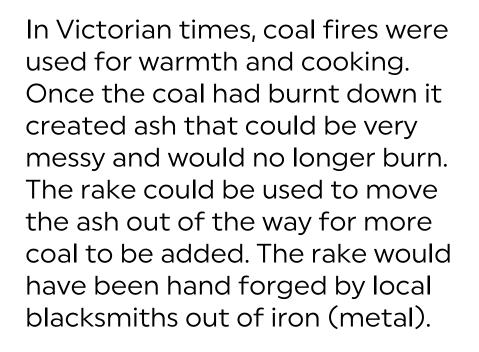
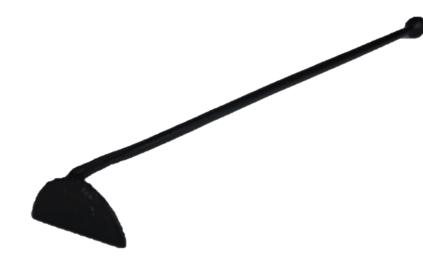
Victorian Home

Ashes Rake





<u>Rag Rug</u>



Victorian houses had stone or clay flags on the floor, which were very cold to walk on. To create warmth, the women and children would cut up old clothes and furnishings from their home. These small scraps of fabric could then be used to create a rug. Coal was often delivered in large hessian sacks and it was the sack material that would be reused to make the backing of the rug.



Rag Rug Prodder

A rag rug prodder was used to push or poke the strips of fabric through the holes in the hessian sack material. To save money on buying a specialist tool, people would often carve a wooden peg to have a sharp end which would do the same job and was cheaper. This Rag Rug tool had a variety of different names; such as: proddy, prodder, stobbie, progger, clippie etc.

Bellows



Bellows were used in the home to blow oxygen onto the fire to feed the flames and to bring the fire back to life as it died down. This was achieved by expanding the handles to let the air in through the mesh hole and then pushing the handles together to force the air out of the end in the direction of the fire. When people were cooking, using the bellow would raise the temperature of the fire.



<u>Flat Iron</u>

Flat irons were also known as sad irons (sad meaning solid). They were the most common type of iron used in the home for clothing in Victorian homes. They were used in pairs with one iron being heated up on the kitchen coal fire, while the other was used for ironing put creases in clothes/ bedding. Victorian women used to spit on the hot iron surface to test if it was sizzling hot. The open fire in the kitchen was called a range.

Darning Mushroom



A darning mushroom is a wooden mushroom-shaped tool used for repairing socks and linen. The sock would be stretched over the curved top of the mushroom and gathered tightly around the stalk to hold it in place for darning (sewing). The sewing would weave in and out in different directions to match the weave of the material. The darning mushroom would have been an essential tool and women would pass on the skill to their daughters.

Glove Stretcher

open the fingers of gloves before they were put on. The stretchers were two strips of wood with rounded ends. They were hinged in the middle and when the stretcher was put into the glovefinger it could be opened, stretching the finger out. Gloves were made in a variety of fabrics, but the 'kid' brand was very common. Kid is very fine leather, which fits over the hands like a second skin.

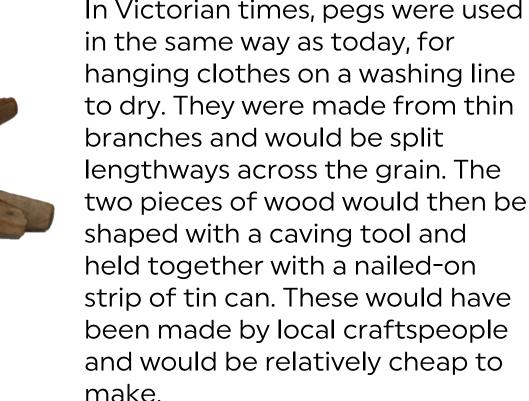
Glove stretchers were used to

Needle Case

In Victorian times, needles were precious items and easily lost. Needle cases were essential for storing these fragile items and were often highly decorative. Needle cases were usually tubular shaped, and the two pieces tightly fit together to keep the needles secure. Victorian girls would learn the skill of hand-sewing from their mothers and knew how to make repairs to clothes, create tapestries and they would even make their own clothes out of old curtains.



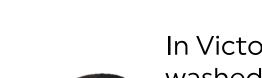
<u>Clothes Pegs</u>







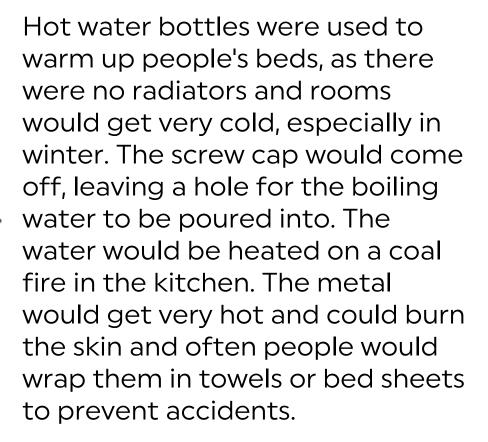
Wash Tongs





In Victorian times, clothes were washed in large wash tubs. Wooden Wash Tongs were used for lifting clothes and linen out of the water when it was very hot to avoid getting burnt by the water. This would have been necessary for washing that was being done over a fire, when the water could become scalding hot.







Victorian Kitchen

Pie Mould

