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(54) **Safety padded liner for showers and bathtubs**

(57) SAFETY PADDED COATING FOR TUBS, SHOWERS AND ALL KINDS OF BATHTUBS, comprising a silicone piece (1), with shape and dimensions suitable for tightly surrounding, totally or partially, the surface of the rigid piece (2) of a bathtub, adapting and fitting itself to the shape thereof, joining itself hermetically to it in the holes for drainage, water inlet, tap connection, etc., being said silicone (1) of resistant, non toxic neither allergy-causing composition. The silicone piece (1) has, preferably, a thickness between 6 and 10 cm along the whole application and, when it is transparent it is contemplated incorporating decorative elements (3) integrated between said silicone piece (1) and the surface of the rigid piece (2) constituent of the bathtub on which it is coupled.

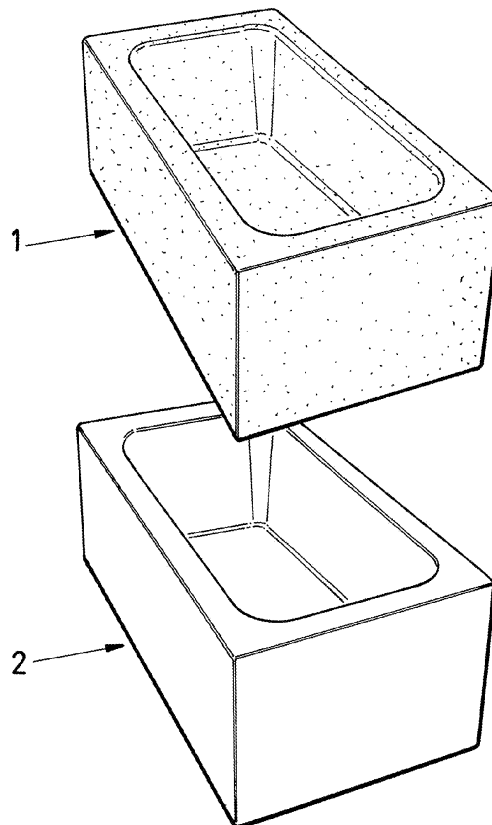


FIG.1

Description

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention, as exposed on the wording of the present specification, relates to a safety padded coating for tubs, showers and all kinds of bathtubs, providing the function it is intended for several advantages, besides novelty characteristics inherent to its own arrangement and makeup, which will be described in detail below and which imply a remarkable novelty.

[0002] More particularly, the object of the invention focuses on a padded coating consisting of a silicone enclosing layer which, especially designed to this end, has the purpose of serving as safety and comfort element for the bath systems, i.e., shower trays, tubs, whirlpool baths, etc., and in short any kind of bathtub, so that opposite to the conventional ceramic bathtubs, it offers more safety acting as a damping barrier against incidental hits, as an anti-slip surface avoiding slips and falls, as a protecting barrier against possible impact breaking, bringing about also a grater comfort as it provides a bearing surface for the padded body and, therefore, softer.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Currently, and referring to the state of the art, it must be pointed that, by the applicant, it is unknown the existence of any other safety coating for tubs, showers and all kinds of bathtubs or any other invention with similar application presenting technical, structural and constitutive characteristics similar to the ones presented by the coating herein recommended, whose characterizing details are suitably included in the final claims accompanying the present specification.

EXPLANATION OF THE INVENTION

[0004] Specifically, what the invention proposes is, as it has been already indicated previously, a coating for bathtubs having the purpose of protecting both the bathtub itself and, specially, the user thereof while providing said user with a greater comfort, allowing also the increase of the aesthetic and design possibilities thereof.

[0005] To this end, the coating of the invention, which advantageously is applicable so that it can be coupled to all kinds, models and trademarks of bathtubs commercially available, not rejecting either its application to other bathroom fittings, such as washbasins, kitchen sinks or bidets, is configured from a silicone layer which, configured as a flexible and elastic piece with configuration and dimensions similar to the rigid piece constituting the bathtub to be coated, surrounds its surface, whether totally or partially, covering at least the upper part thereof or the basin of the tub or bathtub, adapting and fitting itself to the shape thereof.

[0006] It is important to emphasize that said silicone piece, which, preferably, will have a thickness between

6 and 10 cm along the whole application, will be developed specifically for the needs required by said use, so that it guarantees the hardness, breaking and elongation or deformation tear strength, resistance and stability against chemical mineral and organic attacks by the components of cleaning and hygiene products, resistance without deformation to high temperatures and pressure and, logically, to constant contact with water. On the other hand, also, the composition of the silicone used will be such that it is environment-friendly, and is non toxic neither allergy-causing.

[0007] It is worth noting, also, that the silicone piece constituent of the coating recommended by the invention, even though it might present any colour in which it could be made, will be preferably transparent, thus allowing advantageously customize each application according to the desired aesthetic and/or decorative preferences, since said transparency allows the incorporation of decorative elements integrated between it and the surface of the bathtub on which the silicone coating is applied.

[0008] The described safety padded coating for tubs, showers and all kinds of bathtubs represents, accordingly, an innovative structure with structural and constitutive characteristics unknown so far to this end, reasons which in combination with its practical utility, provide it with enough basis to obtain the exclusivity privilege which is applied for.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] In order to complement the description being fulfilled of the coating object of the invention and with the aim of helping to a better understanding of the characteristics characterizing it, the present specification is accompanied, as an integral part thereof, by a set of plans, in which by way of illustration and not of limitation, is represented the following:

Figure number 1.- Shows a perspective and exploded view of an example of embodiment of the coating object of the invention and of the bathtub which it is intended for, the similar configuration of both elements being appreciated.

Figure number 2.- Shows a sectional view, in a longitudinal section, of the coating according to the invention, once coupled on the bathtub, the adjusting between both elements and the optional incorporation between them of decorative elements being appreciated.

PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

[0010] In light of the mentioned figures, and according to the numbering taken, it can be seen on them an example of preferred embodiment of the invention, which comprises the parts and elements indicated and described in detail below.

[0011] Thus, as can be seen in said figures, the padded coating in question is configured from a silicone piece (1), padded, resistant, flexible and elastic material, presenting a structural configuration with shape and dimensions suitable for tightly surrounding the surface, whether totally or partially, covering at least the upper part or basin of the tub or bathtub, from the rigid piece (2) constituting the bathtub it is intended for, adapting and fitting itself to the shape thereof (figure 2), and having, logically, all those holes for drainage, water inlet, tap connection, etc., which are necessary and in which the silicone piece (1) and the rigid piece (2) of the bathtub will be suitably hermetically joined.

[0012] It is important to emphasize that said silicone piece (1) constituting the coating, has preferably a thickness between 6 and 10 cm along the whole application, being made of a composition which grants it the hardness and strength necessary for the use it is intended for, being this composition, also, environment-friendly, and non toxic neither allergy-causing.

[0013] Optionally, the upper surface of the silicone piece (1) presents grooves and/or bulges (3) providing roughness to it, in order to enhance the anti-slip action of the silicone itself.

[0014] The silicone piece (1), also, might present any colour in which it could be made, being preferably transparent in order to allow the incorporation of decorative elements (4) integrated between said silicone piece (1) and the surface of the rigid piece (2) constituent of the bathtub on which it is coupled as a coating, as it is seen in figure 2.

[0015] Thus, once coupled the silicone piece (1) on the rigid piece (2) of the bathtub, it acts as a damping barrier against incidental hits, as an anti-slip surface avoiding slips and falls and as a protecting barrier against possible impact breaking, providing also a greater comfort for the user as a padded bearing surface.

[0016] Having sufficiently described the nature of the present invention, as well as a way of putting it into practice, it is not considered necessary to make a more extensive explanation in order that any expert in this area will understand its scope and the advantages that can be derived from it, making known that, within reason it could be put into practice in other embodiments differing in detail from that indicated by way of example, and which will obtain the same degree of protection, provided that they do not alter, change, or modify its fundamental principle.

Claims

1. SAFETY PADDED COATING FOR TUBS, SHOWERS AND ALL KINDS OF BATHTUBS, **characterized in that** it comprises a silicone piece (1), presenting a structural configuration with shape and dimensions suitable for tightly surrounding the surface of the rigid piece (2) constituting the bathtub it is in-

tended for, adapting and fitting itself to the shape thereof; wherein the silicone piece (1) has all those holes for drainage, water inlet, tap connection, etc., which are necessary and in which the silicone piece (1) and the rigid piece (2) of the bathtub will be joined together hermetically; and wherein the silicone which said silicone piece (1) is made with, besides of being a padded, flexible and elastic material, presents a non toxic neither allergic-causing composition and which makes it resistant to the use it is intended for.

2. SAFETY PADDED COATING FOR TUBS, SHOWERS AND ALL KINDS OF BATHTUBS, according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the silicone piece (3) presents a structural configuration with shape and dimensions suitable for totally surrounding the surface of the rigid piece (2) constituting the bathtub it is intended for.

3. SAFETY PADDED COATING FOR TUBS, SHOWERS AND ALL KINDS OF BATHTUBS, according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the silicone piece (3) presents a structural configuration with shape and dimensions suitable for partially surrounding, covering at least the upper part or basin of the tub or bathtub, the surface of the rigid piece (2) constituting the bathtub it is intended for.

4. SAFETY PADDED COATING FOR TUBS, SHOWERS AND ALL KINDS OF BATHTUBS, according to claims 1 and 2 or 3, **characterized in that** the silicone piece (1) has, preferably, a thickness between 6 and 10 cm along the whole application.

5. SAFETY PADDED COATING FOR TUBS, SHOWERS AND ALL KINDS OF BATHTUBS, according to claims 1 to 5, **characterized in that** when the silicone piece (1) is transparent it is contemplated incorporating decorative elements (3) integrated between said silicone piece (1) and the surface of the rigid piece (2) constituent of the bathtub on which it is coupled.

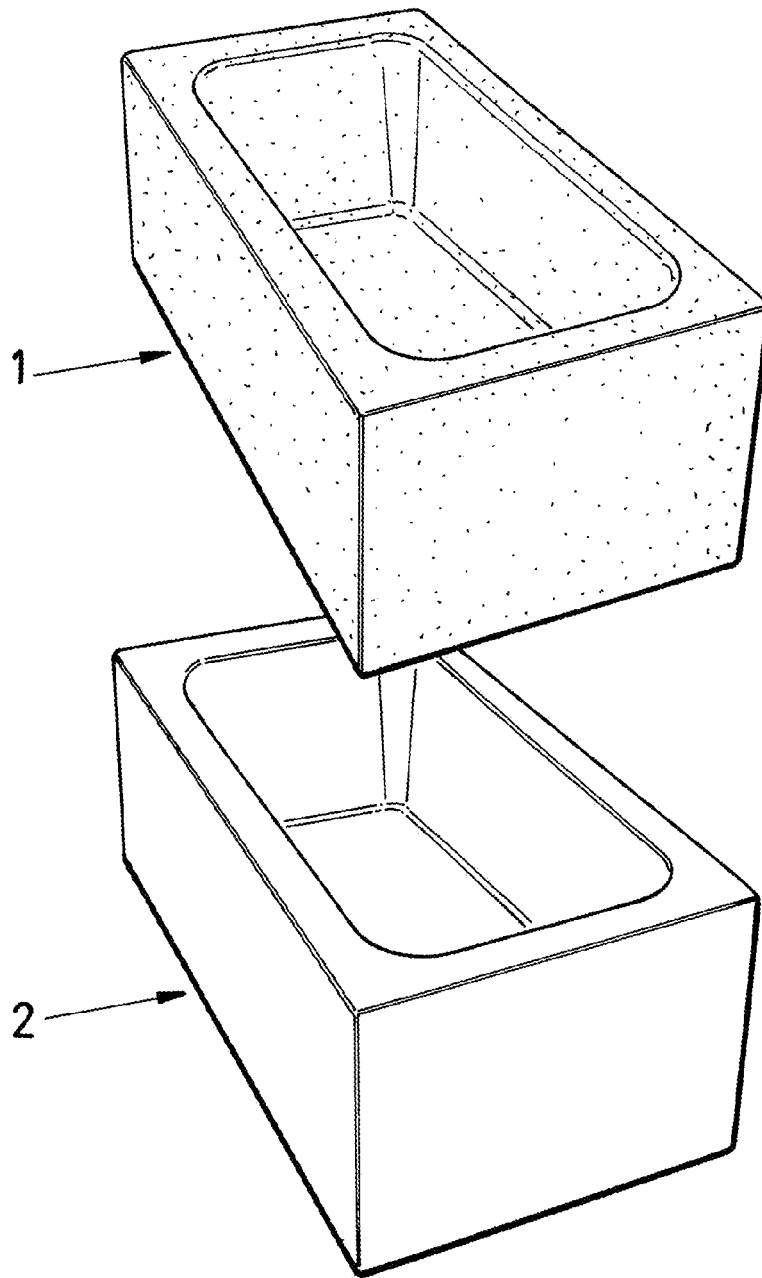


FIG.1

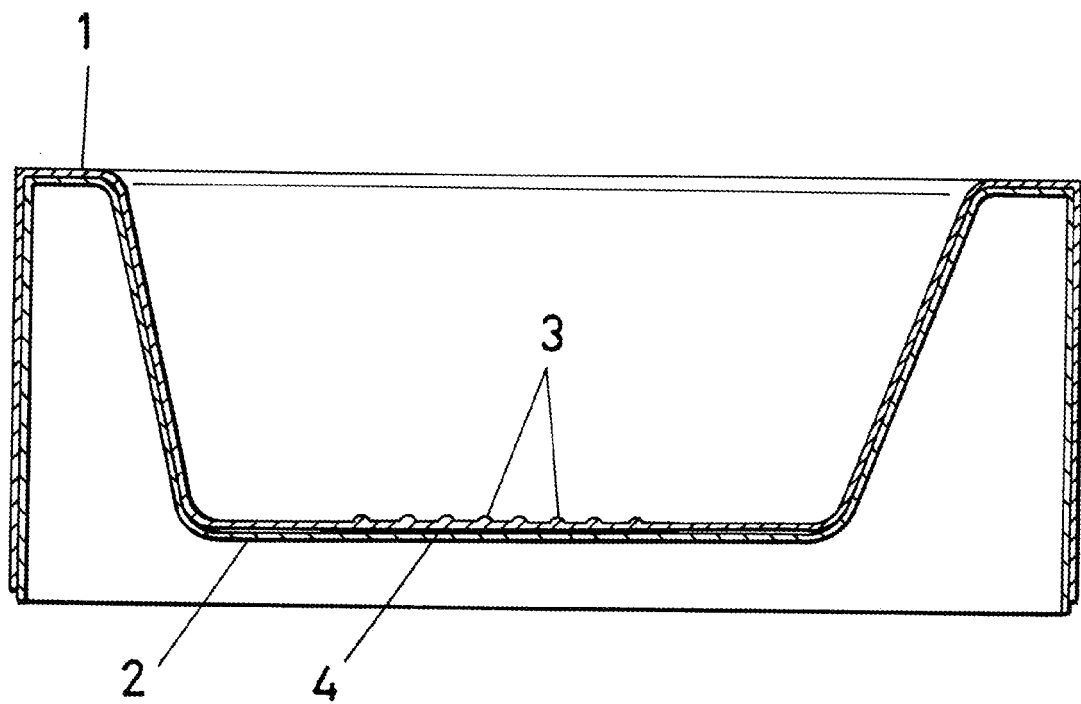


FIG. 2



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 10 38 2345

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	EP 2 036 476 A2 (ANGUIANO POLIURETANOS S L [ES]) 18 March 2009 (2009-03-18) * paragraph [0004] - paragraph [0014] * * figures 1,2 *	1-5	INV. A47K3/00
X	WO 2008/130258 A1 (CZERNICKA KATARZYNA [PL]; NIEDZIELSKI WACLAW [PL]) 30 October 2008 (2008-10-30) * page 4, paragraph 4 - page 5, paragraph 1 * * claim 7 *	1,3-5	
X	US 2008/000022 A1 (SIEBEN RAY [CA]) 3 January 2008 (2008-01-03) * paragraph [0006] - paragraph [0038] * * claims 1,5,7,11 *	1-5	
X	US 6 101 642 A (AUTEN CONSTANCE L [US] ET AL) 15 August 2000 (2000-08-15) * column 2, line 48 - column 6, line 30 * * claim 4 *	1-5	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A47K C08L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 31 May 2011	Examiner Stinchcombe, John
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 10 38 2345

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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31-05-2011

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