

LUNCH AT YOUR DESK?
The average desk is 400 times more contaminated than a lavatory seat, a new study has found. Experts believe the tendency for workers to eat lunch at their desk is the reason for the massive rise in office germs.



The dirtiest spot on the desktop is the phone, the researchers found, where about 25,127 microbes live per square inch. Experts believe this is because handsets are often passed between people. The next filthiest area is the desk surface, where 20,961 invisible microbes can be found living and breathing on every square inch.

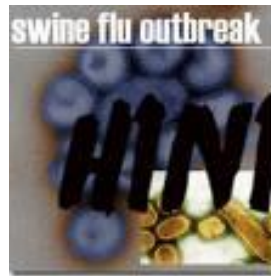


By comparison, the average lavatory seat contains just 49 germs per square inch! Other unclean areas are water fountain handles and microwave door handles, the study noted.

A report, by University of Arizona microbiologist Dr Charles Gerba, says desktops have become breeding grounds for germs largely because they have turned into tables where workers eat lunches. This, combined with the fact that desks are

not frequently cleaned, makes them the perfect environment for micro-organisms.

KEY ACTIONS



Remember, preventing the spread of germs is the single most effective way to slow the spread of diseases such as swine flu. Always:

- Ensure everyone washes their hands regularly with soap and water
- Clean surfaces regularly to get rid of germs
- Use tissues to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Place used tissues in a bin as soon as possible.



PHONE SAFE

Regular cleaning not only makes things look nice but helps to create an hygienic and 'bug free' office. Our big catalogue shows various phone and cleaning kits on

page 152 priced from around £2 to £20—*Did you know that using specialist antibacterial wipes has shown to reduce bacteria levels by 99% - surely you are worth it!!*



KILL OR CURE?

A little girl's father was confined to his bed with influenza and his wife had been very busy sterilising all his dishes. "Why do you do that, Mummy?". "Because dear, Daddy has germs and the germs get on the dishes he uses. I boil the dishes and that kills the germs". The little girl reflected a moment or two and then said. "Mummy, why not boil Daddy and get rid of the germs all the same time?"



....AND FINALLY

Don't forget that a paperless office has about as much chance of working as a paperless bathroom!

