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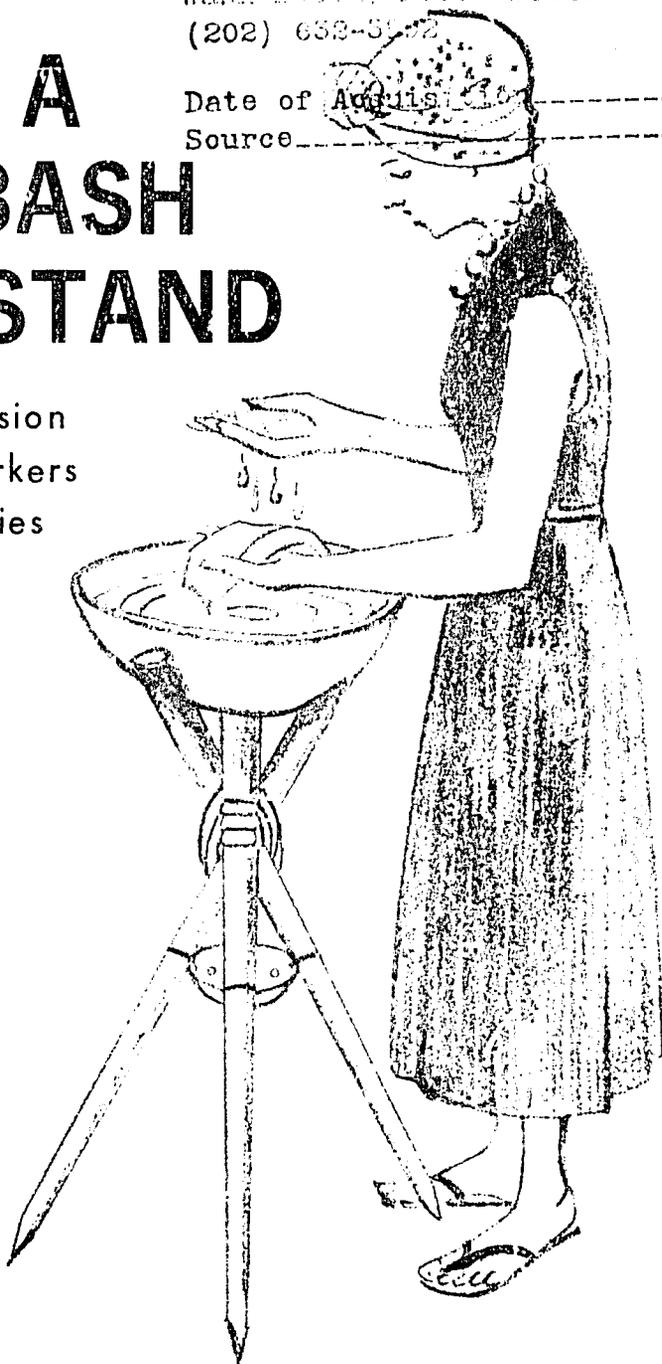
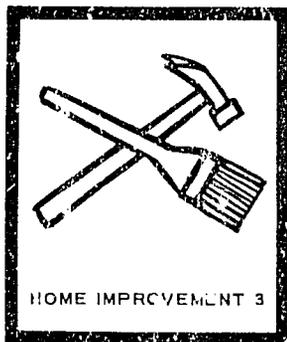
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MAKE A CALABASH WASHSTAND

An Aid to Extension
and Village Workers
in Many Countries



FEDERAL EXTENSION SERVICE • UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF STATE

A CALABASH WASHSTAND

Why Make a Washbasin?

Everyone needs to wash his hands often. Clean hands spread fewer disease germs than dirty ones.

Wash your hands *before* you:

- start to prepare food
- eat
- handle foods, dishes or other eating utensils
- wipe your eyes
- handle a sick person
- handle a baby

Wash your hands *after* you:

- go to the latrine
- use a handkerchief
- handle animals
- clean animal pens
- work in the garden
- handle a sick person
- handle a baby

Where to Place the Washbasin

A washbasin placed near where you do these jobs makes it easier to wash your hands when you need to. You may need more than one washbasin.

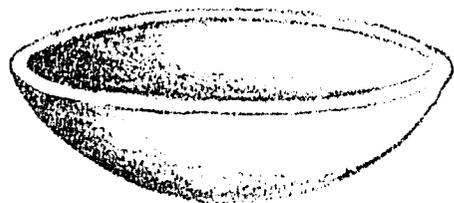
Keep one near where you prepare food. This will make it easier to wash your hands before you start to prepare food. It also makes it easy to wash them again if you are interrupted while you are preparing a meal.

Place a second washbasin near the latrine. Then it is easy for everyone to wash his hands after going to the latrine.

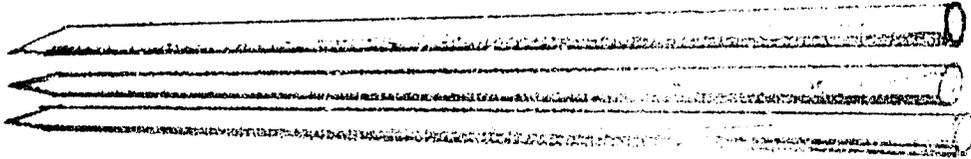
Make a Calabash Washstand

Materials needed:

- 1 large calabash bowl—about 10-12 inches in diameter and 3-5 inches deep for the washbasin. An enamel bowl may also be used.



- 1 small calabash bowl—
4-5 inches in diameter to
hold soap.



- 3 sturdy sticks the same
thickness and 40-45
inches long for the tripod.
In some places people use
bamboo.



- Raffia or strong string.

Tools Needed: • Knife • Awl

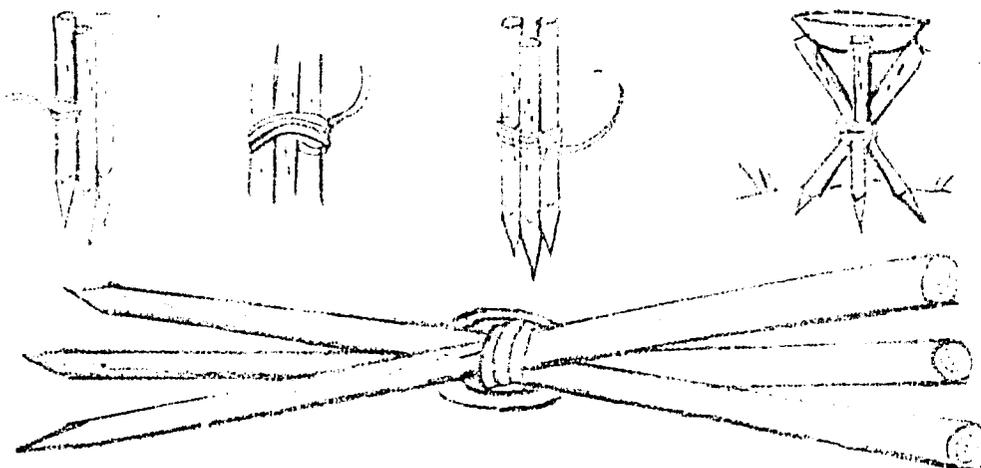


How to Make the Washstand

First—See how high you want the washstand to be. To do this, have one person hold the three sticks spread apart as a tripod. Have a second person set the large calabash bowl on the tripod. The place where the sticks cross each other can be moved up or down to raise or lower the bowl. When you have found out how high you want the stand to be, mark where the sticks cross one another. This is where you should tie them together.

Second—Tie the three sticks together. Wrap strong string or raffia around them several times. Tie it securely.

Spread the three sticks apart like a tripod and tie over where they cross to hold them in place.



If you are going to use the washstand outside the house, plan to stick the legs into the ground. This will give it more support. If you use tree branches, point each stick.

Third—with an awl, make holes in the bottom of the small calabash to let water drain off the soap.

Also, make three holes near the edge of the small calabash to hang it from the tripod. Make these an equal distance apart.

Fourth—With string or raffia, tie the small calabash to the tripod below the place where the sticks are bound together.

Your washstand will look like this when it is done.

Other Washstands

You can also make other types of washstands, from wood or boxes, to hold a metal pan.

