

Protective Layer for Toilet Seats



The invention relates to a protective layer for toilet seats, comprising an oblong web, which is to be laid on the surface of the seat and is made of a thin and flexible film, said web exhibiting a folding line extending in the longitudinal direction and around which one edge of the web is laid by 180°; and the web exhibits two free ends and is housed in an envelop.

A protective layer of this class is known from the EP-B-0 331 631. It can be applied in a simple manner and with few manipulations on essentially all customary toilet seats. When the web is unfolded, the edge changes into a position projecting about 90°, a feature that simplifies laying and holding the protective layer on the surface of the seat.

The task that the inventor has set for himself is to provide a protective layer of said class that can also be laid with ease, but is simpler to produce. In addition, the protective layer is to exhibit less volume in the packaged state.

The problem with a protective layer forming a class is solved according to the characterizing features of claims 1 and 7. According to one embodiment of the invention, the web is shrunk in the longitudinal direction. It has been demonstrated surprisingly that a web of tissue paper having a length of about 1 meter can be compressed through shrinkage into a packet having width ranging from 2 to 2.5 cm and a thickness ranging from 4 to 5 mm. Such a shrinkage can be carried out comparatively easily by machine. In order for the shrunk package to retain the shrunk shape and yet be unfolded effortlessly, steam can be fed to the web during the shrinking process. The result is a superficial adhesion of the paper, which can be detached,

however, quite easily by pulling the web apart. The folds produced by the shrinking process are comparatively narrow and irregular. Preferably the protective layer is made of tissue paper. The unfolding and laying of the protective layer is similar to the process for the aforementioned, prior art layer. When the protective layer according to the invention is unfolded, the edge also changes automatically into a projecting position. It has also been demonstrated that, owing to the high flexibility of the shrunk web, said web is, on the whole, simple and pleasant to manipulate. Thus, despite the significantly simpler production and smaller volume, the protective layer according to the invention can also be laid on a toilet seat by clumsy users. The adaptation to different toilet seats is similarly guaranteed.

In one modification of this class of protective layer the edge is folded corresponding to the other section of the web and is attached to this other part. Compared to the aforementioned prior art protective layer, the folding process is dramatically simpler here. The folding process can be, for example, a fanfold. Compared to the prior art protective layer, this design exhibits the significant advantage that the folded package is more compact, since multiple folding operations are avoided. The rectangular, dense package can be packaged quite compactly, an important point for a product, which is provided especially for use on the road.

Other advantageous modifications and features follow from the dependent claims and the subsequent description.

Embodiments of the invention are explained in detail with reference to the drawings in the following.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a protective layer laid on a toilet seat, according to a first embodiment.



Figure 2 is a perspective view of the same protective layer, tightly folded, in a closed envelop.

Figure 3 is a top view of a web of paper with a wide, longitudinally folded center section, which, tightly shrunk, forms the actual package, and which exhibits a flat, unshrunk flap at both ends.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a partially unfolded protective layer, according to the first embodiment.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a partially unfolded protective layer, according to the first embodiment.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a protective layer, prior to affixing the envelop.

Figure 7 is a perspective view of an envelop.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a protective layer, which is packaged ready for use (paper web Figure 6 + envelop Figure 7).

Figure 9 is a perspective view of an unfolded web of a protective layer, according to one modification.

Figure 10 is a perspective view of a protective layer, which is packaged ready for use, according to the modification.

Figure 11 is a view of the unfolded web of a protective layer, according to the modification.

Figure 12 is a perspective view of a protective layer, which is packaged ready for use, according to the modification, with laterally unfolded flaps, prior to tearing open the closed envelop.



Figure 13 is a perspective view of the protective layer, according to the modification, before it is cemented together; and

Figure 14 and Figure 15 are views of a section of the wrapper.

A protective layer according to the invention comprises the web 1, shown in Figure 3, and the envelop 3, shown in Figure 7. In Figure 1 the web 1 is unfolded and laid on the toilet seat with toilet lid. To affix the web 1, the ends of said web exhibit tabs 1c and 1d, to each of which an adhesive strip H provided with adhesive is applied to the underside. Directly next to the adhesive strip H there is an adhesive protective strip S, bordered by the adjacent adhesive strip in the folded state. The protective adhesive strips S guarantee that, after opening the envelop, the adhesive strips H exist unconsumed and can affix the protective layer on the toilet seat, as explained below.

It is now important that the web 1 between the tabs 1c and 1d be shrunk overall and uniformly and that a folding line 2 extend in the longitudinal direction over the entire shrunk region. The folding line 2 divides the shrunk region into one edge 1b and a seat region 1a. The edge 1b and the seat region 1a have preferably the same width and also the same length.

The comparatively narrow, but irregularly shrunk folds 1e produced by the shrinking process extend in essence at right angles to the longitudinal direction of the web. These shrunk folds 1e impart to the web 1 high flexibility. The web 1, which is straight in the unfolded and unstressed state, can be adapted in essence to any arbitrarily shaped toilet lid owing to the web's flexibility. In addition, the shrinking process allows a web 1 having an original length of 1 meter, for example, to compress to a package having a width ranging from about 2 to

2.5 cm. The web 1 is made preferably of thin tissue paper, which is comparatively tear resistant and which dissolves rapidly and safely in water. The shrinking process can take place in a narrow channel having a V-shaped cross section. The web, which is also inserted in a V-shape into the channel, is preferably pushed from both ends with suitable pressure against the center of the channel. The suitable pressure can be determined empirically. To form the tabs 1c and 1d, the corresponding end regions of the web 1 are not shrunk, but rather folded twice. So that the compressed web retains permanently the new shape, some hot steam is fed to said web either during or after the shrinking process. The result is a superficial adhesion of the adjacent regions, which can be dissolved again, however, with little effort.

Figures 5 to 8 show the packaging process of the shrunk web. Figure 5 depicts the shrunk web 1 in essence directly after the shrinking process. As one can see, the two end tabs 1c and 1d are folded twice at right angles to the longitudinal direction of the web 1. These end tabs are folded over inwardly and the edge 1b is folded together with the seat region 1a. The result is the configuration shown in Figure 6. At this stage a tape 3, shown in Figure 7, is laid at right angles to the longitudinal direction of the web around said configuration; and said tape is closed, for example, by cementing together the overlapping ends 3a and 3b. In so doing, the tape 3 can be cemented on the inside with the tabs 1c and 1d. At each tab 1c or 1d folded thus, the adhesive strip H rests with the adhering side against the adhesive protective strip S, thus also fixing in position the protective layer in the packaged state. A two-sided adhesive tape (not shown here) can be applied as the adhesive agent, for example, to the adhesive strip H. Yet other adhesive means are also possible here.

Finally, in the arrangement according to Figure 8, projecting tab members A and B are folded over inwardly by 90°. These tab



members A and B are not affixed and can be grasped quite easily by hand in order to unfold the protective layer. Figure 2 shows the resulting package.

To unfold the protective layer, the tab members A and B are grasped individually, as aforementioned, by hand; and they are pulled in opposite directions in the longitudinal directions of the web 1. In so doing, a perforation P1 of the tape 3 tears first and then a perforation P2 extending at right angles thereto. At about the same time the adhesive strips H detach from the adhesive protective strips S. At this stage the web 1 can unfold to the desired length with little pull force and can be laid over the toilet lid from the front. The two separate parts of the tape 3 remain at the tabs 1c and 1d, as shown in Figure 1.

It has been proven now that, when the web 1 is unfolded, the edge 1b detaches automatically from the seat region 1a and changes into the position shown in Figure 4. Thus, the unfolded web exhibits a V-shaped cross section. This feature is important now in order to apply the protective layer in a simple and reliable manner. When the protective layer is laid on the toilet lid, the tab members A and B may not be let loose. If the web 1 is laid on the toilet lid, the only requirement for affixing the tabs 1c and 1d to the toilet lid is to press lightly on the adhesive strips 1.

Figures 9 to 15 depict a modification of the protective layer, which can also be produced in a comparatively simple manner. Said protective layer also exhibits a web 10, which is folded according to Figure 11 and is folded around a folding line 12 in the longitudinal direction. A seat region 10a exhibits alternately upper folding lines F1 and bottom folding lines F2. They change at the folding line 12 into folding lines directed in the opposite direction. Thus, at the folding line 12 a folding line F1 changes into a folding line F2 and vice versa. This



folding procedure can be readily produced by folding together a flat web 10 of tissue paper around the straight folding line 12 and by providing a fanfold beginning at one end.

Figure 13 depicts the assembled and folded web 10. The large area sides of the package, produced by folding, are formed by means of both ends of the web section 10a. It is important that this packet be compact, rectangular and have the same overall thickness and allow compact packaging due to the minimum space requirement. For a web 10 having, for example, a width of 16 cm and a length of 1 meter in the unfolded state, the thickness D of the package is about 4 mm, the length L is 8 cm, and the package width is about 15 mm. The package 13 consists of the packaging sections 13a and 13b (shown in Figures 14 and 15) that are also made of tissue paper and exhibit the folded lines F3 to F7 and perforations P3 and P4. In addition, adhesive strips H and adhesive protective strips S are affixed, according to Figure 15, to the packaging section 13b. The folding of the packaging sections 13a and 13b is quite clear from Figure 13. First of all, the section 13a is cemented on the folded web 10 -- that is, on the ends of the web section 10a. At this stage the section 13b is cemented on the section 13a from the opposite side. Both sections envelop in this manner the protective layer and form the package. The free sections of 13b form additionally end tabs A and B. Figure 10 depicts the protective layer, which is packaged for immediate use and has closely abutting flaps or tab members A and B. Figure 12 depicts the same protective layer with laterally unfolded flaps. To unfold the web 10, the freely abutting tab sections A and B are grasped by hand and pulled in the opposite direction just as in the embodiment described above. To this end, the packaging sections 13a and 13b are severed along the perforations P3 and P4. The unfolded web 10 is laid on the toilet seat, as described above; and the ends are affixed with the adhesive strips H.

Patent Claims

1. Protective layer for toilet seats, comprising an oblong web (1), which is to be laid on the surface of the seat and is made of a thin and flexible film, said web (1) exhibiting a folding line (2) extending in the longitudinal direction and around which one edge (1b) of the web (1) is laid by 180°; and the web (1) exhibits two free ends (1c, 1d) and is housed in an envelop (3), wherein the web (1) is shrunk into a package in the longitudinal direction.
2. Protective layer, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the two free ends (1c, 1d) are not shrunk tabs, which are laid over the shrunk section of the web.
3. Protective layer, as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the wrapper is a separately produced tape (3), which envelops the shrunk web (1) at right angles to its longitudinal direction.
4. Protective layer, as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 3, wherein the web (1) is shrunk irregularly and comparatively densely and forms a rectangular, compact, uniformly thick packet.
5. Protective layer, as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 4, wherein the shrinkage of the web (1) is fastened by means of superficial adhesion.
6. Protective layer, as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 5, wherein said protective layer is made of tissue paper.



This Sheet Has Been Replaced



7. Protective layer for toilet seats, comprising an oblong web (10), which is to be laid on the surface of the seat and is made of a thin and flexible film, said web (10) exhibiting a folding line (2) extending in the longitudinal direction and around which one edge (10b) of the web (10) is laid by 180° and is housed in an envelop (13), which can be torn open, wherein the edge (10b) is folded corresponding to the other section (10a) of the web (10) and its surface is attached to this other section (10a).

8. Protective layer, as claimed in claim 7, wherein the wrapping (13) exhibits two perforated sections (13a, 13b), which are folded at right angles to the longitudinal direction of the web (10), where one section (13b) exhibits two opposing tab members (A and B), at which the protective layer can be grasped and unfolded.

9. Protective layer, as claimed in claim 7, wherein it is made of tissue paper and wherein the web (10) exhibits a anfold.

10. Protective layer, as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 6, herein when the flap sections (A and b) are pulled apart, the web (10) unfolds and the adhesive strips (H) simultaneously separate from the adhesive protective strips (S).



This Sheet Has Been Replaced

