

Germs Away

Germs spread and sometimes cause people to become sick. Many germs are spread by our hands, so we have to wash our hands really well to send the germs away. With fun experiments, you can perform at home, you will witness the super power soap and water have against the worst kind of enemies, germs!

Handing Washing Experiment

Washing your hands well and often will keep you from getting sick and from spreading germs around that could make others sick.

YOU WILL NEED

- Liquid cooking oil or non-stick cooking spray
- Cinnamon or pepper
- Soap
- Towel
- A device to take photos so you can compare washing results

STEPS

1. Spray both hands with cooking spray or lightly oil your hands. Do this over a sink or towel. Rub hands together to coat both sides of hands and between all fingers.
2. Sprinkle cinnamon or pepper over hands and again rub your hands together so cinnamon covers the front, back and in between fingers. The cinnamon and oil represents germs typically found on our hands.
3. Over the sink, wash hands using the following three different methods. Make sure to reapply cooking spray or oil and cinnamon after the first and second wash.

Method 1: Wash by rinsing only with water (no scrubbing or soap) for 5 seconds.

Method 2: Wash by scrubbing with soap and water for 5 seconds, then rinsing with water.

Method 3: Wash by scrubbing with soap and water for 20 seconds, then rinsing with water.

4. After each washing, look at your hands and take a picture so you can compare the images later. If you see cinnamon after any washing method, that way of washing is not getting your hands clean enough! From looking at your hands or comparing the pictures taken, which method do you think worked best to clean your hands?

WASHING TIP: When washing your hands, scrub them together with soapy water and sing the “Happy Birthday” song. That takes about the time you need to get rid of most germs that might be on your hands.



Stepping Stones Museum for Children

The Power of Soap Experiment

YOU WILL NEED

- Bowl
- Liquid soap
- Pepper
- Water

STEPS

1. Fill one of your bowls with a thin layer of liquid soap.
2. Fill second bowl with water and sprinkle pepper across the surface in a thin layer. The pepper represents the germs.
3. Dip a fingertip into the soap and slowly dip your soapy fingertip to the water and pepper. What happened? Why do you think that happened?

The soap surrounds the pepper and repels them! This is why we use soap when we wash our hands. When you wash your hands with soap, you will wash the germs right down the drain just like the pepper that ran away from the soap!



Glitter Germs

YOU WILL NEED

- Glitter
- Baby oil, lotion, or hand sanitizer

STEPS

1. Have 1 person rub the baby oil, lotion or hand sanitizer on their hands.
2. Have an adult help sprinkle glitter onto your hands. These are our "germs."
3. Shake hands with other members of your household. What did you notice happened to the germs?
4. Pick up any item near you. Again, what happened to those germs? With adult supervision (and permission) touch other items around your household. What did you notice?
5. Try washing your glittery hands in warm water without soap. Any changes? Now try with soap and wash your hands for 20 seconds. Did all the germs go away?

