

# CLEAN SPEAK

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THE ART AND SCIENCE OF CLEANING

## Blowing Hot Air?

What is better: Paper or air dryers? The answer may surprise you.

Ask Alexandra Petri over at the Washington Post what she thinks of hand dryers, and here is what she has to say:

*“Everything about them is terrible. Hot air dryers dry your hand with all the force of six gnomes gently whispering at you. They are like sticking your hand into the mouth of a panting dog.”*

We can conclude that Petri does not like hand dryers. But does science agree?

It would depend on the source. Most studies conclude that paper does have an advantage over air dryers when it comes to hygiene, but some pro air dryer studies say there is no difference at all, or that it simply depends on how long a person keeps their hands under the flow of hot air.

Reviews of existing studies have concluded the following:

1. Towels dry hands quicker than air dryers, and about the same as jet dryers. Since people are impatient in the bathroom when it comes to drying hands, and wet hands are much more likely to pass bacteria to or from touch surfaces, towels and jet dryers are preferable in this situation.
2. The lion's share of studies show that non-reusable paper towels are up to three times more effective at reducing bacteria on hands than standard air dryers. Jet dryers come closer to paper, but paper still wins the race.
3. Cross-contamination is a big factor. The force of air from dryers spread bacteria from one to two meters away depending on the type. Spread from a paper towel dispenser is next to nil, however some paper dispensers have handles, which present an issue for

cross-contamination, so make sure to elbow that handle rather than grasp it with your wet hands.

4. Dryers have a slight (and I mean slight) advantage in the environmental and cost department, although the environmental benefits vary depending on dryer efficiency and how the electricity is sourced (e.g. coal power... not so good). Some sources say that it takes more energy to run the dryers than to manufacture the paper, so the environmental difference is not as great as hyped, and electricity costs come so close to paper as to make the difference negligible.
5. Bathroom patrons prefer paper. People typically do not want to spend more than 20 seconds drying their hands (that is being generous), and pro air dryer studies were recommending up to 45 seconds as sufficient drying time to get the bacterial count down to paper levels. Many people also view towels as necessary for doing things such as turning off taps and opening bathroom doors to minimize recontamination.

The edutainment show, Mythbusters, did a fun and informative episode that looked into the paper versus dryer debate, and they concluded that paper was indeed better, reducing bacterial load up to 71%, compared to the dryer's 23%. They also clearly demonstrated how far an air dryer spread germs through the bathroom.

The conclusion we can reach is that, when you have a choice, use paper. Otherwise, wash your hands with soap and a lot of friction (sing “Happy Birthday” twice), then make sure you dry your hands completely. Dry hands are the key to clean hands. ■



# specials & spotlights:

Prices valid from June 1 to August 29, 2014 unless otherwise indicated. All items limited quantity.

## SC1500 SPOTLIGHT



Available in standard disk or REV™ models, the SC1500 is the perfect compromise between a compact walk-behind scrubber, and a highly productive ride-on scrubber.

The SC1500 is extremely maneuverable and compact, suitable for small to medium sized areas. The high-capacity tank covers more surface faster.

Check out the SC1500 demonstration on our YouTube page under "Cleaning Equipment Demos" and then give us a call for a quote.

### Features:

- 20" scrub path, 12 gal solution, and 12.5 gal recovery tanks
- Wrap-around squeegee to ensure 100% water pickup
- Quiet mode for daytime cleaning
- EcoFlex onboard detergent system for flexible cleaning
- REV™ micro and macro scrubbing for a superior clean

## MICROMATIC 13E SCRUBBER SELL-OFF

The Micromatic 13E is an ideal scrubber for a small facility that typically uses a mop and bucket for floor cleaning.

The 13E is twice as productive as a standard mop and bucket, allowing users to clean 1,500 square feet of hard floor space on a single tank, and unlike a mop and bucket the solution being placed on the floor is always clean. The vacuum pickup allows floors to dry quickly, minimizing downtime. The solution and recovery tanks are removable for simple filling and cleanup, and the low profile allows the 13E to get under tight places.



Three floor models are available at a great low price.

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**\$1600** reg. \$2449

## BATHROOM TISSUE SALE

We have jumbo and standard sized bathroom tissue rolls on sale for a great price. Jumbo rolls reduce labour by 90%, while discouraging theft and reducing waste. Standard rolls do not require a specialized dispenser.

Jumbo 1-Ply: 2.3" core, 9" dia. x 3.54" W x 2250' L  
52198 12 Rolls/Case \$87.32



Standard 2-Ply: Angeliq, 1.5" core, 4" x 3.5" x 500 sheets  
52455 96 Rolls/Case \$45.62



## ODDS AND SODS

### Airx 78+ Disinfectant Cleaner

One bottle makes 516 litres of ready to use cleaner/disinfectant. Airx 78+ is an excellent cleaner and yet is neutral in pH which avoids dulling high gloss floors. Qualified for hospital use by its effectiveness against a wide range of gram negative and gram positive bacteria.

083150 4L Bottle \$87.32



### Finney Blackboard Kleener

Suede leather side removes fine chalk dust. Natural latex foam side removes course chalk dust. 12" x 2" x 2".

083150 EA \$22.64



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