



# Cart Wipes Necessary?



## Study: Fecal Bacteria Found On Most Supermarket Shopping Carts

Professor Charles Gerba, the lead researcher in the University of Arizona Study, took samples from the handles of 85 carts across four states for bacterial contamination. Gerba says 72 percent of the carts tested positive for fecal bacteria, with up to half the samples containing *Escherichia coli*, otherwise known as *E. coli*.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention says, "Since most stores disinfect their bathrooms much more thoroughly than their shopping carts - if ever - researchers say it's up to the shopper to take precautions."

*March 7, 2011*



## E. coli On Grocery Carts, Study Says: What's Best Defense Against Poopy Germs?

Just how big a threat do poopy cart handles really pose? Dr. Gerba told MSNBC he couldn't say, though he said parents could protect young children by running an antibacterial wipe over the cart.

*March 4, 2011*



## Shopping Carts More Gummy Than Public Restrooms

Grocery store shopping cart handles have more germs than public restrooms, making them one of the worst public places for germs. How gummy could shopping carts really be? Very, according to researchers at the University of Arizona who tested all kinds of public surfaces. They found that shopping carts were loaded with more saliva, bacteria and even fecal matter than escalators, public telephones, and even public bathrooms.

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*February 8, 2007*



## E.coli Found On 72% Of Shopping Carts

Every day parents blithely drop their toddlers into the baskets of shopping carts, never giving a moment's thought to who might have had their hands on the handle last. Preliminary results from a new study show that may be a mistake.

The best way to keep kids safe, Gerba said, is to swipe the shopping cart handle with a disinfecting wipe before you pop your kid into the basket. That's exactly the option some supermarkets were offering before the study was done.

"We saw that this was something our customers were concerned about", said Libba Letton, a spokesperson for Whole Foods Market stores. "So we make disposable wipes available for customers coming into the store with shopping carts."

*March 1, 2011*



## Carts One Of The Dirtiest Places In Grocery Store, Study Says

Researchers say they actually found more fecal bacteria on grocery cart handles than you would typically find in a bathroom, mainly because bathrooms are disinfected more often than shopping carts. Since most stores do not routinely wash and disinfect their carts. it's up to you to do it.

*March 1, 2011*

*...excerpts taken from various articles*