Jet air dryers vs. paper towels

The science is clear: single-use paper towels are a more effective and hygienic way to dry your hands after washing.

### Jet air dryers

- Using a jet air dryer dispersed **1,300 times** more germ particles than drying with paper towels.
- The inner surfaces of jet air dryers can harbor **up to 48 times more bacteria** than a toilet seat.
- Coliform bacteria were found on **52%** of jet air dryers tested.
- Jet air dryers can increase the bacteria on fingers by **up to 42%**.
- When drying your hands with a jet air dryer, water droplets that could contain bacteria and germs are expelled into the air, traveling as far as **6.5 feet** and lingering in the air for **up to 15 minutes**.

### Paper towels

- Drying your hands with a paper towel can **reduce bacteria on hands by up to 77%**.
- The rubbing process of paper towels **physically removes bacteria** along with moisture.
- Faced with a choice of drying methods, **90% of people chose paper towels** over jet air dryers in the restroom.
- Paper towels are the recommended hand-drying method of the World Health Organization (WHO) “Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care.”
- Given the **strong preference for using paper towels**, hand hygiene adherence would possibly decrease if paper towels are not available in washrooms, according to a review article in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings.