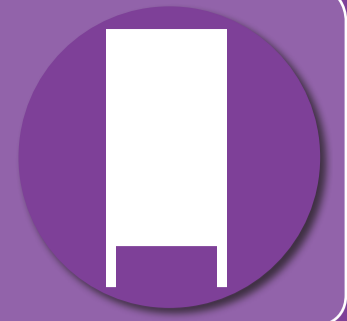


# WASHBOARD



## Introduction

A washboard is a tool designed for hand washing clothing. With mechanized cleaning of clothing becoming more common by the end of the 20th century, the washboard has become better known for its originally subsidiary use as a musical instrument.

The traditional washboard is usually constructed with a rectangular wooden frame in which are mounted a series of ridges or corrugations for the clothing to be rubbed upon. For 19th century washboards, the ridges were often



of wood; by the 20th century, ridges of metal were more common.

## *Chris Douglas*

My Nan had a copper boiler in the kitchen. Coal was burned underneath the washing was rinsed under the tap and then put through the mangle. The washing was spotless, whites first and there was a lot of cotton in those days before nylon and rayon. Woollens were washed by hand. It smelled so clean and fresh hanging on the line.



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



**Diamond  
Balsall Heath**