

HOME BASE

NEW PRODUCTS, GREAT IDEAS

HOME

A 'greener' vacuum

Green is in, and Eureka's new Envirovac vacuum capitalizes on the trend, promising to reduce energy consumption by 33%.

The vacuum has a reusable and washable HEPA filter to reduce waste caused by disposable filters, and it comes in recycled cardboard packaging.

It's available exclusively at Wal-Mart and at www.walmart.com for \$72.22.



FOOD

Munch on a few school lunch facts

In honor of the new school year, here are some historical tidbits about school lunches from Hallmark Magazine:

■ The first lunchbox in 1902 was shaped like a picnic basket and depicted two happy kids playing.

■ Sloppy Joes, invented in the 1930s, were named after a cook named Joe.

■ In 1981, the Reagan administration declared ketchup a vegetable for purposes of evaluating school lunch nutrition.

■ In case you were wondering, 84% of schoolchildren say they trade their food with friends.



HOME

Tips for buying ergonomic hand tools

Drop by any hardware store or home improvement center, and you're likely to find aisles of tools labeled "ergonomic."

They have angled handles, padded grips or non-slip coatings — all designed to improve efficiency while reducing discomfort, fatigue and risk of injury.

So how do you know which one is best suited to both you and the task at hand?

CableOrganizer.com offers several guidelines, including:

- Avoid picking tools whose handles have built-in finger grooves, as finger size and placement differ from person to person.

- Choose tools with handles covered in a soft material like foam or flexible plastic to provide a firmer grip and comfort.

- Use only tools that allow you to work with your wrist in a straight position.



— *Karen Herzog*