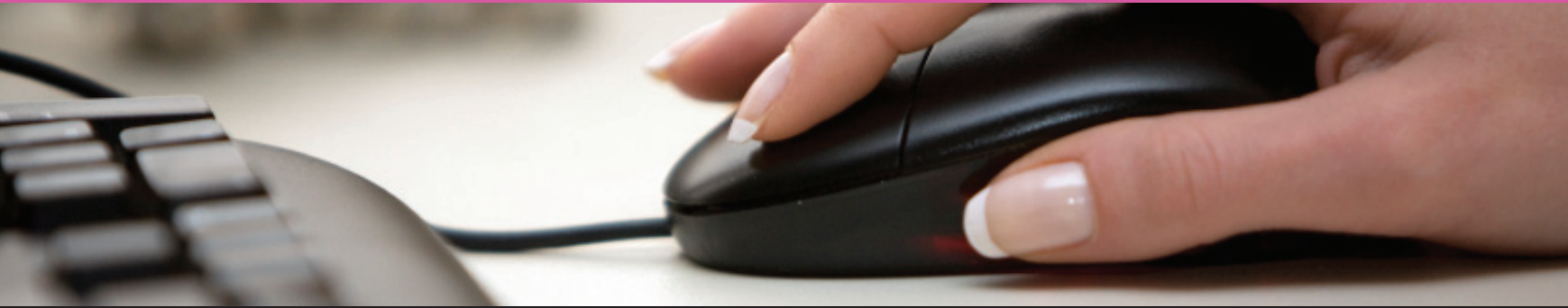


CAPITAL CONCERNS



BBC News Reports:

Women's desks 'harbour more bugs'

Women's workstations tend to harbour far more germs than those of their male colleagues, research suggests.

A University of Arizona team found the average office desktop harbours 400 times more bacteria than the average office toilet seat. However, they also found that on average women have three to four times the amount of germs in, on and around their work area. But men's wallets provided the most fertile bug breeding ground of all.

"It is not whether bacteria are present, or how many there are, but what type they are"

Professor Sally Bloomfield
International Scientific Forum on Home Hygiene

The researchers said women's habit of keeping snacks in their drawers could explain why their desks were more germ-ridden. They also warned that make-up and lotions helped to transfer bacteria.

Lead researcher Professor Charles Gerba found that 75% of female employees kept food in their work area. He said: "I thought for sure men would be 'germier'. But women have more interactions with small children and keep food in their desks. The other problem is make-up. I was really surprised how much food there was in a woman's desk. If there's ever a famine, that's the first place I'll look for food."

Professor Gerba added that men's wallets provided a very attractive breeding ground for bugs. He said: "It's in your back pocket where it's nice and warm, it's a great incubator for bacteria."

Don't take risks

Professor Sally Bloomfield, chairman of the International Scientific Forum on Home Hygiene, said people should not be unduly worried by the findings, as most bacteria did not cause disease.

She said: "It is not whether bacteria are present, or how many there are, but what type they are. But if you leave food on your desktop that you would usually put in the fridge at home, then you are asking for trouble."

The Arizona team took samples from 100 offices at the university and in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oregon and Washington. They swabbed eight sites in each office: the phone, desktop, computer mouse, computer keyboard, exclamation key on the computer keyboard, pen, bottom of desk drawer, and handle of desk drawer. They also took samples from workers' personal items. The mouldiest spot was the bottom of the desk drawer, where many people stash food. The study was commissioned by disinfectant maker Clorox.

Read the article at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6367795.stm>

Our Services

Computer Cleaning

Today, with health and safety high on the agenda, computer cleaning is still in great demand and with hot desking being a feature of many offices, sanitisation of keyboards and telephones is essential in order to reduce the risk of cross contamination. Regular preventative maintenance is also essential. It can not only extend the life of equipment, but can also help prevent equipment failure.

Technical Room Cleaning

A technical room is an area of any size that contains technical or computer equipment. Because this equipment has special maintenance requirements, office cleaners should never be allowed to clean technical rooms. The main aim is to minimise the risk of critical equipment failure due to static discharge or dust contamination. In addition, companies and organisations see that improved working conditions lead to improved staff morale and productivity.

Trading Area Cleans

Anyone working in the financial market or trading sector of commerce knows how highly charged trading areas can be. With demanding clients and pressing targets, dealers need computer and communications technology at their fingertips. At the end of a busy day, these trading positions can look a little the worse for wear and although a daily tidy up by your general office cleaners can help keep the situation under control, every now and then these areas are in urgent need of a thorough deep clean. That is where we come in.

Builders Clean

We can be involved with rooms when they are little more than a shell, removing brick dust and rubble, right up until handover when we will have carried out extensive deep cleaning from slab to slab. Our objective is to have removed all traces of the build and construction process, leaving a clinically clean environment fit for purpose. We can cope with any situation, anywhere. We have worked on large projects with high ceilings and deep floor voids, through to small areas housing communication or power distribution equipment, and everything else in between.

Cleaning products used by Capital now contain an anti-bacterial agent to combat the spread of germs.

Germs regularly found in keyboards include:

Staphylococcus aureus

Escherichia coli

Salmonelli typhi

Tests have been carried out by scientists to see what anti-bacterial agent was most effective against germs commonly found on keyboards and telephones. It was found that Caflon 6411 (Didecyl Dimethyl Ammonium Chloride) was most effective in dealing with these germs.

Capital's casing cleaner and anti-static solutions now contain Caflon 6411 as do our sachets for telephone handsets and keyboards to help reduce cross contamination.