

# handwashingforlife®

Overcoming Underwashing

## Hand Soap

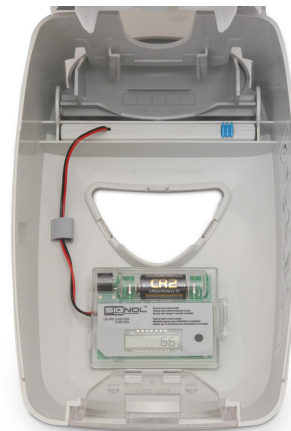
Well formulated hand soaps, liquid and foam, provide both effective cleaning and an incentive to wash frequently. Failure on either point cuts compliance levels and raises operator risk.

### Skin-friendly formulations together with a simple monitoring system motivate and document safe handwashing levels.

These sealed cartridge systems are formulated without the harsh chemicals required to keep open-top dispensers from rearing pathogenic bacteria. Recent studies by Dr. Gerba at the University of Arizona show a 25% bacterial contamination level for open top, refillable dispensers.



CXi Touch-Free Counter Mount System



FMX System with Signal Counter



TFX Touch-Free System

## Best Practice

### Endorsements:

The Handwashingforlife® Institute actively supports and recommends the products and services of members who meet the criteria for leadership in hand hygiene related interventions. These criteria include:

- + Product or service must meet Institute standard of Best Practice within applicable category.
- + Forum member must demonstrate commitment to advancing the Science of Hand Hygiene and be a top quartile supplier, as measured by:  
Customer satisfaction with initial product or service and follow-up support.



## Fact vs Fiction

Myths typically live well beyond the science.  
These facts just might save your life and that of your business...

### Fact:

- 1] False. Soap is not Soap. Read on to discover how soaps (really detergents) vary dramatically. Best Practice hand soaps are balanced to assure target-specific soils are removed while protecting the natural immune system of healthy skin.
- 2] Sometimes but rarely. Most will leave residues resulting in dry skin, making it more difficult, even painful, to keep clean.
- 3] False. Hand cleansing involves five distinct functions. A Best Practice soap starts by wetting the target soil and breaking its bond to the skin. It then emulsifies the soil and floats it for quick and clean rinsing without stripping the hand's protective oils and moisture.
- 4] A rich, long-lasting lather is one feature of a good soap but don't be fooled. It is easy and inexpensive to generate bubbles. Independent test data on soil removal properties is the best judge of performance.
- 5] False. Cleaning is about the same between the two types. Fragrance and skin-friendliness vary. Germ kill is poor with antibacterial soap as the average contact time is only 5-6 seconds. This is not long enough to provide significant germ kill. The Best Practice approach is to follow a Core Handwash with a food-safe alcohol hand sanitizer.
- 6] False. On a weight per hand wash basis, less foam hand soap is used versus its liquid counterpart. However, cleaning may favor the foam because it is dispersed more evenly and the more pleasant experience encourages frequent use.
- 7] False. Open-top soap dispensers are often contaminated. A University of Arizona study found that 25% of open-top dispensers contained unsafe levels of bacterial contamination. Sealed systems eliminate contamination and tampering.
- 8] Not always. Water temperature must be comfortable to encourage use, but hand soaps themselves work well in cold or hot water. However, if the water is less than room temperature or greater than 110 F, employees shy away from washing.
- 9] False. Soft water improves wetting, emulsification, soil release and rinsing. Hard water also results in using more soap per handwash to compensate for the poor hard water lather.

### NOTE:

Hand soap traditionally has been purchased as a commodity chemical, often bundled with hard surface chemicals, masking the true costs. These hand soaps are generally formulated for workers who seldom wash. Best Practice hand soaps are designed around the profiles of today's risks, considering today's knowledge of the number one outbreak-pathogen, norovirus.

*Handwashing is the single-most important means of preventing the spread of infection.*  
*Centers for Disease Control*

## Hand Soap

### Myth:

**Soap is soap.**

**All soaps rinse clean.**

**All handsoaps clean about the same.**

**Soap bubbles indicate good cleaning.**

**Antibacterial soap is better than plain soap.**

**Foam hand soaps don't clean as well as liquids.**

**Any dispenser will do.**

**Hot water is best for handwashing.**

**Water hardness doesn't matter.**