

Making Public Washrooms Personal

While many people feel that public washrooms are germ-ridden, few realize the true risks and “hot spots”. For instance, hot water taps are more of a danger zone for fecal bacteria than toilet seats and, flushing the toilet causes bacteria to propel around the washroom.

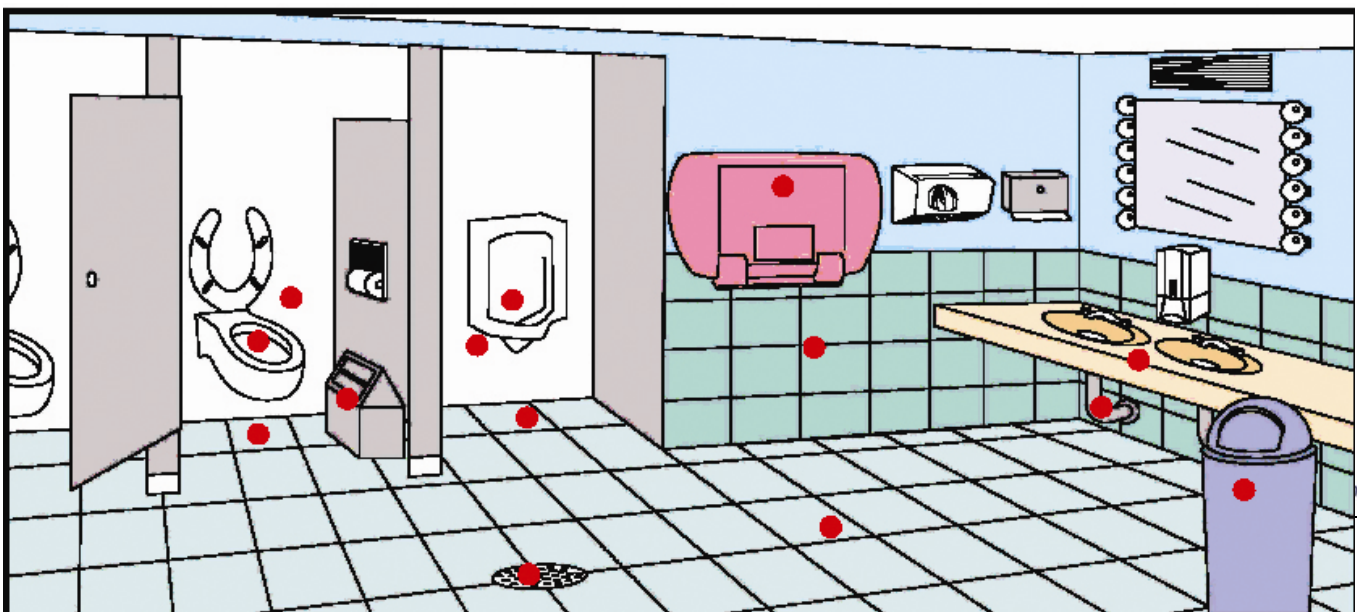
Though it is difficult to link catching a disease to a visit to the bathroom, scientists have found infectious agents for diseases such as Hepatitis A, Meningitis, Bacterial Dysentery, the Norwalk Virus and various forms of diarrhea in public washrooms.

Regular cleaning and upkeep of washrooms requires time and resources, but the extra effort is worth it. A clean washroom can even contribute to the good reputation of an establishment. For instance, studies have shown that in the food service industry, both inspectors and customers use the cleanliness of a washroom as an indicator of the cleanliness of the establishment. Mike Crosby, the head of marketing for Irving Oil, takes this seriously. In order to build loyalty to this chain of gas stations, Mr. Crosby has made it his business to have the cleanest washrooms of any gas station. Many Irving Oil stations have taken this initiative one step further and decorated their restrooms with fresh flowers, houseplants, magazines, antiques and knick-knacks in order to make their customers feel more at home.

Avmor* suggests the following tips to help stay on top of washroom cleanliness:

- Schedule regular maintenance - don't let the mess get out of control.
- Train employees to use the right products on each surface. A colour-coded cleaning system and charts with pictograms is helpful.
- Pay special attention to areas of the washroom which are prone to carry germs, such as toilet and urinal handles, sanitary napkin receptacles, knobs on doors and faucets.
- Consider switching to automatic taps and flushers in order to minimize user contact.
- Adding hand sanitizer stations outside of washrooms in public areas can also help reduce germs and bacteria.

Below is a diagram indicating the high traffic areas in washrooms, which should receive special attention when cleaning:



Paul Goldin – Avmor
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Though it is difficult to link catching a disease to a visit to the bathroom, scientists have found infectious agents for diseases such as Hepatitis A, Meningitis, Bacterial Dysentery, the Norwalk Virus and various forms of diarrhea rampant in washrooms.

Not only do business owners have a responsibility in keeping washrooms clean, so do users. Whenever you use a public washroom, treat it like your own bathroom.

An effective cleaning system does not have to be a costly one. Look for products that have dilution control to maximize their effectiveness, make cleaning easier on your employees and prevent waste.

Also, consider using sustainable cleaning products like Avmor's Biomor and EcoPure lines. These work just as well or even better than conventional products and are also environmentally responsible. They help prevent the spread of germs without harming workers, customers or the environment.

Avmor's **Biomor™ Biological Cleaning Solutions** harness nature's own processes to recycle waste into simple and essential substances in order to meet demands for cleaning, odour control, and waste elimination without the use of potentially harmful chemicals.

Another environmentally responsible cleaning alternative is Avmor's **EcoPure** line of chemical-based products. These products use the chemical properties of hydrogen peroxide to break up organic matter and to prevent grease from sticking onto surfaces.

All users share the responsibility to keep public washrooms clean. Consider this guideline: when you use a public washroom, treat it like your own:

- Pick up after yourself.
- Wash your hands with soap and scrub thoroughly for at least 30 seconds.
- Try not to touch surfaces and knobs with your hands; use paper towels instead.
- Use hand sanitizer after leaving the washroom.

For more information, contact Avmor at info@avmor.com or call 1 800 387.8074 or visit the website at www.avmor.com.

Avmor - an industry leader in the development and manufacture of professional cleaning products for 55 years.*

Source:

<http://www.globeandmail.com>. *The Globe and Mail, Health pitfalls aplenty in public washrooms, September 2, 2006 By Anne McLROY*
The Globe and Mail, It's not easy being clean, September 4, 2006 By Shawna Richer
The Globe and Mail, Gas Stations deal their customers a royal flush, August 5, 2006 By Shawna Richer

