

DECONTAMINATION of COMPUTER KEYBOARDS

Computer keyboards can get dirty very easily and have been shown to harbour more micro-organisms than toilets! It is important to clean them regularly to protect workers from others' microbes.

Some useful information:

- Always have clean hands when using a keyboard
- Never use a keyboard wearing gloves
- Do not eat over a keyboard
- To clean a keyboard, do the following:
 - Shut down the computer and unplug from the mains
 - Unplug the keyboard and hold upside down over a waste bin to release any debris from between the keys. Pressing keys as you hold them upside down is a good way to release debris. Compressed air will help to dislodge debris but be aware that it does tend to spread the debris about.
 - Using a detergent wipe, clean the keyboard and mouse. If the area between the keys looks dirty use cotton buds and wipes to access the areas between them.
 - Wipe the keyboard with a dry cloth.
 - If there are computers in clinical areas it is advisable to clean the keyboard daily, in office areas, weekly should be adequate.

REFERENCES: Authors Maureen Georgiou, Karen Andrew and Dr Lucy Adcock

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