

According to Keith Redway, senior academic in the department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Westminster: "The results of all parts of this study suggest that the use of warm air dryers and jet air dryers should be carefully considered in locations where hygiene is of paramount importance, such as hospitals, clinics, kitchens and other food preparation areas, schools, nurseries and care homes."

He added: "Using paper towels results in a significant decrease in the numbers of bacteria on the hands, possibly because they used frictional removal, a clear advantage compared with the increases observed for both types of electric hand dryer tested in this study."

Responding, Dyson said in a statement: "This paper towel industry funded research is questionable and Dyson is challenging the university's flawed methodology."

The company also said the Dyson Airblade hand dryer is "the only hand dryer company to achieve certification to National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) Protocol P335: Hygienic Commercial Hand Dryers."

According to Rob Donofrio, director of NSF's Microbiology Laboratories: "The protocol, which was reviewed and approved by a consortium of public health and safety experts, establishes requirements for hygienic hand dryers, including requirements for hand dryers with respect to water disinfection, product cleanliness, and the ability to dry a user's hands with air that passes through a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, which has been proven to remove more than 99.97% of bacteria-sized particles from the air."

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