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Collapsible, Sanitized Straw Assembly

Patent No. 8,476,303

A sanitized straw and wipe conveniently attached under the bottom of a drink can for use by consumers to avoid contact with bacteria and other unsanitary conditions

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Key Features:

- Compact Assembly
- Collapsible Straw
- Sanitized Wipe
- Convenient

Field:

Health

Technology: Collapsible Straw & Sanitary Wipe

Stage of Development:

Developing Prototype of
Assembly

Status:

Seeking licensee

Patent Status:

Issued

Background:

Carbonated beverages or “soda “pops” are very popular drinks throughout the world and have become the drink of choice for many children as well as adults. According to recent studies the preferred container for these beverages for the public remains the stackable aluminum can. This type of container has also proven to be popular with the bottlers because they are small, inexpensive, and convenient for storage and use.

Statement of Problem:

Though convenient for storage and use, these cans are often kept in warehouses, factories and soda machines and left unattended over extended periods of time. During this time, bacteria is able to build up, rodents may crawl through the warehouses and factories, carrying a number of potentially harmful diseases. Although the soda cans are exposed to these conditions they are still sold to unwitting purchasers. Those who purchase these cans often may not have the appropriate cleaning solutions and other items available to take proper steps for cleaning and disinfecting the top of the container. Straws can effectively isolate the consumer from harmful germs and bacteria, however, there are usually no straws available at the point of purchase therefore exposing the purchaser to unsanitary conditions.

Potential Solution:

These inventors envisioned a concept and developed a product that is comprised of a collapsible straw that accompanies a sanitized wipe and is, aptly referred to as the “Sani-Straw”. The straw and sanitary wipe conveniently rests on the bottom of the soda can allowing the user to clean the top of the container and to utilize the straw thus no longer exposing their mouth in direct contact with the container. This assembly can generally protect the user from exposure to unsanitary conditions by avoiding direct contact with the containers. This system can also assist in preventing the spread of diseases often carried by bugs and rodents.

Commercialization Status:

Due to the popularity of canned beverages throughout the world the “Sani-Straw” has a very promising future. Ideally, this assembly can be marketed with the drink if incorporated as a part of the bottling process or mass produced as an independent or individual accessory to accompany drinks where other sanitary means do not exist. The team is in the process of developing a prototype for testing the market potential.