

DISPOSABLE PILLOW OR CUSHION COVER

Technical Field

This invention relates to pillows and cushions.

Background Art

- 5 Pillows and cushions are generally formed by encasing some form of filling within a sealed envelope. The filling can take many forms from non-resilient cotton waste to resilient foam rubber and a wide variety of other materials. In most cases, the envelope is formed from a cloth or similar material, and very often, a covering such as a pillow case or cushion cover is used over the cushion or pillow. These covers
- 10 are also normally formed from a cloth and usually serve the dual role of being decorative and permitting laundering without the need to launder the encased pillow or cushion.

- When pillows and cushions are used as a support for the head of a person, the face comes in very close contact with the outer surface. Consequently, the user breathes
- 15 the air surrounding the pillow. Both the outer covering of the pillow or cushion and the pillow or cushion itself, are susceptible to contamination by saliva, perspiration and other bodily fluids of previous users. This can lead to offensive odours being inhaled by subsequent user, and in some cases, the risk of inhalation or contact with germs or viruses. Whilst the practice of changing pillow cases or cushion covers does
- 20 to some extent avoid this problem, it does not adequately deal with the problem of contamination of the pillow or cushion itself.

Disclosure of Invention

It is an object of this invention to provide a pillow or cushion cover which will overcome, or at least, ameliorate the foregoing disadvantages.

Accordingly, in one aspect, this invention consists in a disposable pillow or cushion cover comprising an envelope of air and moisture impermeable material to encase said pillow or cushion and provide an impermeable resting surface upon which a user may rest the head or other body part, vent means in said envelope to permit ingress and egress of air from said pillow or cushion, said vent means being disposed to direct egressing air away from said resting surface, access means in said envelope to permit insertion and removal of the pillow or cushion, and a facing layer of air permeable material extending substantially over said resting surface and being secured to said envelope at spaced apart locations to allow air flow and a degree of relative movement between said facing layer and said envelope.

Preferably, the access means takes the form of an overlapping flap of the envelope covering an opening in the side of the envelope opposite to the resting surface. In a preferred form, fastening means can be included to releasably secure the flap to the envelope. These can take the form of a conventionally available fastening, such as a hook and loop fastening of the kind sold under the trade mark VELCRO.

In another preferred form, the flap includes means to selectively effect an air and moisture impermeable seal. This can take the form, for example, of a press to engage type seal of the kind used on resealable plastic bags and known by the trade mark MAGIC SEAL.

The vent means preferably takes the form of a series of holes in the side of the envelope opposite to the resting surface. In a preferred form, the holes are located in a central region of the opposite surface so as to be as physically removed from the resting surface as possible.

The facing layer is preferably secured to the pillow by being secured at its perimeter edges. In an alternative embodiment, the facing layer can be quilted to the surface of the envelope at spaced apart locations by gluing for example.

- It will be apparent that the forgoing invention provides a conveniently disposable cover, which can be changed between users to avoid the risk of exposure to contamination of the pillow by a previous user. The cover does not interfere with the normal ingress and egress of air from the pillow, and thus, does not effect the resilient qualities of the pillow. Additionally, the facing layer provided over the resting surfaces provides a comfortable surface for the user and allows the flow of air to avoid discomfort that would experienced if the layer contacting the user were impermeable. The disposable cover thus provides a clean surface to each new user and can, if desired be sterilised, or otherwise treated, such as by impregnation with a fragrance. A range of fragrances can be used depending upon the requirements of users. An appropriate fragrance can enhance the comfort of the user.
- 15 It is also possible to incorporate a resilient layer between the facing layer and the impermeable layer to provide additional comfort for the user. Preferably, the resilient layer is formed from foam rubber or the like and can be laminated to the impermeable layer.

Brief Description of Drawings

- 20 One embodiment of the invention will now be described, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a cross sectional view of the disposable pillow or cushion cover of this invention fitted to a pillow;

Figure 2 is a perspective view showing the top of the cover shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a perspective view showing the bottom of the cover shown in Figure 1;

- 5 Figure 4 is a cross sectional view similar of Figure 1 of a modified embodiment of the cover of this invention;

Figure 5 is a perspective view showing part of a further embodiment of the pillow or cushion cover of this invention;

- Figure 6 is a perspective view showing the part of Figure 5 and the remainder of the
10 cover of the further embodiment; and

Figure 7 is a perspective view of part of another embodiment of the pillow or cushion cover of this invention.

Best mode for carrying out the invention

Referring to Figure 1 to 3

- 15 The disposable pillow or cushion cover 1 of this invention is formed by an envelope of air and moisture impermeable material 2 which encases a pillow 3. The envelope 2 is formed from any suitable pliable moisture and air impermeable materials such as polyethylene. A facing layer 4 of cloth of the like provides the upper or resting surface 5 of the cover. The facing 4 is attached to the envelope along the side seams
20 6 and end seams 7 of the envelope or other in words, along the perimeter of the facing

layer. This allows an air flow between the envelope and the facing layer, as well as a degree of relative movement between the layers. This arrangement increases the comfort of the user by allowing air circulation to avoid excessive perspiration and movement to improve the feel of the pillow. There is however sufficient friction
5 between the respective layers and the pillow to avoid a slippery feel to the cover.

The side 8 opposite to the resting surface 5 incorporates an opening 9 covered by a flap 10. This opening permits the insertion and removal of the pillow from the cover. The overlap of flap 10 is in the nature of the opening provided in a conventional pillow case, whereby the sides of the overlap are secured, so that the opening is
10 normally closed, but can be manipulated to allow a pillow to be inserted and removed.

A series of holes 11 are also provided in the opposite side 8 to form a vent, which allows the egress and ingress of air from the envelope. This allows the normal movement of air in and out of the pillow during use, but directs this air away from the resting surface.

15 Figure 4 shows a modified embodiment of the cover which is identical to the first embodiment described above except for the inclusion of a layer of resilient material 12 between facing layer 4 and envelope 2. The layer is preferably bonded to the envelope material, which reinforces the insulating layer and is provided to improve the comfort to the user.

20 Figures 5 and 6 show a further embodiment of a cover of this invention. Where applicable like reference numerals have been used to indicate corresponding features to the embodiments described above. In the embodiment of Figures 5 and 6, the resilient layer 12 is secured to the facing layer 4 to form a composite element 17.

This can be achieved by attaching the layers along their perimeters for example, or by any other suitable method. The underside of resilient layer 12 is provided with two strips of adhesive material 13 along opposed edges. Corresponding lines of adhesive material are provided on the envelope 2. This allows the composite 17 formed by resilient layer 12 and facing layer 4 to be releaseably secured to the envelope 2. The composite 17 can thus be removed from the envelope 2 and replaced with a fresh composite. This allows the envelope 2 to be re-used a number of times.

Figure 7 shows part of a further embodiment of the cover somewhat similar to the embodiment shown in Figures 5 and 6. Again, where applicable the same reference numerals have been used to indicate corresponding features. As for the previous embodiment a composite 17 element is formed by securing resilient layer 12 to facing layer 4 about their respective parameters. Four strings or tapes 15 are secured to the undersurface of resilient layer 4 by means of adhesive stickers 16. In use, these tapes are passed around an envelope 2 similar shown in Figure 6 without the adhesive strips. The strings are secured by tying the ends of adjacent pairs to hold the composite 17 to the envelope 2. This allows the composite to be replaced without the need to replace the envelope 2. Accordingly, the envelope 2 can be re-used a number of times until it is damaged or soiled.

In use, the disposable pillow or cushion cover according to this invention is used in the manner of a pillow case, and is replaced either when soiled or between users of the pillow or cushion.

The foregoing describes only one embodiment of the invention and modifications can be made thereto without departing from the scope of the invention.



CLAIMS

1. A disposable pillow or cushion cover comprising an envelope of air and moisture impermeable material to encase said pillow or cushion and provide an impermeable resting surface upon which a user may rest the head or other body part, vent means in said envelope to permit ingress and egress of air from said pillow or cushion, said vent means being disposed to direct egressing air away from said resting surface, access means in said envelope to permit insertion and removal of the pillow or cushion, and a facing layer of air permeable material extending substantially over said resting surface, and being secured to said envelope at spaced apart locations to allow air flow and a degree of relative movement between said facing layer and said envelope.
2. A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the access means takes the form of an overlapping flap of the envelope covering opening in the side of the envelope opposite to the resting surface.
3. A cover as claimed in claim 2, wherein said flap includes fastening means to releaseably secure the flap to the envelope.
4. A cover as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the flap includes means to selectively effect an air and moisture impermeable seal.
5. A cover as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein said vent means takes the form of a series of holes in the side of the envelope opposite to the resting surface.



6. A cover as claimed in claim 5, wherein said holes are located in a central region of the side opposite to said resting surface.
7. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said facing layer is secured to the cover by being secured about its perimeter.
8. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the facing layer is releaseably secured to the cover by adhesive strips extending along at least two edges.
9. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the facing layer is releaseably secured to the cover by ties extending around the pillow.
10. A cover as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein a resilient layer is disposed between the facing layer and said envelope.
11. A cover as claimed in claim 10, wherein the resilient layer is secured to said envelope surface.
12. A cover as claimed in claim 10, wherein the resilient layer is secured to the facing layer.