

Students earn a "D" for Disgusting

NSF International scientists asked the students to rank items in their home in the order of how germey they thought items would be. Students were only able to correctly identify four of the top six actual germiest areas of their home, a score that could be considered a "D" in the classroom. They had the right idea about some of the germiest spots in their homes, but they were completely wrong about others.

Germiest Areas:



① Dish Sponge



② Shower/Tub Drain



③ Kitchen Sink Drain



④ Shower Head



⑤ Kitchen Faucet Handle



⑥ Coffee Maker

Germes:



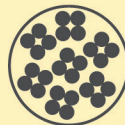
E. coli

Associated with food poisoning, this bacteria can cause vomiting, fever and in rare cases death.



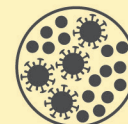
Coliforms

These bacterial colonies can harbor disease-causing pathogens of fecal origin.



MRSA

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus causes infections and resists antibiotics.



Yeast & Mold

These can cause respiratory disease or magnify allergies.

Cleaning Habits Cheat Sheet

Students can improve their cleaning grade to an "A" by paying attention to **wet, textured surfaces** that **may hide germs**.

Dish sponge: Microwave for two minutes once per day and replace every week or two.

Shower/tub drain & shower head: Disinfect with a bathroom cleaner at least once a week.

Kitchen sink: Apply disinfecting cleaner to the sink sides and bottom once or twice a week.

Faucet handles: Clean daily with disinfecting cleaner or disinfecting wipes.

Coffee maker: Clean with soap and hot water after every use. Once a week, run the machine with equal parts water and white vinegar or cleaning solution.