringer.

Repair: Don't discard any rubber article without investigating the possibility of having it repaired. Many articles such as rubber raincoats, gloves, sheeting, etc. can be repaired successfully with the use of rubber cements, electrician's tape, adhesives, inner-tube patching, or with a spare piece of the article itself. Follow closely instructions given with rubber cements. Plastic rubber compounds are also useful in repairs. For repairs for which you are not equipped, consult your dealer, cobbler or tire repair man.

Overshoes: Don't leave rubber overshoes or rubbers outdoors. Let them dry slowly and thoroughly in normal temperature, away from hot stoves and radiators. Keep inside and outside of overshoes and rubbers clean. Wipe them with a damp cloth or with mild soap and water. When not in use, stuff them with crumpled paper. Put them on and take them off carefully to avoid wear and tear. Overshoes and rubbers should fit properly the shoes over which they are worn. Improper fitting may result in excess wear in places; while strain and stretching may cause tears and other damage. Worn soles of overshoes, etc. may be replaced with commercial ones made for that purpose, according to instructions provided.

Clothing: Rubber raincoats and other rubber or rubberized outer garments should not be kept folded or stored under pressure. Hang them up on clothes hangers in a cool, dark place. Don't expose them to excessive heat or sunlight.

Dropping a wet rubber raincoat in a heap may cause surfaces of the coat to stick together, ruining the finish or resulting in tears and other damage when separated. Wipe the wet coat and hang it carefully on a clothes hanger to dry, away from direct heat.

Girdles, goundation and infants' garments containing rubber should have frequent, rather than hard laundering. Use warm water and mild soap. After rinsing, roll the garment in a Turkish towel, pat-off excess moisture. Dry it in a cool or moderately warm place where there is a circulation of air, away from sunlight and hot stoves or radiators. Never put a hot iron on anything with rubber in it. Don't press elastics in garments.

Use care in putting on and taking off rubber undergarments. Stretch and strain will shorten their life. Don't use pins in rubber or rubberized material. Garments of rubber or elastic thread may be darned with a coarse thread, allowing ample margin around the break.

Hot Water Bottles: Never pour boiling water into a hot water bottle; put a little cold water into the bottom of the bottle first and then add hot water. Don't let grease or oil get on the surface of the bottle. Dry the bottle after each use. Hang it upside down. When it is thoroughly dry inside, inflate it slightly, put in the stopper and lay it flat in a dark, cool place.

Garden Hose: Avoid bending, kinking and dragging garden hose over rough surfaces of any kind. Drain hose after each use. Don't leave hose attached to faucet when not in use; wind it on a reel, leaving nozzle down so water can drain off. Store it off the ground in a cool, dry place protected from the sun.

MEN'S RUBBER BOOTS AND RUBBER WORK SHOES ARE

RATIONED!

OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TO: War Workers Who Must Wear This Rubber Footwear.

Rubber Boots and Rubber Work Shoes are just as important to you as tires are to an Army truck! We rationed tires to keep those trucks rolling. Now we're rationing this footwear to keep you working — producing to WIN the war.

Today America needs rubber so badly that we can't spare a single pair of Rubber Boots or Rubber Work Shoes for sportsmen. We can't even spare a pair to workers who can possibly wear lighter types. That's why we're rationing.

Remember. Victory rides on rubber! Don't buy any rubber footwear unless you cannot get along without a new pair. Help save every ounce of rubber you can.

Yours for Victory.

Leon Henderson
Leon Henderson.

OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

Washington, D. C.

September 1942

MEN'S RUBBER BOOTS & RUBBER WORK SHOES ARE RATIONED



*To Make Sure That They Go
Only to Workers Who Are
Producing for Victory!*

We face a severe rubber shortage—That's why we cannot make enough Men's Rubber Boots and Rubber Work Shoes for everyone who wants to buy them.

We face a big demand for this rubber footwear—In many places, the number of workers who must wear it has increased.

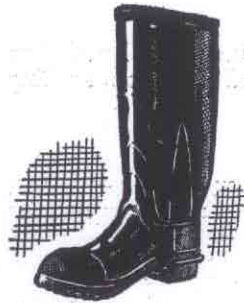
These men refine the oil that fuels our planes. They mine the coal that keeps our factory furnaces blazing. They farm . . . they fish . . . they pack meat to feed the World's Greatest Army. They do dozens of other important war-time jobs.

We must serve **FIRST** needs **FIRST**—If the men who need this Rubber Footwear most do not get it . . . production will slow down. That would be a serious blow to America and to every United Nation.

We're Rationing Now—This is the only way we can be sure that the Men's Rubber Boots and Rubber Work Shoes we make go *only* where they will do the most good—

ON THE FEET OF OUR PRODUCTION ARMY!

THESE ARE THE 6 RATIONED TYPES



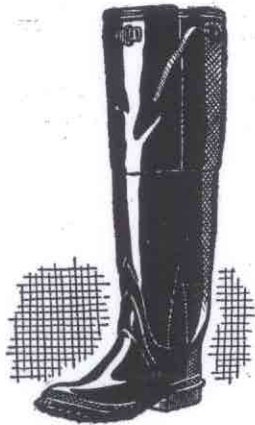
BELOW-KNEE-HEIGHT HEAVY BOOTS. (Type 3)



PACS & BOOTEES, 10 inches or higher. All laced rubber footwear of this height, and bootee types with or without laces. (Type 5)



BELOW-KNEE-HEIGHT LIGHT BOOTS. (Type 4)



ABOVE-KNEE-HEIGHT "STORM KING" BOOTS. Below hip height. (Type 2)



PACS, BOOTEES, AND WORK SHOES, less than 10 inches high. (Type 6)



HIP-HEIGHT BOOTS. All hip, body, thigh, or sporting boots. (Type 1)



The Following Kinds of Rubber Footwear Are NOT Rationed.

Men's rubber boots and work shoes smaller than size six . . . lumbermen's overs (a leather boot with a rubber foot) . . . men's arctics, gaiters, work and dress rubbers . . . women's and children's boots, rubber work shoes, arctics, gaiters, and rubbers.

HOW TO BUY MEN'S RUBBER BOOTS AND RUBBER WORK SHOES!

1. Get two copies of the Application Form R-603 from your Local War Price and Rationing Board by going to the Board in person, sending someone, or writing a letter.
2. Fill out both copies of the application:

Where the application form calls for identification fill in War Ration Book One (sugar book) . . . or driver's license, or social security or selective service card, etc.—something that you can show to your retailer when you go to buy your Rubber Boots or Rubber Work Shoes.

State what kind of work you do and explain in detail why you must have a new pair of Rubber Boots or Rubber Work Shoes in order to stay on your job.

Agree to turn in any completely worn-out Rubber Boots or Rubber Work Shoes that you may own.
3. Take or mail both copies of your application to your Local Board.
4. If the Board O.K.'s your application, you get a three-part Certificate Form R-605. This permits you to buy the type of footwear you need which will be checked on the Certificate.
5. Take or mail Parts I and III to the store or company from which you buy. This must be done within 30 days of the date of your Certificate.
6. Anyone who goes in person to buy must show the type of identification which is written on the Certificate. (See 2, above.)
7. Turn in your worn-out rubber footwear to the place named on your Certificate. The person to whom you turn it in must sign Part II of your Certificate which you must keep for 6 months. This is your proof of turn-in.

Note

If you have any trouble buying rationed rubber footwear, go to your Local War Price and Rationing Board

REMEMBER

Rubber is precious—Keep rubber footwear away from heat and sunlight—Clean it with mild soap and warm water and rinse thoroughly—Be sure to remove grease and oil promptly—Keep in a cool, dry place—Avoid folding or creasing—Have tears or worn places repaired at once before they get any worse.