

TOILET PROVIDERS, CLEANING AND FM COMPANIES SEEK RECOGNITION IN THE 'TOILET OSCARS'



The 2016 Tork Loo of the Year Awards grading has now been completed following inspection of 'away from home' toilets throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland. High standards of cleaning and maintenance performed by in-house cleaners, cleaning contractors and FM companies were evidenced during their inspection visits.

Use of the latest products and processes, and the improvements in design and the quality of fixtures and fittings were also recognised. Users' needs are the basis of the Loo of the Year Awards judging criteria, requiring attractive as well as functional facilities to meet all users' personal requirements. Hygienic services that minimise the risk of infection transfer whilst also saving energy continue to become more prevalent.

There were high levels of entries across sixty entry categories with shopping centre entries continuing to increase each year. The corporate entrants recognise the value of gaining prestige and recognition of their brand, and importantly their employees' efforts, as a result of achieving awards. Entrants also use the Awards grading to benchmark their toilet provision performance against competitors and can use the awards success as a real benefit when in negotiations with customers and prospects.

Every entry was inspected and graded by a team of trained and experienced

HANDWASHING AND HAND DRYING GO HAND-IN-HAND FOR LONG-TERM HEALTH, ACCORDING TO ETS

Global Handwashing Day (this year held on 15th October) aims to promote the importance of handwashing with soap for long-term health, and the European Tissue Symposium (ETS) believes that proper hand drying is equally important.

The global public-private partnership of government agencies, multilateral organisations, corporations, NGOs and academic institutions recognises hygiene as a pillar of international development and a priority behaviour that impacts public health, nutrition, education, economic development and equity.

The coalition of international stakeholders carries out crucial work in educating and motivating people to protect their own health and that of those around them through proper hand hygiene. The theme of this year's annual advocacy day was: 'Make Handwashing a Habit: Ritual Behaviour for Long-Term Sustainability', and it focused on the importance of habit forming in good hygiene, providing an opportunity to learn, design, test, replicate, and share creative ways to encourage people to wash their hands with soap at critical times.

The European Tissue Symposium has come out in full support of the initiative and underlines the importance of proper hand drying alongside washing in completing the process and minimising the spread of infection. Microbes, such as viruses



and bacteria, can survive on the hands for some time if they are not washed and dried effectively.

"The choice of hand drying methods plays an important part in maintaining health," explained Roberto Berardi, Chairman of ETS. "The body of research over many years shows that single-use towels offer the most hygienic solution for drying hands."

Studies have found that microbes on hands can spread via water droplets during the drying process and contaminate the area and people nearby. Jet air dryers spread an average of 3,005 virus particles up to three metres, with warm air dryers spreading an average of 104 over the three metre distance and paper towels spreading an average of just 15 virus particles over the same distance. Further research on airborne dispersal, surface contamination and the spread of microbes finds that jet air dryers disperse more microorganisms further and at different heights than other methods.

"We would encourage people to build on the Global Handwashing Day theme and make hand drying with a paper towel a habit for a long-term health," added Roberto.

For further information on the spread of microbes during hand drying, the ETS has put together a video. To watch the video click [here](#).

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inspectors against established criteria for each and every type of toilet.

The 2016 entrants are currently being advised of the prestigious Loo of the Year Award they achieved, while National and UK/Republic of Ireland Awards will be presented at the daytime Presentation Event on Friday 2nd December at the elegant four-star St Johns Hotel in Solihull.

In addition to presentation of the Awards there will be a sparkling wine reception, four course lunch with wine, supplier exhibition, entertainment by international comedian Peter Piper and unrivalled networking opportunities.

For further information and to book tickets contact information@loo.co.uk