

The Killer Handbag?

Women carry handbags everywhere; from the office to the restaurant to the gym. Most women won't be caught without their handbags, but did you ever stop to think about where your handbag goes during the day?

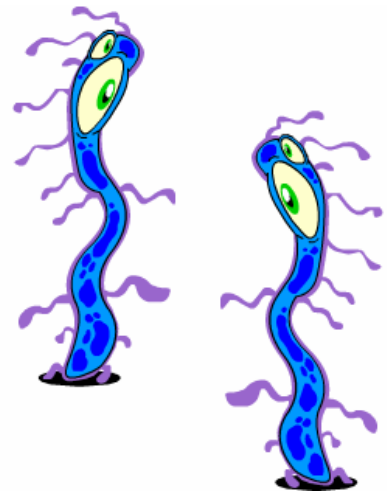


I never gave it a thought. Who would have thought? Have you ever noticed girls who leave their bags on public toilet floors and then go directly to their dining tables and set it on the table? It's not always the 'restaurant food' that causes stomach distress. Sometimes, "what you don't know 'will' hurt you. Most of us probably don't stop and think about what is on the bottom of our bag. How many of us usually set our bags on top of kitchen tables and counters where food is prepared. Maybe we should think twice about this?

A recent study carried out at Nelson Laboratories in Salt Lake City, USA found that nearly all of the handbags tested were not only high in bacteria, but high in harmful kinds of bacteria. Pseudomonas can cause eye infections, staphylococcus aureus can cause serious skin infections, and salmonella and e-coli found on the handbags could make people very sick. In one sampling, four of five handbags tested positive for salmonella. Leather or vinyl handbags tended to be cleaner than cloth handbags, and lifestyle seemed to play a role. People with children tended to have dirtier handbags than those without, with one exception - the handbag of one woman who frequented nightclubs had one of the worst contaminations of all.

What should you do to prevent this?

- Use hooks to hang your handbag at home and in toilets
- Don't put your bag on your desk, a restaurant table, or on your kitchen countertop.
- Think of your handbag the same way you would a pair of shoes. "If you think about putting a pair of shoes onto your countertops, that's the same as putting your handbag on countertops". Your handbag has gone where individuals before you have sneezed, coughed, urinated etc! Do you really want to bring that home with you?
- Wash cloth handbags and use leather cleaner to clean the bottom of leather handbags.



So the moral of this story - your handbag won't kill you, but it does have the potential to make you very sick.