



NEWS



MARCO OFFICE SUPPLY, FURNITURE & PRINTING, INC.

Speedy hand dryers may spread more germs

“Hand washing always has been important, and the pandemic magnified its crucial role in helping stop the spread of germs. But a new study suggests the method used for drying hands can be just as important to public health.

The use of high-speed hand dryers can transfer germs to a person’s clothing and lead to an increase in spreading those contaminants to other surfaces, according to the pilot study published Wednesday in the journal *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*.

Volunteers in the study took part in an experiment in which they dried their hands with either a hand dryer or paper towels while wearing an apron to test whether any contaminants were spread to their clothing.

They then took varied paths around a hospital and touched commonly used surfaces.

Levels of germs spread to the surfaces touched by volunteers were 10 times higher after hands were dried with the dryer than with paper towels.

“Based on the user and surface contamination observed following hand drying using high-speed air dryers, we question the choice of air dryers in health care settings,” said Ines Moura, a research fellow at the University of Leeds and an author of the study.

The results are consistent with earlier studies on hand dryers, said Timothy Caulfield, research director at the Health Law Institute at the University of Alberta.

Those studies include recommendations that “only paper towels should be used in situations where hygiene is paramount,” such as hospitals, he said.

So why are hand driers often found in public restrooms?

“I think the move to hand dryers has been driven by many things, including cost, environmental concerns and, paradoxically, the public health push to get more people to wash their hands,” Caulfield told USA TODAY.”

Citation

Barnes, Dustin. “Why You Shouldn't Use Those Hand Dryers in Public Bathrooms.” USA TODAY, 17 Mar. 2021, 12:27pm, www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/03/17/hand-dryers-spread-germs-more-than-using-paper-towels-study-find/4731299001/.

Time for the Old Switcheroo!

Marco Office Supply will replace your air hand-dryers with safe paper towel dispensers.



- Contact a rep. to be part of our Safe Switch Program.
- Receive replacement paper towel dispensers from Buckeye International.

Referral Incentive!

Know any businesses using air-hand dryers? Refer us to them to receive \$25 in MOS Store Credit.

NAPLES
220 Industrial Boulevard
www.MarcoOfficeSupply.com



MARCO ISLAND
571 Bald Eagle Drive
Order Line: (239) 775-7513