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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US92/06656 (22) International Filing Date: 7 August 1992 (07.08.92) (30) Priority data: 743,838 12 August 1991 (12.08.91) US (71) Applicant: THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US). (72) Inventors: DESMARAIS, Thomas, Allen ; 4245 Floral Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45212 (US). STONE, Keith, Joseph ; 1923 Augusta Boulevard, Fairfield, OH 45014 (US).		(74) Agent: REED, T., David; The Procter & Gamble Company, Ivorydale Technical Center, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 (US). (81) Designated States: AU, BB, BG, BR, CA, CS, FI, HU, JP, KP, KR, LK, MG, MN, MW, NO, PL, RO, RU, SD, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: METHOD FOR HYDROPHILIZING ABSORBENT FOAM MATERIALS (57) Abstract Normally hydrophobic foams, such as polyurethane foams and polymerized water-in-oil emulsion foams, are rendered hydrophilic by means of treatment with sorbitan monolaurate. Thus, a polymeric foam can be prepared or treated with sorbitan monolaurate and thereafter dried to leave a substantially uniformly distributed residue of sorbitan monolaurate on the internal foam surfaces. The resulting treated foams are rendered hydrophilic and are thus suitable for use in absorbent devices, including diapers, sanitary napkins, bandages, and the like.		

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