



Facts and Trivia #19

Smartphone vs Toilet



In a 2013 study, British researchers swabbed 30 tablets, 30 phones, and an office toilet seat. The tablets had up to 600 units per swab of staphylococcus (which can cause severe stomach sickness), whereas the phones had up to 140 units. Surprisingly enough, the typical toilet seat had less than 20 units.

Here is a yet further uncomfortable detail you may want to bear in mind before drawing someone else's phone screen too close to your lips: in a 2011 survey, 75% of Americans admitted to using their smartphones while on the sanitary bowl to text, email, and talk. This phenomenon is not limited to teenagers, but straddles across generations: 91% of Gen Y responders (1980s-2000s) said they used their phone on the toilet, as did 80% of Gen X (1960s-1970s) and 65% of Boomers (1940s-1960s).

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