CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A container comprising:

   a tub having an opening flange defining the opening of the tub and a continuous groove located in upper portion of the tub;

   a collar having a tub mating surface extending about the entire perimeter of the collar for engaging the groove of the tub thereby securing the collar to the tub; and

   a lid hingedly attached to the collar;

   wherein the tub mating surface comprises at least one thinned area to facilitate fitting the collar onto the tub.

2. The container of claim 1, wherein the tub further comprises an anti-rotation element.
3. The container of claim 2, wherein the collar further comprises at least one rib to engage the anti-rotation element of the tub.
4. The container of claim 1, wherein the continuous groove comprises a collar mating surface that engages the tub mating surface of the collar providing a continuous annular seal C1 between the tub and collar.
5. The container of claim 1, wherein the collar comprises an outer sealing wall having one end in contact with upper portion of the tub to create a seal C2 between the collar and the tub.
6. The container of claim 5, wherein the tub mating surface is located on a top surface of the collar that laterally extends from the outer sealing wall toward the tub.
7. The container of claim 1, wherein the collar further comprises a gasket.
8. The container of claim 7, wherein the collar comprises an outer wall and a laterally extending flange extending from the outer wall toward the tub and having a U-shape at the end of the laterally extending flange extending which provides flexibility to the collar.
9. The container of claim 8, wherein the lid further comprises an outer sealing wall, a second lid sealing wall and an inner sealing wall, wherein one end of the outer sealing wall engages the collar thereby creating a seal C3 between the lid and collar, one end of the second lid sealing wall engages at least one surface of the gasket thereby creating a seal C4 between the lid and gasket, and at least one end of the inner sealing wall engages the opening flange of the tub thereby creating a seal C5 between the lid and tub.
10. A container comprising:

a tub having an opening flange defining the opening of the tub and a continuous groove located in the upper portion of the tub;

a collar having a tub mating surface extending about the entire perimeter of the collar for engaging the groove of the tub thereby securing the collar to the tub;

a latch attached to the collar; and

a lid hingedly attached to the collar

wherein the collar comprises at least one thinned area to facilitate fitting the collar onto the tub.

11. The container of claim 10, wherein the lid further comprises a latch engagement portion having an engagement recess thereon and the latch further comprises a lid engaging flange for securely engaging the engagement recess when the container is closed.

12. The container of claim 10, further comprising a gasket.

13. A container comprising:

a tub having an opening flange defining the opening of the tub and a groove located in upper portion of the tub;

a collar having a tub mating surface extending about the entire perimeter of the collar for engaging the groove of the tub thereby securing the collar to the tub, wherein the collar comprises at least one thinned area to facilitate fitting the collar onto the tub;

a lid hingedly attached to the collar having a top surface and an outer sealing wall; and

a latch attached to the collar designed to sealing engage the lid;

wherein the base of the tub further comprises recessed center portion and the lid further comprises a raised center portion complimentary to the recessed center portion of the base, such that multiple containers may be stacked on top of one another.

14. The container of claim 13, wherein the lid further comprises latch engagement portion comprising a first recess located on the top surface of the lid and second recess located on the outer sealing wall of the lid, wherein the first and second recess are designed to sealingly accommodate the latch.

15. The container of claim 14, wherein the latch engagement portion of the lid comprises an engagement recess and the latch comprises a lid engaging flange that securely engages the engagement recess of the lid.

16. The container of claim 13, wherein the container further comprises a scoop comprising a handle and a bowl, wherein the bowl has a radius R'.
17. The container of claim 13, wherein the lid further comprises a utensil attachment element wherein the utensil attachment element comprises at least one flexible tab extending from the raised center of the lid towards the interior of the container.
18. The container of claim 13, wherein the base of the container comprises a circumferential channel having a radius R and wherein the radius R' of the bowl is equal to or smaller than the radius R' of the circumferential channel such that the bowl of the scoop fits within the circumferential channel.
19. The container of claim 13, wherein the tub further comprises a neck having at least one anti-rotation element projecting outwardly from the neck of the tub, wherein the anti-rotation element further comprises a collar engagement surface for frictionally engaging the collar and preventing movement of the collar about the neck of the tub.
20. The container of claim 13, further comprising a sealable membrane adhered to the opening flange of the tub.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A container comprising:

a tub having an opening flange defining the opening of the tub and a continuous groove located in upper portion of the tub;

a collar having a gasket and also having a tub mating surface extending about the entire perimeter of the collar for engaging the groove of the tub thereby securing the collar to the tub, wherein the collar comprises an outer wall and a laterally extending flange extending from the outer wall toward the tub and having either a U-shape or a V-shape at the end of the laterally extending flange extending which provides flexibility to the collar; and

a lid hingedly attached to the collar, the lid comprising an outer sealing wall, a second lid sealing wall and an inner sealing wall, wherein one end of the outer sealing wall engages the collar thereby creating a seal between the lid and collar, one end of the second lid sealing wall engages at least one surface of the gasket thereby creating a seal between the lid and gasket, and at least one end of the inner sealing wall engages the opening flange of the tub thereby creating a seal between the lid and tub;

wherein the tub mating surface comprises at least one thinned area to facilitate fitting the collar onto the tub.

2. The container of claim 1, wherein the tub further comprises an anti-rotation element.

3. The container of claim 2, wherein the collar further comprises at least one rib to engage the anti-rotation element of the tub.

4. The container of claim 1, wherein the continuous groove comprises a collar mating surface that engages the tub mating surface of the collar providing a continuous annular seal between the tub and collar.

5. The container of claim 1, wherein the collar comprises an outer sealing wall having one end in contact with upper portion of the tub to create a seal between the collar and the tub.

6. The container of claim 5, wherein the tub mating surface is located on a top surface of the collar that laterally extends from the outer sealing wall toward the tub.