

CONTENTS SOLUTIONS

THE GO-TO-GUIDE FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY RESTORATION

Vol.10, Issue 11

CONTENTS PROS ARE HUMAN FRIENDLY

WATER IS THE SOLUTION

SMOKE WEBS— A DIRTY LITTLE SECRET!

Provided by your Contents Restoration partner



*Fire * Smoke * Water*

1180 Douglas Rd., Batavia, IL 60510

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Green Cleaning— While You Wait!

Any time a contractor can tell an insurance adjuster or property manager that he (she) can clean and disinfect an office, restaurant, hotel or home, and the people who frequent the premises can actually remain onsite, working at their desks or cooking an evening meal instead of packing up and getting out before the toxic microbials and disinfectants are used – they have their attention.

Contents pros have been looking for cleaning substances and anti-bacterial formulas that are not toxic to humans. Interestingly enough, they found them in many basic substances that have been used for centuries and in modern technology that just arrived on the scene in most recent months.

One such device is the new ultraviolet “wand.” These are hand held devices that some researchers tell us, can kill 99% of germs such as salmonella and staph within a minute of exposure. And, we are told, they can destroy mold, dust mites, bacteria and viruses.

At the other end of the technological scale are lemon and baking soda. Lemon (the straight, unadorned fruit), is touted as being one of the strongest antibacterial substances provided by Mother Nature. Its secret is its high acidity. The acid

has proven effective against many recognized bacteriological and viral agents.

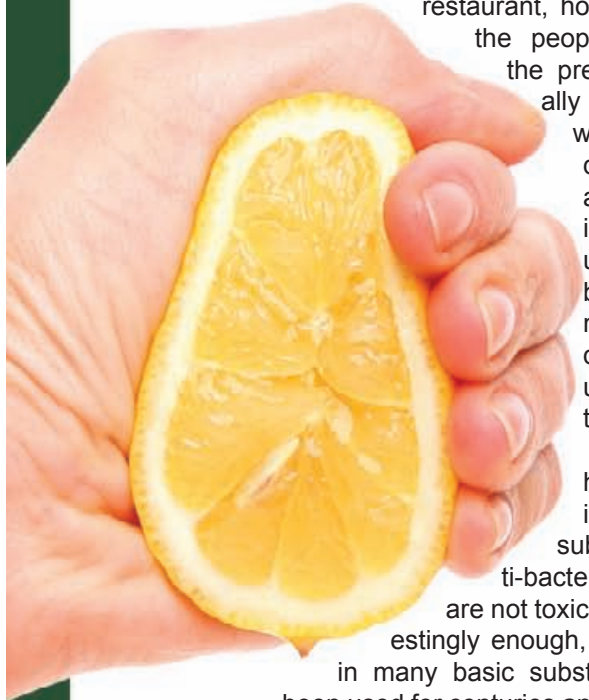
Not convinced? Herbs.com tells us that a blend of the essential oil from lemons, “...was placed under clinical trials at Weber State University, in order to gauge the potency of the antimicrobial actions; the results astounded the researchers as the kill rate of the oil was 99.96 percent against common airborne bacterial pathogens.”

And another study by Japanese investigators, “At the Tsuyama Central Hospital, scientists examined various methods of disinfection on a battery of 4 microbes, including strep. According to their study published in the Medical Journal of Tsuyama Central Hospital, they found that using a method of spraying lemon juice and then wiping with a paper towel after 1 minute achieved a, “4-log reduction” of bacteria. A 4-log reduction is a scientific term meaning a 99.99% kill rate of microbes.”

In previous issues of Contents Solutions we have written about the extraordinary “botanicals,” that are being used by some contents processing professionals. These are the essences that have received the “Green Certification” that’s EPA-Registered, Hospital-Grade and is so human friendly that it has no warning labels. And, “...lab tested and scientifically proven to kill bacteria, viruses, fungus, mold, mildew and odors, yet is safer than vinegar!”

Some clients think that using lemons, herbs, vinegar and baking soda are just inexpensive ways to get a job done. Actually, these human grade substances are often a little more expensive than their toxic brothers, but their true worth lies in getting the consumers back to work, back in their homes and back to their lives, with no harmful substances left in their environment.

Contents pros are always evolving with new methods, new ideas and new solutions. Whatever is next, you can be sure they will be the ones who find it first.



Freeze Drying to Restore Books and Documents

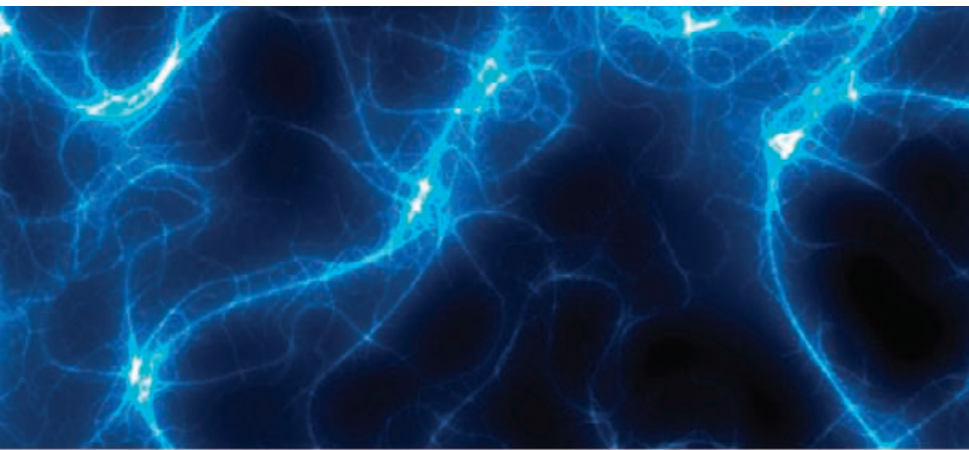
Although freeze drying techniques are still in the realm of the specialists, many contents restoration companies have added that technology to their repertoire or have created a strong link with their sister organizations that do.

If you are one of our constant readers, you may recall the story about a year ago in which the freeze drying contents firm was able to restore 80,000 flooded x-rays. Or, you might recall the article about the Utah based company that used freeze drying and computer scanning to salvage badly degraded family photographs.

Yale University has used con-

tents companies for freeze drying its rare and valuable documents. Once they had 50,000 volumes of a collection that was a prime resource for their faculty and students restored by this process. In another instance, when a broken steam pipe set off the sprinkler system, their extensive collection of archived newspapers was completely saturated. Fortunately, Yale had an agreement with a restoration company that used some of the latest freeze-drying techniques. 368 boxes were sent for processing. When the newspapers were returned, the staff was amazed at the fact that the pages were not warped or stained.





Electricity and Water? Who Knew?

In a previous edition of Contents Solutions, we shared an article about the new electrolyzing spray bottles that impart a charge to the water that changes it into a cleaning substance.

More recently, the Los Angeles Times told about what some people are calling, “Miracle Water.”

By putting a little salt in with the water and sending a mild electrical charge through it, science labs, restoration pros and even hotels are now creating a new type of water that can cut through grease, kill bacteria on food, and, “...that scientists say is powerful enough to kill anthrax spores without harming people or the environment.”

No more bleach, no more ammonia and most interesting of all, the process takes place in one area. You collect what looks like ordinary water and you can use it anywhere in the building – in ordinary spray bottles, buckets, steam cleaners (you can even drink it!)

Sounds great, but is it effective? Science Daily® reports, “Yen-Con Hung, Ph.D., the University of Georgia professor who conducted the research reported, ‘Soaking a cutting board in electrolyzed water for about five minutes at a moderately warm temperature (about 95°-105° F) can

reduce bacteria up to a million-fold.’”

Activating ordinary tap water with a small electrical charge turns it into a cleaning substance far more powerful than water and is comparable to cleaning chemicals. Presently, it has proven to be an effective cleaning agent for everything from sinks to floors, glass, stainless steel fixtures, wood, plastic, carpets, granite and even LCD displays and electronic components.

Add to that its remarkable power to sanitize hard surfaces and we have a substance that may well be the one to someday replace most of the other cleaning chemicals in use today.

The machines that produce the activated water are still pretty “pricey.” And although many sources agree that it kills bacteria, there are some who are still not sure it is better at cleaning than the standard chemicals (most say, “as good as”) Still, for those who have respiratory ailments such as asthma or allergies, many researchers and testers say it is exactly what the doctor ordered!

And, when you have office workers who have absolutely, positively got to get back to their desks while the contents pros are still on the job, there are very few “contenders.”

Smoke Webs

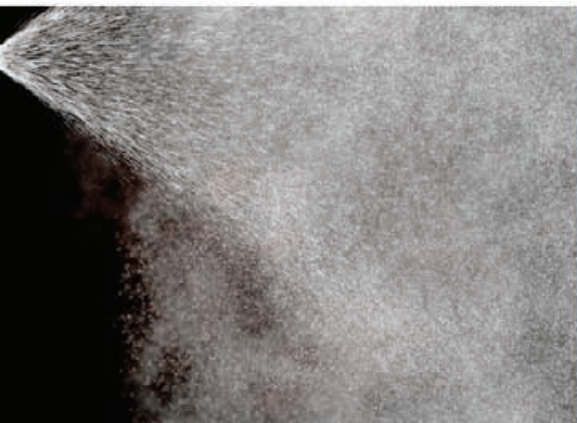
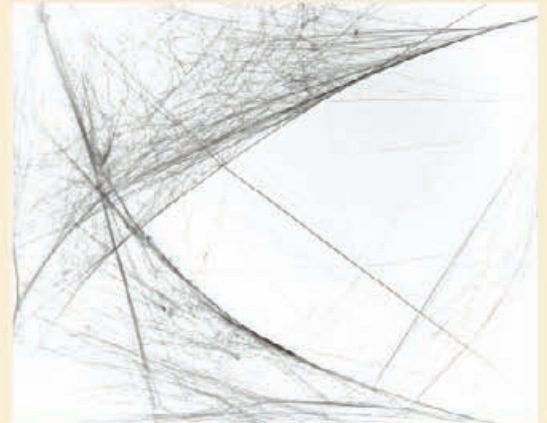
In an upcoming issue of Contents Solutions I will be telling you about smoke in all its inglorious forms. But for now, imagine that you are walking through a lady's home. She has just had a fire there and as you pass through the living room you see what look like black spider webs in the corners of the ceiling and “dusted” across a wall in a wide, hideous pastiche.

The lady says embarrassedly, “I'm really sorry about those spider webs. I really am a pretty good housekeeper, but the smoke really shows them.”

If you are a contents pro, you have seen these before, and you know they are indeed called, “smoke webs,” but they didn't come from any spider. They are the result of synthetic material and plastics burning. The smoke from such items can actually spread up in thin ribbons and threads of black, sooty streamers. They can festoon walls, hang from curtain rods and attach themselves to ceilings, lamps and just about anything that stands upright.

They are sticky, greasy and if one is draped over a couch and you touch it, odds are it will become an instant stain.

Some restoration workers think they are just smoky cobwebs – contents pros know what they are seeing and deal with it carefully, thoroughly and with the right tools and techniques.



Ice is Nice

About a year ago a restoration pro was faced with a dilemma. A collection of over 100 die cast tractors had been thoroughly coated with soot and ash. Pressure washers couldn't clean them, agitation with solvents detergents and emulsifiers didn't do the work either. Gentle soda blasting tore the aging paint off the collectibles.

The answer? Another contents processing professional remembered that low pressure dry ice dusting was so gentle it even removed dirt from book pages. If it didn't damage fragile paper from old books, it wouldn't damage paint!



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Coming Up In the Next Issues of Contents Solutions



**WATER DAMAGE
WHAT CAN BE RESTORED**



**PACK OUT AND THE
SECRETS OF DIGITAL
INVENTORY**



**SMOKE DAMAGE
EXTRACTING SMOKE
FROM CONTENTS**

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