Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of using a steamer, the method comprising:

a) removing a lower rim of a spacer from an upper rim of a vessel adapted to generate steam;

b) positioning the spacer above a support rack; and

c) engaging a perforated rack removably retained within an interior hollow of the spacer by lowering the spacer to surround the support rack, wherein the support rack supports the perforated rack when engaged therewith.

2. The method of claim 1,

wherein the vessel is adapted to retain a fluid and includes a bottom and substantially upright sidewalls extending between the bottom and the upper rim of the vessel;

wherein the spacer includes one or more generally upright sidewalls forming a perimeter of the spacer and defining the hollow therebetween, wherein, when the spacer is disposed on the vessel, the lower rim of the spacer and the upper rim of the vessel are in generally sealed engagement; and

wherein the perforated rack stably engages a portion of the sidewall when positioned within the hollow.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the sidewalls of the spacer include a flange positioned more proximate to the lower rim than the upper rim of the spacer and that extends

interiorly with respect to the hollow, and wherein the flange supports the perforated rack when the perforated rack is positioned within the hollow.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the support rack comprises an upper frame and at least three legs supporting the upper frame, and wherein the upper frame supportively engages the perforated rack when the spacer is lowered to surround the support rack.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising removing a lid from an upper rim of the spacer before removing the lower rim of the spacer from the upper rim of the vessel.

6. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

a) removing a lower rim of a second spacer from an upper rim of the first spacer before positioning the first spacer above the first support rack;

b) positioning the second spacer above a second support rack; and

c) engaging a second perforated rack removably retained within an interior hollow of the second spacer by lowering the second spacer to surround the second support rack, wherein the second support rack supports the second perforated rack when engaged therewith.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the second spacer is adapted to be selectively disposed on the first spacer and comprises one or more generally upright sidewalls forming a perimeter of the second spacer and defining the hollow therebetween, wherein, when the second spacer is disposed on the upper rim of the first spacer, the lower rim of the second spacer and the upper rim of the first spacer are in generally sealed engagement.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the sidewall of the second spacer includes a flange positioned below the lower rim and that extends interiorly with respect to the hollow, and wherein the flange supports the second perforated rack when the second perforated rack is positioned within the hollow.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the second support rack comprises an upper frame and at least three legs supporting the upper frame, and wherein the upper frame supportively engages the second perforated rack when the second spacer is lowered to surround at least the upper portion of the second support rack, and wherein the legs position the upper frame at a height greater than a height of the second spacer.

10. The method of claim 6, further comprising removing a lid from an upper rim of the second spacer before removing the lower rim of the second spacer from the upper rim of the first spacer.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the spacer has an open bottom.