

Study finds paper towels to be the most hygienic option for washrooms

A recent study, by Eurofins-Inlab has found that, on average, a user of a jet air dryer is likely to be exposed to over 1,000 times more micro-organisms than the user of paper hand towels. In washrooms, where hygiene matters, paper towels are superior to jet air driers.

This is another strong endorsement of the hygiene benefits that are inherent in the use of paper hand towels when drying hands. Paper towels dry the hands efficiently and reduce the spread of microbes.

The Eurofins-Inlab study (Germany, 2012) was commissioned by ETS – European Tissue Producers to compare the contamination of the surfaces of paper hand towel dispensers, warm air driers and jet air driers and the floors below the devices. Eurofins-Inlab tested 150 washrooms, equipped with warm air driers (50), jet air driers (50) or paper hand towel dispensers (50). These washrooms were picked independently by the laboratory; ETS has no information as to their location. The selection was balanced to represent high versus low use settings.

For each washroom the institute sampled

the surfaces of the hand drying devices that were the most likely to be touched. The floors underneath the devices were also tested as contamination on the floors can be taken outside the washroom via the shoes. The results showed that the inside of jet air driers and the floors below them were significantly more contaminated than paper hand towel dispensers.

The findings once again confirm the superiority of paper hand towels when it comes to hygiene performance in public washrooms.

Findings as to microbiological counts on the devices:

- On average, a user of a jet air drier is likely to be exposed to over 1,000 times more microorganisms than the user of a paper hand towel dispenser.
- On average the user of a jet air drier is likely to be exposed to around 800 times more potentially harmful Staphylococci than the user of a paper hand towel dispenser.
- More than half of the jet air driers were contaminated by coliforms, whereas

none were found on the paper hand towel dispensers.

Findings as to microbiological counts on floors:

- The floors under jet air driers had on average 20 times greater levels of contamination when compared with the floors under paper hand towel dispensers.
- The floors under jet air driers had on average 27 times greater levels of Staphylococci when compared with the floors under paper hand towel dispensers.
- Coliforms were detected in 46% of the samples taken from the floors below jet air driers, whereas only 10% of the samples under the paper hand towel dispensers contained coliforms.

Surface area sampled was 100 square centimetres for all floors tested.



Ausclean Pulire announces keynote speaker

Tomorrow's cleaning-June 25, 2013

agreement that will see the leading international cleaning industry exhibition group support the next national Ausclean show - Sydney, 15th – 16th October 2013 – an event not to be missed!

Ausclean Pulire presents, Tomorrow's Cleaning's US correspondent, Ron Segura, of Segura & Associates, as keynote speaker

networking for success and proposals that win bids.

Ron, founder and president of Segura & Associates, brings more than 45 years of experience in all segments of the cleaning industry. Ten of those years were spent overseeing the cleaning of some 4.5 million square feet for The Walt Disney Company,

Ron has been a speaker and presenter for cleaning organizations throughout the United States, Mexico, Brazil, and now brings his expertise and industry knowledge to Australian shores. Don't miss your chance to see him present at Ausclean Pulire.

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