



EP 2 043 918 B9

(12)

## CORRECTED EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(15) Correction information:

**Corrected version no 1 (W1 B1)**  
Corrections, see  
Claims EN 1, 10

(48) Corrigendum issued on:

21.09.2011 Bulletin 2011/38

(45) Date of publication and mention  
of the grant of the patent:

02.03.2011 Bulletin 2011/09

(21) Application number: 06787091.5

(22) Date of filing: 14.07.2006

(51) Int Cl.:

**B65D 1/44 (2006.01)** **B65D 25/28 (2006.01)**  
**B65D 77/20 (2006.01)**

(86) International application number:

**PCT/US2006/027140**

(87) International publication number:

**WO 2008/008061 (17.01.2008 Gazette 2008/03)**

### (54) SOLID PRODUCT PACKAGING

VERPACKUNG VON FESTEN PRODUKTEN

EMBALLAGE DE PRODUIT SOLIDE

(84) Designated Contracting States:

**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR  
HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC NL PL PT RO SE SI  
SK TR**

• **WILLIAMS, Kristine, Jeanette**

**Oak Ridge, NC 27310 (US)**

• **BALAMUCKI, Nicole, M.**

**Greensboro, NC 27410 (US)**

(43) Date of publication of application:

08.04.2009 Bulletin 2009/15

(74) Representative: **Polypatent**

**Postfach 40 02 43**

**51410 Bergisch Gladbach (DE)**

(73) Proprietor: **ECOLAB INC.**

**St. Paul, MN 55102-2233 (US)**

(56) References cited:

**DE-U1- 29 618 751 JP-A- 2003 182 716  
US-A1- 2 920 417 US-E- R E32 763**

(72) Inventors:

• **BEAVERS BLANKS, Amie, L.**  
**Clemmons, NC 27012 (US)**

EP 2 043 918 B9

Note: Within nine months of the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent in the European Patent Bulletin, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to that patent, in accordance with the Implementing Regulations. Notice of opposition shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

**Description**Field of the Invention

5 [0001] The present invention relates to product packaging for solid products.

Background of the Invention

10 [0002] Solid products provide many advantages over using non-solid products. For example, solid products are typically less expensive to ship because they are usually formulated as concentrates that are then diluted prior to use. Solid products can be formulated using aggressive chemistry that provides better cleaning including strong acids and strong bases. Solid products with such aggressive chemistry are generally considered safer than comparable non-solid or liquid products because solid products cannot spill like non-solid or liquid products.

15 [0003] Solid products are dispensed in solid product dispensers to create a concentrated use solution or a use solution. Some solid products are caustic or corrosive and should not be handled by coming into direct contact with the solid products. This is particularly true in industrial laundry, warewashing, and floor care products.

20 [0004] Thermoformed blister packs and packages with lids are commonly used to package solid products. However, these types of packages typically require the user to remove the backs or the lids from the packages and drop the solid products into the dispensers. This technique exposes the user to contact the solid products directly, which is not desirable.

25 [0005] Another type of packaging in which solid products are packaged is shrink wrapped films. Small holes in the film allow the evacuation of otherwise trapped air as the film shrinks to conform to the shape of the solid product. These small holes allow moisture from the atmosphere to enter the package, which may cause the solid product to swell and at least partially dissolve. Further, the user may directly contact the solid product that has escaped through these small holes. Thus, it is challenging to load solid products into dispensers without touching the solid products.

30 [0006] One problem related to the manufacture, storage, and use of solid products including extruded acidic and alkaline solid products is the stability of the solid products. Upon exposure to environmental conditions such as humidity, the solid products can absorb humidity resulting in a softening or dissolution of at least a portion of the solid products. The absorption of humidity can result in softened layers of the solid products rendering the solid products difficult to handle and properly dispense. Further, in conditions of higher humidity or higher concentrations of alkalinity, the absorption of humidity can result in the creation of a liquid product that can slump or flow from the surface of the solid product creating a pool of highly caustic material. Not only is the humidity and stability of the solid products a problem in manufacturing and handling of the products, the instability can also cause problems in dispensing of the products. The softened surface or liquid material that can flow from the surface can cause spikes of material during dispensing resulting in uneven concentrations being dispensed. When dispensed using spray-type dispensers, a spray of water is directed onto a surface of the solid product. When operating properly, the spray removes a small portion of the solid product in the form of an aqueous concentrate use solution. If the solid product is at least partially softened or liquefied, the aqueous concentrate use solution will be too concentrated.

35 [0007] JP 2003 182716A describes a vessel for bite-sized food having a base including a top, sides and a bottom, thus forming a cavity to receive the foodstuff. Also a lid and a seal interconnecting the top of the base and the lid may be included. The vessel according D1 further comprises a groove in the vessel body.

40 [0008] US2,920,417 is related to a detergent-solution dispensing container without a lid and a seal to cover the top of the base.

45 [0009] US Re 32,763 discloses a solid cast detergent used in automatic washing machines. It is surrounded on all but its upper surface by a mold. A texture on the exterior surface or a seal are not disclosed.

[0010] It is desired to have a solid product packaging that assists in the loading of the solid products into dispensers without directly contacting the solid products and that assists in keeping the solid products stable during storage of the solid products.

Summary of the Invention

50 [0011] One aspect of the present invention provides a product packaging containing a solid product block comprising

- a) a base (101) having a top (106), sides (102), and a bottom (105) forming a cavity (107) configured and arranged to receive the solid product block (120), the cavity having a free space between the sides (102) and the sides of the solid product block, and the base (101) having an exterior surface;
- b) a texture on the exterior and interior surface of the base (101), whereby the texture enhances a user's ability to grip the base (101) when the base (101) is inverted;
- c) a lid (111); and

5 d) a seal (114) interconnecting the top (106) of the base (101) and the lid (111), the seal (114) allowing the lid (111) to be peeled away from the top (106) of the base (101),

wherein the base (101) is a flexible material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, nylon, polypropylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride.

10 [0012] Another aspect of the present invention provides a method of dispensing a solid product (120) from a product packaging (100) according to claims 1 to 10 into a solid product dispenser, comprising:

- 15 a) obtaining the product packaging (100)
- b) grasping a portion of the peelable lid (111);
- c) peeling the peelable lid (111) away from the base (101);
- d) holding the base (101) and inverting the base (101) so that the bottom (105) of the base (101) is in an upward orientation and the top (106) of the base (101) is in a downward orientation; and
- e) squeezing the base (101) thus deflecting the base (101) inward to provide friction between the base (101) and the solid product (120) prior to inverting the base (101) so that the solid product (120) does not fall out of the base (101) until the friction is released,
- f) allowing the solid product (120) to slide out of the cavity (107) into the solid product dispenser.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

20 [0013]

- Figure 1 is a perspective view of a product packaging constructed according to the principles of the present invention with a solid product therein;
- 25 Figure 2 is a top view of the product packing shown in Figure 1 as the product packaging is manufactured;
- Figure 3 is a top view of the product packaging shown in Figure 1 with a solid product therein;
- Figure 4 is a side view of the product packaging shown in Figure 1;
- 30 Figure 5 is a perspective view of another product packaging constructed according to the principles of the present invention with a solid product therein;
- Figure 6 is a top view of the product packing shown in Figure 5 as the product packaging is manufactured;
- Figure 7 is a top view of the product packaging shown in Figure 5 with a solid product therein;
- Figure 8 is a side view of the product packaging shown in Figure 5;
- 35 Figure 9 is a perspective view of another product packaging constructed according to the principles of the present invention with a solid product therein;
- Figure 10 is a top view of the product packing shown in Figure 9 as the product packaging is manufactured;
- Figure 11 is a top view of the product packaging shown in Figure 9 with a solid product therein;
- Figure 12 is a side view of the product packaging shown in Figure 9;
- 40 Figure 13 is a perspective view of another product packaging constructed according to the principles of the present invention with a solid product therein;
- Figure 14 is a top view of the product packing shown in Figure 13 as the product packaging is manufactured;
- Figure 15 is a top view of the product packaging shown in Figure 13 with a solid product therein;
- Figure 16 is a side view of the product packaging shown in Figure 13;
- 45 Figure 17 is a side view of the product packaging shown in Figure 13 with a lid partially peeled away from a base of the product packaging;
- Figure 18 is a side view of the product packaging shown in Figure 17 inverted with a portion of the base deflected inward to assist in holding the product within the base; and
- Figure 19 is a graph showing the water vapor transmission rate, the percentage of weight change over time.

#### Detailed Description of a Preferred Embodiment

50 [0014] A preferred embodiment solid product packaging is designated by the numeral 100 in Figures 1-4, a preferred embodiment solid product packaging is designated by the number 200 in Figures 5-8, a preferred embodiment solid product packaging is designated by the number 300 in Figures 9-12, and a preferred embodiment solid product packaging is designated by the number 400 in Figures 13-18.

55 [0015] The present invention may be used with any solid product. It is understood that the phrase "solid product" includes solid products, substantially solid products, semisolid products, and the like. If the solid product is in a shaped form, such as a block, the solid product may be formed in any desired manner including cast methods, extrusion, and pressed powder. The solid product may be formulated for a variety of uses such as, but limited to, a warewashing

detergent, a warewashing rinse aid, a vehicle care detergent such as in a car wash, a medical instrument detergent, a clean-in-place cleaner, a floor cleaner, and the like. The solid product may include a variety of different chemistries including acids, bases, hardening agents, sequestering agents, surfactants, builders, enzymes, dyes, fragrances, and the like.

5 [0016] As shown in Figures 1-4, the product packaging 100 includes a base 101 and a peelable lid 111 interconnected by a seal 114. The base 101 includes four sides 102, the adjacent sides 102 being interconnected by a rounded corner 103. Each side 102 is preferably approximately 90 degrees from the adjacent side 102. The sides 102 and the corners 103 are interconnected proximate the bottom edges of the sides 102 and the corners 103 by a bottom 105. A top 106, which is preferably a flange, extends outward from the sides 102 and the corners 103 proximate the top edges of the sides 102 and the corners 103. The sides 102, the corners 103, and the bottom 105 form a cavity 107. Ribbing 104 is proximate the bottom 105 of the base 101 and is a textured, non-slip, grippable surface on the exterior of the base 101. It is recognized that other textured, non-slip, grippable surfaces such as, but not limited to, waffle weaves, bumps, roughened surfaces, and rubber coated surfaces may be used. The ribbing 104 is preferably at least one ridge extending outward from at least two opposing sides 102 and, more preferably, at least three ridges extending outward from the sides 102 and the corners 105 around the base 101 parallel with the bottom 105. The ribbing 104 preferably extends outward from the base 101 at least 1.5 millimeters ("mm"), and if multiple ridges are used, the ridges are preferably spaced apart at least 25.4 mm center to center of the ridges. The ribbing 104 is preferably within (2.0 inches) 50.8 mm from the bottom 105.

10 [0017] Although it is recognized that the base 101 may be made of separate components, the base 101 is preferably 20 integrally formed, including the ribbing 104 extending outward from the sides 102 and the corners 103. Preferably, the base 101 is thermoformed by means well known in the art and made of polymeric (relating to or comprised of polymers) 25 materials including, but not limited to, polyethylenes, nylons, polypropylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride. As shown in Figure 2, the base 101 may be constructed by means well known in the art adjacent another base 101 with a 30 score line 116 between the bases 101 so that the bases 101 may be easily separated. A solid product 120 is placed 35 within the cavity 107. Preferably, the solid product 120 is a square-shaped product corresponding with the shape of the base 101. Then, the peelable lid 111 is connected to the top 106 of the base 101.

40 [0018] The peelable lid 111 is preferably an easy peel film corresponding in shape with the top 106 of the base 101. Preferably, the lid 111 is made of a multi-layer laminate comprising at least two layers, one of which is a heat sealable 45 layer. The seal 114, which is preferably formed by applying heat to the lid 111 which bonds the heat sealable layer to the top 106 of the base 101, interconnects the top 106 and the lid 111. The seal 114 is preferably placed proximate the perimeter of the top 106 with one corner angled so that there is a corner where the lid 111 is not connected to the top 106 thus providing a grasping portion 112 where the lid 111 can easily be grasped by the user to begin peeling the lid 111 away from the top 106. The peel strength of the seal 114 is preferably less than 250 grams per (inch) 2,54 cm which allows for easy peeling of the lid 111 away from the top 106 while providing a seal between the top 106 and the lid 111. 50 The base 101, the lid 111, and the seal 114 provide a moisture barrier so that moisture cannot penetrate the product packaging 100. The water vapor transmission rate ("WVTR") is measured in grams per (100 square inches) 645.2 cm<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours (g (100 sq. in.) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup>. For moisture sensitive products, the WVTR is preferably less than 0.02 g (100 sq. in.) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup> for the base 101 and less than 0.13 g (100 sq. in.) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup> for the lid 111.

55 [0019] As shown in Figures 5-8, the product packaging 200 includes a base 201 and a peelable lid 211 interconnected by a seal 214. The base 201 includes four sides 202, the adjacent sides 202 being interconnected by a rounded corner 203. Each side 202 is preferably approximately 90 degrees from the adjacent side 202. The sides 202 and the corners 203 are interconnected proximate the bottom edges of the sides 202 and the corners 203 by a bottom 205. A top 206, which is preferably a flange, extends outward from the sides 202 and the corners 203 proximate the top edges of the sides 202 and the corners 203. The sides 202, the corners 203, and the bottom 205 form a cavity 207. Ribbing 204 is proximate the bottom 205 of the base 201 and is a textured, non-slip, grippable surface on the exterior of the base 201. It is recognized that other textured, non-slip, grippable surfaces such as, but not limited to, waffle weaves, bumps, roughened surfaces, and rubber coated surfaces may be used. The ribbing 204 is preferably at least one ridge extending outward from at least two opposing sides 202 and, more preferably, at least three ridges extending outward from the sides 202 and the corners 205 around the base 201 parallel with the bottom 205. The ribbing 204 preferably extends outward from the base 201 at least 1.5 millimeters ("mm"), and if multiple ridges are used, the ridges are preferably spaced apart at least 25.4 mm center to center of the ridges. The ribbing 204 is preferably within (2.0 inches) 50.8 mm from the bottom 205.

60 [0020] Although it is recognized that the base 201 may be made of separate components, the base 201 is preferably integrally formed, including the ribbing 204 extending outward from the sides 202 and the corners 203. Preferably, the base 201 is thermoformed by means well known in the art and made of polymeric (relating to or comprised of polymers) 65 materials including, but not limited to, polyethylenes, nylons, polypropylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride. As shown in Figure 6, the base 201 may be constructed by means well known in the art adjacent another base 201 on each side with score lines 216 between the bases 201 so that the bases 201 may be easily separated. A solid product 220

is placed within the cavity 207. Preferably, the solid product 220 is a square-shaped product corresponding with the shape of the base 201. Then, the peelable lid 211 is connected to the top 206 of the base 201.

**[0021]** The peelable lid 211 is preferably an easy peel film corresponding in shape with the top 206 of the base 201. Preferably, the lid 211 is made of a multi-layer laminate comprising at least two layers, one of which is a heat sealable layer. The seal 214, which is preferably formed by applying heat to the lid 211 which bonds the heat sealable layer to the top 206 of the base 201, interconnects the top 206 and the lid 211. The seal 214 is preferably placed proximate the perimeter of three sides of the top 206 with the fourth side more proximate the cavity 207 so that there is a side edge where the lid 211 is not connected to the top 206 thus providing a grasping portion 212 where the lid 211 can easily be grasped by the user to begin peeling the lid 211 away from the top 206. The peel strength of the seal 214 is preferably less than 250 grams per inch, which allows for easy peeling of the lid 211 away from the top 206 while providing a seal between the top 206 and the lid 211. The base 201, the lid 211, and the seal 214 provide a moisture barrier so that moisture cannot penetrate the product packaging 200. The water vapor transmission rate ("WVTR") is measured in grams per (100 square inches) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours (g/(100 sq. in.)) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup>. For moisture sensitive products, the WVTR is preferably less than 0.02 g/(100 sq. in.) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup> for the base 201 and less than 0.13 g/(100 sq. in.) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup> for the lid 211.

**[0022]** As shown in Figures 9-12, the product packaging 300 includes a base 301 and a peelable lid 311 interconnected by a seal 314. The base 301 includes five sides 302, the adjacent sides 302 being interconnected by a rounded corner 303. Each side 302 is preferably approximately 108 degrees from the adjacent side 302. The sides 302 and the corners 303 are interconnected proximate the bottom edges of the sides 302 and the corners 303 by a bottom 305. A top 306, which is preferably a flange, extends outward from the sides 302 and the corners 303 proximate the top edges of the sides 302 and the corners 303. The sides 302, the corners 303, and the bottom 305 form a cavity 307. Ribbing 304 is proximate the bottom 305 of the base 301 and is a textured, non-slip, grippable surface on the exterior of the base 301. It is recognized that other textured, non-slip, grippable surfaces such as, but not limited to, waffle weaves, bumps, roughened surfaces, and rubber coated surfaces may be used. The ribbing 304 is preferably at least one ridge extending outward from at least two opposing sides 302 and, more preferably, at least three ridges extending outward from the sides 302 and the corners 305 around the base 301 parallel with the bottom 305. The ribbing 304 preferably extends outward from the base 301 at least 1.5 millimeters ("mm"), and if multiple ridges are used, the ridges are preferably spaced apart at least 25.4 mm center to center of the ridges. The ribbing 304 is preferably within (2.0 inches) 50.8 mm from the bottom 305.

**[0023]** Although it is recognized that the base 301 may be made of separate components, the base 301 is preferably integrally formed, including the ribbing 304 extending outward from the sides 302 and the corners 303. Preferably, the base 301 is thermoformed by means well known in the art and made of polymeric (relating to or comprised of polymers) materials including, but not limited to, polyethylenes, nylons, polypropylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride. As shown in Figure 10, the base 301 may be constructed by means well known in the art adjacent another base 301 with a score line 316 between the bases 301 so that the bases 301 may be easily separated. A solid product 320 is placed within the cavity 307. Preferably, the solid product 320 is a pentagon-shaped product corresponding with the shape of the base 301. Then, the peelable lid 311 is connected to the top 306 of the base 301.

**[0024]** The peelable lid 311 is preferably an easy peel film corresponding in shape with the top 306 of the base 301. Preferably, the lid 311 is made of a multi-layer laminate comprising at least two layers, one of which is a heat sealable layer. The seal 314, which is preferably formed by applying heat to the lid 311 which bonds the heat sealable layer to the top 306 of the base 301, interconnects the top 306 and the lid 311. The seal 314 is preferably placed proximate the perimeter of the top 306 with one corner angled so that there is a corner where the lid 311 is not connected to the top 306 thus providing a grasping portion 312 where the lid 311 can easily be grasped by the user to begin peeling the lid 311 away from the top 306. The peel strength of the seal 314 is preferably less than 250 grams per (inch) 2.54 cm which allows for easy peeling of the lid 311 away from the top 306 while providing a seal between the top 306 and the lid 311. The base 301, the lid 311, and the seal 314 provide a moisture barrier so that moisture cannot penetrate the product packaging 300. The water vapor transmission rate ("WVTR") is measured in grams per (100 square inches) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours (g/(100 sq. in.)) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup>. For moisture sensitive products, the WVTR is preferably less than 0.02 g/(100 sq. in.) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup> for the base 301 and less than 0.13 g/(100 sq. in.) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup> for the lid 311.

**[0025]** As shown in Figures 13-17, the product packaging 400 includes a base 401 and a peelable lid 411 interconnected by a seal 414. The base 401 includes six sides 402, the adjacent sides 402 being interconnected by a rounded corner 403. Each side 402 is preferably approximately 120 degrees from the adjacent side 402. The sides 402 and the corners 403 are interconnected proximate the bottom edges of the sides 402 and the corners 403 by a bottom 405. A top 406, which is preferably a flange, extends outward from the sides 402 and the corners 403 proximate the top edges of the sides 402 and the corners 403. The sides 402, the corners 403, and the bottom 405 form a cavity 407. Ribbing 404 is proximate the bottom 405 of the base 401 and is a textured, non-slip, grippable surface on the exterior of the base 401. It is recognized that other textured, non-slip, grippable surfaces such as, but not limited to, waffle weaves, bumps, roughened surfaces, and rubber coated surfaces may be used. The ribbing 404 is preferably at least one ridge extending

outward from at least two opposing sides 402 and, more preferably, at least three ridges extending outward from the sides 402 and the corners 405 around the base 401 parallel with the bottom 405. The ribbing 404 preferably extends outward from the base 401 at least 1.5 millimeters ("mm"), and if multiple ridges are used, the ridges are preferably spaced apart at least 25.4 mm center to center of the ridges. The ribbing 404 is preferably within (2.0 inches) 50.8 mm from the bottom 405.

**[0026]** Although it is recognized that the base 401 may be made of separate components, the base 401 is preferably integrally formed, including the ribbing 404 extending outward from the sides 402 and the corners 403. Preferably, the base 401 is thermoformed by means well known in the art and made of polymeric (relating to or comprised of polymers) materials including, but not limited to, polyethylenes, nylons, polypropylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride. As shown in Figure 14, the base 401 may be constructed by means well known in the art adjacent another base 401 with a score line 416 between the bases 401 so that the bases 401 may be easily separated. A solid product 420 is placed within the cavity 407. Preferably, the solid product 420 is a hexagon-shaped product corresponding with the shape of the base 401. Then, the peelable lid 411 is connected to the top 406 of the base 401.

**[0027]** The peelable lid 411 is preferably an easy peel film corresponding in shape with the top 406 of the base 401. Preferably, the lid 411 is made of a multi-layer laminate comprising at least two layers, one of which is a heat sealable layer. The seal 414, which is preferably formed by applying heat to the lid 411 which bonds the heat sealable layer to the top 406 of the base 401, interconnects the top 406 and the lid 411. The seal 414 is preferably placed proximate the perimeter of the top 406 with one corner angled so that there is a corner where the lid 411 is not connected to the top 406 thus providing a grasping portion 412 where the lid 411 can easily be grasped by the user to begin peeling the lid 411 away from the top 406. The peel strength of the seal 414 is preferably less than 250 grams per (inch.) 2.54 cm which allows for easy peeling of the lid 411 away from the top 406 while providing a seal between the top 406 and the lid 411. The base 401, the lid 411, and the seal 414 provide a moisture barrier so that moisture cannot penetrate the product packaging 400. The water vapor transmission rate ("WVTR") is measured in grams per (100 square inches) 645.2 cm<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours (g/(100 sq. in.) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup>. For moisture sensitive products, the WVTR is preferably less than 0.02 g (100 sq. in.) 645,2 cm<sup>2</sup> the base 401 and less than 0.13 g (100 sq. in.) 645.2 cm<sup>2</sup> the lid 411.

**[0028]** The product packages 100, 200, 300, and 400 allow for the solid products 120, 220, 320, and 420, respectively, contained therein to be easily placed into a solid product dispenser without directly contacting the solid products 120, 220, 320, and 420. Although specific shapes of the bases and of the products are shown and described, it is recognized that other shapes of the bases and of the products may be used. Preferably, the shape of the base corresponds with the shape of the product. For ease of reference, how the product packaging 400 is used to place the product 420 into a solid product dispenser is described, although this description is also applicable to other embodiments.

**[0029]** In operation, the user preferably holds the product package 400 in one hand and grasps the lid 411 proximate the grasping portion 412 with the other hand and begins to peel the lid 411 away from the top 406 by breaking the seal 414, as illustrated in Figure 17. Preferably, a tool is not needed to remove the lid 411. Once the lid 411 has been peeled away from the top 406, thus exposing the solid product 420 within the cavity 407, the user preferably squeezes the base 401 thus deflecting the base 401 proximate the ribbing 404 inward to provide friction between the base 401 and the solid product 420, as shown in Figure 18, so that the solid product 420 does not fall out of the base 401 when the base 401 is inverted until it is positioned above the product housing and the user releases his or her grip on the base 401. The user then inverts the base 401, the ribbing 404 providing a non-slip, grippable surface, and releases his or her grip on the base 401 thus releasing the friction between the base 401 and the solid product 420, which allows the solid product 420 to fall out of the cavity 407 and into the product housing of the solid product dispenser. Thus, no direct contact with the solid product 420 is necessary.

**[0030]** Some solid products, such as solid acidic and alkaline products, are susceptible to moisture gain, which has a detrimental effect on the product appearance, ease of handling, and product performance. Examples of acidic solid products are disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,432,906 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0197276 A1, which are incorporated by reference herein. Examples of alkaline solid products are disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,474,698 and WO 2008/008063 A1, titled Alkaline Floor Cleaning Composition and Method of Cleaning a Floor, which are incorporated by reference herein. The acidic solid product disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0197276 A1 and the alkaline solid product disclosed in WO 2008/008063 A1, titled Alkaline Floor Cleaning Composition and Method of Cleaning a Floor) are the SOLIDSENSE™ Floor Care A & B products by Ecolab Inc. of St. Paul, Minnesota.

**[0031]** Thus, the types of materials used for the product packaging is important to ensure the stability of certain types of solid products. As stated previously, for moisture sensitive products, the WVTR is preferably less than 0.02 g/(100 sq. in) 645.2 cm<sup>2</sup> for the base and less than 0.13 g/(100 sq. in.) 645.2 cm<sup>2</sup> or the lid. Several materials were tested to determine which materials were most desirable in keeping solid products stable.

Example 1

[0032] Testing was conducted to determine weight loss and weight gain in an acid product, as disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0197276 A1 and the acid product of the SOLIDSENSE™ Floor Care A & B products by Ecolab Inc. of St. Paul, Minnesota, over a period of eight weeks when exposed to accelerated conditions (100° F) 37.7°C with a relative humidity of 90%) in three different types of product packaging.

[0033] Product packaging 1 was a flexible film, an oriented polypropylene pouch (WLP-2202 manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) heat sealed to contain the solid product therein.

[0034] Product Packaging 2 was a rigid polypropylene tray manufactured by Creative Forming, Inc. of Ripon, Wisconsin with a film lid (ESE 1250 Z1 film manufactured by Creative Forming, Inc. of Ripon, Wisconsin) heat sealed onto the tray to contain the solid product therein.

[0035] Product Packaging 3 was a rigid recycled polyethylene terephthalate (RPET) tray manufactured by Creative Forming, Inc. of Ripon, Wisconsin with a film lid (ES3 50 N film manufactured by Creative Forming, Inc. of Ripon, Wisconsin) heat sealed onto the tray to contain the solid product therein.

15 Table 1 shows the percentage of weight gain over eight weeks when the solid products were exposed to accelerated conditions (100° F) 37.7°C with a relative humidity of 90%) in the three different types of product packaging.

20 Table 1

Packaging	Percentage of Weight Gain Over Eight Weeks							
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
1	0.26	0.49	0.75	0.97	1.16	1.38	1.58	1.77
2	0.15	0.35	0.59	0.75	0.96	1.15	1.34	1.51
3	0.54	0.98	1.41	1.79	2.14	2.50	2.79	3.08

25 [0036] As shown in Table 1 and in Figure 19, which is a graph representation of the data shown in Table 1, the Product Packaging 2 provided the best moisture barrier. After approximately 3 weeks, the products contained in the Product Packaging 2 began to yellow in appearance and continued to yellow over the 8-week period. Coloration data was not available for the other two product packages.

Example 2

[0037] Testing was conducted to determine weight loss and weight gain in solid acid and alkaline products over a period of eight weeks when exposed to ambient conditions (73° F) 22.77°C with a relative humidity of 50%) and accelerated conditions (100° F) 37.7°C with a relative humidity of 65% and (100° F) 37.7°C with a relative humidity of 85%) in several different types of product packaging.

30 [0038] The solid acid product was the product disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0197276 A1 and the solid alkaline product was the product disclosed in WO 2008/008063 A1, titled Alkaline Floor Cleaning Composition and Method of Cleaning a Floor). The acidic solid product disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0197276 A1 and the alkaline solid product disclosed in WO 2008/008063 A1, titled Alkaline Floor Cleaning Composition and Method of Cleaning a Floor) are the SOLIDSENSE™ Floor Care A & B products by Ecolab Inc. of St. Paul, Minnesota.

[0039] Packaging A was a semi-rigid vacuum formed tray made of (15 mil) 0.381 mm polyester /(3 mil 0.076 mm linear low density polyethylene (WINPAK PETE 37575 L manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) with an easy peel lid stock made of (0.8 mil) 0.02 mm nylon /(2.7 mil) 0.068 mm low density polyethylene (WINPAK PAE 2070 Z14 manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada).

[0040] Packaging B was a semi-rigid vacuum formed tray made of (15 mil) 0.381 mm polyester /(3 mil 0.076 mm linear low density polyethylene (WINPAK PETE 37575 L manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) with an easy peel lid stock made of (4.0 mil) 0.101 mm white pigmented high density polyethylene coextrusion (WINPAK SK 100 WNF manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada).

35 [0041] Packaging C was a semi-rigid vacuum formed tray made of (21 mil) 0.533 mm polypropylene (3 mil) 0.076 mm polyethylene coextrusion (WINPAK PE 600 N manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) with an easy peel lid stock made of (4.0 mil) 0.101 mm white pigmented high density polyethylene coextrusion (WINPAK SK 100 WNF manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada).

[0042] Packaging D was a flexible vacuum formed tray made of (9 mil) 0.228 mm nylon, EVOH, linear low density polyethylene (WINPAK MB 225L manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) with an easy peel lid stock made of (0.8 mil) 0.02 mm nylon (2.7 mil) 0.068 mm low density polyethylene (WINPAK PAE 2070 Z14 manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada).

5 [0043] Packaging E was a flexible vacuum formed tray made of (9 mil) 0.228 mm nylon, EVOH, linear low density polyethylene (WINPAK MB 225L manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) with an easy peel lid stock made of (4.0 mil) 0.101 mm white pigmented high density polyethylene coextrusion (WINPAK SK 100 WNF manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada).

10 [0044] Packaging F was a flexible vacuum formed tray made of (9.0 mil) 0.228 mm polypropylene, polyolefin plastomer coextrusion (WINPAK MFS 225 L manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) with an easy peel lid stock made of (4.0 mil) 0.101 mm white pigmented high density polyethylene coextrusion (WINPAK SK 100 WNF manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada).

15 [0045] In addition to weight loss and weight gain under ambient and accelerated conditions, visual inspections were conducted to help determine the stability of the solid products under these conditions. The solid products were rated each week over 8 weeks using a numerical system. The number 1 represents that there were no discrepancies observed, the number 2 represents that there was no change from the previous week, the number 3 represents that there was a hole in the film, the number 4 represents that the product was discoloring (yellow), and the number 5 represents that the product was becoming soft.

20 [0046] The results of the change in weight for the solid acid product are in Table 2 and for the solid alkaline product are in Table 4. The results of the visual inspection for the solid acid product are in Table 3 and for the solid alkaline product are in Table 5.

Table 2

Weight Change of Solid Acid Product Over Eight Weeks						
Conditions	Packaging	Initial Weight (grams)	Week 4	Week 8	Total Weight Change	Percentage Weight Change
Ambient	B	1127.10	1128.50	1129.62	2.52	0.22
Ambient	C	1098.80	1099.30	1099.87	1.07	0.10
Ambient	E	1087.90	1088.70	1089.37	1.47	0.14
Ambient	F	1077.90	1079.00	1079.86	1.96	0.18
37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	B	1150.00	1157.00	1161.77	11.77	1.02
37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	C	1103.60	1107.10	1109.81	6.21	0.56
37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	E	1089.50	1094.90	1098.81	9.31	0.85
37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	F	1095.00	1102.00	1106.85	11.85	1.08

Table 3

Visual Inspection Results of the Solid Acid Product Over Eight Weeks									
Conditions	Packaging	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Ambient	B	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	C	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	E	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	F	1	2	2	2	2	2	5 bottom edge	2

(continued)

Visual Inspection Results of the Solid Acid Product Over Eight Weeks									
<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Packaging</u>	<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 5</u>	<u>Week 6</u>	<u>Week 7</u>	<u>Week 8</u>
37.7°C (100° F,) 85% RH	B	1	2	4	4	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5
37.7°C (100° F,) 85% RH	C	1	4	2	2	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5
37.7°C (100° F,) 85% RH	E	1	2	4	4	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5
37.7°C (100° F,) 85% RH	F	1	4	4	4	4,5	4,5	4,5	4,5

Table 4

Weight Change of Solid Alkaline Product Over Eight Weeks						
<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Packaging</u>	<u>Initial Weight (grams)</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 8</u>	<u>Total Weight Change</u>	<u>Percentage Weight Change</u>
Ambient	A	1260.00	1261.00	1262.03	2.03	0.16
Ambient	B	1257.40	1258.20	1259.09	1.69	0.13
Ambient	D	1242.50	1243.10	1243.73	1.23	0.10
Ambient	E	1255.10	1255.60	1256.18	1.08	0.09
37.7°C (100° F,) 65% RH	A	1242.50	1248.70	1253.60	11.10	0.89
37.7°C (100° F,) 65% RH	B	1245.60	1253.30	1259.22	13.62	1.09
37.7°C (100° F,) 65% RH	D	1237.20	1241.60	1245.26	8.06	0.65
37.7°C (100° F,) 65 % RH	E	1236.40	1240.50	1243.63	7.23	0.58
37.7°C (100° F,) 85% RH	A	1240.90	1248.70	1254.87	13.97	1.13
37.7°C (100° F,) 85% RH	B	1225.60	1233.00	1238.68	13.08	1.07
37.7°C (100° F,) 85% RH	D	1227.40	1234.00	1239.32	11.92	0.97
37.7°C (100° F,) 85% RH	E	1233.50	1238.90	1243.12	9.62	0.78

Table 5

Visual Inspection Results of the Solid Alkaline Product Over Eight Weeks									
Conditions	Packaging	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
mbient	A	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	B	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	D	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	E	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
37.7°C 100°F, 65% RH	A	1	2	2	2	5	5	5	5
37.7°C 100°F, 65% RH	B	1	2	3 <sup>1</sup>	2	5	5	5	5
37.7°C 100°F, 65% RH	D	1	2	2	2	5	5	5	5
37.7°C 100°F, 65% RH	E	1	2	2	2	5	5	5	5
37.7°C 100°F, 85% RH	A	1	2	2	2	5	5	5	5
37.7°C 100°F, 85% RH	B	1	2	2	2	5	5	5	5
37.7°C 100°F, 85% RH	D	3 <sup>2</sup>	2	2	5	5	5	5	5
37.7°C 100°F, 85% RH	E	1	2	2	5	5	5	5	5
1- tear caused by handling 2 - package was damaged									

**[0047]** From these results, it was determined that the lower the WVTR of the film, the better protection was provided for the acid and alkaline products. The films providing acceptable protection for the acid and alkaline products had a WVTR of less than 0.02 g/(100 sq. in. 645.2 cm<sup>2</sup>). The films providing unacceptable protection for the acid and alkaline products had WVTR of less than 0.06 to 0.45 g/(100 sq. in. 645.2 cm<sup>2</sup>) at which the integrity of the products deteriorated.

#### Example 3

**[0048]** Testing was conducted to determine weight loss and weight gain in solid acid and alkaline products over a period of eight weeks when exposed to ambient conditions (73°F) 22.77°C with a relative humidity of 50%) and accelerated conditions (100°F) 37.7°C with a relative humidity of 65% and (100°F) 37.7°C with a relative humidity of 85%) in several different types of product packaging.

**[0049]** The solid acid product was the product disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0197276 A1, and the solid alkaline product was the product disclosed in WO 2008/008063 A1, titled Alkaline Floor Cleaning Composition and Method of Cleaning a Floor). The acidic solid product disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0197276 A1 and the alkaline solid product disclosed in WO 2008/008063 A1, titled Alkaline Floor Cleaning Composition and Method of Cleaning a Floor) are the SOLIDSENSE™ Floor Care A & B products by Ecolab Inc. of St. Paul, Minnesota.

**[0050]** Packaging G was a semi-rigid vacuum formed tray made of (15 mil) 0.381 mm polyester (3 mil) 0.076 mm linear low density polyethylene (WINPAK PETE 37575 L with a WVTR of 0.06 g/(100 sq. in.) 645.2 cm<sup>2</sup> manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) with an easy peel lid stock made of (0.8 mil) 0.02 mm nylon (2.7 mil) 0.068 mm low density polyethylene / easy peel (WINPAK PAE 2070 Z14 with a WVTR of 0.45 g (100 sq. in.) 645.2 cm<sup>2</sup> manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada).

**[0051]** Packaging H was a flexible shrink film made of multi-layered, cross-linked polyethylene shrink film, single wound (1.25 mil) 0.031mm manufactured by Cryovac, Inc. of Saddle Brook, New Jersey.

[0052] In addition to weight loss and weight gain under ambient and accelerated conditions, visual inspections were conducted to help determine the stability of the solid products under these conditions. The solid products were rated each week over 8 weeks using a numerical system. The number 1 represents that there were no discrepancies observed, the number 2 represents that there was no change from the previous week, the number 3 represents that there was tearing in the film, the number 4 represents that the product was becoming soft, the number 5 represents that the product was discoloring, the number 6 represents that the product was discolored, and the number 7 represents that slight mold patches were beginning to form.

[0053] The results of the change in weight for the solid acid product are in Table 6 and for the solid alkaline product are in Table 8. The results of the visual inspection for the solid acid product are in Table 7 and for the solid alkaline product are in Table 9.

Table 6

Weight Change of Solid Acid Product Over Eight Weeks								
	Conditions	Pkg.	Sample	Initial Weight (grams)	Week 4	Week 8	Total Weight Change	Percentage Weight Change
15	Ambient	G	1	1119.06	1119.41	1119.63	0.57	0.05
20	Ambient	G	2	1116.64	1116.97	1117.13	0.49	0.04
25	Ambient	G	3	1118.62	1118.85	1119.12	0.50	0.04
30	Ambient	G	4	1120.17	1120.45	1120.63	0.46	0.04
35	Ambient	H	1	1099.17	1100.86	1102.03	2.86	0.26
40	Ambient	H	2	1090.03	1091.70	1092.95	2.92	0.27
45	Ambient	H	3	1088.23	1089.85	1091.06	2.83	0.26
50	Ambient	H	4	1093.31	1094.94	1096.16	2.85	0.26
55	37.7°C (100°F.) 65% RH	G	1	1128.95	1130.28	1131.45	2.50	0.22
	37.7°C (100°F.) 65% RH	G	2	1111.16	1113.00	1115.00	3.84	0.35
	37.7°C (100°F.) 65% RH	G	3	1117.61	1118.97	1120.18	2.57	0.23
	37.7°C (100°F.) 65% RH	G	4	1114.64	1116.29	1117.98	3.34	0.30
	37.7°C (100°F.) 65% RH	H	1	1091.19	1096.94	1101.14	9.95	0.91
	37.7°C (100°F.) 65% RH	H	2	1101.87	1107.32	1111.76	9.89	0.90
	37.7°C (100°F.) 65% RH	H	3	1098.43	1105.37	1110.76	12.33	1.12
	37.7°C (100°F.) 65% RH	H	4	1096.20	1102.52	1107.08	10.88	0.99
	37.7°C (100°F.) 85% RH	G	1	1112.21	1113.79	1115.98	3.77	0.34
	37.7°C (100°F.) 85% RH	G	2	1120.96	1131.55	1133.82	12.86	1.15
	37.7°C (100°F.) 85% RH	G	3	1113.88	1117.78	1121.80	7.92	0.71
	37.7°C (100°F.) 85% RH	G	4	1109.62	1111.99	1114.16	4.54	0.41

(continued)

## Weight Change of Solid Acid Product Over Eight Weeks

Conditions	Pkg.	Sample	Initial Weight (grams)	Week 4	Week 8	Total Weight Change	Percentage Weight Change
37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	H	1	1099.03	1112.95	1125.19	26.16	2.38
37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	H	2	1103.50	1116.29	1127.11	23.61	2.14
37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	H	3	1096.66	1110.49	1121.45	24.79	2.26
37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	H	4	1090.39	1100.65	1110.46	20.07	1.84

Table 7

## Visual Inspection Results of the Solid Acid Product Over Eight Weeks

Conditions	Packaging / Sample	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Ambient	G/1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	G/2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	G/3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	G/4	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	H/1	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	2
Ambient	H/2	1	2	4	2	5	2	2	2
Ambient	H/3	1	2	4	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	H/4	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	2
37.7°C (100°F,) 65%RH	G/1	1	2	4	2	2	2	2	2
37.7°C (100°F,) 65% RH	G/2	1	2	4	2	2	2	2	2
37.7°C (100°F,) 65% RH	G/3	1	2	4	2	2	2	2	2
37.7°C (100°F,) 65% RH	G/4	1	2	4	2	5	2	2	2
37.7°C (100°F,) 65%RH	H/ 1	4,5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
37.7°C (100°F,) 65% RH	H/2	4,5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
37.7°C (100°F,) 65% RH	H/3	3,4,5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

(continued)

Visual Inspection Results of the Solid Acid Product Over Eight Weeks										
	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Packaging / Sample</u>	<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 5</u>	<u>Week 6</u>	<u>Week 7</u>	<u>Week 8</u>
5	37.7°C (100° F.) 65% RH	H/4	4,5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
10	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	G/1	1	4	2	2	2	2	2	2
15	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	G/2	1	4,5	2	2	2	2	2	2
20	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	G/3	1	4	2	5	2	2	2	2
25	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	G/4	1	4	2	2	2	2	2	5
30	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	H/1	4,5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
35	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	H/2	4,5	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
40	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	H/3	4,5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
45	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	H/4	4,5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Table 8

Weight Change of Solid Alkaline Product Over Eight Weeks								
	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Pkg.</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Initial Weight (grams)</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 8</u>	<u>Total Weight Change</u>	
45	Ambient	G	1	1148.65	1148.86	1148.98	0.33	0.03
50	Ambient	G	2	1144.95	1145.14	1145.28	0.33	0.03
55	Ambient	G	3	1152.76	1152.98	1153.12	0.36	0.03
37.7°C (100° F.) 65% RH	Ambient	G	4	1149.80	1150.30	1150.68	0.88	0.08
Ambient	H	1	1125.57	1127.66	1129.00	3.43	0.30	
Ambient	H	2	1117.30	1119.18	1120.30	3.00	0.27	
Ambient	H	3	1128.05	1129.93	1131.22	3.17	0.28	
Ambient	H	4	1133.85	1135.64	1136.92	3.07	0.27	
37.7°C (100° F.) 65% RH	G	1	1142.92	1144.33	1145.41	2.49	0.22	

(continued)

Weight Change of Solid Alkaline Product Over Eight Weeks							
	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Pkg.</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Initial Weight (grams)</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 8</u>	<u>Total Weight Change</u>
5	37.7°C (100°F,) 65% RH	G	2	1143.59	1145.24	1146.30	2.71
10	37.7°C (100°F,) 65%RH	G	3	1148.00	1152.34	1153.26	5.26
15	37.7°C (100°F,) 65% RH	G	4	1130.44	1132.35	1133.37	2.93
20	37.7°C (100°F,) 65% RH	H	1	1061.10	1068.38	1074.65	13.55
25	37.7°C (100°F,) 65% RH	H	2	1068.07	1078.63	1083.45	15.38
30	37.7°C (100°F,) 65% RH	H	3	1127.08	1134.73	1140.84	13.76
35	37.7°C (100°F,) 65%RH	H	4	1136.93	1159.92	1165.15	28.22
40	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	G	1	1147.85	1149.82	1151.50	3.65
45	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	G	2	1142.47	1145.18	1148.37	5.90
50	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	G	3	1137.91	1140.50	1142.46	4.55
55	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	G	4	1132.36	1135.48	1137.89	5.53
55	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	H	1	1138.11	1152.12	1164.40	26.29
55	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	H	2	1125.72	1140.80	1153.99	28.27
55	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	H	3	1126.95	1142.40	1157.47	30.52
55	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	H	4	1068.28	1078.24	1092.91	24.63

Table 9

Visual Inspection Results of the Solid Alkaline Product Over Eight Weeks										
	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Packaging /Sample</u>	<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 5</u>	<u>Week 6</u>	<u>Week 7</u>	<u>Week 8</u>
50	Ambient	G/1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
55	Ambient	G/2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
55	Ambient	G/3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
55	Ambient	G/4	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
55	Ambient	H/1	3	4	2	2	2	2	2	2
55	Ambient	H/2	1	3	2	4	2	2	2	2

(continued)

Visual Inspection Results of the Solid Alkaline Product Over Eight Weeks										
	Conditions	Packaging /Sample	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
5	Ambient	H/3	1	1	2	4	2	2	2	7
10	Ambient	H/4	1	1	2	4	2	2	2	2
15	37.7°C (100° F.) 65% RH	G/1	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	2
20	37.7°C (100° F.) 65% RH	G/2	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	2
25	37.7°C (100° F.) 65% RH	G/3	1	4	2	2	2	2	2	2
30	37.7°C (100° F.) 65% RH	G/4	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	2
35	37.7°C (100° F.) 65% RH	H/1	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
40	37.7°C (100° F.) 65% RH	H/2	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
45	37.7°C (100° F.) 65% RH	H/3	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
50	37.7°C (100° F.) 65% RH	H/4	3,4	2	2	2	2	5	2	2
55	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	G/1	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	2
	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	G/2	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	2
	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	G/3	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	2
	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	G/4	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	2
	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	H/1	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	H/2	3,4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

(continued)

Visual Inspection Results of the Solid Alkaline Product Over Eight Weeks									
Conditions	Packaging /Sample	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	H/3	3,4	2	2	2	5	2	2	2
37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	H/4	3,4	2	2	2	5	2	6	2

**[0054]** Both the solid acid products and the solid alkaline products packaged in the semi-rigid trays showed a significant reduction in weight gain as compared to the solid acid products and the solid alkaline products packaged in the flexible shrink film. Further, the appearance of the solid acid products and the solid alkaline products packaged in the semi-rigid trays were acceptable while the solid acid products and the solid alkaline products packaged in the flexible shrink film had a mottled appearance.

**[0055]** For Packaging G, the base had a W VTR of 0.06g (100 sq. in) 645.2cm<sup>2</sup> and the lid had a WVTR of 0.45 g(100 sq. in.) 645.2cm<sup>2</sup>.

#### Example 4

**[0056]** Testing was conducted to determine weight loss and weight gain in solid acid and alkaline products over a period of eight weeks when exposed to ambient conditions (73° F) 22.77°C with a relative humidity of 50%) and accelerated conditions (100°) 37.7°C with a relative humidity of 85%) in several different types of product packaging.

**[0057]** The solid acid product was the product disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0197276 A1 and the solid alkaline product was the product disclosed in WO 2008/008063A1 , titled Alkaline Floor Cleaning Composition and Method of Cleaning a Floor). The acidic solid product disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0197276 A1 and the alkaline solid product disclosed in WO 2008/008063A1, titled Alkaline Floor Cleaning Composition and Method of Cleaning a Floor) are the SOLIDSENSE™ Floor Care A & B products by Ecolab Inc, of St. Paul, Minnesota.

**[0058]** Packaging I was a semi-rigid vacuum formed tray made of (15 mil) 0.381mm polyester (3 mil) 0.076mm linear low density polyethylene (WINPAK PETE 37575 manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) with an easy peel lid stock made of (1 mil) 0.0254mm 0.076mm nylon (3 mil) polyethylene coextrusion (WINPAK PE manufactured by WINPAK LTD. of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada).

**[0059]** Packaging J was a flexible shrink film made of multi-layered, cross-linked polyethylene shrink film, single wound (1.25 mil) 0.031mm manufactured by Cryovac, Inc. of Saddle Brook, New Jersey.

**[0060]** In addition to weight loss and weight gain under ambient and accelerated conditions, visual inspections were conducted to help determine the stability of the solid products under these conditions. The solid products were rated each week over 8 weeks using a numerical system. The number 1 represents that there were no discrepancies observed, the number 2 represents that there was no change from the previous week, the number 3 represents that there was product discoloration and weepage proximate the perforation holes, the number 4 represents that there was product discoloration proximate the film pressure points, the number 5 represents that there was product softening proximate the perforation holes, and the number 6 represents that there was product discoloration proximate the perforation holes.

**[0061]** The results of the change in weight for the solid acid product are in Table 10 and for the solid alkaline product are in Table 12. The results of the visual inspection for the solid acid product are in Table 11 and for the solid alkaline product are in Table 13.

Table 10

Weight Change in Product Packaged in Shrink Film Over Eight Weeks						
Conditions	Sample	Initial Weight (grams)	Week 4	Week 8	Total Weight Change	Percentage Weight Change
Ambient	1	999.64	1000.13	1000.62	0.98	0.10
Ambient	2	1004.72	1005.27	1005.85	1.13	0.11

(continued)

Weight Change in Product Packaged in Shrink Film Over Eight Weeks							
	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Initial Weight (grams)</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 8</u>	<u>Total Weight Change</u>	<u>Percentage Weight Change</u>
5	Ambient	3	987.78	988.44	989.06	1.28	0.13
10	Ambient	4	999.89	1000.59	1001.23	1.34	0.13
15	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	1	1028.89	1040.62	1051.69	22.80	2.22
20	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	2	993.37	1004.54	1016.15	22.78	2.29
25	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	3	993.98	1004.88	1015.93	21.95	2.21
30	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	4	1012.31	1023.48	1034.50	22.19	2.19

Table 11

Visual Inspection Results of Product Packaged in Shrink Film Over Eight Weeks										
	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 5</u>	<u>Week 6</u>	<u>Week 7</u>	<u>Week 8</u>
25	Ambient	1	4	2	2	2	6	2	2	2
30	Ambient	2	4	2	2	2	6	2	2	2
35	Ambient	3	4	2	2	2	6	2	2	2
40	Ambient	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	1	3,4	3,4,5	2	2	2	2	2	2
	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	2	3,4	3,4,5	2	2	2	2	2	2
	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	3	3,4	3,4,5	2	2	2	2	2	2
	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	4	3,4	3,4,5	2	2	2	2	2	2

Table 12

Weight Change in Product Packaged in Tray Over Eight Weeks							
	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Initial Weight (grams)</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 8</u>	<u>Total Weight Change</u>	<u>Percentage Weight Change</u>
45	Ambient	1	1011.95	1012.45	1012.88	0.93	0.09
50	Ambient	2	1021.66	1022.22	1022.70	1.04	0.10
55	Ambient	3	1010.86	1011.37	1011.81	0.95	0.09
	Ambient	4	1019.63	1020.15	1020.59	0.96	0.09
	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	1	992.89	998.60	1003.72	10.83	1.09
	37.7°C (100°F,) 85% RH	2	1016.14	1021.36	1026.03	9.89	0.97

(continued)

## Weight Change in Product Packaged in Tray Over Eight Weeks

Conditions	Sample	Initial Weight (grams)	Week 4	Week 8	Total Weight Change	Percentage Weight Change
37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	3	1013.60	1018.77	1023.49	9.89	0.98
37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	4	1010.98	1017.27	1022.96	11.98	1.18

Table 13

## Visual Inspection Results of Product Packaged in Tray Over Eight Weeks

Conditions	Sample	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Ambient	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ambient	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	1	3	2	2	2	4	2	2	2
37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	2	3	2	2	2	4	2	2	2
37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	3	3	2	2	2	4	2	2	2
37.7°C (100° F.) 85% RH	4	3	2	2	2	4	2	2	2

**[0062]** For the shrink wrapped blocks, no significant changes were noticeable under ambient conditions. The blocks retained a lot of moisture, were soft, and changed in color in areas where moisture was absorbed under the accelerated conditions. The shrink wrapped blocks did not provide an acceptable moisture barrier. The nature of shrink films requires that there be a process for the evacuation of air as the film shrinks around the product being encased. The two options for air evacuation typically used are punched holes or pin perforations in the film. Both options leave an exposed area of product to atmospheric conditions, specifically moisture uptake, the rate of which can be controlled by the size of the evacuation holes or perforations, but not less than 0.02 g (100 sq. in) 654.2 cm<sup>2</sup> as provided by the base portion of the tray packages referenced earlier. The base portion of the tray packages reduces the amount of moisture uptake by the product.

**[0063]** For the tray packages, no significant changes were noticeable under ambient conditions. The blocks retained their firmness under the accelerated conditions. The tray packages provided an acceptable moisture barrier.

**[0064]** Through the series of testing, various materials were evaluated for their ability to maintain the integrity of the packaged products based on moisture gain, product appearance such as discoloration, deformation, and the like. In evaluating different polymers such as nylons, polyethylenes, polypropylenes, and the like, it was determined that a polypropylene coextrusion provided the most desirable results. In addition to having acceptable WVTR rates, polypropylene provides good clarity and has a higher softening point allowing for use with various forming methods known in the art. Although polypropylene provided the most desirable results, it is recognized that other materials also provided acceptable results.

**[0065]** The above specification, examples and data provide a complete description of the manufacture and use of the composition of the invention. Since many embodiments of the invention can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, the invention resides in the claims hereinafter appended.

## Claims

1. A product packaging (100) containing a solid product block (120), comprising:

- 5 a) a base (101) having a top (106), sides (102), and a bottom (105) forming a cavity (107) configured and arranged to receive the solid product block (120), the cavity having a free space between the sides (102) and the sides of the solid product block, and the base (101) having an exterior surface;
- b) a texture on the exterior and interior surface of the base (101), whereby the texture enhances a user's ability to grip the base (101) when the base (101) is inverted;
- 10 c) a lid (111); and
- d) a seal (114) interconnecting the top (106) of the base (101) and the lid (111), the seal (114) allowing the lid (111) to be peeled away from the top (106) of the base (101).

15 wherein the base (101) is a flexible material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, nylon, polypropylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride.

2. The product packaging (100) of claim 1, wherein the top (106) is a flange extending outward proximate the sides (102) of the base (101).

20 3. The product packaging (100) of claim 2, further comprising a grasping portion (112) proximate the flange, the grasping portion (112) being an area where the seal (114) is absent thereby allowing the lid (111) to be grasped and peeled to separate the lid (111) from the top (106) of the base (101).

25 4. The product packaging (100) of claim 1, wherein the texture is ribbing (104).

5. The product packaging (100) of claim 4, wherein the ribbing (104) extends outward at least 1.5 mm.

30 6. The product packaging (100) of claim 4, the ribbing (104) comprising at least first and second ribs, a center of the first rib spaced at least 25.4 mm from a center of the second rib.

7. The product packaging (100) of claim 4, wherein the ribbing (104) is proximate the bottom (105) of the base (101).

35 8. The product packaging (100) of claim 1, wherein the lid (111) is made of a multi-layer laminate comprising at least two layers, one of which is a heat sealable layer.

9. The product packaging (100) of claim 8, wherein the heat sealable layer of the lid (111) creates the seal (114) interconnecting the top (106) of the base (101) and the lid (111).

40 10. The product packaging (100) of claim 1, wherein the base (101) has a water vapor transmission rate of less than  $3.1 \cdot 10^{-5}$  g/cm<sup>2</sup> (0.02 g/100 sq. in.) and the lid (111) has a water vapor transmission rate of less than  $2.015 \cdot 10^{-4}$  g/cm<sup>2</sup> (0.13 g/100 sq. in.).

45 11. A method of dispensing a solid product (120) from a product packaging (100) according to claims 1 to 10 into a solid product dispenser, comprising:

- a) obtaining the product packaging (100)
- b) grasping a portion of the peelable lid (111);
- c) peeling the peelable lid (111) away from the base (101);
- 50 d) holding the base (101) and inverting the base (101) so that the bottom (105) of the base (101) is in an upward orientation and the top (106) of the base (101) is in a downward orientation; and
- e) squeezing the base (101) thus deflecting the base (101) inward to provide friction between the base (101) and the solid product (120) prior to inverting the base (101) so that the solid product (120) does not fall out of the base (101) until the friction is released,
- f) allowing the solid product (120) to slide out of the cavity (107) into the solid product dispenser.

**Patentansprüche**

1. Produktverpackung (100) enthaltend einen festen Produktblock (120), die umfasst:
  - 5 a) eine Basis (101) mit einem Oberteil (106), Seiten (102) und einem Boden (105), die einen Hohlraum (107) bilden, der gestaltet und angeordnet ist, um den festen Produktblock (120) aufzunehmen, wobei der Hohlraum freien Raum zwischen den Seiten (102) und den Seiten des festen Produktblocks aufweist und die Basis (101) eine äußere Oberfläche hat;
  - 10 b) eine Struktur auf der äußeren und inneren Oberfläche der Basis (101), wobei die Struktur die Fähigkeit des Nutzers, die Basis (101), wenn diese umgedreht ist, zu ergreifen, verbessert;
  - c) einen Deckel (111) und
  - 15 d) eine Versiegelung (114), die das Oberteil (106) der Basis (101) und den Deckel (111) miteinander verbindet, wobei die Versiegelung (114) ermöglicht, dass der Deckel (111) von dem Oberteil (106) der Basis (101) abgezogen wird,
- 15 wobei die Basis (101) ein flexibles Material ist, das aus der Gruppe bestehend aus Polyethylen, Nylon, Polypropylen, Polystyrol und Polyvinylchlorid ausgewählt ist.
2. Produktverpackung (100) nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Oberteil (106) ein Flansch ist, der sich unmittelbar von den Seiten (102) der Basis (101) nach außen erstreckt.
3. Produktverpackung (100) nach Anspruch 2, die ferner einen Greifabschnitt (112) in unmittelbarer Nähe des Flansches umfasst, wobei der Greifabschnitt (112) ein Bereich ist, wo die Versiegelung (114) fehlt, wodurch ermöglicht wird, dass der Deckel ergriffen und abgezogen werden kann, um den Deckel (111) von dem Oberteil (106) der Basis (101) abzuziehen.
4. Produktverpackung (100) nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Struktur eine Verrippung (104) ist.
5. Produktverpackung (100) nach Anspruch 4, wobei die Verrippung (104) sich mindestens 1,5 mm nach außen erstreckt.
- 30 6. Produktverpackung (100) nach Anspruch 4, wobei die Verrippung (104) mindestens eine erste und zweite Rippe aufweist und ein Zentrum der ersten Rippe mindestens 25,4 mm von einem Zentrum der zweiten Rippe entfernt ist.
- 35 7. Produktverpackung (100) nach Anspruch 4, wobei die Verrippung (104) sich in unmittelbarer Nähe des Bodens (105) der Basis (101) befindet.
8. Produktverpackung (100) nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Deckel (111) aus einem mehrschichtigen Laminat, das mindestens zwei Schichten aufweist, von denen eine eine heißsiegelfähige Schicht ist, hergestellt ist.
- 40 9. Produktverpackung (100) nach Anspruch 8, wobei die heißsiegelfähige Schicht des Deckels (111) das Siegel (114) bildet, das das Oberteil (106) der Basis (101) und den Deckel (111) miteinander verbindet.
10. Produktverpackung (100) nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Basis (101) eine Wasserdampfdurchlässigkeitsrate von weniger als  $3,1 \cdot 10^{-5}$  g/cm<sup>2</sup> (0,02 g/100 Quadratzoll) aufweist und der Deckel (111) eine Wasserdampfdurchlässigkeitsrate von weniger als  $2,015 \cdot 10^{-4}$  g/cm<sup>2</sup> (0,13 g/100 Quadratzoll) aufweist.
- 50 11. Verfahren zum Ausgeben eines festen Produktes (120) aus einer Produktverpackung (100) gemäß Ansprüchen 1 bis 10 in einen Spender für ein festes Produkt, umfassend:
  - a) Erlangen der Produktverpackung (100);
  - b) Ergreifen eines Teils des abziehbaren Deckels (111);
  - c) Abziehen des abziehbaren Deckels (111) von der Basis (101);
  - 55 d) Halten der Basis (101) und Umdrehen der Basis (101), sodass der Boden (105) der Basis (101) sich in einer Aufwärtsorientierung befindet und das Oberteil (106) der Basis (101) sich in einer Abwärtsorientierung befindet, und
  - e) Zusammendrücken der Basis (101), um somit die Basis (101) nach innen durchzudrücken, um Reibung zwischen der Basis (101) und dem festen Produkt (120) vor Umkehren der Basis (101) zu gewährleisten, sodass

das feste Produkt (120) nicht aus der Basis (101) fällt, bis die Reibung aufgehoben ist;

f) Herausgleitenlassen des festen Produkts (120) aus dem Hohlraum (107) in den Spender für ein festes Produkt.

5 **Revendications**

1. Emballage de produit (100) contenant un bloc de produit solide (120) comprenant :

10 a) une base (101) ayant une partie supérieure (106), des côtés (102) et un fond (105) formant une cavité (107) configurée et disposée pour recevoir le bloc de produit solide (120), la cavité ayant un espace libre entre les côtés (102) et les côtés du bloc de produit solide, et la base (101) ayant une surface extérieure ;  
b) une texture sur la surface extérieure et intérieure de la base (101), moyennant quoi la texture améliore la capacité de l'utilisateur de saisir la base (101) quand la base (101) est inversée ;  
c) un couvercle (111) ; et  
15 d) un joint (114) interconnectant la partie supérieure (106) de la base (101) et le couvercle (111), le joint (114) permettant d'enlever le couvercle (111) de la partie supérieure (106) de la base (101),

20 dans lequel la base (101) est un matériau flexible choisi dans le groupe constitué de polyéthylène, nylon, polypropylène, polystyrène et chlorure de polyvinyle.

25 2. Emballage de produit (100) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la partie supérieure (106) est une bride s'étendant vers l'extérieur proche des côtés (102) de la base (101).

3. Emballage de produit (100) selon la revendication 2, comprenant en outre une partie de prise (112) proche de la bride, la partie de prise (112) étant une zone où le joint (114) est absent, ce qui permet ainsi de saisir le couvercle (111) et de le détacher pour séparer le couvercle (111) de la partie supérieure (106) de la base (101).

30 4. Emballage de produit (100) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la texture est une partie nervurée (104).

5. Emballage de produit (100) selon la revendication 4, dans lequel la partie nervurée (104) s'étend vers l'extérieur sur au moins 1,5 mm.

35 6. Emballage de produit (100) selon la revendication 4, la partie nervurée (104) comprenant au moins une première et une seconde nervure, un centre de la première nervure étant espacé d'au moins 25,4 mm du centre de la seconde nervure.

7. Emballage de produit (100) selon la revendication 4, dans lequel la partie nervurée (104) est proche du fond (105) de la base (101).

40 8. Emballage de produit (100) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le couvercle (111) est constitué d'un stratifié multicouches comprenant au moins deux couches, dont l'une est une couche thermosoudable.

9. Emballage de produit (100) selon la revendication 8, dans lequel la couche thermosoudable du couvercle (111) crée le joint (114), interconnectant la partie supérieure (106) de la base (101) et le couvercle (111).

45 10. Emballage de produit (100) selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la base (101) a une vitesse de transmission de la vapeur d'eau inférieure à  $3,1 \cdot 10^{-5}$  g/cm<sup>2</sup> (0,02 g/100 pouces carrés) et le couvercle (111) a une vitesse de transmission de la vapeur d'eau inférieure à  $2,015 \cdot 10^{-4}$  g/cm<sup>2</sup> (0,13 g/100 pouces carrés).

50 11. Procédé de dispersion d'un produit solide (120) à partir d'un emballage de produit (100) selon les revendications 1 à 10, dans un distributeur de produit solide, consistant à :

55 a) obtenir l'emballage de produit (100)  
b) saisir une portion du couvercle détachable (111) ;  
c) détacher le couvercle détachable (111) de la base (101) ;  
d) supporter la base (101) et inverser la base (101), de sorte que le fond (105) de la base (101) se trouve dans une orientation vers le haut et le haut (106) de la base (101) se trouve dans une orientation vers le bas ; et  
e) écraser la base (101) en déviant ainsi la base (101) vers l'intérieur pour provoquer un frottement entre la

**EP 2 043 918 B9**

base (101) et le produit solide (120) avant l'inversion de la base (101), de sorte que le produit solide (120) ne tombe pas hors de la base (101) jusqu'à la libération du frottement,  
f) laisser le produit solide (120) coulisser hors de la cavité (107) dans le distributeur de produit solide.

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

Fig. 2

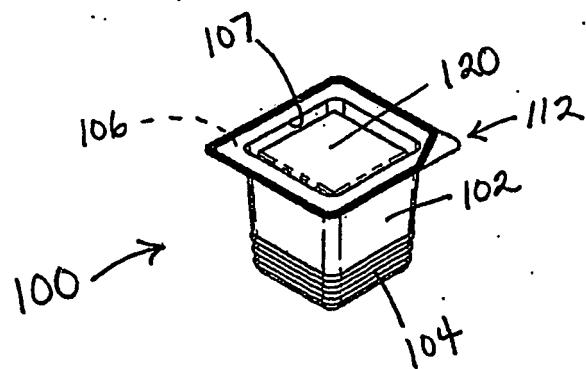
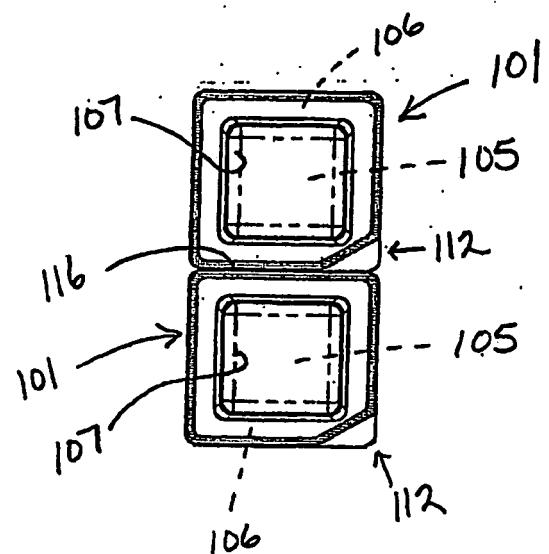


Fig. 1

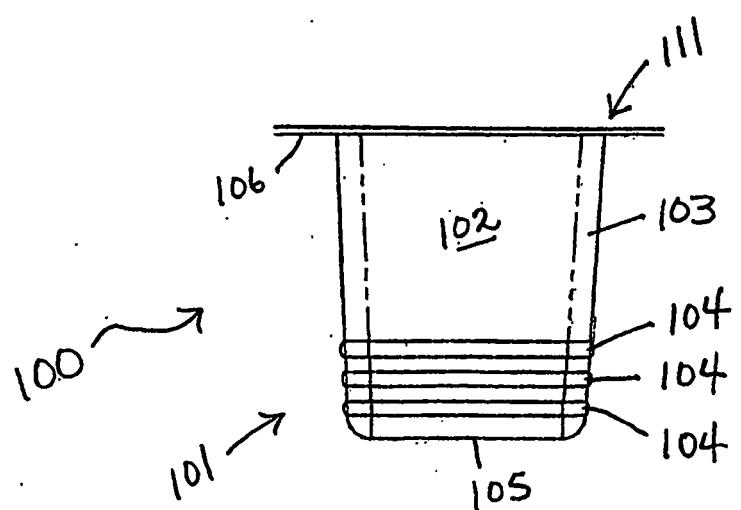
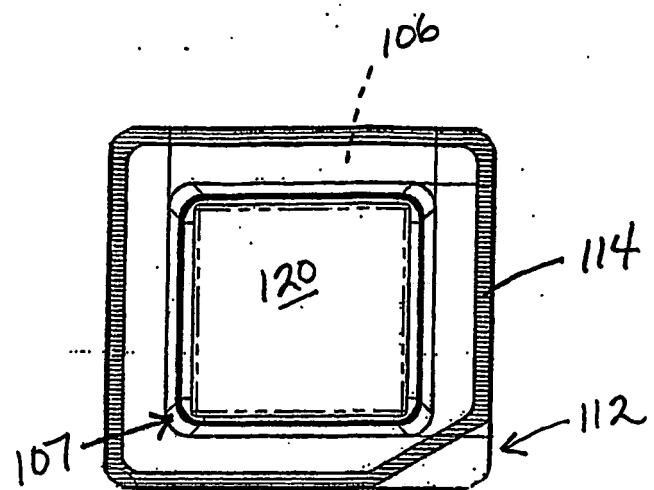


Fig. 6

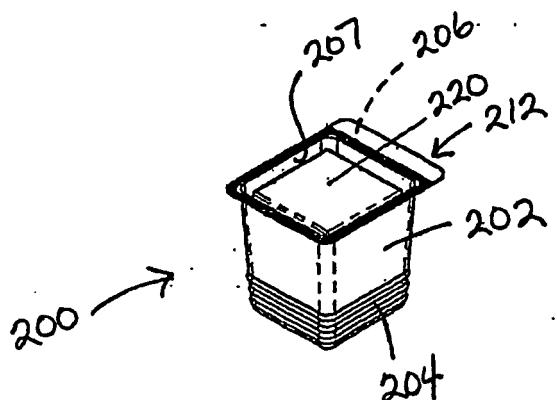
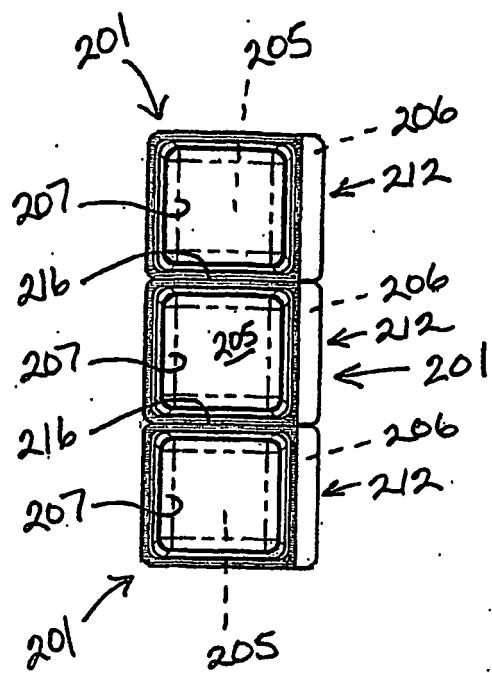


Fig. 5

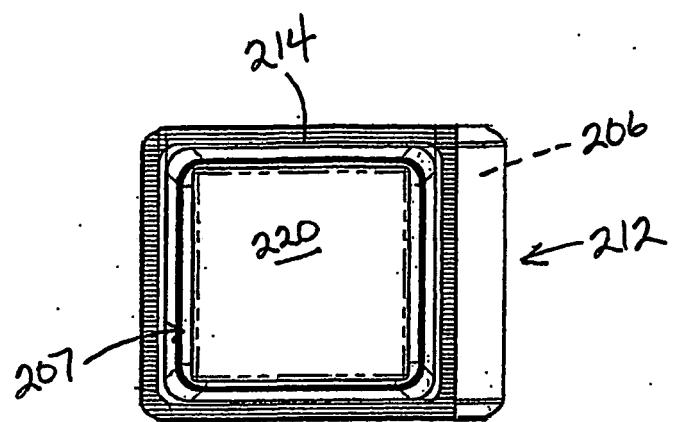


Fig. 7

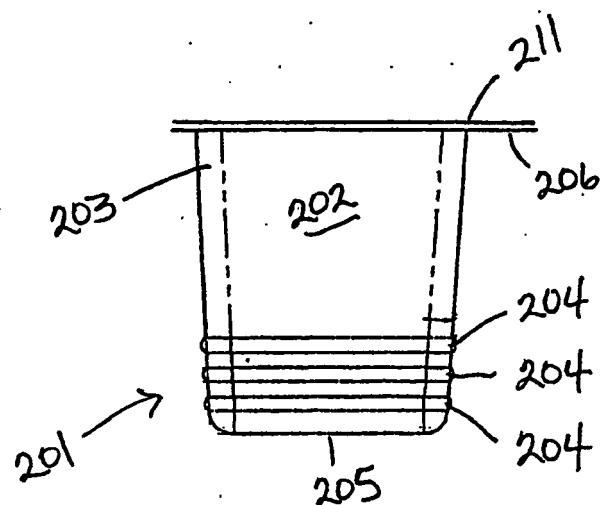


Fig. 8

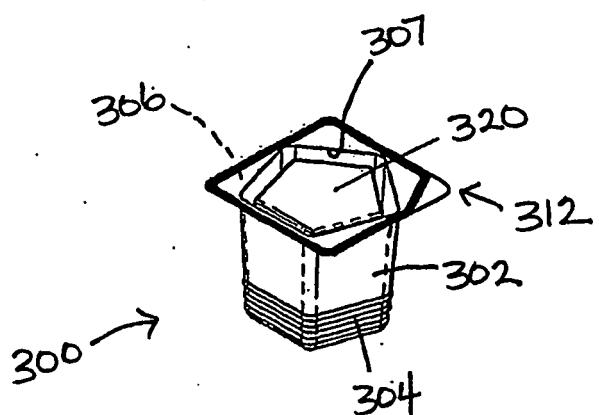
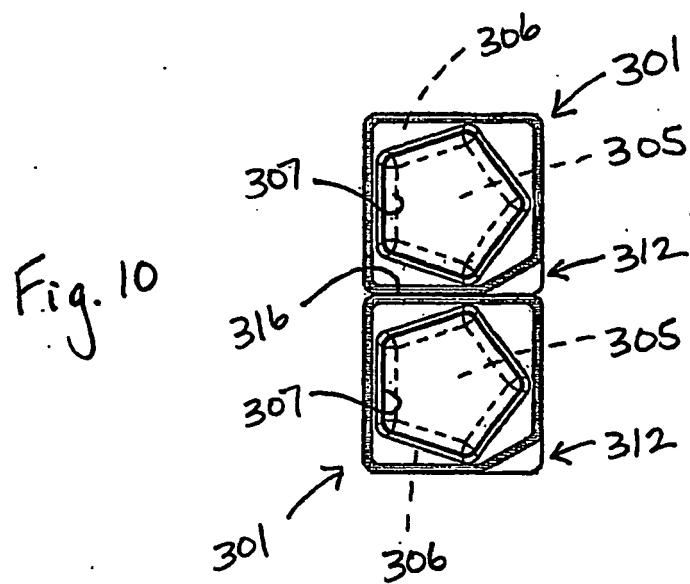


Fig. 9

Fig. 11

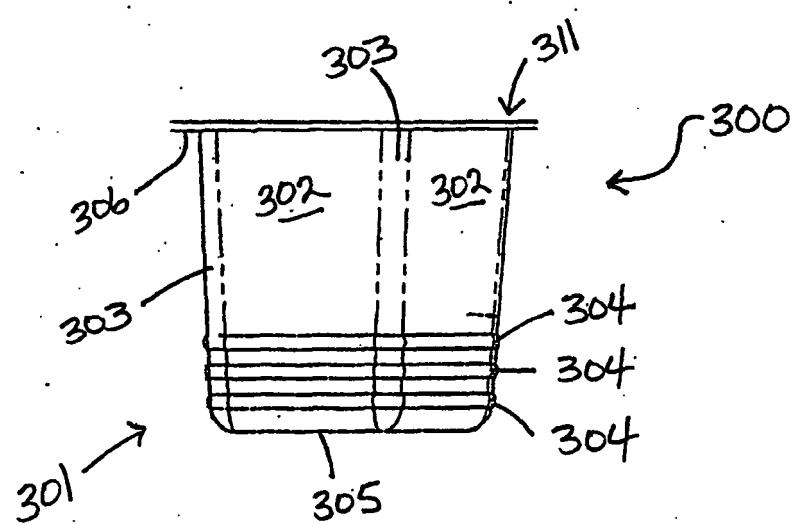
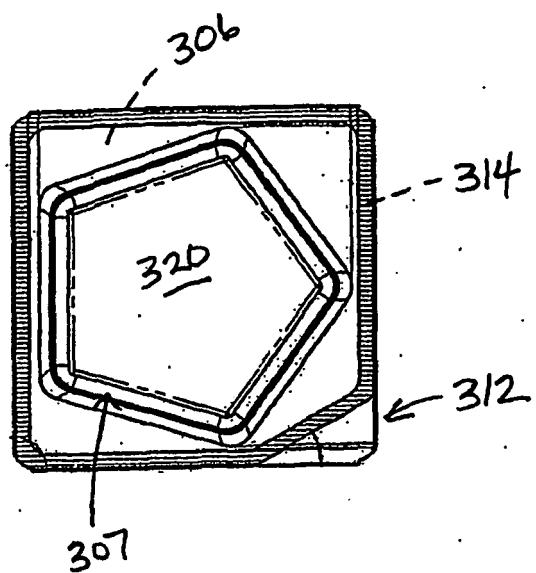


Fig. 12

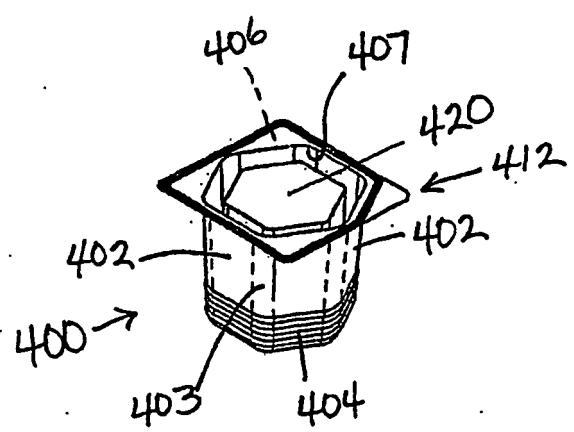
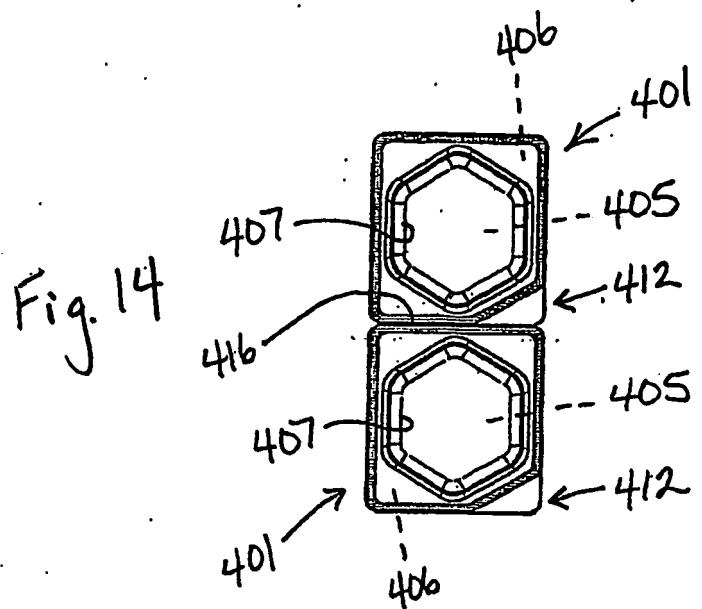


Fig. 13

Fig. 15

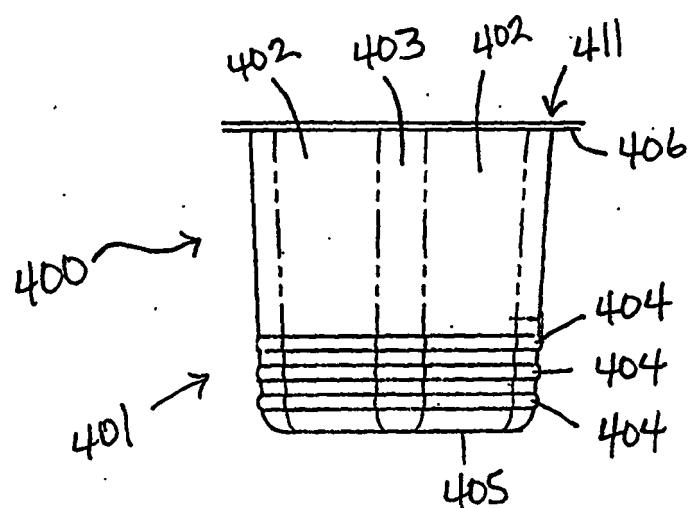
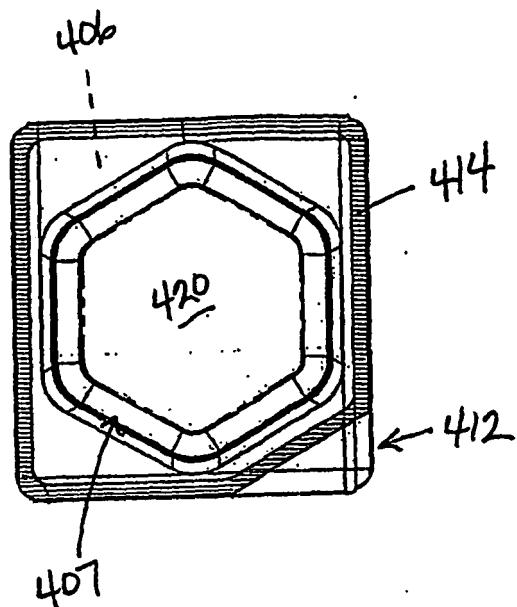


Fig. 16

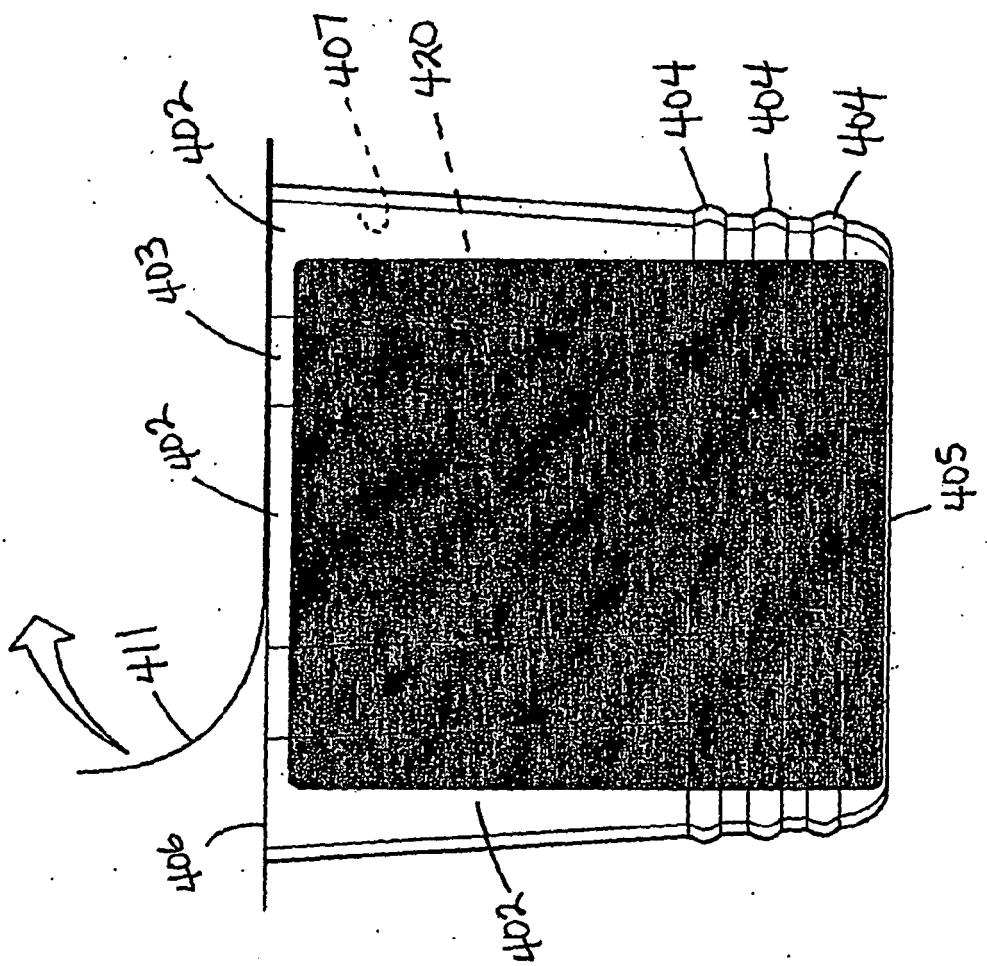


Fig. 17

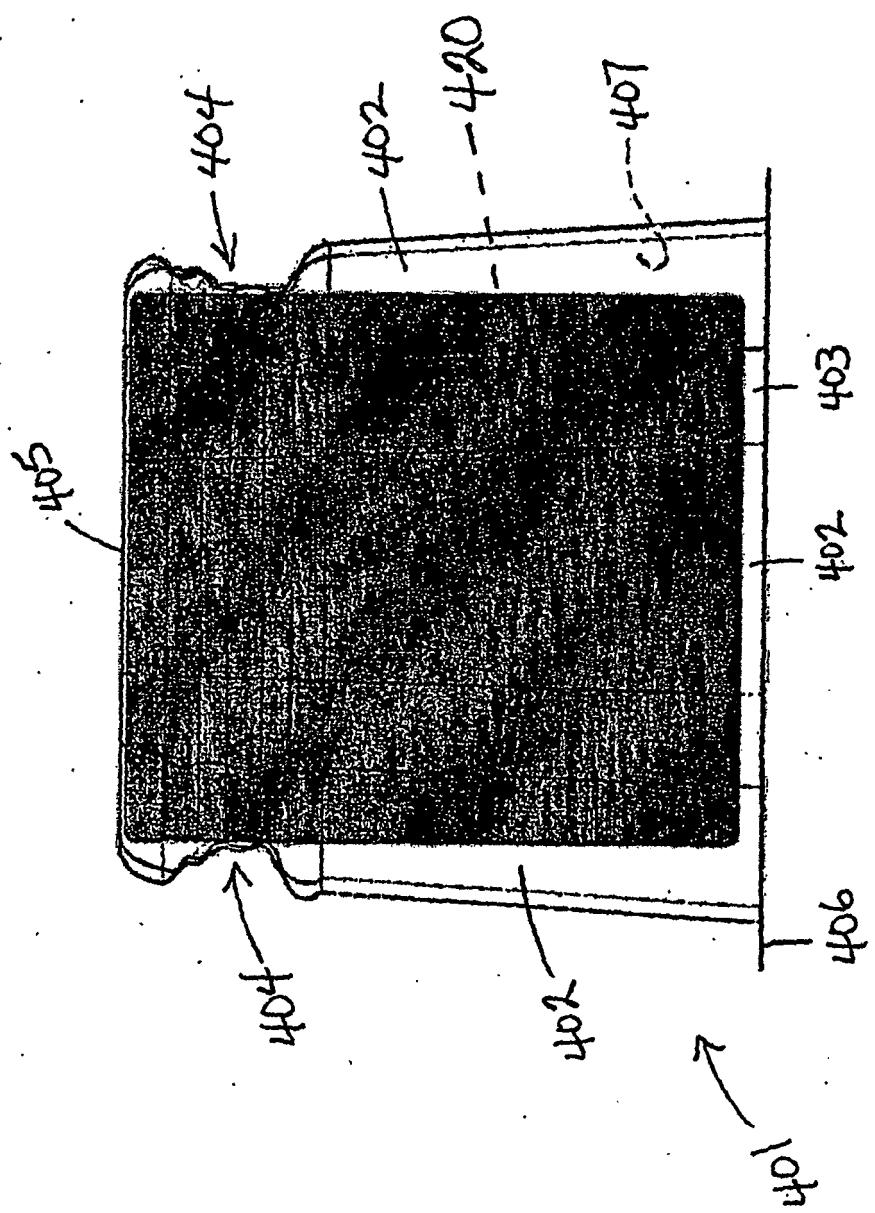


Fig. 18

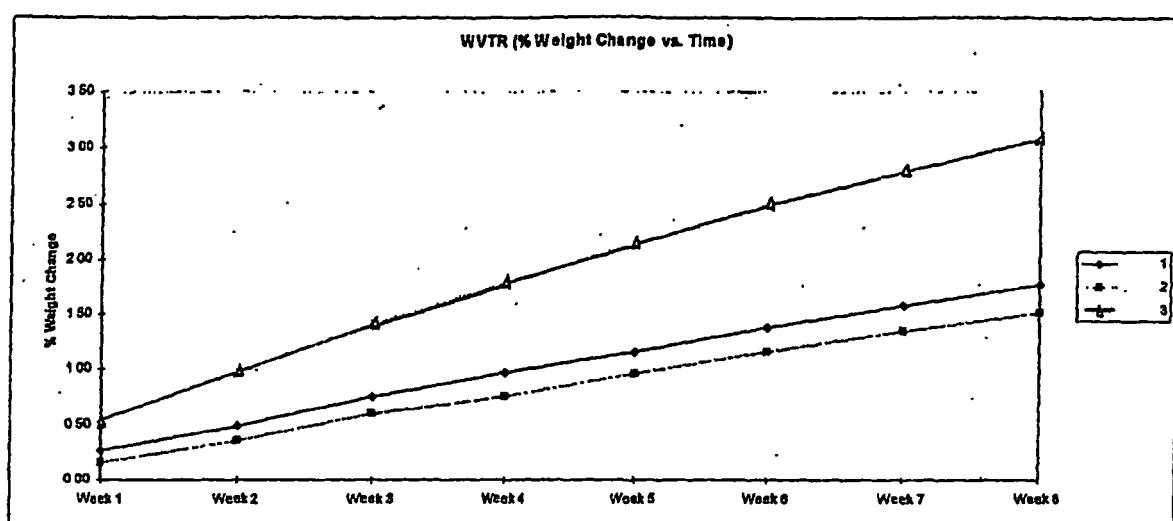


Fig. 19

**REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION**

*This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.*

**Patent documents cited in the description**

- JP 2003182716 A [0007]
- US 2920417 A [0008]
- US RE32763 E [0009]
- US 6432906 B [0030]
- US 20050197276 A1 [0030] [0032] [0038] [0049] [0057]
- US 5474698 A [0030]
- WO 2008008063 A1 [0030] [0038] [0049] [0057]
- WO 20088063 A1 [0049]