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COCHRANE, Josephine**Geographic Terms:** ILLINOISReport Available**Abstract:** The article discusses the invention of the first dish-washing machine by Josephine Cochrane of Illinois.**Lexile:** 1110**Full Text Word Count:** 187**ISSN:** 0199-5197**Accession Number:** 43395911**Database:** Middle Search Plus**Section:** Dishwasher

## **NO MORE Dishpan Hands**

Sometimes the craziest reasons can spark an idea that has lasting benefits. Beginning in the late 1870s, Josephine Cochrane of Illinois wanted an easy way to clean fine china. Cochrane herself was not responsible for washing dishes, but the Story goes that her servants, who did do the washing, kept chipping her china. To avoid too much rough handling during hand washing, she decided to make a dish-washing machine." Cochrane twisted wire into special racks made to fit her plates, cups, and saucers. The filled racks rested on a wheel inside a huge copper boiler. While a motor turned the wheel, hot soapy water sprayed up from the bottom of the boiler onto the dishes. Cochrane showed off her "dishwasher," which she patented in 1886, at the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition to high praise. Today, dishwashers are considered standard kitchen appliances.

PHOTO (COLOR): Josephine Cochrane's hand-powered washing machine has evolved into a device that washes and dries our dishes.

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