

Summertime Fun!

- July is National Hot Dog Month (www.hot-dog.org) and August 6 is National Mustard Day (www.mustardmuseum.com). Watch out for ketchup and mustard stains this summer. See the article, *Hot Diggity Dog Stains*.
- Coming September 18-24, National Clean Hands Week! (www.cleanhandscoalition.org)

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When Good Vacations Go Bad

Keep dirt, stains, and spills from spoiling the adventure!

We've all been there! The trip that begins as if it were planned by *Travel & Leisure* magazine degenerates into a scenario from *National Lampoon's Summer Vacation*. And the scary thing is, the experience is all too common. When The Soap and Detergent Association conducted its Summer Vacation National Cleaning Survey, the responses gave new meaning to the term "vacation spots."

- **Dirty Digs:** 23% reported vacation destinations that were "disgustingly filthy."
- **Ill Will:** 27% got sick while on vacation.
- **Grubfest:** 43% felt the need to clean eating areas when they first arrived at a destination.
- **Souvenir Stains:** 51% had to deal with clothing stains while on vacation.

P.A.C.K. Smart

Don't let the unexpected mishaps spoil your vacation! Pack these on-the-go cleaning supplies to help you stay clean and healthy.

Portability is key.

- **Hand wipes** for hand cleaning before road-side snacks or at the beach where sand and suntan lotion tend to stick around.
- **Disinfectant spray and air sanitizers** help to evict germs and odors from your hotel room.

Anticipate your needs.

- **Stain removal wipes** to stem the tide of summer stains, like ketchup and ice cream.
- **Stain sticks** to pretreat spots and stains, putting them on hold until the laundry brigade arrives.
- **Gentle laundry detergent** so bathing suits and other delicates can come clean from the effects of surf and sun.

Clean your surfaces.

- **Disinfectant wipes** for commonly-touched surfaces in your hotel room, such as doorknobs, telephones and remotes.
- **Window and dusting wipes** for those less-than-spotless vacation rentals.

Keep hands clean.

- **Hand sanitizers** to tag along on sightseeing trips and shopping excursions.
- **Bar or liquid hand soap** for camping trips and other expeditions where they might be in short supply.

Have a happy, healthy vacation!



Hard Surface Cleaning at its Best

Send those germs packing!

Guests love to hang out in the kitchen. But, germs like to hang out there, too! *And*, they think the bathroom is an equally wonderful place to congregate.

Germs on the Run

Unless you engage in regular cleaning, kitchens and bathrooms can easily become Germ Central. Germs love all those hard surfaces – sinks, countertops, shower stalls, wall tiles, appliance doors, toilet bowls, and more. But, with the right product for the right surface, The Soap and Detergent Association says you can send those germs packing!

- **Kill germs.** Disinfectants and disinfectant cleaners are designed to kill germs. By law, disinfectant product labels must have an EPA registration number to indicate that it meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's criteria for disinfectants.
- **Have it your way.** Pick the products that suit your lifestyle, cleaning style, and surface needs.

Stock Up On ...

- **Disinfectant wipes:** A convenient way to kill germs and clean hard surfaces, such as countertops, sinks, windows, and toilets. For quick cleanups, keep **pop-up versions** right next to the bathroom and kitchen sinks.
- **Flushable wipes:** Handy for cleaning around toilet rims, tanks, faucets, sinks and basins. Because they disperse in water when agitated (like toilet paper), they're designed to be safe for plumbing and septic tanks.

- **Floor wipes:** "Mop-pad" styles for use with specifically-designed mops. Choose wet or dry formulations.
- **Chlorine bleach:** An effective disinfectant that's designed to kill bacteria, viruses, and fungi, including molds and mildew. Use it full strength or choose products that include it, such as **spray mold and mildew removers**. **Bleach pens** are great for spot cleaning mold and mildew.
- **Multi-purpose sprays:** Traditional cleaners that are particularly effective on greasy surfaces. They also come in a variety of scents, like orange or herbal bouquet.
- **Cleansers:** Abrasive cleaners that loosen soil. Some also disinfect – check the label! **Gel cleansers** are non-abrasive versions that gently clean hard surfaces that are easily scratched.

Clean Ideas

Laundry 101

Laundry guide for college students

So you're excited about starting college ... but daunted by the thought of doing your own laundry? Well, here's The Soap and Detergent Association's easy guide to college laundry: **Sort ... Analyze ... Take charge!**

Crack the Code. The care labels on your garments are the key to basic care. Anything labeled "dry clean only" is a laundry no-no! Put anything labeled "delicate" in its own pile. Lingerie and sweaters (guys, take note!) are likely candidates for this group.

Sort by Color. Sort what remains into four piles: **1)** whites; **2)** color-fast pastels, medium and bright colors; **3)** darks; **4)** "fuzzies" – mostly towels, but include anything else that might shed lint onto other items.

Analyze. While you're sorting, empty the pockets, turn down pant and shirt cuffs, close zippers, snaps and hooks. Tie strings and sashes, so they won't get tangled. Remove belts, pins, and other non-washables. Turn jeans inside out if you want to slow down the fading process.

Must-have Laundry Products

For the laundry newbie, here are the basic products:

- **Prewash stain remover** for treating spots and stains before you drop them into the washing machine. These come in convenient stick, gel, or spray formulas.
- **Laundry detergent.** Try liquids, powders, or the pre-measured tablets that take the guesswork out of how much to add.
- **Bleach.** Check the garment care label to see if bleach is safe for the fabric and whether chlorine or non-chlorine (oxygen) bleach is recommended.
- **Fabric softener.** Check out the ones that come with a refillable, reusable dispenser. Fill it with the recommended amount of softener, seal it, and drop it into the washer with your clothes.

Take Charge

- Choose the water temperature that's best for the clothes. Read the garment's care label for the recommended temperature that's safe for the fabric.
- Wash delicates on their own "delicate" setting. The longer soaking time and shorter agitation cycle puts less strain on the clothes.

Highlights

SNAP Wins Award of Excellence!

SDA's *Healthy Schools, Healthy People – It's a SNAP!* Program received the Award of Excellence in the 2005 Associations Advance America (AAA) Awards Program, a national competition sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), in Washington, D.C. The SNAP Program is now in the running to receive a Summit Award, ASAE's top recognition for association programs, to be presented at ASAE's 6th Annual Summit Awards Dinner on September 27, 2005.

The AAA Awards program recognizes associations that propel America forward – with innovative projects in education, skills training, standards-setting, business and social innovation, knowledge creation, citizenship, and community service.

The School Network for Absenteeism Prevention (SNAP) challenges middle schools to develop programs that make hand hygiene a priority for the entire school community. It's a joint project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and The Soap and Detergent Association (SDA).

For more information about the SNAP program, visit www.itsasnap.org.

Palatable Picnic Tables

Clean and germ-free

Eating outdoors is one of summer's pleasures. But, we can get so engrossed in the surrounding scenery that we forget to look down and check out our eating surface! Picnic tables, particularly those in public parks and in outdoor dining areas where the workforce gathers, are busy places ... and busy breeding grounds for germs, warns The Soap and Detergent Association. Picnic tables at home, often exposed to birds and other elements of nature, may not fare much better.

Wipe down

Even if the table appears clean, proceed with caution. Make disinfectant wipes your summer traveling companion. Stash them in your glove compartment, briefcase, backpack, beach tote or purse for quick swipe-and-wipe cleaning for picnic tables and benches. If you're picnicking at home, you can also clean picnic tables with soap and warm water.

Hands up

Once the picnic table is clean, don't forget about your hands. If there's no soap and water nearby, use a disposable hand wipe or a hand sanitizer to clean your hands.

Red, White, and Blueberry Stains

Get ready – it's peak season for berries

Strawberry season is winding down, blueberry season is entering full swing, and raspberry season is just getting underway. When it comes to stains this summer, be aware of the berry!

Berry Stains, Be Gone!

When berry stains strike, The Soap and Detergent Association recommends the following:

- Scrape off excess fruit.
- Run fabric under cold water.
- Launder, using the warmest water and bleach that's safe for the fabric.

Dairy Stains, Depart!

Whipped cream and ice cream are berries' favorite companions. When they leave their mark, here's what to do:

- Pretreat or soak stains with a prewash product. Soak for at least 30 minutes or several hours if the stains are old.
- Launder, using the warmest water that's safe for the fabric.

Hot Diggity Dog Stains

Cutting the mustard (and ketchup) the easy way

The hot dog days of summer are here! July is National Hot Dog Month and August 6 is National Mustard Day – two good reasons to get out there and indulge. And indulge we do!

The National Hot Dog Council estimates that more than 7 billion hot dogs will be eaten by Americans between Memorial Day and Labor Day. That's plenty of opportunity for some difficult mustard and ketchup stains, observes The Soap and Detergent Association. Here's how to clean up these condiments.

Muster Up

To remove mustard stains, pretreat the item with a prewash stain remover. Launder using oxygen bleach or chlorine bleach, if safe for the fabric.

Ketch-Up

According to National Hot Dog Council research, kids prefer ketchup on their hot dogs. To get rid of ketchup stains, flush the stain with cold water, then pretreat with liquid laundry detergent or a prewash stain remover. Launder using bleach that's safe for the fabric.

Cleaning Questions? Ask Nancy!

Q: I'm worried that my child will get sick once she starts school. What can I do to prevent the spread of germs?

A: First, get your child in the habit of washing her hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating lunch or snacks and after coming home from school. In fact, encourage the whole family to wash their hands often. Also, add alcohol-based wipes or gel formulas to your child's school supply list! These can be effective for cleaning hands when soap and water are not available.

Teach your child to cover her nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Make sure your child drinks from separate glasses or cups and uses her own eating utensils, as sharing may spread germs.

At home, clean commonly-touched surfaces like telephones, faucet handles, the refrigerator door, remote and game controls, computer keyboard, doorknobs, and toys often.

Q: What's the difference between soaps and detergents?

A: Soaps are made by reacting fats with lye and work well only in soft water. If they're used in hard water, they can leave a sticky, insoluble residue called lime soap on fabrics and in the washer. Therefore, synthetic detergents have essentially replaced soaps for laundering.

Most detergents work well in both hard and soft water. Most detergents contain no soap and are synthetic. They are designed to surround and hold dirt in the wash water, preventing it from being redeposited onto clothes.

Q: What can I use to treat stains while I'm on vacation?

A: Put together a travel stain kit that includes:

- **Your favorite detergent** – Fill up a small travel bottle (with pull-top lid), and take it with you.
- **Stain stick, pen, or gel** – Easy and convenient for on-the-go stains.
- **Stain removal wipes** – designed to treat stains on contact. They can be applied while wearing garments and are safe for most dry-cleanable fabrics.

The key to successful stain removal is treating the stain *before* it has a chance to set in and following the instructions on the product label. With your travel stain kit, you should be set until you get home to do laundry.

– Nancy Bock is Vice President of Education for The Soap and Detergent Association



Spa Treatment at the Sink

The aromatherapeutic and hand-care benefits of hand dishwashing

When it comes to hand dishwashing, no one wants dishpan hands. Well, now you can pamper your hands at the sink with new innovations in hand dishwashing. Not only will you get clean dishes, but clean, smooth hands, too!

1. **Citrus fresh!** Pamper your dishes and hands with the fresh citrus scents of apple, lemon, grapefruit, berry, mandarin, and more!
2. **Aromatherapy!** Depending on your mood, choose aromatherapeutic scents, such as lavender, green tea, jasmine, and more!
3. **TLC for hands** - Some products contain a touch of aloe vera, vitamin E, vitamin B5, and proteins that take care of your hands.
4. **Got sensitive skin?** Try hypoallergenic versions for dry, sensitive skin.
5. **Fight germs** - Some formulations provide antibacterial protection for hands when used as a hand soap.
6. **Wonder wipes** - Wipes for hand dishwashing are soft on hands, but tough on grease and stuck-on food.