

A COVER FOR A CLOTHES DRYING RACK

The present invention relates to a cover for a clothes drying rack and particularly although not solely to a cover for a clothes drying rack of a kind which
5 utilises an array of poles extending from a building such as commonly found in high rise buildings particularly in many Asian cities.

BACKGROUND

Clothes drying racks of a kind which consist of a series of poles which
10 extend side by side from a building such as a high rise complex, are commonly found in many Asian cities. Normally two or three or more poles are utilised for engaging to and suspending from, clothes which have been washed and require drying.

Once the poles are loaded, the poles are moved to their mounts which are
15 positioned to the exterior of a building and thereby expose the clothes to an environment suitable for drying such as a breeze and sunshine.

Two different kinds of clothes drying rack arrangements are employed for such purposes. A first kind utilises a cantilevered mounting bracket engaged to the exterior of a building. A pole is inserted into the bracket to become affixed to the
20 building in a cantilevered manner. Only one end of each pole is supported, the other being free from support. A second kind of clothes drying rack is where both ends of each pole are supported by a building. In some high rise situations, two facing walls within proximity of each other can be utilised for such purposes. Each wall can allow for the location of each pole to thereby be supported at both ends.

25 In high rise situations it is not uncommon to find within vertical alignment, a plurality of clothes drying racks used by different tenants within that building. In such situations, problems can arise in that drips of water and/or dye from above can land on the clothes drying on a rack below. Furthermore other undesirable elements such as bird droppings or rain can impinge onto the clothes from above and such is
30 undesirable.

It is accordingly an object of the present invention to provide a cover for a clothes drying rack which addresses the abovementioned disadvantages or which will at least provide the public with a useful choice.

5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly the present invention consists in a cover for a clothes drying rack of a kind which includes an array of spaced apart parallel rungs, said cover comprising:

10 a cover sheet of a flexible sheet material defining a quadrilateral plan shaped region of a size compatible to being positioned over at least a substantial part of said array said plan shape including a first pair of opposed perimeter sides and a second pair of opposed perimeter sides,

wherein provided at or proximate to each of said first pair of opposed perimeter sides and disposed at or towards each said second pair of opposed perimeter sides, are means to engage said cover sheet to a spanning member to hold
15 apart said second pair of opposed perimeter sides at least at said first pair of opposed perimeter sides.

Preferably provided at or proximate to each of said first pair of opposed sides are means to fasten said cover to a spanning member for each first pair of
20 opposite side perimeter sides to span apart said second pair of opposed side.

Preferably each said spanning members is rung of said clothes dying rack.

Preferably each said spanning members is a solid elongate member.

Preferably each said solid elongate member is a rod or tube.

25 Preferably said cover includes said spanning member(s).

Preferably said means to engage are provided at least at the junction of each first pair of opposed side perimeter sides with the second pair of opposed perimeter sides.

Preferably means to engage are directly engagable to said spanning
30 members.

Preferably said means to engage are sleeves into which said spanning member can or are extended into.

Preferably a plurality of means to engage are provided for said (or each said) spanning member extending between each said junction of each first pair of
5 opposed perimeter sides with the second pair of opposed perimeter sides.

Preferably for each said spanning member, a continuous means to engage is provided each extending along a respective of said first pair of opposed perimeter sides and between the respective junction of each first pair of opposed perimeter sides with the second pair of opposed perimeter sides.

10 Preferably said continuous means to engage is a sleeve of an internal size sufficient to take the external perimeter of a respective said spanning member.

Preferably said sleeve has a closed end and an open end through which said spanning member is able to be slidingly inserted into said sleeve.

Preferably at least one additional means to engage is provided to said cover
15 sheet, said additional means to engage positioned intermediate of said first mentioned means to engage provided at said first pair of opposed perimeter sides, said additional means to engage providing alternative or additional engagement points for the or an additional spanning member at, at or towards the second pair of opposed perimeter sides and intermediate of said first pair of opposed perimeter
20 sides.

Preferably said at least one additional means to engage comprises of two additional means to engage (herein after "second pair means to engage").

Preferably each said additional means to engage of said second pair is spaced inwardly from an adjacent first mentioned means to engage at an equal
25 distance to the spacing of the other of said second pair with its respective adjacent first mentioned means to engage.

Preferably said at least one additional means to engage is a sleeve which extends between said second pair of opposed perimeter sides.

Preferably said sleeve of said at least one additional means to engage is a
30 continuous sleeve.

Preferably said sleeve of said at least one additional means to engage is a continuous sleeve and includes a closed end an open end through which a said spanning means can be inserted.

5 Preferably said sleeve of said at least one additional means to engage is a continuous sleeve and extends parallel to the sleeve(s) of said first mentioned means to engage.

Preferably said perimeter of said cover sheet is coincident with said quadrilateral shape.

Preferably said quadrilateral plan shape is a square or rectangle.

10 Preferably said quadrilateral shape is a rectangle wherein the first pair of opposed perimeter sides are the major sides of said cover sheet and second pair of opposed perimeter sides are said minor sides of said cover sheet.

Preferably extension flaps of a flexible sheet material are provided disposed from said cover sheet.

15 Preferably said extension flaps are provided disposed from at least one of said first pair of opposed perimeters sides.

Preferably two extension flaps are provided one of each disposed from both of said first pair of opposed perimeter sides.

20 Preferably said extension flaps include at least one pocket provided at the free edges of said extension flaps parallel with said first pair of opposed perimeter sides.

Preferably said at least one pocket is an additional sleeve into which additional spanning member can extend into.

25 Preferably said additional sleeve is provided at the lower longitudinal edge of said extension flaps.

Preferably said additional sleeve is provided at the edges of said extension flaps that are perpendicular to the plane of said cover.

Preferably said at least one pocket is provided with weights.

30 Preferably an extension flap (herein after "end extension flap") is also provided disposed from one of said second pair of opposed perimeter sides.

Preferably said end extension flap is provided from the one of said second pair of opposed perimeter sides opposite to where the openings to the sleeves of said means to engage are provided.

5 Preferably where said clothes drying rack is of a kind which supports said rungs in a cantilevered manner from a building structure, said cover also includes a means to support said at least one spanning member from said building structure.

Preferably said means to support is a cantilever support providing means to support said at least one spanning member in a cantilever manner from said building structure.

10 Preferably said cantilever support can support said cover independent of other support.

Preferably where said clothes drying rack is of a kind which supports said rungs between supports engaged to spaced apart walls of building structure, said cover also includes a means to support said at least one spanning member from said building structure.

15 Preferably said means to support is a bracket to be provided at each wall of said building structure with which said spanning member can engage to receive upward support there from.

Preferably a said bracket is provided each end of each spanning member to receive said distal ends of each spanning member.

20 Preferably said flexible sheet material is a polymeric material.

Preferably said polymeric material is polyethylene.

In a further aspect the present invention consist in a a cover for a clothes drying rack of a kind which includes an array of spaced apart parallel rungs, said cover comprising:

25 a cover sheet of a flexible sheet material defining a quadrilateral plan shaped region of a size to be positioned over at least a substantial part of said array said plan shape including a first pair of opposed perimeter sides and a second pair of opposed perimeter sides,

30 means to span the cover sheet

means to fasten the cover sheet to said means to span, said means to fasten provided at or proximate to each of said first pair of opposed perimeter sides and disposed at or towards each said second pair of opposed perimeter sides, are means to fasten

5 wherein said means to span extends between said means to fasten to hold apart at least said second pair of opposed perimeter sides at least at said first pair of opposed perimeter sides.

10 This invention may also be said broadly to consist in the parts, elements and features referred to or indicated in the specification of the application, individually or collectively, and any or all combinations of any two or more of said parts, elements or features, and where specific integers are mentioned herein which have known equivalents in the art to which this invention relates, such known equivalents are deemed to be incorporated herein as if individually set forth.

15 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 1 is an end view of two parts of a building structure illustrating a series of vertically spaced clothes drying racks,

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a clothes drying rack which may be utilised in a manner as shown in Figure 1 wherein a cover is engaged therewith,

20 **Figure 3** illustrates a perspective view of an alternative form of a cover,

Figure 4 illustrates a perspective view of an alternative form of a cover,

Figure 5 illustrates an alternative form of a cover,

Figure 6 illustrates an alternative form of a cover,

Figure 7 illustrates a perspective view of the cover of Figure 2,

25 **Figure 8** is an end view of part of a cover,

Figure 9 is an end view of Figure 8 with the cover in use,

Figure 10 is a perspective view of a cantilevered clothes drying rack with a cover of a kind as shown in Figure 7 engaged therewith,

30 **Figure 11** is a perspective view of a cover with which the spanning rods are to be engaged,

Figure 12 is a perspective view of an alternative form of a cover,

Figure 13 is a perspective view of a mounting for the spanning rods of the present invention,

Figure 14 is a bottom view of a clothes drying rack with a cover of the present invention engaged,

5 **Figure 15** is a perspective view of an alternative arrangement of cover wherein a different form of spanning rods are utilised,

Figure 16 is an alternative form of cover with alternative forms of spanning rods provided,

10 **Figure 17** is a perspective view of a further variation to a cover of the present invention, and

Figure 18 is a sectional view through a cover and wherein the provision of the sleeves 20 is slightly different to the more preferred form as shown in Figure 4.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

15 With reference to Figure 1 there is shown a plurality of clothes drying racks 1. In the configuration of Figure 1 each clothes drying rack spans between two fixed structures of a building 3. Such fixed structures may be two separate towers or may be facing walls of a alcove or the like. The clothes drying racks are positioned for occupants of each unit of the building to utilise the facilities for
20 drying their clothes. Often such racks are provided within a vertically aligned arrangement along one side of the building.

With reference to Figure 2 which shows a detailed view of a clothes drying rack of a kind as shown in Figure 1, it can be seen that an array of rungs 4 may be provided to define the clothes drying rack. In this configuration, each rung is
25 engaged at both distal ends with a building structure 3.

In an alternative form, as for example shown in Figure 10 the rungs 4 of a clothes drying rack may be cantilevered by cantilever support fixtures 46 engaged to a wall of a building. The rungs can be inserted into support apertures of the cantilever support fixtures 46 to support the rungs in a cantilevered manner from the
30 building. Accordingly, in the configuration of Figure 10 the rungs are supported at one of their ends only.

The rungs are preferably longitudinally extending members. In one preferred form the longitudinal direction of each rung is substantially horizontal however it is envisaged that alternative angles may be adopted. For example in the cantilevered version of a clothes drying rack each rung in a longitudinal direction may be pointing slightly upwards from its attachment point with the building. However across the array of rungs the array does preferably extend horizontally.

The cover of the present invention and with reference to Figure 4 comprises of a cover sheet 5. The cover sheet 5 or part thereof defines in the preferred embodiment a quadrilateral plan shaped region 6. The quadrilateral plan shaped region is bounded by four sides, a first pair of sides 7, 8 and a second pair of sides 9, 10. The cover sheet 5 may in addition to the quadrilateral shaped region 6 have extensions such as, for example, the extensions 12, 13 as shown in Figure 17. Notwithstanding the extensions 12, 13 as shown in Figure 17 a quadrilateral shaped region 6 at least is still defined by the cover sheet.

In the most preferred form the first pair of sides 7, 8 of the quadrilateral shaped region, are parallel and define part of the perimeter boundary to the cover sheets along their respective edges. Such edges preferably correspond to and to be positioned proximate and along the outermost rungs of an array of rungs. It may however be that the width side 7 to side 8 of the quadrilateral shaped region is not of the same width to cover all rungs of a clothes drying rack and accordingly the sides may run along side and adjacent rungs inwardly from the outermost rungs of the clothes drying rack.

With reference to Figure 4, the second pair of sides 9, 10 are preferably also parallel. In the most preferred form the second pair of sides are of a shorter length than the first pair of sides 7, 8. The first and second pair of sides 7, 8 and 9, 10 are preferably commensurate with the plan shape of the cover sheet and are such as for example shown in Figures 3-5.

As can be seen with reference to the drawings the cover sheet 5 preferably provides each pair of opposed edges 7, 8 and 9, 10 perpendicular to each other to define either a rectangular or square quadrilateral plan shape.

The length in the direction longitudinal with the longer pair of edges 7, 8 is preferably of a length sufficient to extend from the base 15 of the clothes drying rack to the free end 16 of the drying rack as shown in Figure 10. For the version of the rack of Figure 2 the cover is preferably of a length which can extend
 5 approximate to and between the two base ends of the rack where each rung is engaged with a building structure. The width of the cover sheet is preferably sufficient to allow for the cover sheet to extend laterally (lateral to the longitudinal direction of the rungs) across the clothes drying rack to thereby extend its cover over a substantial part of all of the rungs of the rack. In some situations where the
 10 array of rungs extends horizontally across a larger area a plurality of covers of the present invention may be utilised or a single cover of an appropriate width may be utilised.

In order to provide a means of fixing the cover sheet to remain in a condition to allow it to cover the clothes drying on the clothes drying rack fastening means
 15 are provided. In its basic form the fastening means 20 allow for the second edges 9, 10 of the cover sheet to remain spaced apart. The spaced apart condition is preferably a condition where the cover sheet is taut in the longitudinal direction as a result of the spacing apart of the edges 9, 10.

To achieve such a condition, the fastener means 20 can accordingly engage
 20 with a or several spanning members or rods 22. The spanning rods 22 are preferably solid and substantially rigid rods of an elongate form which can allow for the edge 10 to remain displaced from the edge 9. The spanning rods 22 preferably engage with the cover sheet at the corners 25 between the first and second edges 7, 8 and 9, 10. The spanning rods 22 are of a length at least long enough to extend
 25 between corners in the longitudinal direction.

With reference to Figure 16 the corners 25 may be corners of opposite sides of the cover sheet however with reference to Figure 4, the corners are preferably on the same side of the cover sheet.

The spanning rods 22 are preferably of a circular cross section and may be of
 30 a pipe or solid sectional form. The spanning rods 22 keep the edges 7, 8 taut thereby maintaining the separation between the edges 9, 10 ensuring that a useful

area of coverage is maintained by the cover sheet during use. With the spanning rods 22 engaged with the cover sheet the cover sheet may be placed in position by laying this over the array of rungs of the clothes drying rack. In order to ensure that the cover sheet which may be subject to wind loading, is not dislodged from its position in use, the rods are preferably secured to a fixed structure such as the building 3 from which the rungs of the clothes drying rack are disposed and/or the rungs themselves. The spanning rods 22 may engage with the building in a like manner to the manner in which the rungs of the clothes drying rack are engaged by the use of the cantilever fixtures. Indeed the spanning rods 22 may be the same rods that are normally utilised by the clothes drying rack as the rungs thereof.

Alternatively an additional support device 29 may be provided immediately exterior of the array of rungs and such may be provided in a manner where such additional support 29 and the cantilever rungs support fixtures 46 are formed of a unitary item, such as for example as shown in Figure 13.

In the configuration where the clothes drying rack is supported by two building structures as for example as shown in Figure 2, the rack 32 used for supporting the array of rungs may include a support region supporting the spanning rods 22. The rack 32 may include a plurality of reliefs 33 with which the rungs are engaged and a like support to the spanning rods may be provided in the bracket 32. Such support relieving is provided on each side exterior of the array of rungs on the brackets on each of the building structure. In this manner the spanning rods 22 are positioned to extend at both ends and sides of the array of rungs of the clothes drying rack.

In the preferred form, the fastening means 20 are continuous sleeves as shown in Figure 4. Each of the continuous sleeves 20 has a closed end and an opened end through which the spanning rods 22 are able to slidingly insert into the sleeves 20. It is appreciated that both ends of the sleeves 20 can be opened ended also.

Alternatively, a plurality of non-continuous sleeves 40, 42 as shown in Figure 3 may also be provided. Each non-continuous sleeve 40, 42 has opened ends.

In an alternative form, the last non-continuous sleeve 42 has an opened end and a closed end. The closed end is disposed at the corner of the second pair of edge 10.

The internal size of the sleeves of both configurations as shown in Figures 3 and 4 should be sufficient to accommodate the external perimeter of the spanning rods 22.

The spanning rods 22 are engaged to interact in the desired manner with the cover sheet at least at the corners 25 between the first and second edges 7, 8 and 9, 10 by sliding the spanning rods 22 through the respective sleeves 20. The cover sheet is spanned by the sliding action of the spanning rods 22 through the sleeves 20 until first pair of sides 7 and 8 and the cover sheet are taut.

In an alternative form the spanning rods may be engaged into or with grommets provided at each of the corners of the rectangular section of the cover sheet. Guys may connect between the rods and the grommets or alternatively the grommets may have part of the rods engaged therewith for the purposes of spanning the edges 9, 10 apart.

The sleeves 20 are disposed parallel to the edges of the cover sheet. In particular, they are parallel to the first pair of sides 7, 8 of the cover sheet.

In the preferred form, the sleeves 20 are cylindrical, i.e. of a circular cross section and are of a shape that corresponds with the spanning rods 22 for the engagement of the spanning rods 22 through the sleeves 20.

In an alternative form, sleeve 20 is of an incomplete circular cross section as shown in Figures 8 and 9. The partial circular portion defines a cavity 48 for engagement with the spanning rod. In this configuration, when the spanning rod 22 is inserted slidingly through the sleeve 20, part of the longitudinal surface of the spanning rod 22 is exposed. The spanning rod 22 may also be inserted into the sleeve 20 by placing the spanning rod 22 parallel to the sleeve 20 at the opening 50 of the cavity 48 and pushing the spanning rod into said cavity 48 of the sleeve 20. Such an incomplete circular cross section form may have, for example, the hook material of a hooked loop fastening material on the insides of one portion 49 and the loop material on the second portion 51 of the cavity sides to thus engage and

retain the sleeve as in Figure 9. Alternatively, the incomplete circular cross-section may be biased open and/or closed.

In an alternative form, at least one additional pair of fastening means 60 or sleeves 60 is provided to the cover sheet (as shown in figure 6), positioned interior
5 to the first pair of sleeves 20 that are disposed at the first pair of sides 7, 8 of the cover sheet. Each sleeve of said additional pair of sleeves 60 is placed preferably the same amount inwardly parallel to said first pair of sleeves 20. The additional pair of sleeves 60 provides alternative or additional fastening points for the or an additional spanning rod(s). The additional sleeves 60 are provided such that the
10 cover sheet can still be employed in cases where the support device 29, that is provided on the exterior of the building for securing the spanning rods 22 of the cover sheet to the wall, are placed at varying distances. It will be appreciated by a person skilled in the art that a plurality of additional pairs of sleeves 60 may be provided.

15 By providing more than one location for engagement of the spanning rods with the cover wherein such locations are of a distal spatial relationship the cover of the present invention can be configured for different sized close drying racks. For example the two inwardly more sleeves 60 as shown in Figure 6 can be utilized for allowing the cover to be provided to a more narrower clothes drying rack than the if
20 the sleeves 20 were used. For additional securement weighted members 100 may be provided to keep the cover or for example the side portions 72 of the cover in place.

Alternatively, additional securing means for securing the cover sheet to prevent the cover sheet from displacing in windy situations when in used may also
25 be provided. Such additional securing means 62 may be the form as shown in figure 5 where additional clips for inserting of additional spanning rod are provided on the top surface of the cover sheet.

Other arrangements of the sleeves 20 and correspondingly the spanning rods 22 may also be provided, for examples those as shown in Figures 15 and 16.

30 In Figure 15, two interrupted or continuous sleeves are provided to receive a flexible spanning rod 22 interval thereof. Each sleeve 20 may be curvilinear and

extends from one corner, such as that formed by edges 8 and 9, inwards towards the centre of the cover and out again to another corner, such as that formed by edges 8 and 10. A similar sleeve and spanning rod is on the opposing side to thereby form two semi-circular shaped regions. Alternatively no sleeves 20, 22 may be provided
 5 in the configuration as shown in Figure 15 but wherein the spanning rods are in the same position and due to inherent tension in the rods (where for example rigidly flexible rods are utilised), they remain in an appropriate condition to ensure the spanning of the edges 9 and 10 away from each other and simultaneously also the edges 7 and 8. A fastening means 64 is used to fasten the two sleeves and spanning
 10 rods together at their mid-points. Alternatively, the spanning rods may only engage the cover 2 at the corners and possibly at a point such as at 64.

In Figure 16, two rods 22 each extend diagonally across from one corner of the second pair of sides 9, 10 to other corner of the first pair of sides 9, 10. Additionally, a pair of rods parallel to the second pair of sides 9 and 10 may also be
 15 provided for additional support.

In the configurations as shown in Figures 15 and 16, it is not merely the edges 9 and 10 which are maintained in spaced apart condition from each other but simultaneously also edges 7 and 8. In the clothes drying rack as for example shown in Figure 7 the clothes drying rack *per se* will not allow for edges 7 and 8 to remain
 20 displaced from each other since the sheet material defining the cover is not rigid. In the configuration of Figure 7 it is the mounting of the spanning rods which ensures the sheet is maintained in a condition to provide an effective span of size over the clothes on the clothes drying rack. Such other means may be by the mounting of the spanning rods with a bracket or by the fixing of the spanning rods with the runs
 25 of the clothes drying rack. Alternatively gravity may be sufficient to keep the rods apart and thereby keeping the edges 7 and 8 displaced from each other. Although wind may where gravity only is being utilised, allow for the displacement of the edges 7 and 8 together thereafter requiring readjustment by a person of the cover.

The sleeves 20 of the present invention are preferably heat sealed or plastic
 30 welded to the cover sheet 5. It will however be appreciated by a person skilled in

the art that alternative sealing and welding methods and other methods for securing the sleeves to the cover sheet may be employed.

Flaps 70 (as shown in Figures 7 and 12) which when in use, hang from the sleeved edges of the cover sheet may be provided such as to provide additional protection to the clothes from rain, etc. The flaps 70 or part thereof defines a quadrilateral plan shaped region 72. In the preferred form, the flaps 70 are of the same shape as the cover sheet and the longitudinal sides 74 of the flaps 70 are of the same length as the longitudinal sides 7, 8 of the cover sheet. The longitudinal sides of the flaps are preferably parallel to each other and the same applies to the shorter sides of the flaps.

The flaps 70 and the cover sheet may be made from a single sheet of material. In the preferred form, the flaps 70 and the cover sheet are made of two separate sheets of material and preferably, they are made from the same material.

In order to prevent displacement of the flaps 70 in windy situations, at least one additional sleeve of the kind similar to those provided on the cover sheet may be provided on one major surface of the flaps 70 and preferably at the lower edge 74 of the flaps 70 such that additional spanning rods can be inserted to provide additional weight to the flaps 70. It will be appreciated by a person skilled in the art that at least one additional sleeve may also be provided at either or both of the shorter sides of the flaps.

In an alternative form, pockets of various sizes for holding weights 76 of various kinds are provided at spaced intervals on the major surface of the flaps and preferably along the lower edge 74 of the flaps 70. The said pockets may be sewn or welded onto the flaps and are not limited to such methods.

The cover sheet 5, the sleeves 20 and the flaps 70 of the present invention are made of waterproof material, preferably but not limited to polyethylene. The cover sheet 5, the sleeves 20 and the flaps 70 preferably are also made of UV resistant materials. It will be appreciated by a person skilled in the art that the cover sheet 5, the sleeves 20 and the flaps 70 can each be made of different materials.

When the cover sheet 5 of the present invention is in use, prior to placing the cover sheet 5 over a substantial part of all of the rungs of the rack, spanning rods 22

are slidably inserted into each of the sleeves 20. The cover sheet 5 is pulled and taut by the sliding action of the spanning rods 22 through the sleeves 20. After the engagement of the spanning rods 22 to the cover sheet 5, the cover sheet 5 is placed in position over the rungs of the rack. The ends of the spanning rods 22 that are
5 closer to the building are then secured to the fixed structure, such as the support device 29 provided on the walls of the building.

In the situation where figure 2 is used, the spanning rods 22 may at each end then be engaged to the racks 32.

Where reference herein is made to a clothes drying rack, it is to be
10 appreciated that this is the normal use of the device described, however some users may utilise the rack for the airing of clothes and certainly the present invention is not limited to its use with a rack of this kind used purely for drying of clothes.

15

20

25

30

CLAIMS

5

1. A cover for a clothes drying rack of a kind which includes an array of spaced apart parallel rungs, said cover comprising:

a cover sheet of a flexible sheet material defining a quadrilateral plan shaped region of a size compatible to being positioned over at least a substantial part of said array said plan shape including a first pair of opposed perimeter sides and a
10 second pair of opposed perimeter sides,

wherein provided at or proximate to each of said first pair of opposed perimeter sides and disposed at or towards each said second pair of opposed perimeter sides, are means to engage said cover sheet to a spanning member to hold
15 apart said second pair of opposed perimeter sides at least at said first pair of opposed perimeter sides.

2. A cover as claimed in claim 1 wherein provided at or proximate to each of said first pair of opposed sides are means to fasten said cover to a spanning member
20 for each first pair of opposite side perimeter sides to span apart said second pair of opposed side.

3. A cover as claimed in claim 2 wherein each said spanning members is rung of said clothes dying rack.

25

4. A cover as claimed in claim 2 wherein each said spanning members is a solid elongate member.

5. A cover as claimed in claim 4 wherein each said solid elongate member is a
30 rod or tube.

6. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said cover includes said spanning member(s).

7. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein said means to engage are provided at least at the junction of each first pair of opposed side perimeter sides with the second pair of opposed perimeter sides.

8. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 7 wherein means to engage are directly engagable to said spanning members.

10

9. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein said means to engage are sleeves into which said spanning member can or are extended into.

10. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein a plurality of means to engage are provided for said (or each said) spanning member extending between each said junction of each first pair of opposed perimeter sides with the second pair of opposed perimeter sides.

11. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein for each said spanning member, a continuous means to engage is provided each extending along a respective of said first pair of opposed perimeter sides and between the respective junction of each first pair of opposed perimeter sides with the second pair of opposed perimeter sides.

12. A cover as claimed in claim 11 wherein said continuous means to engage is a sleeve of an internal size sufficient to take the external perimeter of a respective said spanning member.

13. A cover as claimed in claim 12 wherein said sleeve has a closed end and an open end through which said spanning member is able to be slidably inserted into said sleeve.

14. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein at least one additional means to engage is provided to said cover sheet, said additional means to engage positioned intermediate of said first mentioned means to engage provided at
5 said first pair of opposed perimeter sides, said additional means to engage providing alternative or additional engagement points for the or an additional spanning member at, at or towards the second pair of opposed perimeter sides and intermediate of said first pair of opposed perimeter sides.
- 10 15. A cover as claimed in claim 14 wherein said at least one additional means to engage comprises of two additional means to engage (herein after "second pair means to engage").
- 15 16. A cover as claimed in claim 15 wherein each said additional means to engage of said second pair is spaced inwardly from an adjacent first mentioned means to engage at an equal distance to the spacing of the other of said second pair with its respective adjacent first mentioned means to engage.
- 20 17. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 16 wherein said at least one additional means to engage is a sleeve which extends between said second pair of opposed perimeter sides.
18. A cover as claimed in claim 17 wherein said sleeve of said at least one additional means to engage is a continuous sleeve.
- 25 19. A cover as claimed in claims 17 or 18 wherein said sleeve of said at least one additional means to engage is a continuous sleeve and includes a closed end an open end through which a said spanning means can be inserted.

20. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 19 wherein said sleeve of said at least one additional means to engage is a continuous sleeve and extends parallel to the sleeve(s) of said first mentioned means to engage.

5 21. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 20 wherein said perimeter of said cover sheet is coincident with said quadrilateral shape.

22. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 21 wherein said quadrilateral plan shape is a square or rectangle.

10

23. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 22 wherein said quadrilateral shape is a rectangle wherein the first pair of opposed perimeter sides are the major sides of said cover sheet and second pair of opposed perimeter sides are said minor sides of said cover sheet.

15

24. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 23 wherein extension flaps of a flexible sheet material are provided disposed from said cover sheet.

25. A cover as claimed in claim 24 wherein said extension flaps are provided
20 disposed from at least one of said first pair of opposed perimeter sides.

26. A cover as claimed in claim 24 wherein two extension flaps are provided one of each disposed from both of said first pair of opposed perimeter sides.

25 27. A cover as claimed in claim 26 wherein said extension flaps include at least one pocket provided at the free edges of said extension flaps parallel with said first pair of opposed perimeter sides.

28. A cover as claimed in claim 27 wherein said at least one pocket is an
30 additional sleeve into which additional spanning member can extend into.

29. A cover as claimed in claim 28 wherein said additional sleeve is provided at the lower longitudinal edge of said extension flaps.
30. A cover as claimed in claim 28 wherein said additional sleeve is provided at the edges of said extension flaps that are perpendicular to the plane of said cover.
31. A cover as claimed in claim 27 wherein said at least one pocket is provided with weights.
32. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 31 wherein an extension flap (herein after "end extension flap") is also provided disposed from one of said second pair of opposed perimeter sides.
33. A cover as claimed in claim 32 wherein said end extension flap is provided from the one of said second pair of opposed perimeter sides opposite to where the openings to the sleeves of said means to engage are provided.
34. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 33 wherein where said clothes drying rack is of a kind which supports said rungs in a cantilevered manner from a building structure, said cover also includes a means to support said at least one spanning member from said building structure.
35. A cover as claimed in claim 34 wherein said means to support is a cantilever support providing means to support said at least one spanning member in a cantilever manner from said building structure.
36. A cover as claimed in claim 35 wherein said cantilever support can support said cover independent of other support.
37. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 33 wherein where said clothes drying rack is of a kind which supports said rungs between supports engaged to

spaced apart walls of building structure, said cover also includes a means to support said at least one spanning member from said building structure.

38. A cover as claimed in claim 37 wherein said means to support is a bracket to be provided at each wall of said building structure with which said spanning member can engage to receive upward support there from.

39. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 38 wherein a said bracket is provided each end of each spanning member to receive said distal ends of each spanning member.

40. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 39 wherein said flexible sheet material is a polymeric material.

41. A cover as claimed in claim 40 wherein said polymeric material is polyethylene.

42. A cover for a clothes drying rack of a kind which includes an array of spaced apart parallel rungs, said cover comprising:
a cover sheet of a flexible sheet material defining a quadrilateral plan shaped region of a size to be positioned over at least a substantial part of said array said plan shape including a first pair of opposed perimeter sides and a second pair of opposed perimeter sides,

means to span the cover sheet

means to fasten the cover sheet to said means to span, said means to fasten provided at or proximate to each of said first pair of opposed perimeter sides and disposed at or towards each said second pair of opposed perimeter sides, are means to fasten

wherein said means to span extends between said means to fasten to hold apart at least said second pair of opposed perimeter sides at least at said first pair of opposed perimeter sides..