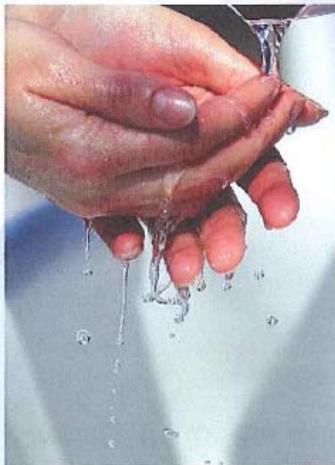


Where hygiene is crucial use disposable paper hand towels



Effective hand hygiene is one of the most important factors in the good practice to prevent eventual transfer of pathogenic microorganisms. This is especially vital where hygiene and prevention of cross contamination are crucial: in healthcare, nurseries, education, and in areas where food is prepared. In these environments the use of single use paper towels is recommended for effective hygienic hand drying.

Because of the importance of these practices in the fight against cross-contamination of pathogenic micro-organisms, it is not surprising that governments, public services, institutes and organisations who are responsible for safe health and hygiene, insist on effective hand hygiene practices.

The reputed World Health Organisation (WHO, 2009) in their guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care for health-care workers refer to a thorough review of evidence and specific recommendations to improve practices: "Ideally, hands should be dried using either individual paper towels or hand driers which can dry hands effectively and as quickly as it can be done with paper towels, and have been proven not to be associated with the aerosolisation of pathogens."

Over the recent years many public services and national institutes in Europe, North America and the rest of the world (such as HPA in UK, ANSES in France, CDC in USA, etc.) have edited similar recommendations for settings where hygiene is crucial. All alike stress the importance of effective hand drying for good

hand health and for optimal reduction of the risk of cross-contamination.

The recommendations of these institutes prescribe good practices for hand hygiene and underline that not only a correct procedure for washing hands is important, but also conclude that washed hands need to be dried properly to reduce the risks. Many recent scientific studies identify single use paper hand towels as the most hygienic solution for drying hands. With paper towels it is possible not only to remove the bulk of the water very quickly and to arrive at a complete dry situation, also between the fingers, but moreover they rub the hands and, rather than spread germs, hold and evacuate these pathogens. Hence single use paper hand towels are confirmed to provide the lowest risk and are recognised as an important factor in the prevention of cross contamination.

In line with these scientific studies and recommendations, the tissue industry advises that where hygiene and prevention of cross contamination is important, drying hands with paper towels is the most effective solution.

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