

Smartphone toilet paper at Japan airport

26th December, 2016



An airport in Japan has taken toilet cleanliness to a new level. A company has installed "toilet paper" for smartphones in the public lavatories at Tokyo's Narita International Airport. Passengers are being encouraged to use

the special wipes to disinfect their mobile devices. The cleansing rolls are the idea of Japanese mobile giant NTT Docomo. It also paid for the disinfectant dispensers to be put next to the regular toilet paper holder in 86 cubicles in seven rest rooms at the airport. A company YouTube video informed us that toilet seats were usually more hygienic than smartphones, saying: "There are more than five times the germs on a smartphone screen as compared to a toilet seat."

Japan is a world leader in toilet technology and boasts some of the most high-tech bathrooms in the world. Many Japanese homes have toilets that are equipped with innovative flushing, seat warming, and automated bidet functions. On some, the lid automatically rises when you enter the toilet and flushes when you finish. There is also a gadget that produces loud flushing sounds if you want to hide embarrassing "toilet noises". NTT Docomo has accompanied its smartphone wipes with a two-minute instructional video for tourists on how to use the sheets correctly, and also on how to use the other features common in Japan's toilets. It said it wants to make sure, "foreign tourists could enjoy their travel hygienically".

Sources: bbc.com / digitaltrends.com / theguardian.com

Writing

We need to do a lot more to avoid contact with germs. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

airport / Japan / cleanliness / public lavatories / disinfect / mobile devices / germs / leader / technology / innovative / flushing / embarrassing / instructional / travel

True / False

- A Japanese airport has put all its toilets on one level. T / F
- A giant mobile phone company has paid for the smartphone toilet paper. T / F
- The smartphone toilet paper is in 86 cubicles at the airport. T / F
- Smartphone screens have over 5 times more germs than toilet seats. T / F
- Japanese people boast about how high-tech their toilets are. T / F
- All Japanese toilets have automatically rising lids. T / F
- There is a gadget to hide embarrassing toilet noises. T / F
- A company made a video for Japanese people on how to use toilets. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. cleanliness | a. state-of-the-art |
| 2. lavatories | b. usual |
| 3. disinfect | c. told |
| 4. regular | d. properly |
| 5. informed | e. toilets |
| 6. equipped | f. device |
| 7. innovative | g. hygiene |
| 8. gadget | h. widespread |
| 9. correctly | i. furnished |
| 10. common | j. clean |

Discussion – Student A

- How hygienic are the things you touch in public places?
- How good is the smartphone toilet paper for NTT's image?
- How high-tech do toilets need to be?
- How important is having a warm toilet seat?
- What do you think of the gadget to hide embarrassing noises?
- Would you like to watch the instructional toilet video?
- What are the dangers of germs being everywhere?
- What questions would you like to ask the telephone company?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. taken toilet cleanliness | a. their mobile devices |
| 2. use the special wipes to disinfect | b. times the germs |
| 3. 86 cubicles | c. in Japan's toilets |
| 4. toilet seats were usually more | d. flushing sounds |
| 5. There are more than five | e. in seven rest rooms |
| 6. Japan is a world leader in toilet | f. with innovative flushing |
| 7. Japanese homes have toilets that are equipped | g. to a new level |
| 8. a gadget that produces loud | h. instructional video |
| 9. a two-minute | i. hygienic |
| 10. the other features common | j. technology |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How hygienic are you?
- What do you do to avoid germs?
- How clean do you think your smartphone is?
- How important is cleanliness?
- How good an idea is putting smartphone wipes in public places?
- What things in public places should be disinfected regularly?
- Are there really more germs on a smartphone than a toilet seat?

Spelling

- taken toilet nleiclnssea to a new level
- public tlioavasre
- special wipes to ictdesfni their mobile devices
- 86 elisubcc in seven rest rooms
- A company YouTube video iedrofmn us
- more nceygihi than smartphones
- sotbas some of the most high-tech bathrooms
- nitoneiavv flushing
- dottaeamu bidet functions
- hide gasnibsamrer "toilet noises"
- a two-minute itsntlocairn video
- use the other tsefeaur

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. i	7. a	8. f	9. d	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Disinfectant Wipes

You think disinfected wipes are the most important thing to have in a toilet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a heated seat, a bidet or music.

Role B – Heated Seat

You think a heated seat is the most important thing to have in a toilet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): disinfected wipes, a bidet or music.

Role C – Bidet

You think a bidet is the most important thing to have in a toilet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a heated seat, disinfected wipes or music.

Role D – Music

You think music is the most important thing to have in a toilet. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a heated seat, a bidet or disinfected wipes.

Speaking – Toilet functions

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important toilet functions at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| • automatic lid | • disinfectant wipes |
| • noise silencer | • automatic flushing |
| • air freshener | • heated seat |
| • music | • bidet |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.