

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The first motorized vacuum cleaner was invented in 1901 by Hubert Cecil Booth.

Before that, people used hand-pumped vacuum cleaners.

People have been bleaching items throughout history, but we have French chemist Claude Berthollet to thank for liquid commercial bleach.

Bleach is a great germ-killer, but it should be used with caution.

The first flush toilet was invented in 1596 by Sir John Harrington.

Shakespeare was writing his famous plays while Sir John was working on a more down-to-earth achievement. He called his invention Ajax, which was a pun on the word “jakes,” a slang word for latrine.

Farmer Levi Dickenson is credited with the first modern high-quality broom. Before Dickenson, brooms fell apart easily.

Electricity wasn't widespread in some regions of the US until the 1930's so some early washing machines had their own gas-powered engines.

Josephine Cochrane (along with George Butters) invented the first commercially successful hand-powered dishwasher in 1886.

She decided to make a mechanical dishwasher because she was tired of her servants chipping her dishes while hand-washing them.