



Hand Drying

Supplies are a small cost compared to the labor that uses them. Excessively recycled paper towels and air dryers deter handwashing and only save money if you ignore the costs of Healthcare Acquired Infections.

Jim Mann Executive Director Handwashing For Life Institute

Paper towels remove risky biofilms that air-dryers cannot.

Lever-free reliable dispensing of effective single-use biofilms.



Best Practice Endorsements:

This well-formulated array of effective, convenient and safe cleaner-disinfectants are endorsed by the Handwashing For Life Institute for applications to reduce healthcare acquired infections. Proctor and Gamble's investment in research guarantees a path of continuous improvement.

These hand drying systems are endorsed by the Handwashing For Life® Institute for foodservice, food processing, hospitality, office buildings, education, and retail. The balance of paper absorbency, strength, and recyclability combine well with a versatile range of reliable touch-free dispensers.

The Handwashingforlife® Institute actively supports and recommends the products and services of members who meet the criteria for leadership in hand hygiene related interventions. These criteria include:

- + Product or service must meet Institute standard of Best Practice within applicable category.
- + Forum member must demonstrate commitment to advancing the Science of Hand Hygiene and be a top quartile supplier, as measured by:
Customer satisfaction with initial product or service and follow-up support.



Kimberly-Clark®
Professional





Fact vs Fiction

Myths can live well beyond documented case studies.

Myth:

Consider these facts when assessing service options.

Any paper towel will do.

1] **Not in a high risk environment. Selection of the actual paper quality for hand drying will have a major impact on both pathogen removal and frequency of washing. All paper is not the same.** Best practice paper companies invest in the right fiber selection, pulping technology, sheet forming and calendaring know how to make a best practice hand-friendly towel. Achieving the right balance of wet strength, absorbency, surface smoothness and texturing is critical to overall performance. Price per hand dried (not price per roll) is one factor to consider but as important for high risk users are skin irritation and pathogen absorbency factors. Best practice companies provide these comparisons.

Air dryers are cheap and eco friendly.

2] **Air dryers are a poor choice for hand drying and have no place in a high risk fast-paced environment.** Even the fastest are slow and lack the all-important friction factor for pathogen removal. Yes, they avoid the need to recycle waste paper but savings are offset by hidden electricity usage and immeasurable losses in staff time. Beyond the economics are the problems with contaminated blower nozzles and partially dried hands.

Reusable cloth towels are a good substitute.

3] **Clean, dry cloth towels will dry hands and remove pathogens effectively. They can be a good choice when clean and dry can be assured.** This is virtually impossible in high volume commercial environments. High traffic locations quickly swamp even the best intended servicing strategies and users are presented with a dirty, wet, contaminated, end of roll towel. Even the simple task of moving the towel to the next clean, dry location creates cross contamination. When the towel is dirty and wet the risk for cross contamination is unacceptable.

Cheap towels are good enough.

4] **The lowest total cost paper towel is the best practical decision. Total cost calculations must include an effectiveness factor, the amount used per hand drying occasion, and dermatological impact on the user.** A user requiring twice as much lower cost paper to dry their hands, effectively doubles the total cost of paper. When a high risk user's hands become irritated by paper roughness he or she stops washing. What is the total cost of underwashing by a high risk user? Is it a risk worth taking? Can you buy enough liability insurance? Understanding the operator's risk profile is critical to the paper selection decision.

Hand drying time isn't important.

5] **Not true. We find the "best" employees in high risk environments are usually at the highest risk for cross contamination.** Best in most business environments means most productive and time spent washing and drying hands is too often perceived as "non productive" even "wasted" time. Disposable paper towels are both the most effective and the fastest method for drying hands. A win-win situation for your "best" employees and your business.

Buttons and levers on dispensers get contaminated.

6] **Very, very true. University of Arizona research found paper towel levers to be dirty and dangerous contamination sources.** HandwashingForLife® research has found very high levels of dispenser contamination on soap buttons, paper towel levers, faucet handles and exit doors. Hands-free dispensers are not only safer but they also encourage more frequent hand washing and sanitizing. User friendly dispensers are a best practice decision in high risk food environments.

Automatic dispensers are just for "show."

7] **Yes & No. Automatic faucets and dispensers are becoming popular in "public access" for the statement they make about the facility.** But, safe-smart operators are also installing them in staff washrooms, facility entry points and work site locations. HandwashingForLife® strongly advocates all "hands-free" dispensers but research consistently shows the fully automatic dispenser makes hand hygiene easier, safer and friendlier. In most situations they also lower the total cost of hand hygiene through better control of product usage.