

I'm As Mad As Hell And I'm Not Going To Take It Anymore...
By Candy Bingham

It's a filthy trick and it's time someone did something about it!

We have suffered long enough. We have felt inadequate, weak and even, God forbid, old because of its ever-increasing spread among everyday products.

I'm talking about packaging.

It seems that everything that is packaged, has a 'clever' way to open it.

Take an everyday carton of milk. The instruction says: "One step easy open cap. Simply twist and pour". It doesn't mention that first you must negotiate the firmly glued-down flap. A quick flick of the thumb under it is no longer good enough. Even Hercules couldn't open it. I finally resort to scissors, which proves a mistake as they slip and cause a close call with my fingers which are innocently standing nearby. A knife? No. How about the blade from that wine opener thingy? I soon try just about everything in my accessory drawer. No doubt there is a gadget designed for just that job.

And don't even attempt to open a carton of juice or milk on an airline. You are doomed to get it all over you.

Why is everything from a few nails at the hardware store to computer accessories ordered online, in a vacuum-sealed pack? How the hell are you supposed to open them? I suggest allowing at least ½ an hour using every kitchen utensil at your disposal.

That brings me to the innocent looking feta cheese pack. I'm not surprised the use-by date isn't until 2025 - it's likely to take that long to work out how to access the contents! It looks so easy, but don't be fooled, that flap isn't budging without putting up a fight.

But enough about the problem - I'm a solution person. There must be an answer. Of course, the packaging companies could always invest in simplifying the opening of their products, but that's not likely to happen.

I therefore suggest a course. Say at our local community college, or even online, on How To Open Everyday Items. I guarantee it will be swamped with ordinary citizens who have decided that they "as mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore" (with apologies to the 1976 movie 'Network').

Meantime if you'll excuse me, I have a can of baked beans to open. Hope I don't get filthy in the attempt.

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