

Hygiene is best served by paper towels

Tissue, or paper hand towels, are the most hygienic solution for drying hands and are an important aid in the prevention of cross contamination: this is the key finding of the latest scientific studies, initiated by both the tissue and the jet air drier industry.

Two years ago, the University of Westminster study on behalf of the tissue industry demonstrated that hand-drying with paper towels significantly decreases bacteria on hands, whereas jet air dryers show a slight increase, and warm air dryers a very

important increase of bacteria on hands.

Moreover, the same study showed that jet air dryers blow micro-organisms up to 2 metres away which may potentially contaminate not only the environment but also the skin and clothes of other users of the washroom. Warm air dryers on the other side generate an important increase of bacteria on the hands themselves. In contrast thereto, paper towels 'rub' the bacteria away from the hands of the user and bin the bacteria safely away from the other visitors.

As to overall hygiene of the devices: on swabs taken from inside jet air dryers in a busy railway station in London quite large numbers of micro-organisms were detected, some of which were pathogenic. In contrast thereto paper hand towels contained very few micro-organisms and none were pathogenic.

The tissue industry therefore advises that where hygiene and prevention of cross contamination is important, drying hands with paper towels is the most effective solution.

www.europeantissue.com/facts-studies/research