



Guide to the Consumer Reports. Technical Department records. 1910-2006

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Summary

Collection Title:

Consumer Reports. Technical Department records, 1910-2015

Source:

John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History

Creator:

Consumer Reports (Firm)

Abstract:

Consumer Reports is a product testing and consumer advocacy nonprofit organization based in Yonkers, N.Y., founded in 1936 as Consumers Union. The Technical Department was responsible for the creation of testing procedures and methods; performance of product tests; and production of test data and written evaluations for use in Consumer Reports periodicals and buying guides. The collection includes correspondence; photographs of products and product testing; research data and test results; testing procedures and methods documentation; and technical reference report files. Notations on some of the original containers indicate that the collection contains selected files and thus represents a sampling rather than a comprehensive record of Technical Department activities. Acquired as part of the John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History.

Extent:

32.0 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials are in English.

Collection ID:

RL.11996

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m10n0t>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item] Consumer Reports. Technical Department records, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The collection includes correspondence; photographs of products and product testing; research data and test results; testing procedures and methods documentation; and technical reference report files. Notations on some of the original containers indicate that the collection contains selected files and thus represents a sampling rather than a comprehensive record of Technical Department activities.

Biographical/Historical

Consumer Reports is a product testing and consumer advocacy nonprofit organization based in Yonkers, N.Y., founded in 1936 as Consumers Union.

The Technical Department was responsible for the creation of testing procedures and methods; performance of product tests; and production of test data and written evaluations for use in Consumer Reports periodicals and buying guides. The Department had eight divisions represented in this collection: Appliance; Auto; Chemical; Electronics; Foods; Special Projects; and Textiles Divisions.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized into the following series: General and Administrative Files; Appliance Division; Auto Division; Chemical Division; Electronics Division; Foods Division; Public Service Projects; Special Projects Division; and Textiles Division.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the Rubenstein Library's Citations, Permissions, and Copyright guide.

Acquisition Information

The Consumer Reports. Technical Department records were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift from Consumer Reports in 2019.

Processing Information

Processed by Kristina Thomas, June 2022

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2019-0130

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Related materials may be found in the following Hartman Center collections:

Consumer Reports Archives records;
Consumer Reports. Board of Directors records;
Consumer Reports. Florence Mason papers;
Consumer Reports. Irving Michelson papers;
Consumer Reports. Monte Florman papers;
Consumer Reports. Morris Kaplan papers.

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Names and Subjects

- Consumer advocacy
- Consumer education
- consumer protection
- Household appliances
- John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History

Collection Inventory

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Conrad Harris correspondence, 1975	Box 1
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Department memos and instructions, 1945-1949	Box 2
Dewey Palmer and testing agencies, 1931-1938	Box 2
Dewey Palmer resignation, 1939	Box 2
Economic impact of a proposed lawn mower safety standard, 1970-1975	Box 2
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Economic impact of a proposed lawn mower safety standard, 1975	Box 3
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Editorial report: health risks in solvents in Consumer Reports, 1993	Box 3
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Manual of technical procedures, 1977	Box 3
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R.L. Rechtschaffner correspondence, 1975	Box 4

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U.S National Bureau of Standards, 1950s-1970	Box 4
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1999 Consumer Reports annual questionnaire and ballot tests, 1999	Box 5
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Assistive technology and product safety, 1992	Box 6
Auto quarterly and research survey, 1971-1973	Box 6
Average price determination correspondence, 1994	Box 6
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Brand concentration: table of contents, 1990	Box 6
BRH (Bureau of Radiological Health)--Microwave ovens, 1973	Box 6
CA (Consumers' Association) testing and research--Harpenden and Gosfield facilities, 1983	Box 6
C.R survey research department tests, 2000	Box 6
C.R test questions, approximately 1990	Box 6
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Comparative ratings, approximately 1990	Box 6
Center for Accessible Housing, 1992	Box 6

Consumer Reports national testing and research center--direct mailing tests, 2000	Box 6
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Consumer Reports product features service, 1986-1988	Box 7
Consumerism at the Crossroads (Sentry Insurance), 1977	Box 7
Consumers Union advisory network, 1990	Box 7
Consumers Union ballots--Direct mail, 1953-1992	Box 7
Consumers Union Technical Division policies and procedures manual, 1996	Box 7
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Disabilities programs updates, 1983-1993	Box 7
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Electric drills project, 1953	Box 7
Flammable fabric ignition requirements, 1974	Box 7
Guide to the principles of comparative testing, 1985	Box 7
Helping to House Canadians--Lead paint project, 1995	Box 8
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Physical Description: 2 folders

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For blender, portable space heaters, room air conditioners, etc.

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Idea and proposal suggestions for 1987, 1986	Box 8
IOCU seminars, 1985-1987	Box 8
IOCU--Simple Tests Manual (Jan Groeneveld), 1984	Box 8

Scope and Contents

IOCU--International organization of C.U, Jan Groeneveld

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Market Information Division, 1992	Box 9
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Intercommunicating systems, loudspeakers, magnetic recorders, 1957-1989	Box 50
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The measurement of electrical leakage current, 1961	Box 50
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Clinical laboratories articles, 1961 Box 54

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