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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THERMOTIC DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED [GB/GB]; 74 High Street, Bruton, Somerset BA10 0AJ (GB).			
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SEARLE, Matthew, John [GB/GB]; 74 High Street, Bruton, Somerset BA10 0AJ (GB). RICHARDSON, Robert, Neil [GB/GB]; Brackendale, Sway Road, Brockenhurst, Hampshire SO42 7SG (GB).			
(74) Agent: NEEDLE, Jacqueline; W.H. Beck, Greener & Co., 7 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3SZ (GB).			

(54) Title: SELF-HEATING OR SELF-COOLING CONTAINERS

(57) Abstract

A self-heating container (10) has an internal cavity (22) for its contents and an external cavity (20) for a heating mechanism, for example, comprised of first and second chemically reactive materials which are arranged to be mixed when heating is required. A closure (30) closes the external cavity (20). When the heating mechanism is operated to mix the chemicals and cause an exothermic reaction, vapour, such as steam and hot air, is produced. The vapour is constrained to flow to the exterior of the closure (30) through grooves (62) therein. A sleeve (60) is arranged around the container (10) contiguous to the closure (30) such that the exiting vapour is constrained to flow between the sleeve (30) and the can (10). By this means, a user of the can is protected from coming into contact with the hot steam and air and the heat in the vapour generated can enhance the heating process. Preferably, the sleeve (60) is constructed of an absorbent material, such as a cardboard, to absorb any condensates and this absorbent material is surrounded by an impermeable plastics material to insulate the user from the heat of the reaction.

