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## Bars Shaving Brush Made of Horse Hairs

Public Health Council Acts in Fight On Anthrax

*A Special Dispatch from Albany, N. Y.*

A regulation prohibiting the manufacture, sale or offering for sale of shaving brushes made from horse hair has been passed by the Public Health Council of the State Department of Health of New York State. The action was taken, it was stated, because it had been found that anthrax may be contracted through the use of such brushes. The regulation became effective January 1.

## Comments by Brush Makers

From The

John L. Whiting: J. J. Adams Co.  
Boston, Mass.

The inquiry in regard to the sale of shaving brushes made with horse hair: Several different organizations and departments of the United States government, and various other authorities, have taken action and expressed their opinion on the subject of shaving brushes being disinfected and rendered harmless against conveying anthrax or any other germ disease. The United States treasury department took action on the matter, and we think there is a bill now before Congress on the same lines, in which the manufacture of shaving brushes from horse hair is forbidden.

We have never made shaving brushes from horse hair, and have always disapproved of that material for that purpose. Horse hair has a harsh end, cut square and very bad for the face, whether it conveyed germs or not, and we are fully in sympathy with any action to prevent the use of horse hair in shaving brushes.

Anthrax, as everybody knows, is a terrible disease, and has been conveyed by shaving brushes. We have for a great many years rendered our shaving and all other brushes immune from conveying anthrax or any other germs. The material is subjected to high temperature

and various disinfections which absolutely kill any germs which might exist in the materials. Our method is a more severe one than the United States or state of New York or any other authority suggests or requires. We have never known a case of anthrax or any disease resulting from one of our shaving brushes, and are sure it is absolutely impossible that they can convey any live germ after they are manufactured.

## From The Rubberset Company

Newark, N. J.

Regarding Anthrax in shaving brushes will say that there has been considerable publicity regarding this matter, with very little foundation for facts.

We have manufactured Rubberset shaving brushes since 1887 and never to our knowledge has anyone been afflicted with Anthrax from the use of a Rubberset shaving brush nor has any of our employees, some of them have been with us thirty years, ever known of anyone afflicted by this dread disease in handling the materials that go into the manufacture of shaving brushes. Anthrax was unknown prior to the late war, and then some manufacturers made shaving brushes from raw horsehair that was imported from China and Japan. They did not boil it or sterilize it; simply cut it up and stuck it into a ferrule and called the same a shaving brush.

The matter has been taken up by the health department at Washington and the various health departments of the large cities. After a very thorough investigation, it has been decided that the only shaving brushes from which Anthrax might be contracted were those made of unboiled horsehair and as the Rubberset Company has never used horsehair in manufacturing shaving brushes, you can readily understand that we have had no complaints regarding this matter.

The New York Board of Health, we understand, has passed an ordinance prohibiting the sale of shaving brushes in Greater New York that contain horsehair. Dr. Copeland has consulted with us quite frequently on this matter, and he

finally had this ordinance passed, which we believe is a most excellent one.

The large and reputable shaving brush manufacturers in this country are using every sanitary means to protect the health of the public, and we feel confident that in the future you will hear of very few cases of Anthrax poisoning from the use of shaving brushes.

## Shaving-Brush Sterilization

BY ROY D. BRICKNER  
American Safety Razor  
Corporation  
Brooklyn, New York

Sterilization today occupies as large a part in brush manufacture as firmness of bristle, quality of goods used, and grade of bristle. The modern brush user has assured himself that these requisites are found, more or less, in every high class shaving brush. The question uppermost in his mind is: "How clean is it?" It is in this feature of the game more than any other, where systems of manufacture differ. While brush sterilization wishes to do away with all germs in the brush, the main objective of the great fight for cleaner brushes is Anthrax.



After drastic steam and vacuum sterilization brushes are inspected by an expert.

The Anthrax germ, or as scientists call it, the bacillus Anthrax, comes in three forms. The first, and most common is the cutaneous, which is caused by infection of the skin. The others, pulmonary and intestinal, show by the name where the infection starts.

The Anthrax microbe can readily be seen under the microscope. It is a small rod-shaped organism which travels either singly or united. The bacilli themselves are easily destroyed but the spores are very resistant. Repeated tests show that they are capable of withstanding a temperature of 212° Fahrenheit for some minutes. They will also survive a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid. The disease is much more prevalent in Europe and Asia than in America.

With all information about Anthrax at hand, The American Safety Razor Corporation, makers of Ever Ready Shaving Brushes, have organized a system of manufacture and sterilization of the most rigid kind.

Sterilization is completed in two stages: the steam sterilizer in the making, and the chemical sterilizer, in the package.

The steam sterilizer is a large cylinder shaped machine which contains a movable carriage. After the machine is prepared for operation the bristles are placed in the carriage and the cylinder is locked.

Steam at a pressure of sixty pounds per square inch is applied for two



Bristles entering steam sterilizer, where they are subjected to "live" steam at 225° F. A vacuum is created in the sterilizing chamber during the entire process.



Final sterilization—brushes, finished and in cartons, undergoing last process of sterilization. Untouched by hands until they reach the consumer.

hours. This generates a heat of from 225° to 250° Fahrenheit, which more than meets the government test for germ extermination. After this operation a vacuum is caused at fifteen pounds pressure. The latter is maintained for a time of thirty minutes, thus preventing the bristles from becoming too damp or too flexible.

After the steam sterilization the bristles are put through the fourteen processes of manufacture, from the raw bristle to the finished brush. The brushes are carefully wrapped and placed in cartons. They are now ready for the final sterilization process. This is so complete that it is absolutely impossible for any germs to gather in the making and live through it.

The cartons are loaded on the carriage and pushed into the machine. After tightly locking both ends a vacuum is created. The vacuuming process continues for fifteen minutes, taking away all air and moisture in the cylinder.

Chemicals are then poured into a container at the side of the machine. A high pressure is applied and the second stage of the sterilization permeates into every box without even affecting the brush carton.

This disinfecting continues for forty-five minutes thoroughly sterilizing every brush.

As far as human ingenuity can devise, Ever Ready Shaving Brushes are absolutely clean and remain so until taken from the carton by the user.

Each box is stamped "Sterilized" which is, in one word, a guarantee of strength, durability, and cleanliness.

